

BLACK HAWK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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NATHAN NEFF, SHERIFF

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SHERIFF
BLACK HAWK COUNTY

Citizens of Black Hawk County,

Although I didn't take over as your sheriff until January 1, 2025, it is my pleasure to provide you with the 2024 Annual Report. In the pages that follow you'll see a farewell letter from outgoing Sheriff Tony Thompson as well as the final reports submitted by Captains Mark Herbst and Reinhard Boesch. They were among several members of the Sheriff's Office who retired at the close of 2024. Those retirements, combined with my "promotion" from captain/jail administrator to Sheriff, led to many changes within the organization.

I will keep this introduction short and let the report speak for itself. You'll find most of the stats fall closely in line with what we've historically come to expect them to be. As you digest the numbers, please take time to enjoy the notes from Sheriff Thompson, Captain Herbst, and Captain Boesch. The three of them combined to serve Black Hawk County for over 100 years!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I'll do my best to answer them and clarify it for you. I welcome any feedback you may have, good or bad.

It is truly humbling to be typing this as the Sheriff of Black Hawk County. I am excited and honored to serve you!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Neff".

Sheriff Nathan Neff

NNeff@bhcsso.org



TONY THOMPSON, SHERIFF

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SHERIFF
BLACK HAWK COUNTY

12-31-24

To the Citizens of Black Hawk County:

Thank you! I appreciate your support over my 16 years as your sheriff and my over 30 years as a deputy with the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office. The sense of pride that I feel having served you within this agency and beside the very best officers in this state is overwhelming and it is due to your faith in my abilities and in my obligation to you that have allowed my tenure and longevity.

It is certainly bittersweet to pen this letter as I leave this office and pray that I have left it at least as good as I received it. I look forward to the future of this agency under new administration, with new goals, new hopes, and new direction. I know that they are in good hands, and I would like to believe that we have left them well prepared for whatever the future holds for them.

As I look back, I have regrets for things undone, projects not yet complete, and work that I have not been able to accomplish, but I do feel a sense of pride in so many tasks and plans achieved. I believe that we have taken this office to new heights and challenged the status quo over the years. I consistently asserted to my commanders that if we ever became comfortable with where we were, we would be back sliding, so we would never settle so long as I was the sheriff. I hope that helped build a better organization as well.

Finally, I thank you for trusting me to keep you safe; for ensuring that our plans, our operations, our expenditures were such that we could deploy, train, and ensure that you and your families could enjoy living in a county where you would not be touched by crime. If you were a victim of crime, I hope you found us as genuinely frustrated and aggressive to find the offender as you would be, and I hope you found justice and peace in our efforts on your behalf. This is the agency that I know, and this is the agency that daily made me proud to be associated with it for over 30 years.

I have been honored to be your sheriff and to serve you as a deputy within this county. I thank you for the opportunity and I deeply appreciate all that has come with this obligation. I am satisfied today that my race is over, and I am now complete in my task.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Thompson".

Sheriff Tony Thompson



Mission Statement:



It is the mission of the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office to provide professional, high-quality and effective law enforcement, correctional and court support services in partnership with the communities we serve. We, the members of the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office, believe that our work has a vital impact on the quality of life in our county. To demonstrate our commitment to our profession, on and off duty, we subscribe to the following **values**:

Pride

The office recognizes that its employees are the vital component to the successful delivery of law enforcement, corrections and court support services. We believe we can achieve our highest potential by actively involving our employees in problem-solving and outwardly demonstrating our support for and pride in our staff.

Integrity

Integrity is defined as being honest, moral, upright and sincere. Public trust can only exist with our integrity and respect for one another. At the very foundation of the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office is the expectation of the highest level of integrity in its employees.

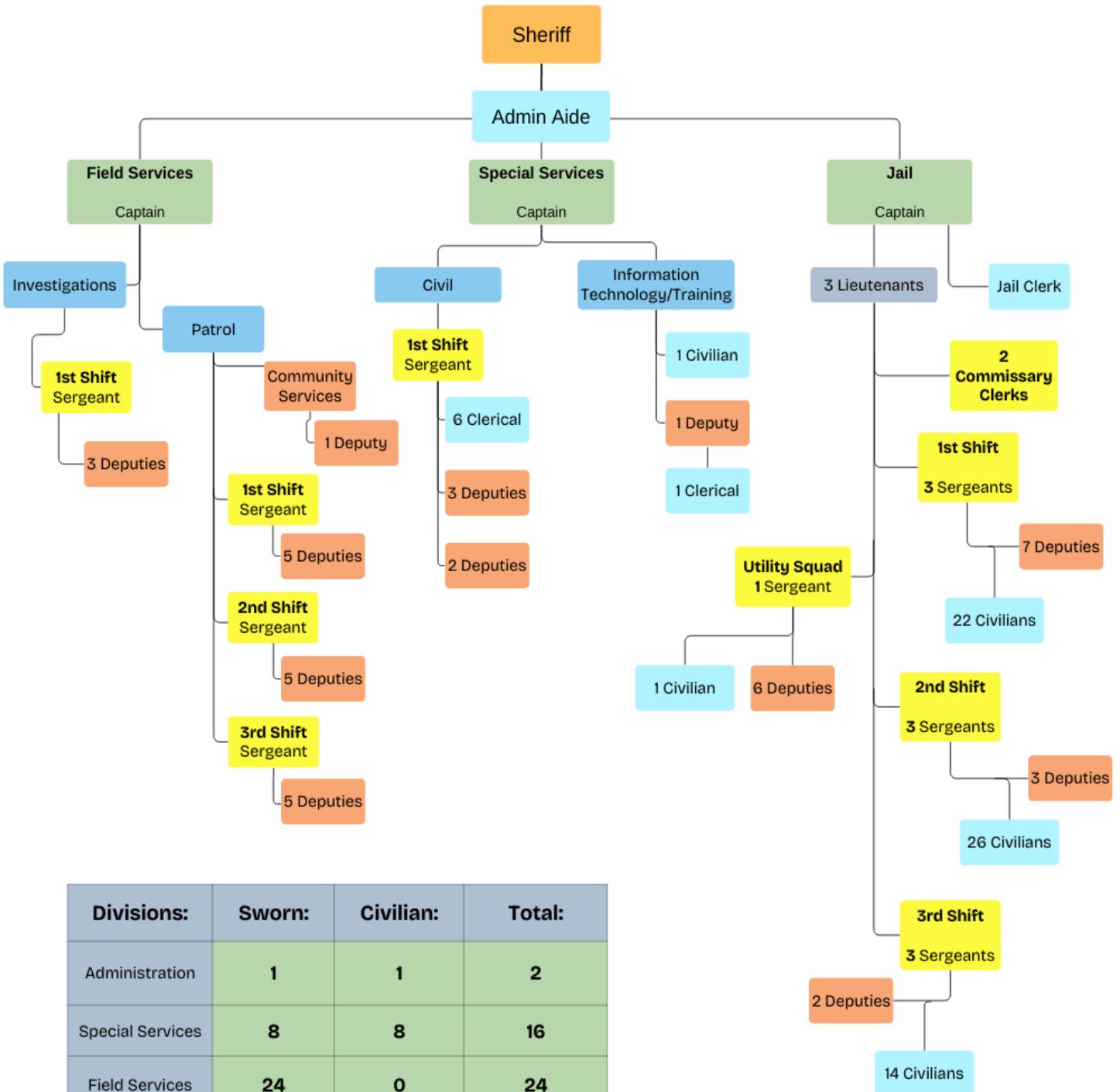
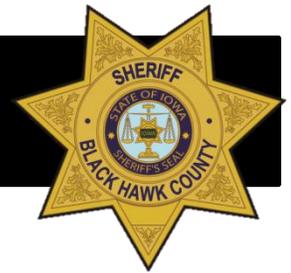
Professionalism

Recognizing the changing and diverse needs of the communities we serve, the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office promotes and encourages a policy of professional individual excellence, which is passionately delivered and enhanced by continuing education, training, and administration support. This commitment is evidenced by the expected outward demonstration of that professionalism to our citizens.

Fairness

The sheriff's office members shall uphold laws in an ethical, impartial, courteous, and professional manner while respecting the rights and dignity of all persons. We shall strive to achieve a balance between enforcement and community needs which reflects both the spirit and the letter of the law. We support an organizational climate of mutual trust and respect. We endeavor to always be fair and impartial in our decisions and responses to issues that fall within the confines of our assigned duties.

Organizational Chart:



Divisions:	Sworn:	Civilian:	Total:
Administration	1	1	2
Special Services	8	8	16
Field Services	24	0	24
Jail	32	66	98
Total:	65	75	140

2024 Annual Statistical Review.



PART 1 OFFENSES

Offense	2022	2023	2024
Arson	0	1	0
Aggravated Assault	1	1	1
Domestic Assault	11	12	19
Simple Assault	18	14	14
Burglary	24	15	34
Criminal Mischief	20	26	22
Drug Violations	157	206	108
Kidnapping	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Murder	0	0	0
Sexual Offense	11	10	7
Thefts	34	42	37
Larceny of Motor Vehicle	6	6	8
Entice/Exploitation of a Child	1	1	1

TOTAL YEARLY ARRESTS

	2022	2023	2024
Arrests	2,548	2,579	2,245

PART 2 OFFENSES

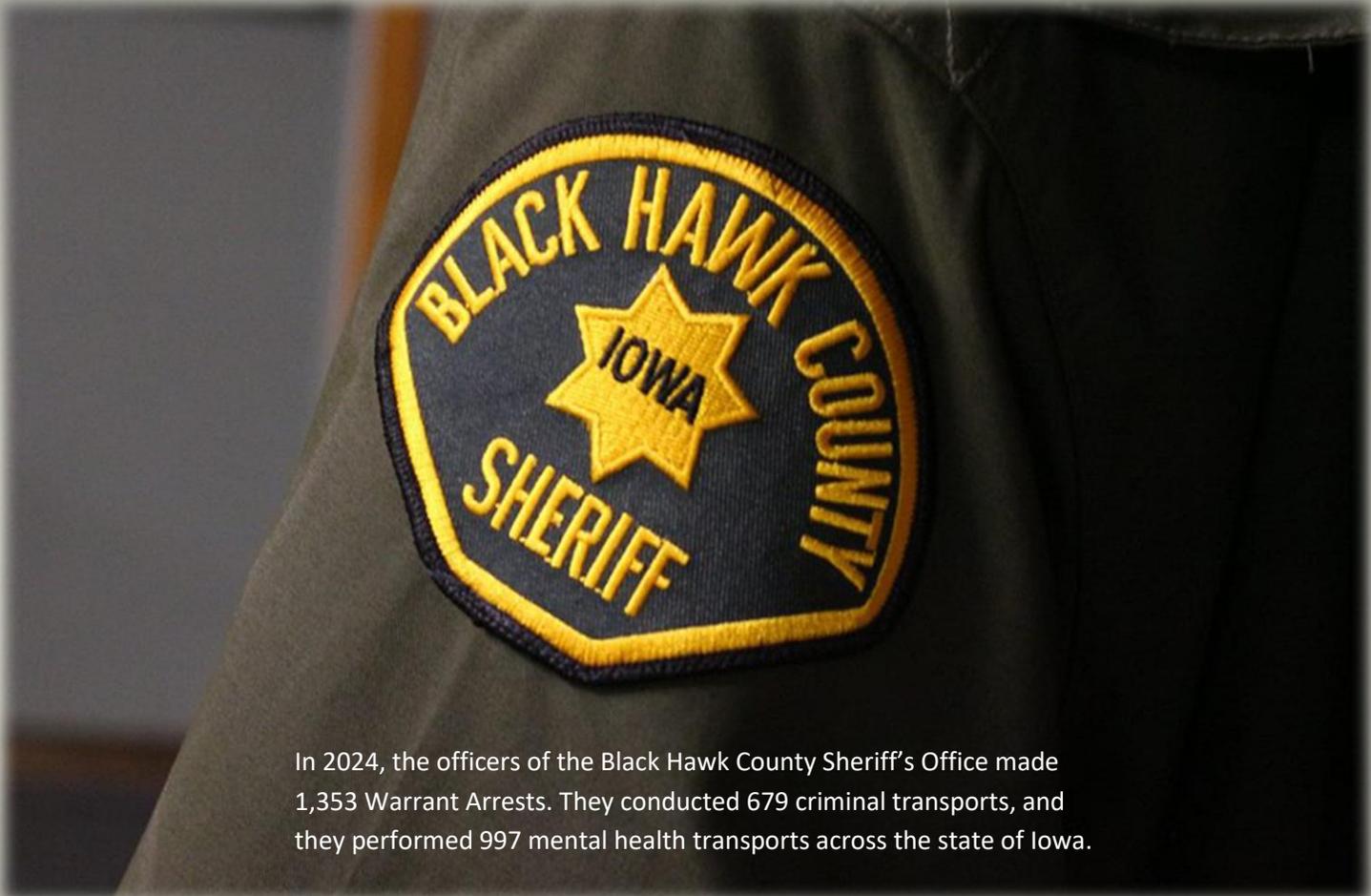
Offense	2022	2023	2024
OWI	172	111	123
Public Intoxication	9	4	4
Runaway	11	4	5
Bad Checks	9	3	1
Trespass	2	6	6
All Other Offenses	3	3	2



SHERIFF
BLACK HAWK COUNTY



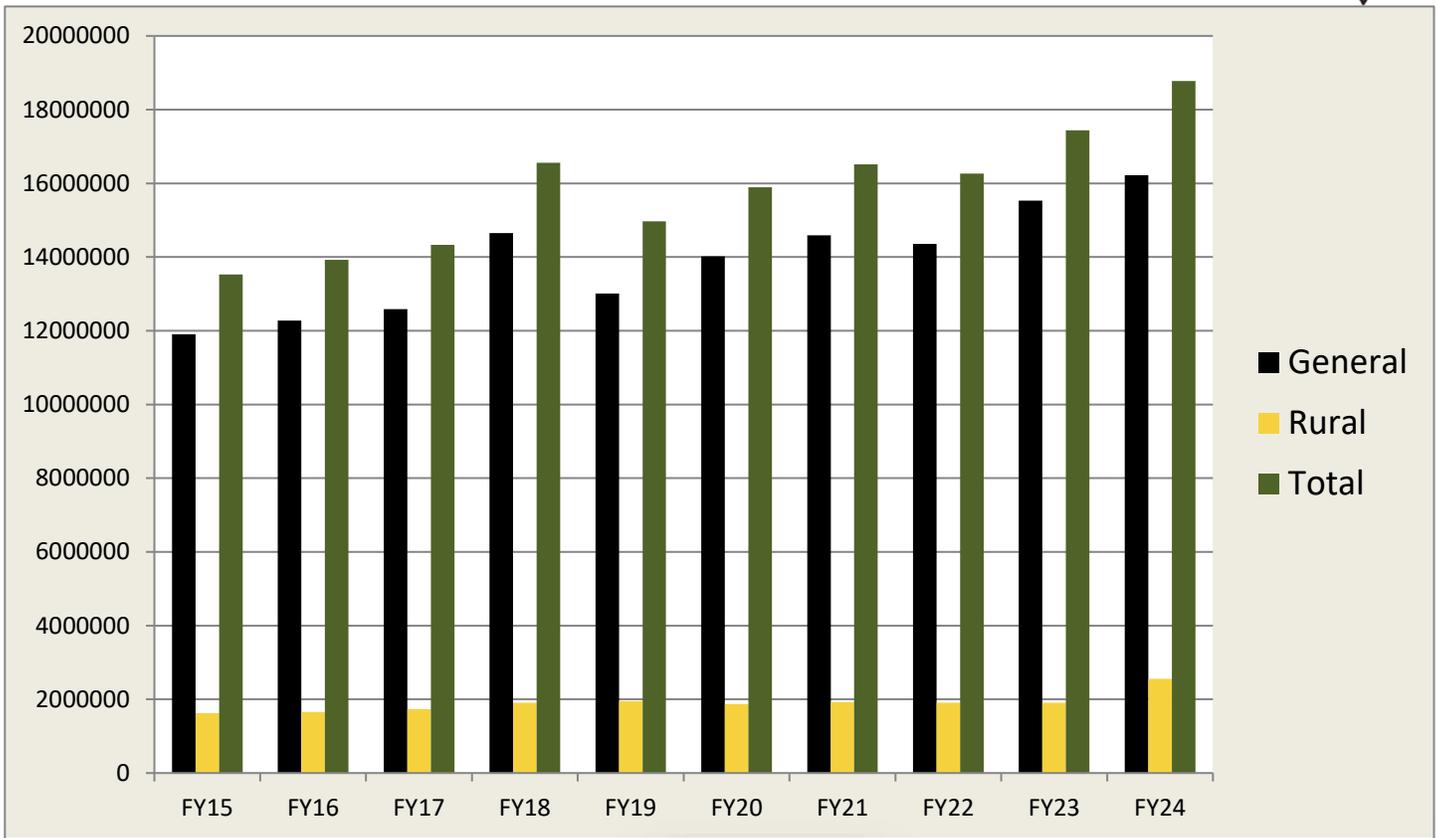
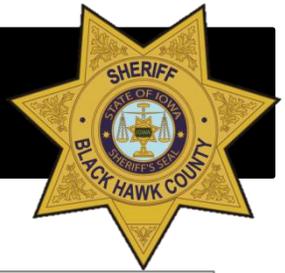
Calls For Service			
	2022	2023	2024
Total CFS in Black Hawk County	104,667	111,887	92,046
Total CFS for the Sheriff's Office	6,888	6,984	6,758



In 2024, the officers of the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office made 1,353 Warrant Arrests. They conducted 679 criminal transports, and they performed 997 mental health transports across the state of Iowa.

Traffic Stops			
	2022	2023	2024
Total Stops	2,600	2,582	2,400
Total Citations Issued	3,045	3,343	2,599

Sheriff's Office Annual Budget:



Special Services Division:



From the Commander:

The Special Services Division of the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office covers the sub-divisions of civil, clerical, training and records. They all were necessary in making this office run successfully throughout this past year.

Civil consists of those deputies who are out in the field trying to locate individuals and business agents, in order to serve and execute legal documents and court orders. Examples of what they serve are subpoenas, divorce papers, garnishments, small claims court notices, evictions, protective orders and many others. In 2024, deputies served and executed 10,585 of those documents.

Our clerical staff are the friendly and helpful people you see at our front counter when you come to do business here. They prepare and enter into our systems the legal documents described above that the deputies go and serve/execute. They have many additional duties and assist every division of our agency.

Our training center in Raymond is where we do virtually all of our initial and on-going staff training. It is a very unique training facility for this region due to its size and versatility. We share it with our law enforcement partners from other agencies and it is a source of great pride for us. We open it up to the public one day a year, usually in the fall, during our community engagement day.

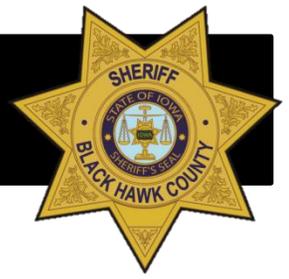
We have staff designated as our records custodians. They are who you have to contact when you are in need of records we keep per the current open records laws. Examples of common records requested are accident reports, incident reports, mug shots, booking reports, crime statistics, etc....

The year 2024 was another enjoyable year for me and it happens to be my final year with this outstanding agency. I am retiring and will miss working with the professional and dedicated staff that your Sheriff's Office has.

Captain Reinhard Boeschen (Retired)
Special Services Division



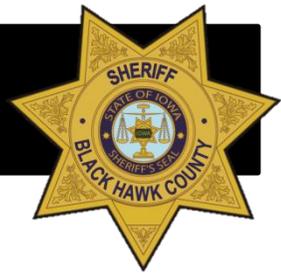
Special Services Division:



CIVIL PROCESSES			
	2022	2023	2024
EXECUTIONS	1,673	2,185	2,155
REAL ESTATE SALES	87	89	67
CONDEMNATIONS	3	4	3
WRIT OF ATTACHMENTS	0	0	2
GARNISHMENTS	1,676	2,197	2,170
CASH REGISTER LEVY	1	1	1
DEMAND	4	1	2
SECURITY LIEN	1	0	1
TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDER	162	152	178
WRIT OF EJECTION	488	514	568
WRIT OF POSSESSION	1	0	3
WRIT OF REPLEVIN	18	19	30
PAPERS SERVED	10,318	11,533	9,259
PAPERS UN-SERVED	953	1,067	1,326
TOTAL PROCESSES	11,271	12,600	10,585



Jail Services Division:



2024 marked my fifth full year as the Jail Administrator, and it proved to be an unusual one as our average daily population for the year was only 227. Excluding the “Covid year” of 2020, we typically see our headcount average in the 250 to 265 range. The lower number was a welcome surprise as it allowed us to keep one of the pods in the jail closed for much of the year which resulted in significant savings within our budget.

Despite the lower numbers, we still booked 6,041 people into the jail while 6,047 were booked out. This is still in line with how many people we’ve processed over the last several years, so it indicates that most inmates are spending less time in jail before being released.

The jail employs 68 security staff members which is made up of a combination of sworn and civilian staff, 12 booking clerks, 11 master control technicians, two commissary clerks, and one social worker. After being short-staffed for most of the last several years, we were able to hire several people and fill almost every position. Due to nine retirements at the end of 2024, we expect to see several newer faces again this year. Fortunately, we already have several good candidates going through the hiring process so I’m confident we’ll get our staffing numbers back up soon.

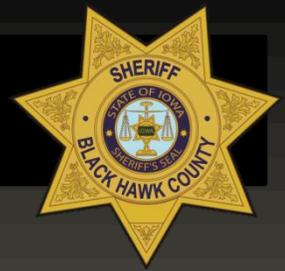


December marked the end of my tenure as the jail administrator, and it ended on a very positive note. The State Jail Inspector awarded the Black Hawk County Jail his “Best of the Best” award for the large jail division. He based this on our compliance with all applicable laws and regulations pertaining to jails as well as the cleanliness of the facilities and the professionalism of the staff. I was honored to accept this award, but it truly belongs to the staff mentioned in the previous paragraph. This award reflects the hard work they do 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It has been my pleasure running the jail the last few years, and I look forward to continuing to serve the citizens of Black Hawk County as your sheriff!



Jail Services Division:



Inmate Demographic Summary

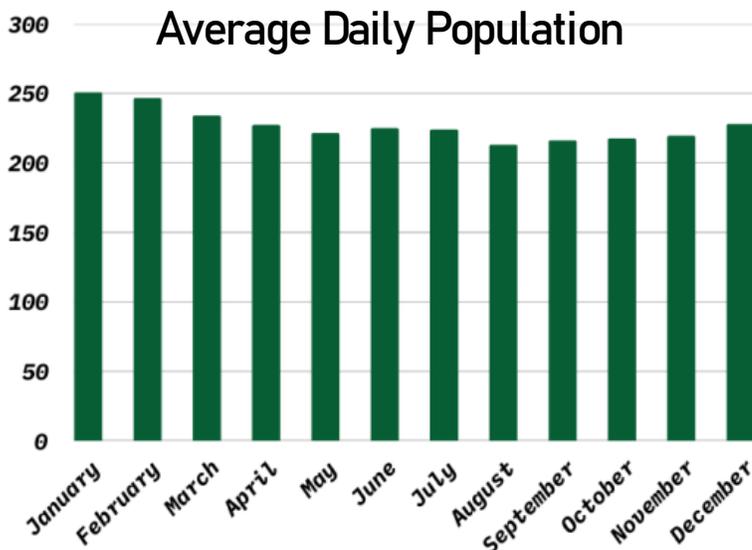
Race	Male	Female
Black	1,770	699
White	2,507	1,154
Asian	83	31
Indian	19	15
Other	10	1
Total Inmates	4,389	1,900
Hispanic		
Yes	337	
No	5,952	



Daily Activity

Averages	2022	2023	2024
Average Population	249.9	250.1	227.1
Jail Bookings	6,130	6,699	6,041
Jail Transports	591	632	682

Average Daily Population



Field Services Division:



Captain Mark Herbst, Chief Deputy (Retired)

The Patrol and Investigative Divisions provide the emergency response and the criminal investigative functions of the Sheriff's Office to the citizens whom live and visit Black Hawk County.

The Patrol Division is staffed 24/7/365 and stands ready to respond to any call for assistance within our jurisdiction and we proactively patrol the communities that we serve to enforce law infractions and assist our partnering municipal agencies throughout the county. Our investigators support the Patrol Division and acquire responsibility over the more complicated or serious investigations/incidents.

While each year challenges us, 2024 continued to stretch our resources (mostly manpower and vehicles) as we tried to be frugal with your tax dollars and ensure each division met minimum staffing coverage.

One particularly concerning challenge for law enforcement is combating the risks of distracted driving. Nearly everybody has a cell phone and despite laws enacted, the trend of texting and online app usage while continues to pose significant risk to the motoring public and our deputies as they do their job on our roadways. We will continue our message and educational efforts to curb this risky behavior.

Our deputies stand ready and prepared to assist those who are in need of our services, and we look forward to the honor and privilege of serving our community in 2025.

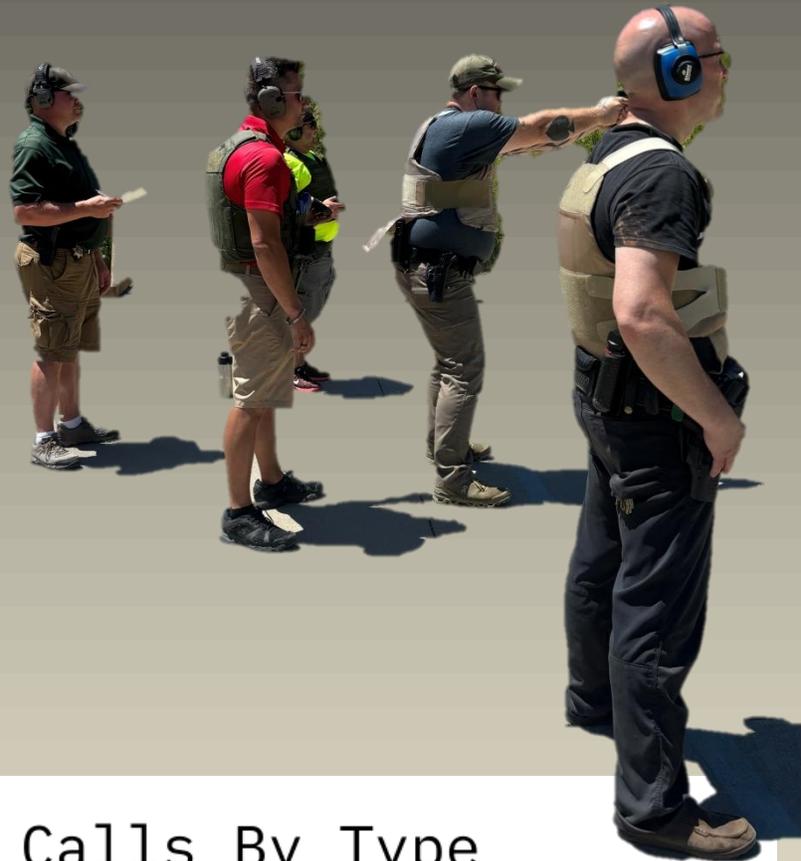


Field Services Division:

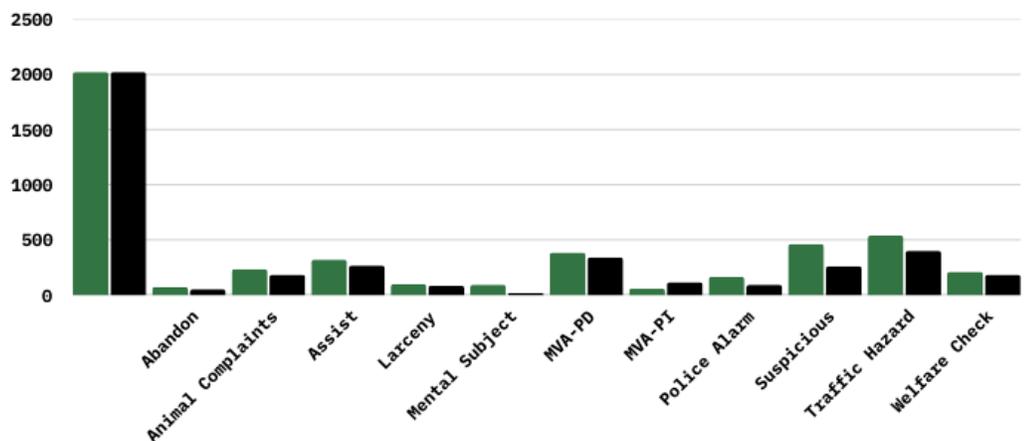


GENERAL STATS

	2022	2023	2024
Calls for Service	6,888	6,984	6,758
Arrests	2,548	2,579	2,599
Accidents			
Fatal	2	2	4
Property Damage	190	203	204
Injuries	47	40	25
Citations Issued	3,045	3,343	2,599
Warrants	1,579	1,546	1,353
OWI Arrests	166	110	123
Theft Arrests	34	31	37
Drug/Narcotics Arrest	363	233	108



Calls By Type



Administrative Services



The Sheriff once again honored the **Deputy of the Year** and the **Civilian of the Year**. These awards are based on a combination of their performance evaluations and recommendations from both their supervisors and peers. At the recommendation of the staff, we added a new honor this year: the **Rookie of the Year**. As the name suggests, only employees hired within the past year are eligible. The winner of this award is determined by an anonymous staff vote. It is meant to be a fun way to acknowledge a newer employee who is doing a great job, but it is still a big honor to receive this recognition from their co-workers.

Detective Bill Wiesert earned Deputy of the Year for his diligence and attention to detail when working a case. He is the consummate professional, and a team player who does whatever needs to be done without complaint. As a polygraph examiner, Bill plays a vital role in our hiring process by helping weed out any applicants who may be trying to hide some questionable actions from their past.



Deanna Brasch was named the Civilian of the Year for her outstanding work in the clerical pool. She has a good working knowledge of each individual job in the front office and doesn't hesitate to help out whenever and wherever as needed. She also stepped outside her normal duties to help our investigations division transcribe several hours' worth of interviews on a large case last summer. Deanna does this all with a quiet, pleasant demeanor that made the decision to honor her an easy one.

Detention Officer Jacob Baughman was the overwhelming winner of the 1st annual Rookie of the Year. Everyone who voted for this award had Jacob on their ballot, citing his mature presence on shift, his ability to remain calm in stressful situations, and that he even helped streamline some of the processes in the jail. He has most certainly been a welcome addition to the Sheriff's Office.

