

# Memo

**To:** Munster Town Council  
**CC:** Town Manager Dustin Anderson  
**From:** Chief of Police Stephen Scheckel  
**Date:** April 17, 2023  
**Re:** Modification of Salary Ordinance

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The Police Department is respectfully requesting a modification to the Town of Munster's 2023 Salary Ordinance. The Ordinance currently sets the department's sworn officers at forty-three (43). The department would like to set the sworn strength to forty-four (44) officers. This would facilitate the department's wish to bolster the night shift with an extra officer and enhance our proactive policing efforts. Even though our crime statistics are good, the department has in recent years noticed an uptick in calls for service. In 2010 we had 6,206 calls for service, and last year, 2022, the department received 16,563 calls, a significant increase over twelve (12) years. The department's arrests have also increased, particularly out-of-state arrests. Lastly, the Police Department's Use of Force and Pursuits have doubled in recent years.

The increase in arrests, pursuits, and Use of Force require several officers to safely manage the situation and ensure an optimal outcome, causing other areas of town to be short coverage. Additionally, our Crime Suppression Unit has been extremely effective in utilizing new technologies to deter crime before it happens. To build upon our recent successes we are requesting an additional officer.

## **Recommendation**

I respectfully request the Town Council increase the number of sworn officers from forty-three (43) to forty-four (44).