

Fire Service Training Commission
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute

The University of Kansas

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

10:00 AM

The Kansas Fire Service Training Commission will meet in person *and* via Zoom Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 10:00. In person meeting will be held at Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute, 1515 St.

Andrews Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049 in Classroom #25. Zoom information is below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://kansas.zoom.us/j/82336250225>

Meeting ID: 823 3625 0225

Passcode: 398602

The following topics will be subject to Fire Service Training Commission consideration, discussion, approval, or other action. All items on the agenda are set for possible action.

The order of the Agenda may be changed by order of the Fire Service Training Commission.

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Affirmation of Quorum**
- 2. Approval of Minutes** of May 8, 2023 Kansas Fire Service Training Commission Meeting
- 3. Budget-Emily Zentner**
 - a. Presentation of the FY24 Year End Financials
 - b. Presentation of the FY25 Budget
- 4. Public Forum-** Public comments are limited to three-minutes. Persons may submit written comments of any length for the Fire Service Training Commission files. Those wishing to address the Commission should notify the [Chair](#), [Vice Chair](#), or the [Director of KFRTI](#) prior to the meeting. At the conclusion of the public forum, individual Fire Service Training Commission members may respond to comments made by those individuals who have addressed the Commission and may ask staff to

review a matter and place it on a future agenda. However, the Fire Service Training Commission members may not discuss or take action on a matter raised during a call to the public, that is not already on the agenda, and are not obligated to comment upon materials or presentations made by the public.

5. **Consent Agenda**- The Consent Agenda contains items which might require action by the Fire Service Training Commission but are generally routine items not requiring the Commission's discussion. Usually, a single motion will approve all items on the Consent Agenda, including any resolutions. However, a Fire Service Training Commission member may remove any item on the consent agenda and that item will be discussed and voted upon separately.

- a. There are no items on the Consent Agenda

6. **Chair's Report**

7. **Vice Chair's Report**

8. **Director's Report**

9. **Business**

- a. **Old Business:**

- Fire Service Training Commission**

1. Intro of new commission members
 2. Update of joint facility
 3. Update on the proposed/planned state training weekend
 4. KSAFC request for professional education funding assist for annual conference for educational speakers
 5. Any update from the legislation committee for 2025 legislation year

- b. **New Business**

- 1.

10. **Future Agenda Items**

11. **Adjournment**

KFRTI State of the Institute November 2024 (Director's Report)

Introduction

The Kansas Fire Rescue Training Institute (KFRTI) has had an exceptional year. This report summarizes our achievements, staffing changes, course offerings, partnerships, and future goals as we strive to enhance fire training and education across the state.

Staff Changes

In June 2024, we also welcomed **Nicole Bettes** to our administrative staff, who balances her roles in administration and certification. Following the retirement of Mark Billquist in August 2024, **Ronnie Sellens** stepped into the Fire Program Coordinator position, while **Clint Hornberger** joined as the Transportation Coordinator, completing our fully staffed team.

In September Mariska Rai joined us as a student office employee. She has been a great addition to our team.

National Engagement and Course Development

KFRTI staff continued to represent Kansas on national committees and in leadership roles with organizations including IFSAC, NFPA, IFSTA, NAFTD, and ISFSI.

In July 2024, we successfully hosted a reaccreditation site visit from ProBoard, resulting in the recommendation for full reaccreditation for 23 existing levels and 5 new levels.

Grants and Funding

Work on the RFP process for the AFG funded Grain Rescue trailer has begun.

KFRTI secured a State Fire Training Systems grant for FY25 grant aimed at leadership training.

State Farm has been a significant supporter of our initiatives, contributing \$10,000 for Thermal Imaging Cameras to be used in our Live Fire Instructor courses and \$20,000 for a Water Mapping prop to be built in Hutchinson. We are actively pursuing additional funding for future projects, including a dual submission for \$20,000 in support of Camp Fury and our Vehicle Rescue Trailer.

Community Engagement and Programs

June 2024 marked another successful **Camp Fury**, with a full roster of participants gaining valuable experience across various departments in the Kansas City metro area. Our **Catching Fury** event on October 27 also saw strong participation, highlighting the program's success, with two graduates now employed as firefighters.

Ongoing discussions with the University and the State Fire Marshal aim to secure funding for a facility to house our rolling stock, potentially resulting in a collaborative facility. While no timeline is established yet, we are optimistic about this initiative.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the second half of FY25, KFRTI is exploring a transition to a new testing platform that could facilitate computer-based certification testing. We are also in the preliminary stages of discussing the possibility of offering a bachelor's degree program at the University of Kansas.

Our commitment to innovation continues as we introduce new ideas to the fire service through speakers at our Fire Forums and the Goodland Fire School.

Upcoming Events

December 18, 2024

KC Fire Forum

Morning Session: 8:30 - 12:00

COURSE TITLE: Lessons Learned in Leadership: From the Firehouse to the Fire Floor

Afternoon Session: 1:00-5:00

COURSE TITLE: First Due! Residential Building Fire Tactics for the Engine, Truck, and BC

This regional training event offers attendees an opportunity to learn from fire service trainers and thought leaders from across the American fire service. Offered in a limited-seating format, participants can interact and engage in the forums to understand how the messages relate to their individual or departmental needs. Tactics, training, and leadership: There's something to help everyone become more aggressively effective.

SPEAKER: Captain Douglas Mitchell has 31 years of fire experience, the last 24 with the FDNY, where he is a captain. He has keynoted, lectured, and instructed fire service programs nationwide. A principal member of the NFPA 1400 committee, he also co-wrote Fire

Engineering's 25 to Survive: Reducing Residential Injury and LODD

March 29-30, 2025 Goodland Fire School

More information to come.

Organizational Priorities

1. Policy work – We have approved a Weather Policy and a Health Monitoring Policy
 - ~~2. Accreditation – Completed~~
 2. Curriculum Updates
 - HMA, HMO, FF1, FF2 – Our online HMA course is launched and we have some students giving it a test run so we can get some feedback. HMO should launch very soon. These will be followed up by FF1 and FF2
 - SCT
 3. Inspector 1 & 2 – We requested and received a 6-month extension on this work.
 4. Interior/Exterior Burn prop
 - Interior Burn trailer has a new computer and is operational
 - The Exterior Burn trailer is still giving us trouble. Repairs/Maintenance – SYMTCH is schedule to be here November 11-21.
 5. Interior/Exterior Burn course work
 - Instructor guide and Curriculum – no progress
 6. Facility – no progress since last update
 7. Administrative Processes – Admin staff is currently working on a desk audit. Tracking time and work for 4 weeks.
 8. Curriculum Updates
 - Officer/Leadership
 - Trench Tech
 - Driver Operator – Some work has been completed
 9. Marketing, Communication, and Collaboration – Justin Gilliland was hired to work ¼ of the time for KFRTI as our communications coordinator.
 10. Inventory/Assets – Clint is working with the Financial Reporting Office to inventory all of our capital assets.
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Strategic Plan Updated February 2023

Key Performance Areas

1. Quality Instruction and Curriculum

KFRTI will hire instructors based on established qualifications, provide curriculum to meet current needs, and establish measures for student success.

- Goal 1: Develop fire prevention and community risk reduction curriculum and

programs.

- ~~KFRTI has submitted an application for a FEMA Fire Prevention & Safety Grant. This grant would allow us to hire a program manager to develop a Fire Prevention and Safety program as well as Firefighter Health and Wellness. We were not successful in this application.~~
- Goal 2: Develop fire and emergency services health, wellness, and resilience curriculum and programs.
 - ~~KFRTI has submitted an application for a FEMA Fire Prevention & Safety Grant. This grant would allow us to hire a program manager to develop a Fire Prevention and Safety program as well as Firefighter Health and Wellness. We were not successful in this application.~~
- Goal 3: Implement curriculum design, instructor development, and assessment processes and programs focused on competency-based and authentic assessment methods.
 - Erin McGruder was successful in getting our Instructor 1 certification approved by both ProBoard and IFSAC to move forward without a multiple-choice exam.
 - We submitted and were approved for new certifications in Live Fire Instructor, Live Fire Instructor in Charge, and Mobile Water Supply by both IFSAC and ProBoard.
 - KFRTI Leadership is currently in conversation with the school of Public Affairs and Administration regarding a Fire specific bachelor's degree. Recent conversation has centered around using the existing bachelor's in public administration and adding a Fire and Emergency Services concentration. Stay tuned.

2. Accessible Instruction and Credentialing

KFRTI will be flexible and leverage technology and partnerships when providing training and credentialing to accommodate the different needs throughout the State.

- Goal 1: Develop flexible training models to include blended and online learning models.
 - We are working and/or already offering hybrid and on-line delivery formats for Hazmat Awareness, Hazmat Operations, Firefighter 1, and Driver Operator. These courses are being updated.
 - KFRTI Certification team is exploring a new computer based testing system. If things go well we may be able to launch computer based testing by Fall of '25.
- Goal 2: Develop a volunteer training officer program.
 - Development complete.
 - Mobile Water Supply developed and accredited by both ProBoard and IFSAC. First delivery held July 2024.

KFRTI will maintain and care for its training props, equipment, and facilities to ensure longevity and allow for their continued use.

- Goal 1: Develop and implement a plan for location and sheltering of the props
 - Work has shifted to a joint facility with the State Fire Marshal's office.

- Goal 2: Improve outdoor storage facilities
- Goal 3: Develop a capital improvement plan to replace, refurbish and update props
 - 2023-24 AFG Grant for new Grain Rescue Training prop - ~~Waiting~~ **Successful**
Work has begun on RFP process

3. Communication and Partnerships

KFRTI has a comprehensive communication and marketing strategy to connect, educate, and involve partners.

- Goal 1: Develop and implement a comprehensive communication and marketing plan
 - New logo and branding plan – New instructor gear ordered, working on new business cards.
- Goal 2: Partner with other organizations to share resources, training opportunities, and conferences.
 - KFRTI attendance at KSFFA State weekends, offering certification testing when requested.
- Goal 3: Expect Kansas Fire Service Training Commission members to foster relationships between the organization they represent and KFRTI, and to solicit input from membership agencies
 - Communication is much improved.

4. Agency Enhancement and Resilience

KFRTI staff and commission members will work cooperatively to ensure Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute is able to meet the needs of the fire and emergency services community.

- Goal 1: Foster continued quality relationships among commission and staff
- Goal 2: Develop and implement an organized digital document workflow.
- Goal 3: Develop a plan and process to cross train personnel.