



ANNUAL REPORT



2022

SHERIFF

STARK COUNTY



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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

2022 was a very busy but productive year for the Stark County Sheriff's Office. We experienced record numbers in some area's while still remaining innovative and continuing to keep our pledge to be a community orientated department that is of and for the people. Our employee retention level remains at an all time high and I believe we continue to offer our employees an environment that is conducive to their personal successes which in turn results in the success of our department.

We would like to thank our communities for there continued and unmatched support for our department and our staff. We also want to thank our Stark County Board of Commissioners for their continued support of our department and its mission.



CHIEF DEPUTY

The Chief Deputy position is responsible for supervising and managing the Patrol Lieutenant, Administrative Lieutenant, as well as the School Resource Officers, and Courthouse Security Personnel.

The Chief Deputy is also responsible for community programs and events. He ensures staff are present at all county and city events to make sure the public remains safe.

Richardton Opry Land Days

Belfield Hoedown

PRCA Rodeo's

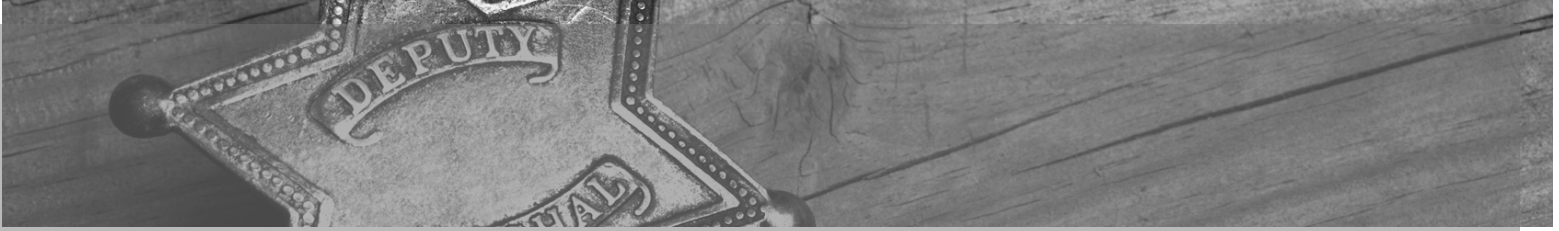
Concerts (Held at the fairgrounds)

Parades (In all cities and towns located in Stark County)

All after school programs (Football, volleyball, basketball games) located in Stark County

Other responsibilities are a liaison to all the different agencies the Stark County Sheriff's Office interacts with and coordinates the logistics on any issue that may arise in our county, or offers our support if needed in another county.





Courthouse Security & Transports

The Chief Deputy is also responsible for coordinating and managing transports within the state as well as out of state. The Stark County Sheriff's Office conducts a variety of transports to include: transports of prisoners to court, prisoners to state corrections, prisoners to medical facilities, prisoners to other counties, Juveniles to court, juveniles to alternative housing, juveniles to Youth Correction Center, and Mental Health individuals seeking treatment.

The Stark County Sheriff's Office utilizes licensed peace officers as well as reserves for all transports we conduct.

The Chief Deputy over sees and manages the Stark County Sheriff's Office reserve program that consist of eight license peace officers who are armed, and 10 citizens of Stark County who are unarmed reserves. Our reserve program helps us keep patrol deputies out patrolling in the county, by utilizing reserves for transports.

One licensed Reserve or deputy and one unlicensed reserve will often do the transport together. License Reserves also help fill positions at the courthouse when courthouse personnel are in training.





School Resource Deputies

Stark County Sheriff's Office has two School Resource Officer's (SRO) assigned to cover the public schools in Stark County. These two positions are divided into east and west. One SRO is assigned to the South Heart and Belfield school districts. One SRO is assigned to the Taylor and Richardton school district. Both SRO's work together and overlap into each other's area to help maintain a strong and positive relationship with the students, staff, and parents. SRO's also are involved in school and community events throughout Stark County.





Civil Division

The Stark County Sheriffs Office Civil Division is comprised of Sergeant Matt Keesler, Corporal Ralph Poikus, and Deputy Niel Badilies. This unit oversees and carries out the majority of process service within Stark County. This also includes the enforcement of civil judgments through writs of execution, replevin, foreclosures and evictions.

In 2022, there were 21 executions completed, 12 Sheriff Sales, and handled fees and commissions with these are totaling in \$16,513.70.



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



ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Administrative Division is responsible for the day to day office operations, Lexipol Policy and Procedures, evidence/seized property management, public information, social media. The criminal investigation unit and drug task force liaison work falls under the administrative division's oversight. The division seeks out grant opportunities to assist with funding programs in the Sheriff's Office.



The administrative division front office personnel are comprised of 4 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, summons and complaints, extraditions, open records requests and the 24/7 Program.

Sex offender registration and monitoring is another task performed within the division. The criminal investigative unit conducted one compliance check in 2022 on the offenders that are registered and live in Stark County. We had 11 registered offenders for rural Stark County in 2022 (This number does not include those offenders in the City of Dickinson).



In 2022 we were able to make fantastic strides in evidence management. We did a complete inventory of property/evidence and then destroyed evidence from closed and settled cases. We continued the inventory process into 2023 with the remaining evidence being properly cataloged, tagged organized and stored.

24/7 Program

The 24/7 program which comprises twice a day breath testing, drug patch monitoring and ankle bracelet monitoring for drugs and alcohol. These tasks are all performed professionally and efficiently by a very dedicated staff. The front office staff have worked very hard to cross train in each area of responsibility so there are redundancies in place so as to maximize office productivity and efficiency. The 24/7 program is a busy program with participants at an all-time high number. The coordinator for the program is very busy with the management of this program. We see a great deal of recidivism with the program. We have had to spread the work load of the program to other office staff to help the program stay efficient and to get the work completed. All four the office staff assist with some portion of the program. This program has become a very busy component for us to manage due the number of participants.

Detective Division

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 2022. 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. We have seen an increase in the number of drug crimes and sex crime cases occurring in Stark County this year. 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.



2022 SERIOUS CRIMINAL OFFENSES

SEX CRIMES

- 39 sex crimes
- Cases include numerous sexual assaults, Child sexual predators, rape, and sex offender checks.
- Sex Crimes are rising in the county.

First high-profile sex crimes case: This case was a sex crime that happened in rural Dickinson.

- Suspect fled to Las Vegas, NV, where he was originally from.
- Investigation was conducted and an extraditable warrant was issued for the suspect.
- Suspect by Las Vegas Police Department and brought back to ND, where suspect pled guilty to the sexual assault.

Second-high profile sex crimes case: This case was a sex crime that happened in Belfield, ND. The offender was luring several juvenile females.

- Investigation was conducted. The suspect was arrested.
- Suspect was charged with Corruption of a minor and luring minors by computer.

The investigation led to additional charges for the suspect in Montana on an 11year old victim.

BUGRLARIES AND THEFT

- 120 Theft and Burglaries in the county in 2022.

High profile burglaries and theft:

#1

- Theft at a shop in Richardton, and approximately \$70,000 worth of tools were stolen.
- Investigation led to Mercer County and McKenzie County.

Suspect charged with Possession of stolen property.

#2

- Theft north of Dickinson. 3 offenders broke into Patterson, UTI, and stole over 120,000 dollars' worth of copper wire from the business.
- Search warrant for suspect residence and located the stolen property.
- All 3 suspects were convicted of theft of property and burglary.

#3

- A financial crime theft case investigated for 3 to 4 months. This case has required several search warrants and cooperation with the banks and victims involved.
- Suspect stole over \$50,000 from the victim.
- Search warrants for bank accounts and financial documents obtained.
- Suspect charged with theft of property (B felony) and Unauthorized use of identifying information (B felony).

PATROL DIVISION

The patrol division of the Stark County Sheriff's Office is led by Lieutenant Jesse Hoff and consists of 14 sworn deputies and two K-9s patrolling the 1,340 square miles of Stark County. The deputies are split into four 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 15,470 calls for service in 2022. Of those, 2,257 were traffic stops. Patrol also responded to 166 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.

The patrol division completed 1,433 hours of POST approved law enforcement trainings. These included the 28 hour Methods of Instruction course, 64 hour Firearms Instructor course, three week Leadership in Police Organizations, Kaminsky Field Training Office school, several ICS (federal Incident Command Structure) courses for emergency

management, Basic SWAT course, narcan use and administration, and Sanford Air Med Landing Zone training. In June, several officers received a 16 hour ground combatives course from UFC Legend Dan Severn. And in July, Lieutenant Hoff graduated from Northwestern University's 12 week School of Police Staff and Command (SPSC).



Patrol Sergeant Scott Masters



Patrol Sergeant DJ Wallace



PROMOTIONS



Patrol Sergeant John Hiltunen



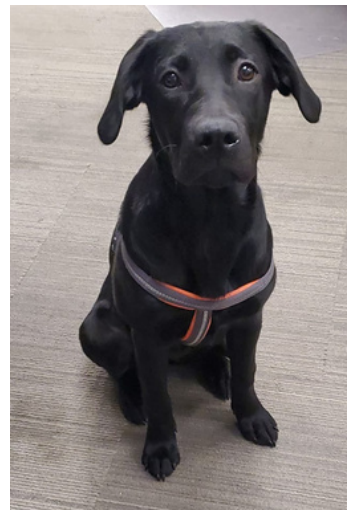
Truck Reg. Coporal Barbara Tessier

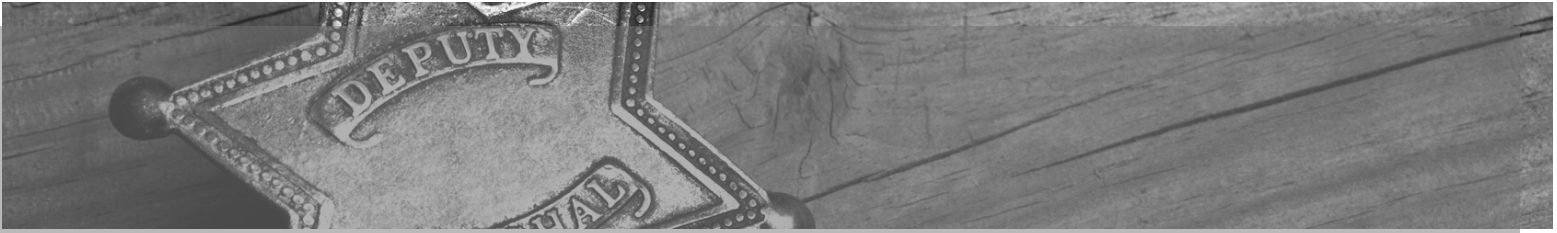
K-9 DIVISION

The year 2022 showed a rise in narcotics trafficking use in Stark County as well as the state of North Dakota in general, our K-9 units and program have become an even more invaluable tool in the course of our duties.

The Stark County Sheriff's Office in 2022, we ran with a K-9 unit that consisted of four K-9's. Archer was our first K-9 officer and is a single purpose narcotic detecting K-9 that also searches for evidence and lost or endangered people. Jerry Lee and Thor are the Sheriff's Office apprehension K-9's in addition to chasing and securing bad guys, they also do everything K-9 Archer is trained to do, thus earning the term dual purpose K-9's.

Our fourth K-9, Myria, was acquired in 2022. We are the first agency in the state of North Dakota to offer an emotional support K-9 program. K-9 Myria travels to schools, various youth programs, nursing homes, and many other programs offering her services while bridging the gap between law enforcement and those we are interacting with in our community.





SOUTHWEST NARCOTICS TASK FORCE

COUNTIES OF: ADAMS, BILLINGS, DUNN, GOLDEN VALLEY, HETTINGER, SLOPE, STARK

CITIES OF: BELFIELD, DICKINSON, MEDORA

The SWNTF initiated 122 cases/investigations in 2022. These cases resulted in 38 arrests throughout our service area, with several additional charges pending laboratory results. Agents assigned to the SWNTF conducted 24 community presentations on various drug/law enforcement related topics. These presentations included schools, emergency responders, recurrent training for law enforcement, and community organizations. The SWNTF through our partnership with the Dickinson Police Department conducted 504 intelligence reports in 2022. These were performed through our intelligence analyst who supports both agencies.

In total in 2022, the SWNTF seized 3,185 grams of methamphetamine directly from individuals in southwest North Dakota or those trafficking it into our area. The SWNTF seized 26,038 grams of marijuana in 2022. None of this marijuana was identified as legally prescribed in North Dakota and was most often encountered when investigating crimes related to other substances. In 2022 the SWNTF, like most jurisdictions in the nation, continued to see a rise in cases involving opiates. This unfortunately led to multiple overdoses throughout the region. Fortunately, in many of these cases the administration of Narcan by responding officers saved lives and undoubtedly prevented more fatal instances. The most prevalent of these drugs is fentanyl and its derivatives. In 2022, the SWNTF seized 1559 units of fentanyl or 15,590 individual dosage units. Each dosage unit has the potential to be a fatal dose of the drug.



The SWNTF worked closely with our federal law enforcement partners and were able to federally indict multiple individuals responsible for the trafficking of illicit substances into our region. A number of these cases are still ongoing but have already resulted in the federal prosecution of individuals trafficking large amounts of controlled substances into our region from the southern border as well as the west coast.

In 2023, the SWNTF will continue to prioritize the targeting of drug trafficking organizations that have ties to our region with a focus on cases that have a marked impact on the flow of illicit substances into our region. The SWNTF is going into 2023 with an experienced group of agents who have collectively established proactive goals consistent with the mission and values of the SWNTF. The SWNTF will continue to strive to deliver the highest standard of assistance to our partner agencies as well as the communities we serve.

2022 SERIOUS CRIMINAL OFFENSES

Total cases- 122 cases/Investigations (2021-185)

Community presentations- 24 (2021-22)

Total arrests- 38 (2021-41)

Total methamphetamine seized- 3,185g (2021-2,596g)

Total marijuana seized-26,038g (2021-6770g)

Total cocaine- 13g (2021-53g)

Total fentanyl (includes powder and pills)-1559 units containing 15,590 Dosage Units (2021-974U-9,740 DU)

Total heroin- 0 (2021-49.9g-499 DU)

Total Psilocybin- 4g (2021-9.8g)

Total MDMA-2 units (2021-2U)

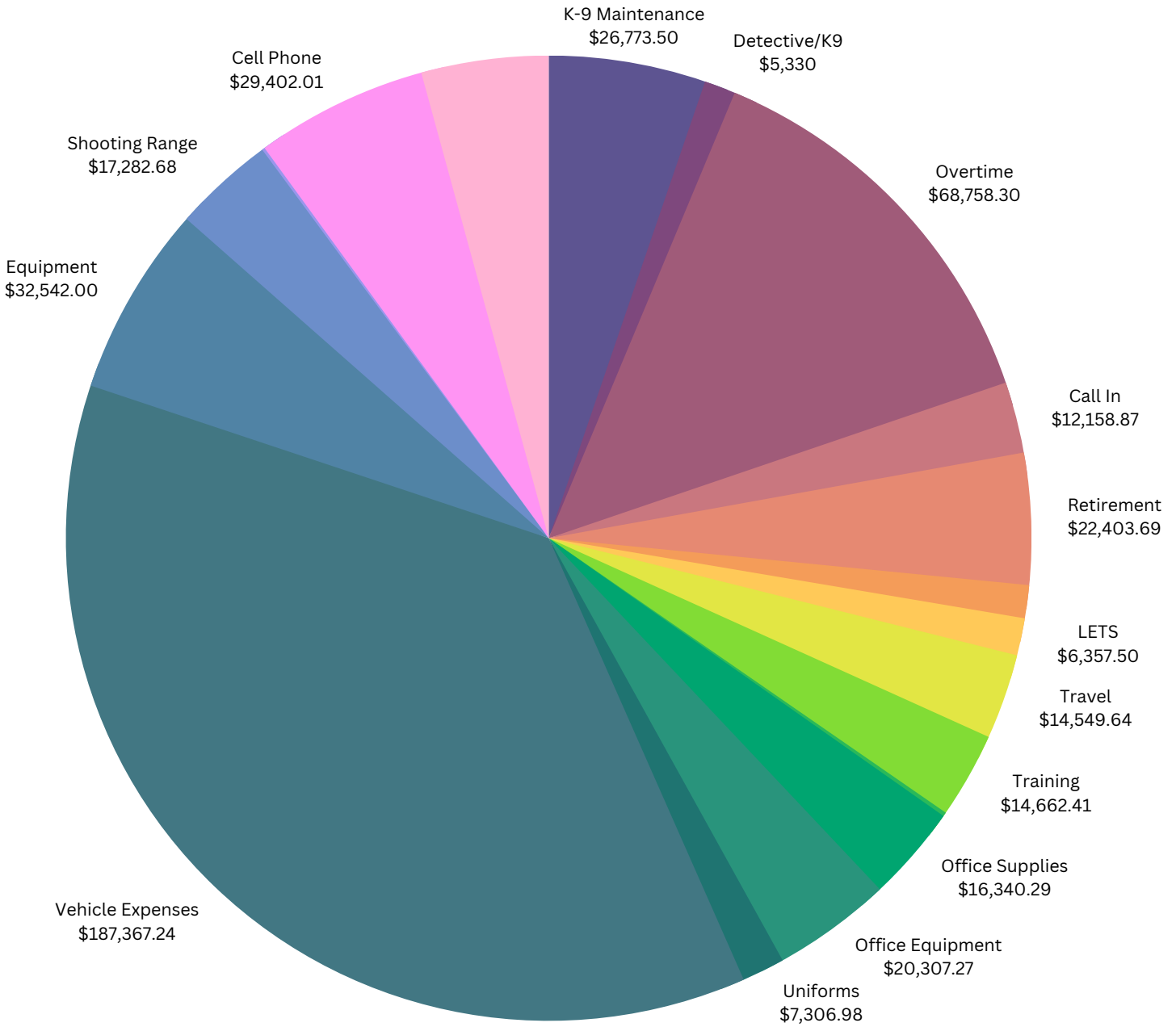
Total other controlled pills- 350 units (2021-532U)

Total SWNTF Overdose Investigations- 29 requiring hospitalization with 4 being fatal

(2021-18 hospitalizations with 4 fatal)



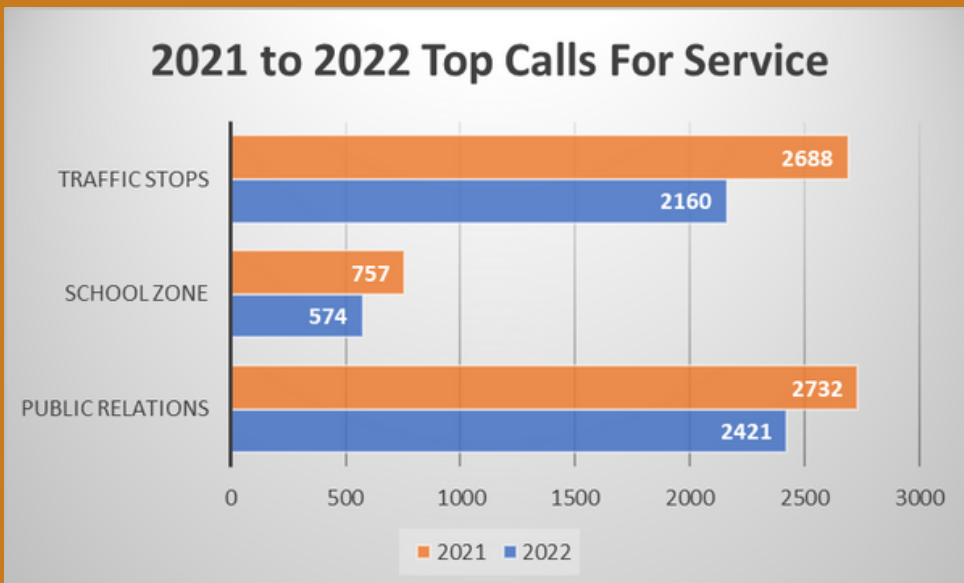
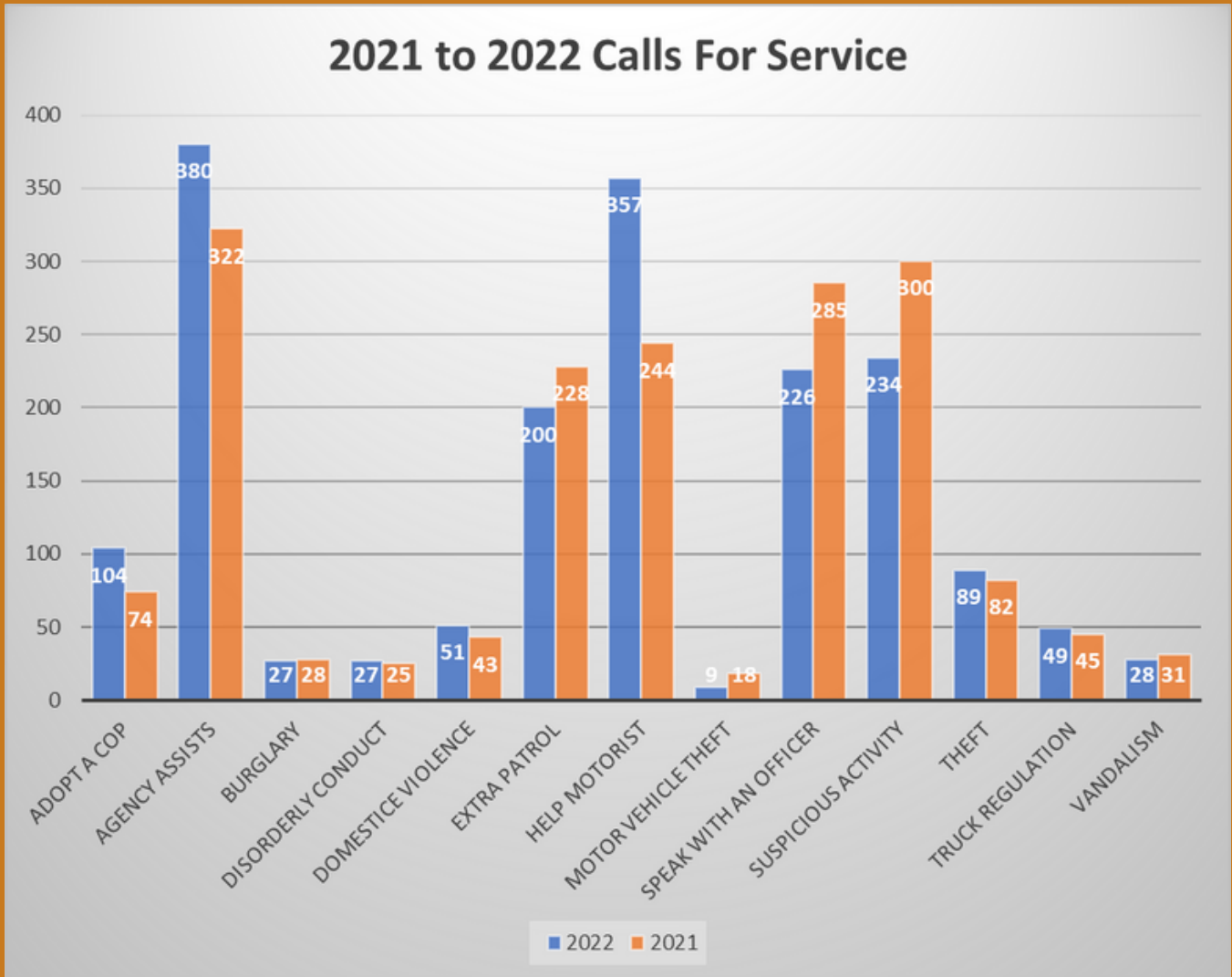
2022 Budget



Salary and longevity pay year to date expense was \$2,143,944.61 leaving our final over all spent budget at \$2,653,967.01 for 2022. There were also \$150,000 in ARPA Funds set aside for the Sheriff's Office to purchase and fully equip three vehicles.

2022

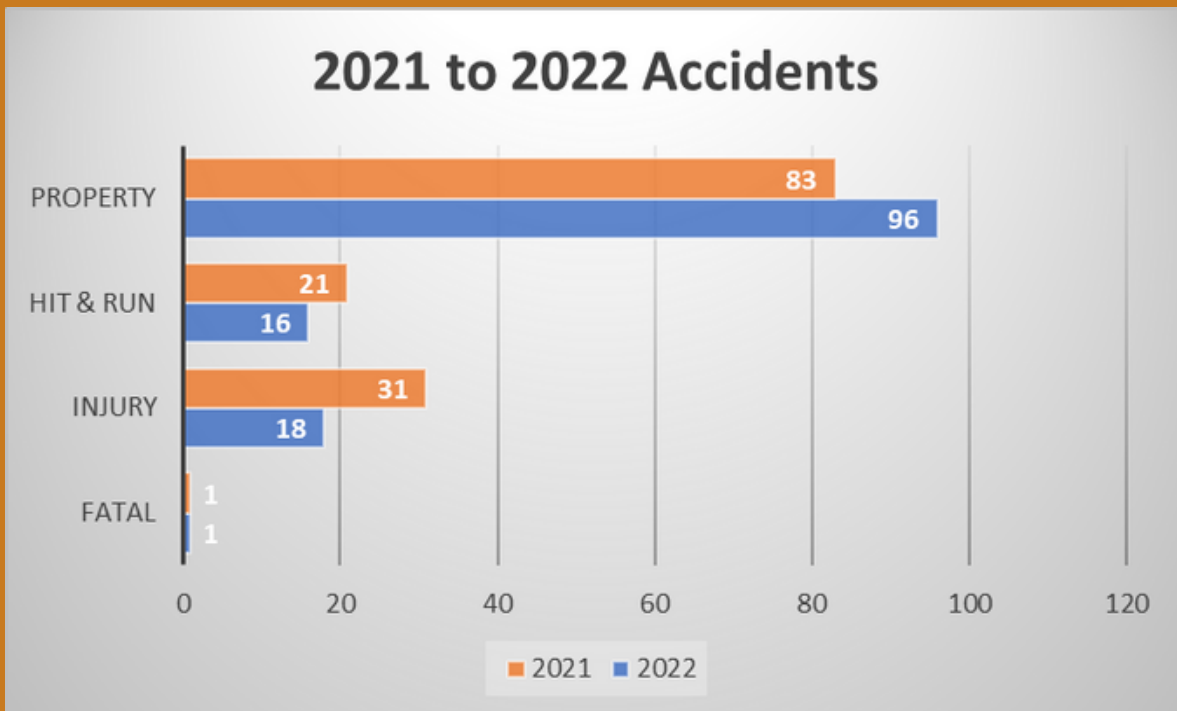
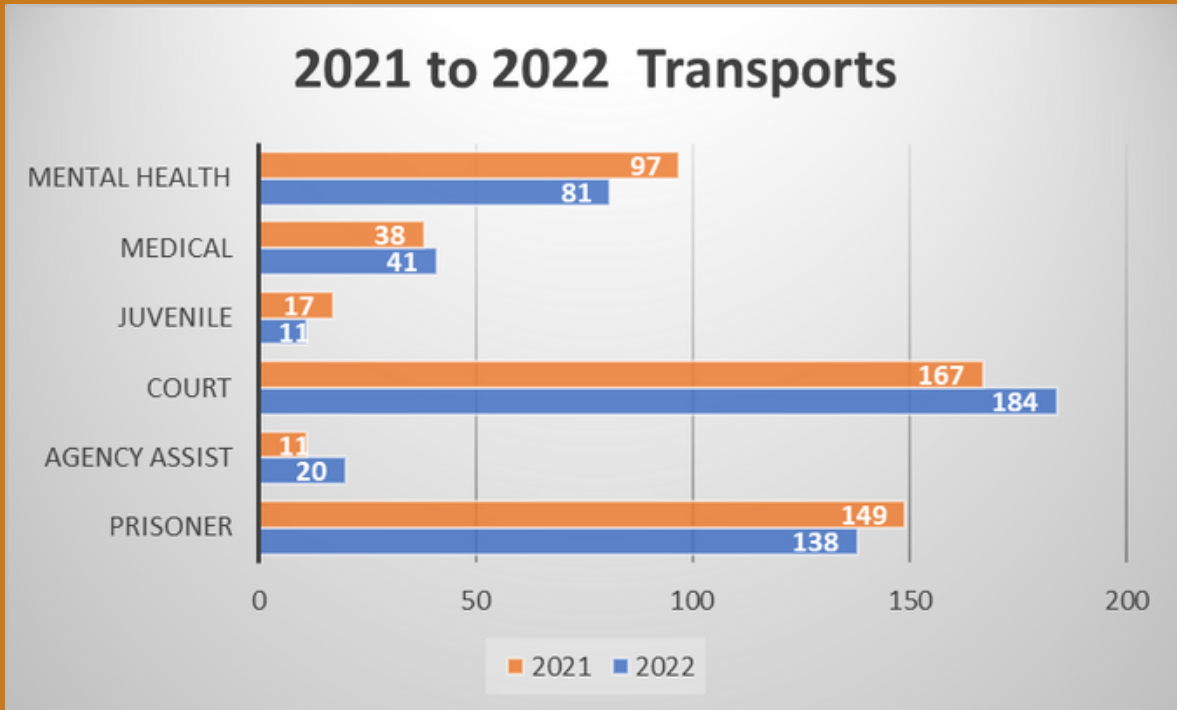
STATISTICS



Calls for Service will include all of our agencies involvements. In 2022 we had 15,470 compared to 15,766 in 2021.

2022

STATISTICS



GRANTS

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

In 2022, there is still one deputy having a portion of their wages covered through a COPS Grant and this position is designated as a Community/School Resource Officer.



\$51,000

We continued with the SIRT radio reimbursement program across the state and updated our radios to be in compliance with the state SIRT Program.

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

\$5,000



\$1,920



We continue to submit partial reimbursement from the Department of Justice to help fund the purchase of ballistic vests.

THANK YOU



2022

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