

Iowa Fire Service & Emergency Response Council

Meeting Minutes July 14, 2022 Fire Service Training Bureau

Council Members Present:

Justin Adams – *IA Association of Professional Fire Chiefs*

Thomas Craighton – *Emergency Medical Services*

Pam Kenkel – *Public member*

Jeff Kling – *Vice Chair - Public member*

Lonnie Koch – *IA Firefighters Association*

Scott Kovarna – *IA Association of Professional Firefighters*

Brian Platz – *IA Fire Chiefs Association*

Council Members Via Zoom

Kim Fensterman – *Kirkwood Community
College*

State Fire Marshal and FSTB Staff Present:

Dan Wood – *State Fire Marshal*

Kyle Gorsh – *SAC State Fire Marshal's Office*

Jeannie Guttenfelder – *State Fire Marshal's Office*

Absent:

Ray Reynolds – *IA Association of Professional Fire Chiefs*

Deb Krebill – *IA Fire Chiefs Association*

John Kraemer – *FSTB Bureau Chief*

Joe Mullen – *OSHA, Division of Labor, Ex-Officio member*

Megan Lupin (Wichmann) – *IA Association of Professional Firefighters*

Bonnie Cook – *IA Firefighters Association*

Vacancy:

IFA – Vacant

Bureau Chief (FSTB) – Vacant

Call to Order:

Chair, Justin Adams, called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve Agenda by Thomas Craighton; seconded by Brian Platz. Approved.

Approval of Minutes:

Meeting Minutes from March 24th, 2022, November 18th, 2021 July 15th, 2021. Motion to approve the Minutes by Lonnie Koch; seconded by Brian Platz. Approved.

IFSERC Membership Update:

- It was discussed how long a term is. Justin says you possibly only get 2 terms. It was also mentioned on what part of the state they may need someone: Western Iowa, Eastern Iowa
- The Governor's office reached out to John Kraemer about vacancies and he gave them the contact information for the associations of names. That's all at this time that we know.

Community College Report (Kim Fensterman):

- With summertime there is a lot of movement going on. Kim asked to get a meeting set up with John and the Community College Coordinators but nothing has been set up at this time. With the changes Kim is going through at work, she mentioned that her job is going to change a little bit, but she'll still be involved with the fire side, as she is now.
- Kim requested to get an updated list of the field staff and the number that's on the roster. About a year ago, there were applications that submitted and those individuals reached out to Kim saying they hadn't heard anything back. Are they at max? What happened to the applications that were submitted? Do they have to fill out a new application? What is the status?
- Regards to Firefighter 1, 2, 3, Kim needs to meet with Russ now that the college has signed a contract with the Bureau. Kirkwood CC should be able to start scheduling classes again. Recently, they have ran 3 Firefighter 1's with finishing up one now, and soon will be starting 2 Firefighter 2 classes.

- Kim said training was crazy this year on the upside, but possibly thinking on the downside that it signifies a lot of turnover.
- Kirkwood has recently purchased a door prop that is being delivered on Monday and we have training that night. The goal is to add it into their Firefighter 1 & 2 and Instructional Firefighting class.
- Justin commented to Kim about his department hosting an EMT class in the school system in his county this coming year. He would like to implement the Fire 1 & 2 in the processes. Justin and John met with the Commissioner of Labor discussing what needs to be changed so the state feels more comfortable, with the key part of using props from the Fire Service Training Bureau or the DMACC's in his area. Justin would like to keep pushing forward to accomplish this task.
- Kim replied back the Kirkwood does a lot of high school academies with EMT and even though they are under the age of 18, they are doing rotations and ride along's with the police department. There's a hope to get them to also do ride along's with the fire department. The goal is to get the students ready to hit the ground running once they are out of high school.
- Justin pointed out that a student can be 17 and be nationally registered but to be Iowa licensed, you have to be 18. The goal is to get OSHA on board and get it legislatively changed in Iowa.

IaSFSI Report:

- Thomas Craighton reports that the Instructor's Conference is scheduled for December 9 & 10, 2022.
- John Kraemer has the Dodge house reserved. Stoney Creek has also been reserved for Friday night as well.
- Thomas agreed to take president again under the stipulation that someone take the responsibility of getting a committee together to take care of the logistics for the conference. Thomas states that is still being planned.

SFM Update (SFM Dan Wood):

- In the Arson and Explosives Bureau, the Southeast Iowa regions' Arson Investigator went to DCI. The position has been filled with a Trooper named Luke Taeger. Luke will eventually be a bomb tech once he gets through bomb school.
- Arson and Explosives continues to stay busy. Fire deaths are ahead from last year at 26 verses last years' 19. One repeated event is the issue with smoking and oxygen.
- Fire Marshal Wood helped with the Smoke Free Homes Iowa commercial with the Iowa Department of Public Health last month. It talks about smoking in the home and not smoking while on oxygen. The hope is to reach those who are willing to change.

- In the Fire Prevention Bureau, we added an additional SAC, Jake Allspach. SAC Allspach will be responsible for managing our CMS federal program while SAC Kyle Gorsh will oversee all state occupancies for inspections. He will also begin to deal more with fireworks oversight and the fire safe cigarette program.
- Two Fire Inspector positions are being filled in September by two transfers from the Iowa State Patrol. They will both be covering inspection territories in North Central Iowa.
- Electrical is running at full capacity. They have a separate, self-supporting budget for licensing fees and permits.
- Building Code Bureau replaced 3 plan reviewers bringing the total count back to 5. Two are in training that will be starting next month, and one is still in the background check process.
- There was an SFM budget increase but only to cover salary adjustments. This increase doesn't cover new positions and limits spending on other things.
- The fireworks fees were able to fund grants. There were several injuries but no deaths due to fireworks. There were 584 – either stands, tents, or permits – this year, FM Wood suspects the average likely being around the 550-600 mark every year. There was a shortage of tents for some, and others, inventory – excluding the larger vendors who carry over from year to year.
- Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIF)... This fund is for any state entity to use for rebuilding Iowa. Dan mentioned that he paired up with IFA in a meeting where it was discussed with State Representative Worthan about a training tower for Iowa's fire service. The amount granted was 2.1 million. The National Guard has already set aside some land to build the tower. Bringing in water and electricity will be a part of that process.
- In addition to the Firefighter Training Fund, money was given to get us up to the \$1,000,000 mark to help with maintenance of the building and such.
 - It was suggested by Kim Fensterman, to form a committee to help build the new facility.

ESTB Update (Kyle Gorsh):

- July 7th, John Kraemer sent out an update about Don Minks who is the new Special Programs Coordinator. So far, he has set up six Fire Instructor 1 classes, one Fire Instructor 2 class, one class each for Fire Officer 1 & 2, and one Inspector 1 class.
- Still waiting to fill Dawn Beisner's position due to budget issues. SFM Wood and the new bureau chief will review the budget and a decision will be made in the next couple of months to decide when it can be filled to move forward.
- Interviews have been completed for the new Fire Service Training Bureau Chief and a decision should be made next week.
- Fire School has been pushed back because of one, John leaving, along with some set-

backs on some things we were behind on. A decision was made by Fire Marshal Dan Wood to push it back to the end of February or early March of next year.

- Iowa State has gone through some changes with the Athletic Department controlling a lot more of the scheduling, so once we know the schedule for the athletic events, we can decide on a date for Fire School. Hopefully we will know by late July or early August so we can push out those dates.
 - Justin Adams voiced his concerns about the future of Fire School and how there is a tug of war of when to have Fire School (summer or winter). Justin feels there is a lack of trust about getting the product out there and having some consistency now. In the past, he feels we had some good traction and being consistent until this little set-back. It was suggested to have a Fire School committee to help foresee the processes to stay on track in case there are any changes in the staff at the Bureau. He feels this is something the new Bureau Chief can address.
 - There was a suggestion by Thomas Craighton that maybe the Fire Service Fire School could move away from Iowa State to avoid scheduling due to sports events which also affects the parking situation.
 - Fire Marshal Wood spoke about the differences between having a winter verses summer Fire School and the effects it has on numbers and also, to answer Thomas' question, the possibility of changing the location, but, the prices at Iowa State are still cheaper from what we can find. A new location would have to have plenty of classrooms as well as enough space to set up the props and be cheaper to rent. To help offset the costs we are given \$4300 from the Ames Visitor and Convention Bureau for having it in Ames.
 - It was agreed that having a winter fire school, and combining it with EMS classes, works better for the numbers. Feedback alone suggests going back to the way it was.
 - Possibly having a skills weekend in the warmer months could be beneficial.
- Dan Wood talked about the new Bureau Chief position and the rules the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) has about the PDQ and if it hasn't been reviewed in the past 5 years, it would have to be looked at again. Because it had been less than 5 years, he (Dan) was able to get it posted the day after John gave the news that he was taking a new position, which speeded the process up.
 - The position was posted for 14 days and we received 12 applicants. Interviews consisted of 3 from out of state, and 2 from in state with a lot of credentials and experience at various levels.

FSTB Update (Field Programs Coordinator Russ Grossman):

- Russ Grossman was absent for this meeting

FSTB Update (Certification Coordinator Gary Howard):

- Gary Howard was absent for this meeting

Update Division of Labor (Joe Mullen):

- Joe Mullen was absent for this meeting

Old Business:

- Certification patches and reciprocity...It was in agreement that you only get your patches from the State of Iowa, if you are trained and certified in Iowa. People who have reciprocity cannot purchase Iowa patches if their certification didn't come from Iowa.
 - There is a motion by Thomas Craighton; seconded by Lonnie Koch. Approved.
- It was asked how much does it cost for someone to challenge a test in Iowa and an amount was shared: \$50 for written and \$50 for practical. (The amount given was incorrect and there are other stipulations that apply. For \$50, you get a written and a practical. Whichever application is received first is the one the fee is applied to. So, if you apply for a written first (\$50), the practical is a part of that fee. That means when the practical app is submitted second, they are not charged. Visa-versa. The higher levels do not have practicals but the fee is still \$50. Instructor 1 & 2, Inspector 1, and Investigator, cannot be challenged. The student is required to take our class. The Investigator class fee is \$600 for the two week school, which does not included the testing fee.)

New Business:

Item A

- 2022 Fireworks Grant application review and awards.
 - The Fireworks Grant amount is based on how many licenses we have. Right now, we have 584 licenses. Fire Marshal Wood checked with DPS finance and they have a little over \$500,000 in the fund, however, that money is distributed through different areas such as time spent for inspections, plan reviews, and paying for our various bills. Fire Marshal Wood asked if \$300,000 was a sufficient amount to spend and they said that should be a safe amount to spend. FM Wood was asked to determine a ranking system and if January still looks good, more can be created.

The grant applications started at 8 and this year there was 61 grant applications submitted.

- Ray Reynolds did a break-down of priorities, first, second, third... The first priority is in the amount of \$124,635.00 deemed for fireworks material, the second at \$105,000.00 for Extractors. Since they were still waiting on the new bid, these were based off the old bid. The increase in price for BDS went to \$8368.00. That makes the total for 2nd priority \$125,520.00, making the first two priorities a little over \$250,000.00.
- The suggestion was to do the first 2 priorities, and then the next tier was PPE Firefighting. According to Jeannie Guttenfelder, that makes the total of the first 3 groupings \$339,127.27, which is long by \$39,000.00.
- The amount of \$87,180 is for all the departments that asked for Extractors and Fireworks Safety Education. For the 2nd priority, with a total of 15, are the washer extractors at \$120,520.00, as well as the prevention and fireworks related items.
- For the third priority, Ray has listed the request of \$24,803.00 for the materials to construct a hose stream mechanics training prop from the Altoona Fire Department.
 - There was continued discussion later about this level and who received what. Jeannie Guttenfelder kept updated a list of departments and amounts granted.
- Jeannie states the first two groups comes to a total of \$250,155.50 leaving the council \$49,844.50 that can still be awarded of the initial \$300,000.00. It was recommended ranking what's left, and if there is no money left and it doesn't get spent down as far as what was thought, then at the beginning of next year we can add in additional grant awards based on that ranking. Depending on how that goes, adjustments can be made next year.
 - Upon further discussion, there was a reminder that within the rules, the requirement that if you want an award, you have to follow the procedures by going through the state procurement, opposed to just giving them the money and reimbursement and them spending it. To reiterate, the state procurement policy has to be followed for anything that would be purchased on behalf of a department rather than just giving them a reimbursement for an award. For example: the Extractors.
- It was suggested to cap the amounts awarded and to take into consideration who had been previously awarded; maybe making it a \$10,000.00 amount max.

- There was a question asked about the mannequins and EMS training, so Justin Adams explained that it is a joint project between the Hiawatha Police Department and the Hiawatha Fire Department where leveraging the common training needs for both the departments by utilizing a shared mannequin training resource. The Police Department has received a \$19,000.00 grant and they are requesting roughly \$35,000.00 from the grant where the mannequin will provide life-like training and hands-on skills for staff in dealing with trauma from burns, gunshot wounds, chest wounds, etc. The mannequin provides real-time vital signs and more. It was suggested that a portion could be granted but not the full amount.
 - Last year, there were several departments that requested multiple things or larger amounts where they were only granted a portion.
- A motion was made by *(Name missed)* to approve the Public Education and the Extractors out of the grant. Seconded by *(name missed)* Approved.
- An amended motion was made by Thomas Craighton to include \$5000 for the smoke detector projects for each. Seconded by *(name missed)* Approved.
 - That leaves you 34 grant requests of the 61 that have been submitted, totaling \$690,000.00 plus in funding requested, that of which \$300,000.00 can be spent, leaving \$49,844.50.
- Justin Adams gives recognition to Ray Reynolds for his passion in all of this and the amount of time spent going through all of the requests.
- Of the 3rd tier group, it was suggested to approve the total of \$32,750.00 for Education.
- A motion was made by Thomas Craighton to approve the Education request. Seconded by *(name missed)* Approved.
- In a final tally, 30 departments out of 61 were awarded grant money and not 34 departments as previously noted. This came after the amended motion.

Additional Business:

- Justin Adams mentions that 3 new sub-committee members, for working on the budget, are being appointed and will be started after the new Bureau Chief is in place.
- FM Wood spoke of the new Senate File 333 that passed having some sort of training for drivers for Apparatus. It says it is up to the Fire Marshal's Office and the Council to decide on how to handle getting that accomplished. It doesn't say how much or how many hours. It's pretty much wide open. After discussing it with the attorney on what it looks like, and it even says, per 100v.61 there should be an Iowa Service Response Council. As a group, it needs to be decided on the definition of what that is and what action to take. FM Wood also noted there are no calls for administrative rules.

Public Comments:

- None at this time

Action Items:

- None at this time

Next Committee Meeting

- Discussion on SF 333
- Tentative date for a following meeting is for October 20th, 2022. (*Rescheduled for November 3rd*)

Adjournment:

Motion

Thomas Craighton called for a motion to adjourn. *Motion for second missed*