



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff Scott Smith Chief Deputy

2016 Highlights

In each of my first two years in office, I set performance objectives to improve sheriff's office operations. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the successes we have had over the last year.

The first objective I would like to highlight for you is our missing persons search plan. In 2015 I established a child abduction response team (CART). The CART training that several of our employees attended was extremely helpful in the rescue of three teenage boys this summer from the Neda Mine just outside of Iron Ridge. While we are still working on finalizing our official CART team, the processes that we have in place along with the training gave us valuable insight into the successful investigation and recovery of the missing boys. This is an example of how preparation for potentially life-threatening situations made the quick location and recovery of these teenage boys possible before harm could come to them.

Speaking of preparation, for years the sheriff's office has not been adequately prepared should something happen in our dispatch center limiting our ability to communicate with the public and first responders. In 2016 we were able to utilize non-tax levy funds to establish a backup satellite dispatch center at the Beaver Dam Fire Department. This satellite dispatch center will allow our dispatchers to move to an alternate site and still provide services to the county should something happen in Juneau. We are now better prepared than we ever have been should an evacuation of our dispatch center need to take place.

Next, you may not be aware that the sheriff's office has acquired its own drone. You may ask why a drone would be necessary. For a small cost of about \$1000 the sheriff's office was able to acquire an aerial camera. This camera has been utilized on a number of cases including search and rescue, crash reconstruction, assisting other agencies which include both law enforcement and fire departments and tactical situations. I even used it for a humanitarian purpose in searching for a citizen's lost dog. These are only a few of the deployments that we have utilized this drone for and it has been extremely useful and well worth the money spent. We see this tool as being a resource that could potentially save the county money well beyond what was spent to purchase it.

Finally, I recently began talks with the superintendents of the various school districts throughout Dodge County. Those talks are regarding the investigation of a program called Rapid Responder and other similar programs. Currently there is very little

capability available for communication between first responders and school districts should there be an incident at a school. With a program such as Rapid Responder, it was learned that not only can we improve the communications between first responders and school districts, but we can also make available to first responders maps, contact information, alarm information, camera access and many other tools needed for any type of situation. It also may be possible that a program such as this could replace other mass communication programs currently in use by some of the school districts at a reduced cost to those districts. I intend to continue talks with the superintendents into 2017 in hopes that we can develop further improvements in keeping our children safe.

The sheriff's office is currently finalizing performance objectives for 2017 as it is important to have a plan for the future for the betterment of our agency and to ensure that Dodge County remains a safe place to live, work and visit.