

KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION

Fire Commission Meeting

Minutes

June 14, 2023

Burlington, Kentucky

Present:

Chris Black
Wayne Briscoe
Amy Bower (Proxy for Josh Keats)
Ricky King
Lonnie Madden
Andrew Scott
Dwane Smeathers
Dr. Irvin Smith
Jerry Stephens
Mike Sutt
Father Matthew Young

Absent:

Joe Choate
Mike Haney

Ex Officio Members

Present:

Rick Bobo
Joe Baer

Absent:

Nathan Mulvey

Ricky King called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm (EST). Wayne Briscoe motion to approve the minutes from April 18, 2023 in London Kentucky. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

Training Facility Committee

Chris Black said the Training Facility Committee met yesterday in Paris. We reviewed sixty-three applications. The committee will be meeting again on July 11th and 12th in Paris so the departments can conduct presentations on their requests.

Eligibility Committee

Dwane Smeathers said the Eligibility Committee met this morning. There are four departments requesting incentive pay. They are Greenup Fire Department, Pewee Valley Fire Department, Lebanon Fire Department and East Fork Fire Department. Father Matthew Young motion to approve these fire departments for incentive pay. Wayne Briscoe seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said the Eligibility Committee discussed no show fees for the Accredited Certification program. SFRT is having problems with low turnout when they are skills testing. Students will register for the skills training and not show up or notify SFRT that they will not be there. This discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

State Fire Rescue Training

Marc Rudder said as of May 31, 2023, we have delivered training to 92% of the fire departments. Marc said SFRT does have several props that they can bring to your fire department. Marc said they do plan to have the instructor regulation in place soon. The accredited certification office is continuing to develop their online testing. They anticipate that being fully active across the state as of July 1, 2023. Marc said they will be hosting a site team from IFSAC in July. The second recruitment class graduated in May. Marc said we are funding an EMT class from the graduates of the first two recruit academy classes.

Marc Rudder said we are currently undergoing several staffing changes. Preston Hays started as the District 12 Coordinator on April 16, 2023. Tory Earlywine started as the District 9 Field Office Specialist on June 1, 2023. Interviews were conducted yesterday for the District 4 Coordinator. Kayla Sisk will be the Accredited Certification Specialist starting on July 1, 2023 in Morehead. Amanda Turner will be the District 12 Field Office Specialist starting on July 1, 2023. Todd Warner will be the District 2 Coordinator. Tony Morgan is now the District 7 Coordinator in Burlington. Marc Rudder said we are currently accepting applications for the District 14 Coordinator position. Marc said we will be accepting applications soon for the District 6 Field Office Specialist.

Marc Rudder presented a plaque to Bill Birkle for his years of service and dedication.

Marc Henderson discussed the items below concerning the Fire Academy of Kentucky:

June 12, 2023

The Fire Academy of Kentucky is in full swing with several ongoing construction projects while preparing for an upcoming EMT class and the next recruit academy.

Construction: The following is an update on the four projects:

- o The new administration/classroom/apparatus building is fully constructed and is on schedule for December 2023 completion. Drywall is about 75% installed and windows are to be installed this week. Metal has been ordered for the exterior and should arrive in 3-4 weeks.
- o Water and sewer lines have been installed and passed initial testing. Contractor is waiting on pumps to be delivered to complete project in next 6-8 weeks.
- o The shed project has been awarded and initial meeting should be in next two weeks with completion in 2-3 months.
- o The fire training tower is still on the drawing board with discussions.

EMT Class: We have designed the syllabus and have received most equipment for the upcoming 4-week accelerated EMT course. We have 5 students returning from class 001 and 12 from class 002. They will be joined by 16 others from class 003 scheduled to begin in August. Instructors are being scheduled for this class.

Recruit Academy 003: Applications for the upcoming August 21-November 17 recruit academy have been received and we anticipate having 35 recruits representing 14 departments from all regions of the state. 7 of these departments will be their first time coming to The Fire Academy.

Training Specialist: We hope to complete interviews this week to replace Jeremy Baxter, who left to become Deputy Chief of an expanding department in Indiana.

If you are ever around the area, please stop by and experience the excitement at our facility! !

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Fire Commission Operations

Jeremy Rodgers said the Fire Commission Office is extremely busy. We are coming up on the end of the fiscal year, which means the training records are due to be entered into the training system by the volunteer departments. Jeremy said we did send a list of the departments below 50% to the District Coordinators yesterday so they can contact these departments. There are still several departments below 50%.

Jeremy Rodgers said we have a lot of work going on with the grants. We will be giving out the Combi-tools the next couple of days at the office. Jeremy said the regulation for instructors was approved. This regulation will go into effect in ninety days. Jeremy said we will start the process of notifying departments of how we will enforce that regulation. Jeremy said we are working on the Training Facility Grant process and notifying departments.

Fire Marshal's Office

None.

Kentucky Office of Homeland Security

None.

Kentucky Firefighters Association

Rick Bobo thanked the Kentucky Fire Commission, SFRT, Lexington Fire Department and the students for a successful State Fire School. The KFA Conference is coming up from July 28th through August 1st in Louisville Kentucky. Rick thanked the Fire Commission for their support during his term as KFA President.

Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs

Wayne Briscoe said their Conference is coming up in August. The second day of the conference is going to be a roundtable discussion of the tornado and flood response in Kentucky. Wayne said they will start discussing their legislative agenda for moving the fire service forward.

Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association

Joe Baer said the KPFF had their Convention last month in Covington. We adopted four resolutions to establish our legislative agenda for the upcoming session. The first resolution is returning Tier 3 firefighters to Tier 2. The second resolution that we adopted is for Hazardous Duty pension for all Career Firefighters. The third resolution is for immediate participation in a firefighters retirement. The fourth resolution is for cancer presumption.

Joe Baer said the interim committee started this month. Next Monday, the CON Taskforce will meet at 10:30 am in Frankfort. Joe said the hospitals want to control EMS. Joe said he is going to meet with a couple of venues next week in Frankfort for their Chili dinner. As of right now, Buffalo Trace is not providing their club house. Joe said they want to be able to provide their own food. Some of the locations require catering.

Joe Baer said the USAR Bill (HB 157) passed this past legislative session. Joe said we had a couple of concerns with this bill. One was that it mandated that participants will be under the state Workers Comp. We do have worries that they are going to try to fund this USAR Team with Fire Commission funds.

Joe Baer said the International has contracted with three large legal firms going after these chemical companies that produce PFAS. This is not a class action lawsuit. It is on a case-by-case basis.

Joe Baer said that he received a call from the IAFF Legislative Coordinator. He asked did we have any firefighters in Congressman Guthrie's district. Joe said he reached out to Jeremy Rodgers, and he gave him some names of firefighters in that region that passed away from cancer. Andrew Scott said they are paying 49% for hazardous duty and it is well worth it.

KBEMS

None.

New Business

Dwane Smeathers motion to approve the first reading of the by-laws. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved. Ricky King said we will have the final reading of the by-laws at our next meeting.

Ricky King said we are going to add Dr. Smith and Father Matthew Young to the PTSD workgroup.

Brenda Goddard said with the proposed budget, KCTCS has requested that we create three different scenarios. The three options that they ask us to consider was for a 2% increase, 3% increase or a \$1,000.00 increase in all full-time employee salaries. KCTCS said they are going to request the \$1,000.00 increase from the Board of Regents. Andrew Scott motion to approve all three options for the salary increases. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

Executive Director Comments

Bruce Roberts said that Larry Potter apologized for not being here today. He had some issues that he had to take care of at home. Bruce said on Tuesday, June 20th at 9:00 am, the Fire Commission is going before the state and local government to conduct a presentation on the Fire Commission. The meeting will be in room 154. Bruce said we would like to fill up the room in support of the Fire Commission. They are going to give us 45 minutes for the presentation. Bruce said that he would recommend the entire Fire Commission Board be there.

Announcements from the Audience

Ricky King thanked Bill Birkle for his years of service.

Wayne Briscoe motion to adjourn. Chris Black seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:47 pm (EST).