

Meekeer County Sheriff's Office

2021 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.

Table of Contents

Sheriff Preface.....	1
Dispatching Services.....	3
Countywide Emergency Response Units.....	11
CodeRed.....	12
Patrol Services.....	12
Meeker County Contract Deputies.....	17
Kandiyohi Meeker SWAT.....	19
K-9 Services.....	20
Meeker Safe Roads Coalition.....	20
Mental Health Response.....	21
Snowmobile/Boat and Water/ ATV/OHV Grants.....	22
Investigative Services.....	23
Drug and Gang Investigations.....	24
D.A.R.E.....	25
Training.....	26
Community Engagement.....	28
Jail.....	32
Court Security.....	35
Civil Process.....	36
Drug Take Back Program.....	38
Gun Permits.....	39
Emergency Management.....	40
Budget.....	41

Sheriff Preface

The 2021 year-end report is part of a continued effort to provide information to the public about your Meeker County Sheriff's Office. You will find statistical information relating to calls for service along with information on the different aspects of this office.

2021 continued to present unique challenges to the Meeker County Sheriff's Office as we slowly worked away from the COVID lockdowns and restrictions of 2020. The Meeker County Sheriff's Office staff continued effectively and professionally dealing with new ways of handling duties in the midst of a pandemic. Everyone in this office has continued to work diligently to bring you professional services during this crisis.

With the lockdowns and fears of 2020, the decline in calls were significant but have bounced back in 2021. Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in serious crime across the board. Child Abuse, Assaults, Criminal Sexual Conduct, Burglaries, Drug Crimes and Thefts all had significant increases from 2020. The total calls for service for all agencies jumped 10% in 2021. Calls for service for the Sheriff's Office were up 2%. The biggest increase in calls were Fire/Rescue/Ambulance calls. We have also seen a significant increase in mental health related calls.

One of the biggest issues facing law enforcement is staffing. Meeker County is no different than other agencies across this nation. We have seen a significant decline in applicants in virtually all aspects of law enforcement. Through efforts with the County Board, we continue to work on the recruitment and retention initiatives to bring you a professional Sheriff's Office. While this has created challenges, we have been able to consistently cover all shifts to ensure public safety has not been compromised. Recruiting efforts remain a priority as we move in to 2022.



Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Cruze".

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	320-639-5414
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 6,228 911 calls in 2021. The Meeker County PSAP received 20,870 administrative calls in 2021. A total of 27,098 calls were fielded in the Meeker County PSAP in 2021. This represents a slight decrease from 2020. This is an average of 74 calls per day and does not include outbound calls or 911 rebid calls. A rebid is a term used when we attempt to get a better location on a cellular 911 call.

While the actual number of calls in to the PSAP were down, the number of calls that generated a Call For Service (CFS) went up 10% from 14,070 to 15,573 calls in 2021. The Meeker County Sheriff's Office calls for service for 2021 were 7,583 which represents a 2% increase from 2020.

In 2021 the Meeker County PSAP brought the text-to-911 answering point in house. We provided our dispatchers the equipment and software necessary to handle the texts ourselves. Prior to 2021 Meeker County was a part of a regional approach to answering text-to-911 calls.

With the installation of new software in 2017, we continue our transition to Next Generation (NG) 911. As NG911 moves forward our goal is to improve our ability to manage, locate and transfer calls better to enhance public safety. It will also provide opportunities to utilize technology and receive on scene pictures and video that can be provided to responding emergency units.



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.

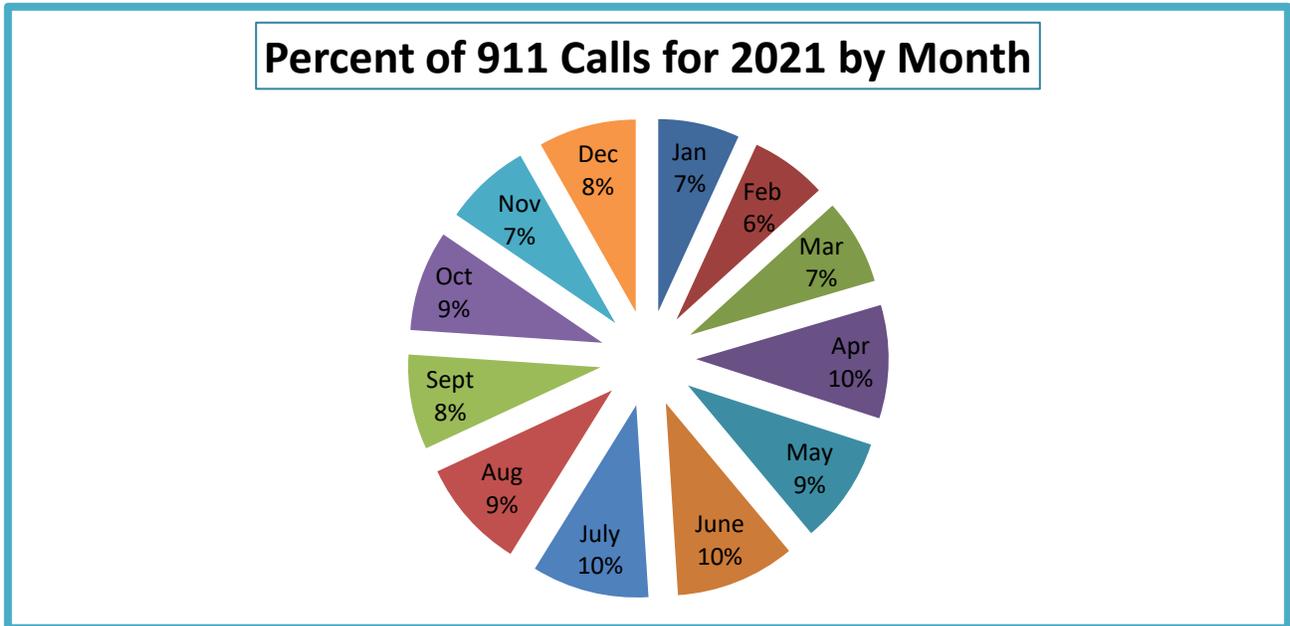
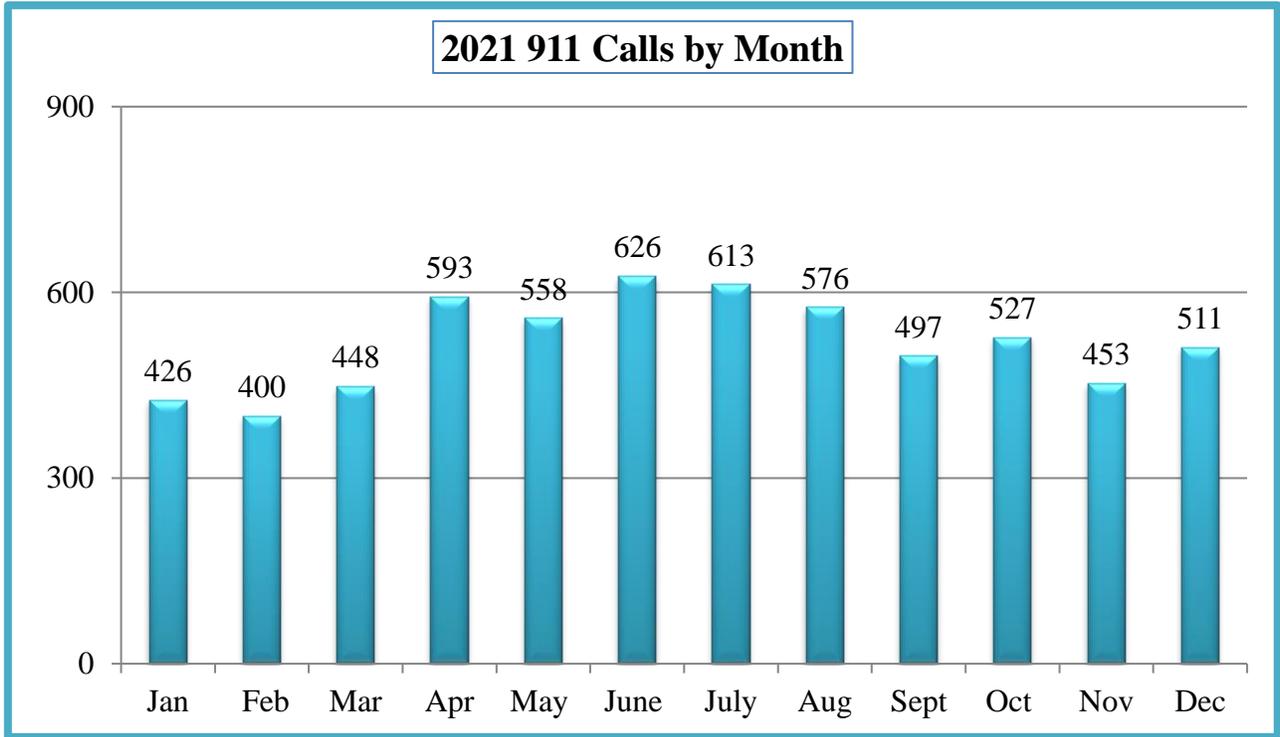
DID YOU KNOW?

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.

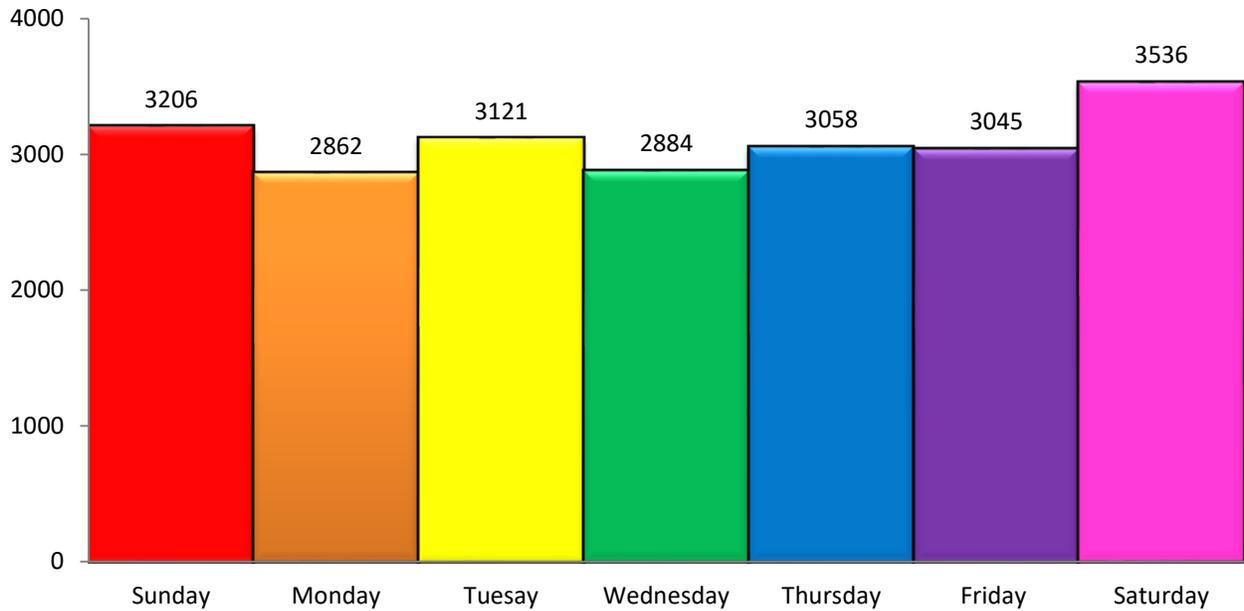
- Dispatchers prefer calls so they can get cues from background noise and voice inflections.
- If you text to 911, dispatchers will ask if they can call you.
- Location is not as accurate with text as it is with a call. Be sure to text your exact address.
- A text or data plan is required to use Text-to-911.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



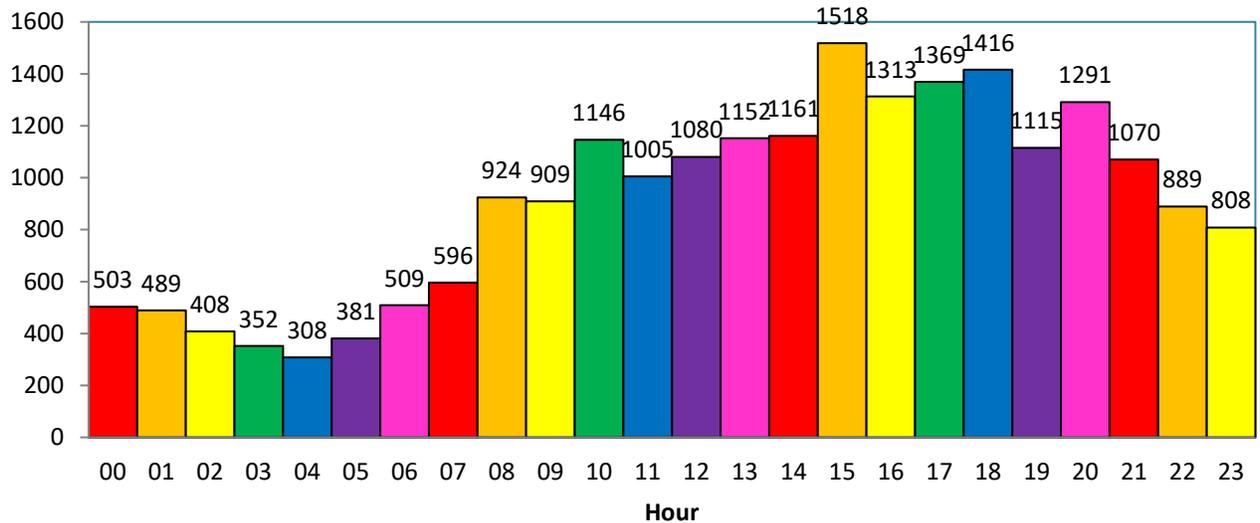
2021 - 911 calls for Meeker County: 6,228



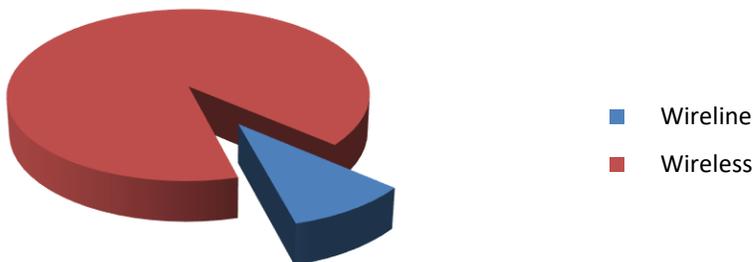
911 Call Volume by Day of Week Report Period 1/1/21 - 12/31/21



911 Call Volume by Hour of Day Report Period 1/1/21 - 12/31/21



911 Calls by Cell Phone/Land Line Report Period 1/1/21 - 12/31/21

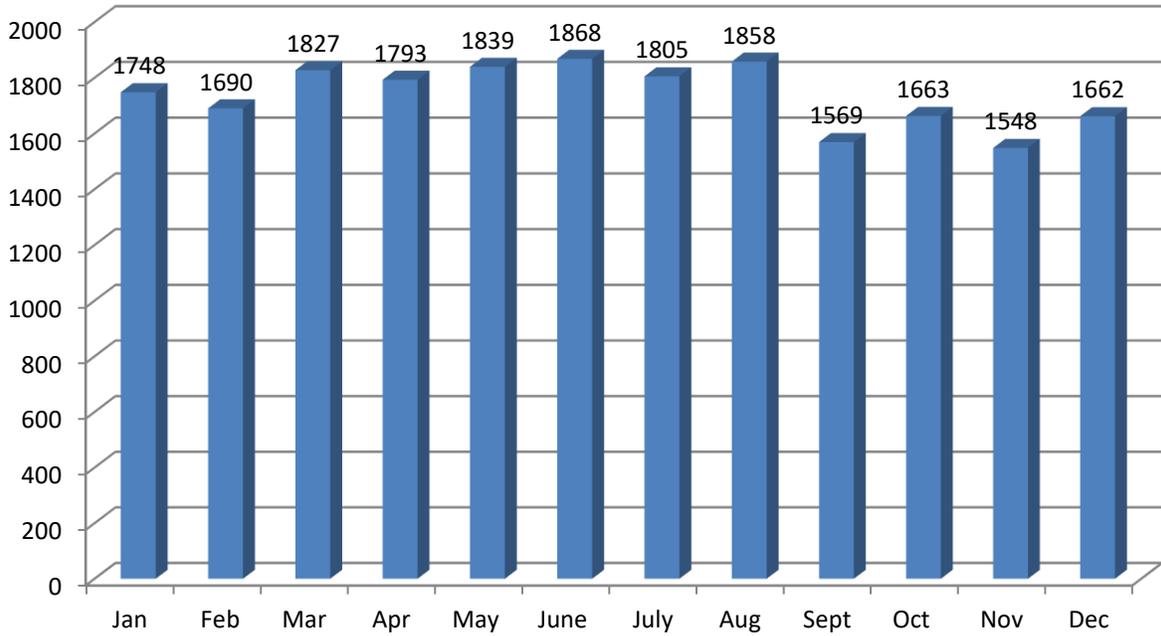


Type	Total	Percentage
■ Wireline	603	9.68
■ Wireless	5625	90.32
Total:	6228	100%

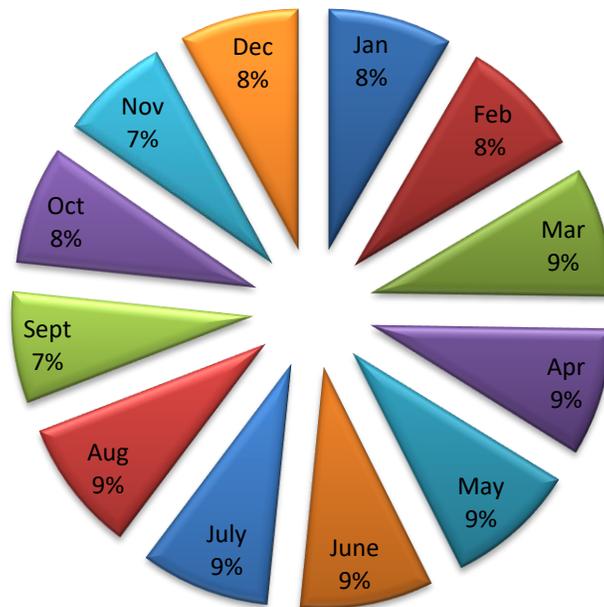
When we receive a cellular 911 call, we are set up to receive identifying information, to include locations, with those calls. There are times where we don't initially receive all of that information so we "re-bid" the call in an effort to get this information from the cellular provider. In 2021 our dispatch center re-bid 911 wireless calls 15,484 times.

2021 Total Administrative calls for Meeker County: 20,870

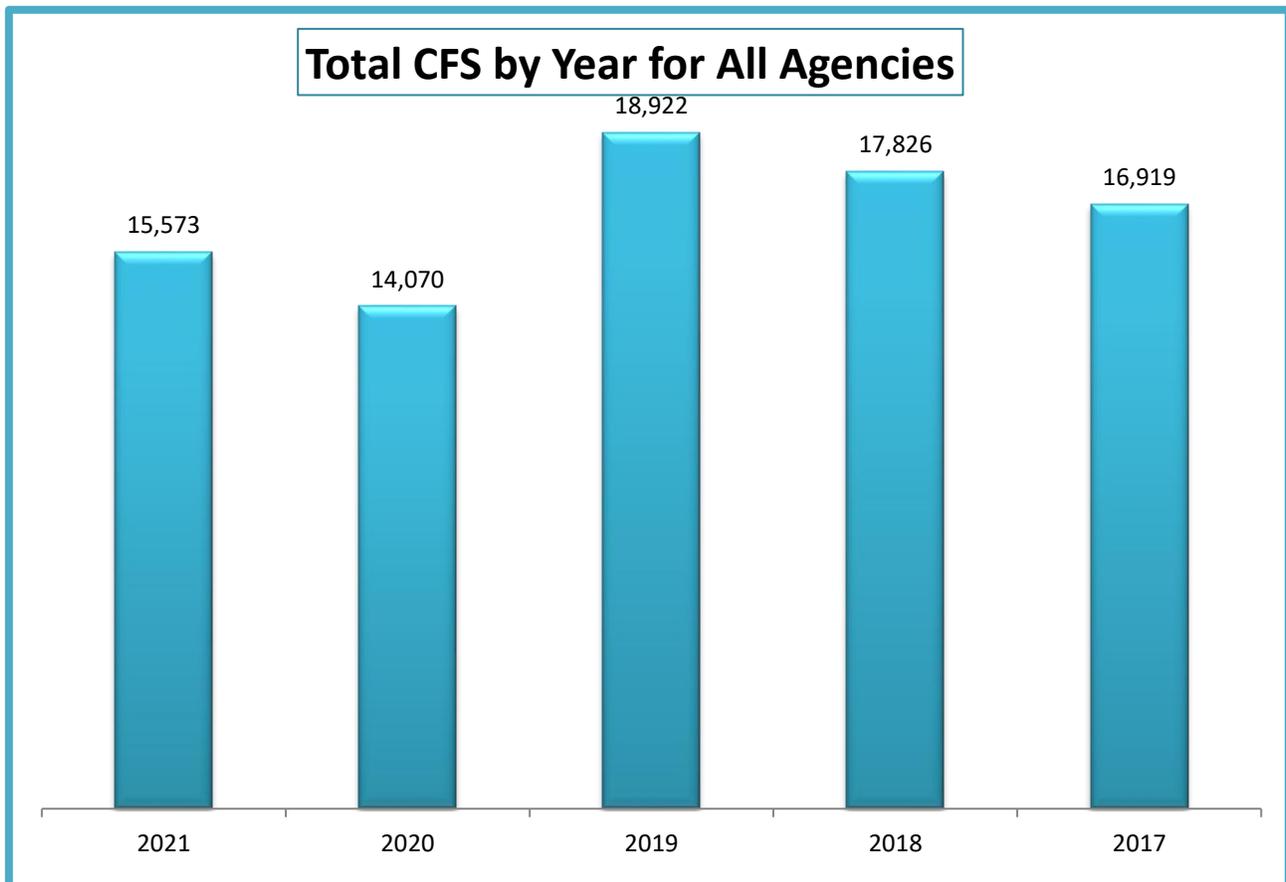
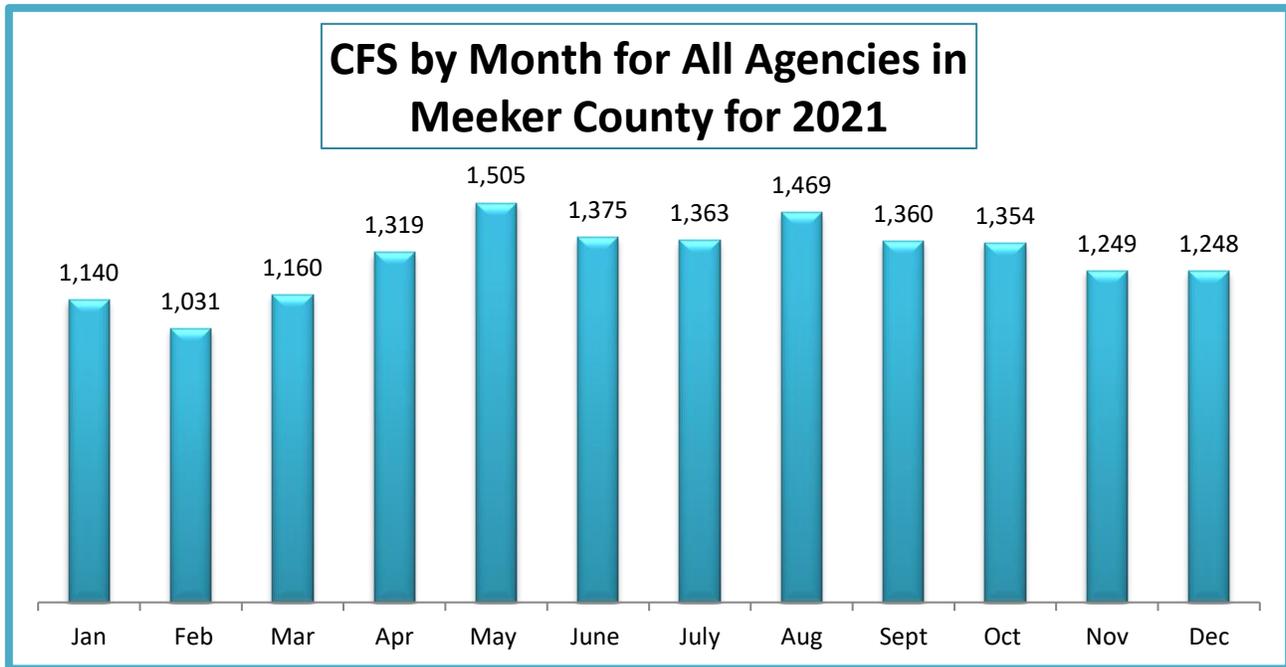
2021 Total Admin Calls by Month



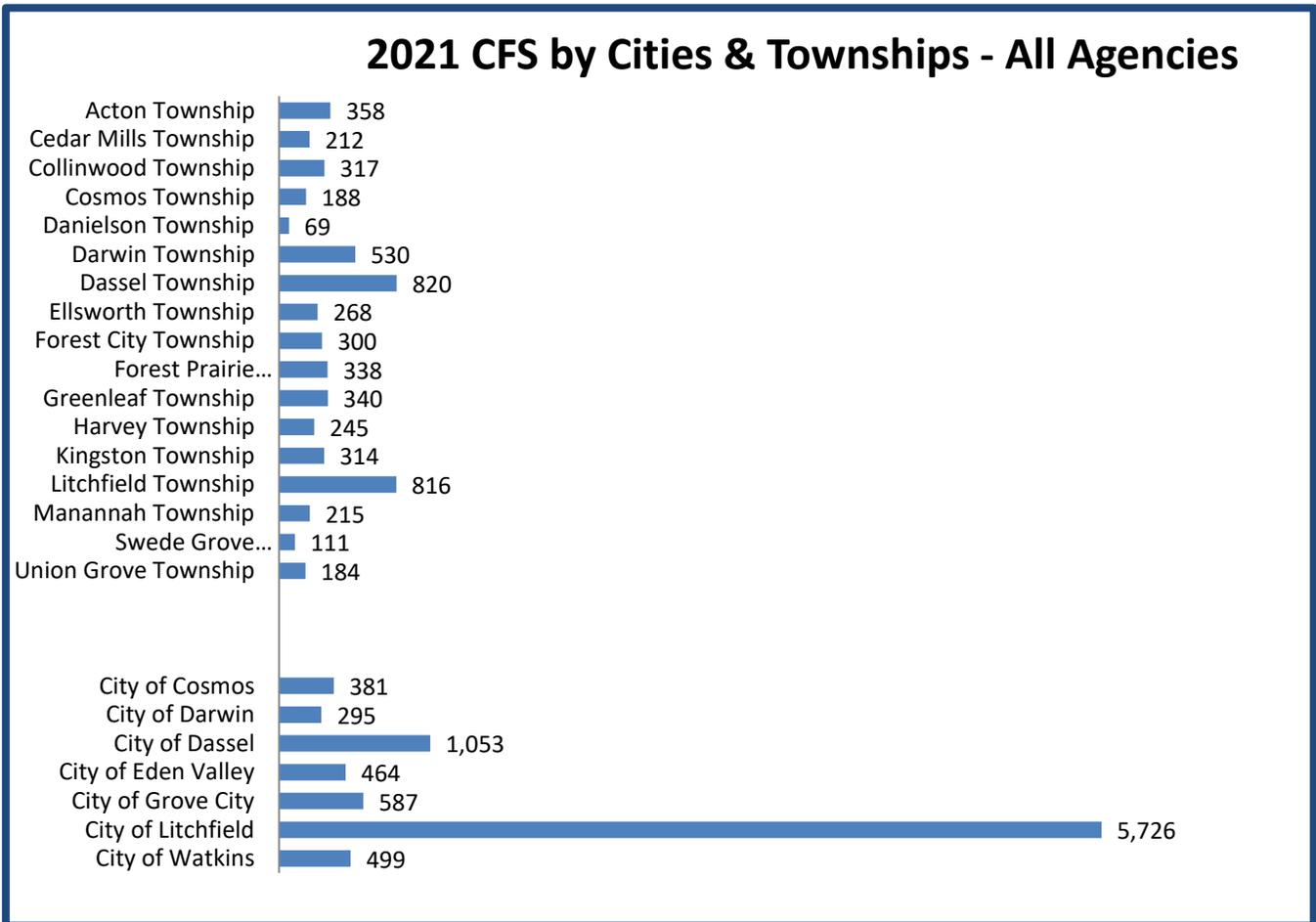
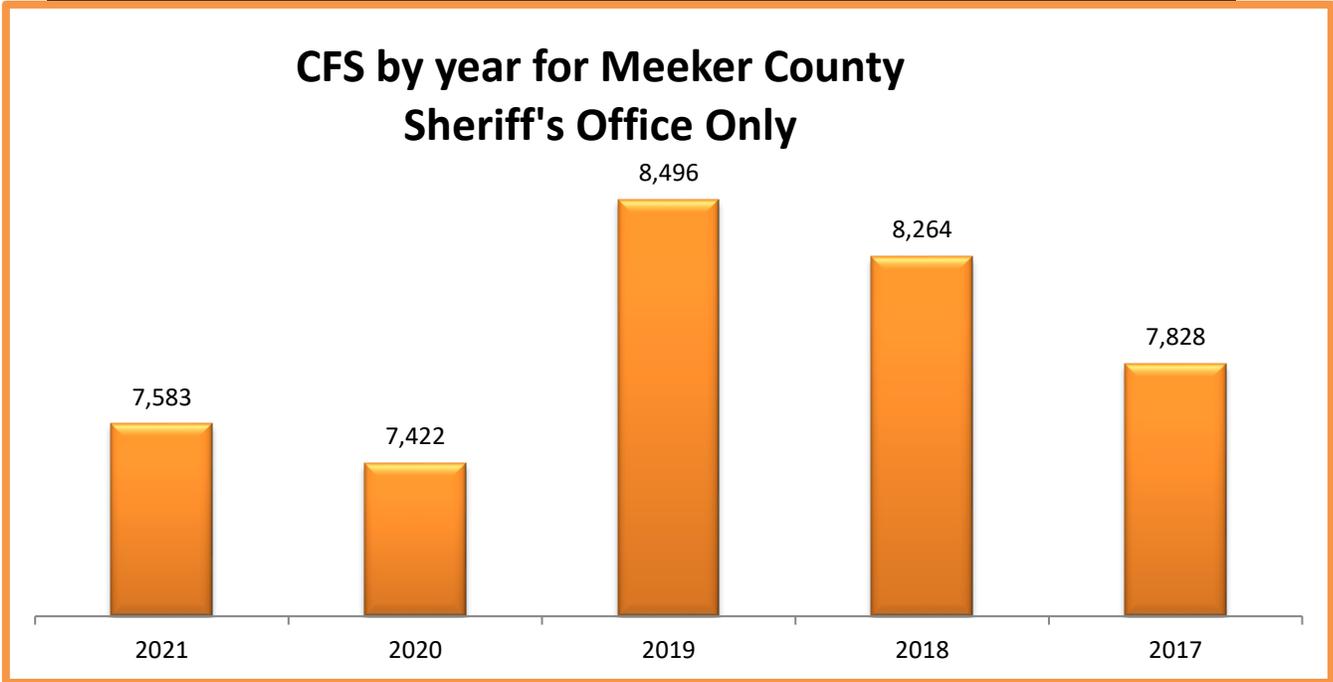
Percent of Admin Calls for 2021 by Month



2021 Total Calls for Service (CFS) for All Agencies in Meeker County: 15,573



2021 Total Calls for Service for Meeker County Sheriff's Office only: 7,583

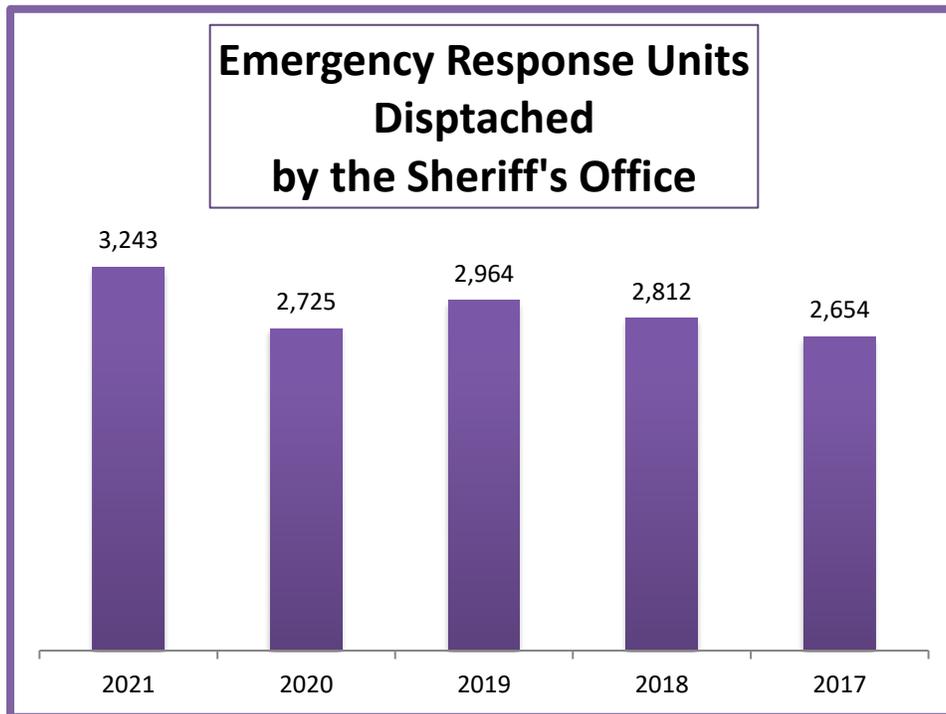




Emergency Response Units Dispatched
by Meeker County
Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center



Agency	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Cosmos Ambulance	68	58	75	75	70
Cosmos Fire & Rescue	24	16	28	31	29
Dassel Fire & Rescue	352	291	315	312	318
Eden Valley Fire & Rescue	206	168	160	151	125
Gold Cross Ambulance	1152	998	1103	1042	1016
Grove City Fire Department	25	29	24	79	27
Grove City Rescue	77	62	72	79	90
Litchfield Fire Department	114	124	115	118	112
Litchfield Rescue	692	477	472	455	388
Watkins Fire Department	33	31	24	27	30
Watkins Rescue & Ambulance	500	471	576	443	449
Total:	3,243	2,725	2,964	2,812	2,654





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, vehicle crashes, respond to mental health calls, 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.

With the implementation of a new records software, we are able to get more detailed reports on specific calls. This provides a more comprehensive look at activity and allows a more focused approach to dealing with certain issues and/or crimes.

The 2021 total activity for Meeker County Sheriff's Office Deputies is as follows:

Criminal Call for Service	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Abuse/Neglect/Maltreatment	10	10	0	0	0
Abuse/Neglect/Maltreatment-Child	159	119	193	225	222
Arson	0	2	0	0	0
Assault	30	16	112	60	80
Domestic Assault	98	100	**		
Burglary	41	25	45	38	50
Criminal Sexual Conduct	35	28	2	12	17
Damage to Property	66	73	65	61	46
Damage to Property -Mailbox	10	22	15	18	23
Domestic Abuse No Contact Order (DANCO) Violation	17	13	14	7	0
Drug Crimes (including drug paraphernalia)	72	63	33	43	65
Forgery	2	0	3	5	6
Fraud	30	24	6	3	3
Harassment	66	43	62	51	66
Harassment Restraining Order (HRO) Violation	6	4	8	8	16
Homicide	1	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping/False Imprisonment	0	0	0	0	1
Order for Protection (OFP) Violations	11	12	18	14	21
Ordinance Violations	63	62	68	79	56
Pursuit - Vehicle on Foot	13	12	4	5	2
Robbery	0	0	1	1	1
Search Warrants Executed	9	6	8	12	16
Theft/Stolen Property	116	110	104	139	149
Threats	32	40	30	33	40
Trespass	38	32	25	27	24
Vandalism	1	5	0	0	0
Vehicle Thefts	12	29	17	22	22
Warrant Arrests	94	69	0	0	0
Weapon Violations	3	1	6	10	15

**Prior to 2020 all assaults were counted in one category. Beginning in 2020, domestic assaults were given their own statistical category.

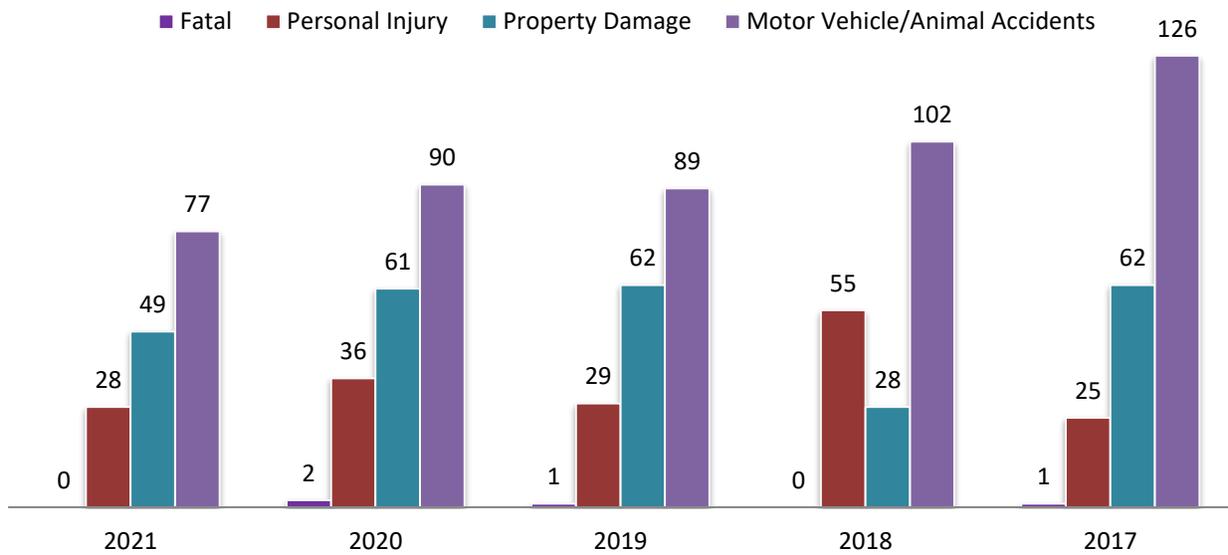
Other Calls for Service	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
9-1-1 Hang Ups/Misdial	149	262	115	89	133
Alarm	229	194	156	175	185
Animal Complaints-Dog	197	155	182	229	199
Animal Complaints- All Other	166	146	97	95	141
Assist Other Agencies	186	199	577	534	602
Civil Complaints	214	213	241	188	197
Deer Possession Tags Issued	43	42	38	35	28
Disturbance/Disorderly	117	99	37	52	55
Emotionally Disturbed Person	74	53	1	1	0
Fire	114	89	78	109	95
Juvenile Trouble	46	75	27	58	60
Medicals	261	196	256	246	260
Noise Complaints	32	33	43	46	28
Nuisance	7	12	12	12	11
Public Assists	409	288	262	297	266
Runaways	11	19	12	16	14
Scams	152	112	144	123	153
Shooting Complaint	22	27	17	22	6
Suicidal Individual	30	46	0	0	0
Suspicious Activity	336	370	292	315	346
Vacation Checks	12	12	24	36	72
Vehicle Unlocks	61	61	69	75	82
Vulnerable Adult	43	36	47	79	84
Welfare Check	272	198	177	151	134

Meeker County Sheriff's Office Traffic Enforcement

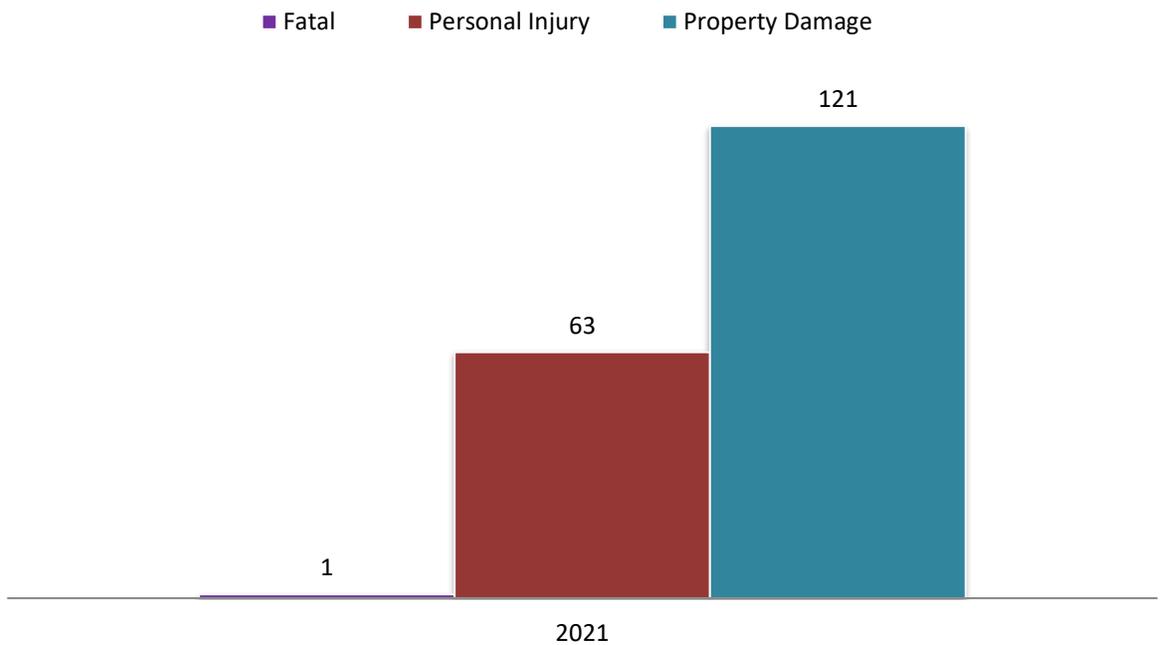
Traffic Violations	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Distracted Driving/Hands Free Violations	10	9			
Driver's License Violations	54	51	35	26	21
DUI	78	62	39	29	66
Motor Vehicle Registration	18	17			
Open Bottle	7	6	1	1	6
Parking Violations	13	3	0	2	3
Reckless/Careless Driving	10	17	7	4	10
School Bus Violations	3	4	3	3	1
Seat Belt Violations	5	6	16	22	2
Speed	264	256	208	146	98
Stop Sign Violations/Yield Violations	15	15	5	14	3
Under 21 Alcohol Consumption	20	16	1	2	2
Vehicle Registration Violations	7	7	3	21	5
All other citations	285	219	213	138	106
TOTAL:	789	706	531	408	323

Other Traffic Related Calls	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Traffic Stops	2314	2253	2685	2457	1943
Abandoned or Disabled Vehicles on Roadway	92	71	144	139	249
Driving Complaints	252	210	248	311	373
Motorist Assist	82	102	105	154	48
Traffic Hazards	91	86	98	74	35
Vehicle Off Roadway	69	63	105	65	30

2021 Meeker County Sheriff's Office Reported Traffic Accidents



2021 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 2021 total activity for each contract city is as follows:

Contract Town Activity	2021 Calls for Service
Cosmos	326
Dassel	902
Grove City	527
Watkins	389

2021 Criminal Calls for Service	Cosmos	Dassel	Grove City	Watkins
Abuse -Neglect-Maltreatment	1	0	0	0
Abuse-Neglect-Maltreatment-Child	14	24	12	15
Assault	3	1	7	3
Burglary	1	5	3	2
Criminal Damage to Property	8	8	17	4
Criminal Sexual Conduct	0	8	2	0
DANCO Violation	0	4	1	1
Disorderly Conduct / Disturbance	6	12	11	12
Domestics	4	10	11	9
Drugs/Paraphernalia	3	3	4	2
DUI	4	7	2	3
Forgery	0	1	0	1
Harassment	2	12	19	5
HRO Violations	0	0	3	0
Homicides	0	0	0	0
Order for Protection (OFP) Violation	0	2	1	0
Pursuit Vehicle/Person	0	1	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0
Scams	5	13	6	3
Stolen Vehicle	0	1	0	0
Thefts	6	17	12	5

Threats	2	3	8	0
Trespass	0	1	4	2
Weapons Offenses	0	0	0	0

2021 Other Calls for Service	Cosmos	Dassel	Grove City	Watkins
9-1-1 Hang Ups / Accidental Dial	1	15	5	10
Abandoned/Disabled Vehicles	0	6	1	1
Alarms	6	40	23	19
Animal Bites	2	1	3	2
Animal Complaints	20	40	33	20
Assist Other Agencies	5	14	8	7
ATV Complaint	0	2	1	0
Emotionally Disturbed Person	9	7	11	3
Driving Complaints	6	20	18	10
Gas Drive Off	0	0	3	7
HAZMAT/Chemical Spill	2	2	0	1
Lost/Found Property	0	5	1	0
Motor Vehicle Accident	3	11	5	3
Medicals	8	56	16	8
Motorist Assist	0	8	1	1
Noise Complaints / Nuisance	3	6	5	8
Open Doors - Residential & Business	0	4	1	0
Ordinance Violations	2	2	10	13
Public Assist / Escort	23	66	48	22
Warrants Arrest	1	7	5	1
Vacation/Security Checks	1	1	0	0
Shooting Complaint	0	2	4	1
Suicidal Individual	3	4	2	3
Suspicious Activity/Person/Vehicle	12	41	28	24
Traffic Hazard	2	7	0	2
Traffic Stops	112	304	87	88
Unlock Vehicle	6	12	6	9
Welfare Check	17	27	26	24

Kandiyohi - Meeker SWAT

In 2020 we formed a partnership with the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office SWAT team. SWAT stands for Special Weapons and Tactics. While we recognized a need for a specialized team in Meeker County, we didn't have the call load, resources or financial means to create an independent team based on sporadic need. By joining with an established team, we have access to resources, training and knowledge that would otherwise not be available to us. With this partnership, the team is available for high risk incidents throughout Meeker County. In return, we have personnel dedicated to the unit that can be utilized in Kandiyohi County. Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office SWAT is a long standing, well established unit that is highly respected throughout the region.



Once this partnership was formed the name was changed to reflect the new team and is currently referred to as Kandiyohi Meeker SWAT. We currently have five members of the Meeker County Sheriff's Office assigned to this team. The utilization of this team is based on an established threat matrix which means the team is only used in high risk situations. This is meant to better protect the public and the deputies assigned when those situations arise.

In 2021, the threat matrix was reviewed on nine occasions and Kandiyohi Meeker SWAT team was utilized once in Meeker County. The Kandiyohi Meeker SWAT team responded to a person with a gun call in Dassel in June.

In 2021, Meeker County received an armored Humvee from the Federal Government at no cost to be utilized by the team. Thanks to some generous donations, the Humvee was upgraded and outfitted with necessary emergency equipment. This armored Humvee allows deputies better protection and ability to approach unknown situations safely. It enhances public safety in a time when gun related calls are on the rise and gun violence in general is becoming more prevalent. As with the team itself, the armored Humvee is meant to better protect the public and the deputies assigned to those high-risk situations.

K-9 Services

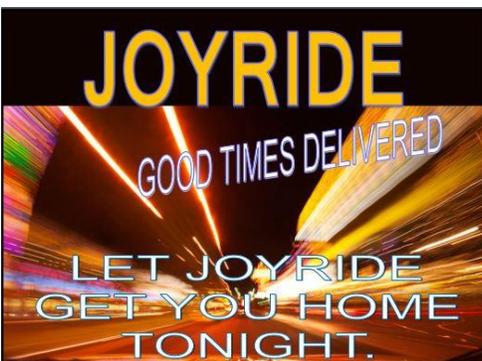


Chase – MCSO K-9

In 2020 the Meeker County Sheriff’s Office re-started our K-9 program. We purchased a purebred German Sheppard from Slovakia. Our D.A.R.E. students were tasked with naming our K-9, they chose Chase. Chase and his handler, Deputy Borscheid, spent 12 weeks together training in 2020 before Chase could be put out on patrol. Chase is United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) certified in patrol and narcotics detection. Our investment in the program was approximately \$20,000 which included Chase, training and K-9 squad equipment.

Meeker County Safe Roads Coalition

The Meeker County Sheriff’s Office is partnered with the Toward Zero Deaths



(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.

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.

Mental Health Response

Meeker County patrol deputies often times are the first responder for someone in a mental health crisis. While our deputies are trained to handle these situations, we recognize they are not the best resource for the person in crisis. We have seen an increase in these calls in recent years, especially during the pandemic. Through our partnership with Meeker County Social Services and Woodland Centers, the Sheriff's Office started a pilot program in 2020 to address mental health calls. This program allows the patrol deputies on scene to directly contact a mental health provider via telecommunications through tablets the deputies are issued. This gives the deputies the tools they need to assess the situation better and provide initial services on scene. Too often, we don't have the tools to make a proper assessment which means the person requires transport to a hospital for evaluation. Partnering with the Mental Health Professionals from Woodland Centers allows the deputies to better assess the person's needs while on the scene. Services are provided immediately to those assessed as being in a mental health crisis. In addition to the telecommunication services, the Sheriff's Office also utilizes Woodland Centers' Mental Health Urgent Care Team. This team can respond to the scene and provide

in-person assistance to those in immediate need as well. Our goal with these partnerships and programs is to get people who are in mental health crisis the proper resources as quickly and efficiently as possible.

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

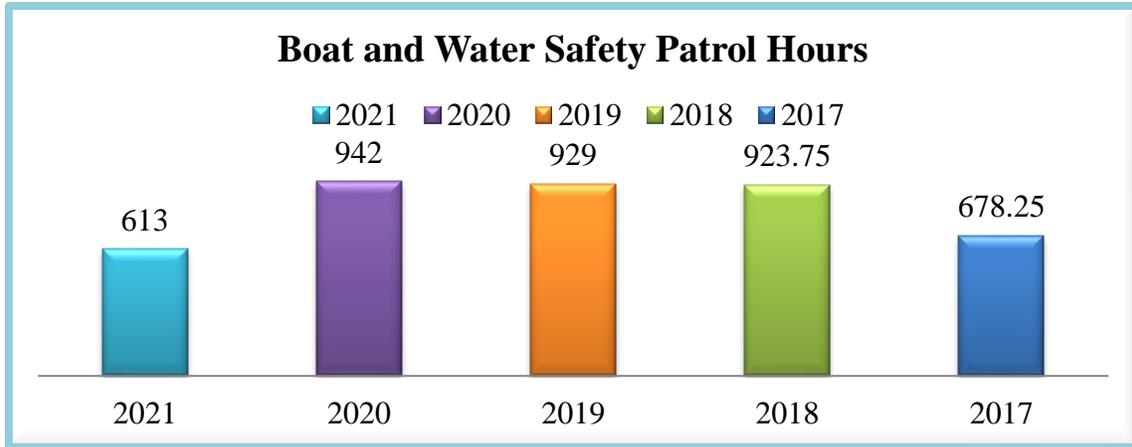
The Snowmobile Safety Enforcement Grant for fiscal year 2021 was \$1,581. The fiscal year runs from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. We received 3 snowmobile complaints in 2021 and no reports of snowmobile accidents.



Boat and Water Safety Grant



The Boat and Water Safety Grant runs from January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. The grant for the 2021 fiscal year was \$6,755. 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 7 boating complaints and investigated two boating accidents. In 2021, the total AIS hours were 90 for which the AIS committee reimbursed the Sheriff’s Office \$1,516.45.



Boat and Water	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Complaints	7	14	17	11	12
Temporary Structure Permits	24	26	25	46	45

OHV Safety Enforcement Grant (Off-Highway Vehicle)

The Meeker County Sheriff’s Office received \$1,975.94 for the OHV Safety Enforcement Grant fiscal year 2021. The fiscal year runs from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. We received 26 OHV complaints in 2021 and investigated four injury OHV accidents.



Investigative Services

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 7,122 Calls for Service received for Meeker County Sheriff’s Office in 2021, 296 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.

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 186 reported deaths in Meeker County in 2020, nine 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	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Motor Vehicle Accident	2	2	2	3	1
Natural	7	10	6	8	7
Non-Motor Vehicle Accident	1	4	3	9	4
Reportable, Declined	108	165	139	162	145
Suicide	3	5	4	1	6
Homicide	1	0	1	0	0
Total	122	186	155	183	163

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 \$5.00 in each member county. The counties that provide personnel are reimbursed salary and benefits. This year we saw record methamphetamine seizures and a sharp increase in arrests in Meeker County. The following is the reported activity for all of Meeker County:

CEE-VI Drug Task Force Statistics	2021	2020	2019
Arrests	46 (1 gang)	54 (4 gang)	36 (1 gang)
Drug and/or Gang Presentations	2 for 65 people	1 for 41 people	2 for 40 people
Searches	28	26	16
Children Removed	10	7	4
Asset Seizures			
Cash	\$37,701.00	\$79,257.00	\$14,487.00
Vehicles	2	1	0
Hand Guns	1	4	3
Long Guns	8	1	12
Drugs Seizures			
Cocaine	87.30 grams	3.20 grams	28.41 grams
Hashish	None	None	None
Heroin	None	.70 grams	.10 grams
Marijuana	1654.30 grams (3.65 lbs)	6675.30 grams (14.70 lbs)	14923.60 grams (32.90 lbs)
Marijuana - concentrate	None	None	141.70 grams
Meth	4849.71 grams (10.70 lbs)	8333.79 grams (18.35 lbs)	413.16 grams (.91 lbs)
Prescription	15.00 pills	52.00 pills	23.00 pills



In a typical school 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.

Training

The Meeker County Sheriff’s Office remains committed to making the Sheriff’s Office the best it can be and one the public can be proud of and trust. This is 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). Deputies routinely respond to and provide EMR level services on a variety of medical calls in the county.

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.

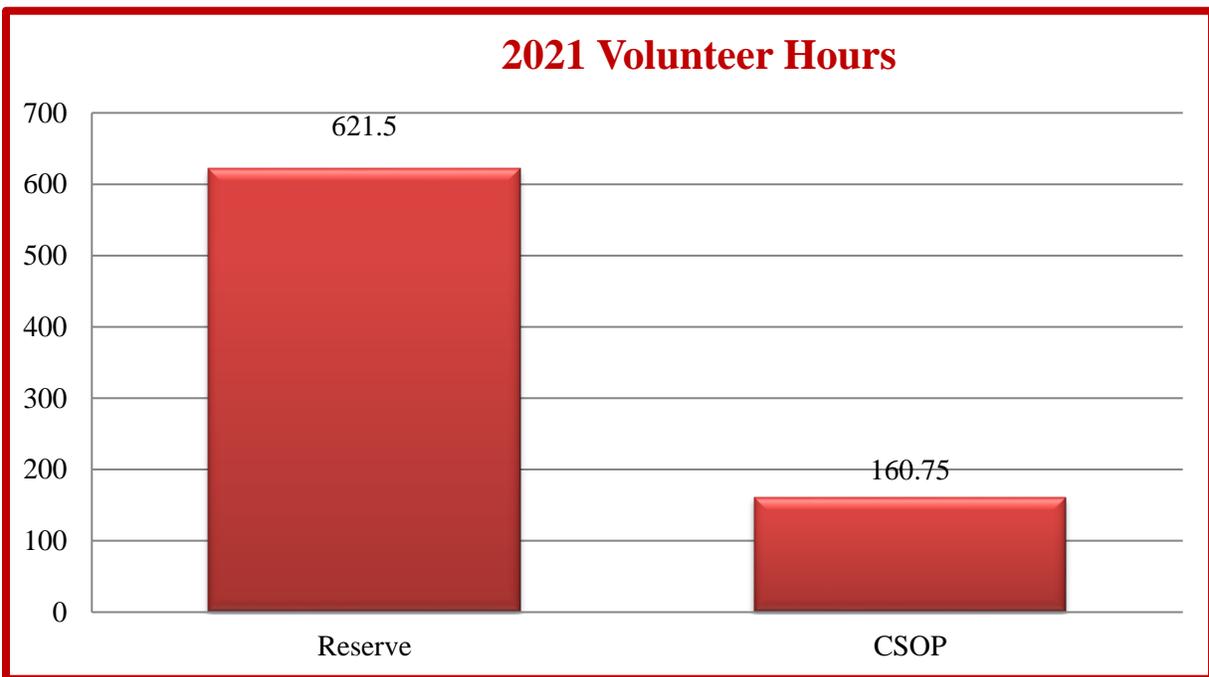
A majority of law enforcement professionals attending the ICLD program report the following positive outcomes:

- 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 Engagement

Due to the COVID pandemic and restrictions on public gatherings, our opportunities for community engagement in 2020 were diminished greatly but began to rebound in 2021. While still limited, we were out in the public at events whenever possible. The bigger events included National Night Out, the Meeker County Fair, Shop with a Cop and Litchfield’s Trunk or Treat. Even with reduced public events in 2021, Reserve Deputies, Sheriff Posse and Community Service Officer – Paramedics still volunteered almost 800 hours in 2021.



National Night Out

National Night Out is a nationwide annual event held on the first Tuesday in August. The goal of National Night Out is to enhance relationships between neighbors and law enforcement with an emphasis on ensuring a true sense of community. These positive interactions are a great opportunity for the public to see law enforcement on a personal level. The Meeker County Sheriff’s Office was a part of four organized events in 2021. Dassel, Grove City, Litchfield and Watkins all had organized events, not to mention the numerous neighborhood sponsored events, that were a great success.





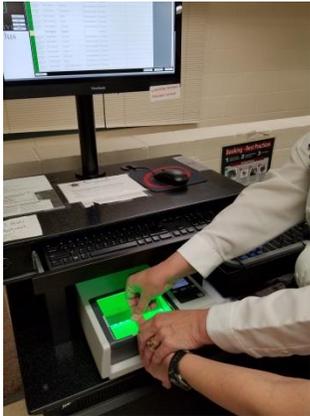
Shop With A Cop

Through generous donations from the Litchfield Police Association, Meeker County Sheriff's Deputy Association and private donors, local law enforcement is able to help families make Christmas a little brighter for their children. Based on need, children are selected and then paired with a member of law enforcement for an evening of Christmas shopping. It's a fun night and great positive interaction for all attending.



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 2021 was 35 inmates per day. The Jail also boards inmates from other counties and the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC). The Meeker County Sheriff's Office charged \$60.00 per day in 2021 for inmates who were boarded for other jurisdictions. The boarding revenue received for 2021 was \$211,354. The average stay for all inmates booked into our facility in 2021 was 19 days.

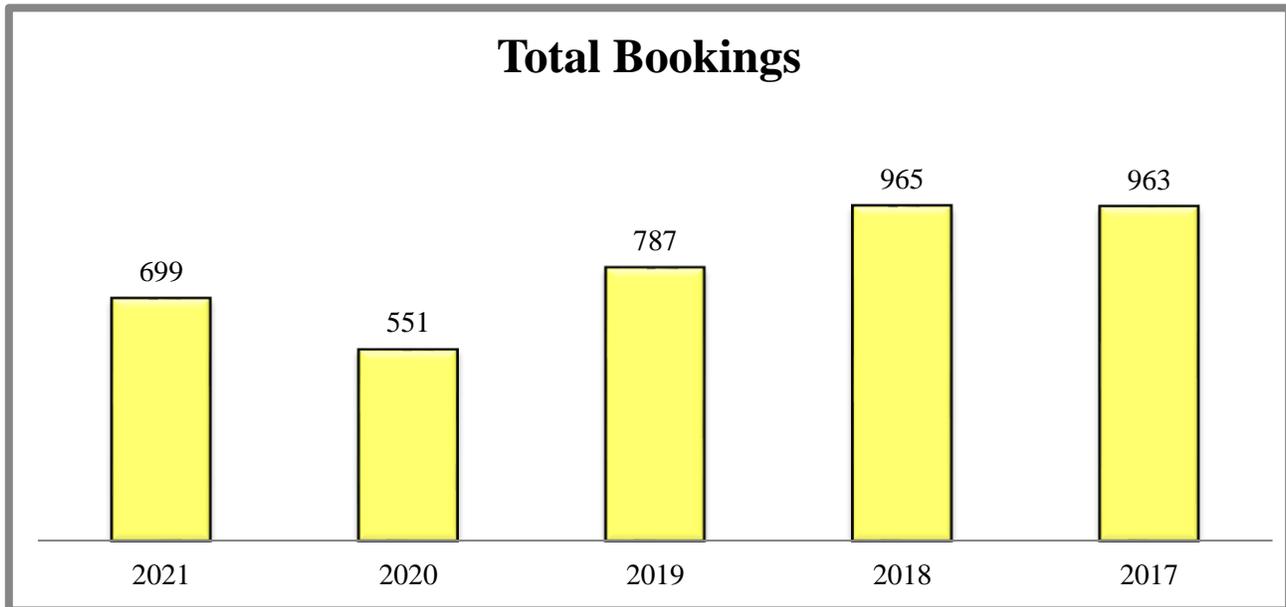
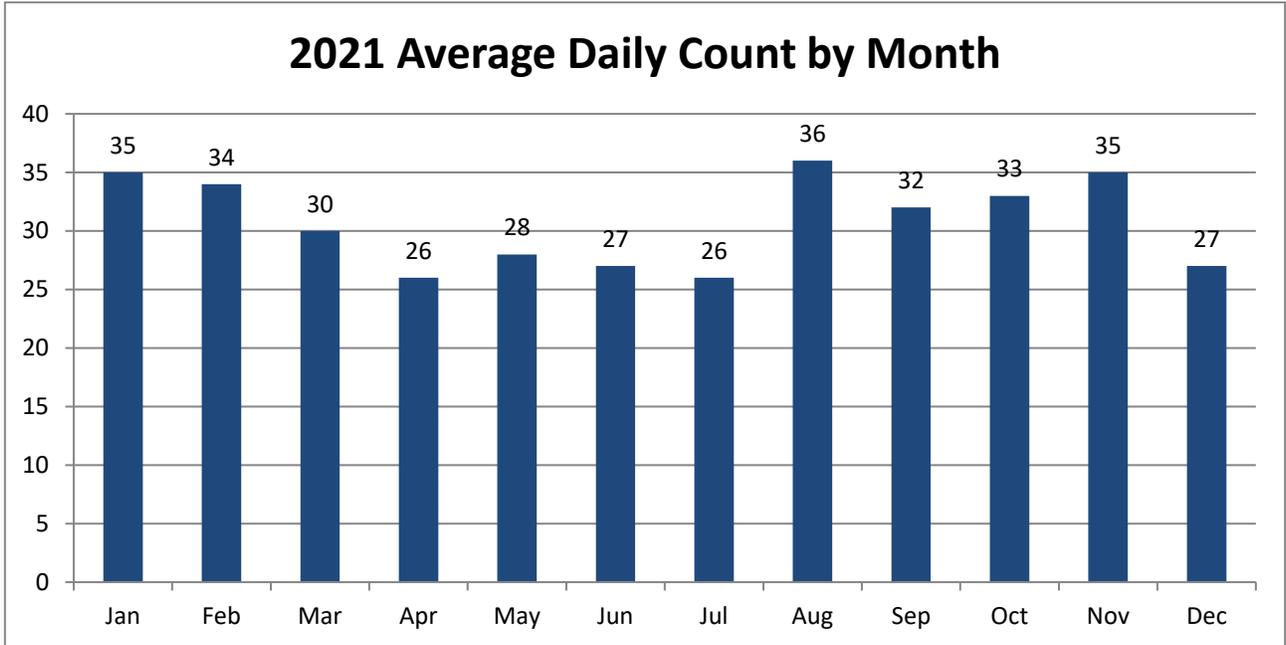


Meeker County Jail had their biennial MN DOC inspection in July 2020. The jail scored 100% in our mandatory requirements and 99% in our essential requirements. Some of our areas of concern were updating some training records to include nurse and kitchen staff and classification of inmates. These areas were corrected and approved by the DOC. We also had our PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) audit in May. This review is done every three years. The audit includes a thorough review of PREA policies and procedures. We received our final report in July and were found to be in compliance with all PREA regulations.

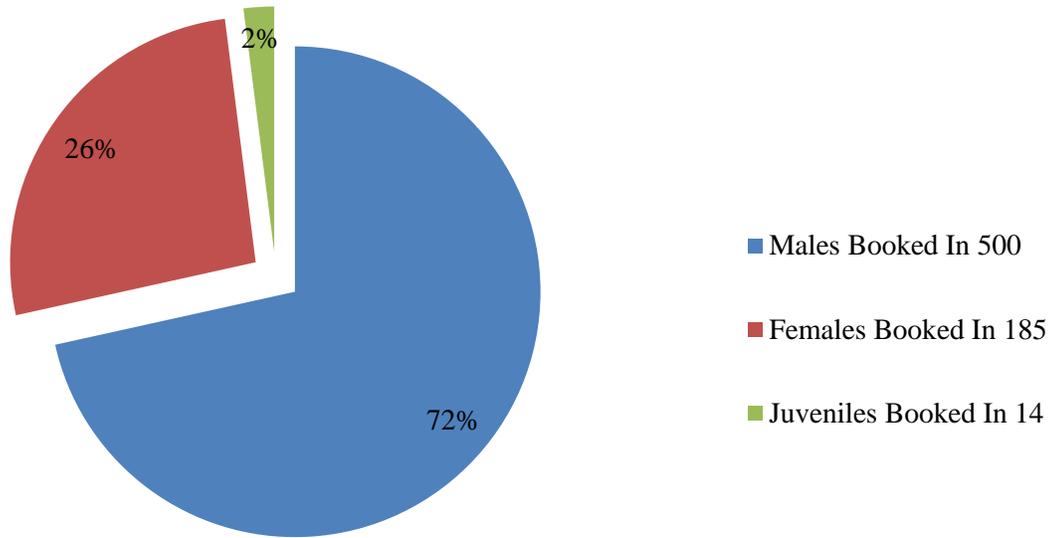
2020 and 2021 presented a unique set of challenges for the jail in response to COVID-19. We had to segregate and quarantine individuals and adjust some of our day to day operations. This included a reduction in available programs for inmates and restrictions on visitation and some intakes. Through these efforts and the acquisition of UV Cleaners, the Meeker County Jail did not experience an outbreak or shutdown due to the COVID 19 pandemic in 2020 or 2021.

In an effort to address inmate mental health in our jail, we have teamed with Meeker County Social Services for a new pilot program in 2020. Through this partnership we have a designated Social Worker to address the mental health needs of the inmates. The Social Worker and our Jail Programmer work together to identify inmates with mental health issues and the Social Worker works to find the appropriate resources to

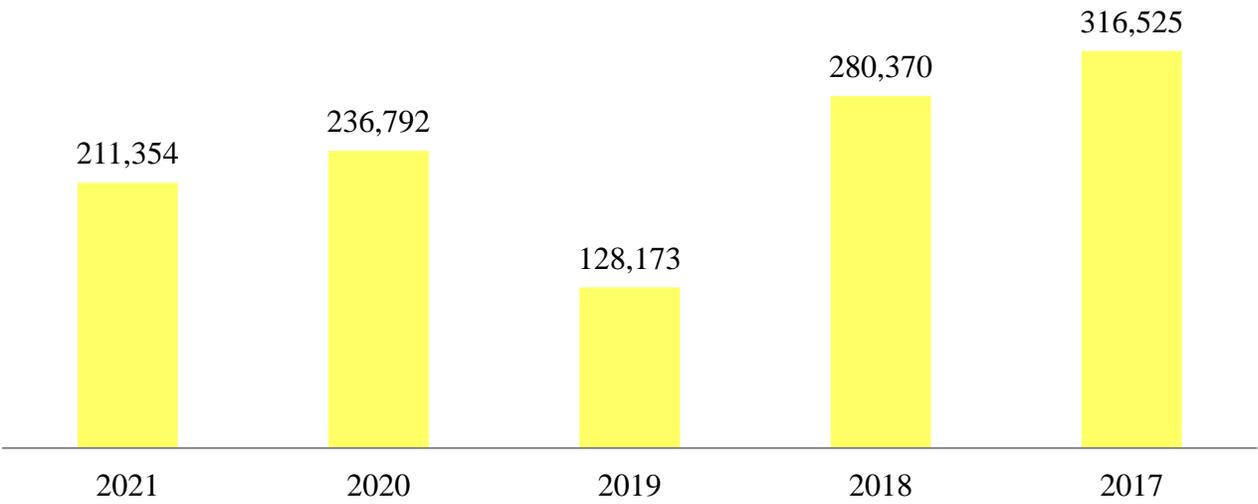
address those needs. The Social Worker will meet with the inmate as needed and will set up assistance and resources when the person is released. Our goal is to provide the inmate proper resources upon release to address their mental health needs to reduce the possibility of future arrest.

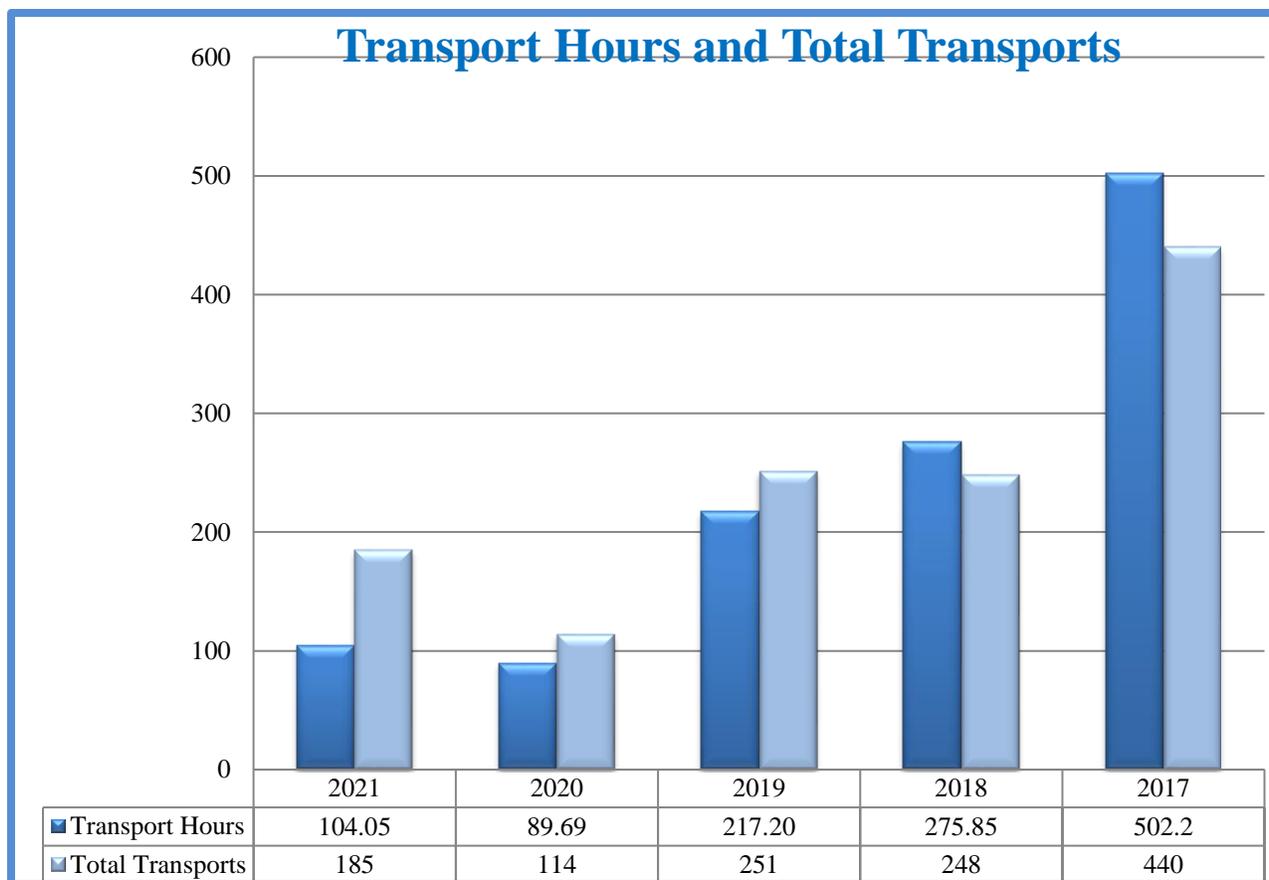


Percentage of Bookings for 2021 Total Booked: 699



Boarding Fees Received





Court Security

The security of the Meeker County Courthouse is the responsibility of the Sheriff's Office. In 2018 we installed a security check point on the court level. This check point is staffed during all hours court is in session. This is in addition to armed bailiffs and a court security deputy. In 2021, 141 knives were seized, numerous scissors, bullets, tools, mace, razor blades, and other sharp metal objects were also seized. Eleven warrant arrests were made at the checkpoint. Court security remains a high priority for Meeker County and we continue to explore options to improve prisoner movement in public areas to ensure public safety. Sheriff Cruze fully supports these initiatives to improve security and safety in the Meeker County Courthouse.



Civil Process Services



In 2021, the Meeker County Sheriff’s Office served a total of 389 civil process papers. The most common types of papers a deputy sheriff serves include Summons & Complaints, Subpoenas, Mortgage Foreclosures, Orders, Evictions, Writs of Recovery, Writs of Execution, Orders for Protection, Harassment Restraining Orders, and Affidavits. In 2021, the Sheriff’s Office collected \$17,394.34 in

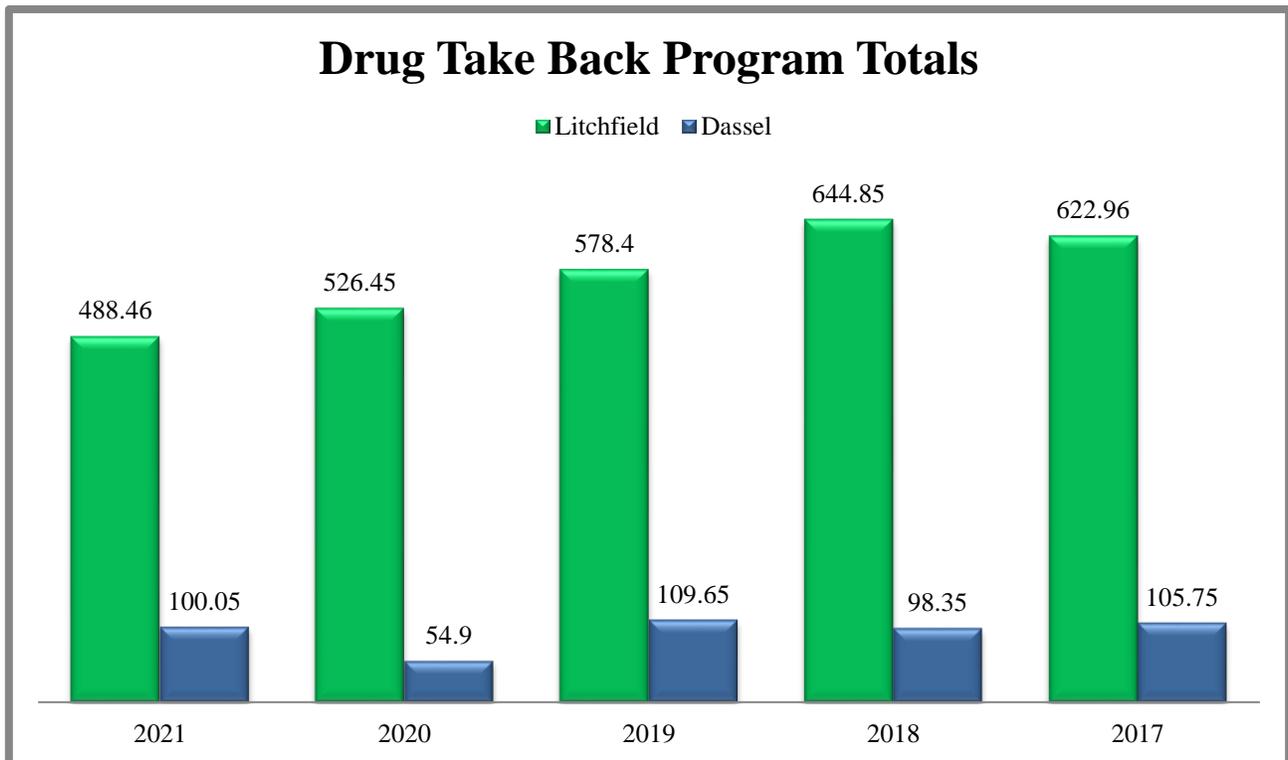
civil process service fees.

SHERIFF FEES for 2021		
911 recordings (911 calls, radio traffic on data CD/DVD)	\$ 30.00	Per hour (1 hr minimum charged)
Animal Fees:		
~ Dangerous Dog Registration Fee	\$ 100.00	Per year
~ Dangerous/Potentially Dangerous Dog Review Hearing	\$ 500.00	Per hearing
~ Pound Pickup Fee	\$ 50.00	Per animal
~ Impoundment Fee	\$ 5.00	Per day (charged after the first 24
Audio/Video Recordings on CD/DVD	\$ 30.00	Per hour (1 hr minimum charged)
Background Check: In-House	\$ 5.00	Per person
Civil Process Fees:		
~Notice of Intent to Redeem	\$ 100.00	Per notice
~ Paper Service	\$ 80.00	Up to 3 attempts, mileage included
~ Each Additional Attempt	\$ 30.00	Mileage included
~ Additional Papers at Same Address	\$ 30.00	Mileage included
~ Return of Unserved Process	\$ 80.00	Mileage included
~ Redemption of Property Mortgagor	\$ 250.00	Per redemption
~ Sale Notice - Posting 3 Copies	\$ 80.00	Per parcel
~ Sheriff Sales	\$ 90.00	Per sale
~ Writ of Execution Commission Service	6%	Per writ/\$20 minimum charged
~ Writ of Execution Service	\$ 84.00	Per writ
Deputy Time:		
~ Standard	\$ 65.00	Per hour (3 hr minimum charged)
~ Deputy: Squad Required for Roadway Escorts	\$ 85.00	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 Fee	\$ 1.00	Per day per gun (30 day minimum)
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
Impound Storage Fee	\$ 15.00	Per day (effective 5 days after date of)
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	\$ 60.00	Per day
~ Boarding Fee: Special Management Inmate	\$ 100.00	Per day
~ Pay-for-Stay Fee	\$ 25.00	Per day
~ Huber Fee	\$ 25.00	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)
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. In 2021 we disposed a total of 588.51 pounds of prescription drugs.



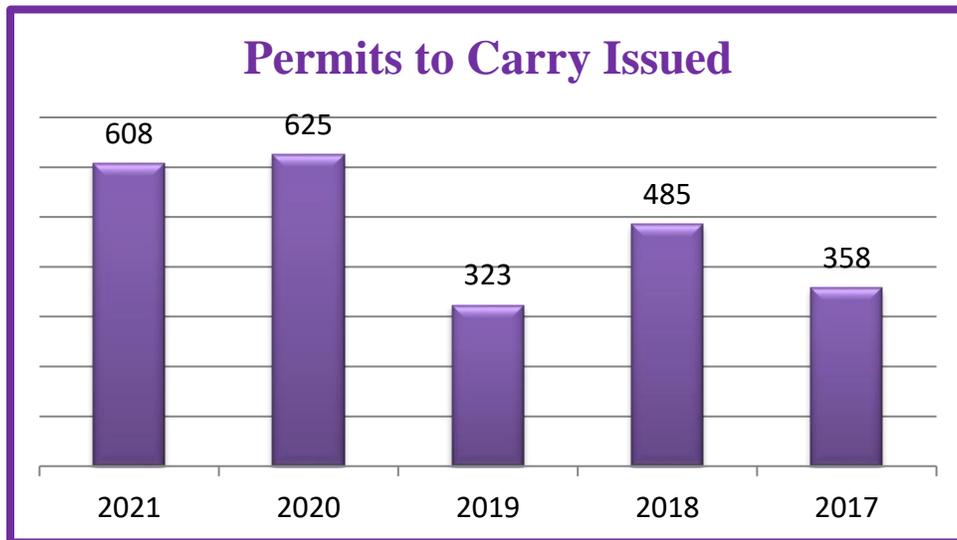
Gun Permits

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 2021 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/2021-Permit-to-Carry-Report.pdf>

Permits to Purchase: In 2021, there were 235 Permits to Purchase issued.

Permits to Carry: In 2021, there were 608 Permits to Carry issued.



Meeker County Emergency Management

Meeker County Emergency Management, under the direction of the Sheriff, 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.

Due to the ongoing pandemic in 2020 and 2021, Meeker County Emergency Management provided lead support to Meeker County Public Health during the COVID-19 public health response. Beginning in January 2020, Emergency Management and Public Health directors began daily briefings to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic and the response plan to be implemented locally. Emergency Management assisted Public Health with creating an Incident Action Plan. Emergency Management also activated and led the virtual Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to aid with the implementation and coordination of the Meeker County Response to COVID-19. Emergency Management has been an active participant with Public Health to determine actions taken for access to county facilities, continuity of operations recommendations for county departments, and was the lead in managing County resource requests and acquisitions. Emergency Management has also led meetings with community partners and assisted Public Health with communications and outreach to the community at large.

The declared health emergency was lifted in 2021, however, Emergency Management still plays a significant role in planning, logistics and monitoring of COVID-19. As we look to 2022, Emergency Management again is coordinating and pulling together a 5-year multi-hazard mitigation plan for Meeker County. These efforts are meant to reduce or eliminate risk to life and property from future natural disasters.

Budget



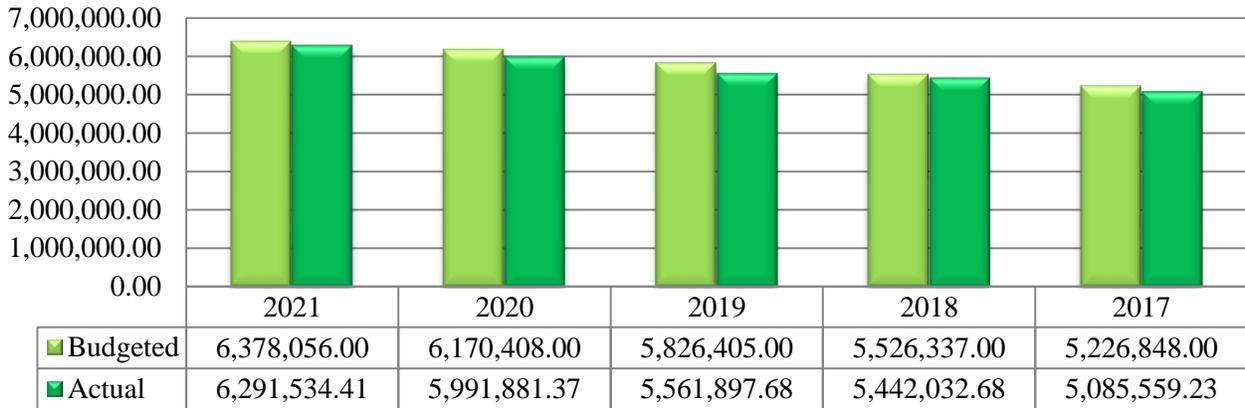
The following figures are taken from the end of year Revenue Expenditure Budget Report. The actual expenses for 2021 were slightly (1.4%) under budget. The actual costs to run the Sheriff’s Office come from levy dollars \$4.4 million (78%) and revenue for service/grant monies of \$1.8 million (22%). The jail revenue received in 2021, \$313,749, represents 19.5% of the actual jail expenditures.

The vast majority of the budget for the Sheriff’s office is for personnel related expenses (salaries, insurance, overtime, on-call, etc.). In 2021, 78% of the actual expenses in the Sheriff’s Office were personnel related. The remaining 22% was used for operational purposes including training, equipment, maintenance agreements, supplies, vehicle repairs, fuel, etc.

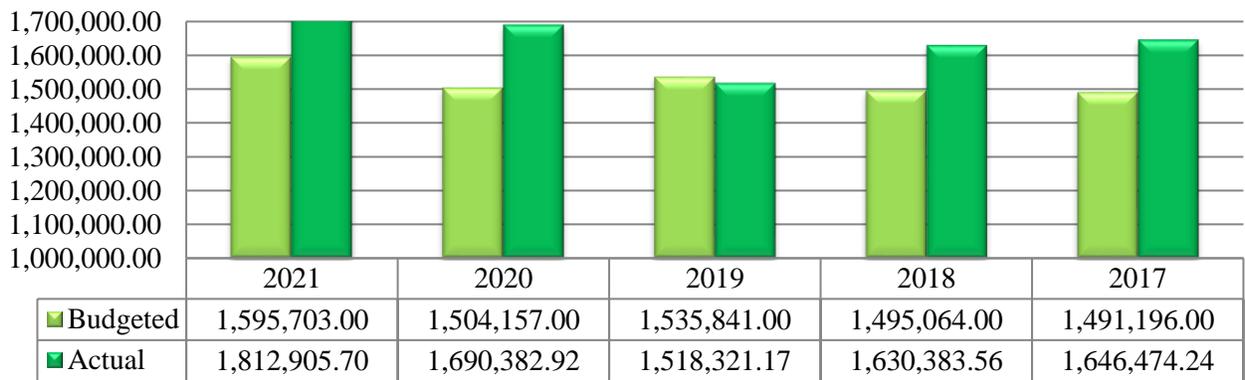
2021 Budgeted vs. Actual

Department	Budgeted Expenses	Budgeted Revenue	Budgeted Net	Actual Expenses	Actual Revenue	Actual Net
Sheriff	5,973,470.00	1,458,548.00	4,514,922.00	5,903,062.89	1,630,368.78	4,272,694.11
Emergency Management	82,285.00	23,822.00	58,463.00	80,785.74	24,333.47	56,452.27
Enhanced 911	133,146.00	98,333.00	34,813.00	142,926.36	137,973.08	4,953.28
Wireless Communications	189,155.00	15,000.00	174,155.00	164,759.42	20,230.37	144,529.05
Total:	6,378,056.00	1,595,703.00	4,782,353.00	6,291,534.41	1,812,905.70	4,478,628.71

Budgeted vs. Actual Expenses - Historical Review



Budgeted vs. Actual Revenue - Historical Review



Budgeted vs. Actual Net - Historical Review

