

INTERACTIONS RELATIONSHIPS  
CITIZENS LEADERSHIP  
PROACTIVE LAW STRONG  
RETENTION DEDICATED  
ENFORCEMENT STRIVE QUALITY  
INVOLVEMENT COMMUNITY  
PROFESSIONAL FAIR PEOPLE

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Stark County Sheriff  
**Corey Lee**

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# SHERIFF COREY LEE



## MESSAGE FROM YOUR SHERIFF

Thank you once again for taking the time to review our 2024 Annual Report. In our administrations sixth full year in office, we continued to proudly focus on our increased retention, which remains well above average compared to agencies around the State of North Dakota, as well as compared to National Averages.

We are also proud to say that we came in under budget for our sixth straight year, even while focusing on bettering the necessary equipment for our staff, to support their safety, efficiency, and overall job performance. In doing so, we believe we are also creating an increased professional standard for our office, which helps pay dividends in the area of retention.

Under the direction of our administration and in partnership with the Stark County Association of Deputies, we also continue to set the standard for what a law enforcement agency can and should be within its communities in the area of Public Relations. I continue to make the coordination of these events a strong part of my role, as it aligns with my vision for our office, in the realm of positive sustained interactions with both our constituents and the youth of our community.

Thank you again for taking the time to educate yourself as to our activities and focus. Also, as always, please contact myself or our Stark County Sheriff's Office with any questions or comments that you may have.

Sheriff Corey Lee

# 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**



# Calls for Service

<b>24/7 Violation</b>	79	<b>Civil Matter</b>	37
<b>24/7 Testing</b>	738	<b>Video Court</b>	2
<b>911 Hang Up</b>	20	<b>Courtroom Security</b>	1
<b>911 Open Line</b>	42	<b>Courtesy Security</b>	1
<b>Duplicate Call</b>	9	<b>Disorderly Conduct</b>	33
<b>Abandoned Vehicle</b>	21	<b>Deaths</b>	9
<b>Accidents (Fatality, Hit &amp; Run, Injury, Property)</b>	152	<b>Dispatch Handled</b>	26
<b>Adopt A Cop</b>	170	<b>DIGIT Total: 1</b>	1
<b>Agency Assist</b>	218	<b>Domestic Violence</b>	51
<b>Alarm Calls (Bank, Panic, Business, Residential)</b>	67	<b>Driving Complaint</b>	163
<b>Ambulance Calls (Intercepts, Requests, Other)</b>	136	<b>Drunk Driver</b>	23
<b>Animal Calls (Barking, Bites, Complaints, Lost, Neglect, Running at Large)</b>	287	<b>Drive, Road Rage</b>	1
<b>Assault</b>	8	<b>Drug Info/Smell</b>	17
<b>Attempt, Paper Service or Warrant Service Attempt</b>	2522	<b>Error</b>	16
<b>Background Investigation</b>	3	<b>Funeral Escort</b>	14
<b>Bar Check</b>	257	<b>Extortion</b>	1
<b>Building Checks</b>	58	<b>Extra Patrol</b>	210
<b>Bomb Threat</b>	1	<b>Family Offenses</b>	5
<b>Burglary/Breaking</b>	25	<b>Child Abuse/Neglect</b>	7
<b>Citizen Assist</b>	11	<b>Field Contact</b>	149
<b>Contract City Meeting</b>	55	<b>Fight</b>	5

# Calls for Service

<b>Fire Alarm</b>	10	<b>K9 Other</b>	20
<b>Fire, All Other</b>	14	<b>K9 Assist</b>	12
<b>Bon, pit, controled fire</b>	4	<b>K9 Public Relations</b>	100
<b>Brush Fire</b>	28	<b>K9 Search</b>	116
<b>Fire, Control Burn</b>	3	<b>K9 Training</b>	90
<b>Gas Leak</b>	2	<b>Littering</b>	6
<b>Structure Fire</b>	10	<b>Livestock Violations</b>	1
<b>Fire, Smoke Smell</b>	8	<b>Lost Property</b>	5
<b>Vehicle Fire</b>	8	<b>Loud Music/Party/Noise</b>	21
<b>Fireworks</b>	8	<b>Mental Health</b>	9
<b>Foot Patrol</b>	127	<b>Minor in Consumption/ Possession/Premises</b>	7
<b>Forgery</b>	1		
<b>Found Property</b>	34		
<b>Gas Drive Off</b>	10	<b>Missing Person</b>	7
<b>General Information</b>	29	<b>Local Ordinance Violations</b>	17
<b>Harassment</b>	29	<b>Theft of a Motor Vehicle</b>	9
<b>Hazardous Road Condtion</b>	95	<b>Neighbor Dispute</b>	14
<b>Motorist/Pedestrian Assist</b>	301	<b>NSF</b>	1
<b>Intoxicated Subject</b>	3	<b>Open Door/Window</b>	5
<b>Runaway Juvenile</b>	2	<b>Parking Complaint</b>	54
<b>Juvenile Tobacco Violation</b>	2	<b>Public Relations</b>	4080
<b>Unruly Juvenile</b>	7	<b>Prowler</b>	1

# Calls for Service

Paper Service Criminal	129	Tow Call	6
Paper Service Civil	1671	Traffic Control	22
Recovered Property	7	Transport Prisoner	151
Remove Subject	32	Transport for Another Agency	15
Ride	27	Transport Court	137
Scam - No Loss Of Property	22	Transport Juvenile	10
Search Warrant	43	Transport Medical	14
Sex Offender Status Check	13	Transport Mental Health	43
Sex Offender Violation	1	Trespassing	24
Sex Crimes	9	Truck Regulatory	51
Shots Fired/Heard	10	Traffic Stop	2181
Speak with an Officer	303	Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle	1
Officer Stand By	42	Vandalism	40
Subpoena	413	Violation of Protection/ Judicial/ Restraining Order	7
Suicidal Threat	23		
Summons and Complaint	9	Warrant Criminal	126
Suspicious Person/Vehicle/Activity	172	Warrant Other Authority	593
School Zone Patrol	522	Weapons Offenses	9
Talks/Workshops/Tours	47	Welfare Check	119
Terrorizing	2	Wild Animal Non-Domestic	7
Theft and Fraud	97	No Incident Code	28

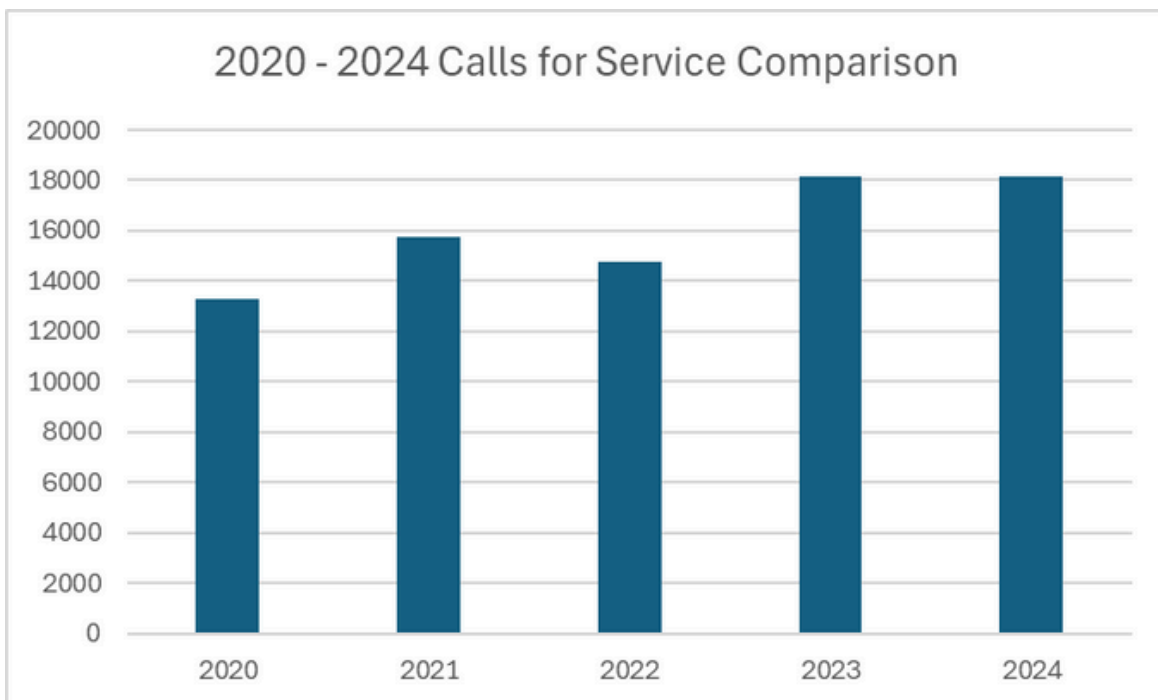
# Calls for Service

In 2024, deputies responded to a total of 18,139 calls for service, a number consistent with 2023. Routine duties included 152 accident responses, 2,181 traffic stops, 370 transports, and 4,080 public relations interactions. Public relations are designed to strengthen community engagement and safety awareness.

In addition to these routine activities, deputies also addressed several serious incidents, including:

- 8 assault calls
- 25 burglary/breaking-in calls
- 33 disorderly conduct calls
- 51 domestic violence calls
- 1 bomb threat
- 5 fight calls

This range of responses highlights the deputies' continued commitment to public safety, community involvement, and rapid response to both routine and critical incidents.



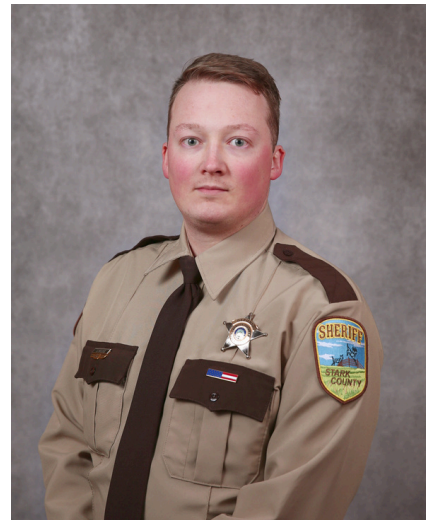


# 2024



January began with a large theft investigation that was valued at nearly a million dollars. In the community, we participated in taking kids to school events alongside the fire department to help support some of the benefits in our community. We were able to have kids from Gladstone come and see some things around the Sheriff's Office, have a light breakfast with us, visit with the kids and their families, and take them to school in squad cars.

In February, there was an addition to our Detective Division with our second Detective, Evan Wilkie, starting this month. We have seen an increase in sex cases over the past couple of years, which made this position a priority for the county. This month was also the beginning of the Dickinson Law Enforcement Center, where the Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management, and Southwest Multi County Correction Center are located, and starting their construction phases to upgrade from cast iron pipes throughout the entire facility.



March was successful with our community events across the county and had the highest turnout from the community we have seen so far, and great support from volunteers with the Easter events. Our Detective Division was hit again hard with some incidents from Belfield, including a theft case and church burglaries. We continued to work closely with officials and monitor the area regarding speed limit concerns on Highway 10, just east of Dickinson.

In April, we had K-9 Jerry Lee awarded 1st place at the Great Basin award in Williston, while K-9 Thor had to take a brief leave for medical and health concerns with K-9 Archer, being monitored as well at this time, K-9 Archer remained on active duty.



Additional concerns about speed are being discussed and monitored in the area of 109th between 32nd Street Southwest and 34th Street Southwest when events are being held at the August House Venue. Concerned residents in the area have reported high levels of traffic and speed increases at those times. Studies will be done to track traffic in the area.

We were down one patrol deputy in 2024 due to being called to active duty for the National Guard. We did get K-9 Thor released from his brief medical leave in May, and he is back in full action. Our staff remains very passionate about Memorial Day, and we participated in placing flags at the cemeteries. Planning for Roughrider Days is also in full effect, and we are working closely with the Fairgrounds to ensure safety and security remain a priority with extra security equipment and our staff at events. We have helped the city of Dickinson quite a bit by taking their calls when their staff are busy with other calls and/or serious incidents, which were becoming more frequent.



In July, we began to see a trend in fleeing cases and a rise across the entire county. This ultimately led to the damage of one of the county squad cars, and luckily, there was no personal injury to staff. We did inform staff that this time, the K-9 Division will go from three active K-9s to only two active K-9s starting in 2025 due to health reasons. Our agency, along with several first responders, the Road Department, and other personnel in the area, responded to a house fire near South Heart that affected our entire community. We also assisted with a city of Dickinson high-profile case involving a death this month. Additional security and safety measures were taken by Stark County staff and Ward County Staff for a trial that needed to be moved here. Corporal Dave Klatt was also approved for out-of-state K-9 supervisor training down in Kansas.



In the fall, we dealt with numerous fires due to the extremely dry conditions. We assisted the City of Dickinson Police Department again with a serious barricaded subject after a downtown robbery. Everyone went home without injury after several hours in a standoff, causing us to have to evacuate the Stark County Courthouse.

In October, we welcomed two new deputies, Chandler Wanner and Roselyn White, to the Stark County Sheriff's Office.



We were also tasked with an out-of-state extradition in Utah that went without incident. Our Patrol and Detective Divisions had a case in Belfield that resulted in a death, but no danger to the public. We also assisted with election set-up and preparations. Our community events for Halloween were successful, ran smoothly, and had great, continued support from each community.



In November, our Task Force Deputy had the opportunity to attend a narcotics training in California, which covered asset forfeiture, cryptocurrency, dark web, fentanyl investigations, informant development, informant management, interview techniques, and other topics. We saw an increase in house fires in both the county and city this month. Charbonneau allowed the Sheriff's Office to use their new facilities parking lot while they were renovating out on the East Business Loop in Dickinson for EVOC training. We updated our contract with Ward County to help house our inmates needing professional methadone assistance, which is not available in our jail or our community.



In December, the Sheriff's Office participated in the annual Shop with a Cop, and it was another successful turnout from staff, agencies, and community members. Final updates with K-9 Archer being retired on December 31, 2024, and released to his owner, Deputy Kevin Eldridge. K-9 Jerry was also diagnosed with a debilitating spinal disease and is retired as well. Funds are being raised to replace K-9 Jerry Lee to maintain two active K-9s. Corporal Dave Klatt will be attending training in May 2025 with the new K-9.



# K-9 Division

K-9 usages throughout 2024 shows a snapshot of how these highly trained dogs are utilized across different months even though we had several obstacles throughout this year. Notably, September saw the highest number of deployments, with 31 deployments. In October and in December we experienced a lower usage, both with 13 instances, potentially reflecting seasonal factors or operational downtime. The remaining months show relatively consistent deployment numbers, typically in the low to mid-twenties, indicating a steady reliance on K-9 units throughout the year.



The critical role these canines play in various operations, from law enforcement to search and rescue missions, adapting to the fluctuating needs of their handlers. Understanding these trends can aid in resource planning and optimizing K-9 unit efficiency in future operations and this is obtained through weekly trainings with other handlers in the area.



# Deputy Trout's Deployment

Deputy Colten Trout joined the North Dakota Army National Guard at the age of 17, completing basic training between his junior and senior years of high school. The summer after graduation, he further honed his skills by completing Advanced Individual Training (AIT) as a Combat Engineer.



Then at age 20, his commitment to public service continued as he joined the Stark County Sheriff's Office. For years, he dedicated himself to serving the communities of Stark County and the state of North Dakota, upholding the law and protecting its citizens.

In 2023, his service expanded to a critical national mission, and he was deployed to the Southwest Border of the US, where he led Soldiers in a key operation to support Customs and Border Protection Agents. Their mission focused on ensuring freedom of movement for law enforcement agents in their primary duties.

Upon returning home in November 2024, his commitment to serving the communities of North Dakota remains unwavering. Colten continued to bring the same dedication, leadership, and experience gained through military service and law enforcement to my ongoing contributions to the state.



# Community Engagement



The Stark County Sheriff's Office takes pride in actively engaging with citizens and visitors at community events. Our dedicated community relations team participates in a wide range of activities, from school programs across Stark County to law enforcement initiatives such as National Night Out.

We are regularly invited to nursing homes, senior centers, and local gatherings, where we value the opportunity to connect with residents of all ages. Whether supporting student activities or encouraging young entrepreneurs at neighborhood lemonade stands, these interactions strengthen our bond with the community.

The Sheriff's Office remains committed to maintaining a visible presence throughout Stark County. We continue to prioritize public safety while working alongside our fellow emergency responders to serve and protect the people of our county.

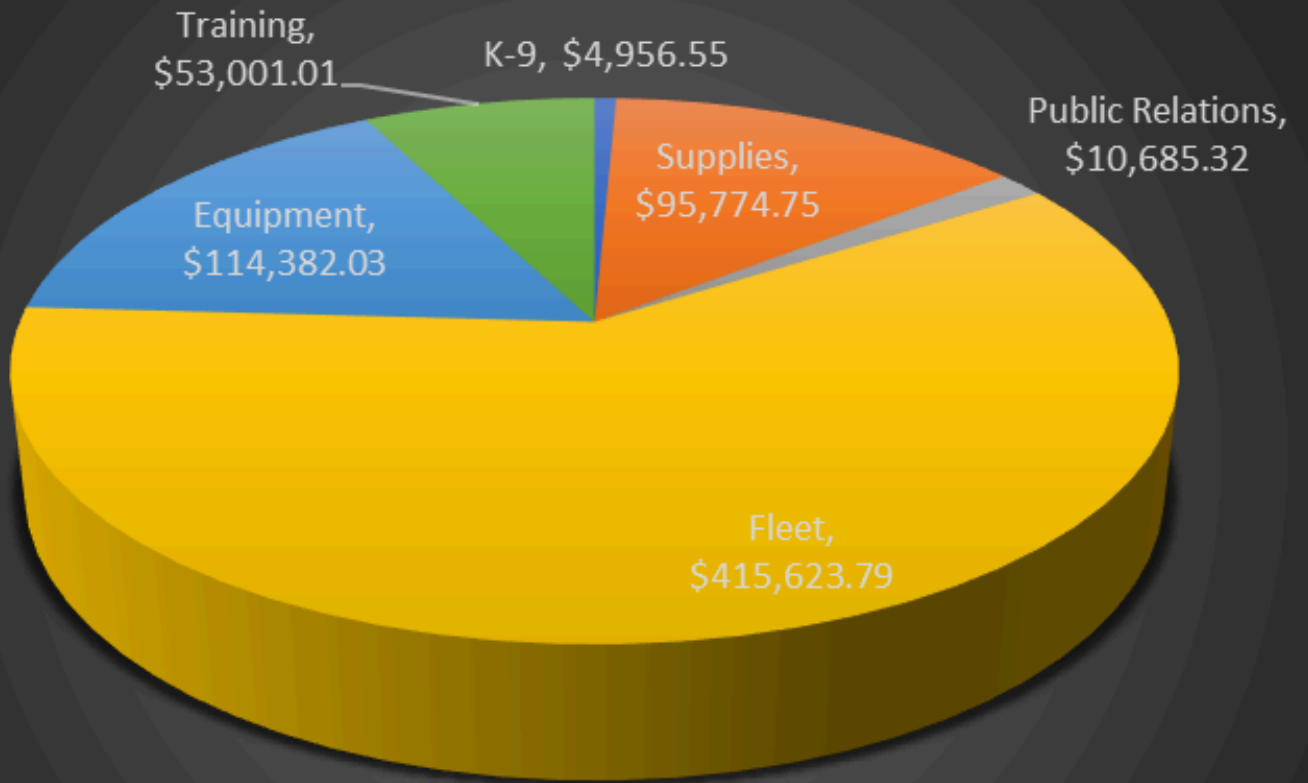




# 2024 Budget

The Stark County Sheriff's Office was allocated a budget of \$3,246,742.50 for fiscal year 2024. Actual expenditures totaled \$3,212,222.82, representing 99% of the budget and leaving a remaining balance of \$34,519.68.

Personnel and related expenditures remain the largest component of the budget. Together, salaries, overtime, retirement, and specialized units (K-9) totaled \$2,517,799.37.



**STARK COUNTY**  
**SHERIFF**