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# ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

HON. EDWARD A. RATH, III  
LEGISLATOR

January 7, 2020

Hon. April N.M. Baskin  
Erie County Legislature, Chairwoman  
92 Franklin Street – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Creation of a Permanent Fulltime SWAT team in Erie County

Dear Chairwoman Baskin,

Along with infrastructure, providing for public safety is one of the main purposes of government. For most public projects, we are required to award contracts to the lowest responsible bidder. According to recent committee discussions, and supplemental information since provided, the creation of a full-time SWAT team would both improve public safety and reduce costs to taxpayers.

According to the discussion during the budget hearings, as a full-time unit, the SWAT team would be able to increase the number of training activities that they could participate in, which would improve their ability to respond to crises in Erie County. In addition, the creation of a full-time swat team would cut back on the overtime currently needed by the part-time SWAT members as they are pulled from their normal duty to engage in SWAT training and deployment. This increased proficiency of the SWAT team would bolster public safety, while limiting overtime coverage, and would provide a significant cost-savings to Erie County. Up until recently we did not have an accounting of the potential savings from the Sheriff's Office.

While at the time of the hearings the full cost savings were not made available, attached is a current document from the Erie County Sheriff's office, which details the expected cost savings from the creation of a full time SWAT team. This material shows that a full-time SWAT team is expected to create \$1.2 million in annual savings. These savings are significantly more than the cost of the requested full-time positions. Increasing the quality of services provided while simultaneously decreasing costs is a perfect win-win scenario for residents of Erie County.

I ask that the Legislature hold another public safety meeting as soon as possible so as to allow the Sheriff's office another opportunity to present the creation of a full-time SWAT team. This meeting should be held with sufficient time to allow for the Legislature to consider the

SWAT team as a potential amendment to the 2020 Budget during our annual discussion of Budget Balancing Amendments.

I appreciate your time and attention in this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Rath III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large "E" and "R".

Edward A. Rath III  
Erie County Legislator



## **ECSO Full Time SWAT Team Proposal Numbers Explained**

Numbers have been updated to include 30 Months

- June 2017 through November 2019

- Hourly Overtime rate used was \$54.303

- Number was average of 5 SWAT Team positions

- 1 Captain

- 1 Detective

- 3 Deputies

- Backfill is when Team Member pulled from normal duties

- Categories

- Monthly Training

- 3 Monthly Training Days

- Operations

- Call Outs, High-Risk Felony Warrants, Rope Rescues etc

- Critical Infrastructure

- New Era Field Events, KBC Arena Events, Festivals etc

- Additional Training

- Rope Rescue, Medical Response Unit, etc

- Misc

- Public Demonstrations, Vehicle & Equipment  
Maintenance, etc



# June 2018 Full Month in Detail

## For Example Purpose

	Monthly Training		Operations		Critical Infrastructure		Additional Training		Misc					
	Reg	OT	Backfill	Reg	OT	Backfill	Reg	OT	Backfill	Reg	OT	Backfill		
1 June counter terror							40	150						
1 June lackawanna call out				133	N/A*									
5 June ropes						32	52	24						
6 June Monthl	196	25	156											
7 June Demo Prep									10	29				
7 June Rope						80	6	72						
9 June Ropes						24	60	24						
10-16 HAZMAT 2						168		168						
15 June MRU						64		48						
13 June Monthl	208	25	168											
14 June recon				6										
18 June Op				18	70	14								
19 June Op				16	63	8								
20 June monthl	184	23	144											
25-29 June Counter Terror						544	218	504						
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Overtime Costs</b>	<b>\$3,964.12</b>	<b>\$35,413.80</b>	<b>\$14,770.42</b>	<b>\$11,846.71</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$26,391.05</b>	<b>\$45,644.52</b>	<b>\$1,374.79</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$-</b>



Jun thru Dec 2017

	Regular	Overtime	Overtime Costs	Backfill	Backfill Costs
<b>June</b>					
Monthly Training	624	75	\$ 4,072.73	504	\$ 27,368.71
Operations	103	311	\$ 16,888.23	84	\$ 4,561.45
Critical Infrastructure	0	37	\$ 2,009.21	0	\$ -
Adtl Training	64	0	\$ -	48	\$ 2,606.54
Misc	0	10	\$ 543.03	0	\$ -
<b>July</b>					
Monthly Training	624	75	\$ 4,072.73	504	\$ 27,368.71
Operations	8	67	\$ 3,638.30	12	\$ 651.64
Critical Infrastructure	0	42	\$ 2,280.73	0	\$ -
Adtl Training	64	0	\$ -	48	\$ 2,606.54
Misc	0	75	\$ 4,072.73	24	\$ 1,303.27
<b>August</b>					
Monthly Training	416	50	\$ 2,715.15	336	\$ 18,245.81
Operations	88	280.5	\$ 15,231.99	91	\$ 4,941.57
Critical Infrastructure	0	475	\$ 25,793.93	0	\$ -
Adtl Training	64	0	\$ -	48	\$ 2,606.54
Misc	0	307	\$ 16,671.02	0	\$ -
<b>September</b>					
Monthly Training	624	75	\$ 4,072.73	504	\$ 27,368.71
Operations	35	165	\$ 8,960.00	35	\$ 1,900.61
Critical Infrastructure	0	799	\$ 43,388.10	0	\$ -
Adtl Training	896	180	\$ 9,774.54	720	\$ 39,098.16
Misc	0	55	\$ 2,986.67	0	\$ -
<b>October</b>					
Monthly Training	624	75	\$ 4,072.73	504	\$ 27,368.71
Operations	229	521	\$ 28,291.86	236	\$ 12,815.51
Critical Infrastructure	0	468	\$ 25,413.80	0	\$ -
Adtl Training	64	0	\$ -	48	\$ 2,606.54
Misc	40	52	\$ 2,823.76	0	\$ -
<b>November</b>					
Monthly Training	552	75	\$ 4,072.73	432	\$ 23,458.90
Operations	0	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
Critical Infrastructure	0	493	\$ 26,771.38	0	\$ -
Adtl Training	64	0	\$ -	48	\$ 2,606.54
Misc	72	41	\$ 2,226.42	72	\$ 3,909.82
<b>December</b>					
Monthly Training	624	75	\$ 4,072.73	504	\$ 27,368.71
Operations	25	47	\$ 2,552.24	25	\$ 1,357.58
Critical Infrastructure	0	770	\$ 41,813.31	0	\$ -
Adtl Training	64	0	\$ -	48	\$ 2,606.54
Misc	0	12	\$ 651.64	0	\$ -
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5968</b>	<b>5707.5</b>	<b>\$ 309,934.37</b>	<b>4875</b>	<b>\$ 264,727.13</b>



Jan thru Jun 2018

	Reg	Overtime	Overtime Costs	Backfill	Backfill Costs
<b>January Monthly Training</b>					
Operations	624	75	\$ 4,072.73	504	\$ 27,368.71
Critical Infrastructure	0	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
Adtl Training	80	760	\$ 41,270.28	144	\$ 7,819.63
Misc	64	16	\$ 868.85	48	\$ 2,606.54
	0	10	\$ 543.03	0	\$ -
<b>February Monthly Training</b>					
Operations	416	50	\$ 2,715.15	336	\$ 18,245.81
Critical Infrastructure	93	332	\$ 18,028.60	78	\$ 4,235.63
Adtl Training	0	481	\$ 26,119.74	0	\$ -
Misc	932	187	\$ 10,154.66	780	\$ 42,356.34
	0	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
<b>March Monthly Training</b>					
Operations	416	50	\$ 2,715.15	336	\$ 18,245.81
Critical Infrastructure	18	184	\$ 9,991.75	20	\$ 1,086.06
Adtl Training	0	706.5	\$ 38,365.07	0	\$ -
Misc	1192	336	\$ 18,245.81	1052	\$ 57,126.76
	0	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
<b>April Monthly Training</b>					
Operations	416	46	\$ 2,497.94	336	\$ 18,245.81
Critical Infrastructure	34	124	\$ 6,733.57	38	\$ 2,063.51
Adtl Training	0	162.5	\$ 8,824.24	0	\$ -
Misc	896	125	\$ 6,787.88	720	\$ 39,098.16
	0	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
<b>May Monthly Training</b>					
Operations	516	55	\$ 2,986.67	480	\$ 26,065.44
Critical Infrastructure	11.5	148	\$ 8,036.84	4	\$ 217.21
Adtl Training	0	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
Misc	672	139	\$ 7,548.12	456	\$ 24,762.17
	0	31	\$ 1,683.39	0	\$ -
<b>June Monthly Training</b>					
Operations	588	73	\$ 3,964.12	468	\$ 25,413.80
Critical Infrastructure	34	272	\$ 14,770.42	22	\$ 1,194.67
Adtl Training	0	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
Misc	952	486	\$ 26,391.26	840	\$ 45,614.52
	10	29	\$ 1,574.79	0	\$ -
<b>Total:</b>	<b>7964.5</b>	<b>4878</b>	<b>\$ 264,890.03</b>	<b>6662</b>	<b>\$ 361,766.59</b>



Jul thru Dec 2018

	Regular	Overtime	Overtime Costs	Backfill	Backfill Costs
<b>July Monthly Training</b>					
Operations	624	75	\$ 4,072.73	504	\$ 27,368.71
Critical Infrastructure	0	0	-	0	-
Addl Training	80	760	\$ 41,270.28	144	\$ 7,819.63
Misc	64	16	\$ 868.85	48	\$ 2,606.54
	0	10	\$ 543.03	0	-
<b>August Monthly Training</b>					
Operations	388	52	\$ 2,823.76	336	\$ 18,245.81
Critical Infrastructure	0	49	\$ 2,660.85	30	\$ 1,629.09
Addl Training	12	629	\$ 34,156.59	0	-
Misc	296	134	\$ 7,276.60	280	\$ 15,204.84
	0	4	\$ 217.21	0	-
<b>September Monthly Training</b>					
Operations	356	49	\$ 2,660.85	292	\$ 15,856.48
Critical Infrastructure	0	235	\$ 12,761.21	20	\$ 1,086.06
Addl Training	0	435	\$ 23,621.81	0	-
Misc	868	358	\$ 19,440.47	780	\$ 42,356.34
	0	21	\$ 1,140.36	0	-
<b>October Monthly Training</b>					
Operations	456	59	\$ 3,203.88	400	\$ 21,721.20
Critical Infrastructure	7	151	\$ 8,199.75	7	\$ 380.12
Addl Training	0	602.5	\$ 32,717.56	0	-
Misc	388	170	\$ 9,231.51	336	\$ 18,245.81
	0	44	\$ 2,389.33	0	-
<b>November Monthly Training</b>					
Operations	624	75	\$ 4,072.73	505	\$ 27,423.02
Critical Infrastructure	0	282	\$ 15,313.45	0	-
Addl Training	0	246	\$ 13,358.54	0	-
Misc	178	128	\$ 6,950.78	148	\$ 8,036.84
	0	6	\$ 325.82	0	-
<b>December Monthly Training</b>					
Operations	624	75	\$ 4,072.73	504	\$ 27,368.71
Critical Infrastructure	0	0	-	0	-
Addl Training	0	957	\$ 51,967.97	0	-
Misc	570	108	\$ 5,864.72	514	\$ 27,911.74
	0	12	\$ 651.64	0	-
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5535</b>	<b>5742.5</b>	<b>\$ 311,834.98</b>	<b>4848</b>	<b>\$ 263,260.94</b>



Jan thru Jun 2019

	Regular	Overtime	Overtime Costs	Backfill	Backfill Costs
<b>January Monthly Training</b>					
Operations	653	95	\$ 5,158.79	580	\$ 31,495.74
Critical Infrastructure	140	394	\$ 21,395.38	0	-
Adtl Training	0	211.5	\$ 11,485.08	0	-
Misc	168	56	\$ 3,040.97	168	\$ 9,122.90
	0	18	\$ 977.45	0	-
<b>February Monthly Training</b>					
Operations	408	45	\$ 2,443.64	336	\$ 18,245.81
Critical Infrastructure	0	140	\$ 7,602.42	20	\$ 1,086.06
Adtl Training	0	398.5	\$ 21,639.75	0	-
Misc	1048	140	\$ 7,602.42	848	\$ 46,048.94
	0	0	-	0	-
<b>March Monthly Training</b>					
Operations	588	53	\$ 2,878.06	496	\$ 26,934.29
Critical Infrastructure	0	164	\$ 8,905.69	0	-
Adtl Training	0	433	\$ 23,513.20	0	-
Misc	498	169	\$ 9,177.21	322	\$ 17,485.57
	0	210	\$ 11,403.63	0	-
<b>April Monthly Training</b>					
Operations	476	50	\$ 2,715.15	396	\$ 21,503.99
Critical Infrastructure	0	0	-	0	-
Adtl Training	6	273	\$ 14,824.72	41	\$ 2,226.42
Misc	172	28	\$ 1,520.48	168	\$ 9,122.90
	0	2614	\$ 141,948.04	0	-
<b>May Monthly Training</b>					
Operations	184	25	\$ 1,357.58	146	\$ 7,928.24
Critical Infrastructure	0	0	-	0	-
Adtl Training	0	55	\$ 2,986.67	0	-
Misc	2165	584	\$ 31,712.95	1272	\$ 69,073.42
	0	22	\$ 1,194.67	0	-
<b>June Monthly Training</b>					
Operations	540	48	\$ 2,606.54	468	\$ 25,413.80
Critical Infrastructure	0	230	\$ 12,489.69	0	-
Adtl Training	0	74	\$ 4,018.42	0	-
Misc	40	10	\$ 543.03	48	\$ 2,606.54
	0	34	\$ 1,846.30	0	-
<b>Total:</b>	<b>7086</b>	<b>6574</b>	<b>\$ 356,987.92</b>	<b>5309</b>	<b>\$ 288,294.63</b>





Jul thru Nov 2019

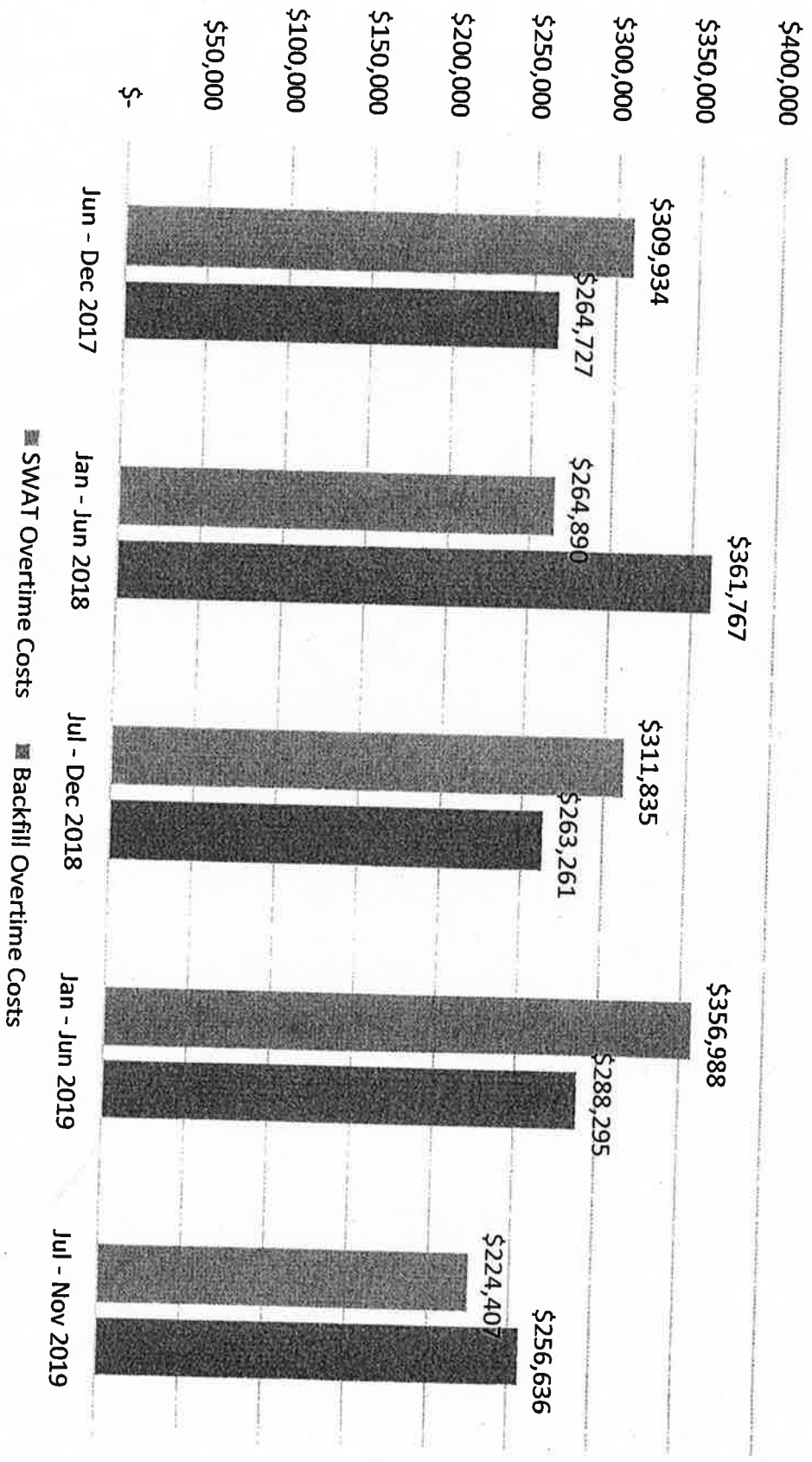
	Regular	Overtime	Overtime Costs	Backfill	Backfill Costs
<b>July</b>					
July Monthly Training	572	52	\$ 2,823.76	460	\$ 24,979.38
Operations	0	6	\$ 325.82	0	\$ -
Critical Infrastructure	0	6	\$ 325.82	0	\$ -
Adtl Training	64	103	\$ 5,593.21	48	\$ 2,606.54
Misc	0	39	\$ 2,117.82	0	\$ -
<b>August</b>					
August Monthly Training	316	38	\$ 2,063.51	248	\$ 13,467.14
Operations	0	58	\$ 3,149.57	6	\$ 325.82
Critical Infrastructure	0	843	\$ 45,777.43	0	\$ -
Adtl Training	120	42	\$ 2,280.73	120	\$ 6,516.36
Misc	0	34	\$ 1,846.30	0	\$ -
<b>September</b>					
September Monthly Training	3040	760	\$ 41,270.28	3040	\$ 165,081.12
Operations	0	85	\$ 4,615.76	0	\$ -
Critical Infrastructure	0	404	\$ 21,938.41	0	\$ -
Adtl Training	0	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
Misc	0	8	\$ 434.42	0	\$ -
<b>October</b>					
October Monthly Training	556	50	\$ 2,715.15	460	\$ 24,979.38
Operations	0	282	\$ 15,313.45	96	\$ 5,213.09
Critical Infrastructure	0	751	\$ 40,781.55	0	\$ -
Adtl Training	264	58	\$ 3,149.57	248	\$ 13,467.14
Misc	0	81	\$ 4,398.54	0	\$ -
<b>November</b>					
November Monthly Training	196	9	\$ 488.73	0	\$ -
Operations	0	84	\$ 4,561.45	0	\$ -
Critical Infrastructure	0	311.5	\$ 16,915.38	0	\$ -
Adtl Training	0	28	\$ 1,520.48	0	\$ -
Misc	0	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
<b>December</b>					
December Monthly Training					
Operations					
Critical Infrastructure					
Adtl Training					
Misc					
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5128</b>	<b>4132.5</b>	<b>\$ 224,407.15</b>	<b>4726</b>	<b>\$ 256,635.98</b>



## June 2017 thru November 2019

### 30 Months of ECSO SWAT and Backfill Overtime Costs

Full Time Team would eliminate 100% of Backfill costs

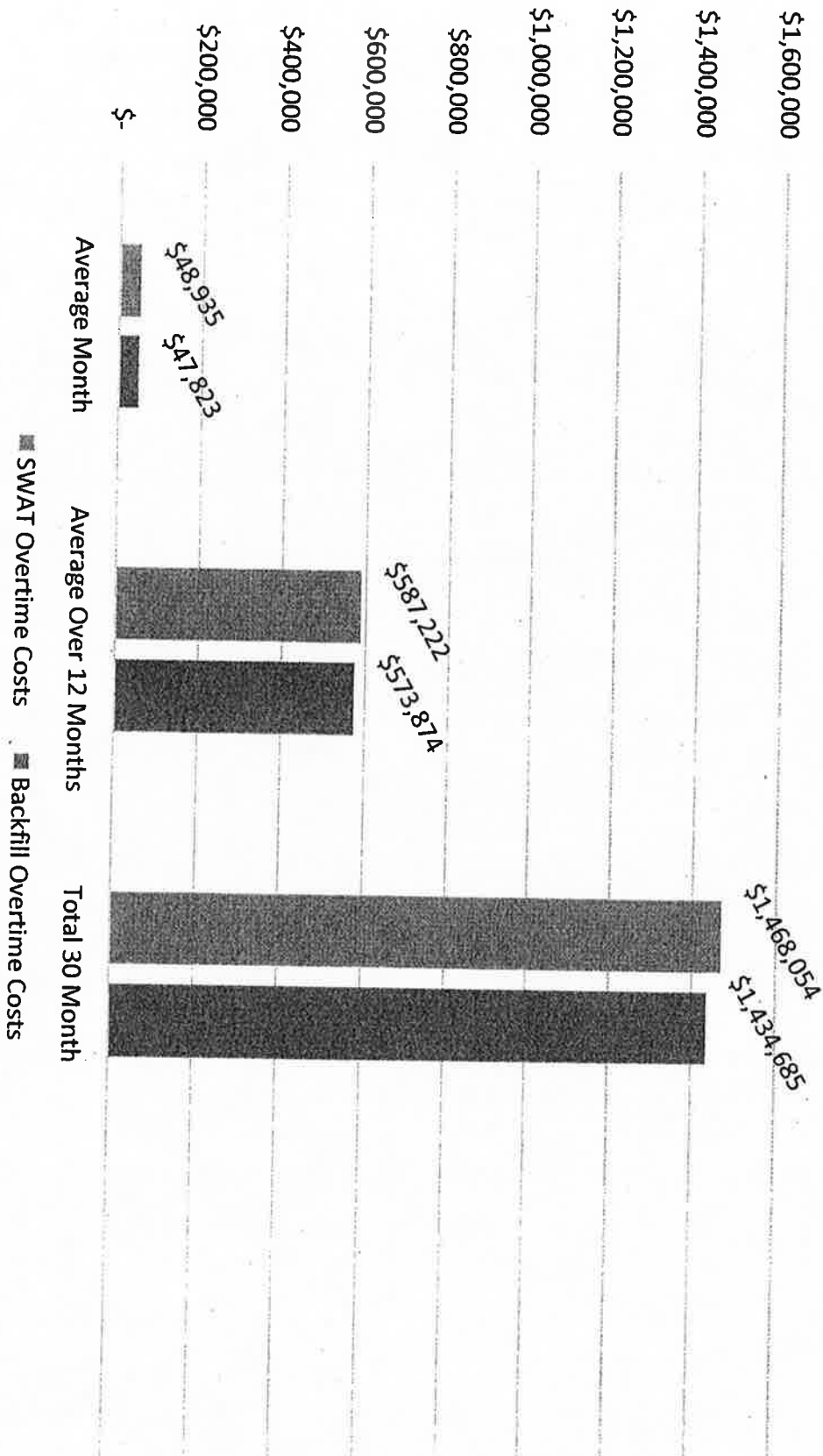




# June 2017 thru November 2019

## Average Over 30 Months Overtime and Backfill Costs

Full Time Team would eliminate 100% of Backfill costs

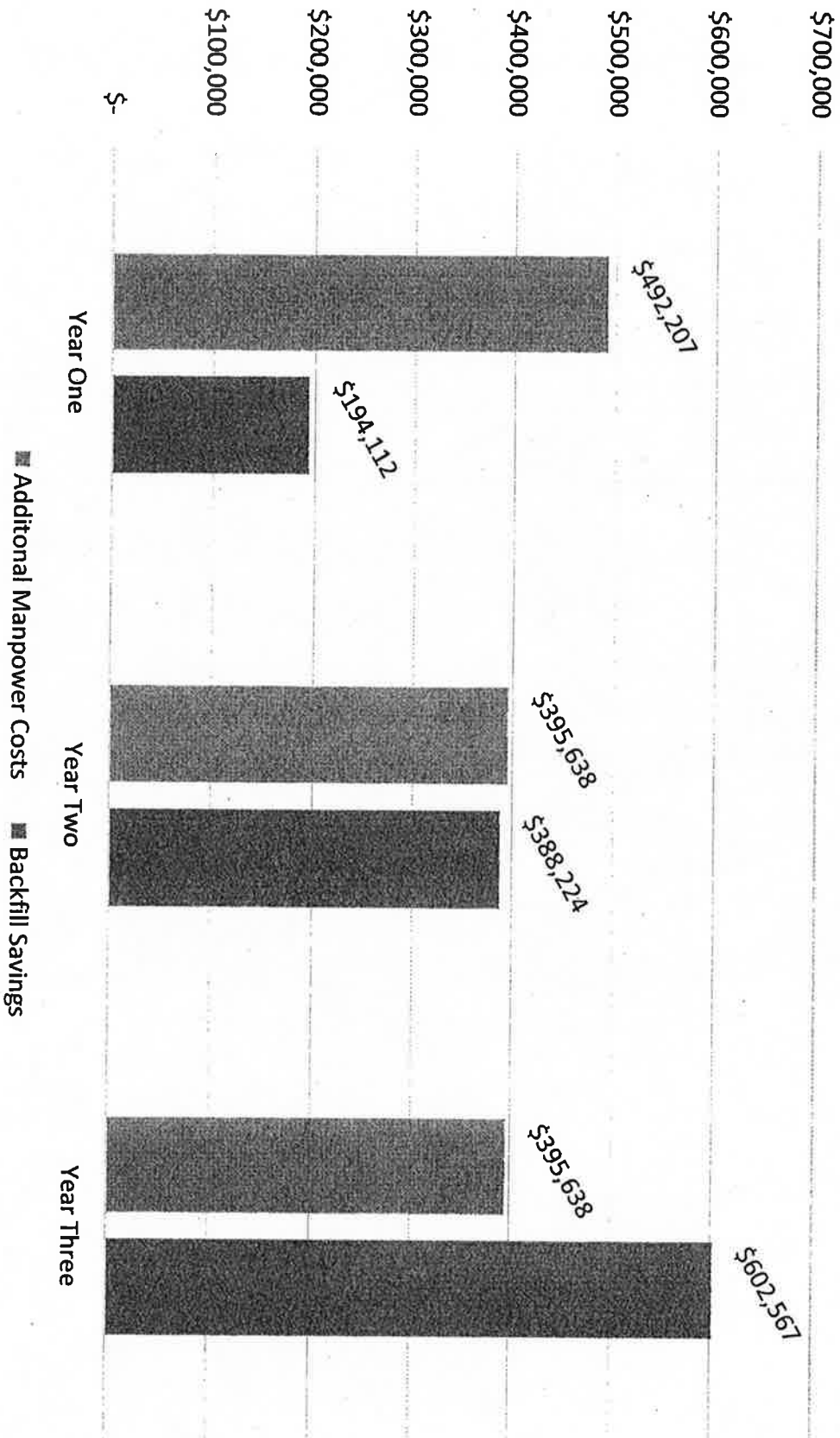




# 3 Year Incremental Approach

## 7 Positions Year 1

### 6 Positions Years 2 and 3





### 3 Year Implementation Incremental Costs compared to Savings from reduced Backfill

