CENTRAL TEXAS FIREFIGHTERS' & FIRE MARSHALS' ASSOCIATION

179th Semi-Annual Convention Minutes

Saturday, September 26, 2026 • Host: Blue VFD • Lexington, Texas

Submitted for approval at the 180th Semi-Annual Convention

Opening

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by President Rick Isaacks.
2. Chaplain Scott Benson delivered the invocation.
3. Mascot Bentley Gerik led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. President Isaacks, a member of the host department, welcomed the membership to Blue VFD and recognized Lee County Judge Frank J. Malinak III.
5. Judge Malinak welcomed the membership to Lee County.
6. 2nd Vice President Brian Falkenberg gave the response to the welcome.
7. Secretary/Treasurer Alvin Fail conducted the roll call of dues-paid departments and Past Presidents.
    a. Departments present: Moffat VFD, TEEX, Gatesville FD, Chilton VFD, Golinda VFD, Rosebud VFD, Blue VFD, Cameron VFD, Burton VFD, Birch Creek VFD, and Buchanan VFD. Birch Creek VFD and Buchanan VFD paid 2026 dues at registration.
    b. Past Presidents present: Terry Broome (2006), Alvin Fail (2015), and Rodney Hall (2025).
8. The minutes of the 178th Semi-Annual Convention (May 17, 2026) were distributed. A motion was made by Brian Falkenberg and seconded by Rodney Hall to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion passed.
9. 2nd VP Brian Falkenberg announced the Dollar Bill Drawing.
10. President Isaacks acknowledged the 2025–2026 committees serving for the meeting: Credentials and Registration (4th VP James Moseley), Auditing (IPP Rodney Hall), and Constitution and Bylaws (2nd VP Brian Falkenberg), with Secretary/Treasurer Alvin Fail preparing the resolution of appreciation for the host. Brian Lamb (Golinda VFD) was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms for the elections.

Reports and Presentations

11. 4th VP James Moseley introduced the vendors present: Greg Atkinson (Heat Safety Equipment) and Bianca Nelson (VFIS).
12. Greg Atkinson (Heat Safety Equipment, grant department liaison) spoke on the grant research, writing, and management assistance his company offers departments at no cost or obligation.
13. Jason Moats, Texas A&M School of Public Health, presented a proposed five-year research grant (about $5 million, resubmission due early November 2026) to provide approximately 1,580 firefighter cancer screenings using mobile clinics, telehealth, peer navigators, and community health workers, with partners including VFIS, SFFMA, and the Texas Forest Service. Pilot counties include Lee, Robertson, Burleson, Madison, Willacy, and Polk. Interested departments were asked to contact him and provide letters of support.
14. Kevin Creamer (SFFMA staff) gave the state report and SAFER grant update:

a. New stipulations effective August 2026: PPE eligibility limited to departments with budgets of $75,000 or less, with pre-approval required before purchase and up to three sets per department; physicals reimbursable up to $650–$750 per firefighter.
b. Training assistance for departments under $75,000: up to $700 per student and $2,500 per department; travel, lodging, and per diem are not eligible; hotel rates must follow GSA rates.
c. Round 4 runs December 2026 through December 2029 and can pay SFFMA membership dues for departments with small operating budgets.
d. Effective February 2026, all members have $55,000 AD&D coverage, $450 per week accident injury replacement, and access to a confidential first responder counseling program. Information is available on the SFFMA website and through the Spark and Local Fire newsletters.

15. Eric DeArmitt, State Fire Marshal's Office, reported that inspectors and fire investigators are available to departments; asked that the State Fire Marshal's Office be notified immediately of any firefighter line-of-duty death and that injuries be documented with photos; noted the move from TEXFIRS to the national NERIS reporting system, with Texas currently near 43% department reporting; and reported that the office now has four K-9s after the line-of-duty loss of one.
16. Brian Scheffer (TEEX) reported:
    a. Beginning in 2028, a five-year required rotation of courses on firefighter safety, traffic incident management, and cancer awareness, available from TEEX at no cost.
    b. Upcoming training: Auto Extrication Levels 1 and 2 (November 13–15 and 15–18); Leadership Development Symposium, January 6–8, The Woodlands ($100 fee for Texas firefighters); TAFE conference, February 1–5, Corpus Christi; spring fire schools February 26–27 and March 8–12.
    c. A new 16-hour Training Coordinator class, delivered jointly by TCFP, SFFMA, TEEX, and TAFE, will be piloted in November in Pasadena.
    d. Encouraged departments to promote cancer awareness; materials were available.
17. An SFFMA raffle to support member travel and lodging for the state convention was announced: $100 per ticket, with prizes from $100 to $10,000, to be drawn in mid-October.
18. Candidates for SFFMA 4th Vice President addressed the membership ahead of the 151st state convention: Melissa Robinson, Secretary/Treasurer of the North Texas District, and Jesse Slaughter, Trophy Club Fire Department and vice chair of the SFFMA Certification Board.
19. SFFMA Executive Board members and staff present were introduced: President RJ Thomas, 3rd Vice President Rick Isaacks, Assistant Secretary Logan Thompson, and Kevin Creamer (staff).
20. SFFMA President RJ Thomas reported:
    a. A statewide call for SFFMA Executive Board and district officers will be held every other month (odd months) at 6:30 p.m.; the next call is expected around November 18. Guest briefings, such as the State Fire Marshal's Office, are planned.
    b. The SFFMA memorial service will be held at the State Capitol in April during the legislative session, with talking points and a Capitol guide provided for members visiting their legislators.
21. Assistant Secretary Thompson gave the SFFMA office update: a new event planner (Samantha Donahue) has been hired; staff will attend the Fire Marshals conference in San Marcos in October; membership stands at 16,304; speaker selection for the next state convention is open, with a planning meeting in Wichita Falls on October 17; and Texas Forest Service 2604 reimbursement limits increased (equipment

and PPE up to $30,000, training aids up to $15,000, tuition day rate from $140 to $200). He asked departments to keep contact information current in FireConnect.

22. Rick Isaacks reported on the TEEX Advisory Board, which meets quarterly and next meets this Thursday: tuition reimbursement still falls short of many course costs, the training budget does not reflect the roughly $18,000 per volunteer department available for training, and the advisory board has not yet been reconstituted to include two SFFMA Executive Board members. He also reported that the Texas Forest Service has begun ordering aircraft, with a central base expected in Abilene.
23. President Isaacks recognized SFFMA Past President Donny Boggs (2024), who was in attendance.
24. A five-minute recess was called.
25. Kevin Creamer (SFFMA staff) gave a certification update, reporting that NIMS 100, 200, 700, and 800 will be required beginning in January, on a five-year cycle starting in 2028; that SFFMA is developing in-house test banks for NFPA 1010 and 1030; and that subject matter experts are needed (contact the SFFMA office in Austin at certification@sffma.org), with a workshop on October 1.
26. Secretary/Treasurer Alvin Fail presented the financial report: a deposit of $507.00 from the spring convention; disbursements totaling $1,519.13, including $150.00 to SFFMA for the 150th conference challenge coin, $1,200.00 to SFFMA for the state memorial service refreshments, and a check to Rockdale Signs for fire prevention poster trophies; ending balance $6,710.23, as verified by the Auditing Committee.
27. Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Logan Thompson reported on the Association's status:
    a. The membership adopted the new Constitution and Bylaws on June 9, 2026; the Association incorporated as a Texas nonprofit corporation on June 30, 2026, and received its IRS 501(c)(3) determination on July 9, 2026. The Executive Board ratified these actions and the officers on July 28, 2026.
    b. The new website, ctffma.org, is live with district information, officers, history (including the original August 20, 1935 founding minutes), the awards program, and events. District email is pending Google for Nonprofits approval, and online dues payment will follow once banking is in place.
    c. With 501(c)(3) status, the district intends to pursue grants, including its own SAFER grant, to benefit member departments.
    d. President Isaacks thanked Assistant Secretary Thompson and the board for the work to restore the Association's records and legal standing.
28. The scheduled guest speaker was unable to attend due to a family matter.

Business

29. Old Business – Glass mugs with the new district logo were offered for donations as a fundraiser; more will be available through the Association's website.
30. New Business – Annual dues: Assistant Secretary Thompson opened discussion on department dues, currently $20 (they were $5 in 1935, about $123 today adjusted for inflation). Any change would require a bylaws amendment read at a spring meeting and voted on the following fall. Members were asked to send input on an appropriate incremental increase. No action was taken.
31. New Business – Online payment: A motion was made by Larry Johnson (Chilton VFD) and seconded by Brian Lamb (Golinda VFD) that the Association accept online payment of dues, convention registration, and donations, and authorize the Executive Board to select and set up the payment platform (such as Stripe),

with all funds deposited to the Association's account and reconciled by the Secretary/Treasurer. The motion passed.

32. New Business – Firefighter and EMS Responder of the Year: nominations for 2027 open January 1 and close February 28. Packets and the scoring rubric are available at ctffma.org. The Past Presidents Committee will select district winners by the Spring convention for submission to the state.

33. Committee Reports:

    a. Credentials and Registration – 4th VP James Moseley reported: 10 Central Texas fire departments; 0 out-of-district departments; 3 Central Texas Past Presidents; 2 SFFMA Executive Board members/staff; 2 vendors; 2 special guests; 17 Central Texas FD members; 2 spouses; 1 child under 12; 29 total attendees. Quorum was present, with 16 eligible voters. Attendance Trophy: Moffat VFD (4 members). Mileage Trophy: Moffat VFD (74 miles × 4 members = 296). Registration share to the District was $34.00, with $80.00 in fundraiser donations.

    b. Auditing – The committee met that morning and reviewed the financial records. The committee (Rodney Hall, Terry Broome, and Colton Brown) reported deposits of $507.00 and disbursements of $1,519.13 for the period, with an ending book balance of $6,710.23 that matched the bank statement. All records were in order.

    c. Constitution and Bylaws – No report.

Memorial Service

34. Chaplain Scott Benson conducted the memorial service. No members were lost in the line of duty this year. Following an opening prayer and a reading of Psalm 23, the Chaplain spoke on the lives and service of:

    a. Fire Chief Caleb Joshua Miller, Rosebud Volunteer Fire Department (December 2, 1985 – May 2, 2026).

    b. Past President Gus Lawrence Pehl Jr., Fredericksburg Volunteer Fire Department, President of the Association in 1981 (September 4, 1930 – February 2, 2026).

    c. Ben Paul Kennedy, SFFMA Chaplain for 24 years, TEEX instructor, and President of the Association in 2020 (February 5, 1950 – November 17, 2025).

35. The service closed with a moment of silence, the Firefighter's Prayer read together, and a closing prayer.

Elections and Installation

36. Past Presidents present were recognized. Immediate Past President Rodney Hall reported that three Past Presidents attended the Past Presidents Breakfast and discussed department dues; no other business. Secretary/Treasurer Fail recognized Brian Scheffer for ten years of service at the front table.

37. Immediate Past President Rodney Hall conducted the election of officers for 2026–2027 under Articles 5 and 9 of the Bylaws:

    a. Elevation of officers, with no objection from the floor: Cody Gerik to President; Brian Falkenberg to 1st Vice President; Reese Fail to 2nd Vice President; James Moseley to 3rd Vice President. Rick Isaacks became Immediate Past President.

    b. 4th Vice President: Assistant Secretary Logan Thompson nominated Colton Brown (Moffat VFD). Terry Broome seconded the nomination. On motion by Alvin Fail and second by Brian Scheffer, nominations ceased and Colton Brown was elected by acclamation.

c. Secretary/Treasurer, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, and Chaplain: with no other nominations, on motion by Terry Broome and second by Brian Scheffer, Alvin Fail (Secretary/Treasurer), Logan Thompson (Assistant Secretary/Treasurer), and Scott Benson (Chaplain) were re-elected by acclamation.

d. Mascot: Alvin Fail nominated Bentley Gerik, seconded by Scott Benson. On motion by Alvin Fail and second by Scott Benson, nominations ceased and Bentley Gerik was re-elected by acclamation.

38. SFFMA President RJ Thomas administered the oath of office to the newly elected and elevated officers.

39. Outgoing President Rick Isaacks was presented a Gold Badge on behalf of the membership in appreciation of his service, including seeing the Association through incorporation and 501(c)(3) recognition, and a plaque on behalf of the SFFMA. President Isaacks thanked the membership and passed the gavel to President Cody Gerik.

40. President Gerik confirmed the committees for 2026–2027, with each chaired by the officer designated by the Bylaws, and invited members interested in serving on a committee to sign up with Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Thompson.

Closing

41. Secretary/Treasurer Alvin Fail read a resolution of appreciation thanking Blue Volunteer Fire Department for hosting the 179th Semi-Annual Convention. A representative of Blue VFD thanked the membership.

42. Site Selection – Moffat VFD will host the Spring 2027 convention and Burton VFD will host the Fall 2027 convention. A host for Spring 2028 is being arranged.

43. Announcements – Members were invited to lunch and to a demonstration of the host department's rehab equipment, funded through a VFIS grant, in the station truck bays.

44. Dollar Bill Drawing – Mascot Bentley Gerik drew the winner at 12:21 p.m.: Rusty Ward (Buchanan VFD). A total of $50.00 was collected and divided: $16.00 to the winner, $16.00 to the District, and $18.00 to Blue VFD (including the $2.00 remainder).

45. Chaplain Scott Benson offered a prayer for the meal.

46. On motion by Brian Scheffer and second by Terry Broome, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Attendance

CTFFMA Executive Board (2025–2026)

President Rick Isaacks
1st VP Cody Gerik
2nd VP Brian Falkenberg
3rd VP Reese Fail
4th VP James Moseley
IPP Rodney Hall
Secretary/Treasurer Alvin Fail
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Logan Thompson
Chaplain Scott Benson
Mascot Bentley Gerik

CTFFMA Executive Board (2026–2027, installed)

President Cody Gerik; 1st VP Brian Falkenberg; 2nd VP Reese Fail; 3rd VP James Moseley; 4th VP Colton Brown; IPP Rick Isaacks; Secretary/Treasurer Alvin Fail; Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Logan Thompson; Chaplain Scott Benson; Mascot Bentley Gerik.

Respectfully submitted,

Logan Thompson
CTFFMA Assistant Secretary/Treasurer