

# Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board

Minutes from March 21, 2012

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

## Members Present:

Larry Brewer	Chris Jones	Rob Medford
Stacey Caplener	JP Jordan	Chad Mosby
Shane Dallas	David Kirkpatrick	Rachel Nix
Bob Davis	David Maxwell	Jim Tolewitzke

## Members Absent:

Mike Scrima	Jim Sierzchula	Fred Taylor
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## Ex Officio/Reporting Guests:

Kendell Snyder, ADEM	John Blackburn, ex officio	Amanda Gibson, Legal Consul
Richard Drilling, DFA		

Meeting called to order by Chairman JP Jordan. Chairman Jordan announced that after lunch there will be a presentation about distance learning for the fire service through AFTA and SAU-Tech. Also everyone was asked to keep the Jacksonville firefighters, police officer and their families in your thoughts.

Chairman Jordan asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Chad Mosby made motion to approve the minutes. Second was made by Larry Brewer. Motion was approved.

## DFA REPORT:

Richard Drilling reported the checks for the first quarter are not out yet. The transparency law is affecting the DFA's in-house process and there is a little delay. The checks starting in July will not have a letter with check, just the check. This should make it a little quicker. The preliminary first quarter amount is \$2,557,000.00.

## ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION:

John Blackburn reported that Arkansas Forestry Commission lost 4 positions recently in Greenbrier. The 2011 Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant program is being finalized. The DoD truck program is still a great program. Since 2006, there has been 1221 apparatuses and generators placed in the State, valued at \$52 million. There have been 357 tankers, 410 brush trucks, 198 generators and 256 miscellaneous apparatuses.

## ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Kendell Snyder reported that 275 fire departments have been certified and 28 still to certify. There have been 10 county workshops performed to inform FDs about the program and how to receive funding. Chad Mosby recognized Kendell Snyder for doing a great job.

## ARKANSAS FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY:

Director Rachel Nix asked for a moment of silence for Jacksonville FD Captain Donald Jones. After the silence, Director Nix reported that the AFTA conducted 90 classes in January 2012. Last year, there were 13,000 certificates issued. And the new facility is open with 4 classrooms and 6 offices.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Jordan advised that the issue of purchasing a command trailer with Act 833 funds was tabled at last year's meeting. After some discussing, the issue was tabled again.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Jordan reported about a meeting, called by Senator Sampley, that occurred recently at the Capital. It was called to discuss fire training issues and the relationship between AFTA and SAU-Tech. Most of the meeting centered on communication breakdowns and problems that needed to be addressed.

Kevin McMaster, chairman of adhoc Chancellor's AFTA Advisory committee and President of Arkansas State Firefighter's Association, reported that the attendees were invited by Legislatures to attend this meeting. The overall premise is that firefighters and the AFTA have a duty to train. Sometimes the relationship with SAU Tech is like we are speaking a different language. The Legislative attendees made suggestions to address to help the Arkansas Fire Service. Senator Sampley provided guidelines for answers to issues. Everything should funnel through the Arkansas Fire Protections Services Board because by law it is this Board's responsibility.

Greg Gray reported that he sent an email out after the meeting. Senator Sampley invited the attendees. Chairman Jordan was in attendance to represent the AFPS Board. It was a positive meeting.

Dr. Rankin also reported that it was a good meeting and he sent Senator Sampley a response to the issues addressed. The Senator also asked that the AFPSB meet here at the AFTA twice a year. The listening issue has been taken care of. We must listen to you, the fire professionals. The AFTA still needs the 100 bed dormitory with food services. If we all pull together, we may be able to get it here.

Chad Mosby said that we have discussed the need for the AFPSB to be more involved in the workings of the AFTA. We also need to be more informed about the AFTA. **MOTION:** The AFPSB request and receive a full financial report of every expense of the Arkansas Fire Training Academy, i.e. administrative fees, scholarships, tuitions, maintenance, office charges, etc., before each AFPSB meeting, to be discussed at each meeting. Motion was seconded by Rod Medford. All were in favor of motion.

Roger Smith advised that Senator Wyatt expressed his feelings about the dorms and food services and his desire to help the AFTA. This is something that Dr. Rankin supports. Senator Wyatt was also adamant about trying to develop Distant Learning for the rural firefighters. Remember, the Legislatures need to hear from you about the issues.

Stacey Caplener showed a picture of a sign saying "FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED". This is true across the State and the Country. We need help in recruiting and retaining volunteers.

David Maxwell announced that work is being done to develop some public service announcements for recruiting volunteer firefighters.

Chad Mosby advised that on the career side of the fire service, it is getting hard to find firefighters to do the job. It is a state-wide problem.

Kendell Snyder reports that McNeil VFD, in Columbia County, has their carry forward balance larger than their balance for the past 5-7 years. They do not have some receipts on the balance. There has been several changes and a truck was swapped but no records were maintained and all parties are now deceased. He is asking the Board to forgive \$5,803.06 and assign the starting balance of \$14,138.42. Snyder advised that he

does not feel there no misuse of funds here, just poor recordkeeping. **MOTION:** To create a starting balance of \$14,138.42 for the McNeil VFD by Bob Davis and seconded by Stacey Caplener. All were in favor of motion.

Kendell Snyder asked the Board about allowable expenditures. There was requests to approve high visibility safety vests and these items have been added to the approved list. Another request was made by the Fort Smith Fire Department for architectural fees for their new training center. The request was tabled until Legal Consul Amanda Gibson could review.

David Kirkpatrick advised that Act 833 funds could not be used for grant writer fees. Chad Mosby said he did not feel Act 833 funds should be used for grant writer fees.

Kendell Snyder asked about training expenses, such as lodging, meals and mileage to attend in and out of the State being allowable for Act 833. Stacey Caplener advised that he has paid for gasoline and meals to attend ATFA before. Now pizza for an in-house class-NO. David Maxwell advised that ADEM's policy reimburses for food and lodging for a 50 mile radius from their home. Jim Tolewitzke advised that we need to be good starts of the money. Kendell Snyder said he would work on guidelines for training reimbursement to be presented at the next meeting.

David Maxwell made **MOTION:** To develop a task force to work with Kendell Snyder on allowable expenditures. Motion was seconded by Stacey Caplener. All were in favor. Chairman Jordan appointed the following members to the Allowable Expenditures Committee: Larry Brewer, David Kirkpatrick, Stacey Caplener and Chad Mosby.

Kendell Snyder reported that the annual fire service coordinator's meeting was held in Little Rock, with 42 in attendance. Items that were discussed included: fire service coordinator duties and the possibility of the FSC allowed to sign off on a municipal department's application. Stacey Caplener advised that we did not need to mess with it. Chairman Jordan advised that no action will be taken.

Chad Mosby made **MOTION:** To change to a minimum of 4 SCBAs to meet NFPA 1500, 2 in/2 out rule. Motion was seconded by Bob Davis. All were in favor. Shane Dallas said that in the fire service coordinator meeting, they asked about the SCBA standard to meet. This issue was tabled until next meeting. It was the consensus of the Board that any used SCBAs purchased with Act 833 funds should have a certification form.

Representative Hudson Hallum said he had received a call from his district and wanted to know who set the minimum standards for Act 833 funds. The Board answered that it is the responsibility of the Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board to set the minimum standards.

Chairman Jordan announced that the next AFPSB meeting will be held on Thursday, June 28, 2012, at 10AM at the Hot Springs Convention Center.

Chad Mosby made **MOTION:** To adjourn meeting. Second was made by Bob Davis.