

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Law Enforcement Training</b> <b>Department of Public Safety/Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board</b> <b>Program Summary</b></p>
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### **Program Overview**

The Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board (AZPOST) consists of 13 members appointed by the Governor. The board was established to address the need for peace officer recruitment, selection, retention and training standards. AZPOST provides the curriculum and standards for all certified law enforcement training facilities. The board has also been vested with the responsibility of administering the Peace Officers' Training Fund.

### **Background**

AZPOST was created in 1968. The board consists of 21 staff members who hold responsibilities in administration, compliance, in-service training and digital media, technical services, advanced training, and basic training and certification. AZPOST services approximately 163 law enforcement agencies encompassing over 14,500 sworn peace officers and 14 police training academies throughout the state. The 14 police training academies consist of:

- Arizona Western College (Yuma)
- Chandler-Gilbert Community College (Chandler)
- Glendale Community College (Glendale)
- Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (Phoenix)
- Mesa Police Training Academy (Mesa)
- Northeastern Arizona Law Enforcement Academy (Snowflake)
- Northern Arizona Regional Training Academy (Prescott)
- Phoenix Police Reserve Academy (Phoenix)
- Phoenix Regional Police Academy (Phoenix)
- Pima Community College Law Enforcement Academy (Tucson)
- Pima County Sheriff's Office (Tucson)
- Southeastern Arizona Law Enforcement Training Center (Douglas)
- Southern Arizona Law Enforcement Training Center (Tucson)
- Western Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy (Lake Havasu)

### **Program Funding**

AZPOST has historically been funded from the Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund (CJEF). However, during the time period from FY 2009 through FY 2022, CJEF has experienced a steady decline in revenue. Consequent to the decline, the board has requested additional funding to supplement the loss. In FY 2019, the board received \$837,000 from the Concealed Weapons Permit Fund, in FY 2020 the board received \$1,027,300 from the Highway Patrol Fund, and in FY 2022 the board is receiving \$1,196,300 from the Highway Patrol Fund. This additional funding goes towards the reimbursements the board provides to the regional police training academies.

In 2020, Arizona voters passed Proposition 207, which establishes a 16.0% tax on the sale of recreational marijuana and recreational marijuana products. After paying for administrative costs of certain agencies, 31.4% of the revenue generated from Proposition 207 is allocated to local law enforcement and fire departments. Subsequent to the passing of Proposition 207, the FY 2022 budget included an intent statement that after FY 2022, monies received by local law enforcement agencies under Proposition 207 are expected to cover reimbursements to regional peace officer training academies for training officers.

In order to provide a more stable fund source for AZPOST, Laws 2022, Chapter 311 removes the Peace Officers' Training Fund as a recipient of CJEF revenue and reallocates their distribution to the remaining 11 recipients. The FY 2023 General Appropriation Act appropriates \$6.1 million from the General Fund on an ongoing basis for the operating budget and reimbursement expenditures of the Board, excluding an additional \$476,000 for Department of Public Safety (DPS) cadet housing.

AZPOST Operating Costs

The bulk of AZPOST workload involves compliance issues. According to the board, about 75% of their work output pertains to compliance. These compliance issues range from investigating complaints on officers to conducting background checks for recruits going through basic training.

In addition, AZPOST operates its own training at their facility, located just south of Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. However, AZPOST does not pay for instructors to teach at their facility. Rather, they host these trainings for other local agencies and the DPS to attend. At times, AZPOST, or a local agency, will bring in outside experts to teach courses. In these instances, the local agencies and/or DPS are responsible for paying any costs associated with the trainings they attend.

AZPOST also helps facilitate and organize advanced training for officers around the state. The instructors for the advanced trainings are provided by peace officers as a part of their normal assignment (see *PRPA and Advanced Training* section). The trainings AZPOST assists in organizing, whether at their own facility or around the state, are separate from the peace officer certification provided at academies.

Training Academy Reimbursements

Outside of their operating costs, AZPOST allocates reimbursements for the law enforcement training academies throughout the state. These reimbursements subsidize the cost to train new recruits who are seeking to become AZPOST certified. From beginning to end, the academy training takes about 28-30 weeks depending on the local or state agency. This training process consists of approximately 20 weeks of peace officer certification and 10 weeks of "post-academy", or agency specific training. These reimbursements are allocated to the actual training academies where the basic training occurs rather than to the local law enforcement agencies.

With a budgeted amount of approximately \$2 million AZPOST sets aside for reimbursements, they anticipate approximately 1,000 recruits statewide each year and reimburse academies \$2,500 per graduate and \$900 per recruit that completes more than 50% of his or her training. The reimbursements do not cover the full cost to train new recruits, but rather help reduce the total cost paid by localities for each recruit. As an example, the Phoenix Regional Police Academy (PRPA) estimates that it costs approximately \$28,000 to train each recruit. AZPOST expenditures on operating costs and reimbursements are listed in *Table 1* below.

<b>AZPOST Operating Expenditures</b>			
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>AZPOST Operating</u>	<u>Academy Reimbursements</u>	<u>Total Spending</u>
2022	\$2,148,400	\$1,520,100	\$3,668,500
2021	\$2,004,300	\$1,850,800	\$3,855,100
2020	\$3,416,000	\$2,006,100	\$5,422,100
2019	\$3,041,100	\$1,877,600	\$4,918,700
2018	\$3,412,800	\$1,590,100	\$5,002,900

PRPA and Advanced Training

DPS trains all their new recruits at the PRPA which is owned and operated by the City of Phoenix. DPS, however, dedicates 6 staff to PRPA who work there full-time training DPS recruits. DPS does not pay Phoenix to use the facilities at PRPA, but they have an agreement with the city to provide support to Phoenix recruits with their dedicated staff by teaching joint DPS and Phoenix recruit courses. Additionally, DPS provides Highway Patrol vehicles for use during training.

Of the \$2,500 per graduate reimbursement AZPOST allocates to PRPA, \$2,000 goes towards Phoenix and \$500 goes towards DPS. DPS also provides a \$2,000 stipend for each DPS recruit from outside the Phoenix metropolitan area to help with housing/lodging during the 28-30 weeks of basic training at the academy.

As previously mentioned, AZPOST facilitates trainings at different locations throughout the state. These advanced trainings are open to all law enforcement officers in the region. AZPOST typically pays for costs associated with

these regional trainings. These costs include per diem as well as lodging for the officers who traveled a far distance for the training. These expenditures from AZPOST, however, only cover a portion of the total cost. *Table 2* below details the amounts AZPOST expended on reimbursements to PRPA (out of their total academy reimbursements in a given fiscal year) and amounts spent on advanced trainings throughout the state.

<b>AZPOST Training Expenditures</b>		
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>PRPA Reimbursements</b>	<b>AZPOST Advanced Training</b>
2022	\$297,700	\$117,500
2021	\$729,800	\$109,200
2020	\$985,000	\$139,800
2019	\$761,400	\$139,200