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## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 2/27/2015

### **PUTNAM COUNTY, TN – Putnam County Sheriff's Office Receives New Look, New Equipment**

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office recently received its first new uniforms in more than 10 years. Sheriff Eddie Farris noted that we had deputies in uniforms with various types of patches and badges. There was no consistency in our uniforms and equipment, which is a hazard to our deputies. The public must be able to immediately recognize that our deputies are from the Putnam County Sheriff's Office. There should be no question that they are our deputies.

The budget process is an important function of the Sheriff's Office as it affects the department's ability to fulfill its mission. When Sheriff Farris took office on September 1, 2014, he conducted a needs assessment survey and found that the areas of greatest need were uniforms, safety equipment, traffic safety vests, outerwear/raingear, vehicles and training. Since that time, we have moved quickly to address these needs within the limited confines of the previously approved budget.

In addition to a need for new uniforms, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office had one of the oldest fleets in the State with many cars having more than 150,000 miles on them. It was important to immediately begin to update the fleet for the safety of our deputies. The Sheriff's Office coordinated auction sales on GovDeals.com totaling \$56,565 to supplement their county budget line item for vehicles, which helped to buy 8 new Ford Interceptor Sedan patrol cars as well as several used passenger vans for Jail work crews. These purchases were further supplemented by acquisitions from a military surplus program of a 15-passenger van for prisoner transport and an older pickup truck for trash pickup work. Other surplus acquisitions included 3 new safes for the property room, four modular command posts, reconnaissance surveillance equipment (cameras) for each investigator, handcuffs, and equipment bags.

In addition, grants and preferred provider relationships were used to garner much needed safety equipment, such as bulletproof vests, leather gear, footwear, badges, and Glock weapons for all certified deputies.

“The safety of our deputies and giving them the necessary tools to do their job in an effective manner are my highest priorities,” said Farris. “With these new tools and the training that we have implemented, I am confident that we have one of the most professional law enforcement agencies in the state.”

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