

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**Sheriff's Department Work Session**  
**2003 Legislative Proposal to Expand the Department's Rate Structure**  
**January 6, 2003**

2:00 p.m.

Present: Board of County Commissioners  
County Staff  
Sheriff Zylak, Lt. Long, Lt. Horne, Sgt. Rhodes, Cpl. Belleavoine,  
Bob Johnston, Systems Administrator, and Erin Gass, Fiscal Supervisor

Sheriff Zylak's legislative presentation requested the appointment of 1 Major (assistant to Sheriff) and up to 5 Captains to the command and that legal residency be deleted from current legislation. Currently, there is 1 active Captain but the command is requesting 3 additional Captains to head the four divisions (Corrections, Patrol Division, Special Ops, and Criminal Investigations).

Points of Interest

Charles County has 1 Major and 8 Captains, 7 divisions led by a Captain, and 233 sworn deputies (twice the deputies of SMC but not serving twice the population).

SMC has 106 sworn deputies, 69 correctional officers, and 32 support civilian staff.

The Sheriff's Department from 1999-2000, received a 12% increase in budget. From 2000-2001, there was a 10.5% increase; in 2001-2002, a 9.5% increase; and in 2003 current year, received only a 2/100 of 1% increase. Since 2000, there were no increases in authorized deputies.

About 15,000 people enter the county daily to work creating increased traffic control issues. Per International Chiefs of Policy, service calls require 2.5 FTO for every 1,000 of populace - a national average guideline. Using this formula, we should have 220 police officers on board (including State Police, college security, etc.).

Commissioner McKay pointed out that the comparison with Charles County may not be relevant since their population is far greater. Based on 2003 numbers, Calvert County's population is 86,000 and grows 5% per year, SMC's population is 90,000 and grows at 1.6% per year, and the demographics are similar. The same numbers for Charles is 135,000 that's a 49% difference. Charles is closer to an urban area than both Charles and SMC. Comparisons with Calvert should have been submitted with this package to balance your numbers. Staff has provided some figures from Calvert. Their budget is 39% less than SMC; they have 1 officer for every 808 citizens (SMC has 1 in 640).

Sheriff Zylak has taken steps to lower overtime with shift changes, etc. (cost y-t-d is \$60,000). The Detention center with 12 openings continues to be a concern and utilizing capable deputies at the Courthouse needs to be addressed. They need to be returned to the street. Salaries are not so much the issue - filling vacancies are.

Government Acquisitions, Inc. may be one way to create revenue. SMC can receive national media exposure, enhance community relations and public awareness of law enforcement, promote safer streets, and much more without increasing taxes or obtaining government funding. Brand new vehicles are donated to the county with sponsor logos and tasteful advertisements. Sponsors and advertising agencies foot the bill if they are interested in SMC. It's worth investigating but only on DARE, high school resource officers, and criminal investigators cars only. Vehicles are replaced every three years. This type of advertising is similar to what is being done with STS buses.

**The Commissioners recommended that civilian positions and consolidations or reductions in positions be investigated to reduce the financial impact (i.e., current courthouse coverage be replaced with hourly personnel).**



**Commissioner Mattingly suggested lowering steps within upper grades that received the most compensation from the Singer study. The savings would be significant.**

**The Commissioners recommended deputies currently in the courthouse be returned to the jobs they are already slated to fulfill and replace them with hourly personnel.**

**Continue utilizing grants to pay officers for specific jobs, when feasible.**

**The Commissioners agreed it is worthwhile to investigate Government Acquisitions, Inc.**

The meeting ended at 3:50 p.m. This issue will be returned to the Board on Tuesday, January 7, 2003.