

To: John Stanbrook

From: Chief Michael Miksch

Date: March 22, 2021

Re: Police cuts to go match FY 20 budget:

Below are the proposed line item cuts per your request.

Patrol Salaries: Lay off 3 Officers \$201,453

Cutting 3 full time officers will result in the Police Station being closed. The Police Station would not be staffed 24/7. When deciding to go to Regional 911 part of the understanding was to keep the station open. We eliminated 5 civilian positions and added 4 full time officers. Staffing in the Police Department is already less than in FY20. Closing the station will increase wait times for citizens needing services at the station. This also requires officers to come off the road, resulting in longer response times and diminished patrol hours. There will be fewer officers on the road to respond to calls. Officer Safety also becomes an issue. Fewer officers responding to a call can increase the use of force incidents, as officers have fewer options to handle incidents. Ability to investigate crimes diminishes. Ability to deal with social issues and drug addiction would be lessened or eliminated. We would need to eliminate the School Resource Officer.

Part time officer \$ 6,000

Elimination of the part time officer program would result in the reduction of staffing on the road. It will hinder our ability to recruit and retain officers.

Prof/Legal Services \$ 4,100

Cutting professional services will result in our inability to have independent professionals review our policies and our physical security.

Training Services \$6,000

Cutting training services will eliminate specialty training for officers. Training Services cuts may be difficult to do during police reform. Police reform measures being implemented by the Commonwealth will require even more training time for officers. One of the reasons we have a professional police force is the training opportunities provided to our officers.

Capital Improvements \$135,000

This would eliminate the purchase of new cruisers and technology. This would be a one year cut. Not purchasing cruisers for one year will add to future costs. Maintenance costs and fuel costs will increase while trying to keep an aging fleet online. The cost of cruisers increases each year and putting off one year will only increase the Towns costs next year, especially as we move toward purchasing more green vehicles.