

Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board

Minutes from September 12, 2012

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

Members Present:

Larry Brewer	JP Jordan	Jim Sierzchula
Stacey Caplener	David Kirkpatrick	Jim Tolewitzke
Shane Dallas	Chad Mosby	
Bob Davis	Mike Scrima	

Members Absent:

Chris Jones	Rob Medford	Fred Taylor
David Maxwell	Rachel Nix	

Ex Officio/Reporting Guests:

Kendell Snyder, ADEM	John Blackburn, AFC	Richard Drilling, DFA
James Rubow, Deputy Director-AFTA		

Meeting called to order by Chairman JP Jordan. Chairman Jordan recognized Dr. Lampkin and Dr. Rankin thanked all members and guests for their attendance. 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 gave the Act 833 Financial Report stating that work is currently being done on several departments to get them certified. To date, the program has received a little over \$9 million and distributed \$6.6 million. There is \$3.685 million remaining in the account plus the 4th quarter amount. Remember, October 31 is the deadline for the 2012 applications so try to encourage non-certified fire departments to get their applications in before the deadline.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Kendell Snyder reported that 588 fire departments were certified as of this past Friday. There are 408 still to be certified. Last year, we finished the year with 88% of the fire departments certified. Four applications are being held pending corrections. Snyder said he has attended 2 County Chiefs meetings this quarter. And he is currently building a statistical database of information about Arkansas fire departments with the information submitted to his office. Snyder is also working with the Federal Surplus Property division to give them information they require about VFDs so it will reduce the paperwork requirements when registering to receive federal surplus equipment.

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION:

John Blackburn reported that the Arkansas Forestry Commission repair firefighting equipment to support the fire departments. The AFC had to a reduction in their operating budget of 20% and a reduction in force of 1/3. The AFC has given vehicles from Federal Excess Property totaling \$7.606 million. There are also interest-free loans available. There were 28 loans last year, valued at \$332,513.00. And there is the Volunteer Fire Assistance grant where 241 \$1000.00 grants were given to fire departments. The Wild land training division

lost 50% of the training personnel but there were still 90 classes conducted. Due to budget issues, the decision was made this year that the annual Forestry Open House in Greenbrier will not held.

ARKANSAS FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY:

Assistant Director James Rubow informed the Board that as of June 18-Sept 11, 2166 certificates have been issued. The new liquefied petroleum fire trailer is here at Camden so everyone look at it before you leave. They are still waiting on the truck to arrive that is assigned to it. For the standards classes going on now, there were 45 signed up and we are down to 34 today.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chad Mosby advised that the firefighter physicals issue was still being reviewed and request that it remain as old business at this time. Also the Expenditure committee should meet again to discuss it before the next meeting. It was tabled until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mike Scrima distributed copies of the Arkansas laws 25-16-902 and 25-16-903 concerning reimbursement of Arkansas State Boards. There was Board discussion on the appropriate way to handle this issue. Jim Tolewitzke made **MOTION**: To work through the various fire organization's legislative representatives to pursue mileage reimbursement for the members of the Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board during the upcoming session. Motion was seconded Stacey Caplener. All were in favor of the motion.

Kendell Snyder distributed the draft packet for the 2013 Act 833 certification. On page 4, there is a change to the equipment standards. On page 8, there is a change to the fuel expenses to apparatus only and with the unit number and member name written on the receipt. On page 9, there were changes to the allowable expenditures. Bob Davis stated that we do not want to keep firefighters from going to the National Fire Academy with the restrictions on the training expenditures stating that Act 833 funds could not be used for any out-of-state training that is offered in-state. Bob Davis made **MOTION**: To change page 8, bullet 1 to read, at the discretion of the Arkansas Fire Training Academy. Motion was seconded by Stacey Caplener. All were in favor of the motion. Snyder also identified a couple of other minor changes including: page 11 has a change to add the physical address to the form and page 14 added verbiage about active smoke detector programs. The Board also approved a Site Visit Audit Report that Snyder uses to document compliance for fire departments that have been out of the program for 2 or more years.

Bob Davis said that Camden is too far to travel twice a year for some people and would like to see the Board meeting in the central part of the State more. Stacey Caplener made **MOTION**: The next meeting will be held at the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management in North Little Rock on Wednesday, December 12, 2012. Motion was seconded by Mike Scrima. All were in favor of the motion.

Stacey Caplener made **MOTION**: To adjourn meeting. Second was made by Larry Brewer. All were in favor of the motion.