

KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION

Fire Commission Meeting

Minutes

October 9, 2024

Paris, Kentucky

Present:

Cheryl Allen
Chris Black
Nick Clark
Mike Haney
Ricky King
Andrew Scott
Dwane Smeathers
Dr. Irvin Smith
Jerry Stephens
Mike Sutt
Father Matthew Young

Absent:

Joe Choate
Josh Keats

Ex Officio Members

Present:

Joe Baer
Kyle Carpenter
Nathan Mulvey

Ricky King called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm (EST). Andrew Scott motion to approve the minutes from August 3, 2024 in Owensboro, Kentucky. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

Comments from the Chair

Ricky King said we discussed working on SOP's and SOG's for each committee. Ricky asked for each committee chair to get with their committee members and come up with the basics for each committee. Joe Baer said he thinks that this is a good idea and get some consistency established. Ricky said he is looking at establishing Incident Task Force Teams. We are looking at establishing around three across the state. Ricky said he would like for a Commission member, staff member, a coordinator and a couple of other people to be on the team. This team will respond to incidents in their area. Nathan Mulvey asked what would the purpose of this be? Ricky said we would report to the county or to Fire Department. Nathan said the Kentucky Fire Chiefs have been working on getting a mutual aid system built which would have different teams involved. Nathan said he does not want to duplicate our efforts. Nathan asked does the law allow the Commission to take an operational role. Ricky said we would only be a support role.

Health and Wellness Committee

Dr. Smith said the Health and Wellness Committee met virtually on September 11, 2024 to discuss two topics. The first topic was on getting a cancer screening KAR developed. We hope to have a document to present to the Commission at the next meeting in December. Dr. Smith said that he and Bruce Roberts have been discussing the budgeting and financial piece of this. We were fortunate to have online in the meeting some representatives from the Kentucky Cancer Program.

Dr. Smith said the second topic we discussed was for the Line of Duty Stress Injury Reimbursement and marriage counseling. Dr. Smith said we discuss this and thought this was very reasonable. The committee approved those reimbursements.

Grants Committee

Chris Black said the Grants Committee met on September 24th to discuss 67 Training Facility Grant applications. Chris said the Committee will be meeting on October 14th and 15th for presentations from twenty-four departments. We will bring this back to the Commission after October 15, 2024.

Loan Committee

Dwane Smeathers said the Loan Committee met this morning to discuss seven loan requests. The Fifth District Fire Department is requesting \$70,000.00 for a 2001 E-One Cyclone Pumper. Chris Black motion to approve. Mike Sutt seconded. Motion approved.

Williamstown Fire Department is requesting \$125,000.00 to purchase an engine built by Summit Fire Apparatus. Father Matthew Young motion to approve. Nick Clark seconded. Motion approved.

Ledbetter Fire Department is requesting \$125,000.00 for the replacement of twenty broken and out of date SCBA, bottles and masks. Chris Black motion to approve. Nick Clark seconded. Motion approved.

Russellville Rural Fire Department is requesting \$125,000.00 for the purchase of a 2024 Freightliner M2-106 Commercial Chassis Tanker Pumper. Father Matthew Young motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Wingo Fire Department is requesting \$35,210.00 for a Can-Am UTV with dual purpose skid unit for patient transport and firefighter operations. Chris Black motion to approve. Father Matthew Young seconded. Motion approved.

Kyrook Fire Department is requesting \$75,000.00 to remodel a multi-purpose room that consists of an office, training, and meeting room. They are requesting funds to upgrade and expand bathroom and kitchen and purchase new furniture and appliances. Chris Black motion to approve. Andrew Scott seconded. Motion approved.

Willisburg Fire Department is requesting \$125,000.00 for a Freightliner pumper/tanker combo. Nick Clark motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Eligibility Committee

Dwane Smeathers said the Eligibility Committee met this morning to discuss several items. Dwane said the Eligibility Committee had outstanding business concerning

Kevin Culver. Mike Sutt said this investigation has gone back to over a year ago. It was presented to the Eligibility Committee, and we met with Mr. Culver on December 6, 2023. There were a lot of steps with this that had not been followed. This was also brought to the Commission on August 3, 2024 for a final action based upon the committee's recommendation. Mike Sutt motion to dismiss this case. Jerry Stephens seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said the next item of business was for State Aid for the Bandana Fire Department. Bandana had some people that they did not remove from the roster which put them below 50% on their training. The department voted to remove these people from the roster, but the person who enters training for their department had a sickness in the family and it was missed by the deadline. The committee voted in favor of reinstating their state aid. Chris Black motion to approve. Father Matthew Young seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said the next item of business was for State Aid for the Sycamore React Fire Department. They were working at the distribution center for the floods in Eastern Kentucky and their Chief passed away. They had over 1200 hours of community service working the floods but they didn't reach their 50% on training for State Aid. Chris Black motion to reinstate their State Aid. Andrew Scott seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said we had an IFSAC testing appeal from Joseph Harper. This was a Fire Officer I class. Carrie Wilburn tried to reach out to him and he has not answered back. The Committee recommends denying this appeal. Chris Black motion to approve. Nick Clark seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said we had an IFSAC testing appeal from Roy Monks. Carrie Wilburn tried to reach out to him, and he has not answered back. The Committee recommends denying this appeal. Chris Black motion to approve. Mike Sutt seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said we had an IFSAC testing appeal from Pavel Zboril. He did reach back to Carrie Wilburn. He felt like he failed this test because of punctuation and spelling errors. His skills testing showed that he had critical errors on the test. The Committee recommends denying this appeal. Chris Black motion to approve. Nick Clark seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said we had a Line of Duty death request for Christian Smith who was with the Anchorage Middletown Fire & EMS. His paperwork was presented to Dr. Smith. Dr. Smith's recommendation was that this was not a line of duty death. The Committee recommends denying this request. Chris Black motion to deny. Father Matthew Young seconded. Mike Sutt abstained from voting. Motion approved.

Father Matthew Young asked about having the references to Mr. Culver stricken from the records. He is thinking of Mr. Culver's wellbeing. Ricky King said that he and Bruce Roberts will discuss this with KCTCS Legal.

EMS Committee

Nick Clark said the EMS Committee has met a couple of times in the last few months to discuss funding EMT and EMR classes around the State. Nick said several people dropped out of these classes in 2022. Nick said the committee discussed having an entrance exam for people taking the EMT classes. Nick said the committee discussed where the need is in the State of Kentucky for these classes. The EMS Committee voted this morning to host the following classes: One virtual AEMT class which would consist of one hundred students and five skills sites, six EMR classes in person, and one virtual EMT class which would consist of one hundred students and five skills sites. Nick said he will get with KBEMS and find out where we have a lack of EMT's and AEMT's. Nick said these classes will cost \$121,360.00. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve these classes. Mike Sutt seconded. Motion approved. Dr. Smith asked will these online classes be run concurrently or staggered. Nick Clark said we do not have the structure or set up for these classes yet.

State Fire Rescue Training

Marc Rudder said SFRT has trained about 38% of the departments this fiscal year. Marc said we are currently in recruit class #5 at the Fire Academy. The graduation date for this will be November 15, 2024. Marc said we are working to develop a training calendar for the State that will include the remainder of FY 2025 and FY 2026 for courses for certification such as Fire Officer I through IV, Fire Instructor I and II, Driver Operator Pumper and Driver Operator Aerial. Marc said their goal is to have several of these in a virtual delivery but would have a couple of sites for testing. Marc said effective October 31, 2024, Brian Steele is moving on to another

career. Marc said we are now accepting applications for the District 15 Coordinator. Father Matthew Young said concerns have been brought to him about out of pocket expenses for training. Father Matt said he thinks we also need to have some kind of idea about no call, no show policy. Marc Rudder said we will have to look at the line and buckets of our funding. Brenda Goddard said her concern about waiving testing fees is that we did that before with the Grant and some people were retesting several times. Father Matthew Young asked the Commission to look into this. Ricky King said we can do that.

Fire Commission Operations

Carrie Wilburn said we will be wrapping up the Training Facility Grants next week. Carrie said we are looking at the next batch of Training Facility Grants in April 2025. Carrie said to keep sending the loan requests to the KCTCS loan email address. She is monitoring those emails. Carrie said departments are not eligible for State Aid until they send in their Proof of Purchase and the supporting documents from last year. Carrie said we are working with Acadis on the Incentive Webforms in KyFIRES. Carrie thanked Chuck Bonta for all of his work with the departments on their DLG information. Carrie said our Compliance Specialists completed 149 audits last year. Carrie said we are having our Fire Department Operations & Compliance classes starting back up on October 14, 2024.

Fire Commission Facilities

Derrick Hall said we received an email from Systems Office this morning concerning our District 2 property in Princeton. The industrial board is going to attach to our property. The title attorneys have completed most of that paperwork. We expect to have that completed by the end of October. Derrick said the Fire Academy Training Tower is about 60% done. The completion date should be November 7, 2024. Derrick said we met last week with the Industrial Park and the utilities company concerning adding property to District 9. Derrick said we are currently working with the IT Department at Maysville Community and Technical College on the IFSAC Office in Mt. Sterling.

Fire Marshal's Office

Mike Haney said they are having their Health and Safety training on October 24, 2024. They were able to hire two positions for Deputy State Fire Marshals in Fayette County and Ballard County. The Fire Marshal's Office is in the process of interviewing for positions in Jefferson County and Bell County.

Kentucky Office of Homeland Security

None.

Kentucky Firefighters Association

Kyle Carpenter thanked everyone that was involved in the Firefighter Memorial last week in Frankfort. Kyle said they have working hard on State Fire School. They have contracts signed for the next two years. The KFA's next meeting will be on November 9, 2024 in Ashland. Kyle asked everyone to remember the Air Evac Base 133.

Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs

Nathan Mulvey said Executive Director Morgan had a meeting with the Kentucky EM specific to the mutual aid system. Nathan said the Kentucky Chiefs have partnered with ECU on an educational partnership specific to firefighters and fire chiefs. Nathan said their conference in August went really well. They had record numbers of participants and vendors. Next years conference will be in Bowling Green at the same location. Nathan said the Kentucky Association of Fire Chief's meeting will be on October 17, 2024 in Paducah.

Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association

Joe Baer said they are currently working on the final details of KPFF 2025 Biennial Convention which takes place on May 19th through the 21st in Florence Kentucky. Joe said all Fire Commission Board Members are welcome. Joe said in regard to cancer screening, a lot of their Locals have utilized UDS- United Diagnostic Services. Joe said cancer screenings will be held in Lexington, Richmond, and Nicholasville on January 13th through the 18th. The cost of the screenings is \$325.00

per screening. Cancer screenings will be held in Jefferson County from January 6th through the 11th. Joe Baer said that Lexington is hosting a fund raiser tomorrow Keeneland for the MDA. Joe Baer said he attended the Firefighter Memorial as well. He thanked Bruce Roberts and all of the Staff for their hard work. Joe said the Legislative Chili Dinner will be held on February 5, 2025 at the Foundry on Broadway in Frankfort.

Director Reports

Bruce Roberts said we continue to move forward serving the firefighters and departments of the Commonwealth. Bruce thanked the Staff for everything that they have done. Bruce said we are getting back to normal operations.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Correspondence

Ericka Cole said the Fire Commission's new website is in final stages of production. A list of the firefighter names that is on the wall at the Firefighter Memorial will be on the Fire Commission website. Marc Rudder said there is a Memorial book in the Fire Commission lobby. Dr. Smith said there is a CDC Nosh Firefighter Cancer registry. They are encouraging firefighters to sign up with their registry. Mike Sutt thanked Ericka Cole for her hard work on the Fire Commission website. Nathan Mulvey asked about Incentive pay for Fire based employees. Bruce Roberts said he would have to look at the criteria for this. Joe Baer said he knows KBEMS was working on this. He does not know where they were looking for the funding. Bruce said it never went anywhere.

Dwane Smeathers motion to adjourn. Father Matthew Young seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:13 pm (EST).