

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
2 COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL  
3 COMMISSION MEETING  
4

5 HELD ON: OCTOBER 29, 2024  
6 TIME: 9:37 A.M.  
7 LOCATION: CONNECTICUT FIRE ACADEMY  
8 34 PERIMETER ROAD,  
9 WINDSOR LOCKS, CONNECTICUT

8 **H e l d B e f o r e:**

9 VICE CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. KOWALSKI  
10 COMMISSIONER WILLIAM ABBOTT  
11 COMMISSIONER PETER BUONOME  
12 COMMISSIONER KEVIN IDE  
13 COMMISSIONER ROBERT V. NORTON, JR.\*  
14 COMMISSIONER RAUL ORTIZ  
15 COMMISSIONER CHARLES M. STANKYE, III\*  
16 COMMISSIONER DANIEL TOMPKINS\*  
17 COMMISSIONER HARRY JOHN TULIER\*  
18 COMMISSIONER TIMOTHY S. WALL\*

15 **\*Present via Teams**

16 **Commission staff in attendance:**

17 Jeffrey J. Morrisette, State Fire Administrator  
18 David Clark, Director of Certification  
19 PAUL J. Norwood (PJ), Director of Training\*  
20 Kara Raffia Ouellette, Administrative Assistant  
21 to Fire Administrator

20 **\*Present via Teams**

21 **Appearance:**

22 Captain Michael Eremita, City of Hartford Fire  
23 Department

24  
25 **Reporter: Lisa L. Warner, CSR #061**

1 (Commenced at 9:37 a.m.)

2 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Okay. I think  
3 we have a quorum, so if we could all stand,  
4 please, for the Pledge of Allegiance.

5 (The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

6 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Please  
7 continue to stand for a few minutes. Also,  
8 unfortunately put to rest yesterday, Firefighter  
9 Rob Sharkevich, Sr. from Wethersfield for line of  
10 duty. And unfortunately last evening Connecticut  
11 sustained another hero's death, line of duty,  
12 Assistant Chief Gary Blomberg from Botsford Fire  
13 Department who was struck by a vehicle while  
14 attending a meeting. Can we have a moment of  
15 silence, please.

16 (A moment of silence was observed.)

17 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Thank you.  
18 Also, there will be a -- Chief Blomberg's body  
19 will be moved from the medical examiner's office  
20 sometime today for those departments that are  
21 going to assist with the travel route to show  
22 respect, just to put it out there.

23 We have no guests this morning. We  
24 have, I think, Chief Bollas (phonetic) is online.  
25 No?

1 MS. OUELLETTE: He's our fake account.

2 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Fake account,  
3 cool. All right. That threw me off a little bit.

4 (Laughter.)

5 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: So we have no  
6 introduction of guests, so we'll go to Item Number  
7 2, approval of the minutes of September 24, 2020,  
8 the meeting minutes as distributed.

9 COMMISSIONER IDE: Motion to approve as  
10 read.

11 COMMISSIONER ABBOTT: I'll second.  
12 Abbott.

13 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: All in favor?

14 THE COMMISSION: Aye.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: So moved.

18 Committee reports: Staff reports for  
19 September 15th to October 14th as distributed.

20 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: Motion to accept  
21 approval.

22 COMMISSIONER IDE: Second.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Any questions  
24 or comments?

25 (No response.)

1                   VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI:   Seeing none,  
2 all in favor?

3                   THE COMMISSION:   Aye.

4                   VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI:   So moved.

5                   Item Number 4, unfinished business,  
6 DESPP budget/staffing update.   Jeff.

7                   MR. MORRISSETTE:   Just on the budget a  
8 couple of items.   We did finally receive our  
9 divisional budget probably about two to three  
10 weeks ago.   So we've begun to make expenditures  
11 out of the general fund rather than our special  
12 funds, which is very important because our  
13 biweekly payroll for instructors is pretty  
14 significant with the recruit class, so that will  
15 be very helpful to us to defer some of the  
16 spending to the general fund.

17                   Also, we've been advised that they have  
18 put the request for bond funds for the replacement  
19 engine one that was totaled last August, last July  
20 and last August.   So we're hopeful that that will  
21 move forward.   I know our fiscal office has been  
22 having discussions with OPM on that.   I was  
23 advised it would be, the request was for January.  
24 My only concern is they typically cancel the  
25 January meeting.   So they normally do a special

1 one just prior to the Christmas holiday. I always  
2 say that's the Christmas giving season. And then  
3 I know in the current calendar year I don't  
4 believe there were any bond meetings, January,  
5 February, March, maybe even into April.

6 So that's my only concern. I'm happy  
7 they at least acknowledged it and they are moving  
8 forward with the balance of funding for a  
9 replacement vehicle, but hoping the timing will  
10 work out or that that will be addressed  
11 appropriately.

12 From a staffing perspective, Dave  
13 Clark's processing technician has been out on  
14 medical leave, although working from home as she  
15 recovers. However, there's been some complication  
16 so it is possible she could put in for retirement.  
17 So we'll be monitoring that. So as quickly as a  
18 decision is made, we can move forward to address  
19 any potential vacancy as it relates in that area.  
20 So that's budget and staffing.

21 Any questions?

22 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Any questions  
23 or comments?

24 (No response.)

25 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Seeing none

1 online. Item Number B, Education Committee  
2 update.

3 MR. MORRISSETTE: Maybe I'll ask  
4 Commissioner Stankye to speak on this. The  
5 committee did meet at the Fairfield Fire School  
6 last month. And Chuck, I don't know if you want  
7 to give a quick update from your perspective.

8 COMMISSIONER STANKYE: We did meet in  
9 Fairfield and Commissioner Higgins was there, and  
10 it was a very, very fruitful meeting.

11 Commissioner Higgins was very acceptable to, he  
12 listened to all concerns of all schools'  
13 instructors and was receptive to the idea. And  
14 personally, I can't speak for anybody else, but  
15 personally I took away from there that the  
16 Commissioner is truly concerned about the fire  
17 service and fire training in the State of  
18 Connecticut. And I feel that we have a  
19 commissioner now that is on our side somewhat and  
20 has done very well.

21 On the school side, you know, everybody  
22 brought forward their concerns, and there was no  
23 pushback whatsoever. The Commissioner was  
24 acceptable to all the concerns, brought some of  
25 his own ideas to the table. And one good thing

1 that he said is that he wants to visit each single  
2 regional fire school.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Okay.

4 MR. MORRISSETTE: And who is joining  
5 us? Who just joined us?

6 COMMISSIONER WALL: Tim Wall by phone  
7 on the computer.

8 MR. MORRISSETTE: Thank you,  
9 Commissioner Wall.

10 So just one quick follow-up to that,  
11 and I believe we spoke a little bit about it at  
12 our last Commission meeting, is that each of the  
13 regional schools was asked to submit any budget  
14 adjustment proposals for the biennium budget  
15 package from the agency. So I did package those  
16 up and submitted them through fiscal with the  
17 individual justifications as provided by the  
18 schools.

19 There were a few schools that did not  
20 request any adjustment. A number of them received  
21 sizable adjustments in the current fiscal year, so  
22 not everybody had requested an adjustment. But  
23 those that had, we did get those submitted as well  
24 as we provided each of the individual  
25 justifications. I didn't rewrite those, just

1 provided them as was presented to us. So that  
2 should be part of the agency's package moving  
3 forward.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Any questions  
5 or comments?

6 (No response.)

7 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Hearing none,  
8 we'll move on.

9 Do you want to report? PJ is not  
10 online. So did you have anything to report on  
11 Item C?

12 MR. MORRISSETTE: So just quickly under  
13 Item C, Training Unit Update. As it relates to  
14 the High School Pathways Program, we have made  
15 multiple calls to Keith Norton, who's in charge of  
16 strategic planning for the Department of  
17 Education. We had provided his admin, a lot of  
18 the background, and made multiple calls requesting  
19 him to contact us to set up a meeting. And we've  
20 not had that return call as of yet. So we'll  
21 continue to chip away at that.

22 I do know Commissioner Higgins was  
23 meeting with the education commissioner and was  
24 going to relay to her a little bit of background  
25 on the pathways program. So my last call to the

1 director of strategic planning was we're not  
2 trying to back door you going straight to the  
3 Commissioner, but it was an opportunity to at  
4 least have a one-on-one between our agency  
5 commissioner and his commissioner. So, you know,  
6 I'm not sure if that had any effect of no  
7 callback, but anyway, we will follow up on that.

8 As it relates to the OSHA 1910.156  
9 proposal, as you're aware, the updated or revised  
10 1910.126 proposal was open for public comment  
11 between February 5th and July 22nd. There is a  
12 public hearing scheduled for November 12th. I  
13 don't know if that will actually be extended  
14 because I believe they're getting a lot of  
15 requests for space at the hearing, and then  
16 there's also a post-hearing component for comments  
17 as well. So this continues to chug forward. You  
18 know, it will be very interesting. The November  
19 12th event should be open to the public. So once  
20 we have a link to that, if anybody has time and  
21 wants to listen in to those testifying, it may be  
22 helpful to at least get a basis for what's  
23 occurring.

24 Also, PJ has joined us on the call, so  
25 he's actually staffing the EOC for us. It was

1 actually activated. There was a lot of activity  
2 Saturday all day, and they finally activated  
3 Sunday. So we've had staff down there, Nick  
4 Cabral for a couple days, and PJ went yesterday  
5 mid-morning and is there again today, so we'll  
6 begin setting up a schedule for coverage. It's  
7 12-hour operational periods for the foreseeable  
8 future due to the continued red flag warnings and  
9 significant fire issues throughout the state.

10 So PJ, any additional updates regarding  
11 training you'd like to present?

12 MR. NORWOOD: Good morning, everybody.  
13 Sorry I was a little late. As Jeff said, I am at  
14 SEOC. I have nothing significant to report  
15 outside of our report that was previously  
16 submitted.

17 And I just want to thank the CFPC  
18 subcommittee who has been meeting on the  
19 instructor raises that we discussed last month.  
20 That's a critical item for us that we discussed.  
21 And I appreciate the attention and the input from  
22 the Commissioners and look forward to continued  
23 forward progress.

24 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Okay.

25 MR. MORRISSETTE: Do you want to talk a

1 little bit about the ban on live fire training? I  
2 don't know if you're getting calls down there as a  
3 result of that.

4 MR. NORWOOD: Yeah, absolutely. So as  
5 of today, I don't have any additional requests  
6 that we, to the requests that came in yesterday  
7 from the CFA recruit program. And Jeff, I believe  
8 you mentioned one in Stamford. We had, the issue  
9 arose yesterday with Sikorsky and looking to do a  
10 burn demo, which they are doing today, which was  
11 approved by the local fire marshal. The state  
12 does not have authoritative jurisdiction on  
13 non-state property, but they do have jurisdiction  
14 over state property, state forests and those types  
15 of facilities.

16 So therefore, we are in this  
17 predicament of live fire training within the  
18 regional school level at our state property, but I  
19 do foresee some requests coming in and the  
20 potential for training to take place through the  
21 State Fire Administrator with consultation with DC  
22 Brenda Bergeron. I'm not sure if any Class A will  
23 be allowed, but I foresee some potential  
24 agreements to Class B fires being done in a safe  
25 manner, but I don't have a resolution on that.

1           But what it comes down to for local  
2 fire marshal approval and outside of the state  
3 fire ban, the question that I would have for the  
4 CFPC Commission is for facilities such as the  
5 Connecticut Fire Academy being a state property,  
6 is that the jurisdiction of the local fire marshal  
7 or the state fire marshal's office of who those  
8 requests need to go through.

9           VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: We have Bill  
10 Abbott here, and he might be able to answer that  
11 question for you.

12           COMMISSIONER ABBOTT: I would say state  
13 property, so it should go through our office.

14           MR. NORWOOD: Received. Thank you. So  
15 Jeff, that will be something we'll need to meet  
16 after this meeting on to look at that request from  
17 the CFA Recruit Program. They are looking for  
18 authorization to burn beginning next week on  
19 Monday in Litchfield County and as an alternate  
20 plan to burn Class B on the CFA campus.  
21 Obviously, the goal would be to Class A, but they  
22 can meet the JPRs necessary for the recruit  
23 required graduation utilizing Class B.

24           MR. MORRISSETTE: Yes, we did talk  
25 prior to the meeting in a little detail, and we'll

1 do some follow-up, and it will need to be done in  
2 concert with the Commissioner as well. Because I  
3 know in my discussions with him last evening, he  
4 had concerns with the Stratford activity going on  
5 today, although I think they came out with a very  
6 solid plan that would address any other concerns.

7 MR. NORWOOD: Agree. And from the  
8 recruit perspective, as you know, that's a big  
9 animal, big machine to move to Litchfield. So if  
10 that's going to occur, we would prefer some  
11 decisions on that today so we could make  
12 adjustments to the schedule calendar and our  
13 instructor hiring and all the logistics.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Okay. Any  
15 other questions?

16 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: On that note with  
17 the live burns, how does that affect the local  
18 jurisdictions that are doing their own recruit  
19 programs?

20 MR. MORRISSETTE: Well, that would fall  
21 to the local authority having jurisdiction, I  
22 would think your city/town burn official, you,  
23 fire marshal, public health director, whoever that  
24 may be.

25 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: So as far as

1 having -- because obviously the recruit class  
2 there has to be an audit for the live burn --

3 MR. MORRISSETTE: Right.

4 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: -- by the state.  
5 How does that affect it?

6 MR. MORRISSETTE: Well, again, from a  
7 local approval perspective, if it was approved, we  
8 would continue to schedule the audit as originally  
9 planned.

10 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: All right. So in  
11 New Britain we had it scheduled in Wolcott, the  
12 Wolcott Fire School for a burn.

13 MR. MORRISSETTE: So that's on local,  
14 on town property, I believe, correct?

15 COMMISSIONER ABBOTT: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: Okay. So we have  
17 to check with their personnel?

18 MR. MORRISSETTE: Right. And we can  
19 share some elements of what Brian Hurst has put  
20 together in terms of a request for a variance, if  
21 you will. I'm not sure if that's the appropriate  
22 word or not. And I just had, I think, one  
23 additional item to add to his, but, you know,  
24 somewhat straight forward. Our's is what, six  
25 days, PJ?

1 MR. CLARK: Yeah, six days of burning,  
2 130 instructors.

3 MR. MORRISSETTE: Right, right. So,  
4 you know, I'm not sure what your schedule is. You  
5 obviously have a smaller group of people.

6 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: Right.

7 MR. CLARK: And we have three burn  
8 audits scheduled to get all the recruits through.

9 MR. MORRISSETTE: So we may be able to  
10 come up with some guidance to help you. I think  
11 it's all common sense. There's no secret. And a  
12 lot of this is optics, I hate to say, but, you  
13 know, I think we all need to be concerned with  
14 that as public safety professionals.

15 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: Okay. Thank you.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: But I also  
17 wanted to add too that using the Class B building  
18 is more of a realistic approach than the Class A  
19 building and still meet the second mode of skill  
20 requirements, correct?

21 MR. CLARK: Yes.

22 MR. NORWOOD: Yes, I would agree that's  
23 the better option from a safety and an optics  
24 perspective, because optics unfortunately are  
25 important, but the downside of that is going to be

1 sending out, you know, 54 recruits to I believe  
2 it's 20 or 21 departments but not seeing, prevent  
3 any Class A fires. Plan C, if we go to, you know,  
4 Class B only, would be potentially to work with  
5 Brian Hurst to see if we can at least coordinate  
6 one day for each, half the class, it would be two  
7 days of burning just before the graduation. But  
8 again, the issue that we have is, the biggest  
9 issue we have is staffing to overcome on that  
10 short notice to get that sheer number of  
11 instructors that we would need. But if we end up  
12 with Class B, that would be something I would look  
13 to encourage Brian Hurst to try to develop and put  
14 together for later in the program. I would hate  
15 to send all those recruits out to the field  
16 without ever experiencing a Class A fire.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Correct.

18 MR. CLARK: The Class B building does  
19 meet all the requirements for the certification  
20 standpoint that if they were to use that building  
21 it would be totally acceptable.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Okay. All  
23 right. Very good. Any other questions from the  
24 internet crowd?

25 (No response.)

1           VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Thank you, PJ,  
2 for signing on. I know you're busy down there.  
3 Good luck.

4           MR. NORWOOD: Thank you.

5           VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: All right.  
6 Item D, Certification Unit. Dave.

7           MR. CLARK: I went to Tulsa to get our  
8 reaccreditation certificate. Jeff is having it  
9 framed so that we can hang it somewhere on the  
10 wall.

11          MR. MORRISSETTE: Yeah, that was one of  
12 their findings. We didn't have their previous one  
13 hanging in this room where they were working at.  
14 So we'll make sure we have that addressed.

15          MR. CLARK: Only one person had an  
16 issue with it, but we don't have to deal with them  
17 for another five years.

18                 In addition to my report, I've  
19 developed an apparatus operator promotional exam  
20 for East Hartford, proctored that. They have made  
21 their promotions. And outside of my report, we  
22 had a request for a Fire Officer I certification  
23 posthumously for a firefighter. He passed away  
24 from cancer before he could test. He finished the  
25 class, and between the end of class and testing he

1 passed away. So the request was made that could  
2 we issue him his certificate posthumously.

3 In speaking with Jeff, we came up with  
4 a certificate. It looks like every other  
5 certificate. The only exception is the IFSAC or  
6 ProBoard seals are not on it. So we did not issue  
7 an IFSAC or ProBoard number that would count  
8 against our issuance of certificates. It was sent  
9 to Mark Waters. They were having it framed. They  
10 were going to present it to Robert Branch was the  
11 individual's name.

12 And after discussions with Jeff and  
13 putting the certificate together, I'll be  
14 developing a policy going forward. This is, I  
15 believe, the second or third time that a request  
16 like this has come in. I would have a hard time  
17 saying no they didn't earn it, they can't have it.  
18 But we've developed a policy so that if we do get  
19 a request we say, okay, we can do this type of  
20 certificate and have no issues with our  
21 accrediting boards.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: I certainly  
23 think consistency is the important part.

24 MR. MORRISSETTE: Yes.

25 MR. CLARK: And I have a copy of the

1 certificate that was issued, holding onto that in  
2 a file, with the copy of the certificate and the  
3 policy so that we have it going forward.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Any questions  
5 or comments?

6 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: Good idea.

7 COMMISSIONER WALL: Commissioner Wall.  
8 Do we have to make a motion on that or just accept  
9 it?

10 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: I think we  
11 just need to accept that. Once the policy is  
12 written and comes out, we can make a motion on  
13 that and enter that into the record, if that's  
14 okay with everyone here.

15 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: Thanks for doing  
16 that, David.

17 MR. CLARK: You're welcome.

18 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Thanks, David.

19 MR. CLARK: You're welcome.

20 MR. MORRISSETTE: And just to cite, I  
21 did get a text from Karen Boisvert at the police  
22 academy late yesterday, and they do not have a  
23 policy.

24 MR. CLARK: Okay.

25 MR. MORRISSETTE: She believes state

1 police may.

2 MR. CLARK: All right. We'll have to  
3 check.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Okay. Item E,  
5 Learning Management System.

6 MR. CLARK: Yeah. The Learning  
7 Management System is running, going fairly well.  
8 PJ can add to that. But it seems to be working  
9 out okay so far. The bugs have been mostly worked  
10 out, at least on the certification side. As far  
11 as the historical records for training, the last  
12 anyone has heard from Jim Alonzo was the 20th of  
13 September where he met with the Acadis people.

14 MR. MORRISSETTE: Tell us who Jim  
15 Alonzo is.

16 MR. CLARK: Jim Alonzo is the person  
17 that runs 4D, our legacy system. The last anyone  
18 heard from him was, again, September 20th. He met  
19 with the Acadis people. They talked about  
20 parameters and what data points they were looking  
21 for, and he has since gone dark again. So Mikael  
22 Dodge from Acadis is going to be reaching out to  
23 him, and we should probably have either Jeff or  
24 Kara reach out to him again and say we need to  
25 keep this going. But right now we're status quo

1 as far as the historical training documents coming  
2 over.

3 PJ, do you have anything you want to  
4 add for Acadis?

5 MR. NORWOOD: Just briefly. We have  
6 done some evaluations, as Jeff has reported, of  
7 two additional modules. The certification  
8 division has a request for a new module as well as  
9 the training division, but both had an added cost.  
10 So I know Jeff was doing an analysis of those two  
11 modules to see what's the best option to go  
12 forward. Recently we've spent some time with the  
13 Acadis staff to try to build out our Winter Fire  
14 School for 2025 for February 21, 22, 23. We're  
15 trying to look at a way where we charge one  
16 nominal fee for an entire day of classes. So a  
17 member of the fire service, public safety would  
18 come for the day and attend as many or as few  
19 classes they want for one fee, but that proved to  
20 be extremely challenging for the system. So we're  
21 looking at charging an even smaller fee that will  
22 be equal if somebody was to attend all three  
23 classes for the Winter Fire School. We are in, I  
24 guess you could say, negotiations with Jeff on  
25 what that will actually look like, and I'm sure

1 that he will report out on that when he's ready.

2 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Okay. Any  
3 other questions?

4 (No response.)

5 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Hearing none.  
6 I don't see Nick on this morning. He was invited.

7 MR. MORRISSETTE: And I did call him  
8 and left him a message and said we haven't heard  
9 from you in many months, you're more than welcome.  
10 And he receives the link as well. So I don't know  
11 where he's at.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Well, we'll  
13 keep it on the agenda and hopefully have some  
14 positive results in the future.

15 Item G.

16 MR. MORRISSETTE: You know, maybe I can  
17 just report, and I don't have a lot of details  
18 right now. Obviously there is a lot of  
19 coordination going on in advance of the election a  
20 week from today, right, a week from today, in  
21 terms of there's teams being established for quick  
22 response teams. And it's not really for general  
23 public knowledge, and obviously we don't have any  
24 members of the public here, but they're going to  
25 have on a regional perspective both bomb squad as

1 well as HAZMAT team representatives or quick  
2 response teams be able to go out and address any,  
3 you know, swatting calls, any powder, any concerns  
4 that are going out throughout the state. So  
5 they'll be on standby at various locations  
6 throughout the state ready to go out to address  
7 those issues. I'm sure there will be a final  
8 coordination meeting prior to Tuesday, but they've  
9 been meeting and planning so it appears as if  
10 those groups are set and ready to go, if at all  
11 needed.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Okay. Thank  
13 you. Item G, the Take-Back Program.

14 MR. MORRISSETTE: So for the current  
15 fiscal year we're up to 12 requests for  
16 reimbursement. I believe probably 11 of the 12  
17 have been paid out so far, \$168,109.73. That  
18 accounts for 28 fire apparatus and 1,234 gallons  
19 of foam. Still waiting for two or three large  
20 ones that have been promised for sometime. So  
21 those might be around 100,000 each. So we're  
22 processing them as we're getting them. We still  
23 have a significant amount of money. I get that  
24 call as communities are making arrangements.  
25 There's plenty of money. I don't think we're

1 going to be concerned with not getting through the  
2 fiscal year with a little over 2 million remaining  
3 in the account.

4           Also, the foam trailers, the final two  
5 of the eight have been deployed. So all the  
6 legacy units are, all eight legacy units are here  
7 on our property. We're just waiting for a  
8 coordination meeting with DEEP. From initial  
9 discussions, it appears they will have money.  
10 They're just trying to get internal approval to  
11 use a pot of money that they have because I can't  
12 use our money for it, unfortunately, to accomplish  
13 the drain/rinse of those trailers.

14           Really what I'd like to see, as I  
15 mentioned before, is just have the tanks and the  
16 piping removed as well and then just keep the base  
17 trailer chassis available for repurposing for a  
18 variety of reasons, both within our agency as well  
19 as we've had some external requests for those if  
20 they go to surplus. So they're in good shape, but  
21 we just want to dispose of the AFFF product before  
22 we get into the hard freeze season.

23           Also, with the delivery of the final  
24 two, which were deployed to Waterbury and Winsted,  
25 we did hold a training program at the New Haven

1 Regional Fire School I think a couple of weeks ago  
2 now. So that was the second of the training  
3 programs we've done for the host communities, so  
4 more or less it was a refresher. And that was  
5 conducted by Combat Support Products, the vendor.  
6 Unfortunately, they delivered a unit to Bradley  
7 Airport as well. They had scheduled training with  
8 them.

9 So unfortunately the day of our  
10 training, he actually came up to Windsor Locks.  
11 Everybody was waiting down in New Haven. So it  
12 was delayed about an hour or so. Our apologies to  
13 those communities. His training here at Bradley  
14 was the next day. So he extended his regrets for  
15 that scheduling error. We felt bad because  
16 communities sent multiple personnel each  
17 typically, so a lot of people were idle for about  
18 an hour. So at least that has occurred.

19 DEEP is probably going to do some type  
20 of a press event or at least a press release to  
21 acknowledge the milestone. In addition, we're  
22 working on a communication protocol and looking at  
23 trying to secure either portable or mobile radios  
24 for a communications plan. So those radios would  
25 be dedicated to the tow vehicles or to, you know,

1 if it's a portable, just to have available for the  
2 response. So that's kind of been a missing  
3 element for a little bit of time. But we're  
4 working through that with our CTS unit within the  
5 agency as well as with DEEP.

6 So any questions?

7 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Thank you.

8 Any other comments?

9 (No response.)

10 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: None. Thanks.

11 Okay. Fire Service Data Collection  
12 Project.

13 MR. MORRISSETTE: Just on the LAH, we  
14 continue to --

15 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: I'm sorry,  
16 LAH.

17 MR. MORRISSETTE: -- make  
18 reimbursements. I don't have an updated number  
19 for you, but I believe they are probably two or  
20 three months behind on reimbursement. So claims  
21 are coming in fast and furious. They're not held  
22 up here. We process them typically, what, every  
23 couple of weeks a batch goes down to our  
24 headquarters. But there are several batches in  
25 arrears, and making those, it's just a staffing

1 issue.

2 Our agency does have a new fiscal  
3 director who we had an -- she came here last  
4 week -- had an opportunity to meet with her and  
5 identify all of the issues that we felt we had.  
6 And she really was a breath of fresh air, I think.  
7 She had a lot of great ideas to address some of  
8 the long-standing concerns and issues, you know,  
9 and little things even, trying to revive the  
10 prison labor program, which would be ideal. We  
11 haven't had that in probably five or six years  
12 where we used to have regular Department of  
13 Corrections inmate labor to perform a variety of  
14 things. If we could restore that back, we would  
15 be in exceptional shape.

16 So she actually originally was with  
17 DOC, so she knows that agency very well, and most  
18 recently comes from Department of Children and  
19 Families. So we look forward to working with her  
20 and hopefully addressing that backlog in LAH  
21 claims.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Any questions  
23 on that?

24 (No response.)

25 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: I have a quick

1 question. Once we get the documents in, do we  
2 tally an amount, an approximate amount?

3 MR. MORRISSETTE: Yes.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Are we  
5 typically ahead or behind last year, do you have  
6 any idea?

7 MR. MORRISSETTE: I haven't looked at  
8 it yet. We'll probably take a closer look once we  
9 get to the January, you know, the mid fiscal year  
10 point. You know, things can escalate very rapidly  
11 in the wintertime with accidents, even in the good  
12 weather there's so many accidents and events on  
13 highways.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: All right.  
15 Now Fire Service Data Collection Project.

16 MR. MORRISSETTE: No real update on  
17 that. As I mentioned previously, we did submit  
18 the request for the \$300,000 as a budget option as  
19 a safety. Also, as we were requested, we'll  
20 circle back to OPM probably next week because they  
21 had indicated that they were going to do a reset  
22 on the ARPA funds and they would see if there was  
23 a balance that is out there that we might be able  
24 to piggyback back on. Originally they took the  
25 ARPA funding away. But depending on the balance

1 and the need to expend those funds, hopefully  
2 we'll get an answer if that's a viable option,  
3 possibly even as early as next week. Otherwise,  
4 we'll keep our fingers crossed.

5 And quite frankly, I think the events  
6 that are going on currently, especially with the  
7 long duration brush wildfire events occurring  
8 here, I think it just really puts an exclamation  
9 point on the whole issue of sustainability and  
10 ability for especially, you know, if 60 to 70  
11 percent of our fire departments are volunteer.  
12 You know, look at what Berlin has had to try to  
13 accomplish for the past week and a half or so.  
14 That's not sustainable. Fire departments can't  
15 provide the staffing. So obviously Connecticut  
16 has gone outside for help through EMAC requests  
17 typically.

18 So PJ probably has more of an idea of  
19 what assets are in the state, but I know Sunday  
20 night FDNY Incident Management Team is here now to  
21 take over the IMT responsibilities from our state  
22 IMT teams. And even the IMT teams couldn't staff  
23 a full team, they had to do a hybrid approach and  
24 take representatives from the various IMTs to make  
25 up a single IMT. So these long duration events

1 are not sustainable for Connecticut. And as we  
2 lose people and the fire service seems to be aging  
3 out, if you will, you know, there are some serious  
4 concerns. And I think this whole issue with the  
5 data collection is very important as well as the  
6 strategic plan that PJ will report quickly on.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Any questions  
8 in reference to that?

9 (No response.)

10 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Okay. Hearing  
11 none, Item J, Statewide Fire Service Strategic  
12 Plan.

13 MR. NORWOOD: Good morning. Good  
14 morning again. So I'm not sure if you can hear me  
15 okay.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Yes, we're  
17 good.

18 MR. NORWOOD: I spoke with the DAS  
19 representative today. They are prepared to make  
20 an award, hopefully, this week. It's just working  
21 its way through the legal process. The committee  
22 has selected one of the bidders on the RFP, and we  
23 are looking forward to getting moving and working  
24 on that very soon. Unfortunately, because it has  
25 not completed all the legal checks and balances

1 just yet, I cannot report on what company that is  
2 or any additional details, but I should have the  
3 information that I can share directly with Jeff  
4 before the end of the week that he can then share  
5 with the Commission.

6 MR. MORRISSETTE: And then the second  
7 piece of that is, this is phase one of a two phase  
8 project. So once the initial reporting is  
9 received, then we would have to move forward with  
10 a new scope of work for a phase two for the  
11 project.

12 MR. NORWOOD: Yes, that's correct,  
13 Jeff. So the first RFP that was sent out was  
14 issued no award and the committee met. And after  
15 a reevaluation and looking at the scope of work as  
16 far as the budgeted dollars, we found that we were  
17 not able to meet the data collection and the  
18 strategic plan as one scope of work. So the  
19 committee determined to separate that out into two  
20 scopes of work, and the first piece is the data  
21 collection, which we will be awarding this week,  
22 and then we will be going back to look for  
23 additional funding for a second scope of work that  
24 will be the actual strategic plan which will be  
25 based off of the data collection in phase one.

1                   VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI:   Are there any  
2 questions in reference to that?

3                   (No response.)

4                   VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI:   Seeing none.  
5 Thank you, PJ.

6                   Item K, the AFG Program update.

7                   MR. MORRISSETTE:   Yeah.   So FEMA is  
8 reporting the tentative grant open date will be  
9 October 4th, coming up very quickly, with a close  
10 date of December 13th.   Again, that's tentative  
11 depending on national impacts of FEMA staffing to  
12 hurricanes and other events, but that's kind of  
13 what's on the radar screen.   And the SAFER period  
14 is tentatively scheduled December 16th through  
15 January 31st of '25.   So it's our plan to move  
16 forward with what we had proposed to you last  
17 month with the, for lack of better words, our  
18 mobile washing machine.

19                   VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI:   Any questions  
20 on the AFG?

21                   (No response.)

22                   VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI:   Any other  
23 unfinished business?

24                   (No response.)

25                   VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI:   I'm not sure

1 if it's unfinished or not. I want to add to that  
2 to congratulate Commissioner Wall on his  
3 reappointment to the Commission. The Governor has  
4 reappointed him for the next period, which I  
5 believe will be over June 30th, is what I assumed,  
6 in accordance with the new statute.

7 I want to reaffirm to everyone just to  
8 make sure everybody understands they need to go,  
9 if you're seeking reappointment, to go back to  
10 your organization and request that reappointment  
11 and schedule the letters in early, prior to July  
12 1st, so that the timing is correct.

13 Commissioner Buonome.

14 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: Commissioner, I  
15 believe we have new organizations now. I think we  
16 have the career chiefs, we have the state chiefs,  
17 and then we have -- there's a couple of new  
18 organizations.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: We can send  
20 out the actual list as it was disseminated to us.  
21 I think you have it.

22 MR. MORRISSETTE: Yes.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: We just sent  
24 that out to explain, as we've said in the past,  
25 Jeff may have to buy some more chairs. And we're

1 still seeking, the comment that we requested that  
2 we keep the quorum the same to make sure that  
3 we're able to achieve a meeting each time. That's  
4 going to be the important part. We can name all  
5 these people, but what happens is the quorum  
6 expands and it gets more difficult to achieve a  
7 sensible meeting. So we'll send that out.

8 Make sure that if you're going to be  
9 appointed by your organization or request to be  
10 appointed by your organization, and also who makes  
11 these appointments because it has changed a little  
12 bit, especially for the new groups. I believe the  
13 career chiefs will be appointed by some  
14 legislative staff versus the Governor. On all the  
15 legacy group I believe is still appointed by the  
16 Governor. But again, we'll send that out and  
17 everyone will have an understanding on how it's  
18 going to transpire. Okay? Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER WALL: Commissioner  
20 Kowalski?

21 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Yes,  
22 Commissioner Wall.

23 COMMISSIONER WALL: Commissioner Wall.  
24 First of all, thank you for those remarks and  
25 saying I've been reappointed. I just had one

1 question under unfinished business.

2 PJ, thank you for the report on the  
3 Statewide Fire Service Strategic Plan. I just  
4 want to kind of maybe remind Commissioners to  
5 reach out to the organizations who represent the  
6 data collection that the comptroller's office is  
7 seeking. The deadline, I believe, was October  
8 1st. And I'm hearing that some haven't even  
9 responded back. Again, that was a letter or email  
10 that went to the elected official from your town  
11 inquiring about information about your fire  
12 department, staffing and personnel, and a few  
13 others. I'm trying to get an update through the  
14 comptroller's office and I'll probably call Jeff  
15 later today, but again, remind your organization  
16 that letter did go out to your elected official  
17 from your town, whether the selectman, mayor, and  
18 make sure the form is filled out properly.

19 Thank you, Chairman Kowalski.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Thank you,  
21 Tim.

22 MR. MORRISSETTE: And just to clarify,  
23 I think one of the motivators for that is  
24 obviously, as part of the cancer legislation,  
25 there is a fee per active interior structural

1 firefighter that will be assessed to every  
2 community. So that's kind of what that is all  
3 about, or at least a piece of that is that whole  
4 structure needs to be set up pretty quickly so  
5 they begin to invoice municipalities, fire  
6 districts, whoever else, for compliance with that  
7 to ensure the cancer fund is at least somewhat  
8 funded or appropriately funded maybe or somewhat  
9 funded. So that's really the motivation. It  
10 needs to be done. It's not -- you know, it's nice  
11 to have.

12 COMMISSIONER WALL: Thanks, Jeff, for  
13 sharing that also.

14 And Chairman Kowalski, I'm going to  
15 switch phones because I've got an 11 o'clock  
16 appointment.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Yes. Thank  
18 you for joining us.

19 COMMISSIONER WALL: I'm going to jump  
20 on my cell.

21 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Okay.

22 COMMISSIONER WALL: Okay. Thanks.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Any other  
24 items on unfinished business?

25 (No response.)

1           VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: No, okay. New  
2 business. CFA Instructor Compensation  
3 Subcommittee. Commissioner Buonome.

4           COMMISSIONER BUONOME: So through the  
5 instructors, but hopefully through our  
6 subcommittee, I just put together a whole bunch of  
7 stuff. And I know PJ and Jeff did an awful lot of  
8 work on the research that became really useful.  
9 But one of the things that stand out is the per  
10 capita income. So we're more in line with the  
11 Massachusetts instructors based on the statewide  
12 per capita income that PJ developed, that we're  
13 actually the highest per capita income versus, you  
14 know, Massachusetts is very close. And I had a  
15 few questions, Jeff, on the impact. You mentioned  
16 last time that about 50 something percent of the  
17 appropriation is for benefits or pension benefits?

18           MR. MORRISSETTE: Correct, yes.

19           COMMISSIONER BUONOME: Do you know what  
20 that roughly is, about 55 percent or something?

21           MR. MORRISSETTE: I don't have it with  
22 me, in front of me. I can run down and grab it.  
23 I think it was like 54 percent or so, yeah, around  
24 55 percent, 54 percent.

25           COMMISSIONER BUONOME: So the question,

1 I guess, is how many of our past instructors now  
2 are actually taking advantage and actually  
3 retired, and the second part of that is do the  
4 instructors have to have 1,000 hours per year to  
5 qualify for those benefits?

6 MR. MORRISSETTE: Well, I did see your  
7 question about the 1,000 hours. I wasn't sure  
8 where that came from, the 1,000 hours.

9 Instructors are required to work a minimum of 100  
10 hours.

11 MR. CLARK: Correct.

12 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: So that would be  
13 100 hours?

14 MR. MORRISSETTE: Right. And that's an  
15 internal requirement to at least have a base level  
16 of activity. Those that do not achieve that, you  
17 know, basically have a meeting with Dave or PJ.  
18 They're typically given six months to a year to  
19 get into compliance, and if they don't, then  
20 typically they would be separated from the agency.  
21 You know, there's many that comply, you know,  
22 they're probably almost equivalent to full-time  
23 employees with many in between. So yeah, the 100  
24 is an internal minimum requirement. It's not  
25 connected to a benefits or pension perspective.

1                   COMMISSIONER BUONOME:   So that 54  
2 percent, Jeff, is a big nut.

3                   MR. MORRISSETTE:   Yes.

4                   COMMISSIONER BUONOME:   My question is,  
5 do we have people actually taking advantage of  
6 that or can that be -- can we --

7                   MR. MORRISSETTE:   You know,  
8 coincidentally, that was one of the discussions I  
9 had with the new fiscal director because there's  
10 some other issues that have been circling for a  
11 while that I can't seem to get answers that she  
12 seemed to have some experience with and was going  
13 to be doing some research on in terms of numbers  
14 of instructors benefiting from any type of a  
15 pension. I'm not sure how I can get that  
16 information. You could probably go on, what is  
17 it, [ctsunlight.org](http://ctsunlight.org) and look under our agency for  
18 people receiving pensions.

19                   I think just in the last month or two  
20 I've had conversations with three or four that are  
21 currently in the process of, you know, at least  
22 making application. The most recent one actually,  
23 he stopped working for us and continued working  
24 for a community technical college for 15-plus  
25 years. So he'd actually be, you know, they'll

1 prorate his time with us, but that will be  
2 connected, and his, technically his retirement  
3 would be from the community college system, not  
4 from us.

5 So yes, there are people that are  
6 collecting. Obviously, the older ones under the  
7 tier one system, there are still a very small  
8 number that are getting health, full health  
9 insurance benefits, you know. And I know one in  
10 particular has been retired longer than he worked  
11 and has had full health retirement for he and his  
12 wife for probably 25 years.

13 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: So there is a  
14 benefit?

15 MR. MORRISSETTE: Yes. But again,  
16 that's a question we're often asked, you know, I  
17 was hired on a certain date. Every retirement  
18 tier is different. Tier one and tier two are  
19 probably the most discernable and explainable.  
20 Once you get beyond 2 to 2A to 3 to 4, I couldn't  
21 tell you anything about them, to be honest with  
22 you, very minimal, you know, where I would agree  
23 they're probably not going to achieve that full  
24 benefit.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: I think the

1 question comes up, and Commissioner Buonome, if I  
2 might add, typically in a municipal pension plan  
3 you have to achieve 1,000 hours in order to be put  
4 in for --

5 MR. MORRISSETTE: Okay. Maybe that's  
6 where that comes from.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: -- to be put  
8 into a pension plan and get credited year. So in  
9 reality, there would be no cost if you did under  
10 1,000 hours. That's in the municipal plan. And  
11 we're trying to see if it's consistent with the  
12 state plan. And I think that would be one of the  
13 big questions because that's a big item, the cost  
14 of that year.

15 MR. MORRISSETTE: And to clarify, we  
16 only expend that 50 some odd percent for payroll  
17 that we pay outside of the general fund. So when  
18 we pay, you know, an hourly rate out of our  
19 extension or auxiliary fund, we are providing the  
20 comptroller the 70 or so percent fringe benefit  
21 rate on top of that.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: And that's my  
23 question. Is that an appropriate rate?

24 MR. MORRISSETTE: Well, and that's  
25 something I posed to the new fiscal director that

1 nobody can quite seem to answer.

2 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: I think we  
3 need to really, not to interject with what your  
4 project is, but I think we really need to identify  
5 that when we're putting together this financial  
6 package.

7 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: I guess my  
8 question, Mr. Chairman, this is a big nut. I  
9 mean, this is a major undertaking. Having dealt  
10 with the state since 1970 on job evaluations and  
11 everything else, people at DAS kind of live for  
12 this and that's their wheelhouse, but this is an  
13 all-hands-on-deck effort.

14 And my question, I guess, and I haven't  
15 posed that to the other members of the  
16 subcommittee but through the Chair, would it also  
17 be good to have several instructors that are the  
18 beneficiaries of the upgrading to be on our little  
19 taskforce, can we do that?

20 MR. MORRISSETTE: Well, I think we can  
21 do anything. It may be, you know, there may be an  
22 ethical issue related to that. Obviously, we've  
23 solicited their input through the director of  
24 training survey, so we've been able to capture a  
25 high percentage of responses. So I think we know

1 what those are. So I think there's a couple of  
2 factors here. You know, we can look at -- you  
3 know, we could spend a year looking at all the  
4 elements. So, you know, maybe a proper approach  
5 would be let's try to see what we can get today as  
6 a placeholder for an increase, and as we continue  
7 to tackle other things, continue to tackle the  
8 other areas.

9 So it's probably more important and  
10 probably most desirable, and I'm speaking based  
11 upon my reading of the survey, is some immediate  
12 fiscal relief or improvement in the hourly rate.  
13 That's the number one issue. Some of these other  
14 things -- and, you know, there's societal issues  
15 and Gen Z, X, Y, Z issues that, you know, what's  
16 the longevity of the future of instructors. It's  
17 definitely not what it used to be where the  
18 majority of instructors were here for 20, 25  
19 years, beyond. So life changes. And as they come  
20 in younger, as they get promoted within their own  
21 fire departments, they either disengage with us  
22 because they're, you know, they're in a better  
23 place financially with their promotion locally.  
24 So yeah, there's a whole, you know, but ultimately  
25 it's your committee, it's the Commission's

1 committee, you can --

2 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: Jeff, let me --  
3 the rumblings that, as we represent the  
4 instructor's association, is that, well, we're  
5 really not doing anything. And, you know, that's  
6 not true, we are doing a lot. And sharing the  
7 pain, I think, of having some of these people see  
8 what the process is, in every case a reevaluation  
9 and an upgrading in state service, the end user is  
10 the employees, especially when you talk about  
11 bargaining units participating. So why not drag a  
12 few of these individuals in and say, look, here's  
13 what we're doing. And, you know, it may actually  
14 ease the call-out situation because then they will  
15 actually know what we're doing.

16 MR. MORRISSETTE: Right. I would not  
17 be opposed to releasing whatever report this group  
18 comes up with, and that should provide a  
19 comprehensive overview of all of the issues. I  
20 just don't want to delay anything is my point, you  
21 know, because that's the thing. Well, you know,  
22 it's been three years or it's been whatever, so  
23 are we going to delay it another year to get more  
24 hands on deck to address or are we just trying to  
25 keep them informed of what the Commission is

1 trying to accomplish?

2 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: Jeff, I know  
3 you're doing a lot of work and PJ is doing a lot  
4 of work, but I think we're missing each other.  
5 What I'm saying is on the subcommittee have  
6 several instructors participate so they know how  
7 difficult it is and what we're actually facing.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: I'll just  
9 interject a little bit. I want to make sure we  
10 maintain the scope of what this Committee is going  
11 to be doing, and that's to come up with a plan to  
12 answer the survey essentially of what we're doing  
13 for our instructors and our concern about losing  
14 instructors.

15 So I think at this point, and I  
16 understand, and you're far more knowledgeable in  
17 the labor organizations and such than I am, but I  
18 would say at this point in time, we have a  
19 comprehensive plan in the very near future. We  
20 can give that to the instructors, all of them, we  
21 can put it out there, the fact of what we're  
22 trying to accomplish. And I want to get this  
23 accomplished as soon as possible. To expand it to  
24 more stakeholders, as you're requesting, I think  
25 it's going to delay the point. And I think that

1 we need to facilitate this as soon as possible to  
2 get the ball rolling.

3           And I know you want to do the same  
4 thing, but I think that we have a pretty good  
5 survey to get the pulse of what the instructors  
6 really want. And I think at this point I would  
7 like to see the Committee stay on point with what  
8 they're doing. They're doing a great job of  
9 getting everything together and getting their  
10 recommendations together and what's achievable in  
11 the state system.

12           And I think some of the other issues  
13 that are coming up, like we just discussed just  
14 now, was what's the background and how is this  
15 burn cost going to affect the dollar hourly figure  
16 in the long run. I mean, somehow we've got to pay  
17 for this. So, however we do that, that's what  
18 we're hoping to do. I mean, we can get four  
19 people on and they can say, well, that's not  
20 enough, we want another \$10 more. Is that going  
21 to change the effect of that Committee? Probably  
22 not, because we want to know what's achievable,  
23 and long term, not just for two-year periods and  
24 then have another Committee. Maybe something like  
25 you had before where you have general increases or

1 inflationary increases. So that is my -- I'd like  
2 to see that as a direction at this point, and we  
3 can just push this ahead, if we could.

4 And I'd like to hear from anyone else.  
5 We have some raised hands. Bob Norton,  
6 Commissioner Norton.

7 COMMISSIONER NORTON: I think, being on  
8 the subcommittee, we've made some pretty good  
9 progress in our two meetings, and we have a pretty  
10 good plan that we came up with. If we can start  
11 moving that plan forward and bringing it back to  
12 the Commission, it addresses some of the issues  
13 that the instructors have. And then PJ and Jeff  
14 can go back to their instructors saying this is  
15 what the Commission is working on to get to where  
16 we need to be, and the focus is get an increase  
17 now at a decent rate and then work on the  
18 reclassification so that they get the cost of  
19 living every year. And the same thing we talked  
20 about in our subcommittee meeting, we're on a good  
21 track, and I don't think we need to add  
22 instructors to the mix just to screw up what we're  
23 already working on and making progress on. I  
24 think we're in the right direction. We just need  
25 to go to the next step to move it forward.

1                   VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI:   Okay.   Thank  
2 you.

3                   PJ, do you have a comment?

4                   MR. NORWOOD:   Yes.   Thanks for the  
5 opportunity.   Commissioner Buonome, I understand  
6 what you're saying.   I'm hearing the same from a  
7 couple of the instructors, a couple of more vocal  
8 instructors.   I would say two of the vocal  
9 instructors who are requesting that did not attend  
10 the latest training update that I covered the plan  
11 and what we're doing.   Now, I haven't met with the  
12 instructors as a whole since the subcommittee  
13 began, but prior to that I informed them of what  
14 my plan was going forward, and both those  
15 instructors, who have been quite vocal on this  
16 issue, did not attend one of the eight meetings  
17 that I did with the instructors to advise them of  
18 the process and plan.

19                   As everybody here should know, I'm  
20 very, very transparent.   Obviously, I keep the  
21 confidential information confidential and the  
22 words of the Committee I have not spoken of.   But  
23 when I have been asked recently by many  
24 instructors, I indicated that the CFPC has put a  
25 committee together, they've been meeting

1 regularly. And adding some of those instructors  
2 to the group, while I think there's a lot of value  
3 to their input, I do feel that it would delay the  
4 process at this point. But I will support the  
5 Commission's directions and guidance.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Commissioner  
7 Buonome.

8 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: With all due  
9 respect, Chairman and PJ, you know, human nature  
10 is that we can come up, as Rob had mentioned, with  
11 the best plan going, but unless we get the  
12 fingerprints of the end users, the total quality,  
13 effort, concept, and not to impede but to actually  
14 participate with us, I mean, our plan is our plan,  
15 and it's a good plan, and we're making progress  
16 internally, but we need to get their fingerprints  
17 onto this plan, the end user. I mean, it's going  
18 to -- you know, we can come out with the best plan  
19 going and achieve our goal, but it's still not  
20 going to be enough to the end users, some of the  
21 end users out there, unless they have their  
22 fingerprints on it. And I think, not to delay  
23 anything we're doing, but just to see how  
24 difficult the process is.

25 PJ, I think, I always had the

1 philosophy for 20 years as a union boss of, excuse  
2 the language, taking the biggest bitches and  
3 making sure that they're involved in the process  
4 and to share the pain. That would be my  
5 recommendation having been there, done that.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Okay. I thank  
7 you for that input.

8 Commissioner Ide.

9 COMMISSIONER IDE: Commissioner Ide. I  
10 would also like to see the entire cost of this,  
11 not just the hourly rate, that entire scope of  
12 what this is --

13 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Potential.

14 COMMISSIONER IDE: Yeah, what it's  
15 going to cost in the end. I think we're showing  
16 not even half of it.

17 MR. MORRISSETTE: So just to speak to  
18 that. The best we can do is kind of use a model,  
19 take hours worked last fiscal year by the various  
20 levels and which fund the monies came out of.  
21 That would take a little bit of a lift between  
22 Kara and payroll and somebody else, but we could  
23 probably do that. Ultimately, that's what OPM and  
24 DAS would do for us. You know, so if they zone in  
25 and approve an hourly rate increase, they are

1 going to do the analysis in terms of what that  
2 fiscal impact would be. And as noted, you know,  
3 the only adjustment will be to the general fund  
4 which constitutes maybe 30 to 40 percent of the  
5 actual dollars.

6 (Michael Eremita entered the room.)

7 COMMISSIONER IDE: Just an idea would  
8 be helpful for me.

9 MR. MORRISSETTE: Yes.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Okay.

11 MR. MORRISSETTE: We can certainly do  
12 our best to come up -- and what we would likely  
13 have to do is, so we will capture a total number  
14 of man hours or personnel hours. And then I know  
15 last time we did this we used the mid-level range  
16 to make the calculation because there's some  
17 under, there's some over, but the majority are  
18 medium.

19 COMMISSIONER IDE: Nothing is ever 100  
20 percent.

21 MR. MORRISSETTE: Correct.

22 COMMISSIONER IDE: I'm good.

23 MR. MORRISSETTE: Not to delay it  
24 another meeting, but we can probably get you  
25 something maybe in a week, within a week or so.

1 MS. OUELLETTE: Sure. What do you want  
2 me to do?

3 MR. MORRISSETTE: We'll work on it.

4 COMMISSIONER IDE: That would be great.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: So I guess the  
6 question is whether Commissioner Buonome or PJ,  
7 are we at a point where we can initiate action to  
8 DAS with this program? Because I don't really  
9 want to delay it too long. And I appreciate your  
10 request and you can vote appropriately if this  
11 goes to a motion. Are we ready to push this  
12 forward, this plan?

13 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: Our target date  
14 is January 1, 2025.

15 MR. MORRISSETTE: Well, I think if we  
16 submit a request like now, that's probably --

17 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Achievable.

18 MR. MORRISSETTE: -- achievable. If we  
19 delay it, it's, you know, you get into the holiday  
20 season and, you know, it could be February, March.

21 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: When is our next  
22 subcommittee meeting?

23 MR. MORRISSETTE: Well, I think it was  
24 my understanding that basically the committee has  
25 come up with this proposal, they were going to

1 present to the entire body today. If it was  
2 accepted, at least looking at the hourly rate  
3 structure, then we would meet with the  
4 Commissioner, get his okay, and move forward with  
5 HR and DAS. And quite frankly, I was supposed to  
6 meet with the Commissioner last week where I was  
7 going to present to him the draft. So if it was  
8 approved today, it would go to him basically today  
9 or tomorrow. You know, I've not had the  
10 discussion with him yet aside from he knows that  
11 the committee has met and that's something we're  
12 looking at. But in order to move forward, HR  
13 needs some, basically a direction.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: I'll entertain  
15 a motion to accept this program, anyone?

16 COMMISSIONER WALL: Commissioner Wall  
17 makes the motion.

18 COMMISSIONER ABBOTT: I'll second.

19 COMMISSIONER NORTON: Commissioner  
20 Norton second.

21 MS. OUELLETTE: Commissioner Abbott  
22 second.

23 THE COURT REPORTER: Yes.

24 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Any questions  
25 or comments?

1 (No response.)

2 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: All in favor?

3 THE COMMISSION: Aye.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Is that four?

5 MR. MORRISSETTE: Just say any opposed.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Any opposed?

7 COMMISSIONER IDE: I would like to  
8 abstain.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Okay. One  
10 abstention noted. Okay. The motion passed.  
11 We'll push this forward on the report, based on  
12 the committee report, and hopefully we can get the  
13 ball rolling and I'll even, if needed, go to the  
14 system --

15 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: I know we passed  
16 the motion. So I remember a couple years ago --  
17 money and politics make everything happen in this  
18 world -- that the tradition of DAS is to sit on  
19 stuff and synthesize it for months and months and  
20 months and months. I know Jeff and PJ, I know  
21 you're restricted by whatever the Commissioner  
22 says, but we're not. So if it needs a push  
23 politically, I think we as a Commission have the  
24 right to do that. And we need to get this thing  
25 going and get it expedited, so that political

1 push, like we did last time, can come from the DAS  
2 commissioner or the Governor's office or the  
3 comptroller, but we need to do that.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: I truly  
5 believe at this point, unfortunately, at this  
6 point the atmosphere is positive to push something  
7 like this forward for the fire service, for the  
8 first responders, and I think that's an important  
9 factor. And I will also work with Jeff on  
10 anything that I can do to facilitate that push  
11 through DAS and through this political process, if  
12 necessary.

13 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: Keeping our  
14 target date to January 1st?

15 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: January 1st,  
16 correct, yes. And that's why it's important to  
17 get it out there.

18 The question I have too --

19 MR. MORRISSETTE: Because Kara doesn't  
20 want to work on -- (Inaudible) --

21 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: The question I  
22 have too is it's a public document, correct?

23 MR. MORRISSETTE: Sure, yeah, it's a  
24 committee of the Commission. I did notice one  
25 typo in the second, the last full paragraph. We

1 have requested twice, but, you know, so I can  
2 clean that up. And I would certainly take  
3 Commissioner Buonome's document as a friendly  
4 amendment. So this, you know, what we presented  
5 today was more for internal discussion, not  
6 necessarily for transmittal to the Commissioner,  
7 but I will take -- I thought you had a lot of good  
8 points to help to justify. And that wasn't the  
9 intent of our document. It was really internal to  
10 at least depict the discussions properly and look  
11 at some of the issues that we had broached. But I  
12 can certainly take some of your information in  
13 whatever format that they would like it presented  
14 in at our HR office.

15 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: I would just,  
16 you know, I commend Jeff, PJ and the Commission  
17 for standing tall for their troops. And I think  
18 that we should let the troops know where we are  
19 and how we're progressing.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: So when the  
21 finalized document is ready, available, that will  
22 be part of the public record that can be  
23 disseminated. I mean, that can be sent out also  
24 to the instructors, if necessary, if they need to.  
25 It will be available to them to see what they're

1 doing. And I want to commend the committee for  
2 their expedited meetings.

3 MR. MORRISSETTE: And interest.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: And interest  
5 in the project. So this is a pretty fast track  
6 project that was done quite rapidly, and I thank  
7 you for that.

8 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: Of course, the  
9 big question is about the pension benefits and the  
10 70 percent that we're paying.

11 MR. MORRISSETTE: So actually Kara was  
12 able to send me --

13 MS. OUELLETTE: Did you finally get it?

14 MR. MORRISSETTE: Oh, no, I've had it  
15 for a little while. So I could share a little bit  
16 of the details of the fringe rate. So it totals  
17 currently 56.04 percent total. So that's any  
18 monies paid out of the extension of the auxiliary  
19 account, and that accounts for 5.86 percent for  
20 FICA Social Security, 1.38 percent FICA Medicare,  
21 state employee retirement system 47.48. So I was  
22 off a little bit for scoring 72.5. Let's see, we  
23 have unemployment compensation nothing. And then  
24 Workers' Comp, they are not peeling that out, but  
25 our fiscal lady is looking, and that accounts for

1 1.32 percent. So, you know, right now it totals  
2 56.04.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: So the big  
4 question is whether or not these folks are getting  
5 that benefit for that 46 percent pension and were  
6 paying for it.

7 MR. MORRISSETTE: Those who were hired  
8 early on in, you know, probably 1997 or prior,  
9 some are getting a benefit of health insurance for  
10 them and their wives. As I said, I know there's  
11 one who's been getting it for 25 years, has made  
12 more in retirement than he ever made. But the  
13 newer employees, the tier system now is more like,  
14 I guess, a 401(k), I don't even know, so why  
15 should that be charged against us.

16 And in our discussion with our new  
17 fiscal director just last week was, you know, her  
18 question is why don't you convert everybody over  
19 to a contractor. That way you're not paying any  
20 fringe benefit, right, they're basically a  
21 contractor and, you know, in essence, you can pay  
22 them 40, \$45 an hour or whatever is decided  
23 because you're not paying the state money that  
24 instructors may never benefit from. But in that  
25 account they're not covered for Workers' Comp,

1 they're on their own if they're injured or, you  
2 know, worse. So, you know, and we do have a  
3 number of contractors. We probably have 30 to 40  
4 at present that work under that system.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Commissioner  
6 Buonome.

7 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: Of course, the  
8 most important --

9 COMMISSIONER WALL: Commissioner  
10 Kowalski?

11 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Stand by  
12 Commissioner Wall. Go ahead.

13 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: The second part  
14 of that, of course, is a follow-up of cost of  
15 living. We don't want to come back every two  
16 years and hash this out and spend all this time  
17 and effort. And I believe there are state  
18 employees that are part-timers --

19 MR. MORRISSETTE: Yes, correct.

20 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: -- that are  
21 covered under a COLA. That would be another  
22 important thing to this ingredient is not have to  
23 deal with this year after year.

24 MR. MORRISSETTE: Right. And that's  
25 basically that last full paragraph kind of speaks

1 to that is, you know, the committee felt that that  
2 was an important element. And we fully agree,  
3 we've agreed with that. But again, that's not  
4 been -- it's really not gotten the attention of  
5 the people it needs to get in OPM and DAS. So I  
6 think through Commissioner Higgins I think we have  
7 a better opportunity to try to press the issue  
8 and, you know, kind of make -- you know, and  
9 that's what we're asking for is to meet with the  
10 classification group within DAS to have that  
11 discussion is why can't there be. You know,  
12 there's other jobs within state government that  
13 are per diem, if you will, that currently do  
14 benefit from that. You know, this was set up, you  
15 know, in the 1980s at that time, so it's kind of a  
16 legacy classification.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Okay.

18 Commissioner Wall, please.

19 COMMISSIONER WALL: Thank you, Chairman  
20 Kowalski. Just a point of clarification and  
21 understanding -- (Inaudible) --

22 THE COURT REPORTER: I can't hear him.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Can you start  
24 again, please?

25 COMMISSIONER WALL: You got me, or no?

1 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: We do now.

2 COMMISSIONER WALL: Hello?

3 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Yes, we have  
4 you now.

5 COMMISSIONER WALL: Just commenting on  
6 the topic we're talking about right now, should we  
7 wait until -- and looking for guidance from you  
8 and Jeff -- wait until he reports to the  
9 Commissioner of our findings and our roles and  
10 what we motion to do before we make it public  
11 knowledge and/or contact our elected officials?

12 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: I think at  
13 this point to make the timetable that we have  
14 asserted, January 1st, we need to follow through  
15 with our current plan. And this is actually a  
16 public document, per se, as it's brought up at a  
17 public meeting and it's submitted.

18 MR. MORRISSETTE: Let me make the typo  
19 correction.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: With the typo  
21 correction. So we want to make sure that's done  
22 properly. So it's going to be out of the bag  
23 essentially already. You know, maybe we don't  
24 send it out, but certainly it will be available  
25 for reading. But at this point, I want to --

1                   COMMISSIONER WALL:  Chairman, I  
2 understand that.  But we have, I think, an awesome  
3 working relationship with the Commissioner, and I  
4 know he has a timetable too and Jeff's schedule.  
5 I just in a way -- and maybe I'm wrong, I've been  
6 wrong before -- that we kind of wait to release it  
7 officially until Jeff talks with the Commissioner.  
8 But whatever the Commission votes, the Chairman  
9 does, Jeff's recommendation, that's my thoughts.  
10 Whatever is done is done.

11                   VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI:  So we have a  
12 document.  We have a document that has been voted  
13 on and a motion that's been voted on to send this  
14 document out as corrected.  So I can't see, based  
15 on transparency, that we can hold the document.  
16 So I think it's important.

17                   MR. MORRISSETTE:  Allow me to make one  
18 word correction in it, and I'll get it to you.

19                   VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI:  Sure.

20                   MS. OUELLETTE:  Where is the  
21 correction?

22                   MR. MORRISSETTE:  Request and requested  
23 is in the last paragraph.

24                   COMMISSIONER BUONOME:  Chair, I think  
25 Jeff has already appraised the Commissioner of

1 this.

2 MR. MORRISSETTE: Well, that there was  
3 a -- yeah.

4 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: So I think, you  
5 know what, January 1, 2025 is not that far away.  
6 I think we've got to move.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: I think we're  
8 going to let it go, Commissioner Wall.

9 COMMISSIONER WALL: I appreciate the  
10 information. Thank you very much.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Thank you.  
12 Thanks for your concern actually. I appreciate  
13 it.

14 Okay. Any other comments in reference  
15 to this item?

16 (No response.)

17 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Hearing none.  
18 Okay. Then any other new business? I do want to  
19 mention one item, and it probably could be brought  
20 up by the Commissioners or staff, but I want to  
21 talk to Commissioner Abbott in reference to  
22 changes that are going on in the Office of the  
23 Fire Marshal.

24 COMMISSIONER ABBOTT: So I think, as  
25 most of you already know, I'm being replaced. My

1 retirement date is supposed to be December 1st.  
2 So I'm not sure if I'm going to be making  
3 anymore -- the November meeting because, as I'm  
4 looking at it, it's the 26th, and that's actually  
5 going to be my last day. So I don't think I'll  
6 make it for that.

7 But yeah, so they've done interviews.  
8 They are supposed to be letting whoever they're  
9 hiring know this week, beginning of next. And  
10 then I don't know what my role is going to be  
11 going forward. I don't know if I'm going to go to  
12 work and just sit down and do absolutely nothing  
13 or if they're going to tell me to stay home and  
14 get out of their way. I don't really know what's  
15 happening yet. But I just want to say that it's  
16 been a pleasure to work with this group for the  
17 last 11 and a half years at this point. So thank  
18 you.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Also on behalf  
20 of the Commissioners and I'm sure the staff, I  
21 want to thank you for all your input and  
22 submissions to the meeting, attendance. It was  
23 great. And I want to thank you very much for  
24 that.

25 COMMISSIONER ABBOTT: Thank you.

1                   VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Commissioner  
2 Buonome.

3                   COMMISSIONER BUONOME: I don't believe  
4 this is the end of the story. And I know our  
5 organization is pretty furious about your  
6 replacement. It wasn't voluntary.

7                   COMMISSIONER ABBOTT: No, it was not.

8                   COMMISSIONER BUONOME: And I'm sure it  
9 had something to do with the single means of  
10 egress.

11                  COMMISSIONER ABBOTT: That and a couple  
12 of other things I didn't agree with.

13                  COMMISSIONER BUONOME: Which I've got  
14 to tell you, I had an elected official call me  
15 about why I removed your sign from my front lawn,  
16 and I told her about your situation. Is there  
17 something that we can do? I mean, we keep rolling  
18 over as a fire service things like that. And, you  
19 know, as the state fire marshal I appreciate you  
20 standing tall for us.

21                  COMMISSIONER ABBOTT: Appreciate that.  
22 Thank you.

23                  COMMISSIONER BUONOME: Thank you very  
24 much. And whatever we can do to help you, we're  
25 there.

1                   COMMISSIONER ABBOTT:  There's not much  
2 at this point.

3                   VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI:  Any other  
4 comments?

5                   COMMISSIONER BUONOME:  It's tragic.

6                   MR. MORRISSETTE:  Just on my behalf,  
7 thank you.  You've been a great partner.  I know  
8 you get a lot of calls and emails for myself and I  
9 get a lot of calls and emails for you.  So we've  
10 been able to juggle those through the years.  He's  
11 always been responsive.  I can't say that for all  
12 state employees, but Bill always answers the phone  
13 and he's available.  So I personally appreciate  
14 that.  And, you know, we've accomplished some  
15 things over the years that have been very, very  
16 positive and you've been a significant part of  
17 that.  So thank you.

18                   COMMISSIONER ABBOTT:  Thank you.  
19 Appreciate it.

20                   VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI:  Okay.  Hearing  
21 no new business, we'll go to comments from the  
22 public.

23                   MICHAEL EREMITA:  I didn't come here to  
24 comment.  I came here --

25                   THE COURT REPORTER:  Excuse me, could

1 you state your name?

2 MICHAEL EREMITA: Sure.

3 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

4 MICHAEL EREMITA: Mike Eremita, adjunct  
5 instructor, Connecticut Fire Academy. I'm also  
6 captain of the City of Hartford Fire Department.

7 I came here to listen because there's  
8 been a lot of lip service through my 12 years here  
9 at the Connecticut Fire Academy about doing  
10 something for the instructors. The pay is subpar.  
11 The men and women that we retain here are fewer  
12 than probably 50 percent of what we actually hire,  
13 and they stay here because they love what they do  
14 and they see the value in what they do for the  
15 Connecticut Fire Service from the ground level up,  
16 especially with the recruit program. They expose  
17 themselves to exacerbated risk, in addition to  
18 their primary occupancies as firefighters  
19 throughout the state, risk of physical injury,  
20 risk of chronic illness, increased risk of cancer  
21 for a maximum of \$26 an hour is absurd, obscene  
22 and insulting.

23 They deserve better. And I didn't  
24 intend to speak on anyone's behalf today, but  
25 because I'm here, I want to say thank you for

1 finally doing something because we lose too many  
2 excellent instructors and we keep having hiring  
3 processes over and over and over again, and we  
4 waste our resources training new instructors who  
5 are going to inevitably leave the fire academy and  
6 potentially open private companies and deliver  
7 training through private companies and make a  
8 better income that way. And it does a disservice  
9 to the entire fire academy and the Connecticut  
10 Fire Service to let this go on any longer.

11 We're not looking for a lot. We're  
12 looking for a decent hourly wage, maybe  
13 competitive with driving an oil truck, which a lot  
14 of us could do and make more money starting right  
15 now. We're looking to not have this conversation  
16 go on any longer so that we have annual increases  
17 that are commensurate with, you know, whatever is  
18 going on statewide for any other employee.

19 And for those of us that are in any  
20 kind of benefit tier, we want to know what that  
21 is, and we want to know how to engage in that. I  
22 don't know what pensions here I'm under or if I'm  
23 under a deferred comp tier, but I don't think  
24 anybody here knows. And that's unfortunate.  
25 Because I think if the employees of the

1 Connecticut Fire Academy, our instructors were  
2 treated better and had a better compensation  
3 hourly and with fringe benefits, then we wouldn't  
4 have to go through the continuous process of  
5 recruitment because of poor retention.

6 And so thank you guys for finally doing  
7 something. And we'll see where this goes. But as  
8 instructors, we are planning on organizing. We  
9 are planning on representing ourselves. And we  
10 are planning on making our voices heard. And  
11 hopefully that can be amicable, and hopefully it  
12 can be in partnership with this Commission. We'll  
13 see what happens going forward. I'll leave it at  
14 that. But thank you for listening.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Thank you.

16 Okay. Matters to be raised by  
17 Commissioners and staff. Commissioners? Anyone?

18 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: One more.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: I'm sorry. Go  
20 ahead, Commission Buonome.

21 COMMISSIONER BUONOME: Just what the  
22 Captain just said, I think this Commission is in  
23 tune and definitely all the employees of the  
24 Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, all the  
25 employees of the Connecticut Fire Academy we

1 totally support. And yeah, this is going to be an  
2 all-hands-on-deck effort. And we're definitely  
3 looking for input and support in this effort. So  
4 thanks, Captain.

5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Thank you.

7 Jeff.

8 MR. MORRISSETTE: As PJ mentioned, we  
9 are active at the state EOC for the foreseeable  
10 future with 12-hour operational periods. We're  
11 staffing that as best we can. And they've been  
12 fairly busy down there. I'm not sure today.

13 How are things going, PJ? Hopefully  
14 they're quiet today.

15 MR. NORWOOD: So far so good today.  
16 Minimal new incidents around the state, still  
17 monitoring the active incidents. I believe we're  
18 up to a total of 58 fires reported statewide per  
19 week. I think we're at four, maybe five active  
20 incidents that are being actually worked on. But  
21 some of the key messaging from that is that no  
22 fire is being extinguished. They're all being  
23 monitored. So undergrowth as well as, as they  
24 move through the forests, fresh dry leaves fall  
25 back onto those fire lines and reignite. So we're

1 not extinguishing anything, we're just putting out  
2 visible flames and continuing to monitor about 58  
3 fires now.

4 MR. MORRISSETTE: So if we can come up  
5 with some language or maybe a model variance as it  
6 relates to live fire training, we will work on  
7 that with the DEMHS and the DEEP partners there.  
8 Obviously, the current guidance is the authority  
9 having jurisdiction, so ultimately it will be up  
10 to them.

11 Also, I don't recall if it was in your  
12 staff report. The CPCU Society has reached out  
13 again and they'll be probably attending our next  
14 meeting for their annual donation to us. So  
15 expect that probably at our next meeting. I think  
16 that's it.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Okay. Any  
18 other reports from staff or Commissioners?

19 (No response.)

20 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Hearing none,  
21 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

22 COMMISSIONER ABBOTT: I'll make a  
23 motion to adjourn. Abbott.

24 COMMISSIONER IDE: Second.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: All in favor?

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

THE COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

VICE CHAIRMAN KOWALSKI: Thank you  
very, very much today.

(Whereupon, the meeting concluded at  
11:05 a.m.)

1 CERTIFICATE

2  
3 I hereby certify that the foregoing 72 pages  
4 are a complete and accurate computer-aided  
5 transcription of my original stenotype notes taken  
6 of the COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL  
7 MEETING, which was held before KEVIN J. KOWALSKI,  
8 VICE CHAIRMAN, at the Connecticut Fire Academy, 34  
9 Perimeter Road, Windsor Locks, Connecticut, on  
10 October 29, 2024.  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17

18 *Lisa Warner*

19 -----  
20 Lisa L. Warner, CSR 061  
21 Notary Public  
22 My commission expires:  
23 May 31, 2028  
24  
25