



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Township of

CHAMPION

149 Center Street East
Warren, Ohio 44481
Telephone: (330) 847-9363
Fax: (330) 847-8008
Dispatch : (330) 675-2730

School Resource Officer Proposal

To: Board of Trustees

Date: 03-31-21

For the past three years the Champion School system has contracted with the Trumbull County Sherriff's office for a school resource officer. The contract expires on July 31st of 2021. Superintendent John Grabowski is very interested in contracting with the Champion Police Department for SRO position. For the past three years Champion Schools has paid the Sherriff's Department approximately \$61,000.00 a year for the SRO service. The Sherriff's Department has SRO's in various schools throughout Trumbull County. Deputy Stephanie Slusher was assigned to oversee the SRO program, and she would also assume the duties of SRO at any given school if the assigned SRO would call off sick or use vacation time.

There are several benefits and draw backs regarding hiring an SRO for the Champion Schools. There is no doubt that by putting a Champion Officer in the school system would be excellent for public relations. I believe the resident's would be very happy to see a local officer wearing a Champion Uniform in the schools. It would also be an excellent way for the PD to meet and communicate with the youth of our township. This would also provide valuable Intel to the PD regarding what student's may be doing while they're not at school. Champion Township does endure the same problems other communities are experiencing such as underage drinking and the use of illegal drugs. This is not a large scale problem by any means in our school system, but anytime we can prevent a youth from making the wrong choice I would certainly consider that a success story. The Intel might help the PD prevent or investigate vandalism and similar crimes within the township. Whatever information we can obtain from a Champion SRO program which may protect the youth of our community I would consider it invaluable. Hiring an SRO would also provide extra man power to the PD during the summer and school breaks which would result in more officers on

Jeffery White, Chief of Police



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Township of

CHAMPION

149 Center Street East
Warren, Ohio 44481
Telephone: (330) 847-9363
Fax: (330) 847-8008
Dispatch : (330) 675-2730

duty patrolling the township especially during the summer months. With a doubt we could possibly cut overtime in half in June, July, and August saving the department approximately \$5500.00 a year.

Unfortunately there are also numerous drawbacks regarding a small police department and a SRO program. Our department usually spends approximately \$750,000 a year and has a revenue income of approximately \$795,000.00 with the exclusion of last year due to the influx of Care Act revenue. As a result the department has anywhere from a \$38,000.00 to \$45,000.00 carry over each year. The cost of a police officer is approximately \$81,000.00 which means a yearly decrease in the PD budget of approximately \$14,500.00 dollars if we are able to save the estimated overtime cost of \$5,500.00. There are unpredictable factors which we have to consider: such as how many times in a school year the SRO is unable to report for duty. If the township signs a 3 year contract with Champion Schools for an SRO the police department would be responsible for having an officer in the schools each and every school day without question. I cannot predict how many times the SRO may call off during the school year or if the SRO may have to take a leave of absence for a health problem or family emergency. If any of the above occurs it would have adverse effect on the performance of the PD. An officer would have to immediately be placed in the school creating overtime or one less officer on duty serving the township. We also have to consider the possibility the assigned SRO might not meet the approval of Mr. Grabowski and school employees. If the SRO is not replaced by an officer who is acceptable by the school this could create unnecessary tension between the PD and School. This has already occurred with the Sherriff's Department during the first year of the contract. Right now we have an excellent relationship with Champion Schools and I would like to keep it that way.

In conclusion: Signing a contract with Champion schools and hiring an SRO would put a strain on the budget as it stands now, but I believe it can be done if all goes as planned.

Jeffery White, Chief of Police



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Township of

CHAMPION

149 Center Street East
Warren, Ohio 44481
Telephone: (330) 847-9363
Fax: (330) 847-8008
Dispatch : (330) 675-2730

This means the SRO stays healthy, does not take a leave of absence, and meets the approval of school officials. We also have to consider what we endured last year with Covid-19 and the number of people who lost their jobs due to the virus. Yes we received money from the Care Act Funding, but unemployment eventually means less taxes paid. In consideration of the SRO proposal I believe it would be best to consider an additional .5 mill Levy for the police department and replace existing levies. Not only could we easily afford the SRO contract, but we could possible consider another full time officer who could be an SRO replacement, and a duty officer. We have until May 1st to make a final decision. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chief Jeffery White

Jeffery White, Chief of Police