

ON GOING STATUS

This past year we have been very busy at the sheriff's office. We have been out patrolling, responding to 911 calls, investigating crimes and continuing with our community orientated policy activities such as flag football for youth and participating in health fairs and children's fairs. One of our biggest accomplishments that I am proud to announce has been working hand in hand with the Fort Peck Tribes on various issues such as our combined 911 Dispatch Center , our jail agreements, our Cross-Deputization Agreement and working on tracking and registering violent/sex offenders throughout our area.

Another accomplishment I am proud to talk about is our continued working relationship my office has with all the cities and towns in our area. The Chiefs of Police for Wolf Point and Poplar have been an excellent partner in our effort to keep law and order for all our citizens and I would like to publically commend Chief Jeff Harada, Chief Doug Marottek and Captain Mike Matthews for their hard work and dedication to the cause.

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

This past year we have been working on the influx of the oil boom occurring in western North Dakota and coming into our county. My office has been in contact with some of the oil companies along with some of the land owners regarding the influx of development and my office is developing plans to keep up the extra patrol in these areas and working with the public. One of our main concerns is the influx of truck traffic on our county roads and traffic crashes.

Due to the increase of incidents this year, we hired an extra deputy on the east end of the county through a COPS Grant from the US Department of Justice. This deputy will be going to the police academy in January and return in April. The other thing I would like to get going again would be the reserve deputy program and also continue to build up our search and rescue team with more equipment from the program my office is involved in with the US Military Surplus Program. We recently received four snow machines through this program for any possible use.

This past year we also had to deal with the flood from last year's heaving moisture. All of the deputies and staff from the search and rescue were invaluable to keeping all citizens and their property as safe as possible by working with the Board of Commissioners and Dan Sietsema from DES.

OPEN COMMUNICAITON WITH THE PUBLIC

Since becoming sheriff in 2006, it has been my intention to provide the public with as much transparency of my office as possible. With letters to the public and having an open door and open cell phone policy I feel I have achieved this goal. However with development of the internet in our area we also have a website, www.rcso17.org for more information and also we signed up with another program, www.crimereports.com to show the number of calls we have been taking in the area. If you go to the website www.crimereports.com it will pull up a Google Earth Map. If you move the map to

Roosevelt County and to which ever town you're in it will show how many 911 calls we have taking in your neighborhood. It also shows the sex offenders and community orientated policy services that all law enforcement agencies are providing. It is my goal to keep this website up and running for you to see our work progress.

BUDGET

The budget I have received from the Board of Commissioners for 2011/2012 FY has been good for my office. The total budget of my office is \$2,410,591. The majority of this budget is spent on personnel who consist of 12 sheriff's deputies, 10 dispatchers, 8 jailers and 3 officer personnel. We have a deputy in almost every town now to include 4 in Wolf point, 3 in Poplar, 1 in Fort Kipp, 2 in Culbertson and 2 in Froid. However 4 of these deputy positions are funding entirely or partially through grants from the US Department of Justice and/or the Montana Board of Crime Control. It is my intention to keep these grant funded positions going as my office is continually working with the State and Feds on this issue.

I know through these tough economic times it has been a struggle but we are also going to see an increase in revenue generated from the oil production in our county and my office will also keep working with the Board of Commissioners on this situation.

I know having deputies funded is an important issue in keeping the peace but it isn't the only aspect in our community oriented policing policy. That is why my office works closely with all of these other law enforcement agencies in the area and also keeping programs funded through grants going like the Pee Wee Football program, our DARE program and others designed to provide alcohol/drug free activities for our youth.

The last issue I will be speaking on is the jail. Our jail is definitely an older building with structural needs. This year, I will be looking into developing a preliminary plan on the feasibility of either getting a new facility restructuring our current facility to house our jail. I will be keeping you posted throughout this process.

I hope everyone has had a happy holiday and my office looks forward this New Year to continue to serve and work hand in hand with you with keeping up public safety for 2012. Thank you for your time and if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to call or text me any time on my cell phone 650-7370.

Thank you for your time,

Sheriff Freedom L. Crawford
Roosevelt County S.O.