

## **Use of Force Committee Meeting**

### **30 March, 2018**

Prepared by James Park, Technology and Program Clerk

**Members Present:** Sheriff Donald Keeler, Corporal Michael Akerlind, Sergeant Eugene Duplissis, Sergeant Matthew Murano, Warden Russell Shopland, Corporal Raymond Lopes, Chief Robbie Blish, Wade Johnson – VT DOC

**Members Absent:** Officer Scott Fisher

**Academy Representatives:** Director of Administration Drew Bloom, Director of Training Cindy Taylor-Patch, Training Coordinator Jacob Hansell, Training Coordinator Kenneth Hawkins, Technology and Program Services James Park.

**Meeting called to order: 12:38 am**

#### **Old Business**

- None

#### **New Business**

##### **ISSUE 1: Election of new Chair and Vice Chair**

- Corporal Michael Akerlind took a moment recognize the substantial commitment **Addison County Sheriff Don Keeler** has given to the Use of Force Committee over the years, due to term limits Sherriff Keeler had to step down as Chair.
- Chief Blish introduced the idea of creating a Second Chair position which would be used to funnel people into new positions as term limits were reached. This topic was tabled for possible later discussion.
- Corporal Raymond Lopes nominated Corporal Michael Akerlind for the position of Chair.
  - Sergeant Matthew Murano seconded the motion.
  - **Motion Passed Unanimously**
- Sergeant Matthew Murano motioned for Warden Russell Shopland to assume the now vacant Vice Chair position.
  - Sergeant Eugene Duplissis seconded the motion.
  - **Motion Passed Unanimously**

##### **ISSUE 2: 2018 Meeting Schedule**

- Corporal Michael Akerlind asked the Committee to review the dates for the 2018 meetings.



- The Committee decided the current dates still worked.
- **No action taken**

### **Issue 3: Vermont-specific CEW Course**

- DOT Taylor-Patch asked the committee to review the Vermont-specific CEW course and either endorse it or offer suggestions.
- It was suggested that the States EMS policy on CEWs was reviewed.
  - Sergeant Eugene Duplissis entered a motion to endorse the course.
  - Motion seconded by Sergeant Matthew Murano.
  - **Motion Passed Unanimously**

### **ISSUE 4: Patrol Rifle Course**

- TC Hawkins spoke to the Committee about some confusion in the wording of the Patrol Rifle Course specifically if it was meant to be run on 35 or 25-yard course.
  - After a brief discussion it was agreed that the course was designed to be run on a 25-yard course but included instructions so that it could be run on a 35-yard course.
  - Sergeant Eugene Duplissis entered a motion to recommend to the Executive Director to remove mention of 35 yards from the course description to avoid confusion.
  - Warden Russell Shopland seconded the motion.
  - **Motion Passed Unanimously**
- During discussion of the Patrol Rifle Course, Warden Russell Shopland brought up the idea of allowing certified firearms instructors to qualify officers in use of a patrol rifle. He reported on the challenges faced by departments in getting patrol rifle instructors for a variety of reasons.
  - A lot of discussion followed surrounding courses offered, costs, location of training, etc., and it was decided that a working group would be created to investigate this issue.
  - Warden Russell Shopland, Corporal Raymond Lopes, Sergeant Eugene Duplissis were appointed to the working group.
  - **No Action Taken**

### **ISSUE 5: Level II Firearms Program**

- TC Hawkins spoke to the committee about the issues facing the Level II firearms program. The number of students requiring additional training in order to pass the qualification course is increasing, and due to personnel issues, the time and staffing needed for remedial training, the training process is becoming problematic.
  - Discussion ensued regarding training at the student's department, what is required via the pre-academy checklist and what the current training covers. It was ultimately decided that the language used in the pre-academy firearms checklist would be changed as a first step, enabling local firearms instructors to do more preparation training with their employees. The committee will review and discuss this in more detail at the next committee meeting.



- **No vote was needed.**

**ISSUE 6: Department of Corrections Firearms.**

- Topic was tabled for the next meeting as the Department of Corrections representative had to leave the meeting early. More information will be available at the next meeting.
  - **No action taken.**

**Meeting Adjourned: 2:40**

