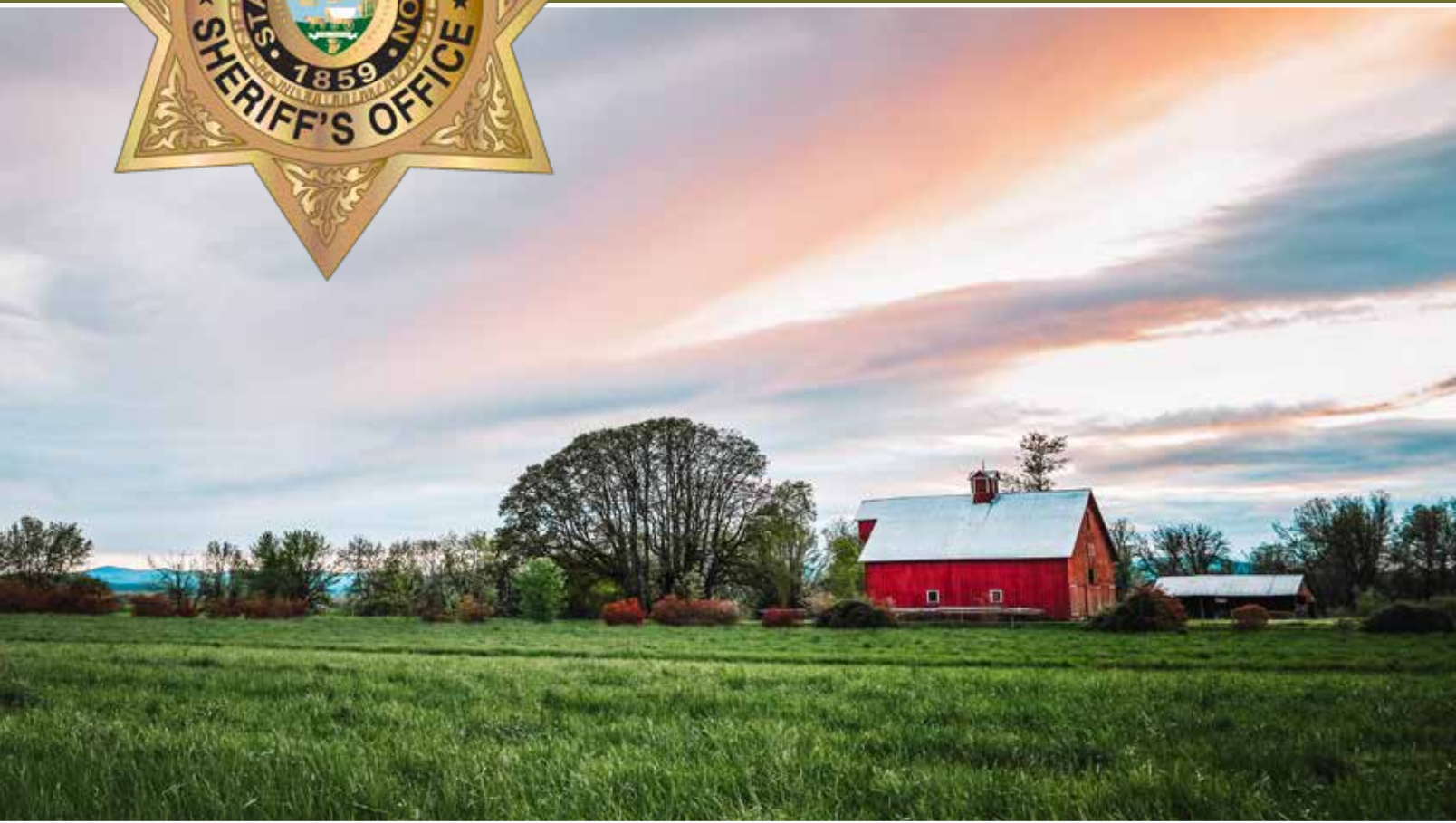


# Benton County Sheriff's Office

## **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

January 2023 - December 2023



Providing professional public safety services  
with integrity and accountability.



# YOUR SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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# Sheriff Jef Van Arsdall's Message to the Community

Duty. Honor. Courage.

These are the guiding values of the men and women of the Benton County Sheriff's Office every day, and it couldn't more accurately describe how members of this Office serve Benton County. I say it often, I am proud to represent this Office and to serve this community.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office staff serves in many functions, which this report illustrates.

Your Benton County Sheriff's Office has you covered from every angle: professional uniformed Patrol in your communities; validated work of Parole & Probation; amazing services provided by the Jail staff; responsive work of multiple Search & Rescue groups; on-the-spot involvement of the Emergency Management team; and incredible work of the Support Services personnel.

To highlight just a few 2023 accomplishments, the Sheriff's Office:

- ◆ Created and implemented the Enough is Enough campaign, aimed at addressing and reducing impaired driving.
- ◆ Attended multiple community events designed to spread awareness around the dangers of fentanyl.
- ◆ Had numerous deputies attend the National Jail Leadership Command Academy; had multiple deputies earn Certified Jail Supervisors/Deputies through the American Jail Association; had a jail lieutenant earn their Certified Jail Manager Certification through the American Jail Association.
- ◆ Restarted the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).
- ◆ Saw several deputies earn the promotion to the rank of sergeant.

The Office also continued to participate in National Night Out events, the Chili Cook Off, the Annual First Responder Appreciation Day event in Monroe, multiple Christmas parades, and a community favorite: the annual charity softball game, benefiting the ABC House (vs. Linn County Sheriff's Office) at Goss Stadium.

As your elected Sheriff, I have a great deal of pride knowing the Benton County Sheriff's Office is in a great position to serve the Benton County community and I look forward to the coming year.



Sheriff Jef Van Arsdall

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## Support Services Division Undersheriff Rogers

A small division comprised of six people, the members of Support Services process forms and requests from the public and ensure the internal operations of the Benton County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) runs smoothly.

For example, among other duties, the concealed handgun license coordinator manages the Concealed Handgun License (CHL) program. In 2023 she processed 1081 CHLs, a slight uptick from the 1029 processed in 2022.

Our executive assistant also fills the role of

office coordinator while providing confidential administrative support to both the Sheriff and Undersheriff. She processes and audits BCSO payroll, coordinates personnel paperwork, leaves, and other HR-related functions, does purchasing, event coordination, manages varied internal programs some of which include our training database and Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) reporting and certifications.

Our business analyst II has various responsi-

## Support Services, continued

bilities, including preparing and managing the Sheriff's Office budget, researching and reviewing fiscal policy, and providing grant/contract administration.

The training and recruitment sergeant ensures BCSO recruits and hires top-notch individuals. In 2023 she processed 409 applications and assisted in the hiring of 34 employees, including 27 new and seven promotional hires.

The civil coordinator receives and processes legal documents from Oregon courts as well as other courts throughout the United States, and ensures the legal documents are served correctly to citizens throughout Benton County. In 2023, 1,031 legal documents were received by BCSO.

Our accreditation & policy specialist handles many assignments including gathering proofs for accreditation and coordinating our Citizens' Academy and Drug Take Back Event.

Employees by Division	2022	2023
Law Enforcement	33	38
Jail	27	26
Parole & Probation	11	10
Support Services	6	6
Emergency Management	2	3
Special Services	2	2
Sheriff/Undersheriff	2	2

## Financial Message

Benton County operates on a biennial (two-year) budget cycle, with a fiscal year (FY) that runs from July 1st through June 30th. It follows the process outlined by the Local Budget Law, which Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) defines. The Sheriff and his command staff develop a budget tied to specific services and strategic goals every two years.

### Budget Highlights

- ◆ New budget method using current service level (actual spent 1st year of FY 2021-22 and budget 2nd year FY 2022-23), with added inflation factor and policy packages.
- ◆ FY 2023-25 Sheriff's Office budget was adopted in June 2023 by the Benton County Board of Commissioners in the amount of \$47 million, which is approximately 15% above the FY 2021-23 Adopted Budget.
- ◆ Funding for total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees for FY 2023-25 is 91, up from 87 in FY 2021-23.
- ◆ Five approved policy packages included: Permit to Purchase Coordinator Program, Ballistic Vests, Increased Capacity in Patrol and Jail, Hazard Mitigation Program, and Search and Rescue Swift Water Training & Equipment.
- ◆ Personnel Services cost is the largest expenditure at 69% for the FY 2023-25 biennium budget for a total of \$32.5 million, which included a vacancy factor of 3.9%.

### Managing the Budget

Once the Board of Commissioners has approved the budget, the Sheriff, a trusted and elected official, is responsible for managing those funds. The Sheriff, with his authority to make spending decisions for the agency within the limits of the approved budget, ensures the financial management by reviewing monthly financial statements and staying within budget.

Throughout the budget process, we look for ways to save without reducing essential services. Savings can come from either increasing revenue or cutting expenses. BCSO's revenue relies heavily on the General Fund and the Local Option Levy. However, we also aggressively seek grants, contracts, and other ways to lower the burden on the Benton County taxpayer.



# Emergency Management Division

## Emergency Management Manager Lee

The Benton County Emergency Management Division delivered over 100 hours of Incident Command System (ICS) and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) trainings for the county, cities, and regional partners in 2023. One of the gemstones of the program is our ability to conduct in-house training and exercises for our integrated Emergency Operations Center team. This team is comprised of volunteers, county staff, city staff, first responders, and emergency management professionals that are trained to respond to and recover from all hazards that may impact Benton County.



Benton County Emergency Management

The EOC program, as well as the outreach events and numerous plans, were spearheaded by Emergency Management Coordinator Chytka. The Emergency Management Division completed dozens of outreach events and community engagements including the Philomath Farmer's Market, Benton County Fair, Preparedness Fair, Chili Cook Off, and neighborhood presentations.

This Division was expanded by adding a new position, the Hazard Mitigation and Recovery Coordinator, through a Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant, funded by the Oregon State Fire Marshall. The Hazard Mitigation and Recovery Coordinator is responsible for building out the Fire Adapted Communities program as well as pursuing grant opportunities to complete mitigation projects and focus on refining our recovery operations.

The team updated the Natural Hazard Mitigation

Plan, responded to numerous emergencies including supporting our neighbors in Linn and Lane County. Additional grants and funds were acquired for a new EOC facility, radios, training, and other projects. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program was expanded with a full-time volunteer program manager.

**Sign up for notifications via the  
Linn-Benton Emergency ALERT System  
[sheriff.bentoncountyor.gov/linn-benton-alert](https://sheriff.bentoncountyor.gov/linn-benton-alert)**

The CERT program has been reinvigorated and expanded its volunteer base significantly.

Each year, the Emergency Management Division develops the comprehensive Benton County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management strategic plan to help set priorities, goals, and objectives for the year ahead. While there is always more work to be done, the Emergency Management program under the Sheriff's Office is one of the most active and forward-leaning in the state. We look forward to seeing all the amazing things the Emergency Management team will continue to accomplish to build relationships and make our community more resilient in the face of all hazards while providing critical services to the community.



Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training

# Jail Division

## Captain DeVaney

In 2023, the Jail was fully open to all types of bookings. Senate Bill 48, an Oregon law that determines if someone is to be released, released with conditions, or held until arraignment, was in full effect for the entire year. The law effectively changed how many people are released from jail after arrest. In 2023, 337 arrests were booked in and then released compared to 89 from the previous year.



Dispensing Medications

One significant challenge facing the Jail in 2023 continued to be the number of behavioral health adults in custody (AICs) that were going through the aid and assist process often requiring transport to the Oregon State Hospital in Salem. At one point, there were 14 pretrial AICs technically in our custody, but being housed at the Oregon State Hospital. The Mosman Order also went into effect setting time limits on those held at the state hospital: 3 months for in-person

misdemeanors, 6 months for most felonies, and up to a year for Measure 11 felonies. This put a strain on treatment housing options for individuals still needing treatment but no longer requiring hospital level care. This left AICs in jail custody longer after release from the Oregon State Hospital, while trying to find appropriate treatment housing.

In 2023 we transported 792 AICs to other facilities, an increase of almost 30% over last year. Transports are done exclusively due to space limitations in our jail facility. Those transported to other facilities then need to be transported back to Corvallis upon release from custody.

The Benton County Jail (BCJ) is constantly challenged by the infrastructure issues that a building built in 1976 faces. The plumbing is old. Multiple leaks were found requiring floors to be jackhammered and pipes to be replaced.



Division Commander DeVaney Speaks with Sergeant Werdell

Jail Activity	2022	2023
Total Bookings	946	1,402
2021 Cite and Matrix Releases/ 2022 Senate Bill 48 Matrix Releases	89	337
Forced Releases	80	86
Facility Closure*	22	12
AICs Transported	614	792
Transport Miles	32,509 miles	33,393 miles

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

The BCJ has always lacked storage space, so when a new jail under the Justice System Improvement Project was not approved by the voters, efforts were made to address the storage issues by adding new cabinetry in booking, the garage sally port, and the administration area. The refrigerators and freezers that are used to store AIC meals until they are distributed were also replaced due to their age.

## Projects

The Benton County Sheriff's Office contracted with Guardian RFID to start using an electronic logging system in the Benton County Jail. The system uses handheld devices called Spartans, and tags on the exteriors of cells and locations throughout the facility. The software monitors



Spartan Handheld Device

the different types of checks that need to be conducted, as well as food service, showers, and dayroom times. The device also allows deputies to add notes to these different types of activities when needed. The devices also have a translation feature for use with AICs that speak languages other than English. The Spartans have a video recording feature that allows for videos to be uploaded to an AIC's profile for documentation.

The Pretrial Services program uses software to keep track of court dates and send out reminders to decrease the rate of justice involved individual's (JII) failure to appear for court hearings. In 2023, Pretrial Services added Global Positioning System (GPS) and alcohol monitoring devices to be used when it is determined by the

Court that a JII needs additional monitoring while released from custody.



Serving Meals

## Staffing

We changed our organizational structure to allow for 24/7 supervisory coverage at the jail for the first time. We were able to recruit a part-time registered nurse to supplement our full-time nurse so that we now have an RN working seven days a week. Deputy Bier moved from the Jail to Pretrial Services. Corrections Deputy Gomez was hired as a full-time deputy.

In 2023, several Benton County Jail staff went through the process of getting professional certifications through the American Jail Association. Lieutenant Jewell started off the year by becoming a Certified Jail Manager, Sergeant Werdell and Sergeant Mohr achieved Certified Jail Supervisor certifications. Sergeant Herrick, Sergeant Dugger, and Deputy Nordyke received certifications as Certified Jail Officers.

## Jail Division Retirement

Corrections Deputy Johnson retired after almost 23 years of service to our community. Her first stint with the Benton County Jail was from 1988-1998. Then, after a break in service, she returned in 2010 until her retirement in 2023.



Corrections Deputy Johnson

Corrections Deputy Johnson earned the respect of both adults in custody and colleagues as a result of her ethical and consistent work.

# Law Enforcement Division

## Captain Duffitt

The Benton County Sheriff’s Office Law Enforcement Division spent 2023 working towards divisional growth and stability by hiring new patrol deputies and updating training division-wide. The Benton County patrol hired several new deputies with varying levels of experience. These new hires included Deputies Bloom, Davis, Lunsmann, Sinclair, and Savage. Several of these deputies come to Benton County with previous law enforcement experience and are already on the roads serving Benton County. Others are completing their training through DPSST and are working through various training stages on their way to becoming a solo deputy.

Throughout the year, deputies worked tirelessly to meet community expectations, while improving response times and adapting to unexpected situations and obstacles. While working through these challenges, deputies saved lives, reunited lost loved ones with their families, responded to fatal motor vehicle

crashes, and deployed efforts to stop crime before it occurs. Deputies regularly responded to active or previously committed crimes; however, our goal is to stop crime before it negatively impacts members of this community.



Benton County Animal Control

Because of this commitment, Benton County patrol deputies initiated the Sheriff’s Enough is Enough campaign to address the uptrend of impaired driving in Benton County. This initiative was a result of multiple fatal crashes that involved impaired driving and lives lost as a direct result of impairment. Traffic presence and enforcement were increased while we continued to address community concerns and look for new ways to lower this trend. Deputies also worked with the US Postal Service and initiated a campaign that targeted individuals involved with neighborhood package theft, more commonly referred to as “porch pirates.” This operation, conducted during the 2023 holiday season, was a crucial part of an ongoing commitment to combat property crimes and

Offense Committed	2022	2023
Murder	0	0
Manslaughter	1	3
Rape	2	6
Assault/Stalking	140	144
Burglary	38	43
Auto Vehicle Theft	17	13
Arson	1	3
Forgery/Fraud	80	87
Sex Offenses	48	37
Kidnapping	3	3
DUII	150	194
Vandalism	123	95
Weapon Laws	25	20
ID Theft	27	30
Trespass/Prowler	85	99
Drug Law Violations	45	44
Animal & Littering Ordinances	98	93
Runaway Juveniles	9	16

Performance	2022	2023
Calls for Service	18,235	20,323
Arrests	1,402	1,663
Warrants	548	575
Civil Papers	1,209	1,031
Animal Control Responses	192	177
Traffic Citations	2,743	2,867
Motor Vehicle Crashes	286	287
Vehicle Fatalities	12	6



ensure the safety of the community.

Benton County deputies are dedicated in their efforts to reduce crime, increase safety on public roadways, and proactively address criminal behavior in this county. These deputies do an amazing job, serving the community with empathy, compassion, and a desire to make a difference in the lives of those they encounter while protecting Benton County.



Benton County Sheriff's Office Patrol Vehicle

## Special Services Division Special Services Manager Higgins

The Special Services Division's primary focus is Search & Rescue (SAR). By Oregon law, the Sheriff of each county is responsible for SAR activities. The Benton County Sheriff's Office is fortunate to have many skilled and dedicated volunteers involved in our SAR program. The program consists of about



SAR Academy Training

140 volunteers in six non-profit units, with each unit focused on a specific area of expertise.

Highlights for 2023 include bringing on a new special services specialist, whose primary role is to assist with SAR incidents, trainings, and requirements, along with social media for the Sheriff's Office.

We also started a swift water rescue team that is made up of both sheriff's office employees and volunteers from our SAR teams. This is a team of about 10 members many of whom have already been certified and are ready to assist in the event of a water rescue.

In 2023, the annual SAR Academy put new members through a nine-week course teaching search techniques, patient care, lost person

behavior, land navigation, fire building, shelter building, knots, etc. At the end of the course, a 24-hour practical exercise took place. All of the skills taught during academy were tested in various complex scenarios designed to assess the individual by keeping them engaged and in the process of thinking, making decisions, forming teams, running searches, navigating, and randomly demonstrating a knot or two.

Eighteen members graduated from the academy after successfully completing the simulated extended search.



SAR Academy Training

We had several multi operation period searches in 2023, two of which happened one week apart just before Thanksgiving and on Thanksgiving Day. Both cases involved missing mushroom pickers in similar areas. We had a great volunteer response and covered quite a large area, ultimately finding the lost individuals. The Thanksgiving Day search also included interfacing with the Coast Guard for patient extrication. Currently, both subjects are doing well.

# Parole & Probation Division

## Captain Carley

The Parole & Probation Division (P&P) of the Sheriff's Office is responsible for supervising adult Justice-Involved-Individuals (JII) on probation, parole, and post-prison supervision who reside in Benton County. We are very fortunate to have a team of professional and dedicated staff within the Parole & Probation Division. Our goal is public safety by holding individuals accountable while helping them address problematic issues that caused them to intersect with the criminal justice system.

### Funding

Parole & Probation is funded through Grant-in-Aid dollars, which are allocated through the State of Oregon Department of Corrections and the Local Option Levy. 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 2023, P&P supervised approximately 300 adult JII's every month. Our P&P deputies supervise JII's to make sure they follow through with the conditions of their supervision and are held accountable for their behaviors. P&P deputies use supervision strategies and practices that are evidence-based, those that have been proven to

have the best outcomes. One of the first steps in supervision is to conduct a validated, evidence-based risk assessment to develop a targeted case plan. Depending on the individual's case plan, the P&P deputy may...

- ◆ Meet with the JII face-to-face in the office and conduct residence checks.
- ◆ Counsel the JII on resources available to help locate housing or employment.
- ◆ Deliver treatment programming or refer the JII to treatment programs in the community.
- ◆ Affirm positive behavior.
- ◆ Impose interventions and sanctions (penalties) as necessary, including the Work Crew Program.
- ◆ Monitor JII's placed on GPS.

We are very proud of the work that our staff do every day working with people on supervision. The Sheriff has a saying – be polite, be prepared, be professional. Our staff strive to do that every day. Using evidence-based practices, the use of validated risk assessments, and effective case planning, we help people make positive changes and reduce the likelihood that they will be involved in new criminal activity.

## Community Service

### ABC House Charity Softball Tournament

The ABC House Charity Softball Tournament found the Benton County Sheriff's Office, once again, victorious against the Linn County Sheriff's Office.



ABC House Charity Softball Tournament

### Drug Take Back Event

Held annually in April, the event collected 601 pounds of expired or unneeded medications. The drive through event saw 211 vehicles dropping off medications that were kept out of our water system and children's reach.



Drug Take Back Event

# Community Service, continued

## Shop with a Cop

BCSO coordinated Benton County's 29th annual Shop with a Cop event in December of 2023. This is a collaborative effort with other local law enforcement agencies in partnership with Benton County P&P and the Benton County Child Welfare and Self Sufficiency offices with the Department of Human Services. Elementary-aged children who have been selected by the partner agencies had the opportunity to participate in this unique experience.

The 2023 event was a resounding success, as law enforcement had the privilege of taking 56 Benton County kids shopping for gifts. Each child received a \$50 gift card. Public safety professional assisted the children with purchases, often reaching into their own pocket to allow the freedom to choose whatever presents they wanted.



Shop with a Cop

## BCSO Annual School Supply Drive

In September the BCSO Annual School Supply Drive donated school supplies to the five rural Benton County schools: Alesa Elementary, Blodgett Elementary, Muddy Creek Charter School, Kings Valley Charter School, and Monroe Elementary. Between donations from employees at the Office and generous community members we were able to distribute over 50 backpacks. Along with backpacks, we also took mountains of supplies to help teachers and students get set up for a successful start to the school year.

## Citizens' Academy

In 2023, 12 county residents completed Citizens' Academy. The free eight-week course covered many aspects of the Benton County Sheriff's

Office and included facility and jail tours, rides on the marine patrol jet boats, and an overview of various Sheriff's Office responsibilities.



Citizens' Academy

## Public Safety Chili Cook Off

Each year, the Public Safety Chili Cook Off takes place on the second Sunday of September. In 2023, the Cook Off raised \$19,846.74 with over 1000 people attending. From the funds raised, the 4 Spirits Foundation Veterans Scholarship Fund received \$10,000. The remainder of the funds were split between the Philomath Police Foundation and the Sheriff's Foundation with each receiving \$4,923.



Chili Cook Off

## Kiss the Pig Fundraiser

BCSO Sheriff Van Arsdall kissed a pig at the Family Fun Day in August to help raise more than \$1200 for the Willamette Valley First Responder Chaplains in a friendly competition.



Kiss the Pig Fundraiser



**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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