

Retirement Interview: Ron Lafferty Reflects on 27 Years in Law Enforcement

The past 13 years serving as director of the Barren River Drug Task Force.

By **Jeff Jobe**
COMMUNITY PUBLISHER

After 27 years in law enforcement, including the past 13 years as director of the Barren River Drug Task Force, Ron Lafferty is preparing to retire, leaving behind a career dedicated to removing illegal drugs from south-central Kentucky while treating people with dignity and respect.

Lafferty began his law enforcement career in 1999 with the Cave City Police Department before joining the Barren County Sheriff's Office in 2004, where he was assigned to the drug task force. When longtime Director Jeff Scruggs retired in 2014, Lafferty stepped into the leadership role.

One of the first changes he made was renaming the agency.

"I started with the Barren County Drug Task Force," Lafferty explained. "Then it became the Barren-Edmonson Drug Task Force, then the Barren-Edmonson-Allen Drug Task Force. Counties would join and leave over the years. I wanted a name that represented the region instead of

changing every time membership changed."

The agency became the Barren River Drug Task Force in 2014, a name that reflects the region it serves rather than its participating counties. Today, the task force serves Barren and Metcalfe counties.

Lafferty said the job has evolved significantly over the years. While local drug users remain a concern, the task force now focuses much of its attention on mid- and upper-level traffickers responsible for bringing large quantities of illegal drugs into the region.

"We're not concentrating on the person trying to support their own addiction," he said. "We're trying to get to the people supplying the drugs."

Methamphetamine remains the most prevalent drug encountered by investigators, while fentanyl continues to grow as a concern, although Lafferty said its impact has not yet reached the levels seen in parts of northern Kentucky.

Many recent investigations have become federal cases due to the quantity of narcotics involved. The task force now works closely with federal



▲ PHOTO | BRANDON JARRETT
Community Publisher Jeff Jobe hosts Ron Lafferty at the JOBEnews office on the square in downtown Glasgow.

partners including the DEA, ATF, and Homeland Security Investigations, all of which maintain a presence alongside the local agency.

Among the many cases he'll remember, one stands above the rest—not because of the arrest itself, but because of what happened afterward.

Responding to reports of a meth lab abandoned in a backpack, Lafferty and investigators traced the backpack through Walmart purchase records and surveillance video, eventually identifying two suspects. Both were charged with felony offenses.

Years later, one of those men approached Lafferty unexpectedly in a Glasgow store.

"He reached out his hand and said, 'I want you to know you saved my life,'" Lafferty recalled.

The young man completed rehabilitation, built a family and remains an active, productive member of the community.

"I still keep up with him today," Lafferty said. "He's done so much good since then."

That encounter reinforced a philosophy that guided Lafferty throughout his career.

"I treat people the way I want to be treated until they give me a reason not to," he said. "I don't belittle people no matter what they've done. They're still human beings."

He also believes accepting responsibility is often the first step toward changing a life.

"If you're honest with me, I'll put that in my report," he said. "I'll tell the judge and prosecutor you accepted



▲ PHOTO | BRANDON JARRETT
When asked if he feels he made a difference, Lafferty paused before answering. "I hope so," he said. "I believe God led me into law enforcement. I believe He led me to become a detective, and I believe He led me to this job. I just hope I've made a difference."

responsibility. That tells me there's hope. But when people start lying and denying, it makes it much harder."

Asked what advice he would offer his successor, Lafferty said the position requires much more than investigative skills.

"You have to be passionate about getting drugs off the street," he said. "You have to understand people, communicate with people and work with everyone."

The director works closely with judges, county and city officials, sheriffs, police chiefs, prosecutors and a governing board representing multiple agencies.

Lafferty credits improved communication among law enforcement agencies over the years as one of the biggest

accomplishments during his tenure.

As retirement begins, he looks forward to spending more time playing golf with his son and enjoying life outside law enforcement.

When asked whether he believes he has made a difference during nearly three decades of service, Lafferty paused before answering.

"I hope so," he said. "I believe God led me into law enforcement. I believe He led me to become a detective, and I believe He led me to this job. I just hope I've made a difference."

After 27 years of service protecting the communities of south-central Kentucky, many would say that answer is already evident.

NOTICE TO METCALFE COUNTY TAXPAYERS

Shannon Fields, Metcalfe County Court Clerk, pursuant to KRS 424.130, announces that the 2025 Delinquent Real Property Tax Bills (Certificates of Delinquency) will be published in the Edmonton Herald-News on August 13, 2026. The list of Certificates of Delinquency is also available for public inspection during the hours of 8:00 – 4:00 Monday through Friday, 8:00 – 12:00 Saturday at the County Court Clerk's office located at 201 North Main Street, Edmonton, KY 42129. This list may also be inspected on the Metcalfe County Clerk website. The Uniform Resource locator (URL) of the website is *metcalfecountyclerk.com*. The tax sale will be held on September 15, 2026 beginning at 10:00 A.M. All interested participants must register with the County Clerk's office by the close of business on September September 7, 2026. Please contact the County Clerk's office if you need additional information about the tax sale registration process, the required registration fee or the deposit amounts that will be needed. Taxpayers can continue to pay their delinquent tax bills to the County Clerk's office any time prior to the tax sale. **Please note: All payments must be received in the County Court Clerk's office prior to the tax sale date listed in this advertisement. Payments received after the tax sale has been conducted will be returned without exception.** Some delinquencies – although they have been advertised – will be excluded from the tax sale in accordance with the provisions of KRS 134.504 (10) (b). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the County Clerk's office at 270-432-4821.