

## SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT OF "09"

### OVERVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR

My first year as the Grady County Sheriff has been interesting and challenging. We made several changes in our department, from pagers to personnel. We started by changing the existing patrol cars from a rainbow fleet to a black and white fleet. Along with making the fleet more uniform and visible, we have replaced the higher mileage vehicles for vehicles that have lower mileage and a three year warranty. This year our deputies have driven 500,000 miles and were involved in only two accidents. We have implemented new policies that have helped our safety records and have revised when to go emergency status to calls. Overall our deputies have made good sound judgments on driving safely.

I have had to make some hard decisions on personnel this year. During my campaign, I told the citizens of Grady County that I wanted deputies that would work hard and who has integrity. During this past year we have had to replace several of our deputies and dispatchers. Five deputies and four dispatchers were dismissed for various reasons and have been replaced with hard working, motivated individuals. A former deputy has filed a law suit contesting his dismissal after being dismissed for sexual harassment. Our department will not tolerate this type of behavior from any of our employees. We reduced our number of reserve deputies from forty plus to twenty-two. We still need to find motivated individuals to meet our goal of twenty-five reserve deputies. Instead of every reserve deputy having a vehicle to park at their residence, we have five reserve deputies with cars and four pool cars for them to use while on patrol. This change has saved us several thousand dollars in fuel and vehicle repairs.

In February, our department applied for a Mobile Cop grant, which we received. We wanted to better use our resources by having mobile computers in our vehicles. This has improved communication with dispatch as well as other agencies. The computers also provide the deputies with additional information on criminals and violators they come in contact with. Deputies are also able to complete their reports from their cars or homes without driving to the sheriff's office, leaving their districts unpatrolled. Our department has also received grants which allowed us to purchase new digital radios and hand held radios for all of our deputies and their vehicles. In addition to the digital radios, we were

able to purchase seventeen 800 MHz radios for our vehicle. These radios will allow us to make contact with agencies, such as the Chickasha Police Department and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, that have already transitioned to the 800 MHz system. We are continuously looking for options to improve communications and upgrading older systems for public safety.

This past summer we opened our North Division Office in Tuttle. This has been an asset for our department saving drive time and miles. The county is divided into two districts, North and South. The north district, which is everything north of State Highway 62, receives more calls putting more demand on the deputies of that district. The North Office is commanded by a Lieutenant and has five deputies as well as the Bridge Creek I.S.D. school resource officer assigned to it.

Dispatch is operating with a new "911" telephone system that has been upgraded. We moved to lease all the new equipment with support maintenance agreements. Currently, we are in the process of changing the law enforcement frequency to better our radio quality throughout the county.

Over the 2009 year our department's twelve full time deputies have responded to over 4000 calls for service. Of these calls, deputies have taken over 1250 written reports and have made over 200 felony and misdemeanor arrests. They have also made 85 warrant arrests and have served over 1500 civil process papers. Deputies have also made over 1500 traffic stops on county and state roads, resulting in 1200 written warnings, 278 citations, 47 drug arrests and 57 DUI arrest.

Looking back at the 2009 year, improvements have made an "about face" on the Grady County Sheriff's Department. The "good ole boys" system has almost been eliminated, deputies are more visible, our department is working diligently, while being firm but fair and having a God fearing Sheriff that believes that God is number one, family is number two and your job is number three. Romans 13 says; The authority of the law is given to the government and all its law enforcement officers. For he is the minister of God to the good, but if you do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain; for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Thank you and God bless our country and county.

Sheriff Art Kell