

WV STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING

August 12th, 2026
Cacapon Resort
Berkeley Springs WV

The official business meeting was called to order at 9:02am by Chairman Grant Gunnoe.

ROLL CALL: by Kathryn L Burns

Commissioners Present

Carl Eastham, Doug Estep, Edward George, Grant Gunnoe, Tom Keefer, Brian Jones, Doug Mongold, Steven Byers and Virgil White.

Commissioners Absent

Jim Oldaker
Ted Shriver
Phil Hart

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the June 12th, June 29th and July 30th, 2026 Fire Commission Meetings seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

RECOGNITION

Captain Kenneth E Morgan

Roger "Pogo" Sheets

A moment of silence was held in recognition and memory of these dedicated public servants.

SFMO & DIVISIONAL REPORT:

Deputy Mark Stewart provided the Inspections, Plan Review, Fire Department Services, Investigations and reports as well as Marshal Tyree Operation's report in his absence.

- 1) Deputy Stewart also provided Marshal Tyree's Report on WV Fire Death Rate noting that during the months of June and July 2026, there were six reported civilian fire fatalities. In June, two fatalities occurred: a 92-year-old female in Marion County on June 11th and a 60-year-old male in Kanawha County on June 14th. July 2026 recorded four fatalities, all occurring on a single incident date of July 1st in Barbour County. These victims ranged in age from 23 to 61 and included two males and two females.

Entertained Questions – Deputy Stewart answered questions regarding the Fire Death Fatality Report. Chairman Gunnoe noted that it is the intention of the Fire Commission to delve deeper into the causes of fire fatalities and how they can help lower that statistic.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative and Codes, Recruitment and Retention and OSHA Emergency Response Standard Committees did not meet.

Fire Department Services Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

August 11th, 2026

Call to Order

Commissioner Byers, called to order the regular meeting of the Fire Department Services Committee at 10:01am on August 11th, 2026, at Cacapon Resort, Berkeley Springs WV.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Brian Jones
Doug Mongold
Grant Gunnoe
Steven Byers

The following commissioners were absent:

Phil Hart
Jim Oldaker

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

1. Consideration/Report of Temporary Fire Officer Certifications.

- a) James Wooten (Jefferson VFD)

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Jones. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

2. Consideration of Fire Chief Applications

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented the following applications for approval.

- a) Logan Preece (Lenore)
- b) Joe Rumore (Chattaroy)
- c) Scott Marple (Johnstown)

- d) Charles Cunningham (Pinch)
- e) Joseph Acord (Kenova)
- f) Jerry Jordan (Coalwood)
- g) David Broadwater (Reedsville)
- h) Christopher Blanton (City of Huntington)
- i) Jonathan Drummond-Taylor (Leading Creek)

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Jones. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

3. Report on Fire Department Receiving 180 Days to Achieve Compliance.

ASFM Scott briefed the Committee on the Departments receiving 180 days.

- a) Johnstown VFD
- b) Anmoore VFD
- c) Webster Springs VFD
- d) Mount Clare VFD

No Action Needed.

4. Consideration of Fire Department Recertification

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented the following departments for Recertification.

- a) Lost Creek VFD
- b) Reynoldsville VFD

Commissioner Jones made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission the recertification of the listed departments, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

5. Consideration of Fire Department with Perfect Evaluations Recertification.

ASFM Bradley Scott presented the following Departments with Perfect Evaluations for Recertification.

- a) Summit Park VFD
- b) Shinnston VFD
- c) Stonewood VFD
- d) Nutter Fort VFD
- e) Cowen VFD *(edited)

- f) Erbacon VFD
- g) Hacker Valley VFD
- h) Diana VFD
- i) Milton VFD
- j) Bridgeport VFD

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to add * Cowen VFD to the FDS agenda and the Full Commission agenda, seconded by Commissioner Jones. With the ayes and nays having taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission the recertification of the listed departments, noting their perfect evaluations, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

6. Consideration of East Lynn VFD and Kermit VFD Coverage Area Transfer.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the coverage transfer seconded by Commissioner Jones. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

7. Consideration of Berkeley County Request for Clarification of NERIS/ESO Reporting Guidelines.

Committee and Staff reviewed a series of questions submitted by Berkeley County Fire Department to clarify reporting guidelines regarding Career Staff Operating Volunteer Apparatus. Their inquiry included scenarios on Zero Volunteer Response on Volunteer Apparatus, Career Personnel on Volunteer Roster Logs, Primary Reporting Agency Thresholds, Junior Member Validation, State Funding Impacts, Mutual Aid vs. Shared Assets, In-Station Standby Tracking and Utility & Personal Vehicles.

After a lengthy discussion on all the topics between Committee Members, Staff and all those in attendance a significant number of questions and concerns were raised. As such, it was decided that more research and review was necessary.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to table the item for further investigation, seconded by Commissioner Gunnoe. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

8. Consideration of New Fire Department and FDID Request – Putnam County Fire Department.

Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the application, seconded by Commissioner Jones. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

9. Report on NERIS Module Addition.

No Action

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Mongold moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:14am without objection. Meeting adjourned.

Commissioner White made a motion to accept the report as written, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Disciplinary Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

August 11th, 2026

Call to Order

Commissioner Eastham called to order the regular meeting of the Disciplinary Committee at 11:39am on August 11th, 2026 at Cacapon Resort, Berkeley Springs WV.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Carl Eastham
Doug Mongold
Edward George
Grant Gunnoe
Steven Byers

The following commissioners were absent:

Ted Shriver

Unfinished Business

Commissioner Byers made a motion to enter executive session, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner George made a motion to leave executive session, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

1) Consideration of FDC 2026-015.

Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission that no further Fire Commission action was needed on FDC 2026-015 and for the Fire Marshal's Office to handle the complaint, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

2) Consideration of FDC 2026-016.

Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to table FDC 2026-016, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

3) Consideration of FDC 2026-017.

Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission that no further Fire Commission action was needed at this time on FDC 2026-017 and for the Fire Marshal's Office to handle the

complaint and keep the Commission advised, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

New Business

1) Consideration of FDC 2026-018.

Commissioner Byers made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to close FDC 2026-018 seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

2) Consideration of FDC 2026-019.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission that no further Fire Commission action was needed at this time on FDC 2026-019 and for the Fire Marshal's Office to handle the complaint and keep the Commission advised, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

3) Consideration of FDC 2026-020.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission that no further Fire Commission action was needed on FDC 2026-019 and for the Fire Marshal's Office to handle the complaint and keep the Commission advised, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

4) Consideration of FDC 2026-021.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to close FDC 2026-021 seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Eastham called to adjourn the meeting at 12:06 without objection. Meeting adjourned.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to accept the report as written, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Training Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

June 11th, 2026

Call to Order

Commissioner White called to order the regular meeting of the Training Committee at 11:15am on August 11th, 2026, at Cacapon Resort, Berkeley Springs WV.

The following commissioners were present:

Virgil White
Doug Estep
Tom Keefer
Doug Mongold
Grant Gunnoe

The following commissioners were absent:

Jim Oldaker

Unfinished Business

1. Discussion/Consideration of NFPA 1010 Support Personnel Standard and Commission Approval.

Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to lay over the item over until the October meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

New Business

1. WVU-Fire Service Extension Report

Mark Lambert of WVU FSE reported that Junior Fire Camp in 2027 is June 12th – 17th, 2027; They had a good camp this year with attendance slightly less than normal but several states were represented; Recently an article came out about 3 of their former Junior Camp attendees that were all hired at the same time at Bridgeport; WVU FSE will be in attendance at the WV State Fair and they hope to have a pump truck simulator and a driving simulator available; They have also acquired two model doll houses that show smoke travel that are made of stainless steel so they can be reused; They have started their Fire Fighter Survey that may provide some answers to the recruitment and retention issues and he will provide a QR code for the Fire Marshal's office to share.

2. Public Service Training Report

Robert Bailey of PST reported they have been very busy and Mr. Varig of the Charleston office has been working with industry and fire departments; They are working on their fall fire schools across the State; Escape conference planning has begun; They are having some discussions by adding some IFSAC items and will be attending the IFSAC conference in September.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Mongold moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:26am without objection. Meeting adjourned.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to accept the report as written, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

VFD Grant Funding Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

August 11th, 2026

Call to order

Commissioner Estep called to order the meeting of the Grant Funding Committee Meeting at 11:27am on August 11th, 2026 at Cacapon Resort in Berkeley Springs WV.

Roll call

The following commissioners were present:

Doug Estep
Steven Byers
Doug Mongold
Grant Gunnoe

The following commissioners were absent:

Phil Hart
Jim Oldaker

Unfinished business

None

New business

1) Report on FY27 Equipment and Training Grant.

Kathryn Burns reported that qualifying departments received emails on July 21st, 2026, notifying them that the Grant would open August 1st, 2026. In that email, instructions (both written and video) on how to apply via the OASIS system and a sample application were attached. Then a follow-up email was sent on August 5th with some additional instructions in hopes of clarifying the process. Upon review of the Grant system on the morning of August 10th, 2026, there were 10 applicants.

Commissioner Byers had an inquiry from Weston VFD regarding clarification for eligibility for the Fire Service Equipment and Training Grant under §15A-11-11. Chairman Gunnoe requested that staff contact Marshal Tyree and Counsel so they can review the inquiry for response at the Full Commission meeting the next day.

Adjournment

Commissioner Gunnoe moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:38 without objection. Meeting adjourned.

Commissioner White made a motion to accept the report as written, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1) Discussion/Consideration of WV Fire Prevention and Control Plan.

Chairman Gunnoe noted that this item has been on the agenda since December of 2025 following an audit that stipulated that no formal plan existed that met the Legislative Code requirement. However, the Fire Marshal's Office perception was that there was a plan, and it consisted of multiple components including the Building Code, Fire Code, Training Standards, Equipment Standards, Educational Programs and the Fire Department Evaluation System. Once being made aware that a separate stand along plan was needed, the Commission and Fire Marshal started working on it. Several versions have been drafted of which the most current one is still under management review. In light of some recent social media posts regarding the lack of a single plan, he assured all those in attendance that the Fire Commission takes this plan very seriously and once they have approval for the current version, the document will be reviewed for any necessary updates at each meeting.

No Action Taken

2) Consideration of Discussion/Consideration of NFPA 1010 Support Personnel Standard and Commission Approval.

See Training Report

Commissioner White made to table until the October meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

See Disciplinary Report on items 3, 4 and 5.

3) Consideration of FDC 2026-015.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion that no further Fire Commission action was needed on FDC 2026-015 and for the Fire Marshal's Office to handle the complaint, seconded by Commissioner Byers. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

4) Consideration of FDC 2026-016.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to table FDC 2026-016, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

5) Consideration of FDC 2026-017.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion that no further Fire Commission action was needed at this time on FDC 2026-017 and for the Fire Marshal's Office to handle the complaint and keep the Commission advised, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Consideration/Report of Temporary Fire Officer Certification.

See FDS Report

- a) James Wooten (Jefferson VFD)

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to approve applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

2) Consideration of Fire Chief Applications.

See FDS Report

- a) Logan Preece (Lenore)
- b) Joe Rumore (Chattaroy)
- c) Scott Maple (Johnstown)
- d) Charles Cunningham (Pinch)
- e) Joseph Acord (Kenova)
- f) Jerry Jordan (Coalwood)
- g) David Broadwater (Reedsville)
- h) Christopher Blanton (City of Huntington)
- i) Jonathan Durmmond-Taylor (Leading Creek)

Commissioner Byers made a motion to approve applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

3) Report on Fire Departments Receiving 180 Days to Achieve Compliance.

See FDS Report

- a) Johnstown VFD
- b) Anmore VFD
- c) Webster Srping VFD
- d) Mount Clare VFD

No Action Taken

4) Consideration of Recertification of Fire Departments.

See FDS Report

- a) Lost Creek VFD
- b) Reynoldsville VFD

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to recertify the listed departments, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

5) Consideration of Perfect Evaluation Recertification of Fire Departments.

See FDS Report

- a) Summit Park VFD
- b) Shinnston VFD
- c) Stonewood VFD
- d) Nutter Fork VFC
- e) Cowen VFD (edited)
- f) Erbacon VFD
- g) Hacker Valley VFD
- h) Diana VFD
- i) Milton VFD

Commissioner White made a motion to add Cowen VFD to the agenda, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner White made a motion to recertify the departments noting their perfect evaluations, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

6) Consideration of East Lynn VFD and Kermit VFD Apparatus Transfer and Coverage Agreement.

See FDS Report

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

7) Consideration of Berkeley County Request for Clarification of NERIS/ESO Reporting Guidelines.

See FDS Report

Chairman Gunnoe spoke to those in attendance noting that the Commission wants to ensure that reporting is reflected correctly, so it does not affect any department negatively. As such a list of questions has been sent to NERIS and additional research is needed. Vice-Chair Mongold stated after realizing that several different ways of reporting exist, one standard needs to be established that works for all.

Chief Martin Roberts Berkeley County Fire Department addressed the Commission to clarify what has been taking place in Berkeley County regarding reporting and several concerns Berkeley County has. Due to those concerns they sent their list of questions to Marshal Tyree and request a written response to those questions. They want to ensure they completing the reports in the appropriate manner as they are responding to over 95% of all fire emergencies in Berkeley County.

A long discussion ensued on the item between all in attendance.

Chairman Gunnoe stated as there was not a consensus at this time and more information is needed no action will be taken at this time.

Item will remain on agenda for October's meeting,

8) Consideration of New Fire Department and FDID Request – Putnam County Fire Department.

See FDS Report

Commissioner White made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

See Disciplinary Report on items 9, 10, 11, and 12.

9) Consideration of FDC 2026-018

Commissioner George made a motion to close FDC 2026-018 seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

10) Consideration of FDC 2026-019

Commissioner Mongold made a motion that no further Fire Commission action was needed at this time FDC 2026-019 and for the Fire Marshal's Office to handle the complaint and keep the Commission advised, seconded by Commissioner Byers. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

11) Consideration of FDC 2026-020

Commissioner White made a motion that no further Fire Commission action was needed on FDC 2026-019 and for the Fire Marshal's Office to handle the complaint and keep the Commission advised, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

12) Consideration of FDC 2026-021

Commissioner White made a motion to close FDC 2026-021 seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

SPEAKERS:

None

CORRESPONDENCE:

NFPA Safety Summit Flyer
David Cline – FOIA Policy

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

December meeting location.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING(S):

Committee Meetings - 10:00am Thursday, October 8th, 2026, and Commission Meeting 9:00am Friday, October 9th, 2026, will be held at the Fairfield Inn and Suites, Lewisburg WV

ADJOURN:

Commissioner White made a motion to adjourn at 10:30am without objection. Meeting adjourned.
