



DeSoto County Sheriff's Office

2019 Annual Report

Excellence • Integrity • Community Partnership

Presented by
Sheriff James F. Potter



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.”

SHERIFF'S MESSAGE



Office Of **SHERIFF** **DESOTO COUNTY**

208 East Cypress Street
Arcadia, Florida 34266-4410
863-993-4700 or 941-743-6777 Ex 863-993-4712

James F. "Jim" Potter
Sheriff



I am pleased to present to you the 2019 DeSoto County Sheriff's Office Annual Report. As I enter my fourth year as your Sheriff, I am proud to see how your DeSoto County Sheriff's Office is moving in a positive direction. I am truly honored to represent and lead the men and women who serve our community. This report outlines the significant initiatives that have been prioritized during the past year and also includes specific facts and statistics for 2019. The Annual Report is produced to provide a more complete understanding of how our resources are conservatively utilized. This report provides an outline of our organizational structure and presents an overview of each facet of our multi-functioning law enforcement agency.

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. The demands of 21st Century Policing and the expectations of law enforcement are greater now than any time of our past. Proper leadership education, law enforcement training and equipment is an important priority for your safety, our deputies' safety and the reduction of overall risk to our community.

As we continue to progress as a modern law enforcement agency, we must continually improve ourselves. This includes learning and embracing new technologies, staying current on trends across the law enforcement field, challenging the idea "it has always been done this way" and building new partnerships with other agencies, non-profit organizations and businesses. We continue to reach out to our county populace through participation in a vast array of community events as well as opportunities to educate through presentations to various groups such as churches, businesses and school students. 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, corrections and communications/dispatch service(s) to those we have sworn to protect. 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.

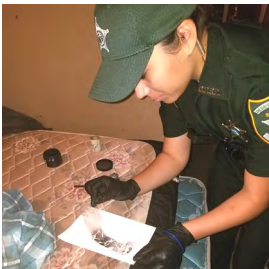
I firmly believe DeSoto County is one of the best places to work, live and visit. It is thanks to our community that we continue to maintain such a superb quality of life here. On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office, I present to you our 2019 Annual Report.

Sincerely,

Sheriff James F. "Jim" Potter

DeSoto County Sheriff's Office celebrated multiple milestones during the month of January. Promotions that took place are as follows: Det. Bailey promoted to Sergeant, Det. Long promoted to Sergeant, Cpl. Paepflow promoted to Sergeant, Det. Plymale promoted to Corporal, Dep. Santos promoted to Corporal, Dep. Paynter, and Dep. Miley and Det. Williams promoted to Deputy First Class.

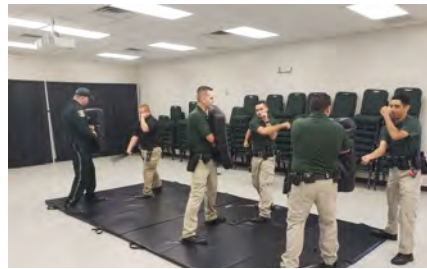
In addition, Det. Trujillo was recognized for his dedicated years of service, and DCSO recognized employees of the quarter Sgt. Long, Cpl. M Poudfit, and Marianne Combs.



Crime scene processing.



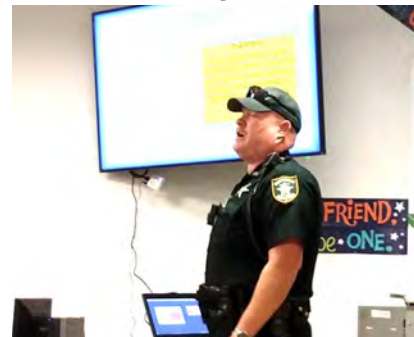
Annual In-service Training: Defensive Tactics and Firearms Qualifications.



DCSO attended Community Events.



Celebrated Literacy Week.



SRD. Klug Presenting Safety Training.



Sheriff Potter reaching to community members, speaking about overall best safety practices.



Arrest made for multiple bags of pre-packaged Marijuana with intent to sell.



DCSO Bags groceries at Publix for Torch Run.

January

February



Telecommunicators receive Emergency Medical Dispatch Training.



SRD Deputies receive Bicycle Helmet fitting and training.



Stranger Danger talk at Preschool.



Calvary Baptist shares some Valentine's Day love to DCSO.



Sheriff Potter Swears in Deputies N. Richardson and M. Bellflower.

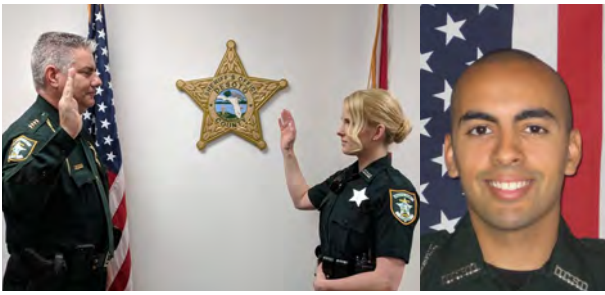


Sheriff's Office booth at the 2019 DeSoto County Fair.



Celebrated two of our fabulous School Crossing Guards.





Sheriff Potter Swears in Deputies L. Ullrich and B. Vasquez.



DCSO takes care of all our citizens.



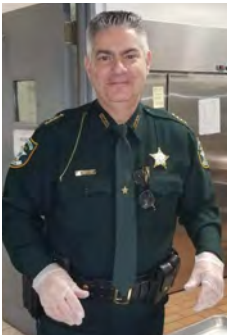
Working hard to keep drugs off our streets.



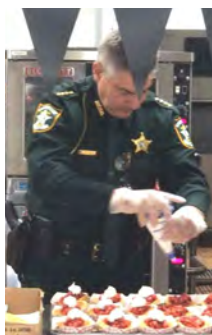
Deputies reward band students with instruments.



Ag ID program.



Sheriff Potter serves breakfast.



DHS Student, Rylee Butler "Do the right thing" Award".



Community safety workshop.



Imagination Station "Stranger Danger" Talk.



Sheriff Potter "Having a Q & A" session with students.



DCSO Posse at the Rodeo.

March

April



Communication Week.



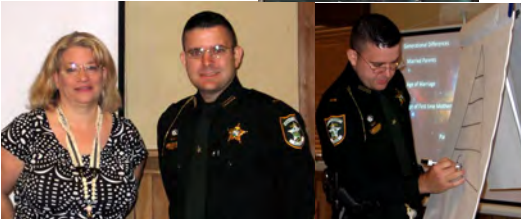
DCSO represents in
Child Abuse
awareness week.



Tim Vowels (Local
McDonald's Owner)
designs cups for
Dispatchers.



DCI Warden received a certificate of
appreciation for K-9 Unit.



Lt. Pitts speaks at SHRM Charlotte Chapter.



SRD Klug rewards student.



Sheriff Potter supporting
local JROTC Awards.



Locals tour the Sheriff's Office.



Deputy Benitez graduates CO
Academy.

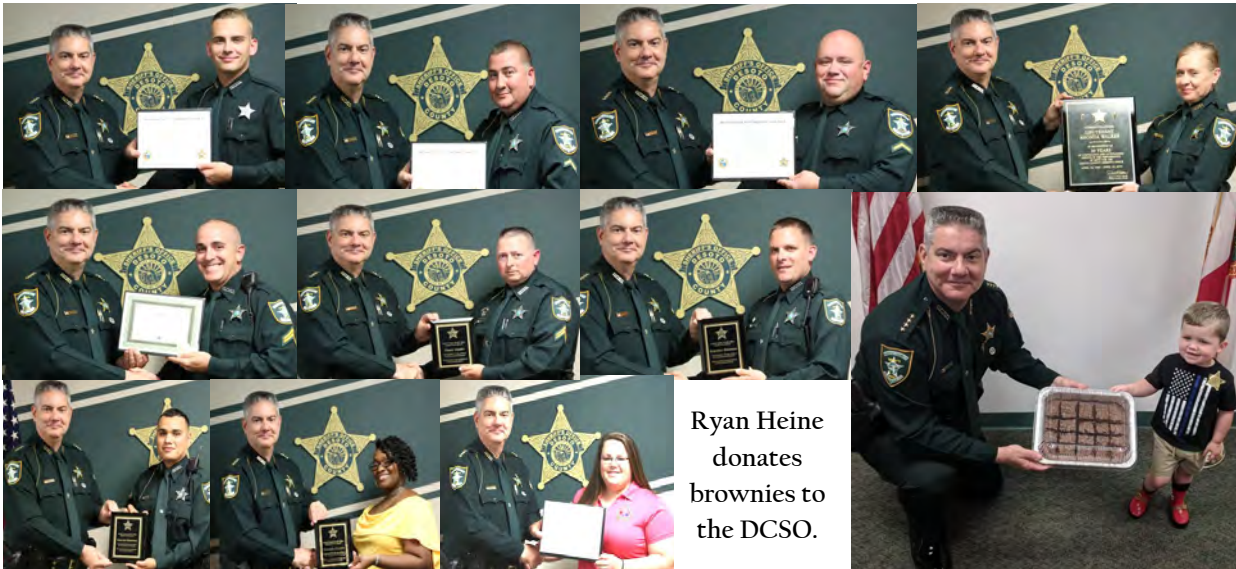


Prom Promise Event.



2019 Torch Run.

DeSoto County Sheriff's Office celebrated multiple milestones during the month of May. Promotions that took place are as follows: Dep. Baker, Dep. McCray and Det. Buck promoted to Deputy First Class. In addition, Lt. Walker and Cpl. Santos were recognized for their dedicated years of service, and DCSO recognized employees of the quarter Cpl. Stutler, Dep. Bierman, Dep. Balderas and Dispatcher Grubbs. And appreciation for "Calm in the Storm" 911 call to Amanda Bartlett.



Ryan Heine
donates
brownies to
the DCSO.



Sheriff Potter welcomes our K-9's.

Lt. Raya Graduates FSA Commanders Academy.



Letters of appreciation to DCI K9 Unit.



Our Veterans for Military Appreciation Month.



Donated
food for
the "Feed
DeSoto
Drive".



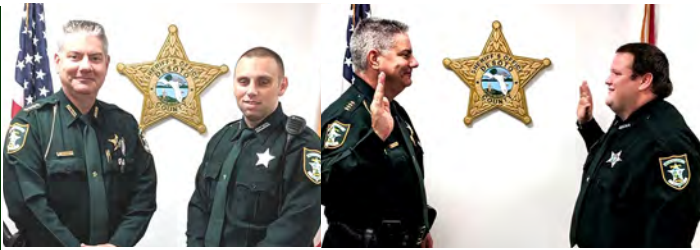
DCSO supports
Habitat for
Humanity.

Lt. Walker
retires.



May

June



Sheriff Potter swears in Dep. C. Blosser and Dep. D. Yauilla.



Major Vitali promoted to the rank of Colonel.



Melissa from Salvation Army was presented with a certificate of appreciation.



National Donut Day



Teen Driver Challenge.



School Resources Deputy Paynter pictured with Memorial Elementary Students.



Stranger Danger Training at "Lil' Kreative Hands".



Cpt. Proudfit and General Counsel Wertheim donated blood in support of the Big Red Bus.



Rachel Randall and Mia Butler donate toys to DCSO.

DeSoto County Sheriff's Office celebrated multiple milestones during the month of July. Promotions that took place are as follows: Dep. Miley to Senior Deputy.

In addition, Cpt. Sandoval, 1st Lt. Jose Vitali, Lt. Raya, Cpl. Polk, Sgt. Paeplow, and Mrs. V. Pigg were recognized for their dedicated years of services.



Sheriff Potter swears in Dep. Strube and Dep. Wemheuer.



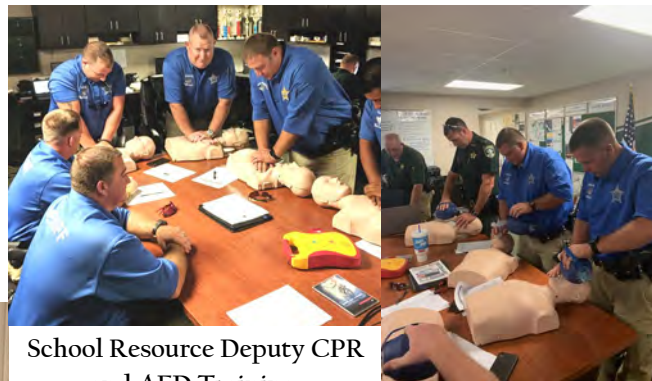
Links to Success Summer Camp.



Links to Success visit with Sheriff Potter.



Peace River Masonic Lodge providing meals to DeSoto.



School Resource Deputy CPR and AED Training.



F.A.T.S. Training.



Cpl. Plymale Airboat Operator Course.

July

August



LEO vs Youth Basketball Game.



Sgt. Lewis and Sgt. Paeplow completed FBI LEEDA.



Active Shooter Training for the public.



Law Enforcement appreciation by the Oaks.



Craig and Karla Swan donates Dominos gift cards to DCSO.



SRD plays kick ball with the community



Dispatcher Training



K-9 Kita K-9 Liberty

DCSO celebrates our New K9's.



SRD Klug received a gift.



Cpl. Plymale returns horse.



Sheriff Potter supports the Bulldogs.



Sgt. Long Graduates from the FCJEI Florida Leadership Academy Class # 45.



Kids taking a tour of a Patrol Car.



DMH Provides lunch.



Blood Drive.



Sheriff Potter swears in Deputy Gonzalez.



Arrest/ Dangerous Drugs removed from the streets of DeSoto County.



Detective Tribble reading at the Celebrity Reader Event.



Celebrity Reader Event



Joining hands with Sarasota County Sheriff's Office Agricultural Deputies.



September 11th, 2001 Remembrance.



DCSO combined Support Bureau -Criminal Investigations Division and the Uniformed Patrol Bureau.



Another Arrest/ Dangerous Drugs removed from the streets of DeSoto County.

September

October



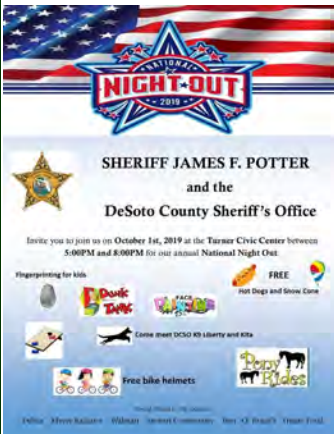
Say "No To Drugs" Event with K9 Kita.



Dep. Ullrich talks with Faith Preparatory School students about 911 Emergency safety.



DCSO supports Breast Cancer Awareness.



Annual National Night Out.



The Community visits Sheriff Potter for Halloween Trick or Treating.



In-service Training for Taser X26.



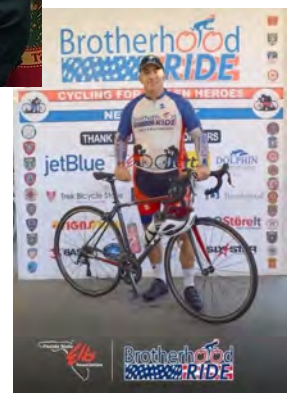
Sheriff Potter swears in Dep. E. Manriquez.



DCSO celebrates National Boss Day.



Cpl. Santos participates in the Brotherhood Ride.



DeSoto County Sheriff's Office celebrated multiple milestones during the month of November. Promotions that took place are as follows: Cpl. M. Proudfit to Sergeant, SD. Miley to Corporal, and SD Williams to Corporal. Dep. Livingston, Dep. Mack and Dep. E. Vitali to Deputy First Class.

In addition, Det. Friend, Auxiliary Hale, and Mrs. Combs were recognized for their dedicated years of service.

Cpl. Santos received the Life saving Award. DCSO recognized Employees of the Quarter Dep. Vasquez, Dep. Tribble and Dep. Ortiz.



DCSO participates in "No Shave November " donating proceeds to the Guardian Ad Litem Program, as well as, Boys and Girls Club and Shop with a Sheriff Program.



DCSO participates in Blood Drive.



Toy donation from 20th Century Literary Club.



Guardian Ad Litem Donation



Shift on duty during Thanks Giving receive donated Thanksgiving meal.



Tom Arsenault gives recognition to the DCSO for our Click it or Ticket and Drive Sober Campaigns.



Ponger Kays honors Veterans.



1st Annual junior Leadership DeSoto Class I takes a tour of the DCSO.



Black Friday Event.

November

December



Firearms Range Training.



Importance of 911 dialing.



Sheriff Potter swears in Dep. Chavez, and Dep. Marino.



DCSO Rescues a dog found in a bag.



Christmas Parade.



SWAT challenge.



Crews Bank & Trust presenting cookies to the DCSO.



Shop with a Sheriff.



Dep. Paynter & Santa at Memorial Elementary.



Sheriff Potter welcomes K9 Deputy Lucy.



Crisis Intervention Training.



Arrest/ Dangerous Drugs removed from the streets of DeSoto County.



Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony.

2019 Highlights

In 2019, the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office hosted and participated in many community events, upgraded and improved our training sessions and developed several new service programs to aid our community.

During that time, we expanded our overall commitment to adding value to the service we provide to the community of DeSoto County. We further advanced our employ of the most qualified, well-trained, competent and ethical staff and deputies.

The DeSoto County Sheriff's Office continues to place the public's safety as a top priority. Our Mission of Safety for the Public is practiced every day through continued location and arrest of those who violate the law, whether it be from dangerous drug sales, use of dangerous drugs, theft of property or victimizing our citizens through other crimes. We continue to remain vigilant and determined to keep you safe through visibly active community contact each and every day.

Although 2019 was a very successful year, we continue to grow and improve on a daily basis. The following pages detail some highlights of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office during 2019.

Sincerely,
Sheriff James F. Potter

January

- Grocery Bagging at Publix for Special Olympics
- Employee Recognition Ceremony
- Housing Authority Community Event
- Sheriff Potter Safety Presentation for Community Members
- SRD. Klug Safety Presentation

February

- Stranger Danger
- Arcadia Housing Authority Open House
- Martin Luther King Jr. Parade
- Employee Recognition Ceremony
- DeSoto County Fair

March

- Employee Recognition Ceremony
- Deputy Kirdy's Stranger Danger at Imagination Station
- National School Breakfast Week—Sheriff Potter served breakfast at Memorial Elementary School
- Rodeo Parade
- Deputy Kirdy's presentation at Friendship Center Spring Break Camp Tour (5th-12th Grade)
- First Christian Church Safety Presentation—Presented by Sheriff Potter
- Deputy Kirdy's Presentation at RCMA Nocatee

April

- BOCC Active Shooter Training
- Torch Run
- Prom Promise Event
- JROTC Awards Ceremony

May

- Employee Recognition Ceremony
- Crews Bank Active Shooter Training
- Lt. Rhonda Walker's Retirement Ceremony

June

- Bike Rodeo and Teen Driver Challenge
- Hurricane Preparedness Seminar
- Neighborhood Watch Presentation
- Mt. Ephraim Safety Presentation—Presented by Sheriff Potter
- Deputy Kirdy's Stranger Danger at RCMA Nocatee

2019 Highlights

July

- Link2success tour of the Sheriff's Office
- Kickball game at the Boys & Girls Club
- Employee Recognition Ceremony
- Active Shooter Training for the Community
- Back to School Fair
- Fourth of July Parade

August

- Presbyterian Church Security Walk Through
- Youth vs. First Responders Basketball Game
- Active Shooter Training for the Community
- Deputy Kirdy's Safety Presentation at DeSoto Food and Resource Center
- Arcadia Church of God Church Safety Presentation—Presented by Sheriff Potter

September

- Arcadia First Church of the Nazarene Church Safety Presentation—Presented by Sheriff Potter
- Ivy Chapel Church Safety Presentation—Presented by Sheriff Potter
- Active Shooter Training
- Calvary Church Safety Presentation—Presented by Sheriff Potter
- Pop-Up Laundry Event & Book Reading

October

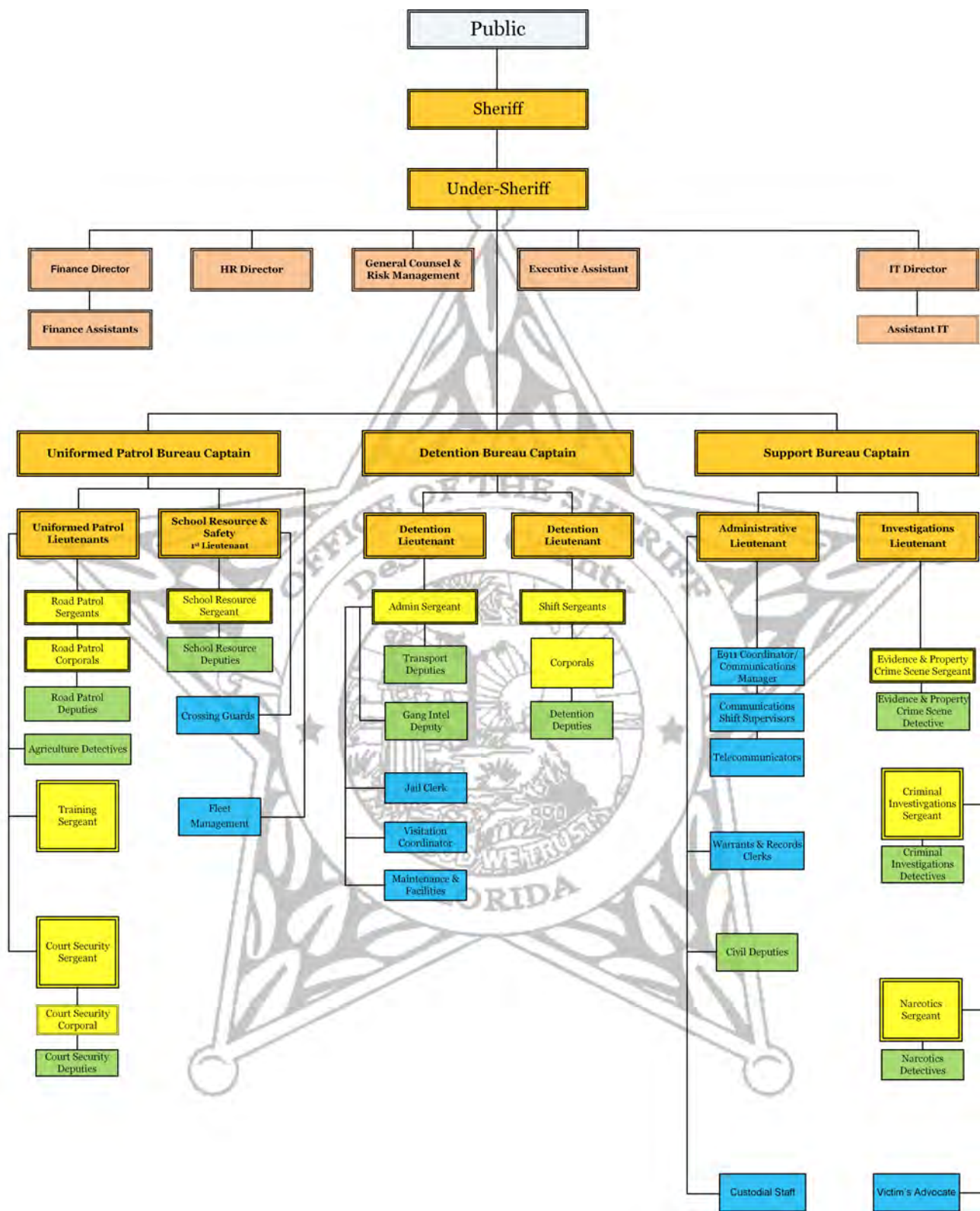
- Coffee with a Cop
- National School Lunch Week—Sheriff Potter served lunch at Memorial Elementary
- Central Missionary Baptist Church Safety Presentation—Presented by Sheriff Potter
- Fall Festival Nocatee Elementary
- National Night Out
- Trick or Treat with the Sheriff

November

- Employee Recognition Ceremony
- Junior Leadership tours the Sheriff's Office
- Veteran's Day Parade







December

- Elf Town Housing Authority Safety Presentation
- Deputy Kirdy's Crime Prevention Presentation at Arcadia Village
- Participated in Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony at Peace River
- Shop with a Sheriff
- Christmas Parade











Organizational Layout

Uniformed Patrol Bureau

Social Media Stats				2019	K-9 Liberty Operations		2019	
Followers				7,845	K-9 Sniffs		37	
Likes				7,526	K-9 Tracks		2	
Responsiveness				87%	Aid other departments		14	
Fans	Men 33 %	Women 67%		100%	Call Outs		2	
Private Messages				371				
Internal Training		2019	Community Events		2019			
In-House/ Squad Training Classes		36	Book Readings		4			
In-House/ Squad Training Total Hours		520	GAAP		2			
9-1-1 Academy		90	Active Shooter Public Event		8			
Firearms Training Days		23	SafetyNet Clients		12			
Firearms Attendees		147	Bike Rodeo		1			
Firearms Training Total Hours		186	Administrative Stats		2019			
Firearms Training Simulator (FATS) Training Days		15	Miles Patrolled		962,905			
Firearms Training Simulator (FATS) Training Total Hours		186	Judicial Complex Visitors		43,067			
Emergency Medical Dispatch Training		256	Funeral Escorts		53			
Total Agency Training Hours		1052	Special Details (Off Duty)		77			
				Average Response Time To Calls	7.33 Min.			
External Training		2019						
Advanced / Specialized / Leadership Classes Attended		47						
Employees Attended		47						
Total Training Hours		8,875						
Total Employees Attended External Agency Training		340						
Total of Cost Free Exterior Training Attended		218						
Human Resources Stats		2019 <td colspan="2" rowspan="10"></td>						
New Hires		18						
Separations		27						
Applications Received		80						
								



Uniformed Patrol Bureau

Criminal Calls	2019	Traffic	2019		
Burglaries	210	Written Warnings	683		
Disturbances	551	Crash Investigations	359		
Larceny	259	DUI Arrests/ Citations	15		
Robberies	6	Public Educational Events	10		
Prowler/ Peeper	26	Non-Criminal Calls	2019		
Criminal Mischief	71	Baker Acts & Transports	359		
Curfew Violation	2	Alarms	509		
Battery/ Domestic Battery	91	Special Patrol	13,159		
Sexual Battery	21	Traffic Citation	851		
Illegal Dumping	11	Traffic Stops	3297		
Child Custody	63	School Bus Checks	3939		
Fraud	202				
Threats/ Harassment	169				
Retail Theft	42				
SRD Training	2019				
Basic SRD	40				
In-Service Training	73				
Advanced SRD	78				
Autism Training	20				
CIT	40				
Totals Hours	251				
SRD In-Service Training by Hours per School Resources Deputy	2019				
Range	24				
F.A.T.S. Use of Force Simulator	16				
Active Shooter	16				
Taser	2	SRD Patrol Activity	2019	SRD Lead Classes	2019
Stop the Bleed	2	Field Interviews	324	Know the Law	7
Pre-Attack Indicators	4	Students Counsellled	1423	Stranger Danger	9
Foot Pursuits	1	Dean Referrals	647	Emergency 911	2
Traffic Stop	4	CADS	1242	Live Above The Influence/ DUI	3
CPR	2	Cases	187	Anti-Bullying	6
Stress Management	2	Total	3823	Total (Kids Programs/ Talks)	26

K-9 Kita Operational Seizures	2019	K-9 Kita Statistics	2019
Paraphernalia Indicators	33	Free air Sniffs	141
Marijuana Indicators	11	Indicators	74
Meth Indicators	10	Items Seized	61
Cocaine Indicators	2	Arrests	35
Heroin Indicators	1	Detection Deploy-ments	112
Ecstasy	1	Patrol Deployments	1
Hand Gun Indicators	3		

Investigations	2019	Criminal Investigations	2019
Crime Scene Responses	57	Cases Investigated	458
Case Intake	717	Arrests	157
Evidence Submitted	4,323	Death Investigations	21
Narcotic Cases Investi-gated	263	Violent Crimes	13
Narc. Arrests	129	Search Warrants	42
Narc. Warrant Arrests	59	Homicides	0
Cannabis Seized	1,320.02g	Cold Case Reviews	2
Meth Seized	569.59g	Officer Involved Shoot-ings	0
Cocaine Seized	26.65g	Financial Crimes	55
Heroin Seized	.93g	Property Recovered in dollars	\$112,624
RX Pills Seized	2,635	Agriculture Cases	23

Victims' Advocacy	2019	Assigned	
Crisis Counseling	161	Agriculture Activity Reported	23,306
Follow-Up Contacts	106	Agriculture Miles	9,265
Information & Referrals	798	Patrolled	
Injunctions	57	SPOT Investigations	1,190
Shelter Assistance	6		
Assisted Compensation Filed	604		
Telephone Contacts	106		
Referral Letters Sent	603		



Tips Received	2019
Tip Line Calls	71
School Resources	14
Walk- Ins Total	2019
Records	3,530
Dispatch	2,991
Communications	2019
Non- Emergency Calls	108,504
9-1-1 Calls	15,790
Calls for Service	21,255



Support Bureau

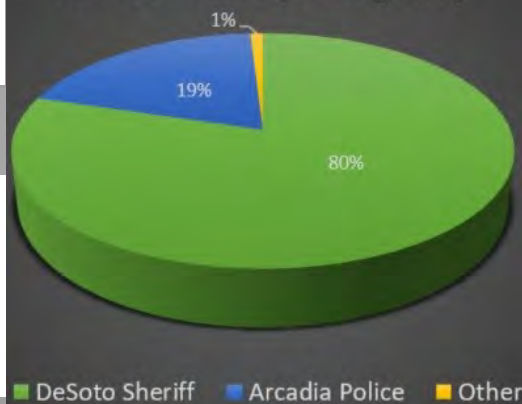
Detention Bureau

Number of Assaults on Staff		2019
By Inmates		1
Arrests/ Non-Committed		2019
DeSoto County Sheriff's Office		1,842
Arcadia Police Department		447
Florida Highway Patrol		17
Florida Wildlife and Game Commission		4
Other		1
Total		2,317
Charges		2019
Felonies		1800
Misdemeanors		1600
Sex/Criminal Registrations		616
Other		247
Total		4263
Types of Transport	# Inmates	Mileage
Medical	63	2430
DOC	134	11,206
General	249	25,901
Total	446	39,537
Medical Report		Inmates
Hospital Admissions		5
Outside Consults/ X-Ray		49
ER Visits		40
Seen by ARNP		1387
Seen by Dentist		6
Seen by Psychologist		375
Annual/ Physical		532
Sick Calls		3584
Wound Care		990
Average Daily Population		2019
Total		162

How Detainees were Released from Jail



Arrest Made per Agency



Releases	2019
Bonded	735
Court Order	286
Time Served	174
ROR	91
Other agency	174
DOC	158
Other	32
Total	1650

Detainees Arrested Sex

Sex	2019
Male	1246
Female	471
Total	1717

Leave	2017	2018	2019
Annual	N/A	1273.25	2093
Sick	1604	1465.25	1154.75
Overtime	2292	1791	1807.25
2019 Medical	Beginning	Debit 2019	Total
Hospital Services	\$10,661.45	\$102,208.85	\$112,870.30
Outpatient Services	\$10,834.39	\$38,199.66	\$49,034.05
Dental Services	\$0	\$290.00	\$290.00

Revenues	2019
APD Communication Tower	\$10,586.00
School Board SRD Fund	\$314,948.00
Records Fees	\$3,374.50
Article 5 Revenue	\$23,137.78
Detainee Book Keeping Services	\$28,500.00
Grants	\$30,075.00
Total	\$410,621.28

Payroll	2019
Unemployment Reports Submitted	4
Successful Pay Runs Completed	26
1095C Forms Processed	136
W2 Forms Handed Out	139
Hours of Special Details	1650
Direct Deposits Processed	2438
Hours of Overtime Worked	6074

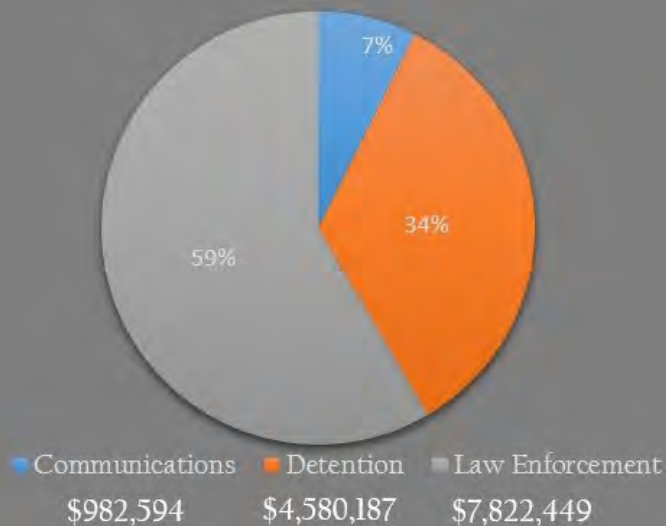
Accounts Payable	2019
Checks Written	1,868
Invoices Processed	2,931
Invoice Totals	\$7,695,646.66

Reinvested Funds into the County	2019
Money Reinvested	\$1,216,911.53
FEMA Relief	\$110,099.55
Total Reinvested	\$1,327,011.28

Accounting Facts	2019
Quarterly Tax reports Successfully balanced and submitted. Amounting to \$1,424,100.27 taxes paid	4
Monthly Retirement Reports submitted to FRS	12
Monthly Reconciliations completed on 11 Bank Accounts	121
Transactions posted	1284

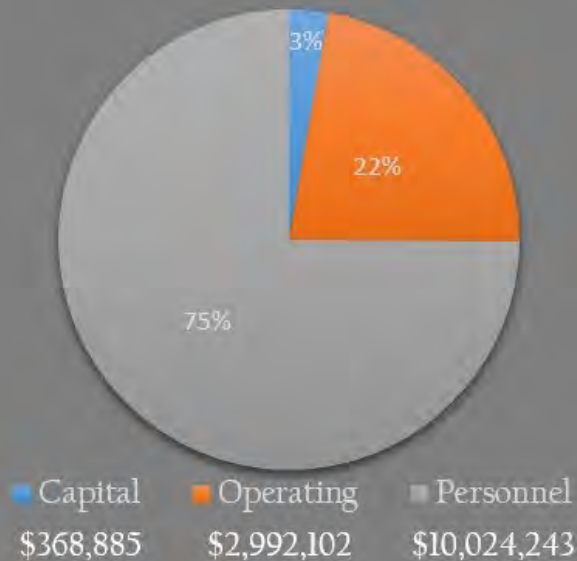
Budget Broken Down By Division

Budgets for Divisions



Budget Broken Down By Character

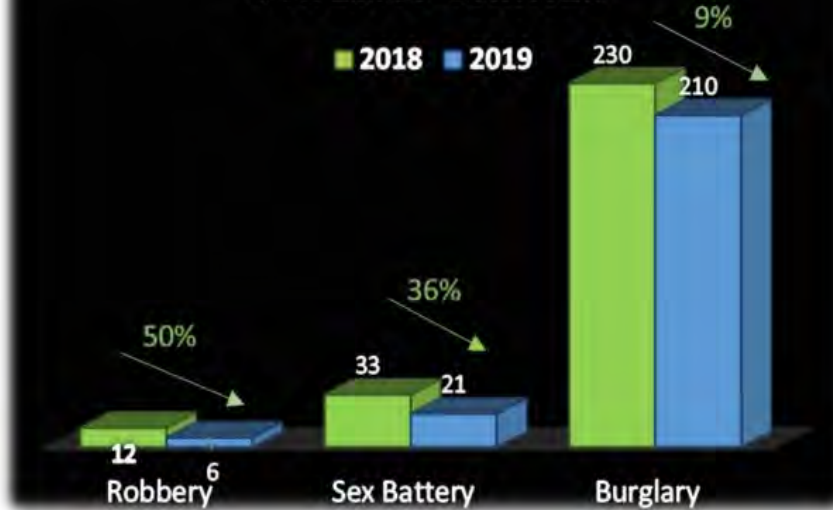
Total Budget



Budget

2018 vs. 2019

VIOLENT CRIMES



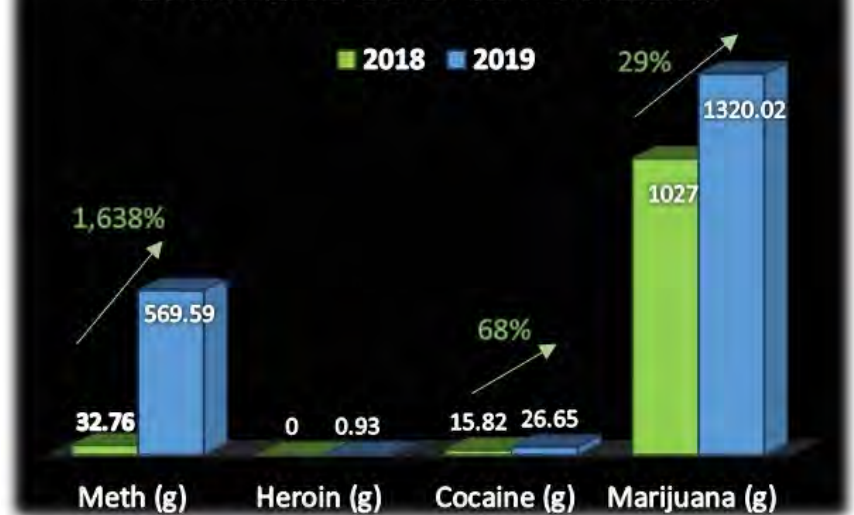
Top Violent Crimes for 2019 has showed a substantial reduction to the prior year of 2018.

1. Burglary dropped by 9%
2. Sexual Battery dropped by 36%
3. Robberies dropped by 50%

Dangerous Drugs Seized in DeSoto County has increased.

1. Marijuana seizure increased by 29%
2. Meth seizure increased by 1,638%
3. Cocaine seizure increased by 68%
4. Heroin was seized this year opposed to last year of none.

DANGEROUS DRUGS SEIZED



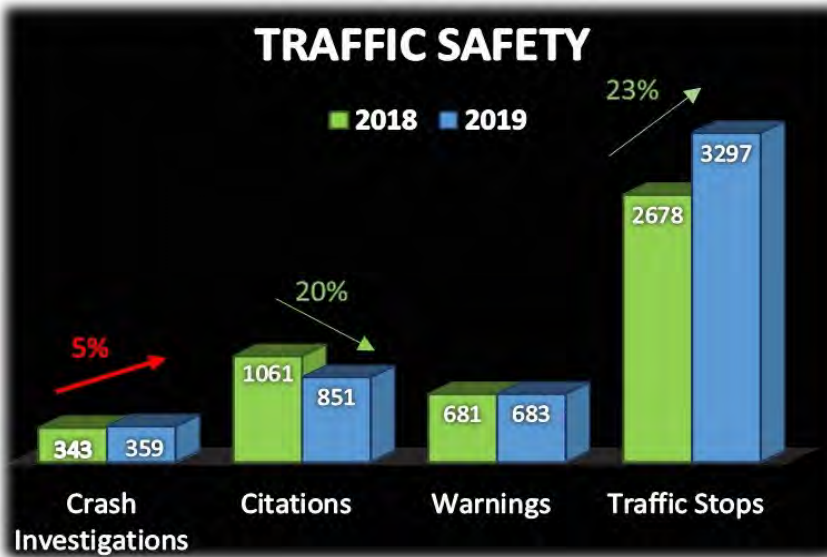
NON-VIOLENT CRIMES



Top Non-Violent Crimes for 2019 has shown a substantial reduction to the prior year of 2018.

1. Larceny decreased by 15%
2. Retail Theft decreased by 33%
3. Criminal Mischief decreased by 19%

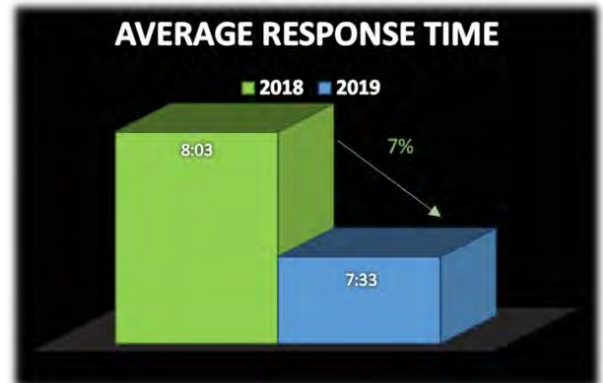
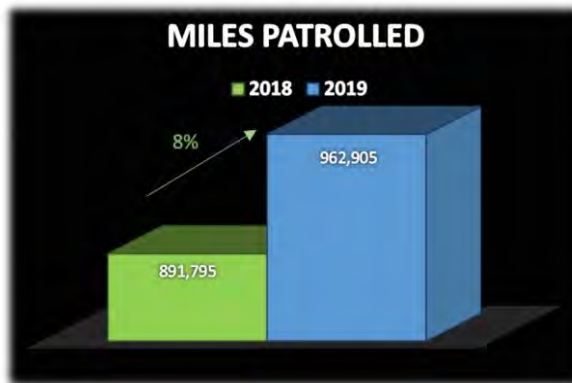
2018 vs. 2019



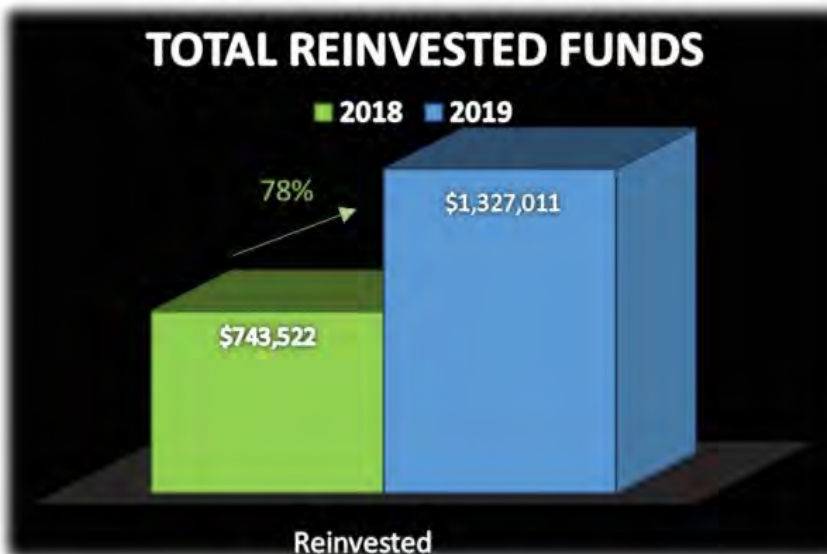
Uniformed Patrol has increased their diligence for traffic safety.

1. Traffic Stops increased by 23%
2. Citations issued decreased by 20%
3. Warnings showed minimal change
4. Crash investigations increased by 5%

Note: Crash Investigations completed by DeSoto County Sheriff's Office only. DCSO Investigated 87% of Traffic Crashes in the county during 2019.



Due to the diligent efforts by Law Enforcement members in 2019, we increased our miles patrolled by 8%. Therefore decreasing our average response time by 7% from 8 minutes 3 seconds to 7 minutes 33 seconds.



The DeSoto County Sheriff's Office has been continuously diligent with the funds provided by the county. By being diligent the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office was able to increase reinvested funds from \$743,522 to \$1,327,011, an increase of 78%.

“Over-Watch Program” - DeSoto County Schools

As part of our partnership with DeSoto County Schools, Sheriff James F. Potter created the “Over-Watch Program” in an effort to decrease school related incidents and credible threats to our students and teachers. A key component to the “Over-Watch Program” is our continued efforts in conducting School & School Bus Checks; Each of our Deputies are trained and instructed to conduct special patrols of random school bus and routes to ensure their safe transit to and from school. Each Deputy relays key information to the Telecommunications Control Room; such as: Bus number, exact locations of the bus/ bus stop, how long the bus route is, and students observed. They remain vigilant for any driver who passes a bus while children are mounting or dismounting the bus and take enforcement action. Furthermore, once the buses have safely delivered the students to their school. Our Deputies and School Resource Deputies then begin conducting school perimeter checks and walkthroughs of all schools, repeating this process daily with vigilance and care.

Sexual Offender Predator Tracking (S.P.O.T.)

The Sexual Predator Offender Tracking Unit specializes in proactive monitoring, tracking and enforcement of Florida State Statutes relative to all Sexual Predators and Sexual Offenders residing in DeSoto County. This includes community notifications, random address verifications and ensuring reporting requirements are met,

Proactive Community Relations

Active Shooter Awareness Training for the Public

The DeSoto County Sheriff's Office instructed 8 “Active Shooter Awareness Training for the Public” events throughout the year. There was approximately a total of 300+ citizens in attendance.

No Shave November, December and January

Our caring, compassionate and giving staff raised nearly \$7,000. all while growing their beards. The funds raised were later donated to several key community programs. These programs include Guardia Ad Litem, Shop with a Sheriff and Boys and Girls Club.

In addition numerous community relationship events were conducted during 2019.

Commercial Business Checks

In efforts to reduce Commercial Burglaries, Sheriff Potter created a “Commercial Business Checks.” Deputies routinely check local businesses for safety and security. Upon completion of the check, Deputies leave a “Security Check” business card, notating the date, time and whom conducted the check.



Church Security Presentations

Sheriff Potter has personally presented numerous church security presentations throughout 2017, 2018 and 2019. Sheriff Potter outlines best practice suggestions for each church to help them develop a tailored Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for their church body.





EXCELLENCE, INTEGRITY &
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP