



City of Frostburg

W. Robert Flanigan
Mayor

Commissioners

Donald L. Carter, Jr.
*Commissioner of
Finance*

Kevin G. Grove
*Commissioner of
Public Safety*

Nina Forsythe
*Commissioner of
Water, Parks and
Recreation*

Adam Ritchey
*Commissioner of
Public Works*

Elizabeth Stahlman
City Administrator

January 12, 2023

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support of SB 276

Dear Senators:

The Mayor and Council of the City of Frostburg seek to participate in the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System (LEOPS). The Department currently has 12 sworn officers that participate in the Employees' Pension System and the City seeks to transfer the officers to LEOPS.

The City of Frostburg is currently the only law enforcement agency in Allegany County that does not participate in LEOPS or other enhanced retirement program for law enforcement. This has a significant negative impact on the ability to recruit and retain officers long term, compounding the difficulty many Maryland jurisdictions face recruiting and retaining officers. The Mayor and Council are aware there is a significant annual cost to participate in LEOPS but also recognize the importance of providing the officers with comparable benefits to their peers. The City's Police Department is staffed 24/7 and maintaining staffing levels is essential for the City to continue to offer round the clock police coverage.

The Mayor and Council will evaluate the costs of participation in the coming weeks in conjunction with their budget process, so that, assuming the decision to participate, the officers could enroll in LEOPS this coming fiscal year. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation and we respectfully request a favorable report on SB 276.

Regards,

Elizabeth Stahlman
City Administrator