



Supporting Our Local *Law Enforcement*

Monroe County Sherriff Dale "Frog" Ford enjoys interaction with children and serving the community

Law Enforcement in Monroe County serving the community

Training and common-sense keys to daily service

Thomas Wampler
Jobe News and
Regional Sports Reporter

Monroe County Sherriff Dale "Frog" Ford has been in Law Enforcement for over 41 years. His interest in Law Enforcement began as a child when he saw and admired the men and women in uniform. Ford started as a dispatcher and, once he began, he never looked back.

Ford can remember the officers directing traffic as he rode by in his school bus. "It (working in law enforcement) was something I always wanted to do" Ford began. "I was able to get involved with dispatch at age 15 through a scouting program."

Ford says, "dispatchers are your life line." The Monroe County Sheriff's Department runs their own dispatching during the day but depend on 911 during the night.

Ford said he worked as a dispatcher for years in the city of Tompkinsville until he reached 23 years old and he became a police officer. He has served with the Tompkinsville Police Department or the Monroe County Sheriffs Department ever since.

"I loved serving others in the community and just the daily action from the beginning," Ford said. "No two days are ever the same. It is a joy to be surrounded by people that love their job and are good at what they do."

"We are fortunate to have the quality people in the positions we have in Monroe County," he added "Our operation runs like a well-oiled machine. All my employees work hard. All my employees are vital to the success of our



Monroe County Sherriff Dale "Frog" Ford reports to Monroe County fiscal court in a meeting last year. JOBE FILE PHOTO/Thomas Wampler Jobe Publishing Regional Sports/ News Contributor

department."

Ford said that "well-oiled machine" starts with the office personnel and his secretary, Lacy Roy, and continues with the deputies under Ford's watch. She always has the "audit to the penny."

Ford is in his fifth year as sheriff of Monroe County after serving as the Tompkinsville chief. Ford has three years approximately remaining until his current and second term ends.

Ford says the key to success is training and common sense. He is proud to have the trained and certified officers he has as part of his staff. "This is the first time we've had that number of certified officers and academy trained in the history of Monroe County," Ford said. "With what I've learned and, the years of training and working together with these quality officers, it all has helped us develop into a pretty good sheriff's department... street smart and they know the law. I am really proud of them."

"Training is a very valuable asset

and then good old common horse sense on the street," added Ford with a chuckle. "That goes together. Knowledge and common sense, that's what I always tell my officers."

"We have drug problems and domestic issues like any county within the state especially when there are no jobs available," Ford said when asked what the biggest challenges facing his department were. "This past year, this fifth year I have been a sheriff, I owe a lot... owe it all to the Monroe County Fiscal Court and our county judge (Monroe County Judge Executive Mitchell Page) for the support they have given us."

"This was support that I desperately needed to get us uniforms and equipment we needed to operate more efficiently to serve the county," added Ford. "I want the people to understand without the support of the county government... the magistrates and the county judge, we could not accomplish what we need to do and grow in order to protect and serve our community. And make it a better

and safer place to live."

"The community knows my door is always open. I worked as chief of police for 11 years and the citizens know I will help people any way I can. I like to give back to the community and I try and be out there any way I can," Ford continued. "I grew up as poor as you can get so I know how people struggle within our community. Life is good now. I am not rich, but I am rich in heart today because of the way people have responded and the support I receive from the people."

Ford said that he has the "greatest job in the world."

"It is just a great feeling to have that support and trust from the people," Ford added, "It takes time to have that type of respect and support. I think I have brought that back to the department. I think I earned it (respect) as police chief and I have continued earning that respect as sheriff."

Ford also emphasized that his department has worked hard to earn that respect and trust. Ford said that included all his employees.

Ford also is proud of the working relationship he and his department have developed with surrounding law enforcement departments in the counties in Kentucky and Tennessee. "They can call on me or I can call on them," he said. "You call them, and they are there. That's what makes it easier...that bond with your fellow officers. We are small and we have a lot of county to cover so having those bonds are critical to serving and protecting this community."

Ford said at the beginning of the interview that his greatest pleasure as sheriff was going into the schools and hearing his nick-name (Frog) called out as children responded to him. "When I am in the elementary schools and the kids come up and hug me, knuckle bump me, high five me...hey Frog...hey Frog that's the most rewarding thing for me. Those children respecting me and trusting in me."

"For me it is not a job because I love what I do," concluded Ford.



"For me (being sheriff) it is not a job because I love what I do

-Sheriff Ford

Thank You to all our Law Enforcement Officers!

BUSHONG

PHARMACY

270-407-5045

709 N. MAIN STREET, TOMPKINSVILLE, KY

We appreciate our local law enforcement

We also do:

- Oil Changes
- Drive Trains
- General Maintenance

Call us today!

JOE'S MUFFLER SHOP

900 White Street • Tompkinsville, KY 42167

270-487-1135

Proud to support LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

HAGAN & STONE WHOLESALE, INC.

1387 N. Main Street • Tompkinsville, KY 42167
Phone: (270) 487-6138

www.haganandstone.com

THANK YOU to all our POLICE OFFICERS who keep our communities safe!

EDMONTON STATE BANK

213 North Main Street • Tompkinsville, KY 42167 | 270-487-6123

Serving • Allen • Barren • Metcalfe • Monroe • Warren Counties

www.edmontonstatebank.com

Member FDIC