

Media Release

For Immediate Release
Candidate
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Terry Lawson Announces His Candidacy for Coconino County Sheriff

Terry Lawson formally announces his candidacy for Sheriff of Coconino County. Our long-tenured Sheriff, Joe Richards, has announced his retirement and this has created a climate for progressive change within the Sheriff's Office. Terry has served with the Sheriff's Office for nearly 21 years and he possesses the talent, passion and vision to move the agency forward in an unprecedented manner. Terry recently retired from the Sheriff's Office, allowing him to focus his time, energy and personal resources on becoming your Sheriff and addressing the complex needs of the Coconino County Sheriff's Office.

During the course of his career, Terry has worked in every division of the agency, including the Jail, Patrol and Criminal Investigations, as he rose through the ranks as a Deputy Sheriff, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain and Deputy Chief. He has extensive experience in Patrol operations and community-oriented policing concepts. Terry has a record of committed service to the Sheriff's Office and the community we serve. Terry has also invested his time and energy in numerous community boards and committees, including the Victim Witness Services Board of Directors, and the Coconino County Interagency Council for Children. Terry is an ardent advocate for the victims of crime and the protection of their rights.

Terry is a certified police instructor, holding credentials from the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training board. His area of expertise is in the field of firearms training and tactics. Terry is an associate faculty member at Coconino Community College, teaching courses in Administration of Justice. During the course of his career, Terry has participated as a member of a multi-agency helicopter rescue team in cooperation with the Arizona Department of Public Safety Air Rescue unit, the Flagstaff and Sedona Fire Departments and the Coconino County Search and Rescue unit. He has also trained as a member of the technical rescue team specializing in high-angle mountain rescue scenarios.

In the fall of 2000, Terry was selected to attend the prestigious National Academy, sponsored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The FBI National Academy is a leadership and police executive development course based in Quantico, Virginia. This 11 week, intensive training and enrichment experience has helped to prepare Terry and other Law Enforcement leaders for the future management needs of this complex and evolving profession.

Since September of 2002, Terry has been assigned as the Deputy Chief in command of the Jail Division. His top priorities as leader of this division was to address the financial and management concerns of the Jail District, which has struggled since construction of the new Jail facility was completed in July of 2000. Terry, in collaboration with the innovative staff of the Jail division, has implemented many organizational and operational improvements, including hiring and training personnel to insure safe staffing levels are maintained within the facility and establishing progressive and effective programs for the overall management of the organization. An audit conducted at the end of Fiscal year 2002/2003 indicated the Jail District held surplus revenues of \$156,000, the first time since the opening of the Jail that revenues have exceeded expenditures. The Jail District is currently on improved financial and operational ground, but there remains much hard work ahead to continue the process of innovation and enhancement.

It is time for a dynamic new era in progressive public safety for the Coconino County Sheriff's Office. We must assess the entire organization and make the changes necessary to insure improvements in the areas of management, customer service and resource deployment. The Sheriff's Office has become a reactive agency, relegated to barely keeping pace with the volume of calls received and struggling with the important responsibilities we hold. The department has lost its focus on being a pro-active, solution seeking organization. The citizens of this county expect and deserve more from their Sheriff's Office. The proud men and women of the Sheriff's Office require improved representation and we must do all we can to take care of these dedicated people, who are charged with the important responsibility of taking care of our community.

"I know the Coconino County Sheriff's Office can be a more progressive, innovative and creative public safety agency, serving the needs of a diverse, vibrant community. I am excited about the future and I am dedicated to achieving pro-active solutions for the issues facing our community and the Criminal Justice system in this County."

- lawson4sheriff -