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(Neb.)-Neb. Panhandle Sheriff Prepares Consolidation Plan

By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 03/13/2013 09:53 AM

GERING, Neb. (AP) - The Scotts Bluff County sheriff says he'll have a law enforcement consolidation plan ready by April 1 to present to the county and the mayors of Gering, Scottsbluff and Terrytown.

Sheriff Mark Overman says he met with the mayors and county board chairman Mark Masterton after hearing that they wanted to explore consolidation of policing in the Panhandle county.

Overman says a countywide office would have 65 to 70 officers and support staffers. Scottsbluff Mayor Randy Meininger has said consolidation is a good idea if it results in better service and can put more officers on the streets for the same amount of money.

Consolidation is being considered in part because of police chief vacancies in Scottsbluff and Gering.