

<i>Date:</i>	7/10/2025						
<i>Subject:</i>	Q & A Office Security						
<i>Category:</i>	Administration						
<i>Question:</i>	<p>“As of July 1 the prevailing wage rate for armed security increased by \$13.11/ hour in my region. My contract for security is tied to the prevailing wage rate so I’m sure others will be affected by the change as well. Given the cost increase the county manager wants me to change to unarmed security- to which I am opposed. I need to prove the need for continued armed security to my Legislators on Monday. Can others let me know if they used armed security- it doesn’t matter if they use County Sheriff’s Department or a private company just trying to see who has armed security for comparison. If anyone else needs to justify the continued need I will share the list.”</p>						
<i>Answers:</i>	<p>“We contract with the Rensselaer County Sheriff’s Office. DSS has two locations and the Sheriff provides armed security coverage at both.”</p> <p>“We use armed security at our COB/DSS, as well as metal detectors and secured lockers. Hope that helps!”</p> <p>“This is what we pay under our contract for private contracted Security guards in Tompkins:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Armed Guards:</td><td>\$85/hour</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unarmed Guards:</td><td>\$48/hour</td></tr> <tr> <td>Senior Manager:</td><td>\$85/hour"</td></tr> </table> <p>“We are fortunate to have a good working relationship with our LCSO that has resulted in coordinating a cooperative agreement with them for 2 deputies 8-5 that we pay for out of the DSS budget.</p> <p>The deputies assigned serve/respond to our entire campus as we have other county agency buildings also on our campus. Including the Skilled Nursing Facility, DOH, OFA, Veterans etc. We have a visit house also on campus in a building that is shared with Veteran affairs.</p> <p>For supervised visits where there maybe concerns for worker/child safety with parents it is helpful to have the deputies present.</p> <p>We have office space in the visit house as well as in DSS for the deputies so they can access cameras to see in the rooms where visits are held to intervene if/when necessary. Hope this helps. Good Luck."</p> <p>“Sullivan County uses Sheriff Deputies in all of our buildings. Make no mistake – there is significant deterrent value for unstable persons and bad actors to see an openly carried weapon on a duty belt. The deputies are tremendously helpful in maintaining order, and I would say the most important benefit they provide to us is the ability to transport clients on MHL 9.41 and 9.45 orders which saves a tremendous amount of time and pressure on staff in tense situations. It’s also really helpful because they can back each other up between buildings on our</p>	Armed Guards:	\$85/hour	Unarmed Guards:	\$48/hour	Senior Manager:	\$85/hour"
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	campus – that’s not something that you always have available to you when a security company is staffing posts.”
	“Albany County uses Albany County Sheriffs for armed guard and unarmed County employed Security Guards.”
	“In St. Lawrence Co. we have recently switched from unarmed security (Securitas) to armed Special Patrol Officers employed by the Sheriff’s Office. We have had a couple incidents of violence/attempted violence against staff in the building prior to the change.”
	“I have a contract with the county police department.”
	“We use our County Sheriff’s office, and they are armed.”
	“Washington County utilizes a Sheriff’s Deputy who is armed and present in the lobby of the portion of the Municipal Center where the offices of DSS are located. It is not truly “security” in that there are other access points, there is no magnetometer or requirement to have possessions searched. Further, there is not always a Deputy in this setting: it is practice for the Deputy to take the deposit for the Treasurer as well as wandering through DMV on occasion. However, we have an MOA approved by OTDA and claim the personnel cost as billed to us by the Sheriff’s Department.”
	“I use the Deputy Sherriff (armed) and an unarmed security guard. I find the Deputy helpful not only because he is armed and has authority to detain but also because he can identify problematic indi ideals as he has access to the arrest data (sometimes he will spot a new comer and alert staff to be vigilant). Good luck on Monday.”
	“Saratoga County has two deputies from the Sheriff Department. DSS only has one office location.”
	“We utilize armed security in Jefferson County and, given the uptick in security concerns here, we plan to expand our contract and add additional guards as well as other measures here including a complete remodel of our lobby area to include a completely secure reception and interview space. I fear the changes in program requirements that are coming may only spark increased fear and frustration amongst our community members, leading to even more security events.”
	“We contract w/ our Sheriff’s Department and have both, a Sheriff and 2 (for the most part) unarmed security on site during business hours. There have been multiple times that having the Sheriff/law enforcement on-site has helped to keep staff and other applicants/recipients of services safe and helped to assist with deescalating upset clients. I should also note they have also responded to medical and mental health emergencies and assisted staff w/ quick interventions.”
	“We use armed security in Niagara County. We contract with our Sheriff’s Department for a total of 5 deputies. We have 3 stationed in one office and 2 in another. We also have a magnetometer in our offices and they are responsible for screening all visitors.”

Please [contact NYPWA](#) with any questions or further clarifications regarding these answers.