



Firefighters Employment, Standards, and Training Council Meeting  
 April 23, 2024  
 Conference Call

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>	<b>TERM ENDING</b>
Brad Bischoff Bradenton Fire Department	FL Professional FF Assoc.	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Aaron Colburn Reedy Creek Emergency Svcs.	FL Professional FF Assoc.	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Darrel Donatto Town of Palm Beach	Florida League of Cities	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Shawn Hanson Greater Naples Fire Rescue	Florida Fire Marshals Association	Oct. 31, 2026 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Jeremy Joseph Florida Forest Service	Florida Forest Service/DOA	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Patrick Kennedy West Palm Beach County F/R	Florida Association of Counties	June 30, 2026 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Dr. David Lee Sylvester Comprehensive	State Fire Marshal	June 30, 2026 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Jim Millican Lealman Fire District	Florida Association Sp. Districts	Oct. 31, 2026 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Terry Parris Panama City Beach	State Fire Marshal	Jan. 1, 2027 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Kevin Reed Hillsborough C.C	State Fire Marshal	Oct. 31, 2026 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Randy Touchton	State Fire Marshal	June 30, 2026 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Michael Woodward City of Oviedo Fire Dept.	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	June 30, 2026 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)

**ABSENT:**

Carlos Aviles St. Augustine Fire	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	June 30, 2026 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Thomas DiBernardo Florida Department of Health	Bureau of EMS	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)

The Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council meeting was called to order.

Chairman Darrel Donatto introduced new council member Dara Hennessey, Assistant Chief, City of Cocoa Fire Department. Chief Hennessey replaces council member Mike Bellamy.

**On a motion duly made**, the minutes from the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council held on January 9, 2024, were approved.

**Motion carried.**

**REPORT FROM DIVISION:** *given by John Gatlin, Assistant Director*

- November meetings will now be held in October in conjunction with the Health & Safety Conference. Meeting will still be held via conference call.
- The Annual Report will be published and out in June.
- Florida State Fire College
  - Significant turnover – lost Training and Standards supervisors, Bureau Chief interviews are being held at the beginning of next month.
  - Chief Tucker and staff have been doing a great job of filling the gaps and getting things done
- Legislative
  - Budget has not yet been signed but we are optimistic that we will be getting the additional funding needed.

**REPORT FROM THE BUREAU:** *given by Eugenia L. Tucker, Acting Bureau Chief*

- Certifications – to date
  - 47,293 certified firefighters
  - 39,238 employed firefighters
  - 535 FFII certified since January (1 FFI)
  - Other certifications issued, other than FFII since January, 1,906
- Training – to date
  - 1,304 class offerings approved
  - 193 course approvals approved
  - 3,887 instructor approvals
- DOD/Out-of-state Firefighters
  - 2021 – 2024
    - Out-of-state- tested 162 applicants, 107 certified, 69 employed
    - DOD – tested 18 applicants, 14 certified, 8 employed
    - Already filling up the May class, 35 applications issued, 51 individuals in process
- Rule Development-in progress
  - Live Fire
  - Instructor Qualifications
  - Fire Investigator

- FLUSAR
- Fire Safety Inspector
- DOD/Out-of-state FF
- Safety
  - Decon Grant – 43 contracts issued
- LODD's – 6 since July 1, 2023, 5 are cancer related.
- Firefighter Assistance Grant
  - Out of 2,493,944.34 - 944,080,48 has been issued to 26 recipients
- Grow As You Go
  - 76 students enrolled
  - 5 have already completed the course
  - 4 have received FFI certification
- Campus Improvements
  - Settlement Project has been completed
  - Paving to be completed soon
  - Generator is up and running
  - Building façade has been completed
  - New FSFC sign is in place
  - Roof assessment is ongoing
  - Continuing work on FCDICE replacement
- Campus Activity
  - Instructor Conference – May 1-2
  - Mental Health Symposium – May 30
  - Firefighter Memorial – November 15
  - North Central Florida Fire Conference – December 12 – 14
  - Waiting on date for next DOD/Out-of-state Firefighter meeting

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A presentation on Florida Sunshine Law was presented by SFM Attorney, Office of General Counsel, Katie Privett.

**AUDIENCE:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** TBD – EDC, July, Tampa

**ADJOURN.**

*Audio file available upon request*