



Photo by Steve Boerner
Ray Coffey, UNL assistant manager of business and finance

Campus police budget includes parking fines

No matter what irate students may think, UNL Campus Police are not out to make money by giving parking tickets, according to Ray Coffey, assistant manager of business and finance.

The budget for Campus Police this year is \$354,066, for security and traffic account and \$148,802 for the parking account. Coffey said \$132,200 of the parking budget is cash income from parking fees, fines and meter collections.

The graduated scale of fines for parking violations was determined several years ago by the parking advisory board, and the now scale is being studied by the parking coordinator, he said.

"The way the state looks at it, the user pays for the services," he said. "Parking permits and tickets are our source of revenue. The revenue pays the parking salaries, with the balance going to maintenance, repairs, decal purchases, printing costs and parking improvements."

Rates raised

The need for additional space and improvements raised the parking registration rate from \$15 to \$25, Coffey said.

"We resurfaced lots in the Harper and Abel Hall areas, and also added parking space on East Campus for the law school," Coffey said. "We began these improvements before we raised the rate by \$10. There was no way to provide these services without raising the rate."

Improvements in the parking lot directly west of the union were undertaken by the UNL grounds crew, he added.

The Campus Police budget is part of the budget of the UNL physical plant, Coffey said, and is basically determined by the governor and the Legislature.

Work well

The salaries of the 51 Campus Police employees also are determined by the legislative action, he said. Currently these are 36 full-time positions in the traffic and security division and 15 employees in the parking division.

"By and large, it is a credit to those who are working," Coffey said. "The salaries are in the lower half in general comparison to other universities, yet their performance is greater than or equal to those at other schools who are getting paid more," he said.

As state employees, UNL Campus Police would benefit by the proposal to raise state employees salaries by \$468, plus an additional five per cent cost of living raise. Coffey said the current salaries of campus policemen are below those of the Lincoln Police Department.

Campus policemen who receive training at the Grand Island Law Enforcement Training Center do so on scholarships, which do not cost the university anything, Coffey said. However, the police are paid while they are at the training sessions.

"You have to remember this is more than just a night watchman force," he said. "In effect, this is the third or fourth largest police force in the state."



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