Hello. I am Sheriff Michael McCauley. I'm currently serving as the 47th Sheriff of Guernsey County. None of us are in law enforcement to make a fortune. But you might be surprised by exactly how much, or how little, a Sheriff is paid.
The Sheriff's salary is set by statute. It is determined by the population of his county.

Half of the 88 Sheriffs, me included, earn less than 60 thousand dollars a year. In fact, the average salary for an Ohio Sheriff is about 70-thousand dollars.
In one of Ohio's least populated counties, Vinton County, the Sheriff earns 53,887 dollars per year.

In a medium sized county like Madison County… the sheriff earns $59,537.
And in our two most populated counties, Hamilton and Cuyahoga, the sheriff earns $103,247 per year.

We share those numbers with you not to complain about our personal finances. These are positions we asked for and are proud to hold. We share those numbers with you so you can have as complete a picture as possible.

Ohio's least populated or "class one" counties are Vinton, Noble, Morgan, Monroe and Harrison Counties.
TOP base pay for a commissioned deputy in Harrison County is $38,500. A new deputy earns ELEVEN dollars an hour that's $22,880 annually.

The largest number of counties, 26 counties, fall into the "class three" category… population of 35,001 to 55,000 residents. In Holmes County, a class three county, the ENTRY LEVEL base pay for a commissioned deputy is 12.30 per hour or $25,584.00 per year.

$12.30 an hour… for a putting his or her life on the line to protect the community. Working often unusual hours, holidays… you understand the life of a peace officer.

Since the 88 county sheriffs' offices are all independent offices, the numbers vary. I'm using Holmes County as an example. A deputy starting out in Mahoning County makes less; one in Crawford County earns more.

Now let's look at a larger county. Lucas, Summit, Montgomery and Hamilton Counties are class seven counties with 400-thousand to 1-million residents. In Lucas County, that's the Toledo area, the entry level base pay for a commissioned deputy is $13.60 an hour or $28,288 a year.

A deputy in Guernsey County starts at $14.00

Let's compare that to other law enforcement agencies. The starting annual base salary for a State Trooper is $44,481.60. For the Columbus Davison of Police it is $43,430.40.

Salaries are just one factor in a bigger economic picture. Let me use Lucas County again as an example of a major challenge county sheriffs are facing. We are responding to an **increasing number of calls with decreasing operating budgets.**

The land area of Summit County, up in the Akron area, is 413 square miles. The Sheriff's Office responded to 41,153 total calls in 2009 and 2094 traffic crashes. The total law enforcement expenditures for 2009, excluding jail costs, were $11,108,522.42.

Here's the problem- his budget for 2010, as determined by the county commissioners is $10,747,200. You can see the challenge there. Costs are rising, crime isn't going away and Sheriff Alexander's resources are down. In some counties, the cuts went deeper. Sheriff Telb in Lucas County was allocated about three million less. Those Sheriffs are not alone. The story is similar in Williams, Pickaway, Erie and Geauga Counties and more. Across the state, Sheriffs are struggling to do more with less. As municipal police departments cut back... more work comes our way. When the economy is down, crime tends to go up.

Sheriffs are finding themselves in the unfortunate position of having to **layoff deputies and other staff**. We've seen it in Morrow County, Jackson County,

Williams County, Lorain County and Richland County just to name a few. Some counties no longer have enough staffing to patrol- they are simply responding call to call. Many counties who have not had layoffs are still loosing manpower through attrition. In Guernsey County, I'm down seven and a half positions and in April, I'm concerned that I could loose two more.

We know, as leaders, we need to be part of the solution. That's why we are **conservative in our spending**. By way of example: In Henry County, they spent $23,000 on a new marked and fully equipped law enforcement vehicle. Sheriff James Telb in Lucas County pays $31,000 for a new, marked and fully equipped law enforcement vehicle. We do not ask for things we don't need.

Sheriff's are limited in how we can raise funds because the money is funneled through our county commissioners. In some cases, we raise the money or are awarded the grant… then it's a fight to get the commissioners to show us the money.

We are creative when it comes to finding funding and pinching pennies.

In my own county, faced with a shrinking budget and a growing fleet of very high-mileage vehicles, we sold part of our history. We had three 1920s Thompson submachine guns, that we sold for 125-thousand dollars. The money from those "Tommy guns" will be used to buy new cruisers.
In Delaware County, Sheriff Davis convinced the school districts to help pay the salaries of his school resource officers and he accepted a donation from a kennel club to cut the cost and training of a canine in half. He's got jail inmates washing cars so he doesn't have to pay the 8 or so bucks for per car wash. It adds up.

You'll hear stories like this from almost any sheriff you ask. We are deeply rooted in our communities. We feel a strongly that we must do everything we can to serve and protect our neighbors. **Despite financial challenges Ohio sheriffs provide quality, cost effective law enforcement at a crucial local level.**

However, we are approaching "critical mass" as budgets shrink, crime continues to grow and costs escalate: 88 counties - 88 financial challenges.