



MCPHERSON

KANSAS

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CHIEF OF POLICE
Mikel T. Golden

January 31, 2020

City of McPherson Opposition Testimony for Senate Bill 294 for February 05, 2020
Senator Caryn Tyson, Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee Chairman

Chairman Caryn Tyson, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee on behalf of the City of McPherson, in Opposition of Senate Bill 294.

I am opposed to SB294 in its current form. It does not account for annual unexpected costs. SB294, compromises Public Safety, the safety for our Officers, and the efficiency of our services to our community. I respectfully request a resolution to move away from a tax lid. The public's expectations and demands on the Law Enforcement profession are constantly evolving and ever increasing. In McPherson, we strive to listen to our community and provide the services our community not only demands, but also deserves.

This year, we have sacrificed purchasing three Ford Interceptor SUV's, which provided more cargo room, to carry more equipment, which we need to serve our community, due to costs. From 2019 to 2020, the price of the Ford Interceptors increased nearly \$9,000.00 each. We are now purchasing Dodge Chargers, which are smaller, have less cargo room for equipment, and are not as fuel efficient, to keep the overall costs down for our citizens.

We have just completed and implemented a McGrath Compensation Study, to bring our Officers to be in line with other cities of our size. We also have step increases laid out for the next 14 years in an attempt to stay competitive and to be able to meet staffing needs for our community.

Every Law Enforcement Agency is experiencing similar difficulties in hiring qualified candidates. We are all recruiting from the same pool of candidates. The majority of my budget goes to Salary, Wages, and Overtime for our officers. As our community grows, so does the demand for our services, and the need for more officers to provide safety and security for our citizens. Technology needs of the department are becoming more required and more expensive.

All certified Officers are required to complete 40 hours of training annually to maintain their Law Enforcement certification. The costs associated with course fees, travel, lodging, meals, and equipment continue to rise every year.

Chairman Tyson and all of the members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee, thank you for allowing my testimony to oppose Senate Bill 294.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mikel T. Golden".

Mikel T Golden
McPherson Police Chief