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law enforcement officers in the state, and each deputy serves more residents than any other county. It breaks down to about 768 residents per officer, which is the rural standard recommendation. A county this size should have a minimum of 4 officers, and ideally, staffing should be at 5-6 officers, according to information gathered by Sheriff Michaelis from sources such as FBI Uniform Crime Reporting, Bureau of Justice Statistics, and International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Both deputies are scheduled for 60 hours per week, with none of those being paid as overtime, as they are exempt from overtime hours being paid that fall within that 60-hour timeframe. The sheriff is scheduled at 48 hours to allow extra hours for covering vacations, sick leave, training, and being called in for backup, as there sometimes is a 45-minute wait for someone to come from out of the area.

Sheriff Michaelis explained that her department handles 180-275 calls per month and handles an average of 280 civil service papers per year. She went on to discuss the negative impacts that working those excessive hours can have on law enforcement officers.

Problems arising for officers working more than 60 hours per week can include a significant decline in alertness and decision making skills, sleep deprivation effects, various health and stress issues, and can be a cause of workplace injuries.

When put to a vote, the commission voted unanimously in favor of Sheriff Michaelis applying for the grant in question.

"Now that the County Commission has approved moving forward with the additional deputy position, the next step is to complete and submit the application for the COPS Hiring Grant," said Sheriff Michaelis. "If awarded, the grant would cover up to 75% of the salary, benefits, and some equipment costs for the position over a

three-year period. Once awarded, we will begin the hiring process, including recruitment, background checks, and training."

If the grant is awarded, Michaelis said that they will move forward with the additional deputy position and the partnership with the City of Cooperstown. This agreement states that the City of Cooperstown has committed to contributing \$16,000 annually toward an additional deputy position. In exchange, the Sheriff's Office will provide: enforcement of city ordinances, increased patrol presence within the city, and response to city-specific calls for service. She said that if they are not awarded the grant, they will continue working with the City to explore other options and determine an approach that still allows the department to support the needs of the City within their available resources. There would be talks in the future to try to coordinate with the cities of Binford and Hanford as well.

Another concern voiced by Sheriff Michaelis is the upcoming Garrison Diversion project. She said that there will be increased traffic and activity that large-scale development brings.


"Projects like this typically bring a significant number of heavy trucks and workers into the area, which leads to increased traffic on county roads and highways," she said. "With that increase comes a need for additional monitoring to ensure traffic safety, compliance with weight limits, and enforcement of speed and other regulations. It also increases the likelihood of crashes and calls for service. For a small agency like ours, even a moderate increase in traffic and activity places additional demands on our already limited staffing; therefore, we must plan for and be prepared to manage it."

Michaelis pointed out that even if they hire one more deputy, it will still leave Griggs County last in the officer-to-citizen

ratio in North Dakota. She said that adding one deputy is not an expansion; it is a necessity.

"I want the public to know that our goal is to continue providing safe, reliable, and consistent law enforcement service across Griggs County," she said. "The request for an additional deputy is about maintaining that level of service as demands increase.

We are committed to being responsible with taxpayer dollars; therefore, we are pursuing grant funding and partnerships to help reduce the financial impact on the county. We appreciate the community's continued support. Our focus remains on protecting residents, improving service, and ensuring long-term sustainability for the Sheriff's Office."



Spring CLEAN-UP

- CLEAN YOUR YARD
- CLEAN AROUND BUILDINGS
- CLEAN OUT YOUR GARAGE & BASEMENT

LET'S KEEP COOPERSTOWN CLEAN & GREEN

CLEAN-UP WEEK IS MAY 4-9

Clean-up week is the perfect opportunity to bring your property into compliance with City Ordinances relating to Public Nuisances!

Residents are encouraged to clean up their nuisances and/or junk vehicles. After clean-up, the city will be enforcing ordinances!

DAILY LANDFILL HOURS
 Mon - Fri..... 2 - 7 p.m.
 Saturday ... 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Loads should be sorted for your unloading convenience.

NO CHARGE for items you haul to the landfill!

North of Burrel Ave will be picked up on Wednesday, May 6
South of Burrel Ave will be picked up on Thursday, May 7

Please watch for Fall Clean-up Days

Garbage routes will run as usual

NOT ACCEPTED AT LANDFILL
 Paper • Cardboard • Clothing • Batteries • Books
 Paint cans containing paint

PUBLIC NOTICES

Cooperstown City Council
 The Cooperstown City Council met as the Board of Equalization on Monday, March 23, 2026, at 6:30pm. Present: Paul Paintner, Deb Eslinger, Charles Dehoff, Mike Eslinger, and Mark Urness. Others present: Auditor/City Assessor

Christine Olson. Absent: Larry Olson
 Mayor Paintner called the meeting to order.
 Assessor Christine Olson presented information showing the current sales ratio of 92.2% and a 2.9% increase in total value from

\$41,933,777 in 2025 to \$43,160,800 in 2026. MSC Urness, M. Eslinger to accept the values presented.
 MSC Dehoff, D. Eslinger to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:49pm.
 These are unapproved minutes.
 GCC April 24, 2026, IO#370043

Let the classifieds work for you
 Line ads \$7.95 up to 20 words 25 cents per word thereafter
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the classifieds

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Classified Ad Deadline
2:00 PM
MONDAY

HELP WANTED
 YOU CAN PLACE a 25-word classified ad like this one in every North Dakota newspaper for only \$160. It's easy. Contact this newspaper for details.

SERVICES
 NEED NEW WINDOWS? Drafty rooms? Chipped or damaged frames? Need outside noise reduction? New, energy efficient windows may be the answer! Call for a consultation & FREE quote today. 1-877-200-2734

ELECTRICAL SERVICES: Reliable & experienced. Competitive rates. From simple household problems to installing a brand new electrical system, we can take care of it all! Call now

and have the zip code of the service location when you call! 1-877-403-0282

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 NDFARMLAND Values surge upward. Are you selling or renting? Pifer's Auction and Farm Land Management. Bob Pifer 701.371.8538. Kevin Pifer 701.238.5810. Free evaluation.

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your home to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-877-936-0513 Mold Remediation services are also available!

HAVE A NEWS RELEASE or other information that needs to reach all ND newspapers? ND Newspaper Association can help! One call does it all. 701-223-6397.

CLUBHOUSE MANAGER

Cooperstown country club has an opening for a clubhouse manager.

Any interest contact Andrew at 701-797-7081.



FOR RENT

BINFORD MANOR APARTMENTS

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 TTY:1-800-366-688 EHO