



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE AND PERSONNEL STANDARDS COMMISSION

January 28, 2021

Tim Love, President
Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs

Re: Report to AAFC E-Board from Commissioner Darby

Tim,

I am writing to report on the activity of the Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission since my update at the summer conference in August.

We held a re-scheduled quarterly meeting on August 26th. The main focus of this meeting was to consider the FY21 budget. We were fortunate to receive an additional \$300K allocation from the Legislature in their budget approval, which will certainly help to offset some of the lost revenue due to COVID-19 cancellations and adjustments. Overall, we approved a balanced and progressive budget that will allow for several projects on campus and additional personnel to support our operations. At this meeting, we also approved matching funds for our 2019 AFG grant award for a learning management system, database, and further website development. Lastly, we approved a policy requiring successful CPAT completion for firefighter recertification applicants.

On October 21st, we held our regularly scheduled quarterly meeting. At this meeting, we approved a new lease agreement to keep WST at their current location in Trussville. We have discussed plans and strategies to eventually locate them on the main AFC campus in the future. We also approved the purchase of CPAT equipment for the main AFC campus in order to reestablish AFC as a CPAT testing site. We gave final approval of an Administrative Code change to Certified Volunteer Fire Fighter which clarifies the re-test requirements. Lastly, we began the process to consider a change to the Administrative Code for the Certified Fire Instructor series. This change would standardized the series as Certified Fire and Emergency Services Instructor I, II, and III to include the previous alternative certifications.

Most recently, we met on January 20, 2021 for our regularly scheduled quarterly meeting. At this meeting, we were presented with our preliminary FY20 audit report with another clean financial audit. During a difficult fiscal year with all of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we still had a positive financial year which has allowed us to move forward with several projects. We had an opportunity to look at the new Sutphen Custom Pumper which was just delivered by Williams Fire Apparatus as purchased through an AFG grant award. We awarded the hotel bid to a new hotel, TownePlace Suites; for a reduced rate of \$65/night. We gave final approval for the Administrative Code change to the



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE AND PERSONNEL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Certified Fire and Emergency Services Instructor series. We also approved new policies for Firefighter Reciprocity and Firefighter Recertification in order to offset some of the administrative costs associated with these time-intensive processes. We approved the funding of a major refurbishment to another one of our mobile burn trailers. We approved an AFG application to replace the bulk of our SCBA units with models that meet the current NFPA standard. Lastly, we passed a resolution to request legislation from the Alabama Legislature to allow us to insure our mobile training fleet under the State Department of Finance insurance coverage rather than the commercial insurance marketplace. We are requesting legislative support from the Alabama fire service for this legislation as it would be a considerable cost savings for the AFC.

In our 2021 election of officers, I was re-elected to serve a final year as Chairman of the Commission, and Gary Sparks was re-elected to service as Vice-Chairman.

It continues to be a pleasure and honor to represent the AAFC on the AFC&PSC, and I am excited about the direction and future of the Alabama Fire College. I am always open for suggestions and welcome any thoughts or concerns from you or any of our AAFC members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph W. Darby".

Joseph W. Darby, Commission Chairman



Rocky Ridge Fire District

ISO CLASS 1



Turn Your Attention to Fire Prevention!

2911 Metropolitan Way
Birmingham, AL 35243
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14 January 2021

President Tim Love
Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs
Via Email: TLove@alabasterfire.org

Re: Summary Brief (Michael A. Bartlett, Association Representative to the Alabama State Emergency Medical Control Committee {SEMCC})

Chief Love:

SEMCC has not held a meeting since 2019. All four meetings in 2020 were cancelled due to Covid-19. We made one change to the protocols by telephone consent last year. A weak push dose of epinephrine is now allowable as a pre-hospital pressor administration, allowing dopamine to become an optional drug.

The main topic for the last six months has been Covid-19. Two vaccines are now available in Alabama. Licensed EMS personnel, which are in the top distribution population of 1A, are now eligible to get the vaccine. Firefighters and other first responders in Category 1B are now becoming eligible for the vaccine as of the date of this report.

Kindest regards,

Digitally signed by Michael A
Bartlett
DN: cn=Michael A Bartlett, o, ou,
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gefire.com, c=US
Date: 2021.01.14 11:18:45 -06'00'

Michael A. Bartlett
Assistant Fire Chief



MOUNTAIN BROOK FIRE DEPARTMENT

102 Tibbett Street, Mountain Brook, AL 35213 ~ (205) 802-3837 FAX: (205) 879-5919



CHRIS J. MULLINS
FIRE CHIEF

January 25, 2021

Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs
Executive Board

Dear Chief Love:

As requested, you will find a brief summary of recent activity for the Alabama Firefighter's Annuity and Benefit Fund (AFABF).

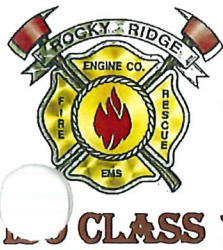
Financial (October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020)

- Total assets of the AFABF - **\$384,282.83**
- The financial report shows **\$305,919.91** in our RSA Investment and **\$78,362.92** in our operating account.

Please let me know if you need any additional information or clarification on any of these points.

Respectfully,

Chris J. Mullins



Rocky Ridge Fire District

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First Responders Wireless Commission Report

January 18, 2021

Committee Members,

Please be advised we have met quarterly over the last year. The main topic of discussions are the new antenna locations for the Alabama FirstNet system then we had discussed State wide coverage for the 700, 800 system.

SCIP Goals and Objective update – Jeb Hargrove

Formalize Communications Unit: we have completed an SOP for this Unit

EFOG (Electronic Field Operations Guide) for Alabama is in Draft phase at this time

County TICP (Tactical Interoperability Plan) Draft Template sent to Counties

Statewide Notification System update: legislation passed, a technical committee will be created for lessons learned, standard operating protocols, etc. 20 committee members with room for three AFRWC Commissioners. Please let Jeb Hargrove know if you are interested in serving on this committee.

FirstNet (AT&T) Update – Michelle Norton, Ronny Caluda. An update as presented on goals meet by FirstNet AT&T along with new capabilities. Band 14 deployments are more than 80% complete. The AFRWC Executive Committee met with AT&T to discuss tweaking two FirstNet/AT&T cell sites in Alabama. Several options were discussed and two were chosen. A discussion was held on service during recent hurricanes and other events.

FirstNet Authority – Chuck Murph and Gerald Risner. Chuck Murph will be moving to another position with FirstNet. Gerald Risner will take his place at the FirstNet representative to Alabama. Commissioners are encouraged to visit [Firstnet.gov/network/roadmap](https://firstnet.gov/network/roadmap) to download the latest FirstNet Roadmap and sign up for updates.

FirstNet Authority Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) member update – Chief Reid Vaughn. PSAC meetings are continuing this year despite COVID-19. The PSAC wants to hear your concerns and compliments for the FirstNet Authority and AT&T. The PSAC hopes to return to

SWIC Jeb Hargrove introduced the new CISA Coordinator for Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee, Derek Nesselrode. He is the former SWIC for Kentucky and will be taking Pam Montanari's position over Alabama. Pam Montanari's will continue as CISA FEMA Region IV Coordinator for Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Chair Hal Taylor held a discussion on possible reallocation of CARES Act funding for first responder communication.

Chair Hal Taylor held a discussion on 2021 meeting dates. The following were agreed upon by the Commission:

February 18th

May 6th

August 12th

November 4th

Next meeting will be February 18th, 2021, location to be determined.

Sincerely,
Jon A. Lord



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CLASS 1

Joint Fire Council

January 18, 2021

Committee Member;

Here are a few things for the report:

- Placing the new piece of marble at the Memorial in cooperation with the Alabama Fire College Foundation. The monument was delivered and in the process of preparing to set it up Matt Russell noticed deficiencies in how the marble was cut. The monument was sent back and the vendor made the repair. When it is dry the monument will be paced on the concrete footing that the Alabama Fire College put in place.
- The present account balance for the memorial account is just under \$41,000.00. The general fund account is \$1850.00.
- The legislative agenda for the 2021 legislative session has been discussed and several bills have been profiled. At present the JFC is tracking legislation that is a holdover from the prior year with the exception of two items that are known at the present time.
 - HB94 – Deals with adding forestry firefighters to the LODD bill. The bill also adds a 24 hour timeline to deaths for volunteers that would mirror the federal Hometown Heroes Act as it pertains to the PSOB.
 - HB77 – Makes the total tax on firefighter tags of all types \$1.00. This money will be disbursed to the AJFC in an event split with \$.50 to the Memorial Fund and \$.50 to the Peer Support Program. This legislation also requires an audit by the department of public examiners or a private audit every three years.

Chief Love,

I think that is about it, let me know if you need anything further.

Thanks,
Jon A. Lord

October 9, 2020

Tim Love, President
Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs

RE: REPORT FROM THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chief Love,

The original tasking of the committee, as I know it, was the following six items. Based on the initial work of the committee and the time that has passed, I think our focus needs to be on the underlined points. The other items are important but seem to be being handled without coordinated work on the part of the committee.

- Provide the Conference Planning Committee with quality presenters to speak on current and relevant issues at each AAFC Conference
- Maintain communications with the Alabama Fire College and other educational partners to stay current on fire and EMS
- Conduct a needs assessment of the AAFC membership as it relates to Chief Officer Professional Development and New Chief Officer Orientation
- Design a Professional Development and/or Orientation Program that meets the needs of the AAFC, its existing membership, and prospective new members
- Identify a delivery system that potentially can integrate into existing AAFC conferences
- Report findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors at the 2019 Mid-Winter Conference

The initial stages of this committee work included Director Russell and others from the Alabama Fire College. They are working on what I would call a career development guide that could be used to guide a new member of the fire service through their career. The guide does this by establishing benchmarks for education and training that should be achieved at specified points throughout one's career. This work is somewhat related to the taskings of this committee but is much broader, covering all levels of the fire service while we are specifically concerned with the chief officer level.

Regarding the new chief officer orientation program, the idea to this point has been for the program to deliver information that a fire chief needs to know but is not included in other forms of professional development. There are numerous examples of this, such as the statutory requirements of a fire chief in the Fire Marshal section of the Code of Alabama, the state bid laws, and the requirements for Notice of Employment and Notice of Termination with the Alabama Fire College. Without trying very hard, I identified multiple subject areas that are not covered in any formal training. Therefore, absent good mentoring before taking on the role of fire chief, there is no way for a new chief to know everything needed to be successful. This is where the new chief program has an opportunity to make the AAFC a key resource for new chiefs, helping to ensure their success while also increasing participation in the AAFC itself.

An example of such a program exists with the Alabama Association of Chiefs of Police. They have a Certified Law Enforcement Executive Program (CLEEP) that may be a good model for us to follow. The CLEEP is a two-year program that provides training, often in conjunction with conference attendance, in a curriculum set by their association. Additionally, since this program exists it should be a relatively easy sell to city managers and mayors since many of their law enforcement executives have participated.

Ideally, the program would be material that is not otherwise included in formal education or training along with appropriate leadership and other relevant topics. This should mean that the topics covered are equally relevant for any new chief, regardless of education or training. This program will require that curriculum be developed and presented, and I think the Fire College would be the best partner to work with on this, which is why I think they need to be heavily involved in the program development. Lastly, similar to the CLEEP, I think this program should also include a mentor component to pair new chiefs with experienced chiefs for a period of time as part of welcoming them to the association.

Regarding the chief officers professional development program, the idea of this program is less clear at this point. We have discussed establishing some minimum levels of competency (such as training, education, experience) along with requiring a level of ongoing participation in the association to maintain relevancy. I think this would be a good tool to promote ongoing participation in the association, especially conference attendance, throughout someone's tenure as fire chief. I believe that this will prove to be an important component of the association's professional development efforts, but I believe it may be best to develop the new chief's program first.

The plan to move forward at our last meeting was to have those present refamiliarize themselves with the documents we have shared via a Google Drive folder (e.g. – AACOP CLEEP documents, Georgia program, CPSE CFO documentation, NFA Chief in a Box curriculum, etc.). As part of the needs assessment and eventual curriculum development for the new chiefs program, we are going to pick a few state agencies and discuss the concept with them to gain feedback. Additionally, we have begun work on a survey instrument for current fire chiefs to gauge the needs as they see them. This will create a picture of the needs. That information would be used to develop the curriculum and delivery model (e.g. – what material, how many hours, and in what format). Obviously, final approval/adoption will be up to the AAFC.

I hope this information answers any questions you may have about this project or committee at this point. If you have any questions or direction for us, please let me know.

Thank you again for the opportunity,



Matt Missildine



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January 28, 2021

Tim Love, President
Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs

Re: Report to AAFC E-Board from CABT representative

Tim,

I am writing to report on activity of the CABT – Coalition Against Bigger Trucks since our summer conference in August. This coalition was formed to resist any efforts of Congress that would allow for larger, longer, or heavier trucks on our roadways, and the AAFC has stood firm as a supporting member. The coalition group in Alabama consists of representatives from public safety (AAFC, AAVFD, State Troopers Assoc., Sheriffs Assoc.) and ALDOT. During this period, the CABT has not reported any direct efforts or legislation to allow larger, longer, or heavier trucks. However, with the recent changes in legislative and executive offices in Washington, D.C., we should certainly expect to see an increased effort for bigger truck proponents to push for such legislation. With three new AL legislators, Sen. Tommy Tuberville, Rep. Jerry Carl, and Rep. Barry Moore, we will need to put forth an effort to educate them and their staffs on the history of CABT and our strong position against bigger trucks in Alabama. We will continue to monitor activity in Washington, and I will continue to work with this group to represent our public safety interests. Please forward any questions or concerns that you or the AAFC members might have regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Darby



CENTER POINT FIRE DISTRICT



FIRE CHIEF
GENE COLEMAN

Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs Fire Rescue GPO Report February 2021

Are you familiar with Fire Rescue GPO? Do you want to decrease your time in going through the purchasing process? Fire Rescue GPO is your solution. The program is now teamed with Sourcwell one the largest cooperative purchasing groups in the country. Fire Rescue GPO is a partner with the IAFC, SEAFC and the AAFC. They support our training programs and associations. There is a host of products and equipment available, Fire Apparatus, Ambulances, Equipment, Public Safety Video Surveillance and Wireless Data and Voice Services are just a few. The Alabama State Examiner's office has approved the use of Sourcwell contracts as well. Additional information is available at www.fire-rescuegpo.com. Please check your registration package for additional information as well.





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Turn Your Attention to Fire Prevention!

14 January 2021

President Tim Love
Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs
Via Email: TLove@alabasterfire.org

Re: Summary Brief (Michael A. Bartlett, Nominations Committee Chairman)

Chief Love:

The Nominations Committee prepared the slate of officers that were installed six months ago at our Summer Conference. Since that time, our committee remained idle until November 2020.

Last month, the Nomination Committee began working on the selection of the 2020 Fire Chief of the Year, as this is one of the charges of our committee per the Fire Chief of the Year Policy (FCOY).

Each year the Nominations Committee and the past three years recipients of the prestigious Fire Chief of the Year Award form the selection committee for that year's Fire Chief of the Year. The application process opens in November and a request is sent to the Executive Director to advertise the opening of the application process. The application deadline is December 31st. In the month of January, we collaborate to select the Fire Chief of the Year candidate from the applications we received and then make that recommendation to the Executive Board at the February Executive Board meeting. We will have a selection ready at the mid-winter Executive Board pre-conference meeting. With regret, we must report that no applications were submitted for a volunteer FCOY for 2020.

At the post conference Business Meeting, the nomination committee will have a slate of officers ready for recommendation for the annual election process.

As a post note, we do have openings on the committee that Chief Love is in the process of filling.

Kindest regards,

Digitally signed by Michael A
Bartlett
DN: cn=Michael A Bartlett, o, ou,
email=michael.bartlett@rockyridg
efire.com, c=US
Date: 2021.01.14 16:24:47 -06'00'

Michael A. Bartlett
Assistant Fire Chief



CENTER POINT FIRE DISTRICT



FIRE CHIEF
GENE COLEMAN

Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs Fire Service Exploring Advocate Report February 2021

Exploring programs have had a few challenges and successes since our last meeting. Departments across the state continue to benefit from the exploring programs. We are aware of six previous explorers that have completed recruit school and joined the fire service as career firefighters. Our data is weak on how many have joined the volunteer departments or other areas as first responders.

The programs have had some challenges with the pandemic. The Fire Explorer Weekend in the fall had been rescheduled for this month. Infection rates continued to climb as we began the new year. A decision was made to cancel the event. We will look forward to bringing the training event back at its normal time later this year.

Explorer programs depend on people to volunteer to be successful. We lost one of those volunteers just recently. "Big Mike" Chambers was one that was an integral part of all the Fire Explorer Weekends. He made sure that there was food to eat, a place to sleep and would fix the things that we would break. "Big Mike" served as a volunteer firefighter, board member and mechanic for the Forestdale Fire District and the Westwood Explorer Post. He will be missed. The Greater Alabama Council of the Boy Scouts has had some reorganization. We are sad to report that Exploring Executive Billy Curtis has left the organization. Billy worked with our programs for the last 12 years. Billy started out as a fire explorer with North Shelby Fire District. His commitment and dedication to the program will be missed.

Recruitment and retention remain an issue for many departments in the state. Our state has seen a reduction in those seeking to become paramedics or to volunteer in their communities. Exploring can help address those issues. Please contact me if you need any additional information about the program





Oneonta Fire & Rescue Service

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Turn Your Attention to Fire Prevention - Winter 2021 Report

Chief Love,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the Turn Your Attention to Fire Prevention Committee for the AAFC this past year. Due to restrictions imposed by COVID 19, I do not feel like we were able to get much accomplished during 2020. I was able to attend the mid-winter conference in Tuscaloosa and the Vision 20/20 conference in Murphreesboro, TN in February and the summer conference in Orange Beach in August. I have been able to attend a few CAFCA meetings and 1 NAFC meeting. I attended The NFA Youth Firesetting Prevention & Intervention I Course held at the AFC, as well as the 2020 Virtual Fire Safety Summit. I attended a few meetings of the Central Alabama Fire Marshal's Assn. and have also participated in a few zoom meetings with the ACCRRE. The coalition has completed their articles of incorporation and have obtained their 501c3 status. They are currently working on a number of grant funding ideas as well as working on various education and prevention programs that can be formatted for COVID presentation.

Although our fire fatality numbers have not been officially totaled, it does appear fatality numbers were slightly down in 2020. Estimates are approximately 80 fatalities in 2020 with at least 11 fires involving multiple fatalities and only about ¼ of the fires are reporting working smoke alarms alerting occupants. Most reports are listing smoke alarms as unknown, which leads to deficiencies being encountered in either reporting or working smoke alarms being present and alerting the occupants.

There were approximately 2900 smoke alarms distributed by the AFC in 2020. Only about 2300 (80%) forms have been completed and returned to document installation. To date over 13,000 installs have been reported from over 36,000 smoke alarms that were delivered throughout the state.



Oneonta Fire & Rescue Service

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Other than the discussion we had during the summer conference about terminating the ALAFIRE app, there has been no other discussion, that I am aware of, about the alternative reporting system that may have been in the works at the fire marshal's office.

There are 9 Fire and Life Safety Educator I courses and 8 Educator II courses available this year from the AFC with 4 being fee waived through grant funding. The fire college continues to move forward with the fire safety trailer donated by Vestavia Hills FD. Tentative plans are to have the trailer available for use during the 1st quarter of 2021.

My goal for this year is to visit more county associations and rural departments to try to promote smoke alarm installations and fire prevention education at the local level with a focus on the counties with the highest fatality statistics.

Thank you,
Kenneth R. Booth

Fire Chief Kenneth R. Booth
Oneonta Fire and Rescue Service

