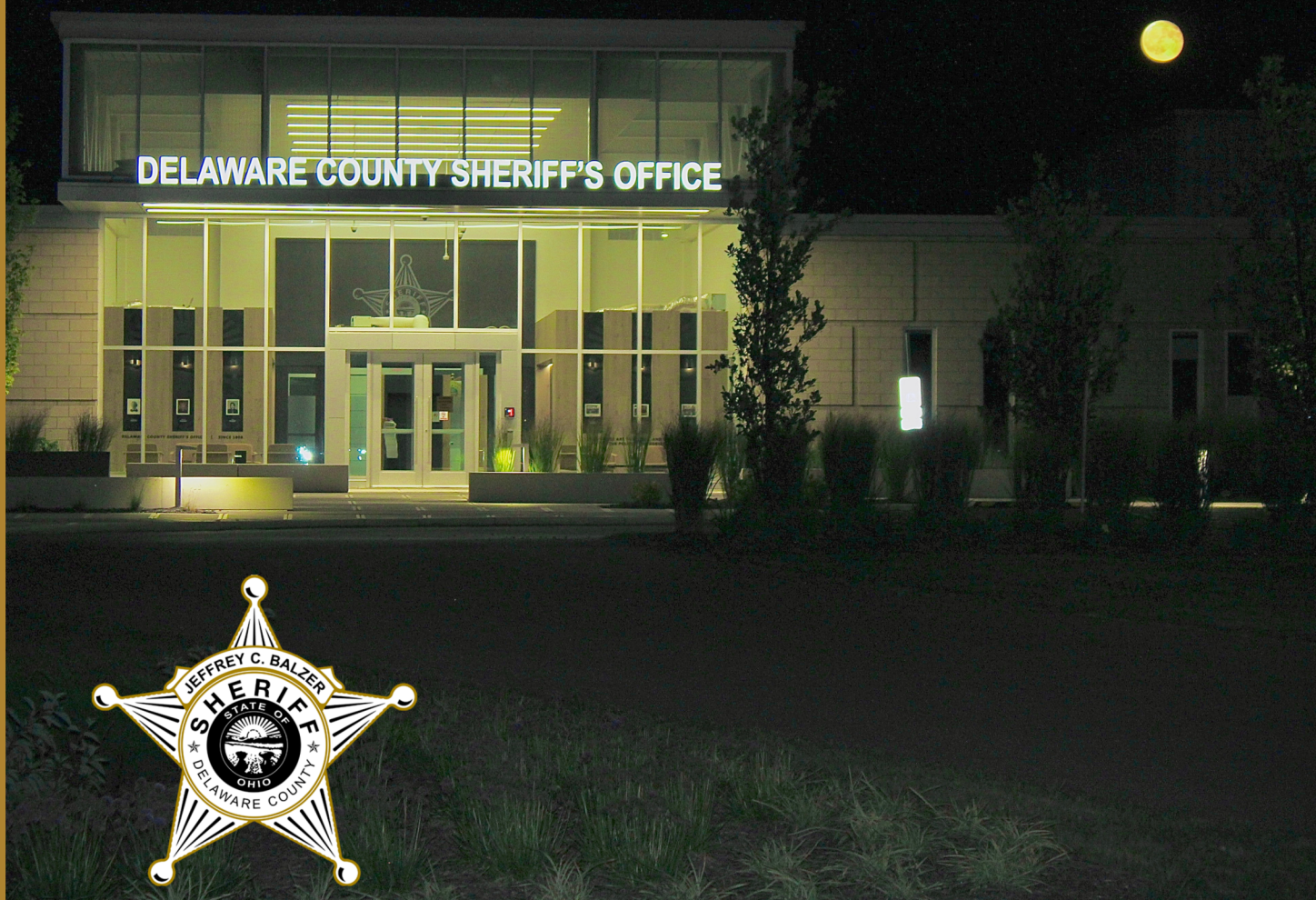


DELAWARE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



MESSAGE FROM YOUR SHERIFF



JEFF BALZER
Sheriff

2024 was a banner year for Delaware County, as your Sheriff's Office earned not one but two significant accreditations. We are one of the first jails in the nation to be audited under the second edition of the Core Jail Standards through the American Correctional Association (ACA), and we passed with flying colors!

The ACA presented Delaware County with an 'Excellence' in the operation of our jail. We were 100% compliant on all mandatory standards.

We are equally proud to share that we are now accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. The gold standard in public safety, the CALEA accreditation reflects our commitment to excellence and accountability in law

enforcement. I am proud of the men and women of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office as we hold ourselves to the highest professional standards and strive to serve our community with best-in-class law enforcement services.



In 2024, our office moved into a new headquarters! Our new location on State Route 521 gives us the space to grow. We have also added a dedicated training center for our deputy cadets and in-service training for continued education. These facilities help us grow alongside our community and its ever-changing needs. The move also allowed us to expand our property and evidence area. Visit us and check out our historical display case as well as our fallen officer memorial and K9 tribute wall.

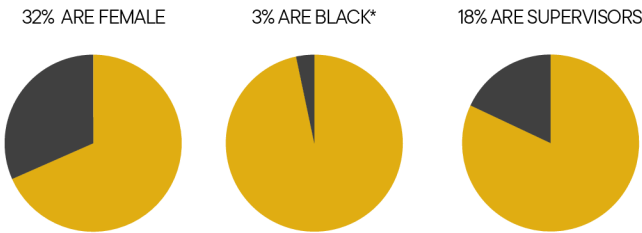
CONNECT WITH US



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SHERIFF'S OFFICE DEMOGRAPHICS

The Delaware County Sheriff's Office employs 272 individuals who are committed to keeping the community as safe as possible through patrol and enforcement, emergency response and aid, apprehension and investigation, inmate rehabilitation, and community outreach and education.



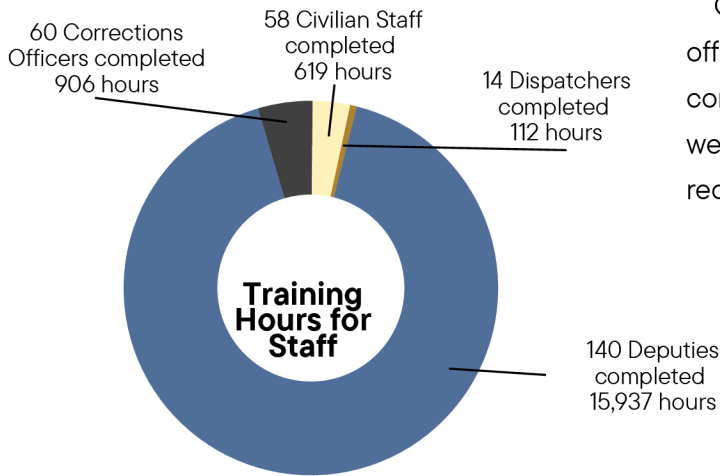
*Delaware County's black population is 3.3%.



SHERIFF DIVISIONS

Administrative Services	Operation Services	Core Services	Professional Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fiscal & Sheriff SalesHuman ResourcesInformation Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PatrolDetective UnitK9 UnitWeight EnforcementDrug Task ForceDelaware Tactical UnitCrime AnalysisVictims AdvocatesCourt Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CorrectionsDispatchRecords/Concealed CarryPublic InformationPublic Records	<ul style="list-style-type: none">School Resource OfficersCommunity RelationsTrainingAccreditation

DCSO TRAINING HOURS

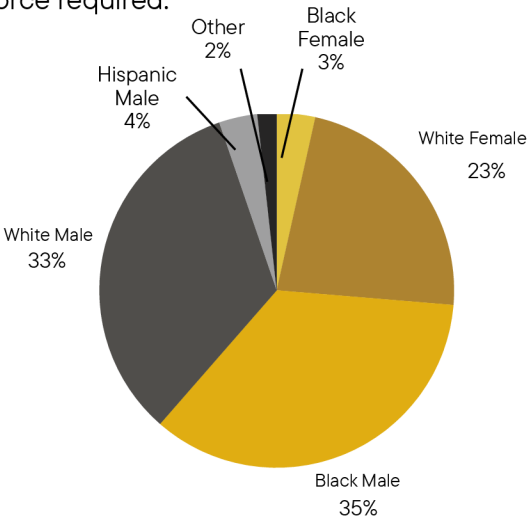


Training Examples

- Field Officer Training
- Sexual Assault Training
- CPR & First Aid
- Leadership Training
- Supervisor Training
- First Amendment Training
- Cyber Security
- Mental Health

Use of Force/Weapon to Gain Compliance

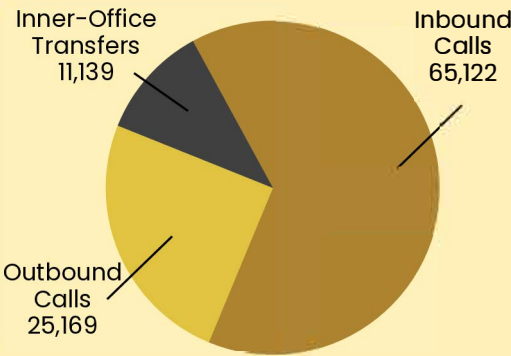
Out of the thousands of encounters our deputies and corrections officers had in 2024, only 57 resulted in a use of force to gain compliance. In almost every instance, deputies/corrections officers were able to use de-escalation tactics to resolve the conflict or reduce the level of force required.



*Graph shows the race/gender of those where Use of Force was required to gain compliance.

CALLS FOR SERVICE

Dispatchers take thousands of calls (**in 2024 they handled 101,430 calls**), which are classified based on information the caller provides. Once deputies arrive on scene, that call can turn into a report for further investigation and possible charges; or it may become a referral to a community resource; or it could be handled on scene and closed out. For example, we receive hundreds of suspicious person calls, but how they end up may vary from a mental health crisis requiring referral to community resources, to a missing/endangered person, or even criminal activity.



Our Dispatch Center is home to 14 dispatchers who cover calls 24/7 via three shifts.

As part of our **Neighborhood Block Watch** we stress getting to know your neighbors and completing a 9 PM safety and security routine (found on our social media pages) as well as requesting a **House Check** when you're out of town. Below is a snapshot of the types of calls related to keeping your home and community safe.

Types & Totals of Property/Community Safety Calls

Alarms	2,580
Breaking & Entering	45
Burglary	108
Business/House Check	4,635
Open Door	55
Prowler	3
Sounds of Shots Fired	12
Stolen Vehicle	117
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	2,557
Theft	1,165
Vandalism	198

You can also request a well-being check for someone you love, a stranger who appears to be in trouble, or a neighbor whom you haven't seen in a while if you are concerned about their safety. In 2024, we responded to 1,146 well-being check calls; that's a 13% increase from 2023. As you can see from the statistics, there is a great need in our community for more mental health and addiction services.

Mental Health & Well-Being Calls

Mental Health Crisis	213
Overdose/Poisoning	60
Suicide Attempt	222
Suicide	4

Always call us when something doesn't feel right - we don't mind coming to check it out!

VICTIMS ADVOCATES

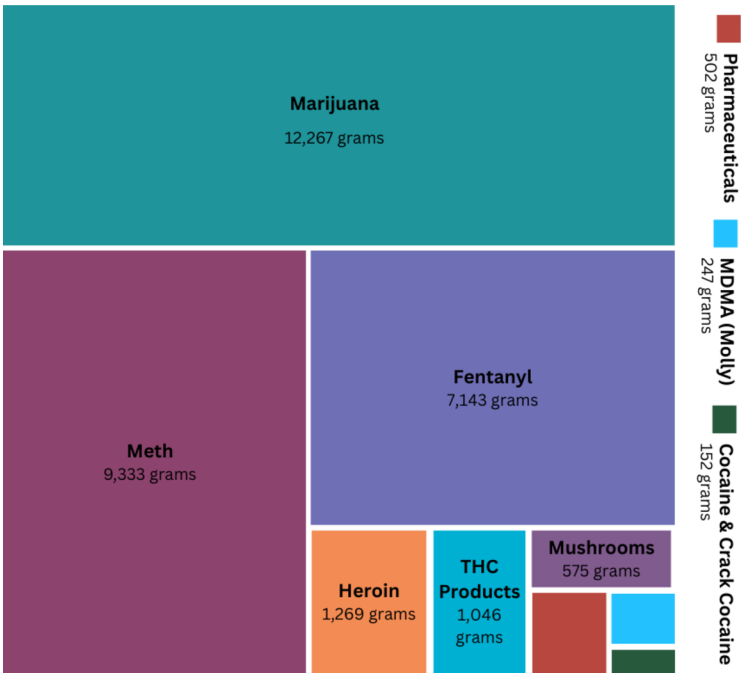
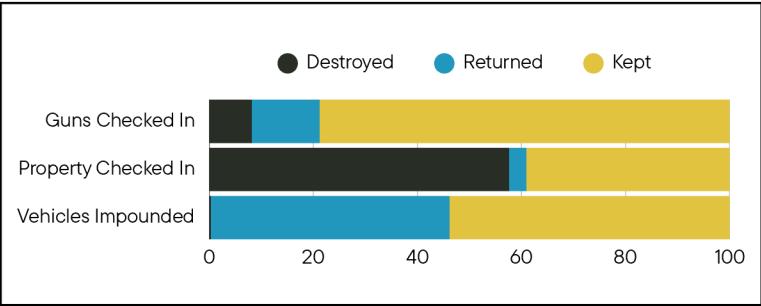
The Victim Advocates Unit helps victims of domestic violence and other crimes throughout Delaware County. Together, our two highly trained and compassionate professionals have **answered 4,801 calls to and from victims and sex offenders**. They have **handled 144 cases throughout the county**, and while supporting agencies like Ohio Department Natural Resources, Ohio State Highway Patrol, and Delaware City Police Department, they handled an **additional 125 cases**.



PATROL & DTF

Our Operations Services Division works to keep our community safe. One way they do this is through drug seizures as part of the Drug Task Force (shown below). **DTF made 21 arrests last year**, and executed **18 search warrants**. They handled **69 drug cases**, followed up on **258 drug intelligence complaints**, and **seized \$260,793.25** in drug money along with **2 vehicles and 19 weapons**.

The detective bureau was assigned **147 background checks for employment** and **investigated 539 cases**, of which 79 were Department of Jobs & Family Services referrals and 9 were referrals from Adult Protective Services. Our **Property Room processed 399 vehicles, 3,196 items, and received 240 guns for safekeeping or evidence**.



The Patrol Unit is actively engaged in various duties. While priority calls for service, such as incidents of domestic violence or theft, take precedence, deputies also conduct traffic stops and address speed-related violations. In 2024, deputies conducted a total of **7,061 traffic stops**, which led to the **issuance of 1,822 tickets**. Additionally, some of these traffic stops resulted in reports for other matters, including criminal offenses such as wanted persons, those in possession of drugs or stolen property in their vehicle.

Reports Taken

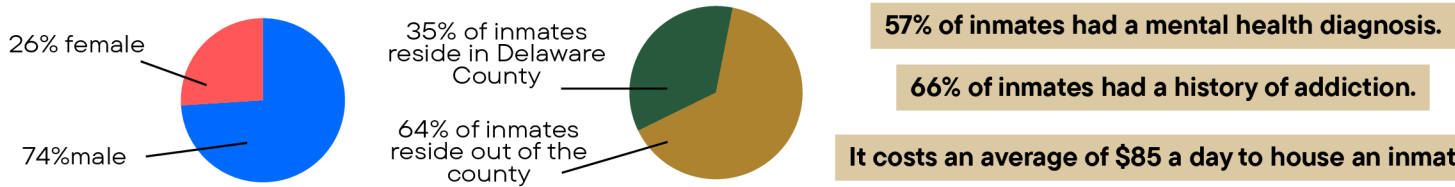
Animal Violation	6	Forgery/Bad Check	28	Shooting/Stabbing	9
Assault	78	Harassment/Threats	195	Suicide	12
Burglary	62	Homicide	2	Theft of Identity	142
Dog Bite	6	Unruly Juvenile	122	Theft (retail & credit)	251
Death Investigation	66	Missing Persons	18	Theft from Vehicle	67
Domestic	205	Robbery	10	Theft	488
Drugs	80	Sex Offense/Rape	77	Vandalism	135

*Please note this list is not all-inclusive; some non-criminal activity has been omitted for space purposes. These include civil complaints, disabled vehicles, found property, loud disturbances, etc.

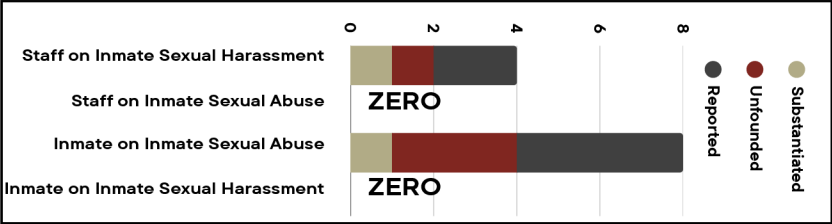
JAIL

Besides achieving our 100% compliance and earning ACA Accreditation, we are very proud to announce that we had **over 200 volunteers** participate in inmate programming, completing 3,520 hours of programs. These volunteers, along with community partners, actively provided **208 recovery and reentry services** for our inmates. Due to these programs, **our recidivism rate was 16%** for those in the LINC (Lives In Need of Connection) reentry program; compared to 55% of inmates returning to jail who do not participate in these programs.

Of the 2,406 inmates booked into the jail in 2024:



In adherence to the DCSO’s zero-tolerance policy on sexual harassment and sexual abuse, all allegations are initially reviewed to determine whether they meet the criteria for an administrative or criminal investigation based on the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) definitions.



COURT SERVICES & RECORDS

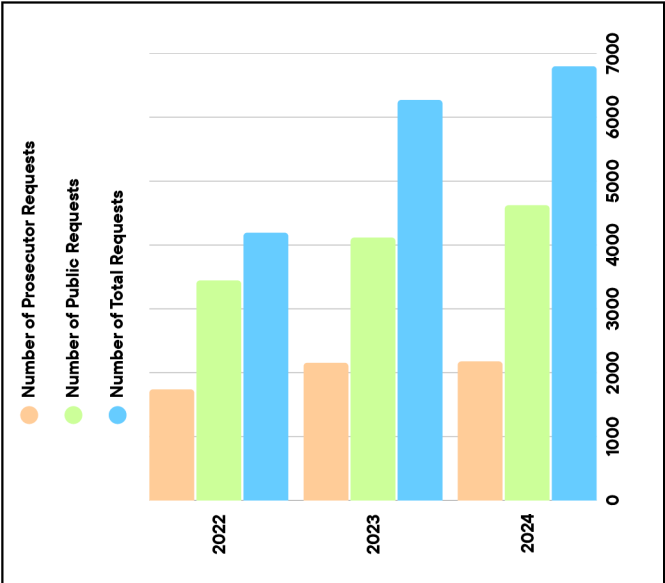
Our Records Unit was busy entering **3,736 civil papers** with 3,186 attempts to serve these papers by our Court Services deputies. That is a 3% increase from last year.

Court Services also **served 595 arrest warrants**. That is a 20% increase from 2023 and a 30% increase since our office started tracking this number in 2022. From those arrest warrants, transports to and from the court, and transports to and from other correctional facilities, our transport deputies completed **2,089 prisoner transports**. That’s a 12% increase from last year and an overall 64% increase from 2021!

PUBLIC RECORDS

The Sheriff Office prides itself on transparency. The chart to the right shows the continuous increase in public records requests; below is the breakdown of the different types of items released.

- 4,764 Reports
- 6,401 Body Worn Camera
- 1,559 Background Checks
- 7,952 Emergency Calls
- 3,807 CADs
- 3,214 Surveillance Videos
- 27,200 Photos
- 733 Jail Records
- 258 Personnel Files
- 2,186 Cruiser Videos
- 3,441 Other



DRONE UNIT

Our drone unit is comprised of six members who are all remote pilots, certified through the Federal Aviation Administration, who train monthly.

Drones are used for a variety of services, including suspect location and apprehension, building searches, the search for missing persons, aerial surveillance during critical operations, and crime scene documentation. The drones are equipped with thermal imaging cameras, allowing operation during nighttime hours.



Top 3 Deployments Types

1. Missing Person Searches
2. Suspect Searches
3. Aerial Over-Watch for Delaware Tactical Unit operations & large events

● Trainings ● Deployments

Drone Deployments

44 deployments, 11 were trainings.

K9 UNIT

Throughout 2024, our K9s attended 70 training days with 394 activities, one of which was at the Columbus Zoo! They participated in 431 hours of training. K9s Dahgo and Kahless were deployed a whopping 162 times! They were responsible for 30 entries into evidence along with having:

- 65 narcotics detections
- 36 Drug Task Force assists
- 27 area searches/tracks
- 2 Delaware Tactical Unit assists
- 5 community outreach demonstrations
- 22 vehicle/building containments
- 7 article searches



Introducing K9 Yeti, who was purchased late last year and is assigned to K9 Handler Deputy Zach Swick.

THERAPY K9

Everyone's favorite **therapy K9 Otto made connected with 38,733 citizens**, including students, the elderly, victims of violent crimes, and fellow first responders, spending an average of 2.74 hours per visit.

This furry friend made 58 trips to our schools and checked out 56 community and public relations events. Otto even went on-scene for 17 critical events and checked on those in our local courts.



WEIGHT ENFORCEMENT

Our Weight Enforcement Unit has a heavy job, handling **1,402,260 pounds to be exact!**

Out of the 80 trucks stopped for over-weight violations, 93% (75) were cited for exceeding gross or axle weight limits.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Our 17 School Resource Officers **taught over 25,000 students** about gun safety, and stranger safety, drug safety, and much more while also being mentors to students.

Those same DCSO School Resource Officers also join with community partners to teach Safety Town every summer and to participate in the Starfish Assignment and Books & Badges programs. In 2024, **we graduated 507 students in our Safety Town program.**

800+
HOURS OF CURRICULUM TAUGHT
IN FOUR SCHOOL DISTRICTS



WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE

Women age 15 and up who live in Delaware County are encouraged to participate in our Women's Self-Defense Class taught by our deputies, with the support of our victim advocates. Last year, we **taught 73 women critical lifesaving skills.**

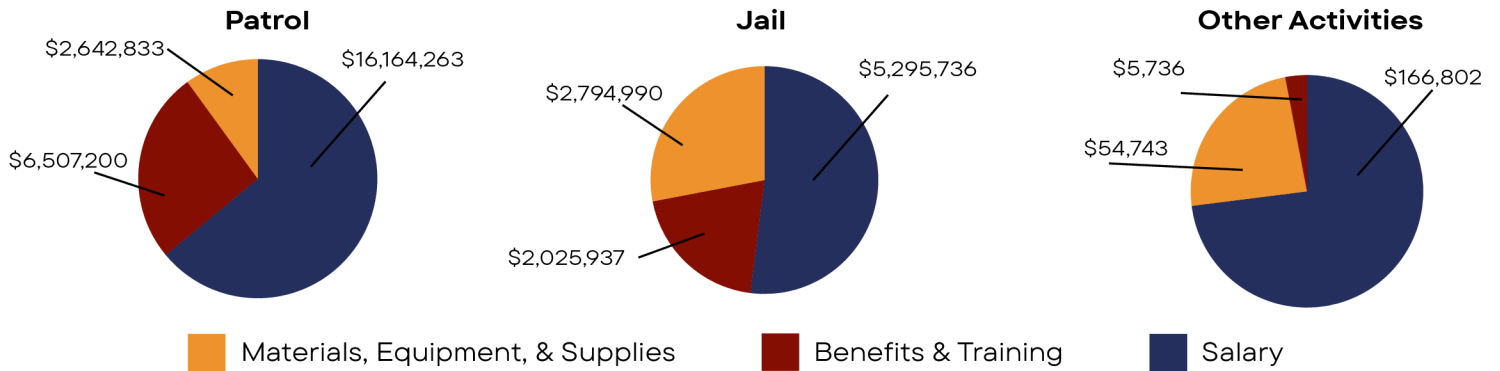


FINANCE

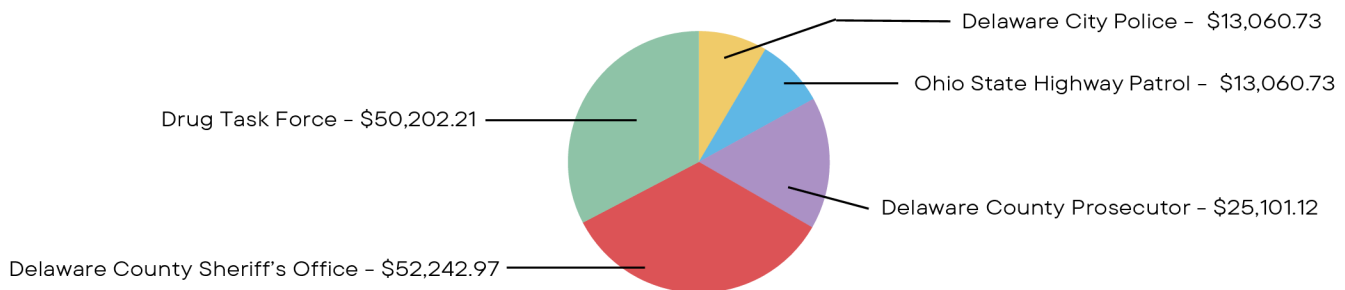
BUDGET

The bulk of the Sheriff's Office funding comes from the county general fund, which are allocated to our agency by the Delaware County Commissioners. In 2024, our office budget was \$38,043,981. Expenditures came in under budget with actual spending at \$35,658,239!

These charts show how expenditures were allocated.



Some of our funds come from seized funds (see 'Patrol & DTF' page 4). They are then dispersed to partner agencies who use the funds for drug prevention and education, technology, etc.



SHERIFF SALES

In 2024, the Sheriff's Office had 29 foreclosures and was able to sell 10 of those homes, with an average sale price of \$369,729.20. Three were sold back to the bank, and seven were sold to a third party.

CONCEALED CARRY LICENSES

Even with the permit-less constitutional carry law that went into effect in June of 2022, our office still had 1,374 concealed carry licenses issued/renewed in 2024, which is down 3.5% from last year. While it is no longer necessary to have a permit to carry a concealed weapon, you still are subject to the same laws as concealed carry permit holders.

ACADEMIES

OHIO PEACE OFFICER TRAINING ACADEMY

In 2022, our office began planning for our own basic training academy. We had a lot of positions to fill and sometimes struggled to find available training academies. When we held our first training academy, we decided that in addition to the standard 740 hours of training, we would require a total of 1100 hours, adding in extra Taser and rifle training, building searches, and active shooter response training, to name a few. In July 2024, we graduated our first Academy class with nine cadets.

Training Topics

- De-escalation
- Legal
- Human Rights
- Firearms
- Driving
- Subject Control Techniques
- First Aid/CPR/AED
- Patrol
- Civil Disorders
- Traffic
- Investigations
- Physical Conditioning
- Homeland Security



CORRECTIONS OFFICER ACADEMY

We are unique in that we pride ourselves in training and supporting our own COs. We even accept COs from other central Ohio corrections facilities into our academy. In 2024, we graduated 12 COs from Delaware County, 2 from Morrow County, and 4 from the Multi-County Correctional Center, after they completed 312 hours of training.



Training Topics

- First Aid/CPR/AED
- Subject Control
- Crisis Intervention Training
- Stress Management
- Interpersonal Communication
- Psychomotor Skills

CITIZENS SHERIFF ACADEMY

Our Citizens Sheriff Academy teaches community members about the Delaware County Sheriff's Office over the course of 11 weeks. Various topics like **Speed Enforcement & Traffic Stops**, **Use of Force**, and **Specialized Units** are covered with a behind-the-scenes look at the Sheriff's Office operations. Equally important, DCSO staff listen to residents to gain insight and feedback. In 2024, 17 residents graduated.





2024

To see your township information, click on the links below. For more information, contact: sheriffinfo@co.delaware.oh.us or 740-833-2817

[BERKSHIRE TWP](#)

[ORANGE TWP](#)

[BERLIN TWP](#)

[OXFORD TWP](#)

[BROWN TWP](#)

[PORTER TWP](#)

[CONCORD TWP](#)

[RADNOR TWP](#)

[DELAWARE TWP](#)

[SCIOTO TWP](#)

[HARLEM TWP](#)

[THOMPSON TWP](#)

[KINGSTON TWP](#)

[TRENTON TWP](#)

[LIBERTY TWP](#)

[TROY TWP](#)

[MARLBORO TWP](#)

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Corrections Officers and staff at the 2024 CO Academy Graduation.

CONTACT US

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