

# Owen-Withee Police Department

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## How much will it cost?

The referendum would cost Owen residents approximately \$48.94 per \$100,000 of their property value and Withee residents approximately \$51.06 per \$100,000 of their property value.

## We already have 3 full time police officers, why do we need more?

The Owen-Withee Police Department has 2 full time police officers, not 3. In the past the Owen Police Department had 3 full time police officers. After Owen and Withee combined to make the current police department there has only been 2 full time officers. The Owen-Withee Police department has 2 part time employees, one working 30 hours a week and one working on very limited hours.

## Population of this size you don't need 3 cops.

In Clark County there are three other towns with the relative same population as Owen-Withee. Below is a break down of population, call volume, and officers employed.

<u>City</u>	<u>Approximate Population</u>	<u>Calls of Service for 2020</u>	<u>Officers Employed</u>
Thorp	1597	about 900	3 Full-time
Loyal	1231	less than 930	3 Full-time / 2 Part-time
Greenwood	924	495	3 Full-time
<b>Owen-Withee</b>	<b>1400</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>2 Full-time / 2 Part- time</b>

## 901 calls in 365 days = 2 ½ calls a day. There are not enough calls to support another officer.

There were 738 calls of service in 2019. In 2020 there were 930 calls of service.

In January and February 2019 there were 77 calls

In January and February 2020 there were 163 calls

In January and February 2021 there were 194 calls

Every year the calls of service will likely continue to rise.

Calls of service also do not dictate how much time is spent working on patrolling, case work, and administrative duties. There are some calls that require several hours, days, or even weeks to work on. A third full time officer will also give us a better opportunity to be pro-active instead of reactive.

**We don't need a third full time officer, just keep part time officers.**

Part time officers do not tend to stay very long. Part time officers are usually someone looking to get some experience and leave to full time employment elsewhere or already have full time jobs and are only looking to work limited hours. Hiring part time officers can be expensive and time consuming. On average to hire, train, and keep law enforcement certification for a part time officer cost **\$25,036.76**.

\$2,729.58 – Minimum of 2 weeks wages for job posting, going through candidates, interviews, and background checks.

\$70 – Drug test before employment

\$137.20 – Medical/Physical Screening

\$440 – Psychological Testing

\$200 – Uniform Allowance

\$21,027.98 – Wages and Benefits for the full-time officer and part time officer during the 12-week training program

\$432 – Wages for part time officer needed to do state mandated 24 hours of training to keep law enforcement certification, does not include cost of trainings.

**I do not see any officers out patrolling or out on the weekend.**

The Owen-Withee Police Department patrols Owen and Withee as much as possible, but with less officers comes less time for patrol. If the referendum passes, we will be able to expand patrol times and have more coverage during the weekdays and weekends. We will also better be able to fill shifts that are left open due to sick time, vacations, or family leave.

**Is this position for the K-9 dog? Do we need a K-9? Does the county or any nearby larger cities have one that could be brought in (w/the handler) if necessary?**

This position is not for the K9 position. There is a need for a K-9 in these communities. Since 2019 the Owen-Withee Police Department has been involved in at least 6 search warrants that were related to drug activities. Drugs correlate with other crimes such as, child abuse, thefts, burglaries, and violent crimes. A K-9 is also a deterrent for drugs being brought into town. A K-9 will also be crucial if a person goes missing and the dog is able to track the person's scent.

The Colby-Abbotsford Police Department and the Loyal Police Department do have K-9s. If they do respond and anything happens to the officer, squad, or K-9, the Owen-Withee Police Department would be responsible for the costs. The county has K-9s, but they are not always in the area or may not be available when needed.

**We don't need another officer; we have county coverage when the Owen-Withee Police Department is not available.**

The Clark County Sheriff's Office does respond when the Owen-Withee Police Department is not available. The Clark County Sheriff's Office takes a lot of calls for service though and may not be

available or in the area when a call in Owen-Withee comes in. The Clark County Sheriff's Office also cannot enforce any of Owen-Withee's ordinances, does not open locked vehicles, and does not respond to any unintentional gas drive offs.

**What were the increased calls generally about? Were they related to covid-19? Are they expected to decrease once Covid has subsided?**

The increased calls were not Covid-19 related. There were a few calls about the Stay-at-Home order by the Governor. During peak times of Covid-19 last year we made less traffic stops and face to face contacts to limit exposure to our employees, so the calls of service numbers could have been potentially more.

**The drug problem in this area is getting worse. How will increasing police presence curb this problem if there doesn't seem to be any teeth in cracking down on offenders.**

The Owen-Withee Police Department has been involved in several drug search warrants in Owen and Withee. Adding another full-time officer will help us crack down on the drug problem. Drug cases take time to investigate and build up enough evidence to get a search warrant. Another full-time officer and K-9 will help expedite those drug investigations.