

FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2020
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting via WebEx only

P	Mark Kulda Insurance Federation of MN	P	Don Smiley MN State Fire Chief's Assoc. (MSFCA)
P	Kip LaMotte Fire Marshals Assoc. of MN / International Assoc. of Arson Investigators-MN Chapter	P	Chris Parsons MN Professional Firefighters Assoc. (MPFF)
P	Rick Loveland MN Professional Fire Fighters Assoc. (MPFF)	A	Jon Kahnke MN State Fire Department Assoc. (MSFDA)
P	Mark Windschitl <i>Vice Chair</i> League of MN Cities	P	BJ Jungmann <i>Chair</i> MN State Fire Chief's Assoc. (MSFCA)
P	Lisa Laliberte League of MN Cities	P	Ed Hoffman MN State Fire Department Assoc. (MSFDA)
P	Jim Fisher MN Assoc. of Townships	P	Bruce West Commissioner Designee

Guests: Margaret Koele (FSAC Admin), Mike Aspnes (MART)
Pete Knaeble (MN-TF1), Dave Schliek (MFSCB), Allen Lewis (Virginia
FD), Steve Flaherty (MBFTE), Dean Wrobbel (St Cloud FD), Jim Smith
(SFM), Tate Mills (FSS SFMD), and Mark Erickson (MN-TF1), Tom
Schmitz (MN-TF1), Craig Latch (MN-TF1), Jeff Siems (MN-TF1), Nate
Voye (MN-TF1), Steve White (FSS SFMD), and Mike Dobesh (MnFire)

FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2020
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting via WebEx only

Call to order – Chair BJ Jungmann

- Accept agenda
 - Addition to the agenda added under public comment
 - Complaint received
 - **Rick Loveland motioned to approve with the additional item added, Mark Windschitl second the motion, motion carried**
- Minutes approval from August
 - **Motion to approve the August minutes by Rick Loveland, second by Mark Windschitl, motion carried**

Public Comment – No public comment

- Complaint
 - BJ Jungmann let the committee know that a written complaint about inequitable funding distribution was received by DPS & the Governor's office from Chief Allen Lewis, Virginia Fire Department. Chief Lewis does not agree with the committee decisions that were unanimously made regarding funding priorities. Assistant Commissioner West and the Governor's office will be looking into that complaint. We all made a unanimous recommendation on all the funding request items last month and we followed the policies that were written and policies in statute.
 - Mark Kulda wanted to know the format of complaint if letter or email, also is there anything in the bylaws addressing complaint resolutions
 - BJ Jungmann replied he believes it was a letter through email and there is nothing in the bylaws addressing complaint resolution. The committee did not receive the complaint directly, as Chief Lewis has not made any contact with me, as the Chair or the committee, he has just made the contact with the Commissioner and the Governor's office. The committee made the recommendation and the Commissioner approved the one time funding allocations. The complaint alleges the committee is funding the metro and not the greater Minnesota and there is a disparity.
 - Assistant Commissioner West commented that he and the Commissioner did receive a letter from Chief Lewis, regarding the one time funding recommendations that were done back in August. He responded to Chief Lewis on August 14th with a letter that he did have the right to appeal the decisions of the FSAC to FSAC. He also let Chief Lewis know that there were many funding proposals received and he always has the opportunity to appeal directly to the FSAC regarding the one time funding for FY21 from the August 5th meeting. These letters are public documents and will be forwarded to the committee members for their review.

FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2020

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting via WebEx only

Old Business

- Base budget presentation discussion and/or action
 - Assistant Commissioner West commented that there are some available funds for base budget increases and would recommend staying within the \$14.3 million or less for the total of what is requested today.
 - Jim Smith commented he just got an update the FY20 ending total was \$15,218,604
 - SFMD
 - This request includes the state Hazmat Response teams
 - \$8,573,500 for FY22 and \$8,640,100 for FY23 (current base budget is \$6,622,000)
 - Included above is for the Hazmat Teams \$1,625,000 FY22 (\$100,000 to be put into the non-responsible party fund) and \$1,525,000 for FY23
 - **Kip LaMotte motioned to fully fund the SFMD as presented, Jim Fisher second the motion, roll call vote - motion carried unanimously**
 - MBFTE
 - \$235,000 increase to bring to \$4.5 million budget for FY22 & FY23
 - **Assistant Commissioner West motioned to increase the MBFTE base budget as presented for FY22 & FY23, Rick Loveland second the motion, roll call vote – motion carried unanimously**
 - Task Force One
 - Current base budget is \$500,000, request is to accept partial funding up to being fully funded: \$705,000 - \$1,275,000
 - Rick Loveland asked if Task Force One has an MOU with the State of MN showing that they are an actual state asset or part of the state system, or just an independent group seeking funding.
 - Marshal Jim Smith is currently in talks with them and the goal is to set them up, it is not finalized yet.
 - Rick Loveland commented that this has been an ongoing issue for several years.
 - Marshal Jim Smith commented that this has been discussed, but as far as the Fire Marshal goes this was put as a priority when state teams came to SFMD, which was just recently.
 - Rick Loveland commented until there is a joint power agreement or MOU he does not agree to make a decision at this time to increase their base budget.

FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2020

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting via WebEx only

- BJ Jungmann commented that he does not believe there is a contract with MART or St Paul Fire.
 - Jim Smith commented there is no contract with MART.
- Rick Loveland commented that the committee charge is that we are dealing with state assets or agencies so that there is some type of oversight, until they become an asset with the state I do not agree with increasing either base budget.
 - BJ Jungmann commented if this is a concern of the committee is there a vote we can tie this to establishing that, such as a service level agreement.
 - Kip LaMotte commented that this committee task is to fund state wide teams whether part of the state or not as a priority.
 - BJ Jungmann commented that it does not specify they have to be part of a state agency.
 - Pete Knaeble, Task Force One, commented that they do have a signed MOU in place from HSEM, but it is outdated and is being updated through Marshal Smith. This would have been signed this fall, but we have run into some legal issues with the change of agencies with a JPA forming another JPA, which is why we are starting with an MOU.
 - Mark Windschitl commented the complaint filed regarding another Task Force will this affect any decisions made by the committee today
 - BJ Jungmann commented that the complaint was not made to the committee, the appeal was not made to this committee, so no decision by the committee will be affected. The complaint was in regard to the one time funding and our charge is on base budgets with only one recognized team in the state at this point being MN-Task Force One. We have given them one time funding, but there is always more need than funding when talking any of the state teams than we can ever produce funding wise.
 - Assistant Commissioner West commented that the old MOU needed to be updated and they will need to get one with MART as well.
 - Assistant Commissioner West asked what the minimum budget increase they could live with during the presentation if the full amount could not be given, they replied \$725,000 first year \$705,000 second year

FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2020
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting via WebEx only

- Kip LaMotte would like to address partially funding at the \$975,000 FY22 and \$955,000 FY23, which will give the committee some leeway with the MOU agreements
 - Chris Parson concerned about designating all the funds to a certain program and would like to hold the extra funds if other programs might need to be addressed
 - Assistant Commissioner West commented that the Task Force One team knows they need to get an MOU in place and if there is no agreement in place by the next budget cycle then there may be some consequences put in place, but for now does not need to be a formal motion included in the budget increase request.
- Jim Fisher motioned to fund Task Force One for the full request of \$1.275 million, Mark Kulda second the motion – **Amended motion to fund Task Force One only for \$975,000 for FY22 and \$955,000 for FY23, roll call vote, motion carried unanimously, with the exception of Rick Loveland who had a power outage and his phone call got dropped**
- MART
 - Current base budget is \$250,000, request is to be at \$317,000 for FY22 & \$317,000 for FY23
 - **Mark Windschitl motioned to increase the base budget as presented, with the exception they need to have an MOU in place, Jim Fisher second the motion, roll call vote – motion carried unanimously, with the exception of Rick Loveland who had power outage and his call got dropped for this motion.**

Adjourn Meeting 2:01 p.m.