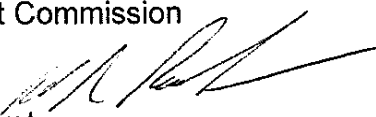


Date: March 3, 1999

To: Virgil F. Puskarich  
Executive Director  
Local Government Commission

From: William R. Parkes   
Fiscal Policy Analyst  
Office of the Budget

Subject: Municipal Police Training Costs

In response to the request of the House Resolution 167 Task Force on local police services, this memo addresses questions raised concerning estimated costs involving a core municipal police training curriculum as administered by the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission (MPOETC).

**Current Funding for the MPOETC**

Your assignment requested calculations concerning salary/benefit reimbursement as well as the amounts appropriated and lapsed for municipal police training in the last three complete fiscal years.

The total amount of salaries and benefits reimbursed for 1997-98 at the 60% statutory rate was \$2.409 million for a total of 773 trainees. Had this been reimbursed at an 80% rate, the cost would have been \$3.212 million. At a 100% rate, the cost would have been \$4.105 million.

The lapsed funds are summarized in the following table.

**Municipal Police Training Appropriation**

	<b>Appropriated</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Lapsed</b>	<b>Percent Lapsed</b>
1995-96	\$7,809,427	\$7,590,854	\$218,573	2.80%
1996-97	7,727,855	7,457,684	270,171	3.50%
1997-98	8,063,000	7,954,413	108,587	1.30%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23,600,282</b>	<b>\$23,002,951</b>	<b>\$597,331</b>	<b>2.50%</b>

In discussions with MPOETC, the cost (1998 data) for the Basic Municipal Police Training Course averages \$2,252 per trainee. This program lasts 540 hours and will soon increase to 700. The average salary and benefits reimbursement per trainee at the 60% level was \$3,118, and the average reimbursement for trainee expenses while attending the course was \$2,280. The total cost for the course would be about \$7,650 per trainee. However, these costs can vary significantly depending on factors like salary and benefits, or expense reimbursement.

## Estimating Current Training Program Costs

A review of existing law enforcement training programs was undertaken in consultation with the State Police, the MPOETC and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). The courses vary in length, number of trainees and curriculum, making the hourly cost per trainee the best measure for comparison.

In reviewing training costs with PCCD, it was determined that hourly costs vary to a small degree. The 50% salary reimbursement and expense reimbursement for sheriffs is not included in these estimates.

The following table outlines the costs of training programs administered by PCCD.

Training Program	Hours of Instruction	Hourly Cost Per Trainee
Deputy Sheriff Basic Training	160 Hours	\$6.75
Constables Basic Training	80 Hours	\$5.55
Constables Firearms Training	20 Hours	\$7.30

## Costs of a Uniform Program

The Task Force also requested an estimate of the cost of a unified training program based on the recommendations of the uniform training working group.

It would be reasonable to assume that the hourly cost would be between \$4.00 - \$7.00 per hour, depending on the mix of classroom work and practical training based upon MPOETC and PCCD experience. It is assumed that a core training program developed by the uniform training working group would contain classroom instruction, first aid instruction, motor vehicle and firearms training. The cost of salary reimbursement would vary with the length of the course as would expense reimbursement.

Since the curriculum laid out by the uniform training working group does not specify the length of training or the number of trainees who would be likely to undergo the program in the course of a year. It is not possible to give an estimate of the cost of the training. Estimating the cost of a new uniform training program for local police officers will be largely driven by decisions made by law enforcement professionals on what would be an adequate length for such as program.