

# Fire Education/Advisory Commission, Division of Fire Safety

December 6, 2023

## 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:**

Fire Education/Advisory Commission: Greg, Brown, Bruce Lipe, Brian, Zaitz, Jim Ludden, Alan Braun, Tracy Wiley, Dan Manley

Staff: Fire Marshal Tim Bean, Deputy Chief Greg Landwehr, Amanda Williams, Brock Biggerstaff, Justin Merritt, Julie Voss

Guests: MUFRTI (Harry Ward, Gail Hagans, Tracy Gray), Bob Tucker (Cedar Hill Fire)

### **Call to Order: 1000 hrs**

### **Approval of Minutes from 9/6/2023:**

Motion: Brian Zaitz      Second: Bruce Lipe      In favor: All present

### **Legislative Update – Tim Bean, Fire Marshal**

- Kudos to the Fire Service Alliance from Chief Bean. Representing the fire service at the capital, Chief Brown has been the voice and the face of the organization during hearings.
- Fire service has been awarded the additional \$500,000 for training, so the fire service needs to request the trainings and fill the seats so we can allocate that money.
- This year, legislatively, will not be a year of moving things forward.
  - For DPS, the governor did not want a lot of legislative activity, so there is not a lot of items this year that the fire service is able to bring to the legislature.
    - One of the items needed is the fireworks legislation, but we are having to rely on lobbyists and the Fire Service Alliance to do the legwork for us.
    - A fireworks bill was brought to the legislation

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

- ProBoard is coming to audit the training unit Dec. 18-20, 2023
- Kudos to the Training Unit from Chief Bean. Everyone has had their heads down pushing forward to make sure the unit is doing everything to ensure they maintain accreditation.

### **Fiscal updates – Jessica Prewett**

- Budget Update
  - No updates to present

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

- Certification courses and certifications issued update
  - FY24 July 1, 2023 – November 30, 2023
    - 153 certification classes
    - 2050 certification exams administered
    - 1507 Certifications issued
    - 118 certifications have been recognized through reciprocity
    - To date we have 33 classes requested totaling \$186,500.00 in requests
    - Update from OA is vendor contracts are in final review and should be awarded this Friday
- Continuing Education Contracted Training update (FY24 July 1, 2023 – November 30, 2023)
  - 18 classes completed – 323 students completed
  - Three vendors are under contract (MUFRTI, LETS and EOS) and one (O'Byrne) has a conditional award
    - Contracts are locked in for 5 years
    - If there are changes within those 5 years, it will occur upon renewal, and it will only allow for dropping a class from the delivery list
      - If there is an NFPA update or a major change in the way we do training/testing, then all vendors will be able to add or remove courses from their delivery list and re-submit with the appropriate updates and changes in cost



- Proposal 2 is to utilize the grant and the original match out of the Fire Education Fund (Fed share is \$96,426.08, our share is \$14,463.92). The additional costs of \$15,197.50 would come out of the General Revenue training funds, as we do have an option to use those funds for Equipment and Expenses.
    - AFG has been contacted and there is no money available to increase the grant amount and they do not want us to give it back
  - New decision to make on this grant. DFS Budget Manager is in favor of Proposal 1. Commission needs to select which proposal for which they are in favor or elect to not make the purchase with the grant.
    - **Motion for proposal 1: Brian Zaitz, Second: Jim Ludden, In Favor: All present**
- 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 writing up specifications on replacement equipment for the TR trailers to expend the remaining grant balance of \$40,394.99.
  - Should finish out this grant end of this fiscal year or beginning of next fiscal year.

### **Old business:**

- Update on Training Contracts RFP
- Future RFPs for certification classes and certification testing services.
- NFPA updates to programs
  - NFPA 1033 Fire Investigator update is complete.
    - Waiting on the ProBoard site visit for approval.
  - NFPA 1030 Fire Inspector
    - 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.
    - This will be a major change for the career departments as promotional processes will be impacted as the new standard does not offer Inspector I and Inspector II.
      - The new course will be Fire Inspector and combines Inspector I, Inspector II, Inspector III, and Plans Examiner.
  - NFPA 1010 Fire Fighter I & II and Driver Operator
    - Expected to be released this month
  - NFPA 1550 Incident Safety Officer
    - Expected to be released this month
  - NFPA 470 and 1010
    - Refresher course update
      - Roughly 20 students a year have failed their Fire 1 exam twice, 90 for hazmat awareness and/or operations.
      - People have been asking about a refresher course similar to EMT
      - About 30 people attended a meeting regarding the possibilities of having a refresher course
    - How would this work?
      - If they pass the course and skills, they would be eligible for a refresher course should they fail their exam twice.
      - A time-frame would be set in which they would need to complete the refresher before they would be required to re-take the course.
      - Their skills completion will stay on their record to count towards the refresher.
      - If a student who did not fail twice wishes to take a refresher, they can do so as in-service training and would be driven by the local entity, they would not be counted in the registration for the course for certification.
      - DFS will give a recommendation for the minimum curriculum for a refresher. The instructors will be allowed to be flexible to tailor the class to the student's weaknesses based on their feedback reports from their exams.
        - If there are a couple students in the refresher, tailoring is easier. If there is a class of 20 on the refresher, the instructors would likely use the recommended curriculum as written.
      - There are a couple instructors in the state developing the curriculum based on the IFSTA Essentials book for Fire 1 and 2, and the IFSTA Hazardous Materials for First Responders for HazMat Ops.

- Number of hours will also come out of this development.
- Jim Ludden: Is it worth making this change for the 1% of the population that does not pass their exam twice?
  - On the volunteer side, this will benefit. Students on the volunteer side are reluctant to re-take the whole course as it is difficult to commit 240 hours to another course on top of normal life and work.
  - On the career side, depending on how often academies are held, it will benefit those departments that host a limited number of academies per year so they can send their students through a short refresher versus a full academy to get the ability to re-take their exams.
- Do we need to do a pilot?
  - We will be piloting a HazMat Awareness and Ops refresher in January with a group of students who have failed their exams twice.
  - Precedent is set in NREMT, which has a proven refresher course which we are modeling.
- **Motion to run the pilot and report back results at the March meeting by Brian Zaitz**
  - **Second: Dan Manley**
  - **In favor: All present**
  - **Note: DFS to visit with academies to see how that will impact them**
- ProBoard site visit update
  - Alan Braun to be available for an interview as a governing body member.

### New Business:

- Testing Policy for electronic devices
  - October 14<sup>th</sup> there was an incident where a student removed his phone from his pocket during the written state exam and was removed from the testing event due to policy violation.
    - Policy indicates the student will not be eligible to test again for the level or any other level.
    - Policy allows for an appeal and the Assistant State Fire Marshal will lead the appeals committee with the members of the committee comprised of two Fire Ed Commission Board members.
    - After the appeals review, it was determined that policy does not state that you cannot have your phone, it states to turn off your phone and any other personal electronic devices. The student was found to have violated policy; however, the student, based on his statement in the interview, was not believed to be cheating but silencing an alarm at the time of the incident.
      - Do we need to look at those policies and take steps to clearly line out what the policy says and proctor says
        - Need verbiage to be specific to what is intended and possibly correlate with NREMT/NIEMT policy
        - Suggested to get an over-the-door shoe rack so each student can put their phone in a packet in the rack.
        - Suggested to not bring electronic devices at all and if you keep it on you and it does go off it invalidates your exam.
        - Need an option for emergency situations (provide the contact number of the facility)

### Other business

- Comments/questions from guests
  - Tracy Gray: Is the refresher course for those who have failed only written or skills as well?
    - Justin Merritt: Only written
  - Tracy Gray: Regarding the fire trailer, if a department is too small to meet the requirements of the course to be funded by the state, how are we ensuring that they have enough people to operate the trailer for burns?
    - Alan Braun: Outside instructors and burn teams, or other firefighters from the same department are used to fill the roles.
    - Greg Landwehr: We are working with those departments to combine multiple departments into the same training. It is also part of the MOU that they sign that they are required to provide the appropriate number of personnel to satisfy the requirements of 1403.
  - Tracy Gray: Hearing complaints on students not getting skills packet evaluations back in a timely manner from DFS. If the training unit is on the road doing trainings and testing, they are being taken away from their normal job duties that affects turnaround times.
    - Greg Brown: Complaints should be forwarded directly and immediately to the Training Unit to address.

- Greg Landwehr: Due to the nature of the job, travel is required for members of the training unit. Since the training unit has a platform that is predominantly digital, we have the ability to work from the road so as to not impact our job in the office.
- Alan Braun: Is there a way to get someone an account in Acadis without having to go through their chief or agency contact who has an account?
  - Training Unit: An account request must be submitted by the firefighters supervising officer or chief or through a fire department roster request. This ensures that the account is created for a firefighter who is active in the service at a registered fire department. If it was allowed for anyone online to apply for a new account, the training unit staff would need to vet that firefighter. If a supervisor or chief puts in the account request, it reduces the need to reach out to the firefighter's department to verify membership, freeing up time to help another firefighter.

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

- March 6, 2024 at 10 am
- June 5, 2024 at 10 am
- September 4, 2024 at 10 am
- December 4, 2024 at 10 am

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion: Brian Zaitz  
Second: Tracy Wiley  
In favor: **All present**