

ARKANSAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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COMMISSION



The Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training (CLEST) was created in 1975 for the purpose of establishing minimum selection and training standards for admission to employment as a law enforcement officer in Arkansas. All applicants for law enforcement positions must meet the requirements established by CLEST and complete CLEST-approved training to obtain certification. The commission is comprised of a director and ten members representing law enforcement, education, and the general public that meet quarterly to review training and certification matters.



Commission Chair
Chief Robert Harrison



Commission Vice Chair
Chief Percy Wilburn



Commissioner
Mr. Barry Phillips



Commissioner
Dr. James Golden



Commissioner
Mr. Thomas Marsh



Commissioner
Richard Wingard



Commissioner
Mr. Doc Holladay



Commissioner
Lt. Stacie Rhoads



Commissioner
Sheriff Lafayette Woods



Commissioner
Sheriff Ron Brown

DIRECTOR



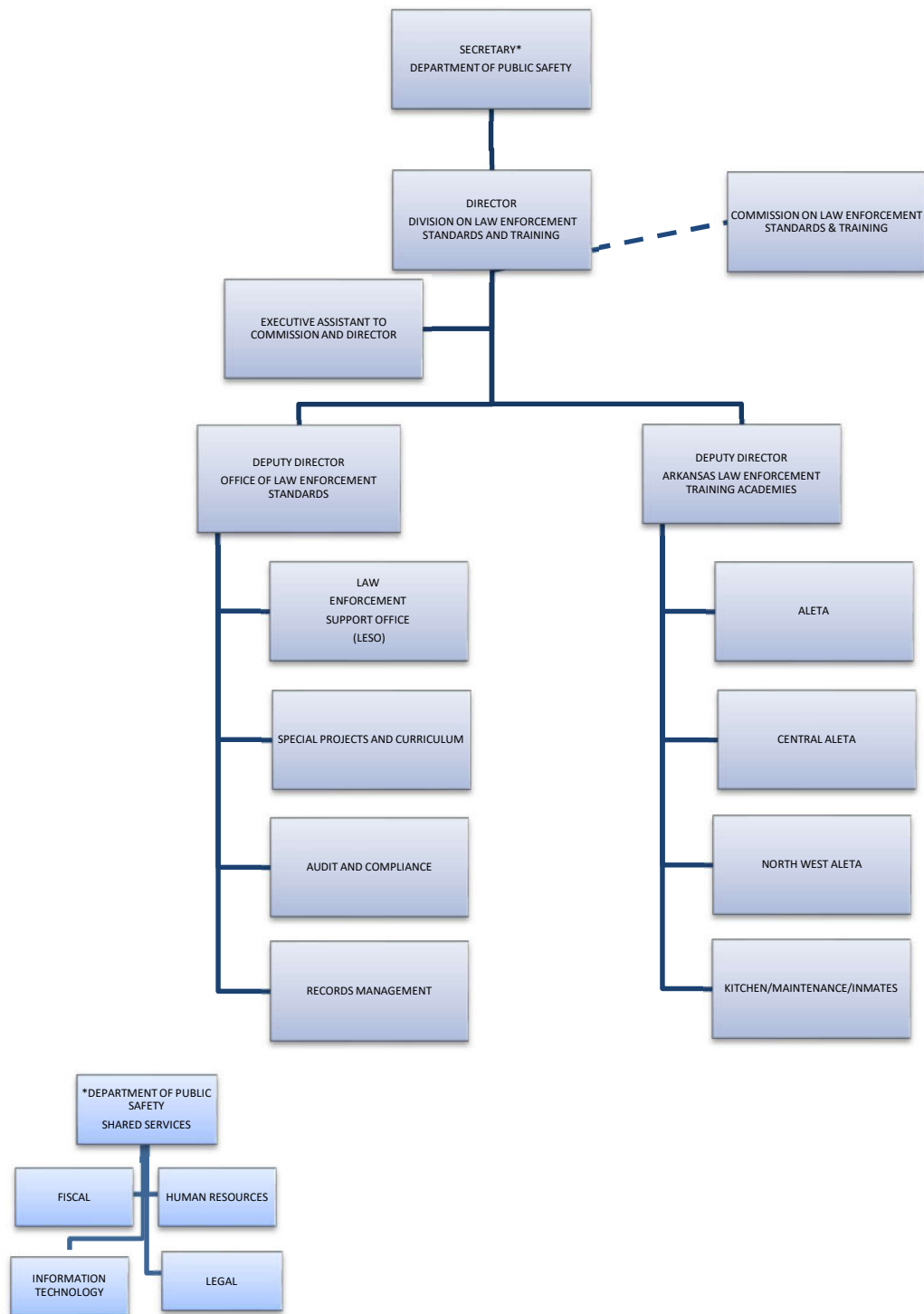
On January 14, 2015, Jami Cook was appointed by Governor Asa Hutchinson as the Director of the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training. Prior to appointment, Jami served as the Arkansas State Police Program Director, responsible for policies, procedures, training, strategic planning, research and development, and special projects. In 2009, Jami was appointed as a Commissioner to the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training where she served until her appointment as director in 2015. Jami started her law enforcement career as a Newport Police officer in 1994. In addition to her responsibilities as the CLEST Director, Director Cook serves as the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and is responsible for the oversight and management of CLEST, the Division of Arkansas State Police (ASP), Arkansas Division of Emergency Management (ADEM), Arkansas Crime Information Center (ACIC), Arkansas Crime Victims Reparations Board, Arkansas State Crime Lab, and various other boards and commissions.

In 2020, Jami had the honor of serving in the following ways:

- Task Force to Advance the State of Law Enforcement in Arkansas – Vice Chair
- CARES Act Steering Committee
- National Working Group: IADLEST Officer Safety and Wellness Training
- International Association of Chiefs of Police National Consortium on Preventing Law Enforcement Suicide
- Continued support related to the Arkansas Levee Task Force Report
- International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training
- Arkansas Attorney General's Missing Persons Working Group



ORGANIZATION





Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training FY2020 Annual Financial Report

July 1, 2019 - June 30th, 2020

FUND: Operating	Total FY20 Authorized Appropriation 3,801,830.00	FY20 Expenses
REGULAR SALARIES		1,915,764.98
PERSONAL SERVICE MATCHING		688,151.52
OPERATING EXPENSE		732,279.86
TRAVEL		10,839.20
PROFESSIONAL FEES		1,675.60
TOTAL		3,348,711.16
FUND: 911	Total FY20 Authorized Appropriation 264,779.00	FY20 Expenses
REGULAR SALARIES		55,213.45
PERSONAL SERVICE MATCHING		17,320.57
OPERATING EXPENSE		46,569.01
TRAVEL		2,606.40
PROFESSIONAL FEES		6,750.00
Capital Outlay		0.00
TOTAL		128,459.43

STANDARDS



The Commission establishes the minimum selection and training standards for admission to employment as a law enforcement officer in the State of Arkansas. All applicants for law enforcement employment must meet the requirements established by the Commission and complete Commission-approved training to obtain certification. Commissioned law enforcement officers must continue to meet minimum standards in order to maintain their law enforcement status. The Office of Law Enforcement Standards oversees employment, training, and certification requirements established by the Commission.



Brad King
Deputy Director
Standards Division

2020 OFFICER DECERTIFICATION

Meeting Date	Decertified	Not Decertified	Requests for Decertification
January	4	0	10
April	6	0	11
July	12	0	9
September	5	2	0
October	9	1	13

STANDARDS STAFF:

Amanda Yarbrough	CLEST Attorney
Mandy Hill	Education & Instruction Coordinator
Brian Johnson	CLEST Senior Agent
Kaleisha Wise	CLEST Agent
Annette Cagle	Administrative Specialist
Charley Higgins	Administrative Specialist
Rhonda Price	Administrative Specialist
Susan Miller	Administrative Specialist
Kreasha Williams	Legal Services Specialist

In 2020, the Office of Law Enforcement Standards worked with more than 100 law enforcement agencies to ensure agency compliance with minimum standards.

As a result of COVID-19, CLEST partnered with state and local agencies to ensure that students attending the basic academy at Black River Law Enforcement Training Academy were able to complete their course curriculum and graduate. CLEST also recorded a record high for online course completions, totaling more than 87,000 in 2020.

Following the 2019 legislative session, CLEST updated its rules to ensure compliance with state law. Updated CLEST Rules went into effect on January 1, 2020. Significant rule changes include:

- Redefined definition of a Full-Time and Part-Time Law Enforcement Officer;
- Increased minimum annual training requirements from 16 to 24 hours;
- Updated reciprocity rules; and
- Increased the education points required to obtain a Basic, General, Intermediate, Advanced, or Senior Certificate.

In September 2020, CLEST hired Legal Services Specialist Kreasha Williams. Kreasha graduated in 2005 from Southeast Arkansas College with an Associate Degree in Paralegal Technology. Before joining the CLEST team, Kreasha worked for fifteen years as a private practice paralegal. As the Legal Services Specialist for the Commission, Kreasha assists in the review and preparation of decertification cases before the Commission.

ALETA



Fred Weatherspoon is the Deputy Director at the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy and has been employed at ALETA since 1995. He is responsible for the oversight of daily operations at ALETA, NW ALETA, and Central ALETA.



Craig Lawson
Training Supervisor
ALETA



Juan Reyes
Training Supervisor
ALETA

ALETA held three basic training academies in 2020: **January 5, 2020 – March 24, 2020; May 31, 2020 – August 21, 2020; and September 13, 2020 – November 23, 2020**, resulting in 173 new law enforcement officers in 2020.

ALETA STAFF:

Liz Jones (Retired)	CLEST Senior Agent
Ronnie Poole	CLEST Senior Agent
Tony Madlock	CLEST Senior Agent
Erin Smelser	CLEST Senior Agent
Rodney Franklin (Separated June)	CLEST Senior Agent
Scott Rosson	CLEST Agent
Joseph Paull (Separated June)	CLEST Agent
David Williams	CLEST Agent
Jonathan Chambers	CLEST Agent
Amie Martin	CLEST Agent
William Spells (Separated February)	CLEST Agent
Michelle Stokes	Administrative Specialist
Sue Albritton	Administrative Specialist
Pam Sanders	Administrative Specialist
Terri Haynes	Administrative Specialist
Melissa Reynolds	Administrative Specialist
Curtis B. Sharp	Computer Support Specialist
Cindy Tuberville (Retired)	Food Prep. Manager
Kim Hammock	Food Preparation Supervisor
Kim Stinnett	Food Preparation Supervisor
Peggy Mahan	Cook
Susan Daniel	Cook
Amy Inman	Cook
Travis Sanders	Maintenance Supervisor
Kenneth Workman	Maintenance Specialist
Mitchell Genn	Public Safety Security Officer
Morris Misenheimer	Public Safety Security Officer
Paul Aymond	Public Safety Security Officer
Kristi Branch (Separated August)	Fiscal Support Manager
Sheena Waller (Separated October)	HR Specialist/Food Prep Manager

6373 Hussey Rd.
East Camden, AR 71701
(870) 574-1810

2020 ELECTIVE COURSES		
Course	Hours	Graduated
Arkansas Court Security Officer	12	90
First Aid CPR/AED	6	84
Radar Elective	8	178
Civil Process	6	124

In June 2020, Deputy Director Fred Weatherspoon was announced as the chair of Governor Hutchinson's Task Force to Advance the State of Law Enforcement in Arkansas. The Task Force presented its final report, which included 27 recommendations to advance law enforcement in Arkansas, to Governor Hutchinson on December 17, 2020.

As a result of COVID-19, classroom availability was limited throughout the year. Despite these challenges, ALETA-Camden offered specialized courses in Instructor Development, Crisis Intervention Team Training, Firearms Instructor, Marijuana Leaf Field Test Certification, and MILO.

Throughout the year, ALETA-Camden's south dorm underwent minor renovations in order to better serve basic academy students. The maintenance office also underwent renovations after a tree fell on the building.

During 2020 all jailer training materials were reviewed and updated. CLEST hosted two 56-hour Jail Standards classes at ALETA-Camden. CLEST is currently developing an online Jail Standards class to be included in the online training on the CLEST portal.

In 2020, CLEST established a working group/committee to review the current Firearms Instructor curriculum and make recommendations on how to improve firearms training for the law enforcement community. The committee consists of CLEST training instructors, CLEST supervisors, and CLEST agents from across the agency. The committee expects to present its initial recommendations in Spring, 2021.



NORTHWEST ALETA



Clint Scrivner
Training Supervisor
NW ALETA

3424 South Downum Rd
Springdale, AR 72762
(479) 361-3410
(479) 361-3412

NW ALETA STAFF:

Gregg Harrison	CLEST Agent
Bob Selph	CLEST Agent
Dianne Smith	Administrative Specialist
Shannon McCuin	911 Training Coordinator

NW ALETA held three basic academies in 2020:
January 11, 2020 – April 9, 2020; April 26, 2020 – July 23, 2020; and August 16, 2020 – November 12, 2020,
resulting in 88 new law enforcement officers in 2020.

2020 ELECTIVE COURSES

Class Name	Course Hours	Students Graduated
Courtroom Security	12	8
Civil Process	6	11

After receiving twelve CONEX shipping containers at no cost, ALETA-NW is in the initial development phases for the construction of a 7,000 square foot training facility. The facility will be used by ALETA-NW and surrounding agencies to conduct practical and scenario-based training. Through partnerships with state and local partners, the ALETA NW campus has cleared perimeter trees in preparation for the construction of a fire break and running trail, been changed from propane to natural gas, and has updated its security fencing around the facility, all at no cost to the agency.

In addition to the basic training courses conducted in 2020 at the ALETA-NW campus, ALETA-NW provided specialized/advanced courses in the following areas: Range Qualifications, SIM Training, CID, Breaching, Building Entry, Patrol Rifle, Drone Training, Hostage Rescue, RICO & VALOR, CIT, Mobile Field Force, Moving Target Training for Precision Rifle, Basic Crisis Negotiator, Advance CIT, and K-9 Training.



CENTRAL ALETA



Joe Duboise
Training Supervisor
Central ALETA

#4 State Police Plaza Drive
Little Rock, AR 72209
(501) 682-4753
(501) 682-1582

CENTRAL ALETA STAFF:

Amanda Chaney	CLEST Agent
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2020 ELECTIVE COURSES	
Class Name	Students Graduated
Civil Process	37
Court Security Officers	37
Radar/Lidar	37
TOTAL:	111

Central ALETA held two basic academies in 2020: **February 23, 2020 – May 22, 2020** and **August 2, 2020 – October 30, 2020**, resulting in 37 new law enforcement officers in 2020.

In August 2020, CLEST hired Agent Amanda Chaney as a full-time instructor for Central ALETA. Amanda started her law enforcement career in 2003. She has an associate degree in Criminal Justice from Ouachita Technical College. In addition to her responsibilities as an instructor for the basic academy, Amanda will assist in coordinating and conducting specialized and advanced law enforcement training across the state.

In addition to conducting two basic training academies in 2020, Central ALETA assisted local agencies in hosting and conducting Part-Time and Refresher Practical Training, including Defensive Tactics, Firearms Qualification, Accident Investigation, Active Shooter Response, Self-Aid/Buddy Aid, and OC Spray and hosting and conducting a 40-hour Firearms Instructor School.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS



Liz Jones
Training Instructor and
Telecommunication Office
Coordinator
P.O. Box 3106
East Camden, AR 71701
Fax: (870) 574-1810

The following telecommunication courses were offered in 2020:

Class/Course Title	Hours	Location	Graduated
Basic Telecommunication Certification Course	40	Bentonville	19
Basic Telecommunication Certification Course	40	ALETA	34
Basic Telecommunication Certification Course	40	ALETA-NW	6

On November 30, 2020, Telecommunication Office Coordinator Liz Jones retired from CLEST after more than 30 years of service. Shannon McCuin was hired on November 1, 2020 as the Training Instructor/Coordinator for the Telecommunications program. Shannon is responsible for instructing, coordinating, and developing curriculum for Telecommunicators as well as developing online telecommunication curriculum. Shannon has worked in public safety for more than twenty years and was part of the team that created the basic telecommunicator course curriculum. Shannon is housed at the ALETA-NW campus.

As a result of the challenges associated with COVID-19, in-person instruction was limited in 2020. In order to provide greater flexibility in training opportunities and ensure the continued delivery of training, CLEST developed an online, hybrid, method of training using existing digital equipment and converted training materials and resources to a digital format.

CLEST is currently developing additional advanced telecommunicator courses and is exploring other opportunities to better serve the telecommunicator community.

LESO



James was selected as the Arkansas Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) State Point of Contact in February, 2014. Prior to working for the LESO program, James worked for the North Little Rock Police Department and the Arkansas State Capitol Police.

After leaving law enforcement, James worked at ADEM / Federal Surplus Property as the compliance and eligibility branch manager.

James' experience in law enforcement and excess government property allocation and compliance is a perfect match for the Arkansas Law Enforcement Support Office program. James serves on the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Law Enforcement Support Office state working group as a permanent member to assist DLA with policy and oversight of the LESO program.

James Ray
LESO Coordinator
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(501) 682-4753
James.ray@arkansas.gov

The National Defense Authorization Act authorizes the Secretary of Defense to transfer excess Department of Defense (DOD) personal property to local law enforcement agencies with special emphasis given to counter-drug and counter-terrorism. The Arkansas Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) program (formerly the 1208 program) allows law enforcement agencies to receive DOD excess property. Vehicle and Asset Management, through an agreement between the Defense Logistics Agency and the State of Arkansas, has been charged with the administration of the program.

The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) defines eligible participants for the LESO program as government agencies

whose primary function is the enforcement of applicable federal, state, and local laws, and whose compensated law enforcement officers have powers of arrest and apprehension. All DOD excess property can be used for counter-drug and other law enforcement activities with the exception of the operation of jails. This applies to all property acquired in the future or any property previously acquired through the DOD 1033 Program. The program allows representatives to be eligible to screen military bases for excess DOD property suitable for law enforcement use. Eligible organizations may participate in this program by paying a service fee per allocated item or annual fee based on the number of sworn officers. The law enforcement agency (LEA) must have a current State Plan of Operation (SPO) form completed and a current application on file with the Arkansas LESO office.

In 2020, LESO allocated more than 2 million dollars in equipment to law enforcement agencies across the State of Arkansas, including: Alma Police Department, Arkadelphia Police Department, Bauxite Police Department, Bella Vista Police Department, Arkansas State Police, Benton County Sheriff's Office, CLEST, Benton Police Department, Black River Training Academy, Bentonville Police Department, Bryant Police Department, Cleburne County Sheriff's Office, Crawford County Sheriff's Office, Elkins Police Department, Garland County Sheriff's Office, Grant County Sheriff's Office, North Little Rock Police Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Ozark Police Department, Pulaski County Sheriff's Office, Saline County Sheriff's Office, and others.