



# Sheriff - 17

## **BUDGET SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS:**

The proposed budget for the Sheriff's Office in 2023 is \$4,893,301 a 5.4% (\$272k) increase over 2022. With revenues of \$406,483 a levy of \$4,486,818 is proposed this is a 3.2% (\$162k) increase in the levy. Adjustments to the budget include moving \$19,000 in expenses to the jail assessment fund, health insurance reductions, extra support staff request, mileage, and overtime adjustments.

## **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 by statute for maintaining peace and order within the geographic borders of Bayfield County. That includes all cities, towns 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. In recent years, and the current fiscal year, much time has spent conducting large search and rescue operations.

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. The court security officer provides training to courthouse staff.

### **Recreation Enforcement**

The Sheriff's Office provides most of the recreation enforcement in Bayfield County. 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. Demands for recreation enforcement are increasing particularly with ATV/UTV use.

### **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. Patrol now has a year of experience working a 24-hour schedule. This was a long overdue policy change.

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.

### **FY2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

The sheriff's office continued developing its 24/7 patrol schedule. The issues of case investigation continuity are improving. Deputies are getting accustomed to the concept of handing over cases when they are scheduled off.

Deputy Ryan Miller was trained by the Wisconsin Department of Justice as an evidence technician. Evidence collection is complicated and critical.

Chief Deputy Runice began an important leadership development process. He was accepted to the Wisconsin Command College facilitated by the University of Wisconsin. He will complete half the course this year and graduate in 2023. This will be a great investment for Bayfield County. Future leaders must be encouraged and developed.

2022 saw a large change in patrol staff due to vacancies. Four deputies were hired and by the end of FY 2022 will complete field training. Field training averages 17 weeks. The deputies are Richard Laakonen, Jordan Miller, Luke Harnisch and Brian Vecchio. One vacancy remains.

This office initiated the creation a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) for Bayfield County. The CIT concept is designed to more effectively deal with persons in mental health crisis. Team members collaboratively make contact with persons in need and work together to formulate long term solutions. This approach can reduce the numbers of expensive detention lockup situations. The Bayfield County Sheriff's Office is partnered with the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI), the Superior Police Department, the Ashland Police department, Bayfield County DHS, Memorial Medical Center and Northlakes. The Douglas Chapter of NAMI is funding training.

On the topic of mental health, the sheriff's office also began use of a secure online source to obtain safety plans of persons with persistent mental illness. The purpose is to help responding officers to de-escalate mental health crisis situations by viewing important information relating to the person in crisis. The information is highly secure and everyone accessing the information was trained.

The jail installed a new commercial washer for inmate laundry. The project was complicated by the fact that the old washer would not fit through all the jail doors enabling its removal. It had been installed before all door frames were installed during initial construction. Jail staff were innovative and able to remove the old machine successfully. The project was accomplished under budget.

## **FY 2023 GOALS:**

The largest goal or project for consideration will be the potential merger of the Bayfield County and Ashland County dispatch centers. Discussions between the two counties have begun and plans are currently underway to hire a consultant for a feasibility study. A consolidation would likely combine critical components in Bayfield County since this county has the only facility that can accommodate. History recalls that this was discussed in 2003 without success. There are several reasons to reconsider with staffing concerns, budget concerns and development in technology. There is much potential for the two counties to improve service to their constituents.

The sheriff's office has the consistent goal of operating at full staff. The 2022 budget authorized an additional full-time deputy and a full-time jailer. During fiscal 2022 the total authorized employee numbers were not reached but hiring processes are underway. The goal will be to achieve the authorized numbers and retain in 2023.

2023 will see the completion of training for CIT members as referenced in 2022 accomplishments.

The jail will see the installation of a system to modernize and document cell checks of inmates. This issue has been persistent in jail inspections. Law requires all inmates of a jail to be checked at least every hour of every day. Persons on high-risk watches are checked much more often. The new system will require a jailer to be physically at every cell check location and will time stamp the check. The system also allows comment input for future reference.

The Sheriff's Office will continue to explore alternative fuel vehicles for its fleet. There are currently four CNG/bi-fuel vehicles in the fleet. More compression capacity may have to be considered if this is expanded. Electric options are under consideration.