

Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy

Yearly Report

2023



<u>Academy Mission & Values</u>	pg 3
<u>Academy Purpose</u>	pg 3
<u>Administration Authority</u>	pg 4
<u>Academy Staff</u>	pg 6
<u>2023 Project Accomplishments</u>	pg 7
<u>Operations</u>	pg 8
Basic Training	pg 8
Specialized and Advanced Training	pg 17
Distance Learning	pg 24
Custody & Control	pg 24
Facility Usage	pg 27
Officer Education and Training Funds	pg 28
<u>Academy Training Facility</u>	pg 29
Major Maintenance	pg 29
<u>Training Areas</u>	pg 31
Practical Skills Building	pg 31
Firearms Ranges	pg 31
Computer Simulators	pg 31
Emergency Vehicle Operations	pg 32
<u>Advisory Boards</u>	pg 32
Academy Advisory Board Members for 2023	pg 32
Detention Training Advisory Board Members for 2023	pg 33
Communications Training Advisory Board Members for 2023	pg 33

Academy Mission & Values:

The mission of the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy (WLEA) is to prepare law enforcement professionals to serve their communities by providing contemporary education and training in an exceptional learning environment.

Our Motto, “Professionalism through Education” provides a foundation for what we do.

While our employee developed values clarify what we expect of each staff member, these standards (Professionalism, Integrity, and Teamwork) are at the heart of our value system.

- Professionalism is the skill, competence, or character expected of every member of our staff. Professionalism represents the highest level of conduct, aims, or qualities that characterize the purpose of meeting our mission.
- Integrity is the quality of possessing and steadfastly adhering to high moral principles and professional standards. It is this firm adherence, by all, to a code of moral values that support and foster the quality of being complete or undivided.
- Teamwork is the cooperative effort by a group or team. A successful mission can only be accomplished by our cooperative work and efforts, as every member contributes to the increased efficiency of our Academy as a whole.

The result is that our Academy staff is committed to the efficient and effective use of taxpayer resources to provide quality, professional and cutting-edge training services.

Purpose:

The Law Enforcement Academy provides the following legislatively mandated basic training courses:

- Peace officers: 12-week training program, offered three times annually
- Detention officers: 7-week training program, offered three times annually
- Communications personnel: 2-week training program, offered twice annually
- Coroners and deputy coroners: 1-week training program, offered annually
- Provide quality, cutting-edge specialized and advanced training in a cost-effective manner.
- Allow governmental agencies usage of our facilities for their training and meeting needs.
- Create a pool of basic law enforcement applicants through the pre-service program

To accomplish these mandates, the Academy has a staff of 28 employees; with the enterprise account funding two of these employees.

Our Academy’s FY '23 funding sources are a general biennial budget of \$5.2 million and a statutorily established enterprise fund spending authority of \$1.2 million. The enterprise account receives funds through advanced training registrations, user fees, enrollment fees charged to pre-service students and the Officer Education and Training fund established in June 2019.

Administration Authority:

W.S 9-1-633. Wyoming law enforcement academy; director; appointment; term; qualifications; employees; salaries; curriculum and training programs; fees; disposition.

(a) A director of the Wyoming law enforcement academy shall be appointed by the attorney general with the consent of the governor. The director shall serve at the pleasure of the attorney general. He shall have administrative and operational experience in criminal justice and such other qualifications as are satisfactory to the attorney general.

(b) The director may employ assistants, instructors, and other personnel as approved by the attorney general with the consent of the governor. The attorney general may appoint the director as a peace officer if qualified pursuant to W.S. 9-1-701 through 9-1-707. The director may appoint full-time staff instructors who qualify pursuant to W.S. 9-1-701 through 9-1-707 to perform as peace officers. Persons appointed as peace officers pursuant to this subsection shall be considered peace officers only:

- (i) When on law enforcement academy property;
- (ii) When providing security for state personnel or at designated state events or activities;
- (iii) When providing security for designated individuals on or about state property; or
- (iv) While acting pursuant to W.S. 7-2-106.

(c) The director and staff shall receive salaries fixed by the Wyoming personnel division, department of administration and information.

(d) The academy shall provide education in law enforcement related areas to Wyoming peace officers. The attorney general shall be assisted by, and shall have the curriculum and training programs at the academy evaluated by the Wyoming peace officer standards and training commission.

(e) The director shall charge and collect a fee of at least fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per student per day for advanced courses which exceed the basic statutory requirements. The director shall waive the fees for the division of criminal investigation and may waive the fees for offices, departments or agencies which allow their officers to instruct at the academy at no charge.

(f) The director shall charge and collect a fee sufficient to cover actual direct and indirect costs of coroner basic courses. The fee shall be at least three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per student attending the coroner basic courses.

(g) The director may allow the use of academy facilities by governmental agencies other than law enforcement and shall charge a fee based on actual direct and indirect costs for that use.

(h) No fees shall be charged for:

- (i) Peace officer basic courses;

(ii) Detention officer basic courses;

(j) To the extent space is available, and under policies established by the director and approved by the attorney general, the academy may permit persons other than peace officers to attend training courses it offers and to charge a fee to recover, at a minimum, the cost of the training and all services provided in conjunction therewith. Before admittance, a person shall meet all requirements of W.S. 9-1-704(b)(i) through (viii) providing for any background investigation and examinations at the cost of the applicant.

(m) The director shall establish an outreach training services program whereby certain updates, specialized or advanced training courses may be provided locally. The director may seek assistance from the appropriate entities in determining the amount and the specific courses to be offered under the program. The director shall charge and collect a fee to cover the development, delivery and material costs of the training offered by the program.

(n) Revenues received pursuant to subsections (e), (f), (g), (j) and (m) of this section and W.S. 9-1-635 shall be credited to an account in the enterprise fund and are continuously appropriated to the attorney general to be expended for the actual direct and indirect costs of providing the services generating the revenues.

(o) As used in this section "full-time staff instructor" means an instructor employed at the academy who works on a yearly basis, with a normal work week of thirty-two (32) or more hours.

W.S. 9-1-634. Academy to provide coroner training; certification of completion.

(a) The director of the Wyoming law enforcement academy shall provide at the academy or other location within the state a basic coroner's course of at least forty (40) hours. The course shall comply with standards promulgated by the peace officers standards and training commission and the board of coroner standards.

W.S. 9-1-635. Dispatcher training course; certificate upon completion; fees.

(a) The director of the Wyoming law enforcement academy or other training agency may provide at the academy or other location within the state a basic dispatcher course. The course shall comply with standards promulgated by the peace officers standards and training commission.

(b) The director of the Wyoming law enforcement academy or other training agency shall issue an appropriate certificate of course completion to any dispatcher who completes the required training.

(c) Fees charged for dispatcher courses held at the Wyoming law enforcement academy shall be the same as those charged for peace officer courses.

Academy Staff

The following table displays the Academy staff and staff turnover in the calendar year 2023.

Staff	Position	Time of Hire/Departure
ADMINISTRATION		
Chuck Bayne	Director	
Jesse Curtis	Deputy Director	
Kurt Taboga	Training Manager	
Brian Brooks	Facility Manager	
TRAINING		
Justin Smith	Basic Training Supervisor	
Shawn Milek	Staff Instructor	
Luke Rippy	Staff Instructor	
Robert Laing	Staff Instructor	
Darin Wong	Staff Instructor	
Steve Miller	Staff Instructor	Resigned Nov. 2023
Vacant	Staff Instructor	
Warren Steele	Advanced Training Supervisor	
Tom Sweet	Advanced Training Coordinator	
OFFICE STAFF		
Megan Doneski	Training Support Specialist	
Kevin Acosta	Media Specialist	
Kyndal Gudahl	Office Specialist	Resigned August 2023
Allie Brooks	Office Specialist	Hired October 2023
MAINTENANCE		
Swade Prewitt	Maintenance Supervisor	
Aaron Rasmussen	Buildings and Grounds	
Mike Hageman	Buildings and Grounds	
FOOD SERVICE		
Joni Moore	Kitchen Supervisor	
Debbie Davis	Food Specialist	
Lorinda Townsend	Food Specialist	
Stephanie Wilkinson	Food Assistant	
Beth Pilarczyk	Food Assistant/Housekeeper	
HOUSEKEEPING		
Angella Kueper	Housekeeping Supervisor	
Will Prosser	Housekeeper	
Theresa Laing	Housekeeper	Hired September 2023
John Toolen	Housekeeper	Hired September 2023
Dakota Dulmas	Housekeeper	Resigned July 2023
Paige Schultz	Housekeeper	Resigned May 2023

2023 Project Accomplishments

Implementation of new curriculum for Public Safety Communications Basic course

Following a two-year development process involving a job task analysis review by the Communications Training Advisory Board, a new curriculum was created for basic communications course. The course increased from 55 to 83 hours and was first delivered in “PSCB A” of 2023.

Detention Officer Job Task Analysis Implementation

In 2022, we completed a JTA for detention officers in the state using Systems Design Group. That project added 19 hours to the curriculum, going from 298 to 310 hours in basic training. Eight other topics were amended, addressing 33 job tasks and removing seven hours of training as they were no longer applicable. This new curriculum, developed in 2023, was approved by Wyoming POST in October 2023 and implemented starting in “A” basic of 2024.

Peace Officer Job Task Analysis Survey

Systems Design Group was contracted to complete a comprehensive and valid job task analysis for Wyoming Peace Officers in the latter half of the year. The project, which took six months to complete, enlisted the help of Wyoming law enforcement agencies, including all police departments, all sheriff’s offices, and the Wyoming Game and Fish. The Wyoming Highway Patrol was not included in the project since the Academy does not provide basic training services to the patrol. The analysis results were reported in March 2024, and curriculum development is planned for 2024.

Transition to Blackboard Learning Management System platform

After experiencing a degradation in capabilities and service with the Canvas LMS software, the Academy contracted and implemented the Blackboard LMS software. Months of effort were needed to revise the online training curriculum and develop a new content structure to support priming and boosting learning methodologies. Blackboard was put into operation A basics of 2024.

Firearms Qualification Course Review

The WLEA firearms team initiated a collective process to review and develop a new basic training firearms qualification course. Over 30 WLEA-certified firearms instructors statewide were gathered for input, research, and development. Beta testing is now taking place at the Academy and agencies around the state to gather data for analysis.

Hosting visiting academies

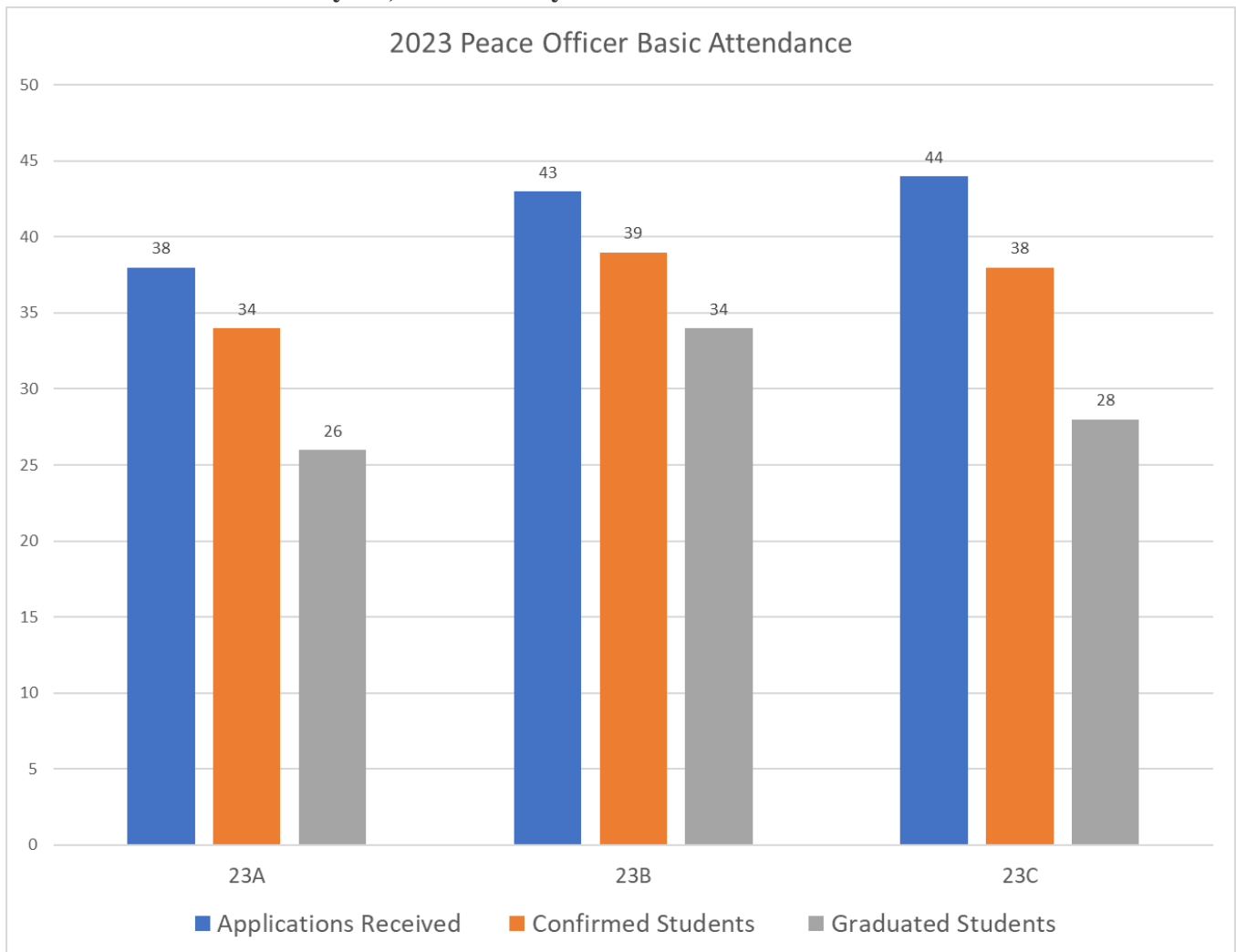
Deputy Director Jesse Curtis presented training at the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Training and Standards international conference on WLEA’s hybrid training methodologies. Following that presentation, the Georgia Public Safety Training Center and the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center sent representatives to spend several days learning and observing our training methods. The Kansas contingent spent four days at WLEA, and the Georgia group 5 days.

Operations

Basic Training: Basic training is the foundation of the services we provide our state’s law enforcement agencies and county coroners. As stated earlier our Academy is statutorily tasked with providing training for our Wyoming peace officers, detention officers, communications officers, coroners, and deputy coroners.

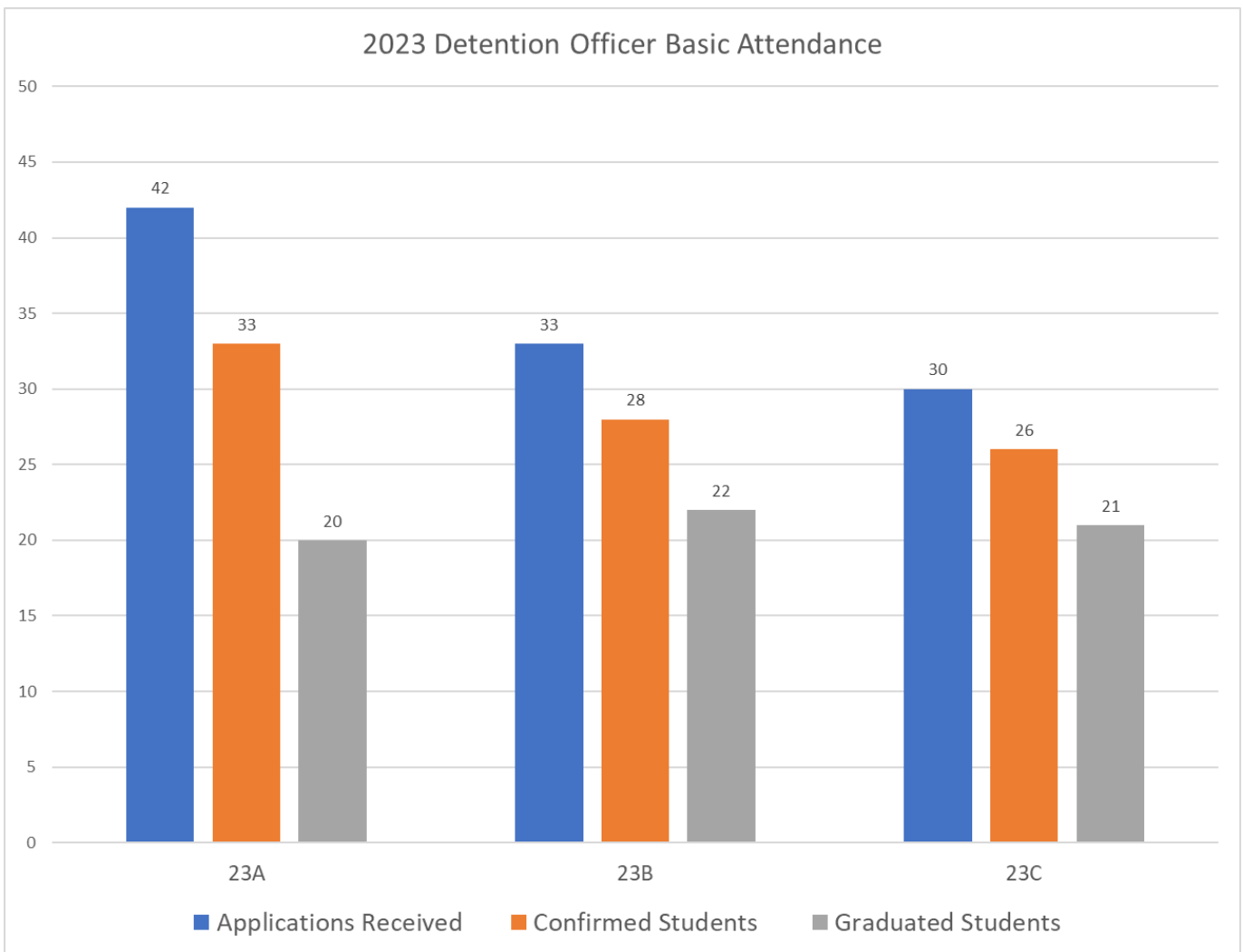
Peace Officer Basic: The Peace Officer Basic course is 605 hours completed over 12 weeks, ranking us 26th in the nation regarding curriculum hours. The course comprises five major competencies: Criminal Law, Interpersonal Interactions, Professional Skills, Enforcement Skills, and Investigative Skills. Within these competencies are 19 performance standards containing 152 topics and 814 training objectives. Students spent 52% of their curriculum time practically applying these objectives and an additional 55 hours integrating their knowledge and skills in evaluated scenarios.

For the 2023 calendar year, the Academy trained 88 Peace Officer Basic students.



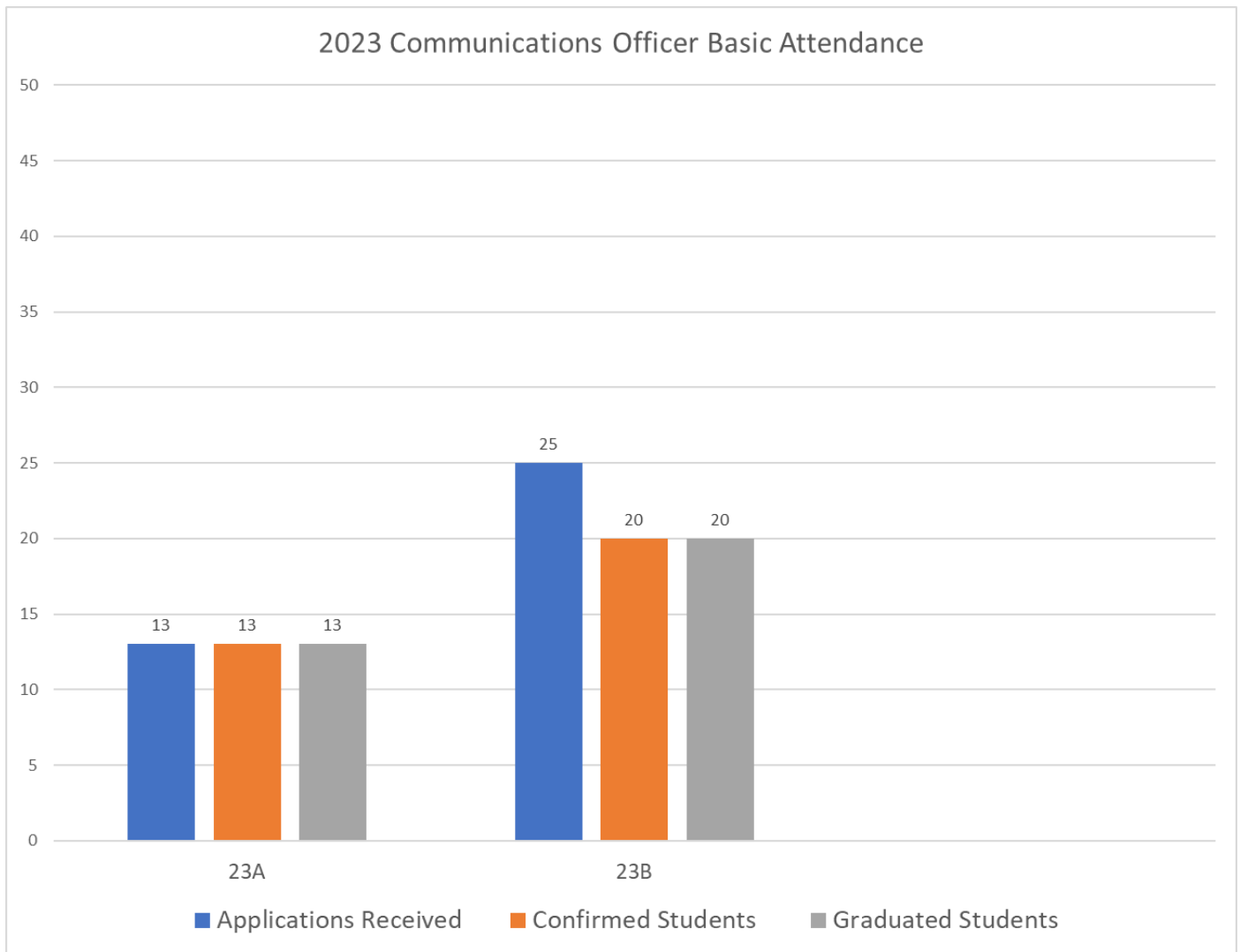
Detention Officer Basic: The Wyoming Detention Officer Basic course is a 298-hour course completed over 6 weeks. The course covers 539 training objectives in 90 separate topics based on a job task analysis outlining the specific tasks completed by Wyoming Detention Officers and identifying those that should be learned during basic training. The 90 topics are grouped into 5 competencies: criminal and detention law, interpersonal interactions, professional skills, jail operational skills, and investigative skills. Students spend 47% of their curriculum time in practical application and an additional 14 hours integrating their knowledge and skills in evaluated scenarios.

For the 2023 calendar year, the Academy trained 63 Detention Officer Basic students.



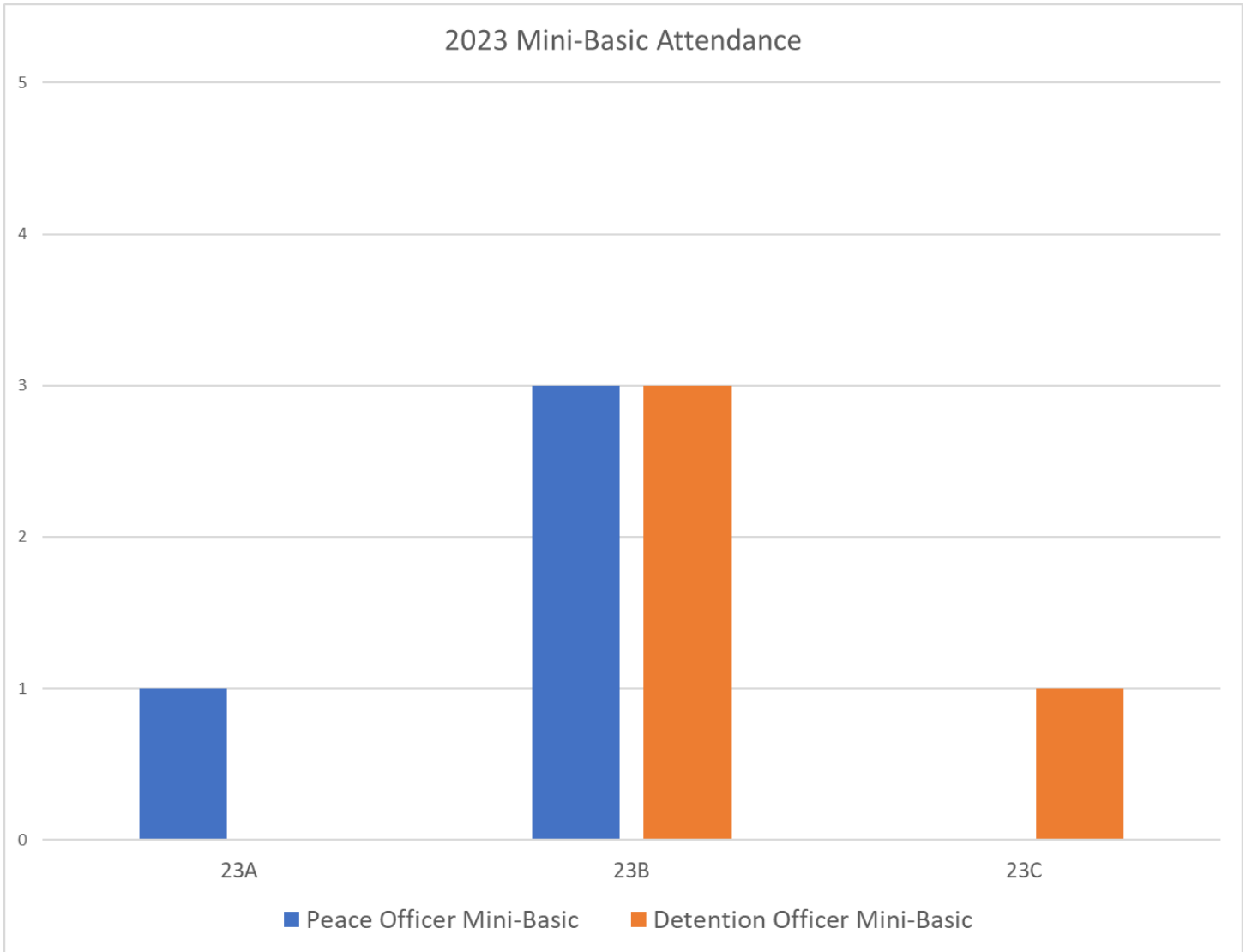
Communications Officer Basic: The Wyoming Communications Officer Basic is an 83-hour course completed over 2 weeks. The course covers 23 separate topics which are grouped into 4 competencies: criminal law, interpersonal interactions, professional skills, and operations skills. The course contains 52 learning hours, 19 practical application hours, and 12 practical integration hours. Students spend 13.25% of their curriculum time on online content, with the rest being completed on campus.

For the 2023 calendar year, the Academy trained 33 Communications Officer Basic students.



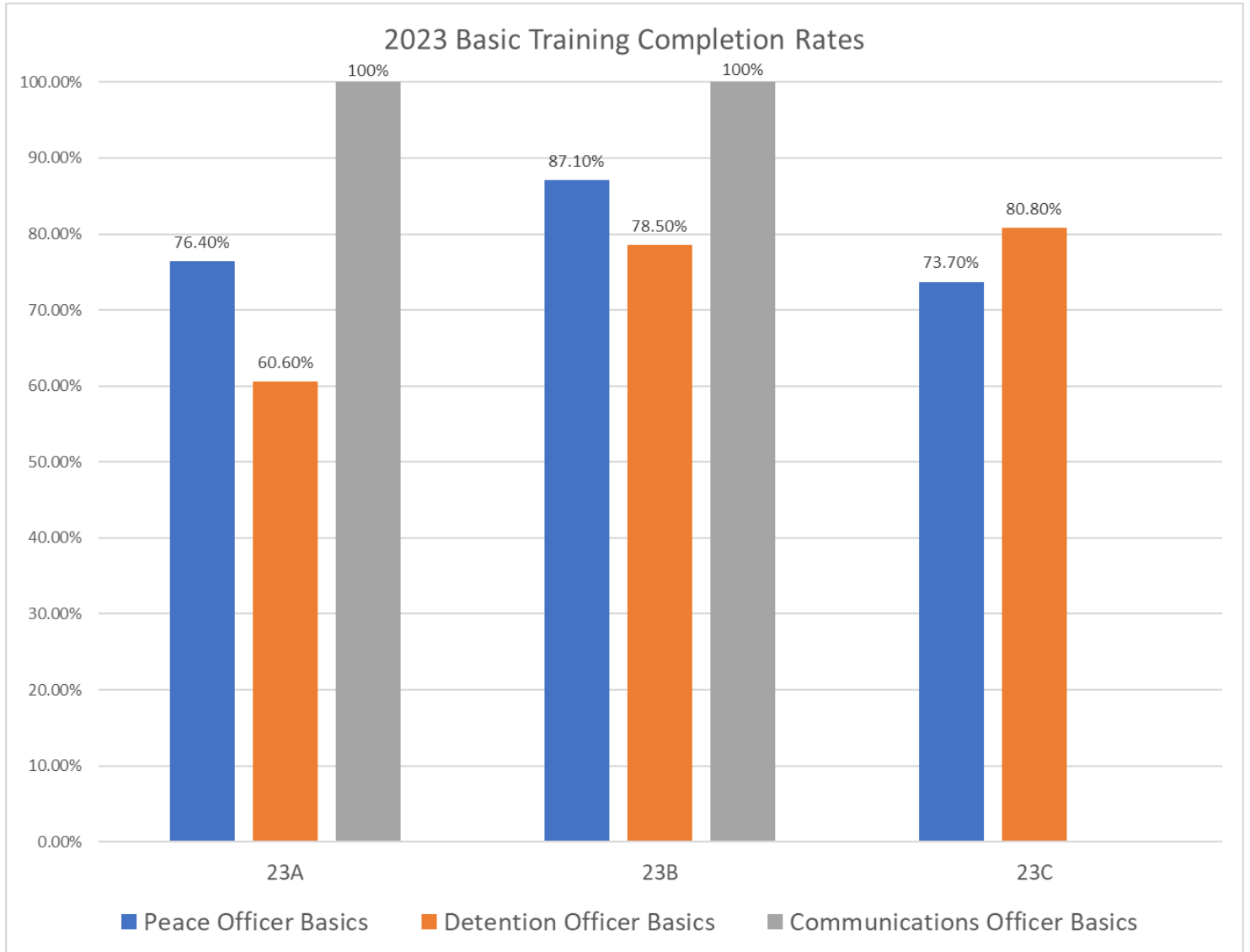
Mini Basic: The Academy also provides a mini-basic option for both Peace Officer and Detention Officer basics.

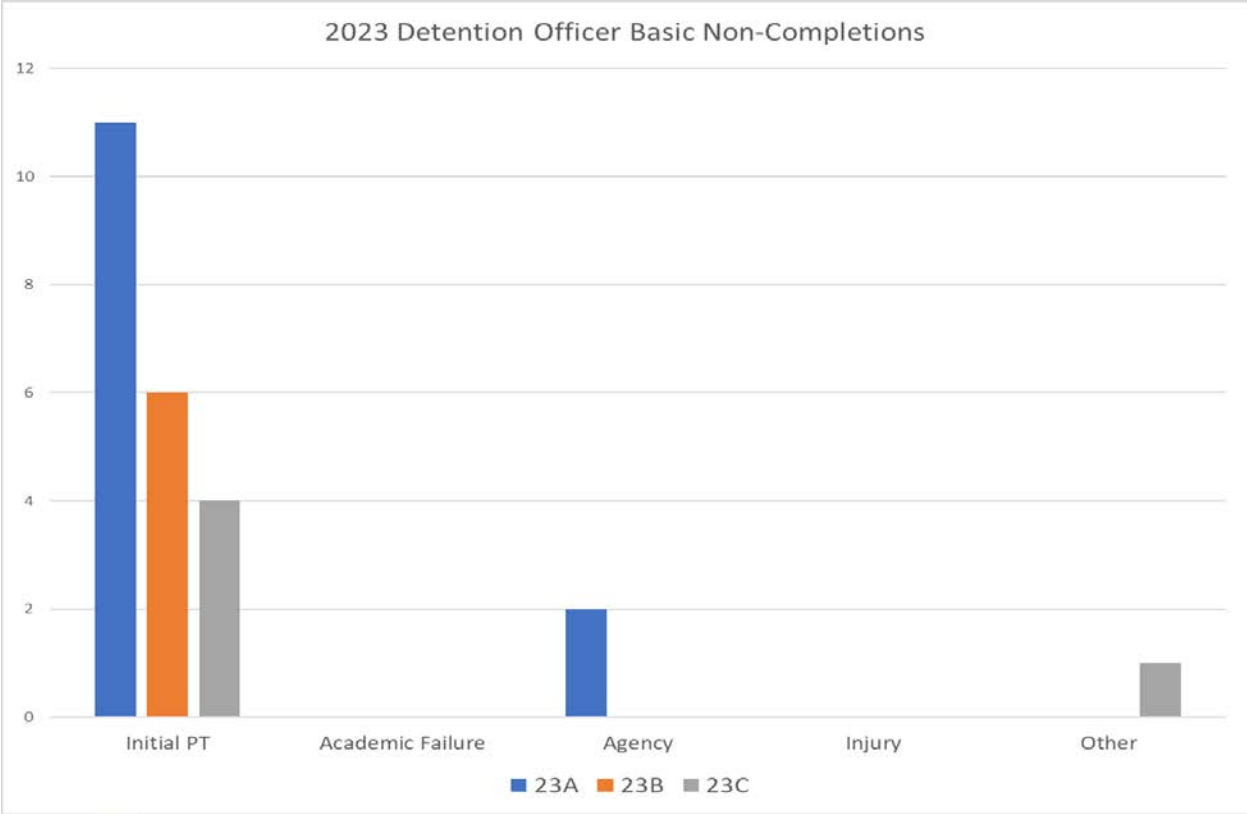
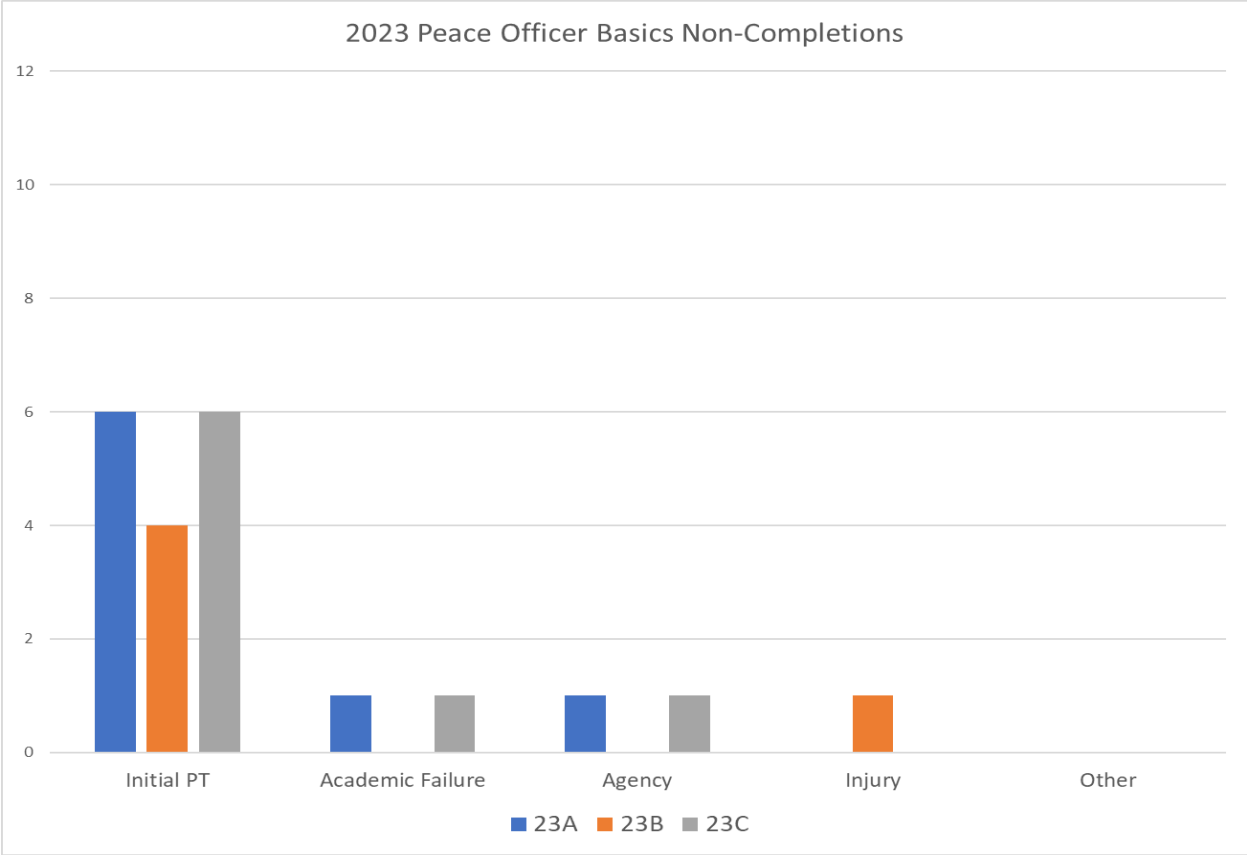
In the calendar year of 2023, the Academy trained 4 Peace Officer mini-basic students and 4 Detention Officer mini-basic students.



The average completion rates for the 2023 basic courses were as follows:

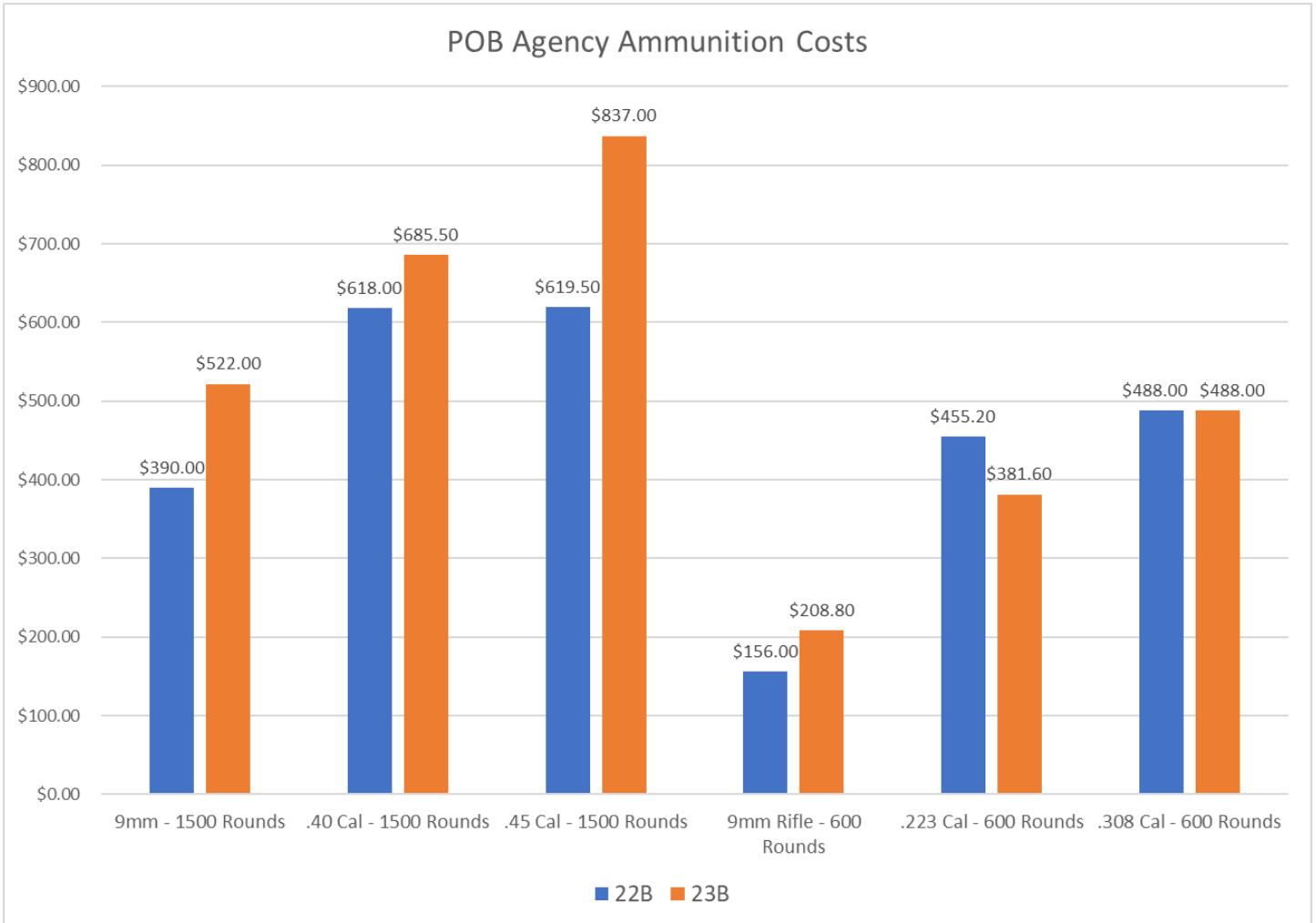
- Peace Officer Basic: **79.07%**
- Detention Officer Basic: **73.3%**
- Communications Officer Basic: **100%**





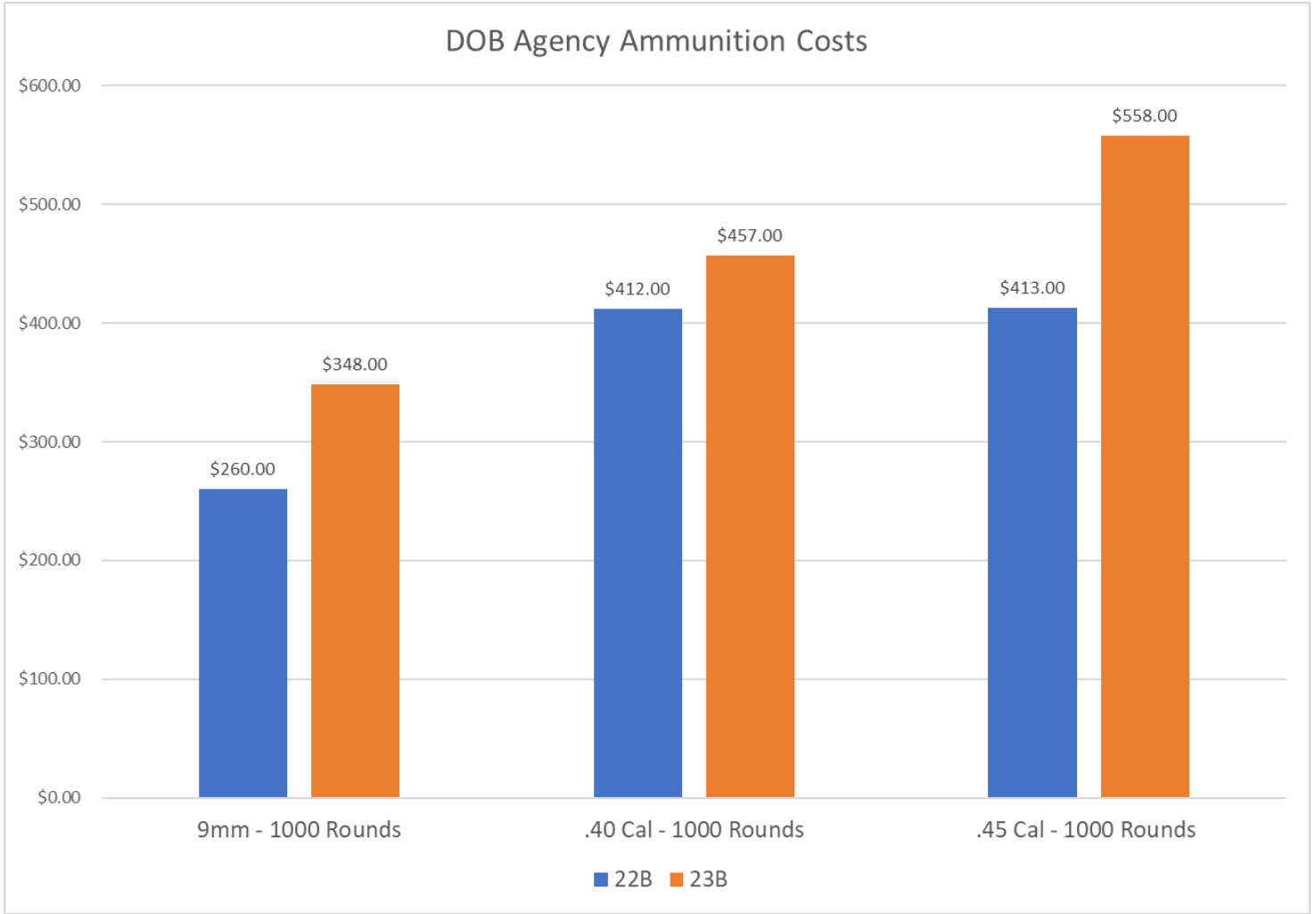
The differences between POB Agency Ammunition Costs for calendar years 2022 and 2023 were as follows:

- 9mm: +\$132.00
- .40 Cal: +\$67.50
- .45 Cal: +\$217.50
- 9mm Rifle: +\$52.80
- .223 Cal: -\$73.60
- .308 Cal: \$0



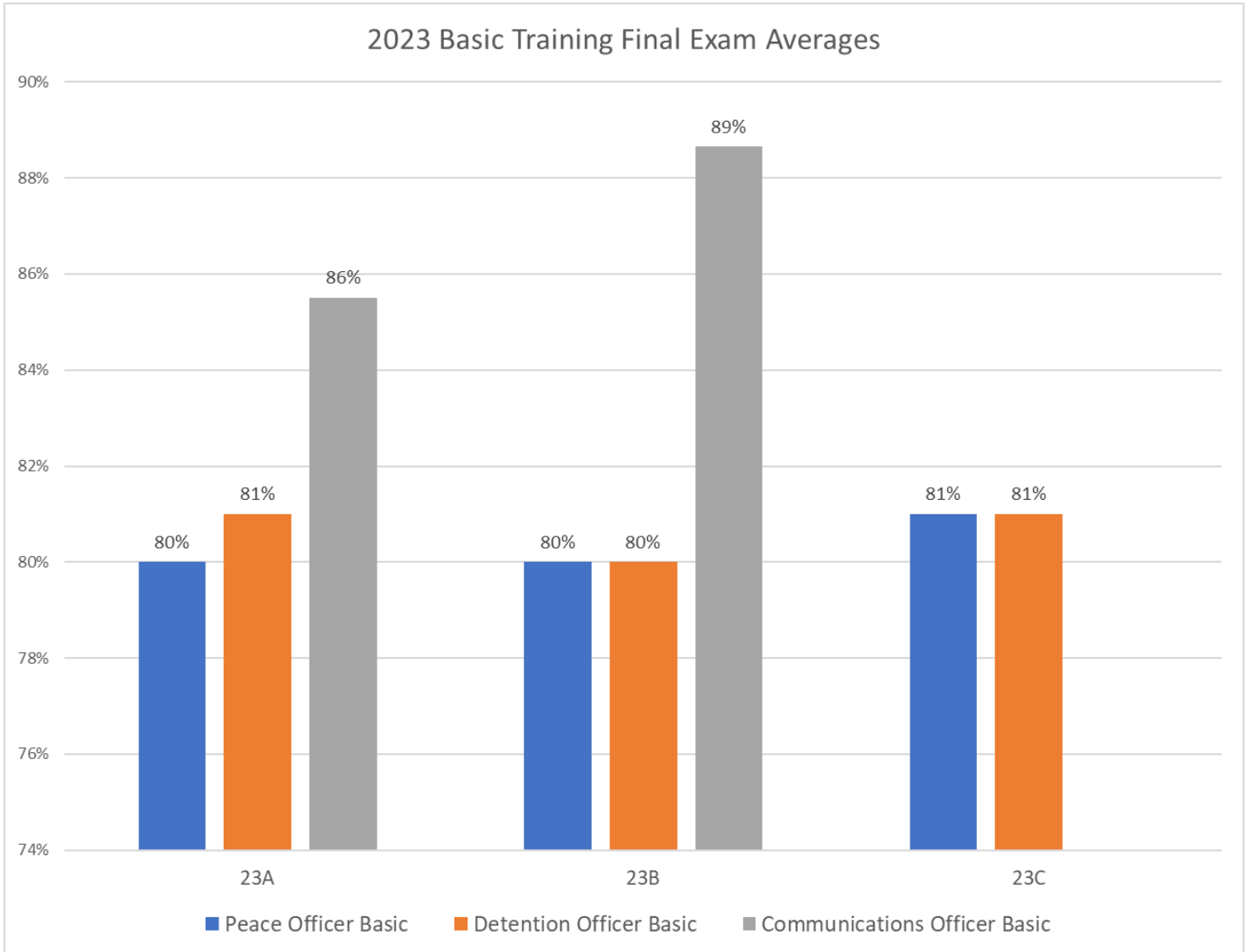
The differences between DOB Agency Ammunition Costs for calendar years 2022 and 2023 were as follows:

- 9mm: +\$88.00
- .40 Cal: +\$45.00
- .45 Cal: +\$145.00



Final Examinations: Each basic course has a final cumulative exam at the end of the course. The exams range from 103 - 185 questions, depending on the course, and students must score a minimum of 70% on the exam to pass the course.

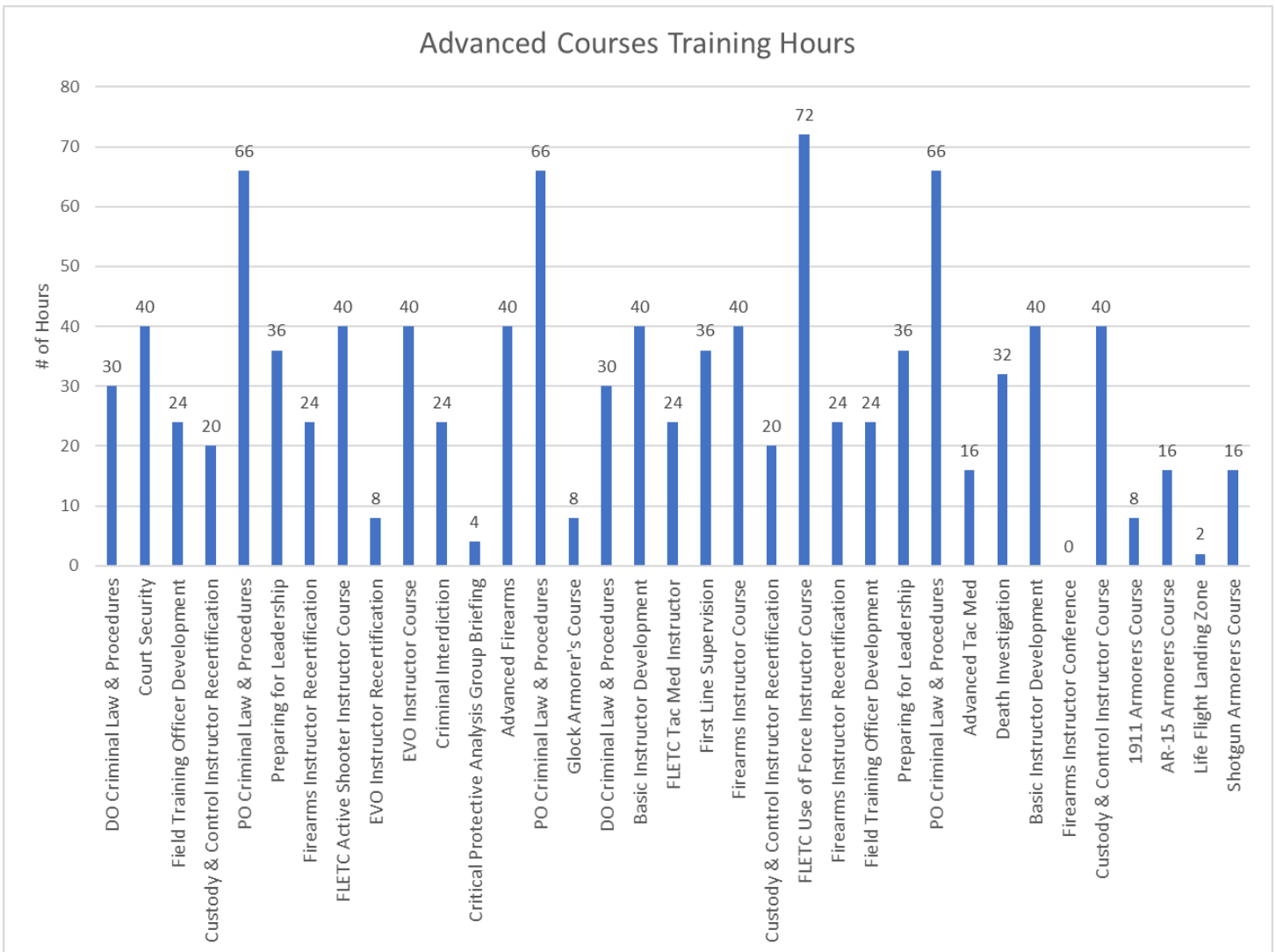
The final exam averages for the 2023 Peace, Detention, and Communications Officer Basic classes were as follows:



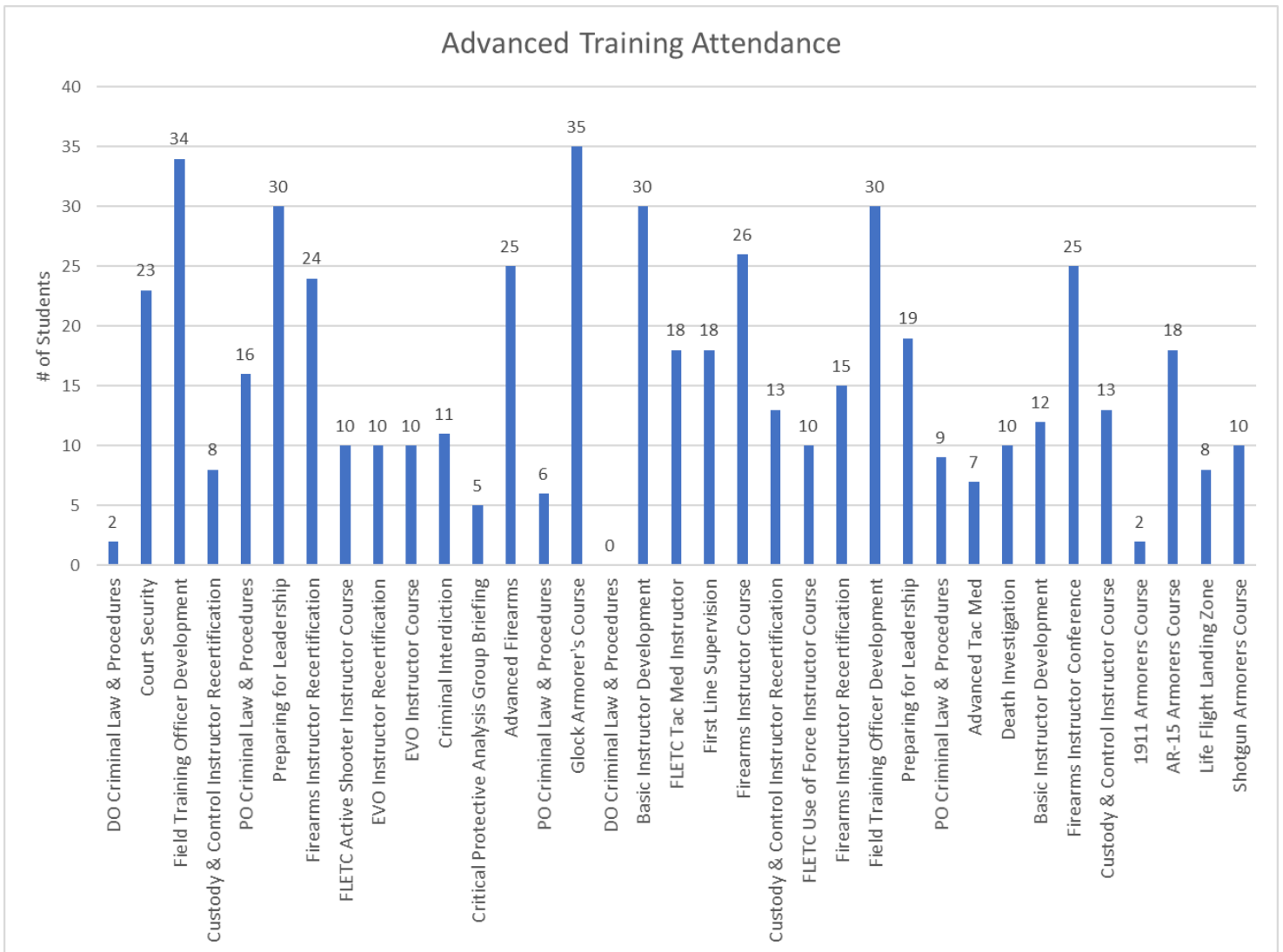
Specialized and Advanced Training: Another function of the Academy is to provide advanced training opportunities to satisfy the continuing education requirements established by P.O.S.T. Every officer who holds a permanent appointment and basic certification as a peace, detention, or communications officer in the State of Wyoming must complete additional training beyond the basic certification requirements to maintain certification requirements.

Our advanced training division develops, coordinates, and hosts forward-thinking and progressive training courses. These courses can range from updates on current trends and issues facing our law enforcement community to achieving instructor certification in a given area of expertise.

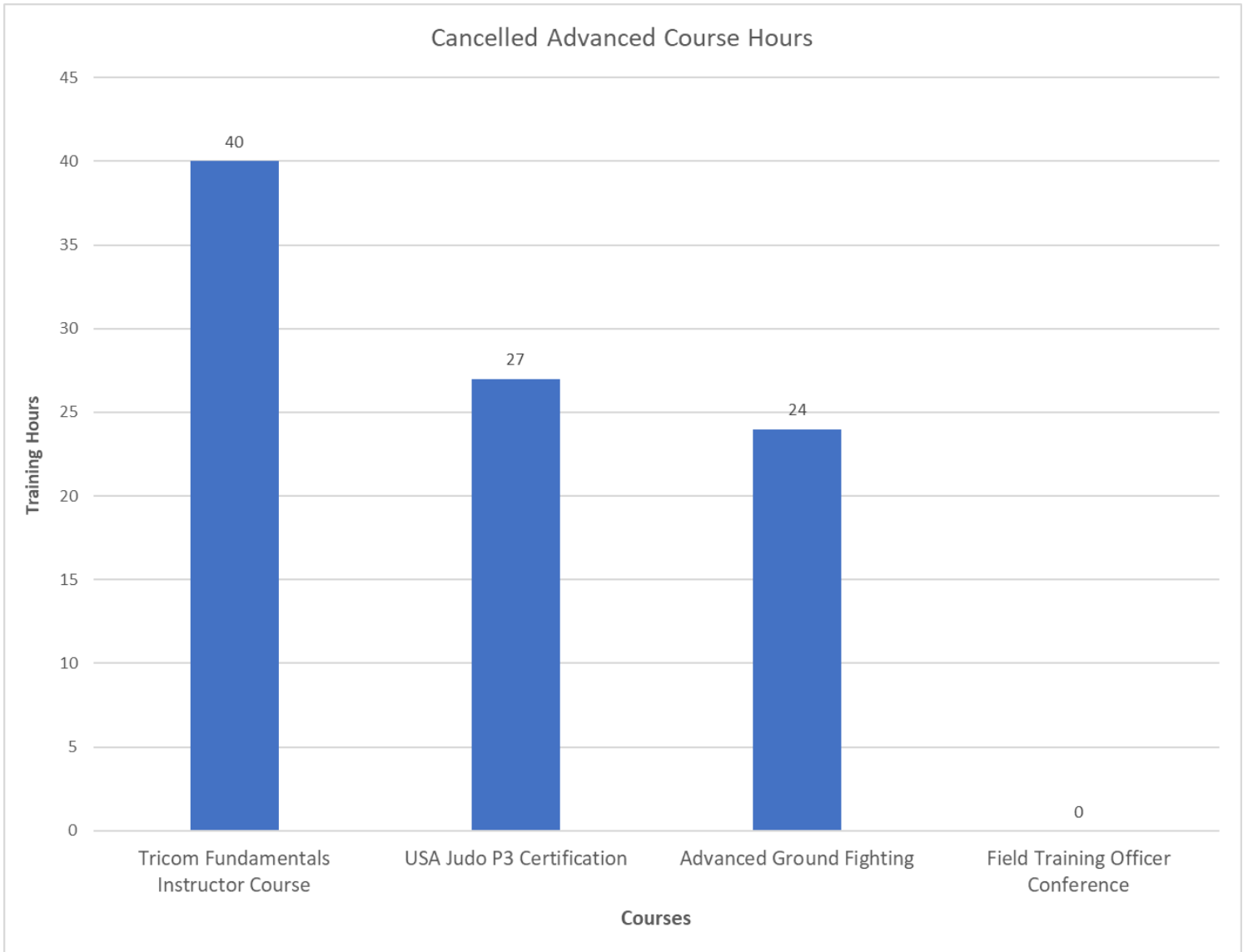
In the 2023 calendar year, the Academy provided 35 advanced courses for a total of 1,052 offered advanced training hours.



These advanced courses were attended by 542 officers throughout the state, resulting in 16,078 total training hours.



In the 2023 calendar year we had 4 advanced courses that were canceled, resulting in 91 canceled training hours.



As an avenue for law enforcement to become more self-reliant and to assist them in obtaining required training hours not obtained through Academy-provided training, **the Academy presented 15 train-the-trainer courses, an increase of 36.36% from calendar year 2022.**



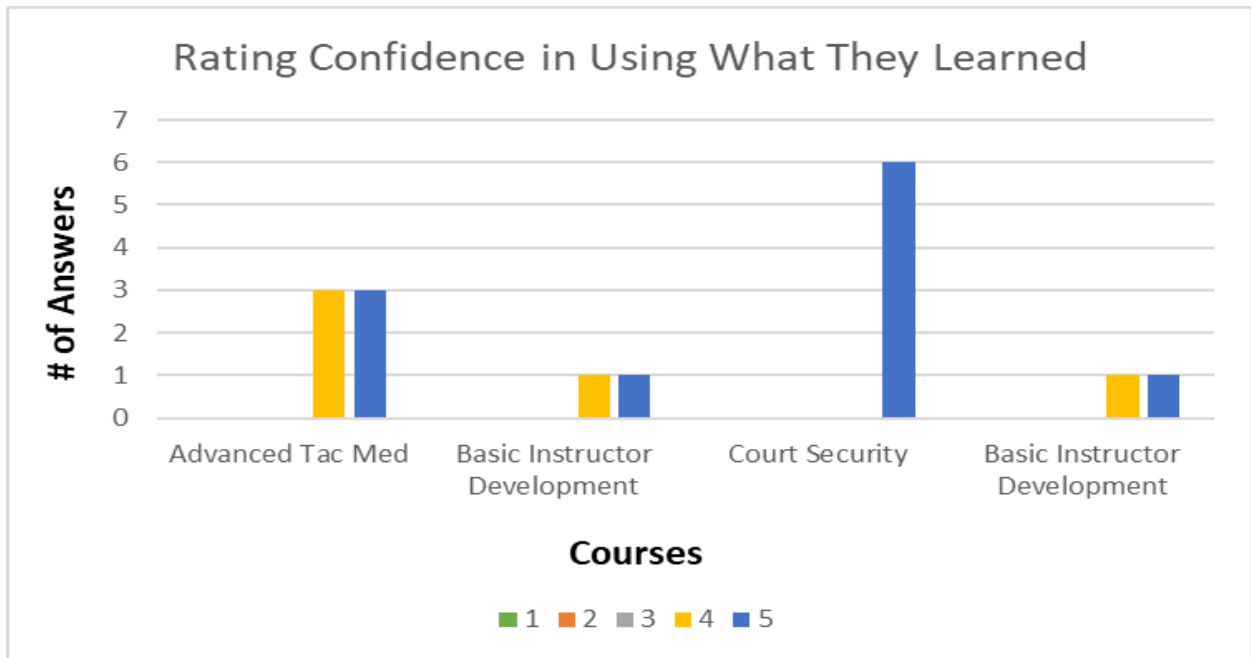
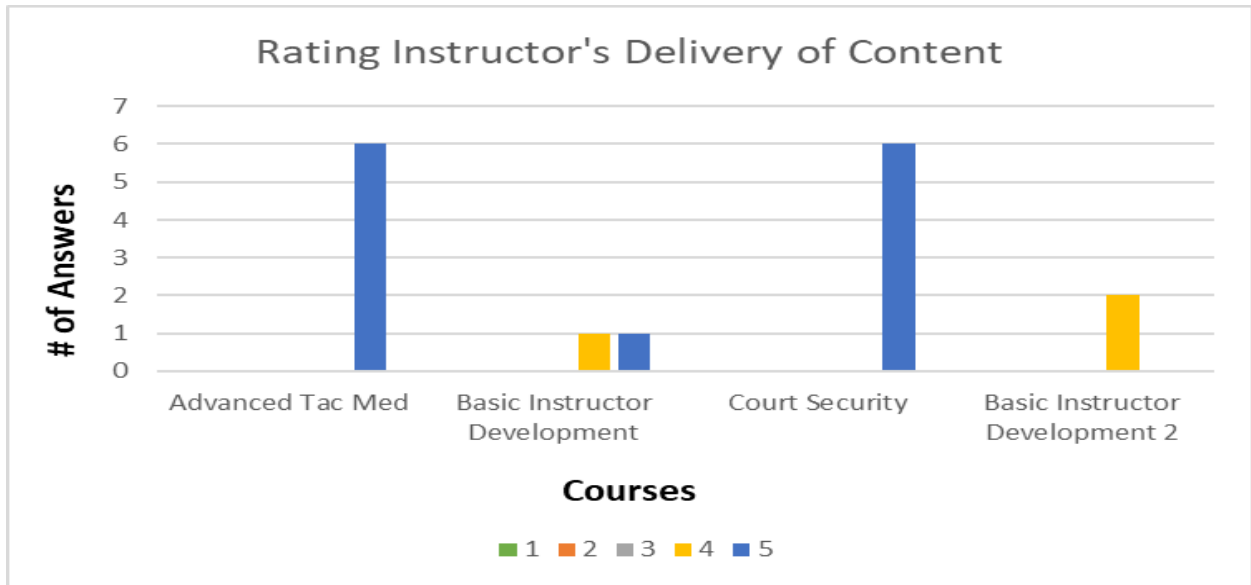
These train-the-trainer courses were attended by 263 officers - an increase of 74.17% from calendar year 2022 - resulting in 12,736 training hours.



Course Evaluations: Students are asked to complete a course evaluation upon completion of an advanced course. The Academy began the 2023 calendar year utilizing one advanced course evaluation, but switched midway to a more comprehensive evaluation in order to draw more information from the students.

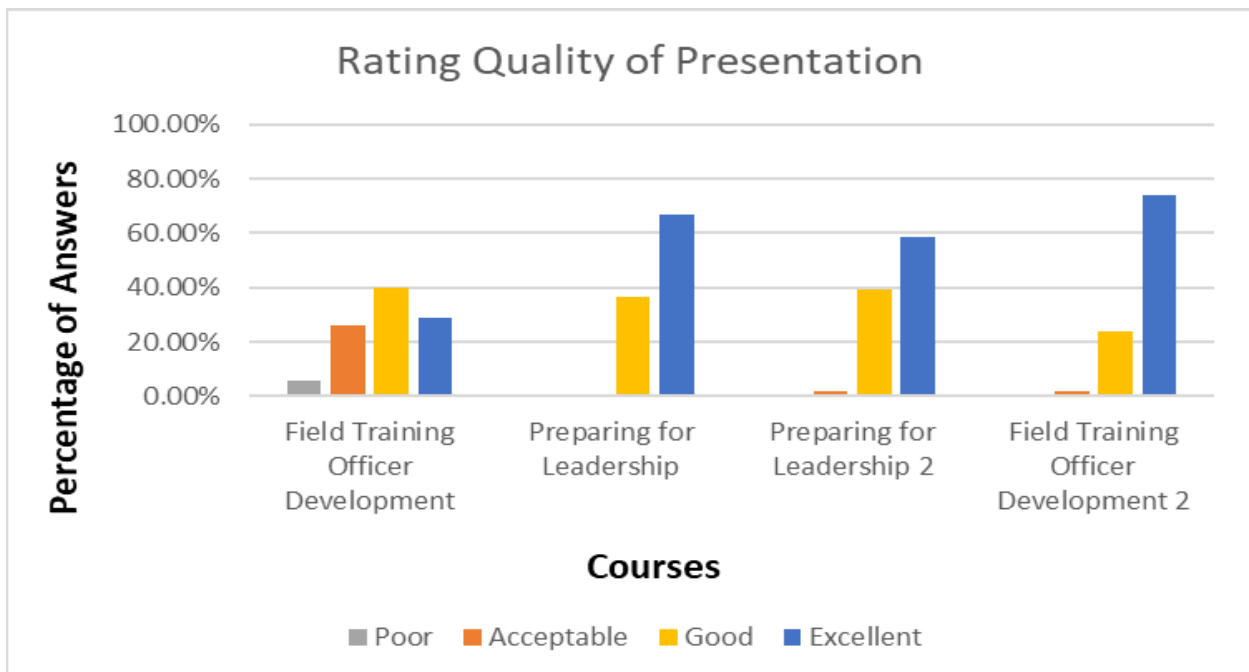
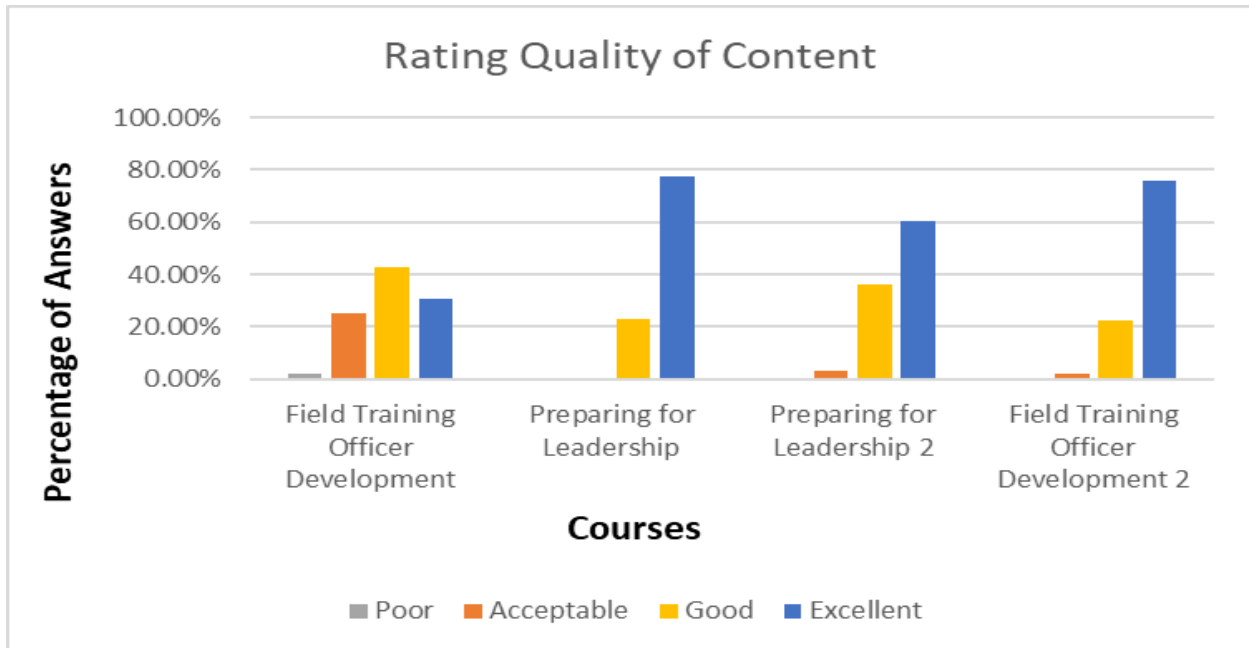
We used the former evaluation for the courses displayed in the graphs below. This evaluation asked students to rate the instructor’s delivery of the content and the students’ confidence in utilizing what they learned on a 5-point scale.

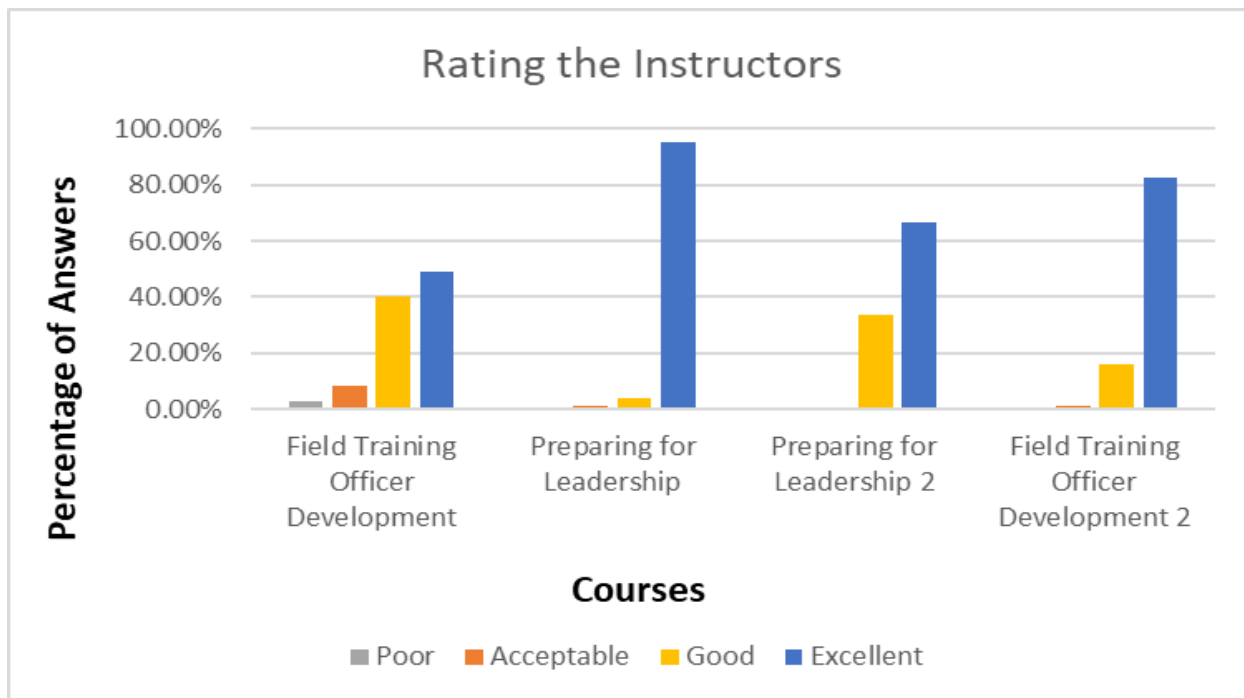
These evaluations produced the results displayed in the following graphs:



We used the updated evaluation for the courses displayed in the graphs below. This evaluation asks students to rate the quality of each individual topic in the course content rather than grouping all of the content into one question. The evaluation also asks the students to rate the presentation of each individual topic, then prompts the student to rate each instructor in various areas such as knowledge of the subject, engagement with the class, and answers to questions. This evaluation uses a scale of poor, acceptable, good, and excellent, while the previous evaluation used a numerical scale from 1 to 5. Students are also asked to provide an explanation for any rating of “poor.”

These evaluations produced the results displayed in the following graph:





Distance Learning: The purpose of developing a distance learning platform was to provide a cost-effective and efficient avenue for our state’s law enforcement agencies and their officers to meet their continued training requirements.

Customer benefits are multi-faceted in that distance learning will directly impact the individual law enforcement officer, the respective employing agency, the communities in which they serve and ultimately the citizens and taxpayers of our state. Also, such training methods will provide an opportunity to cater to the growing strengths of officers joining the ranks of our law enforcement profession, in that their skills base, as it relates to the use of technology, is well suited for the engagement and retention of information presented in a distance learning format.

Presently our state’s Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (POST) may certify distance learning training that meets the criteria as outlined in the POST Commission rules; Chapter 10, section 4(g):

- All training via this media must be tested.
- Peace, detention, telecommunicators, and correctional officers can acquire full credit for non-classroom training hours with completion of 10 hours of mandated perishable skills.

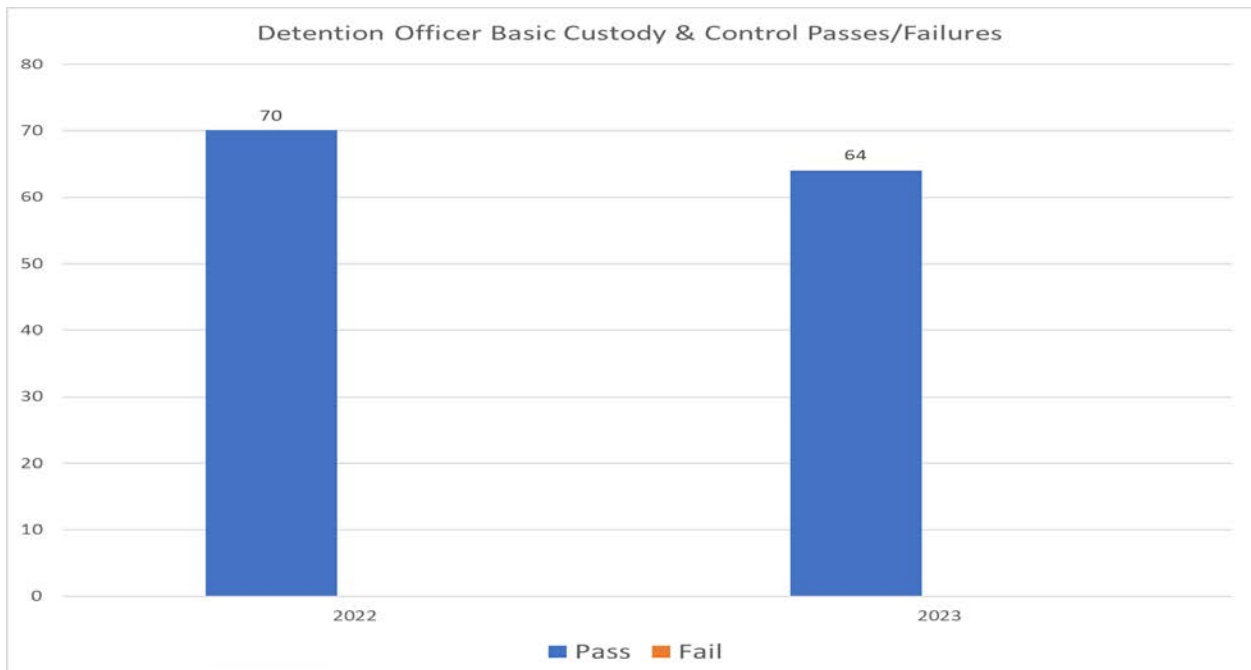
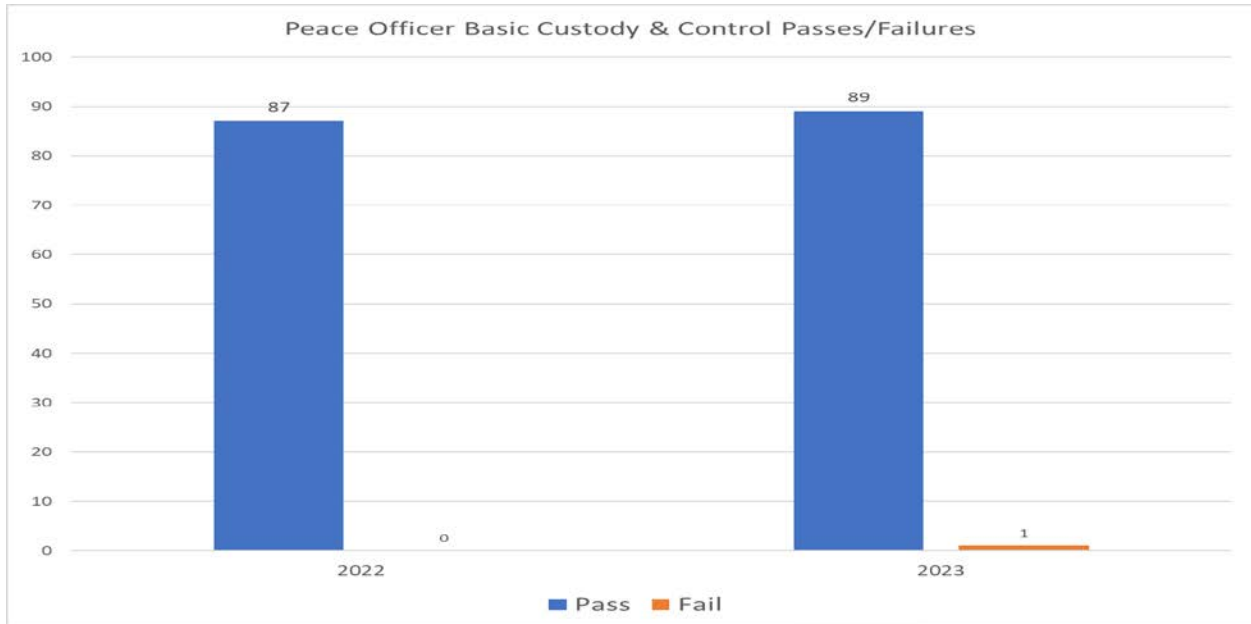
Custody & Control: Our Custody & Control (CC) system seeks to provide the necessary tools and training for officers to effectively apply appropriate physical control skills while remaining cognizant of the situational dynamics in a conflict environment. Our peace officer basic curriculum contains 65 hours while our detention officer basic receives 55 hours of CC instruction.

In this training, it is essential for officers to not only be trained in the mechanics of particular skills, but also in the basic elements of a conflict environment, as well as the physical attributes required to perform the skills at an effective level. For physical skills to be as effective as possible in the

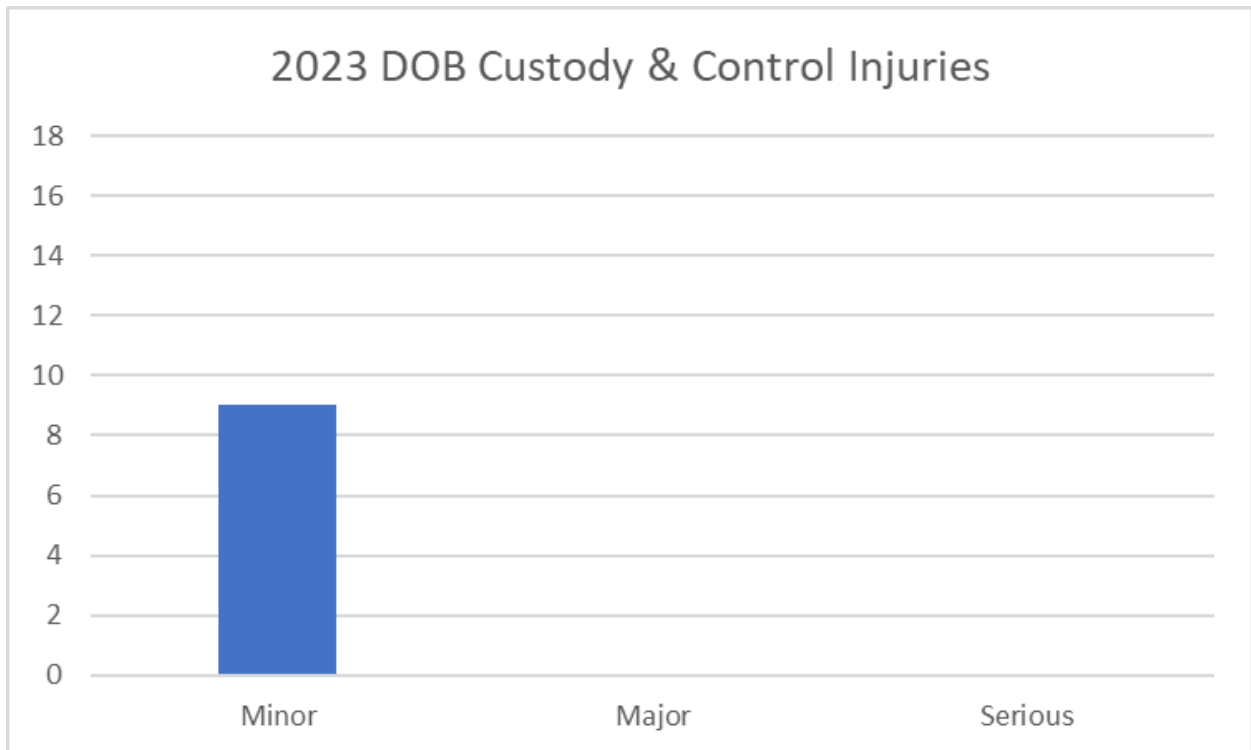
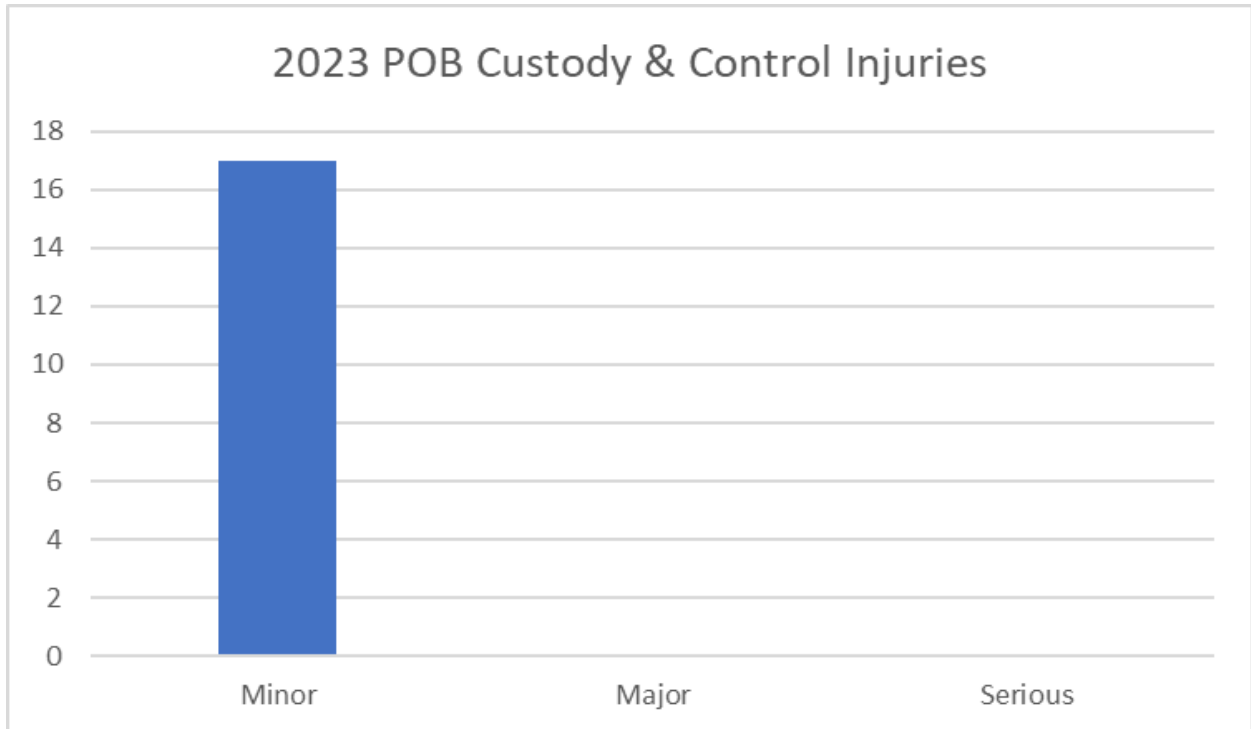
conflict environment, they must be simple to perform and not leave the officer in a position of disadvantage in the event they fail.

In addition to our basic training, we offer a 40-hour CC Instructor and 20-hour recertification courses to law enforcement agencies to provide an opportunity for them to become more self-sufficient in their internal CC refresher training.

The following graphs display Custody & Control passes and failures for the 2023 Peace Officer and Detention Officer Basic Courses.

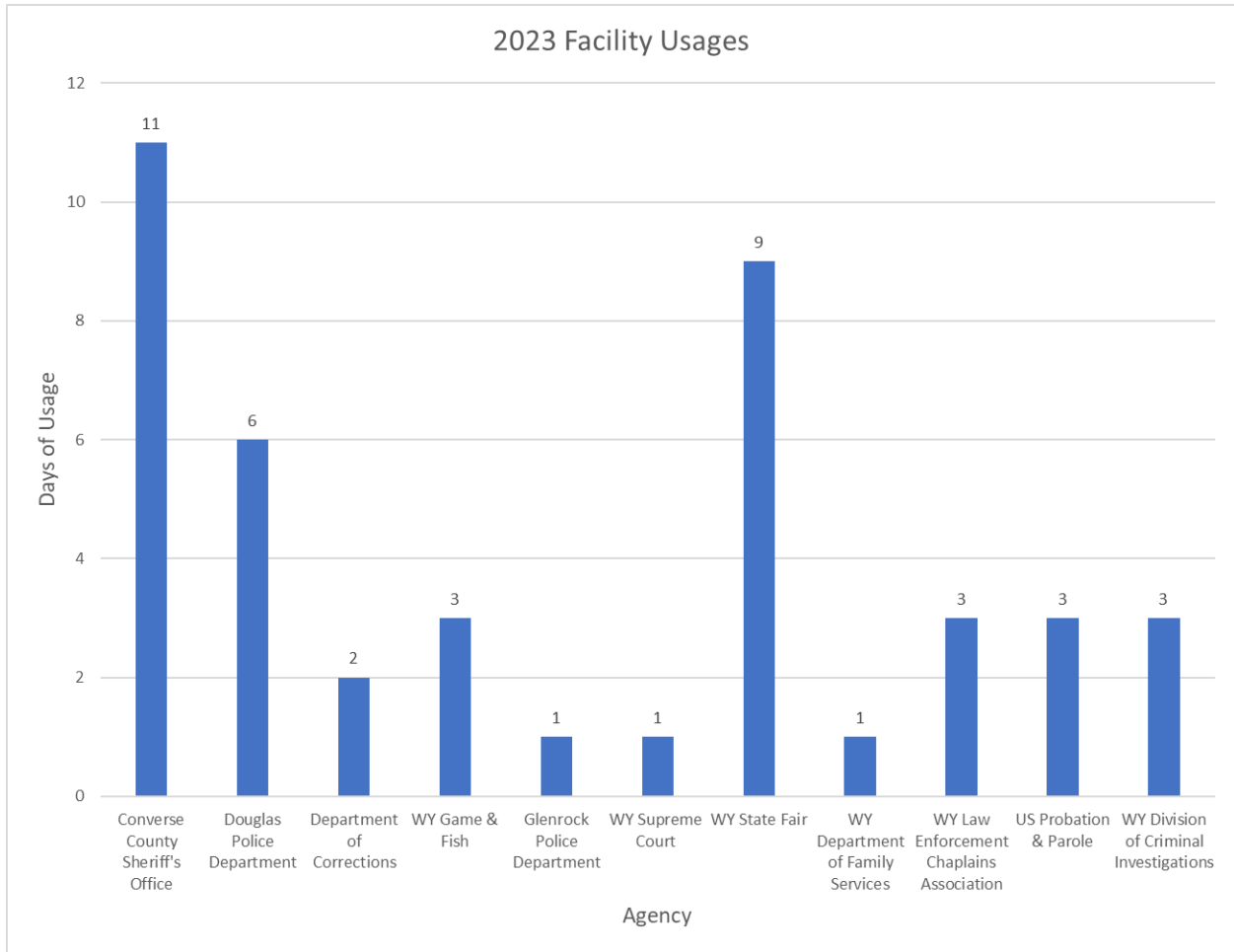


The following graphs display injuries sustained during Custody & Control in the 2023 Peace Officer and Detention Officer Basic Courses.



Facility Usage: To the extent of availability, we allow our state’s law enforcement and governmental agencies to utilize our facility and its available resources. Agencies are permitted by statute to use our Academy for their meeting and training needs. Opening our doors as a centralized training facility within our state allows agencies to satisfy their meeting and training requirements.

In 2023, 11 entities scheduled the Academy facilities a total of 43 times for their meeting or training needs.



Officer Education and Training Funds:

In 2018, the state legislature passed a measure in HB093 that provided funding for continuing education and training for law enforcement from a \$5.00 fee for each speeding citation through state courts. This became effective July 1, 2018. Part of the law required these funds to be transferred into the Law Enforcement Academy Enterprise Account. Although in first appearance this appears to be an additional funding source, these monies are replacing fees that traditionally were paid by agencies to provide advanced training to law enforcement.

The table below shows the course, attendance, course fee and total OET funds used to provide the course free of charge to agencies. The bottom section of the chart also shows the total revenue received for the calendar year minus the training costs.

OET Courses	# of Students	Course Fee	Total OET Bill:
Custody & Control Instructor Recertification	8	\$246	\$1,698
Preparing for Leadership	30	\$485	\$14,550
Firearms Instructor Recertification	24	\$186	\$4,464
EVO Instructor Recertification	10	\$75	\$750
EVO Instructor Course	10	\$298	\$2,980
Criminal Interdiction	11	\$400	\$4,400
Basic Instructor Development	30	\$320	\$9,600
First Line Supervision	\$18	\$485	\$8,730
Firearms Instructor Course	26	\$310	\$8,060
Custody & Control Instructor Recertification	13	\$246	\$3,198
Firearms Instructor Recertification	15	\$186	\$2,790
Preparing for Leadership	19	\$485	\$9,215
Death Investigation	10	-	\$11,592
Basic Instructor Development	12	\$320	\$3,840
Custody & Control Instructor Course	13	\$355	\$4,615
Total OET Funded Courses: 15	Total: 249	-	Total: \$90,482
2023 Total OET Revenue: \$125,712.00 - \$90,482.00 = \$35,230.00			

Academy Training Facility:

The Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy was built in 1984, on 55 acres of rugged terrain overlooking the North Platte River (nearly 150’ elevation drop from our main facility to our driving pad only 300 yards below). Of those 55 acres, only 12 acres is usable (without major dirt & retaining work). We are currently maximizing the use of this land with buildings, parking lots, driving pads, firearms ranges, and roadways. In 40 years, there have been no substantial upgrades to the facilities or the property.

In 2020, the State Building Commission authorized a needs assessment study regarding the overall condition of the facility, necessary repairs, and future program operations. The report concluded that constructing a new academy on a new site offered the best advantage. The secondary option was keeping the current site but procuring adjacent land to allow for expansion. The final option with the least advantage was remodeling/expanding at the current site without land acquisition.

The state building commission weighed those options at the time and elected to find other options and “think outside the box.” In 2022, through the state construction department, capitol construction requests were made to rebuild the outdoor range and expand the existing indoor range. Consultants determined that expanding the indoor range was too costly, and an overall plan to construct a new firearms range complex was suggested. That also required the purchase of land away from the Academy campus to relocate the EVO driving area.

In 2024, the subsequent land purchase fell through due to the owner demanding a higher price than market analysis suggested, and the capital construction requests for the new range complex, relocation of EVO training area and an additional interior remodel was not approved by the state legislature.

Major Maintenance: Over the years we have completed a few minor interior remodel projects (by staff), an upgrade of our indoor range target system, major asphalt replacement and repairs, water line and septic work, and the typical major maintenance repairs/replacements, but apart from these, the WLEA is no different than when it was built in 1984.

Here is a listing of the major maintenance projects completed from 2015 - 2023

Building	Project	Approve Amounts
Main Building	Replace 17-year-old water softener svstem replacement.	20,000
Firing Range/EVO	Rehabilitate Septic Systems	100,000
Main Building	Replace steamer in the kitchen.	20,000
Main Building	Direct Digital Controllers	135,000
Main Building	Electronic Security Locks Replacement System	7,000

Main Building	Carpet Replacement	40,000
Main Building	Hallway Light Fixture Purchase/Replacement	8,000
Main Building	Exterior Lighting Replacement	25,000
Main Building	Unloading Dock Lift Removal	8,000
Outdoor Range	Domestic Hot Water Heater Replacement	1,000
EVO tower	Domestic Hot Water Header Replacement	1,000
Main Building	Heat Exchanger for Domestic Hot Water System.	100,000
Main Building	Transfer Switch/Generator Factory Inspection and Maintenance.	7,000
Main Building	LED Lighting Replacement in Classroom Training Areas.	16,000
Main Building	Manor Cap Caulking Replacement.	7,000
Main Building	Dish Room Wall Replacement.	10,000
Main Building	Asphalt - Lots/Roadways	75,000
Main Building	HVAC Circulation Pumps	10,000
Main Building	Control Actuator Valves	4,500
Main Building	Window Blinds	85,498
Main Building	Wallpaper Replacement	17,500 - deferred
Main Building	Carpet Replacement	120,000 - deferred
Main Building	Repair Roadway, Parking, & EVO Pad Asphalt	357,000
Main Building	Facility Door Locks & Security System Replacement/Upgrade	325,000
All facility	Asphalt Parking Lots/Roadways Mill & Overlay	150,000
Main Building	Repair Roadway, Parking, & EVO Pad Asphalt	357,000
Main Building	Exchange coil removal and replacement – freeze rupture	

Training Areas:

Practical Skills Building

In 2016, the Academy spent \$600,000 to build a 70' X 80' steel building (high cost due to foundation needing to be overbuilt on poor soil). This practical training building has limited amenities (no water/sewer, not finished on the inside). It was rough construction on the inside with open ceilings and walkways overlooking rooms below to mimic different environments officers would respond to - trailer houses, offices, jail cells, small bars, etc. This shoot-house/practical training building is used by our officers, as well as outside agencies who come in to perform specialized training with their tactical teams. A second smaller steel building for fleet/equipment storage was built a number of years prior. Both of these structures were built utilizing enterprise and DCI's forfeiture monies, not General Budget funds.

Firearms Ranges

We have three firearms ranges on the Academy's campus. The main building has a 25-yard, 12 lane indoor range equipped with variable lighting for low-light training exercises, electronically controlled targets for close-range and mid-range fire, with partitioned shooting stations.

A 50-yard, 20 lane outdoor firing range including a turning target system with an observation tower, small storage area and restroom, located below the main building. Shotgun and patrol rifle exercises utilize a makeshift third range located at the Emergency Vehicle Driving range.

Firearms training is a vital block of instruction for both basic and advanced training. Currently, there are 83.5 hours of instruction in the peace officer basic and 39 hours in the detention officer basic. Veteran officers can attend advanced firearms training, or meet the requirements for a firearms instructor certification and recertification on these ranges. When not in use, local, state and federal agencies can utilize these ranges to meet their internal firearms proficiency requirements.

Range capacity is a choke point for class sizes for basic training, and target components in the outdoor range are antiquated, and replacement parts are no longer available. Two needs assessment studies have concluded these ranges need replaced to meet the growing capacity demands.

Computer Simulators:

This training system is an integral part of our peace and detention officer basic curriculum. Currently, we have four systems and rooms that allow officers the ability to participate in realistic, real-world scenarios to evaluate the application and use of force decisions. While viewing a scenario, the officer can utilize available force options as they work to either verbally or physically control a given situation. In addition, Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray, Taser and Handgun conversions (laser) make it possible for officers to respond with actual weapons while the system responds to the application of their use of force options.

Because an officer's application of force can be a litigious area in the performance of their duties, this system is critical in providing the fundamental training, proper evaluation, and necessary

feedback for new and veteran officers. The MILO system has become and continues to be, one of the most important practical skills training components utilized by the WLEA in our scenario-based training. This system provides a diversity of stressful real-life scenarios in the safety of a controlled training environment. Currently, approximately 300 hours of basic training alone is spent on this system annually to provide the following:

- One-on-one student/instructor training
- An interactive system that creates a multitude of realistic, real-world scenarios for the officers
- Coaching, evaluation, and testing of an officer’s application and justification on his use of force
- 400+ developed scenarios
- On-site filming and editing capabilities

Emergency Vehicle Operations:

Located to the north of our main building is an 11-acre driving pad. On this pad, hands-on pursuit and evasive driving techniques are taught using WLEA EVO fleet vehicles. The EVO area also includes a maintenance building and an observation tower.

Emergency vehicle operations (EVO) is a critical component of our basic curriculums. Twenty-six hours are devoted to this training in the peace officer basic with 12 hours in the detention officer basic. These EVO courses are designed and developed to educate officers on the safe and effective operation of an emergency vehicle. In addition to the basic training, the Academy offers a 40-hour EVO Instructor and an 8-hour recertification course. The instructor courses allow our state’s law enforcement agencies to become self-sufficient in meeting their internal training needs in this area of perishable skills.

The Academy does not conduct any high-speed driving training because we lack the appropriate facilities. The majority of training academies across the country have constructed a high-speed driving track along with multiple surface driving areas. WLEA does not have the current space on our property to construct a track or variable driving areas.

Advisory Boards:

The Academy utilizes self-created advisory boards to provide input and feedback from law enforcement agencies across the state. The boards formally review and make non-binding recommendations to the Director of the Academy on matters relating to the training services provided.

Academy Advisory Board Members for 2023

Sheriff Levi Dominguez - Sheridan County Represents small sheriff departments	Sheriff Scott Matheny - Campbell County Represents large sheriff department
--	--

Chief Roy Eckerdt - Powell Police Represents small police departments	Chief Mark Francisco - Cheyenne Police Represents large police departments
Director Ronnie Jones - Wyoming DCI	Attorney General Bridget Hill - Wyoming Attorney General's Office
Dr. Shaina Smith, Member-at-large Smith Psychological Services	Deputy Chief Craig Smith, Wyoming Game and Fish
Executive Director Chris Walsh, Wyoming Peace Officer Standards and Training	Sheriff Jeff Hodge - Crook County Current WASCOP president
Megan Pope - Senior Assistant Attorney General - Academy's Legal Advisor	

Detention Training Advisory Board Members for 2023

Sheriff Jerimie Kraushaar - Hot Springs County	Sheriff Alex Bakken - Carbon County
Sgt. Sean Ellis - Natrona County	Capt. Adam Alvarado - Converse County
Lt. Darren Horn - Crook County	Lt. Timothy Johnson - Laramie County
Dep. Caleb Sprecher - Sweetwater County	Sgt. Amanda Cornwell - Hot Springs County
Deputy Director Heather Babbitt, Wyoming Dept. of Corrections	Executive Director Chris Walsh, Wyoming Peace Officer Standards and Training

Communications Training Advisory Board Members for 2023

Karie Moulton, Glenrock Police Department	Sheriff K.C. Lehr, Sublette County
Karigan Gates, Rawlins Police Department	Ryan Rakness, Washakie County
Jessie Colegrove, Park County	Manager Ashley Byerly - Converse County Combined Communication Center
Amy Payne - Laramie County Combined Communication Center	Shannon Brown - Wyoming Highway Patrol Communications Center
Monte McClain - President, Wyoming APCO	Executive Director Chris Walsh, Wyoming Peace Officer Standards and Training