

# EMPIRE CENTER

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## CHEEKTOWAGA COPS ARE HIGHEST-PAID IN WNY

The Empire Center for Public Policy today released the 2014 edition of “What They Make,” an overview of local government payrolls (outside New York City) for the period of April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014.

The following table shows the five highest-paying employers in Western New York, which includes Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties, for general employees and police or firefighters:

General Employees			Police or Firefighters		
Employer	#	Avg.	Employer	#	Avg.
Jamestown (city)	267	\$53,776	Cheektowaga (town)	126	\$98,986
Amherst (town)	587	\$48,161	Hamburg (village)	13	\$95,855
Lockport (city)	121	\$46,835	Buffalo (city)	1,394	\$95,107
Wilson (village)	7	\$45,342	Amherst (town)	153	\$94,308
Erie (county)	5,400	\$44,157	Lackawanna (city)	99	\$89,357

The highest-paid local government employee in the region was Mark A. Cellini, a Lackawanna police officer who was paid \$233,929. The second highest-paid employee was Erie Community College President Jack Quinn, Jr., who was paid \$192,500. The names, employers and pay of the 10 highest-paid local government employees in the region are attached.

The amounts listed in the report do not include fringe benefits such as health insurance or pension contributions, which can add more than 35 percent to the cost for taxpayers.

“The Empire Center produces this report because it is committed to protecting the right of taxpayers to know how their money is being spent,” said Executive Director Tim Hofer. “Employee compensation is the single largest component of most municipal budgets. Pairing this pay data with the localized spending data in SeeThroughNY’s Benchmarking NY tool, taxpayers can get a real sense of how their local governments are spending their tax dollars.”

The Empire Center is an independent, non-partisan, 501(c)3 think tank based in Albany. Each year, the Empire Center obtains and processes payroll information from public employers across the state. To read the full report, visit [empirecenter.org/publications/wtm14](http://empirecenter.org/publications/wtm14). The Benchmarking New York tool, as well as individual payroll records, are posted at the Empire Center’s transparency website [SeeThroughNY.net](http://SeeThroughNY.net).

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## Top 10 Municipal Employee Pay in Western New York April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014

Employee	Employer	Pay
Mark A. Cellini	Lackawanna Police Dept.	\$233,929
John F. "Jack" Quinn, Jr.	Erie County	\$192,500
Ralph S. Zangara	Buffalo Police Dept.	\$183,441
James M. Piepszny	Buffalo Fire Dept.	\$181,865
Scott R. Malec	Buffalo Police Dept.	\$181,738
Earl E. Perrin, Jr.	Buffalo Police Dept.	\$177,805
David Acosta	Buffalo Police Dept.	\$177,234
Larry C. Moses	Buffalo Fire Dept.	\$173,998
Henry Velez	Buffalo Police Dept.	\$173,596
Joseph E. Leo	Lackawanna Police Dept.	\$169,684

Source: *SeeThroughNY.net*