



CURRENT PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATING LEVY KEY FACTS:

1. A 5 year Public Safety Levy passed by voters in May 2015 for up to 45 cents per thousand of assessed value for properties in Polk County.

2. This levy allowed for the hiring of 22 Full Time Employees (FTE) between the Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office in addition to the rental of two (2) juvenile detention beds. Below is a breakdown of the hiring within the Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's Office:

- 12 Patrol Deputies
- 5 FTE in the Jail (3 Deputies/2 Civilian support staff)
- 5 FTE in the District Attorney's Office (3 Prosecutors and 2 Legal Support staff)

3. The levy allows for up to 45 cents per thousand to be assessed to properties in all of Polk County. The board of commissioners have applied any timber payments or money received from the Federal Government that was in lieu of O & C Timber Funds or Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funding to reduce the levied amount. The county has not levied the full amount at any point during the operating levy. Below is a breakdown by budget year of the levied amounts (average of .33 cents per thousand per year):

- July 2015 through June 2016 30.8* cents per thousand was assessed.
- July 2016 through June 2017 31.9* cents per thousand was assessed.
- July 2017 through June 2018 37.8* cents per thousand was assessed.
- July 2018 through June 2019 31.9* cents per thousand will be assessed

PUBLIC SAFETY LEVY KEY POINTS:

May 15th, 2015

- Voters passed the public safety levy – 56.3 % to 43.6%.
- Sheriff's Office first hire for the public safety levy was on May 16th, 2015.

July 2015

- 3 Deputy District Attorneys were hired

December 2015

- 2 legal support staff were hired in the District Attorney's Office

January 2016

- The Sheriff's Office went from 10 hours per day to 20 hours per day

September 2016

- The Sheriff's Office created the Mobile Crisis Response Team (Mental Health Response Team)
- The Sheriff's Office created a school resource deputy position
- The Sheriff's Office created the only mobile electronic and computer lab in the county, which provides forensic services to all of the law enforcement agencies in Polk County.

July 2016

- The Sheriff's Office restored 24 hour patrols
- The Polk County Inter Agency Narcotics Team (POINT) was restored
- Sheriff's Office restored two courthouse security positions

July 2017

- All positions promised within the levy filled

December 2018

- Polk County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to ask voters to approve a renewal of Public Safety Levy, #27-129, on May 21st, 2019 at a slightly lower rate of 42.5 cents.

**In year 1,2,3 and 4 of the levy, we received a small amount of federal timber payments, which as promised by the board of commissioners, offset the levied amount. Number denoted above are for the entire public safety levy that includes, PCSO, District Attorney and Juvenile Beds.*

