

UMATILLA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"Conservators of the Peace"

Sheriff Terry L. Rowan



Undersheriff Jim Littlefield

PRESS RELEASE

February 19, 2026

Umatilla County Sheriff's Office Earns State Accreditation for Law Enforcement and 9-1-1 Communications

In a ceremony at the Umatilla County Board of Commissioner's meeting on February 18th, Scott Hayes, Executive Director of the Northwest Accreditation Alliance (NWAA) presented Sheriff Terry Rowan and Undersheriff Jim Littlefield with the Certificate of State Accreditation. **(Mr. Hayes' award letter is attached).**

Earning this prestigious designation fulfills one of Sheriff Rowan's primary goals for the agency. The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office is the 14th sheriff's office, and the eleventh 9-1-1 communications center in the State of Oregon to be accredited.

Accreditation is a rigorous and comprehensive process where the agency demonstrates to an independent body that their policies and procedures meet or exceed established industry best practices, and are consistent with Oregon laws and administrative rules. A few of the topics covered include use of force, evidence procedures, operational procedures for law enforcement and 9-1-1 communications, personnel practices, and organizational management. This process serves to strengthen agency accountability and transparency, improve service delivery to our communities, strengthen professionalism, reduce liability, and improve efficiency.

The Northwest Accreditation Alliance exists to improve the quality of law enforcement and 9-1-1 agencies in the States of Oregon and Alaska and, ultimately the quality of services provided to the citizens of both states. The Northwest Accreditation Alliance proudly provides law enforcement and communications 9-1-1 accreditation to qualified law enforcement and 9-1-1 agencies in Oregon and Alaska. The U.S. Attorney General's Office has designated the Northwest Accreditation Alliance as the State of Oregon's independent credentialing body for the purpose of certifying compliance with the U.S. Department of Justice standards of certification on safe policing principles.

We are proud to share that the divisions of the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, including law enforcement, communications (dispatch), and corrections (jail) have all earned accreditation from an independent, credentialing body. (The Umatilla County Jail was accredited in 2024 by the Oregon State Sheriff's Association).

"Thanks to our team who worked on this project, and our incredible staff who deserve the credit. The work they do every day makes it all possible.", said Sheriff Rowan.

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