

# Montana Law Enforcement Academy



## 2015 Survey

**1.The Academy conducts several basic programs. Please rate the following basic programs for overall quality and provide any comments.**

Law Enforcement Officer Basic Course

Exceeds Expectations – 15

Meets Expectations – 63

Below Expectations - 2

Comments:

I have been very pleased with the desired outcomes and objectives of the basic course for my officers.

Our deputies obtain knowledge which helps them perform their duties.

Academy staff and curriculum does a good job teaching new officers the basics of law enforcement.

As an administrator I do not readily see first hand what the academy is turning out or what you had to work with from the beginning. My opinions in this survey would be relative to the feedback I get from command staff or other officers who work with the new recruits. Unless I hear information pro or con, I will have to say that these courses meet the expectations.

Unless things have changed I made the recommendation that there be a "Class or Camp Commandant" to cover day-to-day supervision, inspections, accountability and whatever else the Academy Staff may require. Ask Jim Thomas.

Thanks! Ralph Dawson, Chief, Fromberg PD

I interview officers prior to going to Basic and upon their return. The feedback is very positive and the course work appears on target for needed and necessary curriculum.

We find that our officers come back from the academy with good basic knowledge.

Recent changes to the curriculum and training techniques have been a great advancement.

I think MLEA puts on great training for the amount of resources that are available.

## Law Enforcement Officer Basic Course (Continued)

For small departments with limited resources and a lower call volume, it would be nice to see more hands on instruction with regards to investigations. In larger departments, street officers will not need to know the ins and outs of detective work but in the small departments, detective work is the bulk of the officer's job.

I think the Basic Course is very good, touching on several different aspects of law enforcement giving the student the basic tools for starting and building a successful career in law enforcement.

The basic has significantly improved over the last several years!

MLEA trains our officers efficiently and effectively. The officers come back with a good understanding of police duties and responsibilities.

Class sizes are too big.

This continues to provide our officers the foundational "core" training they need to hit the ground running.

I know in today's litigious world, we need to address some "hot-button" topics, but it seems that we are spending so much time on these side issues, that the officers are not where they should be at graduation. Also, I think the Academy should be more aware of the financial hardships most small departments are facing when they decide to schedule classes for holidays. Most small departments do not have the resources to pay Officers holiday pay rates to attend Basic.

Over the past several years, I think that MLEA has done its best with the funding and resources available. That said, our academy will never be what we need it to be until it is prioritized properly by the legislature. You are giving three choices here, and for the most part, my answers will be "Meets Expectations" because my expectations aren't that high. This is not the fault of MLEA staff. It's the same old story, everyone demands service but no one wants to pay for it, including the fiscal body of the state. That LE in Montana sucks hind tit is a shameful fact of life.

## Corrections/Detention Officer Basic Course

Exceeds Expectations - 5

Meets Expectations - 47

Below Expectations – 1

### Comments:

Our correction staff received the necessary training to perform their jobs.

There are areas of improvement. Concerns about a pre-conviction focus. Would like to see more and updated course content on communication techniques and mutual respect.

## Public Service Communicator Course

Exceeds Expectations - 7

Meets Expectations – 45

Below Expectations – 3

### Comments:

Our dispatchers receive the necessary skills to perform their jobs.

Would like to see a standardized EMD training provided to our communication techs. If this could be established at MLEA, then state wide all of our dispatchers would received a standardized training. The expectation from the public now is that law enforcement should be able to provide medical assistance when they report a medical emergency.

Meets POST requirements...Operators tell us that I could be more meaningful and realistic.

## Legal Equivalency Course

Exceeds Expectations - 8

Meets Expectations – 58

Below Expectations – 2

### Comments:

The course has been very suitable for our lateral transfers, when applicable.

The course is easy to understand and gives out of state officers the chance to learn about Montana laws pertaining to the law enforcement profession.

I have had a few officers attend the legal equivalency course over the years and it has covered Montana law and needed information well.

Officers have given good reviews after being through the equivalency course.

Fantastic course with great instructors.

Officers that we have hired found this course to be informative and give a good understanding of Montana Law.

I was dismayed that the EQ was a week-long. We recently sent an Officer to the EQ, after getting him study material and assistance here. I think the Officers should be able to take the exams and evaluations without spending a week reviewing things they should have been given already. It is a financial drain on smaller departments.

My experience with Legal Equiv. has not been all that bad. I would say, though, that by the time and experienced officer attends, he already has a good handle on MCA and knows how to apply it. Meets POST requirements.

**2.The Academy has no curfew policy and occasionally problems arise when Basic Programs students return to campus after midnight. Would you support a policy requiring students to be on campus by 2400 hrs. on nights when they are required to be in class at 0800 hrs. the next morning?**

Yes – 64

No – 17

**Comments:**

The personnel sent to basic are adults and if they cannot handle themselves in the academy setting then maybe they cannot handle the job they are receiving training for.

Unless they have a valid excuse. Drinking is not a valid excuse.

I believe the students are also adults, and need to be responsible for their actions. I do not have a curfew policy for the Officers.

It should be 2200 hours.

I would expect my officers to be in by then so they would have had a chance to rest before class.

Especially for Basic Academy course students.

They are adults and should be treated accordingly. If they violate any laws or policy Their administrator should be contacted to take appropriate action.

Yes in previous years I've seen officers become intoxicated and get into trouble while attending the academy. The curfew would help to curb the problem and help agencies as they invest in their officers future.

Departments send new hires to a professionalized training and training facility and they need to learn from the beginning how to be a professional and how their actions whether on duty or not reflects onto their department.

2200 would be more appropriate Random PBT application to those who appear hung-over and causing the appropriate fall out associated with misuse and abuse of alcohol in the Academy setting.

## Curfew Policy Comments (Continued):

These people are adults and are learning to be law enforcement officers, they should be responsible for their own actions. I do not believe they need a baby sitter.

I have heard the same concern and I believe it is important to foster a learning atmosphere for those attending training.

I would support a 10 p.m. curfew but 24 hours would be too restrictive. There are various reasons students may leave the MLEA grounds, one of which might be R&R. The ability to get away for an hour or 2 allows many students the opportunity to step away from the stress and pressure of the MLEA life. It is our hope as administrators that we are sending mature adults to the academy. If they can't go to town and behave themselves then they don't belong in Law Enforcement in the first place. The actions of a few should not fully impact the vast majority.

There should be no reason to be out later than midnight prior to classroom or course work. They are on the clock so to speak to attend school. Socializing with classmates is important, to a point.

Nothing good happens after 10 pm. nuff said.

Teaches discipline.

They are adults and I feel they should be able to use their free time as they want.

I personally think that the curfew should be 2200 or 2300 at the latest.

I think maybe curfew activities should be policy but not closed campus, I know when I attended some of the students would leave to have dinner and then turn it into a study group.

I believe the recruits should be held to a strict training program which includes curfew and activity restrictions.

They are adults. They have to be accountable for their own actions. If they represent an agency I hope they respect that and fly straight.

I understand not wanting a "military style" training. However, it is a Police Academy and should be treated as such. Curfew, closed campus, and mandatory PT should be basic components of a police academy training.

You are training adults that should conduct themselves in a professional manner during training hours. What they do after training is up to them. I want officers to be members of their community, not soldiers sent in in case of emergency.

## Curfew Policy Comments (Continued):

Absolutely no need for them to not be on campus by midnight.

It's their choice to study and be involved in their career path

Absolutely!!!!

Teaches discipline

2400 is actually later than what I would want, but better than nothing. Yes, support.

Absolutely. The academy is a structured environment. The curfew teaches the students to be accountable. Exceptions should be provided for emergencies.

Would recommend at least have them on campus for the first 3 weeks 24 hours

Sad that you have to implement a policy like this, with grown men and women...

If officers attending the academy can't be responsible for themselves during the academy then they probably shouldn't be cops or work in LE. The academy is a good time to find out and staff can make it easy by enacting policies to report to parent agency.



**3. The Academy hosts a variety of professional programs. Please rate the overall quality of these programs and provide any comments.**

Exceeds Expectations - 20

Meets Expectations – 59

Below Expectations – 2

Comments:

I think that the basic coroner's course should be offered more than once a year

It seems to be top quality and the Officers have been pleased.

I've attended the Supervisory training's and was impressed with the program. Also the other classes I've taken from the MLEA were very informative.

I would like to see a broader offering of courses held at MLEA as Helena is centrally located which will allow for agencies to send officers more often. Due to our remote location, we are unable to send officers to training held in the larger cities due to drive times and weather conditions and costs.

More is needed

Many positive comments concerning instructors and course content for most professional schools.

I think the staff is very dedicated to providing the students with the best possible training they can provide. I saw very dedicated people doing what they love to do.

I feel that much more can be done with professional programs. I know that money is tight, so the Academy and POST rely on large agencies to host professional programs. This puts a burden on the smaller agencies with a much smaller training budget.

The professional programs are usually very good.

My Officers have been very pleased with the classes they have attended recently. The staff, facilities, and subject matter were all first-rate.

## Professional Programs Comments: (Continued)

Some are outstanding, others have been less than stellar over the years. Par for the course anywhere. The biggest complaint I hear are regarding the food and lodging. Those fall right next to the dress code. We're in Montana, for crying out loud. People wear nice denim trousers to church and banquets! The only dress trousers I own, I bought for a class at MLEA, then never wear them again. Just say NO FADED JEANS or SHORTS.

#### **4. What additional professional programs would you like to see?**

CIT training!!!!

A few more leadership classes and interview classes

Additional basic classes, especially for dispatchers. Hard to meet the requirement to have new staff attend basic within one year when classes are constantly full.

Bring back the administrative Use of Force Symposium.

More supervisory classes for first line supervisors

Supervisor related programs

More accident training at basic for municipal police officers.

More frequent and more advanced firearms instruction train the trainer type of courses.

More advanced firearms instructor programs

More semantics training and instruction on how to interact with the public. Seems we have too much "US AGAINST THE WORLD" thinking in law enforcement today. Need to learn that the majority of the public are not our enemy. I am also wondering if there is a course that teaches COMMON SENSE.

Forensic Tech certified course

The professional programs that are rarely brought to Mt For instance homicide investigation and some of the more specialized courses. I believe the costs could be kept reasonable and still be an opportunity for revenue for the academy.

Additional First Line Supervisor level courses.

MLEA is currently meeting requirements and other programs would exhaust the current staff.

One area I would like to see addressed would be a class every year, or every other year, for Property/Evidence Room Management. This is a very important area, one that is completely overlooked by most agencies, and the state. Right now, departments have to send Officers out-of-state to address this training deficiency, at considerable expense.

Forensic review of accounts

## **Additional professional programs (continued):**

A basic investigation program. Run a 4 week course

All levels of driving a patrol car. We should have a driving pad and track!

Search warrant training, drug investigations, interview training, ethics training.

Firearms training, Fort Harrison has a great pistol combat shooting course and I would like to see students train on that range and incorporate it into the firearms training at MLEA. I would also like to see more evidence collection /crime scene processing / evidence technician training and street survival courses. Typically, street survival courses are so expensive and so far away that we are unable to send officers to street survival. We are unable to send a large number of our officers to this type of training due to the expense. With the current evolution of policing, and what's occurring nationwide, training in these areas is crucial.

Anything regarding Law Enforcement

More investigative technics for basic

More regional training classes

A "Reserve Extension Course"

More Coroner's training and available at different times of the year.

40 hour annual refresher course to include firearms qualifications, defensive tactics, use of force, legal update, emergency vehicle operations, domestic violence, etc.

Policy development for all sizes of departments and grant writing assistance.

Domestic Violence Investigation ARIDE Crime Scene Investigation

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Forensic review of accounts

**5. Academy staff are the primary instructors for all basic courses and most professional programs. Please rate the overall effectiveness of our staff in providing training and related services to your agency.**

Exceeds Expectations – 22

Meets Expectations – 58

Below Expectations – 0

**Comments:**

The courses need to be ran professionally in a NON-military based manner. I send my employees to be trained, not belittled. They are adults not children, so let's treat them that way.

My Officers have been thoroughly satisfied with the TO's.

Trainers were knowledgeable and answered all questions.

The current MLEA instructors are very knowledgeable and experienced.

Depends on the instructor and their enthusiasm on the subject being taught

You folks are outstanding!

Instructors are top notch.

I feel the Academy staff does a good job on most professional programs. I do think there should be more classes on how to handle critical incidents. Example we here in Anaconda Deer Lodge County had a shooting in June where the husband shot his wife and three small children and then himself. I would much rather here a person tell me how an officer who was actually there handled the incident. Rather than a person tell me how to handle it that never went through it.

Like I already said, the staff is in my opinion top notch, I never saw anyone that I thought was not completely dedicated to what they were doing. Every one of them went the extra mile. I thanked every instructor while I attended class #129

I haven't heard negative comments about the instructors. It is difficult to rate the academy staff when most administrators haven't sat under the instruction of the current staff.

## **Overall effectiveness of our staff (continued):**

Some of the instructors need to exercise more control of the students and activities in their training areas to insure proper leaning and safety of the instructors and students Feedback that I get is that some are just going thru the motions. Others are rated fantastic.

**6. The Academy currently receives criminal conviction surcharge revenue as its primary mechanism of operational funding and has never met projected amounts. If you were a member of the Interim Finance Committee, what recommendations would you make to provide long term stable funding for the Academy?**

Establish proper protocol for funding for state agencies.

Update the sleeping dorms and chow hall and up the price for the services provided

Surcharge similar to 9-1-1 funding.

Increase the surcharge

Raise surcharge Raise tuition charge Include surcharge on tickets written

General fund money should be provided.

Possibly to receive a portion of drug forfeiture funds or collaborate with the Federal academies. Also work with local community colleges and State Colleges holding classes for students while receiving some tuition funds to reimburse the academy instructors.

The funding for MLEA should be in the State's general fund with a line item. The other source of income should come from the State's Coal Tax Trust Fund. The coal tax trust fund balance was \$953 million as of mid-2014 and is expected to increase by \$1 billion by July. Portion of this funding should be used for Public Safety and upgrading infrastructure at MLEA. To have this amount of money sitting around, and have such poor conditions at MLEA, reduces the effectiveness of services MLEA provides. Public safety should be the corner stone of any long term plan that the State implements.

Identify a reliable and appropriate amount of funding.

Establish separate funding and augment operations with conviction surcharge.

Possibly a surcharge from ticket revenue from MHP and other state law enforcement. Also a surcharge from each county's city and justice courts.

Unknown. Try and find additional funding source.

Increase local government costs.

An appropriation from the general fund.

## **Criminal conviction surcharge revenue (continued):**

A source of funding needs to be set up, through the state to make sure MLEA has a stable budget from year to year.

Without seeing numbers and how they are distributed, making any kind of \$ recommendation would be tough to say the least.

No earth shattering thoughts here other than I think there needs to be a commitment from the state to offset the shortfall without passing the cost on to local communities.

The agencies are charged a fee for attendees and I believe the academy should be funded by the state for its needs even if the price increases for attendance.

### Vehicle Registration Tax

Add surcharges to MCA 61-8-303 violations.

Most revenue creating mechanisms for the State have been liberally tapped into...not to overstate the obvious, but a long term steady money source is needed rather than a shot here and there.

### Standalone budget from State funds

Recommend the legislation fund a large portion of the academy via the state's general fund. Possibly look to increase tuition costs for basic students.

Increase the surcharge.

I do not what other form of money could be used.

Many of the lower courts use ordinances to circumvent the need to pay into the state. This really should be addressed by the judicial association so that the courts are aware of the shortfall.

The training the Academy provides is one of the most important kinds of training as it involves life and death situations and people's rights, also knowing Montana law. I don't know much about your budget but would think there should be money available somewhere, or and I hate to say but by raising tuition a bit to share the cost as it is also important training for departments that send their officers to get the best training available.

Tap into the Motor Vehicle Tax, and explore a State Sales Tax.

Identify another long term funding source



## **Criminal conviction surcharge revenue (continued):**

I would recommend making the academy a line item budget not dependent on the ups and downs of convictions.

We're not salesmen; we're police.

Raise the surcharge to help meet

Special state funding, gas tax, increase in fees

Tax liquor sales at the rate of 5% or higher. Does anyone doubt that the largest % of crime comes from alcohol? Let the people who cause the problem help pay for it. Don't let the Tavern Owners Association out maneuver us in the legislature.

Funding from Grants and State Tax. I know this will not be popular but states build into programs from sales tax.

Double the surcharge

There should be general fund funding for Operational needs of the MLEA.

House Bill

Find another revenue source. I wish I had the answer that would change the financial problems at MLEA. Most departments are struggling to maintain what staffing we have in a day when we are asked to cut the budget. Sorry, no solution.

Provide a funding source

State funding per taxes and traffic fines

Increase the surcharge. Since vehicles are often involved in crimes, tack a fee on vehicle registrations Increase user fees.

As most agencies and departments are also experiencing funding shortfalls and therefore cannot support additional costs, the best option would be in general fund.

The Academy should receive more money from agencies sending students to be trained

I am not conversant with this issue, so my opinion may not be worth much, but the state needs to find a way to adequately fund the MLEA, and the State Crime Lab, in a way that they can provide the services expected of them.

No recommendations at this time.

## **Criminal conviction surcharge revenue (continued):**

I would recommend that we go before the Legislators over and over because this is a very important issue for all.

Charge a little more

See above. I will add that if I were a member, I would push for earmarked funding even if it meant a tax increase. If I were the chair, I would require the committee to spend a cold, December or January night in the dorms. I would push for the best training that money can buy...I would hold up the example of states surrounding MT.

Vehicle license surcharge

Combination of State General Funding and increase in local fee.

**7. The Law Enforcement Academy campus is a combination of buildings ranging from 5 to 90 years old. Please rate your overall satisfaction level with the campus infrastructure.**

Exceeds Expectations – 4

Meets Expectations – 42

Below Expectations – 34

**Comments:**

I surveyed the last 6 of my staff to go through the academy. They stated that the dorms are not that great but loved the class rooms. Issues like dorm area cleanliness and old tattered bedding seem to be the top complaint.

It seems to fit our needs, but we all have aging structures, with limited resources.

I like the old buildings, but not in the winter. Did the old mattresses get put in the old buildings or did they get new ones as well?

We need to remodel. The new building is great but dorms, chow hall and gym are antiquated.

Again, we demand the highest level of professionalism from our Police Officers, Highway Patrolmen, Fish and Game Wardens, DOT Motor Carriers, Brand inspectors and County Deputies, but yet we house them and train them in a facility that has unacceptable living conditions or is below professional standards. Professionals such as Doctors, Lawyers, Judges, Legislators etc. would not stay in that facility for 12 weeks so why then do we allow for our cadets to reside in those conditions but at the same time expect the highest level of standards from them? This was a concern when MLEA was first moved to Helena and nothing has been accomplished other than a new building for classrooms. Many years have gone by and monies have never been set aside to build new dormitories in the future. Once again, the Coal Tax Trust Fund should be used for upgrading MLEA facilities.

Campus itself is excellent and fitting of an academy. Many of the buildings are old and require constant maintenance. Newer facilities would show that law enforcement in Montana is important and supported.

Need to build a larger and better housing unit

State should update more buildings

## **Overall satisfaction level with the campus infrastructure (continued):**

Didn't have to freeze or fry in the trailers at Bozeman, so life was good in the current facility

Our staff usually gets sick when attending courses at the MLEA. The Carl Ohs Building is fantastic but the barracks and gymnasium are subpar. When visiting LE Academy's in other states it is apparent that Montana does not put the emphasis and priority into training our Law Enforcement professionals. It sets a poor example to young officers entering the profession of the worth of their efforts.

My officers do not want to stay on campus due to the quality of dormitory rooms. This is a frequent and persistent complaint.

Cottonwood is great a little cold in the winter, those other buildings should be knocked down.

Housing is the main complaint I routinely hear. The overall condition of the dormitories and the infrastructure associated with them. The new training/ classroom/ office is very nice. Cafeteria is nice and appreciate that it is accessible at all times for studying or whatever in the evening.

The Academy does a good job with the buildings that it has but there is a definite need of improvement to some of the older buildings.

The old buildings should be kept for offices and a new dormitory should be built to house the students. Although many improvements have been made over the years, the buildings are not really designed to accommodate the amount of students that live in them. I realize that a new dorm would essentially be like building a hotel, but I think that the cost would be worth it. More than likely the state would save money in maintenance over a long term period. The number of students that attend basic every year has increased steadily over the years. It might be worth looking into contracting with a motel chain to provide the building and services in exchange for a fee. It might cost less every year and it would give visiting families and professionals a hotel to stay in on campus rather than travelling to the campus for training and events. I think it would cost the state less to contract with a hotel rather than maintain and build the building on the state's dime.

I completely love the environment and setting of the academy, it is part of the experience. If I had to complain about something I don't think I could find something to complain about.

This is a loaded question. Millions of dollars have been spent on updates and new buildings and infrastructure. Prioritize, focus, and be frugal. With the right care and updates I feel that the academy will last another 90 plus years. Let's remember our beginning. (need I say trailers)

## **Overall satisfaction level with the campus infrastructure (continued):**

Barely meets expectations; the new building was a great addition.

Part of my answer should be Below Expectations. The new classroom building is Exceeds Expectations and the dorms are Below Expectations.

The dorms are dirty, moldy and inadequate. The cafeteria is inadequate for the volume of students being served.

The Ohs building is excellent. We receive continuous complaints about the housing accommodations, however.

Improve on heating/cooling systems in older buildings. Appreciate replacement of mattresses; that helps. Improve on Wi-Fi capability in all buildings.

The billeting for students aboard MLEA is by far the worst I have ever seen for "professional" training in 53 years! The condition of those buildings equals that of a refugee camp in the Middle East or Eastern Europe.

Dormitories require replacement.

The new building is nice. Too little, too late, though. See above.

Classroom is adequate. Dormitory needs improvement.

**8. The Academy is considering recommending to the Interim Committee that a new dorm building be constructed on campus. Would you support a 10 – 15% increase in basic course tuitions to help offset operational costs of this new building?**

Yes – 74

No – 6

**Comments:**

If this were done it would provide a better social and learning environment for the students attending training.

Some building upgrades on the dorms I believe would be beneficial.

10%

I don't think dorm funding is the best suited for increasing our funding increasing funds.

Yes, if no other funds are found. It's necessary and the students need a modern building to reside in while at the academy.

Yes, I would support the increase because the benefit of having a new facility is huge and is going to directly correlate to the effectiveness of the training.

No brainer if that is what it takes to provide a comfortable living environment in support of the academic environment.

This is obviously a difficult answer for many agencies to give with continually decreasing budgets. I do believe the current infrastructure is currently at risk and an investment now may save us all in the future.

Definitely. Any increase in fees hurts local departments but the dorm situation is a serious problem.

For advanced trainings it would be nice to have improved facilities for returning LEOs (non-basic students).

Buildings need to be updated.

## **10 – 15% increase in basic course tuitions (continued):**

I think that you are short sighted as far as your projected increase for the basic course. Every department in the state should be taking advantage of the insurance premium apportionment for training. In my small department I receive on average \$3,500 per year for training. A 25% or 50% increase short term would be a small price to pay for better accommodations.

No one likes to support a raise in tuition unless they look at the overall picture and why. First I look at what it is costing now, When I compare this cost with my daughters school tuition it does not look bad at all. when you consider after 12 weeks you graduate with a law enforcement certificate that is even better. When you talk about building bigger and better facilities to accommodate more students, that to me is a good thing. So I support maybe looking at 10% and see how that goes and maybe looking at adjusting that at a later date to see if it is achieving its goal.

Not at 10 percent, With additional funding and a lower rate of 5% yes.

Yes, if it would provide a better environment for students. However I again stress my idea as stated in question #9. We need to put the burden on those that cause most of the problem.

At this time the Tuition for LE Basic is \$125.00. I could handle 15 % increase on 125.00. If you are asking for 10-15% on the tuition, lodging and meals. No.

While we fully agree new housing is needed, as mentioned above, our budget has also experienced significant shortfalls over the past four years. We would voice support for it through general fund or bond, though.

Yes! Anything to improve living conditions.

Yes, but if you are going to make the agencies pay for the building through a tuition increase, it should be done on a sliding scale, or have a cap, as many smaller agencies send a proportionately high number of Officers to the academy. These Officers seem to serve one to three years, and are hired away by larger departments.

See above. It grates on me that we would have to do that, for all of the above reasons. Those are still taxpayers' dollars, They simply come directly out of agency budgets, which in turn challenges our ability to train our standing officers. The state requires that we send our people, and rightfully so, but the state should carry that burden. I say yes, though, because I know it's probably the only way it will happen...

**9. Printing student study guides is expensive for the Academy and bulky for the students. If the Academy were to eliminate hard copy study guides and issue students thumb drives with the information, do you you're your agency/employee could provide a laptop computer while they are in training here?**

Yes – 64

No – 14

Comments:

They all take one to training now

I don't like speaking for other counties. I know that many small counties also have limited budgets, I believe that we would be able to accommodate that.

Side note...the Wifi is not that good at MLEA

We could issue a department tough book to the deputy.

Dependence on an electronic device is like dependence on a mechanical safety on a firearm, when you least expect, it will fail.

This is possible on most occasions, depending on the # of students we send down to the academy.

Possibly. Our department has no laptops available. It would remain to be seen if we could come up with the budget for this purchase.

Would have some concerns about viruses infecting our equipment and software

We could provide 3 but not over that amount.

We are a very small department and can not afford to buy laptops. Although we have always found one to use or borrow to help the students we send.

Not sure why this is even a question. The digital age has been here for a while and it's time that Montana joins. The most dangerous phrase in the English language is "That's the way we've always done it."

I do not know if we could afford this at this time.



## **Printing student study guides (continued):**

Add it to your application. Those employees who are willing to bring their own lap tops can use the thumb drive, but the agency should not have to purchase a laptop for the purpose, and if the employee doesn't have a lap top, give them the printed study guide.

Even though we could provide a laptop, hard copy study guides are far more user friendly and instructive. I would not support doing away with the hard copy.

**10. If the Academy were to develop low cost P.O.S.T. certified on-line training for delivery through a Learning Management System, what is the likelihood your agency would participate?**

Likely – 70

Unlikely – 8

Comments:

I like training to be in person so there are no distractions. It would help with the travel cost aspect, but I don't think that would outweigh the benefit of being there in person.

Somewhat likely

Depending on ease of use of program.

The Roosevelt county Sheriff's office would participate. Because of our remoteness it would be cost efficient to attend training this way. We'd like the opportunity.

On-line training is somewhat effective, however is clearly not the same as having an onsite classroom atmosphere

This is a very thing for advanced training.

1. This would work for a "Basic Extension Course" As long as it retains and works those disciplines in that the student is physically required to pass. Firearms, PVOC, PPCT, MPAT, & Lethal Encounters, Hmmm want to save \$??? 2. Low cost = interest by small agencies with limited budgets and those with "Reserve Components" ..... makes good sense, especially for the required bi-annual training hours.

On-line courses have their place in the scholastic world. In my early years in LE, the academy sent out containers of video tapes on many subjects to departments that requested them. They were used for in-service or roll-call type training. Very informative and helpful.

This would be a great way to get training to a large number of the officers at once. Very supportive of this idea.

Amen hallelujah! It's about darn time folks! Please move forward with this initiative.

## **Low cost P.O.S.T. certified on-line training (continued):**

Low cost is the key word here, and when you figure low cost and no travel time, no motel or meals, this is also something that can be done while an officer is on shift and will also cut down on the overtime that is also associated with training. so depending on the cost I would be very interested.

Welcome the 21st century.

Again, modern ideas in a state that hates technology.

Not sure what you are aiming at. Not in favor of the entire POST Basic course. I would need more information before answering this question.

We are trying to provide the most/best training possible to our Officers with a very limited training budget. Anything that could help offset these costs would be helpful.

100% participation. Attempting to provide additional cost effective P.O.S.T. certification is difficult.

Good idea...especially if you can keep it affordable.

Being located in a rural setting has many challenges. One of them being limited access to Emergency Medical Services. Law Enforcement is almost always first on the scene, now with no training. The academy's decision to eliminate the First Responder program hurt our effectiveness to serve the community. Even if the course was offered as an elective after the basic instruction a couple of days per week it would be beneficial to agencies.