



ILEAS Issues Document

Governing Board Meeting

August 27, 2026

Legislative Efforts

In a recent email received from IEMA-OHS, it appears that FEMA is close to releasing the current hold placed on FFY25 funding.

While this is positive news, we must continue to work towards finding a funding source that is not solely reliant on state and federal funding year after year. Since its inception, ILEAS has primarily been supported through federal HSGP grants, with additional state money coming through Illinois' Preparedness and Response (PAR) grant beginning in 2019.

Our current efforts have gravitated towards supporting adjustments to the downstate 911 Surcharge that would allow financial support to not only ILEAS, but also the Illinois State Police and MABAS. Over the past months, our staff has worked very closely with our contact with the 911 dispatch group representing NENA/APCO, Bernie Lyons of MABAS, lobbyists for both organizations and had discussions with ISP Director Kelly. On 2 September, Bryant and I have been invited to attend the West Suburban Chiefs of Police Association meeting to discuss the current state of ILEAS and outline our future funding plans and ideas.

We are working very hard on this initiative and are optimistic about the future possibilities this may open up for statewide mutual aid as a whole.

Open Discussion:

Requested Board Action:

No motion is necessary. ILEAS staff wants to keep the Governing Board as up-to-date as possible and encourage continued support whenever the opportunity presents itself.

ILEAS FFY25/FFY26 Homeland Security Grant Budget Adjustment

At the time of this writing, federal FFY25 funds remain unavailable. However, on 19 August (last Wednesday) We received a positive email from IEMA-OHS announcing that the funding hold had been released except for Border/Elections. ILEAS does not factor into Illinois' application under these two categories. This will be a real boost for us, once it actually happens. Illinois has historically met the requirements outlined for Border Security and Elections through support of activities in the S.T.I.C. and Elections primarily by Dolt.

At the 25 June, 2026 Governing Board meeting, the board was presented with and approved the potential FY26 budget. This was prepared to go to IEMA-OHS as the ILEAS portion of the Homeland

Security Grant Program application budget. Recall that this figure was proposed BEFORE the actual NOFO had been released. As a result, there was always the possibility of adjusting the final numbers if necessary. This was our original submission to IEMA-OHS with the fifth column showing the amount of increase requested compared to FFY2025.

Grant	2026 SHSP	2026 UASI	2026 Total	\$ amt.	% Change
Statewide L.E. Mutual Aid Response (CAR)	\$ 477,689.00	\$ -	\$ 477,689.00	\$ -	
ILEAS Training	\$ 1,005,761.05	\$ -	\$ 1,005,761.05	\$ 99,585.26	10.99%
ILEAS Communications	\$ 412,378.95	\$ -	\$ 412,378.95	\$ 187,147.32	83.09%
ILEAS Planning	\$ 1,527,662.10	\$ -	\$ 1,527,662.10	\$ 226,040.15	17.37%
Special Teams ILEAS	\$ 1,496,919.37	\$ -	\$ 1,496,919.37	\$ 41,257.26	2.83%
Total	\$ 4,920,410.47	\$ -	\$ 4,920,410.47	\$ 554,029.99	12.69%

Not long after the June meeting, the federal government did indeed release the Homeland Security Grant Program NOFO showing an overall reduction of nearly **\$3,000,000** for Illinois. Additional meetings and discussions were held between HSAC and IEMA-OHS leaders and members resulting in a final approved FY26 ILEAS HSGP budget submission of **\$4,007,410**.

Grant	2026 HSGP Request	2026 HSGP Approved	\$ Amount	% Change
Statewide L.E. Mutual Aid Response (CAR)	\$477,689	\$477,689	\$0	
ILEAS Training	\$1,005,761	\$1,005,761	\$0	
ILEAS Communications	\$412,379	\$372,379	(\$40,000)	-9.7%
ILEAS Planning	\$1,527,662	\$857,662	(\$670,000)	-43.9%
Special Teams ILEAS	\$1,496,919	\$1,293,919	(\$203,000)	-13.6%
Total	\$4,920,410.47	\$4,007,410	(\$920,000)	-18.7%

Requested Board Action:

Staff request the board approve the adjusted federal FY26 budget amount of **\$4,007,410**.

FY27 PAR Grant Adjustment

Similar to the federal grant budget preparation outlined above, the members of the HSAC proposed and worked together to also present the full membership with a working FY27 PAR grant plan. Recall that during our last board meeting, we discussed the possibility of PAR grant funds having to be re-purposed to help supplement the continued operation of the mutual aid organizations should federal funding not be obtained in a timely manner. On the other hand, should that not be necessary, each committee was tasked with outlining their request to cover costs associated with operational needs and equipment as we have done each year in the past. Below is a chart that shows what staff presented for approval to the Governing Board at the June meeting compared to what the final recommendation for allocation that was approved by the HSAC full membership at the 22 July, 2026 meeting. There was a **\$216,000** reduction in our final approved request.

FY27 PAR ILEAS			
Project	Requested	Approved	Difference
ILEAS MFF Equipment Truck (2)	\$420,000.00	\$420,000	
ILEAS MFF Personnel Equipment	\$80,000.00	\$60,000	-\$20,000
ILEAS Bomb Suit Replacement (4)	\$175,000.00	\$90,000	-\$85,000
ILEAS Tactical Aerial Drones (3)	\$66,000.00	\$0	-\$66,000
ILEAS Operational Costs	\$70,000.00	\$70,000	
ILEAS IT Projects	\$20,000.00	\$20,000	
ILEAS Less Lethal Munitions	\$75,000.00	\$40,000	-\$35,000
ILEAS Special Team Veh Maint.	\$50,000.00	\$50,000	
ILEAS Training Center Equipment	\$40,000.00	\$30,000	-\$10,000
Special Teams Totals	\$996,000.00	\$780,000	-\$216,000
Communications Project	Requested	Approved	Difference
ILEAS Recurring Costs/Services	\$57,000.00	\$57,000.00	
ILEAS Starcom Subscription	\$132,000.00	\$132,000.00	
ILEAS PSAP/EMA Starcom 21	\$175,000.00	\$175,000.00	
ILEAS Special Teams Comms	\$155,000.00	\$155,000.00	
ILEAS Cache Radios	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	
ILEAS Comms Update/Maint.	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	
UCP/ITECS update & Maint	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	
Communications Totals	\$1,019,000	\$1,019,000	\$0
Special Teams Projects	\$996,000.00	\$780,000	-\$216,000
Communications Projects	\$1,019,000.00	\$1,019,000	
Total	\$2,015,000.00	\$1,799,000	-\$216,000

Requested Board Action:

Staff request Board approval of the adjusted State FY27 PAR grant allocation.

Mobile Field Force Trucks Purchase

Currently, it is the intention if ILEAS to withhold actually making any large purchases using PAR grant funding until ILEAS knows that a different funding source has been received. Nearly everything, with the exception of these vehicles, are “off the shelf” or easy to acquire with no fear of missing an expiration date. We have a window until approximately late September before we must decide whether we are going to purchase these highly specialized trucks or not. Otherwise, they will not be finished before the 30 June, 2027 deadline. My intent right now is to receive board approval to make this purchase and then wait to see if conditions change before actually starting the process.

Because of the enormous expense to try and replace all of the Mobile Field Force trucks at once, staff has been adding them to the ILEAS PAR budget two at a time. Earlier this year we took delivery of vehicles 6 and 7 and assigned them to awaiting teams. We are four vehicles away from project completion. Once again, Special Teams Manager Frost is requesting authorization to purchase two MFF trucks from LDV Custom Vehicles. Experience has shown that LDV produces a superior product and works very hard supplying the equipment ordered within the established deadlines. A quote for the vehicles is included in your packet with the cost estimated at **\$424,618.00**. In order to be cautious, staff is requesting approval to make this purchase at a cost not to exceed **\$450,000.00** to cover any yet unknown changes or expenses.

Requested Board Action:

Staff requests authorization to purchase two (2) Mobile Field Force vehicles from LDV Custom for a cost not to exceed **\$450,000**.

ICJIA Less Lethal Alternative for L.E. Grant

\$5 million in funding for the Less Lethal Alternatives grant was again appropriated by the Illinois State Legislature and signed by the Governor in the FY27 State Budget. ILEAS applied for, and was selected by ICJIA to continue administering the grant to law enforcement agencies across the State. This grant will focus on two objectives, providing less lethal devices (Tasers) to Illinois law enforcement agencies, and to also provide free quality, certified training for law enforcement officers in topics related to de-escalation tactics, use of force, and other less lethal alternatives.

As grant staff continue to work with ICJIA to finalize the contract documents, a new application has been created for interested and eligible agencies to complete when applying for the grant. Staff anticipates the opening of the application period to begin in the next few weeks.

With regards to the Taser awards, each agency will be able to request Taser 7 or Taser 10 package bundles consisting of the handle (device), holster, battery pack, cartridges and other accessory items. Additionally, ILEAS grant staff have put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking interested and qualified training vendors to provide the appropriate training classes to as many officers as possible from around the State. **\$400,000** of the Grant Budget has been earmarked specifically for training purposes.

Requested Board Action:

ILEAS staff requests authorization to contract for training, pursuant to the FY 2027 Request for Proposal (RFP): Less Lethal Alternatives for Law Enforcement Training, with one or more training providers, in excess of **\$100,000**, provided that the amount paid to any single vendor is not to exceed **\$150,000**.

NARCAN Grant Update and Purchase

At our last meeting, the board was informed of the history and current status of the relationship between ILEAS and IDPH. There was discussion about the possibility of IDPH wishing to enter into an agreement to provide ILEAS with **\$149,000** to continue the NARCAN grant program. These funds were received, and, due to an extension of the original agreement, ILEAS has until 30 June, 2027 to complete the program. This amount of money has allowed us to purchase products that were distributed at the recent state fair as well as aid in the salary costs for our staff.

The federal version of this program could potentially restart in September. The State of Illinois has applied for the federal grant, and ILEAS has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Illinois authorizing ILEAS to serve as the recipient of the federal funds. If awarded, the federal grant is expected to be approximately **\$300,000**.

The **\$149,000** in state funding will remain in place regardless of whether the federal funds become available. Staff intends to continue to work with state and possibly federal authorities on any future agreements that allow for the continuation of this initiative. Once new information is available, it will be presented to the board for future consideration.

Requested Board Action:

No action at this time.

ILEAS Software Replacement Project

For 20 plus years, Indilus Technology, LLC (Indilus), has provided ILEAS with customized legacy software to assist with the various missions of ILEAS. Their efforts included financial processes, agency databases, inventory tracking, among other tasks. The contract for their services was set to expire on June 30, 2026. A Request for Proposals was issued by ILEAS on May 5, 2026. Vendors were asked to submit written proposals to cover the various digital tasks that Indilus performed. Eight submissions were received by the deadline on June 9, 2026. Current provider Indilus did not submit a proposal.

An in-house committee of three ILEAS employees reviewed all eight of the submissions using the identified criteria:

- A. Technical Approach & Solution
- B. Experience & Qualifications
- C. Project Management & Support
- D. Pricing

The committee of three then pared the list of eight down to three semi-finalists after a meeting on July 20. The three finalists were:

- 1. Bluespark
- 2. Clarity
- 3. D2Soft

The in-house committee was reconfigured and increased to five ILEAS employees. Virtual interviews were then conducted via Teams with this ILEAS committee and all three of the above vendors. Interviews occurred during the week of August 3.

The ILEAS committee then met on August 13 to review notes and discuss the three vendors. During this meeting, the list was narrowed to two finalists, Bluespark and Clarity. Clarifying follow up questions were emailed to both vendors, and both companies responded.

On Monday, August 24, ILEAS staff, led by ILEAS I.T. Manager Derek Wetzel, met and concluded that Bluespark would be the preferred vendor. While many factors were considered, Bluespark seemed strongest in their technical connection and process improvement.

As ILEAS moves forward with negotiating a contract with the preferred vendor, Bluespark, ILEAS staff is asking for the authority to sign a contract with the new vendor. While Bluespark's annual estimated cost is approximately **\$375,000**, staff is asking for a "not to exceed" amount of **\$470,000**, the cost of the second-place vendor, Clarity. This step is asked for as a precautionary step in case ILEAS is unable to come to a final contract with Bluespark.

(Please note that ILEAS has budgeted approximately **\$660,000** for software/digital services in the current budget year, most coming from federal HSGP funds and some from ICJIA funds.)

Board action requested:

Staff requests authorization to enter into an agreement with Bluespark with the possibility of having to move on to Clarity at a cost not to exceed **\$470,000**.