

**TUESDAY WORK SESSION AGENDA**  
**March 14, 2023**  
**Courthouse Conference Room**

THE LOCATION OF THIS MEETING IS ADA ACCESSIBLE. PLEASE ADVISE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (503-623-8173)  
AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE IF YOU NEED SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO ATTEND OR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
MEETING VIRTUALLY.

**Approximate  
Time**

**AGENDA**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 9:00 a.m. | 1. CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE                          |
|           | 2. COMMENTS (for items not on this agenda)                       |
|           | 3. APPROVE MINUTES OF March 7, 2023                              |
|           | 4. SHERIFF UPDATE - Sheriff Mark Garton                          |
|           | 5. ATTORNEY GENERAL 2024 CANDIDATE – Will Lathrop & Monica Davis |
|           | 6. NON-LISTED ITEMS (Pursuant to ORS 192.640)                    |

Regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. The meetings are held in the Board of Commissioners' conference room, 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon. Each meeting begins at 9:00 a.m., and is conducted according to a prepared agenda that lists the principal subjects anticipated to be considered. Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners may consider and take action on subjects that are not listed on the agenda. The Board also holds a department staff meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Every Monday in the Commissioners Conference Room at 850 main Street, Oregon.

The Grand Ronde Sanitary District Board is meeting on March 15, 2023 at 9:15 a.m. The meeting will take place in the Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main Street, Dallas, OR, 97338.

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**APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS**

The Board sets aside a time at each regular meeting for comment by the public on subjects not appearing on the Agenda. Individuals may come forward and make any statement they wish, but not to exceed three (3) minutes in length, except as is required to give concise answers to questions from Board members. If the subject will require a lengthier presentation, or merits inclusion as an item on the Agenda of a future meeting, the Board shall schedule it accordingly.

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 7, 2023**

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Gordon declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session and led the Board and attending audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Pope was absent and Commissioner Mordhorst was present.

**2. COMMENTS (for items not on this agenda):**

None.

**3. MINUTES:**      **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON  
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF February 28, 2023**

**MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.**

**4. STAR RECOGNITION AWARD:**

The Board and staff would like to give Special Thanks and Recognition to Michelle Holland who was nominated for the STAR Recognition program for FY2022-2023 Q2. Commissioner Gordon read aloud her nomination and thanked her for all of her hard work. Ms. Holland was presented with a signed certificate and a gift basket. The STAR Recognition program allows for department heads to nominate an employee for recognition each quarter.

**5.WAIVER/REDUCTION OF ZONING APPLICATION FEE REQUEST:**

Frank Walker is asking for his clients Jim and Natalie Warren's Waiver/Reduction of Zoning Application's fee be reduce. Mr. Walker blames Covid-19 for the fees of \$1259.00. Commissioner Mordhorst asked what the challenges were holding the process other than Covid-19? Mr. Walker responded that he also had to withdraw an application from Community Development because it was coming up on the 180 days before expiration. Commissioner Gordon insured Mr. Walker and Mr. Warren that Polk County fee structure is not designed to make profit and that the fees owed are to cover the exact cost. Commissioner Gordon and Commissioner Mordhorst agreed to review the application with Commissioner Pope and will respond in two weeks.

**6. NON-LISTED ITEMS** - (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)

Commissioner Craig Pope, drafted a letter and requested Commission Mordhorst and Commissioner Gordon to review the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Habitat Conservation Plan letter and sign. The board agreed to sign the letter.

Commissioner Gordon adjourned the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

# YEAR IN REVIEW

# 2022



14<sup>th</sup> Largest County in Oregon  
Population: 87,433 (2020 Census)  
Total Est Households: 29,692  
Median Income: \$62,691  
Median Age: 37 Years

SHERIFF MARK GARTON  
POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE VISION STATEMENT

“The Polk County Sheriff’s Office provides sustainable quality programs and services that focus on the safety and security of our schools, homes, businesses, and highways which contribute to the quality of life for every segment of our community.”



## POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MISSION STATEMENT



“Demonstrating leadership through honoring public trust and developing partnerships within the communities we serve by providing effective law enforcement services which we promote, preserve and deliver public safety and security”



**Office Overview** .....4  
**Community Engagement** .....4  
**Corrections Division**.....6  
    Corrections Statistics.....7  
    Educational Programming.....8  
    Notable Events .....9  
**Patrol Division**.....9  
    Crimes at a Glance.....11  
    Traffic Safety Campaigns.....11  
    Patrol Statistics.....14  
**Mobile Crisis Response Team**.....15  
**Public Safety Operating Levy** .....16

*MESSAGE FROM*  
*SHERIFF GARTON*

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Hello fellow residents,

Polk County has always been a great place to live, work and raise families. Your Sheriff’s Office continues to focus on serving the public in a professional, ethical and compassionate way. We always strive towards excellence in every contact we do.

My commitment to each one of you is that we won’t lose focus on our mission, while still upholding our core values while serving you.

*Our Core Values*

**Honor - Integrity - Professionalism - Respect**

The Sheriff's Office current operation is partially funded by the Public Safety Levy, initially passed by the voters in May 2015 and renewed in May of 2019 by a higher margin than the first. Prior to the first levy, the Sheriff's Office patrol division only worked 10 hours per day (noon to 10 pm) due to the loss of federal timber payments.

There will be a renewal of the operating levy up for voter approval in May of 2023, which will continue our operation at status quo levels. Our current levy funding amount is 42.5 cents per \$1000 (of assessed value, not real market value). For the renewal we will be asking for 49.5 cents instead of 42.5 cents. The reason for the increase is the cost of doing business has increased, as you all well know. Even with the increase, we won't be adding any additional personnel, only keeping the 24 people that the levy currently provides for.

There are a lot of nuances in this profession, and I hope that by providing the following information it will help you better understand what your Sheriff's Office does daily.

Over the years I have learned trust is something that can take years to build and a second to destroy. My goal is to continually build trust within the community to ensure that my office meets our core values on a daily basis. I value the trust you have placed in me by electing me as your Sheriff and I know that without that trust, I cannot be effective. I will always strive to improve relationships, to uphold the constitution, to hold people accountable and continually look for ways to improve this office.

Your Polk County Sheriff's Office is full of dedicated people doing a challenging and difficult job every day. They have proven very skillful at adapting in this profession, while remaining focused on our overall mission. I am very proud of their dedication to our county, as they truly attempt to make our community better, one day at a time.

Respectfully,



Sheriff Mark Garton

## OFFICE OVERVIEW

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The Sheriff's Office has two main divisions: patrol and corrections. In the corrections division, deputies are assigned to day-to-day jail operations, transports and court security positions. Supporting the day-to-day operations are the Jail Commander, Inmate Program Manager and three corrections technicians who help control movement within the jail.

The patrol division has a variety of different positions and assignments that all work together to make us safer. Deputies may be assigned to patrol, detectives, animal control, community service deputy or Mobile Crisis Response Teams (MCRT). In addition to normal patrol duties, some deputies oversee volunteer programs like search and rescue, our reserve Deputy program, and the Sheriff's Auxiliary Law Enforcement Team (SALT).

The support services employees are not deputies, but they are the backbone that holds the office together. They process all incoming civil documents (subpoenas, court orders, child custody, marriage dissolution, small claims, etc.), concealed handgun licenses, incoming evidence from the deputies and process all the reports written by the deputies and detectives.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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Community engagement is a must in this profession. We have always welcomed new ways to increase community engagement by attending community meetings and events such as: Neighborhood Watch meetings, National Night Out, Coffee with a Cop, Business Associations, and Rotary meetings to name a few.

There are other events that the Sheriff's Office attends and/or provides instruction at on a regular basis, including: the Victim Impact Panel, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) training, Crisis Intervention Training, and Threat Assessment meetings.



## Paws for a Cause



For the 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row we held our Paws for a Cause event during for the month of July. This program was created after the passing of Sgt. Randy Whitaker on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Randy's love of animals, especially his dogs, inspired the creation of this annual event where we accept donations of new and gently used pet

supplies. This year we were able to donate over 4500 pounds of dog food to local shelters and Marion Polk Food Share along with other pet supplies.



## Shop with the Sheriff and Toy Drive

The Sheriff's Office continued with their annual tradition of sponsoring "Shop with the Sheriff". This event was different than years past as we had several other cash donations that allowed us to serve even more kids. "Shop with the Sheriff" has been going on for over 24 years.



Each year, Walmart provides a grant to help fund this program and other community members volunteer their time and supplies to make this event happen. This year we were able to serve about 80 families through this program which is double what we have historically done. Members of the law enforcement community help their assigned child find gifts for their immediate family and also a gift for themselves. We then help the kids wrap their family's presents. We also had some extra things for the kids too, like a visit from Santa, candy and snacks and a Christmas themed photo booth.



For the sixth year in a row, we were able to partner with two great organizations for their annual toy drives. The Salem Towne Women's Golf Association and Salem Health - West Valley both donated a ton of toys this year.



Salem Health also provided us with a cash donation for just over \$1000. These toys and the cash donation were used to provide gifts to children whose parent(s) may be in jail during the holiday season. With this part of the program, we allow the inmate to pick out a gift from the donated toys. They are then able to wrap the gift themselves along with selecting and personalizing a holiday card. Sheriff's Office deputies and volunteers then arranged to have the presents delivered to or picked up by the family.

## CORRECTIONS DIVISION



The Polk County Jail is a 195-bed facility that was built with voter approval in 1997. The Corrections Division (Jail) is staffed with 3 civilian Corrections Technicians, an Inmate Program Specialist, 24 Corrections Deputies, 5 Sergeants, and 1 Lieutenant (Jail Commander) who all work together to provide safety and security for the facility

and inmates while still holding them accountable. The Jail Commander is responsible for overseeing daily jail operations.

The Polk County Jail receives inmates from all the law enforcement agencies within Polk County, including Oregon State Police. The numbers of inmates received at the jail by the individual agencies are listed on the next page. We also have a contract with the



Benton County Sheriff’s Office and the United States Marshal Service to rent up to 10 beds from us at any given time. The inmates from the Marshall service are Federal Inmates under custody by the US Marshals.

The Polk County Jail is currently receiving a security upgrade. Many of the systems are original from when the jail was built in 1997. The new security upgrades will create efficiency improvements throughout the facility and also improve the safety of both inmates and staff.

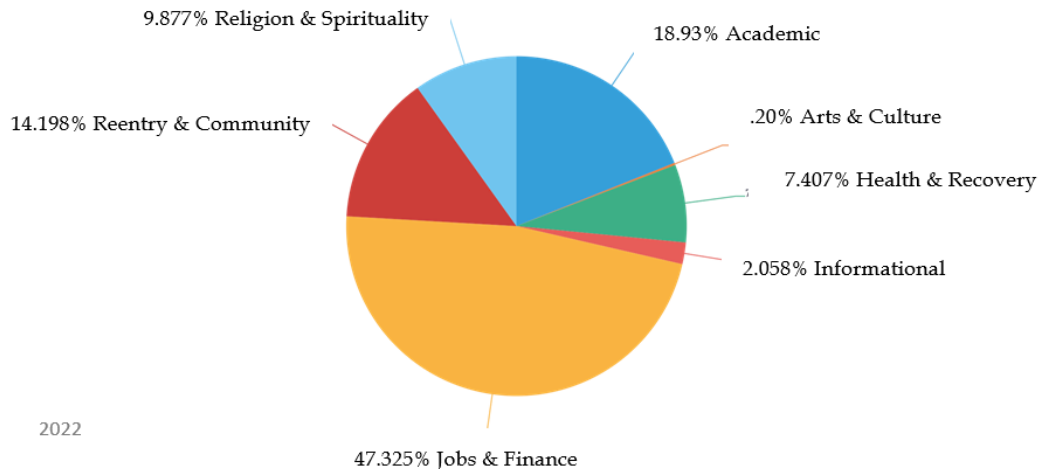
## CORRECTIONS DIVISION STATISTICS

	2020	2021	2022
<b>Total No. Bookings by Agency</b>	1849	1486	1745
<b>Polk Co. Jail Related books</b>	573	549	398
<b>Polk County Sheriff’s Office</b>	345	244	307
<b>Salem Police</b>	248	175	305
<b>Dallas Police</b>	227	142	303
<b>Monmouth Police</b>	109	73	119
<b>Oregon State Police</b>	46	30	42
<b>Independence Police</b>	108	93	94
<b>Grand Ronde Tribal Police</b>	113	84	49
<b>Other</b>	37	87	128

	2020	2021	2022
Average Daily Population (days)	74	87	99
Avg Length of stay (days)	19	25	22
Avg Daily Population Male	63	73	82
Avg Daily Population Female	11	14	17
People booked only 1 time	1595	972	1011
People booked 2 times	198	324	422
People booked 3 times	48	99	138
People booked 4 or more times	8	91	174

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

In 2022, we introduced educational programming on our jail tablets. These types of classes are free of charge and available to anyone inside the jail. As you can see by the chart below, the various types of completed inmate courses. In total, 486 courses were completed in 2022. The top courses include Culinary Institute, Substance Abuse Treatment, Intro to Carpentry, Anger Management, Intro to Manufacturing and Plumbing.



## NOTABLE EVENTS

- Completed Upper Tier Suicide Mitigation Project (2022)
- Continued Jail Technology Evolution- tablets, educational programming, video visits, request forms, grievances. (continuous)
- Security Camera upgrades (2022-2023)

A lot of time the work of the men and women of the corrections division goes unnoticed, because they are out of sight and out of mind to the majority of the community. I am proud of the work they do everyday. Please know that the corrections staff are a highly trained group of individuals who work with compassion and integrity, while holding people accountable for our community.

## PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is staffed by a variety of people and roles, ranging from volunteers, deputy sheriff (police officers) or our support division, which consists of civilians who truly make the office function in an effective and efficient way. Also within the patrol division are two non-



certified positions, Animal Control Deputy and Community Service Deputy. Both positions respond to lower level and animal related calls for service, which allows patrol deputies to focus on follow up investigations and emergency calls for service.

The Patrol Division is staffed for 23 Deputies, 5 sergeants and 1 Lieutenant. Of those 23 deputy positions, deputies are assigned to various positions within the division including Detective (x3), Mobile Crisis Response Team Deputy (x 2), and 14 Patrol Deputies. We have had multiple vacancies over this past year and we are working hard to keep vacant positions to a



minimum.

The Sheriff's Office has 2 general detectives who focus primarily on person crimes, but also tackle complex property crimes. Each detective carries a caseload of about 25-30 cases at any given time. They also manage our digital evidence recovery program. We also have one marijuana detective due to the increase in marijuana grows throughout the county.



While the Sheriff's Office does focus on person and property crimes, we also investigate animal related crimes, like animal abuse or neglect. This applies to any animal, domestic or farm type. We routinely investigate complaints of animal abuse or neglect with farm animals. These cases are handled by our animal control deputy, as this position has specialized training that is needed to successfully investigate these types of incidents. In addition to animal crimes, the animal control deputy does enforce dog law violations.

In early 2022, the Sheriff's Office took over dog licensing and the overall responsibility of dog law violations in the city of Dallas as they chose not to provide their program any longer. Due to Polk County being a "dog control district" Polk County must assume jurisdiction over dog law violations, without any funding from the city. The only funds generated from this program come from licensing fees.



Pictured above is Animal Control Officer Jodi Whiting who received Animal Control Officer of the year in the state of Oregon.

There are also 4 Patrol Sergeants who complement each of our patrol shifts. We also have a detective sergeant, who oversees the detectives and also ensures that all members obtain the required training each year. The Det. Sgt. also completes background investigations for new Sheriff's Office applicants.

The Records Section is comprised of 6 civilian employees who provide

customer service to the public in a variety of ways. They are responsible for several critical tasks to include processing Concealed Handgun Licenses, Dog Licenses, evidence, accepting and processing court documents, civil paperwork, and other incident reports.

The Sheriff’s Office has the statutory requirement to process and serve civil papers throughout the entire county, including inside the city limits. Civil papers include subpoenas, restraining orders, marriage dissolutions, small claims and other court paperwork. Records staff also complete and manage the office wide report writing system and comply with State and Federal regulatory requirements placed upon those systems.

## Crimes at a Glance

Type of Crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	+/- % change 2021 to 2022
Burg Residence	36	43	28	28	0%
Burg Business	10	5	12	11	-8%
Theft	223	314	303	277	-9%
Drug	101	80	34	22	-35%
Elude	10	20	19	25	+32%
DUII	186	115	220	134	-39%
Assault	175	158	184	67	-63%
Sex Offenses	25	21	25	24	-4%
Reckless Driving	69	55	73	82	+12%
<b>Overall Crimes</b>	<b>2237</b>	<b>2135</b>	<b>2091</b>	<b>1576*</b>	<b>-25%</b>

\*For most of 2022, the Sheriff’s Office has been down multiple positions. The number of overall crimes and arrests are down from previous years due to the lack of staffing.



## Traffic Safety Prevention Campaigns

Throughout the year, the Sheriff’s Office participated in multiple Traffic Safety Prevention Campaigns that were above and beyond normal patrol operations. Traffic safety is a high priority within the Sheriff’s Office and

with that in mind, the office applied for and received grant funding from the Oregon Department of Transportation to create and advertise a traffic safety video along with 8 different traffic safety campaigns throughout 2022 that focus on speeding, Driving Under the Influence (DUII) and distracted driving.

<b>DUII Arrests</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>Other Arrests</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Speeding Citations / Warnings</b>	577/430	Driving While Suspended	42
<b>Seatbelt Citations / Warnings</b>	53 / 27	Other Violations/Warning	181/148
<b>Cell Phone Violations / Warnings</b>	42 / 23		

*These stats are specific to traffic enforcement overtime provided by ODOT*

## Large Scale Illegal Marijuana Operations

In 2021, the Sheriff’s Office applied for and received a grant from the criminal justice commission to focus on illicit marijuana cultivation and sale. Partnering with the Yamhill County Sheriff’s Office on this grant, each office has provided a detective to the regional issues of organized crime and drug trafficking organizations surrounding marijuana. The grant covers salary and benefits of 2 employees (1 x Polk & 1 x Yamhill).



Indoor Marijuana Grow Operation

In 2022, between the two counties, over 68,000 (30,008 specific to Polk County) marijuana plants and 27,000 pounds of processed marijuana were seized. Multiple properties were seized in addition to 31 firearms, 13 vehicles and nearly \$570,000 in cash as part of the criminal investigations.

## Volunteer Programs

There are many other facets of the Patrol Division, including managing over 100 volunteers across multiple programs: Search and Rescue, Posse, Reserve Deputy Program, Sheriff's Auxiliary and Law Enforcement Team (SALT), Cold Case and the Sheriff's Office Chaplains.

The Sheriff's Auxiliary & Law Enforcement Team (SALT) consists of 30 members. In 2022, they volunteered 4,446 hours. These hours represent an equivalent of 2 full time employees. Members of SALT help in various ways, including transporting evidence to and from the Oregon State Police Crime Lab, Court Security Scanning, Fingerprinting, Civil Paper Service, and towing of abandoned vehicles among other tasks as assigned.

**S.A.L.T. Unit**



Currently, the Reserve Program consists of 9 Reserve Deputies that volunteered nearly 1000 hours in 2022. Reserve Deputies can volunteer on patrol and ride along with full-time Patrol Deputies. They can also volunteer in the jail, working alongside full-time Corrections Deputies. In addition, the Reserve program is responsible for Marine Patrol functions on the Willamette River. Many reserves go on to become full time deputies here at the Sheriff's Office.

The Oregon State Marine Board contracts with the Polk County Sheriff's Office to patrol nearly 40 miles of the Willamette River within Polk County.

This seasonal program, which typically runs from May through September, is fully funded by the Oregon State Marine Board, to include wages, equipment, and watercraft. Reserve Deputies, who serve as Marine Captains are dedicated to providing a safe boating experience for all boaters in Polk County.





## Chaplain Program

We currently have 2 volunteer chaplains. Our chaplains have been active in 2022 by volunteering 343 hours, which includes 80 visits to staff in the jail and patrol divisions. Chaplains were also called out 49 times throughout 2022. They assist our Deputies with any case that a chaplain may be needed or requested by the public. Some types of calls where a chaplain would be used are: Fatal vehicle crashes, death notifications or any type of traumatic incident.

## PATROL STATISTICS

Patrol Statistics			
<b>Total Calls Generated (2022)</b>	19,366 (-2%)	<b>Traffic Crashes (2022)</b>	222 (-15%)
<b>Total Calls Generated (2021)</b>	19,716 (+6%)	<b>Traffic Crashes (2021)</b>	260 (-46%)
<b>Total Calls Generated (2020)</b>	18,535 (-20%)	<b>Traffic Crashes (2020)</b>	480 (0%)
<b>Case Reports Generated (2022)</b>	2,081* (-19%)	<b>CHL 's Issued (2022)</b>	1,653
<b>Case Reports Generated (2021)</b>	2,579 (+3%)	<b>Civil Docs Processed (2022)</b>	1,880
<b>Case Reports Generated (2020)</b>	2,513 (-16%)		
<b>Arrests (2022)</b>	594* (-39%)	<b>Traffic Stops (2022)</b>	3813- Stops (+20%) 2,474- Warn (+47%) 1,339 – Cites (-11%)
<b>Arrests (2021)</b>	969 (+26%)	<b>Traffic Stops (2021)</b>	3,191 (S) (+6%) 1,688 (W) (-4%) 1,503 (C) (+18%)
<b>Arrests (2020)</b>	771 (-32%)	<b>Traffic Stops (2020)</b>	3,026 (S) (-68%) 1,756 (W) (-82%) 1,270 (C) (-49%)
<b>911 Calls (2022)</b>	7,666 (-5%)		
<b>911 Calls (2021)</b>	8,056 (+17%)		
<b>911 Calls (2020)</b>	6,898 (-7%)		

Agency Assists (how many times the Sheriff's Office assisted local law enforcement on calls for service)							
<u>2022</u>				<u>2021</u>			
Dallas PD	121	Monmouth PD	50	Dallas PD	111	Monmouth PD	49
Grand Ronde	36	Independence PD	91	Grand Ronde	69	Independence PD	33
Salem Police	72	Oregon State Police	208	Salem Police	40	Oregon State Police	101
<u>2020</u>				<u>2019</u>			
Dallas PD	122	Monmouth PD	52	Dallas PD	242	Monmouth PD	121
Grand Ronde	95	Independence PD	31	Grand Ronde	182	Independence PD	115
Salem Police	54	Oregon State Police	123	Salem Police	96	Oregon State Police	263

\*For most of 2022, the Sheriff's Office has been down multiple positions. The number of overall crimes and arrests are down from previous years due to the lack of staffing

The chart on the right represents several other types of calls for service deputies normally encounter while on patrol. These calls generate reports but aren't necessarily criminal in nature.

Crash (includes non-DMV reportable)	589	Disturbance	47
Animal	943	Death Invest	46
Overdose	17	Driving Complaint	1,381
Citizen Contact	651	Welfare Check	459

The men and women of the patrol division show up for work every day not knowing what types of calls will come in during a shift. Whether responding to fatal traffic collisions, neighborhood disputes, domestic violence calls or child abuse investigations, the deputies must be flexible and adapt to ever-evolving situations.

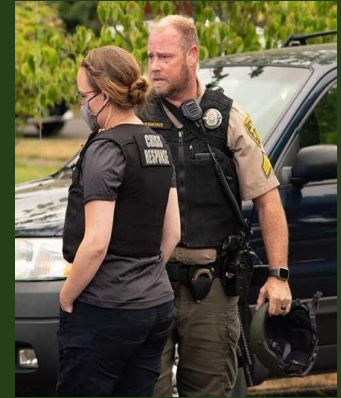
## MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM

The Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) was established in September of 2016. There are two Mobile Crisis Response Teams, each consisting of a Polk County Deputy Sheriff and a Mental Health Professional. Both teams are able to



respond anywhere in Polk County, 7 days a week, 10 hours a day, with some days having even more coverage. MCRT members are experts in the field and have received extra training in crisis response for emotionally disturbed persons and de-escalation techniques. Other deputies also receive this type of training, but with MCRT their primary focus is responding to people in crisis. Plus, by having professional clinicians on the scene, it helps start the delivery of critical services at the time of crisis.

MCRT is available to help any law enforcement agency in Polk County by enabling mental health services to begin at the onset of a crisis. MCRT has a wide array of options to help resolve the event. Those options vary from talking with the involved person and creating a safety plan, all the way to the other end of the spectrum of placing the person under arrest or taking them into custody on a police officer hold/custody and transporting them to the hospital and everywhere in between.



MCRT team

In 2020, MCRT responded to 354 crisis calls. In 2021, they responded to 502 crisis calls, a 42% increase from the previous year. In 2022, the MCRT responded to 474 crisis related calls, plus countless follow ups and check ins. This program is a joint effort between the Polk County Sheriff's Office and Polk County Behavioral Health.

## SHERIFFS OFFICE PUBLIC SAFETY LEVY KEY POINTS

The first public safety levy was passed by voters in May 2015, for up to .45 cents per thousand of assessed value. During this period of the levy the full amount was not assessed. In fact, the first time the full amount was assessed was in late 2019.

The levy was renewed in May of 2019 by voters at a higher margin than the first time. The renewal maintains what the initial levy was for, which was for 12 patrol deputies; 5 jail staff members; 3 prosecutors in the district attorney's office; 2 support staff members in the DA's office; and a juvenile

detention bed.

The Polk County Board of Commissioners voted to place a renewal of this operating levy on the ballot in May of 2023 with a proposed cost of 49.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value (vs real market value). In order to maintain current staffing levels, the levy will need to be increased slightly above previous years. The proposed increase is 7 cents, making it 49.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. Unfortunately, the cost of doing business has increased and in order to maintain current services, we must slightly raise the levied amount.