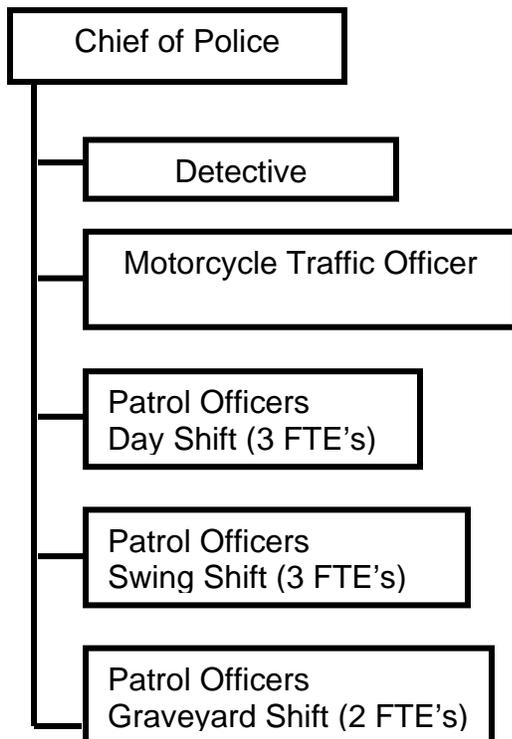




## Covington Police Department Cost Explanation

The City of Covington contracts with several entities for law enforcement, jail, public defender and court services. The largest of those contracts is with the King County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services. The basic contract terms (Interlocal Agreement - ILA) are negotiated by a consortium of 12 cities, including the City of Covington and 11 other local cities. All cities work off the same ILA. Each city can then tailor their specific needs and concerns by deciding which available service model they prefer, establish their desired level of service and to select optional services and payment methods.

### COVINGTON POLICE DEDICATED FTE'S



In addition to the dedicated full time employees (FTE's) shown above, the City of Covington, as part of the contracted services, receives several specialty services from the King County Sheriff's Office such as: SWAT, Hostage Negotiation Team, K-9, Major Accident Reconstruction and Response Team, Major Crimes Investigation Services (Robbery, Homicide, Sexual Assault) and Bomb Disposal Unit. An independent agency would have to provide these services from their own staff.

The City pays only its proportionate share of the cost of the specialty services it selects. The cost for the select service is based on Covington's percentage or proportional share

of the total number of incidents the particular unit handles. King County and the 12 contract cities share the expense of these specialty units. This is a very cost effective way of providing and receiving the needed law enforcement specialty services, much less expensive than paying for a K-9 officer or SWAT team full time that is used on a limited basis.

For basic reactive patrol services, the City of Covington has a total of 8 uniformed patrol officers assigned to the three shifts for 24/7-patrol coverage. The 2006 Covington Budget workbook itemizes each patrol officer costing \$131,846. This cost may come down when final figures are received from the King County Sheriff's Office. That is not the salary of an officer! Salary, benefits and overhead are included in this cost.

**Cost Breakdown Of A Contracted Patrol Officer:**

Salary:	\$ 60,778
Benefits :	
FICA	4,650
Retirement	2,668
Flex/Medical	10,877
Dental	1,946
Industrial Ins.	4,414
Overhead:	<u>46,513</u>
Total:	<u>\$131,846</u>



In addition to the salary and benefits cost, there is extra overhead to keep an officer on the street patrolling. This overhead includes: Communications Center (911 center for dispatching), police vehicle (police radio, emergency lights, prisoner screen, etc), vehicle maintenance costs (fuel, oil, tires, tune-ups, etc), portable police radio, supervisors, precinct administrators, clerk, property management staff (evidence storage/tracking), and records clerk and storage (reports, statements, photos, documents, etc). Each city that contracts with the King County Sheriff's Office pays only its proportionate share of the overhead costs, rather than the total cost.



If the City of Covington were to start its own independent police department and maintain the same level of law enforcement services, there would be significant cost increases. The City would have to pay full cost of the support services required to have patrol officers in the field and detectives conducting follow up investigations. In addition to eight patrol officers, there will be a need for at least 2 full time detectives (to

investigate **ALL** major crimes and property crimes), 1-2 full time civilian clerks/receptionist for evidence tracking and storage, report retention and storage, transcription of reports and statements, administrative support to the officers, field supervisors and administration (Chief). The City would need to build or lease additional office space



just for the police department. Space for the officers to write reports, detectives to work from, clerk/receptionist area, large limited access secure area for evidence storage and retention (certain evidence must be retained for decades), report and document storage and retention filing area, equipment storage facility (officer's supplies, emergency vehicle equipment supplies), vehicle parking, maintenance and storage facility, and temporary prisoner holding cells (must meet state construction requirements). None of the information above addresses how Covington would provide full law enforcement services such as SWAT, K-9, Bomb Disposal, Major/Fatal Accident Investigations, etc.

Contracting with King County Sheriff's Office for police services at this point of the City's development is still clearly the least expensive and most effective method of providing a wide range of law enforcement services for the community. Starting and maintaining the City's own police department would be cost prohibitive at this time. The City will continue to regularly conduct a cost/benefit analysis of the police services to determine the most cost effective means of a quality police department at a level of service the citizens' desire.

