



the SOURCE

LEGISLATIVE CONSOLIDATION STUDY: ONE OF MANY

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Representative John Trebilcock (R-Broken Arrow) presided over a short study of a lingering question, “Should the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics be consolidated into the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation”. The narcotics bureau separated from investigations in the mid 1970’s — giving each a distinct mission. According to each bureau’s requestors (clients), this separation has worked well to curb crime in Oklahoma. In 2004 when the first of several attempts to introduce a bill to sub-committee on consolidation started, the Oklahoma Sheriffs’ Association publicly opposed the idea and, in fact, came out in support of the expansion of both the OSBI and OBN. Suzanne Atwood, the executive coordinator of the District Attorneys’ Council, wrote in opposition of consolidation saying, “The OSBI and the OBN have separate missions and perform different duties. There is a distinct need for both agencies. If combined, the specialized expertise intrinsic in these agencies and relied on daily by district attorneys would be lost. This loss would do more than jeopardize the criminal prosecution process. It would result in an immediate disruption of service to local law enforcement.”

The proposal that such a combination of resources would save money is short sighted. To blend the two agencies together would cost more than a half million to re-allocate OBN agents to OSBI pay standards, nearly \$70 thousand to combine offices, and close to another half million just in base-line RIF’s for the proposed 5% cut in staff. Most of those personnel cuts would be support staff who are currently overworked and on a skeleton crew due to past budget cuts. A reduction in staff will undoubtedly lead to reduction in services to the public and law enforcement, e.g. secretaries in the Investigative Services Division file paperwork and put together prosecution reports.

The most current consolidation proposal calls for the dissolution of the OSBI Commission, thereby putting OSBI directly under the Governor. History has shown this to be a bad idea. OSBI investigated Governor David Hall in 1973. According to the OSBI Director at that time, Frank Hagedorn, the Governor threatened him several times to drop the investigation. Hagedorn, a Governor’s appointee, was fired after refusing to end the investigation. “I anticipate him (Gov. Hall) trying to put the bureau under the Department of Public Safety,” Hagedorn said. “I feel that he would have more political control over it there then anywhere else. History proves that.” (The Oklahoman 1/8/74)

The President of The Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police, Richard Mask, also sees fault with the idea of dismissing the OSBI Commission. In a letter, Mask writes, "This is a source of concern for the law enforcement community. The history of Oklahoma has unfortunately had times in which there was a necessity to investigate high ranking state officials. In 1976, the State of Oklahoma wisely chose to insulate the state's investigative agency from any direct political influence by creating the commission which currently oversees the activities of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation."

In fact, OSBI has investigated

several officials from state agencies without political pressure including Governor David Walters for campaign fraud in 1992, the Director of Communications for the Office of Public Affairs in 1984 for making a fraudulent claim, and OHP for unprofessional conduct, corruption, and inappropriate behavior in 1995.

Roger Webb, the Commissioner of Public Safety in the 1970's, comments he worked with three bureau directors during his tenure. He says in a written statement "Stability of leadership is critical for an effective law enforcement agency."

The Oklahoma State Attorney General, during the time Governor Hall was investigated by OSBI, urges the legislature to keep the current system of a commission providing

insulation to state investigators. "History speaks well of the independence of law enforcement agencies. It is my opinion that the system is working well and that a restructuring will be neither cost effective nor in the best interest of the citizens of Oklahoma who depend upon strong, dedicated, specialized and independent law enforcement agencies," Larry Derryberry says.

And finally, the Governor at the time OSBI and OBN were separated speaks out about the proposed consolidation. "We should never return to the days when direct political influence can be exerted to impact the integrity and independence of the OSBI," David Boren says.

Lawton Area Citizens' Academy Graduates, A Fourth Academy Considered

Movers and shakers from the Lawton area graduated in mid November from the third OSBI Citizen Academy – the first for that region.

Among the participants: a banker, attorney, judge and a lawmaker.

During this eight-week academy, OSBI criminalists and agents taught the different aspects of their jobs in fighting crime. Lessons included forensic art, surveillance techniques and evidence collection.

Eager pupils toured the Lawton laboratory to learn more about

technology used to detect and test criminal evidence. During a separate lesson, academy members spent the day at the Lawton gun range learning how and when to shoot.

Graduates from each of the three academies are invited to headquarters in late November for an update on OSBI projects and upcoming legislative matters.

OSBI Director DeWade Langley is planning a fourth academy in the near future in either Oklahoma City or Woodward. Participants are selected primarily by the OSBI Inspector for the region.



(left to right) Rick Johnston, Judge Allen McCall, Danny McCuiston, Rep. Joe Dorman and OSBI Criminalist Sara Ferrero check for bodily fluids via an ultra violet light.

Construction begins on Forensic Science Center, Ground Breaking Event Marks Start

Construction on the 86,000 square foot forensic science center has begun. The new building will house state-of-the-art equipment in all forensic disciplines including drugs, DNA and toxicology.

Not only will this new site offer the best scientific techniques of the day, it will also offer room to expand with future technology. When the center opens for business, 67 criminalists and support staff will occupy the building with space for up to 100. The past ten years tells a story of the increasing demand of forensic science. Since 1995, laboratory services requested by Okla-



Tom Jordan, OSBI Commissioners Anne Holzbeierlein and Rob Hudson, DeWade Langley, Commissioner Ted Fariss, Tom Reynolds, Charlie Curtis, Steve Brookman, Darrel Wilkins & Jerry Hire

homa law enforcement has increased more than 27%. If the past foretells the future, the new OSBI forensic science center will fill a much-needed niche in crime fighting.

Not only will this new facility enhance the bureau's services to state law enforcement, but it will also allow for an expanded partnership between OSBI and the University of Central Oklahoma with a Forensic Science Institute. This Institute will allow UCO forensic science students a hands on learning experience with OSBI criminalists supervising. The study program will enhance UCO's new forensic science masters program and possibly allow for a future PhD program.

OSBI criminalists should be processing evidence in the new lab by summer 2007.

FBI Commends OSBI Agent For Work on Task Force

The FBI Deputy Special Agent in Charge in the Oklahoma City Office, Scott Chafin, presented OSBI Special Agent Scott Behenna with a plaque commending him for his service with the Joint Terrorism Task force from January 2002

through August 2004.

Behenna created and supervised the FBI agents and analysts in the newly formed Field Intelligence Group (FIG). The FIGs were mandated in all 56 field divisions of the FBI. Behenna was the only

non-FBI supervisor of the newly formed FIGs.



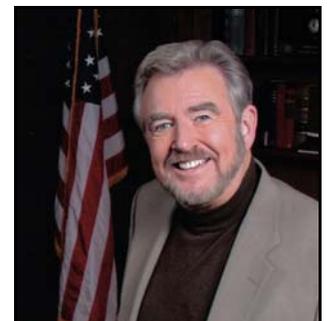
Governor Appoints New OSBI Commissioner

Newly appointed Commissioner Mike Wilkerson brings with him years of law enforcement. He worked as an OSBI agent from 1973 to 1978. One of the most memorable cases in which he worked for OSBI was the Girl Scout Murders. He co-authored a book, *Someone Cry For The Chil-*

dren, with his brother, Dick Wilkerson. The book chronicled the manhunt for Gene Leroy Hart, the man believed to have killed the girl scouts.

After quitting law enforcement, Wilkerson became a film producer and has earned many awards for his productions.

The Atwood native joins the OSBI Commission as one of four lay members.



Changing Faces of OSBI Management

In the past few months, OSBI Director Langley has changed the duties of several assistant directors and replaced one who is retiring at the end of the year.

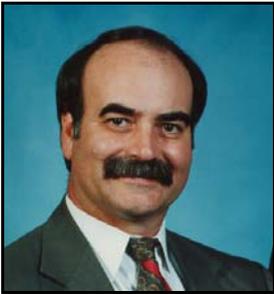
The former director over investigations, Dave Page, was moved to Information Services. In turn, Investigative Services Director Rusty Featherstone replaced Page. Langley hopes to use this move as a way each of the men can mentor

those who aspire to management positions within the bureau.

At the crime lab, Assistant Director Darrel Wilkins left to move to headquarters where he will be replacing the retiring assistant director over Administrative Services, Glenda Fogleman. Director Langley has named Criminalistics Administrator Charlie Curtis as the new assistant director over the crime lab. A new position in the

lab was also created — Assistant Laboratory Director. Lawton's Criminalist Supervisor, Andrea Solorzano, was promoted to this new position.

A few months ago, Director Langley appointed assistant legal counsel Stacy Morey as OSBI Chief Legal Counsel. Jimmy Bunn, former chief legal counsel, remains on staff.



Dave Page, Director of Information Services



Rusty Featherstone, Director of Investigative Services



Darrel Wilkins, Director of Administrative Services



Stacy Morey, Chief Legal Counsel