

NEWS FROM THE ULSTER COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

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Comptroller's Report Shows Ulster County Overtime Costs Climb 49% Since 2022

(Kingston, NY, July 15, 2026)— Ulster County Comptroller March Gallagher today released the 2025 update to the County [Payroll Dashboard](#) and an accompanying analysis showing Ulster County's overtime and on call expenditures continue to rise, adding millions of dollars in recurring payroll costs as County leaders confront future budget pressure.

The report finds that overtime costs have grown from \$6.43 million in 2022 to \$9.58 million in 2025, a 49.0% increase.

Of the overtime worked, the Sheriff's Office was the largest driver accounting for \$6.6 million — 69.1% of all overtime pay countywide in 2025. Overtime hours in the Sheriff's Office grew 33.1% between 2022 and 2025, from 82,445 to 109,699 hours.

The Public Works Department recorded the second largest overtime expenditure in 2025, at \$1.52 million, up from \$1.32 million in 2022.

While many departments rely on overtime to meet operational demands, the report concludes that continued year-over-year growth suggests overtime has become a recurring component of County operations rather than a temporary response to staffing shortages. The report encourages continued evaluation of staffing models, scheduling practices, and operational efficiencies to better manage long-term payroll costs.

On call pay, which compensates employees for remaining available for work outside regular hours, grew 55.3% countywide between 2022 and 2025, from \$532,424 to \$812,815. Nearly 59% of on-call spending in 2025 was concentrated in the Sheriff's Office and the Public Defender's Office.

"Overtime is an important operational tool, but when it becomes the default way departments cover staffing gaps, it stops being a short-term tool and starts becoming a long-term cost driver," said Ulster County Comptroller March Gallagher. "The allocation of overtime and on call pay among employees is discretionary decision-making that can substantially increase an employee's pay and retirement benefits. This report gives County leaders the data they need to have an honest conversation about staffing levels, scheduling practices, and the true cost of doing business this way."

The report is available on the Ulster County Comptroller's website along with the updated Payroll Dashboard. Together they provide taxpayers, legislators, and County officials with greater transparency into overtime, on-call pay, and other payroll trends that continue to shape the County's financial outlook.

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