

Maurice R. Ouellette
Sheriff

York County Sheriff's Office



One Layman Way, Alfred, Maine 04002

Mathew B. Baker
Chief Deputy

Michael B. Vitiello
Jail Superintendent


Honorable Board of Selectman: Town of Lebanon

I wanted to take this opportunity to brief the Board on a Public Safety issue that could affect the way the Sheriffs Office will be impacted in the service that we provide to your town. As with everyone's budgets being affected by the state of the economy we are also affected at the county. The County Commissioners in an attempt to hold down the cost shift of the county tax to the communities requested that I slash \$191,600 from my police budget. I looked over my entire budget and in the end laid off my third in command as well as a new patrol position which had been approved by the commissioners. In addition I took out all the capital for new cruisers, money from uniform account, travel and lodging, training account and other percentages in other line items to meet this cut.

On Wednesday the 17th at the Budget Committee Meeting I learned that by a 4 to 3 vote my Police Budget was being cut another \$152,000 so as to get to their bottom line. The intent of this letter is to inform you that if this cut remains, the outcome will be the loss of four Patrol Deputies for that is all that is left in that budget to get to the number. As I am sure you all realize it will have an adverse effect as to how your town will be patrolled. The final determinations have not yet been made however some of the services that have to be looked at are the night Patrol, calls for service, sex offender registrations, domestic violence bail checks just to name a few. In the coming days I will be speaking to many of you so that I can provide you with as much information as I have. We will also be addressing the budget committee at a Public Hearing, January 7 at the Courthouse to possibly have their vote changed so we may continue to provide the Public Safety and services that you pay for and have expected from our agency. In times of recession as we are currently in people resort to unlawful means to obtain what they need and thus create more needs on law enforcement to protect the public. I do not believe that this is the time to reduce these services.

If you have further questions please feel free to contact me at the Sheriffs Office at 324-1113 and I will be happy to speak with you in person or by phone.

Yours truly,


Maurice Ouellette
Sheriff
York County Sheriffs Office