

Louisiana Fire & Emergency Training Academy

Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: April 25, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: FETA, 6868 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70820

1. Call to Order/ Roll Call Roll call

<u>COMMISSION MEMBER</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>ZOOM</u>
Bryan Adams	x		
Butch Browning	x		
Brandon Davis			x
Russell Di Salvo	x		
Stephen Guidroz	x		
Ken Himel	x		
Matt Lee		x	
Brian Lindberg			x
Chad Major	x		
Louis Romero	x		

2. Meeting Prayer and Pledge

3. Adopt Meeting Minutes from December 19, 2023. The minutes were adopted with no opposition.

4. Administrative Report

- a. **Superintendent Introduction:** Dan Wallis introduced the new Superintendent, Andy Woody. Chief Wood discussed his experience within the fire service and what he sees for the future of our Fire Academy. Chief Adams advised that Chief Ramirez would be reaching out to Chief Woody about the transition team and adding an Industrial representative to that group. Chief Woody also introduced his Executive team to the board.

- b. **Academy Operations:** Ron Martin gave the report for Academy Operations. The cellphone boosters, water filtration, maintenance, office changes, broad range issue tracker, and other changes have been implemented. FETA has been recruiting for various roles including instructors and openings in certifications. The next Certification Committee meeting will be held at FETA on May 7, 2024. Chief Woody approved a summertime professional development series starting in June with Instructor 1 held at different locations, with a break between the first part of the series and the last. The goal is to have the individual completely certified in various courses such as Officer 3, Inspector, and more by October. We are preparing for the IFSAC site visit in 2025. Open recruitment continues for instructors and certification. Recommendations have been sent to HQ for approval of the instructors. We will be interviewing for certification staff as the previously offered position was declined. More interviews are scheduled. Open testing will be starting on Thursday evenings in about three weeks. Reciprocity applications are being addressed. Dorm repairs are being done for the upcoming 186 class. New medical equipment has also been

acquired to support our EMS division and site safety. FETA staff was recognized and thanked. Chief Adams noted that significant changes will be made to the dorms in the next fiscal year.

- c. **Municipal Report:** Dustin Kleinpeter gave the report. In this quarter, we have delivered 377 classes totaling 5912 students (156 classes in the north and 221 classes in the south). We are working on getting more mobile props to be used in the field. Regional instructors have been assisting with account registration in Acadis. Met with Chief Treadway to identify what is needed in Pine Country. The report will be turned in soon. We are working with Chief Treadway to determine which props are wanted and needed in the field. Two new applicants have been determined for the Regional instructors, with one more position open in the north. DiSalvo asked if the contract with Pine Country has been resolved, and Chief Adams confirmed that the problem was addressed. Disalvo also asked about the interview process and how cumbersome it is. Chief Adams explained that now non-post employees can get through the process within four weeks.
- d. **Recruit Academy:** Dustin Kleinpeter gave the report. Recruit Class 185 had a 100% pass rate in every course. Congratulations to Chad Kuchler and the staff for having a great Recruit class. The next class starts on May 6, and the recruits will be back at FETA for this class. Romero asked when there was a 100% success rate, and Chief Kleinpeter responded, "Not since at least 2006". Butch Browning mentioned that some are struggling with the idea of having to stay on campus. Chief Kleinpeter addressed that there is now an option to stay off campus. There are extra precautions for those who stay home to ensure remedies can be in place to prevent their academics from faltering.
- e. **Technical Rescue Report:** Dustin Kleinpeter gave the report. We have been working on instructor development with staff and are looking to hire more WAEs for rescue. Extrication and Rope classes are coming up in May. Chief Adams agreed to the \$5 million grant for the swift water prop. Chief Kleinpeter discussed the prop and the advantages this will provide for training in our area.
- f. **EMS Report:** Dustin Kleinpeter gave the EMS report. The staff is doing incredible. We have an EMT and AEMT currently going on at the academy. A BLS instructor class is also in the works. Other discussions occurred on EMS in the fire service and growth and development.
- g. **Virtual Training:** Dustin Kleinpeter gave the report. He noted that the virtual training has been on hold for the last few months. However, soon we would like to implement virtual training using our own staff and supplementing with outside instructors.
- h. **Industrial Report:** Chief Stone gave the reports for Industrial. We are looking to hire WAEs for the Industrial division. Out-of-state companies have visited and shown interest in using our facility. Last month, there were 27 classes with 483 students. Thanks to Chief Adams and Christy Abshire, the facility will start using a different kind of fuel out in the field, EIII. We will see an immediate decrease in the amount of smoke generated on the fire field. FETA is looking to be convenient for our Industry partners.
- i. **Certification and Testing Report:** Steve Billman reported on certifications. We are working on moving all certification skills exams to Evaluations +. The paper skills still need to be loaded to Acadis. Other than the skills, all certification data has been officially moved over to Acadis. We

7,200

are at about 10,000 active portal users. A deadline will be set soon for everyone to log into Acadis to check their records. Himel asked which JPRs for Fire Inspector I are being used. Steve responded that he would get with him on the answers. Chief Woody advised that the information will match in the future and that updated classes will be moved to Jones and Bartlett. Himel asked if there is anything that could be done at the Chief's conference the following week to inform people about Acadis. Steve advised that it would be good to let everyone know to get signed up in Acadis. The Company Officer Fire and Investigator course will still continue. Inspector and Investigator may have similar standards in the future. Himel suggested that we have professional development classes for company officer. Steve announced that there are no more hard copy certifications being issued; they will all be available online for the student. Further discussion ensued on how to provide professional development for moving a department to an ALS department, etc. The website was requested to be updated.

j. **Financial Report:** Katie Elliott gave the report. Our total fiscal year income is 1.7 million. Over 2 million in outstanding invoices. Chief Adams stated that the state is looking into getting ACH to make payments to SFM easier.

5. **Commission Chairman Report:** Chad Major stated they amended on to a bill that increased the amount allowed to purchase fleet. There are adjustments to the cancer screening bill for persons within the Fire service. Communication is important. He suggested that we broadcast daily to tell the story through Facebook, the website, etc. The Fire Marshal bill is not a good bill and we are going to work through it.

6. **Old Business:** Nothing reported.

7. **New Business:** Chief Adams advised that in a few weeks, he and Chief Woody will visit ten parishes a week for a month in an attempt to see every fire chief in the state. Ashley will be tasked with updating the public frequently on what is going on with FETA on our social media apps. Other discussions about telling our story and getting the information to the commission members so they can help. Chief Adams thanked Chief Wallis for his time and dedication.

8. **Next Meeting Date:** Meetings are set for the fourth Thursday of every month, with the exception of November 21 and December 19.

9. **Adjournment:** A motion was made to adjourn with no opposition.

Approved on: 5-23-24

Signature: 