



Office of the Chief of Police

SUNSET BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA

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Proposal for 2014 Beach Patrol

This proposal is in response to a request to determine the cost of Sworn Police Officers to be used in conjunction with Emergency Personnel provided by the Fire Department for the purposes of patrolling the strand and island with trained professionals during the peak times of the season. Due to the dreadful incident that occurred this past season, the need and desire to provide a less vulnerable setting for our residents and visitors to enjoy is paramount. Though the presence of trained professionals will not ensure that another life will not be lost, it will be a valiant effort.

This proposal is for one officer to patrol the strand and another to patrol the rest of the island and act as a backup officer for the strand. These two officers would handle the enforcement of Federal, State, County and Town laws and ordinances on and off the strand as well as assist with emergency situations. These officers will be needed for the week of Easter, the fifteen weeks from Memorial Day to Labor Day, 4 weekends between Easter and Memorial Day, and 3 weekends after Labor Day. Coverage will be twelve hours each day from 7am to 7pm. In order to have daily 2 officer coverage for 1 week and not go over the federally allotted hours for part-time employees, there will have to be at least 6 officers hired. These 6 officers will have to be completely outfitted with everything necessary to do their job, except for vehicles. Currently owned town vehicles will be utilized by these officers.

To calculate the cost of this proposal, sixteen full weeks and 7 weekends that consist of 2 days each was considered. Each day consists of twenty four man hours due to 2 officer coverage. The current normal rate of pay for a part-time Sworn Police Officer is 14 dollars per hour. Due to the officers being part-time employees, the only expenditures will be the hourly wages plus 7.65 percent for the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) tax. Therefore, with 126 days being covered, there will be a total of 3,024 man hours worked. At the rate of 14 dollars per hour, plus the 7.65 percent FICA tax, the cost of wages and taxes paid would be \$45,574.70.

Apart from the wages and taxes, the 6 officers that are hired will have to be completely outfitted. The cost of outfitting each officer is \$4,764.00. That amount covers all uniforms and tools of the trade, as well as, required medical screening and drug screening. To outfit 6 officers it will cost a total of \$28,584.00. Therefore, the total cost of this plan would be \$74,158.70.

If a plan such as this were to be approved, the Police Department should be notified as soon as possible. Not only will the advertising and interviewing process be lengthy, but those who make the cut will have to be approved by the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission. That process will take thirty days when things are running smoothly. If the Commission is backlogged or otherwise busy, it could take longer. A period of training would be necessary to ensure that the officers hired are up to par as well.