

Hello,

I appreciate your willingness to serve as a delegate and your thoughtful questions. I hope we can have a visit to discuss any follow-up questions you may have.

I'm a Davis County GOP delegate and have been taking some time to really think through the sheriff race and what matters most for the county right now. I'd appreciate the chance to talk briefly or get your thoughts on a few questions. I'm mainly trying to understand how you think about the role and the challenges that come with it. A few things I'd love your perspective on:

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 have prepared me for the huge responsibility of running the Sheriff's Office. Website: [www.obladforsheriff.com](http://www.obladforsheriff.com)

1. What do you think people misunderstand most about the Sheriff's role in Davis County?

I believe that people understand that the Sheriff is responsible for protecting the constitutional rights of our citizens and upholding the constitution. Many look to the Sheriff to protect against federal or state overreach. The nice thing about being the Sheriff is that he or she can take a stand against such things and can only be fired by the voters, not a County Commission. Nor a mayor or city manager or city council like in most cities.

Some people don't understand the difference between a deputy sheriff and a police officer. Both are peace officers certified by the State of Utah. Deputies work in counties while police officers work in cities. Deputies are trained and certified as LEO law enforcement officers just like police officers. Deputies are also trained in BCO basic corrections officers and work in the jail. Deputies also can serve civil paperwork and run a Sheriff Sale.

Lots of people think that because the Sheriff is the highest ranking elected police chief, that the Sheriff has jurisdiction in all of Davis County including in the cities that have their own police agency and police chief. I have been explaining to folks that If there was a large scale police incident in any of the cities with police, the Sheriff's Office would offer help and resources as that agency needs them. We are a resource for them, but we wouldn't go in and run their incident or take command against their will. I would ask their incident commander, what do you need? And if they need any of our resources, we will make it happen. If they need investigators, SWAT team, public order unit (POU) help with the incident command, crime lab etc. we will send it to them. We have done this in cities

throughout the County and we also have had help from others agencies. We also send deputies to assist other agencies on a daily basis if their officers are busy on calls and they have 911 calls that need to be addressed. We receive the same help from other agencies too.

We are responsible for law enforcement for all of unincorporated County, the Forest Service area, and out into the Great Salt Lake including Antelope Island. We have 3 Contract Cities ( Fruit Heights, South Weber and West Point cities) who do not have their own police departments, so we are their police agency. In the contract cities, we will handle all police related issues and if there is a large-scale incident, we will be the incident command.

Another misunderstanding is many people aren't sure what the Sheriff's responsibilities are and they are many. The Sheriff is responsible for overseeing the Jail, including Jail medical, food services, intake, housing, classification, programs, volunteers, training and civilians. The Sheriff is also responsible for Court Security and Bailiffs, Patrol, Crime Lab, Dispatch, Emergency Management, Buildings and grounds for the Sheriff's Office Complex (maintenance, custodial and complex security) Civil Division, the Ankle Monitor Program, The shooting range, school security including the guardian program and school resource officers, investigations, the professional standards unit ( Internal Affairs and Training)

## 2. Where do you think the Sheriff's Office is under the most strain right now, and why?

We are under the most strain due to recent budget cuts and staffing levels. I am supervising the jail currently. We are understaffed and it is burning out our employees because we need overtime to keep staffing levels up. We have recently made some changes to increase our training team so we can hire and train more deputies. We currently have a hiring process open and have a large number of applicants. It will take several months to get them trained but we should be able to get our staffing levels up where they need to be and that should help us to use less overtime. Another change we are making is our focus on retaining employees. This is also helping us to get our numbers up.

The County has asked us to make budget cuts and part of those cuts were needed positions. This is also causing strain on the office.

## 3. What is one specific operational change you would make in your first year?

The first week as Sheriff, my plan is to get the employees together to visit with them to ensure they understand that the election is over, I don't care who they voted for, and we need to move forward to unify the office. Currently many employees are concerned about the changes that are coming with a new Sheriff and new Commissioner(s). There are 3 or 4

splits in the office due to the four candidates with three out of the four of us having ties to the Sheriff's Office. Two of us are current employees of the Sheriff's Office, one sergeant and one chief.

The change I would make in my first year as Sheriff would be a greater focus on our deputies interacting with the public. I don't want the only time that citizens talk to a deputy to be when they are receiving a traffic ticket or when they call 911. I want to have deputies out on foot or on bicycles, in the community, getting to know our residents and our business owners and shopkeepers. Visiting with people in their neighborhoods and parks etc. To do this, we will need to get staffing up, so that will also be a focus. I'm already working on this one.

4. What do you think about the cycle of repeat offenders, especially those tied to mental health or addiction, and what role the Sheriff's Office should play? I think there is a cycle of recidivism. Addiction and mental health play a huge role in this. Many of our inmates come to the jail in crisis from mental health issues. Many come in from drug and alcohol addiction and unlawful behaviors related to drug and alcohol use and abuse. They detox while in our jail and many get needed medicine for stabilization. They leave our jail much better than when they came in but when they get out, many people lack the support system, the ability to connect with resources and the grit to stay away from people and places where drugs and crime are available. We have a (MAT) medical assisted treatment program in the jail with 25 spots that are always full. We would like to increase our capacity by double or triple and have the inmates that want to participate in the program, but we lack the funding. We put in for opioid settlement funding for this but the request was not funded. I think the Sheriff's Office and the Jail are a band aid for this problem. I like the idea of a receiving center that could divert drug addicted offenders and people with mental health issues by offering them treatment in lieu of incarceration. When I was in SLCPD, the City and County worked hard to use this model. The problem we found was even though we had treatment beds available, most of the people we allowed to choose treatment in lieu of charges and jail time, were not ready to leave the drugs and go into rehab. Treatment beds are expensive. We do have mental health support through Davis Behavior Health in the Jail and it helps us to manage many of our inmates with mental health issues but we often need to send inmates to the hospital for mental health issues. We send people to the hospital frequently for many other health issues as well. Is all really expensive.

5. If you had to balance supporting your deputies with maintaining public trust in a difficult situation, how would you approach that? This question is great but I may need some more details to make sure I understand what you are asking.

The first thing I would do would be to make an announcement to the public about the incident and let them know there is going to be an investigation into the allegations of

wrongdoing. This is dependent on many factors and how serious the allegations are. In an officer involved shooting the Chief / Sheriff should make a statement to give a brief synopsis of what happened and whether or not there is an ongoing threat to the community. If anyone was injured and the extent of the injuries. The chief should stand by the officer and explain that an investigation will be completed.

If it is allegations of violating public trust due to a deputy's ethics, dishonesty or criminal conduct, I would look at placing the deputy on administrative leave to complete the investigation. If the allegations are sustained, then I would move forward with the appropriate discipline up to and including termination. If there is criminal behavior, the deputy will also be investigated by another police agency to determine whether or not criminal charges will be filed against the deputy.

I would approach it with an open mind and try to understand why the deputy did what they did and the information they had at the time they made their decision.

I have had to balance maintaining public trust with supporting our deputies. I have terminated a handful of deputies over the past seven years for serious policy violations and criminal violations. Public trust is very important to our office and when we have employees that violate that trust, we take action. We hold ourselves accountable to the public and about once or twice yearly, we terminate employees. This is one of the hardest things we deal with. On one hand I am doing my best to take care of our employees and support them in their jobs because it's a difficult job. Trying to get them the training, equipment, and knowledge to be successful in their careers. We use progressive discipline to help our employees learn and grow when they need it, coaching and counseling and written warnings after that but when they make career ending mistakes, we have to end their employment, and this is tough.

6. If your budget is cut 5–10%, what do you protect no matter what, and where do you make reductions?

I would protect the employees as much as possible. We can cut nonessential items but to run a jail, we need many things that we can't cut. 5 % of my budget in the jail is 1,307,800. Last fall the Commissioners asked all departments to make a 3% cut and 5% cut to our budget to see what that would do to our operations. I am the Chief in Corrections and I worked on the budget cuts with my Captain over the jail. After we cut all the items we could like new computer equipment, officer safety equipment, training, office equipment, cell phones etc, we only came up with about 240,000 in cuts. Everything else was items we couldn't cut. The only way we could get to 1,300,000 was to cut positions. About 9 positions. If we cut those positions, we would need to shut down part of the jail due to staffing. If we shut down part of the jail, the County would lose the ability to contract with

the Utah Department of Corrections (state prison) and the Federal Marshalls for about 8,000,000 in annual revenue. It doesn't make sense to lose 8 million to try and save 1,3 million. The County did not make us cut 3 or 5 %. In January of 2026, the County decided to have us cut 1.2 million out of our Jail Budget and 1 million out of the Sheriffs Office budget. Then they changed their plan and asked us to cut 230,000 out of our jail budget. We made the cuts, a lot of things mentioned above and a few positions. The good news is we don't have to close down any parts of the jail. If they ask us to make big cuts next year, that may be the only option.

7. Thinking about a real-world situation, if it's late at night and deputies are dealing with a repeat caller who is clearly struggling but not violent, what should they do?

If deputies are dealing with a caller who is struggling, they should respond and get the person the help they need. Sometimes they are repeat callers, and it can be frustrating for deputies but we are on duty and need to respond. I may need more context on this situation to fully answer the question. If they are violent and a threat only to themselves, we would not force our way into that house. If they are not violent, we will do our best to help them.

I'm happy to connect by phone or meet in person if that's easier. I appreciate your time and your willingness to serve.

I would like to connect by phone or in person – my number is 801-330-1911

Thank you,  
Andy Oblad