



APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2016.** Please include this application form with electronic entry.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: _____

Program Title: _____

Program Category: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Title: _____

Department: _____

Complete Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Website: _____

Email: _____

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Roanoke County Criminal Justice Academy
Capital Improvement Project



The Roanoke County Criminal Justice Academy was established in 2007. The academy was originally housed in the Roanoke County Public Safety Center which was not designed for a training academy. The Roanoke County Criminal Justice Academy serves the Roanoke County Police Department, Roanoke County Sheriff’s Office, the Western Virginia Regional Jail and the Roanoke County Emergency Communications Center. These agencies combined, total more than 450 officers who receive training through the academy.

The challenges for the academy were the utilization of one large classroom and one small classroom to conduct training for basic and in-service classes. The large classroom would hold 60 people and the small classroom would hold only 12 people. The academy on average would hold four basic recruit classes over the course of a year and several in-service classes. At times, the recruit classes would be more than 12 recruits which caused a major scheduling conflict. The basic recruit classes would, a majority of the time, run concurrently which caused the academy recruits to be shifted from their assigned classroom to other classrooms on- or off-site from the academy to receive the required training. Another challenge was in the scheduling of in-service classes while the basic recruit classes were in session. With limited classroom space, the academy was restricted on how many in-service classes could be scheduled. Another challenge was lack of space for physical hands-on training. The Public Safety Center had no gym for this type of training, so the training had to be done in the classroom or at an off-site location.

Throughout the years, the academy had looked at several different options for space to include new construction and remodeling existing buildings. In 2012, Roanoke County conducted a feasibility study to co-locate the Roanoke County Criminal Justice Academy with the Roanoke Police Academy. The Roanoke Police Academy was a new building that had been open only for a couple of years. The Roanoke Police Academy contains a full size gym, water training tank, training simulators and several classrooms. By co-locating with the Roanoke Police Academy, the County would enter into a sharing agreement for the gym, training simulators and training tank. By doing this, it would avoid having to use Roanoke County tax payer dollars to build these additional necessary items. The study concluded with an expansion of an 8,400 square foot addition to the Roanoke Police Academy. The addition would include three extra classrooms, locker rooms, weight training room and office space for the Roanoke County staff.

The proposal was brought before the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors and the Roanoke City Council and they both voted in favor for the relocation of the Roanoke County Criminal Justice Academy to the Roanoke Police Academy. The total project cost of \$3.18 million was primarily funded by the Roanoke County Police Asset Forfeiture Fund, with Roanoke City contributing \$250,000 for the expansion of a parking lot.

During the construction project, a committee to include representatives from Roanoke County, Roanoke City and general contractor Howard Shockey and Sons was established to oversee the construction project. This committee met every other week throughout the

duration of the project. The construction project started in April, 2014 and was completed in December, 2014.

By co-locating the Roanoke County Criminal Justice Academy with the Roanoke City Police Academy, both academies have been able to share resources in several different ways. The first to mention is, together, instructing a basic law enforcement recruit class. Joining the recruit classes has allowed for both agencies to share instructors and facilities which has reduced the number of instructors needed so that those officers can perform their regularly assigned duties. The first joint class graduated together in December, 2014 and three have been held since then. The second is the sharing of classroom space. With the Roanoke County addition, a total of seven classrooms are available for both academies. If one academy overbooks on classroom space, the other academy has space available so that classes do not have to be postponed or canceled. This scenario has occurred and the soon-to-be-canceled classes were accommodated by the other academy.

By co-locating the two academies, both government agencies now have the ability to share resources which has had a positive impact on their financial budgets.

Short Overview

The Roanoke County Criminal Justice Academy facility construction is a unique cooperative project between Roanoke County and the City of Roanoke. The facility is an addition to the Roanoke City Police Academy, but the addition is owned by Roanoke County. By co-locating the facilities, the two jurisdictions have been able to jointly train in many areas, increasing efficiency and rapport among agencies.

The Roanoke County Criminal Justice Academy is jointly operated by the Roanoke County Police Department and the Roanoke County Sheriff’s Department and also trains the staff of the Western Virginia Regional Jail and the Roanoke County Emergency Communications Center.

The 8,400 square foot addition includes three classrooms with 80 seats, locker rooms, a fitness room, and offices for the staff. The total project cost of \$3.18 million was primarily funded by asset forfeiture funds of the Roanoke County Police Department, with the City of Roanoke contributing \$250,000 for expanded parking.

The first joint class graduated together in December, 2014 and three have been held since then.

Brief Summary

For many years the Roanoke County Criminal Justice Academy operated with inadequate space, utilizing two classrooms within the Public Safety Center to conduct training for basic and in-service classes. The academy serves four Roanoke County agencies, totaling more than 450 officers who receive required training.

In 2012, Roanoke County and Roanoke City agreed to co-locate the Roanoke County Criminal Justice Academy with the existing Roanoke Police Academy. The partnership would mean sharing of space, instructors and resources.

“This project represents a unique cooperative partnership between the two localities,” said Roanoke County Police Chief Howard Hall. “By co-locating the facilities, the two jurisdictions have been able to jointly train in many areas, increasing efficiency and rapport among agencies.”

The 8,400 square foot addition includes three classrooms with 80 seats, locker rooms, a fitness room, and offices for the staff. The total project cost of \$3.18 million is primarily funded through federal and state asset forfeiture funds, with Roanoke City contributing \$250,000 for expanded parking.

Work to start on Roanoke County's wing of police academy

Posted: Tuesday, March 4, 2014 8:22 pm

It turns out crime does pay.

Area law enforcement leaders are set to break ground Thursday on a two-story expansion to the Roanoke Police Academy that will make room for Roanoke County officers, deputies and jailers to train alongside their city colleagues.

The bulk of the money for the new wing comes from a 2007 Department of Justice settlement with ITT Night Vision after the Roanoke County company admitted to sharing classified information with its partners in foreign countries.

ITT, now known as Exelis, pleaded guilty to two felonies and paid a \$100 million penalty. Roughly \$2.8 million of that went to the county with the requirement that it be used for law enforcement in the region.

“The end result is it's building us an academy,” said Roanoke County Police Chief Howard Hall.

Hall is excited about the new 8,300-square-foot wing, which will be built onto the existing city academy off Peters Creek Road, near the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport.

He has good reason. County officials started their own training academy in 2007 after growing too big for the Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy in Salem. Cardinal operates a training center for local law enforcement agencies, but county leaders at the time felt it would be more efficient to separate.

The Roanoke County academy holds classes for the county's police officers, sheriff's deputies and, since 2009, jailers at the Western Virginia Regional Jail.

The county moved its classes into the locality's public safety center on Cove Road in 2007. But that space wasn't designed to be a training facility, and for the past half-decade, law enforcement officers have trained in small classrooms, often being forced to seek other locations for the more technical aspects of their learning.

They have no gymnasium, no training pool and no driving or firearms simulator. When those aspects of training have come up during class, academy leaders have taken recruits to local gyms or the county's Green Ridge Recreation Center.

There was talk of creating a “super academy” that would bring Roanoke city and county training together under one roof. That never happened, though, and in 2010, the city police department finished its own new \$5.5 million center on Barnes Avenue.

That modern facility does have a gym, a training pool and simulators. County leaders will gain access to those resources by building on to the structure.

Hall said the academies aren't merging, merely sharing space.

“What we're looking to do is combine where we can merge our training programs to be more efficient with our resources,” he said.

The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice, for example, requires 18 weeks of mandatory training for all police officers, curriculum that's standard wherever an officer takes it. Under the new model, county recruits and their city counterparts will train together for that portion, splitting off later for locality-specific training. County officers, for example, carry Tasers. City officers don't.

About \$2.3 million for the new two-story addition comes from funds remaining from the ITT settlement, according to county figures. An additional \$324,000 or so will come from the county's minor capital reserve fund.

The city is contributing \$250,000 from its capital improvement fund to build additional parking, said Assistant City Manager Sherman Stovall. The contractor selected for the job — Howard Shockey and Sons — will also pay a \$13,500 fee for being selected through the state Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act.

The contractor is the same company that built the city's existing academy, said Travis Hall, a project engineer with the company.

Chief Hall said the intangible benefit of having county and city recruits learn together shouldn't be overlooked.

“While you'd never put a dollar figure on it — and it's probably not something you can measure — you can almost bet if those folks are called to work together on a critical incident, they'll be in a better position to do it,” he said.

Lt. Mike Williams, the county academy's director, said he's most excited to get more space.

“That's the big thing,” he said.

The current setup at the county's public safety center allows for fewer than 75 seats in cramped classrooms. The new construction will mean three dedicated classrooms in the county's wing, with an agreement that they can share the four classrooms already built for the city.

At a meeting in October, Roanoke County Supervisor Butch Church hailed the addition as “a giant step forward.”

Hall said he was happy to put the funds from the DOJ's settlement to good use.

“It's an excellent way for us to use that money,” he said. “This facility is going to be around for many, many years, and ultimately the taxpayers of Roanoke County would have had to fund an academy for us at some point anyway.”

Roanoke, Roanoke County police recruits graduate from academies

By Amy Friedenberger amy.friedenberger@roanoke.com 981-3356 | Posted: Friday, December 19, 2014 6:02 pm

Roanoke County Police Chief Howard Hall delivered a clear message to the Roanoke and Roanoke County police recruits graduating from their training academies Friday: Stay safe and uphold the integrity of their departments.

“The mistakes of one officer can paint all the officers in a bad light,” Hall said. “I think we’re seeing that vividly these days.”

The two police classes of 21 individuals, all of whom may begin working solo in three months, join the force at a time of heightened awareness of police brutality, as demonstrations continue across the nation. Since they began training 24 weeks ago, the killings of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, Eric Garner in New York City and subsequent grand jury decisions not to indict police officers in those deaths has sparked widespread unrest.

Hall reminded the officers that polls show the majority of the public respects the work police do, but that they must work hard to build and maintain trust.

The graduation ceremony’s guest speaker, Radford criminal justice professor Isaac Van Patten, said that trust is sacred, and it only exists with the tacit approval of the people that the officers police. And right now, he said, with protests following the events in Ferguson, New York and Cleveland — where 12-year-old Tamir Rice was shot and killed by an officer — there is little public forgiveness for those who don’t uphold their profession’s integrity.

“To do your job effectively, you need — as an individual officer — to work to gain the public trust and defer to your authority,” he said.

“More than once you’ll question whether it’s working and whether it’s worth it. It is working, and it is worth it.”



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Officer Morgan Crawford, 28, Class President, a graduate of Georgetown University, made his remarks at Friday’s Roanoke and Roanoke County Police recruit graduation ceremony.

Friday's badge-pinning was the first time the Roanoke and Roanoke County Police Departments combined their graduation ceremonies.

Both police departments have been working more in the past year to establish a better relationship with the goal of improving policing.

"Criminals don't think about jurisdictions, so we shouldn't think about jurisdictions," Roanoke Police Chief Chris Perkins said after the ceremony.

The 68th recruit class for the Roanoke police started and ended with 13 individuals.

The group that graduated Friday included nine women, including one Asian woman, and a black man and Hispanic man. The rest of the class was white males.

The 14-29 recruit class graduating from the Roanoke County Criminal Justice Academy saw eight recruits through to the end.

There were three women included in the class, and all eight officers were white. Two white men working for the Roanoke County Sheriff's Office completed the Roanoke County Criminal Justice Academy law enforcement option.

As of August, 215 of Roanoke city's 249 sworn officers were white, and 38 were women. Of Roanoke County's 137 sworn officers in that same month, 129 were white and 21 were women.

Among the eight new Roanoke County police recruits was Christian Mason, son of Roanoke County Assistant Police Chief Chuck Mason.

Christian Mason was honored for having the highest GPA, an achievement his father was proud to hear. Mason said he wanted to be a Roanoke County police officer for many reasons, including his ability to give back to the community where he grew up.

"When you really get to help somebody, that's a good day," he said.