

My name is David Jones and I have been in Law Enforcement for 30 years. My previous work experience included working with the Lewis County Sheriff's Department, Orofino Police Department, The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Police Department. I am currently employed with the Benewah County Sheriffs Department.

I worked for the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Police Department from June 1997 to December 2010. During my tenure with the Tribal Police, I worked for some time under Chief Keith Hutcheson. Mr. Hutcheson is now running for Kootenai County Sheriff and is making claims about his experience as Tribal Police Chief that are not true. I think the citizens of Kootenai have a right to hear some of the facts that are not in conformity with Keith Hutcheson's claims regarding his time as Chief.

Keith Hutcheson claims he built the Police Department from the "ground up." That is not true. In the past the Police Department had its offices in a house. It was a normal residential structure that was habitable, but utilized for Police Department operations. The fact is that Chief Thomas Cronin was responsible for the new Police Department Headquarters that is now in Plummer.

Before Hutcheson became Chief we were a reasonably modern, yet small, police department. When Chief Harold Scott was with the department, we had 6 computers in the office and each officer had their own laptop. We had an adequate filing system and case numbers were assigned manually. Before Hutcheson became Chief and we were afforded many training opportunities and received regular pay raises.

We received grants for patrol cars, boats for the lake, two Snowmobiles and two four wheelers from the federal government. Keith Hutcheson did not participate in obtaining those grants in any way.

During Chief Cronin's administration we were also afforded ample training opportunities and received regular raises. We adopted a system of assigning case numbers by computer and, in fact, Chief Cronin was responsible for getting the grant funding for 18 new computers and was responsible for planning of the new Police Headquarters building. We didn't move into the new building until after he left the department. Hutcheson's only input was to change the inside design a bit.

Keith Hutcheson's contract expired October 4, 2011. He did not assist the new chief, Cody Sijohn, in transition. He did, however, ask the Tribal Council for a contract extension to stay until June of 2012. The Tribal Council rejected his request.

Hutcheson did get a new record and report writing system implemented within the department. It does not work correctly to this day. This system is called "Fat Pot".

Under Hutcheson's administration, there was a period of 4 years where the officers did not get raises. Keith said it was because there was not money for it in the budget, but there was in fact money from the BIA available for pay increases. When the tribe

did not renew his contract, and Hutcheson left the Chiefs, job everyone received a 5% raise.

During his tenure, Hutcheson obtained \$80,000 from the Tribal Council to help the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office build a gun range. This was approximately 5 years ago. The range has never been built and I do not know what happened to the money.

During his tenure, a High School girl raised money to buy ballistic vests for the K-9's. Several area departments received the vests. When the Tribal Police received our new K-9 vests, Hutcheson took the vest and gave it to the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department and took one of their used vests for our dog.

During his tenure, officer training dropped to only what was needed to remain state certified and Hutcheson moved the jail and dispatch to the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department. That resulted in greater annual expense to the Tribal Police Department.

In regard to "re-training", the only training he did with the department was to make us operate like Kootenai County did. The officers joked that we were "Kootenai County South". He did not retrain the officers in the department. We were all competent and adequately trained. I, personally have over 2000 hours of training and 30 years of experience. There also was, in reality, no chain of command and Keith micro managed everything.

Keith's management "style" resulted in departmental morale dropping to the lowest point I had seen since working for the department. Several officers were looking for other jobs. Keith was never perceived as an advocate for the officers. He was constantly directing us and trying to manage us in doing our jobs, even over the radio and cell phones. We had department cell phones and were required to carry them 24/7 and were required to answer them even when on vacation and off time. I was ordered to answer mine, even on my honeymoon. If we did not answer a phone call from Keith at any time, we were called on the carpet for it.

We were expected to come to work when we were sick and Keith would complain if we maxed out on Personal Time Off and wanted to use it before we lost it. Keith also complained when I took two weeks off for vacation during the summer and he complained when we used PTO time.

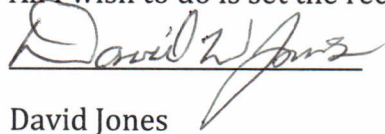
Keith's treatment of the officers also contributed to low morale. He did not trust us to use our training in some cases, like SWAT situations. Instead he would call in Kootenai County, which made officers feel like we were inferior, even though we were fully competent and trained.

If anyone complained on an officer, Keith always believed us to be guilty or wrong and he would yell at us. The burden was always on us and he would yell at us even before he read the officers report on the incident.

One drug case we worked at the Casino, The Kootenai County Sheriff's Department refused to take over the call which, resulted in a seizure of about \$30,000. Keith gave at least \$10,000 of that money to Kootenai County, even though they didn't assist in the case. I do not know what happened to the other \$20,000 after it was put into the departmental safe.

I believe that everything he did was to give himself a boost in popularity with Kootenai County to run for sheriff. As a result of his policies, our morale and operational effectiveness suffered greatly.

All I wish to do is set the record straight with the facts.

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David Jones