

# A Hopeful Start Results in Corruption

Resident Canary  
APRIL 2024

<https://thetruthaboutwagonercounty.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/truth.about.wagoner.county>



## WELCOME to Wagoner County

Wagoner County Sheriff Chris Elliott was elected in 2016 during the Republican Primary in a three-way race with just over 50% of the vote. The Community was hopeful with endorsements from many individuals, the Republic Party, and Municipal Police Departments. In the wake of a Sheriff removed, and filling the shoes of a highly qualified Dan David, the newly elected Elliott had large shoes to fill and great expectations to meet.

He is a failure.

Self-interest, nepotism, cronyism, fiscal irresponsibility, and department exodus pollute his tenure. If you want the truth, read on.

## A History of Nepotism



Judy Elliott, wife, of Sheriff Chris Elliott preceded her husband at Wagoner County. She was hired at the County nearly 2 decades ago and actively encouraged her husbands candidacy in 2016. Judy is the E911 Coordinator overseeing dispatching and addressing for portions of Wagoner County (some dispatching is conducted by municipalities). Yet, following Elliott's election to Sheriff, Judy's duties included activities inside of the Sheriff's department.

In 2018, Judy was witnessed on a video inside of a jail pod allegedly chastising inmate, Elizabeth Rodriguez. An open records request (ORR) in 2020 revealed that Judy was never directed by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to conduct duties inside of the jail, which would be under her husband's supervision. So what was she doing there? Why was the Sheriff overseeing Judy's "counseling" of the inmate? Whatever was said ultimately led to the inmate being drug by the hair back into her cell by the Sheriff.

Why didn't the District Attorney ask for an investigation from OSBI?

Following the incident, Ms. Rodriguez sued the County, the Sheriff, Judy, and others resulting in nearly \$110K paid out by Wagoner County insurer, the Association of County Commissioners (ACCO) Self Insured Group (SIG), as reported by ACCO. Wagoner County funds liability coverage via a 0.1% sales tax which requires renewal by the voters in 2027. The vast majority of this coverage is used by Wagoner County Sheriff's Department.

Some citizens spoke out on social media claiming that a lack of investigation is abnormal. Prior to a lawsuit by the victim, perhaps the County should have taken action. I ask

again, why was the DA silent on this? Others claim employee cover-up and demand BOCC action.

### Wyatt Fulk

**Danny Elliott** there hasn't been an investigation because the DA has neglected to do what he should have and requested the OSBI to investigate, you are defending actions that you know are wrong and illegal that use of force is not taught by any instructor in this world and is not approved by any agency in this world.

We let me break it down so people can understand what should have accrued from the perspective of someone that worked for a law abiding agency with a legitimate internal affairs.

Had this happens in the Oklahoma department of corrections the attorney general office internal affairs would have started an investigation, after reviewing the fact and video and interviews the agent would report to the attorney general, at that time again had this happened in a law abiding agency charges of assault would have been brought soon that officer along with his termination.



**Wagoner Underground**  
 Beth Whitehead · May 25, 2020 · 📄  
 I asked Commissioner Edwards about Judy being in the jail. Everyone has seen the video? Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think he just admitted she had no business being there. Yes, I'm reading between lines.

**Chris Edwards**  
**Beth Whitehead** yes I have seen the video and it is concerning to me. I feel that the BOCC should look into this which could potentially result in new policy. In regards to any lawsuits pertaining to the county they are handled by the DA's office.

In 2018, the Chairman of the BOCC called an executive session to address Judy's employment. NO ACTION

WAS TAKEN AGAINST JUDY BY THE BOCC. No action has been taken against her until March 2024 which looks to be related to office turmoil.

According to the [Wagoner County Personnel Handbook](#), "an elected official...shall not hire or appoint for employment any person who is related by blood or marriage..." Though the Sheriff didn't hire his wife, she was acting under his direction and supervision.

It is also clear in [State Law that a violation of nepotism should result in a misdemeanor, a fine, and the officer shall forfeit the office...](#) why was this not pursued? The Sheriff doesn't pay his wife from his coffers but she was clearly operating under his supervision as a public official. Can the DA explain himself? A commissioner said it was "concerning", yet nothing was done.

This is not the only identified incident. Ms. Wolley, while detained in Wagoner County Jail, was visited numerous times by Judy. Ms. Wolley will tell you that she believed at first that Judy was sent by God to help her through the tough time of losing her grandsons: one to death and one to DHS. She later realized that Judy's goal was

to compel Lisa Wolley to turn on her husband in their criminal case. [This case](#) has garnered national attention but the role that Judy played as an unofficial subordinate to the Sheriff has been missed.

[Judy's relationship with the current District Attorney, Jack Thorp, goes back to 2011.](#) Is it their friendship that prevented Mr. Thorp from investigating nepotism at the top of Wagoner County Law Enforcement and Emergency Response hierarchy? It certainly hasn't been without a cost; just ask Ms. Rodriguez and Mrs. Wolley. Nepotism causes a lack of accountability; it must be stopped. [Every person found guilty of nepotism shall be immediately removed from office.](#)

## SHERIFF AND E911 COORDINATOR DIRECT IT STAFF TO WIPE COMPUTER

Following the BOCC's decision to place Judy on administrative leave in March 2024, an E911 Department whistleblower reported that Judy and the Sheriff requested her computer to be wiped. The employee complied with the request. Following the revelation, the County IT service contractor,

VIP Technologies, asserted that "most" of the data lost could be recovered. Fortunately, the employee directed to wipe the computer kept everything on a thumb drive. It is a violation of the Personnel Handbook to delete, erase, or conceal County files and data. Will this be included in the pending investigation? What about the Sheriff? What sort of pressure was he putting on the employee by being in the room? More nepotism and now coercion and intimidation of a "subordinate?"

## DISTRICT ATTORNEY VIOLATES STATE LAW: ADVISES E911 COORDINATOR IN PREPARATION OF EXPECTED TERMINATION

A whistleblower in the E911 office reported that the week prior to Judy Elliott's administrative leave action by the BOCC, the District Attorney for District 27, Jack Thorp, was on the phone with her. Seems that she walked out of her office, stated he was on the phone, then proceeded to request assistance with a recorder. He is alleged to have provided legal advice to Judy in preparation for her appearance before the BOCC the following week to include a recommendation to record the executive session. A defense against the BOCC was discussed and allegedly a letter was written on her behalf.

Former Wagoner County Deputy, Nick Mahoney, announced his candidacy for State House District 12 against incumbent opponent Kevin McDugle. Elliott, a McDugle supporter, terminated Mahoney after seven years of unblemished service, as reported by muskogeepolitico.com. Judy is also mentioned as threatening in the article. Poor conduct goes back years perhaps.

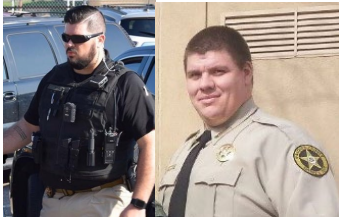


## ALLEGED WRONGFUL TERMINATION

**Oklahoma Statutes Citationized**  
**Title 19. Counties and County Officers**  
**Chapter 7A - District Attorneys**  
**Section 215.25 - County Officer or Employee - Legal Defense Services**  
 Cite as: O.S. §. \_\_\_

A. Except as otherwise provided in this section, in the event an action is brought against a county employee in any civil action or special proceeding in the courts of this state or of the United States by reason of any act done or omitted in good faith in the course of employment, it is the duty of the district attorney for that county, when requested in writing by the employee, to appear and defend the action or proceeding in his behalf. Such written request shall be made within fifteen (15) days after service of summons on the employee and a copy of the request shall be transmitted by the employee to his immediate supervisor and the district attorney.

B. The district attorney shall not represent a county employee if that employee did not perform a statutorily required duty and such duty is a basis of the civil action or special proceeding.

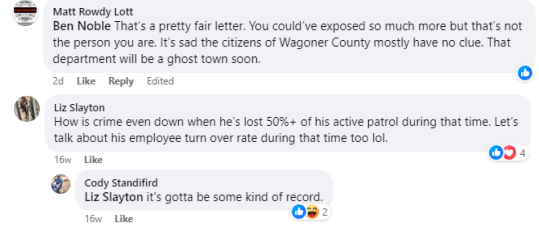


## EMPLOYEES FLEE IN WAKE OF TYRANNICAL LEADERSHIP

Yet another whistleblower has come forward in the wake of Investigator Ben Noble's resignation earlier in 2024. "He'd [Sheriff Elliott] rather hire kids off the street with no experience than...value his employees." It was reported that Investigator Noble appeared at the Sheriff's office to read his resignation letter in person but was thrown out before he was able to begin. It was said that the Sheriff is a "power crazy monster" that "belittles us." This whistleblower requested anonymity due to fear that the Sheriff would "come after me or my kids...he's just that kind of man." "Wagoner County deserves so much better." Investigator Noble's letter can be found [here](#) as well as on our website. Only 5 deputies remain that were hired prior to Elliott's election.

More employees have stories. We are

Seeking out these past deputies that have left for lower paying jobs or longer commutes or perhaps have just left law enforcement all together. The Sheriff has driven out these employees and there is reason to believe more are leaving:



Since Elliott has been in office, 78 detention officers and deputies have resigned. 29 of those that resigned did so inside of one year. Average salary for deputies & detention officers is \$49K/yr and \$40K/yr respectively.

## TYRANNY RUNS IN THE FAMILY

Well we have all heard the adage, "it runs in the family." The Elliott's are no exception. Judy has a history of poor management and unethical behavior in her department as well. Whistleblowers initiated the recent administrative leave decision of the BOCC and they have more to say. The statistics over the last year show employee turnover and it is expected that more details on this will be revealed in the investigative work ordered by the BOCC in the E911 department. Are we dealing with a hostile working environment on top of nepotism and corruption? It sure seems that way.

Since 2018, 37 dispatchers have resigned from the E-911 department. Some of them within a day of being hired, with a total of 30 staying a year or less.

Since 2018, 35 dispatchers have been terminated and only 10 employees work in the department. The BOCC authorized 2 additional employees be hired into the department in the April 1st, 2024, regular meeting. Let that sink in a bit. If the office was staffed at 12 employees, the department has seen an exodus of three times the total number of employees in just resignations with nearly that many terminated.

Dispatch whistleblowers have reported their personal belongings demanded to be dumped and sorted through and prescriptions disclosed. With that sort of treatment, it should be expected that more than 6 times the capacity of the office has departed either through termination or resignation in just the past six years.



## WAGONER COUNTY TOPS LAW ENFORCEMENT LITIGATION CHARTS

Of the Counties that are members of the ACCO Self Insured Group, 73 total, Wagoner County ranks among the top three in all law enforcement litigation categories.

- #1 in open lawsuits
- #2 in filed lawsuits (27)
- #3 in claims (\$3.6M)

Under Elliott, the chickens will come home to roost eventually. SIG coverage is capped at \$2M annually for all cases and up to \$1M for each individual case. Then it's citizen pockets through property or sales tax. SIG insurance is paid via a 0.1% sales tax which was voted down this year. Elliott is a liability.

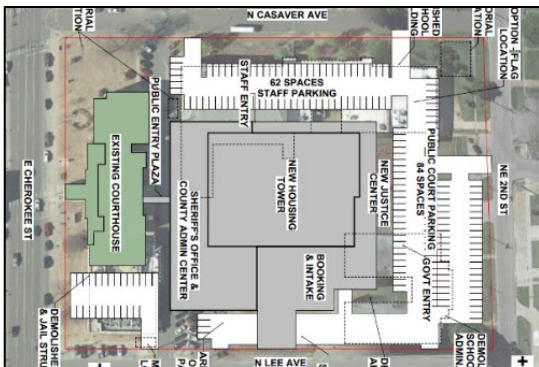




# SPENDING PROBLEMS

The sheriff is not just a poor people manager, but he is also a poor money manager. When Elliott entered the office in 2016, the general fund allocation was \$2.065M. In 2023, the general fund allocation topped an all-time high of \$3.274M. That is 42% of the general fund in 2023; an increase of 37% in spending in just seven years.

You may be thinking, that's a pretty good budget; well, it gets better, with the other accounts available: Sheriff's 0.1% sales tax, Service Fees, Commissary from the Jail, and Courthouse Security account, the total budget available in 2023, was \$4.9M. The department also receives grants, if applied for, to fund different deputy or investigator positions.



# OUR NEXT AREA OF FOCUS

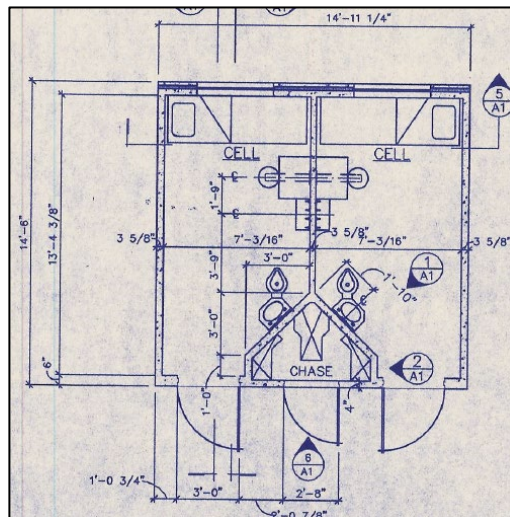
We appreciate your attention and interest in local government. County residents can have the greatest control of government officials at the County and City level. Be informed. We will start our next publication on the saga of the Justice Center, continue with former and current employee interviews, elections, and updates on the E911 Coordinator Investigation. We anticipate more whistleblowers will come forward regarding the misuse of power within the Elliott sphere of influence including relationships between the DA, Jack Thorp, and County Commissioner James Hanning. If you are interested in helping get the truth out, please consider donating to boost social media posts and share them. #thetruthaboutwagonecounty

"Power Corrupts..." – Lord Acton

In Wagoner County, with the benefit of a sales tax, the Sheriff can also appear before the BOCC to request Use Tax funds for special purchases, which he has done. From drones to justice center feasibility studies, the Sheriff has always been supported by the BOCC; likely too much trust in him quite frankly. Since the Sheriff actively campaigned against maintaining the sales tax but comes before the BOCC with his hand out frequently.

So, with all of that spending, are there more deputies on the street? Based on Open Records Requests, the deputy count is 28: 5 of those are investigators that do not patrol, 2 are in leadership positions outside of shift work, 2 are K9 deputies which may or may not patrol, and 4 are court deputies, leaving 15 deputies to fill shift work across the County. At best citizens are getting 3 deputies on a shift assuming they never take leave or sick days. That's 577 square miles to traverse for 3 individuals and includes jurisdiction in 4 towns. The county unincorporated population has grown by more than 12%. Too much brass at the top perhaps? Spending has increased 37% in just the general fund allocation, pay has gone up for employees, but the County is hemorrhaging law enforcement personnel...

Does this increased spending make Wagoner County citizens safer? You be the judge. According to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI), Wagoner County unincorporated, the Sheriff's domain, has seen an INCREASE in crime rate from 2016, at 1.9%, to 2021, at 2.5%. 2022 and 2023, data has not yet been released.



# OVERCROWDING NARRATIVE IS A HOAX

Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) sets square footage (SF) standards for county detainees; however, according to the Attorney General's (AG's) office, OSDH lacks legal authority to enforce their SF "requirements". An agency may only exercise the powers expressly given by statute. OSDH asserts that a cell or dorm must have 40SF of floor area for the first inmate and 20SF for each additional inmate (OAC 310:670-5-11). Furthermore, the OSDH asserts greater restrictions on their inspection report requiring floor space to be unencumbered by a sink, toilet, or bunk beds; again, this is outside of their statutory authority.

Wagoner County Jail cells, excluding dormitory style cells, have an area of 87SF, give or take. If a Jail Administrator were to adhere to OSDH inspector reports, then the Wagoner County Jail cells would only be large enough for one inmate (unencumbered space was deemed to be 57SF); though, since SF is not outlined in State Law as an enforceable regulation, why are these reports viewed as enforceable by the Sheriff?! Repeatedly the Sheriff has said the jail is overcrowded on news outlets and in public meetings, indicating that the cells are for 2 inmates. OSDH administrative code outlines 80SF as large enough for three inmates, OSDH reports indicate that each cell is only suitable for ONE inmate and Elliott selects a middle ground to push a false narrative; but why?? We can all only surmise. Fiscal responsibility is not in his nature and that a legacy of a new Justice Center is attractive. Reviewing his increasing department "needs" each fiscal year is telling enough; he's no conservative. Everyone likes a shiny new penny, yet Elliott is called to embrace integrity in public office. It's not his pennies, it's \$100B pennies from the taxpayers of Wagoner County, stacked upon a foundation of "overcrowding" lies. Elliott wants inmates to have more SF than a truck driver on an overnight haul team. It's not right Wagoner Co.

Title 22, Section 1181

Corruption in Office is Grounds for Removal investigated by AG on behalf of State Governor. Corruption is the *dishonest or illegal behavior especially by powerful people (such as government officials or police officers)*. Did the BOCC request the DA to investigate corruption and nepotism with the Elliott's? Can the BOCC go directly to the AG and Governor's Office credibly without DA support? Does the long relationship between the Elliott's and Thorp prevent ethical investigation? Perhaps the DA's activities should be investigated by the AG's office as well?

District Attorney, District 27  
Jack Thorp



**The Protector**

Wagoner County Sheriff  
Chris Elliott



Judy Elliott

Wagoner County 911 Coordinator

**Judy Elliott**  
March 3, 2018 · Coweta · 🌐

Most of my friends on FB know I am the 911 Coordinator for Wagoner County. I would ask that all my friends and family support Jack Thorp for District 27 District Attorney. I have worked with Jack 7 years and have called on him for many questions and lots of advice. Day or night and even weekends Jack ALWAYS answers his phone and is right there to help. Jack is very humble, honest and has integrity. He has tried over 97 felony cases and has lead teams of prosecutors for 11 years. Jack works tirelessly to seek justice for the victims of crime. I know Jack to be a loving Husband and Father who cares about all 4 Counties he serves. On a personal note my little Cousin Steven Adams has been missing since 2004 and Jack Thorp has kept that case open and continues to seek justice for Steven and my Family. We need Jack Thorp in District 27 and I ask for your vote for Jack.

**THORP**  
District Attorney

The logo for Jack Thorp, District Attorney, features the name "THORP" in large, bold, white letters with a red outline. Above the "P" is the name "Jack" in a red script font. Below "THORP" is a white star on a red horizontal line, and below that is the text "District Attorney" in white.