

**Louisiana Fire & Emergency Training Academy
Commission Meeting Minutes**

Date: January 22, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM

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

1. Call to Order / Roll Call: 10:00 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	✓		
Hampton Grunewald	✓		
Chad Major		✓	
Cassidy Martin	✓		
Bobby Moore	✓		
Louis Romero	✓		

2. Meeting Prayer and Pledge

3. Minutes: The minutes from the October 28, 2025, meeting were approved as presented.

4. Administrative Report:

a. Superintendent: Chief Tracey Normand reported that work continues on the development and implementation of new Fire Inspector standards. Biweekly staff meetings have been established to strengthen communication and improve overall operational efficiency. Efforts remain ongoing to retain and recruit industrial clients, and collaboration with the Investigations Division is advancing to host additional Marine Investigator classes. Recruit Class 190 has officially begun. Preparations are underway for the upcoming Equipment Show and LIFT Conference, and campus cleanup and surplus initiatives are in full operation to enhance overall campus conditions.

b. Pine Country / Northern Region: Chief Dustin Kleinpeter reported that 67 certification classes were delivered across North and Central Louisiana in 2025. The region supported a strong volume of leadership, operational, and technical training. December totals included 35 classes with 373 students. For 2025, Pine country administered 696 classes, training 9,082 students. The Minden Vo-Tech Program is scheduled to launch in 2026, and industrial partnerships in the northern region continue to grow.

- c. **Baton Rouge / Southern Region:** Chief Dustin Kleinpeter reported that 40 certification classes were delivered throughout the southern region. New training props added include a double-decker ventilation prop, extrication door prop, and additional Max Firebox Phase II units. December totals included 54 classes with 619 students. For 2025, the southern region administered 1,029 classes, training 11,452 students.
- d. **Recruit Academy:** Chief Dustin Kleinpeter reported that Recruit Class 190 began with 32 recruits. During the first week, several recruits experienced flu-related illness; preventative sanitation measures were implemented in dormitories and classrooms. The class remains on schedule and is progressing through foundational chapters and PPE drills.
- e. **Technical Training:** Chief Kleinpeter reported that Technical Rescue operations remain highly active with expanded rope rescue and USAR training. Professional development for instructors continues.

Chief Kleinpeter provided an update on the Fathom Tank project. The project has been included in the final federal funding bill with \$3.5 million earmarked, pending final approval. Approval is anticipated by January 31, 2026, with funding projected for mid-February. Curriculum development is underway, and the facility will support flood rescue, low-visibility water operations, and swift water training capabilities.

- f. **Certification and Testing:** Chief Kleinpeter reported that there are currently 11,445 active Acadis users, representing 113% of projected usage. In 2025, 795 Local Agency Managed Programs were entered, with 130 agencies participating. A total of 7,674 exams were administered, a 16% increase over 2024 and a 44% increase over 2021. FETA's 2025 pass rate was 78.6%, while managed programs reported a 68.1% pass rate. December testing reflected an 80.3% FETA pass rate and a 65.9% managed program pass rate.

An Instructor Evaluator E-course is being developed to improve managed program performance and ensure compliance with updated standards. ProBoard accreditation review is ongoing, and 26 certification levels are undergoing standard revisions in 2026. Testing security procedures have also been updated to address emerging electronic devices, including smart glasses, requiring proctors to inspect eyewear and collect electronic devices prior to testing.

- g. **EMS Training:** Chief Kleinpeter reported that EMS staff conducted CPR recertification for Academy instructors and continue to support EMT, paramedic refresher, industrial hazmat, and field operations classes statewide.
- h. **Industrial Training:** Chief Stone reported that in 2025, Industrial Training delivered 194 classes, training 3,195 students — an increase of 347 students over 2024. Training services were provided to 56 different refineries and industrial facilities. New and expanded engagements included Valero, Eastman Chemical, and PBF Energy, along with a continued partnership with ExxonMobil and River Parishes Community College to deliver CO₂ Pipeline Awareness Training. Corporate fire schools are scheduled for 2026, with increased participation anticipated.

i. **Financial Report:** Katie Elliott presented the financial report.

Total Revenue for December: \$207,412.21

- Municipal Income: \$725.00 | Fiscal Year-to-Date: \$15,376.00
- Certification Income: \$14,920.00 | Fiscal Year-to-Date: \$75,865.00
- Industrial Income: \$191,767.21 | Fiscal Year-to-Date: \$1,383,859.22

Total Fiscal Year Income: \$1,475,100.22

5. **Commission Chairman Report:** Nothing reported.
6. **Old Business:** Nothing reported.
7. **New Business:** Nothing reported.
8. **Next Meeting:** The Commission discussed aligning the February and March meetings with the LIFT Conference and Equipment Expo. A motion was made and seconded to combine the February and March meetings and hold the Commission meeting during LIFT week (date and location to be determined). The motion passed without opposition. Discussion also included coordinating the April meeting in conjunction with the Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association event at the Harbor Center in Slidell.
9. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM without opposition.

Approved on: 3-5-26

Signature: 