



# Onondaga County Legislature

**JAMIE McNAMARA**  
Clerk

**DAVID H. KNAPP**  
Chairman

**MELANIE VILARDI**  
Deputy Clerk

401 Montgomery Street • Court House • Room 407 • Syracuse, New York 13202  
Phone: 315.435.2070 • Fax: 315.435.8434 • [www.ongov.net/legislature](http://www.ongov.net/legislature)

## **WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THE 2022 TENTATIVE BUDGET PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS – OCTOBER 11, 2021 TIM BURTIS, CHAIRMAN**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. May, Mr. Rowley, Mr. Ryan, Mr. McBride, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ervin  
**ALSO ATTENDING:** Chairman Knapp, Ms. Cody, Ms. Kuhn, Dr. Chase, Mr. Holmquist, Mr. Bush,  
**Dr. Kelly;** also please see attached

Chairman Burtis called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** (4-11) Daniel Wears, Commissioner

### **ONONDAGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 2022 EXECUTIVE BUDGET WRITTEN STATEMENT**

#### **2021 INITIATIVES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

*Similar to 2020 the Department of Emergency Management focused heavily on supporting community organizations and other agencies related to our response and recovery to the COVID-19 Pandemic. In 2021, we have distributed nearly 510,000 items of PPE to 212 agencies and 16,000 COVID tests to 38 schools/organizations.*

*We have also managed community and school based testing initiatives, totaling nearly 120,000 tests year to date, which has had a significant impact on our ability to keep schools open and allow for in person learning.*

*In addition to COVID response and recovery, we have focused our efforts working with emergency medical service (EMS) agencies to address staffing and extended off-load times. This work will continue into the next year as many organizations are facing significant staffing issues and regulatory mandates, which have significant impacts on agencies and the services they provide. This past year we also experienced significant flooding in parts of the County and we have worked with municipalities and NYS to be eligible for a Federal disaster declaration.*

*Recently, we have entered into a partnership with other organizations to improve our incident management capabilities, by beginning to implement a web-based incident management software platform. We are in the early stages of this program and will work into 2022 to fully implement the software.*

#### **2021 BUDGET REVIEW**

*2021 required a significant focus on the response and recovery to the COVID pandemic. Therefore, we expect to see a fairly significant surplus in our local budget as other funding sources were utilized for this work.*

#### **2022 BUDGET OVERVIEW**

*Our department prioritizes the utilization of grant funding for most initiatives, however not all needs are eligible for grant funding. The proposed budget provides a modest increase in local tax dollars to accomplish our priorities for the 2022 fiscal year including proposed salary adjustments, funding two positions previously approved and filled, and the addition of one new position for the department. We have also offset some of the increases for this new position through revenue*

*from NYS. These requests will position our department to continue our growth in all three mission areas (emergency management, fire and EMS.)*

## 2022 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

*As we look to 2022, we are focusing our efforts on reviewing response efforts of Onondaga County and developing an improvement plan for where we can enhance our current capabilities to not only respond to another pandemic, but also capabilities that would apply to other hazards faced by our community. This plan will inform and drive additional priorities for the upcoming year. We will work to develop a training and exercise program that will not only better prepare county departments, but also local municipalities through increased outreach and offered services to local municipalities. Additionally, we will fully implement our new incident management software to better manage large incidents and special events. During 2022, we will also begin efforts to become an accredited emergency management agency through NYSEMA and NYSDHSES, while continuing to work closely with fire and EMS agencies to navigate through current challenges faced by the organizations.*

- Last thing in 2021, learned from COVID, entered partnerships with Syracuse University, SUNY Upstate, Oswego County, and City of Syracuse, to implement web-based incident management software; brand new
- 2021 Budget focused on COVID, expect a significant Fund Balance based on the numbers in the budget, many activities were funded by other sources; many county employees stepped up and worked very well with COVID
- Proposed budget set up for success, goal is to cover most expenses through grant funding, but not all covered that way
- Budget presenting has modest increase of the local tax that are not grant eligible, requested funding will cover 22 positions already approved and filled, salary adjustments and positions prior to COVID
- Position will also be funded by grants and all changes off set by new revenue through NYS, just not as a grant
- 2022 top priority is to work with fire and EMS; challenges they are facing; crises currently ongoing
- Process of developing after action report and improvement plan from county response for COVID
- Focus on COVID and how Emergency Management (EM) can improve them; also look at the things done well and do them well again

Mr. McBride stated that the 101 line has a significant increase. Is that the two positions in the salary adjustments, and can you explain the salary adjustments? Mr. Wears replied yes; both directors in the department are being upgraded. It is more in line with the pay locally in similar positions; also with other positions in the county. Mr. McBride asked about the salary positions. Mr. Wears answered those are the salary adjustments for the two positions; it is for the two directors. Two positions that are approved were funded from other sources prior, and they are offset from a grant and new revenue from NYS. Chairman Burtis commented it is from the “Morgan Report” in the packet. Those two totaling the \$177,000.

Chairman Burtis asked how the EMS training is going; professional services line, section 51. Mr. Wears said EM does not provide EMS training anymore, it is being provided by other people. In order to do that Emergency Management has to be approved by NYS training center; capable but do not because there are opportunities in other counties that have a demand. That money stays there, but there is a corresponding revenue that is also there (offset). There is a contract with local instructors, and class reimbursement comes from NYS for expenses incurred (formula).

Chairman Burtis asked for elaboration on the interdepartmental revenue line. Ms. Venditti replied that the revenue is the services charged out to other departments. Mr. Wears replied ok, the increase there is the new revenue from Social Services. The source would be NYS, and the revenue comes from Social Services.

Mrs. Ervin thanked Mr. Wears and his department for doing a great job. Chairman Burtis echoed that and thanked them for doing a good job.

## **DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** (3-45) Rick Trunfio, District Attorney

Upcoming year to begin, biggest challenges currently facing for 2022:

- Recruitment/retention of qualified lawyers explains the large salary increase in the salary line

- One of the biggest challenges right now being able to recruit and compete with not just the private sector, but other service agencies that employ lawyers
- Education and loans that people acquire when they come out - average cost is \$170,000 to \$200,000 (law school)
- Continue to carry back log of cases due to COVID; courts shut down, arrests, crime did not stop
- 2020 one of worst years seen of rising and violent crime in the city of Syracuse; gunshot with injuries went up 74%, homicides by gun went up 117%, and overall homicide rate was up 43%
- City is biggest customer; there are 20 police agencies with cases funneling in; court came to a halt, arraignments every day, grand jury was suspended, came back quickly because they cannot keep people in jail
- Only allowed to do one felony trial a week; how does that compare with other years - usually do 60 a year
- 202 and 10 months into 2021, did a total of 20 trials; 10 that were done with COVID protocol, 8 before COVID hit
- In 2022, there were 700 indicted felonies that needed to be tried, out of that 700, 65 are homicides, even though courts have slowed and there's a back log, discovery starts with an arrest
- Cases coming in - people dealing with discovery to comply, indicting the cases, trial requires to go into grand jury
- 2 grand juries dealing with all these cases; do not have a court system that actually allows them to try them
- Anticipation from medical professionals that maybe getting back to normal in early 2022, predict an onslaught of cases that need to be dealt with
- Consequences of criminal justice reform, criminal justice system and how it has changed
- Due to consumption of time, turn around in 15-20 days for all of discovery; impacts moral because people went to law school to be in a court room; mentioned last year their time is spent on clerical work
- This is required, because they have to swear out that they gave that discovery; someone asked if a court can do it, the answer is no; law requires that an ADA swears and certifies that they have given this discovery
- Could not do this without technology, not only to comply with discovery mandates but the increase in the amount of body cam video; body cam video is evidence and accountability, the problem is someone has to deal with it all
- 20 agencies have body cameras, which all feed into DA's office, have to turn that over to the defense
- Storage cost, time going through it, reviewing it for evidence or accountability; ADA regularly looks at body worn camera, if seeing problems, it is policy to report it to that agency
- Increase in digital evidence - every phone, laptop, tablet, relying on technology; technology changes
- To keep ahead of the criminals, it is like a dog chasing its tail; constantly behind
- Just got a new desk top, had old one for 15 years; IT had a schedule to replace and stopped it; DA is using grant money that came from the Manhattan grant office, which went to 52 counties
- County's share is \$370,000 - had to share with other police agencies, probation, and pre-trial alternatives
- Used DA portion to buy new computers and laptops to keep up with discovery that comes into the office
- Rise in cost, cost of living, supply chain have all gone up; these are the challenges
- Certain characteristics the DA's office has to face that are different than other departments; bringing in witnesses, other expertise, etc. is burden of proof; need for state of the art technology
- When Sheriff Conway's department gets their body cameras implemented. that will impact the DA's office

Chairman Knapp asked what a starting ADA makes. Mr. Trunfio replied that the starting ADA makes \$58,000 today. Chairman Knapp asked if there has been an informal salary survey to see what the private sector is offering or others are offering. Mr. Trunfio replied:

- Informal and formal survey done; average salary for a private firm in county (Damon Barclay, Bond Schoeneck & King) pay new associates out of law school \$105,000 a year; county senior staff does not make that
- Survey done at the average Law firms in county, entry level is about \$86,000 a year; being beat by \$30,000
- In teaching at the law school, semester starts in January; half way through their third year, they have not even thought about taking the bar yet; trying to recruit candidates
- Pitch is to come and work for Onondaga County in public service for \$30,000 less than firms are paying, going to deal with criminal justice reform; tough sell
- Office has good reputation for those that want to come into public service; down bodies
- i.e.: lost woman who speaks 4 languages, went to Syracuse University; left for DC; friends of hers said she may be interested in coming back, only out of law school for a year; thought may be in the ball park, but could not take pay cut

Chairman Knapp asked if the new ADA's are the ones going around to justice courts at the towns in the evenings and not weekends. Mr. Trunfio said yes; they are doing arraignments every day, even weekends and holidays.

Mr. Knapp asked if we give mileage, and Mr. Trunfio replied no. If someone goes to town court, which is usually at 5:00 pm, no extra salary.

Dr. Chase asked what happened to the Victim System Coordinator. Mr. Trunfio replied the name has been changed; Monira, and it is paid for by a grant (been with DA's office for several years).

Ms. Kuhn asked about the American Rescue funds. Is there an acknowledgement about the back log of courts? One thing they talk about are funds available for temporary hiring of clerks and attorneys. Mr. Trunfio replied that she would have to talk to the courts system. The office of court administration is not running at full operation. Mr. Trunfio would love for the courts to take advantage.

Ms. Kuhn stated that in 2022 things might become more reasonable and asked if they would have the same backlog. Mr. Trunfio replied yes. They cannot have a temporary employee take a case that someone is handling, because it is clerical work the attorneys must do. Ms. Kuhn said temporary attorneys cannot do that then.

Chairman Burtis asked if there are any funding needs for programs or services due to Bail Reform or Raise the Age. Mr. Trunfio:

- With regard to Raise the Age, youth could go to family or adult court; every felony case that could go to family court, has to be reviewed by DA; that is what ADAs do
- Bail Reform has effected public safety; more homicide defendants on the street now than ever in history
- Criminal Justice impacted discovery most; DA's Office complies; everything must be compiled
- Serve 20 different police agencies, they all handle a different way; DA's Office gets all their stuff and give to defense; clerks used to help get that stuff, but ADA's cannot just rely on the clerk, they have to certify that

Mr. Bush asked if there is a formula or guideline that could work and indicate what staffing a DA's Office should have. Mr. Trunfio replied:

- Do not have guidelines to compare; start losing people at the 5 year mark; they are in their early 30's and want to buy home, have a child; cannot do it on their current salary
- Looked at similar counties: Westchester has 1 million people, Orange County about the same, Monroe larger than Onondaga; looking at range of other salaries at DA's office
- ADA's who are senior level between 8-12 years: Orange County at \$93,000, Westchester at \$128,000 (much wealthier)
- Asked what county government will do to see factor in public service; want smart people and have to bridge that gap
- Had senior ADA making low \$80's here, AD's office offered job for \$140,000; How can she turn that down?
- Salary study, even after budget proposed, would be wise to see; in terms of formula, there is not one

Mr. Bush said that a study would be fine. In terms of staffing, does the DA have enough staff to do an adequate job and not be overwhelmed? Mr. Trunfio replied great question. One thing proposed, in personnel resolution, are 2 CLA positions. These people graduated law school and are waiting to take the law exam. Helpful to recruit somebody out of law school and offer them something before they pass the bar. Mr. Trunfio would rather convert one to an ADA1 spot to have another licensed lawyer in the courts. Something else they asked for is to convert a criminal law associate position into an ADA position.

Mr. May stated there is an 8% proposed salary increase in this budget. Additionally, there is a salary study to find out where they are at, and where they need to be. Mr. Trunfio replied that the last time a study was done was 20 years ago.



**DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
WILLIAM J. FITZPATRICK**

**October 11, 2021**

**FIVE BIGGEST CHALLENGES CURRENTLY FACING THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

- (1) RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF QUALIFIED LAWYERS
- (2) SIGNIFICANT BACKLOG OF CASES DUE TO:
  - A. COURT'S SHUTDOWN AND APPARENT INABILITY TO RETURN TO FULL OPERATIONS AS A RESULT OF COVID
  - B. RISE IN VIOLENT CRIME
- (3) CONSEQUENCES OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM
  - A. ON PUBLIC SAFETY
  - B. ON THE DAY-TO-DAY PRACTICE OF ADAs
  - C. ON MORALE
- (4) RELIANCE AND COST OF TECHNOLOGY TO COMPLY WITH DISCOVERY REFORM, INCREASED AMOUNT OF VIDEO FROM BODY CAMERAS AND OTHER CAMERAS AND VIDEO SOURCES AS WELL AS AN INCREASE IN DIGITAL EVIDENCE
- (5) SIGNIFICANT RISE IN COSTS FOR EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, WITNESS TRAVEL AND EXPERT FEES

**SHERIFF CONWAY:** (4-39) Eugene Conway, Sheriff Conway

Sheriff Conway stated that Captain Pellizzari does a tremendous job with the budget and finances throughout the year. There are two areas to talk about: (1) staffing requests and (2) Corrections.

- Police department is most visible to the public, including detectives, specialty units, narcotics, warrants unit, and many others; total of 72 positions unfunded or due to voluntary retirement
- Of the 72 positions, requested funding on only 56 positions in the 2022 budget; Executive Budget came back, it only provided funding to 8 positions, when requested 17; currently have 19 positions unfunded
- No funding for the other positions requested in the 2022 budget
- Requesting funding for 9 position's that would make up the 17 asked for, 8 approved and 9 remain unfunded
- Not using any graphs or statistics about crime, numbers can be manipulated in many ways; will use facts
- Have been answering calls 24/7; putting own health at risk; responding to every request during COVID; guarded toilet paper 24/7 for months; assisted citizens at vaccination sites; assisted water ways; provided traffic/security services at amphitheater events; patrolling neighborhoods
- If everyone is feeling safe, why is the department experiencing an unprecedented number of requests for pistol permits?
- Sheriff's Office has not seen this number of requests for pistol permits since 2015 (when safe act went into effect)
- Booking out for pistol permits till next May 2022; do not have an answer for that; have had neighbors asking about how to go through the process of obtaining a pistol permit
- In past 2 weeks, called to shootings in the town of Cicero and town of Onondaga; responded to burglaries on MacGregor Lane and Carnarvon Drive in the town of Onondaga; suspects broke into where families were sleeping and stole property and/or vehicles

- For those that represent portions of the city in addition to Air One, Syracuse PD on calls, continuing to work with them; find Sheriff's assisting with more calls or back up; all examples of the need for a strong public safety commitment
- Police presence does serve as a deterrent for criminal behavior; this is snap shot of what has been going on in the county and city; together with other law enforcement agencies, having difficulty filling vacancies in the 4 departments
- Every day there are shifts open, asking deputies to work overtime; not a necessary or adequate solution to positions unfunded; deputies are working 16 or 20 hours a week, not safe for the deputy or situation

### **Sheriff's Office 101 Funding Requests for 2022 Budget**

A total of 72 positions were unfunded in the 2021 budget due to being vacant at pay period 13 (PP13) or due to the voluntary retirement incentive program (VRIP).

Civilian - 7  
 Correction Sworn - 15  
 Civil Sworn - 1  
 Custody Sworn - 30  
 Police Sworn – 19  
**Total - 72**

Of those 72 unfunded positions, the Sheriff's Office prioritized the request for funding and asked for only 56 of those positions be funded in the 2022 budget.

Civilian – 4 positions at cost of \$181,981  
 Correction Sworn – 4 positions at cost of \$190,676  
 Civil Sworn – 1 position at cost of \$47,247  
 Custody Sworn – 30 positions at cost of \$1,507,459  
 Police Sworn – 17 positions at cost of \$1,000,106  
**Total – 56 positions at total cost of \$2,927,469**

The 2022 Executive Budget provides \$498,396 to fund 8 Police positions. There is no funding for any of the other positions requested in the 2022 budget.

Civilian – 4 positions at cost of \$181,981  
 Correction Sworn – 4 positions at cost of \$190,676  
 Civil Sworn – 1 position at cost of \$47,247  
 Custody Sworn – 30 positions at cost of \$1,507,459  
 Police Sworn – 9 positions at cost of \$501,710  
**Total – 48 positions at total cost of \$2,429,073**

Although funding for all of the positions is necessary for the operation of the Sheriff's Office, we are focusing our request on obtaining funds for the additional 9 Police Department positions that were unfunded in 2021 due to being vacant at pay period 13 or due to the voluntary retirement incentive program.

**Police Sworn – 9 positions at cost of \$501,710**



2021 Status	Reason Unfunded	2022 Request	Executive Budget	Title	Position	Cost of Request
<b>POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>						
Unfunded	PP13	YES	APPROVED	Deputy Sheriff Sgt Police	969	\$77,822
Unfunded	PP13	YES	APPROVED	Deputy Sheriff Sgt Police	971	\$77,822
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Sgt Police	997	\$77,822
Unfunded	VRIP	YES	APPROVED	Deputy Sheriff Sgt Police	1021	\$77,822
Unfunded	VRIP	NO	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Sgt Police	967	
Unfunded	VRIP	NO	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Sgt Police	1014	
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Police	1041	\$52,986
Unfunded	PP13	YES	APPROVED	Deputy Sheriff Police	1042	\$52,986
Unfunded	PP13	YES	APPROVED	Deputy Sheriff Police	1048	\$52,986
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Police	1063	\$52,986
Unfunded	PP13	YES	APPROVED	Deputy Sheriff Police	1099	\$52,986
Unfunded	PP13	YES	APPROVED	Deputy Sheriff Police	1106	\$52,986
Unfunded	VRIP	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Police	1126	\$52,986
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Police	1131	\$52,986
Unfunded	PP13	YES	APPROVED	Deputy Sheriff Police	1153	\$52,986
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Police	1176	\$52,986
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Police	1177	\$52,986
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Police	1180	\$52,986
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Police	2488	\$52,986
					<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,000,106</b>
<b>CIVILIAN STAFF</b>						
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Boiler Opr/Maint Worker	1696	\$57,037
Unfunded	VRIP	NO	DENIED	Boiler Opr/Maint Worker	6112	
Unfunded	VRIP	NO	DENIED	Clerk 2	6785	
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Community Service Officer	6981	\$32,377
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Correction Counselor 1	1684	\$51,780
Unfunded	PP13	NO	DENIED	Correction Counselor 1	2007	
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Personnel Aide	9901	\$40,787
					<b>Total</b>	<b>\$181,981</b>

<b>CUSTODY DEPARTMENT</b>						
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Asst. Chief	886	\$85,577
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Lt Custody	1593	\$69,741
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Sgt Custody	1421	\$64,972
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Sgt Custody	1521	\$64,972
Unfunded	VRIP	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Sgt Custody	1583	\$64,972
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	1426	\$46,289
Unfunded	VRIP	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	1433	\$46,289
Unfunded	VRIP	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	1455	\$46,289
Unfunded	VRIP	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	1485	\$46,289
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	1497	\$46,289
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	1518	\$46,289
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	1520	\$46,289
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	1526	\$46,289
Unfunded	VRIP	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	1542	\$46,289
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	1545	\$46,289
Unfunded	VRIP	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	1559	\$46,289
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	1584	\$46,289
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	1585	\$46,289
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	1590	\$46,289
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	1607	\$46,289
Unfunded	VRIP	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	1609	\$46,289
Unfunded	VRIP	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	1639	\$46,289
Unfunded	VRIP	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	1647	\$46,289
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	1653	\$46,289
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	6016	\$46,289
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	6017	\$46,289
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	7103	\$46,289
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	7196	\$46,289
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Custody	7200	\$46,289
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Juvenile Transport Officer	846	\$46,289
					<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,507,459</b>

CORRECTION DEPARTMENT						
Unfunded	PP13	NO	DENIED	Special Ast to Chief Management	2267	
Unfunded	VRIP	NO	DENIED	Senior Correction Officer	1812	
Unfunded	VRIP	NO	DENIED	Senior Correction Officer	1700	
Unfunded	PP13	NO	DENIED	Senior Correction Officer	1814	
Unfunded	PP13	NO	DENIED	Senior Correction Officer	1899	
Unfunded	PP13	NO	DENIED	Senior Correction Officer	1905	
Unfunded	PP13	NO	DENIED	Senior Correction Officer	1907	
Unfunded	PP13	NO	DENIED	Senior Correction Officer	2012	
Unfunded	PP13	NO	DENIED	Senior Correction Officer	2014	
Unfunded	PP13	NO	DENIED	Senior Correction Officer	2021	
Unfunded	VRIP	NO	DENIED	Correction Officer	6064	
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Correction Officer	1754	\$47,669
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Correction Officer	1759	\$47,669
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Correction Officer	1764	\$47,669
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Correction Officer	1772	\$47,669
				<b>Total</b>		<b>\$190,676</b>
CIVIL DEPARTMENT						
Unfunded	PP13	YES	DENIED	Deputy Sheriff Civil	815	\$47,247
				<b>Total</b>		<b>\$47,247</b>

Mr. Ryan asked how there could be an increase in overtime if all those positions were lost. Mr. Morgan replied:

- That is the amount requested; Sheriff Conway's office will work between those accounts and move money between them if needed; overtime amount proposed was requested

Mr. Ryan asked if the overtime request was made on the assumption that all of the positions requested would be approved. Sheriff Conway replied that no assumptions were made. Mr. Ryan said of the 72 positions, they are looking to get 56 back. Mr. Ryan asked if that was built into the overtime request. Sheriff Conway said no, those were necessary positions. He is asking only for what is needed, not for what is wanted. Those 56 are truly needed positions and have nothing to do with overtime. Mr. Ryan asked if the County Executive's budget did not include the positions requested, is there a need to increase the overtime line. Sheriff Conway replied no, not a component of overtime. The spots go unfilled. Sheriff Conway stated that it is up to the Legislature. If they are okay with a deputy not responding to a non-emergency call in one or two hours. Sheriff Conway said he would like to be able to respond promptly to a 911 call. This is what happens when there are unfunded police positions. Mr. Ryan agreed, and said he is concerned about the Sheriff's Office being down 150 positions since 2018. Sheriff Conway responded to Mr. Ryan that they have under 200 deputies today.

Mr. May:

- Appreciate everything Sheriff Conway is saying and agree with it; heard within a police reform plan this year, Public Safety, things that need to be done
- Talking about things every year, a balanced budget, within this process; appreciate no charts, power point, but a little data is important; adopted budget vs. modified budget, overtime
- Has response time changed, and what is that change?
- When personnel is down, what is the service area or area of responsibility, and how has that changed out there?

Sheriff Conway:

- If talking about the patrol deputies, largest component of police department, it is divided into posts geographically throughout the county; size determined by call volume
- As calls increase, require emergency response; county is mostly volunteer fire departments, as fire departments struggle for volunteers, it requires more police deputy presence
- When there is not sufficient staffing, becomes a more difficult measure to carry out; leads to 911 center call again and complaining about the delay

Mr. May asked how many funded vacant positions are on the police side currently. Sheriff Conway:

- Two things happening right now: (1) increase in lateral transfers to department from other agencies; (2) continue to have retirements and people leave
- A deputy would work for 20 years, maybe 25, now trend is 20 years and 1 day, then gone



- Next June's class reached that from 20 years ago; prepared an academy class that will start by the end of October with 26 recruits attending
- List to choose from is down, fewer people sitting for exams, fewer candidates, results in not being able to fill all vacancies from the Civil Service list

Captain Pellizzari:

- One of the questions asked was how many funded vacant for each department, currently 12 funded for Police, 8 for Custody, and 31 for Corrections; all of those police spots will be filled

Chairman Burtis:

- People talking about getting rid of Cicero Police Department, not a proponent of it; does not sound like a doable venture
- What is the feeling about the police department going away?

Sheriff Conway responded:

- It should be what the people want; if there is a call for police, they will be here; if not the case with one less agency
- People become desensitized by the fact that the police were called and they will not be here for an hour or two; do not subscribe to that; many people do not have family, so when something is needed, they call 911 - services are 24/7
- Talked about tourism and people coming from other areas, if their car is broken into, they become a victim of a crime; does more damage coming to Onondaga County
- Advocating for police department positions not to be reduced; it is about how safe people feel

Mr. McBride:

- Thanked Sheriff Conway; town of Onondaga is the territory of representation
- Some very serious issues in the Town of Onondaga; would like to say nothing but positive, professional response came out of Sheriff Conway's department; it meant a lot to the constituents

Captain Pellizzari:

- In response to what Mr. Ryan said earlier, the number of positions that the department has talking about 200, 180 are on the roster; sergeants and deputies on patrol - 206, not all funded
- 145 Deputies, 22 Sergeants, quite a bit less on roster from those numbers of 206 in past years; 173 deputies on roster with only 145 filled

Mr. Ryan's question was inaudible.

Captain Pellizzari:

- Have some unfunded police positions on the roster even after these requests; these are additional unfunded positions on the roster did not ask for in 2022; from Executive budget which were approved
- 8 in the Police department and none in other departments or civilian positions; comparison would have to be done after today's session; displays pay period 13 and voluntary retirement positions that were unfunded

Mr. May asked if they could consider this a request from the Ways and Means Committee, and they can return that to legislative staff to share with members of the Legislature. A few years back there were funded, unfunded, authorized, and funded positions sent to the Legislature for discussion. Captain Pellizzari asked if this was for the Police department only, and Mr. May replied all divisions.

Sheriff Conway continued:

- Couple years ago, Jamesville Correction Department became part of the Sheriff's Office; part of consolidation; last county in NYS; at same time, had police reform, pandemic, and other unexpected things going on
- Population numbers going down in Justice Center and Jamesville; cautious of numbers, courts have been closed, slow
- Lack of interest in people who want to become a Custody Deputy or Corrections Officer; have seen people leave departments; less people sit for exams
- Both departments are under one administration, some latitude to moving inmates between two facilities; one holds people being held, other has inmates being sentenced, but cannot move employees between two facilities
- Two different titles, bargaining agents; different pay, different schedules; makes it uneven

- Over the last several months, trying to figure out how to maintain care and custody of inmates at Jamesville or Justice Center with the amount of staffing currently have
- Need to merge 2 departments into 1 department; what that will do is make all those employees one department
- When in Custody, sit for an exam for Collections Officer; sit for the same exam with 2 different titles
- List to fill either position calls for the same list; if hiring at the same time - question is if interested in Custody Deputy or Corrections Office; more interested in being a Custody Deputy, because salary and schedule are better
- Struggle based on that dynamic; can see the need to merge the 2 departments into 1 department
- Does not mean have to close Jamesville; rumors about that; for that reason, some people have left
- Saying this because there are many dynamics to operating a jail not exclusive on the population numbers; need to come spend a day at both to understand it; still in midst of justice system not operating normally
- Staffing - more necessary for flexibility to perform and keep people safe and healthy; still under pandemic rules
- New rules when an inmate tests positive; day to day discussion on how many inmates are here, and what can be done
- Do not have ability to move employees, if moved under 1 department, 1 title, would have flexibility; may need to move/close a facility; do not like to say close because may need to keep that facility to be operational in the future

Mr. Rowley is interested in the process of merging. He asked if they need negotiations on the personnel side, what would the cost be, and who would start that process; County Executive or Legislature. Sheriff Conway replied that when it comes to negotiations, the Sheriffs Office is part of it; down side on Corrections, not as much as in Custody.

Mr. Ryan asked how many vacant funded are there in Custody and Corrections. Captain Pellizzari responded there are 8 in custody and 31 in corrections.

Mr. Ryan asked if they fill 31 positions, how will that work. Sheriff Conway responded that 31 is the number wanted right now. It is not about merging the two departments, then adding back in Corrections and Custody vacancies. It is about the ability to move employees and inmates. If they had to move employees between facilities, it gives latitude to day-to-day operations. Sheriff Conway said they will need more positions than a year or two ago, which starts by getting employees on the same level.

Mr. Ryan asked where the body camera funding is. Mr. Morgan replied that it sits in a project appropriated with fund balance this year. Right now it is a little over \$600,000 that will carry forward into next year. Mr. Ryan asked what the status of body cameras is. Sheriff Conway replied that it has gone out to bid, and they are creating policy. He expects to be ordering body cameras shortly.

Dr. Chase thanked Sheriff Conway for the departments support in the city, and her constituents are happy.

Ms. Cody said on behalf of Mattydale, Lyncourt, and Pitcher Hill, residents are thankful for their presence there.

Mr. Ryan asked when deputies would have the body cameras. Sheriff Conway responded that the discussion with the unions and body cameras has been resolved to the best of his knowledge.

Chairman Burtis stated he represents a great district and thanked Sheriff Conway for being present. Residents like to see Air 1 in the air. Chairman Burtis said he took a tour of the Justice Center, and he has much respect for the men and woman that work there. It was very sobering to know that only the worst were there, as well as seeing one officer handling a whole pod.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



DEBBIE KAMINSKI, Assistant Clerk  
ONONDAGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE

## ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE DEPARTMENTS  
AND AGENCIES

DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2021

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Don Wears	EM
Carl Hummel	Personnel
Yvette Velasco	Law
Steve Smoral	Fin ops
Tenisha Murphy	CE
Rick Trunfo	DAO
Barry Weiss	DA
Beth Mortas	Personnel
Gen+ Conway	Sheriff
JASON CASSIDY	" "
PAULA PELLIZZARI	" "

## ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE DEPARTMENTS  
AND AGENCIES

DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2021

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Kristi Smilec	Fin Ops
Steven Buff	Fin Ops
Karen Hajiski	Fin Ops