



Sheriff - 17

BUDGET SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS:

The proposed budget in 2022 is \$4,563,926, this is a reduction of \$112,833 from 2021. Revenues are projected at \$296,750 with a levy of \$4.267 million, up .9 % from 2020. The budget includes one new full time position in the jail.

Major expense reductions include expiration of the Jail Reentry Program Grant, (\$80k). Health insurance reductions (\$118k) these items total \$198k.

FUNCTION:

The following narrative briefly describes the many facets of the Sheriff's Office. More detail is included in the *Main Responsibilities* section.

Patrol/ Investigations

The Sheriff's Office is responsible for maintaining peace and order within the geographic borders of Bayfield County. That includes all cities, townships and the Red Cliff reservation. This is a sizeable task involving many aspects from proactive presence to complicated criminal case investigations and evidence processing. The Sheriff's Office is the only law enforcement agency in Bayfield County which is required by law to exist. Patrol now has the added asset of a fully trained K9. This adds considerably to drug detection and search capability.

The Sheriff's Office enforces Wisconsin statutes, county ordinances and assists with federal law violations. The Sheriff's office structures policies and planning to effectively discourage the commission of crimes.

The Sheriff's Office provides most traffic enforcement efforts and traffic crash investigations in Bayfield County. The highest percentage of traffic accidents are investigated by Sheriff's Office staff. The Wisconsin State Patrol has a presence in Bayfield County and supplements those efforts. Traffic crash reports are submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The Sheriff is the county's traffic safety coordinator and holds quarterly traffic safety meetings.

Court Security

The Sheriff provides security to the circuit court when it is in session. This includes the main courtroom as well as the family courtroom. The sheriff's office also provides security to the entire courthouse during regular business hours. The Court Security officer provides training to all staff members in the courthouse offices. The Court Security Officer is also the designated TAD (Treatment Alternatives and Diversion) officer.

Recreation Enforcement

The Sheriff's Office provides most of the recreation enforcement. Through the efforts of the recreation officer and other deputies the Bayfield County Sheriff's Office enforces ATV, snowmobile and boating laws and investigates the majority of ATV and snowmobile accidents. 2020 saw increased boating enforcement. Persons with second homes in Bayfield County spent more time in Bayfield County than in the past.

Jail

The Sheriff is required by statute to operate the Bayfield County jail and attend to the circuit court in carrying out imposed sentences. This duty often involves the transport of inmates or persons arrested for warrants. The Sheriff's Office transports persons under court order for mental health commitments and persons that are to be extradited to this state. The Bayfield County jail is instrumental in facilitating rehabilitative efforts to convicted persons. The jail has been boarding inmates for neighboring counties. 2020 boarding numbers were down considerably from the previous year.

Civil Process

The Sheriff's Office is responsible for effecting and serving civil process. This includes writs of assistance, writs of replevin, sheriff sales, evictions, restraining orders, injunctions, sales and numerous other duties. Civil process can be very complicated and involved due to the structure of applicable laws. The Sheriff's Office must also handle large numbers of public records requests. Civil process is part of the sheriff's statutory obligation to attend to orders of the circuit court.

911 Service/Dispatch

The Sheriff's Office operates the counties only 911 public safety answering point. It operates 24 hours per day seven days per week. All 911 calls received must be answered directly by a staff person. The sheriff's office dispatch staff provides paging notification and emergency communications for all Bayfield County emergency services; five law enforcement agencies, eight ambulance services and thirteen fire departments. The dispatch personnel compile initial reports for fire departments and ambulance services. Bayfield County dispatchers are now trained to provide CPR instructions telephonically. This is a new requirement under state law.

Sheriff's deputies respond to emergency and non-emergency calls 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

"Making a real difference"

We are committed to these principles:

Integrity

We have integrity. We adhere to the highest moral standards. We are honest and sincere in dealing with each other and the community. We have the courage to uphold these principles and are proud that they guide us in all we do.

Respect

We show respect. We recognize the value of cultural diversity and treat all people with kindness, tolerance, and dignity. We cherish and protect the rights, liberties, and freedoms of all as granted by the constitutions of the United States and the State of Wisconsin.

Fairness

We act with fairness. Objective, impartial decisions and policies are the foundation of our interactions. We are consistent in our treatment of all persons. Our actions are tempered with reason and equity.

...in the spirit of cooperation.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:

Patrol: Provides proactive law enforcement presence. The Sheriff emphasizes the importance of avoiding and discouraging serious events or crimes. Respond to a wide variety of calls for service both criminal and civil in nature. Investigate criminal complaints, compile reports, gather evidence and provide testimony in court. Patrol includes deputies, investigators, the recreation enforcement officer and court security officer. Patrol officers must be prepared to respond to any emergency 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Sheriff's Office responds to calls in any municipality in Bayfield County. Sheriff's deputies handle calls for service in municipalities that have police departments during times those positions are not staffed or when assistance is requested.

The Sheriff's office supplements the efforts of the Red Cliff Police department. Public Law 280 obligates the sheriff to enforce state law on the reservation concurrently with the police department. Patrol officers assist other Bayfield County departments when requested. Some examples are traffic safety for the highway department, transports for human services, ordinance enforcement for forestry and enforcement of child support orders.

Patrol officers conduct compliance checks of persons on bail or convicted persons sentenced to non-secure options. This is one component of the treatment alternatives and diversion (TAD) program. Deputies are essential to the success of non-secure diversion strategies. Reports compiled by officers are critical to the evaluation of diversion programs.

Jail: Maintains custody of arrested persons and persons sentenced by the court. The jail provides for the medical care of inmates as well as all other essential needs. The jail facilitates public visits of inmates. It arranges for transportation of inmates to other institutions when necessary or ordered by the court. Jail staff manages alternatives to secure detention such as electronic monitoring. The jail is facilitating a variety of programs within its confines to help convicted persons address drug and alcohol issues. The jail collects a vast amount of information on persons confined in the facility. This information is valuable in assessing the effectiveness of criminal justice initiatives. The jail is directly involved in the county community service program. The jail has consistently been boarding inmates for neighboring counties. The Wisconsin department of Corrections is considering renewing contracts with more county jails for bed space.

The jail is mandated to provide safety and security to all inmates and staff 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Jailers are now conducting preliminary needs assessments of persons booked into the jail. This information is helpful to the District Attorney and the court to impose bail conditions. For 2021, the jail will designate staff to supervise jail programming and pre-release efforts. 2021 will be the final year operating under the pre-release grant incentive to help transition from jail to community.

Communications/Dispatch: Answers emergency and non-emergency calls received by the Bayfield County Sheriff's Office 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Initiate incident reports that document calls for service. Operate the Bayfield County law enforcement and emergency government radio systems and the 911 phone system. Initiate records of all calls for service requested. This includes all emergency service providers who serve Bayfield County. Emergency service providers mean all Bayfield County fire services, ambulance services and law enforcement agencies. The communications center dispatches DNR fire personnel, helicopter intercepts, U.S. Forest fire services, and assists many other agencies when requested. The communications center also provides security monitoring for the courtroom and courthouse. The dispatch center maintains and enters all criminal warrants and confirms their validity as required.

Court Security: The Sheriff is required by statute to attend upon the circuit court when in session. This requires the sheriff's office to provide a court security officer. The sheriff's office also monitors court and courthouse security systems and responds to conflicts. The sheriff's office transports all persons in custody to appointed court sessions. They are transported from any secure location within the state and are often returned following the court obligation. Court security conducts annual risk assessments of the court and courthouse and provides training. The court security officer has been facilitating the sheriff's electronic monitoring program. The court security officer now also case manages numerous persons on bail and non-secure supervision. The court security officer is also the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) officer. The TAD officer is a principal case manager for persons on diversion agreements. The TAD officer also files required State reports related to TAD funding grants and case data.

FY2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The sheriff's office began for the first time in history, a seven day per week 24-hour schedule. Prior years had officers scheduled 24 hours per day a maximum of 10 days per month. The other days of the month were covered by regular schedule for 20 hours per day. This limitation missed many opportunities for proactive enforcement and greatly impeded timely responses to emergencies. The numbers of emergency officer callouts have dropped considerably and overtime is reduced. This schedule will be very important to retain for future planning.

The Sheriff's Office retrained its K9 to a new handler. The initial handler chose not to continue in that function. The new handler and K9 are working very well.

Deputy Tristan Kern was trained in arson investigations. He attended an intensive training provided by the Wisconsin Department of Justice. There has long been a need for expertise at the scene of major structure fires.

The court officer was instrumental with setting up and operating a new courtroom metal detector system. This improves court safety and eases the burden of the court officer while court is in session.

Cell phone plan was changed from Verizon to AT&T as a move to the FirstNet system. FirstNet offers benefits to emergency service agencies for access to cell systems and priority in crisis situations.

Jail remodel was completed in early spring of 2021. The remodel gave huge improvement to the process of jail intake. The jail went from two to five holding cells. There was the addition of an ADA cell and a padded cell for crisis situations. The booking area size was increased and provides a much better workflow. The remodel played a key role in the jail's ability to mitigate infectious threats from SARS CoV2.

A new online training platform was contracted. A company called Blue to Gold provides excellent quality legal and technical training for law enforcement and jail staff. This training helps meet the annual 24-hour training requirement. It is a cost saving in time, lodging, meals and travel.

FY 2021 GOALS:

The sheriff's office will review the newly negotiated work schedule for patrol officers. The 24-hour coverage is of tremendous value. The work cycle of 4 days on and 5 days off using 12-hour shifts will be evaluated. Other work cycles may be tried.

There are several key positions in the sheriff's office that will be vacated due to retirement. The Jail Administrator, court officer, Patrol Lieutenant and one investigator will be retiring. The replacements for these positions are expected to be selected from present ranks. Each new appointment will require some time to train and acclimate. Ultimately, three new deputy positions must be hired to fill the vacancies. The sheriff has made a request for one additional entry level deputy position authorized in the 2022 budget.

The jail is considering a change in strategy for hiring staff. The jail has relied on 4-5 part-time employees to fulfill staffing requirements. Retaining this many part-time employees in the jail has been difficult and expensive. An alternative plan is to hire two more full-time positions and all but eliminate the part-time contingent.

The jail will install a new body scanner. This equipment will be purchased with a major portion of federal ARPA funds. Key jail staff will undergo training on the use of this technology. The scanner will decrease the likelihood of weapons and contraband entering the jail. Policies will be developed to address issues related to safety, workflow and legal requirements to remove secreted items found during a scan.

Body camera use will be considered. The State of Wisconsin biennial budget has some provisions for body camera grants to counties and municipalities. There are benefits to the use of law enforcement body cameras but there are also concerns with data storage and management.

The process has begun for the formation of a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). The purpose of a CIT is to provide an effective response to persons with mental illness in crisis. Many times, these types of incidents result in emergency commitment or they can escalate to acts of violence. While Bayfield County deputies have been providing a competent response to mental health incidents, improvements can be made with training and resources. The CIT training will be provided at no cost to the county.