

CONTACT:**Philip A. Strouse**

Community Relations
Garfield County Sheriff's Office
107 8th Street
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
Phone: 970-309-9697
E-mail: pstrouse@garcosheriff.com

**Tanny M. McGinnis**

Community Relations
Garfield County Sheriff's Office
107 8th Street
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
Phone: 970-309-9248
E-mail: tmcginnis@garcosheriff.com

SHERIFF LOU VALLARIO
GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

March 2, 2010

Sheriff's Office Returns Over \$2.1 Million To County's Taxpayers

GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO – At a time when governmental entities across the nation are dealing with revenue shortfalls and service curtailments, Sheriff Lou Vallario returned more than \$2.1 million (12%) of last year's \$17,456,244.00 annual operating budget to the citizens he serves. Under Sheriff Vallario's sound leadership, all Garfield County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) departments synergized their efforts to trim expenses while enhancing regional public safety responses and initiatives.

During these difficult economic times, Sheriff Vallario directed his administrative, patrol and detentions personnel to seek stringent cost saving measures while continually meeting operational needs. A few key adjustments included optimally utilizing in-house trainers to fulfill professional requirements, enhancing the applications process for heightened hiring standards and fine-tuning competitive acquisitions procedures in purchasing inmate meals and much-needed equipment.

Implementing best management practices, Sheriff Vallario did not have to resort to layoffs or furloughs to keep salaries and employee benefits in check. Supervisors made the most of flexible shift schedules to keep overtime hours at a minimum, thus reducing respective salary expenses and employee burnout. All GCSO members pulled together to execute mission requirements with the goal of returning any unused funds to the communities where the money ultimately belongs.

Sheriff Vallario holds to the belief that just because funding is allotted to the GCSO does not mean it should be spent without discretion. He and the Board of County Commissioners agree that upholding the public trust of every hard-working taxpayer is of paramount importance. Your Garfield County Sheriff's Office strives to serve the public in protecting not only your safety, but also your savings.

The mission of the Garfield County Sheriff's Office is to provide solutions for the people by utilizing and employing strong morals, good character, untarnished integrity, technical knowledge and fiscal responsibility through professional, ethical and equitable conduct.

###