

# Truro Police Department

Greetings Everyone – I'm glad that spring is basically here. I would like to provide you with some budget information *and* the basketball results.

## **Police Department Budget Requests – Town Meeting May 2013:**

The Police Department held its first public Budget Forum on Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, here at the Police Station. Sixteen people joined at the station to learn about five topics for the upcoming Town Meeting:

- Staffing
- Overtime
- FY14 Budget Capital Improvement Plans
- Lightning Protection
- Emergency Generator Article

I would like to take a moment to explain the four major expenditures and how they will provide for the Town of Truro.

First up is an Article requesting \$80,000 (Eighty Thousand Dollars) to fund additional overtime expenses in this Fiscal Year (FY13.) The conditions necessitating this action are as follows:

1. In the past two years the Police Department has been able to move base salary funds (\$70,000 - \$80,000) to the overtime line account as a result of vacant positions in the Patrol Division. We are unable to do that this year because, although two replacement Officers have been hired, they have been away at the Police Academy – thus consuming their base salary money without the benefit of being on the shift schedule.
2. Available funds within the Budget (approx. \$10,000) will be transferred by the end of April.
3. The State's Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) has cancelled funding for required annual in-service training and most specialized schools. Accordingly, Departments are now forced to pay fees per subject, per instructor, and per Officer for a minimum of 32 hours of training.
4. The loss of command staff has entailed the promotions of two Sergeants and a Lieutenant, requiring attendance at command-level training courses no longer financed by the MPTC. Training and the related overtime is very costly.
5. One Officer and one Dispatcher have dealt with serious family medical issues necessitating extended absences.
6. The remaining Officers and Dispatchers have been required to work all the additional shifts (on overtime) as replacements to meet minimum staffing levels.

7. The number of single-Officer shifts is excessive and creates a dangerous situation for both the single Officer on duty (no back up) and the public they serve.
8. The rate of overtime use exceeds the current Budget by approximately \$80,000.

In order to relieve some of the burden to the Town and the Department, the following mitigating steps have been taken:

1. Patrol shift staffing has been reduced.
2. Time-off (vacation) guidelines have been adjusted to reduce overtime expenditures.
3. Department members received certifications to teach "in-house" in some subjects.
4. The Chief and Lieutenant are both working some patrol shifts.
5. The Department is working collaboratively with other Cape Departments and the Cape Cod Law Enforcement Council (CCRLEC) for training.
6. Grant funding is being used to offset training and course costs.
7. Although not a direct budget return to the Police Department, the program of making an inventory of all excess property for auction / sale and maximizing trade-ins.

An additional request under the same Article will fund critical improvements to the Public Safety Facility's lightning protection system. Currently this building and the employees who work in it are not protected from lightning strikes. We have one Dispatcher who was struck by lightning directly through the radio console. In addition each time the Facility is struck we damage thousands of dollars' worth of equipment. The new protection system will reduce greatly the vulnerability of damage to employees and to the building. At the same time, the Town needs to remove the building and its associated systems from the emergency generator owned and maintained by AT&T. The lack of maintenance to this unit has caused extensive damage to our equipment, and we must have better control over our emergency power supply and the decisions affecting its repair. Inasmuch as the equipment is now owned by AT&T, we have no control over its maintenance nor its service. This request for a lightning protection system and standby emergency generator is at a cost of just over \$200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Dollars.)

The overtime and the lightning protection / generator system funding requests are using FY13 "Free Cash."

As a side note, you should know that the Town, through its attorney, is pursuing AT&T aggressively for their culpability in this problem.

The following information highlights Budget issues I would like to bring to your attention. Overall, the Department's request increases our Budget. The

conditions which have caused the increases are as follows: energy costs have risen; the contractual Union raise for FY14 is 3%, fully funding the employee contract; the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act; and our now unfunded training mandates have spiked costs dramatically.

**5100:**

1. The base salary account reflects a 3% contractual raise and funding the Union contract fully.

**5150:**

2. The overtime account includes the 3% raise adjusted for the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Also, I have requested a \$6,000 increase to cover State training mandates.
3. Extra security request, up \$2,000 - \$7,000, covering additional personnel for Town events (Truro Treasures, AG-Fair, DPW Paving, Voting, etc.)

**5200:**

4. Cell phone accounts now support computer modems (an increase,) but our business phone lines have been reduced by \$2,000.
5. Other Agency Police Services (K-9, Court, Investigations) is reduced \$1,500 due to interagency agreements.
6. External instructor costs increased by \$2,000, up to \$3,000 due to State funding /support reductions.

**5400:**

7. Gasoline – estimated at \$4 per gallon increases the line \$7,200 to \$48,000.
8. Student Officer Costs – included, due to members of the Union who are retirement eligible and indicating they intend to retire (notification is a contractual obligation.)

**5600:**

9. Student Officer tuition fee is \$2,500.

**5700:**

10. Travel for training and meetings increased \$2,325 to \$4,000 due to State funding/support reductions
11. Training program fees – a \$4,000 increase due to State funding/support reductions. This year alone, to date, the Department has spent / obligated its \$8,000 on mandated training; and we have not completed it yet. Additionally, there have been no funds spent on any executive-level training for the Chief and Lieutenant.
12. Law updates and periodicals has been reduced by \$2,500 due to on-line accessibility and updates contained within the training programs

As you may be aware, the Town asks each Department Head to submit a five-year capital improvement plan. The basic function of the Police Department's plan is to do three things; provide the necessary equipment needed by the staff to perform the functions we ask them to do, keep that equipment in good operating condition, and also minimize maintenance costs by setting reasonable life cycles on all major assets.

One example is the Police cars. As you know we have reduced our fleet from 12 to 8, plus the leased motorcycle. If we keep each of these cars for eight years and replace them at a rate of one per year, you will incur frequent increased costs for maintenance and have no residual trade-in value. Of most concern is a vehicle in emergency service that is not dependable and/or worn out (safety concern.) You will note in the submitted CIP, two cruisers are scheduled for replacement every other year, and the car I drive is last on the list in FY19.

Our portable Police radios were first manufactured in the mid-nineties and supplied to the Olympic Games. Now 17-18 years old, I have put them on a replacement schedule beginning in FY17 at five units per year for the next three years thereafter.

This year the Department will request two items:

1. Replacement of the 2007 Ford Taurus, currently at 106,211 miles with two bad catalytic converters. The replacement vehicle will be a Toyota, which is dependable, economic, and well suited to the Department's requirements. Cost is \$28,000, not counting any trade-in value.
2. For three years, the FCC has been warning public safety groups of its "Narrow Banding" requirement. Our low-band radio system (the backup or secondary radio) is no longer in compliance with FCC regulations and needs replacement. Narrow Banding is essentially the ability to put more frequencies in a range between two channels. The radios in the Police cars are compliant, but the base station requires replacement. Cost is \$13,500 (with installation performed without cost by the Barnstable County Sheriffs Radio Technicians.)
3. Below is the five-year plan. Please bear in mind this is a fluid chart and is updated each year prior to presentation to the Budget Task Force, Finance Committee, and the Board of Selectmen.

Truro Police Capital Improvement Plan								
	Vehicle Year	Vehicle	Milage as of 4/1/13		Replacement Schedule			
			Cruiser Number	Odometer	Town Meeting Date	Purchase Date	Cost	Fiscal Year
POLICE	2007	F TAURUS 2W	717 - Unmarked	112,195	April 2013	July 2013	28,000.00	FY 14
Replacement VHF (FCC Narrowband Compliant) Base Station Radio					April 2013	July 2013	13,500.00	FY 14
POLICE	2006	F EXPEDIT 4W	714 - 4 Wheel Drive	75,903	April 2014	July 2014	35,000.00	FY 15
POLICE	2010	F CRN VIC 2W	723 - Patrol	69,580	April 2014	July 2014	36,000.00	FY 15
POLICE	2010	F CRN VIC 2W	722 - Patrol	72,057	April 2015	July 2015	36,000.00	FY 16
Replacement Dispatch Console and Related Components					April 2015	July 2015	120,000.00	FY 16
POLICE	2005	F CRN VIC 2W	715 - Unmarked	94,658	April 2016	July 2016	31,000.00	FY 17
POLICE	2012	D CHARGER	725 - Patrol	25,737	April 2016	July 2016	37,000.00	FY 17
Replacement Police Portable Radios (800 Megahert System) 5 Units					April 2016	July 2016	15,000.00	FY 17
POLICE	2012	D CHARGER	726 - Patrol	17,452	April 2017	July 2017	37,000.00	FY 18
Replacement Police Portable Radios (800 Megahert System) 5 Units					April 2017	July 2017	15,000.00	FY 18
POLICE	2009	F CRN VIC 2W	721 - Chief	33,546	April 2018	July 2018	33,000.00	FY 19
Replacement Police Portable Radios (800 Megahert System) 5 Units					April 2018	July 2018	15,000.00	FY 19
POLICE	2011	HD MOTOR CYC	724 - Motorcycle	6881	Leased / exchanged every two years at a current cost of \$3,900.00			

I hope you have found this information helpful, and I welcome your comments or concerns as we approach the Annual Town Meeting.

## Truro Candidates Night – Friday April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

This year I won't be with you on Candidate's Night as my family and I are heading out on our first full vacation. It will be the first time since 2005 that I have taken a week off and not switched from one uniform to another. And we are looking forward to it immensely. The Department's Second-in-Command and Executive Officer, Lt. Craig Danziger, will attend in my absence.

## Truro Central School Fundraiser – "TCS"

On Friday March 1<sup>st</sup>, the Police Department joined the "Teachers, Cops & Students" and Parents of the Truro Central School for a fundraiser to benefit the annual Washington, D.C. trip. The event was a great success, and over \$900

was raised for the trip to D.C. We lost one game – and won one, too!  
Unfortunately, one of the Officers was injured when another player came down  
on his Achilles tendon. He's out temporarily while it heals.

As always, please feel free to reach out at any time. I'm interested in your  
thoughts.

Very Respectfully,

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