



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff Scott Smith Chief Deputy

Constitutional Responsibility of the Sheriff

The Office of Sheriff is a constitutionally created position and as such has constitutional protected responsibilities including: 1) the operation of the jail; 2) attendance on the courts; 3) maintaining law and order; and 4) preserving the peace. The Wisconsin state legislature has expanded these in chapter 59 of the statutes. I thought I would take some time to explain some of them so that you have a better understanding.

The sheriff has jurisdiction to enforce laws anywhere within the boundaries of Dodge County including within cities, villages and townships. I have deputies who enforce traffic laws while also responding to calls for service and emergencies. I have detectives who investigate serious matters and incidents that require follow-up investigation. We provide the same functions that police departments do but on a larger scale throughout the county.

Statute requires that the sheriff keep and preserve the peace and also quiet and suppress all affrays, routs, riots, unlawful assemblies and insurrections. This is especially important as in recent years we have seen a number of these incidents occurring throughout our nation. As your sheriff, I commit that I will uphold this statutory responsibility, while at the same time protecting the freedom of speech. There is a balance with these two issues in that everyone has the right to voice their opinion and demonstrate that right but they must do so legally and must not infringe on the rights of others. When demonstrations result in trespassing, placing people's safety at risk or are disorderly in any way, state statute requires that the sheriff take action.

Additionally, the operation of the jail is one of the largest operations of the sheriff's office. Not only is it a protected power of the sheriff under the constitution, but it is also outlined in statute that the sheriff shall take charge and custody of the jail maintained by the county and the persons within the jail. The sheriff is responsible for the security and safety of all inmates as well as providing for the needs of the inmates.

The sheriff shall also serve or execute all civil process papers and orders issued by lawful authority. Those civil processes include serving temporary restraining orders and injunctions, eviction notices, writs of replevin (repossession), sheriff sales of foreclosed homes and other orders by the court. The sheriff's office has one full-time deputy and one full-time secretary primarily responsible for this duty, however, all deputies are responsible for serving these papers and orders.

It is also required that the sheriff attend upon the circuit court. What that means is that I must maintain the security of the courts and transport all individuals who are in custody at various

jails, prisons and other detention facilities to the courts for hearings. We have two full-time transport deputies assigned to transport inmates as required by the courts.

While it is not a statutory responsibility, I also operate our county-wide communications center. The communications center answers all 911 calls and many administrative calls for law enforcement agencies in the county. They also dispatch law enforcement, fire and EMS and set off our tornado sirens among other things. It is the central answering and dispatching point for emergency and non-emergency incidents throughout the county.

These are just a few of my responsibilities as sheriff. I take each of them very seriously and do my best to accomplish these requirements as efficiently and effectively as possible. Each area is always under evaluation for more efficient ways to operate and the effective use of taxpayer dollars. It is my role to make sure that Dodge County is a safe and enjoyable place to live work and visit.

Dale J. Schmidt

Dodge County Sheriff