

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ACADEMY



AGENDA

MEETING OF THE REGIONAL POLICE ACADEMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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LRGVDC Main Campus, 301 W. Railroad Street, Building B Weslaco, TX 78596
June 21, 2023, 02: 00 PM

Presiding: Lieutenant Jesus Ortega

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Item #1: Call to Order..... Chair

Item #2:

- A. Consider Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes of November 5, 2021..... Chair
B. Consider Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2022..... Chair

ACTION ITEM

Item #3: Administration

- A. Consideration and ACTION to approve revisions to the LRGV Academy BPOC Handbook..... Gilbert Luna Training Coordinator
B. Consideration and ACTION to approve revisions to the LRGV Academy Instructor Contract..... Gilbert Luna Training Coordinator
C. Consideration and ACTION to approve the creation of the Physical Agility and Fitness Pilot Program ..... Gilbert Luna Training Coordinator

- D. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve revisions to MOU for extension services for Academy Site(s) ..... Gilbert Luna  
Training Coordinator
  
- E. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve implementation of MOU for reporting services ..... Gilbert Luna  
Training Coordinator
  
- F. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve implementation of MOU for TCOLE Law Enforcement Training Services..... Gilbert Luna  
Training Coordinator
  
- G. Training Coordinators Report ..... Gilbert Luna  
Training Coordinator

**Item #4: Old or New Business**

**Item #5: Adjourn**

**MINUTES**

**LRGVDC Academy Committee Meeting**  
**Day of the Week, Month, Day, Year**

3. Administration ..... Chair

- A. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve revisions to the LRGV Academy BPOC Handbook

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy Basic Peace Officer Course Handbook (BPOC) is provided to all cadets entering the Academy. This document provides the rules, policies, and procedures providing the overall qualifications, grading procedures, entrance requirements, etc. the cadets will need to be successful. This document is a TCOLE compliance requirement. The revisions in this document are highlighted in yellow and gray to showcase new or revised language.

LRGVDC Staff recommend approval.

B. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve revisions to LRGV Academy Instructor Contract

Revisions to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy Instructor Contract is necessary to provide updates related to compliance, accurately determine the responsibilities and duties of each party, and ensure the successful services are rendered to benefit the education of cadets and peace officers in the region. This agreement was last updated in FY 2019 and requires significant updates. The changes made are highlighted in yellow. These updates include rate adjustments to be competitive with market value.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy is requesting to adjust rates for Instructor Services to meet market base from local, state, and private vendors. The current LRGV Academy Instructor Rates are below comparable or similar Academies within the state. This rate adjustments ensures quality instructors are recruited and encouraged to participate in the LRGV Academy. The original LRGV Instructor rate was \$30.00 and has not been adjusted since FY 2017. This request also includes the creation of a range of Instructor rates to account for the certifications from the Instructor and the type of services provided.

When Instructors are tasked with updating curriculum, their service hours will be dependent on the number of hours required or assigned to that specific course. Example: If a course in the BPOC Handbook is four hours, an Instructor can only invoice a maximum of the four hours.

RATE	Explanation
\$35.00	Hourly rate for basic instruction or courses that do not require a secondary instructor certification. This rate also includes services from Instructors to provide consulting and/or administrative support such as updates to curriculum and materials, reference and background checks, and investigations.
\$40.00	Hourly rate for specialty instruction or courses which require secondary instructor certification. Attached is a list of applicable courses.
\$45.00	Hourly rate for consulting and/or administrative support duties for Instructors which have a TCOLE advanced instructor proficiency certification. These duties may include updating curriculum.

Staff recommends approval.

3. Administration ..... Chair

C. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the creation of the Physical Agility and Fitness Pilot Program

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy is proposing the creation of a pilot program to determine the validity of a Physical Agility and Fitness program for cadets. The goal of the program is to improve the quality of peace officer. This program will assist in determining an entry standard to a law enforcement agency. This program will include basic physical fitness activities such as sit ups, push-ups, running, and more. The data gathered through this pilot will determine the baseline metrics which will be used to implement the creation of an entry standard in the future.

3. Administration ..... Chair

- D. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve revisions to MOU for extension services for Academy Site(s)

The Memorandum of Understanding for extension services for Academy site(s) was last updated in FY 2019. This MOU is an agreement between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and the local law enforcement agency as an Academy Site. As a result, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy requests approval for the revisions in this MOU to address the number of cadets per class, compliance requirements through TCOLE, determine minimum and maximum enrollment class size, and other details. The changes are noted in yellow. Subject to legal approval and if the committee agrees, we can approve via email.

3. Administration ..... Chair

E. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve implementation of MOU for reporting services

The implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding for reporting services for Academy site(s) is necessary to meet the demand for TCOLE reported training hours for a law enforcement agency. This MOU is an agreement between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and the local law enforcement agency as a training provider to record and report hours of training hours provided. The reporting will ensure the LRGV Academy meets the contractual requirements with TCOLE and the Office of the Governor grants. These in-service hours ensure peace officers throughout the region are provided the necessary training to adhere to the standards of performance. Subject to legal approval and if the committee agrees, we can approve via email.



3. Administration ..... Chair

- F. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve implementation of MOU for TCOLE Law Enforcement Training Services

The implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and local law enforcement agencies for the use of facilities and reporting. The reporting will ensure the LRGV Academy meets the contractual requirements with TCOLE and the Office of the Governor grants. The use of facilities allows the LRGV Academy a variety of options for the convenience for cadets. Subject to legal approval and if the committee agrees, we can approve via email.

3. Administration ..... Chair

G. Training Coordinators Report

- **Graduations**

On Friday October 7, 2022, the 215th Harlingen Night Academy conducted the graduation ceremony for the 9 cadets who completed the Basic Peace officer course. The ceremony was held at the El Tabernaculo Church located at 209 E. Thelma St. San Juan, TX

On Tuesday December 20, 2022, the 214th Hidalgo Night Academy conducted the graduation ceremony for the 16 cadets who completed the Basic Peace Officer Course. The ceremony was held at the Hidalgo Payne Arena located at 600 N. 10th St. Hidalgo, TX 78557.

On Friday December 28, 2022, 18 Cadets from the 217th Edinburg and 2 cadets from the 218th Harlingen Day Academies graduated. Both classes were the first to complete the 1000720 Basic Peace Officer Course. The ceremony was held at the Edinburg Activity Center located at 123 E Palm Dr, Edinburg, TX 78539, USA.

- **Orientation dates**

On Friday, November 4, 2022, the LRGV Academy successfully conducted the orientation for the 219<sup>th</sup> Weslaco Night BPOC for a total of 21 cadets.

On Monday, February 6, 2023, the LRGV Academy successfully conducted the orientation for the 220<sup>th</sup> Mission Day BPOC for a total of 24 cadets.

On Friday, May 5, 2023, the LRGV Academy successfully conducted the orientation for the 221<sup>st</sup> Edinburg Day BPOC for a total of 30 cadets.

On Friday, May 5, 2023, the LRGV Academy successfully conducted the orientation for the 222<sup>nd</sup> Weslaco Night BPOC for a total of 17 cadets.

- **Pass rate percentage.**

The overall LRGV Academy FY 2022 Cadet passing rate for the TCOLE Licensing Exam is 74.44% (first attempt). This is a minor decrease from FY 2021, but it should be noted that these exams are reflective of the new curriculum and new exam.

The LRGV Academy pass rate for the previous three (3) years is at 84%, which meets the TCOLE contractual obligations.

- **Veterans site approvals**

To provide local veterans with the opportunity to choose to attend the Edinburg, Harlingen, Mission, and Weslaco sites. The LRGV Academy in FY 2023 has successfully completed the SAA Texas Veterans Commission Application for each of the current Academy's locations.

- **Donated Vehicles**

May 2023 Hidalgo County Constable Office Precinct 4 donated their decommission SUV police units with emergency overheads, rear custody compartment, and police vehicle related accessories to LRGV Academy.

- **Digital and paperless services**

As of February 2023, LRGV Academy has transitioned to digital record keeping for BPOC files, while still maintaining hardcopies and minimizing supplies.

- **Academy Organizational Chart**

The LRGV Academy BPOC is a division of LRGVDC's Public Safety Department and will follow LRGVDC's organizational chain-of-command and that of its partnership law enforcement agencies for communication, incident reporting, feedback, etc. When submitting an inquiry, reporting an incident, or providing feedback, we request all individuals follow the appropriate chain of command. Should there be a conflict of interest or distrust, the complainant should then move to the next level within the chain of command. When there is an issue or conflict with one of the following listed below be sure to address your formal complaint with the individual directly above that position.

- **Website calendar**

As of March 2023, LRGV Academy has implemented a "View Full Calendar" link to the In-Service Training section. It links to a stand-alone calendar page (<https://www.lrgvdc.org/inserVICetraining.html>).

- **Potential partnerships**

Two Hidalgo County, La Joya, Alton, Donna, Donna isd, Weslaco, and Harlingen law enforcement agencies have communicated with LRGV Academy to collaborate with one another.

- **Recruiting Fair**

The LRGVDC will be hosting its first Law Enforcement Recruiting Fair on July 13, 2023, from 9am to 3pm. The LRGV Academy is committed to supporting Local Law Enforcement Agencies. The fair is an important part of our efforts and will allow the public to come in and interact directly with Local Law Enforcement Agencies. Should citizens be interested in a career as a Peace Officer the LRGV Academy staff will be available to provide details about the BPOC. We believe that this fair will provide valuable resources, information, and opportunities to the public, and we are committed to making it as successful as possible.

- **Local Law Enforcement Survey Results**

The Local Involvement Survey link was sent via email to Law Enforcement Chiefs from Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy, to gather direct input about the needs of local agencies. With the data gathered from the survey, we have begun planning for a fair. Where only local law enforcement agencies will have booths. The LRGV Academy strives to open up communications with as many local agencies as possible.

1. A total of 25 agencies participated in completing the survey.
2. participating agencies indicated a total of 120 officer vacancies as of April 26, 2023.
3. 22 agencies indicated interest in having a booth.
4. 14 agencies indicated currently needing assistance with conducting TCOLE In-service training.
5. 12 agencies indicated needing assistance with reporting TCOLE In-service trainings.
6. 24 agencies provided at least one departmental contact.

# Item #2

**A**

# Item #3

# Item #3

**D**

# Item #3

**E**

# Item #3

**F**