

## *Letter from Sheriff Hill*

**Welcome** to the Kingman County Sheriff's Office and the opportunity to make a difference in the community and in the lives of its citizens. We have a proud commitment among our employees to offer the best possible services to the community.

I am Sheriff Randy L. Hill. I started my law enforcement career in 1976 at South Hutchinson, KS. I became a Deputy Sheriff in Kingman County in 1981, was promoted to Sergeant in 1983, and promoted to Undersheriff in 1988. With the sudden passing of Sheriff Robert Bayack in 1996, I was appointed to finish the remainder of his term and have been elected Sheriff in 1998, 2000, 2004, 2008, and 2012.

The title of Sheriff can be dated back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century when Kings in England and Scotland would appoint persons to enforce their laws. This person only answered to the King. As society changed, as well as the way laws were made and enforced, the description of the Sheriff also changed. Our history in America has shown that the father of our nation wanted government to answer to the people and not just to one ruler. Kansas has followed the same principle, and Kansas laws require that the Sheriff be elected by the people of the County in which the Sheriff serves.

Kingman County was organized on February 27, 1874, and the first Sheriff was F.S. Fical (William G. Cutler's *History of Kansas*). The county is now twenty-four miles north and south, by thirty-six east and west. It contains twenty-four townships, and has a total of 552,960 acres or 864 square miles. The population of the county in the year 2012 was 7,863. Highways US-54, K-14, K-42 and K-2 run through Kingman County. The County Seat is the City of Kingman in which the County Courthouse and Sheriff's Office are located.

The Kingman County Sheriff's Office is located just south of the courthouse. The building was built in 1959 and was originally built to house the Sheriff's Office, the jail (eight beds), and the Sheriff's residence. It was customary for the Sheriff or the Sheriff's wife to cook the meals for the inmates.

In 1980, the building was remodeled and a new jail was added on. The jail now has thirteen beds. The Sheriff's residence is no longer in the building, and the residence has been made into offices. The Kingman Police Department was moved into the building, and the building was renamed the Kingman Law Enforcement Center.

The Kingman County Sheriff's Office is made up of the Law Enforcement, Records, Communication / 911, and the Adult Detention (jail).

I hope you will find working here agreeable and satisfying.

Randy L. Hill, Sheriff