



Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office

Jeff Danker spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club meeting on June 29. Jeff wrestled in High School in Treynor. He has been the Pottawattamie County Sheriff for 20 years, elected in 1992 and took office in 1993.

Sheriff Danker talked about duties of the Sheriff's office, including road control and crime. When he first started as Sheriff they had Ford LTD IIs. The only equipment in the car was a radio, a siren, the light bar on top of the car and a shotgun. Now they have in-car computers, 800 MHz radios, along with all kinds of other equipment.

Until a few years ago, Pottawattamie County used VHF radios, Council Bluffs used UHF, and Omaha used 800 MHz. All communications had to go to the central

dispatch. Now they can all communicate directly, they can set up specialized talk groups on a channel, and there is an automatic vehicle locator (AVL) in each car, which transmits over 800 MHz. The central office can see where each car is and how fast it is moving.

Digital cameras in the cars are turned on whenever an officer turns on his lights. They automatically download via Wi-Fi at the police station.

The department mainly has Tahoes now. They are going to try some Taurus and Expeditions. They also have three Harley Davidson motorcycles for use in tight situations, like Ragbrai.

The main crimes in the area are burglaries and metal thefts. They have been successful in drug interdiction along I-80.

The new County Jail opened in October 1999. It brings in about \$24M for housing prisoners from other areas. It has 288 beds, but 220-230 are used, which is a full jail. Others are used for transition.