



BRAD THURMAN, SHERIFF

Leadership * Service * Excellence * Sacrifice

PRESS RELEASE

May 19, 2020

Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office Deploys Five AED's to Field Operations

Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office has recently deployed five (5) automated external defibrillators (AED's) to field operations. The United States Deputy Sheriff's Association awarded a \$5,000 grant to help purchase four of the AED's, (*these funds are to help provide safety equipment to law enforcement agencies*). In addition, PacifiCorp generously purchased one for our Deputy who patrols their area. The Sheriff's Office also received donations from two families, which contributed to the purchase of AED's. We want to extend a special thank you to the Kingsley family from Kelso and June and Scott Fischer from Kalama.

Sheriff Brad Thurman said, "This program originated from a suggestion of a Longview resident, Don Boultinghouse. Boultinghouse, a former EMT/Firefighter with Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue, was at the home of a friend in Castle Rock on February 16, 2019, when the friend suffered a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) event. Boultinghouse rendered aide and was joined by Deputy Jordan Spencer, and Castle Rock Police Officer Bill Zimmerman. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was performed until Castle Rock Fire District #6 arrived and took over; ultimately resulting in the saving the citizen's life. Boultinghouse contacted me at Sheriff's Office and suggested Deputies be equipped with AED's to be able to intervene in such circumstances."

Many law enforcement agencies carry AED's and are often the first responder on scene in these types of events, which allows them to render assistance beyond basic first aid. Sheriff Thurman's goal is to make automated external defibrillation (AED's) part of the standard equipment for the Sheriff Deputy's vehicles. The Sheriff's Office has 38 Deputies, and these five AED's is a start to achieving our goal. We will continually seek out opportunities to apply for grants, but we would welcome any organization or individuals wishing to contribute to the purchase of more AED's; each AED costs approximately \$1,480. If you would like to make a donation, please feel free to contact Katrina Harris, Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office Budget & Finance Manager at harrisk@co.cowlitz.wa.us or at 360-577-3093.

"It is my hope that this will allow us to better serve the Citizens of Cowlitz County in moments of crisis and save some lives", said Sheriff Thurman.