

Brunswick County Sheriff's Office



2021 Annual Report

Sheriff B.K. Roberts

**120 E. Hicks Street | Post Office Box 705
Lawrenceville, Virginia 23868**

(434) 848-3133 Non-Emergency



Brunswick County
Sheriff's Office—
Virginia

www.brunswickso.org



@BrunswickVaSO

***A Virginia Accredited Law Enforcement Agency
Since 2007***

Contents

Contents	2
Message from the Sheriff	3
Organizational Chart	4
Introduction	5
Administrative Division	5
Communications Division	7
Court Security Division	9
Investigations Division	10
Patrol Division	12
Special Operations	13
Community Involvement	17
2021 Initiatives and Outcomes	18
Crime Prevention Activities	22

MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

I am pleased to present the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) 2021 Annual Report. We strive to be an open and informative link of communication between law enforcement and the citizens. While carrying out our daily duties we endeavor to be available, 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. While 2021 has continued to be challenging managing operational practices due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, I am proud of our efforts to maintain successful partnerships with businesses, churches and citizens in the county. The men and women of the BCSO work diligently to effectively carry on through these ever-changing times. 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.

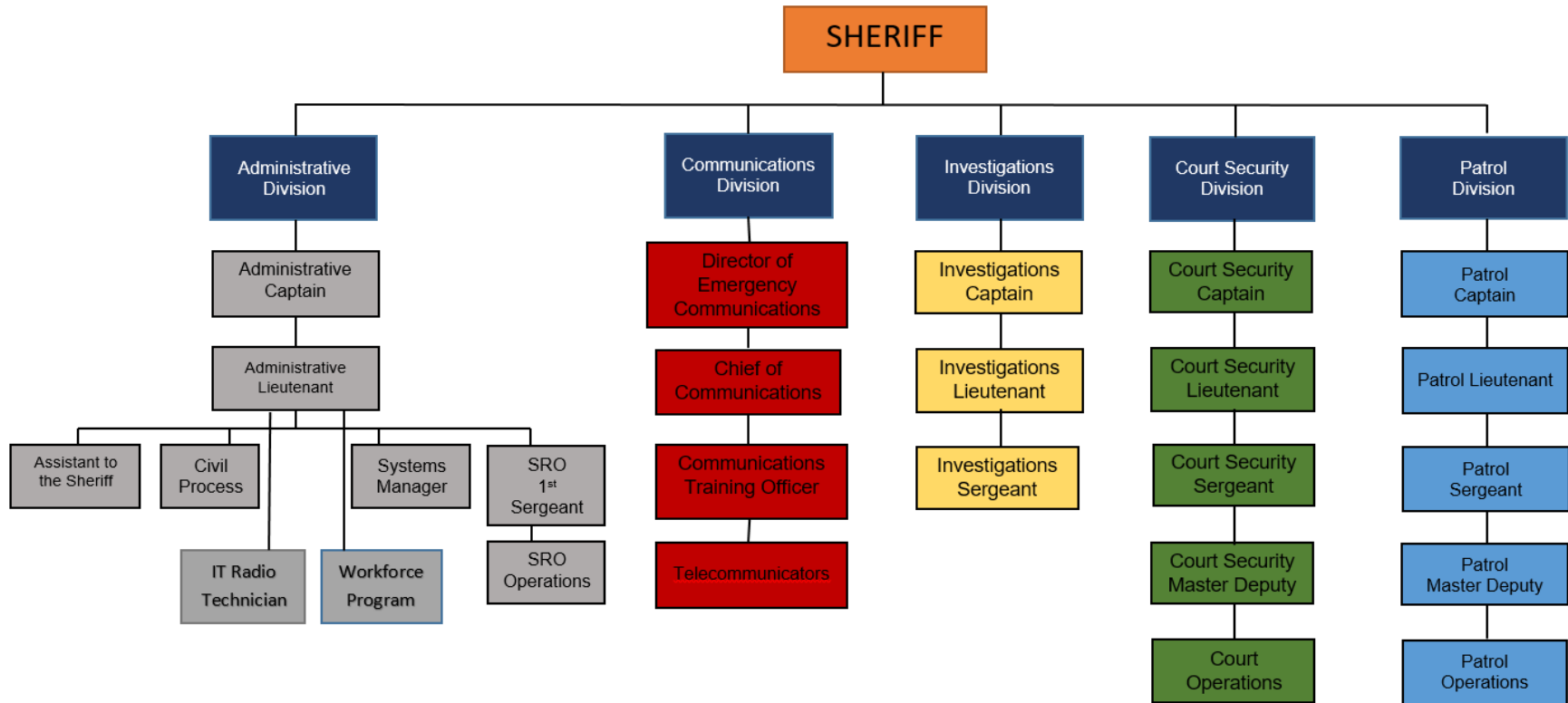


Respectfully,

Sheriff B.K. Roberts

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Brunswick County Sheriff's Department Organizational Chart



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 forty-eight employees and ten 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.

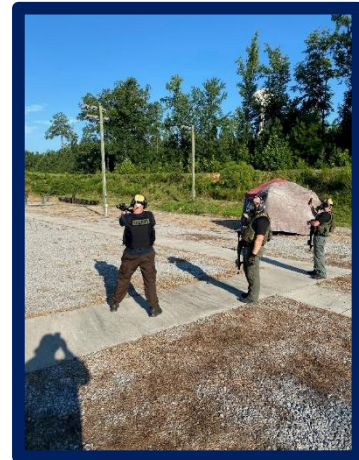
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION



The Administrative Division worked with the Court Security and Patrol divisions to complete eight out of state extraditions in 2021. Inmates were transported back to Virginia from North Carolina, Maryland, Georgia, and California due to charges from Brunswick County.

In order to obtain a Concealed Weapon Permit in the Commonwealth of Virginia, firearms competency training is required. Citizens can achieve competency in a number of ways to include attending the free firearms safety course offered by the BCSO. In 2021, ten firearms safety courses were offered to county residents free of charge. Through the efforts, 52 people received firearms safety training that totaled approximately 15 hours of instruction. Two classes were canceled due to increased COVID cases and classroom size was limited to comply with mitigation guidelines.

The Inmate Workforce Program remained active in 2021, despite furlough time due to COVID-19 restrictions at Meherrin River Regional Jail. The workforce participated in five projects. The Southside Senior Citizens Center, former Lawrenceville Brunswick County Airport, Brunswick County Cancer Association, Jerusalem RZUA Church and Olive Branch RZUA Church received building enhancements and upgrades through efforts of the inmate workforce program.



In addition to projects, the inmate workforce also provided lawn care and grounds maintenance for county property throughout the county. The inmate workforce program generated nearly 13,200 man hours while working on five projects and providing 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 5,594 hours in training that included: Basic Dispatch School, Basic Law Enforcement School, Emergency Medical Dispatch School, law enforcement recertification, Crisis Intervention Training, and specialty dispatch courses.



COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION



The Communications Division is responsible for answering, processing, and documenting non-emergency telephone calls to include: business, criminal advice, civil advice, emergent mental health, after hours county business, after hours mental health, 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.

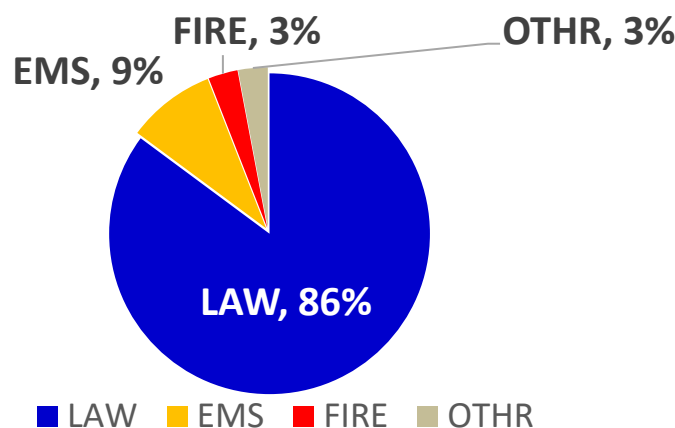
The Division dispatches and ensures unit accountability for Brunswick County Sheriff's Office, Alberta Police Department, Brodnax Police Department, Lawrenceville Police Department, Brunswick County Animal Control, seven fire companies, three rescue squads, one first response agency, and mutual aid agency 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 BCSO. 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 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 2021, the Communications Division processed 59,244 inbound and outbound phone calls associated with 46,017 calls for service of which 9,076 were 911 calls and 866 were mental health calls for service to the after hours line. The breakdown of these call types by category is found in the chart below.

Calls for Service by Category



Ninety-nine (98.53%) percent of 911 calls were answered within 15 seconds and Ninety-nine percent (99.47%) were answered within 20 seconds. The data meets and exceeds the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) standards stating ninety percent (90%) of all 911 calls arriving at the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) SHALL be answered within (\leq) fifteen (15) seconds and ninety-five (95%) of all 911 calls SHOULD be answered within (\leq) twenty (20) seconds, respectively.

The Communications Division processed 196 Concealed Weapon Permits for county residents in 2021.

Grant funding was received to upgrade hardware in the 911 Center and to enhance training for telecommunicators. Grant funding totaled \$36,000.

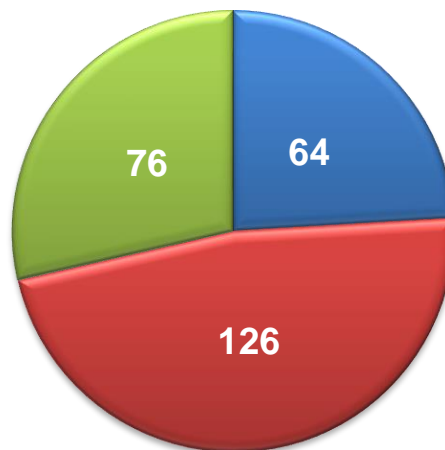
COURT SECURITY DIVISION



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.

Court Days by Type



■ Circuit ■ General District ■ Juvenile & Domestic

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.

Investigators handle both General Investigations as well as complex Narcotic Investigations. This division consists of four General Investigators and one Narcotic Investigator. In 2021, the General Investigators handled approximately 98 new general investigative cases while simultaneously continuing to work on multiple cases from previous years.

This division is still currently working the first unknown suspect Homicide case in nearly 10 years that occurred in December 2020. All personnel and investigative tactics and strategies are being utilized to bring this case to a close and provide justice to the victim and his family.

Further, in 2021, the Narcotic Investigator, with the help of the investigative team, successfully completed 22 felony undercover drug buy operations on specific targets and made 9 physical arrests of drug dealers and traffickers and 3 subjects are still actively wanted. The majority of the narcotics purchased in 2021 are still heroin and fentanyl that is most often coming into the county from North Carolina.

The Investigations Division also manages all specialized crime scene processing and evidence recovery, polygraph examinations and missing person and/or search and rescue operations. The BCSO polygraph examiner conducted 11 polygraphs in 2021.

Investigators, along with the School Resource Officers are responsible for providing schools with training and practical demonstrations as needed throughout the school year. Unfortunately, in 2020, these in person trainings and presentations were not conducted due to the students transitioning to a completely virtual learning platform. However, in 2021, many of these presentations were re-implemented and the response from the faculty, staff and students were very positive. We are also beginning to see positive results from past trainings as incidents involving cell phones have greatly decreased this year.

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



PATROL DIVISION

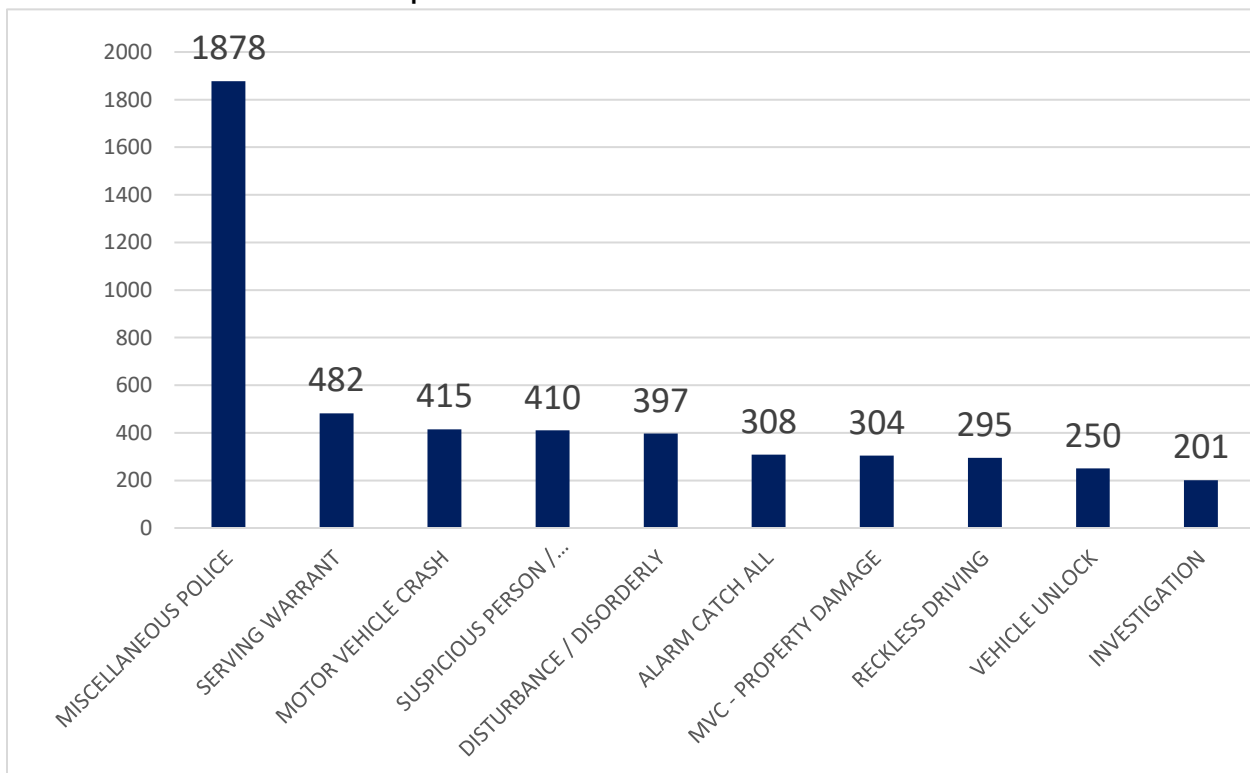


The Patrol Division is responsible for managing citizen complaints, responding to emergency situations, conducting basic criminal investigations, providing advice on civil issues, serving criminal warrants, protective orders, emergency custody orders and temporary custody orders, conducting traffic enforcement, 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.

The Patrol Division received 37,633 calls for service and identified 527 reportable incidents.

Top Ten Patrol Calls for Service



There were 696 arrests: 691 adult and 5 juvenile

Members of the Patrol division served 776 criminal warrants and traffic enforcement led to 18,862 traffic stops and the issuance of 19,696 traffic citations as some stops led to the issuance of more than one citation in an effort to keep our roadways safe.

The Patrol Division performed 8,267 business security checks and 69 residential property checks in 2021. There were 2,900 documented field contacts for non-criminal violations.

The civil process officer is responsible for serving subpoenas, summons, garnishments, jury notices, eviction notices, juvenile petitions, and all other civil process papers. In 2021, 4,788 civil papers were received by the BCSO and 4,795 were served.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Canine



In 2021, Deputy Green and K9 Woody responded to 30 incidents and attended approximately 300 total hours of training that includes monthly in service and individual training across the county.

Deputy Green and K9 Woody also attend monthly in-service training with Virginia State Police bloodhound K9 teams. This year's training consisted of going to numerous locations across the state working with multiple local and state agencies to train and become familiar with each other and the available resources that each agency has to offer. Training scenarios varied from lost or missing persons, runaways, verifying a subject's odor is present in a location, and tandem tracks with a patrol dog. Locations used in training consisted of urban and rural areas, with a variety of surfaces that tracks were laid and ran on.

Quarterly certifications verify that K9 Woody and Deputy Green are able to perform at the level required by Virginia State Police's K9 program.

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.”

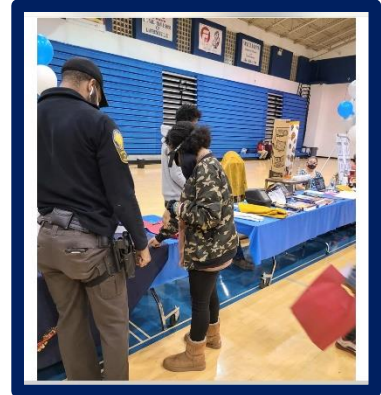
In 2021, the BCSO supported eight individuals and their families by providing the Project Lifesaver service. Clients range in age from 11-82 and have diagnoses such as autism, dementia, down syndrome, and Alzheimer’s. As a part of the service, the office maintains regular contact with the individual 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 42 equipment checks for participants and responded to six calls for service from Project Lifesaver clients who wandered from their residence. All were located quickly due to the efficiency of the program.

School Resource Officers (SROs)



School Resources Officer McKnight taught D.A.R.E.- Drug Abuse Resistance Education to 5th grade students. DARE is a 10 week program that is designed to help students make safe and responsible choices.

School Resource Officers participated in Community Title 1 night where awareness of drug and gangs were discussed. Deputy Jones is pictured with a student that has on the drunk goggles that simulate being intoxicated and educational discussions took place.



School Resource Officer Gee taught Fire Prevention and Safety to students at Meherrin Powellton Elementary. Students learned about when to change smoke alarm batteries, how to test them and when to replace the unit. Students also learned how to stop, drop and roll. Some students were able to recite their addresses and were educated that they should only tell personal information when it's an emergency. SRO Gee is also a firefighter so students were able to see her fully dressed in fire gear, hear the sound of her voice through the air pack, and learned that firefighters are here to help.

School Resource Officers and other law enforcement agencies participated in The National Night Out in Lawrenceville, VA in August. The purpose of The National Night Out is to take back the streets and provide a safe environment for the community and law enforcement to interact and build relationships. SROs interacted with attendees and provided education while making slime with children in the community.



School Resources Officers also participated in school and community events throughout 2021 to promote positive interactions between youth, their parents, and law enforcement. Some events included National Red Ribbon Week/Halloween, Bullying Awareness Month, Jazz Festival, and speaking engagements to educate students about the importance of making good decisions while young as they do have an effect in adulthood.

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.

The SRT added one new member and he attended the 40-hour basic school in Lynchburg. The Team responded to two missions and trained nearly 500 hours in 2021.

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.

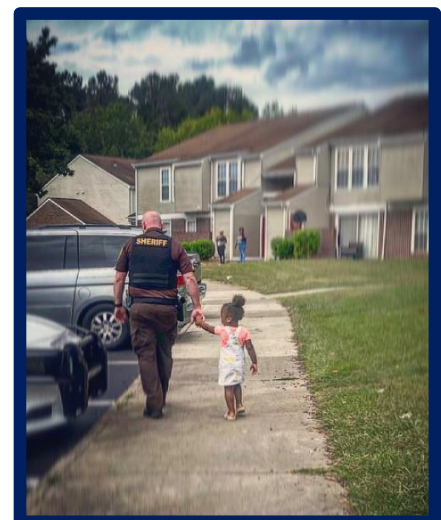
In 2021, BCSO responded to eleven reports of missing persons which included adults and juveniles, some of which were Project Lifesaver clients. All were located.

The Search and Rescue team continues to research search tactics and train to ensure we are providing the best services possible to the citizens of Brunswick County.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Brunswick Sheriff's Office is involved in a number of 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
- ◆ 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

2021 INITIATIVES AND OUTCOMES

A. 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.

B. Drug Enforcement and Prevention

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

Since program inception in 2017, deputies are dispatched simultaneously with local rescue squads to suspected narcotic overdose calls for service. In 2021, deputies responded to 43 potential overdose cases and administered Narcan to five victims prior to EMS arrival.

C. 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.

D. Next Generation 911

Next Generation 911 (NG911) is a national and statewide initiative to transition the 911 system from an analog base to a digital or IP base. The success and reliability of 911 will be greatly improved with the implementation of NG911, as it will enhance emergency number services to create a faster, more resilient system that allows voice, photos, videos and text messages to flow seamlessly from the public to the 911 network.

NG911 will also improve Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) ability to help manage call overload, natural disasters, and transferring of 911 calls and proper jurisdictional responses based on location tracking.

While the technology to implement these new IP-based 911 systems is available now, the transition to NG911 will involve much more than just new computer hardware and software. Implementing NG911 in states and counties nationwide will require the coordination of a variety of emergency communication, public safety, legislative and governing entities.

BCSO received \$813,000 in funding from the Virginia Wireless Services Board to implement NG911 in Brunswick County. The project began in 2019, continued with delay during 2021 and will be completed in 2022.

E. Coronavirus (COVID – 19)

BCSO continued following guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to keep employees and citizens safe.

The Command Team worked together to guide personal protective equipment (PPE) acquisition, use, and burn rates; sanitation and decontamination efforts of the office, personnel and equipment; employee and family member exposure and quarantine efforts; and to network with other agencies and medical professionals to manage the impact within the office and in the community.

During 2021, BCSO employees took necessary precautions, quarantined when necessary to prevent the spread, and continued the level of service expected by the community without fail during very difficult times.

BCSO completed the Mobile Command Trailer Enhancement Project with grant funds will support the upgrade of the existing 2006 Pace Mobile Command Center (MCC) to function as a backup 911 communications center, enhance capabilities of the primary 911 communications center and function as a field command post supporting COVID-19 readiness, response, and recovery in partnership with Brunswick County Government.

COVID 19 significantly impacted the departmental over time budget in 2021, using data collected to project expenses for 2022, the BCSO Command Team identified and secured funding from the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Grant Program to offset COVID related overtime expenditures. The grant award of \$45,380 was received in 2021 for use in 2022.

F. COMMUNITY POLICING DATA COLLECTION AND SHARING

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.

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 following link which is also posted on our website.

<https://data.virginia.gov/stories/s/Virginia-Community-Policing-Act-Data-Collection/rden-cz3h/>

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.



A. 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