

8-11-2026

Board of County Commissioners
Ottawa County, Oklahoma

Dear Members of the Board,

Please accept this letter as my formal resignation as Ottawa County Sheriff, effective September 4, 2026.

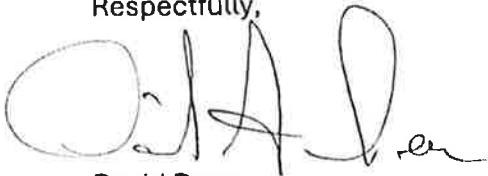
Serving as the Ottawa County Sheriff since 2021 has been one of the greatest honors of my career. I would not have been successful without the support of the Board of County Commissioners and every office within the county. I have learned that this position is not a solo endeavor and can only be accomplished through the dedication, cooperation, and support of everyone who serves Ottawa County.

After much consideration and prayer, I have accepted a position with the Quapaw Nation Marshals Service as a Fish and Game Marshal. I believe this opportunity will be a rewarding new chapter in both my law enforcement career and my life.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have served alongside the county commissioners, county employees, fellow law enforcement agencies, and the citizens of Ottawa County. I take great pride in what we have accomplished together, and I will always be thankful for the support and trust that I have received throughout my tenure.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Ottawa County. It has truly been a privilege and an honor.

Respectfully,



David Dean

Ottawa County Sheriff

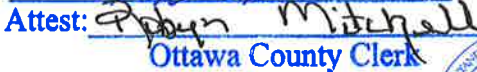
Reviewed/Approved by
Board of County

Dated 17th Day of August, 2026

 Chairman

 Member

 Member

Attest:  Ottawa County Clerk



8-11-2026

Board of County Commissioners
Ottawa County, Oklahoma

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to offer my strongest recommendation that Sergeant Gary Graham be considered for appointment as the next Sheriff of Ottawa County.

During my tenure as Sheriff, I have had the opportunity to work alongside Sergeant Graham and have personally observed his professionalism, integrity, leadership ability, and unwavering commitment to the citizens of Ottawa County. Throughout his service, he has consistently demonstrated sound judgment, the ability to make difficult decisions, and the strong moral character necessary to serve in this position.

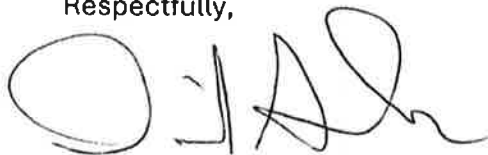
In addition to his service with the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office, Sergeant Graham brings 26 years of law enforcement experience within Ottawa County through his service with several agencies throughout the county. Through that experience, he has gained a deep understanding of the people, the communities, and the challenges facing our county.

Another important consideration is the continuity of leadership within the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office. Current Undersheriff Rocky Ferdig, who has more than 22 years of law enforcement experience within Ottawa County, has expressed his desire to continue serving as undersheriff should Sergeant Graham be appointed sheriff. Their established working relationship would provide a seamless transition and ensure stability within the department.

I have complete confidence in Sergeant Graham and Undersheriff Rocky Ferdig and in their ability to maintain the highest standards in the management and operation of the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office. I firmly believe that their experience, dedication, and commitment to public service make them exceptionally well qualified to lead the office into the future.

Thank you for your time and for your continued support of the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office.

Respectfully,



David Dean

Ottawa County Sheriff

Reviewed/Approved by
Board of County

Dated 17th Day of August, 2026

Chairman

Member

Member

Attest: Robin Mitchell

Ottawa County Clerk

