

Staffing Levels

1100.1 PATROL STAFFING

Patrol Strength – Minimum Level: The Shift Commander on each squad shall determine the number of officers on the shift at any one time. Five officers on the street shall be considered minimum safe staffing level for any period of time where there is no overlapping squad. The minimum staffing level for any time period where two squads overlap, shall not be less than nine officers. As a rule, a maximum of two officers from each squad may be off. However, in the event of squad vacancies or long-term absences (defined as consecutive leave time in excess of four weeks), a Shift Commander may grant discretionary leave to as many as two additional squad members as long as the overlap total does not go below nine. To be included in the minimum, an officer must have successfully completed the Missoula Police Department's FTO program. Although minimum staffing levels have been established, the Shift Commander has the authority to deny an officer's leave request even if it leaves the shift at or above the minimum staffing level that has been set. The reasons why a Shift Commander may deny a leave request includes, but is not limited to:

- High volume of calls for service occurring, or expected to occur during the shift
- High priority calls that may deplete the availability of assigned officers to respond to other calls for service
- Allowing officers time to complete reports without having to respond to additional calls for service
- Allowing officers on shift to attend scheduled court dates
- Special events/Holidays that may increase calls for service or require special deployments of personnel