



LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

64th Montana Legislature

Dept. of Justice Law Enforcement
Academy Interim Study

September 25, 2015

Glen Stinar, Administrator



Mission Statement

“The mission of the Department of Justice Law Enforcement Academy is to serve law enforcement agencies and the communities they represent by providing a positive atmosphere where relevant and realistic training for new and veteran public safety professionals can occur.”



Proposed Agenda Topics By Meeting

- September Meeting
 - Academy and P.O.S.T. relationship and statutes, facilities and staffing overview, customers and current curriculum information.
- December Meeting
 - Survey results from stakeholders, current funding/revenues and expenses.
- March Meeting
 - Architecture & Engineering study, funding ideas, opportunities for growth.
- June Meeting
 - Department of Justice recommendations.



September Meeting

- Discussion Areas;
 - Overview of Academy and Montana Public Safety Officers Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) relationship and applicable statutes
 - Provide a facilities and staffing overview
 - Discuss customer base and training goals
 - Review current programs and curriculum



Academy / P.O.S.T. Relationship

- MCA 44-10-103 entitled the “Montana Law Enforcement Academy Act”
- Directs the Dept. of Justice to;
 - Establish qualifications for admission and select from qualified applicants
 - Determine curriculum and methods of training, hire appropriate staff
 - Establish rules of conduct for students
 - Award certificates of completion, maintain records
 - Make a yearly report to the Governor, Attorney General and Secretary of State
 - Accept and expend grants from federal, state, county, and city governments or private persons, associations, or corporations.
 - Do all other things necessary and desirable for the establishment and operation of the Academy, not inconsistent with this chapter or the Constitution and the statutes of the State of Montana



Academy / P.O.S.T. Relationship

- Montana Public Safety Officers Standards and Training (POST) Council.
- Administratively attached to the Dept. of Justice.
- Created in 1971 by the legislative session in response to a national trend recognizing the need to establish training standards in law enforcement. P.O.S.T. approves Academy curriculum as well as the certification, decertification, revocation and suspension of public safety officers in Montana.



In Short

- The Montana Law Enforcement Academy is charged with the duty to provide Montana law enforcement officers and other qualified persons with a means of securing training in the field of law enforcement.
- The P.O.S.T. Council approves the curriculum and certifies the Academy graduates.
- Both agencies operate independently and are co-located at the Academy.



Facility Overview

- In 1997 the Academy moved from Bozeman to the 20 acre Mountain View School for Girls campus.
- The campus has 10 buildings and an overall footprint of 84,714 square feet.
- 2 wells, 1 water tower (60,000 gallon capacity), 1 waste water treatment facility with 3 lagoons and a 2.8 million gallon capacity.
- 2 additional agricultural tracts totaling 184 acres are leased. The current 10 year lease expires in 2025.



Facility Overview

- 4 buildings are dormitory style with a 106 bed capacity.
- 1 administration building
- 1 gymnasium/auditorium
- 1 cafeteria (40,000 + meals annually)
- 1 maintenance shop
- 1 clinic/detention facility training building
- 1 education center (Ohs Building)



5 buildings built in the 1920's, 4 in the 1960's and 1 in 2010. Aging infrastructure and insufficient bed space remain the Academies two greatest challenge.



Staffing Overview

- 16 FTE's
- 1 Administrator
- 1 Assistant Attorney General
- 8 Training Specialists
- 1 Operations Manager
- 2 Maintenance Workers
- 1 Custodian
- 2 Administrative Assistants



Staffing Overview

- Training Specialists have extensive law enforcement backgrounds and receive specialized training.
- They are asked to testify at coroner's inquests, develop model policies, sit on state boards etc.
- Tailor and conduct training for agencies.
- Act as coaches, mentors, evaluators and trainers for students while on campus.
- Examples Include;
 - Defensive Tactics
 - Police Vehicle Operations
 - Risk Management
 - Domestic Violence
 - Mental Illness
 - Firearms
 - Tactical Operations (SWAT)



Customers

- MCA 7-32-303
 - (5)(a) – “ it is the duty of the appointing authority to cause each peace officer appointed under its authority to attend and successfully complete within 1 year of the initial appointment , an appropriate peace officer course certified by the Montana Public Safety Officers Standards and Training Council”.
 - Within 1 year of hire, all law enforcement, corrections/detention, public safety communicators (dispatchers) are required attend the Academy and successfully complete a basic course.



Customers

- Montana has 156 local, county, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and roughly 4500 sworn personnel (law enforcement, corrections/detention, probation & parole) and non-sworn personnel (dispatchers, civil process servers, accident investigators, support personnel) requiring basic and continuing education training.
- In 2014, Academy staff coordinated and conducted nearly 3500 hours of training.



Basic Programs

- Law Enforcement Officer Basic Course
 - ❑ 12 weeks in length, occurs 3 times per year, max. of 60 students per class
- Corrections/Detention Officer Basic Course
 - ❑ 4 weeks in length, occurs 5-6 times per year, max. of 40 students per class
- Public Safety Communicator Basic Course
 - ❑ 1 week in length, occurs 2-3 times per year, max. of 30 students per class



Basic Programs

- Adult Probation and Parole (DOC Program)
 - 10 weeks in length, occurs 2 times per year, max. of 20 students per class – [Academy staff involved in training](#)
 - Currently held off campus due to insufficient dormitory space, creates additional expense for DOC
- Basic Coroner
 - 1 week in length, occurs 1 time per year, max. of 40 students per class



Curriculum Overview

- Law Enforcement Officer Basic Course – 480 Hours
 - Law and Criminal Procedure – 54 Hours
 - Human Behavior and Social Interaction – 28 Hours
 - Patrol Operations – 126 Hours
 - Investigations – 82 Hours
 - Survival Skills – 110 Hours
 - Traffic Enforcement – 52 Hours
 - Health and Wellness – 12 Hours
 - Administrative Assessments – 16 Hours
- Electives – Financial Planning, TASER User Certification, Physical Fitness (mon, wed, fri – 5:30 – 6:30 a.m.)



Curriculum Overview

- Correction/Detention Officer Basic Course – 160 Hours
 - Law and Criminal Procedure – 8 Hours
 - Human Behavior and Social Interaction – 66 Hours
 - Operations – 33 Hours
 - Investigations – 4 Hours
 - Survival Skills – 37 Hours
 - Health and Wellness – 3 Hours
 - Administrative Assessments – 9 Hours



Curriculum Overview

- Public Safety Communicators Course – 40 Hours
 - Law and Criminal Procedure – 5 Hours
 - Human Behavior and Social Interaction – 14 Hours
 - Operations – 18 Hours
 - Administrative Assessment – 3 Hours



Professional Programs

- The Academy also offers a variety of skills based professional programs designed to provide continuing education opportunities for public safety professionals.
- So far in 2015, the Academy has conducted 18 courses totaling 662 hours for 310 students.

Examples Include:

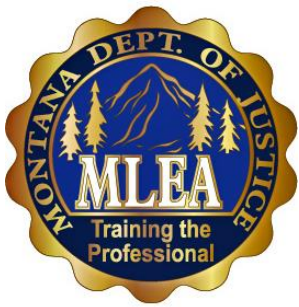
- Crime Scene Investigations
- Primary SWAT
- Defensive Tactics
- Leadership/Management
- Civil Process
- Fitness Coach
- Firearms Instructor
- Forensic Interviewing
- Legal Equivalency
- Instructor Development
- MHP Advanced Academy



Junior Police Leadership Academy

- Sponsored by the Montana Association of Chiefs of Police, this annual 7 day event is held at the Academy each July.
- 30-40 high school students from around the state spend the week with law enforcement professionals





Summary

- Without the training that occurs at the Academy, Montana's law enforcement agencies would have nowhere to send their new public safety employees for the basic law enforcement training programs that are, by law, required as a condition of their employment. Academy training ultimately becomes the foundation of skills these same professionals employ across Montana in keeping their communities safe.

Questions

