



Modoc County Sheriff's Office ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



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MISSION

It is the Mission of the Modoc County Sheriff's Office in collaboration with our communities, residents and visitors to provide the highest quality of law enforcement services to Modoc County. We pledge to follow the Law Enforcement Code of ethics, realizing that we accept our obligations and responsibility to be role models in the community, to the preservation of basic human rights and individual dignity under the rule and spirit of the law. Therefore we will hold that our actions shall be professional, reasonable, and ethical, we will perform our duties with compassion. Through our community oriented policing strategies, we will deliver fair and impartial Law Enforcement, consistent with the spirit and word of this philosophy, the Constitution of the United States, the laws of the State of California and the Ordinances of Modoc County.

MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

Transparency
Community
Respect
Service
Pride
Loyalty
Collaboration



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Welcome to the Modoc County Sheriff's Office Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2019/2020. This is our second report and as you will see we have accomplished a lot this year. The mission of the Sheriff's Office is to provide quality public service, protect the citizens of this community and work collaboratively with our citizens and many partners- all in an effort to make Modoc County a safer place to live. We hope that this report will enhance your understanding of what we do and the many ways that we serve Modoc County.

Since my swearing in, I have been working with our staff to create an environment that promotes professionalism, integrity and public trust. Our goal during every interaction with the public is to maximize the positive impact we have on our community and be a good steward of the taxpayers dollars. I am extremely proud of the effort put forth by the dedicated men and women of the Modoc County Sheriff's Office to help us accomplish these goals and objectives.

As we move forward into the next fiscal year, we will continue to build relationships with our partners, create sustainable solutions to make much needed upgrades to equipment and communications, and maintain a level of service that this county deserves and has come to expect.

We will continue to make every effort to stay under budget, seek alternative funding opportunities, focus on community policing, maintain transparency with our residents, collaborate as much as possible, update policies and continue to seek being a progressive office. We will strive to look beyond statistics and continue to provide the District Attorney's Office with well-investigated cases that will result in successful prosecution.

This coming year I will also be getting my Sheriff's Advisory Team into place which will consist of volunteers who live and work in the county- to obtain feedback concerning community & public safety related issues.

Sheriff Tex Dowdy





Scott Withrow
Undersheriff



Tex Dowdy
Sheriff/Coroner/
OES Director



Heather Hadwick
Deputy OES Director



Chris Benson
Patrol Sergeant/
K-9 Handler/
Adin Resident Deputy



Ronnie Sefried
Patrol Deputy/
Adin Resident Deputy



Erik VonRader
Patrol Deputy/
SAR Coordinator



Justin Ridgway
Patrol Deputy/
K9 Handler/SV Resident



Jason Ferris
Patrol Deputy/
Newell Resident Deputy



Ronnie Whisler
Patrol Deputy/
SV Resident Deputy



Frankie Widby
Patrol Deputy



Dan Nessling
Patrol Deputy/
K9 Handler



Chris Lowell
Patrol Deputy



Dave Ross
Animal Control



Liz Hallmark
Admin Asst/Fiscal



Lindsey Mailles
Admin Asst/Fiscal



Greg Yeier
Corrections Sergeant



Julie Winkle
Corrections Sergeant



Eddie Martin
Corrections



Joe Harris
Corrections/Deputy



Brian Cabrera
Corrections



Jefferson Kelly
Corrections



John Myers
Corrections



Lauren Cashion
Corrections



Ben Potap
Corrections



Brandon Hicks
Corrections



Ken Simon
Corrections/Bailiff



Matt Crowder
Corrections



Denise Winfree
Dispatch Supervisor



Sammie Dicus
Dispatch



Ryan Smith
Dispatch



Alana Bredeau
Dispatch



Makenzie Godby
Dispatch



Pat Green
Extra Help



Paul Armstrong
Extra Help



Janie Bell
Extra Help



Chris Swasey
Corrections/Inmate
Work Crew

MEET THE STAFF

BUDGET 2019-2020

For the second year in a row, the Modoc County Sheriff's Office has come in under budget, found multiple alternative funding opportunities and increased revenue.

We pride ourselves in being mindful of spending, improving management practices to save money and seeking "out of the box" ways to fund needs of the department. This year we applied and were awarded grants, donations and created partnerships that will continue to help fund the Sheriff's Office.

We are in the process of securing a contract with CalNeva Towers for an additional \$12,000 per year and we have been awarded a quarterly sales tax donation from Cedarville Rancheria to be used for training. This donation will be approximately \$50,000 per year.

AWARDED

USFS Patrol
EMPG- OES & Communications Staffing
HSGP- Homeland Security
OHV- Off Highway Vehicle Patrol
JAG Grant - Inmate Work Crew

\$7,000/ 1 year
\$127,000/1 year
\$86,000/ 1 year
\$23,000/1 year
\$220,000/per year

Total Outside Funding Applied for:
\$617,000

STILL WAITING TO HEAR:

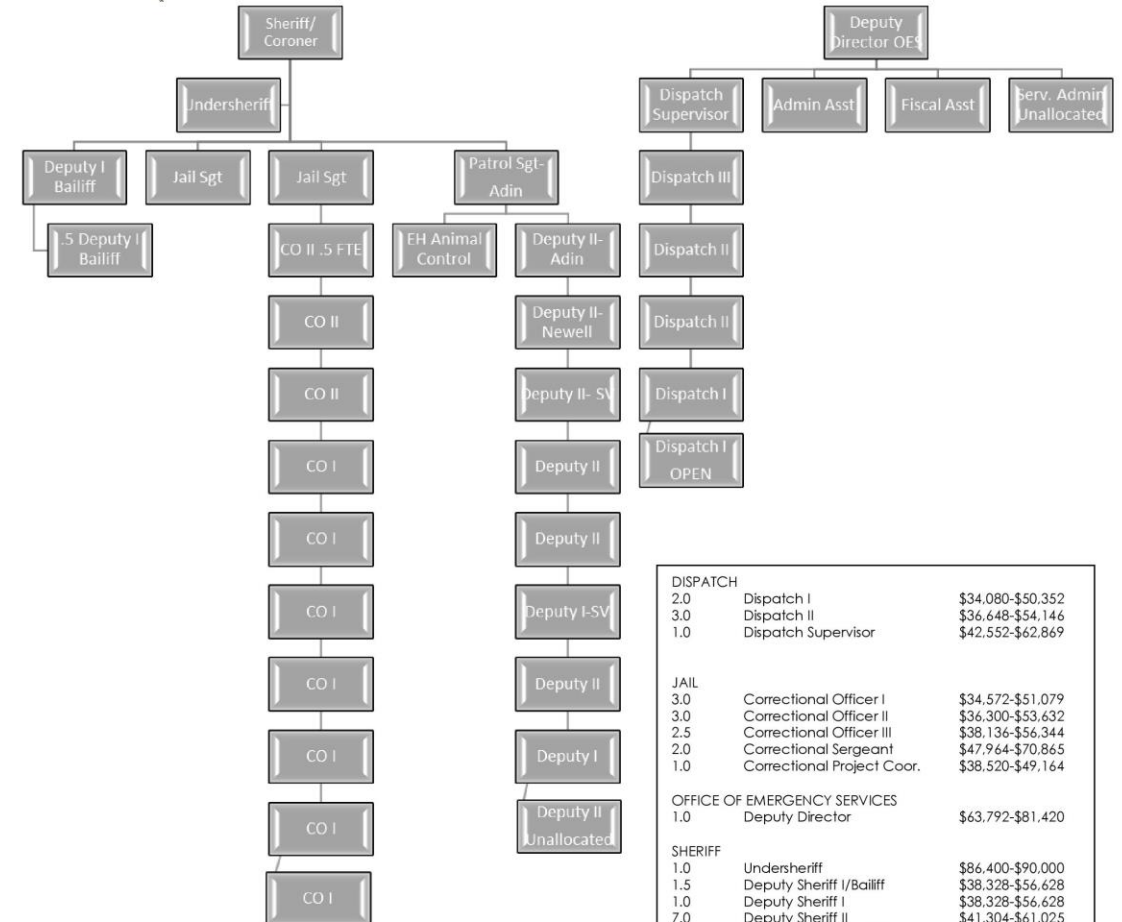
NRA- handguns & micro conversion kits
Prop 56 - School Resource Officer

\$10,000/approximately
\$144,000/per year for 3 years

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Sheriff's Office Budget



Organization Chart



DISPATCH		
2.0	Dispatch I	\$34,080-\$50,352
3.0	Dispatch II	\$36,648-\$54,146
1.0	Dispatch Supervisor	\$42,552-\$62,869
JAIL		
3.0	Correctional Officer I	\$34,572-\$51,079
3.0	Correctional Officer II	\$36,300-\$53,632
2.5	Correctional Officer III	\$38,136-\$56,344
2.0	Correctional Sergeant	\$47,964-\$70,865
1.0	Correctional Project Coord.	\$38,520-\$49,164
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES		
1.0	Deputy Director	\$63,792-\$81,420
SHERIFF		
1.0	Undersheriff	\$86,400-\$90,000
1.5	Deputy Sheriff I/Bailiff	\$38,328-\$56,628
1.0	Deputy Sheriff I	\$38,328-\$56,628
7.0	Deputy Sheriff II	\$41,304-\$61,025
2.0	Fiscal/Admin Asst/OES	\$38,328-\$48,917
1.0	Sheriff/Coroner	\$96,744-\$101,554
1.0	Sheriff's Sergeant	\$47,964-\$70,865
OPEN		
1.0	Support Services Admin	\$41,136-\$52,488

We are at full staff in Patrol, Jail and OES. We have one position open in Dispatch . We successfully negotiated a raise for Dispatch, Jail and Patrol this year to increase wages to be more competitive with other agencies. We want to give a huge thank you to our Administration and Board of Supervisors for seeing the importance of these much needed increases. We in turn have been able to retain staff and our pool of applicants for open positions have increased.

2019-2020

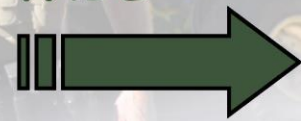


8643

TOTAL
CALLS FOR
SERVICE
COUNTY
WIDE

JAIL
BOOKINGS

596



CORONER
CASES

30

36

TOTAL
STAFF

2737
SO CALLS



2365 APD CALLS
965 EMS CALLS
971 FIRE CALLS

BY THE

NUMBERS



2nd

lowest
funded
Sheriff's Office



48,090

meals served in the Jail

133

TOTAL UTILITIES CALLS

310

Assists
to APD

ZERO

COVID CASES
for 138 days

331
PD Assists to SO



8103

Facebook
Followers

20 Autopsies

COMMUNITY POLICING



Strong relationships of mutual trust between our agency and the communities we serve are critical to maintaining public safety and effective policing. MCSO has focused on just that! The Sheriff's Office participates in two to four events per month from hosting field trips, participating in festivals or community service.

Community Relationships are part of our everyday. We take pride in building positive interactions with our residents. Community Policing is something that we take to heart. We are not driven by statistics. Our deputies see the value in making connections with their residents and work at it every shift.

Community policing is an approach that has long proven its worth with law enforcement. Our goal was to build relationships with residents, youth, businesses, organizations, partners and visitors. Although the Covid pandemic put a damper on many of our activities this year, we were able to get involved in our outlying communities, host many field trips and show our residents that we truly work for them! Being visible in the community is something that we are intentional about and we will continue to show our support and serve our community in the best way we know how.



The Modoc County Sheriff's Office participated or hosted the following events this year:

- 2019 Fandango Day Parade & Festival
- Modoc Fire Safe Council
- Modoc Fire Prevention & Education Committee
- Modoc Medical Center Health Fair
- Health Education & Tobacco Committee
- Community Corrections Partnership Committee
- Modoc High School Intern Program
- Lassen County Wreath Laying Ceremony
- Modoc County Disaster Council
- Modoc County Fire Chiefs Association
- Modoc National Forest Chili Cook-off Event
- Modoc Resource Sustainability Group Meetings & Tour
- Modoc National Wildlife Refuge Flood Exercise
- Alturas Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade
- Board of Supervisors Holiday Potluck
- Made & Served the Sheriff's Posse Christmas Dinner
- Shop with a Sheriff
- Adin Crab Feed
- California State Sheriff's Association
- California State Coroner's Association
- Morning in the Park
- K-9 Family Movie Nights
- Fire Prevention Week
- Tulelake-Butte Valley Fair
- Modoc Heritage Foundation Fair
- Preschool Trick or Treating
- Trunk or Treat at the Pumpkin Patch
- St. Baldrick's Foundation Fundraiser
- No Shave November Fundraiser for Modoc Cancer Support Group
- Multiple Field Trips to the Office
- K-9 Demonstrations
- Modoc County Public Health Flood Exercise
- Trindel Law Enforcement Advisory Board Member
- High Plateau Humane Society Fundraisers Events
- US Forest Service Recreation Committee
- Read Across America Day at Alturas Elementary School
- California Oregon Search & Rescue Membership
- Juniper Berry New Year's Parade
- Veteran's Day Memorial
- Healthcare Coalition Committee
- Lake City 4th of July Parade
- Back to School Nights





Patrol Unit

Modoc County Sheriff's Office patrol unit offers 24 hour emergency and non-emergency services to the unincorporated areas of Modoc County. Sheriff's deputies pride themselves in their communication skills, knowledge of the local area and continued dedication to the people of Modoc.

The Modoc County Sheriff's Office Patrol Unit consists of 9 deputies, 1 Sergeant, the Undersheriff and Sheriff. This unit covers over 4,200 square miles of the County. Currently there are two resident deputies in Adin, one in Newell, two in Cedarville and the other deputies are assigned to central patrol.

Patrol deputies are uniquely qualified to respond to emergencies and service calls that need immediate attention, they are also the most visible and accessible part of our Organization. Their presence and engagement in the communities we serve prevent crime and reduce fear.

Patrol units routinely do school checks, park checks, animal control, assist with fire and medical calls, investigate all crimes outside of Alturas city limits and assist the coroner. They also do forest patrol, campground checks and Off-Highway vehicle patrol.



Training & Staff Specialties:

- Master Baton Instructor - Undersheriff Withrow
- Search & Rescue Coordinator- Erik VonRader
- Marijuana Eradication-Sgt. Benson
- K-9 Training Coordinator- Deputy Nessling
- Child Forensic Interviews- Deputy Widby
- Lead Investigator- Deputy Sefried
- Rural Crimes Prevention Training
- Veteran's Crisis Trainer- Deputy Nessling
- Arrest & Control Instructor- Undersheriff Withrow

Corrections Officer Joe Harris graduated from the Academy and will be moving to Patrol in August to start his FTO.

The Patrol Unit also participates inflight recon for outdoor marijuana grows throughout the county. They log flight hours throughout the year looking for illegal grows on public and private land. These deputies are looking for any outdoor grows that would be violating the County ordinance.

As Counties around us continue to have issues regarding Marijuana grows, Modoc County's strict codes, constant enforcement efforts and mission to create an environment free of illegal cultivation within Modoc County and its communities, schools and places of work.

The Unit has been busy this year with a homicide investigation and multiple child abuse/sexual abuse cases. New deputies joining the team came with a wealth of investigative experience and under the direction of newly appointed Sergeant Benson, the Unit is focused on building a team concept. They have improved training, accountability and structure.



GOALS FOR NEXT YEAR:

1. Improve investigative tools
2. Add a second Patrol Sergeant position
3. Focus more on cold cases such as missing persons
4. Focus on Community policing and getting to know the outlying communities better





Corrections



The Corrections Unit protects the public by providing safe and secure custody of inmates and preparing them for successful community re-entry to reduce recidivism.



Modoc County operates the only jail within the County and houses 43 inmates at full capacity.

The jail was placed into service in 1978 and is typically at 80% capacity.

The Undersheriff brought a wealth of jail experience with him and under his oversight, we have implemented multiple procedures, programs and improvements to insure the safety of our officers as well as inmates.



This year we have:

- Painted the entire interior of the facility
- Installed and implemented technology to better record and document cell checks
- Introduced video visitation
- Formalized the Inmate Work Crew
- Implemented a new food inventory process
- Replaced the refrigerator
- Updated lights to LED's
- Ended the year with the highest level of staffing on record in the jail



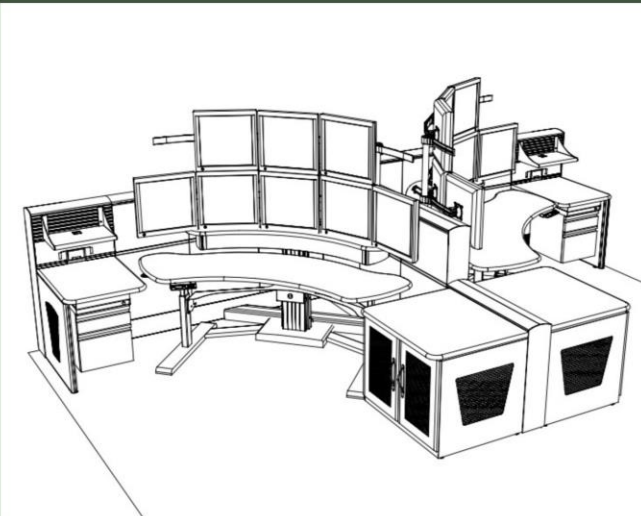
Dispatch

Our dispatchers are the heart of our office! They have a huge job dispatching not only for our local law enforcement including Alturas Police Department-but all Fire, Medical, Power Companies, after hours Forest Service, after hours Probation, Social Services, Behavioral/Mental Health, answer Administration lines and launching Air Ops! On top of all of this they process our CCW's, do live scans, enter all restraining orders, stolen property, missing persons, sex registrants, evidence, stolen vehicles, firearms, civil and warrants! Dispatchers are the lifeline to it all and often the hero that goes unseen!

Training is vital in dispatch and has been the focus this year. All of our dispatchers receive POST certification in their first year on the job. We have one new hire that will be attending this year. Our dispatch team has the following:

- Four out of Five Dispatchers are POST certified
- Two CLETS Certified Trainers
- One Certified Advanced Police Dispatcher
- Two Certified Tactical Dispatchers
- Two Communications Training Officer Slots for Spring 2021
- One Post Supervisor Training Slot for Spring 2021

With the help of Next Gen 911, our Dispatch Center will have a whole new look! By the end of Summer, the dispatch center will have a complete overhaul with new consoles, GPS tracking screens, updated security footage screens and soon a new CAD system.



Office of Emergency Services



Modoc County Office of Emergency Services has been primarily focused on building relationships with partners and seeking alternative funding for not only our Office but for projects benefiting the natural resources within Modoc County.

Deputy OES Director Heather Hadwick and the Sheriff saw the need to create a platform to bring all of the agencies, organizations and clubs together that deal with resources and resource sustainability. At that point, OES was going to meetings with all of these groups, but they were never all together to have the ability to collaborate at another level. Thus, the Modoc Resource Sustainability Group was born. This group is coordinated by OES and hosts quarterly meetings, an annual tour and started a mapping project.

The Sheriff & Hadwick have spoke at multiple events about the group and are excited about the future possibilities. The first year the group focused on wildfire and last year recreation. The Modoc Resource Conservation District received a capacity building grant from Sierra Nevada Conservancy working with the Sustainability group to build the program.

Office of Emergency Services had a busy year this year with recovery from a Presidential Declaration for flooding, another Governor's Concurrence declaration for Flooding two months later in 2019. The Tucker Fire was the largest fire in California last season until September of 2019. Public Safety Power Shutdown became the norm in California and COVID-19 brought our office its first pandemic and longest incident.

Office of Emergency Services participates in the following: Modoc Fire Prevention & Education Committee, Modoc Fire Safe Council, Health Education & Tobacco Committee, Modoc High School Intern Program, Healthcare Coalition Committee, CalOES MARAC/MARIX, intermountain Preparedness Group and the USFS Recreation Group. OES hosts Modoc Fire Chiefs meetings, Disaster Council Meetings, Modoc Resource Sustainability Group tour and meetings,

Notable Accomplishments & Events:

- Tucker Fire
- COVID-19 Pandemic, EOC 3/17/20
- Lake City Flood 2019 Recovery
- Co-facilitated Public Health Statewide Flood Exercise
- Great American Shakeout Exercise
- Attended PIO training, EOC Mgmt & Operations course, Incident Command System/EOC Interface workshop
- Modoc Flood 2019 Recovery
- County wide Collaborative Projects Mapping project, with private & public projects for the last 10 years and the next 5 years.
- Doubled our number of CODE RED sign ups
- Worked with Modoc High School to create a Public Safety elective course to train local youth for future employment.
- EOP Updated
- Fire Grant Writing Workshop for Modoc, Lassen and Siskiyou County & continued grant support to our fire districts.
- CalFire donations of 200 radios for our volunteer fire depts.
- Pacific Power Wildfire Steering Committee
- Updated all OES handouts & educational materials
- End of Summer Wildfire Partners Movie Day
- Modoc National Wildlife Refuge Federal Dam Exercise



INCIDENT BACKGROUND

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Chinese authorities identified an outbreak caused by a new coronavirus, COVID-19. The virus can cause mild to severe respiratory illness, known as Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The outbreak began in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, and has spread to a growing number of countries worldwide—including the United States.

The United States of America had declared an emergency on January 31, 2020. California declared a state of emergency on March 4, 2020. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Modoc County monitored the situation as it progressed and Public Health set up their DOC on February 27, 2020. As the virus progressed the EOC was set up March 16, 2020.

Modoc County remained the last County in California without a confirmed case.

Modoc County stepped up during the pandemic. Residents were quick to implement changes, we were able to have an in person EOC and meetings needed with preventative measures and our communities adapted their framework to stay open, provide services needed or to simply help their neighbor.

Modoc County implemented a business branch in the EOC on day 1 realizing how the pandemic would affect our small businesses. With this the Modoc Food connection was established on our website—giving restaurants, grocery stores and food programs free advertisement for changes and menus. The Sage Stage began picking up groceries and prescriptions for those staying at home, the Senior Centers all over the county tripled their daily meals. Surprise Valley adopted seniors out to families so they had someone checking on them, volunteer firefighters checked in on elderly, TEACH handed out 2000+ food bank boxes, the Modoc Mask challenge brought in almost 1500 handmade masks to donate throughout the communities. Modoc proved once again that they care, they know their needs and they will stand together and get through this.

Throughout the pandemic, our office was able to build upon our relationship with our partners at Health Services, Modoc Medical Center, Modoc Joint Unified School District, Modoc County Office of Education, USFS, CalFire, CHP-Alturas, APD, Environmental Health, CalOES, Board of Supervisors, County Administration, Social Services, Alturas Chamber of Commerce, Senior Centers, TEACH, Inc., and KCNO Radio.



COVID-19



K-9 Unit



The Sheriff's Office K-9 unit uses canine teams to assist in handler protection, the apprehension of suspects, narcotics detection and interactive public events. The K-9 Unit is primarily funded and supported by the Sheriff's K-9 Association. The team consists of four handlers and five canines. The certified deputies and K-9's train for a minimum of 16 hours per month.

This year we added two new K-9's to our team! Gnash is partnered with Deputy Ridgway in Cedarville. Deputy Ferris in Newell has two K-9's currently. K-9 Arlo will be retiring in August 2020. Ferris has been bonding with his new K-9 Jax and they will leave for training this fall.

Having K-9 deputies in each outlying community was a goal of Sheriff Dowdy's from the beginning of his term. Backup can be up to or more than an hour away in certain places in Modoc County. Having a K-9 partner gives the Deputy a sense of security and often just their presence can de-escalate a situation when response times are extended.

Our K-9's are a great way to immediately connect with the community. The unit often appears at community events, performs demonstrations for the public frequently, assist other agencies, counties and states for narcotics detection and are typically the hit of any meeting. We are so proud to have them in our MCSO family.



MODOC COUNTY SHERIFF'S K-9 UNIT



Coroner



The Coroner is required by California Code Section 27491 to investigate any sudden, violent or unusual deaths or other deaths that fall within the jurisdiction of the Coroner. It is the responsibility of the Coroner to establish positive identity of the deceased, determine the date, time and circumstances and the cause and manner of death.

The Coroner will decide if an autopsy is necessary. An autopsy may not be performed if the cause of death can be determined by other criteria and is of natural causes. If the deceased has been under the care of a physician, assessing the medical history and no suspicion of foul play exists, an autopsy may be waived. If a physician, family member, or other agency requests an autopsy after the Coroner has deemed it unnecessary, the requesting party will pay for the autopsy.

The Coroner Unit covers costs of autopsies for deaths that occur in the County, whether that person is a resident or visitor. Autopsies are performed in Washoe County and Siskiyou County and range from \$1,000—\$2,500 on average, but up to \$5,000 depending on the complexity. The Modoc County Sheriff's Office understands the importance of notifying the next of kin in a timely manner.

Animal Control

Modoc County Sheriff's Office is also responsible for Animal Control other than the City of Alturas. Currently, there is one part-time animal control officer. This duty often lies on our responding Deputies due to lack of funding for Animal Control.

This year we were awarded a grant through the Shasta Regional Foundation & McConnell Foundation for Animal Control safety equipment and a new animal housing facility. We were able to get some much needed equipment for our responding deputies and Animal Control Officer.

Animal Control responds to hundreds of calls each year. We pride ourselves on helping residents and visitors reconnect with their pets. Our deputies, humane society and volunteers always step up to help as needed to reunite pets with their families.



In April of this year, "Henry" (picture above) and his brother "Boss" were attacked by a pit bull at West Valley Reservoir. Henry was seriously injured and Boss ran away. Our deputies and community members stepped up to search for Boss for the visiting Oregon family. Our Animal Control success stories all stem with countless volunteers making it happen!

Photo Credit: Krissy Riley, Klamath Falls OR

Support Services

The Modoc County Sheriff's Administration Office serves as the support system for the Sheriff's Office by overseeing day to day operations, budget forecasting and preparation, civil process services, payroll and financial accounting, media relations, marketing, event coordination, records management, recruitment and hiring, social media, and professional standards for the Sheriff's Office.



The Sheriff's Office offers the following services to the County:

- Fiscal Management
- Grant Management
- Marketing, Social Media & Event Coordination
- Payroll
- Hiring & Recruitment
- Live Scan Processing
- Staff Meetings & workplace events
- Audits, POST compliance
- Office scheduling
- Hospice paperwork processing
- Celebrations & Support
- Travel arrangements
- Other duties as assigned.... To include just about anything needed!



Civil & Court Security

The Sheriff's Office provides security services to the Superior Court of Modoc County during judicial proceedings. Corrections Officers and Deputies serve as court bailiffs, maintaining safety and order in the courtroom, oversee management of prisoners during court proceedings, transportation and oversee the jury during trials.



All County Civil processing is done at the Sheriff's Office. Our staff is responsible for serving various types of legal documents in both the unincorporated and incorporated areas of Modoc County. Some of the documents include small claims actions, summons and complaints, subpoenas, restraining orders, eviction orders and civil bench warrants.

We were able to update our Civil software this year! This was a huge feat as it is a very costly program, requires additional training and had specifically needed IT infrastructure that we didn't have.



Inmate Work Crew



Last spring we applied for a grant through the McConnell Foundation program. We were awarded \$10,800 to build an on-site Animal Housing Facility. Modoc County Animal Control did not have a site to house animals that was conducive to our harsh weather or safe for staff and inmates to work in if the animal was unfriendly. This shelter is heated and has the capability to separate the animal inside or out in the pen for safe cleaning and care. The site will also serve as a work program option for inmates interested in learning about animal care and basic dog training. Partnered with the High Plateau Humane Society, we hope to foster dogs in the area and train them with basic commands and socialization skills.

The Animal Housing Facility will be critical during emergency evacuations as well. The shelter was built in a way that allows for kennels to be stacked inside to house another 15 animals if necessary.

Through the Edward J. Byrne (JAG) grant, Modoc County was awarded \$656,000 over the next three years. This funding was awarded to create a recovering citizens work program training our inmates with marketable skills to reduce recidivism. Due to COVID-19, the program was delayed and only allowed to run on site projects. The Animal Housing facility build is in the back lot behind our corrections center. The inmates applied for a spot on the work crew, attended safety training and started the project in April. In one month, each inmate received a certificate of training and completion to include in their resume on the following:

- 1) Cordless Drill & Impact Drill Power Tool Use and Safety (8 Hours)
- 2) Circular Saw Use and Safety (8 Hours)
- 3) Miter Saw Use and Safety (8 Hours)
- 4) Basic Air Tool (Framing Nail Gun) Use and Safety (8 Hours)
- 6) Basic Carpentry (40 Hours minimum)
- 7) Basic Construction (40 Hours minimum)
- 8) Basic Insulation Installation (8 Hours)



"Brilliant program. Just imagine the levels of talent that could be uncovered if prisons were about rehabilitating instead of just punishing! People of all walks need and crave meaningful work."

**-Community Member
Comment from Facebook**

The program replaced our informal work program giving inmates an opportunity to learn new skills. This program also comes with support services such as resume building, job hunting skills, interview tips/practice and support getting GED's, drivers license, documents and almost anything else that may be helpful to seek employment. Our office will work with the inmates in the program for an additional two years in efforts to reduce their chance of recidivism. In just a few months, the crew has built an animal housing facility, picnic tables, raised beds for the Community Garden, repaired campgrounds for the Forest Service, replaced steps at our office, painted, installed laminate flooring and gained many other valuable skills that include self-confidence, time management and how to be part of a team.



The Modoc County Board of Supervisors and Administration were invited to tour the facility and participate in the inmates being awarded their training certificates. The Sheriff's Office also invited local construction companies to view the outcome and see the inmates at work. Several were offered positions upon release.

Sheriff's K-9 Association



The Modoc County Sheriff's K-9 Association is a non-profit with a mission of supporting our K-9 unit. This team of volunteers fundraises, organizes, advertises and supports our MCSO K-9 handlers and dogs. The K-9 Association pays for all training, food, medical costs, upfitting of vehicles, equipment and hosts events in outlying communities.

This year the K-9 Association held free family movie nights playing Max the movie and providing popcorn, soda and treats for attendees. This fun event was a great way to introduce the local resident K-9 deputy, demonstrate what the K-9's can do and connect with our community.

The Sheriff's K-9 Association hosts one fundraiser dinner each year. This year the dinner was postponed due to COVID-19.

None the less, fundraising continued. The Association received a \$48,000 cash grant from the Arthur B. Dubbs Foundation last year. This grant funded the new K-9 and training for a Cedarville K-9 and a replacement K-9 for retiring Arlo in the Newell Area. The K-9 association has stuffed dogs, shirts, sweatshirts and hats available for a donation at the Sheriff's Office and events. The K-9 Association along with the Posse put on the Annual Turkey Shoot Competition. These events along with generous donations from our residents keep the K-9 Unit going strong. We are proud to say that this Unit is community funded and continues to keep our officers safe.

"I'm glad to have the dogs out there to protect not only our Deputies but our communities. I'm extremely proud of the success of this program and thankful that former Sheriff Poindexter saw the need and had the forethought to implement such a great program." - Sheriff Tex Dowdy

Sheriff's Posse



The Sheriff's Posse is a huge part of the success of the Sheriff's Office. Our Posse is 78 members strong and are always there to lend a hand! The Posse is part of our Search & Rescue team, mans road closures during disasters, supports the office with front office coverage, improvement projects, the K-9 association, hosts the annual Jeep ride for staff, a local horse show and last year even served all local law enforcement lunch.

The Posse is heavily involved in the Community and participates in the Fandango Days Parade, Juniper Berry Parade, Jack Hopkins Memorial Run, Law Enforcement Appreciation Week, the Community Law Enforcement Fair, the Modoc Heritage Foundation Fair, awards scholarships to local high schoolers, assist with mutual aid to neighboring states and counties for Search & Rescue tasks and deploy to disasters in the west when needed.



**Captain- Peggy Turnage
Loutinent- Larry Wissmath
Sec/Treas- Dave Bullard
1st Director- Gary Workral
2nd Director- David Hinze
3rd Director- Tom Parnow**

Congratulations to the first ever female Posse Captain Peggy Turnage!!





Search & Rescue

PROGRAM GOALS

- **Train volunteers in search and rescue techniques, survival rescue training, tracking and communication technology.**
- **Provide educational opportunities to public schools and citizens to insure better preparedness in emergency situations.**
- **Continue targeted recruitment to increase and improve Search & Rescue volunteer pool.**
- **Continue to partner with other agencies to expand the program and learn from each other.**
- **Further seek outside funding to update equipment, support training opportunities and create a sustainable SAR program.**



Search and Rescue responds to and assists citizens who are overdue, lost, injured, or presumed deceased in the wilderness. The Search & Rescue Program has been revamped by the leadership of Deputy Erik VonRader. VonRader has diligently hunted for new funding, equipment, trainings and created partnerships within the County and bordering states to help support the program.

The Search & Rescue Unit is working to meet the Modoc County Sheriff's Office goal to protect the health, safety, and well being of all citizens. The Search & Rescue team is manned by staff and the volunteers in the Sheriff's Posse. This crew comes at a moment's notice, gives countless hours of their time and our Office would not have the necessary manpower to succeed without them.

This year Modoc County Sheriff's Office joined the California Oregon Regional Search and Rescue (CORSAR) group. The CORSAR concept stemmed from a joint Mission Debriefing in 2006, to evaluate how to better provide for regional communications and public assistance during major or extended search and rescue missions. The CORSAR group recognized that it needed to formalize inter-relationships and move together jointly to enhance mutual operations. This group includes: Jackson County, Douglas County, Josephine County, Klamath County, Modoc County, Curry County, Coos County, Oregon State Police, Siskiyou County, Del Norte County, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, Brim Aviation, Crater Lake National Park Service, American Red Cross, and Civil Air Patrol. Their mission is to foster regional communications to provide and coordinate personnel, equipment, education, and training for the effective delivery of Search and Rescue services in the Southern Region.

This year our Search & Rescue Team received a \$10,000 donation from the Pit River Tribe, an enclosed trailer from Corryn Hinze for a mobile command unit, updated their climbing gear and new GPS units. Training on Mapping & GPS was also held in County for Posse members and staff. We are excited to see what the future holds for this team!

True leadership lies in guiding others to success. In ensuring that everyone is performing at their best, doing the work they are pledged to do and doing it well.

Advancements



One of our biggest achievements this year was updating our website! We were able to work with Civic Plus to bring a whole new look to the Modoc County Sheriff's Office. Our marketing didn't stop there, we implemented new logos, letterhead, gave the office a facelift and now are working on installing new floors in the offices.

We received many connex boxes including one converted to an office for no cost from the Government surplus program.

TWO trailers were donated to the Office which help save costs for towing and transportation.



All computers in the office were updated and replaced!



We switched over to Outlook this year!



Rural Development Community Facilities Grant awarded us a brand new patrol pick up this year!

New badges were designed to enhance uniformity within the department.



Modoc OES updated our Emergency Operations Plan this year. Our local OES was recognized multiple times during the COVID-19 incident for leading the way for rural counties.



The Jail installed a check point patrol wand patrolling system that enables Correction officers to automatically record their physical checks of inmates.



New GPS Units from the Homeland Security Grant



Lassen County Sheriff's Office gifted us an armored vehicle.



Our Civil processing software was older than anyone can remember. This year we were able to purchase Softcode with set aside Civil funds for almost \$80,000, updating software is costly and always a challenge for small departments.

A loader was added to our equipment at no cost through the Government Surplus program.



Two Quads, Safety Gear, an enclosed cab for the Side by Side with winter tracks for all. Paid for by the Off-Highway Vehicle Grant.



The MRAP Armored Vehicle is the only vehicle of its kind in Modoc County. This vehicle will be used for flood rescues, officer protection and in parades. It was free from the Government Surplus Program.



All Evidence Kits were updated for the deputies.



We were gifted TWO used Crown Victoria Patrol cars this year from Merrill Police Department and Tehama County Sheriff's Office.



We purchased a new patrol vehicle through the Rural Development Community Facilities Grant this year!



McConnell Foundation awarded us \$10,800 last year to build a new Animal Housing Facility along with purchase much needed safety gear for Animal Control and responding deputies. The new facility was the first project of the newly created Inmate work crew.



New video visitation was installed in the Jail this year.



Less Lethal Shotguns were purchased with a NRA Grant from last year.



All deputies received new tactical first aid kits with a more extensive list of supplies and expanded first aid training.



- Complete the new Dispatch Center Project
- Update the CAD System
- Update the Jail Management & Patrol Report Writing Software
- Complete the IT Audit and implement changes suggested
- Upgrade communications system
- Continue building positive relationships with community partners
- Continue fiscal responsibility practices to stay under budget
- Seek out alternative funding in grants, donations and foundations
- Reduce recidivism rates through the inmate work program
- Complete Maintenance in the County Jail Facility
- Continue moving forward with the new Jail Construction Project
- Increase training for all units & utilize virtual training as possible



Thank you Modoc!
From your MCSO Family