

From the Office of the Sheriff:

With the price of gasoline on the rise, the impact upon our budget is significant. Members of the Dodge County Sheriff's Department travel approx. 1 million miles per year using around 50,000 gallons of gasoline. As one can see when the price jumps a buck a gallon it generates a \$50,000.00 shortfall. This is exactly the reason that I support the select consolidation of law enforcement resources. With over 20 law enforcement agencies operating within the confines of Dodge County, that equates to 20 different standards, 20 different policy and procedure manuals, and 20 different levels of training and resources.

The past few years we have worked towards unifying law enforcement agencies and becoming strong partners. The recipient of such an effort is not only the law enforcement community but the taxpayers as well. Some examples include the consolidation of the Horicon Police Department dispatch, training, and equipment purchases. As the Sheriff, I feel one of the most important roles we must fill is the next step of support to our local law enforcement agencies. We need to be there should a local agency experience a case or incident that overwhelms them. We need to be there should they not have the right resources for a particular crime. You should not read into this that the Sheriff's Department will ever take over. The jurisdiction where the event takes place is in charge and we support if and when requested. This is very important. What have we done to date.

The Sheriff's Department routinely supports local agencies with our Crash Investigation Team and its equipment. Local police departments can not afford such equipment. If needed, the local Chief of Police asks for assistance and it is provided at no charge to the gaining municipality. Routinely, we also share Detectives with local agencies if the case may involve potential conflict of interest.

Our Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) is a great example of local law enforcement cooperation. The team is very expensive to equip and they train at least 8-hours per month. Recently, we opened up the team to members of local law enforcement agencies and were able to add two members. This cooperation is also evident in our Drug Investigation Unit. Each agency in Dodge County signed on as a full-partner. Agencies provide personnel, support, and work closely sharing intelligence. Crime knows no boundaries and agencies benefit from this teamwork.

Training is also an area that we have progressed well. The Sheriff's Department has individuals that are certified to train others. So now, rather than local agencies sending the employee to Appleton for one week, the Sheriff's Dept can train that same employee locally at a significant cost reduction. As training requirements continue to task law enforcement, we must expand these types of mutually supporting efforts.

Many municipalities have their own part-time law enforcement agency. For the most part, these agencies fill a void the Sheriff's Department cannot. Examples include the Townships of Beaver Dam, Fox Lake, and Emmett. Villages include Brownsville, Lowell, Reeseville and Clyman. Most employees that work these part-time agencies are employed full-time by another agency. Many of these agencies provide critical services. Others are hampered by a lack of resources, have a limited impact upon their citizens. The future for many may include consolidation, contracting or even elimination. This may be a better way of provided more professional and reliable services to the client at a reduced cost. These agencies are valuable to the Sheriff's Department and we will continue to work with local officials to ensure the fielding of efficient, cost effective services that provide value to those paying the bills. tnehs@co.dodge.wi.us.