

# SHERIFF

**DESOTO COUNTY**

**James F. Potter, Sheriff**

## ANNUAL REPORT



# 2021



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# A MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF



Dear Citizens of DeSoto County:

I am pleased to present to you the 2021 DeSoto County Sheriff's Office Annual Report. As I enter my sixth year 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 2021 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 2021.

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. For the first time in the history of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office we are in the process of seeking professional accreditation (See page 4).

The Sheriff's Office transparent stance on constitutional compliance is one of our core ethical foundation blocks and an important public trust builder. 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, detention 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 2021 Annual Report.

Sincerely,

James F. Potter DeSoto County—Sheriff





# WHAT IS ACCREDITATION

For the first time in the history of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office we are in the process of seeking professional law enforcement accreditation.

Accreditation is the certification by an independent reviewing authority that an entity has met specific requirement and prescribed standards. It requires an in depth review of every aspect of the agency's organization, management, operations, and administration. Hospitals and colleges are some of the other organization that maintain accreditation. It is a voluntary process that affirms an agency's commitment to the highest standard of professionalism and service. Each accrediting body has fixed standards that an agency must initially demonstrate compliance with, and then demonstrate continuing adherence to, in order to achieve re-accreditation.

Accreditation standards address key areas such as: organization management and administration, personnel administration, law enforcement operations, training, forensic examination, and inmate and court-related services. Accreditation typically includes an extensive review of an agency's policies, procedures and protocols as well as an on-site inspection and interviews with key personnel.







# 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**

The DeSoto County Sheriff's Office Fleet Maintenance Supervisor, Micky Mercer, services and cares for the agency's 102 fleet vehicles. The DCSO Fleet consists of standard or police package units, watercraft, specialty units, volunteer units and civilian units. During the reporting period of January 2021 to December 2021, Fleet Maintenance completed a total of 365 fleet maintenance tickets. These tickets consist of oil changes, tire changes, everyday wear and tear on the units, wiring issues, and complete installation of the emergency response equipment. As the Fleet Maintenance Supervisor, Micky Mercer's job is to ensure the agencies units are completely safe and road ready for the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office staff. His performance greatly helps our staff protect and serve our community.

### **Fleet Management / Maintenance**

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

## **Human Resources**

Our Human Resources Director 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**

Applied .....	36
Total Views.....	550

### **Website**

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

## **Applications**

Processed .....	204
Reviewed.....	204
Hired .....	29

## **Internal Logistics**

Promotions .....	21
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 who 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**

- Update to DCSO Servers to new virtualized system to include; network storage, failover clustering, and backup solutions for performance and data integrity.
- Developed a video media production station.

- Configured a Mobile Booking system for the Detention Bureau.
- Renovated main datacenter area with newer equipment.
- Complete 911 system rebuild to replace equipment, configure and deployment with minimal downtime.
- Responded and resolved 712 I.T. helpdesk tickets

911Related .....	64
Exchange Related .....	89
In-car Camera/Laptop/Mobile.....	331

- IT Statistics

Server hard drive failures .....	3
Personnel account changes .....	51
Laptops Imaged.....	21
Desktops Imaged .....	9



# 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.

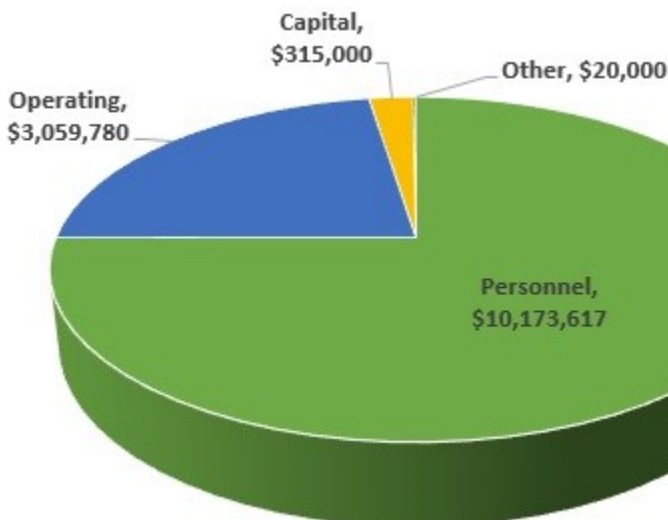
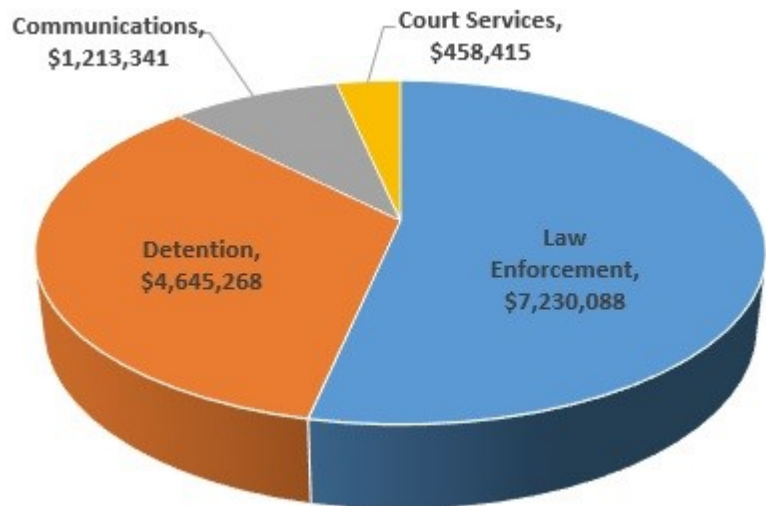
The Sheriff's annual budget must comply with Florida Statute and the Uniform Accounting System, and it must be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners no later than May 31 for the fiscal year which will begin the following October 1. The Board has the authority to accept, reject, or require modifications 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 2020-2021 was \$13,547,112. This amount breaks down to 53% (\$7,230,088) for law enforcement expenditures, 34% (\$4,645,268) for Detention cost, 9% (\$1,213,341) for communications, and 4% (\$458,415) for Court Services.

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 .....	\$870,136
Detainee Book Keeping Services .....	\$46,345
Article 5 Revenue .....	\$16,403
Grants .....	\$69,055
School Board SRD Fund.....	\$308,449
APD Communication Tower.....	\$10,585
Wellpath .....	\$19,800
Records Fees.....	\$6,255



## Payroll

Unemployment Reports Submitted .....	4
Pay Runs Completed .....	26
1095C Forms Processed .....	150
W2 Forms Distributed .....	150
Hours of Special Details.....	1,883
Checks Processed .....	1,617
Direct Deposits.....	2,911
Hours of Overtime.....	12,697





# TRAINING DIVISION

2021 was another challenging and rewarding year for the training division. Throughout the year, training was delivered in a variety of methods. These included live classes, webinars and on-line training. As always, we trained hard to prepare our deputies to better serve the community we are a part of.

One of our best training tools is a Firearms Training Simulator (FATS). Think of FATS as a huge video game that utilizes interactive lasers to place deputies in simulated real life scenarios. As deputies interact in these scenarios they are evaluated and coached on their response to the presented scenario. This challenges and expands the deputies' knowledge and experience base so they are better prepared to handle these types of incidents in real life. During the year we trained 90 deputies for a total of 315 training hours with the FATS Simulator.

We also focused on firearms training. Firearms training does not solely consist of shooting firearms. It also includes training in de-escalation, minimizing the use of force and utilizing other force alternatives such as Taser. We trained 93 deputies for a total of 392 hours and fired approximately 35,000 rounds of handgun ammunition.

In cooperation with DeSoto Memorial Hospital, we were able to send 42 employees to Crisis Intervention Training. DeSoto Memorial Hospital graciously hosted and taught this invaluable training to our agency at no cost to the Sheriff's Office. This is a forty hour course which is taught over a five day period. Through this training, our employees are better equipped to assist a person during a mental crisis.



<b>Training Subject.....</b>	<b>Personnel Trained / Hours</b>
911 PST Recertification.....	26 / 154
911 PST Academy .....	34 / 816
AED .....	49 / 49
Pepperball .....	87 / 43.5
CPR.....	71 / 146
EMD.....	4 / 128
FATS .....	90 / 315
Field Force .....	79 / 119
Firearms Training .....	93 / 392
Justifiable Use of Force 776.....	110 / 71.5
Legal Updates .....	41 / 41
Emergency Management Chair .....	16 / 8
Stop the Bleeding .....	48 / 96
PREA.....	44 / 88
Traffic Incident Management.....	57 / 57
External Training .....	9,693 hours
External Training Cost.....	\$86,828
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,141 / 12,641</b>



# 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.....	184
Disturbances.....	527
Larceny.....	163
Robberies.....	8
Prowler / Peeper.....	8
Criminal Mischief.....	100
Battery / Domestic Battery.....	342
Sexual Battery.....	29
Child Custody.....	83
Fraud.....	256
Threats / Harassment.....	119
Retail Theft.....	57
DUI Arrests / Citations.....	64

## **Non-Criminal Calls**

Baker Acts & Transports.....	330
Alarms.....	978
Special Patrol.....	7,309
Traffic Citations.....	1,544
Traffic Stops.....	2,769
School Checks.....	3,181
Crash Investigations.....	461
Religious Location Checks.....	290

## **Administrative Stats**

Miles Patrolled.....	815,515
Judicial Complex Visitors.....	26,284
Funeral Escorts.....	126
Public Assistance Calls.....	224
Average Response Time to calls.....	7:31 mins
Volunteer Time.....	301.25 hours

## **School Resource Deputy Activity**

Students Counseled.....	222
Parent Conferences.....	16
After School Activities.....	30
Complaint Affidavits.....	100
Civil Citations.....	22

## **Agricultural Unit**

Calls for Service.....	981
Cases Opened.....	17
Cases Closed.....	14







# 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.



## Tips

Tip Line Calls ..... 73

## Investigations

Cases Investigated ..... 440  
Arrests..... 168  
Death Investigations ..... 13  
Violent Crimes ..... 14  
Search Warrants ..... 99  
Homicides ..... 2  
Cold Case Reviews ..... 56  
Officer Involved Shooting..... 0  
Financial Crimes ..... 54  
Property Recovered in dollars ..... \$215,558.66  
Sexual Offender/Predator Tracking ..... 1,332  
Crime Scene Responses ..... 33  
Case Intake..... 2,658

## Victims' Advocacy

Crisis Counseling ..... 70  
Follow-Up Contacts ..... 46  
Information & Referrals ..... 787  
Injunctions..... 31  
Assisted Compensation Filed ..... 635  
Telephone Contacts..... 57  
Referral Letters Sent..... 697

## Narcotics

Narcotic Cases Investigated ..... 220  
Narcotic Arrests..... 176  
Narcotic Warrant Arrests..... 49  
Cannabis Seized ..... 13,982.95g  
Cannabis Street Value ..... \$57,9980  
Meth Seized ..... 3,249.89g  
Meth Street Value ..... \$141,622  
Cocaine Seized ..... 105.84g  
Cocaine Street Value ..... \$10,397  
RX Pills Seized..... 182.5  
RX Pills Total Street Value ..... \$4,808  
Fentanyl Mix ..... 65.08g  
Fentanyl Street Value..... \$6,150  
Total Narcotic Seized Value..... \$220,975

## Walk-ins Total

Records ..... 4,661  
Dispatch ..... 1,600

## Communications

Non-Emergency Calls ..... 70,229  
9-1-1 Calls..... 15,319  
Calls for Service ..... 16,106





# DETENTION BUREAU



The Detention Bureau comprises of sworn detention deputies, dually certified 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 .....	1,145
Arcadia Police Department .....	273
Other .....	19
Total Arrested .....	1,437

## **Releases Process**

Bonded .....	763
Court Ordered .....	342
Department of Corrections .....	132
Other .....	189
Total Released .....	1,426

## **Types of Charges Booked**

Felonies .....	1,494
Misdemeanors .....	1,577
Sex/Criminal Registrations .....	566
Total .....	3,787

## **Detainees Arrested**

Male .....	1,021
Female .....	407
Total .....	1,428

## **Average Daily Population**

Daily Average .....	158
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## **Assaults on Staff**

By Detainees .....	4
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## **Medical Report**

Hospital Admission .....	18
Outside Consults/ X-Rays .....	40
Emergency Room Visits .....	42
Seen by ARNP .....	1,177
Seen by Dentist .....	29
Seen by Psychologist .....	429
Annual/ Initial Physicals .....	453
Sick Calls .....	3,846
Wound Care .....	132

## **Transports**

Medical (Number of Detainees) .....	88
Medical Mileage .....	2,406
DOC (Number of Detainees) .....	132
DOC Mileage .....	15,823
General (Number of Detainees) .....	131
General Mileage .....	15,377
Total Detainees Transported .....	351
Total Mileage Driven .....	33,606

## **Gang Intel**

Detainees in Gangs .....	38
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**

Drunk Driver.....	64
Stolen Vehicle .....	108
Escort.....	88
Conduct Investigation.....	619
Pursuit.....	3
Serving Warrant .....	821
Traffic Stop.....	5,416
Serving Civil Process .....	429
Recovered Stolen Vehicle .....	28
Abandoned Vehicle .....	90
Reckless Driver.....	978
Incident .....	1,876
Suspicious Aircraft .....	7
Suspicious Vehicle .....	726
Information .....	1,739
Special Detail .....	80
Highway Obstruction .....	384
Attempt To Locate / Contact.....	95
Drunk Pedestrian .....	45
Mental Ill Person .....	151
Baker Act / Exparte .....	365
Burglary.....	371
Disturbance .....	1,126
Noise Complaint.....	825
Hitchhiker / Pedestrian .....	2
Hold Up / Robbery.....	8
Prowler / Peeper .....	8
Hit and Run Accident .....	226
Bomb Threat .....	0
Drug Case.....	88
Larceny .....	363
Criminal Mischief.....	191
Trespass / Unwanted Person .....	678
Worthless Document.....	12
Assault / Battery .....	146
Sexual Assault / Battery .....	46
Child / Adult Abuse.....	18
Investigation .....	101
Accident .....	1,206
Alarm.....	1,232
Animal Problem.....	611
Civil .....	523
Found or Lost Property .....	393
Harassing / Obscene Phone Calls .....	127
Open Door / Window .....	83
Suicide .....	4
Attempted Suicide .....	18
Vin Verification .....	835
Accident With Fatality.....	9
Murder / Homicide.....	4
Search Warrant.....	10
Gun Shots .....	156

Fraud .....	390
Domestic Violence.....	395
Livestock Out.....	540
Aid Other Department.....	395
Escaped Prisoner .....	0
Public Service.....	611
Well-Being Check .....	607
Shoplifting .....	67
Shooting .....	16
Stabbing .....	12
Stalking.....	10
Sex Offender Address Check .....	207
Deceased Person .....	64
K-9 Search.....	285
Lewd & Lascivious.....	15
Airplane Crash.....	1
Property Damage .....	103
Missing Person .....	136
Vehicle in Ditch.....	91
Alcohol Violation .....	5
Tobacco Violation .....	6
Injunction Violation .....	39
Special Patrol .....	7,644
Business Check.....	1,484
Follow-Up .....	1,810
Threats / Harassment .....	258
Recovered / Missing Person.....	31
Stolen Tag / Recovered .....	43/1
Abandoned 911 .....	2,587
Re-Possession .....	214
Ordinance Violation .....	19
Allergic Reaction / Sting.....	14
Back Injury / Pain.....	31
Bar Check.....	26
Bite (Animal).....	91
Bleeding.....	105
Breathing Difficulty.....	403
Childbirth / Obstetrics .....	15
Chocking Person / Child .....	10
DAV Disabled Vehicle.....	442
Diabetic Problem .....	78
Drug Overdose .....	43
Fallen Person .....	667
Fire .....	238
Fractures .....	41
Gas / Propane .....	4
General Pain.....	169
Heart Attack / Chest Pain .....	289
Poisoning.....	1
Power Lines Down.....	46
Seizure / Convulsions.....	154
Smoke Investigation .....	127
Stroke .....	141
Unconscious / Fainting .....	196
Unknown / General .....	370





# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT







## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

**“WE CARE ABOUT YOU”**



**Be safe and ride with the Star!!!**

**2021**