

Annual Report

2023



Serving With Honor and Integrity

Sheriff Frank Baker

Allegan County

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|------------|
| Message from the Sheriff..... | page 2 |
| Accomplishments..... | page 3-4 |
| Law Enforcement Patrol Division | |
| Calls for Service..... | page 5 |
| Citations..... | page 6 |
| Crashes..... | page 6-8 |
| Calls for Service by Area..... | page 9-10 |
| L.E. Investigations Division | |
| Domestic Violence..... | page 11 |
| Digital Forensics..... | page 12 |
| South West Enforcement Team | page 13 |
| Human Trafficking/Child Exploitation.... | page 14 |
| Corrections Division | |
| Corrections Center..... | page 15 |
| Inmate Programs..... | page 16-18 |
| Corrections Center Operations..... | page 18-19 |
| Administrative Services Division..... | page 19-20 |
| Marine Patrol/Reserve Division..... | page 20-21 |
| Emergency Management Division..... | page 22 |
| Specialty Teams..... | page 23-25 |
| Animal Control/Court Security/VSU..... | page 26 |
| Conclusion and Additional Information..... | page 27-28 |

Message from the Sheriff

Dear Chairman Storey:

On behalf of the deputies and staff of the Allegan County Sheriff's Office, I respectfully present the 2023 Sheriff's Office Annual Report to the Board of Commissioners and the citizens of Allegan County.

I am proud of the accomplishments we achieved this past year, and I am honored to be able to share some of the highlights. 2023 was a remarkable year for us as we overcame many of the challenges. As you may know, there has been a drastic reduction in the number of recruits attending the regional police academies causing a shortage of applicants in the law enforcement and corrections profession. I am proud to say that we have been blessed

here in Allegan County as we have been able to maintain our staffing levels. It has not been easy as we experienced a large number of retirements. Deputies hired during the federally funded COPS AHEAD program grants have reached retirement age. A huge benefit to us was the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) public safety academy assistance grant program. Additionally, our reputation as a desirable agency to work for and the support we receive from our communities makes us an attractive agency not only to new recruits but officers looking to make a change. We also received a grant to assist in advertising costs and recruiting new applicants. You may have noticed billboards along the freeways in Allegan and Kent Counties last year highlighting employment opportunities in law enforcement and corrections here in Allegan County.

We also have successfully achieved one of the objectives that I set for this term of office. I wanted to see enhanced collaboration with law enforcement and our schools. We were focusing on utilizing unobligated patrol time and patrol deputies as we lacked funding for additional dedicated positions; however, when the state provided grant opportunities to the schools this all changed. We were able to partner with several school districts to assist with the funding. We now have four deputies who have been specially trained as school resource officers assigned full time in Hamilton, Hopkins, Fennville, and Martin Public Schools and have heard of interest from another school district.

We were also able to partner with the City of Fennville and Allegan Township to provide additional patrols in their jurisdictions. So even with the growth of our agency and the number of retirements we have been able to maintain our staffing levels.

I could not be prouder of the staff and what they have accomplished this past year. It is my hope that through this report, you can see their dedication and desire to proudly serve our citizens.

Sincerely,

Frank Baker



Sheriff Frank Baker

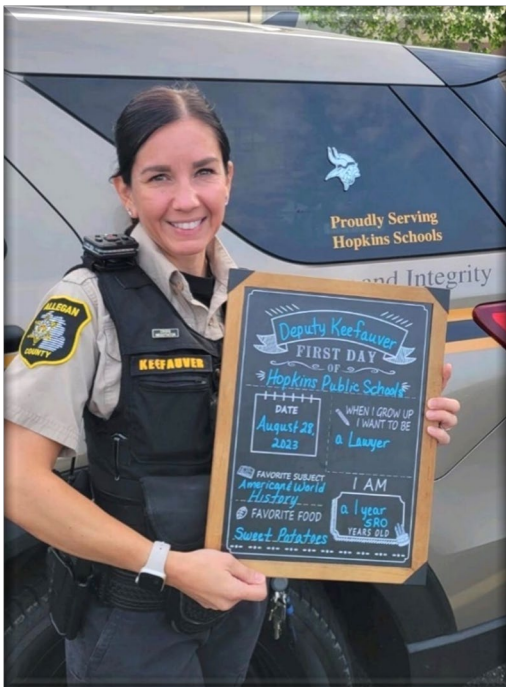
2023 Sheriff's Office Accomplishments

The Sheriff's Office had several noteworthy accomplishments last year and achieved several of our objectives.

It has been a goal to restore a law enforcement presence back in our schools. We were able to partner with the Hamilton Public Schools at the end of 2022 and quickly added Hopkins Public Schools, Fennville Public Schools, and Martin Public Schools in 2023.



Pictured to the left is Deputy Joe Knapp assigned to the Hamilton Public Schools and to the right is Deputy Alan Klein assigned to the Martin Public Schools.



Pictured to the left is Deputy Tracey Keefauver assigned to Hopkins Public Schools and below is Deputy Jason Kruthoff assigned to Fennville Public Schools.



We are extremely excited about this opportunity to partner with these schools and develop relationships with the students and staff that will promote school safety. They work closely with school officials to identify problems and issues pertaining to school safety, bullying, and other areas that students might benefit.

2023 Sheriff's Office Accomplishments (Continued)

Recruiting

The Sheriff's Office received a First Responder Training and Recruitment Grant from the State of Michigan as well through the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES). This allowed us to advertise and purchase hiring and recruiting materials. We were also able to fund the police academy training



for new hires who have not yet been trained and licensed by MCOLES. This made a dramatic difference in our ability to reach our authorized staffing levels both on Road Patrol and in the Corrections Center. In addition, we were able to recruit and hire several deputies who were already licensed or working in law enforcement from other agencies in Michigan as well as out of state.

TruNarc – Handheld Narcotics Analyzer

The Sheriff's Office acquired a TruNarc unit for analyzing suspected narcotics. The TruNarc unit uses Raman spectroscopy, essentially a laser beam, to safely analyze substances. Suspected narcotics do not need to be removed from clear packaging. The risk of deputies coming into contact with a dangerous substance, such as Fentanyl, during an analysis is greatly reduced. The unit was purchased with drug forfeiture funds.



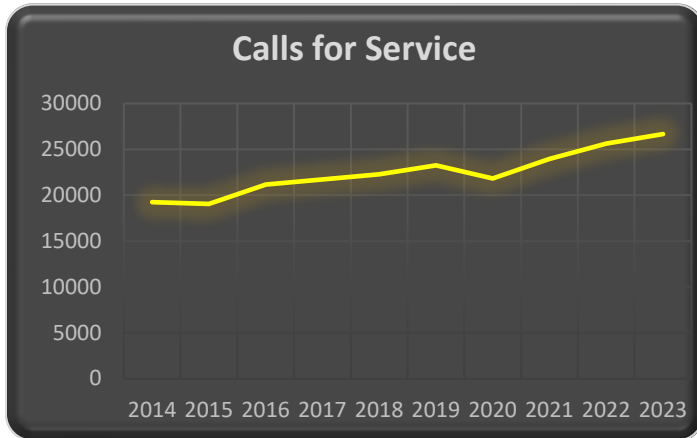
Switch to Tahoe Patrol Vehicles

The Sheriff's Office did a complete fleet analysis as challenges acquiring the Ford Interceptor patrol vehicles were problematic. The analysis revealed that a switch to the Chevrolet Tahoe patrol vehicle would be cost neutral. This considers fuel mileage, projected maintenance costs, and resale value. The comparisons between the two vehicles resulted in the Tahoe scoring better in key areas such as:

- Braking
- Storage
- Resale Value
- Turning Radius
- Front Visibility
- Rear Visibility
- Front Seat Comfort
- Overall Ergonomics
- Projected Vehicle Life



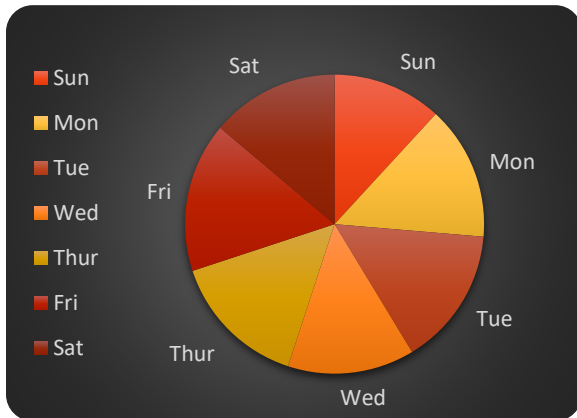
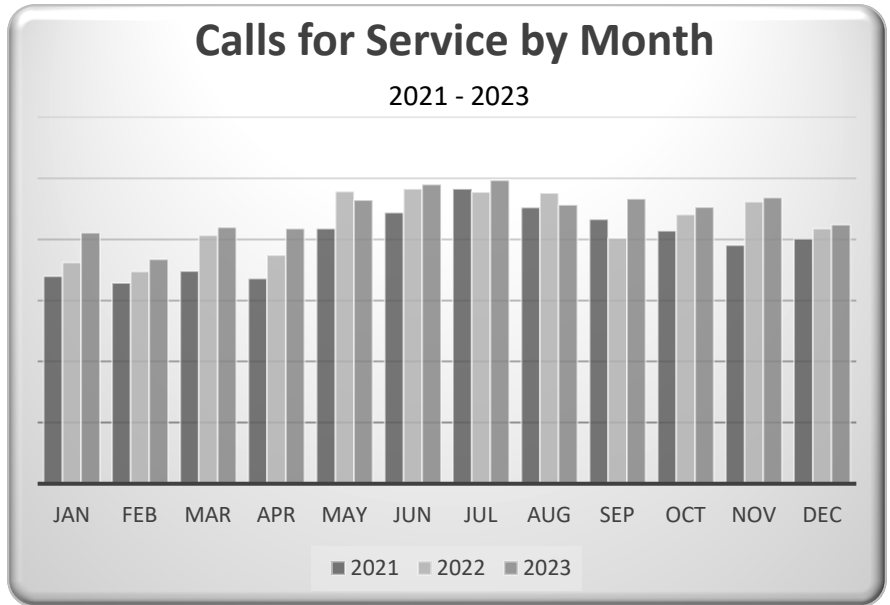
Law Enforcement Division – Road Patrol



We experienced a slight increase in calls for service last year. We finished with **26,669 calls for service**. That includes both dispatched and self-initiated calls by the deputies.

We do anticipate that this number will continue to trend higher as our population continues to grow.

This chart demonstrates that seasonal differences do not impact the actual call volume. While we know that summers are typically a very busy time for deputies, we also know that fall and winter will bring a different type of call volume. We anticipate an increase in car deer crashes in the fall and an increase in weather related crashes in the winter. Seasonal differences are more related to call type than call volume.



The day of the week does not impact call volume significantly. Friday is typically the busiest day of the week for our deputies.

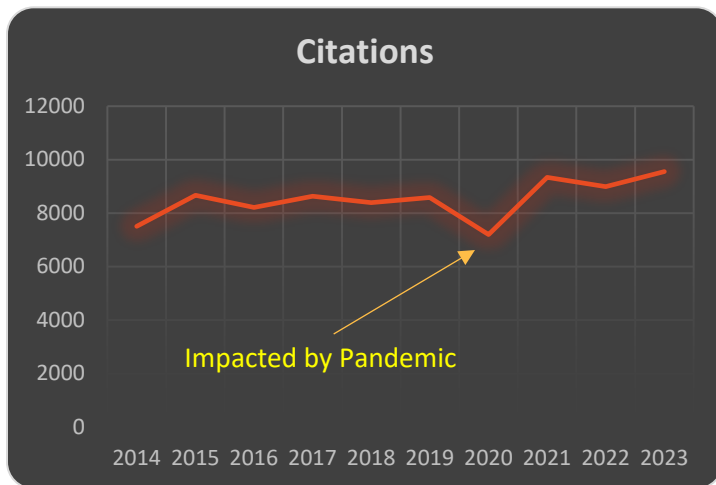
There are many variables that factor into the call volume. Weekday crashes during the morning and evening commute to work would be a good example.

| Day | % |
|-----------|------|
| Sunday | 11.8 |
| Monday | 14.5 |
| Tuesday | 15 |
| Wednesday | 13.7 |
| Thursday | 14.9 |
| Friday | 16.2 |
| Saturday | 13.9 |



Law Enforcement Division – Road Patrol (Continued)

Traffic Enforcement

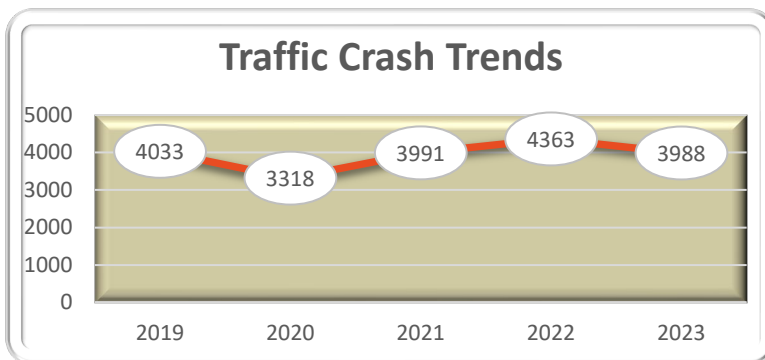
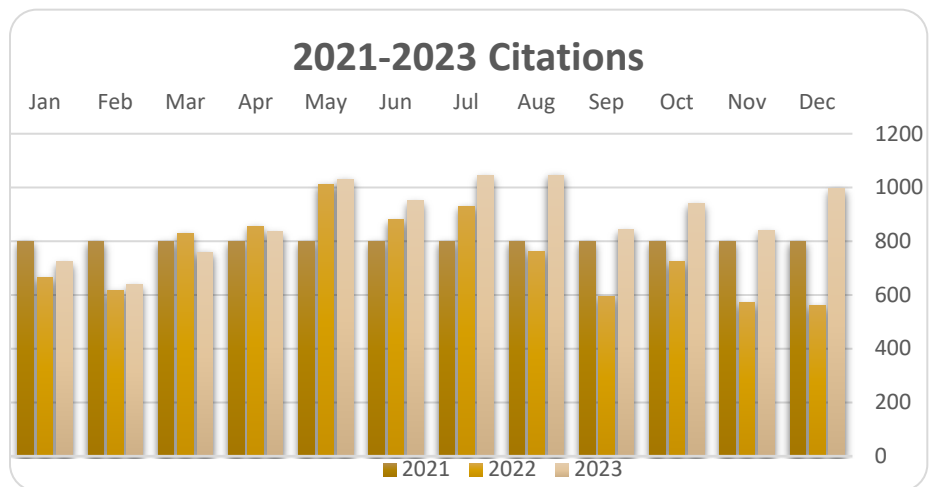


The number of traffic citations issued in 2023 was 9,554. This was an increase of 6.2 % over 2022. The number of traffic stops conducted was 19,191 and the number of verbal warnings given was 11,530. Our deputies are doing an excellent job of using discretion in their decision to take enforcement action. Our goal is to bring the motoring public into compliance with the law either through enforcement, education, or deterrence.



This is often done during Federal and statewide enforcement initiatives and through educational information and public awareness campaigns. Some you may have heard of over the years such as:

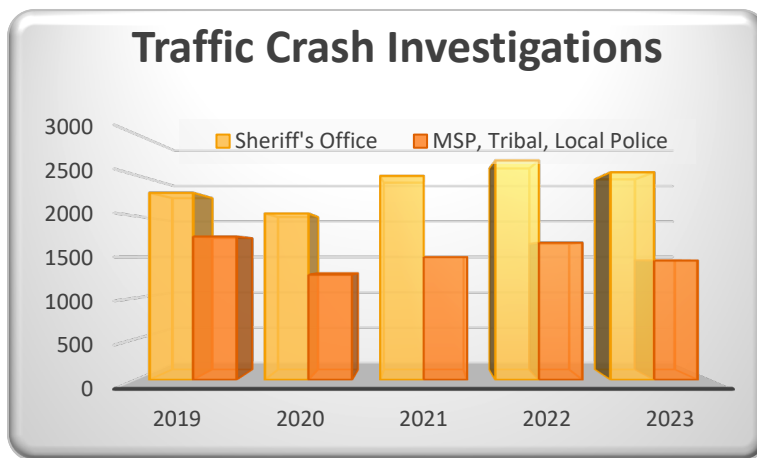
- Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over -Impaired Driving
- Don't Veer for Deer – Car Deer Crashes
- You Drink You Drive You Loose – Drunk Driving
- Operation Safe Stop – School Bus Safety
- Drive Slow on Ice and Snow – Winter Driving
- Slow Your Drive and Stay Alive - Speeding



Traffic Crashes

We anticipated a drop in crashes during the pandemic; however, coming out of the pandemic we observed drivers speeding and driving more aggressively. That trend has hopefully been deterred through traffic patrols by ACSO and our partner agencies.

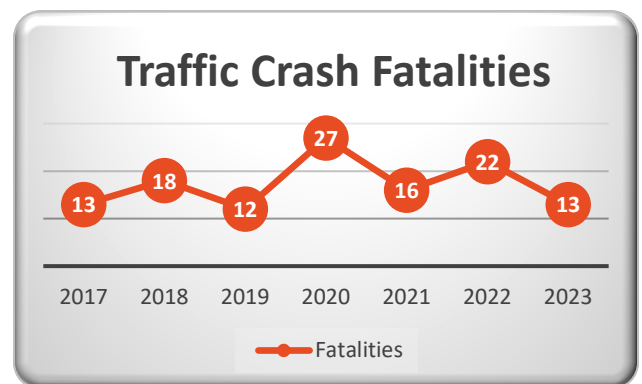
Law Enforcement Division – Road Patrol (Continued)



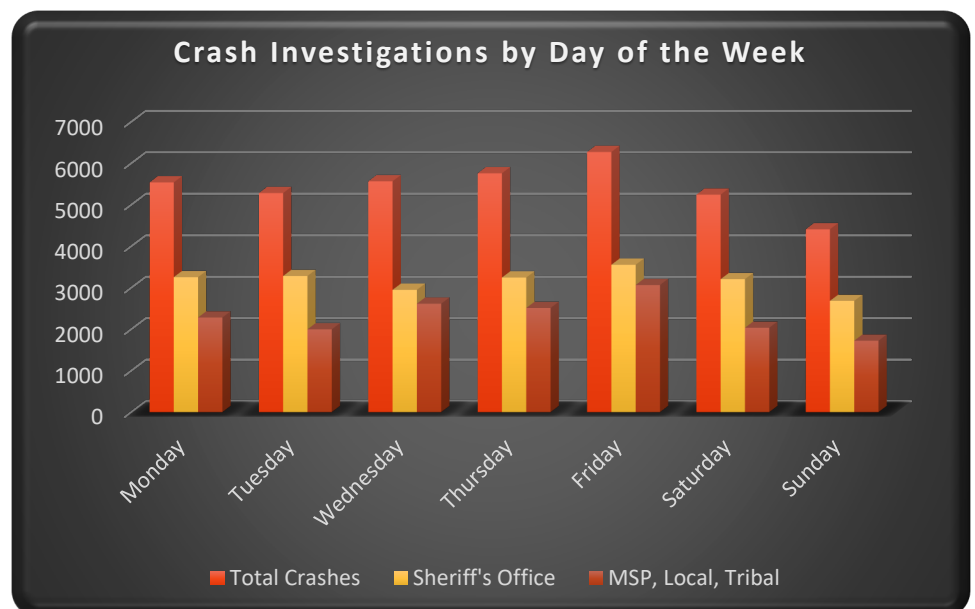
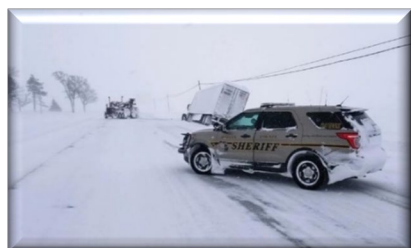
As you can see from the chart on the left the Sheriff's Office investigates the majority of the traffic crashes occurring in Allegan County. **The Sheriff's Office investigated 2,532 crashes last year.** Our law enforcement partners from the Michigan State Police, Holland Police, Plainwell Dept of Public Safety, Allegan Police, Otsego Police, Wayland Police, Tribal Police, and Douglas Police investigated the remaining 1,456.

Fatal Traffic Crashes

We are pleased to report that the fatalities occurring because of a traffic crash went down last year. The recent high of 27 was right after the pandemic when there seemed to be a spike in speed, aggressive, and distracted driving. We are hopeful that we will see this number remain below 2020 levels.



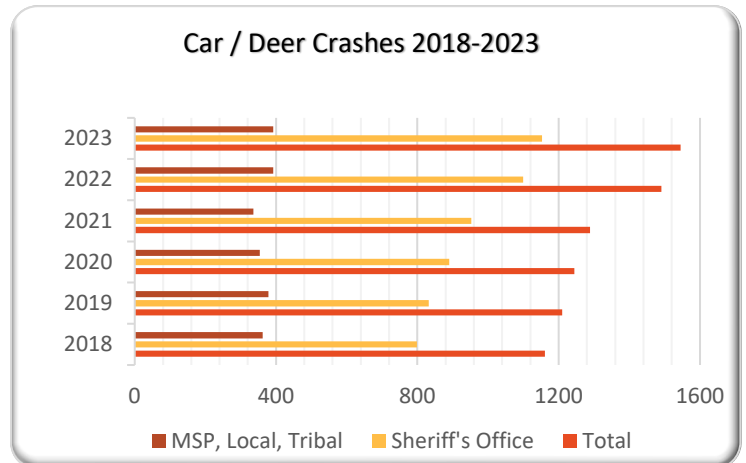
The chart below indicates the total number of crashes by day of the week in Allegan County, as well as the number investigated by the Sheriff's Office and the number investigated by our law enforcement partners throughout the county.



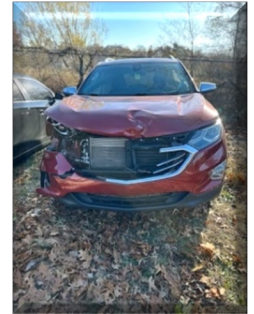
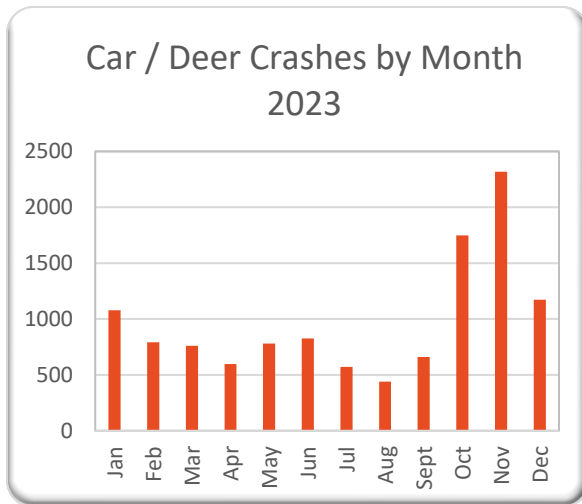
Law Enforcement Division – Road Patrol (Continued)

Car / Deer Crashes

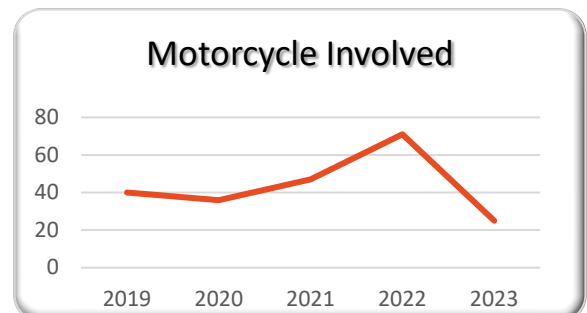
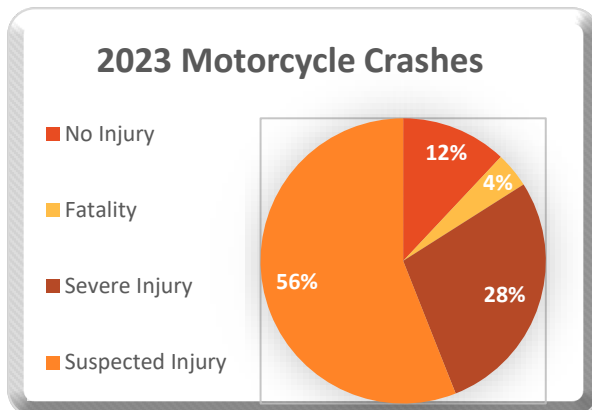
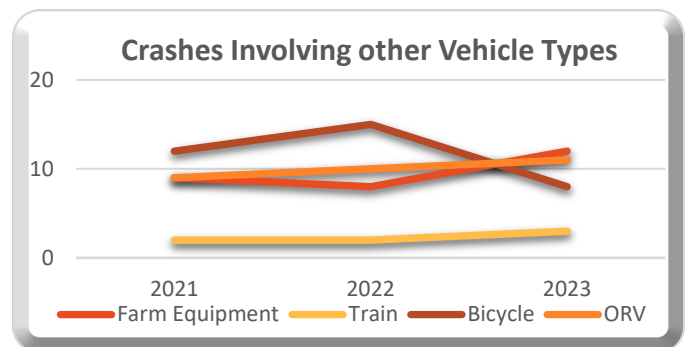
The number of car/deer crashes has steadily increased over the last few years. We ended 2023 with 1,545 car deer crashes in Allegan County. The Sheriff's Office responded to 1,153 of those crashes. The remaining 392 were handled by our law enforcement partners.



It is no surprise that November has the most car / deer crashes of any month. Deer are on the move during the fall and as a result more car/ deer crashes.



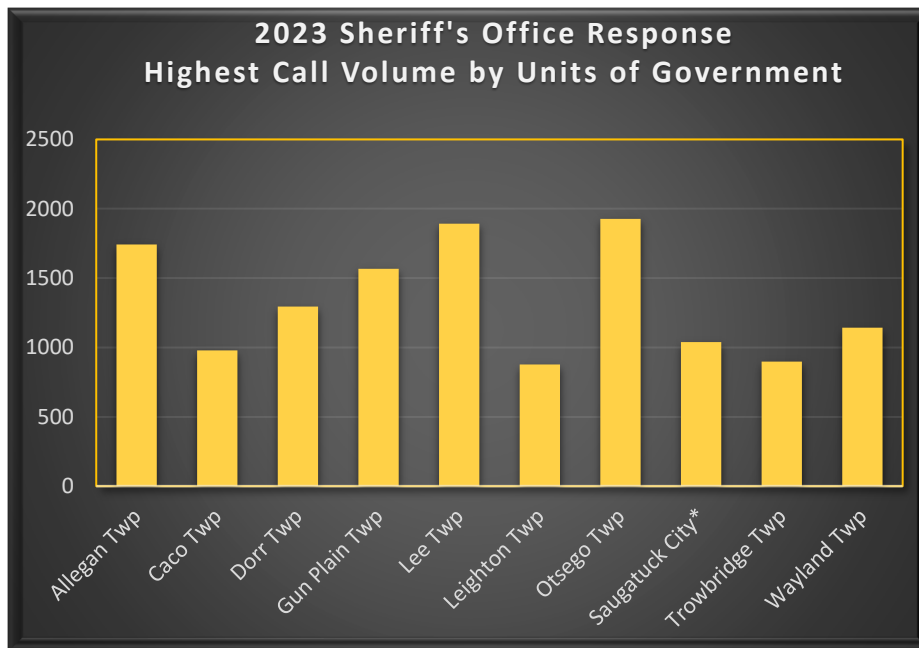
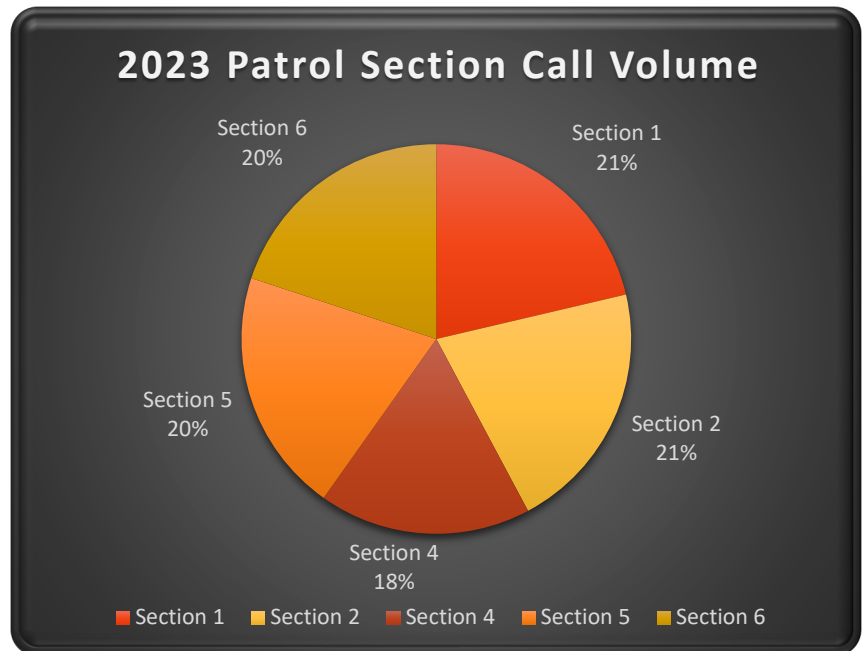
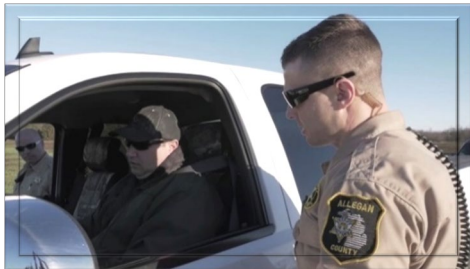
The chart to the right represents the number of crashes involving other vehicles. The data last year indicates a significant decrease in crashes involving motorcycles and a slight decrease in crashes involving bicycles. There was however, a slight increase in crashes involving farm equipment and the slightest of increases in ORV crashes that occurred on the roadway and crashes involving trains.



Law Enforcement Division – Road Patrol (Continued)

Patrol Section –Calls for Service

One of our goals in designing patrol areas is to balance the call volume so that each area receives a similar level of response. If one area has significantly more calls for service it could negatively impact on the services provided. Last year we had 26,669 calls for service. That includes both dispatched and officer-initiated calls for service.

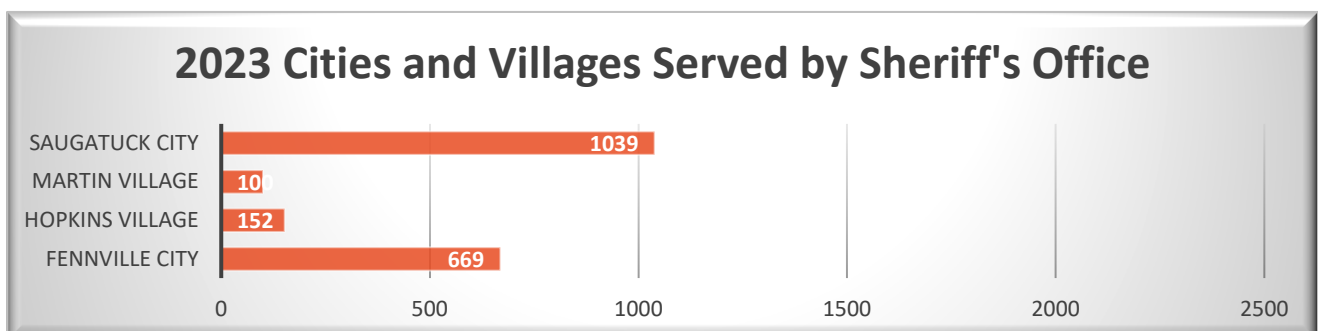
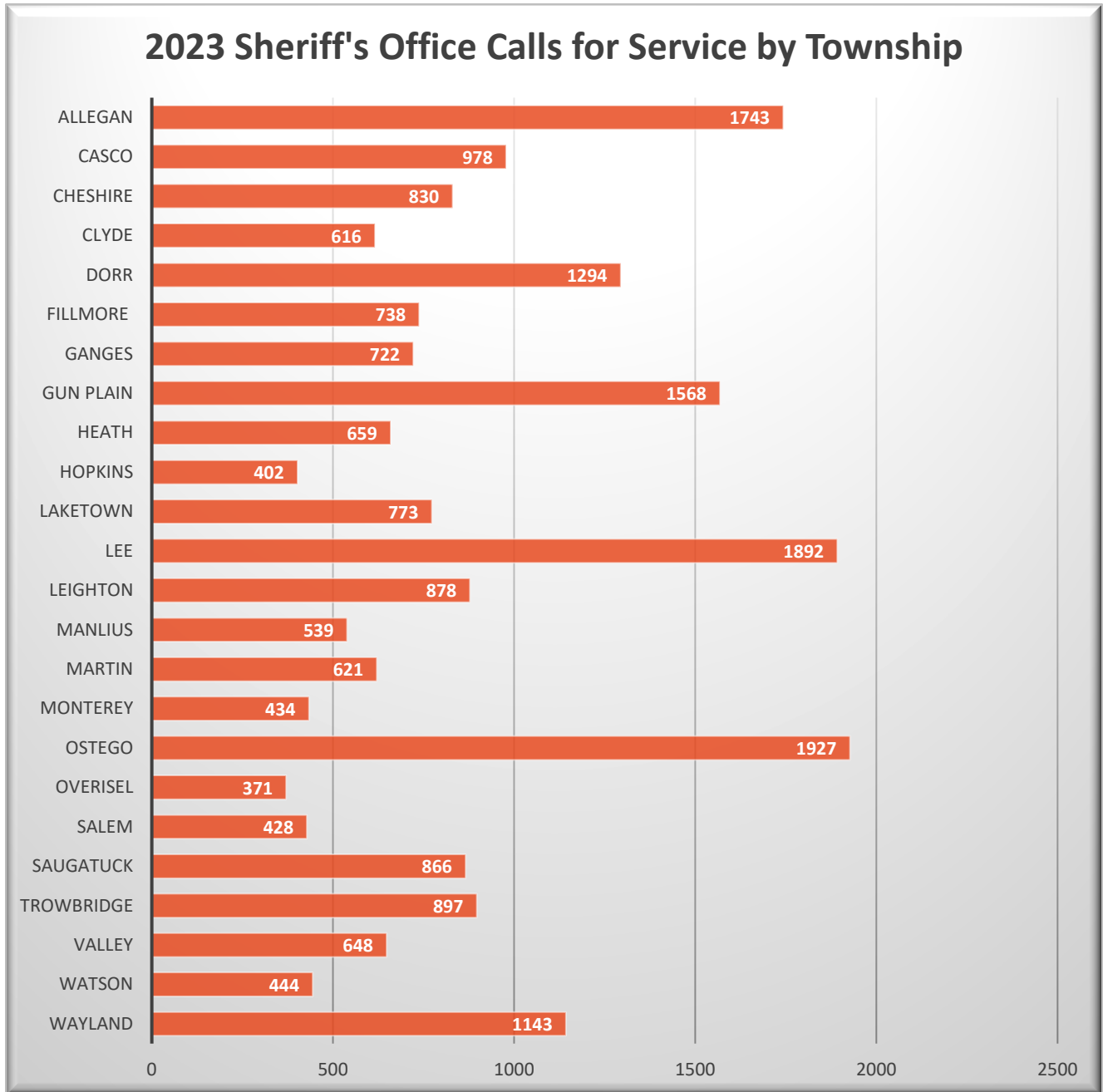


The Township with the highest call volume responded to by the Sheriff's Office last year was Otsego Twp with 1,927 calls for service. Lee Twp followed with 1,892 calls for service and Allegan Twp was third with 1,743.

*Saugatuck City is included as the Sheriff's Office is contracted to provide police services. Saugatuck City had 1,039.



Law Enforcement Division – Road Patrol (Continued)



Law Enforcement - Investigative Services Division

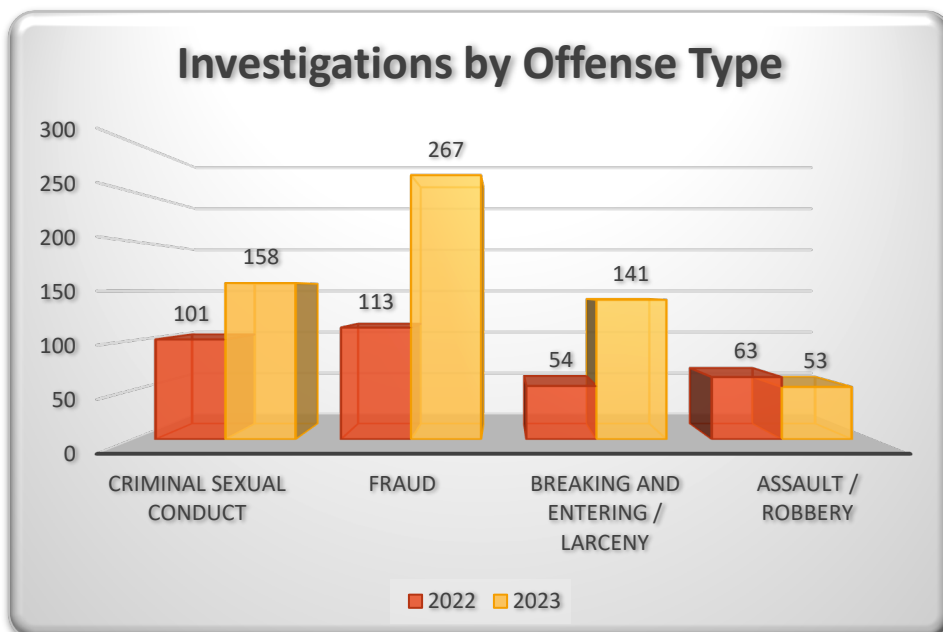
Investigations

When a request for service comes into Central Dispatch it is dispatched to the closest available police officer. Many of these calls for service are resolved by the responding officer. Incidents which require additional or specialized investigations are referred to the Investigative Services Division for additional investigation.

The Investigative Services Division, also known as the

Detective Bureau, typically consists of four general case detectives, one digital forensics detective, one detective who specializes in domestic violence, and one detective who is assigned to a multi-jurisdictional drug team. For most of 2023 this number was reduced to three general case detectives, one digital forensics detective and one detective assigned to a multi-jurisdictional drug team to assist in overcoming personnel shortages while newly hired road patrol officers were being trained.

One homicide incident was reported in 2023 and resulted in four deaths. The suspect had killed 3 family members then took his own life prior to law enforcement contact.



Domestic Violence Investigations

Detective Janel Hagerty is in her third year assigned as our domestic violence investigator. Although temporarily assigned as a general case detective for much of the year, as mentioned above, Detective Hagerty continued to work with victims of domestic violence.

Along with conducting follow up interviews and taking additional photographs of any newly visible injuries, Detective Hagerty remains in contact with victims, makes sure they are aware of their rights as a victim of crime, and aware of the services that are available to them. Additionally, Det. Hagerty provides emotional support throughout the court process. Detective Hagerty acts as a liaison between the victims and often has transported victims to court when they encountered transportation issues.

In 2023, 184 cases were referred to Detective Hagerty for additional investigation despite the temporary reassignment.

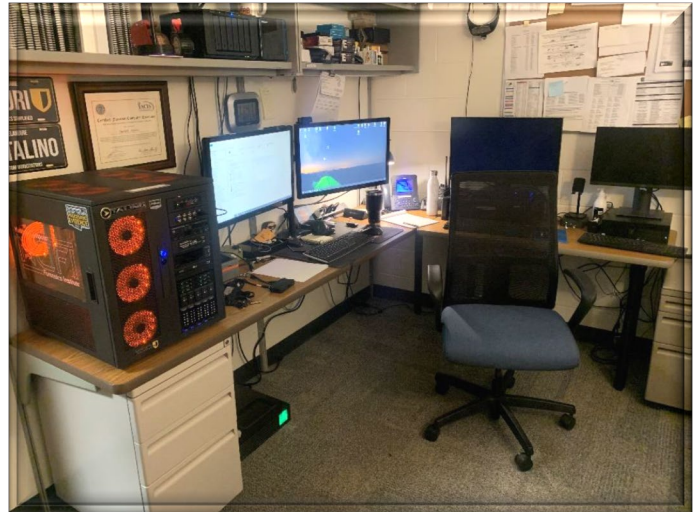


Law Enforcement - Investigative Services Division (Continued)

Digital Forensics

Digital forensics is a branch of forensic science encompassing the recovery, investigation, examination, and analysis of material found in digital devices, such as cellular phones, computers, and tablets. the only digital forensics lab within Allegan County. It is operated by Detective Dave Ashton.

This position was approved by the Allegan County Board of Commissioners in 2020 and has had a significant impact on our ability to investigate and solve crime. In one such case, which began near the end of 2023, a subject was arrested for the theft of several thousand dollars of tools and equipment. A search warrant was obtained to examine the contents of his cellular phone. Through an examination of the conversations, GPS locations, and photographs found on the phone, two additional subjects were identified as coordinating a criminal enterprise responsible for thefts of power tools, equipment and recreational vehicles and transporting them to Chicago, IL for sale. This occurred over a period of several years. Without the information from the cell phone and Det. Ashton's expertise, the larger conspiracy would not have been discovered. This is just one of the dozens of such cases he has been instrumental in solving.



Detective Ashton has completed hundreds of hours of training and is certified by the International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists. The Sheriff's Office offers this service to all law enforcement agencies within Allegan County.

In 2023 Detective Ashton received 316 devices, up from 165 in 2022 and examined 33.48 TB of data up from 19.1 TB in 2022.

Southwest Enforcement Team – SWET



To combat the use and sale of illegal narcotics in Allegan County the Sheriff's Office assigns one detective to the Southwest Enforcement Team (SWET). SWET is a multijurisdictional task force assigned to illegal narcotics investigations.

Methamphetamine accounts for most illegal drugs seized in Allegan County while fentanyl accounts for the majority of accidental deaths. A few cases from 2023 are highlighted on the next page.

Southwest Enforcement Team - SWET (Continued)

- SWET detectives began an investigation in January of 2023 stemming from information obtained through confidential informants. SWET detectives corroborated the information and deemed it to be reliable. SWET detectives utilized confidential informants, electronic and in-person surveillance, and executed multiple search warrants. Detectives also shared intelligence information with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Central Michigan Enforcement Team (CMET), Metropolitan Enforcement Team (MET), and the State Police.

In August SWET detectives and assisting law enforcement partners were able to intercept 10lbs. of crystal methamphetamine coming from Detroit that was headed to the primary suspect in Kent County. Through this investigation, SWET detectives learned the primary suspect was responsible for supplying large quantities of methamphetamine throughout Michigan. He was known to be supplying Allegan County, Barry County, Ionia County, Kent County, Alpena County, and counties in the Upper Peninsula. Known areas within Allegan County included, but were not limited to, the townships of Lee, Wayland, and Dorr. Several individuals have been indicted federally and are pending federal prosecution for conspiracy to deliver methamphetamine.

- SWET Detectives received a tip from Allegan Township Officials that a subject living residing in their township was possibly dealing methamphetamine. SWET detectives were advised that the location had suspicious traffic coming and going at all hours of the night.

SWET conducted surveillance on the residence and stopped a vehicle that was leaving. During a search of the vehicle, they located methamphetamine and were informed it was purchased from the suspect residence. The driver then cooperated with SWET detectives and acted as a confidential informant. The confidential informant performed controlled purchases at the residence and a short time later a search warrant was obtained and executed. Methamphetamine and firearms were found during the search and the suspect in this case was charged with delivery of methamphetamine, felon in possession of firearms, felony firearm, and felon in possession of ammunition.

- SWET detectives were contacted by patrol deputies from the Sheriff's Office about an overdose case in Gun Plain Township. SWET detectives were able to identify the suspected dealer in this case from prior investigations. While this investigation was on-going detectives were contacted again about the same suspect still dealing heroin to neighbors and that another fatal overdose had occurred.

SWET detectives interviewed the suspected drug dealer who admitted he had delivered heroin/fentanyl to the second overdose victim. A search of the subject's residence resulted in more fentanyl being seized. When detectives arrested the suspect on warrants for delivery of heroin/fentanyl, multiple pills found on him were determined to be a controlled substance. A search warrant was executed again on the suspect's home where heroin/fentanyl, methamphetamine, and a hand gun were located. The suspect was charged with 1 count of delivery heroin/fentanyl, 2 counts of possession heroin/fentanyl.

***UPDATE-January 2024-Case resulted in a conviction of the offender for delivery of controlled substances causing death.**

Law Enforcement - Investigative Services Division (Continued)

Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation



The Investigative Services Bureau investigates incidents involving the online exploitation of children, which includes crimes such as sextortion and the manufacture, distribution, and sale of child sexually abusive material (child pornography). In 2023 Sheriff's Office detectives investigated 27 incidents related to child sexually abusive material.

To help combat these heinous crimes, Detective Dave Ashton is the department's affiliate on the Michigan State Police Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC). Lt Mike Brown is a task force officer with the FBI's West Michigan Based Child Exploitation Task Force (WEBCHEX). ICAC and WEBCHEX are multijurisdictional task forces which investigate human trafficking and the online exploitation of children.

In one such case, which occurred in June of 2023, WEBCHEX special agents and task force officers assisted the Sheriff's Office in the execution of a search warrant at a residence in the City of Wyoming. The 28yr old suspect was taken into custody and is awaiting trial for multiple counts of criminal sexual conduct and production of child sexually abusive material involving a two-year old child in Allegan County.

Some facts from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children regarding child exploitation in the US are listed below:

- Cyber Tip Line reports regarding online child pornography

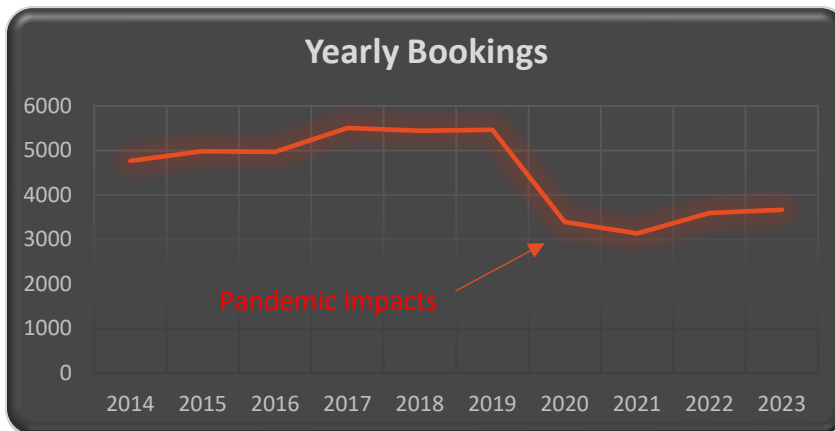
| 2020 | 2022 |
|------------|------------|
| 21,669,264 | 31,901,234 |

- Reports of Online Enticement of Children for Sexual Acts

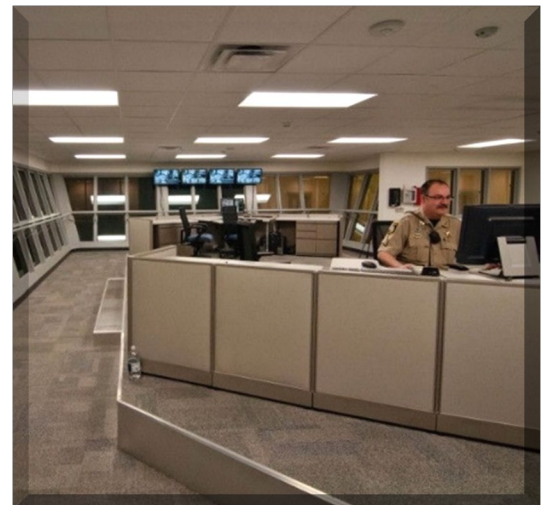
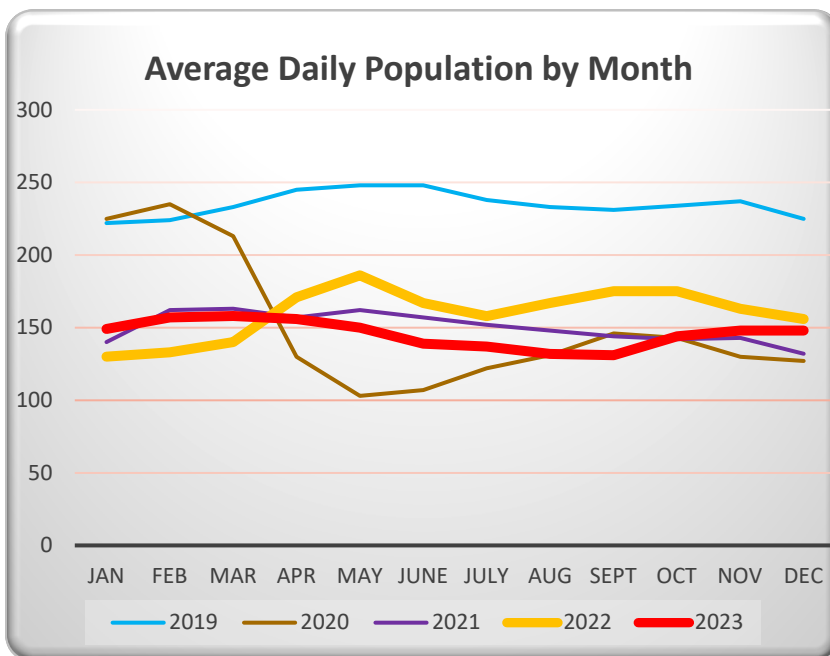
| 2020 | 2022 |
|--------|--------|
| 37,872 | 80,524 |

Corrections Division

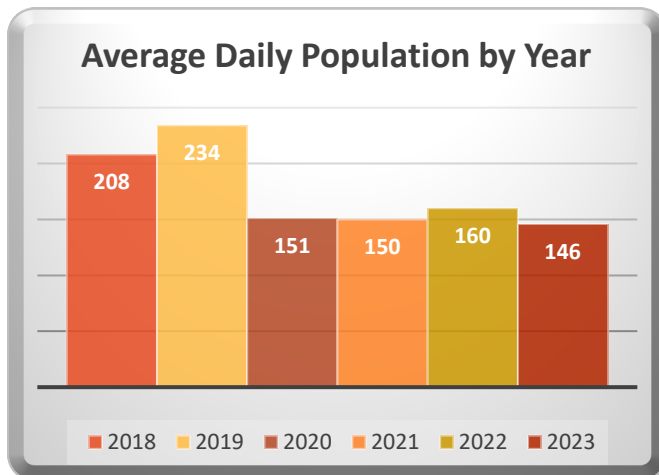
We are immensely proud of the corrections officers working in the Corrections Center. There have been many changes for the new staff members, many of which were hired after the pandemic. We have restored the inmate programs and services that were suspended or only partially operational during the pandemic when many of the newer deputies were hired. They have caught on and embraced the inmate programming and have been instrumental in bringing many of these programs back to full operational status.



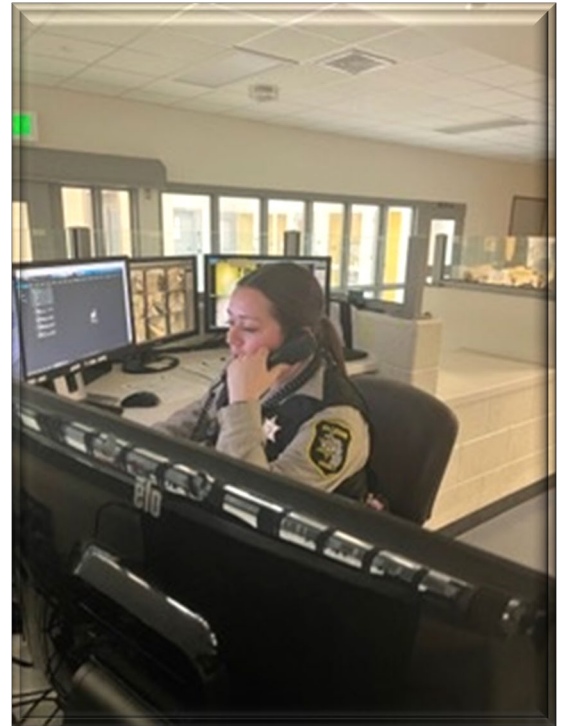
There were 3,673 bookings into the Corrections Center last year. This is a slight increase of 2% over the bookings in 2022. As you can see from the chart on the left. The number of bookings plummeted during the pandemic; however, as a result of “raise the age” legislation and additional changes in legislation our numbers have remained relatively stable showing only slight increases.



Corrections Division (Continued)



The average daily population by year went down slightly in 2023. We averaged 146 inmates housed in the Corrections Center each day during 2023, which is down 8% from the previous year.



Inmate Programs

Inmate programs are an integral part of the Corrections Division operation. Our goal is to return inmates back to the community with a better chance of being successful and less likely to reoffend. The Programs often focus on substance abuse issues, educational needs, improving the chance of gaining employment, and improving relationships within the family.

Additionally, participation in certain programs for those who qualify, offers opportunities for reductions in sentence. This is reflected in the bed days saved and in our budget as we utilize inmates as workers within the facility. For example, inmates assigned to the kitchen, dorm porters, cleaning crews, and animal shelter workers.

D.E.B.T.S. Crew (Detail Enabling Better Transition to Society)

The D.E.B.T.S. crew had 16 participants last year and 14 successful completions. This resulted in 429 bed days saved as participants earn days off their sentence for successful participation.

Community Service

Community Service had 35 attendees with 30 successful completions for a total bed days saved of 428.

Inmate Workers

There was a total of 140 inmate workers last year and 104 successful completions. The inmate workers are critical to the operation as their responsibilities include working in the kitchen, laundry, and cleaning crews. We also provide inmate workers to the Health Department and they are assigned to the Animal Shelter. This resulted in 2,668 bed days saved which is a 4% increase over the previous year.

Faith Based Programs

We have several faith-based programs such as Men's and Women's bible study and our community re-entry programs. These are conducted by volunteers who come meet with inmates at the Corrections Center and provide services.

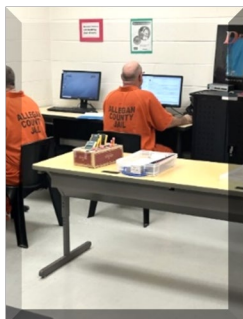
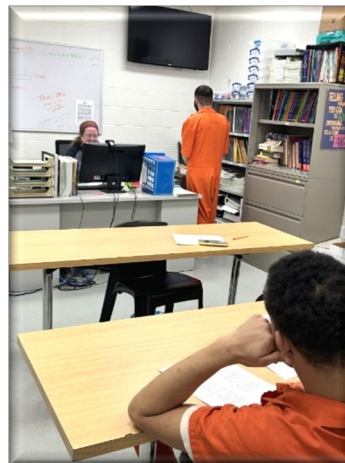


General Educational Development (GED)

The GED program had 96 attendees resulting in 190 bed days saved. There were 9 graduates with their GED.

Career Readiness (CCAB funded)

There were 103 participants in the Career Readiness program and 28 successful completions. We are proud of the Career Readiness program. It is one of the newest programs offered. We collaborate closely with partners such as Michigan Works to assist in finding employment for inmates with area businesses.



The program helps the inmate to prepare a resume, practice job interviews, complete college applications, financial aid forms, and set up and facilitate actual Zoom/online job interviews from the Corrections Center. Successful inmates have had jobs waiting upon their release.

We currently have 2 individuals taking online college courses. One of the students asked to have their sentence extended so she could complete the course.

MRT – Moral Reconation Therapy (CCAB funded)



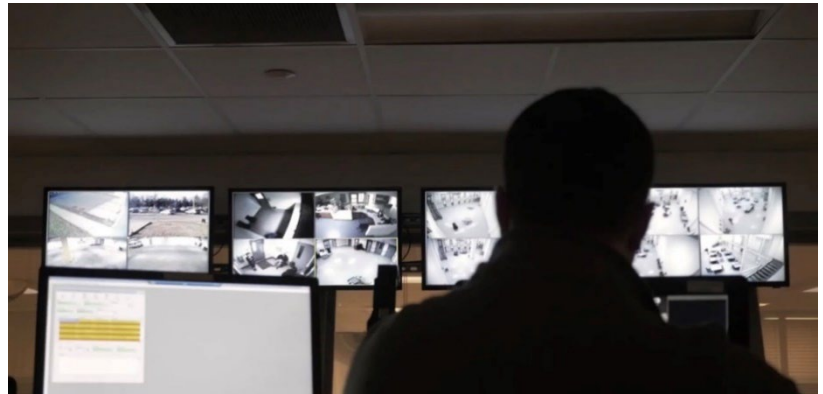
There were 96 attendees in the MRT program in 2023. We had 43 successful completions.

The MRT program is a type of behavioral therapy with a goal of decreasing the chances that someone will return to substance or alcohol abuse. The program does not provide any bed days saved as good time is not earned through participation.

Corrections Division Cont'd Control Center

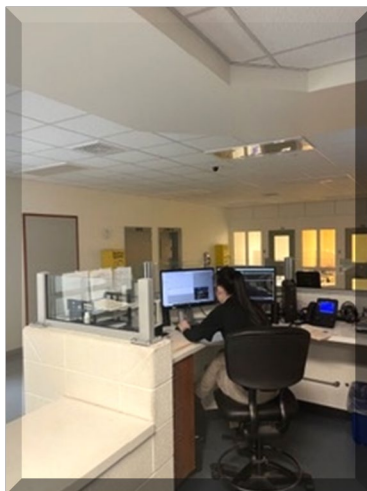
The responsibilities of deputies assigned to the control center

include monitoring the facility security cameras and the opening and closing of security doors throughout the facility. Additional responsibilities include the answering of phones and communicating with the bond lobby visitors and with the front lobby visitors after hours.



Booking

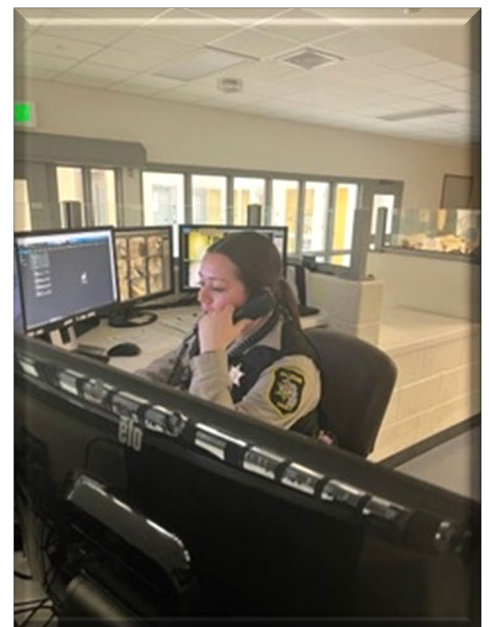
Deputies and our civilian booking officer are responsible for booking and releasing over 3,600 individuals over the course of the year in 2023. This requires data entry, mugshots, body scanning, and fingerprinting.



Civilian Booking Specialist



Body Scanner



Booking Deputy

Corrections Division Continued

Corrections Center Court Room

Deputies assist with hearings, such as arraignments, which are conducted remotely via Polycom from the Corrections Center to courtrooms in the courthouse or other counties.



Control Center

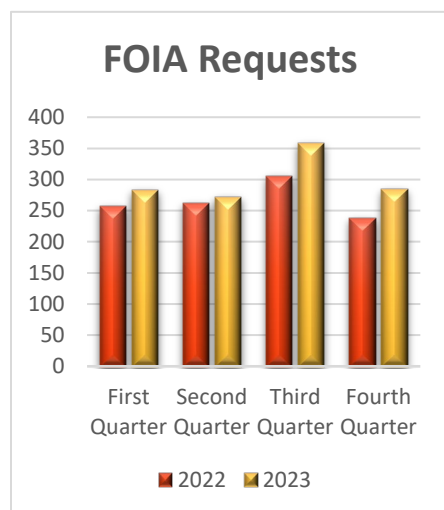


Court Room

Administrative Services Division

The staff transcribing reports and processing documents for the sheriff's office, the courts, the prosecutor's office, and the public, did an amazing job. They prepared the records of the 26,669 calls for service in 2023.

Administrative staff also responded to 2,091 Freedom of Information Act requests, processed pistol sales records, and assisted over 7,000 individuals at the lobby window.



| Month | Lobby |
|-------|-------|
| Jan | 738 |
| Feb | 583 |
| Mar | 666 |
| Apr | 615 |
| May | 685 |
| Jun | 576 |
| Jul | 608 |
| Aug | 588 |
| Sept* | 454 |
| Oct* | 428 |
| Nov | 579 |
| Dec | 485 |
| Total | 7,005 |

*Missing some data due to personnel changes



Administrative Services Division (Continued)

| Livescan Fingerprinting | |
|--|------------|
| Concealed Pistol Applicant | 562 |
| School Employment | 150 |
| Criminal Justice | 143 |
| Liquor License Applicant | 7 |
| Driver Education Certification | 3 |
| Licensed Health Care Professional | 2 |
| Dept. Agriculture – Horse Racing License | 2 |
| State Bar License | 1 |
| Sex Offender | 1 |
| Total | 871 |

The Administrative Staff is responsible for conducting Livescan fingerprinting of individuals who are seeking licenses or employment in fields requiring fingerprinting.

The Administrative Staff also is responsible for conducting verifications of individuals who are on the Sex Offenders Registry. Last year they verified a total of 982 Sex Offender Registrants. Verifications require individuals to report and provide address changes, employment, vehicle, phone, and in some instances internet and social media use.

Marine Patrol Division

The Marine Patrol conducted 10 boating safety classes in 2023. The 2023 Marine Patrol consisted of 1 full time deputy and 20 part time deputies operating 10 boats in the fleet. They investigated 8 boating accidents and were involved in 2 rescue operations.



They inspected 15 boat liveries and a total of 199 boats were inspected. Many of these types of operations are boat, canoe, and kayak rentals.

They also participated in Operation Dry Water with a focus on impaired boating enforcement.



Marine Patrol Division (Continued)

| Safety Equipment | Citations | Warnings |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Wearable PFDs | 19 | 34 |
| Type IV/Throwable PFD | 2 | 13 |
| Fire Extinguisher | 1 | 28 |
| Visual Distress Signal | 0 | 0 |
| Sound Producing Device | 1 | 11 |



The Marine Patrol partners with the Lakeshore Realtors Association in the “Safe a Life” program. The Lakeshore Realtors Association provides donated lifejackets to

our deputies to provide to children and boaters who may not afford one or have one. Our Marine Deputies literally received a boat load of lifejackets thanks to the Lakeshore Realtors Association!



Reserve Division



2023 Reserve Academy Graduates

The Reserve Division currently consists of 22 deputies who work part-time and volunteer hours to assist the Sheriff’s Office and our communities. We run Reserve Deputy Academies periodically to maintain staffing. The Academies provide our Reserve deputies with extensive training before they assume their duties working alongside our deputies.

The reserve deputies worked a total of 3,598 hours last year. They provide essential services including hospital sits with inmates, courthouse

security, traffic control, house moves, foot patrols in Saugatuck, traffic control at events, patrols, and security at the county fair. Reserve deputies volunteered approximately 1,641 hours doing patrols with deputies, conducting property inspections, and attending training. Anyone interested in joining the Reserve Division is encouraged to contact us and we would be happy to discuss opportunities.

Emergency Management Division

Sarah Clark joined us in March of last year. She is our Emergency Management Coordinator. She hit the ground running as that month our Emergency Management Division assisted the Wayland Fire Department and several other assisting Fire Departments with an oil well fire in Wayland Twp.



Then in April Emergency Management assisted the Department of Natural Resources with a wildfire in Clyde Twp. 6 homes were evacuated, and 303 acres were burnt. Numerous state and local agencies were on hand to assist.

Justin Johnson joined the Emergency Management Team in July as the Deputy Coordinator and Local Emergency Planning Committee Coordinator.



Emergency Management is extensively involved in the planning of large events occurring within the county. They assisted in planning the Luke Bryan Farm Tour concert, The Allegan County Fair, Dorr July 4th celebration, Wayland Balloon Festival, and the Saugatuck Venetian Festival.

The Emergency Management Division coordinates and collaborates with our Local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Allegan County Search and Rescue (ACSR), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Radio Service (RACES), the Red Cross, and several other volunteer organizations.

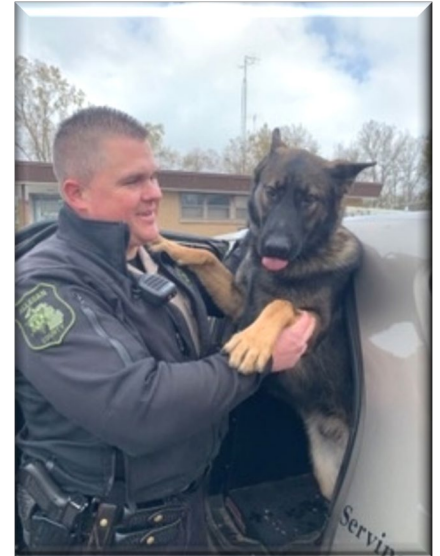


Specialty Teams

The Sheriff's Office has several specialty teams as well as deputies trained in specialized skills in addition to their normal patrol or investigative responsibilities.

K9 Units

4 deputies and their K-9 partners train in narcotics detection, tracking, and apprehension.



SWAT Team

Deputies who have applied for, met the physical fitness and background standards, may be assigned to the SWAT Team. The SWAT Team conducts high risk search warrants, responds to armed barricaded individuals, hostage situations, and other appropriate call outs.



Cell Extraction Teams

Each of the shifts in the Corrections Division has deputies and a sergeant trained in cell extractions. This is a specialty team utilized to minimize chances of injury to the inmate and staff.



Snowmobile Patrol

Utilized and funded through a DNR grant to patrol the snowmobile trails and teach snowmobile safety classes.




ALLEGAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Snowmobile Division & Enforcement

Snowmobile Safety Classes offered

The Allegan County Sheriff's Office will once again be holding snowmobile safety classes for anyone wishing to operate a snowmobile in Michigan.

Classes are free and last 5 to 6 hours in duration. Upon successful completion students will receive a Snowmobile Safety Certificate allowing them to legally operate a snowmobile.

Classes can be found on the Sheriff's Office webpage at:
<http://www.allegancounty.org/sheriff/Patrol/StatePages/Snowmobiles.aspx>



Who can operate a snowmobile in Michigan?

A person, under the age of 12:
may not operate a snowmobile without the direct supervision of the parent or guardian except on property owned or controlled by the parent; may not cross a highway or street.

A person who is at least 12 but less than 17 years of age:
may operate a snowmobile under direct supervision of a person 21 years of age or older, or have in their immediate possession a valid snowmobile safety certificate; may not cross a highway or street without having a valid snowmobile safety certificate in their immediate possession.

Drone Operators

Several deputies are trained and authorized to utilize our drones for purposes such as locating lost or missing persons, evidence collection, crime scene measurements, and close observation of high-risk situations.

We are now moving towards the use of drones and specialty software for crash and crime scene measurements and mapping. The technology will allow roads to open faster after serious crashes and better document crime scenes.



Dive Rescue Team

Deputies trained as divers and surface personnel to conduct water rescues, body recovery, and evidence collection.



Evidence Technicians

Deputies trained to collect, package, and preserve crime scene evidence for purposes of solving crime and successfully prosecuting suspects.



Crash Reconstruction Team

Deputies specially trained to investigate crashes utilizing specialized equipment and software for measuring and determining the facts surrounding fatal and very serious injury crashes for purposes of prosecution.

The deputies trained as reconstruction team members are also available to assist the officers of other agencies within the County who may have serious crashes within their jurisdictions.



Animal Control

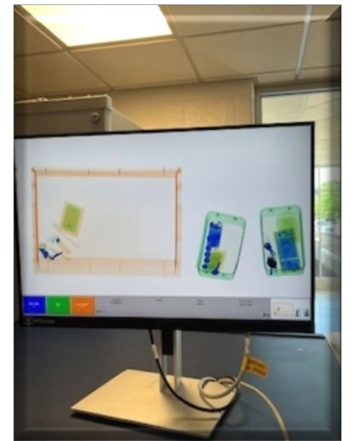


The Animal Control Unit consists of 2 deputies. They were dispatched to 1,918 calls for service last year. They are responsible for enforcement of the Michigan dog laws as well as domestic animal care and cruelty related issues.

They also investigate incidents of dog bites, dog attacks on livestock, and other similar type calls for service.

Court Security

Deputies assigned to Court Security provide screening at the entrance to the Court and County Building. They also act as bailiffs in the Courtrooms, conducting transports of inmates and juveniles to and from the Courts, the Corrections Center and the Youth Home. They provide overall security for the building and provide inmate court services in the Corrections Center.



Victim Services Unit

The VSU is a group of dedicated volunteers who are trained by the Michigan Sheriff's Association to provide comfort and direction after there has been a loss of a loved one. They respond to assist families after fatal traffic crashes for instance. They are trained in subjects such as the stages of grief, effective communication, law enforcement protocols, and the rights of victims in the criminal justice system. One of our patrol sergeants is assigned as a liaison to the unit.



In Conclusion



The Sheriff's Office would like to thank the Board of Commissioners for your trust and support over this past year. I am very proud of the work we have done together to enhance public safety in Allegheny County. We have taken on several key projects over the last few years and the communities and citizens we serve are seeing the benefits.

Please reach out should you have any questions, would like more information, or are looking for something specific that was not included in this report.

The deputies and staff at the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office would also like to thank the communities, the businesses, and the citizens we serve for all their support.

It is an honor to serve Allegheny County as your sheriff and all of us at the Sheriff's Office look forward serving you in 2024.



Additional Information and Photos

Sheriff's Office Approved Staffing (full time): law enforcement and corrections combined:

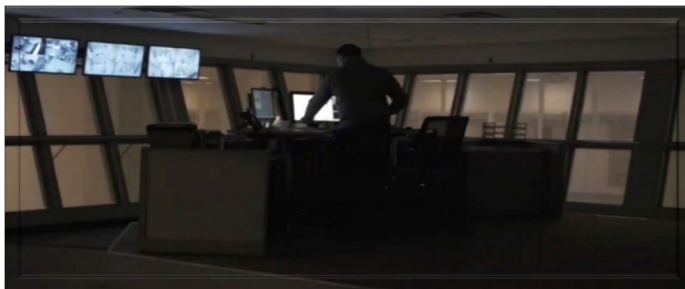
| | | | |
|----------------|----|--------------------------|-----|
| Sheriff | 1 | Corrections Deputies | 30 |
| Undersheriff | 1 | Patrol/Traffic Deputies | 29 |
| Captain | 1 | Contracted Patrols | 14 |
| Lieutenants | 4 | Court Security | 2 |
| Sergeants | 16 | Friend of Court Deputy | 1 |
| Detectives | 7 | School Resource Deputies | 4 |
| Administrative | 12 | Compliance Specialists | 2 |
| Mechanic | 1 | Total | 125 |

There are currently open positions in both Corrections and Law Enforcement. We have new hires in the Police Academy.



Additional Accomplishments:

- Transition to new Uniforms and colors
 - Cost savings and availability
- Transition to 9mm handguns
 - Lower ammo costs
- Restraint wrap equipment in Corrections
 - Reduce liability and risk
- Enhanced use of body cameras
 - Utilizing within Corrections Center
- Established an employee focus group
 - Better feedback from staff



Future Vision/Projects

- Accreditation
- Safe Schools Conference
- Crime Victim Services
- Scheduling Software project
- Drone Evidence Software Project
- ORV Training