



Sheriff Walt McNeil

LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

HONESTY & INTEGRITY ACCOUNTABILITY TEAMWORK TRUST & RESPECT COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

March 13, 2020

Shelly Bell, Director
Lively Technical Center
500 Appleyard Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32304

Dear Ms. Bell:

The Leon County Sheriff's Office has operated aircraft continually since 1974, in support of law enforcement and emergency response operations in the Tallahassee area. In support of our flight operations, routine maintenance and avionics; work is performed in house by aviation maintenance professionals. Due to the dynamic nature of our daily operations, having airframe and power plant mechanics with inspection authorization on staff is essential to maximize availability of our aircraft. Finding qualified mechanics in the Tallahassee area has always been problematic; especially mechanics who have training and experience in avionics and advanced electronic systems. The electronics carried as standard equipment on most aircraft today, is vastly more complicated than ten or fifteen years ago.

We have in the past hired graduates from the Lively Aviation Maintenance Tech Program. We would likely consider hiring graduates in the future, especially graduates who have a strong knowledge base in advanced aircraft systems and avionics. My hope is that the Aviation Maintenance Tech Program, can add more instruction on technically advanced aircraft and electronic systems. Therefore, we can continue giving graduates a chance to advance their careers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter McNeil".

Walter McNeil
Sheriff of Leon County

cc: Captain Lee Majors, Aviation

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Working together to make Leon County safer