

# Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission

## Meeting Minutes

Location: Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Academy Classroom 5

Date: March 19th, 2022

Time: 08:00 am

Call to Order (Pledge and Prayer) – 08:01AM

Roll Call

**Present:** See attached Sheet

Adopt minutes from last meeting – Bryan Adams motion, Russell Di Salvo second, all approved

Chief's Report – Chief Fowler

- See Attached Sheet
- No live fire props till physicals and 1403 class is completed for staff. Hopefully by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Other props had some minor issues but have been addressed and they are back in the field.
- 40 hour safety officer class starts next week on site. In April we have a Fire Instructor II class and a Fire Officer Class.
- 40 Hour Rapid Intervention class will be offered for the first time this year. It will be capped at 15.
- Talked about the municipal weekend. We went to do it quarterly and move it to different parts of the state. Will work with LSFA to make sure you are getting as much PIAL rating hours as possible.
- Recruit Academy graduation is April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The next class will start in May. The January enrollment is always low historically.
- Talked about the Hybrid Class.
  - Ken Himel asked a question about expanding the Hybrid program.
    - Working on Incident Safety Officer and Officer I.

Industrial Report – Chief Stone

- See Attached Sheet.
- Gave update on props that are up and running, as well as an update on the props being worked on.
- Met with a little of the industrial clients and listened to their complaints. Marathon who has never come out here has booked a class.
- Our goal is to bring in a million dollars a quarter.
- We are trying to get some industrial experienced instructors to come in to teach the clients. This was a complaint from most of the clients.
- Got one of our maintenance staff members certified as a welder.
- Working on portable restrooms instead of the portlets; these can be used during natural disasters.

- Working on improving maintenance on site to prevent the flooding and other issues.
- We have started reaching out to our industrial clients to critique us so we can improve moving forward.
- The commission would like us to keep this spread sheet and use to compare in future years.

#### Financial / Budget Report – William Parker

- See Attached Sheet.
  - Ken Himel would like to see the spread sheet in comparison from other years moving forward every month as far as classes delivered.
- The delays in the industrial invoices are due to the updating of billing information from LSU to the Fire Marshal's office.
  - Chad would like to see a comparison in the revenue from this year with 2019 to see where we are with the transition as opposed to LSU.
- Don't have a list of expenditures but Chief Wallis heard from DPS that we are within budget.

#### Chief Wallis Report –

- Wants to thank the gentleman around the table because without them this thing wouldn't role. We have a very dedicated staff. Even with a 32% reduction in staffing we haven't missed a beat.
- We have evaluated each position and began role clarity. We have tried to put people where they are a better fit. We have moved 2 instructors from instructing. One is in maintenance and the other is working in the warehouse.
- We can't hire any other staff till the law changes due to the contract that was signed.
- We don't want to lose the voice of our customers; so we have comment cards for all the chiefs to fill out.
- We are looking to regionalize training. We are looking for the best of the best. We were even able to raise the pay for WAE's.
- The money we are generating on industrial will be invested into a facility; not necessarily this facility currently due to the many issues at this site.
  - Russell Di Salvo asked about the why weren't the industrial clients happy and was the instructor staff the problem?
    - Chief Stone replied and said it wasn't an instructor problem it was due to the unavailability of props.
  - Russell Di Salvo asked if there has been a significant cost so far to get the props up and running?
    - Chief Stone replied No. It was mostly just the manpower hours but we are reaching the point of more cost to get the rest of the props up and running.
  - Ken Himel is excited to here about the updating of dorms and said that most chief wouldn't stay in them themselves.

- Louis Romero thanked Chief Wallis for taking this project on. He also thanked the Fire Marshal for allowing it to happen. He is glad it is moving forward and is getting better today.
- Chad Major stated LSU owns the property and offered to sign the property over but due to the environmental issues it was decided to allow the Fire Service access to the property. We can use the property but if we decide to leave it will go back to the Agriculture Center.

#### Chairmen's Report –

- Chad session has started. Usually, the first few weeks are slow but this year they came out running. Our statue changes flew right through to clean the language up.
- Updated on State pay raise, and cancer raising from 5 years to 15 years.
- Thanked Dan and all the staff; I'm not going to tell you what you will do you tell me what you need.

#### Old Business –

- Organizational Chart
  - See attached Sheet.
  - Louis Romero asked about the Region 4 manager position update.
    - Chief Wallis replied that we are looking into the new organizational chart and seeing what positions are needed. We would prefer to have more instructors. We can't do anything till July and gives us time to evaluate the need for the managers. We would love to have 2 instructors in every region.
  - Chief Wallis talked about the Bill to put the employees in the Hazardous Pay LASERS Retirement to help finding experienced Fire Instructors.
  - Had questions on if Legislative action was needed to make getting experienced Instructors easier on the retirement side as so not to hinder a move over.
- Breakdown of past recruits by geographical aera.
  - No questions

#### New Business –

- Update on upcoming classes by William Parker
  - See attached sheets.
  - No other new business.

Next meeting will be offered Via zoom also on April 19<sup>th</sup> 2022 at FETA.

#### Adjourn–

- Bryan Adams motion, Ken Himel second all adjourned 09:21am.