



Basic Law Enforcement Academy Issue Brief

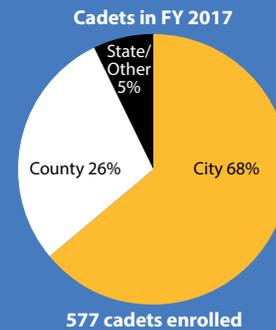
Local governments fund law enforcement training

Washington is a national pioneer in centralized, state-mandated law enforcement training. To pay for the basic training of police officers, a portion of city traffic ticket revenue is sent to the state – \$22.2 million in fiscal year 2016. Agencies are facing a wave of retirements; 2,400 officers are expected to retire in the next three to five years. Law enforcement training must be prioritized and the Legislature should support increased class funding for the Basic Law Enforcement Academy.



Strong cities need:

- Increased funding in the 2018 supplemental budget to cover eight additional classes
- 18 classes each fiscal year in the 2017-19 budget



More details

Why was the Criminal Justice Training Commission created?

In the early 1970s, numerous basic law enforcement trainings were held around the state – independently taught without standardized curriculum. In response, the Washington Legislature established the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC), to provide standardized, mandatory training for law enforcement agencies statewide. Washington was the first state in the nation to provide mandated law enforcement training through the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA).

How is the Basic Law Enforcement Academy funded?

To pay for the mandated training, state and local governments agreed that training would be funded through an added percentage to every traffic ticket written by local law enforcement. In 1984, the state created a special account – the Public Safety and Education Account (PSEA) – where funds were placed to pay for BLEA and other public safety uses. In 2009, the state eliminated the PSEA account and began depositing the dedicated traffic ticket revenue into the general fund. As a result, the funding for BLEA and the CJTC was shifted to the general fund.

How much money do locals send to the PSEA?

With PSEA's elimination, it is much more difficult to track the funds. However, cities and counties sent the state's general fund more than \$22.2 million in traffic ticket revenue in FY 2016. It cost the CJTC \$5.8 million dollars last year to provide mandated training to local law enforcement.

How much are cities being asked to pay?

For more than 30 years, the traffic ticket revenue sent from local police to the state was used to cover the full cost of training local law enforcement officers, as agreed to when the training mandate was established. The state now requires local governments to pay 25% of the BLEA cost - \$3,187 per cadet trained.

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