

# Benton County Sheriff's Office



*Our Mission: We provide professional public safety services with integrity and accountability.*

## Your Tax Dollars at Work

We take our fiscal responsibilities to the community seriously. As taxpayers ourselves, we strive to get the most value for our money by identifying innovative ways to bring in additional revenues or extend the life of our equipment. Here are just a few ways we are managing the funds you entrust to us...

### Propane Fuel Conversion

This year we continued our partnership with Linn Benton Community College and Benton County Public Works in converting our fleet to propane. Propane is a clean, eco-friendly fuel that is usually cheaper than gasoline. According to the Alternative Fuels Data Center, it can also extend the engine life of high-mileage vehicles resulting in lower maintenance costs. By the end of 2015, we had converted 31% of our fleet.

### Grants, Contracts, Service Charges

We aggressively seek out grants and contracts to help augment our budget and decrease the burden on the Benton County taxpayer. In the current fiscal year we have brought in enough additional revenue to cover 22% of our operating budget.

### Equipment Replacement Funds

We strive to plan years ahead to replace expensive equipment that has a known lifecycle. For the Sheriff's Office these items include ballistic vests, portable and mobile radios, and vehicles. To minimize the financial impact of buying this equipment, we use equipment replacement schedules to spread the costs of replacing this equipment out over several years.



Scott Jackson, Sheriff

## Message from the Sheriff

I am honored to serve as your Sheriff and pleased to share with you this report on our 2015 activities and accomplishments.

I believe that the men and women of the Sheriff's Office are the agency's most valuable asset and I'm proud to lead them. This year we promoted three Law Enforcement Deputies and one Corrections Deputy to Sergeant. They are a testament to the depth of skill and professionalism within our own ranks.

The results of our 2015 Oregon Accreditation Alliance (OAA) audit is another testament to that skill. Every three years, OAA auditors evaluate our policies, procedures, and activities against law enforcement best practices.

Our audit was very positive and we were easily reaccredited.

While much of our work is reactive, our deputies and volunteers don't just respond to situations, they take the initiative to make things better. When our Forest Deputy Corporal Schermerhorn noticed trash piling up in a shooting site on Marys Peak, he partnered with his colleagues in the BLM and US Forest Service, rallied community businesses and volunteers, and sponsored a clean up day that removed everything from shell casings to a tractor tire from the popular site.

Likewise, long-term BCSO mental health volunteer Dr. John Reiman, together with BCSO Chaplain Todd Pynch, saw a need to help victims of trauma manage critical incident stress. They have worked diligently all year to put together a volunteer team of Oregon licensed health care professionals to provide that service. The Benton County Sheriff's Office Crisis Response Team is just about ready to deploy and will be a valuable community asset.

While we continued efforts to educate the public about our inadequate jail—including hosting informational forums and jail open houses—we were disappointed this year when the bond measure to build a new jail was narrowly defeated. The challenges of our inadequate jail remain and we will continue working with the community to look for solutions.

As Sheriff, I encourage you to learn more about our activities on your behalf and the challenges we face. We revamped our website this year and I invite you to visit it to learn more about Your Sheriff's Office. Thank you.

*Scott Jackson,  
Benton County Sheriff*

Come visit us online at:  
[www.co.benton.or.us/sheriff/](http://www.co.benton.or.us/sheriff/)



# Law Enforcement

Captain Don Rogers,  
Division Commander



Field Training Deputy trains new recruit.

OFFENSE	2014	2015
Murder	1	0
Manslaughter	1	1
Rape	5	3
Robbery	0	1
Aggravated Assaults	22	18
Burglary: Business	33	25
Burglary: Residential	34	31
Larceny/Theft	190	180
Arson	5	5
Assault	320	286
Forgery/Fraud	130	85
Vandalism	144	162
Weapons Law Offenses	39	40
Sex Offenses	29	32
Kidnapping	2	2
Drug Offenses	174	122
DUII—Alcohol	181	172
DUII—Drugs	20	33
Liquor Law Offenses	30	18
Disorderly Conduct	85	88
Trespass/Prowler	181	154
Runaway Juveniles	26	29
Offenses Against Family	7	13

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES	2014	2015
Calls for Service Dispatched	6,743	6,948
Arrests	2,239	2,106
Warrants	479	537
Minor in Possession	28	20
Traffic Citations	2,734	2,003
Motor Vehicle Crashes	223	299
Fatal Vehicle Crashes	4	5

In 2015, Deputies with the Law Enforcement Division responded to 6,948 calls for service. They made 2,106 arrests, served 537 warrants, cited 2,003 motorists for traffic violations and responded to 299 motor vehicle crashes, including 5 fatal crashes.

What these numbers don't reflect is the skill our Deputies used to resolve situations peacefully, the compassion they showed to victims, and the tenacity they employed to bring law breakers to justice.

*"Thank you for keeping us safe while you searched for the bomb. You protected us. Thank you for helping anyone who needs you and coming to their aid."*

—Santiam Christian School Students

Patrol Deputies are the first responders to emergency and critical incidents, while our highly trained detectives specialize in criminal investigation. As just one example, in May our computer forensics specialist uncovered the illegal distribution of child pornography which resulted in an individual being arrested on numerous charges.

### Civil

In addition to executing law enforcement powers in criminal matters, the Sheriff's Office is also responsible for executing

orders of the Court in civil matters. The majority of civil papers — such as small claims, garnishments, or restraining orders — are served by Patrol Deputies. In 2015, 1170 papers were processed and served.

### New Recruits

This year we brought on four new recruits to fill vacant positions. Our hiring process is extensive and applicants must demonstrate they have the mental, physical, and emotional skills to do the job. Our new recruits came to us with excellent experience. Two transferred from our Corrections Division and also had experience with our Reserve Deputy program, a third was a Dispatcher for many years, and the fourth came to us from another agency.

Recruits go through an intensive 18-month probationary period. During this period they must successfully complete the Basic Police Academy and FTEP, Field Training Evaluation Program. All recruits are making progress toward being fully able to do the job on their own.

## Emergency Services

Emergency Services is a unit of the Law Enforcement Division that focuses on planning for emergencies and coordinating search and rescue.

This year we had two openings in this unit. When Lt. Clay Stephens retired, Kevin Higgins took over as Emergency Services Program Manager. Jaimi Glass became the Emergency Services Planner filling a position that had been vacant for nearly a year. They join Lacey Duncan, Program Specialist, in developing plans, allocating resources, and supervising over 100 search and rescue volunteers.

An important role of this unit is to help citizens prepare for and become self-sufficient during an emergency. Higgins and Glass hit the ground running and initiated a number of activities around helping residents learn about and prepare for the anticipated Cascadia Earthquake.

Information about how you and your family can prepare for emergencies, or how to volunteer with one of our Search and Rescue (SAR) units, is available on the Sheriff's Office website.



Kevin Higgins, second from right, Emergency Services Program Manager, participated on a Corvallis City Club panel entitled *Saving Lives: Recovering from the Big One* that focused on citizen preparedness for the Cascadia Earthquake.

# Jail

*Captain Diana Rabago, Jail Commander*

This year saw considerable community conversation about the Benton County Jail. We were disappointed that Measure 02-91 to build a new jail was narrowly defeated, but encouraged that more of the public is educated about the problems and challenges of our small and inadequate facility.

### Smallest Jail in State

Our jail is the only jail in the county. It is also the smallest jail, per capita, of any county in Oregon. Originally designed to hold 27 inmates, the jail has been remodeled to increase capacity to 40 beds. However, we cannot fit 40 inmates into the jail because not all inmates can be housed together. On average, this year we were at capacity when housing just 30 inmates.

When we are at capacity, or when the holding cells used to process new arrestees are occupied by intoxicated, uncooperative, or suicidal inmates, the

jail cannot process new arrestees and closes. In 2015, the jail was closed for a total of 310 hours, a 2% increase over last year.

### Early Release

To manage jail capacity we sometimes release an inmate early in order to make room for new offenders. Releases are conducted according to policy using a matrix score to ensure a fair and equitable process. In 2015, 96 inmates were released early.

### Rental Beds & Transports

Another way we manage capacity is to transport inmates to facilities in Lincoln, Linn, and Yamhill Counties. This year our costs for jail bed rentals, including the personnel and equipment to transport inmates to those locations, was a little over 2 million dollars.

### Building Maintenance

With a 40-year-old building that gets used 24 hours a day, every day of the year, there are always maintenance issues, and this year was no exception.

For security purposes, jail staff must be able to clearly communicate with visitors as well as monitor audio within the jail. The intercom system was replaced this year, but there are still problems with faulty wiring behind the scenes. A larger overhaul of the wiring will be necessary to actually fix the problem. Ongoing maintenance issues, such as leaking showers, leaking windows, and door/lock failures, challenge staff daily.

### Professional Staff

Given the challenges of the jail, we have a professional and dedicated staff. They ensure the dietary, medical, and religious requirements of inmates are met and treat all respectfully and fairly. This year 3 of our on-call employees were hired as full time Corrections Deputies and Deputy Joel Miller was promoted to Sergeant.



# Parole & Probation (P&P)

*Captain Justin Carley, Division Commander*

Parole & Probation Officers (POs) keep our community safe through the reformation of offenders and the reduction of criminal behavior. They accomplish this by using Evidence-Based Practices to provide supervision, sanctions, and services to adults on parole, probation, or post-prison supervision.

During 2015, an average of 428 offenders

P&P ACTIVITY	2014	2015
Adult Offenders Under Supervision (average per month)	431	428
Sex Offenders Under Supervision (average per month)	52	60
Restitution Collected from Offenders	\$66,601	\$88,378
Supervision Fees Collected from Offenders	\$77,245	\$84,779
Work Crew (hours on work crew in lieu of jail)	7,584 hours	8,120 hours
Work Crew Cost Savings	\$142,200	\$152,250
Community Service	1,061 hrs.	1,040 hrs.

were under supervision in Benton County. Resources are prioritized for offenders who have the highest risk to re-offend. Some of the high risk populations we focus on include sex offenders, those suffering from untreated mental illness, and individuals coming out of the Department of Corrections.

POs must be able to assess what is happening with an offender and provide the supervision, guidance, and accountability the individual needs to be successful. Due to limited jail space and a strong commitment to rehabilitation, alternative sanctions and services used by POs include: work crew, community service, Drug Treatment Court referrals, cognitive restructuring programs, employment classes, substance abuse treatment, and sex offender treatment programs.



Work crew is an effective sanction that also provides needed services to the community.

JAIL ACTIVITY	2014	2015
Total Bookings	2,778	3,613
Cite & Matrix Releases	767	846
Forced Release	72	96
Facility Closure	305 hours	310 hours
Total Inmates Transported	1,945	1,737
Total Transport Miles	16,688	12,476

## BCSO Re-Accredited

Every three years, the Benton County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) is audited by the Oregon Accreditation Alliance (OAA) to ensure we are meeting OAA standards. These standards are best practices for law enforcement agencies and cover a variety of topics including use of force, property and evidence, training, fiscal management, and more.

We received our first accreditation in 2009 and were re-accredited in 2012. This April, we went through our second re-accreditation audit and easily recertified.

# BCSO Volunteers

Benton County Sheriff's Office volunteers provided 13,398 hours of service to residents of Benton County this year, valued at well over \$123,931.

**Reserve Deputies** volunteer as sworn Law Enforcement Deputies. They must meet the exacting selection, training, and assessment qualifications that regular Deputies must meet. This year, 11 individuals met those requirements and joined the Reserves.

**Search and Rescue (SAR)** volunteers are organized into the following units: Corvallis Mountain Rescue, Benton County Sheriff's Mounted Posse, Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Marys Peak SAR, Region 3 K9, and SkySAR. This year they were deployed on 23 missions and rescued or safely found 17 individuals. One of the more rewarding missions was when Corvallis Mountain Rescue helped the Linn County Sheriff's Office rescue an injured 20-year-old climber off of Mt. Washington.

**Auxiliary Team** volunteers do not engage in active law enforcement activities but provide a variety of support services. This year they scanned booking files, edited the electronic Sheriff's Newsletter, and staffed the Drug Take Back Event.



Children at the Corvallis-Benton County Library's "Every Hero Has A Story" event got to meet Posse member Bill Duncan and his horse "Eddy."

## 57+ Years of Service:

Lt. Clay Stephens and Cpl. Brian Morrissette Retire



and was a statewide instructor for "Perspectives on Profiling," an award-winning program addressing racial profiling. In the past few years he directed the Emergency Services unit. In 2011 he was named the *Supervisor of the Year* by the Oregon State Sheriff's Association.

Cpl. Brian Morrissette began his career at the Benton County Jail as a college intern in 1989. He was promoted to Corporal in March 1999. In 2007 he was named the *Corrections Division Employee of the Year*. In addition to his duty at the jail, Cpl. Morrissette ran security in the historic Benton County Courthouse. Known for his generosity and community service, Cpl. Morrissette worked with other Courthouse employees to convert the security x-ray machine into a dragon for Halloween...a big hit with local kids!

*Thank you both for your service and congratulations on your retirement!*

This year saw the retirement of two veteran and valued employees with over 57 years of service between them.

Lt. Clay Stephens joined the agency as a Deputy Sheriff in 1984. He promoted through the ranks as corporal, sergeant, then lieutenant. He was a defensive tactics instructor, a SWAT and dive team member when the agency had those programs,

# BCSO Personnel: Duty ♦ Honor ♦ Courage

Benton County Sheriff's Office personnel have once more distinguished themselves as professionals who make Benton County a better place to live and work. Some highlights from 2015 include...

## HONOR GUARD

This year saw the formation of a BCSO Honor Guard. In their inaugural appearance, this ceremonial unit participated in the line of duty memorial service for Coos County Deputy Gil Datan. Made up of sworn Deputies specially chosen for this duty, the Honor Guard is dedicated to the memory of two BCSO Deputies killed in the line of duty: James W. Dunn, 1904 and James R. Appelgate, 1955.

## COMMENDATIONS

- Deputies JR Bier and Joel Miller received the *Benton County 2015 Sustainability Award* for their recycling efforts.
- In its inaugural year, the *Sheriff's Award* was presented to Sergeant Randy Hiner and Captain Don Rogers.
- *Distinguished Service* awards went to Jeremy Jewell, Abe Griswold, Joel Pickerd, Keith Hunnemuller, Ben Drongeson, and Jim Weikel and his K9 partner "Bus."
- The *BCSO Employee of the Year* was awarded to Sergeant Randy Hiner, and Reserve Deputy David Hamby was recognized as the *BCSO Volunteer of the Year*.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

Members of the Sheriff's Office are actively engaged in the community, volunteering their time to make a positive difference.

- The 8th Annual *BCSO Chili Cook-Off* raised funds for Jackson Street Youth Shelter while providing lots of fun and good chili for the community to taste.
- The Posse held a record-breaking horse-back ride event for children with special needs and their siblings. This year nearly 100 children participated.
- Members also participated in this year's United Way Day of Caring by building play equipment, filling the sandbox, power-washing play structures, and trimming blackberries and brush at the Corvallis Lancaster Center. They made the kids' playground inviting and safe.

# RESOURCE DIRECTORY...

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

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

Come visit us online at:  
[www.co.benton.or.us/sheriff/](http://www.co.benton.or.us/sheriff/)

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

BCSO PERSONNEL PROFILE	2014	2015
Total Employee FTE*	77.25	78.75
Sworn Deputy FTE	65	66

\*FTE = Full Time Equivalent