

Fire Service Training Commission
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AND ANNOUNCEMENT
Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute
The University of Kansas
Wednesday, February 11, 2026
10:00 AM

The Kansas Fire Service Training Commission will meet via Zoom Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 10:00. Zoom information is below:

Zoom Meeting
<https://kansas.zoom.us/j/89402112735>
Meeting ID: 894 0211 2735
Passcode: 868511

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 November 12, 2025 Kansas Fire Service Training Commission Meeting
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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

5. Vice Chair's Report

6. Director's Report

7. Business

- a. Old Business:
- b. New Business

8. Future Agenda Items

9. Adjournment

Kansas Fire Service Training Commission Meeting
St. Andrews Office Facility
Wednesday November 12, 2025 - 10:00 AM

Attending Commission Members: Mike Roosevelt, Mark Engholm, Dan Romine, Jason Lankas, Kevin Webster, Justin Ducey, Bonnie Johnson, Bill Waln, Pat Dunn

Absent Commission Members: Darin Myers, Eric Voss

Attending Jayhawk Global Staff: Jenn Johnson, John Knipsel, Erica Henderson, Ronnie Sellens, Joliene Lummis, Josh Casey, Nicole Bettes, Lucas Everett

Guests:

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call/Affirmation of Quorum: 10:03am**
2. **Approval of Minutes** of May 12, 2025, Kansas Fire Service Training Commission Meeting

Motion Mark Engholm
2nd Dan Romine

Passed unanimously
3. **Public Forum-** None
4. **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
5. **Chair's Report** - None
6. **Vice Chair's Report** – subcommittee met will present later in meeting, IAAI had a 3rd training at KLETC went well using fixed burn cells onsite. Possibility for collaboration.
7. **Director's Report:** See attached

8. Business

a. Old Business:

1. Legislative Updates for FSTC appointments, discussion regarding draft document.

- Accept and support draft revised K.S.A. 76-327a as amended and discussed.

Motion Mark Engholm
2nd Kevin Webster

Passed unanimously

- Next steps- document to revisor, make changes and Senator Owens out of Hesston will prefile the document.

1. Joint Facility update
2. Bachelor of Fire & Emergency Services update, Bonnie gave update with Director's report.
3. Bylaws

b. New Business:

1. Create a letter from Commission in support of the University development of degree program.

Motion Mike Roosevelt
2nd Pat Dunn

Passed unanimously

9. Future Agenda Items

10. Adjournment

Call for adjournment

Motion Justin Ducey
2nd Jason Lankas

Passed unanimously 11:50 am

Next Meeting February 11, 2026 in person for all that can

KFRTI State of the Institute – February 2026

(Director's Report)

Introduction

Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute (KFRTI) Moved into FY26 with changes and updates, and like all healthy organizations continue to experience change. This report Will be a little brief as I am including the legislative report which outlines all of calendar year 2025.

Staff Changes

We have hired Mike (Brock) Brockwell as Fire Program Manager. He started in this position in late November. Also in late November, Brad Shuster moved into a .5 position as Officer Program Coordinator.

Unfortunately for KFRTI, in December Officer/Instructor Program Manager Clint Hornberger was offered a fantastic fire service leadership. He will be staying on as a part time instructor.

In early January we added Amber Wells to the administrative staff. Amber come to us with over 20 years of experience with the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC).

Just this week we offered the Officer/Instructor Program Manager position to former director Kelly McCoy and he accepted. We are so excited to have Kelly back on the team.

That position posting can be found at [KFRTI Fire Program Manager](#)

The assignments and shifts in responsibilities outlined in August remain, mostly, the same.

- Assistant Director Ken Fowler has responsibility for the Training side of the house.
- I have responsibility for the Operations side of the house.
- Three Program Managers:
 - Ben Green-Fire & Rescue Programs
 - Kelly McCoy- Instructor/Officer Programs, NFA Coordination,
 - Mike "Brock" Brockwell-Fire Program Manager
- Four Program Coordinators:
 - Ronnie Sellens-Transportation, Driver Operator Programs
 - Matt Breininger-Special Operations
 - Lucas Everett-Firefighter Programs
 - Erica Henderson-Certification
 - Brad Shuster -5 Officer Program Coordinator

- Three Administrative Staff
 - Jolene Lummis-Senior Associate, training programs, office management
 - Nicole Bettes-Senior Associate, certification
 - Josh Casey-Associate, training programs
 - Amber Wells -Senior Associate, training programs
- ~Thirty-five part-time instructors, drivers and test site coordinators

Program Updates

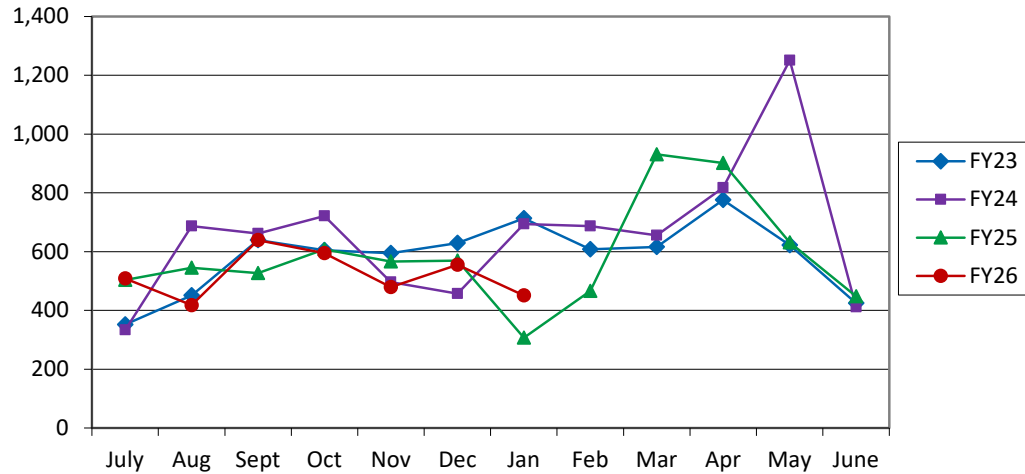
We will be moving to several new standards January 1, 2026. All Firefighter programs will move to NAPA 1010 2024 Edition. Our Inspector program will move to First Responder Inspector NFPA 1030 2024 Edition.

We have submitted Incident Safety Officer to our accreditors for approval. Our intent is to begin offering this certification course in 2026.

We received an AFG Grant to build out the Agricultural Emergencies course. This grant is fully funded and we are purchasing equipment.

Our certification program has begun the transition to computer-based testing. The rollout will be slow and thoughtful but things are going very well so far.

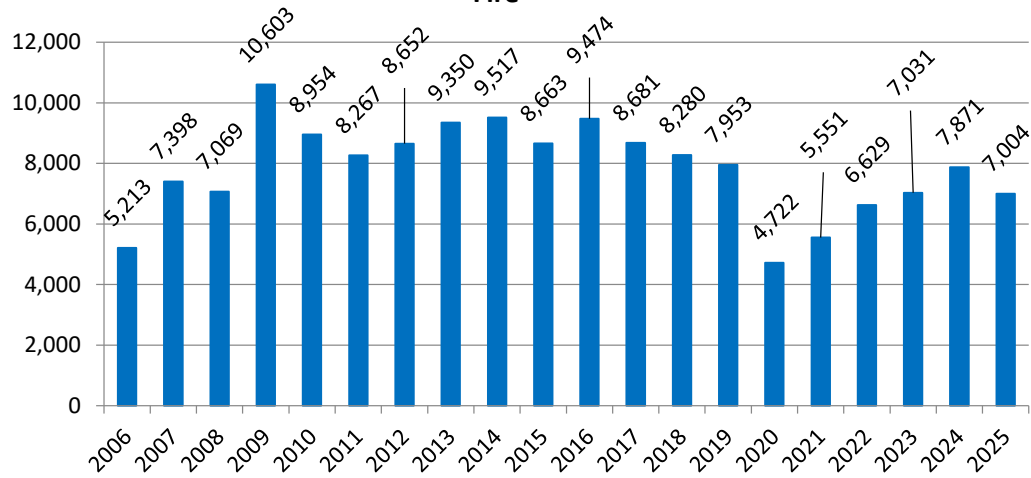
**Total Registrations by Month
Fire**



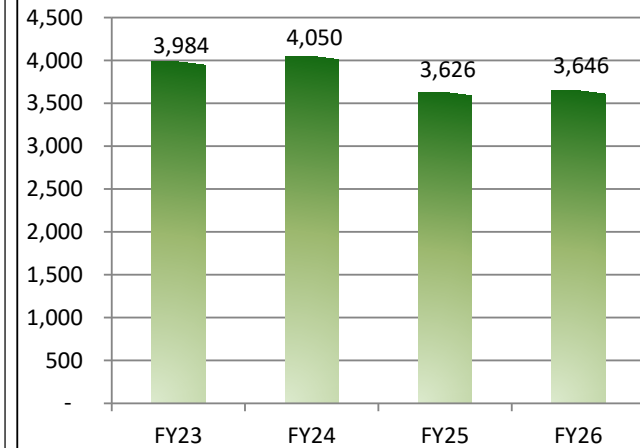
Total Registrations (Reggie + Enrole)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
July	352	333	504	509
August	451	687	545	418
September	639	662	527	639
October	605	721	608	595
November	595	496	566	479
December	629	457	569	555
January	713	694	307	451
February	608	687	466	
March	616	655	931	
April	776	817	902	
May	622	1,251	631	
June	425	411	448	
Total	7,031	7,871	7,004	3,646
Total to Date	3,984	4,050	3,626	3,646

**Total Registrations by Year
Fire**



Total-to-Date Comparison



KFRTI February 02, 2026

	F2F	
	FY25	FY26
July	474	496
August	521	386
September	496	600
October	592	569
November	543	460
December	531	526
January	270	369
February	419	-
March	872	-
April	875	-
May	606	-
June	433	-
Total	6632	3406
Total to Date	3427	3406

	Online	
	FY25	FY26
July	30	13
August	24	32
September	31	39
October	16	26
November	23	19
December	38	29
January	37	82
February	47	-
March	59	-
April	27	-
May	25	-
June	15	-
Total	372	240
Total to Date	199	240

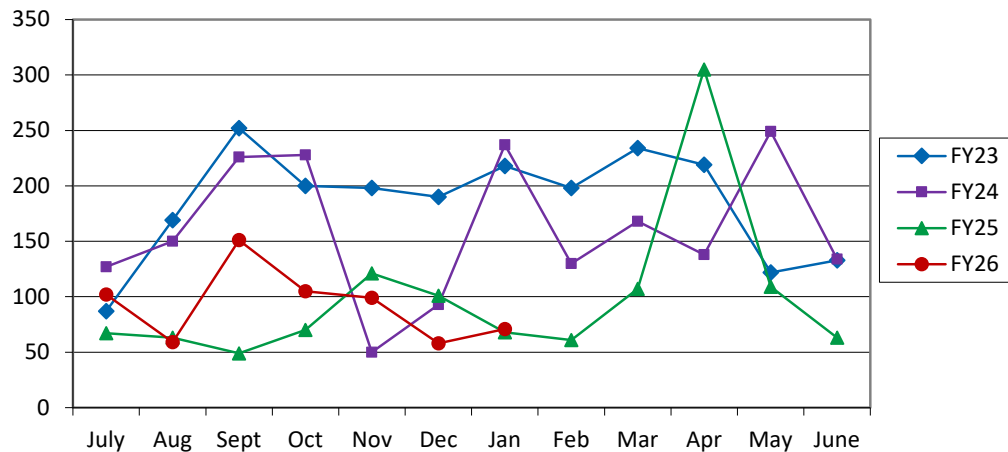
	Webinar	
	FY25	FY26
July	-	-
August	-	-
September	-	-
October	-	-
November	-	-
December	-	-
January	-	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	-	-
June	-	-
Total	0	0
Total to Date	0	0

	Hybrid	
	FY25	FY26
July	-	-
August	-	-
September	-	-
October	-	-
November	-	-
December	-	-
January	-	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	-	-
June	-	-
Total	0	0
Total to Date	0	0

KFRTI February 02, 2026

KFRTI by Program Area - Fire Fighter

Fire Fighter Registrations by Month



Fire Fighter Registrations (Enrole Only)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
July	87	127	67	102
August	169	150	63	59
September	252	226	49	151
October	200	228	70	105
November	198	50	121	99
December	190	93	101	58
January	218	237	68	71
February	198	130	61	
March	234	168	107	
April	219	138	305	
May	122	249	109	
June	133	134	63	
Total	2,220	1,930	1,184	645
Total to Date	1,314	1,111	539	645

	F2F	
	FY25	FY26
July	67	102
August	63	59
September	44	130
October	67	105
November	117	95
December	90	48
January	67	71
February	53	-
March	103	-
April	302	-
May	107	-
June	62	-
Total	1142	610
Total to Date	515	610

	Online	
	FY25	FY26
July	-	-
August	-	-
September	5	21
October	3	-
November	4	4
December	11	10
January	1	-
February	8	-
March	4	-
April	3	-
May	2	-
June	1	-
Total	42	35
Total to Date	24	35

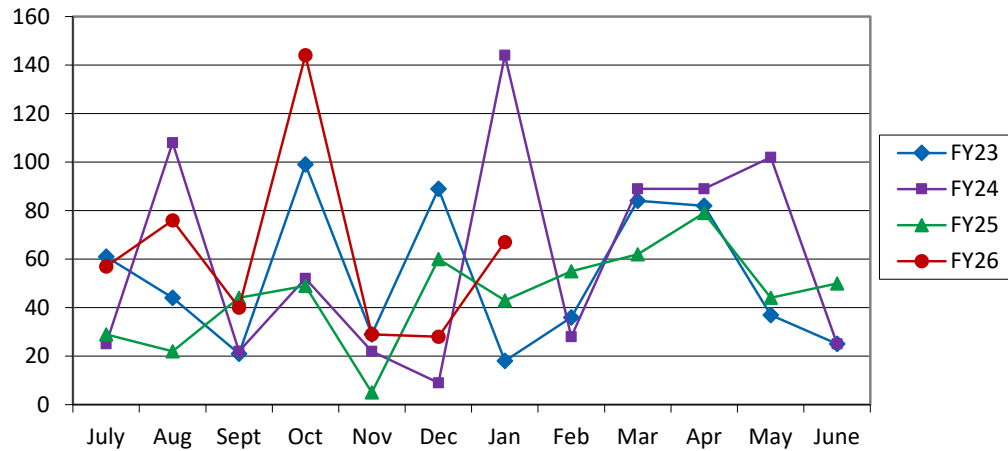
	Webinar	
	FY25	FY26
July	-	-
August	-	-
September	-	-
October	-	-
November	-	-
December	-	-
January	-	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	-	-
June	-	-
Total	0	0
Total to Date	0	0

	Hybrid	
	FY25	FY26
July	-	-
August	-	-
September	-	-
October	-	-
November	-	-
December	-	-
January	-	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	-	-
June	-	-
Total	0	0
Total to Date	0	0

KFRTI February 02, 2026

KFRTI by Program Area - Technical Rescue

Technical Rescue Registrations by Month



Technical Rescue Registrations (Enrole Only)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
July	61	25	29	57
August	44	108	22	76
September	21	22	44	40
October	99	52	49	144
November	29	22	5	29
December	89	9	60	28
January	18	144	43	67
February	36	28	55	
March	84	89	62	
April	82	89	79	
May	37	102	44	
June	25	25	50	
Total	625	715	542	441
Total to Date	361	382	252	441

	F2F	
	FY25	FY26
July	14	49
August	18	54
September	34	32
October	39	131
November	3	26
December	47	22
January	24	50
February	37	-
March	43	-
April	72	-
May	25	-
June	45	-
Total	401	364
Total to Date	179	364

	Online	
	FY25	FY26
July	15	8
August	4	22
September	10	8
October	10	13
November	2	3
December	13	6
January	19	17
February	18	-
March	19	-
April	7	-
May	19	-
June	5	-
Total	141	77
Total to Date	73	77

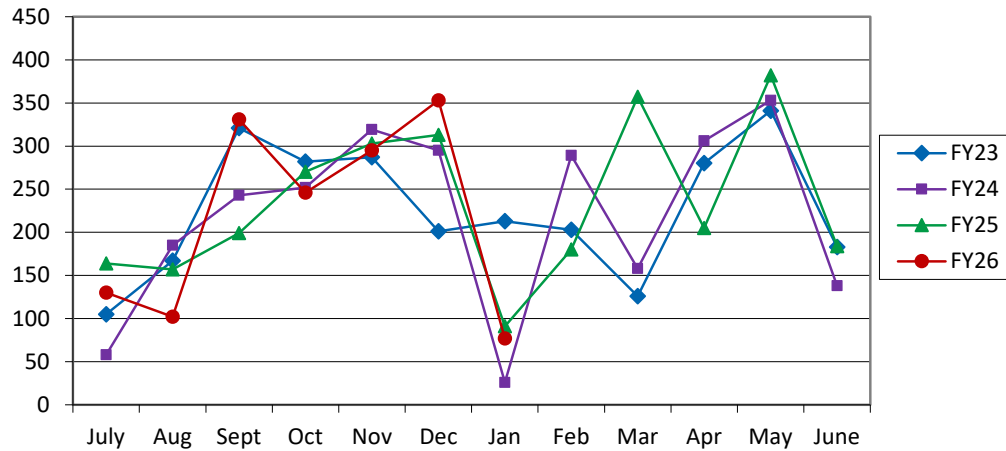
	Webinar	
	FY25	FY26
July	-	-
August	-	-
September	-	-
October	-	-
November	-	-
December	-	-
January	-	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	-	-
June	-	-
Total	0	0
Total to Date	0	0

	Hybrid	
	FY25	FY26
July	-	-
August	-	-
September	-	-
October	-	-
November	-	-
December	-	-
January	-	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	-	-
June	-	-
Total	0	0
Total to Date	0	0

KFRTI February 02, 2026

KFRTI by Program Area - Certification

Certification Registrations by Month



Certification Registrations (Enrole Only)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
July	105	58	164	130
August	167	185	157	102
September	321	243	199	331
October	282	252	270	246
November	287	319	303	295
December	201	295	313	353
January	213	26	91	77
February	203	289	180	-
March	126	158	357	-
April	280	306	205	-
May	341	353	382	-
June	183	138	184	-
Total	2,709	2,622	2,805	1,534
Total to Date	1,576	1,378	1,497	1,534

	F2F	
	FY25	FY26
July	164	130
August	157	102
September	199	331
October	270	246
November	303	295
December	313	353
January	91	77
February	180	-
March	357	-
April	205	-
May	382	-
June	184	-
Total	2805	1534
Total to Date	1497	1534

	Online	
	FY25	FY26
July	-	-
August	-	-
September	-	-
October	-	-
November	-	-
December	-	-
January	-	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	-	-
June	-	-
Total	0	0
Total to Date	0	0

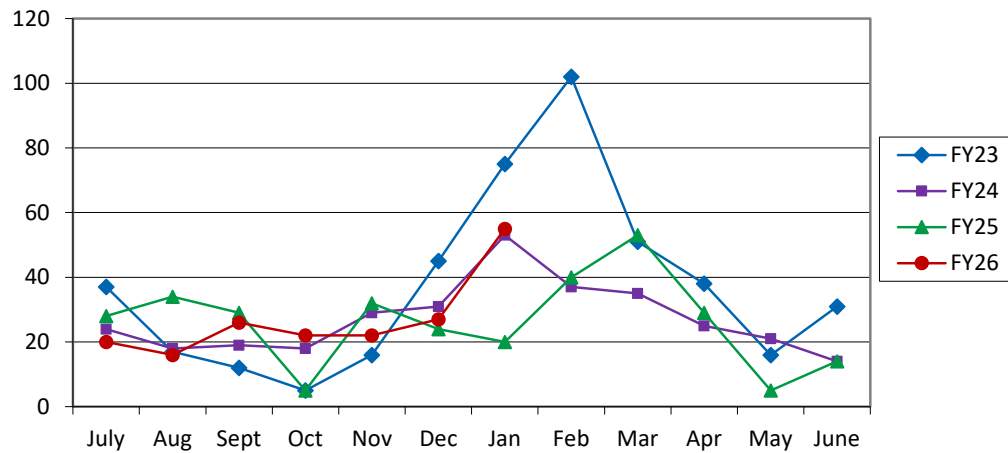
	Webinar	
	FY25	FY26
July	-	-
August	-	-
September	-	-
October	-	-
November	-	-
December	-	-
January	-	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	-	-
June	-	-
Total	0	0
Total to Date	0	0

	Hybrid	
	FY25	FY26
July	-	-
August	-	-
September	-	-
October	-	-
November	-	-
December	-	-
January	-	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	-	-
June	-	-
Total	0	0
Total to Date	0	0

KFRTI February 02, 2026

KFRTI by Program Area - Instructor Development

Instructor Development Registrations by Month



Instructor Development Registrations (Enrole Only)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
July	37	24	28	20
August	17	18	34	16
September	12	19	29	26
October	5	18	5	22
November	16	29	32	22
December	45	31	24	27
January	75	53	20	55
February	102	37	40	
March	51	35	53	
April	38	25	29	
May	16	21	5	
June	31	14	14	
Total	445	324	313	188
Total to Date	207	192	172	188

	F2F	
	FY25	FY26
July	13	15
August	14	6
September	13	16
October	2	9
November	15	10
December	10	14
January	3	20
February	19	-
March	17	-
April	12	-
May	1	-
June	5	-
Total	124	90
Total to Date	70	90

	Online	
	FY25	FY26
July	15	5
August	20	10
September	16	10
October	3	13
November	17	12
December	14	13
January	17	35
February	21	-
March	36	-
April	17	-
May	4	-
June	9	-
Total	189	98
Total to Date	102	98

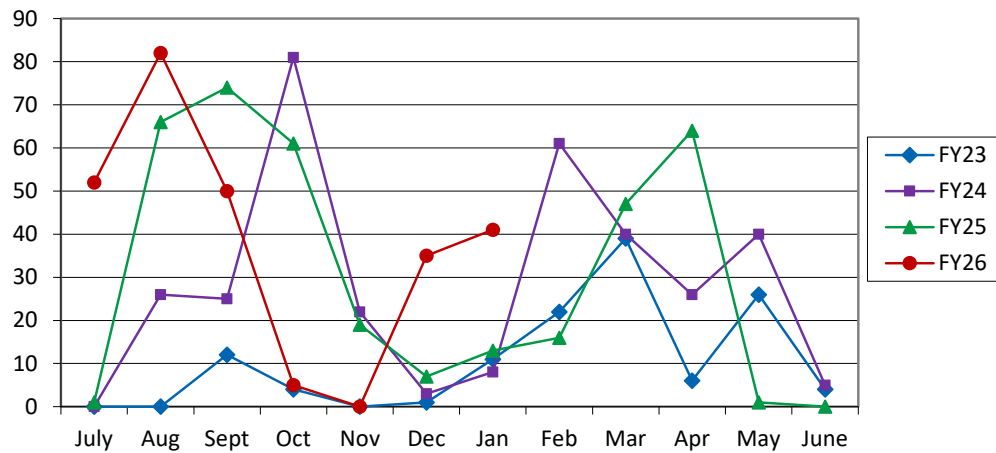
	Webinar	
	FY25	FY26
July	-	-
August	-	-
September	-	-
October	-	-
November	-	-
December	-	-
January	-	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	-	-
June	-	-
Total	0	0
Total to Date	0	0

	Hybrid	
	FY25	FY26
July	-	-
August	-	-
September	-	-
October	-	-
November	-	-
December	-	-
January	-	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	-	-
June	-	-
Total	0	0
Total to Date	0	0

KFRTI February 02, 2026

KFRTI by Program Area - Fire Schools

Fire Schools Registrations by Month



Fire Schools Registrations (Enrole Only)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
July	-	-	1	52
August	-	26	66	82
September	12	25	74	50
October	4	81	61	5
November	-	22	19	-
December	1	3	7	35
January	11	8	13	41
February	22	61	16	39
March	39	40	47	6
April	6	26	64	26
May	26	40	1	4
June	4	5	-	-
Total	125	337	369	265
Total to Date	28	165	241	265

	F2F	
	FY25	FY26
July	1	52
August	66	82
September	74	50
October	61	5
November	19	-
December	7	35
January	13	41
February	16	-
March	47	-
April	64	-
May	1	-
June	-	-
Total	369	265
Total to Date	241	265

	Online	
	FY25	FY26
July	-	-
August	-	-
September	-	-
October	-	-
November	-	-
December	-	-
January	-	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	-	-
June	-	-
Total	0	0
Total to Date	0	0

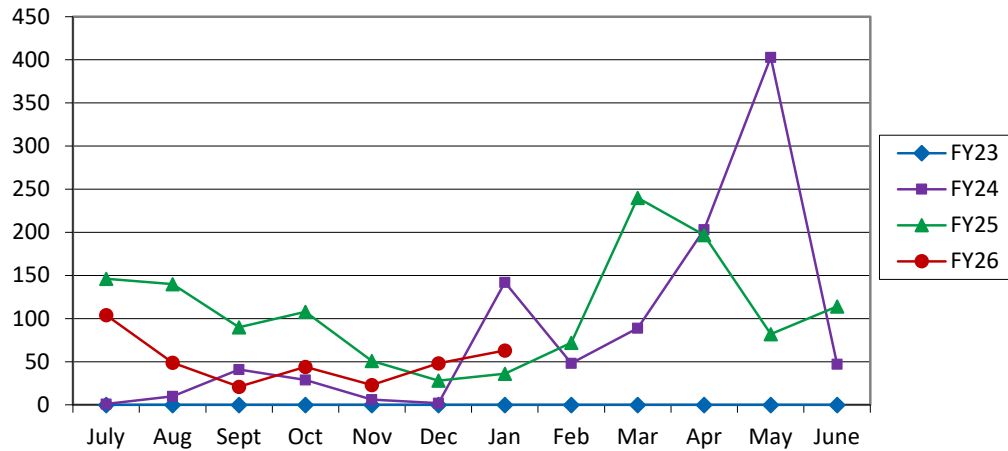
	Webinar	
	FY25	FY26
July	-	-
August	-	-
September	-	-
October	-	-
November	-	-
December	-	-
January	-	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	-	-
June	-	-
Total	0	0
Total to Date	0	0

	Hybrid	
	FY25	FY26
July	-	-
August	-	-
September	-	-
October	-	-
November	-	-
December	-	-
January	-	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	-	-
June	-	-
Total	0	0
Total to Date	0	0

KFRTI February 02, 2026

KFRTI by Program Area - TIM Registrations

TIM Registrations by Month



TIM Registrations (Enrole Only)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
July	-	1	146	104
August	-	10	140	49
September	-	41	90	21
October	-	29	108	44
November	-	6	51	23
December	-	2	28	48
January	-	142	36	63
February	-	48	72	-
March	-	89	240	-
April	-	203	197	-
May	-	403	82	-
June	-	47	114	-
Total	-	1,021	1,304	352
Total to Date	-	231	599	352

F2F

	FY25	FY26
July	146	104
August	140	49
September	90	21
October	108	44
November	51	23
December	28	48
January	36	63
February	72	-
March	240	-
April	197	-
May	82	-
June	114	-
Total	1304	352
Total to Date	599	352

Online

	FY25	FY26
July	-	-
August	-	-
September	-	-
October	-	-
November	-	-
December	-	-
January	-	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	-	-
June	-	-
Total	0	0
Total to Date	0	0

Webinar

	FY25	FY26
July	-	-
August	-	-
September	-	-
October	-	-
November	-	-
December	-	-
January	-	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	-	-
June	-	-
Total	0	0
Total to Date	0	0

Hybrid

	FY25	FY26
July	-	-
August	-	-
September	-	-
October	-	-
November	-	-
December	-	-
January	-	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	-	-
June	-	-
Total	0	0
Total to Date	0	0



**Kansas
Fire & Rescue
Training
Institute**

**Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute
2025 Annual Report**

Presented to: Representative Troy Waymaster, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations

Date: January 30, 2026

Dear Representative Waymaster,

It is my pleasure to present our **2025 Annual Report** from the **Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute** (KFRTI) at the University of Kansas, as required by SKSA 75-1508 (d).

The mission of the Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute is to provide accessible, innovative, science and data-driven training and credentialing for fire and emergency services personnel, improving the health and safety of our communities. KFRTI is accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and the National Professional Qualifications Board (Pro Board) to certify state fire and emergency response personnel. KFRTI is the only entity in Kansas with statutory authority to award national certifications.

KFRTI has had a busy couple of years with changes and updates, and like all healthy organizations, continues to experience growth and evolution. This report outlines our key achievements, staffing updates, program developments, partnerships, and strategic goals as we continue to elevate fire service training and education throughout Kansas.

Since joining the Institute, I have been so impressed with the dedication and professionalism of our staff, the support from the leadership at Jayhawk Global, and the willingness of our state partners to collaborate. Together, we have strengthened KFRTI's role as a statewide leader in fire and emergency services training, ensuring that our programs remain current, relevant, and accessible to departments of all sizes and capacities.

In 2025, the Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute (KFRTI) advanced its mission to strengthen fire service training and education across Kansas. This year marked significant program expansion, notable staffing transitions, new grant-funded initiatives, and major accreditation achievements. The Institute expanded key programs such as Fire Schools, technical rescue courses, and youth engagement initiatives, and continued to serve as a trusted national voice through involvement with IFSAC, NFPA, IFSTA, NAFTD, NVFC, and ISFSI.

KFRTI also made important progress on long-term strategic initiatives: modernizing certification testing through the KITE computer-based platform, laying the groundwork for a fully online Bachelor's Degree in Fire & Emergency Services Administration, pursuing new props and simulators such as the Grain Engulfment Rescue Simulator, and planning an office remodel to better support staff and program growth.

Registration data show strong activity across core program areas, with Certification, TIM, Technical Rescue, and Fire Schools all contributing significantly to statewide impact. Early FY26 figures indicate continued demand for KFRTI training opportunities.

We are equally proud of our partnerships with local departments, state agencies, and national organizations that share our commitment to firefighter safety and excellence. These collaborations

amplify our impact and ensure that Kansas' fire service community remains strong, resilient, and prepared for the challenges ahead.

As we look forward, our focus remains on innovation, inclusivity, and continuous improvement. By investing in our instructors, expanding our training resources, and strengthening our relationships across the state, KFRTI will continue to build on its long tradition of service and leadership.

Thank you for your continued support of the Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute. Together, we are shaping the future of fire service training in Kansas.

I welcome any questions from you or the committee regarding this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jenn Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jenn" and last name "Johnson" clearly distinguishable.

Jenn Johnson
Director, Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute
University of Kansas, Jayhawk Global
1515 St. Andrews Dr., Lawrence, KS 66047
Office Phone: 785-864-9194
jennjohnson@ku.edu

Cc:

- Neal Kingston, Vice Provost, Jayhawk Global, University of Kansas
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Kansas Fire Service Quick Facts

- **499** registered fire departments in Kansas (US Fire Administration)
 - **14,600** firefighters statewide (NFIRS data)
 - **90%** of Kansas fire service is classified as "Volunteer" or "Mostly Volunteer" (NFIRS data)
 - **249,593** emergency incidents reported in Kansas in 2024 (NFIRS data). 2025 data is not available as the US Fire Administration is shifting to the new NERIS reporting platform.
 - Recruitment and retention issues continue to challenge both career and volunteer fire departments (survey data)
 - Mental and emotional health concerns, including PTSD and firefighter suicide, remain significant challenges.
 - Wildland grass fires continue to have a significant economic impact on the state.
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The Importance of Fire Service Training

When fire and emergency personnel respond to incidents, their actions reflect their training. KFRTI prioritizes instructional excellence to ensure safe, consistent, and best-practice-based firefighter training. Our competency-focused methodology ensures that firefighters train and are assessed under realistic conditions. This focus on competency-based instruction aligns with national fire service accreditation standards, ensuring Kansas firefighters have the knowledge and skills necessary for safe and effective service.

Focus on Rural Communities

Ninety percent of Kansas fire departments are volunteer or mostly volunteer, serving our rural communities. Recognizing their unique challenges, KFRTI has lowered minimum class size requirements to enhance training opportunities for rural firefighters. Our institute employs two full-time, fully remote Training Program Coordinators in Western Kansas (Sherman and Ellis Counties) and additional part-time employees in Southwest, Northwest, and Southeast Kansas. These team members help ensure training accessibility and credentialing opportunities statewide.

Program Delivery & Fire Schools

KFRTI delivered a wide range of training opportunities across Kansas in 2025, meeting the needs of firefighters, officers, and technical specialists.

- The Goodland Fire School, offered in partnership with Sherman County Rural Fire Department, drew participants from across the region and provided eight diverse course offerings.
- Fire Forums, held in cooperation with the Wichita and Leawood Fire Departments, continue to serve as regional training events featuring fire service trainers and thought leaders.

- KFRTI instructors contributed to the Tech Rescue Conference at Crisis City, reinforcing expertise in technical rescue disciplines and strengthening relationships with other response agencies. Additionally, we launched Trench Rescue Technician, a new certification course, rounding out our Technical Rescue Course offerings.
- The inaugural Fire Officer Weekend brought together sixteen students for an intensive, module-based leadership program designed to build communication, decision-making, and leadership skills for current and aspiring officers. Our Officer program is currently working on a *Kansas Fire Chief 101* offering with the intent to present at the 2026 Firefighters Relief Associations Seminar.

These activities illustrate KFRTI's commitment to accessible, high-quality training that is tailored to the needs of both urban and rural fire departments.

Fiscal Matters Summary 2025

KFRTI maintains financial stability through conservative fiscal stewardship and support from grant and gift funding. We train over 8,000 students annually and continuously innovate course delivery methods to expand our reach while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Over the last 15 years, small increases in Insurance Tax funds, alternative funding sources and grants have been offset by reductions in state funding to the University (Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute had to share in those cuts) and increased operating costs.

Funding Summary (FY2024 vs. FY2025)

Revenue Source	FY2024	FY2025
Fire Insurance Premium Tax	\$1,928,261	\$2,181,978
KU Funding	\$191,949	\$194,246
Generated Income (private training, etc.)	\$384,250	\$315,032
Total Funding	\$2,504,460	\$2,691,256

Operating Expenses

Expense Category	FY2024	FY2025
General Operating	\$1,899,905	\$2,002,406
Firefighter Training Equipment & Vehicles	\$66,603	\$53,189
Computers, Office Equipment, Supplies	\$11,696	\$27,149
Total Expenses	\$1,978,204	\$2,082,744

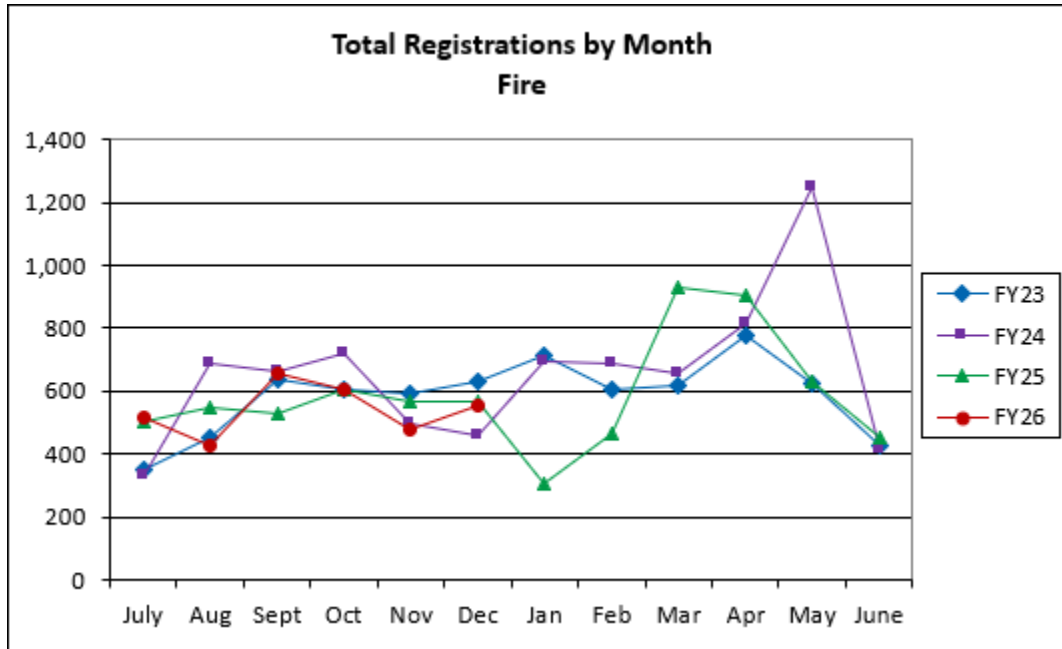
Grant & Gift Funding

Grant/Gift	FY2024	FY2025
State Fire Systems Training Grant	\$20,000	\$20,000
Assistance to Firefighters Grant (FEMA)	\$392,570	\$141,198
State Farm Gift (Camp Fury, Vehicle Extrication)	\$20,000	\$20,000
Total Grant/Gift Funding	\$432,570	\$181,198

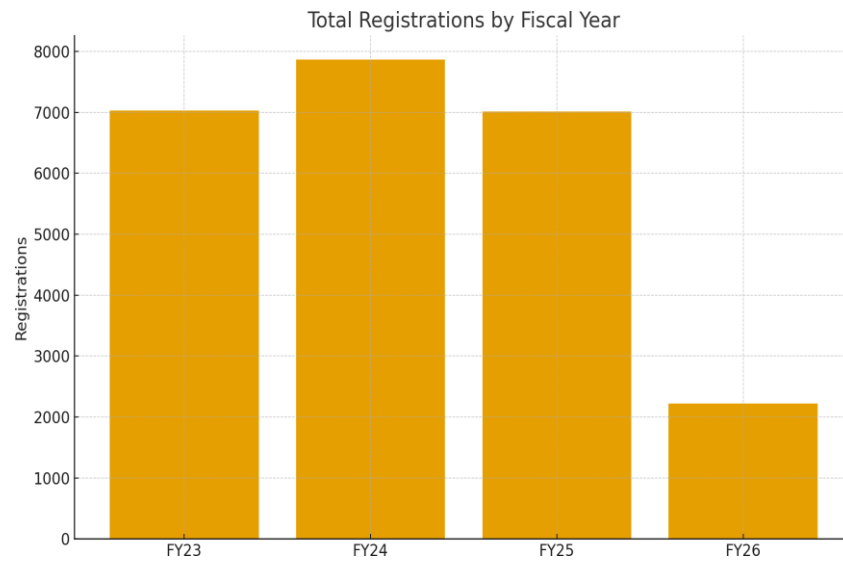
Registration Data and Participation Insights

The following charts summarize participation trends across fiscal years FY23–FY26 (year-to-date).

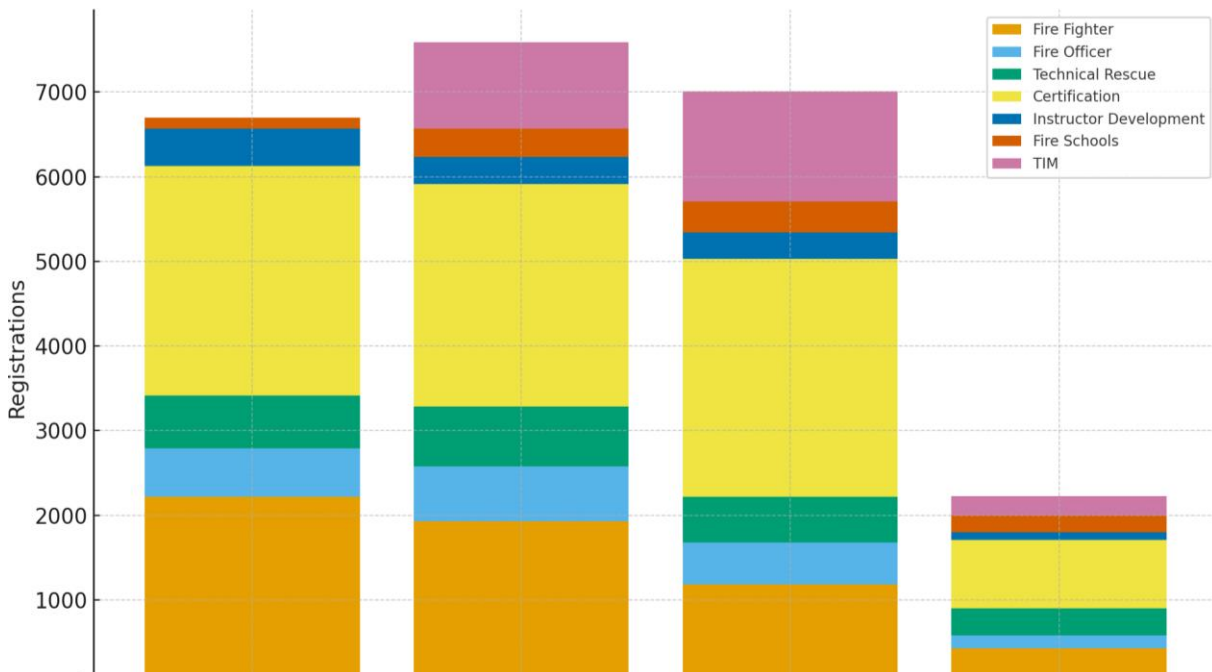
Total Registrations by Month (FY23–FY26 YTD)



Total Registrations by Fiscal Year



Registrations by Program Area and Fiscal Year



Across FY23–FY25, total registrations ranged from just over 7,000 to nearly 7,900, with FY24 representing the highest overall volume. FY25 registrations remained strong while KFRTI implemented operational changes and advanced several strategic projects. Early FY26 data indicate solid participation in the first months of the year.

Program-level data highlight the continued strength of Certification, Fire Fighter, Technical Rescue, and TIM programming, as well as steady engagement in Instructor Development and Fire Officer offerings. Fire Schools also show meaningful statewide reach, especially when combined with local partners.

Equipment and Program Improvement Expenses

Equipment and program improvements are funded through carryforward funds accumulated over multiple years. This practice is necessary due to the high cost of props and equipment, which typically range from \$200,000 to \$500,000. These purchases cannot be accommodated within the annual operating budget, requiring strategic saving before making individual acquisitions or replacements.

Grant Support

KFRTI has been fortunate to receive grant support from various sources, including the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program, State Farm, ONE Gas Foundation, and the National Fire Academy's State Fire Training Systems Grant (NFA). Each grant designates specific purposes for fund allocation:

- NFA grants directly support specific training courses, helping to expand leadership training offerings, enabling broader reach into departments that may not otherwise have access to formal leadership development.
- KFRTI secured an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to develop the "Man vs. Machine: Agricultural Emergencies" course, which will address critical rescue needs in agricultural settings. AFG funding is limited to the purchase of equipment (including training props), personal protective equipment, and tow vehicles. While AFG does not fund direct training, it significantly enhances the training provided to Kansas firefighters and fire departments.
- State Farm's FY2025 gift fully outfitted our vehicle extrication trailer and supported our Camp Fury initiative for young women interested in firefighting careers.

While grant awards and gifts are not guaranteed, KFRTI remains committed to pursuing additional funding sources to support firefighter training. Capital projects also progressed, including delivery of the new Grain Engulfment Rescue Simulator and upgrades to the Exterior Burn Trailer and Driving Simulator. These investments enhance the realism and safety of training across the state.

National Engagement and Accreditation

KFRTI maintains accreditations from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and the National Professional Qualifications Board (ProBoard), ensuring our certification processes align with national fire service standards. Both accrediting bodies provide accreditation to entities that certify the competency of and issue certificates to individuals who pass examinations based on National Fire Protection Association qualifications and standards. Accreditation leads to increased professionalism and better service to communities.

KFRTI continued to represent Kansas on the national stage through active involvement with organizations such as IFSAC, NFPA, IFSTA, NAFTD, NVFC, and ISFSI. Staff traveled to key conferences and summits throughout the year:

- Attendance at the ProBoard conference, IFSAC Spring Conference, and IFSAC Fall Conference supported continuous alignment with national standards and best practices.
- At the National Volunteer Fire Council Training Summit in Salt Lake City, Assistant Directors Ken Fowler and James Zeeb presented on leadership in rural volunteer fire companies, receiving very positive feedback.
- KFRTI successfully completed the IFSAC reaccreditation process and received its reaccreditation certificate, reaffirming the strength and credibility of its certification programs.
- Director Johnson, Assistant Director Ken Fowler, and Program Manager Ben Green continue to serve on the National Fire Protection Association technical committee, ensuring that Kansas is well represented in the development of these consensus standards that drive our National Certification work.
- Assistant Director Ken Fowler, and Program Manager Ben Green are collaborating on the first-of-its kind, Structural Collapse textbook with publisher Jones & Bartlett, a strong fire service partner with strong ties to the Kansas City area.

These activities not only maintain accreditation but also position KFRTI as a contributor to national conversations about fire service training and leadership.

Public Relations & Partnerships

KFRTI continues to strengthen relationships with key partners and community engagement remained a defining strength in 2025. Youth-focused programs and public safety partnerships provided meaningful pathways into the fire and emergency services. Through these initiatives, KFRTI helps build the next generation of public safety professionals while strengthening trust and visibility in communities across Kansas.

- Camp Fury continued as a flagship program, with the 2025 camp hosting twenty-eight participants, its largest cohort to date. The camp provides immersive experiences with women in public safety roles and has already led to prior participants entering the fire service workforce.
- Catching Fury, a one-day camp for middle school girls, again offered hands-on activities that introduce participants to fire and law enforcement roles in a supportive, high-energy environment.

- KFRTI collaborated on the Kansas Women in Public Safety Symposium, which brought together more than 160 public safety professionals to focus on connection, mentorship, and representation.
- Fire Dynamics Water Mapping Prop Project
 - Funded by State Farm, this modern training tool enhances firefighter education.
 - Funding was secured for a second prop, built and in use, Hutchinson, Kansas, in collaboration with Hutchinson Fire Department.
- Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs Collaboration
 - KFRTI continues to support the Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs, and we are building in capacity to assist with funding leadership training initiatives.
- National Recognition & Strategic Planning
 - We continue to send firefighter cancer prevention information sheets (DetecTogether) to all students receiving national certifications or exam results.

KFRTI Personnel

KFRTI experienced a series of staffing and role changes in 2025, reflecting both growth and the evolving needs of the Institute.

- Early in the year, the Certification team was strengthened when Erica Henderson was promoted to Certification Program Coordinator and Nicole Bettes was promoted to Senior Certification Administrative Associate.
- The administrative team expanded with the addition of Josh Casey, bringing experience from the KU Office of Study Abroad. Another administrative hire, Stacy Babb, supported operations for part of the year before departing, with the expectation that this position will be refilled in early 2026.
- A major leadership transition occurred when Assistant Director of Training, James Zeeb, became the Fire Chief for the Bonner Springs Fire Department. KFRTI responded by redistributing leadership responsibilities: Assistant Director Ken Fowler assumed oversight of the Training Division, and Director Jennifer Johnson assumed responsibility for the Operations Division. Zeeb continues to serve as a part-time instructor.
- Program Manager and Coordinator roles were clarified and aligned with key program areas, including Fire & Rescue Programs, Instructor Programs and NFA coordination, Firefighter Programs, Transportation, Driver/Operator Programs, Special Operations, and Certification. With the departure of our Instructional Program Manager in October and reassignment of

roles, Mike “Brock” Brockwell joined us as Fire Program Manager, and Bradley Shuster as Officer Program Coordinator.

Throughout these transitions, KFRTI retained a robust cadre of approximately forty part-time instructors, drivers, and test site coordinators who helped maintain continuity of training delivery across the state.

Strategic Initiatives

Several long-term initiatives advanced significantly in 2025:

- **KITE Computer-Based Testing:** KFRTI worked closely with the Assessment & Technology Solutions team at the Achievement & Assessment Institute to design and implement a customized KITE testing environment for Fire Service Certification. Tablets were procured, the test environment was built, and the Institute began preparing to retire paper bubble sheets in favor of computer-based testing in early 2026.
- **Bachelor’s Degree in Fire & Emergency Services Administration:** In partnership with the KU School of Public Affairs & Administration, KFRTI continued planning a fully online bachelor’s degree designed for students who already hold an associate degree in fire science. Curriculum development and formal proposal processes moved forward, paving the way for a new academic pathway.
- **Facilities & Office Modernization:** KFRTI advanced conversations about potential shared facilities for rolling stock and finalized plans for an office remodel that will add enclosed offices and flexible workspaces. The remodel began in early 2026, with remote work and alternative testing arrangements in place during construction.

These initiatives will modernize how KFRTI delivers training, assesses competency, and supports staff and students.

KFRTI remains dedicated to ensuring Kansas firefighters receive the highest quality training, strengthening fire and emergency response capabilities across the state.