



Media Contact:

Kirk Brown

*Director, Communications, Marketing,
and Public Relations*

Kirk.Brown@rockymountnc.gov

(252) 972-1333

kirk.brown@rockymountnc.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 2023

City raises starting salary for police officers to \$60,000 annually

In a bold move, the city of Rocky Mount is raising its starting salary for police officers to \$60,000 annually, effective immediately.

The \$60,000 starting salary authorized by City Manager Keith Rogers Jr. marks a 36% increase over the previous pay rate for newly hired police officers in Rocky Mount.

Rogers said the higher starting salary should improve staffing in the Police Department.

“Citywide we are working to update our classification and compensation structure, ensuring that we value all city employees,” Rogers said. “Increasing starting pay for our officers will directly address our significant vacancy rate and enhance our recruitment efforts.”

Police Chief Robert Hassell said he appreciates the support from Rogers.

“He has given us the ability to ensure we retain experienced, committed and dedicated officers, and have the ability to recruit the best in the profession for years to come,” Hassell said. “This demonstrates Rocky Mount’s commitment to being the leader in officer compensation in our state and competitive beyond.”

Hassell said the higher starting salary is meaningful for his department’s officers.

“Our officers are second to none,” he said. “We are investing in them as they are investing in our community and public safety.”

Facing the same challenges as other agencies across the state and nation, Hassell said, “In today’s market, it has been difficult retaining experienced officers and recruiting new individuals willing to take on a life of service.”

In the short term, Rogers said funding for the higher salaries will come from savings related to existing vacancies in the Police Department. He said his proposed fiscal year 2024 budget, which will be released next month, includes money to maintain the \$60,000 starting salary for officers.