

Terrell County Sheriff's Office EOM Report January 2022

Terrell County began its New Year with the local New Years Dance held at the Fair Hall, no incidents or issues were reported during the evenings event.

The Terrell County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) still continues to respond to local calls and also for assistance calls from either Department of Public Safety, (DPS), or U.S. Border Patrol. These calls are usually not in town and are out east of Sanderson or north of Dryden on Hwy 349. The assistance calls are usually Illegal Alien calls, either for a vehicle stop that has resulted in a bailout of illegals or vehicle stops of suspected smuggler drivers. TCSO Deputies have also apprehended vehicles loaded with illegal aliens or have had bailouts of their own during their routine patrols north of Dryden on Hwy 349, or Hwy 90 east.

The groups of illegal aliens crossing in Terrell County have not slowed down, not even during the hunting season, and with the warm weather approaching it is expected that crossings will increase. The far east end of the county is currently the most active, with groups of 40 to 70 crossing, the second most active area is Dryden area. This area is quick to pick up in illegal alien activity simply because of the easy access to Hwy 349 and north to I-10. This month has seen a bit of a decline in apprehensions of OTM's (other than Mexican). This month most of those apprehended were citizens of Mexico, all if not most of the apprehensions in Terrell County are all organized smuggling.

DPS continues to make a difference with their presences in the county, they continue to apprehend and deter smuggling activities. DPS has also at times actively participated in the apprehensions of groups of illegal aliens, assisting USBP agents in the field when their man power is low, or just simply responding to the call for assistance with an apprehension. TCSO thanks all the men and women of the Department of Public Safety for their professionalism, willingness to work under rural circumstances, and dedication to the mission.

TCSO Dispatchers continue to receive 911 calls from illegal aliens in distress, the calls that were received this month were also passed on to USBP Station, but TCSO Deputies responded as well. The calls all resulted in successful location of the subjects who were calling. One particular call was a life and death emergency,

when the illegal alien placing the call was pretty much headed towards her last few breaths. TCSO Deputies and USBP agents were quick to respond and were able to locate the subject, and provide the necessary emergency care. TCSO 911 Dispatcher was able to ping the callers cellphone and that made a difference in locating the subject. These types of 911 calls continue to come into our office and are continuously handled by our TCSO Dispatchers.

TCSO 911 system went down twice during the month of January, the first time was due to the power failures that occurred in town. It appeared that the system did not reboot its self properly resulting in a 911 malfunction. Premium Basin 911 from Midland, TX. was contacted and they were able to respond and locate the problem and repair it. The second time the 911 system went down was during our generator monthly test, this time 911 was being received, but the 911 recording system was not working. Premium Basin responded with their technicians and after a few hours were able to locate and isolate the problem, Big Bend Telephone was also contacted and assisted with the repairs.

I will advise the Commissioners Court that on January 7, 2021 Terrell County suffered a power outage at approximately mid-afternoon. Texas New Mexico Power Company (TNMP) was contacted and discovered that the problem was at the sub station located here in Sanderson. Tech crews, along with the local tech arrived on scene and began to check fuses and power lines. After a few lines and fuses were tested it was determined that the problem was with the fuses, but extra fuses are not kept here in Sanderson the closest power fuse was in Pecos, TX. The office advised TNMP tech crew that they would have to drive up to Pecos storage compound and pick one up and transport it back to Sanderson, that would put power being restored to town a little after mid night. TCSO at the time had a unit in Fort Stockton, TX., and decided it would assist TNMP by making a meet with an employee from the Pecos office, the meet was made and TCSO transported three new fuses to the Sanderson substation, each fuse costing 5k each. In the mean time TNMP crews were able to continue performing test on the substation, once the fuses arrived, they were installed and power was restored to town later that evening. I was informed by TNMP officials and crew members that this was the very first time that TCSO and Deputies had ever assisted with any power restoration to the town.

Besides the ongoing Border crisis issues that Terrell County is currently experiencing, TCSO Deputies still responded to local matters and issues occurring around town, such as neighbor disputes, loose dogs, theft of service, domestic disturbances, vehicle accidents, and our office has also assisted local EMS and TC Volunteer Fire Dept.

TCSO was informed that the meeting with the Jail Commission was rescheduled for February 24, 2022 in Austin, TX. TCSO will be expected to present the reasons why the Terrell County Jail is still close. I will inform the court that the last jail inspection revealed several administrative deficiencies. These deficiencies were left over from the prior administration and the previous Jail Administrator. The jail was initially closed down due to the jail doors not functioning, after several months a company was hired to make the repairs. The work was completed, and the jail was certified for the repairs, but there were still several other deficiencies that needed to be repaired. Eventually all repairs were completed and done until the last inspection when the administrative issues were found. I have been informed that all our administrative issues have been corrected with copies of the resolved issues being forwarded to our Jail Inspector, we hope that during this meeting we will be able to present our corrective measures and move forward with the jail opening.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'J.P.' followed by a stylized flourish.