



Division of Public Safety Fire/EMT/Wildland

Advisory Staff Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2023 @ 0900 Via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

Kurt Norwood	Ryan Carey	Diana Valladares
Richard Beckman	Felix Valle	Michael Kozicki (SFSFR)
Scott Jaeggi	Sean Escontrias (LAAFCA & RTG)	Jeff Baumunk
Lisa Lozano	Delbia Orozco	Jed Hulsey
Gracie Trejo	Jocelyn De La Ossa	Andy Grzywa
Rowena Mendoza	Alex Guerrero	Matt Roeder (Falck)
Bill Weston (Emergency Ambulance)		Jeremy Seib (Falck)
Bob Campbell (Falck)	Jennifer Hodges (Premier Ambulance)	
Jesus Barboza		

Scheduled Agenda:

I. Welcome and Introductions – At 0900 am., Fire Academy Director Kurt Norwood opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking everyone for attending the meeting.

II. Divisional and College Updates – Director Kurt Norwood touched briefly on college updates since Dean Yokoyama was unable to attend. A new marquee has been ordered for the front of the college by President/Superintendent Flores.

III. Program Updates

- a. **Fire Academy- Chief Richard Beckman** stated that current Class 101 is at 28 cadets and currently being taught the Hazmat portion of study. Due to CSTI producing the cadet's certs at a slower pace of 30 days or more, preventing the cadets from receiving their Firefighter 1 & 2 certification in a timely manner, the 1B Hazmat portion may be shortened.
- b. **State Fire Training – Lead Instructor Richard Beckman** reported from the meeting that new training in Heavy Machinery Rescue is being planned. This addresses the need for the rescue of people being caught in heavy duty machinery. They are also developing an Animal Tech Rescue program for the rescue of horses, llamas, and circus animals. There has been a limited enrollment in Executive Chief Officer and Chief Officer programs which they are trying to improve upon.
- c. **Open Biddles-** Chief Norwood stated that 300 to 400 potential candidates for OCFA will be tested during the months of November and December. 4 courses have been filled to date with 2 more CRN's to be added.

- d. **Wildland Fire Academy – Instructor Ryan Carey** will still be the lead instructor on record. The usual 13-week Wildland program will be changed to 8 weeks Monday through Thursday. It was found at the extension time of 13 weeks with more physical training than needed was causing more injuries which increases Rio Hondo’s liability. There will be a possible fall Wildland academy to come. At present there are 36 applicants so the registration process will continue until December 19th.
- e. **EMT Program – Lead instructor Scott Jaeggi** stated that three Spring 2024 EMT 093 classes have already been filled. There will be a total of seven (7) EMT classes offered in 2024. In 2022, our EMT program had a 67% success rate. This year ended with an 81% success rate. Falck Ambulance has hired 600 of our students in their paid internship program. In January of 2024 our EMT & CPR recertification for SFSFR will be conducted here. Falck & Emergency Ambulance have been actively providing ride-alongs and hiring our graduated students. Premier Ambulance offered a new Live Scan Fingerprinting service to potential EMT new hires here at our facility during 2023. This program has working very well for our EMT graduates. Strong Workforce grant funds are being used to purchase new BLS & ALS Airway manikins, Childbirth manikins, and a variety of other new items to add to our EMT/EMR training programs. There was a discussion about creating a Certificate of Achievement (COA) for Emergency Medical Services. This would help students when applying for jobs as an EMT and Firefighter. A motion was presented to create a new COA and it was unanimously approved.
- f. **Curriculum Updates – Lead instructor Richard Beckman** has been updating our current catalog. The Fire Academy classes, Company Officer, Driver Operator, CSTI-RTG and all former classes are being overhauled for the new version of the catalog. All future Academy programs will earn the cadets their Firefighter I certification in 14 weeks, with the following 2 weeks helping them earn their Firefighter II certification for a total of 16 weeks training.
- g. **LAAFCA and RTG Updates – Instructor Sean Escontrias** stated that there will be 2 classes a year in USAR, Wildland classes, Hazmat IQ, ISA, etc. A 4-hour course will be added to help rescue victims from windows. Our facility is being upgraded for these new training courses.
- h. **Counselor Report – Counselor Diana Valladares** has been helping our current cadets with their associate degree petitions in Fire Technology and certificates of Achievement.
- i. **Facilities Report – Lead EMT Instructor Scott Jaeggi** has stated the plans the college has for 2024 such as an overall painting of the inside and outside of the academy. Some of the trees in front of the academy will be removed and/or replaced. The emptying of the old Cabana is still ongoing. A new Tuff shed has been purchased and assembled for the use of Jay Joiner’s new Biddle office.
- j. **FTEC and FAC Updates – Director Norwood** stated that new single and two-story burn containers that are OSHA compliant are being considered. It is a 1-million-dollar project for the future. Along with the new trailer being set for delivery in 2024, there will be new furniture for the module, new chairs & tables for the classrooms and offices.
- k. **Staff Updates – Administrative Assistant Lisa Lozano** briefly covered the updates for Class 101’s graduation and program. Also, we are still deciding on where to hold the Wildland graduation. **Firefighter Michael Koziicki** wanted to thank instructor **Danny DeAngelis** for his work on repairing the SFSFR tower steps that needed refurbishment. SFSFR’s new roof installation is still ongoing and should be done by the end of the year.

Fire Director Kurt Norwood ended the meeting at **9:55 am**.