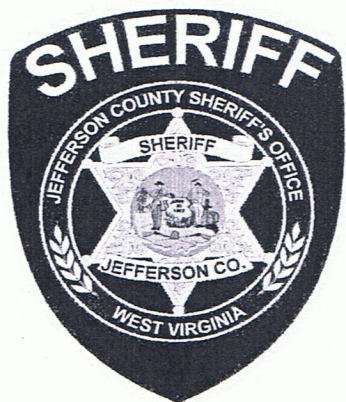


Jefferson County Sheriff's Report

Fiscal Year 2014-2015



**Prepared by
Jefferson County Sheriff Pete Dougherty
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The 2014-2015 Jefferson County Sheriff's Report

Peter H. Dougherty, Sheriff

Jefferson County is the easternmost county of West Virginia, at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, and is part of Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area.¹ The U.S. Census Bureau estimated Jefferson County's 2013 population to be 55,073, making it the 11th most populous in the state's 55 counties. The largest city in Jefferson County is Charles Town, the county seat, with an estimated population of 5,385. There are four other incorporated communities, Ranson, Bolivar, Harpers Ferry and Shepherdstown. There are 83 identified unincorporated communities. An estimated 76% of Jefferson County residents reside outside of the incorporated areas and within the primary service area of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. The County is 210 sq. miles

Jefferson County, West Virginia



Location in the state of West Virginia

Brief Summary of Activity:

Increase:

Increase in calls for law enforcement service;
Animal cruelty, welfare, aggressive behavior, wildlife and bite complaints cases;
Concealed weapons permits;
Increase of felony and misdemeanor arrests
Persons under Home Confinement;
Traffic accident investigations
Mental Hygiene Hearings
Activities of Bailiffs with weekend and evening assignments
Tax bills and collections

Decrease:

Persons transported under the mental hygiene statutes
Traffic citations

¹ The map and overview is designed to give readers a sense of the geographic proximity of our county to the State. Jefferson County is the easternmost county and in close proximity to Baltimore, MD and Washington DC.

Duties of the Sheriff of Jefferson County:

- Serve as the Chief Law Enforcement Officer in the county
- Serve and execute all returns, notices and processes issued by the courts which must be served in the county
- Enforce court orders
- Provide Court Security Officers to court proceedings and security in County Courthouse Buildings and grounds
- Transport prisoners and accused facing extraditions; Detain and transport those facing mental hygiene petitions
- Provide fiduciary services to individuals who are unable to do so for themselves
- Review applications and issue licenses for concealed carry permits
- Collect all state, county, municipal and school taxes; disburse money to appropriate agencies
- Maintain all tax records
- Enforce payment of delinquent taxes
- Administer animal cruelty statutes and oversee Animal Control Officers

Tax Office:

The Tax Office is located on East Washington Street, Charles Town. The office is open for the public Monday-Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

During 2014-15 the Tax Office prepared 51,818 tax bills and supplement bills an increase of 721 bills and collected \$51,312,155.64, an increase of \$1,351,740.74 [or 2.3% increase] from the previous year.

Jefferson County Commission:	\$11,861,024	v	11,388,349	=	+472,675
Jefferson County Board of Education:	\$37,029,815	v	36,240,200	=	+789,615
Ranson:	\$ 1,062,168	v	980,946	=	+ 81,222
Charles Town	\$ 905,403	v	849,813	=	+ 55,590
State of West Virginia:	\$ 208,106	v	204,003	=	+ 4,103
Shepherdstown:	\$ 153,833	v	153,740	=	+ 93
Bolivar:	\$ 95,286	v	90,240	=	+ 5,046
Harpers Ferry:	\$ 56,516	v	53,124	=	+ 3,392

During the last fiscal year the Jefferson County Commission received approximately 23% of all funds collected last year; the Board of Education 71%; Ranson slightly more than 2% and Charles Town slightly less than 2% the remaining entities received less than one percent.

Animal Control:

The Animal Control Office is located at 161 Poor Farm Road, Kearneysville, near the Jefferson County Fair Grounds. The Office is open Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and opened on Saturday's from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. During fiscal year 2014-2015 Animal Control Officers responded to:

- 1361 calls for assistance within the County and the municipal corporations in Jefferson County; an increase of more than 250% [533 last year]
- picked up 379 dogs; a decrease of 9.8% [420 last year]
- investigated 110 wildlife complaints; and increase 275% [40 last year]
- 221 animal bites; an increase of 15.4% [187 last year]
- welfare checks on 201 animals, an increase of 232% [95 last year]
- responded to 93 aggressive dog complaints; an increase of 7.6% [86 last year]

Service of Process:

The Sheriff's Office served 2,067 pieces of process (summons) last year and executed 129 writs. This represents a decrease of 20% in summons and near 10% increase in writs from the previous year. The Sheriff's Office collected fees that totaled \$26,659.77 that were disbursed to Jefferson County Commission and the Deputy Sheriff's Retirement Fund.

Mental Health Issues:

Forty-nine [49] persons were detained by the Sheriff's Office under Court Orders to determine if they were in imminent danger of harming themselves or others under the State's Mental Hygiene statutes. This represented 37% increase in hearings. Among those brought in for hearings 18 were found to be in need of involuntary commitment and were transported to state institutions for further examination a 14% decrease from the previous year.

The demands for these trips are difficult; most hearings are held at night and transports regularly occur after midnight. There was a reduction of mental hygiene pick-ups and transports to state facilities from the previous year. Nonetheless the time in manpower and transportation is a significant burden with the Sheriff's office driving more than 13,000 miles and expending more than 800 hours of labor to accomplish the detention, provide security for the hearing, transport the person to the hospital for medical clearance and then to transport the detainee to a state run or state approved mental health facility.

Concealed Weapons Permits:

A total of 635 persons were issued a permit to carry a concealed weapon. This is an increase of 11.5% from the previous year but a reduction of 24.5% from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

Under law the Sheriff is required to review the application conduct an investigation to determine if the person has completed a required class of instruction and is not a prohibited person (convicted felon/involuntary committed under mental health statutes; convicted of impaired driving or domestic battery). The Sheriff is required to complete the review in 45 days. If denied a permit that person can appeal to Circuit Court.

Law Enforcement

The Sheriff's Law Enforcement Office is located at 102 Industrial Blvd, Kearneysville. Business hours are 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM Monday - Thursday and 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM on Friday. If persons come to the office in search of assistance after normal business hours a deputy on station will respond.

The JCSO has primary responsibility to investigate crimes and patrol roads within the 210 square miles of Jefferson County. Jefferson as a county is diverse in geographic features, permanent and transient population and in its attractions that draw thousands into the county on a daily basis. The Sheriff's Office responds to more than 250 calls for service each week.

The Sheriff's Office was successful in getting awarded grant funds to purchase new bullet proof vests for current deputies. This grant saved the County nearly \$20,000.

Investigations of and prevention of crimes is a critical part of JCSO's law enforcement's mission. .

Call for Assistance:

JCSO responded to 13,040 calls for service during the last fiscal year. That equates to nearly 1,100 calls per month or 36 calls a day. This is an increase of 1,612 calls; a 12.4% increase from the previous year and 16% increase from two years ago.

Arrests:

Sheriff's Deputies made 455 misdemeanor and 101 felony arrests last year an increase of 19.3% from 2013-2014.

Family and Person Protective Orders:

The Sheriff's Office served 264 Family Protective Orders [FPOs] and 45 Personal Protective Orders [PPOs] last year. This represents a reduction of 53 FPOs [16.8% decrease] and 21 PPOs [31.8% decrease] from the previous year.

FPO and PPOs have an extensive amount of work associated with it that requires deputies to go to the residence and normally remove the person from their domicile; secure and remove firearms, catalog them and secure them at the Sheriff's Office pending court disposition. Weapons removed are returned only after the Court issues an order to release them.

Home Confinement:

The Sheriff's Office provided home confinement services to 58 individuals during this fiscal year. This is a major increase as there were 26 individuals under home confinement the last year and 16 during the year before [a 220% and 363% increase]. Home confinement is used in lieu of incarceration.

Those under this service are monitored with tracking devices to insure they are at home, at work or at an appropriate place based upon the home confinement requirements. This effort by the Sheriff's Office helps to lower incarceration costs to the County. While arrests have gone up more than 30% over the past 2 years jail costs have held steady.

Citations/Accidents/DUI:

Deputies investigated 848 traffic accidents last year, an increase of 401 investigations above the previous year a near doubling of traffic investigations. Accidents are labor and time consuming. They can in serious accidents take many hours of highly trained officers to conduct accident reconstruction reports.

Deputies charged 102 individuals with driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. This represents a decrease of 26 arrests from the previous year. Several deputies in Jefferson County are recognized annually by the Governor's Highway Safety Committee and Mothers against Drunk Drivers for their efforts.

Deputies wrote 586 citations last year.

Courthouse Security:

The Sheriff has the responsibility to provide Court Security Officers [CSOs] in the Jefferson County Courthouse complex and its courtrooms. CSOs [Bailiffs] are trained and are armed and have law enforcement powers in those buildings.

The Sheriff's Office continued to provide both security of the Courthouse during the rehearsal and performances of "The Anvil" a play about the trial of John Brown; provide security at the courthouse for weekend tours during the week as well as Saturday and Sundays during a 4-5 month period by the National Park Service, and assists with Juvenile Drug Court. Soon additional work time will be added by having an Adult Drug Court.

The enhancements made with the security cameras are giving us better views of courthouse buildings and the entrance areas to those buildings. Dedicated staff monitors these cameras allowing Court Security Officers at entrances to concentrate their full attention on those entering and exiting the buildings without being distracted. Safety enhancement to the Magistrates will be added as a result of a grant to create a security screening barrier where defendants are being arraigned.

CSOs and courthouse staff continue to raise concern about security when there is a power outage at the courthouse complex. While camera improvements have been made there remain places where camera function and availability is not optimal. Better scanning equipment at entrances is a high priority as it is needed to improve the internal systems to alert employees about intruders.

Schools:

The Sheriff's Office has worked closely with local federal, state and local law enforcement and the Board of Education for Jefferson County with a multijurisdictional law enforcement response to threats in schools. The effort has focused to inform and educate administrators, staff and students of appropriate actions to take to reduce risk and actions if a threat is in their building; while keeping schools inviting; friendly places to work and study.

The Board of Education has funded many enhancements, camera systems, card reader access; enhanced doors locks and fences. Law enforcement, including all Sheriff's Deputies, have key card access to all school buildings.

Sheriff's deputies periodically visits school to become familiar with the building, staff and students to be seen and provide a friendly face to those who work, study and visit local schools.

The Sheriff's Office annually works with schools on their school safety plans and reviews those plans and meets with the Superintendent and Board on policy and procedures to enhance safety.

Reserve Deputies:

The Reserves had 4 Cadets scheduled to complete the training offered by The Eastern Panhandle Reserve Academy. The Reserve Cadets completed 150 hours of a high quality training using a robust curriculum and on-the-job training. The Eastern Panhandle Deputy Sheriff Reserve Academy is recognized by Blue Ridge Community College for course credit.

The Reserves completed more than 5,000 hours of training and service this year. This activity includes assists to law enforcement officers on road patrols and targeted patrols on public roads and subdivisions, at accident scenes, and at many community events including the Arts and Crafts Festival, the Jefferson County Fair, Parks and Recreation dances at Sam Michael Park and other civic events in the County throughout the year.

Training:

Training for members of the Sheriff's Office is vital to keep deputies current on changes in the law; to enhance investigative skills for both criminal investigations and vehicle accidents; and to be prepared to take appropriate action both offensively and defensively as needed. All deputies are required to receive a minimum of 16 hours of state mandated training and supervisors are required to receive at least 24 hours annually to maintain their certification

Sheriff's Deputies received 1,607 hours of training approved by the WV Division of Justice and Community Services' Law Enforcement Professional Standards Office. This is an increase of more than 300 hours of approved training. [More than 20% increases] It is critical to keep law enforcement officers current on their training to enhance skills and to minimize adverse actions due to a lack of proper training. Deputies participated in Use of Force/Defensive Tactics Training and 5150 Prosecutors Institute Training [where recent court decisions and changes in WV Code were reviewed]. Several were engaged in advance training i.e. Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement; Active Shooter Response Instructor; First Line Supervisor Training; Applied Physics for Traffic Crash Investigator Training, among others specialty trainings.

Two members of the Sheriff's Office received training that has qualified them to be recognized as "drug recognition experts" [DREs]. This designation is very helpful as an increasing portion of those stopped for impaired driving are under the influence of drugs.

Several members of the Sheriff's Office have qualified and are designated and approved to be Master Trainers allowing them to provide high quality state approved training locally allowing the Sheriff's Office to offer quality training without paying tuition for training and minimizing travel time and costs.

Multijurisdictional Efforts to Curb Drugs

Jefferson County's Drug Threat

Three structural factors influence the drug threat in Jefferson County and local law enforcement's ability to address the threat:

First, the Eastern Panhandle is in close proximity to three major drug markets: Washington, D.C. 60 miles away, Baltimore, MD 70 miles, and Philadelphia, PA, 171 miles. The Interstate Highway System directly links all three areas to Jefferson County and a traveler can reach both Washington, D.C. and Baltimore in about one hour. Because of the proximity to Washington, DC and Baltimore, these cities are the primary sources of drugs consumed and transported into and through Jefferson County.

Second, is the number of tourists that visit Jefferson County. Jefferson County has a very large number of tourist attractions that draw visitors from across the country and the world to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Charles Town Race track [Hollywood Casino], Shepherd University, eight Washington family historical homes, automobile and motorcycle raceway, and a growing white water rafting industry. According to the State of West Virginia, these venues attract approximately 4.3 million visitors each year, a number equal to more than 165,000 visitors for each deputy sheriff in the county. While other tourist areas have more visitors, few have such a small number of officers to deal with the traffic and other enforcement requirements that come with tourism and to patrol the county's 210 square miles.²

The transportation infrastructure of Jefferson County is the third structural factor that affects Jefferson County's drug trade. Although no Interstate Highway passes through Jefferson County, two Interstate highways (I-81 and I-70) identified by the National Drug Intelligence Center as major conduits of illegal drugs traveling from the Southwest Border to the Northeastern United States pass within 20 miles. In addition, the supervisor of the Eastern Panhandle Drugs and Violent Crime Task Force reported that U.S. 340 has become a major transportation route for illegal drugs. U.S. 340 is a four-lane highway that parallels I-81 and travels approximately 150 miles from Waynesboro VA to Frederick MD, providing a convenient alternative route for traffickers to avoid detection and interdiction.

Drug Use

The concern about drug abuse, particularly the use of heroin continues to dominate the crime problem in this area. As a result of the Sheriff's request the Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency has recorded during the 6 month period from January 1st till June 30th 60 times where "Narcan" has been administered to persons who overdosed on heroin. Using this rate of need more than 120 persons annually and more than 600 over a five year period may have had a serious

Based on an analysis of the Washington Baltimore area

medical intervention requiring Narcan intervention to save their lives. While this is a health care issue it is a significant law enforcement issue as it highlights the high volume of criminal activity engaged in by so many to support their ‘drug habit.’

Drug use by persons 12 years and older in the Eastern Panhandle area is significantly above the national average.³ Past year use of cocaine, prescription pain relievers, and any illicit drug other than marijuana range between 115% and 127% of the national average. In addition, the percent of persons dependent on illicit drugs is 118% of the national average. Only marijuana use in the Eastern Panhandle region is below the national average.

Drug Use in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia	
Statistic	As % of National Average
Marijuana Use in the Past Year	85%
Cocaine Use in the Past Year	116%
Nonmedical Use of Pain Relievers in the Past Year	115%
Illicit Drug Use Other Than Marijuana in the Past Month	127%
Illicit Drug Dependence in the Past	118%
Source: Calculated from SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2008, 2009, and 2010 (Revised March 2012); Tables 2, 6, 7, 8, and 20.	

Heroin is considered to be the number one threat in Jefferson County. Federal, state and local law enforcement report the drug is increasingly available, moderately priced, causing a dramatic increase in overdose deaths in the region. Both the FBI and DEA report the availability of heroin increasing.

Changes Implemented/Being Worked on to Improve Services:

During the past 30 months a number of changes have been made:

- Revised Shift changes to maximize coverage and increase productivity.
- Revised the “special deputy agreement” allowing municipal officers to assist in extraordinary situations and increased by adding selected federal law enforcement officers.

³ These figures represent a six-county area. Jefferson County’s population represents 21% of the population of the six counties.

- Improve the Investigations Office to concentrate efforts on serious offenses.
- Instituted a comprehensive evaluation of all uniformed deputies.
- Ended a previous practice that law enforcement officers that work for the Sheriff's Department may only wear their uniforms while working under the authority of the Sheriff.
- Reissued Range Use Agreements to restricted access to law enforcement entities; and to allow appropriate entities to use the facility under the supervision of the Sheriff's Office with the appropriate insurance with proceeds deposited into the County's General Fund.
- Jefferson County Board of Education approved to reimburse a portion of expenses for crossing guard and security at selected athletic events.
- Revised the schedule within the Animal Control Office to allow for better coverage and less overtime.
- Issued pistol safes to deputies to maximize gun security at home.
- Supported the Computer Aided Dispatching [CAD] system that has improved response time and reporting.
- Created a Strategic Response Team with 10 deputies who are trained to take appropriate actions with major crime events.
- Enhanced collaborative efforts utilizing a county-wide Accident Reconstruction Experts and Drug Recognition Experts to enhance the combined resources of local departments and the Sheriff's Office to respond to major accidents and impaired driving within the county.
- Animal Control Officers are now designated as Humane Officers improving their ability to address many minor violations of law and ordinances without using deputies.
- Removed the reserved parking sign for the Sheriff in front of the office.

Sheriff's Official National, State Involvements:

The Sheriff is:

Member of the National Sheriff's Association

Member of the WV Sheriff's Association

Member of the Board of Directors of the WV Sheriff's Association

Sheriff's Association Representative, Governor's Commission on Drunk Driving Prevention.

Sheriff's Association Representative, WV Central State Mental Health Registry.

Staffing:

Law Enforcement:

- 1 Chief of Staff
- 2 Lieutenants
- 5 Sergeants,
- 6 Corporals
- 5 Deputies First Class
- 7 Deputies
- 5 Clerical Staff

Tax Office:

- Chief Tax Deputy
- 6 Assistants

Animal Control

- 1 Animal Control Supervisor
- 4 Animal Control Officers

Courthouse/Court Security Officers

- 1 Chief Bailiff
- 24 Bailiffs

Process/Trip Guards/Home Confinement:

- 1 fulltime; 1 part-time employee
- 8 as needed part-time on-call trip guards

Needs:

Law Enforcement:

Reductions in budget for equipment and vehicles during the past few fiscal years are making it difficult to maintain the quality of response. The current budget had funds two 2 fully equipped vehicles. This was a concern at budget time and needs to be revisited.

Based on the national standards the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office should have a minimum of 36 deputies. *

[Minimum Federal Standards call for 1 officer per 1,500 residents. [Number of Deputies in Jefferson County is not high in comparison to other counties in WV, and in adjoining jurisdictions – e.g. Fayette County with a population of 46,000 has 32 deputies; Marshall County with a 33,000 has 23 Deputies {one deputy per 1,439 citizens; Jefferson has one deputy for more than, 1,800 citizens}]*

Court Security Officers [Bailiff] Services:

There will be a need to continue to increase the number of Court Security Officers/Bailiffs and Trip Guard as workload demands continue to rise.

Tax Office:

One staff position was cut from last fiscal year's budget. However the facility is inadequate and not sufficient to meet the demands of the thousands of persons who frequent that office annually. A new facility and or major modification of this facility are needed.

Animal Control:

There is no request for additional staff. The Sheriff request to have the Commission appoint Animal Control Officers as Humane Officers has been very successful. Investigations and complaints Work by Animal Control Officers have increased significantly and the demands for deputies to assist have decreased. This has allowed those trained in animal care and welfare to initiate actions when animals are believed to be neglected or abused.

The Animal Control facility is in bad condition and a new facility is needed. My office is initiating a review of the current facility and funding options to develop an appropriate facility.

Drug Problem:

The Sheriff's Office has been working with the US Attorney's Office and others to have Jefferson County included into the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. If approved this may bring additional resources to connect our county with regional and national intelligence on distribution of illegal drugs that are brought in to be sold and transported through our county. If successful the access to resources and intelligence will enhance our ongoing effort to arrest those involved in the sale and distribution of drugs.