

Meekeer County Sheriff's Office

2017 Activity Report



Mission Statement

To provide high quality professional services with honor, integrity and courage. These services shall preserve the peace and safeguard the lives and property of all Meekeer County residents through a proactive partnership with the community and our public safety partners.

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Sheriff Preface

This report is a continued effort to provide the public with insight to the activities of the Meeker County Sheriff's Office. The total calls for service for all agencies in Meeker County increased by 418 calls. While the total calls for service for the Meeker County Sheriff's Office decreased by 368 calls. There was a significant increase in 911 calls placed to the Meeker County Sheriff's Office dispatch center. 2,694 additional 911 calls were received in 2017 versus 2016. Some of this increase is attributed to "re-bidding" cell phone calls to obtain more accurate location information.

In 2017 we saw an increase in burglaries, drug crimes, perjury/obstruction/false info to police and DUI's. We saw a slight decrease in thefts and criminal sexual conduct. Although slightly lower than 2016, criminal sexual conduct calls are still higher than they have been historically. We continue to concentrate our efforts on traffic enforcement, specifically DUIs and drug crimes. The CEE-VI Drug Task Force reports seizures of a pound and a half of methamphetamine each year for the past two years. To put that into context, a pound and a half of methamphetamine is enough for approximately 7,000 people to get high once. We know that other crimes are driven by drug use and abuse so we continue to make drug related crime a priority.

Through 2017, we experienced staff shortages throughout our office. The number of applicants for law enforcement jobs has decreased over the recent years. We continue to make efforts to recruit and bring qualified applicants to our office. A new initiative started last year in the Sheriff's Office was two Teen Academies. One was a patrol academy, the other a detective academy. These academies are directed towards teenagers who have an interest in law enforcement or simply would like to

know more about our profession. Our hope is that we pique the interest of these youth as they look toward post-secondary schooling and a future career. These academies give these teenagers not only an opportunity to see what law enforcement is all about but also a better understanding of the schooling and training required to obtain a peace officer license.

Respectfully,



Brian Cruze
Meeker County Sheriff



Meeker County Sheriff's Office

326 N Ramsey Avenue
Litchfield, MN 55355

Dispatch	320-693-5400
Toll Free	866-333-3366
Jail	320-693-5415
Records	320-639-5400
Confidential Tip Line	320-693-5411
Watkins Station Office	320-764-6792

Website and Social Media

Website: <http://www.co.meeker.mn.us/217/Sheriff>



Twitter [@MeekerCoSheriff](https://twitter.com/MeekerCoSheriff)
Facebook at [Office of the Meeker County Sheriff](https://www.facebook.com/OfficeoftheMeekerCountySheriff)



Dispatching Services



The Meeker County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) is responsible for handling all emergency and non-emergency calls for all agencies in Meeker County. The dispatcher is then responsible for assigning and dispatching the appropriate emergency responders to the reported incident. The 911 calls received by the Meeker County PSAP increased from 6,423 in 2016 to 9,117 in 2017. The number of calls for service, for all agencies in Meeker County, increased from 16,501 in 2016 to 16,919 in 2017. While the number of calls for service for the Sheriff's Office decreased from 8,196 in 2016 to 7,828 in 2017.

2017 Meeker County Sheriff's Office PSAP Upgrade

The Meeker County PSAP was upgraded in 2017. A Guardian NG911 system by Solacom was installed in May of 2017 at a total cost of \$168,464. The system is an integral part of our continued effort to move towards Next Generation 911. Next Generation 911 will enhance services to create a faster, more resilient system that will allow voice, photos, videos and text messages to flow seamlessly from the public to the 911 network. Along with our upgrade, the state of Minnesota made text-to-911 available to the public statewide in the last quarter of 2017. Text-to-911 is an alternative option to calling 911 in an emergency. Texting should only be used when individuals are unable to make a voice call. At this time text-to-911 is answered regionally with Mille Lacs County being responsible for Meeker County. Our new system is text-to-911 ready and discussions will continue with the State of Minnesota on whether or not these will continue to be answered regionally or individually by county.

Text-to-911 Implementation

Legacy 911 networks and Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) that were originally created to carry and receive voice traffic and a minimal amount of data now must be made ready to support substantial amounts of data, including: text messaging, photos, and video provided by the calling public. The deaf and hard of hearing community prefers text messaging to communicate and are a driving force to implement an IP-enabled, Next Generation 911 (NG911) system.

NG911 technology is a priority initiative for the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Emergency Communication Networks (DPS-ECN) division. In February 2014, all 104 Minnesota 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) became connected to the next generation Emergency Services IP Network (ESInet). This infrastructure allows those PSAPs to accept texts.

In 2017, PSAPS in each of the state's seven regions began installing Text-to-911 capable software and hardware. Then, DPS-ECN worked with PSAPS to train dispatchers as well as test the equipment and the Text-to-911 system. The rigorous testing phase verified the delivery and receipt of text messages between PSAPS and a reporting person for all four major wireless carriers across the state. The goal of testing was to ensure a reliable, functional and responsive solution for citizens and responders alike.

When Should Text-to-911 be Used?

- The reporting person cannot speak while a crime is in progress.
- The reporting person must remain quiet to stay safe.
- If speaking may cause harm, such as in a home invasion, domestic violence, or human trafficking situation.

- If the reporting person encounters a suicidal or agitated person.
- If peer pressure is strong.
- If the reporting person is deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or has a speech impairment.

How to Text 911

- Enter the numbers 911 in the "To" field.
- Text message should include your location and type of emergency.
- Send the message.
- Be ready to answer questions and follow instructions.
- Use simple words.
- Do not use abbreviations, emojis, pictures or slang. (BRB, IDK, THX, 2day and BTW, for example)
- Do not text and drive.

It is a crime to text 911 with a false report. If you accidentally send a text to 911, send another text or place a call to let the dispatcher know that there is no emergency.

What Dispatchers Need to Know

- Dispatchers prefer to speak with reporting persons whenever possible.
- Upon receiving a text, dispatchers will ask if they can call the reporting person.
- People who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech impairment should inform the dispatcher right away.
- Be ready to give the dispatcher your location.
- Be ready to describe the type of emergency.

Challenges and Limitations

911 dispatchers will process texts with the same priority as voice calls. However, public safety response time may be lengthened due to the time it takes for a text message to be typed and transmitted between a dispatcher and a reporting person. There is no guarantee on the speed of delivery for texts to 911.

- Location is not as accurate with text as it can be with a call.
- If customers are outside of Minnesota or along a neighboring border, texts to 911 may not be received by a dispatcher.
- Texts to 911 will get a bounce back if a customer is roaming.
- Wireless customers must have mobile phones that are capable of sending text messages.
- Usual charges will apply to texts made to 911.
- Texts to 911 have the same 160 character limit as other text messages.
- Texts to 911 can get out of order or may not be received at all.
- There is currently no language translation service for texts to 911.





TEXT-TO-911

CALL if you can

Text if you **CAN'T**

ABOUT TEXT-TO-911

- Text-to-911 is now available throughout Minnesota. The service was deployed in December 2017.
- Text-to-911 can be the first contact option for individuals who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing or those with speech impairments.
- Text-to-911 should only be used when a person can't safely make a voice call.

Examples:

- When someone must stay quiet to remain safe.
- If peer pressure is strong.
- Text-to-911 is a discreet way to report domestic violence, home invasions, human trafficking, and suicidal individuals.

HOW TO TEXT 911

1. Enter the numbers 911 in the "To" field.
2. Text your exact location and type of emergency.
3. Send the message.
4. Promptly answer questions and follow instructions.

TIPS: Use simple words. Do not use abbreviations, emoji's, pictures or slang (BRB, IDK, THX, 2day and BTW). Do not text and drive!

Texting 911 with a false report is a crime. If you accidentally send a text to 911, send another text, or call 911 to let the dispatcher know that there is no emergency.

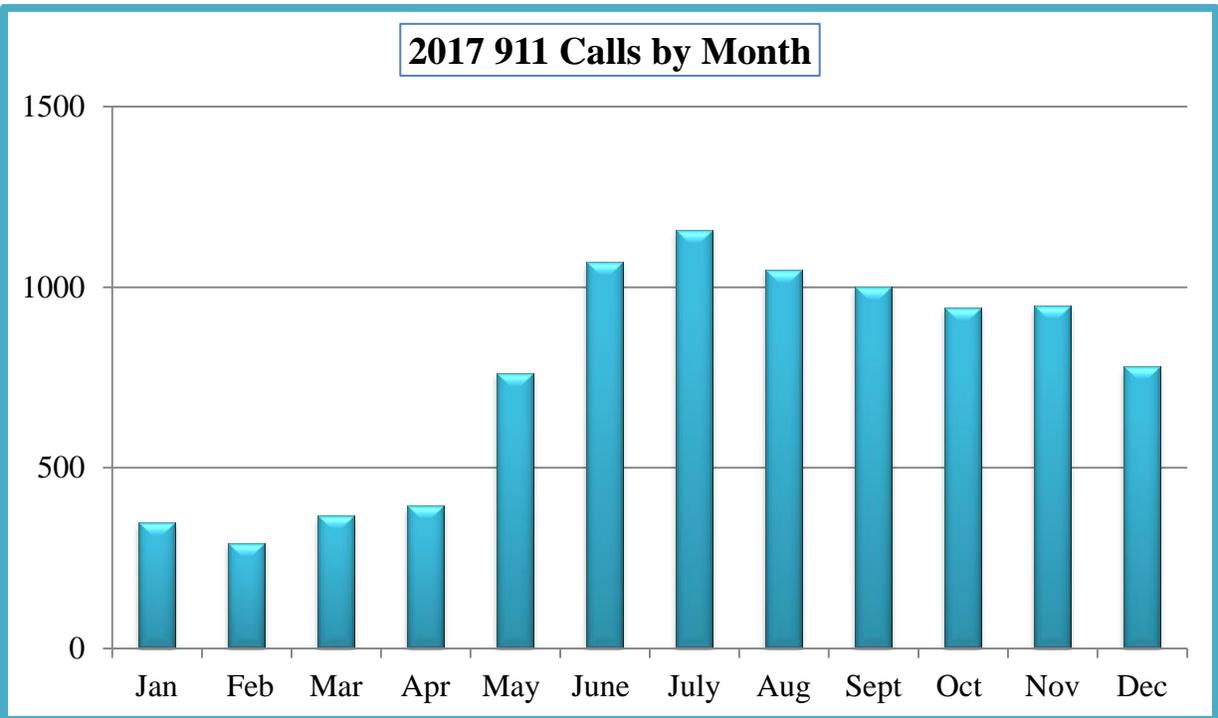
DID YOU KNOW?

Emergency response may be lengthened due to the time it takes for a text to 911 to be typed and sent. Delivery speed is not guaranteed.

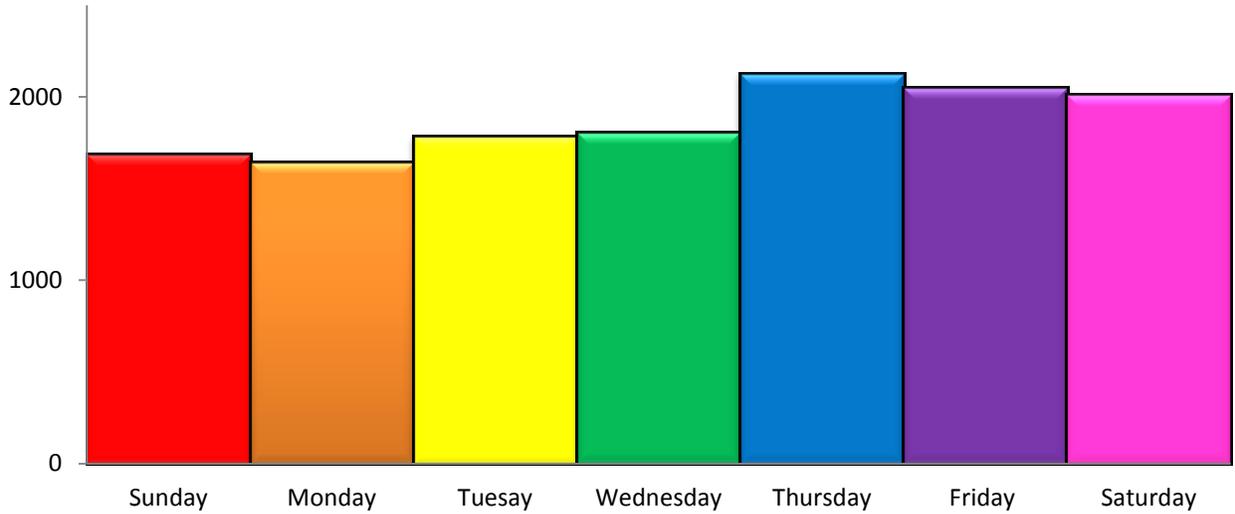
- Dispatchers prefer calls so they can get cues from background noise and voice inflections.
- If you text to 911, dispatchers will ask if they can call you.
- Location is not as accurate with text as it is with a call. Be sure to text your exact address.
- A text or data plan is required to use Text-to-911.
- Texts to 911 will get a bounce back message if you are roaming.
- Texts to 911 have a 160 character limit, can get out of order, or may not be received.
- There is no language translation service for texts to 911.



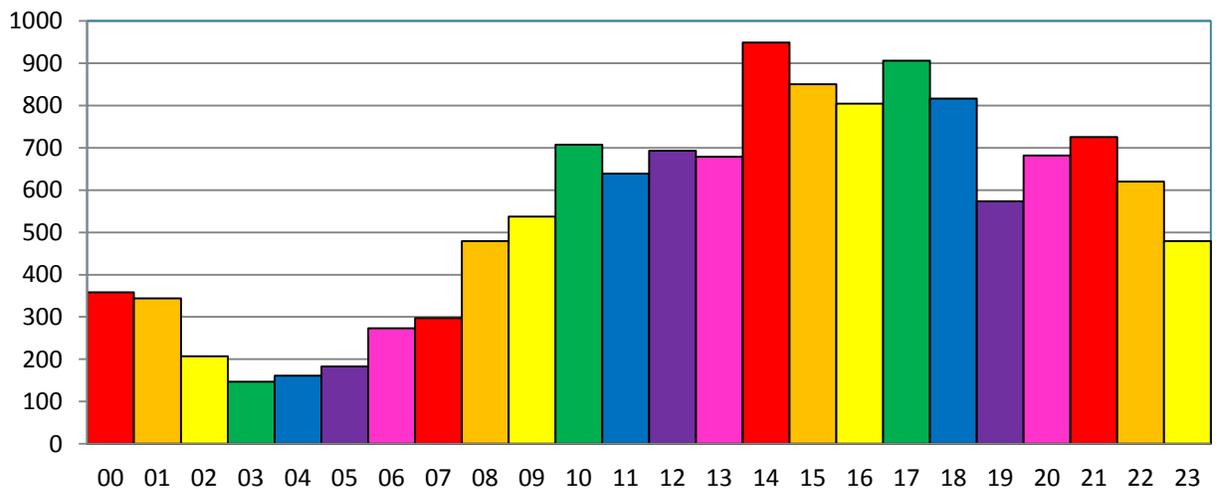
2017 Total 911 calls for Meeker County: 9,117



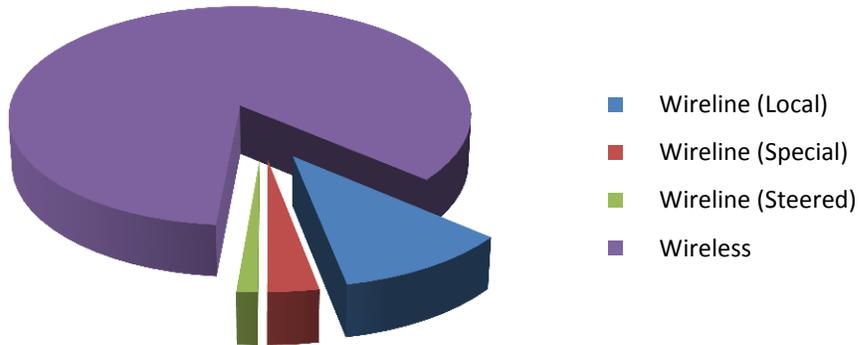
911 Call Volume by Day of Week Report Period 1/1/17 - 12/31/17



91 Call Volume by Hour of Day Report Period 1/1/17 - 12/31/17



911 Calls by Cell Phone/Land Line Report Period 1/1/17 - 12/31/17

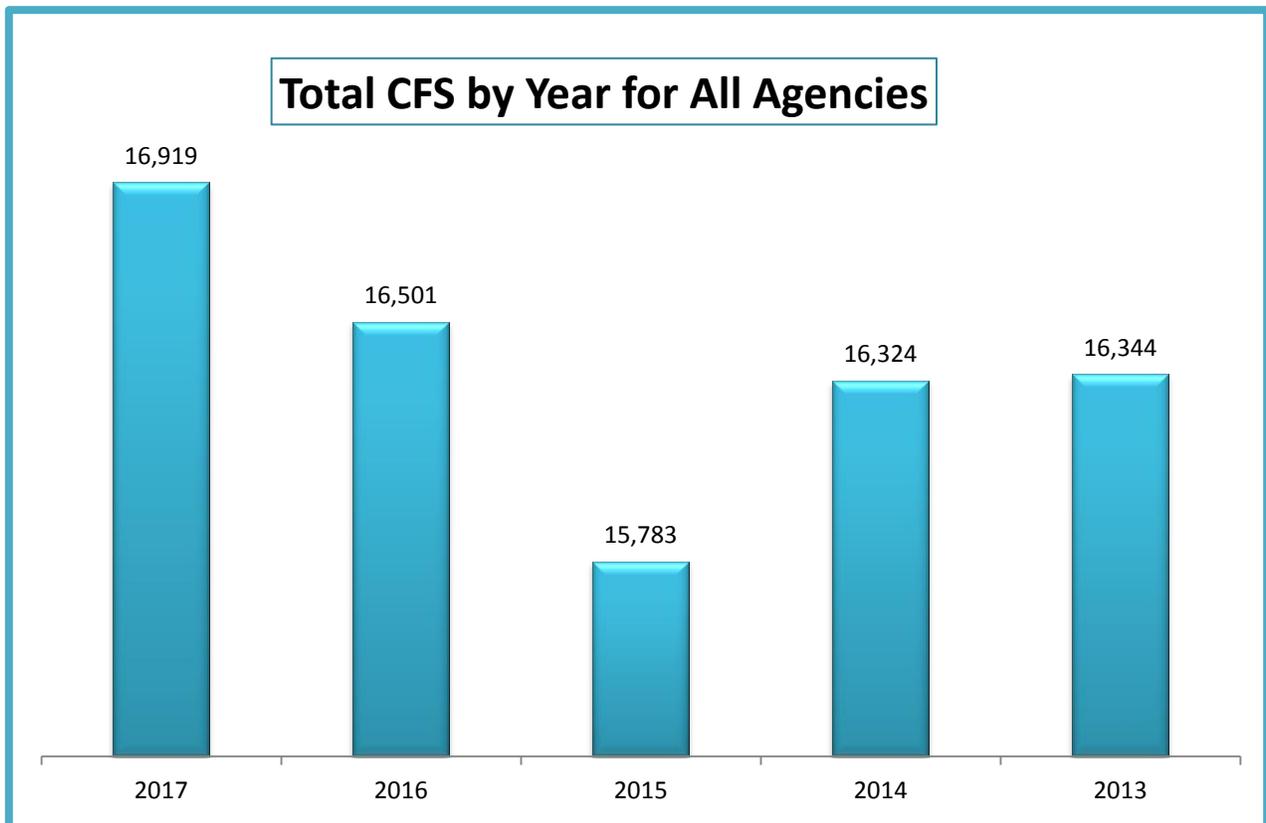
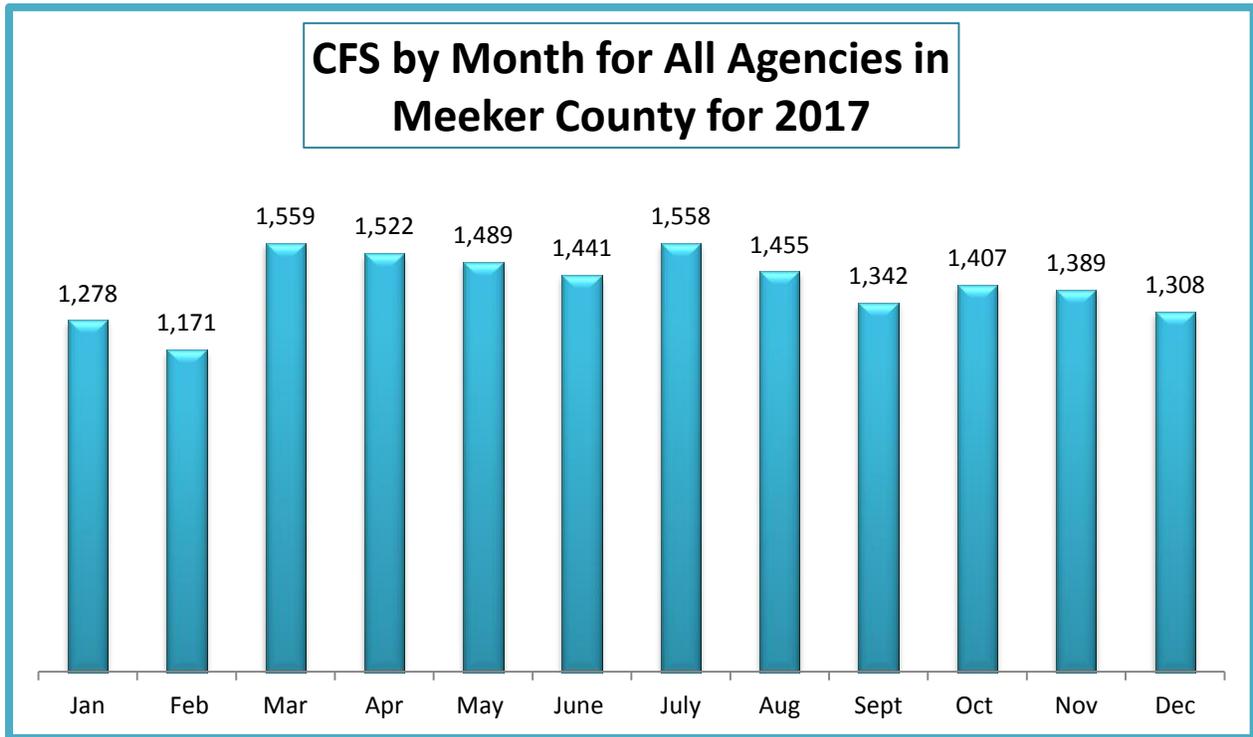


Type	Total	Percentage
Wireline (Local)	986	7.52%
Wireline (Special)	288	2.20%
Wireline (Steered)	117	0.89%
Wireless	7726	89.39%
Total:	9117	100%

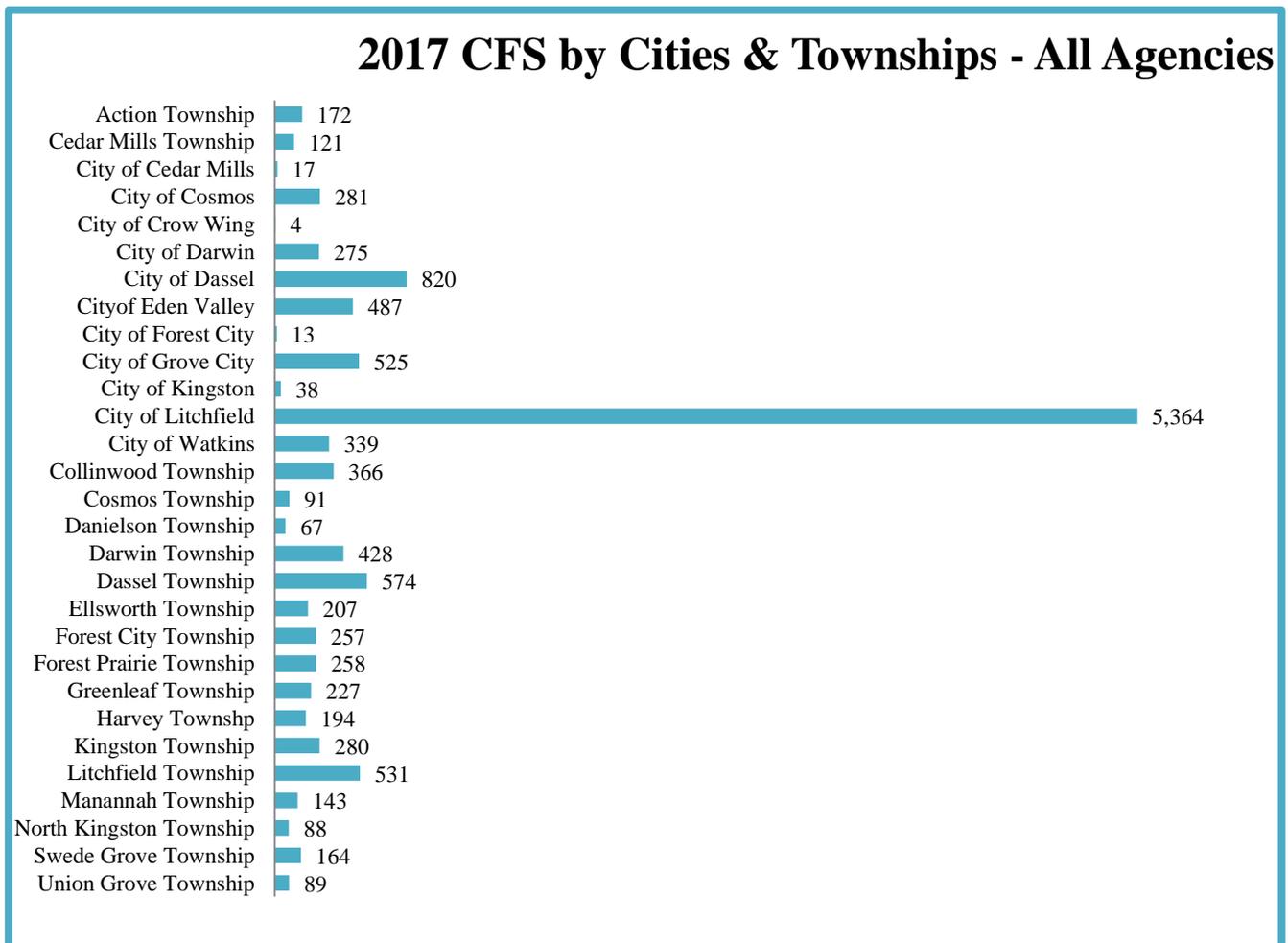
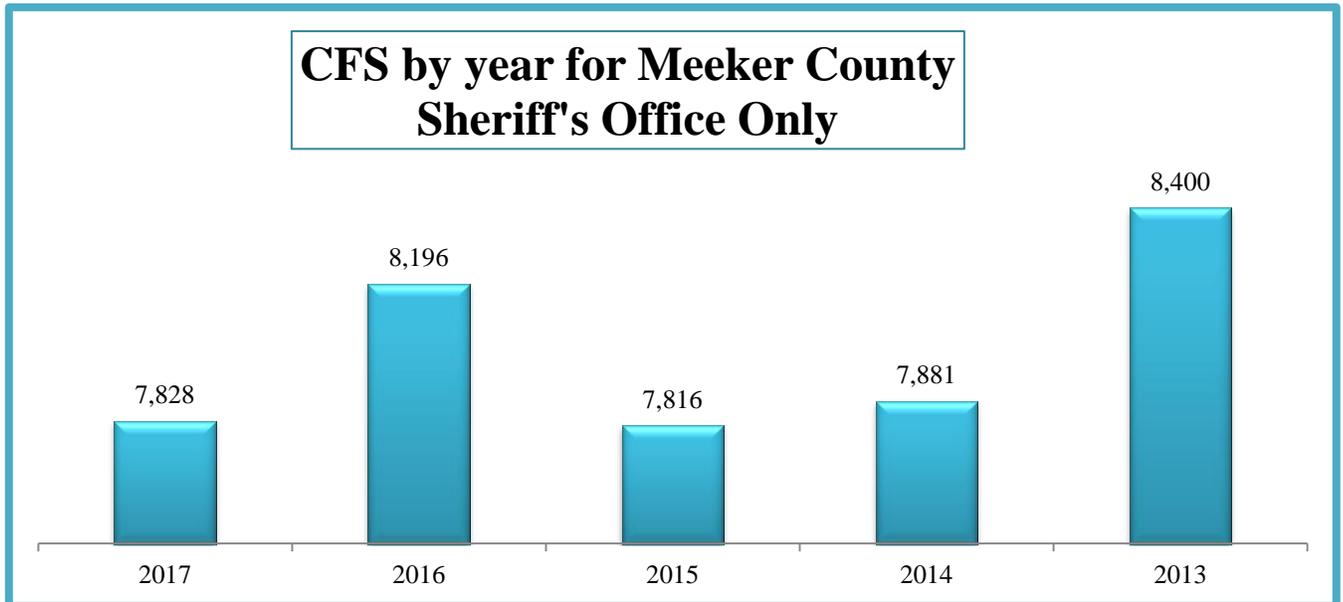


Code Red is a free community notification system that has been implemented by the Meeker County Sheriff's Office. The system is used to notify you of emergency and non-emergency events that could impact your safety. These notifications can go to landlines, cell phones, text messages and email. Code Red is also available through a mobile app on your smart phone. To sign up for this free service go to our website and click on the CodeRed banner: www.co.meeker.mn.us/217/Sheriff

2017 Total Calls for Service (CFS) for All Agencies in Meeker County: 16,919



2017 Total Calls for Service for Meeker County Sheriff's Office only: 7,828

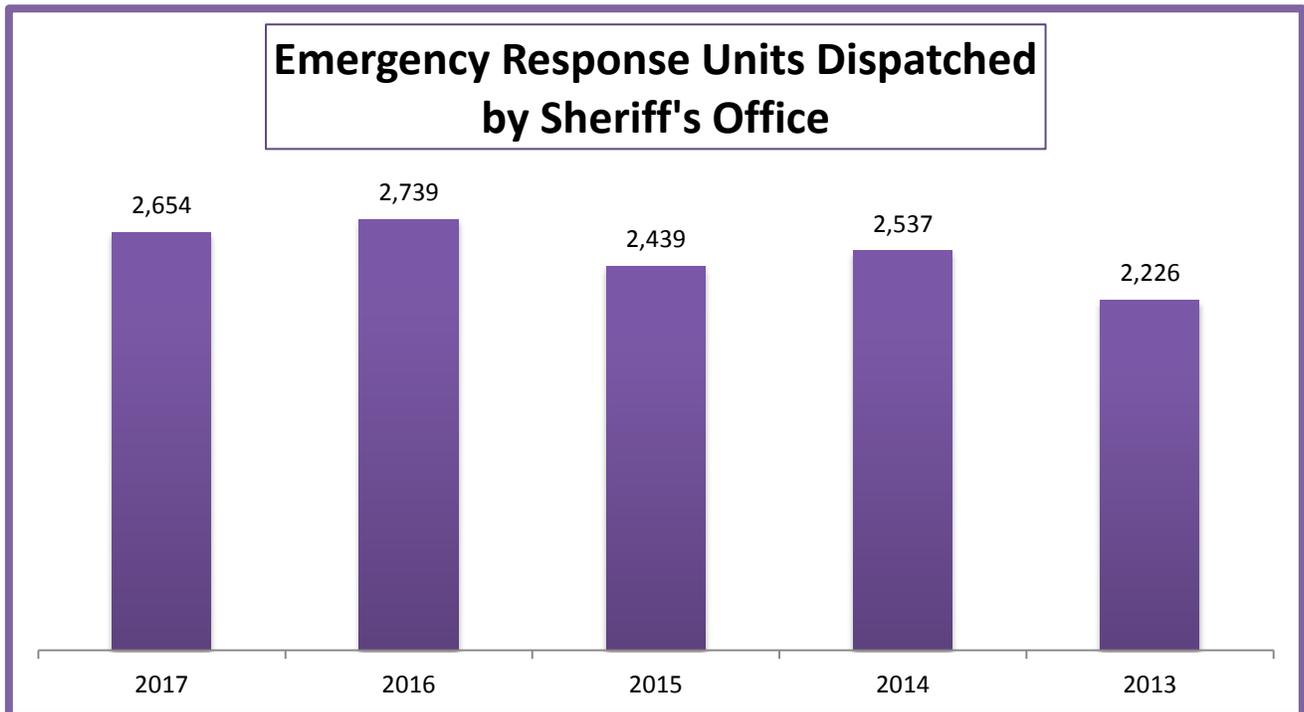




Emergency Response Units Dispatched
by Meeker County
Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center



Agency	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Cosmos Ambulance	70	99	77	84	84
Cosmos Fire & Rescue	29	27	26	17	19
Dassel Fire & Rescue	318	297	237	272	242
Eden Valley Fire & Rescue	125	54	131	149	152
Gold Cross Ambulance	1016	1050	969	908	764
Grove City Fire Department	27	34	53	50	24
Grove City Rescue	90	86	65	73	61
Litchfield Fire Department	112	138	121	82	119
Litchfield Rescue	388	399	353	522	439
Watkins Fire Department	30	26	32	21	18
Watkins Rescue & Ambulance	449	429	375	359	304
Total:	2,654	2,739	2,439	2,537	2,226



Patrol Services

Meeker County Deputies respond to Calls for Service (CFS) as well as conduct routine patrol of the numerous County, Township, State and US Highways in the County. Deputies are also responsible for initial investigations, accident investigations, civil process, snowmobile patrol, ATV/OHV patrol, boat and water patrol, transports, and court security. The total activity for Meeker County Sheriff's Office Deputies is as follows:

Criminal vs. Non-Criminal Incidents for Meeker County Sheriff's Office

Criminal Incidents	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Arson	0	0	0	0	0
Assaults: 1st-5th Deg/Domestics/Terror Threats	80	88	96	100	130
Burglary	50	29	35	48	49
Crimes Against Family	3	1	9	15	16
Criminal Sexual Conduct	17	21	12	12	16
Damage to Property/Trespass	46	55	77	96	120
Disturb the Peace/Harassment/Interfere 911	37	41	50	80	80
Drug Crimes	65	46	42	24	26
Fleeing/Escape/Fail to Appear	6	8	7	13	8
Forgery	6	7	1	7	9
Gambling Crimes	1	0	0	0	1
Homicides	0	1	0	0	0
Kidnapping/False Imprisonment	1	1	0	0	1
Mistreat Animals	1	2	2	5	7
Obscenity	5	2	6	1	0
Order for Protection/Harassment Violations	21	21	20	20	14
Perjury/Obstruct Legal Process/False Info to Police	65	46	42	17	17
Robbery	1	0	0	1	0
Sell Liquor to Minors	7	0	0	1	0
Stolen Property	5	5	6	3	8

Theft of Property & Money	69	77	81	139	157
Theft Related-Credit card, NSF checks, Shoplifting, Computer Crime, Swindle	26	28	32	51	60
Vehicle Thefts/Tamper with Vehicle	22	24	13	17	16
Weapons Offenses	15	10	3	1	3
Welfare Fraud	0	0	5	0	6
Total:	549	513	539	651	744

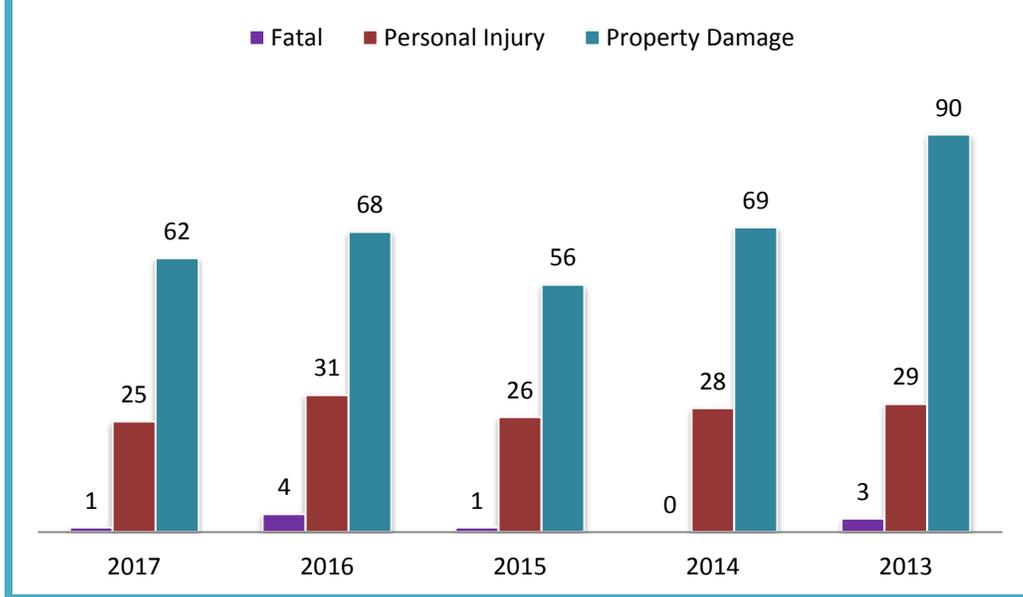
Non-Criminal Incidents	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
9-1-1 Hang Ups	133	187	235	603	652
Alarm	185	187	190	238	193
Animal Complaints-Dog	199	232	249	228	250
Animal Complaints-Other	141	178	138	196	186
Assist Other Agencies	602	512	557	417	374
Assist Public	244	219	220	351	309
Carbon Monoxide Alarm	0	0	2	6	4
Deer Possession Tag	28	32	51	50	42
Deliver Emergency Messages	3	11	7	7	6
Door Unlocks	81	77	88	79	90
Escorts	6	9	8	12	16
Noise Complaints	28	41	34	48	34
Open Doors - Residential & Business	8	13	16	22	8
Other	39	65	54	92	204
Scams	153	186	126	87	79
Search Warrants	12	6	10	4	3
Security/Vacation Checks	72	36	51	72	59
Suspicious Activity	346	394	375	207	490
Unwanted Individual	41	44	24	26	25
Welfare Check	134	130	111	113	114
Total:	2455	2559	2546	2858	3138

Meeker County Sheriff's Office Traffic Enforcement

Traffic Law Violations/Citations /Arrests	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
All other Traffic Violations	9	33	56	15	17
Boat & Water/Snowmobile Citations	1	3	0	0	0
Bus Stop Arm Violations	1	3	1	0	1
Driver After Cancel/Revocation/Suspension	47	63	58	40	41
Driver's License Violations	21	26	30	20	23
DUI	66	49	25	29	45
No Insurance/No Proof of Insurance	31	58	62	43	48
Open Bottle Citations /Allow Open Bottle	6	1	9	1	0
Parking Violations	3	0	17	25	65
Reckless/Careless Driving	10	10	10	9	10
Seat Belt Violations	2	11	8	13	11
Speed	98	238	263	132	158
Stop Sign Violations	3	9	10	3	8
Under 21 Drink & Drive	2	2	0	0	3
Underage Consumption/Possesses Citations	13	23	19	17	13
Vehicle Registration Violations	5	12	10	13	13
Yield Right of Way	5	5	2	5	1
Total:	323	546	580	365	457

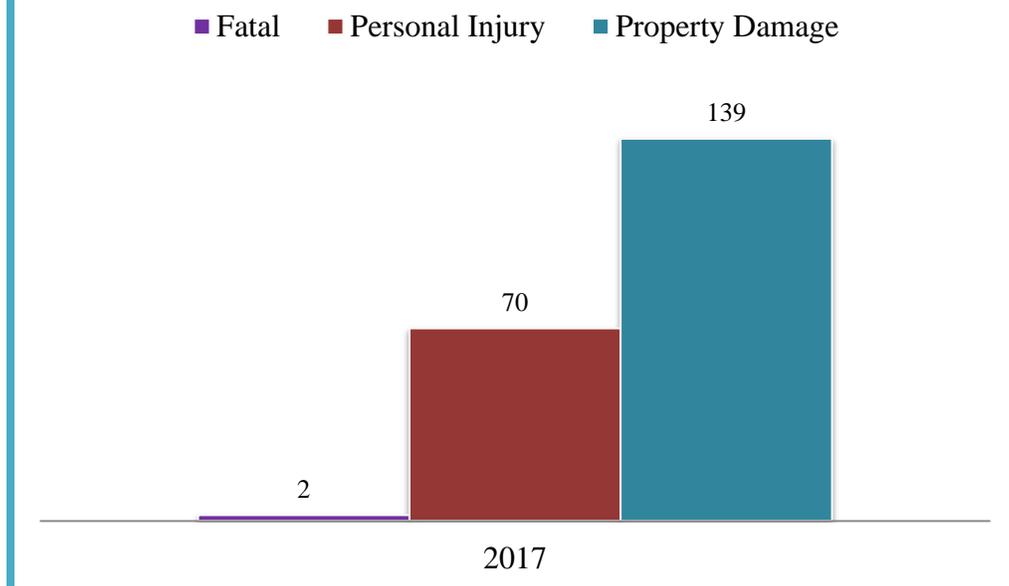
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Traffic Stops	1943	2347	2033	1009	1221
Abandoned/Stalled Vehicles	249	315	272	376	381
Driving Complaints	373	371	359	335	437
Total Number of Traffic Accidents	214	269	229	226	296
Total:	2779	3302	2893	1946	2335

Meeker County Sheriff's Office Reported Traffic Accidents



*Motor Vehicle/Deer Accidents for 2017 were 126 for Meeker County Sheriff's Office

Total Traffic Accidents for All Agencies in Meeker County



Meeker County Contract Deputies

The Meeker County Sheriff's Office contracts with the cities of Dassel, Grove City and Watkins. There are two deputies assigned full-time to patrol the City of Dassel, one deputy assigned full-time to patrol the City of Grove City and one deputy assigned full-time to patrol the City of Watkins. The total activity for each contract city for 2017 is as follows:

Contract City	2017 Calls for Service
Dassel	818
Grove City	500
Watkins	319

Criminal vs. Non-Criminal reported activity in the contract cities:

2017 Criminal Incidents	Dassel	Grove City	Watkins
Assault	4	4	3
Burglary	4	1	1
Child Abuse/Maltreatment	9	20	15
Criminal Damage to Property	6	2	7
Disturbance	9	4	4
Domestics	4	6	6
Drugs/Paraphernalia	1	3	0
DUI	0	1	0
Forgery	0	1	0
Harassment/Stalking	8	16	6
Homicides	0	0	0
Identity Theft	1	0	0
Lost/Found Property	10	5	5
Property Damage Accident	12	2	6
Pursuit Vehicle/Person	1	0	0

Robbery	0	0	0
Scams/Swindle	13	16	3
Sex Crime Offense	3	1	2
Stolen Vehicle	3	2	1
Tamper w/MV	1	2	0
Theft by check	0	1	1
Thefts	14	15	14
Threats	5	6	5
Trespass	1	0	1
Violation of Order for Protection/Harassment	3	1	7
Weapons Offenses	0	0	0
Welfare Fraud	0	0	0
Total:	112	109	87

2017 Non-Criminal Incidents	Dassel	Grove City	Watkins
9-1-1 Hang Ups	20	9	2
9-1-1 Mis or Accident Dial	6	3	2
Abandoned/Stalled Vehicles	8	4	2
Alarm	34	8	12
Animal Complaints	46	27	21
Assist Other Agencies	11	9	8
Assist Public	33	33	13
ATV Complaint	1	0	1
Carbon Monoxide Alarm	0	0	0
Debris on Roadway	2	0	0
Deliver Emergency Messages	0	0	0
Driving Complaints	32	8	11
Escorts	4	0	0
Funeral Escort	3	0	0
Gas Drive Off	3	1	4
HAZMAT/Chemical Spill	5	0	6
Medicals	42	25	5
Motorist Assist	10	2	0

Noise Complaints	4	8	4
Open Doors - Residential & Business	4	0	2
Ordinance Violations	8	19	10
Other	3	1	1
Search Warrants	0	0	0
Security/Vacation Checks	2	4	1
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	51	18	25
Tobacco Violation	1	0	0
Traffic Stops - Citations	14	4	1
Traffic Stops - Warnings	188	107	31
Unlock Vehicle	23	13	12
Unwanted Individual	11	3	2
Welfare Check	24	10	7
Total:	593	316	183

Toward Zero Death (TZD)

What is TZD?

The Toward Zero Deaths approach is based on the belief that even one traffic-related death on our roads is unacceptable. This “zero deaths” idea was first adopted in Sweden in 1997 as "Vision Zero" and since then has evolved to several state DOTs, including Minnesota, that have identified zero deaths as a core objective in their Strategic Highway Safety Plans.

TZD uses a data-driven, interdisciplinary approach that targets areas for improvement and employs proven countermeasures, integrating application of education, enforcement, engineering, and emergency medical and trauma services (the “4Es”). A combination of strategies from different focus areas is often most effective for solving a particular problem.

Meeker County is partnered with Kandiyohi County and participates in the extra patrols that focus on distracted driving, speed enforcement and DUI enforcement.

Meeker County Safe Roads Coalition

The Meeker County Sheriff’s Office partnered with the TZD Meeker County Safe Roads Coalition. This coalition brings the State TZD philosophy to the local level.



The Joyride program and School Safety Day are an example of the work from this coalition. Joyride is a program that gives those who are celebrating at local bars an opportunity to get a safe and sober ride home. School Safety Day brings first responders into the school to educate our young

drivers on the serious consequences of distracted driving and driving under the influence. The coalition also works on bringing traffic education to the public at various health and community expos along with setting up child safety seat inspections.

2017 ACGC High School Mock Crash



2017 ACGC High School Mock Crash



2017 Litchfield Middle School Safety Day



Students learn the hazards of being unbelted in a roll over crash and get an up close look at a snow plow

2017 ACGC Middle School Safety Day



Students experience the effect of impaired driving by wearing goggles that simulate poor coordination while under the influence. Students also got an up close look at a fire truck and ambulance.

Snowmobile / Boat and Water / OHV Patrols

The Meeker County Sheriff's Office is responsible for Snowmobile, Off Highway Vehicle (OHV), Boat and Water Safety patrol and enforcement. Patrol deputies and seasonal boat and water deputies work these patrols year round. Grant monies received from the State of Minnesota help with enforcement efforts and needed equipment.

Snowmobile Safety Enforcement Grant

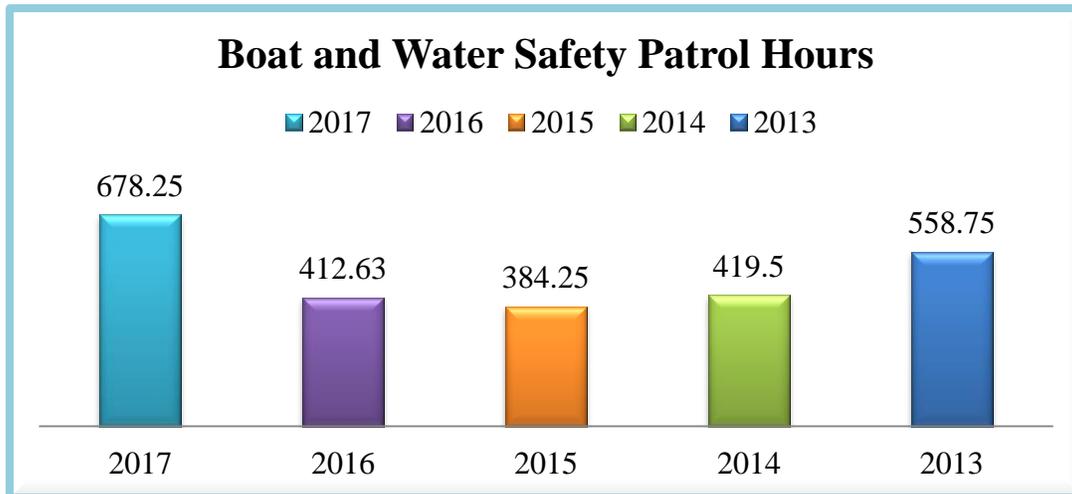
For the Snowmobile Safety Enforcement Grant ending in fiscal year 2017 the Sheriff's Office received \$3,544.00. The fiscal year runs from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.



Boat and Water Safety Grant



The Boat and Water Safety Grant runs from January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, during which the Sheriff's Office received \$6,444.00. The Meeker County Sheriff's Office also partnered with the county AIS program and has additional resources for dedicated AIS inspections. In 2017, the total AIS hours were 268. There was one non-fatal watercraft accident with no injury reported to the Meeker County Sheriff's Office. In 2017 we also received a Federal boating grant of \$16,183 which gave us the opportunity to replace a 1987 Alumnacraft. This new boat will be used for water patrol activities.



Boat and Water	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Complaints	12	16	5	14	7
Temporary Structure Permits	45	60	66	74	87

OHV Safety Enforcement Grant (Off-Highway Vehicle)



The Meeker County Sheriff's Office received \$5,757.00 for the OHV Safety Enforcement Grant ending in fiscal year 2017. The fiscal year runs from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. There were 11 oral or written warnings given and 1 alcohol related arrest. There were six non-fatal OHV accidents reported to the Meeker County Sheriff's Office.

Investigations

The Meeker County Sheriff's Office currently has three full-time detectives responsible for investigating criminal activity to include: child abuse/neglect, vulnerable adult crimes, welfare fraud, sexual assaults, financial crimes, fraud, computer/internet crimes, thefts, burglaries, death investigations (natural, suicide and homicide), robberies, etc. Of the 7,828 Calls for Service received for the Meeker County Sheriff's Office in 2017, 394 were forwarded to the detectives for further investigation. The detectives are also responsible for background investigations of potential new hires as well as internal affairs investigations.

Reported Deaths in Meeker County:

Meeker County contracts with Midwest Medical Examiner's Office for coroner services. Death Investigators respond to the scene of reported deaths and work with the Sheriff's Office to complete the death investigation.

Of the 163 reported deaths in Meeker County in 2017, 14 autopsies were performed as a part of those death



investigations. "Reportable, Declined" includes deaths that were investigated but the actual death certificate was signed by a local M.D. The following is a report by the Medical Examiner's Office for reported deaths for all of Meeker County:

Meeker County Deaths	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Motor Vehicle Accident	1	3	4	2	7
Natural	7	8	4	9	8
Non Motor Vehicle Accident	4	3	6	7	6
Reportable, Declined	145	115	119	119	121
Suicide	6	9	3	6	4
Homicide	0	1	0	0	0
Total	163	139	136	143	146

Drug and Gang Investigations:

The Meeker County Sheriff's Office has two detectives assigned to the CEE-VI Drug and Gang Task Force. CEE stands for Cooperative Enforcement Effort and the Roman numeral VI stands for the original six counties that were a part of the cooperative when it was formed in 1990. The CEE-VI Drug and Gang Task Force currently consists of the following counties: Meeker, Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Swift and Yellow Medicine. There is federal, state and local funding that is used for this initiative. The funding includes a per capita charge of \$4.75 in each county. The counties that provide personnel are reimbursed salary and benefits. The following is the reported activity for all of Meeker County:

CEE-VI Drug Task Force Statistics	2015	2016	2017
Arrests	83 (4 gang)	38 (1 gang)	38 (1 gang)
Drug and/or Gang Presentations	2 for 65 people	1 for 50 people	2 for 43 people
Searches	45	25	25
Children Removed			14
Asset Seizures			
Cash	\$7,726.00	\$9,678.00	\$4,641.00
Vehicles	1	0	2
Hand Guns	1	5	1
Long Guns	15	20	14

Drugs Seizures			
Cocaine	2.2 ounces	4.20 grams	11.51 grams
Hashish			.30 grams
Heroin		3.20 grams	
Marijuana	2.8 ounces	3748.74 grams (8.25 lbs)	2.46 ounces
Marijuana - concentrate			.60 grams
Meth	5.6 ounces	778.88 grams (1.71 lbs)	654.48 grams (1.44 lbs)
Prescription	129.00 pills	90.00 pills	

D.A.R.E



This year millions of school children around the world will benefit from D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), the highly acclaimed program that gives kids the skills they need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs, and

violence. D.A.R.E. was founded in 1983 in Los Angeles and has proven so successful that it is now being implemented in 75 percent of our nation’s school districts and in more than 52 countries around the world.

The Meeker County Sheriff’s Office provides this program to the 5th grade classes in both the Atwater Cosmos Grove City (ACGC) and Eden Valley Watkins (EVW) school districts. In 2017, Meeker County Sheriff Brian Cruze assigned two new D.A.R.E. Deputies to the program: Josh Case and Sara Miller. In 2017 we also updated our D.A.R.E. program to the new curriculum called “Keepin’ it REAL,” which puts an emphasis on decision-making skills instead of drug lectures. D.A.R.E. envisions a world in which students everywhere are empowered to respect others and choose to lead lives free from violence, substance abuse and other dangerous

behaviors. At the completion of our 10 week program, we host a D.A.R.E. graduation for the families of the D.A.R.E. students. As a special treat, we bring in a magician who, through a very entertaining magic show, reinforces the D.A.R.E. teachings.



2017 ACGC D.A.R.E Class



2017 EVW D.A.R.E. Class

Training

The Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board is responsible for licensing Peace Officers in the State of Minnesota. As a requirement of this

license, each deputy is required to complete a minimum of 48 hours of continuing



education every three years. Internally, the Meeker County Sheriff's Office has three certified firearms and Use of Force instructors. Each deputy receives annual training in Use of Force and firearms certification. Deputies also

receive outside training in the areas of pursuit driving, domestic assault, sex trafficking, drug enforcement, DUI enforcement, vehicle weight enforcement, civil process, interviewing and interrogation.

ICLD

All full time employees are enrolled in the Institute for Credible Learning and Development (ICLD) leadership program through a partnership with the Minnesota's Sheriff's Association (MSA). The leadership program is a comprehensive, career-long leadership education and developmental program. Participants complete an in-depth journey by addressing relevant topics and proven theories offered by ICLD. In 2017, over 30 employees spent 1,341 hours in the ICLD Leadership training. Three employees have completed this leadership training.



A majority of law enforcement professionals attending the ICLD program report the following positive outcomes:

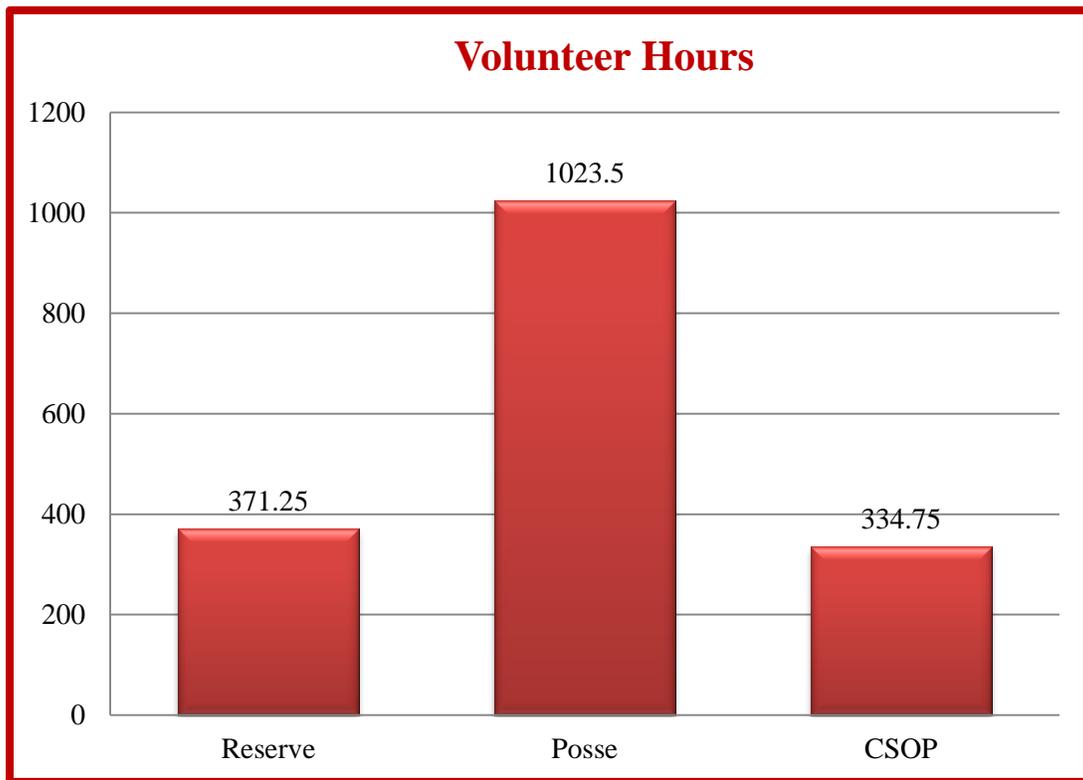
- Increased officer safety.
- Increased organizational thought.
- Reduction in stress.
- Reduction in citizen complaints.

- Increased capacity in character building behaviors.
- Increased accountability and responsibility.
- Increased personnel engagement and job satisfaction.
- Improved personal self-awareness and decision-making.
- Improved integrity of personal and professional conduct.
- Enhanced personnel civic mindedness and involvement in the community.
- Increased cross-cultural awareness, understanding and tolerance.
- Increased ability to develop partnerships with community representatives.

Volunteer Programs

The Meeker County Sheriff's Office has a number of people who volunteer their time to assist in the day-to-day operations of the Sheriff's Office. Reserve deputies spend time riding with the patrol deputies to provide back-up and assistance when needed. Reserve deputies also provide security and traffic control at many events in the county including the Meeker County Fair. The Posse provides assistance at county events and do routine patrols at the Meeker County Fair. Posse members have been involved in searches for missing persons in and outside of Meeker County. The Community Service Officer – Paramedics (CSO-P) volunteer hours to provide immediate medical care when needed at various events in the county. They also patrol the county and provide assistance to the patrol deputies on medicals and a wide variety of other calls.

2017 Total Volunteer hours: 1,729.50



Meeker County Posse at the Eden Valley Parade



Meeker County Posse at the Cosmos Parade

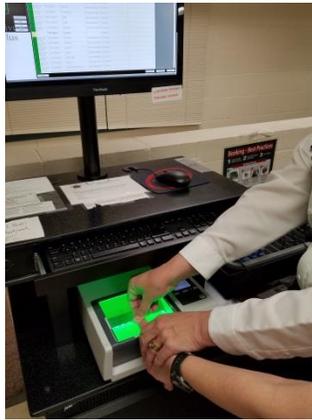


Meeker County Posse Stick Horse Races at the Fair



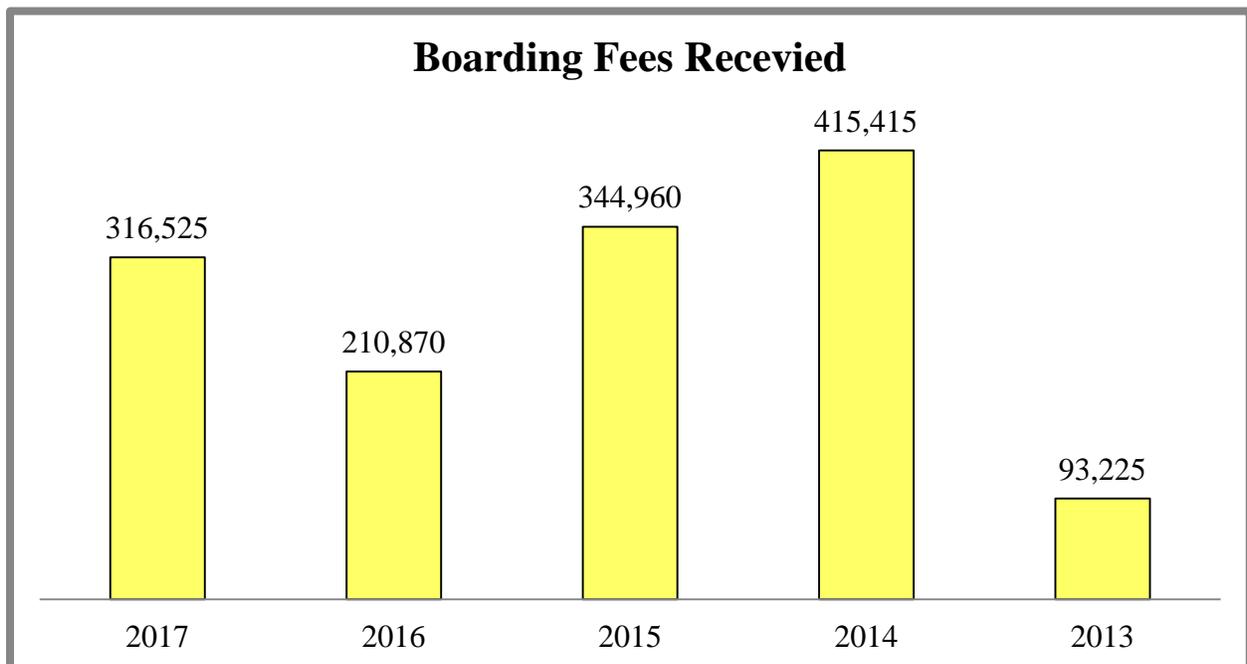
Meeker County Detention Center

The Meeker County Sheriff's Office Detention Center is responsible for housing

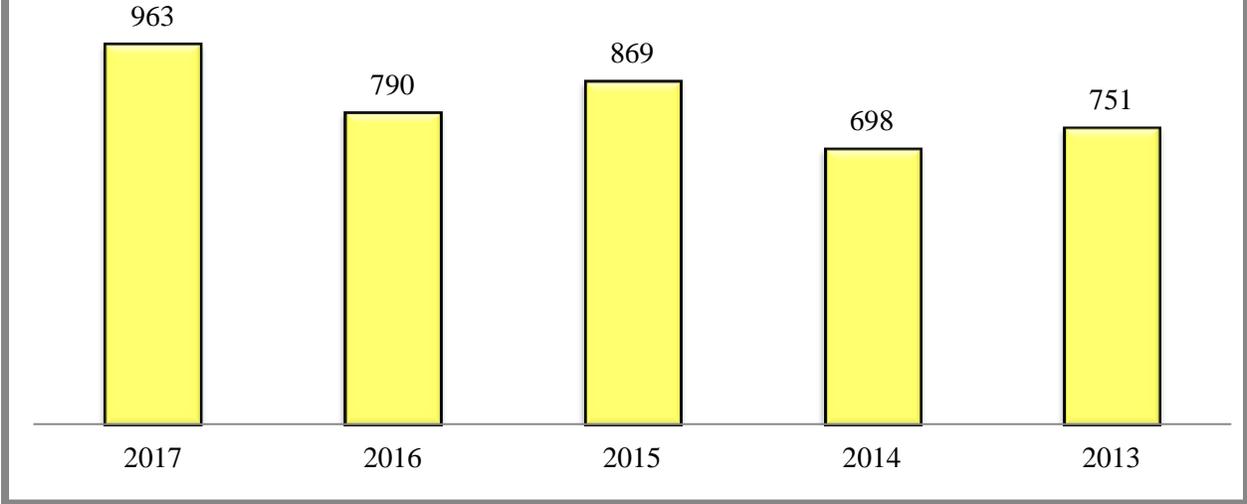


inmates awaiting court, as well as those who are sentenced for misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor offenses. The average daily population for 2017 was 40 inmates per day. The Detention Center also boards inmates from other counties and the Minnesota Department of Corrections. The Meeker County Sheriff's Office charges \$55 per day for inmates who are boarded for other jurisdictions. In 2017, the Detention Center

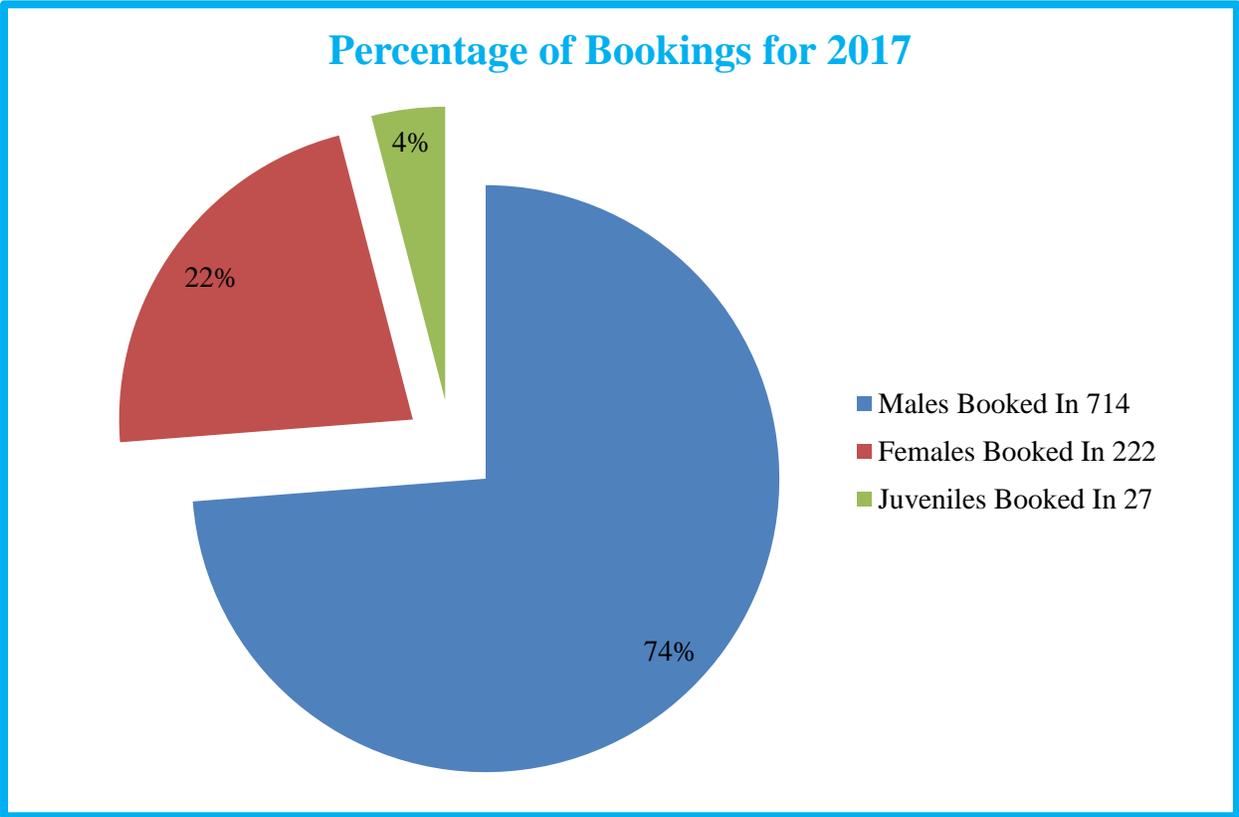
boarded 204 inmates with an average stay of 28 days for those inmates. The average stay for all inmates booked into our facility is 15 days. In addition to housing inmates, the Meeker County Sheriff's Office is tasked with transporting individuals for a variety of reasons.



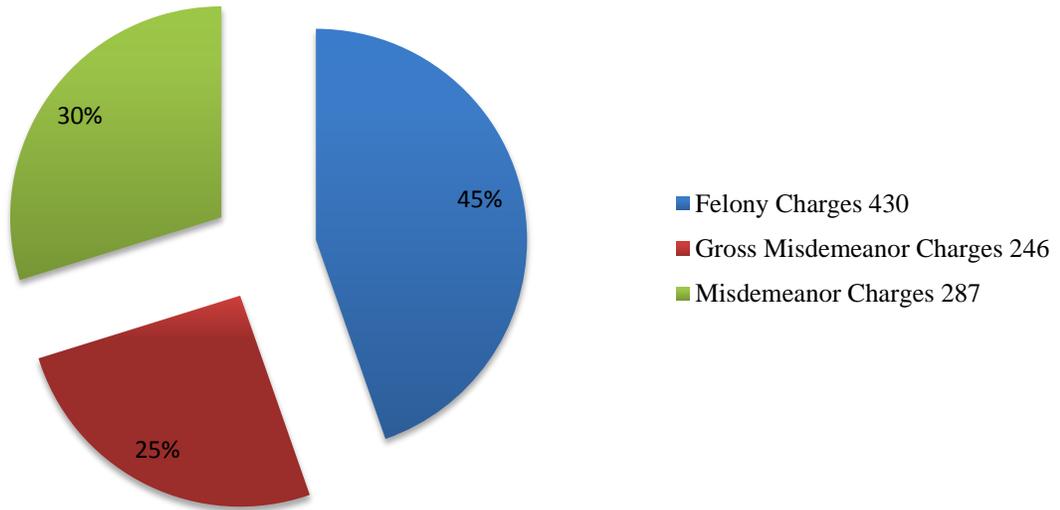
Total Bookings



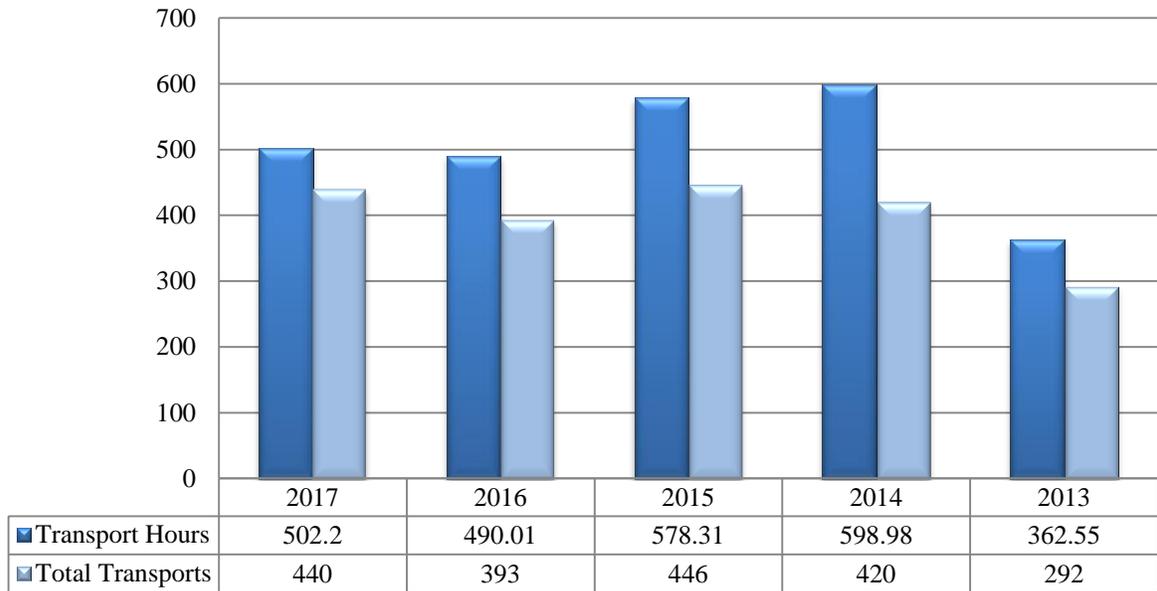
Percentage of Bookings for 2017



2017 Bookings by Charge Level



Transport Hours and Total Transports



*These numbers have been updated and corrected from previous reports

Court Security

The security of the Meeker County Courthouse is the responsibility of the Sheriff's Office. We currently dedicate one deputy to the courthouse for security purposes. In addition to the Court Security Deputy, we have armed bailiffs who are in the courtrooms during hearings. Meeker County has a Courthouse Security Committee that reviews and addresses issues of security with the court. The committee consists of two county commissioners, county attorney, county sheriff, county administrator and a district judge.

Court security remains a high priority for Meeker County. As we look toward the future and improving our current systems, many options are being explored.

A prevailing option is creating one entry point to the courthouse with a security station that would be monitored during normal business hours. Currently we have a security check point on the court room level of



the courthouse. The costs for this project are significant so we are looking to the state to help offset some of these costs. We are also exploring a remodel to include a secure prisoner elevator and prisoner holding cells on the court level. This would cut down dramatically on prisoner movement in public areas. Sheriff Cruze fully supports both of these initiatives to improve security and safety in the Meeker County Courthouse.

Civil Process Services



In 2017, the Meeker County Sheriff’s Office served a total of 578 civil process papers. The most common types of papers a deputy sheriff serve include Summons & Complaints, Subpoenas, Petitions, Notices, Mortgage Foreclosures, Orders, Evictions, Writs of Recovery, Writs of Execution, Orders for Protection, Harassment Restraining Orders, Civil Commitments and Affidavits. In 2017, the Sheriff’s Office collected \$25,866.95 in civil process service fees.

Sheriff Fee Schedule for 2017 and 2018		
911 recordings (911 calls, radio traffic on data CD/DVD)	\$30.00	Per hour (1 hr minimum charged)
Animal Fees:		
Pound pickup fees	\$50.00	Per animal
Impoundment fee	\$5.00	Per day (charged after the first 24 hours)
Audio/Video Recordings on CD/DVD	\$30.00	Per hour (1 hr minimum charged)
Background check: in-house	\$5.00	Per person (for private business or agency. Does not include government agencies or branches of the Armed Services)
Civil Process Service:		
Initial attempts	\$70.00	Up to 3 attempts, mileage included
Each additional attempt	\$25.00	Mileage included
Additional papers at same address	\$30.00	Mileage included
Return of unserved process	\$70.00	Mileage included
Commission on Writs of Execution	6%	Per writ/\$20 minimum charged
Correctional Facility Fees:		
Fingerprint cards: out-of-county resident	\$15.00	Per card
Fingerprint cards: Meeker County Resident	Free	Per card
Booking Fee	\$25.00	Per booking
Boarding Fee	\$55.00	Per day
Pay-for-Stay fee	\$20.00	Per day

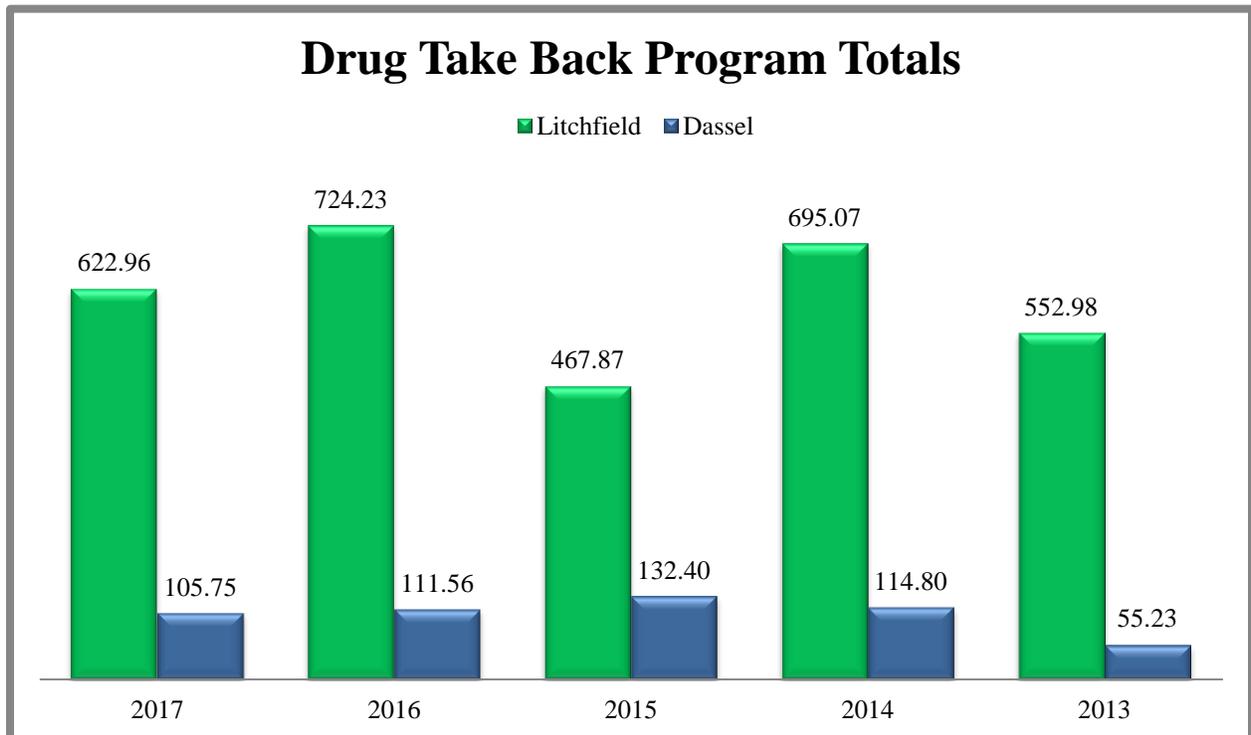
Huber fee	\$20.00	Per day
Huber urinalysis fee	\$30.00	Per sample
Probation urinalysis fee	\$10.00	Per sample
Probation portable breath test fee	\$5.00	Per test
Deputy Time:		
Standard	\$55.00	Per hour (3 hr minimum charged)
Deputy: Squad required for roadway escorts	\$75.00	Per hour (3 hr minimum charged)
Deputy: Reserve/Posse time	\$20.00	Per hour
False Alarm Fees:		
4th & 5th in a year	\$25.00	Each
6th & subsequent in a year	\$50.00	Each
Fax: sent or received	\$0.25	Per page
Firearms storage fees	\$1.00	Per day per gun (30 day minimum charged)
Gun Permit Processing Fee:		
Meeker County Residents: New	\$40.00	Per permit processed
Meeker County Residents: Renew	\$35.00	Per permit processed
Out-of-State Residents: New	\$75.00	Per permit processed
Out-of-State Residents: Renew	\$70.00	Per permit processed
Purchase/Transfer permit	Free	Per permit processed
Replacement Cards	\$10.00	Per permit processed
Impound Storage Fee	\$15.00	Per day (effective 5 days after date of Notice of Impoundment letter)
Photographs:		
Burned onto CD/DVD	\$10.00	Per CD/DVD
Records Clerk	\$25.00	Per hour (for persons requesting documents in large volume that are time consuming, 1 hr minimum in addition to document fee)
Reports/Documents:		
Copies printed	\$0.25	Per page
Copies on CD/DVD	\$10.00	Per CD/DVD
Scanning	\$10.00	Per page CD/DVD
Sheriff sales	\$75.00	Per sale
Typing Reports	\$20.00	Per hour (1 hr minimum charged)

Drug Take Back Program

The Meeker County Sheriff's Office continues this free service to Meeker County residents. The Sheriff's Office has two Take Back Boxes, one at our main office in Litchfield and one at the Dassel Office at the Dassel City Hall. This service provides a safe and secure manner of disposing unused and expired medications.



2017 Total Pounds of Prescription Drugs Disposed: 728.71

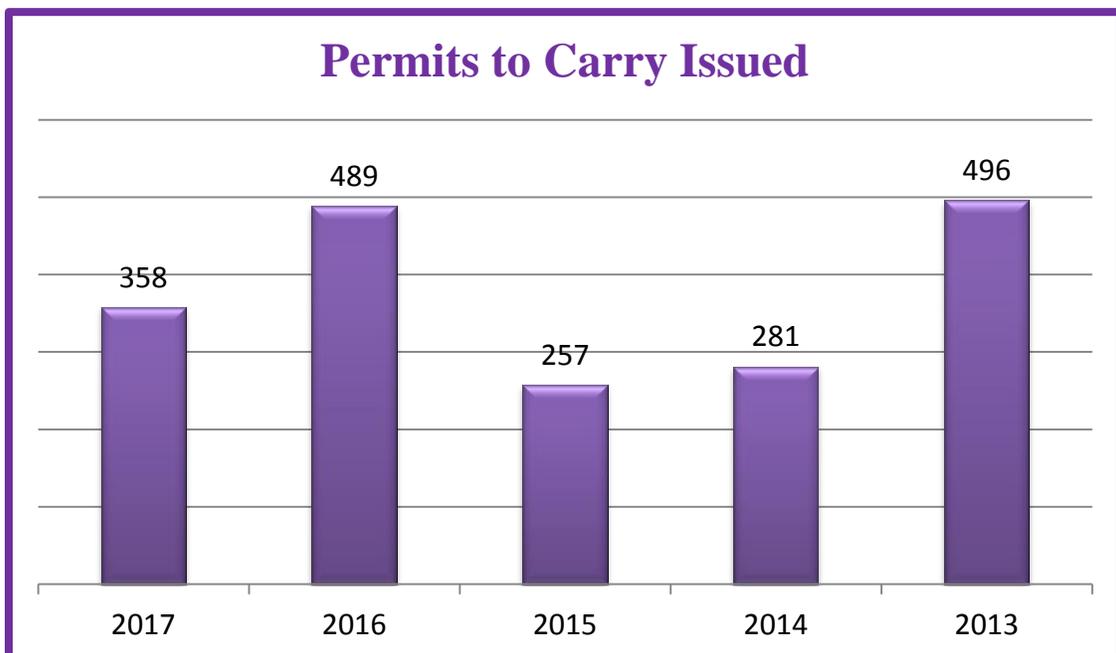


Gun Permits

The Meeker County Sheriff is responsible for issuing all Permits to Carry in the county and all Permits to Purchase for all residents who don't live in a city with an independent police department. In 2017 the Permit to Carry a Pistol application fee was \$40.00, renewals \$35.00. For each Permit to Carry that is approved, by law, \$10.00 for new and \$5.00 for renewal applications is submitted to the MN Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA). Each year a report is made to the BCA reference our permit activity. This report can be viewed at: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca/bca-divisions/administrative/Documents/2017-Permit-to-Carry-Report.pdf>

Permits to Purchase: In the year 2017, there were 202 Permits to Purchase issued, 6 were denied.

Permits to Carry: In 2017, 365 applications were submitted, 358 were approved, and 7 were denied.



Meeker County Emergency Management

Meeker County Emergency Management has multiple areas of responsibility to include planning, preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery. Our planning objectives and our response efforts focus on saving lives, protecting property, meeting the needs of victims, reducing the effects of an emergency on essential facilities and utilities and minimizing the disruption on our community's financial livelihood. Our preparedness process includes multiple plans, whole community input, other county agencies, neighboring county emergency managers and regional planning.

Meeker County Emergency Management receives a yearly grant called Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG). The amount received is based on a state formula involving population and tax base. The amount received for 2017 was \$21,157.00. This money supports the salary base for our director and assistant. The EMPG allows HSEM to manage baseline requirements across the state so all counties are equal at a certain level of preparedness. Emergency Management also received a \$1,250.00 grant from Homeland Security Emergency Management (HSEM) for their IPAWS access in CodeRED for notifications. The fiscal year for these grants run from January 1 to December 31, 2017. Meeker County Emergency Management receives a yearly grant called Radiological Emergency Preparedness Grant (REP). The amount received for 2017 was \$6,000.00. The fiscal year for this grant runs from July 1 through June 30.

Budget



In 2017, the overall expenses for the Sheriff’s Office were 2.3% below budget. The 2017 actual revenue was 10% over projected revenue.

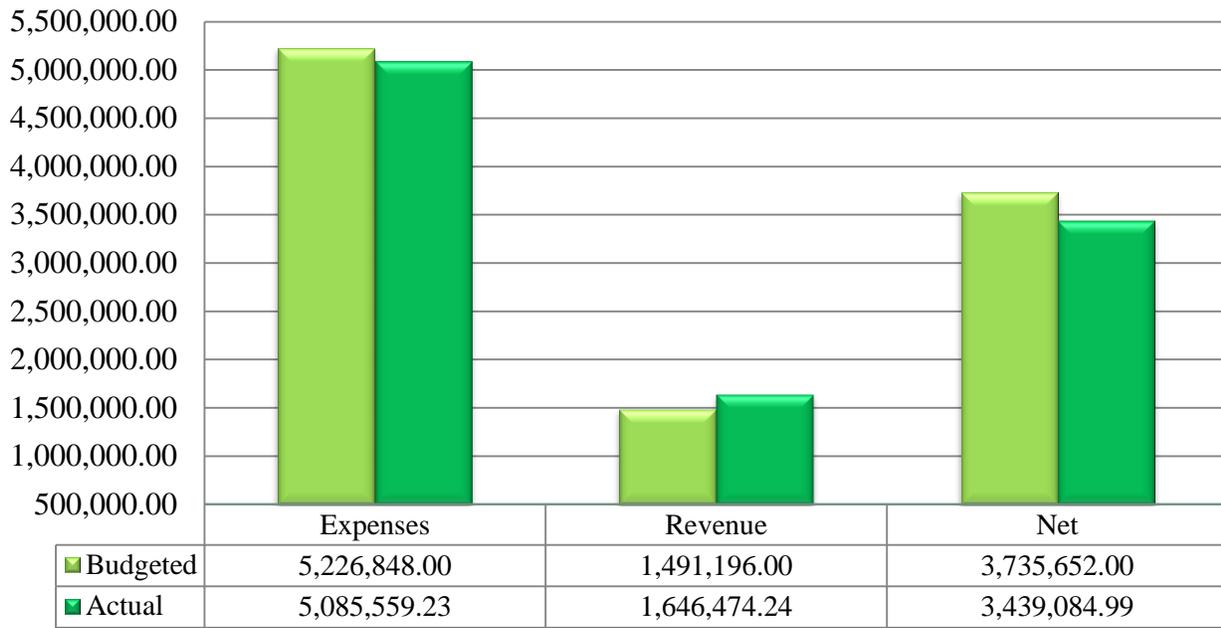
This resulted in a net savings of \$296,568. This is 8% below the projected net budget. These costs savings were a direct result of staffing shortages our office dealt with in 2017. While overtime costs were in excess of budgeted amounts for 2017, the regular salaries were lower than anticipated because of these shortages. As we look towards 2018, we have several new employees filling these open positions.

The following figures are taken from the end of year Revenue/Expenditure Budget Report distributed by the Meeker County Auditor.

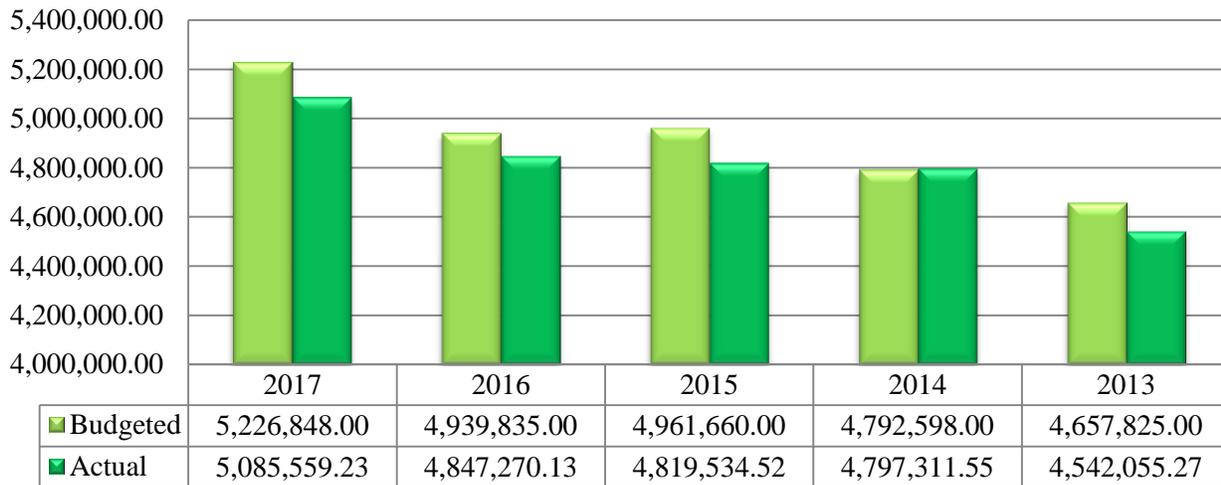
2017 Budgeted vs. Actual

Department	Budgeted Expenses	Budgeted Revenue	Budgeted Net	Actual Expenses	Actual Revenue	Actual Net
Sheriff	4,887,397.00	1,340,618.00	3,546,779.00	4,778,880.88	1,480,266.43	3,298,614.45
Emergency Management	75,717	27,245.00	48,472.00	69,917.92	46,083.69	23,834.23
Enhanced 911	145,387.00	98,333.00	47,054.00	111,858.07	98,332.80	13,525.27
Wireless Communications	118,347.00	25,000.00	93,347.00	124,902.36	21,791.32	103,111.04
Total:	5,226,848.00	1,491,196.00	3,735,652.00	5,085,559.23	1,646,474.24	3,439,084.99

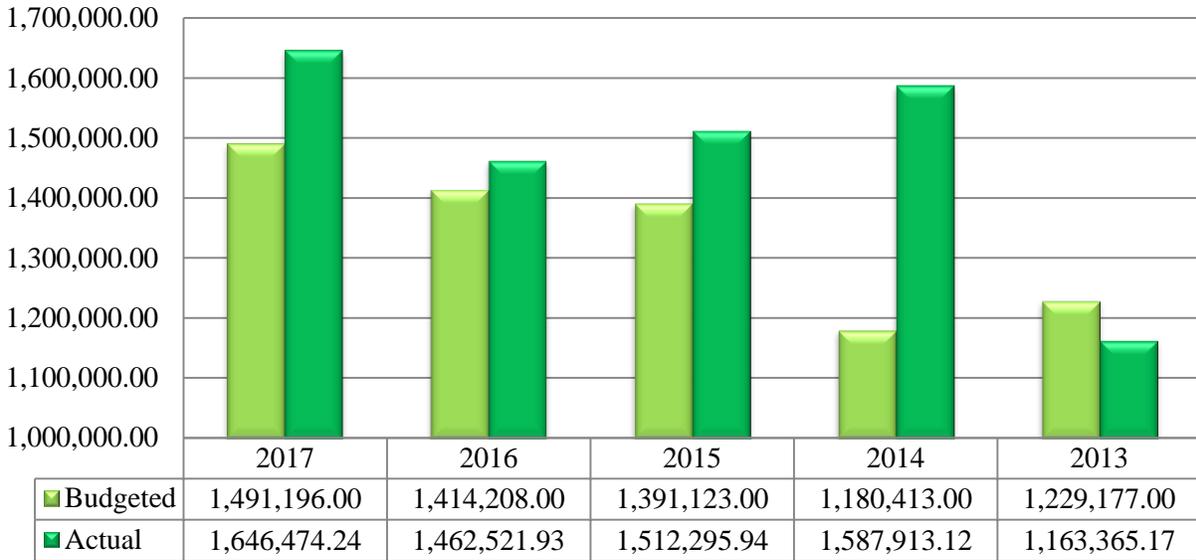
2017 Budgeted vs. Actual



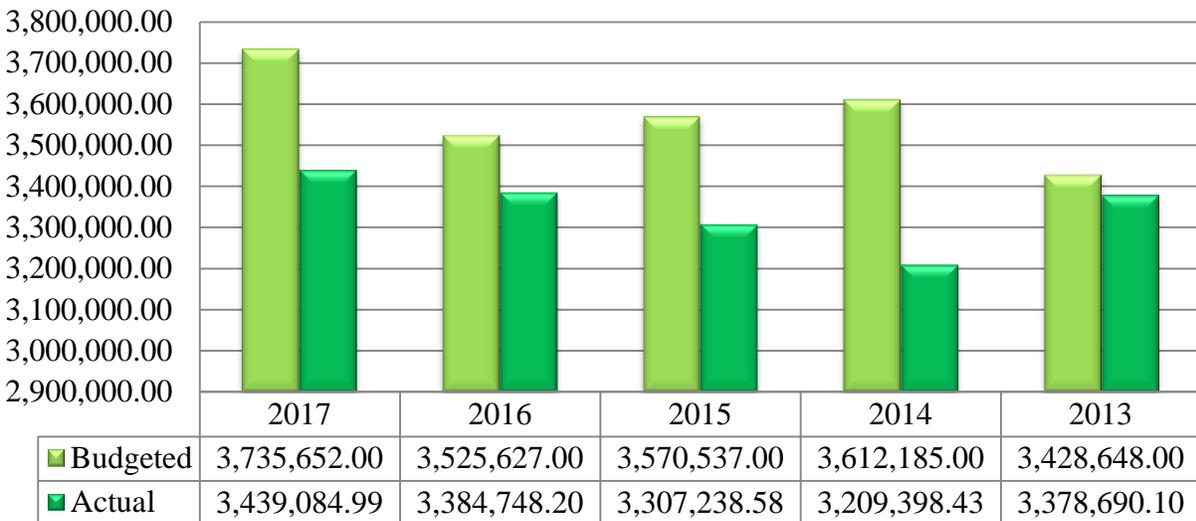
Budgeted vs. Actual Expenses - Historical Review



Budgeted vs. Actual Revenue - Historical Review



Budgeted vs. Actual Net - Historical Review



Community Involvement

The Meeker County Sheriff's Office remains committed to being involved with the community on and off duty. In addition to the on duty activities, many of the Sheriff's Office employee spend countless hours every year volunteering and giving back to the communities we live and work in. Many of these events are featured on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/MeekerCountySheriffsOffice Like our page to follow our community involvement activities throughout the year.

Below are just a few examples of what we do in the community:

Some happy recipients of our "I Got Caught" campaign. Deputies reinforce and reward bike safety by issuing free ice cream cone certificates to kids they see wearing helmets while biking, skate boarding, or roller blading.



2017 Special Olympics regional track and field competition was in Litchfield. The Meeker County Sheriff's Office and Litchfield PD were honored to help with the opening ceremony and walk around the track with the torch bearers. We also helped with the awards ceremony:



Reserve Deputy Peter Sook had the honor of carrying the torch with his son Matthew.



The Awards Ceremony

The 2017 Shop with a Cop was a huge success. The Meeker County Sheriff's Office, Litchfield Police Department, Eden Valley Police Department, MN State Patrol and MN BCA personnel were honored to make Christmas a little brighter for these children.



2017 Trunk or Treat at Litchfield United Methodist Church



At the Dassel Bike Rodeo, deputies inspected bikes and students displayed their bike riding ability with an emphasis on safety:



National Night Out 2017 – This annual community-building campaign promotes partnerships between law enforcement and the community to make our communities safer. This is a great opportunity for the community to interact with law enforcement in a positive light. The Meeker County Sheriff’s Office was a part of National Night Out events in Litchfield, Grove City and Dassel.





2017 Teen Academies. In 2017 we initiated two teen academies. One focused on patrol duties while the other focused on investigations. The detective academy also included a mock trial. These academies are an opportunity for students to better understand the law enforcement profession as they look towards future careers. This program is free and open to all Meeker County youth age 13-18 and any youth age 13-18 who reside out of the County but attend a school district in Meeker County.



Students went through traffic stop scenarios. At the mock trial students were given an overview of the court by Judge Beckman. Each student had a role in the mock trial.

