

Providing professional public safety services
with integrity and accountability.



Benton County Sheriff's Office

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

January 2022 - December 2022

YOUR SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Sheriff Jef Van Arsdall's Message to the Community

As your elected Sheriff, it is an honor and privilege to serve the Benton County community. Over the last year, this Office saw members retire, change career paths or pursue other law enforcement opportunities. Similarly, we experienced growth with teammates beginning their careers as public servants. While change is always challenging, I have a great deal of pride knowing the future of public safety in Benton County is in safe and professional hands.



Sheriff Jef Van Arsdall

Over the last year, I promoted Don Rogers to Undersheriff, Chris Duffitt to Captain, and Scott Bressler to Sergeant. Additionally, we have added valuable team members by filling vacancies at the Jail and in Patrol, Parole & Probation, Special Services, Emergency Management and Support Services. The Office continued expanding the Pretrial Release Program, the K-9 Program, the Drone Program and participated in the Justice System Improvement Program (JSIP). The Office earned reaccreditation through the Oregon Accreditation Alliance, hosted a Search & Rescue Academy and a Citizens' Academy. What an amazing year.

Looking ahead, this Office will continue to work with our partners to implement the voter-approved Measure 114 weapons law as well as the voter-approved Measure 110 drug law. Jail personnel will progress toward implementing Senate Bill 48 and advancing the Pretrial Release Program while also utilizing our rental beds at the Polk County Jail and Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facility (NORCOR).

The coming year will undoubtedly present new challenges and opportunities. I look forward to these events with optimism and eagerness, knowing this Office has the support of our community.

Sheriff Jef Van Arsdall

Support Services

The Benton County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) support staff provide a variety of services to Benton County citizens and ensure the internal Office runs smoothly.

Personnel support is provided by the Executive Assistant. This includes coordinating certifications with the state, documenting personnel actions, processing payroll, managing confidential files, supply acquisition, and human resources related functions including onboarding 28 individuals in 2022. Another position, the Business Analyst, is responsible for financial reporting, budgeting, and grant management.

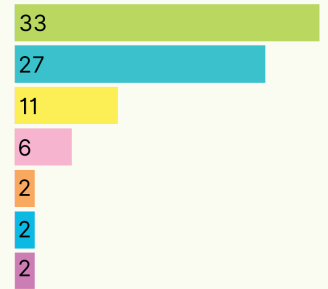
Most face-to-face contact with the public is carried out by the Concealed Handgun License Coordinator and Civil Division Coordinator. In 2022, they processed 1,029 concealed handgun license applications and 1,209 civil papers.

The Training and Recruitment Sergeant ensures BCSO recruits and hires top-notch individuals, she processed 355 applications and assisted in the hiring of 22 new employees.

Finally, the Policy/Accreditation Specialist, who was hired to fill a vacant position, ensures policies are up-to-date and collects "proofs" for accreditation.

Employees by Division Full-Time as of 12.31.22

- Law Enforcement
- Jail
- Parole & Probation
- Support Services
- Emerg. Management
- Sheriff/Undersheriff
- Special Services

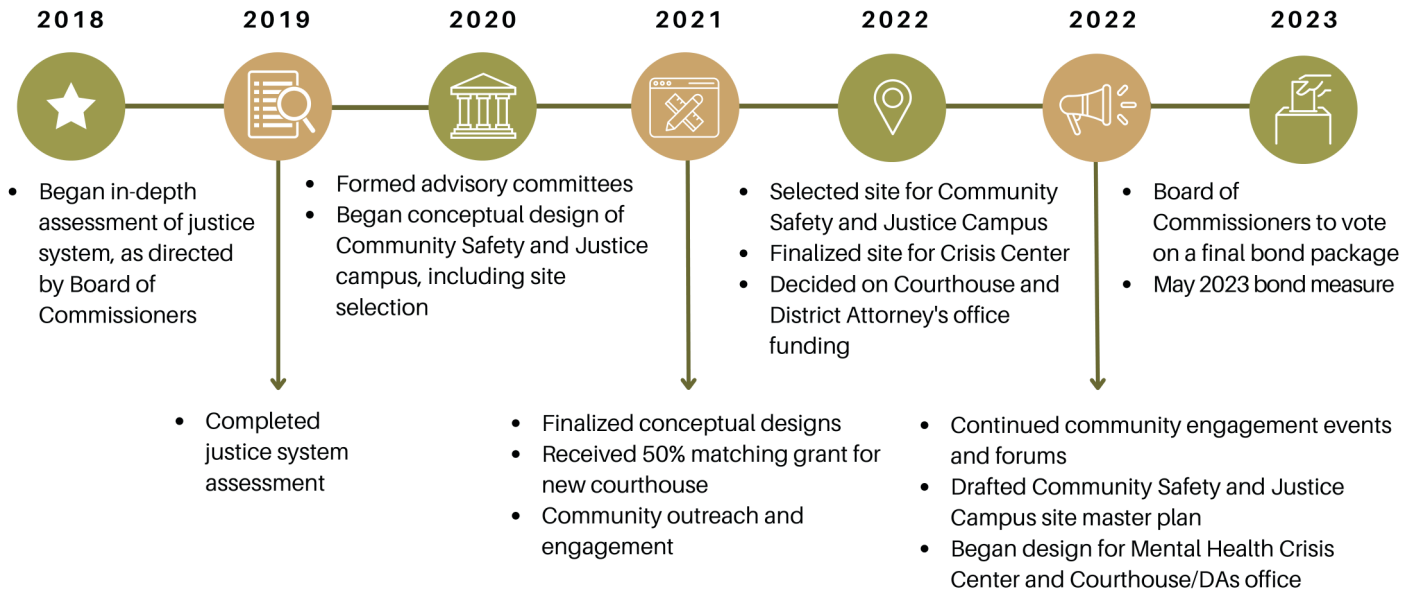


Benton County

Justice System Improvement Program Update

The Justice System Improvement Program (JSIP) is a multi-year project that began in 2018 with a comprehensive assessment of countywide facilities and services. A diverse collection of County staff, technical experts, and community stakeholders were convened to provide input and expertise on addressing the chronic inadequacies and improving outcomes in our justice system. In fall 2022, the County held a series of public forums to answer questions and receive feedback from community members on proposed facilities improvements.

BENTON COUNTY KEY MILESTONES



Current challenges

28%

reported crime increase over the last five years

33%

of the people who should be in jail are released because of lack of space

31%

of the people in custody need mental health treatment; lack of space limits our ability to provide programs

*Data is from the 2019 assessment

Proposed Facilities

The process we have undertaken over the last five years has resulted in the following recommended facilities improvements which reflect the values of the communities we serve.

- ◆ Bring all needed justice services to a single location on the Community Safety & Justice Campus, to create improved access and efficiencies. New facilities would include a new correctional facility and Sheriff's Office and Emergency Operations Center. A modern correctional facility with adequate capacity would enable the County to hold offenders accountable and to provide dedicated areas for mental health and rehabilitation programs to address root causes of criminal behavior.
- ◆ Provide resources to improve facilities for youth mental health services and invest in the development of a homelessness services navigation center to help build pathways out of homelessness. (These facilities would not be located on the Community Safety & Justice Campus.)

As the sponsoring co-chair of JSIP, I am grateful for the participation of many of our community members in committee meetings, community forums, small group presentations, and individual conversations and emails.

Thank you.

-Sheriff Jef Van Arsdall

Financial Message

Budget Process

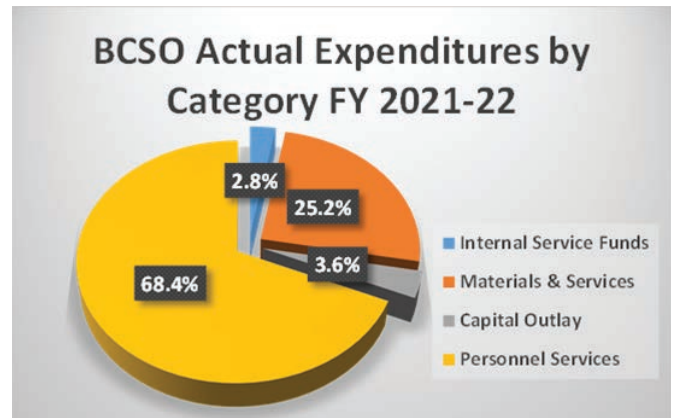
We are nearing the end of the 2021-23 biennium and have already begun the budget process for the 2023-25 period. Our fiscal year (FY) reporting period extends from July 1st through June 30th. The budget process is determined by Local Budget Law as defined by Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS). Once the proposed budget has been drafted, it is presented to the Budget Committee. This committee is comprised of three citizen members and the three elected County Commissioners. The purpose of the Budget Committee is to receive the proposed budget and provide members of the public with an opportunity to ask questions and make comments. Budget Committee hearings will begin in April 2023.

Financial Reports

To ensure we operate within budget, we carefully monitor how money is spent. Financial reports are reviewed monthly by the command staff. They are broken down into cost centers that allow us to track division expenses against revenues and manage special programs, capital projects, and sinking replacement funds. These funds include resources for ballistic vests, technology, vehicles, and other law enforcement equipment. The Benton County Sheriff's Office has a long history of staying within budget; this fiscal year 2021-22 is no different at 88%, totaling \$17,871,036. The BCSO's most significant expenditure is Personal Services (Wages & Benefits) at 68.4%, Materials & Services at 25.2%, Capital Outlay at 3.6%, and Intrafund Transfers at 2.8%.

Division Highlight

Benton County Jail – This division consists of multiple cost centers; Custody & Incarceration, Community Service Work Program, Corrections Medical, and Courthouse Security. In the fiscal year 2021-22, actual expenditures were within budget at 93%, totaling \$5,809,115. This amount includes all expenses related to the local jail and all costs associated with the jail bed rentals at the Polk County Jail and NORCOR. For the first year of the biennium, FY 21-22, jail bed rentals cost \$949,375. The jail's primary source of revenue comes from the General Fund and Local Option Levy at 86%. The remaining resources come from Operating Grants/ Contributions, Charges for Service, and Intrafund Transfers.



Retirements

Sergeant Moody started in 1992 as a Marine and Reserve Deputy. He retired as a Patrol Sergeant after 30 years of service. He was a member of the SWAT team, Wilderness Response Team, an Emergency Vehicle Operation Class (EVOC) instructor and the radio guru.



Sergeant Moody

Deputy Weikel retired after 27 years of service. He started as a Reserve Deputy in 1995 and was hired full time in 1997. He became a K-9 Deputy, training and working with both K-9 Deputies Bus and Vortex.



Deputy Weikel

Jail Operations

Captain John DeVaney, Division Commander

In 2022, the year began with the limitation of arrest types due to COVID-19. By March 14th, the jail re-opened to all arrests after the Sheriff’s Office worked with the Benton County Health Department to update the protocols to allow all arrests to be processed while ensuring steps were in place to prevent an outbreak in the facility. Bookings increased from what we were experiencing during the full COVID-19 limitations.

One of the biggest challenges facing the jail this year was the number of adults in custody (AIC) with behavioral health needs. These AICs were in custody awaiting transport to the Oregon State Hospital on aid and assist cases or returning to await the completion of their trial process. COVID-19 and lockdowns at the State Hospital led to a large backlog of AICs with orders to be transported. At one point, there were 14 pretrial AICs in our custody, but being housed at the Oregon State Hospital in Salem.



Nurse Kelley dispenses medications.

The Benton County Jail was built in 1976 as a temporary facility. The aging facility brings its own set of challenges. For example, water intruded from rusted window frames with broken panes and there was flooding from plumbing issues.



Food and Cuff Port

With the cessation of COVID-19 protocols, we resumed tours for groups, including the Benton County Sheriff’s Office Citizens’ Academy and Leadership Corvallis.

Projects

The biggest project this year involved adding food and cuff ports to hallway cell doors that were not already equipped with them. Many AICs suffer from behavioral issues due to drug and/or alcohol use, mental health issues (diagnosed and undiagnosed), or, as often is the case, a combination of these issues. The ports allow subjects to be fed and handcuffed through them, reducing the risk of negative interactions to both the AIC and jail staff.

Jail Activity	2021	2022
Total Bookings	782	946
2021 Cite and Matrix Releases/ 2022 Senate Bill 48 Matrix Releases	106	89
Forced Releases	130	80
Facility Closure*	17	22
AICs Transported	592	614
Transport Miles	38,025 miles	32,509 miles

* The number of times new arrestees are turned away due to lack of appropriate cells.



A Jail Cell

The Jail Division also purchased its first all-wheel drive transport van. The trips to NORCOR, located in The Dalles, twice a week do not stop when the weather gets bad. We put in a request to replace the 2009 transport vehicle in early 2021, but due to supply chain and microchip issues, the vehicle was not received and outfitted for use until April 2022.

Senate Bill 48

Senate Bill 48, effective July 1, 2022, changed the way jails throughout Oregon process arrested subjects coming into local correctional facilities. Senate Bill 48 was approved by the Oregon Legislature as a pretrial release process, which was forwarded to the Oregon Supreme Court for guidance. The Chief Justice of Oregon put all crimes in the State of Oregon into three categories. These categories, and overriding circumstances provided by the Presiding Judges at the Circuit Court level, determine if someone is to

be released, released with conditions, or held until arraignment. The Jail Division has continued to work with the Presiding Judge of Benton County to ensure the overriding circumstances are being interpreted correctly, and as intended.

Staffing

Deputy Ash transferred to an open Patrol Division position, creating an opening in the Jail Division. Additionally, in July, as part of the expansion of Pretrial Services, Deputy Bier was selected to work with Sergeant Hunnemuller. To fill these two positions, a recruitment process was completed. Limited Duty Deputy Harris and recruit Deputy Hernandez were successful in filling the vacancies. Deputy Harris served as a limited duty deputy for one year at the Benton County Jail and Deputy Hernandez comes to Benton County with 5 years of full-time experience at the Lincoln County Jail in Newport, Oregon.

Measure 110, or the Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act, was passed by Oregon voters to decriminalize the personal possession of illegal drugs and fund treatment and recovery services for drug addiction through anticipated savings of decreased criminal drug enforcement and sales tax revenue from marijuana.

Community Service

By their nature, Sheriff’s Office members want to make the community a better place. That is why they often volunteer.

Once again BCSO won the Second Annual Charity Softball game against the Linn County Sheriff’s Office, helping raise \$3,046.00 for ABC House. BCSO also participated in the Law & Fire Dodgeball Tournament. Members took part in the Torch Run and Polar Plunge, raising money for Special Olympics.

We participated and assisted in the running of the 2022 Chili Cook Off, helping raise \$14,884 for various charities. Shop with a Cop provided



Undersheriff Rogers and Sergeant Thilberg give blood.

the opportunity for 65 children to shop with law enforcement personnel. The annual school supply drive helped outfit rural Benton County schools with classroom supplies; this year 110 children received backpacks stuffed with supplies.

Protecting Our Community

Captain Chris Duffitt, Division Commander

In 2022, the Benton County Sheriff's Patrol Division has remained dedicated to the quick and immediate response to calls for service, including 911 calls, from the citizens of Benton County. The Benton County patrol deputies recognize many people will never have to call 911, but when they do, they expect an immediate response. Patrol deputies take this expectation seriously, and are dedicated to responding to our communities' calls without delay.

This year, the Benton County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division hired several new deputies with various levels of experience to fill vacant positions. In March, Deputies Rath and Lyman were both hired from careers unrelated to law enforcement and are looking forward to serving the citizens of Benton County. Deputy Davison was hired into the Patrol Division and has previous experience as a Benton County reserve deputy and Corvallis Police cadet. Deputy Ash was hired as a patrol deputy and has previous experience in Benton County where he was a corrections deputy since 2019. In October, Deputies Ball and Macken were

Performance	2021	2022
Dispatched Calls	8,151	8,103
Arrests	1,153	1,402
Warrants	700	548
Civil Papers	953	1,209
Animal Control Responses	154	192
Traffic Citations	2,231	2,743
Motor Vehicle Crashes	293	286
Vehicle Fatalities	4	12

hired as patrol deputies. Deputy Macken came to Benton County after working as a Corvallis Police Department 911 Telecommunicator for the last seven years and Deputy Ball was a previous Benton County patrol deputy with four and a half years of experience. All of these deputies received, or are receiving, training from the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training and are in various stages of their training. In 2023, the Benton County Sheriff's Office expects all of these deputies to finish their training and be available to respond to community calls for service.

Benton County Sheriff's deputies continue to form relationships with community members as we work towards maintaining trust and confidence within Benton County. Deputies will work on these relationships as they respond to calls for service, make citizen contacts, and participate in various community service activities. Deputies continuously work on establishing trust with community members while proactively seeking those who victimize others and making sure they understand that crime is not welcome in Benton County.

Offense Committed	2021	2022
Murder	0	0
Manslaughter	3	1
Rape	3	2
Assault/Stalking	135	140
Burglary	46	38
Auto Vehicle Theft	25	17
Arson	6	1
Forgery/Fraud	133	80
Sex Offenses	54	48
Kidnapping	2	3
DUII	104	150
Vandalism	168	123
Weapon Laws	37	25
ID Theft	52	27
Trespass/Prowler	121	85
Drug Law Violations	51	45
Animal & Littering Ordinances	92	98
Runaway Juveniles	18	9

Measure 114 was passed by Oregon voters in November of 2022 requiring safety training and a completed background check to obtain a permit to purchase firearms and generally prohibiting use, manufacture, sale and purchase of large capacity ammunition magazines.

Be Aware and Prepare

Kevin Higgins, Special Services Manager

Search & Rescue (SAR)

By Oregon law, the Sheriff of each county is responsible for search and rescue activities. The Benton County Sheriff's Office is fortunate to have nearly 125 skilled and dedicated volunteers involved in our SAR Program. The program consists of six nonprofit units, with each unit focused on a specific area of expertise. In 2022 Special Services held its first SAR Academy since the start of COVID-19. Volunteers completed a minimum of 90 hours of instruction and joined the SAR unit that met their interests, skills, and abilities.



SAR Academy Training

During a typical year, Benton County dispatch receives approximately 150 calls for service for missing or stranded people with most calls able to be resolved by first responders. During the year 2022, SAR members deployed to 34 calls in Benton County and on mutual aid missions for other counties using various specialized teams. SAR was also deployed for two evidence searches at crime scenes. In August, SAR teams responded to a call for a lost mountain biker on Marys Peak at 11:30 p.m. The caller reported he was unable to locate his friend after he left to get supplies for a flat tire. The 21-year-old missing person was without food, water, phone, or extra clothing. SAR teams deployed on foot and using mountain bikes. Two SAR volunteers on mountain bikes located the subject at approximately 12:40 a.m. and were able to assist him to the end of the trail where he was medically examined and determined to be dehydrated, but uninjured.

In 2022, we brought on Jade Chambers to help with SAR and assist with social media for the Sheriff's Office. Special Services is responsible for the procurement and programming of radios at the Sheriff's Office, for use in vehicles and by deputies. This helps expedite the turnaround of putting radios into service while saving the Office and taxpayers money in the process.

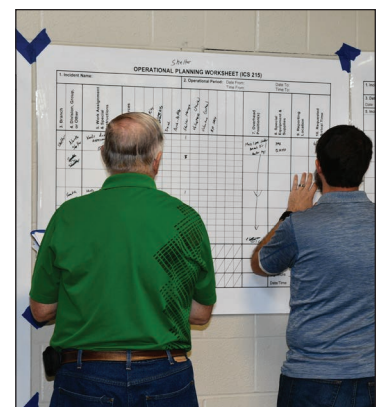
Special Services also oversees our Drone Program. Both SAR and the Patrol Division have certified drone pilots and drones which are used as a great resource for both divisions.

Emergency Management

Bryan Lee, Emergency Management Manager

Benton County Emergency Management shifted from COVID-19 response back to mitigation and planning activities in 2022. During the last year, a large focus was placed on the Emergency Operations Center team training and implementing corrective actions following the COVID-19 response and After Action Report.

Emergency Management participated in several major exercises including the National Level Exercise Cascadia Rising 2022 and several local exercises such as wildfire evacuation drills, hazardous material full scale exercise, and numerous table top exercises. These exercises are designed to test out plans and identify gaps in training, planning, communications, or other areas.



Cascadia Rising Exercise

We welcomed a new employee, Chelsea Chytka, who filled a vacant position in the division. Due to the increasing threat of natural and man-made disasters, the Emergency Management Division is busier than ever before. As we transition into 2023, our focus on planning, training, and exercises will increase as we do everything we can to make Benton County more resilient to disasters!

Serving the Community

Captain Justin Carley, Division Commander

Staffing

In Benton County, Community Corrections is the responsibility of the Parole & Probation Division (P&P) of the Sheriff's Office. We are responsible for supervising adult Justice-Involved-Individuals (JII) on probation, parole, and post-prison supervision who reside in Benton County. We are fortunate to have a professional staff of dedicated employees in the Parole & Probation Division. Our goal is to help protect the community by holding individuals accountable while helping them become law-abiding, contributing citizens. During 2022, our staff of 12 included seven P&P deputies, two sergeants, two administrative specialists, and a captain.

Funding

Community Corrections is state-funded with Grant-in-Aid dollars, allocated through the Department of Corrections and the Local Option Levy. The uncertainty of funding is an ongoing challenge. We prioritize our resources by adhering to evidence-based principles and focusing on those who pose the most significant risk to the community.

Supervision

During 2022, P&P supervised approximately 300 adult JII every month, including approximately 40 JIIs who committed sex offenses. Our P&P deputies use supervision strategies and case management practices that are evidence-based, those that have been proven to have the best outcomes. Our P&P deputies supervise JIIs to make sure they follow through with the conditions of their supervision and are held accountable for their behaviors. One of the first steps in supervision is to conduct a validated, evidence-based risk assessment. Objective risk assessment tools are used to identify a JIIs risk to re-offend. JIIs are assessed as either high, medium, or low risk, with resources prioritized for higher risk individuals. Once a risk level has been determined, the case planning begins.

Depending on the individual's case plan, the P&P deputy may...

- ◆ Conduct residence checks and meet with the JII face-to-face in the office.
- ◆ Deliver treatment programming or refer the JII to treatment programs in the community.
- ◆ Counsel the JII on resources available to help locate housing or employment.
- ◆ Impose interventions and sanctions as necessary, including the Work Crew Program.
- ◆ Affirm positive behavior.
- ◆ Collect UAs (urine analysis) to monitor for substance abuse.
- ◆ Monitor JIIs placed on GPS (Global Positioning System).
- ◆ Ensure collection of court-ordered fees and restitution.

Through the use of evidence-based practices, the use of validated risk assessments, and effective case planning, we work to help people make positive changes and reduce the likelihood that they will be involved in new criminal activity.



Deputy Sparks and the Work Crew Van

STAYING IN TOUCH

There are many ways for you to stay in touch with what is happening with your Sheriff's Office.

- ◆ Visit us online at: www.co.benton.or.us/sheriff
- ◆ Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Nextdoor
- ◆ Attend the BCSO Citizens' Academy
- ◆ Sign up for notifications via the Linn-Benton Emergency ALERT System www.co.benton.or.us/preparedness/page/emergency-alert



CONTACT NUMBERS

Emergencies Only	911
Non-Emergency Phone	541-766-6858
General Information/Administration	541-766-6858
Animal Control	541-766-6789
Civil	541-766-6814
Detectives	541-766-6860
Special Services	541-766-6864
Emergency Management	541-766-6864
Jail	541-766-6866
Parole & Probation	541-766-6887
Records	541-766-6858
Fax	541-766-6011

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