

Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board

Minutes from October 2, 2013

Meeting held at the Arkansas Fire Training Academy in Camden, Arkansas.

Members Present:

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| Larry Brewer | Chris Jones | Rachel Nix |
| Stacey Caplener | David Kirkpatrick | Jim Tolewitzke |
| Shane Dallas | Rob Medford | |

Members Absent:

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| Bob Davis | Chad Mosby | Fred Taylor |
| JP Jordan | Mike Scrima | |
| David Maxwell | Jim Sierzchula | |

Ex Officio/Reporting Guests:

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| John Blackburn, AFC | Amanda Gibson, AG Office | Kendell Snyder, ADEM |
| Richard Drilling, DFA | James Rubow, AFTA | |

Meeting called to order by Vice-Chairman David Kirkpatrick.

Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick welcomed all members and guests to the meeting and asked if there was an announcements for the group. He also reported that Chairman Jordan was not able to be at the meeting due to his opportunity to get to inspect a new fire truck for his department. Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. **MOTION:** to approve the minutes was made by Stacey Caplener. Second was made by Larry Brewer. Motion was approved.

DFA REPORT:

Richard Drilling reported that so far in three quarters, the 833 program has collected \$9.2 million and has distributed \$6.4 million. He advised that Kendell Snyder is working to get everyone to apply for the funds. He also asked everyone to encourage fire departments that have not applied to apply. Drilling will send his report of who is collecting soon. The program is going well. Last year's balance was around \$600,000.00, the lowest since 2007. Kendell has about 20 applications to send over to Drilling's office.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Kendell Snyder informed the Board that his office has certified approximately 600 fire departments this year, with 10 applications pending corrections. This quarter, Snyder performed a site visit/reconciliation for Sulphur Springs MFD in Benton County to help them get their carry forward balance and invoices in fiscal order and everything is in order. Snyder also attended 5 County Fire Chief's meetings: Lincoln, Grant, IZard, Randolph and Pope counties. Snyder said he visited with fire chiefs to help solve problems and answer questions to get their 833 applications together and help to get them some equipment. He also did new fire coordinator training in Quachita and Lonoke counties, spending the day teaching them how to be a county fire coordinator. Snyder attended 3 conferences: the Joint ASFFA/AAFC, the ARVFA and the AEMA. He has been working with ADEM's Operations branch and the AAFC on a deployment exercise and Mission Ready Packages (MRP) for

local fire departments. And lastly, Kendell reports that he has been working with the State GIS office to update fire department's GIS data, which has not been updated since 2002.

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION:

John Blackburn informed the Board that last quarter, June-August, in the two federal excess programs, 41 vehicles were hauled at a value of \$4.39 million. In the interest-free loan program, there were 5 loans made for \$69,000. This program will loan up to \$15,000 for equipment and/or trucks. The AFC has had 686 requests from fire departments. The AFC teaches an 8 hour Wild land Firefighting course. There were 15 courses taught, with 149 fire departments represented and 438 students in attendance. The annual Fire Show will be held on Saturday, October 26 from 1000-1400 to show the AFC's appreciation to the fire departments and firefighters. There will be trucks and demonstrations and a meal provided. There will also be an area set up for selling equipment and the big door prize this year is a new set of extrication equipment.

ARKANSAS FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY:

Deputy Director James Rubow reported that the Arkansas Fire Training Academy is having a lot of students to come to class and not be in the proper physical condition to perform the required job tasks of firefighting. Because of this and other things, the AFTA is continuing to develop the AFTA Firefighter Physical packet. Rubow also informed the Board that the update of the curriculum for Firefighter 1 & 2 is finished. It is now broken down by chapters, which will allow students to take the chapter required for Firefighter 1 and test for it then move on to working on Firefighter 2 later. The AFTA will be scheduling train-the-trainers across the State to roll out the new material. And CTOs will be required to attend one of the new TTTs to teach the new material. There has been improvements in the new curriculum, specifically in Exterior Fires, where it can be offered off-site easier now. Also there will be a Skills Review class held before each Structure Fires I class to review and ensure that the students know the physical skills to participate in the Structure Fires I class because there are many students coming to the Structure Fires I class and they can not perform the basic skills to participate. This Rookie School started at around 40 and now it is at less than 30 students for a variety of reasons.

OLD BUSINESS:

Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick advised that the issue of Firefighter Physicals would be tabled until the December meeting. He also appointed a Reimbursement Committee to develop the Arkansas universal reimbursement form to be used in billing insurance companies, as assigned to the Board by Act 1345 of 2013. This committee consists of: JP Jordan, Jim Tolewitzke and Chris Jones. Jordan will chair this committee. Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick also tabled the Statewide Physical Agility testing issue until the December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kendell Snyder presented the 2014 Act 833 application for review and approval. Changes included the addition of the inclusion of utilities and insurance as an allowable expense by Act 91 of 2013. Shane Dallas made **MOTION:** To approve changes to application packet. Motion was seconded by Jim Tolewitzke. All were in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Shane Dallas gave an update on the Arkansas Fallen Firefighters Memorial. The construction has started. The amphitheater has been poured. The Wall of Honor is being constructed. This is the section where the names of the fallen will be located. The granite panels have been shipped and are setting in the parking lot around the construction area. There are 2 rows of the seating poured. The tentative completion date is middle of November. We expected it to be open by Thanksgiving. The big dedication date ceremony will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2014, at 1300. Everyone mark your calendars and plan to attend this glorious occasion.

Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick reminded everyone that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2013, at 1000 at the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management facility in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

Rob Medford made **MOTION**: To adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Chris Jones. All were in favor of the motion and the motion passed.