



**Blount County
Sheriff's Office**
*James Lee Berrong,
Sheriff*

**Annual Report
2020**



Honor to Serve, Duty to Protect

Blount County Profile

Number of Sheriff's Employees	349
Number of cities and towns in Blount County (Alcoa, Friendsville, Maryville, Louisville, Rockford, and Townsend)	6
Number of Square Miles in Blount County	558.71
Miles of Serviceable Roadway	1,100
Population of Blount County (2021) (10.88% growth rate from 2010) Blount County is the 12th largest county (population) of Tennessee's 95 counties.	136,602

Our Mission:

The men and women of the Blount County Sheriff's Office are committed to the citizens of the county, and are committed to providing law enforcement, corrections, and criminal justice services through a partnership with the community that builds trust, reduces crime, creates a safe environment, and enhances the quality of life.

Table of CONTENTS

BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 4 | Sheriff's Message | 12 | Patrol & Public Safety |
| 5 | About BCSO | 14 | Special Units |
| 6 | Chain of Command | 18 | Investigative Operations |
| 7 | Command Staff | 20 | Support Operations |
| 8 | 2020 Awards and Recognitions | 23 | Training & Regional Academy |
| 9 | Programs and Services | 25 | Administrative Services |
| 10 | Support Services | 27 | Budget & Finance |
| 11 | School Resource Officers | 28 | Retirements & Promotions |
| | | 29 | A Look in the Rearview Mirror |

4 | Sheriff's MESSAGE

BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

We are proud to present the Blount County Sheriff's Office 2020 Annual Report. I think we can all agree that 2020 was an epic year on many fronts, but we made it through to the other side, and I think we are all stronger because of it. We are living in unprecedented times and the challenges we've overcome in the past year are many. The COVID-19 pandemic was unexpected and unwelcome, but here in East Tennessee, we rose to the challenge and we fought this malevolent virus by all pitching in and doing our part.

During the first few months of the pandemic, we partnered with the Blount County Health Department, Blount Emergency Management, and the Mayor Ed Mitchell's office to attempt to mitigate the virus's impact on Blount County citizens. We followed CDC guidelines and implemented changes within the Blount County Justice Center and the Correctional Facility, including continual deep cleaning of the facility, modifying employee work schedules, limiting group sizes within the building, completing a thorough health assessment of incoming inmates and segregating those showing symptoms of illness, curtailing volunteer programs, and allowing citizens to request records and other documents via on-line and phone service. Working with our honorable judges, we also executed a plan to allow inmates to make their court appearances by way of audio/video, while inmate's family members were allowed to continue to visit their loved ones by way of the inmate tablets. Our paramount objective was to curtail the spread of the virus and to protect the health and well being of our citizens and employees. As this annual report is in the process of completion in early 2021, life and business is slowly returning to normal.

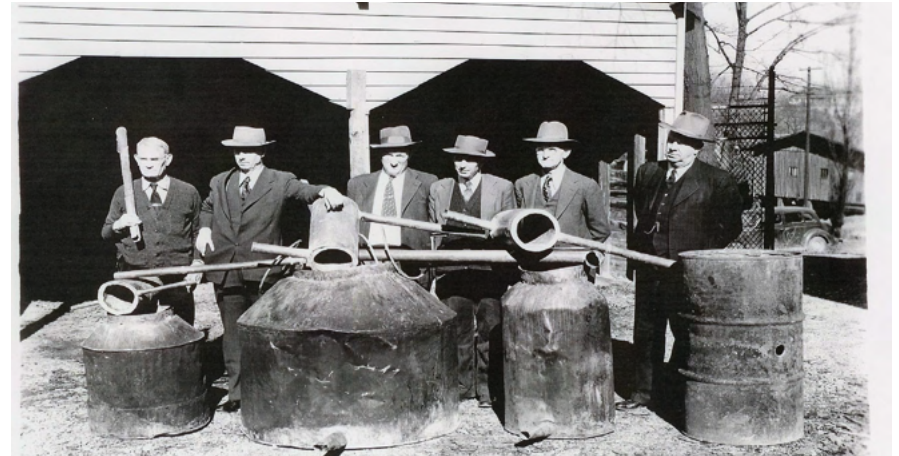
Our deputies remain committed to protecting our community, despite the hurdles we continue to overcome. Though certain crimes went down during the year, we witnessed an increase in other calls for service. Some categories of crimes against persons rose, particularly simple and aggravated assault and domestic trouble. Juvenile complaints also rose in 2020 from the previous year. We do not know for certain, but we speculate these increases were due to the shutdown caused by the pandemic and the fact that more people were staying at home for long periods of time. This seemed to be a national trend in 2020. Unfortunately, our opioid epidemic has not slowed down. Twenty-twenty was somewhat of a challenge for Narcotics investigators due to the pandemic. As more people quarantined and experienced social isolation, an increasing number of individuals developed drug abuse issues which in turn caused a record number of opioid overdoses and deaths. Though our deputies saved many overdose victims with the use of Narcan, sadly 10 of the victims died as a result of overdose. Our narcotics investigators persist in their dedication to eradicating opioids and other illicit drugs from Blount County.

Moving forward, I reiterate our commitment to provide you with the most professional law enforcement services available. Our deputies remain steadfast in their oath to serve and protect to the best of their abilities, and to remain faithful to the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Tennessee. I am confident that 2021 will be a tremendous year, and though we are living in unprecedented times, I believe we can all be the change we want to see in this world. God bless each of you.



Warmest wishes,

James LeBeau



BCSO Throughout the Years

The Blount County Sheriff's Office is more than 225 years old. The BCSO was established in 1795, one year before Tennessee became a state. Littlepage Sims served as Blount County's first Sheriff, serving from 1795 to 1796. The first jail was built along Pistol Creek, and then in 1807, Blount County built a two story brick building to house prisoners on McCammon Avenue. That jail included gallows for hangings. Historians say four hangings took place in that jail. The Sheriff's Office also had "stocks" or "pillories" for disciplinary measures. They were located on the Courthouse Square. The Sheriff's Office has resided in six locations. Our current home, the Blount County Justice Center, opened in 1999, and was built on the site of a Coca-Cola plant. The Justice Center is 169,000 square feet, and it also houses the Office of the District Attorney General, Court Clerk, and Clerk & Master. There are also seven courtrooms.

Gen. William Wallace served as Blount County's 8th Sheriff, serving from 1820-1842. Gen. Wallace served in the U.S. Army during the War of 1812. During his time as Sheriff, two deputies served under him. Gen. Wallace was the brother of Mary Houston, sister of Sam Houston, who served as governor of both Tennessee and Texas. Gen. Wallace is Blount County's 2nd longest running Sheriff behind our current Sheriff, James Lee Berrong.

From its early beginnings in 1795, the BCSO has served Blount County faithfully and without interruption. We are proud to serve our community!

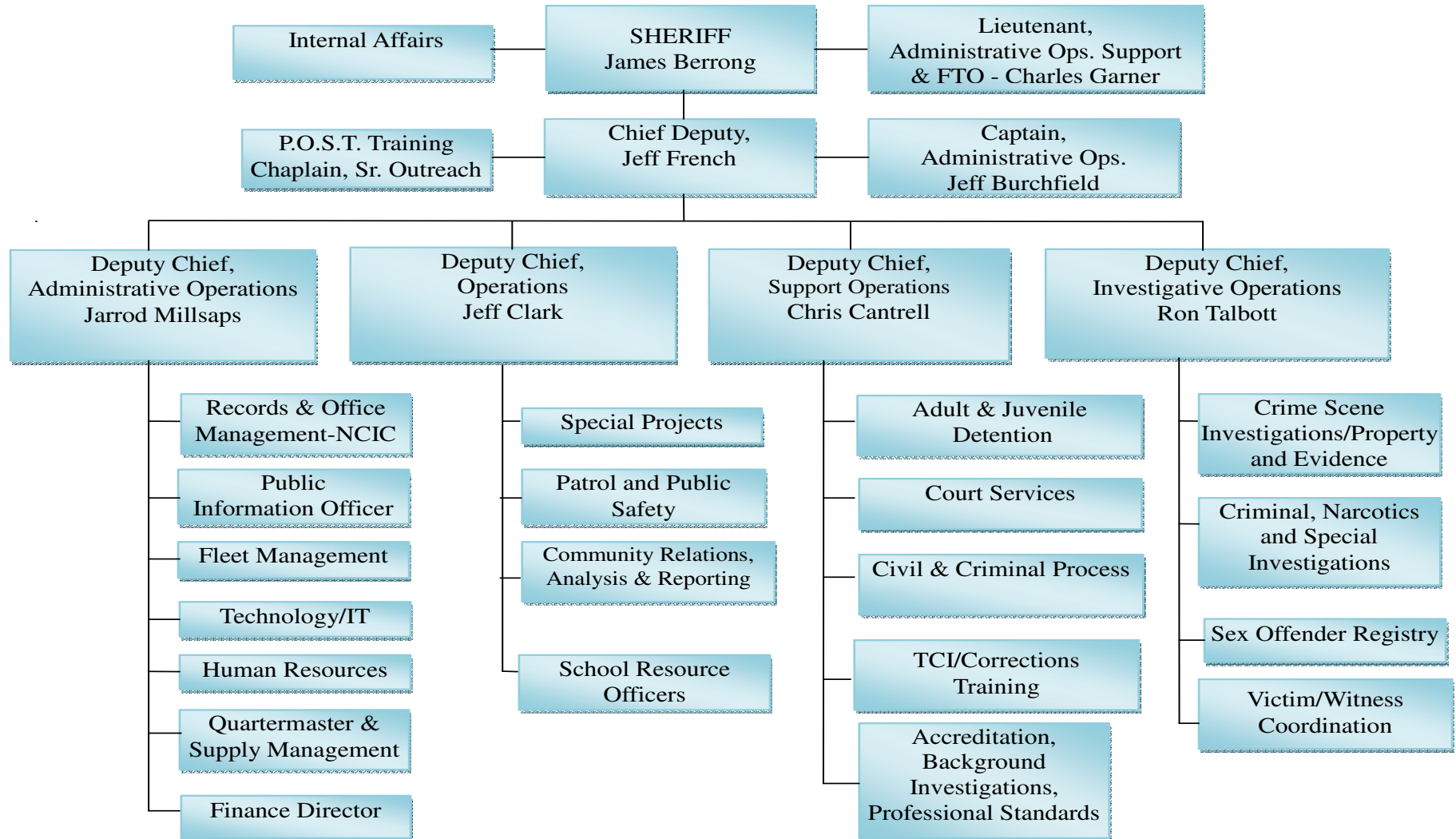
Photos, clockwise: 1. Blount County's 4th Courthouse (1879 - 1905, destroyed by fire); 2. One of the many moonshine still houses. Long before prohibition, brewing corn whiskey was a profitable way for farmers to market their own crop, and easier to transport than bags of shelled corn; 3. Sheriff and deputies with confiscated moonshine still, early 1940s, from left: Jim Smith, Hazel Smith, Scott Romine, unknown, George Davis, and Sheriff W.B. Carringer; 4. Blount County's 4th jail, built in 1901 on the corner of Harper and Cusick streets; 5. Sheriff James Lee Berrong, circa 2006, addresses a group of students involved in a summer camp sponsored by F.O.P. Lodge #9.



6 Chain of COMMAND

BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ORGANIZATION CHART – January 1, 2020



James Lee Berrong

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Jeff French

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Chris Cantrell
Deputy Chief
Support Operations



Jeff Clark
Deputy Chief
Operations



Jarrod Millsaps
Deputy Chief
Administration



Ron Talbott
Deputy Chief
Investigations



John Adams
Captain
Juvenile Corrections



Jeff Burchfield
Captain
Administration



Keith Gregory
Captain
Adult Corrections



Keith Hackney
Director
Technology



Pam Comer
Manager
Records

2020 EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

- January** Deputy Matthew Duchane
- February** Deputy Joseph Maus
- March** Deputy Rex Ogle
- April** Deputy Khalil Whitehead
- May** No Selection
- June** Corporal Chris Carter
- July** Deputy Richard Eggers
- August** Deputy Larry Branham
- September** Investigator Doug Folmar
- October** Deputy Kendyhl Rodgers, Deputy James Taylor, Deputy Jared Pekala
- November** Deputy Brandon Bailes, Deputy Alexander Hamilton
- December** Investigator Joe Perry, Deputy Magahn Mattocks

2020 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

The BCSO Employee of the Year was awarded to Deputy Joseph Maus for continually going above and beyond. In addition to his duties as the agency's Medical coordinator and Records Management trainer, Deputy Maus took on the daunting task of serving as our COVID-19 coordinator. He also serves as an advisor with the Sheriff's Office Explorer Post #86 and is a negotiator with the Sheriff's Office Crisis Negotiation team.



Deputy Maus began his career with the Blount County Sheriff's Office in 2016 as a deputy patrolman. In addition to his duties at the Sheriff's Office, he attends law school full-time. He resides in Maryville with his wife Hannah.

Deputy Maus is a true asset to the Sheriff's Office, and we are very proud of him!

2020 COMMENDATIONS

Lifesaving Commendations



Deputy Mike Levy
 Deputy Lucy Chantler
 Deputy Billy Madore
 Deputy Ruben Rodgers
 Deputy Bryan Kavney
 Deputy Zachary Brackett
 Deputy Devan Teaster
 Deputy Kendyhl Rodgers
 Deputy Tim Pace
 Deputy Sean Brasfield

Law Enforcement Commendation



Asst. Chief Sean Patterson -
 University of Tennessee Police Department

Citizen Service Award

Mr. Jeff Hill
 Mrs. Judy Pearson
 Mr. Hugh Pearson
 Mrs. Anaida Patterson
 Mr. Scott Snipp

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Public Information Officer serves as the liaison between the agency and the media to keep the public informed. During breaking or high profile investigations, the PIO coordinates media interviews and press conferences and provides information to the media. The PIO also produces all publications of the Sheriff's Office. The PIO composes media releases, public service announcements, and other material relating to the Sheriff's Office. In addition, the PIO maintains the agency's social media sites and captures daily activity and special events involving Sheriff's deputies by way of photos and film. The PIO assists all functions within the Sheriff's Office to promote activities and services.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The Records Office provides prompt and courteous customer service to citizens. Personnel assigned to Records maintain and archive thousands of records and documents. The Records Office must comply with annual audits by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), the FBI, and the Tennessee State Comptroller to maintain certification. The Records Office is responsible for processing and ensuring data integrity of all incident reports generated in the course of Sheriff's Office business. All data entry clerks must attend training through TIBRS (Tennessee Incident Based Management System), as well as through NCIC (National Crime Information Center). NCIC clerks validate records, train personnel, enter stolen/wanted information, enter missing persons, and check drivers licenses. Records is also responsible for maintaining personnel records, payroll, purchasing, accounts payable/receivable, detention facility records, and adult criminal histories.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources is responsible for hiring personnel employed by the Sheriff's Office. Prospective deputy sheriffs go through a rigorous selection and hiring process to include an extensive background investigation, criminal records check, previous employer checks, psychological evaluation, physical exam, and drug screen. The Sheriff's Office recruits prospective applicants from area high schools, universities and colleges, job finder sites, social media, and by word of mouth to find the best, most qualified candidates. The Sheriff's Office actively recruits minority and female applicants.

Qualified applicants must be 18 for employment in corrections and 21 for consideration in patrol. Individuals can apply for employment with BCSO at www.bcsocom.com. BCSO is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.



Deputy Chief Jarrod Millsaps conducts an interview about Operation Safe Halloween with a reporter from WBIR.

10 | Support SERVICES

BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

RAD TRAINING

Rape Aggression Defense, or RAD, is designed for the average woman. Certified RAD instructors teach basic self-defense techniques in an enjoyable and fun format. The classes are open to women ages 13 and up. RAD instructors teach 12 hour class sessions throughout the year, and they will teach special sessions to groups of 10 or more women upon request, as well as advanced classes for ladies who have gone through the basic class. Class sessions are announced by way of the BCSO Facebook page. In 2020, instructors taught only one class due to COVID.



The Sheriff's Chaplain Corps plays an important role with the agency. All chaplains are accredited through the International Association of Police Chaplains. Chaplains assist with death notifications, suicide response, grief counseling, and victims of domestic violence. Chaplains work under a strict code of confidentiality. In 2020 the Sheriff's Office's 29 chaplains responded to 19 calls for service and completed 29 hours of training.

SENIOR OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS

The Sheriff's Senior Outreach program is comprised of 35 community volunteers who check on elderly and shut-in citizens. The program is currently in its 20th year. Senior Outreach volunteers receive training on police procedures prior to graduating from the training program. In 2020, the program was sidelined due to COVID, with volunteers checking on clients by way of phone calls and no contact visits.

CITIZENS ACADEMY

The Sheriff's Citizens Academy is designed for citizens to experience different aspects of the Sheriff's Office and the day-to-day operations. Citizens who take part in the class participate in hands-on activities and learn about patrol, investigations, corrections, and special units such as SWAT, K-9, and hiring and training. The mission of Citizens Academy is to increase communication between the Sheriff's Office and members of the community to make them better informed. In 2020, Class 31 commenced in February, but was sidelined due to the COVID pandemic. We hope to resume classes in the summer of 2021.

CHILD SAFETY SEAT CLINICS

The Sheriff's Office partners with the Blount County Fire Department to hold monthly child safety seat clinics throughout the year. Several deputies are certified child safety seat technicians. In 2020, the program was temporarily halted due to the COVID 19 pandemic with hopes we can resume the clinics in 2021.

CHAPLAIN CORPS

EXPLORER PROGRAM

The Sheriff's Post #86 is affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America. The program is open to high school students who are currently enrolled in a Criminal Justice Program in school, and who are interested in a law enforcement career. Explorers meet twice a month to learn about different aspects of law enforcement. They also assist the Sheriff's Office with parades, festivals, and other community events. In February 2020, several Explorers participated in the Skills U.S.A. East Tennessee High School Regional competition, with Explorer Eric Bryant placing first in the category of Criminal Justice.

Many BCSO deputies began their careers as Explorers while in high school.



Explorer advisor Capt. Jeff Burchfield instructs Explorer cadets during a meeting.

The Blount County Sheriff's Office **School Resource Officer** program is one of the earliest SRO programs in Tennessee, as well as a model program for other law enforcement agencies across the state to emulate. Sheriff Berrong formed the SRO unit in 1996, three years before the Columbine High school massacre, with two deputies, placing one in each of county's high schools. In the subsequent years, the Sheriff's Office gradually added additional SROs to the county's other 19 schools. In addition, there are three SROs at Heritage and William Blount high schools. Since the inception of the program, the Sheriff's Office has continued to formulate a strong partnership with Blount County Schools.

Sheriff's Office School Resource Officers are trained in tactical response, crisis management, conflict resolution, and child development. SROs also train throughout the year on active shooter scenarios.

During the summer months, SROs are assigned to Patrol, Court Services, and Special Teams.

In 2010, the Sheriff's Office became active with the Text-a-Tip program as a tool to allow students to anonymously report issues. Over the years, Text-a-Tip information has been used by SROs and school officials to collect intelligence regarding bullying, child abuse, drugs, fights, and suicide prevention.



Since the launch of the program, the Sheriff's Office has expanded Text-a-Tip to include TipSoft, which allows community members to anonymously provide tips to the Sheriff's Office either on-line or by text message. For additional information, visit bcso.com, and link "Submit a Crime Tip" from the home page.

The Sheriff's Office also partners with Blount County Schools to assist with their Criminal Justice program. A Blount County deputy teaches Criminal Justice classes at Heritage and William Blount high schools.

12 | Patrol & PUBLIC SAFETY

BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



The BCSO **Patrol and Public Safety**

operations is comprised of uniformed patrol deputies, the Traffic Safety Unit, School Resource Officers, and the K9 teams. Patrol is comprised of three shifts with a minimum of seven patrol deputies per shift. Services include dispatched calls for service, proactive patrol, traffic enforcement, traffic accident investigations, and preliminary criminal investigations. Blount County is divided into four geographical patrol zones (see Page 14). Patrol deputies are assigned to each zone 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the four patrol zones. There is also a Zone 5 deputy who is stationed at the Blount County Justice Center to respond to requests for phone calls and walk-in reports during the week. The Sheriff's Office currently has 76 P.O.S.T. (Peace Officer Standards and Training) certified deputies who patrol Blount County's 558 square miles. In 2020, Sheriff's deputies responded to 65,225 calls for service.

The **Traffic Safety Unit** concentrates on traffic-related issues. The Traffic Unit is funded in part with assistance from grants through the Tennessee Highway Safety Office. A portion of the grant is used for saturation efforts on a portion of U.S. Highway 129 named the "Dragon," a 11.2 mile stretch of roadway that includes 318 dangerous curves that appeal to motorcyclists and car club enthusiasts across the country and the world. In 2020, deputies investigated 910 crashes on Blount County's roadways, including three fatalities, 240 with injury, and 667 with prop-

erty damage only.

The **Sheriff's Reserve Unit** is comprised of 10 reserve deputies, nine of whom are certified for solo patrol status. Reserve deputies are required to have the same equivalent training as a full-time certified deputy. In 2020, reserve deputies worked a combined total of 1,840 hours for BCSO. Reserve deputies also participated in a total of 440 hours of combined training.

In 2016, the Sheriff's Office began sending patrol deputies through **Crisis Intervention Training**, a community partnership of law enforcement, mental health, and addiction professionals to assist individuals who live with mental illness and/or addiction disorders, their families, and other advocates. CIT is an innovative first-responder model of police-based crisis intervention training to help persons with mental disorders and/or addictions access medical treatment rather than place them in the criminal justice system due to illness-related behaviors. CIT also promotes officer safety and safety of the individual in crisis. It is a 40 hour class and deputies receive CIT certification. Since 2019, Patrol deputies now receive CIT training in-house. A mental health professional employed by the BCSO teaches the class. There are plans to expand the training to corrections officers in the near future.

In 2017, the Sheriff's Office launched a groundbreaking program that is one of a kind in Tennessee. The **EMR (Emergency Medical Responder)** program was developed as a way to enhance medical services in Blount County. Often times, Sheriff's deputies are the first to arrive on a scene. EMR-certified deputies are able to provide some medical services to improve emergency medical care in the county and provide a faster time to start life-saving procedures for our citizens. At the end of 2020, the Sheriff's Office had 33 certified EMRs, EMTs, and paramedics. These deputies are equipped with additional lifesaving skills and equipment and they have the ability to get information more quickly when it comes to life-and-death emergencies. The EMR-certified deputies are spread among the three patrol shifts and other operations within the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Berrong and Blount County Mayor Ed Mitchell are excited about the program, and plan to add additional EMR certified deputies each year.

2020 CALLS FOR SERVICE

65,225

**Calls for Service in un-incorporated areas of Blount County.
Most common and notable calls for service:**

2020 EMR STATS	
Medical Calls	1,500
AED Deployments	50
Total Number of EMRs	33
Most Common Medical Calls:	
Overdoses	
Motor Vehicle Collisions	
Altered Mental Status	
Difficulty Breathing	

	2020	2019	2018
Homicide	3	1	4
Kidnapping	12	1	9
Rape	28	37	49
Robbery	11	11	14
Aggravated Assault	232	156	262
Simple Assault	764	621	652
Arson	4	3	5
Burglary	449	229	296
Theft of Property	884	419	334
Theft of Motor Vehicle	210	100	241
DUI	115	77	101
Vandalism	188	140	234
Drugs/Narcotics	369	349	627
Domestic Trouble	1,810	1,628	1,515
Animal Problem	1,292	1,242	915
Juvenile Complaint	688	564	322
Suspicious Incident	1,880	858	2,144
Missing Persons	127	140	106
Property Damage	208	222	42
Citizens Assist	315	378	310
Traffic Accident	910	953	2,208
Injury & Non-injury			
Welfare Checks	1,772	1,756	1,329
Fireworks Complaints	97	70	49

14 | Patrol & PUBLIC SAFETY

BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Blount County Sheriff's Office--Patrol Zone Map

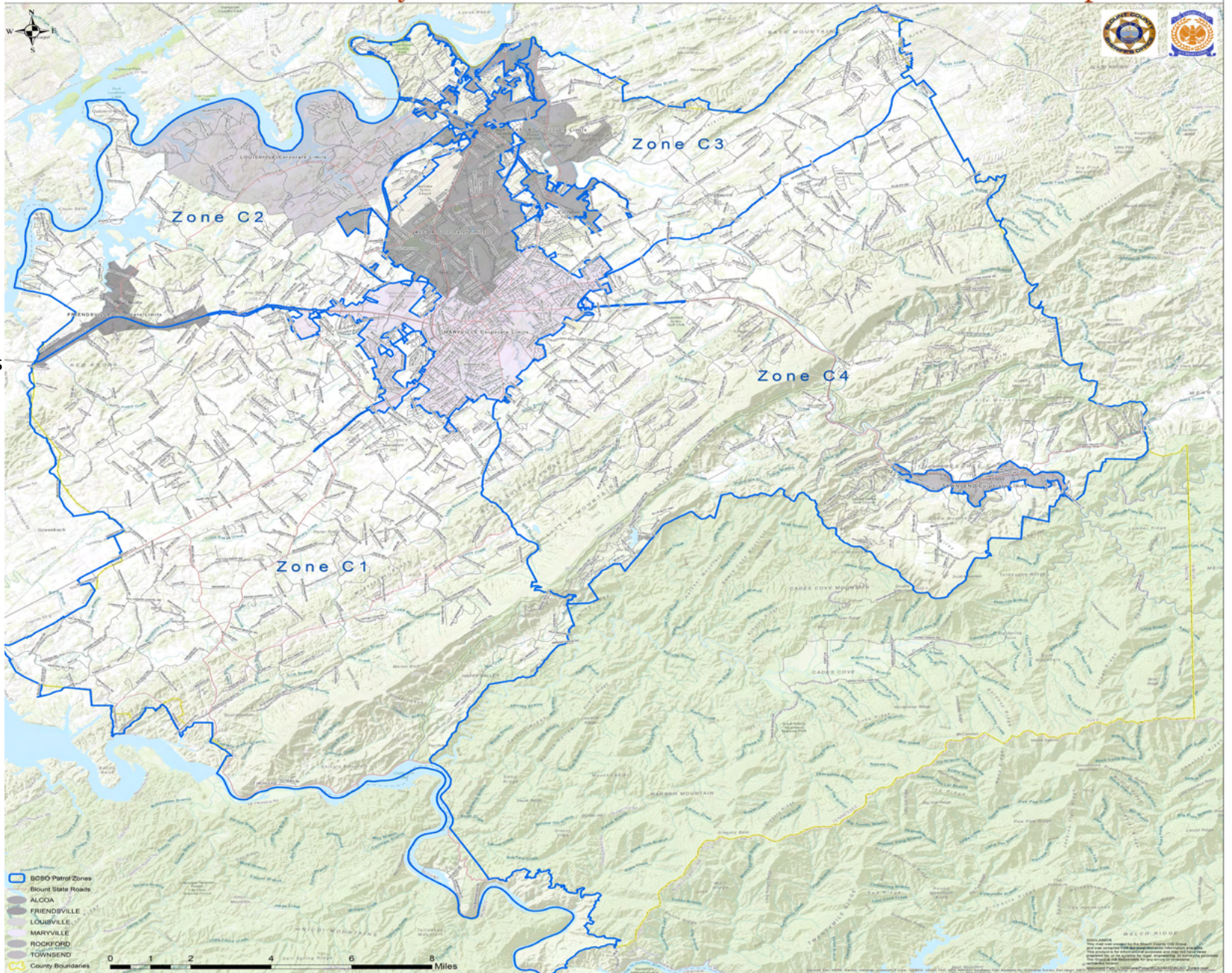
The Sheriff's Office is divided into four geographical Patrol Zones.

Zone 1 includes the area west of Montvale road and south of U.S. 321 West. The area is primarily rural residential with some industry on William Blount Drive and U.S. 411 South.

Zone 2 starts north of U.S. 321 West and west of Alcoa Highway. This area encompasses Louisville and sections of Fort Loudon Lake. McGhee Tyson Airport and parts of Maryville and Alcoa are included in this zone.

Zone 3 starts east of Alcoa Highway and north of Sevierville Road. It includes Eagleton, Rockford, and Porter communities. It is primarily residential with some industry and business on Alcoa Highway and Old Knoxville Highway.

Zone 4 comprises communities south of Sevierville Road and east of Montvale Road. Communities include Top of the World, Oakview, and Rocky Branch. This zone is primarily residential. It also includes part of the GSMNP and Cades Cove.

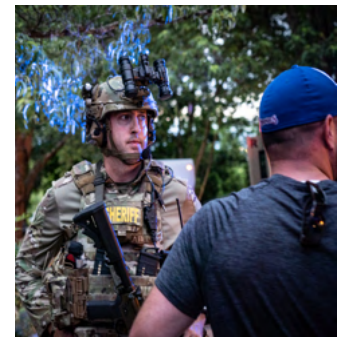
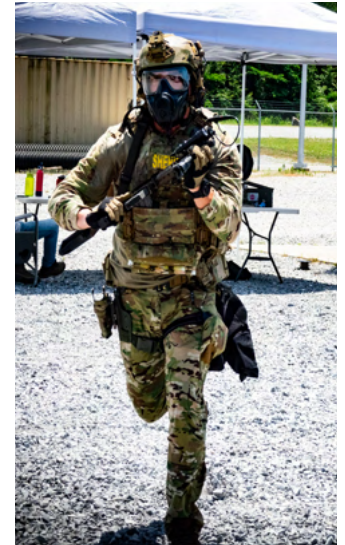




The Sheriff's Office **SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics)** team is a collateral duty team, meaning all members have primary assignments in other functions. The SWAT team is comprised of highly trained deputies who use specialized equipment to resolve

critical incidents, while minimizing the risk to the community. These incidents include hostage situations, barricaded subjects, suicidal persons, and high risk search warrants. SWAT members are trained to make entry into structures that may contained armed suspects and arrest them. Team members are issued additional personal protective equipment, including ballistic helmets, tactical body armor, and eyewear to protect them from chemical exposure. SWAT members are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and participate in mandatory monthly training.

The **Crisis Negotiations Team** uses communication to resolve critical and potentially life threatening incidents. Members receive advanced training in crisis communication and specialized equipment. Their mission is to work with members of the SWAT team toward a peaceful resolution of crisis situations. Negotiators are on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and at least two negotiators are on standby any time the SWAT team responds to a call. The team trains monthly. Crisis negotiators are representative of several Sheriff's Office functions, including patrol, investigations, adult and juvenile corrections, and court services. In 2021, the team responded to two call-outs.



16 | Special UNITS

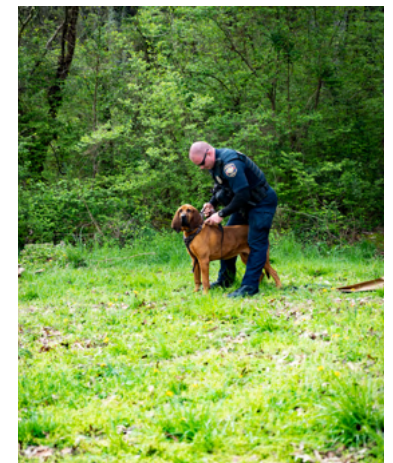
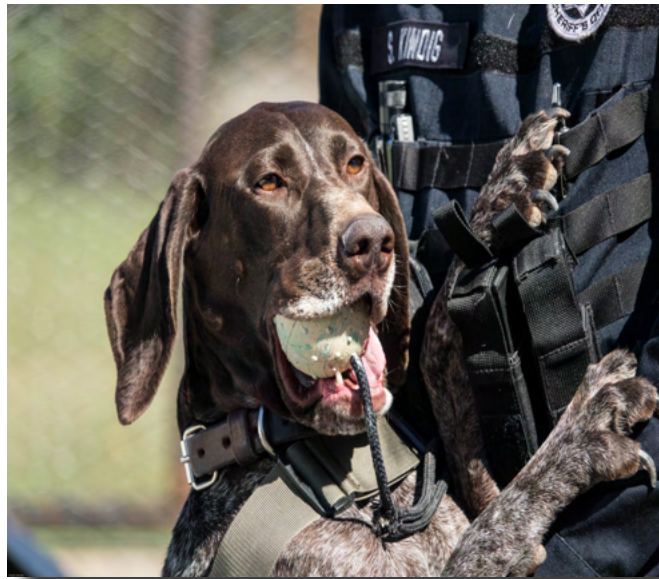
BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The Sheriff's **K9 Unit** includes nine teams of highly trained K9s and deputies. K9s include four breeds - one Dutch Shepherd, five Belgian Malinois, one German Shorthair Pointer, and three Bloodhounds. All K9 teams are certified in-house and through the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association.

In 2020, the K9 Unit conducted 122 vehicle searches, 23 building searches, and one package search for the Fifth Judicial Drug Task Force. In addition, K9 teams located 5,949 grams of marijuana, 2,923 grams of methamphetamine, 38 grams of heroin, six grams of crack cocaine, and one gram of ecstasy. As a result of these searches, deputies seized \$35,080. K9 teams apprehended and arrested or cited 48 individuals. K9 teams were also deployed on 54 criminal tracks and 19 tracks for lost persons. In addition, the BCSO K9 Unit assisted other agencies 49 times and participated in 14 public demonstrations.

Sadly, on September 25, 2020, the Sheriff's Office said goodbye to K9 Luna, a German Shorthair Pointer who was partnered with Deputy Skip Kindig. K9 Luna was diagnosed with cancer just a few days before her passing. K9 Luna and Deputy Kindig were assigned to adult corrections. It was her job to keep contraband out of the corrections facility. Luna joined the Sheriff's Office in 2017 and was purchased by a private citizen. She was a sweet-natured and loving dog, and she is greatly missed.

The Sheriff's **Mounted Patrol Unit** is comprised of two deputies and two Tennessee Walking Horses named **Good Luck Chuck** and **Cookie**. The horses were both donated by private individuals and are boarded at Heritage High School. The horses and their equine handlers are utilized for assistance with searches for missing persons in rugged terrain as well as for high school football games, special events, and parades. In 2020, the Mounted Patrol was utilized on one occasion due to the COVID pandemic.



K-9 Luna
End of Watch
September 25, 2020





The **BSORT (Blount Special Operations and Response Team)** is a cooperation between several first responder agencies in Blount County, including the Sheriff's Office, Maryville Police Department, Alcoa Fire Department, AMR, and the Blount County Rescue Squad. The Sheriff's dive team also functions as part of this county-wide team. BSORT specializes in search and rescue and recovery missions on water and land. Team members are well-trained and equipped, and they are ready to respond when needed in Blount County and across East Tennessee. BSORT trains monthly.

In 2020, BSORT began utilizing a VideoRay ROV (remotely operated vehicle) equipped with a sophisticated live imaging SONAR and GPS mapping system. One of the benefits of the ROV is that it can reach depths up to 300 feet, a depth much farther than is safe for divers to reach. There are very few of this type of ROV in our area, which makes it a huge asset to not only Blount County, but to the East Tennessee region.

The Gary Lindsey Firecracker Fishing Tournament, which is held each summer, generates

thousands of dollars for BSORT and other first responder agencies in the way of needed dive and rescue equipment. The tournament is named after Gary Lindsey who died in a boating accident at the age of 22 on Tellico Lake. BSORT assisted in the search for Gary following the incident.

In 2020, BSORT responded to 35 call-outs, including 14 calls to assist other agencies.

The Sheriff's **Marine Unit** patrols the county's waterways seasonally. Marine Patrol deputies assist stranded boaters and inspect private boats to ensure compliance with Tennessee state laws. The unit also acts as support for divers who are assigned to BSORT, assisting with water rescue and recovery operations. In 2020, the Marine Unit was only utilized one time due to the COVID pandemic. The unit is manned by School Resource Officers during their summer break.



18 | Investigative OPERATIONS

BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Investigative Operations includes **Criminal Investigations** and **Narcotics**, also known as the **Fifth Judicial Drug Task Force**. These functions operate jointly.

Investigations is responsible for investigating major crimes, including drugs, homicides, sex crimes, missing persons, domestic violence, robberies, burglaries, cyber crimes, and arsons.

Criminal Investigations consists of 10 investigators, four crime scene investigators, a victim-witness coordinator, one property and evidence technician, and two sex offender registry investigators. In 2020, investigators worked a total of 1,846 cases.

Investigators examined three homicide cases in 2020, compared to one in 2019. All three cases were tragic.

- On March 21, 2020, the remains of 22-year-old Cheyenne Shropshire, missing since 2018, were located in a field on Old Middlesettlements Road. This case remains unsolved.

- On June 26, 2020, Corey Ryan Dillow, an 18-year-old Louisville man, was charged in the death of his 2-month-old son, Daemyn Dillow.

- In September 2020, investigators located the remains of 48-year-old Gregory Paul Andle. Investigators located Gregory Andle's remains on private property on Mel Hall Road, and forensics experts believe his body had been buried for several years. This case remains under investigation.



The **Sex Offender Registry** falls under Investigations. The BCSO handles all sex offender registration in Blount County. At the end of 2020, there were 234 sex offenders registered in Blount County. A list of those registered on the sex offender registry is available at www.bcsocom, click on Public Information, link Sex Offender Registry.

Crime Scene Investigators are responsible for the recovery of evidence at crime scenes. The tangible items of evidence play a critical role in the investigation and resolution of a suspected criminal act. All crime scenes are unique, and CSIs use a step-by-step procedure to approach every type of situation including locating, recovering, securing, and documenting evidence that will be examined by investigators and/or experts in a crime lab. CSIs also maintain AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) which tracks fingerprints to identify latent prints found at crime scenes. The four Crime Scene Investigators were assigned 1,680 activities in 2020, up from 1,621 activities in 2019.

The Sheriff's Office also employs one full-time polygraph examiner who is certified through the American Polygraph Association and the Tennessee Polygraph Association. In 2020, the polygraph examiner conducted 42 polygraphs, including 31 pre-employment polygraphs and 11 criminal investigations.

Other Noteworthy 2020 statistics:

- Investigators worked 623 cases of domestic violence in 2020, an increase of almost 8% from 2019 when investigators worked 578 cases.
- Investigators were assigned 62 fire incidents in 2020, a drop from 70 fires in 2019. Four of those fires were ruled arson.

The **Fifth Judicial Drug and Violent Crime Task Force** is a collaborative team of personnel from the Sheriff's Office, Maryville and Alcoa police departments, and the Office of the Attorney General of Blount County. The Drug Task Force has an officer assigned full-time to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and the FBI, as well as officers assigned part-time to task forces with TBI and ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives).

In 2020, Task Force Investigators opened a total of 385 cases and made 304 arrests with a total of 396 charges. The Drug Task Force had a 92% conviction rate in 2020, up from an 84% conviction rate in 2019.

As previously mentioned, the opioid epidemic has not slowed down in Blount County and continues to put a strain on Drug Task Force agents. The Drug Task Force is taking an aggressive stance on individuals involved in the sale and distribution of heroin/fentanyl and other illicit drugs.

The year 2020 proved to be more challenging than normal for Narcotics investigators due to the COVID pandemic. As a result of increased social isolation and work and travel restrictions experienced by many individuals, more individuals developed drug abuse problems which in turn caused a record number of opioid overdoses and deaths. All patrol and other front-line deputies are equipped with Narcan, a known medication to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. In 2020, deputies used Narcan on 41 overdose victims. The disheartening news is that Narcan was not successful in reversing the overdose deaths of 10 of those individuals. That is an alarming up-tick from 2019 when deputies use of Narcan reversed 33 of 39 overdoses.

Though illicit drug issues are cyclical, heroin and crystal meth are the greatest threats we face in Blount County as well as across our nation. Transnational criminal organizations and Mexican drug traffickers are trafficking every type of drug. High-purity heroin and crystal meth is continually crossing the border from Mexico and readily available at the street level. Heroin is sometimes mixed with fentanyl, which is 100 times more potent than morphine. These criminal organizations also incite human trafficking, violent crime, and gangs.

Marijuana, while becoming socially acceptable by many, remains illegal in Tennessee. We are seeing a significant increase in the amount of marijuana coming into Tennessee from states that have legalized it. This continues to cause violent crimes such as home invasions, robberies, and even homicides. These crimes are due to the large amount of money associated with the illicit sales of marijuana.

In 2020, investigators worked several notable drug cases, but an incident in September was most disconcerting. Narcotics investigators worked the overdose death of a 21-year-old Knoxville man at a residence on Centennial Church Road. The investigation into his death turned up 6.5 pounds of Schedule I pills with a street value of approximately \$150,000, along with 44 grams of marijuana, seven firearms, and more than \$3,000 cash. Investigators also arrested a 22-year-old man and charged him with possession of a Schedule 1 controlled substance for resale and maintaining a dwelling where drugs are used or sold.



20 | Support OPERATIONS

BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Adult Corrections is comprised of approximately 100 highly-trained corrections deputies who continually meet challenges head-on while achieving the overall mission of the Sheriff's Office. All corrections deputies attend a four week Corrections Academy, which is held in-house. All corrections deputies also receive 40 hours of in-service training each year. Corrections deputies are issued Tasers and special stab-resistant vests upon employment.

The Correctional Facility is certified for 350 inmates, but for many years, the average daily population has exceeded that. In 2020, the average daily population was 479. This number is down from previous years (618 in 2019 and 565 in 2018) due to the COVID pandemic. In lieu of arrest, deputies cited some individuals on certain non-violent offenses.

The CARES (Corrections and Recovery Saves) committee, which is comprised of Sheriff's personnel, county commissioners, and community members, were only able to meet one time in 2020 due to the

COVID pandemic. The CARES committee is working toward coming up with a solution to the jail overcrowding issue including a 3-Phase Plan Approach that addresses the current facility, programming and services, and a transitional facility. CARES members are resuming their meetings in 2021.

Corrections deputies overcame a particularly difficult challenge in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. Beginning in March 2020, corrections staff changed their protocol for processing inmates, including taking their temperature and completing a health assessment of all incoming arrestees as well as segregating males and females who exhibited signs of the illness. Throughout the year, inmates attended court mostly by way of audio/video from the correctional facility.

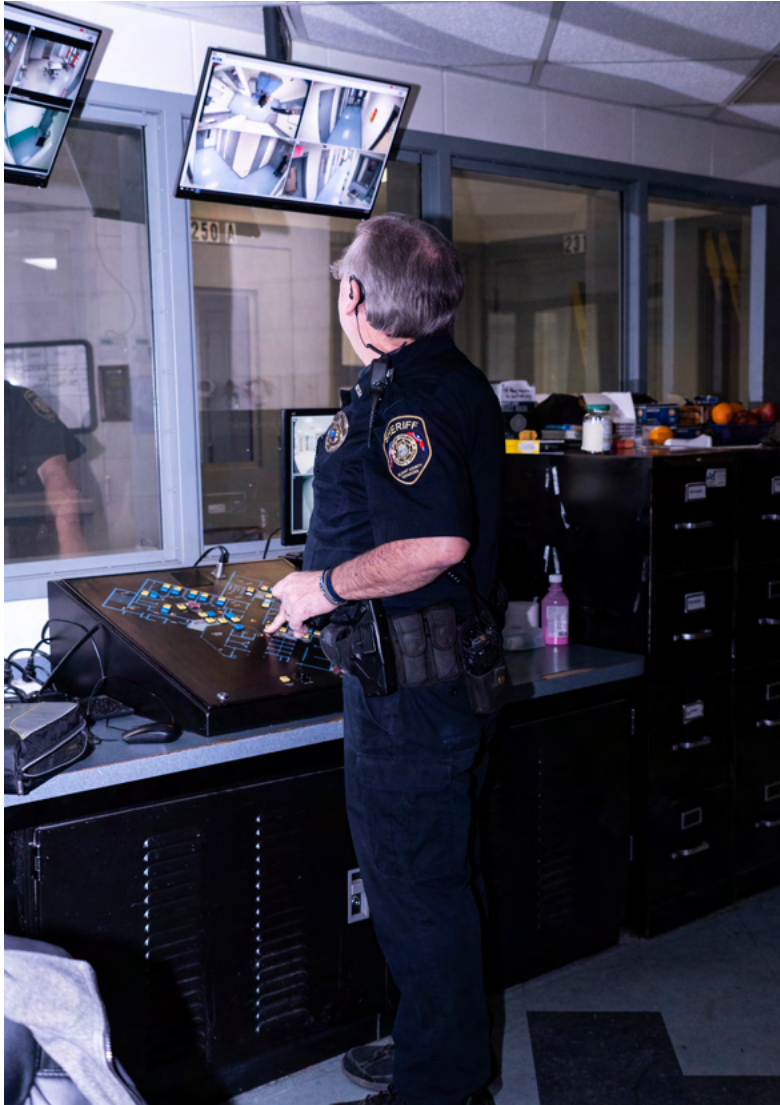
The Corrections operation includes some unique features. A full-time jail investigator is assigned to look into incidents that occur in the Correctional Facility, as well as to gather intelligence. In 2017, K9 Luna came on-board to keep out and locate tobacco products and other contraband. Sadly, K9 Luna, a German Shorthair Pointer, passed away from cancer in September. There are plans to obtain a new K9 for the jail in 2021.

The Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT) responds to high risk situations in the facility, including riot conditions, crowd control, security extractions of violent inmates, as well as cell searches for contraband. CERT members, comprised of full-time corrections deputies, use less-lethal means of control.

Blount County contracted with Southern Health Partners through November 2020 to provide medical services to inmates. Beginning December 1, 2020, the contract was awarded to MediKo Correctional Healthcare. Commissary services are provided by Tennessee Bureau Enterprises.

Another valuable resource is the inmate litter crew which goes out most days. In the 2019/2020 fiscal year, the litter picked up 369,095 pounds of trash, on 1,180 miles of roadway. Over the years, the litter crew has picked up thousands of pounds of litter from Blount County's roadways.

Juvenile Corrections is located on the second floor of the Blount County Courthouse. It is a 33 bed hardware secure facility used to detain youth who are awaiting adjudication and/or disposition in Juvenile Court. The facility is operated 24 hours a day and is staffed by 25 Sheriff's deputies who have received training specific to the supervision of youth in custody. The facility is available for use on a per diem basis by federal, state, and county agencies. A non-secure Temporary Holding Facility is open on an as-needed basis for safe detainment of unruly youth detained for longer than 24 hours and/or for dependent and neglected youth.



With an emphasis on accountability, education, and rehabilitation, the mission of Juvenile Corrections is to encourage positive, pro-social behaviors and attitudes and instill a sense of good will, positive self-esteem, and community citizenship characteristics.

Upon intake, each youth is assessed for medical, emotional, and educational needs. Immediate emergency services are available when required and non-emergency and mental health issues are communicated to Juvenile Court to insure the needs of the youth are addressed.

In cooperation with Blount County Schools, two part-time teachers provide educational opportunities to include life skills training, continuation of current studies from the youth's parent school, and/or GED preparation and testing.

Medical services were provided by Southern Health Partners through November 30, 2020, and then by MediKo Correctional Healthcare, as well as by Sheriff's Office corrections medical staff.

The facility is inspected on a regular basis by the Department of Children's Services, the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, the Department of Education, the U.S. Marshals Service, the Fire Marshal, the Health Inspector, and others. The facility passed all inspections with no violations in 2020.

In 2020, the facility processed 294 youth with an average length of detention of 5.9 days and an average daily population of 7.39. Each deputy received at least 40 hours of in-service training. Other agencies were billed \$95,520 for the detention of youth.

22 | Support OPERATIONS

BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Court Services serves 10 courtrooms in the Blount County Justice Center and two juvenile courtrooms at the Blount County Courthouse. Court Services deputies are responsible for a wide variety of tasks. They are responsible for the movement of offenders in and out of courtrooms. They also provide support and assistance to agencies and individuals involved in the judicial process. They are also responsible for keeping up with thousands of criminal and civil process papers. In 2020, deputies assigned to Court Services served 8,864 civil papers.

Like other functions of the Sheriff's Office, Court Services adjusted their operations in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. Beginning in March 2020, Court Services continued to serve criminal process and "emergency only" civil process. Deputies continued to work with Blount County Courts, utilizing audio/video court appearances for inmates entering a plea agreement, bond hearing, and similar issues. For a period of time in 2020, the Justice Center was closed to the public except for appointment only in order to keep the community safe and to stay in compliance with CDC recommendations. Deputies continue to take the temperature of all citizens and employees who enter the Justice Center and the Courthouse, and a face covering mandate remains in place in early 2021.

All persons who enter the Justice Center and Juvenile Court must pass through a metal detector, and all purses (a clear bag policy went into effect in 2020), packages, and briefcases are reviewed through an X-ray scanner. Firearms, knives, chemical spray, cell phones, and other electronic devices are prohibited in the facility. These deputies assured the safety and welfare of citizens by screening 56,878 individuals who entered the Blount County Justice Center.

When Court is not in session, deputies assigned to court security assist in serving civil judicial documents. Court Services is also responsible for collecting unpaid business, property, and personal taxes. This also extends to seizures mandated by court order.

Warrants deputies are assigned to locate wanted individuals for whom the Court has issued criminal warrants. In addition to arrest warrants, these deputies serve all orders of protection.

Another important duty of Court Services is to assist citizens serving as jurors, and provide protection and transportation for sequestered jurors.



Training & | 23

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The **Training Unit** plans and coordinates all training that Sheriff's deputies undertake throughout the year. Deputies who are P.O.S.T. (Peace Officer Standards and Training) certified and corrections officers in Tennessee are all required to complete 40 hours of continuing education training each year to maintain their certifications. It is the duty of the training staff to assure all P.O.S.T. certified, corrections, and civilian employees receive their required professional development training.

P.O.S.T. certified deputies are trained in a variety of specialized law enforcement subjects. The Sheriff's Office conducts in-service training for not only Blount County's deputies, but also for law enforcement officers with Maryville, Alcoa and Townsend police departments, as well as police officers at Blount Memorial Hospital and Pellissippi State Community College. This collaborative training assures that all law enforcement officers in Blount County receives the same training, allowing for efficiency and professionalism while working together on joint incidents and operations.

The Sheriff's Office Training Facility is located in west Blount County on a 50 acre tract of land off William Blount Drive. The training facility includes a high and low ropes course, a five acre driving track, two firing ranges, including a 21-lane covered firing range. The ropes course and firing range are utilized by the Sheriff's Office and the military for training. The Air National Guard assisted with the financing and labor for much of the work at the firing range. In exchange, personnel with the ANG from McGhee Tyson Airbase utilizes the range on occasion for their training needs.



For the past several years, Sheriff's deputies have used a shooting simulator which is located at the training facility. This scenario-based virtual reality system is designed to help law enforcement officers in realistic events and use-of-force situations, and develops better communication and de-escalation skills, officer presence, and decision making skills.

The Training Unit added a new class to their block of instruction in 2019. Patrol and other front-line deputies receive CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) by way of a CIT-certified BCSO mental health professional. CIT training is a community partnership of law enforcement, mental health, and addiction professionals to assist individuals who live with mental illness and/or addiction disorders, their families, and other advocates. CIT training not only keeps the individual in crisis safe, but also promotes officer safety.

With the nationwide increase in mass shootings over the last several years, the BCSO Training staff conducts community education and provides church and business assessments and training to help citizens prepare for a possible active shooter situation. The Sheriff's Office Training staff also partnered with Blount County Schools to provide training to all Blount County Schools educators on what to do if confronted with an active shooter situation. In December 2020, the Training staff worked with the Digital Arts and Design students at Heritage High School to assist them in creating an active shooter training drill video for the Tennessee Department of Education that when complete, will be shared with schools across the state.

24 | Training & LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY

BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



The Sheriff's Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy has

proudly graduated 489 law enforcement officers from not only the Blount County Sheriff's Office, but officers and deputies from all corners of Tennessee and everywhere in between. The first BCSO Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) academy was held in 2007, and each year the academy has grown and gained a stellar reputation throughout Tennessee's law enforcement community. During the 12-week academy, recruits learn



all aspects of law enforcement, including criminal justice, firearms, emergency vehicle operations, report writing, defensive tactics, TASER and chemical spray certifications, DUI, traffic stops, accident reconstruction, domestic violence, Tactical Combat Casualty Care, as well as other law enforcement-related topics. Recruits also experience a rigorous physical fitness regimen to pre-

pare them to meet physical standards set forth by Cooper Institute, a global leader in preventative health research. P.O.S.T. law enforcement academies are scheduled as needed, but at least once a year.

Due to the COVID pandemic, In 2020, the Sheriff's Office held one academy. Class 021 was held August 3, 2020 through October 23, 2020. Fifty-three recruits representing 19 law enforcement agencies graduated.



The Sheriff's Office is certified through Tennessee Corrections Institute (TCI) to train our own Corrections deputies. New Corrections personnel are required to attend a three week TCI Basic Training Course. New Corrections deputies learn defensive tactics techniques, firearms, TASER and chemical spray certifications, transport procedures, as well as other Corrections-related subjects. New Corrections deputies also learn the importance of physical fitness for duty. The Sheriff's Office holds one to two Corrections academies a year, based on need.



Academy Class 021, August 3, 2020 through October 23, 2020

The office of **Information Technology** is comprised of five I.T. professionals. The BCSO I.T. employees work hard to stay on top of new and innovative changes in the technology field as it relates to law enforcement. Personnel assigned to I.T. are responsible for establishing and maintaining all of the computer information systems and their security as well as software for the Sheriff's Office. Another responsibility of the unit is to maintain the video camera and security systems in the Justice Center. They also maintain the communications systems in Sheriff's Office vehicles, including radio and in-car and body camera systems.

2020 sUAS Activity	2020	2019
Number of Pilots	2	3
Flights	77	65
Flight Time	14 hrs., 20 minutes, 27 seconds	14 hrs., 2 minutes, 6 seconds
Fatal Crash Documented	4	1
Fire Scenes Documented	1	3
Missions to Locate Missing Persons/Fugitives	7	7
Other Crime Scenes Documented	2	3
Blount Emergency Management/COVID Testing	1	N/A
Miscellaneous Support Missions	8	3

BCSO I.T. professionals continue to work toward perfecting the Spillman Records management system. This system allows for mobile reporting from the mobile data terminals (MDT) in the patrol cruisers. This system streamlines the booking process, and allows personnel to track and manage various records, such as name, property, and incident reports, and it stores it all in a centralized database. This system allows for connectivity of records to one another with a goal of more easily identifying relationships within the data and streamlining the processes within the agency. It is a paperless system, which saves patrol deputies time by inputting records directly into the system. All patrol vehicles are outfitted with MDTs that connect wirelessly to the Sheriff's Office server.

I.T. is also responsible for maintaining in-car video cameras in patrol vehicles and body worn cameras utilized by front line deputies, as well as the vast amount of video amassed by these cameras.

In 2017, the Sheriff's Office acquired two Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS), also known as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. I.T. oversees the operation of these systems. One I.T. professional and one patrol deputy are licensed to operate the systems, and one operator has advanced licensing from the FAA. The sUAS is used to obtain an aerial perspective to detect possible dangers that could not otherwise be seen without endangering personnel and for crime scene documentation, as well as aiding in searching for missing persons and apprehending fugitives.



The **Office of Accreditation** is responsible for maintaining the Sheriff's Office's accreditation through CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies). The Sheriff's Office received initial accreditation in 2003, and CALEA has consistently re-awarded accreditation every three years since then. The Sheriff's Office was last accredited in March 2018, and will go through another re-accreditation process in October 2021. The purpose of accreditation is to safeguard all personnel, improve management, provide systematic evaluation of all areas of operation, recognize achievement, and demonstrate accountability to the public. Accreditation is an ongoing program to maintain superior professional standards, and is overseen by a dedicated accreditation manager.

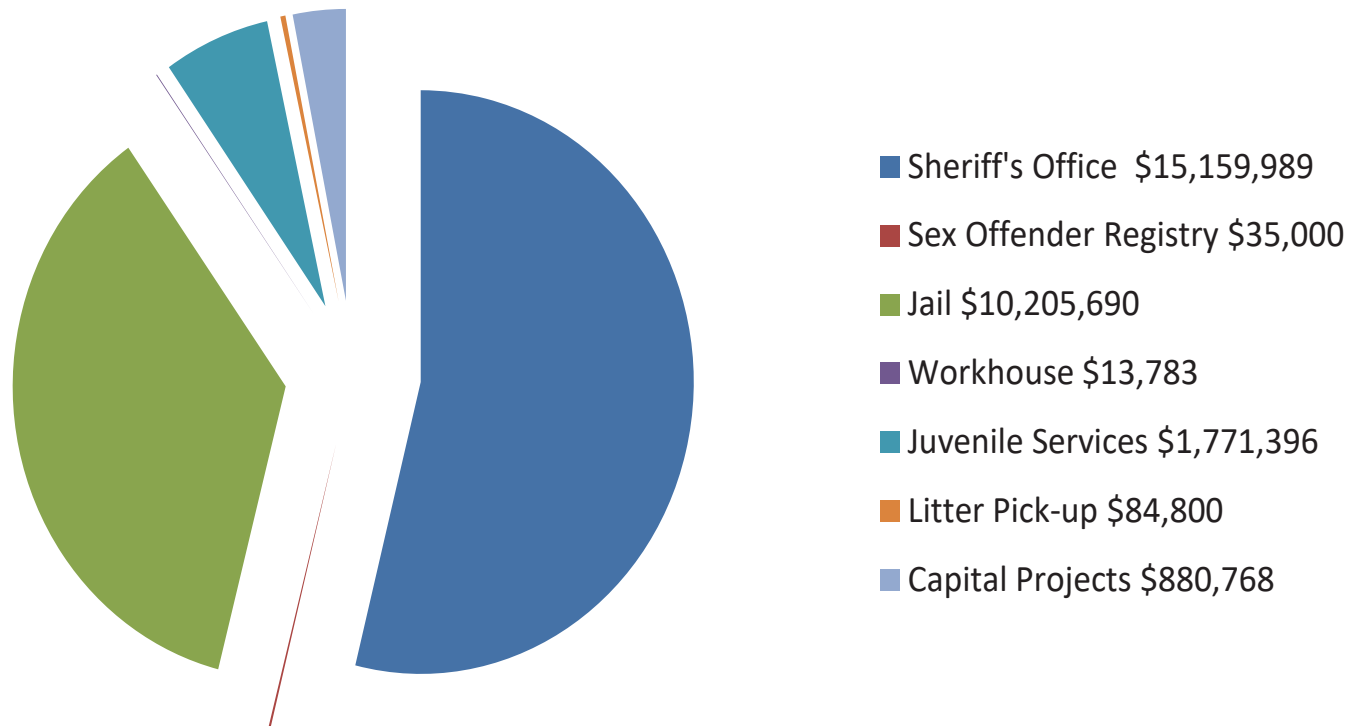
The Sheriff's Office was awarded the **Gold Standard of Excellence** for the last two accreditations in 2015 and 2018. This award is reserved for agencies which have gone through multiple re-accreditations and have had no compliance issues in the most recent assessment. The Gold Standard assessment focuses on processes and outcomes associated with standards specific to agency policies. It works to measure the impact of accreditation as opposed to simply confirming compliance through a file-by-file review. Assessors spend more time working with and reviewing law enforcement officers in the field, and less time reviewing files. The Sheriff's Office submits files electronically every year to stay current with accreditation.



The Blount County Sheriff's Office is just one of five Sheriff's Offices in Tennessee to hold accreditation through CALEA. In Blount County, Maryville and Alcoa Police Departments as well as Blount County 911 are all accredited through CALEA.

The Sheriff's Office is also accredited through the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police. In February 2018, the Sheriff's Office accepted its third re-accreditation award through Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police. The BCSO was the first Sheriff's Office in Tennessee to receive state accreditation in 2012. The Tennessee Law Enforcement Accreditation Program exists to improve the quality of law enforcement agencies in Tennessee and the quality of services provided to the citizens of Tennessee.

2020 - 2021 Budget



Budget Total \$28,151,426

28 | Retirements & PROMOTIONS

BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Deputy P.K. Gregory retired on April 18, 2020 after a 21 year career with the Sheriff's Office. During her time with the BCSO, Deputy Gregory served as an SRO and in Court Services.



Kim "Booboo" Roach retired on August 20, 2020 after serving with the Sheriff's Office for 16 years. "Booboo" served as a records clerk and ended her career in Court Services.



Deputy Carol Liposky finished her 16 year career with the BCSO on August 30, 2020. Deputy Liposky served as a corrections deputy in Adult and Juvenile Corrections.



Deputy John Douglas served with the Sheriff's Office for 22 years, finishing his career on September 26, 2020. Deputy Douglas served as a Corrections deputy in Adult corrections and completed his career in Court Services.

2020 Retirements

2020 Promotions



Cpl. Andrew Brakebill
Training



Cpl. Pete Rivas
Training

A Look in the REARVIEW MIRROR 29

BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



30 | A Look in the REARVIEW MIRROR

BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT







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