

**Kalamazoo Valley Community College
Fire Science Advisory Committee Meeting
October 30, 2019**

Present: Ron Farr, Retired State Fire Marshall; Mark Barnes, Oshtemo, Fire Chief; John Podgorski, Portage Fire Chief; Dave Orbiteer, Kalamazoo Township Fire Department; Jim Miles Cooper Fire Department; Ryan Tibbetts, Kalamazoo Department Public Safety; Chad Tacket, Texas Township Fire Chief; Karianne Thomas Kalamazoo Department Public Safety Chief; Jim Mallory Vicksburg City Manager and Marty Myers

1. We have the opportunity to sponsor a one or two day training session on how drones are used in the Police and Fire Departments and government agencies. The committee members were in favor of this training. This will take place in January or February 2020.
2. There was discussion on the changes in the Fire Science Program Plan. Basic EMT will no longer be required, and will be replaced with Medical First Responder. All present members stated they have dropped the Basic EMT requirement except the City of Portage. The committee supports the program change. If the student takes Basic EMT or currently has a current EMT license it will be acceptable for graduation.
3. There was discussion concerning the required ride along for internships. All members were in approval. The Kalamazoo Township and Texas Township Fire Departments are in the process of formalizing a program like Oshtemo's where they do an internship and will also get paid. When they complete the program after one year they will qualify for 12 credits.
4. The departments will be sending people to attend KVCC's Fire Academy. All members present approved. It will give all the departments the ability to send people to the Chief's Academy in January or the KVCC Fire Academy in August. They would be limited to five people and details on the funding are still being worked out.
5. There was lengthy discussion among the members present concerning online and hybrid courses for the Fire Science Program. The following are some of the opinions stated:
 - a. Training teachers for the web courses and changing the course syllabi to include web or hybrid courses in the future is a good idea.
 - b. It is not recommended that we offer web or hybrid courses for the Fire Science Program at this time.
 - c. More research will be needed and wanted before we should get involved in selection of which courses should be web or hybrid.
 - d. The hybrid concept where they meet in class one day and one day it is web based did get a better response.
 - e. It was the consensus that online and hybrid courses should be for future consideration.