

Fire Protection Technology Business Leadership Council Agenda/Minutes

Meeting 07/29/2023

Program Committee Name – Fire Protection Business Leadership Council

Chairperson – Steve Malley, Fire Academy Coordinator

Meeting Date, Time, and Place – 07/12/2023, 11:00am – 1:00pm, Public Service Training Center, Room 100

Recorder – Karen Schmidt

Invited Members –

Fire Departments

AFD chief – Jason.mays@amarillo.gov

Borger FD chief - mgalloway@borgertx.gov

Canyon FD chief - dgwyn@canyontx.com

Dumas FD chief - rpray@dumastx.gov

Pampa FD chief - kpression@cityofpampa.org

Perryton FD chief - pdutcher@perryton.net

Potter County Fire Rescue chief - frrel@co.potter.tx.us

Randall County FD chief - joe.koch@randallcounty.com

AC –

Ex-officio members: Eric Wallace - Director, Linda Munoz – Perkins, David Hall –Dean, Claudia Arnold - Advising rep, Chris Campbell – Lead Instructor

Community – Missy Tucker-Laird, Donovan Potter

Attending Members – Steve Malley, Missy Laird, Donovan Potter, Claudia Arnold, Karen Schmidt, Eric Wallace, Ronald Pray, David Hall, Vince Whitfill, Joe Koch, Richard Lake, Jason Mays, Lance Vinson, Jacob Oehlert, Mike Galloway, LeRoy Cox

Agenda Items –

Welcome & Introductions

Old Business

EMR Class - we have run this with success. We will continue to offer it at the end of the academy if area departments see a benefit in it. It was pretty much done at cost so it was economical for the cadets coming out of the FA.

4 Phase Academy – our traditional academies will continue with the 4-phase approach to basic structural certification. It has been successful and the cadets prefer it. While it's a little more to test four times its proven to be cheaper by not having to pay to retest over sections.

Hybrid Academy - Completed our first hybrid academy class in Spring 2023, felt like we had to start it to get it off the ground so even though we only had six applicants we moved forward, graduated 2 and were successful on their TCFP exam. This delivery method is picking up speed as word gets out. We have five so far for this upcoming academy with more possibly in this next group. All attending are cadets who would not have been able to obtain their certification without the hybrid option. They are 25-32 with maturity, families and work experience.

Degree Program -not much has happened since our last meeting with the degree program and it is due to lack of time. I would like to spend a little time discussing this later during the discussion part of the meeting

New Business

Report on academies

Instructor/Technician (Lab Assistant for HR purposes) issues – we increased instructor pay to \$35 hour to better compensate the instructors for the prep time and work they put in. This jump also motivates our technicians to work to get their instructor certification and move up in the program. The technician program has been implemented and is working well. I have utilized the techs for work around the academy as well as extensively during live fire training. We will continue to work with these young men to bring them up into our instructor ranks.

Rebranding of academy – new t-shirt designs and new polo shirt logos are coming out for the fall academy. Instructors/Techs are required to wear these when teaching classroom or skills dates. Makes us look more professional. Cadets will have the new designs on the spring 2024 uniforms as we are trying to use up the stock on hand so the AC Bookstore is not left with a bunch of uniforms they cannot sell.

Concurrent Traditional and Hybrid academies each long semester - We are beginning to offer concurrent academies with the fall 2023 semester and will continue each long semester (fall/spring). We feel like this will better meet the needs of the students and departments needing people. Borger and Pampa FD's spoke up about the need for the hybrid academy and considering looking into making it a 4-phase academy as well.

Applications, recruiting and CPAT for fall academies – we have sent out 75 application/information packets over the last few months for our fall academies. This is a direct result of recruiting efforts, word of mouth and the success of our graduates. We will continue these efforts to aid in filling our academies which in turn puts out more firefighters available to area departments.

New Equipment – Items on order: 20 additional SCBA bottles, full complement of ladders from 35 ft to folding attic ladder, 8 new nozzles, 2 master stream devices and a large assortment of brass, forcible entry door, lock sleeve for the door, ultrasonic cleaner for SCBA tanks. Items received: additional MSA SCBA's arrived 40 total, hose tester, fire extinguishers, two chain saws, K12 saw, electric ventilation fan, gas powered ventilation fan, dual fuel generator

Lead and hybrid Instructor – I have brought Chris Campbell, AFD captain, on as my Lead Instructor and second in command. This position was a necessity due to the amount of work that needs to be done and my belief in having succession planning in place. He is being trained on the administrative side of the academy, to handle issues in my absence. I am going to utilize another supplemental instructor to aid me in putting on the hybrid academy. This is a beginning step and this will be his first semester working with me in the class. My goal is to bring him up to speed and eventually hand off the online portion of the hybrid academy to him.

Amtech

We have met with Amtech and are working to start an academy in the fall 2024. This is in the preliminary stages but proposed plan is students would begin with HM-Awareness and HM – Operations during their senior year spring semester. These classes do not require compliant gear and very little equipment so it will be easier to get it started. They would come out of high school into the Firefighter I and II portions during the summer and complete their academy by August.

Discussion and input from members

TCFP & SFFMA & PFFMA – updates, changes, etc.

Are there changes or anything coming up that could impact us or your department that we need to get a jump on.

Degree program

Discussions still continue on revamping our degree program into a true online degree program to make it more accessible to area firefighters. Little progress has been made on this due to staffing shortages and the inability to fill the full-time faculty position. We are still looking to fill the vacancy if anyone knows someone suitable.

Reports from Amarillo College Members

Director of First Responder Academies – no new business

Dean of Technical Education – no new business

Perkins Representative – no new business

FA Advisor – no new business

Other business – no new business

Meeting Adjourned

1:15 pm

 for Karen Schmidt
(ret)