

FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2022
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Elk River Fire Department
13073 Orono Pkwy NW
Elk River, MN 55330

P	Mark Kulda Insurance Federation of MN	A	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	Scott Vadnais MN Professional Firefighters Assoc. (MPFF)
P	Rick Loveland MN Professional Fire Fighters Assoc. (MPFF)	P	Dave Yurczyk MN State Fire Department Assoc. (MSFDA)
P	Mark Windschitl <i>Vice Chair</i> League of MN Cities	A	BJ Jungmann <i>Chair</i> MN State Fire Chief's Assoc. (MSFCA)
P	Tim Meehl League of MN Cities	P	Ed Hoffman MN State Fire Department Assoc. (MSFDA)
A	Jim Fisher MN Assoc. of Townships	A	Commissioner Designee

Guests: Margaret Koele (FSAC Admin), Erik Jonassen (Arrowhead Regional USAR), Pete Knaeble (MN-TF1), DeeDee Jankovich (MSFDA & MnFIRE), Wayne Kewitsch (MnFIRE), Robert Morehouse (Duluth FD), Todd Manley (DNR), Tate Mills (SFMD), BJ Battig (Task Force One), Steve Flaherty (MBFTE), James Smith (SFM), David Jensen (SFMD), John Kreuser (SFMD), Nathan Voye (Task Force One), Chris Bailey (Rochester FD), Michael Gaede (St Paul), Steve Sampson (St Paul - MART), Steve White (SFMD), and George Esbensen (MnFIRE)

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Call to order at 10:05 a.m. – Vice Chair Mark Windschitl

- Agenda
 - Rick Loveland motioned to approve the agenda, Ed Hoffman second the motion, motion approved to accept the agenda as written
- Minutes approval from August 2021
 - Rick Loveland motioned to approve the Minutes from August, Dave Yurczyk second the motion, motion approved to accept the minutes as written

New Business

- FSA & Firework balance - State Fire Marshal Jim Smith
 - Discuss surplus of projected \$6 million in FSA
 - FY22 balance forward \$7.803 million
 - Estimated receipts \$17.250 million
 - Total resources available \$25.053 million
 - Fire Marshal Base \$8.574 million
 - MBFTE Base \$5.792
 - FY22 Allocations \$2.349
 - Total uses \$16.715 million
 - Balance before reserves \$8.338
 - 60 day operating reserve \$2.362 million
 - Budget Balance \$5.976 million
- Marshal Smith would like to see MBFTE funded fully
 - Rick Loveland would like to carry some funds over for the Task Force teams that will be requesting more for base budgets as staffing needs increase for the teams that fall under the FSA
 - Mark Windschitl commented that we have options, but we need to spend the funding wisely. We can discuss at the August meeting if we want to spend the funding for one time or hold for base budget increases, which would help the roller coaster of funds during one time requests. The strategic plan will go over more of what the committee is looking at long term
 - Marshal Smith commented that because we have the funds does not mean we have to use for the one time requests. We need to take into account the initiative to increase the FSA surcharge to .065, with a sound spending plan for this request to the legislature. The caution is the home value, as the surcharge funds are going up and do we ask for more or rely on the current market value

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- Mark Kulda commented that the original request was .065 and the reason it went down to .05 was due to unspent funds in the account. Now with unspent funds in all accounts across the state, including the general funds, there is not such a need to take from this account. There will be organic increase into the account because premiums are rising up, this will take a couple years to see it, but when the market settles down then will be more stable
- Mark Windschitl commented that we probably will not see the increase in funds for couple years
- Rick Loveland commented we have been pretty conservative for the last couple years, it was discussed to have equipment coming out of a different funding source rather than the FSA. What is the magic number to fully fund the state wide teams, SFMD, when the only figure we have ever been given is from MBFTE at 8 million dollars. We have Task Force One that comes out with some figures and now with Task Force Two, they will need to be funded long term. What is the number to sustain and manage all these groups long term
- Marshal Smith has been opposed to a capital improvement plan through FSAC, as it should come from some other source, but if the FSAC puts aside a capital fund account together for improvements that can be there for those purposes, as long as premiums keep going up, but only after MBFTE gets fully funded
- Kip LaMotte commented to look what happened in 2008 in the housing market and why that number went down to .05
- Scott Vadnais commented is there a magic number to make every one whole
- Marshal Smith commented that as SFM, they want to reduce the number of times those teams come to this group for more funding
 - George Esbensen commented that he was involved in the beginning of the drafting of the FSA and also when the .065 went down to .05 it was negotiated to stop the legislature from taking \$3 million out of the FSA so to keep them out, it was agreed to lower the rate down to .05
- Presentations for one time funding

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- MBFTE
 - \$3.12 million
 - DNR - Statewide Fire Leadership Training \$287,425
 - Total 120 students starting in the fall/winter of 2022
 - L-380 At the Point of the Spear Fire Service Leadership
 - L-381 Incident Leadership
 - L-481 Advanced Leadership for Fire Service Command & General Staff
 - L-580 Leading in Crisis
 - Soft match for administration will be put in from the DNR
 - Rick Loveland asked how many went through the DNR classes in the past with ratio of structural vs wildland
 - Ed Hoffman commented he attended classes in the past and was about 50/50 for structural and wildland firefighters
 - MBFTE Training Reimbursements Request \$2.83 million
 - \$8.1 million need for annual training need in MN
 - MBFTE base budget \$4.265 million
 - Estimated FY22 carryover - \$1 million
 - Estimated FY23 budget - \$5.265 million
 - Rick Loveland asked how many people would go through the MBFTE leadership course
 - Steve Flaherty commented that we held two cohorts this fiscal year and had 44 students go through the program
 - We have 100 on waiting list for next fiscal year
 - Mark Windschitl asked how do you pick the applicants and if there is an incident do you look those people up to pull them in
 - Steve Flaherty commented that priority would be those that went through the MBFTE leadership classes, then from the DNR leadership courses, then reach across the state so

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- it is spread out regionally as well as career to volunteer rural side of firefighters
- Marshal Smith is 110% in support of Director Flaherty initiatives
- SFMD
 - State Fire Marshal
 - Extractor & Dryer Program \$600,000
 - 1st time extractor/washer needs
 - 1st time PPE dryer needs
 - SCBA cleaner needs
 - Fleet Radio Upgrade \$95,000
 - Mark Kulda asked if these are all purchased from the same manufacturer and do we get some discount
 - Marshal Smith commented we are not involved as the departments seek out the product and submit a request for a match for the funding
 - State wide teams
 - \$492,500 funding request
 - SFMD oversees the operations & funding of three emergency response teams:
 - Hazardous Materials Response Teams (11 teams)
 - Urban Search & Rescue (USAR Teams (2 teams)
 - Bomb Squads (4 teams) – funding through general fund
 - Each team will have an annual base budget based on operational costs of the “typing” of their team
 - Additional one-time funding will be vetted & prioritized through SFMD and individual USAR Teams & the State Hazardous Materials Response Team consortium
 - We have discussed to go outside for the capital needs through the general fund
 - Tentatively to be introduced next legislative session

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- John Kreuser presented that the Haz Teams request priorities are as follows:
 - Priority 1 is 3 Flir G510 GCMS (\$130,000 each) \$390,000
 - Priority 2
 - 8 Motorola APEX8000 800 MHz Radios (\$8,500 ea) \$68,000
 - Priority 3
 - 5 Thermo Gemini Updates (\$6,900 each) \$34,500
- Task Force One – Pete Knaeble
 - Task Force One did a short recap of the training they have done this fiscal year through the funding received from the FSA
 - Request for \$40,000 in FY23 for PPE helmets, this will come out of our base budget in the future
 - This will allow to purchase 150 helmets for the team and bring them into compliance (10 year NFPA recommended life span)
 - They would like to thank the committee for the support
- USAR – Rob Morehouse
 - \$169,000 for the following
 - (3) 12 hour full team drills for integration
 - (1) two day readiness exercise (included stakeholders)
 - Sending 3 members to Trench Rescue and SCT 1 & 2
 - Members missed previous class due to military deployment (returning funds back to FSA due to not able to use FY22 on these members)
 - DelSar Listening System to locate victims in light to medium structural collapse incidents
- Service Planning Grant overview
 - Tate Mills (FSS) presented that they are not requesting funding this fiscal year and have made some changes from a MAD study that was completed. It was suggested to wait until they know how many projects will be vetted prior to requesting funding so they have a more accurate amount. This will be a more fiscally responsible process. They will do the application process this fall, a committee will select the projects next March 2023 and

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then come before FSAC to request funding for this program.

Funds would be spent FY24 & FY25

- Mark Windschitl asked if someone asks for a specified amount and spends less, what happens with those excess funds
- Tate Mills commented if funds are left over it would go back to the FSA
- Rick Loveland asked if there would be a cap
 - Tate Mills replied no cap
- Rick Loveland asked what is the commitment from each city or township
 - Tate Mills replied that with the oversight of the SFMD and help they give to the groups, that will alleviate some of the past issues with this program
- MnFIRE – Wayne Kewitsch
 - \$220,100 request amount
 - Thank the committee for getting MnFire going with the initiative
 - This request is to fund cancer care for firefighters
 - A nurse coordinator will be assigned to each case to coordinate the care for each individual
 - The hometown heroes program has specific programs it can fund and this is not one of them
 - Rick Loveland asked if it is an occupational cancer from on the job, where does the league sit on this with workman's comp
 - Wayne Kewitsch cannot answer this other than working with the insurance companies to find the quality of care for the best service
- Discussion on updating statute language – Defer to August meeting
 - Audits for recipients of the funding
 - Increase the amount of the surcharge maintaining its status as a surcharge rather than a tax
- Officer positions on the committee 2023 – Defer to August meeting
 - Chair
 - Vice Chair
 - FY23 both positions are up and have done two terms

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Public Comment

No public comment

Old Business

- Strategic Plan update – Defer to August meeting
- Task Force One
 - Fiscal agent
 - SFMD
 - MOU has been updated
 - Signed and in place
- USAR will send out their business plan
 - Marshal Smith commented to have separate time for reports outside of the presentations
 - The committee would like to have a section for reports added to the agenda in the future, separate from presentations
 - Rick Loveland motioned to have year-end reports given, then presentations with 10 minutes limit on both, with the Chair ability to flex the times, Kip LaMotte second the motion
 - Motion approved unanimously by committee

Adjourn Meeting 12:43 p.m.