

The Borough Council receives many complaints about the police not being available when they are needed. The Council's number one concern is safety of the public. We have investigated the costs of different options for policing over the past 1-1/2 years. The options were to either staff the Borough police with enough officers to provide 24/7/365 coverage or contract for that coverage. As part of the study, the council contracted with the Center for Excellence in Local Government to help us evaluate it. They recommended becoming part of a larger department. The reasons for that are the lack of ability of our department to effectively investigate crimes, the costs of operating the department, and the inherent inefficiencies of running a small department such as when an officer calls off, there is no replacement.

In order to provide coverage 24/7/365 we believe we would need 6 officers plus a chief, for a cost of \$1,177,330

As a comparison, Maiden Creek Twp. is looking at a similar situation and has estimated the cost of the same size department at 1.2 million.

Contracting for coverage gives us access to the entire Cumru police department, including detectives and specialized officers, and the ability to respond to calls with more than one officer. That cost, with a guarantee of 24/7/365 coverage would cost \$672,805

The current Mohnton police department has 3 full time officers and would have a budget of \$520,964 in 2022 and is down to the state police about half the time. The department has no one trained for investigations.

Making the Mohnton Police full time would result in a large tax increase to cover the additional cost.

Hiring and training police officers takes over a year and costs thousands of dollars. That is a result of the civil service regulations, there is no way to speed that up. In the past, officers we have hired have left for better opportunities after a short time, leaving us short staffed. Starting the whole process all over again. Part time officers have also been difficult to find and retain and their availability rarely matches our needs. Many departments don't use part time officers for that reason. Due to the current circumstances and attitudes toward police, many departments are having difficulty finding qualified candidates. Many are running short staffed. We have been in communication with other departments about this.

The council is trying to get the best possible police coverage for our residents, within the financial means of a small borough. Your Borough Council is very proud of the fact our tax rates are lower than Cumru Twp. and Shillington.

There are many people on social media spreading false information, please reach out to a member of council or the office if you have questions.

Mike De Feo, Council President