

Questions for Candidate Brian Davis

Why do you want to be Sheriff?

I started coming to Baxter County around 2004 on vacation. In 2010, the decision was made to move here, and I began moving my family here. I have lived here and worked for Baxter County for the past fourteen years and plan to spend the rest of my life here. I've spent over half of my life in law enforcement and have many family members who are or have been in law enforcement as well. I have experienced high crime rates and violence while in law enforcement in another part of the state. I do not want to see Baxter County become like other parts of the state and will work hard to make sure that doesn't happen. I think that with my experience and years of service I can make a difference, as Sheriff.

What makes you qualified to be Sheriff?

I have over 33 years of law enforcement experience with over 26 years in leadership and administrative positions. I have been second in command of a law enforcement agency of approximately 45 employees and assisted in managing a \$2.6 M budget. I am currently employed at the Baxter County Sheriff's Office as a Patrol Lieutenant and a member of the command staff. I am responsible for the day-to-day operations of the patrol division and the direct supervision of 18 deputies. I have proven my leadership abilities: I am respected by those I lead and the citizens I serve, and I give that respect in return.

What sets you apart from anyone else who is running for Sheriff?

I have a 33 + year law enforcement employment history that shows long term commitment, dedication, and loyalty to my community. This includes over 26 years of experience in leadership and administrative positions. I have experience working in a high crime part of the state, with many types of crime that Baxter County has never seen.

I believe this experience makes me better prepared for any problems that could arise in the future. I have spent my entire law enforcement career working for local government where I've been accountable to the citizens in the community I serve as opposed to being accountable to state administrators who do not live here and have no ties to the community.

I have been employed at the Sheriff's Office for the last 14 years, where I started as a Patrol Deputy and worked my way up to a Patrol Lieutenant Command Staff position. I am part of the management staff and already know the operations of the Sheriff's Office. I can hit the ground running without having to learn the day-to-day.

Will you be accessible to the people?

I will have an open-door policy and make myself available to anyone. I will listen to their concerns, and we will work together toward a solution to the problem or situation.

How does your wife and family feel about you running for Sheriff?

It takes a special family to be a law enforcement family. My wife and family have always been and continue to be very supportive of my career choice.

What is your plan to combat the drug problem?

I will have an aggressive and proactive stance on drug enforcement. We will arrest dealers over and over if necessary, take their fine and bond money, and seize their property until they go to prison, are broke, or it is too expensive to do business here.

- We will continue to arrest drug users; those who want help with their addiction will be directed to where they can get help for their addiction. If they do not want help, they can either go somewhere else, or we will continue to arrest them. We will not let them use addiction as an excuse to commit crimes, steal your property, and hurt innocent people.
- We will conduct extensive training in drug enforcement, drug laws, and search and seizure laws for the entire Sheriff's Office.
- We will form a narcotics unit with multiple officers who will focus primarily on drug investigations while continuing to be part of the Drug Task Force.
- We will add a K9 dog to the Sheriff's Office.

Do you plan on keeping all the current employees?

I have no intention of getting rid of any current employees. I believe the Sheriff's Office has a great staff who care about our community.

Do you plan on keeping the website in its current form or making changes?

I believe our website is doing very well and the feedback we receive from the community backs that up. It is another way for the Sheriff's Office to remain transparent to the public. The only changes I would anticipate would be upgrades or updates as they are necessary.

Do you plan on changing the menu in the jail?

I won't say it will never change; however, I believe that as long as what is being served meets nutritional and caloric requirements and everyone is being adequately fed, there would be no need to change.

Do you plan on getting a K-9 (dog)?

I plan to bring a K9 into the Sheriff's Office as part of my anti-drug plan. This will require finding the right officer(s) to be the dog's handler as well as securing adequate funding to support it in addition to the purchase of the dog.

Do you plan on keeping the helicopter?

I think the helicopter is a great asset to the Sheriff's Office. With an annual budget of only \$18,000 per year, it is certainly a great cost-effective resource. Obviously, the availability of parts to keep it in service and future availability of a pilot will be factors.

What is your position on body cameras and in-car dash cameras?

I am not opposed to body cameras; I've seen them exonerate officers more times than not. I don't believe there has been a real need for them here in the past. However, there is a lot more to it than just giving your officers a camera and saying wear this. There are several factors and expenses that go along with them even beyond just purchasing the cameras. There are other expenses like storage, redaction software and additional personnel to handle the data and information, just to name a few. I believe there would need to be a lot of thought, planning, and discussion put into place well before the discussion of funding. If a choice had to be made, I would lean towards the in-car cameras with microphones, like the Arkansas State Police use.

What is your view on using Dodge Chargers vs SUVs on patrol?

I believe the Chargers are good patrol vehicles, however since the Chargers are no longer available, we will have to figure out an alternative. Although I do feel that SUVs have their place in patrol, I do not feel that every patrol vehicle should be an SUV, but vehicle availability will be a big determining factor.

What is your view about moving the Sheriff's Office dispatch to the 911 center?

I have no plans to make that move. I believe there is no accountability when the people who dispatch for the Sheriff's Office are not under the direction and control of the Sheriff's Office, and this has been proven several times in the past. This would also take away jobs within the Sheriff's Office and the move would not be financially feasible to the county. The Sheriff's Office dispatchers are paid through the jail which is funded by the sales tax passed by the voters to run the jail operations. If these positions are moved, that funding cannot be used to cover the salary expense, since they are no longer part of the jail.

What is your view on BDU (Battle Dress) uniforms?

I believe BDUs have their place, however I think the standard uniform looks more professional and less militarized. BDUs are typically more durable, but I feel if BDUs are worn, it should be in inclement weather, on night shift, or for special assignments.

Are you going to be a Constitutional Sheriff?

A Sheriff takes an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Arkansas. I will never violate that oath.

Do you support the 2nd Amendment?

I absolutely do. I believe that you should own as many guns as you wish.

What is your opinion on open carry?

I am not opposed to open carry; however I do not believe that it is the safest thing to do. I think the element of surprise is the best advantage and I think concealed carry is the better way.