2020 Annual Report

THE YEAR OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



We Salute YOU!





The year 2020 was equally unique and uniting. Despite the differences and political divides in the U.S.—and worldwide—Delaware County residents showed what Ohioans are made of when this global pandemic hit home. The Sheriff's Office, like everyone else, adapted to the new ways, challenges, and opportunities. The overwhelming vast majority of residents stepped up, helped out, and did their part to keep the spread of COVID to a minimum.

Our calls for service were down when compared to 2019, and that includes calls for domestic violence and suicide attempts, which was a bit surprising given the mental toll this lengthy pandemic inflicted.

The following pages represent statistical data and information from your Delaware County Sheriff's Office about crime and other activity. For more information or if you have questions, please contact us: <u>sheriffinfo@co.delaware.oh.us</u> or 740-833-2817.

Pictured are a few of the iconic COVID moments from throughout Delaware County.

- 1. Sheriff Russell Martin catches some of the Governor's daily briefings, somewhat of a lifeline in those early days.
- 2. 90% of our staff had to go to work, but several dozen civilian staff successfully transitioned to working from home for a short period.
- 3. On social media, we saluted a few of the many frontline workers who put their lives at risk daily for others.
- 4. Holding a presidential election in a pandemic was effortless in Delaware County—at least it seemed that way. Behind the scenes, multiple agencies and numerous volunteers partnered to ensure a safe and secure election day.
- 5. The outpouring of community support we received throughout 2020 was humbling. From personal protective equipment and supplies to gift cards and thank you letters, we sincerely appreciated each and every one.

Criminal & Other Law Enforcement Activity *Delaware County Sheriff's Office*

	2020	2019	2018
Animal Call	75	80	83
Assault	53	54	74
B&E	64	71	79
Burglary	30	50	60
Burglary In Progress	10	11	20
D.O.A	51	60	38
Domestic	489	501	518
Drug / Narcotic	76	105	117
Drunk	20	40	46
Fight	29	33	28
Forgery/Bad Check	35	59	88
Harassment/Threats	194	187	205
Homicide	0	3	0
Juvenile-Unruly/Runaway	161	252	271
Mental Health Crisis	104	115	108
Missing Person	30	43	26
Rape	6	12	10
Robbery	12	4	6
Sex Offense	59	61	99
Shooting	4	3	3
Stabbing	0	2	0
Stolen Vehicle	50	45	60
Suicide	10	10	10
Suicide Attempt	130	193	191
Suspicious Activity	51	44	64
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	252	316	306
Theft From Vehicle	142	107	161
Theft Of Credit Card/Number	31	29	79
Theft Of Identity	214	159	147
Theft/Larceny	461	476	605
Theft/Larceny In Progress	104	108	109
Traffic Stop	1354	2363	3785
Vandalism	115	87	86
Vandalism To Vehicle	30	45	38
TOTAL	4446	5728	7520

NOTE: not all reports/incidents are listed here due to space limitations. Those include both criminal and non-criminal incidents such as civil complaints, disabled vehicles, found property, well-being checks, loud disturbances, etc.



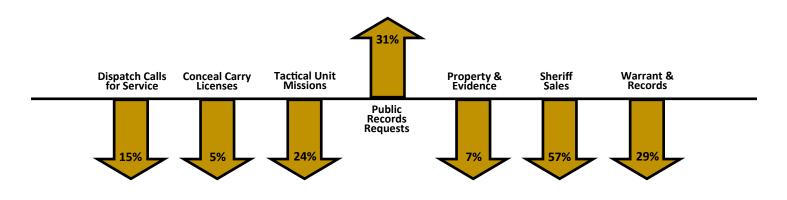
Overall activity in 2020

Criminal and non-criminal incidents decreased by 22% when compared to 2019.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Surprisingly and encouragingly, domestic violence remained flat in 2020, with 147 calls, compared to 146 in 2019.
- Drug usage shifted from less Fentanyl and Heroin to an increase in Meth and Cocaine.
- 62 cases with fingerprint evidence were submitted to AFIS (Automated Fingerprint ID System) resulting in the identification of 16 possible suspects.
- 4,324 public records requests were filled, resulting in 30,000 photos, bodycam and dashcam videos being released.



HIGHLIGHTS

- 34,383 inbound and outbound calls were handled by dispatchers, down slightly from 41,145 in 2019.
- Our K9 Unit's tracking and search efforts were down from 2019; activity focused on narcotics.
- The Detective Bureau's Cold Case Unit solved a 37-year-old homicide of a 16-year-old boy.
- Our Victims Advocates assisted 340 cases in municipal court and through supportive services.
- 4,809 items/evidence were obtained and logged in 2020, and 228 firearms were confiscated.



JAIL POPULATION

2,793 inmates were booked into the jail in 2020, which was 1,109 fewer than in 2019.

Average length of stay: 20 days.

Rate of recidivism: 31% for those in virtual/ online jail programs & re-entry services.

Gender: 75% male; 24% female.

Race: 74% white; 22% black; 5% other.

Residency: 25% from Delaware County; 75% from outside of the County.



Total employee count in 2020 was 235:

110 commissioned deputies

70 corrections officers

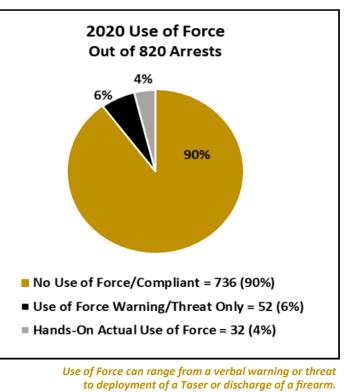
55 civilians

18% in supervisory roles

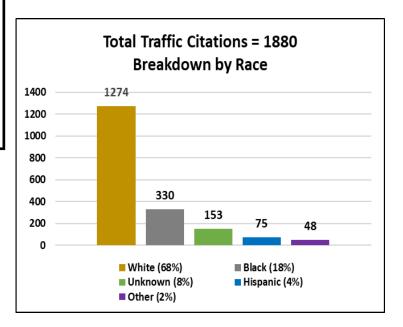
34% female

3% black

9,071 employee training hours were completed in 2020, with a significant increase in virtual and online courses taken.



The vast majority -96% - of arrests required NO use of force.





As the worldwide COVID-19 Pandemic hit home in Delaware County, Ohio, in March 2020, the Sheriff's Office began implementing multiple safety measures for staff, inmates, and the public at large.

- Dispatch Center and Deputies continued taking calls for service, however, for those calls/issues not requiring an in-person visit from a deputy, we were able to take over-the-phone reports. These calls included non-violent, civil, and lower-level crimes/issues. School Resource Officers shifted from the classroom to the Dispatch Center as call takers until schools resumed.
- Deputies responding to calls in person practiced social distancing whenever possible, and often asked residents to step outside of their homes, when able, in order to take reports in a safe manner.
- The State of Ohio issued a Stay-at-Home order, whereby deputies exercised broad discretion; they did not proactively seek out violators, and no checkpoints were ever implemented.
- In support of its local Delaware Public Health District, the Sheriff's Office encouraged the use of facial masks to help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.
- In the Jail:

-only Jail staff, inmates, and medical personnel were permitted inside the Jail facility.

- -onsite video visitation was suspended, but weekly virtual visitation was permitted.
- -all incoming inmates were screened for COVID-19 symptoms, using a specific COVID-19 health questionnaire. -all inmate programs conducted by non-Delaware County personnel (volunteers) were temporarily suspended. -temperature checks and health screenings were completed daily.
- -Jail cleaning procedures were increased and intensified, to include COVID-specific measures.

-In partnership with the Courts and Judges, we safely reduced the Jail population from 200 to 90, by accelerating the release process for lower level, non-violent offenders. Those remaining were spaced further apart.

- All Concealed Handgun Licensing appointments and fingerprinting services were cancelled for 24 days while the office space was reconfigured to accommodate future appointments in a COVID-safe environment.
- Special events and community education programs were temporarily suspended. By fall, a condensed version of the Citizens Sheriff Academy was held; and in December, the annual Shop with a Cop was held, but the children did not shop in-store alongside the deputies. Instead, deputies shopped & delivered the gifts to the children's homes. Several online crime prevention/safety classes were held for smaller groups, when applicable. Lastly, until May 21st, while calls for service were greatly reduced, deputies happily participated in birthday parades for youth who were unable to have traditional birthday parties.
- In-person meetings and interviews were temporarily suspended until virtual platforms were put into place.



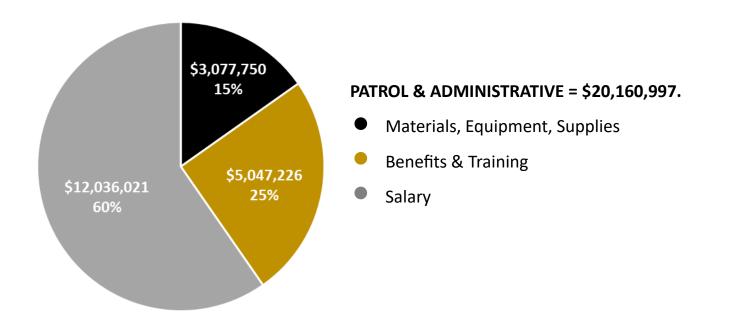
From inside the Jail to the Dispatch Center and everywhere in between, dozens of COVID precautions and operational adjustments helped ensure a safe environment for staff, inmates, and residents with whom we came into contact.

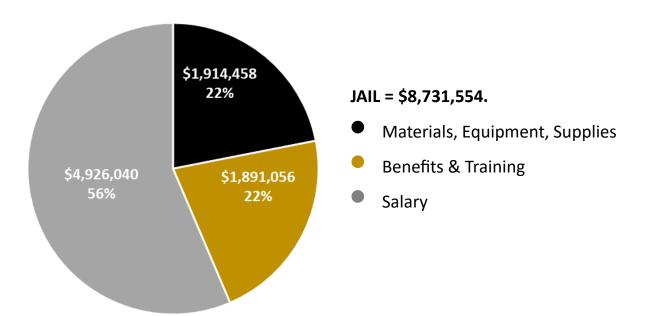


2020 Financials

The bulk of the Sheriff's Office funding comes from taxes, which are then allocated to our agency by the Delaware County Commissioners.

Funding = \$29,691,811. (\$28,119,914 from the County's General Fund + \$1,571,897 from Capital Projects Fund.) **Expenses = \$28,892,551.** (See expenses breakdown below.)







Community Engagement Volunteer Process

Nationwide in 2020, law enforcement was confronted more than ever before with issues of racial injustice and brutality. As citizens demanded police reform, some law enforcement agencies were challenged with re-evaluating practices and determining appropriate response. Although race relations remains positive in Delaware County, Sheriff Martin acknowledges it is always good practice to keep citizens involved and engaged with their local law enforcement partners.

In addition to its Citizens Sheriff Academy and other community programs, the Sheriff took citizen involvement one step further with the creation of a <u>Community Engagement Volunteers</u> process. Continuing his commitment to transparency and community relations, the Sheriff appointed a handful of staff to develop a process whereby Delaware County residents would volunteer to participate in several key functions of agency operations, to include the following areas:

- Minority Recruitment
- Hiring & Promotions
- Policy & Training
- Use of Force

These four focus areas were determined as the ideal agency functions to engage citizens, and ensure transparency, equity, and accountability.

The Community Engagement Volunteer process was created the latter half of 2020, with volunteer recruitment and implementation to occur in the spring of 2021.

Learn more about this process at https://sheriff.co.delaware.oh.us/community-engagement-home-page/.

