

Advisory Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training
REGULAR MEETING
K. O. Rayburn Training Center, 2401 Egypt Road, Ada, Oklahoma 74820
April 5, 2017
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chief Danny Ford, Chairman, Duncan P.D.
Cpt. Blake Green, Vice-Chair, Norman P.D.
Inspector General Johnny Blevins, D.O.C.
Captain Paul Christian, Okla. Highway Patrol
Major Wade Gourley, Oklahoma City P.D.
Director Jeff Harp, Univ. Central Oklahoma
Chief David Houser, Durant P.D.
Major Ryan Perkins, Tulsa P.D.
Asst. Chief Kennie Shirey, Elk City P.D.
Agent Jason Tucker, O.B.N.D.D.
Asst. Chief Josh VanDeburgh, Weatherford P.D.

STAFF PRESENT:

Charles Gerhart, Assistant Director
Gerald Konkler, General Counsel
Laurie Schweinle, Recording Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Asst. Chief Brandon Berryhill, Broken Arrow P.D.
Chief Rex Eskridge, Muskogee P.D.
Asst. Chief JR Kidney, Tecumseh P.D.
Sheriff Jerry Niles, Garfield County S.O.
Sheriff Reuben Parker, Beaver County S.O.
Special Agent Kurt Stoner, F.B.I.

GUESTS:

Kevin McCullough, OMAG (10:10 a.m.)

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Danny Ford called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll was called, and 11 members were present, representing a quorum.

2. Approval of Minutes

There was no discussion.

Action Taken: Director Harp made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Chief Houser seconded the motion. Chief Ford voted yes. Captain Green voted yes. Inspector Blevins voted yes. Captain Christian voted yes. Major Gourley voted yes. Director Harp voted yes. Chief Houser voted yes. Major Perkins abstained. Asst. Chief Shirey voted yes. Agent Tucker voted yes. Asst. Chief VanDeburgh voted yes. The motion passed 11-0.

3. Curriculum Review Board

There was no discussion.

4. Outside Enrollment into Lawton PD Academy

Chief Ford advised members that Stephens County had requested their officers be allowed to attend the Lawton PD academy. He added that Duncan PD may also be interested in this. He said that Sheriff McKinney, Stephens County SO, had spoken with the Lawton PD Chief and Academy Coordinator and that they were both agreeable to this proposal at that time. He said the proposal would be taken to the Council and that this board could choose to make a recommendation.

Asst. Director Gerhart advised that CLEET has received a few requests for this and that staff are requesting feedback from the Advisory Council before presenting to the Council. He advised that the other issue was the interpretation of the purchasing act by some agencies that argue they cannot pay for the meals in advance, which is required by CLEET in order to fulfill the cafeteria contract. He added that charging agencies for meals was designed to save them money on per diem and that it does not generate revenue for CLEET.

Asst. Director Gerhart added that Stephens County had also discussed having an academy in their area, but there is no CLEET staff there to run it. He then advised that CLEET would be opposed to anyone that tries to receive a reduction in the amount of penalty assessment fees they report to CLEET because that is the only source of funding for the agency.

Captain Green asked if the question was whether Lawton PD should be allowed to admit students from outside agencies or if Stephens County should be able to run an academy. Asst. Director Gerhart replied that the question is whether Lawton PD should be able to admit outside officers into their academy. He said this would have to be approved by the Council. Captain Green then asked if there had been a request to divert any penalty assessment fees. Asst. Director Gerhart replied that there had not been a direct request made yet. Captain Green advised he felt it would be unfair to not let Lawton PD choose to do this and that he would endorse this proposal.

Major Perkins advised that the Tulsa PD Chief has intense interest in continuing to allow outside officers to attend the Tulsa PD academy. He said they learned a lot about what CLEET deals with and he offered some advice for the other academy cities. He recommended that the academy cities make it clear in their contract or MOU that they do not have to train outside officers if they do not want to, outline who pays workman's comp, and allow for the academy city to terminate the student from their academy for any reason. He added that Tulsa PD did not take any money from the other agencies, but they did require them to supply all necessary equipment and ammunition. He also recommended a set standard for who could attend, such as only allowing a certain percentage of outside agency students in each academy. He said Tulsa PD only allows for outside students to make up a maximum of 25% of their academy class.

Captain Green expressed his support for allowing each city to develop their own agreement with the outside agency and that he felt it would be unfair to deny Lawton the ability to do this. Chief Houser

asked how many per year would be attending Lawton's academy. Chief Ford said it was possible two officers would be attending at this time.

Chief Ford recommended a rule regarding the attendance of outside officers in an academy city that would apply to all in the state. He also said that the penalty assessment fees will eventually come up.

Asst. Director Gerhart asked for direction on this issue. He said that CLEET could not be impacted financially. He added that Comanche County was allowed to attend Lawton PD's academy recently because of past practice with Norman and Tulsa, but the Stephens County request is beyond that because they do not share a boundary with Lawton.

Chief Houser asked if Durant PD could send officers to Norman or Tulsa currently. Asst. Director Gerhart said the answer is no. Chief Houser said that the original decision was made because some agencies work and train together. He then asked if this was approved if it could open the door for Durant to send their officers anywhere. Asst. Director Gerhart said it could depending on the Council's direction.

Major Perkins said he thought the board should consider two recommendations: whether Lawton can accept outside officers into their academy and if the academy cities should be allowed to expand into allowing regional agencies into their academies.

Director Harp said UCO has not yet sent an officer to the Edmond PD academy because of timing issues and hiring already certified officers. He then said he could see the value in training partnering agencies together and that it makes sense geographically. He advised that he felt allowing a Durant officer to go to the Tulsa academy would undermine CLEET and that he would not advise to expanding beyond shared boundaries.

Major Perkins recommended limiting the number of outside officers that could attend an academy in order to keep it from becoming a revenue source for the academy city and reducing the need for CLEET.

Major Gourley advised that he wanted to stay away from requiring academy cities to run a regional academy because Oklahoma City PD cannot train everyone in the metro area. Captain Green agreed and said the cities should not have to give up control but should have a choice. He added that Lawton has a unique geographic location and that western Oklahoma is different from the rest of the state.

Chief Houser said his dividing line was between geography and convenience.

Asst. Director Gerhart said that the budget cuts have probably made this a bigger discussion this year than in the past. Chief Ford agreed.

Action Taken: Major Perkins made a motion to recommend to the Council that Lawton PD be allowed to accept students from outside agencies into their academy within the geographic restrictions already set by the Council. Captain Green offered a friendly amendment to the motion that would include CLEET not be impacted financially by the academy cities.

Action Taken: Major Perkins made a motion to recommend to the Council that Lawton PD be allowed to accept students from outside agencies into their academy, without impacting CLEET financially, within the geographic restrictions already set by the Council. Asst. Chief VanDeburgh seconded the motion. Chief Ford voted yes. Captain Green voted yes. Inspector Blevins voted yes. Captain Christian voted yes. Major Gourley voted yes. Director Harp voted no. Chief Houser voted yes. Major Perkins abstained. Asst. Chief Shirey voted yes. Agent Tucker voted yes. Asst. Chief VanDeburgh voted yes. The motion passed 10-1.

Action Taken: Chief Houser made a motion to recommend that the Council reevaluate the geographic restrictions placed on academy cities allowing outside agency's officers to attend their academies and to take into consideration the original intent of these restrictions as opposed to the convenience factor for some agencies. Major Perkins seconded the motion. Chief Ford voted yes. Captain Green voted yes. Inspector Blevins voted yes. Captain Christian voted yes. Major Gourley voted yes. Director Harp voted yes. Chief Houser voted yes. Major Perkins abstained. Asst. Chief Shirey voted yes. Agent Tucker voted yes. Asst. Chief VanDeburgh voted yes. The motion passed 11-0.

5. Legislative/Rules Update

Asst. Director Gerhart advised members that all of CLEET's bills were still active other than the two private security related bills that were requested. He then gave an overview of all the CLEET request bills and other bills of interest.

6. Budget Update

Asst. Director Gerhart advised that because of the two off-site academies running simultaneously there was not enough enrollment for CLEET's next academy in Ada, so the next two academies in Ada have been combined. He said this had to be done in order to keep the meals at a reduced rate. He also said that due to the budget, CLEET staff would not be travelling anywhere.

Asst. Chief Shirey asked if he thought there would be a spike in enrollment after the start of the new fiscal year in July. Asst. Director Gerhart said that he did not believe so because agencies were not asking for spots to be held but that the next academy was virtually empty and should be able to handle it.

Asst. Chief VanDeburgh asked if CLEET has a plan in place to deal with the coming budget cuts. Asst. Director Gerhart replied that CLEET staff have been evaluating how to deal with cuts as high as 15%. He said there is a plan, but if the cuts go that high then CLEET will be very different than it is today and services would be impacted.

Chief Houser asked how they could help with encouraging the passage of the \$1 increase to the penalty assessment fee. Asst. Director Gerhart said that contacting the legislators is the most important thing anyone can do.

7. Divisional Reports

There was no discussion.

8. Director's Report

Asst. Director Gerhart thanked the agencies that assisted CLEET with the curriculum update and advised that it would be made available to academy cities and Collegiate Officer Programs at the annual meeting in July.

9. New Business

There was no discussion.

10. Adjournment

Chief Houser thanked everyone for their support after the loss of his son.

Action Taken: Chief Houser made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Major Perkins seconded the motion. Chief Ford voted yes. Captain Green voted yes. Inspector Blevins voted yes. Captain Christian voted yes. Major Gourley voted yes. Director Harp voted yes. Chief Houser voted yes. Major Perkins abstained. Asst. Chief Shirey voted yes. Agent Tucker voted yes. Asst. Chief VanDeburgh voted yes. The motion passed 11-0.

Chairman Danny Ford adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.