

OSFA Legislative Resolution 20-2

Whereas volunteer members of the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association met in El Reno in February to discuss and determine the issues facing the volunteer fire service; and

Whereas these issues were narrowed to the top three issues affecting volunteer firefighters in the State; and

Whereas the OSFA is the largest representative organization for volunteer firefighters in Oklahoma; and

Whereas the numbers and quality of people willing to serve as volunteer firefighters in the State of Oklahoma has been declining over the past decade; and

Whereas populations in the rural communities in the state continue to decline, however their lives and property are not any less valuable than any other citizen in the state; and

Whereas much of the population in the rural communities must travel many miles to work and are not available to respond during working hours, particularly during the daytime hours; and

Whereas the only current incentives for volunteers is the sense of community service, the pride in their department, a small tax incentive for receiving training, and in some cases run reimbursement money and/or a small pension;

Therefore **Be It Resolved** that the delegates at the 126th Annual OSFA Convention show the overall support of the organization toward our volunteer members; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Volunteer Fire Services Committee and the Legislative committee be directed to study, identify solutions, and implement legislation to address these important issues,

Be It Further Resolved these committees be directed to report the progress back to the 2021 Volunteer Caucus and the 2021 OSFA Convention.

Respectfully submitted:

By unanimous vote of the members present at the OSFA 18th Annual Volunteer Caucus, Chair Travis Fortune