

Q&A for Town of Oakboro Law Enforcement

Approximately 200 Towns in NC that do not have own police department and contract with their county sheriff (University of North Carolina School of Government 8.29.22) Interlocal agreements are expressly permitted by [G.S. 160A-461](#). Examples include Harrisburg, Indian Trail, New London, and Richfield.

The Town of Oakboro is currently in contractual negotiations with Stanly County and the Stanly County Sheriff's office to provide law enforcement protection.

The decision to contract with the Stanly County Sheriff's Office is a decision that the Town believes is in the best interests of the residents of Oakboro. This is necessary to ensure continuous law enforcement in a time when the majority of the staff has chosen to resign for career changes or jobs with other agencies.

The draft contract with the SCSO provides that 8 deputies will be permanently assigned to the new "Oakboro Division" of the Stanly County Sheriff's office. This will put MORE deputies on patrol than our Town has been able to provide recently. The deputies will use the police building where the office hours are from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday; with deputies patrolling the Town of Oakboro 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

We understand that contracting with the SCSO means that the remaining OPD staff will go through a transition period, they will have the opportunity to apply to the SCSO for positions and remain in the Oakboro district.

Sheriff's deputies are already at work in Oakboro, and have been since mid-May! The contract will provide dedicated deputies on patrol around the clock in the Town.

The reason this works is because the SCSO will use their existing leadership and supervisory personnel, detective division, evidence management and other support services to serve the deputies assigned to Oakboro. The Sheriff will form an "Oakboro Division" of Stanly County Sheriff Department for our town, providing more consistent staffing.

1. Who should I call for something that needs police attention?

Calling 911 in an emergency will get information to an officer in the quickest manner, as we currently direct the public. If the matter is not an emergency, you may call the Stanly County Sheriff's Office at 704-986-3714. You may ask that the officer simply call you if you cannot meet with one. While some matters will require meeting with an officer, simple matters that can be handled over the telephone can help conserve time and fuel.

These operational procedures will be no different than before.

2. Is the Sheriff's office building in Oakboro staffed with a deputy at all times?

The operational procedures will be no different than before.

The building office hours are from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday.
Although, deputies are staffed and available in the Town of Oakboro area 24-7.

3. Who do I contact to request an extra patrol of my home or business while I am out of town?

You may continue to call the Town Hall to provide details such as cars left on the premises, authorized persons, contact numbers, duration of request, etc.; OR You may call the Sheriff's Office directly or utilize the Sheriff's App to request extra patrol and home/business checks.

4. Will the deputies on duty cover all subdivisions and businesses in the limits of Oakboro?

Yes, the deputies on duty will continue with home and business checks throughout the day and night. They may patrol outside of the Oakboro ETJ for better community protection, when requested.

5. Is the current sheriff an advocate of community policing?

YES. Sheriff Crisco believes in community policing and will ensure deputies assigned to the **Oakboro Division** integrate into our community, school, and businesses. The SCSO will continue to attend Board of Commissioner meetings for updates. The deputies will patrol events just as the current expectations are of the police staff.

6. What is the difference between a police officer and a sheriff's deputy?

There is very little difference between the sheriff's deputies and police officers. Both have essentially the same powers of arrest and investigation, both are required to be certified by the state and both have standards for professionalism and code of ethics.

7. Why can't we keep our Oakboro Police Department?

With the resignation of the previous Chief and most recently additional officers there is an immediate need for law enforcement staff on a continuous basis. The process of hiring individuals through all aspects, including State requirements, is very time consuming.

Currently it is essential that we provide the best option for the Town of Oakboro for law enforcement coverage and that is through the Sheriff's department.

8. What can the Sheriff's Office provide that we do not have with our regular police force?

The Sheriff's Office is a full-service law enforcement agency that requires little to no assistance from the Town. The office has personnel specifically trained in different areas of expertise. They can provide significant resources and equipment. The SCSO has resources and services that the Town of Oakboro would not be able to duplicate.

9. What will happen to the police officers currently working with Oakboro Police Department?

The current OPD staff will have the opportunity to apply with the SCSO for positions and **remain in the Oakboro District** or seek employment with other law enforcement agencies.

10. Will contracting with the Sheriff's office cost the Town of Oakboro more than expended in the previous year budget?

No. Contracting with the SCSO will not cost the Town of Oakboro more than expended in the budget last year.

11. Do we lose control of the law enforcement of our Town by contracting with SCSO?

No. The Town will work with the Sheriff to ensure any legitimate concerns are addressed in a timely manner.

The Sheriff is committed to providing the Town of Oakboro with the same quality service expected throughout the county.

12. What kind of service can the Town expect from the Sheriff's Office for the "Oakboro Division"?

You can expect highly trained and courteous deputies who are dedicated to keeping our community safe. The deputies will continue to be involved with community events, provide daily/nightly business checks, and residential checks.

13. When will the SCSO begin duties?

The Town has utilized the Sheriff's Office since mid-May to assist with coverage of law enforcement for Oakboro citizens. They will continue to provide services as normal through the transition period to full contracted services approximately end of September, 2024.

You should see no break in service, there will simply be Sheriff deputies answering your calls and patrolling the Town of Oakboro. The same numbers will be used to report emergencies (911) and non-emergencies (704-986-3700).

14. Are the same deputies/officers regularly assigned to Oakboro, or do many different officers frequently rotate in and out of this duty?

The Sheriff will assign the same **deputies** to the "Oakboro Division", allowing the community to experience the same familiar faces on a daily basis. In addition,

the staff will continue to occupy the Oakboro police building.

15. Who do I contact with the Town if I have concerns or comments?

You may contact the Town Hall (704-485-3351) and speak with the Town Administrator or email TownofOakboro@Oakboro.com.