



# BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT 2018





*"I wouldn't trade one single day  
I'm proud to say I love this place  
Here in small town U.S.A"*

*Justin Moore, "Small Town U.S.A"*



View of the Great Smoky Mountains and McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Louisville, Tennessee. McGhee Tyson Air Base is home to the 134th Air Refueling Wing and the KC 135 Stratotanker. McGhee Tyson Air Base is also host to the Tennessee Army National Guard's 1-230th Assault Helicopter Battalion.

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*This report is a publication of the Blount County Sheriff's Office, Office of Public Information. Development, design, and layout by Marian O'Briant.*

*Photos: Marian O'Briant & Justin Wright Photography*





# BCSO MISSION STATEMENT

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.

## INTEGRITY

The men and women of the Blount County Sheriff's Office foster the highest performance standards, ethical conduct, and truthfulness.

## SERVICE

The men and women of the Blount County Sheriff's Office are committed to quality service and are responsive to the needs of the citizens of our community through problem solving partnerships.

## RESPECT

The men and women of the Blount County Sheriff's Office value the dignity of every individual who lives in our community, and promise to uphold the principles found in the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of Tennessee.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind: to safeguard lives and property, to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality, and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided in me to my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities, or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held as long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession ... law enforcement.





Welcome to the 2018 Blount County Sheriff's Office Annual Report. We hope you enjoy a glimpse of the activities of the BCSO and of the 324 men and women who faithfully execute their duties each day. Another year has come and gone, and it was a busy one. I hope it was a good year for each of you.

We are so blessed in Blount County to live in a supportive community and receive strong backing from our county leaders. Blount County is a great place to live and work because of the high quality of life and a safe environment to work and raise our families. I attribute this in large part to the professional law enforcement officers in Blount County. Our Sheriff's deputies strive to uphold our mission statement, which in part is to provide law enforcement, corrections, and criminal justice services through a partnership with our community. We not only have a robust community partnership, we have strong cooperation with the other law enforcement and first responder agencies in Blount County. These strong ties not only help us do our jobs more effectively, it helps you, the members of our community. We are all in this together, with the ultimate goal of helping our citizens and safeguarding our community. That makes all of us winners.

The Blount County Sheriff's Office continues to tackle challenges head-on. One of those challenges is staffing. The Sheriff's Office has come a long way in terms of a living wage for our deputies, but there is still room for improvement. With the backing of the majority of our

Blount County Commissioners, we've been able to provide decent pay raises to our employees the past couple of fiscal years, and we are working toward bringing our pay scale up even more for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. However, a strong economy and better paying jobs are a lure for some of our young and talented deputies and prospective deputies. Couple that factor with a national sentiment of negativity toward law enforcement, and it makes it harder to retain and recruit high caliber deputies. We are striving to provide a pay scale that is equitable and will allow our deputies to earn a living wage.



It is no secret the opioid epidemic that has overtaken our nation is firmly in place in Blount County. All of our deputies in every function are forced to deal with the consequences of those addicted to opioids and other harmful drugs. Agents with the Fifth Judicial Drug Task Force continue to focus on keeping drugs like heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamine out of the hands of our citizens, but these powerful and dangerous drugs still appeal to some people. It is unfortunate and sad not a day goes by that one of our citizens does not overdose. In 2018, deputies administered their units of Naloxone a record 56 times, and that does NOT include the doses administered daily by other Blount County first responders. That number has more than quadrupled since 2016, our first full year of carrying the lifesaving Naloxone. This is frustrating from a law enforcement perspective, but more importantly, it is difficult to witness good people take this dangerous path. It is my promise to continue to fight this battle for our people.

With that said, there are many good things happening in our agency and in this community. Our economy is in excellent shape and Blount County's leaders are attracting many great businesses and individuals to open up and move here. Our leaders place a high priority on quality of life for all. In February, I, along with other community leaders, signed the Covenant for a Better Community, vowing to uphold the principles of mutual respect, condemns violent hate crimes and promises to support victims. I am very proud to be included in this covenant.

We also more than doubled our EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) program with the addition of 12 new EMRs. This is a program we started in 2017 with the help of Blount County Mayor Ed Mitchell. The first full year of the program was a resounding success, and our EMRs assisted numerous individuals who were in need of medical care until first responders arrived. We are very proud of this one-of-a-kind program.

I am proud and grateful that the citizens re-elected me as Sheriff of Blount County, and we look forward to serving our citizens in the years to come. Please do not hesitate to call on me if there is anything I can do for you.

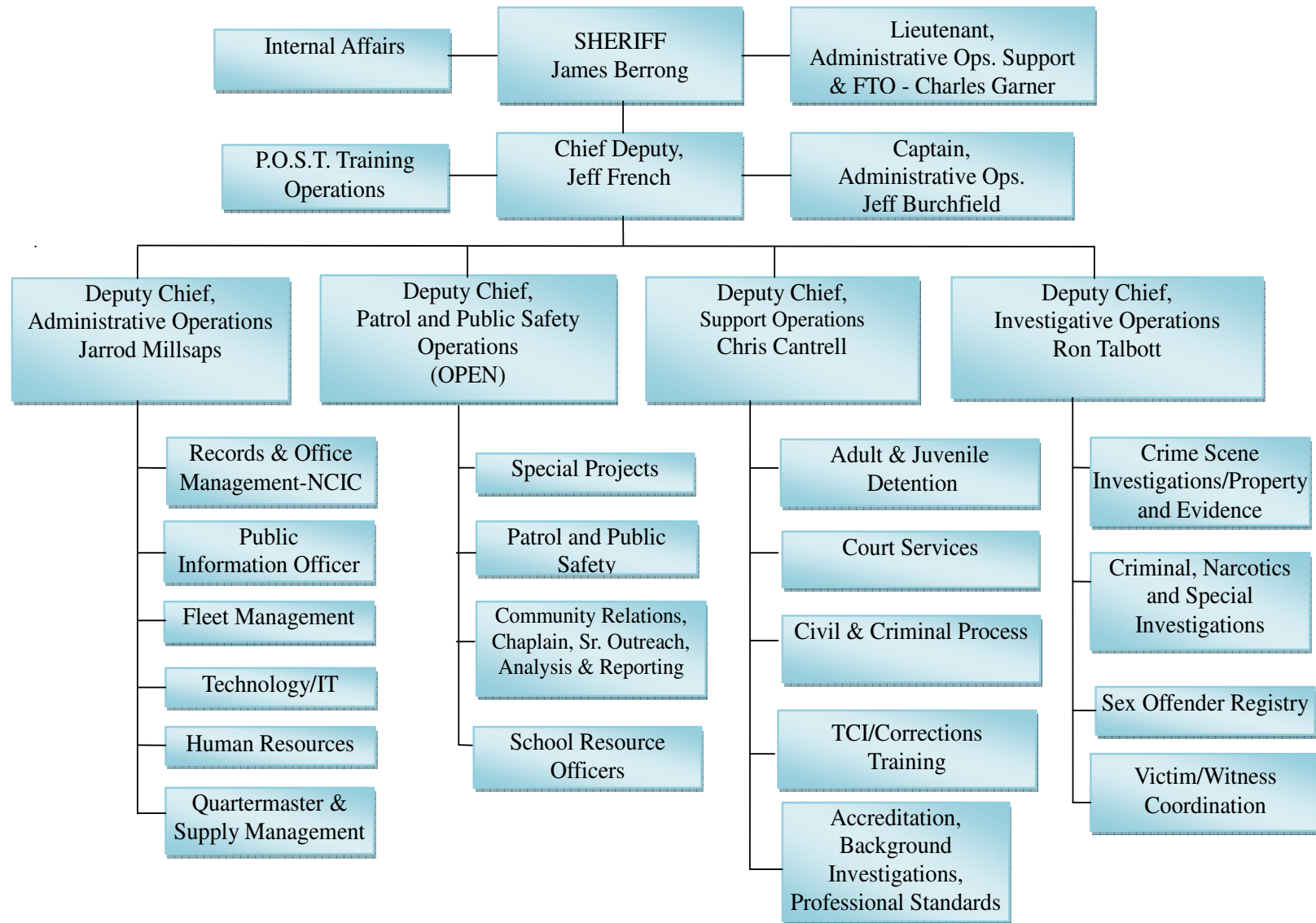
Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Le Berrong". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "J" and "B".

MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF BERRONG

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

## BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ORGANIZATION CHART – January 1, 2019



# SHERIFF'S OFFICE COMMAND STAFF

SHERIFF



JAMES LEE BERRONG

CHIEF DEPUTY



JEFF FRENCH

SUPPORT OPERATIONS



DEPUTY CHIEF  
CHRIS CANTRELL

ADMINISTRATION



DEPUTY CHIEF  
JARROD MILLSAPS

INVESTIGATIONS



DEPUTY CHIEF  
RON TALBOTT

PATROL



CAPTAIN  
JEFF CLARK

ADMINISTRATION



CAPTAIN  
JEFF BURCHFIELD

JUVENILE



CAPTAIN  
JOHN ADAMS

ADULT CORRECTIONS



CAPTAIN  
KEITH GREGORY

TECHNOLOGY



KEITH HACKNEY  
DIRECTOR

RECORDS



PAM COMER  
MANAGER



# 2018 AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Each year, the Sheriff's Office honors the deputies and civilians who have demonstrated exceptional bravery and outstanding efforts at lifesaving. In 2018, five deputies and two civilians qualified for awards, including the Lifesaving Award and the Citizen Service Award. These heroes and heroine displayed extraordinary valor in a wide variety of extreme circumstances. We honor you, and we thank you for your service.

## LIFESAVING AWARDS

Deputy Christian Peagler  
Deputy Megan Householder  
Deputy C.J. Pierce  
Deputy Brandon Bailes  
Deputy Eric Costner

## CITIZEN SERVICE AWARDS

Eric Mohn  
Chaplain Brian Bolding

## EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Deputy Jim Williams  
Deputy Elizabeth Murphy  
Deputy Christian Peagler  
Deputy Meakayla Stooksbury  
Deputy Jeff Ledford  
Sgt. Chris Pryor  
Mike Ritchey  
Deputy Justin Beckman  
Bill Hughes  
Deputy Mandy Eggers  
Deputy Matthew Duchane  
Mickenzie Simmons  
Investigator Doug Davis  
Deputy Brett Orr  
Deputy Scott Tipton

## EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Investigator Doug Davis

Congratulations to Investigator Doug Davis who was named the BCSO Employee of the Year. Inv. Davis earned the award due to two high profile homicide cases he solved in 2018. He solved a 1998 homicide case in which he spent countless hours and several years developing leads. In November 2018, Inv. Davis developed probable cause to charge an individual in this 20 year old homicide, and gave closure to the victim's family. Inv. Davis was also instrumental in gaining a confession in August from a man in the suffocation death of his infant daughter in 2011, closing another case for a grieving family.

Inv. Davis was the BCSO Employee of the Month in November. Inv. Davis was also the Sheriff's Office 2013 Employee of the Year.



## Citizen's Academy

The Sheriff's Citizen Academy is designed to expose citizens to different aspects of law enforcement. Participants learn about the day-to-day operations of the Sheriff's Office by way of demonstrations, lectures, and hands-on activities involving patrol, investigations, and special units such as SWAT, K-9, training, and corrections. The mission of Citizen's Academy is to increase communication between the Sheriff's Office and members of the community to make them more informed. In 2018, the Sheriff's Office held a spring session. For more information, go to [bcso.com](http://bcso.com), click on the *How Do I* tab, and select Sheriff's Citizen's Academy.

## Sheriff's Senior Outreach

The Sheriff's Sr. Outreach program is comprised of volunteers who check on elderly and shut-in citizens in Blount County. The program is currently in its 18th year. Sr. Outreach volunteers receive training on police procedures prior to graduating from the training program.

### 2018 Sr. Outreach Statistics

Active Volunteers	27
Current Clients	80
Total Visits	2,923

## Explorer Program

The Explorer program is comprised of youth ages 16 to 21 who are interested in a career in law enforcement. Explorers assist the Sheriff's Office with parades, festivals, and other community events. They meet twice a month to learn about the different aspects of law enforcement. Many current Blount County Sheriff's Office deputies began their careers as Explorers while still in high school.

For additional information about the Explorer program, go to [bcso.com](http://bcso.com), click on the *How Do I* tab, and select Explorer program.

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES

## R.A.D. - Rape Aggression Defense

Rape Aggression Defense, or R.A.D., is designed for the average women, and basic self-defense techniques are taught in an enjoyable format. The classes are open to women ages 13 and up. Certified R.A.D. instructors teach 12-hour class sessions throughout the year, and will teach special sessions to groups of women of 10 or more upon request, as well as advanced classes for ladies who have gone through the basic class. Class sessions are announced via the Blount County Sheriff's Office Facebook page.

## Child Safety Seat Clinics

The Sheriff's Office joins forces with the Blount County Fire Department to hold monthly child safety seat clinics. Trained and certified child passenger safety seat technicians are on hand at the clinics to provide child car seat installation. These clinics are an opportunity to ensure the child seat fits your vehicle, your child, and is safely and securely anchored in the vehicle. In 2018, the Sheriff's Office participated in 10 clinics. The clinics will continue to be held in 2019, and will be announced via the BCSO Facebook page.

## Chaplain Corps

The Sheriff's Office Chaplain Corps plays an important role with the Sheriff's Office. All Sheriff's chaplains receive certification through the International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC). Chaplains attend a chaplain's academy and receive 36 hours of training, 18 of which are through the ICPC. Chaplains are available to help Sheriff's Office employees as well as citizens served by the Sheriff's Office. Chaplains assist with death notifications, suicide response, grief counseling, and domestic violence victims. Chaplains work under a strict code of confidentiality. In 2018, the Chaplain Corps held one Chaplain Academy. There are currently 28 chaplains serving the Sheriff's Office.

## Records Management

Records personnel provide prompt and courteous customer service. The Records Office maintains and archives thousands of records and documents throughout the year. They must comply with annual audits from Tennessee Bureau of Investigations (TBI) and FBI 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 maintain certification through NCIC (National Crime Information Computer). 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 payables/receivables, 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 are put through a vigorous selection and hiring process that includes an extensive background investigation, criminal records check, previous employer checks, psychological evaluation,

physical exam, and drug screen. The Sheriff's Office aggressively recruits prospective candidates for employment at area high schools, universities and community colleges, job finder sites, social media, and by word of mouth to find the best, most qualified candidates. The Sheriff's Office actively recruits minorities and female applicants. Qualified applicants must be 18 for employment as a corrections officer, and 21 for consideration as a patrol deputy applicant. Individuals interested in employment at the BCSO are encouraged to apply at [bcso.com](http://bcso.com). The Blount County Sheriff's Office is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

# SUPPORT STAFF



## Office of Public Information

The PIO (Public Information Officer) serves as the liaison between the Sheriff's Office and the media to keep the public informed. During breaking or high profile criminal investigations, the PIO coordinates media interviews and press conferences, and provides information to the media. The PIO produces all publications of the Sheriff's Office, including the annual report, employee newsletter, brochures, and other publications as needed. The PIO composes media releases, public service announcements, and other materials relating to the Sheriff's Office. In addition, the PIO maintains the Sheriff's Office social

media sites, and captures daily activity and special events involving Sheriff's Office personnel by way of photos and film. The PIO assists all functions within the Sheriff's Office to promote Sheriff's Office activities and services.





The Blount County Sheriff's Office has been at the forefront of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program initiative, with Sheriff Berrong forming an SRO program in January 1996. It is one of the oldest and longest-running SRO programs in the State of Tennessee. Sheriff Berrong started the SRO program in January 1996 with two deputies, one in each of the county's two high schools. Since then, the Sheriff's Office has formed an even stronger partnership with Blount County Schools. There are now 25 SROs assigned to the SRO program, with two SROs each assigned to William Blount and Heritage high schools.

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

During the summer months, SROs are assigned to patrol, court services, and special teams.

The Sheriff's Office's Text-a-Tip program started in 2010 as a tool to allow students an anonymous way to 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, as well as 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 Blount County Sheriff's Office either online or by text message. For additional information, go to [bcso.com](http://bcso.com), and click on "Submit a Crime Tip" from the home page.



## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS



# PATROL & PUBLIC SAFETY

The Sheriff's Office Patrol and Public Safety operations is comprised of uniformed patrol staff, Traffic Safety Unit, School Resource Officers, and the K-9 teams. Patrol is made up of three patrol shifts with a minimum of seven patrol deputies per shift to provide patrol services for Blount County. Services include dispatched calls for service, pro-active patrol, traffic enforcement, traffic accident investigations, and preliminary criminal investigations. Blount County is divided into four geographical patrol zones. Two patrol deputies are assigned to each zone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Patrol deputies are responsible for providing patrol services to their assigned areas. There is also a "Zone 5" deputy during week days who is stationed at the Blount County Justice Center to respond to requests for phone calls and walk-in reports. There are 77 P.O.S.T. (Peace Officer's Standards and Training) certified deputies who patrol Blount County's 558 square miles and 1,637 miles of roadway. In 2018, Sheriff's deputies responded to 68,549 calls for service, up substantially from 65,437 in 2017.

The EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) program the Sheriff's Office launched in 2017 continues to grow. In 2018, 12 additional deputies received certification, rounding out the number of EMR deputies to 23. This groundbreaking program is one-of-a-kind in Tennessee. EMR-certified deputies are equipped with additional lifesaving skills and equipment who have the ability to get information more quickly when it comes to life-and-death emergencies.

Sheriff Berrong and Blount County Mayor Ed Mitchell see the EMR program 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. The deputies are spread among the three patrol shifts. The Sheriff's Office plans to add additional deputies as EMRs each year.

Patrol deputies are also receiving certification for Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). CIT 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 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. It also promotes officer safety and the safety of the individual in crisis.

## Traffic Safety

Traffic safety deputies concentrate on traffic-related issues. The Traffic Safety unit is funded in part with the assistance from grants through the Tennessee Highway Safety Office. A portion of the grant is used for saturation efforts on "The Dragon", a section of U.S. Highway 129 that is a popular destination for

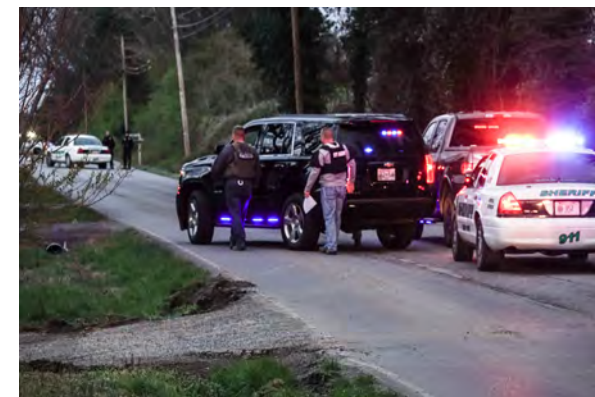
motorcycle and car clubs from across the country and world. In 2018, there were nine deputies assigned to the unit. The unit investigated 1,089 crashes, including 12 fatal, 272 injury, 746 property damage, and 68 private property.

## Reserve Unit

The Sheriff's Reserve Unit includes 15 reserve deputies. Reserve deputies work special assignments and patrol. Reserve deputies adhere to a strict hiring process, and they must complete a reserve academy and field training program. Reserve deputies worked a trained a total of 4,082 man hours and provided assistance at 28 events during the year.







68,549

Calls for Service in un-incorporated areas  
of Blount County.

Homicide	4
Kidnapping	9
Rape	49
Robbery	14
Aggravated Assault	262
Simple Assault	652
Arson	5
Burglary	296
Theft of Property	334
Theft of Motor Vehicle	241
DUI	101
Vandalism	234
Drugs/Narcotics	627
Domestic Violence	1,515
Animal Problem	915
Juvenile Complaint	322
Suspicious Incident	2,144
Missing Persons	106
Property Damage	42
Citizens Assist	310
Traffic Accidents (Injury & Non-Injury)	2,208
Welfare Check	1,329
Fireworks Complaints	49
All Other Codes	8,166



## EMR STATISTICS

Medical Calls  
600 +

EMRs  
Added in 2018  
12

Top 5 Complaints  
Breathing difficulty  
Chest Pain  
Overdose  
Injuries  
Falls

EMR AED  
Deployments  
10 + successful  
deployments



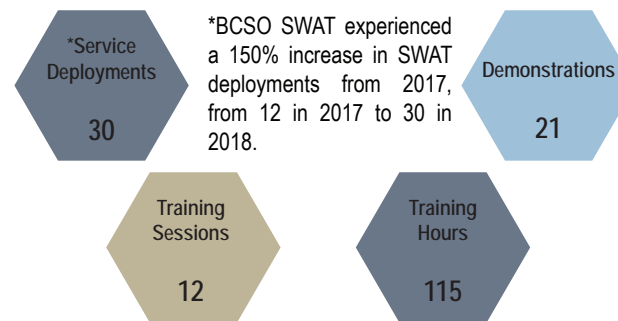
## SWAT

The Sheriff's SWAT (Special Weapons & Tactics Team) had a very busy year, deploying for 30 operations. This is up substantially from 2017 when the team deployed 12 times.

The Sheriff's SWAT team is a collateral duty team, meaning all members have primary assignments in other functions. The SWAT team is comprised of highly trained deputies using specialized equipment to resolve critical incidents, while minimizing 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 contain armed suspects and arrest them. Team members are issued additional personal protective equipment, including ballistic helmets, tactical body armor, and eyewear to protect from chemical exposure. SWAT members are on-call 24/7, and participate in mandatory monthly training.



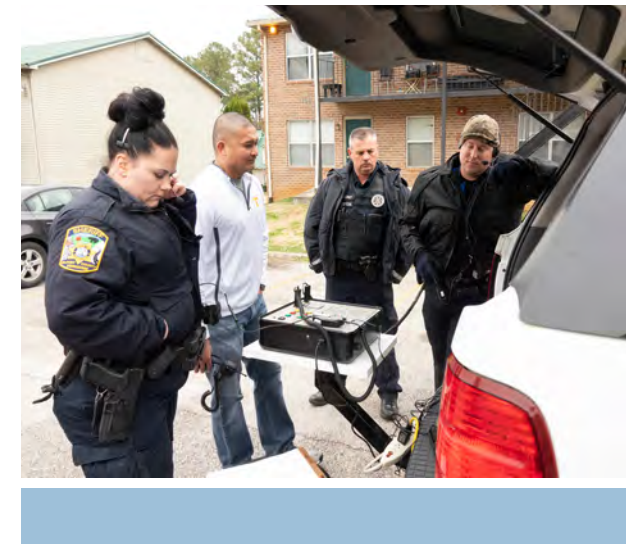
### 2018 SWAT STATISTICS



## Crisis Negotiation Team

The Crisis Negotiation 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 SWAT members toward a peaceful resolution of crisis situations. Negotiators are on-call 24/7, and train monthly. Crisis negotiators represent several areas of the Sheriff's Office, including patrol, adult and juvenile corrections, and court services.

### 2018 STATISTICS



# SWAT & CRISIS NEGOTIATIONS



# K-9 & Mounted Patrol

## K-9

The Sheriff's K-9 unit is comprised of nine K-9 teams, consisting of four breeds: a Dutch Shepherd, five Belgian Malinois' two Bloodhounds, and a German Shorthair Pointer. All K-9 teams are certified through the North American Police Working Dog Association. The Bloodhound teams are also certified through the National Police Bloodhound Association.

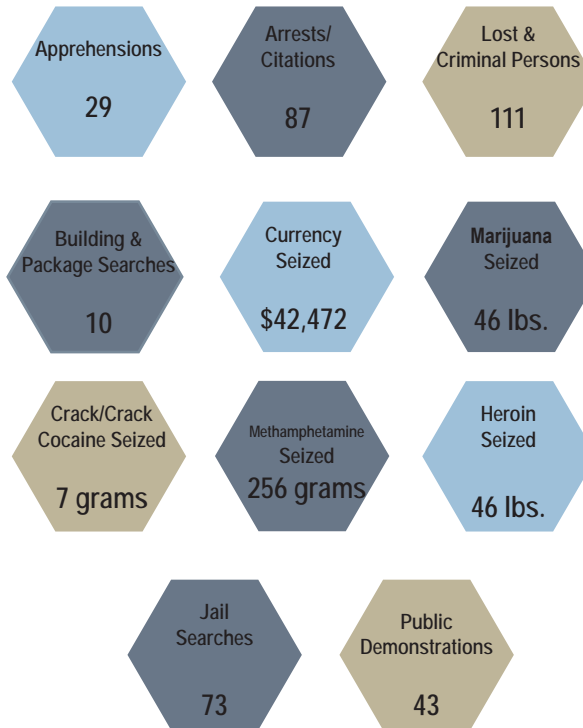
### K-9 Teams

Sgt. Gary Perkins  
Cpl. Allen Russell

Deputy Ryan Bumbalough  
Deputy Nick Nitzband  
Deputy Justin Summers  
Deputy Michael Bennett  
Deputy C.J. Pierce  
Deputy Scott Tipton  
Deputy Skip Kindig

K-9 Celo  
K-9 Renzo  
K-9 Daisy  
K-9 Gino  
K-9 Bak  
K-9 Wiskey  
K-9 Roxy  
K-9 Braum  
K-9 Toby  
K-9 Luna

## 2018 K-9 STATISTICS



## Mounted Patrol

The Sheriff's Office Mounted Patrol Unit consists of two donated Tennessee Walkers -- *Good Luck Chuck* and *Cookie*. The horses are boarded at Heritage High School. The horses and their equine handlers are utilized for assistance with searches for missing persons in rugged terrain and for special events and parades.





# BSORT & MARINE PATROL



## BSORT

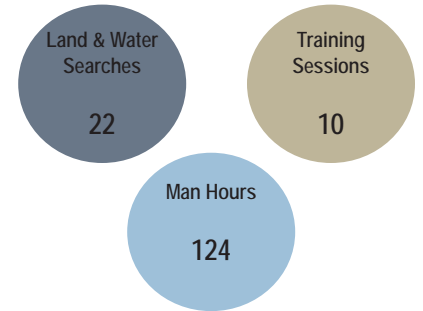
The Sheriff's Office Dive Team also functions as part of a countywide special operations and rescue team. BSORT (Blount Special Operations Response Team) is comprised of members from the Sheriff's Office, Alcoa Fire Department, AMR, Blount County Rescue Squad, Maryville Police Department, Alcoa Police Department, and citizen volunteers. The unit specializes in search and rescue missions both 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. BSORT is also in partnership with RAM (Remote Area Medical), an international humanitarian aid organization based in Rockford,

to share resources and training for land and water rescue operations. In Addition, the Gary Lindsey Memorial Fishing Tournament has generated thousands of dollars for BSORT in the way of needed dive and rescue equipment.

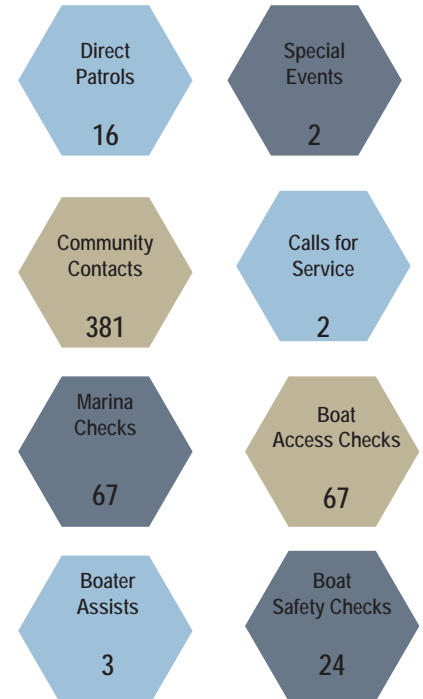
## Marine Unit

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.

## 2018 BSORT STATISTICS



## 2018 MARINE UNIT STATISTICS





# INVESTIGATIVE OPERATIONS

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, robbery, burglary, online crimes, and arson.

In 2018, **Criminal Investigations** was comprised of a total of 10 investigators, 4 crime scene investigators, two victim witness coordinators, one property and evidence technician, and one sex offender registry investigator.

During the year, Criminal Investigations investigated a total of 1,516 new cases. Four of these were new homicide cases. In addition, investigators solved two cold case homicides. One of the cold cases occurred in 1998, and involved the shooting death of a Maryville man. The suspect was already serving time in state prison for another crime. The other cold case that investigators solved involved the suffocation death of an infant girl in 2011 at the hands of her father.

This function also investigates Internet crimes, such as sexual exploitation and identity theft. Another responsibility that falls under this unit is the sex offender registry. The Sheriff's Office handles all sex offender registration in Blount County. At the end of 2018, there were 217 sex offenders residing in Blount County. A list of those registered on the sex offender



registry is available on the Sex Offender Registry link on the Sheriff's Office website at [bcsso.com](http://bcsso.com).

Crime scene investigators are responsible for the recovery of evidence at crime scenes. CSIs are important to any investigation. The tangible items of evidence and the descriptive information derived from crime scenes makes a difference between the success and failure when the case is brought to trial. The physical evidence plays a critical role in the overall 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.

In addition, the Sheriff's Office has one full-time polygraph examiner who is certified through the American Polygraph Association and Tennessee Polygraph Association. In 2018, the polygraph examiner conducted 82 polygraph investigations.



## 2018 INVESTIGATIONS STATISTICS

New Cases Assigned in 2018 <b>1,516</b>	Death Investigations 121 Homicides 4	Domestic Violence w/ Assault <b>589</b>
Fires Investigated 63 Arsons 3	CSI Activity <b>2,005</b>	Evidence Processed <b>2,251 pieces</b>

## Narcotics is part of the Fifth Judicial Drug and Violent Crime Task Force

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

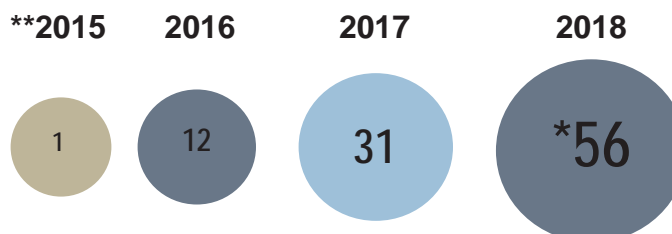
In 2018, Task Force investigators made 357 arrests, with 279 charged with felonies. They opened 491 cases, up from 384 cases in 2017. They also executed nine search warrants. In 2018, investigators maintained a 92% conviction rate.

Unfortunately, the opioid crisis continues to plague Blount County, just as it is across the country. Drug Task Force agents are facing the challenge head-on, and are working on a daily basis to help alleviate the opioid crisis in our community. Drug issues in our community are cyclical. Ten years ago, marijuana, crack cocaine, methamphetamine and clandestine meth labs were our biggest threat. Though we still see these drugs, throughout the years, heroin has made a comeback, and it's not limited to dark corners and alleyways. Overdose deaths from heroin is striking the nation's heartland and suburbia, and it's cutting across all demographic lines. Several factors are contributing to this. High-purity heroin is continually crossing the border from Mexico and is readily available at the street level. The crackdown at the federal and state levels on the prescription drug abuse epidemic and the closing down of "pill



On January 8, 2018, narcotics agents seized 47 pounds of marijuana, six firearms, a large amount of cash, a bill counting machine, and two vehicles from a Blount County residence. Two people were arrested on felony drug charges.

## NALOXONE ADMINISTERED 2015 - 2018



\*In 2018, deputies administered Naloxone on 41 citizens, with 56 doses administered to these individuals. Of the 41 citizens in which Naloxone was administered, deputies saved the lives of 36 people.

\*\*Naloxone program launched on August 20, 2015 and distributed to 16 deputies.

mills" and "doctor shopping" made prescription drugs such as OxyContin harder to obtain, causing pain pill abusers to turn to heroin because it's cheaper and easier to obtain. According to the DEA, heroin overdoses are also increasing because more people are using the drug at a younger age. Heroin is also being mixed with other potent drugs such as Fentanyl -- heroin's synthetic cousin -- and is up to 100 times more potent than morphine and many times that of heroin. Heroin users do not always know when the heroin they are using is mixed with Fentanyl, so when they inject it, they can inadvertently take a deadly dose.

To help combat the problem, all patrol deputies, SROs, and other front line deputies are equipped with Narcan, a known antidote for opioid overdose. This program was launched in 2015 with the assistance of SAPAT (Substance Abuse Prevention Action Team), and continues to be funded through grant programs.

The Sheriff's Office and the Fifth Judicial Drug Task Force, in conjunction with SAPAT, participate in semi-annual Drug Take Back events at the Blount County Justice Center. There is also a permanent drug drop box located in the 24 hour jail lobby.





**Support Operations** includes Adult & Juvenile Corrections and Court Services.

**ADULT CORRECTIONS** is comprised of 90 highly trained corrections deputies who continually meet challenges head-on while achieving the mission of the Sheriff's Office. All corrections officers attend a four week corrections academy at the time they are hired, and receive 40 hours of in-service training each year. All corrections deputies are issued Tasers and special stab resistant vests.

The Blount County Correctional Facility is certified for 350 inmates, but over the past several years, the average daily population has remained well above that. In 2018, the average daily population was 565, with the highest daily population 625 inmates. Corrections officers booked in 6,264 inmates in 2018, up from 6,243 in 2017. This number has steadily increased over the years. The overcrowding issue is not just local, but rather a national trend.

In 2018, the Blount County Corrections Partnership disbanded and was replaced by the CARES (Corrections and Recovery Saves) committee, but their mission is the same: to research and implement a solution for the chronic overcrowding issue. The CARES committee, which is comprised of Sheriff's Office personnel, county commissioners, and members from the community, has recommended a 288 bed transitional facility that will house minimum security inmates who have 188 days or less to serve. The goal of the facility will be to give these individuals what they need to become productive members of society upon release. This transition facility is still in the research phase.



The inmate litter crew continues to be vital in keeping Blount County's roadways litter-free. The crew goes out most days with the exception of inclement weather. In 2018, the crew covered 1,365.4 miles of roadway and picked up 415,820 pounds of trash. The litter crew is made possible by way of grant funding.



Blount County contracts with the U.S. Marshals Service to house inmates, but due to the overcrowding, the numbers of federal inmates has steadily decreased over the past few years. The facility also houses inmates from agencies outside of Blount County.

A full-time jail investigator is assigned to look into incidents that occur in the correctional facility, as well as gather intelligence.

In 2017, the corrections facility acquired K-9 Luna, a German Shorthair Pointer, who is used to keep out and locate tobacco products.

The Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT) consists of full-time corrections officers who use less-lethal means of control. Members are deployed to high-risk situations in the facility. They also handle crowd control, riot conditions, and security extractions of violent inmates, as well as cell searches for contraband.

Tennessee Bureau Enterprises holds the contract for commissary services, and inmates have access to kiosks to order commissary services. There is also a kiosk in the 24 hour jail lobby in which family members can deposit money into an inmate's account. This service is also available under the "How Do I" tab at [bcsso.com](http://bcsso.com), or by calling (865)836-3364.

The Sheriff's Office contracts with Southern Health Partners to provide medical services to inmates.

# SUPPORT OPERATIONS

**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 Center is operated 24 hours a day and is staffed by 25 Sheriff's deputies who have each received training specific to supervision of youth in custody. The facility is available for use on a per diem basis by federal, state, and county agencies, and it is inspected on a regular basis by Department of Children's Services, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, Department of Education, U.S. Marshals Service, fire marshal, and the health department. No violations were reported in 2018.

Juvenile Corrections places an emphasis on accountability, education, and rehabilitation, with the mission to encourage positive pro-social behaviors and attitudes that instills 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 issues are communicated to Juvenile Court to insure the needs of the youth are addressed. Medical services are provided by Southern Health Partners and BCSO Corrections medical staff.

Juvenile inmates continue to receive schooling through Blount County Schools by way of a full-time and part-time teacher.



## 2018 JUVENILE STATISTICS

388  
Youth  
Processed

5.64  
Average Length  
of Detention

6  
Average Daily  
Population

\$49,640  
Billed to other  
agencies for youth  
detention





**COURT SERVICES** serves seven court rooms in the Blount County Justice Center and one juvenile court room at the Courthouse. Court Services is not only responsible for the movement of offenders in and out of the court rooms, deputies assigned to Court Services provide support and assistance to agencies and individuals involved in the judicial process. Court Services is also responsible for keeping up with thousands of criminal and civil process papers. In 2018, Court Services deputies served 10,064 civil papers and 7,018 criminal warrants.

Court Services provides security for the Courts and the Justice Center and Courthouse. All persons who enter the Justice Center and Juvenile Court must pass through a metal detector, and all purses, 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.

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, warrants deputies serve all orders of protections.

Court Services also assists citizens serving as jurors. They are responsible for providing protection and transportation for sequestered jurors.



## 2018 COURT SERVICES ACTIVITY

Civil Papers  
Served

10,064

Criminal  
Warrants Served

7,018



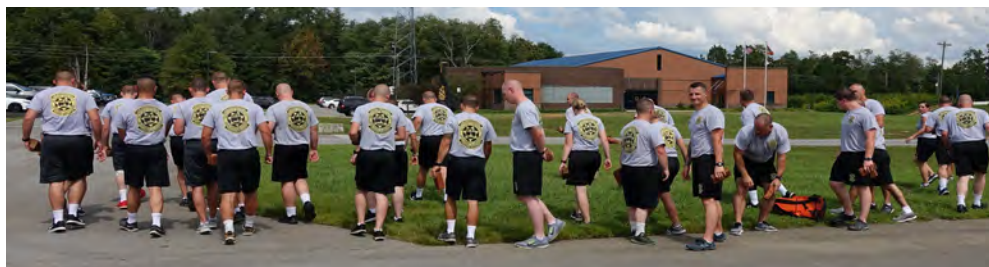
**TRAINING** officers plan and coordinate all training Sheriff's deputies undertake throughout the year. P.O.S.T. (Peace Officers Standards and Training) and corrections personnel in Tennessee are required to complete 40 hours of continuing education training each year to maintain their certifications. It is the duty of the trainers 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 also conducts in-service training for Maryville, Alcoa, and Townsend Police departments, as well as security and police officers at Blount Memorial Hospital and Pellissippi State Community College. This assures that all law enforcement officers in Blount County receive the same training, allowing for efficiency and professionalism while working together on joint incidents and operations.

The Sheriff's Office Training Facility is located off William Blount Drive, and encompasses 55 acres and includes a low and high ropes course, a five-acre driving track, and a 21-lane covered firing range. The ropes course and firing range are used 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 range. In exchange, the ANG from McGhee Tyson Airbase utilizes the range on occasion for their training needs. The Sheriff's Office also utilizes a shooting simulator located at the training facility. This scenario-based virtual reality system is designed to help police officers in realistic events and use of force situations, and develops better communication and de-escalation skills, officer presence, and decision-making skills.



# TRAINING & LAW ENFORCEMENT





## The Sheriff's **BASIC LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY**

has graduated almost 400 recruits from all corners of Tennessee. The first P.O.S.T. (Peace Officer Standards and Training) academy was held in the fall of 2007, and each year the para-military style academy has grown and gained a stellar reputation throughout Tennessee's law enforcement community. For 12 weeks, recruits learn all aspects of law enforcement, including criminal justice, firearms, emergency vehicle operations, report writing, defensive tactics, basic police tactics, DUI, traffic stops, accident reconstruction, as well as other law enforcement related classes. Recruits also go through a rigorous physical fitness regimen, as they are required 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 based on need, but at least once a year.

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

# FORCEMENT ACADEMY

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

is a rapidly growing field, and the expertise and experience the five member I.T. team brings to the Sheriff's Office is invaluable. As technology gets more advanced, Sheriff's Office I.T. personnel work hard to stay on top of new and innovative changes in the field.

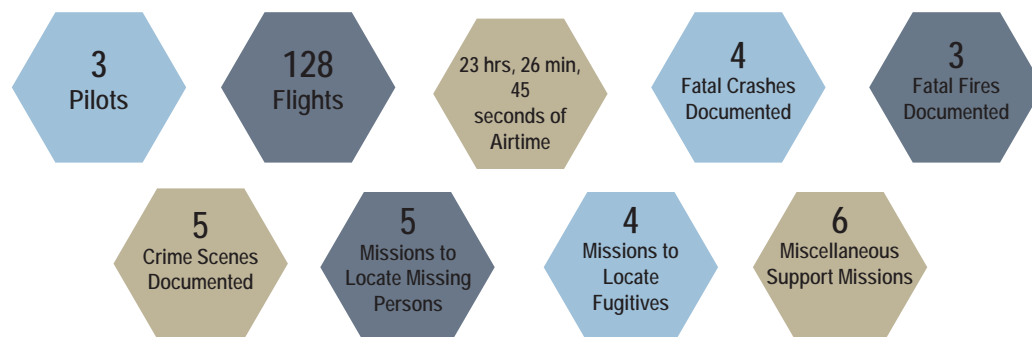
I.T. personnel are responsible for establishing and maintaining all of the computer information systems and their security, as well as software for the Sheriff's Office. Another responsibility of the unit is maintaining the video camera and security systems inside the Justice Center and the communications systems in Sheriff's Office vehicles, including radio and in-car camera systems.

Our I.T. professionals continue to work toward perfecting Spillman Records Management System, which allows for mobile reporting from the mobile data terminals (MDTs) in the patrol cruisers. This system helps to streamline 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. The system allows for connectivity of records to one another with the goal of more easily identifying relationships within the data and streamlining the processes within the agency. It is a paperless system, which saves patrolmen time by inputting records directly into the system. All patrol vehicles are outfitted with new MDTs that connect wireless to the Sheriff's Office server.

In 2017, the Sheriff's Office acquired two Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS), also known as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. One I.T. professional and two patrol deputies are certified to operate the systems. Two of the pilots have advanced licensing from the FAA. The sUAS is used to obtain an aerial perspective for crime scene documentation, as well as aiding in searching for missing persons and apprehending fugitives.



### 2018 sUAS ACTIVITY



# TOOLS & TECHNOLOGY



# OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION

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 has consistently been re-awarded accreditation every three years since then. The Sheriff's Office was last accredited in March 2018. 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.

In 2015 and 2018, CALEA awarded the Sheriff's Office the *Gold Standard of Excellence*. This award is reserved for agencies which have gone through multiple re-accreditations, and have not had any 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 will now undergo re-accreditation every four years, with the next on-site review scheduled for 2021. The accreditation manager will submit 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 and 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 TACP. 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.



Sheriff Berrong and Deputy Chief Jeff French received the TACP re-accreditation award in February 2018 from past TACP president and Chief of Police of Brentwood Police Department, Chief Jeff Hughes.

# RETIREMENTS



**Donna Wheeler**, Records Manager, retired effective May 2, 2018 after an impressive 36 year career with the BCSO. She began her career on February 1, 1982. Donna knows the Sheriff's Office better than anyone.



**Lt. Scott Thomas**, Patrol, finished his career at the Sheriff's Office on December 31, 2018. His calling to law enforcement began April 1, 1985. Lt. Thomas provided outstanding leadership for 33 years, and is a true lawman.



**Deputy Terry Sudderth** retired December 31, 2018 after serving his community for 25 years. Deputy Sudderth worked honorably for the citizens of Blount County in Court Services, and is loved by those he served with.



**Sgt. Jeff Hicks** was one of the first SRO's in Blount County in 1996, and is fondly remembered by those who served with him and the students he mentored over the years. He finished his service with the BCSO on December 31, 2018 with 27 years of service.



**Lt. Rob Nease** served as the Assistant Director of the Fifth Judicial Drug Task Force. He retired December 31, 2018. He began his career at Maryville P.D., and came to work with the BCSO in 2000. He has provided leadership and guidance to those who served with and under him.



**Capt. Keith Gregory**  
Adult Corrections



**Lt. Josh Blair**  
Training



**Lt. Wade Hurt**  
SRO



**Lt. Joe Seaton**  
SRO



**Lt. Chuck Ford**  
Adult Corrections



**Lt. Courtney Schaefer**  
Adult Corrections



**Sgt. Rod Myers**  
Adult Corrections



**Sgt. Chris Pryor**  
Adult Corrections



**Cpl. Patrice Jordan**  
Adult Corrections



**Cpl. Sam Tucker**  
Court Services

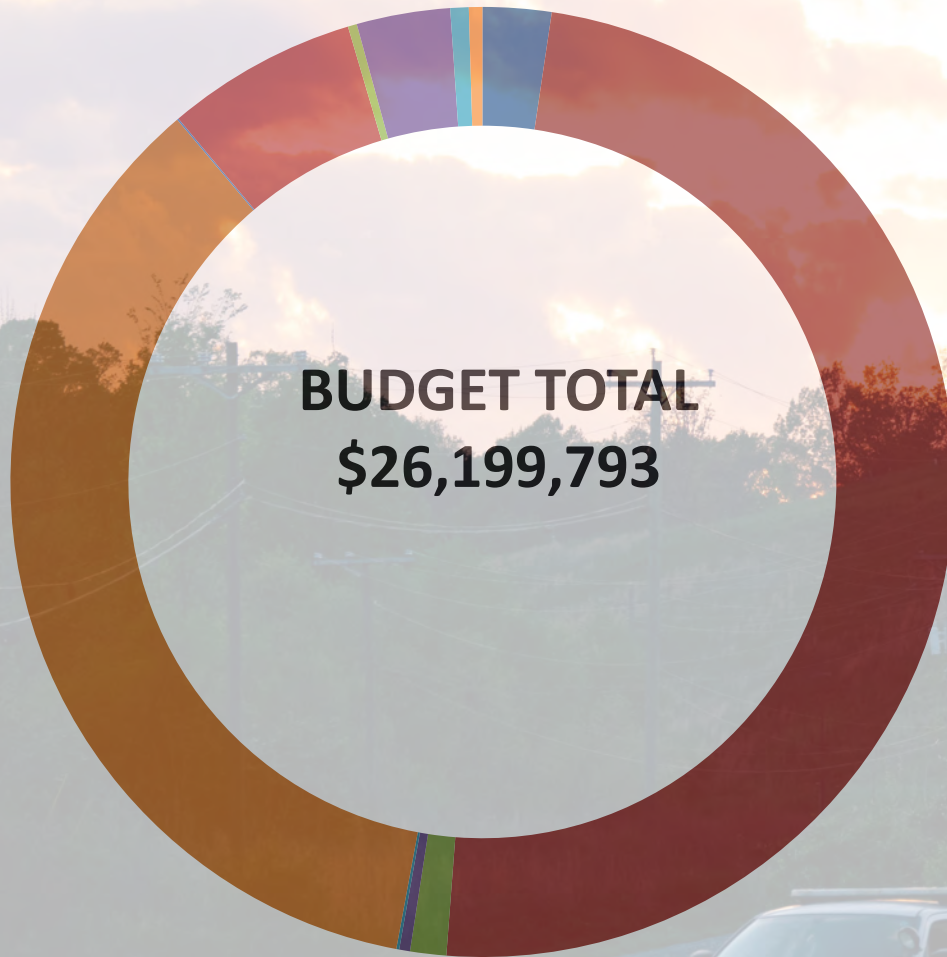


**Cpl. Chris Harris**  
Adult Corrections

# PROMOTIONS



# BUDGET & FINANCE



■ Adm. Of Justice	\$616,068
■ Sheriff's Office	\$12,803,004
■ COPS Grant (3 Year)	\$323,470
■ Victim Witness Coord (3 Year)	\$96,634
■ Sex Offender Registry	\$26,000
■ Corrections	\$9,402,284
■ Workhouse	\$13,998
■ Juvenile	\$1,713,767
■ Litter Pick-up	\$80,799
■ Public Safety Projects	\$838,768
■ Drug Fund (State)	\$165,000
■ Drug Fund (Federal)	\$120,000



## SWAT TEAM ASSISTS IN CAPTURE OF MAN WHO SHOT KPD OFFICER

On January 13, 2018, the Sheriff's Office SWAT team assisted the U.S. Marshals Service Smoky Mountain Fugitive Task Force in **taking the man into custody who shot and injured Knoxville Police Department Officer Jay Williams** January 11. Ronnie Lucas Wilson, the suspect, was hiding out in an abandoned home on Calderwood Highway. A Knox County Grand Jury later indicted Wilson for attempted first degree murder for the attempted murder of Officer Williams.



## SHERIFF SIGNS COVENANT FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY

In February, Sheriff James Lee Berrong, along with other community leaders, signed the **Covenant for a Better Community**, a covenant vowing to uphold the principles of mutual respect as well as personal and institutional integrity to enforce with consistency, fairness and equity, upholding the rights of all Blount Countians. The covenant condemns violent hate crimes and vows to support victims.



## SEARCHERS LOCATE LOST 6-YEAR-OLD FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE SEARCH

On April 24, 2018, Blount County came together to search for a missing 6-year-old boy, Kaydon Leach, who went missing from his home in the Top of the World community. Around a hundred first responders from multiple local, state, and federal agencies searched throughout the night in a heavily wooded area. Air support was provided by the 1-230th Assault Helicopter Battalion from McGhee Tyson Air Base, further strengthening our partnership with the Air Base. Almost 24 hours later, **searchers found Kaydon Leach safe** approximately a half mile from his residence.



## TRAFFIC UNIT MOTORS TRANSITION TO BMW

The Sheriff's Office **Motor Unit** took **delivery of six new BMW Police motorcycles**, replacing the Harley Davidson Police motorcycles the motor deputies started with in October 2004. The motorcycles were purchased locally through Alcoa Good Times. The Sheriff's Office joined more than 450 law enforcement agencies across the country that use the BMW Police Motor.

# 2018 YEAR

## EMR PROGRAM EXPANDS



The Sheriff's Office EMR program more than doubled in 2018 with the edition of 12 new **Emergency Medical Responders** who graduated into the program. The EMR program includes certified deputies who are equipped with additional life-saving skills and equipment. The program began in 2017 by Sheriff Berrong and Blount County Mayor Ed Mitchell as a way to enhance medical services in Blount County.





# IN REVIEW

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On September 12, the BCSO celebrated **National Women in Law Enforcement Day** with two events geared toward celebrating our heroes in Blue. The receptions allowed our female deputies to talk with women who are interested in a career in law enforcement. We held a “Coffee with a Cop” at Vienna Coffee House in the morning, and a social at Barley’s Taproom & Pizzeria that evening. Our deputies enjoyed meeting with members of the community and sharing their experiences with those who attended.



## TRAFFIC UNIT RECOGNIZED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO TRAFFIC SAFETY

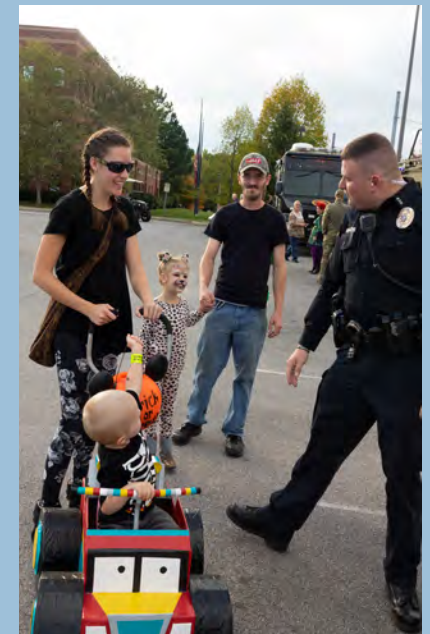
On September 7, the BCSO was awarded **3rd place overall and the Motorcycle Safety Award in the Tennessee Highway Safety Office Law Enforcement Challenge** in September. The judging is based on traffic safety initiatives and agency statistics regarding speed enforcement, impaired driving, officer training, child safety seat initiatives, and other categories. The BCSO has participated in the competition each year since 2003, and continually receives recognition and awards in the area of traffic safety.



## OPERATION SAFE HALLOWEEN



Sheriff's deputies participated in our first ever **Operation Safe Halloween** event on October 31. The beautiful weather and a copious amount of candy and treats brought out a large number of families to the community event. Deputies and citizens had a great time, and we plan to carry on the tradition in the coming years.





# A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



When many people think about the history of Tennessee, “moonshine” and “bootleggers” often come to mind. It is true that Tennessee and much of Appalachia has a rich history of moonshining, and it has carried on to current times, but legally. Federal laws today allow individuals to make beer for their own use, but not distilled liquor. The state’s first licensed moonshine distillery opened in Gatlinburg in 2010, and since then, other licensed distilleries have opened. The Dixie Highway, running from Michigan to Florida, was a major route for the distribution of moonshine. Moonshiners would often modify their cars in order to outrun law enforcement and “revenue-ers.” These modified cars led to the birth of stock car racing and NASCAR\*.

Blount County saw a fair amount of moonshine stills before and after prohibition. In the photo above, Blount County deputies confiscate a moonshine still in the early 1940s. Pictured left to right are Deputies Jim Smith, Hazel Smith, Scott Romine, unknown individual, George Davis, and Sheriff W.B. Carringer.

The Blount County Sheriff’s Office was established in 1795, a year before Tennessee became a state. One of the first orders of business was swearing in a Sheriff to police the community. Blount County’s first Sheriff, Littlepage Sims, served as Sheriff for one year, and was followed by Joseph Colville who served until 1780. The first jail was built along Pistol Creek, and then in 1807, the county built a two-story brick building to house prisoners, close to the spot where McGhee Terrace Apartments on McCammon Avenue is located. It included gallows for hangings. Historians say four hangings took place in that jail. The Sheriff’s Office also had “stocks” for disciplinary measures, which were located on the Courthouse Square. The “stocks” would lock their hands and head securely while passersby shamed them for crimes such as cursing in public.

In 1907, the fourth jail was built at Harper Avenue and Cusick Street. The county eventually purchased the Cate Mansion and surrounding acreage for \$10,000 and that is where the Blount County Courthouse stands today. The Blount County Justice Center opened in 1999, and was built on the site where a Coca-Cola plant once stood. The Justice Center is 169,000 square feet. It also houses the District Attorney General’s Office, Court Clerk’s Office, and the Clerk & Master’s Office, as well as seven courtrooms.

\* Information provided by the website of the Tennessee Secretary of State  
<https://sharetn.gov.tnsosfiles.com/tsla/exhibits/prohibition/moonshine.htm>.





Spring sunrise over "The Three Sisters", the highest point of the eastern section of Chilhowee Mountain. "The Three Sisters" rises to 2,843 feet, and is a prominent landmark visible from Maryville. Chilhowee Mountain derives its name from a Cherokee Village in the 18th century.



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