

Update with Sheriff

May 11, 2021

10:08 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, Katie Conradi, Becky Butler, Wes Rethwill, Dusty Breen, Chris Sweet, Kevin Engelbertson, Sheriff Rob Snaza

Guest(s): Nic Scott, Member(s) from the Chronicle

Recorder: Tammy Martin

Special Services Chief Kevin Engelbertson provided highlights from the past two months including that all the detectives are certified to conduct crime scene scans using Trimble Forensics. The services department filled two positions. Detective Scrivner is moving back to the patrol side due to shortages within the department. Robin Merchant is retiring in May and will have a new position to be filled in August. Chief Engelbertson also updated the Commissioners concerning the number of sex offenders by district.

- District 1 - 133
- District 2 - 155
- District 3 - 173

Corrections Chief Chris Sweet said there are currently six deputies in the Field Training program. The internal construction project in the jail intake is almost complete. Sprinkler systems and other issues have created delays. The goal is to be finished within the next month. HB1348 has allowed help with Medicaid for those incarcerated for up to 29 days. This will be a financial benefit for the jail. Chief Sweet said Infectious Disease consultants came to the Lewis County jail and did a complete tour of the facility. The report supports the jails' protocols for COVID-19. Chief Sweet was happy to report that any issues were minor and nothing major. He also said the average daily population at the jail has been 130-140.

Field Operations Chief Dusty Breen provided stats for the month of April. He said there have been approximately 200 more calls this year versus last year. Chief Breen said the Lewis County Sheriff's Office is still currently providing services for the town of Pe Ell. They handled 26 calls last month. With recent staff changes including retirements and job changes, as well as deputies switching from patrol to corrections, and medical leave, there are four openings available. The average squad has five people. Chief Breen said LSCO had one deputy start the 480 hours of FTO training. The LCSO recently hired a lateral person from Napavine to start the FTO program next week, another applicant from Napavine is currently in the background process and transferred a deputy from the corrections side to the patrol side pending a background investigation.

Chief Breen discussed an altercation that happened early May resulting in a deputy being shot at. The deputy's vehicle was struck. There was a stolen firearm and other items thrown out a window, but luckily the firearm was recovered. Chief Breen said he was proud of the job the deputy did as well as the

restraint shown during the interaction. Undersheriff Rethrill wanted to thank Chief Breen for his work filling positions and providing quality service to Lewis County.

Sheriff Rob Snaza provided Legislature updates. Sheriff Snaza said that Lewis County will adapt to the changes required. There were 13 bills that passed and 10 have the most significant effect on the department. House Bill 1054 is a tactics bill that defines how the department's latest pursuit would not have happened because according to HB 1054, deputies can only pursue only in violent felonies. This restricts defensive tactics effective July 25, 2021. The defining list from HB 1054 is very specific and the deputy has to have probable cause. Sheriff Snaza said he is also concerned because possession of drugs will now be a misdemeanor. The Sheriff expressed his concern about the unfunded mandates going forward and the burden that will be placed onto the county.

Sheriff Snaza said that the corrections deputies make great road side deputies. He's excited about the opportunities for people to come work for Lewis County. He wants to create a long term plan for the town of Pe Ell and ensure the public's safety. Sheriff Snaza talked about creating a sub-station in the east end of Lewis County. The community's need is increasing because of calls of service to the area. He feels the Kiona shop would work to store equipment and have a desk for report writing. Sheriff Snaza is asking for two additional patrol deputies and two additional corrections deputies due to the growth of Lewis County. The goal is to meet national standards. He feels they need the coverage. The coverage they currently provide is the same as the last 20 years. Sheriff Snaza read parts of House Bill 1223 and said the Bill requires custodial interrogations be electronically recorded. The new law does not require body worn cameras, but during any interview, the interview must now be recorded both audio and visual. He is considering patrol cameras and body worn cameras. This would require another support tech to work with PDR's and other needs. Sheriff Snaza anticipates approximately \$500,000 for equipment and this is due to unfunded mandates created by HB 1223.

Sheriff Snaza mentioned that he emailed Commissioner Stamper concerning 2nd amendment rights. He has made a proposal to make Lewis County a second amendment sanctuary county. Lewis County would abide by the 2nd amendment. Sheriff Snaza feels that as the second amendment rights are chipped away, other loss of rights follow.

Ended 11:06 a.m.