



# ANNUAL REPORT

2021



—  
Stark County Sheriff's Office



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02



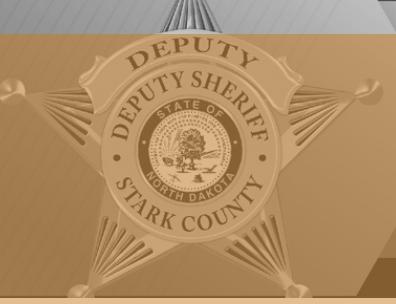
**STARK COUNTY  
SHERIFF**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Stark County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing fair and proactive law enforcement services to the citizens of Stark County. We are dedicated to community involvement and we will strive to continually increase our positive interactions with the citizens of our county, to include people of all ages and walks of life.

It is our goal to provide strong leadership and a superior work environment for our employees to increase quality, retention, and to promote a safe and comfortable atmosphere that will not only attract strong employees but encourage them to stay and become vested in our communities.

It is through this mission that we will continue to provide a high quality of service to our citizens while continuing to build relationships and successfully address the issues that we face in our fluid and rapidly changing society.



# STARK COUNTY SHERIFF

## MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

In 2021 there was a lot accomplished and so much to be proud of with Stark County Sheriff's Office. The dedication from the men and women in this office is second to none and they have done an amazing job keeping our communities both safe and respectable place to live and work.





# ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Administrative Division is responsible for most of the day to day office operations, policy and procedures, evidence management as well as managing public information, social media and the criminal investigation unit.

The front office personnel are comprised of four civilian staff who manage the day to day flow of papers that come into the office for processing. This includes, civil papers, criminal papers, warrants, subpoenas and extraditions. The 24/7 program which comprises twice a day breath testing, drug patch monitoring and ankle bracelet monitoring for alcohol. The sex offender registration and monitoring is another task performed within this division. The front office staff have cross trained in each area of responsibility so proper coverage is in place to maximize office productivity and efficiency.

The division has one full time detective who handles in depth criminal investigations of a variety of misdemeanor and felony crimes. The detective has worked several criminal cases in the past year. These cases range from theft, burglary, stolen vehicles, drug crimes, unattended deaths, suicides and sex crimes. The detective conducted sex offender checks to determine compliance with the program. In the past year we have seen an increase in the number of drug crime and sex crime cases occurring in Stark County. In some cases, we have worked collaboratively with our neighboring law enforcement agencies. The SW Narcotics Task Force, Dickinson PD and ND Bureau of Criminal Investigation are great partners who share criminal intelligence and resources. The Sheriff's Office dedicates one deputy to the SW Narcotics Task Force.

This past year the detective and Lieutenant attended the ND BCI Criminal Investigation Basic course as well as other investigation training opportunities to become more proficient in investigating crimes occurring in the county. We have utilized tip411 to receive information on crimes from our citizens.

The agency has undertaken updating our in-car video cameras, interview room cameras and added body worn cameras for all sworn members. We are thankful to the support of the Stark County Commission for supporting this important project with funding it entirely.

The Administrative Division is responsible for public information releases, media releases regarding crimes and events. The division has an active social media engagement with the citizens of Stark County which is primarily through a Facebook account.

The past year has been active and filled with fantastic opportunities to interact with the citizens of Stark County on many different levels. We hope we have made a difference.

## **Administrative Changes and Civil Division**

One change within the administrative division was the Civil Process team was moved to the courthouse. The Sergeant, Corporal and Deputy were moved under the supervision of the Chief Deputy. In 2021 they had 45 executions, 19 sheriff's sales, and collected \$9,190.26 in fees & commissions.



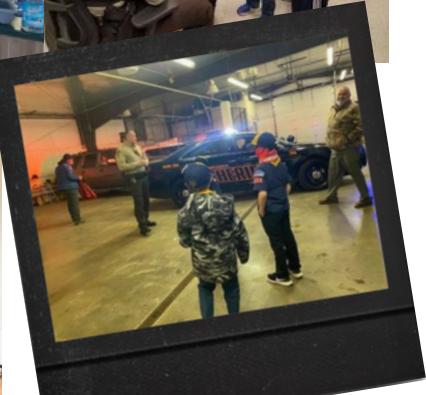
# COMMUNITY EVENTS



The Sheriff's Office participated in many community events and activities throughout the year. Opryland Days, Harvest Hoe Down, Roughrider Days, National Night Out, Bowling with a Cop, Skate with a Cop, Cops and Kids and Easter Egg Hunts are always big events that require a law enforcement presence as well as an opportunity for positive community engagement.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



# PATROL DIVISION



The patrol division of the Stark County Sheriff's Office led by Lieutenant Jesse Hoff and consists of 16 sworn deputies and three K-9s patrolling the 1,340 square miles of Stark County. The deputies are split into four primary shifts; A, B, C and D. A shift is led by Sergeant John Hiltunen, B shift by Sergeant Dan Kensinger, C shift by Sergeant David Wallace Jr, and D shift by Sergeant Scott Masters.

These shifts provide 24/7 service to the county, with a minimum of two deputies on-duty. The patrol division was responsible for handling most of the office's 16,442 calls for service in 2021. Of those, 2,663 were traffic stops. Patrol also responded to 83 motor vehicle accidents. In addition to traffic stops, accidents, reports of crime and general patrol, deputies assist with the administration of the 24/7 program testing twice daily and the patrol of schools around the start and end of school days.

In July, patrol added it's third K-9 as a result of our office's merger with the Belfield Police Department. Thor is a Sable German Shepherd from Slovakia, born in December, 2018. Prior to coming to Stark County, Thor was trained at Performance Kennels in Minnesota as a dual purpose K-9, meaning he trained in narcotics detection, tracking, evidence recovery as well as criminal apprehension. Deputy Steve Byrne has been paired with Thor since their days working for the Belfield Police Department.



The patrol division completed 1,571 hours of POST approved law enforcement trainings in 2021. These included the 16 hour Advanced Roadside Impairment Detection Enforcement course, 78 hour BCI Basic Criminal Investigator course, 40 hour MCTC Interview course, 40 hour APTAC FTO, as well as numerous smaller or less lengthy trainings. On October 5th and 6th, we conducted a training at the Stark County Fairgrounds south of Dickinson. The training consisted of live action scenarios with role players and included the use of the Simmunition firearms. Simmunition is the pioneer and world leader in providing law enforcement with the most realistic and non-lethal force-on-force, short range, simulation training system. Officers use a handgun similar to their duty weapon that will not fire live ammunition, instead firing a marking round, similar to a paintball. These handguns and related safety gear were purchased in 2020.

The support we receive here in Stark County provides motivation and reinforces our dedication to this community. With that support, we look forward to 2022!





Deputy Barbara Tessier continues to be the Stark County Sheriff's Office Truck Regulatory Deputy to maintain truck traffic safety in Stark County. Permits remain steady with so many major ND roadways going through Stark County. She works closely with the Stark County Road Department to remain up to date with any road updates.



In 2020, Deputy Tessier was busy through the year with an increasingly high number of interactions with trucks driving through Stark County. There were 4,083 permits applied for and \$14,127 of overload fees on Truck Regulatory traffic stops.



## School Resource Deputies

The Stark County Sheriff's Office has two full-time Deputy School Resource Officers that work to maintain safety in the schools of Stark County. One deputy is assigned to the west sector managing the South Heart School and Belfield Schools. One deputy is assigned the east sector managing the Taylor Elementary School and the Richardton High School.



These Deputy School Resource Officers work closely with staff and students to ensure a safe learning environment within school walls and at extracurricular activities. Deputy School Resource Officers are present at many school activities and community events including athletic events, parades, and other events held in their respective communities.





## Courthouse Security & Transports

There are two sworn deputies stationed at the Stark County District Courthouse in Dickinson, ND. Their job is to maintain the safety and security of the Stark County Courthouse. They complete this mission by monitoring individuals who enter the courthouse.

All citizens must clear their person and personal possessions by successfully passing through our metal detector and X-Ray machine in the main entrance of the building. They also provide security if needed in courtrooms or county meetings.

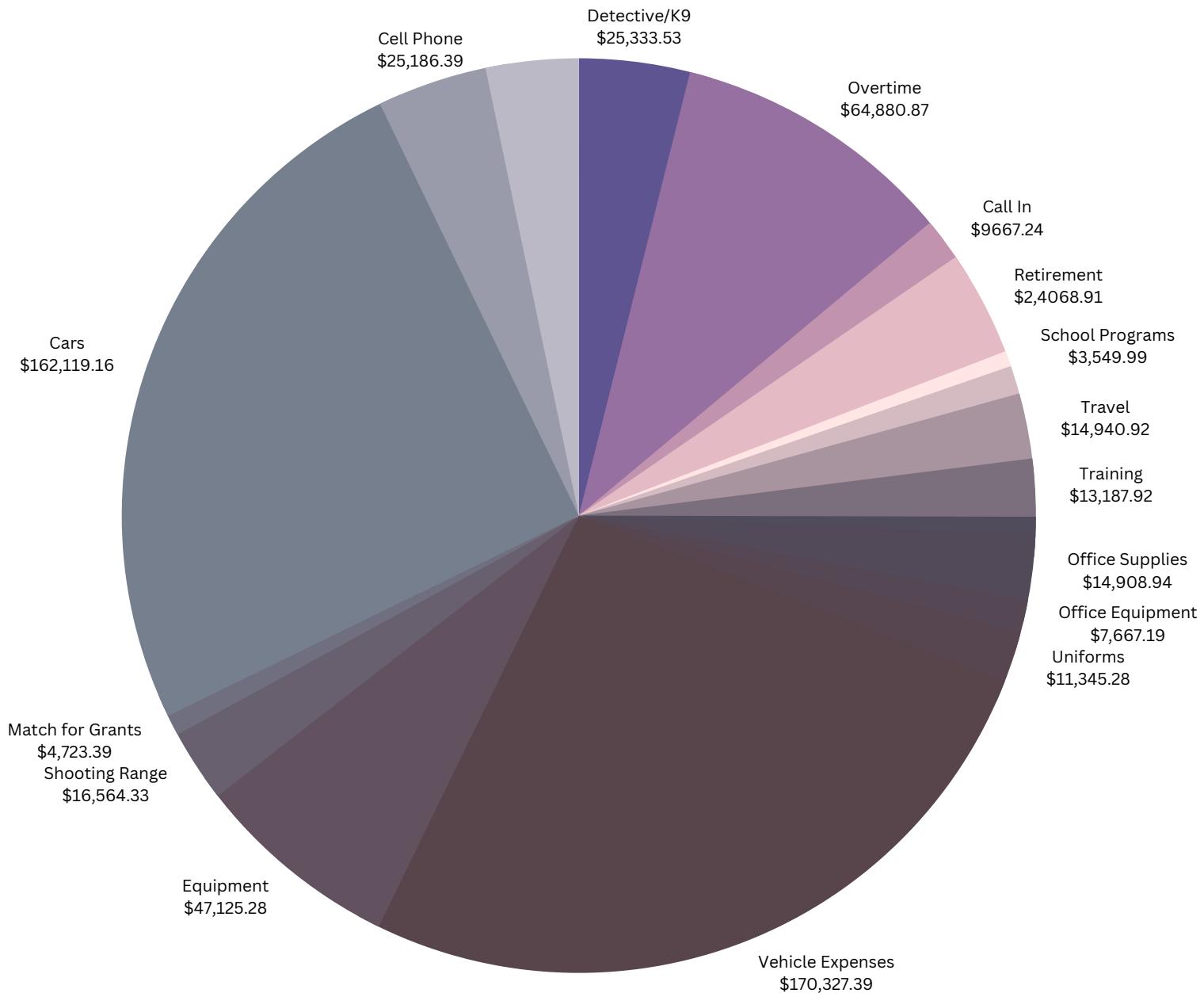


The Stark County Sheriff's Office is responsible to transport individuals in many different capacities. Criminal related transports can be extradition of individuals back to Stark County from any other county in North Dakota, or nationwide depending on the severity of their crimes. Transport of inmates from the SWMCCC to medical appointments or evaluations is another duty. Once inmates are sentenced on Stark County charges we transport them to the ND Department of Corrections as well. In addition to criminal based transports, we also transport those with mental health needs. Since there are no facilities nearby, we can transport individuals with mental health needs as far as Grand Forks. To complete all of these transports safely and effectively, the Stark County Sheriff's Office has a group of 10 licensed Deputies and 11 unlicensed Reserve Deputies to utilize on any given day.



## LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

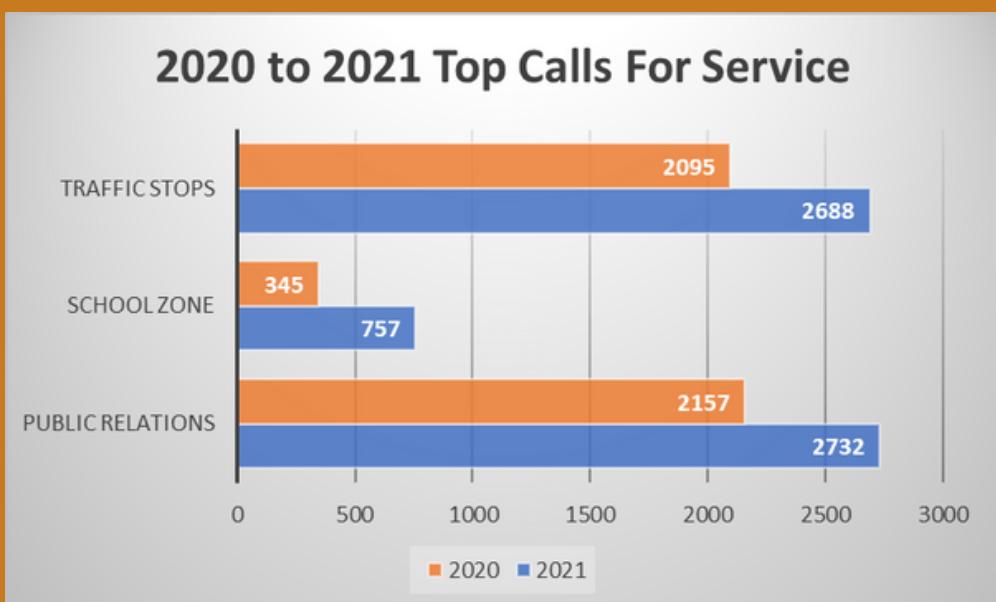
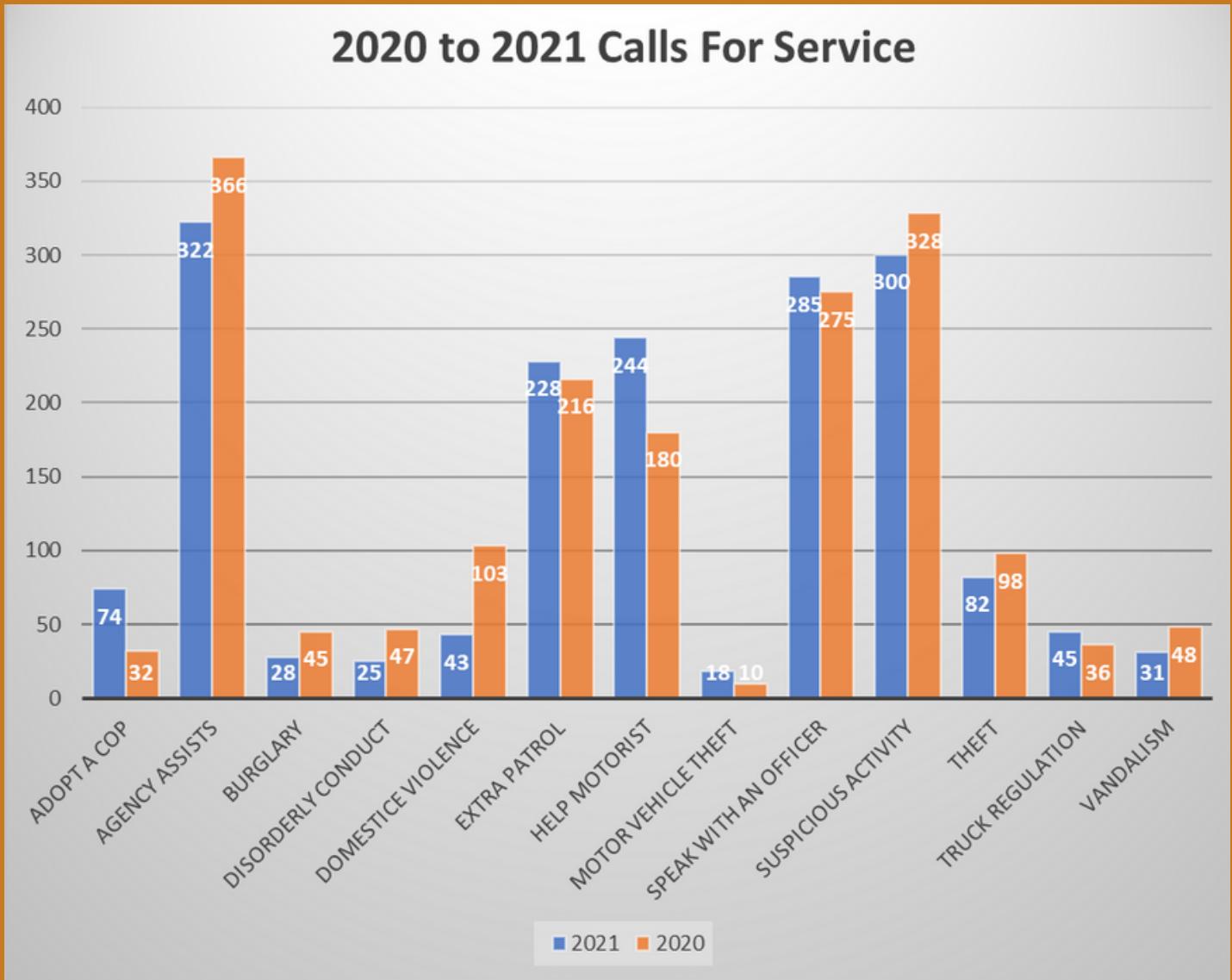
# 2021 Budget



Salary and longevity pay year to date expense was \$2,007,899.62 leaving our final over all spent budget at \$2,655,141.94 for 2021.

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# STATISTICS

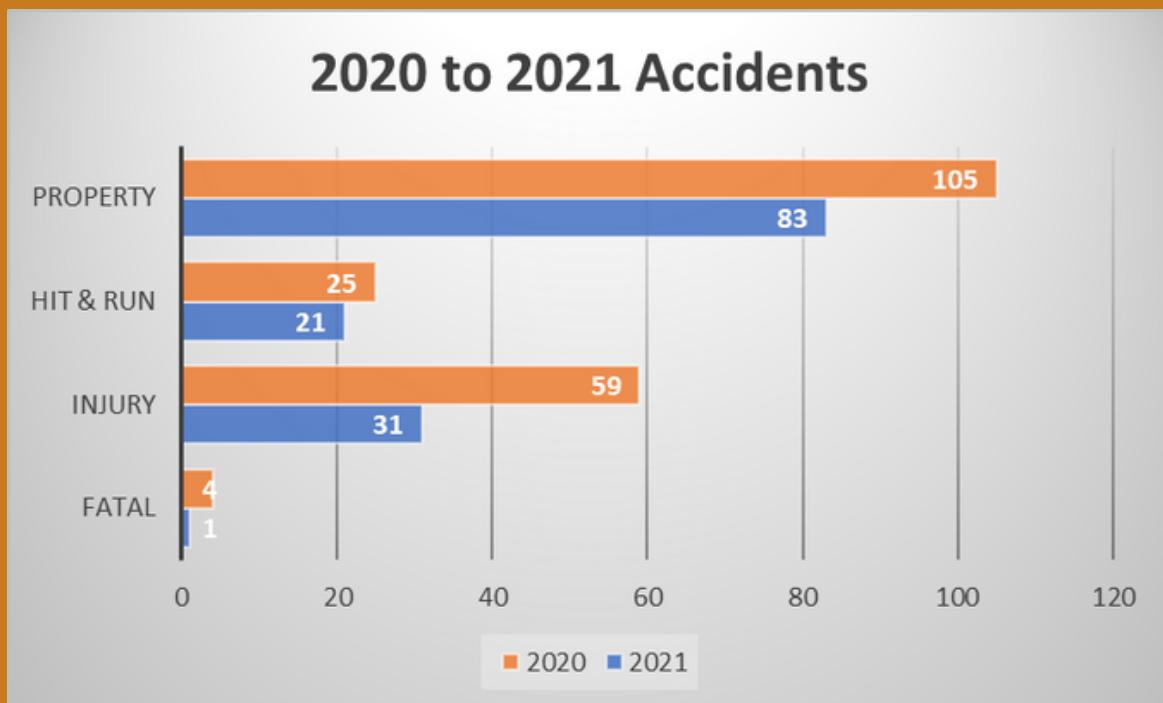
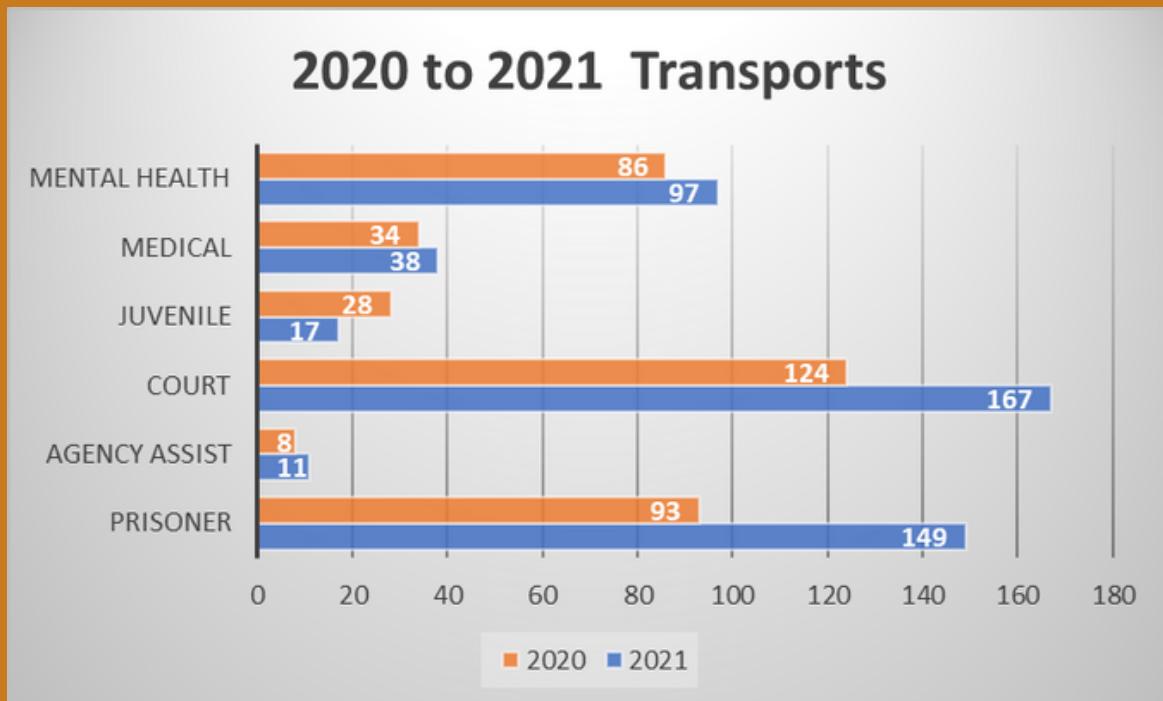


Calls for Service will include all of our agencies involvements. In 2021 we had 15,766 compared to 13,306 in 2020.

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# STATISTICS



# GRANTS

The Administrative Division seeks out grant opportunities to assist with funding programs in the Sheriff's Office.

**\$1,310**



**ONEOK**



**\$5,000**



ND AED grant to purchase 10  
AED units

ND department of transportation awarded us \$13,500 to help with addition patrol for distracted driving, occupant protection, speed enforcement and underage drinking.

**\$3,000**



We were awarded \$1,473.71 from  
the Department of Justice to  
help purchase ballistic vests.



We currently have one deputy having a portion of their wages covered through a COPS Grant and this position is designated as a Community/School Resource Officer.

# THANK YOU



# 2021

This report was made to deliver aspects of our on-going goals and accomplishments with the Stark County Sheriff's Office.