

DICKENSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

January 5, 2023

To the citizens of Dickenson County,

On behalf of the Dickenson County Sheriff's Office, I am honored to present the 2023 annual public safety report. The photographs and data contained in the following pages continue to define who we are as community servants and our continued progression towards crime prevention and community policing.

The Dickenson County Sheriff's Office is charged with providing full time law enforcement services for Dickenson County. We are humbled by the trust bestowed upon us by those we serve and remain dedicated to building partnerships with those who live and work in Dickenson County in an effort to keep our community safe.

The department is currently operating on a budget of \$2,631,310.00 and is staffed with 25 full-time sworn deputies, 13 part-time sworn officers, 3 Administrative professionals, 2 part-time administrative professionals, 11 Dispatchers, 2 part time dispatchers, and 11 Auxiliary Deputies. There were two new hires for the 2023 calendar year.

Please take the time to thoroughly review the information in this report. If you should have any questions please contact us. We appreciate your input and welcome the community's perspective so we may continually improve our department and our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve as your Sheriff.

Sincerely,
Jeremy D. Fleming

MISSION STATEMENT

The Dickenson County Sheriff's Office will serve with courage, honor, and integrity by protecting, maintaining trust, and building community partnerships.



ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

The Dickenson County Sheriff's Office exists to serve our community. Our primary responsibility is the service to our community. We will respond to our community's needs devotedly and professionally.

In fulfilling our mission, we need the support of our citizens and elected representatives in order to provide the quality of service our values commit us to provide.

We, the members of the Dickenson County Sheriff's Office, Value:

Human Life: We value human life above all else.

Therefore:

- We only use reasonable force to accomplish our mission.
- We always give priority to situations that place human life in jeopardy.
- We strive to improve the lives of those we serve.
- We are compassionate in the discharge of our duties.
- We look for ways to make life better for our community and our nation.

Integrity: We believe integrity is central to everything we do and is the key to maintaining the trust of our citizens, colleagues, and criminal justice partners.

Therefore:

- We are truthful in all of our dealings with citizens, colleagues and clients.
- We model positive behavior.
- We observe the highest moral and ethical principles.
- We uphold the U.S. and Commonwealth of Virginia Constitutions.
- We observe Federal, State, and local laws.
- We are consistent in our actions, values, expectations, and outcomes.

Service: We give of ourselves to make life better for others. Serving others shows that we care.

Therefore:

- We look for opportunities to contribute to our community.
- We strive every day to make our actions count for good.
- We work not for the glory, but for the satisfaction of helping others.
- We are selfless in our devotion to our duty.
- We actively participate in projects that benefit the City and its citizens.
- We are good neighbors.

Respect: We protect the dignity of others.

Therefore:

- We esteem others regardless of their race, sex, religious beliefs, ethnicity, and sexual orientation.
- We treat others the way we want to be treated.
- We recognize and support the needs and rights of our citizens, clients, and each other.
- We believe that courtesy, understanding, honesty, transparency, personal accountability, and empathy at all levels earn and maintain respect.
- We encourage a work environment where everyone feels valued and is a part of a team performing the important work of the Office.

The Law and Constitution: We believe in the principles of our constitution. We recognize the authority of federal, state, and local laws.

Therefore:

- We respect and protect the rights of all citizens.
- We treat all persons fairly and without favoritism.
- We are knowledgeable of the law.
- We enforce the law.
- We obey the law.

Diversity: We celebrate and embrace diversity. We recognize that our employees are our most valued asset and that in diversity there is strength.

Therefore:

- We strive to have a workforce reflective of the demographics of the citizens we serve.
- We respect personal differences and values, and embrace them.
- We demonstrate empathy in our dealings with colleagues, clients and citizens.
- We actively seek to understand the views of others.
- We offer opportunities to all, regardless of one's race, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious beliefs (or non-beliefs), or views.
- We recognize that the needs of others are important.

Excellence: We strive to do the best we can in everything we do.

Therefore:

- We strive to recruit and employ the best people.
- We provide opportunities to staff that will allow them to achieve their greatest potential.
- We meet nationally recognized professional standards.
- We encourage responsible risk taking.
- We learn from our failures and move on.
- We promote training and education of our staff.
- We encourage new ideas and challenge conventional thinking.
- We seek to employ the best available resources to allow us to successfully perform our mission and attract and train the best people.
- We push ourselves and others to achieve excellence.

Accountability: We are accountable to our colleagues and the citizens we serve, who are the source of our considerable authority.

Therefore:

- We take ownership of our actions.
- We pledge to hold ourselves to the highest level of ethical standards.
- We thoroughly investigate allegations of misconduct against our staff.
- We manage our resources efficiently and effectively.
- We understand that actions that compromise our position of public trust cannot be tolerated.

Problem Solving: We are most efficient when we help identify and solve community problems.

Therefore:

- We work to anticipate and prevent problems.

- We give high priority to preventing crime and helping citizens feel safe.
- We actively seek opinions and ideas from others.
- We plan, analyze, and evaluate.
- We recognize that crime is a community problem.
- We listen to problems and complaints with empathy and sensitivity.
- We seek innovative solutions.

Ourselves: We are competent, compassionate people who perform an extremely valuable service, often under challenging circumstances.

Therefore:

- We take pride in our accomplishments.
- We celebrate the accomplishments of others.
- We value and build upon our relationships with each other.
- We attempt to strike a balance between our personal and professional lives.
- We are reliable and disciplined.
- We encourage and support each other.
- We have a positive attitude.

Cooperation: We believe that cooperation and team work will enable us to combine our diverse backgrounds, skills, and styles to achieve common goals.

Therefore:

- We work as a team.
- We understand our role in achieving department and community goals and objectives.
- We share our responsibility to serve the citizens of Dickenson County with many other agencies and organizations.
- We strive to understand those who disagree with us.
- We seek the help and cooperation of others.
- We seek to resolve conflicts.
- We rely on community support and involvement.
- We work toward realistic, mutually agreed upon goals.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

As adopted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police in 1957. The code of ethics stands as a preface to the mission and commitment law enforcement agencies make to the public they serve.

The Dickenson County Sheriff's Office requires all sworn officers to read, understand, and sign a copy of the code of ethics.

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality, and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession... law enforcement.



PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission

The Virginia Sheriff's Association, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services make up the Commission. Executive board members consisting of active Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police establish professional standards and administer the accreditation process by Virginia agencies can be systematically measured, evaluated, and updated. The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services manages the day to day operations for the Commission.

Benefits of Accreditation

The Commission's goals include the following: To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia through the delivery of services; To promote cooperation among all components in the criminal justice system; To ensure the appropriate level of training for law enforcement personnel; To promote public confidence in law enforcement; To promote the professionalism of law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

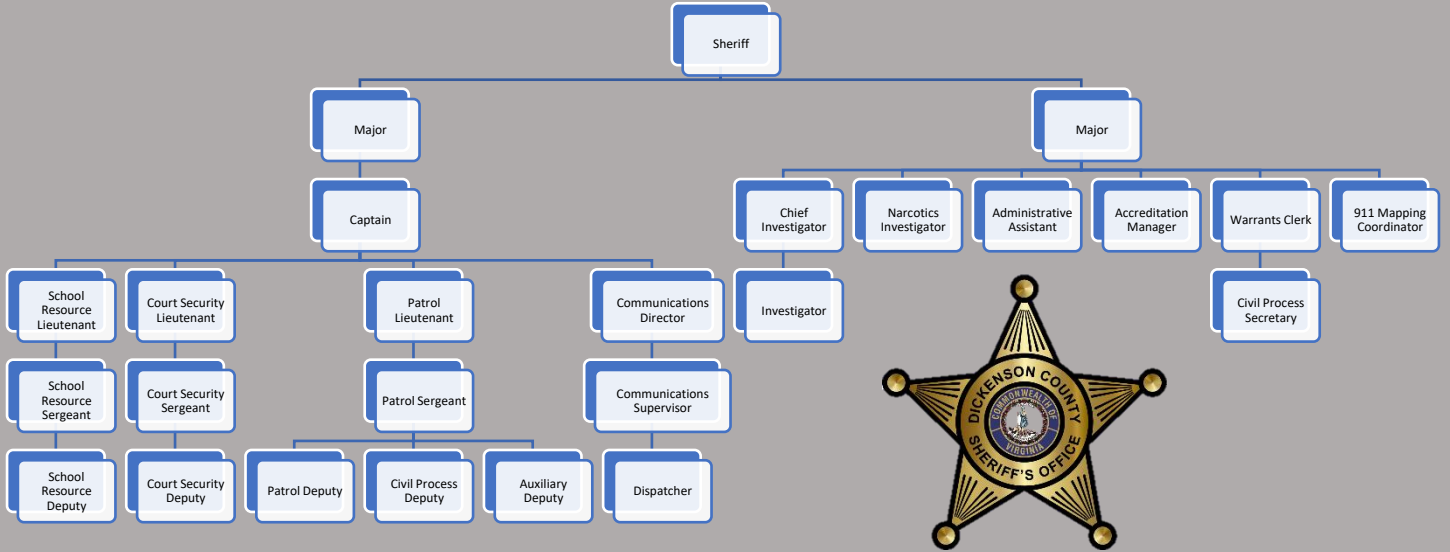
Dickenson County Sheriff's Office

The Dickenson County Sheriff's Office continues to work toward accreditation and is in the final year of the four-year self-assessment for Initial Accreditation.



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Dickenson County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Jeremy Fleming



Major Scottie Owens

PATROL

The patrol division of the sheriff's office provides the front line of law enforcement services to the citizens of Dickenson County. The patrol division provides services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The patrol division is responsible for responding to calls for service, conducting preliminary criminal investigations, responding to emergencies, enforcing traffic laws, warrant service, transports, extraditions, and investigating accidents.

Other duties of the patrol division:

Funeral escorts

Speaking arrangements for school career days

Assist Fire and Rescue at emergency scenes/Hazmat/Disaster/Severe Weather

Search and rescue for lost/missing person(s)

Assist Crime Prevention Unit with presentations/demonstrations

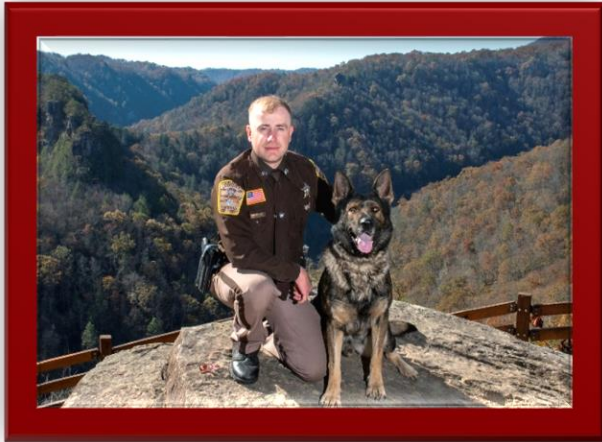
Unlock vehicles



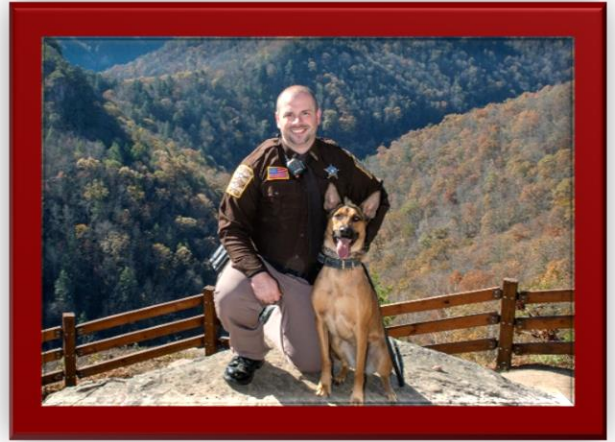
The patrol division provides law enforcement and peace keeping services to over 324 square miles in Dickenson County with a population of 13,787. Our patrol deputies conduct follow-up interviews, with victims and witnesses, bringing investigations to a conclusion, which plays a very active part in law enforcement. The sheriff's office and its' patrol division's main purpose is to serve the public while protecting and defending lives and property. The department is also dedicated to the prevention and repression of criminal and delinquent behavior, identification, apprehension of and conviction of offenders, traffic flow and collision reduction, and the maintenance of order and public peace.

The patrol division consists of several units including:

Canine: This function is responsible for answering calls for service and enforcement as requested as well as providing back-up assistance, building searches, tracking/locating persons, and school searches when requested.



Sergeant RJ Mullins & K9 Ranger



Deputy Clifton Mullins & K9 Katija

School Resource: This function protects our public schools in the county. We have 6 SROs that are covering 5 schools. They not only protect our students and teachers, but build positive relationships, conduct presentations, and do safety checks of school grounds.



Civil Process: This function receives, processes, and serves all legal documents requiring sheriff's service. They include summons, subpoenas, writs, levies, warrants in debt, and other legal notices as disseminated by the courts. The sheriff serves as the enforcement officer of the courts and legal community regarding civil matters. Within the Sheriff's Office, civil process servers execute and serve various legal processes issued by the non-criminal courts of the state and its subdivisions, as well as the legal community and the general public. The purpose of civil process is to give a defendant notice that a legal action or a proceeding is going to commence. Specific civil processes include income executions, property executions, evictions, orders of attachment (seizures of property which may be used to satisfy a judgment); orders of seizure (seizures of items of personal property whose ownership and possession is disputed); and civil arrests. In each case, papers must be delivered in person to the defendant.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

When a citizen reports a crime most often a patrol deputy is the first to respond to the incident. If the responding patrol deputy cannot resolve the reported case it is referred to an investigator.

The Dickenson County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigative Division is comprised of two full time certified deputies. The investigators are veteran deputies who have experience and extensive training in investigation techniques. Their primary duty is to provide in-depth investigation of cases.

Investigators are designated the duty and responsibility of case and crime scene management. Through their training in criminal investigation techniques, they have the experience to approach the crime in a systematic method to bring the case to a conclusion. Our investigators analyze large quantities of information, establish leads and pursue those leads through contacting and questioning victims, witnesses and potential perpetrators.

Our investigators have completed comprehensive instruction in death, arson, fraud, larceny, burglary, sex crimes, cybercrime and juvenile investigations. The Sheriff's Office Investigators have both completed the Virginia Forensic Science Academy, a school of crime scene technology, taught by the Department of Forensic Science.

Some Specific functions of the criminal investigative division are as follows:

- Investigate serious crime - and less serious crimes upon request or as needed
- Perform drug suppression operations
- Collect, analyze and disseminate criminal intelligence
- Liaison with other local, state and Federal investigative agencies/units
- Liaison with Commonwealth Attorneys, Attorney General, and the United States Attorney's Offices Conduct pre-employment background investigations
- Conduct internal affairs investigations
- Collect and examine evidence at crime scenes
- Maintain custody of physical and drug evidence
- Provide protective services
- Conduct sensitive or special interest investigations as directed by the Sheriff



Chief Investigator, Michael Stidham & Investigator Tim Powers

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

The Communications Division provides a central location for the public and all emergency services to report and receive emergency assistance. This is achieved primarily using the emergency phone number 911. The communication division also answers administrative phone lines. From the communications center we dispatch assistance to the public for the following agencies: The Sheriff's Office to include emergency service providers for the towns of Clinchco, Clintwood, and Haysi. We also dispatch for other entities including Animal Control Wardens, Social Services, Court Service Units, the Conservation Police (Game Warden), and the Federal, State Forestry Officers and after-hours public work and utility providers. The Communications Center is also responsible for entering wanted persons, stolen items, protective orders, missing persons into the national database.



In addition to providing a basic communications service the dispatch center can provide officers and others with mapping, blueprints, and other information critical to successfully managing an emergency.

Each dispatcher is trained and certified through the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. This certification allows access to the VCIN files for information regarding criminal histories, stolen guns, articles, boats, and motor vehicles. Another required certification is Emergency Medical Dispatch, through the National Academies of Emergency Dispatch. This certification provides dispatchers with professional training, as well as sound medical protocols, which help them deliver quality care and instruction to the calling public with emergency medical needs. On more than one occasion dispatchers have delivered lifesaving instructions involving CPR, choking, and delivering babies which have resulted in saving a life prior to the arrival of emergency services. Dispatchers also receive additional training through FEMA aiding them in dispatching for fire personnel.

Radio communications with all agencies are handled through the 911 communications center. Our radio system supports the Sheriff's department and all municipal police departments in the county. Expansion capabilities are built in and can accommodate other uses such as county agencies, fire, and rescue, as the need arises.

The backbone of our emergency system is the 911 phone system and related equipment. This system allows our dispatch personnel to have visual information regarding the call location immediately upon receiving the call. This is immensely helpful in today's environment. With the expansion that has taken place in our county, there is no way one could quickly obtain the necessary driving directions needed to dispatch emergency personnel to a given area. Additionally, emergency responders assigned to that location are displayed for the dispatcher to have immediate knowledge of where and who to respond to the specific location. This system is supported financially with a monthly surcharge placed on all telephone lines.

There are currently 11 full time and two part time telecommunicators working in Central Dispatch. The 911 communications center is fully operational 24 hours a day 7, days a week.



COURT SECURITY

The court security staff is responsible for maintaining order and proper decorum in all courts. Our court security staff is also responsible for assisting the public. The Dickenson County Judicial Center has secured doors, alarm systems, camera systems, and a central check-in and screening area for all visitors to the courthouse.

In 2023 Court Security was responsible for the following courts and judges:

Circuit Court

Circuit Court Days - 94

General District Court

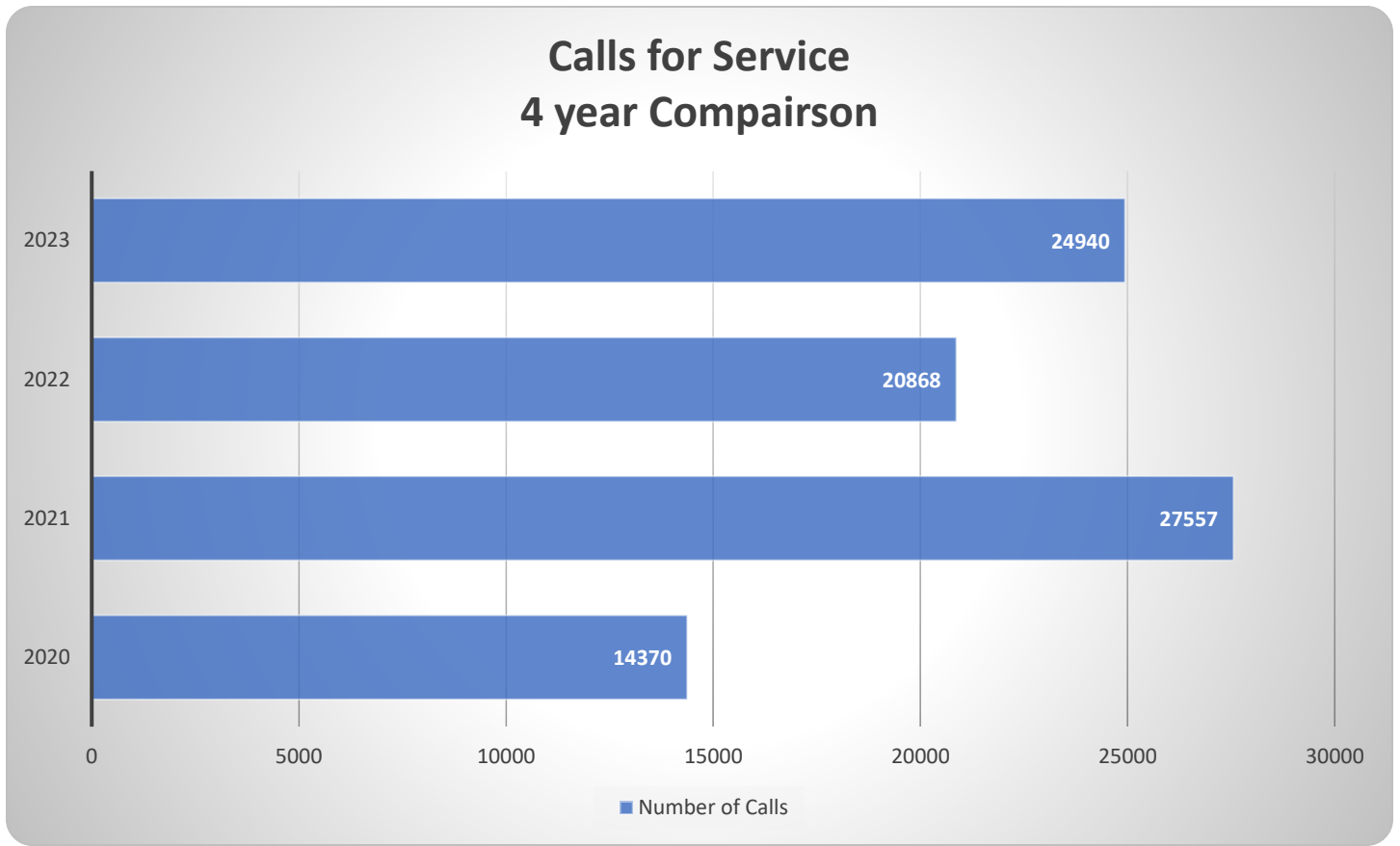
General District Court Days - 48

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Days – 78



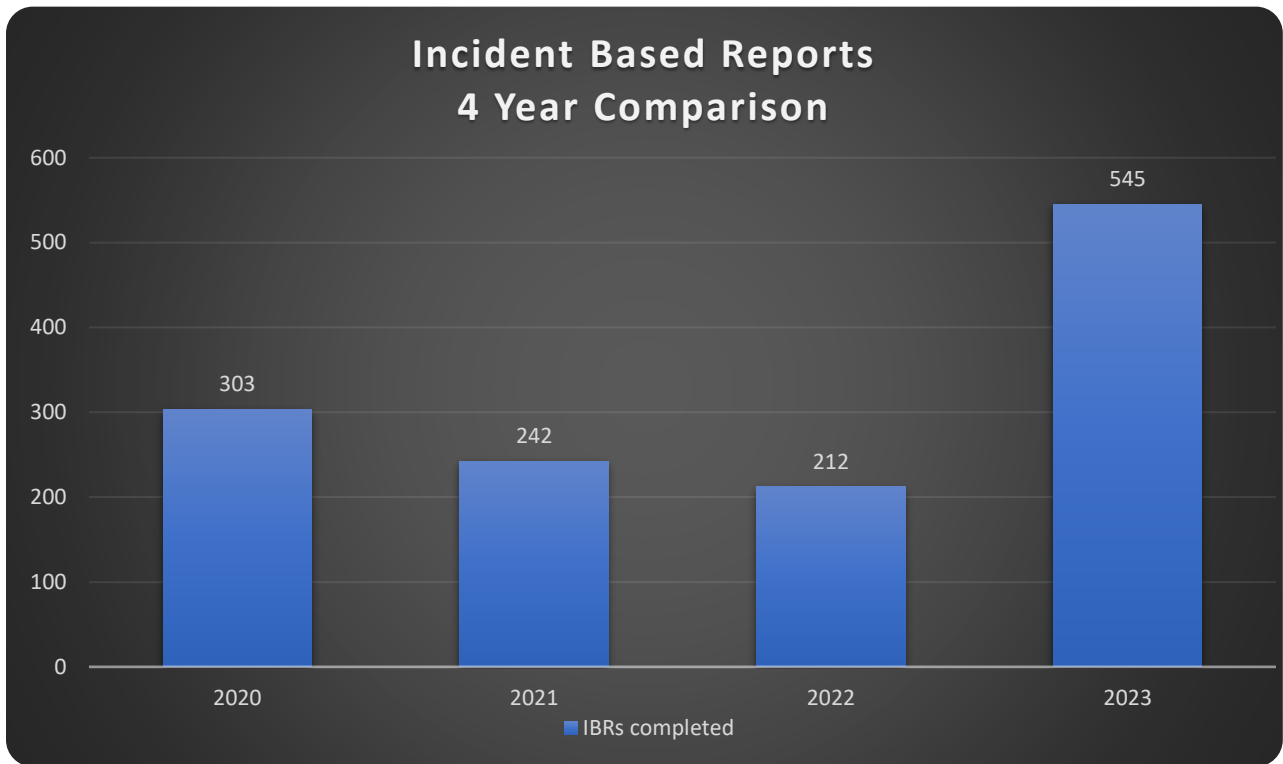
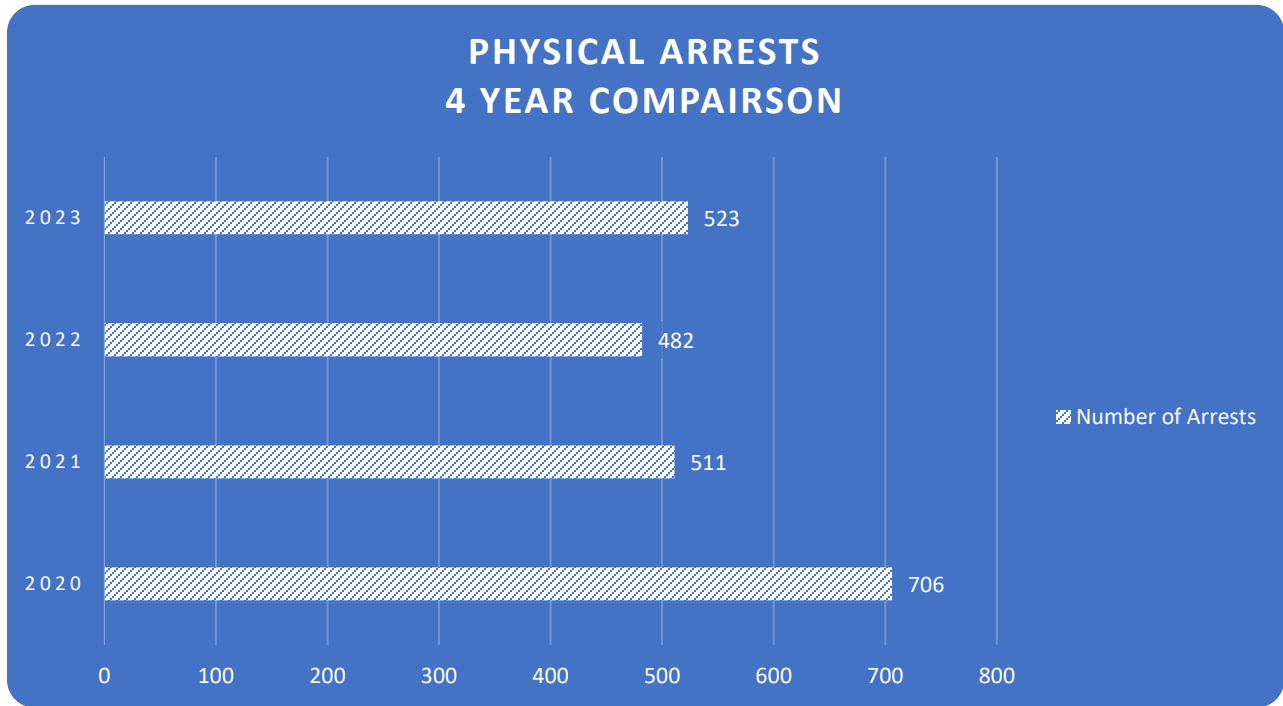
CALLS FOR SERVICE



CRIME ANALYSIS

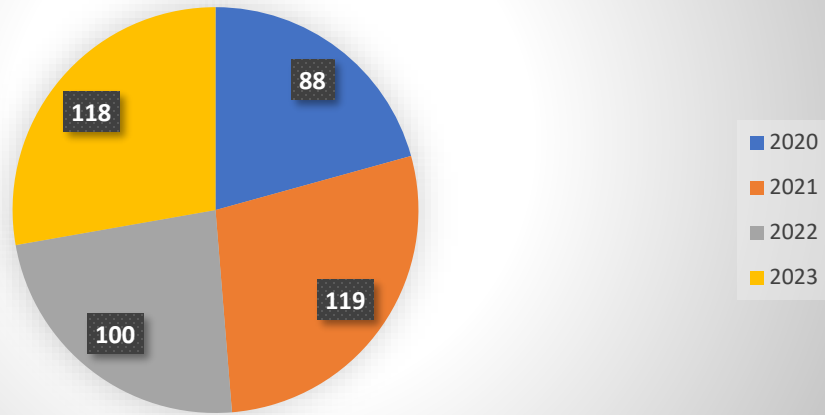
2023 Call Stats			
911 Calls	5967	Littering	3
Abandoned Vehicle	10	Medical	2142
Animal	154	Missing Person/Child	25
Assault	29	Motor Vehicle Accident/Injury	118
Assist Motorist	539	NCIC Entry	349
ATV	36	Overdose/Poisoning	25
Behavioral Health	151	Patrol & Check	8175
BOLO	247	Person with a Gun	10
Burglary	30	Prowler	39
Child Pornography	2	Public Assistance	164
Civil Process	8467	Pursuit	11
Disturbance/Nuisance	166	Reckless Driver	74
DOA	47	Request Officer	1437
Domestic	262	Roadway Hazard	269
Drug Cases	67	School Incidents/Reports	25
Drug Charges	201	Security Alarm	206
Emergency Custody Order	74	Sex Crimes	13
Escort	197	Shoplifting	13
Fight in Progress	13	Social Services	9
Fire	644	Suicide Attempt/Threat	33
Follow-up Investigation	98	Suspicious Package	4
Fraud	47	Temporary Detention Order	29
Game & Fish	36	Theft	165
Gas Station Drive Off	7	Threats	25
General Investigations	24	Traffic Check Point	44
Government Patrol	477	Traffic Stop	835
Gunshot/Stabbing	6	Transport	80
Hit & Run	9	Trespassing	55
Information	441	Vandalism	25
Intoxication	64	Warrant Service	1624
Juvenile Problem	11	Welfare Check	370

CRIME ANALYSIS

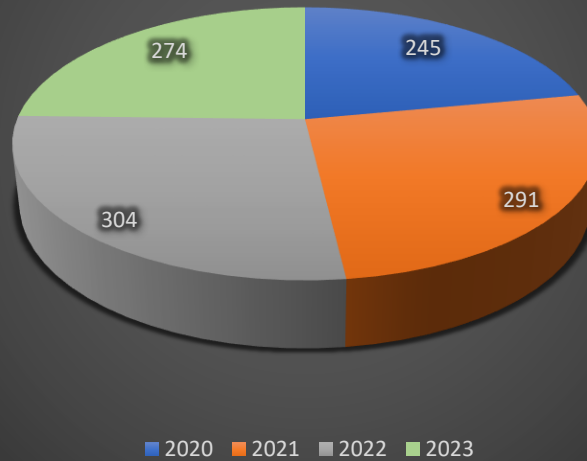


MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

Motor Vehicle Accident/Injury 4 Year Comparison



Motor Vehicle Accident/Property Damage 4 Year Comparison



DEPARTMENT TRAINING

All sworn law enforcement officers are required by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to complete 40 hours of in-service training bi-annually. These training sessions help to ensure that our deputies are prepared to meet the challenges and ever-changing needs of our community.

During the 2023 calendar year, officers received instruction in the following areas:

- Qualification and proficiency with department issued firearms
- Use of force, non-lethal force, and de-escalation techniques
- Bloodborne pathogens and exposure control plan
- Legal updates
- Records management and report writing
- Crisis Intervention Training

Select officers and staff attend additional classes at the Southwest Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy in Bristol, Virginia to maintain DCJS instructor certifications and to develop and maintain specialized skill sets. In 2023, our Communications Director completed DCJS General Instructor School.

Captain Chad Elkins completed the Professional Leadership Academy through Mountain Empire Community College.

Other specialized trainings included Constitutional Use of Force, Patrol Drug Interdiction, First Amendment Audit, Driver Instructor, Overdose Death Investigations, Civil Process Basic, Court Security Basic, Background Investigations for Police Applicants, Basic Tactical Medical Instructor, General Firearms Instructor, and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing.



Captain Chad Elkins
Professional Leadership Academy



Deputy Clifton Mullins & K9 Katija
completed National Certification.
Katija is trained as a dual purpose K9
in narcotic detection and tracking.

GRANTS & DONATIONS

The Dickenson County Sheriff's Office actively seeks grant funding to improve the capabilities of this office, without placing an additional financial burden on the tax payers of Dickenson County. During 2022 the sheriff's office received a total of \$1,125,080 in grant funding.

DCJS School Resource Officers - \$272,968

LE-ARPA-Law Enforcement Equipment - \$622,000

LOLE – Local Law Enforcement Grant – \$2,160

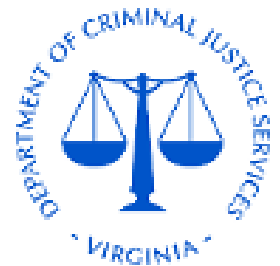
Combatting Hate Crimes Grant - \$77,520

Supporting Law Enforcement Agencies in Seeking Accreditation – Community Policing Development Grant \$150,432

The Sheriff's Office is also an active participant in the federal government military surplus program. This program repurposes military equipment for the use of law enforcement at free or reduced costs.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Dickenson County Sheriff's Office developed its Community Outreach Program in 2020 as a means of fulfilling a Community Policing obligation. Through community outreach, the Sheriff's Office in every part of our organization strives to reach many areas of the county. In 2023, the department participated in various different events providing outreach to the citizens of Dickenson County. Some of those events include Reading across America at local elementary schools, Special Needs Spring Fling, an annual Back to School Bash at the Bear Pen Swimming Pool, Dickenson County Fair, July 4th events throughout the county, Annual Community Outreach Golf Tournament, Hootin' in the Holler BBQ festival, Halloween Trick or Treating events throughout the county, Christmas events throughout the county, Dickenson County Shining Stars Basketball for Special Needs individuals, and McGruff Crime Prevention visits throughout the county.



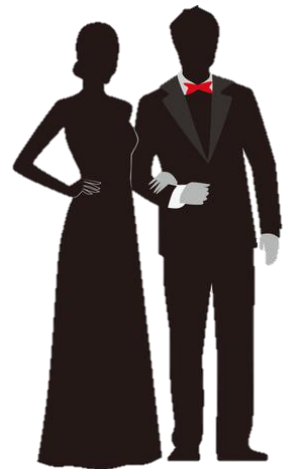
Dr. Suess Read Across America



Breaks Interstate Park Egg Hunt



SPRING FLING



I CAN DAY



Fall Festival



Clintwood Heritage Hall Fall Festival



Ridgeview Middle School Fall Festival

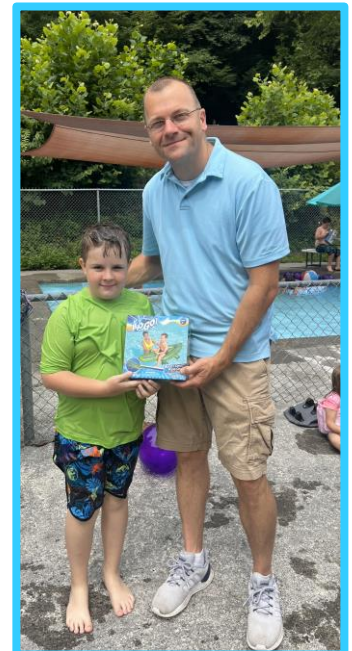




Clinchco Days



**Back to School Bash
at Bear Pen Swimming Pool**

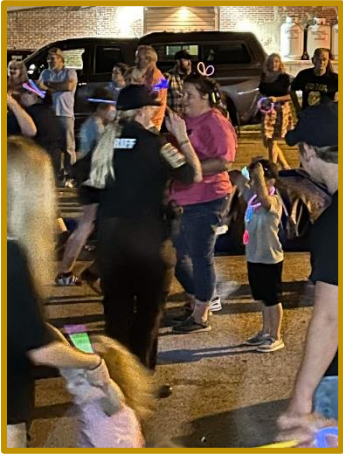




Ridgeview Elementary

First Responder Day





Haysi, VA

Autumnfest



Law Enforcement Safety Day for the Little Pines



SHINING STARS

Dickenson County
SPECIAL NEEDS OF
ALL AGES



Halloween Community Outreach Events

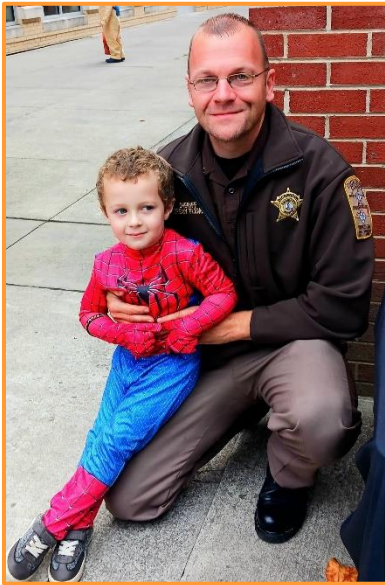






very
SPOOKY!





Christmas Community Outreach Events



MERRY CHRISTMAS





Clintwood Christmas in the Park

Clinchco Christmas

Parade & Event



The Grinch visits Clintwood Elementary School



The Grinch visits Ridgeview Elementary School



The Grinch visits



Clintwood Heritage Hall

Grinch grants a Wish



The Grinch & Cindy Lou Who



SHOP WITH A COP

The Dickenson County Sheriff's Office hosted the 5th Annual "Shop with a Cop" at Walmart in Grundy in conjunction with the Buchanan County Sheriff's Office and Grundy Police Department. Our community partners have made this program possible and because of their generosity and continued support we were able to shop with 30 children.

The participating children were treated to holiday pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, a stocking full of goodies, lunch, and a \$125.00 shopping spree and adventures with The Grinch.

