By his infectious grin and cheerful disposition, you’d never guess that 7 year-old Gavin Mayes has spent much of his life in a fierce battle with cancer. Gavin lives in Monroe with his parents, Charlie and Ken, his siblings Koen, Lucy, and Troy. Deputy Jon Barnett lived near the Mayes family and was alerted by a neighbor about Gavin’s battle. He asked the family if they could honor Gavin as our Sheriff for a Day, a biannual program held statewide where law enforcement agencies celebrate the lives of kids diagnosed with life-threatening or chronic illnesses. The Mayes probably didn’t expect the ensuing whirlwind of activities, support, and gifts that would follow:

- Gavin was sworn into office by Sheriff Trenary on March 18, his 7th birthday, followed by gifts and lots of pictures of Gavin with deputies and command staff;
- He rode in the Everett 4th of July parade and threw out the first pitch at an Everett AquaSox game;
- On August 18, Gavin and his family traveled to the police academy for a formal swearing-in ceremony with other little Chiefs and Sheriffs for a Day;
- Later that month, Olive Happy Mayes, a golden retriever, was welcomed into their home. Olive is a support dog for Gavin and was purchased through donations from the Sheriff’s Office.

All of these activities and more (including helping the Mayes family move into a new home) were coordinated by Deputy Barnett and Howerton. Almost all of the work they did on their own time.

And in November, the Mayes family was able to share some exciting news: after three years of treatment, Gavin was finally cancer free!

For their role in honoring Gavin as our 2016 Sheriff for a Day, this Sheriff’s Award is awarded to **Deputy Jon Barnett and Deputy Jeff Howerton**.