

A.U.FIRE De-Escalation Grant Application

(DRAFT Narrative)

Building Community Confidence in Law Enforcement and Preserving Lives: A De-Escalation Training Initiative for [City Name] PD

Building trust and safety requires more than just a badge in today's complex world. It demands innovative approaches to de-escalation and conflict resolution. The [City Name] Police Department recognizes this imperative and is seeking funding from the DOJ COPS De-Escalation Grant to establish a cutting-edge training program focused on equipping officers with the skills and tools necessary to navigate high-pressure situations with clarity, confidence, and de-escalation at the forefront.

Our Problem:

While traditional training offers basic use-of-force guidelines, it often falls short in preparing officers for the nuanced dynamics of real-world encounters and heightened levels of personal stress they will be subjected to, particularly those situations involving mental health crises and volatile individuals. Lack of experience and confidence in this gap can lead to unnecessary escalation and tragic consequences for officers and citizens.

Our Solution: A Three-Pronged Approach to Effective De-Escalation

The [City Name] PD De-Escalation Training Initiative proposes a comprehensive program built on three pillars designed to equip officers with the skills, experiences, and confidence to navigate high-pressure situations with clarity and control:

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1. Immersive Scenario Training:

Officers will sharpen their decision-making and refine de-escalation skills through participation in highly realistic training scenarios within the state-of-the-art ([MILO Range Theater 180](#) or [other Interactive Simulator](#)) This cutting-edge, widely accepted interactive video simulator system allows for customized reality-based training to reflect specific community concerns and departmental policies, ensuring direct relevance and maximum effectiveness in real-world encounters.

2. Enhanced Stress Resilience through A.U.FIRE Experience Training

The A.U.FIRE (Accuracy Under Fire) system represents a groundbreaking law enforcement training technology advancement. Uniquely versatile, it integrates seamlessly with indoor interactive video simulation systems and dynamic outdoor force-on-force training scenarios using training ammunition.

Mirroring the efficacy of flight simulators in pilot training, A.U.FIRE revolutionizes stress inoculation training for law enforcement officers. This system allows officers to rehearse highly challenging scenarios, akin to how pilots train for emergency situations. Such training reduces fear and panic and ensures that officers are mentally prepared for real-life incidents. By simulating intense, worst-case situations, A.U.FIRE fosters a level of preparedness and confidence in officers comparable to that of commercial airline pilots. This ensures that law enforcement personnel can think clearly, respond effectively in critical, high-pressure situations, and make judicious measured decisions when lives are at stake.

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A.U.FIRE employs innovative wearable technology that utilizes Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS), known for its safety and effectiveness in medical and physical therapy settings; it is equally effective in simulating realistic injuries through instant muscle contraction. This high-fidelity simulation replicates an adrenaline surge's physiological and psychological impacts and the consequences of instant injury, such as a gunshot wound or knife cut, of the impact of blunt force trauma, providing a comprehensive and immersive training experience.

A key aspect of A.U.FIRE is its ability to mimic the immediate physical effects of an injury and induce a stress response similar to that experienced in actual high-tension encounters. This immersive training allows officers to adapt to high-pressure situations and practice maintaining composure and clear thinking under intense stress.

The primary objective of A.U.FIRE is to enhance officers' stress resilience. Exposing them to controlled, realistic stressors in a training environment significantly reduces the fear and confusion typically associated with high-stress incidents.

This advanced training approach builds confidence, equipping officers with the skills to manage stress effectively. As a result, officers develop greater composure under stress, opening up headspace to rapidly identify de-escalation opportunities and employ strategies in critical situations, potentially saving lives and ensuring better outcomes in law enforcement encounters.

Incorporating A.U.FIRE into law enforcement training programs is a new and significant step forward in preparing officers for the unpredictable nature of their duties. This technology bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application, reinforcing an officer's ability to act decisively and judiciously in adverse situations.

Enhancing the stress resilience of law enforcement personnel, A.U.FIRE significantly contributes to the safety and effectiveness of officers, ultimately benefiting the community at large.

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3. Community Engagement and Outreach:

Recognizing the importance of community trust, the program will offer limited access to training scenarios for citizen groups, fostering empathy and understanding between officers and the public they serve. This unique opportunity allows both parties to gain valuable insights into each other's perspectives, bridging the gap and strengthening relationships. Additionally, we will develop educational materials and host community events to promote awareness of de-escalation techniques and mental health resources, further solidifying a collaborative approach to safety and well-being. This three-pronged approach equips officers with the skills and confidence to navigate challenging situations, promote community trust, and, ultimately, create a safer environment for all.

Impact and Sustainability:

- **Reduced Use of Force:** By equipping officers with effective de-escalation skills and resilience under stress, the program aims to significantly reduce force incidents, enhancing officer and public safety.
- **Increased Community Trust:** Openness and transparency through community engagement foster trust and understanding, strengthening the relationship between the [City Name] PD and the citizens it serves.
- **Model for Regional Training:** With its comprehensive approach and cutting-edge technology, the program stands as a model for regional de-escalation training, potentially attracting neighboring agencies and expanding its impact.

Investment in this program is an investment in building a safer and more just community. By empowering officers with the skills and confidence to de-escalate and navigate challenging situations, we can forge stronger relationships with the public and ensure a future where trust and safety prevail.