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## ALPENA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Sheriff Steven J. Kieliszewski · 4900 M32 W · Alpena, Michigan 49707  
Phone (989) 354-9830 · Fax (989) 354-9868 · [www.alpenasheriff.com](http://www.alpenasheriff.com)

April 4, 2022

To: Alpena County Personnel Committee

From: Erik Smith, Undersheriff

Ref: Road Patrol Staffing

Looking into the near future, the Sheriff's Office currently needs to be progressive and determine how we are going to provide mandated services along with 24hr road patrol, a HUNT Officer, TBJHS Liaison, and Animal Control. Historically and as recent as 2019, the Sheriff's Office always employed a minimum of 11 deputies, 2 sergeants, ACO, Undersheriff, and Sheriff. Within the last few years, staffing levels have dwindled and replacing road patrol has been difficult, at the least. If we lost an employee because of resignation, those positions didn't get budgeted into the following year and we merely lost the positions. Hiring certified deputies typically takes several months to fill and in recent times, even longer. We currently are running a bare bones operation, have several individuals approaching years of service allowing for retirement, and an employee possibly needing surgery. Because of the lack of staffing, we are forced to heavily utilize our overtime budget to cover our shortages.

Recently the Sheriff's Office held interviews with potential deputies. Times have changed in law enforcement and MCOLES certifiable/trained individuals looking for employment are few and far between. It is evident that the Sheriff's Office will need to hire candidates and sponsor them through a police MCOLES Academy to become certified. So, this brings me back to the beginning. The Clerks' Office hasn't been able to give me an exact number on how many deputies we can employ. At the end of the last budget year, I spoke with former Clerk Bonnie Friedrichs and reported that we were budgeted for 9 deputies and two sergeants. In late March 2022, I again spoke with Clerk Friedrichs, while she was attempting to get figures to balance the budget after pay raises. I again indicated that we had 9 deputy positions and 2 sergeants. These are only the numbers I reported and need confirmation of authorized staffing levels before I can move forward with hiring.

At this time, I am requesting that the Sheriff's Office be authorized to employ the historic number of road patrol at 11 deputies, 2 sergeants, and ACO. This would permit us the opportunity to get individuals trained and withstand vacancies, while providing services to Alpena County. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office is working on getting pricing/costs of sponsoring candidates through an MCOLES Police Academy and will be providing a request at a future Personnel Committee Meeting.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erik Smith', written in a cursive style.

Erik Smith, Undersheriff



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### Staffing History

April 2019

2 Sergeants

School Liaison – Bednarski

ACO – Reid

9 Deputies

Hunt – Slominski

U/S King, Deputy Fletcher and Deputy Kieliszewski – Resigned

April 2020

2 Sergeants

School Liaison – Bednarski

ACO – Reid

7 Deputies

Hunt – Slominski

2- Positions cut by commissioners

March 2021

2 Sergeants

ACO – Reid

6 Deputies

Hunt – None

School Liaison – Slominski

Laplaunt Resigned, Bednarski promoted to J.A.

March 2022

2 Sergeants

ACO – Reid

5 Deputies

Hunt – None

School Liaison – Slominski

Slominski retiring June 9<sup>th</sup>,

