OC Public Safety

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Present: Jackie Johnson (Dean, Oxnard College Public Safety), Bill Lynch (OC Public Safety / Fire Technology Department Chair), Tamara Crudo (OC Public Safety/ Fire Academy Coordinator), Eric Shalhoob (Cal Fire) Ben Eastman (Ventura City), Hunter Taylor (Rio Mesa HS), Dough Stuart (Oxnard Fire Training), Jeremy Henderson (Ventura City FD), Sam Kowal (Cal Fire Ventura Training Center), Karsten Guthrie (Oxnard FD), Rosa Soliz (Oxnard Union), Jessie Rodriguez (Student Representative), Caren Petty (State Fire Training), Casey Rosdail (Ventura County FD)

Absent: , Carl Schwab (OC Public Safety/ EMT Coordinator), Jeramy Guercio (Cal Fire), Curtis Tolmie (Oxnard FD), Chad Cook (Ventura County FD), Thomas Hoffman (Fire Technology Student) Dough Stuart (Oxnard Fire Training) Chris Walls (Channel Harbor), David Endaya (Ventura City FD), Keith Gurrola (Fillmore FD), Dave Updike (USFS Risk Management), Scott Guirarte (Ventura County FD), Dustin Gardner (Ventura County FD), Nathan LaRusso (Oxnard FD), Alexander Hamilton (Oxnard FD), John Colamarino (Oxnard FD)

Meeting Date: October 09, 2025 Recorded By: Samantha Agreda

AN = Action Needed **AT = Action Taken** **D = Discussion** **I = Information Only**

	TOPIC		DISCUSSION
I.	Welcome/Call to Order		The meeting is call to order at 1:34 pm
II.	Introduction		B. Lynch introduces the new Public Safety Dean, Jackie Johnson, and invites committee to introduce themselves.
III.	Follow-Up form Previous Meetings		Approval Minutes Motion: Hunter Taylor Second: Karsten Guthrie Passed unanimously
IV.	College Updates		Fire Technology B. Lynch shares that Fire Tech courses are full/nearly full of 30-40 students. Last year, number of students getting hired as going into the summer. And several students are hired with Kern County that recently did a test about 6-8 months ago. New equipment has been purchased to make the classroom look more like fire-themed, fire-centric eg. turnouts, fire hose, nozzles, thermal imagers, etc.

			Regarding SFT courses, some instructor courses were offered Spring 2025, but they haven't offered any this semester. B. Lynch asks the agency if there is a need for a specific course to let him know. Fire Academy T. Crudo shares that during the last Fire Academy re-accreditation, the academy was suggested to implement Fire Control 4, at least at the awareness level. Currently, the academy does FC 4 at the awareness level; however, this fall is the first semester that the academy does the 12-hours of training (4-hours lecture and 8-hours of practice). Regarding props, T. Crudo shares that request for props coming in, a pipeline prop, and a standard 5-gallon barbecue prop, pulling gas coming to the academy. Pulling gas will save some money and propane fills. In addition, T. Crudo shares that the academy has implemented the new Firefighter 2024 curriculum. T. Crudo informs the agencies that are running their exams at Oxnard College that their firefighters will be tested on Firefighter 2024 skills, which can be found on the SFT website. Also, part of the 2024 curriculum is thermal imaging camera training (TIC) which the academy will be using tonight. Tonight is the first night they will be doing that. T, Crudo shares that the current academy started big (36 cadets) and now it is small (24 cadets) due to fitness. Three cadets left due to injurie and the rest due to fitness. T. Crudo invites the committee to the Fall graduation on Dec. 12. The Spring 2026 application window closes on Sept. 30. The orientation is scheduled for Oct. 20. 60 of the applicants will be invited to complete the tower exercise and the fastest time will join the orientation. Wildland Academy B. Lynch shares that the Wildland Academy's application window opened Oct.1st, it was full by Oct.3rd. Waitlist of 10 was full by Oct. 5th. The Wildland Academy is still taking applications for the waitlist. The Wildland Certificate of Achievement was completed in the last Advisory Committee which means students can take wildland academy along with other classes to obtain the certificate. B. Lynch shares that the Wildland academy graduation will be March 27, 2026 and a calendar invite will be sent to the committee. Former Ventura County Chief will be joining the wildland academy along Captain Latham and Payne to assist in some of the wildland training. EMT

			B. Lynch shares on behalf of C. Schwab that EMT has been able to increase their EMT pass rates from 73% to 78%. B. Lynch attributes this increase to C. Schwab's EMT review session. B. Lynch also shares that the NREMT test has recently change which seems to be harder. EMT ride along with Oxnard FD have been going well. B.Lynch asks the other agency if any EMT students can do their ride along with them. C. Rosdail (VCFD) can put C. Schwab in contact with someone to discuss the request.
V.	Employer Updates		<u>VCFD</u> C. Rosdail states that their Firefighter Academy starts in February, and they currently have 36 in the class. The grounds out area is what they call Ventura County PAT (like Biddle), which is a physical agility test that's given, a little more rigorous than the CPAT. C. Rosdail mentioned that individuals were physically unprepared. VCFD will start hiring Wildland in a couple of weeks and have 4 hand crews. <u>Ventura City (VFD)</u> B. Eastman shares that their 4th Academy begins in January with 10 that will hopefully graduate in May. VFD is also experiencing lack of fitness in their applicants, and they are just not physically prepared. They provided the Santa Barbara County pre-academy fitness program through Instagram as reference for applicants to do for at least 3 months to their last group. B. Eastman shares that it helps individuals understand physical expectations. VFD is also working on getting everyone to Firefighter 1 and 2. B. Lynch asks if VFD is only hiring paramedics, and B. Eastman confirms it. <u>Oxnard Fire Department (OFD)</u> D. Stuart shares that OFD will start recruiting firefighters for January 2027. They are also throwing the idea for CPAT test, and they just finished Firefighters 1 and 2 test. K. Guthrie asks if the confined space program belongs to the county or college. K. Guthrie asks for VCFD what they do for Confined Training. C. Rosdail responds that they don't have any space to meet yet, but they won't need it until March/April. Additionally, OFD is doing driver's training at the end of November, December. Also, doing ocean rescue training. <u>Cal Fire</u> E. Shalhoob shares that Cal Fire run eight crews (four crews out of Ventura and 4 crews out of Camarillo). However, Camarillo is going to go down to two crews, and Camarillo staff will be cut in half (displaced 6 captains out of 12 captains), which will affect the Ventura Training Center. In other news, Cal Fire was hiring about 2000 employee statewide Firefighter 1 and 2.

			S. Kowal shares that they started their Firefighter 1 academy this week with a group of 41 students, and graduation is scheduled for December 19. <u>State Fire Training</u> C. Petty asks if there are any questions about the new curriculum. C. Petty shares that there are some revisions and she will send them to T. Crudo. <u>Oxnard Union</u> R. Solis share that Oxnard Union is working with Kevin Todd for the fire program. She shares that they would like to offer college classes at the high schools, but the challenge has been to get an instructor. Therefore, B. lynch shares that in the meantime the answer is dual enrollment. T. Crudo suggests offering a fitness class for those interested in fire, so they can prepare ahead of time. <u>Rio Mesa</u> H. Taylor shares that not much has changed. Data shows that people ages 18 to 44 are leaving the area. He hopes that they can create a pipeline or pathways to help the students stay in the county. T. Crudo asks if Rio has a trade program. T. Crudo asks J. Johnson if the college could donate some equipment to a HS trade program. J. Johnson will check if that is possible. H. Taylor asks if there is a type of person that thrives in the fitness side of fire. C. Rosdail responds that dual physical agility pair with mental grit – resilience is what it is needed. H. Taylor has noticed that students are fitness illiterate. B. Lynch agrees and that's why he exposes the students in his intro level courses into the fire academy agility test once applications open, so students know what to expect.
VI.	Partnership Opportunities		Possible EMT ride alongs with more agencies.
VII.	Roundtable & Next Steps		K. Guthrie shares that Oxnard has their own EMT program onsite where they bring young adults that may have had some challenges and put them through EMT school. In the last group, they all got jobs upon graduation and exposure to the industry. B. Eastman shares that November 6 is the Fallen Firefighter Memorial if anyone wants to attend. It will be at 10 am D.Stuart talks about the ISA that he was working with former Dean, Steve Hall. He would like to continue the work with J. Johnson. K. Guthrie talks about their prevention academy. B. Lynch shares that Oxnard College doesn't have an academy but, in the curriculum, there are prevention courses through distance education. K. Guthrie shares

			that there is a need for fire prevention even if the job doesn't come out as often. B. Lynch asks to send any job announcement to him to share with students. B. Lynch shares that he has been thinking of a one a semester roundtable or chief talk and have 4-5 people coming and providing information to the students. The committee is interested.
VIII.	Next Meeting		Spring 2026 → ———————— Committee requests to change the date to Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at noon. B. Lynch asks if the committee would like to meet for lunch, the committee agrees. J. Johnson approves of providing lunch. Sheila Lu will send calendar invite.
IX.	Adjournment		The meeting adjourned at 2:37 pm