

HIGHLANDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INTEGRITY

QUALITY SERVICE

PROFESSIONALISM



VISION

Our vision is a safer Highlands County where citizens and law enforcement are joined together; the rights of all persons are respected; and community values are reflected.

MISSION

The Highlands County Sheriff's Office is committed to responding to the needs of its community through the delivery of professional services. Our mission is to protect life, property, and individual rights while maintaining peace and order.

GOALS

- Create safer neighborhoods by reducing criminal activity and conditions that foster crime and fear within the community.
- Enhance the safety of Highlands County roadways by reducing traffic-related crashes and deaths.
- Increase accountability by effective and efficient use of personnel, equipment, and technology to meet or exceed community and state standards for service delivery and organizational performance.
- Provide a professional work environment that attracts and retains a diverse group of quality applicants, rewards employee excellence, and promotes leadership, education, and training.

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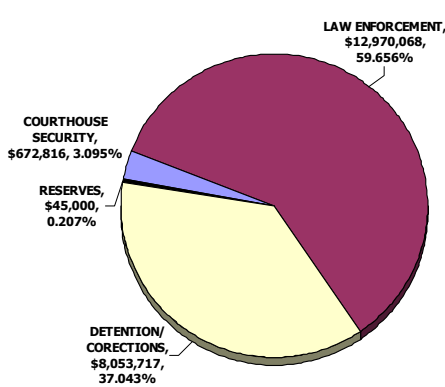
July 2005 - 3rd Qtr

2005/2006 BUDGET

PRIORITIES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

EXCERPTS FROM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, SHERIFF SUSAN BENTON

As you know we have embraced a newly defined vision for the Highlands County Sheriff's Office (left). Within our Strategic Operations Plan, the Highlands County Sheriff's Office accepts the challenges of providing extraordinary public service to the residents of Highlands County. I am proud to serve as your new Sheriff, and I am eager to implement the enhancements to agency operations that you, the community, have so clearly expressed during the past year. In response to anticipated growth and to meet the changing needs of our community, the Highlands County Sheriff's Office has implemented an agency-wide reorganization to ensure that staff and resources are directed to



meet emerging public safety needs. We will undergo many changes in our use of personnel and technology as we take on new crime fighting strategies to keep drug dealers, gangs, those that would abuse our elders and children, and those that would rob us of our personal security from operating within Highlands County. As our citizens have identified key public safety priorities and we have set our goals through the Strategic Operations Plan, we have submitted requests for additional personnel, the implementation of a pay plan for sworn staff,

technology upgrades, and inmate management. The most significant increase you will see is for the addition of sworn law enforcement/detention personnel to meet the expansion needs in the detention facility, as well as a structured pay plan for all sworn deputies. While any organization can only be as good as its members, this is especially true for law enforcement. Citizens have the right to expect the highest standards of integrity, quality service, and professionalism from those who take the oath to protect and serve. Law enforcement, on the other hand, has the responsibility to earn the trust and respect of our community every day. We submitted our budget request and commit that all due diligence has been taken to provide a high level of service while balancing identified public safety needs with the efficient expenditure of our citizens' tax dollars.



**Administrative
Command Staff**

Sheriff Susan Benton

Administration

**Lisa McGehee
Chief of Staff**

**Director Kathy Fluharty
Human Resources**

**Director Angela Bollinger
Budget Office**

**Teddi Keefer
Purchasing Agent**

**Anita Worden
Finance Manager**

**Director Will Mitchell
Information Services**

Planning & Research

Court Services

**Mike Durham
Legal Counsel**

**Lt. Gus Garcia
Court Security
Internal Affairs**

**Director Heather Carr
Judicial Process**

COURT BAILIFF'S DELIVER VALUABLE SERVICES — EXERPTS FROM SUMMARY SUBMITTED BY SERGEANT LISA PORTZ

Few realize the impact bailiff's have on the safety and security of the courtrooms, citizens and Judiciary. Until recent events brought attention to the potential vulnerabilities of our systems, few realized that judges and courtrooms have increasingly become targets of violence. The primary responsibility of bailiff's is to provide security at the courthouse. They are charged with not only maintaining order throughout the courthouse facility, but also ensuring that inmates on court dockets are

brought to the courthouse for hearings and trials. Bailiff's take persons into custody who are sentenced to jail or prison as well as serve active warrants on persons who are in court. Bailiffs assigned to the security station scan all persons and their belongings coming into the courthouse. A survey in May 2005, showed more than 13,000 people passed through the security system. By far the most important task is to assure the safety and security of the courtrooms. Bailiff's must constantly scan the en-

vironment for potential threat, review best practices in security activities, and, in the wake of increased funding constraints, create strategies for leveraging resources to respond to the ever increasing needs of our judiciary system. Court safety and security is a national issue that is being addressed by the National Center for State Courts and the National Sheriff's Association. Their findings and recommendations will be available in Fall 2005.

**DEPUTIES & YOUTH...
BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER**



In cooperation with the Highlands District Schools, the Department of Juvenile Justice and Heartland Workforce, the Sheriff's Office works with youth at the Academy at Youth Care Lane. This program is an alternative to expulsion and teams academic,

counseling, consequences of crime curriculum, and behavioral modification in the form of a boot camp style affective curriculum. During the summer, a course was developed to assist students to recover lost credits. Part of the course requires the students to give back to their community. A partnership was developed with Habitat for Humanity: deputies work along side our youth to build a home as their community service project. Our kids and deputies are building futures both for our kids and the family who will live in the new home!



**QUARTERLY INFORMATION—ADMINISTRATION
& COURT SERVICES**

New Members	16	Court Related Services:	
Applications Processed this Qtr	44	Cases In Court	7819
Background Investigations	23	Inmates Taken to Court	1199
Budget Amendments Processed	24	Security Scans (May only)	13,000
Payroll Checks Processed	1030		
Payable Checks Processed	1909		
Citizens Fingerprinted	410		
Member Training Hours	2077		
Information Services Requests	488		
Purchase Orders Issued	436		
Purchase Order Total	\$ 450,956		



**Public Safety
Highlight
Crime Prevention
Celebrating 25 Years**

In the 1970s, most folks felt there was nothing anyone could really do about crime. But by now, people know that becoming active in the neighborhood and community can help prevent crime. Twenty-five years of McGruff and the National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign (NCCPC) have made a big difference. In the late 1970s, a group of concerned citizens believed that citizens, working individually and collectively, could team with police to prevent crime. This group, consisting of government policymakers, law enforcement leaders, business people, labor leaders, and philanthropists, banded together in the name of crime prevention. From these efforts the group, realizing the power of the media, put together a campaign emphasizing positive up-beat message of crime prevention, rather than the fear that normally is associated with crime. This is where the "Take a Bite out of Crime" slogan came in with the character of McGruff who was named in early 1980. McGruff's ads encouraged common sense steps to ensure home and personal safety to reduce crime. In the 90's with changing times, the campaigns began to address the effects of gun-related violence on children. In the new millennium, the focus has been on tackling new issues in crime prevention, most notably, community preparedness. McGruff has come a long way and will continue fighting crime in this new century.



QUARTERLY INFORMATION—LAW ENFORCEMENT

Calls for service	9,007	Crime Scene Lab Cases	76
Traffic Citations Issued	1,584	Investigations Assigned	270
K-9 Searches	28	Investigations Closed	191
K-9 Apprehensions	28	Affidavits Filed Total Charges	361
Judicial Process Services	2,844	Special Operations Investigations	69
Warrants: Received	858	Narcotic Arrests by Task Force	109
Served	719	Business Security Surveys	3
Active	4,823	Neighborhood Watch Presentations	8
Property/Evidence Intake Items	2,191		

QUARTERLY INFORMATION—DETENTION

Booked into Jail	1,695	Alcohol Breath Tests	66
Released from Jail	1,496	Inmate Visitations	3,929
Inmate Program Hours	10,354	Average Daily Population	414
Inmate Transport Miles	30,111	Inmate Medical Services	102,612
Transports to State Prison	73	Medical Fees Charged	\$173,111
Transports to INS	2	Medical Fees Collected	\$12,235
Community Maint. Participants	442	Subsistence Fees Charged	\$61,300
Dollars Saved in Labor	\$90,206	Subsistence Fees Collected	\$17,587
Dollars Collected in Fees	\$9,725	Inmate Per-Diem Charged	\$15,014
Inmate Meals Served	111,834	Inmate Per-Diem Collected	\$8,837
Average Cost per Day	\$2.06	Labor Hours by Trustees S/O	1,317
Inmate Farm Produce lbs	10,903	Labor Hours by Trustees	3,674
Inmate Farm Eggs Harvested (DZ)	5,695		

Joint Agencies Commit to Continued Regional Narcotics Task Force Activities

The Highlands County Sheriff's Office continues to join forces with state, local, and municipal agencies for the eighth consecutive year in an effort to combat the increasing growth in manufacturing, use, and distribution of narcotics. The Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force will continue to investigate the possession, sale and large scale trafficking of narcotics. The primary agencies involved

are the Drug Enforcement Administration, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Highlands, Okeechobee, and Glades County Sheriff's Offices, and Avon Park, Sebring, Lake Placid Police Departments. The team members entered into a Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement on June 30, 2005. The Task Force has consistently met all operational goals as outlined in the grant agreement.

Pictured Below: Front row seated from left to right, Lake Placid Police Chief Phil Williams, Okeechobee County Sheriff Paul May, Stephen Houchin, Assistant State Attorney, 10th Circuit, Glades County Sheriff Stuart Whiddon. Back row, left to right, Lt. Robert Duncan, Highlands County Sheriff's Office Task Force, Tony Cooper, Special Agent in Charge of Drug Enforcement Administration, Highlands County Sheriff Susan Benton, Sebring Police Chief Tom Dettman, Special Agent Supervisor John King, FDLE, Avon Park Police Chief Frank Mecurio, and Captain Jeff Barfield, Highlands County Sheriff's Office.



HIGHLANDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Susan Benton, Sheriff

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SEBRING, FL 33870
OFFICE: (863) 402-7200

For summaries of laws passed in 2005 that are of interest to the Florida law enforcement community, visit <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us>