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## Law Enforcement Training Center Joint Board

Meeting Minutes:  
January 5, 2024

Location:  
Wichita/Sedgwick County Law  
Enforcement Training Center, 4319 E  
19th St. N, Wichita, KS 67208

Prepared by:  
Elizabeth Ewers  
Management Intern

### Attendance

#### Voting Members (three is a quorum)

Sheriff Jeff Easter, Sedgwick County

Chief of Police Joe Sullivan, City of Wichita

Commissioner Jim Howell, Sedgwick County

Mayor Brandon Whipple, City of Wichita

Dr. Andra Bannister, (Chair) Wichita State University

#### Voting Designees

Colonel Brian White, Sedgwick County

Deputy Chief Dan East, City of Wichita

Commissioner David Dennis, Sedgwick County

Vice Mayor Brandon Johnson, City of Wichita

Dr. Michael Birzer, Wichita State University

#### Other attendees:

Rusty Leeds (Sedgwick County), Andrew Dilts (Sedgwick County), Kevin Stamper (Sedgwick County), Elora Forshee (Sedgwick County 911), Elizabeth Ewers (Sedgwick County), Captain Keith Allen (Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office), Captain Carl Lemons (Wichita Police Department), Stacia Boden (Wichita State University), Crystal Stegeman (Wichita State University)

Dr. Andra Bannister called the January 5, 2024, meeting to order at 3:03 PM. A quorum was present.

#### I. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Jim Howell, Sedgwick County, made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 5, 2023. Colonel Brian White, Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

#### II. Old Business

##### A. Operating expenses and facility maintenance report

Andrew Dilts, Sedgwick County, shared that a total of approximately \$142,000 was spent on building expenditures over the last year. This total is divided between Sedgwick County (39%, \$55,000), the City of Wichita (39%, \$55,000), and Wichita State University (22%; \$31,000) based on occupancy footprint.

Sedgwick County took over facility maintenance in February 2023. Wichita State University (WSU) worked with the County through the transition period and everything is currently functioning with no outstanding issues. All inspections



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have been passed. The elevator certificate is not posted inside the elevator; Andrew will address this as soon as possible.

Rusty Leeds, Sedgwick County, pointed out that when the transition occurred, the funding split was outlined in the contract. The County pays initially and then invoices the City and WSU for their portions of the funds. Crystal Stegeman, WSU, requested itemized statements when these invoices are sent.

Membership has changed slightly since last January's meeting: Chief Joe Sullivan, Wichita Police Department, has now joined. He gave proper notice to the Board Chair that Deputy Chief Dan East will serve as his voting designee. Sheriff Jeff Easter, Sedgwick County Sheriff, also gave proper notice that Colonel Brian White will serve as his voting designee.

### III. New Business

#### A. Updates from the Sheriff and PD training commanders on activities and building usage

Captain Carl Lemons, Wichita Police Department, shared that this year, two academy classes graduated: one class of nine in July and one class of 24 to graduate soon. The department partners with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and allows them to use the facility.

Captain Keith Allen, Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, shared that two commission classes graduated a total of 25 recruits, and seven detention classes graduated a total of 110 detention deputies. The department held a variety of trainings on topics including computer-aided dispatch; leadership; diversity, equity, and inclusion; Taser; wellness; peer support; etc. These included trainings facilitated by outside entities. The gym space is used for applicant testing, Taser and tactical training, and more.

Deputy Chief Dan East, Wichita Police Department, shared a concern about scheduling of the gym space, as it is frequently used by both departments. He also shared that WPD will be pushing to add a third class annually. Space will be needed for Axon body cameras and Tasers that are arriving. Communication will be important to manage space for both agencies.

Colonel Brian White, Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, said that three of the five classrooms are used for academy training the entire year, leaving only two rooms available for other trainings. He agreed with Deputy Chief Dan East's concerns about scheduling space as the agencies continue to grow and train more people.

There was some interest from the board in looking at third-party solutions for scheduling space in the building.



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B. Emergency Communications activities in the facility

Elora Forshee, Sedgwick County Emergency Communications, shared that Emergency Communications operated out of their backup site at the LETC from April-August 2023. She said that it was a great opportunity and that the extended time they spent there highlighted some needs. This year, budget authority will be used to add some technology to the space. Emergency Communications continues to use the space for new employee training and is shifting to include continuing education as well. There have been some challenges with accessing the building during 2<sup>nd</sup>- and 3<sup>rd</sup>-shift trainings.

C. Facility space and capacity needs for law enforcement academy and continuing education (in-service) training enhancements

Rusty Leeds, Sedgwick County, encouraged members of the board to reach out to Andrew Dilts with any ideas about expansion or remodel as necessary.

Elora Forshee, Sedgwick County Emergency Communications, shared that there was not nearly enough storage for Emergency Communications' needs when they were operating out of the LETC. In the case of any expansion, Emergency Communications would like to be a part of the discussion to ensure they have adequate space.

The board expressed interest in learning more about what the options are for future growth of the physical space.

Stacia Boden, Wichita State University, shared that the agencies that use the LETC are entitled to use other on-campus conference spaces free of charge up to six times a year total. She also shared that WSU's event planning department can be helpful in securing space for agencies' needs.

Deputy Chief Dan East, Wichita Police Department, said that it is best for agencies to work together to bring in outside trainings if possible.

IV. Other Business

- A. Board bylaws state that annual meetings will be held on January 5<sup>th</sup>; if January 5<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend they should be held on the next day closest.
- B. Commissioner Jim Howell, Sedgwick County, made a motion to set the next annual meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 3:00-4:00 PM. Colonel Brian White, Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**
- C. Commissioner Jim Howell, Sedgwick County, requested that each agency provide a training summary in writing at future meetings.



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- i. Rusty Leeds, Sedgwick County, will collect 2023 training summaries to distribute to the board in the coming weeks. He will also ensure that agencies provide written summaries for future meetings.

#### Adjournment

Commissioner Jim Howell, Sedgwick County, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Deputy Chief Dan East, Wichita Police Department, seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 3:45 P.M.**

**Next meeting:** Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 3:00 PM

DRAFT