



2024

Annual Report

Prepared by
Sheriff Frank Baker

Table of Contents

Message from the Sheriff.....	Page 2
Accomplishments.....	Page 3
Corrections Center and Division.....	Page 4
Inmate Programs.....	Page 6
Law Enforcement Division.....	Page 10
School Resource Officers.....	Page 18
Investigative Services	Page 19
Administrative Services	Page 27
Marine Patrol Division.....	Page 28
Reserve Deputy Division.....	Page 29
Emergency Management Division.....	Page 30
Animal Control Division.....	Page 31
Court Security Division.....	Page 31
Victim Services Unit.....	Page 32
Specialty Teams.....	Page 32
In Conclusion.....	Page 36
Dept. Photos.....	Page 37
Command Staff.....	Page 39

Message from the Sheriff

Dear Chairman Dugan:

On behalf of the deputies and staff of the Allegan County Sheriff's Office, I respectfully present the 2024 Sheriff's Office Annual Report to the Board of Commissioners and the citizens of Allegan County. The men and women of the sheriff's office are doing exceptional work. While this report cannot capture every achievement, I hope it highlights some of the key accomplishments.

Over the past year, we have focused on enhancing the efficiency of the sheriff's office in many ways. One of those projects has been to transition to a paperless reporting system. We converted paper forms into digital documents, a transformation driven by the initiative and technical expertise of staff. A lead team member, with a background in computers and software, collaborated with staff members to overcome longstanding challenges in computerizing our workflow throughout the criminal justice system. This progress has not only benefited the sheriff's office but also other departments within Allegan County.

Over the past year, we implemented a software program designed to streamline the tracking and response process for Freedom of Information Act requests. This was developed in close collaboration with the County Administration and Legal departments, ensuring efficiency and compliance throughout all county operations.

I had the honor to attend two corrections academy graduations this past year, where our deputies were selected to represent the graduates and deliver the commencement speech. Their leadership set them apart, and I am very proud of their achievements.

I am incredibly proud of our staff for their outstanding achievements over the past year, from innovative projects to community outreach initiatives. Through this report, I hope you gain insight into their unwavering dedication and passion for serving our citizens.

Sincerely,

Frank Baker

Frank Baker, Sheriff



Accomplishments

We were able to achieve many of our goals and work towards the implementation of several key objectives last year. One of those objectives has been to implement strategies that increase efficiencies and reduce obligated time so that deputies have the ability to provide more proactive policing and patrols. We know this can have a significant impact on community safety and crime prevention. Increasing our patrol presence means better community engagement opportunities quicker response times, and increased crime deterrence.

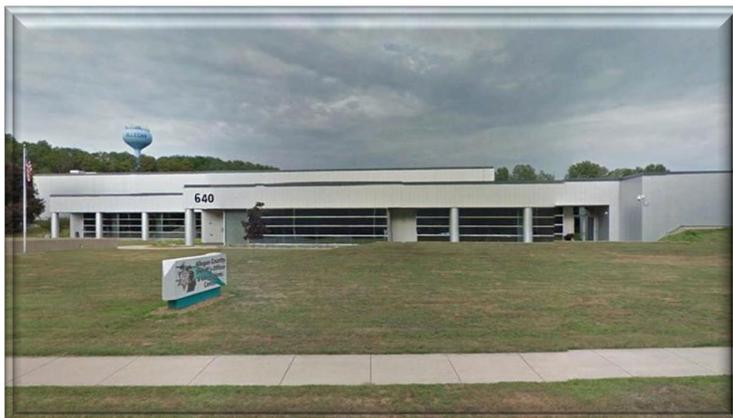
We now have in-car ticket printers in most of our patrol cars, license scanners, and have implemented a scheduling software program all aimed at reducing administrative time. We have made significant advancements in our paperless reporting system through the digitizing of regularly used paper forms and documents.

When deputies can focus more on proactive policing rather than administrative tasks, it not only improves public safety but also boosts morale and job satisfaction, which assists us in recruiting and retention of staff.



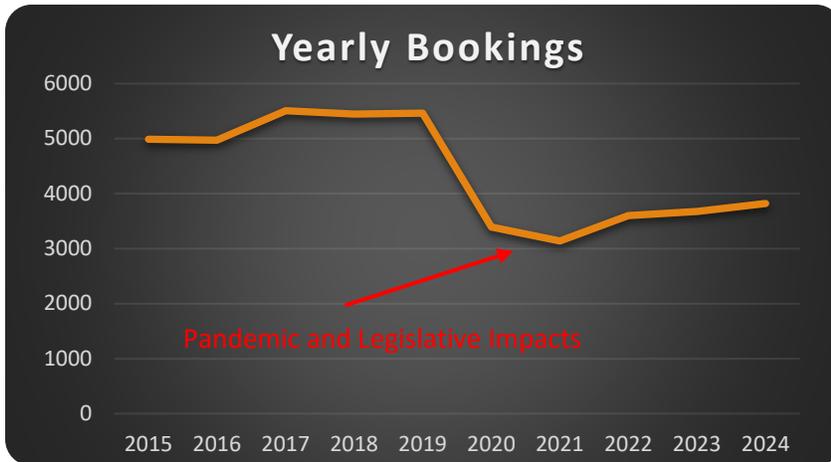
We also have acquired and installed Flock cameras at several key locations within the county. These cameras are a game-changer in proactive policing, providing real time data and helping solve crimes faster.

We have secured additional funding from the State through the CCAB (Community Corrections Advisory Board) for our Allegan County CREATES (Career Readiness, Education, And Teaching Employment Skills) program. This program provides an opportunity for inmates to receive a GED (General Education Development) certificate and career readiness training. This program will have a lasting impact on reducing recidivism and helping individuals build a more stable future.



Corrections Center and Division

There were 3,822 individuals booked into the Corrections Center in 2024. This was a 4% increase over the number of bookings done in 2023.

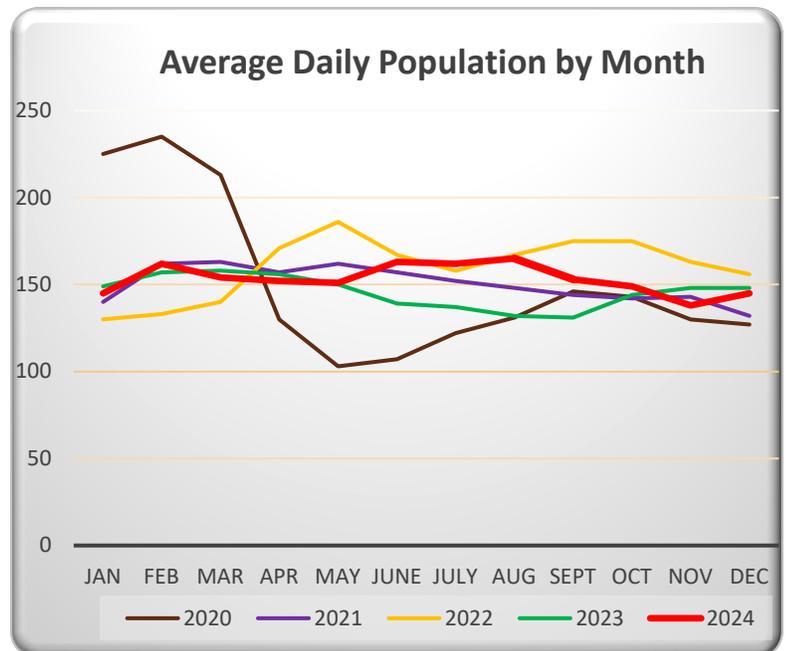
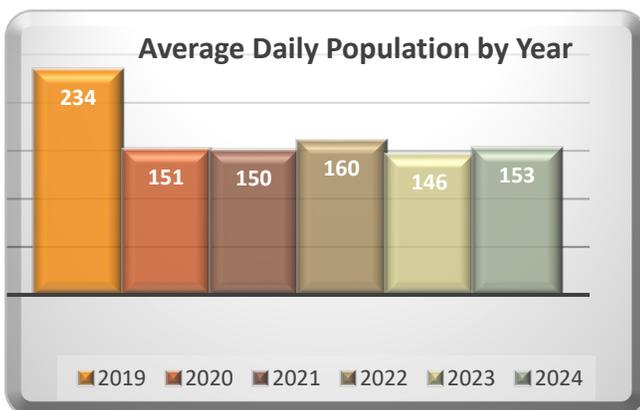


In 2024, there were 3,822 bookings at the corrections center, a 4% increase from 2023, when there were 3,673 bookings. The Yearly Bookings chart highlights the effects of both the pandemic and legislative changes that occurred around the same time.

One significant change was the “Raise the Age” law, which removed 17-year-old defendants from adult correctional facilities. Since then, yearly booking numbers have grown slightly each year since 2021.



The average daily population by month and the average daily population by year has remained relatively stable since the pandemic and these legislative changes took effect. We had an average of 153 inmates housed each day in 2024. This is approximately a 5% increase over 2023.



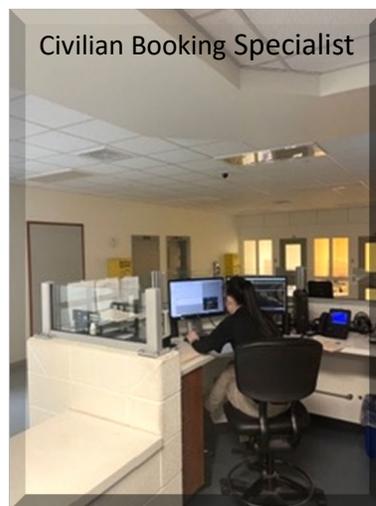
Corrections Center and Division (continued)

Booking

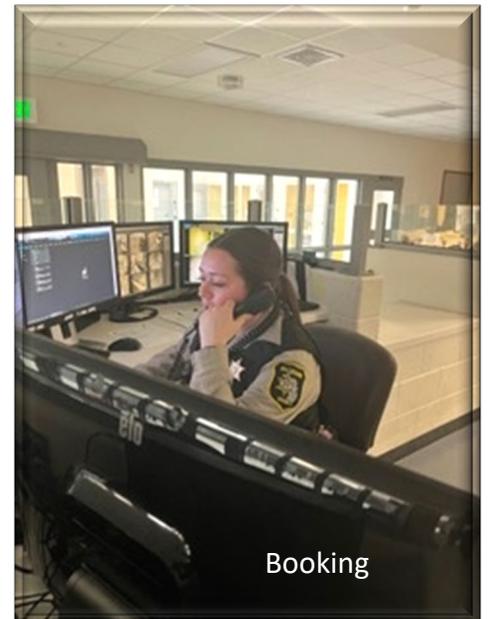
Last year, deputies and the civilian booking specialist processed 3,882 bookings and 3,774 releases. The booking process may include extensive data entry, taking mugshots, fingerprinting, canceling warrants, collecting and documenting personal belongings, and conducting body scans. The release process includes verifying posted bonds, ensuring protective orders are in place, confirming sentence completion, and returning personal property.



Body Scanner



Civilian Booking Specialist

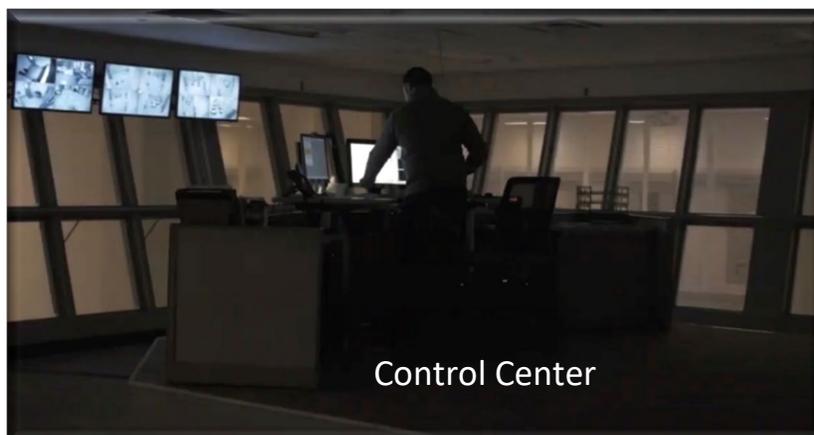


Booking



Control Center

Control Center



Control Center

Deputies assigned to the control center are responsible for monitoring more than 200 security cameras, operating security doors, and answering phone calls. They also manage inmate movement within the facility, assist visitors in the bond lobby, and communicate with after-hours visitors in the front lobby.

Corrections Center and Division (continued)

Cell Extraction Teams

Each shift in the corrections division includes deputies and sergeants trained in cell extractions. This specialized team is used to safely remove non-compliant inmates while minimizing the risk of injury to both staff and inmates. They are deployed when an inmate refuses to follow commands and entry becomes necessary.



Inmate Programs



Inmate programs play a key role in the corrections center operations. The goal is to help individuals return to the community with a better chance of success and a lower risk of reoffending. These programs focus on substance abuse treatment, education, job readiness, and strengthening family relationships.

Participation in certain programs, for those who qualify, can also lead to sentence reductions. This results in bed days saved and budget benefits, as inmates contribute labor within the facility. Examples include assignments in the kitchen, dorm porters, cleaning crews, and work at the animal shelter.

MRT – Moral Reconciliation Therapy - CCAB Funded (Community Corrections Advisory Board)

There were 55 attendees in the Moral Reconciliation Therapy program in 2024. There were 30 successful program completions.

The Moral Reconciliation Therapy program, known as MRT, is a type of behavioral therapy with a goal of decreasing the chances that someone will return to substance or alcohol abuse. The program does not allow bed days saved as good time is not earned through participation in this program.



Corrections Center and Division (continued)

Allegan County Creates – CREATES

(Career Readiness Education and Training Employment Skills) – CCAB Funded



The Allegan County CREATES program is a collaborative effort between the Community Corrections Advisory Board (CCAB), the Sheriff's Office, and the Allegan Area Educational Service Agency (AAESA). The program aims to support individuals in gaining employment upon release by integrating the GED and Career Readiness programs. By restructuring these programs, we secured funding to enhance educational and career development opportunities for participants. Additionally, we work closely with Michigan Works to connect individuals with local employment opportunities upon their release.

A key component of the program is the development of participant portfolios, which document their achievements and can be shared with potential employers. The program continues to provide valuable

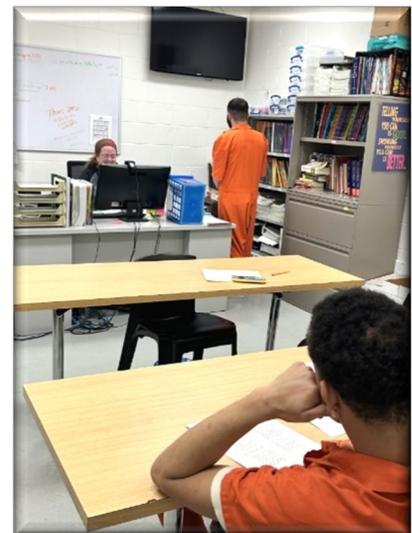
educational and career resources, supporting successful reintegration and long-term employment opportunities for participants.

Career Readiness Program:

- 50 participants enrolled with 25 successful completions
- Eligibility requires a high school diploma or active GED enrollment
- 25 total bed days saved
- 5 individuals enrolled in online college courses

Allegan Achieve GED Program:

- 55 participants enrolled with 18 successful completions
- 79 total bed days saved
- 5 individuals earned a high school diploma or GED while in custody



Seeking Safety – CCAB Funded

Seeking Safety is a women's trauma group focusing on PTSD and substance abuse. There were 31 attendees in the Program last year and 16 successful completions. This program does not provide bed days savings for participation.

Corrections Center and Division (continued)

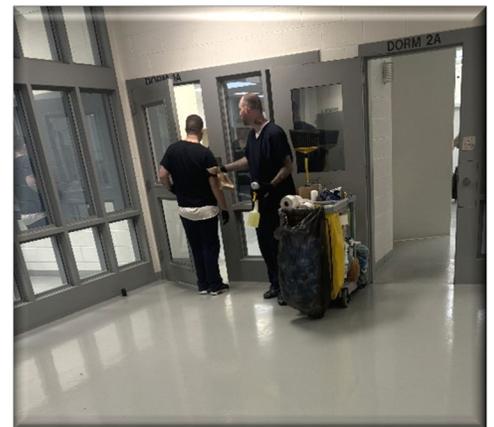
D.E.B.T.S. Crew (Detail Enabling Better Transition to Society)

There were 10 attendees in the DEBTS Crew program last year and 7 successful completions. This resulted in a bed days savings of 272.



Inmate Workers

There was a total of 149 inmate workers last year with 113 successful completions. Inmate workers consist of individuals assigned to work at the animal shelter, kitchen, laundry room, dorm porters, and custodial crews. This resulted in a bed days savings of 3,011.



Community Service



There were 46 individuals sentenced to Community Service last year and 37 successful completions. This resulted in a bed days savings of 696.

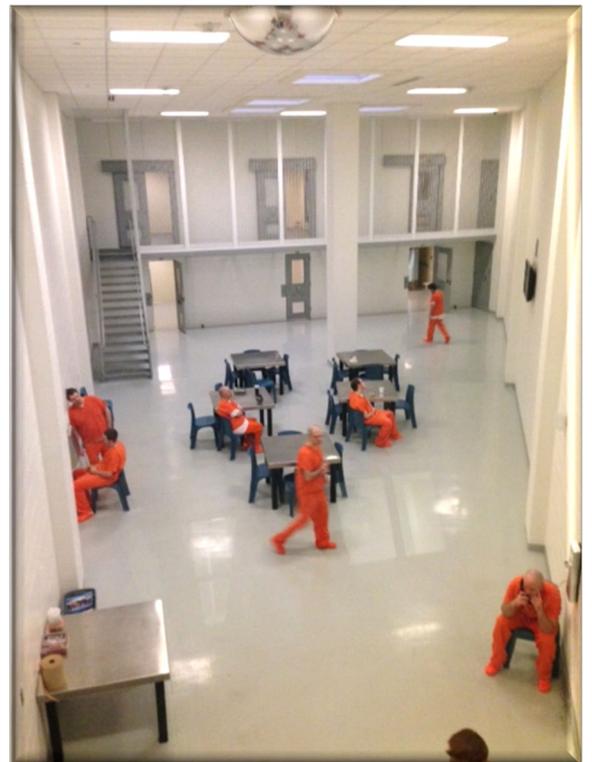


Faith Based Programs

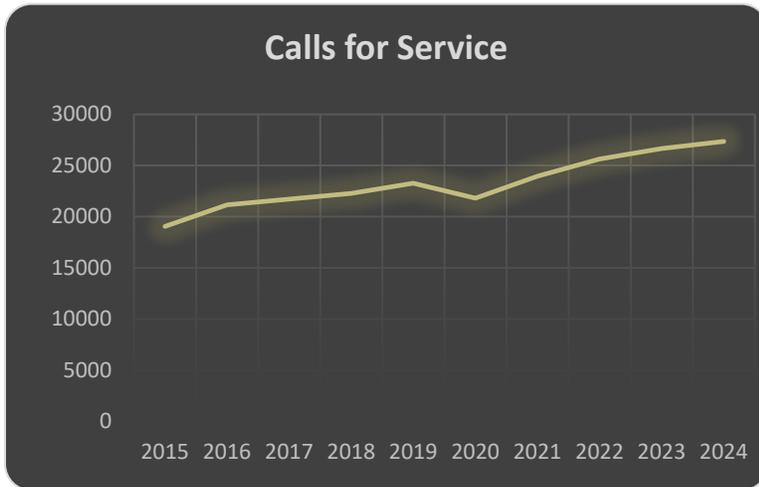
We have several faith-based programs such as the men's and women's bible study, church services, and men's and women's community re-entry programs. These are conducted by volunteers who meet with inmates at the Corrections Center and provide services. Last year we had 4 groups of individuals who graduated from the Reentry Units.



Additionally, programs such as Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), and Anger Management are offered.



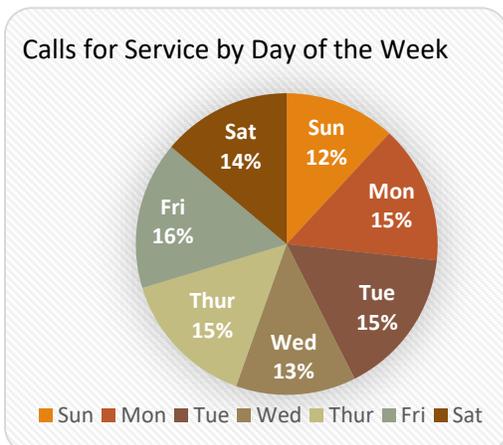
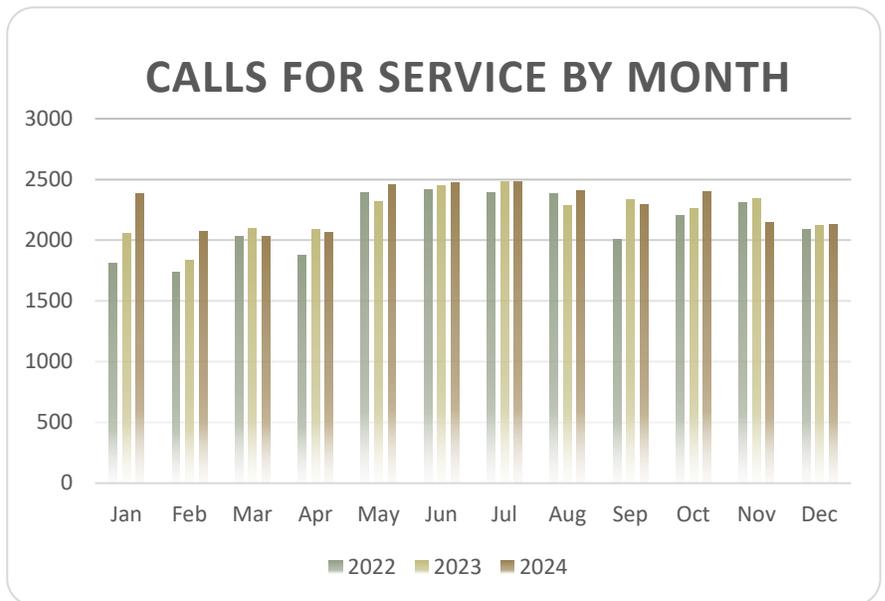
Law Enforcement Division – Road Patrol



We again experienced a slight increase in calls for service (CFS) last year over the previous year. We finished with **27,357 calls for service**. This figure includes both dispatched and self-initiated calls for service by deputies.

It is anticipated that the CFS numbers will continue to trend higher as our population continues to grow and we experience continued economic development.

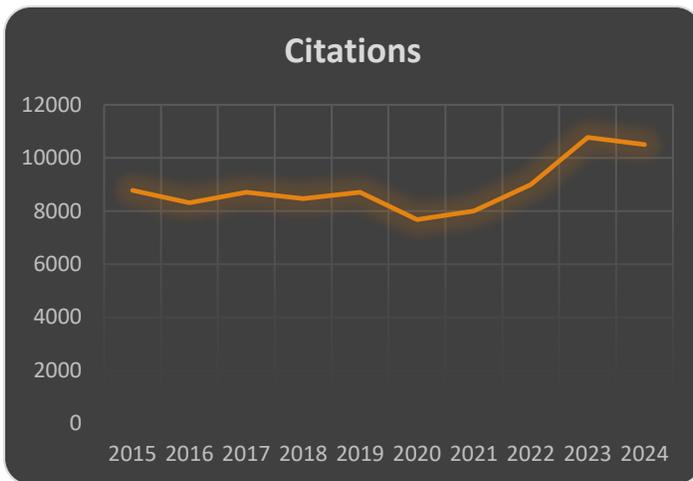
The CFS by month demonstrates that seasonal differences do not significantly impact the overall call volume. Summer is often perceived as the busiest time for deputies; However, the data indicates there is not a significant difference. In the fall, we anticipate an increase in car-deer collisions, while winter typically sees a rise in weather-related crashes. Ultimately, the seasonal variations influence the nature of the calls more than frequency.



The CFS are also fairly consistent each day; however, Friday is typically the day with the highest call volume.



Law Enforcement Division – Road Patrol (continued)



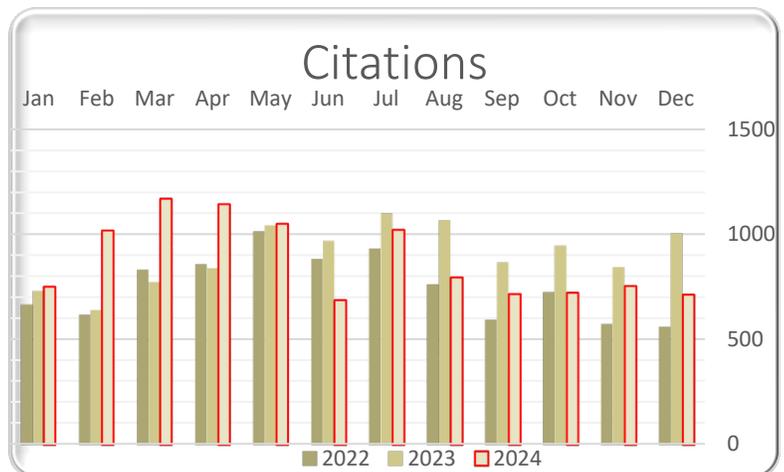
Enforcement

Deputies conducted 17,180 traffic stops and issued a total of 10,501 citations in 2024. This was 2.5% reduction in citations compared to 2023. They also issued over 10,000 verbal warnings for violations.



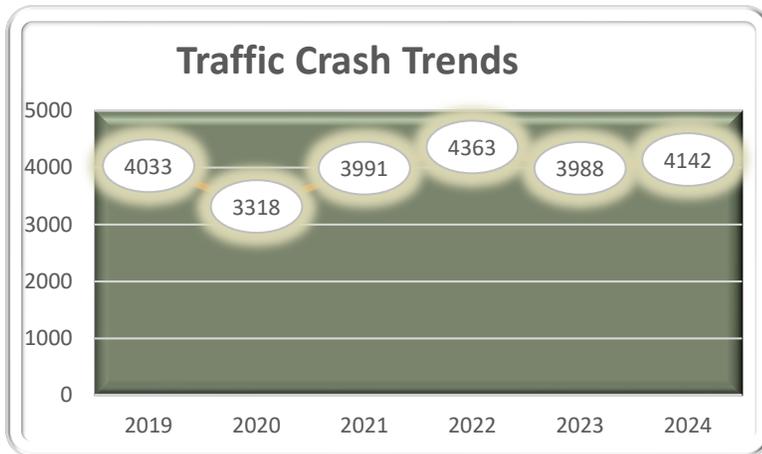
Your deputies are doing an excellent job of using discretion when deciding whether to take enforcement action. Our goal is to ensure compliance with traffic laws through a combination of enforcement, education, and deterrence. This is often achieved during federal and state wide enforcement initiatives, as well as through public awareness campaigns and educational efforts. Some programs you may be familiar with include:

- Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over -Impaired Driving
- Don't Veer for Deer – Car Deer Crashes
- You Drink You Drive You Loose – Drunk Driving
- Operation Safe Stop – School Bus Safety
- Drive Slow on Ice and Snow – Winter Driving
- Slow Your Drive and Stay Alive - Speeding



Law Enforcement Division – Road Patrol (continued)

Traffic Crashes

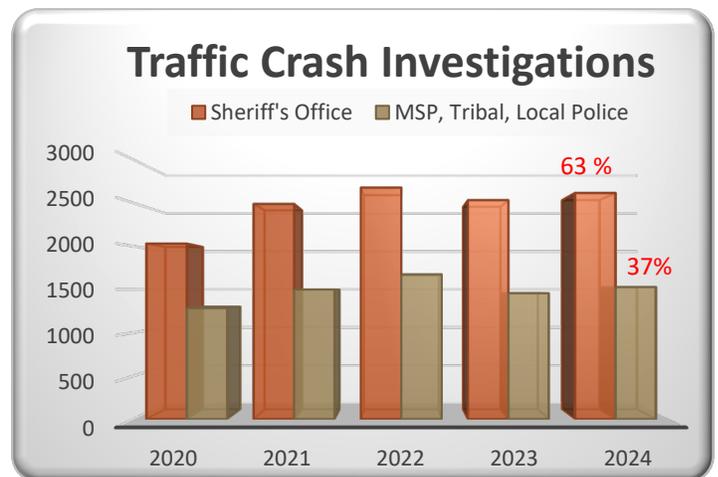


The Sheriff's Office initially expected a decrease in traffic crashes during the pandemic; however, once travel restrictions were lifted, we observed an increase in crashes, speeding, and aggressive driving. We believe this surge was partly due to drivers recognizing that law enforcement had scaled back enforcement of minor infractions during the pandemic, which influenced their driving behavior.

This trend has been addressed through directed traffic patrols and enforcement by the Sheriff's Office and our law enforcement partner agencies. The deterrent effect of seeing traffic stops influences driver behavior.

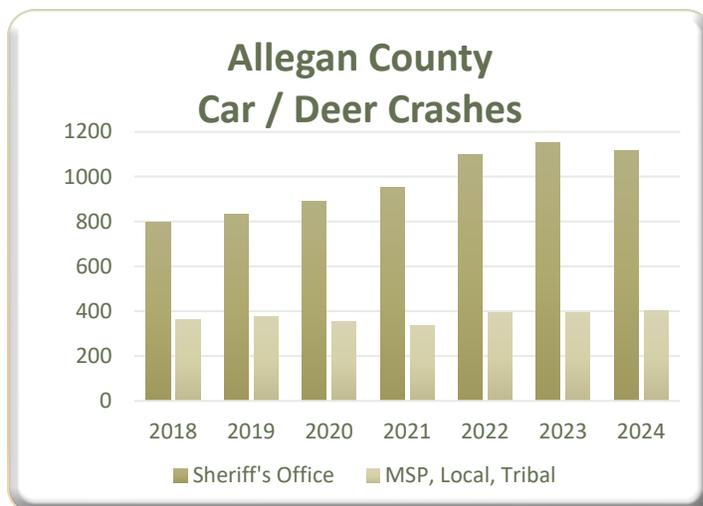
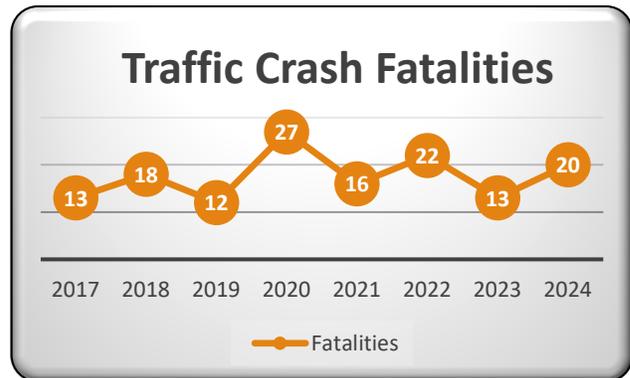
Traffic crashes continues to be a serious concern. The Sheriff's Office routinely investigates the majority of the crashes that occur in Allegan County.

The Sheriff's Office investigated 2,615 of the 4,142 crashes that occurred last year in Allegan County. The remaining 1,527 were handled by our law enforcement partners from the Michigan State Police, Tribal Police, and local Police Departments.



Law Enforcement Division – Road Patrol (continued)

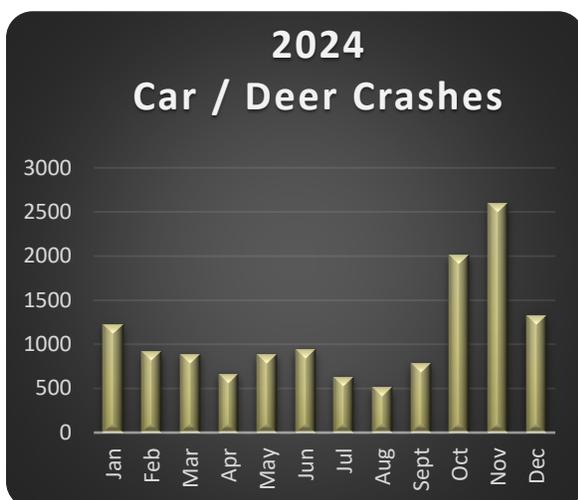
Allegan County covers approximately 1,800 miles of roadway, with a primarily rural landscape and two interstate highways running through it. Speed remains a significant concern, as high-speed crashes are particularly dangerous and often result in fatalities. The Sheriff's Office investigated 14 of the crashes involving a fatality. Last year there were 17 fatal crashes that resulted in the death of 20 individuals.



Car-deer crashes continue to be an expensive problem for motorists traveling Allegan County roadways. Last year the Sheriff's Office responded to 1,115 of the 1,518 total car-deer crashes occurring in 2024.

Allegan County ranked 4th in the entire state for the number of car-deer crashes, behind Kent, Oakland, and Genesee Counties in 2023.

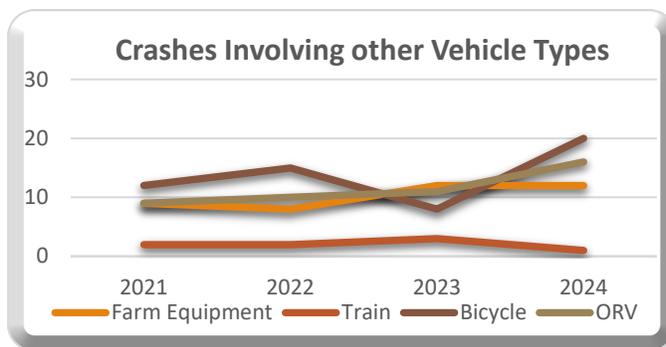
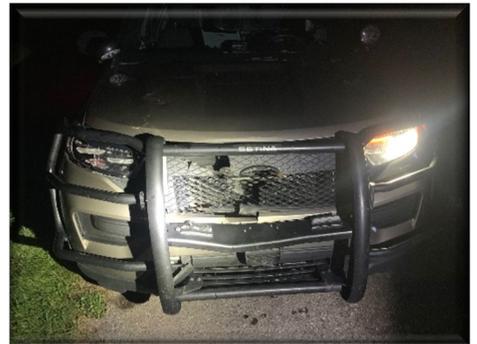
Car-deer collisions peak during the fall and winter months, and unfortunately, the Sheriff's Office is not exempt from these incidents. With our patrol vehicles covering nearly 1 million miles annually, the risk is significant. According to data from the most recent PA416 Secondary Road Patrol grant we patrolled a total of 961,664 miles.



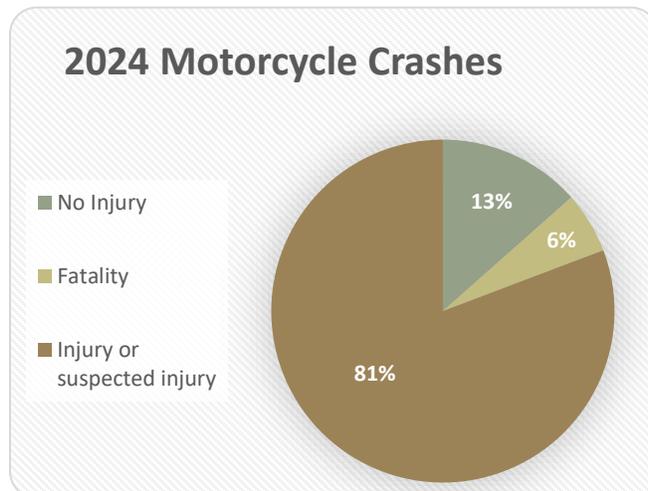
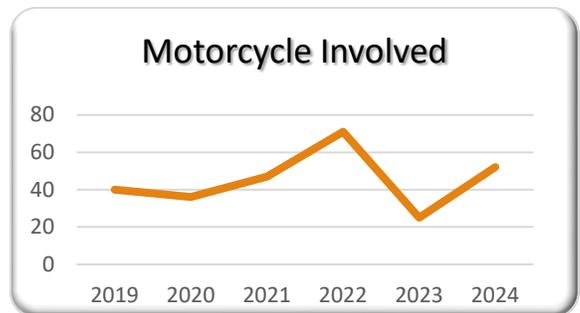
Law Enforcement Division – Road Patrol (continued)



Our patrol cars are involved in several car-deer crashes every year. This was one of the driving factors in our decision to install push bumpers several years ago. The push bumpers reduce front end damage during car-deer crashes.



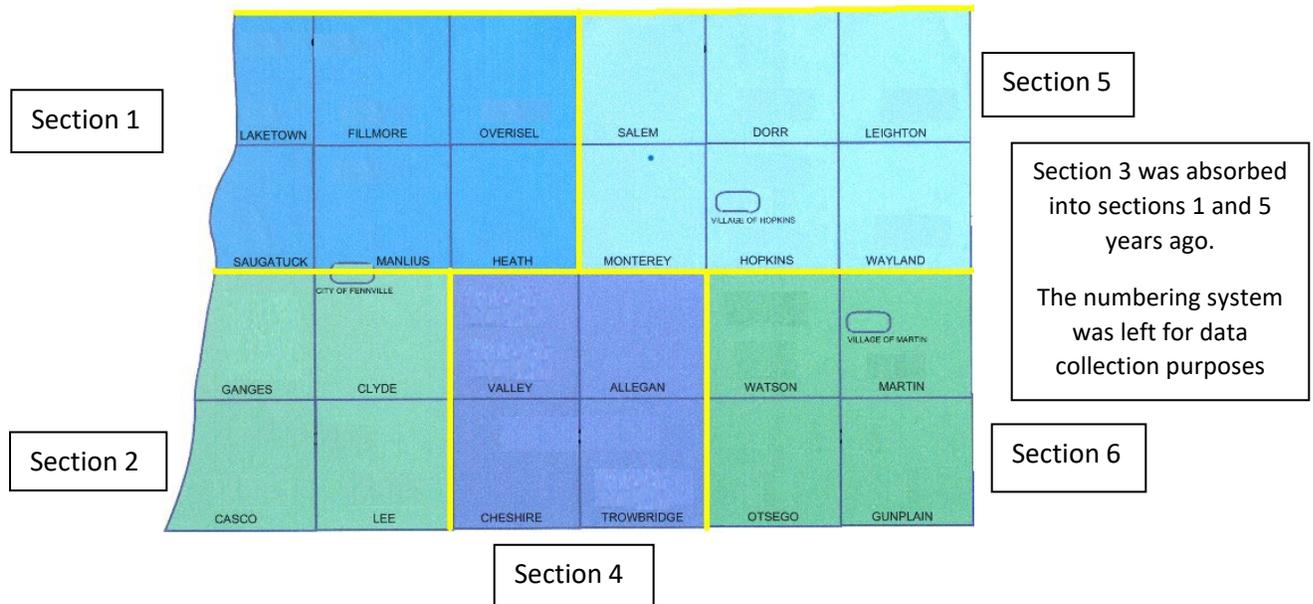
Last year there were 20 crashes involving a bicycle, 16 involving an ORV, 12 involving farm equipment, and 1 involving a train. There were 52 crashes involving a motorcycle.



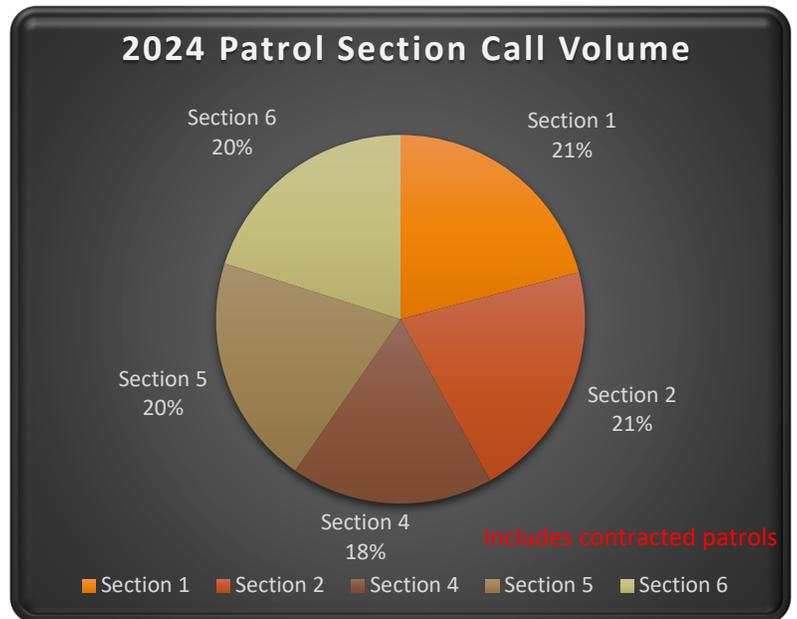
A helmet was not worn in 31% of the 52 crashes involving a motorcycle. Of those crashes, in which a helmet was not worn, only 2 resulted in no injury.



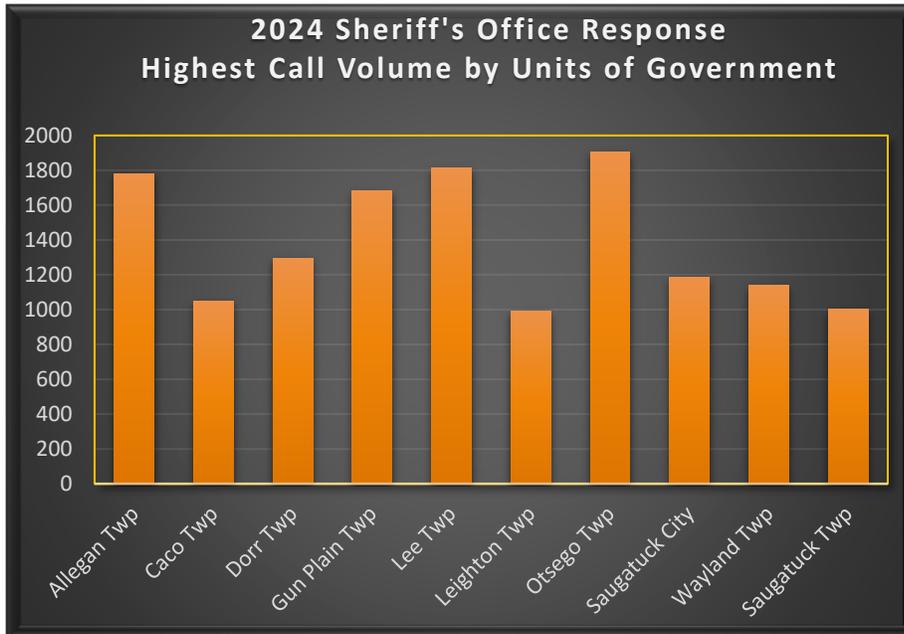
Law Enforcement Division – Road Patrol (continued)



We divide the county into 5 patrol areas utilizing township borders. This design goes back many years and is based on several factors that we periodically review. Two of the primary considerations in designing our patrol areas are call volume and geography. The pie chart illustrates that call volume is evenly balanced between the patrol areas. Additionally, as there are limited opportunities to cross the Kalamazoo River, our patrol areas minimize that need.



Law Enforcement Division – Road Patrol (continued)



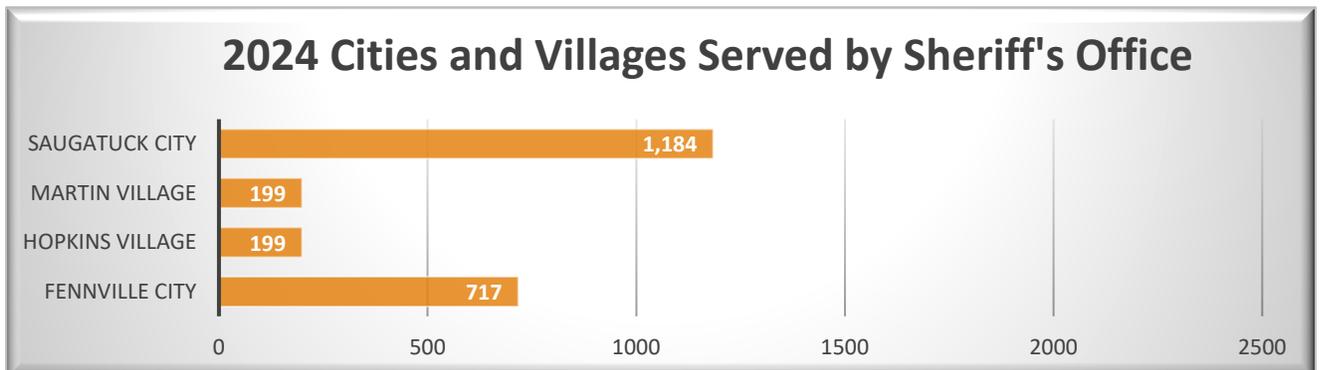
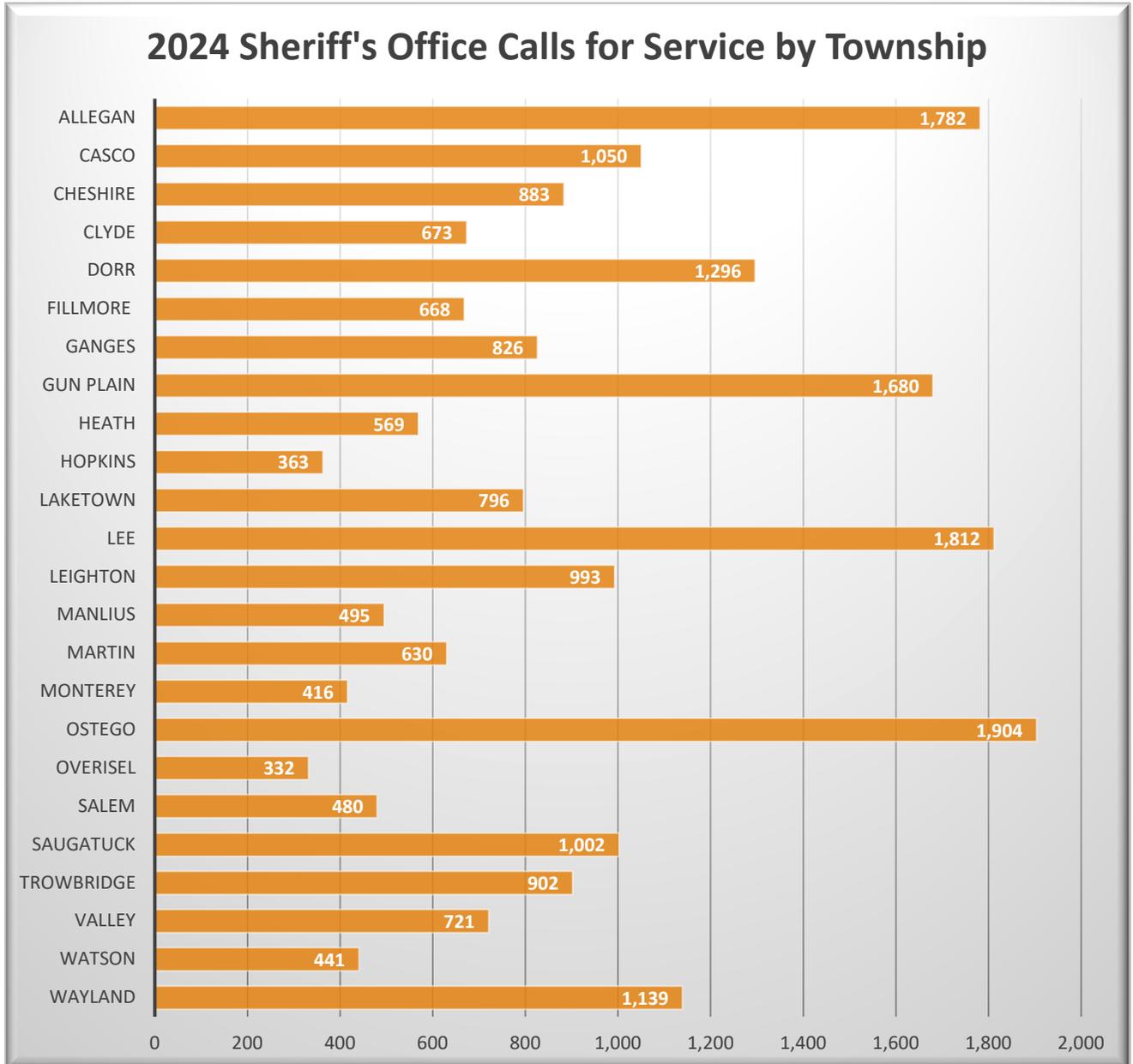
Otsego Township had the highest call volume handled by the Sheriff's Office last year with 1,904 calls for service. Lee Township followed with 1,812 calls, and Allegan Township was close behind with 1,782. Saugatuck City, which contracts with the Sheriff's Office for police services recorded 1,184.

Patrol enforcement highlights

Offense	Citations Issued	Offense	Citations Issued
Driving While License Suspended	524	Careless or Reckless Driving	78
Operating Under Influence of Liquor	310	Distracted Driving (texting)	388
Violations of Seat Belt law	204	Open Intoxicants in Vehicle	72
Too Fast for Conditions	406	No Driver's License/Never Applied	465
Speeding	4,138	No Proof of Insurance	969



Law Enforcement Division – Road Patrol (continued)



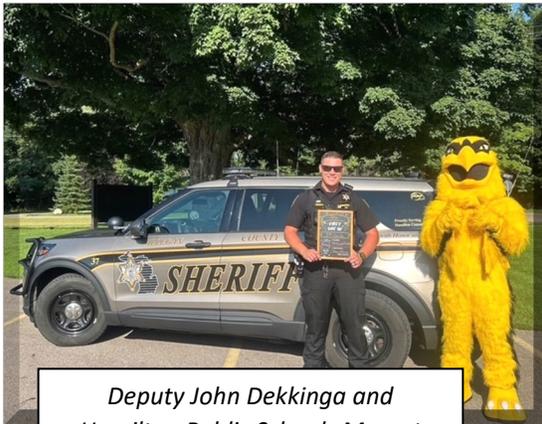
Law Enforcement – School Resource Officers

The Allegan County Sheriff's Office has a total of four school resource officers. These are sworn law enforcement deputies who receive on-going and specialized training to perform their duties as an SRO. They focus on maintaining safety and order, while also acting as a mentor. They are responsible for addressing any criminal activity, responding to any emergencies, and collaborating with school staff to assist in creating a positive and secure learning environment.

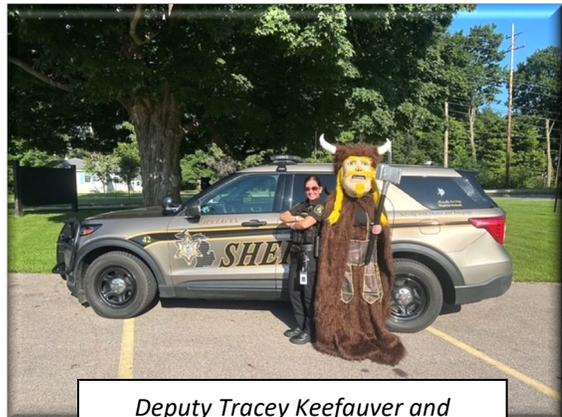
We are partnered with the Hamilton Public Schools, Hopkins Public Schools, Fennville Public Schools, and Martin Public Schools to provide this service.



Pictured L-to-R: Deputy Jason Kruthoff, Deputy Tracey Keefauver, Deputy Alan Klein, Deputy John Dekkinga, and Sgt. Ben Haas who supervises the SRO deputies.



Deputy John Dekkinga and Hamilton Public Schools Mascot



Deputy Tracey Keefauver and Hopkins Public Schools Mascot



Deputy Jason Kruthoff and Fennville Public Schools Mascot



Deputy Alan Klein, Martin Public Schools

Law Enforcement – Investigative Services

When a request for service comes into Central Dispatch it is dispatched to the closest available patrol officer. Many of these calls for service are resolved by the responding officer; however, incidents which require additional or specialized investigations are referred to the Investigative Services Division.

The Investigative Services Division, also known as the Detective Bureau, typically consists of four general case detectives, one digital forensics detective, one detective who specializes in domestic violence, and one detective who is assigned to a multi-jurisdictional drug investigation task force.

Beginning in 2024, two of these general case detective positions were reclassified as temporary assignments with a three-year term of service. The purpose was to create additional opportunities for road patrol officers to gain investigative experience and raise the overall level of training and expertise within the road patrol upon their return to a patrol position.

The Detective Bureau experienced an 18% increase in assigned cases in 2024 compared to the previous year. This rise is attributed to the addition of newly contracted positions in schools and patrol. As a result, cases that would have remained with more experienced patrol deputies for follow-up investigations are now being assigned to detectives.

One homicide was reported in Allegan County in 2024 resulting in one death. The Suspect is in custody and has been charged with open murder in that case. Additionally, the Allegan County Sheriff's Office Detectives were requested to assist the Otsego Police Department with a homicide investigation which occurred within their jurisdiction. One person is in custody for open murder as a result of that investigation.



*Front Row: Detective Janel Hagerty, Detective Matt Vanderploeg, Lt Mike Brown
Back Row: Sheriff Frank Baker, Detective Eric Speese, Detective Dave Ashton, Detective Joe Borgic, Evidence Custodian Mike Simonds.
Not Pictured: Detective Rob Flokstra*



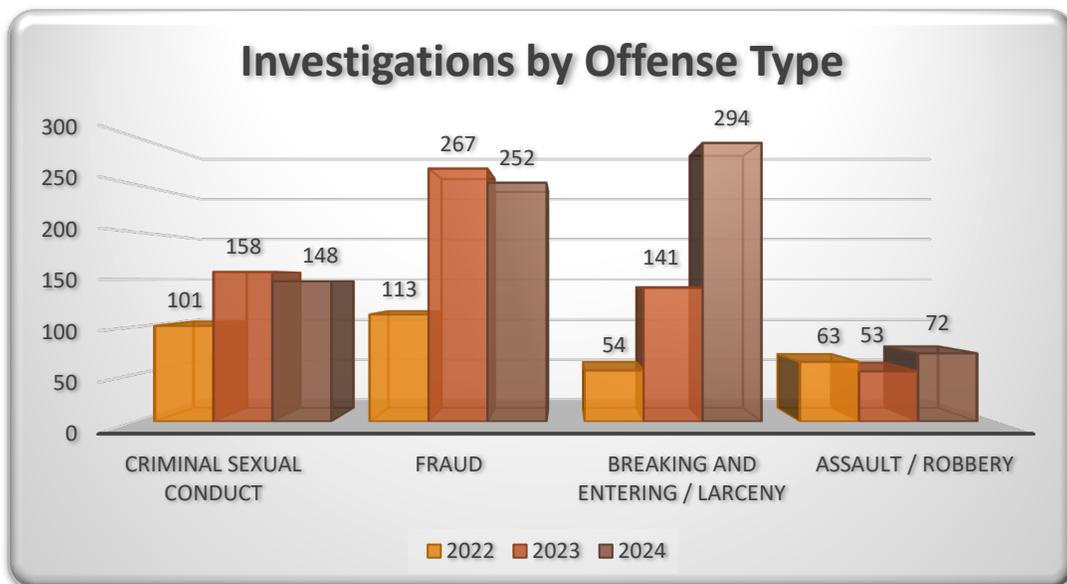
Law Enforcement – Investigative Services (continued)

Additional Highlights:

- Road Patrol officers were sent to an address in Allegan Twp. in regards to a report of domestic assault. Upon their arrival they spoke with the victim who described the incident as a verbal argument. While on scene deputies observed a small child with an unusual amount of bruising to his face and body. The Detective Bureau was called to assist and based upon victim / witness statements a search warrant was obtained for evidence within the house. During the later interview with the child, he disclosed that he had been punched several times and thrown around the house by his father. The father later admitted to abusing the child while intoxicated. He pled to child abuse in circuit court and was sentenced to prison.

Additional Highlights:

- Road Patrol deputies were dispatched to a body that was found on the Lake Michigan Shoreline. The condition of the body made identification difficult and no legal identification was found with the body. The Detective Bureau was called to assist and by searching missing persons reports from surrounding states they were able to locate a possible match of a missing person from the Chicago area in November of 2023. Detectives were able to coordinate with the family of the missing person and the Chicago Police Dept. to obtain DNA samples from the family. The DNA from the found body along with DNA from the possible match was sent to the MSP crime lab for comparison. The DNA confirmed the subject was in fact the missing person from Chicago and his remains were turned over to his family.



The sharp increase in B&E / Larceny statistics represents the increased assignment of these types of cases to detectives as mentioned previously

Law Enforcement - Investigative Services (continued)

Addressing Domestic Violence



Detective Janel Hagerty is in her fourth year assigned as the department's domestic violence investigator.

Along with conducting follow up interviews and taking additional photographs of any newly visible injuries, Detective Hagerty remains in contact with victims, makes sure they are aware of their rights as a victim of crime, services that are available to them, and provides emotional support throughout the long court process. Detective Hagerty acts as a liaison between the victim and the prosecutor's office and often has transported victims to court when they've encountered transportation issues.

In 2024, 287 cases were referred to Detective Hagerty for additional investigation, an increase from 184 in 2023. A couple examples of cases Detective Hagerty was involved in are listed below:

- Detective Hagerty conducted a follow up interview with a victim of domestic violence. The victim disclosed to Detective Hagerty several sexual assaults committed upon her by the suspect as well as the names of additional females who had been victimized by the same perpetrator. One of the victims disclosed being sexually assaulted and urinated upon by the suspect, as well as being locked inside of a dog cage when he became upset with her. Detective Hagerty remained these victims' lifeline, transporting them to court to testify against their abuser. This case led to the conviction of the suspect and a 10-15yr prison term in the case involving the first victim. Court proceedings are on-going for the remaining victims.
- In another investigation by Detective Hagerty, the victim, who is blind, disclosed that her boyfriend had assaulted her over a period of several days. Some of the assaults were captured audibly on the victim's phone. She was reluctant to talk with law enforcement initially but Detective Hagerty was able to convince her to speak of the abuse she had suffered. The victim disclosed that she was sexually assaulted with a broom handle and beaten with several objects inside the house. Detective Ashton assisted in the search of the house and was able to find hidden cameras which had captured the sexual and physical abuse. This investigation led to the conviction of the suspect by jury. The suspect was sentenced to over 25 years in prison.

Law Enforcement – Investigative Services (continued)

Addressing Domestic Violence

Detective Hagerty is currently working with women’s advocacy groups, domestic violence shelters, the courts, and local law enforcement partners to establish additional protocols, training, and resources to ensure successful outcomes for victims of domestic violence here in Allegan County.



Last October the Lakeshore Alliance Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (LAADSV) in Ottawa County and the Allegan County Coordinating Council on Domestic Violence (ACCCDV) in Allegan County held their annual *Together We Can Appreciation Awards* event. These awards recognize community members and businesses for their work in creating a supportive environment for victims.

Our own Detective Janel Hagerty and Sgt. Steven Damveld were award recipients from the law enforcement field.

Digital Forensics

Digital forensics is a branch of forensic science encompassing the recovery, investigation, examination and analysis of material found in digital devices, such as cellular phones, computers, and tablets. The Allegan County Sheriff’s Office maintains the only digital forensics lab within Allegan County. This position was approved by the Allegan County Board of Commissioners in 2020 and has had a significant impact on our ability to investigate and solve crime. We examine devices for all law enforcement agencies in Allegan County as well as the Michigan State Police. The digital forensics lab is operated by Detective Dave Ashton. Just a couple of investigative highlights are listed below:

- In 2024 Detective Ashton was provided information by a telecommunications provider that child pornography had been observed in one of their customers cloud backup servers. Detective Ashton began his investigation and was able to obtain search warrants for the subject’s phone. A later examination of this device led to the discovery of additional child pornography as well as videos of the subject committing sexual assaults upon two separate females with whom he was acquainted. That case is still pending in circuit court.

Law Enforcement – Investigative Services (continued)

Digital Forensics

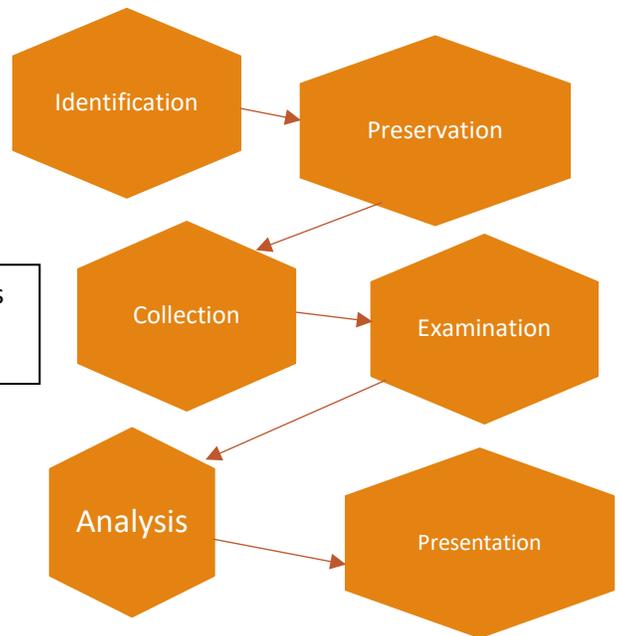
- In another case, the detective bureau was investigating a report of a criminal sexual assault between a 20yr old male suspect and a 15yr old female victim. The male suspect denied having any type of sexual activity with the female; however, a search warrant was obtained for his cellular device and the evidence found proved otherwise.

Metadata from photographs on the suspects phone showed they were taken inside the victim’s residence. Photos from the phone confirmed that he was at the victim’s house on the night of the assault. The phone also showed that it had been connected to the Wi-Fi router at the victim’s residence. Additional photographs were found depicting the physical and sexual assault of the victim inside the suspect’s vehicle. Metadata from those photographs showed the assaults to have occurred in Ottawa and Muskegon Counties. Information recovered from the suspects device was crucial in his successful prosecution without the victim having to testify in court.



In 2024 Detective Ashton examined 268 devices and reviewed 90.07 TB of data

Digital Forensics Process Flow



Specialized evidence lockers with charging capabilities

Law Enforcement – Investigative Services (continued)

Narcotics Investigation



To combat the use and sale of illegal narcotics in Allegan County the Allegan County Sheriff's Office assigns one detective to the Southwest Enforcement Team (SWET). SWET is a multijurisdictional task force assigned to illegal narcotics investigations. Methamphetamine accounts for the majority of illegal drugs seized in Allegan County while fentanyl mixtures account for the majority of accidental deaths.

A couple cases from 2024 are highlighted below:

- SWET detectives conducted an investigation involving a male subject out of the Grand Rapids area that was supplying large quantities of methamphetamine to Allegan and Barry Counties. SWET detectives were able to arrest and get federal indictments for the subject. SWET seized \$28,000 dollars in currency along with 3 pounds of methamphetamine. The investigation also revealed that the suspect was involved in over one million dollars' worth of stolen vehicles and had ties to a supplier based in the Detroit area.
- SWET detectives were investigating a male suspect from the Grand Rapids area that was suspected of supplying large quantities of methamphetamine to Allegan County. The suspect and his sister were later indicted on federal drug charges after being stopped by law enforcement while transporting 10 pounds of methamphetamine.

Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation

The Investigative Services Bureau investigates incidents involving the online exploitation of children which includes crimes such as sextortion and the manufacture, distribution, and sale of child sexually abusive material also known as child pornography.

In 2024 Sheriff's Office detectives investigated 27 incidents related to child sexually abusive material. To help combat these heinous crimes, Detective Dave Ashton is the departments affiliate on the Michigan State Police Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC). Lt Mike Brown is also a task force officer with the FBI's West Michigan Based Child Exploitation Task Force (WEBCHEx).

Law Enforcement – Investigative Services (continued)

Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation

ICAC and WEBCHEX are multijurisdictional task forces which investigate human trafficking and the online exploitation of children.



A few case highlights are shown below:

- A Former captain with an Allegan County fire department was arrested on child pornography charges. The suspect communicated with an online undercover FBI agent on an incest forum and later on a social media platform. The suspect claimed to be attracted to his 13-year-old daughter. The suspect sent images of his daughter to prove the relationship as well as other child pornography. The WEBCHEX Task Force confirmed the suspects identity and conducted a search due to the nature of the circumstances. As a result of the quick actions of the Task Force, the suspect admitted trading child sexually abusive material to others, including images of his daughter.
- The WEBCHEX Task Force received a Guardian Tip from the FBI Sacramento Field Office regarding a juvenile female who had been sextorted in Sacramento, CA. Agents in Sacramento tracked the subject to an address in Allegan County under an alias name; however, the suspect's true identity was uncovered by the Task Force as 25-year-old male.

A search warrant was conducted at the suspects residence and several electronic devices were seized. The suspect admitted to obtaining child sexually abusive material from dozens of juvenile females over a couple year period, including the juvenile from Sacramento. He also admitted to purchasing child sexually abusive material from multiple sources online. A later search of his electronic devices resulted in the discovery of child sexually abusive material and bestiality. The suspect was **arrested and charged with 26 felony counts** including Aggravated Child Sexually Abusive Activity, accosting a child for immoral purposes, stalking a minor and using a computer to commit a crime. He remains incarcerated in the Allegan County Jail pending judicial proceedings.

Law Enforcement – Investigative Services (continued)

Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation

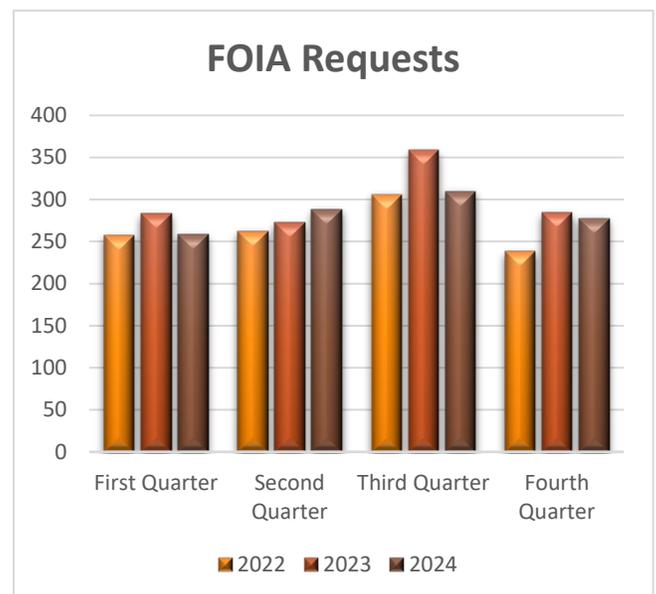
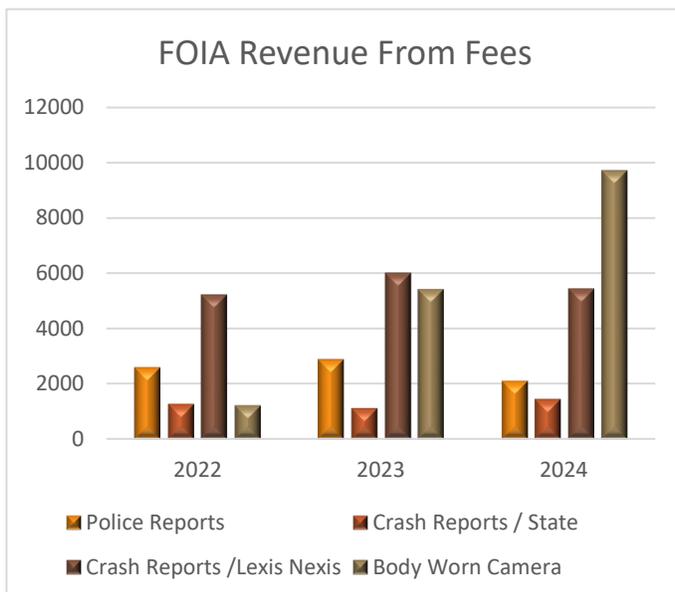
- **WEBCHEX UNDERCOVER STING NETS SIX:**

The Kent County Sheriff's Office Human Trafficking Task Force in collaboration with the WEBCHEX Task Force conducted "**OPERATION FISH HOOK,**" an undercover operation in which undercover agents and detectives placed ads on social media platforms and applications posing as minors, which resulted in contact with multiple men. These men communicated electronically, sending and requesting sexually explicit photos and videos, along with two of the men driving to meet up for sex. The WEBCHEX Task Force **arrested six suspects** who were charged with the following charges: Child Sexually Abusive Activity (20-Year Felony) Accosting a Minor (4-Year Felony) Using a computer to Communicate with Another to Commit a Crime (15 years to life).

These cases represent just a few highlights of the fine work being done by our Investigative Team members. Many of these cases can be found in local news media outlets if you are looking for additional details.

Administrative Services Division

Administrative staff responded to 1,132 Freedom of Information Act requests in 2024. The fees collected for FOIA requests has steadily risen over the last three years reflecting the additional costs associated with FOIA requests for video from our body worn cameras.



UD-10 crash reports are done electronically and submitted to the state. The state shares a portion of the fees from on-line requests for copies. We also provide crash reports to Lexis Nexis who shares a portion of fees from requests they receive for crash reports. The final category is fees collected from requests for body worn camera video.

Administrative Services Division (continued)

Our administrative staff transcribes reports and processes documents for the sheriff's office, the courts, the prosecutor's office, and the public. They continue to do an amazing job, as they prepared the records of 27,357 calls for service in 2024.

Over six thousand people came into the Sheriff's Office for service last year. 236 individuals came in for a UD-Crash report. 1,049 sex offenders came to the Sheriff's Office to verify and update their information which is a 7% increase over 2023. Many more utilized on-line services.

Livescan Fingerprints	
Concealed Pistol License Applicant	775
School Employment	162
Criminal Justice	98
Liquor License Applicant	9
Driver Education Certification	3
Salvage Dealer License Applicant	4
State Bar License Applicant	2
Health Care Professional License	1
Total	1,054

Month	Lobby
Jan	446
Feb	538
Mar	744
Apr	649
May	609
Jun	491
Jul	514
Aug	616
Sep	606
Oct	637
Nov	512
Dec	496
Total	6,397



Pistol Sales Records	
Entry from Permit to Purchase	660
Entry from Pistol Sales Record	3,958
Entry from concealed pistol license - 473	
Entry from MCOLES - 13	
FFL as seller – 2,286	
FFL as purchaser – 1,186	
Total	4,618

Firearm Permit to Purchase Stats	
Approved Applicants	752
Denied Applicants / Reason	17
Felony Conviction - 2	
Probable Cause- 2	
Subject of Protective Order - 1	
Controlled Substance Use - 12	
Number of Permits Issued	1,049
Number of Permits Unused	336

There was a change to the firearm purchase laws in February of 2024 requiring additional steps to purchase firearms.



Administrative Services Division (continued)

Additional Report / Information Requests	
Background Checks for Police Agencies	405
MDOC Probation Parole in-house lookup / background check	170
Military background checks	70
Department of Health and Human Services background check / reports	509
Adoption Services in-house lookup and background check letter	18
Allegan County Human Resources background for employment	79
Other	142
Outside agencies	45
Total	1,438

Marine Patrol Division



The Marine Patrol conducted 9 boating safety classes in 2024. The 2024 Marine Patrol consisted of 1 full time deputy and 20 part time deputies operating 10 boats in the fleet. They investigated 4 boating accidents and were involved in 16 rescue operations.

They inspected 15 boat liveries and a total of 265 boats were inspected. Many of these operations are boat, canoe, and kayak rentals.

They also participated in Operation Dry Water, which focuses on impaired boating enforcement.



Marine Patrol Division (continued)

Safety Equipment	Citation	Warnings
Wearable Personal Floatation Device (PFD)	19	36
Type IV / Throwable PFD	6	27
Fire Extinguisher	1	58
Visual Distress Signals	0	1
Sound Producing Device	1	18



The Marine Patrol trained nearly 350 students in boating safety. They certified 241 of those students.

Reserve Deputy Division



Pictured L-to-R: Sheriff Baker, Reserve Deputies: Snell, Jahnke, Hestera, Marsh, Elkins, and Sgt. Haas

The Reserve Division consists of trained, but non-certified law enforcement deputies, who work part-time to assist the Sheriff's Office and our communities. We run reserve deputy training academies periodically to maintain staffing.

These academies provide our Reserve deputies with extensive training before they assume their duties working alongside our deputies.

The reserve deputies worked a total of 3,094 hours last year. They provide essential services including inmate security for hospital visits, courthouse security, traffic control at events, traffic control for house moves, foot patrols in

Saugatuck, and security at the county fair. They also conduct property inspections, act as a second officer on patrol with our deputies, and attend monthly meetings and trainings. Anyone interested in being a part of the Sheriff's Office Reserve Division is encouraged to contact us and we would be happy to discuss opportunities to be involved.

Emergency Management Division



Sarah Clark,
Emergency Management
Coordinator

Emergency Management is extensively involved in the planning of large events that occur within Allegan County. They develop the incident action plans communities use for events such as the Allegan County Fair, 4th of July celebrations, the Luke Bryan Farm Tour concert, the Allegan County Fair, the Wayland Balloon Festival, the Saugatuck Venetian Festival and many others.

The Emergency Management Division coordinates and collaborates with the Allegan County Search and Rescue (ACSR), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Radio Service (RACES), the Red Cross, and several other volunteer organizations.

They also respond to other hazards such as chemical or fuel spills, fires, and weather-related events.



Justin Johnson,
Deputy Emergency Management
Coordinator



Animal Control Division



Deputy Rachel Bywater and Deputy Jim Kimber

The Sheriff's Office has two animal control deputies who are trained in the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) standards to be an animal control officer in the state of Michigan.

They were dispatched to a total of 1,174 calls for service last year. The total included 224 animal bites, 665 dogs running loose, and 250 animal welfare checks. They are responsible for the enforcement of the Michigan dog laws, the Allegan County Animal Control Ordinance, as well as

investigations of domestic animal care, dog attacks on livestock, and animal cruelty related issues.

Court Security Division



Deputies assigned to Court Security provide screening at the entrance to the Court and County Building. They also act as bailiffs in the Courtrooms, conduct transports of inmates and juveniles to and from the Courts, the Corrections Center, and the Youth Home. They provide overall security for the building and provide inmate court services within the Corrections Center.



Victim Services Unit



The VSU is a group of dedicated volunteers who are trained by the Michigan Sheriff's Association to provide comfort and direction after there has been the tragic loss of a loved one. An example would be when they respond to assist families after fatal traffic crashes. They are trained in subjects such as the stages of grief, effective communication, law enforcement protocols, and the rights of victims in the criminal justice system. Sgt. Ross Mysliwiec is assigned as a liaison to the unit.

Specialty Teams and Training

The Sheriff's Office has several specialty teams, as well as deputies trained in specific skills, in addition to their normal patrol or investigative responsibilities.

K9 Teams

Each of our four patrol shifts have a K9 Team assigned to it. The K9 dogs are multi-purpose and our trained in narcotics searches, article searches, tracking, and apprehension.



SWAT Team

The Allegan County SWAT Team is a multi-jurisdictional Team made up of deputies and police officers from the Sheriff's Office and local police agencies. Officers on the team are selected through an application and background process, along with a physical fitness test. Team members are required to maintain a standard for physical fitness, firearms proficiency, and are routinely evaluated during their training sessions. The SWAT Team conducts high risk search warrants, responds to armed barricaded individuals, hostage situations, and other appropriate call outs.



Cell Extraction Teams

Each of the shifts in the Corrections Division has deputies and a sergeant trained in cell extractions. This is a specialty team utilized to minimize the chances of injury to the inmate and staff when dealing with an inmate who is non-compliant.



Snowmobile Patrol

Utilized and funded through a DNR grant to patrol the snowmobile trails and teach snowmobile safety classes.



Drone Operators

Several deputies are trained and authorized to utilize our drones for purposes such as locating lost or missing persons, evidence collection, and close observation of high-risk situations.

We are now implementing the use of drones and specialty software for crash and crime scene photography, measurements, and mapping. This technology will allow roads to be opened sooner after a serious crash, which is safer for our deputies and the vehicles on the road, as secondary crashes are always a concern. Additionally, this software coupled with new digital photography technology will allow us to provide better evidence to the Prosecutor's Office in our criminal prosecutions.



Dive Rescue Team

Team members are trained as divers and surface personnel. This team performs water rescues, underwater evidence collection, and meets our statutory obligation to attempt to recover the bodies of drowning victims in our county.



Evidence Technicians

Deputies trained to collect, package, and preserve crime scene evidence for purposes of solving crime and successfully prosecuting suspects.



Crash Reconstruction Team

Deputies specially trained to investigate crashes utilizing specialized equipment and software for measuring and determining the facts surrounding fatal and very serious injury crashes for purposes of prosecution.

The deputies trained as reconstruction team members are also available to assist the officers of other agencies within the County who may have serious crashes within their jurisdictions.



Honor Guard

Specially trained and uniformed to provide ceremonial duties, pay tribute, and provide honors at certain events such as funerals and public ceremonies.

Our honor guard provides funeral honors for current and retired members of the Sheriff's Office upon the request of the family.



In Conclusion



The Sheriff's Office would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Board of Commissioners for your trust and support over the past year. I am incredibly proud of the work we have accomplished together to enhance public safety throughout Allegheny County.

Over the past few years, we have undertaken several key initiatives, and we are now seeing meaningful, positive impacts in the communities we serve. These accomplishments would not have been possible without our partnership and commitment.

If you have any questions, need additional information, or are looking for details not included in this report, please do not hesitate to reach out.

On behalf of the deputies and staff at the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office, I also want to thank the communities, businesses, and citizens of Allegheny County for your continued support.

It is an honor to serve you as your Sheriff, and all of us at the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office look forward to continuing to serve you in 2025.

Frank Baker, Sheriff
Allegheny County Sheriff's Office

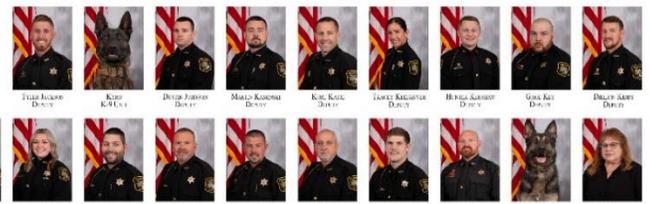
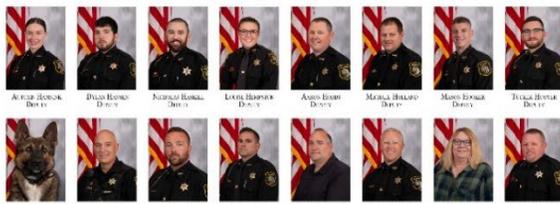


ALLEGAN COUNTY

SHERIFF'S OFFICE



2024



ALLEGAN COUNTY

SHERIFF'S OFFICE



THOMAS ACHTERLOF DEPUTY JOSHUA ALDAY RESERVE DEPUTY LUKE AURNER DEPUTY GREGG BERENS DEPUTY



AUSTIN BODFISH RESERVE DEPUTY MARK BOOTH DEPUTY CHARLES BURSK MARINE DEPUTY JOHN BYRNE MARINE DEPUTY



CIRSTEN COBURN CADET TRAVIS DAVIE MARINE DEPUTY DERRICK EIKENS RESERVE DEPUTY



FRANK BAKER SHERIFF



MICHAEL LARSEN UNDERSHERIFF



TIMOTHY FONGER MARINE DEPUTY LESTER GREGGSEN MARINE DEPUTY ANNA HESTERA RESERVE DEPUTY



BRIAN JANISKE RESERVE DEPUTY MICHAEL KEELER RESERVE DEPUTY CHRISTOPHER KETTLER MARINE DEPUTY



JAMES KOOSTRA RESERVE DEPUTY KYLE KOSTER MARINE DEPUTY CARRIE KRUG DEPUTY

AUXILIARY SERVICES



KATHLEEN KUENZLI DEPUTY FREDERICK LANGELAND RESERVE DEPUTY RICKY LEVERETT RESERVE DEPUTY LEO MAAS DEPUTY RANDALL MACNEIL EM CHRISTOPHER MANTELL MARINE DEPUTY ANDREW MARSH RESERVE DEPUTY ROBERT MARTIN MARINE DEPUTY SETH MCPHERSON EM



ANDRIANA MISSLER DEPUTY BRADLEY NICIOLS CADET RONALDO REJAMAL DEPUTY MICHAEL RUMMELI RESERVE DEPUTY JUSTIN RUSSELL RESERVE DEPUTY JAY SALAZAR RESERVE DEPUTY RANDAL SALE DEPUTY ANDREA TACKETT DEPUTY ROGER THURSTON MARINE DEPUTY WILLIAM TOWNES RESERVE DEPUTY JASON VUENSTRA EM MADISON WAGNER ADMIN ASSISTANT TODD WAGNER SERGEANT



2025 Command Staff

In 2024, Captain Brett Ensfield retired, creating a vacancy in the captain position. Lieutenant J.P. Damveld was subsequently promoted to captain, and Sergeant Brandon Berens was promoted to lieutenant to fill the vacancy created by Captain Damveld's promotion.



Sheriff Frank Baker



Undersheriff Michael Larsen



Captain John Paul Damveld

Criminal Investigations



Lieutenant Michael Brown

Corrections Inmate Programs



Lieutenant Charity Cummins

Corrections Division



Lieutenant Nate Suszek

Patrol Division



Lieutenant Brandon Berens