



OHIO LABOR COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Columbus, Ohio – November 13, 2024

**POLICE UNION RAISES SAFETY CONCERNS OVER
LUCAS COUNTY JAIL STAFFING ISSUES**

Law enforcement agencies across Ohio and the nation are experiencing severe recruitment and retention challenges. The Lucas County Sheriff's Office has struggled over the years to offer wages that are competitive with those of other area agencies and private-sector employers. This disparity has led to the loss of many experienced employees, raising significant concerns about safety within the jail. Numerous injuries among corrections officers have been reported due to inadequate staffing, which impacts both officer safety and the security of inmates and the public.

The situation extends beyond the jail. Deputies responsible for patrolling Springfield Township and the rest of the county, as well as those working in the courts and other county positions, are paid significantly less than their peers in nearby and similarly sized counties across the state. This pay disparity not only affects morale but also severely hampers the Sheriff's Office's ability to retain skilled personnel, directly impacting public safety in Lucas County.

The Fraternal Order of Police/Ohio Labor Council (FOP/OLC) represents the corrections officers, counselors, clerks, and deputies at the Lucas County Sheriff's Office. The union members are frustrated and troubled by the lack of progress in addressing these critical staffing and wage issues, which jeopardizes the safety of the jail and the wider community.

Gwen Callender, Executive Director of the Fraternal Order of Police/Ohio Labor Council, stated: "The Lucas County Corrections Officers and Deputies are committed public servants who work in challenging and often dangerous conditions to keep the citizens of Lucas County safe. The jail is critically understaffed, and without competitive wages, the Sheriff's Office cannot retain the personnel needed to ensure safety for everyone—from the corrections staff, to the inmates to the community. We urge the County Commissioners to recognize the risks and take immediate action to address these issues. Lucas County deserves a Sheriff's Office that is fully staffed with employees who are supported and fairly compensated."

The Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council, Inc., is the largest law enforcement labor organization in the State of Ohio, representing members of the law enforcement profession since 1984.

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