

KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION
Special Fire Commission Meeting
Minutes
October 11, 2023
Munfordville, Kentucky

Present:

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

Absent:

Mike Haney
Josh Keats
Andrew Scott

Ex Officio Members

Present:

Joe Baer
Kyle Carpenter
Nathan Mulvey

Ricky King called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm (CST). Bobby Bunnell conducted the swearing in of Nick Clark. Chris Black motion to approve the minutes from July 29, 2023 in Louisville Kentucky. Lonnie Madden seconded. Motion approved.

Old Business

None.

Loan Committee

Joe Choate said the Loan Committee met virtually on Monday, October 9, 2023. Joe Choate motion to approve that the Fire Commission Office can create a policy for the oversight of loan payment proceeds for fire departments who have merged after July 1, 2022 and the received allotment will satisfy the annual payment arrangement for the loans. Nathan Mulvey seconded. Jeremy Rodgers said we have fire departments who are merging across the state and with the loan program currently we can only issue one loan per fire department, but with the merger, they will have the excess funds to make another payment. Motion approved.

Glendale Fire Department is requesting \$124,000.00 for a used apparatus. Joe Choate motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Utica Fire Department is requesting \$74,449.54 for an apparatus. Joe Choate motion to approve. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

Clintonville Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$90,881.00 for a rescue truck. Joe Choate motion to approve. Nathan Mulvey seconded. Motion approved.

Eligibility Committee

Dwane Smeathers said we have three LODD's that needs to be approved. Donald Hart from Oak Grove Fire Department passed away from a cardiac event. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve the LODD death benefits for Donald Hart. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said that Geneva Salyer with the Red Bush Fire Department passed away from cancer. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve the LODD benefits for Geneva Salyer. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said that Robert Morton with the Sycamore Fire Department passed away from a cardiac event. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve the LODD benefits for Robert Morton. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said there has been some discussion on the electronic rosters for the Fire Departments. Everyone has their own program. Dwane Smeathers motion that the electronic rosters can be approved by the Compliance Specialists from the Fire Commission Office when they conduct audits. John Wood asked is there a

regulation on this. Jeremy Rodgers said not for the rosters. Joe Choate seconded. Motion approved.

Education Committee

Lonnie Madden said the Education Committee met virtually on Monday, October 9, 2023 to discuss approval of the changes to the Bluebook and to the categories and codes. Lonnie Madden motion to approve. Casey Hall explained the changes to the Bluebook and the categories and codes. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

State Fire Rescue Training

Marc Henderson said that Marc Rudder apologized for not being able to be here today. Marc said that SFRT has assisted with several fire schools recently. SFRT has seen an increase in departments requesting training. Through September 30th, SFRT has trained 234 fire departments. They have offered 1,286 classes starting on July 1, 2023. Marc said as of today, 871 written IFSAC tests have been given across the Commonwealth. Father Matthew Young asked about the no shows for IFSAC testing. Jeremy Rodgers said this is still a work in progress on figuring out which direction we need to go with this. There are so many working parts to this topic to even lay the groundwork is a task. Jeremy said this is still high on the list of what we need to get done. Larry Potter said that Christy Rodgers is currently working on this.

Fire Commission Operations

Jeremy Rodgers said there are 709 fire departments that are eligible and could receive State Aid. As of now, 97 fire departments have not submitted any kind of proof of purchases or paperwork for State Aid. Jeremy said we are seeing a huge increase in grant requests for FY 2024. Jeremy said the Compliance Specialists have already conducted 260 audits for this Fiscal Year. Jeremy said we have two investigations that have been turned over to the State Auditor's Office. Larry Potter said Ericka Cole put a lot of time in on the annual reporting booklet.

Fire Marshal's Office

None.

Kentucky Office of Homeland Security

None.

Kentucky Firefighters Association

Kyle Carpenter said unfortunately, we have lost two past KFA Presidents this past September. Billy Robbins and Jimmy Cox passed away. Kyle said the KFA Conference this past August was a success. Registration is now open for the 2024 conference. The State Fair booth was a success this past August. The Legislative Session will start soon, and we will work on keeping everyone up to date on anything that could affect the fire service. Kyle Carpenter said we added 22 names to the Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Frankfort on October 4, 2023. The next KFA meeting will be held on October 21st in Maysville Kentucky.

Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs

Nathan Mulvey said their next Board meeting is scheduled for October 12th at 4:00 pm (CST) in Paducah at their annual fire school. Nathan said that Danny Castle is retiring. Tom Arnold will be the new Executive Director at the beginning of the new year. Nathan Mulvey said they have a legislative meeting scheduled with Bruce Roberts, KPF and KFA on November 6th.

Kentucky Professional Firefighter's Association

Joe Baer said the KPF just signed the contract for the 2024 firefighter chili dinner. The chili dinner will be held on January 5, 2024 at the Foundry in Frankfort on Main Street. Joe said he is serving on a workgroup that was established by Emergency Management regarding the USAR team. Currently there is no funding mechanism for the USAR Team.

Bruce Roberts said everyone's position on the Fire Commission Board will be up at the end of November, except for Chris Black, Ricky King, Nick Clark, and Jerry Stephens. If you want to get back on the Board, please fill out an application and send to the Board of Commissions.

KBEMS

Eddie Slone said the grant applications for the next Fiscal Year will be open on November 1, 2023. The renewal application period for licenses will close on December 31, 2023.

New Business

Ricky King said the Fire Commission meeting on December 6th will be held in Greenville at the Fire Academy at 1:00 pm (CST). Ricky said hopefully we will get to take a tour of the new facility. Marc Henderson said the new building is 85 to 90% complete. The equipment shed is being constructed. Marc said the graduation date for the third class at the Recruit Academy will be on November 17th. Ricky King said if you are planning on running for a position on the Fire Commission Board, please send a letter or email to Larry Potter before the December Fire Commission meeting.

Larry Potter said that Brenda Goddard has been working on the budget. Larry said that Chase Niceley couldn't make it to today's meeting. Larry said the Compensation plan has been completed. Larry thanked Chase and Brenda for the work that they put into the Compensation plan. Larry Potter said that Derrick Hall wanted to be here today but couldn't make it. Larry said we are working on changes to the Paris Office.

Larry Potter said that KCTCS has a new President Ryan Quarles. Larry said we are the 17th College of KCTCS now.

Correspondence

Ricky King thanked Bobby Bunnell for being here at the Fire Commission meeting.

Dwane Smeathers motion to adjourn. Chris Black seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:46 pm (CST).