



Wichita Organization Provides Law Enforcement Survival Training

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Law enforcement officers receive plenty of training before they are on the job. That training continues throughout most of their careers.

Training is how some Kansas law enforcement officers spent their Saturday.

"Things happen fast out there," said Mike Willis, President and National Training director of Wichita-based Blue Line Survival training.

Things happening fast are exactly why Willis and other trainers with the non-profit Blue Line want law enforcement officers to be trained in hand-to-hand combat.

"Law enforcement officers get firearms training, they get baton and handcuff training," Willis said. "Most departments don't have time to deal with the hand-to-hand element and that's what we're dealing with."

Officers nationwide are trained by Blue Line. Willis said the idea is for officers to pick up skills they can pass on to other officers in their departments.

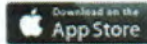
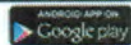


"It's officer survival skills, not always necessarily a dominating situation," Willis explained. "Protecting their weapon, controlling people on the ground, getting people in custody and basically not getting hurt out there."

Willis also says officers cannot always avoid having to use deadly force to protect themselves and others, but no officer want point.

"We definitely want to show them options that could help them control situations without having to go to a higher level of force," he said. "This might be something that gives them a chance to get some reactionary gap to protect themselves."



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