PROPOSAL: Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) Program

Background


Under this program, excess Department of Defense property or equipment that might otherwise be destroyed, may be conditionally transferred to participating law enforcement agencies across the United States and its Territories. No equipment is purchased for distribution. All items were Department of Defense excess equipment or had been held as part of reserve stocks until no longer needed. Since inception, the program has transferred over $7.6 billion worth of equipment. In Fiscal Year 2022, $160 million of equipment was conditionally transferred to participating law enforcement agencies.

Items requested via the program include clothing, office supplies, tools, rescue equipment, vehicles, and small arm weapons. Less than 2 percent of equipment transferred are small arm weapons and less than 1 percent are tactical vehicles. Currently, more than 8,800 law enforcement agencies have enrolled in the program.

WMU Public Safety has been a member of the 10-33 Program since 2011 but through President Biden’s Executive Order 14074, campus law enforcement agencies now must get approval from their governing board to continue with the program. In the 12 years of participating in this program, the department has procured items such as face shields for our riot helmets, protective eyeglasses, a commercial grade coffee maker, ammunition pouches, a generator, tools to repair and clean firearms, and a M14.308 rifle that was procured 12 years ago and never been deployed.

As part of threat preparedness and response, the department would continue to use the 10-33 Program to procure equipment to assist with the focused set of circumstances that it calls for. WMU is fortunate to have a department of outstanding personnel who are committed to our distinct accreditation standing and our community policing philosophy of engagement, education, and enforcement. The University will also continue to use the 10-33 Program to procure equipment that enhances those important policing initiatives.

Recommended Action

It is recommended the Board approve the request to continue facilitation of the 10-33 Program which allows WMU to procure equipment that enhances both our community policing initiatives and our response to active threats.