**JACKSON COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE 2015 ANNUAL REPORT**



**SUBMITTED BY TIM MORSE, SHERIFF**

**JACKSON COUNTY, KANSAS**

The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office provides this report of the accomplishments and work completed for 2015 to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners and to the citizens of Jackson County, Kansas. This report is a summary of the activities, including statistics and information from all divisions, of the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office.

The people of Jackson County are the owners of the Sheriff’s Office and the employers of the Sheriff and his personnel. The Sheriff is elected by the people to oversee the functions of the office. It is important to be able to provide the public, who are in a sense the board of directors, with an annual report of the achievements made for the year.

The Sheriff’s Office is comprised of the following divisions: the Jackson County Jail, 911 Dispatch Center, Patrol, Investigations, Registered Offenders, Conceal Carry, Civil Process, Court Security, School Resource and now, Victim Services.

It is the goal of the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office to serve the public with integrity, professionalism, and fiscal responsibility. The Sheriff’s Office promotes public safety by providing competent personnel, using modern policing methods as well as modern technology.

The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office believes integrity is the basis of community trust. We believe it is important we hold ourselves to a high moral standard in order to gain and maintain the respect from the public. While all people make mistakes and sometimes bad choices, it is imperative that a sheriff’s office demand excellence and moral conduct of its employees.

The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office requires professionalism of its employees. For each employee, from a dispatcher taking a call, to a patrol deputy making a traffic stop, professionalism is a must. Every citizen should be shown the upmost respect, even for those who break the law. Law enforcement at times needs to be firm; however, there is never an excuse to be unprofessional in our conduct.

In addition, law enforcement should be adequately trained and skilled in their particular role. The size of an agency should not determine whether employees are sufficiently trained. All employees with the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office receive appropriate training and undergo a lengthy field training program. The public deserves having highly trained people assisting them in the time of need.

The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office understands the burden of the cost of government placed on taxpayers. While law enforcement is unfortunately a necessity, it is important to be able to preserve the peace with as little cost as possible to the taxpayers. Therefore, we have worked to implement cost saving measures. The Sheriff’s Office has implemented a competitive bidding process that enables taxpayers to get the most for the dollar spent. The Sheriff’s Office has been proactive in implementing other services and technology, which has reduced the need of additional staffing.

The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office consists of 52 men and woman who are dedicated to provide public safety to all residents and persons in Jackson County, Kansas. The agency consists of the following: Sheriff, Undersheriff, Jail Captain, 3 detectives, 11 full- time patrol deputies, 5 part-time deputies, 1 full-time court security deputy, 1 part-time court security deputy, 1 support service deputy, 8 dispatchers, 16 corrections officers and 1 administrative assistant and 1 part-time administrative assistant. The agency also has 1 school resource deputy and a grant funded victim services coordinator.

The staffing had been dramatically reduced in 2012. However, implementing modern policing, modern management methods and technology has allowed us to become more efficient with fewer personnel.

**Duty of the Sheriff**

The Office of Sheriff is an honored position. The Sheriff’ is not only the chief law enforcement officer of the County, but is charged with being the bridge between the people of the county and law enforcement. The Sheriff’s role is defending the citizens of the county, and the state and U.S. Constitutions. The Sheriff is charged with insuring that everyone’s rights are respected. The Sheriff must ensure that law enforcement doesn’t become oppressive, or intrusive into the rights of the people. At the same time, the Sheriff must use the resources entrusted by the people responsibly for the purpose of maintaining law and order.

However, in these times, the responsibility of sheriff has increased. The Sheriff must also be a manager and business person. The Sheriff has to recruit, hire and train personnel. The Sheriff has to negotiate contracts in order to get the most value for the dollar. The Sheriff must investigate and work to deter crime. The Sheriff not only must oversee deputies and their treatment of the public, but are responsible for the care and treatment of incarcerated individuals.

**Fiscal Responsibility**

It is important for a sheriff’s office to be fiscally responsible. Maintaining a sheriff’s office is not cheap, and in these days, money is in short supply. It is important to be able to make every dollar go as far as possible. The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office has been effective in fiscal management. Sheriff Morse has overseen five sheriff’s office budgets and since receiving the jail, he has overseen four jail budgets. All nine budgets have been balanced with money left over at the end of the year.

**Patrol Division**

In 2015, the Patrol Division was under the leadership of Lieutenant Bryson Wheeler. The patrol division is the backbone of the Sheriff’s Office and responsible for a variety of duties. Patrol deputies are typically uniformed and drive marked patrol vehicles. The patrol division’s function is to respond to calls for service in Jackson County, efficiently use the resources provided to deter crime, patrol Jackson County, enforce traffic laws, interdict narcotics drug trafficking, apprehend fugitives by serving warrants, assist the public, serve civil process, investigate crimes, transport prisoners, serve the court in a variety of ways, and assist other agencies. The Patrol Division deputies work twelve-hour shifts. Three deputies are assigned to each shift. Each shift has a watch commander or shift supervisor. The watch commander is generally based in Zone 2 which encompasses central Jackson County and is based out of the Sheriff’s Office in Holton. Zone 1 is the northern portion of Jackson County and is based out of the Netawaka Sub-Station. Zone 3 is the southern portion of Jackson County and is based out of the Hoyt Sub-Station. The Sheriff and Undersheriff also assist in patrolling Jackson County on a regular basis. The Patrol Division patrols approximately a half a million miles of Jackson County roadways each year.

**Patrol Sub-Stations**

Sub-Stations were developed in 2011 to improve the efficient use of the County’s resources. Sub-Stations allow reports to be completed while deputies remain in their assigned territory, rather than returning to Holton. There is the old saying “there is never a cop around when you need one.” To mitigate that, this procedure keeps deputies closer to calls, reducing response times and conserving fuel. A major decrease in burglaries has been attributed to keeping deputies in patrol zones. In addition, deputies have aggressively pursued suspected burglars and have caught burglars and thieves while the crimes were in progress. Patrol deputies commonly assist other law enforcement agencies. As the Sheriff’s Office is the largest law enforcement agency in Jackson County, the Sheriff’s Office has resources other agencies lack. Patrol deputies assist the Holton Police Department, PBPN Police Department, Mayetta and Hoyt Police Departments. Deputies also assist other agencies as well, including but not limited to: Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas State Department of Wildlife and Tourism, Kansas State Gaming, Department of Children and Families, Juvenile Intake and others.

**Patrol Vehicles**

The Crown Victoria Police Interceptor has been the main vehicle for law enforcement in past years, but ceased manufacture in 2011. Therefore, law enforcement has had to transition to a variety of other vehicles that have been manufactured for law enforcement use. The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office has transitioned to currently using Dodge Chargers, Dodge Pickups, Ford Explorers and Chevy Tahoe’s in addition to Crown Vics. However, in 2016, most of all the old Crown Vic patrol vehicles will be replaced due to high mileage. There are several benefits with this transition. One benefit is a diversified fleet presents the ability to have vehicles for specific functions, such as hauling equipment or property, traveling on rugged terrain and off-road use. Eventually, all Sheriff’s Office vehicles will either be all-wheel drive or four-wheel drive vehicles. It also provides opportunity for greater resale value. When the Sheriff’s Office has sold Crown Vics in the past, it was common not to receive more than $1,000.00 per car. Currently, we expect to receive in the $10,000.00 range at resale for patrol vehicles. This will allow for the ability to spend less each year for vehicles and to keep a younger fleet. A younger fleet will reduce repair expenses and out-of-service time for patrol vehicles. Law enforcement is able to purchase vehicles at a government rate, which is considerably less than what a new vehicle costs private purchasers.

In 2015, an addition to the patrol fleet was added. A Polaris UTV was built and equipped for off-road use. The purpose was to have a vehicle that would be able to be used for manhunts, rescue and other off-road law enforcement uses. In 2015, the vehicle was used to patrol at the new Jackson County Fairgrounds and to apprehend individuals who were suspicioned to be stealing items from vehicles. The vehicle was also used to patrol the Banner Lake area and at the Sheriff’s Kid Camp. The UTV has had extensive use this year in the missing person, Joan Rebar investigation in Jackson, Jefferson and Shawnee Counties.

**K-9 Program**

The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office K-9 Program continues to put the heat on Narco-Traffickers in Jackson County. The program continues to be a big deterrent in keeping drugs out of the schools. Deputies and their K-9 partners regularly search schools within Jackson County for illegal contraband.

**Making a Difference**

Members of the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office Patrol Division have worked diligently to keep Jackson County safe in 2015. While Jackson County is vulnerable to a variety of threats, its deputies work day and night to keep our crime rate low. A strong capable law enforcement presence, along with a reputation of being a no-nonsense law enforcement agency that produces quality and prosecutable investigations, has helped keep crime at a low rate. The most recent KBI statistics show that Jackson County Sheriff’s Office has made more adult arrests than any of six surrounding county agencies.

In **2015**, the Patrol Division either responded to or initiated the following:

**45** - Mental/Suicidal

**846** – Escorts/Transports

**2127** - Civil Process

**842** – Warrants

**2811** – Car stops

**51** – DUIs

**244** – NON injury Accidents

**137** – Injury Accidents

**8** – Structure Fires

**170** – Alarm calls

**29** – Fight calls

**127** – Domestic calls

**50** - Assault/Battery/Harassment

**566** – Animal Calls

**797** – Assist Citizens

**526** – 911 Hang up calls

**106** – Disturbance calls

**495** – Suspicious person / activity

**99** – Juvenile calls

**43** – Sex offenses

**118** – Welfare Checks

**130** – Theft Calls

**837** – Receive Info/ Service Request

**708** – Traffic problems

**4158** – Building / Area Checks

**26** – Illegal Hunting / Criminal Trespass calls

**387** – Back up / Assist other agencies

**30** - Search Warrants

**70** Vandalism / Criminal Damage to Property calls

**23** – Illegal Trash dumps and

**388** – Speak with Deputy calls

**Communications Division**

One of the most impressive sights at the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office is the 911 Communications Center. In 2012, the center was upgraded with state of the art equipment. The Communications Center update was grant-funded. The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office oversees the Communications Division. The Communications Center is staffed 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. The Sheriff’s Office has an authorized workforce of 8 dispatchers. The center receives **all 911 calls** **for the county** and dispatches for the Sheriff’s Office, Jail, 2 police departments, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, KHP, 8 fire departments, and 2 ambulance services.

In 2015, the Communications Center handled **20,248** incidents. Of those incidents the vast majority were law enforcement related.

EMS 1520

Delia Fire 66

Hoyt Fire 629

Mayetta Fire 585

Netawaka Fire 94

Potawatomi Tribal Fire 347

Soldier Fire 80

Whiting Fire 88

Kansas Highway Patrol 106

Wildlife and Parks 90

Jackson County Sheriff 17,962

Potawatomi Tribal Police 425

Holton Police 788

Hoyt Police 612

In 2015, there were a total of **58,545** telephone calls either made or received in the communications center. Of those calls, there were 31,112 incoming administrative calls, 23,593 outgoing administrative calls and 3,840 were 911 calls, of which 787 came from landlines, and 2,529 were wireless. In addition, 43 911 calls were transferred to other agencies and 481 calls were not identified.

**APCO Medical Pre-arrival**

In 2014, JASO acquired its own in-house instructor certified in instructing the APCO Emergency Medical Dispatcher Course. In 2014, all dispatchers were certified as EMD dispatchers. EMD dispatchers are able to give callers medical instructions for those in need prior to EMS arrival. In 2015, a second dispatcher began the EMD instructor course.

**Investigations Division**

The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office Investigations Unit has been productive during 2015. Currently, three investigators are assigned to the unit. The unit primarily focuses on serious felony criminal offenses, while other offenses are investigated by patrol deputies. The unit has been aggressive in pursuing child predators, burglars, public/private corruption, and drug offenders. During the 2015 year, the Jackson County Investigations Division investigated an estimated **138** cases, which is up from 2014’s 114 cases. Of these 138 cases, **32** were burglaries that were and are being investigated (which is a decrease from 2014 by 7 cases). 16 of the 32 burglaries have been cleared and/or solved. This is a clearance rate of **50%, which** is up by 7% from 2014. **Twenty-four** of the cases were theft cases. Of those 24 cases, 16 have been cleared or solved. This gives a clearance rate of **66 %** for theft cases.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's recent clearance statistics (2011), the national average for clearing burglaries is 12.7 % and the Midwest average is 11%, with the non-metropolitan county's average being just an 8.7% clearance rate. Also investigated were 11 theft cases with 3 being solved, or an average of 32% clearance rate. The national average is 21.5 %, with the Midwest average at 21.6% and non-metropolitan counties at 9 %.

The unit investigated **26** sex related cases with all but 4 cleared and those 4 are still under investigation. Six of the 26 were Prison Rape Elimination Act reported incidents. The unit is averaging **100%** clearance rate on sex related crimes reported to the Sheriff's Office.

Investigations conducted **29** narcotics investigations with a **100%** clearance rate. The unit assisted another county sheriff's office to conduct an undercover buy. Suspects in that case were arrested and prosecuted.

Investigations conducted **18** death investigations in 2015. Death investigations can include homicides, unattended deaths, accidental deaths and suicides.

The remaining cases included arson, aggravated battery, aggravated assault, identity theft and financial crimes.

Investigations applied for and received **43** search warrants in 2015, which is an increase from 21 in 2014. Investigations assisted on 11 outside agency search warrants.

Investigations obtained 66 inquisition subpoenas, which is an increase over the 20 done in 2014.

The Jackson County Sheriff’s Investigations Division had over 95 agency assists in 2015. This included the following agencies:

* U.S. Postal Inspectors connecting a drug operation between California and Kansas.
* Federal Bureau of Investigation on a theft case.
* U.S. Marshals in locating fugitives.
* Kansas Highway Patrol on a death investigation concerning a motor vehicle accident.
* Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism on a shooting.
* Assisted Nemaha County by collecting evidence and assisting in identifying burglary suspects.
* Assisted Shawnee County on several burglaries and assisted in locating a person of interest and suspects. Also assisted in a child sex crime investigation.
* Assisted Barton County in a sex crime investigation.
* Assisted Cherokee County in a child sex crime investigation.
* Assisted Atchison County in service of search warrant.
* Assisted Jefferson County with recovery of a stolen vehicle.
* Assisted Potawatomie County with service of search warrant, recovery of stolen property and a child sex crime investigation.
* Assisted Holton Police Department in several cases that included a death investigation, a shooting and a stabbing investigation.
* Assisted Hiawatha PD and Horton PD on a kidnapping and child sex crime investigation.
* Assisted Lawrence PD with service of search warrant and recovered a stolen vehicle.
* Assisted Union Pacific Railroad Police in recovery of stolen property.
* Assisted Mayetta PD in service of 2 narcotic search warrants, collection of evidence and asset forfeitures.

Other agencies assisted by either conducting interviews, assisting on search warrants or tracking down information on witnesses, persons of interest and/or suspects include;

* Marysville PD
* Topeka PD
* Sabetha PD
* Silver Lake PD
* Pryor Oklahoma PD
* Kansas City Missouri PD
* PBP Tribal PD
* Kansas Attorney General's Office

During the 2015, Investigations divided their time in a variety of duties and assignments, ranging from attending training, teaching classes, processing evidence, conducting surveillance, testifying in court and assisting other agencies. Even with these time constraints, Investigations have been able to clear an average of 78% of the five major crimes consisting of Burglary, Theft, Sex Crimes, Narcotic cases and Death Investigations.

**Court Security**

Deputies in 2015 continue to work to keep the courtrooms in Jackson County safe. For a rural county, the Jackson County Courthouse is one of the busiest rural courthouses in Northeast Kansas. The large number of criminal cases presents the opportunity for problems. Deputies maintain order, make arrests and keep the courtrooms weapon free. Sgt. Gary Thiessen is the chief of courthouse security.

**District Court Cases**

The Jackson County District Court has led the 2nd Judicial District for 2015 in a variety of areas. In 2015, Jackson County saw for the first time over 500 criminal cases filed. There were 262 misdemeanor and 243 felony cases filed for the year. Jackson County led the district in felony cases with 243, Jefferson 94, Pottawatomie 157, and Wabaunsee at 7. Jackson County led with 111 DUIs, with Jefferson at 28, Pottawatomie at 40, and Wabaunsee at 25. Again Jackson County led with 175 driving while suspended cases, with Jefferson at 37, Pottawatomie at 85, and Wabaunsee at 36. Jackson County led in the number of limited action cases at 408, compared to Jefferson at 271, Pottawatomie at 232 and Wabaunsee at 101. Jackson County tied with Pottawatomie on juvenile cases at 64, with Jefferson at 32 and Wabaunsee at 13. Jackson County led in child in need of care cases at 68, compared with Jefferson at 35, Pottawatomie at 54 and Wabaunsee at 8. There were 661 traffic cases in the district court.

**Crime Scene Response Team**

The Investigation’s Division oversees the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office Crime Scene Team that was originated in 2014. The team is comprised of deputies who have received specialized training in crime scene investigations, interviewing and interrogations. The team provides the ability for the investigative unit to expand from 3 to 9 investigators for major crime scenes and investigations. In 2015, the Investigations Division, including the Crime Scene Team, received updated crime scene equipment. This equipment provides investigators the use of technology to assist in being able to collect forensic evidence.

**Fire Investigations**

In 2015, the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office Investigations Division had three deputies certified as fire investigators. This certification will aid the Investigations Division to work with the Kansas Fire Marshal’s Office on all fire and arson investigations. This move will provide more needed manpower for these types of cases, since it is common for the fire marshal to cover multiple counties.

**Jail Division**

The Sheriff of Jackson County was responsible for the operation of the jail from the inception of Jackson County and even before, when the County was called Calhoun County in the 1850s. In 2004, a previous sheriff gave control of the jail to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners appointed a director to oversee operations of the jail. In December of 2011, after the jail continued to lose money year after year, and revenues continued to worsen, the Commission rescinded the resolutions that had separated the jail from the Sheriff’s Office.

In 2012, Sheriff Tim Morse was tasked with reducing jail spending and had to make the difficult choice of cutting positions within the jail, while at the same time tightening security measures. The Sheriff cut staffing by 10 and used competitive bidding practices to bring expenses down. Vendors who were comfortable in selling to the county with inflated pricing were dismissed and replaced with vendors who provided reasonable prices. The Jail has earned substantial revenue in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

When the Sheriff inherited the jail, the budget was approximately $500,000.00 in the red for the year. Within the year, the Sheriff was able to reverse these deficits, bringing the budget back into the black. These spending cuts in the jail alone will result in savings of $1.5 million dollars by the conclusion of 2016. In addition, since 2012, the jail has produced over $1.2 million in revenue for the county.

Since the jail had been in economic decline prior to 2012, there were little monies available to make improvements, or even simply to make needed repairs, resulting in a decline in the overall infrastructure of the jail. It was not uncommon to find jail locks and intercoms inoperable. Hundreds of inmates being incarcerated in the jail for over 15 years created a tremendous amount of wear and tear on the facility.

**Jail Facility Improvements 2012-2015**

In 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 massive renovation projects began in the jail. Initially, the renovation of the control center was made. The original control systems were replaced with a state-of-the-art system. The system is the brain of the entire jail. The previous system was plagued with problems and was becoming difficult to keep running. The system was a proprietary system that was no longer being supported. There were cells that had no communication with them and posed a problem if there was need for medical assistance or for other emergencies. The system was replaced with a conventional system where parts are easily available for repair, including the entire intercom system. An additional control center was installed in the sheriff’s office in case of emergencies.

In addition, the internal appearance of the jail was in a state of decline. While the Sheriff is expected to earn a portion of his jail budget from out of county inmate housing, it was becoming difficult to sell the space. This is little different from run down hotels and motels losing business to establishments that are attractive to prospective customers. Sheriffs are responsible for the safety, security and health of inmates in their custody. If a Sheriff or another agency head is faced with placing inmates in other facilities due to capacity overloads, they are not going to place them in places where they feel there are concerns. In recent years, the market for out of county housing is the lowest it has been in years. It is important to be as marketable as possible if one plans to get a portion of the inmate housing business.

In 2014, after having another profitable year, it was decided to spend earned monies, from the operation of the jail, to fix some of the problems with the jail. The kitchen was in poor condition and had been a concern to outside agencies housing inmates in Jackson County. The kitchen contained four ovens, of which only one was operational. Three meals were being prepared daily for a daily average of 80 inmates. Therefore, the entire kitchen was gutted. A new ceiling system was installed, along with flooring in the kitchen, laundry, booking room, multi-purpose room and hallways. The areas were painted and doors were refinished and painted. All kitchen appliances, including ovens, refrigerator and freezers were replaced. In 2015, the jail population rose to 117 inmates, with 70 local inmates, which to date is the highest number of local inmates ever in Jackson County.

Another important accomplishment was made in 2014 for the security of the jail. One of the failures with the mid-90s jail construction plan was the lack of sally port type security entrances or secure vestibules. All modern jails and prisons have sally port entrances. A sally port is a two door system, much like an air lock on a ship. When someone passes the first door, the first door must lock before the second door unlocks. This prevents someone from escaping when one of the exterior doors is unlocked. The original layout of the jail had 3 entrances to the jail. This provided an opportunity for escape when an inmate was in the booking room or a hallway and one of the exterior doors was opened. If that inmate wanted to, they could run toward the door and overpower a person coming in the door and be out on the street.

In 2014, renovations were done to making our jail more secure, by installing sally port type entrances on all 3 entrances. Again, these enhancements were paid for by monies earned in 2013 from out of county housing, not tax receipts.

In 2015, a number of upgrades were made in the jail. These upgrades provided the jail with more control of the facility and improved security. A correctional plumbing enhancement was completed to the facility in 2015. The new system gave the control room complete control of the plumbing of the entire facility. The enhancement limited the water usage of inmates. Prior to the upgrade, some inmates would repeatedly flush toilets causing a tremendous over-usage of water. Inmates have also flooded cells, causing disruption in the jail. When a toilet is flushed with the new system more than twice within five minutes, the toilet is then locked down. The toilet will remain locked down for an hour unless it is overridden by the control center. Showers were placed on timers and the control room was given the ability to control all the plumbing in each cell and every pod in the complex. This has resulted in a savings of water and sewer usage. In addition, when shakedowns or cell inspections are conducted, all plumbing is disabled to prevent contraband from being flushed.

Another situation that could have dampened our inmate housing business was the condition of the jail showers. Showers were a concern in a 2014 inspection. Again, agencies who house inmates in other facilities do not want to place inmates where there are issues. Renovating the showers became a priority, and all were renovated and updated in 2015.

Also, in 2015, upgrades were made to the video surveillance system within the jail. Cameras were placed in blind spots throughout the jail, enabling more areas to be monitored.

**Control Room Door Relocation**

Another modification was made to the original design of the jail in 2015. The control room door had previously opened into a hallway that surrounds the jail control room. The hallway is used to move inmates throughout the facility between pods, the recreation yard, the medical room and booking. Simple human error could create a situation where inmates might gain access to the control center. In 2012, the county jail in Ottawa County was overtaken by inmates who made their way into the control room. Although, though this has never happened in Jackson County, it was a weak point in jail security. The door was moved between two doors or the sally port. The sally port was installed the year prior. This made the control room inaccessible to inmates by creating two barriers to get through to enter the control room. A small pass-thru port was installed to allow for the ability of passing items between the control room and the hallway.

It is important that we maintain our facility and prevent further disrepair. In 2015, portions of the outer facility’s stone work was treated and sealed to prevent moisture penetration. In addition, the Sheriff’s Office building was painted. The outer jail is scheduled to be painted in the spring of 2016. In 2015, A, B, C, D and E Pods were painted for the first time in years. The recreation yard and sally port were also painted. This has provided a much cleaner and brighter look to the inside of the facility.

**New Inmate Housing Contract in 2015**

In 2015, a new housing contract was obtained with the Kansas Department of Corrections. The Sheriff’s Office reached out to KDOC and invited their staff to inspect our facility and began discussing the possibility of housing inmates for the State of Kansas. After a security audit of the facility, and an inspection of policies and procedures, a contract was signed between the Sheriff and the Secretary of Corrections. Since June of 2015, Jackson County has been housing KDOC inmates. The relationship between the Sheriff’s Office and KDOC has been very favorable and the county has benefited with this relationship in a variety of ways. Not only has it produced more revenue for the county, but, other opportunities have opened up with this new relationship. Since there is not a formal corrections officer academy in the state, corrections officers throughout the state receive very minimal training. KDOC has opened up their 5-week training academy to Jackson County for our corrections officers at no cost to the county. The jail can be the biggest liability risk to the sheriff’s office, but proper training of correctional employees can reduce liability.

It was quite evident by 2015, that the improvements to the jail facility were starting to pay off. Improved security, improved procedures and facilities have helped to increase housing revenues for the county. These changes have helped place Jackson County in a much better financial position than in the years past. In 2015, 1,441 individuals were booked into the Jackson County Jail, inmates from outside agencies. The jail earned $496,074.03 in 2015 for out-of-county inmate housing.

**Advanced Correctional Healthcare**

Sheriffs are responsible for the needs of those incarcerated in jails. Those needs include the cost of inmate healthcare. The primary reason for jail lawsuits are healthcare related issues. The Jail had received services from community health care for the treatment of inmates, until late in 2013. While the care with community healthcare was good, there were many things lacking for the correctional setting. Corrections officers were without training or protocols to handle medical situations. In addition, inmates were receiving comfort drugs at taxpayers’ expense. It is the responsibility of the Sheriff to address actual healthcare issues for inmates. However, it should not be the responsibility to place the burden of these expenses on the taxpayers for unneeded care. At times, inmates were being prescribed extremely high priced medications that made them sleep through their jail experience at taxpayer expense.

Late in 2013, the Jail switched to correctional healthcare. This move reduces the medical liability for Jackson County and increases responsibility for the healthcare provider. Corrections officers are trained in handling medical incidents and are provided guidelines and protocols to follow. A doctor is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to refer to and provide medical direction. Doctors make periodic visits to the jail and treat inmates as needed. A nurse is on site 5 days a week and is in charge of documentation and tending to the medical needs of inmates. The cost of prescribed medications is provided by the healthcare company as part of the contract. This move reduces the liability on the taxpayers, reduces the load on corrections staff and provides adequate healthcare to inmates who receive what they medically need. Now that we have had this relationship with Advanced Correctional Healthcare for over two years, we have seen the tremendous benefits with this move. Not only have we shifted much of the county’s liability to that of the healthcare provider, but we have reduced outside inmate healthcare costs to taxpayers.

**City Tele-Coin**

In 2013, another change in vendors occurred. The jail had been doing business for many years with Securus which provided the inmate telephone system. In June of 2014, the contract with Securus ended. An agreement was signed with City Tele-coin which provided a more beneficial package for Jackson County. In the agreement the jail would receive 62% of the phone revenue, increasing from the previous 40%. Jackson County also received the installation of a new video visitation system at no cost. City Tele-Coin allows easier access for the monitoring of inmate phone calls for investigators, and provides minute by minute monitoring of inmate usage and telephone revenue. In 2015, the Jackson County Jail received over $51,000.00 in revenue from the inmate phone system alone.

**Turnkey Video Visitation**

The decrease of jail personnel numbers in 2012 created more duties for corrections officers. Since then, there have been changes that have reduced the workload of corrections officers to allow them to tend to security needs. One of the responsibilities of corrections officers had been supervising inmate visitation. This required inmates to be moved to a visitation area and required extra supervision, as well as the setting up of appointments by staff. In 2014, the jail moved to video visitation. The agreement made with City Tele-coin provided for installation of video visitation equipment in the jail with **no cost to county taxpayers**. The former inmate phone provider, Securus offered a similar package, although with a cost of $50,000.00 to the county.

Video visitation allows visitors to visit from home regardless of their location via the internet. It also expanded the opportunities for inmate visits. Prior to this, visitation only occurred at designated hours on Saturdays and Sundays. Now, visitation can occur every day of the week, and with more flexible hours. It also provides visitation in the jail lobby, while allowing the inmate to remain in their designated area. This has reduced the workload of staff has allowed them to focus on other correctional duties by limiting inmate movement in the facility.

**Tiger Commissary**

Commissary is a program in jails nationwide in which inmates can purchase items that are not provided by the jail. In 2013, the Sheriff’s Office signed with Tiger Commissary to handle inmate commissary needs for the jail. Previously, the jail contracted with Wichita Canteen. However, correctional staff was required to take orders from inmates and order commissary products. In addition, staff was required to handle inmate accounts. Tiger Commissary provides an online portal that allows inmates to make orders from telephones in the jail. This reduces work load for corrections officers allowing them to focus more on their jail duties.

Tiger also provides online access and a kiosk in the jail lobby to allow friends and family to place money on the accounts of inmates, and also provides the ability to purchase care packages. Tiger Commissary also handles the accounting for inmate accounts. Not only has the new commissary system reduced the work load on corrections officers and staff, allowing them to focus on other jail duties, but it has increased revenue to the inmate welfare fund.

**Inmate Welfare Revenue**

The inmate welfare fund is a fund that was created for the purpose of taking care of the needs of inmates. Monies in the inmate welfare fund pay for items that have a direct benefit to inmates, like inmate clothing, hygiene items and bedding. The funds are derived from profits from inmate commissary and other inmate sources such as the inmate telephone system. In 2014, Sheriff Morse negotiated a contract with a new inmate phone provider, and in 2013 negotiated with Tiger Commissary, to increase revenues for the jail. These new changes have produced revenues of over **$102,000.00,** most of which was added to the inmate welfare fund in 2015. Over $51,000.00 were from the inmate phone system alone. Inmate monies have supported many of needs of inmates without having to use taxpayer money.

**PREA**

Since 2013, the Jackson County Jail has been implementing the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 Policies and Procedures. PREA was designed to reduce and prevent sexual assaults and sexual harassment in prisons and jails. The Act provides for an assortment of safeguards to be put in place to help reduce and deter sexual assault in jails. In order for jails to be able to house federal or state prisoners, jails must be PREA compliant and deemed to be so by a PREA auditor. In 2015, the jail has been preparing for the final audit and received a mock PREA audit in preparation for certification.

**NEW WEBSITE**

In 2015, the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office unveiled their new internet website. The website provides a large amount of information to the public reducing calls to the sheriff’s office for general information. The website provides contact information, information about the various divisions of the sheriff’s office, information regarding the inmate telephone, visitation and commissary services. It also provides a jail roster of currently housed inmates, and a listing of nearly 1000 Jackson County wanted subjects. Warrants are listed by statute for the purpose of encouraging the person named in the warrant to voluntarily surrender. The site also features information concerning concealed carry, registered offenders, VIN inspections, Kid’s Camp, the Jackson County Community Watch Program and Sheriff’s Office Alerts sign up procedure. The website provides information on sheriff sales, sheriff office employment opportunities, media releases and Offender Watch access. The website can be found at [www.jasoks.org](http://www.jasoks.org).

**Sheriff App for Smart Phones**

Another addition in 2015 has been the new Jackson County Sheriff’s App. This application is available for smart phones and provides much of the same information that is found on the JASO website. Although there are some unique features that are not available to the website. The Sheriff’s App provides the user the ability to send a tip to law enforcement. It also provides the ability of taking a photo and sending it along with the tip to the sheriff’s office. The App also allows for receiving alerts directly from the sheriff’s office. This sheriff’s app is a second piece of the Jackson County Community Watch Program and gives the Watch Program member the ability of sending their observations to the Sheriff’s Office.

**Jackson County Community Watch Program**

Another goal was reached in 2015 regarding the Jackson County Community Watch Program. The program was instituted for the purpose of reducing crime and partnering with the citizens of Jackson County in keeping Jackson County a safe and great place to live. The program has increased the number of eyes in the community watching out for criminal activity. The sheriff’s office provides alerts to its members of potential criminal activity to be on the lookout for. These members have been nicknamed the **“Electronic Posse.”** In 2015, this group has **grown to over 10% of the population** of Jackson County, resulting in more than one in every ten people in Jackson County partnering with the Sheriff’s Office in an effort to help keep an eye out for crime. This program has been instrumental in reducing crime, solving crimes and the apprehension of criminals in Jackson County.

**School Resource Officer**

In 2015, the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office reintroduced its School Resource Program. The Sheriff’s Office had not provided a school resource program for over ten years prior. In the past, the Sheriff’s Office provided school resource deputies to all three school districts and even provided services to the former Delia Grade School. The PBP Nation had provided a very successful school resource program for a number of years to the Royal Valley District. After hearing of the officer’s decision to leave, the Sheriff’s Office was able to absorb the PBP Nation program under the Sheriff’s Office. Since then, some of these services have expanded to other districts, with more services that will be made available by the Sheriff’s Office in 2016.

**Communications Tower**

Currently, the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office, Jackson County Road and Bridge and Jackson County Fire and EMS Departments are using two separate communications towers for radio communications. The current method of supplying back up power during power outages is somewhat inadequate and inefficient. Presently, during power outages, law enforcement delivers portable generators to the tower sites and connects them to the communication systems. For extended periods, law enforcement must monitor and add fuel to keep the systems functioning. Currently, a study is being conducted to determine if all communications equipment can be moved to one tower, and then a permanent generator could be added to the site for backup power. The Circleville Communications Tower hosts a Sheriff’s Office repeater and a Road and Bridge Repeater. The company that owned the tower, Kansas Broadband acquired it through a purchase of assets. The Sheriff’s Office negotiated a purchase price for the tower at $7,000.00. To have built a new 300’ foot tower could have cost over $100,000.00. The county previously spent approximately $10,000.00 per year renting space on the tower. This purchase eliminates the need for the county to pay rent each year. The savings from the purchase in one year would pay for a permanent and more dependable backup generator. The purchase money for the tower came from VIN fees that the Sheriff’s Office received from VIN inspections.

**Bi-Directional Amp System**

Over four years ago, the Sheriff’s Office, as has many other law enforcement agencies, moved primarily to 800 MHz for communications. However, like all systems, 800 MHz has some limitations. One of those limitations is the ability to communicate inside the Sheriff’s Office and Jail facility. In 2015, a bi-directional amp system was installed in order for communications to work within the facility. Deputies will be able to hear calls that are dispatched and communicate within and out of the facility. In 2016, the Jail plans to move entirely to 800 MHz. Corrections officers will be able to communicate with the control center, dispatch and to transporting jail units across the entire state.

**Technology Enhancements**

In 2015, the Sheriff’s Office updated computer servers, since the old server’s operating system was no longer supported by Microsoft. Also, added were new switches and routers to increase speed and security within the department. In addition, new IT services with Huber & Associates started which also provide off site storage of data, with new, secure and reliable email services.

**Project A.C.T. (Addressing Crime Together)**

The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office applied for and received a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant aimed to provide direct services to victims of crime in Jackson County. The Victims of Crime Act, passed in 1984 under President Ronald Reagan, created the Victims of Crime Act Fund, or VOCA Fund, to be a protected and dedicated source of funding for crime victim programs. The VOCA Fund does not depend on taxpayer dollars – it is derived from fines and penalties on offenders at the federal level. VOCA dollars are distributed to the states to support two important types of programs: crime victim compensation programs, which pay many of the out-of-pocket expenses incurred by victims as a result of crime, and victim assistance programs, which provide victims with support and guidance in the aftermath of crime. Nearly 4 million victims a year are served by more than 4,000 local and state victim service agencies funded by VOCA. In Kansas, the Governors Grant Program administers these funds to qualifying agencies. The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office is one of only a few of law enforcement agencies receiving this type of grant funding in Kansas.

**Grant staffing**

In October 2015, after receiving notice of the grant award, Sheriff Tim Morse appointed Lisa Hyten to head up Project ACT and to serve as the new Victim Service Coordinator to staff this grant project. Lisa Hyten comes to this project with over 15 years of experience providing direct services to individuals and families facing struggles. She has extensive experience working with victims of crime both at the local and state level. She was also the Kansas Attorney General’s recipient of the outstanding community based advocate of the year award in 2013. This position is housed within and overseen by the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office.

**Grant purpose**

The purpose of the Victim Service Coordinator is to respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims, assist primary and secondary victims of crime to stabilize their lives after victimization, as well as assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system. This grant program provides assistance to victims of all kinds of crime, including victims of assault, robbery, intoxicated drivers, fraud, elder abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, survivors of homicide, and many others. These services are available to Jackson County residents during crisis situations as well as throughout the criminal justice process, at no cost to victims. Since starting the project in late October 2015, we have served 31 Jackson County residents coping with a variety of crimes.

**Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence is an epidemic in our nation affecting people of all walks of life, regardless of age, economic status, gender, race, religion, or nationality. It is usually associated with emotionally abusive and controlling behaviour. Domestic violence can result in physical and psychological trauma, and in some cases, death. Domestic violence can have devastating lifelong physical, emotional, and psychological consequences. The Sheriff’s Office over the years has worked to reduce domestic violence in our community, by having a zero tolerance for domestic violence. Not only have we teamed with victim services to provide the tools needed for surviving the aftermath of domestic violence, but we have improved the quality of domestic violence investigations. The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office in 2012, 2013 and 2014 led the four county Kansas Second Judicial District on the percentage of domestic violence arrests. In 2014, Jackson County Sheriff’s led the surrounding six counties in the percentage of domestic violence arrests. The statistics for 2015 have not yet been made available by the Kansas Bureau of Investigations.

**Registered Offenders**

In 2015, the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office supervised and monitored 42 registered offenders. Revenue of $2,720.00 was collected from Jackson County offenders for registration fees.

**Civil Process**

In 2015, the Sheriff’s Office served 2,904 papers for the District Court of Jackson County. Revenue derived from civil process was $13,440.00. In 2014, 2,854 papers were served with revenue amounting to $14,415.00. In 2015, 986 summons, 1,274 subpoenas, 70 tax warrants, 18 show cause orders, 5 writs of assistance, 345 orders to appear, 39 citations in contempt, 119 garnishments and 48 protection orders were served by deputies.

**VIN Inspections**

Deputies performed 740 vehicle identification number inspections in 2015. These inspections resulted in receipts of $13,320.00. In 2014, $13,302.00 was collected.

**Concealed Carry**

Conceal carry permits dropped dramatically from the year prior, following the Kansas legislature easing restrictions on concealed carry. In 2015, 16 permits were issued comparted to 57 in 2014. This year only $520.00 was collected compared to $1,852.00 in 2014. The sheriff collects $32.50 for each concealed carry application.

**Fingerprints**

The Sheriff’s Office fingerprinted 65 individuals for employment or background purposes. The Sheriff’s Office collected $650.00 for fingerprints.

**Reports**

The Sheriff’s Office collected $950.00 for copies of reports.

**Sheriff Sales**

The Sheriff’s Office conducted 13 sheriff sales and earned revenue from the sales of $97.50.

**Special Law Enforcement Fund**

In 2015, $20,220.91 was added to the special law enforcement fund from asset forfeitures.

**14th Annual Jackson County Sheriff’s Office Day Camp**

The first Sheriff's Day Camp began in 2001 and has been successful in building strong relationships between the law enforcement community and the youths of our county.

Approximately 230 Jackson County children participated in the 14th annual Jackson County Sheriff's Office Day Camp at Banner Lake Reservoir near Holton on August 6th and 7th. The Sheriff's Day Camp featured the following events and activities: An emergency vehicle demonstration and display, including fire trucks, ambulance, law enforcement vehicles, and an armored swat truck. Emergency responders demonstrated their equipment and techniques, including a Jaws of Life demonstration, a K-9 illegal drug detection demonstration, Kansas Highway Patrol Helicopter landing and vehicle roll over demonstration.

Kids also were able to participate in a nature walk, fishing, canoeing, demonstration at the Banner Creek Observatory and Science Center, swimming, go carts, boating, Triple Lane Fun Run, Wipe Out and Star Defender Dome.

Numerous volunteers including some elected and local governmental officials assisted with the camp including:

The Jackson County Commissioners, Jackson County Appraiser’s Office, Jackson County Attorney’s Office, Jackson County Emergency Management, Jackson County Road and Bridge Department, Jackson County Treasurer's Office, Jackson County Clerk's Office, Jackson County EMS, Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism, Topeka Police Swat Team, KDWPT Archery in the Schools, Potawatomi Tribal Police and Fire Department, Holton Army National Guard, City of Holton, Holton Police Department, Kansas Highway Patrol and Aircraft Unit, Delia Fire Department, Hoyt Fire Department, Holton Fire Department, Netawaka Fire Department, Metropolitan Topeka Airport Authority, Banner Creek Reservoir, Banner Creek Observatory and Science Center, Honey Do’s Septic Tank and Drain, Walmart, Holton Lion’s Club, Bikers Against Child Abuse, Chris Etzel, Attorney at Law, Gary Salts, Gene and Sandy Williams and the men and women of the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office assisted with or sponsored the event.

The 2016 Sheriff’s Day Camp will be held August 4th and 5th. Registration forms can be found on the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office website at [www.jasoks.org](http://www.jasoks.org) and they will be available starting May 1st, at the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office located at 210 US Hwy 75, Holton, Kansas.

**Positives and Negatives**

2015, like most years, presented many positive situations, but also a number of tragic incidents. While the Sheriff’s Office continued to move forward in 2015, there were a several devastating situations that occurred. Long time Jackson County and PBP Nation resident, 70-year-old Joan Rebar went missing on September 26th of 2015 from a Jefferson County VFW. PBPN Police received a report of Ms. Rebar’s disappearance. The Sheriff’s Office began working with agencies in an attempt to assist Jefferson County and to find Ms. Rebar and her silver 2005 Chrysler Pacifica. The Sheriff assembled a multi-jurisdictional task force made up of local and state investigators to investigate the disappearance of Rebar. Hundreds of man hours have been spent searching for Rebar by law enforcement. In addition, hundreds of volunteers have assisted in the search for Ms. Rebar. As of date, there have been no solid leads in determining Ms. Rebar’s whereabouts. If anyone has any information in regards to Ms. Rebar’s disappearance or her whereabouts, contact the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office immediately at 785-364-2251.

In 2015, the Sheriff’s Office investigated a multitude of child sex crimes. These situations cause irreparable damage to their victims. In December, Horton resident, Dallas Bond entered a no contest plea to one count of felony aggravated indecent liberties with a child. Bond was accused of taking a 9-year-old child from Brown County to a Jackson County motel for sexual purposes. Sentencing is to take place in February 1st, 2016. Jackson County Attorney, Shawna Miller has stated the standard sentence on the charge is life, without the possibility of parole for 25 years.

A Jackson County jury convicted Filip Rosario of two counts of aggravated criminal sodomy and one count each of rape, aggravated kidnapping, aggravated battery and criminal threat. Rosario was reported to have raped and kidnapped a Holton woman. Rosario was sentenced to 65 years in prison.

In the later part of 2015, The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office and the Potawatomi Tribal Police Department investigated the stabbing death of Leann Sanchez. The suspect in the case was arrested and is currently awaiting trial.

In August, the unexpected loss of Judge Michael Ireland crippled the district court for months thereafter. Judge Ireland served Jackson County for much of his career in serving as an attorney, county attorney and Judge of the Jackson County District Court.

In November, there was the untimely death of former Undersheriff Danny L. Howerton. Danny had served starting as a Dispatcher, Deputy Sheriff, Sergeant of Patrol and Undersheriff. Danny served over 22 years with the Sheriff’s Office.

It is important for the people of Jackson County to be aware of the accomplishments and the work that their Sheriff’s Office does on their behalf. We are very fortunate to have great men and women serving the citizens of our county. They are on duty 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. They are working to keep your family and property safe while you are working, playing or asleep.

Even though our county is small in population, we have big threats to the quality of life we all enjoy here. We are near a metropolitan area, a capital city where capital crimes are common place. If we drop our guard, if we stop being proactive, our crime rate will quickly double and even triple. The peaceful rural life we share will quickly erode.

Our law enforcement officers and deputies appreciate your unparalleled support. These are dangerous times among dangerous people. Since 2012, the Topeka Police Department has lost three fine officers who were slain while serving their public. While some tend to believe that we in rural law enforcement are much safer than in the city, that belief is not true, our nearest back up can be 30 miles away. Our deputies risk their lives every single day, every time they step out of the patrol unit and approach a driver. Each time they respond to a call, their lives are on the line. Especially, when you consider the two men that killed the three Topeka Police Officers had both lived right here in Jackson County. They both had been previously arrested here in Jackson County by our deputies. Unfortunately, there is crime and there is evil in every community, but in order to triumph over evil, it is important to have great law enforcement officers waging the battle. Don’t forget to pray for the safety of our soldiers serving our country and for our deputies and police officers right here at home who are fighting crime and defeating evil.

We are honored to serve the citizens of Jackson County and will need your continued participation and support to keep crime in check and your community safe.