

ANNUAL REPORT

—
2022



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On behalf of all the outstanding Sheriff's Office team members serving you, I am pleased to present the 2022 Annual Report.

We continue to adjust from the challenging years of 2020-2021 with resiliency among our team and the support they receive from their families. This is an incredible group of dedicated individuals working together as a team to keep you safe, informed, and provide you with the best possible public safety services.

Due to continued challenges with staffing levels, we adjusted the schedule and calls for service which you will read more about in the patrol division section. Due to these staffing challenges, I made the difficult decision to reduce the types of calls we respond to; this decision is still being evaluated as our staffing improves.

In addition to rising to meet the needs of our diverse communities, our office is also committed to providing ongoing training and support to our team. This training includes resiliency and wellness topics – we know there is a unique person behind every position in our organization and we want them to have the skills and resources to be successful. We are also working with staff to improve existing support systems (such as our internal wellness app and peer support group) and make new support resources available (such as fitness/meditation areas and an internal newsletter).

The future is bright at the Sheriff's Office, and we continue to work every day to achieve greatness through innovative ideas, new technology and a supportive community. I can't thank our team members enough for the loyalty and commitment to Lincoln County. Our vision statement is "Motivated for Excellence" and I see it every day from each member. It is very rewarding to serve an amazing team.



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.

After two years of COVID-focused work and activities, 2022 was the first year the Emergency Management Division was able to get back to regular business.



EOC tent and staff.

CR22 activities included:

- Drop, cover, & hold on earthquake drill
- Lincoln alerts annual test
- Community rapid needs assessment with local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) & Auxiliary Communications Services (ACS)
- Amateur radio communications exercise
- Earthquake and Tsunami tabletop exercise
- Field based Emergency Operation Center (EOC) exercise

CR22 was a huge success and the tabletop activity was especially engaging. The tabletop exercise focused on fuel management, resource ordering, and priority road clearance routes. There were 110 participants representing 39 different agencies including 21 local agencies, 14 state agencies, 3 federal agency, and 1 tribal agency.

The EM Division focused on coordinating the Cascadia Rising Exercise (CR22) which was an adapted FEMA national level exercise. Cascadia Rising was a five-day exercise that simulated local government response in the days 5 - 12 after a magnitude 9.0 Cascadia subduction zone earthquake and tsunami. In preparation for the CR22 exercise, we provided hybrid style training for our local cooperators and created exercises and activities for a variety of participants including local cooperators, volunteers, and the public.



Ariel view of CR22 tents and equipment during the open house.



Volunteers speaking with Emergency Manager, Demaris.

After being unable to host our annual readiness fair for the two years prior, we were excited to offer two Readiness Fairs in 2022. With the help of all our volunteer groups, we hosted the fair in both Newport and Lincoln City. The Readiness Fairs offered opportunities to learn about a variety of preparedness topics complete with exhibits, samples of emergency meal bars, posters and handouts for how to prepare, and more. There were approximately 400 attendees in total between the two events. We also coordinated in-person Cascadia Earthquake presentations and our Wildfire Preparedness series in the spring.



Volunteers staffing booths and participants at the 2022 Readiness Fairs.

2022 Outreach Snapshot



15 Presentations



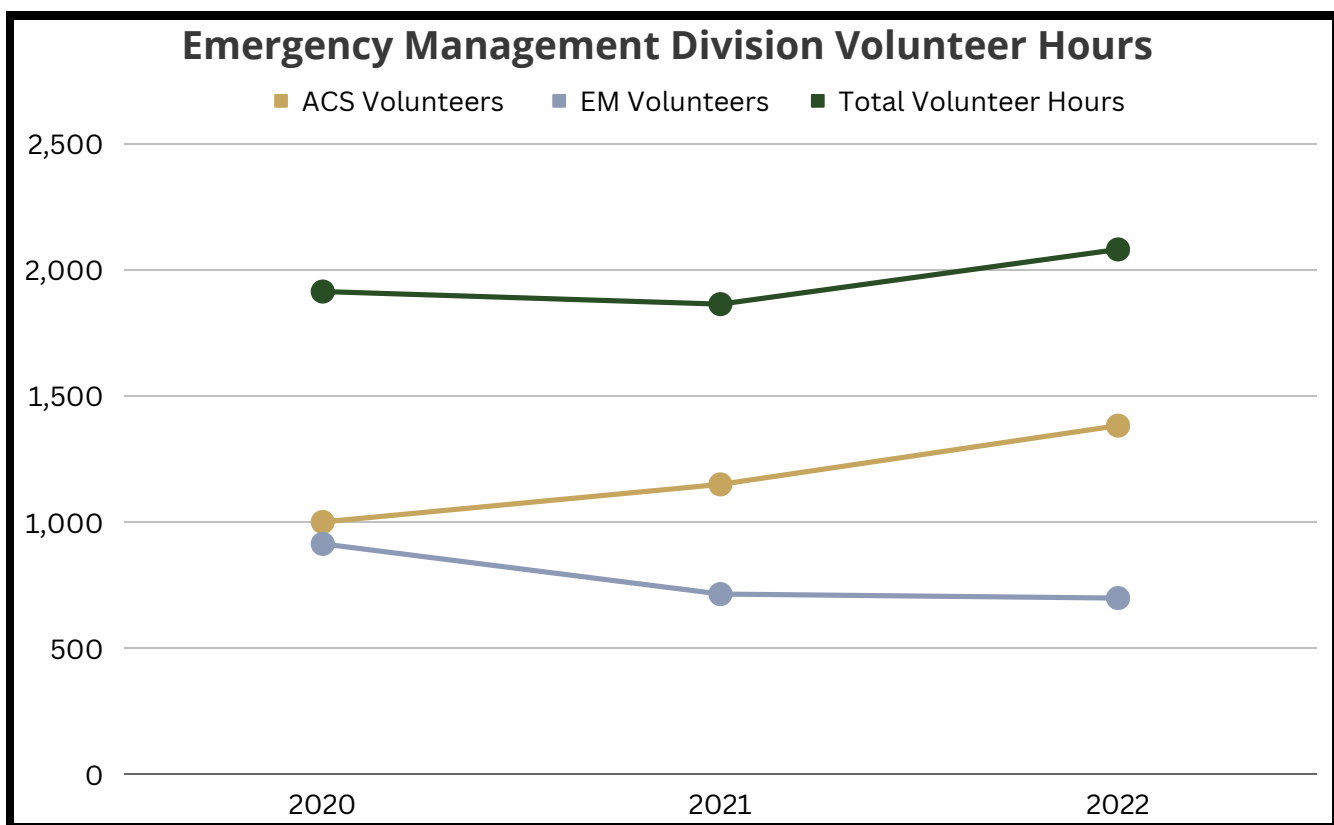
4 Readiness Fairs



6 Other Activities

In December, our team welcomed back Samantha Buckley as the new Assistant Emergency Manager. Samantha was previously a member of the EM team. She was part of our team during the COVID-19 and Echo Mountain Complex Fire responses.

EM staff and volunteers are ready for another packed year in 2023! Lincoln County EM will be focusing on volunteer recruitment and supporting community outreach. Keep an eye out for our annual readiness fair in the fall!



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.

We started off 2022 still short on personnel and searched for creative solutions, which led to testing a new schedule on patrol. As a test trial, we began a 12-hour shift covering 20 hours of the day, 7:00am - 3:00am. This created a 4 hour overlap where dayshift and nightshift worked collectively from 3:00pm - 7:00pm every day of the week. This overlap created time where teams could be more proactive and work together for special emphasis or investigations. It also created a period where dayshift members could step away from patrol duties to catch up on administrative work or reports prior to the end of their shift. This schedule was extended after the first 6 months as the agency and team members were seeing early benefits of the overlap. Members also reported having every other Friday, Saturday, Sunday off benefited their work-life balance and family time.



Patrol Deputies collaborating with the US Forest Service.

As the year came to an end, patrol members began reporting some of the down sides to the 12-hour shifts. The main complaint was that low staffing numbers caused teams to run short of personnel; this often caused one patrol deputy to be responsible for covering the entire county which caused a lot of anxiety for the team. A second concern was that a 12-hour shift could often turn into a 14-to-16-hour shift when an arrest or other investigation happened late in the day. With our team and the office in agreement, we made the decision to return to our historic four 10-hour shifts which provided more coverage throughout the seven-day work week and lowered the chances of our members working longer than a 12-hour shift, even when a late investigation happened. The agency and deputy association both commented how they would like to have the option to revisit the 12-hour shift in the future when staffing levels are higher.



Patrol members and OSP member.

Low staffing numbers continued to dictate new approaches to our services. For the first 7 months of 2022 with mutual understanding from our Lincoln County Solid Waste and our private industrial timber partners we suspended our forest deputy position and placed that deputy back on patrol.

Due to the continued staffing challenges, Sheriff Landers made the difficult decision to reduce patrol services in the summer of 2022.

On July 28, 2022 Sheriff Landers released a public message notifying community members our patrol team would no longer be able to respond to non-criminal calls for service and lower-level criminal complaints. This change was made so that our limited certified/fully trained members could focus their response to in-progress calls or emergencies.

In addition to this message, it was announced our office would continue to uphold our contractual obligations for enhanced patrol services with our current staffing. As a result, we refilled our Forest Deputy position and committed to filling our School Resource Deputy Position with the Lincoln County School District. In his public message, Sheriff Landers reiterated the need for additional funding support stating the county has not funded more than 12 general fund positions in over 30 years even though the calls for service and population have significantly grown.

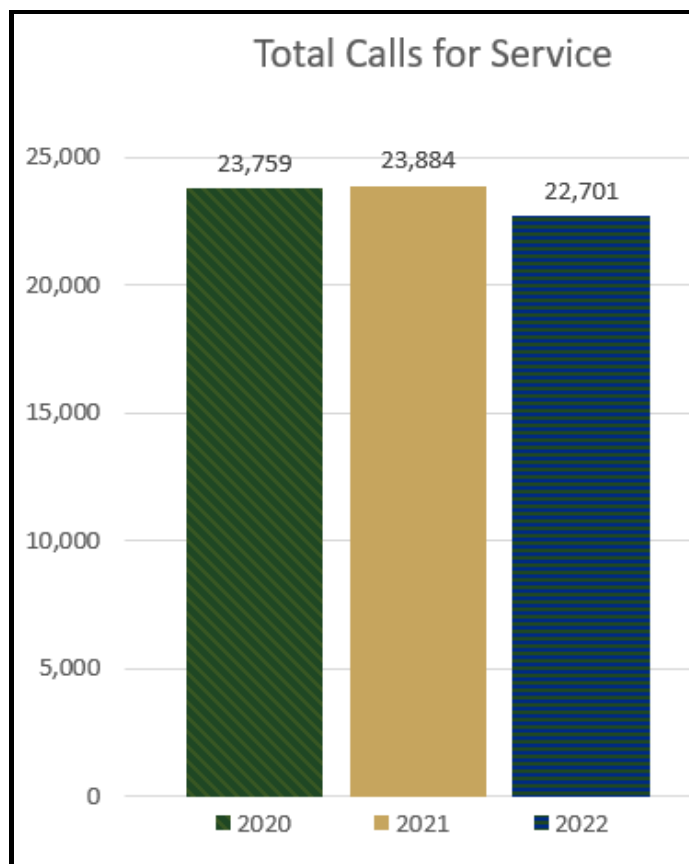
Some Types of Response	
Animal Cruelty	26
Arson	5
Assaults	187
Burglary	91
DUII	49
Liquor Law	11
Manslaughter	0
Motor Vehicle Accident	76
Motor Vehicle Theft	27
Murder	0
Rape	6
Robbery	7
Runaways	14
Stalking/RO Violations	36
Vandalism	72
Warrants	256

Examples of the non-emergency calls for service we no longer have the capacity to respond to include:

- Noise complaints
- Camping complaints
- Civil disputes
- Home or business alarms
- Non-Emergency Welfare checks
- Minor drug complaints
- Non-criminal traffic crashes

This decision drew both criticism and support from our community. We are still under reduced services protocol with no definitive time to return to our past level of service.

In November of 2022, we signed a contractual agreement with the City of Depoe Bay for one deputy to provide law enforcement services to the Depoe Bay Community. This is not the first time LCSO has had a contract with the City of Depoe Bay. Sheriff Landers, (back then Deputy Landers) was the first contract deputy in the 1990s assigned to the city. We expect the next contract deputy to be assigned in April 2023.



Despite being challenged with low staffing, our patrol team made positive lasting impressions on the lives of community members in Lincoln County through their daily contacts. Our patrol team received 13 commendations from members of the public for our actions. Some of the commendations made were:

- “Reassurance that Lincoln County Sheriff Deputies care about our community”.
- “They were the best I have ever met. Thank you for being awesome”.
- “Thank you for the search and rescue work you provide to your family and community. We are lucky to have you and your team in our county.”
- Deputy Honse “was kind, professional and extremely helpful. It almost brought tears to my eyes to witness this extreme act of kindness.”



Deputies posing with students during Public Service Learning Week.

Although we needed to limit the type of calls we served, our patrol members didn't limit their customer service, professionalism, empathy, and kindness to the community. We didn't hold back our acts of heroics either.



In August, Deputy Akin and Recruit Deputy Ortiz were on patrol in the Waldport area when two kids were swept into the ocean. When Deputy Akin arrived on scene, he assessed the situation and determined he would need to act immediately or the kids would be lost. Deputy Akin stripped his duty gear, secured it with Recruit Deputy Ortiz and swam through the surf zone. Deputy Akin swam approximately 100-150 yards offshore to the first child and successfully retrieved him as the child began to go under the water surface from exhaustion. Deputy Akin swam back to shore with the child where medics were able to render aid. We are happy to say members of Central Coast Fire were able to rescue the second child.

Our Marine Team had two outstanding events this past year. Their dedication to preservation of our waterways led to a \$140,000.00 grant from the Oregon State Marine Board to remove 14 derelict vessels from the Yaquina River and Bay. These vessels had either been sunk or were on the verge of sinking and the owners could not be verified. They were removed before sinking to avoid environmental damage or hazards to other marine traffic. Our Marine Team also planned and organized a Marine Enforcement Saturation Patrol throughout the waters of Lincoln County in September. Our team was joined by members from Clackamas, Klamath, Linn and Tillamook Counties in this saturation. They collaboratively contacted 681 boats and issued 96 warnings and 18 citations. The citations covered boating equipment/safety issues and fish and game violations.



Marine Deputies patrolling the Yaquina Bay.

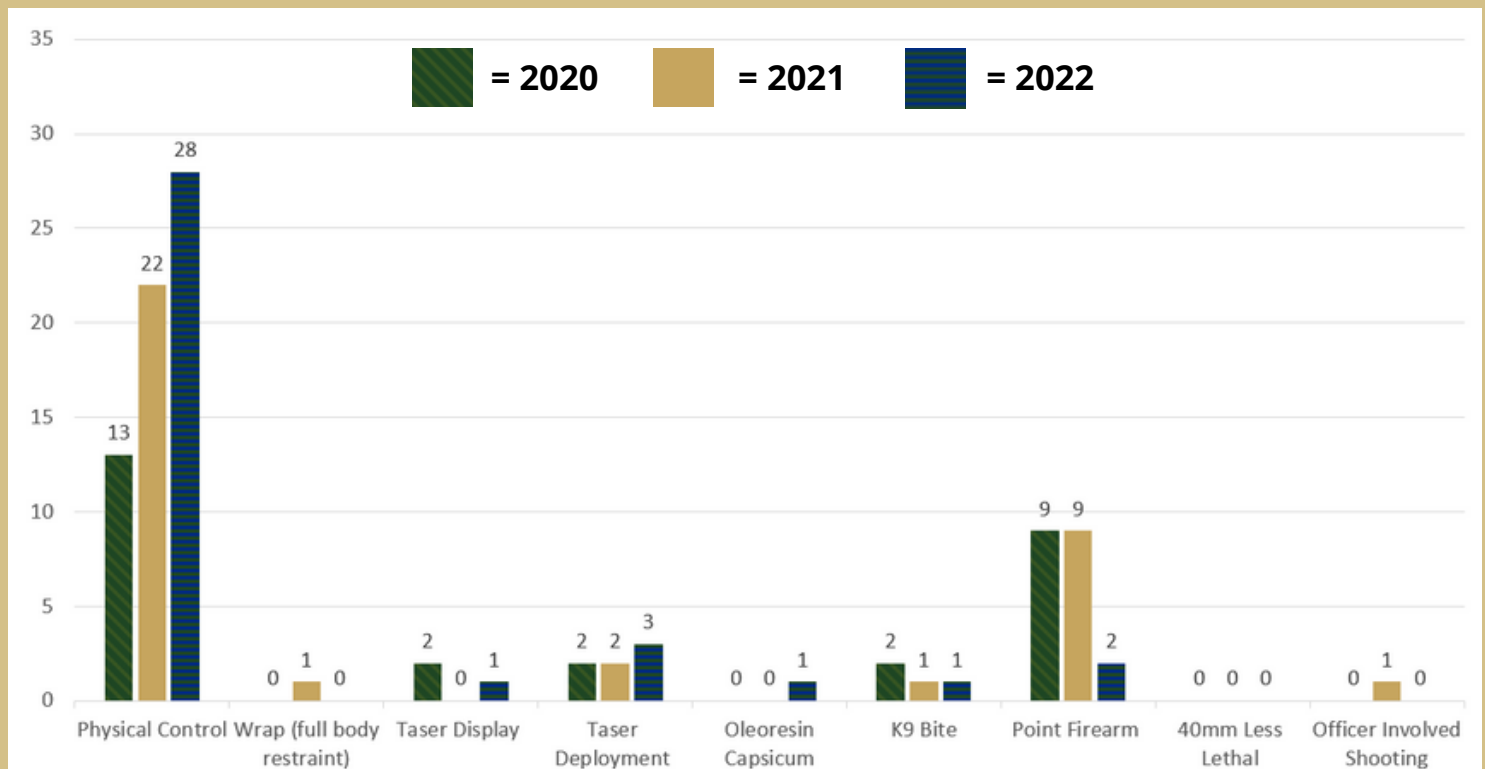
Another important highlight of 2022 was an investigative case conducted by Deputy Akin. For several weeks this past fall guests of a series of hotels between Yachats and Newport reported their vehicle windows being broken out and items stolen from their vehicles. Deputy Akin developed two possible suspects after reviewing hours of surveillance footage. During one of his many patrols, he saw a female in Newport matching the description of a suspicious female caught in the surveillance footage. He attempted to contact her, however, she was able to slip away into an unknown hotel room. Further investigation and assistance from Newport PD revealed a possible hotel room and identity of the female and her male friend. This couple matched the description of the suspects and their associated vehicle. Deputy Akin later learned the couple was from Lane County. Deputy Akin wrote a search warrant and it was granted by a Lincoln County Judge. Deputy Akin went to Lane County where he located the subjects, served the search warrant and recovered thousands of dollars worth of property stolen from dozens of car break-ins throughout Lincoln and Lane County.



Deputy Akin and K9 Ghost.

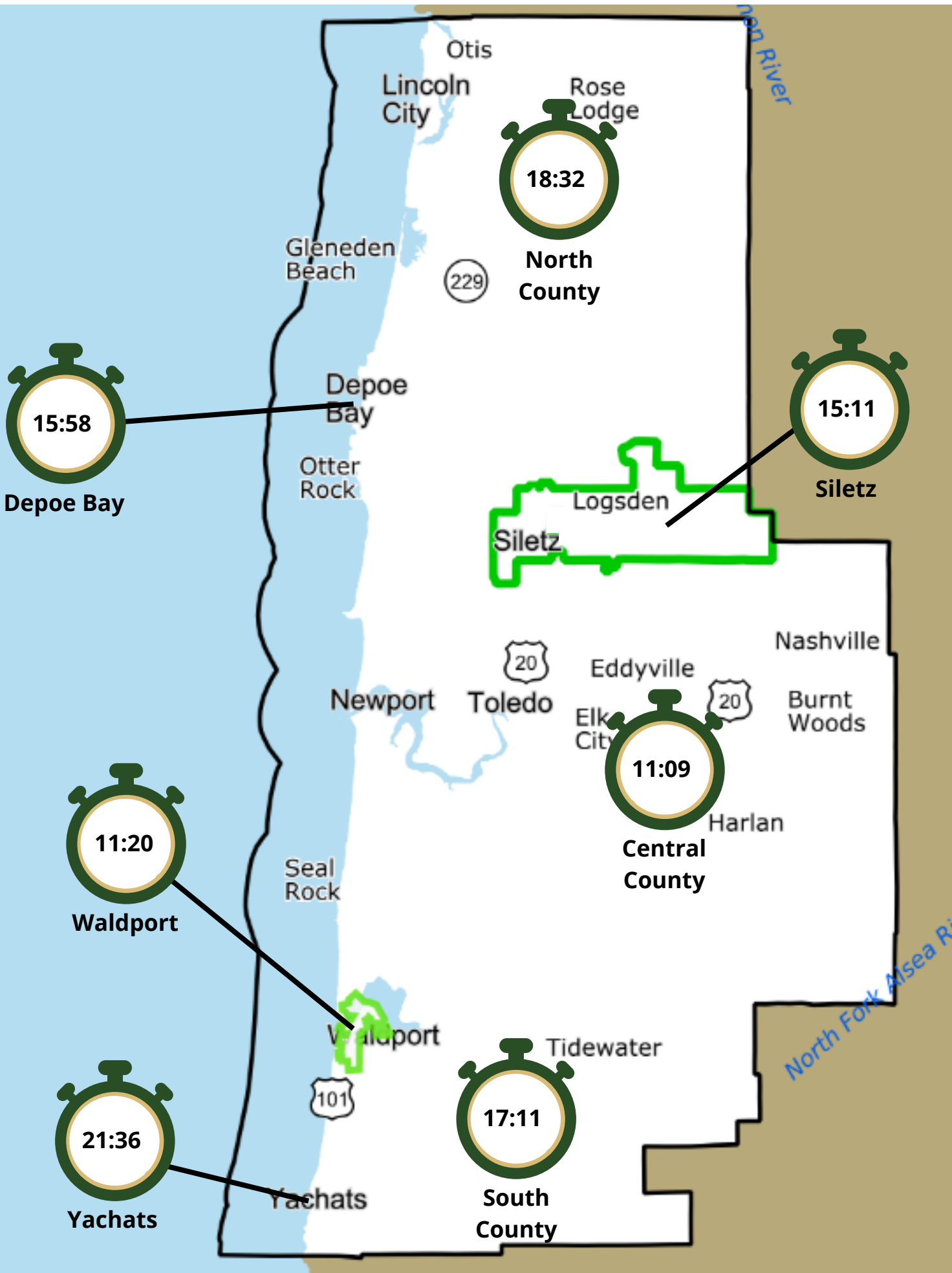
It would take a novel to highlight all of the great investigations our team completed in 2022. We are proud of the work from all of our team members, from our Animal Service Deputies rescuing animals from neglect or hoarding, to our community service deputies working diligently with property owners to clean up their property to eliminate health threats to the community. No matter the challenge our team members are here to make a difference.

Patrol Use of Force Statistics



Average Response Times to Calls for Service by Area

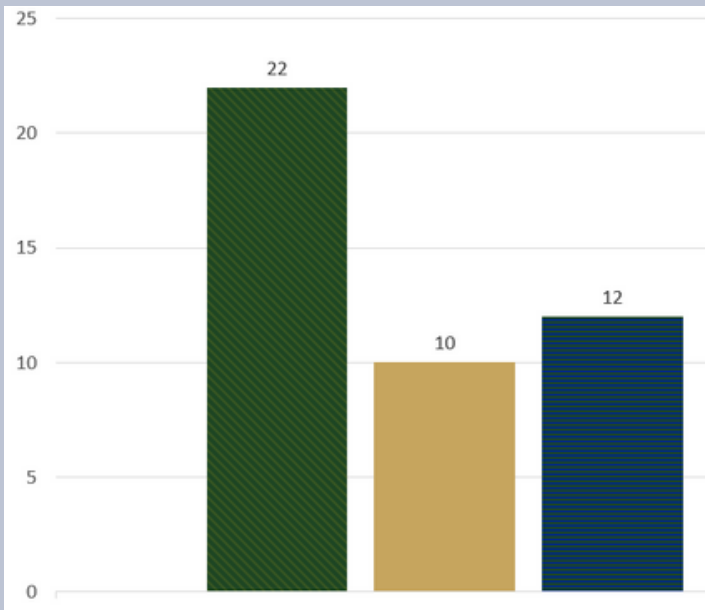
— = Contracted Service Areas



It's hard to talk about Patrol without sharing the highlights of our Search and Rescue (SAR) team. The mission of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office SAR is to provide a well trained and equipped professional team of volunteers who are prepared to respond rapidly, effectively, and safely to serve as an additional resource in the search and rescue of lost, missing, and overdue persons.

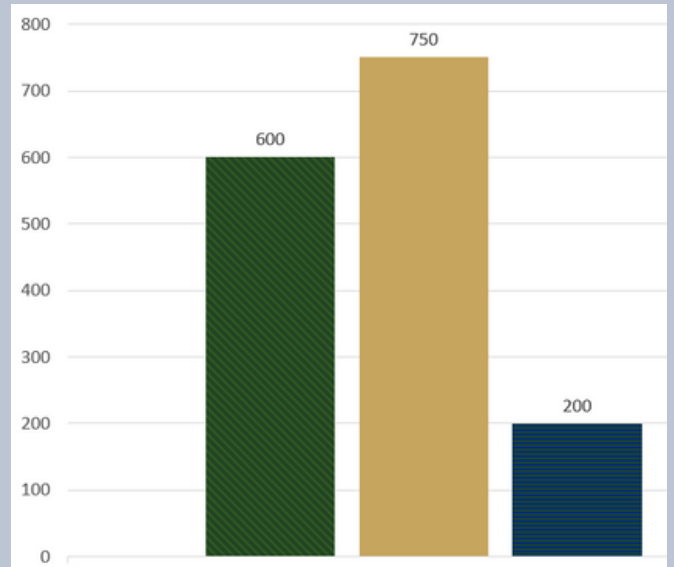
This year our SAR team consisted of 35 volunteers. In addition to the missions, training hours, and events listed below, SAR was able to certify a new dog for trailing; this will positively impact the group's capacity for years to come.

SAR Call-Outs in 2022



= Total Call-Outs
 = Full Team Call-Outs
 = Call-Outs Resolved Prior to Full Activation

SAR Mission and Training Hours in 2022



= Mission Hours
 = Training Hours
 = K9 Training Hours

When our SAR team is not occupied with missions and continued training, they volunteer at community events. This year SAR was able to work at 4 events in Lincoln County:

- Seafood & Wine - Volunteers helped with administrative functions at the event.
- Loyalty Days Parade - Volunteers set up the order of the parade participants prior to the event and organize the participants on the day of the event.
- Gravel Epic Mountain Bike Race - Volunteers were positioned in places there are possibilities of issues with the racers.
- Newport Marathon - Volunteers were positioned to keep vehicle traffic out of the race-course and provided aid to those that may have sustained an injury or other complications.

The organizers from these events donate money to the volunteer group. SAR can use the money for additional training and/or equipment outside of what is provided by the Sheriff's Office.



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.

As a component of Support Services, the Property and Evidence Division is responsible for storing and safeguarding evidence, found property, relinquished property, and property held as safekeeping. This division kicked off 2022 with a special concentration on purging property which resulted in a 71% purge rate. It is important to purge evidence lockers as they are finite spaces and will eventually fill up without close attention. While every evidence technician may have a goal of a 100% purge rate (which means for every item taken in, one item is going out), most rarely get to enjoy a rate anywhere near that based on statute of limitations for certain crimes.

On a positive note, some of the purged property did find a new life assisting Search and Rescue (SAR) canines in training. SAR canines require continual training, both to learn new skills and reinforce old skills. It can be challenging for SAR handlers to locate adequate training aids. Your Sheriff's Office was happy to assist by providing property items for both Mya (the human remains detection dog) and Gunny (a live-find dog), who was working on an evidence location certification.



Gunny, the SAR live-find dog, working hard to find property.

As walk-in and face-to-face contacts with community members increased as pandemic restrictions reduced, our team remained dedicated to providing effective services in civil process, concealed handgun licensing, fingerprinting, public record requests, and short term rental licensing. Our team appreciates the patience and understanding of the community as we continued to navigate those changes.



Support Services team members posing for a Halloween photo.

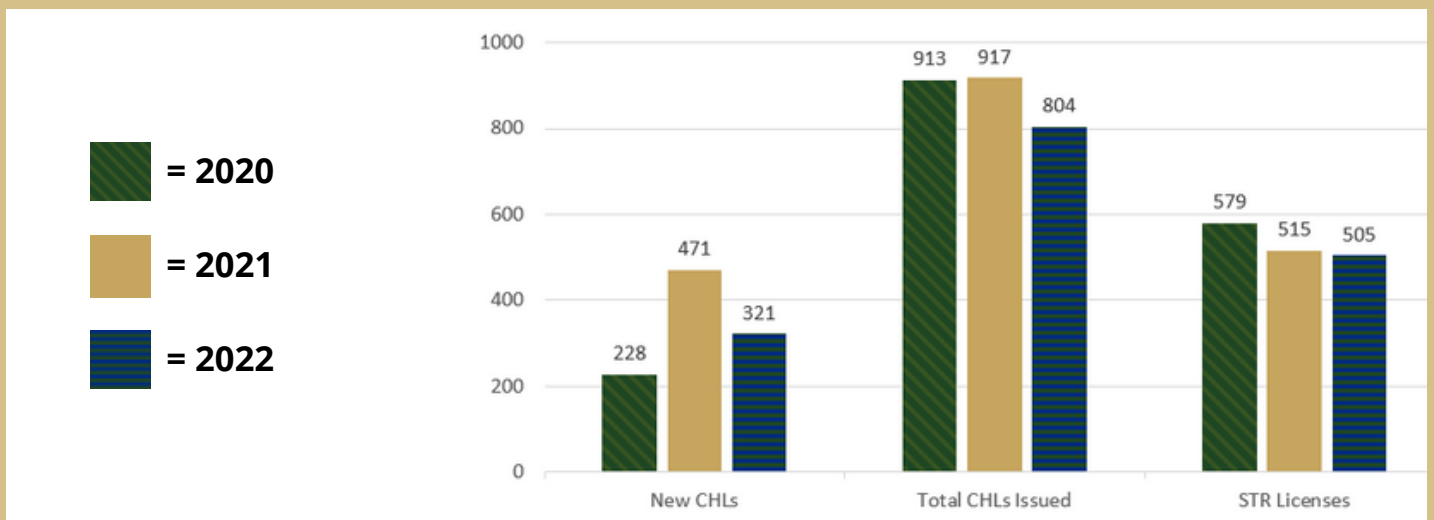
Another marked achievement in 2022 was the certification of Sara Tabb, the Evidence Control Specialist, as a Certified Property and Evidence Specialist through the International Association of Property and Evidence. This certification required a training class, independent study, and passing a written examination. Tabb is now actively working towards achieving her next certification as a Crime Scene Investigator through the International Association of Identification.



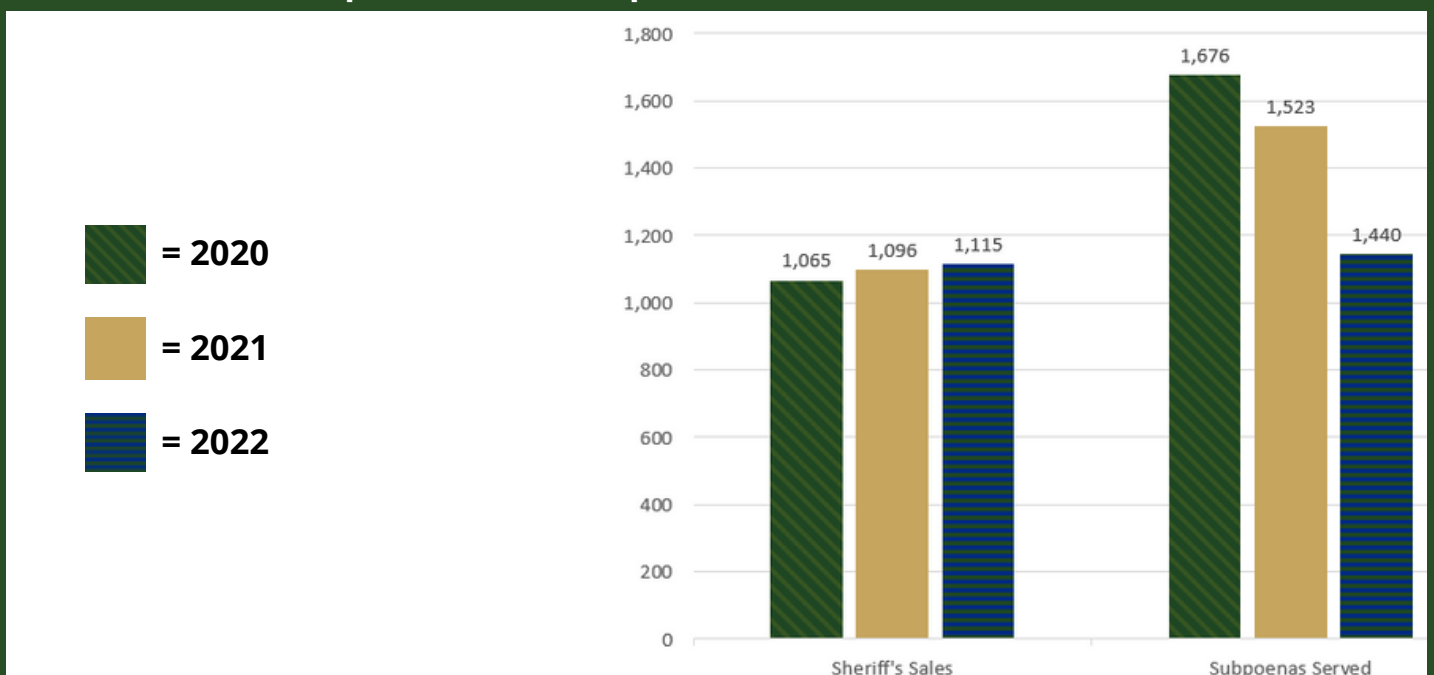
Evidence Control Specialist, Sara Tabb.

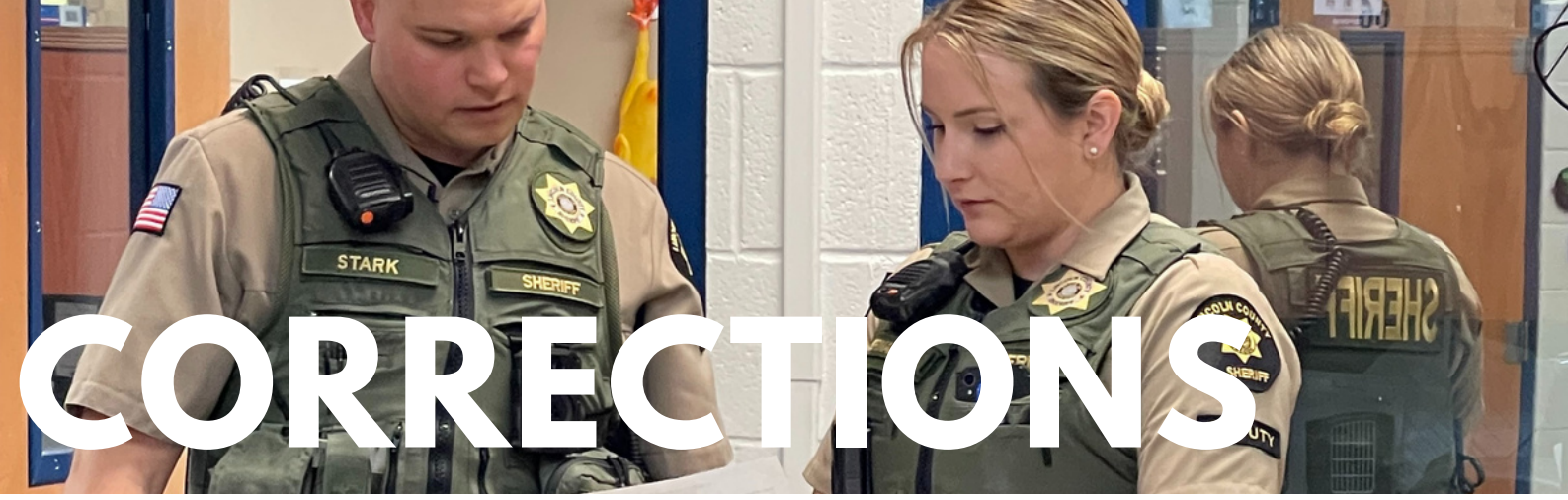
In the past year, the division took in a total of 866 physical items and 15,251 digital property items associated with case reports. Approximately 615 physical items were either disposed of or returned to owners. As this division moves into 2023, the plan is to transition to a new records management system with expanded statistical and analytical data options.

Concealed Handgun Licenses (CHL) and Short Term Rental (STR) Licenses issued



Civil Papers Served, Subpoenas Served, and Sheriff's Sales





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 Jail turned 30 years of age on June 1, 2022. Yes, that's right, 30 years have passed since the opening of what was promoted as the most technologically advanced jail in the state.

Prior to the first adult in custody being booked into the facility, Sheriff Larry Spencer (Sheriff at the time of the opening) hosted local residents by providing meals and lodging for one night in the county's jail. Local citizens experienced what it might feel like to be incarcerated.

Our team continues to make improvements in the overall operation of the facility while ensuring staff safety and wellness remain our number one priority. Our entire team values the support shown to us by the citizens of Lincoln County.

An example of these improvements and meeting community needs can be seen with the recent ability for custodies of the Lincoln County Jail to receive medication assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder. The medical team began working with Equinox and the Siletz Tribe to continue treating custodies in this program who were actively enrolled in a MAT program prior to their incarceration. As MAT programs became more prevalent, the jail also began collaborating with other MAT programs such as Samaritan, Office Based Addiction Treatment (OBAT), and others. We have enrolled approximately 100 custodies in our MAT program since 2020.

Currently, custodies who are requesting medication assisted treatment are referred to Equinox, whom the jail holds a contract with. The provider meets with the custody remotely utilizing zoom on a tablet in a private room. If the custody enters into the program, they sign an agreement with the jail and a consent form with Equinox and labs are then ordered and completed. The provider reviews the labs and orders suboxone for 7 days. After the 7 days the provider orders the Sublocade injection which is continued every 30 days.

The cost of the program includes the provider fees, lab fees, and medications. The associated costs are covered utilizing general fund dollars which are provided as part of the overall medical budget. Unfortunately, custodies in the jail do not have insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, or Oregon Health Plan to cover these types of expenses as those services are suspended when they become incarcerated due to Federal law.

On July 1, 2022, Senate Bill (SB) 48 became effective in the State of Oregon. SB 48 was introduced by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to reduce reliance on security release and provide statewide guidance for local pretrial programs. Chief Justice Martha Walters signed order #22-010 establishing release guidelines for which local jails are mandated to follow. Subsequently, Presiding Judge Sheryl Bachart signed a Lincoln County Circuit Court order defining release guidelines specific to our County.



Pretrial Specialist, Jeff Hoey.

To balance the rights of the defendant and presumption of pretrial release against community and victim safety and the risk of failure to appear, the order implements a two-step release process:

Step 1 - Identify the charge and release category.

Step 2 - Determine if the defendant meets criteria to consider overriding circumstances and what, if any, enhanced conditions of release should be ordered.



Pretrial Specialist, Michelle Yuson.

Lincoln County established a pretrial program in 2018. Since its inception, this program has shown positive outcomes. Establishing this program before it was required not only benefited our affected community members, but also allowed for a smooth transition for Lincoln County staff to meet the new requirements set in place with SB 48.

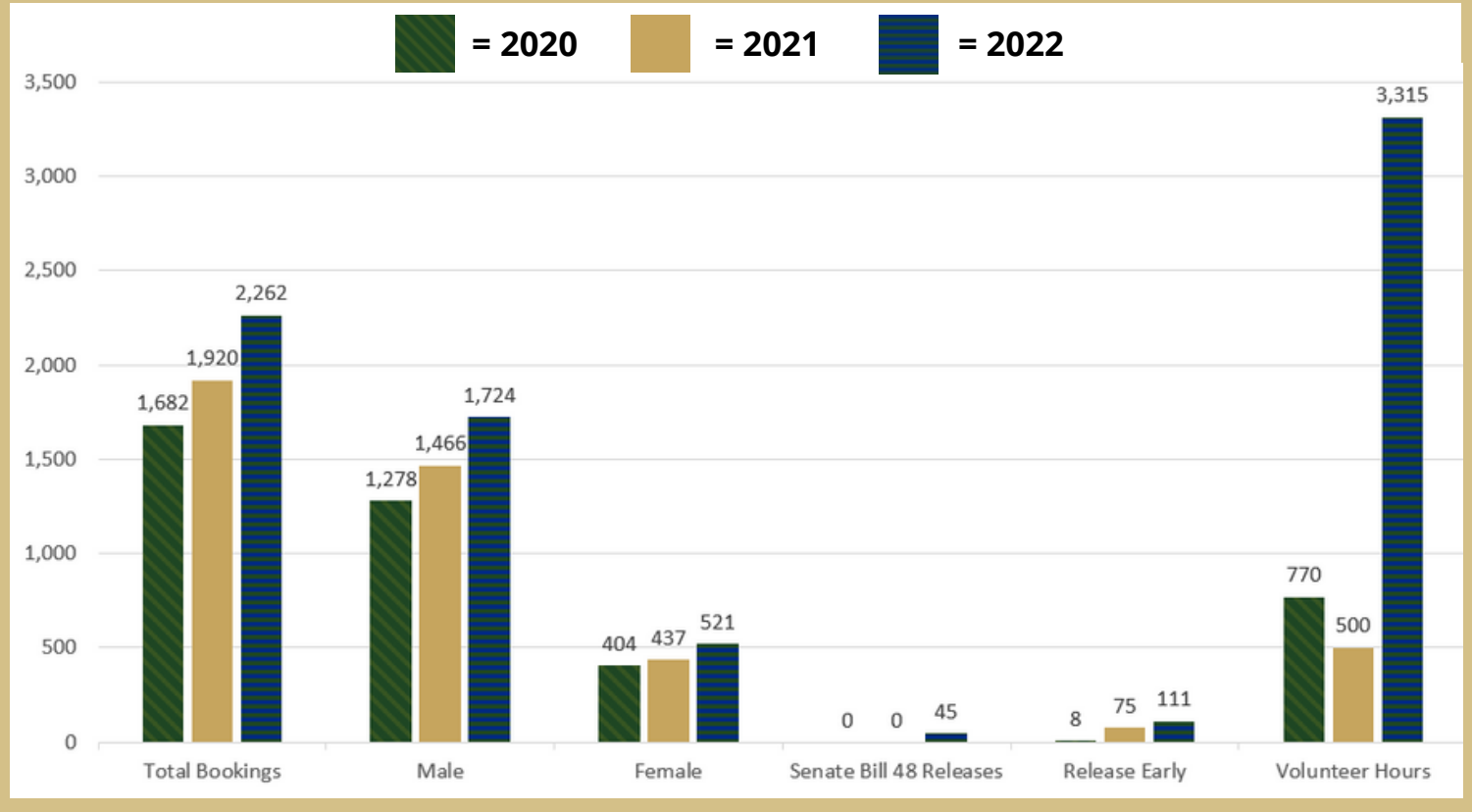
From July 2022 through December 2022, there were 45 SB 48 releases. Our pretrial program help the courts make informed decisions and help those in the pretrial program by reducing barriers to their success.

On Wednesday October 26, 2022, the Lincoln County Jail participated in their biennial jail inspection completed by a team of inspectors from jails around the state. The jail was found to be in full compliance with all 319 Oregon Jail Standards. The inspection team was very impressed with the outlined operations, but most importantly there were numerous positive comments regarding our team working inside the facility. A big thank you to all of our staff for truly caring about our facility and for the dedication to our adults in custody.

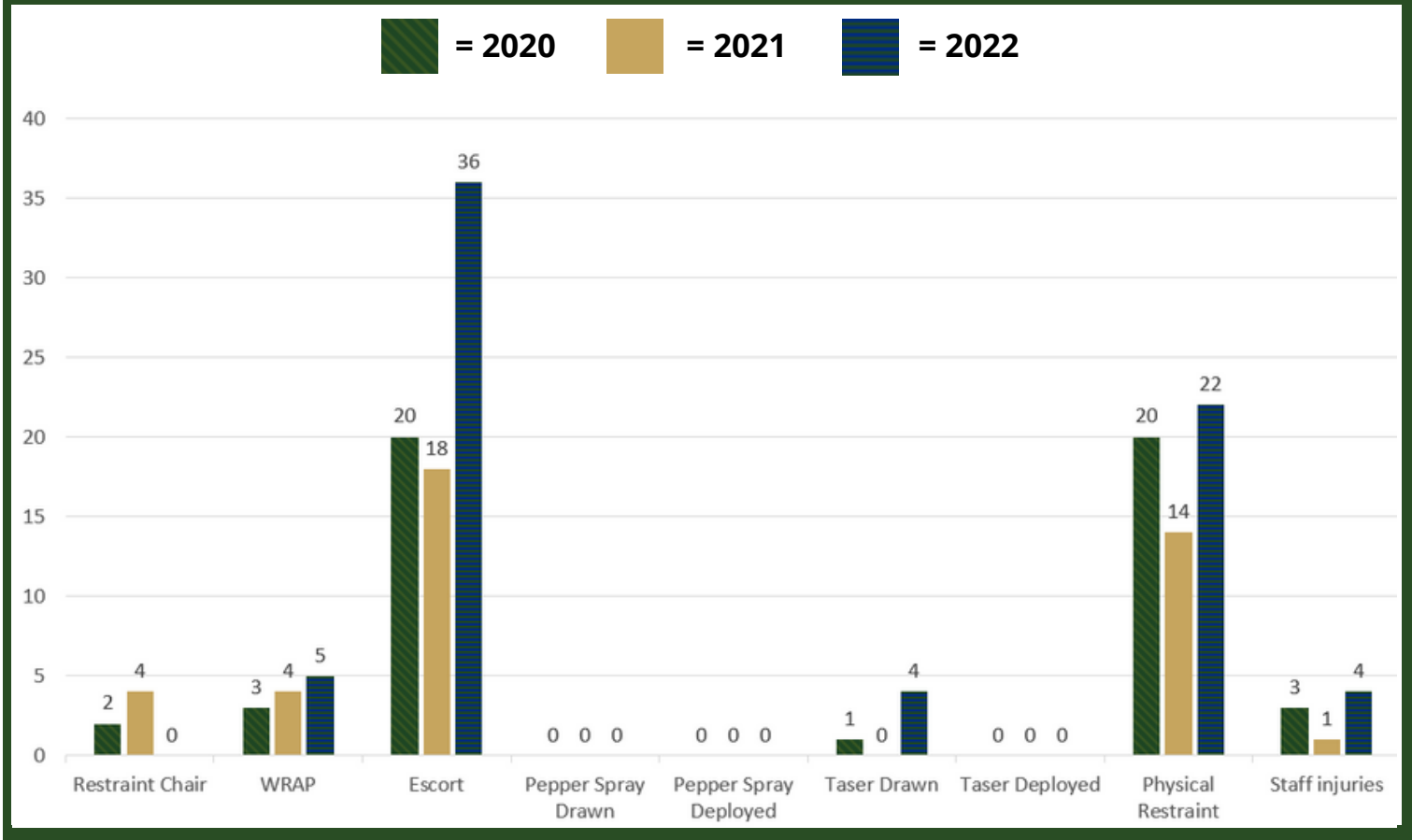


Corrections staff and inspectors from jails throughout Oregon after completing the 2022 Ossa jail inspection.

Corrections Statistics



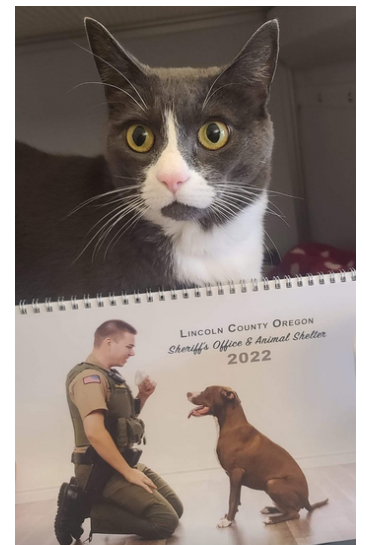
Corrections Use of Force Statistics



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.

2022 at the Lincoln County Animal Shelter began with an exciting fundraiser for our New Building Fund. After some brainstorming, Interim Shelter Manager, Lt. Jamie Russell, implemented the first annual Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Animal Shelter Calendar. This calendar featured members from most divisions of LCSO, showing off their modeling skills. Some brought their own pets from home, others posed with shelter animals awaiting their forever homes. Sharon Biddinger, of Simply Design Studio, donated countless hours of time, in and out of the studio, to make the calendar happen. The calendar proved to be such a successful, fun way to get members from across the Sheriff's Office involved in supporting their Animal Shelter, that we plan to bring it back for 2023!



LCAS Alumni, Bootsie, checking out the 2022 Calendar



Animal Shelter Manager, Sara Wynveen

After four of six LCAS team members left in 2021 to retire or pursue new career opportunities, 2022 brought back some familiar faces! Although Lt. Russell did an incredible job as Interim Shelter Manager, she eventually had to turn her full attention back to her duties as the Lincoln County Jail Commander. The selection process for the new Manager of the Lincoln County Animal Shelter ended with the promotion of Animal Services Deputy Sara Wynveen.

Sara has proudly served in many positions for the LCSO, including Kennel Attendant, Animal Care Specialist, and Animal Services Deputy. When the Animal Shelter Manager position became available, Sara jumped at the chance to take the lead at her hometown animal shelter. She has taken her experiences from the shelter and the field to support the LCAS team through the challenges presented by changes due to COVID and daily operations in a temporary facility.



Animal Care Specialist Brandi Jederberg posing with LCAS Alumni, Lily.

Another familiar face rejoined the LCAS team in April. Brandi Jederberg served as an Animal Care Specialist at the Lincoln County Animal Shelter from 2009 until 2016. Since then, Brandi has continued her 30-year career in animal care working full time at Grove Veterinary Clinic. When a full time Animal Care Specialist position became available, Brandi decided she wanted to serve community members by putting her expertise to use by helping the animals of LCAS. Her experience in the field of veterinary medicine has been an excellent addition to the immensely talented LCAS team.



Animal Care Specialists Cat Scheider and Sue Giles.

Under new leadership, and with the health and welfare of the animals as their top priority, the LCAS team made some changes to their temporary facility. In addition to these changes, some unforeseen equipment difficulties and longer wait times for spay and neuter services resulted in decreased space and longer lengths of stay for cats and kittens. The incredible group of volunteer foster homes ensured kittens had a safe, enriching environment to grow big enough for their spay and neuter surgeries, but staff still struggled with limited space for those interested in meeting the animals up for adoption.

Your LCAS team took everything they had learned navigating the tumultuous waters of post-Covid animal sheltering and put it to good work throughout 2022. The lack of spay and neuter services during the shutdown continued to ripple through the animal welfare community. Your LCAS team fielded unprecedented numbers of calls requesting to surrender animals. From young dogs who just needed some training, to cats producing litter after litter of kittens, to beloved pets who required more veterinary care than their family could afford. Animal Care Specialists counselled each community member to try to find the best solution to keep pets in their homes so the shelter would always have room for the animals who had no other choice.

The overpopulation of domesticated animals facing Lincoln County, the entire state, and country, meant there were more animals than homes. Given the limited space, and dedication to never euthanize an animal for time, space, or treatable and manageable conditions, it was imperative that any animal that had a home was able to remain in that home. Thanks to great assistance programs through LCAS, the Central Coast Humane Society (CCHS), and Friends of Lincoln County Animals (FOLCA), many pet guardians found options other than surrendering their animal to the shelter. Although it will likely take years to get Lincoln County back to where it was before Covid, CCHS, FOLCA, and LCAS all continue to find ways to help, making Lincoln County a more humane place.



Medical Trust Fund beneficiary, Lefty, trying out his new \$1,500.00 hip.



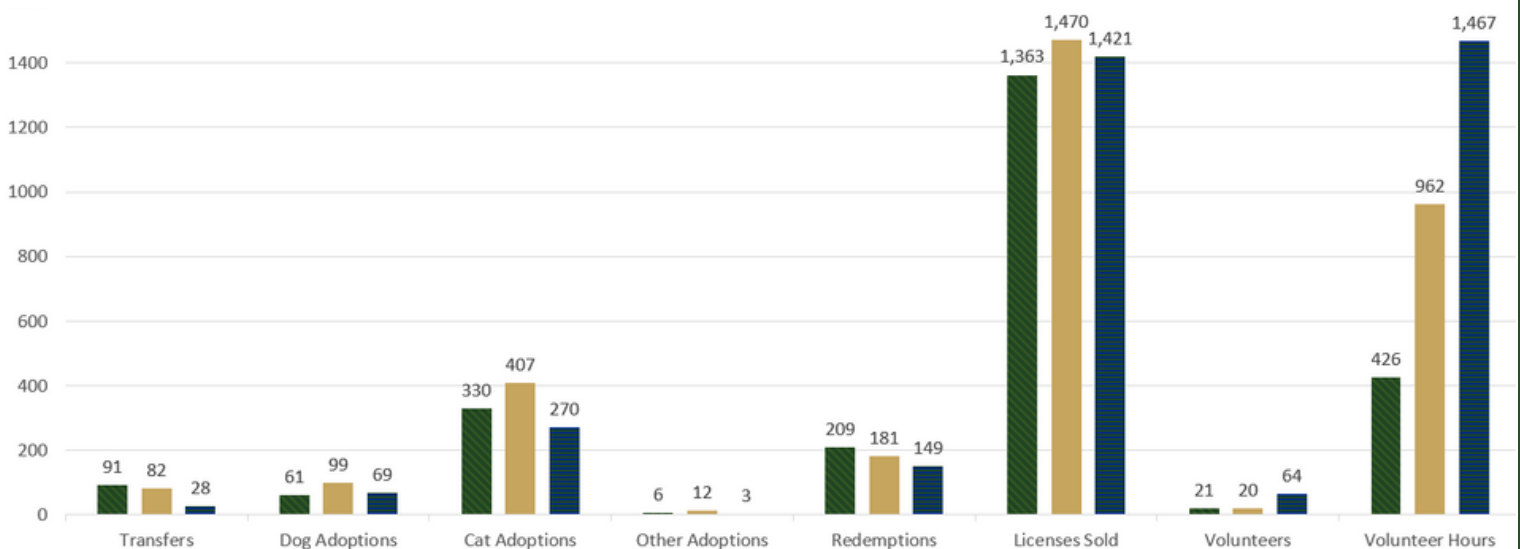
Animal Care Specialist Amy Ketchum receiving donations collected by TLC Fibre Federal Credit Union.

This past year once again proved how dedicated the citizens of Lincoln County are to supporting their Animal Shelter. Our active volunteer numbers skyrocketed. The incredible number of hours worked by volunteers not only improved the lives of the animals in care, but also allowed staff time to take on more complicated projects. Generous donations of supplies, toys, food, and funds came to LCAS steadily throughout the year. The Lincoln County Animal Shelter Medical Trust Fund, which is essential for providing lifesaving veterinary care for animals who otherwise would not be adoptable, helped more than 60 animals in 2022. This fund paid more than \$25,000 toward diagnostics, surgeries, and treatments that would not be possible without it.

Last, but not least, the entire Lincoln County team has been working diligently throughout 2022 to find the best location to be the future home of the Lincoln County Animal Shelter. It has been a difficult search, as an animal shelter has very specific requirements, but they are confident there will be good news coming in 2023.

Animal Shelter Statistics

= 2020
 = 2021
 = 2022



RETIREMENTS

Jim Kellenberger retired from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office on Friday May 27, 2022.

Jim joined the Sheriff's Office team as a Corrections Deputy on June 16, 2004 after serving more than 24 years in the United States Coast Guard. He was promoted to a Corrections Corporal on May 16th, 2007, served as a Field Training Officer from August 2007 - January 2018, and then retired September 20, 2018.

His retirement was short lived as he returned to our team October 1, 2018 as our first pretrial specialist. Jim was instrumental in assisting with the development of our pretrial program.

Jim has served the citizens of Lincoln County for 18 years. In his Pretrial Specialist role he assisted many clients in navigating the criminal justice system. His experience, passion and commitment to the job will be missed.



Jim Kellenberger



Jim Kellenberger and Sheriff Landers at Kellenberger's retirement party.

IN MEMORY



Dave responding to a SAR call.

In April 2022, Search and Rescue team member, **Dave Eatherly**, passed away.

Dave joined the SAR program over 13 years ago, and quickly became an asset known for his determination and reliability.

It is hard to measure the contributions Dave made to his community and team over his years as a SAR member. While Dave won't be searching with us on our future missions, we will carry his dedication and work ethic in everything we do.

In May of 2022, retired Sheriff, **John O'Brien**, passed away.

During his time as Sheriff, O'Brien served Lincoln County for 30 years. During his years of service to the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, he served as a patrol deputy, sergeant, lieutenant, undersheriff, and then served as Sheriff from 1994 to 2003.

Retired Sheriff O'Brien was instrumental in advocating for and helping to make the new jail building in 1992.



Former Sheriff O'Brien.

In May of 2022, former Patrol Sergeant, **Rene Lopez**, passed away.

Rene served the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and our community for over 10 years. After working in corrections for the Springfield Municipal Jail, he was hired by our office as a patrol deputy in 2011. Rene's leadership, teamwork, and experience earned him the promotion to Patrol Sergeant in 2019.

After leaving our office in 2021 to pursue a new adventure with his family, he remained a part of our family and our team.

Our hearts are heavy with the loss of Rene and we are reminded of him daily as we continue to carry-out the important work he embodied so well.



Rene holding his dog, Cashew.

Though our hearts ache, we know our team and our community are better because of you and your service to them.



In loving memory of those we have lost but will not forget.

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