

RECRUITS

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given day on the job where they will be called out to varying situations and structures they are unfamiliar with, so Tuesday afforded them real-life scenarios. Facing different tasks, recruits were split to groups. “We’ll have a group that’s inside fighting the fire,” Walters said.

A second group climbed a ladder to the second floor of the burn facility burrowing through a heavy blanket of smoke under intense heat in search of victims that might be trapped inside. “Then we’ll have another group that’s going to climb all the way to the top that’s going to practice ventilation techniques as far as cutting holes in roofs,” Walters added. Another group worked on forcing entry through doorways and cutting rebar through high security doors.

As each scenario played out simultaneously, smoke billowed out of windows, hoses pulled through an opened doorway, and the roar of a chainsaw and the metal clacking of firefighters’s boots as they climbed the rungs of ladders leaning against the burn building could be heard.

Each group rotated ensuring they had hands-on experience with every scenario. Wearing a red helmet, sweat dripping from his head and face was Skyler Lucas, 24, one of two recruits for Elizabethtown.

At the academy, Lucas said he and other recruits have been learning at the basic level whereas the training Tuesday, while he called it fun, was much more real-life.

The most difficult part of the training was advancing hoses up a stairway. The burn room at the academy is on ground level. Moving up to a second or third level has been a bit of a challenge for the young recruit. Then there’s the fire. “Fire’s pretty hot,” Lucas said.

Once he graduates the academy, he understands he will not be proficient in everything so the continuous training he will receive at the city’s new burn facility will only make him a much better firefighter.

A college baseball player at Midway University, there is a deeper connection to being surrounded by others working toward a specific objective. “Wanting to help people, stay active and be part of a team,” Lucas said is what is behind his reasoning for wanting to become a firefighter. “What better way to be part of a team?”

The training was a first-time event in cooperation with the State Fire Academy.

Walters created an Advanced Fire Tactic class that was part of Dixie Fire Training held every March in Elizabethtown. The class was so successful, Walters was asked by KFA instructors if the same class could be held for the recruits.

“I reached out to Chief (Mark) Malone, and he was all about supporting it,” Walters said. “It’s the first time we’ve done this with the fire academy.”

Should the event be successful, it could become a training event held on a more



Elizabethtown Fire Department recruit Skyler Lucas, left, discusses training with fellow recruits Tuesday afternoon at EFD’s Burn Facility for a day of hands-on training.



While taking a water break during training Tuesday, recruits from across Kentucky receive additional coaching from one of the Kentucky Fire Rescue Commission instructors at Elizabethtown Fire Department’s Burn Facility off College Street behind Elizabethtown Community and Technical College.



Recruits from the Kentucky Fire Academy train cutting through a roof with a chainsaw Tuesday for ventilation purposes as they complete training at Elizabethtown Fire Department’s Burn Facility off College Street behind Elizabethtown Community and Technical College.

regular basis. Coupled with EFD’s state-of-the-art burn facility and knowledge of fire training, Walters added the department would be happy to partner with the academy in teaching recruits from all across Kentucky.

These recruits, in their 11th week of training, are nearing graduation from the academy as certified firefighters May 16. The academy is 13 weeks,

300 hours of training, learning basic firefighting skills, some advanced skills as well as testing.

Any person 18 years of age with a high school diploma or GED can apply to become a firefighter by contacting Brett Miniard, administrative assistant at Elizabethtown Fire Department 270-765-2121, or the fire department where they wish to seek employment.



A recruit carries a full-size dummy down from a second story window Tuesday during Kentucky Fire Academy training held at Elizabethtown Fire Department’s Burn Facility.



A fire recruit climbs out of a burning structure Tuesday during Kentucky Fire Academy training held at Elizabethtown Fire Department’s Burn Facility behind Elizabethtown Community and Technical College off College Street.

Even if no positions are available at the present time applications are kept on file for such a time as a position becomes available.

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ABUSE

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search on the night of the arrest at Inman and Young’s home in the 100 block of Hamilton Street, they found drugs, a gun and other evidence that led officers to believe that drug trafficking was occurring from the residence.

Inman also was indicted on charges of first offense trafficking in marijuana — gun enhanced; second-degree possession of a controlled substance — hallucinogen and possession of a handgun by a convicted felon.

Inman appeared via Zoom in Hardin Circuit courtroom of Judge John Simcoe where his attorney, Brandon Edwards, requested on his behalf, to have his bond reduced.

“Based on his pre-trial services report, he comes in at a moderate 3, ... it says that he still has a 76% probability of returning to court,” Edwards said. “With that being said, this is a bond that’s at \$100,000 and consulting the family, it’s simply an unaffordable financial circumstance.”

Edwards said most of Inman’s charges are misdemeanors and despite the respect he has to these allegations against his client, they are still just allegations.

“That is why we have a trial,” Edwards said. “Bond is to ensure that he doesn’t commit any more offenses.”

Iman told the court that he couldn’t post his bond due to having no financial means.

“I’ve currently been incarcerated for quite some time and haven’t been able to make any finances,” Inman said. “I’ve been in custody for six and a half months.”

According to Inman, if he were to post bond, it would be with money from his mother and girlfriend.

Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney Teresa Logsdon said Inman’s bond is appropriate given the situation.

“Based on the fact that he is a moderate and high risk, as mentioned by the counsel, I think the order needs to be more fully aware of what the nature of these charges are,” Logsdon said. “What struck me in the motion filed by counsel was that, essentially, the argument is that his co-defendant is more culpable than he.”

According to Logsdon, Inman is seen on video several times in the household with the child during November, before all of the events come to light.

“To say he had no knowledge of what was going on is just absolutely absurd,” Logsdon said.

Simcoe agreed with the commonwealth and denied Inman’s bond reduction.

“Based on his prior criminal history and the fact that this allegedly occurred while he was out on bond on another case, I believe he is a danger to the community and through those circumstances, the defense’s motion is denied,” Simcoe said.

Trial date for Inman and Young is set for Nov. 3 with a final pre-trial conference set for 10 a.m. Oct. 28.

Young is being held in lieu of a \$50,000 bond, both at the Hardin County Detention Center.

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