



## **Appointment of ILEAS Executive Officers**

With the advancement of Chief Dan Vittiro to the position of ILEAS President, a vacancy now exists in the role of Vice President. After discussions, President Vittorio has elected to appoint current Executive Officer Sergeant at Arms Sheriff Mark Vogelzang to the position of Vice President and Region 6 Co-Chair Chief Derek Watts to the vacant Sergeant at Arms position.

### **Requested Board Action:**

Motion to approve Sheriff Mark Vogelzang as Vice President and Chief Derek Watts as Sergeant At Arms.

## **ILEAS FY25 Homeland Security Grant Budget**

The financial pressure being felt by ILEAS and all of the other committees and members of the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) continues to grow. To re-cap from our last meeting in December, the federal government had reduced Illinois Homeland Security Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to include UASI, from a normal \$72 million to \$28 million, down approximately \$44 million. After scrambling to meet this huge adjustment, an on-time budget application was submitted for review. Then in September, we were notified that without prior warning, the feds had proactively reduced Illinois' award an additional \$30.3 million to a final total of **\$13,758,579**. (**\$71,900,797 - \$13,758,579 = \$58,142,218** cut).

The decision to make an award and then change the amounts months later upon announcement was immediately challenged in court and in January, we learned that a directive had been made. The federal government was ordered to release the funds at the awarded levels to the states impacted. Instead of immediately un-freezing and authorizing the appropriations, they chose instead to appeal the ruling. As a result, federal FY25 funds have still not been released. And we are now in the process of preparing budget proposals for FY26 funding. The various committees and organizations that receive funds from IEMA-OHS have been pre-warned to make two plans. One using the already slashed FY25 that was reviewed and supported by the court order. Another based on the possibility that funding might actually be cut to the catastrophically low amount returned by the feds.

### **Where does that leave us?**

ILEAS staff will do everything in our power to continue our mission. Finance had previously worked with IEMA-OHS to draw down sufficient funds to allow for staff to continue working thru September. Div. of Preparedness and Grant Admin. Bob Evans and the rest of the IEMA-OHS grant and finance staff are very aware of ours, and many other organizations needs. They are currently working with

FEMA in order to get funds remaining from FY 22,23 and 24 released to help catch up on pending bills and needs. The recent government shut downs do not help with that. Even with those funds released, they do not necessarily represent an amount of money that makes long term operation possible. We need a quick decision by the courts for FY 25. This takes overall finances to July 1, 2027. It is this present uncertainty about amount and funding source that has created the introduction of HB 4144 to allow ILEAS and MABAS to work with IEMA-OHS to dictate an annual allocation of mutual aid funding that is equal to the difference between what is needed and what the federal government awards for any grant period.

**Requested Board Action:**

Information Only. No action necessary at this time.

## House Appropriations Committee Meeting – HB 4144

On Thursday, 19 March 2026, Bryant and I attended the Illinois House Appropriations-Public Safety and Infrastructure Committee hearing regarding House Bill 4144 at the Capital in Springfield. We were joined by MABAS representatives and other emergency service providers who appeared after. Both ILEAS and MABAS were allowed ample time to discuss the services and value provided to the citizens of the state, stressing the importance of our continued operation. We did our best to offer an explanation of what is being proposed in HB4144 and answered all questions posed. I would like to thank the bill's sponsor, Rep. Mary Beth Canty for her support and real-life anecdotes about ILEAS responses in her home region. The committee did pose a specific question about an audit report finding and asked if we would look at that notation and report back to the committee. Jan and Bryant researched the issue and contacted the auditor to confirm that the notation being referred to was based on a requirement to capitalize grant management software development as an intangible asset. In addition to responding to this specific question, staff drafted a narrative to clarify and help educate the committee on how passage of the initiative will help ILEAS continue its mission of service.

## Updated Costs for MFF Trucks

During the June 26, 2025 governing board meeting, a presentation and request to use recently awarded PAR Grant funds to purchase two (2) MFF Box trucks was made and approved. The replacement of these highly specialized vehicles has been a long running project for ILEAS. Purchasing these vehicles will mean that seven (7) of the eleven (11) vehicles will have been replaced so the end is nearing for this initiative. Recall that for this order, we had chosen a new vendor that we felt more comfortable working with and confident that the trucks would be finished within the established deadline. We submitted specifications to LDV in Burlington, WI. Who provided us with quotes which were used to gain approval to authorize the purchases. The final motion total was for the two (2) trucks at a cost not to exceed **\$375,000**.

With this approval, staff got to work. As the build began, LDV requested permission to meet with MFF personnel and to actually inspect one of our newer trucks in order to properly replicate the standards that our project had achieved. A meeting was held in Burlington with LDV design staff as well as Region 2 MFF CO Jeremy Bell and Greg Rink who is a member of 3 Central MFF. During this meeting, LDV was advised of four major issues from ILEAS MFF personnel that they wished to

improve on the new units. These were relatively minor in nature, but included interior cabinets, air/heat improvements for the back/box of the truck, a power inverter to ensure the vehicle was able to handle all power needs, and preparing the truck for radio installation. These changes/improvements were all agreed upon by ILEAS MFF personnel on site, as well as the LDV employees actually constructing the vehicles.

A written proposal was prepared and submitted to ILEAS staff for review and approval. In consultation with Special Teams Manager Frost, he agreed that the requests being made were appropriate and effective to the MFF performing its mission. We were happy to see the collaboration between manufacturer and user resulting in upgrades that will be replicated in future orders. As outlined in the documents below, the additional cost is **\$12,902.00** per vehicle changing the final total cost for two (2) up to **\$398,658.00**. This exceeds our original authorization limit of **\$375,000.00** by **\$23,658.00**. In order to move this project forward and see it completed in the required time frame, I authorized staff to instruct LDV to continue with construction including the newly requested upgrades resulting in an addition cost.

**Requested Board Action:**

Motion to approve the purchase of two Mobile Field Force box trucks from LDV at a total cost not to exceed \$405,000.

**Lease and Use Agreement between ILEAS and Champaign Co. Regional Planning Commission**

The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) was created by Champaign County, Illinois, pursuant to 55 ILCS 5/5-5-14001. The RPC administers the East Central Illinois Police Training Project (“the Project”), a Mobile Training Unit governed by an Advisory Board. The goals of the Project include making law enforcement training more accessible and flexible in meeting the needs of local law enforcement agencies and practitioners. Commonly referred to as MTU 12 for members in this region of the state.

MTU 12 Director Kevin Koontz, his staff and ILEAS have long had a positive working relationship. A great many training offerings for the MTU are hosted at the ILEAS training center under an ala-carte subscription agreement. ILEAS benefits not only from the income, but also the constant reinforcement that we operate a Law Enforcement Training Center that is constantly hosting Law Enforcement personnel.

The MTU offices are co-located with the RPC however things are changing and their facility is being shut down in favor of a new location by the County. This has prompted Director Koontz to reach out to ILEAS seeking office space. An understandable request given the amount of time spent here at the ITC. ILEAS is pleased to enter into an agreement and continue our long-time relationship.

Included find two (2) written agreements. First a Lease agreement between ILEAS and the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission to lease the use of two (2) currently un-occupied offices located in the A wing near our current administrative staff. The annual income from this space is **\$6,500.00**. Second is a Use Agreement. This outlines that the MTU will have a priority standing for use of Classroom 1 while any other space within the facility will remain open on a first come first serve basis. Understand that under the negotiated agreement, ILEAS staff will continue to handle all training space use requests from ALL sources and that the needs of ILEAS will always be the top consideration. The income from this Use Agreement will be **\$8,000.00** annually.

The agreements will start on 1 July, 2026 and terminate 30 June, 2027. ILEAS will bill the total **\$14,500** which will be required to be paid within 45 day. This agreement will help replace income lost with the departure of Vertex.

**Requested Board Action:**

Motion to approve the Lease and the Use Agreement with the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission for the use of office and classroom space at the ILEAS Training Center.

## ICJIA Less Lethal Alternative for L.E. Grant

The Less Lethal Alternatives for Law Enforcement (LLA) grant is in full swing and seeing many positive results. As of the writing of this update (03/24/2026), 116 recipient agencies out of 139-awarded agencies (83%) have received their awarded Taser packages with reimbursements totaling **\$2,233,796.00**. Most of the remaining agencies are waiting on a certain piece of equipment or the Invoice to complete the reimbursement process. All remaining agencies are expected to be reimbursed prior to the end of the grant on 30 June, 2026.

Regional Planning Coordinators (RPCs) are currently making in-person site visits with the reimbursed agencies to check on the effectiveness of the grant program. Some of the feedback received so far from these visits include;

- Acknowledgement that an agency would not have been able to afford to purchase Tasers without the grant
  - *“We would not have purchased them without grant money this year for sure. We actually leveraged the grant money to convince city to buy 6 additional units”* – Kewanee PD Chief Stephen Kijanowski
  - *“We would not have purchased without the grant due to budget restrictions.”* – Colona PD Chief Clinton Powless
  
- Instances where the presence of a Taser reduced the risk of injury during a Use of Force event
  - *“About one month ago they were on a call regarding a subject armed with a knife in a liquor store threatening citizens. Several Deputies responded and one attempted to use Less Lethal Pepper Balls to disarm the individual however it did not work due to the fact that he was wearing protective gear. One Deputy was able to deploy a Taser device to an open area and subject dropped the knife and was taken into custody without further incident. No injury to suspect or officers who otherwise may have had to use Deadly force had the situation escalated any further”* – Knox County Sheriff Jack Harlan
  
  - *“Tasers have proven to be a valuable asset and a force multiplier. We have several officers of small stature and the Tasers have helped level the playing field. The display alone has proven very effective in de-escalation but they have also discharged the units on occasion. We were dealing with a suicidal subject who was holding insulin filled syringes against his stomach and threatening to inject himself with them. A Taser was used on the subject and it was successful in subduing the person before he could harm himself”.* – Sterling PD Deputy Chief Shane Bland

- The grant process was very easy to work through and grant staff were very helpful
  - *“I was happy with how easy the Grant process was, and any dealings with ILEAS, and Axon Staff were all positive.”* – North Pekin PD Chief Dennis Minton

Regarding the training portion of the grant, all of the selected vendors (Force Science, Calibre Press, Autism 101, and AXON) have scheduled most of their classes with MTUs throughout the State. Dates and locations have been advertised through the ILEAS website and the local Mobile Training Units (MTU).

Lastly, the grant concludes its 3-year eligibility period on 30 June 2026. At this time, ILEAS staff anticipates and is preparing for the possibility that ICJIA wants to continue requesting and securing funds for this program. Should another Notice of Funding Opportunity be announced, our staff will prepare an application in hopes of continuing the very successful relationship between ILEAS and ICJIA. The governing board will be informed of any progress and have an chance to vote on this initiative.

**Requested Board Action:**

Information only. No action necessary at this time.

## **NARCAN Grant Update and Purchase**

On September 30, 2025 the long-term collaboration between the Illinois Department of Public Health and ILEAS to acquire and distribute NARCAN and other products to emergency service providers across the state came to an end. The program had long been primarily funded with federal grant dollars and supplemented at times using state dollars. Once the federal government elected to discontinue supporting this initiative, the program came to an end. Bill DeJarnette had built a network of connections with representatives at IDPH and IDHS so that when the state was able to identify and allocate funding to revitalize the NARCAN mission, they immediately reached out to Bill and ILEAS. A great deal of work went into finalizing a budget and agreeing to quantities of product and expectations but eventually an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) was drafted. A final draft was signed into effect on 27 February, 2026. The state has allocated **\$100,000.00** to see this program run from 1 January, 2026 thru 30 June, 2026 with the intended goal of again purchasing a quantity of NARCAN product along with Fentanyl test strips, leave behind kit supplies, shipping costs and salary. Feedback from IDPH indicates that there may be possibilities for additional funding and future collaboration. This may lead to periodic updates to this IGA which the board will be notified of. The included budget outline for planned expenditures has been reviewed and approved by IDPH personnel.

**Requested Board Action:**

Motion to approve the NARCAN grant program Intergovernmental Agreement with the Illinois Department of Public Health.