

Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board

Minutes from March 12, 2014

Meeting held at the Arkansas Forestry Commission facility in Greenbrier, Arkansas.

Members Present:

John Blackburn, AFC
Larry Brewer, ASFFA
Stacey Caplener, AAFC
Shane Dallas, ASFFA
Bob Davis

David Dayringer, AAFC
Chris Jones, ASFFA
JP Jordan, AAFC
David Kirkpatrick, ARVFA
Rob Medford, APFF

Chad Mosby, APFF
Rachel Nix, AFTA (ex officio)
Tim Stuckey, AAFC

Members Absent:

David Maxwell, ADEM (ex officio)
Fred Taylor, ARVFA

Jim Tolewitzke, ASFFA

Lindsey Williams, AFMO (ex officio)

Reporting Guests:

Richard Drilling, DFA
Joe Fox, AFC State Forester

Amanda Gibson, AG Office

Kendell Snyder, ADEM-Fire Office

Meeting called to order by Chairman JP Jordan.

Chairman Jordan welcomed all members and guests to the meeting and introduced Mr. Joe Fox, Arkansas Forestry Commission's State Forester. Chairman Jordan expressed the gratitude of the Board to Director Fox and the Arkansas Forestry Commission for their efforts in helping the Arkansas Fire Service. Chairman Jordan also introduced 2 new members to the Board: Chief David Dayringer of the Fayetteville Fire Department and Chief Tim Stuckey of the Sheridan Fire Department. Also, a reminder was announced about the Dedication Day for the Arkansas Fallen Firefighters' Memorial at the State Capitol in Little Rock on Saturday, March 22 at 1:00pm. Chairman Jordan asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. **MOTION:** to approve the minutes was made by Chad Mosby. Second was made by Stacey Caplener. Motion was approved.

DFA REPORT:

Richard Drilling reported that checks will be mailed soon. Kendell Snyder has about 25 more with issues and 20 more to review and enter into the system for certification. Drilling asked Board members to encourage all fire departments to get certified. The collected amount for first quarter is \$2.1 million with \$821,000 distributed so far. This amount will increase through-out the year.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Kendell Snyder informed the Board that 200 fire departments have been certified this quarter. There are 25 waiting for corrections and another 20 to process this week. Snyder performed a site visit to Jennette Fire Department this past quarter. He also attended 3 Chief's meetings and 2 workshops. Snyder distributed a report of statistics on the Arkansas fire service compiled by the information provided by FDs through the Act 833 process. The report included information such as: Total Act 833 Enrolled-1002, Certified Depts-890, Uncertified Depts-112; Volunteer Depts-911, Combination Depts-63, Paid Depts-28; Rural Depts-615, Municipal Depts-387; Arkansas Firefighters-18,936,

Volunteer Firefighters-14,948, Combination Firefighters-1,634, Paid Firefighters-2,334; Municipal Firefighters-8,501, Rural Firefighters-10,417; and AR FDs with active smoke detector programs: Depts reporting-382, Depts with programs-94, Doing handouts-92, Installations-83, Both-81, No Program-288.

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION:

John Blackburn advised that the Arkansas Forestry Commission is now in the Federal Inventory System. Because of this, local county rangers will be going around to fire departments to re-inventory assets for the new system. Blackburn reports that the new warehouse here at the Greenbrier facility is popular with the fire departments and restocked weekly with new items for the FDs to use. From January to date the following items have been acquired by the AFC: 22 Freightliners valued at just under \$3 million and just short of 7500 warehouse items such as backpacks, tires, storage cases valued at \$1.4 million. In out-going property, there are 34 Freightliners valued at \$3.68 million, 4 generators valued at \$70,000, 5 brush trucks valued at \$110,000 and a variety of other vehicles valued at \$515,000. The Wild land training course continues to be taught throughout the State and since January it has been taught in 8 counties with 74 fire departments represented. The Rural Fire Loan, which is an interest-free loan of up to \$15,000 on a 3 year maximum term and up to 75% of vehicle value is still available. This loan process is all handled in-house at the Greenbrier facility. Since January, there have been 2 of these loans processed. AFC still distributes the Volunteer Fire Assistance grant, which is a \$1,000 grant that the FDs match 50/50 for firefighter equipment. There were 100 of these grants this year with 99 already processed. And the AFC does slip in units for brush trucks on the state contract and pumps for tankers on state contract prices. AFC Director Joe Fox introduced Mr. Clark Hall, the Arkansas Forestry Commission's Liaison to the Governor's office.

ARKANSAS FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY:

Director Rachel Nix reported that the AFTA will be doing a site visit in October for the upcoming IFSAC accreditation. The AFTA has always done well in this process and expects to do the same this year. From July-December 2013, the AFTA issued 7500 certificates and expects to do 17,000 for the fiscal year. On the issue of the NIOSH recommendation for firefighter physicals at the fire academy, the AFTA is looking at using the physical form requirements already in place by the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI) for the Standards program (Rookie school) students. Paid firefighter students will need a letter from their Chief, stating the firefighter has passed the LOPFI physical, sent to the AFTA. A non-paid firefighter should send the completed LOPFI physical form to the AFTA. Nix also reported that the current Standards program started with 40 students and dropped to 35 on the first day. The AFTA applied for \$500,000 AFG grant for equipment to support the AFTA. The AFTA also received some legislative funds totaling \$15,000 and a separate \$4,000 grant to be used for confined space equipment. The 10 year loan to remodel the dorms has been officially paid off. Since this, SAU-Tech is working on an amount for AFTA to begin paying as rent for the dorms. Chad Mosby asked if non-firefighters stay in the dorms also and Director Nix replied yes they do. Rob Medford asked if there are ever problems with non-firefighters staying in the dorms and Nix replied that there are some and are usually minor and get resolved. Director Nix states that plans for a new dorm facility, without the cafeteria, are estimated at \$3 million. Chad Mosby asked what the current sleeping capacity is on-site and Director Nix replied about 20 students. Sleeping capacity at the SAU-Tech dorm facility is about 65. **MOTION:** to request Director Nix to tell Dr. Rankin that any SAU proposal to begin charging a rent amount to use the dorms should come through the AFPSB. Second was made by Larry Brewer. Motion was approved. Director Nix reports that they are in the process of hiring another on-campus instructor with interviews scheduled in 2-3 weeks. The vacant position of media specialist will also be filled in July. Also the on-campus bookstore is now contracted to an outside source, which means that AFTA does not have to purchase books and other items to stock the bookstore for sale. Director Nix advises that this is a better system for AFTA.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Jordan reports that the Uniform Fire Department Insurance Billing Reimbursement Form is still in old business. This issue was created because of Act 1345 of 2013. This is uniform billing form that all Arkansas fire departments will use to submit insurance companies for billing purposes. Chad Mosby states that this form should not include EMS calls. Shane Dallas states that it also would not include any hazardous materials or special rescue calls. Chairman Jordan asks the Board to forward any questions or concerns about the proposed form to Amanda Gibson and himself. Amanda Gibson advises the Board that they should establish rules for this new form. David Dayringer says that his FD has an ordinance that says how much to charge for truck expense and this new form sets rates based from FEMA cost codes. How does that affect local ordinances? Tim Stuckey reports that Act 1345 of 2013 states that it affects fire and accidents calls only. Chad Mosby made **MOTION:** to table the Uniform FD Insurance Billing Reimbursement form until next meeting. Second was made by Chris Jones. Motion was approved. Bob Davis requested that Chairman Jordan contact all sponsors of Act 1345 of 2013 and Roger Smith and invite them the June AFPSB meeting to assist in meeting the intent of this Act.

NEW BUSINESS:

Richard Drilling reported that the court date for the White County Act 833 distribution schedule was postponed again. Kendell Snyder and Richard Drilling were both removed from being named in the lawsuit. But many mayors in White County have been added to the lawsuit. Approximately \$300,000 in Act 833 funds for 2013 are still being held pending the outcome of this lawsuit.

Kendell Snyder reports that he has been working with Jennette Fire Department in Crittenden County for about 18 months to get them certified. Jennette FD recently received a grant for a 1995 Pierce pumper truck. Now they have turnouts and air packs that were located and placed by the Arkansas Forestry Commission. Snyder says that they have met the requirements for the Act 833 program and is asking the Board to allow him to re-certify the Jennette Fire Department. Bob Davis made **MOTION:** to certify the Jennette Fire Department. Second was made by Larry Brewer. Motion was passed. Kendell also presented a request from the Macedonia-Dorcheat Fire Department to add termite contracts to the allowable expenditure listing. No action was taken on this request.

Chairman Jordan reviewed the new make-up of the Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board since this changes from the 2013 Legislative Session. The Board is now made up of 4 representatives from the Arkansas Association of Fire Chiefs, 4 representatives from the Arkansas Professional Fire Fighters, 4 representatives from the Arkansas State Fire Fighters Association, 2 representatives from the Arkansas Rural and Volunteer Firefighters Association, 1 representative from the Arkansas Forestry Commission, the Director of the Arkansas Fire Training Academy as ex-officio member, the Director of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management as ex-officio member and the Arkansas State Fire Marshal as ex-officio member.

MOTION made by Chad Mosby to adjourn the meeting. Chris Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.