

Creating And Funding Positions For The Ulster County Sheriff's Officer Wellness Unit

Referred to: The Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee (Chairwoman Hansut and Legislators Hewitt, Maloney, McCollough and Walls), and The Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Gavaris and Legislators Collins, Hansut, Kovacs, Nolan, and Roberts)

Chairwoman of the Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee, Gina Hansut, offers the following:

WHEREAS, in 2022 the New York State Division for Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) issued accreditation standards, mandating that accredited agencies create an officer wellness program to address 1) access to resources, 2) prevention and intervention, 3) peer involvement & support, 4) critical incident response; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Sheriff's Office (USCO) Criminal Division was originally accredited in 1992, the first in the state to achieve the distinction, has successfully undergone five re-accreditation assessments since then, and is currently accredited by the DCJS; and

WHEREAS, agencies around the country are recognizing the importance of monitoring and tending to employees' health and wellness with the goal of promoting a department-wide culture of wellness, providing support and services when they are needed, and keeping the department healthy; and

WHEREAS, nationally collected data shows that mental health disorders present at higher rates in the first responder community resulting in increases in suicide, substance abuse, divorce, financial strain, PTSD and accumulative stress disorders; and

WHEREAS, while the UCSO has long offered wellness-related programs such as peer support, and stress management training, services are decentralized, and lacking an individual dedicated to ensuring the wellness of the UCSO's personnel; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for a more comprehensive approach to wellness addressing all of the county's first responders including Law Enforcement, Fire Services, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Dispatchers, and other First Responders; and

WHEREAS, existing county resources are insufficient to meet the current and increasing wellness needs of Ulster County first responders; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2024 Ulster County Budget is hereby amended as follows to create the following positions effective June 1, 2024:

Resolution No. 220 May 14, 2024

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Officer Wellness Unit**

CREATE

<u>POSITION #</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
3110-XXXX (PL#) *Annual Salary Annual Benefits \$55,506.00	Deputy Sheriff - Lieutenant (SOU; 80-hours)	\$113,415.00*
3110-XXXX (PL#) *Annual Salary Annual Benefits \$35,902.00	Officer Wellness Resource Spec (UCSEA; 80-hours)	\$ 73,360.00*
3110-XXXX (PL#) *Annual Salary Annual Benefits \$28,609.00	Deputy Sheriff (PBA; 80-hours)	\$ 58,458.00*
3110-XXXX (PL#) *Annual Salary Annual Benefits \$26,240.00	Correction Officer (UCSEA; 80-hours)	\$ 53,616.00*

INCREASE

AMOUNT

AA.3110.1821-1300.1300 (App. #)	Regular Pay	\$173,378.00
AA.3110.1821-8000.8000 (App.#)	Retirement	\$ 26,822.00
AA.3110.1821-8010.8010 (App.#)	Social Security	\$ 13,263.00
AA.3110.1821-8020.8020 (App.#)	Health Insurance - Dental	\$ 2,081.00
AA.3110.1821-8020.8035 (App.#)	Health Insurance	\$ 42,391.00

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AA.3110.1821-8020.8055 Health Insurance - Optical \$ 295.00
(App.#)

AA.9900.9900-3700.9990 Appropriated Fund Balance \$258,230.00
(Rev.#),

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: NOES:

Passed Committee: Law Enforcement and Public Safety on _____.

Passed Committee: Ways and Means on _____.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

\$258,230.00 - 2024 INCREASE TO APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE

\$258,230.00 - 2024 APPROPRIATIONS