

SHERIFF

DESOTO COUNTY

James F. Potter, Sheriff

ANNUAL REPORT



2020



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A MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF



Dear Citizens of DeSoto County:

I am pleased to present to you the 2020 DeSoto County Sheriff's Office Annual Report. As I enter my second term as your Sheriff, I am proud to see how your DeSoto County Sheriff's Office is moving in a positive direction. The many challenges of 2020 for our county, state and country are reminders of our blessings and resiliency as a nation. This report outlines the significant initiatives that have been prioritized during the past year and also includes specific facts and statistics for 2020.

We continue to expand the level of our service by adding value to our daily duties as prescribed by our U.S. and State Constitution, Florida State Statutes and other applicable laws. I am proud to report our personnel are receiving the highest degree of training, equipment and education to better balance the many challenges they face on a daily basis. Proper training and equipment is an important priority for your safety, our deputies' safety and the reduction of overall risk to our community.

We continue to professionally grow our personnel who are in leadership positions. An investment in leadership training and the position of holding leaders accountable is a priority for the Sheriff's Office and an added value to the public.

The Sheriff's Office transparent stance on constitutional compliance is one of our core ethical foundation blocks and an important piece in establishing public trust. We believe in building positive relationships, gaining feedback from those we serve and lawfully adjusting to better serve our community and other government stakeholders.

Overall it remains vitally important to us that we continue our part in maintaining a standard of excellence to our community by providing the best possible law enforcement, corrections and communications/dispatch service(s) to those we have sworn to protect.

I am truly honored to represent and lead the men and women of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office who serve our community. I am proud to serve as your elected Sheriff and will continue to be accountable for the professional leadership, management and operation of your Sheriff's Office. We will continue to uphold the bedrock standards we have displayed through good stewardship of public funding and public trust.

Without question, the credit for the success of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office belongs to the dedicated men and women working at the Sheriff's Office who are committed to providing professional services to our community each and every day. On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office, I present to you our 2020 Annual Report.

Sincerely,

James F. Potter
DeSoto County—Sheriff



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“WE, THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE DESOTO COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE, BELIEVE OUR FUNDAMENTAL DUTY IS TO SERVE AND PROTECT ALL CITIZENS AND GUESTS OF DESOTO COUNTY WITH FAIRNESS, COMPASSION, HONOR, AND RESPECT.

WE WILL STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE, PROFESSIONALISM, INTEGRITY, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AND TIMELINESS OF SERVICE.

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN THE EXERCISE OF OUR DUTY.

THE DESOTO COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE WILL COLLECTIVELY AND INDIVIDUALLY ENDEAVOR TO MAINTAIN HIGHLY CAPABLE PUBLIC SERVANTS WITH UPSTANDING CHARACTER WHO ARE COMMITTED TO DUTY AND COMPETENCE IN ACTION.

THIS IS OUR PLEDGE.

THIS IS WHO WE ARE.”





LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

Fleet Management & Maintenance Division



Fleet Management / Maintenance

Standard Units	89
Watercraft.....	5
Specialty Vehicles	6
Volunteer Units.....	2

In June of 2020, DCSO hired a fulltime Fleet Maintenance Technician, Micky Mercer, who is responsible for the care and maintenance of 102 fleet vehicles. In the reporting period of June 2020 to January 2021 our Fleet Tech completed a total of 303 new fleet maintenance tickets. These repairs covered a vast range of services from solving complex wiring issues and installing/uninstalling emergency equipment to routine maintenance such as oil changes and tire and brake replacement. These repairs are all completed in our newly created Fleet Maintenance Shop at the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office Garage.

Human Resources

Our Human Resources Manager is responsible for managing the hiring process, exit interviews, employee files, analytical and salary compensation research, training and standards, data entry for ATMS and a multitude of additional responsibilities to maintain the continued advancement of the agency.

Indeed Advertisement

Impressions	66,795
Click Rate	33.9%
Clicks.....	6,205
Website Updates (Hours).....	182.5

Website

Website Monitored Daily (Hours).....	365
Website Updates (Hours).....	182.5

Applications

Processed.....	207
Reviewed.....	207
Hired	28

Internal Logistics

Promotions	19
Employee Transfers	14
Academy Recruits	3
Higher Education	2

Grants

- JAG—Countywide (JAGC)
- JAG—Direct (JAGD)
- HEROS
- CARE
- COVID-19

Information Technology

Information Technology is comprised of one (1) Director and one (1) Support Specialist which maintain information systems for all the bureaus of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office. Their duties include maintaining computers, servers, networking equipment, body/dash cameras, closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras, VoIP telephones, and supporting public safety software.

Information Technology Projects

- Upgrading Patrol Division laptops to a refreshed operating system, cycling out older units in favor of newer models, and upgrading storage components on other equipment for a more responsive performance.

- Redesign of the Detention Control Room with three (3) large format displays to support detainee and personnel safety.
- Installing new CCTV viewing stations for improved personnel safety.
- Upgrading Investigative Division computers to multi-monitor configurations to support intensive tasks.
- Installing/refreshing sixteen (16) in-car dash camera systems.
- Installing secure phone for attorney client access in the Jail Booking area.
- Replacing long-term 911/radio voice recorder with a new model capable of recording digital audio.



FINANCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

The Financial Services Division consists of three (3) full time employees with the responsibility of support functions to effectively manage the ad-valorem tax dollars provided by the county for the agency’s law enforcement, bailiff, detention, communications, and school resource officer operations. Those functions include but are not limited to developing and monitoring the annual budget, payroll, accounts payable and receivable, cash management, grants and financial reporting.

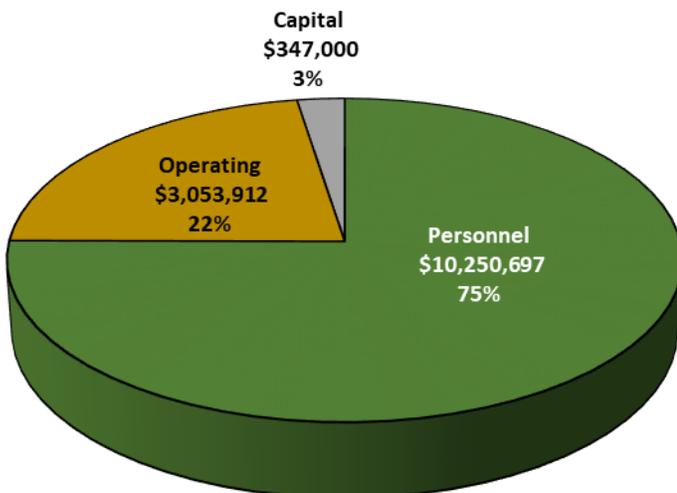
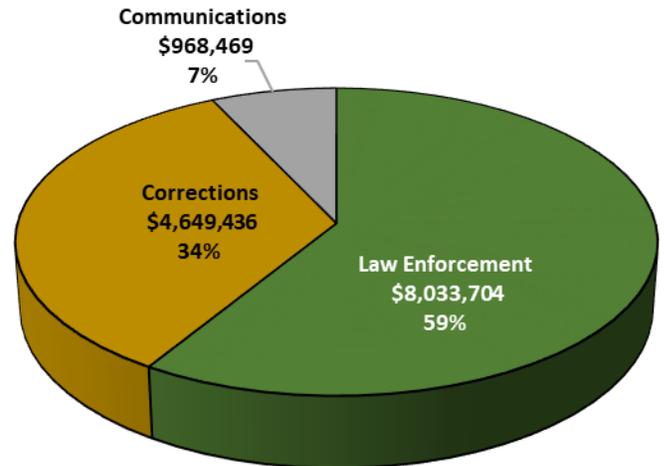
The Sheriff’s annual budget must comply with Florida Statute and the Uniform Accounting System, and it must be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners no later than May 31 for the fiscal year which will begin the following October 1. The Board has the authority to accept, reject, or require modifications to the submission. The final approved budget is not received from the Board until late September, after all required public meetings are held.

The Sheriff’s Office budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 was \$13,651,609. This amount breaks down to 59% (\$8,033,704) for law enforcement expenditures, 34% (\$4,649,436) for Detention Center, and 7% (\$968,469) for communications.

Yearly audits are performed by an independent audit firm, to which we have received a satisfactory approval grade. These audits are available through the Board of County Commissioners website.

Revenues and Reinvestments

Total Returned to County.....	\$1,003,206.78
Detainee Book Keeping Services	\$28,500.00
Article 5 Revenue	\$24,550.56
Grants	\$16,379.00
School Board SRD Fund	\$15,486.43
APD Communication Tower	\$10,586.00
Records Fees	\$2,917.50



Payroll

Unemployment Reports Submitted	4
Pay Runs Completed	26
1095C Forms Processed	149
W2 Forms Distributed	150
Hours of Special Details.....	1442
Checks Processed	893
Direct Deposits.....	2,492
Hours of Overtime	7,981



TRAINING DIVISION

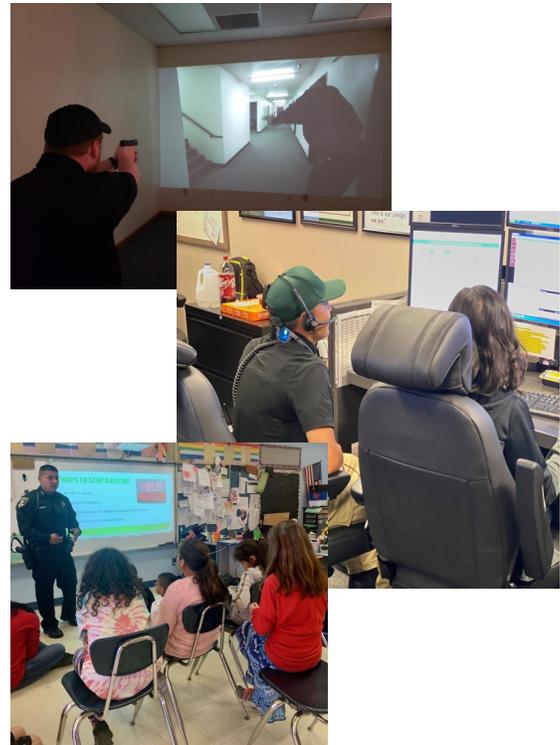
During 2020, the training division continued to provide all employees with the training necessary to serve the citizens of DeSoto County. Unfortunately COVID-19 did challenge the manner in which this training was delivered, but training never stopped. The trainings consisted of computer based courses as well as live classes with proper social distancing and safety measures. We were able to deliver over 1200 total hours of training outside of our normal in-service training schedule.

Throughout the year, employees routinely participated in web based training by utilizing PowerDMS. PowerDMS is a repository for documents employees are required to read and understand, such as General Orders. There is also a training module that enabled us to deliver over 750 hours of training. Some of the topics covered were Use of Force, Traffic Incident Management, Inmate Manipulation, Seatbelts Saves Lives, Mental Health Crisis Intervention Training and many others.

Firearms proficiency is also a priority for training. During the 148 hours of firearms training during the year, our deputies fired approximately 40,000 rounds of handgun, 5,000 rounds of patrol rifle and 1,000 rounds of shotgun ammunition. The firearms training consisted of basic qualifications courses and drills to improve marksmanship and tactical fundamentals.

Additionally, the Sheriff's Office has the responsibility to cover two school crossings on Highway 17. These two crossings are covered by part-time employees of the Sheriff's Office and the school crossings are their sole responsibility. School crossing guards received two hours of training annually and this training enables them to keep the children safe going to and from school.

<u>Training Subject</u>	<u>Personnel Trained / Hours</u>
Stop Stick	58 / 29
Narcan	8 / 8
Weapon Retention	93 / 46.5
Pepperball	87 / 43.5
Seatbelts Saves Lives	82 / 41
911 PST Recertification	19 / 418
Management Chair	6 / 3
Justifiable Use of Force FSS 776	92 / 46
Weapons and Firearms FSS 790	78 / 39
Securing the Hospital Environment	7 / 7
Traffic Incident Management	60 / 60
CPR	113 / 226
AED	60 / 60
Taser	76 / 152
Sovereign Citizens Training	2 / 4
Firearms Training	240 / 148
Firearms Training Simulator (FATS)	220 hrs
Total	1,143 / 1,582





UNIFORMED PATROL BUREAU



The Uniformed Patrol Bureau is comprised of several different Units; Patrol, School Resource and Safety, Court Services, Agricultural Crimes and K-9. All of the Deputies assigned to the Uniformed Patrol Bureau are sworn Law Enforcement Officers. Our Patrol deputies are responsible for responding to all calls for service, traffic enforcement, conducting initial investigations and effecting arrest. The other units are responsible for the safety of schools, safety of the courts, investigate agricultural crimes and our beloved K-9's provide drug enforcement and tracking capabilities.

Criminal Calls

Burglaries.....	164
Disturbances.....	448
Larceny.....	187
Robberies.....	3
Prowler / Peeper.....	24
Criminal Mischief.....	64
Curfew Violations.....	0
Battery / Domestic Battery.....	188
Sexual Battery.....	29
Illegal Dumping.....	11
Child Custody.....	71
Fraud.....	200
Threats / Harassment.....	139
Retail Theft.....	22
DUI Arrests / Citations.....	48

Non-Criminal Calls

Baker Acts & Transports.....	312
Alarms.....	639
Special Patrol.....	14,562
Traffic Citations.....	1,076
Traffic Stops.....	3,983
School Bus Checks.....	2,106
Written Warnings.....	1,588
Religious Location Checks.....	586

Administrative Stats

Miles Patrolled.....	930,357
Judicial Complex Visitors.....	20,041
Funeral Escorts.....	44
Public Assistance Calls.....	211
Average Response Time to calls.....	6:28 min.
Vehicles Impounded.....	236
Traffic Crashes Conducted.....	515
SafetyNet Tracking.....	12 users

School Resource Deputy Activity

Field Interviews.....	12
Dean Referrals.....	71
CADS.....	329
Cases.....	62
Student Mentoring.....	207

Agricultural Unit

Calls for Service.....	1,701
Cases Opened.....	43
Cases Closed.....	42
AGID's Issued.....	20
Animals Impounded.....	2
Miles Patrolled.....	41,412



SUPPORT BUREAU

The Support Bureau comprises of both sworn law enforcement deputies and civilian staff. There are many different facets of the Support Bureau to include 911 Telecommunicators, Criminal Investigation Detectives, Narcotics Detectives, Civil Deputies and Warrants. The Support Bureau works with other local, state and federal agencies to combat and solve crime.



Investigations

Cases Investigated	372
Arrests	135
Death Investigations	21
Violent Crimes	8
Search Warrants	75
Homicides	2
Cold Case Reviews	4
Officer Involved Shooting	1
Financial Crimes	55
Property Recovered in dollars	\$107,092
Sexual Offender Checks	217
Crime Scene Responses	41
Case Intake	638

Victims' Advocacy

Crisis Counseling	82
Follow-Up Contacts	66
Information & Referrals	755
Injunctions	49
Assisted Compensation Filed	629
Telephone Contacts	70
Referral Letters Sent	655

Tips

Tip Line Calls	59
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Narcotics

Narcotic Cases Investigated	262
Narcotic Arrests	120
Narcotic Warrant Arrests	76
Cannabis Seized	763.17g
Cannabis Street Value	\$6,730
Meth Seized	362.68g
Meth Street Value	\$12,790
Cocaine Seized	71.72g
Cocaine Street Value	\$5,040
Heroin Seized	3.03g
Heroin Street Value	\$303
RX Pills Seized	797
RX Pills Total Street Value	\$23,910
Fentanyl Mix	32.58g
Fentanyl Street Value	\$2,508
Total Narcotic Seized Value	\$51,281

Walk-ins Total

Records	4,661
Dispatch	1,600

Communications

Non-Emergency Calls	64,293
9-1-1 Calls	15,724
Calls for Service	15,567



DETENTION BUREAU



The Detention Bureau comprises of both sworn detention deputies and civilian staff, who work in the DeSoto County Jail. The Detention Bureau is primarily responsible for the care, custody and control of detainees confined to the DeSoto County Jail. Other responsibilities include the in-processing and out-processing of individuals arrested by DCSO, Arcadia Police Department, Florida Highway Patrol and other Federal/State/Local agencies. The Detention Bureau not only houses detainees but coordinates with Law Enforcement concerning criminal activity, Gang affiliation, court services and intelligence collections.

Arrests Processed

DeSoto County Sheriff's Office	947
Arcadia Police Department	353
Other	27
Total Arrested.....	1,327

Releases Process

Bonded	763
Court Ordered	361
Department of Corrections	67
Other	116
Total Released	1,307

Types of Charges Booked

Felonies	1,254
Misdemeanors	1,125
Sex/Criminal Registrations	159
Total	2,538

Detainees Arrested

Male	1,642
Female	253
Total	1,895

Average Daily Population

Daily Average	158
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Assaults on Staff

By Detainees	9
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Medical Report

Hospital Admission	19
Outside Consults/ X-Rays	32
Emergency Room Visits	52
Seen by ARNP	1,102
Seen by Dentist	5
Seen by Psychologist	419
Annual/ Initial Physicals	367
Sick Calls	2,693
Wound Care	347

Transports

Medical (Number of Detainees)	107
Medical Mileage	3,637
DOC (Number of Detainees)	67
DOC Mileage	4,931
General (Number of Detainees)	83
General Mileage	9,642
Total Detainees Transported	257
Total Mileage Driven	18,410

Gang Intel

Detainees in Gangs	23
Number of Gangs Identified	13



CAD REPORTING

Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) reporting calls come into the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office for a multitude of varying public concerns. As well as the self-initiated proactive action on the part of our Deputies, whom are patrolling approximately 640 square miles of DeSoto County keeping the citizens safe.





CAD REPORTING

CAD Reporting

Drunk Driver	26
Stolen Vehicle	51
Escort	44
Conduct Investigation	325
Pursuit	7
Serving Warrant	783
Traffic Stop	4,062
Serving Civil Process	259
Recovered Stolen Vehicle	22
Abandoned Vehicle	69
Reckless Driver	604
Incident	961
Suspicious Aircraft	2
Suspicious Vehicle	538
Information	1,172
Special Detail	2
Highway Obstruction	205
Attempt To Locate / Contact	71
Drunk Pedestrian	28
Mental Ill Person	32
Baker Act / Exparte	280
Burglary	186
Disturbance	551
Noise Complaint	435
Hitchhiker / Pedestrian	1
Hold Up / Robbery	5
Prowler / Peeper	24
Hit and Run Accident	89
Bomb Threat	1
Drug Case	30
Larceny	212
Criminal Mischief	73
Trespass / Unwanted Person	285
Worthless Document	8
Assault / Battery	99
Sexual Assault / Battery	36
Child / Adult Abuse	10
Investigation	99
Accident	575
Alarm	536
Animal Problem	396
Civil	436
Found or Lost Property	213
Harassing / Obscene Phone Calls	42
Open Door / Window	52
Suicide	2
Attempted Suicide	7
Vin Verification	343
Accident With Fatality	11
Murder / Homicide	2
Search Warrant	12
Gun Shots	138
Juvenile	263
Child Custody	85

Fraud	232
Domestic Violence	236
Livestock Out	581
Aid Other Department	234
Escaped Prisoner	1
Public Service	211
Well-Being Check	444
Shoplifting	36
Shooting	5
Stabbing	3
Stalking	4
Sex Offender Address Check	217
Deceased Person	51
K-9 Search	323
Lewd & Lascivious	6
Airplane Crash	1
Property Damage	43
Missing Person	68
Vehicle in Ditch	62
Alcohol Violation	1
Tobacco Violation	1
Injunction Violation	39
Special Patrol	12,001
Business Check	2,561
Follow-Up	1,092
Threats / Harassment	166
Recovered / Missing Person	29
Stolen Tag / Recovered	27 / 1
Abandoned 911	542
Re-Possession	1
Ordinance Violation	3
Allergic Reaction / Sting	1
Back Injury / Pain	2
Bar Check	2
Bite (Animal)	29
Bleeding	10
Breathing Difficulty	7
Childbirth / Obstetrics	1
Chocking Person / Child	2
DAV Disabled Vehicle	439
Diabetic Problem	5
Drug Overdose	29
Fallen Person	18
Fire	46
Fractures	3
Gas / Propane	2
General Pain	6
Heart Attack / Chest Pain	7
No Call Type	1
Poisoning	1
Power Lines Down	10
Seizure / Convulsions	5
Smoke Investigation	13
Stroke	5
Unconscious / Fainting	25
Unknown / General	55



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Be safe and ride with the Star!!!

2020