



MERCER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

MERCER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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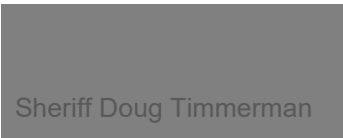
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MESSAGE FROM YOUR SHERIFF

As we reflect on 2024, we want to extend our sincere gratitude to the people of Mercer County for your continued support! We thank you for putting your trust in us.

This year marked a significant transition for our office as Sheriff Jeff Grey retired after 24 years of dedicated service. His leadership, commitment, and unwavering dedication to Mercer County has left a lasting impact, and we thank him for his incredible work.

As we move forward, we remain committed to serving you with same integrity, professionalism, and a deep sense of responsibility. This report highlights our efforts and achievements from 2024.



Sheriff Doug Timmerman

Mission Statement & Motto

The mission for every member of the Mercer County Sheriff's Office is to consistently seek and find ways to affirmatively promote, preserve, and deliver a feeling of security, safety, and quality services to the citizens and visitors of Mercer County.

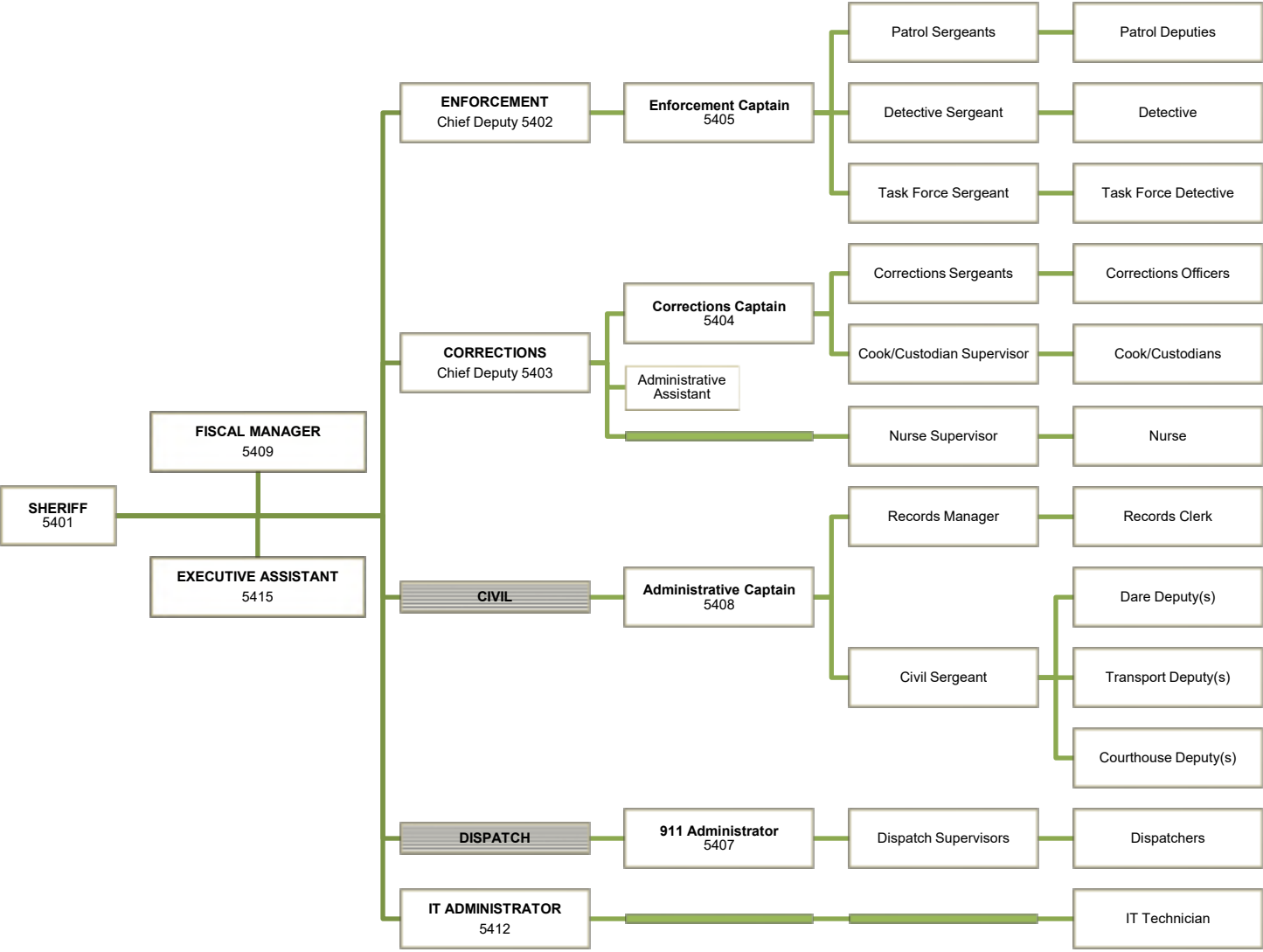
This mission is a commitment to quality performance by all employees. Each employee of the Mercer County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing these services in a caring, courteous, and common sense manner.

"Caring, Courteous, Common Sense Law Enforcement"

Code of Ethics

Every newly hired employee shall review the Mercer County Sheriff's Office Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics shall be signed by the employee in the presence of the Sheriff, thereby acknowledging the employee's affirmation and dedication to protect constitutional rights and freedoms, perform all duties in a professional and competent manner, be truthful and honest in all dealings with others, and serve the public in a courteous, empathetic and humane manner. The original signed Code of Ethics shall be given to the employee and a copy retained in the employee's personnel file.

STRUCTURE OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE



ADMINISTRATION



SHERIFF
Jeff Grey



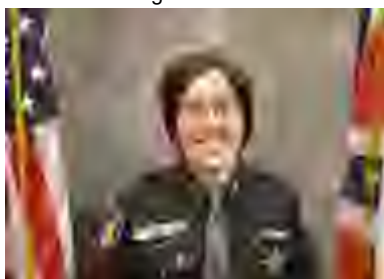
Chief Deputy of Enforcement
Doug Timmerman



Chief Deputy of Corrections (Retired)
Jodie Lange



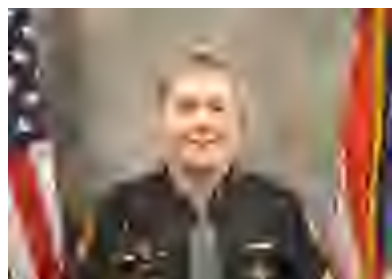
Chief Deputy of Corrections
Martin Emerine



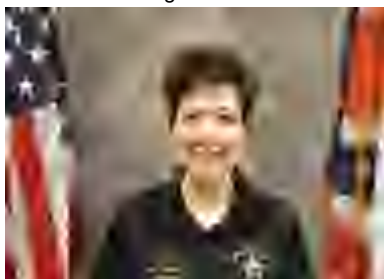
Captain of Enforcement
Megan Baker



Civil Captain (Retired)
Lori Knapke



Jail Captain
Jonathan Wolfe



9-1-1 Administrator
Rachel Williams



I.T. Administrator
Kory Hoffhines



Fiscal Manager
Kandi Baucher



Executive Assistant
Ashley Carr



I.T. Technician
Danny Saunders, Jr.

TECHNOLOGY

The Mercer County Sheriff's Office IT department transcends all divisions at the Sheriff's Office maintaining all the computer systems, camera systems, email network, internet, jail door controls, 9-1-1 system, record management system, and all electronic storage. In addition to maintaining the Sheriff's Office systems, the IT employees also assist with cyber type crimes and courthouse security.

They play a vital role in keeping our Sheriff's Office center running smoothly. They manage and maintain all technological systems, from communication networks and computer infrastructure to specialized law enforcement software. Their work ensures our deputies, dispatchers, and the entire staff have the tools they need to respond quickly and efficiently. In a rural setting where every second counts, their behind-the-scenes expertise is essential to public safety.

I.T. Administrator Kory Hoffhines

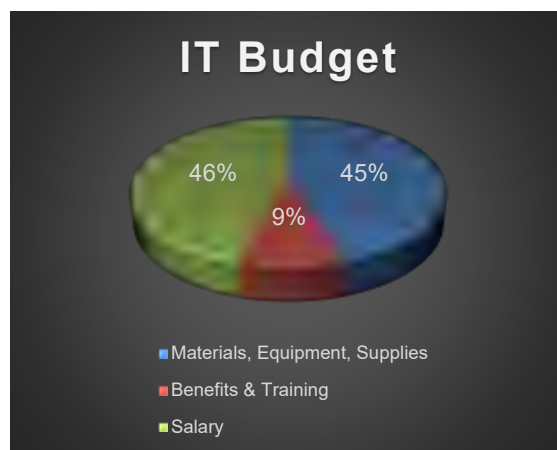
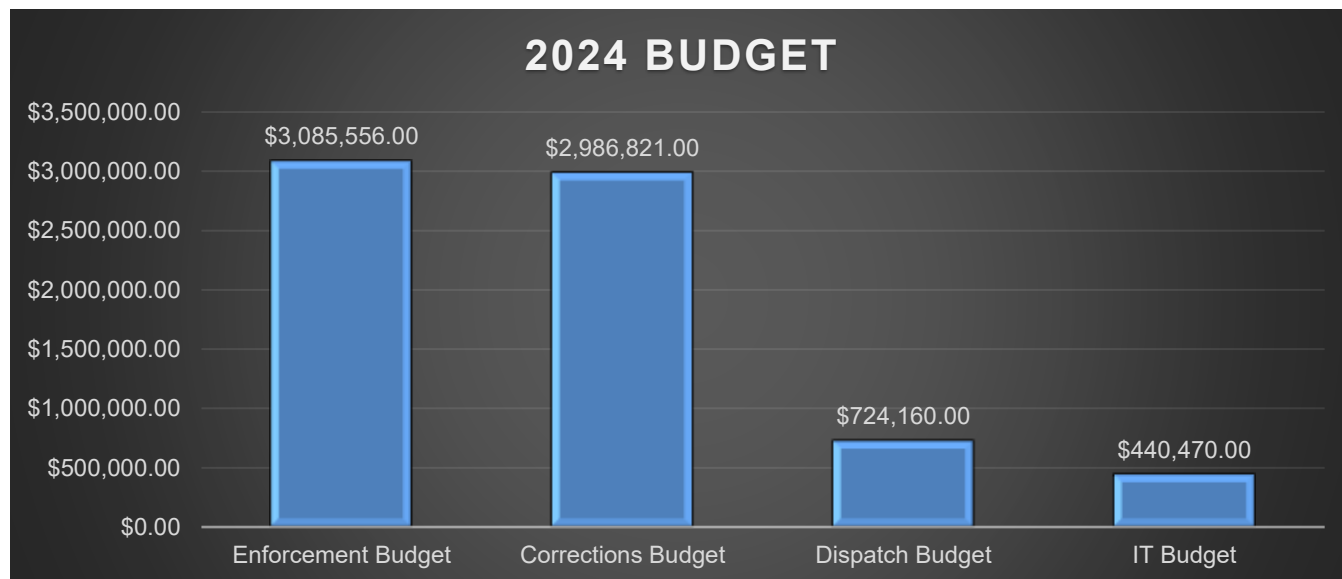
Kory Hoffhines is the Mercer County Sheriff's Office Network Administrator. Kory has been with the Sheriff's Office since 2006. Kory maintains the entire Sheriff's Office computer network.

I.T. Technician Danny Saunders, Jr.

Danny Saunders, Jr. is an I.T. Technician for the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. Danny has been with our office since 2023. He assists Kory in maintaining the Sheriff's Office computer network.



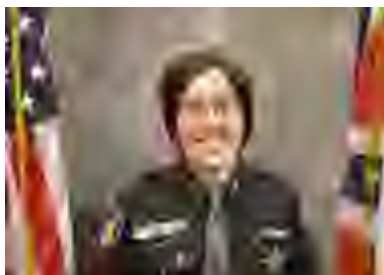
BUDGET



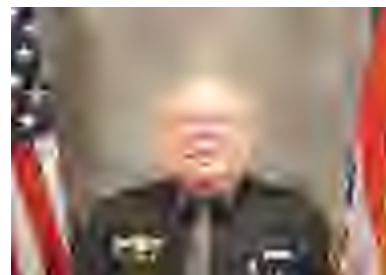
ENFORCEMENT



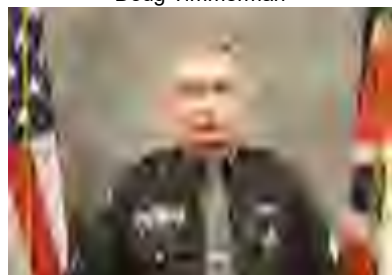
Chief Deputy of Enforcement
Doug Timmerman



Captain of Enforcement
Megan Baker



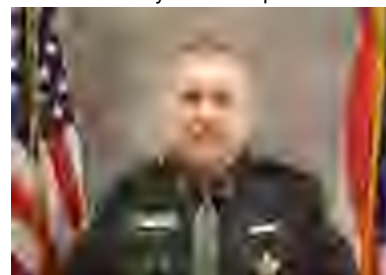
Training Coordinator - Lieutenant
Jay Wehrkamp



Patrol Sergeant
Darrell Etgen



Detective
John Marbaugh



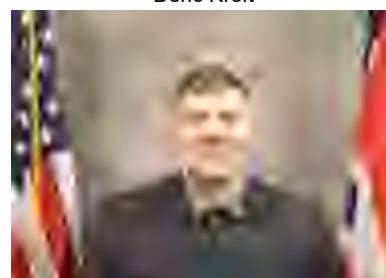
Deputy
Deric Kroft



Detective
Douglas Wuebker



Detective
Carla Baucher



Detective Sergeant
John Westgerdes



Deputy
Patrick Forsthoefel



Patrol Sergeant
Rachel Heint

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Patrol Sergeant
Kyle Fink



Deputy
Kristen Nixon



Deputy
Donald Sites, Jr.



Deputy
Jacob Huber



Deputy
Spencer Heintz



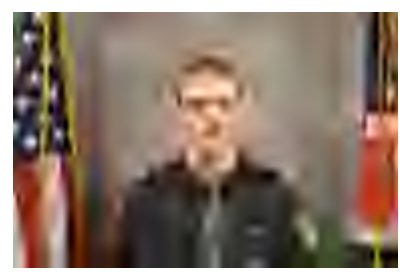
Deputy
Patrick Cupp



Deputy
Noah Nieport



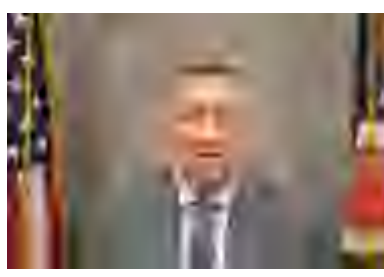
Deputy
Justin Barna



Deputy
William Fox



Deputy
Jeremy Gruss



Detective Lieutenant
Christopher Hamberg

The Sheriff's Office has five supervisors in Enforcement and they include; three Patrol Sergeants, a Detective Sergeant, and a Detective Lieutenant.

The Grand Lake Drug Task Force is under the command of the Mercer County Sheriff and the Auglaize County Sheriff. The Task Force also includes Police Departments from Celina, Coldwater, Ft. Recovery, St. Henry, Wapakoneta, St. Marys, Cridersville, New Bremen, Minster, and Waynesfield.

Chief Deputy Doug Timmerman

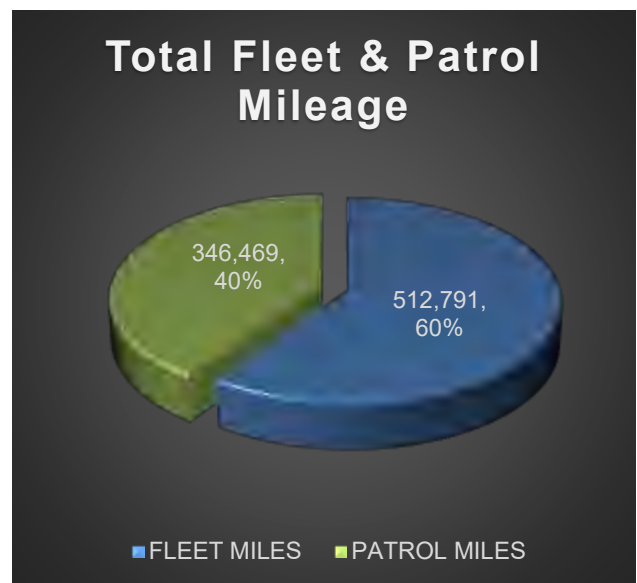
The Enforcement Division was under the command of Chief Deputy Doug Timmerman. Chief Deputy Timmerman has 30 years of law enforcement experience and has spent his entire career at the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. He has held the ranks of dispatcher, Patrol Deputy, Detective, Detective Sergeant, Captain of both the Jail & Enforcement, and Chief Deputy. The Chief Deputy is the highest, non-elected law enforcement position in Mercer County and is second in command of the Sheriff's Office. In 2024, he ran for the Office of Sheriff and was elected in November.

Captain Megan Baker

Captain Megan Baker oversees all of the day-to-day operations in the enforcement division. Captain Baker has worked for the Sheriff's Office for 20 years, and has held the ranks of Patrol Deputy, Detective, Detective Sergeant, and Captain of the Enforcement.

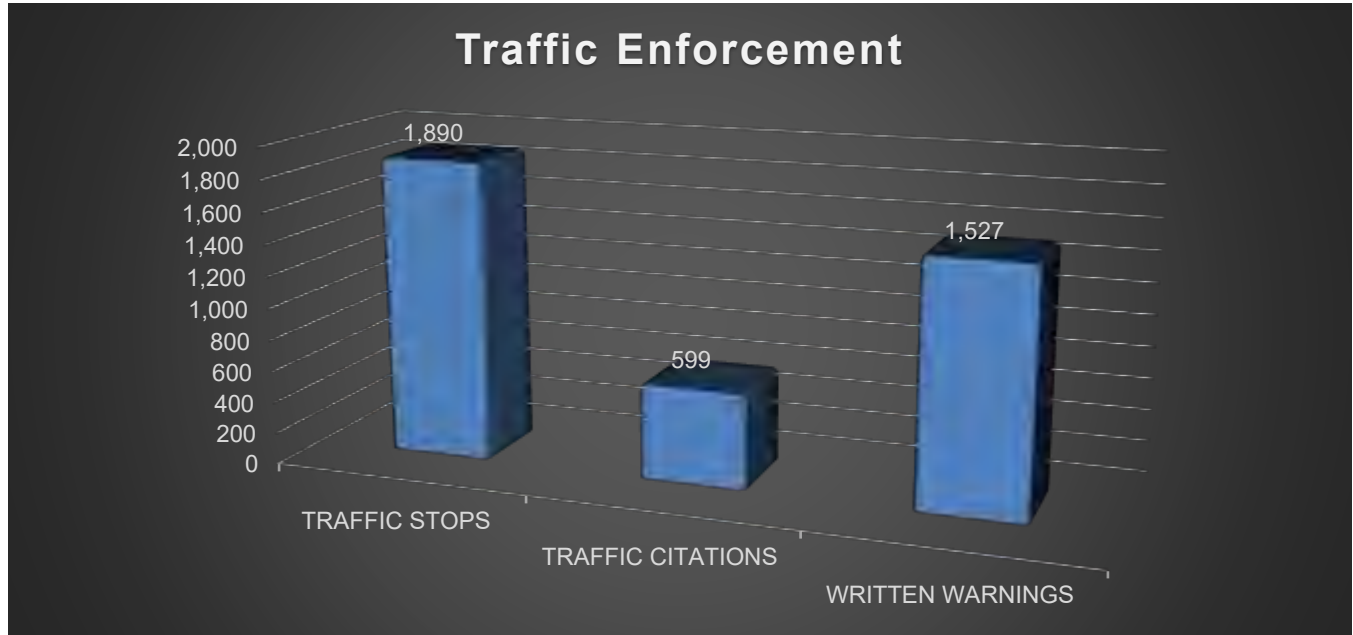
Patrol

The Patrol division of the Sheriff's Office patrols 472 square miles, which include 14 Townships, one City, and all Villages in Mercer County. In 2024, deputies patrolled 346,469 miles, handled 541 traffic crashes, and completed a total of 4,269 reports. The Sheriff is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer in Mercer County, and his Deputies have jurisdiction throughout all of Mercer County including Municipalities. Patrol Deputies conduct criminal investigations, issue citations, warnings, and make arrests. Patrol Deputies serve warrants and civil papers and give safety talks and presentations throughout the year.



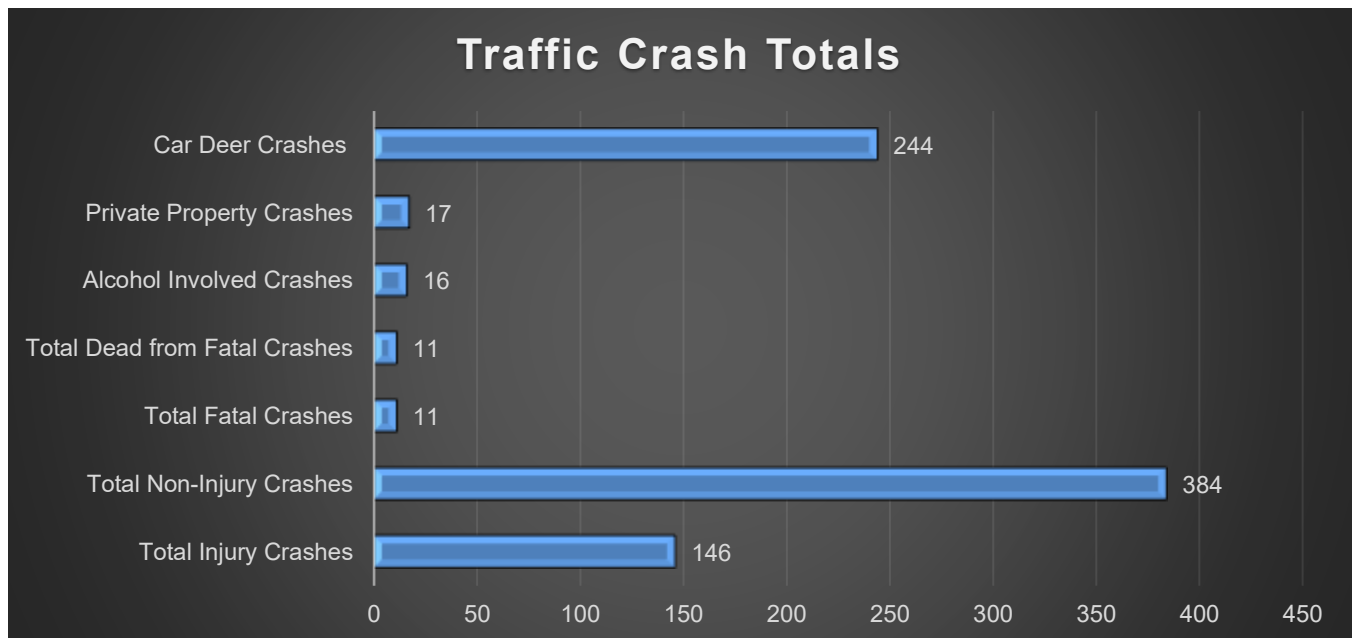
Traffic Enforcement

Traffic Enforcement is done routinely by Deputies. There are occasions where Deputies are assigned specifically to enforce traffic violations for problem areas. Deputies also conduct traffic enforcement through a grants from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

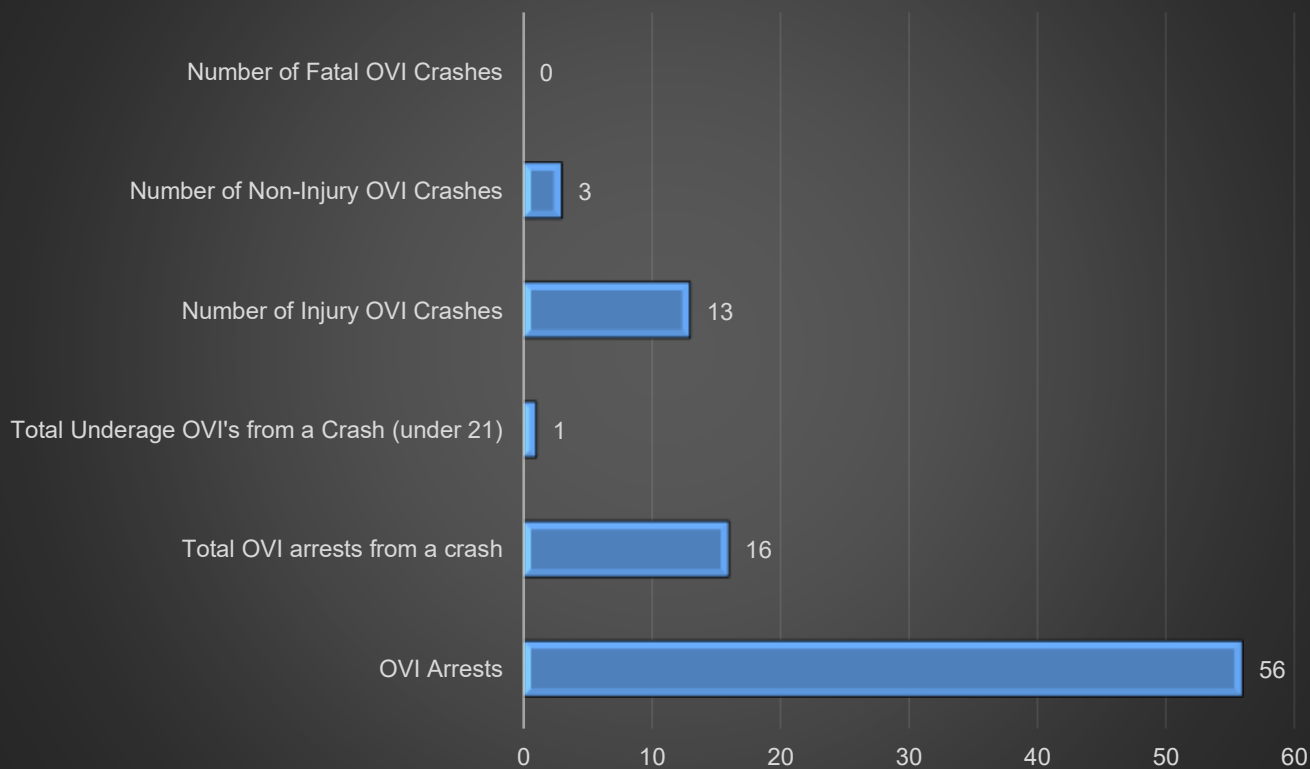


Crash Investigations

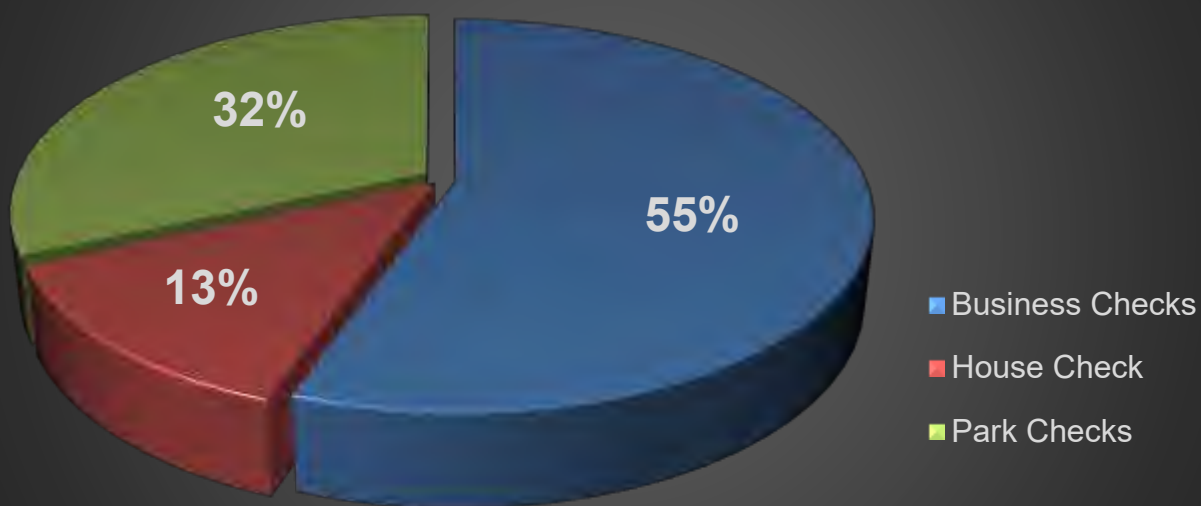
The Sheriff's Office handles crashes reported through the Central Dispatch. All Deputies are trained in crash investigation. We have several sworn deputies who have been trained and assigned to the crash reconstruction team, they include Captain Emerine, Detective Carla Baucher, Captain Chad Fortkamp, Sergeant Rachel Heinl, and Sergeant Kyle Fink. These Deputies respond to fatal crashes and use state of the art equipment to reconstruct crashes. In 2024, deputies handled 11 fatal traffic crashes resulting in 11 deaths on Mercer County roadways.



OVI Statistics

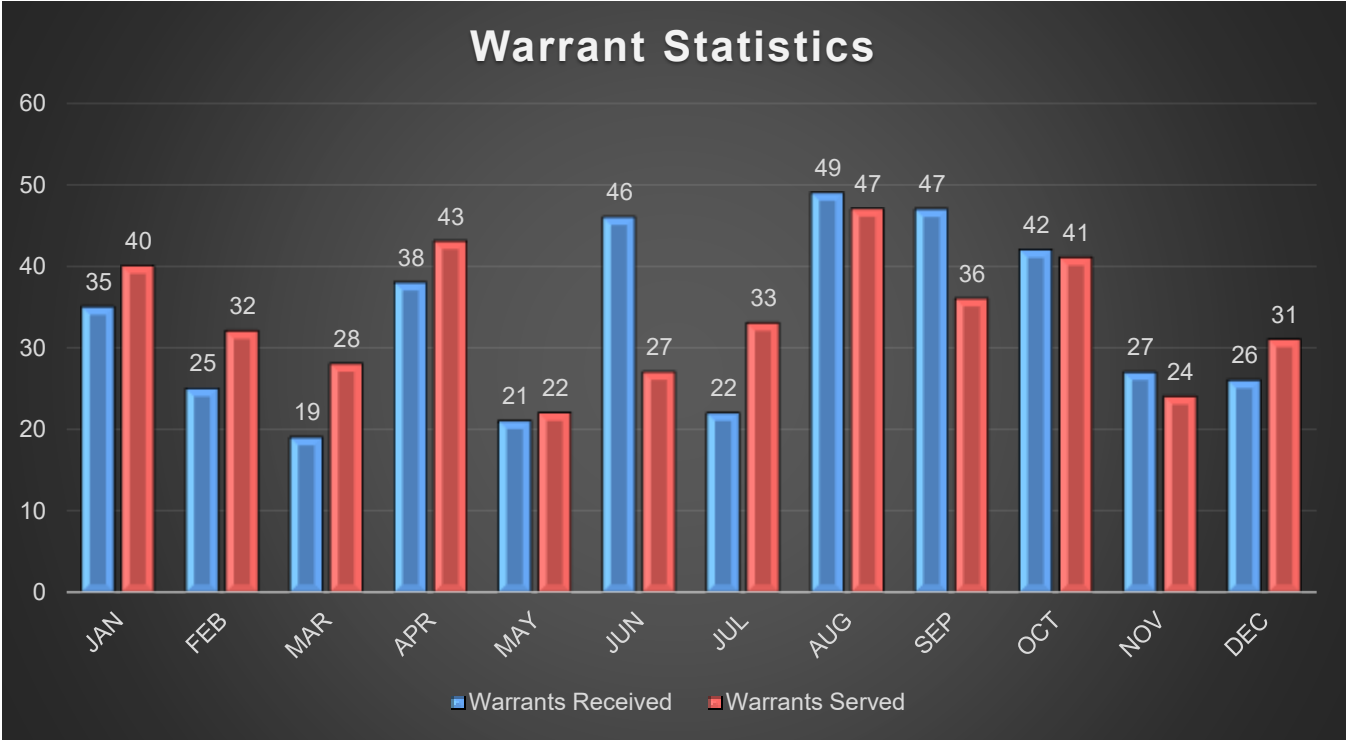


Checks



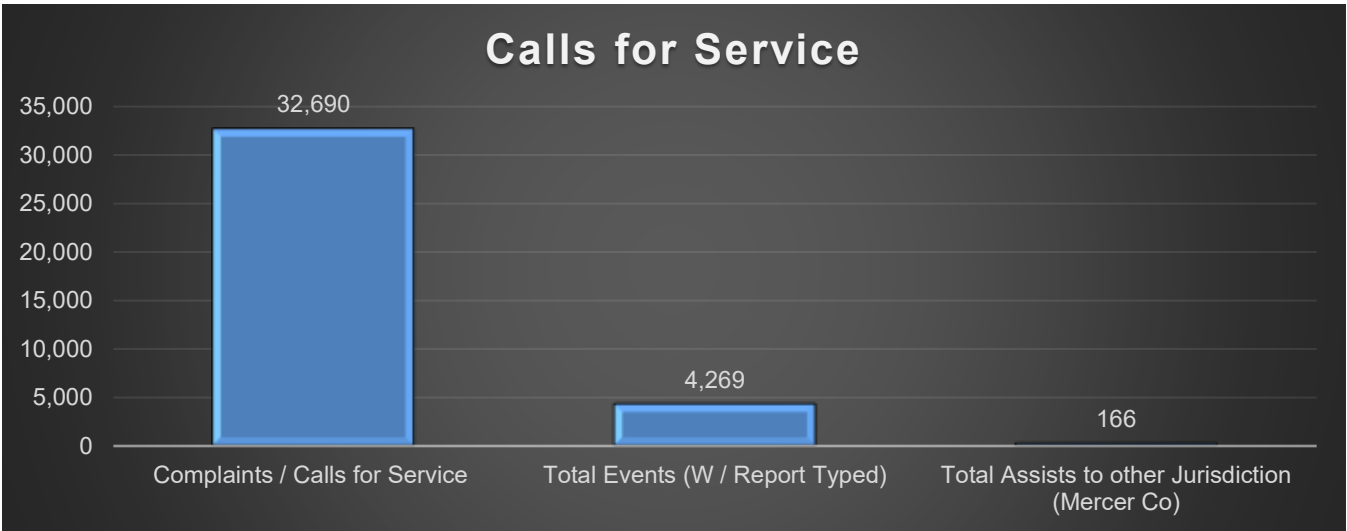
Warrants

The Mercer County Sheriff's Office received 382 warrants and served 397 warrants in 2024. The Sheriff's Office currently has 323 active warrants.



Investigations

In 2024, the Enforcement Division investigated numerous crimes. Investigations include death scenes, sexual assaults, burglaries, computer crimes, cyber-crimes, financial crimes, assault cases and also assisted with traffic fatality investigations. The Mercer County Sheriff's Office had over 32,690 calls for service.



CORRECTIONS



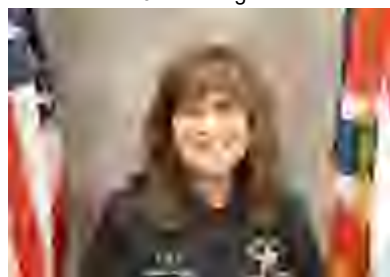
Chief Deputy of Corrections (Retired)
Jodie Lange



Chief Deputy of Corrections
Martin Emerine



Jail Captain
Jonathan Wolfe



Administrative Assistant
Theresa Delinger



Deputy
Lori Pease



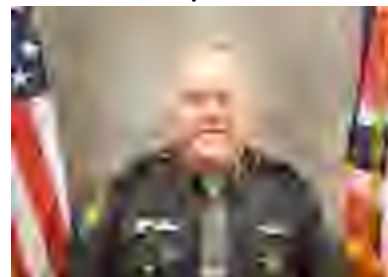
Cook/Custodian Supervisor
Kathy Giere



Cook/Custodian
Marie Stahl



Deputy
Lisa Meeker



Deputy
Jason Porter



Sergeant
Nathan Post



Sergeant
Robert Cupp



Sergeant
Heather Leist

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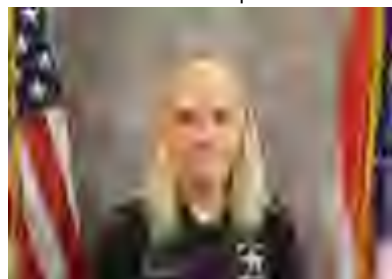
Sergeant
Kevin Schnipke



Nurse Supervisor
Megan Fokine, RN



Deputy
Austin Prenger



Nurse
Sue Backs, LPN



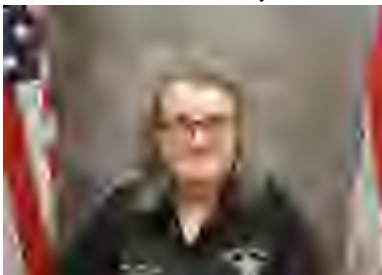
Deputy
Hannah Oakley



Deputy
Alexa Marlow



Deputy
Chad Etzler



Cook/Custodian
Betty Steinbrunner



Deputy
Joshua Sizemore



Deputy
Valeri Buschor



Deputy
Zachary Vogel



Deputy
Gregory Schoen

The Adult Detention Facility has 4 Sergeants who oversee all shifts. The Detention Facility must have a minimum of 3 state-certified corrections officers working per shift. This includes both female and male corrections officers. The staff of the Mercer County Detention Facility are responsible for the security and safety of the inmates who are housed within the facility. The inmates are monitored 24 hours a day. In addition to corrections officers, the Detention Facility also has a full-service kitchen, one Registered Nurse, and an LPN nurse and a Medical Doctor.

Chief Deputy Jodie Lange

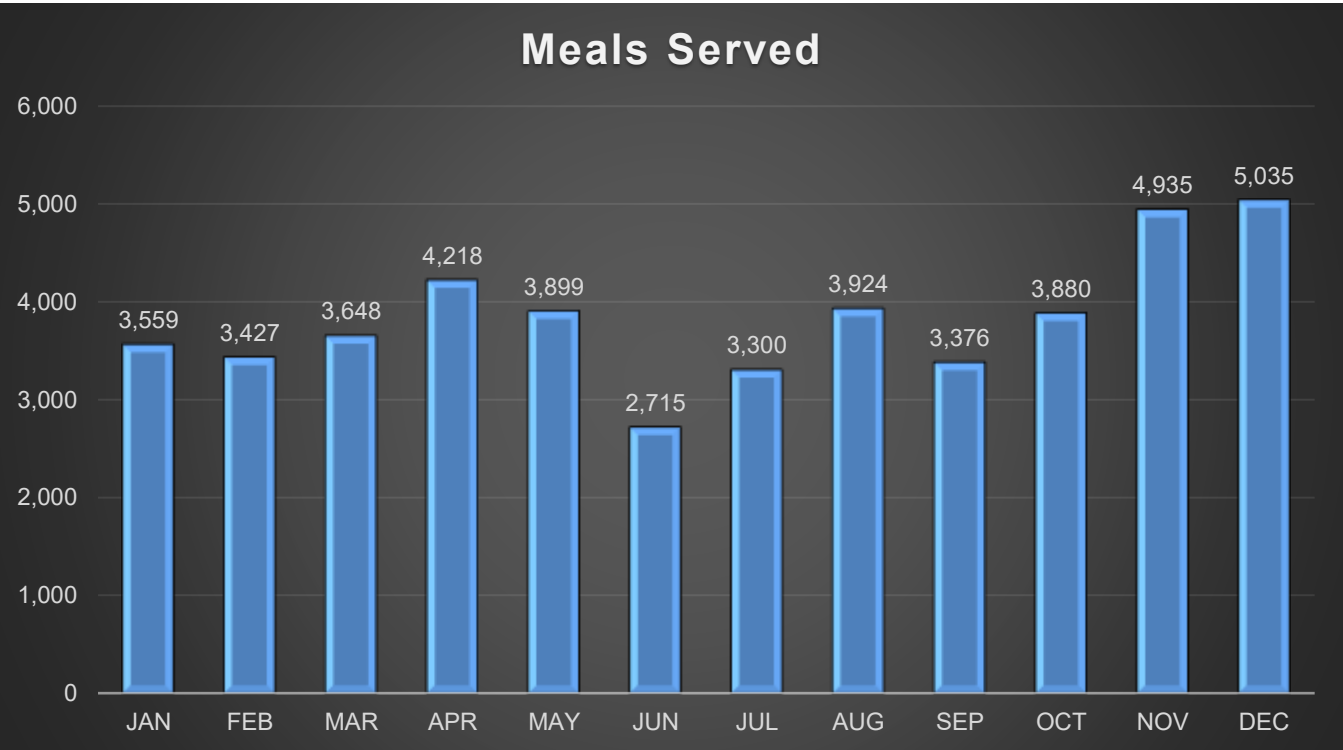
The Detention Facility was previously under the command of Chief Deputy Jodie Lange. Chief Lange retired on July 31, 2024, and had over 31 years of experience. Jodie spent her entire career at the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. Chief Lange has held the ranks of Corrections Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Chief Deputy and reviewed programs that directly benefited the inmates. She was responsible for the overall operations in the detention facility.

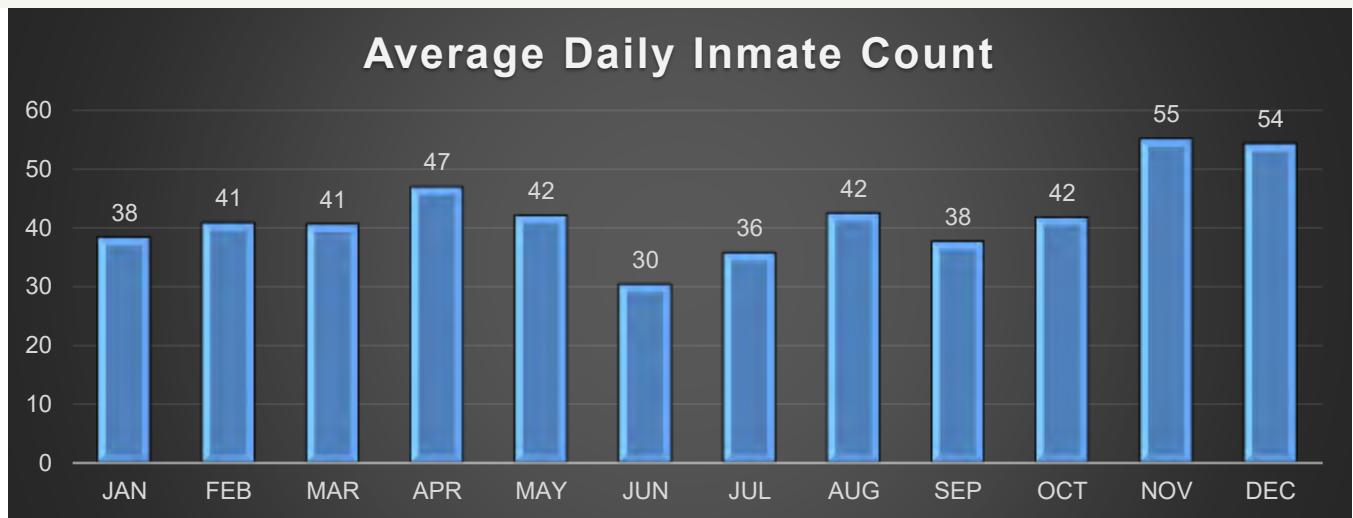
Captain Martin Emerine

Captain Martin Emerine oversees all of the day-to-day operations in the corrections division. Captain Emerine has 32 years of law enforcement experience and has spent his entire career at the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. Captain Emerine has held the ranks of Deputy, Lieutenant, Captain of Enforcement, and now Captain of Corrections.

Inmate Population Statistics

In 2024, the Mercer County Adult Detention Facility booked in 862 inmates. Of those inmates, 625 were male and 237 were female. The Detention Facility served 45,916 meals in 2024. Daily inmate totals vary. The following chart shows the average daily inmate trends and meals served by month.



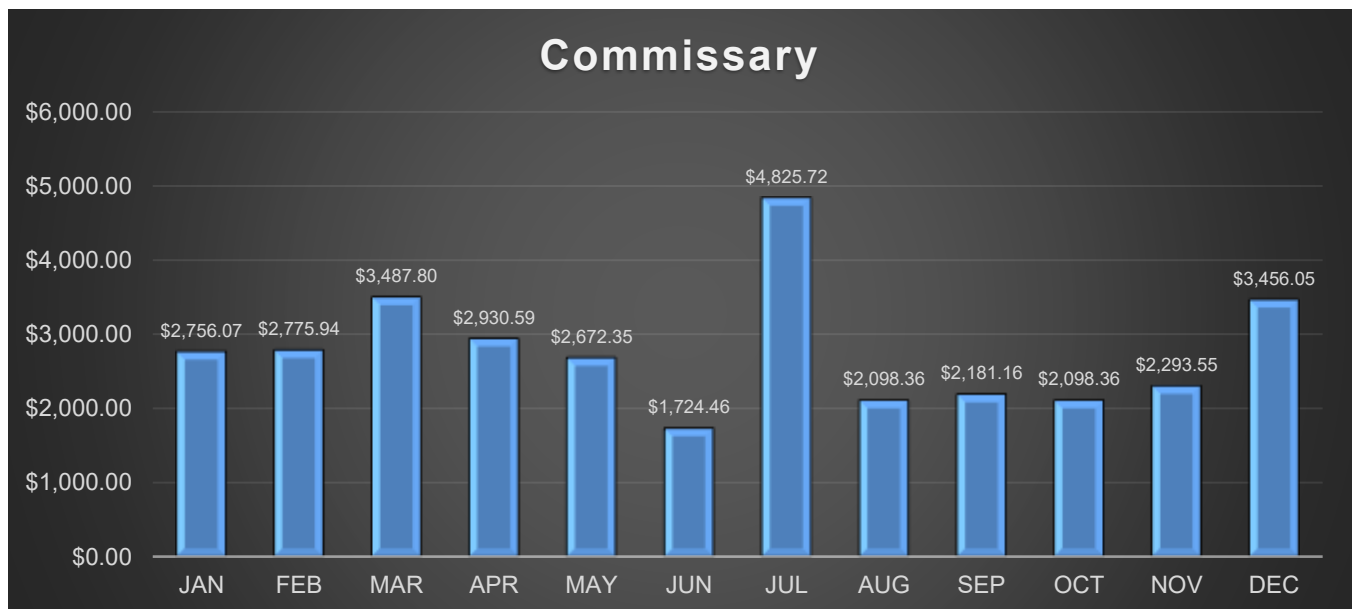


Detention Facility Income

The Detention Facility generates revenue through diverse inmate-related services and programs. Revenue is received from housing inmates for other agencies, commissary, medical reimbursement, inmate work release. These programs save money for the taxpayers of Mercer County. The following charts show where the revenue comes from and a description of the program. Total revenue generated for 2024 was \$198,923.43.

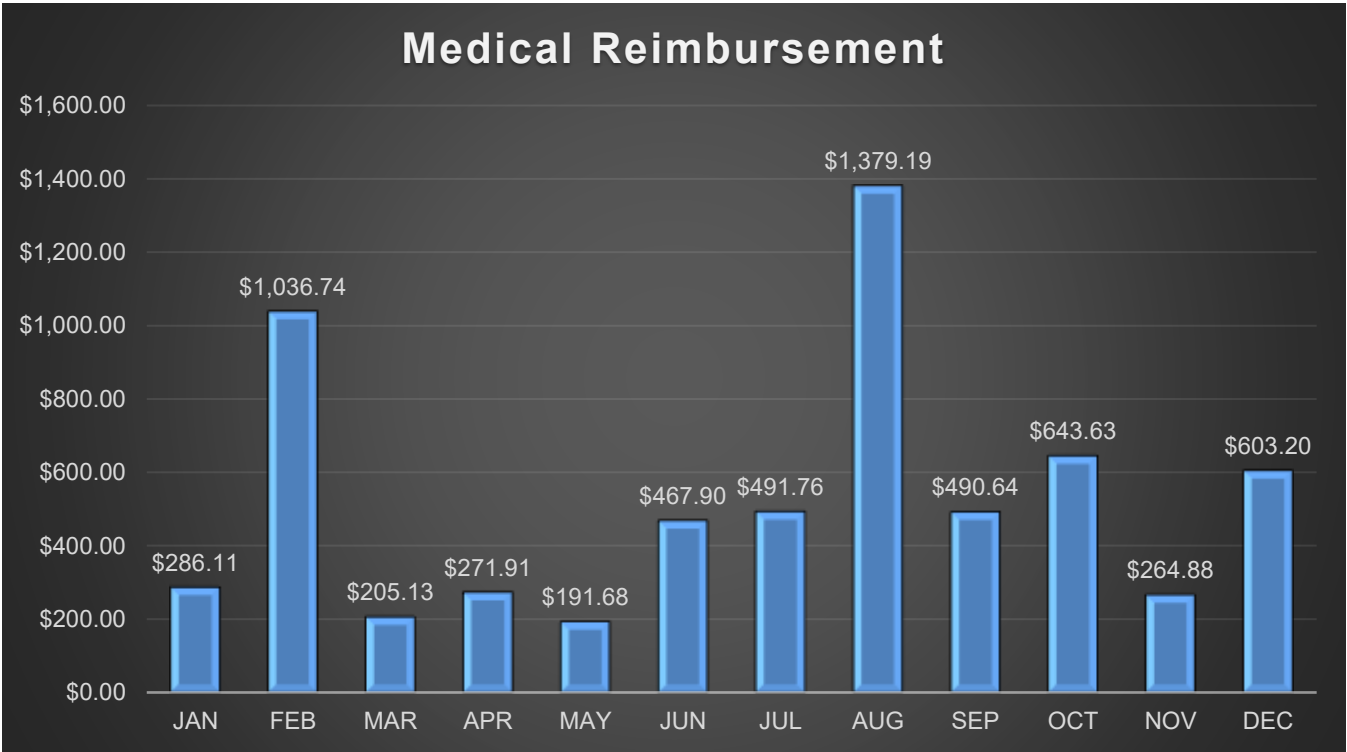
Commissary

Commissary are items that have been approved for inmates to purchase. Items include coffee, personal hygiene products, socks and underwear, snacks, paper, envelopes, and various other items. The profits generated by commissary purchases can only be used to benefit inmates. Commissary funds inmate programs such as the garden and landscaping. Commissary is also used to purchase equipment, work clothes, work boots, and work tools used for the inmate garden. A total of \$31,043.15 was collected through commissary in 2024.



Medical Reimbursement

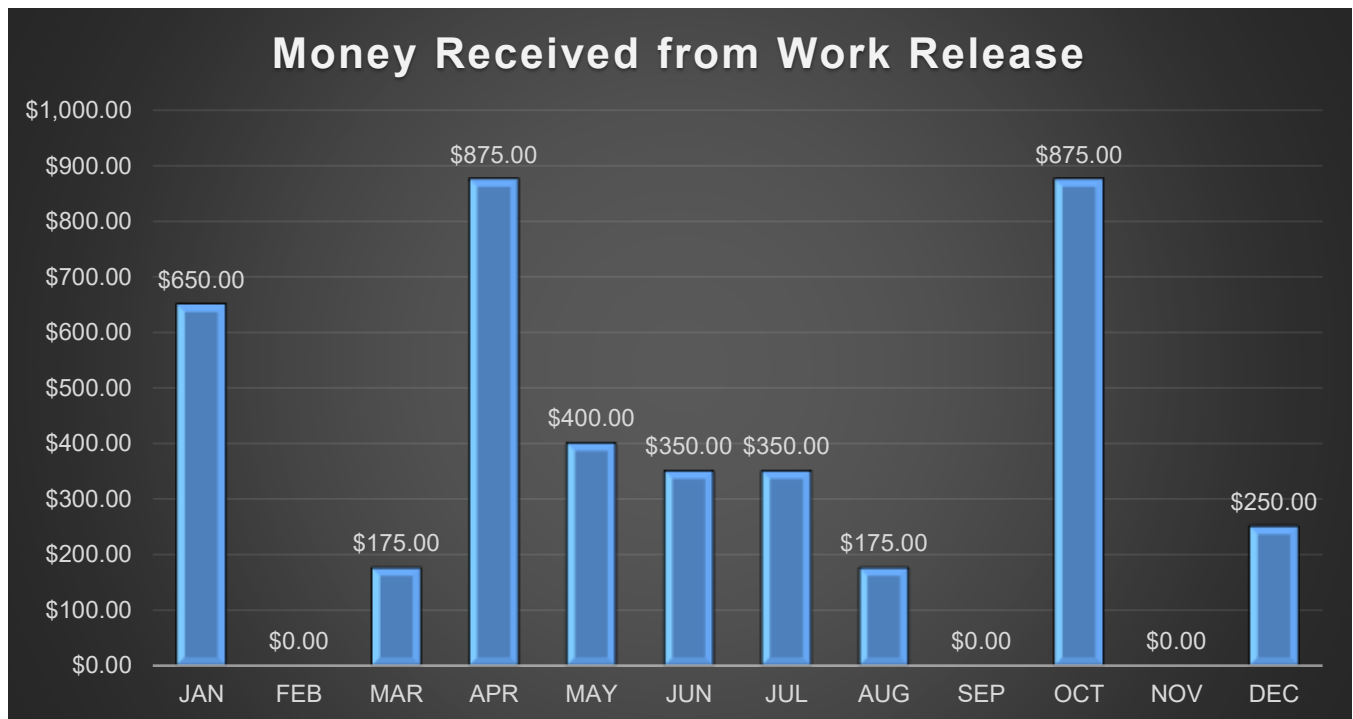
Medical Reimbursement funds are collected from inmates that require medical treatment while being incarcerated at the Detention Facility. Inmates are billed for medical costs incurred while housed at the Detention Facility. When money is deposited on an inmates' account, a portion of the money is used to pay their outstanding medical expenses. In 2024, a total of \$5,405.28 was collected through the medical reimbursement program.



Inmate Work Release Program

Work Release is a program by which approved inmates can be released from the county jail during the time he or she is scheduled to work. Participants in the work release program must have a job and hours that can be verified. Inmates are released during those work hours. Program participants are required to sign and follow the work release guidelines and also must follow all the jail rules & regulations to participate in this program.

Inmates pay to be in the work release program, and payment guidelines have been set up according to wages earned. Mercer County Sheriff's Office staff periodically visit the workplace to ensure the inmate is working. Program violators are terminated from the program and the courts are notified. In 2024, a total of \$4,275.00 was collected through the inmate work release program.



Treatment Programs in the Jail

The Detention Facility also offers the following treatment programs:

Both male and female AA classes.

Brianna's Hope - A Better Life: Brianna's Hope is a participant driven, faith-based, and compassion filled addiction support and recovery group. Their mission is to provide hope through Christ to individuals and communities battling addiction using support, encouragement, and collaboration.

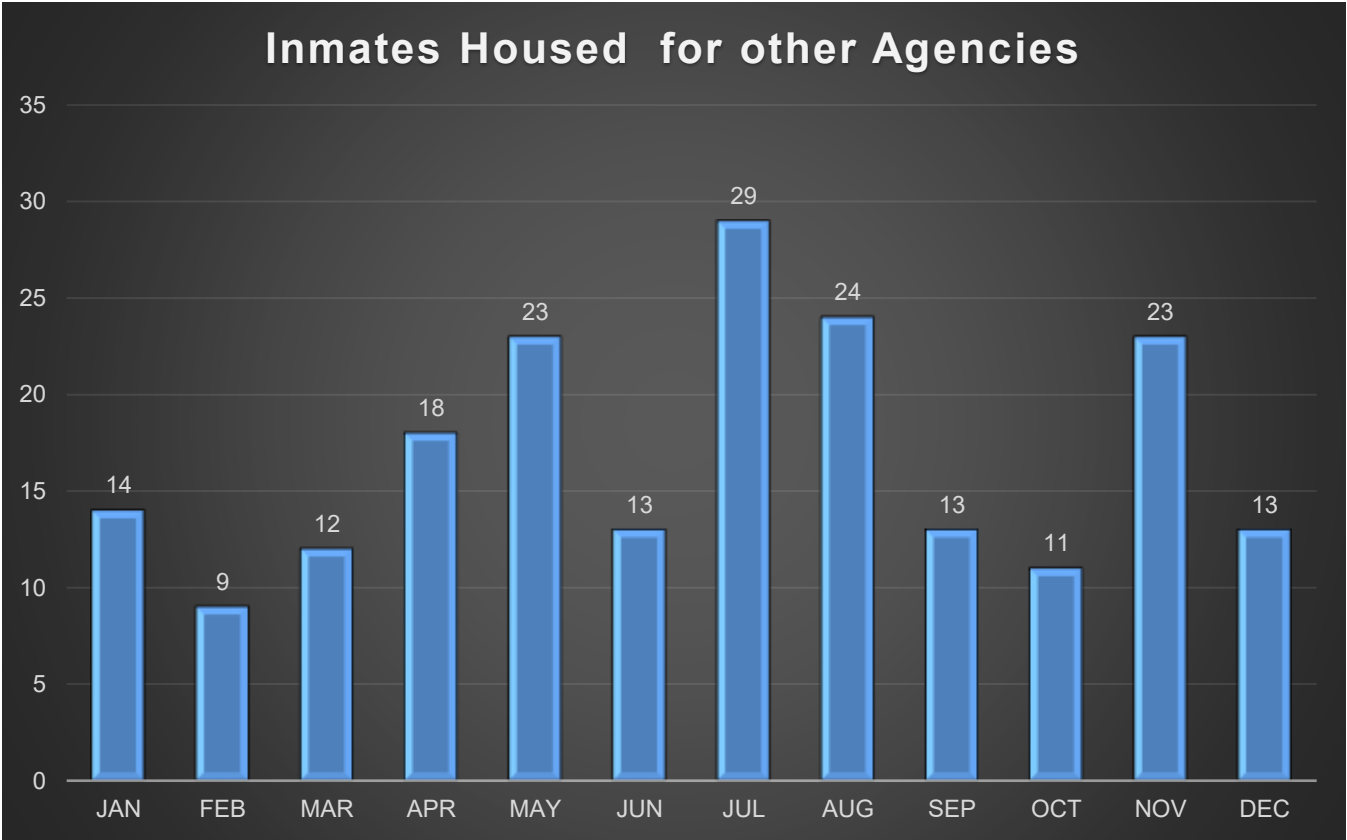
Church Services - We have Church services for both male and female inmates on Sunday afternoon.

Job and Family Services - Job and Family Services meets with interested inmates for re-entry services. They assist with writing resumes, job seeking, and mock interviews.

Male & Female Bible Study – held weekly with local religious organizations

Inmates House for other Agencies

In 2024, a total of 202 inmates were held in the Mercer County Detention Facility for other Agencies that were experiencing overcrowding issues. The money generated by housing inmates for other Agencies goes into the County's General fund. By agreement between the Sheriff and the County Commissioners, the money is portioned out and a percentage of it is returned the Sheriff's Office. A total of \$158,200.00 was collected for housing inmates for other Agencies in 2024.



DISPATCH



9-1-1 Administrator
Rachel Williams



Dispatch Supervisor
Stephanie Bledsoe



Dispatch Supervisor
Brianna Park



Dispatcher
Elizabeth Johnson



Dispatch Supervisor
Alexis Metz



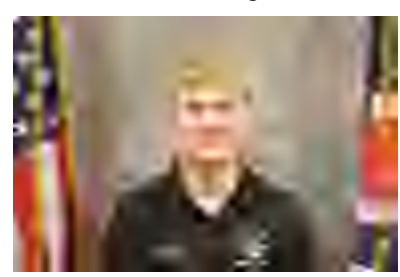
Dispatcher
Rebecca Fitzgerald



Dispatcher
Dale Fullenkamp



Dispatcher
Samantha Hiles



Dispatcher
Quinten Doseck-Waters

Under the purview of the Sheriff's Office, the **Mercer County 9-1-1 Central Dispatch** is staffed by committed and extensively trained professionals. These dispatchers are equipped to manage a full spectrum of calls, from urgent, life-threatening situations to general non-emergency requests.

Operating as the central hub for emergency communications, the **Mercer County Sheriff's Office 9-1-1 Central Dispatch** dispatches for the Sheriff's Office, four village police departments, 1 university police department, four life squads, and ten fire stations within Mercer County. The center receives all 9-1-1 calls throughout the county, encompassing landline and cellular calls from all municipalities, including Celina. Beyond emergency response, Central Dispatch also manages tornado warning activations, the Informer system for severe weather alerts, and the NIXLE public notification system.

Every 9-1-1 dispatcher is Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) certified, enabling them to systematically manage medical calls. This certification ensures that trained telecommunicators can swiftly determine call urgency, dispatch the correct resources, and deliver vital medical instructions to callers, providing immediate patient care even before EMS units arrive on scene.

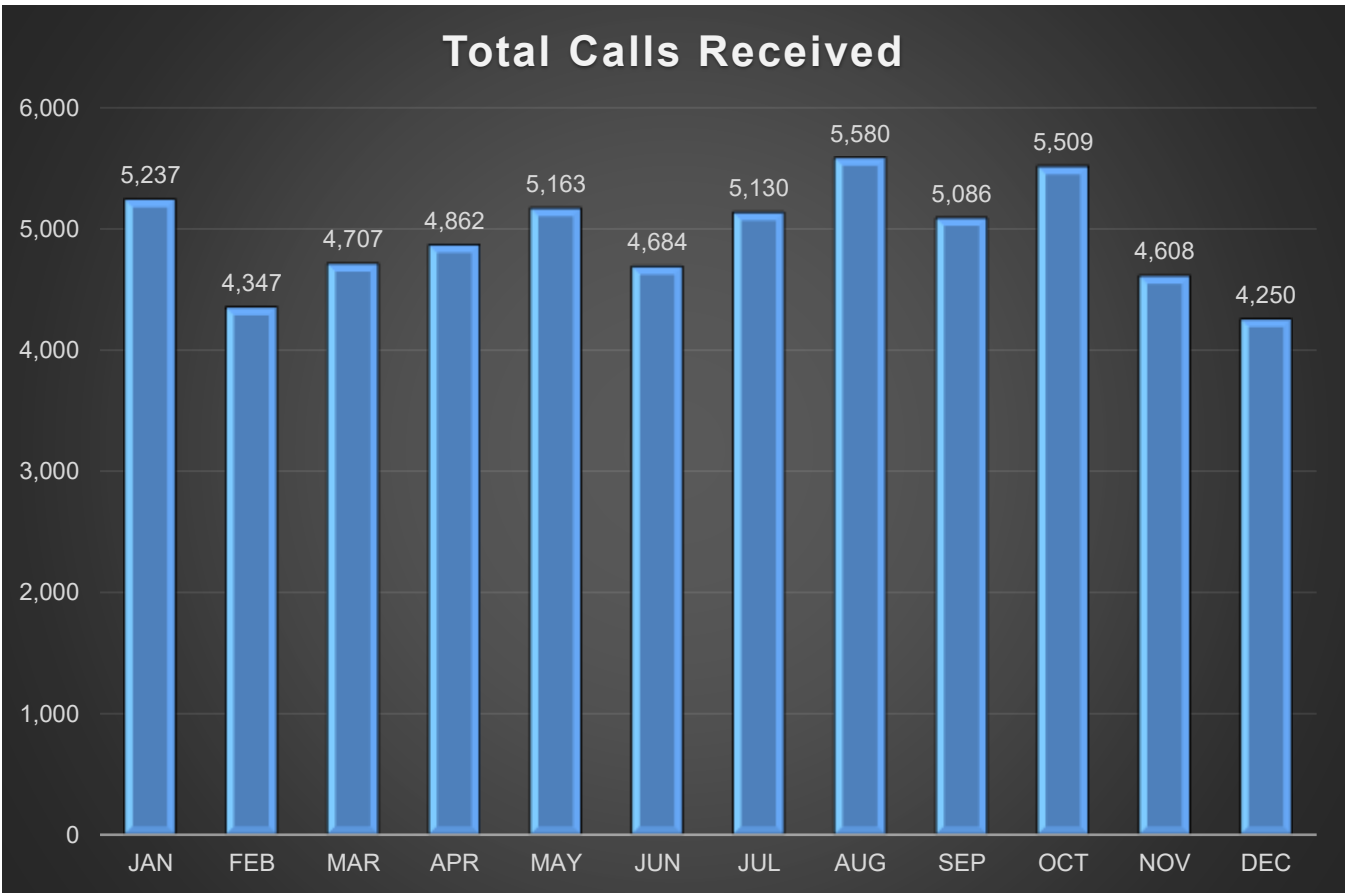
In addition to their primary duties, dispatchers are integral to law enforcement operations through their management of the Ohio LEADS (Law Enforcement Automated Data System). This system facilitates immediate responses to officer inquiries regarding driver's license and vehicle registration data, as well as verification of individuals against outstanding warrants from other agencies. Furthermore, dispatchers are charged with the daily input of critical information, including stolen items, warrants, protection orders, missing persons, and concealed carry permits, into the LEADS/NCIC databases.

9-1-1 Administrator Rachel Williams

The Communications Division is under the direction of the 9-1-1 Administrator Rachel Williams. She was promoted in December of 2022. Administrator Williams has been at the Mercer County Sheriff's Office since 2016, where she began her career as a 9-1-1 Dispatcher.

Types Of Calls

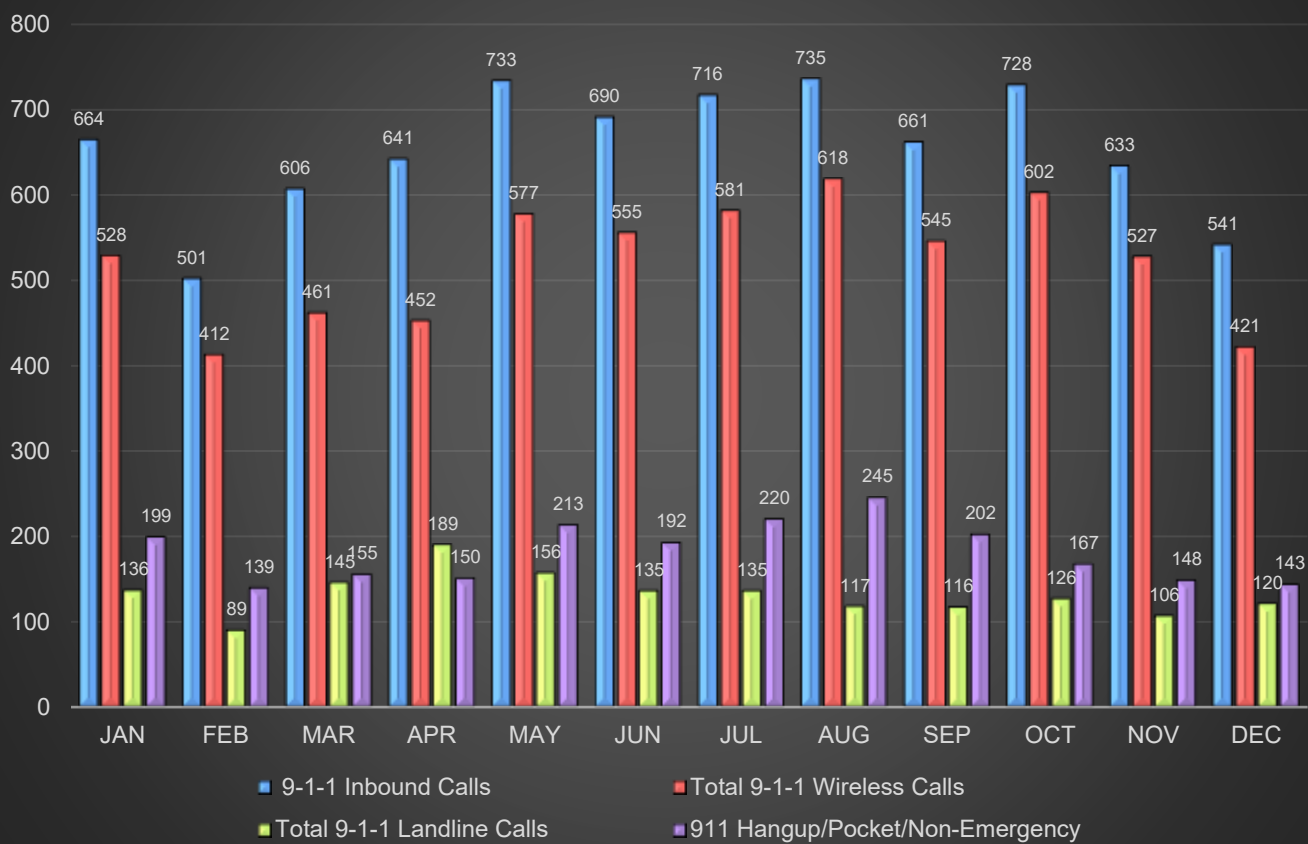
In 2024, our Dispatch Center received 59,163 incoming calls into the Sheriff's Office. That is an average of 4,930 calls per month.



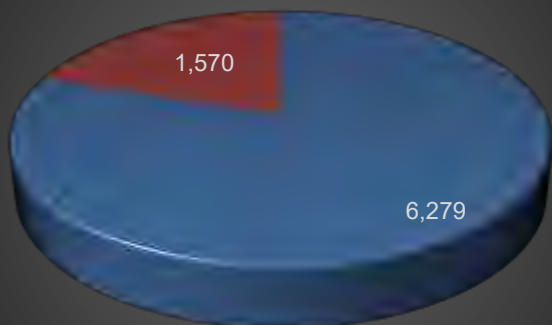
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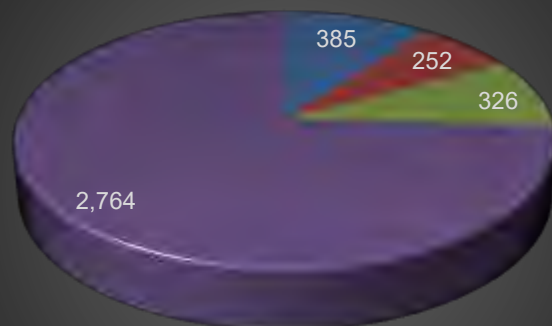
Types of Calls Received



How Calls are Received

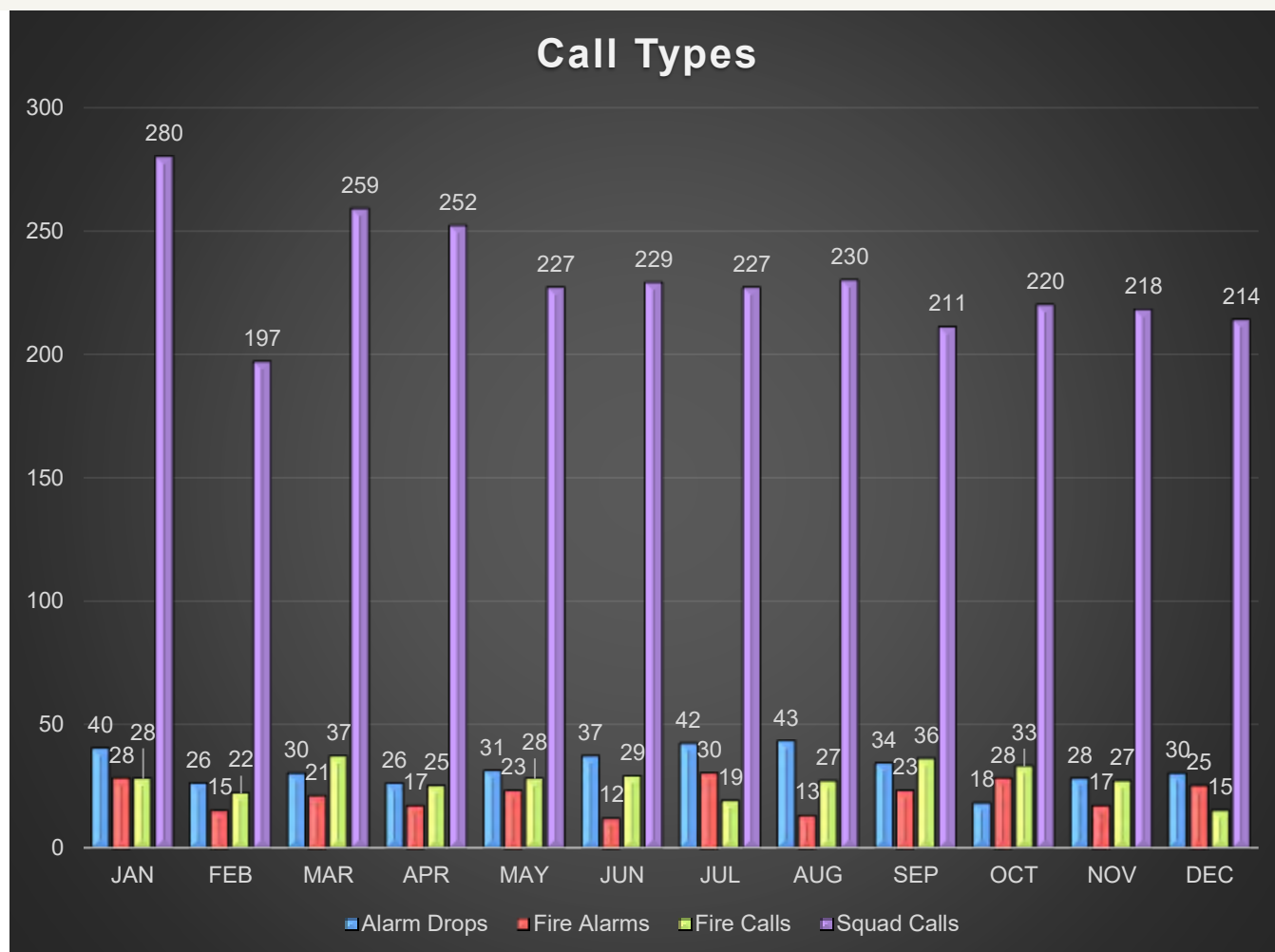


Fire & EMS Calls



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CIVIL DIVISION



Captain (Retired)
Lori Knapke



Civil Sergeant
Chad Fortkamp



Civil Sergeant
Donald Bird



Records Manager
Nicole Grabow



Deputy
Kyle Fink



Deputy, DARE
Scott Geis



Deputy
Kent Taylor



Records Clerk
Brittany Wurster

The Mercer County Sheriff's Office Civil Division is responsible to perform Sheriff's Sales, serve civil processes and court related paperwork from Mercer County and other jurisdictions. In addition, the Civil Division is responsible for Sex Offender and Arson Offender registration, and notification as well as all matters pertaining to the application for Carry Concealed Weapons Permits, commonly referred as CCW. Public record requests and civilian background checks are also the responsibility of the Civil Division.

The Civil Division is instrumental with record retention for the Sheriff's Office, which includes criminal reports, crash reports, and all other records. The Civil Division also coordinates the Web Check program.

In 2024, the Civil Division handled a minimum of 158 periodic registrations of Sex Offenders who currently reside in Mercer County. Currently, Mercer County has 71 registered Sex Offenders. Civil and Patrol Deputies also did a

total of 284 sex offender address verifications throughout 2024 to ensure offenders were living where they are registered.

Captain Lori Knapke

In 2024, the Civil Division was under the command of Captain Lori Knapke, until her retirement on December 31st. Prior to her retirement, Cpt. Knapke had over 25 years of experience and has spent her entire career at the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. Cpt. Knapke has held the ranks of Dispatcher, Deputy Sheriff, Administrative Sergeant, Administrative Lieutenant and Captain.

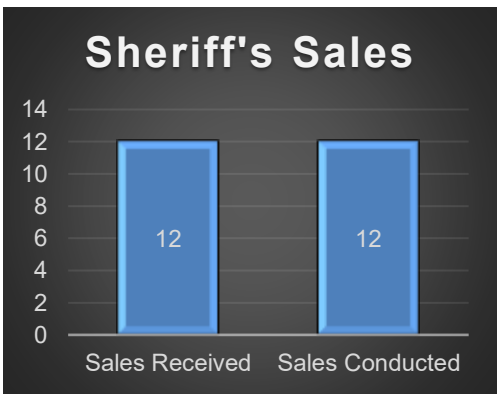
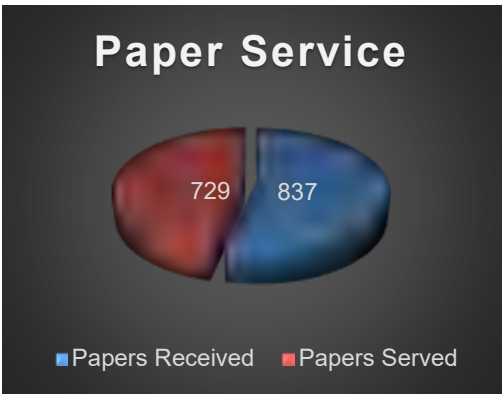
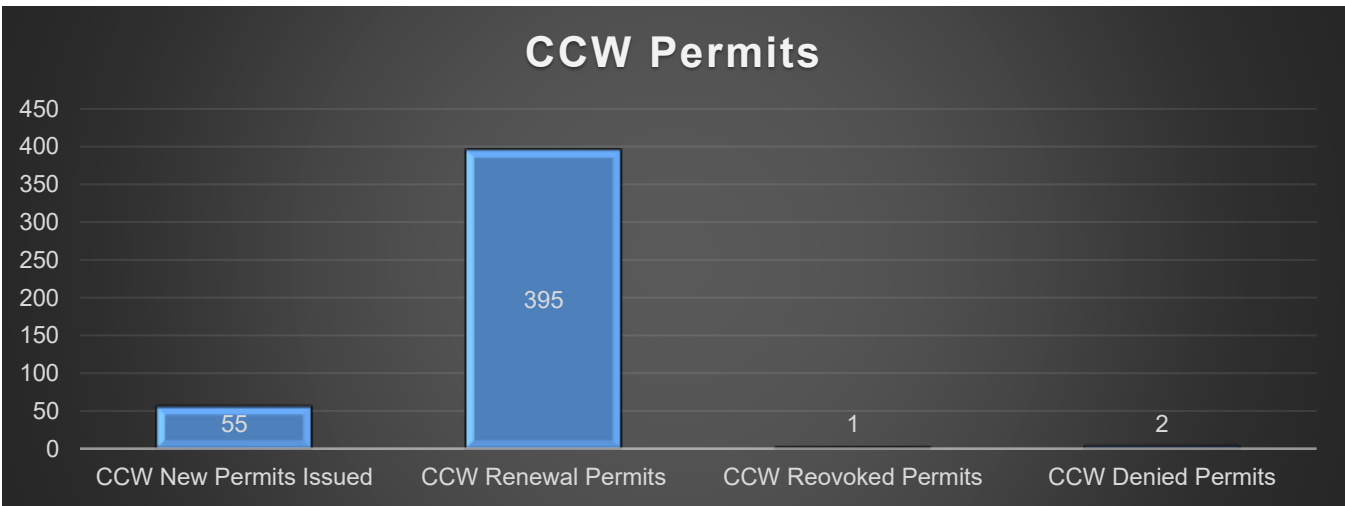
In addition to the Civil division, Cpt. Knapke was responsible for inmate transports, Court House security, the DARE program, crime prevention, Child Support Contract, and the Sheriff's Office volunteer program.

WebChecks

The Sheriff's Office uses inVise ID, which electronically captures and submits fingerprints for background checks. Federal and State laws mandate fingerprinting and background checks for various occupations with an emphasis on those who work with the elderly or children. Only authorized Agencies can submit fingerprints, and conduct searches against State and FBI criminal records. The Sheriff's Office also provides traditional "ink-rolled" fingerprint processing. Total Webcheck submissions for 2024 were 1,757.

Carry Conceal Permits

In 2024, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office Civil Division issued 55 new CCW permits and renewed 395. During 2024, the Sheriff's Office also revoked 1 permit, denied 2 permits, and 4 suspended.



Transports

Transport Deputies are responsible for transferring inmates to and from Court, which includes all three courts in Mercer County (Municipal, Common Pleas, and Juvenile), as well as transferring inmates to doctor's appointments and taking them to State institutions (Prisons). In 2024, deputies made 359 transports and traveled 30,005 miles. Deputies also traveled out of state on 9 trips to Indiana (7), Florida, and Michigan.

TRANSPORT Yearly Totals	
# of Transports	396
Transports Mileage	30,005 Miles

Child Support Enforcement Contract

In 2024, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office continued to contract (IV-D contract) with the Mercer County Child Support Enforcement Agency. The purpose of the contract is to provide services to the Agency, which allows the Sheriff's Office to be reimbursed for those services through a grant. The services would include Child Support investigations, extradition of felony cases, and security for administrative hearings on a needed basis.

CHILD SUPPORT Yearly Totals	
Child Support Enforcement Total Miles	2,385 Miles
Child Support Enforcement Mile Fees	\$1,530.35
Child Support Enforcement Hours Worked	295.5 Hours

Courthouse Security

The Mercer County Sheriff's Office is in charge of security at the Mercer County Courthouse. The Court Security Division ensures the safety and security of the court buildings and of the people who appear and work in them. Court security facilitates and maximizes the efficiency of all judicial and other courthouse functions.

The Court Security Division assists in delivery of in-custody defendants to and from the courthouse in a safe and secure manner. Deputies also provide general security for the courts. In 2024, we had 742 court hearings of inmates our custody.



DARE GRADUATIONS

Coldwater Graduation



Marion Local Graduation



The Mercer County D.A.R.E. program is an evidence-based education curriculum that teaches kids refusal skills, how to make responsible decisions, good communication and how to make safe and healthy lifestyle choices. In Mercer County, all 6 school districts teach D.A.R.E in 5th Grade. We also offer a Middle School curriculum that is taught in 5 of the school districts. At the end of our 5th Grade D.A.R.E. program we celebrate the students who have passed, and they receive a tee shirt and a certificate at a D.A.R.E graduation ceremony. Our middle school students receive a Pizza Party

The Mercer County D.A.R.E. Boosters assist the D.A.R.E officer and also hold a luncheon for seniors that have stayed true to their D.A.R.E. promise to resist alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs. The Mercer County D.A.R.E Boosters presents scholarships to select students each year.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS BASKETBALL GAME

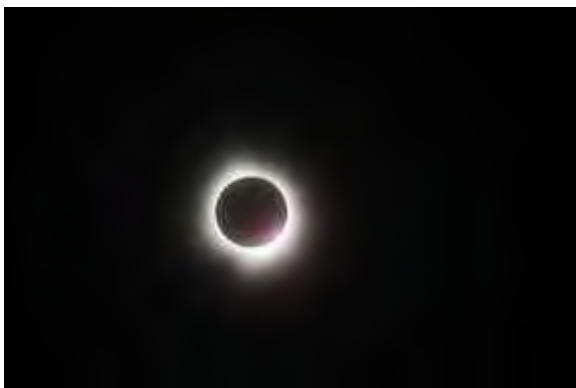
The Sheriff's Office battled both of the Mercer County Special Olympics basketball team on January 22, 2024, at the Celina Field House.

Both teams played exceptionally well and came out victorious against our deputies. On a side note, our players were still sore two days later! Good Job Bobcats & Wildcats...We look forward to playing you again next year!



TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

The total solar eclipse happened on April 8, 2024, at approximately 3:09pm. This was a major celestial event that passed over North America, including Mexico, the United States, and Canada. It was a spectacular sight, with the moon completely blocking the sun's light in the path of totality.



MERCER COUNTY FAIR



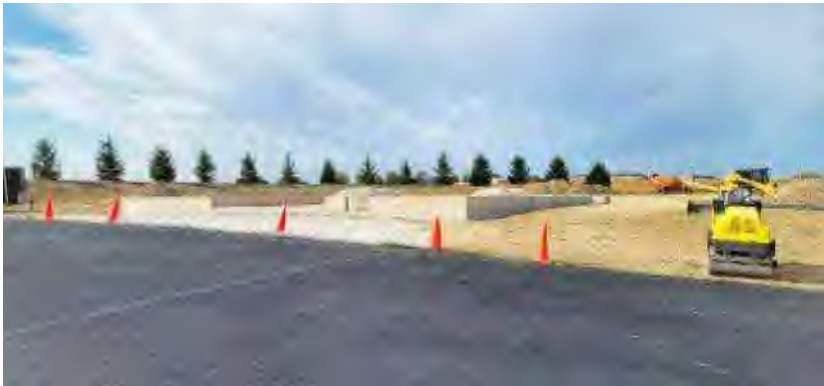
FIRST RESPONDERS WALK

On September 15, 2024, members of the Mercer County Sheriff's Office attended the Fifth Annual Salute to Our First Responders. Chief Deputy Doug Timmerman spoke to the group on the front lawn of the Mercer County Court House.



NEW EVIDENCE BUILDING

On March 5, 2024, the Mercer County Commissioners passed a resolution (24-250) awarding the construction of our new evidence storage building to Luginbill Construction, LLC, Rockford. The winning bid was \$359,000.00.



9.20.2024



10.1.2024



10.4.2024

STAFF PHOTOS





**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!**