

Meekeer County Sheriff's Office

2018 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

The 2018 year-end report is part of a continued effort to provide the public information on the activities of the Meeker County Sheriff's Office. In this report you will find the statistical information relating to calls for service and criminal activity. In 2018 the overall calls for service for the Sheriff's Office increased by 5.3%. This is similar to the increase for all law enforcement and emergency services agencies in Meeker County.

In 2018 we saw a significant decrease in assaults (-25%) and burglaries (-24%), however we did see an increase in damage to property/trespass (25%) and theft (15%) calls. Our total number of traffic stops increased by 21% as we continue to focus on drunk driving and distracted driving. Drunk driving arrests fell sharply in 2018 to less than half of 2017. Traffic accidents also fell by 14% with no fatal accidents handled by the Sheriff's Office. There were four fatal accidents in 2018 within Meeker County handled by other agencies which are up from only two in 2017.

The CEE-VI Drug Task Force reports a sharp increase in cocaine and marijuana seizures. While not as big of an increase, methamphetamine seizures also increased in 2018. We do not see the heroin problem in Meeker County like other parts of the State but we do still see major issues with methamphetamine and the many related crimes that come with drug use and abuse.

My office came in under budgeted expenses by 1.3% for 2018. We exceeded projected revenue by 8.7% and the net result was 5.1% below the net budget. This resulted in a net savings of \$194,200. While we were under budget overall, our overtime expenses continue to exceed our budgeted amounts. This is a direct result

of staffing shortages throughout the year. Half of the overtime expense is a result of covering open shifts for patrol, dispatch and the jail. For public safety reasons, these shifts cannot go uncovered which results in the added expense. We will be adding three additional correctional officers in the jail and one additional patrol deputy in 2019 and expect to better address these overtime expenses.

In 2018 we started a security camera upgrade project for the Law Enforcement Center, Courthouse and Social Services buildings. The total budget for this project was \$275,000. To be completed in the first quarter of 2019, the new system will bring needed upgrades to image quality and storage capacity. It also brings better camera coverage in the jail putting us in better compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

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 Meeker County PSAP received 5,961 911 calls in 2018. The vast majority, 5,224 (88%) are received from a wireless source. While this number is a decrease from 2017, it is unclear how many calls in 2017 were actual calls and how many were re-bids. When a wireless 911 call is received, we re-bid the call to get more accurate location information on the call. With our old system, we learned the reported 911 calls included these re-bids. With our new system, which was put in place in 2017, we are able to more accurately report actual 911 calls and re-bids. In 2018 there were 14,451 re-bids, which are no longer counted in the 911 call total. Our new system automatically sends out re-bids and continues to re-bid while we are on the line with the caller. The Meeker County PSAP received 32,302 administrative calls in 2018. Combined with 911 calls, our dispatch fielded 38,263 calls in 2018. This is an average of 105 calls per day. The Meeker County PSAP generated a total of 17,826 calls for service for all law enforcement and emergency services units in Meeker County. This represents a 5.1% increase over 2017. The Meeker County Sheriff's Office calls for service for 2018 were 8,264 which represents a 5.3% increase over 2017. Only four emergency services units in the county did not see an increase. Those four agencies had similar numbers to 2017. The Meeker County PSAP continues to use a regional approach to answering text-to-911 calls. Our text-to-911 calls are sent to another county who in turn relays that information to our dispatch center to be handled accordingly.



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.

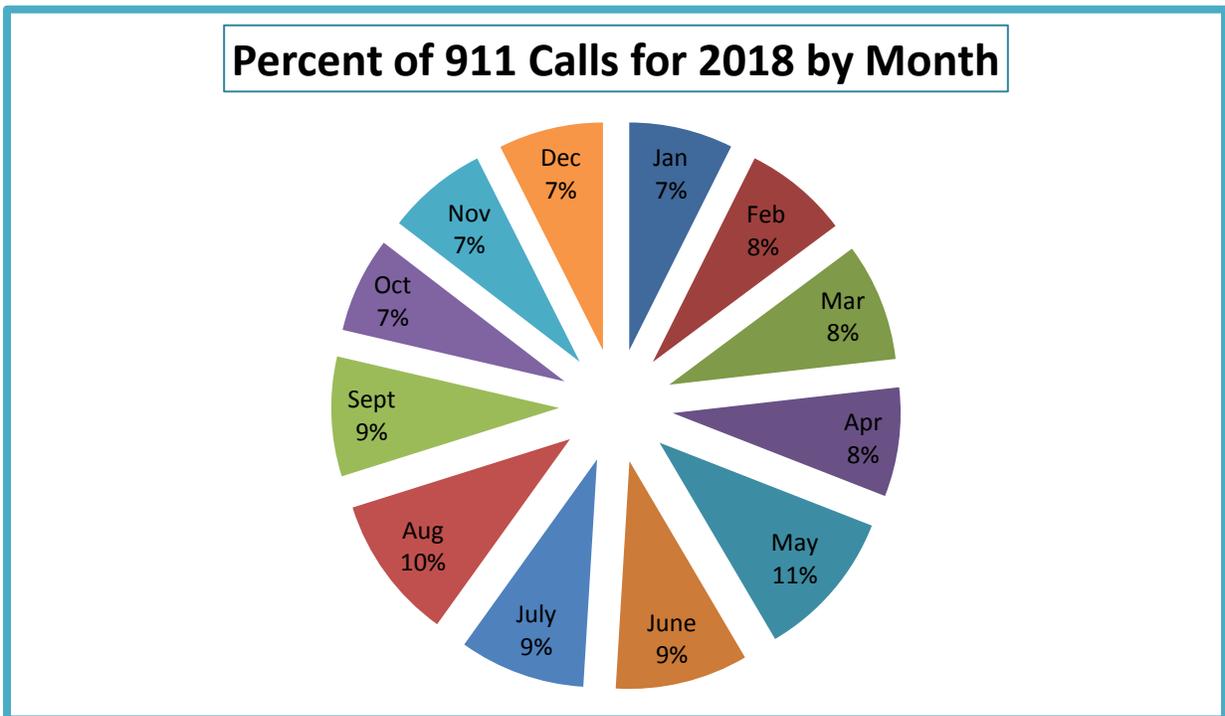
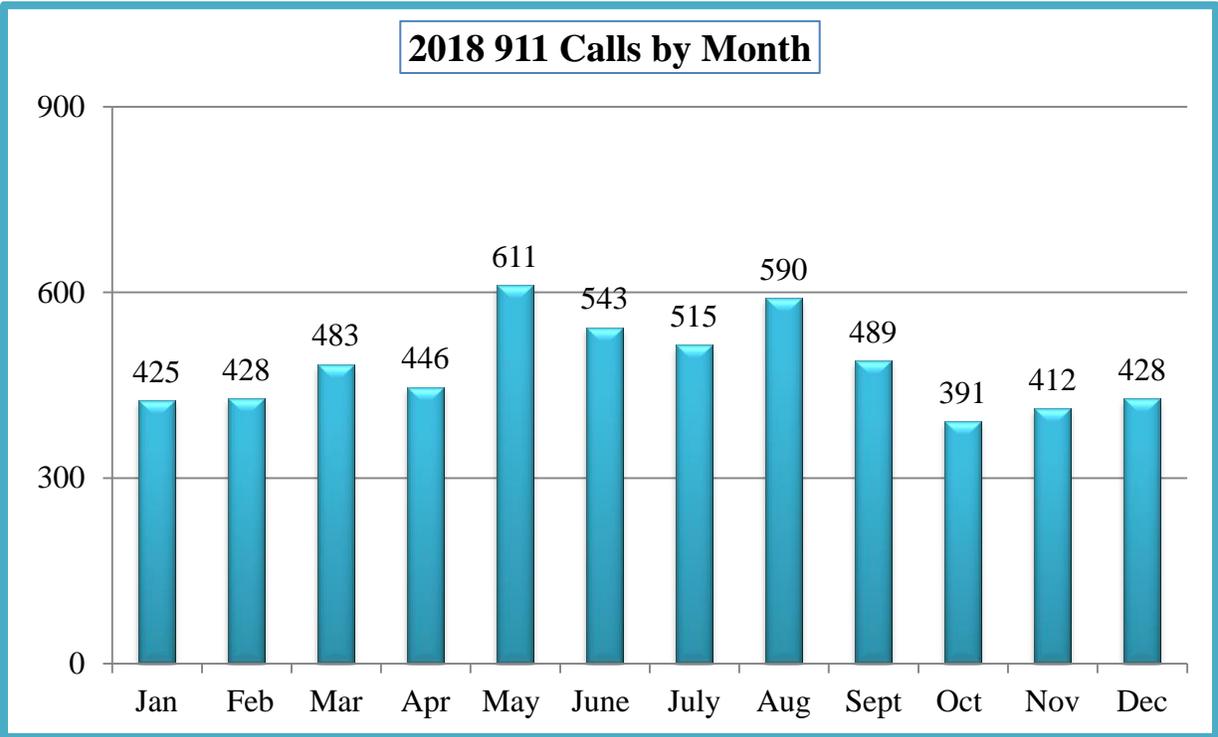
DID YOU KNOW?

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.

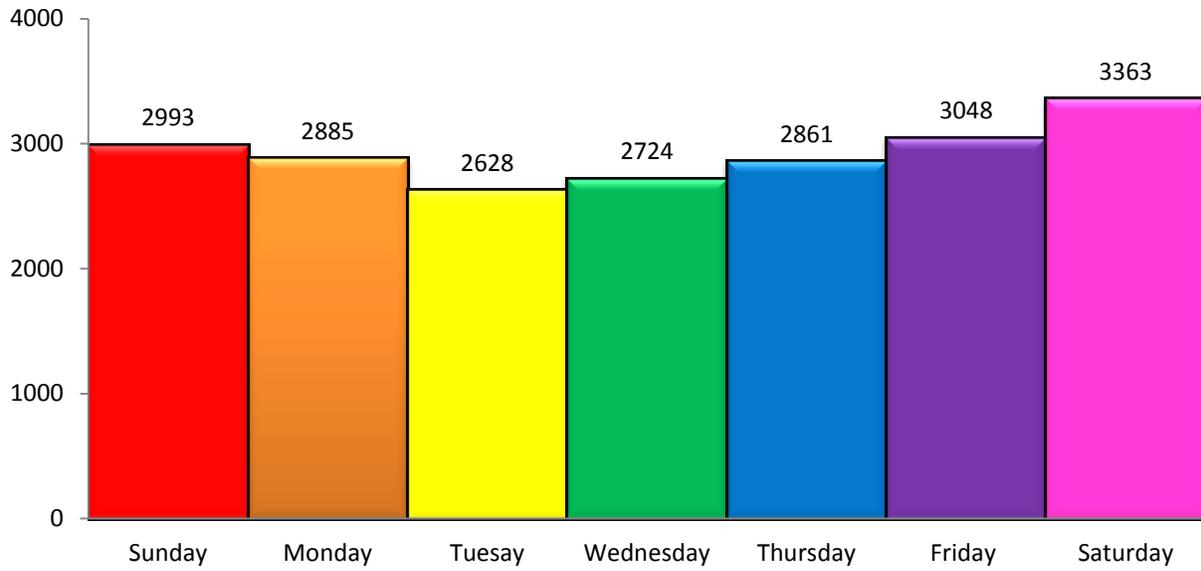
- Dispatchers prefer calls so they can get cues from background noise and voice inflections.
- If you text to 911, dispatchers will ask if they can call you.
- Location is not as accurate with text as it is with a call. Be sure to text your exact address.
- A text or data plan is required to use Text-to-911.
- 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.



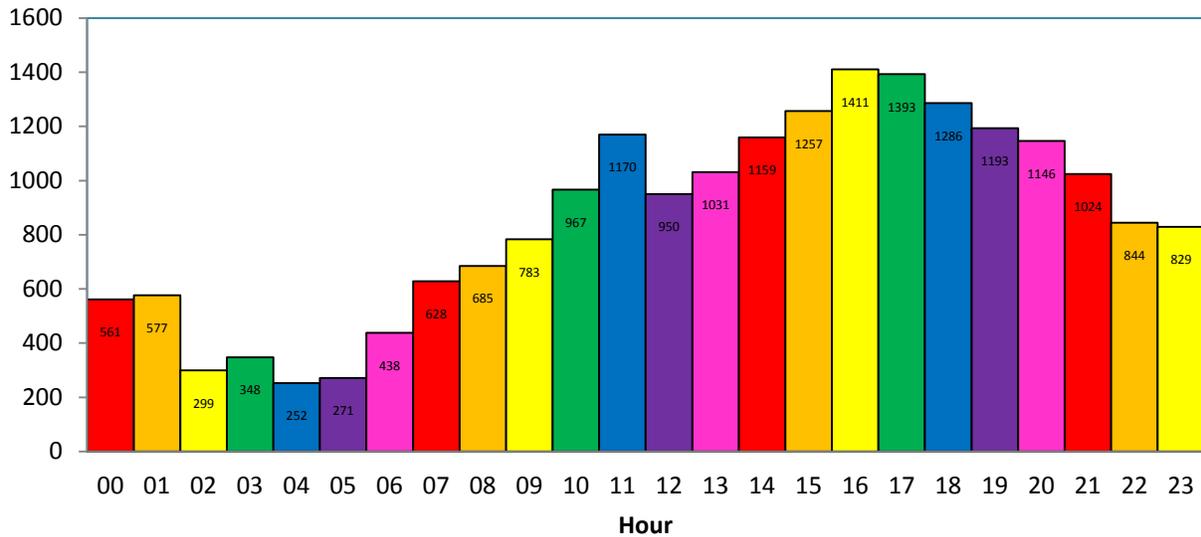
2018 Total 911 calls for Meeker County: 5,761



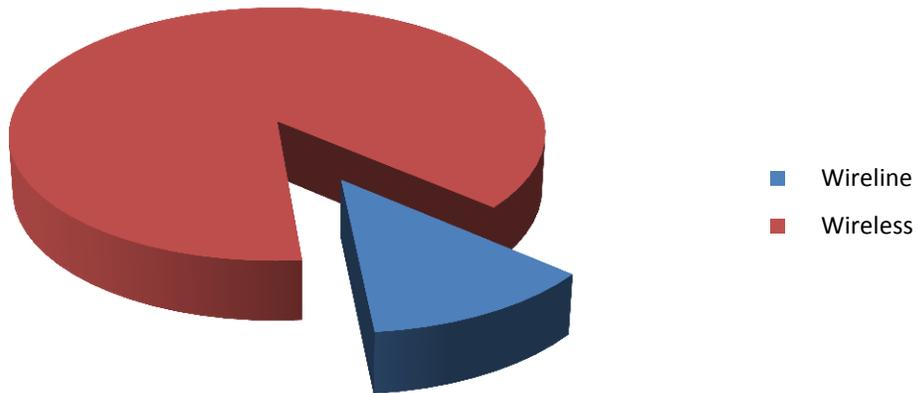
911 Call Volume by Day of Week Report Period 1/1/18 - 12/31/18



911 Call Volume by Hour of Day Report Period 1/1/18 - 12/31/18



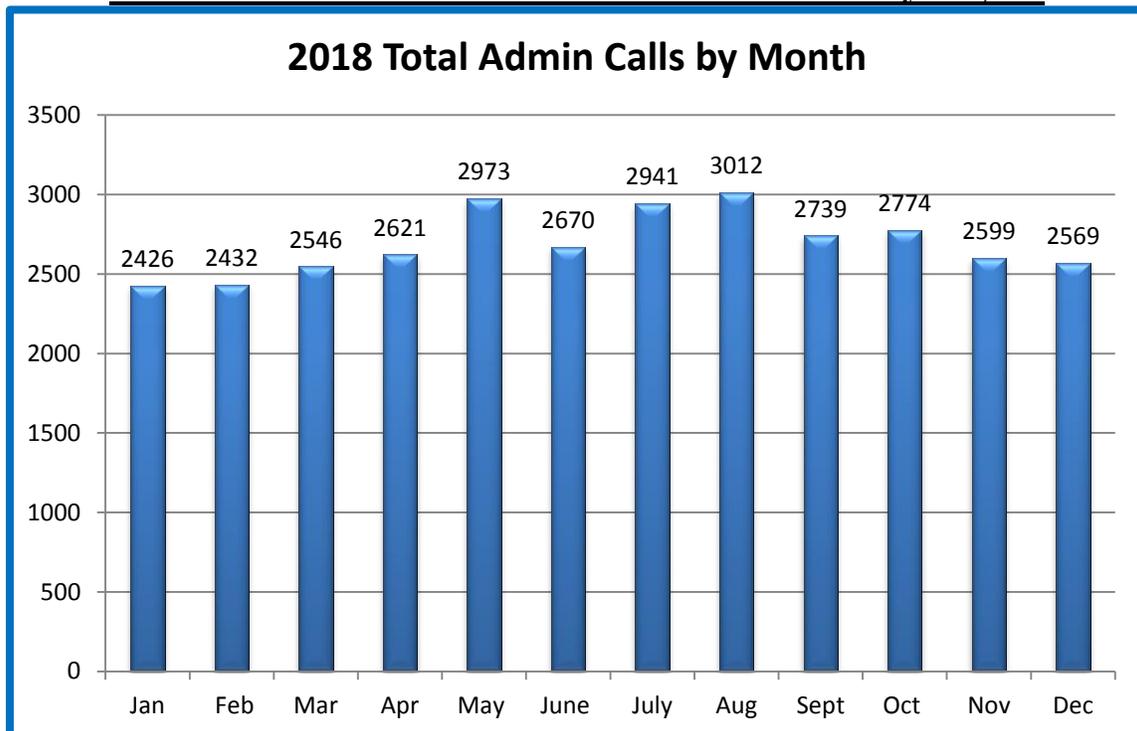
911 Calls by Cell Phone/Land Line Report Period 1/1/18 - 12/31/18



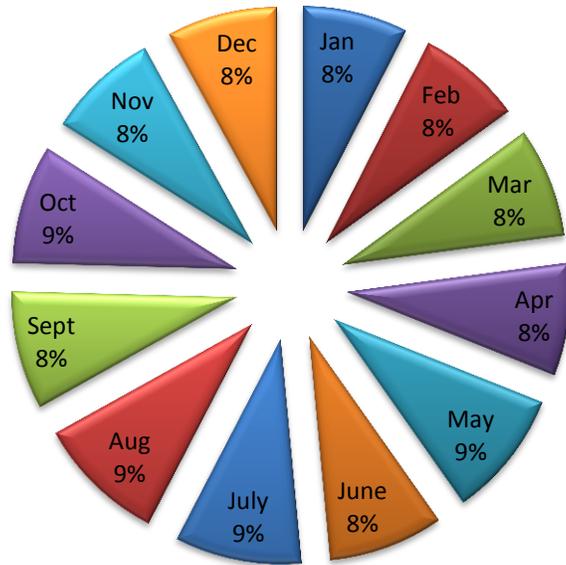
Type	Total	Percentage
Wireline	737	10.61%
Wireless	5224	89.39%
Total:	5961	100%

Wireless 911 re-bids 14,541

2018 Total Administrative calls for Meeker County: 32,302

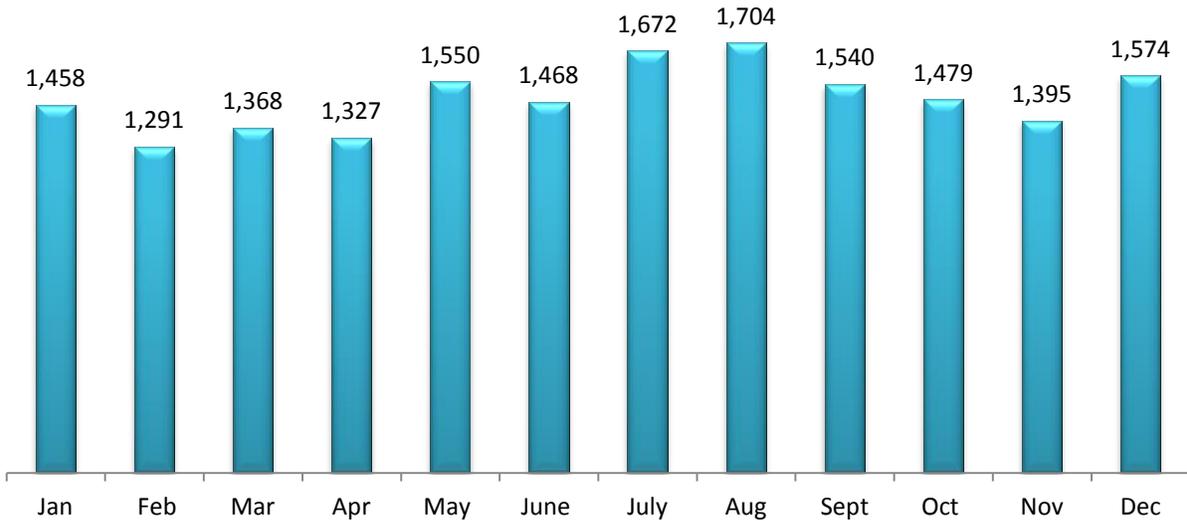


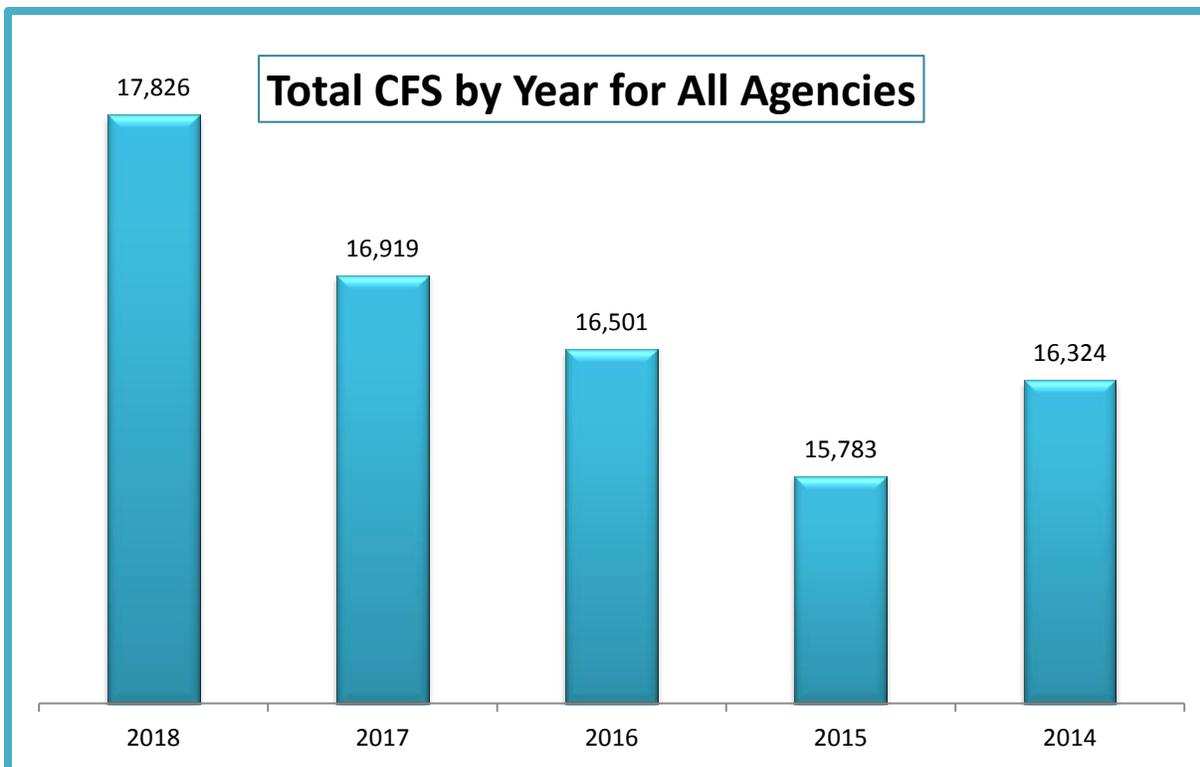
Percent of Admin Calls for 2018 by Month



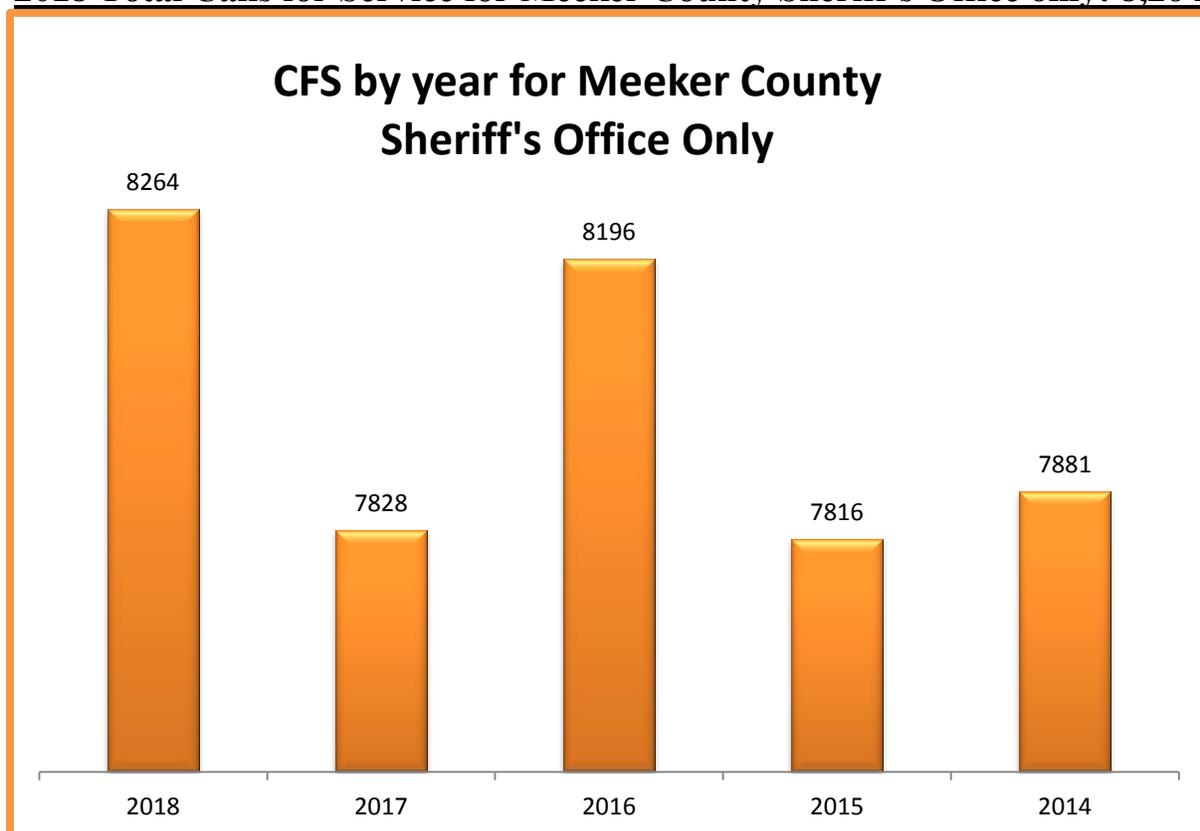
2018 Total Calls for Service (CFS) for All Agencies in Meeker County: 17,826

CFS by Month for All Agencies in Meeker County for 2018

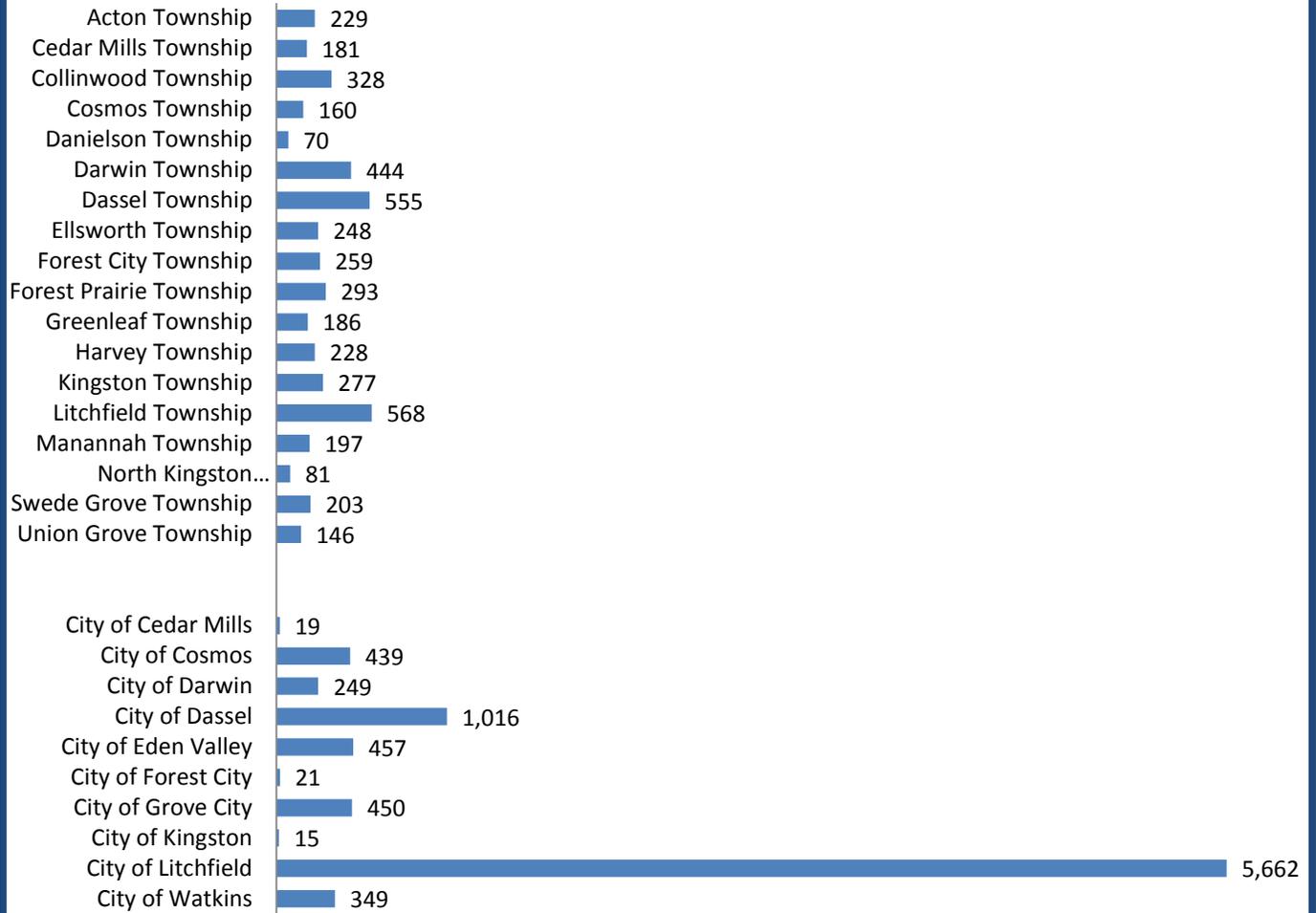




2018 Total Calls for Service for Meeker County Sheriff's Office only: 8,264



2018 CFS by Cities & Townships - All Agencies

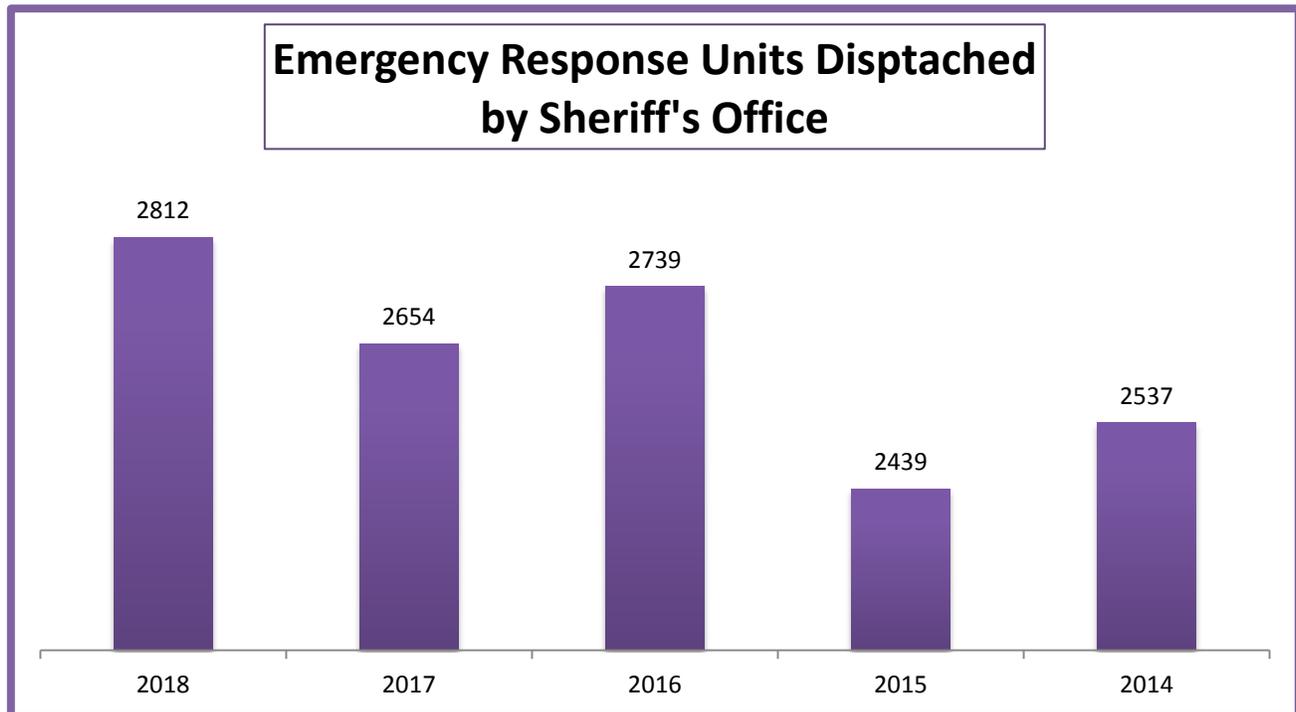




Emergency Response Units Dispatched
by Meeker County
Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center



Agency	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Cosmos Ambulance	75	70	99	77	84
Cosmos Fire & Rescue	31	29	27	26	17
Dassel Fire & Rescue	312	318	297	237	272
Eden Valley Fire & Rescue	151	125	154	131	149
Gold Cross Ambulance	1042	1016	1050	969	908
Grove City Fire Department	79	27	34	53	50
Grove City Rescue	79	90	86	65	73
Litchfield Fire Department	118	112	138	121	82
Litchfield Rescue	455	388	399	353	522
Watkins Fire Department	27	30	26	32	21
Watkins Rescue & Ambulance	443	449	429	375	359
Total:	2812	2,654	2,739	2,439	2,537





CodeRed is a free community notification system 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

Patrol Services

Meeker County Deputies patrol the county, respond to medical emergencies including vehicle crashes, serve civil process papers, diffuse civil disputes, enforce criminal and traffic laws, respond to Calls for Service (CFS) and initiate criminal investigations. Two of the leadership direction statements given to deputies to follow while out on patrol are: 1) “Meeker County Sheriff’s Office personnel will work towards improved quality of life for all residents through pro-active patrols with an emphasis on investigations directed toward drunk driving and illegal drug activity.” 2) “Meeker County Sheriff’s Office personnel will work towards improved community relationships through pro-active community interactions (i.e. community events, presentations, trainings, etc.).” The high expectations of these directives will result in a more professional patrol unit that keeps public safety as a top priority. The 2018 total activity for Meeker County Sheriff’s Office Deputies is as follows:

Criminal Incidents	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Arson	0	0	0	0	0
Assaults: 1st-5th Deg/Domestics/Terror Threats	60	80	88	96	100
Burglary	38	50	29	35	48
Crimes Against Family	6	3	1	9	15
Criminal Sexual Conduct	12	17	21	12	12
Damage to Property/Trespass	61	46	55	77	96
Disturb the Peace/Harassment/Interfere 911	38	37	41	50	80
Drug Crimes	43	65	46	42	24
Fleeing/Escape/Fail to Appear	8	6	8	7	13
Forgery	5	6	7	1	7
Gambling Crimes	2	1	0	0	0
Homicides	0	0	1	0	0
Kidnapping/False Imprisonment	0	1	1	0	0
Mistreat Animals	0	1	2	2	5
Obscenity	0	5	2	6	1
Order for Protection/Harassment Violations	14	21	21	20	20
Perjury/Obstruct Legal Process/False Info to Police	43	65	46	42	17
Robbery	1	1	0	0	1
Sell Liquor to Minors	1	7	0	0	1
Stolen Property	6	5	5	6	3
Theft of Property & Money	81	69	77	81	139
Theft Related-Credit card, NSF checks, Shoplifting, Computer Crime, Swindle	17	26	28	32	51
Vehicle Thefts/Tamper with Vehicle	22	22	24	13	17
Weapons Offenses	10	15	10	3	1
Welfare Fraud	0	0	0	5	0
Total:	468	549	513	539	651

All Other Incidents	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
9-1-1 Hang Ups	89	133	187	235	603
Alarm	175	185	187	190	238
Animal Complaints-Dog	229	199	232	249	228
Animal Complaints-Other	95	141	178	138	196
Assist Other Agencies	534	602	512	557	417
Assist Public	283	244	219	220	351
Carbon Monoxide Alarm	1	0	0	2	6
Deer Possession Tag	35	28	32	51	50
Deliver Emergency Messages	2	3	11	7	7
Door Unlocks	75	81	77	88	79
Escorts	3	6	9	8	12
Noise Complaints	46	28	41	34	48
Open Doors - Residential & Business	10	8	13	16	22
Other	43	39	65	54	92
Scams	123	153			
Search Warrants	7	12	6	10	4
Security/Vacation Checks	36	72	36	51	72
Suspicious Activity	315	346	394	375	207
Unwanted Individual	32	41	44	24	26
Welfare Check	151	134	130	111	113
Total:	2284	2455	2373	2420	2771

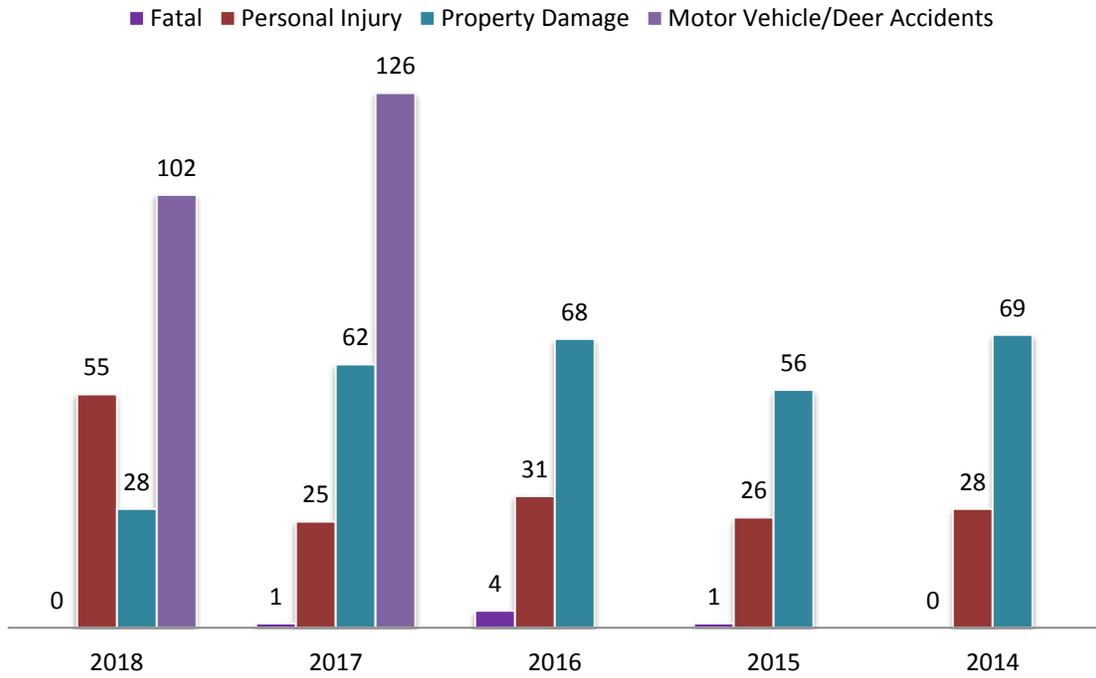
Meeker County Sheriff's Office Traffic Enforcement

Traffic Law Violations, Citations & Arrests	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
All Other Traffic Violations	28	9	33	56	15
Boat & Water/Snowmobile Citations	0	1	3	0	0
Bus Stop Arm Violations	3	1	3	1	0
Driving After Cancel/Revocation/Suspension	52	47	63	58	40

Driver's License Violations	26	21	26	30	20
DUI/Refuse to Submit to Test	29	66	49	25	29
No Insurance/No Proof of Insurance	40	31	58	62	43
Open Bottle Citations /Allow Open Bottle	1	6	1	9	1
Parking Violations	2	3	0	17	25
Reckless/Careless Driving	4	10	10	10	9
Seat Belt Violations	22	2	11	8	13
Speed	146	98	238	263	132
Stop Sign Violations	14	3	9	10	3
Under 21 Drink & Drive	2	2	2	0	0
Underage Consumption/Possesses Citations	13	13	23	19	17
Vehicle Registration Violations	21	5	12	10	13
Yield Right of Way	5	5	5	2	5
Total:	408	323	546	580	365

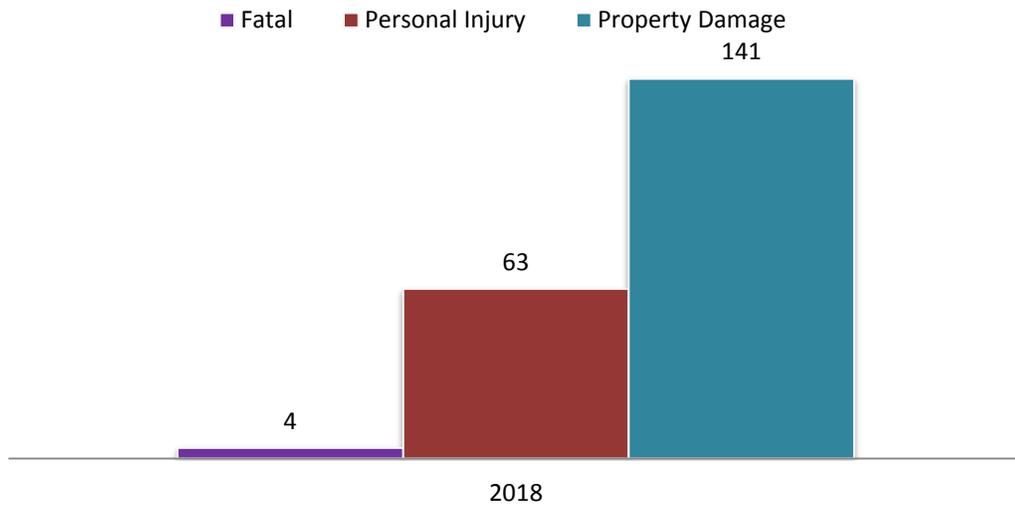
	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Traffic Stops	2457	1943	2347	2033	1009
Abandoned/Stalled Vehicles	139	249	315	272	376
Driving Complaints	311	373	371	359	335
Total Number of Traffic Accidents	185	214	269	229	226
Total:	3092	2779	3302	2893	1946

2018 Meeker County Sheriff's Office Reported Traffic Accidents



Motor Vehicle/Deer Accidents were added starting in 2017

2018 Total Traffic Accidents for All Agencies in Meeker County



Meeker County Contract Deputies

The Meeker County Sheriff's Office contracts with Dassel, Grove City and Watkins for full time policing services, and Cosmos for part-time policing services. The total activity for each contract city for 2018 is as follows:

Contract Town	2018 Calls for Service
Cosmos	428
Dassel	998
Grove City	443
Watkins	330

2018 Criminal Incidents	Cosmos	Dassel	Grove City	Watkins
Assault	4	1	2	3
Burglary	3	2	4	3
Check Forgery	1	1	0	0
Child Abuse/Maltreatment	13	11	11	19
Criminal Damage to Property	3	4	7	3
DANCO Violation	3	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	9	1	0	0
Disturbance	12	4	4	7
Domestics	9	9	3	1
Drugs/Paraphernalia	3	2	1	3
DUI	0	2	1	1
Forgery	1	0	3	0
Harassment/Stalking	9	8	5	1
Homicides	0	0	0	0
Identity Theft	0	0	1	0
Lost/Found Property	1	5	3	1
Property Damage Accident	4	13	3	5
Pursuit Vehicle/Person	0	1	0	0

Robbery	0	0	0	0
Scams/Swindle	3	13	9	3
Sex Crime Offense	2	2	3	3
Stolen Vehicle	2	0	2	1
Tamper w/MV	1	1	2	0
Theft by check	0	2	0	0
Thefts	8	13	9	12
Threats	4	0	3	2
Trespass	2	3	2	0
Violation of Order for Protection/Harassment	5	3	1	3
Weapons Offenses	0	0	0	0
Welfare Fraud	0	0	0	0
Total:	102	101	79	71

2018 All Other Incidents	Cosmos	Dassel	Grove City	Watkins
9-1-1 Hang Ups	2	14	14	4
9-1-1 Mis or Accident Dial	0	1	0	1
Abandoned/Stalled Vehicles	0	5	2	2
Alarms	11	31	7	9
Animal Complaints	21	33	37	18
Assist Other Agencies	20	14	9	6
Assist Public	26	37	23	17
ATV Complaint	0	1	4	2
Burning Complaint	1	2	2	0
Carbon Monoxide Alarm	0	0	0	0
Debris on Roadway	0	1	0	0
Deliver Emergency Messages	1	0	0	0
Driving Complaints	7	27	9	7
Escorts	0	4	0	0
Fire Calls	2	7	2	2
Funeral Escort	2	2	0	0
Gas Drive Off	1	3	2	12

HAZMAT/Chemical Spill	6	9	3	3
Medicals	0	48	14	9
Motorist Assist	0	14	5	1
Noise Complaints	3	16	8	4
Open Doors - Residential & Business	1	5	0	1
Ordinance Violations	4	19	10	21
Other	95	129	69	60
Search Warrants	0	1	0	1
Security/Vacation Checks	0	2	2	0
Shooting Complaint	0	2	1	2
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	13	57	19	19
Tobacco Violation	0	0	1	0
Traffic Stops - Citations	9	37	6	3
Traffic Stops - Warnings	76	332	91	27
Unlock Vehicle	8	22	6	12
Unwanted Individual	1	4	2	1
Welfare Check	16	18	16	15
Total:	326	897	364	259

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 Departments of Transportation (DOT), 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 the 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.



2018 Eden Valley Watkins High School Safety Day

Snowmobile / Boat and Water / OHV Patrols



The Meeker County Sheriff's Office is responsible for Snowmobile, Off Highway Vehicle (OHV), and Water Safety patrol and enforcement. Patrol deputies and seasonal water patrol 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

The Snowmobile Safety Enforcement Grant for fiscal year 2018 is \$3,559. The fiscal year runs from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. We received 6 snowmobile complaints in 2018 and did not receive any reports of snowmobile accidents.

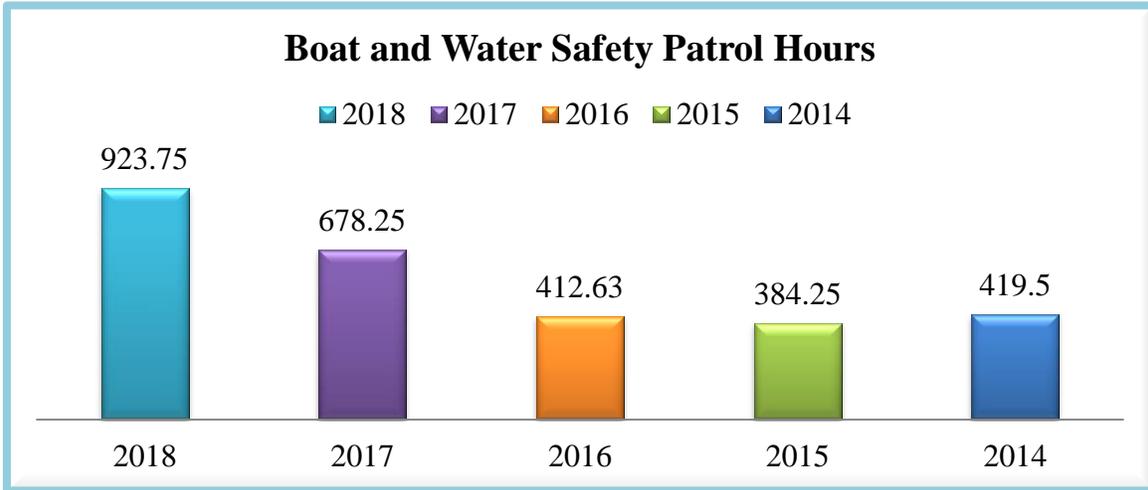


Boat and Water Safety Grant



The Boat and Water Safety Grant runs from January 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. The grant for the 2018 fiscal year is \$7,095. The Meeker County Sheriff's Office also partnered with the county Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program and has additional resources for dedicated AIS inspections. We received 11 boating complaints and investigated two boating

accidents involving injuries. In 2018, the total AIS hours were 300 for which the AIS committee reimbursed the Sheriff’s Office \$4,725.



Boat and Water	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Complaints	11	12	16	5	14
Temporary Structure Permits	46	45	60	66	74

OHV Safety Enforcement Grant (Off-Highway Vehicle)

The Meeker County Sheriff’s Office received \$6,537.00 for the OHV Safety Enforcement Grant fiscal year 2018. The fiscal year runs from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. We received 27 OHV



complaints in 2018 and investigated three injury OHV accidents, one of which was fatal.

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 8,264 Calls for Service received for the Meeker County Sheriff’s Office in 2018, 633 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 183 reported deaths in Meeker County in 2018, 11 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	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Motor Vehicle Accident	3	1	3	4	2
Natural	8	7	8	4	9
Non Motor Vehicle Accident	9	4	3	6	7
Reportable, Declined	162	145	115	119	119
Suicide	1	6	9	3	6
Homicide	0	0	1	0	0
Total	183	163	139	136	143

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 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. This year we saw a significant increase in cocaine, marijuana and methamphetamine seizures. The following is the reported activity for all of Meeker County:

CEE-VI Drug Task Force Statistics	2016	2017	2018
Arrests	38 (1 gang)	60 (0 gang)	60 (2 gang)
Drug and/or Gang Presentations	1 for 50 people	2 for 43 people	2 for 20 people
Searches	25	25	24
Children Removed		14	4
Asset Seizures			
Cash	\$9,678.00	\$4,641.00	\$13,480.00
Vehicles	0	2	2
Hand Guns	5	1	3
Long Guns	20	14	6
Drugs Seizures			
Cocaine	4.20 grams	11.51 grams	517.80 grams
Hashish		.30 grams	None
Heroin	3.20 grams	None	5.20 grams
Marijuana	3748.74 grams (8.25 lbs)	2.46 ounces	23982.20 grams (52.87 lbs)
Marijuana - concentrate		.60 grams	802.70 grams
Meth	778.88 grams (1.71 lbs)	654.48 grams (1.44 lbs)	1187.64 grams (2.61 lbs)
Prescription	90.00 pills		3.00 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 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. D.A.R.E. Deputy Josh Case is assigned to EVW and D.A.R.E. Deputy Sara Miller is assigned to ACGC. In 2017 we 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.



2018 ACGC D.A.R.E Class



2018 EVW D.A.R.E. Class

Training

The Meeker County Sheriff's Office will continue to strive to make the Sheriff's



Office the best it can be and one the public can be proud of and trust. This will be achieved through continued professionalism and highly trained Sheriff's Office personnel. 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. It is not

uncommon for deputies to have two to three times the minimum number of hours.

We train on all aspects of law enforcement including those we rarely encounter. The public expects we will be trained and able to handle whatever situation we encounter.

We take this responsibility very seriously and spend countless hours each year to better our skills and knowledge of this job. In addition to all the law enforcement training, deputies are also certified Emergency Medical Responders (EMR).

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.



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.

Community Education and Presentations

Meeker County Sheriff's Office staff routinely present at various civic groups, church groups and public presentations. Our goal is to educate the public on what to watch for when it comes to criminal activity and how to be safe. We present on a wide variety of topics including sex trafficking, drug trafficking, scams, bike safety, active shooter, distracted driving, etc. With the increased use of vaporizers and the availability of drugs to teenagers, we developed a "Hidden in Plain Sight" program. Hidden in Plain Sight is an interactive presentation that provides parents with the knowledge and insight on drug use indicators that can be found in a teen's room. These indicators will help parents determine if their child is using or experimenting with drugs. The presentation strengthens parent's knowledge of drug use and abuse in our community. Also as a regular part of our effort to reach out to the community,

we have hosted many “Coffee with the Sheriff” events throughout the county. These are informal gatherings where the public can interact directly with the Sheriff and Sheriff’s Office staff, ask questions or simply say hi. If your group or organization would like our office to present to your group, call our office and we will have someone attend one of your meetings.



Sheriff Cruze presenting Hidden in Plain Sight to a group of area educators.

Safe Schools Initiative

In cooperation with Meeker County Probation and the Meeker County Attorney’s Office, we brought a Safe Schools initiative to the school districts in Meeker County. These meetings bring together school officials, social services, probation, prosecutors, and law enforcement to the table to discuss issues we are all facing with the children in our communities. These meetings touch on wide ranging issues from truancy, drug use to mental health issues. Cooperatively we are better able to address and understand everyone’s role with solutions to these issues. Annually we have a county wide Safe Schools meeting where all county school districts and stake holders are brought together to present and discuss issues in the various districts.

ALICE Training

ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. This is a pro-active approach to address potential threats of an aggressive intruder or active shooter event in our schools. We currently have four deputies who are certified ALICE trainers. These deputies work in conjunction with our schools to bring this pro-active approach to our county. This training is based on the premise that protection and safety must be the priority in an active shooter event. ALICE training provides options addressing the unique challenges that present themselves in these situations.

Teen Academies

The Meeker County Sheriff's Office held our second annual Teen Academies. These academies are intended to provide youth an inside look at the operations and services of our office. The Teen Deputy Academy focuses on patrol operations including traffic stop scenarios, law enforcement procedures, handcuffing and defensive tactics. The Teen Detective Academy focuses on crime scene investigations, evidence collection and a mock court trial. This program is free and open to all Meeker County residents age 13-18 and all out of county residents age 13-18 who attend the ACGC, D-C, EVW or Litchfield School Districts. This is a great opportunity for these students to interact with law enforcement, see what the profession is all about and potentially start a career path into the law enforcement profession.





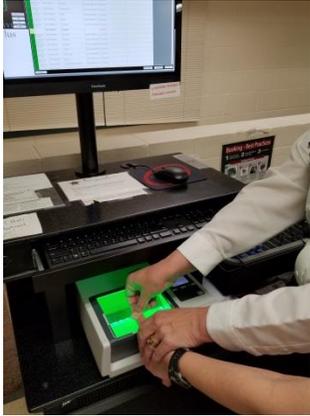
2018 Teen Deputy Academy Graduates



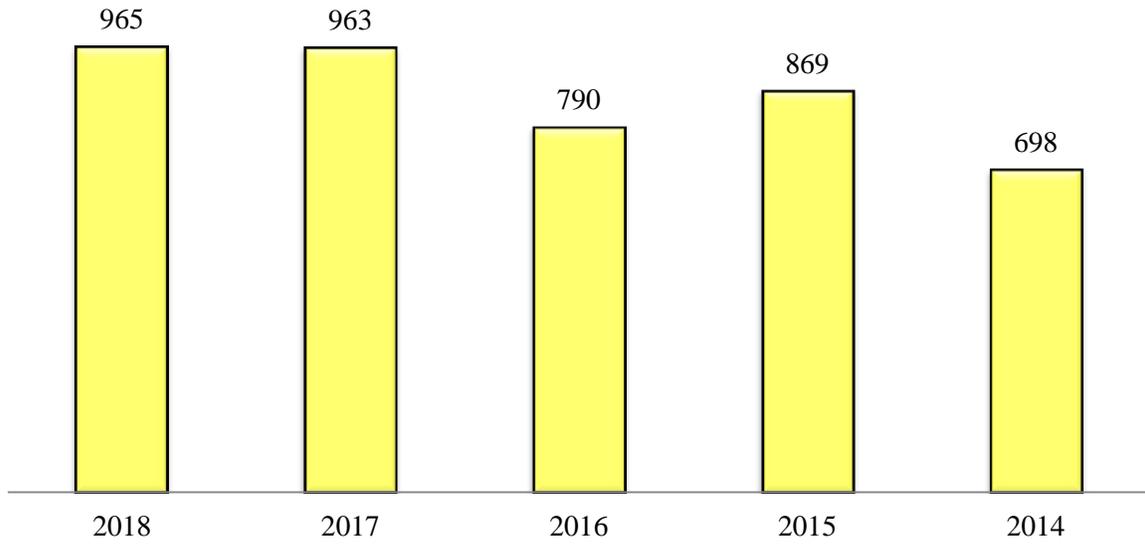
2018 Teen Detective Academy Graduates

Meeker County Jail

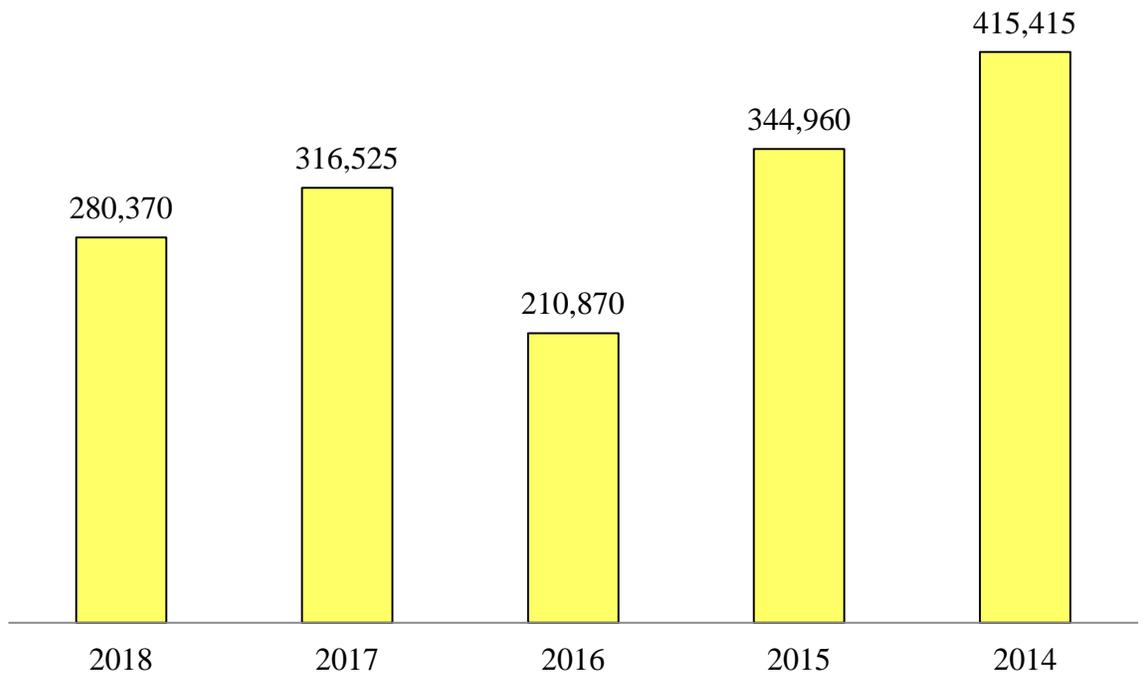
The Meeker County Sheriff's Office Jail is responsible for housing inmates awaiting court, as well as those who are sentenced for misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor offenses. The average daily population for 2018 was 40 inmates per day. The Jail also boards inmates from other counties and the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC). The Meeker County Sheriff's Office charges \$55 per day for inmates who are boarded for other jurisdictions. In 2018, the Jail boarded 149 inmates with an average stay of 31 days for those inmates. The boarding revenue received for 2018 was \$280,370. The average stay for all inmates booked into our facility is 14 days. The 2018 MN DOC Inspection report for the Meeker County Jail showed a 97.62% compliance rate on mandatory requirements and a 97.03% compliance rating on essential requirements. Our deficiencies came from outdated emergency and training plans. We updated those plans and provided all documentation to the DOC to be in compliance. More concerning to the DOC was our staffing levels which directly impacted the required well-being checks by staff. Due to staffing shortages, staff, at times, were unable to perform well-being checks as prescribed by the DOC. The recommendation by the DOC, to make sure we are in compliance with their rules, was to add staffing. We contracted to have a complete staffing study of the jail done in 2018, which also pointed out staffing shortages. To be in compliance with the DOC, the Meeker County Board of Commissioners agreed to add three staff members in 2019 and two staff members in 2020.

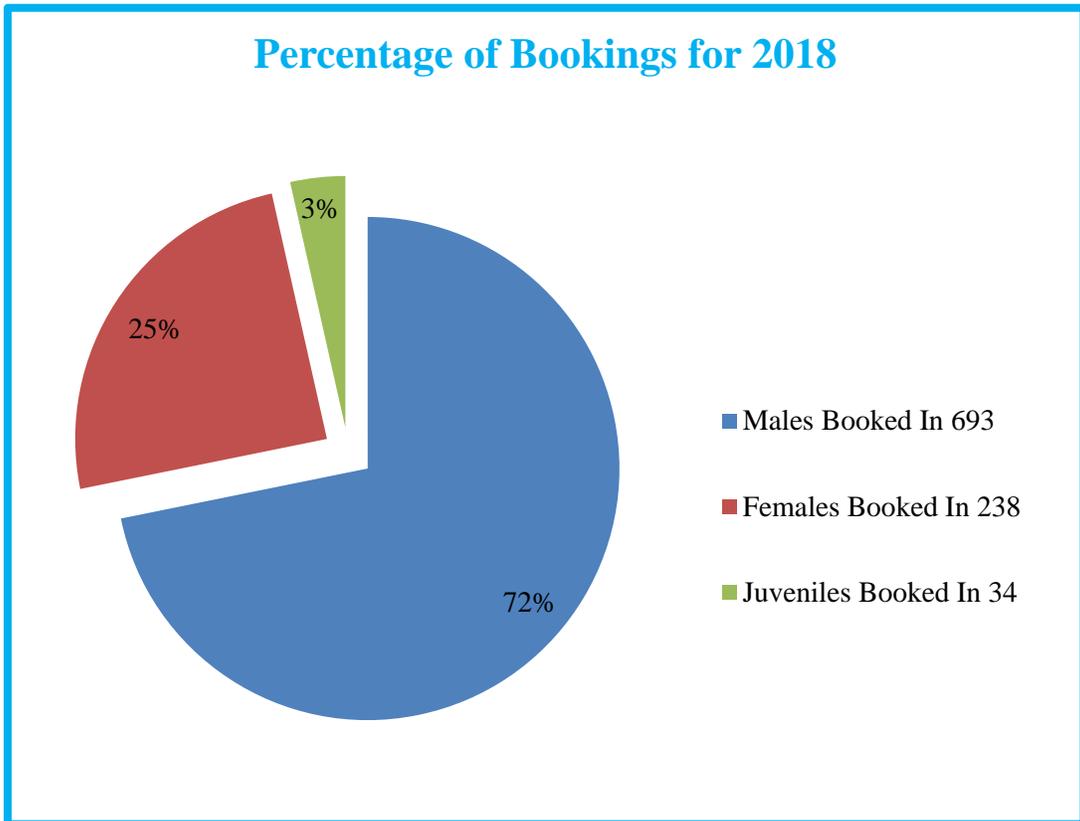
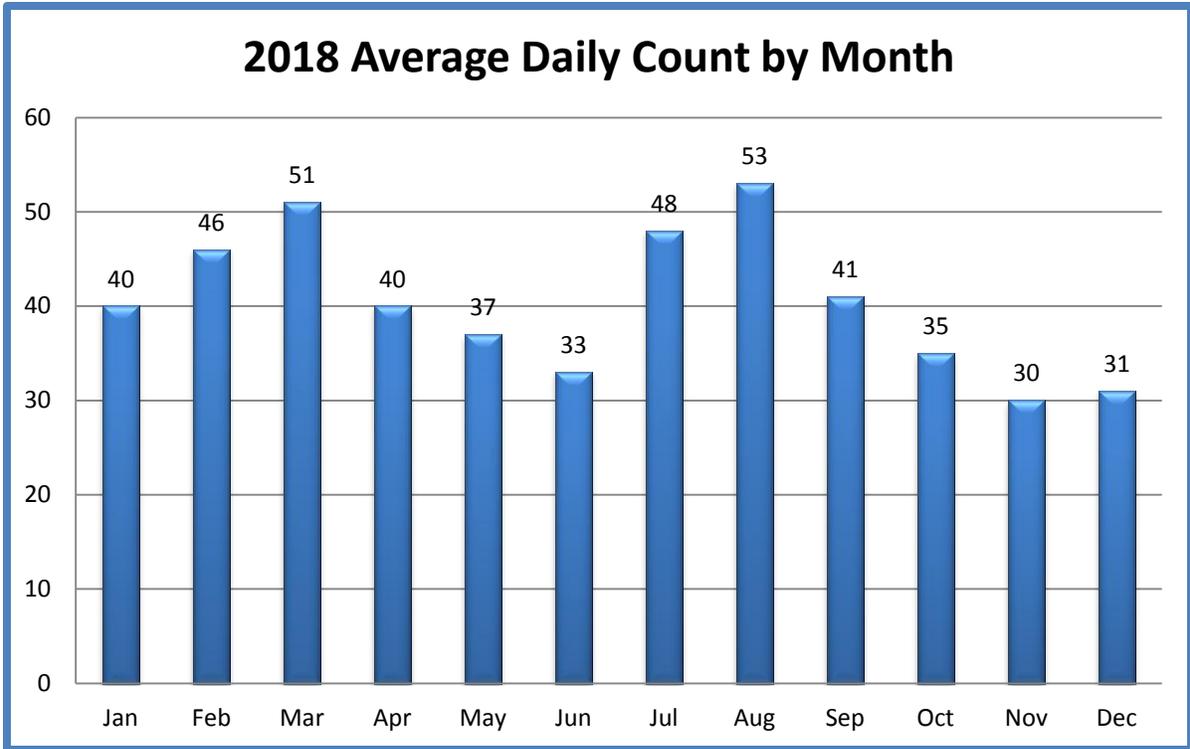


Total Bookings

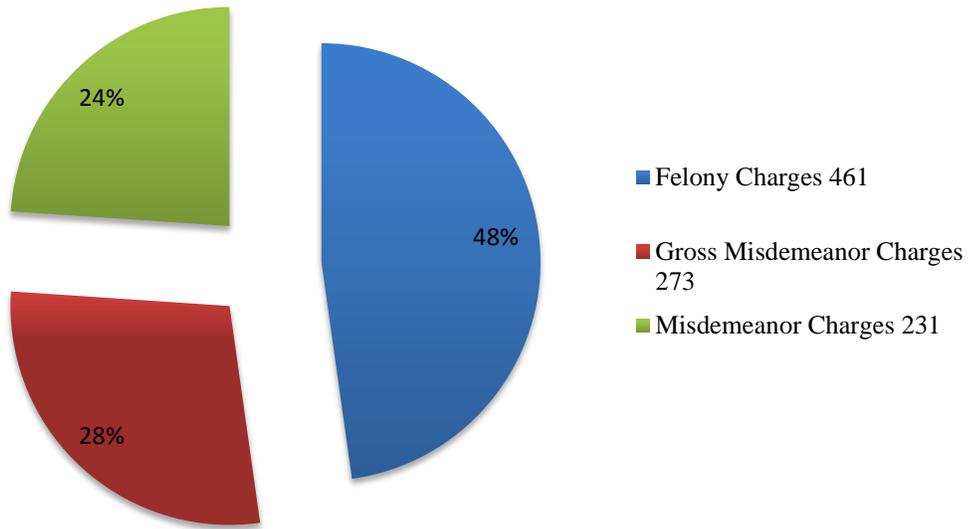


Boarding Fees Received

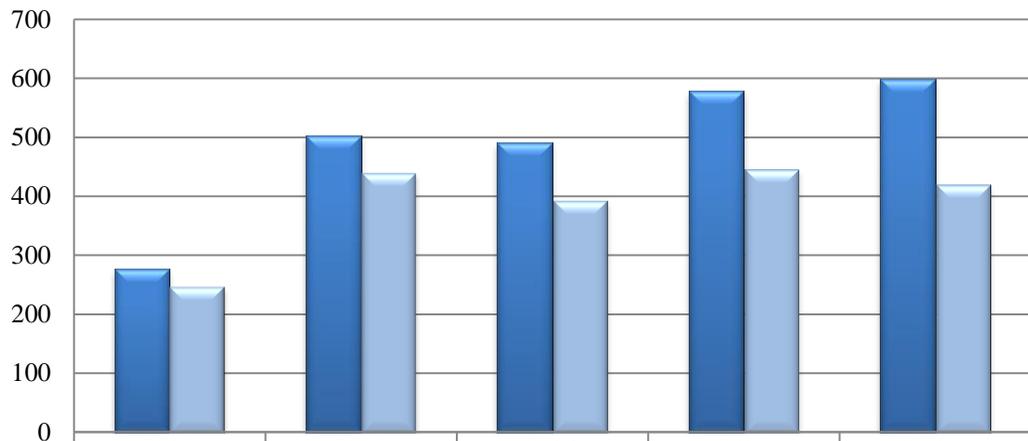




2018 Bookings by Charge Level



Transport Hours and Total Transports



	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
■ Transport Hours	275.85	502.2	490.01	578.31	598.98
■ Total Transports	248	440	393	446	420

Court Security

The security of the Meeker County Courthouse is the responsibility of the Sheriff's Office. Since the installation of the security station in 2018, we have seized more than 70 knives off people and arrested two people for the possession of methamphetamine. In one of those cases, the person had 49 grams of methamphetamine as he attempted to pass through security. Court security remains a high priority for Meeker County and we continue to explore 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



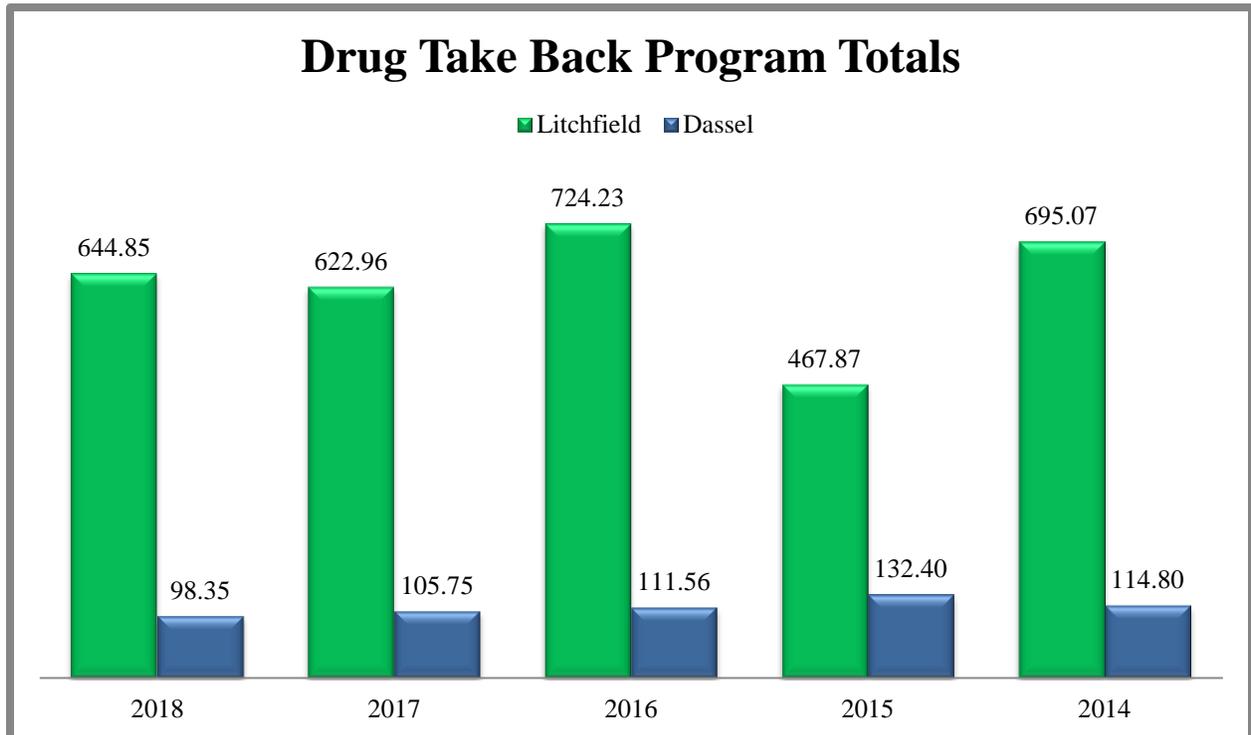
In 2018, the Meeker County Sheriff's Office served a total of 526 civil process papers. The most common types of papers a deputy sheriff serve include Summons & Complaints, Subpoenas, Petitions, Notices, Mortgage Foreclosures, Orders, Evictions, Writs of Recovery, Writs of Execution, Orders for Protection, Harassment Restraining Orders, Civil Commitments and Affidavits. In 2018, the Sheriff's Office collected \$22,115.64 in civil process service fees.

SHERIFF FEES FOR 2019		
911 recordings (911 calls, radio traffic on data CD/DVD)	\$ 30.00	Per hour (1 hr minimum charged)
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 Forces)
Fax: Sent or Received	\$ 0.25	Per page
Firearms Storage Fee	\$ 1.00	Per day per gun (30 day minimum charged)
Impound Storage Fee	\$ 15.00	Per day (effective 5 days after date of Notice of Impoundment letter)
Animal Fees:		
~ Pound Pickup Fee	\$ 50.00	Per animal
~ Impoundment Fee	\$ 5.00	Per day (charged after the first 24 hours)
Civil Process Fees:		
~ Paper Service	\$ 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
~ Redemption of Property Mortgagor	\$ 250.00	Per redemption
~ Sale Notice - Posting 3 Copies	\$ 70.00	Per notice
~ Sheriff Sales	\$ 75.00	Per sale
~ Writ of Execution Commission Service	6%	Per writ/\$20 minimum charged
~ Writ of Execution Service	\$ 74.00	Per writ
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
Gun Permits:		
~ Meeker Residents: New	\$ 40.00	Per permit
~ Meeker Residents: Renew	\$ 35.00	Per permit
~ Out-of-State Residents: New	\$ 75.00	Per permit
~ Out-of-State Residents: Renew	\$ 70.00	Per permit
~ Purchase/Transfer Permit	Free	Per permit

~ Replacement Cards	\$ 10.00	Per permit
Jail Fees:		
~ Fingerprint Cards: Out-of-County Resident	\$ 15.00	Per card
~ Fingerprint Cards: Meeker 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
~ Inmate Doctor Fee	\$ 15.00	Per in-house visit
~ Inmate Nurse Fee	\$ 5.00	Per in-house visit
~ Probation Urinalysis Fee	\$ 10.00	Per sample
~ Probation Portable Breath Test fee	\$ 5.00	Per test
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
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. This service provides a safe and secure manner of disposing unused and expired medications. 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. 2018 Total Pounds of Prescription Drugs Disposed: 743.20



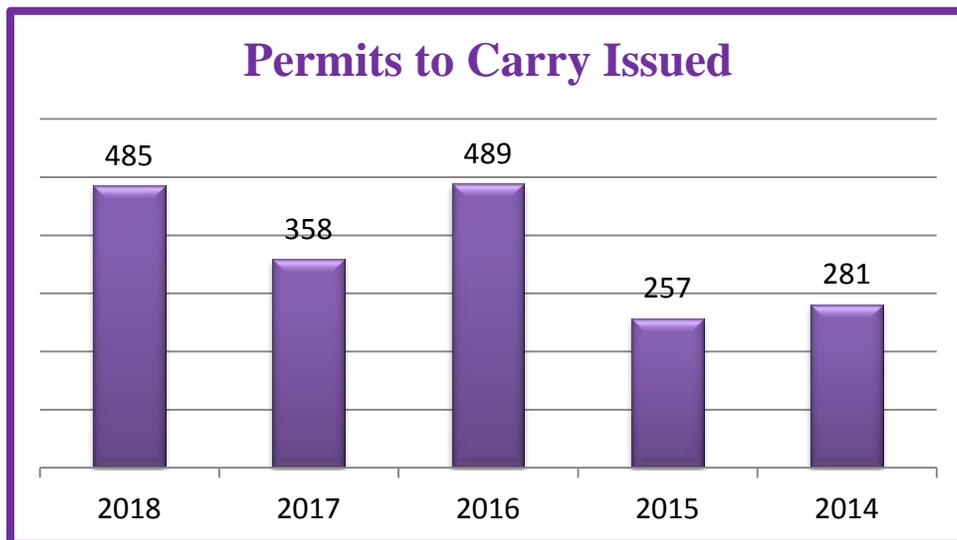
Gun Permits

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 2018 the Permit to Carry application fee was \$40.00 with renewals costing \$35.00. For each Permit to Carry 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 in reference to our permit activity. This report can be viewed at:

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca/bca-divisions/administrative/Documents/2018-Permit-to-Carry-Report.pdf>

Permits to Purchase: In 2018, there were 203 Permits to Purchase issued.

Permits to Carry: In 2018 there were 485 Permits to Carry issued.



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 2018 was \$21,088.00. This money supports the salary base for our director and assistant. The EMPG allows Homeland Security Emergency Management (HSEM) to manage baseline requirements across the state so all counties are equal at a certain level of preparedness. The fiscal year for these grants runs from January 1 to December 31, 2018.

Meeker County Emergency Management receives a yearly grant called Radiological Emergency Preparedness Grant (REP). The amount received for 2018 was \$6,000.00. This grant was used to purchase a new portable radio. The fiscal year for this grant runs from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Budget



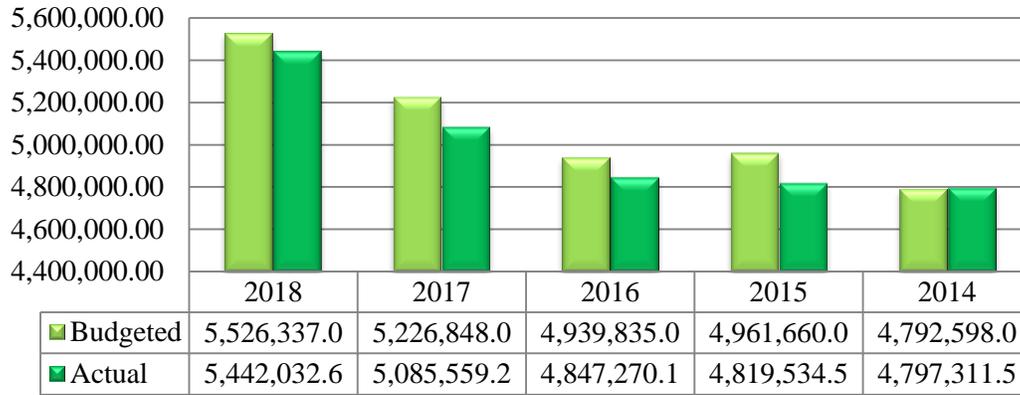
In 2018, the overall expenses for the Sheriff’s Office were 1.3% below budget (\$66,485). The 2018 actual revenue was 8.7% over projected revenue (\$127,735). This resulted in a net savings of \$194,200. This is 5.1% below the projected net budget. While we were under overall budget, overtime costs continue to exceed what has been budgeted for this line item. This is a direct result of staffing shortages. Half of the overtime expenses came from covering open shifts in patrol, dispatch and jail, which cannot be left open for public safety reasons. Here are the overtime numbers by division: Patrol - 2018 budget, \$80,000 - 2018 actual, \$145,310 (\$68,060 covering open shifts); Jail - 2018 budget, \$25,000 - 2018 actual, \$45,605 (\$31,548 covering open shifts); Dispatch - 2018 budget, \$9,500 - 2018 actual, \$26,367 (\$22,389 covering open shifts). In 2018 we received reimbursement for overtime from various grants and contract repayments of \$15,683. With additional staff to be added in 2019, we anticipate there will be a reduction in overtime for 2019.

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

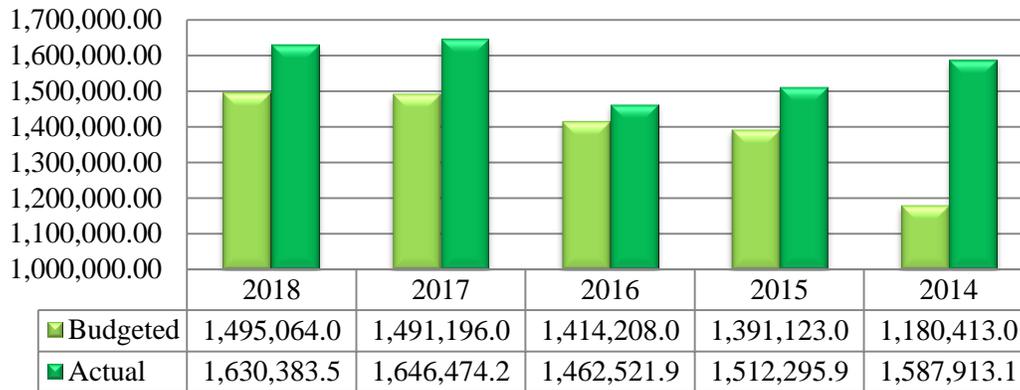
2018 Budgeted vs. Actual

Department	Budgeted Expenses	Budgeted Revenue	Budgeted Net	Actual Expenses	Actual Revenue	Actual Net
Sheriff	5,166,200.00	1,349,731.00	3,816,469.00	5,099,715.53	1,477,466.25	3,622,269.28
Emergency Management	74,756.00	22,000.00	52,756.00	67,976.00	22,654.48	45,321.52
Enhanced 911	127,552.00	98,333.00	29,219.00	122,560.56	98,332.80	24,227.76
Wireless Communications	157,829.00	25,000.00	132,829.00	151,780.59	31,930.03	119,850.36
Total:	5,526,337.00	1,495,064.00	4,031,273.00	5,442,032.68	1,630,383.56	3,811,668.92

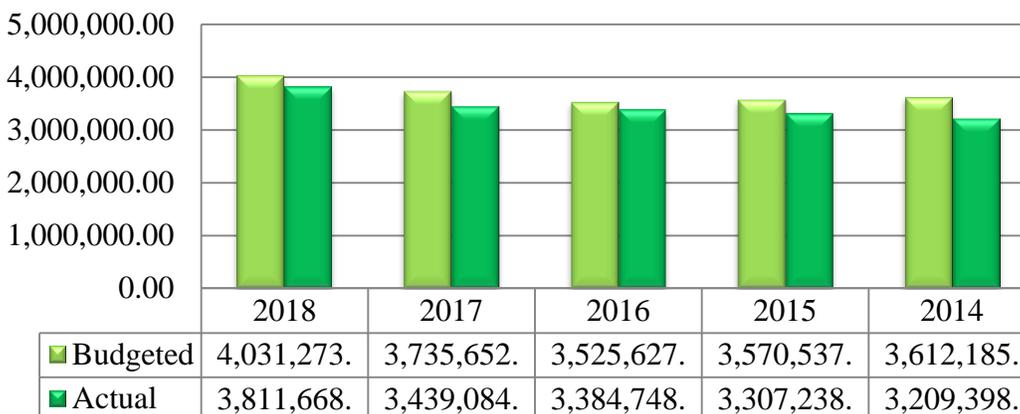
Budgeted vs. Actual Expenses Historical Review



Budgeted vs. Actual Revenue Historical Review



Budgeted vs. Actual Net Historical Review



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 does routine patrols at the Meeker County Fair. Posse members have been involved in searches for missing persons in and outside of



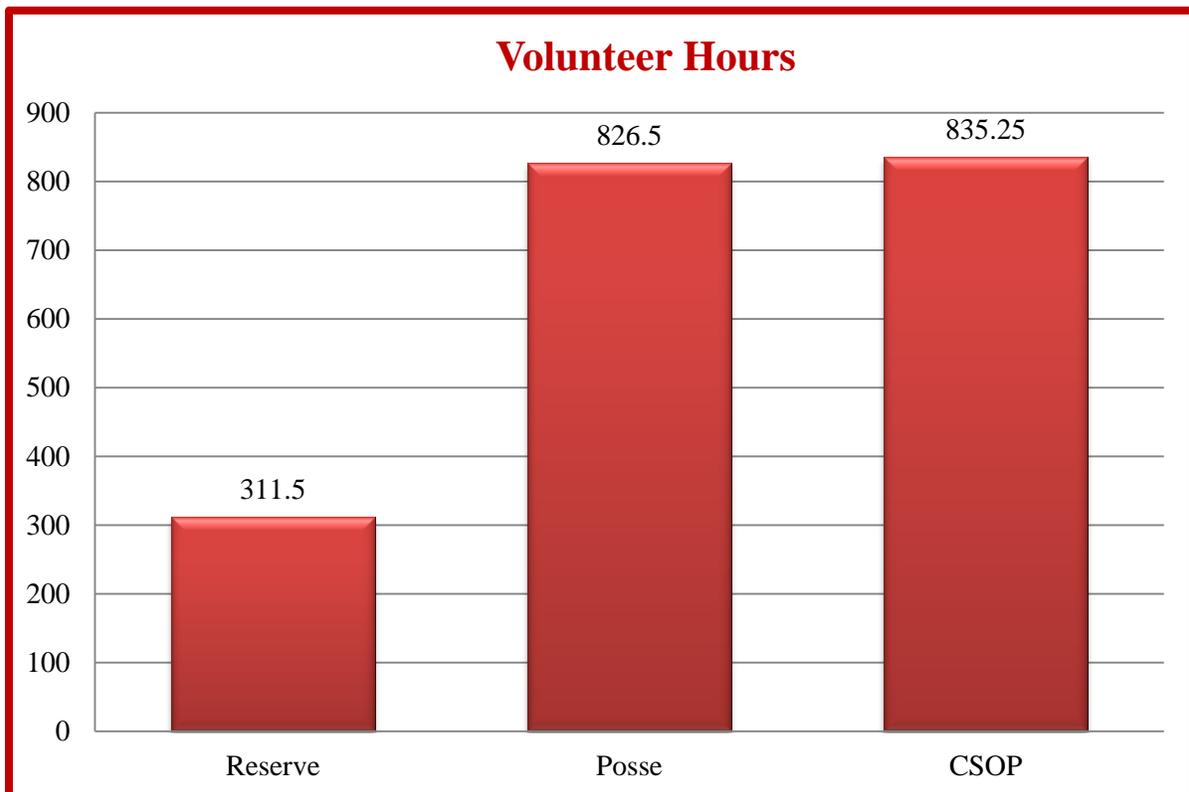
Meeker County. The Community Service Officer – Paramedics (CSO-P) volunteer many hours to provide professional and immediate medical care when needed at various events in the county. They also patrol the county and provide assistance to the patrol deputies on medicals and a wide variety of other calls. In addition to the specific training geared towards each group, our Reserve and Posse members receive medical and CPR training. All groups also receive defensive tactics training which

includes the proper and legal use only when necessary. This enhances public safety when they are under direct supervision of a patrol deputy.



Posse and Reserve members receive first aid training (above left), while our CSO-Paramedics go through their medical bags during their training (above right).

2018 Total Volunteer hours:



In 2018 one of our long serving Reserve Deputies retired after many years of volunteer service. Reserve Deputy Dean Schmitz first started giving back to his community as Reserve Officer for the Dassel Police Department in 1975. Reserve Deputy Dean Schmitz came to the Sheriff's Office as a Reserve Deputy in 2005 when the Dassel Police Department disbanded. Reserve Deputy Schmitz volunteered hundreds of hours each year. He is the past recipient of the MN Reserve Deputy of the Year (2007) and Meeker Sheriff's Office Achievement (2011). He also received a letter of commendation (2010) for his quick actions during a medical incident at the County Fair. In 2018, Reserve Deputy Dean Schmitz received the Minnesota Sheriff's Association Volunteer of the Year Award. Volunteers as dedicated as Reserve Deputy Schmitz are a rare find and are greatly missed when they retire.



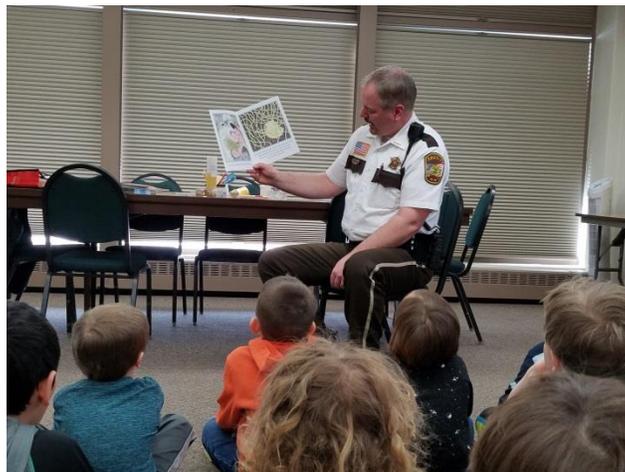
Sheriff Cruze presented Reserve Deputy Dean Schmitz with the Minnesota Sheriff's Association (MSA) Volunteer of the Year Award at the annual MSA Awards Banquet in December 2018.

Community Involvement

Meeker County Sheriff's Office personnel will work towards improved community relations through pro-active community interactions including community events presentations and community trainings.



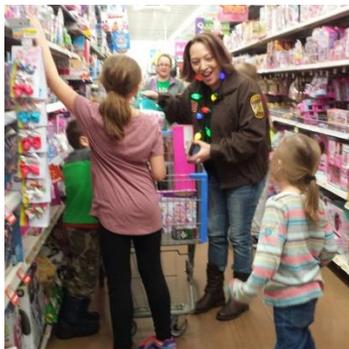
The ACGC Law Class came to the Sheriff's Office to learn about investigative methods. MCSO Detectives taught students about evidence collection and how to take fingerprints off of various objects.



Sheriff Cruze reads to St. Philip's students during Read Across America week.



2018 Special Olympics Regional Track and Field event. Law Enforcement has been Guardians of the Flame for Special Olympics since 1981 and has raised more than a half billion dollars nationwide since for this special cause. It is with great honor and privilege that we were there for the opening and awards ceremonies. We volunteer our time to give these athletes the special day they deserve.



2018 Shop with a Cop – This annual event is put on by local law enforcement to give these children an opportunity to have a brighter Christmas. The police and sheriff associations receive donations to buy the gifts and we donate our time to put smiles on everyone’s faces.



2018 National Night Out - This annual event promotes and enhances relationships between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a sense of community to these neighborhoods. The Meeker County Sheriff's Office was involved in organized events in Grove City, Dassel, Lake Washington, Litchfield and Watkins.



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



2018 Boy Scout Office Tour



2018 St. Philip Career Day Tour



2018 Litchfield Expo Booth



2018 Halloween events in Litchfield and Dassel



2018 I Got Caught Campaign reinforces the proper use of helmets while biking, skateboarding or skating by rewarding children with a free DQ cone.



2018 Litchfield Middle School career day gave us an opportunity to teach these students about the law enforcement field. It also gave them an opportunity to use our handcuffs on one of their teachers to much glee and laughter by the students.