



BOONE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ANNUAL
REPORT 2022



BOONE COUNTY SHERIFF

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2022 Annual Report Executive Summary

The calendar year 2022 began with the diminishing of the Covid-19 dangers and concerns. This return to pre-pandemic activities was, however, painfully overshadowed by the suffering of fellow western Kentuckians from the series of tornado that struck the area in December of 2021. As law enforcement assistance was requested from agencies around the state, our deputies volunteered to go to the Mayfield area, staying for two-week periods to assist those in need. Deputies and staff who remained at home also assisted by collecting needed supplies and money and then personally delivering them to those in need.

It was only six months later when a second disaster struck fellow Kentuckians in the eastern part of the state. In July and August, devastating floods struck the Perry County and surrounding areas. Again, law enforcement assistance was requested from agencies around the Commonwealth. Three Boone County Deputies readily travelled to the area to provide assistance. This mission was especially critical to these deputies as they all hail from that region. Since all three had also previously served as law enforcement officers in that area, their knowledge and experience were exceptionally beneficial to the residents there. As had occurred earlier in the year, deputies and staff at home collected needed supplies and toys for those affected by the flood.

I am impressed, yet not surprised, by the efforts of law enforcement and other first responders in light of the tragic loss of life and immeasurable damage that occurred. I am exceptionally proud of the professional response of the Boone County deputies and staff to both the immediate law enforcement needs and also the basic personal necessities of those directly affected.

Sadly, the Sheriff's Office had three retired deputies pass away this year. Deputy Steve Hartman served over 46 years as a law enforcement officer. Sixteen of those years were with the Court Services Division of the Sheriff's Office. He had previously retired from the Kentucky State Police with 30 years of remarkable service. Deputy Jeremy Walker was a canine handler and founding member of CITE (Criminal Interdiction and Traffic Enforcement- currently our Traffic Unit). Jeremy suffered a traumatic brain injury in 2006 while deploying stop sticks on I-75. He was struck by the fleeing vehicle. The line of duty injury resulted in his early retirement shortly thereafter. Deputy Todd Kenner, the son of former Sheriff Ron Kenner and brother of former Boone County Commissioner Charles Kenner, began his career with the Kentucky State Police. He served as a Boone County Deputy in the Criminal Investigations Division from 1997 until 2005. These deputies will be greatly missed by their law enforcement family.

Despite the tragedy and challenges encountered by the Sheriff's Office in 2022, the deputies and staff continued to provide the exceptional service that our residents, businesses and visitors have come to expect and deserve. The Patrol Division handled 128,869 events in 2022. These events include only those incidents entered into the computer aided dispatch system at the communications center. An individual event may require the response of a single deputy, or several deputies depending on the nature of the incident. This total represents an average of 353 events per day, or 10,740 events per month. The month of August had the highest number of events, followed closely by March and then July. Not unexpectedly, the busiest average times of the day were from 9 am. to 11 am. and 3 pm. to 5 pm.

The most common requests for Sheriff's service included traffic related incidents, which accounted for 24% of the total activity, and traditional Sheriff's Office responsibilities such as service of warrants and subpoenas, which accounted for 9% of the activity totals. Domestic disputes and other disputes accounted for the next highest volume of calls. Although each incident involved investigation, not all requests resulted in enforcement or reporting actions.

The Criminal Investigations Division is responsible for investigating the more serious offenses that occur. The division includes investigators, agents assigned to task forces, the Criminal Forensic Unit, the Electronic Crime Unit, and the Evidence and Property Room Unit. The division investigated 374 cases, including several that remained from previous years. Of those cases, 78 were closed by filing criminal charges. Thirty-four cases were inactivated with investigative leads exhausted. Over half of the cases were closed as either unfounded, exceptionally cleared or prosecution declined. Investigators have 47 cases that are still open and being investigated. Significant cases include multiple shootings which were later determined to be self-defense, a double murder-suicide involving a mother and children, and the arrest of a subject for kidnapping and rape who is also suspect in other similar crimes in adjoining states.

The Criminal Forensics Unit, which is responsible for evidence identification, collection and processing, assisted in 102 of those investigations, processing 248 items of evidence. The Electronic Crime Unit, which is responsible for identifying,

collecting and analyzing evidence involving electronic technology, assisted in 89 cases, processing 168 items of evidence. The Evidence and Property Room Unit logged into the property system 7,320 pieces of property from 1,112 cases. Of those cases, 176 involved currency totaling \$110,913.00.

The School Resource Officer Division continues to be a stellar example of the partnership between the Sheriff's Office and the Boone County and Walton Verona School Districts. The division provides services to more than 24,000 students in the districts, along with the staff, parents, and visitors to the schools. Recent legislative enactments require a School Resource Officer (SRO) on every public-school campus; however, we have attained that here in Boone County for the past several years. The SROs conducted 7,218 student counseling's, 187 home visits, and attended 1979 extra-curricular events. The law enforcement function of the SROs resulted in 223 criminal offense reports, 511 drug investigations, and 53 alcohol related investigations. These investigations resulted in 101 arrest, 181 citations, and 236 juvenile criminal complaints. It is important to note that these arrests and charges may not necessarily involve students.

The Court Service Division saw a full return to pre-pandemic activity in 2022. With the lifting of Covid restrictions, the courts are seeing much heavier dockets as a result of the backlog of cases from the pandemic. The case load has resulted in courtrooms being so crowded that deputies are having people wait outside until seating opens up. The division has also experienced a significant increase in prisoner transports. Deputies transported 4,412 prisoners from the jail to the Justice Center. An additional 1,026 prisoners were transported from out of the county and 126 from out of the state. Twenty-seven of the out of state transports involved air travel. Juveniles accounted for 56 transports. With new Department of Juvenile Justice regulations requiring male juveniles to be transported to the Boyd County (Ashland) facility, I anticipate increased travel times and costs.

The Administrative Division is responsible for the non-law enforcement functions and administrative duties of the Sheriff's Office. The division handles walk in and phone requests, CCDW licenses, tax collection and the numerous other matters that arise almost daily. The office collected \$ 204,075,856.22 in property taxes, along with \$ 4,106,201.75 in 911 service fees in 2022. Staff handled over 29,000 phone calls to the Sheriff's Office main phone lines in 2022.

Response to resistance and vehicle pursuits by law enforcement continue to be predominant concerns for our agency and the public. A 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 2022, the office investigated five incidents of response to resistance and 27 shows of force by deputies, a decrease in both categories from 2021. The percentage of times that a deputy responded to resistance in proportion to the incidents reported in the computer aided dispatch (CAD) system is .004%. The percentage of times that a deputy(s) showed force (but did not deploy force) in proportion the those reported CAD incidents is .02%. 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 one vehicle pursuit in 2022, compared to 4 in 2021. There were 11 instances where vehicles either fled from deputies or were pursued into the county by other law enforcement agencies. Deputies offered assistance in those instances but did not become involved in the pursuit. As of the end of 2022, all deputies had completed the statutorily required pursuit driving course. Since this course is required every two years, we will begin scheduling deputies again in 2023.

Much like most law enforcement agencies in the United States, recruiting and retaining qualified deputies is a critical concern for the Sheriff's Office. Although there are many factors that affect this, compensation is a key aspect. I am grateful to the Boone County Fiscal Court in their efforts to address this concern. Through their extensive analysis, we are able to provide a competitive pay scale for Boone County deputies. Also in 2022, I established an internal committee to explore other possibilities to promote recruitment and retention. The committee is continuing its work but has developed initiatives that include informational videos of deputies' activities and opportunities within the agency, internal information sharing of deputies' personal and professional achievements, non-financial incentives for recruiting new deputies and a current digital directory of the agency. I anticipate the efforts of this committee proving successful as a lowering of standards is not acceptable.

A key to the success of any law enforcement agency is effective training. Kentucky law requires every certified peace officer to receive forty (40) hours of in-service training every year. The Sheriff's Office has always viewed this as a minimum amount. Deputies receive additional training in de-escalation, safety, firearms, defensive tactics, investigations, first aid/CPR, and leadership. Additionally, deputies are often asked to instruct other officers, first responders and healthcare providers in areas ranging from forensics and tactics to leadership and legal. I am grateful that our deputies are able to assist others with the skills and experiences that they have developed.

This reports highlights detailed information from the operational and administrative divisions of the Boone County Sheriff's Office. I am proud to lead an exceptional and professional staff and am honored to serve as your Boone County Sheriff. I look forward to serving in 2023.

Michael A. Helmig
Boone County Sheriff

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PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division, under the command of Major Bill Mark, provides the largest and most visible component of the Sheriff's Office. The division delivers law enforcement services, 24 hours-a-day, every day of the year. Patrol comprises 9 lieutenants, 12 sergeants and 65 patrol deputies. Patrol deputies handled 128,869 incidents reported to the computer aided dispatch (CAD) system, a 10% increase from the previous year. This total represents an average of 353 events per day, or 10,740 events per month. The month of August accounted for the highest number of events, followed closely by March and then July. The busiest average periods of the day were from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Sheriff's Office in total completed 3,234 criminal offense reports and made 2,594 arrests. Response to resistance continues to be a predominant concern for the public and the Sheriff's Office. A response to resistance incident is when a deputy deploys some level of physical force in response to the resistance that an individual displayed. A show of force occurs when a deputy only displays a weapon or tool in order to gain that individual's compliance. In 2022, the office investigated five incidents of response to resistance and 27 shows of force by deputies, a decrease in both categories from 2021. The percentage of times that a deputy responded to resistance in proportion to the incidents reported in the computer aided dispatch (CAD) system is .004%. The percentage of times that a deputy(s) showed force (but did not deploy force) in proportion the those reported CAD incidents is .02%. These incidents continue to be exceptionally rare, yet still potential occurrences by Boone County Deputies. The agency continues to regularly review and train on response to resistance.

Approximately 24% of the Patrol Division requests for service encompassed vehicle and traffic related events. This is a small increase from 2021. These events included:

TRAFFIC STOPS	13984
VEHICLE COMPLAINTS	3751
TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS	2419
TRAFFIC DETAIL	1050
TRAFFIC CRASHES	3421
INJURY CRASHES	625
MOTORIST ASSISTS	3000
VEHICLE LOCKOUTS	1516
VEHICLE INSPECTION	739
OTHER	661



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

Traditional Sheriff's Office responsibilities such as the service of court orders, warrants and civil process also account for approximately 9% of patrol activity:

EVO/DVO	727
EVICCTIONS	1108
SUBPOENAS	515
SUMMONSES	7244
WARRANT ARRESTS	129
SEARCH WARRANTS	90
WANTED PERSONS	1201
VEHICLE INSPECTIONS	739

DOMESTIC INCIDENTS	1341
ALARM DROP	3743
EMS CALL	3216
WELFARE CHECK	1699
DISPUTE/DISTURBANCE	1285
EMOTIONAL CRISIS	594
THEFT	1014
ANIMAL COMPLAINT/BITE	754
INTOXICATED PERSONS	749
THREATS/HARASSMENT	616
FRAUD	439
JUVENILE TROUBLE	525
MISSING PERSONS	335
FIGHTS	263
OVERDOSE	205
911 HANGUP/MISDIAL	800
SHOTS FIRED/ HEARD	90
SUBJECT WITH A WEAPON	987



Of the 205 overdose calls received, patrol deputies administered Naloxone (Narcan) on 20 occasions. The patient responded to the drug in 16 of those incidents. The Patrol Division calls for service for vehicle crashes resulted in 3272 crash reports completed, including 423 that resulted in 591 people injured. This was a decrease of 5% from the previous year. The Patrol Division traffic stops resulted in 13,105 citations being issued, resulting in 17,920 separate charges. Of those citations issued, 2,247 were for speeding and 2,292 were seat belt violations, and 246 for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol/Drugs. Not all traffic stops result in a citation being issued.

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 38,052 directed spot checks of businesses and other locations and 3,013 vacation check requests.

To accomplish the response to the 246 square miles of Boone County, the Patrol Division has a fleet of 106 vehicles. The Sheriff's Office patrol fleet consists of 12 Dodge Durango's, 71 Ford Interceptor SUVs, one Ford Crown Victoria (spare K-9 vehicle), two Ford Expeditions, an F-350 truck and 10 unmarked vehicles. The Sheriff's Office took delivery of 10 new 2022 Ford Interceptor SUVs in December, which are currently being placed in service. The agency logged 2.23 million miles on the fleet in 2022. Patrol deputies accounted for an estimated 1.6 million miles, or 72%, of that total, often under extreme weather and traffic conditions. As such, sometimes the deputies are involved in traffic collisions. Deputies were involved in 17 collisions, five less than in 2021. Fortunately, there were no civilians nor deputies injured in any of the collisions. Four collisions involved deputies striking deer or a coyote. Of the 17 collisions, deputies were deemed to have fault in six of them, or about one third of the incidents. This is similar to the percentage for 2021.

Sheriff Helmig authorized the deployment of deputies in 2022 to assist law enforcement in other regions of Kentucky in response to requests for assistance with natural disasters. Deputies were deployed to Graves County for a two-week period in January 2022 following the devastating tornado that hit the Mayfield area. After the record floods in the Hazard/Perry County area, three deputies responded to assist law enforcement in that area for two weeks in July and August of 2022. This assignment was especially significant for these deputies because they are from that region and previously worked for law enforcement agencies in that region.

The Patrol Division engaged in one vehicle pursuit in 2022. This involved a motorist driving through traffic cones at a motor vehicle crash site. The motorist drove around a parked ambulance, nearly striking a firefighter who had to dive out of the way of the car. When the deputy attempted to stop the vehicle, the driver sped up, swerving into oncoming traffic. The vehicle drove off the wrong side of the roadway and then re-entered the roadway and again accelerated. The vehicle then struck two other cars that were stopped in traffic. The driver of the vehicle was elderly and taken to a hospital for a mental health evaluation. There were no reported physical injuries. The pursuit complied with agency policy and training. There were 11 instances where vehicles either fled from a deputy or were pursued into Boone County. In those cases, the deputies did not pursue the vehicle but offered assistance where possible.

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.

**CANINE
UNIT**

**TRAINING
UNIT**

**TRAFFIC
UNIT**

**CRIME
SUPPRESSION
UNIT**

**UNMANNED
AIRCRAFT
SYSTEMS**

**ACCIDENT
RECONSTRUCTION
UNIT**

**FIELD
TRAINING
UNIT**

CANINE UNIT



The Canine Unit incorporates five dogs with their handler deputies. Under the leadership of Lieutenant Sauerbeck, three of the teams have dual purpose capabilities, including narcotics detection, article, building and area searches, and the tracking and apprehension of an individual. The canine teams are certified annually through the North American Police Working Dog Association, or "NAPWDA." These teams complete a total of 318 hours of training, including 192 hours with the Police Service Dog K9 Association. Two of the teams concentrate solely on narcotics detection.





In 2022, along with their assigned patrol duties, the canine teams were deployed 225 times. Our canine teams are deployed in Boone County but also in other jurisdictions when requested. These deployments resulted in the apprehension of 35 individuals. None of those apprehensions resulted in a dog bite. The deployments also resulted in the seizure of the following:

Methamphetamine	38 grams
Marijuana	25 pounds
Cocaine	1 gram
Fentanyl	1 grams
THC Wax	95 grams
Firearms	2 handguns
CASH	\$21,457.00

In 2022, K9 Reno, a dual-purpose dog, was retired after six years of a very successful career. He will spend his retirement with his deputy partner. The agency acquired a new K9, Erik, through the generosity of the Matt Haverkamp Foundation. He has been certified as a dual-purpose dog after completing a six-week training course. Both narcotics detection dogs were also acquired and trained in 2022.

TRAINING UNIT




The Training Unit responsibilities are primarily commanded by Lieutenant Jarrod Strucke. 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 2022, members of the agency logged over 14,877 total hours of training that included leadership, patrol and investigative techniques, school resource, crisis intervention, cyber computer investigations and tactical training. All School Resource, Court Services, Investigative and Administrative deputies completed the state mandated training in emergency/pursuit driving. This accounted 324 hours of training. Since the law requires this training once every two years, the Patrol deputies will be assigned this training again in 2023. Three supervisors completed the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command Course. This 400-hour course, hosted at the Florence Training Center, focuses on leadership, administration, management and human resources. Additionally, one detective completed the National Forensics Academy in Knoxville, Tennessee. This is also a 400-hour course that provides training in crime scene management and documentation, along with evidence collection and processing.

The Training Unit conducted two blocks of training during 2022. The areas trained included defensive tactics, weapons qualification, active shooter response, response to resistance and de-escalation, including scenario-based exercises. Several deputies also completed training for certification to operate ATVs. The ATVs were used to assist in locating several missing persons. The training unit has three Gracie Survival Tactics instructors. The Gracie System is designed for law enforcement and is based upon Jiu-Jitsu techniques that help deputies to humanely prevail when responding to active physical resistance from violent individuals.

The training unit coordinated with our partners from other agencies, Emergency Management and Fire/EMS to develop and train these first responders in Active Shooter Hostile Event Response (ASHER). The unit coordinated with the School Resource Officer Division to conduct training for deputies in the schools within the county. The deputies were able to familiarize themselves with the design of the schools and better plan a response.



The total number of hours dedicated to in-house training was 3,762, which is an average of 21.375 hours per deputy. The in-house training along with the outside training resulted in a total of 18,639 hours of training for the agency. The Training Unit is also responsible for reviewing response to resistance and show of force investigations, along with researching and evaluating new technology and equipment.

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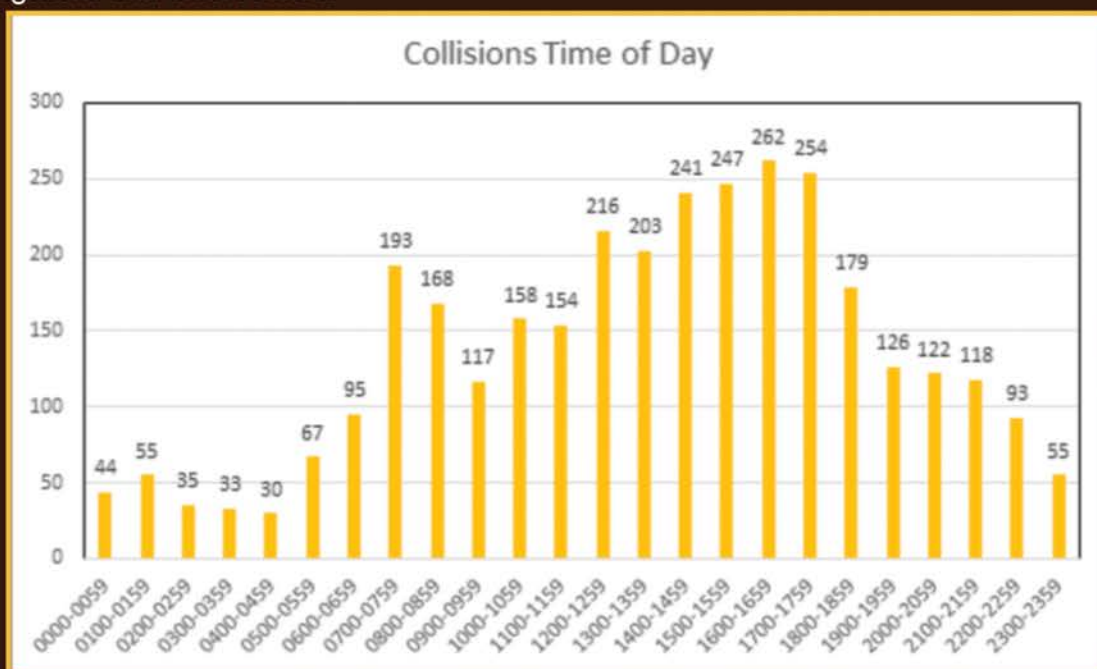
TRAFFIC UNIT

Under the command of Lt. Jason Noel, the Traffic Unit operates seven days a week with seven assigned deputies. This unit is responsible for all calls on the interstates, residential parking complaints, commercial vehicle enforcement and crashes, and general traffic enforcement. All seven deputies assigned to the unit are certified commercial vehicle inspectors, while five are also Accident Reconstructionists. Commercial vehicle activity and general traffic concerns continue to account for a significant number of requests for Sheriff service. Additionally, one of the narcotics detection dogs, Leroy, is assigned to the unit.

The Traffic Unit is also responsible for the management of the Highway Safety grant, funded through the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety, and the MCSAP (commercial vehicle enforcement) grant, funded through the Kentucky State Police and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. There are three additional certified commercial vehicle inspectors assigned to the Patrol Division. The Traffic Unit is also responsible for the administration of the UAV (drone) Unit, which includes the six licensed pilots assigned.

In 2022, the Traffic Unit increased its traffic stop activity by 6% and citations by 11%. The Traffic Unit issued 10,835, or 82%, of the total number of citations issued by the agency. The unit increased commercial vehicle inspections by 5% from the previous year, for a total of 1,028. Commercial motor vehicle-related crashes in the county decreased by 76, or 13%. Thirty-one of those crashes involved injuries, again representing a decline of 36%. Unfortunately, there was one fatality involving a commercial motor vehicle, the same as in 2021.

Overall, the Traffic Unit's requests for service decreased by 4% in 2022, although traffic complaints increased by 309, or 42%. Felony and misdemeanor arrests by the Traffic Unit rose from 914 in 2021 to 1,420 in 2022, primarily due to drug and warrant violations. Commercial vehicle inspectors are often requested to assist other law enforcement agencies with commercial vehicle crash investigations and enforcement.



CRIME SUPPRESSION UNIT



The CSU is under the direction of Lieutenant Mitch Kotzbauer. The four full-time and two part-time deputies assigned work in uniform and in plain clothes to identify and address emerging crime issues. The investigations range from overdose deaths, narcotics, and prostitution to repeat offenders and community nuisance requests. The unit partners with other law enforcement agencies in addressing the wide range of activity.

In 2022, the CSU served more than 25 search warrants resulting in the seizure of 15 firearms, over \$100,000 in cash, and a numerous type of drugs. The unit made over 120 felony arrests, including three that were the result of fatal drug overdoses and one involving the trafficking of fentanyl to juveniles. The unit partnered with Homeland Security in arresting two males for trafficking several women and at least one juvenile in Boone County and several other states.



UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS) UNIT

The UAS Unit, commonly referred to as the Drone Unit, is comprised of six Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) licensed pilots who are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Pilots must complete a challenging initial licensing course, followed by re-certification every two years thereafter. The agency also requires training in takeoffs, landings, and night/low vision flights. The unit's five aircraft are used for wide area searches, crash and crime scene investigation and photography, and real time video of critical incidents.

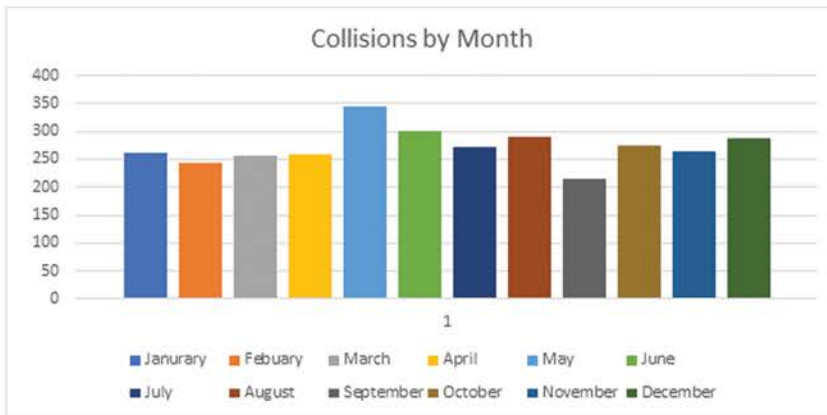


UAS aircraft were deployed 20 times in 2022. Three of the deployments involved suicidal persons. Ten of the missions involved searches: five for missing persons and five for fleeing suspects. The remaining seven deployments involved the capture of video/photos of crimes scene evidence.

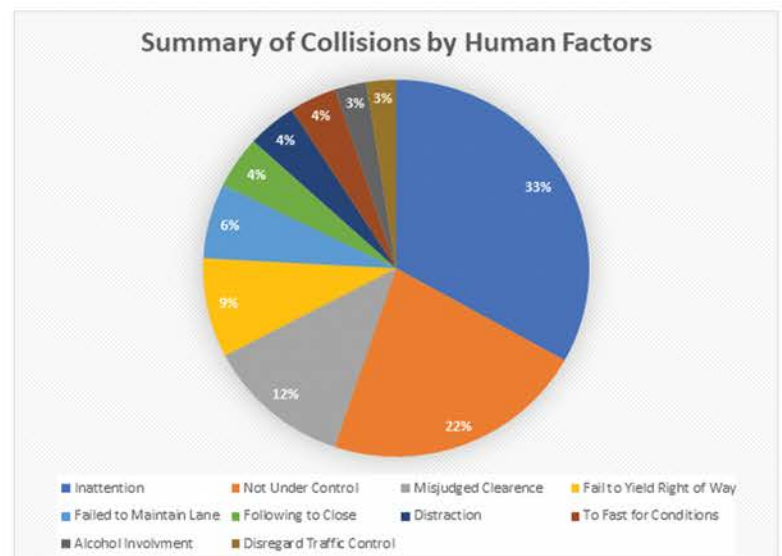
ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION UNIT (ARU)

Under the leadership of Lieutenant Chris Hall, the ARU is responsible for investigating fatal and near fatal crashes in Boone County. With 10 deputies trained as reconstructionists, the ARU was called out 10 times in 2022 for crashes in the county. A call out generally involves at least two reconstructionists to respond and sometimes more than two. The call out is only the beginning of the incident. The ARU spends hundreds of hours reconstructing the crash, consulting appropriate legal advisors, and then testifying in depositions and trials.

There were eight people killed as a result of these crashes, which is a 20% decrease from 2021. These crashes involved injuries to 12 people, which is also a 20% decrease from 2021. One investigation resulted in criminal charges of Manslaughter 2nd Degree (felony), Assault 2nd Degree (felony), Criminal Mischief 1st Degree (felony), and DUI 1st Degree (misdemeanor). Two other investigations are still actively determining if criminal charges are warranted. The leading causative factor in these crashes was driver inattention, followed by failure to yield, disregarding a traffic control device, failure to stay in a designated lane, and medical issues. Crashes often have several causative factors identified.



The ARU is often requested to assist other agencies with fatal or near fatal investigations. The unit responded to eight requests from other agencies. The ARU responded to one crash in each of the following: Grant County Sheriff's Office, Mason County Sheriff's Office, Bellevue Police Department, Wilder Police Department, Newport Police Department, Florence Police Department, Erlanger Police Department, and the Villa Hills Police Department.



FIELD TRAINING UNIT

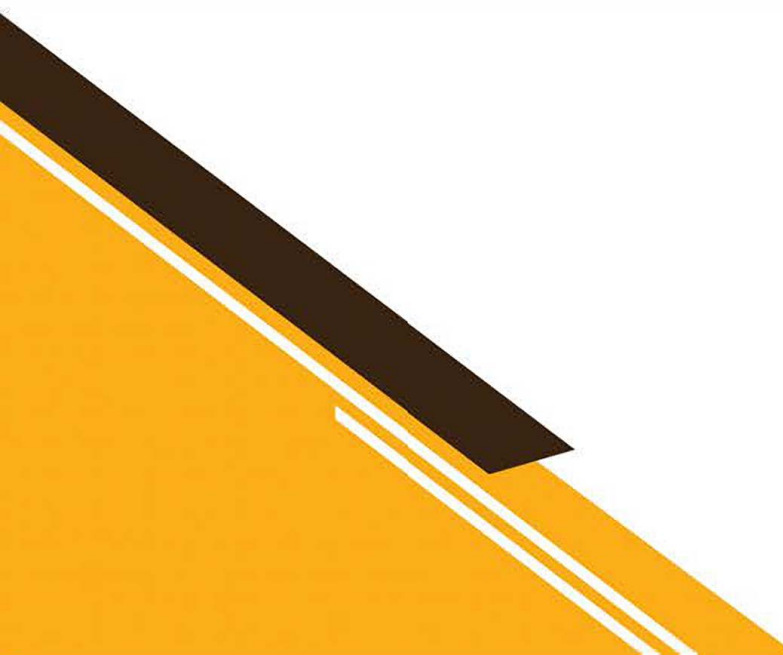


Unless previously certified as a peace officer with the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council (KLEC), a deputy must complete the 800-hour basic training program at the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT) in Richmond. All deputies hired for a patrol position must then complete the agency's 17-week field training program. This program advances the basic training already received by incorporating specific skills and knowledge needed for service in Boone County, ranging from procedural and policy considerations to geographic and report information. The newly hired deputy completes the three phases of the program from field deputies specially trained in this vital area.

Under the leadership of Lt. Brett Dover, the Field Training Unit trained nine deputies who were recent DOCJT graduates, and six lateral hires. The field training deputies logged a total of 5,890 hours of training for our new deputies.

In 2022, the Sheriff's Office contracted with a private company to administer most of the requests for deputies to conduct off-duty details, at no cost to the agency. These details can range from physical security or traffic control, to personal and/or event security. The deputies provide the requested law enforcement function to an entity, that in turn directly pays for that service. The result is a greater law enforcement presence and deterrent with minimal costs to the agency.

In 2022, 106 different deputies worked 4,035 off-duty details for 32 different entities. The total hours worked was 15,392, the equivalent of 7.5 fulltime deputies. Deputies working these details with a Sheriff's Office vehicle or live outside of Boone County are required to reimburse the agency for fuel used. This reimbursement accounted for \$21,270.70 utilizing 5,654 gallons of gasoline.



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

The Boone County Sheriff Criminal Investigation Division is under the command of Major Aaron Millson, supported by a lieutenant, five sergeants, 17 detectives and one non-sworn person. The division handles a wide variety of cases that tend to be more complicated and higher profile. The division includes investigators, agents assigned to task forces, the Criminal Forensic Unit, the Electronic Crime Unit, and the Evidence and Property Room Unit. The division investigated 374 cases, including several that remained from previous years. Of those cases,

- 85 WERE CLOSED BY ARREST.
- 67 WERE CLOSED AS EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED.
- 47 WERE CLOSED AS UNFOUNDED.
- 33 WERE CLOSED AS INACTIVE.
- 26 CASES WERE CLOSED AS PROSECUTION DECLINED.
- 70 WERE CLOSED AS OTHER.
- INVESTIGATORS HAVE 46 CASES THAT ARE STILL OPEN AND BEING INVESTIGATED.

In 2022, the CID investigated a double murder-suicide and assault. This complex case involved a mother killing her two children, assaulting her husband and then killing herself. The division also investigated a bank theft in which charges were brought in the Federal judicial system. The successful prosecution resulted in the victim receiving over \$500,000 in restitution. Another complex investigation involved a perpetrator who kidnapped, raped and assaulted the victim in Boone County.

The suspect was later identified in other out of state sexual assault investigations. Although the suspect had been charged but not convicted for similar crimes in other states, this investigation and accompanying evidence has the suspect facing his most serious and comprehensive charges to date. Other incidents included multiple shootings that after significant investigation were determined to have occurred in self-defense.

Criminal Forensics Unit



The Criminal Forensics Unit (CFU) was expanded to three full-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 assisted in 102 investigations, processing 248 items of evidence. The unit assisted the Kentucky State Police in processing a homicide scene and five other law enforcement agencies in various other processing tasks. The CFU has also worked cooperatively in training several officers from the Florence Police Department in forensic investigations. The goal is to provide a consistent forensic process for future investigations across the county, particularly where multiple jurisdictions are involved.

THE ELECTRONIC CRIMES UNIT


The Electronic Crimes Unit (ECU) is staffed by two full-time detectives and a full-time non-sworn investigator, all 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. With the changing security features involved in technology, the ECU often requires multiple forensic tools and systems to locate and obtain evidence in cases. This unit is supported by the Secret Service with regard to training and equipment. The unit collaborates with other similar units from the region in processing these oftentimes complex electronic devices. 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 2022 the ECU conducted 290 examinations of 168 individual items of evidence. The examinations in these 89 cases resulted in over 14 terabytes of information obtained.

TASK FORCE UNIT

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 re-investigate cases that may have gone cold over the years. They have also been requested by other jurisdictions for assistance and consultation. In 2022, they were involved in three podcasts regarding unsolved homicides in Boone County. Also, the unit was involved with an internationally syndicated television production that focused on the Walter Sartory murder in 2009. Finally, the unit taught a training class for the Kentucky State Police in Frankfort and hosted a community presentation at the Boone County Library.



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DIVISION

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Division, under the direction of Major Ryan Walters, continues to be a stellar example of the partnership between the Sheriff's Office and the Boone County and Walton Verona School Districts. The division provides services to more than 24,000 students in the districts, along with the staff, parents, and visitors to the schools.

The role of the SRO extends far beyond school Security is the primary focus; however, an important part of our mission is taking the opportunity to mentor and establish relationships with the students in each of the schools. The Boone County Sheriff's Office has one of the largest School Resource Officer divisions in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. All 29 public and independent schools, in the county have an SRO assigned. The division also has a dedicated substitute SRO that fills vacancies in times of illness, training, or vacation. Recently enacted Kentucky law requires that each public independent school campus have an SRO. While many counties across the Commonwealth struggle to meet this legislative mandate, we have been fortunate in Boone County to have met this standard for the past several years.

In 2022, the SROs collectively conducted 7,218 student counselings, 187 home visits and attended 1979 extra-curricular events. The SROs completed



offense reports in 223 incidents and 653 traffic crashes. They conducted 511 drug investigations and 53 involving alcohol. The SROs collectively made 101 arrests, issued 181 citations, and signed 236 criminal complaints against juveniles. It is important to note that the reports, investigations, and arrests may not necessarily involve students.

The SRO Division not only addresses law enforcement issues, but they do also work for the betterment of the school community. The Boone County SRO's have partnered with the school districts for several different food, clothing and toy drives.

One such event was the annual "Stuff a Cruiser" event which was held at the Union Kroger. This event was held in coordination with the Boone County School's Family Resource Center. The resource center collects items and monetary donations to be distributed to families clothing and other household needs throughout the county.

They collected cash donations along with completely filling two cruisers. This year the Boone County Sheriff's Office also partnered with the Boone County Fair Board in hosting a night at the fair with an SRO. The Boone County Fair board provided free admission, as well as a free dinner, to several families from each school in the Boone County and Walton-Verona School Districts. The SRO of each school met and spent an evening of fun with the selected students and their families from their school.



The Court Services Division is under the leadership of Director Jim Beach, supported by two sergeants and 22 deputies. The division is responsible for many of the Sheriff's mandated duties, including courtroom and building security. The division devoted 13,593 hours to the security of the Justice Center and 13,030 hours to the security of individual courtrooms. During those times, Court Service Deputies served 236 people with various court papers and also served 275 arrest warrants.

The 2022 calendar year began with the Chief Justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court rescinding all Covid- restrictions, resulting in much heavier court dockets because of the backlog of cases is being cleared.

The case load has resulted in courtroom being so crowded that deputies have people remain outside until seating opens.

A major duty of the Court Services Division is the transportation of prisoners. The Court Services Deputies transported prisoners for court appearances within the county a total of 4,412 times in 2022. Prisoner transports within the state occurred 1,026 times while out of state transports occurred 126 times. The out of state transports required air transportation 27 times.

These flights covered 148,218 miles at a cost of \$73,404.32 to the agency. Deputies also transported juveniles on 56 occasions for court appearances. With new Department of Juvenile Justice regulations requiring male juveniles to be transported to the Boyd County (Ashland) facility, travel times and costs are anticipated to increase for this six hour round trip. Due to the increase in prisoner transportations, the Boone County Fiscal Court has authorized the purchase of a new minivan for 2023 for prisoner transportation.

This year the Kentucky State Police moved drivers testing from the Courthouse to the new regional office. With that move, public traffic in the building has been reduced between 150 to 250 people per day. As the drivers testing office space was not being used, Circuit Clerk David Martin has generously agreed to allow the Sheriff's Office to use the space for a deputy's office. Boone County Information Systems installed two computers to allow deputies to clear warrants, check email, and do online mandated training courses. We have also added a new safe in the supervisor's office and equipped it with additional weapons in the event of a violent incident.

COURT SERVICES DIVISION



ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

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 handled 29,078 calls to the main office phone lines. The Kentucky Legislature has made changes to the expungement of criminal records available to people convicted of traffic, misdemeanor and some felony offenses through its “Clean Slate Kentucky” program. When the Administrative Division receives the courts’ orders to expunge (seal), the records can include reports, citations, photographs, videos, and must be sealed within 60 days of the order. In 2022, administrative staff received 795 orders of expungement, 155% increase from 2021. The administrative staff is also responsible for records destruction in compliance with the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives Records Retention Schedules. There were 75 cubic feet of paper records and 240 megabytes of electronic records destroyed in 2021. 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, Becky Beach, 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 KRS 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 2022, the Sheriff's Office collected a total of \$204,075,856.22 in property taxes.

○ Kentucky Department of Revenue	\$24,836,481.88	12.17%
○ Boone County Fiscal Court	\$17,210,911.33	8.43%
○ Boone County Board of Education	\$110,429,121.63	54.11%
○ Walton-Verona Board of Education	\$9,593,942.93	4.70%
○ Boone County Library	\$8,736,197.09	4.28%
○ Boone County Health Department	\$3,734,274.51	1.83%
○ Boone County Co-Operative Extension	\$3,261,141.01	1.60%
○ Walton Fire District	\$4,293,579.16	2.10%
○ Belleview Fire District	\$388,109.23	0.19%
○ Hebron Fire District	\$6,657,680.64	3.26%
○ Union Fire District	\$4,631,819.02	2.27%
○ Burlington Fire District	\$4,191,136.96	2.05%
○ Pt. Pleasant Fire District	\$2,534,936.53	1.24%
○ Petersburg Fire District	\$204,954.85	0.10%
○ Verona Fire District	\$547,157.01	0.27%
○ Florence Fire District	\$2,817,166.11	1.38%
○ Kenton County Board of Education	\$7,246.33	0.00%

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Administrative Division also collected \$4,106,201.75 for the Boone County 911 Service Fee. During the months of October, November and December of 2022, 5,056 tax bills were paid online, accounting for \$25, 689,100.56 received.

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, along with the patrol deputies that conduct inspections, 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 15,560 vehicle inspections in 2022.

The Administrative Division processed 1,365 concealed carry deadly weapon applications in the office. Although all permits must be picked up at the Sheriff's Office, 87% of the applications were filed on-line.

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 7,320 items of evidence into the property room involving 1,112 cases. Items of evidence included:

**176 cases accounting for \$110,913.00 in cash.
21 sexual assault kits
131 firearms;
626 drug items; and
320 towed vehicles.**

There were 295 items submitted to the Kentucky State Police lab and 4,398 items destroyed per court order. There were nearly 12,000 items of evidence in the property system at the end of 2022. The Sheriff's Office is accredited through the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police. This requires that periodic spot audits of the property room be conducted along with a complete annual audit.

The Administrative Division has two command level deputies that serve as the Public Information Officer (PIO) and the Staff Attorney. The staff attorney, Major Tom Szurlinski, is responsible for general in-house legal issues, policy and procedure development and some areas of training. The PIO, Major Philip Ridgell, 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 2022, the Sheriff's Office received 238 formal open records requests, an increase of 16% from 2021. These requests do not include requests for copies of crash and/or criminal offense reports. The agency also honored 12 subpoena requests for records. 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 8,910 files for a total of 898 GB of data. The PIO issued 35 individual press releases (not including updated releases) and responded to 304 inquiries to the agency's general email account.

The PIO is also responsible for the Boone County Sheriff's Office presence on the internet and social media sites. The PIO maintains the agency's website at www.boonecountykysheriff.com. Additionally, our Facebook page reached 802,114 and our Instagram reached 4,283 in 2022. Our Facebook page and profile visits totaled 265,711 and our Instagram profile visits was 2,096. The agency received 136 Facebook messages with an average response time of two hours and 52 minutes. We responded to 97% of the messages received, with the remaining messages either sent in error or designated as spam. The agency published 99 Twitter posts in 2022. We had a total of 483,009 Twitter impressions and 44,858 Twitter views in 2022. Social media and internet communications remain an important communication tool for the agency.

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


Special Weapons and Tactics

The SWAT Team provides specially trained and equipped deputies to respond to specific high-risk incidents. Under the leadership of Team Commander, Lt. Jarrod Strucke and an Assistant Team Commander, Lt. Brett Dover, 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 tactical 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 one time in 2022 for site/motorcade protection due to a visit from the President of the United States. The team was placed on standby twice due to escalating situations developing beyond the regular capabilities of patrol deputies. Fortunately, both situations were resolved without the need to activate the team. In total, SWAT was notified or consulted on ten incidents throughout the year. Six of those incidents were deemed as not requiring SWAT intervention.





The SWAT Team by the nature of its mission requires significant amounts of specialized and often rigorous training. The team conducted joint training with the SWAT teams from the Florence Police and the CVG Airport Police Departments. The joint training provides for maximum preparedness for joint operations and large-scale events. The team added four new members and a third paramedic in 2022. The new members are required to complete a strenuous two-week Basic SWAT Operators Course conducted by the Kentucky Tactical Officers Association.

Honor Guard

The Honor Guard, under the direction of Lieutenant Chris Hall 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 30 details in 2022.

Honor Guard Deputies performed funeral services and casket guard upon the passing of retired Deputy Steve Hartman, retired Deputy Todd Kenner, and former Boone County Auxiliary Police Officer Fred Kirtley. The unit conducted a 21 Gun Salute for former Walton Police Chief Tom Huelsman upon his passing in June and conducted a casket Vigil for Veteran Charles Patrick upon his passing in September. The Honor Guard also served at the Northern Kentucky and the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation Services in May. The unit presented the colors 17 times for ceremonies at schools, graduations, sporting events, memorials and the Boone County Oath of Office/Swearing in ceremony. The Honor Guard marched with the colors in two parades in 2022 and presented the Colors at three Veteran's Day Ceremonies. The Honor Guard also presented the Colors for the Boone County Fiscal Court dedication of the relocated Vietnam Veteran's Memorial.



BOONE COUNTY SHERIFFS 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. 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

Michael A. Helmig
Boone County Sheriff



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