

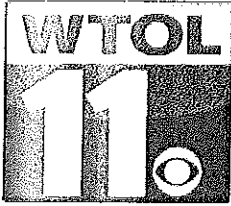
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These are some news articles that explain what and when we asked for personnel in the past.

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Williams Co Sheriff asking for two new deputies

Published: Friday, November 14th 2014, 1:47 am EDT
Updated: Friday, November 14th 2014, 1:47 am EDT

Posted by Abby Bryson, Digital Content Producer [CONNECT](#)

WILLIAMS COUNTY, OH (Toledo News Now) - The Williams County Sheriff's Office in Bryan is still trying to deal with cuts from a few years back. Now they are looking to add at least two new deputies to their force.

Williams County Sheriff Steven Towns says this is something that would help better serve the county as a whole.

"Laid off seven people and one clerk and we've never really regained any of those positions," said Towns.

Those eight people were lost from the Williams County Sheriff's Office back in 2009. Sheriff Towns says he has 12 deputies and three clerks serving the 38,000 residents of the county.

He says since there's been a 25 percent increase in calls over the last year, he's hoping the Williams County Commissioners will give him the two new deputies he is asking for.

"Tough budget decisions, they've got their job to do and I guess if I wasn't asking I wouldn't be doing my job," said Towns. "I mean obviously we feel there's a significant need and I think we can show there's a significant need."

The sheriff should know within the next few weeks if they've been approved by the commissioners to add at least two new deputies to their department.

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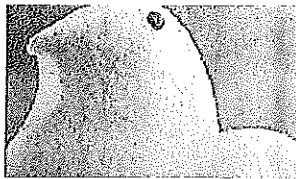
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RECOMMENDED STORIES



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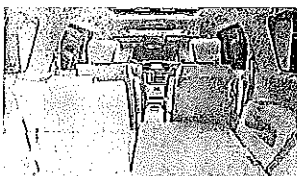
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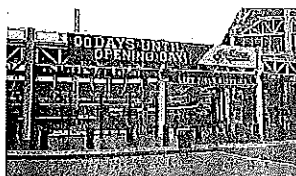
Several Toledo bars in danger of losing liquor licenses



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WE RECOMMEND

Sheriff requests three new deputies

By RON OSBURN Times Reporter | Posted: Tuesday, November 4, 2014 4:00 am

Staffing levels at the Williams County Sheriff's Office are so thin "it is right on the edge of dangerous," Sheriff's Administrative Officer/Bailiff Rex Lawrence told the county commissioners Monday.

Williams County Sheriff Steve Towns, Lawrence and sheriff's office administrative assistant Stacy DeMara appeared before the commissioners to request funding to hire three new deputies. In a letter to commissioners, Towns said if hired, the new deputies would each earn \$18.07 per hour.

"The Sheriff's Office is attempting to provide service with considerably lower staffing levels of that (of) comparable surrounding sheriff(s) offices. Low staff levels have made scheduling for training, vacations and earned days off extremely difficult and sometimes impossible," Towns' letter said.

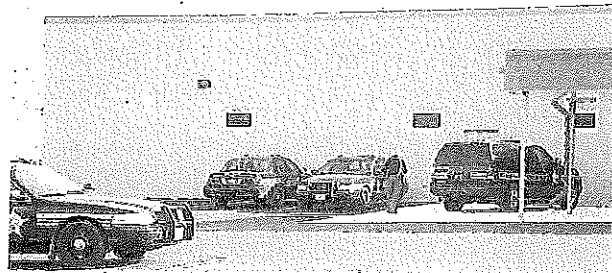
Towns and Lawrence said the Sheriff's Office suffered staffing cuts in 2009, in the wake of the 2008 recession, and adding three deputies would get them part of the way back to those staffing levels. The Sheriff's Office is down to 14 deputies from 22 in 2009.

Meanwhile, calls have increased 25 percent this year over last year, much of it due to the explosion in drug cases, specifically methamphetamine and heroin, Lawrence said.

Generally, two deputies per shift each work an eight-hour shift patrolling Williams County's 460 square miles. Lawrence said recently that there have been three days that four deputies were each forced to work 12-hour shifts during a 24-hour period.

"A lot of times we just don't have enough people. We're right on the edge of being unworkable," Lawrence said.

Commissioners said they back the sheriff's office but county revenues are still down significantly from 2009 due to decreased investment income and funding cuts by the state. Commissioner



Commissioners: Sheriff's Budget

Officials at the Williams County Sheriff's Office, which operates out of the East Annex Building pictured above, say staffing levels are so low that deputies have been working 12-hour shifts in order to respond to calls. County Commissioners say restoring funds to the Sheriff's Office would mean less funding for other county departments.

Lewis Hilkert said money shifted to the sheriff's office would have to come at the expense of another county department.

"We want to see you (hire) more people. As revenues get restored we want to be back to where we were in 2008-2009. We only have so much money," Hilkert said.

Commissioners also questioned whether the sheriff's office could find private or state funding sources to pay for the sheriff's school DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) officer, rather than have the majority of the DARE officer's salary come from the general fund. Towns said he hoped to accomplish that within the next few years.

Lawrence said he wanted to see an effort to secure an ongoing private endowment to pay for the the DARE officer.

Commissioners estimated the total cost, including salary and benefits, of three new deputies at as much as \$150,000 annually. Towns' 2015 budget request totals \$1.195 million.

Commissioners said they will review Towns' hiring request as part of their ongoing process of reviewing of all 2015 department budget requests by the end of the year.

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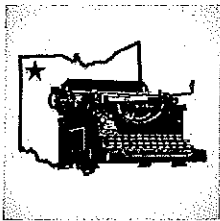
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Williams County Sheriff Announces Year-End Statistics & 2015 Budget

Posted on January 31, 2015 by Forrest Church in Local News // 0 Comments



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Williams County Sheriff's Office Year Statistics 2014:

Reports Handled – 4,490, up by 439

Municipal Court Traffic Cases

OVI – 30

Regular Traffic – 257

Misdemeanor Criminal Cases – 154

Common Pleas Court

Felony Charges – 173

Papers Served – 608

Prisoner Transports – 255

Extraditions – 19

MAN Unit Drug Cases

130 Cases Involving 111 People

Search Warrants – 10

Probation/Permission Searches – 23

Meth Labs/Meth Dump Sites – 58

Arrests – 75

Involving 154 Charges as Follows:

Cocaine/Crack Cocaine – F/5th Degree – 6

Heroin – F/5th Degree – 20

Marijuana – F/5th Degree – 3; Misdemeanors – 3

Paraphernalia – Misdemeanors – 2

Methamphetamine – F/3rd Degree – 2; F/4th Degree – 3; F/5th Degree – 42

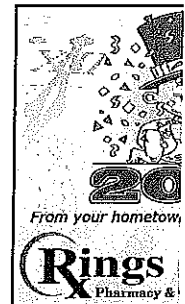
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Assembly Chemicals to Manufacture Methamphetamine F/3rd Degree – 22
 Manufacture Methamphetamine – F/2nd Degree – 14
 School/Children Present – F/1st Degree – 9
 Prescription Drugs – F/2nd Degree – 1; F/3rd Degree – 2; F/5th Degree – 6; Misdemeanor – 1
 Corrupting Another With Drugs – F/2nd Degree – 1
 Endanger Children – F/3rd Degree – 2
 Illegal Conveyance of Drugs into Detention Facility – F/3rd Degree – 2
 Operate Vehicle with Hidden Compartment to Transport Drugs – F/2nd Degree – 1
 Tampering with Evidence – F/3rd Degree – 1
 Abusing Harmful Intoxicants – Misdemeanor – 1
 Juveniles – Delinquent
 Tampering with Evidence – 1
 Prescription Drugs – 1

Williams County Sheriff's Office Budget/Reports/Employees from 1998 to Present:

1998 – Budget: \$1,101,731.69; Reports: 5,110; Employees: 26
 1999 – Budget: \$1,144,252.04; Reports: 4,744; Employees: 25
 2000 – Budget: \$1,174,510.04; Reports: 5,333; Employees: 25
 2001 – Budget: \$1,398,585.40 Reports: 5,220; Employees: 25
 2002 – Budget: \$1,298,290.54; Reports: 5,317; Employees: 26
 2003 – Budget: \$1,387,516.54; Reports: 5,550; Employees: 25
 2004 – Budget: \$1,388,035.00; Reports: 5,535; Employees: 25
 2005 – Budget: \$1,393,267.00; Reports: 5,515; Employees: 25
 2006 – Budget: \$1,459,107.00; Reports: 5,291; Employees: 27
 2007 – Budget: \$1,492,820.00; Reports: 5,126; Employees: 28
 2008 – Budget: \$1,546,056.00; Reports: 4,881; Employees: 27
 2009 – Budget: \$1,492,843.00; Reports: 3,434; Employees: 20 – Layoff 8
 2010 – Budget: \$1,298,178.31; Reports: 3,779; Employees: 20
 2011 – Budget: \$1,255,311.54; Reports: 4,090; Employees: 19
 2012 – Budget: \$1,155,503.48; Reports: 4,049; Employees: 18
 2013 – Budget: \$1,155,503.48; Reports: 4,051; Employees: 17
 2014 – Budget: \$1,076,484.96; Reports: 4,490; Employees: 17

Counties By Comparable Numbers:

Williams

16 total clerks & bailiff; Wages – \$745,834.00; Population – 38,000; Dollars Per Person – \$19.62

Defiance

18 Deputies, 3 clerks; Wages 0 \$1,149,183.00; Population – 39,000; Dollars Per Person – \$29.47

Henry

13 Officers, 1 admin, has dispatch; Wages – \$955,000.00; Population – 28,000; Dollars Per Person – \$34.00

Fulton

18 road – C/D – 2 Clerks; Wages – \$1,075,000.00; Population – 42,000; Dollars Per Person – \$25.60

Van Wert

16 Road – CD – 1 Admin Ast., Has Dispatch; Wages – \$828,000.00; Population – 29,000; Dollars Per Person – \$28.55

Wyandot

14 road, 1 admin ast., has dispatch; Wages – \$876,000.00; Population – 25,000; Dollars Per Person; \$35.00

Putnam

14 Officers, 1 C/D, 1 Captain, 3-Clerks, has dispatch; Wages – \$956,000; Population – 35,000; Dollars Per Person – \$27.30

Paulding

11 Officers, 1 admin; Wages – \$575,000; Population – 19,500; Dollars Per Person – \$29.49

These numbers are comparing Road officers and clerks; it is not counting Dispatch or Jail.

INFORMATION PROVIDED

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 August 22, 2013
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 July 29, 2015
 In "Local News"

2012 Williams County Election Has Three
 Contested Races
 October 28, 2012
 In "Local News"

Sheriff committed to keeping DARE program going

By RON OSBURN Times Assistant Editor | Posted: Wednesday, January 7, 2015 1:00 am

Despite what he said is a lack of budgetary support from the county commissioners, Williams County Sheriff Steve Towns says he is fully committed to keeping the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program funded and operating.

Towards that end, Towns recently issued a posting on the department's Facebook page, asking for public support for the program. He said the posting is not so much a plea for financial support — although he said he will accept donations — but to raise public awareness of the good the program accomplishes and how much he feels it benefits the public.



D.A.R.E. program

"We have a drug situation here and we're all going to pay for it one way or the other. I think it's cheaper in the long run if we can keep (students) off drugs to begin with, rather than pay to lock them up or pay for their rehab later on," Towns said of the local D.A.R.E. program, which is modeled on the national anti-drug initiative founded in 1983 in Los Angeles.

Towns said the local D.A.R.E. program is offered to county fifth-graders and is more than just an anti-drug program. It also emphasizes self-esteem, confidence building and how to avoid peer pressure. And it offers kids a chance to interact with law enforcement on an informal basis.

In addition, Towns plans to expand the D.A.R.E. officer's mission to include more community resource efforts, such as programs to detect and avoid elderly fraud, and having the officer involved in Amber Alert efforts.

"(D.A.R.E. is) more than just a drug thing. But if we can keep just one or two kids off drugs, it's worth it. And it costs less to do (D.A.R.E.) than what it costs to jail or incarcerate someone," he said.

Towns clashed with commissioners over D.A.R.E. funding during recently completed 2015 budget sessions. He had sought funding through the county's general fund to pay for at least two new deputies, which would help replace the seven deputies he has lost since budget cutbacks as a result of the 2008 recession.

Commissioners, though, have declined to increase his budget in order to hire the new deputies, saying

that based on figures from the county auditor, it's not fiscally responsible to approve money to hire new deputies when two new deputies can be added to road patrol through reassignment.

Commissioners suggested Towns needed to bring two deputies off their special assignments — the D.A.R.E. officer and the county road scale officer — and reassign them primarily to road patrol for additional staffing.

“Use them on road patrol until (the economy rebounds),” Commission Vice President Lew Hilkert told Towns Dec. 22.

Towns said Monday the D.A.R.E. program this year is being partially funded by a \$16,000 grant from the Ohio Attorney General's office and a \$7,000 grant from the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health (ADAMHS) board. That covers between one-third and one-half of the estimated annual cost of the D.A.R.E. officer, Towns said.

He's identified two potential new grant sources and hopes to make the program self-supporting within a few years. The department has already received small amounts of public donations, which he said are deposited into a specific departmental fund dedicated to D.A.R.E.

“We've got some good (grant funding) possibilities started. And we've had a few more contacts since we've put it out there (on Facebook),” Towns said Monday.

Meanwhile, he remains dedicated to continuing the program this year, and will find ways to fund the unfunded portion through his departmental budget.

“We're going to keep plugging away and not be deterred. No matter what (the commissioners) tell me, we're going to have a D.A.R.E. program. I'm not going to be bullied into shutting down a program that's geared to public safety,” Towns said.

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Sheriff says office understaffed, requests three new deputies; commissioners say 'prove it'

By RON OSBURN rosburn@bryantimes.com | Posted: Friday, April 1, 2016 12:00 am

Williams County Sheriff Steve Towns says his his staff is seriously understaffed. County commissioners say 'prove it.'

That was the result of an hour-long, at-times-testy meeting Thursday between commissioners and Towns to discuss the department's request for at least three new deputies. Towns was joined by Road Lieutenant Greg Ruskey.

Towns' request was included in a letter he submitted during Thursday's regular commission session. The letter said the Sheriff's Office "is in dire need of the (additional) personnel" to better serve county residents.

The letter, dated March 31, also notes that hiring three new deputies would still leave the office well short of the Sheriff's staffing level in 2009, when the recession forced county-wide budget cuts and eight sheriff's office personnel were laid off.

Towns' figures showed three additional deputies would cost an additional \$148,868.14, but said in his letter the hiring "would be a step in the right direction and help tremendously with public and officer safety."

It would also help reduce compensation time and overtime, which cost \$68,000 in 2015, Towns said. The 2016 Sheriff's Office budget is \$1.245 million.

Towns said he would assign one of the additional deputies to the Multi Area Narcotic Unit, and another one to Holiday City, which has indicated it would like to contract for a dedicated deputy to patrol that community about 30 hours a week, probably concentrating patrols from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.

The Sheriff's Office currently provides patrols in Holiday City as part of its regular service, but Towns noted that Holiday City — with its proximity to the Ohio Turnpike, its concentration of motels and a carryout open 24 hours a day — may need additional dedicated service, so one of the additional deputies would be assigned there.

Commission president Lew Hilkert said Holiday City has indicated it is willing to pay for the additional dedicated deputy, with financial and other details to be worked out in the coming weeks or months.

Hilkert also said Holiday City has recently purchased a building that could be used as a substation for the deputy, though Ruskey noted that the building was not necessary with a substation currently in use at the fairgrounds about two miles away.

Commissioner Al Word, a former county sheriff, said he wanted Towns to provide the commission with documentation showing the total number of calls the sheriff's office has responded to annually from 2008 through 2015 before making a decision on Towns' request.

"I hear what you're saying, but I want to see some numbers," Word said, adding that he feels it's Holiday City's responsibility to provide for its own policing.

"I think staffing the village is incumbent on them. I don't think this should deplete our staff," Word said.

Thursday was not the first time Towns has asked commissioners for an increase in his staffing level, which stands now at 19, including Towns. There are 15 road deputies and three office staff.

Towns has requested additional staffing several times during the past several years, and Thursday expressed frustration with commissioner's for what he later said was their "stalling tactics."

At one point, he clashed with Hilkert, who questioned whether Towns should reassign the DARE officer to road duties, and why Towns hadn't raised funds separate from his budget to pay for the DARE officer as Towns said he would. Towns insisted that the DARE officer was part of a shift in personnel that saved the office money, and said the office also saves money because part of the DARE officer's salary is paid by a grant.

Ruskey said even with three new officers, the sheriff's office staffing level is less than the 1998 level of 28.

"With where we're at right now, if we get one guy out, we're creating an overtime situation," Ruskey said.

Commission president Brian Davis said he hesitated to agree to hire three new deputies.

"I realize you need help. My concern is sustainability. I don't want to (hire additional deputies) and turn around and have to cut," if financial conditions change, Davis said.

He repeated Word's request for documentation from Towns on the number and type of calls.

"I know what you want," a visibly frustrated Towns said as he abruptly left the meeting.