

2019

FLATHEAD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT





SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

2019 was a very busy year which resulted in many accomplishments for our organization. Early in the year the administration worked collaboratively to establish the core values and mission for the Flathead County Sheriff's Office. With our values as our guide and the mission statement as the compass heading for the organization, we began working to accomplish our mission of protecting life and property of those who work, visit and live in Flathead County with professional and proactive law enforcement and detention services. We began a process of evaluating every aspect of our organization to see if we are providing the best service possible to our community and if not, find out why and fix those issues.

In 2019 we spent a significant amount of time assessing and repairing or replacing internal systems and structure to better support our organizational goals. Additionally, we partnered with our community to obtain support and funding to create new positions and programs at the Sheriff's Office to better serve our citizens.

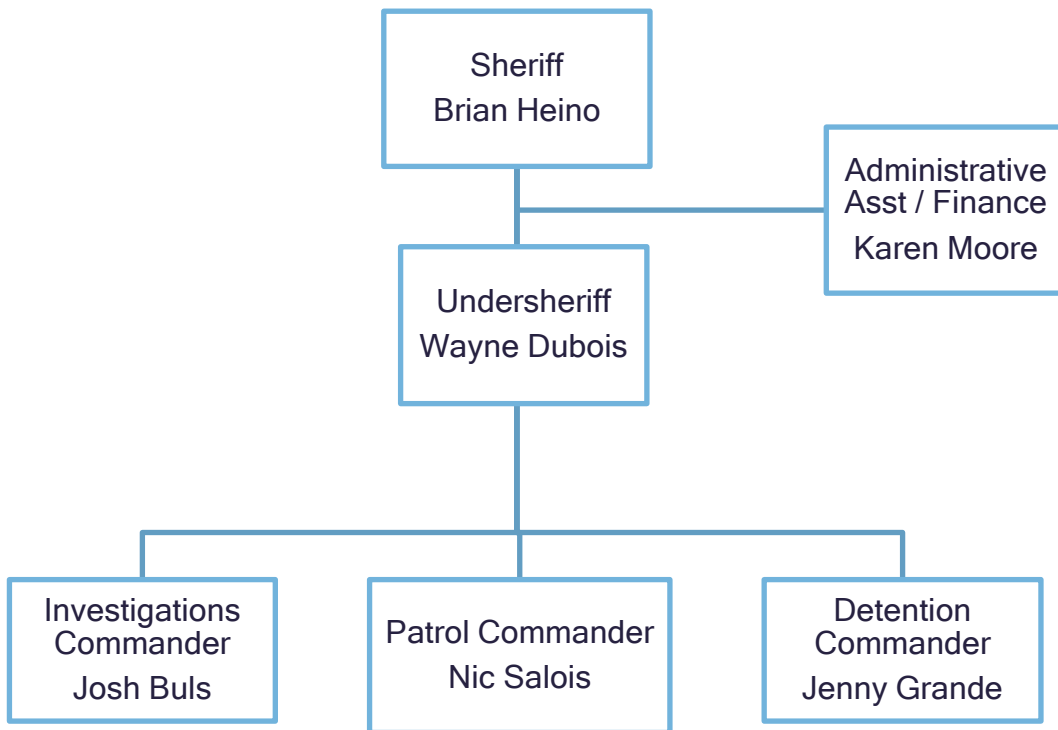
The list below is not all inclusive, but will provide the highlights of our accomplishments this year:

- Added 1 Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Detective and 1 Human Trafficking Detective.
- Partnered with the community to obtain funding for 2 Narcotics Detection Canine's.
- Partnered with the community to obtain partial funding for 2 School Resource Officer (SRO) positions, which began working in the schools at the beginning of the 2019/2020 school year.
- Began a strong partnership with the Kalispell Police Department for our SWAT Team and their SRT Team to train together and respond together to increase capability and officer safety during high risk tactical operations.
- Put a new supervisor in the Northwest Montana Drug Task Force.
- Began training commanders and specified staff on Intelligence Led Policing (ILP) strategies and techniques in anticipation to moving to that policing model.
- Trained two employees on data analysis to enhance our ability to effectively operate in an ILP posture.
- Established a Department Training Cadre to implement an effective training system to keep our force trained to contemporary standards and best practices.
- Established a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)/Peer Support Group.
- Issued iPhones to all deputies to increase communication and capability in the field.
- Began the establishment, training and implementation of a less lethal program for deputies on patrol.
- Established a Community Advisory Board with quarterly meetings.
- Implemented a new uniform to address decreasing availability of the old uniform and color scheme.
- Moved to one reporting and Records Management System (RMS) called New World, in order to enhance our ability to gather and mine intelligence as well as being consistent with the other law enforcement agencies in Flathead County.
- Created a strategic positioning document for our organization.
- Selected to participate in an implementation committee for the updated Lexipol Policy Manual.
- Initiated plan to change the patrol schedule and re-structure the organization to take a proactive posture and more effectively serve our community. These changes will be implemented in July of 2020.
- Hired 5 new deputies.

2019 was an extremely busy but rewarding year. We could not and cannot continue to make the progress we have been without teamwork between our members and partnerships and teamwork with our external partners and citizens. We are excited about our accomplishments and what we will do in the future with your help!



COMMAND STAFF





Mission Statement

The mission of the Flathead County Sheriff's Office is to serve the public in partnership with our community, protect life and property, and provide professional and proactive law enforcement and detention services.

Values

INTEGRITY

"We will not compromise the core values of honesty respect for others, loyalty, consistency, accountability and transparency".

EXCELLENCE

"We will deliver a superior level of commitment, responsiveness, performance & service to those we serve."

PARTNERSHIPS

"We will work together, demonstrating collaboration through mutual reliability, openness & flexibility to accomplish our goals."

SERVICE

"We will provide the highest level of service to the public, professional customers & each other to meet & exceed the safety & security needs of our community."

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LAW ENFORCEMENT

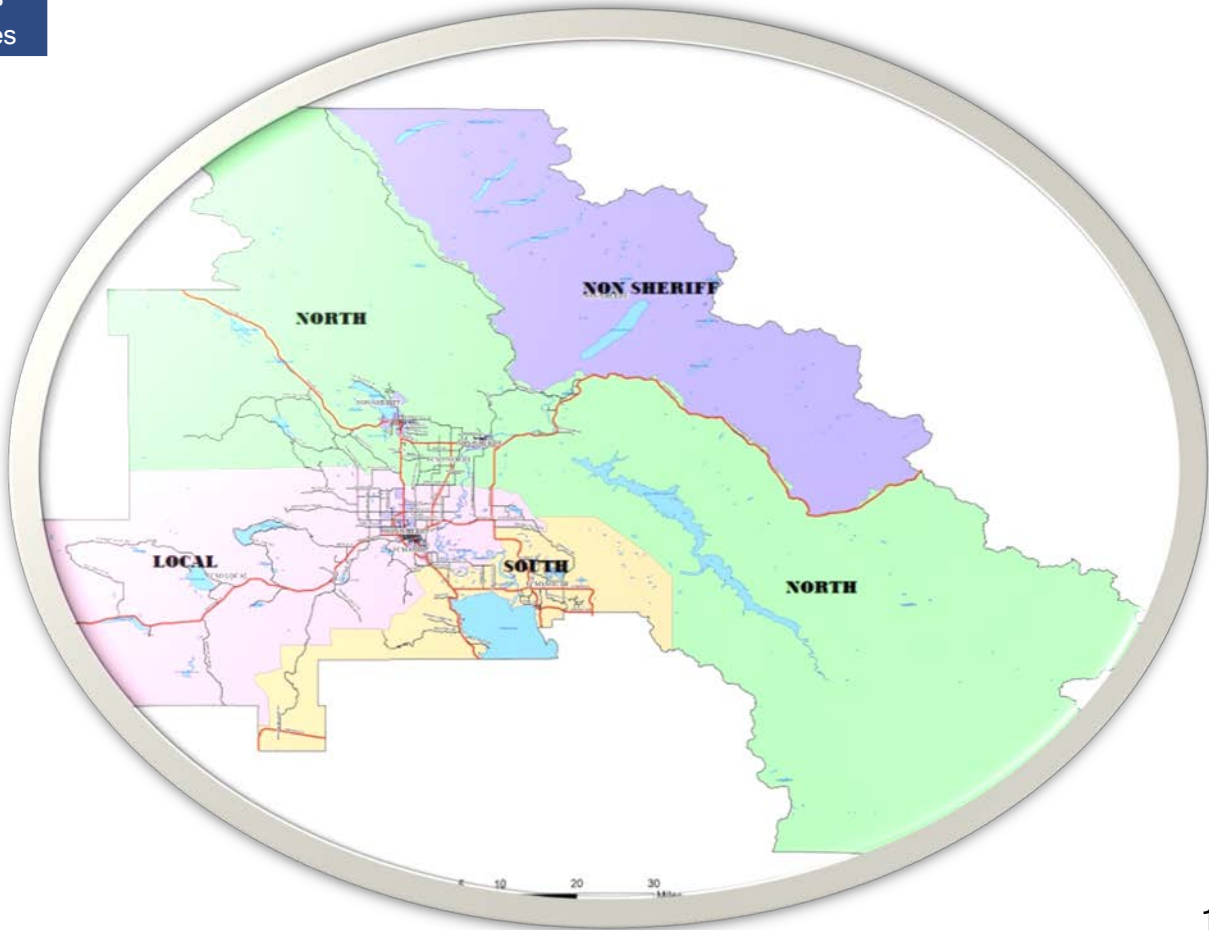




PATROL DIVISION



The Patrol Division is the largest Division within the Sheriff's Office with deputies covering 5,256 square miles of Flathead County. Flathead County deputies patrol more area on a shift than the whole state of Connecticut.



In 2019 the Flathead County Sheriff's Office responded to 41,317 calls compared to 39,481 in 2018. 1,222 arrests were made and 1050 citations were issued by deputies in 2019.

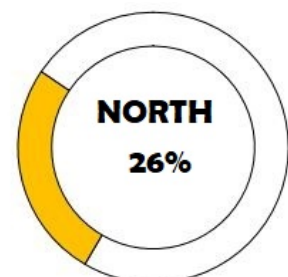
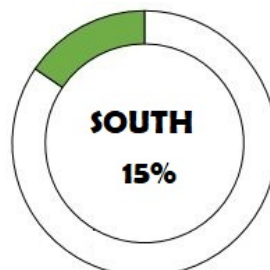
Incident Type	Totals
Agency Assist	1824
Alarm Burglary	1524
Assault	171
Assault Weapon	28
Assist Citizen	3139
Burglary	187
Criminal Mischief	417
Disorderly	351
Disturbance Physical	429
Disturbance Verbal	514
Disturbance Weapon	94
Drug	270
DUI	678
Fraud	433
Pursuit	12
Robbery	9
Runaway Juvenile	149
Sexual Assault	104
Suicide Attempt	81
Suicide Threat	307
Suspicious	2098
Theft	1154
Vehicle Stolen	152
Warrant	470
All Other, Types	26719



In 2019, Deputies were dispatched to approximately 328 mental health type calls including suicide threats and attempts. Deputies are specially trained for crisis intervention. Flathead County Sheriff's Office collaborates with local mental health professionals to help guide those suffering with mental illness both safely and effectively.



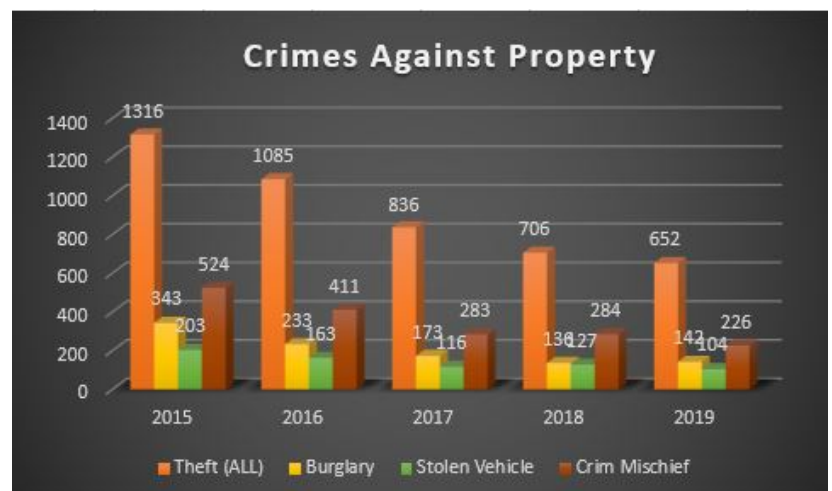
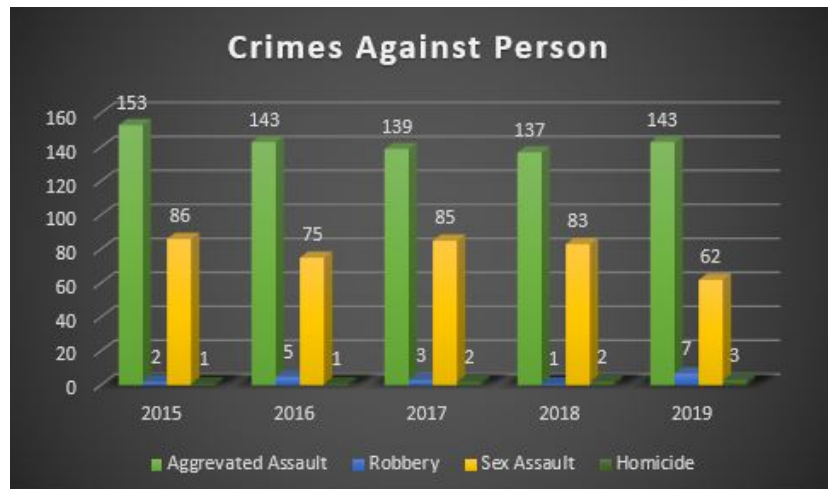
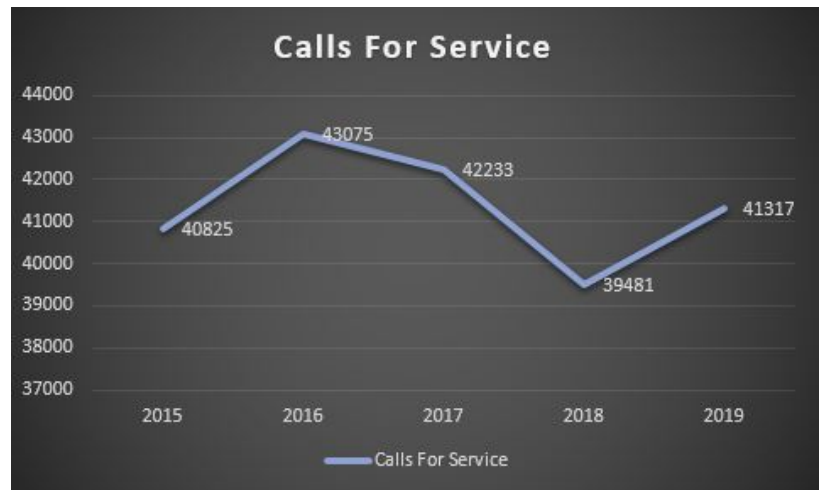
CALLS BY DISTRICT





NIBRS REPORTING

All crime data from our agency is reported to the Montana Board of Crime Control. They compile, house and analyze the data from across the state in the Montana Incident Based Reporting System. This data is sent to the FBI to look at crime trends across the country. This data is the cement that strengthens the building blocks for safer communities. The data within the graphs shows the trends of crime from our agency that was reported over the last 5 years.



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO)

The Flathead County Sheriff's Office established 2 School Resource Officers(SRO) in 2019 to bridge the gap between law enforcement and youth. We have SRO's in Evergreen and the Bigfork/Somers/Lakeside area schools. Our SRO's wear many hats but spend the majority of their time in the schools working with the kids, creating positive relationships and working to ensure the safety of everyone there. A typical day for an SRO starts with patrolling school zones and being present with crossing guards. From there, walk through at the schools and checking in to find out what the school needs help with. During the day the SRO's maintain a high presence and work one on one with the kids and staff to address any needs that arise. Although the SRO's definitely deal with criminal issues at the schools, the majority of their time is spent simply interacting with students and building those relationships to help them grow as individuals and keep the schools safe.



ANIMAL CONTROL

CALLS FOR SERVICE

154 BITES

919 AT
LARGE

409
FOUND

267 LOST

219
CRUELTY

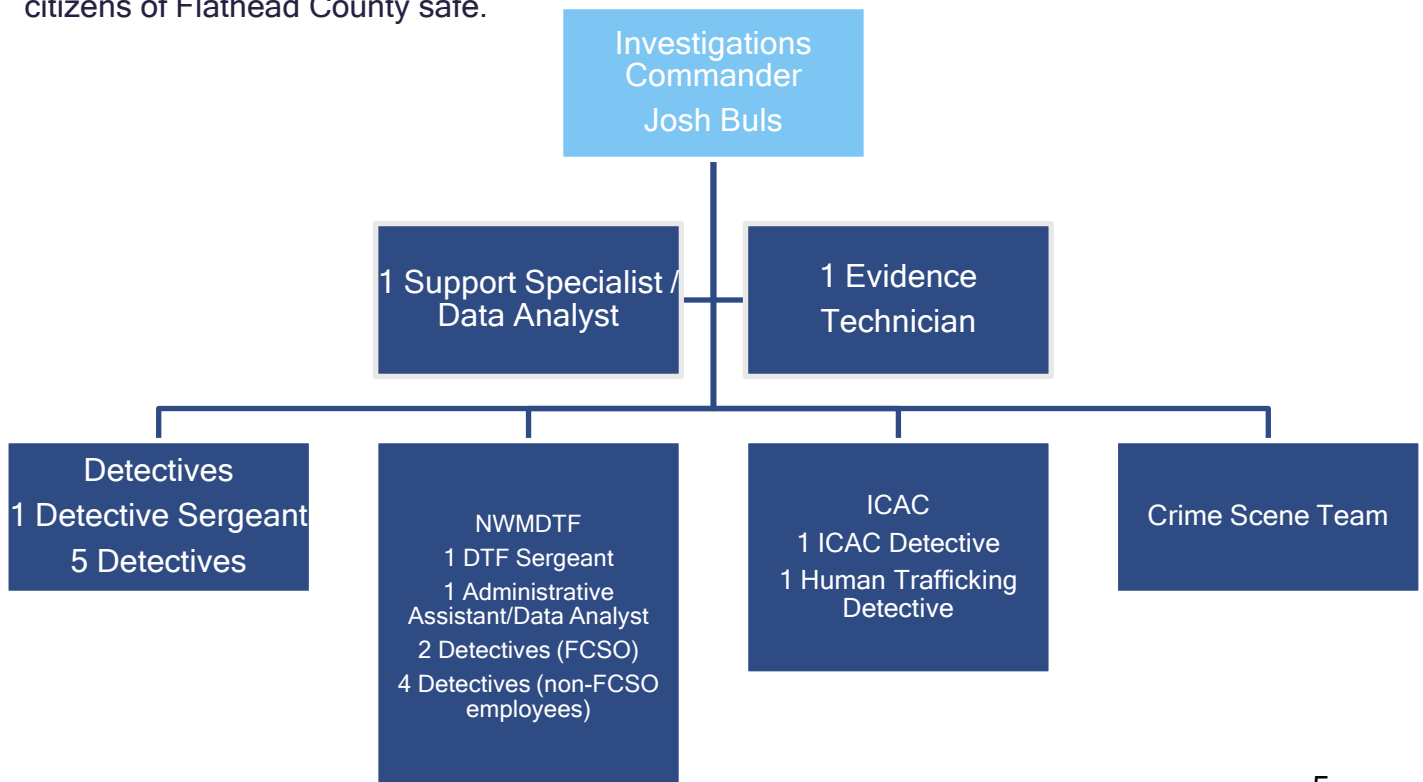
Flathead County Animal Control is currently staffed with four uniformed deputies that handle complaints and investigations throughout Flathead County.. Flathead County Animal Control works in conjunction with other local law enforcement and health agencies, the Flathead County Humane Society, and all local vet clinics, to provide the community with necessary enforcement and education to provide for the welfare of all domestic animals.

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

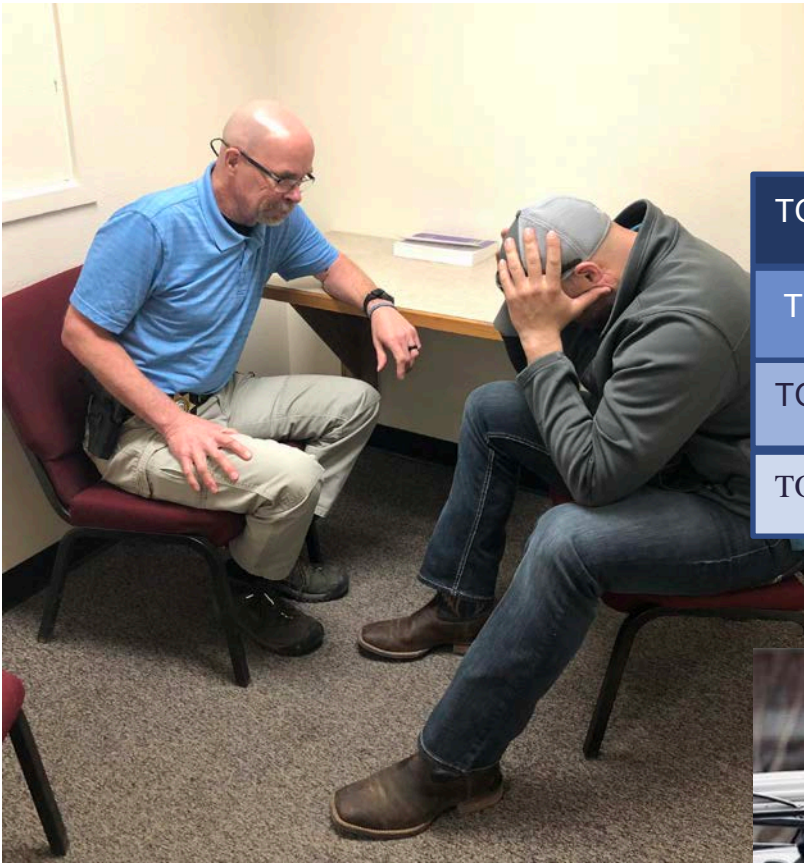
CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS



The Investigation Division consists of 14 detectives assigned to General Detectives, NW Montana Drug Task Force, and the Internet Crimes against Children Task Force. General Detectives investigate felony cases, with a large focus on Burglary and Thefts. Detectives also investigate all major violent cases including homicide, robbery, sexual assault, assault with a weapon, etc. They also work with the Flathead County Children's Advocacy Center and Crime Scene Team. The NWMDTF investigates all drug crimes within Flathead County, the State of Montana, and the western United States. The ICAC Task Force investigates Child Exploitation, Child Pornography, and Human Trafficking complaints in Flathead County, around the State of Montana, and the United States. All investigation divisions focus on following up with citizen complaints, as well as working proactive cases. Detectives work in partnership with local, state, and Federal agencies to keep the citizens of Flathead County safe.



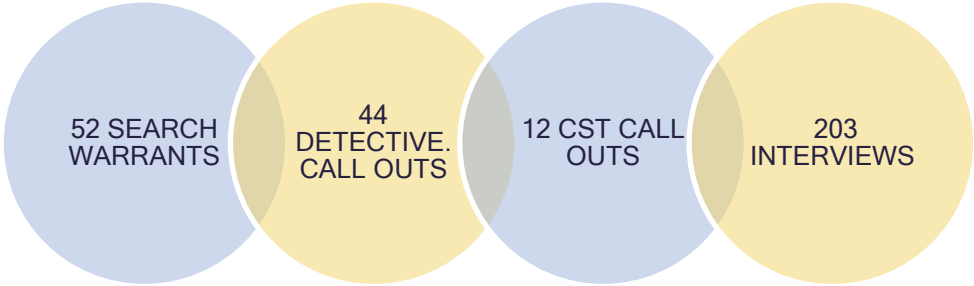
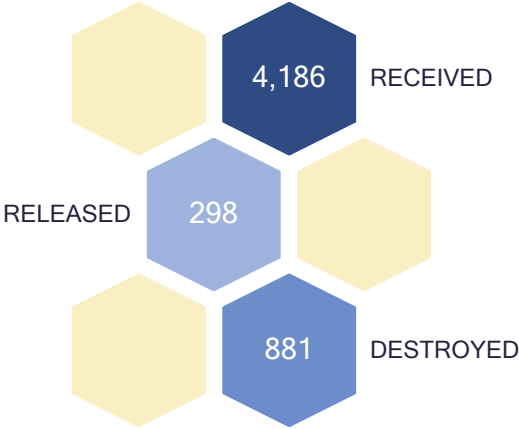
Detectives



TOTAL ASSIGNED CASES	409
TOTAL CLOSED CASES	296
TOTAL CHILD SEX CASES	85
TOTAL DEATHS INVESTIGATED	6



EVIDENCE PROCESSED



INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN (ICAC)



The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program is a national network of 61 coordinated task forces representing over 4,500 federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies. These agencies are continually engaged in proactive and reactive investigations and prosecutions of persons involved in child abuse and exploitation involving the Internet.



89 TOTAL
CASES

54 SEARCH
WARRANTS

29
EDUCATION
EVENTS

147 MISSING/
RUNAWAY
JUVENILES

1927 GB OF
EVIDENCE
SEIZED





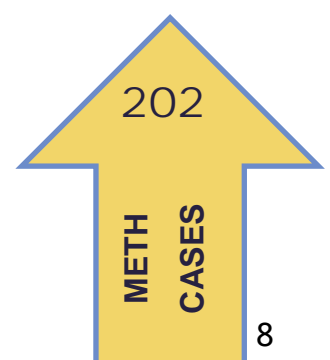
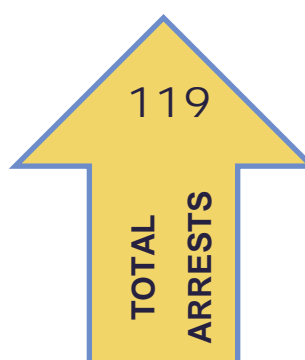
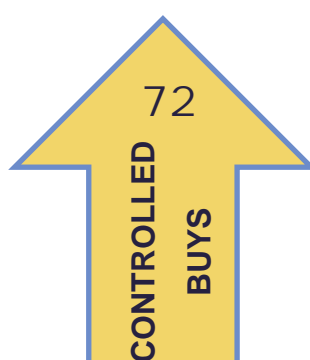
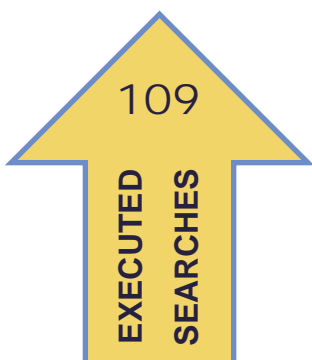
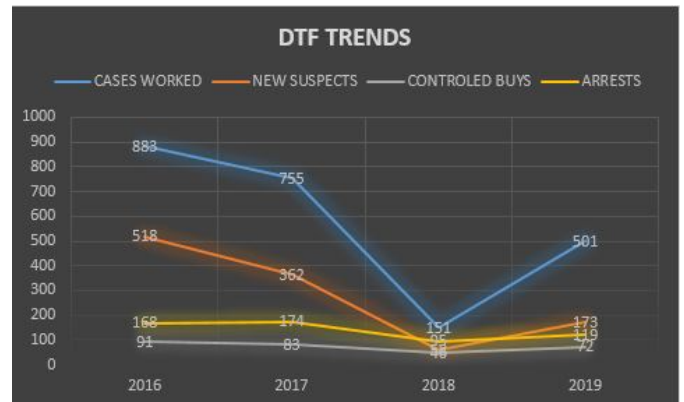
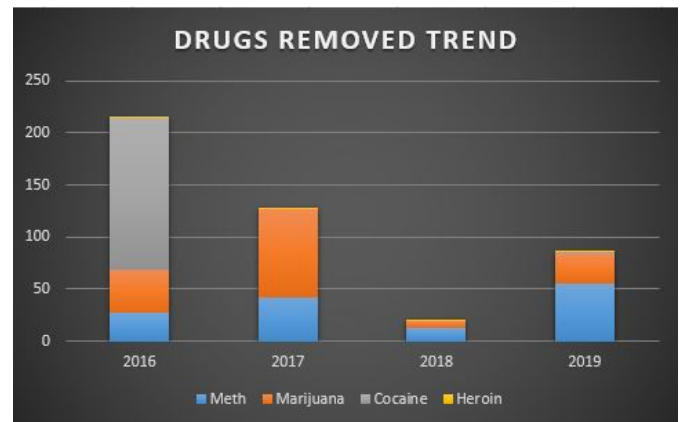
NW MT Drug Task Force

The mission of the Northwest Montana Drug Task Force is to target, disrupt and dismantle organized Drug Trafficking

Organizations operating in, and throughout, our area of operation in Northwest Montana. In 2019 our task force disrupted or dismantled seven

Drug Trafficking Organizations distributing drugs in our area resulting in a record quantity of drugs seized and over 15 successful federal prosecutions.

This is a significant increase over previous years and we expect this trend to continue in our area.



2019

OPENED DRUG CASES	242
TOTAL CASES WORKED	501
NEW SUSPECTS ID'D	173
FELONY ARRESTS	107
DRUG ORGANIZATIONS DISRUPTED	7
FIREARMS SEIZED	83
PR TALKS	47
TOTAL VALUE OF DRUGS REMOVED	\$670,438



0.64 LBS
HEROIN

Street Value
\$79,810



2.2 LBS
COCAINE

Street Value
\$27,000



28.3 LBS

MARIJUANA

Street Value
\$79,801

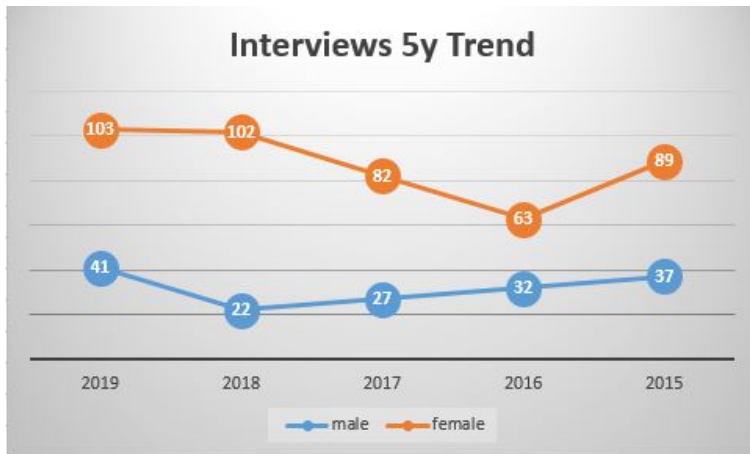


55.5 LBS
METH

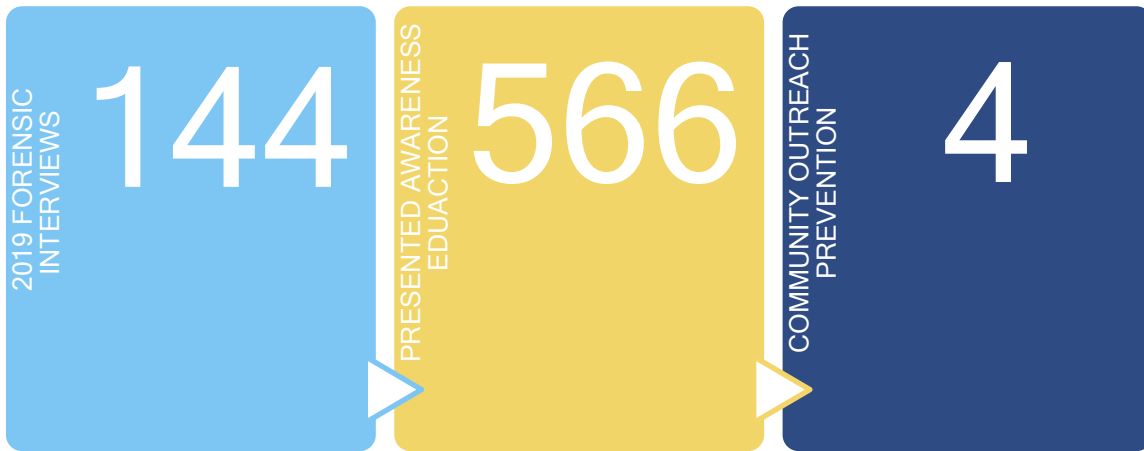
Street Value
\$448,725



Children's Advocacy Center



The child advocacy center allows the capability for centralized services. Children receive forensic interviews and forensic medical exams at the CAC in a child-friendly environment. The CAC utilizes a Multidisciplinary Team to provide comprehensive services to victims of child abuse.



CRIME SCENE TEAM

The Flathead County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Team (CST) works under the direction Investigations Commander. This is a specialized unit that attends monthly trainings in various forensic and crime scene related disciplines. The duties of the CST include the following:

- Provide technical support to Detectives, Deputies/Officer, and Forensic Scientists by photographing, collecting, analyzing, preserving, and presenting physical evidence (biological evidence, latent prints, tire/shoe impressions or prints, and other physical evidence documented and/or collected at a crime scene)
- Photograph, document, and process the scene and items of evidence/interest
- Utilize powders, chemicals, and various equipment to develop and preserve evidence
- Testify in court as an expert witness in connection to scenes processed



SPECIAL OPERATIONS



K9

Through multiple private business and individual donations funding was obtained to start a K9 program at the Sheriff's Office in 2019. Deputies Vander Ark and Pesola were selected as Detection Dog handlers with their partners Victor and Misty. It has been a great start to the program and we look forward to continually increasing our capabilities with the K9 program.

Seizures

80z

Meth

40z

Heroin

4

Firearms

\$15,000

Cash

Numerous
Pieces of
Paraphernalia

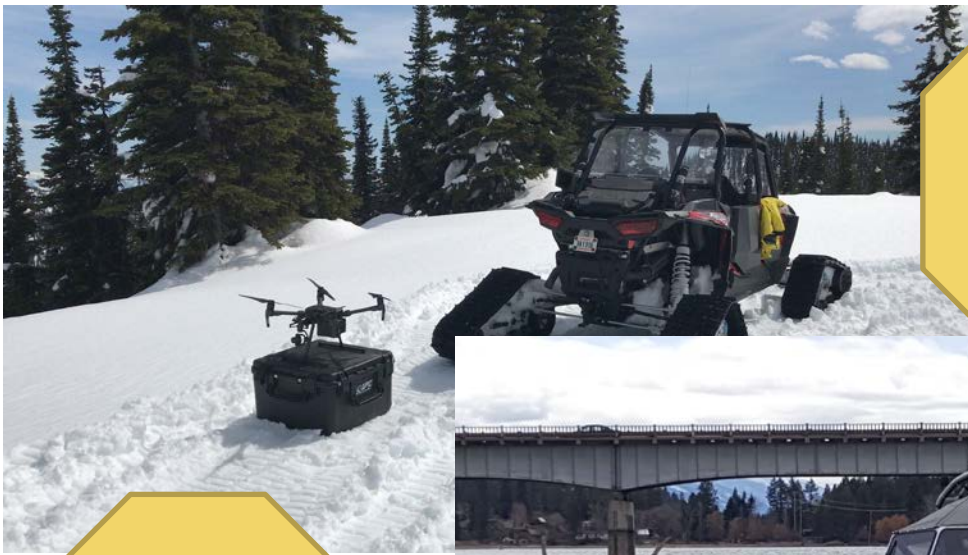




SWAT / CNT

Ten deputies staff the FCSO SWAT element and five deputies staff the Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT). In 2019 FCSO partnered with the Kalispell Police Department and began training with their Special Response Team (SRT) and CNT to provide a much more capable and coordinated team of deputies and officers to deal with high risk situations and special threats. SWAT and CNT are trained to serve search warrants that are deemed high risk, handle barricaded suspects and hostage situations, and deal with other tactical situations that are beyond the capability of uniformed patrol officers. The SWAT team trains 20 hours a month and has one team week every year, to stay proficient at the multitude of individual and team skills necessary for contemporary SWAT teams. In 2019 the team received training on hostage rescue from instructors from the Tri-City (WA) Regional SWAT Team and the LAPD SWAT Team, in addition to their monthly training.

SEARCH & RESCUE



**127 TRAINING
EVENTS**

**6 OUT OF
COUNTY
ASSISTS**



**8,712
VOLUNTEER
HOURS**

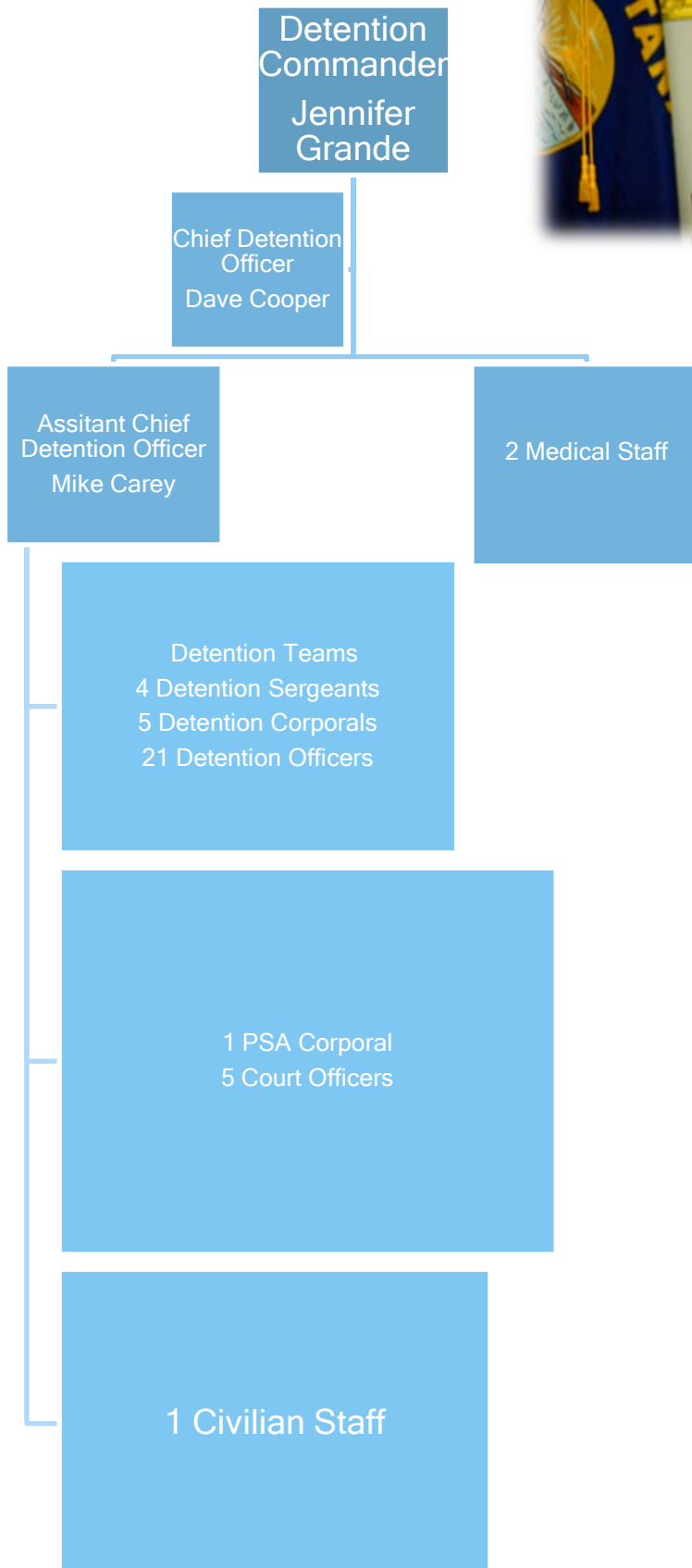


**37 CALLS
OUTS**

Flathead County encompasses various terrain including 158 square miles of water in the form of lakes, reservoirs, and rivers making it an outdoor recreation destination year round. Consequently, the need for search & rescue resources is significant. To cover such an expanse of country, the county relies on two search & rescue agencies to serve the people who reside in and enjoy Flathead County. Flathead County Search & Rescue is based out of Kalispell and North Valley Rescue is based out of Columbia Falls. Flathead primarily responds to the southwestern half of the county and North Valley responds to emergencies on the northeast side. Often these two agencies train together and respond in tandem as the need arises.

DETENTION





A NOTE FROM THE COMMANDER:

I have been with the Sheriff's Office for 19 years. I started in Juvenile Detention, after about 3 years I transferred over to Adult Detention. I have held the position of Corporal and Sergeant. I was promoted to Commander in 2015.

We have a facility that runs smoothly, thanks to the hard work and dedication of team on the floor.

BOOKING

2287
MALE
BOOKINGS

885
FEMALE
BOOKINGS

338
BOOK AND
RELEASE

938 FELONIES
BOOKED

2234
MISDEMEANORS
BOOKED

943

RELEASED
ON BOND

1184

RELEASED
OWN
RECOGNIZANCE

433

RELEASED
TO
TRANSPORT

INMATES BOOKED

3173

INMATES
RELEASED

3172

RELEASES



CONTRABAND



In 2019 Detention Officer's reports documented 46 separate times that suspected illegal drugs were found in inmate's possession in FCDC. In 2018, there were 24 reports documenting illegal drugs.

PROBATION AND PAROLE

58

Intervention Hearings held at FCDC resulting in variety of intermediate sanctions (up to 30 day jail sanctions, release to ISP/ESP, up to 30 days at FCDC pending placement at 90 day treatment centers - CCP/ADT, etc.)

51

Conditional Release Offender Disciplinary hearings (majority of hearings result in CR revocation to START/Passages ASRC but other sanctions imposed include jail sanction followed by release to ISP/ESP, placement at other DOC Programming/facility (CCP/ADT/NEXUS/ELKHORN/pre-release) or Secure Placement Request to MSP/MWP

22

On-Site Parolee hearings (probable cause hearing that often result in PC being found and appearance in front of Board of Pardons/Parole (BOPP) for formal revocation hearing. *Some parolees waive right to On-Site. This # reflects actual On-Site Hearings completed in 2019.

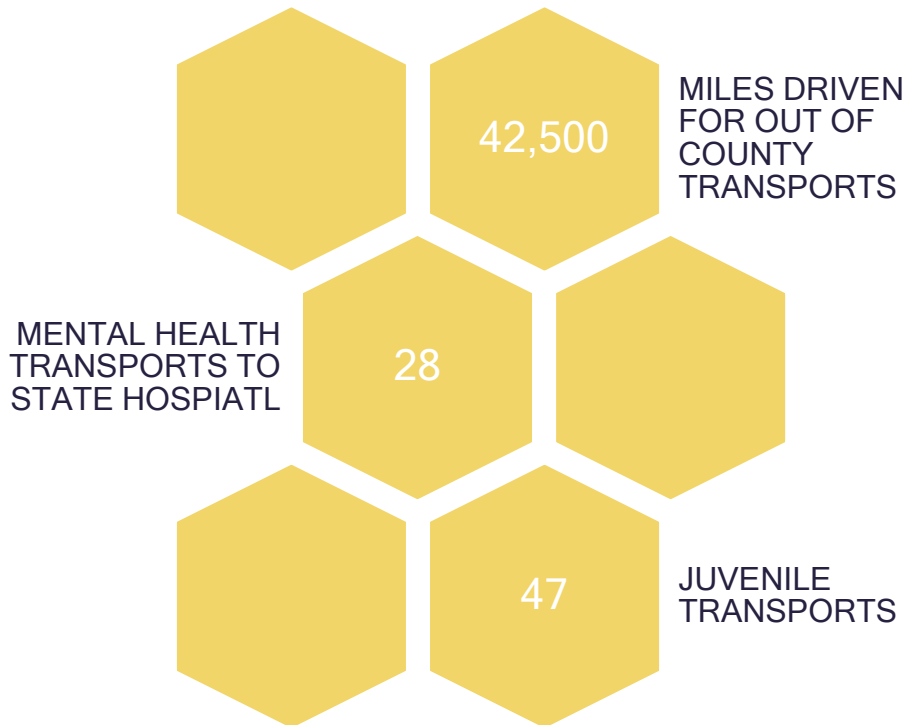


INMATE PROGRAMS

Flathead County Detention Center offers Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and church services weekly as well as 1 on 1 minister visits.

In 2019 we partnered with the Nurturing Center and began to offer the Child in Middle Class. These classes are designed to educate parents on how to help minimize the negative impact on their children from divorce and other hurdles you encounter while parenting.

COURTS AND TRANSPORTS

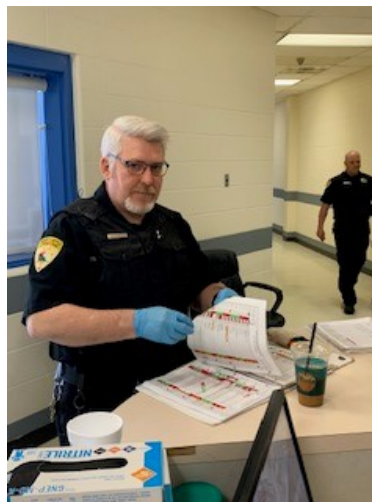


Court Officers are responsible for the movement of adult and juvenile offenders to and from court. They control the movement for 7 court rooms including 1 that is set up for Vision Net appearance. Inmates are seen by video in most City Municipal cases. Court Officers also supply security for the justice center and court rooms.

Medical Services

In 2019 we started an immunization clinic. We immunized a total of 156 inmates.

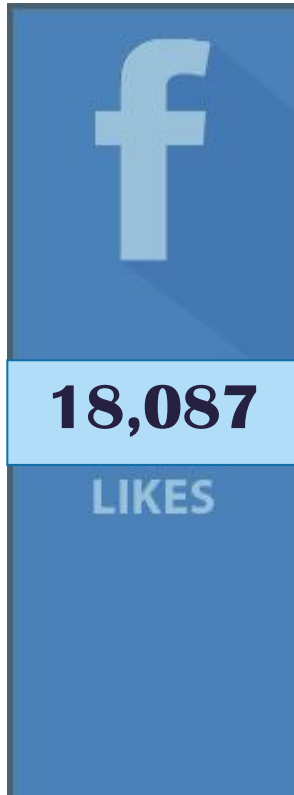
- 40 Hep A Shots
- 27 Hep B Shots
- 59 Twinrix Shots
- 54 Tdap Shots
- 72 Flu Shots



SUPPORT SERVICES



MEDIA



The Sheriff's Office has embraced Social Media along with the rest of the world. By doing this we have been able to solve and prevent crime with the help of community members. Using all 3 platforms we are able to effectively get safety alerts and press releases out to all different types of end users.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



The Citizens Academy is a series of meetings and training that familiarize the attendee with the Sheriff's Office and our operations. These meetings occur one time a week for seven weeks. Everything from Patrol operations and Detective investigations to the Posse and Chaplains services are covered during the seven weeks. Attendees who complete the meetings attend a graduation during the last week.



The Citizens Advisory Board was established to advise the Sheriff on our direction, as well as review our efforts and results. They are a conduit from the community to the Sheriff, representing all areas of Flathead County. The input from the Citizens Advisory Board has been crucial in our development and direction and assists us in our endeavor to best serve our citizens.



The FCSO has a presence every year at the Northwest Montana County Fair and staffs a command post for operations there. The Sheriff's Posse handles general security while Search and Rescue handles medical calls and lost children. A Command Post is maintained by the Sheriff's Office and several tables are set up for community outreach with information about the Northwest Montana Drug Task Force, CAC, Posse, Detention, and general Sheriff's Office information.

TAX DIVISION

The Tax Division is staffed by a part-time tax agent who reports to the Undersheriff and works directly with the County Treasurer to collect delinquent personal property taxes for mobile homes, businesses and livestock. The tax agent also works with the Montana Department of Revenue to track ownership and location of personal property, primarily on mobile homes. The tax agent also assists personal property owners by providing information to ensure they remain out of delinquent status and are able to verify their VIN for title changes on mobile homes.

- Delinquent taxes for tax writs collected for tax year 2018 - \$60,004.45
- Personal property tax writs collected in 2019 - \$28,629.23



The Sheriff also fills the position of County Coroner and has 9 deputy coroners that work for him, providing services county wide to all jurisdictions 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In 2019 there were 213 Coroner calls, 623 cremation requests and 57 24-hr death notifications.

CORONER

CIVIL DEPARTMENT

The Civil Department is responsible for process service (serving papers) from the courts within our jurisdiction as well as from all other Montana Counties, each of the States of the Union, the Federal Government and private citizens. The papers can range from summons and complaints, subpoenas, court orders, protection orders, executions and writs of possession (commonly known as eviction orders). In 2019 the Civil Department processed/served 2,225 papers including 234 Orders of Protection and 64 Evictions



WARRANTS



While one might think it's an easy task to answer phones and direct customers to the appropriate locations and offices, our Receptionist has become an expert in not only the day to day duties in the Sheriff's Office, but have also a tremendous knowledge of information and resources for the public regarding any services within the County.

CONCEALED CARRY PERMITS

Concealed Carry Permits are valid for 4 years from the date of approval. You must be a living in MT for 6 months and apply for the permit within the county you reside. You can renew your permit 90 days prior to expiration.

8780

TOTAL
ACTIVE

1548

2019
ISSUED

133

2019
DENIED

109 VIOLENT
OFFENDERS

168 SEXUAL
OFFENDERS

20 NON
COMPLIANT
OFFENDERS

SVOR

Flathead County tracks approximately 277 sexual or violent offenders. Deputies are verifying registrants' home address with compliance checks regularly. Every year a task force comprised of Local, State, and Federal officers conduct a compliance operation on all registered sexual offenders living in Flathead County.

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

The Flathead County Sheriff's Office contracts with Braveheart Chaplain Ministry for Chaplain's services. Braveheart is a non-profit organization with the mission of providing chaplain services to first responders, their families and citizens in crisis. In 2019

Braveheart Chaplain Ministry provided the following responses:

- 28 death calls
 - 2 homicides
 - 2 drownings
 - 5 automobile fatalities
 - 11 suicides
- 20 motor vehicle accidents
- 7 death notifications
- 5 fires
- 64 follow-up contacts
- 8 formal debriefings with responders
- 41 visits or counseling conversations
- 12 referrals for additional services
- 13 trainings provided or attended
- 9 ceremonies, including graduations, promotions and commendations
- 13 funeral services for families in the community



SHERIFF'S POSSE

The Sheriff's Posse aids the Sheriff in his service to the citizens of Flathead County. The Posse serves multiple purposes including but not limited to security and preservation of crime scenes and evidence, life and safety efforts, as well as security and crowd control at events such as the Northwest Montana Fair and high school sporting events.



2019 Service Hours:

Uniform hours: 2,788

Non-uniform hours: 1,175

Training hours: 571

Additional volunteer and training hours: 108

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS



AWARDS

Life Saving Medal

Corporal Colten O'Connell

Meritorious Service Medal

Deputy Darrin Wise

Sheriff's Commendation

Agent Joel Bartholomew

SA Troy Capser

Lucy Megerth

Unit Commendation

Northwest Montana Drug
Task Force

MLEA Correction/Detention

Officer Basic Course Scholastic Achievement Award

Officer Luna

Detention Officer of the Quarter

July-Sept Chris Inabnit

Oct-Dec Adam Shaver



YEARS OF SERVICE

25 YEARS

Karen Moore

20 YEARS

Roger Schiff

15 YEARS

Lonnie (Geno) Cook

Aaron Westphal

Sam Cox

Luke Foster

10 YEARS

Paula Sullivan

Jon Sevesind

Dustin Anderson

Scott McConnell

Andy Doyle

Rich Shuster

5 YEARS

Garrett Matthews

Caleb Tappan

PROMOTIONS

COMMANDER

JOSH BULS

JEANNE PARKER

NIC SALOIS

SERGEANT

JOSH BULS

ERIC MORRISON

TRAVIS SMITH

CORPORAL

ALAN BROOKS

SCOTT MCCONNELL

TAMMI MCDANIEL

CODY SHIELDS

RETIREMENTS

JEANNE PARKER - 23 YEARS

ROGER SCHIFF - 20 YEARS

NICK FISTER - 18 YEARS

TERRY MORRISON - 12 YEARS



NEW HIRES

DET OFFICER VINCENT SMITH

DET OFFICER DALTON MEREDITH

DET OFFICER SARAH DOUGHERTY

DET OFFICER JAMIE MEYER

DET OFFICER DALTON O'HERN

SUPPORT STAFF BAYLEE BRINTON

DET CASSANDRA GUCKENBERG-CISLO

DEPUTY TYLER HAYWARD

DEPUTY TRAVIS WENDT

DEPUTY BRANDON RICHARDSON

CIVIL DEPUTY ROGER SCHIFF

DEPUTY SPENCER CLARIDGE

DET OFFICER BRYAN GERDES

DEPUTY TOM FLETCHER

CLOSING STATEMENT

2019 was a busy and exciting year with many changes. With the creation and implementation of our strategic plan in early 2020, we look forward to many more improvements in our operation and with that, many more successes. Those successes necessarily involve our community and we want to continually improve our partnership with our citizens to provide the best service possible.

To provide the best service possible our leadership will challenge the status quo and the old sentiment of, “That is how we have always done it.” We will support and encourage our employees to take risks and be innovative in our endeavors to improve and “catch the vision” of our organization. Continually assessing and changing our organization for the better, to meet current and contemporary demands, requires leadership courage. At the Flathead County Sheriff’s Office we are striving to create an environment that promotes and supports leadership courage in our deputies.

We deeply value our partnership with our community which is necessary for our success. We are experiencing current challenges, such as the need for a new Sheriff’s Office and detention facility, which can only be surmounted with the support of the citizens of Flathead County.

We hope that you will partner with us to meet our needs well into the future, and provide the safest community in Montana.

Sheriff Brian Heino

