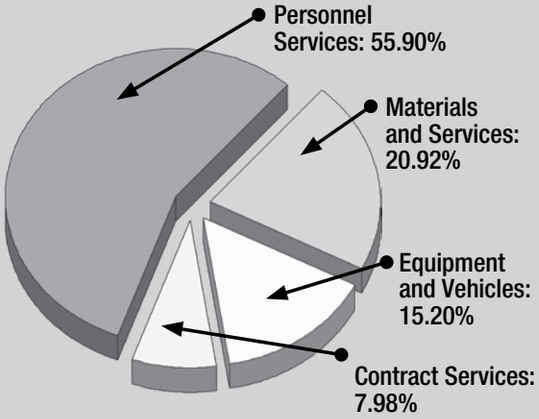
Benton County Sheriff's Office



Your Tax Dollars at Work

by Leroy Fenn, Support Services Manager

This chart represents the operating budget for the Sheriff's Office, including the General, Capital Improvement, Adult Corrections, Courthouse Security, and Local Option Levy funds.

As fellow tax payers and stewards of public funds, we are committed to ensure fiscal accountability and are committed to providing our citizens with the best service possible with the funds we are allocated.

Every tax dollar received is put into action by funding personnel and the specific and necessary costs to keep Benton County residents safe from crime.

Those costs that ensure deputies can do their job in a safe and professional manner include: in-depth training, safety equipment (including uniforms, body armor, radios, vehicles, etc.), and contractual services for dispatch and evidence.

Message from the Sheriff

Once again, I am proud and honored to be working as your Sheriff. Not only do I consider it an ongoing honor that the voters of Benton County have faith that I can and will do a good job and represent their interests, I am proud of the excellent work the men and women of the Sheriff's Office do on behalf of the County.

We have achieved a number of accomplishments over the last year and a number within each division. This annual report is intended to highlight those achievements and accomplishments.

We were able to successfully establish "The Sheriff's Foundation" a non-profit organization in which members of the public can make tax deductible donations for special earmarked projects within the Sheriff's Office. Examples include the K-9 unit, specific search and rescue projects, and other projects, training, and equipment not normally included in our regular budget.

We conducted an internal climate survey that reflected improved morale and satisfaction within the Sheriff's Office. The most significant concern continues to be with equipment and it appears from further research that it may be related to radio communications. The good news is that we continue to be successful in receiving grants to expand the equipment for a radio communications system that when completely finished should provide 95% radio coverage throughout the county. This effort is a partnership with all of the public safety agencies in Linn and Benton Counties.

To provide professional service and protection with honor and integrity.

We initiated an effort to place a bond measure on the ballot to build a new jail following the results of an assessment completed by a consultant. The results of the study confirm what we already know: the jail is the tail of the dog that wags the criminal justice system in Benton County. In other words, every sentencing, sanctioning, and arrest decision made is based on if there is room at the jail. Despite this, it was clear that now is not the time to put a bond measure before the voters when we do not have clear political support and when it could be competing against operating levies for the cities and the county. In the meantime, we have established an education committee that will work in a variety of ways to educate the community on the need for a new Benton County Jail.

Diana L. Simpson, Sheriff

What do we have to look forward to? We are looking at ways to restructure and reorganize the Sheriff's Office to make it more streamlined and efficient. We also expect this to result in expanded opportunities for leadership roles resulting in better succession planning. We have plans to re-establish a school resource deputy program that will include a team of two deputies who will spend time in the rural schools. We are expanding our computer forensics abilities by having a deputy trained specifically in this area. The expense of the software and training is provided by the federal government. And as always, we are constantly looking at ways new technology and opportunities can help us reduce costs, while still providing the best possible service.

The members of the Sheriff's Office continue to be loyal, motivated and committed to serving the residents of Benton County. They embrace the values of the Sheriff's Office: *professionalism, honor, integrity* and *ethics*, on a daily basis. Thank you to the residents of Benton County for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Sheriff. It is an honor to work for you and an honor to work along side the members of the Sheriff's Office.

Emergency Services

by Mary King, EM/SAR Program Manager

Through a federal grant from the Department of Homeland Security, the Benton County Sheriff's Office has mobilized a new piece of equipment for the first time this year — a new Mobile Command vehicle. The Mobile Command unit is a 23-foot custom designed vehicle intended to be a field incident command post for crime scenes, evidence recovery operations, disaster response, and radio communications.

The vehicle started as a Ford 550 chassis and was customized to accommodate a satellite dish. The dish will provide internet and phone service to the unit even if regular service is not working due to the incident location or disaster. A generator provides a power source to support a variety of electronics. Most of the electronics have been designed to provide radio communications during an incident response. In fact, the vehicle has also been designed to act as a backup 911 dispatch center, should the need ever arise.

The Mobile Command vehicle is intentionally a smaller response unit and equipped with 4-wheel drive to better respond in the field. Most incidents in the county (search and rescue missions, crime scenes, and significant disasters) occur in or around rural areas, making off-road capability and a high ground clearance desirable.

In addition to the high tech components available in the Mobile Command unit, low tech supplies also abound: chainsaws, hand tools, medical supplies and other simple solutions exist within the multitude of cabinets built into the vehicle.

Benton County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue will maintain and exercise the vehicle when not in use. It replaces an aging unit (a converted 1980 RV) that has been in service locally since 1997.

Search and Rescue is accomplished with the support of over 100 volunteers divided into volunteer units. Current units are:

- *Benton County Amateur Radio Emergency Service*
- *Benton County Crisis Support Team*
- *Benton County Sheriff's Mounted Posse*
- *Benton County Tracking Unit*
- *Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit*
- *Marys Peak Search and Rescue*
- *Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue*

Law Enforcement

by Lt. Greg Ridler, Division Commander

During the last fiscal year, the Law Enforcement Division experienced a number of unusually violent and unpredictable incidents. To recap:

✦ September 2010, deputies were called by a wife whose husband walked off into the woods with a handgun to commit suicide. The wife heard a gunshot and called 911. The deputies arrived and located the husband sitting on a log with the gun in his mouth. The deputies were able to talk him out of shooting himself.

✦ In January on Super Bowl Sunday, deputies responded to three domestic violence calls in far corners of the county all within one hour of each other. After dealing with those calls, the deputies responded to the Benton County Fairgrounds for an out-of-control crowd fighting over the results of the Super Bowl game.

✦ February had a busy Presidents' Day weekend with a DUII arrest that resulted in the seizure of a loaded firearm, several other drug arrests and a stolen vehicle recovery.

✦ April was a particularly busy month, starting on April 10th when deputies stopped a former law enforcement officer from Arizona on Highway 20. The male was wanted by Lincoln City Police for domestic violence. During a search of the suspect's car, over $300,000 in cash was located. Also in April, deputies stopped a stolen car driven by a white supremacist with felony warrants. The felon would have tried to outrun the deputies in the stolen car, except that he said the deputies had overwhelmed him with "their superior tactics and quick action." At the end of April, deputies responded to a residence outside Philomath in response to a male calling 911 to inform them that he had tried to commit suicide. The dispatcher talked to the male for a short period of time before the suspect disclosed that he had also killed his girlfriend and 1-year-old son. The deputies arrived to a horrific crime scene.

✦ In June, another potential homicide was luckily averted by a few millimeters when a domestic violence victim shot her boyfriend in the face with a handgun. The bullet did not penetrate the male's skull and only left him with a wound that was treated. It allowed BCSO to book him into jail for the assaults he had inflicted on his girlfriend over an extended period of time.

Not all of the Law Enforcement Division's work was so disturbing. Benton County Sheriff's Office was recognized statewide for its outstanding DUII enforcement efforts and Deputy Aaron Gevatosky was acknowledged for his individual effort in DUII prevention and education. Deputies saved lives on the river on two occasions. They attended a career day to recruit the next generation of deputies and we are preparing two deputies to spend time in partnership with Benton County Schools starting in August 2011.

OFFENSE	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Murder	1	1	2*
Rape	4	3	6
Robbery	0	1	2
Aggravated Assaults	23	18	16
Burglary: Commercial	57	29	20
Burglary: Residential	43	29	32
Larceny/Theft	229	197	164
Motor Vehicle Theft	17	26	17
Arson	7	5	6
Assault	171	196	196
Forgery/Fraud	64	100	72
Vandalism	173	166	135
Weapons Law Offenses	30	38	53
Sex Offenses	34	28	33
Kidnapping	5	4	5
Drug Offenses	113	164	191
DUII	108	172	207
Liquor Law Offenses	33	33	37
Disorderly Conduct	47	81	88
Trespass/Prowler	138	159	169
Runaway Juveniles	39	36	27
Offenses Against Family	14	18	7

*single incident

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Calls for Service	5,244	5,461	5,659
Motor Vehicle Crashes	208	220	230
Fatal Vehicle Crashes	4	3	1
Arrests	1,372	1,643	1,981
Citations—Traffic	1,410	2,623	2,564
Warrants Served	296	444	531
Minor in Possession	57	38	81

Although working in this cramped Booking Room, deputies processed over 4,000 inmates in 2010-11.

Due to the violent nature of some inmates, not all can be double bunked.

Jail

by Lt. Diana Rabago, Division Commander

In 2010 the Benton County Correctional Facility was renamed the Benton County Jail to more accurately reflect what the facility actually is — a jail. Because of the limited space available and the limited time inmates actually remain in the local jail, we are no longer able to offer rehabilitative services aimed at correcting the behavior that netted the resulting jail sentence. Aside from a few local community groups who come in once a week facilitating Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous classes, we cannot offer any rehabilitative programs. In reality the inmate is no better prepared to successfully re-enter the community as a productive member than when he or she first went to jail.

Many of you may have heard Benton County operates as the smallest jail per capita in the State. What you may not know is that even hampered with this extremely inadequate size, Benton County Jail staff processed 4,111 individuals into the jail during this fiscal year. That total is equal to — or in some cases higher than — other counties with much larger jails. And that does not account for the many individuals who are not brought to jail but rather cited in the field by the Patrol Deputy or Police Officer because they know the jail is too full to hold them. The Benton County Jail is the sole jail in the county serving all of the law enforcement needs of the county: Sheriff's Office, Corvallis, Philomath, and Albany Police Departments, Oregon State Police, Oregon State University OSP, and Adult Parole and Probation.

We often hear from members in the community who relate their belief that our jail is overcrowded because inmates are incarcerated for possession of marijuana or are on immigration (ICE) holds. Yet these are rare occurrences. It is extremely unusual for someone to be in jail for a simple charge of possession of marijuana unless that possession includes enormous amounts. And it is estimated that of the 4,111 inmates processed into the jail during this last fiscal year, less than 10 inmates were on immigration holds.

Rather, the jail plays host to inmates with an array of criminal charges including serious person-to-person crimes such as assault, robbery, and murder. The most serious of these crimes are referred to as Measure 11 crimes and include Rape, Murder, Kidnapping, and other significant sex crimes.

Those inmates not held on person-to-person charges are often those who chronically fail to appear for their court dates, inmates who have violated the terms of their probation or parole, or those with a significant criminal history.

We encourage members of the community to review the inmate rosters identifying who is in jail and why, and who was recently released. Inmate rosters can be found at http://www.co.benton.or.us/sheriff/corrections/rosters.php.

Community members are also encouraged to tour the jail. See for yourself the facility design, meet the staff and come away with a better understanding of potential needs. Jail tours can be arranged by contacting Diana Rabago, Jail Commander at 541-766-6866.

Parole and Probation

by Lt. Gail Newman, Division Commander

The Adult Parole and Probation Division currently supervises about 465 adult offenders residing in Benton County. As part of that supervision, Parole and Probation Officers use "evidence-based" strategies and treatment programs to help reduce criminal conduct.

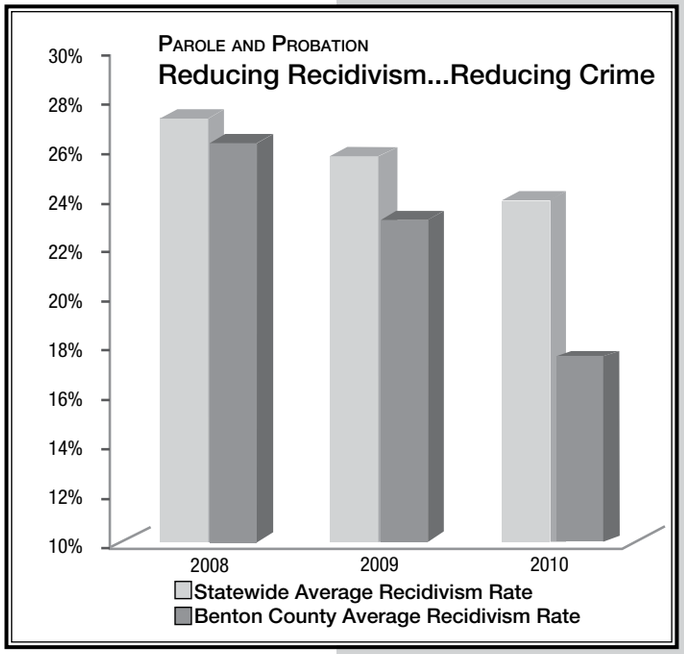
These programs are considered to be "evidence-based" if scientific research shows they are effective in reducing recidivism. In other words, the programs are successful at improving community safety.

As a part of evidence-based supervision, higher risk offenders are identified and targeted to receive additional supervision, services, and sanctions. By focusing on high risk individuals, resources are spent on those offenders who pose the greatest risk to the community.

Specialized Parole and Probation programs include a 6-bed Transition Center that provides temporary, clean and sober housing for indigent offenders. Residents of the Transition Center are required to perform a variety of daily duties as well as eight hours of community service each week in lieu of rent.

The Mental Health Transition Program utilizes community partnerships to provide intensive supervision, alcohol and drug-free housing, treatment programming, and a myriad of wrap-around services for persons in the criminal justice system who suffer from mental illness.

The Sex Offender Supervision Program provides specialized supervision and treatment for persons convicted of sexual offenses.



Other specialty programs include the Drug Treatment Court caseload and the Corrections Work Crew.

Evidence-based supervision strategies have resulted in a continued decline in the recidivism rate (defined as an offender receiving a new felony conviction within 3 years of beginning supervision) in Benton County.

In 2010, the recidivism rate for supervised felony offenders in Benton County dropped to 17.42%, well below the statewide average.

BCSO Personnel Spot Light

by Undersheriff J. Scott Jackson

Benton County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) personnel have provided many reasons to be proud over the last year, both through personal achievements and through partnering with the community to make Benton County a better place to live.

Lieutenant Greg Ridler received State recognition as the *2010 Law Enforcement Commander of the Year*. This honor was given by the Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA) in recognition of his innovative and tireless approach in rebuilding the BCSO Patrol Division.

Todd Shechter, BCSO Search and Rescue volunteer and President of Corvallis Mountain Rescue, received recognition from OSSA as one who "stands out among standouts." Todd was selected as the *2010 Search and Rescue Volunteer of the Year*.

Deputy Aaron Gevatosky received honor as the *DUII Deputy of the Year* by the DUII Multi-Disciplinary Task Force and Benton County Sheriff's Office was identified as the *DUII Agency of the Year* for it's focus on making Benton County roads safe from impaired drivers.

BCSO personnel have continuously distinguished themselves through courageous acts in an effort to preserve lives. Three separate incidents found deputies confronted with suicidal subjects in extremely dangerous situations. These delicate and volatile situations were resolved successfully only through the patience, compassion and understanding of the deputies involved. Each received the BCSO *Medal of Valor*.

When not distinguishing themselves at work, BCSO staff are engaged in the community through volunteering. Whether coaching Little League or volunteering with non-profit organizations and events, BCSO staff are making a difference. In fiscal year 2010-11, BCSO employees volunteered approximately 2,500 hours towards community endeavors.

BCSO Personnel Profile	2010-2011
Total Employees	78
Sworn Deputies	64
Women/Minorities	31%
College Graduates (AA, BA/BS or Masters)	69%
Community Service Hours Donated by BCSO Personnel	2,500 hrs.

In Memoriam: Corporal Jeff Wilcox

April 23, 1960—January 31, 2011

Corporal Jeff Wilcox passed away on January 31, 2011 after a long battle with cancer. The Sheriff's Office celebrated his life on February 4, 2011 with fallen officer honors.

Corporal Jeff Wilcox spent over twenty-three years as a sheriff's deputy, beginning his law enforcement career with the Linn County Sheriff's Office in 1988.

In 1992, Jeff was awarded the Oregon State Sheriff's Association *Award of Valor* and the Oregon Peace Officers Association *Lifesaving Award* for an act of heroism. On January 2, 1992, Wilcox was helping to search for a Harrisburg man who was missing and possibly suicidal. He found the man standing on the centerline of the northbound lanes of I-5 shortly after midnight. A tractor-trailer had just swerved to miss the man and another group of vehicles was headed toward him. Wilcox jumped a 4-foot-high barbed wire fence, ran onto the Interstate and carried the man to safety.

In 1999, Jeff transferred to the Benton County Sheriff's Office. At Benton County he was a patrol deputy, a member of the SWAT team, crash team, marijuana eradication team, wilderness response team, forest deputy, field training deputy and detective.

Through his hard work, Jeff earned the rank of corporal and received several awards during his career including Benton County's *Law Enforcement Employee of the Year* in 2006.

Jeff was a "warrior" who believed in helping people. He is survived by the love of his life, wife Jennifer; twin sons Aaron and Matthew; other family members and many friends. Sons Aiden and Alec preceded him in death.

Sheriff's Foundation

by Undersheriff J. Scott Jackson

The non-profit Sheriff's Foundation was established this past year to raise funds for items or projects not typically included in the regular Benton County Sheriff's Office budget.

As the budget gets tighter and tighter, the Office is forced to focus available resources on critical core services and less on programs which, however beneficial, are not core functions. As a result, the Office relies on community donations and support to help us maintain beneficial services that otherwise face elimination due to budgetary constraints.

The Sheriff's Foundation was established as an organization that would provide a way for members of the public to donate money to their favorite programs as tax deductions -- programs such as the K-9 unit, search and rescue programs, and computer forensics. An account has been established with Citizen's Bank in Corvallis and donations are being accepted.

Sheriff's Foundation donated funds were recently used to purchase a specialty computer used for the investigation of internet crimes against children. This has already resulted in several arrests in cases related to child pornography.

In the past, individuals have donated money to the Sheriff's Office as an acknowledgement of a job well done or to support their favorite program, but this gives residents an opportunity to donate money for personal tax purposes. The Sheriff's Foundation will follow a grant application process in which Sheriff's Office deputies or personnel submit project ideas that fit within the mission of the foundation. There will also be opportunities to provide matching funds when applying for federal and state grants.

For more information, or to make a donation, please contact Undersheriff Scott Jackson at (541) 766-6858 or scott.jackson@co.benton.or.us.

RESOURCE DIRECTORY...

Benton County Sheriff's Office • 180 NW 5th Street, Corvallis, OR 97330

Emergencies Only	**911**
Non-Emergency	541-766-6858
General Information	541-766-6858
Administration	541-766-6858
Animal Control	541-753-0732
Civil	541-766-6814
Detectives	541-766-6860
Emergency Services	541-766-6864
Jail	541-766-6866
Parole and Probation	541-766-6887
Records	541-766-6858
Fax	541-766-6011

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Click on "Emergency Alert" to sign up to be notified of emergencies in your area.