

TO:	Cumberland County Commissioners
FROM:	Kevin J. Joyce, Sheriff
DATE:	03-31-2023
SUBJECT:	Discussion on Line of Duty Deaths

Requested Action: Discussion on how we will proceed if placed in the unfortunate position of supporting a Line of Duty Death (LODD) funeral.

(Authorize, Accept, Award, Approve, Amend, Appointment or Informational Report-No Action)

Background & Purpose of Request: Recently, we were updating our policies; I was asked whether the county would cover the funeral costs of an employee who dies in the line of duty. Although we hope to never experience a Line of Duty Death (LODD), we have seen four first responders who died in the line of duty over the last five years in Maine, so we know that it can happen.

A LODD can occur both in the law enforcement field or corrections field, so we must consider both departments.

Rather than wait until something like this occurs, I would like to have an open discussion on what the parameters are, should we be placed in these circumstances in the future. As you know, I do not have a budget line for a circumstance such as this, nor should I have one.

I reached out to two Sheriffs and the Colonel of the Maine State Police, who have had recent experience in planning a funeral for members of their agency. What I discovered was that the costs of each LODD Funeral was different and how the services were paid for, were different as well.

Somerset County, Cpl. Eugene Cole (LODD April 25, 2018): The funeral director services, cremation, and cremation vase were at no cost. The funeral home advised that because it was a line of duty death, costs were covered through a first responder agreement. I am not aware of the "first responder agreement" mentioned by Sheriff Dale Lancaster. The transportation costs for the family were covered through a local car dealership; Hight. Hight is the dealership where Somerset County purchases all their vehicles.

Maine State Police Detective, Ben Campbell (LODD April 3, 2019): The Maine Troopers Association covered most of the costs of Detective Campbell's funeral services. The State of Maine covered everything else.

Hancock County, Deputy Sheriff Luke Gross, (LODD September 23, 2021): Teamsters Local 340 budgeted \$15,000.00 to pay for the Cross Center, lighting and sound system, flowers, rooms and expenses for the State Police Honor Guard who assisted with the process. Hancock County paid \$10,000.00+/- for all of the funeral expenses. These included transportation from the scene of the accident to the Medical Examiner's Office, back to the funeral home for them to prepare him for

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cremation, visiting hours at the funeral home, transportation to the crematory and back to the funeral home, transportation from the funeral home to the Cross Center, as well as canopies for the funeral service and a canopy over Deputy Gross' vehicle as a memorial. Transportation of the family was donated by a local bus service.

Funding Amount and Source: What I found during this research is that the funeral for a LODD can become very costly. These funerals are not a conventional funeral with conventional funeral costs. A LODD funeral will attract large numbers of first responders nationwide and in some cases internationally (Canada). The costs incurred over and above a conventional funeral involves renting a large venue and all that comes with that such as security and administrative staff, sound system rental, funeral costs, potential need for the rental of porta-potties, family transportation, water/refreshments, funeral arrangements that may last for 4 or more hours versus the conventional 2-3 hours of visitation and a 1-hour funeral service and the burial plot which may or may not be already retained by the family.

Additionally, I would be remiss not to mention that on the following May, the employee's name would be added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial wall, which I believe that it would be appropriate to send one member of the family to the Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington DC, to honor their sacrifice.

Although there may be the donation of services or a donation from the employees Union, there are no guarantees. These funerals are large in nature and it appears that the costs can range from \$20,000.00-\$35,000.00. There are definitely certain traditions that comprise the LODD funeral and then the unknown part is the wishes of the family. While this event does not constitute an "open checkbook mentality", we need to be prepared with parameters ahead of time, so that IF an event like this occurs, we are not trying to determine what the rules will be then. When you are faced with a circumstance like this, waiting until something happens is not the time.

Attachments: (Please list out any Attachments you're including):					
Agenda Item Num	ber:	Date on Agenda:			
Result					
Mover:	Seconder:				
Vote Tally:					
Vote Result:					
Roll Call Vote if M	eeting Remotely:				

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