

2021 Annual Report



Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Ron D. Cramer

Sheriff's Office

The Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office is a full-service law enforcement agency. The Office seeks to provide a secure environment professionally and efficiently and to foster positive relationships within the community.

2021 Accomplishments

Security Services (Program Areas: Detention of Inmates including Huber and Courthouse Security)

- Hired 8 correctional officers in 2021. Although this reduced the number of order-ins that staff would need to fill, we still struggled to reach full-staff throughout the year ending 2021 with 5 vacancies remaining. In 2021 we kept order-ins down totaling 61. This is similar to the 50 order-ins in 2020 and maintaining much improvement from previous years with order-in numbers ranging 100-700.
- Despite the struggle to reach full staff we were able to manage our overtime expenses while still going through a pandemic. In 2021 our OT in Security Services was \$253,128; 2020 came in at \$245,804 meanwhile 2019 at \$497,073. We continue to make great strides in this budgeted area while improving morale within the division.
- We continue to utilize video conferences for court related hearings for cost savings when applicable.
- Maintained a contract with the State Department of Health Services to initiate “treatment to competency” for those in custody and court ordered to Mendota Mental Health. Treatment, medication, and counseling begin at the Jail, greatly improving the service delivery model. Also continued to update and monitor suicide watch procedures.
- Continued participation with the Stepping Up Initiative being led by the Department of Human Services to respond to re-entry service needs of inmates.
- Continued to work with the County Board and the Wisconsin Legislature to research the ability for counties to classify Correctional Officers as Protective Status under the Wisconsin Retirement System.
- Eau Claire County Jail teamed up with Chippewa Valley Votes to increase voting opportunities within the jail. We hosted our 2nd On-site Voter's Registration event for inmates.
- Huber operations suspended entirely in 2021 due to COVID-19.
- Received the Livescan Fingerprint Device Grant in July.

Field Services (Program Areas: Response to Crime & Community Caretaking, Civil Process, Investigations, West Central Drug Task Force, Traffic Control and Enforcement)

- Continue to build Eau Claire County Special Events Teams. Consisting of the following agencies: ECPD, Altoona, Lake Hallie, UWEC, Chippewa Falls, and Chippewa County. The team specializes in large assemblies, political events, large group gatherings.
- Continued collaboration with the Wisconsin State Patrol in crash reconstructions including software programs and sharing of office space.
- Continued participation with CART (Child Abduction Response Team) involving law enforcement from Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office, Eau Claire Police, Altoona Police, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Police, Fire and Rescue, Juvenile Intake, Human Services, School Officials, Probation and Parole, a Sex Offender Specialist, Communication Center, a blood hound, Victim Services, media, Mayo Hospital, Red Cross, DCI, FBI, Student Transit and the District Attorney's Office.
- The Eau Claire County Regional Tactical Team responded 14 calls for service. The multiple agency unit has the resources and abilities to respond and manage all high-risk operations while reducing overtime for one single agency in the event of a crisis. Secured \$65,603 in grant dollars to offset operations for SWAT and our Special Events Team. Our SWAT team traveled to Kenosha twice this year and once to Wauwatosa to assist.
- The Detective Division managed 270 investigations; 55 cases led to arrests, 91 cases were assigned to the Forensic Lab. The Forensic Lab expansion was completed in 2020. The lab partners currently include ECSO, Eau Claire City Police, Altoona Police, Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), and Department of Criminal Investigations (DCI). DCI is currently looking at adding a mobile lab.
- Detectives continued to collaborate with the Eau Claire Police Department, Department of Human Services, Child Advocacy Center and Corporation Counsel through the Child Alliance Group to assist at-risk youth. Sensitive crimes against children remains a significant concern. Transitioned to more frequent internet stings with area law enforcement agencies rather than conducting large scale events. This increases the frequency and effectiveness of these types of investigations.
- Continued participation with the Drug Endangered Children Committee (DEC) to address the impact that drugs have in our community and the significant damage children exposed to dangerous drug environments experience.
- The West Central Drug Task Force, comprised of 16 member agencies, continues to offer specialized enforcement tools, personnel and training to assist agencies in securing evidence for prosecution in drug cases as well as with property thefts, robberies and assaults.
- Continue to work closely with the Department of Transportation to enhance public safety on the Highway 53 bypass. Enhancements include permanent message boards, ramp gates and a reroute plan. This section of roadway continues to require a large commitment to patrol resources.
- Continued work with the Town of Union to manage concerns surrounding the music festivals and to compromise on solutions related to parking, traffic routes, and noise.

- Farm Technology Days planning, traffic, tent city, and parking safety.

Additional Projects/Activities

- Continued participation in the Evidence Based Decision Making (EBDM) initiative. Staff serve on subcommittees assisting with building state-wide policies for the criminal justice system.
- Staff training initiatives include ongoing development of in-house programs for all staff to decrease costs. Topics addressed meet the criteria for ensuring law enforcement officers and correctional officers maintain certifications.
- Continued training of Implicit Bias, De-escalation, Intervention & Force Mitigation for all employees. Continued Suicide Prevention training for staff.
- We again were able to help a smaller number of children through our Kids N' Cops program this year. We worked in collaboration with other agencies and departments to choose those to help this season.
- We continued to serve several children in the community with our Drug Endangered Children program. We continue to see additional donations from members and businesses in our community to fund this program. In 2021 we received over \$13,000 in donations to the DEC program giving us many abilities to help out children in need.
- Participated with Marshfield Clinic, the Department of Justice and the Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention in the National Drug Take Back initiative to reduce the amount of unneeded, expired and unused prescription drugs.
- Continued participation in VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) service through which victims of crime, concerned community members, law enforcement and others can use the phone or Internet to search for information regarding an offender's custody status.
- Continued participation with Wisconsin Crime Alert Network (WCAN) which allows law enforcement agencies to send out crime alert bulletins to businesses and the public about crime which may affect them.
- Obtained grant dollars for equipment, training, and special operations such as the West Central Drug Task Force and the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). Includes grants for fighting methamphetamine and heroin.
- Worked with Crime Stoppers throughout the year gathering information for cases.
- Guest Speaking Engagements to include the following: Accountable Drivers Education, CVTC Criminal Justice Class.

Alignment with Strategic Plan

Ensure Financial Stability	Enhanced Quality & Equity	Economic Development
*Grant opportunities	*Community Partnerships	*Regional Collaborations
*In-house training	*Jail-based Voting	*Sourcing Vendors and Contracts
*Competitive Fee Schedule	*Evidence Based Decision Making Initiatives	*CART and Drug Endangered Children Initiatives

2022 Future Opportunities

- Methamphetamine (Meth) continues to plague our community and criminal justice system. Meth Response Committee needs to continue focus on Community Outreach/Awareness, Court System Response, and Post Disposition Response. The number of jail bed days associated with Meth has surpassed those with OWI convictions and is a major driver of the jail population increase.
- Ongoing work with the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council and the Evidence Based Decision Making Work group to implement system changes through the collection of data that is informing and helping to shape our judicial system.
- Jail population experiencing a complex array of medical and mental health needs of inmates among Covid-19 challenges.
- Recruitment and retention of qualified personnel will continue to be challenging, especially in the current environment. The ongoing weekly reports of unprovoked violence directed towards officers does not make it the career choice it once was. Coupled with turnover resulting from retirements, employees transitioning to new careers, and general staff shortages, keeping the level of current services could be difficult.
- Sheriff's Office remains interested in the county-wide study being conducted related to storage as the department has needs in this area and has expressed this concern for many years.
- Need for additional staff in all areas of the Sheriff's Office operations will continue to be a challenge. Sheriff's Office review indicates staffing deficiency in all Divisions. We continue to tell our story to our committee and others of this need.
- Cross train administrative staff on various functions to better assist Field and Security Services, while accommodating the changes in business due to COVID-19.
- The Drug Endangered Children program continues to grow and supply much needed items to the community.
- ALICE Training continues to grow not only within the building but with businesses in the

County we will continue in person training as permitted.

- Regional collaboration with Tactical and Special Events Teams

- Honor Guard active for conferences, graduations, sporting events, funerals
- Federal and State Grants received for OT and equipment to improve operations.
- Department Awards issued to employees for Valor, Merit, and Lifesaving
- Detectives continue to handle heavy individual caseloads consisting of felony child abuse, sexual assault, fraud, burglary, child protective services investigations, narcotics, and fraud.

RESPONSE TO CRIME AND COMMUNITY CARETAKING

Crime & Community Caretaking: The Eau Claire Sheriff's Office provides a complete range of public safety and quality of life services to the county including, but not limited to, the following: criminal investigation and apprehension; preventative patrol; emergency response (fire & EMS); disaster response and preparedness; large event security; dispute mediation; building escorts; civil disorder; and other duties as requested by the citizens.

SWAT: The Sheriff's Office Tactical team referred to as SWAT, or Special Weapons and Tactics, is a multiple agency team that is comprised of deputies from various divisions of the Sheriff's Office, Altoona Police, Chippewa Falls Police, Bloomer Police, Chippewa County, Menomonie Police Department, Dunn County, and Wisconsin State Patrol. In addition, there is a correctional officer used as the communication link for operations. The team is supported medically by the Chippewa Fire District. This team works alongside deputies and correctional officers who are assigned to the Negotiations Team. The team responds to high-risk situations where better-trained and equipped personnel may be needed to safely resolve the incident. These incidents may be high-risk warrants, personal warrants, VIP protection, hostage situations, officer/citizen rescue, barricaded situations, manhunts, or any event where more skilled training is required. The team is comprised of a tactical commander and three team leaders that provide skilled training on a monthly basis and develop operational plans for responses. The Regional Team is a member of the Aligned Law Enforcement Response Network. This group is funded, equipped, and trained to respond to large scale incidents around the State.

Crime & Community Activity:	2018	2019	2020	2021
Population served:	103,671	104,534	104,937	105,710
Number of square miles served:	655	655	655	655
Number of cases handled:	8,484	8,575	6,959	7,409
Number of assists to other law enforcement agencies:	754	874	301	708
Number of adult arrests:	1,318	1,313	889	1,035
Number of juvenile arrests:	59	33	30	10
Number of Mental Health Chapters/Incidences:	54	97	90	101
Number of Welfare/Detox Checks:	86	95	113	62
Number of New Warrants entered	1,411	991	940	1,409
Number of New Warrants canceled	1,374	1,013	856	1,371
Number of death investigations:	30	74	81	39
Response times to services-Level 1:	15:35	14:51	14:58	13:54
Number of high risk situation (SWAT) responses per year:	9	11	14	12

STATUTORY DETENTION OF INMATES SECURE

Secure Detention: The Eau Claire County jail houses inmates arrested on new charges, pre-trial inmates who are awaiting adjudication of charges, sentenced inmates, and individuals on community supervision who have violated the conditions of their probation or parole. Also includes transportation of prisoners and mental subjects to and from the courts and to and from secure institutions.

OUTPUTS

Secure Detention:	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of Bookings	4,973	4,883	2,607	4,033
Total Number of Secure Jail Bed Days	82,473	75,857	54,376	70,657
Average In-House and Out-of-County-Paid Population	226	208	149	167
Average total Eau Claire County Jail Population:	298	281	200	189
Average Secure daily population (includes furloughs etc)	236	221	172	184
Number of clients transported:	1,260	1,127	357	130
Number of transports:	448	594	253	99
Number of Video Court appearances: (transport diverted)	45	49	83	13
Inmate Visitations	9,558	8,246	9,386	5,223
DNA Collections	573	482	223	37
Criminal Fingerprints	1,258	871	383	301
Private Fingerprints	624	559	342	288

STATUTORY DETENTION OF INMATES HUBER

Huber: The Eau Claire County jail houses inmates arrested on new charges, pre-trial inmates who are awaiting adjudication of charges, sentenced inmates, and individuals on community supervision who have violated the conditions of their probation or parole. Housing of Huber inmates includes random urine testing and Electronic Monitoring.

OUTPUTS

Huber:	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Huber bed Days provided based on average daily Huber population:	22,265	21,535	10,060	0
Average Huber daily population:	61	59	28	0

CIRCUIT COURT & COURTHOUSE SECURITY

Wisconsin statute 59.27(3) mandates that the sheriff shall: "attend upon the circuit court held in the sheriff's county during its session". Program area provides security for the circuit court judges, court commissioner and for courthouse departments. Deputies monitor proceedings by providing security while court is in session, respond to all calls for service and emergencies within the courthouse, transport "in-custody" persons between the jail and courtrooms, assist the Clerk of Courts Office with escorting persons who appear in court to ensure documents are signed when needed, patrol the courthouse when time allows, make arrests for warrants and other criminal offenses within the courthouse and surrounding area, assist the Treasurer's Office with bank deposits, and other duties as needed.

OUTPUTS

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
# of incidents requiring deputy sheriff intervention in the courthouse:	1,710	1,373	529	343
# of warrants served in courthouse:	500	548	190	225

CIVIL PROCESS AND FORECLOSURE SALES

Serving of civil process and conducting foreclosure sales are a statutorily mandated responsibility of the Sheriff's Office. Deputies in this program also provide back up for inmate transport service.

OUTPUTS

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Number of requested civil process served:	1475*	3,141	2,807	1,464
Number of Sheriff's sales conducted:	47	37	15	12
Civil process papers served by patrol deputies:	1441*	1202	1120	1183
	*estimate due to Spillman records			

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

General Investigative: Follow up investigations of reported crimes including collection of evidence, testifying in court, and providing the victim with progress reports on the status of the investigation. Also includes project management for the West Central Drug Task Force, a multi-agency Drug Unit focusing on narcotics investigations.

West Central Drug Task Force: The West Central Drug Task Force is a cooperative effort made up of multiple law enforcement agencies from six area counties, the intent of which is to identify individuals involved in the manufacture, distribution or sale of illicit drugs as well as the illegal diversion of prescription medication. Criminal activity commonly associated with drug crimes such as illegal possession of firearms, burglary and theft is also addressed. Under a functioning Memorandum of Understanding signed by all agency members of the Task Force, resources such as personnel, equipment, and economic resources can be targeted to particular criminal problems within the Task Force area.

OUTPUTS

General Investigative:	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Number of investigations assigned to Division:	352	316	270	281
Number of investigations cleared by arrest:	66	59	55	24
Number of cases assigned to Forensic Lab	120	100	91	96
West Central Drug Task Force:	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Number of cases opened for investigation:	379	463	456	476
Number of search warrants executed by Task Force:	97	99	45	40
Number of Juvenile Drug Related Charges:	0	0	0	0
Number of Adult Drug Related Charges:	789	280	352	355
Eau Claire County's Allocation % of Grant Monies:	45.09	45.09	45.09	45

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES (continued)

To provide drug abuse prevention/education services to local groups, organizations, and schools within the task force's jurisdiction.	Eau Claire County drug task force personnel will participate in at least 24 drug abuse prevention/education presentations during the year.	15	28	20	5
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TRAFFIC CONTROL & ENFORCEMENT

Through active enforcement of traffic laws, Eau Claire Sheriff's deputies attempt to reduce the loss of property and life resulting from dangerous driving behavior. Enforcement also includes arresting suspected impaired drivers and the issuing of citations to individuals violating traffic laws and ordinances. Eau Claire Sheriff's deputies also address other traffic issues, provide for orderly and safe traffic flow, thoroughly investigate traffic crashes, and develop strategies to reduce traffic related deaths, injuries, and property damage.

OUTPUTS

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
OWI Arrests:	141	231	130	117
Traffic crashes:	910	1,045	398	460
Traffic citations:	3,054	3,531	2,052	3,323
Traffic warnings:	2,033	1,892	407	822