

**KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION**

Fire Commission Meeting

Minutes

February 23, 2024

Owensboro, Kentucky

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

Josh Keats

**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 all of the new Fire Commission Board Members. Ricky King introduced Cheryl Allen to the Board. Andrew Scott motion to approve the minutes from December 6, 2023 meeting in Greenville Kentucky. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

## **Old Business**

Ricky King said we need to conduct the elections. Ricky King said that he has turned in his letter for Chairperson of the Board. Joe Choate turned in his letter for Vice Chairperson of the Board. Chris Black turned in his letter for Secretary of the Board. Ricky King said no one else ran for these positions. Andrew Scott motion to elect these three nominees. Father Matthew Young seconded. Motion approved.

## **Eligibility Committee**

Dwane Smeathers said the Eligibility Committee met this morning to discuss two LODD's. Thomas Petschke from Ballardsville Fire Department passed away from a cardiac issue. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said Roger Askin from the Covington Fire Department passed away from cancer. Chris Black motion to approve. Andrew Scott seconded. Motion approved.

Father Matthew Young asked everyone for a moment of silence in memory of these firefighters.

## **Loan Committee**

Joe Choate said the Loan Committee met this morning to discuss three loans. Stanley Fire Department is requesting \$80,924.00 for a 2024 Freightliner- Pierce Pumper. Father Matthew Young motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Knott County Fire Department is requesting \$35,000.00 for a 1999 Freightliner Wolverine with a Hale pump and accessories. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Redbird Volunteer Fire and Rescue is requesting \$11,000.00 for an engine replacement on a 2004 F-550 CAFS engine. Andrew Scott motion to approve. Nick Clark seconded. Motion approved.

## **Health and Wellness Committee**

Jerry Stephens said the Health and Wellness Committee met this morning to discuss a new administrative regulation. Jon Wood said this is to implement the stress injury

program and set the process for applying for reimbursement benefits. Everyone should have a draft in front of them. The only change that was suggested during the committee meeting this morning based upon Jon's recommendation was to strike Section 5, subsections 1 and 2 which was concerning time limitations based upon the previous statute. Chris Black motion to approve this regulation with the changes made to Section 5, subsections 1 and 2. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Father Matthew Young thanked Bruce Roberts and Jon Wood for all of their work on this. Motion approved.

### **State Fire Rescue Training**

Marc Rudder said through January 31<sup>st</sup>, SFRT has delivered training to 529 fire departments for 69% of the departments in the state. Marc said this weekend marks the beginning of our Spring Fire School season. Marc said we now have four full-time training specialists that are spaced out across the state. They work independently with each District and with each other to deliver courses for certification. Marc said we are continuing to offer Instructor II courses in person and virtually. We have completed our second Fire Officer III course with another planned for later this Spring. We will offer a Fire Officer IV course sometime in July. Marc Rudder said next weekend, we will be offering a skills session for certification to Common Passenger Vehicles Awareness Operations and Technician. There are about fifty candidates that have pre-registered. Marc said we will soon be putting out information for the live fire instructor certification and how we are going to deliver those sessions across the state. Marc said in April, we will be conducting a certification session for Rope Rescue Awareness, Operations and Technician. This will be the initial session for our SFRT staff. We will have another session later in the Spring in Western Kentucky.

Marc said the Accredited Written Exams are now online. Upon completion of exams, the candidate is given immediate results. If the candidate fails an exam, they will be able to look up an exam to see what they were deficient in the Acadis Portal. Each District Office has set test dates per month or weekly. The students must pre-register 48 hours before the test. Marc Rudder said the Fire Academy of Kentucky began classes on February 19, 2024 for the fourth class. There are twenty-nine students in the class representing thirteen fire departments.

Marc Rudder said we had a Flashover Awareness course offered through Zoom that had over two hundred students in the class. Marc said are continuing to offer the Instructor Methodology courses online once a month. We are offering EMT Con-Ed monthly, which is held on the second Tuesday of each month. Marc said we had our

site team visit this past week for the Degree Program. They are going to recommend full reaccreditation. Marc said that District 3 is moving to the old Fire Academy Building in Greenville on July 1, 2024.

Troy Roberts, President of Green River Firefighter's Association thanked everyone for being here and your continual support.

### **Fire Commission Operations**

Jeremy Rodgers said we have a new hire for State Aid Specialist. Ashley Tackett started on January 29, 2024. Jeremy said we were notified that the Administrative Office of the Courts was no longer doing background checks for fire departments. Jeremy said he spoke with the Administrative Office of the Courts and we have that lined out. Jeremy said the CTC program with KDE is up and will go into effect this Fall fully. Jeremy Rodgers said that he and the Training Records Specialists will be conducting two fire department compliance classes every other month through Zoom. One will be held during the daytime. The other will be held in the evening.

Jeremy Rodgers said that he, Larry Potter, Bruce Roberts, Marc Rudder, and Derrick Hall will be traveling across the State to the District Offices. Jeremy said we are beginning the process of working on the grants. Jeremy said the Fire Commission now has phone apps for the I-Phone and Android. We will utilize the phone apps for sending out information.

### **Facilities**

Derrick Hall said we just cleared the back section at District 2. Derrick said we received the keys for the building at the Fire Academy last week. We are in discussions at District 5 about trying to enlarge that facility. We are looking at adding property to District 9 in Morehead. Derrick said we are going to add a larger conference room to the building in Paris. Derrick said we will receive the keys for the IFSAC Office property on March 1, 2024.

### **Legislative**

Bruce Roberts said the IAFF Peer Support Training will be on April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in London Kentucky. Registration will open up on the website on Monday. This class will hold thirty students. It is open to volunteer and paid firefighters. The second class will be held in September in Owensboro. We will pay for the meals and lodging for this training. The name has been changed to Stress Injury due to the KRS.

Bruce Roberts said there has been over one thousand bills introduced during this legislative session. The deadline for the bills to be introduced is next week. Bruce said there have been twenty shell bills that were dropped this past week. A shell bill is anything that can be added into that bill. Bruce discussed House Bills 6, 43, 212 and 323. Bruce said we are in Frankfort everyday except on Fridays.

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

Mike Haney said they are on normal day to day operations.

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

None.

### **Kentucky Firefighters Association**

Kyle Carpenter said the Legislative Session has been going on since January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Kyle said the Legislative Chili Dinner was a success. Kyle said the KFA is putting together a new email list. If you would like to be added to that list, please contact Eric Philpot. Kyle said the next KFA meeting will be held on June 6<sup>th</sup> at the State Fire School. Kyle said they will be delivering a check to the family of Regina Huffman who was with the Coon Creek Fire Department. Kyle said registration for the 2024 KFA Conference is now open.

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

Nathan Mulvey recognized Danny Castle who is retiring. Mike Morgan has stepped in as the Interim Director. Nathan said we approved a Resolution to support KBEMS of HB 484.

### **Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association**

Joe Baer said the KPFF's main focus and priorities is with Legislation in Frankfort. Howdy Kurtsinger has been sending out weekly updates. Joe said he will be in Washington DC on March 4<sup>th</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup> for the IAFF Legislative Conference. Joe said they will be hosting a Board meeting at the end of March. The main focus will be to address endorsements in the upcoming general election for state races. Joe said he will send out their endorsement list.

## **KBEMS**

Eddie Slone asked everyone to look at their emails for the next few days. KBEMS is going through the preliminary reviews for the block grants. The date for this is the first week in March.

## **New Business**

Mike Sutt said there is a new Osha regulation that has dropped. Osha has expanded this standard to include fire and rescue. It has the potential to be very detrimental and very costly. This is currently open for public comment. It would require physicals for everyone.

Ricky King said he is going to appoint a workgroup to look at some fire chiefs training. The following people will be in this workgroup: Joe Baer, Chris Black, Cheryl Allen, Nick Clark, Kyle Carpenter, Marc Rudder, and Jeremy Rodgers.

## **Executive Director Comments**

Larry Potter asked Ricky to get those names for the workgroup to Tina Moore. Larry Potter thanked Green River for inviting us to the Officer's School. Larry said we have a great Fire Commission Board. Larry thanked everyone for what they do. We are going to continue to be here for you and help you in anyway we can.

## **Announcements from the Audience**

Chief Brooks from the Bowling Green Fire Department said everyone is invited to the Officer Training School on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The keynote speaker is David Rhodes.

Father Matthew Young welcomed the new members to the Fire Commission Board. Ricky King said that Tina Moore is working on the Fire Commission workshop. The next Fire Commission meeting will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> in Paris Kentucky at 1:00 pm (EST).

Dwane Smeathers motion to adjourn. Father Matthew Young seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm (CST).