

Louisiana Fire & Emergency Training Academy Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: May 01, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Lamar Dixon Expo Center, 9039 S. Saint Landry Avenue, Gonzales

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: 10:03 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 March 27, 2025, meeting were adopted with no objections.

4. Administrative Report:

- a. **Superintendent:** Chief Woody opened his report with FETA's mission statement and talked about the many stakeholder meetings being attended across the state to promote the Academy and identify areas where training is needed. Several key training opportunities were highlighted for 2025, including the upcoming Leadership Conference in Crowley, the Mini-School in St. Tammany, and the rollout of new training available. Chief Woody announced that FETA received reaccreditation from IFSAC for 40 certification levels during the recent conference in Florida. He shared updates on curriculum development. A pilot Investigator class is underway, and within the next few weeks, two new Inspector levels will be developed, along with Awareness, Operations, and Technician levels for Confined Space. Testing for NFPA 1072 has officially concluded, with all certification testing now transitioned to NFPA 470. The remaining NFPA 1001 classes have been scheduled.

Lead Evaluator training is in progress and required for all current and future lead evaluators. The new FETA website is also live, featuring our course catalog and training schedule. The laptops for testing are in service and have enhanced the process. A draft of the new industrial class and consumable pricing

has been completed and needs to be finalized. We need people, certified or not to keep up with the demand. We will have a list of candidates ready for Chief Adams for July. Chief Woody stated that he appreciates the internal and external support for the commitment to investing in the outdated infrastructure. Priorities for the new budget year will be the burn building and driveway repairs at the railroad to reduce the steep crown resulting from track crossing repairs, which now prevents our trailers from returning to campus. He will be working with the railroad to find a solution. The dorm replacement, admin front door and windows, classroom AV equipment and LED lighting, refurbishing the plane, containers for additional burning, updating office space for industrial, updating annex bathrooms, and classroom furniture are some of the main things on our list. The question of who is allowed to teach the instructor was raised. Chief Woody stated that any certified instructor who goes through the new curriculum and certification requirements should be able to teach it.

- b. **Municipal/Regional Training:** Chief Woody gave the report. The Northern region had 63 classes with 948 students, and the Southern region had 91 classes with 1,168 students for March. Chief Woody went over a few of the highlights for March including: Instructor II, Officer II, Jefferson Parish Mini School, Instructor III, Live Fire Instructor, Live Fire Instructor-In-Charge, Inspector I & II, and Vehicle Tech.
- c. **Recruit Academy:** Chief Woody gave the report. He shared that the current recruits all passed their EMT, awareness and ops with a 100% pass rate. They have switched to the 470 standard. The recruits took Firefighter I and II last week.
- d. **Technical Training:** Chief Woody gave the report. He reported that the technical division has been very busy. He mentioned that advertising for rescue training to industry has been introduced. Overall the technical training is excelling exactly the way it should.
- e. **EMS Training:** Chief Woody gave the report. He noted the growing demand for EMS training. Some highlights: Open enrollment EMT, EMT is on schedule for the next fire academy, and an EMT class for Morgan City. Advanced EMT will be delivered in the fall.
- f. **Industrial Training:** Chief Stone gave the report. The industrial division had 25 classes in March, with 444 students. Staff have been conducting off-site meetings and on-campus tours to attract new clients. There were some much needed repairs and improvements made to the props. He mentioned that 12 to 15 companies want to start booking for 2026. Chief Woody followed up, stating that Exxon Pipeline recently toured FETA.
- g. **Pine Country:** Chief Ogden gave the report. In March, seven certification classes were completed in the Northern region. In April, an Aerial Operations class concluded, and an ISO class is currently underway. Starting May 12, a two-week Driver Operator course will begin at Pine Country. Instructor development is progressing well.
- h. **Certification and Testing:** Chief Woody gave the report. Acadis now has 9,993 active users, which is 99% of FETAs initial projection. In March, two Certification Skill Examiner Workshops were held. There

are 336 local agency-managed programs in the system. FETA held 86 examination sessions in March, with 356 examination sessions so far this year. FETA's average pass rate stands at 79%.

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

Total Revenue for March: \$427,937.06

- Municipal Income: \$27,335.00 | Fiscal Year-to-Date: \$215,417.28
- Certification Income: \$11,365.00 | Fiscal Year-to-Date: \$118,620.80
- Industrial Income: \$389,237.06 | Fiscal Year-to-Date: \$2,825,216.78

Total Fiscal Year Income: \$3,159,254.86

Chief Adams advised current financial status and stated that the OSFM conducted their first ICC training this week for inspectors. He stated there will be another class next week in Alexandria.

5. **Commission Chairman Report:** There is a piece of legislation that deals with credentialing and supplemental pay. The way the bill was drafted, FETA would not be a part of validating those credentials. They were able to amend the bill so that it keeps FETA as the validating agency for all credentials for 1010, 1001, Firefighter 1, etc. He stated the bill would be processed as amended.
6. **Old Business:** Nothing was reported.
7. **New Business:** Chief Adams reported that beginning on July 1, 2025, municipal training for Louisiana Firefighters will be delivered at no cost. This includes all the EMS classes, mini-schools, and the recruit academy. The books for EMS classes will need to be paid for as well as the certification examinations. The certification exams will cost \$25 for three attempts.

The three associations (LFCA, LSFA, PFFALA) are moving forward together to continue supporting the Louisiana Fire Service with proceeds from the equipment show. The associations will keep half of the money, and the other half will go to the Fallen Firefighters Memorial. Louisiana Fire Service Day at the capitol is May 14 and is a first time event.

Chief Adams stated that the Fire Marshal's Office has an account that's set up for school reimbursement and tuition reimbursement. Chief Adams would like to put a committee together for it.

8. **Next Meeting:** May 22, 2025, at FETA Baton Rouge Campus
9. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made with no opposition at 11:02 AM.

Approved on: 6-26-25

Signature: 