

There have been some rumors going around about the City of Slater eliminating the Police Department. That is the furthest thing from the truth. The City is reorganizing its law enforcement duties by contracting with the Saline County Sheriff's office. Some municipalities such as LaMonte, Windsor, and Vandalia have already successfully switched to those respective County Sheriff Departments. Other's such as New Franklin are currently looking at it. This was looked at in 2018, but it was decided to try and keep the local department viable. The Slater Police Department has not been at full staff since October 2019 and has been operating with only two full timers and a couple of reserves (when available) since October 2020 and as of Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, now only has one. We can not expect one/two officers to work 9-10 or even 12 hours a day, 7 days a week with Saline County covering emergency calls after midnight.

Not only was manpower considered now, but also for in the future. The cost of vehicles and equipment was also looked at, along with future overall costs. The City's insurance (MIRMA) is looking at requiring body camera's with a recording and retrieval system in the near future or putting a \$10,000 deductible on excessive force claims as it is a growing liability to the City and to them.

The contract between the County / City will provide for 3 full-time deputy's plus other deputy's (1 per shift) patrolling full-time to provide visability within the City limits of Slater. Saline County will be utilizing the current Police Department location on Walnut Street, use the same phone numbers, 911, 529-2241 and 529-2242, enforce the same City Ordinances and have access to more resources to prevent and investigate crimes once a contract is signed.

The current officers can apply to the Sheriff's Department if they so choose. The City's current vehicles and equipment will be evaluated and utilized by Saline County also.

The so mentioned reasons has put the City in a precarious situation for the future. The current department has worked tireless hours through these unfortunate circumstances and should be commended. It is not fair to the officers, the residents or the City to work those amount of hours.

The City/County is looking at a 5 year contract with yearly renewals at a cost of \$10,000 per month verses 2019 - \$17,698 and 2020 - \$18,765. We are both agreed that there will be some growing pains and changes that we all will have to work through in the future.