

Deron R. McMaster



July 5, 2025

Greetings Board of County Commissioners,

I am excited to apply for the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Interim Sheriff appointment. I dedicated twenty-eight and a half years to the citizens of Deschutes County and the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office (DCSO). I know the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office intimately and served in many different and varied roles. I realize the dedicated employees of DCSO are in dire need of strong ethical leadership.

During my career at DCSO I fulfilled a wide range of responsibilities. Likely, I am the only candidate with the requisite experience across all three Sheriff's Office Divisions (which have now been further divided to create four divisions). Additionally, I have professional relationships with county leaders, city leaders, and DCSO employees. I am the candidate who is best positioned to step into the role of Interim Sheriff seamlessly.

I was first hired as a Patrol Deputy with DCSO in February 1993. I became experienced as a Field Training Officer, Detective, Patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, and Administrative Lieutenant. While serving as the Administrative Lieutenant my responsibilities included supervising the Large Animal Rescue Ranch, the Civil Unit, and the DCSO Volunteers. I played a leading role by participating in many community events such as Shop with a Cop, the Deschutes County Fair, and LaPine Frontier Days. I interacted with many different community organizations such as home school groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the Shriners. I also served as a board member on the Central Oregon Public Safety Chaplaincy board.

In July 2015 I was promoted to Captain and became the DCSO Corrections Division Commander. I attended and graduated from the DPSST Police to Corrections Academy class in September 2015. This assignment exposed me to a whole different discipline of law enforcement. I gained an enormous amount of experience in the issues and challenges of corrections from inmate management to navigating complex legal issues in corrections. Another part of my duties was the commander of the Building Maintenance Unit. This experience included at least two capital projects at the Sheriff's Office campus, the air conditioning unit replacement project at the north part of the jail and the back parking lot improvement project at the main Sheriff's Office.

In December 2017 I became the Detective Division Commander. I was in command of all detectives including Criminal Detectives, CODE Detectives, and the Street Crimes Detectives. Also, as a part of the Detectives Division, I directly supervised the Evidence Unit and the evidence room. Additionally, I was the Commander of Search and Rescue and Emergency Management.

The next eighteen months will be challenging. Both the county and the Sheriff's Office are facing a potential budget crisis mainly due to rising personnel costs. The cost of PERS and health care continues to rise. Personnel costs account for approximately 76% of the budget while the rest of the budget is

comprised of approximately 22% in materials and services and approximately 2% in capital projects (FY 25 data). The expenditures are predicted to exceed revenues in the near future if these trajectories continue uninhibited. Acting now will give the County and DCSO a better chance at avoiding hardship. It will take collaborative and innovative ideas to change the course of this financial crisis involving leadership from both the County and the Sheriff's Office.

In 2001 Les Stiles became the DCSO Sheriff. Morale at DCSO was low and employees at DCSO were not unified just as it seems to be now. Sheriff Stiles was able to unify the Sheriff's Office through inspiring leadership. It will take strong leadership skills to create an environment in which employees feel dignified, respected, and appreciated again. The Sheriff's Office does not just belong to the Sheriff; it belongs to all its employees. My goal is to bring that esprit de corps back to the Sheriff's Office.

The public image of DCSO has suffered immensely over the past eight years. The Sheriff's Office was constantly in the news with negative headlines. This has caused a negative point of view in the eye of the public concerning the Sheriff's Office. We will need to reverse this trend, and it will take all of us at DCSO to accomplish these goals. We must lead by example with integrity, serving our fellow citizens with honor, and demonstrating that we are people of character worthy of public trust.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Over the years, I demonstrated my dedication to upholding high values and ethical principles while treating people with fairness and decency. I look forward to meeting you in person. I am excited for the opportunity to serve the people of Deschutes County as their Interim Sheriff.

Sincerely,

Deron R. McMaster