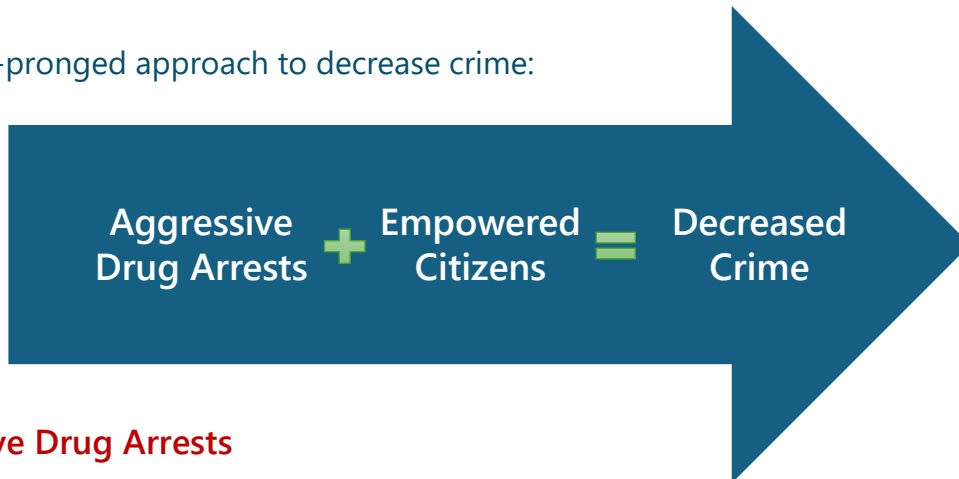


The Brian Davis Approach to: Baxter County Public Safety

Use a two-pronged approach to decrease crime:



Aggressive Drug Arrests

The dramatic increase in drug availability across the country is impacting Baxter County. I plan to take an aggressive stance on drug enforcement by **arresting the dealers** and putting them in jail, and if necessary, arresting them over and over again, taking their fine and bond money, and seizing their property until they are either in prison, broke, or it becomes too expensive to do business here and they move on.

As far as our **drug users**, when we catch them with drugs in Baxter County, we will arrest them. If they want help for their addiction, we will direct them to agencies to get help. If they choose to continue to use drugs and commit crimes, they should do it somewhere else other than Baxter County. We will not let them use addiction as an excuse to take what people have worked hard for and continue to commit crimes against the citizens of Baxter County.

Currently, Baxter County has one investigator dedicated primarily to drug investigations. This investigator works with members of other local, state, and federal agencies to form a task force to fight drugs in our area. I believe our drug problem is outgrowing our current approach, and we need to do more. In addition to the drug task force, Baxter County Sheriff's Office needs more in-house focus on drugs.

I plan to create a **Narcotics Unit** within our Criminal Investigation Division (CID), placing more concentrated efforts on drug enforcement by allowing multiple officers to work drug investigations instead of just one. These officers will receive specialized training in all aspects of drug enforcement and drug laws, as well as search and seizure laws, and will work closely with the other CID investigators and the patrol division on drug cases.

I plan to have the **patrol division** receive extensive training in patrol drug enforcement, drug laws, and search and seizure laws to give them what they need to become as proactive in drug enforcement as they can be and build strong cases to submit for prosecution.

I plan to bring a **K9** into the Sheriff's office to help with our fight against drugs. I will use my management team to evaluate our options to determine what type of dog and what training will best suit our needs. This will require securing adequate funding to support it beyond the purchase of the dog.

Empowered Citizens

Theft and Property Crimes

I believe the more officers we have out there patrolling, the bigger the impact on preventing crimes. I will always look for ways to put more deputies on patrol. As the population grows, we will have to grow as well. The officers in the narcotics unit will provide extra eyes and ears for the patrol division while they are out working. I have already been working with the other divisions and using current staff, as we can, to assist patrol when available and it has been working very well in assisting patrol with calls and making response times better. I want to take it further than just having officers out there patrolling. I want to take a **proactive community policing approach**.

I want our deputies **to contact businesses and citizens** while out patrolling. Stop and talk with them. I want our citizens to know all our deputies by name and get to know them so that they feel comfortable talking to them and letting them know if they have information or just see something that doesn't look right.

I plan to start a **property safety program** to advise the public on what they can do to help protect their property. I've been on calls where I've been asked to make suggestions about property safety, and I want to start a program where we can go out and offer ideas on things property owners can do to make the property safer and less inviting for thieves. Just simple suggestions on things like where to install locks, security lights, cameras or where to trim bushes to make the property more visible. Just a way to help the citizens make their property safer. And make them feel safer.

I plan to establish a **crime stoppers program** in Baxter County. This program pays rewards for information leading to arrests on crimes. I have seen this program work in the past, and I know areas where this program is currently being used with good results. The success of this program would be based completely on how much community support and funding it receives. But it can be a very useful program.

I plan to encourage and help add more **neighborhood watch programs** in our communities. Encourage neighbors to watch out for each other. There is no better asset than the eyes and ears that are already in the neighborhoods. If these criminals know they are being watched and that someone is going to call the Sheriff's Office, it could be the deciding factor that keeps them out of your neighborhood.

Assisting our elderly citizens

Too many times, we have been sent on calls to do welfare checks on our elderly citizens and the outcome was disturbing. I've seen times where they have fallen and had to suffer for days or have died because they didn't have anyone to check on them. This is unacceptable. Many of our elderly citizens live alone with no family here and sometimes with no family period. I believe we need to do our part to help take care of them.

I have a plan to start a computer-based **welfare check program** to assist with checking on our elderly citizens who live alone. The system sends daily phone calls to those who sign up. If they fail to answer a pre-determined number of calls, a deputy is dispatched. When they sign up, they can give necessary information on emergency contacts, medical information, or anything they want to give that can be attached in case there is a problem. If we can save one person from suffering or dying due to not being checked on, then it will be worth it. Whatever we can do to keep someone from becoming a victim.