



Putnam County Justice Center
421 East Spring Street • Cookeville, TN 38501
Phone: 931.528.8484 • Fax: 931.528.7043

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 12/06/17

Sheriff's Office Receives Accreditation

PUTNAM COUNTY, TN – December 06, 2017 – For the first time in history the Putnam County Sheriff's Office has been accredited. Only two other sheriff's offices in the entire state are officially accredited by the Tennessee Law Enforcement Accreditation (TLEA). Being accredited means that the office is required to abide and adhere to a certain set of state and national policies and principles.

“Accreditation is a great achievement for our office. It is an honor to be counted among the agencies who have achieved accreditation status,” says Sheriff Eddie Farris. “The deputies of the sheriff's office deserve all the credit. We work very hard to provide Putnam County with the level of service that our citizens deserve, and their sheriff's office is held to the same standards and complies with the same policies as larger agencies with more resources. The policies are not only in place, but we are following them.”

Sheriff Farris was the driving force in making this accreditation a reality. When he took office as sheriff, one of his primary goals was to improve the level of professionalism exhibited by the office. He realized the importance of uniformed standards to increase the efficiency of inter-agency work and communication. Accreditation would create an opportunity for the community to better understand the value and intricacies of the work being accomplished by the sheriff's office as well. For these reasons, Sheriff Farris set about inspiring his sheriff's office team members with the same vision, and they set out on this three-year project together on the day he took office.

“The Sheriff gave us constant guidance and direction throughout the accreditation process. If it weren't for him, we would not be getting this award,” said Sergeant Fred Parker.

Sergeant Parker is the Accreditation Manager, and he was responsible for the Sheriff's Office General Orders Manual. The book is just one part of the many requirements for accreditation. The accreditation application process takes a great deal of diligence, patience and effort to complete. Upon recommendation, the office is notified of their acceptance into the program and a formal ceremony is held to present the award to the newly accredited agency.

The Sheriff continues to keep the county and its needs as the top priority when goal setting for the office.

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“Our county is a wonderful place to live, and as it grows, we want to maintain and in some ways even improve the way that we care for and serve the people who live here. That’s why we are looking ahead to the future. We want to be prepared to serve a larger population in the most effective and just manner possible,” says Sheriff Farris.

Putnam County is the 18th largest out of Tennessee’s 95 counties. The population is approximately 76,000 residents and growing. The Putnam County Sheriff’s Office employs 153 people, and 71 of those people are sworn deputies.



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Media contact:
Laura Hull, PIO
sheriffpio@putnamcountyttn.gov

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