

YEAR IN REVIEW

2021



POLK COUNTY QUICK FACTS

744 Sq. Mile County
14th Largest County in Oregon
Population: 87,433 (2020 Census)
Total households: 29,692
Median income \$62,691
Median Age 37 years old

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"

MESSAGE FROM ***SHERIFF GARTON***

Hello fellow residents,

Polk County is a great place to live, work and raise families. We continue to focus on serving the public in a professional, ethical and compassionate way. We continue to strive towards excellence in every contact we do.

The Law Enforcement profession has been tested in a variety of ways during this past year, which has made our job more and more challenging. I have seen more change in the past 5 years than I saw in my first 15 years in this profession. However, 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, the public.

Our Core Values

Honor - Integrity - Professionalism - Respect

This shouldn't be new information to anyone, but finding high quality applicants has been more difficult than normal. However, we have been very fortunate in our hiring processes and have been able to recruit very capable, community minded individuals. For those outside of law enforcement the hiring process may seem simple however, it is not. There are a variety of requirements that are either set by the State of Oregon or outlined by policy. We have shifted our hiring policy to be more efficient, without reducing our standards or qualifications. Across the US, I have seen some agencies reduce their hiring standards, but I believe with our scarce resources we cannot afford to cut corners or reduce standards.

Your Sheriff's Office is made up of two main divisions, Patrol and Corrections (Jail). There are many different positions within each division, to include certified deputy sheriff's, specialty assignments, detectives and civilian staff,

which must all work together on a daily basis to accomplish our overall mission.

The Sheriff's Office's current operation is partially funded by the Public Safety Levy, initially passed by the voters in May 2015 and renewed in May of 2019. Prior to the 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. We anticipate the renewal of the operating levy will be up for voter approval in May 2023.

The information contained in this document will help provide an overview of what your Sheriff's Office has done during the past year. There are a lot of nuances in this profession, and I hope by providing the following information will help better you better understand what your Sheriff's Office does on a daily basis.

Trust is something that can take years to build and a second to destroy and that is a fact of life in this profession. My goal is to continually build trust within the community to ensure that my office meets our core values daily. I highly value the trust you have placed in me by electing me as your Sheriff and I know that without 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 profession.

Your Polk County Sheriff's Office is full of normal 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

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 two corrections technicians.

The patrol division has a variety of different positions and assignments. Deputies are assigned to various positions including Patrol, Detectives, Animal Control, Community Service Deputy, Mobile Crisis Response Teams (MCRT) and Support Services. The patrol division is overseen by the Patrol Commander. In addition to normal patrol duties, some deputies oversee volunteer programs like search and rescue, our reserve Deputy program, drone program and the Sheriff's Auxiliary Law Enforcement Team (SALT).

The support services employees are the backbone that holds the office together. They process all incoming civil documents (subpoenas, court orders, child custody, marriage, small claims, etc), concealed handgun licenses, incoming evidence from the deputies and process all the reports written by the deputies and detectives.

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



While things are opening back up, we have continually looked for ways to increase community engagement by attending community meetings and events like: Neighborhood Watch meetings, National Night Out, City Council meetings, 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, CASA training, Crisis Intervention Training, and Threat Assessment meetings. We also work with the school districts within our enforcement area and teach educational programs like Eddy Eagle Gun Safety and internet safety to name a few.

Fishing with a Deputy

In 2021, we started a new program, fishing with a deputy. This program focused on providing an opportunity for children to fish along side a deputy and in a location that isn't easily accessible for the public. For this event we fished at the Mercer Reservoir, which is owned by the city of Dallas. While only a couple fish were caught, we had a great time. Sheriff Garton

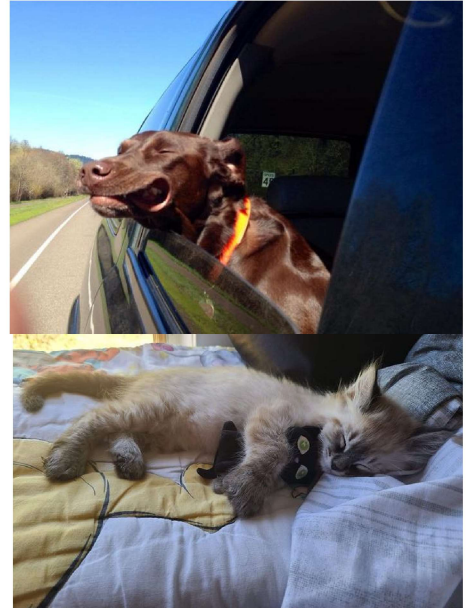
even cooked lunch for everyone. Each junior fisherman left with a new pole, tacklebox and some gear. This program was sponsored by several local businesses, Maiden Marketing, American Outdoors, Bi-Mart, Dutch Bros and the Oregon State Sheriff's Association.



Paws for a Cause

For the 7th 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 Whittaker.

Sgt. Randy Whitaker passed away on July 18th, 2014. Randy's love of animals, especially his dogs, inspired the creation of this annual event. We also had an animal photo contest. The response we had was truly amazing. Members of the Sheriff's Office voted and the top dog and cat brought home the prize (pictured to the right).



2021 Top Dog and Cat

Shop with the Sheriff and Toy Drive

The Sheriff's Office continued with their annual tradition of sponsoring "Shop with the Sheriff" at the Walmart in Dallas. "Shop with the Sheriff" has been going on for over 22 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 40 families through this program. Our program is a little different than others. Members of the law enforcement community help their assigned child find gifts for their immediate family. We then help the kids wrap the presents for thier family. We also have some extra things for the kids too, like a visit from Santa.



For the fourth year in a row, we were able to partner with Salem Health – West Valley for their annual toy drive. At the same time, the Salem Towne Women’s Golf Club also provides gifts to us that they collect during their toy drive. They have been providing gifts to the Sheriff’s Office for over 15 years.

All of the toys we receive will end up in the hands of someone who needs them. For inmates who might be in custody during the Christmas holiday, we allow them to pick out a gift for their child from the donated toys we have received. They are able to wrap the gift themselves and also select and personalize a holiday card of their choosing. Sheriff’s Office deputies and volunteers then delivered the presents to their children just before Christmas.



In addition to the children of inmates Christmas program, we solicited nominations from the public to help fill those extra needs in our community. Sheriff’s Office volunteers combed through the nominations and later helped select and wrap all the presents from the donated toys. Volunteers delivered the gifts a week before Christmas.

Citizen Awards

It’s not too often where the Sheriff’s Office has the opportunity to recognize the actions of 3 citizens who help save a life. The Polk County Sheriff’s Office would like to recognize the lifesaving actions of Zane Sparre, Tyler Lyski, and Izik Burtchell. Job well done.



T. Lyski – Z. Sparre -I. Burtchell – Sheriff Garton

On Wednesday, June 2nd, about 7 pm, Sgt. Caudill, Deputy Higgins, and Deputy Smith responded to a reported water rescue at the falls in Falls City. A young Falls City resident had fallen and landed on his head and back on the rocks below and then became unconscious in the water. Zane, Tyler, and Izik jumped into the water and were able to keep the victim stabilized and his head above water until help arrived a short time later. Without the actions of these 3 young men, a 4th young man may have died.

CORRECTIONS DIVISION

The Polk County Jail is a 195-bed facility that was built with voter approval in 1999. The Corrections Division (Jail) is staffed with two civilian Corrections Technicians, one 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 below. We also have a contract with the Benton County Sheriff's Office and the United States Marshal's Service to rent up to 10 beds from us at any given time. The inmates from the Marshal service are Federal Inmates under custody by the US Marshals.

Due to Covid protocols that mirrored all correctional facilities throughout the state, we saw a decrease in the total number of bookings versus the previous year. We did have two Covid outbreaks inside the jail during 2021. None resulted in any hospitalization and were all treated inside their housing units with our onsite medical staff.

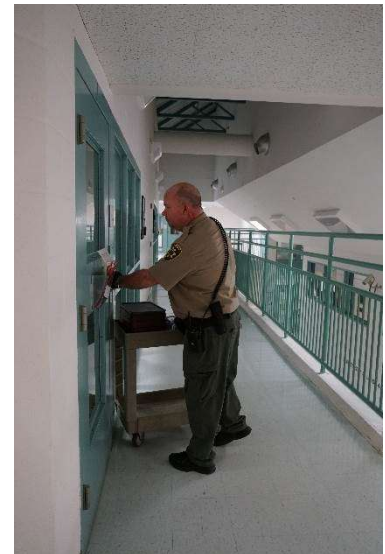
During 2021, law enforcement officers throughout the county were urged to issue criminal citations in lieu of taking someone into physical custody, as we were limited on the number of inmates allowed in the jail at any given time due to Covid restrictions. However, towards the end of 2021 and early 2022, Covid restrictions began to ease and we were able to increase our overall capacity.

CORRECTIONS DIVISION STATISTICS

	2019	2020	2021
Total No. Bookings	<u>3252</u>	<u>1849</u>	<u>1486</u>
Polk Co. Jail Related books	979	573	549
Polk County Sheriff's Office	738	345	244
Salem Police Dept	331	248	175
Dallas Police Department	444	227	142
Monmouth Police Dept	119	109	73
Oregon State Police	106	46	30
Independence Police Dept	180	108	93
Grand Ronde Tribal	185	113	84
Other	89	37	87

During 2021, most jail programs that required volunteers to come into the jail were suspended due to COVID. However, with technology we were still able to make available certain programs using wireless tablets inside the jail. In late 2021 and early 2022, we are beginning to introduce volunteers back into the facility for church services and substance abuse groups.

In July 2021, the Polk County Jail was inspected by the Oregon Sheriff's Jail Command Council and received 100%, by meeting 309 different standards. The next inspection is scheduled for July 2023.



	2019	2020	2021
Average Daily Population (days)	147	74	87
Ave Length of stay (days)	18	19	25
Ave Daily Population Male	116	63	73
Ave Daily Population Female	31	11	14
People booked only 1 time	1686	1595	972
People booked 2 times	764	198	324
People booked 3 times	360	48	99
People booked 4 or more times	236	8	91

The average daily population in 2021 was 87, which is slightly up from 2020. The average length of stay for an inmate was 25 days. The reason for this increase is the courts held higher levels of crime more often than lower, which results in an increase in the average daily population and length of stay.

TEAM GOALS (2018 – 2022)

- Completed Upper tier suicide mitigation project, which was partially grant funded (2021)
- Continued Jail Technology Evolution- tablets, educational programming, video visits, request forms, grievances. (continuous)
- Purchased and installed Body Scanner for jail intakes to detect and prevent contraband, usually illicit drugs (2019)
- Trained and implemented 3 Court Security/Transport Deputies (2020)
- Created Attorney call in line (2020)
- Updated all inmate showers (2020)
- Revised restricted housing requirements to improve inmate conditions (2019/2021)
- Through a competitive process, two deputies were promoted to the rank of corporal. These were new positions were created with existing staffing and started in 2020. We are using these positions to mentor and train deputies in preparation for promoting to sergeant in the future.

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



Deputy Tommy Hutchison

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 consists of 19 Deputies, one community service deputy and one Animal Control Officer. Contained within those 19 positions, deputies are assigned to various positions within the division including Detectives (x2), School Resource Deputy, Mobile Crisis Response Team Deputy (x 2), and 14 Patrol Deputies. We also have an agreement with the local timber companies to provide patrol of their private land throughout the county, which the public generally has access to. The timber companies pay for 50% of the cost of a deputy. While the Forest Deputy is assigned to the timber areas, that position does augment the patrol shift and covers patrol when needed.



While the Sheriff's Office does focus on person 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 respond to these types of incidents.

In addition to animal crimes, the animal control deputy does enforce dog license violations throughout the county. In early 2022, the Sheriff's Office will also take over licensing and enforcement of dog related incidents inside the city limits of Dallas. The City of Dallas terminated their dog program and because the entire county is a dog control district, program will fall back onto the Sheriff's Office.



Deputy Marty Watson

the

We do come across unique situations, like rescuing a bee hive. Fortunately for the Sheriff's Office we have our own in-house bee expert, Deputy Marty Watson. In one instance, he was able to rescue a beehive that had been damaged.

There are also 4 Patrol Sergeants who complement each of our patrol shifts (4). 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 applicants. The patrol division is under the command of the Patrol Lieutenant (Patrol Commander), with oversight from the Sheriff's Office Captain.

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 records section has continued to provide fingerprinting services for the public, even with the presence of Covid. No other agency that we are aware of has resumed public

fingerprinting as of April 2022. Because fingerprinting is generally done for employment, Sheriff Garton was committed to providing this service, as we need all the people working we can. We also created online scheduling for fingerprinting and CHL purchases.

The Sheriff's Office has the statutory requirement to process and serve civil papers throughout the entire county, including inside the city limits. We have already began a transition to being able to accept, process and track all civil process and court documents online. This is anticipated to go live July 2022. Records staff also completes and manages the office wide report writing system and comply with State and Federal regulatory requirements placed upon those systems.

CRIMES AT A GLANCE

(Crimes listed below are reported crimes, not arrests. Arrests are listed on the following page)

Type of Crime	2018	2019	2020	2021	+/- % change 2018 to 2021	+/- % change 2020 to 2021
Burg Residence	41	36	43	28	-32%	-35%
Burg Business	18	10	5	12	-33%	+140%
Theft	186	223	314	303	+63%	-4%
Drug	184	101	80	34	-82%	-58%
Elude	28	10	20	19	-5%	-32%
Fraud	86	69	95	63	-32%	-34%
DUII	216	186	115	220	+2%	+91%
Assault	234	175	158	184	-21%	+16%
Reckless Driving	67	69	55	73	+9%	+33%
Overall Crimes	2665	2237	2135	2091	-22%	-2%

The number of drug arrests in 2021 has decreased. The reason for this decrease is voter approved Measure 110, which decriminalizes certain amounts of methamphetamine, heroin, LSD and Oxycodone. Out of roughly

2000 citations that were issued across the state for possession of these drugs (similar to traffic ticket), 19 people requested resources through the program.

PATROL STATISTICS

The chart below shows the various activities that the Patrol Division does on daily basis. Calls for service went up 6% from 2020, but overall, calls for service are down 17% since 2019. With that being said, the number of arrests also were down 13%. Due to Governor Brown's stay at home order, traffic stops, citations, and warnings were down from 2019's numbers.

Patrol Statistics			
Total Calls Generated (2021)	19,716 (+6%)	Traffic Crashes (2021)	260 (-85%)
Total Calls Generated (2020)	18,535 (-20%)	Traffic Crashes (2020)	480 (0%)
Total Calls Generated (2019)	23,087	Traffic Crashes (2019)	481
Case Reports Generated (2021)	2579 (+3%)	CHL 's Issued (2021)	2283 (+95)
Case Reports Generated (2020)	2513 (-14%)	Civil Docs Processed (2021)	1893 (+3%)
Case Reports Generated (2019)	2910		
Arrests (2021)	969 (+26%)	Traffic Stops (2021)	3191 - stops (+5%) 1688 - warn (-14%) 1503 - cite (+18%)
Arrests (2020)	771 (-32%)		
Arrests (2019)	1141	Traffic Stops (2019)	3026 (S) (-40%) 1956 (W) (-39%) 1270 (C) (-33%)
911 Calls (2021)	8056 (+17%)	Traffic Stops (2019)	5082 (S) 3193 (W) 1889 (C)
911 Calls (2020)	6898 (+7%)		
911 Calls (2019)	7452		
Agency Assists			
(how many times the Sheriff's Office assisted local law enforcement on calls for service)			
2020		2021	
Dallas PD	122	Dallas PD	111
Grand Ronde	95	Grand Ronde	69
Salem Police	54	Salem Police	40
Monmouth PD	52	Monmouth PD	49
Independence PD	31	Independence PD	33
Oregon State Police	123	Oregon State Police	101

👮 Cold Homicide Case Solved



On September 1, 1996, the skeletonized remains of an adult female were found in the hills overlooking the Mill Creek area in rural Polk County. Investigators determined the woman's death was a homicide as the body was wrapped up in a tarp and bound with rope. Many efforts were made over the years to help identify the female. From media campaigns, having professional sketches created of what the woman may have looked like, CT scans, 3D rendered images and even a real sculpture was made using the actual skull, to help put a face to the unidentified female. Even with all the efforts made, the woman remained unidentified until 2019. A new DNA technique was used in an attempt to put a name to her remains.

In 2019, a DNA profile was developed from the remains and genealogists assisted Polk County in identifying the woman over a 10-month research process. The remains were determined to be that of Kathy Thomas, born in Oklahoma in 1953.

During the cold case investigation, it was discovered that Kathy had children and a sister, all who had no idea Kathy had died in 1996. In an extraordinary turn of events through the identification process, Kathy's children had never met their aunt even though they only lived an hour away from each other.



It was discovered that Brian Clifton, the husband of Kathy had left Oregon about 1 month after Kathy's body was discovered. Through a collaborative effort between local, state, and federal partners, detectives were able to locate Brian Clifton in another state in December 2020 and interviewed him regarding what happened to Kathy. Detectives questioned Brian multiple times during a series of interviews over a several month period.



Kathy Thomas

On August 12, 2021, the Polk County Grand Jury heard the case and indicted Brian Clifton for the murder of Kathy Clifton.

On August 13, 2021, Brian Clifton was taken into custody by the local agency where he was living. After the arrest, Polk County Detectives interviewed Brian and he admitted to his involvement in the murder of Kathy.

On August 13, 2021, Polk County Detectives met with Kathy's adult children and Kathy's sister and let them know we had never forgotten about their mother/sister and that after 25 years, Kathy is finally getting the justice she deserves.

On September 7, 2021, 68 year old Brian Clifton was arraigned for the charge of Murder in the 1st degree. He is currently lodged in the Polk County Jail and being held without bail.



🌟 Large Scale Illegal Marijuana Operations



50 Greenhouses with illegal MJ

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 combat the regional issues of organized crime and drug trafficking organizations surrounding marijuana. The grant covers salary and benefits of two detectives (1 x Polk & 1 x Yamhill) and a part time prosecutor in the District Attorney's Office.

During a two-week period in August, two outdoor grow operations were taken down in Polk County, totaling nearly 15,000 fully mature plants and nearly 500 pounds of finished product were seized. Between just these two locations there were over 80 full size nursery type greenhouses. These two investigations alone had a black market value of nearly 40 million dollars. The people who are committing these crimes are not local people, they are from elsewhere and they continually look for new areas to grow marijuana, mainly in rural counties. This also effects local water supply, as grow operations require a lot of water and often times stolen out of a river without water rights, which impacts our local agriculture farmers. Two people were arrested for unlawful manufacture of Marijuana.



View from inside the greenhouses

In September 2021, another significant case came to conclusion. During this case, 25 more locations were taken down, 14 here in Polk County and 11 in Columbia County. All of these properties were connected and working in concert. This case involved indoor growing locations. With this case, another 33,000 mature plants, 1500 pounds of processed marijuana and 23 firearms were siezed.



Indoor Marijuana Grow Operation

The leader of this organization was arrested in another state. Many of the “employees” were sent here from out of the state and many times from another country to purchase property, build and outfit the location for indoor growing operations. Other associated crimes we have investigated with these cases include money laundering, human trafficking, environmental crimes, manufacture and delivery of Marijuana, all serious felony crimes.

Traffic Safety Initiatives

During 2021, your Sheriff's Office participated in 13 statewide targeted enforcement campaigns paid for by the Oregon Department of Transportation. These campaigns focused on Impaired Drivers, Child Safety Seat and safety belt violations along with distracted driving. These campaigns are typically done in 2-week blocks and are above and beyond a deputy's normal work week. This grant covers overtime pay for deputies to go out and focus only on traffic enforcement.

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POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

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Enhanced Enforcement Aims to reduce dangerous driving and crashes with
Distracted Driving Enforcement and DUI Enforcement

Computer Forensics

The Sheriff's Office has continued to operate a computer forensic lab that serves all local law enforcement agencies. This program allows a detective to process and gather digital evidence from cell phones, other mobile devices and computers. We were able to assist with 30 investigations throughout Polk County. Of the 30 cases, 11 involved child pornography.



Volunteer Programs

There are many other facets of the Patrol Division, including managing over 125 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 2021, they volunteered 4121 hours. **This is equal to 2 full time employees based on hours.** Members of SALT help in various ways, including transporting evidence to and from the Oregon State Police Crime Lab, Court Scanning, Fingerprinting, Civil Paper Service, and towing of abandoned vehicles among other tasks as assigned.



Currently, the Reserve Program consists of 10 Reserve Deputies. In 2021, the Polk County Sheriff's Office Reserve Deputy Program volunteered 2475 hours. 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 3 volunteer chaplains. Our chaplains have been active in 2021 by volunteering 635 hours, which includes 160 visits to staff in the jail and patrol divisions. Chaplains can also be called out by Deputies to assist 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.

TEAM GOALS (2018 - 2022)

- Cadet Program
- Increased community event attendance
- Maintain social media (On going)
- Transitioned to a new policy manual system Lexipol (2021)
- Implemented body camera program (2021)
- Through a competitive process, two deputies were promoted to the rank of corporal. These new positions were created with existing staffing and started in 2020. We are using these positions to mentor and train deputies in preparation for promoting to sergeant in the future.

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. Other deputies also receive this type of training, but with MCRT all they do every day revolves around people in crisis. Plus, having professional clinicians helps start the delivery of critical services at the time of crisis.



MCRT team

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.

In 2020, MCRT responded to 354 crisis calls. In 2021, MCRT responded to 502 crisis calls, a 42% increase from the previous year. This program is a joint effort between the Polk County Sheriff's Office and Polk County Behavioral Health.

SHERIFF'S 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 most 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; five jail staff members; three prosecutors in the district attorney's office; two support staff members in the DA's office; and juvenile detention beds. It did allow for the hiring of one additional deputy in the first year of the levy, with potentially adding another in year 3 or 4 if needed.