



DESOTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff James F. Potter
2023 ANNUAL REPORT





Dear Citizens of DeSoto County,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 2023 DeSoto County Sheriff's Office Annual Report. This year, we have endeavored to provide a comprehensive overview of our agency's activities and accomplishments over the past year, aiming for a more streamlined and informative report.

Throughout the year, the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office has continued to prioritize the expansion of our services while upholding the principles outlined by our U.S. and State Constitution, Florida State Statutes and other relevant laws. Our personnel have undergone extensive training and education, ensuring they are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to address the diverse needs of our community.

Ensuring transparency and accountability is a top priority for our agency. We are committed to nurturing positive relationships with our community members, actively accepting feedback and implementing necessary adjustments to effectively serve our constituents and government stakeholders. By maintaining a standard of excellence in our law enforcement, detention and communications services, we strive to uphold the trust and confidence placed in us by our DeSoto County residents.

Looking ahead to the coming year, I am confident the success of our agency will continue to be driven by the dedication and commitment of our exceptional team. Your continued support and trust serve as the foundation of our efforts, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you.

As we embark on our journey in 2024, I am excited to see what the future holds for our community. Together we will continue to work toward a safer, stronger and more prosperous DeSoto County.

Sincerely,

Sheriff James F. Potter
DeSoto County Sheriff's Office

OUR AGENCY

133

PEOPLE
SERVING YOU

64 Sworn Law Enforcement Deputies

33 Sworn Detention Deputies

21 Civilian Members

15 9-1-1 Telecommunicators

62.4% Male + 37.6% Female

56% White 32.8% Hispanic
10.4% Black .8% Asian

Diversity

HUMAN RESOURCES

Applications

23 New Hires

83 Non-Hired Applicants

Internal Logistics

20 Promotions

12 Employee Transfers

6 Academy Recruits

3 Higher Ed Reimbursement Plan

Accreditation

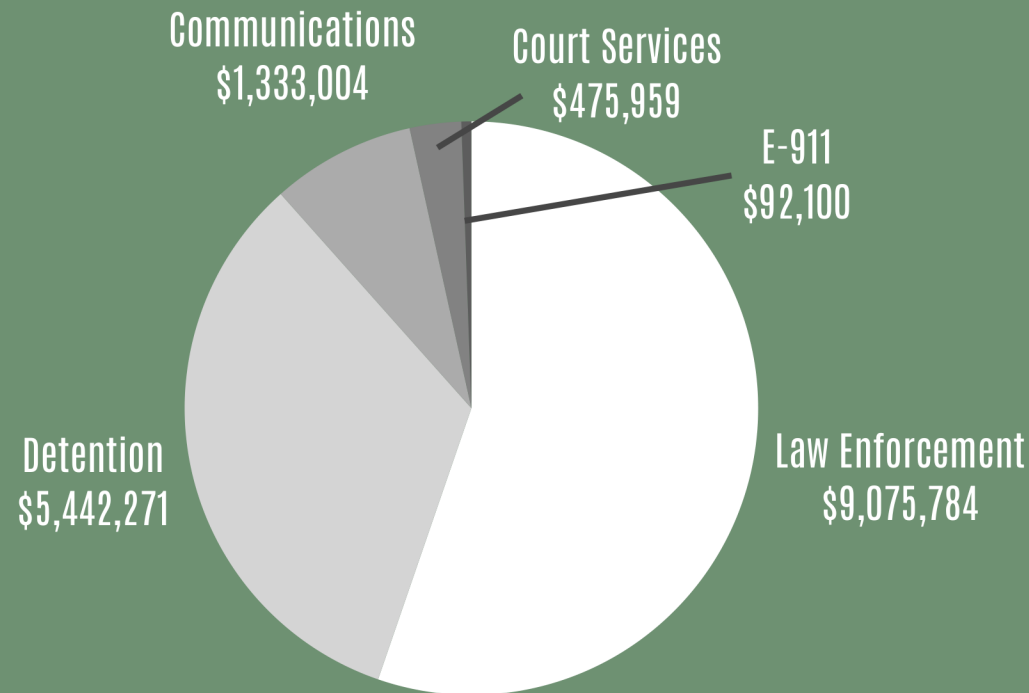
In 2023, Sheriff Potter signed an accreditation law enforcement agreement committing to meeting the standards of the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, after initially completing a review of agency policy and procedures. Currently the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office is documenting its compliance with CFA standards, of which many are critical to life, health, safety issues and best practices.

Tentatively planned during 2024, or at maximum within the next 21 months, a team of assessors from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) will examine all aspects of our agency's policies and procedures, management, operations and support services. DCSO must comply with numerous standards, many of which are mandatory, to receive accredited status.

Agency members and the public will be notified within a minimum of thirty days of the assessment and are invited to offer comments to the assessment team. A copy of the standards manual is publicly accessible on the CFA website at www.flaccreditation.org under the 'Standards' tab.

Once the Commission's assessors complete their review of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office, they report to the full Commission, which then determines if the agency is to receive the initial accredited status. Accreditation is valid for three years. Verification by the team that DCSO has met the Commission's standards is part of a voluntary process to gain and will be required again every three years to maintain accreditation, a highly prized recognition of professional excellence.

Finance



Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Adopted Budget

\$16,419,118

UNIFORMED PATROL BUREAU

The Uniformed Patrol Bureau consists of specialized units including Patrol, the Agricultural Crimes Unit and the K-9 Unit. Our dedicated Patrol Deputies promptly respond to all service calls, enforce traffic laws, conduct preliminary investigations and make arrests as needed. The Agricultural Crimes Unit focuses on investigating offenses related to agriculture, while our diligent K-9 teams excel in drug enforcement and tracking operations, enhancing our capability to combat crime effectively.

Average Response Time **8:03**

Crash Investigations **288**

Traffic Citations **2,924**

School Checks **2,301**

Special Patrol **5,879**

Traffic Stops **5,067**



Traffic Safety Unit

Citations Issued

1,086

Crashes Worked

42

Warnings Issued

698

933,381 Miles Patrolled

97 Agency Vehicles





INVESTIGATIVE BUREAU

The Investigative Bureau is a dynamic team consisting of sworn law enforcement deputies and dedicated civilian staff, encompassing skilled Criminal Investigation Detectives and specialized Narcotics Detectives. Collaborating seamlessly with local, state and federal agencies, the Investigative Bureau is committed to combating crime and resolving cases swiftly and effectively. Through strategic partnerships and investigative efforts, we remain steadfast in our mission to ensure the safety and security of our community.

Criminal Cases Investigated 309

Property Recovered \$305,563.22

Narcotics Cases Investigated 214

Narcotics Seized Value \$152,275.90

Narcotics Arrests 233



472

Pounds of discarded prescriptions turned in



2,250

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 **53,743**

9-1-1 Calls **23,191**

183 *Texts to 9-1-1* 

16,740 *Calls for Service* 

2,075 *Public Records Requests Fulfilled* 



Warrants Served **840**



DETENTION BUREAU

The Detention Bureau comprises of sworn detention deputies, dual-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.



182
Average Daily
Population

1,326
Total Arrests
Processed

Types of Charges Booked

1,877 *Felonies*

1,875 *Misdemeanors*

503 *Sex/Criminal Registrations*

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 possess 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 110

Students Mentored 192

Civil Citations 14

Cases 113

After School Activities 140

Cadet Program Events 21



K9 TRAINING

Our K9 Unit underwent rigorous and comprehensive training throughout the year, ensuring our handlers remained at the forefront of law enforcement capabilities. From scent detection to apprehension techniques, our teams spent hours honing their skills and strengthening their bond. Through simulated scenarios, our units excelled in public safety, narcotics detection and search and rescue missions.

321.5

Total Training Hours

180.16

Narcotics Recovered



FIREARMS

Our Firearms and Weapons Training regimen includes a minimum of three range days, qualifying twice annually. Members of our law enforcement, detention and SWAT teams undergo intensive training, utilizing approximately 40,000 rounds of ammunition per year. We focus on individual movement techniques as well as group settings to ensure comprehensive skill development and readiness for varied operational scenarios.

146

Personnel Trained

555

Training Hours



CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING

All personnel, including law enforcement, detention and civilians are mandated to undergo Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). This 40-hour course is provided by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). Participants engage in informational sessions and scenario-based exercises, to effectively support individuals in crisis and navigate toward peaceful resolutions.

23

Personnel Trained

920

Training Hours



64

Community Events

57

Religious Location Checks

486.25

Total Volunteer Hours

78 Children received gifts at
Shop with the Sheriff

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT





33,208



Judicial Complex Visitors



185

Fraud Reports



*Livestock Out
Calls*

626

70

*K-9 Deployments
(Free Air Sniffs)*



10,982

*Total Overtime
Hours*



1,338

*Agricultural Unit
Calls for Service*



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.com](https://www.DesotoSheriff.com)

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

