



NORTHEAST ARIZONA TRAINING CENTER JAKE FLAKE EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTITUTE

“Training Emergency Professionals for Public Service”

Congressionally Directed Spending Request-

First Responder Driving Track Repair in Rural Northeastern Arizona

The purpose of this \$900,000 request for Congressionally Directed Spending through the USDA Rural Development – Community Facilities Grant is to obtain sufficient funding to repair a vital resource necessary to continue training first responders (police, fire, and EMT) to drive in specialized vehicles during emergency situations. Repair of the driving track is part of the master facilities plan for the Northeast Arizona Training Center (NATC), and was developed and approved by the NATC board and partners, including 22 public safety agencies across Navajo and Apache Counties. The exponential increase in the cost of construction has rendered the achievement of the master facilities plan, which is critical to meeting local education and training needs and to building capacity for all NATC partners, prohibitively expensive. Without congressional assistance, we are forced to scale back and scale down, compromising training services for agencies across rural Arizona who rely on NATC.

The Northeast Arizona Training Center (NATC)/Jake Flake Emergency Services Institute, 501(c) 3 was founded in 2004 to support its mission “Training Emergency Professionals for Public Service”, by providing a regional facility for the preservice preparation of public safety professionals, including law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency medical technician personnel, and to provide for the ongoing training and recertification of these professionals. The NATC partnership is comprised of five key stakeholders, Navajo County Community College District dba Northland Pioneer College (NPC- education provider), the Town of Taylor, Arizona (provider of the land for the NATC facility), the Navajo County Board of Supervisors, the Northern Arizona Police Association (NAPA) and the Northeastern Arizona Fire Chiefs Association (NAFCA), and represents 22 public-safety (law enforcement and fire) agencies across Navajo and Apache counties. Northland Pioneer College, the only comprehensive community college serving the two-county area, operates NATC on the Taylor site, in addition to programs for certification in Fire Science including Wildland and Urban Interface and Law Enforcement training. All partner agencies pay annual dues to use the facility for ongoing instruction and training, utilizing its driving track, burn building, flashover chamber, shooting range and meeting/classroom facilities. Additional outside agencies pay user fees to access these resources. These membership fees and user fees generate revenue for maintenance and upkeep.

In recent years, NATC has graduated 139 regional officers who are all employed by law enforcement agencies primarily within Navajo and Apache Counties and eastern Arizona. NATC has trained 678 firefighters that supply regional fire agencies with certified structural and wildland firefighting personnel. The Jake Flake Emergency Institute provides workforce continuing education opportunities for law enforcement, firefighting, and emergency medical technicians on a weekly basis.

The Town of Taylor, in partnership with Abitibi Consolidated, a paper mill (now closed) that

operated near Taylor, provided the land for the NATC facility. In 2005 Northland Pioneer College, by District Governing Board (DGB) action, entered into an MOU with NATC for the construction of the burn tower at the proposed training facility. NPC made a commitment to be the educational provider of the facility, and the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board (AZPOST) facilitated the initial construction of the driving track. Since that time, NATC has added classroom space, temporary housing for cadets, and training simulators, made possible through funding from NPC and the Arizona State Legislature.

The current NATC Board consists of three voting members, all appointed by the NPC DGB. Representatives from Navajo County, the Town of Taylor, NAFCA, and NAPA serve as a non-voting advisory council. All stakeholders are provided with a Standard Operating Guide (SOG), revised and board approved regularly that outlines the procedures for use of the facilities. The NATC Director, employed through NPC, oversees the scheduling and management of all aspects of the facility.

Funds will be used at the NATC training facility to repair the 209,055 square-foot driving track in Taylor Arizona. Without this repair the facility risks losing it's status with AZPOST to train drivers and rural agencies will have to rely on training resources in urban areas several hours away. The total cost of the repair work is based on the current rate of \$5.32/square foot plus taxes, as quoted by Hatch Industries, for a total of \$1,200,000.00. The 25% match, totaling \$300,000.00 will be provided by NATC, Northland Pioneer College, and the regional NATC stakeholders committed to the project.

(See maps below: rural northeast Arizona service area, NATC layout and driving track)

