

# ANNUAL REPORT — 2023



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# REPORT OVERVIEW

## **Sheriff's Message.....Page 1**

- Quick summary of the past 12 months.

## **Administration.....Pages 2 - 4**

- Focused efforts and events on recruitment and hiring.
- Increased community outreach by hosting and participating in more community-based events.
- Continued to focus on and improve team wellness.

## **Emergency Management.....Pages 5 - 6**

- Created Wildfire PSAs in English and Spanish.
- Participated in continued training and exercises.
- Received two million dollar funding for public safety radio upgrades.

## **Patrol.....Pages 7 - 12**

- New team members and promotions.
- Met all requirements to become Re-Accredited.
- Electronic Storage Detection Canine, Trinity, joined the team.

## **Support Services.....Pages 13 - 14**

- Attended and hosted training.
- Completed evidence inventory in partnership with Lincoln City Police Department.

## **Corrections.....Pages 15 - 17**

- Jail Consultation completed and recommendations considered.
- Multiple Adults in Custody earn their GEDs.
- Meals provided to Lincoln County Winter Shelters.

## **Animal Shelter.....Pages 18 - 20**

- Creative solutions used to continue to meet needs.
- New location announced.
- Increase in stray dogs and decrease in owner's reclaiming their dogs.
- Partnership with Lincoln County Food Share's Pet Food Bank to help address local pet food needs.

## **Awards.....Pages 21 - 22**

- Multiple awards received throughout the office.



# MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

On behalf of our outstanding Sheriff's Office team, it is my honor to present to you the Sheriff's Office Annual Report for the year 2023. Over the past twelve months, our dedicated team at your Sheriff's Office has worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and security of our community. Through challenges and successes, we have remained committed to serving you.

In 2023, our focus continues to be on strong relationships with our residents while addressing the evolving needs of our entire community. We understand that effective law enforcement goes beyond enforcement; it requires empathy, understanding, and collaboration.

Throughout the year, we organized and participated in various outreach programs, including the Café Resource event, National Night Out, Coffee with a Deputy, Shop with a Cop, Special Olympics fundraiser, and our Citizen Academy to name a few. These initiatives not only helped us build trust and rapport with the community but also empowered community members to play an active role working with our Sheriff Office.

In addition to community engagement, our deputies worked diligently to combat crime and uphold the law. Through proactive patrols, targeted enforcement operations, innovative solutions, and collaboration with other law enforcement agencies, we were able to address a number of needs within our County.

Furthermore, our commitment to transparency and accountability remained unwavering. We continued to prioritize integrity in all aspects of our operations, ensuring that our actions were guided by principles of fairness and justice.

As we reflect on the achievements of 2023, we must also acknowledge the ongoing support and cooperation of our community members. Your partnership, and willingness to stand together in the face of adversity are the cornerstones of our success.

Thank you for taking time to reflect on the past year. Looking ahead, we remain dedicated to serving and protecting our community. We have an excellent team at your Sheriff's Office, and they are here to serve you.



**Sheriff Curtis L. Landers**



# ADMINISTRATION

*The Administrative Division helps maintain regular operations, develops and reviews policies and budgets, is responsible for team health and wellness, organizes community outreach, and more. Administration is committed to creating an environment where we can all grow and learn with our communities while also providing our team the support they need to be their very best on and off duty.*

Three major focuses of the Administration Division in 2023 were expanding hiring opportunities for qualified and committed applicants, increasing outreach throughout the diverse communities of Lincoln County, and improving team health and wellness.

During 2023, the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office was able to host two local hiring events and attended a Criminal Justice Career Fair at Western Oregon University (WOU). The benefits of LCSO hiring events include same-day testing and scoring for deputy applicants resulting in an expedited hiring process. Applicants not only get to complete the testing requirements for free and receive their test results much faster, but they also get to meet our team and gain a feeling of what their future career may hold.



*Sheriff's Office team and Human Resources representative at a local LCSO hiring event.*

In addition to recruiting qualified candidates to complete our teams, we also focused on community outreach. 2023 was our most community-engaging year since 2020. Our teams rose to meet community needs and build relationships by hosting and attending events. We had the opportunity to attend several events focused on our Latino community



members including two Café Resource events hosted by OSU Extension Office for Spanish and Mam speakers. Our teams attended other community events such as National Night Out and parades, and had fun being guest speakers for community groups and meetings.

*Left: Lt. Russell and Lt. Shanks at a Café Resource event.*



*Deputy Douglas and youth at National Night Out event.*

This year our team was able to bring back the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Citizen Academy – a series of courses to help community members gain an intimate look at the daily functions of the Sheriff's Office. With so many unique team members, functions, and services, it takes several weeks to get through all the presentations, activities, and tours. After completing the Citizen Academy, participants are eligible to apply for our Community Advisory Group, a group that provides community feedback and fresh ideas on public safety priorities and policies.



*Conflict simulations at Citizen Academy.*

In October 2023, our team committed to hosting quarterly Coffee with a Deputy community events. Every three months our office partners with a local coffee shop in Lincoln County to provide a time, space, and coffee for community members to meet our team and share what's on their minds. Coffee with a Deputy events are a friendly and relaxed way for communities to connect with the deputies that serve them and share experiences. These events offer a unique opportunity for community members to directly engage with law enforcement, ask questions, voice concerns, and build positive relationships.



*K9 Demonstration at Citizen Academy.*

In addition to building positive community relationships, our Administrative team focused on expanding team health and wellness for our members. Our teams are exposed to a variety of stressful situations and often work in conditions that are uniquely demanding. Our teams deserve to be healthy, happy, and supported. When they are at their best, they can do their best for the community.



*First quarterly coffee with a deputy event.*

### **Some 2023 wellness highlights include:**

- All seven of our Peer Support members completed the required training series to get certified, allowing the group to move forward with official team activations and responses in 2024. This means LSCO team members will receive additional support in both good and hard times.
- Two Wellness and Safety Committee members completed training in ergonomics so they can offer ergonomic assessments for others in the Sheriff's Office. This helps prevent workplace injuries and discomfort when possible.
- Additional work was completed in the LCSO gym facility. A mat room was finalized which allows teams to hold required trainings on duty while also providing a space for team members to complete various workouts while off duty. Our teams utilized the weights and cardio equipment (most of which was donated by the Lincoln County Deputies' Association) throughout the year. Further facility improvements are expected which will support team health and wellness on and off the clock.
- Focused not only on offering healthy eating options while on duty, the food services team expanded vegetarian and vegan options. This helps ensure more of our team members have access to healthy food that meet their dietary restrictions while on-shift.

## Retired Sheriff John O'Brien Memorial Scholarship

In June, our team had the honor of presenting two Lincoln County Seniors with the Retired Sheriff John O'Brien Memorial Scholarship. Congratulations, Jory Reed and Janice Chen! Our team is humbled to honor Ret. Sheriff O'Brien's memory while encouraging the next generation of law enforcement.



*Janice Chen receiving scholarship award from O'Brien and Sheriff Landers.*



*Jory Reed receiving scholarship award from Lt. Russell.*



*Priscilla O'Brien and Sheriff Landers awarding the first Ret. Sheriff O'Brien Memorial Scholarship.*

In addition to the services our team provides on-duty, there are many ways our teams give back to the community off-duty. Many of our team members volunteer for community organizations, coach youth sports, and find other meaningful ways to give back. In 2023 our teams continued volunteering as individuals, but also came together for special events and donation events.

In September, team members joined other law enforcement agencies and participated in the Annual Special Olympics Fundraiser at Muggly's Bowling Alley in Toledo. Our team had a great time supporting these incredible athletes!



*LCSO team attending Special Olympics fundraiser.*



*LCSO team at annual Shop with a Cop event.*

Once more, our team came together with other public safety agencies and Department of Health and Human Services to make the annual Shop with a Cop event possible. At the 2023 event, approximately 98 children, ranging from 6 months to 17 years old, participated and were able to purchase gifts for loved ones.

December was a month filled with donation opportunities. Our Search and Rescue Team organized their annual Toy Donation Drive where they collect donations for the Lincoln County Children's Advocacy Center. These donations help brighten the holidays for local youth impacted by life-changing events.

The LCSO team also organized an internal pet and human food drive for all staff to participate in. This generated donations for Lincoln County Foodshare to help our community members.

# 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.*

The Lincoln County Emergency Management Division had another busy year in 2023. With a focus on wildfire outreach and preparation, the EM division coordinated a variety of activities to improve Lincoln County's ability to respond to and prepare for potential hazards.

The EM division hosted two wildfire tabletop activities in 2023, totaling 90 participants. Each tabletop focused on either response cooperators or supporting cooperators. The response cooperator tabletop activity took place at Eddyville Charter school in conjunction with Benton County Emergency Management. This provided a unique opportunity for coordination between counties. The supporting cooperator tabletop activity brought together cooperators from a variety of agencies including healthcare, public health, school district, and more to talk about how support would be provided during an active wildfire. Topics included sheltering, medically fragile population considerations, and communications.

The EM division has a robust outreach program that provides information in a variety of formats. This year, nine wildfire presentations were offered to various communities throughout Lincoln County. These presentations focused on property protection and emergency notification. Along with public presentations, the division was also able to receive grant funding to create new wildfire preparedness public service announcement (PSA) videos. These were made possible through a joint effort with the

Fire Defense Board and through funding provided by the Oregon State Fire Marshall. Topics covered in the PSAs included Lincoln Alerts emergency notification system, emergency evacuation levels, and



*Participants during Wildfire table top activities.*



*A screenshot from wildfire preparedness PSAs.*

general preparedness. Each topic was covered in separate PSAs and are available in both Spanish and English.

During the summer, our emergency management team traveled to Tillamook County to participate in an exercise focused on a newly acquired Emergency Assemble Point (EAP) supply cache their county received from the Oregon Department of Human Services. This was a two-day, overnight event where our team learned about the contents and supplies in the cache trailer and how to deploy the resources. An EAP is a safe gathering point for community members to respond to in an emergency or disaster while waiting for emergency personnel to respond. This was an excellent opportunity for our team to get a sneak peek at how an EAP is deployed as Lincoln County will be receiving a similar one in 2024!



*Above and below: Tent demonstration and set up at Tillamook's EAP.*

The EM division also provided messaging and community notification support during two small fire evacuations that occurred just south of Waldport and a rural area east of Toledo. These notices were sent utilizing our Lincoln Alerts System. Both fires were a threat to multiple structures but were quickly contained.

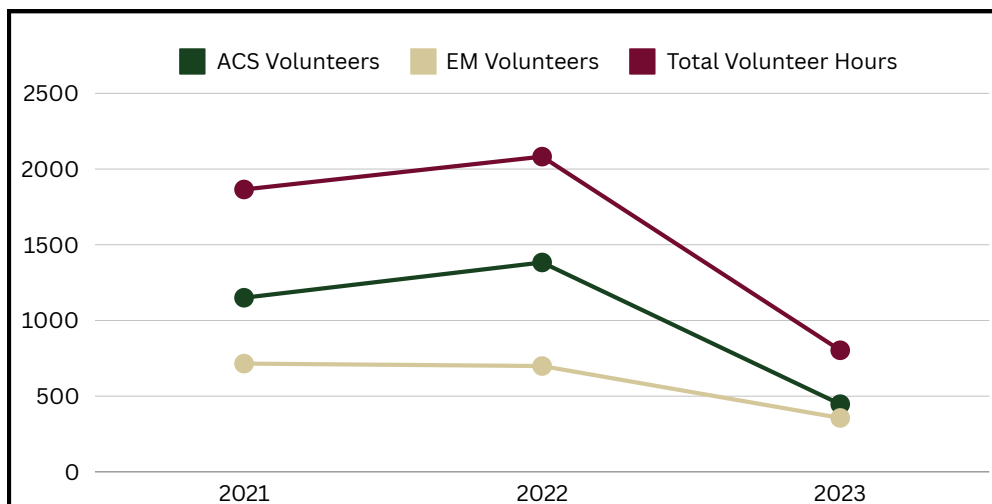


A primary responsibility of our EM division is oversight and maintenance of the emergency radio communications system utilized by the majority of emergency response agencies in Lincoln County. In 2023, our EM division was awarded a Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) Technology grant for 2 million dollars. This project has a multi-year funding cycle and will encompass upgrading the public safety radio system for all of Lincoln County. Additional funding through the State Homeland Security Grant and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program will also provide upgrades to our system to enhance communication capabilities for our first responders.

The EM Division is looking forward to building on the work completed this year in 2024 to help our community better prepare for, respond to, and recover from an emergency.

### **Emergency Management Division Volunteer Hours** *(right)*

*Emergency Management maintains two volunteer groups, Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) and Emergency Management (EM) volunteers.*





# PATROL

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*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.*

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*Deputy Corbin running traffic during saturation patrol event in Waldport.*

2023 was a year of growth among our team. Patrol had multiple team members in various phases of Field Training Evaluation Program (FTEP). Team members Bailee Leese, Corbin Collins and Antonio Ortiz all successfully completed the FTEP program and achieved "solo status", meaning they are now trained and able to patrol alone instead of with another team member. This status is one of many early major achievements in a deputy's career. It demonstrates their ability to read and understand procedural law, confront conflict, communicate effectively, and demonstrate empathy in the course of their daily duties. We are proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing what lays ahead of them.

Our team growth continued in March with the promotion of team member Nick Vaille to Patrol Sergeant. Sgt. Vaille started his career on our team in 2015 after several years as a professional fire fighter and EMT. Before his promotion to Patrol Sergeant, he held duties as patrol deputy, forest deputy, Field Training Officer and First Aid/CPR Instructor. Shortly after his promotion Sgt. Vaille was tasked with getting all members of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office certified in First Aid and CPR in a very short time frame. He partnered with Samaritan Pacific Community Hospital and successfully got over 70 members certified in short order. Sgt. Vaille took an additional step and formed our CPR/First Aid Training Team. Sgt. Vaille, Deputy Bruce McGuire, Detective Jason Spano and Deputy Zach Akin all became certified trainers through American Heart Association (AHA). Each of them had previously been certified instructors in the past, however it was through different organizations with different training requirements. Sgt. Vaille kept the group on track. We now have instructor certification for all of them through AHA. This team will now be able to train all our members every two years.



*Sheriff Landers and Sergeant Vaille at Vaille's swearing in.*

In April we began dedicated enhanced law enforcement service in the City of Depoe Bay. This was accomplished after years of discussions with the City and a signed contract in November of 2022. The city did not have dedicated law enforcement since the 1990s. Team member Casey Elfstrom jumped in with both feet and open arms. Deputy Elfstrom was a three-year veteran of our team at the time of his selection to hold the position of Contract Deputy for the City of Depoe Bay. However, Deputy Elfstrom was no stranger to the city. He is a Lincoln County native and graduate of Taft Highschool. He spent many summers in and around Depoe Bay as a child with family and friends. He stated he feels he has a good understanding of the community, its balance of being the permanent home to approximately 1,500 residents and a tourist attraction to hundreds of thousands of travelers who visit to fish, whale watch, shop and observe huge waves crash into the seawall during the winter months. If you see a patrol car with lights active on Hwy 101 in Depoe Bay, it's likely Deputy Elfstrom, reminding folks the speed limit in the heart of town is 25 MPH not 55 like many stretches of HWY 101.



*Deputy Elfstrom and Sgt. Vaill at Depoe Bay City Council Meeting.*



*Lt. Shanks and Lt. Vertner holding the Re-Accreditation Certificate.*

Accomplishments and growth continued throughout the year when our patrol team successfully achieved Re-Accreditation from the Oregon Accreditation Alliance. The process of Accreditation is arduous and requires agencies to develop, document, train, and ultimately stay in compliance with our own policies, procedures and that of the laws in the State of Oregon. By achieving these standards, we hope to show our communities we are professionals and hold our team to the highest standards. Our patrol team was last accredited in 2020 and the process must occur every 3 years. Out of the 174 law enforcement agencies in Oregon, less than half are accredited. Nationally, less than 10% of law enforcement agencies are accredited. It is a continuous team effort to achieve this.



*Aaron Brooks and Sheriff Landers shaking hands at the 2023 Citizen Academy graduation.*

Early summer brought us a new team member, Aaron Brooks. Recruit Deputy Brooks came to us through our winter/spring Citizen Academy in which he proudly graduated. He said the Academy confirmed his decision that LCSO was the right fit for him. Before Recruit Deputy Brooks joined our team, he proudly served in the US Marine Corp and then a couple years in private industry. He is on track to achieve solo status mid to late spring 2024.



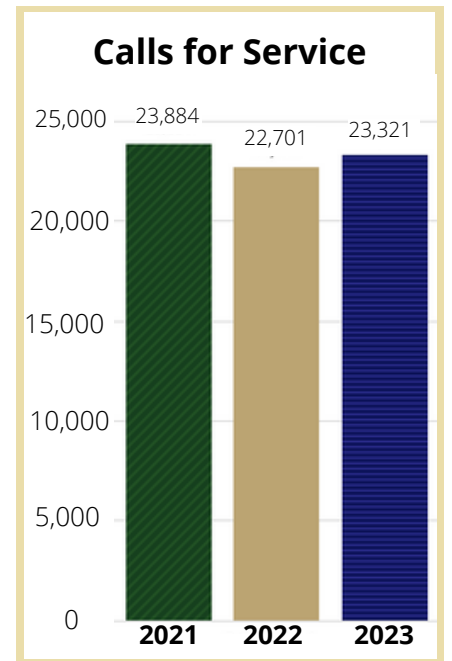
*Sheriff Landers swearing in Deputy Brooks.*

Even though we have had so much achievement and success, 2023 had challenges. These challenges came in an area we once had abundance: qualified job applicants. The last three years we have had a continuous opening for patrol deputy. This is contrary to a bygone era where one job opening would catch the interest of hundreds of applicants, giving us plenty to choose from. Over the last three years we average less than 20 applicants through a hiring cycle (which captures the entire hiring process of posting the job opening, recruiting, screening applicants, interviewing, testing, and onboarding). Of those applicants, 1/3 usually don't qualify either from lack of follow through on the applicant's part or through our interview and testing process. The lack of interest in our profession is not isolated to our team or our coastal region; it is profession-wide across the nation. We will continue to promote our profession, team and agency culture despite these challenges. We haven't let this hold us back. We continue to think outside the proverbial box and look at ways we can draw more interest. One area we have success in is hiring events. We partner with our corrections team and offer the written tests for free for both corrections and patrol. Upon completion of the written testing, we run the applicants through the Oregon Physical Ability Test (ORPAT) and schedule everyone who passes both phases of testing for an interview within two weeks. We also offer applicants free lunch at the testing site. This event also allows off duty and on duty team members to attend and interact with the applicants. This hiring practice has been successful in two areas: we have had more interest from local applicants and currently have a 50% success rate of job offers. Though the number of applicants may still be less than 20 at these hiring events, they can also help bring more attention to our open positions and career opportunities. Although an applicant may not be available on the day of the event for testing, we have seen an uptick in applications around the time of these events.



*Deputy Horse explaining one component of the ORPAT while Deputy Rose demonstrates for hiring event participants.*

In the summer of 2022 Sheriff Landers made a tough decision to reduce services to our non-contract areas. This reduction of services will remain in effect into 2024. A primary driver of the need to reduce services was staffing levels. Although staffing levels have improved from previous years we are still down four positions at the time of this report. Our team continues to prevail through these challenges to provide great service to the calls we respond to.



Our Search and Rescue (SAR) team had another outstanding year of assisting citizens who found themselves in troubled places or times. They responded to over 20 calls and successfully provided the citizens the appropriate aid for each event. Our SAR team continues to grow with members as they had ten qualified applicants and will be hosting a SAR training academy in the winter of 2024.

In 2023, SAR volunteers gave about 1,168 hours of service to Lincoln County communities.

Our Investigations Division (Detectives) have been hard at work this year. They have done a great job keeping pace with an increase in crimes related to Child Sex Abuse Material (CSAM). These crimes are generally related to the sharing, possession, and production of sexually explicit nude images of underage children. To aid in these investigations our detective team gained a new member, Trinity. She is a 2-year-old black Labrador Retriever. Lead Detective Tony Bettencourt had the idea behind bringing a dog like Trinity, and her interesting skills, to Lincoln County. Electronic Storage Device (ESD) Canine (K9) programs use specially trained dogs and their extremely strong sense of smell and focus to detect electronic devices of all sizes. More specifically, small electronic devices that can store digital images and be hidden in places usually missed by law enforcement members during search warrants of a suspect's vehicle or home (places like inside walls, buried in yards, hidden in creek, and other creative hiding places). Towards the end of 2023, and after months of fundraising and training, our ESD K9 team was formed.



*Detective Bettencourt and ESD K9 Trinity searching for electronics.*

Our overall patrol division also had its successes in 2023. As our staffing levels grew and our newest members achieved solo status, this added to the strength of our resources in the field. We began seeing a significant rise in proactive police work to include a 60% increase in Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII) arrests and a 11% overall rise in criminal arrests. Our patrol team is hard at work improving the quality of life in Lincoln County through proactive and reactive investigations. As we look ahead at 2024, we intend to keep improving on our impaired driver enforcement. We will also look at targeted investigations of perpetrators who target underage children for sex, explicit images and trafficking. We do not believe this behavior is prevalent in our community, but we do know it is present. We know not only based upon recent investigations by our detective division but also of our partner agencies who have held targeted stings in 2023.

<b>Cases by type in 2023*</b>	
Animal Cruelty	31
Arson	4
Assaults	179
Burglary	43
DUII	78
Liquor Law	10
Manslaughter	0
Motor Vehicle Accident	61
Motor Vehicle Theft	17
Murder	0
Rape	8
Robbery	3
Runaways	20
Stalking/RO Violations	55
Vandalism	118
Warrants	270

*\*This is not an all-inclusive list. This is a sampling of uniform crime statistics.*



*Marine Deputy Blake teaching water safety with a youth summer activity club.*

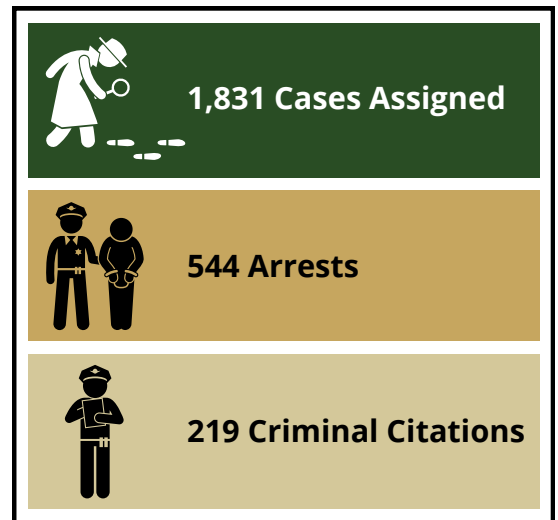
To wrap up our year, we ended on a high note with the promotion of Detective Jason Spano to Sergeant in December. Sgt. Spano has had an interesting ride with our team over the years. He originally came to us from the Lincoln City Police Department in 2017 after serving them for just over a year. Previous to working with the Lincoln City Police Department, he had 13 years of law enforcement in the state of California. He came to our team, dedicated his time to patrol, and ultimately became an FTO. In 2021 during the peak of the COVID Pandemic he left our team as a full-time deputy for a change of pace as an investigator for the State of Oregon in a civilian capacity, however he remained on the team as a part time/on-call deputy. In late 2021, he ventured into being a professional fire fighter with Depoe Bay Fire. After determining he was not being fulfilled and missing the greatness of fulltime law enforcement, he came back to our team as a detective in the summer 2022. Detective Spano continued to grow and excel in his role as a detective until his promotion to Patrol Sergeant.



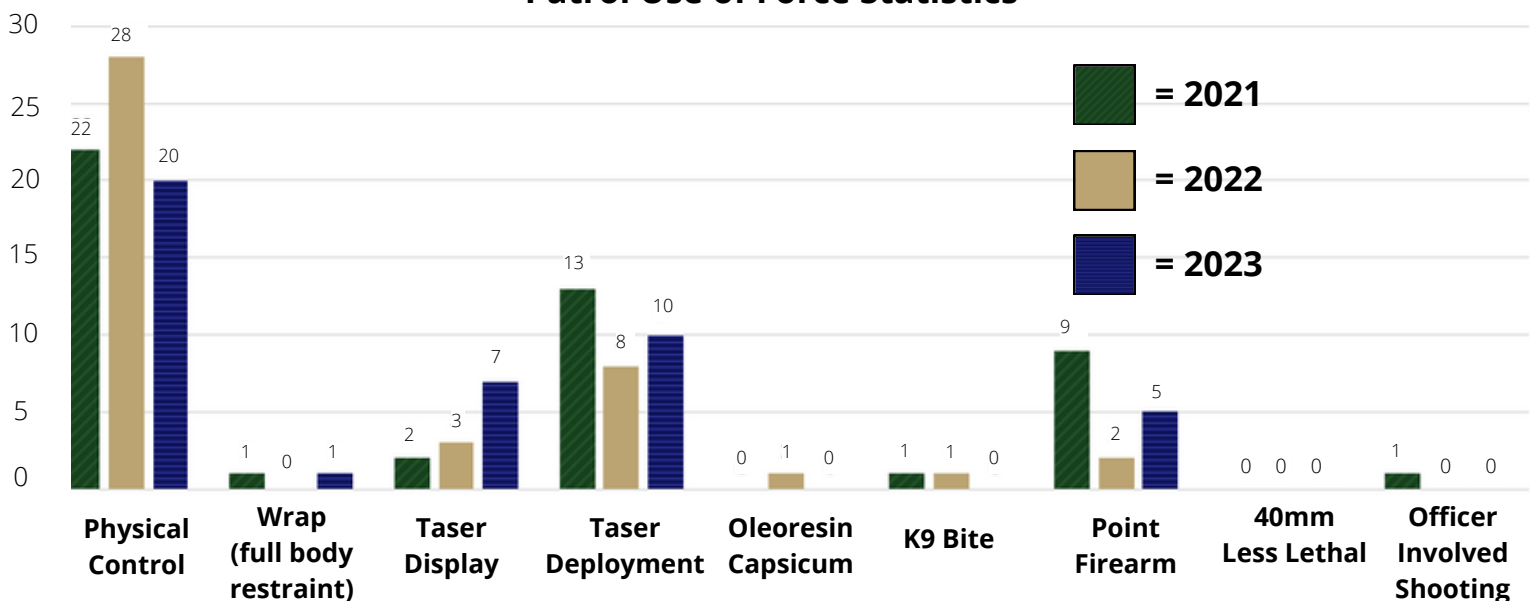
*Sheriff Landers swearing in Sgt. Spano.*



*Patrol members posing for holiday photo.*




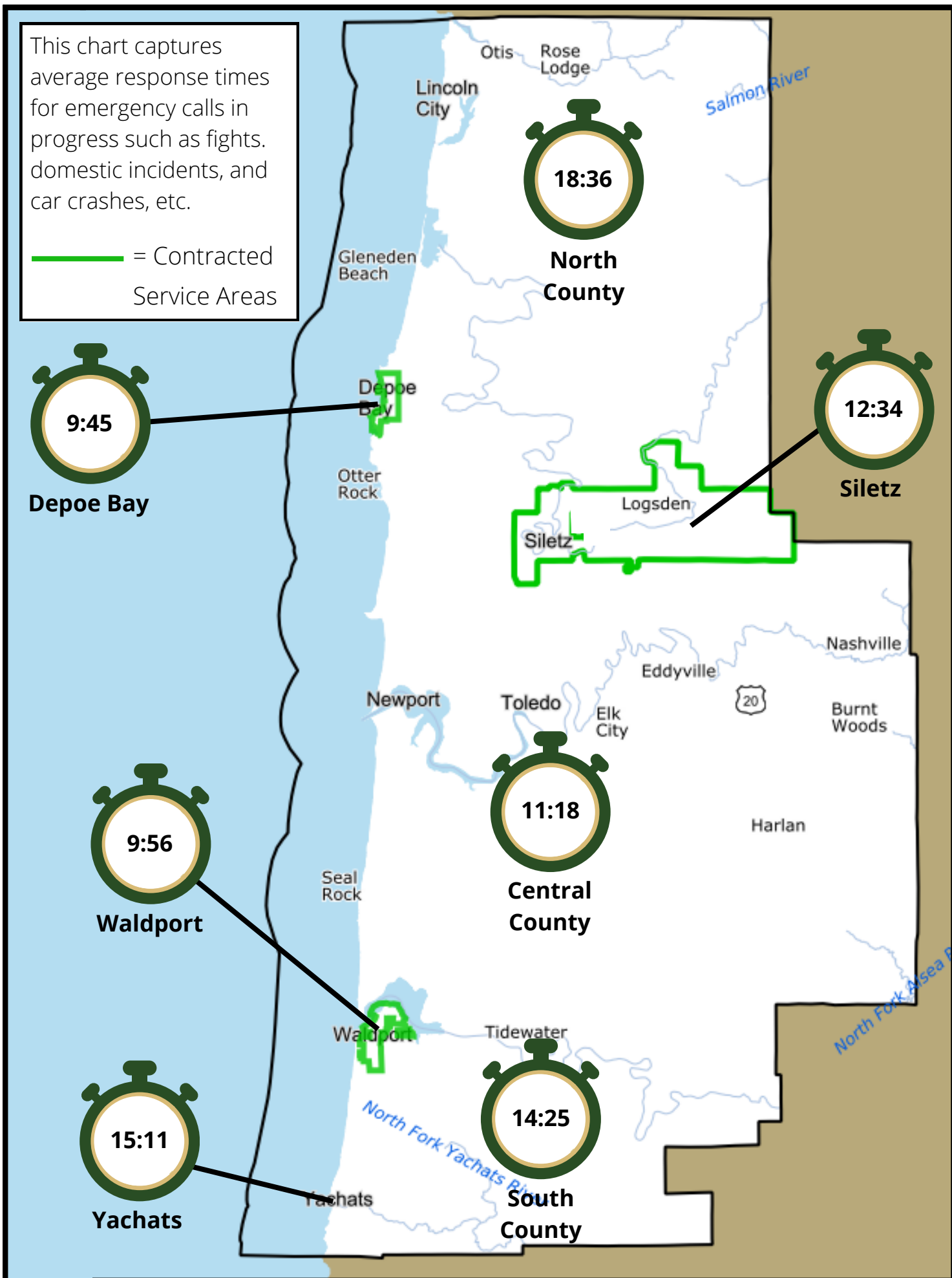
### Patrol Use of Force Statistics



# Average Response Times to Calls for Service by Area

This chart captures average response times for emergency calls in progress such as fights, domestic incidents, and car crashes, etc.

 = Contracted Service Areas





# 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 Support Services Division is comprised of a team of seven members who are responsible for a number of public services, including:

- Receive and coordinate civil process and enforcement (notice process, subpoenas, and enforcement actions pursuant to court orders)
- Process public records requests and prepare statistical reports
- Process vehicle impound releases
- Facilitate public fingerprinting services
- Oversee concealed handgun licensing program
- Oversee short-term rental licensing program
- Facilitate sex offender registration
- Maintain property and evidence

The Division started off 2023 fully staffed and ready for a new year. Several members were able to participate in state-wide training related to civil, concealed handgun licensing, records, and evidence collection. These trainings help our team stay current on best practices, legislative updates, and wellness. We were also pleased to partner with TriTech Forensics to host a basic crime scene investigation management class for law enforcement agencies throughout the state.



*Support Services members attending a State-wide training.*

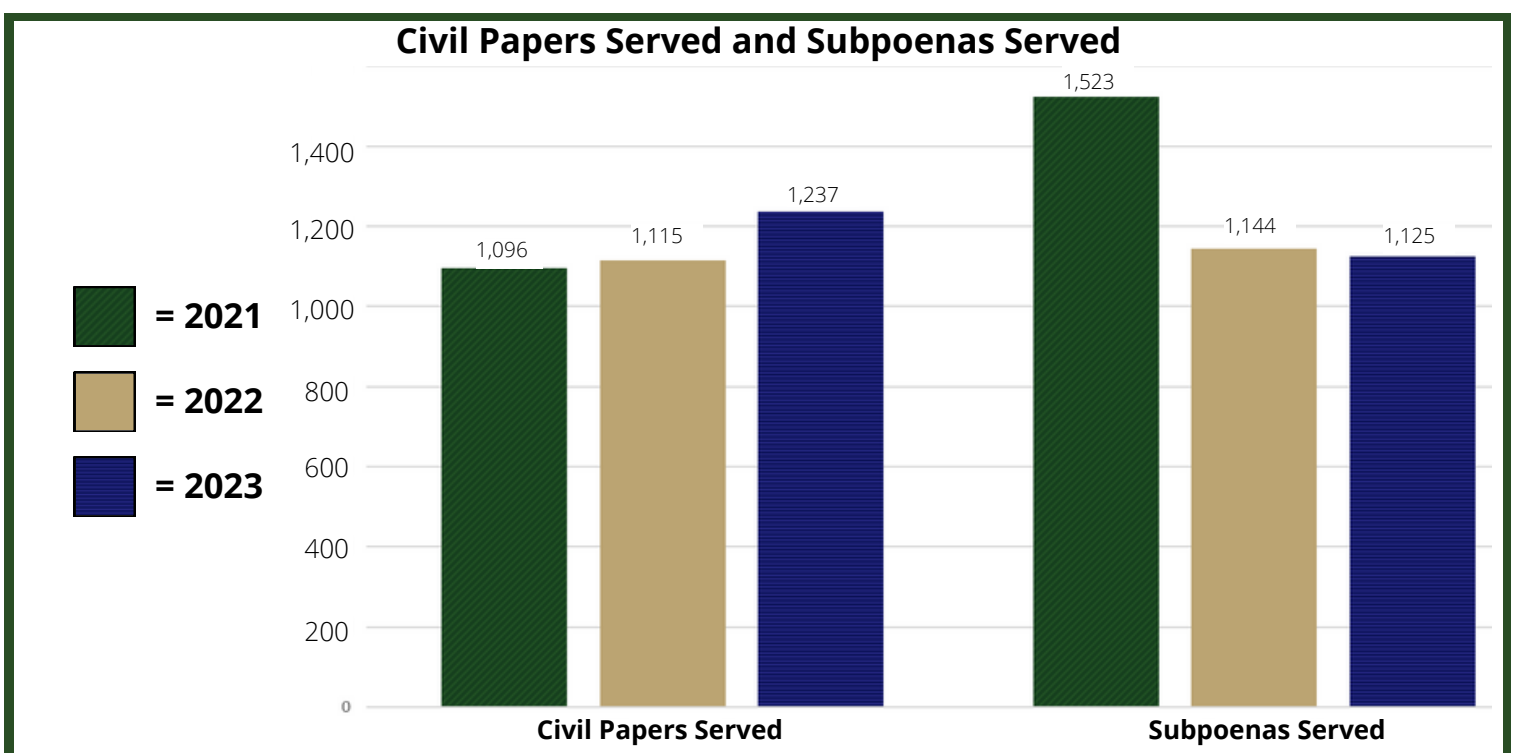
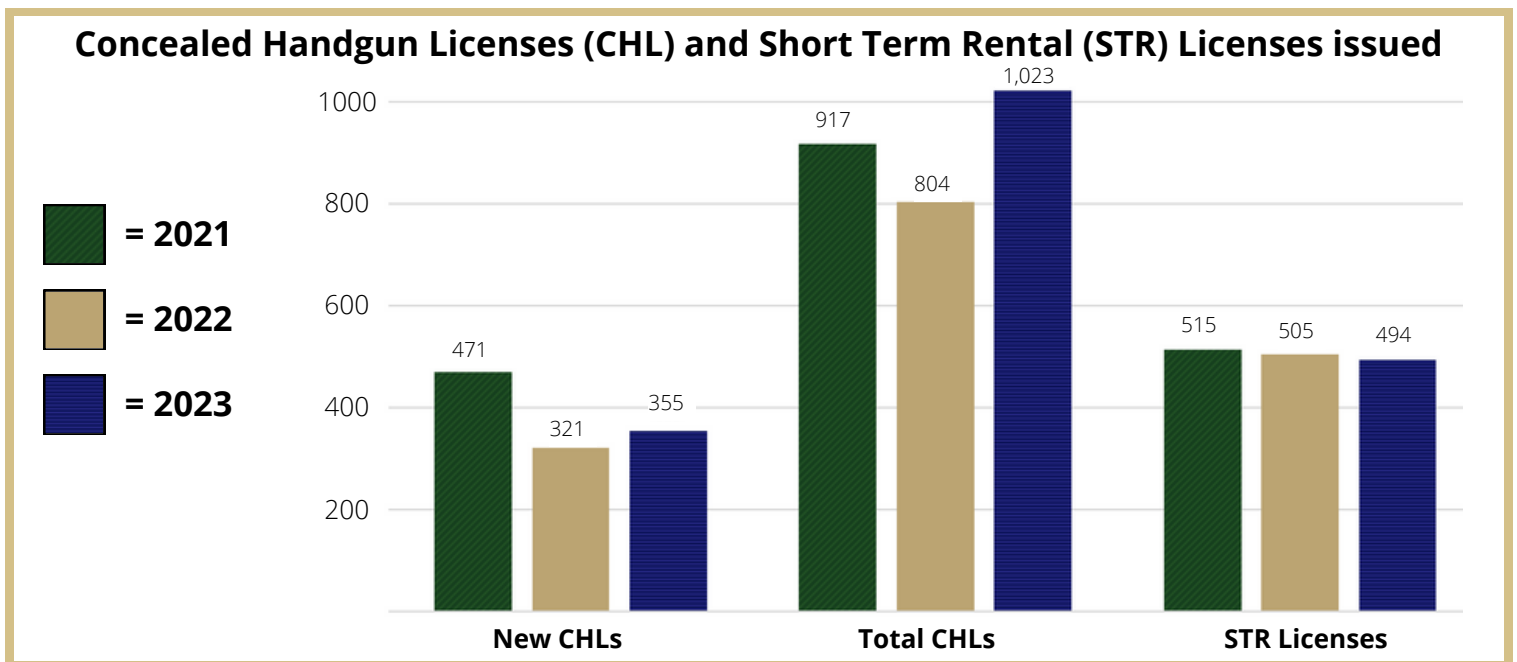


*TriTech Forensics class attendees during the crime scene investigation management class.*



Concealed handgun licensing proved to be on the rise with appointment wait times extending out to three months in the first quarter of the year. At that time, Sheriff Landers asked the team to band together and provide more appointment availability to Lincoln County citizens. With the help of the entire team, we are happy to announce that as of the beginning of 2024, we have no wait times for concealed handgun licensing appointments.

Our Evidence Control Specialist, Sara Tabb, also had her hands full conducting a full evidence inventory with the help of Mara Young (her evidence counterpart from Lincoln City Police Department). A big thank you to Lincoln City Police Department for allowing Mara to spend several days assisting us. As we draw closer to implementing a new records management software (slated for July 1, 2024), our plan is to add barcoding to all of our property and evidence, which should reduce inventory times by at least 50%. In the past year, the evidence division took in a total of 1,043 physical items and 29,460 digital property items. Approximately 727 physical items were either disposed of or returned to owners.



# 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.*



*Deputy Rilat working.*

In the spring of 2023, our office contracted with an Oregon consultant who is considered a subject matter expert in the field of corrections. The purpose of this consultation was to review overall jail operations while evaluating current staffing models, assigned duties, and scheduling/overtime practices while also offering suggestions for improvements, in safety, efficiency, and wellness.

While we understand our profession is constant and ever evolving, having an outside perspective allows an additional layer of experience to ensure we are following best practices while meeting the safety and security concerns of a correctional facility.

Some areas of focus from the final report are:

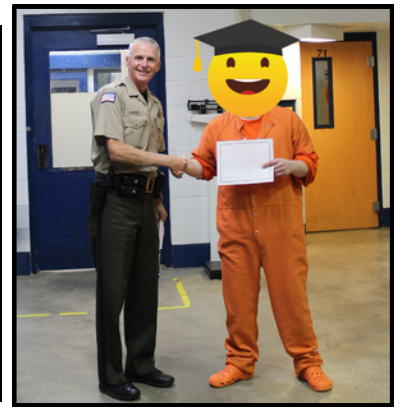
- Concerns relating to minimum staffing on night shift and transports
- Filling vacant positions, looking at available options and incentives
- Increasing the Corrections Sergeant team
- Restructuring the Corporal positions
- Use of jail technicians
- Evaluate/consider contract medical services
- Evaluate/consider contracting services for courthouse security checkpoint
- Evaluate current practice of overtime distribution

Managing change effectively involves clear communication, team engagement, and a well thought out strategy. Our culture is one that embraces and adapts to change and is crucial for our success. Although this process, structural changes, and improvements are ongoing, we are committed to ensuring transparency with our entire team and community members.



*Sergeant Gainer preparing items in jail.*

The Lincoln County Jail has partnered with Oregon Coast Community College for many years in an effort to provide General Educational Development (GED) services to our Adults in Custody (AIC). This is a voluntary program that makes the educational services necessary to successfully obtain a GED Certificate available to all AICs. Oregon Coast Community College allows an instructor to provide educational classes within the Jail facility. Upon successful completion of the educational requirements, the AIC is provided a practice test. When they are ready to take the exam, one is provided along with a proctor at no cost. Necessary learning and testing supplies are provided throughout the program utilizing commissary revenue funds, no general fund monies are expended on this program. We are very proud to report that in 2023 (January 1 - December 31), 4 AIC successfully completed all necessary steps to be awarded their GED. We hope this additional tool will allow for further success in our community as well as encouragement for other AIC. Each AIC receiving their GED while incarcerated receives a celebration and presentation of their official certificate by Sheriff Landers.



*Sheriff Landers presenting program participants with their GED certificates.*

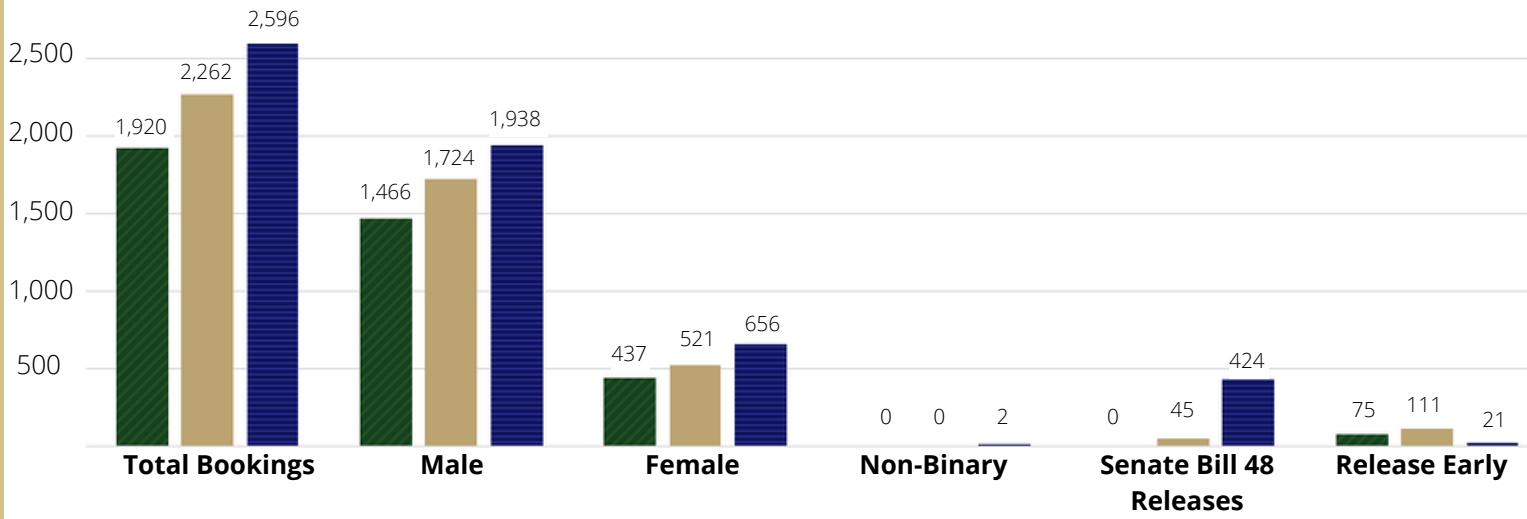


*Kitchen manager explaining daily operations and kitchen procedures.*

In the fall of 2023, the Lincoln County Jail was asked to provide meals for the soon to be opened Lincoln County winter shelter. The shelter is located in Newport and is operated by Lincoln County Health and Human Services. The request was for a bag meal in addition to a breakfast muffin. The Lincoln County Jail kitchen team went to work creating a cost analysis for the necessary meal items, had the meal and cost approved by the shelter team, and began providing the requested items upon the shelter opening on October 3, 2023. Meals were provided until the shelter team felt they had enough qualified volunteers to handle the duty of food preparation. A total of 2,250 meals were provided for the shelter over a three-month time period. Our team was honored to partner with Health and Human Services to assist in providing an important service to our citizens.

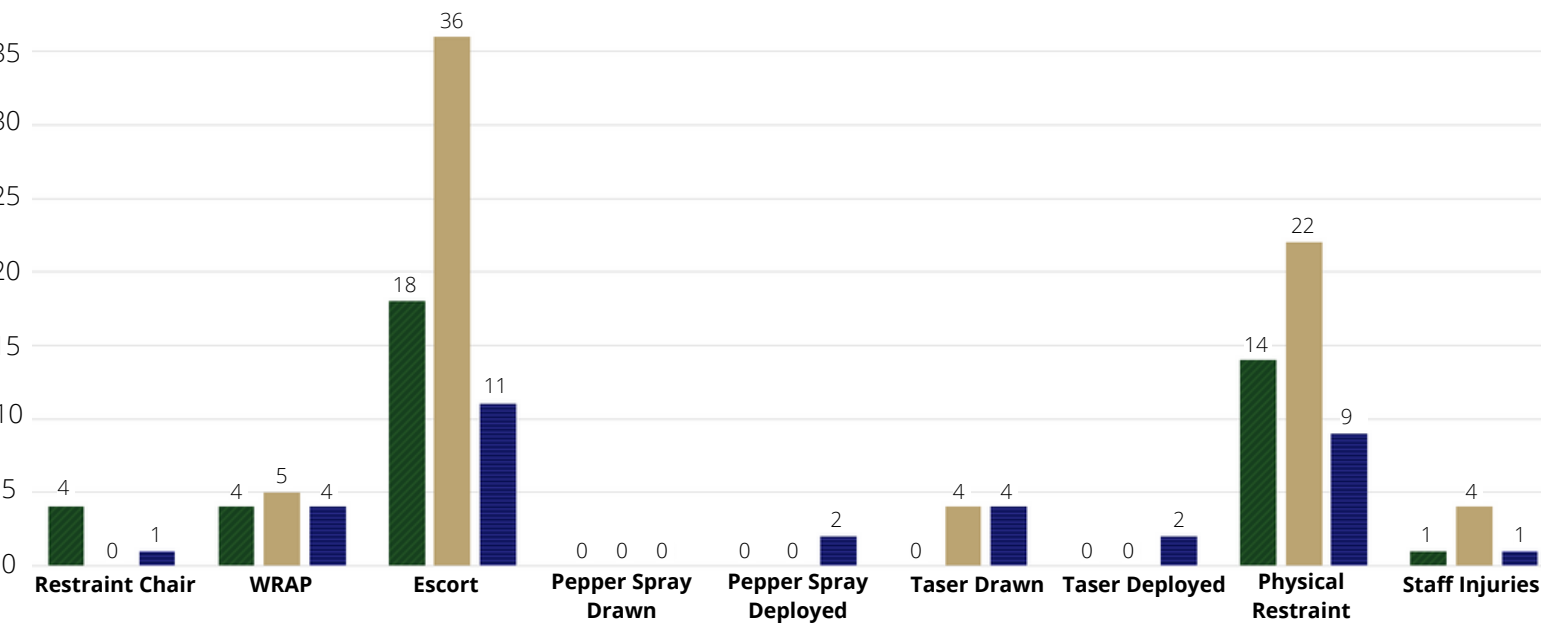
# Booking and Release Data

= 2021    
  = 2022    
  = 2023



# Corrections Use of Force Statistics

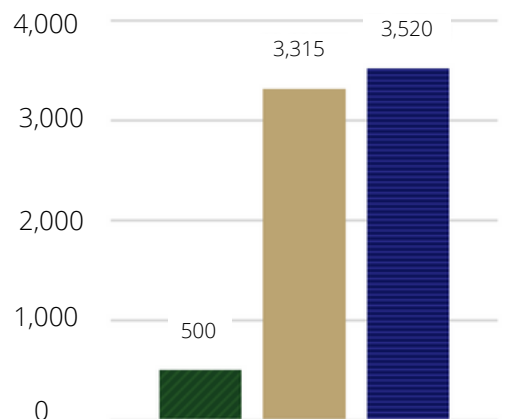
= 2021    
  = 2022    
  = 2023



Members of the Corrections Team posing for photo.

# Corrections Volunteer Hours

= 2021    
  = 2022    
  = 2023





# 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.*

In 2023 your Lincoln County Animal Shelter team cared for 617 animals, 124 of which spent time in foster homes. Our Medical Trust Fund paid almost \$30,000 towards veterinary care for more than 44 animals who needed diagnostics, treatments, medications, or surgeries above and beyond the typical ailments we treat.



*Medical Trust Fund recipient, Diaval.*

2023 brought more opportunities for your Lincoln County Animal Shelter team to get creative in providing a safe and humane place for a growing number of animals in need. Although a location was secured for a new facility, staff were still working in a temporary facility that houses fewer than 1/3 the number of animals that our previous facility held. Through innovative housing solutions and partnering with other organizations to ensure pet parents have access to resources, your LCAS team continues to work towards making Lincoln County a better place for animals and people.



*Team-built catteries to provide more space for cats at the animal shelter.*

Because Oregon Law requires we accept any dog found running at large, as well as any animal impounded for protective custody, most of our facility is currently being used as housing for dogs. In 2022 your LCAS team used all their creativity and skills to improve the feline housing in our temporary facility. Drawing on this experience, we were forced to do the same for dogs in 2023. Using what seems like miles of kennel panels, and several buildings previously used for cat housing and storage, we were able to add housing to accommodate up to 4 more dogs; housing that we desperately needed.



After almost a year long search, a location was identified as the future home of your Lincoln County Animal Shelter. A team of experts from multiple County departments assessed more than 20 potential sites, finally identifying a 2-acre parcel on SW Dahl Avenue in Waldport as the best option. Once the land was purchased, the team began work on designing a facility that will be efficient, clean, humane, and has room to grow as the needs of Lincoln County grow.

Throughout 2023, your LCAS team noticed a marked increase in the number of stray dogs along with a decrease in the number of these dogs being reclaimed by their owners. The number of stray dogs coming through our doors increased by 35% and the protective custody dogs increased by 18%. This meant most of the dogs coming to us came with no health or behavior history. This also meant more time and resources were spent on assessing these dogs to ensure they are safe and healthy enough to go up for adoption. Your LCAS team recognized that there was a gap in access to resources necessary for pet owners to keep their furry family members, and they put their heads together to try to address those gaps.



*Medical Trust Fund Recipient, Scooter, enjoying some time outside.*

One resource no pet should ever go without is food. LCAS purchases specific food for the animals in our care. This cuts down on digestive issues that can result from changes in diet, as well as waste from food expiring. Our incredibly generous community donates thousands of pounds of pet food every year to LCAS, and although we cannot use it all on shelter animals, we offer these donations to pet owners in need through our Pet Food Bank. We saw the demand for food bank rise in 2023 and your LCAS team wanted to do something to make sure everyone who needed pet food had access to pet food. With our staffing challenges, we knew we needed help to make this happen. With assistance from Friends of Lincoln County Animals (FOLCAS) we partnered with Lincoln County Food Share to achieve our goal. Beginning October 2023, LCAS handed the Pet Food Bank program over to LCFS. LCAS

continued to collect pet food donations and those donations were transferred to the Lincoln County Food Share warehouse. The pet food was then distributed to food pantries all over Lincoln County. Now pet parents in need no longer must travel to Newport for assistance with pet food.

Your LCAS team will continue to use their creativity to provide the best possible care to the animals who come through our doors, as well as to connect pet parents in need with resources to keep pets with their families.



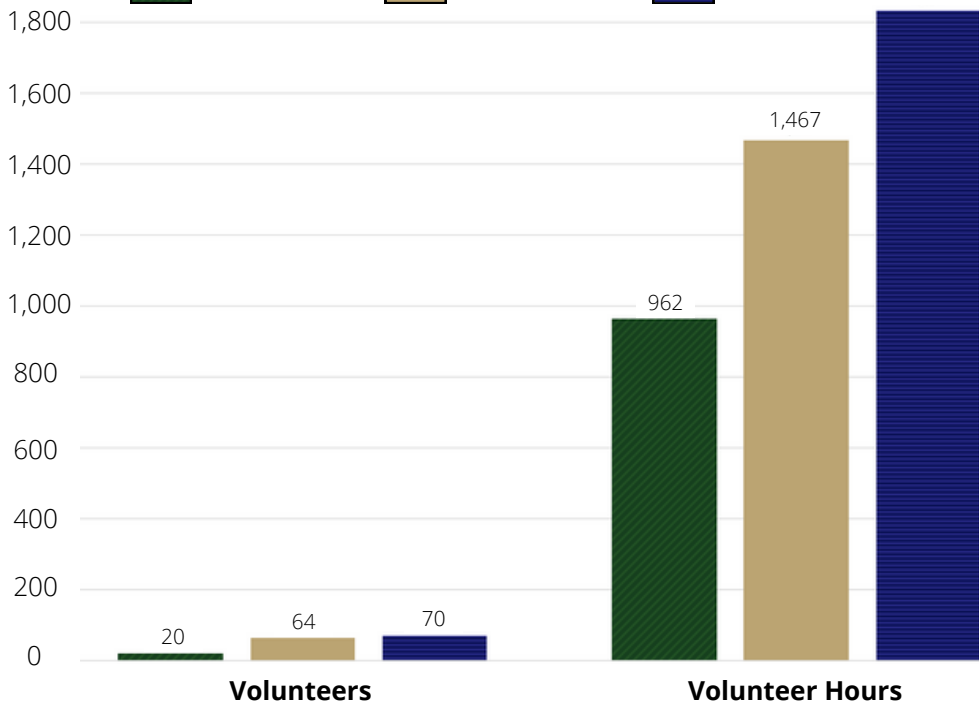
Above: Medical Trust Fund recipient, Piper, posing for photo.

Below: High five from shelter alumni Tilly



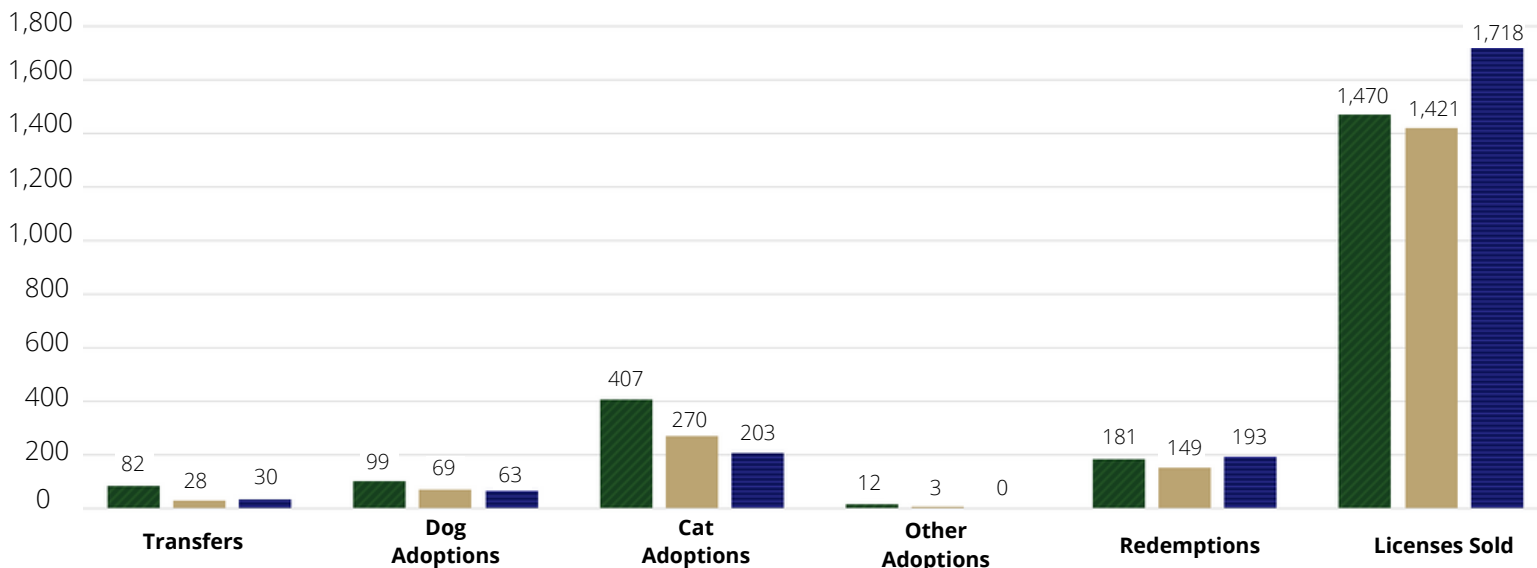
### Animal Shelter Volunteer Data

■ = 2021   ■ = 2022   ■ = 2023



### Animal Shelter Statistics

■ = 2021   ■ = 2022   ■ = 2023



# AWARDS

## 2022 Responder Recognition Award – Veterans of Foreign Wars 4227

In April 2023, **Sergeant Josh McDowall** received the 2022 Responder Recognition Award from Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 4227. Every year, the VFW select local first responders to receive this award. Congratulations, Sergeant McDowall!

*Right: Sheriff Landers, Sgt. McDowall, and VFW member Buisman.*



## First Responders MVP Award – Kiwanis Club of Lincoln City



Our Detective team was recognized as an MVP of first responders in April 2023 by the Kiwanis Club of Lincoln City. Congratulations to **Sergeant** (at the time Detective) **Jason Spano** and **Detective Tony Bettencourt**!

*Left: Sgt. Spano and Detective Bettencourt.*

## First Responders MVP Award – Kiwanis Club of Lincoln City

Our Search and Rescue team was also recognized as an MVP of first responders in April 2023 by the Kiwanis Club of Lincoln City. Congratulations to SAR coordinator, **Deputy Bruce McGuire**, and to all of the **SAR volunteers** that make this possible.

*Right: Deputy McGuire with First Responder MVP Award.*



## Hometown Hero - Loyalty Days Parade

**Animal Care Specialist Sue Giles** was named Hometown Hero in the May 2023 Loyalty Day parades. As a life-long resident, Sue received this award for her positive impacts both on and off duty. In addition to her LCSO duties, Sue has dedicated her life to caring for animals and teaching others to care for animals. Congratulations, Animal Care Specialist Giles!

*Right: Animal Care Specialist Giles and dog from the Lincoln County Animal Shelter. Photo courtesy of Simply Design Studio.*



## Corrections Deputy of the Year – Oregon State Sheriffs’ Association



In December 2023, **Corrections Deputy Simeon Elbrader** received the Jail Deputy of the Year Award from the Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA). Deputy Elbrader received this award for his hard work and dedication. Congratulations Deputy Elbrader!

*Left: From right to left, Deputy Elbrader and his wife at the award ceremony.*

## President’s Special Recognition Awards – OSSA

**Lieutenant Adam Shanks** and **Executive Assistant Jess Palma** each received a President’s Special Recognition Award from the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association (OSSA). Shanks and Palma received these awards for their work on several office projects and maintaining operational continuity over the past year. Congratulations Lt. Shanks and EA Palma!

*Right: From left to right, Deputy Elbrader, Lt. Shanks, Sheriff Landers, and EA Palma.*



225 W. Olive Street  
Newport, OR 97365

541-265-4277  
lcsheriff@co.lincoln.or.us

[www.co.lincoln.or.us/sheriff.net](http://www.co.lincoln.or.us/sheriff.net)

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