

**Written Testimony****Submitted to the House Appropriations Committee****In Support of Substitute for SB335****Ed H. Pavey, Director, Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center****March 7, 2016****Funding Critical to Maintaining Programs, Staff and Campus Facilities**

Sub. for SB335 increases vehicle registration fees for all vehicles by \$1.25, from \$30 to \$31.25. From that \$1.25 increase, KLRD projects an annual revenue stream of \$3.3M. Sub. for SB335 provides KLETC with a supplemental revenue stream. Because of plummeting court docket fees KLETC is currently operating on revenue levels 20% lower than revenue stream levels established by the 2006 Legislature, while the demand for training and annual operating costs continue to increase. KLETC staff has compensated by reducing discretionary expenditures, delaying the hiring of vacant positions, and delaying infrastructure maintenance and equipment purchases. KLETC will be forced to curtail training programs without additional funds. Basic training and continuing education programs will have to be substantially reduced or eliminated. At a time when a rapidly changing environment demands more law enforcement education and training, KLETC would be forced to provide less, and the potential cost of reduced safety to communities in Kansas would be immeasurable.

Supplemental Revenue Stream Needed Annually

The KLETC budget is largely driven by outside market forces. Annual increases in employee fringe benefit costs, drive the salary line; increases in outsourced contractual services such as telephone/internet, utilities, food service and security are driven by market forces beyond KLETC's control. To continue meeting the demands for contemporary law enforcement education and training programs, fund operations & staff salaries and benefits, maintain multiple campus buildings along with two multi-story residential dormitories, KLETC is requesting a supplemental revenue stream annually to fulfill KLETC's training mission established by the Legislature. As can be seen from recent events across the nation and the active shooter tragedy in Hesston KS, law enforcement is a challenging profession and continues to be increasingly complex. Training is critical. The failure to provide financial resources necessary to fund KLETC to meet those increasingly complex challenges may ultimately affect and jeopardize the safety and well-being of every Kansan.

- **A supplemental revenue stream** is needed to replace court docket fee revenue that has plummeted for the past 5 years (20% decline). Additionally, KLETC has delayed infrastructure maintenance and equipment replacement; KLETC currently has grant funded programs that have or will soon expire yet require internal funding to maintain services currently provided to (and expected by) the KS law enforcement community; KLETC has expanded training/education programs that lack staff resources; and legislative mandates such as annual Racial and Other Biased-based policing training requirements is just one example.
- **A supplemental revenue stream** is needed to sustain KLETC operations and programs for the next 6-8 years (assuming all revenue streams remain stable). Program and campus operating expenses continue to increase (contractual expenditures and the cost of utilities and employee benefits (e.g. health insurance) are examples. KLETC does not seek annual incremental funding/increased revenue requests to the Legislature. KLETC last appeared before the Legislature in 2006.

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KLETC Fiscally Conservative Operations

KLETC staff delayed expenditures to account for the unforeseen decline in docket fee revenue. However, many of the operating expenses such as utilities, contract services, fuel, vehicle repair and maintenance are determined by market conditions. KLETC has compensated by reducing discretionary expenditures, delaying the hiring of vacant positions and delaying infrastructure maintenance. Grants currently providing financial resources will expire in 2016. KLETC relies upon more than 300 law enforcement officer "volunteer" instructors annually to accomplish its training mission without hiring additional instructional staff. Kansas' professional law enforcement associations have made financial donations to KLETC, such as the recent \$22,000 donation to upgrade KLETC's student computer lab. Similar partnerships exist with federal, state and local governmental agencies for the most efficient use of training dollars. Partnerships with the Kansas African American Affairs Commission, the Kansas Department of Transportation and the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services further agency missions by providing training classes and technology dollars. In the past five fiscal years, KLETC has applied for and received almost \$1.14 Million dollars in grant funds to further the KLETC law enforcement training and education mission.

Revenue/Expenditures

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Docket Fee Revenue</u>	<u>Operating Expenditures</u>	<u>Authorized Budget</u>
FY16	\$4.4M – Projected	\$ 5.1M - Projected	\$6.6M*

**Based on 2006 Budget Projections*

KLETC Revenue - Funding Background

KLETC's last appearance at the Legislature was in the **Session of 2006** where current court docket fee funding revenue levels were set and legislative authorization received to undertake a \$16.4 Million dollar capital improvement building expansion project to meet the need for increased training space and increased dorm sleeping room capacity. The capital improvements were completed in FY10. It was understood by all involved in 2006 that based on then current revenue projections, KLETC could operate until 2016 and at that time would need to return to the Legislature to seek additional revenue. Unforeseen, from FY10 thru FY15 municipal court docket fee revenue plummeted by over 22% while district court docket fee revenue decreased by over 18%, collectively together averaging a 20% decline in revenue deposited in the Kansas law enforcement training center fund.

KLETC Historical Overview

The Legislature created KLETC in 1968 to serve as Kansas' central headquarters for all police and law enforcement training. In its 47th year of operation at its 173-acre, 15-building campus facilities 12 miles SE of Hutchinson near Yoder, KLETC trains the overwhelming majority of law enforcement officers in Kansas, serving 430 recognized law enforcement agencies. Annually, KLETC trains 7 out of every 10 officers trained, while the remaining 3 out of every 10 are trained at satellite basic training academy programs authorized, licensed to operate, and monitored by KLETC. KLETC provides basic law enforcement training courses for new officers and onsite, regional, distance learning and online education/training programs for veteran law enforcement officers from across the state. In FY15 KLETC basic training, continuing education, distance learning and online enrollments exceeded 11,000 with KLETC serving law enforcement agencies and officers in all 105 Kansas counties. KLETC employs 47 FTE employees with support from contractual service vendors such as cafeteria food service, security, laundry and other services necessary to operate the campus complex, Sunday-Friday, 24-hours each day. Docket fees from both district and municipal court serve as the funding source for KLETC – a historically stable funding source until docket fees plummeted downward five years ago and that downward trend continues today.