

FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Elk River Fire Department
13073 Orono Pkwy NW
Elk River, MN 55330

P	Aaron Cocking <i>Vice Chair</i> Insurance Federation of MN	A	Don Smiley MN State Fire Chief's Assoc. (MSFCA)
P	Patrick Farrens Fire Marshals Assoc. of MN / International Assoc. of Arson Investigators-MN Chapter	P	Scott Vadnais MN Professional Firefighters Assoc. (MPFF)
P	Cody Thornberg MN Professional Fire Fighters Assoc. (MPFF)	P	Dale Grochow MN State Fire Department Assoc. (MSFDA)
P	Dan Buchholtz League of MN Cities	P	Jim McCoy MN State Fire Chief's Assoc. (MSFCA)
P	Tim Meehl League of MN Cities	P	Ed Hoffman <i>Chair</i> MN State Fire Department Assoc. (MSFDA)
P	Jim Fisher MN Assoc. of Townships	P	John Cunningham Commissioner Designee

Guests: Allison Marcus (MBFTE), Tate Mills (SFMD), Amanda Swenson (SFMD), Dan Krier (SFM), Ross Hoernemann (MBFTE), Steve Flaherty (MBFTE), Ben Kinne (TF1), Tom Popsun (Century College), Robert Morehouse (TF 2), Maddison Zikmund (HMRT), Travis Cole (HMRT), Brant Richardson (Bloomington Bomb), Jeremy Dostal (TF 1), Nolan Pasell (SFMD), Scott Carriveau (MFSCB), Paul Seleski (MSFCB), Adam Mannausal, Brad Thosing (Crow Wing Bomb), Andy Brady (Crow Wing Bomb), John Riley (St Paul Bomb), Dale Specken (Hopkins Fire), Angela Contreras (SFMD),

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Call to order at 10:00 a.m. – Chair Ed Hoffman

- Agenda
 - Scott Vadnais motioned to approve the agenda, Aaron Cocking second the motion, motion approved to accept the agenda by roll call vote
- Minutes approval from June 4, 2025
 - Aaron Cocking motioned to approve the Minutes from June 4, 2025, Tim Meehl second the motion, motion approved to accept the minutes as written by roll call vote

New Business

- FSA account—SFM Dan Krier
 - Budget Director indicated FSAC can recommend up to \$15 million

Public Comment

- None

Old Business

- Scoresheet discussion – Ed Hoffman, Chair
 - Committee supports decision to use average scoring numbers
 - AC Cunningham suggests adding scoring matrix to application for next year's presentations
- Allocation of Funds
 - SFMD informed Chair the request for the Fire Service Assessment was to be reduced from \$1 million to \$500,000
 - Bomb Squads found other sources of funding for some equipment. Request for pan disrupters, rad detection, XTK kit reduced to \$0
 - FSAC policy requires reports from recipients, FSAC will enforce this policy
- MBFTE/Century College EV Training
 - MBFTE reported on training results, including locations of trainings
 - Classes charge \$550-\$2000
 - \$14 per firefighter - \$279 per firefighter
 - Committee requests MBFTE establish more clear requirements for reimbursements
 - MBFTE researched already existing EV training
 - MBFTE Board discussed capping reimbursement for each training, decided against this
 - Going forward, MBFTE can add stipulations for funds
 - Vadnais states goal is to get as many firefighters trained at an awareness level
 - Meehl agrees

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- Cunningham suggests to table discussion until formal report from MBFTE is received
- Motion to table discussion until September 3rd meeting with additional MBFTE report (Vadnais/McCoy)
 - Motion passed unanimously by voice vote
- SFMD
 - \$1,915,000 total request
 - SFMD receives \$1 million worth of requests for gear washer/extractor and dryer grants and funds \$500,000
 - Request is for \$500,000 for washer/extractor program and \$50,000 to administer program
 - Motion to recommend additional funds for gear washer/extractor and dryer grant program, totaling \$1,050,000 (Cocking/Vadnais)
 - Motion passed unanimously by voice vote
 - Public education materials
 - AC Cunningham questions if \$250,000 is enough funds for this request
 - Krier responds this request is sufficient for current ask to modernize educational materials
 - Motion to fully fund remaining SFMD requests, including:
 - Fire investigations training program: \$40,000
 - Engine strike team \$225,000
 - Fire service assessment \$500,000
 - Rulemaking costs \$350,000
 - Public education material update \$250,000
 - (Vadnais/Farrens)
 - Motion passed unanimously by voice vote
- MBFTE
 - \$3 million reimbursement request
 - 645 departments sent in reimbursement requests (84% of departments)
 - \$600,000 shortfall to reimburse departments 100% for FY25
 - AC Cunningham encourages MBFTE Board request increased base budget from Legislature
 - Motion to approve \$3 million for reimbursements (Cocking/Vadnais)
 - Motion passed unanimously by voice vote
- HAZMAT
 - Ask: \$1,500,000 for 3 apparatus replacements
 - \$666,972 capital equipment replacement
 - Motion to fund both requests (Vadnais/McCoy)
 - Motion passed unanimously by voice vote
- MNTF1
 - \$892,145 for equipment

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- AC Cunningham suggests avoiding capital equipment funding, as costs should be part of operating cost plan
- Cocking cautions funding radios
 - If request is funded, radios are to go to DPS for use of Taskforce Teams
 - Motion to fund MNTF1 \$892,145 (Vadnais/McCoy)
 - Motion passed unanimously by voice vote
- MNTF2
 - Shelter system \$229,240
 - Rescue equipment \$456,390
 - Communication equipment \$350,370
 - Motion to fully fund all 3 asks (McCoy/Meehl)
 - Motion passed unanimously by voice vote
- Bomb Squads
 - Chair worked with Dan Krier, DPS attorney and Attorney General's office to clarify and confirm that FSAC funds can be used for Bomb Squads because Bomb Squads are under SFMD
 - Vadnais opposed to funding Bomb Squads because FSAC funds are intended to be spent on fire departments
 - Clarification that state enters into Professional/Technical contract with Bomb Squads
 - State buys equipment and allows Teams to use them
 - Rulemaking will clarify what is paid for by the state vs charging for services
 - SFMD and Bomb Squads working on legislative ask so as not to come back to FSAC next year
 - MFSCA does not support funding Bomb Squads, opinion of MFSCA is Bomb Squads funding should come from legislature
 - Motion to deny all funding requests from Bomb Squads (Vadnais/Cocking)
 - Motion passes with 10 in favor, 1 abstaining due to conflict of interest
- Certification Board- MFSCB
 - Technical and operational enhancements \$184,000
 - Software and Licensing \$30,000
 - Website update \$25,000
 - Support Staff \$197,500
 - Cunningham notes that FSAC does not fund staffing
 - Licensing is not a 1-time fund
 - Encourages MFSCB have more robust operational budget planning
 - Cocking states Legislature has concerns about funding this Cert Board ask
 - Motion to deny all funding requests from MFSCB (McCoy/Farrens)

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- Motion passes with 9 in favor, 2 abstaining due to conflict of interest

- MBFTE database \$1,155,775
 - Motion to fully fund MBFTE database (Cocking/McCoy)
 - Executive Director Flaherty clarifies that if database is not funded by FSAC funds, the money would come from the \$5.5 million Board operating base budget
 - Cunningham supports moving forward with database request. New database proposal will go to internal Governance Board
 - Governance Board will not approve project without funding string
 - Motion passed unanimously by voice vote

- MBFTE is to come back to FSAC with more information regarding EV training and report at September 3rd meeting

- Total recommended awards \$10,665,892

- Motion for all requests to carry through FY26-27 biennium (Cocking/Farrens)
 - Motion passed unanimously by voice vote

- Bylaws update
 - Intend to take action and adopt updates at September 3, 2025 meeting
- Will discuss presentation and calendar updates at next meeting
- Sept 3rd meeting will be Teams only
- FSAC has responsibility to respond back to parties for which FSAC is not moving forward with recommendation
- Future scoring sheets will incorporate scoring requirements in application

Next Meeting

- September 3, 2025

Adjourn Meeting

- Motion to adjourn meeting by Cocking, second by Vadnais
 - Motion passed unanimously by voice vote
 - Meeting adjourned 12:03pm