

# POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

## Police officers are *expensive*

Last week, we itemized \$39 million in estimated costs for infrastructure repairs Pottstown Borough government anticipates will be needed in the next 10 years.

Infrastructure costs a lot to maintain, but the big spending goes for employee salaries and benefits.

By far the largest portion of the Pottstown general fund goes to the Pottstown Police Department.

The department currently has a chief and 45 uniformed officers, just one short of its all-time high of 47 officers in 2009. In addition, three assistant district attorneys have been assigned to work full time exclusively in Pottstown by Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele.

Pottstown Police Chief Michael Markovitz points out that four officers are currently on paid leave with work related injuries, and three are new officers in training, so the actual working force is 39.

In September, the chief proposed

adding two more officers to the force in 2022 to form a traffic unit. That's not going to happen, because police officers are so expensive.

The department obtained a \$375,000 grant to help pay for officers. After the grant money is depleted, of course, local taxpayers will need to pick up the tab.

As the chart below shows, salaries and benefits for uniformed police officers have skyrocketed over the last decade, well above the rate of inflation.

Including longevity, overtime, and other factors, 38 officers earned more than \$100,000 last year. That's more than three-quarters of the force.

Only two live in Pottstown.

Police officers are entitled to other benefits that must be paid by local taxpayers long after the officers' active duty is over, including generous pensions.

Moreover, the borough faces a \$27 million unfunded liability to cover health benefits for police officers and their families *after* they retire.



Commentary by  
Tom Hylton

**Pottstown Police Officers  
Gross Employee Compensation**

Officer	2009	2020	increase	Officer	2009	2020	increase
Police chief	\$83,434	\$123,372	48%	EW	\$80,182	\$121,635	52%
Lt. ML	\$82,507	\$121,940	48%	FG	\$72,989	\$107,595	47%
Lt. SM	61,504	\$127,180	107%	HL	\$76,115	\$108,988	43%
BW	\$76,356	\$123,858	62%	JP	\$56,769	\$109,097	92%
JO	\$77,546	\$110,719	43%	JR	\$68,999	\$103,815	50%
ML	\$82,507	\$121,940	48%	JS	\$68,999	\$104,276	51%
SH	\$71,221	\$112,116	57%	MiB	\$73,920	\$124,287	68%
TI	\$69,092	\$105,034	52%	NS	\$71,487	\$104,274	46%
TL	\$66,575	\$111,634	68%	SM	\$61,504	\$127,180	106%
BG	\$84,979	\$146,087	72%	CH	\$69,935	\$106,054	52%
EK.	\$96,250	\$143,418	50%	RG		\$104,486	
MB	\$84,218	\$148,703	76%	CJ .		\$106,687	
MP	\$81,568	\$131,554	61%	AL		\$118,822	
CZ	\$68,012	\$118,755	74%	MaM		\$109,044	
TCa		\$102,921		JM		\$104,585	
TCo		\$104,101		MiM		\$101,702	
BC		\$110,017		ZR		\$112,248	
MD		\$112,555		MoM		\$23,299	
AF		\$102,502		EN		\$70,660	
MG		\$101,641		AdS		\$79,418	
MeB		\$74,185		AnS		\$72,238	
SD		\$74,927		AdrS		\$74,483	
BH		\$104,215					

**Cumulative inflation rate 2009 to 2020 28%**