



**WAGONER
COUNTY
SHERIFF
CHRIS
ELLIOTT**



WAGONER COUNTY

- Located just east and borders Tulsa County, City of Tulsa and City of Broken Arrow.
- Census reports population of Wagoner County 86,644 (7-1-2022)
- 586 square miles, west side of the county is mostly suburban with paved streets and large housing additions.
- East side of the county is mostly rural and lake communities. (Fort Gibson)
- 3rd fastest growing county in the state.
- Wagoner County Sheriff's Office is responsible for largest portion of law enforcement needs in Wagoner County

CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEFINED:

- Criminal Justice System – defined by Oxford Languages
- *“the system of law enforcement that is directly involved in apprehending, prosecuting, defending, sentencing and punishing those who are suspected or convicted of criminal offenses”.*

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

- The Criminal Justice system is comprised of different organizations;
- Law enforcement, prosecution, corrections and rehabilitation.

OKLAHOMA CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

- Law enforcement
- District Attorneys
- Judicial or our Judges
- Department of Corrections
- There are others but these are the main players
- These entities must work together in order for our criminal justice to be successful.

FUNDING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATIONS IN OKLAHOMA

- Federal Agencies: Funded by the federal government.
- State law Enforcement Agencies: Funded by the State of Oklahoma
- County Law Enforcement Agencies: Funded by the respective 77 counties
- Municipal Law Enforcement Agencies: Funded by the respective municipalities

OKLAHOMA SHERIFF OFFICES



HOW ARE SHERIFF OFFICES FUNDED

- Sheriffs are funded from different sources:
- Primary funding comes from ad valorem tax (Property taxes)
- Most of the ad valorem property taxes is directed to education. Some of the remaining goes to each county where the Board of County Commissioners and the county excise board must fund **ALL** county offices.
- Sheriff Offices also utilize cash accounts in the form of:
 - Some sheriff offices receive a portion of a county sales tax
 - Fines & Fees
 - Jail commissary proceeds

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ALSO FUND OR, AUGMENT FUNDING FOR:

- The County Clerk
- The County Assessor
- The County Treasurer
- The County Court Clerk
- The County Commissioners
- The Election Board
- 911
- Emergency Management
- Economic Development
- District Court Judges
- Drug Court – Community Sentencing etc

BACK TO THE STATE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM :

- The office of the Sheriff is the entry point for the criminal justice system.
- We arrest and incarcerate. Maintain and operate a jail. The office of the Sheriff is an integral part the judicial process in the county, all of which participate heavily in the state criminal justice system.
- The County Court Clerk, District Court Judges and Office of the District Attorney all are part of the state criminal justice system and all our funded or receive some funding from the state to operate.

CHALLENGES FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE

FUNDING !

**SHERIFF OFFICES ARE FUNDED FROM THE REVENUES
DERIVED FROM ONLY THE COUNTY.**

***EVEN THOUGH WE PARTICPATE AND FALL UNDER THE STATE CRIMINAL
JUSTICE SYSTEM.***

ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICES

HB 780, 781,788

These bills turned previous “felony drug possession” charges into “misdemeanor drug charges.”

Raised the property value of Grand Larceny from \$ 500.00 to \$ 1000.00.

This has caused an increase in property crimes and other crimes which puts a further strain on Sheriff Office resources.

Many counties across the state have experienced a huge influx of Marijuana grow house that are operated by foreign nationals.

ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICES

- McGirt Decision – 2019
- Counties that reside on a Native American reservation no longer receive “fines & fees” for adjudicated Native Americans. The tribes receive this funding.
- Sheriff Office’s spend additional man hours dealing with criminal offenses that fall under the jurisdiction of the tribes.

ATTRACTION AND RETENTION OF DEPUTIES AND DETENTION OFFICERS

- Wagoner County has experienced an exodus of sworn personnel

- 2021-2022 approximately 50 % left the Sheriff's Office

Better pay and benefits with other law enforcement organizations as well as the

the private sector

Inflation - purchasing power has not kept up with the cost of living

WHAT STANDS BETWEEN OUR SOCIETY'S NORMAL WAY OF LIFE, AND ABSOLUTE CHAOS?





LAW ENFORCEMENT

AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

WHY DO WE NOT OFFER STATE FUNDING TO THE OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF???

- Questions comments:

