

From the Sheriff:

Very often I am asked by residents of our county cities what they get for their real estate taxes they pay to support county services. More specifically what the Sheriff's Dept. provides in the areas of law enforcement when they have their own Police Department? The answer is fairly simple. All citizens of the county pay an equal share of taxes for Sheriff's Department operations regardless of whether or not you have a local police force or not. These costs are associated with running our Dodge County Detention Facility and services the Sheriff's Dept. must provide by State Statute. Services include civil process, warrants, inmate transports, court security, sheriff's sales, and rural law enforcement services.

One of the areas that continue to rise is inmate transports. Transports include those arrested on warrants inside and outside Dodge County, juvenile detentions, and mental commitments etc. The Sheriff's Dept. has two-employees dedicated full-time for transportation, when not transporting, which is seldom, they serve civil process Those arrested outside the State of Wisconsin are usually contracted to a nationwide transport service who can transport that prisoner back at a lower cost than sending our own employees.

I took a look at our 2005 numbers to date and find them very high again this year. Thus far our two-person Transport Division has transported 906 prisoners over 97,158 miles. This required 2,229 man-hours to complete these transports. Of the 906 transports, 120 were for juvenile offenders for a total of 11,094 miles. The miles per transport are higher for juveniles because facilities to secure these offenders are outside Dodge County, usually Washington or Waukesha County, at times as far as La Crosse. These transports task us heavily as often time Patrol Deputies must be sent late at night to pick-up a prisoner arrested in another county. This takes that deputy off his primary responsibility of traffic enforcement for his/her shift.

No, these transports should not be confused with those that we conduct out of our Dodge County Detention Facility (DCDF). We have been very successful in our cooperation of our federal partners and holding federal inmates under a contract with the Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Marshall's Service. We will generate between \$6-7 million in 2005 providing these vital services. This great windfall to the county taxpayers requires our personnel to travel the Midwest delivering or picking up these inmates. ALL the costs associated with providing these transport services are paid for by the federal jurisdiction of the inmate.

Thus far in 2005, the transport team of the DCDF conducted 979 trips and logged 212,899 miles. The majority of these trips are daily back and forth to the Chicago area. These transports are a great revenue producer for us as we use retired and part-time law enforcement officers for these transports. Dodge County is leading the state in this area as we are know for providing a very responsive service to the federal government and running a very professional facility. I commend out DCDF staff often for these additional responsibilities. On any given day, our DCDF population includes as many as 290 federal inmates, generating daily revenue of almost \$20,000.00. We can offer this service as well as provide for the needs of our local inmate population.

Thanks for listening, tnehls@co.dodge.wi.us or www.dodgecountysheriff.com.