

Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Jeff Danker was the speaker at the Treynor Optimist Club on December 3. He has been the County Sheriff for 24 years. He manages a staff that includes 51 sworn deputies, 13 reserve deputies, 92 detention officers, and 8 civilian support personnel.



Sheriff Danker talked about the Shop with a Sheriff program. Last year they served 47 youth and this year they will serve 58. The Department of Human Services identifies children for the program. Each child goes with a Sheriff to Target to spend \$125. The family of the child also gets a food basket.

Target opens early on the day of shopping. The children arrive at 6:00 a.m. and their parents have cookies, hot chocolate, and cider and visit with Santa while the selected children shop.

The county has a drug enforcement officer. They also have 2-3 drug recognition experts (DRE). If someone is stopped who appears to be under the influence of an illegal drug, they are referred to a DRE to help determine if the person needs to give a urine sample for drug testing.

The county jail has maximum bedding for 288 people.

They currently have 282 inmates. The population fluctuates and was somewhat steady around 240-250. However, it has increased recently. They could use another 100-150 beds since they have a contract with the state to supply 75 beds. The state has not been using their allotment, but could do so at any time. The county would have to move inmates to other prisons if necessary. The current jail was built in 1999 and was built so it could be expanded easily.

The county has bought a lot of Tahoes in recent years. The Tahoe has space for more equipment than the Crown Victoria that they used in the past. It also has a better resale. The Crown Victoria costs about \$22,000 and would resell for \$3,000. The Tahoe costs about \$25,000 and will resell for \$13,000. The department trades the cars when they have 100,000 to 120,000 miles. They have four wheel drive and are pursuit rated.