

**Report to the:**  
**House Committee on Appropriations**  
**(Transportation & Public Safety Budget Committee)**  
**Kansas House of Representatives**  
**from:**  
**Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute**  
**The University of Kansas Continuing Education**

**Date Submitted:** January 24, 2011

**Report Submitted by:** Glenn Pribbenow, Director  
Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute  
University of Kansas Continuing Education

**Reporting Requirement:** KSA 75-1508d (as amended in 2003/2004 by SB 312): *"...The director of the fire service training program of the University of Kansas shall submit a report concerning expenditures and activities of the fire service training program of the University of Kansas to the House Committee on Appropriations on or before February 1, 2005, and each ensuing year thereafter..."*

**Fire Service Training Commission**

The Fire Service Training Commission (FSTC) was created by revisions to KSA 76-327 and continues to be engaged in operating the Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute. The FSTC meets quarterly to conduct business. In Fiscal Year 2010 three current members were reappointed by the Governor, three new members were appointed and one new member was appointed to complete a term due to resignation.

*Fire Service Training Commission Members (current)*

- Chair** Mark Bradford, Kansas Association of Professional Fire Chiefs
- Vice Chair** Bob Renton, International Association of Arson Investigators, Kansas Chapter
  
- Members** Kathy Elkins, Kansas State Council of Fire Fighters  
Kevin Flory, Kansas State Fire Fighters Association  
James Long, University of Kansas  
John Lloyd, Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs  
Rick Mosher, Fire Educators Association of Kansas  
Brenda McNorton, Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office  
Larry Pander, Kansas Community College Fire Training Programs  
Rodney Redinger, Kansas Forest Service, Kansas State University  
John Ralston, Board of EMS  
Mark Sweany, Kansas Fire Marshal's Association

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## Introduction

Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute is pleased to report a successful year of training Kansas firefighters. The Institute continued to introduce new programs designed to prepare firefighters for the rigors of responding to emergencies throughout Kansas. This report will highlight those improvements and ongoing efforts.

Financial challenges growing from the down economy and changes in the Fire Insurance Premium Tax distribution have affected our fiscal health. The Institute has been able to limit the impact on our programs.

The Institute will continue to operate with fiscally conservative posture to protect our ability to perform our vital mission of training Kansas firefighters.

## Instructional Program Improvements & Accomplishments

Within the last year the Institute has either initiated or completed a number of projects designed to improve our instructional efforts. Highlights of those efforts are:

***National Certification Program Reaccreditation*** – The Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute maintains accreditation from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and the National Board on Professional Fire Service Qualifications (NPQS) in order to issue National Certifications in 22 fire service disciplines and levels. Through the Institute's accreditation and a rigorous testing process, firefighters earn nationally recognized certifications. As part of the accreditation process, the Institute must undergo a reaccreditation site visit every five years.

In May of 2010 the Institute underwent a reaccreditation site visit from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress. During this site visit, an external team of three evaluators reviewed all program policies, practices, procedures and testing materials. Over 5,000 written test questions and well over 150 skills test sheets were also reviewed during this process. After the review was complete, the site team complimented the Institute on preparation and adherence to the accreditation criteria. Their recommendation to the IFSAC Board of Governors was for full reaccreditation. Official action and reaccreditation was granted by IFSAC at their fall board meeting in September, 2010.

Reaccreditation from the NPQS is due within the coming year. This site visit is expected in the spring of 2011 with reaccreditation soon thereafter.

***Core Course Review & Revision*** – In the spring of 2010 the Institute began a thorough review of courses commonly referred to as core courses. These courses include the basic courses for Firefighter, Fire Officer, Fire Instructor and Technical Rescue training. This review included the eight courses that constitute

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the majority of the requested topics during any given year. This review was specifically designed to identify and verify items for improvement in student performance. Reviews were conducted by four working groups; one for each of the course areas identified above.

Seven half-day sessions were held in which invited participants from fire departments throughout Kansas reviewed issues and discussed ways to improve the courses and outcomes. An extensive report was prepared for and delivered to the Fire Service Training Commission. The report focused on the findings and recommended actions. The Institute has been engaged in implementing those recommendations since early summer (2010). As with most comprehensive reviews, full implementation of all recommendations will extend into the coming months and perhaps years.

**Surface Water Rescue** – The Institute completed the pilot delivery of this two-day course that trains firefighters to rescue persons from floods and bodies of water. This course does not include rescue scenarios normally associated with swift water rescues (river rapids, etc.). Firefighters are trained to perform rescues from shore, boats and entering the water with the victim.

**National Certification Program Expansion** – The National Certification program expanded with the addition of Confined Space Rescue levels 1 and 2, and Rope Rescue levels 1 and 2. Along with these levels of national certification, the associated training courses for Confined Space and Rope Rescue were revised. This addition brings the total number certification disciplines/levels available through our program to 22.

### **Financial Matters**

The financial status of the Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute remained healthy during Fiscal Year 2010. Fire Insurance Premium Tax revenues grew modestly during FY 2010 (Institutes allocation up \$68,542). With the increase in operating costs for fuel, materials and labor, current funding and expense levels are virtually the same.

Funds for replacement of training props and equipment will require identification of new funds in the future. Funding for any new equipment to serve the growing mission of the fire service will also have to be identified. KSA 76-327 requires the Institute to provide a *“traveling instructional service”* and *“training in appropriate subject matter related to fire service professional responsibilities and such other instruction as will provide the municipalities with better trained firefighters.”* These requirements make the mobility provided by the training props and expansion of training programs/topics to meet expanding fire department training needs essential.

Since FY 2003 the Institute has been able to fund equipment and program growth from within our allotted portion of the Fire Insurance Premium Tax. With the growth in demand for training and the *“cost of doing business,”* our ability to fund equipment and expansion expenses at existing and projected funding levels will be very limited.

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## Equipment and Infrastructure Improvements

**¾ Ton Tow Vehicle** – This vehicle was purchased to replace an aging ½ ton pickup. The ½ ton pickup was undersized for the weight of the trailers we tow and was at the end of its service life. Purchase amount \$34,090.

**14' Equipment Trailers** – Two 14' trailers were purchased to house equipment for the Surface Water Rescue and Rural Water Supply courses developed in FY 2009. Purchase amount: \$9,000 (total for both trailers).

**Search Camera** – The Institute was one of the recipients of specialized search cameras purchased by the Adjutant Generals department for rescue teams throughout Kansas. The camera we received is a shared resource with the Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical in that the camera is housed on a fire department rescue truck and is ready to respond to rescue incidents. The Institute will borrow the camera for training courses and return it to Lawrence FD at the conclusion of the class. Purchase amount: \$-0-.

**Surface Water Rescue Equipment** – Equipment in support of the Surface Water Rescue class developed in 2009 was purchased. These purchases completed the inventory in support of this class. Purchase amount: \$13,920.

**Rural Water Supply Equipment** – During FY 2010 the Institute completed the purchase of equipment to support the new Rural Water Supply course developed in FY 2009/2010. This equipment included portable water tanks, hose, and appliances necessary to conduct a Water Shuttle Operation. The total amount for this equipment was \$16,750.

**Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus** – The Institute purchased eight (8) Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus to be used by instructors teaching in our Live Structural Firefighting Simulator and the Flammable Liquids and Gases unit. This purchase also included spare air cylinders and an assortment of masks required to fit different instructors. These breathing apparatus replaced an aging and outdated set of apparatus that no longer met the standards. A program through the Scott Health and Safety Company made these apparatus available at ½ the anticipated cost. The total purchase amount was \$44,940.

## Fire Service Training Commission Annual Report to the Fire Service

The Annual Report to the Fire Service as required by KSA 76-327 is attached for your information. This report contains an overview of the training statistics and activities of the Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute, University of Kansas Continuing Education for FY 2010.

**Attachment:** 2010 Annual Report to the Fire Service, from the Fire Service Training Commission and the Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute, KU.

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