SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) PROGRAM

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OKLAHOMA HOUSE BILL 2903
ENACTED JULY 2023
CREATED THE PILOT PROGRAM
KNOWN AS THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) PROGRAM
The Oklahoma State Department of Education shall establish and maintain a three-year pilot program known as the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program.

Each school district in the State of Oklahoma will receive approximately $96,000.00 per year for the next three years.

The $150 million used to fully fund the SRO Program were from unused funding from a prior fiscal year. The SRO Program is fully funded for three years.

The SRO Program is funded by House Bill 2904.
HOUSE BILL 2903 REQUIREMENTS

- Cannot use funds to pay for an existing SRO
- Not a retired LE Officer working an extra job or an armed security guard

- The SRO shall successfully complete the CLEET course, Law Enforcement Active Shooter Response Training

- In order to receive the money, your City needs to have an MOU/Agreement between your law enforcement agency and the school district
  - Spell out expectations and obligations
  - Include your municipal attorney in the process
QUALIFICATIONS FOR SRO

• SRO definition: “A law enforcement officer with sworn authority and training in school-based law enforcement and crisis response who is assigned by an employing law enforcement agency to work collaboratively with one or more schools using community-orientated policing concepts.”

• ONLY TWO TYPES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN OKLAHOMA

1) FULL TIME PEACE OFFICER
   - A person who is paid by a law enforcement agency to regularly work more than 25 hours per week enforcing local and state laws and ordinance.

2) RESERVE PEACE OFFICER
   - Can be paid or unpaid
   - Can only perform LE duties no more that 140 hrs. per month
LIMITATIONS ON HOW MONEY IS SPENT

Monies can only be spent on the following:

• Establishing and maintaining a SRO program
• Providing physical security enhancements for school including, but not limited to SROs, cameras, gates, lighting, locks, doors, windows, security geofencing, and ballistic storm shelters.
• For additional guidance of approved purchases, contact the Office of School Safety and Security; okcares@sde.ok.gov.
SRO HIRING ISSUES

School districts have proposed to hire the SRO and request that the Police Chief issue a law enforcement commission

• NOT RECOMMENDED
• YOUR COMMISSION = YOUR EMPLOYEE
• As an employee of the municipality, the municipality is legally liable for the actions of their employee within the scope of their employment
• The municipality wants to have authority over their employee; to supervise, train, discipline. Etc..
• The Police Chief makes the decision of who will work as the SRO
• SRO is at the school to enforce state and local law, not the school's policies and procedures. Outline expectations in the MOU
• School Districts can create their own police department; thus, they can hire employ and peace officer directly and issue a law enforcement commission.
FAQ: WITH MONEY FROM THE SRO PROGRAM:

Q: CAN A SCHOOL HIRE STAFF
A: NO. ONLY AN SRO

Q: CAN THE SCHOOL HIRE A SECURITY GUARD WHO IS A RETIRED LE
A: NO. SRO MUST BE EMPLOYED BY A LE AGENCY

Q: CAN FUNDS BE USED TO BUILD A SAFE ROOM
A: YES, A BALLISTIC STORM SHELTER IS AN APPROVED EXPENSE

Q: CAN A SCHOOL SPEND THE 3 YEAR ALLOCATION IN YEAR 1
A: NO. BUT YOU CAN ROLLOVER UNSPENT MONEY TO THE FOLLOWING YEAR. ALL MONIES MUST BE ENCUMBERED BY END OF YEAR 3

Q: CAN MONIES BE SPENT TO PURCHASE WEAPONS/AMMO/TASER/K9/POLICE VEHICLE
A: NO. BUT SCHOOL CAN PURCHASE BWCS and ATV to patrol the campus property

Q: CAN MONIES BE SPENT ON DRONES FOR SAFETY AT BIG EVENTS
A: YES, MUST HAVE FAA CERTIFIED PILOT