



Press Release

Lake County Sheriff's Office
www.sheriffdunlap.org

Daniel A. Dunlap
Sheriff

Press Release

February 25, 2011

Lay-Off Notices / Budget Cuts

Due to the drastic budget cuts implemented by the County Commissioners, the Lake County Sheriff's Office's decision to voluntarily not replace eight (8) more employees who have retired in the past 2 months is not enough to fill our budget gap.

Yesterday we were forced to lay-off two (2) more Deputy Sheriffs, effective March 12, 2011. This now brings the total to 31 Sheriff's Office employees whose jobs have been lost since the end of 2009. These most recent lay-offs are in response to an existing \$239,000 deficit that still remains in our 2011 budget.

The monies from the recently passed levies in Concord and Painesville Townships has not yet been collected, and cannot be distributed nor can it be used retroactively.

The elimination of 31 jobs affects Lake County on many levels. The wages paid by these county workers, which are rapidly returned to the local economy by paying taxes, buying homes, cars and other necessities, have been taken away from the local economy. The Sheriff's Office's ability to respond to emergencies large and small is being hampered due to an ever decreasing staff.

The Sheriff's Office is required by law to respond to emergencies large and small. Our officers protect the Perry Nuclear Power Plant, and are integral to any evacuation if it should ever become necessary. We respond to homicides, rapes, robbery, and serious accidents. The loss of staff limits our ability to help protect the safety of our citizens.

Yesterday's lay-offs are an attempt to deal with the fact that our budget has been dramatically reduced now for the third year in a row. Since 2008 our budget has been reduced over \$4.3 million dollars.

We have taken numerous measures to cut expenditures. Since 2009 we have laid-off, or failed to replace due to retirements, 31 employees. We anticipate not replacing two additional Deputy Sheriffs who will leave service in the coming months.

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For the past two (2) years employees have taken reductions in pay in the form of furlough days, increased their contribution toward hospitalization benefits, and increased their payments in to PERS retirement. We have reduced costs in operations in all areas; from renegotiating vendor contracts to no pay raises for the administrative staff for the past three years.

We will continue to examine every area of operations to insure that the Sheriff's Office is operating as efficiently as possible. However, our ability to provide and respond to calls for service is being handicapped. We will attempt to respond to the most serious calls as soon as possible. Lesser calls, in some circumstances, will simply have to wait.

Sheriff Dan Dunlap