

**FREMONT COUNTY, WYOMING  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

460 RAILROAD STREET  
LANDER, WYOMING 82520

[WWW.FREMONTCOUNTYWY.ORG](http://WWW.FREMONTCOUNTYWY.ORG)

307-332-5611 / 307-856-7200

1-800-967-2302

FAX- 307-332-1025

**SHERIFF  
RYAN D. LEE**

**UNDERSHERIFF  
MICHAEL HUTCHISON**



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**PRESS RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2020  
ISSUED BY SHERIFF RYAN LEE**

In response to comments made by Chairman Lee Spoonhunter regarding the Fremont County Sheriff's Office transporting Tribal Members in the back of pick-up trucks, Sheriff Ryan Lee has issued the following statement:

Mr. Spoonhunter's statement is completely false and without any merit whatsoever. The Fremont County Sheriff's Office did not, would not, and has not transported any Fremont County Citizen in the back of a pick-up truck.

On the contrary, Fremont County Sheriff Ryan Lee worked above and beyond to coordinate shelter, supplies and safe and reliable transportation, after being asked by tribal health officials for his help.

During the early stages of the local pandemic Sheriff Lee fostered relationships between the staff at Wind River Cares and local authorities to assist with the transient at-risk population in the City of Riverton. Sheriff Lee organized shelter, food, water, cots, and blankets and, ultimately, transportation by AMR ambulances to Great Plains Hall. Sheriff Lee personally took out bedding for the Great Plains facility and had additional bedding delivered from the County Jail to assist those in need.

Later, Sheriff Lee was then asked to further assist with transportation efforts back and forth between the Tribal Clinics and the City of Riverton. Sheriff Lee attempted to broker a deal with AMR ambulance for the transportation. However, the quoted expense for that service was unattainable by County Government, Tribal Clinics and the Tribes themselves.

Sheriff Lee then located a County vehicle which was retrofitted with a plexiglass screen between the back and front seats to provide the needed transportation services and, at the same time, keep the driver and occupants of the vehicle safe. Sheriff Lee and Undersheriff Hutchison personally retrofitted the vehicle and personally delivered the vehicle to Wind River Cares staff for their use. This vehicle was utilized for several weeks before a van was evidently purchased by Tribal authorities. However, the original vehicle loaned by the Fremont County Commission is still in use as of today.

At no time did any Fremont County Sheriff's Deputy transport any citizen of this county in the back of their truck -- period. END OF RELEASE ; AUTH: SHERIFF RYAN LEE