

KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION

Fire Commission Meeting

Minutes

April 24, 2024

Paris, Kentucky

Present:

Cheryl Allen
Chris Black
Nick Clark
Mike Haney
Josh Keats
Ricky King
Dwane Smeathers
Dr. Irvin Smith
Jerry Stephens
Mike Sutt
Father Matthew Young

Absent:

Joe Choate
Andrew Scott

Ex Officio Members

Present:

Joe Baer
Kyle Carpenter
Nathan Mulvey

Ricky King called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm (EST). Father Matthew Young motion to approve the minutes from February 23, 2024 in Owensboro Kentucky. Josh Keats seconded. Motion approved.

Old Business

None.

Eligibility Committee

Dwane Smeathers said the Eligibility Committee met yesterday. Dwane said we had a LODD. Robert Lindsay from Pikeville Fire Department passed away from a cardiac issue. Mike Sutt motion to approve. Father Matthew Young seconded. Motion approved. Dwane Smeathers said the committee tabled the other items on the agenda until the next meeting.

Loan Committee

Dwane Smeathers said the Loan Committee met this morning to discuss three loans. Bush Fire Department is requesting \$125,000.00 for a 2022 Rescue/ Wildland mini pumper. Father Matthew Young motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

England Hill is requesting \$120,885.57 for 10 New Scott Air Packs & 20 Scott Air Cylinders, Gear Extractor Washer & Double Rack Dryer, and a Cascade Air Compressor for filling Air Cylinders. After some discussion, we spoke with Bruce Roberts. The Health and Wellness committee awards extractors to fire departments across the state. The Loan Committee approved \$114,549.81. That is the total cost minus the extractor. Chris Black motion to approve. Josh Keats seconded. Motion approved.

Route 504 Fire Department is requesting an emergency loan of \$100,000.00 for a 2004 Freightliner E-One Pumper Tanker. Josh Keats motion to approve. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

State Fire Rescue Training

Marc Rudder said through the end of March, 85% of the fire departments has been trained by SFRT. Marc said the Accredited Certification Office has been very busy. Marc said Wes Gilliam and his staff have constructed a Rope Rescue Tower inside our facility in Morehead. The Fire Academy graduation will be held on May 17th at Greenville. Marc said the Academy's classroom and office facilities have been completed. Marc said we will have a ribbon cutting on April 30, 2024 at 11:00 am (CST). Marc said that the State Fire School registration is currently open.

State Fire Marshal's Office

Mike Haney said they have two openings. One is in Fayette County, and one is in Bell County.

Kentucky Office of Homeland Security

Josh Keats said Homeland Security has been working on Derby preparations.

Kentucky Firefighters Association

Kyle Carpenter asked everyone to keep Eric Philpot in your prayers as he recovers from an accident. He is expected to make a full recovery. Kyle said they are working on updating their website along with the KFA App. Kyle said they are working on updating everyone's emails addresses. The next KFA meeting will be at the State Fire School on June 6th at 9:00 pm (EST). Kyle said we will be traveling to Emmetsburg for the Fallen Firefighter Memorial on May 4th and 5th. We are still looking for Honor Guards across the Commonwealth. Registration for the KFA Conference is now open.

Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association

Joe Baer said we are looking at healthcare for retirees. Joe said HB 323 passed. Joe said he would like for us to work on the administrative regs as soon as possible. Joe said that the Incentive pay has been increased to \$4,300.00. State Aid has been increased to \$15,000.00. These increases have not set in statute yet. Joe said that HB 159 passed. Ricky King thanked Joe, Bruce, KFA, KAFC for all of their hard work during this legislative session.

KBEMS

A KBEMS Representative discussed HB 57 with the board. HB 484 did not have any funding.

Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs

Mike Morgan said they are working on a Statewide mutual aid agreement. Mike said they are working on providing resources for the fire chiefs. Their conference will be held in August in Bowling Green.

Ricky King said he thinks it is time for the Fire Commission to put together Response Teams across the state for LODD's, disasters, etc. The team needs to consist of a Fire Commission member, a Staff member, and a District coordinator.

Facilities

Derrick Hall said he has been working with the City of Princeton and their facility there. The District 3 Office is working on the property transfer. The Fire Academy will have their ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 11:00 am. District 4 is having issues with sinkholes. District 5 is working on obtaining some different properties. Derrick said that District 6 is working on renewing their lease. District 9 has built a wonderful prop. They are still looking for property for District's 11 and 12. Derrick said we are looking at an expansion here at the Paris Office.

New Business

Katie George and Terry DeAtley with KCTCS Legal discussed the KCTCS Administrative Leave Update. Katie George said their Office received a complaint on February 23, 2024 and at that point in time they started an investigation. Katie said that she, Terri DeAtley, two HR Directors from other KCTCS colleges and a Financial Officer from another KCTCS college started looking at the allegations. They interviewed over 15 Fire Commission Employees. Katie said at this point in time, our Office has completed the investigation. They submitted their final report to Dr. Quarles. Dr. Quarles will be making the final decision. Ricky King said there will be a Special Fire Commission meeting in Versailles at the Systems Office on May 2, 2024 at 9:00 am (EST). Ricky King said that John Wood will not be able to be there, but another attorney will be present in his place. Ricky King said this meeting will be in person.

Director Comments

Ricky thanked Bruce for everything that he has done. Bruce thanked his staff. It has been a long road. We have been trying to keep everything moving forward. Bruce said we had our first PTSD peer class in April. Thirty-five students were in the class. The next class will be in Owensboro in September. Bruce said we have three LODD's that we are waiting for the paperwork on. Bruce said the TIC cameras have been delivered. Bruce said take a look at the Warehouse in the back. The PPE grants are being separated and the District Coordinators will distribute them to their departments.

Josh Keats asked are there any plans for the Fire Commission to move beyond the two classes for PTSD. Joe Baer said this class establish an additional 16 peer support trainers a year. Joe said the KPFF at our last convention made a resolution and provided funding to establish a peer support team. It is our intent to provide support for any and all firefighters and fire departments across the Commonwealth. The peer support classes train people on how to listen. Mike Morgan said he attended a Kentucky Peer Support Network training.

Father Matthew Young said in February at the Owensboro meeting, we approve legislation for the stress injury program. How long will that take to go into effect? John Wood said best guess is this should go into effect in about three to four months. Bruce said we are waiting on the KAR to go through. Joe Baer asked the Fire Commission to establish a platform to reach out to every firefighter. Some of the departments are not notifying their firefighters of these programs. Marc Rudder said there is a way to do this through Acadis (KYFIRES). We do have an email distribution list.

Announcements from the Audience

Father Matthew Young motion to approve the minutes from the special called meeting on March 13, 2024 in Frankfort Kentucky. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Nathan Mulvey said we need to have an understanding of what we can take action on in the committee meetings. We do not want to overstep or over speak in the committee meetings. Ricky King said a lot of this information is in the Fire Commission Whitebook.

Josh Keats motion to adjourn. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm (EST).