

November 20-21, 2025

ITEM 221-2401-R1125

Request for Authorization to Appoint Members to the Fire Services Training Advisory Council; MSU Extension Service

THAT

The Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes the appointment of members to the Fire Services Training Advisory Council, in accordance with Montana Code Annotated, 2-15-1519 and reappoints current members whose terms expire in 2025 to serve an additional term.

EXPLANATION

Montana Code Annotated, 2-15-1519, requires the Board of Regents to appoint a Fire Services Advisory Council to work with the Director of the Fire Services Training School (FSTS). This item will meet the conditions set forth in said statute.

This request is for the appointments of Bryan Francis, Katy Hedtke, and Jade Thomas to four-year terms beginning December 1, 2025, and ending November 30, 2029.

NOMINEE SUMMARY: Bryan Francis

Bryan Francis has been nominated by George Richards, President of the Montana State Council of Professional Firefighters. Bryan has served with the Billings Fire Department for nineteen (19) years, currently as the Training Chief. Bryan was previously a Rural Fire Specialist for the Montana DNRC.

NOMINEE SUMMARY: Katy Hedtke

Katy Hedtke has been nominated by Chief Thomas Kuntz, Red Lodge Fire Rescue. Katy has led the Fire Prevention Program for Red Lodge Fire Rescue since 2018. She was previously an elementary school teacher in Red Lodge and Joliet.

NOMINEE SUMMARY: Jade Thomas

Jade Thomas has been nominated by Chief Karl Weeks; Columbia Falls Fire Department. Jade has served as Firefighter/EMT and Training Officer at Columbia Falls Fire Department since 2022, working to advance firefighter training and professional development. Jade was previously a Wildland Firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service.

REAPPOINTMENT SUMMARY: Gary Mahugh

Request the reappointment of current Fire Services Advisory Council members to serve another term – from December 1, 2025, to November 30, 2029: Gary Mahugh.

ATTACHMENTS

None