



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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BOONE COUNTY SHERIFF

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The calendaryear 2023 continued the diminishing of the COVID-19 dangers and concerns, providing a return to pre-pandemic activity. Despite many challenges encountered by the Sheriff's Office in 2023, 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 126,049 events in 2023, a nearly 10% decrease. These events include only those incidents that entered the computer-aided dispatch system (CAD) 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 350 events per day or 10,508 events per month. The month of March had the highest number of events, followed closely by May and then January. Not unexpectedly, the busiest average times of the day were from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The most common requests for Sheriff's service included traffic-related incidents, which accounted for 18.5% of the total activity, and traditional Sheriff's Office responsibilities, such as service of warrants and subpoenas, which accounted for 7.5% of the activity totals. Alarm drops, 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 361 cases, including several that remained from previous years. Of those cases, 88 were closed by filing criminal charges. Thirty-two cases were inactivated with investigative leads exhausted. Thirty-five percent of the cases were closed as either unfounded, exceptionally cleared or prosecution declined. Investigators have 38 cases that are still open and being investigated. Significant cases include the shooting of a 16-year-old child, and the conviction of a subject for rape, sodomy, and incest who received eight life sentences. Theft

and burglary cases accounted for a large amount of investigative activity.

The Criminal Forensics Unit, which is responsible for evidence identification, collection, and processing, assisted in 120 of those investigations, processing 345 items of evidence. The Electronic Crime Unit, which is responsible for identifying, collecting, and analyzing evidence involving electronic technology, assisted in 114 cases, processing 184 items of evidence, and analyzing 26.75 Terabytes of data. The Evidence and Property Room Unit logged 10,078 pieces of evidence into the property system. Of those cases, 84 involved currency totaling \$113,166.00 and 133 firearms.

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. Those cooperative efforts expanded in 2023 to include the addition of SROs at St. Timothy School, Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Zion Christian Academy, and Gateway Community and Technical College. Our SRO division is one of the largest School Resource Officer Divisions in the state, consisting of 33 deputies. The division provides services to more than 24,000 students in the districts, along with the staff, parents, and visitors to the schools. The SROs conducted 8,474 student counseling sessions and attended 1918 extra-curricular events. The law enforcement function of the SROs resulted in 301 criminal offense reports, 751 drug investigations, and 70 alcohol-related investigations. These investigations resulted in 116 arrests, 226 citations, and 319 juvenile criminal complaints. It is important to note that these arrests and charges may not necessarily involve students.

The Court Services Division saw a full return to pre-pandemic activity in 2023. With the lifting of Covid restrictions, all court divisions are seeing much heavier dockets as a result of the backlog of cases from the pandemic. The caseload has resulted in courtrooms being so crowded that deputies are having people wait outside until more seating opens up. The division has also experienced a significant increase in prisoner transports. Deputies transported 4,617 prisoners from the jail to the Justice Center.

An additional 997 prisoners were transported from out of the county and 138 from out of the state. Nineteen of the out-of-state transports involved air travel. Juveniles accounted for 44 transports. Department of Juvenile Justice regulations now allow male juveniles to be transported to the Campbell County facility, however, intake procedures often result in significant delays.

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 numerous other matters that arise almost daily. The office collected \$ 221,940,768.17 in property taxes, along with \$ 4,393,050.00 in 911 service fees in 2023. Staff handled over 31,000 phone calls to the Sheriff's Office main phone lines in 2023.

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 2023, the office investigated eleven incidents of response to resistance and 49 shows of force by deputies, an increase in both categories from 2022. Evaluating the fluctuation in these types of law enforcement statistics is difficult on a year-to-year basis and often requires a period of years to appraise. However, these incidents continue to be exceptionally rare, yet still potentially real-life occurrences for Boone County 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 .008%. The percentage of times that a deputy(s) showed force (but did not deploy force) in proportion the those reported CAD incidents is .03%. The agency continues to regularly review and train in response to resistance, de-escalation, and the duty to intervene.

Deputies were involved in seven vehicle pursuits in 2023, compared to one in 2022 and four in 2021. There were 15 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. The agency pursuit policy is reviewed annually for improvements in the policy and training.

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. In 2023, deputies received 10,796 hours of certified training, an average of approximately 60 hours per deputy. 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 can assist others with the skills and experiences that they have developed.

The Boone County Sheriff's Office, like all of Boone County, is looking forward to the 225th Anniversary of Boone County. In cooperation with the Sheriff's Auxiliary, deputies have been assigned anniversary badges. We look forward to additional observances as the year continues.

This report 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 2024.

Michael A. Helmig
Boone County Sheriff



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ABOUT US

The Boone County Sheriff's Office is comprised of five divisions that are responsible for the countless number of responsibilities and duties that the agency is tasked with. Those divisions are Patrol, Criminal Investigations, School Resource Officer, Court Services, and Administration. The major duties of a Sheriff's Office include law enforcement, tax collection, election security, court security, prisoner transport, and civil/criminal paper service.

Response to resistance continues to be a predominant concern for the public and the Sheriff's Office. A response to a crime 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 to gain that individual's compliance. In 2023, the office investigated eleven incidents of response to resistance and 49 shows

of force by deputies, a notable increase in both categories from 2022. Evaluating the fluctuation in these types of law enforcement statistics is difficult on a year-to-year basis and often requires a period of years to appraise. However, these incidents continue to be exceptionally rare, yet still potential occurrences for Boone County 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 .008%. The percentage of times that a deputy(s) showed force (but did not deploy force) in proportion to those reported CAD incidents is .03%. The agency continues to regularly review and train in response to resistance, de-escalation, and the duty to intervene.



PATROL DIVISION



The Patrol Division provides the largest and most visible component of the Sheriff's Office. The division primarily delivers law enforcement services, 24 hours a day, every day of the year. However, along with emergency response, Patrol deputies also provide other Sheriff's services such as paper service and prisoner transport. Under the leadership of Major Bill Mark, the Patrol Division is comprised of 9 lieutenants, 12 sergeants, and 67 patrol deputies. Patrol deputies handled 126,094 incidents reported to

the computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system, a 10% decrease from the previous year. This total represents an average of 350 events per day or 10,508 events per month. The month of March accounted for the highest number of events, followed closely by May and then January. The busiest average periods of the day were from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Sheriff's Office in total completed 2,571 criminal offense reports and made 3797 arrests.

Approximately 18.5% of the Patrol Division requests for service encompassed vehicle and traffic-related events. This is a 5% decrease from 2022. These events included:

TRAFFIC STOPS	10,161
VEHICLE COMPLAINTS	1,990
TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS	1,733
TRAFFIC DETAIL	542
TRAFFIC CRASHES	2,670
INJURY CRASHES	501
MOTORIST ASSISTS	1,957
ROADWAY BLOCKED	811
VEHICLE LOCKOUTS	1,321
VEHICLE INSPECTIONS	769
ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE	620
VEHICLE FIRES	68
TRAFFIC LIGHTS OUT	153
STOLEN VEHICLES	46

Traditional Sheriff's Office responsibilities such as the service of court orders, warrants, and civil process, also account for approximately 7.5% of patrol activity:

EPO/DVO	644
EVICCTIONS	1,211
SUBPOENAS	394
SUMMONSES	5,859
WARRANT ARRESTS	115
WARRANTS OF POSSESSION	115
WARRANT SEARCHES	17
WANTED PERSONS	1,002

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

FIGHTS	196
OVERDOSE	157
TRESPASS, HOMELESS, LOITERING	17
BURGLARY	224
SHOTS FIRED/HEARD	114
SUBJECT WITH A WEAPON	100
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	350
DRUG ACTIVITY	132
SUBJECT STOPPED/PURSUIT	120
PERSON REFUSING TO LEAVE	200
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION	1,781
REQUEST FOR SERVICE	149
REQUEST FOR SPECIFIC DUTY	944
FOUND PROPERTY	240
ASSISTING ANOTHER AGENCY	195
ESCORT/TRANSPORT	352
OPEN DOOR	71
SHOPLIFTING	70

DOMESTIC INCIDENTS	1,252
ALARM DROP	3,226
SUSPICIOUS PERSONS	2,085
CHECK WELFARE	1,472
DISPUTE/DISTURBANCE	1,007
INVESTIGATION FOLLOW-UP	2,154
EMOTIONAL CRISIS CALLS	659
EMOTIONAL CRISIS REPORTS	469
THEFT	868
ASSAULT (NO EMS)	97
ASSAULT EMS NEEDED	103
SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTS	83
ANIMAL COMPLAINT/BITE	435
INTOXICATED PERSONS	558
THREATS/HARRASMENT	624
FRAUD	429
JUVENILE TROUBLE	497
MISSING PERSONS	333

Of the 157 overdose calls received, patrol deputies administered Naloxone (Narcan) to 21 people experiencing an overdose emergency. The patient responded to the drug in 19 of those incidents. In the other two incidents, the Narcan administration appeared to have no effect. The Patrol Division calls for service for vehicle crashes resulted in 3098 crash reports completed, including 468 that resulted in 631 people injured. This is an increase of 6% from the previous year. The Patrol Division traffic stops resulted in 10,985 citations being issued, resulting in 19,569 separate charges. Of those citations issued, 2,758 were for speeding and 1,360 were seat belt violations, and 347 for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol/Drugs. Not all traffic stops result in a citation being issued.

Patrol Deputies often respond with our public safety partners to calls involving emergency circumstances. Again, these calls are varied but include:

CARDIAC/RESPIRATORY ARREST	119
UNCONSCIOUS/PERSON DOWN	445
CHOKING	30
CHEST PAINS/ HEART ATTACK	145
DIFFICULTY BREATHING	167
PERSON FELL	221
TRAUMATIC INJURY	70
SEIZURES	124
STROKE	50
SUBJECT III	215
STABBING/GUNSHOT	24
DECEASED PERSON	29
FIRE ALARM	101
STRUCTURE FIRE	120
UNKNOWN PROBLEM	106

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 38,041 directed spot checks of businesses and other locations, 2064 vacation check requests, and 310 public contacts.

To accomplish the response to the 246 square miles of Boone County, the Patrol Division has a fleet of 105 vehicles. Nine of those vehicles are equipped with lights and sirens but no graphics. They are assigned for traffic enforcement. There are 91 marked patrol vehicles, consisting of 11 Dodge Durangos, 63 Ford Interceptor SUVs, 15 Chevrolet Tahoe SUVs, one Ford Crown Victoria (spare K-9 vehicle), and an F-350 truck. There are five unmarked vehicles assigned to the Crime Suppression Unit. The Sheriff's Office took delivery of 15 new 2023 Ford Interceptor SUVs in late 2023, which are currently being placed into service. The agency logged 2.2 million miles on the fleet in 2023.

Patrol deputies accounted for an estimated 1.63 million miles, or 74% of that total, often under extreme weather and traffic conditions. As such, sometimes the deputies are involved in traffic collisions. Deputies were involved in 26 collisions, nine more than in 2022. Two deputies and three civilians were injured in three of those collisions. In two of the collisions involving civilian injuries, the operating deputy was determined to not be at fault. Deputies were determined to be at fault in 12 of the 26 crashes, with driver inattention being the most common contributing factor in nine of them. Three collisions involved deputies striking deer. One involved an intoxicated motorist striking the cruiser during a traffic stop and in the other crash, the cruiser was struck by an overdosed driver. The 12 collisions where deputies were deemed to have fault represent about 46% of the total incidents. This is about 12% higher than the percentage in 2022.

The Patrol Division engaged in seven vehicle pursuits in 2023. By comparison, there was one pursuit in 2022, four pursuits in 2021, and one pursuit in 2020. The pursuits in 2023 included:

1. *A suspected driver nearly collided with a Sheriff's vehicle and swerved into oncoming traffic. The pursuit went .83 miles at a top speed of 31 mph before the vehicle went off the side of the road and became stuck in the soft ground.*
2. *Deputies responded to a domestic dispute where the victim reported that she was strangled and held hostage. Deputies located the suspect's vehicle leaving the scene and attempted to stop it. The suspect fled, eventually returning to the location of the original call. He fled on foot and was apprehended. The pursuit lasted approximately one minute and averaged speeds of 50 mph.*
3. *A vehicle was observed making a turn at a high rate of speed as the rear of the car fishtailed. The vehicle drove into oncoming traffic. The violator fled and crashed into a tree and landscaping. The driver, a 13-year-old girl with her 12-year-old sister in the car, fled on foot and was apprehended. The top speed was 40 mph, and the pursuit duration was 1:19 minutes.*
4. *A deputy observed a vehicle swerve across multiple lanes of I-75 and exit at Richwood Road. The vehicle failed to stop at the stop sign and continued east on Richwood Road. The vehicle stopped on Transport Drive when it came up to a fence. The pursuit duration was approximately 2 minutes and reached a top speed of 60 mph.*
5. *Deputies assisted Florence Police with a reported shooting at Rally's on U.S. 42. A deputy located the suspect vehicle on Turfway Road. The deputies attempted to stop the vehicle, but it continued north on I-75. Deputies pursued the vehicle for six minutes at speeds of up to 90 mph. When the vehicle reached the Brent Spence bridge, supervision terminated the pursuit.*
6. *Dispatch broadcasted a complaint of a vehicle going the wrong way on I-275. A deputy located the vehicle stopped with no lights on, facing the wrong way in a construction zone. When deputies pulled up to the vehicle, it took off, nearly striking another car. The vehicle traveled five miles at a top speed of 86 mph before stopping. The vehicle then fled a second time for one mile at speeds near 40 mph before stopping and the driver was taken into custody.*
7. *A deputy observed a vehicle on I-71 that was unable to maintain its lane. It appeared the driver was dozing off. When the deputy attempted to stop the vehicle, it continued at speeds between 65 to 75 mph, swerving from shoulder to shoulder across both lanes. After traveling four miles, the vehicle stopped. It was determined he was a new driver, not proficient in English, and did not understand the obligation to stop for emergency vehicles. He was cited and released.*

Additionally, there were 15 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 helped where possible as the circumstances did not meet the requirements of B.C.S.O. policy. Several instances involved violators fleeing where only traffic charges were involved. In most of those cases, the violator was later located and charged. One case involved an alleged abduction from Ohio where the pursuing officers lost contact with the vehicle. A deputy located the vehicle and the alleged victim, but the two suspects fled before the deputy's arrival. After a pursuit on the interstate by another agency, deputies assisted with locating several bricks of drugs that were thrown from the fleeing vehicle.

The Boone County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement services for the Cities of Walton, the population estimated 5,576, and Union, population estimate at 7,592. There were 801 citations issued in Walton, with 394 of those being issued on I-75 and the Mary Grubbs overpass and ramps. There were 123 arrests made in Walton in 2023. In the Union, there were 180 citations issued and 64 arrests made.

Deputies responded to a total of 11,903 incidents in the City of Walton. The most common requests for service included:

TRAFFIC CRASHES	298
ALARMS	258
TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS	227
SUSPICIOUS PERSONS	218
SPECIFIC VEHICLE COMPLAINTS	161
DOMESTIC DISPUTES	125
WANTED PERSONS	95
DISPUTES	67
ANIMAL COMPLAINTS	60
EMOTIONAL CRISIS	59

Additionally, deputies performed the following services in Walton:

SPOT CHECKS	5,768
BUSINESS CHECKS	374
VEHICLE LOCKOUT	148
WELFARE CHECKS	122
MOTORISTS ASSIST	79

In the City of Union, deputies responded to a total of 6,732 incidents. The most common requests for service included:

TRAFFIC CRASHES	181
ALARMS	170
SPECIFIC VEHICLE COMPLAINTS	127
TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS	94
DOMESTIC DISPUTES	49
EMOTIONAL CRISIS	39
ANIMAL COMPLAINTS	34
JUVENILE TROUBLE	31

Additionally, deputies performed the following services in Union:

SPOT CHECKS	2,816
BUSINESS CHECKS	71
VEHICLE LOCKOUT	65
WELFARE CHECKS	64
MOTORISTS ASSIST	52
SPOT CHECKS	43
BUSINESS CHECKS	24

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 or part-time basis as needed.

CANINE UNIT



The canine unit is staffed with five dogs and their handler deputies, under the direction of Lt. Matt Sauerbeck. Two of the teams have dual-purpose capabilities, including narcotics detection, article location, building and area searches, and the tracking and apprehension of an individual. Two of the teams concentrate solely on narcotics detection. In 2023, the agency retired K9 Mike after nearly 7 years of faithful and effective service. However, the K9 Unit was able to obtain and certify a new dog, Maverick. He is unique in that he is a bloodhound that will be used solely for tracking purposes. This is a first for the B.C.S.O. Maverick is a “non-bite” K9, so he can track for reasons other than criminal purposes, such as missing children or missing dementia patients. The K9 Unit now has two “single” purpose drug-detecting dogs, two “dual purpose” patrol dogs, and one “single” purpose tracking dog.

All 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, which included being certified through NAPWDA. The teams were deployed 337 times. Below are the statistics from those deployments:

TOTAL ITEMS SEIZED

METHAMPHETAMINE	74.1 OZ
MARIJUANA	63.4 OZ
HEROIN	60 GRAMS
COCAINE	4 GRAMS
THC WAX	96 GRAMS
FENTANYL	2 GRAMS
FIREARMS	7 HANDGUNS
CASH	\$14,725

INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED

NO BITE APPREHENSIONS	352
BITE APPREHENSIONS	0



TRAINING UNIT

The training unit, under the command of Lt. Jarrod Strucke, conducted three blocks of training during 2023. The areas trained included defensive tactics, weapons qualification, critical skills and tactics, CPR, First Aid, AED certifications, and BOLA Wrap. At the beginning of 2023, all patrol deputies were trained in the proper use and safe handling of the BOLA Wrap. This is a remote restraint device that utilizes a high-tensile strength Kevlar cord, to be deployed towards a subject's arms or legs, to minimize their movement. This device was utilized twice throughout the year on people in emotional distress. Both deployments were successful and allowed for the safe apprehension of the individual, thus allowing deputies an opportunity to transport those people to qualified mental health professionals. Several deputies also conducted ATV certification training.

The unit includes three Gracie Survival Tactics instructors who taught 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 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). This training was conducted with police and fire agencies throughout the entire Northern Kentucky region. Deputies attended 10,796 hours of certified training in 2023.

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 consistently evaluates new tools, devices, and methods that could provide deputies with additional less-lethal force options.



TRAFFIC UNIT

Under the leadership of Lt. Jason Noel, the Traffic Unit operates seven days a week during peak traffic hours 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.



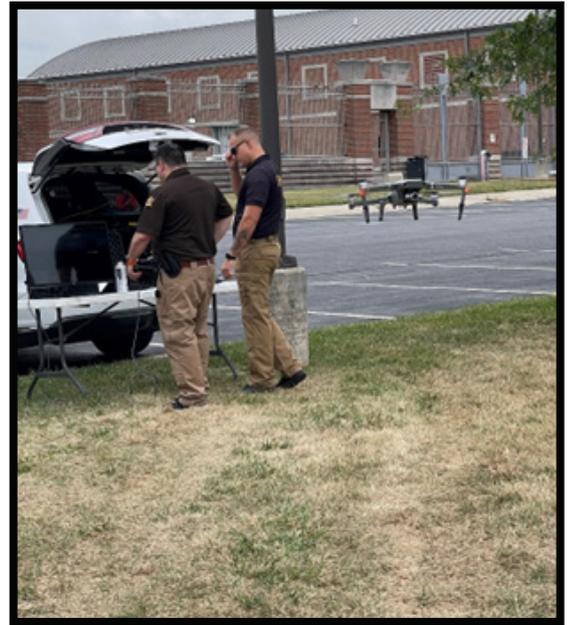
The Traffic Unit is also responsible for management of the Highway Safety grant, funded through the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety, and the MCSAP (commercial vehicle enforcement) grant, funded through the Kentucky State Police and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. There are three additional certified commercial vehicle inspectors assigned to the Patrol Division. The Traffic Unit has a total of ten certified accident reconstructionists to include five within the Patrol Division. The Traffic Unit oversees and manages the UAV (Drone) program which includes eight certified pilots from the Patrol and Criminal Investigations Divisions.

In 2023, the Traffic Unit experienced reduced staffing for four months. The unit saw a decrease in traffic stop activity by 10% from 6,314 contacts in 2022 to 5,623 contacts in 2023. Citations decreased by 23% in 2023 to 8,304 from 10,835 in 2022. Commercial Vehicle inspections decreased by 3% in 2023 to 797 inspections completed from 822 inspections in 2022. Commercial Vehicle violations documented also decreased slightly from 2,419 violations in 2022 to 2,283 in 2023. Commercial vehicle collisions did however decrease from 500 in 2022 to 485 in 2023. Commercial vehicle injury collisions increased by 38% from 31 in 2022 to 43 in 2023. There was one commercial vehicle fatality in 2023. Traffic Unit calls for service in 2023 increased 15% in 2023 from 4,073 in 2022 to 4,675 in 2023. Reports taken (KYOPS/NIBRS/E-Call) also increased by 14% from 468 in 2022 to 534 in 2023.



UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS) UNIT

The UAS Unit, commonly referred to as the Drone Unit, was established in 2020 and has since evolved into a proven critical asset for the agency. The unit is comprised of eight Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) licensed remote pilots from several divisions of the agency 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. All remote pilots are acutely aware of and respect the privacy concerns of our residents.



In 2023, agency drones were deployed on the following 40 flights/missions:

- 3 suicidal persons
- 27 search missions- 18 for welfare checks and 9 for fleeing suspects
- 6 crash investigations to capture aerial video and/or photos of evidence
- 4 assisting other agencies.

CRIME SUPPRESSION UNIT

The Crime Suppression Unit (CSU) is a highly visible, proactive, quick response team within the patrol division that has been tasked with identifying and addressing emerging crime trends. The Crime Suppression Unit also handles community nuisance issues, narcotic investigations, overdoses that result in death, repeat offenders, and prostitution. The unit is under the direction of Lieutenant Mitch Kotzbauer. The assigned deputies work both in uniform and in plain clothes while working any and all hours of the day, seven days a week. The Crime Suppression Unit allows the agency to utilize this team to combat a specific problem without diverting patrol deputies from active calls requiring an immediate response.



Glock Auto-Sear Conversion Switch

During 2023 the Crime Suppression Unit served more than 80 search warrants resulting in multiple seizures while arresting more than 80 individuals on felony charges. Seized items are held throughout the adjudication process and are then ordered to be forfeited or destroyed by the presiding Judge. Listed below are a few examples of what was located throughout the year.

\$130,000 in US Currency

18 Ounces of Gold

30 Lbs. of Marijuana

71 Guns

1000 THC Vape Cartridges

1.5 Pounds of Methamphetamine

Several ounces of Cocaine, Heroin, Fentanyl

10,000 Dosage Units of Various Narcotics

The Crime Suppression Unit also investigated multiple overdose deaths ultimately charging two individuals with Manslaughter.

During the summer, the Crime Suppression Unit was invited by Homeland Security to join the HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) Border Enforcement Security Team (BEST) as task force officers. This task force specializes in international trafficking/smuggling through parcel interdiction at CVG Airport. Targeted items include narcotics, weapons, illegal immigration documents, and bulk cash shipments. The overall goal of the BEST task force is to intercept suspicious parcels in an effort to interrupt regional and international drug trafficking organizations.



*One Pound of Methamphetamine
Hidden in a Vehicle Dashboard*

ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION UNIT (ARU)



Under the leadership of Lt. Chris Hall, the ARU is responsible for investigating fatal and near-fatal crashes in Boone County. With nine deputies trained as accident reconstructionists, the unit was called out 19 times in 2023, one more than in 2022. Fifteen of the callouts were for crashes in Boone County, with the other five being assists to other agencies. The crashes investigated resulted in nine fatalities and 18 injuries, accounting for an increase of one fatality and four injuries from the previous year.

Five of the investigations that the unit conducted resulted in the following criminal charges:

- Manslaughter 2nd Degree (Felony) and DUI 1st Degree (Misdemeanor)
- Reckless Homicide (Felony) and Leaving Scene of Accident/Failure to Render Aid (Felony)
- Wanton Endangerment 1st Degree (Felony) and DUI 1st Degree (Misdemeanor)
- DUI 1st Degree (Misdemeanor) and Criminal Mischief 1st Degree (Felony)
- DUI 1st Degree (Misdemeanor) and Criminal Mischief 1st Degree (Felony).

By comparison, only one investigation in 2022 resulted in criminal charges being filed. There are still two investigations from 2023 that are being finalized and evaluated for charges.



The following indicates the identified causative factors for the crashes (note there may be more than one for an individual crash):

CAUSATION FACTOR	TOTAL #
DUI (ALCOHOL & DRUG)	5
SPEED	2
INATTENTION/DISTRACTION	6
PEDESTRIAN AT FAULT	4
NOT UNDER PROPER CONTROL	5
LEFT OF CENTER	3
FAILURE TO MAINTAIN LANE OF TRAVEL	3
FAILURE TO WEAR SEAT BELT	3
SUICIDE	1
TOO FAST FOR CONDITIONS	1
MECHANICAL ISSUE	1
FAILURE TO YIELD RIGHT-OF-WAY	1
HIT & RUN	1
NO OPERATOR'S LICENSE	2
NO VALID REGISTRATIONS PLATE	2
NO INSURANCE	2

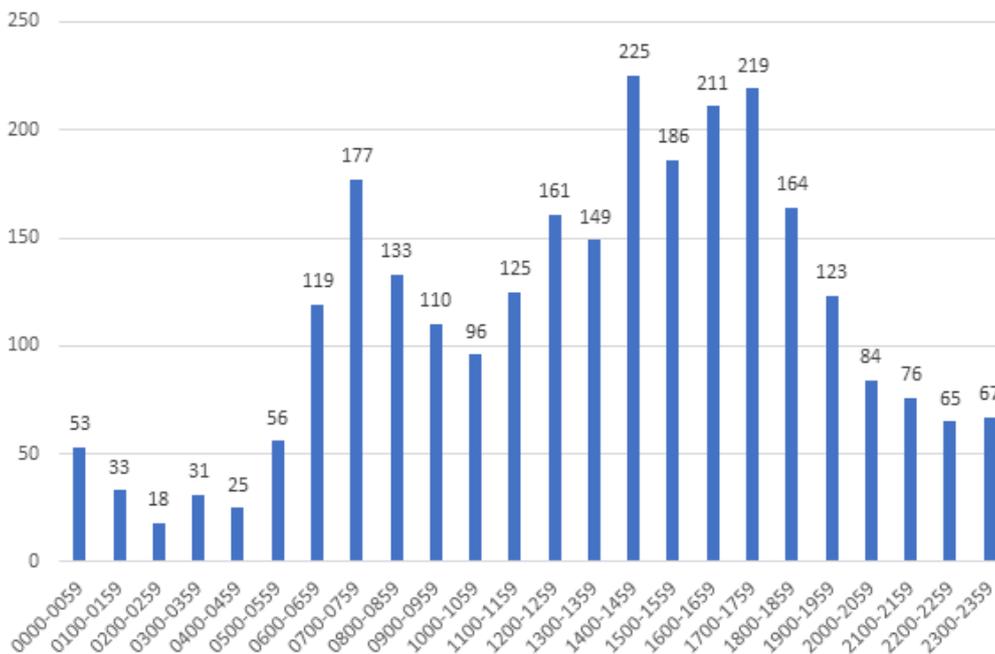
Crash investigation and reconstruction is an evolving area of investigation for both criminal and civil purposes. Intense continual training is required, particularly in the areas of collisions involving pedestrians, commercial vehicles, and motorcycles. These investigations rely heavily on the usage and analysis of Bosch Crash Data Retrieval (black box) and Total Station Mapping software systems. Both systems require extensive training.



Total Collisions Monthly



Total Collisions by Hour of the Day



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 four deputies who were recent DOCJT graduates, and nine lateral hires. The field training deputies logged a total of 3,961 hours of training for our new deputies. Successful completion of the agency training requirements is needed to ensure the best possible service for our residents and businesses. Unfortunately, two of the new deputies in 2023 were unable to meet those requirements and were thus dismissed from employment.

In 2023, the Sheriff's Office continued to contract 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 2023, 113 different deputies worked 4,672 off-duty details for 38 different entities. The total hours worked was 17,434, the equivalent of 8.4 full-time deputies. Deputies working these details with a Sheriff's Office vehicle and/or who live outside of Boone County are required to reimburse the agency for fuel used. This reimbursement accounted for \$19,459.64 utilizing 6,259 gallons of gasoline.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION (CID)



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 investigator. 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 Cold Case Unit. The division investigated 361 cases, including several that remained from previous years. Of those cases,

- o 88 (24%) were closed by arrest/charges.
- o 43 (12%) were closed as exceptionally cleared.
- o 54 (15%) were closed as unfounded.
- o 32 (9%) were closed as inactive.
- o 31 (12%) cases were closed as prosecution declined.
- o 73 (20%) were closed as other.
- o Investigators have 38 (10.6%) cases that are still open and being investigated.

The CID continues to investigate a significant number of cases involving child victims. These cases include infant fatalities and near fatalities, sexual assaults, child abuse and pornography, and assaults. In one case, a Boone County Circuit Jury recommended a sentence of eight life terms for a suspect convicted of rape, sodomy, and incest. Another case involved a conviction for a father attempting to solicit nude photos from his biological daughter, while another involved the wanton murder (shooting) of a 16-year-old girl. Detectives investigated what was initially reported as a seizure and near death of an eight-month-old baby. Although the hospital did not conduct toxicology tests, the investigators were able to determine, and obtain a confession from the parents, that the child had involuntarily ingested a controlled substance.

Assaults and sexual assaults are intensive investigations that dramatically affect the victims. One case involved a Rape and Sodomy of a 12-year-old that occurred in the 1970s but was reported in 2023. Investigators were able to safely arrange a meeting between the victim and the suspect, allowing the victim to confront her attacker. This meeting proved critical to the investigation. Detectives examined what was initially reported as an unknown problem, possibly a car crash. The victim was found unconscious in a park with a head injury. After numerous interviews and the collection of evidence, it was determined that the victim had been on the back of a vehicle when the driver accelerated rapidly, throwing the victim to the pavement. Despite much deception from witnesses, the perpetrator was charged with assault.

Thefts and stolen items accounted for a large portion of investigative activity. The Sheriff's Office had received reports of several stolen vehicles, as had other agencies in the area. Through the investigation of phone and social media records, investigators were able to charge an individual. The charges not only stopped the car thefts but also resulted in the discovery of Matter Portraying a Minor in a Sexual Performance on the suspect's phone. Charges were also filed for that offense.

With the construction activity in Boone County, thefts from those job sites occur occasionally. After receiving a report of stolen tools, along with a description of a suspicious vehicle that had been in the area, detectives used an online database to track some of the pawned tools. Investigators identified the owner of the suspicious vehicle and went to his home. When the owner opened the door, a tool with the victim's name on it was observed inside. A subsequent search yielded more stolen items. The investigator interviewed the suspect sitting in the swing on his front porch, where he received a confession to the thefts. In another case involving a stolen welding trailer from a local religious organization, detectives conducted a controlled delivery of the stolen trailer. The investigation and interviews led to more stolen items. The investigators were able to determine that the employees of a business had coordinated a mass exodus from that business to start a new, replicated business. The employees stole products, funds, and intellectual property prior to leaving. In another construction-related case, investigators received a call from a Sheriff's Office in Indiana. That agency had located an abandoned dump truck with a trailer belonging to a local heating company. The owner of the truck also reported stolen tools and that he had located someone selling one of his tools on Facebook. Detectives communicated with the seller and witnessed two suspects possessing stolen items. The detective even climbed into a dumpster to retrieve items that one suspect had discarded. After hours of surveillance and several search warrants, detectives charged the suspects with burglary and receiving stolen property.

In another case, a local car dealership was burglarized, with a vehicle and multiple sets of keys stolen. The investigators, working with multiple agencies in Ohio, were able to piece together multiple interviews to charge three suspects with the burglary. In a theft from a local school, detectives worked with the school to identify an individual who had stolen over \$53,000.00 in 44 separate transactions from a school organization.

Finally, detectives and the Criminal Forensics Unit partnered with the fire department to investigate a Labor Day fire in an occupied home. The fire damaged the home and destroyed a car. After interviewing a suspect and analyzing evidence, charges were filed for Arson.

CRIMINAL FORENSICS UNIT

The Criminal Forensics Unit (CFU) includes three full-time detectives who 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.

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 unit was particularly instrumental in assisting the Cold Case Unit with a 1976 Rape and Murder investigation. Additionally, the CFU assisted with 120 investigations. The investigators collected 490 separate pieces of evidence where 345 required supplemental examination or processing. The CFU is also responsible for training and utilizing the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN). This system analyzes firearm casings from crime scenes and seized firearms for correlation to other potential criminal activities both within and outside of Boone County.

ELECTRONIC CRIMES UNIT

The Electronic Crimes Unit (ECU) is staffed by a full-time sergeant, detective, and non-sworn investigator with over 25 years of experience, all of whom have extensive training and experience in this area. Their responsibilities are for the processing, analysis, and documentation of 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 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.

In 2023, the ECU assisted with 114 cases, receiving 223 pieces of evidence. The investigators processed 184 of those pieces, analyzing 26.75 Terabytes of data. The unit continues to offer assistance to other agencies as requested.

TASK FORCE UNITS

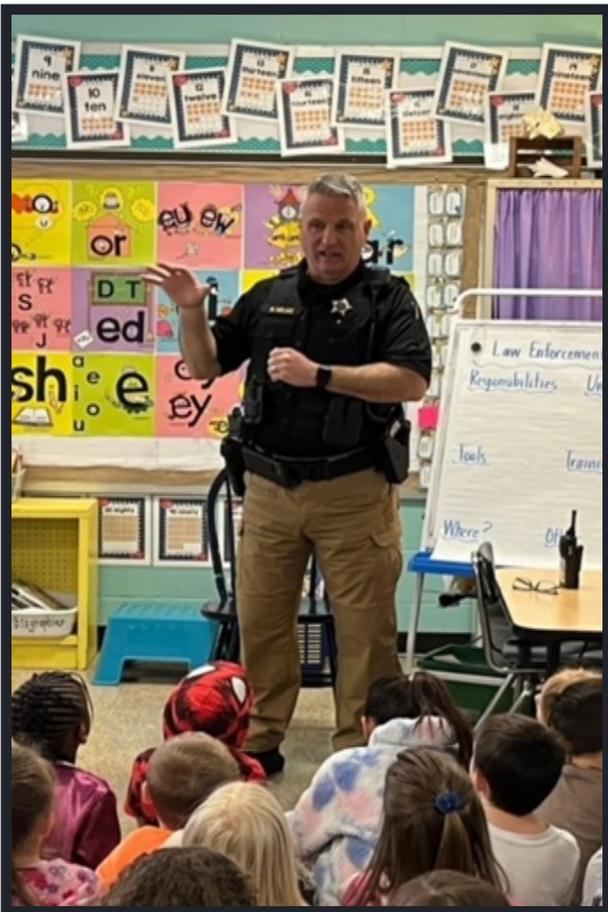
This unit consists of a lieutenant, two sergeants, and four detectives who are assigned to either Federal agencies as part of a task force or the Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force. The Sheriff's Office has dedicated personnel to the FBI, the DEA, and the U.S. Marshals, to assist in the investigation of crimes specifically tasked to that agency. The Drug Strike Force focuses on mid-level drug investigations in and around Northern Kentucky. They also work in conjunction with the DEA and other mid-level drug units from Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. The detectives assigned to work with the FBI work on either the Joint Terrorism Task Force, a gang/drug task force, or a child crime/human trafficking task force. The Marshal's Task Force is for felony fugitive apprehensions. The Sheriff has dedicated these resources 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. These investigators closed a 1976 unsolved Rape and Homicide by identifying a suspect who had died in 1990. The investigators were able to match DNA evidence from the crime scene with DNA from familial ties to his offspring. The investigation continues with the other jurisdictions as there is a potential for connections to crimes in other states. The unit continues investigations on 13 cases, dating back as far as the 1970s.



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) DIVISION



The School Resource Officer (SRO) Division, under the direction of Major Ryan Walters, continues to be a superb 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 mere school security. Security is the primary focus; however, an important part of the SRO 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 SRO division has grown yet again in 2023 by forming a new partnership with St. Timothy's Catholic School, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School, Zion Christian Academy, and Gateway Community and Technical College (GCTC Boone County Campus). The 2023 school year began with a dedicated SRO in each of these educational facilities. This brings the number of trained SROs to 33 serving schools within the county.

Kentucky Law requires that each public/independent school campus have an SRO. While many counties across the Commonwealth struggle to meet this legislative mandate, the partnership that the Boone County Sheriff's Office has established between both the Boone County Board of Education, the Walton-Verona Independent Schools, Gateway Community and Technical College, and the 3 additional private schools is viewed as a model in the state. Every public/independent school in the county has had an SRO assigned for numerous years, much prior to the legislative mandate of one per campus.

In 2023, the SROs collectively conducted 8474 student consultations/interactions and attended 1918 extra-curricular events. The SROs completed offense reports in 301 incidents and investigated 73 traffic collisions. They conducted 751 drug investigations and 70 involving alcohol. The SROs collectively made 116 arrests, issued 226 citations, and signed 319 criminal complaints against juveniles. It is important to note that the reports, investigations, and arrests may not necessarily involve students.

In an effort to work for the betterment of the school community, the SROs have partnered with the Family Resource Center coordinators in various schools to conduct several different food, clothing, and toy drives for families in need within the overall community. Additionally, this year the Boone County Sheriff's Office once again 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 for each school escorted and spent an evening of fun with the selected students and their families.

Although all of the SROs are intensely dedicated to the mission of safety and relationship building, one SRO, Deputy Mike Kappes from Northpointe Elementary, was nominated by the school's administration for the Kentucky School Resource Officer of the Year award. The fact of being nominated is an honor in itself. In May, Deputy Kappes was surprised with the announcement of being chosen as the recipient of the Kentucky Association of School Resource Officer of the Year, in front of the entire school. He was also recognized at a monthly Boone County School Board meeting where the announcement was met with a standing ovation. Relationships such as these afford the opportunity to build a foundation of trust between law-enforcement and the community.



COURT SERVICES DIVISION



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 a total of 27,837.5 hours to the security of the Justice Center, which includes 15,295.5 hours specifically allocated to the security of the individual courtrooms. During those times, Court Service Deputies served 268 people with various court papers and also served 380 arrest warrants, which also represents substantial increases over the previous year.

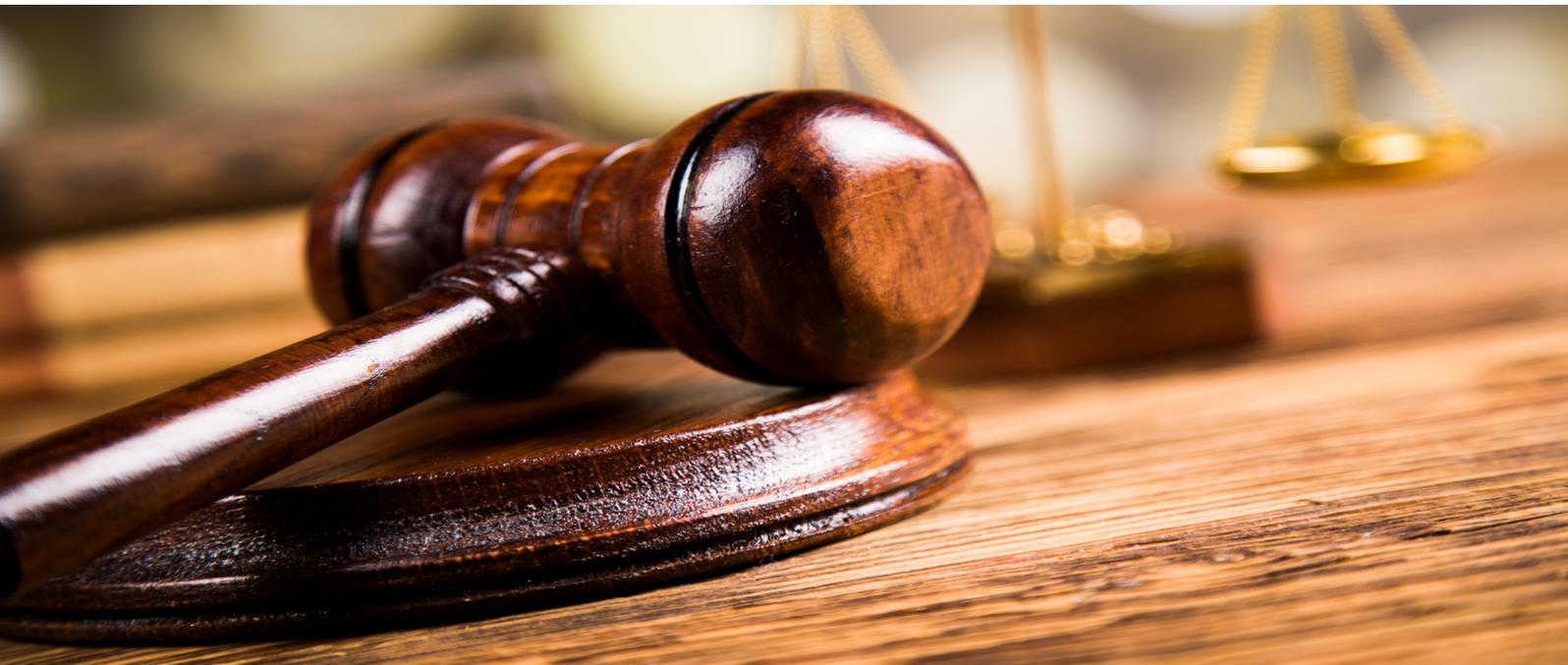
A major duty of the Court Services Division is the transportation of prisoners. Court Services Deputies transported prisoners for court appearances within the county a total of 4,617 times in 2023. Prisoner transports within the state occurred 997 times while out-of-state transports occurred 138 times. The out-of-state transports required air transportation 19 times utilizing two deputies per transport. These flights covered 109,912 miles at a cost of \$58,540 to the agency. Deputies also transported juveniles on 44 occasions for court appearances. Juvenile transport rules now allow for male offenders to be taken to the Campbell County Regional Facility. This is an improvement in transport time, but obstacles still exist in delays while awaiting an intake to occur. Due to the increased number of transports, the Boone County Fiscal Court has graciously approved two new transport vans for 2024 to replace the current aging fleet.

The courts have seen a significant increase in docketed cases in district court, going from an average of 120 cases per day in 2022 to 190 per day in 2023. In circuit court, the criminal dockets have increased from 90 cases a day to nearly 130 in 2023. Additionally, the family court dockets have seen an increase in cases of nearly 20%. These docket increases have resulted in such crowded courtrooms that people are being directed to wait outside in the morning until space opens up to seat them.



Jury trials continue to require a substantial number of resources from the division. The number of cases doubled in 2023 as the recovery from the Covid backlog continues. Along with security, Court Services deputies are also responsible for providing meal services for deliberating juries. In 2023, deputies fed circuit jurors 23 times, district jurors 8 times, and grand jurors 12 times.

There have been a lot of upgrades happening with the building this year. A new firearms safe was added in the supervisor's office, equipped with three rifles and two shotguns. Deputies had to utilize these once this year when responding to a report of a subject in the parking lot with a weapon. Deputies put the building on lockdown and secured the entrances, while patrol deputies dealt with the outside threat. A roofing company put an all-new roof on the facility due to numerous leaks throughout the building. Further, bids are in place to replace the heating and air units, and all new carpet throughout the building. Finally, contractors will also be painting the entire inside of the building.



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 who 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 31,810 calls to the main office phone lines. This does not include calls made directly to an individual deputy's desk. The Kentucky Legislature continues to make changes to the expungement of criminal records available to people convicted of traffic, misdemeanor, and some felony offenses. When the Administrative Division receives the courts' orders to expunge (seal), the records, which can include reports, citations, photographs, and videos, must be sealed within 60 days of the order. In 2023, administrative staff received 817 orders of expungement, a 10% increase from 2022. The administrative staff is also responsible for records destruction in compliance with the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives Records Retention Schedules. A total of 36 cubic feet of paper records were destroyed. Additionally, three full-time deputies are assigned to serve the large volume of civil and criminal paperwork that comes into the office.

The Administrative Division is also responsible for the Fiscal operations of the Boone County Sheriff's Office under the supervision of the Chief Financial Officer, Rebecca T. Beach, CPA, CGMA. The Sheriff is directed by KRS 134.119 to be the collector of property taxes for 17 taxing districts. Tax bills are collected year-round with the majority of the real estate property taxes being collected in the month of October. For 2023 the Sheriff was charged to collect \$221,940,768.17, which includes \$4,393,050.00 of 911 Fees collected on behalf of Boone County.

We continue to implement innovative solutions to modernize our tax collection process, improve accessibility as well as add convenience for taxpayers. Our electronic payment solution through our website continues to be a popular choice for taxpayers as we see an increase in usage each year. In 2023 we enhanced our tax collection efficiency with our staff by successfully transitioning to a new cloud-based software solution called GUTS Properly.

In addition to collecting taxes, the Administrative Division is also responsible for completing and processing over 15,000 vehicle inspections, an average of over 1,300 per month. Another service that is offered by the Administration Division is the processing of CCDW applications (concealed carry deadly weapon) averaging almost 200 per month with 50% of those being completed online.

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 10,078 items of evidence into the property room, which was a 27% increase from the previous year. Items of evidence included:

- o 84 cases accounting for \$113,166.00 in cash,
- o 18 sexual assault kits,
- o 133 firearms,
- o 1034 drug items, and
- o 357 towed vehicles.

In 2023, the property room deputies completed an inventory of the property room along with repackaging all items in compliance with current industry standards. The audit shows there are 13,418 items currently held in the evidence room. 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 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. In January of 2023, Major Szurlinski was honored by the Northern Kentucky Police Chiefs Association with the Charles T. Donaldson Award for Leadership. Additionally, in July of 2023, he was appointed by the Governor of Kentucky to serve on the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council (KLEC). This council is responsible for the certification of law enforcement officers and training throughout the state.

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 2023, the Sheriff's Office received and responded to 313 formal open records requests and/or subpoenas, an increase of 10% from 2022. These requests entailed 7,747 total files containing 964 GB of data. These requests do not include requests for copies of crash and/or criminal offense reports. 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. 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. The PIO issued 24 individual press releases (not including updated releases), 181 social media posts, and read/responded to 3,334 inquiries to the agency's general email account. Social media and internet communications remain an important communication tool for the agency. The PIO conducted two press conferences in 2023 and coordinated with the producers of the television show Bloodline Detectives in their production involving a cold case investigation.

Additionally, the PIO is responsible for the paperwork required for the hiring and certification of new employees. Major Ridgell processed 22 new applicants and submitted their files for approval through the KLEC. He also submitted all of the files related to changes in duty status, promotions, resignations, and retirements.

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.

SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTIS (SWAT)

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.

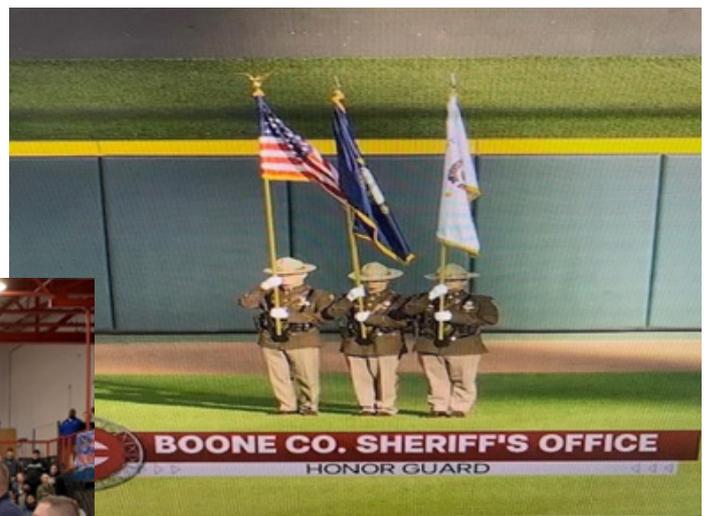
The SWAT Team was deployed three times during 2023. The team was deployed for site/motorcade protection due to a visit from the President of the United States. The other two deployments were to assist other agencies in the service of high-risk warrants. Both incidents were handled without incident. The team was placed on standby twice due to escalating situations developing beyond the potential capability of patrol officers. These situations were resolved before the team's activation. In total, SWAT was notified or consulted on 8 incidents throughout the year. Six of those incidents were deemed as not requiring SWAT activation. The SWAT team continues to work diligently to be prepared for any situation and in 2023 conducted training in schools, churches, offices and residences.



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 23 details in 2023.

Honor Guard Deputies performed funeral and graveside services upon the passing of Walton Firefighter Alan Jones. Other memorial services included Hebron Fire Department's and the City of Florence's Memorial Events, along with Veteran's Day Services for the City of Florence, Connor High School, and Burlington and Kelly Elementary Schools. The team also Presented the Colors and a 21 Gun Salute at the Northern Kentucky Police Memorial Service and the City of Union's Celebration of America. Deputies were privileged to Present the Colors at Judge Kendra McArdle's Swearing In, at the Connor and Cooper High School Graduations, and at the Sheriff's Office Auxiliary's inaugural 5k Race. The events also included a special Presentation of Colors at several sporting events including the Cincinnati Bengals, Reds, Cyclones Games and the Ryle High School Archery Tournament.



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 places the highest value on human life and dignity and is committed to the fair and respectful treatment of all individuals. He holds his deputies to these same standards.

The Boone County Sheriff's Office provides information on the agency's website at www.boonecountkysheriff.com. Additional information can also be located on our Facebook, X, Instagram, and neighborhood network sites. Requests for non-emergency information can be directed to the office at (859) 334-2175 during regular business hours.



