



January 16, 2013

TO: Eric Stuckey, City Administrator
FROM: David Rahinsky, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Funeral Escort – Manpower Breakdown

In regards to the issue of funeral escorts within the City, below is a synopsis of the current protocol:

Tennessee law gives funeral homes the authority to lead a funeral procession without a police escort, and all vehicles in those statutorily authorized processions may proceed, regardless of sign or signal, when their headlights are illuminated.

Should the funeral home choose to utilize Franklin Police Officers for the escort, the agency provides a mechanism in which to schedule escorts by off-duty police officers.

The City of Franklin currently has 121 sworn police officers; broken down as follows:

POSITION	Number Filled
Chief	1
Deputy Chief	3
Lieutenant	6
Sergeant	20
Detective	13
Patrol Officer	77
Research/Development Officer	1

The Franklin Police Department currently operates three patrol shifts: Alpha 2200-0600, Bravo 0600-1400, and Charlie 1400-2200.

- Each Patrol shift consists of a Lieutenant, three Sergeants, and 17 Officers, totaling 63 sworn positions distributed amongst three shifts, providing 24-hour continuous coverage.
- With 17 Officers assigned to each shift, on any given day as many as four officers are on regularly scheduled days off, bringing staffing to 13 officers. On average, one or two additional officers are utilizing accrued leave, reducing the number to 11. In-Service Training, SWAT Training, as well as



POST mandated training generally results in a reduction of one officer a day, leaving 10 or fewer officers to patrol the City and respond to calls for service.

- Fourteen of our 77 sworn police officers are detailed to the Flex Team (4) and the K9 Unit (4), with the remainder assigned to the Traffic Unit.
- The City's approximate 41 square miles are broken into four police zones. Each Zone is assigned two police cars, with an additional two designated as float cars to respond as back-up units, and to in progress calls.
- When special events of any significance occur, such as parades or 5k races, it is common for the number of officers needed to manage the event to exceed the number of officers actually working. Our current system of requiring off-duty officers for special details ensures a consistent level of city-wide police protection.
- Since implementation, the FPD continues to support funeral escorts during the course of their duties. On duty personnel assist processions that they encounter while on patrol. Funeral homes in the City have the option of hiring off-duty officers to ensure a dedicated police escort of the funeral procession, inside the City of Franklin, in its entirety.
- On December 14th, Mayor Ken Moore, City Administrator Eric Stuckey and I met at City Hall with representatives from Williamson Memorial Funeral Home, Waters Funeral Home, and Heritage Funeral Home. The policy was discussed with positive feedback provided.
- Subsequent to the meeting, I have continued our dialog with the Funeral Homes in the City. Williamson Funeral Home has utilized off- duty officers to conduct funeral escorts. An e-mail was received from Christopher Taylor from Heritage Funeral Home that read, "Mr. Stuckey, thank you for the effort the city is making to deal with such an issue. The fee structure the city is proposing is still well below open market value for such a service. I see this is a positive move forward and will support city in the ultimate decision".