



Firefighters Employment, Standards, and Training Council Meeting
January 21, 2021
Conference Call

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:

NAME	REPRESENTING	TERM ENDING
Mike Bellamy Tallahassee Fire	State Fire Marshal	June 30, 2022 (1 st term)
Kasie Crowe Division of Forestry	Florida Fire Service	Jan. 31, 2023 (2 nd term)
Jerry Forte City of Palm Coast	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	June 30, 2022 (1 st term)
Ralph Franklin Okeechobee County Fire	FL Association of Counties	June 30, 2022 (1 st term)
Shawn Hanson Greater Naples Fire Rescue	Florida Fire Marshals Association	Oct. 31, 2022 (1 st term)
Teresa Kinstle Jacksonville Fire Rescue	State Fire Marshal	June 31, 2023 (1st term)
Dr. David Lee Sylvester Comprehensive	State Fire Marshal	June 30, 2022 (1 st term)
Jim Millican Lealman Fire District	Florida Association Sp. Districts	Oct. 31, 2022 (1 st term)
Kevin Reed Hillsborough C.C	State Fire Marshal	Oct. 31, 2022 (1 st term)
Jason Schneider Winter Garden Fire Dept.	FL Professional FF Assoc.	Jan. 31, 2023 (1 st term)
Randy Touchton	State Fire Marshal	June 30, 2022 (1 st term)

ABSENT:

Carlos Aviles St. Augustine Fire	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	June 30, 2022 (1 st term)
Nick Herlihy North Port Fire Rescue	FL Professional FF Assoc.	Jan. 31, 2023 (1 st term)

The Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council meeting was called to order.

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council held on October 8, 2020 were approved.

Motion carried.

REMARKS: *given by Randy Touchton, Chairman*

Welcomed new member, Kevin Reed, replacing Rob McGilloway
Moment of silence for men and women of fire service who are providing services to our citizens, and to also remember Barry Baker, former Bureau Chief, Florida State Fire College and for Wayne Watts, SFM, who is struggling with health issues.

Melvin Stone, Assistant Director, soon retiring from Division.

REPORT FROM DIVISION: *given by Julius Halas, Director*

- 2020 has been a challenging year;
 - National Firefighter Foundation statistics show 170 Fire/EMS line of duty deaths due to COVID nationwide, Florida has 3.
- Supplemental Compensation
 - Short fall in funds (4th quarter). The Supplemental Compensation program started in early 1980's. After forty years, The Department of Revenue has indicated that there is no longer enough funds in reserve to continue with quarterly reimbursements.
 - Fire Departments are having to make up the short fall.
 - The Department of Revenue reported the cost of this program is up to 11 million dollars a year. The first three quarters of this year were covered, there could again be a shortfall for the 4th quarter (as last year).
 - It will be up to the Legislature if additional funds will be fed into the program.
- Deputy CFO Jay Etheridge will be retiring at end of February. The new Deputy CFO, Julie Jones was appointed earlier this month. Ms. Jones has a background in law enforcement, as well as Fish & Wildlife (including US&R assistance), Executive Director of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, and she was also appointed Secretary of the Department of Corrections (last four years). She is very supportive of our mission.

REPORT FROM THE BUREAU: *given by Michael Tucker, Bureau Chief*

- Decon Grant
 - received authority to manage Advanced Decon Equipment Grant which goes live Feb. 8, 2020.
 - \$250,000 first year funding.
 - New rules in place
 - 25% match requirement
- ARFF Certifications
 - Rule is now active for ARFF Driver and ARFF Officer.
- Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Grant
 - In 4th year of grant at 1 million a year
 - For purchasing of PPE for volunteer departments
 - Moving forward with clarifying language in Rule
- Fire Inspector Rule
 - Has gone through rule making process
 - Fire Inspector I - no changes
 - Fire Inspector II, a task book has been added
 - Fire Inspector III has been created which moves people towards Fire Code Administrator certification.
 - Being routed for adoption, more information will be forthcoming.
 - Codes and Standards and Plans Review classes have been moved back to only being allowed to be given in a classroom setting (at request of fire service providers)
- 69A-62.056 -specifications for certifiable training
 - Current rule requires that a student who fails two examinations must be removed from the course. It is not based on GPA . This will be changed so that the individuals must have a 70% passing grade from the academy to be eligible to take the State written examination. This will take the mandate out of the hands of the Bureau on how academies grade their students.
 - Workshop to be held on February 2, 2020.
- Live Fire Training Rule 1402
 - Held listening sessions, rule workshop to follow
- Florida State Fire College 50-acre parcel
 - Arson is utilizing some of the property with props and training
 - A 50-year extension and two 25-year extensions (beyond that) have been given on the property. DFS only owns the actual buildings, the land is under lease.
 - Marion County Fire Rescue will be relocating Station 11 as a sub-lease to this property, with additional classroom space and storage which the Fire College will use.
- COVID related deaths – 3 fire related, 1 EMS
- State practical exams have not slowed down a great degree due to COVID.
- James Angle has been tracking COVID cases, no specific data as of yet.

OLD BUSINESS: *None*

NEW BUSINESS:

On a motion duly made, Randy Touchton was nominated and voted new Chair of the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council.

Motion carried.

On a motion duly made, Kasie Crowe was nominated and voted Vice Chair of the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council.

Motion carried.

Remarks from new member, Kevin Reed, FFTDA, Hillsborough Community College as requested by Chairman Randy Touchton

April/May 2020 all Training Centers did a hard close. The Bureau of Fire Standards and Training was extremely very helpful in assisting with continuing education and testing. The State bent over backwards to assist, even proctored written exams when Pearson Vue shut down. The State has not missed a step.

No interest seems to have been lost during the pandemic. There are still as many applicants today as before pandemic began.

As of yesterday, most training centers are up and running, working within CDC guidelines and adapting. Moving forward with certifications.

Hopefully 2021 will bring back some normalcy in the classrooms and certifications issued.

A letter of support from the Council FFESTC supporting the Firefighter Assistance Grant as it relates to training, (aerial for FSFC) will be issued.

AUDIENCE:

Jon Pasqualone, FFMIA

FFMIA appreciates the work and efforts of the Florida State Fire College, especially over the last year. Special thanks to Mike Tucker and Mark Harper for their work on Fire Inspector curriculum, very pleased with the product that came out of the work.

Shawn Hanson

With the adoption of the 7th edition of the Florida Fire Prevention Code, there has been a huge request for the NFPA 1 & 101 update classes. FFMIA has already offered two classes. They are working on additional dates so keep an eye on the FFMIA website and the A-List for class availability.

Randy Touchton, hats off to Tallahassee Fire for working with the Leon County Board of Health on vaccinations in Tallahassee.

NEXT MEETING: May 6, 2021, ten minutes after adjournment of FFIRS meeting which begins at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURN.

Audio file available upon request