

# Fire Education/Advisory Commission, Division of Fire Safety

## September 4, 2024

### Agenda

*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: 1002 hours**

Fire Education/Advisory Commission: Greg Brown, Tracy Wiley, Brian Zaitz, Alan Braun, and Dan Manley (in-person); Bruce Lipe (WebEx)  
Staff: Fire Marshal Tim Bean; Assistant Fire Marshall Matt Luetkemeyer (WebEx); Deputy Chief Greg Landwehr; Battalion Chiefs/Program Managers Justin Merritt, Amanda Williams, Brock Biggerstaff, and Pete Martin  
Guests: Harry Ward, Gail Hagans, and Tracy Gray (MUFRTI); Bob Tucker (JCESTA); Lisa Jobe and Kim Brundage (MERC); a total of 35 attendees were present on WebEx

#### **Approval of Minutes from 3/6/2024 meeting:**

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

#### **Legislative Updates, Division/Staffing Status – Tim Bean, Fire Marshal**

- No updates for legislation, some proposals have been drawn up and are with DPS for approval
- New legislators coming in this year, always interesting to educate them on how state government works
- New governor coming in as well
- Money is good, economy is good in MO and we find favor in that

#### **Training Unit Report – Greg Landwehr, Deputy Chief**

- Certification course, testing and certifications issued Statistics
  - FY24 July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
    - 522 certification classes completed
    - 5633 certification exams administered
    - 3757 Certifications issued
    - 347 certifications recognized through reciprocity
- Contracted Training update
  - FY24 financial report
    - All classes were funded under GR
      - Gave back \$165K due to cancelled classes
      - If no classes were cancelled, would have spent the allocated \$1M in seven months
    - In total, turned back a total of \$240K, almost \$55 went back to the MERC that was not expended out of the CEPF fund
    - The \$20K from the NFA was expended in August with another \$20K coming up
    - Certification Classes
      - 46 classes requested totaling \$296,299.60
      - 9 Classes cancelled totaling \$46,173.60
      - 26 classes completed totaling \$201,770.00
      - 11 classes not approved totaling \$48,357.60
    - Continuing Education Classes
      - 207 classes requested totaling \$829,550.00
      - 17 classes cancelled totaling \$62,350.00
      - 120 classes completed totaling \$470,800.00
      - 70 classes not approved totaling \$296,400.00
    - NFA Classes
      - 5 classes requested totaling \$8,850.00
      - 0 classes cancelled totaling \$0.00
      - 2 classes completed totaling \$3,800.00
      - 3 classes not approved totaling \$5,050.00
    - Certification Testing Services
      - 11 Practical skill exams requested totaling \$60,500.00
      - 3 testing events cancelled totaling \$16,500.00
      - 8 completed testing events totaling \$44,000.00

- FY24 course request report
  - See above financial report for FY24
- FY25 financial report
  - 273 classes requested totaling \$1,227,785.20
    - Within the first quarter of the fiscal year, requests have exceeded the \$1M given by the legislation
  - 92 classes scheduled totaling \$420,517.80
  - 31 classes completed totaling \$157,888.80
  - 3 classes cancelled totaling \$18,048.00
    - Funds will get reallocated to other fund other requested courses
  - Fire Education Fund
    - Ended FY24 with \$260,995
    - That rolls over and does not get swept from Fireworks permitting
    - This is used for the LMS system and pays the vast majority of that cost
    - Can also be used to offset course costs if GR money is expended and a class needs to be funded
    - Balance as of 9/3/24 was \$279K with a spending authority of \$250K annually
      - Grant match of \$48,994 for the 2023 AFG grant
      - LMS cost will be rolled back in due to the 2023 AFG grant (\$186K/year)
      - Spending authority will need to be addressed once the current legislation goes through to increase the fireworks funding by statute.
        - Current revenue is approximately \$160K, anticipated revenue increase would exceed current spending authority.
    - Fire Ed money is typically spent down to \$100K annually.
      - Some years are lean in fireworks permitting and some are more robust, collecting sometimes around \$130K per year instead of the average \$160K per year.
    - With the costs of the licenses for the Acadis system not coming out due to the grant, the Fire Ed money will sit for a couple years, and we can roll over more money each year to help cover some additional training that will be needed across the state.
      - The MERC has lost their funding for this year through CEPF collections, so HazMat training over the next year is going to be almost non-existent on the MERC side.
      - We can backstop that with the additional Fire Ed money to alleviate that training deficit.
      - Once reinstated, collection on the fund would resume January 1, 2026
      - There has been discussion of a possible emergency allocation, but there are no indicators of what the emergency allocation will be used for
      - MERC will still have the HMEP funding and can work strategically with that and use it best we can for the fire service.
    - Goal is to carry \$500K annually to cover light years where we don't get funding out of GR
- FY25 course request report
  - See above financial report for FY25
  - GR: received \$1M for training with \$30K governor holdback, allocated \$558K for training, just under \$412K remaining
  - CEPF: Greg to follow up with Terry, should be around \$87-90K, typically obligate about 20% of CEPF fund to go towards LMS for HazMat training
    - LMS money is negative on the balance sheet as \$22K has been returned to the training funds due to the 2023 AFG grant for two years of licensing
    - \$45,300 allocated for CEPF fund training for HazMat
    - \$42,500 left to obligate out of the CEPF fund
- NFA Courses (direct delivery)
  - Federal FY23 fiscal year (10/1/23 – 9/30/24) Approximately 12 classes completed, 1 class cancelled (first class cancelation in 4 years)
  - Federal FY24 fiscal year (10/1/224 – 9/30/25) classes in the process of scheduling
    - Currently in second course call
    - Need to have direct delivery classes around the large municipalities with airports as NFA will fly the instructors to the training location
      - Anyone wanting to host an NFA class for direct delivery will be responsible for transportation of the instructors to and from the airport and around the local area

- Anyone in rural areas wanting to host an NFA class can do so through contracted training and we will send the instructor in via one of the vendors that hold the contract for the class
  - We are region 7 for NFA along with Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa
  - We get nine 2-day classes in the state and three 6-day classes for the region
    - States meet in March to decide who wants to host and then the classes are put out
    - Missouri will typically take what is left that they other states cannot host
      - Due to our great student attendance, we can usually request an off-cycle class and typically get it as there is usually excess funding
- NFA Grant FY23
  - \$20K rolled over into FY24
- NFA Grant FY24
  - \$40K allotted for this fiscal year
  - Already obligated \$40,100 this year, so the difference will come from GR funding to cover costs over \$40K
- AFG FY21 (Exterior Burn Props and Trailer)
  - Delivered. In-service training conducted 8/2024. To be scheduling instructor trainings soon.
  - Grant fully expended and we are in the close-out process.
- AFG FY22 (Turnout Gear and equipment replacement for the technical rescue trailers)
  - All equipment purchased and received.
  - Grant fully expended and we are in the close-out process.
- AFG FY23 (Acadis platform licensing renewals and 100 tablets)
  - We were awarded the grant on August 7, 2024 and we accepted it on August 20, 2024.
  - Grant was written for \$23,800 for equipment (tablets and carrying cases) and for \$374,822.82 for contractual services of the Acadis SaaS for a total \$398,622.82 requested.
  - Grant awarded was in the amount of \$374,822.82 with a grant match of \$48,889.94 with Federal funding of \$325,932.88. They did not approve the tablets and carrying cases request.
- Additional AFG Grant
  - Secondary recipient through the ISFSI
  - It is an NFPA 1400 class, there are 25 of them offered throughout the country
  - It will be open to all volunteers
  - It is a common use grant that ISFSI wrote
  - Greg Landwehr applied for Missouri and was awarded one of the classes, so ISFSI will be working with him to determine a location to hold that class
- NFPA Standard updates
  - NFPA 470-2022 – Hazardous Materials
    - Updated to the new standard July 2023
  - NFPA 1006-2021 – Technical Rescue
    - Updated to the new standard July 2023
  - NFPA 1010-2024 – Fire Fighter and Driver Operator
    - Process has begun to update to the 2024 edition
    - Expected release to Missouri's Fire Service July 2025
    - Accreditation agency due date for update is June 30, 2026
  - NFPA 1020-2024/5 – Fire Instructor and Fire Officer
    - NFPA documents expected to release January 2025
    - NFPA committee has corrected the layout of this standard in that the instructor chapters now come before the officer chapters in the standard to coincide with the pre-req levels
  - NFPA 1030-2024 – Fire Inspector, Plans Examiner, Fire Marshal, Pub Ed and PIO
    - These must be updated by December 31, 2024
    - DFS will be updating to certify to the levels of First Responder Inspector and Fire Inspector
      - First Responder Inspector will be around 24-32 hours and cover the basics of the current Fire Inspector I
      - Fire Inspector combines Fire Inspector I, Fire Inspector II, Fire Inspector III, and Plans Examiner
        - This will be an 80-hour class
    - SME committee has been established for complete review of policy, skills and correlation of the cognitive test bank
      - Committee was presented with the idea of covering all knowledge components for the standard within the skills; however the SME committee would like to see a cognitive test
        - Committee was advised that they will need to create a test bank of approximately 200 questions

- NFPA 1033-2022 – Fire Investigator
  - Updated to the new standard January 2024
  - Two pilot courses have been offered with great feedback
  - Modifications from the pilots include Day 1 being an NFPA 921/1033 update class, followed by 7 weeks of hybrid learning, concluded with a week of in-seat skills and courtroom testimony
  - The conex box for the burn scenarios is also here and plans are in the works for building and burning the scenes for the skills training and testing
- NFPA 1550 Incident Safety Officer
  - Standard released in January 2024
  - Update due by June 30, 2026
  - Nothing to report currently

### **Old business:**

- Update on Training Contracts FY24 and RFPs for Training Contracts FY25
  - First renewal for continuing education contracts occurred this summer
  - All vendors were responsive and same vendors remained with two new vendors coming in
    - Muddy River (dive/swift water rescue), Alpha Side (NFA and continuing education classes) and TTRS (added tech rescue refresher classes) are new or have new classes
  - There are still some holes, such as Investigator and Inspector CEU classes, where there are no classes on contracted training that meet those NFPA standards
  - Contract renewals for certification classes will be sent to OA for those ending December 31, 2024
  - Contract renewals for NFA classes will be sent to OA for those ending September 30, 2024
  - Greg will be sending out those renewals to OA end of this week, then he will reach out to the vendors regarding pricing changes
  - Not looking to do any new contracts, outside of continuing education classes

### **New Business:**

- AFG FY23 Grant match of \$48K for Acadis licenses and 100 tablets
  - Motion: Alan Braun
  - Second: Dan Manley
  - In favor: All present
- Allocation of money for additional tablets and cases that was not covered by the 2023 AFG grant (\$23,800 for five additional cases)
  - Motion: Alan Braun, up to \$28K to cover any increases in cost since estimate was obtained
  - Second: Tracy Wiley
  - In favor: All present

### **Other business**

- Comments/questions from guests
  - Tracy Gray (MUFRTI)
    - Summer Fire School and the future of Summer Fire School
    - Thanks to DFS for subsidizing two certification classes, both classes filled to capacity
      - Rope Rescue (A/O/T)
      - Live Fire Instructor/Instructor-in-Charge
    - The classes were delivered under contract with any primary vendors being contacted for approval to allow MUFRTI to deliver the classes under contract if they were not the primary vendor
    - Spreadsheet presented to commission with request for assistance
      - 92<sup>nd</sup> year of SFS, goal is to get to 100 years
      - Attendance and revenue has declined over the years
      - MUFRTI is looking for help/advice on how to bolster the attendance for SFS
        - Have met with their regional coordinators and FFAM
        - Looking to meet with MOChiefs and DFS
        - Proposal is to spread SFS over a month with a handful of classes each week
          - Example of schedule (M-F classes), including CE and Certification classes
            - First week of May (M-F): Officer/Leadership development classes
            - Second week of May (M-F): Rescue classes
            - Third week of May: Engine/Ladder Operations
            - Last week of May: Volunteer fire service targeted classes (weekend only)

- Some have asked for SFS to be taken to other areas in the state
  - Not possible right now due to costs and funding
  - Regional fire schools ended for the same reason we are here visiting about this issue, people stopped attending
  - Centralized location seems to be the best while keeping travel down as much as possible
- Greg Brown: With the classes that we do help with through the fire education fund, is there additional classes on here that we could be helping or are we taking advantage of every opportunity?
  - Tracy: Contracted training CE classes are typically not on the schedule as MUFRTI tries to offer classes that agencies cannot get within their department by other means.
  - Greg: Is there some more of this that we can pick up to help offset some of the cost that would make it again more advantageous?
  - Tracy: Yes, if the commission would like to fund for SFS next year, we can definitely do that and credit those to DFS as done in the past.
  - Greg: Work with Greg Landwehr and the team at DFS to see what we can do to help you lower the cost.
  - Tracy: DFS has helped in the past with Instructor Conference and WFS/SFS, from individual classes to an entire conference.
  - Greg: Work with the team and see what the commission and the training unit can do, but then let's push it out as part of your advertisement that we're holding down the cost to make it advantageous as much as we can. Additionally, we used to do a scholarship. Can we do that again?
  - Greg Landwehr: Due to the contracts for training, per OA we cannot do a scholarship any longer.
  - Tracy: For 20 people, MUFRTI took care of the housing and DFS funded the tuition so they were able to attend fire school at no cost.
  - Brian Zaitz: Two ideas, first is to market it as a certification training school where several upper level certification classes are offered in a single location in one week and they are funded. Second, offer some of the classes at State Fair Fire Department where you have a variety of fire departments from across the state. This wouldn't be a good idea for a 40hr class, but a 4h continuing education class may be a good opportunity. We need to educate the service with the opportunities that exist, but also hit a broad spectrum of firefighters across the state.
  - Tracy: State Fair firefighters are on duty and it's hard for them to sit down for 4h for a class but it is a good idea. If anyone has any ideas, we are open to any ideas from anywhere. If you are not sending your people to fire school, please let me know why. This is about the Missouri fire service and there is no idea too crazy for me to listen to.
  - Dan Manley: What were the numbers for this year?
  - Tracy: We had just a little under 200 this year. When I started with MUFRTI in 2002, we had around 1200-1500 at SFS alone, and 3500 at WFS. Now, at WFS, we are around 1300-1500. It's not like it used to be. I will also be talking to people at Instructor Conference this year to see what we can do to make it better.
  - Tim Bean: I have put a lot of thought into trying to understand the pulse of the Missouri fire service. I really thought this year there would be a desire for wildland firefighting and urban firefighting.
  - Tracy: We had three classes in that area and all three had to be canceled due to low enrollment.
  - Tim: Another topic is swift water and flash flooding. These are topics with high risk. Let's concentrate on topics that are seriously injuring or killing us and let's put some energy and try to get people in the room to educate so they can then go out and help educate the rest of the state.
  - Tracy: For swift water MUFRTI has to rely on theme parks. For wildland, I don't think we marketed it good enough. People thought they were leaving the class with their red card but that wasn't the case. It meets the standard and has no pre-reqs, so anyone can take it, but it applies to red card if you want to get it.
  - Tracy Wiley: Have you spoke with MOChiefs?

- Tracy Gray: We have a plan to.
- Tracy Wiley: We need to push Tim's point home, that this is about the safety of the firefighters and it's one of the top five things that need call response, and prevention of an out of control situation in our state.
- Tim: We also need to look at soft skills, like working with small engines (chainsaws and such). There are folks coming in to the fire service who have never been taught those skill sets.
- Tracy: Thank you for your time and I will work with Greg and the training unit to see what we can do to move forward.
- Todd Gray: Thank you to the commission and DFS for the training hosted at Fulton Fire. It was a great opportunity for the area and the instructors were outstanding.

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates and Times**

- December 4, 2024 at 10 am
- March 5, 2025 at 10 am
- June 4, 2025 at 10 am
- September 3, 2025 at 10 am
- December 3, 2025 at 10 am

### **Motion to Adjourn: 1130 hours**

Motion: Alan Braun

Second: Tracy Wiley

In favor: All present