

## **Update with Sheriff**

**October 13, 2020**

**10:04 a.m.**

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund, Commissioner Jackson, County Manager Erik Martin, Sheriff Snaza, Dusty Breen, Kevin Engelbertson, Chris Sweet, Wes Rethwill, Becky Butler

Recorder: Tammy Martin

### **Bureau Updates:**

Wes Rethwill said there have been a few changes in the command team as Chief Kevin Engelbertson is taking over the Services Bureau and Chief Breen is now overseeing the Operations Bureau.

Chief Sweet addressed the changes within the jail. The housing scheme has been modified due to COVID-19. They followed advice from the health department and as well as doctors to help with protocols. There have been twelve positive cases, three of those were asymptomatic. No known positive cases since the initial outbreak. There are currently eight deputy positions with three of those currently in the Field Training Officer (FTO) program. Four corrections deputies went to the road and two of them retired. The jail population is averaging approximately 180 people. This affects the jail contracts when there are restrictive bookings. The only reason the jail is on restrictions is because of COVID-19 protocols. Once normalcy comes back into place and restrictions ease, contracts from other cities will begin to increase. Sheriff Snaza says that the hiring process has been a challenge. Wes commended Becky and Chief Sweet for their continuing efforts to obtain the funding necessary for isolation cells and other updates needed so they could say on top of the updates with in the jail. The vacancies have created overtime issues and they feel they will still be within the budget. Commissioner Stamper asked if at home monitoring would work for some of the inmates that have extensive health issues. Sheriff Snaza said that every day Chief Sweet looks for alternative means of housing for the inmates requiring more medical care. The orders that keep the higher risk medical inmates in the jail are based on their charges and come from mandates handed down from the judicial system.

Chief Breen updated that through September of 2020, 12,528 calls for service have been placed. Currently, the roads division has one deputy on light duty and he is handling fraud complaints. There are two deputies graduating October 16, 2020, from the Bureau of Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA). This is the first time recorded that the command team will not be able to publicly attend the graduating ceremony. Once the deputies graduate, they will begin the FTO program for 12 weeks. Due to COVID-19, there will be an additional two weeks training needed. There are two more deputies currently in the academy that will graduate in January. During September, Captain Spahn put together a drug emphasis in the east end of Lewis County. This was all done on time off. There were other agencies involved in the drug emphasis and 137 contacts were made that resulted in seven major drug busts.

Chief Engelbertson said he is working on day eight of his new position. Has a big learning curve and is looking forward to the challenge. The eviction moratorium was extended through December 31, 2020.

He figures there will be a large amount of evictions in January. There has been a huge increase in concealed permits in the last 6-7 months. They had a retirement for Linda Patton. There have been three officer-involved shooting events that Lewis County helped investigate. Sex offenders currently registered by district are as follows:

- Dist. 1 - 145
- Dist. 2 - 156
- Dist. 3 - 171
- 20 are currently transient.

Gabe Frase has recently taken over the Detective Sergeant position, which deals with representation with the region 3 investigative team. There has been a large increase in the utilization of that person.

Sheriff Snaza acknowledged Erik and Becky. They have been huge assets in helping with budget issues and working with the Sheriff's Office while facing difficult challenges.

The Sheriff's Office has been working with Department of Emergency Management. They recently held a mock set up with DEM and IT on how to deal with emergencies. The Sheriff's Office has reallocated supplies. There was a large command vehicle that was traded for three vans and a boat. Two vans were assigned to the Sheriff's Office and the other van will go to public works. They took part in hosting SWAT basic training. There is a new volunteer coordinator named Pam Shirer. There has been a lot of interest in the volunteer program and they are reinventing the program. The Sheriff's Office has been assisting with the Town of Pe Ell. Pe Ell is currently without law enforcement. Lewis County has been patrolling the area. They are charging hourly rates to Pe Ell. At this time, there haven't been any contacts proposed. They are also working with the US Forest Service. USFS is losing their current officer. This will change coverage assigned to the east end deputy. The Sheriff's Office has been dealing with the increases of crime that have gone up on top of regular calls for services. Assaults, overdoses, and suicides have continued to rise. Drugs laced with fentanyl seem to be on the rise as well.

Undersheriff Rethwill asked to Commissioners to consider the level of engagement the LC Sheriff's Office has offered. There was a SWAT training class recently. There was a run in memorial at the end of the class in memory of a SWAT officer that was killed in the line of duty.

Meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.