



# BOONE COUNTY SHERIFF 2021 Annual Report



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*Annual Designer*  
 HEATHER MASON  
 WITH TINKERINGMINDPRODUCTIONS

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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The calendar year 2021, as in years past, again presented the Boone County Sheriff's Office with some unique, and at times, very difficult challenges. The year began with a continuation of the dangers associated with the Covid-19 virus that had emerged the previous year. After what appeared to be some relief in the form of declining cases being reported and fewer people being infected, the virus returned first with the "delta" variant and then with the "omicron" variant. The delta variant appeared to be more virulent than the original virus, resulting in a high number of persons being hospitalized. After the delta variant appeared to be receding, the omicron variant was detected. This variant showed signs of being more transmissible than the other forms of the virus, but less virulent.

The Sheriff's Office continued to work with our partners at Boone County Emergency Management, the Fiscal Court, and the Health Department to review our plans and responses to the evolving pandemic. In accordance with the Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) that the U.S. OSHA issued in November, the office prepared for compliance with the masking and testing mandates. Although this ETS was determined to be lawful by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. Supreme Court held otherwise and OSHA eventually withdrew the standard. Nevertheless, the Sheriff's Office had several employees, along with some family members, who contracted the virus. Although all of our employees have recovered, unfortunately, several family members and friends succumbed to this devastating virus.

Sadly, the Sheriff's Office also had two retired deputies pass away this year. Deputy Jerry Crowder had a long and distinguished career as a patrol deputy, detective, community resource deputy, and polygraphist. Deputy John Bauerle retired from the Kentucky State Police before joining the Sheriff's Office. He was the agency's first School Resource Officer during his notable career. Both deputies will be deeply missed by their law enforcement families.

Although the Sheriff's Office faced a variety of challenges, the deputies and staff continued to provide the exceptional level of service that our residents, businesses, and visitors expect and deserve. The most visible component of the Sheriff's Office, the Patrol Division, received 115,514 calls for service in 2021. This number includes only those incidents entered into the computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system at the communications center. Calls involving traffic and vehicle complaints, crashes, stops, and other incidents represent approximately 20% of the Patrol Division's calls for service. The service of court orders, warrants, and other processes accounted for just over 7% of the calls for service by the Patrol Division. There were 657 calls for persons experiencing an emotional crisis. Even with the assistance that deputies receive from our EMS partners, these calls can be traumatic for the person involved and the first responders. I have therefore directed that every sworn deputy be required to complete Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) as the courses become available. This 40-hour course is provided by mental health and law enforcement professionals and is designed to give law enforcement officers a better understanding of assisting people in crisis.

The Criminal Investigations Division, which is responsible for investigating the more serious criminal offenses such as homicide, death investigation, sexual assault and abuse, burglary, and robbery, experienced another active year. This year saw the trial of a man accused of killing a Burlington woman and her 9-year-old son in March of 2018. After an extensive investigation involving thousands of hours of work, numerous investigators and other deputies testified at the trial. A jury found the man guilty of both murders and sentenced him to 2 life sentences without parole.

The Criminal Investigations Division is comprised of 15 detectives that are assigned a wide variety of cases to investigate. Two of those detectives have significant experience and are assigned to investigate cold cases. The division also has detectives assigned to Task Forces with the FBI, the DEA, the U.S. Marshal's Office, the ATF, The IRS, and the Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force. Participation in these task forces provides expertise in specialized areas of crime along with the resources those agencies offer. Additionally, the division also includes the expertise of the Electronic Crimes Unit (ECU) and the Criminal Forensics Unit to collect, process and examine critical items of evidence. The ECU processes the rapidly evolving area of electronic evidence, including phones, computers, tablets, and video systems. The Criminal Forensics Unit is responsible for identifying, documenting, collecting and processing physical evidence at crimes scenes. In 2021, this unit trained seven patrol deputies to assist in evidence collection.

Detectives in Criminal Investigations were assigned a total of 430 cases in 2021. Two of those cases involved homicide investigations. Of the cases assigned, 126 were cleared with an arrest being made with 157 individuals being arrested. The clearance rate for cases assigned in the division was 59%. This rate includes cases cleared by arrest and exceptionally cleared, minus those cases that after investigation were deemed to be unfounded.

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Division experienced a change in command in 2021. After serving the citizens of Boone County for the past 42 years as a law enforcement officer, Major Mike Hall retired in October of 2021. He had led the School Resource Officer Division for the past 20 years. Lt. Ryan Walters was assigned as the new division commander. Additionally, another school, Steeplechase Elementary, was added to the division's responsibilities. The division now has 30 SROs assigned to 29 schools in the Boone County and Walton-Verona School Districts. Both districts returned to regular, full-time in person instruction in 2021. This has allowed the SROs to return to their more traditional duties of mentoring, establishing relationships, and providing security.

The return to regular instruction has led to an increase in the SRO's activity from the previous year. The SROs participate in a variety of other activities involving the schools and the students. I am proud of the partnership that the Boone County Sheriff's Office has with both the Boone County School District and the Walton-Verona School District.

The Court Services Division began 2021 under the Kentucky Supreme Court orders stopping all in-person court proceedings and closing the driver's license office. The Justice Center was only open for emergency hearings and protective orders. Nevertheless, the division had to adjust its security procedures at the front doors and the lobby to greet and direct the public and to also provide directions for the virtual court proceedings. When the Justice Center was re-opened, the limited access and social distancing orders remained in effect until November.

Much of the customary activity at the Justice Center was again limited in 2021 due to the Covid-19 precautions. Prisoner transports in particular were limited in the early part of the year but have returned to near normal near the end of the year. In September, the driver's license and testing offices moved off-site to the new regional office. This has significantly reduced the amount of pedestrian activity and lines queuing on the first floor of the Justice Center.

The Sheriff's Office facility remained open for the year. The Administrative Division personnel handled the walk-in requests, CCW licenses, tax collection, phone calls, and other administrative duties. The office collected \$197,949,513.59 in property taxes along with \$4,166,682.75 in 911 service fees during the 2021 calendar year. Along with walk-in requests for assistance, administrative personnel handled 35,038 phone calls to the main phone lines.

The response to resistance by law enforcement and vehicle pursuits continue to be critical areas of interest for our agency and around the country. Response to resistance includes circumstances where a deputy deployed some level of physical force in response to the resistance that an individual displayed. A show of force involves a deputy only displaying a weapon or tool in order to gain the individual's compliance. In 2021, the office investigated 8 incidents of response to resistance and 35 shows of force by deputies. The percentage of times that a deputy responded to resistance in proportion to the incidents reported in the computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system is .006%. The percentage of times that a deputy(s) showed force (but did not deploy force) in proportion to those reported CAD incidents is .03%. These incidents continue to be exceptionally rare occurrences by Boone County Deputies. The agency continues to regularly review and train on response to resistance.

Deputies were involved in 4 vehicle pursuits in 2021. Three of these pursuits were discontinued at the direction of a supervisor when the offender's actions created too high of a risk of danger. One resulted in the offender being located shortly thereafter at his home and another resulted in the offender being taken into custody after later stopping his car. The third offender was not identified or apprehended. The fourth pursuit began as a result of a reported residential burglary in Union. When the deputies arrived, the suspect drove through residential yards to evade them, nearly striking a cruiser head-on. The pursuit continued approximately 5.5 miles before the suspect while driving on the wrong side of the roadway with no headlights on, struck a Deputy who was outside of his cruiser

attempting to deploy stop sticks. The stop sticks caused tire deflation but the juvenile suspect continued on and was later apprehended along with three other juveniles in Erlanger. The Deputy received serious injuries and was assigned to limited duty for several months. I am grateful that although the Deputy still experiences some medical issues, he has returned to duty. After reviewing this incident, I elected to discontinue the use of stop sticks. Deputies were also involved in 14 incidents where a vehicle pursuit was not initiated after the offender fled or a vehicle was pursued into Boone County by another law enforcement agency. The majority of these incidents involved speeding or reckless vehicles.

Although the Sheriff's Office experienced some challenges during 2021, we also had many instances that reflect the quality of our personnel. On July 1st, we noted the 20th anniversary of the merger of the Boone County Sheriff's Office and the Boone County Police Department. The unparalleled success of the merger has resulted in exceptional service to the residents of and visitors to Boone County. Our deputies continue to take active roles in the community in which they serve. Some examples include SROs working to "Stuff a Cruiser" to assist families in need. Several deputies traveled to Richmond to support the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation's annual fundraiser. When powerful tornadoes struck western Kentucky in early December, deputies collected money and supplies and then traveled to western Kentucky to personally deliver those items to people in need. When the call came for assistance needed to help with law enforcement in these devastated areas, numerous deputies stepped up and volunteered to spend week-long deployments in support.



This report highlights detailed information from the operational and administrative divisions of the Boone County Sheriff's Office. I am proud to work with an exceptional and professional staff and honored to serve as the Boone County Sheriff. I look forward to serving in 2022.

**Michael A. Helmig**  
Boone County Sheriff

# PATROL DIVISION



*The Patrol Division, under the command of Major Bill Mark, is the largest and most visible presence of the Sheriff's Office.*

*The division provides law enforcement services, 24 hour-a-day, every day of the year. The division includes 10 lieutenants, 13 sergeants, and 66 patrol deputies. Patrol deputies handled 115,514 incidents reported to the computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system. Nearly 20% of the Patrol Division calls for service encompassed vehicle and traffic-related events.*

These traffic events include:

• Traffic Stops	10762
• Vehicle Complaints	2112
• Traffic Complaints	1431
• Traffic Detail	871
• Traffic Crashes	3165
• Injury Crashes	516
• Motorist Assists	2246
• Vehicle Lockouts	1616
• Vehicle Inspections	729

The number of calls for the service of court orders, warrants and civil process also account for a significant amount of patrol activity:

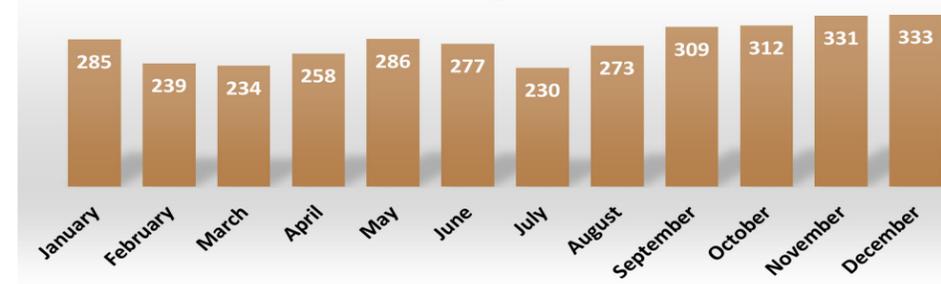
• EPO/DVO	617
• Evictions	680
• Subpoenas	440
• Summonses	5591
• Warrants	144
• Warrants of Possession	90
• Wanted Persons	1243

Although the activity of the Patrol Division is widely varied, the following numbers of calls for service were of a particular note:

• Domestic Incidents	1389
• Dispute/Disturbance	1328
• Emotional Crisis	657
• Theft	985
• Intoxicated Persons	786
• Fraud	564
• Juvenile Trouble	488
• Missing Person	347
• Fights	279
• Overdose	236
• 911 Hang up/Misdial	748
• Shots Fired/Heard	119
• Subject with a Weapon	97

*Of the 236 overdose calls received, patrol deputies administered Naloxone (Narcan) on 31 occasions. The patient responded to the drug in 26 of those incidents. The Patrol Division calls for service for vehicle crashes resulted in 2,907 crash reports, including 447 that resulted in injuries, being completed. This was a decrease of 17% from the previous year. The Patrol Division traffic stops resulted in 15,155 citations being issued. This is a decrease of 19% from 2020. Of those citations issued, 2,631 were for speeding, 1,790 for seat belt violations, and 294 for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol/Drugs.*

Collisions by Month



Much of the Patrol Division activity is generated by requests for service. However, as part of the Sheriff's Office crime prevention efforts, patrol deputies conducted 37,545 directed spot checks of businesses and other locations and 3,142 vacation check requests.

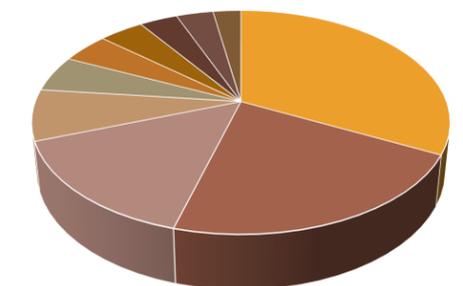
To accomplish the response to the 246 square miles of Boone County, the Patrol Division has a fleet of 112 vehicles. For the first time, the Sheriff's Office has acquired 12 Dodge Durango pursuit-rated SUVs to complement the existing fleet of 88 Ford Interceptor SUVs used for patrol. The remaining vehicles include three Ford Crown Victorias, two Ford Expeditions, an F-350 truck, and 6 unmarked vehicles. Patrol deputies drove an estimated 2.2 million miles in 2021, often under extreme weather and traffic conditions. As such, sometimes the deputies are involved in traffic collisions. Deputies were involved in 22 collisions, along with one incident where a deputy was struck by a fleeing vehicle while deploying stop sticks.

This incident and one other where a vehicle crossed the center line, striking a cruiser, resulted in two deputies requiring emergency medical treatment. Fortunately, there were no reported civilian injuries. Of

the 22 collisions, deputies were deemed to be at fault in seven of them, or just under one-third of the incidents. This is an improvement from the previous year where 50% of the 18 collisions were the deputy's fault.

Although the primary responsibility of the division is the initial response to calls for service, the investigation of crimes and traffic collisions, and preventive patrol, there are four full-time, and several part-time, specialized units assigned within the division. Deputies may be assigned to these units on a full-time part-time basis as needed.

Summary of Human Factors in Collisions



# CANINE UNIT

The Canine Unit incorporates three dogs with their handler deputies, under the leadership of a patrol lieutenant. These three teams have dual-purpose capabilities. One purpose is the detection of narcotics and articles, building and area searches, and the tracking of an individual. The second purpose is for the apprehension of dangerous suspects. The canine teams are certified annually through the North American Police Working Dog Association, or "NAPWDA." These teams completed a total of 318 hours of training, including 192 hours with the Police Service Dog K9 Association.

In 2021, along with their assigned patrol duties, the canine teams were deployed 191 times. Our canine teams are deployed in Boone County but also in other jurisdictions when requested. These deployments resulted in the apprehension of 66 individuals. None of those apprehensions resulted in a dog bite.



The deployments also resulted in the seizure of the following:

METHAMPHETAMINE	20.5 GRAMS
MARIJUANA	253.9 GRAMS
HEROIN	4 GRAMS
FENTANYL	1 GRAMS
METH	28.9 GRAMS
FIREARMS	2 HANDGUNS
CASH	\$64,166



## TRAINING UNIT

*The Training Unit responsibilities fall primarily to the sergeant and the deputy assigned. However, the demand for training requires that other deputies also conduct various areas of training. The agency places a premium on continuing education and training. In 2021, members of the agency logged over 13,000 total hours of training that included leadership, patrol and investigative techniques, school resource, crisis intervention, cyber computer investigations and tactical training. Additionally, all patrol deputies completed training in emergency/pursuit driving. The rest of the agency will complete that training by the end of 2022.*

The Training Unit conducted three blocks of training during 2021. The areas trained included defensive tactics, excited delirium, weapons qualification, CPR/First Aid, active shooter response, post critical incident, response to resistance and driver's training.

The total number of hours dedicated to in-house training was 4,464, which is an average of 26.25 hours per deputy. This is in addition to the state mandated 40 hours of in-service training. The Training Unit also developed several emerging areas of training that may be required in law enforcement responses. The unit has three Gracie Survival Tactics instructors who taught the defensive tactics training. This tactics system is designed for law enforcement and based on Jiu-Jitsu techniques that help deputies humanely prevail when responding to active physical resistance from violent individuals. The Training Unit also worked with the Florence Police Department to develop and instruct officers in crowd management principles. The unit also worked with other law enforcement, emergency management and Fire/EMS agencies to develop and train these disciplines for Active Shooter Hostile Event Response (ASHER).

The Training Unit is also responsible for reviewing the response to resistance and show of



force investigations, along with researching and evaluating new technology and equipment. The unit is currently evaluating a new pistol sight that uses an electronic optic mounted to the top of the firearm.

The deputies have identified some potential issues and are continuing the evaluation process prior to making any recommendation for acquisition. The Training Unit also researched, obtained, and trained deputies on a new remote restraint device called the BolaWrap. The device uses tethered cords to wrap the arms or legs of a non-compliant person. It is envisioned that the device will provide deputies with an alternative to physical restraint when detaining a resistive individual.





## TRAFFIC UNIT

*The Traffic Unit is responsible for vehicle complaints, parking complaints, commercial vehicle crashes, traffic enforcement and calls on Interstates 71, 75, and 275. The unit has eight full-time deputies under the leadership of a lieutenant and a sergeant. Their assigned shifts cover every day from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. All eight of the Traffic Unit Deputies are commercial motor vehicle inspectors, and five of those eight are Accident Reconstructionists. The agency has a total of 10 Accident Reconstructionists with five being assigned to patrol duties. Additionally, the agency has four more commercial motor vehicle inspectors that are assigned to patrol duties.*



The Traffic Unit is also tasked with the management of the Highway Safety Grant and the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) Grant. The traffic unit also has oversight and management responsibilities for the UAS or drone unit. Near the end of 2021, the unit acquired and is currently training a single-purpose, narcotics detection dog for patrol work.

The Traffic Unit completed a total of 979 commercial motor vehicle inspections in 2021, which represents a 53% increase from the previous year. Interestingly, the goal for the MCSAP Grant for the year was 231. The unit also investigated 576 commercial motor vehicle crashes, which was also an increase of 37% from 2020. These commercial motor vehicle crashes resulted in 49 injuries and one fatality. Of the total traffic activity for the Patrol Division, the Traffic Unit accounted for 5,290 of the traffic stops, 9,680 of the citations issued, and issued 1,234 warnings. Commercial motor vehicle violations accounted for 23%, or 2,203, of the citations issued by Traffic Unit deputies. Finally, the Traffic Unit also has the primary responsibility for conducting funeral escorts in the County. In 2021, often with the assistance of other patrol deputies, the Traffic Unit conducted 182 funeral escorts for the families of the deceased.

## CRIME SUPPRESSION UNIT

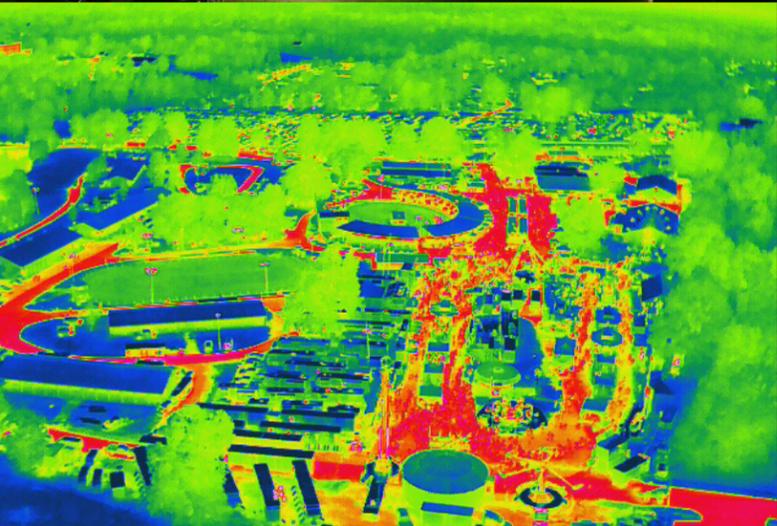
*The Crime Suppression Unit (CSU), working out of the Patrol Division, is comprised of a lieutenant, three full-time and two part-time deputies, tasked with identifying and addressing emerging crime trends. These trends can include narcotics trafficking and possession, overdoses that result in death, illegal firearms, and other community nuisance issues.*



In 2021, the CSU served 89 search warrants, resulting in the seizure of nearly \$228,000 in cash, 27 illegal firearms, and significant amounts of illegal drugs. The unit received 52 complaints and opened 55 cases, including 15 cases adopted from patrol deputies. Two of those cases involved drug-related homicides. The CSU arrested 113 individuals while serving 40 felony arrest warrants and 28 misdemeanor warrants. Deputies in the CSU filed 52 charges for trafficking in controlled substances, 53 charges for possession of controlled substances, and 16 traffic-related charges.

The CSU partnered with the Office of Homeland Security to investigate complaints of human trafficking and prostitution throughout the year. A total of 332 people were charged with Prostitution, including the arrest of a 28-year-old male attempting to sex traffic an 11-year-old female. This represents a nearly 800% increase from the 37 charges that were filed in 2020.

# UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (UAS) OR DRONE UNIT



The aircraft in the unit have exceptional photography and videography capabilities, including thermal imaging and infrared resources. The pilots took aerial photos of the Boone County Fair in August.

The Drone Unit completed its second full year of deployment in 2021. The unit, under the supervision of a sergeant, has six deputies that serve as licensed remote pilots under the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Along with mandatory re-certification every two years with the FAA, the pilots must successfully complete department mandated training in the areas of take-offs, landings, night/low-light flights, flight preparation, and documentation. While extremely cognizant of privacy concerns, the unit is tasked with providing assistance during wide areas searches, crash and crime scene investigations, and real-time aerial photography and videography of critical incidents. The Drone Unit flew 31 missions in 2021, an increase of 121% from the previous year.

### These missions included:

SEARCHES	17
MISSING PERSONS	6
FLEEING SUBJECTS	10
ARTICLES	1
VIDEO/PHOTOGRAPHY	7
SEARCH WARRANTS	4
REAL TIME CRITICAL	2
ROADWAY TRAFFIC PATTERN RESEARCH	1



## ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION UNIT

Under the leadership of a lieutenant and 9 highly trained deputies, the Accident Reconstruction Unit is tasked with investigating major motor vehicle crashes that result in death or serious physical injuries. In 2021, the unit investigated 10 fatal crashes, which is a 29% decrease from the 14 that occurred in 2020. However, the fewer number of fatal crashes resulted in 15 other injuries, which is an increase of 25% from the 12 that occurred in the previous year.

The Accident Reconstruction Unit was called out to scenes 20 times in 2021, as compared to 29 in the previous year. Fourteen of those callouts were for crashes that occurred in Boone County. Five of the other call outs were to assist agencies in Kenton, Gallatin, Lewis or Mason Counties. One of the call outs was a request from Boone County Public Works.

### The causative factors identified in these investigations were:

Two of the investigations resulted in criminal charges being filed. One crash resulted in DUI and felony Criminal Mischief charges. Another crash resulted in Attempted Murder, felony Wanton Endangerment, and Fleeing/Evading Police charges. A third crash that is still being investigated has potential Manslaughter and felony Wanton Endangerment charges being considered.

DUI/DRUG OR ALCOHOL INVOLVEMENT	3
SPEEDING	2
FAILURE TO YIELD RIGHT-OF-WAY	2
MEDICAL ISSUE	2
DRIVER INATTENTION	4
VEHICLE NOT UNDER PROPER CONTROL	6
WRONG WAY DRIVER, OVERCORRECTING, INCIDENT,	1 (each)
LEFT OF CENTER, PEDESTRIAN AT FAULT, SUICIDE, FAILURE TO MAINTAIN LANE	1 (each)

\*Note: Some crashes included more than one factor.

# HORSE PATROL UNIT

The Horse Patrol Unit, under the direction of a sergeant, is comprised of eight additional riders.

The unit completed details at the Northern Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial, the Walton Parade, the Hebron Fire Department Open House and the Boone County Fair. Deputies in the unit also completed 520 hours of horse patrol in the Idlewild, Sperti, Middle Creek, Central, Boone Woods and Big Bone Parks along with the Steeplechase

neighborhood. Both the riders and the horse require extensive training, which resulted in 270 hours of time dedicated.

Nevertheless, due to significant logistics issues and associated financial considerations, the Horse Patrol Unit was decommissioned after its final call to duty on October 9, 2021. A special note of appreciation is due the riders and trainers of this unit over the past years of service. Their service was a job well done.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Boone County Sheriff Criminal Investigation Division is under the command of Lieutenant Aaron Millson, supported by another lieutenant, five sergeants, 16 detectives and two non-sworn personnel.



*The division handles a wide variety of cases that tend to be more complicated and higher profile. In 2021, the division assigned 430 cases to investigators, clearing 126 cases by arrest with 157 arrests overall. The Division amassed an overall clearance rate of 59%. In addition to criminal cases, the detectives also conducted pre-employment background and internal investigations, along with polygraph examinations.*

In 2021 detectives brought to a successful closure two homicide investigations. Josh Ward was convicted of murdering a mother and her 9-year-old son in March of 2018. Larry Herald was also convicted of murder in the death of a man at a party. Juries recommended life in prison for both offenders. Additionally, two detectives were interviewed as part of three separate nationally syndicated television productions of the Dooley homicide case and subsequent trials.

The division investigated and charged individuals in two separate murder cases. One involved a shooting inside of a motor vehicle on the highway. The second involved an assault where the victim was beaten and left outside in inclement weather. Detectives also investigated an incident where an intoxicated person mishandled a firearm and shot a family member. They also investigated a stabbing that resulted from a neighbor dispute.

Detectives investigated and charged two former police officers. One case involved the suspect soliciting underage juveniles for sex. The other involved the suspect being charged with Official Misconduct, Unlawful Imprisonment and Wanton Endangerment after an attempted repossession of property.

Detectives worked a large multi-state vehicle theft ring where one case involved a pursuit that led to serious injuries to Lt. Chris Hall attempting to stop the pursuit. Those juvenile participants were taken into custody and charged with attempted murder and various other charges. Finally, detectives partnered with the FBI on a Federal drug trafficking case that resulted in multiple search warrants.

## *Criminal Forensics Unit*

*The Criminal Forensics Unit (CFU) is staffed by one full-time and two part-time detectives that serve in a support role to the division and the agency. Their main responsibilities are the collection, processing, and documentation of all evidentiary items pertaining to crimes committed in Boone County.*

*All have completed the 10-week training program through the National Forensics Academy in association with the University of Tennessee along with multiple hours of continuing education in their field. In 2021 the unit processed 281 items covering over 100 cases. The unit assisted four other law enforcement agencies in processing homicide scenes. The CFU has also trained seven patrol deputies to assist in evidence collection and processing in the field.*



## Electronic Crimes Unit

The Electronic Crimes Unit (ECU) is staffed by a full-time detective and a full-time non-sworn investigator, both of whom have extensive training and experience in this area. Their responsibilities are for the processing, analysis, and documentation of any and all electronic evidence that may be involved in case investigations. Those items include cellular phones, laptops/tablets, electronic storage devices, cloud-based storage, along with other forms of computer equipment. This unit is supported by the Secret Service with regard to training and equipment. These investigators attend numerous hours of training through multiple sources, learning current technology and future trends as it pertains to electronic evidence. This unit is also often requested by outside agencies due to their expertise, including one case involving large scale trafficking of stolen personal protective equipment (PPE). In 2021 the ECU processed 153 items covering 84 cases which include murder, child pornography, drug trafficking, sexual assault and robbery investigations.



## Task Force Units

This group consists of a lieutenant, two sergeants and three detectives who are assigned to either Federal agencies as part of a task force or the Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force. The Sheriff's Office has dedicated personnel to the FBI, DEA, IRS, U.S Marshals, and ATF to assist in the investigation of crimes specifically tasked to that agency. The Drug Strike Force focuses on mid-level drug investigations in and around Northern KY. They also work in conjunction with the DEA and other mid-level drug units from Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. The Sheriff has dedicated these resources so to better serve the citizens of Boone County.

## Cold Case Unit

The Cold Case unit is staffed by two veteran investigators whose primary responsibility is to reinvestigate cases that may have gone cold over the years. They have also been requested by other jurisdictions for assistance and consultation. In 2021, they were involved in four podcasts regarding unsolved homicides in Boone County. Also, the unit hosted a community presentation at the Boone County Library titled, "Solving a Cold Case."

# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DIVISION

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Division experienced several changes in 2021. After 42 years of law enforcement service in Boone County, Major Mike Hall retired in October. Major Hall was most recently the commander of the SRO division and had led the division for 20 years. He was instrumental in the progress and success of the division and the development of the exceptional relationship the Sheriff's Office shares with the students, staff, and the school districts in Boone County and Walton-Verona.



Lieutenant Ryan Walters was designated as the new commander of SRO division and the 30 deputies who serve the 29 schools in the two districts. The year also saw the opening of the newest elementary school in the Boone County School District. Deputy Ryan Strange was selected to be the SRO for Steeplechase Elementary in Richwood. The academic year returned with regular, full, in-person instruction for students in both school districts. This also brought a return to the more traditional duties of the SROs, which includes security, but also the opportunity to mentor and establish positive relationships with the students.

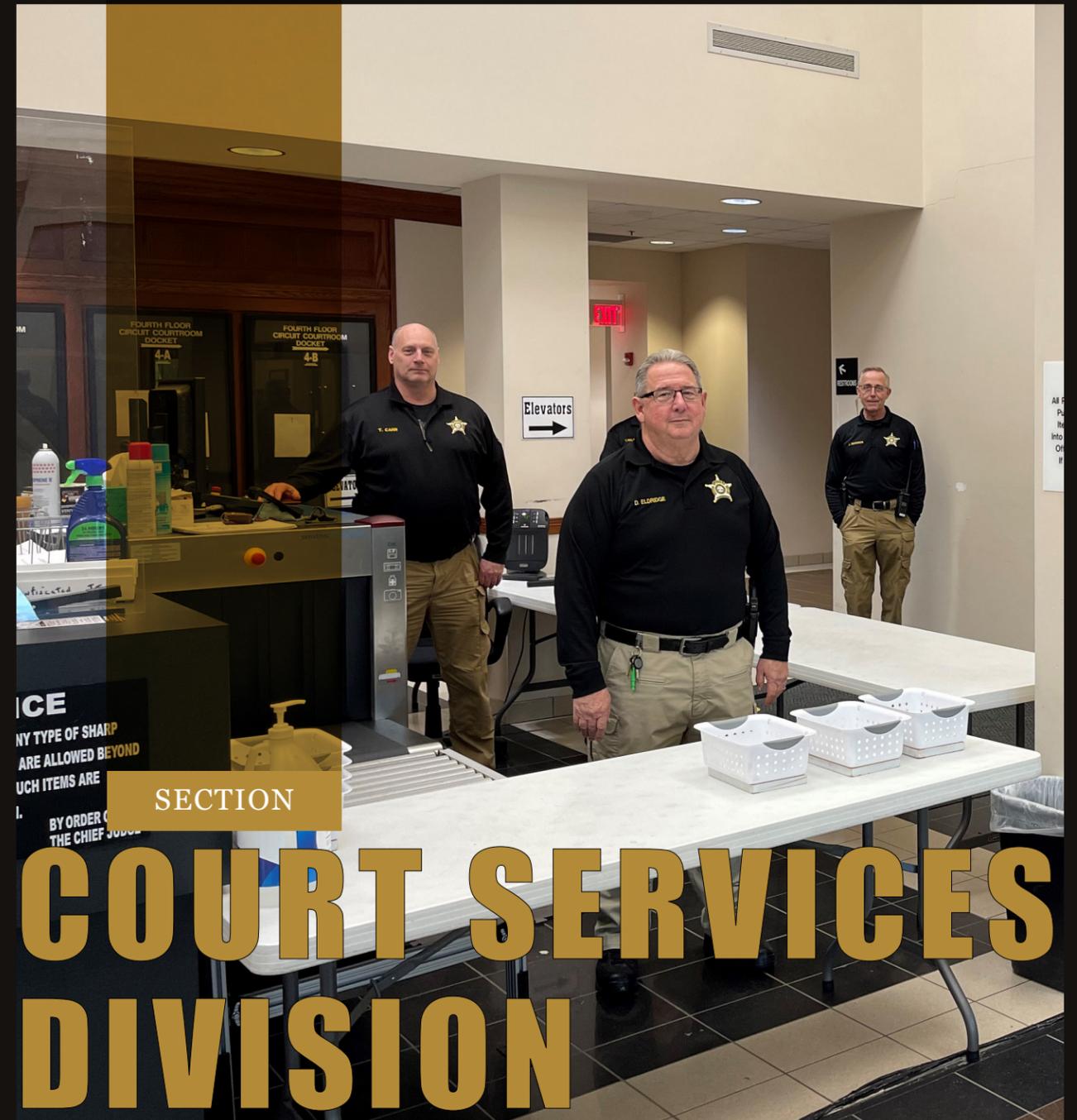


School Resource Officers receive intensive training in performing their duties. The School Safety and Resiliency Act (Senate Bill 1), passed by the Kentucky Legislature in 2019, requires law enforcement officers to be certified as SROs. In 2021, two of our SROs were some of the first in the state to complete the third required annual course for certification. The SRO Division provides law enforcement, mentoring and positive role modeling to the over 24,000 students in the Boone County and Walton-Verona School Districts. The division's activity in 2021 increased from the 2020 school year that was primarily remote learning-based. The SROs conducted 6,741 student counselings and 1,002 home visits in 2021. They attended 1,595 extracurricular events. The division's law enforcement activities included offense reports in 430 incidents and 58 vehicle crash reports. The SROs conducted 267 drug investigations and 22 alcohol investigations. They made 95 arrests, issued 202 citations, and signed 178 criminal complaints against juveniles.

It is important to note that reports, investigations, and arrests may not necessarily involve students or school district staff.

The School Resource Officers strive to work

for the betterment of both their schools and the school communities. They have partnered with their schools in various events including food, clothing, and toy drives. One event was the "Stuff a Cruiser" food drive held at the Union Kroger, which was held in coordination with the Boone County School's Family Resource Center. They collected over \$500 in cash along with completely filling two cruisers, as well as a family resource teacher's vehicle with groceries and clothing items. SROs worked with students at the Ignite Institute to direct and produce a training video for the Boone County Sheriff's Office. The SRO also worked with students to line the entrance of the Institute with decorated pine trees at Christmas. Again, this only occurs because of the remarkable partnership between the Boone County and Walton-Verona School Districts and the Boone County Sheriff's Office.



The Court Services Division is under the leadership of Director Jim Beach, supported by two sergeants and 19 deputies. The division is responsible for many of the Sheriff's mandated duties, including courtroom and building security. The division devoted 15,663 hours to the security of the Justice Center and 10,598 hours to the security of individual courtrooms. During those times, Court Service Deputies served 348 people with various court papers and served 348 arrest warrants.

# ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The 2021 calendar year began with the Chief Justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court ordering all in-person court proceedings to cease, except those deemed an emergency. This also resulted in the discontinuance of driver's license renewals and driver's testing. Deputies were assigned to greet the public at the front doors of the Justice Center to direct them to specific locations or how to attend their court hearing virtually. The order was eventually changed to allow for limited access with masking requirements. The Justice Center was fully re-opened in November. The Covid restrictions on limited personal contact required deputies to take on several extra tasks, including meeting people in the parking lot, providing directions to other locations, distributing flyers, and making in-person payments. In September, the driver's license office moved to its new regional location which has reduced the volume of people and the length of lines on the first floor of the Justice Center.

A major duty of the Court Services Division is the transportation of prisoners. The early part of 2021 saw reduced numbers of transports due to Covid restrictions. Through the second half of the year, the number of transports has returned to the average of the past years. Court Services Deputies transported prisoners for court appearances within the county a total of 3,023 times in 2021. Prisoner transports within the state occurred 768 times while out-of-state transports occurred 206 times. The out-of-state transports required air transportation 24 times. These flights covered 125,775 miles at a cost of \$47,408.45 to the agency. Deputies also transported juveniles on seven occasions for court appearances.



*The Administrative Division, under the leadership of Colonel Les Hill and Major Gary Peace, is responsible for a wide variety of services to the staff and to the public. The division has three deputies and two non-sworn staff that are responsible for customers coming into the office, phone calls, records administration, coordination of paper service and tax collection among other administrative functions.*



The division has three deputies and two non-sworn staff that are responsible for customers coming into the office, phone calls, records administration, coordination of paper service and tax collection among other administrative functions. The division handled 35,038 calls to the main office phone lines. Over the past several years, the Kentucky legislature has made expungement of criminal records available to people convicted of misdemeanor and some felony offenses.

When the administrative division receives the court's order to expunge (seal), the records can include reports, citations, photographs, videos, and evidence. In 2021, administrative staff received 343 orders of expungement. Additionally, three full-time deputies are assigned to serve the large volume of civil and criminal paperwork that comes into the office.

The chief financial officer and two accountants are responsible for all fiscal matters of the office. This includes tax collections, audits, cash balances, payroll, purchase orders, budgeting, travel expenses and human resources. The Sheriff is directed by KRF 134.119 To be the collector of state, county and district property taxes. The sheriff's property tax responsibilities include the collection of all types of property tax bills including any additional, supplemental, omitted or franchise property tax bills that are issued. The taxes are collected at the Sheriff's office year-round and at the Florence government center during the month of October and the end of December. All monthly collections must be accounted for in a report submitted to each taxing district. In 2021, the sheriff's office collected a total of \$197,949,513.59 in property taxes.

The Sheriff's office is also responsible for motor vehicle inspections when cars are purchased or brought into the state and for the processing of concealed carry of deadly weapon permits. The administrative division includes six civilian motor vehicle inspectors.

These inspectors must complete training and remain certified through the state. Inspectors are assigned to the Boone County clerk's offices at the Boone County administration building and the Florence government center. The inspectors completed 16,311 vehicle inspections in 2021. The administrative division processed 2,276 concealed carry deadly weapon permits. Although all permits must be obtained at the sheriff's office, 66% of the applications were filed online.

**The amount and percentage of the total was collected for the following entities:**

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	\$24,743,305.00	12.50%
BOONE COUNTY FISCAL COURT	\$17,466,142.23	8.82%
BOONE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$106,595,091.61	53.85%
WALTON-VERONA BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$8,570,970.81	4.33%
BOONE COUNTY LIBRARY	\$8,686,203.51	4.39%
BOONE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	\$3,906,154.49	1.97%
BOONE COUNTY CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION	\$3,547,482.3	1.79%
WALTON FIRE DISTRICT	\$3,758,113.88	1.90%
BELLEVUE FIRE DISTRICT	\$450,908.70	0.23%
HEBRON FIRE DISTRICT	\$6,494,368.84	3.28%
UNION FIRE DISTRICT	\$4,472,025.76	2.26%
BURLINGTON FIRE DISTRICT	\$3,220,135.16	1.63%
PT. PLEASANT FIRE DISTRICT	\$2,394,708.56	1.21%
PETERSBURG FIRE DISTRICT	\$206,648.56	0.10%
VERONA FIRE DISTRICT	\$520,076.97	0.26%
FLORENCE FIRE DISTRICT	\$2,911,087.24	1.47%
KENTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$6,081.96	0.00%

The Administrative Division also collected \$4,166,682.75 for the Boone County 911 Service Fee.

There are two deputies assigned to the management of the property room and supply section of the Sheriff's Office. The process of logging, maintaining, and disposing of evidence is completed through an electronic system. These deputies processed 2,715 items of evidence into the property room in 2021. They were able to remove 841 items. There were 115 items at the lab awaiting testing at the end of 2021. The Sheriff's Office is accredited through the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police. This requires that spot audits of the property room be conducted along with a complete annual audit.

There was a total of 39,265 items of evidence in the property system at the end of 2021.

Drugs and drug paraphernalia accounted for 15,102 of those items, while firearms accounted for 1,930 of the items. Over \$710,000.00 in cash was processed through the system in 2021. When deputies impound or tow a motor vehicle, the vehicle is tracked through the property system. Deputies impounded or towed 338 vehicles in 2021.

The Administrative Division has two command-level deputies that serve as the Public Information Officer (PIO) and the Staff Attorney. The staff attorney is responsible for general in-house legal issues, policy and procedure development, and some areas of training. The PIO is the records custodian for the office and is also responsible for maintaining the office's profile on the web and social media sites. In 2021, the Sheriff's Office received 200 formal open records requests. Some requests can be fulfilled relatively quickly, while others result in a significant amount of time and effort to assure compliance with applicable statutes and open records decisions. These requests included a total of 8,639 files, along with 540 body-worn videos being reviewed and processed. The requests totaled 825GB of data. The PIO processed an additional 300GB of data/video for the producers of Network Productions covering the Dooley homicide investigation and trials. The PIO also issued 40 media releases in 2021. Additionally, in accordance with the statutory requirements enacted upon the passage of Kentucky's "Marsy's Law," the PIO completed the addition of the required information available to victims on the office website.

In addition to the divisions and units listed, the Sheriff's Office has two units, that due to their nature, report directly to the Sheriff.



# SWAT TEAM

The SWAT Team provides specially trained and equipped deputies to respond to specific high-risk incidents. Under the leadership of a team commander and an assistant team commander, the team maintains peak readiness for response through intensive and exhaustive training. The overall training is focused on specific incidents such as barricaded persons, hostage situations, armed aggressors, high-risk warrant service, and officer down scenarios. Specifics of the training include tactics and firearms, but also critical decision making, response to resistance, de-escalation, less lethal options, and legal standards.

A key component of the team includes certified paramedics. The paramedic's role is to assist the team members and the public in the event of a medical issue. The paramedics have also instructed team members in identifying wounds and applying appropriate care, such as tourniquets, bandages, and chest seals. Another key component of the team is the trained negotiators deployed to assist in the peaceful resolution of incidents where possible.

Although specifically utilized during certain SWAT callouts, the negotiators' skills have been called upon during other times when the entire team was not deployed.

The SWAT Team was deployed on five occasions during 2021. The team was deployed twice for site/motorcade protection due to separate visits from the President and Vice President of the United States. Another deployment was to assist U.S. Marshals who were holding perimeter on a residence while attempting to serve an arrest warrant, however SWAT was disregarded prior to arrival. A call in January escalated after a male barricaded his home and was wanted on several felony charges. Lastly, a call in December necessitated the activation of SWAT after a male fired two shots from his residence. He then assaulted and threatened family members in the residence before barricading himself inside. Both subjects were taken into custody without harm. In total, SWAT was notified or consulted on 12 incidents throughout the year. Six of those incidents were deemed as not requiring SWAT activation.



# HONOR GUARD

The Honor Guard, under the direction of a lieutenant and supported by seven deputies, is specially trained and outfitted to provide ceremonial duties during events requiring special honors. These events include funeral honors, flag/color presentations, and memorial celebrations. The Honor Guard conducted 21 details in 2021. Honor Guard Deputies performed funeral services and casket guard upon the passing of retired Deputy Jerry Crowder, retired Deputy Jon Bauerle, and former Grant County Sheriff Randy Middleton. The unit presented the colors 13 times for ceremonies at schools, graduations, sporting events, memorials, and the Kentucky Jailers Association Conference. The Honor Guard marched with the colors in three parades in 2021. The Honor Guard also raised the flag for the opening of the new Steeplechase Elementary School in August. In June of 2021, two Honor Guard Deputies presented a folded flag to the relatives of a deceased, former officer of the Arlington, Texas Police Department. The officer's family resides here in Boone County. The service was video recorded and sent to the officer's former agency.

SECTION

# THANK YOU

The Boone County Sheriff's Office places a high value on its service to the residents of and visitors to Boone County. Each employee is committed to achieving positive community interactions, recognizing that the partnership of the community and the Sheriff's Office provides the optimal public safety that all in our community deserve. Through training and development of best practices, the Boone County Sheriff's Office strives to maintain the highest level of professionalism. Sheriff Helmig is committed to the fair and respectful treatment of all individuals and holds his deputies to the same standard.

The Boone County Sheriff's Office provides information on the agency's website at: [www.boonecountkysheriff.com](http://www.boonecountkysheriff.com).

Additional information can also be located on our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and neighborhood network sites. Requests for non-emergency information can be directed to the office at (859) 334-2175 during regular business hours.



# Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Boone County Sheriff Department to develop a highly trained, efficient, and professional law enforcement office in order to provide outstanding service to the citizens of Boone County, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and our Country. In order to reach this goal I have attempted to build an organization with outstanding individuals that clearly display high moral integrity coupled with excellent capabilities and the drive to work with pride to accomplish this goal. I have long recognized that outstanding accomplishments can be obtained when each member of the department not only understand the goals and objectives of the department, but also identifies with them to the extent that ownership of these goals and objectives are shared by all.

Public service is not limited to a chosen group or groups or to individuals. The Boone County Sheriff's Department is committed to the community regardless of age, race, religion, sexual preference, socioeconomic background, or any other factor. Discrimination of any form will not be tolerated within the Boone County Sheriff's Department.

Along with the responsibility of providing firm and fair law enforcement services to the public comes the duty of fiscal responsibility. The Boone County Sheriff's Department is committed to finding new and innovative ways to increase technology and manpower, prevent duplication of services within the Sheriff's Department, and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the department by making clear concise decisions that will benefit the community as a whole. Our mission is never ending and every employee must strive to achieve our goals each and every day in order to serve the public in the manner in which they expect and deserve.

*Michael A. Helmig*  
Boone County Sheriff

