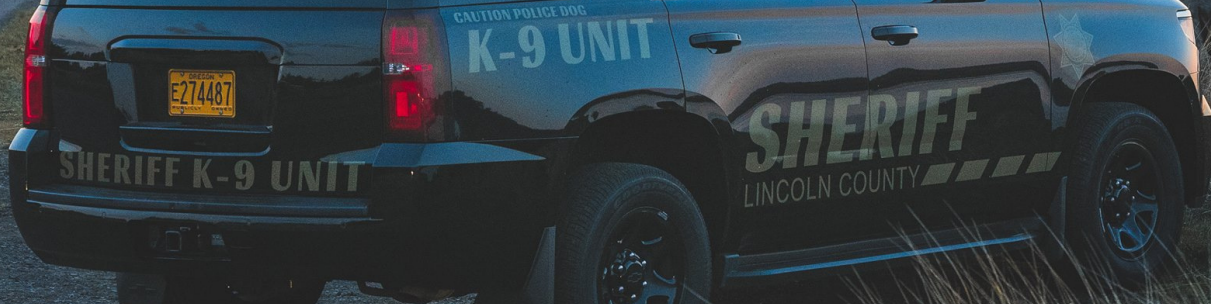


ANNUAL REPORT

—
2020



MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF



Wow! What a challenging year it has been for all of us. In 33 years of law enforcement, I can confidently say that 2020 was the most challenging year I have experienced. It is my pleasure to present this annual report and it will provide you with a summary of the exemplary work and details about the challenging year each Sheriff's Office division experienced and some statistical comparisons to previous years.

Something new for this year is the addition of division specific mission statements listed in bold at the beginning of each section. While we are one agency with one overall mission statement, each division is unique in its own way and it is important to separate out the specifics of what they do to compliment our overall mission.

As I review the Annual Report, the one thing that stands out is how amazing our members are, and I am so proud of the work they do. They remained highly dedicated with a positive attitude throughout all the turmoil and ever-changing environment this year. They continued to achieve excellence and were able to introduce new programs. Members worked diligently, with dedication and commitment to ensure a safe environment for our citizens and visitors. They did all of this and kept smiles on their faces, even under face coverings.

I am so honored and humbled that you allow me to serve you as your Sheriff. Thank you for your continued support for our office, it is noticed and appreciated.



**Sheriff Curtis L. Landers
with K9 Nix**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Emergency Management Division is committed to leading collaborative county-wide efforts, inclusive of all partners and the communities we serve, to ensure capability of obtaining help in an emergency and to protect, mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies or disasters regardless of cause.

This year marked the first time in Lincoln County history of two county-wide Federal Presidential Emergency Declarations requiring assistance from all public safety volunteer groups in our county, responding to COVID-19 and Echo Mountain Complex Fire.

In March, the Emergency Operations Center was activated initiating a joint response to the coronavirus epidemic, pulling together staff from Emergency Management, Health and Human Services and Public Information Officers.

Staff and volunteers worked to attempt to order and gather personal protective equipment (PPE) and supplies for area hospitals and first responders, an emergency call center was established and staffed 40 hours per week, and efforts to communicate an incredible amount of information to our worried community members was underway. Daily calls with cooperators kept everyone informed and working as a team. County employees from a number of departments pulled together to create plans in the event of widespread infections.

Emergency Management continued through the summer documenting our county's covid response to ensure financial reimbursement from FEMA and continuing distribution of face coverings to the public with our local Community Emergency Response Teams or CERT's.



September once again tested our Emergency Management team, volunteers and first responders with the response to the Echo Mountain Complex Fire. It was evident the years of planning, training, and assisting in other county wildfire responses benefited our local response team.

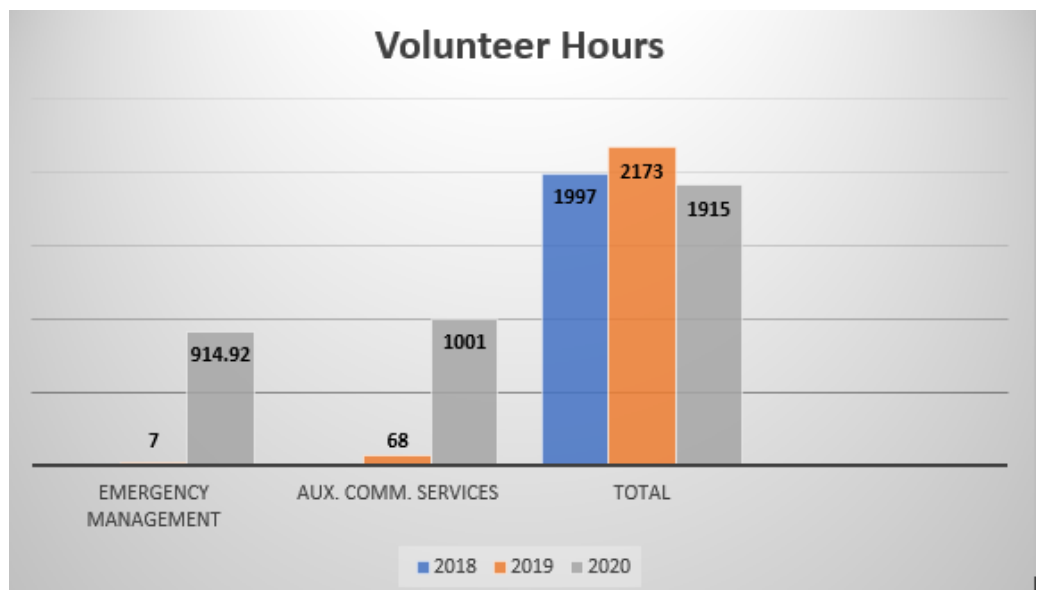
In addition to transition to fire recovery and continued coronavirus support, the EM Team continued other planning requirements, securing funding for future projects and planning for future exercises in 2022.

October through December the EM Team responded to multiple local flooding notices from the National Weather Service, and coordinated efforts in the Fall Creek landslide with residential evacuations in southeast county.

The EM Team finished the year assisting the community health partners with converting the County Commons (fairgrounds) into a mass vaccination clinic that will be in place for several months.

Next year will not be much different for our EM Team; they continue to support the Echo Fire recovery efforts and support the logistics for the COVID vaccine clinics in addition to their regular duties. Two exciting projects they are working on is the State Homeland Security grant award of \$130,000 to develop Mass Care and Sheltering Plans for the counties of Lincoln, Benton, Linn, Yamhill, Polk, and Marion Counties, and planning for the Cascadia Rising National Exercise in June of 2022.

This past year has highlighted that Lincoln County is safer, better prepared, and able to effectively respond to weather events, earthquakes, local and distant tsunamis, public health emergencies, and wildfires due to our Emergency Management team, volunteers and the partnerships they have created throughout the county and state.



PATROL

The Patrol Division is committed to professional excellence in providing accredited public safety services for Lincoln County in the form of law enforcement patrol, criminal investigations, community and animal services, and community partnerships. We are committed to developing and retaining talented, professional deputies who demonstrate the highest standards of performance, police practices, and accountability.

The word “unprecedented” seemed to sum up the year 2020 more than any other. When the full magnitude of the coronavirus was realized in Oregon, the United States, and the rest of the world, it truly was the start of an unprecedented year for the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office Patrol Division.

With protocols changing almost daily in the beginning of how to best protect our deputies and citizens in a global pandemic, it brought together law enforcement leaders from around the state to brainstorm how law enforcement should collectively approach this problem. Discussions on the most routine patrol activities such as daily briefings, traffic stops and in person contact with victims had to be rethought. Deputies were asked for the first time in their career to limit their proactive enforcement to reduce as much contact with the public as possible. Social distancing, face coverings and virtual meetings became the new normal.

In mid-April, the Sheriff’s Office and Toledo Police Department partnered to offer no-fee medication delivery service for vulnerable populations. Local pharmacies and private delivery services did an excellent job reaching vulnerable populations with 152 medication deliveries to date.



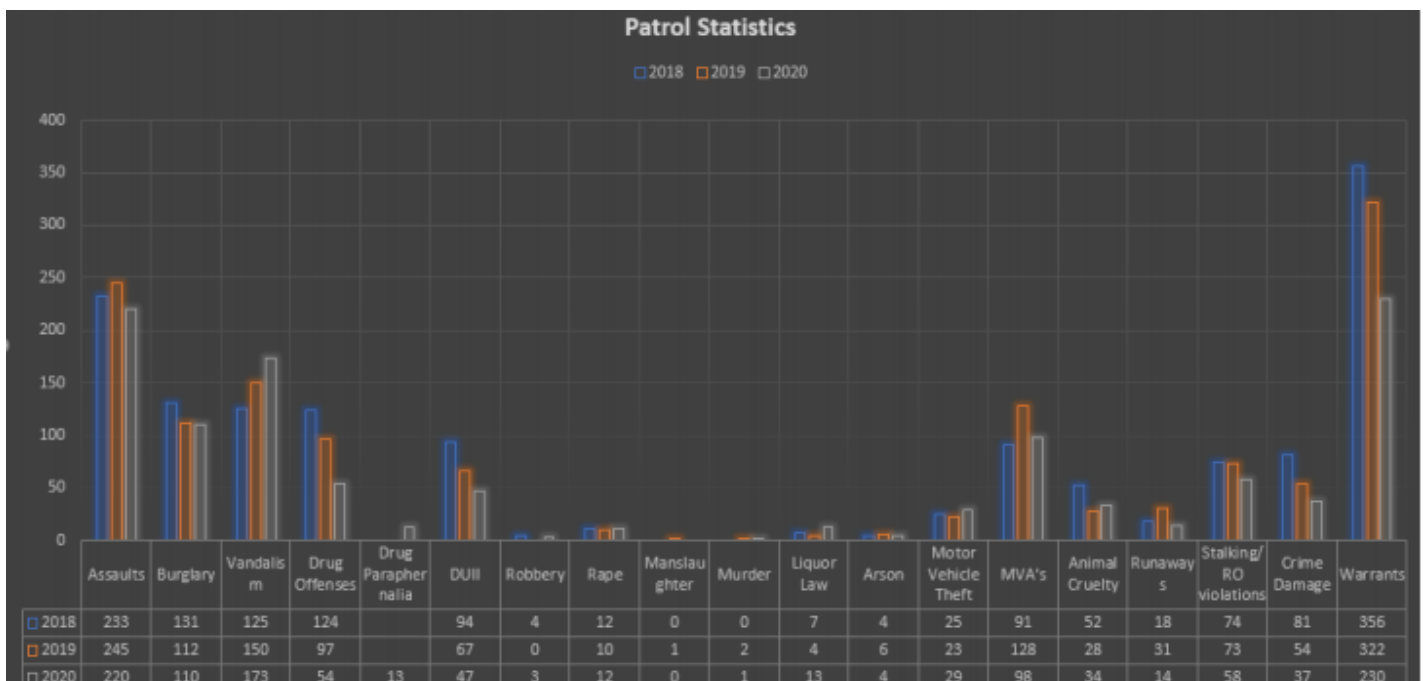
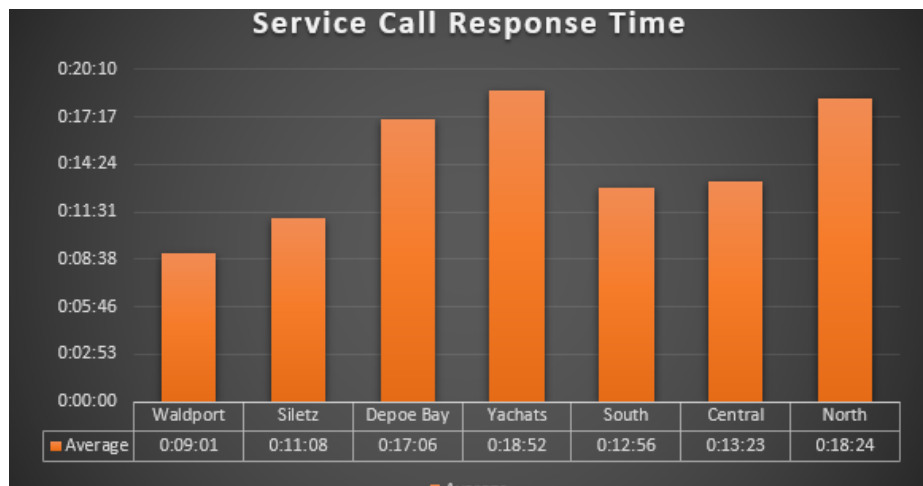
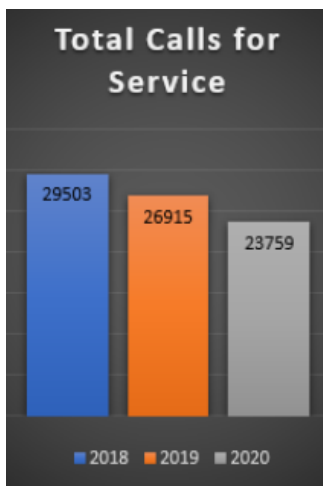
Summer brought on new challenges with the number of citizens, who more than ever, decided to stay close to home and take advantage of all the outdoor activities and scenic beauty of the Oregon Coast. With some parks remaining closed, this resulted in overflowing parking areas, trash issues and conflicts between neighborhoods and tourists. It also meant a considerable amount of time educating the public to help ensure executive orders were being followed.

By the end of summer, the Patrol Division had settled into a groove as fall approached, but on the evening of September 7, an extraordinary weather event took place that combined unseasonably high winds, warm air temperatures, and low humidity.

The winds caused trees and debris to fall on charged power transfer lines, igniting multiple fires in the Otis and Rose Lodge areas of Lincoln County. Over the next forty-eight hours, the fire moved on high winds to eventually consume 293 residences over 2552 acres. From the moment the flames began to spread, members of the Patrol Division began evacuations from the danger areas surrounding the fire. The number of residences requiring evacuation increased exponentially as erratic winds began to drive the fire toward populated areas.

Available personnel from the Patrol Division and Search and Rescue were called in for additional evacuation assistance. In total, the evacuation team reached 4,378 structures for mandatory level three (immediate) evacuations. Members of the evacuation team were faced with choking smoke and flames as the fire rapidly overtook terrain. In many instances, the evacuation detachments escaped with residents only moments before areas burned. Members endured long hours and physical danger to keep pace with a rapidly changing situation.

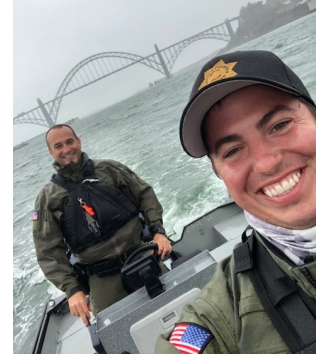
The gallant and persistent efforts of the evacuation teams resulted in no lives being lost as a result of fire activity. Security of the fire-affected areas continued around the clock for an entire month. Animal Services and Shelter staff provided care for displaced pets and livestock. Fire-related investigation, resource coordination, and the work did not cease when the fire was contained. Members of the Patrol Division maintained recovery planning behind the scenes. Those not directly involved in the fire incident supported those who were by continuing to serve the citizens in the rest of Lincoln County.



LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTED DIVERSION

In 2020, the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office applied for and received an IMPACTS grant to start a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program (LEAD®). Lincoln County LEAD® is a pre-arrest, harm-reduction diversion program designed to connect law enforcement with high utilizers of the criminal justice system. The approach is designed to support individuals with behavioral health needs by allowing law enforcement to redirect those engaged in low-level criminal activity to services and resources instead of jail and prosecution.

Participation in Lincoln County LEAD® is voluntary, and law enforcement will target participant recruitment throughout the county. The LEAD® methodology is a harm reduction model, which means that participants are engaged, given support, and are not penalized or denied services based on their choice to participate. The overall goal of the model is to reduce the harm done to themselves and to the surrounding community because of mental health, substance use, or co-occurring disorders. To achieve this, participants meet with a navigator from Reconnections to create individualized service plans, identify needs (e.g., medical, shelter, treatment) and create pathways for support and access to services.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MENTAL HEALTH ENHANCEMENT TEAM

In January, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and Lincoln County Behavioral Health partnered to form the Community Outreach and Mental Health Enhancement Team (COMET). The team consists of Behavioral Health Clinical Counselor Liz Scott-Wedler and Sheriff's Deputy Siscilee Gouge, who work together 40-hours per week. COMET is not a mental health crisis response team; their goal is to solve problems up-stream of crisis and try to eliminate the circumstances that can cause it. When a person does experience a mental health crisis, COMET works to identify and mitigate the initiating factors to prevent future instances. In their first year of work, COMET made 146 client referrals to services like Primary Care, Oregon Health Plan, and mental health services. They have been able to act as a liaison group between governmental, non-profit, and community organizations to streamline services and help prevent the duplication of effort. The challenging part is getting someone started in the right direction. Those most in need of services are frequently unwilling to accept help. According to Deputy Gouge, "Sometimes a bag of chips or a cookie is all you need to start the conversation. If a trip to the coffee stand gets them in the car and talking? Absolutely worth it."



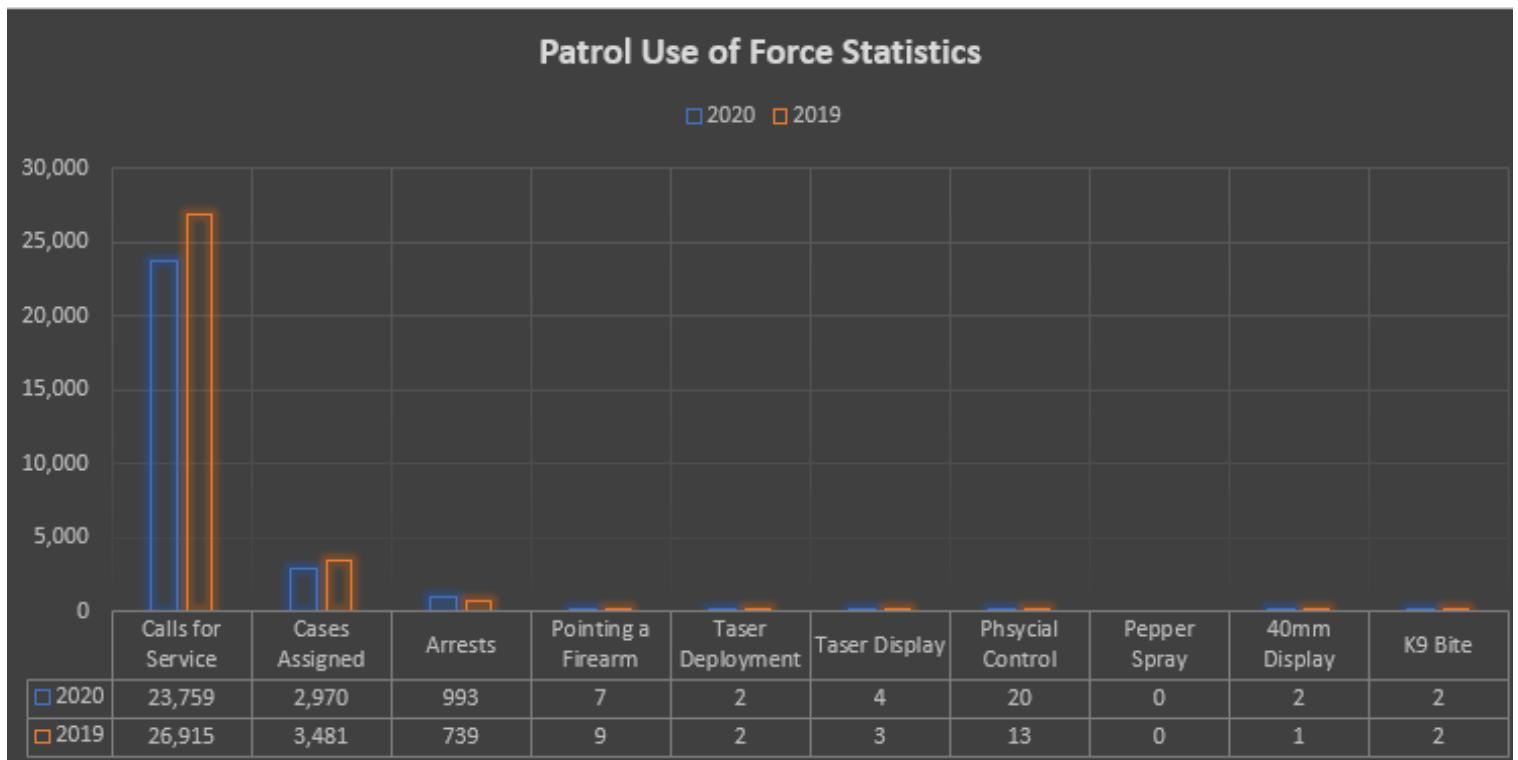
PATROL USE OF FORCE

During the 2020 calendar year, twenty-seven use of force incidents occurred involving twenty-eight subjects. This is up five reports and four subjects from last year and down twelve from 2017. Eight reports contained the use of multiple force options in a single encounter. Thirteen custodial arrests were made by our agency, eight by other agencies, and six were not lodged. The discrepancy in uses of force and lodged subjects was likely due to the offenses involved not reaching the lodging requirements under COVID protocols and all involved minor or non-physical force (such as displaying a Taser or pushing a subject's hand away).

On those subjects in which we used force: twenty-four were Caucasian, two were Black, and one was Hispanic; twenty-four were male and three were female. Of the twenty-seven force incidents, three deputies sustained minor injuries, three subjects incurred minor injuries, and one subject was seriously injured.

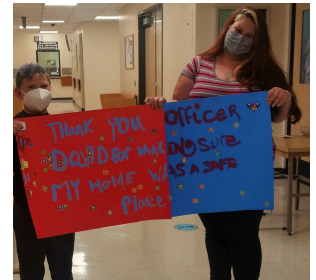
The use of force incidents were evenly split between patrol shifts, with fourteen occurring on night shift and thirteen occurring on day shift. None of the use of force incidents were listed as having occurred during zero coverage hours between 0300 and 0700. Fifteen incidents occurred in daylight, four in artificial light, seven under low-light conditions, and one was in darkness. Only four of the incidents occurred indoors.

Each use of force was reviewed by the on-duty or on-call supervisor, the training supervisor, and division commander. All uses of force, including multiple applications in one incident, were determined to be lawful, justified, and appropriate under the circumstances. No training, equipment, or policy issues were identified in the review of each incident and no patterns in force usage were identified. Every incident video was recorded with either a body-worn camera (BWC) or mobile vehicle recorder (MVR).

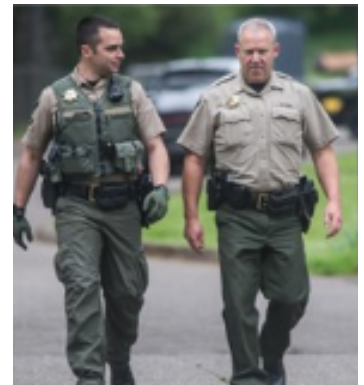


RETIREMENTS

After more than 29 years in Oregon law enforcement, **Sr. Deputy David Boys** retired on October 20th. Dave was was hired with our office as a Correction Technician in 1992, was later promoted to Corrections Deputy, then transferred to patrol in 1996. During Dave's long career he served as a Field Training Officer, Drug Recognition Expert, SFST's and High Risk Traffic Stops Instructor, and held an advanced police certificate. He was honored on two occasions with both Deputy of the Year and DULL Deputy of the Year awards. Dave was elected President of the Lincoln County Deputies Association in 2017. On behalf of Sheriff Landers and our law enforcement family, a big thank you to Sr. Deputy David Boys for his years of dedicated and selfless service to our office and community.



Sergeant Mark Meister retired from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office on January 31st. Sergeant Meister served for over 28 years with our office and held a supervisory police certificate. He worked as a Patrol Deputy, Detective and Patrol Sergeant. He was a member of the Multi-Agency Crash Team (MACT) for 24 years, with 16 years as a MACT Reconstructionist. He served as a member of the Major Crime Team (MCT) and was a Field Training Officer for over 18 years. Congratulations to Mark on an outstanding 28 year law enforcement career.



After four years of service, **K9 Bonni** retired on September 30th. Bonni was an integral part of the Lincoln County Law Enforcement family. She worked 40-hours or more each week to apprehend dangerous felons, increase the safety of her law enforcement partners, and protect the citizens. Bonni was not all work and no play--when she wasn't tracking suspects, she was often performing demonstrations for community groups and schools. Bonni's mild temperament allowed her to be calm and approachable when not in "work mode," making her a crowd favorite. Bonni resides with her handler, Deputy Zachary Akin living the easy life on her favorite couch.

A photograph of two Lincoln County Sheriff's Office staff members in an office. The staff member on the left is standing and wearing a dark uniform with a star badge and a patterned face mask. The staff member on the right is sitting at a desk, also in uniform and wearing a blue surgical mask. They are both looking towards the camera. The background shows office desks with computers and monitors. The text 'SUPPORT SERVICES' is overlaid in large white letters across the top of the image.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Support Services Division is committed to providing public services to Lincoln County's community members, cooperating agencies, and a variety of external entities with the highest level of integrity, efficiency, and compassion.

We did not get very far into 2020 before being impacted by the Governor's Executive Orders. In fact, it was only the third order of 2020 that declared an emergency due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in Oregon. Besides the addition of policies for face coverings, social distancing, and more rigorous cleaning practices, other changes in public services occurred within the Support Services Division that are currently still in effect.

We are temporarily accepting applications and payments to renew concealed handgun licenses through the mail. We are scheduling in-person appointments for new concealed handgun licenses and out-of-county transfers, as those appointments require fingerprinting. We have also started providing general fingerprinting services to the public again, but we do require an appointment now to limit the number of citizens in our lobby and/or waiting in the courthouse hallways. Our online appointment scheduling calendar for new concealed handgun licensing appointments and general public fingerprinting services may be found on our website.

Our office is encouraging the public to submit all public records requests via email to sheriffrecordsrequests@co.lincoln.or.us using our request form available on our website. We have recently updated our credit card vendor to allow for payments over the phone.

In November 2020, we transitioned our short term rental program to a new software vendor, MUNIRevs, which allows owners to register and apply online for renewal licenses, including payments. If you have questions about registering with MUNIRevs, please contact our office.

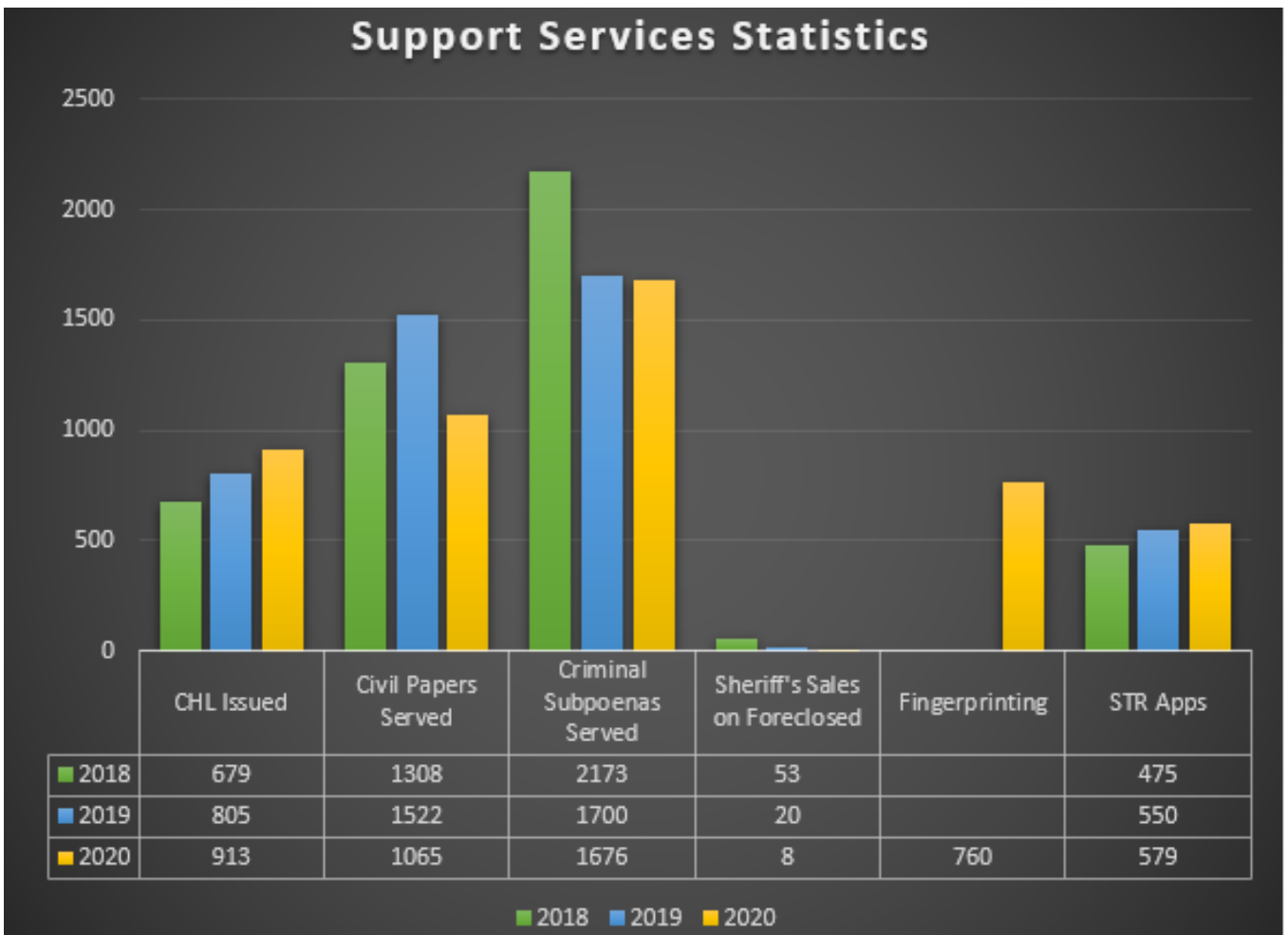
The Oregon State Police has transitioned the Sex Offender Registration Program to a "by phone" registration process. Registrants can now register by calling any OSP office and most local law enforcement agencies. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office does accept registration by phone at 541-265-4912. The service of civil notice process and enforcement process remains the least changed. Please call our Civil Division at 541-265-4915 or refer to our website for more information.

PROPERTY & EVIDENCE

As a part of Support Services, the Property and Evidence Division is responsible for storing and safeguarding evidence, found property, relinquished property, and property for safekeeping. They also submit evidence for criminal analysis to the crime lab and comply with state and federal laws for the disposition of property and evidence.

Examples of common items taken in include drugs, cell phones, lost wallets, and clothing. But evidence and safekeeping can be virtually anything! Examples of more unusual items include swords, a found drone, a Purple Heart, and a cello valued at \$10,000.

In the past year, this division received 971 physical property items, 2,754 digital items, and released 232 property items to owners. In addition, the unit disposed of 1,113 property items.



CORRECTIONS

The Lincoln County jail is committed to serving our community by providing a safe, secure and healthy jail environment where everyone is treated with dignity, empathy and respect.

As 2020 took a fairly quick turn down a slightly different path, we all faced challenges that required quick thinking. Over the course of the year numerous procedural changes were enacted to ensure the safety of all members as well as the adults in custody.

In February, the jail began instituting precautionary measures to ensure compliance with state and federal guidelines. Through continued community partnerships the Lincoln County Jail was able to verify through testing if an Adult In Custody (AIC) was COVID-19 positive or negative prior to housing. Jails are extremely susceptible because of their very nature for outbreaks and quick transmissions because of close proximity.

Although social distancing is challenging in a corrections environment, it is the cornerstone of reducing the transmission of respiratory diseases such as COVID-19. All Sheriff's Office staff as well as our AIC are required to wear a facial covering, have their temperature checked once per day, and to the best extent possible, practice social distancing. The ability to institute these precautionary measures allowed the management team to evaluate facility and community needs on a consistent basis. The goal is to balance safety in the community with safety in the jail.

The jail serves as a functional component of the criminal justice system, and we understand the need to operate a safe facility while also ensuring our community feels safe. Our process requires gradual customizing and prioritizing arrests so we can balance our housing capability, address our classification concerns, set up pretrial justice for success and not overwhelm them with clients they won't be able to recommend for release. We need to hold those accountable who are taxing the criminal justice system with multiple arrests, support our local and out of county agencies by transporting wanted subjects into and out of our county on holds and send the message that accountability and community safety remains our priority.



As we gradually phase in additional steps in our process, we continue to educate and talk with our staff as well as our partners about the underlying nature of the arrest. As a community partner, we want to operate a facility where those who need to be lodged can be but also understanding that jail is not always the best choice. We know, if we are able to address the underlying cause, assist the individual with getting the resources they need, then over time we will not only reduce our facility population but also enhance community safety.

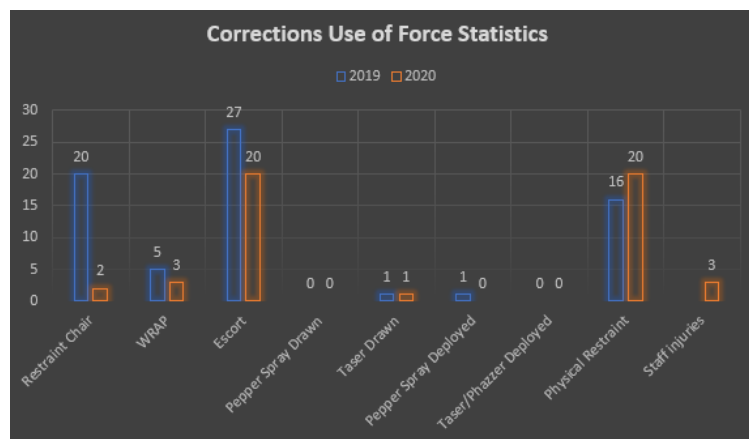
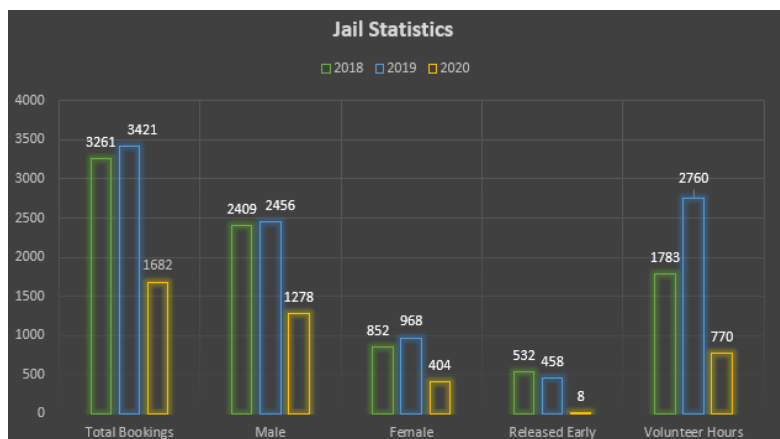
TABLETS FOR ADULTS IN CUSTODY



The Lincoln County Jail purchased and began using tablet devices by the adults in custody (AIC). The tablets sold by TurnKey Corrections in partnership with EDOVO learning provide the AICs an opportunity to learn and expand their skills while in custody.

The tablets contain many educational modules, examples include but are not limited to, GED studies, vocational training, stress, and anger management, as well as cognitive and behavioral therapy. Through the completion of these modules the AICs are rewarded with points which can then be used to watch a movie, tv show or play a video game. Points cannot be purchased by the AICs, they may only be earned by engagement in the different modules.

These tablets are provided to the AICs at no cost to them or taxpayers, the usage fee is paid for out of the jail commissary revenue fund ensuring that all AICs have access to this tool to better themselves while not only in custody but once they are released back into our community.



*The WRAP is a full body restraint system that allows a subject to be completely restrained in a comfortable and upright, seated position.



ANIMAL SHELTER

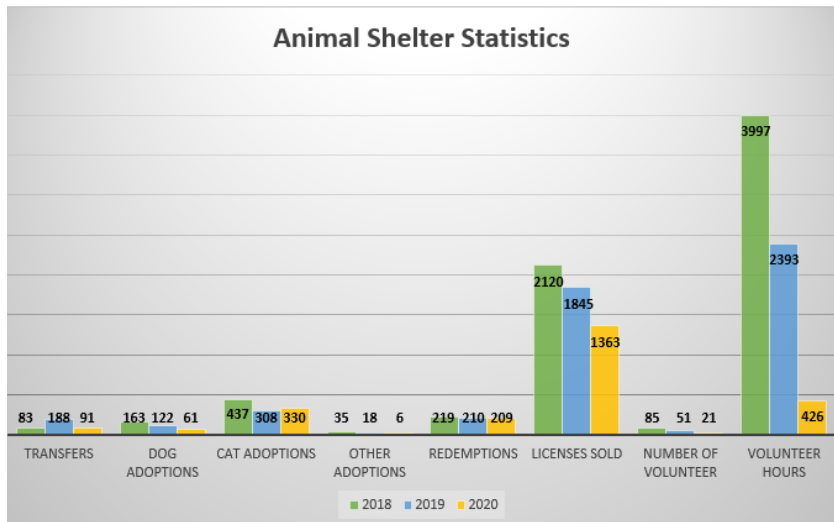
The Animal Shelter is committed to providing a safe haven for our community's animals by protecting animal welfare and public safety; rescuing, reuniting, rehabilitating and rehoming animals in need; helping keep pets and families together; and promoting responsible pet guardianship through licensing and education.

While 2019 presented unique challenges to the Animal Shelter with the unexpected demolition of the old building, and a move into temporary buildings, 2020 further tested our flexibility, resiliency, and resolve to provide the best services possible for animals in our community.



With the growing concern of the spread of COVID-19, a panic rippled through the animal sheltering world. We didn't know how the pandemic would affect pets and their people. Animal welfare organizations quickly banded together and provided invaluable resources and connections between leaders as we navigated the early days.

Animal lovers in every community helped clear the shelters of adoptable pets. Animal services including animal control and shelter workers were deemed essential employees--allowing us to provide services, but also exposing everyone, which was concerning. We were unsure of how the virus affected pets, or if pets could spread the virus, prompting new intake protocols and bracing for a huge influx of surrendered pets. Fortunately, it was determined fairly quickly that the virus didn't spread between people and pets, and shelters were not overrun with surrenders.



Our operations have changed quite a bit trying to keep staffing low and greatly limiting volunteers. Shelter staff work to provide as many services as possible over the phone or virtually, with other services by appointment. The shelter capacity in our temporary buildings is approximately 1/3 as the previous shelter. Despite these challenges, our intake was reduced, but not nearly as dramatically due to our expanded foster program.

Living on the Oregon Coast, we're used to windy, stormy nights during the winter. The warm windstorm the night of September 7th felt entirely different, and a bit eerie. The news of a large wildfire came in the middle of the night.

The Animal Shelter is a division of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, with Animal Services Deputies incorporated into the Patrol Division. Thanks to the preparation and training provided by our Emergency Management Division, our teams sprang into action.

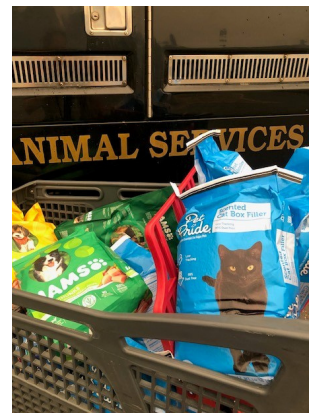
Knowing that people would be bringing pets with them to the emergency shelter, and the policy of not allowing animals inside, we initiated our first response to get pet supplies to their people including leashes, bowls, crates, collapsible litter pans, and food. Many people were able to drive and had pets in their cars. Nearly everyone on foot only escaped with the clothes they were wearing, and the pets they could carry or tie to them.

The County Commons (fairgrounds) turned into a large animal shelter and donation center. Thanks to the efforts of the local 4H group and many amazing citizens, dozens of corrals and pens housed evacuated horses, goats, chickens, and rabbits.

In the evacuation zone, officers, firefighters, and linemen helped animals they came across. The three Animal Services Deputies were assigned 12 hour shifts with all of them caring for animals, setting up food and water stations, and transporting animals to the shelter and veterinary clinics. The Animal Shelter staff quickly changed our online lost/found report to include space for people to report pets who were left behind. Additionally, all animal related calls into the dispatch center were directed to the Animal Shelter so that we could help free deputies to quickly respond to other calls.

Collectively, we realized it would be better for the animals and more sustainable given our small staff, especially in the times of COVID, to care for animals in their own homes. Over the course of ten days, Animal Services Deputies cared for hundreds of animals including goats, horses, chickens, alpacas, rabbits, parrots, peacocks, turtles, cats, reptiles, and fish. They spoke with worried owners, left signs and cards so they would know their animals had care, and helped reunite people with their pets.

As land is being cleared and recovery continues, efforts to care for, reunite, relocate, and spay/neuter cats left behind in the Echo Mountain Complex fire zone also continue. While we mourn the animals we couldn't save, our efforts to help people plan for their pets in disasters remain steadfast, our training continues, and our supply caches were restocked and continue to grow.. Having Animal Services and Emergency Management embedded in the Sheriff's Office allowed us to form relationships, train and plan together, and work as a unit, helping save people and the animals they love.



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