

Kansas Fire Service Training Commission Meeting
St. Andrews Office Facility
August 19, 2021 - 10:00 AM

Attending Commission Members: Jack Taylor, Larry Pander, Mike Roosevelt, Eric Voss, Kevin Flory, Darin Myers, Justin Ducey, Doug Jorgensen, DA Graham

Absent Commission Members: Mark Neely, Rick Mosher

Attending KULPE Staff: Kelly McCoy, Pattie Shay, Jenn Johnson, Erica Henderson, Mark Billquist, Ronnie Sellens, Ben Green, Joliene Lummis, Mark Thomas, John Knispel, Erin McGruder, Emily Zentner, Sharon Graham

Guests: Levi Whitley (Republic County EMS Dir.), James Zeeb (KCKFD), Eamonn Burke (O2X Rep.) James Grimmet (Dir. Coffeyville CC), Tim Whitham (Edwardsville FD)

1. Call to Order / Roll Call / Affirmation of Quorum:

It was determined that a quorum existed. 9 members are in attendance.

Chair Roosevelt called the meeting to order at 10:00 am

2. Public Forum: N/A

Chair Roosevelt called for a motion to close the Public Forum.

Kevin Flory, Motioned

Jack Taylor, Seconded

Chair Roosevelt called for a vote: it passed unanimously.

3. Consent Agenda:

1.) Approval of August 19, 2021 Consent Agenda as presented.

Approved as presented.

2.) Approval of May 20, 2021 DRAFT Minutes as presented.

Chair Roosevelt called for a motion to adopt the Minutes as presented.

Darin Myers, Motioned

Eric Voss, Seconded

Chair Roosevelt called for a vote: it passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Report:

Josh Schwindt passed away LODD

Exciting time for KFRTI, 600+ hours of training coming up with investigator side in partnership with KLETC and some other outside groups.

5. Vice Chair's Report: State Fire Chiefs getting ready to proceed with a Strategic plan and have chosen the KU Public Management center to go ahead with it.

6. Director's Report:

- a. Sharon Graham retirement and Emily Zentner new role as interim Vice Provost.
- b. IFSAC successfully achieved re-accreditation at 21 levels + submitted Trench Rescue for approval.
- c. We have approved using Jones & Bartlett curriculum will be adding test banks for Firefighter 1 and 2 along with HazMat Ops and Awareness. Annual Fire School Status
- d. Working with Goodland to present an Annual Fire School there in possibly April 2022.
- e. Met with Mark Reiske and separately with Doug Jorgensen to look at where the existing props are stored. Intention is to clean that area up. Opportunity to significantly enhance our facilities at a relatively low cost.
- a. Question regarding fit testing parameters, who to contact? Contact is Mark Billquist, who is attempting to establish trainers within each region so that we can ship out the equipment, they would administer the fit testing and then send the equipment back.

7. Financial Report:

- 1) FY21 Year-End Report – Emily presented with no questions
- 2) FY22 Proposed Budget – Kelly presented

Chair Roosevelt proposed that we table approval of FY22 budget into a following action item lower in the Old Business item 8 subpoint 2.

Eric Voss, Motioned

Kevin Flory, Seconded

Chair Roosevelt called for a vote: it passed unanimously

8. Business:

1. OLD BUSINESS

I. EMS-CEU Status – Ben Green:

Kelly and Ben met with KS board of EMS, they advised that there are some big changes coming and the best action for us would be to hold off until the changes are complete.

Eric Voss offered to help us get set up once we get what we need.

II. O2X Regional Workshops:

- i. **Reports from participants:** Sent Levi Whitley, Republic Co, and Erin McGruder, KFRTI, to Fort Worth, Texas.

Levi's report: Thank you for sending me, it was different then expected. Main focus was 1% change and what I got out of it was to not make a bunch of changes all at once but stick with the 1% at a time. Really enjoyed the 3 days, a lot of information given but you can tell they go with the best of the best. Everyone of the speakers had a lot of information to share and they were able to bring it a fundamental foundation to understand why you should change it and what the importance of what they were speaking about. Recommend the Commission bring it to Kansas.

Erin's report: 3 day workshop was very compact with information coming from great sources, PhD level instructors. After speaking with people who took the 4 day class vs the 3 day class would be recommended 4 day class so there is more time for the application, more time for discussing the topics. Biomechanics of why to make the 1% change. They give you 1 year subscription to the app.

- ii. **Guest speakers/presenters:** **Eamonn Burke**, O2X in general is a tactical athlete human performance company, about 95% of what we do is with Fire, Police, Military or Federal organizations. The bulk of it is around strength and conditioning, nutrition, sleep, stress management and resilience for PTSD. Goal is to reduce mental health issues, orthopedic injuries, cardiac disease and occupational cancer.

Jack Taylor –Has there been any attempt to contact any other vendors that do this same work?

Kelly – Had conversations in the state, and with Levi and Mark B. who sit on 10-33. Is 10-33 already doing something like this or would this be a good comprehensive program? Not aware of another entity that is presenting a firefighter health and wellness program to tactical athletes

in a comprehensive four-day workshop with world renowned instructors the way O2X does.

Jack Taylor – Concerned that we are contemplating a great deal of money to benefit a relatively few initially and want to be sure we are putting that money forth in our best effort.

Levi – 10-33 is more after the fact. With O2X it was nice that they put all of it together, it was easier and if you try to put all the organizations together it would probably cost more than O2X.

Doug –Emily, because of the amount of the expense, would it have to go out on competitive bid.

Emily – Can sole source it if they really are the only source but we would probably write up our requirements and put it out there and see what comes back in.

Doug – that would probably answer Jack’s question/concern then because we would be able to see if there is anybody else out there that can provide this type of service. Then the Commission could re-visit it once the bids come back.

Emily – the approval on the budget does not have to be vendor specific.

Justin Ducey - Kelly, with the \$60,000 do you have a intention on how many firefighters would be put through the program and is your plan for that to be an annual training.

Kelly – What I am asking is for approval for a year (50 students) and let’s give it a go and if through qualitative and quantitative information if it wasn’t worth it then we don’t do it again.

Justin Ducey –concerned about how we determine who the 50 people would be but that is a bigger conversation for a different day.

Darin Meyers –I am on the same fence as Jack is with purchasing requirements. Would appreciate a little more research to see if there is another company out there that could provide the training at a lower cost.

Chair Roosevelt suggest putting it in the form of a motion that we follow the Universities purchasing guidelines and move forward with the wellness initiative.

Darin makes a motion to move forward with the bidding process for firefighter fitness/wellness program and insure that O2X is the only company that provides the requirements we are looking for.

Emily - suggest that there is a motion to approve the amount for some kind of training in the budget and a separate motion to go through the University procurement processes to solicit bids for the fitness and wellness training.

Chair Roosevelt – restating Darin’s motion that we move forward with the university procurement process to secure bids for the firefighter health and wellness initiative. Motion is on the floor.

Darin Myers, Motioned

Doug Jorgensen, Seconded

Kelly – to be clear, I am going to be looking for a 2-5 day workshop comprehensive related to firefighter health and wellness that would include resilience, stress management, sleep management, injury prevention, nutrition, and working out delivered by credentialed professional trainers.

Chair Roosevelt – Everything I heard Kelly say is totally accurate and we do still have the standing committee on this topic and as you write the RFP draft document it would be appropriate to include that committee for points of reference.

Chair Roosevelt called for a vote: it passed unanimously

Chair Roosevelt – Would like to return to the tabled item 7.2, the FY22 proposed budget. At this point I would entertain a motion to approve the budget as it was presented previously.

Jack Taylor, Motioned

Eric Voss, Seconded

Chair Roosevelt called for a vote: it passed unanimously

2. NEW BUSINESS

I. Discussion: Fire Service Training Commission; filling open seats

Kelly – James Modig retired, and DA Graham replaced him for the KU position. There is an open seat from the KS State Council of Fire Fighters. Slots originally was set up there would be 2-year terms for ½ the commission and 4-year terms for the other ½ and that way you are always a rotating basis between those entities. Then the initial 2-year folks would become 4-years. We have some that have not been formally re-appointed after their expiration date.

Chair Roosevelt – It is important to have the people or organizations that are statutorily required to be at our meetings, we have a representative that we know to contact. Whether they are able to attend every meeting or not, we have somebody that is supposed to represent a given sector of the fire service in Kansas. It is important to have those vacancies filled. We can't create the name but we have to be able to create the influence on the organization that is responsible for providing the name.

Members do rollover until new names are submitted.

II. Volunteer Fire Officer program

Kelly – Strategic plan item, focus groups and input from volunteer departments are not interested in it being a certification program. Have not made a lot of headway to date. Reached out to other entities to find out if any of them are offering a program like this.

Darin Myers – there needs to be training smaller department officers. Want a certificate of completion for this.

Chair Roosevelt – in current officer classes it is geared toward career firefighters not volunteer organizations. After operational officer. Need subcommittee – Darin Myers to Chair committee, asking for 2 more to volunteer. Larry Pander and Kevin Flory volunteered.

III. Discussion: Certification fees

Jenn Johnson – looked at budgets for fees, pulled data to analyze, what cost is for test site (\$30.00 per student/per exam with one free re-test), also reached out to regional partners and they are charging \$50.00 per student/per exam with no free re-test. Would like to move to a certification fee of \$30.00 per

student/per exam across the board (no more free retests for Fire Fighter 1 and 2).

If we can bring our prices down it would be more in line with Senate Bill 155.

Out of State and private industry price will stay at \$120.00.

Intent is to not put the burden of the budget on the backs of community college students.

When does it take effect? Would like to have it in place on September 1, 2021.

Chair Roosevelt – Does not need a vote. Proceed with certification fee changes.

IV. Open meeting laws training

Kelly – reached out to Attorney General’s office. They can do a training for open meeting laws. Wouldn’t hurt to do this type of training.

Chair Roosevelt – make future agenda item for open meetings training event.

9. Future Agenda Items:

- More detail regarding MOA’s for community colleges.
- Enterprise Rental Car Fleet Management vehicle program.
- Old Business items: Volunteer Fire Officer and Firefighter Health and Wellness

10. Adjournment:

- *Director Kelly McCoy reported the next meeting will be **November 18, 2021 at 10:00am.***
- *Chair Roosevelt called for a motion to adjourn.*
- *Justin Ducey, motioned.*
- *Eric Voss, seconded.*
- *Chair Roosevelt adjourned the meeting at 12:30 pm*