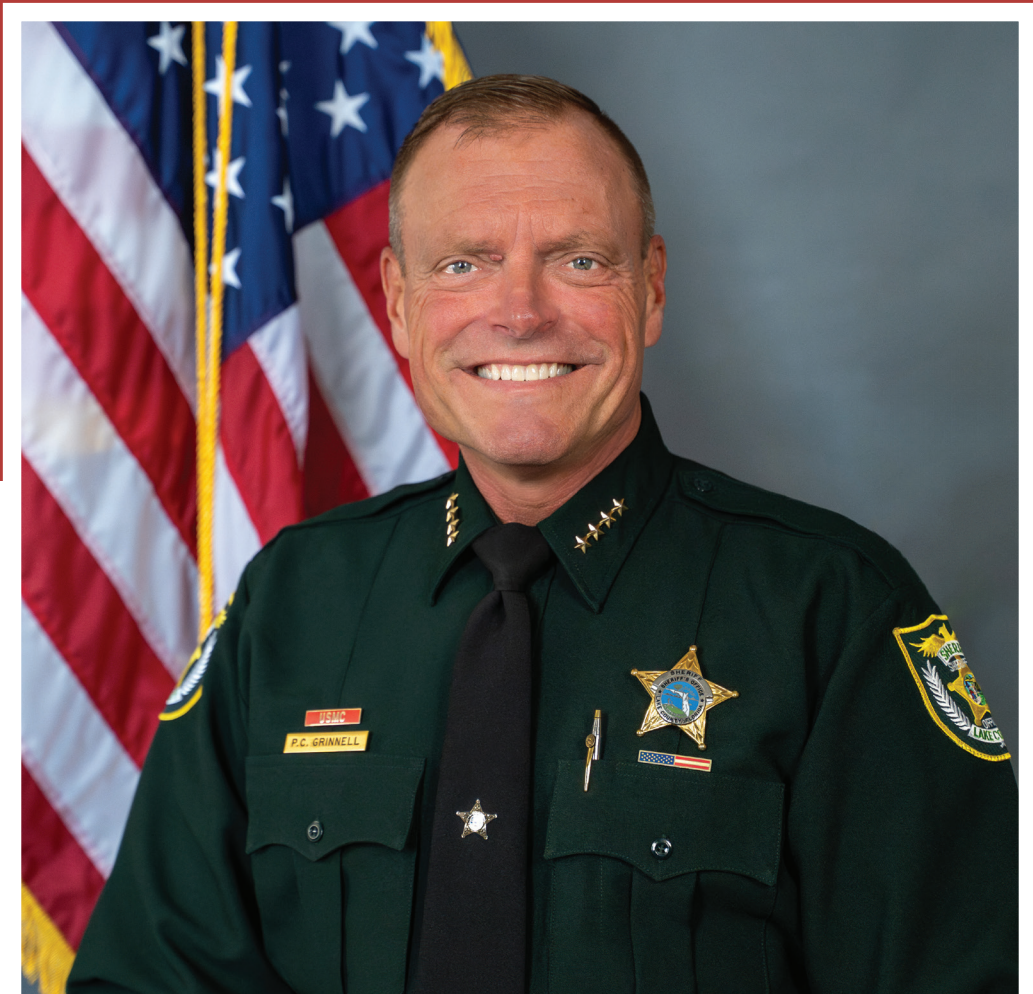




**LAKE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**
PEYTON C. GRINNELL, SHERIFF

ANNUAL REPORT



Sheriff's Message

Dear Citizens:


I am pleased to present the Lake County Sheriff's Office 2024 Annual Report. The pages that follow highlight a year filled with hard work, dedication, and our ongoing commitment to serving the people of Lake County. We hope this report offers insight into the responsibilities we carry and our mission to deliver effective and efficient law enforcement.

As your elected Sheriff, I deeply appreciate your trust and confidence. It is both an honor and a privilege to serve you.

Thank you for your partnership in keeping Lake County a wonderful place to live, work, and play.


Peyton C. Grinnell
Sheriff of Lake County

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Biased Based Profiling Policy

The policy of the Lake County Sheriff's Office is to treat every citizen with courtesy and respect. The purpose of this position is to reaffirm our commitment to unbiased policing in all its encounters between deputy sheriffs and citizens.

A fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States is equal protection under the law. Along with this right to equal protection is the fundamental right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures by government agents as guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment. Citizens are free to walk and drive our streets, highways, and other public places without law enforcement interference so long as they obey the law. They also are entitled to be free from the acts of criminals, and to drive and walk our public ways safe from the actions of reckless and careless drivers.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office is charged with protecting these rights, for all, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or economic status. Law enforcement action which is biased is illegal and violates the equal protection clause and the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution. It also alienates citizens, fosters distrust of the Sheriff's Office, and undermines legitimate law enforcement efforts.

The nature of our business requires deputy sheriffs to be observant, to identify unusual occurrences and law violations, and to act upon them. Proactive law enforcement keeps our citizens safe to live and work in a crime free environment. Criminal profiling is a legitimate tool in the fight against crime. Criminal profiling is an investigative method in which a deputy, through observation of activities and environment, identifies suspicious behavior by individuals and develops a legal basis, consistent with the Fourth Amendment, to stop them for questioning.

Criminal profiling is one of many accepted and necessary law enforcement investigative practices. However, it differs from and should not be confused with bias-based profiling. One is an investigative tool; the other, a discriminatory practice. Illegal profiling refers to a decision by a deputy to stop, detain, interdict, or search an individual based on their race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or economic status. The Lake County Sheriff's Office prohibits illegal profiling as a law enforcement tactic and will not tolerate or condone its use by any of our deputies.

It is the Sheriff's Office philosophy to accomplish our mission in a way that respects the dignity of all persons and yet sends a strong message of zero tolerance to actual and potential lawbreakers.



Our Core Values

- 1 Integrity
- 2 Commitment
- 3 Accountability
- 4 People
- 5 Leadership
- 6 Community
- 7 Loyalty
- 8 Professionalism



Master Deputy Bradley M. Link
End of Watch: August 3, 2024

**"Greater love hath no man than this, that
a man lay down his life for his friends."
– John 15:13**

While working an off-duty detail in the area, Master Deputy Link responded to a fight in progress in rural Eustis after the call came out requesting assistance from other deputies. He arrived at the residence in question where deputies observed signs of a possible home invasion. After announcements were made with no viable response, Master Deputy Link, along with other deputies on scene, selflessly entered the home to search for injured or downed persons. Upon entering the home, Master Deputy Link and other deputies were ambushed and immediately met with rapid gun fire. Without hesitation, Master Deputy Link returned fire giving other deputies on scene the ability to vacate the residence with their lives. If not for Master Deputy Link's heroic actions and ultimate sacrifice, other deputies on scene would have likely not survived the incident.

Master Deputy Link, 28, first became part of the Lake County Sheriff's Office as a young Explorer. A graduate of Lake Minneola High School, he served in the Army Reserves prior to being hired as a deputy sheriff by the Polk County Sheriff's Office in 2017. In October 2019, Master Deputy Link joined our agency as a deputy sheriff, where he quickly became part of our family and faithfully served our citizens with courage and zeal. Brad, as our Sheriff's Office family knew him, touched the lives of all who were blessed enough to work with him; his contributions and the impact of this loss will not soon be forgotten.



Community Engagement Unit



We received the
"Most Engaging Table"
 award at a College &
 Career Expo in December!

New Members

We had a great 2024, which included adding two new additions to our team! Serina Bentkowski was brought on as our new Volunteer Coordinator and Master Deputy Scott Kirkland transferred from our School Resource Unit as our Community Engagement Deputy.

Our Programs

We continue to promote all our existing and new programs that are offered to the citizens of Lake County, such as our Senior Watch program: Senior Watch is a community-driven volunteer program facilitated by the Lake County Sheriff's Office, designed to provide crucial support to seniors in the area. The program's primary focus is on enhancing the safety and well-being of older adults by having volunteers check in with them

daily. These check-ins ensure that seniors are safe, assist with emergency situations if they arise, and offer a friendly voice to combat isolation. In addition to providing peace of mind, Senior Watch creates a strong sense of connection between volunteers and the senior community, fostering meaningful relationships built on trust and care. Volunteers are not only a lifeline during emergencies but also offer companionship and support, making a lasting, positive impact on the lives of the seniors they serve. In 2024, the volunteers dedicated an impressive 564 hours of their time to the Senior Watch program, showcasing their commitment and compassion for the well-being of the elderly residents in Lake County.

Some of the other programs we offer include:

- Lockbox Program
- SafetyNet
- Emergency Scent Kit
- Drug Drop-off
- Car Seat Check
- CarFit
- Youth Career camp (ages 14-17).

Out in the Community

In 2024, the Community Engagement Unit coordinated and held approximately 700 meetings and events. We strive to continue to provide the citizens of Lake County with the most up-to-date information on what is happening within the County. This includes fraud, scams, how to keep yourself and home safe, and along with many other pertinent programs we provide.

2024 VOLUNTEER STATS:

10,422 hrs CITIZENS ON PATROL


10,372 hrs OTHER VOLUNTEER

20,794 hrs TOTAL

SAVING TAXPAYERS OVER
\$695,000.00

 **110**
 EVENTS CAPTURED

1,068 SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS
 **21.5% INCREASE** from previous year postings

OVER TEN THOUSAND NEW FOLLOWERS
77.6% INCREASE 

Over the past year, our team has experienced significant growth, including the promotion of a team member to a supervisory role and the addition of a part-time position, bringing our unit to a total of three members. We also relocated to a larger space, which has allowed us to utilize our Digital Media Studio for a broader range of in-house video productions. These include employee training videos, recruitment videos, and crime-related content for social media.

Additionally, we have established an ongoing collaboration with the General Crimes unit for a social media initiative called Fraud Friday, which focuses on raising awareness about scams and providing tips on how to avoid becoming a victim. Our unit has also strengthened its partnership with SIU, supporting undercover operations and creating video content for press releases and social media outreach.

As part of our continued involvement in the agency's rebranding initiative, our unit has contributed to several key projects. These include the creation of new signage, vehicle wraps featuring the newly rolled-out star on our patrol vehicles, updated brochures for various agency programs and services, and new designs for unit and program t-shirts.

Digital Media Unit

School Resource Bureau

The School Year

All public and charter schools are required to participate in active assailant drills. LCSO's SRD supervisors took the lead and coordinated the drills with the help of each school's drill coordinator to conduct the unannounced drills for all schools with an assigned deputy sheriff. Working with the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) Detectives who monitor the cameras, intel is passed on to the SRD when the drill is going on. This then provided the opportunity for the assigned deputy to fully participate in each drill and have no knowledge of when or where it will occur. These drills have been instrumental in preparing staff and students on what to do in case of an active assailant on the campuses.

The Unit is striving to work with our youth to hold them accountable for the incidents that take place on school campus and issue a Work In Lieu of Arrest (W.I.L.A.) Delinquency Citations. In the past the citation was only utilized approximately 35% of the time because of certain restraints in order to use it. Working with the State Attorney's Office and Department of Juvenile Justice, the SRD Lieutenant was able to change the stipulations in order to make it easier to issue the citation. In 2024, that percentage climbed to 68% of usage in the schools, with the recidivism rate at roughly 1%. The Unit supplies an SRD every Saturday to teams with the W.I.L.A. coordinator for the County to transport the juveniles to their job sites.

Awards

School Resource Unit of the Year! In July of 2024, FASRO presented the Lake County Sheriff's Office SRD Unit with the award. After finishing in the top 5 in the past five years, the unit brought the award home; it is the first time the Sheriff's Office has won the award. This award is presented annually to an agency that has made a significant contribution to the development of the School Resource Officer profession. This award recognizes an agency that has made an impact in training, professional development, and organizational efficiency to make schools in their community a safer place to learn.

The School Resource Unit was also recognized by the Attorney General Ashley Moody with the Back the Blue Award. The award highlights law enforcement officers, citizens, and organizations taking extraordinary steps to forge positive relationships between law enforcement and the community they serve.

The School Resource Unit and RTCC were recognized by CENTEGIX, which is the alert system that the school board uses in case of an emergency. Working together, both Units were able to bring CENTEGIX (Alert system) and FUSUS (cameras) together to integrate their systems to work together in protecting school campuses. It is a game changer as it will provide intel immediately to the SRDs on campus where the threat is located.

The Schools Resource Unit was also recognized by Crimeline and presented the Unit with the 2024 Outstanding Program Support award.



SCHOOL RESOURCE UNIT OF THE YEAR!

In the Classroom

DARE is currently being presented in six elementary schools. This program, a campaign promise by Sheriff Grinnell when he initially took office, is still providing fifth graders with some great tools to make good decisions in and about daily life. Well over 1,000 students graduate from DARE each year in Lake County schools.

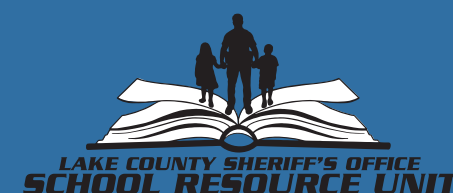
L.E.A.D. (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) was introduced at a summer conference for SRDs. L.E.A.D. is additional platform taught by trained deputies to protect our youth and communities from the proliferation of drugs, drug related crimes, peer to peer/cyber bullying and violence. Although many compare L.E.A.D. to DARE, L.E.A.D. has programing to be presented at all grade levels. Seeing a need to address middle and high schoolers, SRDs are now teaching 7th and 9th graders in four schools reaching around 200 students. Moving forward, LCSO intends to broaden the program to more high schools and pilot the middle school curriculum at Spring Creek Charter School.

A Coordinated Effort

Every teacher workday and during summer break we train! As a joint effort with all municipal and Sheriff's Office trainers, SRD participated in a one-week training course with over fifty resource officers and deputies. All participants received training in:

- Tactical Medical First-aid
- Bomb Identification & Recognition
- Officer Linkups with more than one officer and Post Shooting Considerations
- Move to Contact
- Indicator & Response to Stimulus
- Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Solo Officer Response to Active Threat
- 300-degree simulator training with de-escalation programing
- FLETC Hallway Clearing & Link up
- Defensive Tactics
- Tactical Emergency Casualty Care TECC

All training led-up to a two-day scenario-based training at two different locations in Lake County with the resource officers and deputies being exposed to four unique scenarios.





Explorers Post 60

The LCSO Explorer Post was very active again during the 2024 calendar year, donating 2,914 hours to the citizens of Lake County and to the Sheriff's Office. Explorers are young men and women ages 14-20, and make up our youth division. Explorers participated in parades, sporting events, shop with a cop, the Lake County Fair, and fishing tournaments only to name a few of our community service details annually. Over 20 LCSO employees began their law enforcement and criminal justice journey as a member of this program as a youth. The explorer post currently consists of up to 40 youth members, and 10 sworn law enforcement Deputy Advisors.

In addition to volunteering, explorers were also rewarded with many training opportunities during the year, job shadowing, tours, and field trips. Explorers also train and compete with 35 other explorer programs in our long standing membership in the Florida Sheriff's Explorer Association. This year, three LCSO explorers graduated from law enforcement and correctional academies, and one outstanding explorer from Palm Beach County was awarded the Explorer Rebecca Daily Unsworth memorial scholarship, named in memory of one of our former late post members.



Medical Training, Leading the way

Deputies regularly respond to medical emergencies on school campuses. Recognizing the many scenarios they encounter, each SRD/SRO is trained in TECC. Eight additional SRDs completed an 80-hour Emergency Medical Responder program, establishing the Resource Deputy as a Tactical Medical Responder, bringing the total number of SRDs trained to 17. Lake County is the first agency in the state to complete such training.

New, Investigation Section

At the beginning of the school year the SRD Unit added a detective to help with the crimes happening on campus. Their focus will be following up with felony complaints that originated on or have a nexus to a school. They will track and make monthly contact with "at risk" juveniles and work closely with DJJ. They will be the primary investigator on all school threats involving LCSO-manned schools and conduct complicated and lengthy investigations. They will also coordinate home checks for the high-risk students and juveniles wearing electronic monitors. Since the start of this school year, the detective has conducted 22 homes visits, worked 11 school threats and has written numerous warrants and search warrants.



Summer Camps

SRD once again participated in Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches Youth Camp in Pearson, FL as well as hosting two "Harmony in the Streets" mobile summer camps with over 125 juveniles in attendance. These camps are funded by LCSO and are a joint effort with the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches.

Vape K9 Samba

K9 Handler Stamborski and K9 Samba hit the campuses running, walking two different campuses a day since March 2024. Since the start of the program, K9 Samba has conducted over 225 deployments. During the searches Samba has located over 44 Nicotine Vapes and nine THC Vapes. Also located in backpacks was Marijuana on four different occasions and over 21 tobacco and drug paraphernalia items. The School Board plans on adding another Vape K9 in 2025.

Holiday Teamwork

The Lake County Sheriff's Office and the SRD Unit partnered with "Christmas is for Children" Charity. The SRD Supervisors visited ten schools; at each school, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent and ten laundry baskets filled with food were dropped off.

The SRD Unit partnered with the owner of A Touch Beyond Spa, for the fifth annual "Elf Mission" where they coordinated the purchasing of gifts for children in need. The children who received gifts were identified by the SRDs and staff at the schools, including any siblings they may have. The SRD Unit worked together with this business to provide ages, interests, and clothing sizes to the local business, as well as assisting with gift wrapping and coordinating the delivery of the gifts to the schools before the Christmas break.

School Resource Bureau



Training Bureau

The Training Bureau has had a productive and progressive year, marked by advancements in equipment, training methodologies, and community engagement. All sworn employees receive training twice a month which covers subjects such as de-escalation techniques, officer health and well-being, legislative updates and all the mandatory trainings (Firearms, First aid, Defensive Tactics and Vehicle Operations). Our commitment to innovation and efficiency ensures that deputies receive the highest level of training while fostering a safer community. Below are some of the highlights throughout the year.

Field Training Officer Program

The Training Bureau oversaw the initiation of 28 new deputies into the Field Training Officer (FTO) program. Additionally, 12 deputies who began their training in December 2023 successfully completed their program in April 2024. These deputies, while not included in the 2024 total, played a vital role in maintaining continuity in law enforcement training.

Axon Taser Upgrade

We successfully completed an upgrade of all Taser 7 less lethal weapons to the Taser 10 model, significantly improving the efficiency of our less-than-lethal force options. The Taser 10 provides nearly double the engagement distance compared to its predecessor, enhancing safety for both deputies and the public.

Axon Virtual Reality Training

We introduced training with Axon Virtual Reality (VR) headsets, allowing deputies to practice using the newly issued Taser 10 less lethal weapons in a virtual setting. This technology has proven instrumental in increasing proficiency. Throughout the year, nearly 500 corrections

and law enforcement deputies were trained using live-fire, reality-based scenarios in conjunction with VR headsets.

Body-Worn Camera System Upgrade

The Training Bureau facilitated the upgrade of our body-worn cameras (BWC) from Axon AB3 to AB4 models. These advanced cameras provide extended battery life and incorporate live two-way communication between deputies and supervisors during emergency situations. The "Watch Me" feature allows deputies to send an immediate alert to supervisors, enabling real-time live streaming of their BWC footage for enhanced oversight and response.

Digital Records System Implementation

We took the initial steps toward transitioning to a digital records system for tracking deputies' training records. This move is aimed at streamlining documentation and enhancing accessibility. The transition is expected to be fully paperless by 2025, improving efficiency and reducing administrative burdens.

Civilian Basic Handgun Safety and Proficiency Classes

The Training Bureau successfully conducted 18 four-hour Civilian Basic Handgun Safety and Proficiency classes, designed to educate Lake County citizens on safe firearm handling and shooting fundamentals. Each session had 20 available seats, and every class reached full capacity, leading to the establishment of a waiting list to accommodate high demand. These classes are provided at no cost to citizens, as they are fully funded through a state grant.

Basic Recruit Academies

In partnership with Lake Technical College, the Lake County Sheriff's Office Training Bureau oversees the recruit training programs at the Institute of Public Safety for Basic Law Enforcement, Corrections, Crossover, and 911 Telecommunicator. Last year, 127 students completed our programs with a 100% licensure rate and an average placement rate of over 91%.

Another successful program is our Equivalency of Training class, which involves out-of-state certified Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers wanting to gain Florida certifications in their respective fields. Last year, we had over 70 attendees complete and pass the course. Additionally, the Training Bureau oversees the FDLE-approved Advanced/Specialized Training classes for local law enforcement agencies at the Institute of Public Safety.

Unmanned Aerial Systems Unit

The Lake County Sheriff's Office continues to integrate cutting-edge technology to enhance public safety, improve response times, and protect both deputies and the community. In 2024, the Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Unit (UAS) played a crucial role in critical incidents, crime scene documentation, emergency response, and strategic planning.

New Interior Drones

Following the tragic loss of Master Deputy Bradley Link, who was killed in the line of duty on August 3, 2024, the Lake County Sheriff's Office UAS Unit took decisive action to enhance officer safety and tactical operations. Recognizing the extreme risks officers face in close-quarters, high-threat environments, the unit acquired two Arrowhead 2024 Tactical Drones, purpose-built for indoor operations where traditional drones are ineffective.

These advanced drones provide real-time intelligence in barricaded suspect situations, hostage rescues, and high-risk entries, reducing the need for deputies to enter unknown or potentially deadly environments. Their deployment helps minimize risks, improve situational awareness, and enhance operational efficiency.

Operating the Arrowhead drone requires specialized training, and the UAS Unit has been rigorously preparing to ensure seamless integration into Patrol and tactical operations.

UAS Unit 2024 Operational Summary (As of July 2024)

- o **Total Flights Conducted:** 505
- o **Total Flight Time:** 118 hours
- o **Total Distance Covered:** 376 miles
- o **Located 7 Missing Subjects**
- o **Located 6 Fleeing Suspects**
- o **4 Apprehension Assists**
- o **85 Missions**

Investigations & Special Requests

- o **Crime Scene & Evidence Searches:** Drones were used to search areas for weapons and canvass areas for potential evidence.
- o **Community Engagement:** The UAS Unit conducted demonstrations to showcase drone capabilities to the community.

Search and Rescue Missions

- o **Missing Persons:** UAS was deployed multiple times to search for missing or endangered individuals, including an elderly dementia patient who was eventually found in the woods using thermal imaging.
- o **Suicidal Subjects:** Drones assisted in searches for suicidal individuals, including operations over bodies of water and wooded areas.
- o **Thermal Searches:** UAS was used to scan large areas for missing people, often working alongside K9 units and bloodhounds to enhance search effectiveness.

Tactical and Law Enforcement Operations

- o **Fleeing Suspects:** Drones were frequently used to track suspects who fled on foot, often aiding deputies and K9 units in locating individuals in wooded areas.
- o **Tactical Overwatch & SWAT Support:** UAS provided overwatch during high-risk warrant services, ensuring deputies had real-time aerial intelligence before approaching barricaded or dangerous suspects.
- o **Suicidal Subject Stand-offs:** Drones were deployed in tense situations where individuals threatened self-harm, assisting in containment efforts.

Expanding Capabilities for 2025

Recognizing the growing demand for drone operations, LCSO invested in five additional Skydio X10 drones, increasing the unit's availability for callouts and real-time incident response.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office is actively exploring Drone as First Responder (DFR) technology, enabling drones to autonomously respond to calls for service, critical incidents, and emergencies. This capability provides deputies with real-time aerial intelligence before they arrive on scene, enhancing officer safety, reducing response times, and supporting informed decision-making in dynamic situations.

Additionally, LCSO is evaluating drone technology for school safety, equipping first responders with real-time mapping and situational awareness. This initiative would ensure access to up-to-date school layouts during emergencies, improving coordination and response efforts.

The agency is also assessing the use of drones for crime scene mapping, enhancing evidence documentation and forensic accuracy. Furthermore, LCSO is considering post-storm assessments using drones to rapidly evaluate damage and assist emergency teams in prioritizing response efforts.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office remains committed to innovation, officer safety, and public protection. By integrating uncrewed aircraft systems into daily operations, the agency is setting new standards in law enforcement and emergency response, ensuring faster, safer, and more effective policing for the future.



The Uniform Patrol Bureau is responsible for 24-hour, 7 days a week patrol of Lake County and is the largest single bureau within the Lake County Sheriff's Office. The primary responsibility of the Uniform Patrol Bureau is to answer calls for service, provide traffic safety enforcement, crime prevention, and provide proactive community patrols. The Uniform Patrol Bureau deputies respond to calls for service throughout Lake County. The most common calls for service include traffic complaints, accidents, and reports of criminal activity. It is the responsibility of the responding deputies to initiate criminal investigations through observation and field interviews, make arrests of criminal suspects, and document their actions for further investigation by detectives.

The men and women assigned to the Uniform Patrol Bureau are Sheriff Grinnell's frontline in keeping the citizens and visitors of Lake County safe. The Uniform Patrol Bureau is comprised of 130

sworn deputies that are supported by civilian support personnel. Patrol deputies and resources are deployed into three geographical sectors of the county. Each shift is overseen by a Lieutenant who supervises a Sergeant and Corporal that are assigned to each of the three sectors. There are seventeen patrol zones in Lake County with a deputy sheriff assigned to each zone. Each area is generally patrolled by the same deputy on a continuous basis allowing the deputy to become more familiar with the areas of concern within his/her respective area. Deputies who serve the community are trained in the most current tactics and techniques within the field and are equipped with the most current technology and tools to better serve the citizens and visitors of Lake County.

Newly Hired Deputies

For the calendar year 2024 the Lake County Sheriff's Office hired and trained forty new deputy sheriffs to fill previous vacancies across

the agency. Last year the Sheriff's Office began a program to recruit new deputies to the agency. Once hired, new deputies are assigned to our Field Training Program and undergo extensive training in our 12-week field training program. They receive training in firearms, vehicle operations, building searches, map reading, report writing, traffic crash investigation and utilization of our CAD system. When these deputies complete training, they are then assigned to our Patrol Bureau and assigned to a variety of shifts.

Technologies

The Uniform Patrol Bureau incorporates several cutting-edge technologies to enhance performance. Each patrol vehicle is equipped with a laptop computer, allowing deputies to receive calls for service, create reports, locate addresses, and check the status of vehicles and persons. In 2021, the Lake County Sheriff's Office distributed 350 Axon Body 3-Worn Camera (BWC) to sworn members

throughout the agency. Currently, every deputy sheriff in the Uniform Patrol is issued a body worn camera. These cameras not only assist the deputies in gathering evidence and statements, but they also help support the deputies in recalling events after high stress encounters. The BWC are part of a cutting-edge communication beacon front-and-center on every call. The cameras improve the civility of deputy-citizen encounters and enhance citizen perception of our transparency and legitimacy. We have found that BWC wearing deputies generated significantly fewer complaints and disagreements.

In 2024, the Lake County Sheriff's Office replaced Axon Taser 7 with Axon Taser 10 which were distributed to all sworn members throughout the agency. Notably, Taser 10 eliminates the drive-stun feature found in previous models, focusing on neuromuscular incapacitation (NMI) over pain compliance. Its

seamless integration with the Axon network of connected devices and applications optimizes workflow efficiency and ensures reliable evidence capture. Complemented by extensive training, Taser 10 equips officers to confidently handle a wider range of scenarios more effectively than ever before.

Taser 10 represents a significant leap in law enforcement technology, enhancing officer confidence. With nearly double the range of the previous Taser 7 energy weapon, the Taser 10 has a maximum range of 45 feet, creating more time and space to de-escalate and resolve conflicts. When de-escalation fails, Taser 10 can deploy up to 10 individually target probes without the need to reload and has an increased velocity of 205 feet per second. Taser 10 has an advancement in accuracy, effectiveness and reliability which means there is a reduced likelihood of escalation to lethal force. This less-lethal option has proven to be very effective to subdue belligerent or fleeing suspects. Additionally, the taser can reduce the static rate of injury to officers and suspects.

In 2024, our agency purchased twenty-one Marrero Light Weight NIJ certified Level III shields. Twenty of these shields were assigned to the Uniform Patrol unit, allotting five per shift. An additional shield was provided to the Street Crimes Unit. The specs for Marrero Light Weight NIJ shields are 20x30 inches, 16.5lbs, with a 4x6 viewport. These shields are rated to take up to a 7.62 x 51 mm rifle round travelling at 2780 feet per second. They are the lightest shield in the industry that provides this level of protection. Our agency also purchased the molle cover for each shield, which not only protects the product during the rugged demands of day-to-day operations but, the molle system allows deputies to attach critical gear specific to whatever the mission



Uniform Patrol Bureau

is on any call for service. Examples of items that can be attached are tourniquets, body worn cameras, lights, and anything that attaches to a molle system.

The Marrero Light Weight NIJ shields will serve to better protect our deputies from potentially armed and dangerous citizens looking to harm our personnel on high-risk operations. Examples of these types of operations are warrants service, felony traffic stops, barricaded suspects, building searches, rural operations, and armed persons dealing with a mental health crisis. This added level of protection will aid in better serving the citizens in our community by increasing the safety and survivability of the law enforcement personnel responding to high priority calls for service and dealing with crisis situations.

Continual Training

Across the United States, there has been a false narrative transcribed that has caused the targeting of law enforcement by individuals and extremist ideology. Locally, the men and women of the Lake County Sheriff's Office receive Racial Intelligence Training Engagement (RITE) as well as de-escalation training. This training helps deputies when addressing high stress and tense situations. Based on the county's increasing population and forecasted population growth data, we have continued to evaluate the geographical areas of the county to ensure that there are adequate patrol deputies in our communities. In the future, we will need to hire additional deputies to keep up with the growth and to maintain the high level of quality service to our citizens, communities, and visitors.



The Motor Unit consisted of five full-time Motors and two Reserve Motors. The full-time Motors usually work Monday through Friday; however, they have been known to work some weekends when needed. Reserve Motors assist the full-time Motors on their days off. Both have made themselves available to complete any tasks asked of them. The Motor Units handle speeding complaints,

disabled vehicles, crashes, traffic obstructions, community service events, parades, back up Patrol Deputies and participate in many Dignitary Escorts throughout Central Florida.

The Motor Unit use the two "speed trailers" we purchased in late 2023 throughout the year. These trailers are equipped to store data collected while they are deployed. In late 2024, the Lake County Sheriff's Office purchased four message/radar boards that will be deployed for use in 2025. The Motor Unit then uses the traffic data to assist with targeted traffic enforcement based on the results. This makes more efficient use of the Motor Unit to enforce "problem"

traffic areas. They do approximately nine Motorcycle Escorts for charitable organizations throughout the year supporting charities such as Toys-for-Tots and Veterans events of all types. Several of these escorts have anywhere from 250 to 500 motorcycles in them and most of them either start or end at Gator Harley Davidson in Leesburg.

K9 Unit

The Lake County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit is a specialized unit of highly trained deputies who work with their K9 partners as a team to fight crime and keep the citizens of Lake County safe. The K9 Unit is comprised of eleven full service K9 teams, three Bloodhound teams, and four single purpose detection teams. The term "full service" also known as "dual purpose" means that the dog is trained to track, locate, and apprehend suspects, but can also detect narcotics. The Full Service K9 Unit is comprised of three German Shepherds, five Belgian Malinois, and three Shepherd/ Malinois mixed breeds. The Bloodhound teams have one purpose and that is to track suspects and missing or endangered persons. The four single purpose teams are used for detection only. One of the single purpose K9's, assigned to the Special Investigations

Bureau, is trained to find narcotics. Two single purpose K9's are trained to detect bombs and firearms. The last single purpose K9 is trained to detect Vapes and Marijuana in our schools.

Becoming a K9 handler is a desirable career opportunity among law enforcement professionals. These K-9 deputies work closely with their canine partners to enforce the law and apprehend criminals. Not only are they trained to catch felony offenders, but they also conduct area and building searches as well as the detection of illegal narcotics. Their goal is to respond to situations that necessitate those specialized skills of the K9 unit.

In addition to their usual duties, each K9 deputy is also a dog handler, meaning that they must train and care 24 hours a day for their canine partner. The



SECTOR 1

28,733
CALLS FOR SERVICE

Sector 1 is comprised of zones 1-6 and is geographically situated in the northeast portion of the county.

SECTOR 2

26,251
CALLS FOR SERVICE

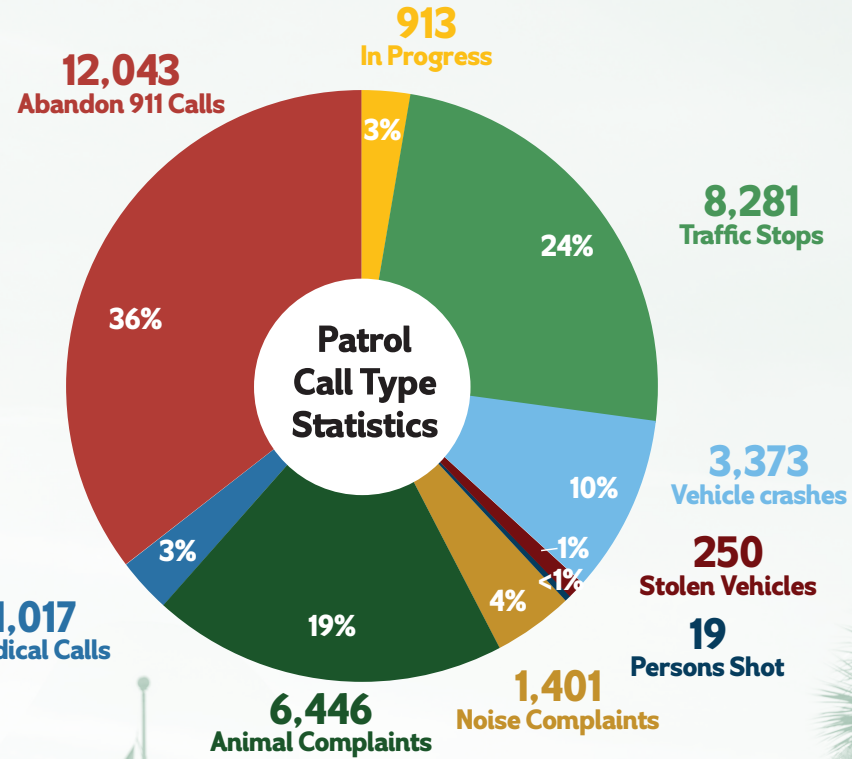
Sector 2 is comprised of zones 7-11 and is geographically situated in the central portion of the county.

SECTOR 3

45,668
CALLS FOR SERVICE

Sector 3 is comprised of zones 12-17 and is geographically situated in the southern portion of the county.

100,652
TOTAL COUNTY CALLS FOR SERVICE



Public Service Officers

The Lake County Sheriff's Office established a unit known as the Public Service Officers (PSO) in 2020. The PSO is a civilian employee who can work on a variety of different calls to assist the Uniform Patrol unit. There are currently four part-time PSO's that are utilized and dispatched to calls for service all over the county. The value of these Public Safety Officers has made them a fixture at the Sheriff's Office and aids in keeping deputies available for more high priority calls for service. PSO's can handle the following types of calls: Burglary, Theft, Criminal Mischief, Fraud, Found Property, Lost Property, DAVs, Crashes, Stolen Vehicles, Recovered Stolen Vehicles, Well-Being, and Property Checks. As a result of their diligent work in 2024, they handled more than 396 miscellaneous calls for service which are not classified as crimes but would have been handled by a deputy. We are hoping to expand this program in the future.

RECOVERED AUTO	0
CITATIONS	0
BURGLARY: BUSINESS	3
FOUND/LOST PROPERTY	9
THEFT: AUTO	6
THEFT: PETIT	11
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	12
BURGLARY: RESIDENTIAL	32
DAV	18
BURGLARY: CONVEYANCE	35
THEFT: GRAND	52
TRAFFIC RELATED	102
FRAUD	184
VIN VERIFICATIONS	360
WELL-BEING/PROPERTY CHECKS	396
TOTAL PSO INCIDENTS	1,220

Crisis Negotiation Team

The Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) is a specialized team of law enforcement and corrections deputies who are trained to assist in crisis situations. The CNT was organized to assist the Lake County Sheriff's Office to defuse volatile situations involving barricaded subjects, with or without hostages, or any situation in which SWAT is required. In 2024, CNT had five callouts, including the deputy ambush call. The CNT responded as negotiators and were able to seamlessly transition into the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) roles, providing critical support that night and the following days.

In 2024, the team attended the Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators (FAHN) Conference in Clearwater, along with advanced negotiations training at the Institute of Police Training Management (IPTM). Training covered Team Commander Courses, Case Studies (Dallas PD), Scenario Building, and Master-Level TPI Procedures, among others. This allowed negotiators to refine their skills and collaborate with teams statewide. These negotiators received training and were certified as peer counselors in the therapy techniques, Tactical Resiliency Process (TRP) and Emotions Management Process (EMP), giving our negotiators new methods to help resolve crisis situations. Three team members attended advanced negotiations training at the Institute of Police Training Management. We are continuing to move forward and improving our training and abilities to assist citizens in crisis.

Minneola District Office

The Lake County Sheriff's Office has been contracted by the City of Minneola to provide law enforcement services since 1995. The Minneola District Office is comprised of one (1) Lieutenant, one (1) Sergeant, one (1) Corporal and twelve (12) patrol deputies. The deputies assigned to the City of Minneola are a very diverse group of individuals that pride themselves on working together as a team. Their experience ranges from one year to more than twenty-five years of service. They work hard to provide the City of Minneola with professional services that ultimately make the city a better and safer place to live and visit.

In 2024, the deputies assigned to Minneola investigated approximately 194 traffic crashes, conducted more than 3,400 traffic stops and handle approximately 4,000 other calls for service. They also participated in events from parades, holiday events, non-for-profit fund raisers organized through the city, and food banks which are done at least quarterly. These types of events allow the deputies to meet the citizens in a less formal environment which makes them more approachable. Our Minneola deputies strive to have a great relationship with the citizens and visitors alike. Our deputies regularly receive praise from the citizens when they are proactively patrol the neighborhood streets.



South Lake District Office

The South Lake District Office opened in October 2010 to provide services to South Lake County. They are a full-service location with patrol operations, criminal investigations, automotive services, civilian detail coordinator, community engagement, sworn deputy, and a district commander. They take several walk-in calls for service (approximately 550 in 2024), fingerprinting, clearance letters, provide copies of reports to citizens, coordinate extra duty details (3,347 details handled), and several events throughout the year.

One of the events included Project Kid Connect that took place on July 13, 2024. This event was essential in providing over 1,500 backpacks and numerous school supplies to the children in the community. There were also several vendors that participated in the event such as face painting, Dunk a Deputy for a Doughnut, and Ident-A-Kid.

Other events hosted by the South Lake District Office in 2024 include the Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive, Lake Cares Food Drop, and WESH 2 Food Drive. The Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive

took place in June 2024 at Clermont Kiwanis Club where 500 jars of peanut butter and 400 jars of jellies were collected. These donations were dropped off to Mascotte Charter School and Groveland Elementary along with 200 loaves of bread donated to Clermont Kiwanis Club.

The Lake Cares Food Drop held on November 2024 raised Approximately 500 lbs. of food collected at the South Lake District Office. Over 954 lbs. of food was collected in total to provide essential food to the struggling residents of Lake County during their time of need. Also, the WESH 2 Food Drive held in December 2024 collected 3,000 pounds MORE food this year in Lake County than last year.



CORRECTIONS OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Correction Operation’s Division’s (Jail) textile program has expanded over the past year to include providing embroidery work for our entire Sheriff’s Office work force. Such work included Road Patrol Uniforms, polo shirts and even hats for our deputies, which resulted in a savings for taxpayers. Furthermore, inmate workers continue to learn valuable sewing and embroidery trades that can help them secure employment upon release from the jail.

In addition, the jail kitchen has initiated the “Safe Serve” program for those inmates who work with and around food. “Safe Serve” teaches inmates the fundamentals of food care, handling and cross-contamination to name a few. Upon completion of this program, each inmate receives a certificate which makes them a more attractive candidate for employment within the food industry upon their release from custody.

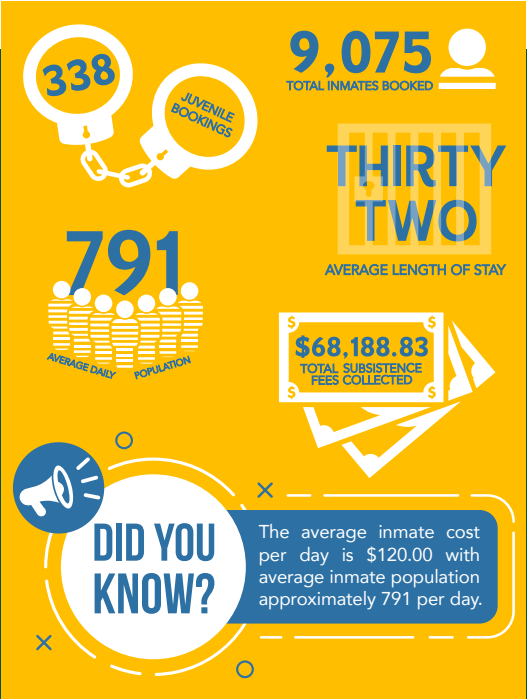
To curb inmate medical costs, the jail is working with Messer, a company that assists inmates in signing up for health insurance. In some cases, this has been very beneficial in reducing the burden for taxpayers in relation to the medical costs for inmates.

Finally, to assist in keeping jail staff physically fit, the fitness room has been refurbished and expanded in 2024.

Accreditation

Lake County Detention Center has again earned accreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care by demonstrating compliance with NCCHC’s nationally recognized standards of care for correctional health services in jails.

To maintain NCCHC accreditation, Lake County Detention Center underwent a rigorous professional assessment in 2024. During the assessment, a team of experienced physicians and experts in correctional health care surveyed the facility for compliance with jail-specific standards in several areas such as patient care and treatment, health promotion, safety and disease prevention, governance and administration, personnel and training, special needs and services, and medical-legal issues.



2024 was an exciting year for the Forensic Division! Several new areas of forensic processing have been implemented within the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

DNA profiles can now be made, in-house, by our Forensic Laboratory Specialists. Thermal Fisher developed the Rapid HIT ID DNA system to help in criminal investigations in, both, lab and field settings by producing leads at an early stage of the investigation. With the collection of DNA swabs uploaded to our DNA database, in a process that takes approximately 90 minutes, we can produce investigative leads and exclude suspects of previous crimes while they are potentially still in custody. Our Forensic Laboratory Specialists can quickly identify victims of disasters, bring families together, or assist other agencies in the area with field deployment requirements.

Another emerging field in forensics is NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network). The Forensic Division obtained federal grant funds for this program from ATF. This equipment enables personnel to take the initial steps toward independence from the FDLE's Firearms Division, resulting in a speedier turnaround time in firearm processing. The Forensic Division has expanded and established a Forensic Firearms Laboratory, which will test-fire NIBIN-eligible firearms and input fired cartridge casings into the NIBIN machine. The

NIBIN machine is designed to compare fired cartridge casings from numerous scenes and/or from test firing a firearm in order to generate a potential investigative lead for a case. ATF maintains this information, which allows for national cartridge comparisons.

In 2023, the Crime Scene Unit began the process of obtaining national accreditation for forensic laboratories from ANAB ISO 17025 (American National Standards Institute National Accreditation Board). The Crime Scene Unit worked throughout 2024 to further develop procedures and regulations to ensure they met the requirements for national accreditation. In November, the Crime Scene Unit had their procedures assessed by ANAB technical assessors. Over 450 standards were assessed, with just three nonconformities discovered. Minor corrective actions were made to the Crime Scene Unit procedures resulting in the expected official national certification in January of 2025. National accreditation will place our organization at the top of the list for grants for future division development programs. FDLE has launched a program in which they collaborate with accredited forensic laboratories to aid in the increased forensic processing requests.

The Forensic Division welcomes all new forensic processing programs and developments and hopes to continue growing and evolving!



Major Crimes

USSS Task Force Officer

Det. Joshua Mercer was sworn in as a US Secret Service Task Force Officer. While Det. Mercer is still a full-time LCSO detective, he is dual sworn as a USSS agent. This expands Det. Mercer's jurisdiction in certain circumstances and allows him access to resources and databases of the USSS that would otherwise be off limits to local authorities.

FBI Safe Streets Task Force Officer

Det. Adam Baskette was sworn in as an FBI Safe Streets Task Force Officer. While Det. Baskette is still a full-time LCSO detective, he is dual sworn as an FBI agent. This expands Det. Baskette's jurisdiction in certain circumstances and allows him access to resources and databases of the FBI that would otherwise be off limits to local authorities.

Countywide CIB (CCIB) Detective

Mount Dora PD Detective Ethan Green was sworn in as a LCSO deputy sheriff and assigned to the robbery/homicide unit. Det. Green will work primarily on LCSO cases. Det. Green will have the opportunity to learn investigative techniques from seasoned LCSO detectives while providing valuable insight and additional personnel to the Criminal Investigations Bureau. LCSO hopes to expand the CCIB program in 2025 with detectives from other city agencies from within Lake County.

The US Secret Service task force officer, FBI task force officer, and CCIB detective act as force multipliers within the Criminal Investigations Bureau by adding vital personnel and resources at little or no cost to the LCSO.

1984 Cold Case Solved

On April 18th, 1984, an unidentified female was located off a dirt road near Lake Dorr, in Altoona. She was given the name "Judy Doe". This case has been listed as a cold case and has been investigated by numerous detectives for over 40 years. Multiple efforts were made to identify the remains based off skeletal recreations, dental records, and DNA.

In November of 2023 the Lake County Sheriff's Office contracted Othram, Inc, a private laboratory that specializes in Forensic Genetic Genealogy, to provide new leads or information. Over a year was spent working through the genealogy of Judy Doe and possible family members were identified. Detectives

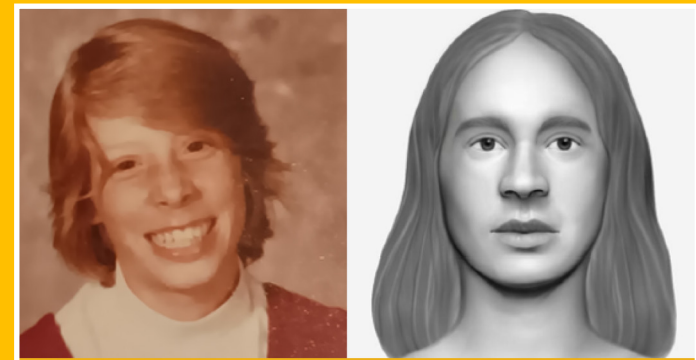
contacted these suspected family members to gather information and obtain samples to further the genealogical testing.

In November of 2024 detectives contacted a suspected close relative of Judy Doe. The cooperation of the family member led to them submitting DNA for comparison. This DNA was sent to Othram, Inc. for analysis.

In December of 2024 Othram Inc. verified that this person was Judy Doe's sister, and that Judy Doe's real name is Rebecca Sue Hill. Detectives established that Rebecca has been missing from Arkansas since 1981, which would make her 16 or 17 years old at the time of her disappearance. Rebecca was not in any database as missing due to remains being found in Little Rock, Arkansas and misidentified as Rebecca by a family member sometime in 1981 or 1982. Contact has been made with the Little Rock Police Department regarding our findings.

Detectives are continuing to investigate the circumstances of Rebecca's disappearance and death. Her death is a suspected homicide and it's the hope of the Lake County Sheriff's Office to bring the investigation to a full resolution.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office currently has three other cases in the genetic genealogy process. The first is "Julie Doe", located in Clermont on September 25th, 1988. Julie's case is being investigated in conjunction with the DNA Doe Project. The second is "Jane Doe", located in Sorrento on December 7th, 1991. Jane's case is being investigated with Othram Inc. The third is a sexual battery suspect from 2007, which is being worked with the help of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and Parabon Nanolabs.



IDENTIFIED

Rebecca Hill (left) Composite of "Judy Doe" by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (right)

Homicides

LCSO is entering its 5th year with 100% solvability and conviction on homicides. Additionally, the homicide rate has decreased dramatically over the same period.

- 2020 = 13 homicides
- 2021 = 15 homicides
- 2022 = 16 homicides
- 2023 = 3 homicides
- 2024 = 4 homicides

General Crimes

Detectives in the Economic Crimes Unit continued their partnership with the United States Secret Service (USSS). These detectives and supervisors are sworn in as Special Deputy United States Marshals and are a part of the USSS Financial/Electronic Crimes Task Force. In response to the rising number of economic crimes, two additional personnel have been added to the unit: a sworn detective and a civilian fraud investigator.

Cryptocurrency-related scams have significantly affected the country, including Lake County. The Economic Crimes Unit is actively combatting this issue using advanced investigative techniques. Detectives have seized assets from international criminal organizations totaling \$234,000 in 2024, which will be returned to the victims.



Street Crimes Unit

The Street Crimes Unit conducts proactive patrols to deter crime with increased law enforcement visibility, along with drug and weapon interdiction efforts. Unit members focus on street-level crimes, such as drug trafficking and weapons violations. In 2024, the Street Crimes Unit made numerous drug-related arrests and recovered many stolen vehicles and firearms. The daily responsibility of deputies assigned to the Street Crimes Unit fluctuates regularly, which results due to requests for assistance from other law enforcement agencies and other departments within the Sheriff's Office. The Street Crimes Unit often assists the Training Bureau, the Warrants Unit, and Criminal Investigations with a variety of investigations and department training needs. In 2024, the Street Crimes Unit made a total of 47 felony arrests and recovered eight illegal firearms.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Special Investigations Bureau is made up of the Narcotics Unit, the Intelligence Unit, and the Street Crimes Unit. Investigations completed by Special Investigations Bureau detectives resulted in approximately 101 arrests in 2024, which consisted primarily of narcotics-related offenses. The Lake County Sheriff's Office facilitates important partnerships with various federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to maximize available resources and to ensure law enforcement intelligence is shared appropriately. The Special Investigations Bureau maintains active partnerships with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Marshals Service, and the Department of Homeland Security. The Special Investigations Bureau also maintains active partnerships to

conduct joint investigations with local law enforcement agencies, which include the Leesburg, Eustis, Clermont, and Mount Dora Police Departments. The Special Investigations Bureau achieved a significant milestone in 2024 with the successful launch of the Digital Forensics Unit, which is staffed by two full-time Digital Forensic Examiners. The Digital Forensic examiners conducted more than 200 forensic examinations on mobile phones, computers, and other digital devices, uncovering vital evidence that supported investigations led by the Lake County Sheriff's Office and investigators with local police departments. The formalization of the Digital Forensics Unit marked a major step forward in our investigative capabilities to combat crime.

Narcotics Unit

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit continued to place a high priority on investigating mid to high-level traffickers of dangerous drugs in Lake County in 2024. Detectives relied heavily on citizen complaints and Crimeline tips. Detectives with the Narcotics Unit conducted approximately 18 search warrants this year, which resulted in the seizure of approximately 16 pounds of cocaine, 19 pounds of methamphetamines, and 34 pounds of MDMA.

The Special Investigations Bureau conducts alcohol and tobacco operations throughout Lake County by visiting gas stations and convenience stores to verify compliance

with state laws related to the sale of alcohol and tobacco. The undercover operations are intended to deter employees from selling alcohol and tobacco to minors and to make it more difficult for minors to make those purchases. The Special Investigations Bureau visited approximately 60 locations that sell alcohol and tobacco in 2024, which resulted in the issuance of 15 criminal citations to employees who sold alcohol or tobacco to underage confidential informants.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Special Investigation Bureau also partners with the Florida Gaming Control Commission to investigate illegal electronic game rooms, which operate outside



the legal, regulated market to exploit vulnerable members of the community. Illegal game rooms are often associated with organized crime and do not provide the same consumer safeguards as lawful casinos. Detectives with the Special Investigations Bureau executed search warrants at six different illegal gaming establishments in Lake County in 2024. Those investigations stemmed from continued concerns that illegal gambling throughout Lake



County leads to an increase in law enforcement calls for service, criminal activity, and other threats to public safety. The search warrants resulted in the seizure of approximately 415 illegal slot machines and approximately \$305,000 in U.S. currency.

Intelligence Unit

The Intelligence Unit is a multifaceted component of the Special Investigation Bureau. The unit is comprised of the Real Time Crime Center, Sexual Offender/Predator team, and Criminal Registration. The Intelligence Unit contributed to the safety and security of several large-scale events during 2024. For example, Intelligence Unit detectives and analysts participated in the Leesburg Bikefest by identifying and evaluating potential threats to the event. The Intelligence Unit also monitored other local events, such as protests, to ensure peaceful demonstrations were conducted, and all participants and bystanders remained safe.

The Sexual Offender/Predator squad monitors over 600 registered sex offenders in Lake County for potential law violations and investigates incidents involving child pornography. The Intelligence Unit is also responsible for other essential investigative functions, including gangs and behavioral/community threats. During Halloween, a cooperative campaign with the Lake County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Department of Corrections was conducted to do home verifications on sexual offenders on probation. This operation was to ensure they were following the conditions for their probation. These conditions include no Halloween decorations, costumes, contact with minors, or curfew compliance. No arrestable offenses were identified during the operation. In April 2024, Lake County Sheriff's Office Intel Detectives assisted in the first ever statewide initiative with State Probation dubbed "Operation 420". This campaign consisted of meeting with felony offenders on probation at their residence to ensure they were adhering to their probational requirements. All offenders contacted were complying.

The Criminal & Sexual Offender/Predator Registration team is tasked with processing career criminal offenders and documenting and verifying sexual offenders and predators. In 2024, they fingerprinted 943 felons and completed 1,539 total sex offender registrations (including change of addresses, jobs, vehicles, and those traveling or visiting Lake County). The Criminal & Sexual

Offender/Predator Registration team documented 15 career felony offenders and made 1,742 entries into the Florida Department of Law Enforcement statewide database. Lake County Sheriff's Office detectives are also assigned to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Cyber Task Force. The FDLE Cyber Task Force executed 26 search warrants between residential search warrants and forensic warrants for electronic devices, which resulted in 24 arrests of perpetrators engaged in child pornography throughout Central Florida.

Detectives and Criminal Analysts assigned to the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) are critical in identifying, investigating, and disseminating potential threats or safety concerns to Lake County citizens and law enforcement personnel. The RTCC utilizes consolidated technology to assist with active calls for service and various investigations. Detectives and Criminal Analysts assist with real-time information to help identify patterns and stop crime as it occurs. Using emerging cloud-based technology offers affordable and enhanced visibility, unified awareness, and the appropriate level of response in resource implementation to safeguard our citizens. Advancing technology integration within the RTCC seeks to improve emergency response times through virtual incident location mapping and full integration with our Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD). In 2024, the RTCC and local agencies sharing innovative technology were able to identify suspects of criminal activity, that may have gone unnoticed, which resulted in 49 felony arrests.

RTCC monitors approximately 2,800 cameras in the field currently. These live camera feeds are available through our Fusus integration with LCSO and Lake County schools. The RTCC also manages over 300 registered camera locations, which include business and residential cameras throughout Lake County. The camera registry provides investigators with the location of available surveillance cameras in case a criminal offense or other incident occurs nearby. Investigators can then request the home or business owner to review the videos to assist with our investigation.



The Florida SWAT Association recognized Corporal Tyler Palmer, Deputy Stefano Gargano, Deputy Corey LaBrecque, and Deputy Matthew Green with Award of Valor plaques for their heroic actions during the August 2, 2024 Eustis ambush call that lead to one of our own, MD Bradley Link, being murdered.

FSA President Nicholas Rex stated: "By your actions, you have all brought honor and utter heroism onto this profession, your agency, your SWAT Team and yourselves. In addition to your heroic actions of entering this house under certain circumstances you would be met with gunfire, you also specifically did the following things during this incident.

Matthew Green - You returned an entire rifle magazine at the shooter as Gargano was being evacuated.

Tyler Palmer - You returned an entire rifle magazine at the shooter as Gargano was being evacuated.

Corey LaBrecque - You returned fire at the suspect and provided an extremely high level of tactical medical care to Gargano that certainly contributing to saving his life.

Stefano Gargano - You volunteered to be the first

one inside of the house as the shield operator because your other teammates had children and you knew it was probable you would be shot. You were shot several times and even though you were critically wounded, you returned approximately 4-5 rounds to cover those evacuating you.

Due to the circumstances, all of you endured, and your incredible actions of bravery, resilience, and great courage in battle, the Florida SWAT Association is presenting you with the Florida Swat Association Award of Valor."



COURT SERVICES BUREAU

The Sheriff's Office provides security for the Lake County Courthouse. The courthouse is staffed with 23 full-time deputies, one part-time deputy, two civilian control room operators, 16-armed security officers, and six Sheriff's Office volunteers.

Primary Function

Our goal is to ensure the safety of the judges, employees and the public while in the courthouse. The State Attorney's Office, Public Defender, Court Administration, and the Clerk of Court have offices in the courthouse. We often respond to these offices for various reasons including serving injunctions, serving warrants, unruly people, and other miscellaneous calls for service. We also provide security for 13 elected officials, which includes eight Circuit judges, four County judges and the Clerk of Court. Security is also provided for two Magistrates and two Hearing Officers.

Court Services Deputies

Deputies assigned to the courthouse have multiple duties and assignments. Security assignments



may include providing security at the public entrance, overseeing private security staff, security for trials and judicial staff. Deputies are also responsible for responding to calls for service within the courthouse.

Every deputy assigned to a judge is required to provide security for that judge whenever they have court hearings or trials. Some of their duties include courtroom and chambers security, protection and management of jurors, preparation of court dockets, scheduling inmate transportation, and other miscellaneous duties. Special coordination and planning are required for high profile trials or capital cases that have great public interest. Coordination with the judge, prosecutor, public defender, and the media is essential to ensure all security concerns have been addressed and that the trial can be conducted in a safe and efficient manner.

Contract Security Officers

Security officers are tasked with various duties including conducting security screenings of all the public entering the courthouse. In 2024, approximately 153,000 people were screened at the public entrance of the courthouse. Security officers regularly detect and prevent weapons and firearms from entering the courthouse.

Security officers are also responsible for the transportation of all inmates to and from the courthouse for hearings and trials. In 2024, they transported and managed approximately 4,000 inmates to and from the Lake County Detention Center. They are also responsible for the operation of two control rooms in our inmate holding area. Security officers are supervised directly by the Sheriff's office to make sure they maintain compliance with the Sheriff's Office policy as well as accreditation standards.

Court Services Volunteers

The Court Services Bureau has six Sheriff's Office volunteers assigned to the bureau. The Sheriff's volunteers assist with jury management, which includes checking jurors in and assisting deputies and escorting jurors to courtrooms. Volunteers also assist deputies in criminal and civil courtrooms. In criminal courts, volunteers assist deputies with fingerprinting, DNA collection, docket management and paperwork distribution. They provide an invaluable service to our bureau and allow the deputies to focus more on security.

Accomplishments in 2024

We are continually evaluating and improving our security procedures and systems at the courthouse. We work closely with Court Administration, the Administrative Judge, and Lake County to acquire security improvements.

In 2024, we upgraded and installed additional cameras around the perimeter of the courthouse and at our public entrance security screening station. These additional cameras substantially improved our surveillance capabilities in and around the courthouse.

Emergency Events

Court Services deputies are called upon during emergency events such as hurricanes to assist at the Emergency Operation Center, Detention Center or wherever needed. During EOC activation, Court Services deputies provide security by managing physical and electronic access to the EOC building. In 2024, our Court Services team was activated and worked at the EOC during Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

In 2024, the Aviation Unit received 232 calls for service which assisted the LCSO Patrol Division in addition to local municipalities. Aviation Unit flight crews aided ground personnel in the arrests of eleven suspects. The Unit was able to upgrade our aircrew's flight gear including new Gentex flight helmets with an integrated noise canceling function, which enhances the hearing protection of the helmet. Aircrews flight vests were upgraded to a lighter version and can be customized to each member. In addition to gear upgrades, the unit was able to purchase new front seating for the Pilots and Tactical Flight Officers. All three Sheriff's Office aircraft were fitted with custom cushions that not only provide better posture and stability during operation, but it also features an enhanced safety rating.



AGRICULTURE & MARINE UNIT

For the 2024 year, the AG/Marine Unit responded to over 24 missing person calls for service, two drownings, and numerous calls for boating accidents, runaway boats, drift away boats, navigational hazards, sick person(s) on boats, domestics/fights, disabled boats, and overdue boater calls for service. The AG/Marine unit investigated approximately 18 stolen boat and equipment cases and numerous felony dumping and agriculture cases throughout the county. In the 2024 year, the AG/Marine Unit purchased a new 2024 Sea Hunt Center Console. The new boat will be utilized as a frontline patrol boat.

The Citizen Marine Patrol volunteered a total of 402 hours of water patrol time on the Harris Chain of Lakes.





ANIMAL ENFORCEMENT & BLOODHOUND UNIT

Our Animal Enforcement Unit responded to approximately 13,000 calls for service during 2024. These calls ranged from picking up stray dogs to felony charges for animal cruelty. This past year, they responded to an active cockfighting event which resulted in the collection of many fighting roosters and fighting paraphernalia being confiscated. This also resulted in the arrest of the property owner. They also helped the Lake County Animal Shelter set up and work pet friendly shelters for the residents of Lake County for the hurricane.

The Bloodhound Unit was called on to run approximately 80 tracks throughout the year. These include looking for lost/missing children, Dementia and Alzheimer’s patients, and fleeing suspects. One such call, the bloodhound responded to a domestic violence call where the missing person was potentially injured and ran into the woods. The bloodhound tracked through the woods and came out onto a separate road locating the individual walking down the road. A marked patrol car was directed to the location and was able to catch up and detain the individual.



CIVIL DEPARTMENT

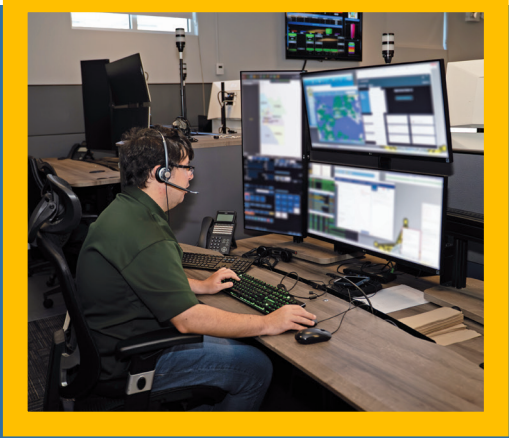
- Total enforceable papers processed: 2,190
- Non-enforceable papers processed: 15,421
- Purge money revenue: \$13,614.80
- Other revenue: \$200,794.40



COMMUNICATION CENTER

The LCSO Emergency Communications Center (ECC) grew again this year. The City of Eustis contracted with LCSO for their 911 and radio dispatch services. This contracted service allows for better inter-agency communication and coordination with the surrounding municipalities who also contract with LCSO for dispatch services. Within the first few weeks of this contract, the Tavares Police and Eustis Police were directly communicating on the same radio channel and captured a wanted suspect from an in-progress call who crossed jurisdictional lines. In addition to being on the same radio channel, our dispatchers can patch other law enforcement agencies into the same channel to aid with immediate inter-agency communications.

Did you know our in-house dispatcher training program can take up to a year to successfully complete all phases of call taking, teletype and radio training? In addition to the nearly one year of on-the-job training, our dispatchers are also required to successfully complete the 232-hour 911 Public Safety Telecommunicator Course and pass the State Exam. Dispatching in a modern-day Emergency Communications Center is both difficult and rewarding. Our dispatch consoles have up to 4 ultra-wide computer monitors requiring dispatchers to multitask and process immense amounts of information to ensure the appropriate response for each call.



- LCSO Emergency Communications Center answers 911 calls and dispatches for the following municipalities:
- Astatula Police Department
 - Clermont Police Department
 - Eustis Police Department
 - Fruitland Park Police Department
 - Howey in the Hills Police Department
 - Lady Lake Police Department
 - Mascotte Police Department
 - Minneola (LCSO provides contracted law enforcement services)
 - Montverde (LCSO provides law enforcement services)
 - Mount Dora Police Department
 - Tavares Police Department
 - Umatilla Police Department



	911 CALLS	TEXT TO 911	ABANDONED 911 CALLS	INCOMING ADMIN. CALLS	SUBTOTAL INCOMING CALLS	OUTGOING ADMIN. CALLS	TOTAL CALLS
2015	154,977	0	9,431	259,149	423,557	132,839	556,396
2016	155,425	0	7,834	266,996	430,255	118,979	549,234
2017	155,427	0	5,313	229,799	390,539	107,457	497,996
2018	155,497	0	2,053	208,133	365,683	116,744	482,427
2019	144,537	322	800	206,070	351,729	97,612	449,019
2020	122,102	313	590	190,668	313,673	76,623	389,983
2021	130,134	264	767	185,411	316,576	78,426	394,738
2022	115,871	622	10,973	187,862	315,328	72,261	387,589
2023	128,052	2,777	18,657	189,799	339,285	81,762	421,047
2024	128,326	3,175	14,839	242,632	388,972	64,948	453,920
10-YEAR GRAPH							

COMM CENTER ANNUAL TELEPHONE STATS



The function of Emergency Management is to plan, organize and coordinate the activities involved in implementing and coordinating comprehensive county-wide Homeland Security and Emergency Management Programs. Emergency Management personnel coordinate the preparation of state and federal grants and project applications, progress reports and other material required for state and federal assistance in homeland security and emergency management activities.

In addition, Emergency Management coordinates with and assists governmental, law enforcement, emergency services and other agencies in developing coordinated homeland security and emergency response plans. We confer with various public and private agencies and officials in identifying human and material resource needs and in formulating plans for resource mobilization during an emergency or threat of homeland security.

Personnel continually train to keep updated on professional knowledge and awareness of emerging homeland security and emergency management programs and components to include, but not limited to, bioterrorism and weapons of mass destruction issues, concerns and protocols. Members attended the National Association for Search and Rescue Instructor and Lead Evaluator monthly conferences and the Florida SWAT Association pertaining to casualty care.

Notable in 2024, members of this unit coordinated all agency planning, recovery and operations for Hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton and acted as

Operations Section Chief and ESF 16, Emergency Support Function, per the county Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan for the hurricanes in the Emergency Operation Center. The unit also coordinated a Florida Sheriff's Mutual Aid request and deployed agency personal to Liberty County Florida to supplement Liberty County Sheriff's Office in conducting post Hurricane Helene law enforcement operations. Locally, we were the agency planning coordinator and Deputy Operations Section Chief for the Leesburg Bike Fest and the Phantom Brigade Parachute Jump.

Emergency personnel participated in numerous vulnerability assessments with utility companies, hospitals, and schools. Members conducted active killer presentations at places of worship, businesses and governmental offices. The unit continues to monitor the agency's automated external defibrillator program, Naloxone program, and Operational Medical Detachment by conducting continuing education, managing personnel and certifications and assisting Special Investigations with the ongoing Fentanyl Project.

Also responsible for the organizational law enforcement surplus program, Emergency Management completed the annual inventory of LCSO-held assets. The unit was also instrumental in acquiring three parts washers, fifteen shop based tool cabinets, three expandable shelters, large freezers, forklifts, two ac/ generator systems, one MRAP crate engine, three mobile workstations, a large amount of IFAK medical supplies and a low deck trailer.

FLEET MAINTENANCE

Lake County Sheriff's Office Fleet Management is responsible for purchasing, out-fitting and maintenance of over 624 vehicles and trailers. The north fleet maintenance facility is in Eustis and the south fleet maintenance facility is in Clermont.

Over the past year, Fleet Management has replaced 80 worn out/high mileage vehicles and trailers to include a new horse trailer for mounted patrol, a new Marine Unit patrol boat and an Ag Unit

patrol UTV. Investigator vehicles and patrol vehicles continue to be replaced as needed for the safety of our deputies. We refurbished the Crisis Negotiations Team vehicle, to save costs versus purchasing a new vehicle. This continues to be challenging due to the heavy inflation costs to purchase new vehicles and equipment.

We have received compliments on our new technology lightbars that dim the lightbar and changes

the pattern to a slow flash instead of strobing when parked. This reduces the distraction impact of other drivers when passing. The new dual external sirens have continued to increase safety for our deputies when they are responding to in-progress calls. They have an increased volume which alerts traffic ahead.

Our technicians continue to update their EVT (Emergency Vehicle Technician) and ASE certifications with continued education.

HAZARDOUS DEVICE TEAM

The Hazardous Device Team was established in 2003 and consists of six, FBI certified Technicians. The Hazardous Device team responds to both local and regional threats to include dignitary protection and large-scale events and is responsible for assisting the Secret Service with Dignitary protection such as Presidential visits. The Hazardous Devices team also collects both military, commercial, and homemade explosives that have been located within the community. The technicians are responsible for collecting evidence, recreating explosive devices, so that a jury can fully understand the effects and consequences of a detonation.

TRAINING

All Technicians are required to be HAZMAT certified, X-Ray certified, have an advanced understanding of electrical circuitry and can identify the chemicals utilized and the reaction that will occur when combined.

All technicians complete basic training with the FBI in Redstone Alabama and are required to recertify every three years. Technicians receive ongoing training to include 36 hours of monthly training to stay proficient with their skills as well as receiving updates on new and emerging trends that may affect the community. Currently the Hazardous Devices Team has responded to 27 calls for service during calendar year 2024. Two of which resulted in successful prosecution. Lake County Technicians are also evaluated in competitions against their peer group to include the US military and have ranked in the top 90

percentile. The Hazardous Team also routinely engages with the public to complete awareness training.

Demonstrations are given so that participants can fully understand the potential of an explosive device.



Department Growth

In 2024, the Information Technology Department experienced significant growth and development. As we move into 2025, our team will expand to 19 members, enhancing our ability to support both the employees of the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Lake County.

Website Enhancement

A major milestone this year was the complete redesign of our website. The new platform offers improved navigation, enhanced user-friendliness, and better responsiveness for mobile users, ensuring a seamless experience for all visitors.

Key Projects and Improvements

Throughout the year, our department successfully implemented several critical projects, including:

- Development of multiple internal applications
- Replacement of outdated computer hardware
- Enhancements to access control systems
- Implementation of new software solutions
- Security upgrades to meet or exceed FDLE CJIS compliance requirements

Public Safety Technology Advancements

One of our most significant ongoing projects is the development of a new Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD), Records, and Jail Management System. This system, set for completion in 2025, will integrate operations across the Sheriff's Office, Lake County Fire/EMS, and all participating law enforcement agencies. By utilizing a unified CAD system, agencies will enhance collaboration, streamline data sharing, and improve public safety throughout Lake County.

Looking Ahead

As we enter 2025, the IT Department remains committed to innovation, security, and efficiency. Our continued efforts will focus on advancing technology solutions that support public safety operations and improve service delivery for both internal staff and the community.

MOUNTED PATROL

In 2024, the Lake County Sheriff's Office Mounted Patrol Unit saw significant growth. The unit added two additional horses and two mounted deputies. Both M/D Harmon and his horse Maple, and D/S Pelfrey and her horse Gator completed over 40 hours of mounted patrol training. They also participated in various crowd control exercises and community-oriented patrolling. The unit also assisted multiple agencies to include Marion County Sheriff's Office and Tampa Police Department with various large scale events

The Mounted Patrol Unit and Volunteer Mounted Patrol unit participated in jointly in over 60 events to include parades and community relations events. Both units also participated in three law enforcement line-of-duty death funerals to include our own, M/D Bradley Link. Both units showed outstanding professionalism and represented the Lake County Sheriff's Office with honor.

The Volunteer Mounted Patrol Unit has collectively had over 1,200 hours of volunteer time. Both the Lake County Fair and Lady of the Lakes Renaissance Faire were the largest events the unit participated in. They provided support for the Lake County Sheriff's Officer Explorers Post and assisted with parking vehicles and pedestrian safety.

Overall, 2024 saw a significant increase in the law enforcement usage of the Mounted Patrol Unit. The versatility of mounted deputies was utilized across the county from Agricultural purposes to support of road patrol deputies. Mounted patrol deputies provide an excellent service to the citizens and visitors of Lake County and continued growth is on the horizon for 2025.



RADIO SERVICES

LCSO Countywide Radio team completed an avionics modernization program in 2024, in addition to equipping the agency Starlink Capability. Starlink provides an important backup communications source, in times of emergency. These systems were deployed several times in 2024 for field incident response as well as during planned maintenance outages. Ongoing efforts include continuing to transition to 5G Data capable mobile devices, that allow for faster and more secure communications methods. Planning for the unprecedented growth that is occurring within the county borders is also taking place. The radio team responded to 3 hurricane deployment requests in 2024, Hurricanes Debbie, Helene and Milton. Teams assisted in north Florida in addition to the southwest coast with communications response and restoration activities by our highly trained team.

Hurricane Season 2024 also affected Lake County at home. Teams provided backup power, alternate communications systems, and field support during these three storms to many agencies. The Countywide radio team also assisted with the merger of the Eustis Police Communications Center into the Sheriff's Dispatch center in 2024, transferring radio consoles and ancillary equipment to the Emergency Communications and Operations Center (ECOC) in Tavares.

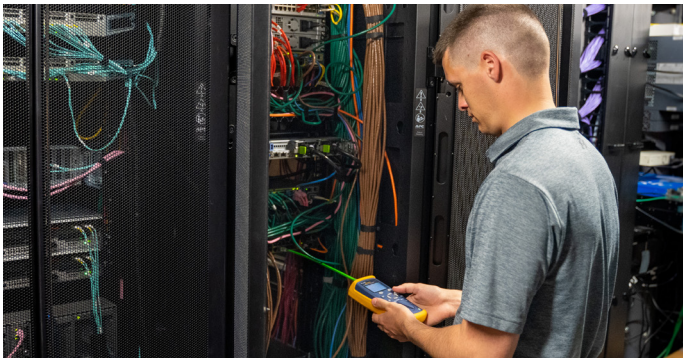


RECORDS

WARRANTS UNIT

The records unit has been working with many departments within the agency to streamline importing documents, eliminating hard copy paperwork, and uploading documents in a timely fashion to meet accreditation. The unit also worked with our Comm Center to transfer all documents from Eustis Police Department from their teletypes to our system. In addition to these tasks, the unit processed 18,670 public records requests, and 12,830 reports.

3,349	Warrants Rec
2,810	Served/Executed
2,545	Individual Arrested
593	Withdrawals/84-21
69	Summons In/Out County
168	Juvenile Received
156	Juvenile Served/ Executed
123	Individual Juvenile Arrested
13	Juvenile Withdrawn
221	Sworn Warrants Unit Served
167	Sworn Warrants Unit Arrests
15	Warrants Unit Added



REPORT WRITING

For the year 2024, Report Writing took a total of 17,110 reports (which include supplemental reports), for an average of 1,426 reports a month. We take reports from every department in the agency. Our top department is Road Patrol, with 9,362 reports in 2024. Followed by the Jail with 2,247 reports for 2024, Animal Enforcement with 1,136 reports, and Civil with 1,058.

Report Writing not only takes reports from deputies around the agency, but we also code each report for IBR (Incident Based Reporting) reporting. FDLE has specific criteria for each reportable offense, in which we then break down to categorize and code. For example, if it's a burglary, we have to indicate whether it was forced entry or non-forced entry. If it's a larceny, we have to indicate what kind of theft it was; was it a shoplifting, was it a theft from a motor vehicle, was it theft of a motor vehicle part, etc. We then have to indicate if an arrest was made and if so, were they an adult or a juvenile. If property was stolen, was any of it recovered. If it's a battery, we have to indicate the relationship between the victim and the offender; were they relatives, were they spouses, were they friends, etc. We have to indicate a location type as well, such as was it at a residence, was it at a school, was it in the street, etc. Every reportable crime has to be coded and categorized properly according to the offense that occurred set by FDLE criteria. Once all information is input and successfully validated, we are then able to report that offense to the State. So, we don't just take an initial report from a Deputy relating to the stats above and then we're done, we work closely with CIB, SIB and the State Attorney's Office to try to continually keep all information for each case as up to date as possible.

Once we have submitted our reportable offenses to the State, that is how we obtain our crime statistics for our agency. Such as, how many homicides LCSO had for the year. How many residential burglaries LCSO had, or how many robberies, etc. That is also how we obtain our stats on whether or not crime has increased or decreased for the year.

Furthermore, Report Writing inputs NRW's (No Report Warrant Arrests), which is an arrest without a report, into our Spillman database as well. These arrests also get reported to the State, Report Writing processed and entered 2,872 of these arrests into our Spillman database.



Critical Incident Response Team

The LCSO Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) teamed up with Florida's Central Region Incident Management Team (IMT) for a two-day field deployment exercise. Over 75 Exercise participants and staff attended from local, county and state agencies all across Central Florida's 9 county region. The teams worked together to both manage and support the mock disaster scenario, and provide base camp and logistical support to field operations. These functions took place while the teams operated at a remote self-sustaining location simulating a disaster deployment.



The Underwater Search and Recovery Unit (dive team) responded to approximately 20 calls for service in 2024, both inside and outside of Lake County. The team assists both road patrol deputies and criminal investigations bureau's as well as other local and state agencies. The dive team began operation in it's current form in 1990, however has roots back into the mid 1980's with deputies in those years volunteering their own gear. Today's team is equipped with modern police diving equipment and technology.

The dive team is made up of 14 members, who receive in house training, attend FDLE police diver standards course, in addition to specialty ratings up to and including Divemaster and Instructor ratings. Our team hosts one of two, 2-week FDLE police diver training course annually in the state, and works to continually advocate for the advancement of the police and public safety diving profession.

The dive team performs underwater searches utilizing both surface operated SONAR and deployed SCUBA divers. The team is often charged to recover evidence, submerged vehicles, sunken vessels, and drowning victims when these unfortunate incidents occur.

Remote operations included 24x7 base camp crew quarters/facilities, onsite prepared crew meals, self sustaining power and backup communications.

Team members were challenged to work together to coordinate and order resources, develop situational awareness and operational incident plans, command briefings, public information dissemination, incident command and emergency operations center functions, and base camp operations all while testing backup data and satellite communications protocols and systems.

These capable all-hazards teams train and remain ready, to support our community and beyond when they may be needed.



Finance

The Finance Department is responsible for the sound and timely accounting of all financial matters, by following generally accepted accounting principles and governmental accounting standards. The department prepares the annual certified budget for presentation to the Board of County Commissioners and monitors the budget throughout the year. The department also hosts the annual independent audit of the financial statements and received a clean unqualified audit opinion for the 2022-2023 audit year.

Other department responsibilities include accounts payable, accounts receivable, grant research, bi-weekly payroll processing and grant financial reporting. The main sources of funding for the Sheriff's Office budget are transfers from the Board of County Commissioners, consisting mainly of ad valorem revenues in the form of property taxes. The amounts appropriated by the Board fund salaries and benefits, operating expenses, and capital-related items. The budget is divided into three main functions, personnel expense, operating expense and capital outlay:

Human Resource

Our Human Resources Department received 993 applications for both sworn and civilian employment during the 2024 calendar year. This is our second year using our two-page pre-screening application process which has helped increase the number of applications coming in. A total of 97 individuals were hired and 15 retired agency wide. To aid in the hiring of new deputies, Governor DeSantis signed House Bill 3, which includes the creation of the Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program, the strongest law enforcement support initiative in the nation. This incentive program has increased the number of applicants applying for law enforcement positions. On August 7, 2024, the agency did a swear in ceremony for 18 Deputies, our largest group yet.

The agency has continued to use eSpoph to conduct background investigations of applicants

broken down by Law Enforcement, Corrections, and Court Services. Salaries and benefits costs are 80% of the total general fund budget. Operating expenses consist of technology-related expenses, liability and auto insurance, fuel, and contracts such as Inmate Medical and Inmate Food. Vehicles and replacement desktops, laptops and other equipment represent 100 percent of the capital budget.

LCSO has various special revenue funds linked to specific sources and legally restricted to expenditures for defined purposes. Those special revenue funds consist mainly of state and federal grants awarded to the agency. Over \$816,000 in grant funds were awarded to the LCSO during FY 2023-2024, funding many important aspects of the Sheriff's Office by providing community programs to support crime reduction and intervention, equipment, overtime, and technological advancements that allow the LCSO to better serve the Citizens of Lake County.

electronically. We are also in the process of onboarding with Workday. Workday is a cloud-based software platform that helps businesses manage their finances and human resources. It is designed to help organizations make faster decisions, improve operations, and empower their employees.

Premise Health has been servicing our employees' needs in Leesburg and Clermont, which saw a total of 6,550 appointments scheduled. Premise Health continues to be a cost savings measure for the Sheriff's Office. Premise Health performs labs, x-rays, flu vaccines, occupational and provider visits, along with offering personal wellness coaching. Our agency continues to offer EAP, Employee Assistance Program, along with UCF Restores and Lexipol as an additional EAP resource.



Office of Professional Standards

The Office of Professional Standards is the department tasked with overseeing the agency's accreditation process, conducting internal affairs investigations, and handling various aspects of media relations. In 2024, our office began preparing for our reaccreditation, which will take place in late 2025. The Sheriff's Office was first accredited in 2007 by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, and we are now designated as an "Excelsior" agency for having maintained a spotless accreditation record for over 15 years! Accreditation ensures that our agency remains on the cutting edge of Law Enforcement practices and technology to better serve our community.

Internal Affairs members investigate complaints against our employees in a fair and impartial manner. Maintaining a professional presence in our community means addressing any allegation of wrongdoing in a transparent manner and in accordance with state law. Public trust in a law enforcement agency hinges largely on the agency's ability to police its own; therefore, this is a responsibility that these members do not take lightly.

Media Relations (Public Information Officers) keep our local media, as well as national and social media representatives, informed in a timely manner and with as much clear and concise information as the law allows. Public Information Officers release reports, respond to scenes, issue press releases, and provide interviews regarding significant events that are of particular interest to our media partners and our community alike.



Sergeant Jason Matthews was presented with a plaque by the Board of Directors of the Lake County Fair recognizing his dedication and service to the annual Lake County Fair event.

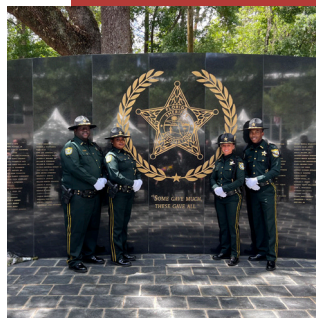
Between Jason's service as an Explorer with the Lake County Sheriff's Office Explorer post and his sworn time as a Deputy Sheriff, this year marked his 30th year working the Lake County Fair detail.

DFC Devin Rawson was honored with the Law and Order Award presented to him by the American Legion Post 55 in July.



Join us in congratulating Sgt Kristina Vazquez and Sgt Erica Rodriguez on their recent graduation from the Southern Police Institute-152nd Administrative Officers Course!

In November, we dropped off 954 lbs worth of food to Lake Cares for their holiday food drive. We'd like to thank those that donated non-perishables at our three drop-off locations.



On Monday morning April 29th, 2024, members of the LCSO Casualty Assistance Team, Honor Guard and Mounted Patrol attended the annual State Law Enforcement Memorial in Tallahassee to honor our fallen law enforcement officers.

On August 31, 2024, the Lake County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from two hikers who stated they had been lost for multiple hours in the Rock Springs Run Reserve State Park. Deputies began canvassing the park based on coordinates the Lake County Communication Center provided. The subjects did not have a phone signal, and their phones eventually died. Due to the terrain, Lake County Sheriff's Office Aviation Unit and Florida Fish and Wildlife were requested and responded. While canvassing, deputies instructed the hikers to utilize a whistle they had in their possession. The resources used by deputies and their search efforts allowed both subjects to be located in good health.



Sgt. Findley and Sgt. O'Conner on their graduation from the National Public Safety Innovation Academy at Polk State College!

NIA is an eight-week executive level academy for law enforcement and corrections staff seeking to enter or enhance current or future command positions within their agencies

The Lake County Sheriff's Charities' Shop with a Cop event was held at Walmart in Mount Dora again this year. Shop With A Cop's application process is a collaborative effort between Guidance Counselors with the Lake County Schools, the Lake County Sheriff's Charities, Inc., and the Lake County Sheriff's Office. We also gave away 25 bicycles, a Nintendo Switch, tickets to Busch Gardens, and tickets to the Orlando Science Center at the end of the evening



On Tuesday, May 7th, the Umatilla Fraternal Order of Eagles presented our K9 Unit with a very generous check of \$5,050 and we can't thank them enough

In honor of Gene and Anne Nelson, the Juniper Hunt and Fish Club and their scholarship committee presented three students each with a check which will help them with college. This program was designed by the Juniper Club Educational Foundation to help children of Sheriff's Office employees. Receiving this year's award was Jenna DeSantis, Courtney Watkins, and Nickolas Adams.



On May 14th, 2024, Sheriff Peyton C. Grinnell was pleased to receive a donation to the Florida Sheriffs Association from Mr. and Mrs. Tom Brooks, Leesburg, Florida. Mr. and Mrs. Brooks are great supporters of the Lake County Sheriff's Office and have been longtime members of the Florida Sheriffs Association. This donation was an extra special one celebrating their 50 years of membership.

Captain Marden presented a check of \$10,000 on behalf of the Lake County Sheriff's Charities, Inc. to the Boys and Girls Club of Central Florida. This money will help many children especially during this holiday season.



Girl Scout Troop 1717 stopped by in August bringing with them some delicious cookies for our Communication Center Dispatchers.

Sheriff Peyton C. Grinnell presented Northeast Lake Community Outreach with a check of \$8,000 on behalf of the Lake County Sheriff's Charities, Inc. To learn more about this non-profit organization visit their website at www.northeastlake.com/



Lake County Sheriff's Charities, Inc.

The Charity raised a total of \$593,802.67 in 2024.

- 95% of the funds raised in 2024 went directly to the Mission. In other words, for every \$1.00 donated to the Charity, \$0.95 went directly to the mission. The Charities board is entirely volunteer operated, which keeps overhead and expenses low. This is an amazingly high % compared to other non-profits.
- Our chaplains use the Charity to accept donations from the public and use them for their mission and purpose

2024 Boots Buckles & Badges Gala

- Raised a total of \$237,800
- The Gala profits are used to financially support Project Kid Connect, Shop With A Cop, Salvation Army Angel Tree
- The Gala profits are also used to support all civilian appreciation efforts, volunteer luncheons, support to employees in their time of need, support to organizations with aligned missions (Boys & Girls Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Lake Cares Food Pantry, Hand in Hand, Haven of Lake & Sumter, etc.), schools, boosters, scholarships, and all the requests on which the Board votes
- We also purchased Samba (Central Florida K-9) out of 2024 Charity funds as well

2024 Bass Tournament

- Raised a total of \$23,424
- The majority of funds raised by the Bass Tournament get paid out in awards to Anglers and a donation to the FSyr
 - Awards = \$10,070
 - FSYR = \$25,000



SNIPPITS OF 2024

TO
SERVE PEOPLE,
SUPPORT OUR
COMMUNITIES,
& SAFEGUARD
OUR QUALITY
OF LIFE

