

NEWS

What did Worcester city employees make in 2021? One police officer made more than \$300K

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WORCESTER — Police Lt. John W. Towns was the city's top earner at \$302,858, ahead of City Manager Edward M. Augustus at \$283,595, according to annual list of municipal wage earners for calendar year 2021.

THE COMPLETE LIST: Worcester municipal wage earners for 2021

Towns is the only employee on the list to earn over \$300,000, which consists of \$119,565 in regular pay, \$123,420 in pay detail, \$37,495 in overtime and \$22,379 in other pay.

Other pay can include annuity, life and disability insurance, unused sick/vacation buyback and a vehicle allowance paid for by the city.

Augustus was not far behind with his earnings, which included \$217,662 in regular pay and \$65,932 in other pay.

Overall, 56 city employees, including Augustus, earned more than \$200,000 in gross pay in 2021. That is up from 36 in 2020, 11 in 2018 and only six in 2015.

Among those 56 employees were 54 were police officers, including Police Chief Steven M Sargent, who made \$245,716 in earnings, the 11th highest earner on the list. This included \$208,935 in regular pay, \$14,300 in stipend and \$22,480 in other pay.

Police compensation can be boosted by working regular overtime, overtime for court attendance and in large part by private paid details. The paid details are paid for by those who contract for their services. As a result, police are regularly among the highest-paid municipal employees.

In addition to working their regular shifts, police can work off-duty details that are contracted through the Police Department by private companies and vendors.

The next highest paid non-police employee after Augustus was Worcester Superintendent Maureen Binienda who earned \$240,743 in salary. This included \$218,064 in regular pay, \$3,173 in longevity pay, and \$19,543 in other pay.

From there, the next highest paid employee not employed by the police was Assistant City Manager Kathleen G. Johnson, who earned \$201,382, including \$138,094 in regular pay and \$63,287 in other pay.

Fire Chief Michael J. Lavoie is the highest paid in the department, raking in \$193,651 in earnings, including \$125,838 in regular pay and \$67,813 in other pay.

The list contained the names of full-time and part-time employees, with about 400 from the Fire Department, 500 police officers and 5,000 Worcester public school employees.

Overall, there are 7,316 Worcester city employees, who made a total of \$452,480,354 in 2021. Out of those employees, 884 earned earned six-figure salaries.