

**RILEY COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY  
LAW BOARD MEETING  
City Commission Meeting Room  
1101 Poyntz Avenue  
Manhattan, KS  
August 21, 2023 12:00 p.m.  
Minutes**

**Members Present:** Chairperson John Matta Vice Chairperson John Ford  
Secretary Barry Wilkerson Member Wynn Butler  
Member Patricia Hudgins Member Betty Mattingly-Ebert  
Member Kaleb James (Arrived at 12:19 p.m.)

**Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Director Brian Peete Assistant Director Kurt Moldrup  
Captain Erin Freidline Captain Mark French  
Captain Scott Hajek Captain Brad Jager  
Captain Greg Steere

**Recorder:** Executive Offices Manager Nichole Glessner, Riley County Police Department  
(RCPD or Department)

- I. Establish Quorum:** By Chairperson Matta at 12:00 p.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance:** Director Peete led the Riley County Law Enforcement Agency (Law Board or Board) in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Consent Agenda:**
- A.** Approve July 17, 2023 Law Board Meeting Minutes
  - B.** Approve 2023 Expenditures/Credits
  - C.** Juvenile Transport Reimbursement
  - D.** RCPD Related County Expenditures (*Review*)
  - E.** Riley County Jail Average Daily Inmate Population- (*Review*)
  - F.** Seizure Expenditures
  - G.** Reports: Synopsis- (*Review*)
    - 1. Monthly Crime Report
    - 2. Quarterly
      - a) 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Uniform Crime Report (82.1.4)
      - b) 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Traffic Accident & Enforcement Analysis (61.1.1 A & C)
      - c) 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Seizure & Forfeiture Report (84.1.8)
    - 3. Semiannual Alcohol Enforcement Report

Member Mattingly-Ebert asked for clarification on two budget items: item 05 (Insurance) and item 20 (Other Contractual Services) on page two of the Law Board packet. She noticed that spending has exceeded

the authorized budget for both items and noted that health insurance was not included. She had questions about these particular budget line items and asked that the Law Board receive clarification in the near future.

Captain Jager responded by offering to look into the issues mentioned by Member Mattingly-Ebert. He explained that a significant part of the department's insurance expenses is paid upfront at the start of the year. However, he and staff are actively reviewing those expenses and implementing measures to address them. In terms of other contractual services, the department has recently terminated two agreements. He noted that there were conversations during the 2024 budget development discussions of inviting the Law Board to take a closer look at these line items for a better understanding. Captain Jager informed the Board that he and staff hope to address those two particular lines in the near future.

Secretary Wilkerson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vice Chairperson Ford seconded the motion. Chairperson Matta polled the Board and the motion passed with Butler, Ford, Hudgins, Matta, Mattingly-Ebert and Wilkerson voting in favor, and no one voting against. The motion passed 6-0.

#### **IV. General Agenda:**

**H. Additions or Deletions:** Vice Chairperson Ford moved to remove items Q. (Executive Session) and R. (Affirmation or Revocation of Discipline) from the General Agenda. Secretary Wilkerson seconded the motion. Chairperson Matta polled the Board and the motion passed with Butler, Ford, Hudgins, Matta, Mattingly-Ebert and Wilkerson voting in favor, and no one voting against. The motion passed 6-0.

**I. Public Comment:** None.

**J. Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #17 Comments:** Corporal Rachel Pate, President, Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge #17, updated the Law Board about two statewide fundraising events for the Special Olympics. On August 26, 2023, all Freddy's Frozen Custard locations hosted a fundraiser called "Custard with Cops," and on August 18, 2303, a similar event was held at Dunkin' Donuts called "Cops at Dunkin." The events lasted approximately 3-4 hours each and provided an opportunity for community members to interact with police officers. Both events raised around \$1,000 to support local athletes participating in the Special Olympics.

**K. Board Member Comments:** Secretary Wilkerson observed Captain Mark French's promotion and noted that his father, Steve French, had a long and varied career within the police department, serving as an officer, captain, assistant director, and briefly as an interim director in 2007. Wilkerson thought it only appropriate to acknowledge Steve French's service and suggested displaying his picture at the RCPD in recognition of his role as interim director in 2007.

Chairperson Matta described a recent Joint City County meeting where the topic of opioids and fentanyl was discussed. Members of the Law Board attended and participated in discussions regarding the task force that is being formed. Chairperson Matta described the meeting as productive, highlighting that there was a consensus that action and a willingness to allocate funds were necessary. Pottawatomie County was also present.

Member Hudgins acknowledged that the City has recently experienced growth, with the return of students and other residents. She explained that this period typically showcases the exemplary work of local law enforcement. Hudgins expressed gratitude for their ongoing efforts and encouraged everyone to provide a warm welcome to newcomers who may not be familiar with the area, emphasizing the importance of leaving a positive impression on behalf of Manhattan.

Vice Chairperson Ford mentioned that the last time he visited the law enforcement center, there was no photograph of Director Peete on the wall, and the picture of the previous director was also absent.

Director Peete clarified that the photographs are prepared and set to be placed on the wall. *[Recorder's note: The photograph of former Director Dennis Butler was temporarily removed from the wall to serve as an example while preparing the photo of Director Peete.]*

Vice Chairperson Ford expressed satisfaction with the Joint City County Meeting, noting that they have become aware of various challenges and issues across the board. He emphasized that the task force has a lot of work ahead of them as they move forward. Ford stressed the importance of including Geary County in future discussions since they are regional partners.

**L. Promotion Announcement Captain Mark French:** Director Peete and Assistant Director Moldrup announced the promotion of Lieutenant Mark French to the rank of Captain. Mark French has served the Riley County Police Department since July 15, 1996. He is a graduate of The University of Louisville with a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership and Learning.

In July 1999, Mark was transferred to the Investigations Division where he worked until his promotion to the rank of Sergeant in January 2000. After his promotion, Mark was designated as the department's Intelligence Officer and served in that capacity until August 2003 when he was reassigned to the Patrol Division as the North County Supervisor. Mark was eventually re-assigned to the Investigations Division where he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in May 2009. During his time in the Investigations Division, Mark supervised the Repeat Offender Program as well as general case detectives. In June 2015, Mark was selected to serve in the Office of the Director as the Internal Affairs Officer. Mark eventually returned to the Patrol Division where he served as a Shift Commander on various shifts. Upon his promotion to the rank of Captain on August 1, 2023, Mark was assigned to the Corrections Division where he presently serves as the Riley County Jail Commander.

Captain Mark French has served the department in many capacities throughout his career and has always been placed at the point of friction; whether walking the streets of Aggieville, patrolling the rural communities in Riley County, or investigating narcotics offenses throughout the community. Mark has never shied from difficult situations and is well known for his keen mind and outstanding de-escalation skills. Throughout his career, Mark has also received numerous letters of appreciation from the community members that he has so faithfully served.

Captain French was presented his Captain's badge that was pinned on his uniform by his father, Retired RCPD Assistant Director Steve French.

Captain French said he is fortunate to have an exceptional team in the Jail Division. Throughout his career, he has been told "surround yourself with better people than you." That is precisely the group of people he is collaborating with in the department.

**M. Award Presentation:**

**1. Life Saving Award**

- a) **Corrections Lieutenant Travis Freidline**
- b) **Corrections Officer Daniel Zoeller**
- c) **Corrections Officer Jose Flores**

**2. Certificate of Appreciation Presented to Corrections Officer Tanner Bolton**

Director Peete presented the Riley County Police Department Life Saving Award to Corrections Lieutenant Travis Freidline, Corrections Officer Daniel Zoeller and Corrections Officer Jose Flores, and the Department's Certificate of Appreciation to Corrections Officer Tanner Bolton in recognition of their efforts while providing lifesaving assistance during an inmate's suicide attempt on September 30, 2022. Corrections Officer Bolton coordinated the emergency response and Corrections Lieutenant Freidline and Corrections Officer Flores safely positioned the inmate so that Corrections Officer Zoeller could use a belt cutter to remove the harmful object that was constricting her airway. Their actions directly contributed to the preservation of life and are consistent with the finest traditions of the law enforcement profession. They were commended for their quick response under the direst of circumstances.

**N. Kansas Law Enforcement Accreditation Program/Voluntary State Accreditation Program for Law Enforcement Agencies in Kansas:** Director Peete announced that in addition to being accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), the RCPD recently obtained accreditation from the state through the Kansas Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (KLEAP). He explained that this achievement demonstrates the department's professionalism, dedication to its community, and overall excellence. The accreditation process was successfully completed, thanks to the hard work and meticulous efforts of the men and women in the department, as well as Accreditation Manager Julia Goggins, who played a significant role in achieving this recognition. He added that the RCPD is recognized as one of the nation's finest law enforcement agencies and as a leading agency in the state of Kansas.

Chairperson Matta extended congratulations to the department's personnel for this accomplishment and inquired about the number of other departments presently engaged in the state program.

Assistant Director Moldrup explained that this program was only recently initiated, so many agencies are currently in the process of participating. The advantage is that there appear to be fewer standards compared to national accreditation. This will likely benefit numerous smaller agencies in starting their process toward accreditation, eventually leading them to achieve national accreditation. For agencies like the RCPD that are already nationally accredited, transitioning to the Kansas accreditation was a rather smooth and straightforward process.

**O. Approval of Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant:** Director Peete informed the Board that the RCPD approached the County regarding this grant opportunity. It is no-match grant, meaning there are no financial obligations on the part of the Riley County Police Department. Essentially, there's a pool of allocated funds available. Within the grant packet, the BJA (Bureau of Justice Administration) utilizes a formula based on factors such as population and various crime statistics, including Part I and Part II crimes, to determine the percentage of money allocated to specific counties in each state. Director Peete said that Riley County is eligible for approximately \$24,000 in funding. All that

is required is to submit the application, secure approval, and the funds will be disbursed. Should the application be approved, the RCPD intends to apply the entire grant allocation towards 2023 expenses related to equipping officers with updated handguns, iron sites and holsters. Specifically, the funds will be used to purchase 26 duty handguns, 20 holsters, and 52 iron sites (front and rear).

The Department recommends that the Law Board provide authorization to proceed with the grant application process and to accept and utilize the funds should the application be approved and the funds awarded.

Secretary Wilkerson moved to approve the Department's application for the 2023 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistant Grant for the purposes previously stated. Member Hudgins seconded the motion. Chairperson Matta polled the Board and the motion passed with Butler, Ford, Hudgins, James, Matta, Mattingly-Ebert and Wilkerson voting in favor, and no one voting against. The motion passed 7-0.

**P. Law Board Meeting(s) Hosted in the County:** Director Peete simply wished to remind the Law Board and public of the change in location for the next two regularly scheduled Law Board Meetings.

1. September 18, 2023 Law Board Meeting to be held at noon at Keats Park (Inside the Pavilion), 3221 Reservation Drive, Manhattan, KS.
2. October 16, 2023 Law Board Meeting to be held at noon at the RCPD Range, 1256 Tabor Valley Road, Manhattan, KS.

Assistant Director Moldrup emphasized to both the Law Board and the listening audience the existing challenges related to poor cellphone service and connectivity in the Keats area, highlighting potential complications in broadcasting the meeting.

**Q. Executive Session:** This item was removed from the General Agenda.

**R. Affirmation or Revocation of Discipline:** This item was removed from the General Agenda.

**S. Adjournment:** At 12:22 p.m. Member Hudgins moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Mattingly-Ebert seconded the motion. Chairperson Matta polled the Board and the motion passed with Butler, Ford, Hudgins, James, Matta, Mattingly-Ebert, and Wilkerson voting in favor, and no one voting against. The motion passed 7-0. The August 21, 2023 Law Board Meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.