

- Please provide a concise summary of your professional background, public service experience, and the key qualifications that prepare you for this office.

I have been working in law enforcement for 28 years. 18 years of that have been in leadership roles at the Davis County Sheriff's Office and SLCPD. For the last 7 years, I have been serving as chief deputy over all three bureaus of the Sheriff's Office (Law Enforcement, Administration and Corrections). I hope you have a chance to review my qualifications, education and experience as I believe this is what has prepared me for the huge responsibility of running the Sheriff's Office.

Website: www.obladforsheriff.com

I began my career at SLCPD in 1996. I worked in many assignments including Patrol, Motor Officer, School Resource Officer, Patrol Sergeant, Downtown bikes Sgt, Detectives, Internal Affairs, Lieutenant in Watch Command and Special Operations. I also responded on three different active shooter events in my career: the shooting at the LDS Family History Library, The shooting at the KSL / Triad Center, and the Trolley Square Shootings where I found and stopped the gunman. In 2017 when I had completed 21 years of service and was set to retire the next day, I encountered a man assaulting a police officer that was affecting an arrest on the man that had just sexually assaulted a woman working at a massage parlor. The suspect violently assaulted the police officer and then once the officer was injured, the suspect picked up the officers baton and began to assault the officer with it. I intervened and the suspect also assaulted me with the baton while I engaged him. There is video of the encounter that is being used across the country by Calibre Press as a training aid for police officers on de-escalation.

I received the medal of valor for my involvement in the Trolley Square Shooting. I obtained a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration and master's degree in emergency management and Homeland Security.

I am a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va. The premier executive leadership training academy for the United States.

- What motivated you to run for this specific office, and what is your core mission if elected?

I have been preparing for the job of Sheriff for many years by serving the community, and obtaining the education and training that will assist me in running a large and complex Sheriff's Office. My motivation comes from the relationships that I have developed over many years with my coworkers in and out of the Sheriff's Office with our community members.

Sheriff Kelly Sparks was elected In 2018 and started in January of 2019. He appointed me to be his chief deputy over Law Enforcement his first week. I have

served with him for the past seven years and he is retiring at the end of this year. Kelly asked me to run and told me that I am ready to be the Sheriff due to my experience leading all three bureaus in the Sheriff's Office and due to my education and leadership abilities. He has given me his endorsement on my webpage. My core mission is to improve the lives of everyone in Davis County by building on the foundation we have made. The Sheriff's Office is going in a great direction due to the positive changes we are making. Moving forward, if elected as Sheriff, my plan is to focus on getting the office fully staffed, increasing the time deputies are able to be out in the community on foot or bicycle having positive interaction with our residents.

- Describe your approach to transparency and accountability in public offices. How will you ensure the public understands your decisions and the county's financial health? My plan is to hold quarterly open house meetings with public to discuss issues the people are seeing in their neighborhoods, changes we are making in the office and to show how the deputies are using their time. Allowing for questions and explaining how the budget is being managed. I also plan to attend city council meetings and the County Commission meeting as Sheriff.

- What is your approach to the county budget process, including prioritization, long-term fiscal planning, and rainy-day funds?

I am well versed in the County budget process and I have managed the budget for each of the three bureaus I supervised for the past seven years. We have been financially responsible and have worked to stay within our budget even turning back money each year. We have put many of the large purchase items on rotations so that we can budget for replacement items while keeping our budget flat. I plan to continue long-term planning for contracts for the Office and the Jail to ensure that we don't get surprised and forget to budget and plan for upcoming costs.

My priorities for budgeting will be on saving money and cutting costs as we can but making sure we are not compromising safety of our County residents or our employees. We can only cut equipment and training so far before it starts to affect our ability to safely do our job.

Training is and will continue to be a major priority for me.

I do have concerns for this years budget. Each of the last 7 years, we have had our budget for the upcoming year by the end of December. We are in the end of March and the County Commission has not yet decided on our 2026 budget. The Commissioners do not get along and do not agree on many things. This is impacting the County. We have a newly elected Controller that is trying his best to assist the Commission along with our new HR Director.

The Commission has been using some fund balance and are hoping to save money with the retirement incentive but we have been asked to cut our budget for several years and we have made cuts. Within the last few months we were asked to cut 1.3 million out of the Jail budget and 1 million out of the Sheriff's Office budget. I went through the budget and cut all I could without cutting positions and it totaled about 200,000. (new computer equipment for rotation, training, phones etc) + about 10 positions to get to the 1,300,000. We went back to the Commission and advised them that we really couldn't afford to cut positions as we are already understaffed but we presented the cuts.

The County Commission came back and stated that with the retirement incentives they were hoping to save enough that we would only need to cut 230,000 from both the Jail budget and the Sheriff's Budget. We went back and I identified cuts to the jail budget and we ended up cutting only 3 vacant positions.

I do have concerns that we may be asked to make cuts again next year and if the cuts are significant, it will probably mean we need to cut more positions.

- How will you ensure ethical conduct, conflicts of interest disclosure, and recusal when necessary?

I will continue to focus on and stress professional and ethical conduct is a must and if this behavior is not adhered to, I will hold violators accountable. This has been my practice as a chief deputy in each bureau and I have had to dismiss employees over my tenure at the Sheriff's Office for unethical behavior and criminal violations.

I plan to continue to perform audits in different areas of the Office to ensure we are following the law, following County and Davis County Sheriff's Office policy and procedures and following best practices.

When conflicts arise we send the investigation to another agency and we assist other agencies when they have conflicts of interest. If I have a conflict for some reason, I would also ask someone else to handle an investigation and recuse myself as needed.

Questions for specific positions:

County Sheriff

- What is your top public safety priority in the first year, and how will you measure progress?

My top public safety priority in the first year will be getting our staffing up to where we need to be and maintaining the staffing. We have already started a new hiring process in the last week and we have 60+ candidates that have applied and are moving through the process. This is wonderful. We won't be able to hire all 60 due to applicants that will not pass the PT Test, Background test and other stringent hiring protocols but we will probably hire 12-15 new deputies in Patrol and Corrections. We are currently down approximately 9 deputies in each area / 18 overall in the Sheriff's Office which employs approximately 250 deputies and 100 civilians. This will get us closer to whole. If elected, I will try to get the County to agree to Tuition Reimbursement for College Education and Retention Incentives as this will make us more competitive with surrounding law enforcement agencies.

Because we are currently understaffed, we are paying overtime to provide a safe amount of staffing in the jail. Getting fully staffed will help us get the overtime costs down and will improve the wellbeing of our deputies that are working a full time job that is difficult and working overtime as well.

- How will you balance civil rights with crime prevention and community safety?

I will train the deputies in 4th amendment including search and seizure, the 5th amendment and first amendment in addition to their annual training requirements. I will continue to train them on de-escalation, CIT Crisis Intervention Training, Mental Health awareness and how to take care of their own physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

We do focus on crime prevention, and our deputies do well on responding to calls for service. My focus will be on augmenting the reactive side of responding to calls for service with the proactive aspect of being out in the community on foot, on bicycles and in vehicles to both interact with residents in personal ways to get to know our community (IE walking through the park, throwing a ball with the kids, visiting with people in their front yards etc) and to deter crime and do on view enforcement which just means our in the neighborhoods and business areas to watch for criminal activity and address it.

The more we can be out of our cars and have open communication with our residents, the better our community trust will become. I don't want the only time our Davis County residents come into contact with our deputies to be when they are receiving a traffic ticket. We will continue to enforce the traffic laws but I want to increase the citizen contacts when no violation has occurred.

This will also increase our ability to impact community safety in a positive way.