

Getting Our Fleet in Order



Above: JCSO deputies with four of the department's "new" vehicles.

How did the Jessamine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) manage to purchase eight vehicles for less than the price of four? By paying attention, acting quickly, and doing everything possible to use JCSO's budgeted dollars wisely.

Jessamine County Sheriff Kevin Corman pays careful attention to JCSO's monthly budget, and it revealed a recurring problem: maintenance costs for the department's several vehicles with mileage over 150,000.

"With high maintenance costs tend to come with age and high mileage," he said. "Cars get hot, cooling fans quit working, and transmissions go out." Ageing vehicles can also present a safety problem. "Higher speeds are often required when officers are responding to emergency situations. That requires dependable vehicles," JCSO Lieutenant Anthony Purcell said.

To fulfill JCSO's need for a dependable, well-maintained fleet of low mileage cars, a portion of JCSO's yearly budget had been earmarked for the purchase of new vehicles, but the allocated dollars weren't enough to replace all of the aging vehicles. So Sheriff Corman waited—and watched. He knew that when other police and emergency services departments purchase a brand new fleet, they tend to put their used vehicles up for sale. And after learning that the Paris Police Department (PPD) had recently done just that, Sheriff Corman acted quickly, purchasing five PPD vehicles, all with mileage under 50,000 and all fully equipped with lights and emergency equipment (see photo at right). The total cost for JCSO's recent purchase—four Crown Vics and one Dodge Charger—rounded up to \$33,000, less than the cost of one new vehicle.

Like Sheriff Corman, Jessamine County Judge/Executive David K. West couldn't be happier about JCSO's new fleet. "I'm especially happy because this purchase allows us to be extremely vigilant with our citizen's tax dollars all while providing the highest level of service and safety," he said.



**"Usually when we buy new vehicles, we have to spend an additional \$5000-\$8000 per vehicle to equip it with lights, consoles, radios, etc. With this purchase, the only additional cost was to switch out the decals on the vehicles—from PPD to JCSO."
—Sheriff Kevin Corman**

For more information, visit JessamineSheriff.org or call 859-885-4139.