

BAKER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MIDTERM REPORT 2018

INCREASED THE NUMBER OF DEPUTIES PATROLLING YOUR NEIGHBORHOODS.

This has allowed us to implement a Patrol Deputy follow-up strategy. Instead of taking a report of your crime and forwarding it to the Detective Division for later follow-up, deputies are following up on the cases immediately. This has had led to a major increase in criminal cases being solved, from 36.6% in 2016 to 62.8% in 2017.

ORGANIZED AN EMPLOYEE RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

This committee is comprised of sheriff's office staff from all departments. The committee meets periodically with the Sheriff to discuss issues and ideas that create a positive work environment. Through an open-door policy with my staff, they are encouraged to voice concerns or share ideas that will enable our agency to better serve our community

INCREASED THE NUMBER OF DETECTIVES TO INCLUDE A 4-MAN NARCOTIC'S UNIT.

Drugs are the main component of most criminal activity. Adding this full-time narcotics unit has allowed us to apply relentless daily pressure to drug dealers. This is a priority, otherwise we will lose our neighborhoods to drug traffickers. We are also a participant in Commissioner Cathy Rhoden's Opioid Task Force. We must help our fellow citizens who are addicted to drugs secure a drug-free life. We cannot arrest our way out of addiction.

IMPLEMENTED POLICIES TO TRACK CRIME STATS WEEKLY INSTEAD OF EVERY SIX MONTHS.

Tracking crime stats weekly allows us to see real-time crime trends and create immediate action plans to address the problem. We have also acquired a Smart Data program which allows for real-time up to the day criminal statistical data. This can help us predict certain types of criminal activity with time frames that can be pinpointed on a Baker County map. A preventative action plan is created immediately to stop criminal activity.

PARTNERSHIP FOR SCHOOL SAFETY.

After the school shooting in Broward County, Florida, my staff and I began to coordinate with Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson and her staff on school safety. Together we created active shooter plans for all Baker County schools. We also provided active shooter training to all school staff. We partnered with the Board of County Commissioners, the Baker County School Board, and School Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson to place a Deputy Sheriff in every school.

QUARTERLY CLERGY MEETINGS.

In response to several church shootings throughout the country, we began to meet with church leaders to discuss how they can implement safety measures to protect their members. We provided training and other options to assist them in developing safety plans. These meetings also cover topics such as drug addiction and storm readiness.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE BUDGET.

When I was seeking the position of Sheriff, I promised to be transparent and frugal with taxpayer dollars. We now submit a budget that shows all categories of funds, to include unanticipated revenue and monies received from grants. BCSO provides the Board of County Commissioner with a copy of the BCDC/BCCMC budget. This allows county officials to see the real picture of revenue flowing in and out of the Sheriff's Office. This is a new effective practice that gives county officials a transparent view of the sheriff's office financial operations.

GOVDEALS.NET AUCTION.

After discovering vast amounts of surplus property, the sheriff's office began selling unneeded property through GovDeals.net. The property was not being used and continues to cost the sheriff's office money for maintenance and other incidentals related to the property. This site allowed us, at no cost to the Sheriff's Office, to post the surplus property for auction. There is no overhead cost as the buyer incurs any fees, including pick-up or delivery fees. The sheriff's office has saved the taxpayers thousands of dollars using this process.

INVENTORY.

After taking office, an inventory of sheriff's office property was conducted. It was discovered that no inventory tracking measures existed. This resulted in several high value items being discovered missing following our inventory. Independent audits prior to the new administration found the inventory process was insufficient and negative evaluations were given. My staff was directed to immediately correct this problem, as lost property costs taxpayer's money to replace it. Since changes in inventory tracking have been implemented, we have not had a negative evaluation by the same independent auditors that performed the audit prior to the new administration.

BCDC/BCCMC (DETENTION CENTER).

BCSO worked with the Board of County Commissioners and the BCDC/BCCMC boards to reduce the amount of taxpayer funds for inmate cost. Costs reduced from \$4.1 million in 2016 to \$2.8 million in 2017 and 2018. A savings to taxpayers of \$1.3 million.

BCSO worked with the Board of County Commissioners and the BCDC/BCCMC to obtain refinancing for the detention center. This financing will reduce the debt service nearly \$2 million per year moving forward. This puts the facility on solid financial footing as we work with the BCDC/BCCMC board to retire the debt early.

BCSO saved \$97,840.00 a year by utilizing civilian staff instead of law enforcement staff to operate the cellblock control rooms. This was instrumental in gaining more detention deputies to improve our detention center staffing levels at a much lower cost. In addition to these savings, a \$75,000.00 PREA grant was secured for the installation of 28 additional cameras throughout the detention center.

BCSO acquired \$158,094 in funding from the inmate welfare fund for a body scanner and RFID system for the detention center. The body scanner allows us to scan arrestees/inmates for contraband.



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PARTNERED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

This is a true partnership between DCF and the BCSO. As Sheriff, I believe that our children should be protected from abuse and I'm committed to doing everything possible to arrest individuals who abuse children. To expedite child abuse cases, we have provided office space to DCF Investigators in our Detective Division. This allows our detectives to work side by side DCF investigators on child abuse cases. This collaboration is paramount in the prosecution of abuse cases.



FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF RHODEN

Dear Neighbor,

Over the past two years, I have been humbled by the opportunity to serve this county as Sheriff. This service has given me the privilege to work alongside some of the finest men and women in this country. It is an honor these deputies have chosen to serve in Baker County.

The support of the community has been overwhelming to say the least. You, the citizens, have been the greatest asset to my office. As a team, we have opened lines of communication, provided transparency in all our operations and ensured the tax-paying citizens have the information needed to provide input to the success of the Baker County Sheriff's Office.

It is the mid-point of my first term as Sheriff. Since being elected, we have been working diligently to fulfill the pledges I made to you. The Sheriff's Office employees are striving to keep our community safe, solve criminal cases, and to meet the needs of our citizens in our daily operations. By providing this Midterm Report, I hope to keep the citizens of Baker County informed of our efforts to continuously improve our community, our agency and our accountability and accessibility to you.

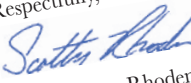
When asking for your vote, I pledged to be transparent and improve the working relationship with other governing bodies in Baker County. Since January of 2017, the executive staff of the Sheriff's Office has established regular meetings with every County and City Commissioner to review budget requests and to openly discuss matters of concern. We have also established meetings and updates with the Mayors of Macclenny and Glen to keep them informed of our operations and efforts in their communities.

The safety of the students in our school system has been a top priority. The Superintendent of Schools and I have worked together to provide the utmost security and protection for our children on the school campuses and at school-related events. While these efforts have not only proven beneficial and productive, I know in my heart these relationships have been forged with a shared trust and a common purpose that benefits our community.

The successful refinancing of the BCDC was of monumental importance to the survival of the sheriff's office corrections facility. The Baker County Board of Commissioners, the board members of the BCDC and the employees of the Baker County Sheriff's Office remained dedicated and worked diligently as a team to facilitate this refinancing.

It is an honor to serve this community. I am pleased to provide this Midterm Report to keep you informed and confident in the successful operations of the Baker County Sheriff's Office. If you ever have comments or questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call. I am here to serve you.

Respectfully,


Sheriff Scotty Rhoden

