

Louisiana Fire & Emergency Training Academy

Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: December 19, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM

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

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: 10:06 AM

<u>COMMISSION MEMBER</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>REMOTE</u>
Bryan Adams	✓		
Brandon Davis	✓		
Russell Di Salvo	✓		
Stephen Guidroz	✓		
Ken Himel		✓	
Michael Kimble	✓		
Matt Lee		✓	
Chad Major	✓		
Cassidy Martin	✓		
Tracey Normand	✓		
Louis Romero	✓		

2. Meeting Prayer and Pledge

3. **Minutes:** The minutes from the November 21, 2024, meeting were adopted with no objections.

4. Administrative Report:

- a. **Superintendent:** Chief Woody gave the report. Nine Parish-wide meetings were attended in November. The announcement of changes to the Recruit Academy generated significant interest. More seats are expected to fill after the upcoming advertising push. With advertising in the next week, those should be filled out. The 2025 schedule, including Pine Country courses, has been posted, and all listed classes are open for registration. Chief Woody stated the goal to reduce the need for local delivery of certification courses. All required documentation was submitted to IFSAC for review before the March site visit. The goal for the coming years is to touch five curriculums a year. A temporary process for additional lead evaluators is in place, and training will commence in 2025. The laptops have been delivered and are at DPS Compound. Mini schools are being brought back in 2025, with the first at Pine Country at the end of January. A spec is being passed around for review for the grant approved burn building. Chief Woody added that the AFG submission for this year is a Class A burn trailer as well as another flashover prop.
- b. **Municipal/Regional Training:** Chief Kleinpeter reported that the Northern region had 46 classes with 732 students and the Southern region had 56 classes with 610 students for November. For 2024, 583 classes were provided in the Northern region, with a total of 8,073 students being taught, and 803 classes were provided in the Southern region, with 9,732 students being taught. FETA had 18 NFA classes with 373 students.

- c. **Recruit Academy:** Chief Kleinpeter shared that the Academy Graduation was on December 13. There was a 100% pass rate on all tests and 13 graduating recruits. The next Academy, consisting of 18 weeks per the new format, will begin on January 13. With orientation occurring the week before on the 9th and the 10th. With registration status and verbal sayings, we have 20 recruits lined up with four spots remaining for that Academy.
- d. **Technical Training:** Chief Kleinpeter stated that the rescue personnel have been busy conducting several confined space refreshers here at FETA. Thomas Townsend has been visiting fire departments and training sites, conducting assessments of the facilities as training sites for rope rescue. With the curriculum, vehicle extrication and trench are now available. Thomas Townsend is in Minden at Pine Country, teaching a Rope Awareness and Ops class comprised of 16 students. Chief Adams requested the status of the training pool. In response, Chief Kleinpeter stated the first increment of money for the pool should be received between January and March, March being the latest. The first priority will be to get the building up, and he stated that the pool should be in the building in the first quarter of 2026.
- e. **EMS Training:** Blance Bankston reported that they would wrap up class in December and are getting ready for a very active 2025. Two EMT classes will be integrated into the Recruit Academy this year, and 3 regular open enrollment EMT classes. He reported that he will be heading to Kenner in February to teach an EMT class for Kenner Fire. There will be an EMR/EMT refresher in January in Morgan City. He also stated we would have the normal allotment of EMT, Paramedic, Advanced EMT, and First Responder Refreshers, as well as classes. He shared that they are eager to get medical training at the Pine Country campus, with the hope of getting something up there during the first quarter.
- f. **Industrial Training:** Chief Stone reported that, in November, they had 17 classes with 208 students. Fourteen were Fire Brigade Refresher classes and 4 Hazmat Tech. One company cancelled two 24-hour foam classes. Chief Stone would like to come up with a system so that this will not happen again. He stated that this month has been slow, however starting the first week of January FETA is booked up until sometime into May. Chief Stone is working with a company from New York to come down here for a week. Chief Adams concludes by stating a recap on the industrial money intake. Projected to collect about 2 million dollars in revenue in the industrial program. This fiscal year, we have collected 1.7 million dollars in industrial fees. We will continue to reinvest that money into the Louisiana fire service. Chief Adams states that we are on track with revenue and outstanding invoices.
- g. **Pine Country:** Chief Ogden noted that a lot of work is being done on the campus. He stated that the completion of the third-story propane prop is very near, and the third propane tank is out to bid as of today. The rope rescue class had 16 students. Bossier Fire District 4 will be coming to the facility to use the training grounds as well as some of their recruits. January 13 - 17 will be the first 40-hour class for Pine Country, Instructor I. There is a Driver/Operator class on the books for Minden Fire Department for Aerial. Winnfield Fire Department notified Chief Ogden that they would like a Driver/Operator class for Aerial. He stated that the 40-hour classes are picking up a great deal. Natchitoches has a Mobile Water Supply class booked for February 8. Winn District 3 and Winnfield would also like a Mobile Water Supply course with certification.

Mini School: EMS is offering great courses, May Day and Denver drills, the flashover with fire behavior, multi-story operations, a basic ropes class, and water shuttle operations known as "Moving Big Water."

He stated that the flashover is being burned 2-3 times a week and that Pine Country is staying busy come January 2025. Chief Woody stated that the previous Flashover Prop was inspected and repairs were made. Chief Adams interjected with the information of another flashover prop being included in the grant.

- h. **Certification and Testing:** Chief Kleinpeter stated that with open challenge testing ending, there have been many test requests. As far as November, we currently have 8,881 active users within Acadis. We administered 685 exams while observing 4,674 skills exams. The total exam average pass rate was 79%, with a total average failing score of 63%. This put us at 70% for November. For 2024, 6,292 exams were given, with 550 exam sessions and an overall pass rate of 72%. Challenge testing vs. managed courses: There was a 64% pass rate for challenge testing and a 78% pass rate for managed.

- i. **Financial Report:** Katie Elliott gave the financial report.

Total Revenue for November: \$525,342

Municipal Income: \$10,750.08 | Fiscal Year-to-Date: \$99,445.92

- Certification Income: \$13,671.00 | Fiscal Year-to-Date: \$65,415.80

- Industrial Income: \$500,921.30 | Fiscal Year-to-Date: \$1,341,725.89

Total Fiscal Year Income: \$1,506,587.61

5. **Commission Chairman Report:** Everything is moving in the right direction.

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

7. **New Business:** Chief Adams noted that the January meeting will be on the 30th, and the open dates on the schedule will be held at FETA. He also brought up the burn building specs presented earlier in the meeting. He moved to carry through with Chief Woody's assessment and motioned to approve the specifications on the burn building, which was accepted with no objections.

8. **Next Meeting Date:** Professional Firefighters Association of Louisiana Convention at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center on January 30, 2025.

9. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made with no opposition at 10:50 AM

Approved on: _____

Signature: _____

1-30-25