

February 9, 2021

STATEMENT

The Village of Washburn took action last night at its Board meeting to move from an internally staffed Police Department to that of a contracted service with Woodford County. This action was taken in response to several recent drivers. The Police Reform Act signed into law by Illinois will significantly increase expenses related to staff and training. Availability of affordable personnel is getting harder to fill, especially for small communities like ours. Woodford County is a large department that can provide more comprehensive services, a trained staff with the latest protection equipment, and is competitively priced to align with today's costs.

An assigned officer will be dedicated to the hours chosen by the Police Committee and reflected in the contract. They will be in town patrolling during those hours and when outside of these hours, the County will cover. In the past, the County respected our local PD and only patrolled when called. This coverage and availability is comparable to today.

Rest assured, the Village Board cares about Police protection for the Village of Washburn. It is our utmost priority to protect our citizens. This decision assures that commitment to our community.

Steve Forney
Mayor of the Village of Washburn

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Will my taxes go down?
 - No. Costs related to supporting an internally staffed department will be used to pay for the contracted services from Woodford County.

2. How do I reach the Police if I am in need?
 - Call 911.

3. Will response times be longer?
 - We expect response times to be comparable.

4. What about my service if I live in the Marshall County side of town?
 - Services include all Washburn municipal boundaries. Cooperation with Marshall County has been agreed upon.

5. What if my organization is conducting an event that we feel needs special law enforcement attention?
 - Contact Police Committee Chair to arrange.

6. What happens with any property located at the Washburn Police Department?
 - It will remain property of the Village of Washburn. Disposition will be made in the future.