

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
MARCH 11, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

President Mason Brandt called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:00 hours on March 11, 2026. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, there was a moment of silence held in memory of departed Fire Chief Lloyd Henry from Lampeter Fire Company.

Guests – Dan Bezek and Brett Fassnacht gave an update to the Unified Communications Plan, which was formerly known as the Active Shooter Communications Plan. The original plan was adopted in January 2022. The document has been converted to a chart, showing the responsibilities for each discipline (Communications, Law, Fire and EMS) as the incident progresses. The operating channel for the Unified Command is on Countywide Public Safety – Channel 14. An updated chart will be sent to the chiefs soon.

Previous Meeting Minutes – Todd Kirkpatrick made a motion to accept the December 2025 Meeting Minutes as presented; seconded by Nelson Shirk and approved.

President's Comments – President Brandt reported that he and Secretary Ober met with the three county commissioners separately back in December. The commissioners reaffirmed that their financial responsibility for the radio system is the infrastructure, not the user's equipment. President Brandt advised the overall meeting went well and we are looking forward to a positive relationship with the commissioners.

Secretary Report – Secretary Ober reported that the Association received a thank you card from the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation for our \$500 donation we made after the Tobia training event. There are still plenty of LCFCA challenge coins available for the members. Lastly, with the start of the year, any fire company that needs to add new chief officers to the mailing list should contact Secretary Ober at dober@warwicktownship.org.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Rick Harrison was absent, so Secretary Ober gave his report. Since the December 2025 meeting, the following bills were paid: \$210 to the Training Center for refreshments for the Tobia training class in February; \$500 donation to the NFFF for the Tobia training class; \$1,207.60 to Tobia Training Associates for the training; \$600 to Crossgates Golf Course for a deposit for this year's golf tournament; and \$1,128.34 to Mission BBQ for food at this meeting. Total expenses were \$3,645.94. Income was \$25 from dues. The current checking account balance is \$12,597.98. The balance in the money market account is \$93,845.80, for a total of \$106,443.78 in available funds.

Law / Legislative – Ken Weber reported that Senate Bill 951 ([PN1072](#)) has been proposed and is currently in the Education Committee. The bill proposes that a portion of the department of education funding be specifically categorized to support fire and EMS training in PA, but the bill specifically indicates that only community colleges would be eligible for the funding. He encouraged everyone to send a letter supporting the bill to the State Senators, to ask that the funding be made available to all Educational Training Agencies (ETA's) approved by the State Fire Academy. Without that change in the language, county training centers, like LCPSTC, would not be eligible for any of the funding. President Brandt reminded everyone that this is an election year, so stay engaged with elected officials and others running for office.

PSP Fire Marshal – No Report.

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LANCASTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY -

Emergency Communications Center (ECC) – Brad Shenk reported that there is no update to the P25 Phase 2 implementation, which is set to start in January 2027, with the system operating in parallel with Phase 1 and Phase 2 until a complete conversion occurs in 2028. The CAD project remains pending right now as we continue working to secure the necessary funding to move forward.

A question was asked whether the requirement to change your password in the WebCAD can either be eliminated or if it can give advanced warning, so it is not something that has to be dealt with during an emergency. Brad reported that he will check and get back to the membership.

Brett Fassnacht advised that they have been working with RAC as they work to improve their service. They are currently updated internal operational policies and procedures. In July they will be hosting their first academy for fire / EMS dispatchers. They recently hired eight new telecommunicators, leaving them with just 2 full-time positions unfilled.

Emergency Management (EMA) – Zach Gibbons reported that they recently filled two positions – Health and Medical Preparedness Coordinator and Training and Exercise Coordinator.

Training Center – Ken Weber presented the new Entry Level Firefighter Training program, in which the transition will take place July 1st. Our Training Center is running a pilot of the program. If any fire department has a firefighter who has completed Exterior Firefighter (Mod 3) but has not completed Interior Firefighter (Mod 4), they should do their best to finish it by 12/31/26. If a firefighter has Interior Firefighter with live fire, he will need to take the Traffic Incident Management System and Fireground Support to test for Firefighter 1.

Bill Hall reported that there will be a daytime Firefighter 1 class beginning June 8th and running through July 31st. It will be held Monday – Thursday, 8am – 5pm.

Lancaster County Fireman’s Association – Bryan Duquin reported that the LCFA will host their annual awards and meeting on Saturday, June 6th. All submissions for the awards are due by April 15th - www.lcfa.com/about/awards. LCFA Meeting Minutes can now be found on their website - www.lcfa.com/about/meeting-summaries. The new fire safety trailer is technology driven so they have decided to hire a part-time facilitator at \$25 / hour. This person will tow the trailer to events and remain at the event to operate it. There will be demonstrations of the trailer at Expo. The LCFA will reimburse the fire companies for the cost of Fireground Support, but the firefighter must be a member of the LCFA. Bryan encouraged all fire companies to consider having all their members join the LCFA. There is no Convention this year – Columbia is hosting their own firefighters parade on the same day in celebration of Columbia’s 300th Anniversary.

Lancaster County Fire Police Association – Merle Weaver reported that Traffic 17 has been inspected and placed into service, and Traffic 16 completed upgrades to meet the new Traffic Unit standard, which includes NFPA 1091 and TIMS components. Merle reminded everyone that MUTC Chapter 6 requires that all incidents longer than 30 minutes should have advanced warning for motorists.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) – Secretary Ober reported that the Lancaster County Commissioners approved a contract with Emergency Services Consulting International to complete a hazardous materials strategic plan for providing hazardous materials response in Lancaster County. The contract allows them six months to

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complete the report. The cost of the project is \$39,633, which will be paid for with LEPC funds. Also, the County has contracted with Lebanon County to provide hazardous materials response for one year (ending June 30th) that can be renewed annually for up to three years.

Radio Advisory Committee – Dean Gantz Jr. reported that the committee met in January. The committee is working with the ECC as they work towards Phase 2 radio implementation. The committee received a request for an EMS Assistant Chief radio call sign to which there was no opposition from the committee. Automatic Fire Alarm Reported False has been removed from the nature code list. Mike Ross from Quarryville Fire Department has resigned from the committee; Chief Craig Rhineer Jr. from Willow Street Fire Department has been appointed to take his place on the committee.

Standards Committee – Josh Pfeiffer reported that Brandon Brubaker and Adam Ebersole have been added to the committee. Multiple inspections have taken place recently, including Squads 22 & 34, and Inflatable and UTV 71. The committee is still working on updating the Rescue standard. Other counties in the South-Central Task Force are starting to use our apparatus standards for naming updates in their counties. If anyone needs a unit inspected, contact Chief Pfeiffer at Joshua.pfeiffer@bowmansvillefire.org or at standards@lancofirechiefs.org.

EAST Committee – No report.

Golf Tournament – This year's golf tournament will be held at Crossgates Golf Club in Millersville on Friday, July 10th. Additional help is needed on the day of the tournament. If you can help, please contact Kurt Gehman at kgehman@ekmconkey.com.

Leadership Development (Training) Committee – Jason Topper reported that 70 people attended the Matthew Tobia / Timothy McKay training class in February. He received a lot of positive feedback from the class and thanked the Association for sponsoring the class.

Pequea Lane Working Group – No report.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – Josh Pfeiffer made a motion to sponsor two (2) \$500 awards for the Lancaster County CTC Protective Services Program. The motion was seconded by Bill Hall and approved.

Adam Ebersole made a motion to sponsor fifty (50) \$25 gift cards to donate to National Telecommunicators Week in April. The motion was seconded by Marc Hershey and approved.

Open Discussion – President Brandt asked the membership what their thoughts are regarding who is eligible to vote on Standards. Currently the Bylaws state that ballots will be sent to every member, but each fire company will get one vote. The fire company can vote by absentee ballot by emailing it to the Secretary ahead of the meeting, or a fire company representative can submit their ballot at the meeting. The open discussion questioned if it should be kept that way or only allow the members who attend the meeting to vote. Those who provided comments spoke in favor of maintaining the current system, that every fire company is entitled to one vote.

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Mark Mitchell, Deputy Chief from Conestoga Fire Company, brought up for discussion the topic of his recent email about his concern of fire company units adding onto calls in which they were not dispatched, especially those who drive through the first due areas of companies who were not dispatched to the incident. Some chiefs shared that they allow mutual aid units to add on due to staffing reasons or the time of the day. For example, some chiefs advised that they do not double-pull from fire companies in case they do not have the staffing but have mutual aid agreements in place to permit additional units to respond if staffing allows for it. There were some chiefs who expressed other concerns, such as additional units who arrive unannounced and do not report to manpower staging or to the Incident Commander. This creates a free-lancing issue that could lead to problems.

Another discussion was initiated that questioned why EMS can't be on a designated EMS channel instead of the hailing channels? The conversation involved reminding everyone to reduce the excessive radio time from EMS, fire police officers, and fire chiefs in general.

Brett Fassnacht asked anyone who finds that hydrants are missing from the WebCAD map to report it by completing an online form to let them know - <https://lanastercountypa.gov/FormCenter/Department-of-Public-Safety-16/CAD-Information-Update-Form-137>.

Good of the Order – Middle Creek Search and Rescue Chief Tony Heidebreder advised they will be hosting an Autism Awareness for First Responders class on April 21st at Station 14. Participants can earn two continuing education credits for the class. Registration can be done through their website at www.midsar.org – Calendar.

Merle Weaver asked the chiefs to encourage their fire police officers to attend the Lancaster County Fire Police Association meetings. Their next meeting is on April 20th at 7pm at the Willow Street Fire Company.

Roll Call – Roll call showed 67 in attendance with (16) Fire Chiefs, (15) Deputy Chiefs, (19) Assistant Chiefs, (12) Past Chiefs and (5) Guests, representing 41 fire companies.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 7pm, at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, Todd Kirkpatrick made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Troy Weaver. The meeting was adjourned at 20:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober, Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.
March 23, 2026