

PRESS RELEASE

I have been asked by local media to respond to an article submitted by former Undersheriff Edward "Jim" Weir in regard to my decision to terminate Jim from my administration and Weir's decision to announce that he will be a candidate for Sheriff in 2012.

I ran for Sheriff with the intent to provide the best possible law enforcement service to the citizens of Grady County. I was very fortunate to have won that election. I began an extensive state mandated training program that is required of all Oklahoma Law Enforcement Officers and specialized training as an elected Law Enforcement official. I successfully completed the mandated training and continue to learn as I go. I inherited a department in need of major changes. I have been constantly evaluating, organizing, and implementing changes within this department since taking over. I knew going in that changes would be resisted and was prepared to immediately begin making the changes necessary to best serve our citizens within the fiscal restraints all elected officials must operate within.

I promised the citizens that drastic changes would be made within the Grady County Sheriff's Office and I am keeping my promise to them. These changes are for the betterment of all and more will be forthcoming. I am confident that the changes and upgrades will make this office more efficient to better serve the citizens of Grady County.

In response to Weir's comments, all I will say is that I do not and will not discuss inter-department personnel issues.

Weir retired from Oklahoma City Police Department and I wish Jim the best in his future endeavors.

I can only speculate that Weir may be frustrated because he came from an environment that had ample resources, due to a special tax voted on by the citizens of Oklahoma City to adequately pay, equip and train their Public Safety (Police, Fire and Medical) agencies.

Agencies such as those recruit candidates with the intent on retaining them for 20 or more years. They also have job security, a union with contracts and arbitration. Because of State Statutes, County employees do not have these services available to them. It is not easy to attract and train Deputy Sheriff Candidates. Sheriffs throughout Oklahoma find it very difficult to retain experienced Deputies because they are recruited by the larger agencies with better pay, benefits, and chances for advancement.

Our department does not have the financial resources available to pay the high wages, provide the highest quality equipment such as construction of substations, brand new take home cars, motorcycles, boats, helicopters, crime labs, specialists to investigate homicides, sex crimes, juvenile officers, their own police academy, etc.

I will continue to provide the highest quality law enforcement service to you and our community. We have an excellent staff of deputies and support personnel who are extremely dedicated to providing the best possible service to the citizens of Grady County. I would like to thank the Sheriff's Office employees for their hard work, dedication, support and sacrifice during this ongoing period of transition. I also want to take this opportunity to say thank you to the citizens of Grady County for their continued support.