

FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Teams

P	Aaron Cocking <i>Vice Chair</i> Insurance Federation of MN	A	Don Smiley MN State Fire Chief's Assoc. (MSFCA)
A	Patrick Farrens Fire Marshals Assoc. of MN / International Assoc. of Arson Investigators-MN Chapter	P	Scott Vadnais MN Professional Firefighters Assoc. (MPFF)
A	Cody Thornberg MN Professional Fire Fighters Assoc. (MPFF)	A	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), Dan Krier (SFM), Ross Hoernemann (MBFTE), Steve Flaherty (MBFTE), Ben Kinne (TF1), Tom Popsun (Century College), Erik Jonassen, Dean Wrobbel (MBFTE), Chip Lohmiller (MBFTE)

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Call to order at 10:01 a.m. – Chair Ed Hoffman

- Agenda
 - Aaron Cocking motioned to approve the agenda, Scott Vadnais second the motion, motion approved to accept the agenda by roll call vote
- Minutes approval from August 6, 2025
 - Aaron Cocking motioned to approve the Minutes from August 6, 2025, Tim Meehl second the motion, motion approved to accept the minutes as written by roll call vote

New Business

- FSA account—Ed Hoffman, Chair
 - No report

Public Comment

- None

Old Business

- 1-time Funding Requests—Ed Hoffman, Chair
 - Recommendation letter sent to Commissioner's office
 - Expected to have signed letters sent next week
 - Conflict of Interest – Ed Hoffman, Chair
 - Reminder to committee to submit annual COI
- MBFTE/Century College EV Training—Steve Flaherty
 - MBFTE presented follow up information regarding impact of EV Training
 - FY25 ask for \$250,000 was recommended by FSAC and approved by Commissioner
 - 73 departments will have completed training by end of FY26
 - MBFTE requests \$300,000 for EV/Stored Energy Awareness Level Training
 - MBFTE Training Committee came up with \$800 cap per class
 - This would provide 375 classes with a limit of 1 class per department
 - Advanced training costs, above \$800, can come from MBFTE department award
 - Potential for 67% of departments to receive awareness level training between FY25-26
 - Committee asked if \$300,000 would be enough funds
 - Steve Flaherty indicated \$300,000 would be sufficient to give a sense of the current need and future needs of training
 - Discussion on the need and intention for future more advanced training
 - There is a need for feedback from departments regarding advanced level training, what that looks like and what that costs in the future

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- Committee expressed intent for unused funds to cover additional training for departments hosting multiple classes
- Motion to increase funding to MBFTE for \$300,000, and to use unused funds to cover additional awareness training (Vadnais/Cocking)
 - Motion carried by roll call vote

- Bylaws Update—Ed Hoffman, Chair
 - Chair Hoffman reviewed updates to bylaws
 - Motion to approve bylaws changes (Fisher/Vadnais)
 - Motion carried by roll call vote

- 1-Time Funding 2026 Calendar Proposal –Ed Hoffman, Chair
 - Discussion regarding proposed timeline and correlation with Legislative session
 - Suggestion to maintain current schedule and support MBFTE in obtaining base budget increase through legislature
 - Discussion regarding legislative process and approach to get MBFTE base budget increase via Governor’s budget proposal

- FSAC 2026 meeting schedule
 - Suggestion to maintain schedule of 1st Wednesday of meeting months
 - January, March, June, August and September
 - Motion to accept proposed schedule for 2026 (Vadnais/Buchholz)
 - Motion carried by roll call vote

Next Meeting

- January 7, 2026

Adjourn Meeting

- Motion to adjourn meeting by Vadnais, second by Cocking
 - Motion passed unanimously by voice vote
 - Meeting adjourned 10:57am