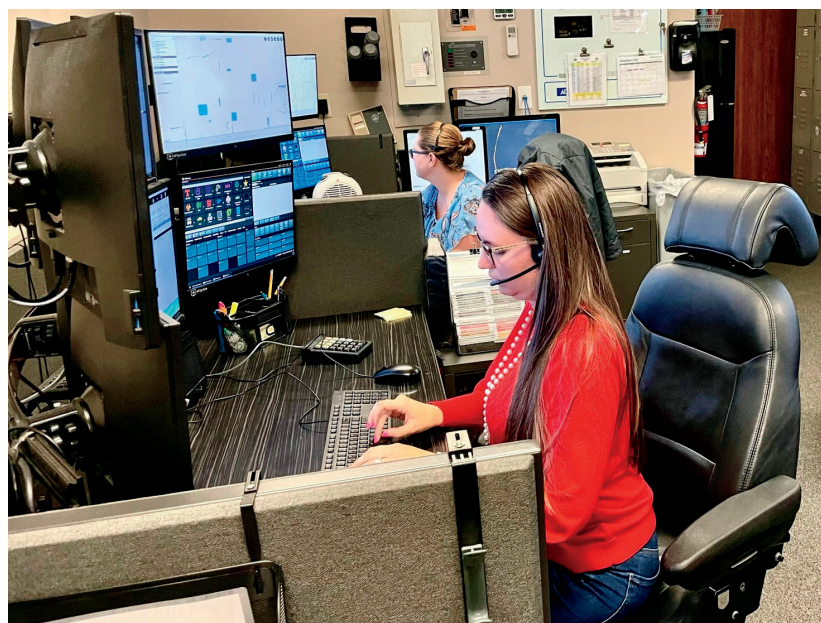




DESOTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff James F. Potter

2022 ANNUAL REPORT





A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF POTTER

Dear Citizens of DeSoto County:

As your Sheriff I am thrilled to present to you the 2022 DeSoto County Sheriff’s Office Annual Report. This year we took a different approach to our annual report to develop a more condense, cohesive design layout that most accurately shows our agency’s extensive efforts to serve the county in 2022. This annual report outlines significant initiatives that we have prioritized throughout the past year, highlighting specific key facts and statistics regarding our agency’s accomplishments.

2022 has been a challenging year for many, as citizens in our community are continuously recovering from Hurricane Ian. Our agency remains optimistic for positive change up ahead. DCSO is working to rebuild this community while maintaining safe, protected environment for citizens to live and visitors to stay.

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.

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.

Looking ahead as we transition into 2023, I continue to credit our incredible success of DeSoto County Sheriff’s Office to the dedicated men and women who are committed to serving the citizens in our community. The continued support and trust we gain from our community is what fuels the passion to serve each and every day. I can’t wait to see what 2023 has in store for us here in DeSoto County.

Sincerely,
James F. Potter DeSoto County–Sheriff

OUR AGENCY

134

PEOPLE
SERVING YOU

64

Sworn Law Enforcement Deputies

33

Sworn Detention Deputies

37

Civilian Members



62.3% Male + 37.7% Female
57.9% White 30.7% Hispanic
10.5% Black .9% Asian

HUMAN RESOURCES

Applications

31 New Hires

171 Non-Hired Applicants

Internal Logistics

17 Promotions
13 Employee Transfers
15 Academy Recruits
1 Higher Education

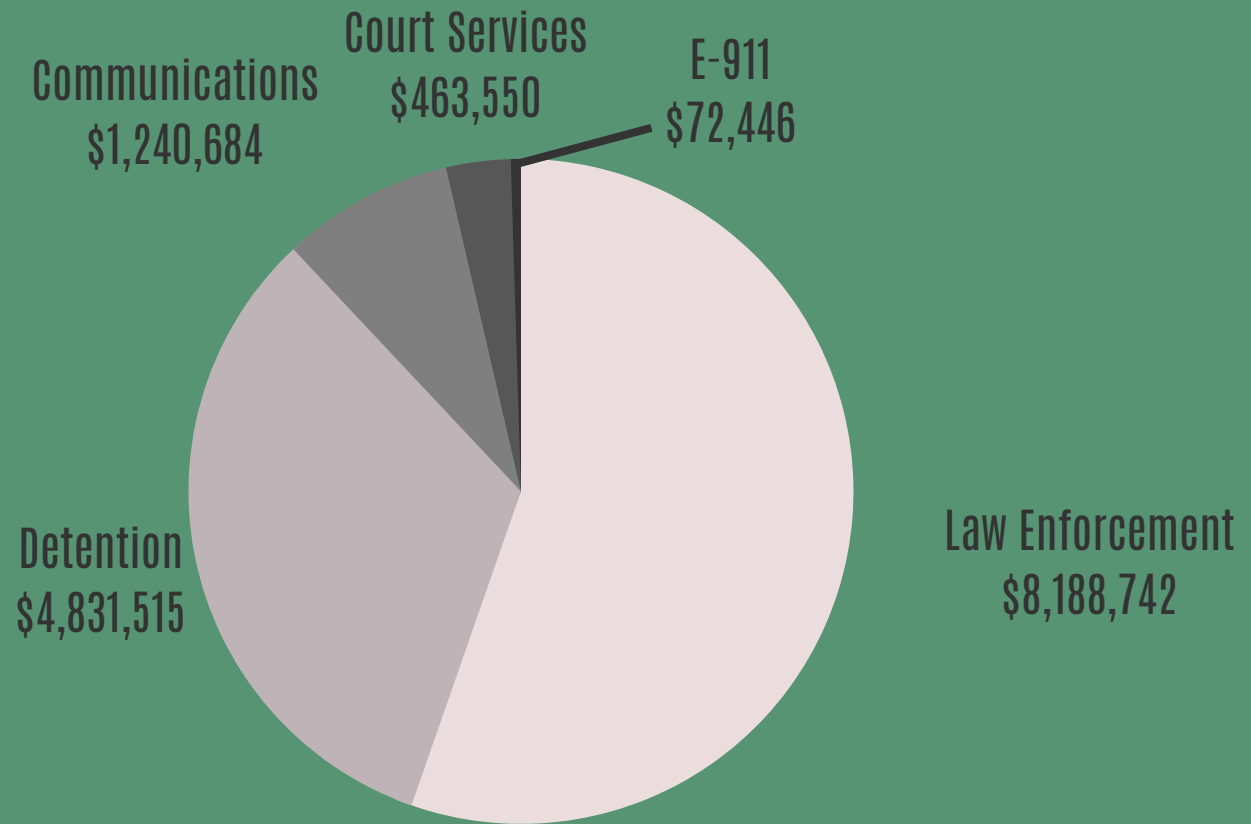
Accreditation



Since beginning the Accreditation process one year ago, the Sheriff's Office has made substantial progress toward the mission of becoming an accredited law enforcement agency through the Commission

for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. Currently, the Sheriff's Office has incorporated more than half of all required standards into approved General Orders that are in the review and approval process.

Sheriff Potter is pleased with the hard work from his staff throughout this year, and he is excited to reach the goal of becoming an accredited law enforcement agency.



Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Adopted Budget

\$14,796,937

UNIFORMED PATROL BUREAU

The Uniformed Patrol Bureau is comprised of several units including Patrol, Agricultural Crimes Unit and K-9 Unit. Our Patrol Deputies are responsible for responding to all calls for service, traffic enforcement, conducting initial investigations and effecting arrest. Other units are responsible for investigating Agricultural crimes and our hard-working K-9's provide drug enforcement and tracking abilities.

Traffic Citations Issued 1,659

Crash Investigations 244

School Checks 2,147

Special Patrol 6,727

Miles Patrolled 941,257

Agency Vehicles 96





INVESTIGATIVE BUREAU

The Investigative Bureau comprises of both sworn law enforcement deputies and civilian staff. Including Criminal Investigation Detectives and Narcotics Detectives. The Investigative Bureau works with other local, state and federal agencies to combat and solve crime.

Criminal Cases Investigated 384

Property Recovered \$89,020

Narcotics Cases Investigated 207

Narcotics Seized Value \$131,914.60

Narcotics Arrests 199



485.5

Pounds of discarded prescriptions turned in



2,698

Items of property and evidence collected

SUPPORT BUREAU

The Support Bureau consists of the records/warrants/civil division, court services, school resources deputies, communications and E-911 staff. The Support Bureau works together with other local, state and federal agencies to support citizens of DeSoto County before, throughout and after a crime or time in need.

Communications

Non-Emergency Calls **48,888**

9-1-1 Calls **13,422**

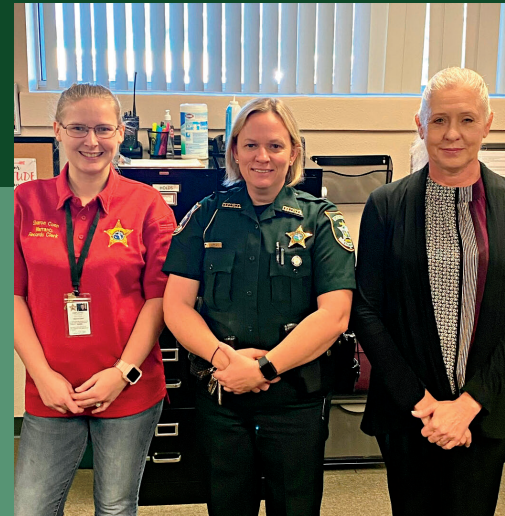
514 *Texts to 9-1-1*



17,069 *Calls for Service*



2,230 *Public Records Requests Received*



Warrants Served

709



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. Other responsibilities include the in-processing and out-processing of individuals arrested by DCSO, Florida Highway Patrol, Arcadia Police Department and other Federal/State/Local agencies.

1,478
Total Arrests
Processed

Types of Charges Booked

1,595 *Felonies*

1,394 *Misdemeanors*

555 *Sex/Criminal Registrations*

178
Average Daily
Population



SCHOOL RESOURCE DEPUTIES

Our School Resource Deputies create and maintain a safe and secure environment for students, teachers, staff and visitors at schools. SRDs are prepared and trained to protect the schools by conducting criminal investigations and patrolling their assigned schools. The SRD program is part of Sheriff Potter's dedication to Community Partnership. Deputies assigned to a school possesses skills to build relationships, solve problems and enforce the law while focusing on the quality of life within the school and the community.

Students Counseled 70

Students Mentored 79

Civil Citations 23

Cases 68

After School Activities 40

Cadet Program Participants 29

Cadet Program Events 15



Victims' Advocacy

Our Victims' Advocate Program can assist by providing services including information on cases, emotional support, referral to community agencies, assistance filing for crime compensation, courtroom orientation and accompaniment, help filing an injunction, and help with victim impact statements.

726

Information & Referrals

590

Referral Letters Sent



Firearms

Our Firearms and Weapons Training consists of at least 3 range days, training twice each year. Our law enforcement, detention and SWAT members train with about 40,000 rounds of ammunition each year. DCSO trains using individual movement techniques and group setting environments.

146

Personnel Trained

555

Training Hours



Crisis Intervention Training

Crisis Intervention Training is required for all staff including law enforcement, detention and civilians. The 40 hour course from FDLE is completed at DeSoto Memorial Hospital, and offered once a quarter. Staff work through information and scenario based training to learn how to assist individuals through crisis situations and come to a peaceful solution.

23

Personnel Trained

920

Training Hours



11,249.5

Hours worked during Hurricane Ian Recovery

882.8

K9 Training Hours

107

Religious Location Checks

420

Total Volunteer Hours

67

Children received gifts at Shop with the Sheriff

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT





32,949

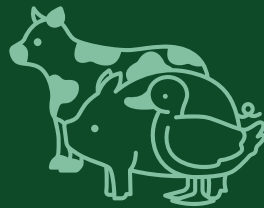


Judicial Complex Visitors



951

*Agricultural Unit
Calls for Service*



*Livestock Out
Calls*

662

199

*K9 Deployments
(Free Air Sniffs)*



13,373.75

*Total Overtime
Hours*



882.8

*Total K9
Training Hours*



Our Mission

“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.”



Discover more at [DeSotoSheriff.org](https://DesotoSheriff.org)

Report any suspicious activity to 1-800-780-TIPS

