



*GEORGIA FIREFIGHTER
STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL*

Georgia Public Safety Training Center
1000 Indian Springs Drive
Forsyth, Georgia 31029-9599

Office (478) 993-4521
Fax (478) 993-4511

Lyn D. Pardue
Executive Director

Rules Committee Minutes

April 21st, 2010
GPSTC Room 106

Present:

Chief Dwight Clark
Chief Eddie Buckholts
Chief Thad Dixon
Mr. Don Freyer
Chief Iby George
Chief Joey Hartley
Chief Jon Marsh
Chief Web Marshall
Chief David Trussell
Chief David Wall
Chief Jody Yarbrough
Lt. Wade Crider
Mr. James Crawley
Chief Joseph Daniels
Chief Bryan Croft
Mr. Jeremy Webb
Chief Rod Dawson
Capt. Story Polite
Director Lyn Pardue
Mr. Matthew Perry

Meeting:

Director Pardue opens meeting with update on ProBoard visit and answers questions on SB 440 and HR 513

Updates Committee on the committee created by the Chiefs Association to study the feasibility of HR 513. He gave a brief explanation of it's purpose with input from Chief Croft, Trussell and Buckholts.

Meeting turned over to Co-Chair Chief Jody Yarbrough

Chief Yarbrough wanted to go over the Matrix and make any final changes before having them put into rules language.

Chief Wall made a point that the courses will be changed as the standard changes. He cautioned references to course requirements in rules and recommended that they be put into policy.

Under Criminal Background Check, for Certified Level Firefighters, the word AND be added instead of OR to be in line with Georgia law.

From the previous meeting, Matthew Perry recommended that Arson be removed because it is a felony. However, there is a new section under Arson concerning the setting of woodlands on fire. It is a misdemeanor but falls into the arson code section. The motion to remove was made by Chief Buckholts and 2nd by Chief Marshall. No discussion it was approved.

Also, the number of misdemeanor convictions in the 5 years prior to certification/appointment was increased from 2 to 3. This would be in line with other state agencies. This was also approved by the room.

Finally, the requirement for departments to report a conviction was made at the March meeting. It required agencies to report within 10 days to GFSTC a firefighter conviction. However, due to the length of criminal trials and agencies dismissing employees, it makes it very difficult for them to report a former firefighter's conviction. Therefore the committee voted to amend the reporting requirement to 10 days from the time of departmental notification of the arrest.

The change on the Matrix for reporting a new employee/appointee from 90 days to 10 days was made and approved.

The motion was made by Chief Marshall to approve the final changes and move forward with language. It was seconded by Chief Yarbrough and approved unanimously.

Meeting dates will now be on the 1st Wednesday of the month with the exception of August 10th.

Lunch

Recertification and continued annual training:

24 hours per year and core competencies to be reported every 2 years. Director Pardue wants to allow agencies to report hours earlier in the year.

Definitions of part-time firefighters and volunteer firefighters:

This topic was tabled for opinion of Attorney General's Office. The discussion centered on the definition of compensation.

Chief Yarbrough made the motion to approve the 2 year reporting.

Seconded by Chief Marsh

Vote was unanimous

Motion was made by Chief Yarbrough to amend the 24 month requirement for completing the basic firefighter course back to 12 months to be in line with Georgia law. Also part of the motion was that the committee would make the recommendation for 24 months.

The motion was 2nd by Chief Marshall.

Discussion:

Director Pardue read from statute:

25-4-9: (a) Full-time, part-time, and volunteer firefighters, including airport firefighters, shall successfully complete a basic training course. The council shall determine the course content, number of hours, and all other matters relative to basic firefighter training, including airport rescue firefighter training. Upon satisfactory completion of such basic training, a firefighter shall be issued a certificate of completion evidencing the same. Each firefighter shall be required to successfully complete such basic training course within 12 months after being employed or appointed as a firefighter or, in the case of airport firefighters, within such time period as the council may prescribe by rule or regulation.

The committee discussed the need for possible legislation changes.

The vote was taken and was unanimous with two abstentions (Chief Clark and Mr. Jimmy Crawley)

The meeting to discuss departmental requirements was moved to May 20th.

Meeting adjourned.