

CESF Grant 2020-H3090-AZ-VD

Project Narrative:

The Yuma Police Department is seeking reimbursement for trainees and instructors' salaries and ERE's for the development and implementation of an online training regimen that was a direct result of the Covid-19 response.

As Covid-19 began to take hold of our country and the State of Arizona, the Yuma Police Department (YPD) assessed the needs of essential personnel and duties. YPD had several trainees in two distinct categories. The first group, comprised of seven pre-academy Cadets, was scheduled to begin the Arizona Western College Law Enforcement Training Academy (AWCLETA) on April 13, 2020. The second group, comprised of six post-academy Trainees, had recently completed their law enforcement training academy and were joined by two lateral police officers. They were in the initial process of our Field Training Program.

Both groups were placed on a "work from home" order on March 23, 2020, due to the pandemic guidelines of limiting exposure to only essential workers. Because it was vital to continue to prepare these two groups to become solo beat officers, arrangements were made for them to receive training from home.

Two different training regimens were prepared. They consisted of existing lesson plans and new lesson plans tailored to these groups. The Cadets began training through video conferencing on March 30th and the Trainees began on April 1st. They worked four day, ten-hour schedules with a number of instructors. Many courses had two instructors to break up the responsibilities. The instructors worked the same schedule and times. Though they did not instruct for the entire ten hours, they had course preparation, administrative tasks, and assignments to review.

While this training regimen has kept our trainees mentally prepared, it is definitely out of the norm. None of the trainees in either group have been able to progress into interpersonal interaction or hands-on training. The restrictions were lifted on May 4, 2020 and both groups returned to work as normal. They are better educated, but are at the same point they were when they were sent home. The Cadets will continue their training at the police department until they begin the academy. AWCLETA has been delayed twice and is tentatively scheduled to begin on June 22, 2020. The post-academy trainees and lateral officers began phase one of field training starting May 4, 2020. Since Trainees have begun Field Training, the request for funding for them and their instructors will be from April 1 to May, 4th.

In conclusion, YPD decided to limit the exposure of the Cadets and Trainees in March 2020. We recognized we had to keep both groups mentally prepared for their career in law enforcement and provided an online training program. This training is beneficial, but lacks advancement in their

academy or field training programs. The requested funding ranges from March 31 through May 21, 2020, even though the cadets will remain in training until the June 22nd Academy. The online training regimen was a direct result of the Covid-19 response and we are requesting reimbursement of the associated training costs.