



March 31, 2025

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# Law Enforcement - Historical Notes

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Dear Reader:

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We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Table of Contents

<b>Law Enforcement - Historical Notes .....</b>	<b>3</b>
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# Law Enforcement - Historical Notes

## **Sheriff**

The following acts have no current effect but are included here for reference purposes since they once applied to the Decatur County Sheriff's Office. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 133, set the salary of the Sheriff of Decatur County, identified by the use of the 1910 Federal Census figures, at \$500 per year, plus all the fees of his office which he might collect. The added salary was to be paid out of the regular county funds on the warrant of the County Judge, or Chairman. The Quarterly Court was authorized to levy a tax for this purpose if the same became necessary.
2. Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 280, amended Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 133, Item One, above, by changing the population figures quoted in that Act so that the provisions would apply to Decatur County alone.
3. Private Acts of 1937, Chapter 905, amended Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 133, above, by increasing the ex-officio compensation of the Sheriff of Decatur County from \$500 to \$1,000 per year, all other terms and conditions to remain the same.
4. Private Acts of 1945, Chapter 443, provided that the Sheriff of Decatur County would be paid \$1,200 per year in equal monthly installments which amount shall be in addition to all the other fees of the office which may be earned by him.
5. Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 826, amended Private Acts of 1945, Chapter 443, above, by increasing the annual payment to the Sheriff as provided therein from \$1,200 to \$1,500.
6. Private Acts of 1957, Chapter 379, stated that, in Decatur County, the Chief Deputy Sheriff would be paid annual compensation of \$1,200 a year in equal monthly installments in addition to all the fees of the office which he might earn, which would become effective on September 1, 1958. This Act must also be approved by a referendum vote before becoming effective, but the same was rejected by the Quarterly County Court before the election was held.
7. Private Acts of 1957, Chapter 380, would have provided the Sheriff of Decatur County with an annual salary of \$2,400, plus all the fees of his office, effective September 1, 1958, but this Act was likewise rejected by the Quarterly Court of the County and never became an effective law.

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