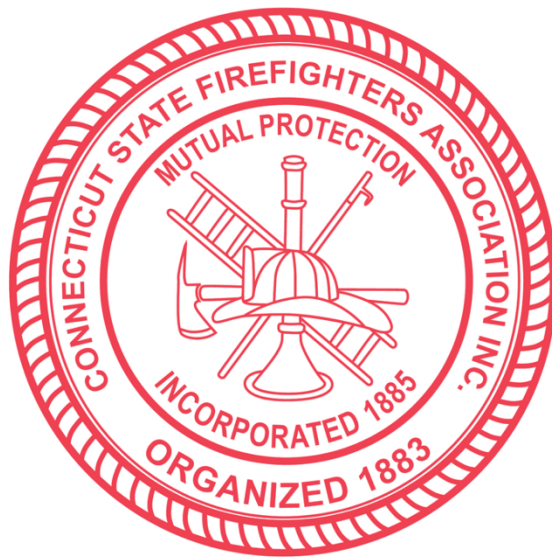


2025-2026

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION



Presented at the  
143<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention  
September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Waterbury, Connecticut

**143rd ANNUAL CONVENTION  
CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**

**La Bella Vista  
380 Farmwood Road, Waterbury, Connecticut  
September 19<sup>th</sup>,2026**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 10:30 a.m. by the President

**MOTION:** The Chair will entertain a motion to adjourn for 10 minutes for County Caucus to elect County Vice Presidents.

**PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS**

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG:** President

**INVOCATION:** Association Chaplain

**GREETINGS FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT**

**GREETINGS FROM THE DIVISION OF FIRE SERVICE ADMINISTRATION &  
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION**

**GREETINGS FROM THE CITY OF WATERBURY**

**GREETINGS INTRODUCTION OF OTHER OFFICIALS:**

Past Presidents of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Presidents and representatives of Connecticut fire service organizations

Other invited state, municipal, and fire service officials

**MOTION:** The Chair will entertain a motion to accept and place on file all committee reports as printed in the Annual Report.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE:** Association Chaplain

**PRESENTATION OF LEGISLATIVE AWARDS**

**REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Business properly brought before the Convention delegates.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **MOTION:** To continue payment to members currently approved for Total and Permanent Disability benefits.

2. MOTION: To accept the location of any future Convention not yet committed.
3. MOTION: To adopt the updated and revamped Bylaws of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association.
3. Any other New Business properly brought before the Convention delegates.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**

Nominations / Election for Chaplain

Nominations / Election for Treasurer

Nominations / Election for Assistant Treasurer

Nominations / Election for Secretary

Nominations / Election for Assistant Secretary

Nominations / Election for Second Vice President

Nominations / Election for First Vice President

Nominations / Election for President

## **PRESENTATION OF MERIT AWARDS**

**READING OF THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION:** Secretary (including State Officers and County Vice Presidents)

## **INSTALLATION / RECOGNITION OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS**

**BENEDICTION:** Association Chaplain

## **ADJOURNMENT**

# Officers & Committees

## Officers

|                                                |                                |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Timothy S. Wall: President                     | North Farms - Wallingford      |
| Karin Halstead: 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President | Sandy Hook - Newtown           |
| Timothy Jencks: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President | Taftville - Norwich            |
| Edward J. Urbansky: Secretary                  | East Wallingford - Wallingford |
| Paul Walsh: Assistant Secretary                | New Britain                    |
| William Coffey: Treasurer                      | Battalion 31 - Danbury         |
| Charles Coakley: Assistant Treasurer           | Battalion 31 - Danbury         |
| Kevin Donovan: Chaplin                         | Glastonbury                    |
| Mark Byers: Chaplin                            | Thomaston                      |

## County Vice Presidents

|                  |                   |                          |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| John Plofkin     | Fairfield County  | Wilton                   |
| Gary Ruggiero    | Hartford County   | Windsor Locks            |
| James Koser      | Litchfield County | Litchfield               |
| Robert Rainville | Middlesex County  | East Hampton             |
| Michael Ehemann  | New Haven County  | Ansonia                  |
| William Hayes    | New London County | Taftville - Norwich      |
| Alexander Moore  | Tolland County    | Willington               |
| Lloyd Niles      | Windham County    | Windham Center - Windham |

## Commission on Fire Prevention and Control

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| Vaughan Dumas | Orange  |
| Andrew Cooke  | Norwich |

## Legislative Committee

|                                    |                        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Lewis Clark: Chairman              | Morris                 |
| John Carew: Legislative Consultant | Allington - West Haven |
| Frank Hilbert                      | Mystic - Stonington    |
| James O'Neil                       | Thomaston              |
| All County Vice Presidents         |                        |

## Representative to the E.M.S. Advisory Committee

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| Robert Guthrie | West Haven |
|----------------|------------|

## Representative to the Flanagan Scholarship Committee

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| Gary Ruggiero | Windsor Locks |
|---------------|---------------|

## Representatives to the National Volunteer Fire Council

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| Lewis Clark    | Morris     |
| Robert Guthrie | West Haven |

## Audit Committee

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| James O'Neil: Chairman | Thomaston           |
| Frank Hilbert          | Mystic - Stonington |
| Glenn Clark            | Thomaston           |
| George Thompson Jr.    | Mansfield           |

## Convention Advisory Committee

|                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Lewis Clark    | Morris               |
| James Koser    | Litchfield           |
| David Bunnell  | Middlebury           |
| Steven McMahon | Avon                 |
| Edward Waudo   | Flanders - East Lyme |

## Credentials Committee

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Vaughan Dumas: Chairman | Orange       |
| Theodore Schroll Jr.    | Wethersfield |
| Jennifer Atkins         | North Haven  |

### **Memorial Committee**

|                                 |                                               |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Paul Walsh: Co-Chairman         | New Britain                                   |
| Edward J. Urbansky: Co-Chairman | East Wallingford - Wallingford                |
| Kenneth Beliveau                | East Granby                                   |
| John Carew                      | Allingtown - West Haven                       |
| Glenn Clark                     | Thomaston                                     |
| Charles Coakley                 | Battalion 31 - Danbury                        |
| William Coffey                  | Battalion 31 - Danbury                        |
| Karin Halstead                  | Sandy Hook - Newtown                          |
| Jeff Morrisette                 | Division of Fire Service Administration-DESPP |
| Lloyd Niles                     | Windham Center - Windham                      |
| Tim Pelton                      | Cheshire                                      |
| Robert Reis                     | Mansfield                                     |
| Kevin Starbird                  | UPFFA of Connecticut                          |
| Edward P. Urbansky Jr.          | Glastonbury                                   |
| Timothy S. Wall                 | North Farms - Wallingford                     |
| Edward Waido                    | Flanders - East Lyme                          |

### **Merit Awards Committee**

|                                  |                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Charles M. Stankye III: Chairman | Derby                  |
| Paul McAllister                  | Danbury                |
| James O'Neil                     | Thomaston              |
| William Coffey                   | Battalion 31 - Danbury |
| James Koser                      | Litchfield             |
| Charles Doback                   | Naugatuck              |

### **Hall of Fame Committee**

|                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Karin Halstead: Co-Chairman | Sandy Hook - Newtown             |
| Lewis Clark: Co-Chairman    | Morris                           |
| William Davine              | Monroe                           |
| John Plofkin                | Nichols - Trumbull               |
| James Trzaski               | South Fire District - Middletown |

### **Education Committee**

|                        |                                               |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Timothy S. Wall        | Connecticut State Firefighters Association    |
| Jeff Morrisette        | Division of Fire Service Administration-DESPP |
| P.J. Norwood           | Connecticut Fire Academy                      |
| Vaughan Dumas          | Commission on Fire Prevention and Control     |
| Scott Bisson           | Fairfield Regional Fire School                |
| Denis McCarthy         | Fairfield Regional Fire School                |
| Nick Wallick           | Eastern Connecticut Fire School               |
| Leslie Shull Jr.       | Eastern Connecticut Fire School               |
| James Baldis           | Hartford County Fire School                   |
| Craig Stegmaier        | Hartford County Fire School                   |
| Richard Winn           | Litchfield County Fire School                 |
| John Field             | Litchfield County Fire School                 |
| Fred Dudek             | Middlesex County Fire School                  |
| Andrew Cooke           | Middlesex County Fire School                  |
| John Alston Jr.        | New Haven Regional Fire School                |
| Chris Zyskowski        | New Haven Regional Fire School                |
| Nick DeAngelo          | Stamford Regional Fire School                 |
| Joe Dombrowski         | Stamford Regional Fire School                 |
| James Vincent          | Valley Regional Fire School                   |
| Charles M. Stankye III | Valley Regional Fire School                   |
| Scott Poulton          | Wolcott State Fire School                     |
| Craig Henderson        | Wolcott State Fire School                     |

### **Hall of Fame Selection Committee**

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Lewis Clark: Co-Chairman | Morris              |
| William Davine           | Monroe              |
| Frank Hilbert            | Mystic - Stonington |
| Scott Potter             | Thomaston           |
| Edwin Evers              | Litchfield          |

# Annual Report of the Secretary

October 2025 – September 2026

To the Officers, Delegates, and Members of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association:

We respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Secretary for the 2025–2026 Association year. This year focused on modernizing CSFA administration, reducing recurring costs, improving membership and claims administration, strengthening communications and recordkeeping, and positioning the Association to continue supporting Connecticut firefighters and their families.

## **Administrative Modernization and Cost Reduction**

- Transitioned Association business toward a centralized Microsoft business platform for CSFA e-mail, records, shared documents, and official communications.
- Improved continuity between officers, standardized Association e-mail, strengthened document retention and accessibility, and reduced reliance on disconnected individual systems.
- Expanded electronic distribution of notices, forms, invoices, membership correspondence, and other routine communications, reducing printing, paper, postage, and mailing costs while improving delivery speed.

## **New CSFA Website and Electronic Forms**

- Created and implemented a redesigned CSFA website as the central public resource for membership information, Association news, benefits, events, memorial information, forms, and other resources.
- Reorganized and updated legacy information and made current injury, disability, death, exposure, Hall of Fame, and other benefit-related forms available electronically whenever appropriate.

## **Online Membership Administration**

- Implemented MembershipWorks as the Association's primary online membership platform for records, applications, renewals, member communications, and electronic payments.
- The transition is reducing manual processing, improving membership-record accuracy and organizational contact information, and strengthening direct communication with members.
- Departments and member organizations are being encouraged to maintain current e-mail and contact information so invoices, renewal notices, and Association communications can be delivered electronically.

## **Review and Modernization of the Association Bylaws**

- Undertook a comprehensive review of the CSFA bylaws to address outdated language, administrative inconsistencies, membership provisions, benefit procedures, organizational responsibilities, and areas requiring clarification.
- The project is intended to align the bylaws with current operations, electronic administration, claims procedures, membership classifications, and contemporary organizational practices, producing a clearer and more sustainable governing document.

## **Injury and Disability Benefits**

- Continued administration of injury and disability benefits, including claim review, supporting documentation, claimant and department communications, quarterly payment requests, and maintenance of Total Permanent Disability and dependent-benefit records.
- Reinforced filing-time requirements and Executive Committee review procedures for claims submitted outside established filing periods.
- Updated benefit information and filing requirements in Association communications and on the website.

- Working with Association leadership and the State Fire Administrator, secured additional funding for injuries and long-term disabilities to strengthen the financial resources supporting these benefits.

| <u>FY 2025-2026</u>    | <u>Q1</u>   | <u>Q2</u>   | <u>Q3</u>   | <u>Q4</u>   | <u>Total</u>        |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Dependents             | \$23,000.00 | \$23,000.00 | \$25,300.00 | \$25,300.00 | \$96,600.00         |
| Injuries               | \$9,900.00  | \$6,600.00  | \$8,700.00  | \$36,294.00 | \$61,494.00         |
| Total Perm. Disability | \$16,731.00 | \$16,731.00 | \$22,902.00 | \$22,902.00 | \$79,266.00         |
|                        |             |             |             |             | <b>\$237,360.00</b> |

### Association Communications

- Prepared and distributed official communications covering membership and renewals; electronic invoicing and membership administration; updated forms; Association address and contact information; claims procedures; injury and disability benefits; cancer and Line-of-Duty Death matters; memorial activities; department information requests; Association events and the annual convention; Sustaining Membership; and other Connecticut fire service matters.
- Established a consistent professional format for official CSFA correspondence with members, departments, governmental agencies, vendors, and the public.

### Association Address and Administrative Presence

- Transitioned the CSFA administrative mailing location to the Connecticut Fire Academy, 34 Perimeter Road, Windsor Locks, Connecticut, providing a stable institutional address and central location for Association records and correspondence.
- Updated forms, membership materials, communications, and website information to reflect current address and contact information.

### Looking Forward

- Complete the MembershipWorks transition and continue improving membership records.
- Complete the bylaws modernization project and expand Sustaining Membership.
- Continue website development, electronic record retention, and modernization of Association forms and administrative processes.
- Monitor injury-benefit funding and expenditures to preserve the Association's ability to provide meaningful benefits.
- Continue reducing unnecessary administrative costs, improving service to members, protecting institutional records, and directing CSFA resources toward Connecticut firefighters and their families.

It has been our privilege to serve as Secretaries of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association during this year. We thank the officers, delegates, and members of the Association for their assistance and support.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Edward J. Urbansky, Secretary  
Paul Walsh, Assistant Secretary

# Annual Report of the Treasurer

|                                                       | Year Ending<br>April 30 2024 | Year Ending<br>April 30 2025 | Year Ending<br>June 30 2026 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                                         |                              |                              |                             |
| Dues, Assessments & Fees                              | \$67,460.00                  | \$71,930.00                  | \$101,572.36                |
| Interest on Savings Accounts                          | \$44.20                      | \$44.91                      | \$54.12                     |
| Hall Of Fame Dinner                                   | \$39,940.00                  | \$37,635.00                  | \$34,580.00                 |
| <b>Total Receipts:</b>                                | <b>\$107,444.20</b>          | <b>\$109,609.91</b>          | <b>\$136,206.48</b>         |
| <b>Expenses:</b>                                      |                              |                              |                             |
| General Operating                                     | \$65,359.19                  | \$77,722.82                  | \$105,671.76                |
| Filing Fee for IRS 501-c3                             | \$935.00                     | \$935.00                     | \$935.00                    |
| President's Reception                                 | \$1,400.00                   | \$1,000.00                   | \$1,000.00                  |
| National Volunteer Council Meeting Expenses           | \$3,173.25                   | \$4,269.45                   | \$3,759.74                  |
| Hall of Fame Dinner                                   | \$34,031.59                  | \$29,256.69                  | \$25,211.90                 |
| Transfer to Savings                                   | \$0.00                       | \$0.00                       | \$0.00                      |
| Re-purchased CD's                                     | \$0.00                       | \$0.00                       | \$0.00                      |
| Purchased CD (Hall of Fame Profit)                    | \$0.00                       | \$0.00                       | \$0.00                      |
| <b>Total Expenditures:</b>                            | <b>\$104,899.03</b>          | <b>\$113,183.96</b>          | <b>\$136,578.40</b>         |
| <br><b>NET GAIN</b>                                   | <br><b>\$2,545.17</b>        | <br><b>-\$3,574.05</b>       | <br><b>-\$371.92</b>        |
| <b>Bank Account Balances:</b>                         |                              |                              |                             |
| Checking Bank of America Association Funds            | \$23,724.84                  | \$11,334.62                  | \$31,397.77                 |
| Savings Bank of America Association Funds             | \$11,221.90                  | \$11,223.05                  | \$1,225.15                  |
| Con Bonds Bank of America                             | \$7,564.06                   | \$7,664.06                   | \$7,665.60                  |
| Sub Total Assets in all Accounts                      | \$42,510.80                  | \$30,221.73                  | \$40,288.52                 |
| <br><b>CD Invest M&amp;T Bank Various Maturities:</b> |                              |                              |                             |
| 1. Fireman's Memorial (1)                             | \$12,524.43                  | \$12,526.27                  | \$12,526.27                 |
| 2. CSFA Operational Account (3)                       | \$19,034.33                  | \$19,052.13                  | \$13,021.96                 |
| 3. Hall of Fame (4)                                   | \$6,550.89                   | \$6,550.89                   | \$6,601.10                  |

*Respectfully submitted,*

William Coffey, Treasurer

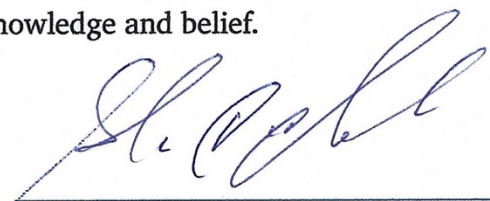
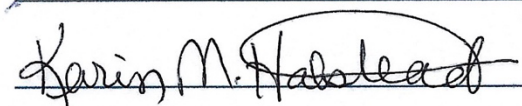
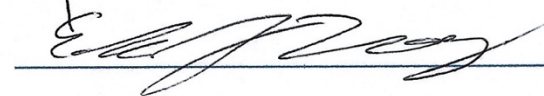
Charles Coakley, Assistant Treasurer

# Annual Audit of Records

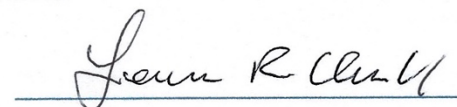
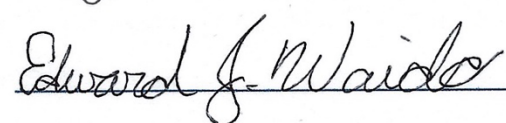
August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026

To the officers and members of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association.

As of this date, the financial records, accounts, and files of the Secretary and Treasurer have been analyzed by the Audit Committee. Comparisons of the transactions relating to income and operating expenses have reconciled the accounts of the savings and commercial deposits and reviewed the fidelity bond of the secretary and treasurer that is in the custody of the Presidents files and find them satisfactory, to the best of our knowledge and belief.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

Witness:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Committee & Program Reports



## Legislative Wrap-Up Report As presented by FOCUS Government Affairs

*Overall, this session had a robust legislative agenda, with many introduced bills having direct changes to the Fire Service Industry. The Connecticut General Assembly reconvened for the 2026 legislative session on February 4th and adjourned at 11:59pm on May 6th. Over the four-month stretch, 1,262 bills were introduced, but only 186 bills made it across the finish line.*

### **Advanced**

**Public Act No. 26-12 (H.B. 5003)** [An Act Concerning Workforce Development and Working Conditions in the State.](#)

**Status:** Signed into Law.

#### **Relevant Sections:**

- **Section 11:** Requires non-state public employers to provide partnership plan coverage to survivors of certain unpaid volunteer firefighters.
- **Section 12:** Allows for surviving spouses and dependents of a volunteer firefighter killed in the line of duty to receive coverage under the state employee health insurance plan.
- **Section 39:** Creates a grant-in-aid program, to be overseen by the state fire administrator, for junior firefighter programs administered by volunteer firefighter programs.
- **Section 41-43:** Requires the president of UConn to establish a recruitment and retention program for the UConn Special Police Forces and Fire Department. The plan must develop a salary schedule for all members and provide an educational benefit.
- **Section 49:** Requires a new job classification for part-time fire service instructors to be made within DESPP's Division of Fire Service Administration.
- **Section 50:** Requires the comptroller to study health insurance coverage for retired police officers and firefighters.
- **Sections 65-72:** Creates a tuition waiver for eligible first responders to attend CT State and Connecticut State Colleges and Universities.
- **Section 73:** Establishes a task force to study recruitment and retention issues for public safety personnel.
- **Section 74:** Tasks the Chief of Workforce Officer to develop a plan to establish a firefighter and police officer career pipeline program.

**OLR Report (summary):** [Link](#)

**H.B. 5460** [An Act Concerning State-Wide Fire Protection](#)



**Status:** Awaiting Governor's Signature to be Signed into Law

The bill creates and expands fire protection programs across the state.

- Requires entities responsible for fire protection services to register with all the municipalities in which they geographically service.
- Municipalities are required to establish fire protection plans that the state fire administrator must review at least once every five years.
- The Commission on Fire Prevention and Control must develop minimum standards for firefighter safety and emergency response protocols.
- Establishes a working group to develop the Connecticut Fire Program which will create a framework to assist municipalities and fire authorities.
- Creates the position of volunteer, unpaid regional fire coordinators to act as a government liaison and coordinate fire protection resources.
- Requires the Comptroller and DESPP to create a registry of all of Connecticut's career and volunteer firefighters and their credentials.
- Tasks the Comptroller and DESPP to study the feasibility of centralizing within one state agency all public benefits for firefighters.

**OLR Report (summary):** [Link](#)

**Special Act No. 26-9 (H.B. 5450)** [An Act Dissolving the Brooklyn Fire District](#)

**Status:** Signed into Law

This act repealed Special Act No. 41 of 1988, dissolving the Brooklyn Fire District. Funds and tangible property will be transferred to the town of Brooklyn.

**H.B. 5385** [An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study Undue Delay in Workers' Compensation Claims by Police Officers and Firefighters.](#)

**Status:** Awaiting Governor's Signature to be Signed into Law

This bill establishes a task force to study the reasons for undue delays in workers' compensation claims made by police officers and firefighters.

**H.B. 5401** [An Act Concerning Revisions to the State Building Code, State Fire Prevention Code, and Fire Safety Code.](#)

**Status:** Awaiting Governor's Signature to be Signed into Law



This bill requires that the State Building Code, State Fire Prevention Code, and Fire Safety be updated within 18 months anytime the nationally recognized model codes they are based on are revised.

**OLR Report (summary):** [Link](#)

**S.B. 1** [An Act Concerning Affordability](#)

**Status:** Awaiting Governor's Signature to be Signed into Law

This bill contains the legislature's appropriations adjustments for fiscal year 2026-27.

- Maintains \$400,000 line item for Firefighter Cancer Relief Fund.
- Sections 209-210:
  - Firefighter Cancer Relief Fund Fix
- Includes \$140,000 line item for volunteer firefighter training.
- Includes \$306,625 line item for Connecticut State Firefighters Association.

**OLR Report (summary):** [Link](#)

**S.B. 370** [An Act Concerning the Hourly Compensation for Adjunct Fire Instructors](#)

**Status:** Awaiting a signature to be signed into law

Requires the Department of Administrative Services Commissioner to adjust a Connecticut Fire Academy adjunct fire instructor's hourly rate by the same percentage as the general wage increases and cost of living adjustment.

**OLR Report (summary):** [Link](#)

**Did Not Advance**

**H.B. 5046** [An Act Supporting First Responder Recruitment and Retention.](#)

**Status:** Advanced out of Committee, Not taken up by the House

Provisions of this bill were incorporated into House Bill 5003.

**OLR Report (summary):** [Link](#)

**H.B. 5382** [An Act Requiring the Comptroller to Conduct a Study of Health Insurance Coverage for Retired Police Officers and Firefighters.](#)



**Status:** Advanced out of Committee, Not taken up by the House

Provisions of this bill were incorporated into House Bill 5003.

**H.B. 5279** [An Act Adding Witnessing a Serious Physical Injury as a Qualifying Event for Purposes of Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Workers' Compensation Coverage.](#)

**Status:** Advanced out of Committee, Did not advance out of Appropriations

This bill would have expanded the range of events that qualify employees for workers' compensation benefits for a post traumatic stress injury.

**OLR Report (summary):** [Link](#)

**S.B. 93** [An Act Implementing the Rural Health Transformation Program to Expand Health Care Access.](#)

**Status:** Advanced out of Committee, Not taken up by the Senate

This bill would have entered Connecticut into the Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact and would have required the Department of Public Health to institute a criminal background check requirement for EMS personnel.

**OLR Report (summary):** [Link](#)

**H.B. 5404** [An Act Establishing a Job Classification for Part-Time Fire Service Instructors](#)

**Status:** Advanced out of Committee, Not taken up by the House

Provisions of this bill were incorporated into House Bill 5003.

**H.B. 5453** [An Act requiring a Study Regarding State-Wide Essential Workers and First Responder Job Classifications](#)

**Status:** Passed the House, Not taken up by the Senate

This bill would have required the Department of Administrative Services to conduct a study to determine whether a state wide essential worker or first responder job classification should be established, and its potential impacts.

**H.B. 5456** [An Act Concerning the Number of Deputy Commissioners Appointed by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection.](#)

**Status:** Advanced out of Committee, Not taken up by the House



This bill would have increased from two to three the number of deputy commissioners that the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protections must appoint.

**OLR Report (summary):** [Link](#)

**H.B. 5457 An Act Concerning Fires And Explosions that Occur at Solar Photovoltaic Facilities.**

**Status:** Advanced out of Committee, Not taken up by the House

This bill would have required local fire marshals to provide the Connecticut Siting Council with incident reports for any fire or explosion at a solar photovoltaic electric generating facility under the council's jurisdiction. The bill would have also set conditions for which the Siting Council must open an amendment process to require these facility owners to adopt a fire mitigation plan.

**OLR Report (summary):** [Link](#)

**S.B. 442 An Act Concerning a Study of Retirement Health Benefits for Paraeducators.**

**Status:** Advanced out of Committee, Not taken up by the Senate

This bill would have required the Comptroller to conduct a study on the retirement health benefits currently available to paraeducators and provide future recommendations.

**S.B. 410 An Act Concerning Firefighter Cancer.**

**Status:** Advanced out of Committee, Not taken up the Senate

Provisions of this bill were incorporated into House Bill 5003.

**OLR Report (summary):** [Link](#)



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION**  
**DIVISION OF FIRE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**  
**COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

**Ronnell A. Higgins, Commissioner**

**Paul M. Januszewski, Chairman**

**Daniel D. Tomkins, Vice Chairman**

**Peter Buonome, Secretary**

**Jeffrey J. Morrisette, State Fire Administrator**

*Established - 1975 Statutory Authority - Conn. Gen. Statutes. Sec. 7-323l*

*Central Office - Connecticut Fire Academy, 34 Perimeter Road, Windsor Locks, CT 06096*

*Average number of full-time employees – 10 (General Fund)*

*Organization structure - Office of State Fire Administrator, Training Unit and Certification Unit*

**Division Mission**

*To prevent or mitigate the effects of fire and disasters through leadership and collaboration with municipalities, fire departments, and regional fire schools by delivery of quality consulting services, technical assistance, training, education, and professional competency certification of career and volunteer fire service personnel.*

## **Statutory Authority**

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §§ 7-323(j) - 7-323(v) the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control is charged with and has primary responsibility for training, public fire and life safety education, and professional competency certification for members of Connecticut's fire service.

### **COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

Effective July 1, 2025, Public Act 24-136 established and transferred various functions from the Office of State Fire Administration and Commission to a new Division of Fire Services Administration within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Further, the Act revised the powers and composition of the Appointed members of the Commission who serve to advise Commissioner Ronnell A. Higgins. Paul M. Januszewski, was appointed by Governor Ned Lamont to serve as Chairman. To address a number of emerging issues highlighted by last year's Statewide Fire Service Survey, impacting our state's fire service, the Chairman established several subcommittees to include Standards and Certification; Training, Education and Continuing Development; Special Populations, Community Risk Reduction and Community Response; Finance, Grants and Infrastructure and Strategic Planning and Operations.

### **Division of Fire Services Administration**

The Office of the State Fire Administrator provides overall coordination, management, and support of division activities and facilities, including the administration of grants. The Office offers consulting services to communities regarding fire department administration and operations. Oversight of the Statewide Fire Rescue Disaster Response Plan continues with staff serving as Fire Service Liaisons to the State Emergency Operations Center during statewide emergencies and exercises. The Office actively supports the Connecticut Fallen Firefighters Memorial Foundation and the Connecticut Statewide Honor Guard, ensuring Connecticut honors its fallen firefighters and their family members consistent with the profession's highest standards. Communication, collaboration, and coordination with the nine independent Regional Fire Schools continue through representation on the Connecticut State Firefighters Association's Education Committee. Further, we continue to assist DEEP, in the coordination of the state's Regional Foam Trailer program, with eight local fire departments, hosting these resources and responding to emergencies requiring firefighting foam. While state funds were exhausted to reimburse municipalities that drained, rinsed, and disposed of PFAS contaminated AFFF from their on-board fire apparatus foam systems we continue to offer guidance to departments in remediation efforts.

An hourly wage increase was approved for our dedicated part-time Fire Service Instructor cadre retroactive to January 29th. To build upon this success, action taken during the 2026 Legislative Session will allow for further increases in addition to a review and update of the position classification by DAS. In August, a Special Bond Commission Meeting authorized funds for several agency projects including \$5 million for a future indoor CPAT facility.

Continued collaboration with the agency's Director of Communications has improved information dissemination to fire service constituents and the public, primarily through expanded use of social media, the CFPC email Listserv, and numerous media engagements.

During FY26, with funding from the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), we provided additional Hazardous Materials training funds and led planning efforts in advance of the annual SERC Haz Mat response exercise, scheduled to take place in Danbury.

We continued administration of funding to distressed communities with volunteer fire departments to support entry-level training. This fiscal year we distributed \$66,999.82 to fund Firefighter I and II training for 58 newly recruited volunteer firefighters in 18 communities.

A Mobile Extraction Unit equipped to launder and decontaminate Live Fire Training Personal Protective Equipment was ordered to support our firefighter cancer reduction efforts. The unit is funded through a FEMA FY 24 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) totaling \$511,713.50, with expected delivery this fall. An award decision is pending on our FY25 AFG application requesting funds for three vehicles fully outfitted with Technical Rescue equipment caches to support field training statewide.

We continue to serve as a point of contact within DESPP for several fire departments that received state pass-through grants supporting public safety-related projects in those communities.

Administration of the Limited Access Highway program that provides payments to volunteer fire companies for response to emergency incidents on limited access highways continued. A total of 2,954 claims were reviewed, and payments authorized totaling \$1.477 million.

A number of presentations were conducted statewide to share information from a comprehensive survey of fire departments complementing a parallel effort, a *Special Examination on Firefighters* completed by the Office of the State Comptroller. Both efforts led to significant legislative initiatives to include a new requirement for submission of local fire protection plans and the establishment of a foundation for CT Fire, to assist local communities in the delivery of public fire protection.

The Connecticut Fire Academy Bookstore continued supporting the training and educational needs of our fire service members. Total items sold were 4,918 with gross sales of \$244,405.91.

Due to a contract related issue, repairs to the Class A and B Burn Buildings were delayed with the project now moving forward. A new project, currently in the engineering and design phase, was initiated through DAS Construction Services to include repaving the training grounds, lining and painting the training water distribution systems storage tank, and replacement of an out of service propane vaporizer.

A total of 6,079 dormitory room nights were used by students attending training at the Connecticut Fire Academy.

### **Training Unit (Connecticut Fire Academy)**

Under the leadership of Director P.J. Norwood, the Connecticut Fire Academy (CFA) Training Unit provides comprehensive education and training programs that support every stage of a firefighter's career. Programs range from the Academy's 15-week residential Recruit Firefighter Training Program to Fire Officer development, instructor certification, technical specialty courses, and nationally recognized programs, many of which are approved for collegiate transfer credit. Training is delivered statewide through the Connecticut Fire Academy campus in Windsor Locks, Regional Fire Schools, host fire departments, and local fire stations, ensuring accessible, high-quality instruction for Connecticut's fire service.

During Fiscal Year 2025-2026, the Connecticut Fire Academy delivered 500 training events, including scheduled courses, contract classes, respirator fit testing, and Candidate Physical Ability Testing (CPAT), meeting the diverse training needs of fire departments and emergency response agencies throughout Connecticut.

The Academy continues to expand its use of the Acadis® Learning Management System (LMS). In addition to providing a modern online registration platform, the LMS enables the Academy to collect, analyze, and report statewide training data, with a level of accuracy and detail that was not previously possible. This enhanced data capability supports informed decision-making, improved resource allocation, greater accountability, and the continuous evaluation and improvement of training programs.

During the fiscal year, 8,769 students enrolled in Connecticut Fire Academy training programs and services. Participation remained strong, with a significant percentage of students successfully completing their coursework and certifications.

The Academy's flagship Recruit Firefighter Training Program graduated 79 new firefighters representing 27 fire departments and the Hero-to-Hero program, through two full-time residential recruit classes. This program provides communities with well-trained, highly prepared entry-level firefighters ready to serve their departments.

Developing the next generation of firefighters continues to be a priority through the Academy's Introduction to the Fire Service (ITTFS) and Advanced Skills and Concepts (ASAC) youth programs. During the fiscal year, 88 youth cadets participated in two ITTFS camps and one Advanced Skills and Concepts summer camp, providing career awareness, leadership development, and hands-on firefighting skills that strengthen the future recruitment pipeline for Connecticut's fire service.

The Academy also remained committed to supporting firefighter health and safety through statewide respiratory protection compliance. During the fiscal year, Academy staff conducted

114 respirator fit testing events at 73 locations, administering 3,179 respirator fit tests for firefighters, emergency responders and health care workers from across our state.

The Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) program continued to play a critical role in firefighter candidate evaluation and workforce development. During Fiscal Year 2025-2026, the Connecticut Fire Academy administered 526 CPAT examinations, with 383 candidates successfully passing, resulting in an overall 72.8 percent pass rate, a slight increase over the previous fiscal year.

Building on its commitment to improving accessibility, the Connecticut Fire Academy partnered with the Hartford County Regional Fire School during the winter of 2025 to launch a pilot Mobile Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) program. The pilot successfully administered 220 CPAT examinations, with 163 candidates successfully passing, resulting in a 74.1 percent pass rate. Combined, the Connecticut Fire Academy administered 746 CPAT examinations statewide, with 546 candidates successfully passing, for an overall statewide pass rate of 73.2 percent. The Mobile CPAT pilot expanded access to testing, made the process more convenient for firefighter applicants across the state, and demonstrated the potential for future expansion of mobile testing opportunities.

The Academy continues to strengthen the value of its educational programs through its longstanding partnership with Charter Oak State College, which currently recognizes 22 Connecticut Fire Academy training programs for collegiate transfer credit. This collaboration provides firefighters with additional opportunities to apply professional training toward higher education and career advancement.

The Connecticut Fire Academy also continues its partnership with the Military Department and the Department of Public Health through the New England Disaster Training Center at Camp Hartell in Windsor Locks. This collaboration provides unique multidisciplinary training opportunities for firefighters, emergency medical personnel, law enforcement, emergency management professionals, and other public safety agencies, enhancing Connecticut's overall emergency preparedness capabilities.

The Academy remains Connecticut's trusted provider of fire service education and training. From youth cadet programs and recruit firefighter training to instructor development, certification programs, officer education, and advanced operational training. The Academy is committed to delivering professional, accessible, and innovative workforce development training while promoting firefighter health, safety, and operational excellence.

As the demands placed upon Connecticut's fire service continue to evolve, the Academy remains focused on expanding statewide access to training, leveraging technology and data-driven

decision-making, strengthening partnerships, and modernizing program delivery to meet the needs of today's firefighters while preparing the next generation of fire service professionals.

### **Certification Unit**

Under the leadership of David Clark, the Certification Unit administers Connecticut's nationally accredited fire service certification program, providing independent third-party assessment of firefighters and emergency response personnel across a broad range of disciplines. These include structural firefighting, technical rescue, hazardous materials response, fire instruction, executive fire officer leadership, public education, and fire prevention. Based on National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Professional Qualification Standards adopted by the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, the certification system validates the knowledge, skills, and abilities of Connecticut's fire service professionals while supporting a consistent statewide training and education framework.

The Unit maintains dual international accreditation through the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board) and the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC), ensuring that Connecticut's certification program meets the highest standards of fairness, validity, and reliability. During the fiscal year, the Division Director represented the agency at the annual Pro Board and IFSAC conferences and led the Unit's comprehensive Pro Board reaccreditation process. Following an extensive on-site review of policies, procedures, testing materials, and certification processes in December 2025, the Unit successfully earned reaccreditation for an additional five-year term, reaffirming its commitment to excellence and national best practices.

The Unit experienced significant growth in certification activity during the fiscal year. Staff conducted 34 NFPA 1403-compliant live fire training audits, 32 vehicle extrication audits, 142 psychomotor examinations—an increase from 104 in the previous fiscal year—163 cognitive examinations, and 50 ADA-compliant examinations, representing an increase of four over the prior year.

In total, the Unit assessed 4,972 certification candidates during FY 2025, an increase of 797 individuals from the previous year, and awarded 3,175 Pro Board and IFSAC-accredited certifications, an increase of 160 certifications. The overall written examination pass rate was 63.9 percent.

In addition to certification testing, the Unit developed and administered 20 promotional examinations and 11 entry-level examinations for Connecticut municipalities. Staff also proctored 31 written examinations on behalf of other accredited agencies throughout the United States and granted reciprocity for 89 certification levels to Connecticut fire service personnel, who previously earned equivalent certifications through other nationally accredited organizations.

Proposed revisions to our certification regulations, adding new levels of professional competency testing and certification to include Support Firefighter, Live Fire Instructor and Live Fire Instructor In-Charge remain pending within our Legal Unit.

..... END OF REPORT .....

## 2026 Line of Duty Death Honor Roll

Lieutenant Heidi Vasseur Vaughan

UConn Fire Department

February 17, 2019

Firefighter Turker Aksoy

Westport Fire Department

November 22, 2019

Captain James M. Lamarre

Rocky Hill Fire Department

March 8, 2022

Firefighter Dionigi Furano Jr.

Ridgefield Fire Department

June 30, 2023

Firefighter Daniel Dudek

East Haven Fire Department

July 19, 2024

Firefighter Herman G. Haring Jr.

Stamford Fire Department

November 16, 2025

Firefighter Christopher Brainard

New Haven Fire Department

December 3, 2025

Deputy Chief David R. Theriault

Avon Fire Department

January 15, 2026

Firefighter David J. Fredsall

Harwinton Fire Department

February 17, 2026

Firefighter Thomas Kelly

New Haven Fire Department

May 4, 2026



# **Connecticut State Firefighters Association**

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