Police officer tax file: overtime, comp time, details and PSO

Start with the department pay group: from 2026 the W-2 overtime box sets the deduction. Keep the state-only group even if you do not need it this year, since a move to another state can change that.

Client or engagement

Department pay and overtime

- [ ] Form W-2 from the department
  From 2026, check box 12 code TT for qualified overtime; plus a W-2 from any other agency
- [ ] Payroll statement of FLSA overtime premium
  For 2025 returns; the FLSA portion only, not total overtime pay
- [ ] Comp time record for the year
  Hours used or cashed out in the year, and the 7(k) work period length
- [ ] Form W-2c, if code TT is missing or too low
  Request it from payroll before filing
- [ ] Final pay stub of the year
  Overtime hours and rates, to check against the W-2
- [ ] Department reimbursement records for gear or uniforms
  Paid-back items are not deductible on any return

Off-duty and detail work

- [ ] Form 1099-NEC from each detail or security client
  Match against your own log of jobs and payments
- [ ] Detail agreements or invoices
  Show who paid and whether you were a contractor
- [ ] Receipts for gear, licenses and training used for the detail
  Write the detail name and date on each
- [ ] Mileage log for trips to details
  Date, start, end and purpose of each drive; Publication 463 sets which ones count
- [ ] Form 1040-ES payment confirmations
  Estimated tax paid on detail income

Retired officers

- [ ] Form 1099-R from the governmental pension plan
  One per plan, including any DROP payout

- [ ] Health or long-term care premium statements
  Premiums for you, a spouse or dependents, for the PSO exclusion
- [ ] Retirement letter showing disability or normal retirement age
  Supports eligibility for the exclusion

State return only, where allowed

- [ ] Uniform purchase and cleaning receipts
  Itemized, with the date
- [ ] Duty gear receipts: holster, boots, body armor not issued
  And any firearm or ammunition the department required but did not provide
- [ ] Union, FOP or association dues statement
  Year-end total from the union
- [ ] Department memo listing required items
  Shows the costs were required and not reimbursed

Household

- [ ] Night and weekend shift child care: provider name, address, tax ID
  With the amount paid to each provider, for Form 2441
- [ ] Last year’s return
  Check that no federal employee expenses were claimed by mistake