

Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission

Meeting Minutes

Location: Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Academy Classroom 5

Date: January 28, 2022

Time: 10:00 am

Call to Order (Pledge and Prayer) – 10:14AM

Roll Call

Present: B. Davis, L. Romero, R. Disalvo, K. Himel, B.Lindberg, C. Major

Adopt minutes from last meeting – Louis Romero motion, Brandon Davis second, all approved

Chief's Report – Dan

- Thanking the staff for stepping up to the plate
- Since November, hired 23 full time, 49 part time (34, 122 prior)
- Regional classes currently delivered by full time because of hiring part time – 40 hour classes on schedule
- Hybrid program great for volunteers who don't have the ability to come to an in person class
 - All 3 of these in 6 months (instructor I, ISO, Fire Officer I)
 - Real time data of users (registration, record keeping, accessibility)
 - 5 years ROI, will pay for itself
 - Has worked in fire marshal's office, confident it will work
 - Phase 1 – merging our business and certification (hopefully complete in the next couple of months)
 - Phase 2 – online education, etc
- Once we get staffing up, class numbers should improve
- Map of facility
 - X's on props we cannot use
 - All props except extinguisher prop
 - Maintenance staff worked tirelessly to get it back up and running
 - LPG prop – working to get it back up
 - Industrial meetings – customers having patience, stating they come to us out of convenience
 - Davis has offered to spots with his group for two of our instructors to go to Texas for training
- Individual employee plan
- All live fire instructors completing NFPA 1583 physicals and then Alabama is coming to teach live fire instructor to get our instructors certified.
- Big different between certified and qualified
- Certification report

- pass rate amongst “types” of testers – feta taught?, department taught?, or self-study
- Staffing
 - Two offers
 - Chief Tommy Stone coming in Loree’s position associate director
 - Merge Kathe’s responsibility and not replacing her position
 - Chief Sam Colon coming in Keith’s position as Industrial Fire Manager
 - Brief introduction of each
 - Chief Stone – scared, nervous, and excited all at the same time
 - St Bernard has been the largest user of the recruit academy – wants to make it what people want
 - Could be making millions out here in regards to Industrial.
 - Teaches at A&M since 2001 and can see what they offer. A&M needs us to make it because they are overwhelmed.
 - Starts Tuesday Feb 1st, ready to go
 - Chief Sam Colon
 - Industrial background – has built two facilities worth about 18 billion.
 - Appreciates the opportunity to bring that here
 - Municipal – asst. chief at Galvez Lake – helped start the hybrid program. Successful program/model
 - Military, police background, marine, arff
 - Looking forward to bringing it all together
- ARFF training was an issue, Rusty helped secure Gulfport Air National Guard so that we could partner and provide the training. Those partnerships are important to keep our customer. Reduced cost to \$188/person for fuel.
- Recruit Academy – Dustin Kleinpeter
 - Current class 12 recruits
 - Things in the work to actively seek future recruits
 - Going in high schools to speak to them about a future
 - Chief Browning brings up how the cost is higher for individuals and we need to fix that. If they are serious about it as an individual we should be helping them.
 - Chad Major talked about “fast track” program if individuals already have training.
 - Has wanted to change a lot of things to make the academy better and now has the support of Dan and our current administration but previously when things were brought to the table, he wasn’t able to do those.
 - Scholarship program – create a committee to review applicants and pick 2 or 3
 - Picadilly is \$1300/person – and a lot of departments are also paying per diem per recruit.
 - Currently doing a cost breakdown.
 - Sleeping arrangements are not good.

- Lindberg asked for a geographical breakdown of recruits and where they are coming from
- Chief Browning stated that we need to have a meeting about regionalized recruit academies
- Dan wants to send out a survey to the customers to help gather data. The academy has been a shining star but we always know things can change.
- Lindberg brought up the thought process behind getting those bigger departments that are so independent on board with using feta.
- Dustin stated that many things have improved lately but departments didn't know about it.
- Rescue – not a certified anchor point on site
- Medical – doing a third party review of the program, put a committee together to figure out how to move forward.
- Getting staff trained and certified – staff that didn't have CPR recently got CPR certified
- Russell states that survey would be great. But to everyone. To account for not only the paid but the volunteers and small departments.
- Wants to include certification in the survey to solve for the process
- Performance indicators for staff
- Davis asked for an updated org chart to show current spots and what's empty. Browning stated that come July the chart will change and the commission will help make those decisions of what it should look like.

Financial / Budget Report

- No financial information yet – Browning
 - Inherited a program with no budget for it but there's money to cover it for now.
 - Contract finally signed, Butch will email it to commission members
- Ken Himel – legislation – has it been drafted?
 - Browning – no. 1 bill has been filed, retirement bill. Retirement bill will get feta employees into hazardous duty retirement. Waiting on a meeting to draft the bills for the transfer.
 - Himel – once they get assigned bill numbers, can that get sent to commission? Browning – draft will go to commission, no secret to it. Making sure they don't miss anything, very specific points.
 - Lindberg – commission was established for FETI, will it change? Browning – yes, it will change to FETA.

Chairmen's Report

- Chad had to leave, no report

Old Business

- Himel
 - EFO program in Louisiana – state version – could partner with Fire Chief's association to establish a version

New Business

- Meetings moving forward will be the second Tuesday of every month

Adjourn

- Louis Romero motion, Ken Himel second all adjourned 11:51am.