

March 18, 2024

The Honorable Rick Billinger, Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 548-S  
Topeka, KS 66612

Subject: Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center Funding  
*HB2491*

Dear Senator Billinger:

Established by the Kansas Legislature in 1968 and administratively overseen by the University of Kansas, the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC) operates a 173-acre residential campus with fifteen buildings including two multi-story residential student dormitories (117 dorm rooms), 12 miles southeast of Hutchinson, near Yoder, KS. KLETC serves as the central agency for all law enforcement training in the State of Kansas. Its mission, as expressed in the Law Enforcement Training Act, K.S.A. 74-5601 et seq. is “the promotion and development of improved law enforcement personnel and procedures throughout the state, and the training center shall offer to qualified applicants such programs and courses of instruction designed to fulfill this end.”

KLETC trains nearly 400 law enforcement officers in basic training and 15,000 law enforcement officers annually in continuing education and professional development programs through residential, online, and outreach programs. Every law enforcement agency in the state relies on KLETC programs in some manner. It would be devastating to the law enforcement community to lose this support.

KLETC is currently funded by a combination of municipal court docket fees, district court docket fees, and a vehicle registration surcharge. The remittance levels were set in 2016. Revenues from these remittance levels are currently producing 7.4% less revenue than they were when they were established. At the same time inflation has continued to drive operating expenses higher.

To compensate, KLETC has:

- Held vacant positions open.
- Deferred capital maintenance.
- Sought grant, contract and donation opportunities.
- Used carryforward dollars to supplement new funding each year.



The Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice in the Summer of 2023 recommended changing the method of funding KLETC from fees to general fund. That recommendation was followed up by the introduction of HB2491, which has now unanimously passed the House.

At this point, KLETC is seeking \$4.5M in additional funding to continue operations at the level that they currently exist, including addressing deferred capital maintenance and refilling the existing open positions. KLETC has no position regarding the source of funding, but requests that the budget shortfall be addressed in some manner.

Sincerely,



Darin Beck  
Director of Police Training