

Tioga County Sheriff's Office



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RICHARD E. HALLETT
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Sheriff's Office 2023 Annual Legislative Summary Report

Accomplishments:

- The Criminal Investigation Division's three interview rooms were upgraded with a new video recording system, replacing the previous system which was installed in 2012. The new system has provided high-definition video and enhanced audio recording, which have been beneficial in documenting quiet utterances from adults and children.
- The Sheriff's Office purchased Stop Stick units for each patrol vehicle in the fleet. Training was conducted on the use of, and safety issues involved with deploying the new anti-pursuit tools.
- Both the Corrections and Road Patrol Divisions participated in training at 4 separate academies. Our certified Deputies and Corrections Officers helped to train more than 100 new police and peace officers as they enter the field of law enforcement.
- The Axon body worn cameras have been fully integrated into day-to-day operations at the Sheriff's Office. These cameras provide the Road Patrol, Civil and CID divisions with clear audio and video evidence that assist with all aspects of operations.
- E-911 Communications Center:
 - Dispatchers received formal training to include Incident Command ICS-300, Public Safety Dispatcher 1 and Public Safety Dispatcher 2. The Communications Center also began utilizing a new training program for in-house training called On Demand Training which provides training for specific dispatch related topics.
 - All Dispatchers were certified in the APCO Emergency Medical Dispatch Protocol Program.
 - Dispatcher Wilding received an award presented by Candor EMS for her role in providing lifesaving CPR instruction for a patient suffering a cardiac health emergency.
- Records Division:
 - The Pistol Permit section of the Records Division implemented a new ID Card software program through IQS.
 - The Pistol Permit Section of the Records Division completed over 1250 pistol permit related transactions.
 - The Records Division completed over 1400 Freedom of Information Requests.

- Grants:
 - Applied for the 2022-2023 PSAP grant that provided \$109,805.00 used to offset a portion of the E-911 dispatcher salaries.
 - The Governors Traffic Safety Board awarded a Patrol Traffic Services grant of \$12,540 for traffic enforcement details.

- Road Patrol:
 - In July one Deputy was certified as a Drug Recognition Expert to help combat impaired driving.
 - In November two Deputies were certified to become drone pilots.
 - In two separate drug take back events the Sheriff's Office took possession of 287lbs of unwanted prescription and non-prescription drugs for destruction.
 - One Deputy completed the basic police academy, which was held in Broome County.
 - Members completed annual in-service training to include department policy and procedure, Taser and firearms.

- Corrections Division:
 - 18 applicants were hired and enrolled in the Corrections field training program with sixteen successful completions.
 - Members completed annual in-service training to maintain compliance with DCJS mandated requirements and compliance with the division's accreditation standards. Emphasis was placed on Officer Safety to promote a healthy environment for staff. Additional training included Basic Corrections Academy, Suicide Prevention Instructor certification and First-Aid/CPR Instructor certification.
 - Implemented the Training for Health Program to promote opportunity for Inmates to acquire Certification in the Janitorial services field upon release.
 - Continued implementation of the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program in compliance with NYS laws and the Commission of Corrections Minimum Standards.
 - 332 Centralized Arraignment Part court (CAP) arraignments were completed.
 - 487 Inmates were processed through intake, including 42 revenue generating board-ins and 12 commitments for the NYS Division of Parole.

- Criminal Investigation Division:
 - In compliance with New York State's recent discovery compliance laws, the Sheriff's Office provided all required material to the District Attorney's Office for 294 Sheriff's Office cases. Discovery material was also provided to other local police agencies and New York State Police for their compliance in 141 cases.
 - In June, CID partnered with narcotics investigators in Broome County regarding a person allegedly selling the dangerous synthetic opiate Fentanyl in both Apalachin and in Broome County. The investigation resulted in the execution of a search warrant on a residence, during which approximately 43 grams of Fentanyl and \$4800 in suspected drug proceeds were seized as evidence. CID arrested a person for criminal possession of a controlled substance on the third degree. The person allegedly possessed and sold Fentanyl within 100 yards of an elementary school.
 - In February, CID led two major fatal motor vehicle crash investigations which occurred two days apart and collectively resulted in the deaths of four people. The first crash investigation, which involved the death of one driver, resulted in the arrest of a person for DWI (Driving while Intoxicated) and Vehicular manslaughter in the second degree. The second crash investigation, which involved the deaths of three pedestrians, was determined to be the result of driver distraction and traffic violations.
 - In January, the Sheriff's Office responded to a welfare check complaint at a residence in the Town of Owego and located an elderly female that was deceased. In the following days, investigators executed several search warrants, performed numerous interviews, and analyzed large amounts of data. As a result of the investigation CID was able to arrest a person for the charge of Murder in the Second Degree.

- Civil Division:
 - Processed \$505,221.88 in Civil monies and \$66,420.00 in Bail monies.
 - The number of evictions processed in 2023 was 92; 47 of which were enforced.
 - There was one (1) Civil Arrest Warrant enforced.

- Civil Manager Kimberly Lombardoni conducted accreditation audits and assessments in the Civil Divisions of Allegheny, Oneida, Saratoga, Schenectady, and Schuyler Counties and was an instructor for the following New York State Sheriff's Association Civil schools: Basic I, Basic II and Annual Refresher School.

Challenges

- Because of the lack of participation in the work force, all divisions were affected by the lower number of qualified candidates applying for or testing for positions at the Sheriff's Office.
- New York State's Bail reform laws continue to challenge law enforcement. Specifically, the Sheriff's Office is affected as offenders are released on most cases with bail being an infrequent option. We are seeing an uptick in repeat burglary, petit larceny, and property crime offenses.
- While COVID-19 is not as prevalent as its inception, 8 employees were quarantined with a loss of 27 workdays in 2023.

Goals for 2024

- Implement a department wide drone program. The drone proposal includes 2 drones for multiple uses, to include search and rescue, accident/crime scene reconstruction and public relations.
- Complete mutual aid agreements with bordering New York Counties.
- Reduce overtime by achieving appropriate staffing levels.
- In conjunction with the Tioga County radio project rebuild the E-911 Communications workstations.