

# Meeker County Sheriff's Office

## 2024 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 Meeker County residents through a proactive partnership with the community and our public safety partners.*

---

# Table of Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Sheriff Preface.....                            | 1  |
| Dispatching Services.....                       | 4  |
| Countywide Emergency Response Units.....        | 11 |
| CodeRed.....                                    | 12 |
| Patrol Services.....                            | 12 |
| Meeker County Contract Deputies.....            | 17 |
| Investigative Services .....                    | 19 |
| Drug and Gang Investigations.....               | 20 |
| Kandiyohi Meeker SWAT .....                     | 21 |
| Meeker Safe Roads Coalition .....               | 22 |
| Mental Health Response .....                    | 23 |
| Public Safety Community Paramedic .....         | 23 |
| Drone Program .....                             | 24 |
| Youth Liaison Deputy / D.A.R.E.....             | 26 |
| Snowmobile/Boat and Water/ ATV/OHV Grants ..... | 28 |
| Training.....                                   | 29 |
| Community Engagement.....                       | 31 |
| Jail .....                                      | 37 |
| Court Security .....                            | 41 |
| Civil Process.....                              | 41 |
| Drug Take Back Program .....                    | 43 |
| Gun Permits.....                                | 44 |
| Emergency Management.....                       | 45 |
| Budget .....                                    | 46 |

---

# Sheriff Preface



The 2024 year-end report is part of a continued effort to provide information to the public about your Meeker County Sheriff's Office. This report is meant to give you insight to our operations and provide crime statistics for this past year. Staffing issues have continued but great strides were made to get new staff on board. After a spike in criminal activity in 2023, we saw levels return to pre-2023 levels. 2024 also saw the start of a remodel project at our courthouse and law enforcement center that will be completed in 2025.

As mentioned in previous year end activity reports, staffing shortages in law enforcement remain an issue across the country. We started 2024 with many open positions but ended the year with just a couple of jail positions open and one deputy position open. Efforts at the county board level increased pay to competitive levels and afforded us opportunities to bring in talented service minded people to fill in those shortfalls. Thank you to the staff who has been through some trying times as they pulled many extra shifts to get us through our staffing shortages. We have an amazing team that is vested in this community and has kept our mission statement a priority as we serve the people of this county.

Calls for service for the Meeker County Sheriff's Office increased by 12% for 2024. We had a total of 9,268 calls for service in 2024 compared to 8,275 in 2023. Calls for service for all agencies in the county, as a whole, decreased by 2.6%. Our dispatch center received 24,838 calls in 2024, of which 7,212 were 911 calls. On average our dispatch center receives 76 calls per day.

After seeing a spike in activity in 2023, we saw some activity decrease dramatically in 2024. These include child abuse reports, domestic assault, and vehicle thefts. We also saw decreases beyond the 2023 spike in criminal sexual activity, thefts and burglary reports. We did see activity increase in the areas of threats, trespassing and traffic enforcement with most other activity remaining relatively flat.

2024 brought the start of a county remodel project that will be completed in 2025. The remodel includes areas to our jail, dispatch and offices along with a change to the security of the courthouse. A security station is being added to the back side of the courthouse and the front entrance will be closed off to the public. The administrative

offices have moved out of the court house and the agencies remaining are justice related.

The Sheriff's Office K-9 program is currently on hiatus. With the previous handler leaving our office, we made efforts to adjust the dog to another handler. The dog did not respond to those efforts and was ultimately retired. We will explore opportunities for the K-9 program in the future.

As always, I hope you find this report informative and that it gives you insight into the operations of the Meeker County Sheriff's Office. On behalf of everyone in this office, thank you for your support. Your support and trust of this office is crucial to the success of this office and is appreciated. We rely on your partnership to provide the best service possible and we remain committed to serving you with Honor, Integrity and Courage.

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                | 320-639-5414 |
| 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.

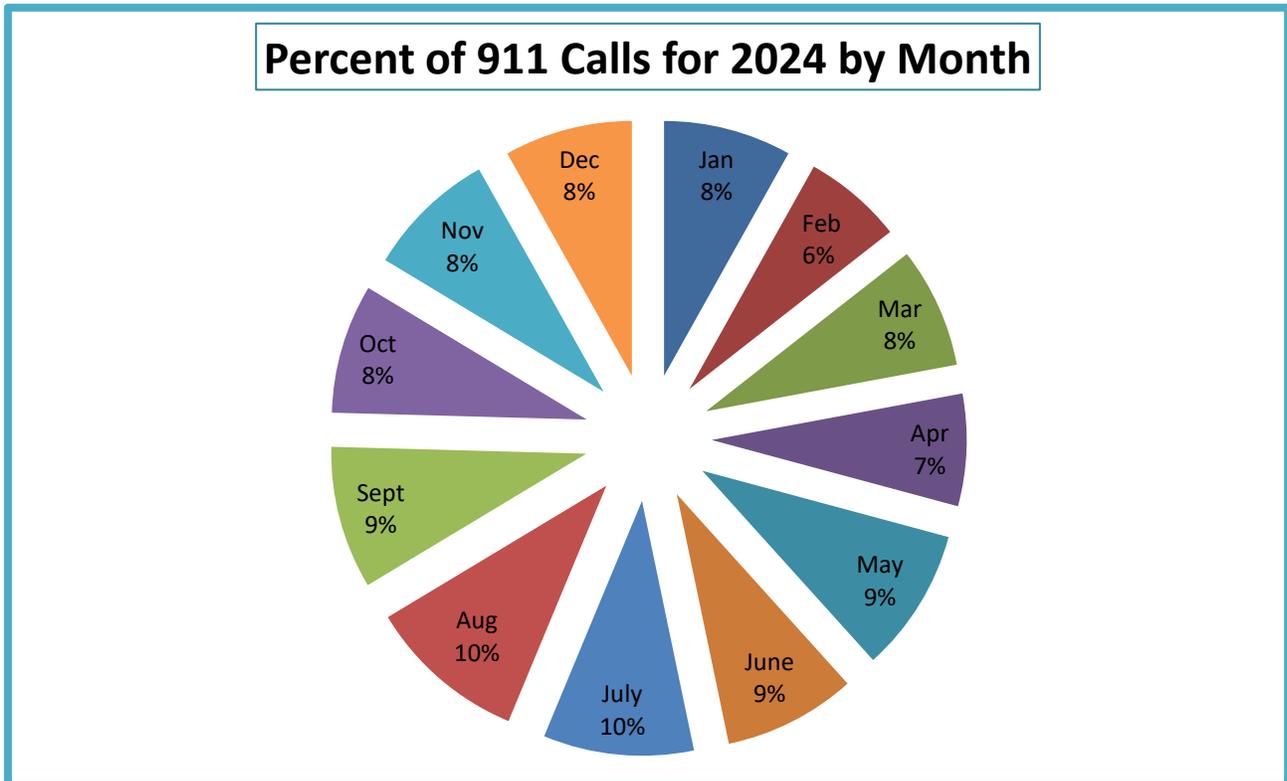
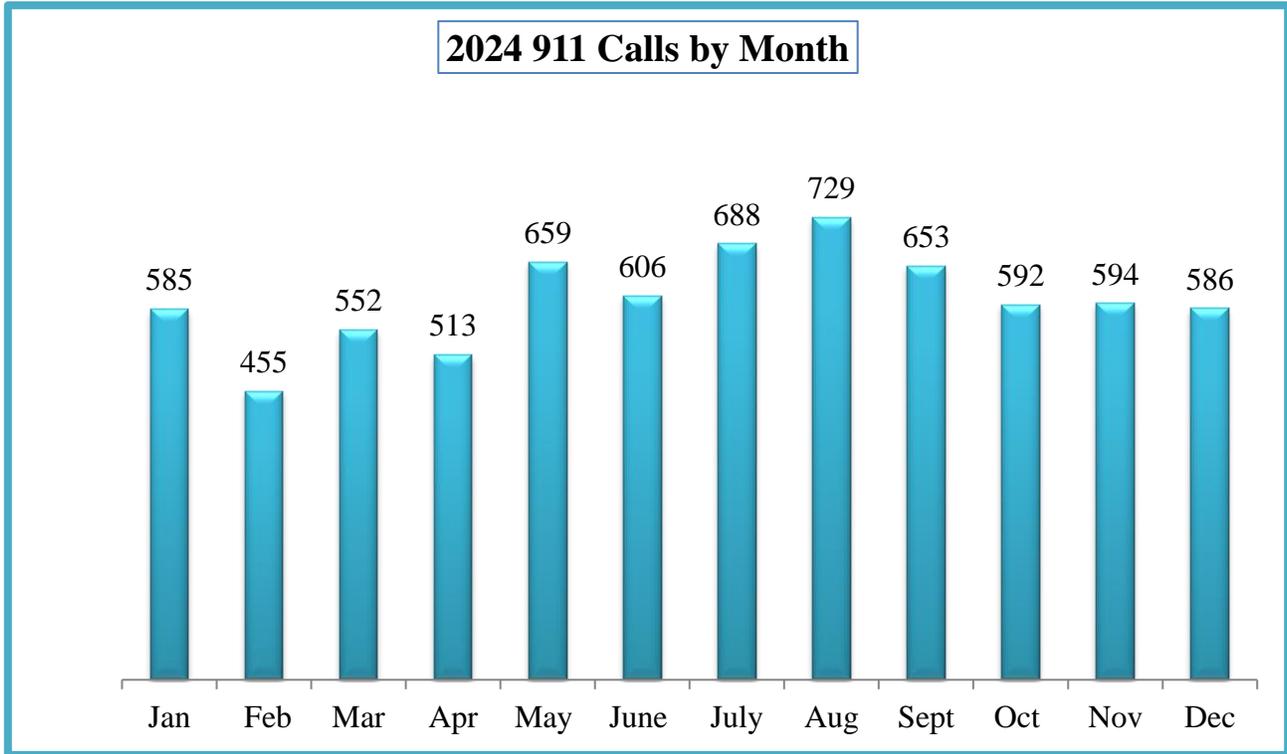
The Meeker County PSAP received a total of 24,838 calls in 2024. Of those calls, 7,212 were 911 calls and 17,626 were administrative. Our dispatch center averaged 76 calls received per day and this does not include outbound calls or 911 rebid calls. A rebid is a term used when we attempt to get a better location on a cellular 911 call.

The overall calls for service for all agencies in Meeker County was 16,827 calls in 2024. While the calls for service for all agencies represented a 2.6% decline from 2023, the Meeker County Sheriff's Office saw a 12% increase in calls for service. In 2024 the Sheriff's office had 9,268 calls for service compared to 8,275 in 2023.

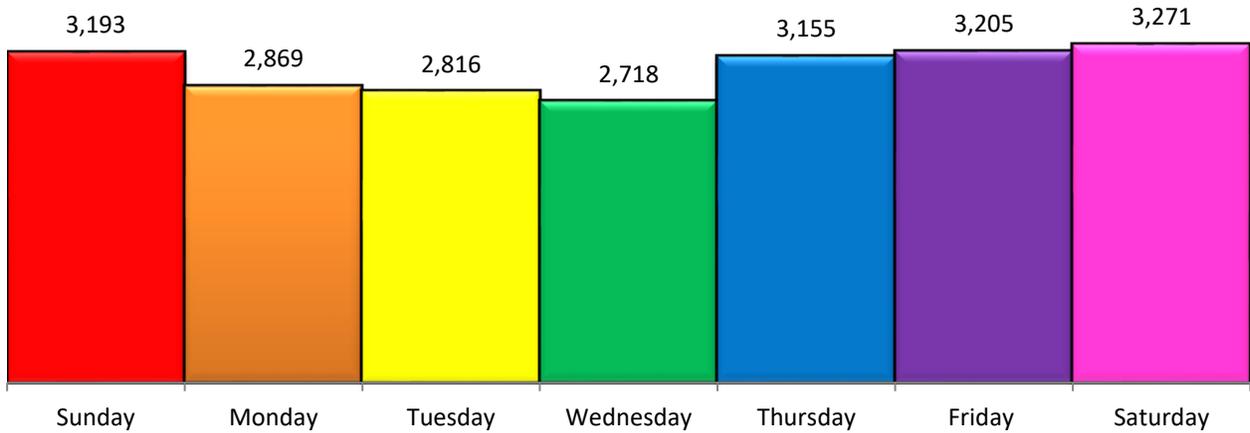
In 2021 the Meeker County PSAP brought the text-to-911 answering point in-house. We provided our dispatchers with the equipment and software necessary to handle the texts ourselves. Before 2021 Meeker County was part of a regional approach to answering text-to-911 calls.

With the last installation of 911 software in 2017, we began moving forward with a software upgrade in 2024 which will be completed in 2025. This will 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 videos that can be provided to responding emergency units.

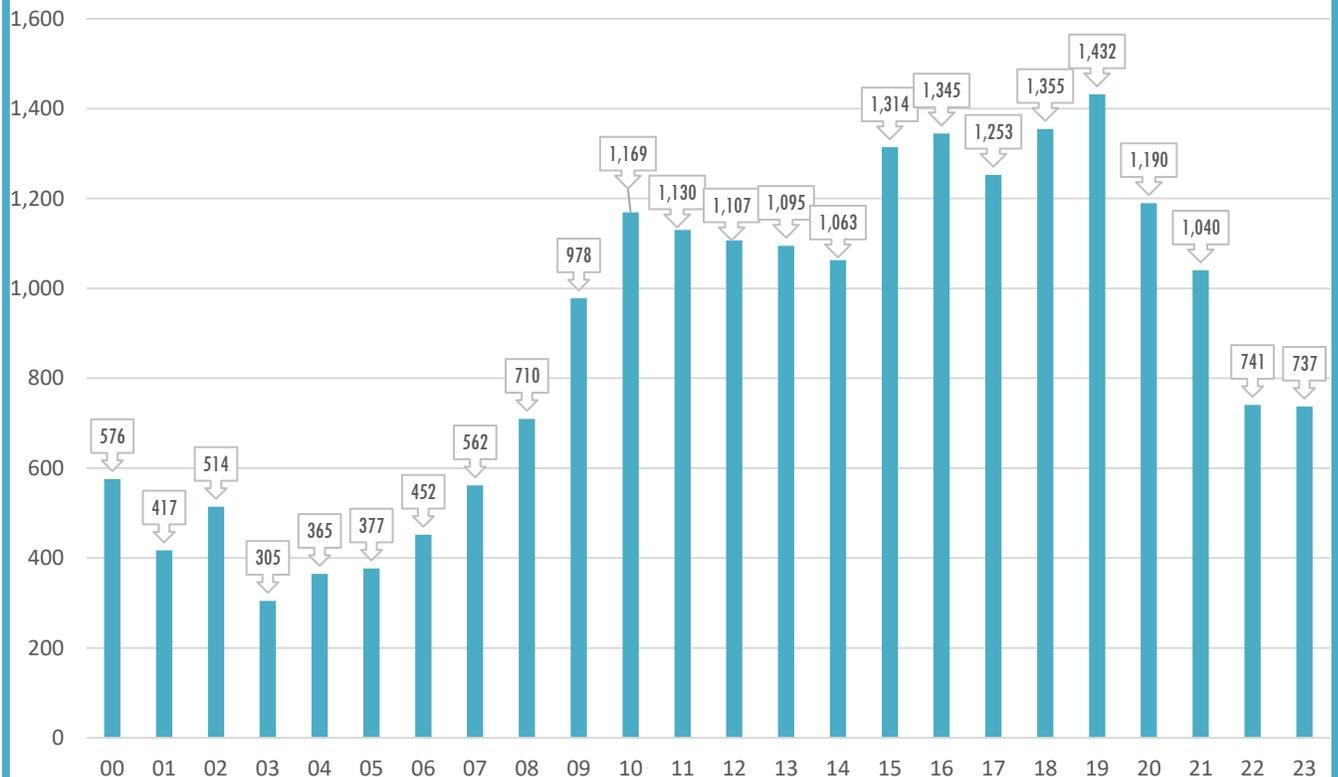
**2024 - 911 calls for Meeker County: 7,212**



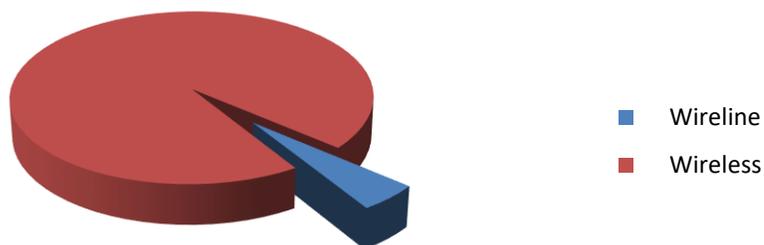
## 911 Call Volume by Day of Week Report Period 1/1/24 - 12/31/24



## 911 Call Volume by Hour of Day Report Period 1/1/24 - 12/31/24



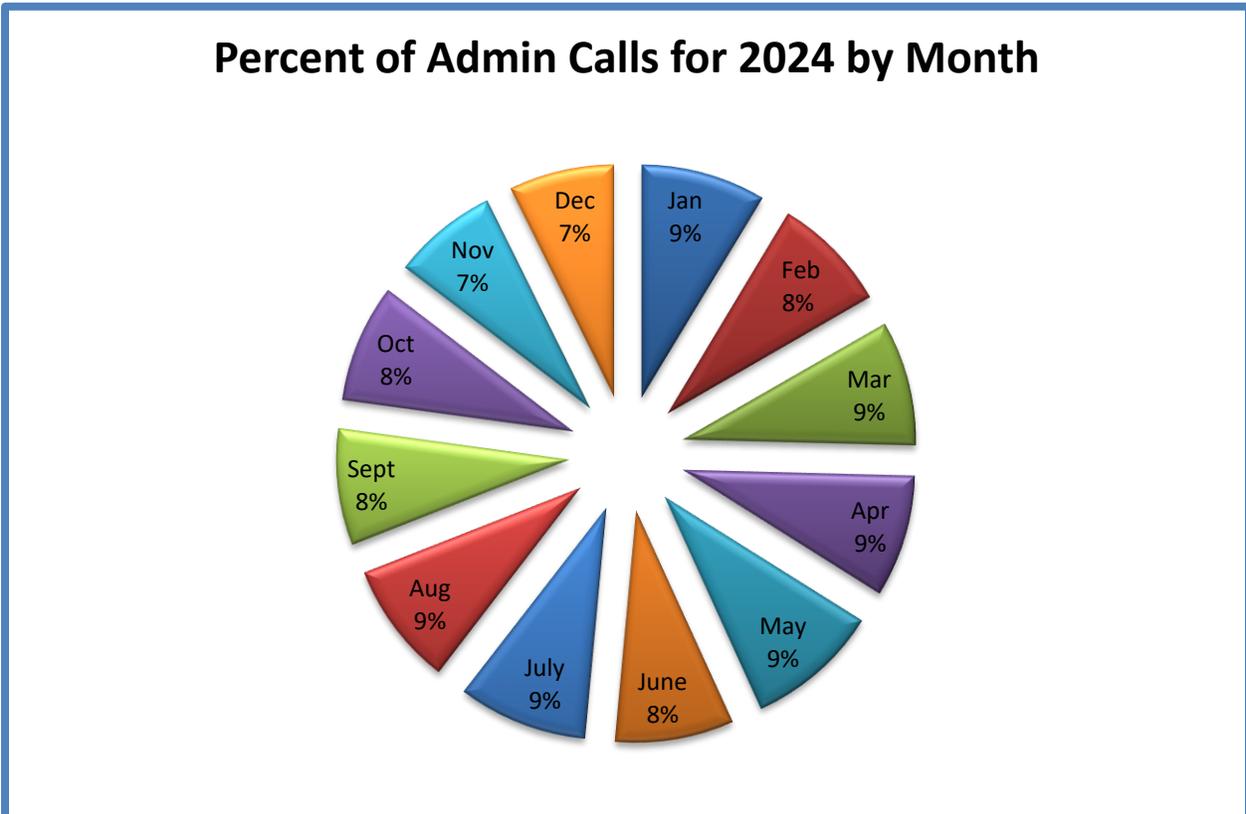
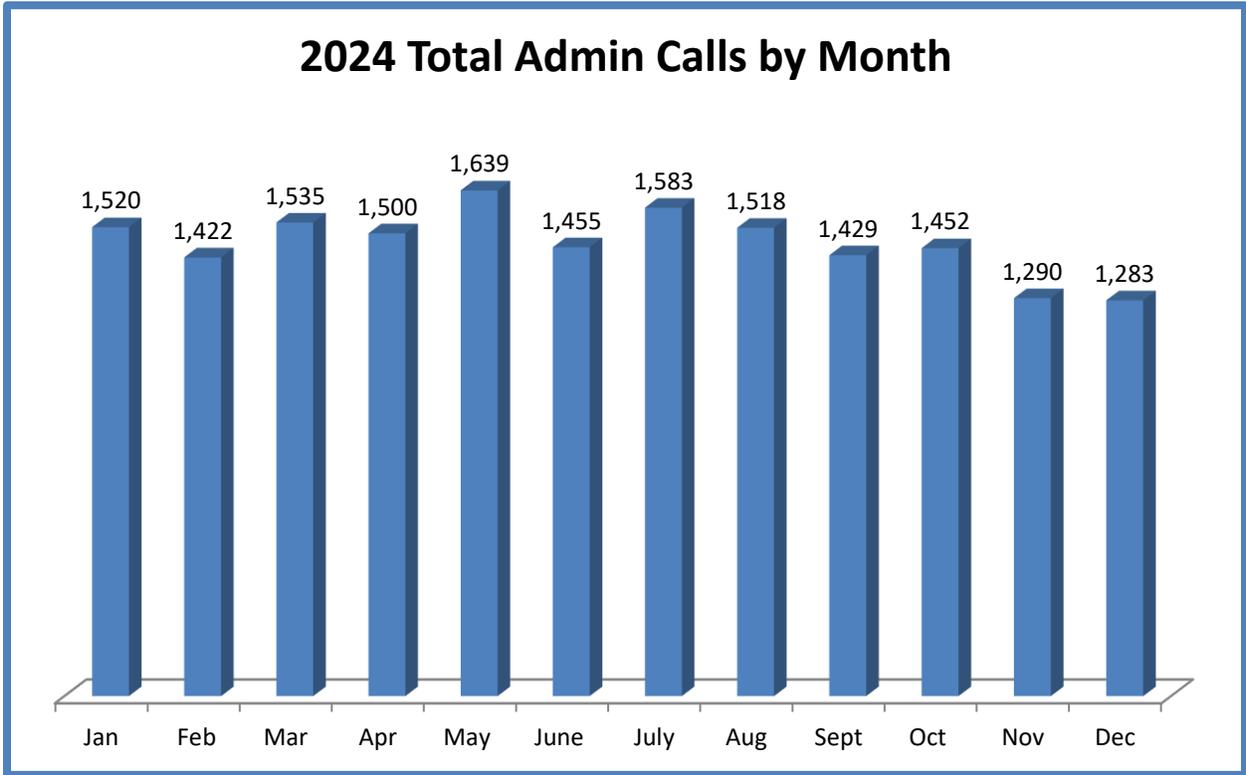
## 911 Calls by Cell Phone/Land Line Report Period 1/1/24 - 12/31/24



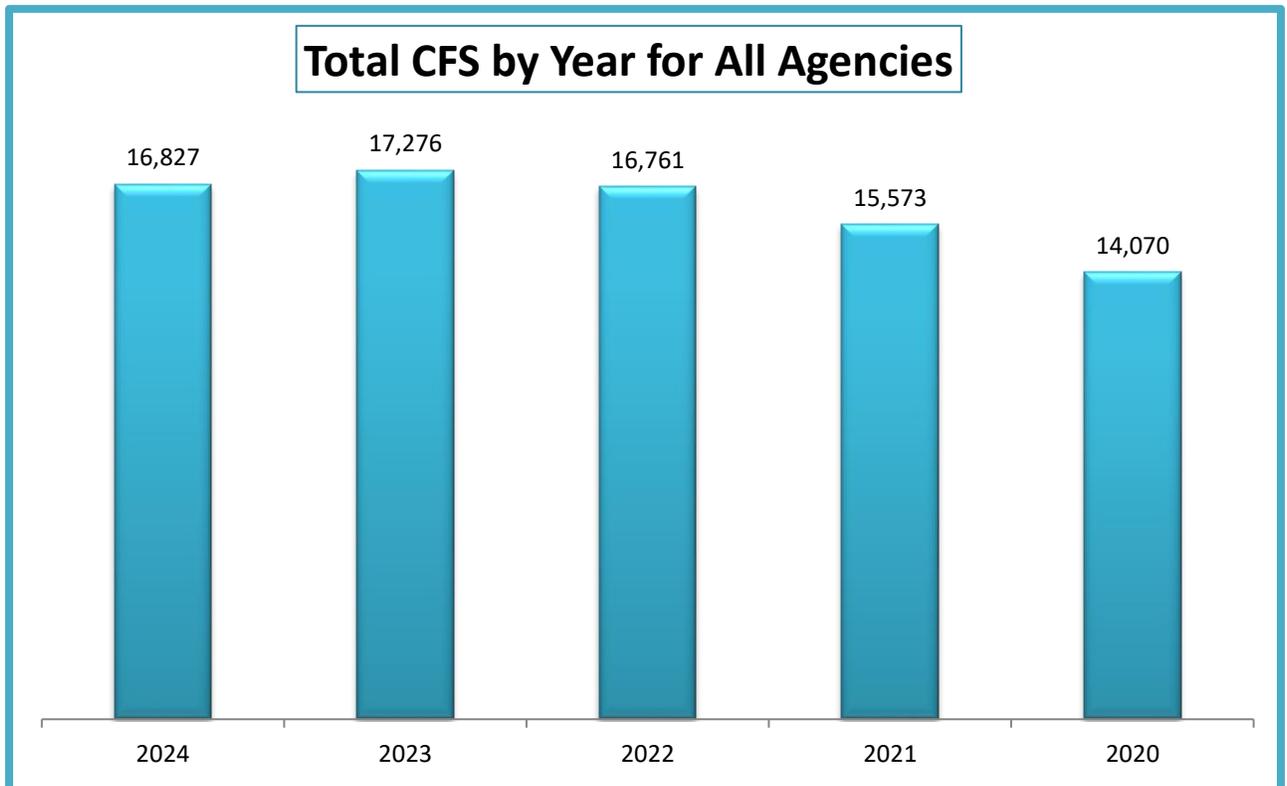
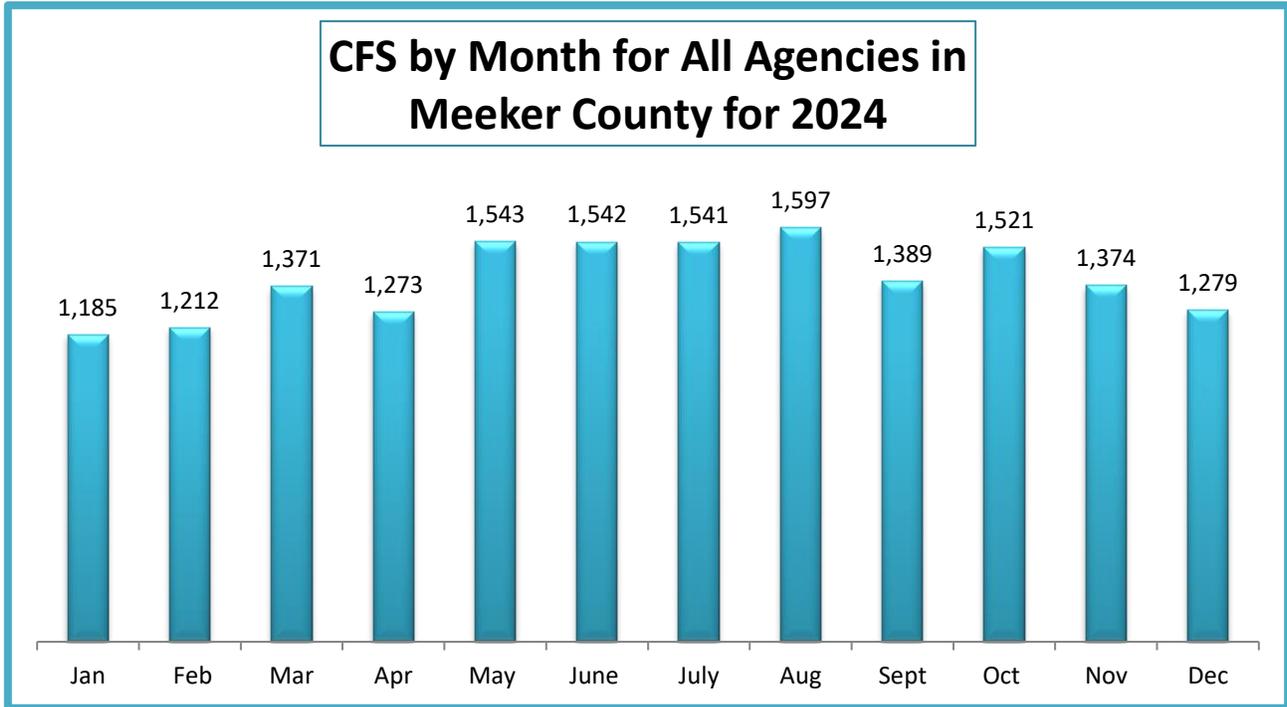
| Type          | Total        | Percentage  |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| Wireline      | 351          | 4.87        |
| Wireless      | 6,861        | 95.13       |
| <b>Total:</b> | <b>7,212</b> | <b>100%</b> |

When we receive a cellular 911 call, we are set up to receive identifying information, including locations, with those calls. There are times when 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 2024 our dispatch center re-bid wireless calls 14,015 times throughout the year.

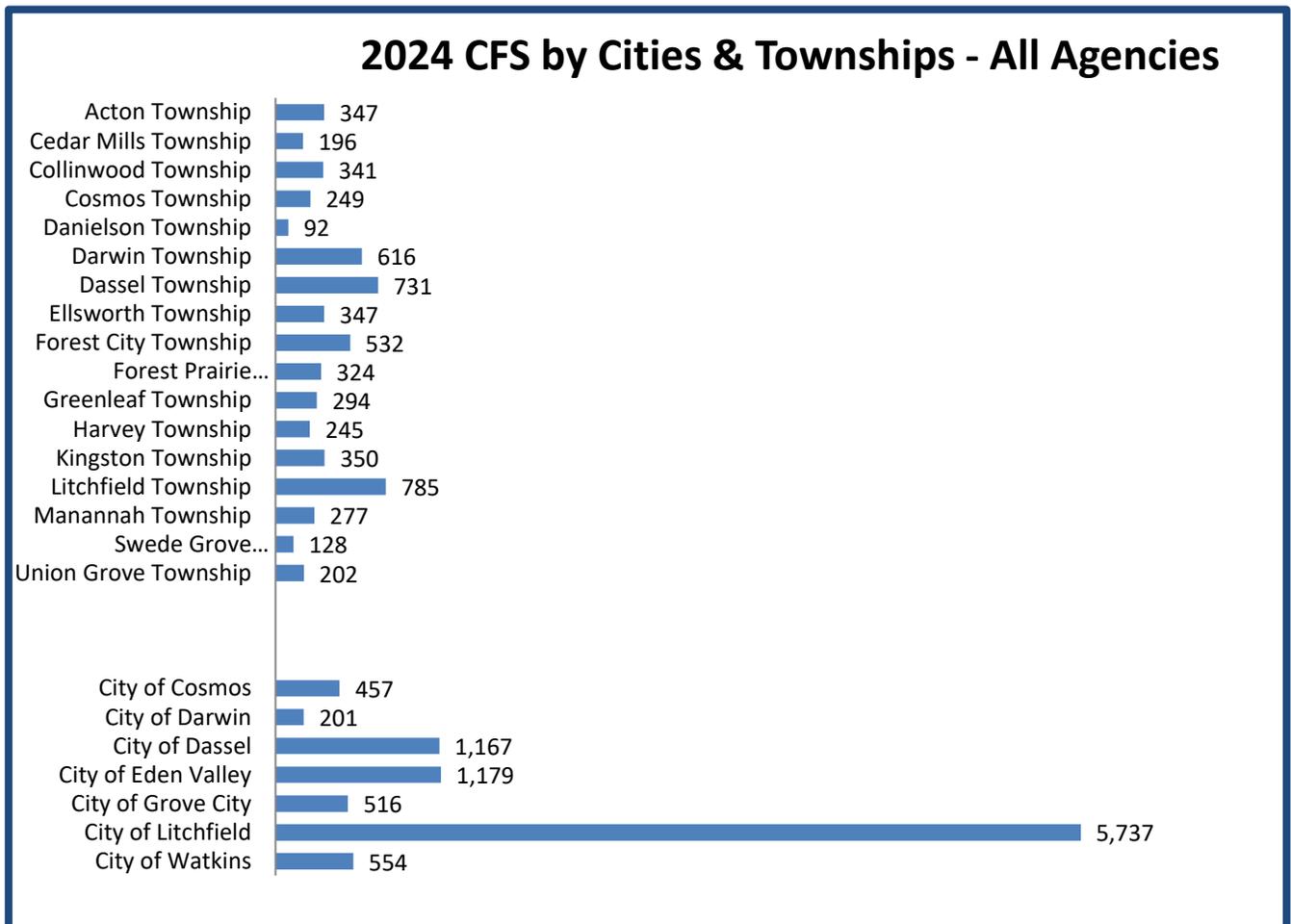
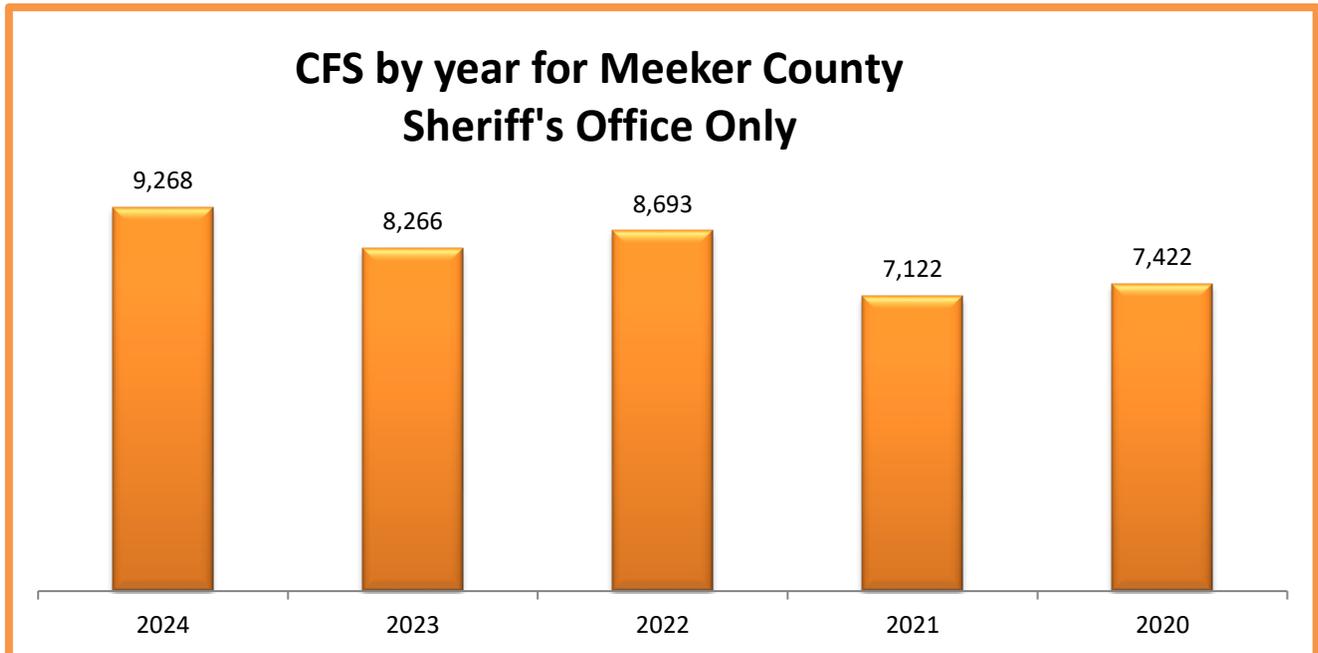
**2024 Total Administrative calls for Meeker County: 17,626**



**2024 Total Calls for Service (CFS) for All Agencies in Meeker County: 16,827**



**2024 Total Calls for Service for Meeker County Sheriff's Office only: 9,268**

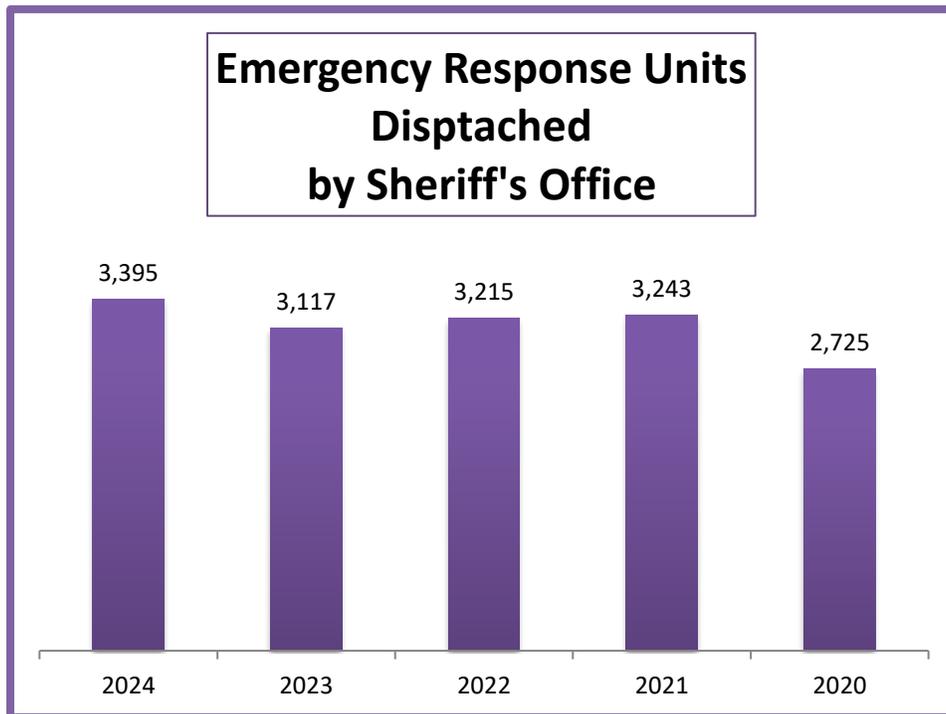




**Emergency Response Units Dispatched**  
**by Meeker County**  
**Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center**



| Agency                     | 2024         | 2023         | 2022         | 2021         | 2020         |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Cosmos Ambulance           | 59           | 79           | 81           | 68           | 58           |
| Cosmos Fire & Rescue       | 15           | 13           | 36           | 24           | 16           |
| Dassel Fire & Rescue       | 389          | 384          | 399          | 352          | 291          |
| Eden Valley Fire           | 34           | 23           | 39           | 38           | 44           |
| Eden Valley Rescue         | 171          | 112          | 123          | 168          | 124          |
| Grove City Fire Department | 19           | 28           | 38           | 25           | 29           |
| Grove City Rescue          | 73           | 97           | 84           | 77           | 62           |
| Litchfield Fire Department | 137          | 99           | 124          | 114          | 124          |
| Litchfield Rescue          | 563          | 439          | 429          | 692          | 477          |
| Mayo Ambulance             | 1285         | 1,234        | 1,213        | 1,152        | 998          |
| Watkins Fire Department    | 43           | 44           | 58           | 33           | 31           |
| Watkins Rescue & Ambulance | 607          | 565          | 591          | 500          | 471          |
| <b>Total:</b>              | <b>3,395</b> | <b>3,117</b> | <b>3,215</b> | <b>3,243</b> | <b>2,725</b> |





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 smartphone. To sign up for this free service go to our website and click on the CodeRed banner: [www.co.meeker.mn.us/217/Sheriff](http://www.co.meeker.mn.us/217/Sheriff)

## **Patrol Services**

Meeker County Deputies patrol the county, respond to medical emergencies, vehicle crashes, 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, training, etc.).” The high expectations of these directives will result in a more professional patrol unit that keeps public safety a top priority.

With the updated 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 in dealing with certain issues and/or crimes.

The 2024 total activity for Meeker County Sheriff's Office Deputies is as follows:

| Criminal Call for Service                         | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| Abuse/Neglect/Maltreatment                        | 1    | 13   | 7    | 9    | 10   |
| Abuse/Neglect/Maltreatment-Child                  | 172  | 342  | 184  | 156  | 119  |
| Arson   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 2    |
| Assault   | 23   | 35   | 14   | 21   | 16   |
| Domestic Assault                                  | 127  | 141  | 111  | 79   | 100  |
| Burglary  | 15   | 45   | 29   | 39   | 25   |
| Criminal Sexual Conduct                           | 16   | 40   | 26   | 33   | 28   |
| Damage to Property                                | 54   | 61   | 54   | 61   | 73   |
| Damage to Property -Mailbox                       | 25   | 21   | 17   | 10   | 22   |
| Domestic Abuse No Contact Order (DANCO) Violation | 19   | 18   | 18   | 14   | 13   |
| Drug Crimes (including drug paraphernalia)        | 33   | 44   | 61   | 44   | 63   |
| Forgery   | 0    | 0    | 2    | 2    | 0    |
| Fraud   | 12   | 24   | 18   | 30   | 24   |
| Harassment  | 61   | 98   | 64   | 62   | 43   |
| Harassment Restraining Order (HRO) Violation      | 16   | 23   | 12   | 6    | 4    |
| Homicide  | 0    | 1    | 0    | 1    | 0    |
| Kidnapping/False Imprisonment                     | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Order for Protection (OFP) Violations             | 28   | 22   | 12   | 9    | 12   |
| Ordinance Violations                              | 45   | 212  | 61   | 58   | 62   |
| Pursuit - Vehicle on Foot                         | 10   | 15   | 12   | 10   | 12   |
| Robbery   | 2    | 1    | 1    | 0    | 0    |
| Search Warrants Executed                          | 18   | 13   | 21   | 1    | 6    |
| Theft/Stolen Property                             | 86   | 102  | 145  | 109  | 110  |
| Threats   | 47   | 38   | 50   | 30   | 40   |
| Trespass  | 43   | 32   | 44   | 38   | 32   |
| Vandalism   | 5    | 11   | 27   | 1    | 5    |
| Vehicle Thefts                                    | 15   | 30   | 14   | 11   | 29   |
| Warrant Arrests                                   | 114  | 146  | 119  | 73   | 69   |
| Weapon Violations                                 | 3    | 1    | 4    | 1    | 1    |

\*\*Prior to 2021 all assaults were counted in one category. Beginning in 2021, domestic assaults were given their own statistical category.

| Other Calls for Service      | 2024 | 2023  | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 |
|------------------------------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| 9-1-1 Hang Ups/Misdial       | 463  | 604   | 226  | 142  | 262  |
| Alarm                        | 174  | 191   | 233  | 191  | 194  |
| Animal Complaints-Dog        | 268  | 211   | 196  | 186  | 155  |
| Animal Complaints- All Other | 124  | 154   | 152  | 163  | 146  |
| Assist Other Agencies        | 126  | 224   | 159  | 157  | 199  |
| Civil Complaints             | 253  | 402   | 241  | 195  | 213  |
| Deer Possession Tags Issued  | 32   | 28    | 26   | 23   | 42   |
| Disturbance/Disorderly       | 80   | 156   | 83   | 73   | 99   |
| Emotionally Disturbed Person | 95   | 136   | 114  | 57   | 53   |
| Fire/Grass/Vehicle           | 86   | 115   | 93   | 100  | 89   |
| Juvenile Trouble             | 87   | 192   | 82   | 35   | 75   |
| Medicals                     | 370  | 1,616 | 456  | 148  | 196  |
| Noise Complaints             | 47   | 86    | 27   | 30   | 33   |
| Nuisance                     | 3    | 21    | 10   | 6    | 12   |
| Public Assists               | 354  | 812   | 438  | 388  | 288  |
| Runaways                     | 23   | 48    | 26   | 7    | 19   |
| Scams                        | 76   | 103   | 67   | 150  | 112  |
| Shooting Complaint           | 20   | 15    | 15   | 22   | 27   |
| Suicidal Individual          | 31   | 46    | 30   | 16   | 46   |
| Suspicious Activity          | 397  | 316   | 332  | 298  | 370  |
| Vacation/Security Checks     | 14   | 17    | 17   | 11   | 12   |
| Vehicle Unlocks              | 52   | 50    | 46   | 61   | 61   |
| Vulnerable Adult             | 70   | 70    | 74   | 43   | 36   |
| Welfare Check                | 555  | 535   | 340  | 251  | 198  |

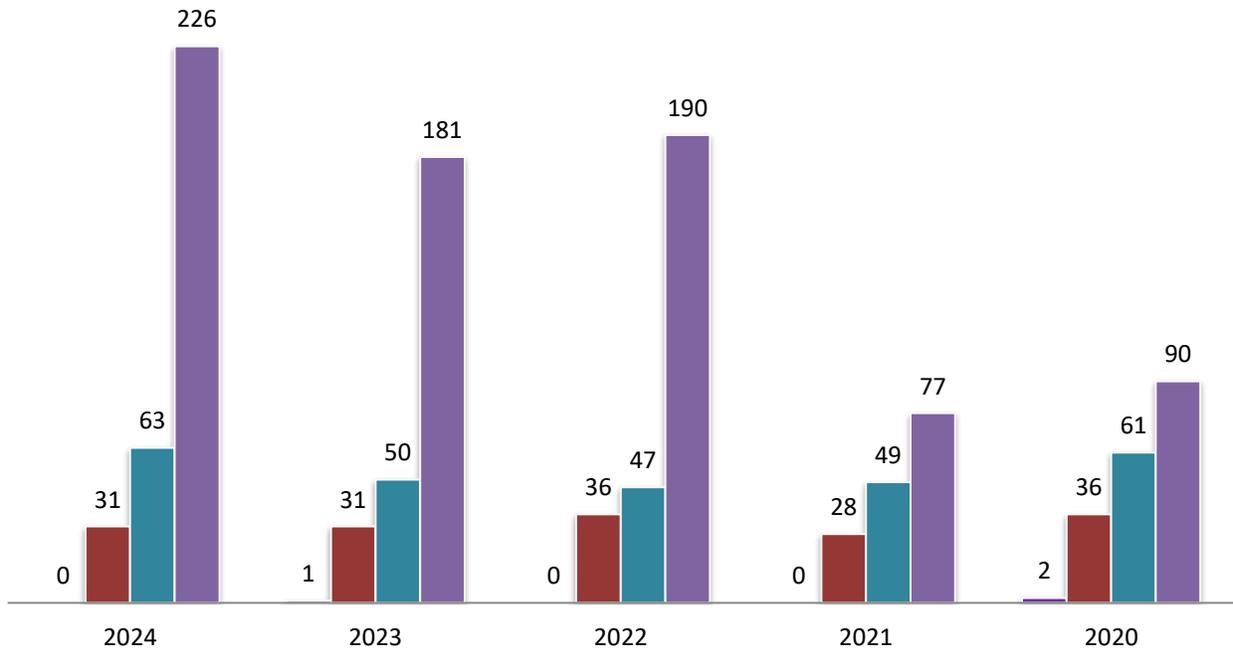
## Meeker County Sheriff's Office Traffic Enforcement

| Traffic Violations                       | 2024       | 2023       | 2022       | 2021       | 2020       |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Distracted Driving/Hands Free Violations | 2          | 5          | 6          | 10         | 9          |
| Driver's License Violations              | 50         | 53         | 67         | 54         | 51         |
| DUI                                      | 46         | 46         | 55         | 78         | 62         |
| Drugs/Drug Paraphernalia                 | 3          | 4          | 15         | 14         | 18         |
| Motor Vehicle Registration               | 12         | 14         | 24         | 18         | 17         |
| Open Bottle                              | 1          | 1          | 3          | 7          | 6          |
| Parking Violations                       | 0          | 2          | 19         | 13         | 3          |
| Reckless/Careless Driving                | 8          | 5          | 6          | 10         | 17         |
| School Bus Violations                    | 4          | 3          | 8          | 3          | 4          |
| Seat Belt Violations                     | 1          | 0          | 2          | 5          | 6          |
| Speed                                    | 230        | 162        | 202        | 264        | 256        |
| Stop Sign Violations/Yield Violations    | 12         | 14         | 4          | 15         | 15         |
| Under 21 Alcohol Consumption             | 21         | 8          | 9          | 20         | 16         |
| Vehicle Registration Violations          | 2          | 2          | 3          | 7          | 7          |
| All other citations                      | 177        | 151        | 287        | 271        | 219        |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                            | <b>569</b> | <b>470</b> | <b>710</b> | <b>789</b> | <b>706</b> |

| Other Traffic Related Calls   | 2024  | 2023  | 2022  | 2021  | 2020  |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Traffic Stops                 | 2,890 | 1,773 | 2,737 | 2,235 | 2,253 |
| Abandoned Vehicles on Roadway | 54    | 57    | 44    | 53    | 71    |
| Driving Complaints            | 245   | 257   | 238   | 227   | 210   |
| Motorist Assist               | 136   | 103   | 143   | 82    | 102   |
| Traffic Hazards               | 105   | 115   | 147   | 88    | 86    |
| Vehicle Off Roadway           | 70    | 81    | 92    | 59    | 63    |

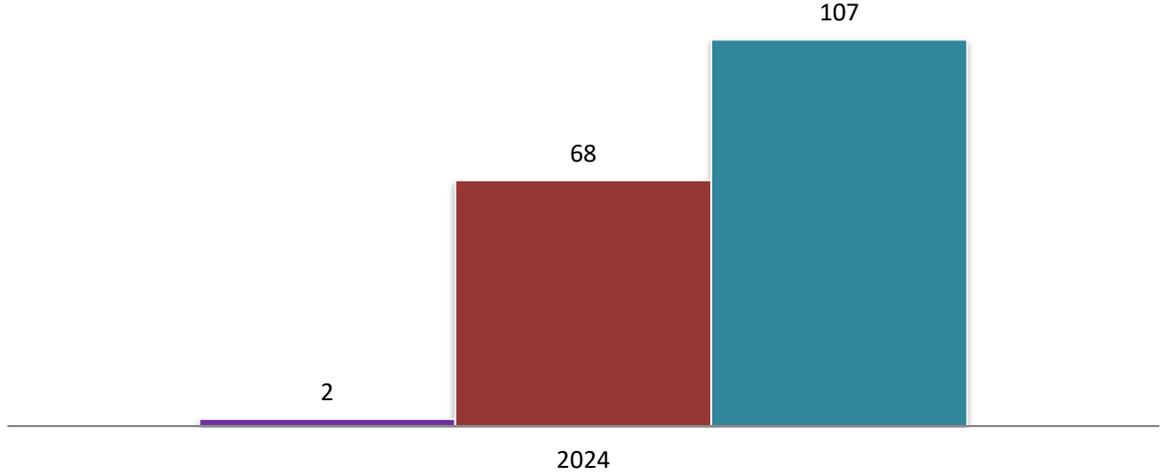
## 2024 Meeker County Sheriff's Office Reported Traffic Accidents

■ Fatal Crashes 
 ■ Personal Injury Crashes 
 ■ Property Damage Crashes 
 ■ Motor Vehicle/Animal Accidents



## 2024 Total Traffic Accidents for All Agencies in Meeker County

■ Fatal Crashes 
 ■ Personal Injury Crashes 
 ■ Property Damage Crashes



## **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 2024 total activity for each contract city is as follows:

| Contract Town Activity | 2024 Calls for Service |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Cosmos                 | 413                    |
| Dassel                 | 990                    |
| Grove City             | 467                    |
| Watkins                | 400                    |

| 2024 Criminal Calls for Service      | Cosmos | Dassel | Grove City | Watkins |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|------------|---------|
| Abuse-Neglect-Maltreatment           | 0      | 0      | 0          | 0       |
| Assault                              | 3      | 1      | 1          | 1       |
| Burglary                             | 1      | 4      | 0          | 0       |
| Child Abuse - Neglect- Maltreatment  | 29     | 17     | 10         | 8       |
| Check Forgery                        | 0      | 0      | 0          | 0       |
| Criminal Damage to Property          | 4      | 7      | 5          | 3       |
| DANCO Violation                      | 1      | 5      | 1          | 1       |
| Disorderly Conduct                   | 0      | 0      | 0          | 1       |
| Disturbance                          | 2      | 6      | 6          | 4       |
| Domestics                            | 8      | 15     | 10         | 9       |
| Drugs/Paraphernalia                  | 1      | 1      | 0          | 1       |
| DUI                                  | 1      | 3      | 2          | 3       |
| Forgery                              | 0      | 0      | 0          | 0       |
| Harassment/Stalking                  | 5      | 15     | 7          | 11      |
| HRO Violations                       | 1      | 1      | 5          | 1       |
| Homicides                            | 0      | 0      | 0          | 0       |
| Identity Theft                       | 0      | 0      | 0          | 0       |
| Lost/Found Property                  | 2      | 13     | 3          | 11      |
| Motor Vehicle Accident               | 0      | 6      | 9          | 3       |
| Order for Protection (OFP) Violation | 1      | 2      | 0          | 0       |

|                        |   |    |   |   |
|------------------------|---|----|---|---|
| Pursuit Vehicle/Person | 0 | 2  | 0 | 1 |
| Robbery                | 0 | 0  | 0 | 0 |
| Scams/Swindle          | 3 | 11 | 4 | 1 |
| Sex Crime Offense      | 1 | 1  | 2 | 1 |
| Stolen Vehicle         | 1 | 1  | 2 | 4 |
| Tamper w/MV            | 0 | 0  | 0 | 0 |
| Thefts                 | 6 | 9  | 3 | 7 |
| Threats                | 1 | 10 | 5 | 2 |
| Trespass               | 1 | 6  | 4 | 2 |
| Weapons Offenses       | 0 | 0  | 1 | 0 |

| 2024 Other Calls for Service | Cosmos | Dassel | Grove City | Watkins |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|------------|---------|
| 9-1-1 Hang Ups               | 3      | 11     | 8          | 5       |
| 9-1-1 Mis or Accident Dial   | 8      | 22     | 9          | 10      |
| Abandoned/Stalled Vehicles   | 1      | 4      | 1          | 3       |
| Agency Standby/Assist        | 2      | 7      | 2          | 4       |
| Alarms                       | 5      | 22     | 15         | 12      |
| Animal Complaints            | 7      | 27     | 20         | 22      |
| Arrest Warrant               | 5      | 8      | 2          | 2       |
| Assist Other Agencies        | 0      | 0      | 0          | 0       |
| ATV Complaint                | 1      | 1      | 3          | 1       |
| Burning Complaint            | 0      | 0      | 0          | 0       |
| Carbon Monoxide Alarm        | 0      | 3      | 0          | 1       |
| Debris on Roadway            | 0      | 0      | 0          | 0       |
| Deliver Emergency Messages   | 0      | 0      | 0          | 0       |
| Driving Complaints           | 3      | 22     | 5          | 5       |
| Escorts                      | 1      | 1      | 0          | 0       |
| Fire Calls                   | 2      | 8      | 3          | 2       |
| Funeral Escort               | 0      | 0      | 0          | 0       |
| Gas Drive Off                | 0      | 0      | 2          | 8       |
| HAZMAT/Chemical Spill        | 0      | 0      | 0          | 0       |
| Medicals                     | 6      | 28     | 12         | 32      |
| Motorist Assist              | 2      | 13     | 1          | 1       |
| Noise Complaints             | 1      | 6      | 9          | 14      |

|   |     |     |    |    |
|---|-----|-----|----|----|
| Ordinance Violations                    | 0   | 6   | 19 | 1  |
| Public Assist                           | 15  | 52  | 23 | 26 |
| Shooting Complaint                      | 0   | 2   | 1  | 1  |
| Suspicious Activity/Person/Vehicle      | 14  | 69  | 17 | 30 |
| Tobacco Violation                       | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0  |
| Traffic Stops - Citations /Warnings     | 195 | 341 | 70 | 49 |
| Unsecure Doors - Residential & Business | 0   | 1   | 3  | 6  |
| Vacation/Security Checks                | 0   | 2   | 0  | 0  |
| Vehicle Lock Out                        | 5   | 7   | 2  | 5  |
| Welfare Check                           | 19  | 38  | 35 | 15 |

## **Investigative Services**

The Meeker County Sheriff’s Office currently has three full-time detectives responsible for investigating criminal activity including 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 9,268 Calls for Service received by Meeker County Sheriff’s Office in 2024, 304 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 178 reported deaths in Meeker County in 2024, 21 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       | 2024       | 2023       | 2022       | 2021       | 2020       |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Motor Vehicle Accident     | 2          | 0          | 1          | 2          | 2          |
| Non-Motor Vehicle Accident | 4          | 5          | 8          | 1          | 4          |
| Reportable, Declined       | 94         | 118        | 113        | 108        | 165        |
| Natural                    | 7          | 7          | 10         | 7          | 10         |
| Suicide                    | 5          | 1          | 7          | 3          | 5          |
| Homicide                   | 0          | 1          | 0          | 1          | 0          |
| Drugs/Substance Abuse      | 3          | 5          | 1          |            |            |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>115</b> | <b>137</b> | <b>140</b> | <b>122</b> | <b>186</b> |

## 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 for salary and benefits. The following is the reported activity for all of Meeker County:

| CEE-VI Drug Task Force Statistics | 2024            | 2023        | 2022        |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Arrests                           | 65 (0 gang)     | 41 (0 gang) | 60 (6 gang) |
| Drug and/or Gang Presentations    | 3 for 92 people |             |             |
| Searches                          | 67              | 39          | 42          |
| Children Removed                  | 3               | 5           | 7           |
| Asset Seizures                    |                 |             |             |
| Cash                              | \$1,542.00      | \$8,116.00  | \$8,004.00  |
| Vehicles                          | 0               | 0           | 0           |
| Hand Guns                         | 5               | 0           | 12          |
| Long Guns                         | 11              | 0           | 28          |

| Drugs Seizures          |                          |                           |                           |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cocaine                 | 1.42 grams               | 1.30 grams                | None                      |
| Fentanyl/FRS Pills      | 173.60 pills             | 17.00 pills               | 1064.00 pills             |
| Fentanyl/FRS Powder     | .14 grams                | .50 grams                 | 0.10 grams                |
| Hashish                 | None                     | None                      | None                      |
| Heroin                  | None                     | None                      | None                      |
| Marijuana               | .31 grams (.069 lbs.)    | 125.27 grams (.28 lbs.)   | 771.30 grams (1.70 lbs.)  |
| Marijuana - concentrate | None                     | None                      | None                      |
| Meth                    | 714.20 grams (1.57 lbs.) | 2748.22 grams (6.06 lbs.) | 1415.31 grams (3.12 lbs.) |
| Prescription            | 23 pills                 | 165.50 pills              | 59.00 pills               |

## **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 needs. By joining 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 seven 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 2024, the threat matrix was reviewed on eleven occasions and the Kandiyohi Meeker SWAT team was utilized once in Meeker County on a warrant service. This warrant

service was for the arrest of individuals suspected of committing thefts in the Twin Cities area.

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 the 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.

## **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. 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.



### **Public Safety Community Paramedic**

In 2022, we hired a Public Safety Community Paramedic full-time. Before 2022 we contracted this position for one day a week. By bringing the position in-house, we can

provide services 5 days a week. The program is designed to supplement our medical and mental health response in the county.

The Public Safety Community Paramedic functions as a member of the County Public Safety / Social Service / Public Health team, providing assessment and care to persons with medical, behavioral, mental health, social, and chemical dependency needs. They identify persons in need and assist in providing limited medical care to them, connecting these people with the available community and medical resources for future assistance. They also provide emergency response assistance to acute medical needs in the community when available to do so.

Provided Services Include:

- Mental Health Response
- Wellness Visits, Chronic Disease Monitoring and Education
- Medication Review and Medication Management
- Administration of Immunizations and Vaccinations
- Laboratory Specimen Collection
- Hospital and Emergency Room Discharge Follow-up Cares
- Provides home and environment safety assessment which includes: Falls Assessment, and the need for durable medical equipment for independent living.
- Researches, contacts, and schedules medical, mental health, and social service appointments.
- Responds to scheduled healthcare, mental health, social services, or chemical dependency appointments with persons needing assistance.
- Responds to medical emergencies and assists our partner emergency response units.

## **Drone Program**

In 2023 we started looking at drone technology to assist operations within the Sheriff's Office. This was a non-budgeted item so we turned to the public to assist with funds to purchase the drone. With the support of a very generous public, we were able to implement the drone program in very short order. The drones will be used for search and rescue purposes such as looking for a lost child, a person with dementia, or the hunter who gets disoriented and lost. We will use it to aid in criminal apprehension of suspects along with mapping of crash and crimes scenes.

Within a week of getting our first drone, we used it on a call of an ATV in the Crow River. The ATV was in a location not easily accessible due to steep embankments. Through the use of the drone we were able to quickly determine there were no occupants in or around the ATV and that it was in fact a stolen ATV. During the winter



of 2023-2024 the drone was used to apprehend a suspect and save his life. Deputies were involved with a pursuit of a suspect who crashed his vehicle and fled the scene. Due to weather conditions, the deputies quickly lost sight of the suspect and were unable to locate him. A drone was deployed and located the suspect a quarter mile away. The suspect ran into a marshy area and couldn't get out. With the cold temperatures, blowing snow, and darkness, it is likely the deputies would have not found him through a ground search and he likely would have died of exposure. With the technology of the drone, we were able to detect a

heat signature and direct deputies to his location. (Photo Courtesy Independent Review)

We know the drone technology will save lives and we are extremely grateful for the financial support of our community to get this technology off the ground. Donations were made to the Meeker County Sheriff's Office Drone Program by the following:

Custom Products of Litchfield, Inc.; Cobank; First District Association; Tim & Lori Erickson; Randy's Towing; Doosan Bobcat; Koch Industries, Inc.; Center National Bank (and all those that attended the Community Impact Month Burger Feed); Robert and Arlene Groskreutz; Towmaster; Litchfield Rotary Club; Centra Sota Cooperative; Marge Hellzen; Kingston Lions.

## Youth Liaison Deputy / D.A.R.E. Program

In 2023 we added a Youth Liaison Deputy to our staff. This deputy's primary duty is to all schools in the county. The schedule includes specific times at Atwater Cosmos Grove City (ACGC), Eden Valley Watkins (EVW), and Dassel Cokato (DC) Schools. This deputy also assists at the Cosmos Learning Center and Litchfield Schools when needed.

Our Youth Liaison Deputy is present in the schools to build relationships and provide guidance to ensure a safe learning environment. As a licensed peace officer, the deputy will deal with criminal activity as necessary and is a resource for non-criminal issues when requested by the school. The deputy will also attend meetings between the school and parents to offer advice on how to handle situations and will diffuse heated issues when needed. The deputy is a positive role model and makes regular contact with students. These contacts generate questions, solicit advice and simply give the student an ear to listen when needed. The Youth Liaison deputy also assists schools with crisis management and emergency plans. The program has been a huge success and welcomed by all the schools in the county.

In addition to regular school duties, our Youth Liaison Deputy is also a certified D.A.R.E. instructor.



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 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes in both the Atwater Cosmos Grove City (ACGC) and Eden Valley-Watkins (EVW)



school districts. 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.

### 2024 ACGC DARE Class



## 2024 EVW DARE Class



### **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 2024 was \$2,761.00. The fiscal year runs from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. We received 2 snowmobile complaints in 2024 and no reports of a snowmobile accident.



## **OHV Safety Enforcement Grant (Off-Highway Vehicle)**

The Meeker County Sheriff’s Office received \$5,635 for the OHV Safety Enforcement Grant fiscal year 2024. The fiscal year runs from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. We received 25 OHV complaints in 2024 and investigated one injury OHV accidents.



## **Boat and Water Safety Grant**



The Boat and Water Safety Grant runs from January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. The grant for the 2024 fiscal year was \$14,259.00. 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 four boating complaints, with one boat injury.

| <b>Boat and Water</b>       | <b>2024</b> | <b>2023</b> | <b>2022</b> | <b>2021</b> | <b>2020</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Complaints                  | 4           | 7           | 10          | 7           | 14          |
| Temporary Structure Permits | 21          | 28          | 26          | 24          | 26          |

## **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.



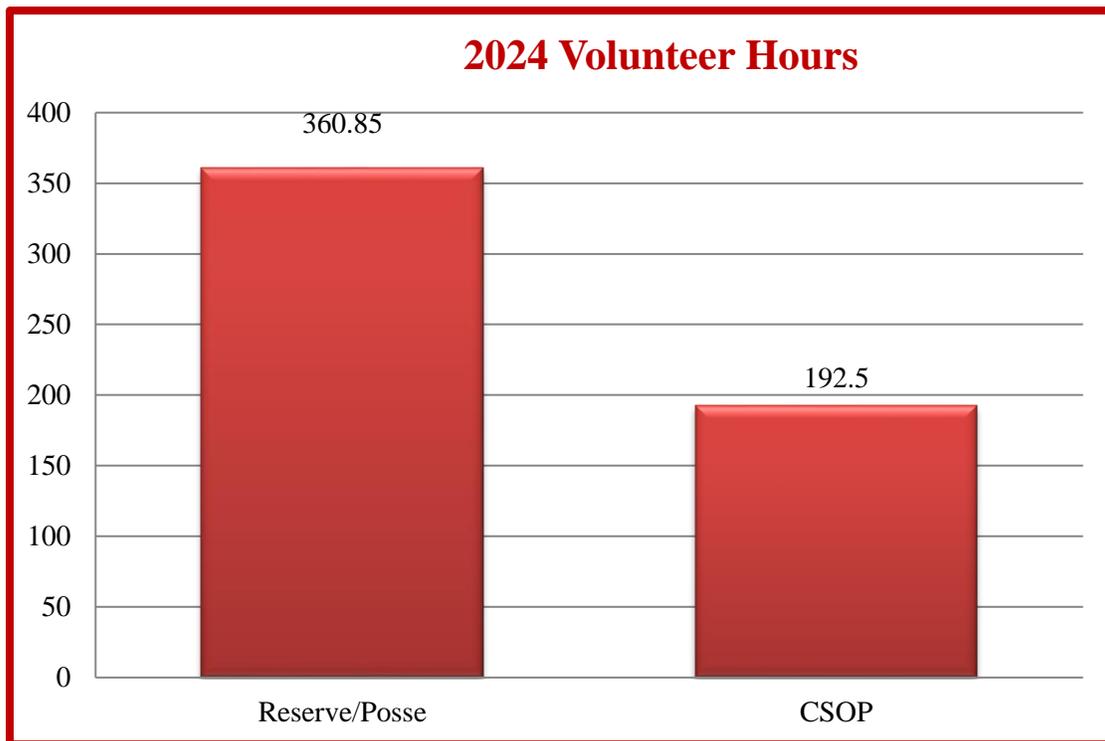
A majority of law enforcement professionals attending the ICLD program report the following positive outcomes:

- 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**

One of the leadership direction statements to staff is “Meeker County Sheriff’s Office personnel will work towards improved community relationships through pro-active community interactions.” We understand the importance of a positive relationship with the public and we make efforts to attend public events and civic organization meetings along with programs such as Shop With A Cop. We also have volunteers that donate time to assist in operations to include the Reserve, Posse and Community Service Paramedics (CSOP).



## 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 five organized events in 2024; Cosmos, Dassel, Grove City, Litchfield, and Watkins.





## 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 a great positive interaction for all attending.





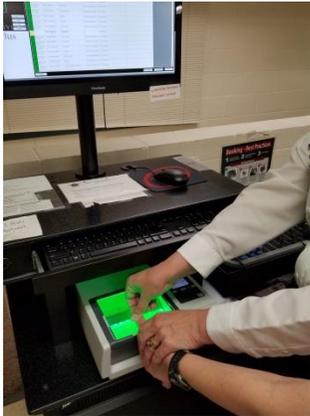
**Trunk or Treat**





# Meeker County Jail

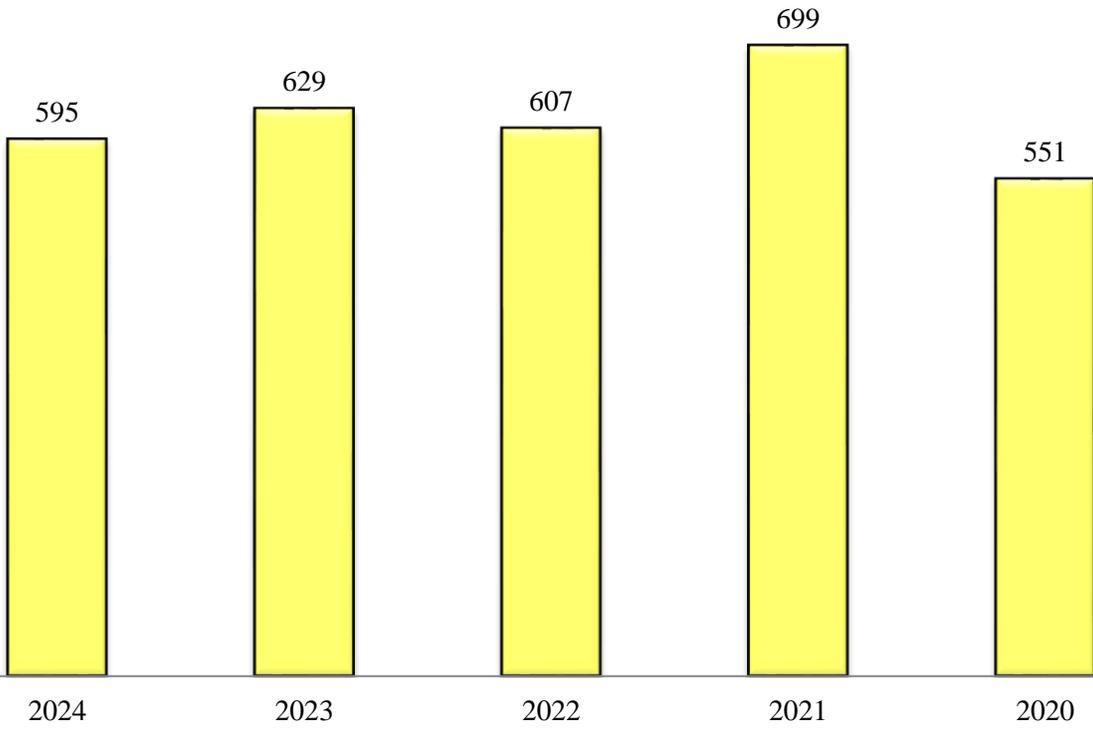
The Meeker County Sheriff's Office Jail is responsible for housing inmates awaiting court, as well as those who are sentenced for misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor offenses. The average daily population for 2024 was 26 inmates per day. The Jail also boards inmates from other counties and the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC). The Meeker County Sheriff's Office charged \$75.00 per day in 2024 for inmates who were boarded for other jurisdictions. The boarding revenue received for 2024 was \$201,262. The average stay for all inmates booked into our facility in 2024 was 15 days.



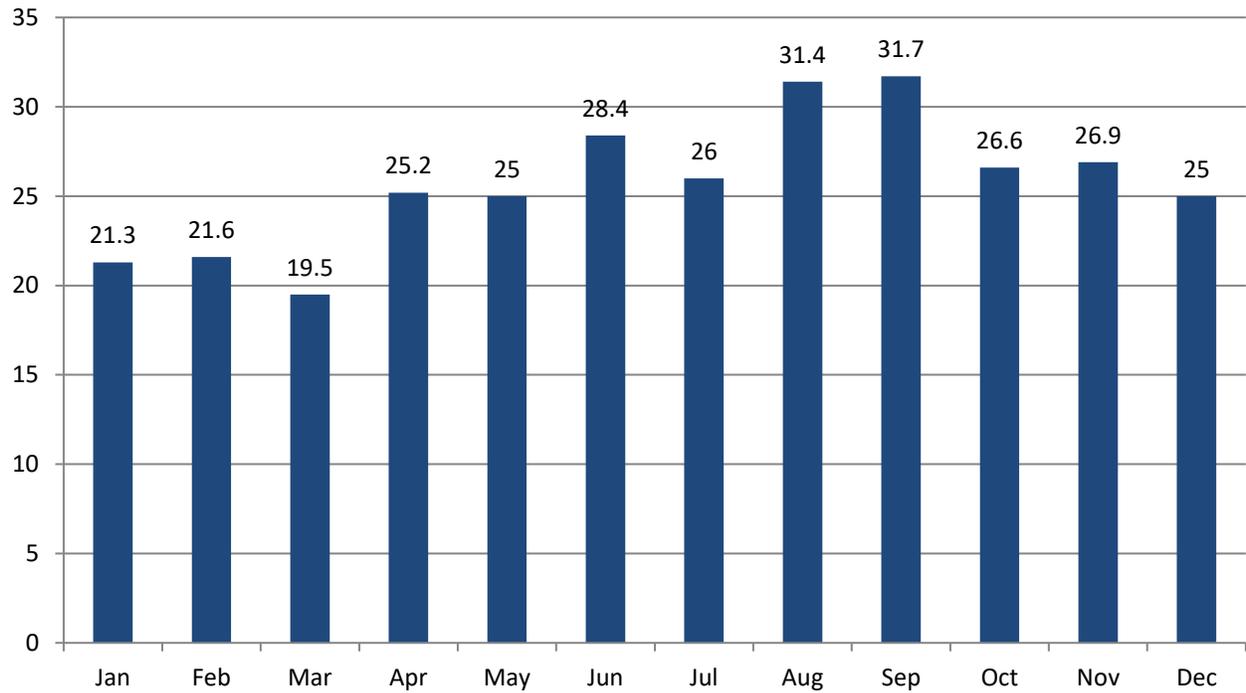
In an effort to address inmate mental health in our jail, we have teamed with Meeker County Social Services for a new pilot program in 2020. Through this partnership we have a designated Social Worker to address the mental health needs of the inmates. The Social Worker and our Jail Programmer work together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

The Meeker County Jail has approximately 14 Jail Programs with volunteers who come into the jail on a weekly and monthly basis. Programs include NA, AA, Public Health, Minnesota Adult Teen Challenge, Social Services and many local church groups. Our volunteers that come into the jail to have programs for inmates at times spend a combined 60 hours per week volunteering. Our Jail volunteers are greatly appreciated by staff as those people in custody that attend programs have shown much more compliant behavior than those that do not attend. National studies have shown that Jail Programs can reduce the recidivism rate by up to 20% in county jails. Our staff is very appreciative to our volunteers for taking the time to come into a jail setting and help those people in custody.

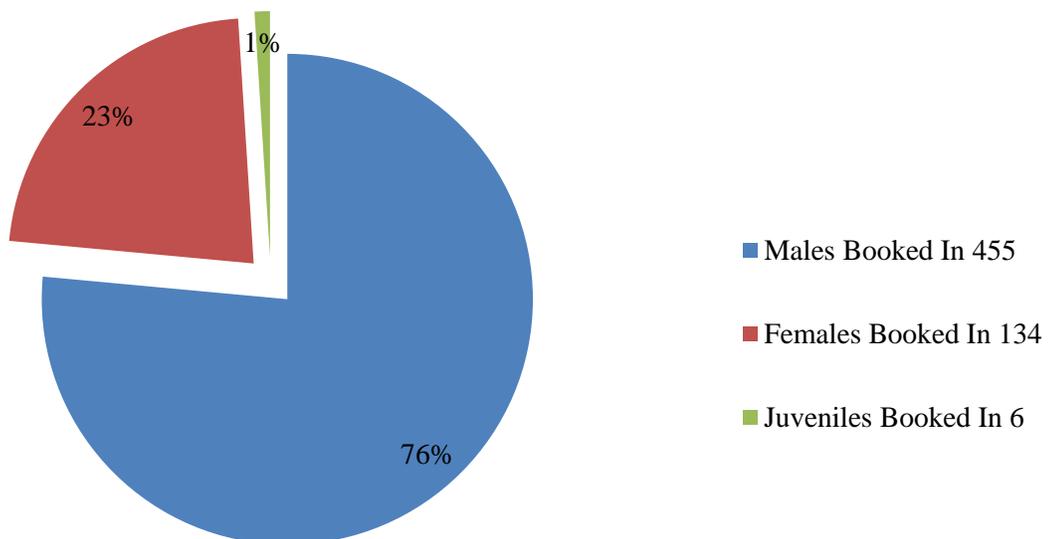
## Total Bookings

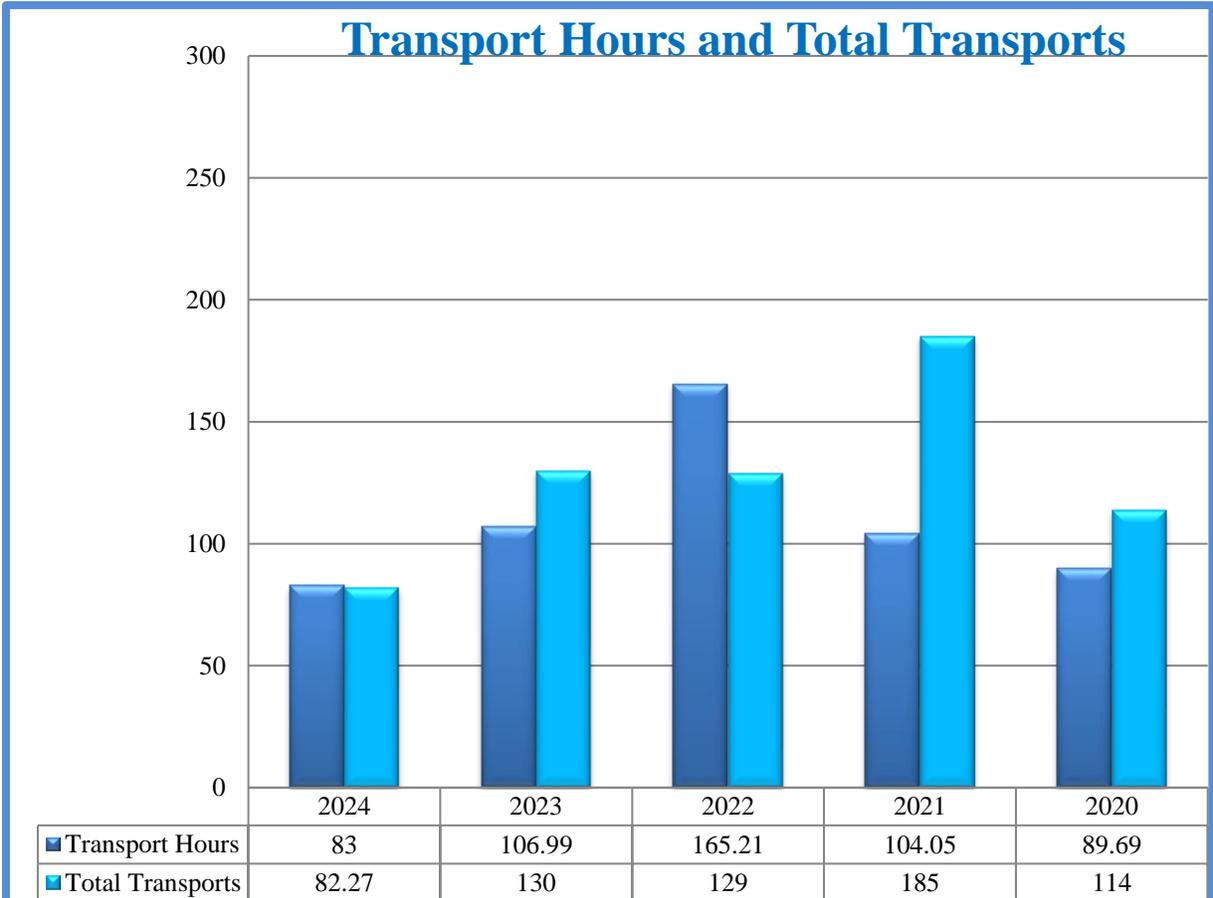
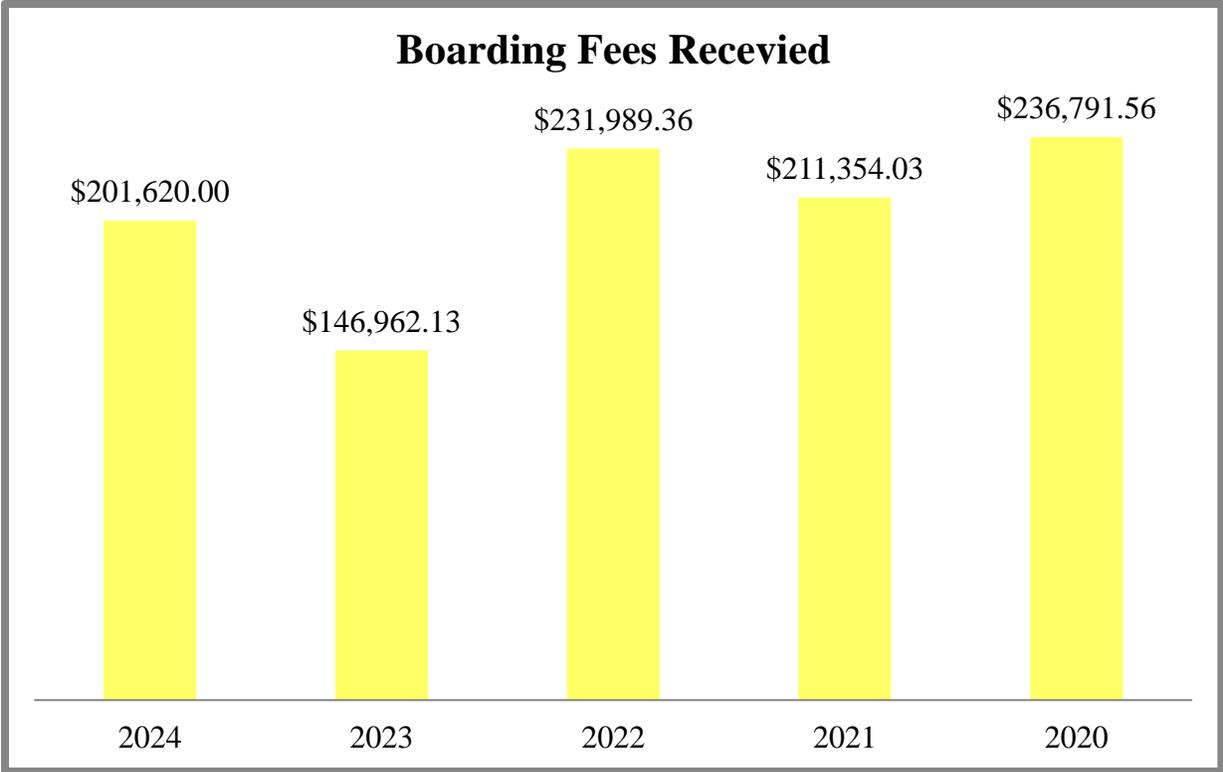


## 2024 Average Daily Count by Month



## Percentage of Bookings for 2024 Total Booked: 595





# Court Security

The security of the Meeker County Courthouse is the responsibility of the Sheriff’s Office. In 2018 we installed a security checkpoint on the court level. This checkpoint is staffed during all hour’s court is in session. This is in addition to armed bailiffs and a court security deputy. In 2024, 148 items were collected including knives, numerous scissors, bullets, multi-tools, mace, razor blades, and other sharp metal objects were seized. Twenty-nine 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 2024, the Meeker County Sheriff’s Office served a total of 378 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 2024, the Sheriff’s Office collected \$17,50.68 in civil process service fees.

| <b>SHERIFF FEES 2024</b>                                 |           |  |
|--|-----------|--|
| 911 recordings (911 calls, radio traffic on data CD/DVD) | \$ 30.00  | Per hour (1 hr minimum charged)        |
| Credit Card Processing Fee (minimum)                     | \$ 1.50   | Per transaction                        |
| <b>Animal Fees:</b>                                      |           |  |
| ~ 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 first 24 hours) |

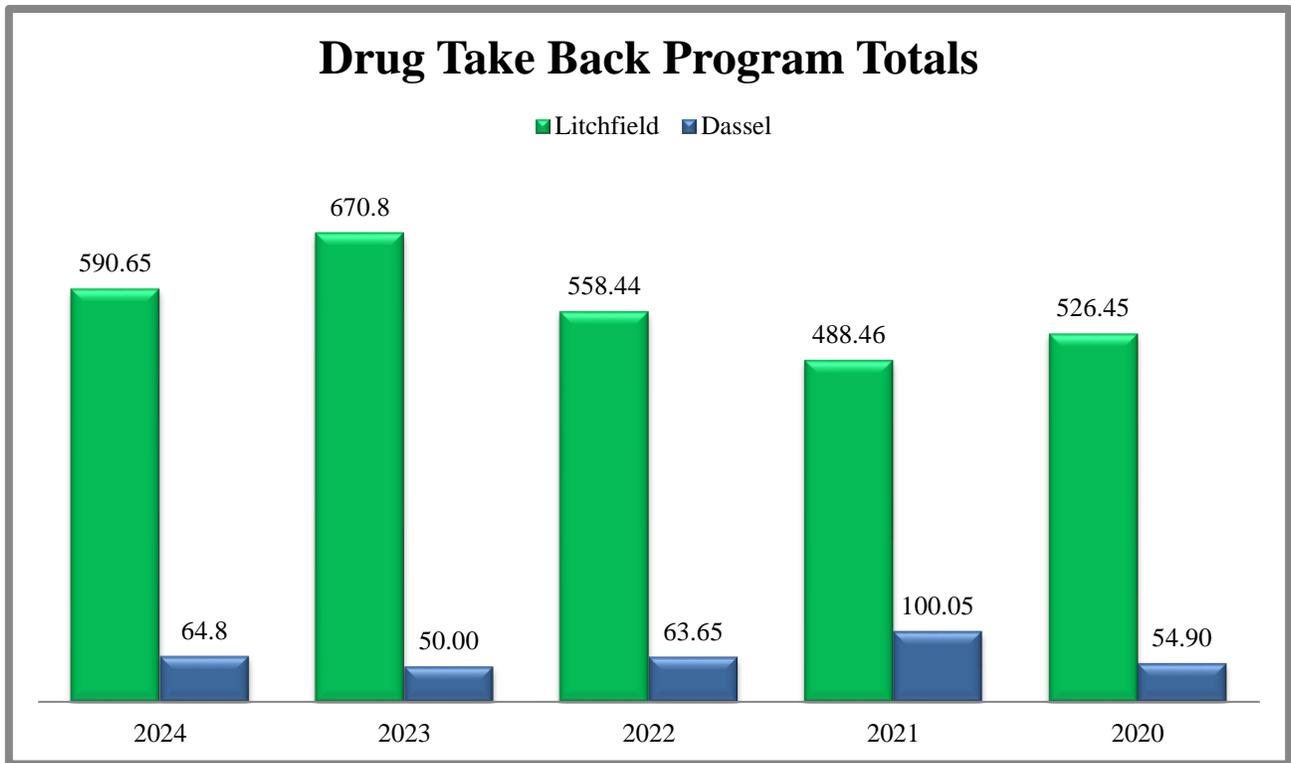
|  |           |   |
|--|-----------|---|
| Audio/Video Recordings on CD/DVD             | \$ 30.00  | Per hour (1 hr minimum charged)   |
| Background Check: In-House                   | \$ 5.00   | Per person (for private business or agency. Does not include government agencies or branches of the Armed Forces) |
| <b>Civil Process Fees:</b>                   |           |   |
| ~ 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  |
| <b>Deputy Time:</b>                          |           |   |
| ~ Standard                                   | \$ 75.00  | Per hour (3 hr minimum charged)   |
| ~ Deputy: Squad Required for Roadway Escorts | \$ 100.00 | Per hour (3 hr minimum charged)   |
| ~ Deputy: Reserve/Posse time                 | \$ 25.00  | Per hour  |
| <b>False Alarm Fees:</b>                     |           |   |
| ~ 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 charged)  |
| <b>Gun Permits:</b>                          |           |   |
| ~ 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 Notice of Impoundment letter)   |
| <b>Jail Fees:</b>                            |           |   |

|   |           |                                   |
|---|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| ~ 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                              | \$ 75.00  | 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                          |
| <b>Photographs:</b>                         |           |                                   |
| ~ Burned Onto CD/DVD                        | \$ 10.00  | Per CD/DVD                        |
| Records Clerk                               | \$ 30.00  | Per hour (for persons requesting) |
| <b>Reports/Documents:</b>                   |           |                                   |
| ~ Copies Printed                            | \$ 0.25   | Per page                          |
| ~ Copies on CD/DVD                          | \$ 10.00  | Per CD/DVD                        |
| Scanning                                    | \$ 10.00  | Per page CD/DVD                   |
| Typing Reports/Records Services             | \$ 30.00  | 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 of 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 2024 we disposed of a total of 655.45 pounds of prescription drugs.



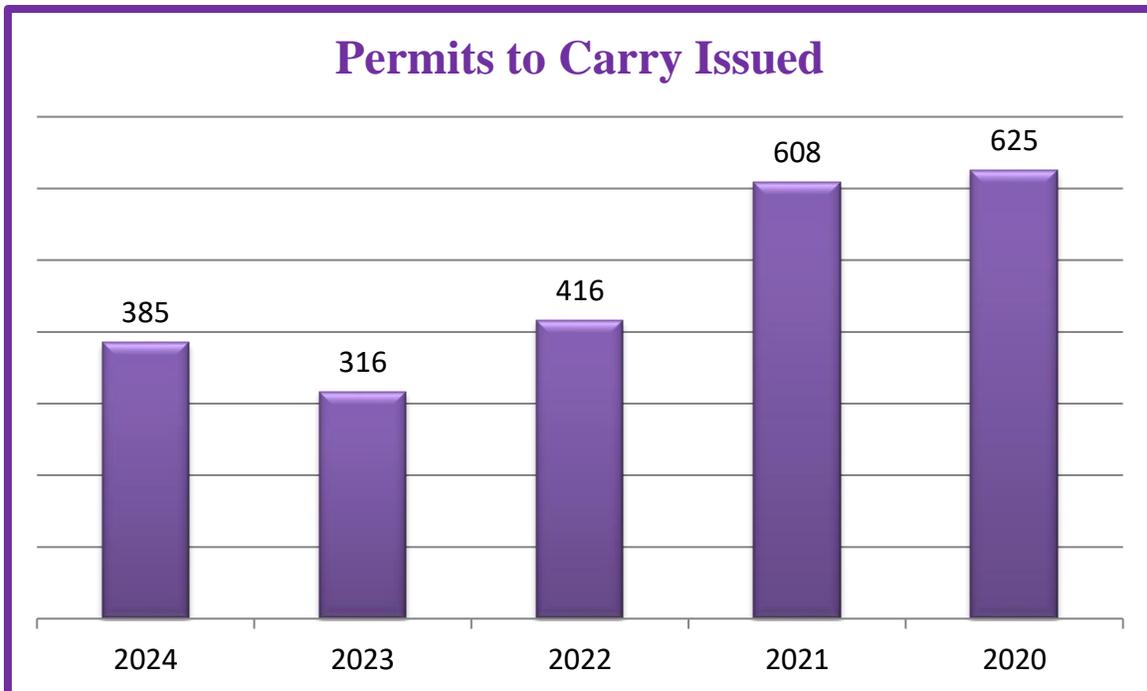


## Gun Permits

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 2024 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/2024-Permit-to-Carry-Report.pdf>

**Permits to Purchase:** In 2024, there were 70 Permits to Purchase issued.

**Permits to Carry:** In 2024, there were 385 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. This year Emergency Management collaborated with county departments to work through cybersecurity and continuity of operations planning.

Emergency Management and Sheriff’s Office staff facilitated run-hide-fight training for a church in the Cosmos area to assist them with continuing the process of emergency planning for their church community and staff. Staff also collaborated with local and regional partners to facilitate a facility ammonia release tabletop exercise and a HazMat mass casualty tabletop exercise. Through these trainings and exercises

attendees were able to discuss their capabilities and how they can plan and respond if the need arises.

Emergency Management staff hosted a countywide Skywarn training in the City of Cosmos which was attended by 40 emergency responders and members of the public. Skywarn training is taught by the National Weather Service (NWS) in local communities throughout the state of Minnesota. The next countywide Skywarn training will be held in Litchfield the spring-summer of 2025. To learn more about Skywarn training or for the schedule of Skywarn classes open to the public, please go to [www.weather.gov/skywarn/](http://www.weather.gov/skywarn/)

The Meeker County Sheriff's Office received the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Grant (REP) to help Emergency Management continue to department initiatives and services. The total award for these grants were \$24,246.00 and run through June 30, 2025.

## **Budget**



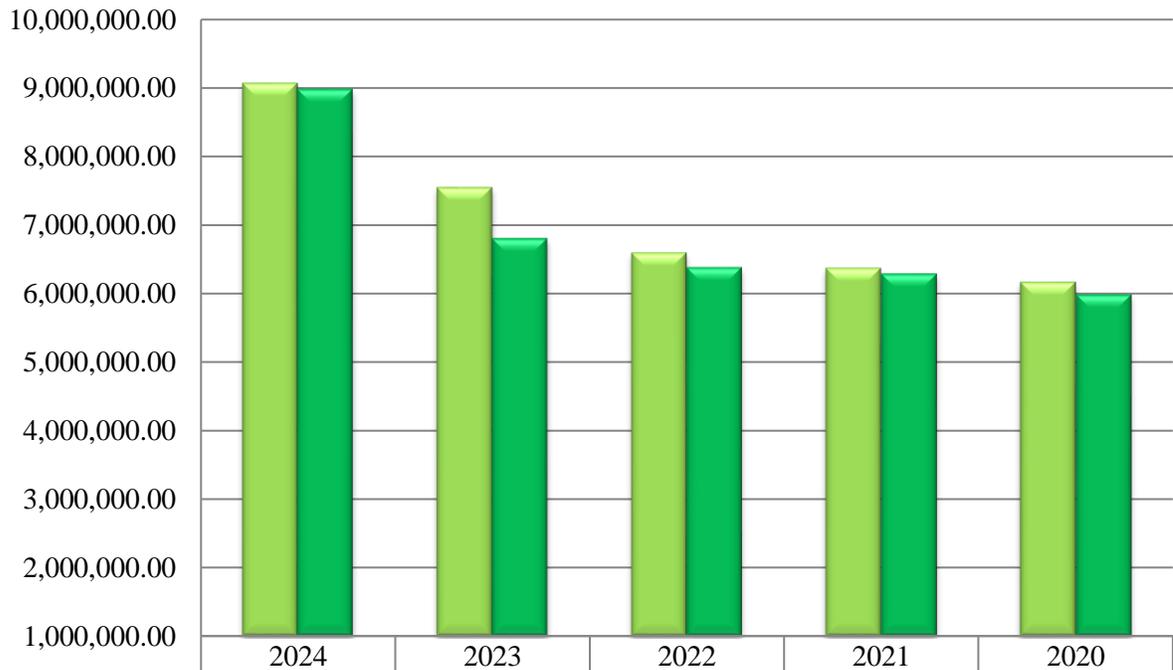
The following figures are taken from the end-of-year Revenue Expenditure Budget Report. The actual expenses for 2024 were nearly 10% under budget mainly due to staffing shortages and the inability to purchase replacement squads. We saw additional revenue in 2024 from the MN Legislature in police grants and increased 911 funds.

The vast majority of the budget for the Sheriff's office is for personnel-related expenses (salaries, insurance, overtime, on-call, etc.). In 2024, 76% of the actual expenses in the Sheriff's Office were personnel related. The remaining 24% was used for operational purposes including training, equipment, maintenance agreements, supplies, vehicle repairs, fuel, etc.

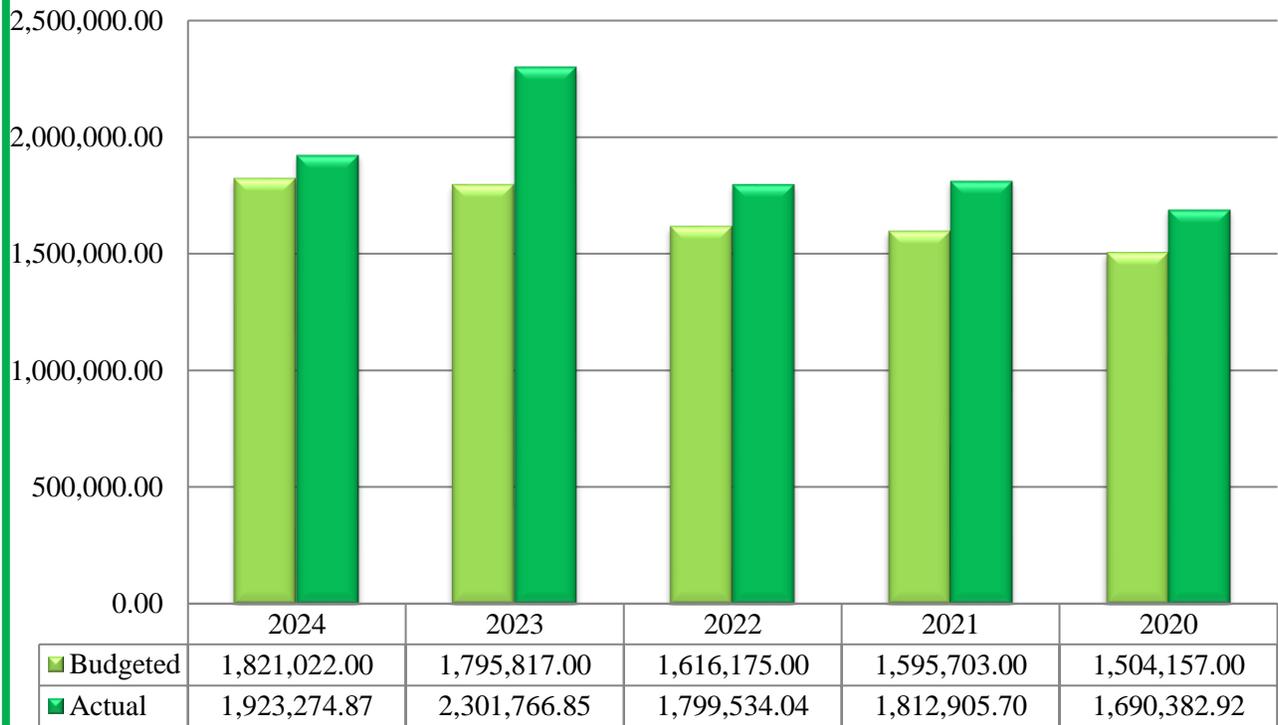
## 2024 Budgeted vs. Actual

| Department              | Budgeted Expenses   | Budgeted Revenue     | Budgeted Net        | Actual Expenses     | Actual Revenue       | Actual Net          |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Sheriff                 | 8,486,869.00        | -1,548,200.00        | 6,938,669.00        | 8,686,165.52        | -1,694,676.87        | 6,991,488.65        |
| Emergency Management    | 98,573.00           | -23,822.00           | 74,751.00           | 100,052.86          | -28,589.00           | 71,463.86           |
| Enhanced 911            | 280,476.00          | -239,000.00          | 41,476.00           | 119,609.89          | -197,485.80          | -77,875.91          |
| Wireless Communications | 203,908.00          | -10,000.00           | 193,908.00          | 76,976.66           | -2,523.20            | 74,453.46           |
| <b>Total:</b>           | <b>9,069,826.00</b> | <b>-1,821,022.00</b> | <b>7,248,804.00</b> | <b>8,982,804.93</b> | <b>-1,923,274.87</b> | <b>7,059,530.06</b> |

### Budgeted vs. Actual Expenses - Historical Review



## Budgeted vs. Actual Revenue - Historical Review



## Budgeted vs. Actual Net - Historical Review

