

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON FIRE PROTECTION
MEETING MINUTES**

On November 21, 2024, Presiding Officer J.P. Steelman called the meeting of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection to order at 9:30 a.m. at 4800 N. Lamar Boulevard, Austin, Texas.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Chris Cantu	David Coatney	Kelly Vandygriff	Michael Glynn
Paul Hamilton	Bob Morgan	Tim Smith	Amanda Friedeck*
Daniel Buford	Michael Johnson	J. P. Steelman	Sue DeVillez*
Brandon Wade			

*Excused absence.

Staff in Attendance:

Mike Wisko	Frank King	Amanda Khan	Holden Wenger	Joyce Guinn	Justin Fowler
Rick Wallace	Grace Wilson	Yazzy Chavez	Piyush Manglani	Ashley Barnett	Annalise Beasley
Mo Adams	Robert Reese	Sanjay Gaikwad			

1. Call to order with an invocation and pledge of allegiance – a moment of silence was requested in remembrance of a recently fallen firefighter, the invocation was delivered, and the pledge of allegiance was led by Presiding Officer, J.P. Steelman.

2. Roll call for a quorum and excuse of commissioner absences, if any - the roll was called, and a quorum was present. A motion was made by Michael Glynn and seconded by David Coatney to excuse Amanda Friedeck and Sue DeVillez for their absences. The motion carried.

3. Approve Commission meeting minutes of the August 15, 2024 meeting – a motion was made by David Coatney and seconded by Tim Smith to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2024 meeting. The motion carried.

4. Report from the Budget and Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Subcommittee – no report was given.

5. Reports from fire service interest groups and agencies on matters relating to their specific organizational purposes, functions, activities, and objectives, including reports from TEEEX, the Texas Fire Chiefs Association, the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters, the Texas Fire Marshal's Association, the Texas Association of Fire Educators, the Texas A&M Forest Service, the National Fire Protection Association, Texas State Association of Fire and Emergency Districts, the Center for Public Safety Excellence, the State Fire Marshal's Office, and the Firefighter Cancer Support Network.

6. Report from the Commission representative to the Homeland Security Council – no report was given.

7. Discussion on future meeting dates – the dates for the 2025 Commission meetings were set as follows: February 19, 2025 - workshop, February 20, 2025 - Commission meeting, May 15, 2025 - Commission

meeting, August 20, 2025 - workshop, August 21, 2025 - Commission meeting, and November 20, 2025 – Commission meeting.

8. Subjects for future meetings – discussions for “near-miss” reporting including a presentation by the Austin Fire Department, 37 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 435 for injury reporting, 37 TAC, Chapter 439 on ADA testing accommodations.

9. A report and possible action from the Health and Wellness Committee – a brief report was provided by the Health and Wellness Committee Chair Doug Boeker.

10. Matters referred to the Commission from the Curriculum and Testing Committee:

A. Report and possible action from the Curriculum and Testing Committee – Curriculum and Testing Committee Chair Pat McAuliff gave a brief update on the Curriculum and Testing Committee.

B. Discussion and possible action concerning updates to the Ropes Curriculum Manual – a motion was made by Michael Glynn and seconded by Paul Hamilton to approve the updates to the Ropes Curriculum Manual. The motion carried.

C. Discussion and possible action on the Ropes Skills manual – no action was taken.

11. Matters referred to the Commission by the Firefighter Advisory Committee:

A. Discussion and possible action on the rule review of 37 TAC, Chapter 403, Criminal Convictions and Eligibility for Certifications – a motion was made by David Coatney and seconded by Brandon Wade to adopt the rule review without changes. The motion carried.

B. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed changes on the rule review of 37 TAC, Chapter 421, Standards for Certification – a motion was made by Michael Glynn and seconded by Kelly Vandygriff to table the rule review of 37 TAC, Chapter 421, Standards for Certification. The motion carried.

12. Discussion on the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) “Responding to the Interface” (WUI) training for Texas Firefighters – a presentation was given by IAFF representatives and there was a discussion regarding the need for this type of training for Texas firefighters.

13. Discussion and possible action on the proposed changes to 37 TAC, Chapter 449, Head of Fire Department – a motion was made by Tim Smith and seconded by David Coatney to adopt the proposed changes to 37 TAC, Chapter 449, Head of Fire Department. The motion carried.

14. Discussion and possible action on 37 TAC, Chapter 435, Fire Fighter Safety – a motion was made by Michael Glynn and seconded by David Coatney to table 37 TAC, Chapter 435, Fire Fighter Safety. The motion carried.

15. Proposed rule review of the following:

A. 37 TAC, Chapter 423, Fire Suppression

B. 37 TAC, Chapter 425, Fire Service Instructors

A motion was made by Tim Smith and seconded by Michael Glynn to send the above-mentioned rule reviews to the Firefighter Advisory Committee for review. The motion carried.

16. Report and possible action from the Ad Hoc Subcommittee regarding selecting and appointing candidates for current vacancies on Health and Wellness, Curriculum and Testing, and Firefighter Advisory Subcommittees. A list of candidate selections was presented for the above-mentioned committees (please see attached list). A motion was made by Paul Hamilton and seconded by Michael Glynn to approve the candidate lists as presented. The motion carried.

17. Discussion and possible action on public request concerning 37 TAC, Chapter 469, Technical Rescue – a motion was made by Kelly Vandygriff and seconded by David Coatney to approve the proposed changes to 37 TAC, Chapter 469, Technical Rescue for publication with the Texas Register. The motion carried.

18. Matters from the Agency Chief:

A. Update regarding agency duties and responsibilities – Agency Chief Mike Wisko gave a brief report regarding the agency duties and responsibilities.

B. Decision of the Agency Chief in contested cases and consent orders – there was nothing to report.

C. Status regarding division functions: - Agency Chief Mike Wisko gave a brief report on the division functions for each division as listed below:

- i. Training Approval & Testing - tests administered, training approvals, record reviews, and online training audits.
 - ii. Certification & Professional Development – training applications, IFSAC seals issued, certifications issued, training facilities, curriculum development, library resource requests.
 - iii. Compliance – biennial inspections, compliance officers training, issues involving regulated entities.
 - iv. Information Technology – public website design, FARM and FIDO improvements, CAPPS (Central Accounting Payroll/Personnel System), IT security policy, and service requests.
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19. Personnel matters regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, evaluation, reassignment, and duties of the Agency Chief – Chairman J.P. Steelman called for a closed session at 12.06 p.m. pursuant to Government Code Section 551.074 to discuss personnel matters regarding the Agency Chief. After discussing the personnel matters, the closed session ended, and Chairman Steelman reconvened the open session at 12.40 p.m. A motion was made by Michael Glynn and seconded by Daniel Buford to submit an exceptional

Legislative Appropriations Request to raise the maximum salary allowed for the Agency Chief to \$197,415.00 and to request the funding for such a raise. The motion carried.

20. Adjourn meeting – A motion was made by David Coatney and seconded by Brandon Wade to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

X

J.P. Steelman
Presiding Officer



Texas Commission on Fire Protection

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Greetings,

Below are the committee appointments made by the Commissioners during their Nov. 21, 2024 meeting. They also created an eligibility list that will be in effect for two years in the event any committee seats become vacant during that period.

Firefighter Advisory Committee

Eligibility List Est. Oct 2024

1. Tye Micah Prange – Appointed Nov 24
2. Shane Parker– Appointed Nov 24
3. Michael Silva– Appointed Nov 24
4. Robert Van Dine– Appointed Nov 24
5. Robert Ainsworth– Appointed Nov 24
6. Daniel DeYear– Appointed Nov 24
7. Charles Edwards– Appointed Jan 25
8. William Crews– Appointed Jan 25
9. James Short
10. Scott Thompson
11. Nicholas Hilton
12. Cameron Neilsen
13. Edward Guerrero
14. Rafael Reyes

This list will expire on Nov 31, 2026!

Firefighter Advisory Committee

Position 1 – 2024 – 2030 (Tye Micah Prange 2024)

Position 2 – 2025 – 2031 (Daniel DeYear 2008)

Position 3 – 2024 – 2030 (Michael Silva 2024)

Position 4 – 2024 – 2030 (Robert Van Dine 2024)

Position 5 – 2024 – 2030 (Robert Ainsworth 2024)

Position 6 – 2027 – 2033 (Vince Abrigo 2018)

Position 7 – 2027 – 2033 (Daniel Anderson 2018)

Position 8 – 2027 – 2033 (Antonio Ramos 2021)

Position 9 – 2024 – 2030 (Shane Parker 2024)

Position 10 – 2025 – 2031 (Charles Edwards 2025)

Position 11 – 2025 – 2031 (William Crews 2025)

Curriculum & Testing Committee

Eligibility List Est. Nov 2024

1. Richard Guisti– Appointed Nov 24
2. Louie Havens– Appointed Nov 24
3. Pat McAuliff– Appointed Nov 24
4. Dustin Brown– Appointed Nov 24
5. Desha Turner– Appointed Nov 24
6. John Tanner Morgan
7. Jacob Smith
8. Jonathan Tunnell
9. Megan Schuth
10. Lynwood Dunseith
11. Doug Foster
12. Jason Barnes

13. Devon Craig
14. Timothy Buhler
15. Cesar Cedena

This list will expire on Nov 31, 2026!

Curriculum & Testing Committee

Position 1 – 2024 – 2030 (Richard Guisti 2024)

Position 2 – 2025 – 2031 (Pat McAuliff 1989)

Position 3 – 2026 – 2032 (Sam Baucom 2017)

Position 4 – 2026 – 2032 (Chuck French 2008)

Position 5 – 2026 – 2032 (Chris Watson 2010)

Position 6 – 2027 – 2033 (Douglas Matthijetz 2022)

Position 7 – 2027 – 2033 (Martin Davila 2015)

Position 8 – 2027 – 2033 (Buddy Rice 2022)

Position 9 – 2024 – 2030 (Dustin Brown 2024)

Position 10 – 2025 – 2031 (Desha Turner 2025)

Position 11 – 2025 – 2031 (Louis Havens 2006)

Respectfully,

Mike Wisko

Mike Wisko

Agency Chief