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Thompson running for Black Hawk County Sheriff

By JEFF REINITZ, Courier Staff Writer

WATERLOO ---

A longtime deputy wants to be the next sheriff of Black Hawk County.

Deputy Tony Thompson formally announced he is seeking the office during a kickoff event Monday night.

"The timing is appropriate to make this announcement, while politics are at the forefront of everyone's mind," said Thompson, 38, of rural Cedar Falls.

He is running as a Democrat, and the general election will be in November.

Thompson, who has been the community services coordinator for the office for a number of years, is the first to formally announce his candidacy.

"This election for sheriff is really about building on a strong foundation laid by Sheriff (Michael) Kubik and continuing to improve an already effective sheriff's office," he said. Kubik, reaffirming previous statements, said today he is not seeking re-election after 20 years as sheriff and 38 years in the sheriff's office.

Thompson has been with the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office for 14 years. He also is a military police officer and has been with the Iowa Army National Guard for 19 years.

His goals include:

--- Improving responsiveness of the office. That may involve convening regular meetings with a committee of residents to gather ideas and feedback.

"I want to be able to hear from the community what they want the sheriff's office to be doing and how we can improve," he said.

--- Taking a more aggressive stance on drug enforcement. Thompson said narcotics are behind the about 80 percent of crime in the county. He suggests increasing training and emphasis for patrol deputies to pursue drug interdiction.

"If we really start working narcotics, burglaries and thefts will go down," Thompson said.

--- Managing the jail. Thompson would like to see more cross training for jail deputies into other fields like patrol, investigation and civil process service.

He said the initiative would increase morale and allow jail officers to occasionally hit the streets for other duties.

Born in Virginia, Thompson moved to Iowa, his father's home state, when he was young. He graduated from high school in Winterset and came to Black Hawk County to study at the University of Northern Iowa, where he earned a bachelor's degree in communications.

He joined the sheriff's office in 1994.

Thompson is married and has two sons, ages 11 and 8.

The web site for Thompson's campaign is: www.thompsonforsheriff.net.