Dear Chief/Sheriff:

All recruits attending the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy will be required to purchase an Academy uniform package prior to attending the Academy. The recruits can order their package at the Power Test and it will be delivered in the first week of the class.

The recruit package will be supplied by Special T Unlimited, 4835 W. Butterfield Road, Hillside, IL 60162. They can be contacted at (708) 449-5550 regarding any questions. The cost of the recruit package is $210.00. All payments should be made as checks directly from the police department payable to Special T Unlimited. If a different form of payment would be preferred, please contact Carli Baldo at (708) 449-5550 or carlibaldo@stusales.com

The recruit package will display the Academy logo on all items and include the following:

- 4 Grey Academy Polo Shirts
- 1 Grey Sweatshirt
- 1 Pair Black Sweatpants
- 3 Grey T-shirts
- 2 Pair Black Gym Shorts
- 1 Black SLEA Baseball Hat

Additionally, we strongly urge each recruit to purchase two (2) pair of black or navy blue BDU (cargo) style utility pants to be utilized for all practical training sessions. This is a preventative measure to avoid damage to the Docker style or parent agency pants required for classroom uniform apparel. These pants would also provide additional utility for future training sessions or tactical operations after graduation from the Academy.

We also recommend the recruits purchase a pair of inexpensive wrestling shoes for use in the mat room for Control and Arrest Tactics to minimize the potential for knee and ankle injuries. Aggressive sole tread patterns on most athletic shoes grip the surface of the mat and inhibit flexibility for sudden movement during execution of many defensive tactics maneuvers.

Basic tactical body movements require planting feet in a designated position but the follow-through techniques often require turning movements. This is when injuries sometimes occur since their feet remain fixed in the original position and joints are stressed beyond normal limits. Wrestling shoes are constructed to allow better flexibility on mat surfaces and thereby minimize injuries.
We formerly suggested the use of athletic shoes with well-worn soles to decrease the “gripping” factor. However, we have noted a significant decrease in sprains and other related injuries since implementing the use of wrestling shoes.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Academy at 630-942-2677.