

Volume 69 Issue 3

July - September 2026

FFAM





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FFAM BOARD MEETING: 9:00 a.m., November 1 • Sedalia, MO

Fire Fighters Association of Missouri



ABOUT THE COVER

2026 Firefighter Contest at the Annual
FFAM Convention in Liberty, MO.
By Gail Hagans

Submit a cover photo:

Send your high resolution image and
information to ffam.jmiller@gmail.com

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CONTENT

FFAM Newsletter (ISSN 0199-8633) is published every two months by the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri. Office of Publications is PO Box 1153, Warrensburg, MO 64093. Subscription price is \$1.00 per year and is paid by membership with their annual dues. Periodicals Postage is paid at Warrensburg, MO and additional offices.

SUBMIT ADDRESS CORRECTIONS TO:

FFAM
PO Box 1153
Warrensburg, MO 64093

FFAM.ORG





President's Remarks

Community Through Service



Larry Jennings

Greetings to all. I hope your summer has been progressing well and you have been able to avoid either the higher temperatures and/or the out of character rain storms. It has certainly been a trying time concerning the weather, with notable flooding in our state. Once again, members of the Missouri fire service stepped up when needed to work with local, state and federal assets, all working to achieve as much of a good outcome as possible during the most recent flooding. Good job to all involved.

I know you have been hearing about the new fire station at the Missouri State Fair to be used by the FFAM/Missouri State Fair Fire Department for some time. Although many were skeptical that the building would be ready by State Fair 2026, the contractor stayed on task and we were allowed to start moving back in on July 10. We will continue to adjust to the new facility and work out the "kinks" over the coming months, but no matter how you look at the facility, we are far ahead of where we were for many years. Our thanks to the elected officials, fair personnel and the contractors that helped make this new home a reality! My personal

thanks to each of our members who either helped vacate the old facility or have helped with the move-in at the new facility. Your numbers were small at times, but mighty nonetheless. The process has not been a simple one with planning the needed logistics, but you all stepped up and have done a fantastic job.

Please remember the memorial services will be in Kingdom City on October 3rd and 4th. Place these dates on your calendar so you can be present and honor those fire service members who have passed away. The Memorial Foundation can always use more assistance leading up to and particularly during the two ceremonies. If you would like to help out, please reach out to Keith Smith or any foundation board member and offer your assistance.

We missed seeing many of you at the 2026 Convention, but we are looking forward to seeing you in Branson April 30 – May 2 for Convention 2027. The lake area folks are working hard to put together another memorable convention and we hope you will consider joining us. The opening event will be on Friday, with the challenge games and awards banquet taking place on Saturday as normal and the annual business meeting will be on Sunday morning. Even if you can't attend the entire convention, I would encourage you to attend the business meeting to participate in the governance

of your organization. Keep watching for additional convention information on our website, Facebook page and emails.

How have you highlighted your agency in your local community? Are you doing all you can to make sure those you serve know you are available to help them not only on the worst day of their lives, but also for education and general assistance? The more you provide to your community, the more your services are valued and building relationships within your community becomes easier. When you turn to your community for support, generally for funding, either by way of tax increases or bonding authority, attending the department BBQ fundraiser or bingo night, they are generally more willing to assist when they see the value you provide to them. If the doors at the station are always "closed" and your personnel are not interacting in a positive manner all year long, it is often much more difficult to garner the support of the community when they have no clue who you are or what you really do. Make time to be involved, schedule some community events or take part in those scheduled by other local organizations. The more they know, the more you benefit while providing them quality, highly trained, skilled and timely services.

If the Board of Directors can be of assistance to you or your agency, please contact us. As you continue to serve your communities throughout the state, Be Safe!



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OPENING SESSION

President Larry Jennings opened the 69th Annual FFAM Convention by ringing the bell at 7:00 pm on Friday, April 24, 2026 at Heritage Hall, Liberty, MO.

The colors were posted.

Members gave the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Billy Smith gave the invocation.

President Jennings recognized the FFAM Officers and Directors and the Liberty Fire Department.

Final announcements were made.

President Jennings closed the opening session at 8:15 pm.

AWARDS BANQUET

President Larry Jennings welcomed everyone to the awards banquet on April 25, 2026, at Heritage Hall, Liberty, MO.

Chaplain Billy Combs gave the invocation followed by the meal.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair Larry Eggen announced the scholarship winners and presented certificates to those in attendance. High School – Waylen Gillman, Isabella Helm and Mallory Paige McDonnell.

FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Chair Andrew Caldwell announced the 2025 poster contest first place award winners.

SPECIAL NEEDS DIVISION

1st Place, Blossom Martin, Little Dixie FPD.

1ST AND 2ND GRADE DIVISION

1st Place, Mila Mastroianni, Beaufort Leslie FD

3RD AND 4TH GRADE DIVISION

1st Place, Laura May, Galt FPD

5TH AND 6TH GRADE DIVISION

1st Place, Harper Edwards, Washington FD

CONTEST COMMITTEE

Chair Rob Erdel announced the 2026 convention contest winners.

FIREFIGHTER DIVISION CHALLENGE**2 PERSON HOSE COUPLING**

1st Little Dixie #2; 2nd Southern Stone #1; 3rd Little Dixie #1.

REPLACE A SECTION OF HOSE

1st Little Dixie #2; 2nd Southern Stone #1; 3rd Little Dixie #1.

EXTENDING A LINE

1st Southern Stone #1; 2nd Little Dixie #2; 3rd Little Dixie #1.

WATER BARREL FIGHT

1st Little Dixie #2; 2nd Little Dixie #1; 3rd Liberty #1.

BUCKET BRIGADE

1st Little Dixie #1; 2nd Little Dixie #2; 3rd Southern Stone #1.

OVERALL

Little Dixie #2.

JUNIOR DIVISION CHALLENGE**2 PERSON HOSE COUPLING**

1st Southern Stone #1; 2nd Southern Stone #2.

EXTENDING A LINE

1st Southern Stone #1; 2nd Southern Stone #2.

WATER BARREL FIGHT

1st Southern Stone #2; 2nd Southern Stone #1.

The FFAM Auxiliary presented the 2026 Auxiliary of the Year award to the Johnson County Volunteer Fire Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary announced Kelsey Pratt as recipient of the Get you Started scholarship.

AWARD COMMITTEE

Chairman Joe Vaughn announced the 2026 award winners:

AWARD OF VALOR

Greg Foote, Cape Girardeau Fire Department.

Chelsea McGraw with the Muscular Dystrophy Association presented information regarding the impact of the firefighter fill-the-boot campaign.

Keynote speaker Kansas City Fire Department Battalion Chief Chad Daily presented a program.

President Jennings gave closing remarks. The banquet was followed by the dance.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

President Larry Jennings called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri to order at 9:00 AM Sunday, April 26, 2026 at Heritage Hall, Liberty, MO.

Roll Call of Board of Directors and other officials:

OFFICERS

President Larry Jennings, Johnson County FPD; First Vice President Charlie Peel, Southeastern Randolph Co FPD; Second Vice President Grant Oetting, Higginsville FPD; Secretary Treasurer Jaime Miller, Johnson County FPD #2; Sergeant-at-Arms Jonathan Evans – Lincoln Community FD.

DIRECTORS

District 1 Terry Wynne, Galt FPD; District 2 Vernon Cash, Shelbina FD; District 3 Rob Erdel, Little Dixie FPD; District 4 Joe Vaughn, Central Cass Co FPD; District 6 Shawn Ritchie, Holts Summit FPD; District 8 Bob Floyd, El Dorado Springs FD; District 10 Romona Kaminski, Fenton FD (V); District 11 Billy Smith, North Central Carroll Co FPD; District 14 Rick Dozier, Southern FPD of Holt County.

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

District 1, Janet Cain, Shoal Creek FPD; District 3, Josh Loyd, Martinsburg Area FPD; District 5, Dylan Honea, Southern Stone FPD; District 6, Alan Braun, Cole County FPD; District 6, Mike McNeill, Moreau FPD; District 7, Andrew Caldwell, Boles FPD; District 11, Josh Koepke, Kansas City FD; District 11, Kris White, Mayview FPD; District 11, Jason Deitch, Brunswick FD; District 14, Kyler Oliver, Rosendale FPD.

*(V) denotes Virtual Attendance

GUESTS

Tim Bean, Missouri Division of Fire Safety; Gail Hagans, Harry Ward, Tracy Gray, David Hedrick (V), University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute; James Jones, Calhoun FD; Gary Berendzen, Cole County FPD; Keith Smith, Warrenton FPD; Ryan Kirchhoff, Josiah Federwitz, Concordia FPD; Jeri Ann Arnold, Lawson FPD; Kyle Arnold, David Pratt, Kearney FR; Roy Pennington, Pettis Co FPD; Larry Eggen, Cameron Lauber, Johnson Co FPD; Victoria Horn, Beaufort Leslie FD; Samuel Smith, Tanner Baldwin, Liberty FD; Hunter Hanes, Brian Smiley, Galt FD; James Peffermann, Boles FPD; Kaitlyn Peffermann, Owensville FPD; Christina Loyd, Martinsburg FPD; Steve Borts, Jamestown Rural FPD; Rob Scharage, Jefferson R7 FPD; David Miller, Johnson Co FPD #2.

AGENDA

President Jennings asked for additions to the agenda. Joe Vaughn moved to accept the agenda as presented. Billy Smith seconded the motion and all approved.

MINUTES

President Jennings asked for corrections or additions to the February 1, 2026, board meeting minutes. Andrew Caldwell moved to accept the minutes as presented. Grant Oetting seconded the motion and all approved. President Jennings asked for corrections or additions to the 2025 convention meeting minutes. Rick Dozier moved to accept the minutes as presented. Terry Wynne seconded the motion and all approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

President Jennings asked for a review of the January – March 2026 financial report. Discussion was held and the board advised to file the report for the annual compilation.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUEST(S)

Harry Ward with the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute reported that lots of classes are being held all over the state.

A one time \$300k allocation was made from the University of Missouri Extension which will be used to purchase another car prop and trailer and a pump operations simulator.



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They recently had the largest class ever of the Fire Service Leadership Enhancement Program. He encourages anyone to attend.

Summer Fire School will be held during the month of May, and they are still accepting registrations.

He advised MU FRTI would be sending out a survey in the near future to help guide them on what programs to do for the future.

Tim Bean with the Missouri Division of Fire Safety thanked everyone who attended *Firefighter Day at the Capitol*. Instructors and training partners were the featured guests.

He advised that millions are being cut out of the budget but so far, \$1.2 million is still allocated for firefighter training. This week the House and Senate are finalizing the budget. He encouraged everyone to continue to talk to legislators, so they know topics impacting the fire service.

The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Foundation Light the Night program will be April 26 – May 3. Light your porch red in

support of fallen firefighters. Ten Missouri families will be recognized at the memorial this year.

Regarding fire mutual aid, call the DFS if you have questions or don't know where to start. It is very important that departments have registered and know about mutual aid.

If you have a firefighter retire or pass away, go to the website and choose firefighter recognition. Fill out the form and he will do a recognition certificate.

DISTRICT REPORTS

DISTRICT 1

Terry Wynne reported that they met with 5-6 departments and are working with them on mutual aid.

DISTRICT 2

Vernon Cash reported that he has talked with several departments.

Continued on page 44.

By Halltown Fire Protection District

For six decades, the Halltown Fire Protection District has answered the call with whatever it could get its hands on. Every engine, every tanker, every brush truck in the fleet came to us used or surplus — kept running by volunteers who know how to stretch a dollar and turn a wrench. In 2026, our 60th anniversary year, that changed. For the first time in the district's history, HFPD placed a brand-new truck in service.

On Saturday, April 18, we gathered at Station 1 on Elm Street for a traditional push-in ceremony — the century-old fire service custom of the community physically rolling the new rig into the bay by hand. Neighbors, families, and firefighters put their hands on the truck and pushed it home. For an all-volunteer department of 11, it was a moment we'd waited a long time for.

The truck is a 2026 Ford F550 4x4 brush/rescue unit, built out with a custom Alum-Line aluminum bed and a Feld Fire skid carrying 400 gallons of water. It's purpose-built for the work our district actually does:

motor vehicle accidents and extrications on Interstate 44, medical calls, grass and vehicle fires. The complete package ran just over \$118,000 — over a full year of our operating budget.

Here's the part we're proudest of: we paid for it in cash. No debt, no note, no loan. The truck was funded entirely through property tax revenue, FEMA storm reimbursements, and cost-recovery fees from accident responses — money set aside dollar by dollar in our Large Equipment Fund over several years of disciplined saving.

“This truck represents everything our volunteers have worked toward. In 60 years, we've never been able to say we bought something new. We did this the right way — saving, planning, and making every tax dollar count for the community that trusts us.”

— Rob Maupin, Chairman,
HFPD Board of Directors

The timing matters. HFPD's call volume has grown sharply — from 122 incidents in 2023 to 340 in 2025 — driven largely by wrecks on I-44, which carries tens of thousands of vehicles through our district every day. With the Route 66 Centennial bringing even more traffic through Halltown in 2026, having a modern, purpose-built response unit on the road couldn't have come at a better time.

Like a lot of small Missouri departments, we do big work on a small budget in an economically disadvantaged county, staffed entirely by volunteers who hold full-time jobs elsewhere and show up anyway. This new truck doesn't change who we are — it just gives our people better tools to keep doing the job.

Sixty years of service. Eleven volunteers. One community. And finally, a truck of our own.

The Halltown Fire Protection District is a 100% all-volunteer department serving approximately 110 square miles of rural Lawrence County.





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ANNUAL DUES

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FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL

\$3.00 of the active member dues goes to the Fire Fighters Memorial in Kingdom City. \$7.00 remains with the FFAM.

FFAM MAGAZINE

A bi-monthly magazine detailing a large variety of fire service issues, training schedule of regional and state opportunities, featured articles, equipment sales postings and status of political issues.

INSURANCE

A low-cost Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance is available to individual members up to \$50,000. through VFIS.

VFIS Accident & Sickness policy discounts available to departments.

Missouri Firefighter Critical Illness Pool benefits available for individual members

LODD BENEFIT

\$1,000 LODD benefit to the member's beneficiary.

DEPARTMENT GRANT

Department grant is available each year for the purchase of equipment.



REPRESENTATION/LIAISON

Representation with the National Volunteer Fire Council.

Liaison between members and the Missouri State Fire Marshal, the political front and other state agencies.

The FFAM serves as an organized voice on important annual fire service legislation.

TRAINING

Training classes available including certified board member training and other various topics.

IFSTA MATERIALS DISCOUNT

10% discount on all IFSTA training materials.

JONES & BARTLETT LEARNING MATERIALS DISCOUNT

10% discount on all JBL fire/EMS training materials.

BLUE LIGHT PERMIT CARDS

Available at no cost to the department.

LEARNING PARTNERS

Tuition and textbook discounts through our learning partners' agreement with Columbia Southern University and Waldorf University's online programs.

FIRE LOSS ASSISTANCE

Any member who sustains a minimum of \$10k fire loss in their primary residence will be given \$500 to help with expenses.



ANNUAL CONVENTION

Includes a vendor expo, competitive firefighter contest, awards banquet, dance and a business meeting.

MISSOURI STATE FAIR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Members can volunteer to work at the MSFFD which provides fire, EMS, and first aid to fairgoers each year. It is the only fully operational fire department in the United States that operates for only 11 days a year.

EYEGLASSES

Assistance with the repair of broken or lost eyeglasses while at a scene—up to \$200.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Members and relatives of members have access to scholarships up to \$1,000 for both high school seniors and those pursuing continuing education.

FACEBOOK

Stay up-to-date with important announcements on our Facebook page.

Check out our website for more exclusive member benefits!



FFAM.org

WINNER



CONGRATULATIONS TO GALT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT!

Each year, fire stations throughout Missouri submit photos of their safe digging banners displayed at their stations, earning an entry into a giveaway for a 65" TV.

Fire Chief Terry Wynn represented this year's winner, the Galt Fire Protection District, at the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri Convention on April 25. The prize was presented during the FFAM Banquet by Missouri 811.

Displaying these banners helps share the safe digging message and reminds communities of the importance of preventing damage to underground utilities.



THANK YOU

to all who participated!

Missouri Funeral Response Teams present the 2026 Annual Conference

14th Annual Missouri Public Safety Weekend

October 16-18, 2026 • Camden on the Lake • Lake Ozark, Missouri

Open to all that wish to learn honor guard, mental health, and more.

The 14th annual Missouri funeral teams Public Safety Weekend will be a little different in 2026 as there will be different programs that will be available for all attendees. Programs include on Friday evening @7pm 2 pre-conference 2-hour programs. On Saturday join us in honor guard, logistic training, Public Safety Officers' Benefits, and more. Also, on Saturday, MILO Certified instructors from Ozark Shoot from Highlandville MO, will be there with their "Tactical judgement training" program. And returning this year, the "Grand Slam" competition- test your marching and maneuver skills. (Prizes will be awarded) Saturday night join us for a semi-formal event & Banquet as we recognize individuals and take time to remember those that we honored in 2025. A survivor will be the keynote speaker for the event. On Sunday, the 10-33 foundation will be sharing a program on peer support and mental health for all. SO don't miss this very informative weekend as we fellowship and learn together with all our fellow public safety family.



1 All Law, Fire, and EMS Funeral Team Members

\$169 Early Registration
July 1-September 15, 2026

\$229 Registration Fee
September 16-October 5, 2026

2 Non-team Attendees

\$199 Early Registration
July 1-September 15, 2026

\$229 Registration Fee
September 16-October 5, 2026.

3 Special Sunday Only

\$50 Registration Fee

Includes training and full breakfast on October 18, 2026

Options 1 & 2 both include Saturday and Sunday Breakfast, Saturday Lunch, Saturday evening Banquet, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday training, refreshments and more. Program runs Friday evening 7-9, Saturday 8-4 with Banquet @ 6pm. Sunday 8-12noon.

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Registration Detail

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By The Schrage Family

The love for fire service started as far back as the early 1930's with Emil Henry Schrage being an electrician and firefighter for the PPG Company in Crystal City, MO. His son, grandsons, great-grandsons, and great-great-grandson would follow in his footsteps. From both his son, Robert Lee Schrage and grandson, Michael Emil Schrage, being both electricians and firefighters, to his grandson Robert Lee Jr. being a firefighter, and great-grandson Scott Nengel being a firefighter, along with Scott's son, his great-great-grandson, Corey Nengel, being a firefighter. Alongside the Schrage family were Walter and Albert Drissell, who were brothers-in-law to Emil Schrage, joining the Crystal City Fire Department in 1940.

Robert Lee Schrage joined the Crystal City Fire Department in 1963, and also spent time as a volunteer at the Festus and Goose Creek Departments. Robert and his wife Wanda served as the FFAM Grand Marshall's in 1996 at the convention.

Michael E Schrage joined the Crystal City department in June 1967 as a volunteer. Michael also volunteered at the Festus & Jefferson R-7 Departments, and worked

at JPAD in 1975 as an EMT. On May 23, 1978, Michael graduated from Jefferson College with a Degree in Fire Science Technology. Michael was promoted from Captain to Assistant Chief of the Crystal City Fire Department in 2008, and honored for 50 years in fire service in 2017. In 2027, he will celebrate 60 years in fire service. In 2013, Michael was honored as Fire Chief of the Year and in 2016 as Grand Marshal, both for the Jefferson County Fire Engine Rally.

Robert L. Schrage Jr. joined the Crystal City Fire Dept. with his first call being 2/24/1975, and was honored in 2025 for 50 years of service. Rob has volunteered for Crystal City, Festus and Jefferson R-7. Rob graduated from the University of Missouri Fire Training program in 1978. He graduated from the FEMA National Fire Academy in 2009. He served as Firefighter of the Year in 2013 and Grand Marshal in 2018 for the Jefferson County Fire Engine Rally.

Timothy (Scott) Nengel joined the Crystal City Fire Department on October 6, 1987, and volunteered there thru October 1990, as well as January 2015 thru June 2023. Scott was a volunteer for the Antonia Fire

Protection Dist. From November 1990 through June 1998, and in July 1998 became a full time firefighter. While working at Antonia, he became an EMT in 1993. Scott left Antonia and joined Herculaneum in August 2023 before leaving in May 2026. Scott is currently a volunteer at Goose Creek Fire Department. Scott has his Missouri Division of Fire Safety 1 & 2 Certifications, as well as Instructor 1, Fire CO. Officer 1 & 2 and Driver Operator. Scott also has his University of Missouri Fire Rescue Co. Officer Certificate and Fire Service Leadership Certificate.

Corey Nengel became a 4th generation firefighter when he became a Junior Firefighter for Crystal City at the age of 16. As a 2018 Graduate of Seckman High School, Corey obtained his Missouri Division of Fire Safety 1 & 2 Certifications and his EMT license. In February 2019, Corey started full-time employment as a firefighter with DeSoto City, working there through December 2023, when he joined the Herculaneum Department. Corey was with the Herculaneum Department through April 2026, when he joined the Crystal City Fire Department as their first full-time paid firefighter.





9/11 NEVER FORGET MOBILE EXHIBIT

SEPTEMBER 10-13, 2026

MISSOURI PATRIOTS DAY

9/10: 8:30am-2:30pm students, 2:30-5:30pm public **9/11:** 10am-6pm **9/12:** 11am-7pm **9/13:** 12-8pm

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Tunnel to Towers Foundation

By Keith Smith, Chairperson

This update will be shorter than most. The focus was the Spring meeting in Arlington VA. May 15-17 and the 25-pages of minutes covering the committee meetings and general sessions over those 3 days. That summary is available to download from the NVFC Home Page.

I was not able to attend the Spring meeting this year. There were 30 States represented and 46 Directors/Asst. Directors in attendance. The Fall Meeting will be in Owensboro, KY. September 23-25 and I have registered to attend.

NVFC has been very busy with internal projects. Several requests have gone out for subject area experts to assist. There has also been an increase in reporters requesting access to NVFC Directors in various regions for human interest stories related to the ongoing challenges as a volunteer department. The State Association profile projects continue.

The Anheuser-Busch Emergency Water Drinking Program awarded 638 volunteer fire departments in 45 states with one pallet of emergency drinking water. Missouri accounted for 21 of those 638 awards.

SPECIAL PROJECTS IN BRIEF

2nd Annual NVFC Step Strong Challenge has Launched.

NVFC Releases NEW Social Media Toolkit.

New NFFF Documentary Examines Covid's Lasting Impact on the Fire Service.

NVFC's Annual Training Summit took place June 26-27 in Arlington, VA. and hosted 200 attendees from 28 states.

Article: Beyond Attendance: The Legal Duties of Nonprofit Board Members.

Webinars are recorded for later viewing: June 16th was Right Gear, Right Response - The Case for Alternative PPE in the Volunteer Fire Service. June 17th was PFAS and Firefighting Foam - What You Need to Know.

Thank you for your time plus allowing Rob and I to serve on your behalf with NVFC.



FEATURE YOUR DEPARTMENT!

Fill out this form and submit it with a department photo and we will feature your department in an upcoming FFAM magazine.

YOUR NAME: _____ YOUR PHONE: _____

DEPARTMENT NAME: _____

DEPARTMENT ADDRESS: _____

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS: _____ NUMBER OF PAID: _____ TOTAL MEMBERS: _____

IS YOUR DEPARTMENT FIRE AND EMS COMBINED? ☐ YES ☐ NO

AVERAGE CALLS PER YEAR: _____ AVERAGE FIRES PER YEAR: _____

AVERAGE RESCUE/EXTRICATION CALLS PER YEAR: _____

AVERAGE MEDICAL CALLS PER YEAR (IF APPLICABLE): _____

YEAR DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED: _____ CHIEF: _____

NUMBER OF ENGINES: _____ NUMBER OF TANKERS: _____

NUMBER OF RESCUE: _____ NUMBER OF AMBULANCES: _____

OTHER APPARATUS: _____

Email this form along with a group photo, including names, or other department photos to ffamagazine@gmail.com. An online form can be found at www.ffam.org/news/newsletter.



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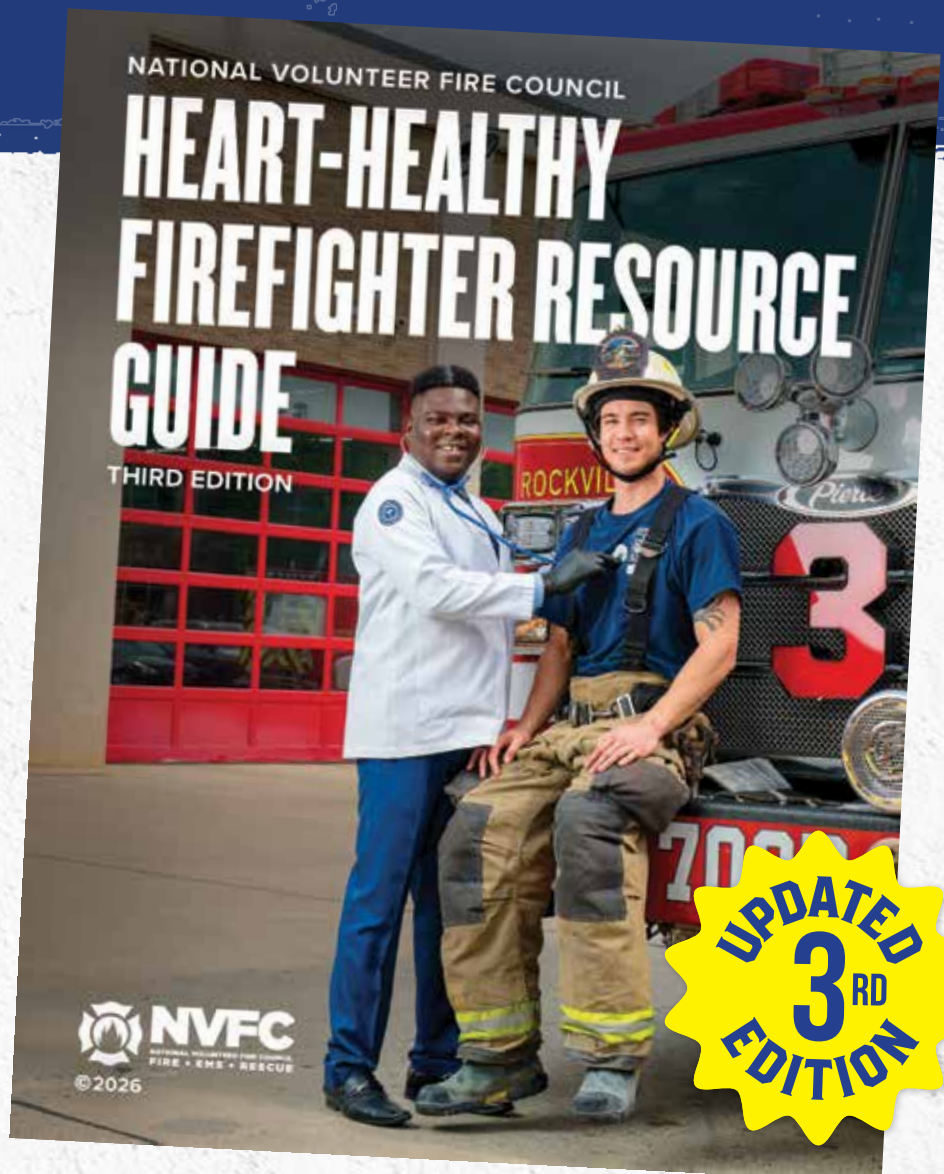
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By RB Brown, Chairman

The first step across the threshold felt like stepping into a promise finally kept. The scent of fresh paint, I whispered “Wow,” and that single word held years of late nights, stubborn hope, and the steady, patient work of people who refused to accept “good enough.” This is more than a new station; this is a living testament to what dedicated volunteers can build when they refuse to let a dream die.

THE LONG ROAD TO THIS MOMENT

We joked for years about putting lipstick on a pig as we patched and propped the old facility. We tightened bolts, mended roofs, and rewired hope into a building that had given us shelter and shaped our brotherhood and sisterhood. Those repairs were never about cutting corners; they were about commitment. Every duct-taped solution, every run for parts, every handwritten note tacked to a bulletin board was an act of devotion to a mission bigger than any one of us.

This new firehouse did not appear overnight. It was earned through countless meetings, miles driven to get the fundraising, and the quiet sacrifice of volunteers who gave their time they did not have. It was shaped by donors who believed, by leaders who kept the vision alive, and by hands that lifted bricks and carried beams. Standing inside now, I feel the weight of that labor and the lightness of a future finally unburdened by makeshift fixes.

BECOMING A FAMILY AGAIN

A firehouse is only a building until people bring it to life. With every boot that crosses this threshold, this structure becomes a

home. The day room will hold late-night coffee and laughter; the bunkroom will cradle exhausted bodies after shifts, and the apparatus in front of the firehouse will echo with the familiar rhythm of teamwork. These rooms will witness training drills, quiet confessions, and the kind of camaraderie that turns colleagues into family.

We are unique in our duty. For eleven days each year, we operate as a fully functional fire department unlike any other in the nation. That responsibility shapes us. It asks for readiness, humility, and a fierce sense of care for every guest, staff member, and family who walks the fairgrounds. This building gives us the space to meet that responsibility with dignity and professionalism. To our veterans, this house honors your years of service. To our newest members, welcome home. You inherit a legacy and a standard that will ask much of you and give back even more.

HONORING THE PAST FUELING THE FUTURE

I carry a lifetime of memories from the old station—crowded shifts, cramped quarters, and the quiet pride of a team that made do and did it well. Those memories are not erased by new walls; they are amplified. This new facility is a bridge between what we were and what we will become. It is a place where stories will be told, where traditions will be passed down, and where new memories will be forged with the same grit and heart that built the old house.

Every volunteer who walks these halls should feel a swell of pride. Brick by brick, bolt by

bolt, this was built by people who believed in service. It will improve our response capabilities, strengthen training, and provide a safer, more functional environment for the work we do. But more than that, it will nurture the relationships that make us effective—trust, respect, and the quiet courage to show up for one another.

A LIVING TRIBUTE AND A LASTING LEGACY

None of us stays in the fire service forever. When the time comes to step away, I will return to this station not only to remember but to say thank you. Thank you to the dreamers who sketched plans on napkins, to the doers who showed up in rain and heat, to the families who supported their loved ones who will be gone to serve the citizens and guests of the Missouri State Fair, and to the certain people who believed in us and made the funding possible. This building is your legacy. It will stand as proof that ordinary people, working together, can create something extraordinary.

To everyone who poured their heart into this project: you have changed the future of this department forever. Walk through these halls with your head high. Teach the next generation well. Serve with the same honor and humility that brought us here. This is our home now, and it will hold our stories, our sacrifices, and our pride for decades to come.

Thank you to every volunteer, donor, leader, and supporter. You turned a whispered dream into a place where courage lives, where families gather, and where a legacy begins anew.





MISSOURI FIRE FIGHTERS CRITICAL ILLNESS POOL

& THE FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI



**Partnering to ensure you have the
cancer coverage and behavioral
health benefits you deserve!**

**Join MFFCIP during open enrollment
October 1 - December 31, 2026!
Open to all Missouri Fire Fighters,
EMTs and Telecommunicators**

Partnership Details

The MFFCIP and the FFAM have formed a partnership to facilitate two membership options for first responder participation in the Critical Illness Pool. In addition to Department/Agency membership, Individual MFFCIP membership is now available exclusively to FFAM members. As a member of FFAM, you are eligible to join the MFFCIP by selecting the coverage limit and annual cost which works best for you.

Cancer Coverage

Recognizing the causal relationship of 21 specific cancers scientifically proven to occur more frequently in first responder occupations, MFFCIP provides benefits to members diagnosed with one of the following: bladder, brain, breast, cervical, colon, esophagus, kidney, leukemia, lung, melanoma, mesothelioma, multiple myeloma, non-hodgkin lymphoma, ovarian, pancreatic, prostate, rectal, skin, stomach, testicular, and thyroid. Benefit amounts are based on the coverage limit selected, as well as the type and stage of cancer. MFFCIP also provides supplemental benefits for members diagnosed with 8 additional cancers. Benefits are paid to the individual based on the coverage limit selected, as well as the type and stage of cancer.

Behavioral Health Support

MFFCIP provides support for the mental and emotional well-being of Missouri's first responders. Program benefits include resources, training, and best practice guidance for emergency response agencies and peer support teams, as well as a network of trained peers and culturally competent clinicians who are ready to provide assistance. Financial resources are also available to member peer support teams and clinicians, as well as individuals with out of pocket costs associated with inpatient treatment.

MFFCIP is Member-Owned. Rates are subsidized as long as funding permits. **Learn more at <https://www.mffcip.org> or email Sherry.MFFCIP@gmail.com**



Advantages for First Responders

- Individual path to benefits if your department is not an MFFCIP member.
- Retiree coverage up to the age of 70.
- More claims eligible for compensation.
- Choose your coverage level.
- Fast payouts to assist with out of pocket expenses.

Volunteer and Part-time First Responders with 5 or more years of service

Coverage Limit	Annual Cost
\$100,000	\$44
\$200,000	\$88
\$300,000	\$133

Full-time First Responders with 5 or more years of service

Coverage Limit	Annual Cost
\$100,000	\$55
\$200,000	\$109
\$300,000	\$165

Eligibility Requirements

- FFAM Membership
- Signed Required Actions Agreement
- Roster with verification of years of service
- Payment of selected annual cost



REPURPOSED ¾ TON TRUCKS

10 Trucks in FY2026

By Missouri Department of Conservation

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) continued its support of Missouri fire departments by repurposing and distributing 10 surplus three-quarter-ton pickup trucks during fiscal year 2026. These vehicles provide reliable transportation for emergency response, training and department operations, helping communities maximize limited budgets. To date, trucks have been distributed to fire departments serving Jasper, Norwood, Novelty-Plevna, Dora, Southwest Camden County, Caulfield, Brandsville, Ripley County, Exeter and Desloge, strengthening local emergency response capabilities across the state.



YOUR NAME HERE



YOUR DEPARTMENT

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IN THE EVENT OF A PIPELINE EMERGENCY ARE YOU PREPARED?

Join us this fall for a Pipeline Safety and Coordinated Response Exercise!

Experience a unique opportunity to discuss and implement emergency planning activities. Meet and interact with your local operators in planning a coordinated pipeline safety response.

- Speak with your local pipeline operators
- Discussion-based tabletop exercise
- Designed using HSEEP protocols
- Training and meal provided by local pipeline operators at no cost
- Attending agencies will be registered to win one of nine regional \$500 attendance drawings



2026 Meeting Schedule

Pipeline Association of Missouri

#	City	Date	Time
1	Joplin	09/28/26	11:30 AM
2	Cassville	09/29/26	6:00 PM
3	Branson	09/30/26	6:00 PM
4	Springfield	10/01/26	6:00 PM
5	El Dorado Springs	10/05/26	6:00 PM
6	Lebanon	10/06/26	11:30 AM
7	West Plains	10/07/26	6:00 PM
8	Poplar Bluff	10/08/26	6:00 PM
9	Caruthersville	10/13/26	11:30 AM
10	Cape Girardeau	10/14/26	6:00 PM
11	Farmington	10/15/26	6:00 PM
12	Maryland Heights	10/16/26	11:30 AM
13	Rolla	10/19/26	11:30 AM

#	City	Date	Time
14	Linn	10/20/26	11:30 AM
15	Mexico	10/21/26	6:00 PM
16	Moberly	10/22/26	11:30 AM
17	Hannibal	10/26/26	11:30 AM
18	Kahoka	10/27/26	11:30 AM
19	Kirksville	10/28/26	11:30 AM
20	Chillicothe	11/03/26	6:00 PM
21	Maryville	11/04/26	6:00 PM
22	St. Joseph	11/05/26	6:00 PM
23	Boonville	11/09/26	6:00 PM
24	Warrensburg	11/10/26	11:30 AM
25	Kansas City	11/12/26	11:30 AM



To learn more about
our pipeline safety
programs, scan the qr
code or visit
showmepipeline.com.



Training Center is a self-paced
online training available 24/7 for
those unable to attend in-person
meetings, or as an enhancement
to annual programs. Register
for access at trainingcenter.pdigm.com and use code: CORE





A Message From The 2nd VP

Beat the Heat!



Grant Oetting

Summer is definitely here. We are planning family vacations before school starts for the kids. Many of us might be attending ball games as our kids are on traveling teams, and we are attending tournaments every weekend or we are just getting away to head to the Lake of the Ozarks for a relaxing weekend. One thing in common with this is the extremely high temperatures that we are having this year. Firefighter safety in these extreme conditions is a top priority.

Responders do not typically have control over environmental conditions, and care should be taken in extreme temperature circumstances. Direct sunlight and protective gear can increase the body's core temperature. Conversely, immersion in water or exposure to windy conditions can significantly lower the body's core temperature. The rehab sector should be configured to protect responders from both hot and cold conditions.

Many factors lead to heat stress, including environmental temperature, protective equipment, thermal considerations, underlying comorbidities and their treatments, humidity and acclimation. It is important that chiefs examine their SOPs and SOGs to ensure they are up to date with the current NFPA standards.

Basic prevention of dehydration with access to water should not be overlooked. A general rule of thumb is to ensure about 15.5 cups of fluids a day for men and 11.5 cups of fluids a day for women, depending on environmental factors. Alternating with sports drinks for extended operations is also useful. Responders can take advantage of hydration body-worn packs while in operation and should be hydrated orally during rehabilitation.

Despite best efforts, during extended operations or extreme exertion in difficult environments, heat injuries and illnesses can occur. Heat illnesses can range from minor issues of heat rash and heat cramps to heat stroke, a life-threatening illness.

Heat illnesses usually occur on a spectrum, and minor illnesses, if not addressed, can progressively worsen.

Heat cramps typically occur in hot environments when the responder is producing large volumes of sweat. They consist of brief involuntary, intermittent cramps in muscle groups already fatigued by exertion.

Three factors contribute to heat cramps: salt depletion, dehydration and muscle fatigue. Typically, they are not dangerous and rarely result in rhabdomyolysis or muscle breakdown.

Treatment should include systemic cooling, replacement of lost water and electrolytes, and rest. Oral hydration with fluids such as sports drinks serves to replace water as well as electrolytes that are typically lost with sweating.

While electrolyte replacement is important in the management of heat cramps, salt tablets are generally not recommended. Salt tablets are gastric irritants and have been shown to delay gastric emptying, which can lead to nausea and vomiting, worsening dehydration.

When the heat cramps are resolved, the responder often can return to active duty. Repeated cramping can signal more significant dehydration and need for removal from operational duties. If cramps do not resolve with the above maneuvers or the cause of the cramping is in doubt, the responder should be transported to a hospital for further evaluation.

As a responder's core temperature continues to rise, morbidity progresses along the heat illness spectrum to heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Heat exhaustion is the inability to continue exercise, along with any combination of heavy sweating, dehydration, sodium loss and energy depletion.

Symptoms of heat exhaustion can be broad and nonspecific. Common symptoms include headache, fatigue, nausea, dizziness and pre syncope. A physical exam may reveal profuse diaphoresis, tachycardia, tachypnea, normal mental status with temperature elevation up to 104° F.

Treatment for heat exhaustion includes removal from the environment, continuous monitoring (as progression to heat stroke can rapidly occur), active cooling and oral rehydration. Cooling the responder's skin with tepid water will avoid the vasoconstriction produced by ice-cold water, which could be counter-productive by inhibiting heat exchange at the surface. Icy water could induce uncomfortable shivering as well.

Heat stroke is classically defined as a core temperature of greater than 104 F or signs of end organ dysfunction. Typically, the body's intrinsic regulatory mechanisms are overwhelmed and the central nervous system is affected, manifesting as alterations of mental status.

Altered mental status is the hallmark of heat stroke and also exists on a spectrum from behavior changes early on to syncope and seizures. As the body's intrinsic regulatory mechanisms fail, the skin changes from diaphoretic to hot and dry. Keep in mind that the responder may have heat stroke even if he or she is still sweating.

Hypoglycemia may occur as the result of increased glucose metabolism and hepatic damage, resulting in impaired gluconeogenesis. As with all responders with altered mental status, point-of-care blood sugar should be assessed and treatment based on local protocols should be initiated.



FIRE FIGHTER'S FIELD OF FLAGS

A FIRE FIGHTER MUSEUM FUNDRAISER

For \$35 each, you can designate a flag to be flown in memory, honor, or appreciation of an individual you choose. If you would like to have your flag mailed to you, please add \$5 per flag for postage. Flags will be raised in mid September and be flown at the Firefighters Memorial in Kingdom City, Missouri. All proceeds will benefit the Firefighter Museum Project and are tax-deductible.

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Make checks payable to "FFAM Museum"

Number Of Flags: _____ X \$35 Mail?: _____ X \$5 = Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____
Name On Flag #1: _____ ☐ In Honor of ☐ In Memory Of ☐ In Appreciation
Name On Flag #2: _____ ☐ In Honor of ☐ In Memory Of ☐ In Appreciation
Name On Flag #3: _____ ☐ In Honor of ☐ In Memory Of ☐ In Appreciation
☐ Firefighter ☐ Veteran ☐ Active Duty ☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Air Force ☐ Marines ☐ Coast Guard ☐ Other _____

Mail to: Firefighters Memorial
Foundation of MO
5550 Dunn Drive
Kingdom City, MO 65262

Email questions to:
ffammuseum@gmail.com

Deadline to order: September 11, 2026!

ORDER ONLINE AT: [MOFIREMEMORIAL-MUSEUM.ORG/PRODUCT/FIELD-OF-FLAGS-MEMORIAL/](https://mofirememorial-museum.org/product/field-of-flags-memorial/)

Death occurs at a core body temperature of 107° or above.

In addition to the above treatments for heat exhaustion, lowering the body's temperature as rapidly as possible is the most important objective in the treatment of a suspected heat stroke patient. Some reports indicate that aggressive, active cooling of heat stroke patients can reduce mortality rates from 50% without active cooling to 5% (USFA).

Most recent evidence recommends cooling on scene prior to transport to minimize hyperthermia time. Cold water immersion is recommended with enough ice to maintain a water temperature of 50 F

IV access should be obtained and the patient's hemodynamic status supported with IV fluids. Consider airway control depending on the patient's status during transport to definitive care.

Cooling a patient with heat stroke should be continued until the body's core temperature reaches 102° F. If heat stroke cannot be excluded, cooling should be initiated.

Antipyretic medications such as acetaminophen and ibuprofen have no role in the treatment of environmental hyperthermia and should not be administered.

Remember to incorporate environmental concerns, including heat emergencies, into your rehab plans and medical threat assessments. Know that responders are at risk for heat emergencies even when ambient temperatures are not extreme, as exertion and gear can contribute significantly to core body temperature.

Routine prevention of dehydration should be employed, and early signs of heat

injury, such as heat cramps, should not be ignored as they can portend a progression to life-threatening heat stroke.

Finally, do not get tunnel vision, as altered mental status has a wide differential. If something doesn't add up, address life threats, transport the patient to an emergency department and don't hesitate to contact medical control.

With a healthy balance of prevention and vigilance, most severe heat injuries can be avoided, and you will be prepared for any that are not.

Use NFPA 1584 to direct your on scene rehab protocols and activities.

If the FFAM can be of any assistance to you or your department, please feel free to email me at grant_oetting@yahoo.com or call or send a text to my cell at 660-229-4525. I will either answer your question or I will refer you to your director or assistant director for your area. Until next time my brothers and sisters, stay safe out there.



Fire Fighters Assoc
69th Annual
April 24-26, 2025
Igniting Passion, Protecting





Association of Missouri
Convention
• Liberty Missouri
Protecting Communities







FIRE FIGHTERS DIVISION (MALE)

Event	3rd Place	2nd Place	1st Place
2 Person Hose Coupling	Little Dixie #1.	Southern Stone #1	Little Dixie #2
Extending a Line	Little Dixie #1	Little Dixie #2	Southern Stone #1
Replace Section of Hose	Little Dixie #1	Southern Stone #1	Little Dixie #2
Water Fight	Liberty #1	Little Dixie #1	Little Dixie #2
Bucket Brigade	Southern Stone #1	Little Dixie #2	Little Dixie #1
Overall			Little Dixie #2

Event	2nd Place
2 Person Hose Coupling	Southern Stone #2
Extending a Line	Southern Stone #2
Water Fight	Southern Stone #1
Overall	

Thank you to Gail Hagans for taking



JUNIOR DIVISION

1st Place

Southern Stone #1

Southern Stone #1

Southern Stone #2

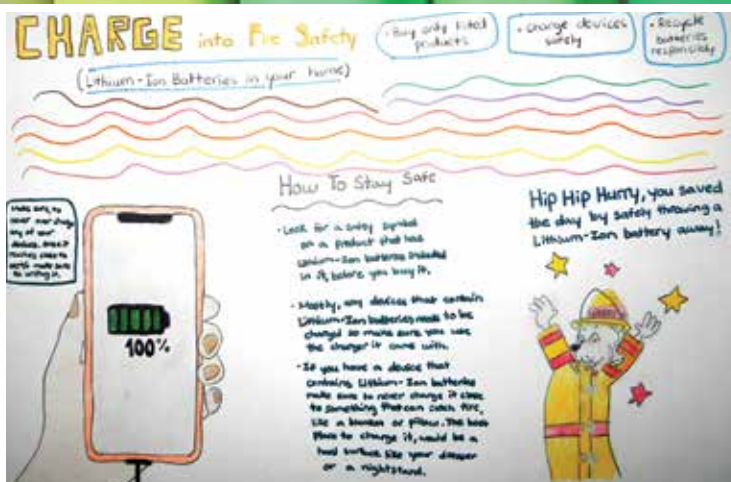
2026 FIREFIGHTER CONTEST

photos of the contest.





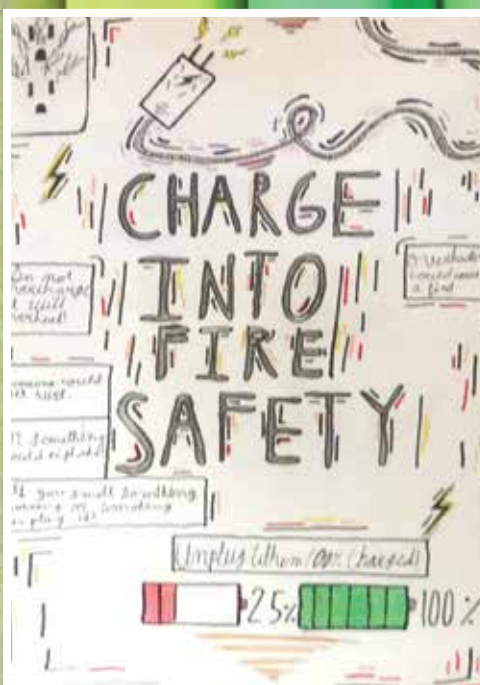




1st Place • Fifth and Sixth Grades:
Harper Edwards • Washington Fire Department



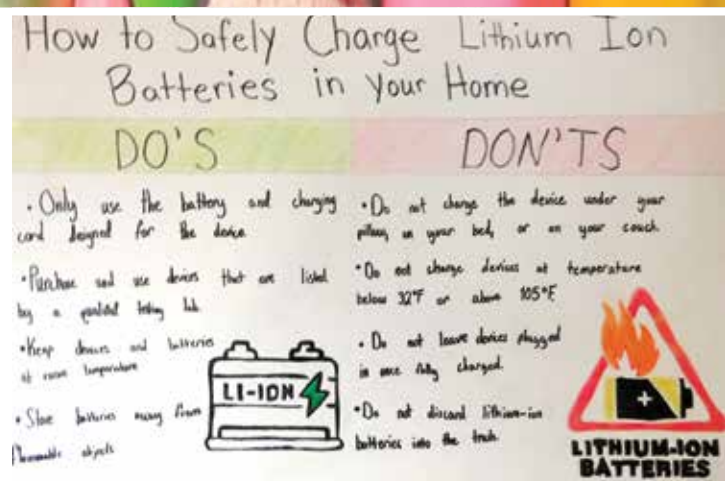
1st Place • Third and Fourth Grades:
Laura May • Galt Fire Protection District



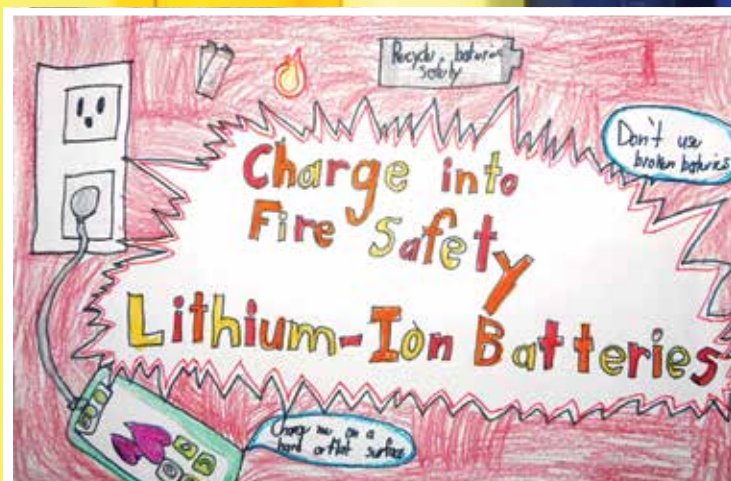
2nd Place • Fifth and Sixth Grades:
Carlee Wilson • Galt Fire Protection Dist



2nd Place • Third and Fourth Grades:
Alivia Schulte • Little Dixie Fire Protection District



3rd Place • Fifth and Sixth Grades:
Avery Blankenship • Washington Fire Department



3rd Place • Third and Fourth Grades:
Elouise Dingley • Beaufort Leslie Fire Department



1st Place • First and Second Grades:
Mia Mastroianni • Beaufort Leslie Fire Department



1st Place • Special Needs:
Blossom Martin • Little Dixie Fire Protection District



2nd Place • First and Second Grades:
Lillie May • Galt Fire Protection District



3rd Place • First and Second Grades:
Kate Shiflett • Galt Fire Protection Dist

2026 POSTER CONTEST WINNERS



2nd Place • Special Needs:
Andrew Deimeke • Little Dixie Fire Protection District



3rd Place • Special Needs:
Charlotte Anderson • Little Dixie Fire Protection District

MUTUAL AID MAKES A DIFFERENCE

By Palmyra Fire Protection District

On Monday, June 15th, 2026, at 12:03 pm, the Palmyra Fire Protection District responded to a reported structure fire at Haymakers in West Quincy, MO. Mutual aid was requested from Quincy Fire Department due to their proximity to the call. The initial arriving crew found heavy smoke coming from the roof of the business on the Alpha/Bravo corner. Primary search did not show any fire inside the business, with most of the concern being directed at the AC unit on the roof. All customers and employees were evacuated from the building. Due to the size of the commercial structure (21,000 sq. ft.), additional mutual aid was requested from three surrounding counties for manpower and tankers. There are no hydrants in this area and water shuttle operations were needed for the entire water supply on scene. Quincy Fire quickly moved forty grill propane tanks from the side of the business and disabled the gasoline and diesel pumps.

The fire quickly spread between the ceiling of the business and the dome roof. Fire breached the roof just minutes after crews arrived on scene. Fire suppression was hindered by a limited water supply, heavy smoke conditions, and wind from the north that pushed the fire from the Alpha side to the Charlie side.

Additional units arrived on scene and engaged in aggressive defensive tactics. Quincy Fire Department set up an aerial ladder at the Alpha/Charlie corner and Tri-Township Fire Protection District aerial ladder on the Delta side. Water shuttle operations were quickly established with multiple drop tanks set up in series. At the height of this operation, there was a tanker arriving on scene every thirty seconds continually for over an hour, supplying two aerial ladder truck master streams, two ground monitors, numerous hand lines, and two deck guns.

A local business had a lake that was utilized for drafting and filling, while all other tankers had to cross the Mississippi River to fill at several hydrant locations in Quincy, IL.

Mutual aid departments from up to 35 miles away responded to this incident. Approximately 18 fire departments and 80 firefighters responded to this fire. Conservatively, there were at least 250,000 gallons of water shuttled and pumped in three hours. This is the largest water tender operation that the Palmyra Fire Protection District has undertaken for a single incident. The following departments and organizations helped in this incident. Crews were on scene for hours, monitoring and eliminating

hot spots. The Palmyra Fire Protection District would like to thank and recognize the following departments for their help and support in this major structural incident.

A special thank you to Knaphide Manufacturing in West Quincy, MO, for the use of their hydrant system. This was a key aspect of our water tender operation.

MISSOURI

Palmyra Fire Protection District
Canton R-V Fire Protection District
Marion County R-II Fire Department
LaGrange Volunteer Fire Department
Monroe City Fire Protection District
Monticello R-V Fire Department
Western Lewis County Fire Protection Dist.
Missouri State Emergency Management
Missouri State Highway Patrol
Marion County Sheriff Department
Marion County Ambulance District
Missouri Department of Transportation
Northeast Missouri Emergency
Communications Center (NECOMN)

Thanks to Muddy River News for the images.



ILLINOIS

Quincy Fire Department
Quincy Fire Department Rehab
Tri-Township Fire Protection District
Ursa Fire Protection District
Camp Point Fire Protection District
Mendon Fire Protection District
Central Adams Fire Protection District
Golden Fire Protection District
Lima Fire Protection District
Lorraine Fire Protection District
Payson-Fall Creek Fire Protection District
Libert Fire Protection District
Adams County Rehab
Salvation Army



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Contact Luke Fitzpatrick at luke@missouripropane.com or 573-893-7655.



LEADERSHIP BEYOND A BADGE

By Bryan Stroer, Captain, Cape Girardeau Fire Department

Leadership in the fire service is a critical, high-stakes responsibility that demands far more than rank or time in grade. It requires a deliberate blend of technical competence, ethical commitment, and—most importantly—the ability to inspire and guide firefighters under pressure. True leadership is built on three foundational pillars: cultivating a positive attitude, prioritizing life safety in every operation, and intentionally building trust both on and off the fireground.

ATTITUDE: SETTING THE TONE

A leader's attitude establishes the tone for the entire station. In a profession defined by danger, stress, and emotional strain, a positive and resilient attitude is not a luxury—it is an operational necessity.

How a leader approaches challenges sets the tone for the crew. An officer who meets difficult calls or demanding training sessions with focus and enthusiasm sends a clear message: success is possible, even under adverse conditions. Positivity creates an environment where firefighters feel comfortable offering ideas, identifying gaps, and taking calculated risks in training.

That said, positivity does not mean ignoring reality. Leaders must acknowledge problems when they arise. Failing to do so can make us appear disconnected or disingenuous. The key is to recognize the issue, then quickly shift to a solution-oriented mindset. In his book *Extreme Ownership: How U.S. Navy SEALs Lead and Win*, Retired Navy SEAL Jocko Willink encourages leaders to view setbacks through a reframing lens—responding to problems with “good” because adversity presents a chance to learn and improve.

I was reminded of this perspective by my wife's aunt, Pat, who passed away from cancer. Even during her hardest times, Pat maintained a “positive attitude that uplifted everyone around her. While it may not always be easy to stay positive, sharing a smile, especially in difficult times, is a precious gift to those on the same journey. Her legacy reinforces an important lesson for leaders: positivity is not passive optimism; it is an active choice of strength that benefits the entire team—a choice we should always strive to make.



Aunt Pat

LIFE SAFETY: THE CORE OF EVERY DECISION

The fire service exists to save lives, and that mission must guide every decision we make. Life safety—both for the public and for firefighters—must remain the top priority in all operations.

The most effective way to protect lives is through training. Leaders must prioritize realistic, high-risk training that prepares crews to operate decisively and safely. Firefighters should understand their roles, responsibilities, and required tools before the incident ever occurs.”

“Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) are essential in this process. For example, our SOGs for vehicle fires clearly outline responding companies and initial tactics. As an officer, I work with my crew to focus on specific, well-defined tasks that support our life safety objectives.

For example, on vehicle fires, I prefer my backstep firefighter to come off the Engine, chock the fire vehicle's wheels, and simultaneously check for victims. At the same time, the officer or the firefighter in the C seat deploys the hose line. When explaining these assignments to new firefighters, I emphasize the why behind them. Chocking the wheels protects firefighter safety; checking for victims protects the public. When firefighters understand the reasoning behind assignments, they begin making decisions guided by the same priorities—even when supervision is limited.



Consistent and meaningful discussions centered around these essential tasks will not only strengthen the understanding of life safety but will also instill its importance in every aspect of their careers. By making life safety a core topic of conversation, we can foster an environment where it becomes ingrained in our collective mindset and practice.

TRUST: THE NON-NEGOTIABLE FOUNDATION

Trust is the foundation of every high-performing fire service team. In an environment where your life may depend on the person next to you, trust must be absolute.

When stepping into a new role or assignment, trust often takes time to build. One of the best pieces of advice I've received is this: *kill them with competence, not loud confidence*. Firefighters need to know that their leader's decisions are grounded in skill, preparation, and experience—not ego. Leaders who consistently and quietly execute their responsibilities well earn credibility. When firefighters trust a leader's competence, they follow directives without hesitation because they know those decisions are reliable under pressure."

"Skills can and will diminish over time if we do not actively maintain them. This can be mitigated by participating in training and attending classes to remain current with the latest tactics and advancements.

Trust does not stop on the fireground. It must extend into daily interactions at the station and beyond. Are you the person your crew feels comfortable calling for advice or support?

To lead effectively, organizational discipline is just as important as tactical knowledge. One technique I rely on is taking brief, focused notes on my crew members. These notes go beyond certifications and skill sets; they include preferences, recent challenges, and personal or professional goals. This practice helps me to remember essential information and allows me to demonstrate genuine attention to the individual. Over time, I've found that the more I write things down, the more naturally I remember them. When it has been some time since you have seen someone, a quick hello becomes more memorable when you ask about their loved

SENTINEL EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS WELCOMES NEW APPARATUS SPECIALIST

From Grace Schaal, Sentinel Emergency Solutions

Sentinel Emergency Solutions has officially welcomed its newest Apparatus Sales Specialist, Chris Berndt, to Team Sentinel. Berndt is the Rosenbauer Apparatus Specialist for Southwest Missouri. He previously served as Fire Chief of the Western Taney Fire Protection District for more than 30 years.

Chris joins Dave Urevich, who has served as Sentinel's Western Missouri Equipment Sales Specialist for the past nine years. Dave has done a fantastic job providing excellent customer service, and Berndt will build on that legacy while supporting customers with Rosenbauer fire trucks. With more than 40 years of experience in the fire service, Berndt brings deep industry knowledge that will benefit customers across Southwest Missouri.

Regarding the recent hire, Sentinel Emergency Solutions Owner/President Brian Franz said, "We are so excited to have Chris Berndt on our team. We have worked with him

in the past as a customer, and it's exciting to get to work with him as an employee. There is no doubt that he will provide outstanding service to our customers in Southwest Missouri."

Chris Berndt can be reached at chrisberndt@sentineles.com or 417-368-8614.

About Sentinel Emergency Solutions:

Sentinel Emergency Solutions is a St. Louis-based authorized Rosenbauer dealer with territories in Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana. Founded in 2014, Sentinel is an authorized Rosenbauer dealership and service center and has sold more than 500 fire trucks. Sentinel is also a distributor for many fire equipment vendors, including MSA, Task Force Tips, Lion, and Hurst Jaws of Life.



ones, even more so when you remember their names.

In addition, I immediately enter important follow-ups into my calendar with reminders. These may include checking in after a difficult call, following up on training goals, or acknowledging significant life events. Automating these reminders ensures that the follow-up happens at the right time—when it matters most. Consistent, thoughtful follow-through builds trust and shows firefighters that their well-being is always a priority.

LEADERSHIP IS ACTION

In the fire service, leadership is not defined by a title—it is demonstrated through daily action. By fostering a positive attitude, maintaining an unshakable commitment to life safety, and intentionally building trust, fire service leaders strengthen their

crews, uphold the mission, and ensure that everyone has the best possible chance of going home safely at the end of the shift and ultimately at the end of a long, successful career.

I would like to take a moment to emphasize the most important point. While taking notes, discussing strategies based on priorities, and setting"

"reminders are valuable practices, it is essential to recognize that choosing to maintain a positive attitude is a daily decision we all must make. This choice not only benefits us but is also a gift to everyone around us."

CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS

Kelsey Pratt was the recipient of the “Get you Started” FFAM Auxiliary Scholarship. Lachrissa Smith presented Kelsey with the scholarship at the Kearney Fire Department where her father, David Pratt is the Assistant Fire Chief.



FULL GEAR FINISH

Luke Myers ran the course in 3:04.48, he was in division 3 and he ended up 9 out of 17 in his division and age group. You are in full scba and gear on air the whole time. You have to go up the tower and be back off the tower within 3 mins and you have to finish the course within 7 mins. Most people that train and do this all the time are running it in 1:40-2:40.



TUITION BENEFITS FOR VOLUNTEERS

On April 21st Hardin Fire Chief Malcolm Cunningham met with MO State Representative Peggy McGaugh and testified in favor of 7269H.01Ia - College tuition for public safety personnel. The requested change to state statute is to allow volunteer firefighters and their children to apply for paid college tuition to any state university. This is currently offered to paid firefighters and we are trying to level the playing field to all personnel. While unsuccessful in getting it passed this year, testifying before a House committee is a step in the right direction.



VALOR SAVES A VETERAN

On May 16, 2026, the FFAM Award for Valor was presented to Greg Foote of Cape Girardeau FD. The award was presented to him at his fire department with his family and his fellow firefighters in attendance. Thanks to Greg for helping to save a veteran who was suffering a mental health emergency with a risk to do harm. He was able to clear the area of the public for everyone's safety while trying to help the veteran who was locked in the vehicle with a weapon. Greg went for help when the veteran was becoming less responsive. After going to the closest ranger station and calling park rangers and EMS, Greg returned back to the vehicle to help convince the veteran to unlock the vehicle and let him secure the weapon and help the veteran. Greg provided medical care, due to the patient's altered mental status and breathing issues, until the park rangers and EMS arrived on scene. Later that evening, the park rangers advised Greg that the veteran was alive at the hospital, and if not for Greg's actions, the veteran may have died.



PALMYRA FPD DONATES TO THE FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL

The Palmyra Fire Protection District made a donation of \$1,000 to the Memorial Foundation. This type of support is essential in being able to provide the required care and operations of your State Memorial. On behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors, Thank you so very much!



By Keith Smith, Chairman

This will be the last article before the October 3rd and 4th services. There is a lot underway in preparations for those two dates. As of this article, we will be honoring 5 Line of Duty Names.

- Chief Garry Moore, Whitewater Fire Prot. Dist.
- Firefighter Lee Kraus, St. Louis Fire Dept.
- Heavy Rigging Specialist Larry Duncan, Missouri Task Force One.
- Shift Commander Jackson Warren - Butler County Fire Prot. Dist.
- Captain Andrew Donner - Ft. Osage Fire Prot. Dist.

We will also be honoring over 100 "Service Recognition" names which will include some awaiting an Administrative Determination regarding potential LODD Honors. Reminder that our keynote speaker on Sunday morning will be the Fire Chief of FDNY.

We are still in need of outside assistance with setting up and running both services. Your Board of Directors only represents about a third of the staff required to get all service elements completed in a timely manner. Please contact me or one of the other board members if interested.

We have three changes regarding your Board of Directors. In the last article we announced that long-term serving Don Wilmesher had retired. We are pleased to announce that Jonathan Abbott with the Lee's Summit Fire Department has accepted

that position. Jonahan has 23 years with Lee's Summit as an engineer. This time includes over 5 years with Johnson County FPD Dist. 2 as a volunteer and then Board Director. Jonathan is also a member with Missouri "DMAT" (Disaster Medical Assistance Team) and Lee's Summit Honor Guard Commander. It is because of that experience in assisting with our annual services that Jonathan became interested in opportunities to be more involved with the Foundation. His daughter Rory has also stepped up in assisting with the annual services. Welcome aboard Jonathan and thank you Rory for your support.

In announcing the 2nd change, I must start with another Foundation Board retirement. A very special THANK YOU goes out to Terry Wynne and his long-standing service on the Board. Terry is taking a step back but not away from the work of the Foundation with plans to continue to assist where he can in the future. Terry remains active with FFAM as the Director of District 1 and the Missouri State Fair Fire Dept. That said we are pleased to announce that Tim Bean, Retired Fire Marshal, will fill that position and continue working with the Foundation moving forward. I would normally say welcome aboard Tim, but you really never left. We are very glad your vision and work ethic will continue in the operations of the Foundation.

Regarding the 3rd change, the State Fire Marshal's office holds one of the two

permanent seats on the Foundation Board. Welcome Acting State Fire Marshal, Matt Luetkemeyer. We look forward to continuing that very important connection with the Missouri Fire Service through the Fire Marshal's office. Matt has been active in our Sunday Service for several years.

Drywall work planned for this phase of construction in the North half of the museum has been completed, painted and additional lighting installed. The next time you visit, we have a new look in the Northside. Work on reconstruction of the old State Fair Fire Station as the maintenance shop in the South half of the building is nearly completed and will be finished before the October services. It includes the old EMS door and some other historical pieces and features.

If you need to contact us, we have several options. For general information, engraving and shopping, our website is mofirememorial-museum.org/ Our mailing address is 5550 Dunn Drive, Kingdom City, MO 65262. For email, please use info@mofirememorial-museum.org This is a shared platform in checking of messages, so please give it a few days to respond. If it is urgent or you prefer to save time, you may call my mobile at 314 709 0760.

Thank you for your time and continued support of your memorial and future museum.



SAVE THE DATE

Firefighter Memorial in Kingdom City

**Candlelight
Services**

**October 3
7:00 pm**

**Memorial
Services**

**October 4
10:30 am**

More details at
mofirememorial-museum.org



Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.



Director's Comments

MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute



Harry Ward
Director

As we continue another busy year of training across Missouri, I want to encourage everyone involved in emergency services education to make plans to attend the *Missouri Emergency Services Instructor Conference*, Nov. 6-8, 2026, at the Lake of the Ozarks.

This conference is one of the best opportunities for instructors, training officers and

emergency service leaders to come together to strengthen the way we teach. Whether you have years of experience or are just beginning as an instructor, there is always something new to learn. Our profession continues to evolve, and we must continue growing alongside it.

One of the things I appreciate most about this conference is the opportunity to learn from one another. Every firefighter can remember an instructor who made a lasting impact on their career. Great instructors do more than teach skills, they build confidence, encourage leadership and prepare students to make sound decisions when lives are on the line. By investing in ourselves as instructors, we invest in every firefighter who will sit in our classrooms.

Just as valuable as the training is the camaraderie. Missouri has a proud tradition of

firefighters helping firefighters. Spending time with fellow instructors from across the state allows us to exchange ideas, build lasting relationships and learn from each other's successes and challenges. Those conversations often become just as valuable as the formal presentations.

As instructors, we have the privilege and responsibility of shaping the next generation of emergency responders. The quality of our training today directly impacts the safety of our firefighters and the communities they serve tomorrow.

I hope you will join us Nov. 6-8 at the Lake of the Ozarks for a weekend of professional development, fellowship and renewed commitment to excellence in emergency services education. Together, we can continue building a stronger, safer and better-prepared Missouri fire service.

Find Out More Online:

MUFRTI.ORG



Find the Full Training Schedule at MUFRTI.org

DATE	COURSE	CITY	CONTACT	PHONE
08/15	Handling LP Gas Emergencies	Rich Hill	Alec Entriakin	660-464-2604
08/15	Vehicle Fire Fighting	Seymour	David Smith	4717-241-1770
08/17	Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator: Aerial	Nixa	SW MO Reg. Fire Academy	417-844-5327
08/18	School Bus Rescue	Republic	Jerod Youb	417-771-8180
08/19	Certified Advanced Fire and Ambulance District Training: Changing Economic and Physical Boundaries	Noon & 7PM	FRTI	800-869-3476
08/22	Certified Fire and Ambulance District Board Training	Jackson	FRTI	800-869-347
08/24	Vehicle Fire Fighting	Old Monroe	Mike Cherry	314-565-0139
08/26	Vehicle Fire Fighting	Eolia	Reid LaFave	573-721-8820
08/29	Emergency Response to Ammonia Incidents	Carrollton	Megan Griffin	660-322-0556
08/29	The Lithium-Ion Revolution	Riverside	Jeremy O'Brien	816-863-9990
09/10	The Lithium-Ion Revolution	Eolia	Reid LaFave	573-721-8820
09/12	Vehicle Fire Fighting	Seneca	Kevin Johnson	417-455-6218
09/15	First Due: Pre-Planning for the Company Officer	Lee's Summit	Doug Wheeldon	816-578-9211
09/17	Through the Lock	West Plains	Chris Wilbanks	417-257-1270
09/18	Farm Machinery Rescue	Monett	Clell Maples	417-669-2179
09/18	Emergency Vehicle Driver Training	Kennett	Lance Davis	573-888-5337
09/18	Firefighter Friendly Thermal Imaging	West Plains	Chris Wilbanks	417-257-1270
09/19	Firefighter Friendly Thermal Imaging	Branson	Sam Stolte	417-334-3440
09/24	Certified Advanced Fire and Ambulance District Training: Referendums, Providing Employee Benefits, and Purchasing Review		FRTI	800-869-3476
09/25	Basic Pump Operations	Doniphan	Greg Greenwood	573-996-5872
09/26	Emergency Response to Ammonia Incidents	Monett	Clell Maples	417-669-2179

SCAN CODE



FOR SCHEDULE



University of Missouri Extension
Fire and Rescue Training Institute

MISSOURI EMERGENCY SERVICES

INSTRUCTOR CONFERENCE



Lake of the Ozarks

Preconference Training
Train-the-Trainers
Conference Workshops
Renowned Speakers

SAVE THE DATE

November 6-8



MUFRTI.ORG

SAVE THE DATE

September 11, 2026

Missouri State Capitol • 7:00 pm

The State of Missouri will commemorate the 25th anniversary of 9-11. The event will start at 5:00 pm with static displays of the military, first responders and Task Force 1. There will be a fly over during the event. The event will include an honor guard, the *Pledge of Allegiance*, the national anthem, *Taps*, *Amazing Grace*, guest speakers and a keynote speaker. It will conclude with the reading of the 2977 victim names that lost their lives on 9-11.

For more information you may contact the Missouri Patriot Day Committee at;

1203 Somerset Lane
Wardsville, MO. 65101
stevelock116@gmail.com
573-680-9809



DISTRICT 4

Joe Vaughn reported he recently met with Adrian FD.

DISTRICT 5

Dylan Honea reported that he submitted several contact forms.

DISTRICT 6

Shawn Ritchie reported that membership with Mid-MO Ambulance District is in the works.

DISTRICT 8

Bob Floyd reported that he met with Shell City and Bolivar added all of their members.

DISTRICT 10

Romona Kaminski reported that she is meeting with the Greater St Louis Firefighters Assoc. in May then will meet with departments individually.

DISTRICT 11

Josh Koepke reported that he met with West Platte and Maple Wood education center. There are only 16 departments remaining in District 11 that aren't members.

DISTRICT 14

Rick Dozier reported that Holt FPD has a new fire chief and he met with them.

Sergeant-at-Arms Jonathan Evans conducted a delegate roll call. There are 44 delegates present.

NEW BUSINESS

ELECTION

Keith Smith advised that the following positions were slated for election with no opponents challenging.

District 1 – Terry Wynne
District 3 – Josh Loyd
District 7 – RB Brown
District 11 – Billy Smith
District 14 – Rick Dozier

Joe Vaughn moved to approve all by acclimation. Andrew Caldwell seconded the motion and all approved.

Jonathan Evans presented the proposed bylaw changes. Discussion followed. Charlie Peel moved to accept the changes as presented. Bob Floyd seconded the motion, and a closed ballot was held. The 2/3 majority was not met, and the proposed bylaw change failed.

Discussion was held on a benefits proposal from AMBA. Charlie Peel moved to join AMBA with several benefit programs to offer to FFAM members. Andrew Caldwell seconded the motion and all approved.

Discussion was held regarding the 2027 convention. Josh Loyd advised that the Convention Committee recommends that the 2027 convention be hosted by the Tri Lakes Chiefs Association and held at the Branson Convention Center April 30 – May 2, 2027. Bob Floyd moved that the 2027 convention be hosted by the Tri Lakes Chiefs Association and held in Branson, MO. Cameron Lauber seconded the motion and all approved.

Discussion was held regarding the 2028 convention. Rick Dozier advised that several departments in District 14 would like to host. Dylan Honea moved that the 2028 convention be held in St. Joseph with more information to follow. Kyler Oliver seconded the motion and all approved.

President Jennings advised that Janet Cain has resigned as District 1 Assistant Director.

President Jennings advised that he has received a request to appoint James Jones as District 4 Assistant Director. Rick Dozier moved to appoint James Jones as District 4 Assistant Director. Joe Vaughn seconded the motion and all approved.

President Jennings advised that he has received a request to appoint Steven Borts as District 6 Assistant Director. Kyler Oliver moved to appoint Steve Borts as District 6 Assistant Director. Joe Vaughn seconded the motion and all approved.

President Jennings advised that he is recommending the appointment of Ben Whited as District 12 Director. Rick Dozier moved to appoint Ben Whited as District 12 Director. Cameron Lauber seconded the motion and all approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Joe Vaughn advised that the department grant application deadline is July 1.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

No report was given.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

No report was given.

CHAPLAIN COMMITTEE

David Hedrick reported that The Missouri Fire Chaplains Corp (MFCC) will conduct its annual Conference and Training session September 14 – 15, 2026, in Sedalia, MO. Class information will be posted in June. Scholarships will be available to support the cost of training for those in need. For more information contact Chaplain Ed Hatcher at edhat@earthlink.net.

The Federation of Fire Chaplains Annual Conference is October 25-29, 2026, in Franklin, TN. In addition, a Pre-Conference Training will be offered Oct. 23 – 25. More information and registration are available on the FFC website at: <https://ffc.wildapricot.org/>.

The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend will take place May 2-3, 2026, in Emmitsburg, MD. Despite the federal government shutdown, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will reopen the National Fire Academy site for the annual memorial service. This year the National Fallen Fire Fighters Foundation will honor 204 firefighters from across the nation who died in the line of duty.

Monday, May 4, 2026, is International Fire Fighters Day (IFFD). The day is set aside to honor the bravery, dedication, and sacrifices of firefighters worldwide, while remembering those lost in the line of duty. This is also the feast day of St. Florian, the patron saint of Fire Fighters.

CONTEST COMMITTEE

Rob Erdel thanked those who helped get the contest set up and everything went well.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

No report was given.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Josh Koepke reported that 13 people attended the Certified Fire and Ambulance Board class on Friday.

FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Andrew Caldwell thanked those departments that submitted posters and the Auxiliary for judging.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Charlie Peel reported that property tax issues are still ongoing so pay attention to what is happening. They are in the final three weeks of legislation. SB 3 still has a major lawsuit pending. SB 173/174 joint resolution will go

on the November ballot that involves sales tax and income tax but the language is still unclear.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Grant Oetting reported the following membership numbers: 321 departments; 6706 active; 14 associate; 16 sustaining; 519 retired; 124 juniors; 480 directors; 4 EMS department; 65 EMS individual; 2 educational institution; 14 educational individual, 12 corporate.

Oetting reported he and Dylan Honea attended the MO Chiefs conference in February. He will be attending the Missouri Association of Fire Districts conference in June.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Keith Smith reported that 1st VP, Secretary/Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms and Districts 4, 5, 9 and 10 will be up for election in 2027.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Jaime Miller advised that the next magazine deadline is July 24.

NVFC COMMITTEE

Keith Smith reported that the current budget battle with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has resulted in issues within FEMA regarding scheduled grant payments for numerous programs, particularly departments awaiting payments for SAFER Grants and other obligations. Call for action alerts to Senators and Representatives have gone out.

Update from Ryan Woodward, NVFC Chief of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs as of four days ago – I will read this word for word.

“As you may have seen the Administration agreed to pay DHS employees despite the ongoing DHS shutdown. Two weeks ago, and last week thousands of furloughed DHS employees were ordered back to work. Questions as to what that exactly means since the DHS shutdown has been in effect since February 14 are still ongoing. I have heard from FEMA that employees who have returned to work are permitted to work on projects where there is existing funding and wrap up loose ends, but they cannot initiate new projects or anything that would require additional funding.” So, some additional information – massive backlog of work pending. It will take time.

Also, ten days ago Emmitsburg was closed for all things and NFFF was looking at an alternative site for 123 families that were scheduled to receive honors. Ten of those families are from Missouri. While Emmitsburg and programs remain closed, on Tuesday of this week, DHS reached out to NFFF confirming that despite the ongoing DHS shutdown the National Fire

Academy campus will be available for the upcoming National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend the first weekend in May. That had to be the result of the call for action alerts sent to Senators and Representatives on this subject. The nice thing about those alerts is the unified message that goes to our regulators and there is a drop-down box that you can add an additional message and even vent if inclined to do so.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

No report was given.

STATE FAIR COMMITTEE

Rick Dozier reported that they will move into the new building on the July 1 work weekend and every weekend in July. Donated funds have been used to purchase most everything that they need.

All directors are invited to a 65th anniversary celebration dinner on August 15 at 5:00 pm at the new station.

Applications are due May 31 and Operation BBQ Relief will be providing a meal on the 1st Friday of the fair.

Larry Eggen presented Keith Smith with a \$500 check for the museum project from the 911 commander light fundraiser.

HISTORIAN REPORT

No report was given.

FIRE FUNERAL TEAM REPORT

No report was given.

EMS FUNERAL TEAM REPORT

Jaime Miller reported on behalf of Greg Wright:

Since December 1, 2025, we have had 1 LODD and 9 Non-LODD callouts.

Our conference is set for October 16-18, 2026, at Camden on the Lake. We have 7 classes with 8 instructors scheduled. Registration will be on our website next month.

Our state fundraiser is going on now. \$2900 in prizes, only 1500 tickets will be sold. See a team member if interested in tickets.

We have added 9 new members and have held 5 trainings around the state in 2026. 1 more in Popular bluff May 22.

We have had 4 members go through the GRIN 3-day peer support training. There is another one on August in Springfield. If interested go to warrior's rest foundation web site. The classes are free.

FOUNDATION REPORT

Report on behalf of Keith Smith:

Thank you for the continued support of your Foundation which comprises the memorial, future museum and the funeral response teams. If you had the chance to attend the EXPO on Friday and Saturday, the Foundation table had a wooden stool that visually symbolizes the structure of the Foundation that you support.

A summary of key Foundation work during 2025 was outlined in the 1st quarter 2026 FFAM Magazine. There will be some important updates coming up in the 2nd quarter magazine.

In looking ahead at 2026, our April 11th Foundation meeting launched the start of October 3rd and 4th services preparation. The Sunday service will be live streamed again this year. Keynote speaker on Sunday is the Chief from FDNY. The 25th anniversary of 9-11 and having our first kneeling firefighter statue made that happen.

Reminder that we have revised how we describe the two levels of service for our fallen going forward. Service “HONORS” are those given to firefighters passing in the line of duty. Service “RECOGNITION” is given to those who have served and passed for other reasons or awaiting an “ADMINISTRATIVE DETERMINATION” pending their possible line of duty. Two buzz words from now until forever. Currently several names are waiting determination either by State Workers Comp or the DOJ.

In continuing to add more elements in for both services, we need a lot of support from you in this room and others. If you were able to assist last year, please do so again. If you thought about it last year but were unable, please reconsider for 2026. Each service

Meeting Minutes continued from previous page.

requires 30 plus people to get everything done well. The 15 Foundation members fall well short of that number.

For those needing engraving this year and going forward, we apologize for the sticker shock. Last year 2025, was the same price charged in late 2000 when engraving was first offered. We held the line for 25 years; it had to change.

We currently have 3 line of duty names confirmed, several awaiting administrative determination for honors and nearly 100 service recognition names for the October services. While service recognition names are accepted by calendar year, a line of duty determination can be accepted until June 30th .

President Jennings advised that \$1,169 was raised for MDA during the pass-the-boot at the banquet.

1st Vice President Charlie Peel presented a resolution to Liberty Fire Department thanking them for hosting the convention.

The colors were retired. President Jennings adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am.



AUXILIARY MEETING MINUTES

April 26, 2026

Liberty Fire Department, Liberty, MO

The April 26, 2026 FFAM Auxiliary meeting was called to order by President Sheri Berendzen, Cole Co FPD, at 9:00 am. In attendance were: Joni Fields, Paris Rural FPD; Rosanna Dozier, South Holt FD; Lachrissa Smith, North Central Carroll FPD; Theresa Cox, Wentzville FPD; Carissa Thompson, Holts Summit FPD; Diane Wynne, Galt; Robin Schrape, Jefferson R-7 FPD; Kathy Eggen, Johnson Co FPD; Sarah Kirchhoff, Concordia FD, Judy Caldwell, Boles; Allison Caldwell, Boles; Haley Hanes, Galt; and Deidre Batliner, Gravois FPD.

FINANCIAL REPORT

\$9,435.00 in the account. We raised \$3004 at the silent auction last night. A motion was made by Carissa Thompson and seconded by Teresa Cox to approve the minutes. The motion carried

COMMUNICATIONS

Bailey Burd resigned her position on the executive board of the auxiliary. Deidre Batliner was appointed by the board to take her place.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POSTER CONTEST

We had 6 departments participate.

MEMBERSHIP

11 honorary members and 60 paid members. We have a total of 14 departments.

MEMORIAL

October 3&4, 2026 in Kingdom City.

AUXILIARY OF THE YEAR

Johnson County won this year

CONVENTION

Convention was amazing and the bags were very appreciated.

SCHOLARSHIP

We had 3 applications this year for our Get Started Scholarship. The winner was Kelsey Pratt, Kearney. Kelsey was unable to attend the banquet. Lachrissa will get with her to present her scholarship.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tim Bean, Missouri State Fire Marshal, thanked the ladies for what we do. He gave praise for the awards that were given at the banquet. Tim thanked the Auxiliary for the past support for the stair climb. This year (2026) will be the 25th anniversary. There will be many events in Jefferson City and across the state. Tim said he would reach out to ask for sponsors for the events. Tim shared the Light the Night brochure with us and encouraged everyone to put in a red porch light and leave it on at night from 4/26-5/3. Firefighter Day at the Capitol was April 1 and was well attended.

NEW BUSINESS

Ideas for our funds:

Stair climb: A motion was made by Carissa Thompson and seconded by Theresa Cox to pledge \$500 towards the stair climb as a sponsor rather than sponsoring a floor.

Discussion was had to amend the bylaws to move the due date for dues to June 1 rather than January 1. The change will be voted on at the August meeting in Sedalia.

FFAM news articles are due July 24, 2026.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be August 9, 2026 at the State Fair Fire Station.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Carissa Thompson and seconded by Rosanna Dozier to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 am. The motion carried.



UPGRADE YOUR FLEET

INVENTORY READY TODAY

ALEXIS

AFE DEMO #2676 - 2000 Gallon Tanker



FEATURES & EQUIPMENT

- Freightliner M2-106 2-Door Chassis
- Cummins 360 HP L9 Engine
- Allison 3000 EVS Automatic Transmission
- Waterous CXVPA 1250 GPM PTO Pump
- Trident Air Prime System
- Tecniq/Whelen LED Warning Light Package
- 9'-8" Overall Height
- 26'-6" Overall Length
- 200" Wheelbase
- Two (2) 6" Intakes, One (1) Each Side
- One (1) 2½" Gated Intake, Left Side
- Two (2) 2½" Discharges, Left Side and One (1) 2½" Discharge, Right Side
- One (1) 3" Discharge Adapted to 5" Storz, Right Side
- Two (2) 1½" and One (1) 2½" Crosslay Preconnects
- Four (4) Dual Bottle Wheel Well Compartments

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