

Fire Education/Advisory Commission, Division of Fire Safety

March 6, 2024

Minutes

The Missouri Fire Safety Education/Advisory Commission works to provide training and continuing education to the fire service throughout Missouri.

Portions of this meeting may be closed pursuant to RSMo 610.021 (11 & 12)

Roll call (1000 hours):

Fire Education/Advisory Commission: Greg Brown, Alan Braun, Tracy Wiley, Bruce Lipe, Brian Zaitz (Webex)
Staff: Tim Bean, Matt Luetkemeyer, Greg Landwehr, Justin Merritt, Amanda Williams, Brock Biggerstaff, Julie Voss
In-Person Guests: Steve McClain and Lisa Jobe (MERC), Bob Tucker (JCESTA), Harry Ward (MUFRTI),
Webex Guests: Gail Hagans (MUFRTI), Mike Schultz (EOS).

Approval of Minutes from 12/6/2023 meeting:

Motion: Alan Braun Second: Tracy Wiley In favor: All present

Legislative Update – Tim Bean, Fire Marshal

- No major updates to report

Division/Staffing Status – Tim Bean, Fire Marshal

- All is well

Training Unit Report – Greg Landwehr, Deputy Chief

- Training Statistics
 - 199 certification classes completed
 - 3297 certification exams administered
 - 2342 Certifications issued
 - 219 certifications have been recognized through reciprocity
- Contracted Training update
 - FY24 financial report
 - \$231,087.60 remaining of funding
 - Split the supplemental \$500K that was dedicated to training only first for classes, now working on the initial/core \$500K that was dedicated for equipment/expense funds
 - The supplemental \$500K is on the books to be re-issued next year, no issues seen for not getting this pushed through again
 - CEPF funding
 - \$18,715.65
 - Steve McClain: MERC will max out at \$100K allocation for DFS for FY25
 - Fire Ed Fund
 - \$63,077.51 remaining
 - NFA funds
 - \$20,000.00 remaining
 - At this time, GR funds are being used as much as possible, which is the reason for the high amounts remaining for NFA, CEPF, etc.
 - FY24 course request report
 - Contracted Training Classes
 - To date we have 45 classes requested totaling \$284,320.00
 - 5 Classes scheduled totaling \$18,960.00
 - 27 classes approved totaling \$201,106.40
 - Some classes are now pushing to host in FY25 (starting in July 2024, earliest we have ever scheduled classes through contracted training)
 - Continuing Education Classes
 - 47 classes completed – 1010 students completed totaling \$158,000
 - Finance report attached
 - To date we have 204 classes requested totaling \$813,350.00.
 - 13 classes approved totaling \$56,750.00
 - 63 classes scheduled totaling \$260,100.00
 - Certification Testing Services

- We currently have requests for 10 practical skill exams totaling \$55,000
 - 5 testing events scheduled totaling \$27,500.00
 - 2 completed testing events totaling \$11,000.00
 - 3 events cancelled by host
- Total Contracted Training Statistics
 - 267 Total request for this FY
 - 54 classes completed with 1106 students completing those classes at a cost of \$177,500.00. 20.5 students per class at an average cost of \$160.49 per student.
 - 76 classes currently scheduled for this fiscal year
 - 38 classes approved and is in process of scheduling for this fiscal year
 - 16 classes have been cancelled for various reasons
- NFA Courses
 - (Federal FY24 fiscal year 10/1/23 – 9/30/24)
 - Total of Seven (17) NFA classes completed to date with 209 students completing classes
 - Course call is out for FY25
 - 9 two-day courses available for this year
- NFA Grant

AFG Grants Update – Deputy Chief Landwehr

- 2021 AFG (Exterior Burn Props and Trailer)
 - Contract awarded. Build status meeting in April. Expected delivery late May – early June.
- 2022 AFG (Turnout Gear and equipment replacement for the technical rescue trailers)
 - We have been awarded this grant in the total of \$49,590.
 - Turnout gear has been received and we have met our match of \$6,468.27 plus requested \$2,726.74 from the grant leaving a grant balance of \$40,394.99.
 - We are in the process of ordering the Rope Rescue replacement equipment.

Old business:

- Update on Training Contracts FY24
 - RFP Updates
 - Under current vendors, renewal process should start this month for July 1 renewal date
 - Can submit new classes, remove classes, adjust pricing under the renewal
- NFPA updates to programs
 - Investigator (NFPA 1033-2022)
 - Had a single feasible source contract out for signatures, PFFIA backed out on December 14, 2023
 - Without a contract to deliver the NEW Fire Investigator course, Jessica (our fiscal manager) and I sat down to find a solution. After reviewing the documentation that provides funding for the General Revenue Training Fund, we found there were two separate line items in the documentation that provided us with some options. First the initial funding (\$480,000) that we have received over the past 25 years was line itemed as Equipment and expenses. The second was the additional \$500,000 we received for this fiscal year that was label as program services (not sure of the actual language). After some discussion and research, Jessica and I determined it is allowable to utilize the equipment and expenses category to buy textbooks, any props or equipment needed, and any other expenses (hotel rooms, mileage, per diem) incurred to deliver the Fire Investigator program.
 - To get the pilot classes moving forward we purchased textbooks for the two pilot classes and for three additional classes for the next fiscal year. Costs of books per class is \$1,620. Also, we are needing a new investigation trailer to conduct practical skill training. Our plan is to purchase a conex bumper pull trailer (\$9,150) and a 20-foot conex box to build two different fire scenes in for conducting investigation training. Since this is a conex box, this would give us the ability to build the rooms directly in the box and burn them, allowing for deeper and more realistic fire scenes to investigate. The trailer and conex box are a one-time purchase that should last us well over 15 years of use. The only ongoing expense would be for materials every other year to change up the fire scenes so new students would get something different to look at and possibly not already know what it is.
 - Two pilot classes, one ongoing (started February 26th), one upcoming (starting March 18th)
 - Going to a static schedule to deliver one class every 4 months once pilots have completed
 - NFPA 1006 Rope Rescue Awareness, Operations and Technician
 - Several pilot classes have been conducted.

- Tentatively we have 3 Instructor/Evaluator seminars scheduled on March 7, March 13 and March 20. Looking to possibly add 1 more.
 - NFPA 1030 (calling an audible)
 - First Responder Inspector (1030, Chapter 6) (24 - 32 hour course)
 - Company inspections
 - Textbook review completed
 - FMAM will be requested to help out with developing a test bank and correlating the book to the standard
 - Will need some supplemental info to meet the JPRs of 1030 Chapter 6
 - Fire Inspector (1030, Chapter 7) (80 hour course)
 - Initial review of standard has been conducted. Major changes to this standard.
 - Initial drafts of the policy and practical skills have been completed.
 - SME committee will be established for complete review of policy, skills and correlation of the cognitive test bank.
 - NFPA 1010 Fire Fighter I & II and Driver/Operator
 - Fire Fighter I and II
 - Standard released January 10, 2024
 - Application request sent for FF I and II SMEs on 3/4/24
 - TIMS (Traffic Incident Management Systems) training is now a required pre-req
 - Initial standard review has been completed. New skill added for thermal imaging
 - New text books to be released in the next couple of months
 - IFSTA upcoming, now separated into two textbooks with the HazMat piece removed
 - Jones and Bartlett available
 - Expect to release the standard update 7/1/2025
 - Driver Operator
 - Initial standard review completed, doesn't appear to have any changes
 - Waiting on new book
 - NFPA 1550 Incident Safety Officer
 - Standard released in December
 - Nothing to report currently.
- ProBoard site visit update
 - Reaccreditation received, two recommendations but no requirements
 - Impressed with the work done by the team, specifically on Tech Rescue skills re-write
- HazMat Operations Refresher
 - Chief Chuck Perry (ret. Independence Fire, Instructor for MCC-Blue River) and Chief Shane Anderson (Battlefield Fire) taught this course
 - Feedback from each instructor was obtained upon completion of the course and presented to the members present.
 - 16 students from three different initial classes under the current 470 standard
 - 11 of the 16 passed the initial attempt of their certification exam
 - Of those that failed, they were all within 5 points of a passing score
 - All students tested their initial attempt within a week of completion of the course
 - Across the board, all students had increases of 3-20 points in their exam score, with an overall average of 10 point increase from their previous exam score
 - For previous years, average point increase for students who failed their initial Ops exams was 6 points on their retake
 - A proposal for implementation of the refresher courses was also presented (includes HazMat Ops, Firefighter I and Firefighter II)
 - This includes the following:
 - Financial and Staffing impacts
 - Benefits of implementation
 - Implementation plan
 - Student eligibility
 - Refresher process
 - Feedback (positive or negative) on the impact to agencies as requested by the Commission members
 - Survey went out to agencies who are currently delivering these classes
 - Consisted of five (5) yes or no questions and a comment box
 - Delivery of Firefighter I and II refresher
 - Delivery of HazMat Ops refresher
 - Would these benefit your agency?

- Negative outcomes to these refreshers
 - Proposed hours and agreement
- 40 responses were received and presented to the commission
 - Dissenting responses
 - 3 respondents were across-the-board opposed to offering the refreshers and being a benefit to the agency
 - 2 responses and one non-response to the negative outcomes question; non-response was thrown out, leaving two responses
 - Only one comment was reported, which, based on response, did not understand the intent (understood it as refreshers would be a requirement by DFS to be conducted each year and submitted to DFS for CEUs, which is not the intent)
 - Additional comments also indicated a misunderstanding of the proposal
 - 37 responses in favor of the refresher
 - 37 “Yes” responses to offering all three refreshers
 - 34 “Yes” responses and 3 “No” responses to benefitting the agency
 - 27 “No” responses and 10 “Yes” responses on negative outcomes
 - 13 “Yes” responses, 8 “No” responses, and 16 non-responses to agreement with proposed hours
- Recommended study material: IFSTA Course Workbook
 - DFS staff reviewed the workbook and found great value in the book based on the type of questions contained in the book and it’s use for study material with direct textbook references
 - There may be a digital version available for purchase
 - From a recent class where this was used, all but one student passed their first attempt of their certification exam
 - Tracy Wiley: Can this book be made a requirement?
 - Yes, but that would require agencies to spend additional money for the materials that some may not be able to afford, in addition to a stand-alone HazMat book and Fire 1&2 books for a complete academy class
 - Steve McClain: as a vendor who pays for a lot of HazMat classes, would rather pay for a \$35 workbook for the initial classes then pay for a refresher class as a whole; unlikely to fund refresher training when other departments need initial training
 - Cannot afford to buy a workbook for every firefighter in the state, but can help to provide some books by request from the agency as long as the money holds out
 - MERC could pay for the textbooks for requested courses and the departments could pay for the workbook, which is a greater cost savings for the departments
- Steve McClain: If there are issues with students studying appropriately and not passing the exams, which is out of our control as instructors, why are we pushing a refresher to try to solve a problem that is not our fault that it is occurring?
 - We believe that it is our mission to provide the maximum possibilities for students to learn, and in doing so, a refresher training adds benefit for the students and the service
- Greg Landwehr: Does the commission recommend that we continue?
 - Overwhelming yes!

New Business:

- RFPs for Training Contracts FY25
 - New stand-alone classes for the three levels of HazMat, hybrid and traditional
 - Republished NFA class list and removed classes that MUFRTI already has under contract
 - CE classes republished for new vendors to add their own training
- 2023 AFG (ongoing support for the Acadis system)
 - Application period closes March 8, 2024 at 5 pm.
 - Initially wasn’t going to apply, but we have decided to apply for funding to supplement the ongoing costs of the Acadis system. Requesting \$365K+ that would be 2 years of SAAS. If awarded our match would be less than \$55,000.
 - Technology is a priority for AFG again this year, so asking also for an additional 100 tablets and 5 cases for testing as par of the \$365K request
- Acadis Update
 - Renegotiated contract with Acadis and they included the Workforce Portal at no additional cost due to Agency Connect, which connects Acadis and Target Solutions
 - Agency Connect is being offered at no charge to the departments, so asked that Workforce Portal be offered at no charge as well since they go hand-in-hand
 - Go live date in the next couple months

- Extensive training will be provided to the departments on how to operate this new module

Other business

- Comments/questions from guests
 - Tim Bean: Challenged the training unit to provide a live session online for updates for the fire service
 - Came from hearing from the service that the division is not being as transparent as they would like
 - Will be doing this through YouTube Live with a chat monitor to build off of for upcoming live sessions

Upcoming Meeting Dates and Times

- June 5, 2024 at 10 am
- September 4, 2024 at 10 am
- December 4, 2024 at 10 am
- March 5, 2025 at 10 am

Motion to Adjourn

Motion: Bruce

Second: Alan

In favor: **All present**