



## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

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**TO:** Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager  
**FROM:** Brett Soukup, Airport Manager  
**DATE OF MEETING:** June 3, 2024  
**ITEM TITLE:** Department Report – Airport

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### Fuel Sales Update

- 100LL –1,125 gal
- Jet A –1,286 gal.

### Grounds:

- Mowing in between all the rain.
- Light bulb replacement on the airfield.

### Equipment:

- We had to get new blades for the big Land Pride mower.

### Miscellaneous:

- The DOT came out and did their every 3-year inspection everything went well. In the off years, the City is responsible for doing the inspection on its own and sending it to the state for review.
- The Police Department, Fire Department, and Building Department all got together and did T-hanger inspections. There were no major problems this year. There were a handful of different items in the main terminal building that the Fire Chief and I discussed and there was an email sent out to P&N with the issues that need to be addressed. Thank you to all of them for their help with the inspections.
- The City and P&N went to the Independence High School for the Career Fair. This is the second time that we have been invited to attend this event.
- Also attached is a flyer for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Fly-In event – please consider coming out to the Airport to support this event.

**P&N Flight School** is now an approved Flight School/Provider for: the Army and Air Force Cool programs. This allows active and enlisted soldiers and cadets to use their Credentialing funds for flight training.

This is a HUGE win for P&N and the airports we are located at. This will undoubtedly bring new traffic to the Independence Airport, and we are proud to offer this service to the soldiers/cadets who serve our country!

Note: We are one of the few, if not the only Flight School in Eastern Iowa that can provide flight training via Army and Air Force Cool. Without this program, soldiers are limited to Part 141 schools and the GI Bill, which have much higher costs and longer timelines associated and is not feasible for many of them. (Army and Air Force Cool includes not only the Army and Air Force but also the National Guard, Air Guard, and their Reservists) We already have three students at P&N who will qualify for this funding who were previously paying out of pocket. Once we advertise we expect an influx of enrollment. We will be able to offer all the same services to these soldiers/cadets that we offer to civilians. That covers all ratings from Private Pilot to Airline Transport Pilot

in airplane, and Private Pilot to Commercial in Rotorcraft. Plus, everything in between like Complex and Multi-Engine addons.

#### **Army Cool:**

If you are Active Duty Army, Army Reserve, or National Guard personnel, you may be eligible for up to \$4,000/yr. of financial assistance from the Army Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) service, this program is designed to provide assistance in earning certifications and licenses to help augment your skills in the Army, prepare for advancement opportunities, as well as help transition into civilian careers.

#### **Air Force Cool:**

The (AFCOOL) program is available to all enlisted members of the Regular Air Force, United States Space Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard. AFCOOL provides a lifetime allowance of up to \$4,500 to obtain certifications, which includes flight training.

Previously it was communicated that certain Veterans or retired soldiers could also use COOL, but I have since learned that information was from an outdated source and is not the case currently. Veterans and retirees must still use the GI Bill, which cannot be used at Part 61 flight schools like P&N. The updated onboarding materials I received now state only Active duty or Enlisted Soldiers/cadets are eligible. If anything changes with the GI bill or they expand who is eligible in the future, we will be the first to know as a COOL provider. We know that there are many grumblings about the current GI Bill school types they can use, and some are pushing to expand offerings to more school types, especially for flight training. If that does happen in the future, we will already be an established provider. This was a year-long process, and likely why we are one of few able to offer flight training benefits to soldiers/cadets. We knew this was an important effort to undertake to serve our community and to serve those who serve our country!

Exciting times,  
P&N Flight School.