

BOONE COUNTY SHERIFF ANNUAL REPORT



2024

BOONE COUNTY SHERIFF

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Once again, calendar year 2024 presented a variety of challenges to the Boone County Sheriff's Office, while also offering a unique cause to celebrate. The Sheriff's Office, along with all of Boone County, celebrated its 225th Anniversary. From the appointment of our first Sheriff, William Cave in 1799 to me as the current Sheriff, 72 Sheriffs have proudly served Boone County. With the help and support of the Boone County Sheriff's Auxiliary, several events were held to celebrate. Each deputy received a commemorative anniversary badge to be worn during the year. Special challenge coins were struck to observe the anniversary. Working with the Boone County Distillery, we developed a special Sheriff's edition of bourbon where over 1000 bottles were purchased. In June, we were invited by the Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society to display historical artifacts during the month. Some of the special items displayed were provided by the families of former Sheriffs Elmer Wright and Glenrose Williams. A brief summary of the Boone County Sheriff's history is included with this report. The Sheriff's Office was also awarded Accreditation for the sixth time through the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police.

Despite the many challenges encountered by the Sheriff's Office in 2024, 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 127,877 events in 2024, nearly the same as in 2023. These events include only those incidents entered into 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 10,656 events per month.

The most common requests for Sheriff's service included traffic related incidents, which accounted for 27% of the total activity, and traditional Sheriff's Office responsibilities, such as service of warrants and subpoenas, which accounted for 9.5% 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 400 cases, a 9% increase from the previous year. Of those cases, 68 were closed by filing criminal charges. Twenty-six 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 59 cases that are still open and being investigated. Significant time and effort were expended on 20 cases involving child pornography, which resulted in search warrants of four residences. Theft cases continue to account for a large amount of investigative activity. Detectives investigated 20 cases involving stolen vehicles or thefts from vehicles. Those cases were linked together resulting in charges being filed against multiple juveniles from counties across Northern Kentucky. A separate case involved a juvenile vehicle theft ring was closed this year. The nearly 14-year-old driver of a stolen vehicle, fleeing from law enforcement, struck a Boone County Deputy with the vehicle. The deputy received serious injuries.

Another area that is becoming more prevalent is financial fraud/theft crimes. The types of fraud include scams, financial management theft, identity theft, and crypto type currency thefts and frequently involve elder victims. Although several cases remain open and under investigation, the Division was able to recover over \$100,000 in restitution for the victims. Additionally, an electronic detection dog, Mozart, or "Mo" was acquired through the Underground Railroad Project and trained through Jordan Detection K-9. The yellow lab has been instrumental in locating evidence here in Boone County and around the tri-state. This year also marked the beginning of a collaborative effort between the Fiscal Court and

the Sheriff's Office with the hiring of three Police Social Workers (PSW). The PSWs have followed up on 411 cases in the second half of 2024.

The School Resource Officer Division continues to be a remarkable example of the partnership between the Sheriff's Office and the Boone County and Walton Verona School Districts, and our private schools. All 29 public and independent schools in the county have an SRO assigned. The SRO division has grown yet again in 2024 by forming a new partnership with Mary Queen of Heaven Catholic School, St. Paul's Catholic School and Saint Henry District High School. Six of our School Resource Officers were nominated by their school for Kentucky's School Resource Officer of the Year Award.

The Court Services Division provided a total of 12,555 hours of building security along with 15,205 hours of individual courtroom security. The case dockets continue to increase, filling the courtrooms to maximum capacity. In 2024, deputies transported 5,155 prisoners from the Boone County Jail to the Justice Center. Prisoners were transported to other Kentucky counties 818 times and 160 times out of state.

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. Staff handled nearly 21,000 telephone phone calls to the Sheriff's Office main phone lines in 2024.

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.

However, in 2022, I related that I had been diagnosed with the onset of Parkinson disease. I have never stopped fighting and working tirelessly to find solutions, but I now realize that my decline is irreversible, debilitating and is preventing me from effectively performing my duties as Sheriff. I have too much respect for my staff, the citizens of Boone County and the Office of Sheriff to allow my decline to hinder the continued success of the office. With this in mind, I have opted to retire on

April 15th of 2025. It has truly been the honor and privilege of my life to serve nearly 43 years with the Sheriff's Office, with 25 of those as your Sheriff.

I have always believed in showing compassion, putting people first and serving the citizens of Boone County. I am also a firm believer in the power of a team. I am proud of my team, and the work they do every day serving our community. I have seen firsthand the amount of support they receive daily. My office has earned the reputation of being one of the most well-respected law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and this has always brought me an immense amount of pride. I could not have accomplished this without the strong support of the Sheriff's Office team and the elected officials in Boone County.

As the Sheriff's Office continues into 2025 and beyond, the people of Boone County can be assured that the leadership and staff of the agency will continue to provide and improve upon the exceptional service that they have come to expect and deserve. As I enter retirement, I will rely on the strong support of my family, as I have throughout my entire career, and will keep the people of Boone County in my prayers and well wishes.

Michael A. Helmig
Boone County Sheriff



ABOUT US

The Boone County Sheriff's Office is comprised of five divisions that are responsible for the operational and administrative duties of the office. The 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, courthouse security, election security, prisoner transport and civil/criminal paper service.

Response to resistance and motor vehicle pursuits continue to be predominant concerns 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 to gain that individual's compliance. In 2024, the office investigated thirteen incidents of response to resistance and 61 shows of force by deputies, an increase in both categories from 2023. 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 .01%. The percentage of times that a deputy(s) showed force, but did not deploy force, in proportion to those reported CAD incidents is .04%.

The Patrol Division engaged in four vehicle pursuits in 2024. By comparison, there were seven pursuits in 2023, one in 2022 and four in 2021. The Sheriff's Office has a restrictive vehicle pursuit policy that complies with current Kentucky law. The pursuits in 2024 included:

- Deputies encountered an intoxicated person who was also experiencing a mental health crisis, seated in his vehicle. The driver attempted to flee in the vehicle while a deputy was standing between the vehicle and an open car door. The driver fled about one mile, then stopped, intentionally backed into the pursuing cruiser, then fled again. He eventually stopped on I-275 and was taken into custody.
- Deputies received a report of a vehicle "all over the road" on Mt. Zion Road. The deputy saw the vehicle drive through an intersection from a right turn only lane and then onto the sidewalk. The driver continued onto Hathaway Road where he eventually stopped at his residence and was taken into custody.
- A traffic deputy observed a vehicle cross all lanes of travel on southbound I-75, nearly striking the deputy's cruiser. The vehicle drove onto the right shoulder and passed other traffic at a high rate of speed, continuing onto south I-71 at speeds of up to 130 miles per hour. The pursuit was terminated near the Glencoe exit.
- Deputies, Cincinnati Police and Homeland Security agents were conducting surveillance of a subject at an apartment on Taylor Drive. The suspect was wanted for two counts of aggravated arson out of Ohio. While the officers were awaiting the issuance of a search warrant, the suspect left the apartment and drove off. Deputies attempted to stop him, but he fled. The suspect got on north bound I-75, reaching speeds of 110 miles per hour. The pursuit was terminated as it crossed into Ohio. Deputies later filed charges and obtained an arrest warrant.

There were 16 occasions where a violator either fled from deputies or were pursued into Boone County, yet no pursuit was initiated in accordance with agency policy. Five of those incidents involved stolen vehicles and four involved fleeing motorcycles. Three incidents involved pursuits by other law enforcement agencies, including one fleeing an injury crash in Kenton County. That driver crashed again in Boone County and was taken into custody by deputies. One incident involved a stolen side-by-side utility vehicle north on I-75 from Grant County. The vehicle exited at Walton and went down Stephenson Mill Road. Utilizing a drone, deputies located the vehicle unoccupied.

“AT A MEETING OF SUNDRY INHABITANTS OF THE COUNTY OF BOONE AT THE HOUSE OF WILLIAM CAVE ESQR. IN THE SAID COUNTY ON MONDAY THE SEVENTEENTH DAY OF JUNE ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE, A COMMISSION OF PEACE WAS PRODUCED FROM UNDER THE HAND OF JAMES GARRARD ESQR. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY THEREBY APPOINTING JOHN CAVE JR. ESQR. TO BE SHERIFF, AND AFTER TAKING THE SEVERAL OATHS REQUIRED BY LAW AND ENTERED AN ACKNOWLEDGED BOND WITH WILLIAM CAVE AND ABSALOM GRAVES HIS SECURITIES IN THE PENALTY OF THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS CONDITIONED FOR THE FAITHFUL EXECUTION OF HIS SAID OFFICE”.

In 2024, we celebrated the 225th anniversary of the Boone County Sheriff's Office. We recognized our first sheriff, John Cave, in 1799, along with sheriffs who served over the next two (2) centuries including John Hall, Archibald Huston, Cave Johnson and John T. Williams. Tragically, Sheriff John T. Williams passed away in office in 1944. He was succeeded by his daughter, Glenrose Williams who became the first, and to date, only female to ever serve as Boone County Sheriff (1944-1946). Moving into more modern times, there was Sheriff Melvin Collins, Russell Luck, Elmer Wright and Ron Kenner, who each left their own legacy. Sadly, Sheriff Kenner also passed away while in office in 1997. This led to the appointment of our current sheriff, Michael A. Helmig in 1997. Sheriff Helmig has taken this office to heights unforeseen from an office of 11 employees in the 1970s to over 200 employees today.

Some of the ways we were able to celebrate this year started in the early part of 2024. Each deputy was issued a commemorative badge, paid for by the Boone County Auxiliary to wear throughout 2024 and to keep as a memento at the end of the year.



We also purchased challenge coins, and in partnership with the Boone County Distillery, we developed a Special Edition Founders Reserve bourbon collector's item.



In June, we were invited by the Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society to display various historical artifacts from our office.



Museum Display

The Boone County Sheriff's Office - 1983



Row 1 L to R Eva Lois Wright, Sue Donahue, Charlotte Evans
Row 2 L to R Jesse Baker, Bill Rowland, Jack Ravenscraft, Ron Kenner, Sheriff Elmer Wright, Tom Sharp, Michael Helmig, Phil Morris

PATROL DIVISION



The Patrol Division provides the most visible, front-facing aspect of the Boone County Sheriff's Office. These deputies provide a vast array of law enforcement services, along with many of the other services that Sheriffs are required to provide. Under the direction of Major Bill Mark, the division includes 11 lieutenants, 9 sergeants and 68 patrol deputies. The division is responsible for first line law enforcement response throughout the majority of the 246 square land miles in the county. The estimated county population in 2024 was 142,572 living in 51,680 households. It is also estimated that 28,655 of those residents are between the ages of five and 18 years old. The daytime population swells to 163,398 and encompasses 5,106 businesses.

To provide this 24-hour service, the division operates a fleet of 110 vehicles, including 11 unmarked patrol vehicles assigned to the Traffic Unit. There are 93 marked patrol vehicles, consisting of 63 Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicles, 12 Dodge Durango, 17 Chevrolet Tahoe, and 1 re-purposed Ford F350 pickup truck. There are 6 unmarked vehicles assigned to the Crime Suppression Unit. In addition to these vehicles which are in active service, the Sheriff's Office took delivery of 19 new 2024 Chevrolet Tahoe utility vehicles which are still being placed into service. Marked patrol vehicles which are taken out of service are routinely reassigned to the Court Services or School Resource Officer Divisions for the remainder of the service life of the vehicle. Patrol deputies drove approximately 1,620,609 (1.6 M) miles in 2024, comprising 70% of the 2,302,863 (2.3M) miles driven in 2024 by all Sheriff personnel. As of 12/31/24 the median mileage of patrol vehicles was 47,098.

A major aspect of the Patrol Division's responsibilities includes traffic collision investigations. Unfortunately, sometimes the deputies themselves are involved in those crashes. Patrol deputies were involved in 33 collisions in 2024, compared with 26 collisions in 2023 and 17 collisions in 2022. The operating deputy was determined to be at fault in 9 out of the 33 collisions (27%). Five collisions resulted in injuries to seven civilians and two deputies. The operating deputy was determined to be at fault in three of the collisions which resulted in injury to a civilian or a deputy. Of the 9 collisions where the deputy was at fault, inattention (6) was the most common contributing factor. In 2 of the collisions, the deputy was attempting to avoid another vehicle. In the other case, the deputy lost control of his vehicle while responding to an emergency. Of the 24 collisions where the deputy was determined to not be at fault, the most common occurrence (8) was where the cruiser was struck while stopped or parked. Four involved the cruiser being struck by wildlife (2 deer, a coyote and a rabbit). Four collisions were a result of the cruiser striking road debris. Surprisingly, adverse weather conditions (pooling water) only contributed to one collision. One collision occurred during a pursuit, where the violator intentionally struck the cruiser.

Our partners at the Public Safety Communications Center (P.S.C.C.) answer and record most of the incidents that patrol deputies are involved with. Those incidents are categorized based on the potential severity of the incident, with priority one being the most critical and priority nine being the least. Most of the activity for the Patrol Division is focused in the priority three, four and nine groups. Of the 127,877 incidents logged in 2024, Tuesdays accounted for the highest daily average number of incidents, while Sundays accounted for the least number. The hours between 8:00 am. and 10:00 am. accounted for the highest hourly number of incidents throughout the week.

PATROL DIVISION

As in previous years, traffic related incidents accounted for a significant portion of patrol incidents. Twenty-seven percent of the total number of incidents involved traffic, an increase of 9% from 2023. Some of the increases may be attributable to the traffic unit being fully staffed for the entire year. The events included:

• Traffic Stops	16,319
• Vehicle Crashes Reported	3,693
• Traffic/Vehicle Complaints	7,311
• Motorist Assists	2,586
• Lockouts	1,288
• Parking Complaints	1,213
• DUI Report	515

Some of the events listed may result in no report or citation being generated, or possibly one or more being completed. The Sheriff's Office completed:

- 3,009 collision reports, including 475 with injuries and five with fatalities (six killed)
- 21,974 citations with 3,590 for speeding, 1,577 for no seat belt, and 348 for DUI arrests

Traditional Sheriff's Office duties accounted for 9.5% of patrol activity, including:

• EPO/DVO Service	644
• Evictions	1,310
• Subpoenas	532
• Summonses	8,207
• Warrant Arrests	127
• Warrants Of Possession	167
• Warrant Searches	24
• Wanted Persons	1268

Although Patrol Deputies perform a wide variety of services, the following numbers of events were of note:

• 911	586
• Alarms	3,302
• Animal Related	699
• Assaults	248
• Burglary in Progress	134
• Burglary Report	75
• Check Welfare	1,727
• Criminal Mischief	322
• Disturbance/Dispute	935
• Domestic Dispute	1,282
• Fight/Argument	204
• Follow Up Investigation	2,223
• Juvenile Complaint	502
• Missing Persons	272
• Shots Fired/Heard	131
• Suspicious Person/Activity	2,577
• Subject with a Weapon	95
• Threatening in Progress/ Report	388



PATROL DIVISION

Patrol Deputies often respond with our partners in public safety. Deputies assisted Boone County Fire Departments on 2,108 fire calls, including 847 fire alarms, 140 fires, and 95 vehicle fires. Deputies assisted with 9,661 EMS related calls, including 2,183 for falls, 786 for chest pains, 118 for cardiac/respiratory arrest and 200 for an overdose. Of the overdose responses, deputies administered naloxone on eight occasions. In six of those instances, the usage of the drug was effective for the individual.

Much of the Patrol Division activity is generated by requests for service. However, as part of the Sheriff's Office crime prevention efforts, patrol deputies conducted 37,652 directed spot checks of businesses and other locations, 2,560 vacation check requests and 310 public contacts.

Although the primary responsibility of the Patrol Division is the initial response to calls for service, including crime prevention, investigation and traffic crashes, 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 or part-time basis as needed.



TRAFFIC UNIT

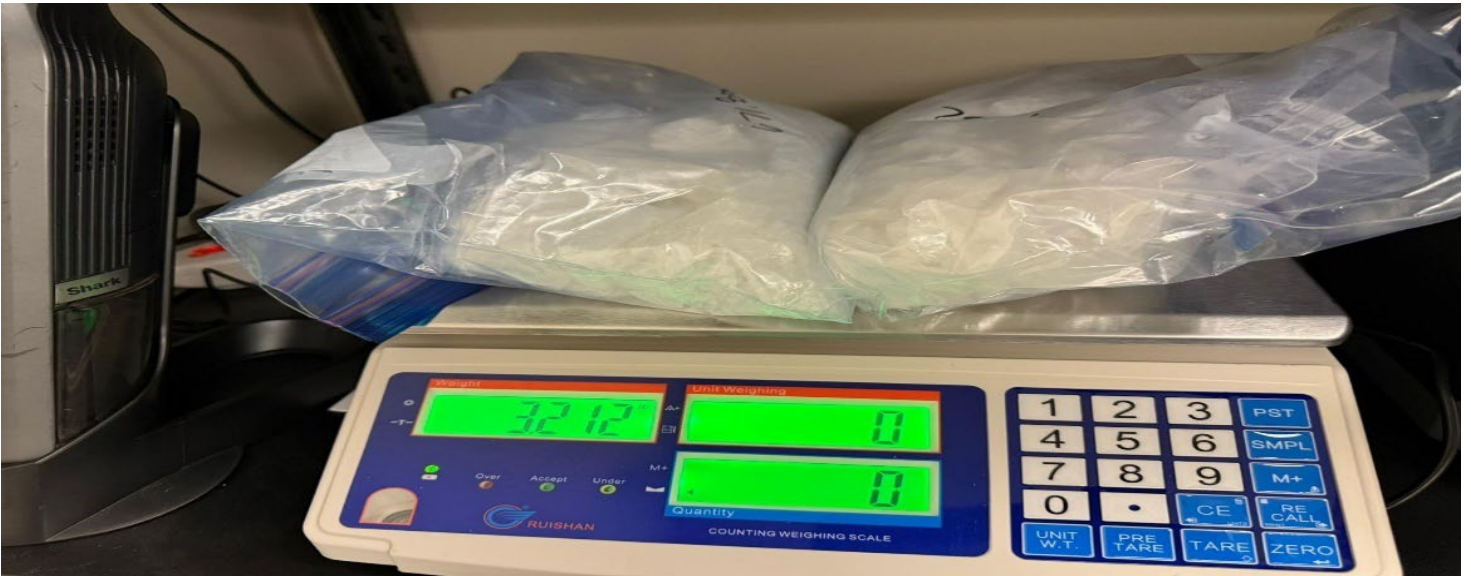


The Traffic Unit, under the command of Lt. Jason Noel, operated with a sergeant and six full-time deputies for the calendar year 2024. The unit operates seven days a week from 07:00AM to 7:00PM. These deputies are responsible for all calls on I-75, I-71, and I-275. In Boone County, 80% of the commuters drive alone to work every day. Furthermore, 14.4% of those commuters spend seven or more hours commuting to and from work every week. Additionally, the Traffic Unit is responsible for residential parking complaints, commercial vehicle accidents in the county, vehicle complaints and general traffic enforcement on all county and state roadways. All eight Traffic Unit members are commercial vehicle inspectors, and five of the seven members are Accident Reconstructionist. The Traffic Unit also has a single purpose narcotic detection K-9 (Leroy).

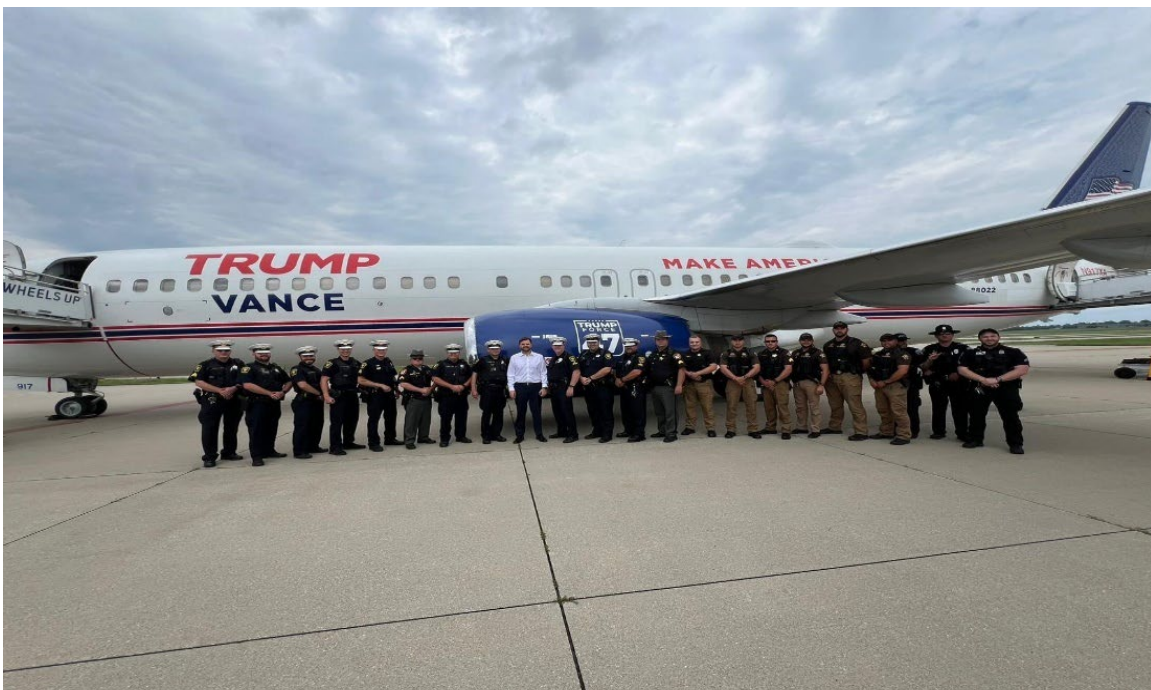


In 2024, the Traffic Unit saw an increase in traffic stop activity of 29%, from 5,623 contacts in 2023 to 7,254 contacts in 2024. Citations increased by 16% in 2024, from 8,304 to 9,603. Commercial vehicle inspections increased by 8% in 2024 to 863 inspections completed from 797 inspections in 2023. Commercial Vehicle violations documented also increased 17% from 2,283 violations in 2023 to 2,663 in 2024. Commercial vehicle collisions did however decrease from 500 in 2022 to 485 in 2023. The Traffic Unit responded to 5,525 calls for service in 2024, an 18% increase from 4,675 in 2023. Reports taken (KYOPS/NIBRS/E-Call) decreased 28% from 534 in 2023 to 383 in 2024. In calendar year 2024, the Traffic Unit seized 18.3 pounds of Marijuana, 3.37 pounds of Methamphetamine, 3.50 ounces of Cocaine, and \$20,543.00 in currency.

TRAFFIC UNIT

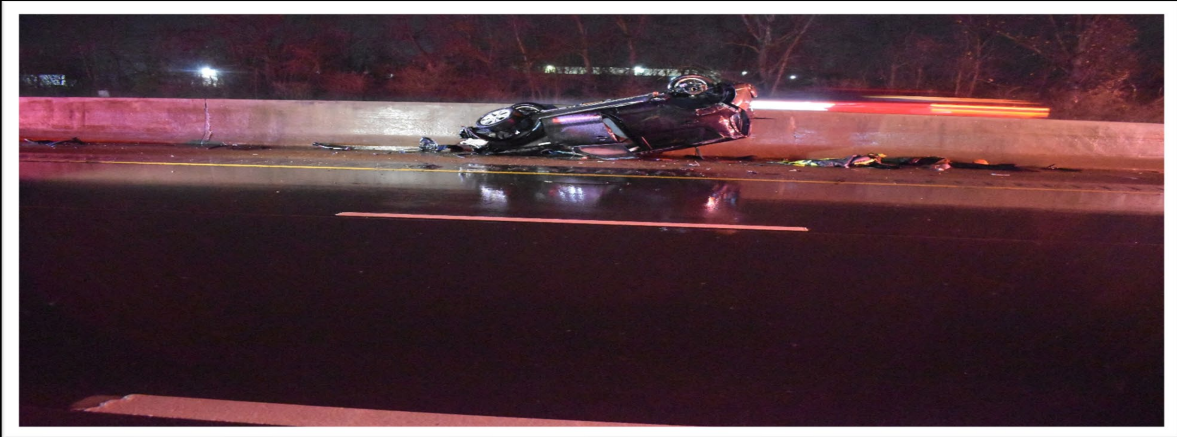


The Traffic Unit is responsible for the management of two grants, including the Highway Safety grant funded through the Office of Highway Safety, and the MCSAP (commercial vehicle enforcement) grant funded through the Kentucky State Police and FMCSA (Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration). As previously stated, the Traffic Unit has eight certified commercial vehicle inspectors with an agency total of fourteen certified inspectors including four deputies from the Patrol Division. The Traffic Unit has five Accident Reconstruction deputies with an agency total of ten certified reconstructionists to include five from the Patrol Division. The Traffic Unit also coordinates all dignitary protection details for the agency.

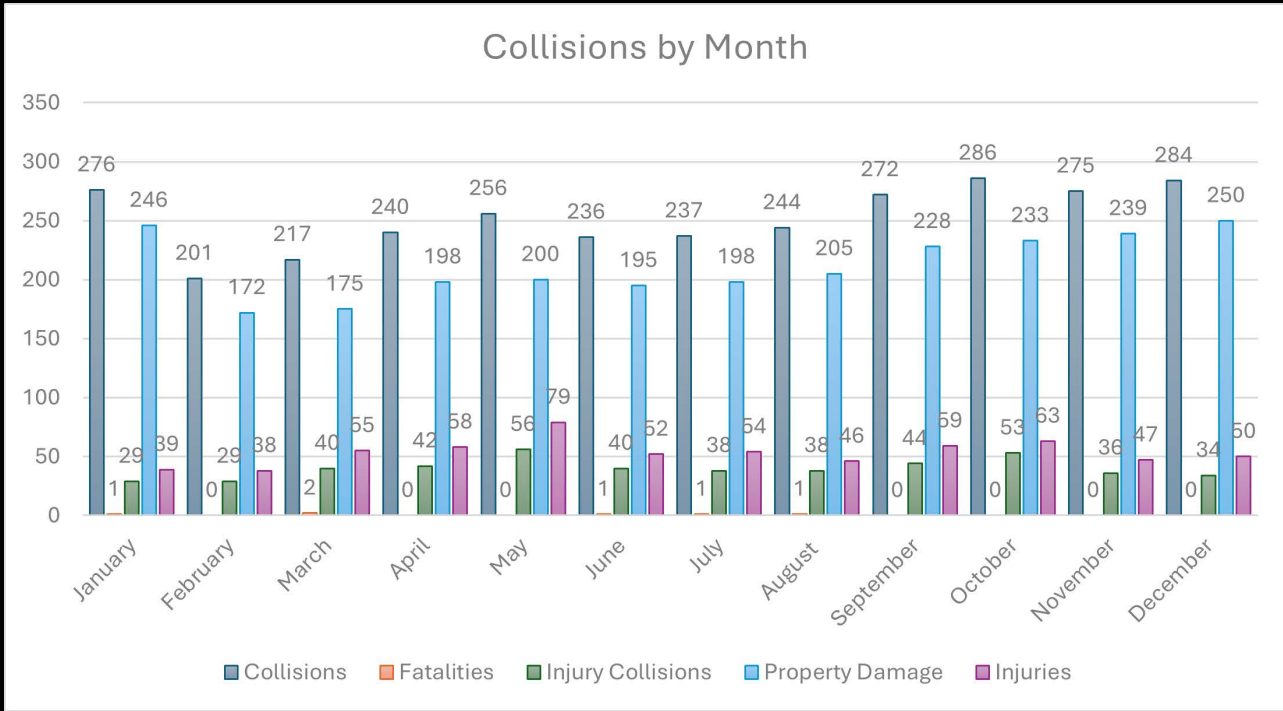


ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION UNIT (ARU)

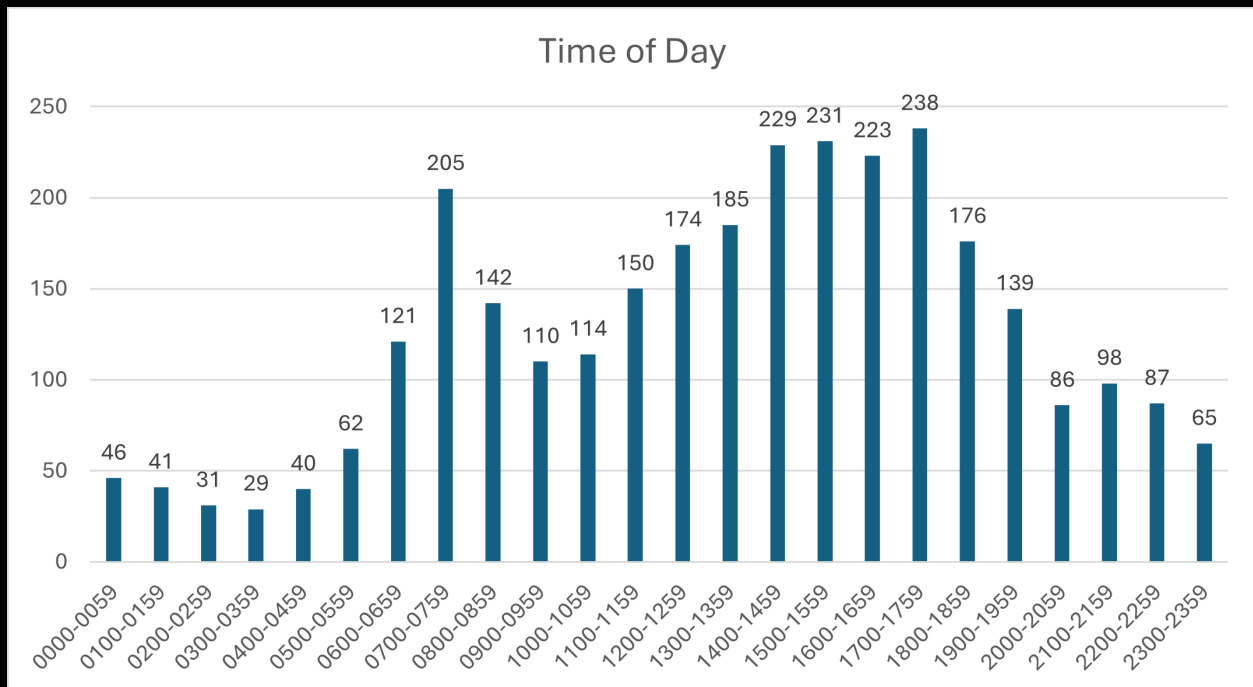
The Accident Reconstruction Unit (ARU) is responsible for the investigation, evidence collection, and prosecution, if warranted, of fatal and near fatal traffic crashes in Boone County. Under the leadership of Lt. Chris Hall, the specially trained team of eight deputies were called out to collisions 14 times in 2024, a 26% decrease from the previous year. Those call outs involved six fatalities (a 33% decrease) and 11 injuries (a 31% decrease) from 2023. Of the 14 call outs, nine cases were assigned to the unit for reconstruction. Four cases involved assisting the investigating deputy and CDR (Crash Data Recorder) downloads. One call out was to assist another agency.



The causative factors involved in the crashes (note there may be more than one for an individual crash) continue to vary. A pedestrian being at fault was determined in four of the crashes. DUI, a medical issue, driver inattention and weather conditions accounted for two factors each. Two investigations resulted in charges. One case resulted in Wanton Endangerment 1st Degree (felony) and Reckless Driving Charges. The other case resulted in a No Operator's License charge. Additionally, two cases that were pending from 2023 resulted in criminal charges in 2024. The first case involved charges of Vehicular Homicide (felony), DUI, and Wanton Endangerment 1st Degree. In the second case, the offender pled guilty to Failure to Render Aid (felony) and Persistent Felony Offender 1st Degree.



Traffic crash reconstruction is a highly technical field that requires continuous, updated training. Advances in technology and procedures require frequent revisions. Motorcycle and pedestrian collision analysis are two specific areas requiring updates. Furthermore, the retrieval of vehicle data from the CDR or "black box" is becoming more critical to investigations and more frequently requested by adjusters.



CRIME SUPPRESSION UNIT (CSU)



The Crime Suppression Unit (CSU), under the direction of Lt. Mitch Kotzbauer, is a specialized task force that focuses on preventing and responding to high-priority criminal activities, often in areas with significant crime rates. The unit's objectives are to reduce criminal behavior through proactive operations, targeted interventions, and in-depth investigations. The unit's key functions include:

- **Targeting Hotspots:** Focusing on areas with a high incidence of crime, such as neighborhoods experiencing gang activity, drug trafficking, or violent offenses.
- **Intelligence Gathering:** Using surveillance, informants, and data analysis to identify criminal networks or trends.
- **Undercover Operations:** Engaging in covert activities to infiltrate criminal groups or observe criminal behavior without being detected.
- **Arrests and Interventions:** Conducting operations to arrest suspects involved in serious crimes like drug distribution, organized crime, firearms offenses, or violent acts.
- **Collaboration:** Working closely with other law enforcement agencies, local government, and community organizations to address root causes of crime.

During 2024 the CSU served more than 70 search warrants while making over 170 felony arrests. During these investigations the following items were seized:

* \$172,000 in US Currency * 20 Pounds of Cocaine * 137 Pounds of Marijuana * 1.5 Pounds of Fentanyl * 49 Guns
* Several Pounds of Various Narcotics

The CSU also works in conjunction with Homeland Security Investigations in an effort to intercept nefarious freight as it makes its way through distribution centers located in Boone County. Through this partnership the following narcotics were removed from global drug trade:

- 1096 Pounds of Cocaine
- 2071 Pounds of Methamphetamine
- 27 Pounds of Fentanyl
- 57 Pounds of Heroin
- 3075 Pounds of THC Products
- 1616 Pounds of Psychedelics



CANINE UNIT

The Canine (K9) Unit, under the leadership of Lt. Matt Sauerbeck, consists of five teams, with an additional dog currently being obtained. The K9 Teams maintain an annual certification through the North American Police Working Dog Association or "NAPWDA," some with "dual purpose" titles. A dual purpose K9's capabilities include narcotics detection, article location, tracking, apprehensions as well as building and area searches. Through dedication and training, the K9 Teams have built a successful reputation. The K9 Unit now has two "single purpose" drug detecting dogs, one "dual purpose" patrol dog, one "single purpose" tracking dog, and one "single purpose" electronic detection dog. The canine being obtained will be a "dual purpose" dog.



K9 Erik

Total items seized:

Methamphetamine	52 grams
Marijuana	3.4 kilograms
Heroin	19 grams
CASH	\$3,500.00

Individuals arrested:

No bite apprehensions	42
Bite apprehensions	0



K9 Leroy

The K-9 Unit added a new K9 this year, named Mo, short for Mozart. Mo is assigned to the Electronic Crimes Unit. Mo is a yellow lab that has been trained to find hidden electronic items when the unit conducts a search warrant to locate electronic devices related to criminal activity. In 2024, the K9 teams logged 318 hours of training, which includes the certification through the NAPWDA association. The teams were deployed 176 times.



K9 Maverick



K9 Jonas is assigned to CSU

TRAINING UNIT

The Training Unit, under the direction of Lt. Jarrod Strucke, is responsible for in-house training of the entire agency. The unit conducted three blocks of training during 2024, consisting of 73 ten-hour classes and 12 eight-hour classes. The areas trained included defensive tactics, weapons qualification, courtroom testimony, de-escalation training, scenario-based training, driving, Active Shooter / Hostile Event Response (ASHER), drug investigations, and Below100 Training. A total of 1,589 firearms qualifications were conducted and 132 taser qualifications.

This year the Training Unit partnered with the Boone County Commonwealth Attorney's Office to provide deputies with greater knowledge on courtroom testimony. Commonwealth Attorney Louis Kelly and his staff provided deputies with a presentation, examples, and real-time feedback regarding testifying in court. Below100 is a program targeting everyday activities deputies encounter and focuses on lowering the total number of police officer deaths across the country. The training focuses on slowing their vehicle speeds down, wearing their ballistic and traffic vests, wearing their seat belt, a reminder that complacency kills, and the W.I.N principle (asking oneself "What's Important Now?").



Boone County Commonwealth's Attorney Louis Kelly

The training unit covers multiple disciplines and avenues to include assisting the Criminal Forensics Unit with NIBIN evidence collection, reviewing Show of Force and Response to Resistance reports, conducting LEOSA qualifications, equipment and weapon inventory, assisting with new hire orientation and qualifications, and conducting range and classroom training for the Northern Kentucky Police and Sheriff Training Center. The training unit assisted other agencies with providing their personnel, both law enforcement and fire departments, with the ASHER system. The training unit also works with Command Staff to assist in providing recommendations on updated and new technology for members of the department. Through this process patrol deputies received new patrol rifles that came equipped with modern optics to allow for better accuracy and reliability. The unit implemented low-power variable optics (LPVO) which required deputies to receive additional training and higher proficiencies. These rifles were purchased from Anderson Manufacturing in Hebron, a Boone County based company. These modern rifles replaced the former patrol rifles received from the Department of Defense LESO program that were several decades old.

The department also received a generous donation of a CPR mannequin from the Greater Cincinnati Automobile Dealers Association, which aided in providing deputies with real-time feedback on CPR compressions and improved CPR and AED training within the department. Members of the training unit also assisted numerous businesses, churches, and pre-K schools with site security assessments. This included emergency operation plans for their locations, additional security measures to be put in place, and training on how their personnel can respond during an active shooter or hostile event.

Deputies are also required by Kentucky Law to complete a minimum of 40 hours of Kentucky Law Enforcement Council (KLEC) approved training annually. Much of this training is conducted by the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT) and the Northern Kentucky Police and Sheriffs Training Center (NKPSTC). Deputies completed 12,029 hours of training, covering areas such as leadership, de-escalation, legal, investigative and patrol tactics. This is an increase of nearly 800 hours from 2023.



FIELD TRAINING UNIT (FTO)

The recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers is a critical factor affecting agencies nationwide. A key aspect of the agency's ability to recruit and retain deputies lies with the Field Training Unit (FTO). Unless previously certified as a peace officer with the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council, a newly hired deputy must complete the 800-hour basic training course at DOCJT in Richmond. The first 80 hours of that training are now conducted on-line at the home agency prior to arriving at the academy. During this initial phase, along with the time spent at the academy, field training deputies coordinate and monitor the new deputy's activities and progress.

Upon returning from the academy, the deputy is assigned to the FTO Program. This 20-week program begins with an agency led "mini-academy" that provides instruction in specific ways that the Sheriff's Office conducts law enforcement activity. The deputy is then assigned to a Field Training deputy for five weeks of training in the field. The deputy's performance is then evaluated by the FTO supervision before being placed with a separate training deputy for another five-week period. This process is then repeated a third time before the deputy is assigned for "final evaluation." Upon successful completion of the program, the deputy is assigned as a solo responder.

Under the leadership of Lt. Brett Dover, the FTO unit trained four new deputies after their completion of the academy. The FTO unit is also responsible for training lateral hire deputies assigned to patrol. The unit trained five lateral hire patrol deputies. Training the newly hired deputies accounted for 3,650 hours of time.



UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS) UNIT

The Sheriff's Office Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Unit, commonly referred to as the drone unit, was established in February 2020 and has since evolved and proven to be a critical asset to the department, as well as the citizens of Boone County. Under the direction of Sgt. Jeff Nagy, the unit consists of (11) eleven members, which includes three Sergeants and eight deputies, all who are licensed Remote Pilots with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and are from several different divisions within the department.

The initial training and challenging certification exam are followed by a re-certification exam every two years thereafter. Additionally, the pilots must complete department mandated training that specifically includes take-offs, landings, night/ low-light flights and other training as needed. The UAV Unit's five (5) operational drones are designated to be utilized for wide area searches, crash and crime scene investigations and photography, and real-time video of critical incidents.

From January 2024 through December 2024, the drone(s) was deployed for thirty-four (34) missions, including:

- Twenty-seven (27) search missions – that include fleeing subjects from crimes in progress, crisis interventions and missing persons.
- One (1) accident investigation; capturing an aerial video and/or pictures to document the evidence pertaining to the scene.
- Three (3) agencies assist that include locating the armed robbery suspect from Hollywood Casino, domestic for Dearborn Co Sheriff's office and the Boone County Emergency Management.
- Three (3) training missions.

The drone was requested on various other times, but the quick actions of the responding deputies prevented the need for a flight in those instances.

The deputies assigned to the UAS unit are keenly aware of privacy and safety while adhering to applicable legal principles. Drones continue to be an effective tool for Boone County and law enforcement around the nation.



The Sheriff's Office is privileged to work with our elected officials in the Cities of Union (pop. 8,275) and Walton (pop. 5,602) to provide a safe community for our residents.



CITY OF UNION

Deputies handled 6,405 incidents in the City of Union in 2024. This total is slightly less than in 2023 and includes 135 collision reports, of which 14 had reported injuries.

911 Hangup – 20
Alarm – 185
Assault – 12
Animal Complaint – 31
Collisions – 135
Burglary – 2
Business Check – 74
Civil/Criminal Service – 246
Criminal Mischief – 8
Domestic – 46
Drunk/Drugs – 19
Emotional Crisis – 33
Juvenile Trouble – 38
Motorist Assist – 78
Overdose – 7
Request for Information – 55
Spot Checks – 2,459
Suspicious Activity – 132
Theft Report – 118
Traffic Complaint – 126
Traffic Stops – 296
Vacation Check – 104
Vehicle Complaint – 150
Vehicle Lockout – 57
Wanted Person – 14
Citations – 195
Arrests – 51

CITY OF WALTON

In the City of Walton, deputies handled 11,559 incidents in 2024. This number is also slightly less than in 2023, including 226 traffic collisions.

911 Hangup – 72

Alarm – 280

Attempt to Locate – 58

Animal Complaint – 53

Collisions – 226

Burglary – 3

Business Check – 263

Civil/Criminal Service – 509

Criminal Mischief – 13

Domestic – 123

Drunk/Drugs – 55

Emotional Crisis – 54

Juvenile Trouble – 36

Motorist Assist – 87

Overdose – 17

Request for Information – 102

Spot Checks – 5,453

Suspicious Activity – 205

Theft Report – 35

Traffic Complaint – 342

Traffic Stops – 696

Vacation Check – 44

Vehicle Complaint – 231

Vehicle Lockout – 126

Wanted Person – 51

Citations – 682

Arrests – 92

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION (CID)

The Criminal Investigation Division is responsible for a wide variety of investigations, ranging from personal crimes to property crimes, to internal and background investigations. The CID is led by Major Aaron Millson, with the backing of two Detective Sergeants. Those sergeants completed the Academy of Police Supervision at the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training. This is an intense 3-week course focused on leadership skills for first line and mid-level supervisors. The division also includes a Lieutenant, and a Sergeant assigned to Federal Task Forces, a Sergeant in Electronic Crimes, and a Sergeant in a command position with the Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force. 19 other detectives are assigned to general, personal, cold case or drug investigations with support elements of electronic crimes, crime scene, and evidence management.



Sergeant Chris Hull



Sergeant Anthony Theetge

The Division worked on 400 investigations in 2024, including several still being investigated from previous years. Detectives were able to close 68 of those cases, or 17%, by filing criminal charges against the perpetrators. A total of 142 cases, or 35%, were closed as either unfounded, exceptionally cleared, or with prosecution being denied. There were 26 cases, or 6%, of the cases closed as inactive, meaning there was no further potential at the time to identify a suspect(s). Fifteen percent, 59 cases, remain open with active investigation continuing. The remaining cases consist of background investigations, non-criminal investigations, case assistance to other deputies and agencies, and internal affairs investigations. The Division reviewed and analyzed 1200 cases reported from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services for possible criminal violations involving abuse, neglect and/or dependency. The Division is also responsible for analyzing and reviewing reports of suspected crimes against children received from the Internet Crimes Against

Children (ICAC) Center and missing children from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NECMEC). Forty-six reports were reviewed from these agencies. Additionally, the CID reviews reports received from the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) pertaining to potential prohibited firearms sales and any indicators of violence. Only three of the 144 incidents reviewed, or 0.02%, required any additional follow-up.

There are eight detectives assigned to investigate personal and property crimes. Those detectives investigate major, often complicated cases that require additional resources beyond an initial investigation. The Division investigated three shootings in 2024, all resulting in criminal charges being filed. Fortunately, the victims survived or were not struck by any shots. Detectives successfully investigated three armed robberies throughout the year. A robbery involves the commission of a theft that involves the immediate use or threat of the use of force upon another person. One robbery case resulted in charges being filed against two juveniles from Ohio. Detectives worked with our law enforcement partners in Ohio to identify a serial rapist who used force to kidnap, rape and abuse women in Ohio. The arrest and trial in Ohio resulted in the suspect being charged, tried and convicted in a Boone County sexual assault. He received an 18-year sentence in Kentucky with more cases pending in Ohio. There were 73 other cases involving sexual assaults with at least some evidence to substantiate those cases.

A substantial amount of the activity of the Criminal Investigation Division involves juveniles, either as victims or perpetrators. Detectives investigated 20 cases involving child pornography. These cases require significant investments of time due to the analysis and review of large amounts of electronic data and the need to acquire search warrants. Four of the cases involved search warrants of homes resulting in the collection of numerous electronic devices that require the participation of multiple investigators. Some of the perpetrators have been charged while other cases remain active. In several of these cases, the volume of the images/videos or the way they were transmitted lead to federal law violations.

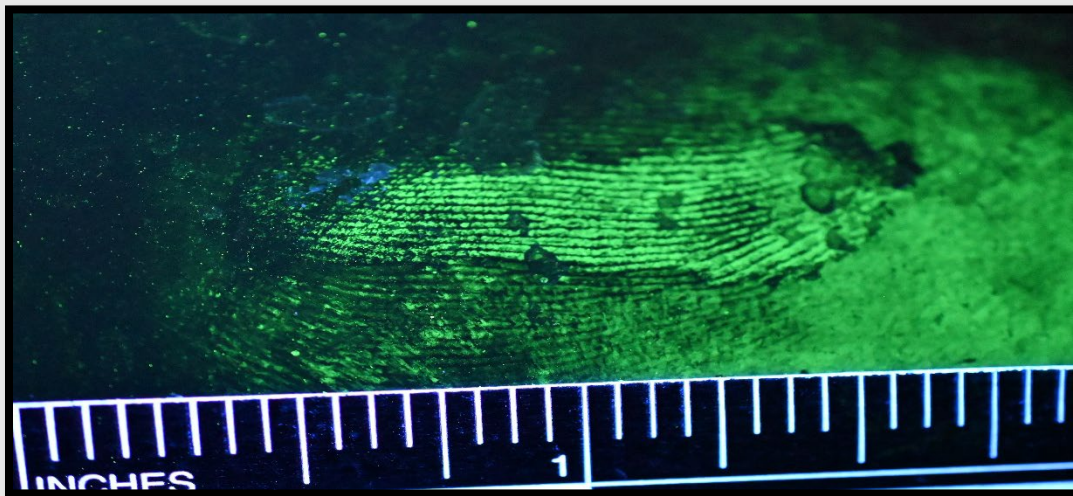
In 2024, detectives investigated 20 cases involving stolen vehicles or thefts from vehicles. Those cases were linked together resulting in charges being filed against multiple juveniles from counties across Northern Kentucky. A separate case involved a juvenile vehicle theft ring was closed this year. The nearly 14-year-old driver of a stolen vehicle, fleeing from law enforcement, struck a Boone County Deputy with the vehicle. The deputy received serious injuries. The investigation resulted in the juvenile being charged as an adult with attempted murder of a police officer and receiving a 13-year prison sentence. Juvenile thefts persist in Boone County and around the tri-state region.

The Division also investigated missing juvenile cases. Two cases in particular involved runaways who were successfully located in Indiana and one in southern Kentucky. A third case involved a juvenile leaving with a slightly older boyfriend. She was located in New York and the boyfriend was criminally charged with Custodial Interference.

CID investigates a wide variety of other incidents. One area that is becoming more prevalent is financial fraud/theft crimes. The types of fraud include scams, financial management theft, identity theft, and crypto type currency thefts and frequently involve elder victims. Although several cases remain open and under investigation, the Division was able to recover over \$100,000 in restitution for the victims.

The CID also includes several units that specialize in various areas that are unique to particular crimes. The Cold Case Unit is comprised of two detectives that take an in-depth look at cases that were previously closed. Some of the 14 cases they are looking at date back to the 1970's. In 2024, the unit closed the homicide case of Ed Nichols from 1974. The detectives were able to identify two suspects, both of whom are now deceased. Prosecution would have occurred otherwise. The two detectives assigned to the unit, Det. Tim Adams and Det. Coy Cox, received the "Excellence in Criminal Investigations Award" from the Northern Kentucky Police Chiefs Association for their diligence in solving the 1977 homicide of Carol Klaber.

The detectives, in cooperation with the Northern Kentucky University Criminal Justice Program, developed a course where select students were permitted to review cold case investigations and offer a new perspective from a more modern-day perspective. Associate Professor Dr. Melissa Moon has since expanded the program to other agencies in the region. The unit also is frequently requested to aid other agencies and provide training for detectives conducting cold case investigations.



The Criminal Forensics Unit (CFU) is the unit identified as CSI in modern police agencies. The three detectives assigned serve in a support function to the CID and the agency as a whole. They are responsible for preserving, collecting, processing and documenting all evidentiary items for crimes committed in Boone County. The science involved in the preservation and testing of evidence is advancing rapidly and requires these detectives to continually learn the most up to date techniques. The unit collected 245 pieces of evidence in 2024 that required 221 of those items to be forensically analyzed.

CFU is often requested to assist other agencies. After a gruesome homicide in Robertson County, the detectives assisted in processing blood evidence, including locating critical pieces of evidence, and building a timeline pattern of the scene. The unit was also requested to review three shooting scene reports prior to trial.



CFU is also responsible for the agency's involvement with the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, or NIBIN. This network correlates bullet shell casings almost like fingerprints, potentially linking the spent cartridges to other crimes. The individual casings recovered from a crime scene, along with those fired from recovered firearms, are entered into the system for analysis. As noted in several recent media reports, this system has been instrumental in solving some serious crimes in both our region and around the country. Another responsibility of the CFU is to train other officers. Several years ago, the Sheriff's Office created an Evidence Response Team (ERT) that includes Patrol Deputies who are specially trained to perform forensic activities. This allows for forensic processing at all times of the day. The unit has also been training with the Florence Police Department's Evidence Collection Unit to standardize and optimize forensic service in the county.



Test Firing of confiscated AR-15 Pistol from criminal case for NIBIN analysis

Another function of the Criminal Investigations Division is the operation of the property and evidence room. This requires evidence to be properly packaged, labelled and stored according to the type of evidence. The evidence must be securely stored for presentation either in court or prior to judicial action upon motion of the court. The two deputies assigned to this task processed 3537 items of evidence into the property room in 2024. Those items included 186 firearms and \$165,675.00 in cash, of which \$93,604.00 was forfeited. Equally critical is the ability to remove property from the system when appropriate. The deputies removed 3879 items. As of the beginning of 2025, there were 12,984 items of evidence stored in the property room.

The Electronic Evidence Collection Unit (ECU) is responsible for the processing, analysis and documentation of all electronic evidence that may be involved in case investigations. The types of evidence include cell phones, computers, tablets, electronic storage devices, cloud-based storage and other forms of computer equipment. This is an ever-changing area of technology. The sergeant and two detectives assigned to this unit forensically analyzed 262 devices processing and investigating 36.75 terabytes (tb) of data. As a means of comparison, a typical DVD movie contains 1.5 GB of data. In essence, the unit processed 24,642 DVDs of data in 2024. One case involved the long-term investigation of child pornography/sexual abuse. This case was extremely complex and focused primarily on electronic evidence. The suspect was found guilty after a jury trial and sentenced to 60 years in prison. In an on-going case, ECU assisted agencies in Gallatin and Kenton Counties involving the sexual assault of females. The volume of electronic evidence processed is the largest in the history of the unit. If the investigation and prosecution are successful, many victims will receive well-deserved closure.

ECU welcomed a new addition to the unit in 2024. An electronic detection dog, Mozart, or "Mo" was acquired through the Underground Railroad Project and trained through Jordan Detection K-9. The yellow lab has been instrumental in locating evidence here in Boone County and around the tri-state.

This year also marked the beginning of a unique collaborative effort between the Boone County Fiscal Court and Boone County Sheriff's Office. As times have changed, deputies have had to take additional training pertaining to de-escalation, mental health challenges, and the continued long-term effects of substance abuse. Over the years the Sheriff's Office had been researching and developing a potential program to incorporate social workers into the fold of law enforcement activities. In early 2024, the Boone County Fiscal Court and the Boone County Sheriff's office began working together to employ and deploy three licensed social workers to residents in need. The police navigators/social workers, hired in early July, serve as "second responders" and help residents affected by substance use disorders, opioid use disorders and/or mental health disorders to receive appropriate support and resources.

The positions, funded by Boone County Fiscal Court from opioid settlement dollars, are housed at the Sheriff's Office and work closely with sheriff's deputies. Although deputies prioritize calls and follow-ups, we recognize that some things do fall through the cracks. The resources and training that our deputies have helped to mitigate many of the calls that don't always require law enforcement action. However, the ability to dispatch and utilize police social workers for in the field response will strengthen that ability to help those that need it the most.



From July through the end of year the police social workers followed up on 411 total cases involving substance abuse, mental health, and domestic violence. In those contacts 113 had services in place already, 187 accepted assistances at some level, and 111 refused help or could not be contacted. Every follow-up that was evaluated was either initiated through law enforcement contact or was received through county services. In each instance of support, the police social workers were able to take professional steps beyond law enforcement expertise linking our community to a wide array of services. The ultimate goal is the reduction of continued law enforcement interactions with people in habitual crisis.

“After meeting with key stakeholders, the County saw the opioid settlement funds as an opportunity to pilot programs, like police social workers, within our systems that were significantly impacted by the opioid crisis. The Boone County Police Social Workers have already impacted our community. Within their first week, the team was able to assess and bring resources to a person experiencing chronic homelessness. In a case where deputies were called out regularly to work with the individual, the social workers were able to screen for a probable mental health condition and navigate the mental health system to get him connected to care.”

Boone County Fiscal Court



ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Administrative Division is responsible for a wide array of services for the public and to the Sheriff's Office staff. Under the leadership of Colonel Les Hill and Major Gary Peace, the division includes three sworn deputies and two civilian staff personnel who are primarily responsible for customers coming into the office, phone calls, records administration, coordination of court paper service, and tax collection, among other administrative functions. There are three full-time deputies assigned the primary responsibility of the service of criminal and civil processes that come into the office. The division handled 20,872 telephone calls to the main number for the Sheriff's Office. This number does not include calls made to an individual deputy's direct line.

The Administrative Division also handles the agency's participation in the National Prescription Drug Take Back Program. Along with the two designated days in April and October, the agency houses two drop-off collection bins in the office lobby. In 2024, the office accepted and disposed of 392 pounds of unwanted prescription and non-prescription medications.

In 2024, the Sheriff's Office earned Accreditation through the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police. Accreditation involves an examination of all aspects of an agency to demonstrate compliance with accepted professional standards for efficient and effective operations. The Accreditation Manager, Deputy Linny Cloyd is responsible for assuring the agency meets or exceeds the 177 standards ranging from training to performance and then successfully completes the on-site assessment. The Sheriff's Office received the award, its sixth consecutive over the past 25 years, at the Kentucky Sheriffs Association Conference.



Expunging or sealing criminal records continues to be a significant activity for the entire agency. Identified records, for instance body worn video or arrest files, may be housed in several different locations in the office. Offenders meeting statutory eligibility requirements can request through the courts that a felony, misdemeanor or unindicted offense record be “expunged.” Additionally, the “Clean Slate Kentucky” program, administered through the Administrative Office of the Courts, provides resources to help people expunge their criminal and traffic records automatically. Sixty days after a criminal charge or traffic violation that is acquitted or dismissed with prejudice requires that no action from the accused is required. There is no filing or fees required, and the record is sent to the agency(s) involved for an automatic expungement. In addition to regular court ordered expungements, and because of this program, in 2024 our agency researched and expunged 849 records, which is an increase of over 4% over 2023.

The division is also tasked with other record keeping responsibilities. The Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives has specific categories and timelines for records retention. Agency records are kept in paper documents, measured in cubic feet and in electronic files, measured in terabytes. Records personnel destroyed over 40.3 TB electronically, including over 80,000 body worn video files, and over 158 cubic feet of paper documents, all of which met the requirements of their respective retention schedules. The increase for records retention documentation destruction from 2023 to 2024 is over 338%.

Under the supervision of Chief Financial Officer Rebecca T. Beach, CPA, CGMA, the division is also responsible for the fiscal operation of the Sheriff’s Office. The Sheriff’s Office 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 collected in the month of October.

In 2024, the division implemented a new method of processing tax bills received via mail at the Sheriff’s Office. In previous years, a contingent of Sheriff personnel would process the bills and spend time reconciling their accounts. The division started using a local bank to process the bills received by mail. This has freed up the office personnel to better accommodate walk in customers and handle other matters that were traditionally placed on a temporary hold.



The Administrative Division has two command level deputies that serve as the Public Information Officer (PIO) and the Staff Attorney.

Major Tom Szurlinski, the staff attorney, is responsible for general, in-house legal questions, policy and procedure development, and areas of legal training.



Major Szurlinski testifying in front of Kentucky State legislators.



Major Philip Ridgell, the PIO, is the agency's designated records custodian and is also charged with the public information releases as well as the office's profiles on the web and social media sites.

The PIO maintains and updates the Sheriff's Office website. In 2024, the office received 252 formal requests for records, not including crash and criminal offense reports. These requests often involve the redaction of information via the Kentucky Open Records Act. These requests accounted for 5,279 files containing 979 GB of worth of produced records.

As part of the PIO's duties, Major Ridgell issued 22 press releases and conducted one formal press conference. His duties also include reviewing and responding to the 2,242 emails received on the office's general email account. An additional duty of the PIO is to coordinate and submit the paperwork necessary for new recruits to the agency.

There were 15 deputies hired for various positions within the office in 2024. The PIO is also responsible for collaborating with the Boone County Fiscal Court to establish a unified communications plan for critical incidents.



SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS (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 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.

While SWAT is often considered solely as a tactical unit, the team is made up of other highly trained individuals who assist in making SWAT a life-saving unit. A key component of the team includes 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 to identify wounds and apply 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 five times during 2024. Once was to assist Florence Police with the service of a high-risk search/arrest warrant. The team additionally served two departmental search warrants – one was a subject involved in the theft of multiple firearms and another for a subject charged with Assault 1st Degree (use of a firearm). Two other team activations were the result of barricaded subjects armed with firearms who had threatened other family members with the firearm. All five incidents were resolved without requiring force to be utilized and all subjects were safely apprehended. The team was deployed for site/motorcade protection due to visits from then Vice-President Elect J.D. Vance on numerous occasions. Additionally, the team was placed on standby twice due to escalating situations potentially developing beyond the capability of patrol deputies. These situations were resolved prior to the team's activation.

In total, SWAT was notified or consulted on ten incidents throughout the year. Five of those incidents were deemed as not requiring SWAT activation. The SWAT team continues to train to be prepared for any situation and in 2024 conducted training in schools, CVG Airport, offices and residences. The team also conducted joint training with Florence Police SWAT and CVG Airport Police SWAT throughout the year. The Sheriff's Department SWAT team also conducted joint operations with CVG Airport SWAT, Florence Police SWAT, Covington Police SWAT, and Cincinnati Police SWAT teams.



HONOR GUARD UNIT (HGU)

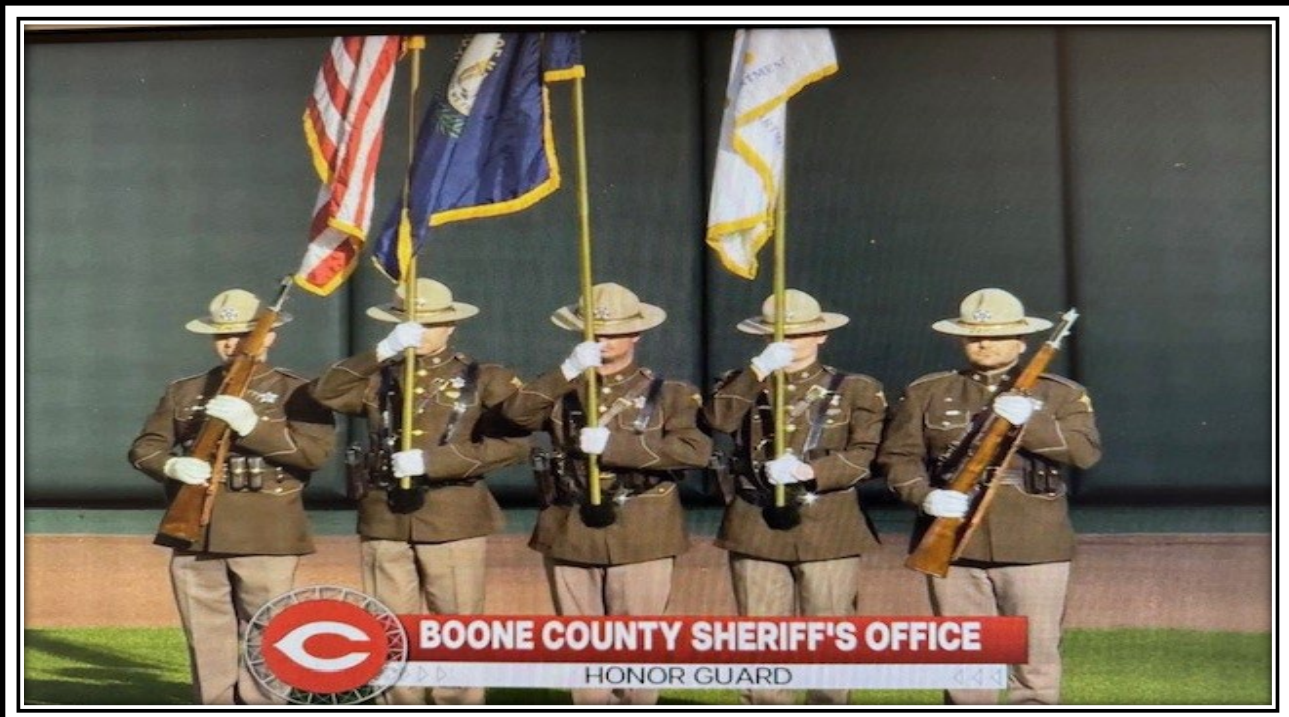
The eight members of the HGU, under the direction of Lt. Chris Hall, are a specially trained and outfitted unit who are tasked with providing special honors during both celebratory and somber events. Their services are often requested for funerals, flag/colors presentations, school events, parades, sporting events and more.

The HGU performed at 21 events in 2024, which is comparable to most of the previous four years. The unit presented the colors and offered a 21-gun salute at the Northern Kentucky Police Memorial in Covington. The HGU was honored to provide the Casket Vigil and 21-Gun Salute at the funeral of retired Boone County Sheriff's Sergeant and Kentucky State Trooper Dick Spencer and to provide the Casket Vigil for retired Boone County Sheriff's Deputy and Secret Service Agent Bill Murphy. The team also provided the Casket Vigil for retired IRS Agent Kevin Valentine's Funeral.



Team members support many of the community services during the holidays, including the City of Florence's Memorial Day parade and ceremony, the City of Union Celebrates America parade, the Holiday for Heroes Fourth of July Celebration, and Veteran's Day Services at St. Henry and Connor High Schools along with the City of Florence. The HGU also Presented the Colors for the Boone County Garden Club Gold Star Memorial in Burlington and at the Hebron Fire Department 911 Memorial event.

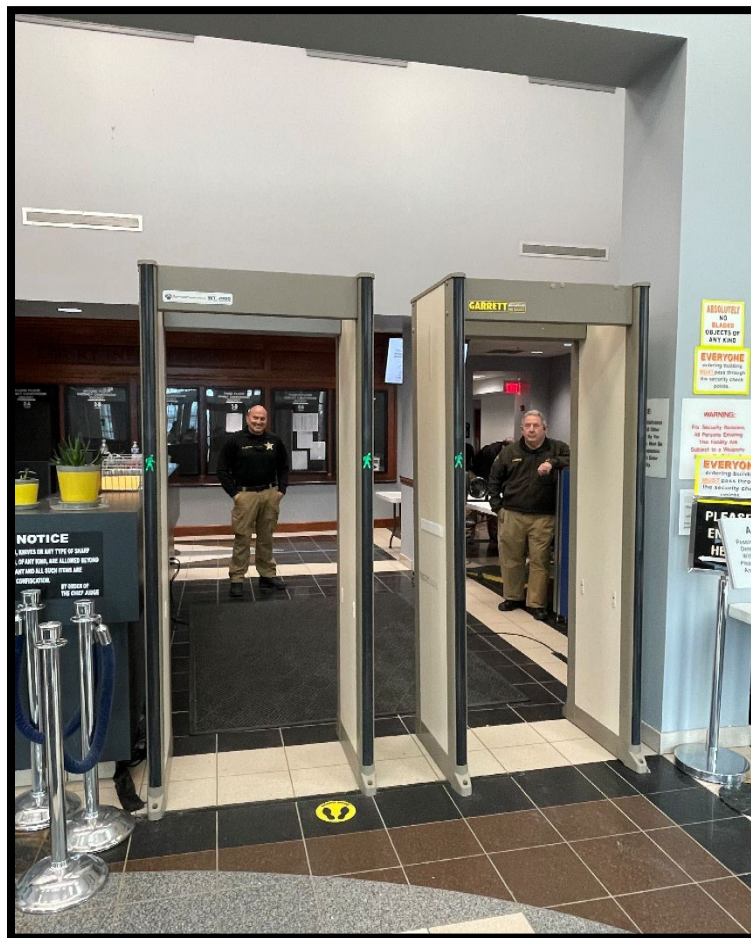
The Honor Guard Unit is also called upon to provide services on more festive occasions. The team presented the colors at Great American Ballpark for the Cincinnati Reds, the Connor and Cooper High School graduations at NKU, the Sheriff's Auxiliary's 5k race, the Boone County Seniors picnic and the Walton Church of the Assumption festival. Other events included the Walton Old Fashion Day parade, the Kentucky State FOP Conference and the NKY Republican Christmas celebration.



COURT SERVICES

The Court Services Division, under the command of Director Jim Beach, is responsible for the Sheriff's mandated duties to provide courthouse and courtroom security, prisoner transport, extraditions, and safety to the judges, judicial employees, and visitors to the Justice Center. The overall activity of the division continues to climb. The Director, two sergeants, and 23 deputies provided a total of 12,555 hours of building security along with 15,205 hours of individual courtroom security. As part of their courtroom duties, Deputies served 455 arrest warrants and 329 papers to individuals in the Justice Center.

The case dockets continue to increase, filling the courtrooms to maximum capacity. This requires the deputies to stage visitors to the Justice Center outside in the mornings until there is room to seat them inside. The District Court dockets went from an average of 120 cases per day in 2023 to 190 per day in 2024. The criminal dockets in Circuit Court have risen from an average of 90 cases per day to nearly 130. The Family Court dockets increased by 30%. One area that has returned to previous levels is jury services. The Division provided meals during deliberations for Circuit Court jurors 31 times, District Court jurors 2 times, and for grand jurors 12 times.



The Court Services Division is responsible for the transportation of prisoners for court appearances both within the county and outside. In 2024, deputies transported 5,155 prisoners from the Boone County Jail to the Justice Center, an increase of 538 from the previous year. Prisoners were transported to other Kentucky counties 818 times and 160 times out of state, a 14% increase. Wanted persons who are apprehended out of state require deputies extraditing those individuals. Deputies flew to those locations 34 times this year, compared to 19 last year. These transports resulted in 137,036 flight miles at a cost of \$85,751.12. Court Services is also responsible for transporting individuals who have had mental health actions filed against them. These transports may be to and from local hospitals or to other facilities in the state. Deputies conducted 40 of these transports in 2024. Additionally, the division handled 30 juvenile transports in 2024, a 30% decrease from 2023. The continued increases in transport required the purchase of two new transport vans in 2024.



Court Services created two new positions this year. A deputy is now assigned full-time to the administration building for security. Additionally, when available, a deputy is assigned to the County Attorney's office for security. These positions provide assistance with public inquiries and direction while also offering physical security for the staff and the buildings.

The increased activity at the Justice Center has resulted in a lot of upgrades happening with the building this year. The entire building has been painted and is almost finished. New carpet is being installed throughout the building. Currently a new HVAC system is being installed with a projected completion date of April 2025. A new security system, which includes new monitors, cameras, and a computer system has been ordered. A new security fence and remote gate for judges parking is currently out for bid.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DIVISION (SRO)

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Division, under the leadership of Major Ryan Walters, continues to be a remarkable example of the partnership between the Sheriff's Office, the Boone County and Walton Verona School Districts and the private schools we serve. 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 2024 by forming a new partnership with Mary Queen of Heaven Catholic School, St. Paul's Catholic School and Saint Henry District High School. The 2024 school year began with a dedicated SRO in each of these educational facilities. This brings the number of trained SROs to 36 serving schools within the county. Kentucky law requires that each public/independent school campus has an SRO. The partnership that the Boone County Sheriff's Office has established with the Boone County Board of Education, the Walton-Verona Independent Schools, Gateway Community and Technical College, and the 6 additional private schools are viewed as a model in the state. Every public/independent school in the county has had an SRO assigned since 2018, which is prior to the legislative mandate of one per campus.



**Thank you to all of our
School Resource Officers and the
Boone County Sheriff's Department!!!**



In 2024, the SROs collectively conducted 9632 student consultations/interactions and attended 2412 extra-curricular events. The SROs completed offense reports in 261 incidents and investigated 66 traffic collisions. They conducted 656 drug investigations and 95 incidents involving alcohol. The SROs collectively made 95 arrests, issued 163 citations, and signed 255 criminal complaints against juveniles. It is important to note that the reports, investigations, and arrests may not necessarily involve students.



Working collaboratively with the public and independent schools, the SROs continue to partner 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 a family from each of the 34 schools in the Boone County, Walton-Verona School Districts and private schools. The SRO for each school escorted and spent an evening of fun with the selected students and their families. The SROs are intensely dedicated to the mission of safety, mentorship and relationship building. This was honorably demonstrated by having 6 of the SRO's nominated by their respective school's administration for the Kentucky's School Resource Officer of the Year Award. Relationships such as these afford the opportunity to build a foundation of trust between law-enforcement and the community.

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.



"It has been an honor of a lifetime to work alongside each one of you."

Sheriff Michael A. Helmig

