



# Onondaga County Legislature

**JAMIE McNAMARA**  
Clerk

**DAVID H. KNAPP**  
Chairman

**MELANIE VILARDI**  
Deputy Clerk

401 Montgomery Street • Court House • Room 407 • Syracuse, New York, 13202  
Phone: 315.435.2070 • Fax: 315.435.8434 • [www.ongov.net/legislature](http://www.ongov.net/legislature)

## **WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THE 2021 TENTATIVE BUDGET PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS – NOVEMBER 10, 2020 TIM BURTIS, CHAIRMAN**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. May, Mr. Rowley, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ervin  
**ALSO ATTENDING:** Chairman Knapp, Ms. Cody, Ms. Kuhn, Dr. Chase, Mr. Holmquist, Mr. McBride,  
**Mr. Bush;** please see attached

Chair Burtis called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

### **EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS:** (4-7) Julie Corn, Commissioner

- Met proforma budget requirements; \$770,000 cut to budget; are able to maintain all essential functions; able to be okay and sustain for next year
- Biggest mission impact is staffing - \$650,000; sustaining with overtime
- Mobile data project - putting new modems in every police, fire and EMS vehicle is progressing; all vendors selected; hope to be implementing at first of year

Ms. Corn responded to Mr. Jordan's questions:

*Elaborate on the increase to the 103 line.*

- Discovery reform impact - increase staff that process all recordings; have to do faster and more often; had 2 part-time previously, and now added 2 more part-time and 1 fulltime to meet demand of state mandate
- *Maintenance, Utilities & Rents is up \$200,000 from 2019.*
- Biggest chunk in line are maintenance contracts for software and hardware, radios and towers, facilities
- Certain amount is contingency fund if things break; at risk there; if something breaks, have nothing in budget to fix things not covered by contract; can handle the deficit
- Service contracts increase 3% each year, but not sure if that's the jump; will get back on that

Ms. Corn responded that the amount in the 101 covers 136 positions, and they are doing okay. If they drop below 120 positions, then it would get scary.

Ms. Corn answered Mr. May's questions:

*Overtime does not show an increase in 2021. Is this something they will be able to stick with based on this year?*

- Having to use overtime this year, but because of COVID, people did not leave; overtime stable
- Concerned next year, assuming a break from COVID and people start traveling, then the number could go up
- Hard to predict; doing fine this year with overtime, but people really did not travel
- Everyone starts as fulltime – call takers and dispatchers; comes out of 101; takes 6 months to hire and train
- Pipeline has been diminished this year; did not hire anyone; typically hire 12 per year, lose about 5 people into retirement or moving on; will get behind

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** (4-15) Daniel Wears, Commissioner

- Thank staff for working holidays, weekends and nights this entire time; would not be able to do what they do without them

- Major update is opened hospitality and industry testing at Oncenter; continue to do to get people tested
- Next budget year, will be able to complete mission; 2021 – mission continues to be on COVID front; very little impact locally

Chairman Burtis stated that Emergency Management has done an excellent job, and he is thrilled with how everyone stepped up. Congratulations to the staff.

Mr. Wears responded to Mr. Rowley that his department is coordinating the COVID testing. Mr. Rowley asked what the plan is with the yellow zone and schools testing on a weekly basis. Mr. Wears:

- Working with schools; will see what they can do on their own; what county can do to help supplement efforts; do what is needed to achieve the 20%
- Plan is state providing 15 min antigen tests; use those tests; figure what school district can provide for personnel
- Executive Secretary - title added, but not funded; priority if going to grow department to help support office

Mr. Wears answered Mr. Jordan's questions:

*Elaborate on why Other Employees Wages line doubled since 2019.*

- 2 groups of part-time employees: (1) Fire Investigators that do fire origin investigation for all of the county fire departments, except city; (2) Deputy Coordinators who work in field; assist fire and EMS agencies in regions
- Number of years ago started to pay as part-time versus volunteering to help increase participation and support to organizations; may be back in that time it was done
- Per diem not beneficial, so chose an hourly route

*Supplies & Materials line almost tripled since 2019.*

- Due to American Heart Association – went from \$2.50 for CPR card to \$18 for CPR card; on expenditure, but also matching revenue; sell cards as cost to instructors who teach them; have to go to teaching center; net wash

*Maintenance, Utilities & Rents doubled since 2019.*

- Will have to look into that

Mr. Morgan commented on the spending in 2019 versus the budget in 2021:

- Department heavily reliant on grants; if there is ability to charge off to grants, then they do that
- In 2019, the accounts questioning, expenses were higher, but charged off to various grants; not sure if those grants will be available, so budget for support in operating account, then team works through year to charge off what they can
- Budgeting assuming grants are not coming in, because they are not positive they will
- Grants will probably go back up again; had a lot of grants after 911 and other issues; but then waned a little; thinking will see a bump up again; department good at identifying grants where they can charge expenses
- Then they will not see them in operating budget
- Extra monies budgeted (but not used because of grants) fall to bottom line; general budget; unless another need identified; then send up to Ms. Rooney to determine if those are dollars the county wants to spend

Mr. Wears added that last year there was an unexpected grant with COVID that came in at about \$400,000 - \$500,000 total, so that was not budgeted. It is just a small portion for operations.

*Professional Services went from \$277 to \$51,000.*

- EMS training through state; have money to contract with EMS instructors to provide where needed throughout county for fire and EMS agencies; have not taught classes since then; number at first was \$250 – \$270
- Matching revenue formula – contract is based on formula from state; get revenue back in; so many other places to get classes; pulled agencies for need in those classes; keep money there to pay; associated revenue
- Do not spend unless get revenue back; earmarked for something specific

Mr. Morgan responded to Chairman Knapp that the \$6.8 million for COVID expenses is budgeted in county general, so expenses can occur across various departments.

Mr. Ryan asked if the county anticipates FEMA reimbursement, and Mr. Morgan replied that Mr. Wears has been working with Ms. Smiley. They are in the final stretch and should have notification in the next

couple weeks on what is approved for reimbursement. The hope is that a majority of the \$5 million spent combating the pandemic will be eligible, and the county would receive 75% reimbursement.

Mr. Ryan thanked Mr. Wears and his staff for all their work during this time.

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** (3-52) Domenic Trunfio, First Chief Assistant District Attorney; Barry Weiss, Administrative Officer

Mr. Trunfio:

- Thank County Executive's office and budget director for helping put budget together to keep doing the work their doing resulting in accountability
- Thank Legislature for understanding challenges of Criminal Justice Reform that went into effect Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>
- Presented issues foresaw, but also what anticipated costs would be
- Focus on 4 C's - Cost, COVID, Competence and Collaboration to use resources as efficiently as possible

### **District Attorney 2021 Budget Presentation November 10, 2020**

#### **I. COSTS**

##### **A. Criminal Justice Reform**

##### **1. Discovery**

- Costs of Compliance with Discovery Mandates
- Storage costs for DEMS (Digital Evidence Management System) significantly more than expected
- Cost of Body Worn Camera/COPS Cameras Video Storage
- Clerical Workload
- Technology/Equipment upgrades

##### **2. Bail Reform**

- Cost to Public Safety
- Significant rise in violent crime, gun crime and homicides
- Emboldened criminals who perceive no consequences for their conduct
- Creating an atmosphere anti-law enforcement sentiment and disrespect for law resulting in a record number of Officer Involved Shootings

##### **3. Raise the Age**

- Dramatic rise in Burglaries and car thefts by groups of juveniles who have literally become "untouchable" due changes in the law that resulted from "Raise the Age" legislation.
- Significant increases in juvenile gun violence and gang affiliation
- Refocus G.I.V.E. Strategy to address juvenile offenders

- Cost to Public Safety - Criminal Justice Reform (CJR) cost of compliance more than thought would be
- Last year, when preparing for CJR, talking about impossible turnaround time; got help from NY Prosecutor's Training Institute (NYPTI)
- Mr. Rowley was budget director when case management system was called Promise then got Practice; both million dollar systems needing maintenance, NYPTI gave them a case management system for free
- NYPTI could not supplement the digital evidence management system developed specifically for discovery reform; actual structure is free, which is part of records management system; cost is storage of digital info
- Digital information given to defense - costs are a lot more than thought, because of requirements of discovery
- Before CJR went into effect on 1/1/20, in June started pilot program and July most ADAs were working with DEMS (Digital Evidence Management System); charge per terabit per month; cost about 5 terabits per month
- In January, it caused tremendous loss in ADAs; DA's office lost 7 ADAs; lawyers with law degrees are getting paid less than minimum wage to be a clerk and do paperwork; cannot put number on that cost
- Cost for storage went from 5 terabits to 10/month; in August, NYPTI said costs were going up to 15/month
- That got worse from Aug to Sept; right now it's 20 terabits/month which is \$23,000

- Everyone talks about what is great for reform; (i.e.) body cameras – as prosecutor agree; cops camera footage helps, but it costs money to store video; a lot of money
- Have not scratched surface, because everyone going to body cameras; Syracuse Police started with 69, now have 160, will be up to 300; Sheriff's going to them; Troopers are by law
- Cost of digital storage will skyrocket because of well-intentioned reform and policy
- Non-funded mandates - who will pay? The county
- Clerical workload - funded a couple paralegals positions have been incredibly helpful
- Technology upgrades slower - have not had desktop upgrades in 12 years; working with cutting edge DEMS with desktops at 12-15 years old
- Bail reform cost to public safety - DA did presentation, but most recent numbers are astounding
- For Syracuse only - shooting incidents involving injury up 122% over this time last year; shooting with person hit over 130% from last year; individuals killed by gun violence up 82% over last year
- Every county in state has seen these numbers
- Live in Strathmore – familiar with rash of burglaries by young perpetrators; same group went around to different neighborhoods and towns; know, because track with RTA (Raise the Age); they get out; no holding them
- Why are these people who are invading homes and stealing cars not in jail? Answer is RTA
- Rise in juvenile crime is so significant, that grant from state to target gun violence in Syracuse changed to focus on juvenile offenders – rise in shooters, gun violence and gang affiliation; state granted it

## II. COVID

- A. We remained open and continued to operate effectively when most of county government was closed.
    - Within days of the shut-down, we developed new protocols and procedures to ensure that health and safety of personnel were not compromised as operations of the office continued, uninterrupted.
  - B. Worked with NYS Courts and County IT to quickly implement efficient and safe methods to continue court appearances through technology, while still protecting the rights of those accused.
  - C. Consequences of austerity measures and hiring freeze has prevented us from filling four (4) vacant ADA positions
  - D. Backlog of cases is significant, which will have consequences for us as we finish out 2020 and move into in 2021. This will be challenge without having a full staff of ADAs, particularly since the impact on our workload due to of last year's discovery reform.
- Proud of office; could not shut down due to police still making arrests; defendants have to be arraigned immediately; prosecutors have to be present, or using Skype; then in person hearings
  - City court judge not comfortable doing hearing in Zoom; each person identified in each box; had to move quickly to in person prelim hearings to protect people's rights
  - Worked hard to get grand juries back going; back log of arrested felonies not getting indicted; worked with state to come up with grand jury protocols; one of first jurisdictions to resume grand jury presentations
  - Done first COVID trial over a month ago; NYC did their first one last week
  - Usually upstate is far ahead of NYC with progress; should be proud of this jurisdiction for judges, defense bar and DA's office
  - DA's office has hit every austerity measure put in place, despite losing 7 ADAs; did not hire positions; people getting slammed, particularly without court proceedings; backlog increased dramatically
  - ERI – lost support staff and investigators, but did not hire; asked permission to hire 1 investigator; did get
  - Clear had to make cuts; were proactive and reached out; if cutting, then let DA point in the right direction; will need certain things to operate once out of pandemic and working on backlog
  - Met with County Executive's office and budget director to come up with plan to abolish positions and keep couple positions unfunded until end of year
  - At bare bones knowing it will be tough; ask for 2021 is important to deal with backlog; have to hire at least 4 ADAs, or will lose more to private sector

## III. COMPETENCE

- A. Despite the additional burdens placed on ADAs by discovery reform and despite the ongoing COVID pandemic, our office has continued to perform at a high level, working through the lockdown, indicting cases, working out plea dispositions and trying cases.

B. Our ADAs continue to pursue justice and protect the citizens of Onondaga County with professionalism and dignity, even as their profession remains under attack from partisan activists, the media and misguided political agendas and despite salaries that are much lower than counterparts in the defense bar and in the private sector.

- Despite burdens, office continues to perform at high level; adjusted to working at home, then coming into office; very difficult at this time in history, when law enforcement is under attack – media, political agendas, etc.
- Most proud of increased diversity; now have 8 Assistant District Attorneys that are African American
- Number of those ADAs grew up here; very difficult time for them; hearing from media and activists that law enforcement is bad; trying to do best to help communities
- NYC – last 2 years, 95-96% of shooting victims were people of color; victims are in poor neighborhoods with gangs ravaging their neighborhoods; want safety
- Chief Buckner said it best during protests; reporter asked him if they could do better with hiring more minorities; Chief's response was, "We'd love to, but the environment that's created; who wants to come work here?"
- Why would they choose career in law enforcement? Police officers restraint directly related to training; have to be intelligent; Syracuse Police Dept. (SPD) looking at 40 retirements by Jan. 1 – losing experienced officers

#### IV. COLLABORATION

- A. We continue to take leadership roles in every major public safety initiative or crime reduction strategies like G.I.V.E., CNYLEADS/C-2 development, police reform and community engagement
- B. We continue to collaborate and spearhead innovation and proactive policies collaborate with all local, state and federal agencies
- C. We continue to work proactively with the Center for Forensic Science to increase the efficiency and prudent use of resources in our requests for probative scientific evidence

- Continue to take leadership roles in public safety initiatives; decent case management system
- Leading county wide police reform initiative and collaboration; continuing community engagement
- Spearhead innovation and proactive policies with state and federal agencies
- Health Commissioner may not see importance of Forensic Center; not sure where it fits in with budget, but cannot tell Legislature how important the center is
- Ensuring system works and fair; best way is objective scientific evidence; will not have if crime lab not funded
- Funding of crime lab and positions are crucial to continue to have system in county that is efficient and inculpates guilty and exculpates the innocent
- Legislature should consider if the Center of Forensic Sciences should even be under the Health Department
- Dr. Corrado was one of the foremost experts in the country; one of the most respected Crime Lab Directors in country; she will probably take teaching position instead of being on frontlines where she's needed
- All want safe communities; take myriad of dynamics; starts with working with police; ensuring agencies that are responsible for justice system are well funded

Mr. Jordan said it was a great presentation, and the DA's office has always shown fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Jordan asked for an elaboration on why the Professional Services line is up from 2019. Mr. Trunfio:

- Takes into account everything including expert witnesses; lot of it has to do with experts being brought in, that are not related to Forensic Center, like psychiatric experts, or experts against defense
- Court reporters as well; when Criminal Justice Reform hit, needed additional stenographer (have 2 now)
- To turn around grand jury minutes, may have to bring in someone in (due to death, COVID quarantine, etc.)
- Covers an array of different services needed; unfortunately cost of business
- Large increase because of reform
- Raw video - not wanting to add more gigabits to pay for; have professionals look at and edit video; still have to give raw to defense, but edit what is uploaded; DEMS huge cost; may be underfunded
- Met with NYPTI to find any way to reduce storage; do not have a choice in uploading and turning over to defense; surprised if this covers it – know cost of 5gb to 20gb
- Currently do not have body cameras for half SPD, but will come over next year

Mrs. Ervin thanked Mr. Trunfio for his presentation, but she does not agree with all that he said. Mrs. Ervin does not see where it was relevant to discuss the reform and asked what about the reform has caused the budget to be different? Mr. Trunfio:

- Lost personnel; costs in technology increased with requirements with discovery reform
- Know that the budget presented is cut, so he is asking to please not cut the department; down to bare bones

Chairman Knapp asked how long the County has to keep the footage from the body cameras, and Mr. Trunfio responded forever; it goes into the servers in Albany. They would not know if someone in 20 years makes a motion of innocence, so it has to be kept forever. It is archived at a reduced rate.

Ms. Kuhn said Mr. Trunfio mentioned losing ADA's because they were doing the work of clerks, and she asked why they do not have clerks doing that work. Mr. Trunfio:

- It is about understanding the discovery reform; statute requires an ADA sign under penalty and perjury certification that all discovery has been turned over
- Courts help prepare discovery, but every ADA has to go through discovery; ADA is on the hook ethically
- Clerks upload from police agency, then ADA responsible to look through and ensure defense has everything required under law; ADA has to sign certificate of compliance under penalty and perjury
- Will not leave that to non-sworn, non-attorney clerk

Chairman Knapp stated there will be a high profile retrial in September 2021, and he remembers it being a very expensive undertaking. What are Mr. Trunfio's thoughts on that and the budget? Mr. Trunfio responded that hopefully they will be in a better situation with the pandemic, and they will have to see what their budget is at that time. They may come back to ask for supplemental funds.

Mr. Trunfio replied to Mr. Bush that the starting salary for an ADA is \$58,600. Mr. Bush asked who determines that salary. Mr. Trunfio answered that personnel sets that salary. Mr. Morgan commented that it is based on the salary schedule approved by the Legislature every year as part of the budget. Mr. Bush asked if Mr. Trunfio feels that is competitive. Mr. Trunfio said no, not to attract those out of law school. It attracts those that want to be prosecutors. As their school loans come forward, the ADAs make choices of what to pay for (i.e. car, loan, apartment). Retention then becomes an issue when reality hits around the 3 – 5 year mark. Mr. Bush said top quality people have to be compensated to hold onto them.

Mr. Ryan asked where the county is relative to other counties with compensation for ADAs. Mr. Trunfio replied that Oswego County is smaller and starts in the sixties, and Monroe County's starting salary is \$70,000. Mr. Ryan asked what the top end of the step is for that grade\*. Chairman Knapp added that ADAs are required to drive to town courts often in the evenings, and they are not reimbursed. Mr. Trunfio agreed and said the ADAs do quite a bit they are not compensated for. Each ADA has to do 2 weeks of 24 hour on call every year which includes things like answering police calls on bail and other issues.

Mr. McBride said it was a great presentation and asked if Mr. Trunfio is looking for 4 ADAs. Mr. Trunfio explained that they are asking for 4 ADAs to be funded. They are ready to hire immediately if the money is there.

\*Mr. Morgan responded to Mr. Ryan's earlier question that the end of the grade is just shy of \$78,000, and it takes 26 years to get to it.

Mr. Trunfio replied to Mr. May that the positions are vacant and unfunded.

**PROBATION:** (4-42) Phil Galuppi, Commissioner

- Continue to work to serve citizens of community within budget; probation officers continue to work with other departments with COVID enforcement investigation for continued protection of community

- Relationship with Sheriff and other law enforcement has excelled; strengthened ability to provide public safety in community; have done proactive initiatives in community

Chairman Burtis commented that he took a tour of Probation, and he would encourage others to do this. It is very important work. Mr. Galuppi thanked Chairman Burtis as they redid the department 6 years ago.

Chairman Burtis called for a short recess at 10:20 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:34 a.m.

**SHERIFF:** (4-49) Sheriff Eugene Conway

- Thank you for attention and support
- 1 request – here to advocate for vehicles for Sheriffs; did not have opportunity to appear before County Executive's office; vehicles requested were in 2021 proforma budget, then they came out
- Historical information - 7<sup>th</sup> budget presentation since being in office; never ask for anything more than what was needed; vehicles overall are expensive; very diligent with use of vehicles; reduced take home
- Maximize every way on how they acquire vehicles without affecting budget
- Going into 3<sup>rd</sup> year with Correction Department; not a great amount of vehicles in corrections, but there are vehicles; have to plow in winter; transfer inmates - similar for custody
- Since taking office, ask for vehicles has never been totally fulfilled
- 2017 – executive budget \$0 for vehicles; 2018 executive budget \$0; 2021 executive budget \$0
- 2017 – Legislature heard plea and gave half the amount, and again in 2018
- Understand situation in; this is reason for Fleet Replacement Plan - ask was over \$1.5 mil; very diligent with coming up with plan
- Only have certain period of time to order patrol vehicles; request 2021 is only patrol vehicles; window from Ford each year to build police vehicles; in window, then good; if not, wait another full year later
- Listing of vehicles lost through accidents within last 12 months; none of these have been fault of deputy
- i.e. 2 a.m. on rt. 81, deputy stopped to help stranded motorist and had all emergency lights on; very little traffic; officer addressing motorist, then drunk female failed to move over and hit rear of police vehicle straight on
- Did not anticipate replacing this; vehicle gone, but thankful deputy not in vehicle
- Will be less 73 positions - 66 are sworn & 7 civilian - 55 positions due to vacancy in pp13; 18 due to retirement
- 20 less police deputies, 30 less custody deputies, 15 less correction officers, 1 less civil deputy, 7 less civilians
- Training & Travel half; other lines reduced; not asking for anything to be increased; understand situation
- Only request for vehicles - critical and impacts service provided to people in the community

Mr. Jordan asked for elaboration on the Professional Services line being \$100,000 over the 2019 budget. Sheriff Conway responded that it is due to utilizing more outside counsel for defending the Sheriff's Office in lawsuits and cases; working in conjunction with Law Department.

Mr. May said when there are claims against a loss from an accident, does the money go back to the Sheriff's budget. Mr. Morgan responded yes, but to spend it, it would need to be appropriated as a revenue. Mr. May asked when that happens, and Mr. Morgan said either the next budget cycle, or the Sheriff would come to the Legislature to appropriate the funds.

Sheriff Conway responded to Mr. May that there are three lines affected by the cost of a patrol vehicle: (1) the automotive line for the cost of a patrol vehicle (\$34,000 - \$36,000); (2) the Equipment line to outfit the vehicle; (3) the line for United Radio to remove and install equipment from one vehicle coming out of service to another. The \$700,000 includes all of those lines, and the \$455,000 is for the 13 vehicles.

Mr. Ryan asked what was authorized last year, and Sheriff Conway responded that \$325,000 was adopted. Mr. Ryan said there were additional vehicles purchased through Stop DWI funds, and Sheriff Conway agreed. Mr. Ryan asked how many vehicles were added after the adopted budget. Sheriff Conway answered that they look for discretionary funds to supplement the request, but those funds are discretionary. They are not always there or replenished. The Sheriff's Office receives a percentage of

finances from DWI convictions, however the office has to wait for the disposition of the case and administrative process. Stop DWI cannot be predicted year to year.

Mr. Rowley asked what the annual cost is for the Sheriff's vehicle replacement plan, and Mr. Morgan answered he would have to go back to tally it.

Mr. Rowley understands the need for vehicles, and he asked what the Sheriff would request on an average year. Sheriff Conway answered that 2021 is low at 13, and other years will be 20. This does not include losing a vehicle that has been totaled. The ask in 2015 was \$1.5 million, and the last three years was around \$700,000. Mr. Rowley and Sheriff Conway agreed an average year request is between 10 – 20 vehicles.

Mr. Morgan responded to Sheriff Conway that his budget is part of the overall budget. The Executive appreciated compliance, but the County has to balance the budget. Not only did the Sheriff not receive vehicles, but neither did DOT or Parks. Sheriff Conway commented that he's talking about patrol vehicles to service the community 24/7, and they cannot buy patrol vehicles all year.

Sheriff Conway thanked his administration for the work they did in saving \$8 million in the budget. They were more than willing to work within the proforma budget for 2021.

Mr. McBride asked what happens to the funds for a vehicle that is no longer in service. Sheriff Conway responded that the vehicle will go to auction, and he has not seen the money come back to his vehicle line. Mr. Morgan interjected that it goes into the sale of property and loss in each department's budget. The Sheriff's budget for sale of property is budgeted at \$123,000 for next year.

Mr. May asked where the Sheriff's Office is with respect to the roster prospects for the future. Sheriff Conway:

- Do not have ability to hold academy; not possible; unknown going into next year
- Greatly affects custody, corrections and civil; those departments very rarely get someone as a lateral transfer
- Police department has more latitude; accept lateral candidates; filling police deputy vacancies is best bet - cost savings, because no expense to send to academy
- No opportunity for academy - Syracuse Police and adjoining counties on hold for COVID
- Biggest reduction in roster is custody at 30 positions; will remain challenging for next few months
- Hopeful do not have more people retire; do not have good resource to fill positions until academy
- Bail reform - trying to balance inmates between both facilities; Jamesville is the sentence facility - no incoming with courts closed; inmates maxing out sentence then getting released; numbers dwindling
- Custody – down some, but not what would expect; need to do best to keep inmates healthy; space them out; good at keeping balanced number between facilities, as well maintain services
- Someone in from Custody, everyone has to be tested; any indication, then put them in area for 14 days; do not expose other people; challenge to house people and deal with COVID
- Very fortunate the COVID numbers are single digit for staff and inmates; credit to both with cooperation on all of this; remain fortunate, but at any time it could spike; overall very lucky having few positive cases

Mr. Ryan asked if there is a balance between corrections and custody. Sheriff Conway answered that they are doing it to both to have proper staffing for the number of inmates, as well as the health factor for those exposed and needing quarantine. There is a consistent ratio of staffing for both departments. At the moment, there's about 250 inmates at each facility, and in Jamesville there are about 100 sentenced inmates. Moving from Justice Center to go there is for the health of spacing out inmates, in addition to staffing issues with 30 less in custody.

Mr. Ryan said there is a significant decrease in overtime, and Sheriff Conway commented that they were trying to be within budget. He is not sure if they will be able to live within those means depending on retirements, population, etc.



Last year they created a Chief Admin, and Mr. Ryan asked how it is going. Sheriff Conway answered that it is going well, and it plays into providing the service that is necessary.

Sheriff Conway replied to Mr. May that mostly civil deputies (occasionally police) were asked to have a role in serving quarantine orders. Mr. May asked what the impact of discovery has been.

Sherriff Conway:

- Knew it was taking effect in January, so made personnel changes; put Command Officer in charge; brand new and comply to requests; started off okay, but then March happened
- Affected so many things including arrests; remains to be seen with discovery and how it pertains to Sherriff's

Mr. May asked how the new arrangement and vendor are going compared to the way it was before.

Sheriff Conway:

- Challenge with new national vendor; using same local work force; have their own challenges with staffing
- Higher than normal rate of inmates that they believe have mental health problems; concerning, because not mental health facility; continue to have discussions and tracking these number
- Concerning number of people coming into Justice Center identified with mental health issues; much higher number; keeping fingers crossed; not sure when relief will come
- In addition, continue to have major addiction problems in community; see it in facility; number of people

Ms. Cody thanked Sheriff Conway and his department for the deputy presence in the town of Salina helping to address concerns in Lyncourt and Mattydale.

Chairman Burtis thanked Sheriff Conway, as well as all the men and women in his department, and he appreciates them being fiscally responsible. Chairman Burtis also wishes his department well with continued safety while doing the work they do.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk  
ONONDAGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE

