



# ST. JOHNS COUNTY *SHERIFF'S OFFICE*

**ROBERT A. HARDWICK, SHERIFF**

## 2023 *Annual Report*







ST. JOHNS COUNTY

# ***SHERIFF'S OFFICE***

**ROBERT A. HARDWICK, SHERIFF**

# **2023**

## *Year In Review*

**St. Johns County — 310,810 Residents**

Land — 601 mi<sup>2</sup>

Water — 221 mi<sup>2</sup>

**Calls for Service — 414,795**

Administrative Telephone Calls

(Incoming / Outgoing / Transfers) — 299,367

Incoming 911 Calls — 115,428

**Traffic Crashes — 5,300**

**Offense Reports — 13,570**

**Major Drugs Seized**

Fentanyl	3,777 grams	Cocaine	2,373 grams
Meth	2,385 grams	Heroin	94 grams

**Average Daily Inmate Population — 483**

**Bookings — 6,375**

4015 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine, FL 32084 | 904.824.8304 | [www.sjso.org](http://www.sjso.org)

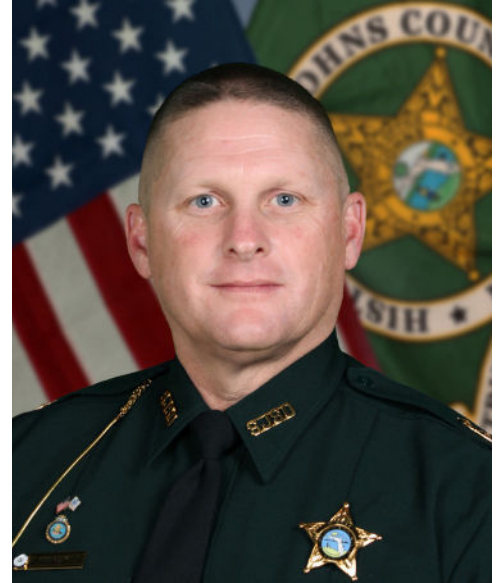
# Message from the Sheriff

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Dear St. Johns County Citizens,

It is my honor to present to you the 2023 St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Annual Report. This report will showcase the dedication to excellence the men and women of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office display each day.

You will find inside these pages evidence of our constant pursuit of improvement as we seek to protect and serve the citizens of St. Johns County. Each Division of the agency experienced improvements through technology, community partnerships and crime solving. Our Body Worn Camera (BWC) program is now in full swing, and we have learned so much through the ability to see footage after an incident. These cameras prove time and time again our deputies do their jobs with dignity and honor. We are encouraged by the positive interactions our deputies have with citizens from all walks of life.



One of the best ways to get to know our agency is through our Citizen Law Enforcement Academy (CLEA). This Academy will give you a behind-the-scenes look at every aspect of our agency. Our CLEA graduates give rave reviews over the opportunities to learn about the agency and interact with my dedicated personnel. CLEA is designed to provide the public with a working knowledge of our mission, operation, policies and personnel. Participants will get to experience an unfiltered view of daily operations and interact with my staff working throughout the agency as they give you a snapshot of the work that occurs behind these walls daily. Some of the highlights of the program include target shooting on the range, hands-on driving with our instructors to hone your defensive driving skills, a front row seat in our state-of-the-art Communications Center, a ride-along with one of our patrol deputies and even an opportunity to experience our 30-foot-wide live action simulator which puts you directly in the decision-making process of our profession. I am confident you will not be disappointed. You can apply to attend by visiting [www.sjso.org/public-affairs/civilian-academy](http://www.sjso.org/public-affairs/civilian-academy).

In closing, I want to thank you for another year of support for the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office. It is truly a privilege to serve as your 28th elected Sheriff of St. Johns County.

I continue to be incredibly humbled to have the opportunity to lead the best law enforcement agency in the nation. As we look forward to another year, our commitment to providing first class customer service and keeping our citizens and visitors safe remain my top priorities, as well as ensuring that our county is the best place to live, work, play, raise a family, and retire.

Should you have any questions, please always feel free to reach out. You can contact the Office of the Sheriff by calling 904-810-6605 or by emailing me at [sheriff@sjso.org](mailto:sheriff@sjso.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rt. A. Hl".

Robert A. Hardwick  
Sheriff

# World Class Customer Service



Thought you would like to see how incredible Deputy Watson has been at our PVPV/Rawlings Elementary. The kids adore him. The 5th graders love to play football with him.

**From a Teacher:**



To the brave deputies and leaders of the SJCSO, what more can we say other than THANK YOU! As a coach and father, it was truly an unforgettable moment running off a soccer field with fellow parents,



**Joel Dykens:**

our youth, and my own daughter after hearing the nearby gunfire and the instructions provided by the soccer association. After hearing of your teams strategic and quick response to the threat, your actions no doubt saved the lives of our county's precious youth and families! It is comforting to know that the residents of SJC are served by well-trained, sacrificial, and dedicated deputies. Thank you Sheriff Hardwick for being a leader of such a great team. I could sense from your genuine and emotional response that your heart is for this community and for its innocent youth, our future! So again, thank you for your dedication and service to this great community we all call home!





## Avery Stegall:

My Name is Avery Stegall, I am a Retired Army Vet and Correctional Deputy from Washington State, and I live in St. Augustine Shores.

Yesterday, while I was away a storm came through and knocked down my flag pole. I wasn't home but my grandson was. He said a Deputy was driving by and stopped and saw my flag pole down and got out and took the flag off the pole, folded it up, and brought it to the door. I just want to thank the Deputy that did this. It really meant a lot being a retired soldier and Retired Deputy. Thank You very much, whoever you are!

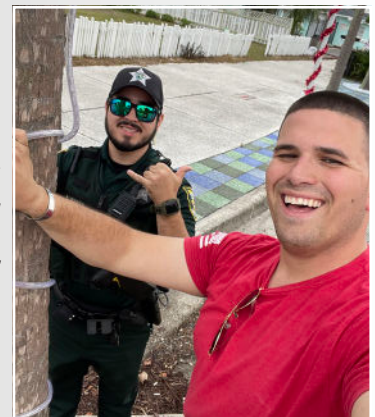


## Joe A.:

Yesterday morning, Saturday, November 18, 2023, three SJC Sheriff Deputies who are posted in North Beach, volunteered to help VBMS put up Christmas lights on Vilano Road for our Vilano Holiday Village and we were thankful for their help ...

They didn't have to give up their free time to do this, but they did and that speaks highly of their commitment to supporting the community they serve and their role as the Sheriff's representatives in the community. They are terrific young men, professional in every aspect, and it's a joy to have the opportunity to work with them.

We got the job done but wouldn't have gotten it done without their help ...



# Patrol Division

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The Patrol Division provides a full range of law enforcement services to all visitors and residents of St. Johns County. The many components within the division engage in operations that range from receiving calls for service, emergency calls, patrolling our communities, protecting students and those who work in our schools, monitoring our roadways and beaches while working with our local, state, federal and judicial partners to serve and protect our communities.

The Patrol Division currently consists of three separate bureaus: Road Patrol, Youth Services, and Special Events. Road Patrol is divided into three geographical regions for calls for service. Youth Resource Deputies (YRD) and School Crossing Guards (SCG), within the Youth Services Unit, are responsible for protecting students and faculty at each public school in St. Johns County. The Police Athletic League (PAL) is managed by Youth Services personnel who mentor youth through sports. The Special Events Unit consists of the Traffic Unit, Public Service Assistants (PSA) who assist deputies, Beach Services, and Emergency Preparedness.

## YOUTH SERVICES — THREAT ASSESSMENT DEPUTIES

A crucial addition for the 2023-2024 school year was the addition of two threat assessment deputies, whose sole focus was following up on school threats and significant crimes in the schools. The increase in number and severe nature of the threats to schools mandated dedicated investigators. The other YRDs are not able to leave the schools during the day, which hinders their ability to follow up. The threat assessment deputies are free to traverse the county for follow-up. SJSO is one of the few agencies in the state with this model, and it has successfully intercepted legitimate threats and many non-credible threats.

One case of note occurred at Creekside High School and involved juveniles with plans, maps, access to firearms and various targets the threat assessment deputies intercepted. This credible threat resulted in numerous felony charges for multiple juveniles that ultimately led to a successful prosecution.

## 2023 FLORIDA SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD OF THE YEAR: SANDRA LAZOR

Sandra facilitated the crossing of hundreds of kids every week at a challenging intersection and cares about the safety and wellbeing of each and every one. She has created a safer and friendlier environment at the crossing, teaching pedestrian safety daily to her students, making sure they have fitted bicycle helmets and reminding them of safety protocols. Sandra embodies service and care for her community.



## ST. JOHNS POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE (PAL)

PAL serves as an organization where deputies from the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office coach and mentor the younger generations of athletes, building relationships with their community's youth. St. Johns PAL has broken ground on a 37-acre sports complex for kids in Elkton. The first phase will include three full-size football fields, including a track. The complex will eventually be able to handle a variety of events including football, soccer, baseball, track and field, and band concerts. About 2,500 boys and girls annually play flag and tackle football as well as baseball, along with cheerleading and boxing programs.

Much of the initial funding — \$5.9 million — came this year as a state appropriation, approved by the governor in this year's budget as a jump start for the first phase of the facility. Now PAL is working with community members and businesses to raise the additional money to fully complete the first phase and start on the second.





## TRAFFIC AND DUI UNIT

The SJSO Traffic and DUI Unit continues to save lives every day in our county. This is accomplished by removing drivers who are operating vehicles while under the influence (501 DUIs) and targeting aggressive drivers. The Traffic Unit was able to achieve a significant reduction in serious bodily injury (SBI) crashes and fatalities in 2023 by specifically targeting aggressive drivers.

**501**



**DUIs**



**521**

**ARRESTS**



**8,892**

**WARNINGS**

**301**



**CRASH REPORTS  
WRITTEN**

**10,613**

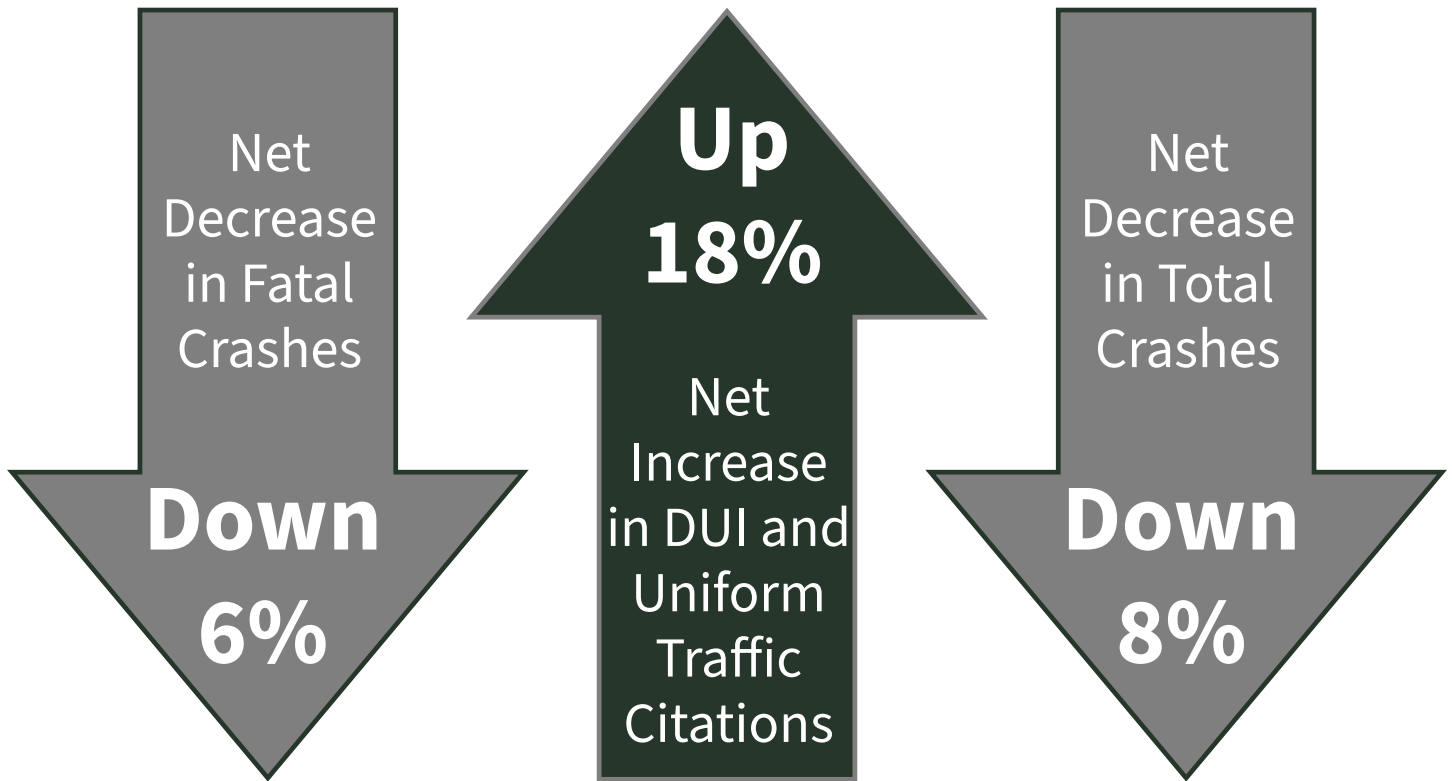


**CITATIONS**





## INCREASE IN ENFORCEMENT = REDUCTION IN CRASHES, INJURIES AND FATALITIES



### 2022 versus 2023 —

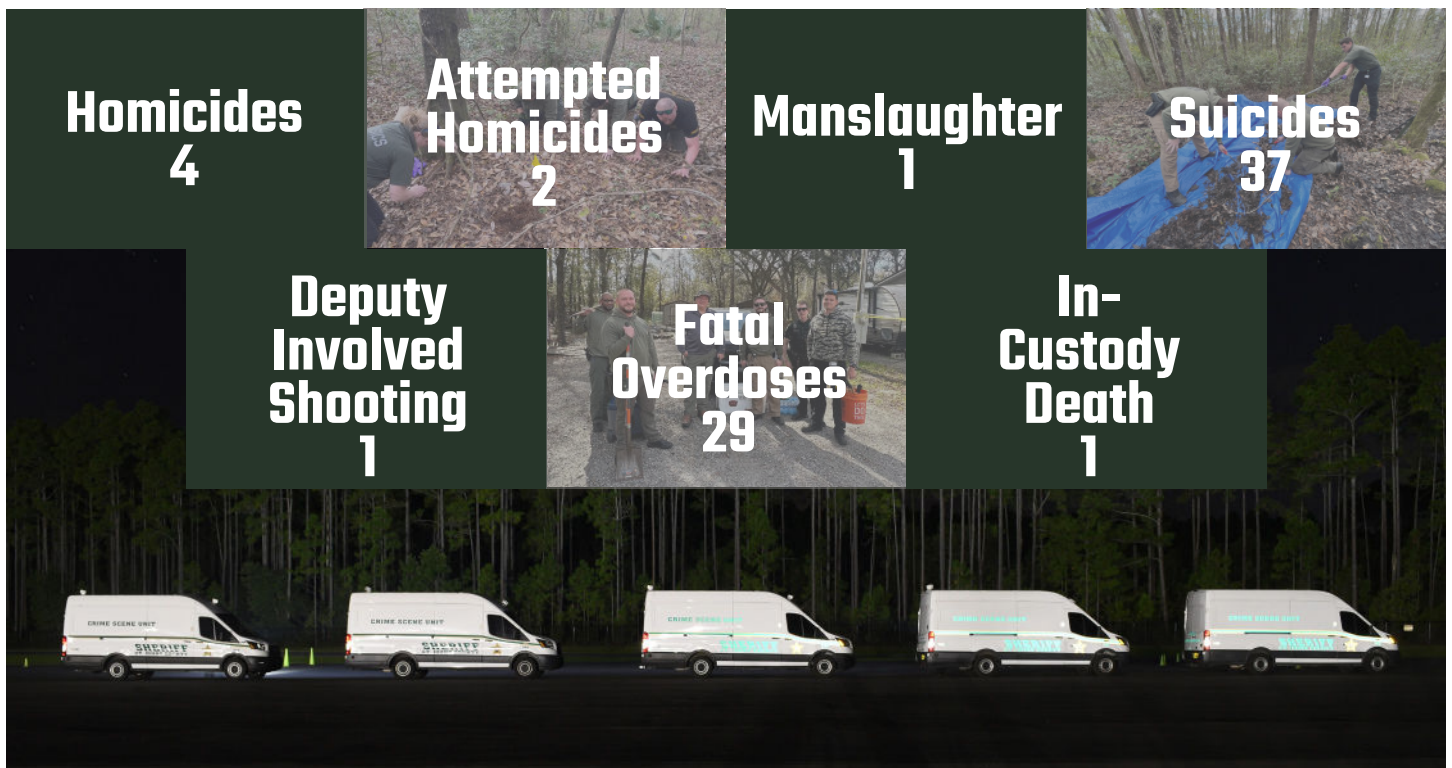
- Net decrease in **Impaired** Driving related Crashes (down 10%)
- Net decrease in **Impaired** Driving related Fatal Crashes (down 20%)
- Net increase in **Drug only Impaired** drivers (up another 15%)



# Criminal Investigations Division

The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) is divided into two distinct areas. One area includes the Real-Time Intelligence Center (RTIC), Property Crimes, Special Investigations (Narcotics), and Internal Affairs. The other area encompasses Major Crimes, Special Victims, Digital Forensics, Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), and Forensics. The Criminal Investigations Division is staffed with approximately 90 sworn and civilian members that comprise a diverse workforce of subject matter experts uniquely qualified and equipped to respond to and investigate any type of criminal case, regardless of the severity of the crime. Our agency mission is to “Serve with Excellence” which is our guiding principle as we analyze all of our cases with a sense of urgency and focus to ensure justice and closure for all crime victims.

Two areas of significant responsibility of the CID are the Major Crimes Unit and Forensics Unit. Major Crimes detectives are tasked with investigating St. Johns County’s most sensitive and high-profile crimes. These detectives work side by side with the Crime Scene Technicians (CST’s) of the Forensics Unit. Major Crimes is responsible for investigating all unattended death, deputy involved shootings, in-custody deaths, robberies, missing-endganged adults and other violent crime within unincorporated St. Johns County. The Crime Scene Technicians respond with the detectives to each scene and locate, document, preserve, collect and analyze each piece of evidence. The primary responsibility of these two units are to represent the victims in their cases through investigating their deaths. Some of the cases in 2023 included:

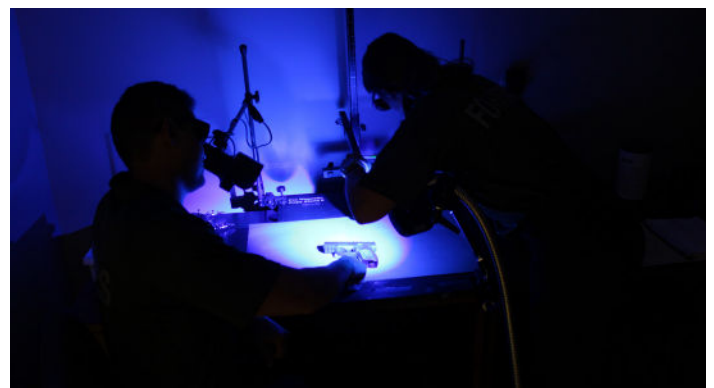




A death investigation, especially by sudden means like homicide, suicide or accident is devastating and has far-reaching effects on families and communities. These, often tragic, events are why the Major Crimes and Forensics Units serve such a critical role in our Sheriff's Office.

Major Crimes Detectives and CST's are highly skilled and serve as the frontline in the pursuit of justice for victims of violent crimes. The Major Crimes Detectives also have a duty and obligation to offer solace and support to grieving families during the most trying times of their lives. The compassion and empathy exhibited by the Major Crimes Detectives is truly amazing. These professionals understand the complexities of dealing with grief, trauma, and the pursuit of justice simultaneously. They serve as a bridge between law enforcement and the affected families, providing guidance, information, and a sense of reassurance throughout the investigative process.

"To the living we owe respect, to the dead we owe only the truth" — Voltaire



# Operations Division

In 2023, the Operations Division law enforcement functions included five full time units and ten collateral duty special teams. The full-time units include the Training Unit, Aviation Unit, Marine Unit, Agricultural Unit and K-9 Unit. The collateral duty special teams include SWAT, SWAT Support, E.O.D. (Bomb), C.N.T. (Crisis Negotiations Team), C.L.E.T. (Clandestine Lab Enforcement Team), Field Force Team, Dive Team, Drone Team, Safe Trak Team and Mobile Command/High Water Vehicle Teams. The law enforcement Operations sections are divided into three distinct categories: Air and Marine, Training, and Special Operations.

## AIR AND MARINE (AMO) UNITS

Air and Marine Operations is responsible for Aviation, Marine, Agriculture and Drone units. This group of highly skilled personnel provide support to all law enforcement functions with SJSO helicopters, boats, airboats, A.T.V.'s and personal watercrafts. The unique abilities of this section allows its sworn members to travel and provide oversight into areas which would otherwise be unreachable. The mission of the AMO group is to provide law enforcement resources in challenging environments and to support Patrol and Investigative groups with their missions.

### 2023 AMO STATS:

- Marine Unit answered 1,274 calls for service
- Agricultural Unit answered 668 calls for service
- Aviation Unit Answered 496 calls for service
- Drone Unit answered 244 calls for service





## TRAINING

The SJSO Training Unit is comprised of two distinct functions. One is to train already qualified sworn personnel through In-Service Training (IST) and the other function is to provide training to all newly employed sworn personnel through the Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP). Both functions are extraordinarily important and training an agency with approximately 500 sworn members is a year-round task. The Training Unit is also responsible for all agency weapons and maintenance, all agency ammunition, and the SJSO body worn camera implementation and training program.

### 2023 TRAINING STATS:

- IST for current sworn employees
  - \* 83 training sessions
  - \* 1,604 employees attended IST
  - \* 6,416 total hours of training provided to deputies
- FTEP Classes for newly hired sworn employees
  - \* 54 new deputies trained
  - \* One class per quarter
  - \* 18 weeks of training per FTEP class — 10 weeks classroom and high liability training; approximately 8 weeks of Field Training
- Advanced Training Classes Provided
  - \* 68 courses of advanced instruction provided



## SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Special Operations consists of nine highly trained and specialized teams. These are the specialized teams called upon by Patrol and Investigations when a situation exceeds the expertise of normal resources. These teams maintain specialized equipment and consistently train to operate in very dangerous or extraordinary circumstances with the goal of preserving life, scene containment and/or restoring normalization after an emergency event.



### 2023 SPECIAL OPERATIONS STATS:

- K-9 Unit answered 1,548 calls for service
- Special Operations Teams deployed on 105 missions

## 2023 Operations Spotlight Initiative

In 2023, the Operations Division successfully implemented the first body worn camera (BWC) program at SJSO. After months of testing, evaluating and policy and procedure development, Operations Division personnel began the issuance of body cameras and the training of more than 340 sworn agency members. The implementation of the program began in April of 2023 and all cameras were issued and in use by mid-June 2023. This goal was accomplished with assistance from every agency division and multiple units within each division. Since implementation, over 190,000 events have been recorded.



The BWC technology has proven to be most beneficial in the prosecution of many types of crimes from DUI to Domestic Violence, theft, burglary, robbery and even disturbance calls. Evidence captured on this device can be quickly viewed by reporting deputies to aid in report writing and can be shared electronically with the State Attorney's Office providing them immediate access to crucial evidence.



## COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Unit at the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office plays a critical role through answering emergency and administrative calls, dispatching calls for service, and ensuring communication and support for citizens and first responders within the county occurs around-the-clock. E-911/GIS, Switchboard, and Validations are integral components which support the objective of providing excellent service to both visitors and citizens.

The Communications Unit, staffed by Public Safety Telecommunicators (PSTs) who operate 24/7, plays a vital role in handling emergency calls for multiple law enforcement agencies. As technology advances, the demand on PSTs has increased, with a 20% rise in 911 calls over the past four years due to many factors including population growth. PSTs are often the first point of contact in emergencies, highlighting their crucial contribution to ensuring those in need receive prompt assistance during critical situations.

The Communications Support Unit encompasses various functions such as Validations, Quality Assurance, Switchboard, and Communications Training, all aimed at ensuring high standards in responding to emergency calls. Through ongoing quality assurance reviews and compliance validations, the unit proactively strives to uphold state and national policies concerning information systems and emergency response procedures. In 2023, nearly 8,000 random quality assurance reviews were conducted to maintain excellence in PST performance and service delivery.

The Communications Training section plays a crucial role in ensuring that all Public Safety Telecommunicators (PSTs) receive ongoing training to effectively handle emergency calls. Newly hired PSTs are required to complete the Communications Training and Evaluation Program to obtain certification for the role, which needs to be renewed every two years, reflecting adherence to essential training standards. In 2023, eight certified classroom training sessions were conducted to equip new PSTs with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their positions within the agency.

Our 911/GIS Staff carry out an essential role in maintaining accuracy and efficiency in addressing within St. Johns County to enable effective emergency response. By providing the necessary technology and tools, they ensure emergency 911 calls can be promptly located and responded to by both PSTs and field responders. The 911 Coordinator oversees the effective utilization of 911 fees for the implementation and upkeep of the county's E-911 system in compliance with Florida Statute. 911/GIS has acquired over \$1.8 million in grant funds since 2020 to enhance and support the county's 911 system.

## Accomplishments

- Added a backup 911 call delivery method at every position in the Communications Center to ensure delivery of 911 calls.
- Partnered with St. Johns River State College to have criminal justice students earn course credit for observing in Communications and completing associated coursework.
- July 2023, we held our first PST recruitment event at the Emergency Communications and Training Center.
- During 2023, we became the first Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) in Florida and only the seventh in the nation to be able to receive Real Time Text (RTT) as it is designed to be delivered on 911.

## 2023 STATISTICS

# TOTAL CALLS: 414,795

911 and Administrative (Incoming / Outgoing / Transfers)



Our Call Takers spent a combined total of 4,663 hours on 911 calls during 2023.

# 8



## FL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CERTIFIED CLASSROOM TRAINING SESSIONS

# 7,972



## QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEWS COMPLETED

# \$385,540



## 911 FUND STATE GRANTS AWARDED

## INCIDENTS BY AGENCY



St. Augustine Beach Police Department (18,784)



St. Augustine Police Department (45,751)



SJSO (240,592)



## THE THERAPY K9 SIMBA

Simba is a service dog trained by K9s For Warriors who had a career change due to a hip issue. He now works in Communications and other areas of the agency as a therapy dog with his handler, Lanna Roach. Simba is 12 different breeds, mostly husky, labrador retriever and golden retriever. His daily duties include office visits to employees, visiting the Communications Center, sitting with the PSTs, and being available in his office for hallway stops. He enjoys meeting new people and always being the topic of conversation when he's around. Simba loves helping people feel lighter than they were before they saw him. He can sense when something is off with his human friends and makes an intentional effort to help them feel better, sometimes by rolling over and showing his belly for pets, and other times by sitting or laying on your feet to keep you stationary and focused on him. His invisible work has had many success stories within our unit and in the agency. He has attended recruitment events and even gone to schools to work with ESE kids. On one memorable visit, a child who is known to have a difficult time controlling his temper and emotions told the teacher that he felt 'calm' and that 'today is going to be a good day because Simba is here and he makes me feel calm'. That is what his mission is all about. Helping humans and showing them love and support the best way a dog can, with pets and cuddles!



# DISPATCHERS

THE CALM VOICE IN THE DARK NIGHT.  
THE **GOLD GLUE** THAT HOLDS IT ALL TOGETHER.

# HEROES IN HEADSETS

# General Services Division

The General Services Division (GNSV) is made up of separate units that support the readiness and continuity of the agency’s operational functions. Reporting to the Division Director are the General Services Operations Captain, Human Resource Executive Manager and Finance Executive Manager. The GNSV Operations Captain oversees the Information Technology, Fleet and Facilities Units. The Human Resource Executive Manager is over Human Resources and Risk Management, as well as Records, Publications and Professional Standards. The Finance Executive Manager supervises the Finance, Budget and Procurement Units.

## FACILITIES

**Facilities** continued to decentralize our operations and increase our interactions in the community through their coordination with the county to design and start construction on several projects. These projects included:

Design & Construction on:	Pre-Design for:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Southwest Field Office</li><li>• Fleet &amp; Supply</li><li>• Tactical Training Facility</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Silverleaf Field Office</li><li>• Rivertown Field Office</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 210 Field Office</li><li>• PAL Complex</li><li>• Administration</li></ul>

## HUMAN RESOURCES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

**Human Resources** hired over one hundred new employees in 2023, which included 22 new positions. The time for the hiring process was reduced to an average of six weeks.

Although the St. Johns County unemployment rate remained the lowest in the State of Florida, at 2.7%, the Employment Services Section processed 1,583 applications, and hired 128 employees during 2023.

The Personnel Services Section, which supports all current and former SJSO employees, maintained all certification, payroll, performance, position, and personnel records for 944 employees. Specifically, the Personnel Services Section processed 546 employee transfers, 21 promotions, 122 job postings, and 119 separations.

We are thrilled to announce that our **Risk Management** and **Finance** teams have successfully applied for and received a prestigious grant from the Department of Justice. This funding will allow us to significantly expand our wellness program for all agency personnel, ensuring a healthier and more supportive work environment.



In addition, our dedicated Risk Management Unit continues to provide exceptional support by assisting with employee injuries, further demonstrating our commitment to the well-being of our staff.

Together, these initiatives will enhance the health, safety, and overall wellness of our agency community.

**Professional Standards** ensured accreditation standards were met and policies updated.

**Policies:**

- 155 Law Enforcement Policies Reviewed
- 57 Corrections Policies Reviewed

**Accreditation:**

- 460 Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) Standards Reviewed
- 99 Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. (CFA) files Reviewed
- 261 Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission, Inc. (FCAC) Files Reviewed
- 79 Florida Telecommunications Accreditation Commission (FLA TAC) Files Reviewed

**Agency Receives Reaccreditation with Excelsior Status for the 5th Time**

On June 29, 2023, in Orlando, Florida, the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office was awarded our 10th accreditation with the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA). This is the agency's 5th reaccreditation with Excelsior Status, a recognition which can only be received after an agency has been awarded five successful reaccreditations by the Commission.



**Publications** completed over 1,000 work orders, encompassing the design of diverse marketing collateral such as business cards, posters, brochures, booklets, ceremony programs, and postcards. Additionally, Publications handles the creation of the agency's annual report and monthly newsletter, all produced in-house. Recently, Publications has taken on the additional responsibility of maintaining the agency website at [www.sjso.org](http://www.sjso.org).

## RECORDS

**Records** created a workflow for the public record requests related to the body worn camera products that were implemented in 2023, using no additional personnel. Hours and services offered in the field offices were adjusted to provide optimal availability in the community.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**Information Technology** implemented Microsoft 365 and other related upgrades to agency computer systems and storage.

## FLEET AND RADIO

The **Radio Shop** is responsible for maintaining and managing the communication equipment used by our deputies and emergency responders. From handheld radios to vehicle-mounted communication systems, every piece of equipment that enables our law enforcement to stay connected and coordinate efficiently is serviced and supported here.

The impact of the Radio Shop extends beyond the Sheriff's Office walls. By ensuring reliable communication, they contribute directly to public safety and emergency response efforts. Whether it's a medical emergency, a traffic accident, or a criminal incident, the ability of our deputies to communicate effectively can make all the difference in how quickly and efficiently help arrives.

The Board of County Commissioners in St. Johns County approved the purchase of APX Next Radios for the Sheriff's Office and Fire Rescue. 682 radios were deployed in 2023, which are designed to improve our ability to respond to emergencies, reduce crime and to collaborate with other agencies for the protection of County residents.

**Fleet** maintained a fleet of 894 assets. Introduced four new platforms to the fleet, PSA Maverick, SWAT Breacher truck, Patrol Truck and Traffic Explorer.





## FINANCE

**Finance** completed the fiscal year within the 22/23 fiscal year budget and is on track to do the same with 23/24. The agency's inventory was completed, and the processes revised to match those of the county.

### Grants

#### **FY23 Cops Mental Health and Wellness Grant for Law Enforcement — \$190,500 over 2 years**

- To build a mental health program for our agency members
- To provide multiple layers of resources including faith based counseling, embedded mental health professionals, and peer to peer support

#### **FY23 Port Security Grant: FEMA — \$313,616**

- For the purchase of a 27-foot Center Console SAFE Boat
- Waterborne Response Team & Maritime Emergency Response Training

#### **FY23-24 Victim of Crimes Act (VOCA) Grant — \$127,346**

- Should cover 75% of our victim advocates salaries and fringe benefits
- We received less due to the State of Florida receiving reduced funding from the U.S. Department of Justice

The **Procurement Unit** is responsible for sourcing supplies, negotiating prices, and supplier relationship management. They have assumed the responsibilities of ensuring any product or service over \$5,000 has at least three quotes from reputable vendors. Any product or service over \$50,000 must be sourced through a Request for Proposal. These are processes that have always been followed but Procurement is now the owner of these processes to ensure consistency.

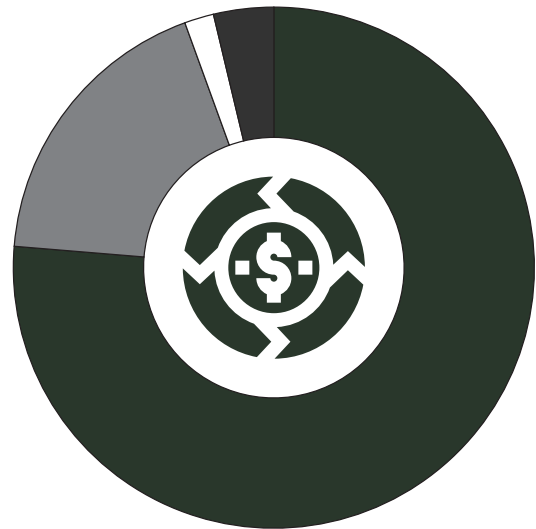
Procurement has also taken on the task of selling used equipment on GovDeals allowing SJSO to reclaim \$167,615.52 throughout the year.

## FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET

Start Date  
Oct 01, 2022



End Date  
Sept 30, 2023



■	Personal Services (\$80,236,665)
■	Operating (\$19,078,069)
□	Capital (\$1,914,728)
■	Debit (\$3,918,221)

# Corrections Division

The Corrections Division encompasses the following areas: Detention Center, Bailiffs Office and Court Services.

The **Detention Center** is responsible for the care and custody of both pre-trial and sentenced inmates. It provides programs to the inmates such as Alcoholics Anonymous, GED, Parenting Classes as well as ensuring the inmates get the required recreation and visitation. The Re-Entry Center was developed to assist inmates in successfully transitioning back into society. The Transportation Department is part of the Detention Center and is responsible for ensuring the safe and secure transportation of inmates to and from court as well as to and from other facilities throughout the country. Our Professional Development Unit enhances our staff's training and development to better serve the public.

The **Bailiff's Office** oversees the security of the Courthouse Complex as well as the Board of County Commissioners Building and the Tax Collectors Office.

**Court Services** encompasses two sections, the Civil Section — which processes civil orders from the courthouse, and the Warrants Section — which processes Criminal Warrants from the courthouse. They have Law Enforcement Deputies and Civilian Process servers who go out in the community to serve the orders.

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**INMATES OBTAINED THEIR  
GED (UP FROM 5 IN 2022)**

**INMATES  
TRANSPORTED**

4,968  
TO COURT



92

**MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS**

886

**TO/FROM OTHER FACILITIES**



92

**JUVENILES**

6,434

**INMATES BOOKED**



443

**AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION**



## Re-Entry Center Grand Opening

In 2023, the Re-Entry Center achieved significant milestones in enhancing its services and community partnerships. The Center's efforts in outreach, collaboration, and program development reflect a strong commitment to reducing recidivism and supporting both inmates and the community. The accomplishments and progress made this year underscore the Center's dedication to fostering positive, lasting change.

### **OUTREACH PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

- **Partnership with St. Augustine Business Coalition (SABC):** Collaborated to address homelessness and provide resources aimed at preventing criminal activity and incarceration. The partnership utilized donated funds to support outreach efforts, focusing on keeping individuals off the streets and out of jail.
- **Grand Opening of the Re-Entry Center:** Marked a successful year with key achievements, including hosting two job fairs specifically for inmates.
- **Tax Collector's Office Partnership:** Established a dedicated room within the facility to assist inmates in obtaining Identification Cards.
- **K9s 4 Warriors Program:** Launched a program where sentenced inmates train dogs for veterans, fostering rehabilitation and skill-building.
- **Fundraiser with SABC:** Conducted a successful fundraiser to benefit the Outreach Program for the homeless.
- **Inmate Bookings:** Processed 6,434 bookings into the facility, with an average daily population of 443 inmates..

### **PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS**

- **GED Program:** Increased the number of GEDs obtained by inmates to 18, a notable rise from 5 in 2022.
- **Re-Entry Assessments:** Conducted 369 assessments, marking a 70% increase from the previous year.
- **Housing Assistance:** Assisted 106 individuals in securing housing, reflecting a 65% increase from 2022.
- **Employment Placement:** Secured employment for 123 inmates, a 52% increase from the prior year.
- **Identification Cards:** Helped 135 inmates obtain IDs, a 93% increase from 2022.
- **Family Reunification:** Reconnected 93 inmates with family or support systems, showing an 81% increase from the previous year.

# THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## MISSION STATEMENT

"Serve with Excellence"

## VISION STATEMENT

"A trusted team of professionals ensuring St. Johns County is the safest place in the nation for families to live, work, and visit through collaboration, excellence, and leadership."

## AGENCY MOTTO

"One team, One mission, One future"



*In Loving Memory*

*SGT Michael P. Kunovich*

*End of Watch 05-19-2023*

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13



INTERNATIONALLY AND STATE ACCREDITED