

St. Lawrence County
BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
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RUTH A. DOYLE
County Administrator

DAVID FORSYTHE
Chair, Board of Legislators

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA
MS. RITA CURRAN, CHAIR
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024

*****BOARD ROOM AND VIA YOUTUBE*****
*****IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SERVICES COMMITTEE *****

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 11**
- 3. PLANNING – JASON PFOTENHAUER**
 - A. Adoption of the St. Lawrence County 2024 Coordinated Transportation Plan (Res)
- 4. SHERIFF – RICK ENGLE**
 - A. Modifying the 2024 Budget for the Sheriff’s Office for the Purchase of Uniforms for the Correctional Division, and
 - B. Accepting a FY23 Operation Stonegarden Program (OPSG) Grant from New York State Division of Homeland Security and Modifying the 2024 Budget for the Sheriff’s Office (Res)
- 5. LEGISLATORS CURRAN AND WEBSTER**
 - A. Resolution Urging the New York State Legislature to Reject Senate Bill S.8461, Known as “The Sporting Range Good Neighbor Act” (Res)
- 6. LEGISLATOR DENESHA**
 - A. Setting a Date for a Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law C (No.) for the Year 2024, “A Local Law of the County of St. Lawrence Imposing the Wireless Communications Surcharges Pursuant to the Authority of Tax Law §186-G” (Res)
- 7. LEGISLATOR CURRAN**
 - A. Calling on the Governor to Complete Enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage Reconciliations that are Years Overdue and Provide a Full Accounting of Funds Owed to Counties and New York City and a Schedule for Release of these Federal Funds (Res)
 - B. Supporting an Extension on the Allowing School Psychologists to Provide Services in the Early Intervention (Res)
 - C. Calling on the State to Increase the Salary Cap for Retired Public Employees Seeking County Employment (Res)

- D. Calling on the State to Fully Reimburse Counties for District Attorney Salary Increases that are Set and Controlled by the State (Res)
- E. Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Restore Essential Funding for Rabies in the FY 2024-25 State Budget (Res)
- F. Supporting Senate Bill S.2695-B and Assembly Bill A.7086-A to Ensure Sheriffs and Undersheriffs Continue to have Police Officer Powers (Res)
- G. Encouraging Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature to Increase the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Budget Allocations for County Jails (Res)

8. VACANCY REVIEW COMMITTEE – RUTH DOYLE

- A. Sheriff's Office
 - 1. Fill Principal Fiscal Officer, Position No. 101000004
 - 2. Fill Correction Officer, Position No. 603000055
 - 3. Abolish Deputy Sheriff, and Create and Fill Detective-Sergeant, Position No. 606000007

9. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – RUTH DOYLE

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board (Denesha)
- B. Alternative to Incarceration Board (Burke)
- C. Board of Trustees for Supreme Court Library (Haggard)
- D. Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board (Curran)
- E. Environmental Management Council (Terminelli)
- F. Fire Advisory Board (Denesha)
- G. Jury Board (Sheridan)
- H. Planning Board (Fay)

11. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Litigation
- B. Negotiations
- C. Personnel
- D. Appointments

13. ADJOURNMENT – If there is no further business.

May 6, 2024

Operations Committee: 4-15-2024

RESOLUTION NO.

**ADOPTION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY 2024 COORDINATED
TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County regularly receives and administers Federal and State funds to provide public transportation services, and

WHEREAS, as a condition of receiving these funds, the New York State Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit Administration require rural transit providers to prepare a five-year Coordinated Transportation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of a Coordinated Transportation Plan is to assess the transportation needs for persons who are seniors, earn limited incomes, or have a disability; identify transportation gaps and duplication of services; and to prioritize goals and actions to address these gaps and duplicate services, and

WHEREAS, the Public Transit Task Force for St. Lawrence County oversaw the creation of the Plan and provided input as it was prepared by the County Mobility Manager and the County Planning Office, and

WHEREAS, hard copies of the draft Plan were distributed and posted on the St. Lawrence County Public Transit Website for public review, and

WHEREAS, a legally noticed public hearing was held on March 21st to receive public comment on the draft Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators has duly considered the assessment, goals, and actions in the draft Plan, and comments from the public,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators hereby adopts the St. Lawrence County 2024 Coordinated Transportation Plan,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as the Plan is implemented, it should be reviewed and modified as needed to account for the changing conditions of riders who rely on the public transportation services in St. Lawrence County, and the Board of Legislators will be updated annually on the changes.

St. Lawrence County Coordinated Transportation Plan Summary

St. Lawrence County's Coordinated Transportation Plan identifies cost-effective approaches to address public transportation gaps; minimize the duplication of transportation services; and ways to improve the coordination of transportation services for: Individuals with disabilities, older adults, persons with limited incomes, and persons who do not own and operate a personal vehicle. The Plan:

- Includes socio-economic data to help assess the transportation needs of individuals who are the least well off and may not own and maintain a personal vehicle.
- Inventories existing transportation services to identify redundancies and gaps.
- Identifies goals and actions to: Enhance transportation access; address gaps in service; eliminate or reduce duplication in services; and improve the quality and delivery of cost-effective public transportation.
- Describes how goals and strategies will be prioritized to improve public transportation services.

Presently the County's bus system operates 16 routes. With the exception of the College Connector Routes (67, 68 and 69) which provide daily service to and from SUNY Potsdam, Clarkson University, and SUNY Canton from August to May, most routes operate year-round, Mondays to Fridays during extended business hours.

In 2023, St. Lawrence County Public Transit provided 134,322 one-way trips and traveled 986,936 miles. Since the adoption of the previous Coordinated Transportation Plan in 2019, ridership on the system increased by 79%, while miles traveled grew by 43%. Ridership in 2020 and 2021 declined as a result of COVID-19, but rebounded in 2022 and achieved a new ridership record in 2023.

As of February 2024, the County owns 17 buses that are regularly used to run the Public Transit system's 16 routes. Of these buses, nine are Lot G gasoline buses with a seating capacity for 18 persons. Eight buses are Lot K diesel buses with a seating capacity for 28 persons. In the County's 2023 asset register, all 17 buses were rated in "good" condition. Two Lot G buses, however, have traveled more than 325,000 miles since their delivery in 2019, and will be designated as spares once four new Lot K buses are delivered by spring 2024.

To identify transportation gaps and duplication of services in St. Lawrence County, the County's Mobility Manager gathered input from: public transit riders, major transportation service providers, major transportation service purchasers, and stakeholder organizations who serve on the County's Public Transit Task Force. The following approaches have, or will be used to gather feedback:

1. Conduct at least five Public Transit Task Force meetings throughout the year to identify and discuss public transportation needs and contribute to the preparation of this plan.
2. Participate in meetings with human service committees, local non-profit organizations, employment agencies, high schools and colleges, and attend senior fairs and other

public forums throughout the county to hear concerns and issues concerning transportation.

3. Ride the County's public transit buses to listen to rider's issues and concerns.
4. Conduct ridership surveys.
5. Monitor resident comments from email messages, posts on social media accounts, and in suggestions left on the County's public transit website.

Since the adoption of the 2019 Coordinated Transportation Plan, the County, its Mobility Manager and its bus operator collaborated together with the successful implementation of the following actions outlined in the previous report. They include:

- Decreasing the operator's fuel expenses by examining the opportunity to refuel the County's bus fleet at the County Highway Department.
- Increasing the pool of qualified candidate drivers for the operator to hire by establishing a replicable recruitment plan, registering the Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence as an approved Entry Level Driver Training Provider through the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration, and partnering with Jefferson Community College to create a free "Zero-to-Theory" CDL Training program.
- Installing bike racks on all buses serving existing routes and market this amenity to potential riders.
- Installing free Wi-Fi and phone charging stations on all buses and market these amenities to riders.
- Establishing shuttle service in Massena (including Akwesasne in Franklin County)
- Creating a College Connector Program in collaboration with all five Colleges (SUNY Canton, SUNY Potsdam, Clarkson University) to promote increased access to each campus for education and employment opportunities, and to attend cultural and recreational activities.
- Establishing more centralized and coordinated regional transfer points between transportation modes and providers.

Goals and Actions for the next five years include:

- Improve and sustain bus operations;
- Increase ridership through improvements in bus service;
- Increase ridership through new routes and expanded levels of service;
- Increase ridership through outreach and education;
- Sustain volunteer driver programs, including Rides to Recovery and First Mile Last Mile, which assists riders who are not readily served by the County's Public Transit system.

This Coordinated Transportation Plan was prepared with contributions from: St. Lawrence University Public Interest Corps Intern Sasha Henderson; the St. Lawrence County Planning Office; Volunteer Transportation Center, Inc. who provide Mobility Management services to the County; the County's bus operator The Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence; from human service agencies including: St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging, Seaway Valley Prevention Council, United Helpers, the St. Lawrence County Department of Social Services; St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Office for the Aging; and members of St. Lawrence County's Public Transit Task Force.

May 6, 2024

Operations Committee: 4-15-2024

RESOLUTION NO.

MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THE PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS FOR THE CORRECTIONAL DIVISION

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the Sheriff is recommending an adjustment to the uniform budget to bring all Sheriff's Office staff into a similar uniform style, and acquire vests to assist officers as a safety precaution, and

WHEREAS, appropriations budgeted to assist supporting the nursing staff are no longer needed for the original purpose and the Sheriff is requesting to transfer these funds to provide for the uniforms,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes that the Treasurer to modify the 2024 Budget for the Sheriff's Office for the Purchase of the Uniforms for the Sheriff's Office as follows:

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

S4031501 1900M	Temporary Per Diem Medical	\$28,800
S4031501 1900N	S JAIL Temp Per Diem Nurse	<u>11,200</u>
		\$40,000

INCREASE REVENUE:

S4031504 45300	S JAIL Uniforms & Clothing	\$40,000
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May 6, 2024

Operations Committee: 4-15-2024

RESOLUTION NO.

ACCEPTING A FY23 OPERATION STONEGARDEN PROGRAM (OPSG) GRANT FROM NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services has awarded a FY23 Operation Stonegarden Grant, in the amount of \$300,000, to key law enforcement agencies in St. Lawrence County, with a contract period of period of September 1, 2023, to August 31, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the mission of Operation Stonegarden is to utilize State, County, and Local Law Enforcement Agencies to enhance border security within the County, and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office will receive \$57,918.52 and will act a pass-through agency for four local entities: City of Ogdensburg Police Department (\$78,574.25), Village of Canton (\$14,640.38), and Village of Massena (\$33,737.67), and Village of Potsdam (\$25,191.52), and

WHEREAS, the remaining funding of \$89,937.66 is allocated to two (2) State level law enforcement agencies (NYS Police and NYS DEC) who will do their own reporting,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes accepting the FY23 Operation Stonegarden Program (OPSG) Grant from New York State Division of Homeland Security, upon the approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer is authorized to modify the 2024 Budget for the Sheriff's Office, as follows:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

S1Z31101 18000 SG3	S CRIM Overtime	\$19,770
S1Z31102 25000 SG3	S CRIM Technical Equipment	30,323
S1Z31104 43007 SG3	S CRIM Other Fees and Services	152,144
S1Z31104 44000 SG3	S CRIM I/D Automotive Expenses	3,618
S1Z31108 81000 SG3	S CRIM Retirement	2,202
S1Z31108 83000 SG3	S CRIM Social Security	1,512
S1Z31108 84000 SG3	S CRIM Worker's Compensation	<u>494</u>
		\$210,063

INCREASE REVENUE:

S1Z43895 57000	SG S SG Federal Aid	\$210,063
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any remaining funds will be rolled over to future budgets until the Grant is fully expended.

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Operations Committee: 4-15-2024

RESOLUTION NO.

**RESOLUTION URGING THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE
TO REJECT SENATE BILL S.8461, KNOWN AS
“THE SPORTING RANGE GOOD NEIGHBOR ACT”**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee
Co-Sponsored by Mr. Webster, District 11

WHEREAS, on January 31st, 2024, Senator Pete Harckham (40th Senate District serving Rockland County, Putnam County, and Westchester County) introduced Senate Bill S.8461, “The Sporting Range Good Neighbor Act”, and

WHEREAS, S.8461 amends the environmental conservation law to require minimum boundary distances for outdoor skeet field shooting ranges, or alternatively, to construct backstops with minimum specifications that prevent lead migration outside the designated skeet field tract, and

WHEREAS, additionally, S.8461 seeks to prohibit any portion of a skeet field tract to include a wetland or open water source, and

WHEREAS, S.8461 would also require skeet field tracts at shooting ranges to be at least 600 by 300 yards, and

WHEREAS, S.8461, while formed in the guise of an environmentally friendly bill, appears to be designed to restrict skeet development and participation, limiting the exercise of protected Second Amendment activity, and

WHEREAS, as of 2022, almost half of the school districts in St. Lawrence County had an active skeet and trap shooting club, and

WHEREAS, shooting ranges already have to meet restrictive guidelines to operate safely, currently costing as much as \$100,000 or more, and

WHEREAS, there are significant legal and constitutional questions regarding the legality of this measure that have not been adequately addressed,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators urges the New York State Legislature reject Senate Bill S.8461, “The Sporting Range Good Neighbor Act”, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Mark Walczyk, Senator Dan Stec, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, and Assemblyman Scott Gray.

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Operations Committee: 4-15-2024

RESOLUTION NO.

SETTING A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW C (NO.) FOR THE YEAR 2024, "A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ST. LAWRENCE IMPOSING THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS SURCHARGES PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF TAX LAW §186-g"

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee
Co-Sponsored by Mr. Denesha, District 6

WHEREAS, since 1991, counties in the State of New York were permitted to assess a surcharge on landlines and post-paid cellphones, if they sought permission to exercise home rule authority through the New York State legislature, to assist in funding E911 systems operating within the counties, and

WHEREAS, the New York State legislature authorized these counties to collect the surcharge under the provisions of Article 6 of the County Law, as long as the county seeking to do so applied for and was granted permission by the State legislature and the Governor, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County remains one of approximately eight counties out of the 62 in New York that has never sought permission to impose this surcharge, and

WHEREAS, on April 17th, 2017, as a part of the adoption of the 2017-2018 State budget, the legislature and the Governor repealed the authority granted to certain localities under Article 6 of the County Law to impose a wireless communications surcharge and, instead, created Tax Law § 186-g, authorizing New York City and all counties outside of New York City to impose a new State-administered wireless surcharge on both post-paid cellphones and pre-paid cellphones, and

WHEREAS, the Tax Law authorizes the imposition of the surcharge on customers of every "wireless communications service" within the county, and

WHEREAS, the State has permitted the creation of this surcharge to provide a source of revenue to support the development and maintenance of Emergency 911 call systems operating within a county, and

WHEREAS, all revenue generated from the imposition of this surcharge is for payment of system costs, eligible wireless 911 service costs, or other costs associated with the administration, design, installation, construction, operation, or maintenance of public safety communications networks or a system to provide enhanced wireless 911 service serving such the county, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators recognizes the importance of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of St. Lawrence County and further recognizes that when the lives or property of citizens of the St. Lawrence County are in imminent danger a timely and appropriate assistance must be rendered, and

May 6, 2024

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators finds that the enhanced emergency telephone service known as E911 provides substantial benefits beyond the basic 911 system through the provision of selective routing and automatic number and location identification, and that these enhancements significantly reduce the response time of emergency services, and

WHEREAS, the surcharge shall be used to pay the costs associated with obtaining and maintaining the telecommunication equipment and telephone services needed to provide the E911 service within St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, the law requires that adoption of a local law be preceded by a public hearing,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a Public Hearing on proposed Local Law C (No.) for the Year 2024, will be held at 5:50 p.m. on June 3, 2024, in the Legislative Board Room, subject to approval of the Rules of Procedure for 2024.

**PROPOSED LOCAL LAW C (NO.) FOR THE YEAR 2024, “A LOCAL LAW
OF THE COUNTY OF ST. LAWRENCE IMPOSING THE WIRELESS
COMMUNICATIONS SURCHARGES PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF
TAX LAW §186-g”**

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Legislators of the County of St. Lawrence, as follows:

Section 1. Imposition of wireless communications surcharges.

(a) Pursuant to the authority of Tax Law § 186-g, there are hereby imposed and there shall be paid surcharges within the territorial limits of the County of St. Lawrence on: (i) wireless communications service provided to a wireless communications customer with a place of primary use within such county, at the rate of thirty cents per month on each wireless communications device in service during any part of the month; and (ii) the retail sale of prepaid wireless communications service sold within such county, at the rate of thirty cents per retail sale, whether or not any tangible personal property is sold therewith.

(b) Wireless communications service suppliers shall begin to add such surcharge to the billings of its customers and prepaid wireless communications sellers shall begin to collect such surcharge from its customers commencing December 1, 2024.

(c) Each wireless communications service supplier and prepaid wireless communications seller is entitled to retain, as an administrative fee, an amount equal to three percent of its collections of the surcharges imposed by this Local Law, provided that the supplier or seller files any required return and remits the surcharges due to the New York State Commissioner of Taxation and Finance on or before the due date for that return and that payment.

Section 2. Administration of surcharges.

The surcharges imposed by this Local Law shall be administered and collected by the New York State Commissioner of Taxation and Finance as provided in paragraph (8) of Tax Law § 186-g,

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and in a like manner as the taxes imposed by Articles Twenty-eight and Twenty-nine of the Tax Law.

Section 3. Applicability of State law to surcharges imposed by this Local Law.

All the provisions of Tax Law § 186-g shall apply to the surcharges imposed by this Local Law with the same force and effect as if those provisions had been set forth in full in this Local Law, except to the extent that any of those provisions is either inconsistent with or not relevant to the surcharges imposed by this Local Law.

Section 4.

Net collections received by St. Lawrence County from the surcharges imposed by this Local Law shall be expended only upon authorization of the Board of Legislators of the County of St. Lawrence and only for payment of system costs, eligible wireless 911 service costs, or other costs associated with the administration, design, installation, construction, operation, or maintenance of public safety communications networks or a system to provide enhanced wireless 911 service serving such county, as provided in paragraph (9) of Tax Law § 186-g, including, but not limited to, hardware, software, consultants, financing and other acquisition costs.

The County shall separately account for and keep adequate books and records of the amount and object or purpose of all expenditures of all such monies. If, at the end of any fiscal year, the total amount of all such monies exceeds the amount necessary for payment of the above mentioned costs in such fiscal year, such excess shall be reserved and carried over for the payment of those costs in the following fiscal year.

Section 5. Effective date.

This Local Law shall take effect December 1, 2024.

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Operations Committee: 4-15-2024

RESOLUTION NO.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNOR TO COMPLETE ENHANCED FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE RECONCILIATIONS THAT ARE YEARS OVERDUE AND PROVIDE A FULL ACCOUNTING OF FUNDS OWED TO COUNTIES AND NEW YORK CITY AND A SCHEDULE FOR RELEASE OF THESE FEDERAL FUNDS

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the funding to support the Medicaid program is provided by a combination of federal, state and local resources, and

WHEREAS, the state requires the counties and New York City to contribute \$7.6 billion annually to pay for the federal and state defined and controlled program, and

WHEREAS, additionally, counties and New York City also voluntarily contribute about \$1 billion annually to draw down available federal funds to support publicly owned or supported nursing homes, clinics, and hospitals, and

WHEREAS, the local share the state requires counties and New York City to pay is the highest of any state in the country, and

WHEREAS, this large local funding share for Medicaid and other state programs is a major contributor to New York's high local tax burden compared to other states, and

WHEREAS, under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the COVID era the federal government provided an enhanced Medicaid matching share (eFMAP), which has saved New York state billions of dollars, and

WHEREAS, the state has utilized a methodology that provides 80 percent of these estimated federal savings to counties in the year the costs accrue followed by a reconciliation in the following year of the remaining 20 percent of savings, and

WHEREAS, for the first three years after enactment of the Affordable Care Act the state followed through on a relatively timely basis with the initial pass through of savings based on 80 percent of the estimated value of these federal savings to counties and New York City and the reconciling the remaining 20 percent, and

WHEREAS, the last completed reconciliation and transfer of federal savings owed to counties was for state fiscal year 2015-16 with the reconciliation being implemented in December of 2020, and

WHEREAS, as of February 1, 2024, counties and New York City are waiting on seven years of unfinished reconciliations, and

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WHEREAS, the only accounting counties have received from the state of the unreconciled eFMAP funds have come via FOIL requests for SFY 2017-2020, and

WHEREAS, as of February 8, 2022, 34 counties have received responses from DOH to their FOIL inquiries and that these calculations show that up to \$232 million is owed to these counties from Affordable Care Act eFMAP reconciliations, and

WHEREAS, the state utilized the same 80 percent pass through methodology for the distribution of federal COVID eFMAP savings provided from 2020-2024, but no reconciliations have been completed for these years, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Association of Counties has submitted FOIL requests on behalf of all counties for federal COVID eFMAP savings distributed to counties, and

WHEREAS, the federal COVID eFMAP savings are mandated to be shared with counties under federal law, and

WHEREAS, the state identified at the beginning of the COVID crisis that the local share of these federal savings would be about 17.8 percent, but publicly available data indicates only about 12.7 percent has been shared with counties and this has required NYSAC to FOIL the New York State Department of Health because hundreds of millions of dollars in federal savings have yet to be distributed, and

WHEREAS, because the state is withholding these federal funds it requires counties and New York City to reserve funds locally to make up for the loss, meaning local taxes have been kept higher than they need to be over multiple years, or local services are scaled back or eliminated,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators calls on the Governor to complete enhanced federal medical assistance percentage reconciliations that are years overdue and provide a full accounting of funds owed to Counties and New York City and a schedule for release of these federal funds,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Mark Walczyk, Senator Dan Stec, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, and Assemblyman Scott Gray.

May 6, 2024

Operations Committee: 4-15-2024

RESOLUTION NO.

**SUPPORTING AN EXTENSION ON THE ALLOWING SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS
TO PROVIDE SERVICES IN THE EARLY INTERVENTION**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the SFY 2025 Executive Budget recommendation discontinues the authorization allowing school psychologists to provide services in the Early Intervention Program (EIP), and

WHEREAS, federal level changes making Early Intervention (EI) services provided by school psychologists no longer eligible for Medicaid reimbursement have resulted in New York State moving away from utilizing these providers in the EI Program, and

WHEREAS, to this point extensions have been granted to continue to allow the provision of EI services by school psychologists in recognition of ongoing provider capacity shortages in the EIP, and

WHEREAS, the SFY 2025 Executive Budget proposal continues to provide an extension on the use of school psychologists in the 4410 Pre-School Special Education Program (Pre-K SEP), and

WHEREAS, school psychologists may provide multi-disciplinary evaluations and services to children transitioning from the EIP to Pre-K SEP, and

WHEREAS, as of August 2023, counties reported that there were 7,360 children across New York State waiting for EI services, and

WHEREAS, this represents a 28% increase in children waiting for services since 2022 and an over 500% increase in children waiting for services since 2020, and

WHEREAS, this number includes approximately 1,000 children waiting for evaluations, and behavioral and developmental services that could be provided by school psychologists, and

WHEREAS, the overall provider capacity challenges in the EIP and lack of capacity specific to mental health services have resulted in children waiting months to receive critical services, and

WHEREAS, restricting any provider capacity in the EIP impedes the need to expand the currently limited provider pool,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators supports an extension on the allowing school psychologist to provide services in the Early Intervention, and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Mark Walczyk, Senator Dan Stec, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, and Assemblyman Scott Gray.

May 6, 2024

Operations Committee: 4-15-2024

RESOLUTION NO.

**CALLING ON THE STATE TO INCREASE THE SALARY CAP FOR RETIRED
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES SEEKING COUNTY EMPLOYMENT**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, under current state law a retired public employee may only earn up to \$35,000 annually if retained/rehired to a state or local government position without this salary impacting their retirement benefits, and

WHEREAS, any retired public employee salary amount over \$35,000 will result in a decrease in pension payments for the employee, and

WHEREAS, the \$35,000 cap was set in 2019, with the intent of minimizing misuse in hiring practices, while at the same time providing enough incentive for employees with broad experience and institutional knowledge to be retained in a government service capacity, and

WHEREAS, this cap has been adjusted just once since 2007 at a rate of \$5,000 and this increase has eroded in value due to inflation over this time, and

WHEREAS, the ability to hire enough qualified public employees on the State and county level to perform our residents' needed services has reached crisis level, and

WHEREAS, this hiring crisis during COVID resulted in an Executive Order action allowing for the removal of the \$35,000 cap to help ease this issue, unfortunately, this was a limited allowance and the Executive Order expired in 2023, and

WHEREAS, New York counties have unique challenges when hiring for certain skilled or knowledge-based positions due to each county having different populations, economics, and demographics including but not limited to retired corrections deputy sheriffs, school resource officers, public health nurses, registered nurses, caseworkers, mental health professionals, and other critical positions, and

WHEREAS, county governments are being asked to provide more services with less funding, a goal that becomes more difficult when those who best understand local government service needs are retiring and their continued connection to public service in a limited fashion is being deterred by state policies, and

WHEREAS, in 2023 a bill was introduced (S.3144D, Mannion) that recognizes adjusting this cap to \$50,000 will provide the State and the local governments more hiring options when they seek to fill a position that requires unique skill sets, government experience, and, in some cases, reduces health insurance costs as the person is already retired,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators calls on the State to increase the salary cap for retired public employees seeking county employment, and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Mark Walczyk, Senator Dan Stec, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, and Assemblyman Scott Gray.

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Operations Committee: 4-15-2024

RESOLUTION NO.

CALLING ON THE STATE TO FULLY REIMBURSE COUNTIES FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY SALARY INCREASES THAT ARE SET AND CONTROLLED BY THE STATE

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2023, the New York State Commission on Legislative, Judicial, and Executive Compensation voted to recommend a 10 percent increase in state judge salaries in 2024, and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that on April 1, 2024 the State Legislature will approved the Commission's recommendation and place State Court Judges' salaries at \$232,600 up from \$210,900, and

WHEREAS, New York State Judiciary Law Section 183-a links judicial salaries to county District Attorney (DA) salaries, requiring them to be equal to or higher than the State Judges within their county, and

WHEREAS, historically when the state increased State Judge salaries in the 1980s and 1990s, the State fully funded all DA salary increases imposed on the counties, recognizing without this funding the increase would be an unfunded mandate, and

WHEREAS, the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York (DAASNY), recognizing the automatic nature of these increases and its effect on local county budgets, and further to support the counties' position, requested in correspondence with state officials that the state fund this salary increase, and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has stated they understand the importance of not shifting more state generated costs to the local tax base, mindful of the impact locally with the state-imposed property tax cap, and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has recognized lowering property taxes is the main priority to ensure a healthy Upstate New York economy, and

WHEREAS, for smaller counties, the D.A. salary increase can represent nearly one third of their total allowable property tax growth for all government operations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators calls on the State to fully reimburse counties for district attorney salary increases that are set and controlled by the State, and

May 6, 2024

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Mark Walczyk, Senator Dan Stec, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, and Assemblyman Scott Gray.

May 6, 2024

Operations Committee: 4-15-2024

RESOLUTION NO.

**URGING THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE TO RESTORE
ESSENTIAL FUNDING FOR RABIES IN THE FY 2024-25 STATE BUDGET**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul completely eliminates the \$1.45 million appropriation for rabies prevention in her FY 2024-25 Executive Budget proposal, and

WHEREAS, local health departments (LHDs) are the only health entities in New York State that are statutorily required to provide core public health services in communities across New York State, including the suppression of human rabies, and

WHEREAS, unless treated soon after exposure, rabies is a fatal disease, and

WHEREAS, New York State statute recognizes the severity of this disease and therefore maintains strong statutory requirements for counties to reduce the risk of contracting rabies and assure treatment for anyone who is exposed to the disease, including an obligation for counties to cover the costs of human post-exposure treatment for individuals who lack the ability to pay for treatment and to offer free quarterly rabies vaccination clinics for cats, dogs, and domestic ferrets, and

WHEREAS, other statutory requirements for counties include prompt investigation of reports of exposure; arrangements for disposition of animals involved, including confinement and observation; quarantines; vaccination boosters; euthanasia; testing and collection; preparation; and submission of animal specimens to the state rabies lab for diagnosis, and

WHEREAS, most of the state pre-exposure prophylaxis funding for rabies prevention and control via oral rabies vaccine (ORV) animal baiting was originally eliminated in 2009, despite the necessity of this preemptive measure to control the spread of rabid animals, and

WHEREAS, since then, a small portion of the original \$1.45 million appropriation that NYSDOH spent annually on animal control outside New York City, including ORV baiting, was allocated via contracts to the 57 counties outside New York City, and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the last full year for which data is available, LHDs collected and submitted 5,223 animal specimens for rabies testing, and

WHEREAS, NYSAC and NYSACHO strongly oppose the elimination of this funding, as it supports these statutorily required, life-saving public health protections and eliminating this funding results in a direct cost shift to local taxpayers and runs the risk of undermining the life-saving goals that New York's strong rabies statutes provide, and

WHEREAS, because rabies falls under the provisions of Article 6, the services supported are eligible public health expenses, and, therefore, the projected potential savings to

May 6, 2024

the State would not be fully realized because they will be offset by increased and unbudgeted claims to state aid,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Legislators urges the Governor and State Legislature to restore essential funding for rabies in the FY 2024-25 State Budget, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Mark Walczyk, Senator Dan Stec, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, and Assemblyman Scott Gray.

May 6, 2024

Operations Committee: 4-15-2024

RESOLUTION NO.

**SUPPORTING SENATE BILL S.2695-B AND ASSEMBLY BILL A.7086-A
TO ENSURE SHERIFFS AND UNDERSHERIFFS CONTINUE TO HAVE
POLICE OFFICER POWERS**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, Sheriffs are elected law enforcement officials established by the New York State Constitution, and

WHEREAS, historically, those individuals inhabiting the office of both Sheriff and Undersheriff were imbued with the legal authority of police officers solely by virtue of holding those positions, and

WHEREAS, the statutory exemption granting Sheriffs and Undersheriffs police officer powers as a component of holding the office, absent any other prerequisite training, was ostensibly repealed as a component of the Professional Policing Act, and

WHEREAS, such statutory change has narrowed the field of qualified candidates for Sheriff, since individuals who are already police officers can credibly claim that their civilian opponent, if elected, will not be a police officer, thereby diminishing the pool of aspiring public servants who could bring diversity and new perspectives to the Office of Sheriff,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators supports Senate Bill S.2695-B and Assembly Bill A.7086-A to ensure sheriffs and undersheriffs continue to have police officer powers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Mark Walczyk, Senator Dan Stec, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, and Assemblyman Scott Gray.

May 6, 2024

Operations Committee: 4-15-2024

RESOLUTION NO.

ENCOURAGING GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL AND THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO INCREASE THE MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT) BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR COUNTY JAILS

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, local correctional facilities are now obligated by Mental Hygiene Law Section 19.18-c to provide Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Services to incarcerated individuals who have been diagnosed with a substance use disorder, and

WHEREAS, the provision of MAT must also be accompanied by tangential therapeutic services ranging from counseling, to peer support, to discharge planning, and

WHEREAS, in many circumstances obtaining the specific medications necessary to be compliant with the law, particularly methadone, is a costly and time intensive endeavor, and

WHEREAS, the annual appropriation provided in the State's Aid To Localities Budget has remained static at the insufficient amount of \$8.865 million, to support the efforts of 56 county jails,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators encourages Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature to increase the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Budget allocations for county jails, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Mark Walczyk, Senator Dan Stec, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, and Assemblyman Scott Gray.

St. Lawrence County Vacancy Authorization Form

Sheriff



Type: Fill

Principal Fiscal Officer

Subunit (If Applicable):

Date Submitted: 4/9/24

Reason Vacated: Retirement

Position Number: 101000004

Date Vacated: 4/27/24

Position # Abolished: 101000008

Position Status: Fulltime

Last Fill Date: 03/02/2010

Jurisdictional Class: Competitive

Appointee Will Be: Provisional

Hrs Per Week: 35 Shift Length: 7 FTE: 1.00

Budget

Salary of Person Leaving: \$70,143

Fill Request Timeline: Immediately

Benefits: Yes (52.94%) \$37,134

Revenue Generating: No 0 %

Base Salary: \$57,274

Reimbursed by Local,
State or Federal Funds: No 0 %

Base Hourly: \$31.47

Grade: Base

Net County Cost: \$107,277

*Net County Cost is calculated from salary of person leaving, if available

Detailed Justification

What is the impact on your department if this position is not filled? Please provide, in detail, the need to fill the position. Please include the service provided, if it is mandated, number of people (clients) affected, and what you will do if the position is not filled.

The Principal Fiscal Officer's position will be vacated due to retirement and a transitional PFO being placed in the position number being vacated.

The PFO is responsible for the accounting, fiscal management and grants for all Sheriff's departments with further guidance to Emergency Services under the set standards for audit and accounting practices.

This position would have a significant financial impact if it was not filled with long term effects to the function of the Sheriff's department.

Abolish the transitional PFO and transfer into the vacated position.

Department Head:

Approved?

Yes No

County Administrator:

Resolution #:

St. Lawrence County Vacancy Authorization Form

Sheriff



Type: Fill

Correction Officer

Subunit (If Applicable): Correctional Facility

Date Submitted: 3/19/2024

Reason Vacated: Retirement

Position Number: 603000055

Date Vacated: 3/22/2024

Position # Abolished: N/A

Position Status: Fulltime

Last Fill Date: 5/16/2007

Jurisdictional Class: Competitive

Appointee Will Be: Permanent

Hrs Per Week: 40 Shift Length: 8 FTE: 1.00

Budget

Salary of Person Leaving: \$65,287

Fill Request Timeline: Immediately

Benefits: Yes (52.94%) \$34,563

Revenue Generating: No 0 %

Base Salary: \$49,802

Reimbursed by Local,
State or Federal Funds: No 0 %

Base Hourly: \$23.94

Grade: CORR

Net County Cost: \$99,850

*Net County Cost is calculated from salary of person leaving, if available

Detailed Justification

What is the impact on your department if this position is not filled? Please provide, in detail, the need to fill the position. Please include the service provided, if it is mandated, number of people (clients) affected, and what you will do if the position is not filled.

The Correctional Facility shall employ the number of Correctional Officers necessary to provide care, custody and control for all inmates and to perform all necessary facility functions. The New York State Commission of Correction determines the minimum number of personnel necessary to effectively and efficiently operate the Correctional facility. Minimum staffing for Correction Officers as set forth by the New York State Commission of Corrections is fifty-six (56). It has been determined that sixty (60) full time Officers are necessary to assist in performing facility functions 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

Resolution No. 164-2007

Department Head:

Approved?

Yes No

County Administrator:

Resolution #:

Job Qualifications

For Human Resources Use Only:
Job Qualifications Listed here:

Correction Officer

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from high school, possession of a high school equivalency diploma or possession of an Individual Education Plan diploma.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT AND CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT: Employees in this class are required to possess a valid New York State Motor Vehicle Operator's license or otherwise demonstrate a capacity to meet the transportation needs of the position.

St. Lawrence County Vacancy Authorization Form

Sheriff's Office



Type: Abolish & Create

Detective Sergeant

Subunit (If Applicable): Drug Task Force

Date Submitted: 04/08/2024

Reason Vacated: New Position

Position Number: 606000007

Date Vacated: 1/23/2023

Position # Abolished: 605000009

Position Status: Fulltime

Last Fill Date: 01/03/2023

Jurisdictional Class: Competitive

Appointee Will Be: Permanent

Hrs Per Week: 40 Shift Length: 8 FTE: 1.00

Budget

Salary of Person Leaving: \$65,396

Fill Request Timeline: Immediately

Benefits: Yes (52.94%) \$34,621

Revenue Generating: No 0 %

Base Salary: \$73,875

Reimbursed by Local,
State or Federal Funds: No 0 %

Base Hourly: \$35.52

Grade: Det. Sgt

Net County Cost: \$100,017

*Net County Cost is calculated from salary of person leaving, if available

Detailed Justification

What is the impact on your department if this position is not filled? Please provide, in detail, the need to fill the position. Please include the service provided, if it is mandated, number of people (clients) affected, and what you will do if the position is not filled.

This Detective Sergeant position is needed for coordination and supervision of the Sheriff's Office Drug Task Force. It is essential to the operations of this unit and directly oversees a Detective, coordinates with local police departments, Homeland Security, National Guard Counter Drug Force, New York State Police, North Country Crime Analysis Center, US Border Patrol and US Customs & Border Protection. Further, plans monthly DTF meetings, training, arranges search warrants and other court documents, scheduling, financial documentation and grant work needs.

The safety of the citizens of St. Lawrence County depends on the need of this supervisory position to avoid major incidents.

This position is under direct supervision of the Sheriff and Undersheriff, and allowed to make independent judgement in carrying out the details of the work.

Department Head:

Handwritten signature of the Department Head.

Approved?

Yes No

County Administrator:

Resolution #:

Job Qualifications

For Human Resources Use Only:
Job Qualifications Listed here:

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Eighteen (18) months of service as a Deputy Sheriff Detective or as a Deputy Sheriff Sergeant.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Possession of a current valid New York State driver's license.