

Seat Belt Stops Earn Money For Brown Co

(KNZA)--Meeting the quota required when signing up, the Brown County Sheriff's Department has earned both overtime funds, and an equipment award, by joining the state's latest Special Traffic Enforcement Program.

According to a press release from Brown County Sheriff John Merchant, his office is made aware that it has earned 478-dollars for the overtime compensation, as well as two-thousand-434-dollars to be used to purchase equipment, by meeting the criteria during KDOT's latest STEP enforcement, running from May 21st through June 3rd.

The Kansas Department of Transportation, during that period, reimburses overtime if officers issue over three citations per hour of overtime logged.

According to Merchant, 23-hours of overtime were logged and officers issued 71 restraint citations and made 2 DUI arrests.

Prior to the decision of the 2010 Kansas Legislature, officers could only look for child related safety seat violations. Now, however, an adult driver can be pulled over solely for suspicion that seat belts are not being worn by the driver or adult passengers.

Merchant says the purpose of the campaign is to make the public aware that seat belts are a key to surviving a wreck, with ejection one of the major causes of death.

The money, from the state, actually comes from the federal level, with KDOT provided the funds if quotas are met during the state's involvement with the federal initiative.

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