

ANNUAL REPORT

—
2021



MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF



On behalf of the great men and women serving you in the Sheriff's Office I am pleased to present the 2021 Annual Report. 2020 was a challenging year and 2021 seemed to continue on the same path. This report will highlight some of the opportunities throughout the year and provide you with statistical data for comparisons to previous years.

I continue to be amazed at the great work our team does each and every day. They continue to dedicate themselves to ensuring a safe environment for our citizens and visitors we serve.

However, as a lot of organizations realized during this "great resignation" we are having a difficult time retaining and recruiting qualified members.

Our members are providing a vital service to our community and it is a difficult job. Whether they work patrol, jail, support services, animal shelter, or emergency management, it can be very stressful and traumatic at times. Adding extended hours and countless mandatory overtime hours can have a toll on them. We are seeing good team members leave because they are tired and want to find a better work/life balance, and I don't blame them.

Unfortunately, great programs like our COMET (Community Outreach and Mental Health Enhancement Team) and our drug team have to be suspended when we do not have enough members to address our basic and mandatory functions. I do not want this message to come across negative, but it wouldn't be an accurate report if we didn't provide the true "State of the Sheriff's Office". We are looking for ways to address this situation and still provide necessary service to our citizens because I don't see us coming out of it anytime soon. Thank you for taking the time to read through this report. It is important to know what is going on at your Sheriff's Office and it also helps to look back over the years to see what has changed. I am hoping the 2022 report sheds a more positive outlook on the wellness of our team members.



Sheriff Curtis L. Landers

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.

Emergency Management staff and volunteers continued to support the COVID-19 response and the recovery efforts for our community members affected by the 2020 Echo Mountain Complex Fire. This year we leaned on our volunteers for a variety of events and tasks: Continued vaccine clinics; PPE distribution; Testing and maintaining back-up auxiliary communications; equipment; Support EM community events and demonstrations; and processing of new grant awarded item. Although our team was disappointed to not be able to host in person events again this year, it did help inspire the creation of the virtual Lincoln County Wildfire Readiness Series.

During April, May, and June, our team virtually hosted and recorded 8 different modules, the last one in the series was hosted for each fire district in Lincoln County. Although the series focuses on wildfire readiness, most of the content also applies to other hazards.

In August, our team welcomed Jess Palma as the new Assistant Emergency Manger. Jess joined the EM team after working for Lincoln County Public Health for 6 years and worked with our team during the COVID-19 and Echo Mountain Complex Fire responses. This fall our team began the process of implementing a new digital inventory tracking system for our disaster supply cache.



Emergency Management Team



Aux. Comm. Volunteers



**Medical Reserve Corps
Volunteers**

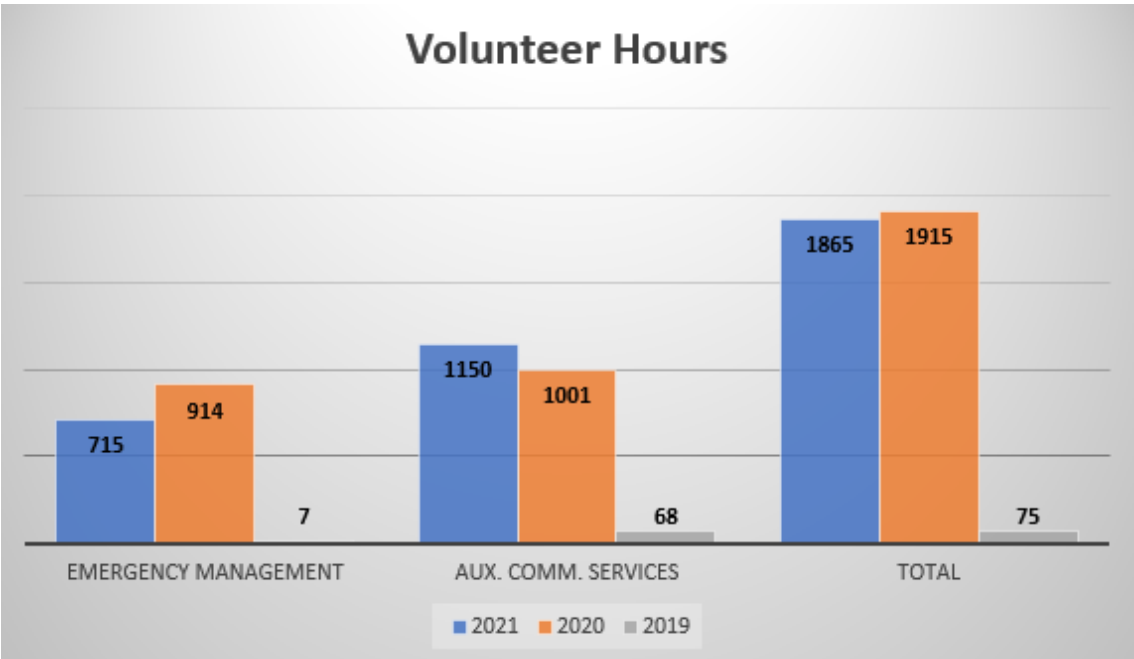
This will allow for easier tracking, deployment, and restocking of disaster supplies and equipment. Throughout the fall and winter, the EM team responded to weather and flooding events. These events were a great reminder to update your Lincoln Alerts profile and great practice for real-time public messaging during events.

In December, Emergency Manager, Jenny Demaris was awarded the first ever, Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA) Emergency Manager of the Year award. Many sponsored projects and partnerships with statewide collaborators led EM Demaris' peers to nominate her for the award prior to OSSA recognizing her at their December annual awards ceremony.

Throughout the year our EM team continued to apply for preparedness grants. The following are the 3 most current projects: Beginning the Mass Care and Sheltering Plan development for Lincoln, Benton, Linn, Yamhill, Polk and Marion Counties valued at \$130,000, funded through the federal State Homeland Security Grant. Purchasing medical supplies and equipment for the mobile medical fragile shelter cache that supports the Medical Reserve Corp volunteers, valued at \$28,587, funded through Oregon Health Authority.

Purchasing additional amateur radio trailer equipment for our Auxiliary Communications Volunteer group, valued at \$11,545, funded through the federal State Homeland Security Grant. Purchasing exterior jackets for the four CERT chapters (sponsored by local Fire Districts), valued at \$7,000, funded through the federal State Homeland Security Grant.

EM staff and volunteers are gearing up for an action-packed 2022 with our biggest event of planning and participating in the national level Cascadia Rising Exercise 2022 (CRE22) the second week of June and attend various trainings to help ready our local cooperators.





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.

2021 brought another year of both work and life challenges due to the ongoing adjustments needed to keep our team members and citizens safe from the evolving Covid 19 Pandemic. As new virus variations raced across the world, we as a community implemented and followed the best-known safety practice to keep everyone healthy.

On February 19, 2021 our patrol team began an investigation into its second homicide investigation in three months. Homicide investigations in our community are collectively investigated as a partnership through the Lincoln County Major Crimes Team which consists of detectives from Lincoln City PD, Newport PD, Toledo PD, Oregon State Police and the District Attorney's Office. Homicides and gun violence are generally uncommon in our central Oregon coastal communities however when they occur, we are prepared to bring justice to the victim and restore sense of calm to our community. This investigation led to the arrest of the alleged perpetrator.

In May we saw the retirement of Lieutenant Brian Cameron. Brian has been a citizen of Lincoln County since the late 1980's where he served as a member of the US Coast Guard stationed at Yaquina Bay. After leaving the USCG he joined our Office on May 1, 1991 as an Animal Control Deputy. In the 30 years of service Brian held many respectable posts to include Marine Deputy, Tactical Team Leader, Field Training Officer, Patrol Sergeant and ultimately Patrol Commander. We were grateful for Brian's historical knowledge, experience, and easy-going leadership to keep us all on the right track. Along with retirements, promotions generally follow.

Patrol Sergeant Karl Vertner was promoted to Patrol Lieutenant in May. Karl started his career with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office in 2004 as a volunteer Reserve Deputy. In 2005 he was offered a full-time paid position and never looked back. Karl has held duties as Civil Deputy, Marine Deputy, Field Training Officer and Patrol Sergeant. During his tenure he also coached high school softball for 4 years at Taft High in Lincoln City. Lt. Vertner's promotion created an opportunity for Deputy Jack Dunteman to be promoted to Patrol Sergeant in August. Jack has 5 years in law enforcement two of which with the Newport Police Department.

Jack's outgoing personality, generosity, work ethic and "can-do anything" attitude all lead to his promotion.

Staffing in the Patrol Division was challenged in late 2020 and carried into 2021 with natural attrition from retirements to team members moving on to other life adventures.



Lt. Karl Vertner



Sgt. Jack Dunteman

It became more challenging with "Covid Fatigue" and what some media outlets claimed to be the "Great Resignation" where unprecedented numbers of employees left their jobs for a variety of reasons.

Our Office and team were not spared from this aspect as we saw a total of 7 team members leave. A couple left the profession all together. One left to try entrepreneurial experiences in the restaurant industry while others left to become a school teacher and another a fire fighter.

Nonetheless their absence was felt. Hiring became the mantra for the latter half of the year. In September our Office was involved in an Officer Involved Shooting in a small residential neighborhood in South Beach. Three deputies responded to the neighborhood on a report of a male in the public street pointing a firearm in areas the public would travel. As the incident unfolded and our deputies arrived the male lifted and pointed the firearm at two of our deputies on scene. Deputy Zachary Akin engaged the suspect with gun fire which resulted in injury to the suspect and his apprehension. An internal review and a separate investigation conducted by the Oregon State Police and the Lincoln County District Attorney's Office confirmed Deputy Akin's actions were justified.

In November our Office participated in the national No Shave November event for cancer awareness. Our teams have participated in this event in prior years however we created a friendly competition between Patrol and Correction divisions.

The idea of the event is to not shave for the month and the money you save by not shaving you donate to cancer support. We spiced up this year's event by convincing Sheriff Landers to extend the no shaving opportunity for an additional month for the team who collectively donated the most financial support for the cause. (Per Sheriff's Office grooming policy, unnatural hair color and facial hair is generally banned for certified personnel.) Sheriff Landers was excited about the friendly competition however his only ask was our team identify a local organization to donate the funds to. Our team identified Samaritan Pacific Community Hospital and the game was on. The corrections team stepped up early and took the lead with several thousand dollars in donations as they grew their facial hair long. Not wanting to leave our non-shaving team members out of the action Sheriff Landers allowed team members to also dye their hair an unnatural color.

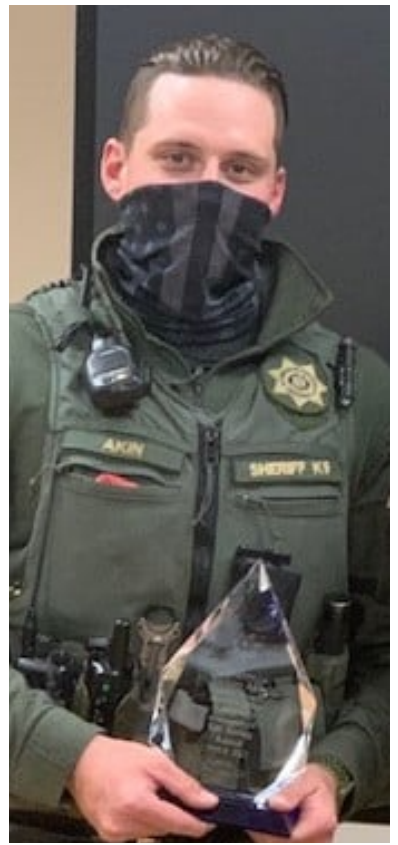
By the end of November after a back and forth with the lead, our Patrol Division took a commanding lead and ultimately won the competition. Collectively between the two divisions with monies donated by family and friends, the Sheriff's Office donated over 13k dollars to our local hospital in support of cancer treatment and care!



Patrol No Shave November Team

Although No Shave November may have gotten most of the financial support and attention from our Office it was not to the exclusion of other great community events our team took part in during the year. Even with Covid 19 protocols we still planned and participated in National Night Out (August), Honor Flight Golf Tournament (August), Trunk or Treat in both Siletz and Waldport Communities (October), and Shop with a Cop (December).

During this past year several of our members were honored with awards. Notably Deputy Zachary Akin was awarded a Lifesaving award for efforts in providing CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to a citizen who was in cardiac arrest in Waldport. The citizen was transported by medics and expected to make a full recovery.

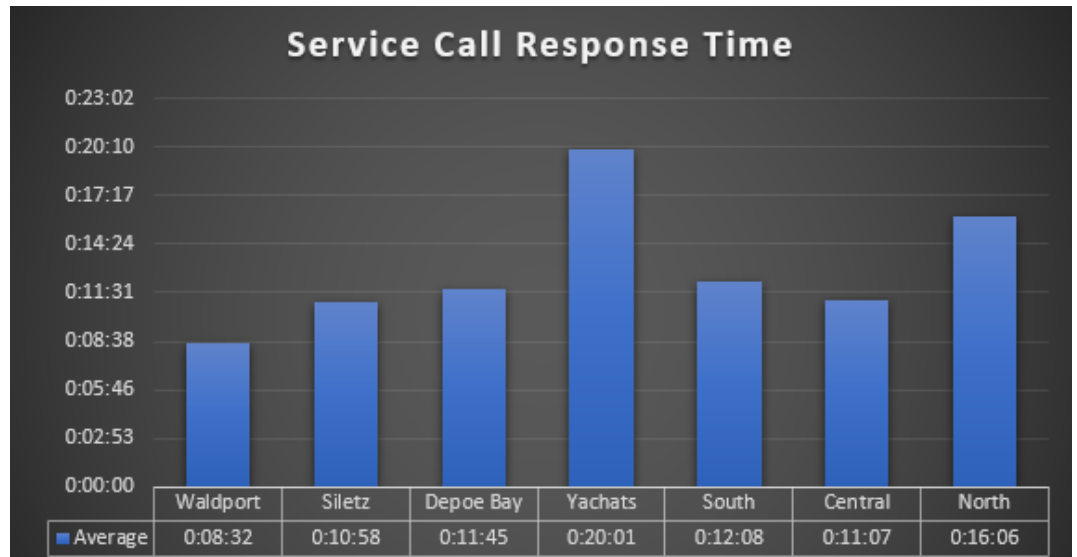
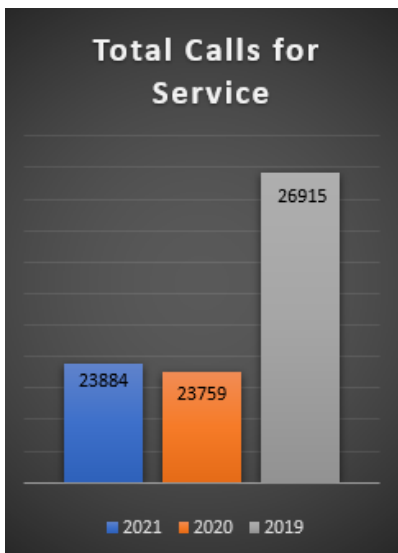


Deputy Zachary Akin

Detective Abby Dorsey was awarded Deputy of the Year by the Veterans of Foreign War Post #4227 for her dedicated service both for her military service (United States Coast Guard) and 22 years with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. Not to be outdone, our very own Sheriff Landers was recognized by the Oregon State Sheriff's Association as Oregon Sheriff of the Year!



Detective Abby Dorsey's Award



RETIREMENTS

Lieutenant Brian Cameron retired from Lincoln County Sheriff's Office on May 3, 2021. He first came to Lincoln County in 1986 as a member of the United States Coast Guard assigned to USCG Station Yaquina Bay. Upon completion of his enlistment, he was hired by the Sheriff's Office in 1991 as an Animal Services Deputy. In 1993, he transferred to the Patrol Division as a patrol deputy.

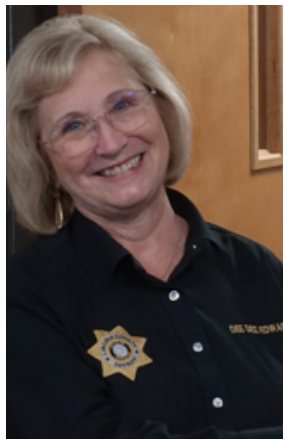
During his time in patrol, Lieutenant Cameron served in the Marine Division, Field Training, SWAT and was active on several training details. He was promoted to Patrol Sergeant in 2009 and in 2016 assumed the role of Acting Patrol Commander to oversee the daily operations of the patrol division. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in July, 2016 and is assigned as the Patrol Commander.



Lt. Brian Cameron



Lt. Cameron's Helo Presentation



Diana "Dee Dee" Edwards

Support Services Specialist Diana "Dee Dee" Edwards retired from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office on April 2, 2021. Dee Dee started with Lincoln County on May 18, 1987, working in a support services role within the Health Department, until 1993. Then on June 1, 1999, Dee Dee returned in a part-time capacity as a Records/Property Technician for the Sheriff's Office and later transitioned to a full-time position in July 2005, where she remained for the duration of her career.

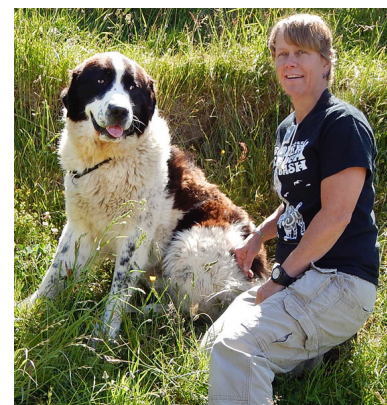
Many citizens probably remember Dee Dee, as she managed the concealed handgun licensing program for the Sheriff's Office for numerous years. She consistently placed a high priority on the needs of our citizens and team members alike. We want to thank her for so many years of superior customer service and dedication to the Sheriff's Office.



Lisa Field

Lisa Field retired from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office - Animal Shelter on October 15, 2021.

Lisa started work at the Lincoln County Animal Shelter in August of 2008. She acquired her Dog Obedience Instructor diploma and Shelter Dog Trainer certification through the Animal Behavior College. Lisa worked in Katmai National park in Alaska for many years as a maintenance person, cook and lodge Manager in several fly in fishing lodges. There she met her husband. Later, they raised many types of reptiles and amphibians. Lisa previously volunteered at the Anchorage Alaska Municipal Animal Shelter as a dog walker and raised English Bull terriers for 23 years.



Lisa Field and pup

SUPPORT SERVICES

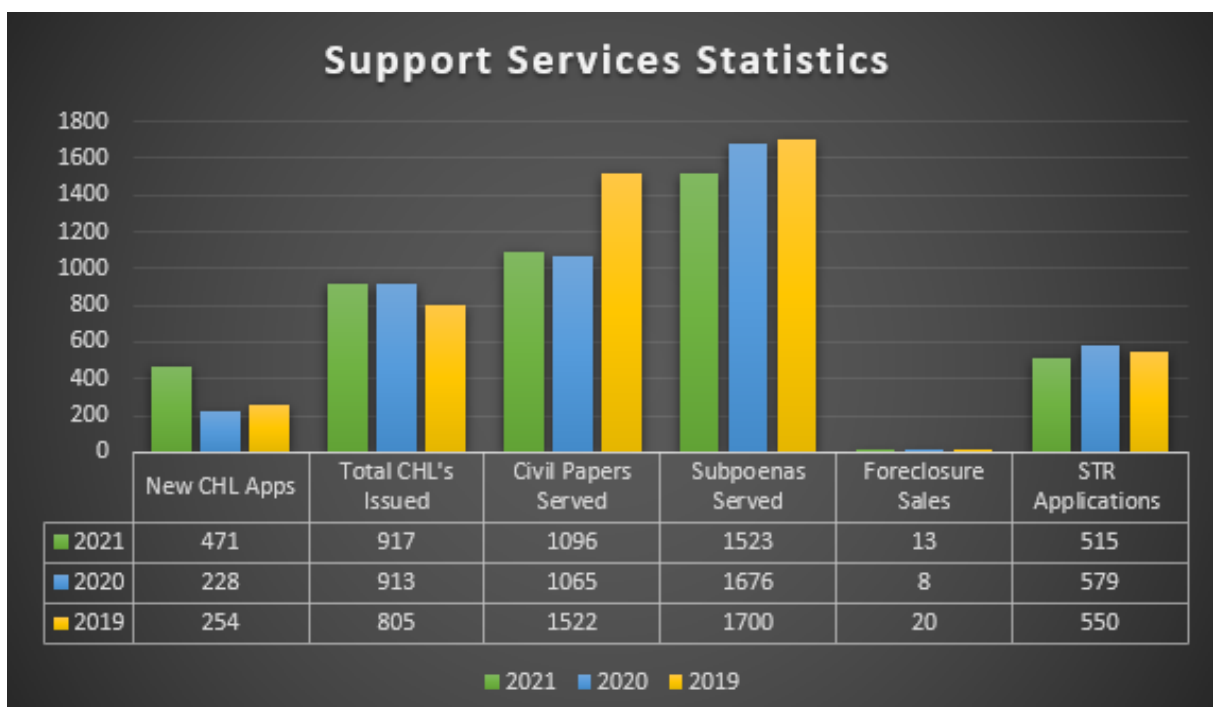
The Support Services Division is committed to providing public services to Lincoln County's community members, cooperating agencies, and a variety of external entities with the highest level of integrity, efficiency, and compassion.

Your Lincoln County Sheriff's Office administers the concealed handgun licensing (CHL) program for residents of Lincoln County. As you can see in the table below, 2021 was a big year for new license applications over previous years.

Lincoln County has not been the only county to see an increase in new applications. At a concealed handgun training conference in October 2021, statistics for the entire state showed an increase of about 24,278 concealed handgun licenses (both new and renewals) from September 2020 through September 2021 over the previous year's totals.

Currently, there are about 3,526 Lincoln County residents with concealed handgun licenses. For those of you who might be interested in obtaining a license in Lincoln County, please feel free to visit our website at www.lincolncountysheriff.net and select "How Do I?" "Obtain a Concealed Handgun License" for additional information and frequently asked questions.

Due to the increase in demand for new licenses, our appointments are currently scheduled out a few months. We hope to add some additional appointment slots in the spring to shorten up that wait time. Our office is open to the public Monday through Thursday, 8AM – Noon and 1PM – 5PM (excluding holidays). Please reach out to us at 541-265-4912 with any unanswered questions.



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.

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office partnered with Samaritan Health Services to provide Psychiatric Services to adults in custody of the jail. Individuals with mental health issues in the jail has increased over the years. Some adults in custody require continuation of services and some are lodged in the jail with an unknown psychiatric history.

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Pretrial Counselor meets with clients and recommends services such as a referral to a psychiatrist. The Psychiatrist meets with the patient virtually and works with the medical team to coordinate a care plan which may include therapy and medications.

The patient maintains a relationship with the Psychiatrist upon release from jail to continue these services in the community. Within the first few months of implementing a Tele-Psychiatry program in the jail, we have seen improvement in the type of changes an individual is able to make to help themselves be successful upon reentry into our community.

We appreciate the continued partnership with our local Samaritan Health Services team and look forward to possibly expanding services in the future.



Pretrial team

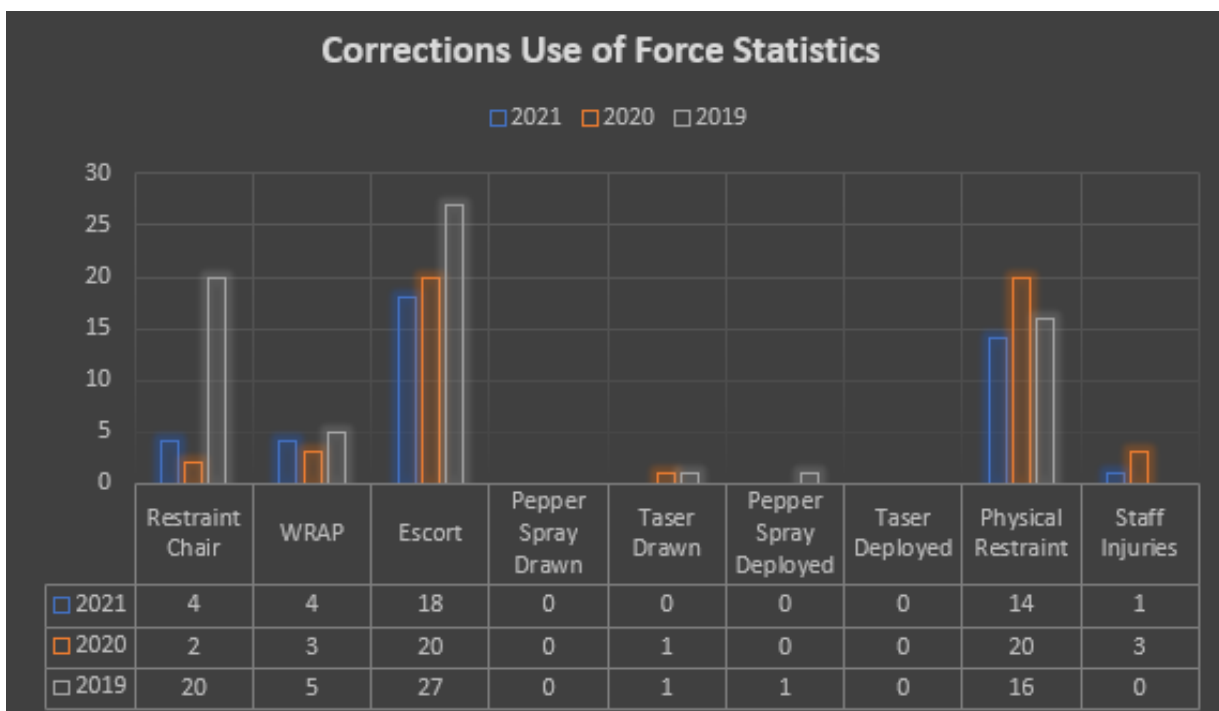
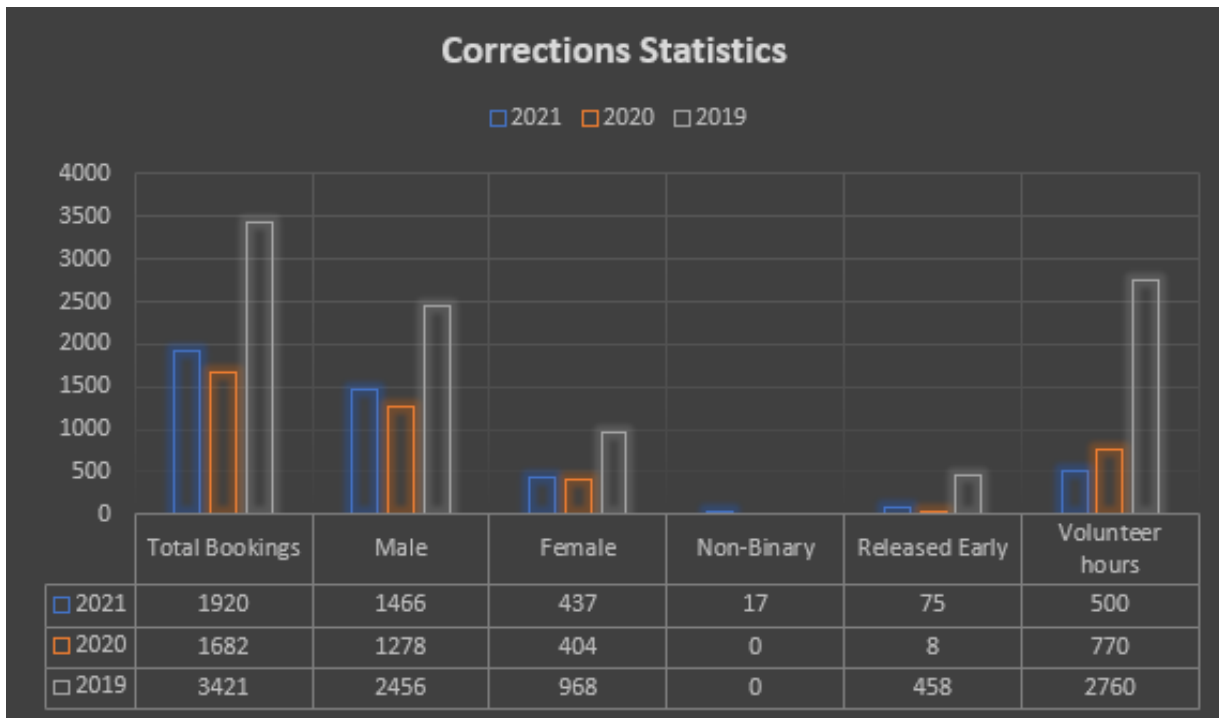


Corrections No Shave November Team

The Lincoln County Jail partnered with Lincoln County Public Health to hand out harm reduction kits containing information on the signs of an opioid overdose and how to administer Narcan. The kit also contains gloves, an emergency CPR face shield and two doses of Narcan. These kits are made available to everyone when released from custody.



Opioid Kits



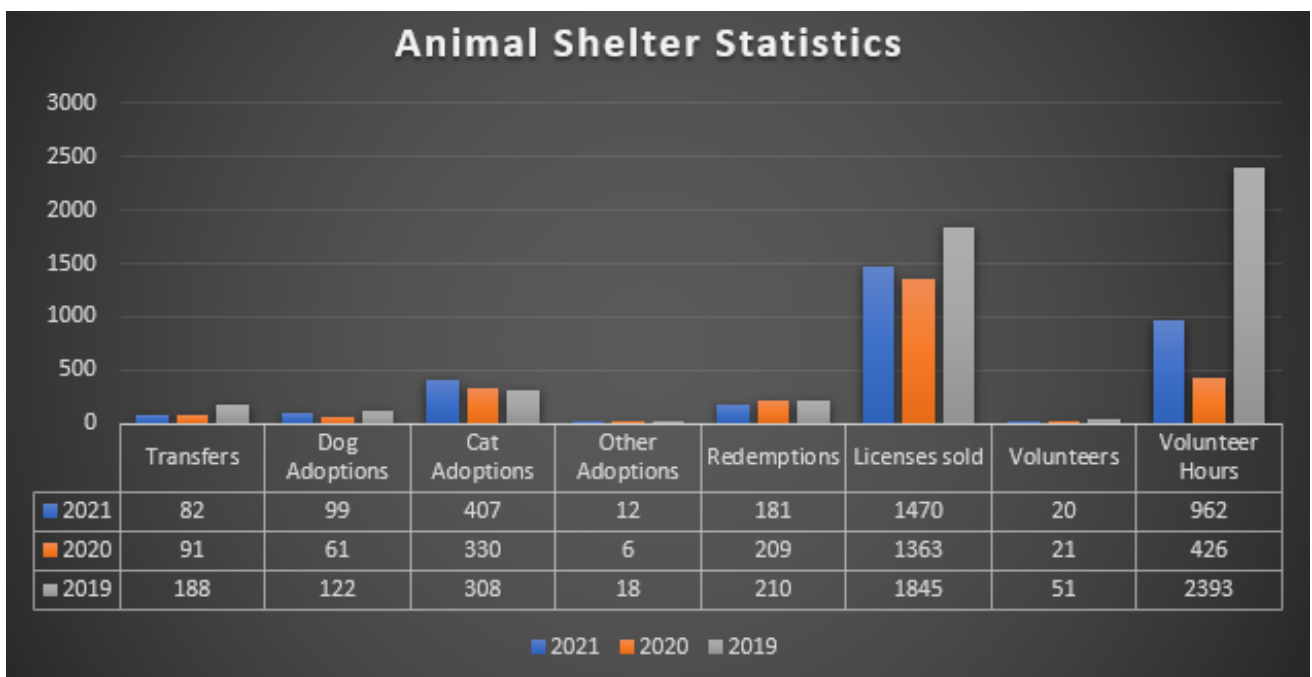
ANIMAL SHELTER



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.

After 2020 proved to be perhaps the most challenging year the Lincoln County Animal Shelter team had ever faced, 2021 proved to us all that no matter how the world changes, animal sheltering remains the same.

As our community struggled with the uncertainty that came on the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic, shelter staff continued to provide the same services and high level of animal care that have been the hallmark of LCAS for over a decade.



As 2021 was beginning, shelter staff were still working to make their new “temporary” facilities work for them. It became clear very quickly that the creativity, flexibility, and versatility of the team would be put to the test on a near daily basis. Although the building put in place to house our main operations was brand new, it was not meant to be an animal shelter. Staff had to, and continues to, find ways to house animals while keeping them healthy and happy. This was especially difficult when it came to cats.

Most people are not aware of how many diseases are common amongst domesticated cats, and how easy it is to transmit these diseases between cats in a shelter environment. These diseases, while rarely life threatening, can run rampant in shelters, resulting in expensive vet bills and extended lengths of stay for the cats while they are treated. When you are housing cats with unknown vaccine histories, from a variety of environments, it is very easy for illness to bloom and be passed from cat to cat. Our team put their heads together and created multiple cat housing areas to minimize disease transmission and stress, keeping our cats healthier and happier during their stay with us. And as we came to find out, there would be a lot of felines staying with us in 2021!

One of the ripple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic no one saw coming was the dramatic increase in the number of kittens being born in Lincoln County. With the shutdown came a dramatic decrease in spay and neuter services. Throughout 2020, veterinary offices, like all other businesses, had to find ways to provide services while keeping their staff and customers safe. All the while, the number of pets in households increased as people forced to stay home looked to four legged friends for comfort.



Kitten Collage

This increase in demand for veterinary services for new pets as well as a backlog of services for pets that missed their annual exams in 2020 meant fewer spay and neuter surgeries, especially for community cats and cats belonging to low-income households.

The result of this temporary reduction in spays and neuters was felt immediately by shelter staff. The avalanche of requests to surrender litters of kittens to the Lincoln County Animal Shelter was overwhelming, but LCAS was ready with an army of foster families ready to open their homes to hundreds of kittens.



Annex

Throughout the spring and summer of 2021, nearly 200 kittens were placed in foster homes while they grew to the three-pound body weight required to undergo spay and neuter surgery.

While our amazing foster families raised sweet, socialized, roly-poly little furballs, shelter staff worked diligently to schedule surgeries and arrange transportation. The next hurdle was getting the kittens adopted. Although we were successful adopting animals out sight unseen during the lockdown, once the shelter was open to the public adopters wanted to meet the kittens before committing to adoption.

This meant we needed open kennels for the fosters after they had been spayed or neutered. With an adoption room measuring just over 150 square feet the kitten juggle was quite the struggle. The LCAS team made it work and we successfully adopted out over 400 cats and kittens in 2021.

As kitten season was in full swing, the LCAS team experienced even more challenges when they lost 4 of the 6 staff members over the span of just a few months. Some staff left as new career opportunities presented themselves, and our Lead Animal Care Technician, and most senior team member, Lisa Field retired. Many members of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office stepped in to help staff the shelter while the hiring process took place, including our Jail Commander, Lieutenant Jamie Russell, who stepped in as the Interim Shelter Manager in August.

Despite no experience working in animal sheltering, Lt. Russell used her impeccable leadership skills to support the LCAS team in maintaining the level of service our community had come to expect from their Animal Shelter. Lt. Russell left a lasting impression on us and we are so grateful for all of the time she has dedicated to leading and supporting our team in our mission to serve the citizens, two and four legged, of Lincoln County.

Your LCAS team continues to find creative ways to make our current facility more efficient, sanitary, and accessible as possible and will continue to do so until we are able to move into a new facility. With the all of the uncertainty in the world as we move into 2022, the Lincoln County Animal Shelter will do whatever it takes to ensure the stray, displaced, abused and neglected animals of Lincoln County have a safe, warm, loving place to call their temporary home.



Adoption Room



Dog Kennels

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