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ILEA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING RECAP

By Melinda Ruopp, United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) National Secretary



McCarthy Legacy Foundation

After the usual presentation of waivers, Judy Bradshaw, Director of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA), discussed the McCarthy Award. Set up to receive donated funds, the McCarthy Legacy Foundation would join with the Greater Des Moines Foundation to strengthen the organization. With this arrangement, the ILEA would receive funds every February. Roger Sitterly, ILEA retired, requested that this vote be delayed. The council decided to wait until October to take action.

ILEA budget

The ILEA budget will be cut from \$1 million to \$954,000 this year. The \$5 million set aside for a new facility has been cut, but we are still looking to move forward; Newton is a possibility. There may need to be a reorganization of staff due to the budget, but 60 percent of training comes from outside instructors. There are seven instructors currently working at ILEA. Next year's budget will be tough — payroll alone is \$1.8 million and total operation is \$3 million.

ILEA facility

Black mold is still an issue in the building, resulting in obvious safety and health concerns; staff and students are at risk. Mold testing shows that moisture is at the threshold, with damp plumbing being a definite concern this time of year.

The air conditioner on the roof is also a problem. Half of it is not working, and if it stops altogether, ILEA will need to shut down. We would need \$60,000 to replace it. The Guard does its best, but cannot continue to support ILEA forever. The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) is aware of this issue and is in conversations with the governor about the condition of the building. **ILEA will be asking for support from all law enforcement associations to make a resolution to have the new facility be a priority.** Specialty schools are what helps meet financial goals.

Class graduations

Classes 274 and 275 are looking good. Class 274 graduates August 11th and Class 275 graduates August 18th. Current classes now receive crisis intervention training (CIT), as well as some training from SHAZAM about credit card fraud. Traffic and Criminal Software (TRACS) training is provided, as well.

Training costs

There will be no increase to basic academy costs. But specialty schools, Police Officer Standards and Training (POST), agility testing and Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) costs will be raised. They are very labor intensive and need to be brought up to line with actual costs of providing the training.

Policies

ILEA is working on its own policies in addition to state policies. They now have 20 or 30 policies and are still working on more.

The next ILEA Advisory Council meeting will be August 3rd.