

KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION

Fire Commission Meeting

Minutes

June 17, 2021

Paris, Kentucky

Present:

Joe Choate
Mike Haney
Dustin Isaacs
Josh Keats
Ricky King
Scott Lawson
Lonnie Madden
Michael Mosbey
Andrew Scott
Dwane Smeathers
Michael Sutt

Absent:

Dr. Fadi
Tamela Kerr
Lloyd Stone

Ex Officio Members Present:

Joe Baer
John Beatsch
Cathy Rigney

Absent:

Wendell Followell

Ricky King called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm. Scott Lawson motion to approve the minutes from April 22, 2021 in Paris Kentucky. Andrew Scott seconded. Motion approved.

Finance Committee

Michael Mosbey said the Finance Committee met this morning to discuss the FY 2022 budget proposal for the Fire Commission. Michael Mosbey motion to approve the FY 2022 budget. Andrew Scott seconded. Motion approved.

Education Committee

Lonnie Madden said we heard from Casey Hall and Marc Rudder on the degree curriculum. Scott Lawson motion to accept the degree curriculum. Joe Choate seconded. Motion approved.

Loan Committee

Joe Choate said the Loan Committee met this morning to discuss three items of business. Oldtown Fire Department is requesting a loan extension. Dwane Smeathers motion to extend their loan until December 31, 2021. Scott Lawson seconded. Motion approved.

Lebanon Junction Fire Department is requesting \$35,448.16 for a 2021 Ford F-150 truck. Andrew Scott motion to approved. Scott Lawson seconded. Motion approved.

Hayes Crossing Haldeman Fire Department is requesting \$75,000.00 for a 2005 Ford Tanker and a 1999 Freightliner Tanker. Andrew Scott motion to approve. Dustin Isaacs seconded. Motion approved.

Eligibility Committee

Dwane Smeathers said the Eligibility Committee met this morning to discuss a new KAR for an instructor regulations proposal. Andrew Scott motion to approve. Joe Choate seconded. Motion approved.

State Fire Rescue Training

Marc Rudder said SFRT has been experiencing an interesting year. Fire Schools have been cancelled due to the Pandemic. Marc said we have tried to be as proactive as possible utilizing virtual and face to face training. Through the end of May 2021, SFRT Areas had used state appropriated dollars to provide training to 80% of the fire departments in the state. Marc said they are working on returning to the classrooms. In FY 2022, each department will get 21 hours of instructor lead training.

Marc Rudder said we do have a course catalog that will be published on July 1st. It has over 200 courses that SFRT can deliver. The catalog will be emailed out to our distribution list and put on the Commission website. Marc said the consolidation

and reorganization in the SFRT Areas will take place on July 1, 2021. Every Area has some changes. Marc said that the following people have retired from SFRT: Rusty Todd, Charlie Lott, and Larrel Alley. Margaret Melton will be retiring on August 17th.

Fire Marshal's Office

Mike Haney said their office is experiencing some stressful situations. They are switching reporting systems. They are working out the kinks in their new system. Allen Walters and Buddy Steele will be retiring effective August 1st.

Homeland Security

Josh Keats said they are experiencing a renovation of their fusion center. Hopefully this will be completed by the end of the month.

Kentucky Firefighter's Association

John Beatsch said the KFA wants to thank Larry Potter for the use of the Fire Commission Office in Paris for their meeting. John said the Fire Commission meeting at the KFA Conference will be on August 7th at 2:00 pm at the Wilder Community Center.

Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs

Cathy Rigney said the Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs met yesterday. Larry and Bruce went over the instructor restructuring at the meeting. Cathy said their conference is in August and she hopes to see everyone there.

Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association

Joe Baer said the KPFF had their Biennial Convention last month. They have lined out their Legislative priorities.

KBEMS

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Scott Lawson said the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial is going to be on October 2nd and 3rd in Emmetsburg Maryland. Scott said he would love to see the Commission members attend the Memorial. Scott Lawson motion for the Board Members to attend the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Larry Potter said he will get with Bruce Roberts and Brenda Goddard, and they will work out the details on this. Bruce Roberts said he will ask Ericka Cole to check with the hotels about getting rooms. Motion approved.

Bruce Roberts said the Kentucky Fallen Firefighter Memorial will be on September 29, 2021 at 11:00 am in Frankfort. Bruce said he thinks there are 9 to 10 names that will go on the wall this year. Bruce said he will get the committee together and they will start making arrangements.

Larry Potter said they turned in their Capital Projects to KCTCS. They are trying to make some changes at Area 9 in Morehead. The triple wide that housed Area 15 in Lexington is going to be moved to Morehead to add a couple more classrooms along with trying to build a structure to house their props and trailers. Larry said after we have completed that we will look at the different areas and try to find a design of a building to house their props. Larry Potter said they are looking at purchasing other properties and getting out of leases.

Bruce Roberts said we have a lot of requests from the fire chiefs and departments to lower or reduce the time for CPAT. Bruce said for the rest of the year, we will be doing one day CPAT classes. There will be a limited number of people per session. Bruce said we are trying make it more convenient for firefighters to take the CPAT test. There is no cost. A firefighter needs to pick an available time slot with Rick Larkins. Bruce said we have three permanent locations in Paris, Louisville, and Burlington. We are also looking at having a CPAT location at the Morehead Building with Area 9.

Larry Potter discussed the Fire Commission Restructuring Organization chart. Larry said he really feels that we need a Deputy Director. This Deputy Director would be responsible for Legislative Sessions that are going on and keeping us informed. Larry said we have three auditors. They have a big load because a lot of stuff has been added to them over the years. Larry said we are looking at adding another auditor and changing their titles to Training Records and Compliance

Specialist. By adding another Training Records and Compliance Specialist, we can audit the departments every 12 to 18 months. Larry said we have 8 Office Coordinators in this Office that are doing different jobs. We are working on changing their job titles. Larry Potter said Brenda Goddard needs some back up. That position will be called a Staff Accountant. Larry Potter said we are looking at creating two Regional Directors for SFRT. One of the Directors will be located here in Paris, the other one will be located at NRPC. These Directors will report directly to Marc Rudder. These directors will be over the District (Area) Coordinators. Larry Potter said that his Boss Wendell Followell approved that we should go through with the new Organizational chart. Our new President of KCTCS also approved this. Larry said he is bringing this to the Commission Board to approve this. Andrew Scott said he is pleased with Larry streamlining and making things better. Andrew Scott motion to approve. Scott Lawson seconded. Larry Potter said we will be looking at job titles and pay bands for all the employees. Michael Mosbey asked is there money for the salaries of this expansion. Larry Potter said over the last two years, we have saved between \$600,000.00 to \$700,000.00 per year by doing away with leases and consolidating areas. Dustin Isaacs said he supports this and the cost savings that allows us to streamline more stuff. Motion approved.

Larry Potter said we want to meet with each of the fire departments across the state. Larry said we thought about the possibility of doing job fairs for the fire departments. The fire departments are having a rough time with recruitment and retention. Lonnie Madden asked if Tina Moore could send a mass email to all the departments when the Fire Commission meetings are being held. Larry Potter said yes.

Announcements from the Audience

None.

Joe Choate motion to adjourn. Scott Lawson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.