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| **PROGRAM COMMITTEE NAME**:  | Fire Consortium Advisory Committee |
| **CHAIRPERSON:** | Chief James Amerson (Interim) |
| **MEETING DATE:** | Feb. 18, 2011 | **MEETING TIME:**  | 10:00 AM | **MEETING PLACE:** | ECL 214 |
| **RECORDER:** | Kathe Tow | **PREVIOUS MEETING:** | January 27, 2010 |
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| **MEMBERS PRESENT** |
| **List all members of the committee, then place an X in the box left of name if present** |
|  | **NAME** | **TITLE** | **EMPLOYER INFO** | **PHONE** | **EMAIL** |
| X  | James Amerson | Fire Chief | Randall County Fire Dept | 806.358.9959 | jamerson@randallcounty.org |
| X | Rick Blandford | District Chief | Amarillo Fire Dept. | 806.378.9359 | rick.blandford@ci.amarillo.tx.us  |
| X | Mike Brock | Fire Chief | Pantex Fire Dept. | 806.477.6511 | mbrock@pantes.com |
| X | Dennis Eaves | Captain | Amarillo Fire Dept. | 806.378.3576 | dennis.eaves@amarillofire.com  |
| X | Chad Ewing | Firefighter | Pampa Fire Dept. | 806.669.5800 | fdto@cityofpampa.org  |
| X | Pat Fitzpatrick | Asst. Fire Chief | Potter County Fire Rescue | 806.383.3373 | frplf@co.potter.tx.us  |
| X | Bill Heizer | Firefighter | Randall County Fire Dept. | 806.358.9951 | bheizer@randallcounty.org  |
| X | Bill Ho-Gland | Fire Chief | Pantex Fire Dept. | 806.477.6514 | bhogland@pantex.com  |
| X | Paul Jenkins | Fire Chief | Dumas Fire Dept. | 806.570.8904 | pjenkins@ci.dumas.tx.us  |
|  | Mike Kelly | Fire Chief | Canyon Fire Dept. | 806.655.5010 |  |
| X | Richard Lake | Fire Chief | Potter County Fire Rescue | 806.383.3373 | frrel@co.pottertx.us  |
|  | Shannon Lanier | Asst. Chief of Operations | Pantex Fire Dept. |  | slanier@pantex.com  |
| X | Mikal Orr | Lieutenant | Amarillo Fire Dept. | 806.220.8459 | mikalorr@hotmail.com  |
| X | Monty Owens | Deputy Chief | Amarillo Fire Dept. | 806.378.3548 | monty.owens@amarillofire.com  |
|  | Kim Powell | Fire Chief | Pampa Fire Dept. | 806.669.5800 |  |
|  | Steve Ross | Fire Chief | Amarillo Fire Dept. | 806.378.9359 | steve.ross@amarillofire.com  |
|  | George Samples | Asst. Fire Chief | Potter County Fire Rescue | 806.383.3373 | pcfr702@yahoo.com  |
|  | David Stewart | Lieutenant | Pantex Fire Dept |  | dstewart@pantex.com  |
| **EX-OFFICIO’S PRESENT** |
| X | Paul Whitfield for Doug Adcock | Associate Professor | Amarillo College | 806.354.6077 | doadcock@actx.edu  |
| X | Dr. Shawn Fouts | Dean of Career & Technical Education | Amarillo College | 806.33534352 | smfouts@actx.edu  |
| X | Ed Nolte | Dept Chair &Dir. of Facilities Mgmt | Amarillo College | 806.335.4277 | elnolte@actx.edu  |
| X | Kathe Tow | Sr. Staff Assistant | Amarillo College | 806.335.4274 | katow@actx.edu  |
| **AGENDA ITEM** | **ACTION DISCUSSION INFORMATION** | **RESPONSIBILITY** |
| Old Business: | No Old Business-Tabled |  |
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| Continuing Business: | Academy update | Ed Nolte, Mikal Orr, Dennis Eaves |
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| New Business: | Welcome/Introductions | Chief Amerson-Ed Nolte |
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| Curriculum Decisions: | Fire Protection Program  | Ed Nolte, Dennis Eaves, Mikal Orr |
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| Other: | Texas Commission on Fire Protection Changes | Chief Bill Ho-Gland |
|  | Direction | Ed Nolte |
|  | Open Discussion/Lunch | All |
| **KEY DISCUSSION POINTS** | **DISCUSSION** |
| Old Business: | No old business-Tabled |
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| Continuing Business | Ed Nolte updated the committee on both fire academies stating that we still have 2 academies, a day and an evening. Ed reported that the Academies are down 3 students, 1 due to medical, 1 due to grades and 1 due to disciplinary actions (attendance). |
| New Business: | Welcome and introductions were done. Ed introduced Lt. Mikal Orr as the Academies’ part time instructor to help Capt. Eaves oversee the Academies. |
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| Curriculum Decisions: | Lt. Mikal Orr explained goals of the Academies: 1) Stay progressive – keep up with technology, 2) Make our academy as appealing to the young people as an online academy. He feels our instructors are doing a good job in teaching the students and preparing them well for the fire service. The question was asked if fire entities are hiring students who have gone through an online academy. Chief Bill Ho-Gland responded that they were, however, the larger fire departments are not accepting online academy graduates. Capt. Dennis Eaves stated that when both academies graduate in May the ARFF academy starts on May 24 and the Haz Mat Tech starts on July 11, Monday – Thursday evenings and 8am-5pm on Saturday. Haz Mat Tech and ARFF will be offered again in the fall to get people caught up with their certifications. Capt. Eaves let the Consortium committee members know that both the day and evening academies finish up in May. He informed the committee that the pinning for both academies will take place on May 20, 2011 at 7:00pm at the AFD Training Tower. Capt. Eaves encouraged all at the meeting to be in attendance. Mikal Orr said that along with the scheduling, the biggest part of this is trying to get the students well trained in the shortest amount of time possible doing as well as they can during that time and to be hirable. This goes back to our academies vs. online vs. going somewhere else. In this day and age, this generation wants to get done right now. According to Mikal Orr, if we can fight against that “right now” attitude would be our best bet. Mikal Orr claims that he doesn’t feel that we will ever have a shortage of students trying to get into the fire academy, but for us to try to get the guys that we want is the key. Ed Nolte explained the quality issues looked at in the applicants. We want the very best coming in which means we produce the very best going out. We still do an interview process. The key thing being looked at is the student has to be college ready to go into the program. This does not mean that they have to have completed College Algebra and Freshman Comp, but, they have to be at that level of reading, writing and math comprehension in order to succeed in the program. That’s why the placement tests are very important: to ensure the student can handle the material. Monty Owens with AFD asked if Amarillo College was doing any diversity recruitment. Ed Nolte responded that was something that needed to be discussed. Ed claims that we are doing very well in some areas, but we have not gone out recruiting the female population. Ed mentioned that there was a meeting late last year concerning diversity recruitment. Ed asked the committee if they would be interested in meeting in mid-March with our diversity group and recruiter for Amarillo College. All showed an interest. Ed will send out emails in 2-3 weeks.Mikal Orr discussed one semester day academy versus two semester day academy. Right now it is two semesters. A vote was taken on whether to leave the day academy as two semesters or make it one semester. Six of the committee members had to leave on a fire call, so seven voted for making the day academy one semester. This fall 2011-2012 the day academy will be one semester, Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm.Ed stated that he is advising students against going into the AAS program first. The AAS degree is designed for the professional development of active firefighters. These courses include Fire Instructor I & II, Fire Officer I & II, ARFF, HazMat Tech, and Driver/Operator-Pumper. Students are being advised, who want their Associates degree, to get their Paramedic Associates degree if they are not an active firefighter. We want them to get their Basic Firefighter Certificate, but, if they want an Associate’s degree they are encouraged to go with the Paramedic degree because it is more marketable to have along with a firefighter licensure to be able to go anywhere in the state and get hired.Paul Whitfield likes the way we require the student to be college ready. Making Basic EMT a pre-requisite to the Fire Academy was put on the table for discussion. This is a decision the Consortium will have to make. Paul stated they don’t have the faculty to teach a day and evening class consecutively, but, they would be willing to build a custom program as needed.Haz Mat Technician C.E. class scheduled for April 9 & 10, 2011 for those needing the 10 hour C.E.’s required by the Commission to keep up certifications. The 20 hour structural C.E.’s are not as difficult to get as the Haz Mat Tech C. E.’s. Structural C.E.’s can be obtained through the fire departments who conduct their C.E. training through AC. Next fall we will be setting up week end C.E. classes for the students to get their structural and Haz Mat C.E.’s. We plan on setting up C.E. classes 2 or 3 times a year or every quarter. Ed expressed appreciation to AFD and Pantex for the use of their equipment and facilities as we need them. Ed asked to be notified if there are any other equipment needs as budgets are being done now. |
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| Other: **TCFP Changes** | Bill Ho-Gland explained that there will be 2 processes in the inspection/audit: Larry Renfro with TCFP will come to inspect/audit the fire departments. Jeff Morales with TCFP and other staff members will be inspecting/auditing the training program (Academy). These will be 2 separate inspections/audits. Areas to check are on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s) where facilities certified for training must meet all the safety requirements. Characteristics must be identified. This includes every program. Also, the Commission is looking at a Telecommunicator and Rescue Technician certification course. The Commission has challenged the TCFP committee to come up with several more certification programs. When this happens it will probably be more of an NFPA requirement versus a state put-together program. The Commission is going from 87 employees to 42 employees. They are consolidating their service entities. Another change to be aware of is when the commission comes in to audit and they find a violation, there will be a fine involved instead of being told to fix it. Bill advised to make sure everything is in place with our training and academies. |
|  **Direction:**  | A & P under new Fire Associate’s degree Will do substitutions if been active on a case by case basis if not active will have to go to a new catalog yearEd explained about the east campus renovations over the next 5 yearsPaul Whitfield suggested combining EMT with the AcademyDr. Fouts explained online classes with ENMU and that they will accept our degrees |
|  **Open Discussion:** | It was suggested to explore creating a website for the consortium with calendar of classesEd discussed the wind tower to be put up eventuallyBill Ho-Gland suggested 4 hour blocks of fire classesMeeting adjourned at 12:20p.m. |
| **Chairperson Signature:** | **Date: February 18, 2011** | **Next Meeting: Undecided at this time** |