Matt Clifford, who has been with the Ada County Sheriff's Office since 2000, is Ada County’s 39th sheriff. Sheriff Clifford was appointed by the Ada County Board of Commissioners in July of 2021 and elected to the position in November of 2022.

Sheriff Clifford has worked as a patrol deputy, K9 handler, patrol sergeant, transports sergeant, and as a lieutenant who served as Chief of Eagle Police during his two decades with the ACSO before he assumed the role of sheriff.

Sheriff Clifford runs Idaho’s largest and most dynamic law enforcement agency, with more than 830 employees and just over a $100 million budget — including the operation of the 1,116 beds in the Ada County Jail and the community supervision of more than 3,500 offenders.

“I work every day to make Ada County a safer place to live, work, and play —and the support from the community is what makes it possible for the ACSO to overcome challenges and provide the best service to our citizens. I am proud to be your sheriff.”

In October of 2021, the Ada County Sheriff’s Office opened our 2nd driver’s license location in Meridian. The county’s population growth to the west over the last two decades made this the ideal location to expand services.

Prior to 2020, the wait time at our sole Boise location could last over an hour to renew or get a new driver’s license. We knew we could do better. So we got rid of walk-up service, went to an appointment-only model, and opened up the Meridian location.

The results were significant. By 2021, the average wait time fell to 5 minutes 41 seconds, a 91% decrease from the all-time high set in 2019 when the average wait time was over an hour. Citizens can reliably expect to be in and out in less than 15 minutes.

That increase in efficiency is telling because our staff is serving close to same amount of people they did in 2019 - but without the long wait times. Our staff served about 815 people a day last year, despite increased online renewal options from the Idaho Transportation Department. Our citizens appreciate the in-person experience and we are happy to help.
As our county's population continues to increase, so do the number of inmates in the jail. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, our daily jail population was regularly over 1,000 inmates. Between 2018 & early 2020, we experienced 8 days where we had more inmates than our 1,116 beds.

The pandemic brought about a drastic but temporary reduction in our inmate population, dropping to 649 inmates on July 3rd, 2020, our lowest since January 2013.

That reduction was short-lived. The inmate population has steadily returned to pre-pandemic levels. In 2022, the average daily population of the jail was 1,019.

While our agency is constantly figuring out ways to safely manage people who can be in the community with our Pretrial, Misdemeanor Probation, and Alternative Sentencing programs, we are just about out of space and will need to expand the jail soon.

The Ada County Jail is the largest in the state of Idaho. It has 1,116 beds, mostly comprised of dorms, along with medium and maximum security and health services units. We have over 250 employees working there, our largest bureau.

The Pretrial program has seen the most significant growth since 2020, with a 67% increase in the number of active cases. Pretrial staff supervise people who have been arrested but can safely be out in the community while awaiting the resolution of their criminal case. This allows individuals to continue working, paying bills, and being present for their family and community.
The men and women of the ACSO Patrol Services Bureau serve the citizens of Ada County in a variety of ways. From monitoring the safety of our streets to solving crimes, our deputies work tirelessly to ensure we continue to live in a safer community.

In 2015, the ACSO was the first law enforcement agency in the state to have a specialized team of sworn deputies handle mental health incidents. The Critical Incident Team (CIT) is made up of specially trained sworn deputies and a licensed mental health clinician. This team not only responds in the field to mental health related calls, but also assists with follow-up, resource referrals and interagency collaboration.

Over the last 4 years, the number of mental health cases that our deputies respond to has increased 21.6%.

Deputies saw a dramatic rise in the number of mental health incidents involving juveniles last year. Deputies responded to 60 mental health incidents involving juveniles in 2021. In 2022, they responded to 114 incidents, an increase of 90%.

Growth continues to be a challenge for all areas of the Ada County Sheriff’s Office, including our Emergency Communication Bureau. This group of dedicated employees is tasked with ensuring the citizens of Ada County have access to emergency services via the 911 dispatch center 24 hours a day.

Over the last several years, we’ve made numerous improvements to the county’s 911 system, including the upgrade of the integrated Computer Aided Dispatch system, the building of the new dispatch center and the launching of the ability to text to 911.

Text to 911 was first available in 2018. Use of this option has steadily grown from 15 text messages sent in 2018 to 1,038 in 2022. While calling 911 is still the preferred and best method for reaching our dispatch team, the ability to send a text to 911 has been an impactful addition to the dispatch system.