

2024 Annual Report



Brunswick County
Sheriff's Office

Sheriff B.K. Roberts



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Brunswick County
Sheriff's Office - Virginia



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Message from the Sheriff

I am pleased to present the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) 2024 Annual Report. I continue to strive to provide an open and informative link of communication between law enforcement and the citizens. While carrying out our daily duties we endeavor to be accessible, approachable and highly visible throughout the county. The primary goal of the sheriff's office is to protect and serve the citizens of our county using a modern approach to law enforcement with an emphasis on community oriented policing. I am very proud of our on-going efforts to maintain successful partnerships with businesses, churches, various organizations and citizens in the county.

I truly appreciate your continued support as we work together to ensure that Brunswick County remains a safe and engaging community where we can all live, work and raise our families.

Respectfully,

Sheriff B.K. Roberts





Brunswick County Sheriff's Office

Mission

The members of the BRUNSWICK County Sheriff's Office shall, through a partnership with the citizens of our community, provide for the highest possible degree of protection for the county residents, guests, and their properties.

The BRUNSWICK County Sheriff's Office shall endeavor to develop community responsibilities devoted to the reduction of crime and the enhancement of public safety.

These efforts shall include problem solving strategies, crime analysis, crime suppression, and crime prevention techniques, a business/community/law enforcement alliance and other approaches designed to establish an environment where the criminal element will not prosper.



Brunswick County Sheriff's Office

Introduction

The Brunswick County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) serves the County of Brunswick as the chief law enforcement agency. The county is 569 square miles and has 15,849 full time residents and an increased population during summer months as vacationers visit Lake Gaston. The BCSO employs fifty four employees and nine part time employees across five operational divisions including Administration, Communications, Court Security, Investigations, and Patrol. The Patrol and Communications Divisions are staffed 24/7/365 and all other divisions are available on an as needed basis.

The Brunswick County Sheriff's Office has mutual aid agreements with the Virginia State Police, Lawrenceville Police Department, Alberta Police Department, Brodnax Police Department, Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office, Dinwiddie County Sheriff's Office, Greenville County Sheriff's Office, Lunenburg County Sheriff's Office and Nottoway County Sheriff's Office.

Administrative Division

The Administrative Division worked with the Court Security and Patrol divisions to complete nine out-of-state extraditions in 2024. Inmates were transported back to Virginia from North Carolina, Florida, and New York due to charges from Brunswick County.

Firearms competency training is required to obtain a Concealed Weapon Permit in the Commonwealth of Virginia. One way to achieve competency is by attending the free firearms safety course offered by the BCSO. In 2024, eleven firearms safety courses were held at the Sheriff's Office. Through the efforts, 26 citizens received firearms safety training totaling 18 hours of instruction.

The Inmate Workforce Program remained active in 2024, completing eight large main projects and eighteen small Projects at churches, county buildings, and non-profit civic organizations throughout the county. In addition to projects, the inmate workforce also provided lawn care and grounds maintenance for county property.

The Administrative Division coordinates and monitors agency personnel training across all divisions. Agency personnel completed a total of 4,549 hours in training that included: Basic Dispatch School, Basic Law Enforcement School, Emergency Medical Dispatch School, law enforcement recertification, Emergency Medical Dispatch and Quality recertification, Field Training Officer, Crisis Intervention Training, and specialty dispatch courses.



Animal Control

The Animal Control Division is responsible for enforcing the Code of Virginia and local animal-related ordinances, ensuring the safety of both the public and animals, and promoting humane treatment of animals. This role involves a combination of fieldwork, administrative duties, and public education.

The Animal Control Division responds to complaints about stray, dangerous, or sick animals, captures and impounds stray or dangerous animals, ensuring safe handling, investigates reports of animal cruelty, neglect, or abuse, educates the public on animal welfare, responsible pet ownership, and local regulations, enforces local and state animal control laws, including licensing, nuisance laws, and regulations related to pet care and humane treatment, works with veterinarians to ensure the health and well-being of animals in custody, manages and maintains the animal shelter, assists in the safe relocation of wildlife when necessary, prepares reports and maintains records of animals impounded, lost animals, citations issued, and investigations conducted, and coordinates with animal shelters, veterinarians, and other agencies for the proper treatment and rehoming of animals.

The animal control division received 2085 calls for service in 2024.

Members of the animal control division received 703 calls for stray animals and in took 435 dogs. The animal control deputies received 60 animal bite calls with 9 needing EMS.

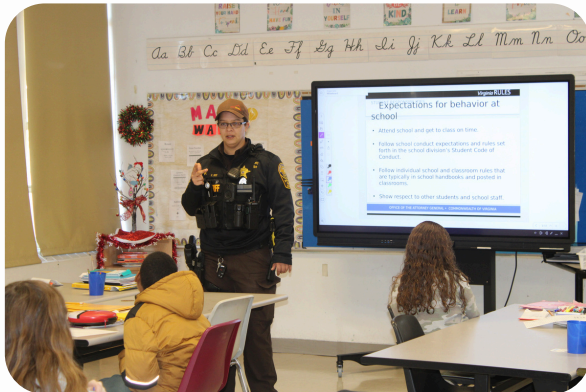
The Animal Control Division adopted out 71 dogs, transferred 189 dogs to rescue organizations, and reunited 84 dogs with their owners.



School Resource Officers



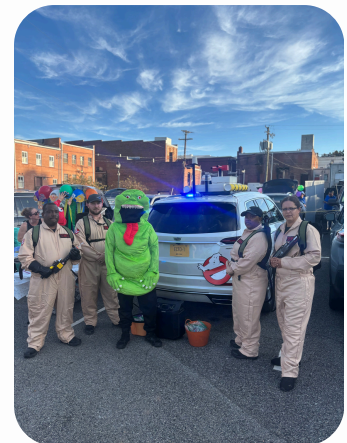
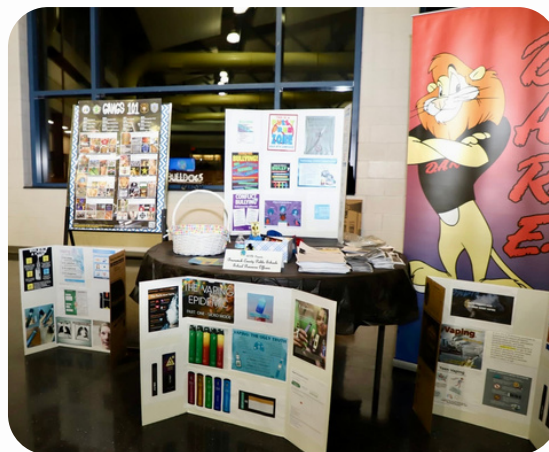
**BRUNSWICK COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
Educating Students. Inspiring Success. Improving Tomorrow.



The School Resource Officer's main responsibility is the safety and security within the school buildings. The Resource Officers for 2024-2025 are; Lt. S. Stith and Deputy D. Medlin assigned to Brunswick High School, Sgt. J. McKnight assigned to Totaro Elementary School and J. S. Russell Middle School, Deputy S. Finch assigned to Red Oak Sturgeon

Elementary School, and Deputy K. Gee assigned to Meherrin Powellton Elementary School. Resource Officer roles are more than safety and security, they are also educators and mentors for students and staff. SROs work with school administration and staff to reinforce school expectations with students and parents.

Throughout the year SROs participate in after-hour school-related events and community events. Some events include: Title One Family Engagement Night, National Night Out, Read with Malcom, Trunk or Treats, and Parades. The SROs provided an educational presentation for Title One Family Night on Vaping, Gangs, D.A.R.E., and Bullying. SROs attend sporting events and other school-sponsored events to support the youth and promote safety and security for students and event attendees.



Communications Division

The Communications Division is responsible for answering, processing, and documenting non-emergency telephone calls including: business, criminal advice, civil advice, emergent mental health, after-hours county business, power outages, water outages, weather information, roadway conditions, and school closure information calls. The Communications Division is also responsible for answering, processing, documenting, dispatching, and coordinating necessary resources requested from wireline and wireless 911 calls.

The Division dispatches and ensures unit accountability for Brunswick County Sheriff's Office, Alberta Police Department, Brodnax Police Department, Lawrenceville Police Department, Brunswick County Animal Control, seven fire companies, three rescue squads, one first response agency, and mutual aid agency requests. The Division manages calls for service for Brunswick County Emergency Management, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia State Police, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and technical, dive, and hazardous materials teams.

The Division oversees the records function for the four law enforcement agencies in Brunswick County. Records functions include: National Criminal Information Center (NCIC) and Virginia Crime Information Network (VCIN) queries and entries, Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) queries, Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) entries, updates, and queries, Records Management





Communications Division

System entries, updates, and queries, warrant file management, vehicle storage, vacation property check entry, dispatch, and documentation, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, concealed handgun applications, Amber Alert entries and correspondence, Project Lifesaver program participant entries, equipment check documentation, updates, and file access.

All Telecommunicators are Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) certified and the division utilizes protocols from the International Academies of Emergency Medical Dispatch (IAED), with local medical direction oversight, for call intake and triage.

In 2024, the Communications Division processed 60,055 inbound and outbound phone calls associated with calls for service of which 8,688 were 911 calls. The volume is managed by two telecommunicators on shift at a time. In 2024, 98.39% of 911 calls were answered in less than 15 seconds which meets and exceeds the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) standard stating ninety percent (90%) of all 911 calls arriving at the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) SHALL be answered within 15 seconds.

The Communications Division processed the following papers for service during 2024: 349 Concealed Weapon Permits, 299 capias', 11 juvenile detention orders, 302 warrants, 18 summons, 1 PB-15, 124 emergency protective orders, 182 preliminary protective orders, 37 orders of protection, 52 child protective orders, and 20 dismissal of orders.

The division received \$97,120 in grant funding for telecommunicator training, Geographic Information System (GIS) Data Maintenance and Transfer, and Regional Improvement. Two grants are in partnership with Mecklenburg and Greenville counties, respectively. Grant funding supported telecommunicators obtaining over 450 hours of training hours in 2024.

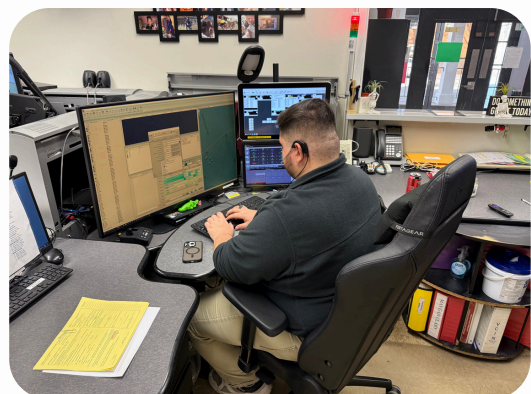
Communications Division

The Quality Assurance Coordinator and Emergency Medical Dispatchers-Quality Assurance (EMD-Q) attend an additional 24-hour training class. They review calls for service and provide feedback to Telecommunicators.

The program is led by the Quality Assurance Coordinator (QAC). The QAC provides guidance to the EMD-Qs, evaluates statistics, provides overall feedback, and works with the Communication Training Officer to determine areas for training. The QAC also works with the Director of Emergency Communications and Chief of Communications to improve EMD and call-taking functions of the division.

The Brunswick County Sheriff's Office Communications Division is one of only thirty accredited EMD agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This accreditation is awarded through the Office of Emergency Medical Services. Requirements for this accreditation include having a certified EMD on shift at all times, sustaining a high compliance rate of 85% or better, and each dispatcher is required to attend twenty hours of training a year.

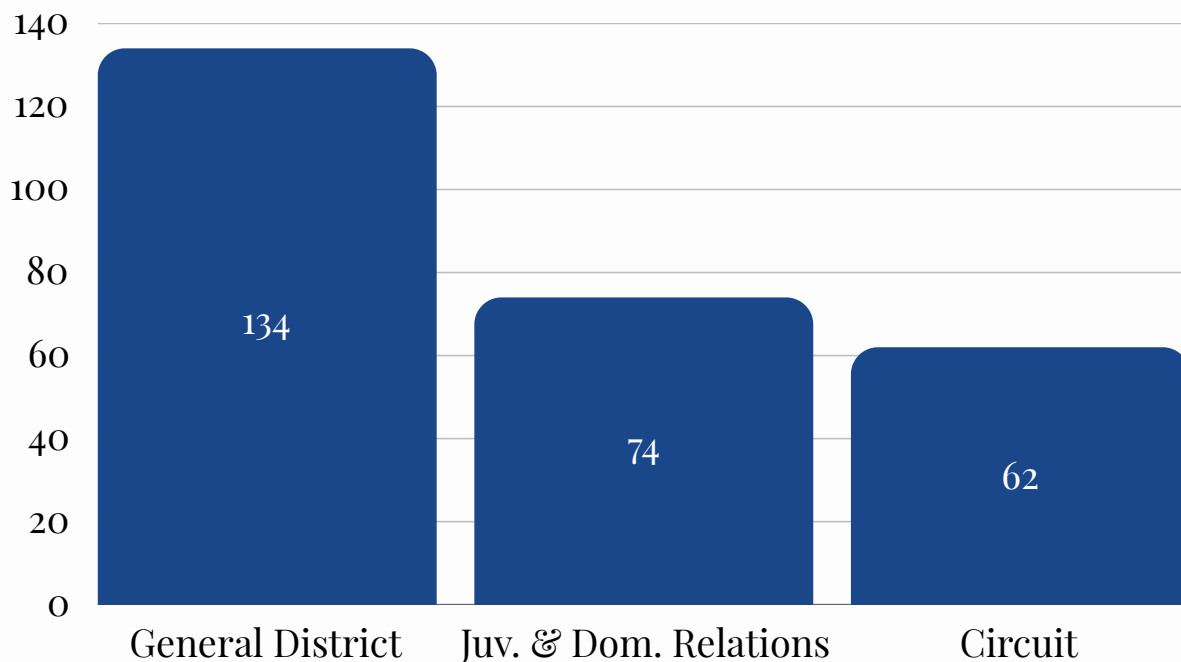
In 2024, the communications division processed 2,845 medical calls. Of these calls, 1,591 were EMD applicable. The communications division sustained a 93% high compliance rate for EMD per the IAED standards. Additionally, the telecommunicators well surpassed the minimum requirement of twenty hours of annual training for each telecommunicator.





Court Security Division

The Court Security Division oversees all security for the Brunswick County Courts. Those courts include Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court, General District Court, and the Circuit Court. Each court level has designated jail cells for inmates who have pending court cases. Court Security Division is responsible for security for all occupants in and around the courthouse building. The courthouse is monitored with multiple electronic security cameras as well as a multitude of panic alarms positioned strategically throughout the courthouse.





Investigations Division

The Investigations Division is responsible for investigating and handling all major crimes in Brunswick County including homicide, rape, robbery, major disasters, arson, serious wounding cases, sexual assaults, large scale fraud, commercial B&Es, multiple/serial B&Es, internet based crime, suicide, hostage situations, bomb threats, kidnapping and any other high profile or complex case where investigative expertise is needed.

The Investigative Division handles both General Investigations as well as complex Narcotic Investigations. This division consists of five General Investigators and one specializing in Narcotic Investigations. In 2024, the General Investigators handled approximately 85 new general investigative cases while simultaneously continuing to work on multiple cases from previous years.

In 2024, Brunswick County experienced one double homicide case. Investigators quickly solved the case and assisted the U.S. Marshalls with the quick arrest of the suspect less than 4 days after the murder.

Investigators are also responsible for handling several old “cold cases” and are motivated to use new technology as it becomes available to assist with solving these crimes. In 2024, investigators successfully arrested a suspect related to a cold case investigation from a violent home invasion from 2017 using technology involving advanced cell phone forensics.

Our Investigative division also manages all specialized crime scene processing and evidence recovery situations, polygraph examinations and missing persons and/or search and rescue operations. The BCSO polygraph examiner conducted 9 polygraphs in 2024.

Investigations Division

The investigative Division along with the School Resource officers are also responsible for providing schools with training and practical demonstrations as needed throughout the school year. In 2024, we have continued to see significant decreases in cases within the school relating to technology and other cell phone related crimes. We feel strongly that as these trainings and presentations continue, the positive results will become even more noticeable and meaningful. We are also extremely excited to be providing some training and demonstrations to parents as well next year.

The Investigations Unit conducts regularly scheduled reviews of activities, programs and procedures to promote economy, efficiency and professionalism within their division.





Patrol Division

41,924

**Calls for
Service**

The Patrol Division is responsible for managing citizen complaints, responding to emergencies, conducting basic criminal investigations, providing advice on civil issues, serving criminal warrants, protective orders, emergency custody orders, and temporary custody orders, conducting traffic enforcement, performing accident investigations as needed, performing vacation checks, performing business checks and location checks, logging field contacts, assisting with medical calls for service as needed, and performing other duties as assigned to further the safety of the community while enforcing the Code of Virginia.

527

**Reportable
Incidents**

Members of the Patrol division served 814 criminal warrants and traffic enforcement led to 20,960 traffic stops and the issuance of 25,130 traffic citations as some stops led to the issuance of more than one citation to keep our roadways safe. Patrol division members also served 393 emergency protective orders, preliminary protective orders, orders of protection and child protective orders. The office processed 19 protective order dissolutions.

The Patrol Division performed 9,551 business security checks and 67 residential property checks in 2024. There were 3,567 documented field contacts for non-criminal violations.

663

Arrests

The civil process officer is responsible for serving subpoenas, summons, garnishments, jury notices, eviction notices, juvenile petitions, and all other civil process papers. In 2024, 5,601 civil papers were received by the BCSO and 5,564 were served or returned to the court.

K9-Pol

In 2024, the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office welcomed K9-Pol and his handler, Deputy B. Townsend. Since their arrival in June, K9- Pol assisted Brunswick and surrounding counties with calls including tracking fleeing suspects, narcotic searches, article searches, missing people, and community demonstrations.

K9 Pol and Deputy Townsend attended Totaro Elementary School Career Day and the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Discovery Camp to educate youth and staff about their role in law enforcement in the community.

Since their arrival in Brunswick County, K9 Pol is credited with three narcotic arrests and seven successful finds on tracks including fleeing suspects and articles from those fleeing suspects. K9 Pol is credited with eleven felony arrests ranging from felony eluding to fleeing shooter suspects and two misdemeanor arrests.

K9 Pol and Deputy Townsend trained for 42 hours while on duty including tracking, article searches, apprehension bite work, narcotic detection, building search, and obedience. K9-Pol also recertified at Ventosa Kennels in Scotland Neck, NC. The recertification included 24 hours of observed training from the instructors of Ventosa Kennels. K9-Pol and Deputy Townsend continue to train hard to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens of Brunswick County and neighboring agencies.



Special Operations

Special Response Team



The goal of the Special Response Team (SRT) is to resolve dangerous situations safely while enforcing the Code of Virginia. The team responds to high-risk situations that are outside the normal resources and capabilities of the Patrol Division. Their duties and responsibilities include serving high-risk arrest warrants, performing hostage negotiation intervention, and engaging armed criminals. Our SRT team is equipped with specialized firearms, equipment and less-lethal impact weapons.

The Medical Division responds with the SRT when activated and renders medical care to persons who may be injured during an activation. Our Medical Division is licensed through the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as an ALS First Response Agency. Members of the team are Advanced Life Support (ALS) certified and have attended training for combat situations.

They responded to thirteen missions and trained over 232 cumulative hours in 2024.





Special Operations

Search and Rescue Team

All lost, missing, and/or endangered person searches in Brunswick County fall under the legal authority of Brunswick County Sheriff's Office and the Search and Rescue Team. All participants in such searches must obey all legal orders of this Office. The Brunswick County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Team participate in skill training through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and also serve as a resource for surrounding counties as well.

The Search and Rescue Team is equipped with a fully outfitted 4X4 vehicle and mobile trailer that can serve as the incident command base or supplemental command location to aid in the operational tactics of any large-scale search incident. The Search and Rescue Trailer is equipped with fully operational police radios both UHF and VHF, computers with CAD functionality and GPS tracking capability for officers and search teams in the field. The Search and Rescue Unit also has a full size multi person UTV equipped for medical transport when a subject needing medical care is found in an area that is inaccessible for normal medical ambulatory vehicles.

The Search and Rescue Team has introduced a Drone program and has already seen great success in its use. The drone includes some of the latest technology available including a spotlight, speaker, and a HD camera/video including Thermal and IR capabilities. Currently, 4 deputies are trained and certified pilots.

In 2024, BCSO responded to 20 reports of missing persons which included adults and juveniles, some of which were Project Lifesaver clients. All were located.

Project Lifesaver



Since 2007, the BCSO has offered the Project Lifesaver program. The program “is the premier search and rescue program operated internationally by public safety agencies and is strategically designed for ‘at risk’ individuals who are prone to the life threatening behavior of wandering. The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to

provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children with the propensity to wander due to a cognitive condition.”

In 2024, the BCSO supported an average of nine individuals and their families by providing the Project Lifesaver service. Clients range in age from 11-82 and have diagnoses such as autism, dementia, down syndrome, and Alzheimer’s. As a part of the service, the office maintains regular contact with the individual and their families and keeps pertinent personal information on file at the office readily accessible 24/7/365 to assist in quickly finding the individual if they wander away from their families.

The office performed 79 equipment checks for participants and responded to one call for service from Project Lifesaver clients who wandered from their residences or caregivers who needed assistance with the participants. All were located quickly due to the efficiency of the program.

Community Involvement

The Brunswick Sheriff's Office is involved in several professional associations and programs. Members of this office belong to the following professional groups on a national, state, and local level:

- Association of Public Safety Communication Officials (APCO)
- Brunswick Chamber of Commerce
- Central Brunswick Ruritan's Club
- Central Virginia Criminal Justice Academy
- Department of Forensic Science Academy Alumni Association
- Greenville Memorial Foundation
- Lawrenceville Lions Club
- Lawrenceville Rotary Club
- National Emergency Number Association (NENA)
- National Sheriff's Association
- Piedmont Crime Prevention
- The National Child Safety Council
- The Virginia Gang Investigators Association
- The Virginia Polygraph Institute
- Virginia Homicide Investigators Association
- Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police
- Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Coalition
- Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission
- Virginia Law Enforcement Sheriffs, Inc.
- Southside Virginia Community College Administration of Justice Advisory Board
- Southside Virginia Community College EMS Program Advisory Board
- Lake Gaston 911 Community Task Force
- 911 Rural Community Task Force
- 911 Rural Community Task Force Executive Board
- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Joint Emergency Services Committee
- Brunswick County Emergency Services Advisory Board
- National Night Out
- Jazz Festival
- Taste of Brunswick
- Attend PTO School Meetings
- Attend Senior Citizens Programs



2024 Initiatives

School Safety



School violence continues to be a national concern. The Brunswick County Board of Supervisors and the Brunswick County School Board remain committed to the School Resource Program, which includes having a deputy in each of the five public schools in Brunswick County.

In addition, the BCSO continues to collaborate with Brunswick County Public Schools, Southside Virginia Community College and Brunswick Academy to review policy, address school safety concerns and provide education to foster a safe learning environment for students at all levels in Brunswick County.

Since 2022, BCSO offered Stop the Bleed and/or Citizen Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) free training for schools, day cares, students, and county and town government officials. Stop the Bleed kits were deployed in 2023 throughout Brunswick County. To date, over 600 individuals have been trained in the county.

Drug Enforcement and Prevention

Fatal drug overdose continues to be a problem in rural and urban communities throughout America. Brunswick County is proactively initiated a program for deputies that includes education on the administration of Narcan, an antidote for narcotic overdose.

Deputies are dispatched with local rescue squads to suspected narcotic overdose calls for service. In 2024, deputies responded to 12 potential overdose cases and administered Narcan to one victim prior to EMS arrival.

2024 Initiatives

Officer Safety

Officer safety is paramount within our agency and is at the forefront of every action taken by our team. Seatbelt use is required during vehicle operation and deputies utilize hands free devices when using cell phones on patrol. Deputies also wear bulletproof vests during all patrol and enforcement operations. Vehicles and issued equipment are inspected biannually for readiness and if maintenance is required, it is performed based on recommendations from the manufacturer.

All patrol vehicles are equipped with in car cameras and all deputies wear body cameras. Videos are stored internally and in a cloud based environment. The footage from the cameras are stored internally for a minimum of six months after the incident for the protection of our deputies, citizens, and visitors.

In addition, all patrol vehicles are equipped with Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) technology that allows telecommunicators to know the location of deputies in the event that they become unable to communicate their location during an altercation or safety incident on scene. The AVL technology is also used to identify the closest available resource to law enforcement calls for service but also to life

threatening medical events such as overdose and cardiac arrest.



Training regarding officer safety is ongoing internally and through the Central Virginia Criminal Justice Academy as deputies attend mandatory in service training.



2024 Initiatives

Community Policing

Effective July 1, 2020, the Virginia Department of State Police, Uniform Crime Reporting Unit began the collection of investigatory stop data based on the creation of the Community Policing Act. Updates to the original legislation were made per Chapter 37 of the 2020 Special Session I. The following code section includes all data collected and additions to the Community Policing Act effective July 1, 2021. Data from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 include only those persons stopped while driving. Data from July 1, 2021, and on will contain all persons subject to an investigatory (nonconsensual) stop.

§ 52-30.2. Prohibited Practices; Collection of Data

Each time a law enforcement officer or State Police officer stops a driver of a motor vehicle, stops and frisks a person based on reasonable suspicion, or temporarily detains a person during any other investigatory stop, such officer shall collect the following data based on the officer's observation or information provided to the officer by the driver:

- the race, ethnicity, age, gender of the person stopped, and whether the person stopped spoke English;
- the reason for the stop;
- the location of the stop;
- whether a warning, written citation, or summons was issued or whether any person was arrested;
- if a warning, written citation, or summons was issued or an arrest was made, the warning provided, violation charged, or crime charged;
- whether the vehicle or any person was searched; and
- whether the law-enforcement officer or State Police officer used physical force against any person and whether any person used physical force against any officers.



2024 Initiatives

Community Policing

The bill also requires each state and local law-enforcement agency to collect and report to the State Police the number of complaints the agency receives alleging the use of excessive force.

BCSO community policing data is available by visiting the link on our website.

Crime Prevention Activities

The Brunswick County Sheriff's Office continues to provide a large number of crime prevention resources to the citizens and businesses of the county. To enhance the service, two command team members, one from the administrative division and one from the investigative division, received certification in Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). This is a proactive approach to policing that strives to stop crime even before its committed and we are looking forward to implementing this strategy in the near future.

Community

This office continues to offer the citizens of Brunswick County a variety of crime prevention services. A partial list of these services includes:

- Residential property checks
- Business checks and emergency contact list
- Neighborhood watch
- Directed patrols
- Personal safety tips
- Church safety program
- Scam and elder adult awareness

2024 Initiatives

Public Safety Discovery Camp

In 2024, the BCSO hosted the second annual BCSO Public Safety Discovery Camp in partnership with Virginia Cooperative Extension – Brunswick County, Southside Virginia Community College, Brunswick County Fire and EMS agencies, and Virginia State Police. It is free to youth ages 9-13 in Brunswick and surrounding counties. The camp was held in July at Southside Virginia Community College in Alberta, VA. The camp was held from 8 am – 4 pm each day and 72 students graduated from camp.

The purpose of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Discovery Camp is to offer combined public safety disciplines of telecommunications, law enforcement, EMS and fire to create a fun and educational experience for campers that generates excitement and encourages exploration of careers in public safety. While doing so, campers will be immersed in various public safety scenarios, learn lifesaving skills and be challenged to apply those skills while demonstrating courage and competency in a safe, enjoyable and interactive learning environment.



2024 Initiatives

Public Safety Discovery Camp

Camp Goals:

- Campers will be able to demonstrate the ability to recognize and control life-threatening bleeding, perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and effectively use a fire extinguisher.
- Campers will build a positive and collaborative relationship with public safety professionals.
- Campers will develop an understanding of careers in public safety to include public safety telecommunications, law enforcement, emergency medical services, and fire.
- Campers will learn how to effectively use oral communication skills to de-escalate conflict and develop leadership skills.
- Campers will learn how to avoid cyber bullying and develop safe and effective strategies for using social media.

