



Snohomish County
Office of the Executive
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County Executive

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Strong relationship leads to finalized deputies' contract

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon signed a three-year contract today with the Snohomish County Deputy Sheriff's Association, finalizing a collective-bargaining agreement, which covers deputies and sergeants through March 31, 2010.

The agreement – which covers almost 250 deputies, including 30 sergeants – signals the continued good will between the deputies' association and the county.

“This contract is an example of the good relationship that this office has with our law enforcement,” Reardon said. “But mostly, it’s about allowing our deputies to do their job without anything else on their minds except fighting crime and protecting the public.”

The county and the association began bargaining in September 2006, about six months before the previous contract expired. The agreement provides for an across-the-board wage increase of 4.5 percent retroactive to April 1 and a 2.5-percent increase effective Oct. 1 of this year.

Beginning April 1, 2008, affected employees will receive an additional 3-percent salary increase as well as another 3-percent increase April 1, 2009.

“I think every guy on the force is excited to know that this process is completed,” said Deputy Adam Fortney, president of the Snohomish County Deputy Sheriff's Association. “It’s great to know that the process took less time than in the past and that things are looking positive as we move forward.”

The additional money to be spent in 2007 is about \$745,000. The cost increase for 2008 is about \$963,000. The 2007 base payroll for these employees is about \$15 million annually.

Also in the contract is an increase in life-insurance amounts, from \$50,000 to \$60,000 for each deputy.

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