

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

Date: March 5, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM

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

1. Call to Order / Roll Call: 10:27 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 January 22, 2026, meeting were approved as presented.

4. Motion to move New Business to the beginning of the meeting. No objections.

New Business:

Chief Adams announced that official notification was received from Representative Letlow that the funding has been secured for the indoor swift water training prop; processing is delayed slightly due to the federal shutdown.

The bids were opened for the new burn building, and the vendor was selected. The slab is going through the process, with projected completion of the project by July.

Property transfer between LSU and SFM is underway and going through the legal review process to assume ownership of approximately 40 acres and all facilities.

5. Administrative Report:

- a. **Superintendent:** Chief Tracey Normand reported that staff met with Acadis to discuss future goals and provided an update on the Swift Water training prop, as well as ongoing campus cleanup and surplus efforts. CO₂ pipeline training will be expanding with a mobile training prop provided by ExxonMobil, which will enhance and extend the program statewide. Operation Save-A-Life has resulted in one confirmed save and one smoke detector save. Chief Normand encouraged fire chiefs to continue promoting the program to the public.
- b. **Pine Country / Northern Region:** Chief Ogden reported that the North Region delivered 38 classes to 424 students in January and increased to 56 classes serving 813 students in February. He noted continued growth in technical training and officer-level certifications. Additionally, a new Firefighter I program has been established at Delta Community College, along with participation in dual enrollment opportunities.
- c. **Baton Rouge / Southern Region:** Chief Kleinpeter reported that the South Region delivered 70 classes to 903 students in January. He noted that the flashover prop, maze, and firebox were among the most heavily utilized training props. He also highlighted continued cross-division staffing support, with personnel assisting across programs to meet operational needs.
- d. **Recruit Academy:** Chief Dustin Kleinpeter reported that Recruit Class 190 has 25 recruits with an overall class average of 84%. Two recruits were dismissed for failure to meet certification standards. Training is focused on Firefighter I and II skills, including flashover, ventilation, and suppression, with upcoming evolutions to include search week and firefighter survival. Graduation is planned for May 1 at the State Police Auditorium. Discussion followed regarding recruit readiness and pre-entry testing to help reduce early loss.
- e. **Technical Training:** Chief Kleinpeter reported that Technical Training has seen increased demand across both municipal and industrial sectors. The Swift Water Rescue Facility will provide the ability to have more than 12 new IFSAC certifications and is expected to be one of the first facilities of its kind in the nation.
- f. **Certification and Testing:** Chief Kleinpeter reported that the Certification and Testing Division currently supports 11,641 active users and administered 505 exams in January, with an average passing score of 80. Local program pass rates have improved to 71.8%, reflecting ongoing outreach and support efforts. ProBoard accreditation remains in progress, with a site visit anticipated in the second quarter of 2026. Additionally, the division is developing online instructor training modules to enhance consistency and accessibility across programs.
- g. **EMS Training:** Chief Kleinpeter reported that EMS staff continued course delivery, including EMT, CPR, and refresher courses, with strong support provided across all divisions.
- h. **Industrial Training:** Chief Stone reported that in January, Industrial Training delivered 17 classes to 322 students; however, overall numbers were impacted by weather-related cancellations. Activity is expected to increase significantly in March, highlighted by the upcoming Valero Corporate Fire School with over 100 attendees. Additionally, a new Industrial Pump Operations course is being introduced to expand training offerings.

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

Total Revenue for January: \$167,723.37

- Municipal Income: \$152.49 | Fiscal Year-to-Date: \$15,528.49
- Certification Income: \$15,905.00 | Fiscal Year-to-Date: \$91,770.00
- Industrial Income: \$151,665.88 | Fiscal Year-to-Date: \$1,535,525.10

Total Fiscal Year Income: \$1,642,823.59

6. **Commission Chairman Report:** Nothing reported.

Additional Discussion:

Chairman Major inquired about cancer screenings. Chief Normand stated that many are covered through their respective departments; FETA will explore options for the others not covered.

7. **Old Business:** Nothing reported.

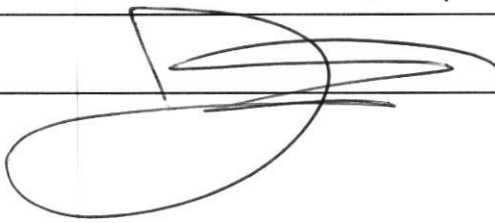
8. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on April 30, 2026 – Slidell (LFCA Conference), 10:30 AM, and will return to the regular meeting schedule in May.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM without opposition.

Approved on: _____

4/30/26

Signature: _____

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over the signature line.