

**KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION**

Fire Commission Meeting

Minutes

April 18, 2023

London, Kentucky

**Present:**

Chris Black  
Joe Choate  
Mike Haney  
Ricky King  
Lonnie Madden  
Dwane Smeathers  
Dr. Irvin Smith  
Jerry Stephens  
Mike Sutt  
Father Matthew Young

**Absent:**

Wayne Briscoe  
Josh Keats  
Andrew Scott

**Ex Officio Members**

**Present:**

Rick Bobo  
Joe Baer  
Nathan Mulvey

**Absent:**

Ricky King called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm (EST). Lonnie Madden motion to approve the minutes from February 24, 2023 in Owensboro Kentucky. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

**Old Business**

None.

### **Loan Committee**

Joe Choate said the Loan Committee met this morning to discuss three loans. Ewing Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$118,846.00 for a 2023 Dodge mini pumper/ brush truck. Green County Fire and Rescue is requesting \$70,675.00 for a 2007 Ford F-550 brush truck. South McCreary Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$125,000.00 for a 60X64 building with three bays for housing apparatuses, tools and for storage. Joe Choate motion to approve these three loans. Lonnie Madden seconded. Motion approved.

### **Eligibility Committee**

Dwane Smeathers said the Eligibility Committee met this morning to discuss one item of business. Dwane Smeathers said that the South Oldham Fire Department found that one of their firefighters did meet the hundred-hour requirement for 2022 for incentive pay. He attended a 40-hour course that had not been imported into the fire training system. South Oldham Fire Department will owe for one firefighter who did not meet the hundred-hour requirement. The amount owed back for this firefighter is \$3,905.64 for incentive and \$1,952.82 for pension. The total amount would be \$5,858.46. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

### **Training Facility Committee**

Chris Black said that the Training Facility Committee met this morning. The Training Facility grants are due into the Fire Commission Office by May 31, 2023. The committee will meet on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am in Paris at the Fire Commission Office to look over the applications.

### **State Fire Rescue Training**

Marc Rudder said through March 31<sup>st</sup>, SFRT has trained 70,468 students. Marc said we have provided training to 620 departments. Marc said our goal is to teach in every department across the state. The Bryant Stiles Officer's school had 776 students to attend. The Dixie Fire School had 473 students to attend. The Jackson Purchase Fire School had 190 students to attend. Marc said the following fire schools are coming up: Louisa Fire School, Daniel Boone Fire School, and State Fire School in June.

Marc Rudder said we had a session this past week for FF I and II skills session. Over 30 firefighters attended this session. Marc said the next scheduled FF I and II skills is on April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> in Pikeville Kentucky. Marc said we have a new firefighter survival and rescue prop. This is a multi-use prop. It is made out of shipment containers.

Marc Rudder introduced Preston Hays to the Commission. Preston is the new Coordinator for District 12 in Hazard. Larry Potter asked Marc does he know how many instructors that we provide for fire schools across the state? Marc Rudder said that the Green River Officer's School brings in more out of state instructors than other schools across the state. Marc Rudder said there is a huge investment from us in these regional fire schools and the state fire school as well.

Marc Henderson said the Fire Academy is going great. Marc said as of today everyone who has taken the written tests has passed. The graduation for the second recruit class will be held on May 12, 2023 at 10:00 am (CST). Marc said hopefully in February 2024, we will be in our new location. Marc said we are starting a new EMT class. The class will be four weeks long. The Fire Commission is going to cover the cost of this class.

### **Fire Commission Operations**

Jeremy Rodgers said we are waiting on grant equipment to come in. Jeremy said we estimated that we saved \$200,000.00 by purchasing equipment in bulk quantity. We are currently waiting on 72 AED's to be sent to us. Jeremy said we are down to one manufacturer for the thermal imaging cameras. Jeremy said the Training Facility Grant applications close at the end of May. We hope to get through the biggest portion of this process by the first of July and put out the award list by the end of July. Larry Potter said Jeremy and the staff has done a good job on this. They have turned our warehouse into a distribution center for the grant awards. Jeremy Rodgers said we have awarded approximately \$3,500,000.00 in grants this year. Larry Potter said we started the grant awards three years ago. Jeremy said if it wasn't for Brenda Goddard and the work that she does, this money would not have been found to award these grants.

### **Fire Marshal's Office**

Ricky King said Mike Haney is having problems with his audio through Zoom. Ricky said the Fire Marshal's Office just filled two new Hazmat Inspector hires,

three new Deputy Fire Marshal hires and four more new hires will happen by May 15, 2023.

### **Kentucky Office of Homeland Security**

None.

### **Kentucky Firefighter's Association**

Rick Bobo thanked Larry Potter and the Fire Commission Office for their help on State Fire School. Two hundred people have already registered for Fire School. Rick said they had to expand the junior firefighter class. It looks like they are going to have at least 35 students in that class. Rick said the KFA Conference is coming up. The Conference will be held from July 29<sup>th</sup> through the August 1<sup>st</sup>. Rick said we need everyone to start registering for the conference as soon as possible. Rick said our next meeting will be held at State Fire School.

### **Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs**

Nathan Mulvey said the Kentucky Association of Fire Chief's conference will be held from August 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> in Bowling Green. Nathan said their next Board meeting will be held on May 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at ECU.

### **Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association**

Joe Baer said the KPFF Convention is coming up on May 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> in Covington Kentucky. Joe said they will be addressing the next legislative session at the convention.

Joe Baer said that Jo Terry contacted him, and she sent a draft of a waiver for the PTSD program. Joe said he discussed this with Bruce Roberts. Joe said that Jo Terry advocates on the behalf of many firefighters in Kentucky and tries to help them get reimbursed for PTSD. Bruce Roberts said that Jo sent this to Delores Collins. Delores brought the waiver to Bruce to look at. Bruce said there is no notary signature. Bruce said he discussed this with Joe Baer and said he doesn't think we can do this. Bruce said he doesn't think we need a third party involved in this. He said he knows that Jo's heart is in the right place. We have to make sure that everything we do is done in confidence. Joe Baer said her foundation provides funding for these firefighters. Joe said he agrees with Bruce, he doesn't see where the form that she drafted is a legal document. Joe asked do we have the ability to

provide a legal document. Attorney John Wood said he would like to see a copy of the form. Bruce Roberts said on House Bill 52 (PTSD Bill), it was held to the very last day. The legislators attached it to HB 56, and it did pass. Joe Baer said Jo Terry was able to get the bill moving again. Joe said they removed nurse practitioner or physician's assistant from the bill. John Wood suggested not taking any action on this today and let their office look at this waiver. Dr. Smith asked has PTSD been covered by Worker's Comp? Bruce Roberts said not that he is aware of. Joe Baer said we have been pursuing PTSD and as of this point it has not gained any traction. Chris Black asked under the new House Bill, do they have to have an official diagnosis of PTSD? Chris said there are a lot of copays and out of pocket expenses. Chris said he thinks Jo Terry is trying to cover the upfront costs for treatment. Joe said they reach out to her weekly and she has never declined to assist. Chris Black said she works statewide.

### **KBEMS**

None.

### **New Business**

Bruce Roberts said the Legislative Session is over. House Bill 52 passed. Senate Bills 117 and 151 never got a committee hearing. Senate Bill 121 has died. We are waiting to see what happens. Bruce said we did talk about codifying the \$500.00 for State Aid and the \$300.00 for Incentive pay. We were told at that time that leadership did not want to do it.

### **Executive Director Comments**

Larry Potter thanked Bruce, Joe and everyone who helped with the Legislative Session. They did a great job. Larry said that our new HR person Chase Nicely will be here tomorrow for the workshop. Chase has been traveling across the state meeting with the District Coordinators. Larry said we met yesterday with KCTCS concerning hiring an IT person. KCTCS recommended using their campus IT people. We have decided to do that on a trial basis.

Larry Potter said we are working on our Capitol project for the next six years. We have tried to project on the things that we need to do for the Fire Commission growth. Larry said we are looking at property acquisitions for some of our other campuses. Larry said District 13 has a great campus here. Larry Potter said he is

excited about the Academy. He said he appreciates all of the hard work from our staff at NRPC. He said we have a good team at the Fire Commission and SFRT.

Jerry Stephens introduced guest speakers Jessica Wigginton and Sonya Kirkpatrick from the Danville Counseling Training Center. They said they would like to do statewide training for firefighters and first responders for PTSD and mental health. Ricky King asked them to get in contact with Marc Rudder with SFRT. Marc said we have a PTSD class that is going to be updated. Marc said you may want to work with the Associations at the Fire Schools. The Associations may be able to help. Ricky King said the biggest thing in getting firefighters to buy in on the classes. Sonya said they have training scheduled this Thursday at Junction Fire Department in Boyle County. Jerry Stephens is going to try to attend that training.

Chris Black motion to adjourn. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm (EST).