



FORSYTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR IN REVIEW

MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF

AWARDS & HONORS

INSIDE FCSO

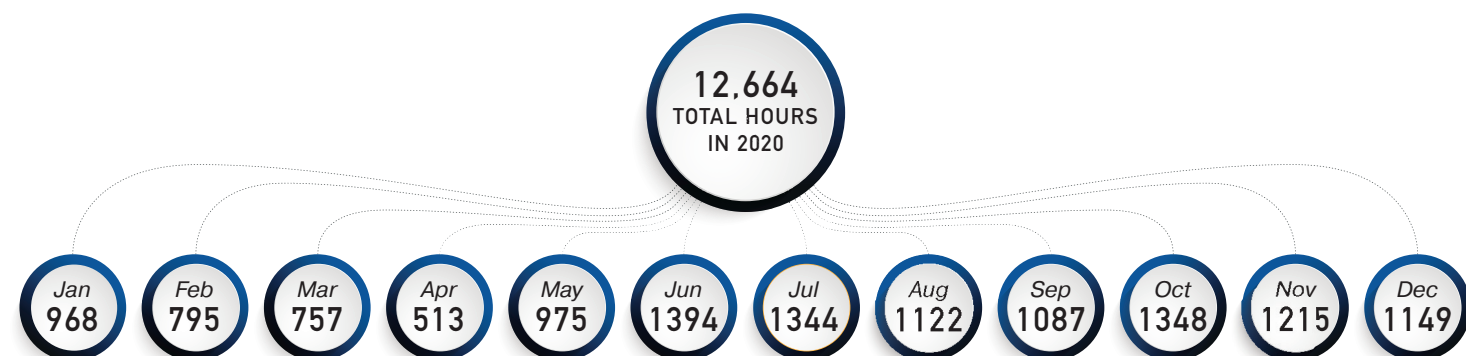
VOLUNTEERS

The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office is grateful to have numerous volunteers and reserve deputies who drop everything to help when called upon, receiving nothing in return. Our volunteers are vital to our day-to-day operations and play a large part in our mission to keep Forsyth safe.



During the 2020 calendar year, our incredible volunteers worked a total of 12,664 hours. Of the total volunteer hours, 1,580 hours were spent assisting the Sheriff's Office, Forsyth Emergency Management Agency, and the Public Health Department with 37 individual COVID testing sites. Another 4,446 hours were spent helping Uniform Patrol with various tasks.

The total number of hours worked by volunteers in 2020 is equivalent to just over six full-time employees and a combined savings of \$414,015 to the citizens of Forsyth County.



CITIZENS HELPING IN POLICING (CHIP)



27 active members in 2020

The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office Citizens Helping In Policing (CHIP) mission is to help improve the quality of life for Forsyth County residents and visitors by providing a visible presence and by observing and reporting suspicious activities. This mission is accomplished through a collaborative partnership with Forsyth County residents and the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office.

The CHIP team members help the Sheriff's Office and the community in many ways. This includes assisting with special events, traffic direction, residential and business checks, park patrol, and other types of support functions.

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICES (ARES)



64 active members in 2020

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service Team is a trained, FCC-licensed group of Ham radio operators available to provide emergency communications for Forsyth County's Public Safety Organizations in the event of a localized or widespread communication failure. ARES Team members also provide communications for CERT Teams during community events throughout the year.

CREDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE

The Credential Administrative Unit assists with behind-the-scenes clerical duties or managing our interoffice mail delivery. There were 8 active members in 2020.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE (CERT)



82 active members in 2020

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact our area. The program also covers training in basic disaster response skills like fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, which allows them to focus on more complex tasks. CERT volunteers are trained to respond safely, responsibly, and effectively to emergency situations, but they can also support their communities during non-emergency events as well.

RESERVE DEPUTY UNIT



12 active members in 2020

The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office Reserve Unit is comprised of a dedicated group of men and women who are State of Georgia POST certified law-enforcement officers. These men and women volunteer their time assisting in various units and divisions throughout the Sheriff's Office to include our Uniform Patrol Division.

EXPLORERS

The Explorer program is open to selected students ages 14-20 interested in a job in law enforcement. The program educates them through an on-the-job training program. There were 19 active members in 2020.

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THE FCSO MISSION:

*In an unwavering effort to **keep our community safe**, the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office exists to protect life and property, deter crime, create relationships in our community, and set an example of professionalism in our service to others.*

IN MEMORIAM *"A Hero remembered never dies."*



Chief Deputy William Cantrell
End of Watch 1.10.1972

On January 10th, 1972, Chief Deputy Cantrell, along with his partner, Deputy Mulkey, was shot and killed after being abducted during a traffic stop. Both deputies were found in the trunk of their patrol car, suffering from gunshot wounds.



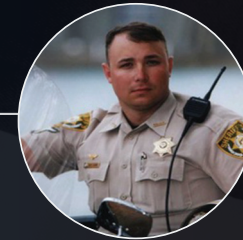
Deputy Sheriff Larry Mulkey
End of Watch 1.10.1972

Deputy Mulkey died in the line of duty as he patrolled with Chief Deputy Cantrell. After the two were discovered, a piece of paper containing the tag number of the suspect's vehicle was found hidden in Deputy Mulkey's handwriting. This evidence led to the arrest and conviction of the suspects.



Deputy Sheriff Luther Charles Outz
End of Watch 9.23.1993

Deputy Outz suffered from a heart attack while transporting an inmate. During his time with FCSO, Deputy Outz worked in Uniform Patrol, Court Security, and Transports.



Sergeant David P. Land
End of Watch 3.26.2003

Sergeant David P. Land was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident while responding to a 911 call for service on March 26, 2003. He was only 32 years old and had just been promoted to Sergeant.



Deputy Sheriff Mike Lord
End of Watch 1.25.2010

On January 25, 2010, Deputy Mike Lord suffered a heart attack while transporting inmates to Magistrate Court. Deputy Mike Lord was a true gentleman, a beloved Deputy, and friend to all who had the privilege of knowing him.



Deputy First Class Spencer Englett
End of Watch 4.4.2019

On April 4, 2019, Deputy Englett suffered a traumatic medical event while participating in a training exercise at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, Law Enforcement Academy. Deputy Englett served Forsyth County with distinction and honor and remains well respected by his peers.

THE FORSYTH COUNTY WAY

Our core values are fundamental convictions and beliefs that we hold so firmly that they cannot be altered by circumstances. Our values and how we define our values serve as our ethical compass in making decisions and taking actions. We refer to these values as the Forsyth County Way.

WE ARE HERE TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

Service is the cornerstone of our value system at the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office. The highest form of service we can provide is to protect the lives and property of our fellow human beings. Our county provides an exciting and diverse environment for personal and professional achievement. Our school system and county resources are recognized nationally for their value. We recognize that our achievements as law enforcement officers will be measured by the level of safety and well-being enjoyed by our community.

INTEGRITY

If service is the foundation of our value system, integrity is the mortar that must hold it all together. The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office will demonstrate, through its actions, an uncompromising allegiance to the core principles espoused within the Police Officer's Code of Ethics. Every Forsyth County Sheriff's Office employee will embrace ideals such as honor, duty, courage, equality, fairness, and dignity.



SERVICE MATTERS

This is a phrase that must mean more than words, it must embody a state of mind, an approach to delivering law enforcement services which recognizes that to be truly effective we must express genuine concern that we are in the business of serving people. We appreciate the dignity of all people and treat them accordingly. Our intent is to always reach beyond the expectations of our citizens. We will work tirelessly to be positive role models in our community.

WE APPROACH CRIME PROACTIVELY

Stopping crime before it occurs is our most important function. Identifying conditions which foster crime in our community and interceding is a joint law enforcement - community responsibility, but the actual prevention of crime is a task which no other entity can assume, it rests squarely on our shoulders.

WE TREAT PEOPLE CONSISTENTLY AND FAIRLY

The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office practices this value both within the organization and with the communities we serve. We are flexible in dealing with issues in an open and sensitive manner. We are committed to the consistent application of the law for the common good. We treat people with dignity and respect always. We practice impartiality, equity, and honesty without self-interest, prejudice, or favoritism. We continually remember that we often encounter good people on less than their best day. We display patience and empathy for those in distress and work to resolve their issues.



COURAGE

Our courage helps prove us worthy of the trust given to us by the citizens. Our words and actions demonstrate the willingness to venture into danger and difficulty when our duties call for it.

EXCELLENCE

We strive to deliver the best service possible. This is the ultimate goal for each employee of the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office. The effort that one undertakes to obtain such a level of excellence is the most important aspect of this value. Sheriff's Office employees are expected to do the best possible job at all times.

INNOVATION

Utilizing creativity to meet today's challenges is paramount for the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office to effectively solve problems. While having a consistent process to complete our daily tasks may be valuable in many circumstances, we do not serve this process. We must be willing to seek solutions that exist outside of our normal methodology in order to address the complexities of our era.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

"As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation; the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all persons to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; be constantly mindful of the welfare of others; and be honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life. I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature, or what is confided to me in my official capacity, will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty. I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities, or friendships influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence, and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession... law enforcement."

MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

It is my pleasure to introduce our 2020 Forsyth County Sheriff's Office Annual report to our citizens. Your Forsyth County Sheriff's Office is the state's 3rd largest full-service Sheriff's Office.

While 2021 is showing us hope of life moving toward a sense of normalcy for all of us, including your FCSO, 2020 brought about challenges few could have anticipated. We all learned words and phrases we want to forget, such as "slow the spread," "6 feet apart," and my least favorite, "social distancing." We also saw nationwide challenges for law enforcement in communities from coast to coast. Here in Forsyth, the groundwork for trust and community support had been being built for years. Our community and your FCSO continue to represent the best in law enforcement and community relations.

Forsyth County's crime rates remain the overall lowest in the metro-Atlanta region. While the pandemic may have slowed the world, someone forgot to give that message to the criminals. Our deputies worked diligently in solving an organized crime-led burglary ring that was primarily targeting our Indian community. Our Johns Creek and Forsyth Drug Task Force remains focused on removing drug dealers from our community and has been highly successful in leading investigations that led to the arrest of dealers both within and outside of our community. Forsyth County continues to show others what can happen when community and law enforcement develop trust and partner together to keep their community safe.

Our Pups with Purpose program, which pairs inmates with dogs from our local Forsyth County Animal Shelter,

progresses. These pups go through a 6-8 week full-time training program led by inmates with oversight from Forsyth County Deputies and our local volunteer professional trainer, Scot Rucker. This program has been hugely successful for both the pups and the inmates involved. To date, over 40 pups have been trained and adopted.

We also began our RSAT (Regional Substance Abuse Treatment) program in the jail. This 180-day program pairs local resources, training, and work for inmates assigned to the program. The goal is simple, take those with substance abuse issues, teach them skills to use in life, require them to work, and reach a goal of becoming responsible citizens again. One of the recent work projects our RSAT program undertook was the renovation of the Cumming Cemetery, which had fallen into severe disrepair. Inmates have remounted headstones, cleaned memorials, performed significant landscaping, and even discovered buried and forgotten monuments that have now been remounted and cleaned to honor those memorialized.

We began a forward-looking initiative to assist those with mental health issues avoid the criminal justice system. Too often, jails become housing for a broken mental health system. With grant funding providing the financial resources, we are one of the few agencies in Georgia with a full-time Mental Health Critical Response Unit that pairs a specially trained Deputy Sheriff with a mental health professional to respond directly to 911 calls where needed. They, along with a peer counselor, also follow up with those with persistent mental health issues to provide resources and care options.

FCSO volunteers represent the best of Forsyth County. Our volunteers number over 100 citizens and they regularly volunteer and participate in county-wide events. Our volunteers are made up of our CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team), CHIPS (Citizens Helping in Policing), ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service), Reserves, and administrative volunteers. Together these citizen servants volunteered nearly the equivalent of \$½ million in hours worked. We can't thank them enough.

Financially the FCSO ended 2020 at approximately \$1 million under budget; those monies were returned to the Board of Commissioners for future needs. We have operated under budget each year since 2017 and maintain tight financial controls as we are spending your taxpayer dollars. While many agencies struggle to find qualified employment candidates, we continue to see highly qualified candidates applying to FCSO, and as of March 2021, we are nearly at full staff with a waiting list of candidates.

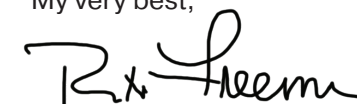
I would be remiss if I did not take the opportunity to thank Forsyth County for allowing me to serve as your Sheriff for another four years. It is a great privilege and responsibility I will never take lightly. The men

and women of the FCSO are the most professional and dedicated group of people I have ever met. They work selflessly every day to keep Forsyth safe, and the response from our citizens shows the mutual respect each holds for one another. I often remind folks, we are not perfect, we are human and make mistakes like anyone else, but we must work every day to meet the motto we internally hold as the "Forsyth County Way" of Service before Self. That motto means to us that:

- Integrity Counts
- Service Matters
- Excellence is our goal
- We are here to serve our community
- We approach crime proactively
- We treat people consistently and fairly
- We are innovative in our service

Please feel free to call on me if I may ever be of assistance.

My very best,



Ron Freeman
Sheriff, Forsyth County, GA



Ron H. Freeman
Sheriff

Elected to office in 2016, Sheriff Freeman has been a resident of Forsyth County for over 40 years. Sheriff Freeman has been in law enforcement for over 30 years and began his career right here at the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office in 1987. He is well versed in all operations of the Sheriff's Office and has served in nearly every division of the agency, including Chief of Detectives, Precinct Commander, and SWAT team leader.

Sheriff Freeman holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration and is a graduate of both the Georgia Law Enforcement Command College and the FBI National Academy. He has also completed the Georgia's Sheriff Academy, FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar, Tennessee Law Enforcement Executive Development, and several other leadership training courses. In 2018, Sheriff Freeman became a graduate of the National Sheriff's Institute and was honored to be appointed to serve on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) by Governor Nathan Deal.





Joe Perkins
Chief Deputy

Chief Deputy Joe Perkins started his Law Enforcement career in 1994 with the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office. Over the twenty years that followed, he worked his way through the ranks at CSO to land at the position of Chief Deputy in 2014. Chief Deputy Perkins retired from CSO in December 2016 before beginning his career at the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office in January 2017.

Chief Deputy Perkins holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Mountain State University and an MPA from Columbus State University. He is a graduate of the Georgia Law Enforcement Command College (Class 33) and the FBI National Academy (247th session). Chief Deputy Perkins currently serves as the 2nd Vice President for the Georgia Chapter of FBI National Academy Associates (FBINAA). He is also a member of the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Georgia Sheriff's Association.



Major Deeann Cash
Jail Bureau

Major Cash joined FCSO in 2018 and brings 34 years of law enforcement experience to Forsyth County. Before joining FCSO in January 2018, she was with the Clayton County Sheriff's Office. In 2016 she was appointed as the Jail Administrator and Jail Operations Division Commander for the Clayton County Sheriff's Office. In June of 2017, Major Cash was recognized and bestowed the honor of the Georgia Jail Administrator of the Year award from the Georgia Jail Association. Major Cash currently serves as the 1st Vice President of the Georgia Jail Association.



Major Mark Hoffman
Law Enforcement Bureau

Major Hoffman began his Law Enforcement career in 1983 with the Deerfield Beach Police as a graduate of the Broward County Police Academy. Shortly after, he moved to the Port St. Lucie Police Department, where he held numerous leadership roles throughout the agency. In 1997 Major Hoffman joined FCSO, where he started the current SWAT Team and has been assigned various command roles in the Law Enforcement Bureau, including Investigations, Patrol, and Special Services. Major Hoffman is a graduate of the FBI National Academy #229, and he stays active in the community via the United Way.



Major Thomas K. Patton
Sheriff Services Bureau

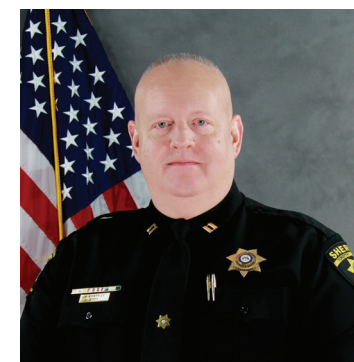
Major Patton joined FCSO in 2017 and brings 19 years of law enforcement experience to Forsyth County. Prior to law enforcement, he retired from the corporate sector after over 25 years of service. Major Patton holds a BA from Gettysburg College and an MBA from the University of Virginia. He is a graduate of the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety's School of Police Staff and Command and of the FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Development program.



Director Allison Densmore
Open Records, Backgrounds,
& Recruitment



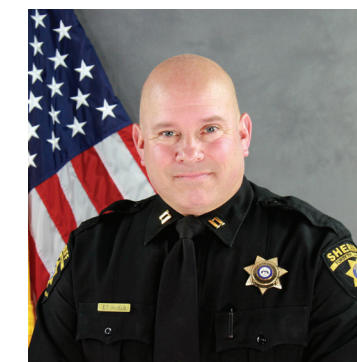
Director Amy Thompson
Communications Division



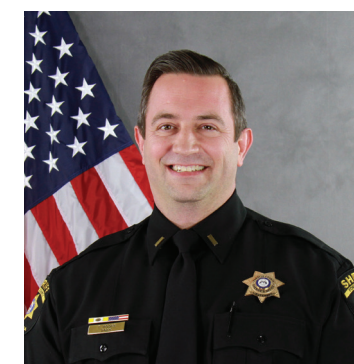
Captain Jody Chapman
Uniform Patrol Division



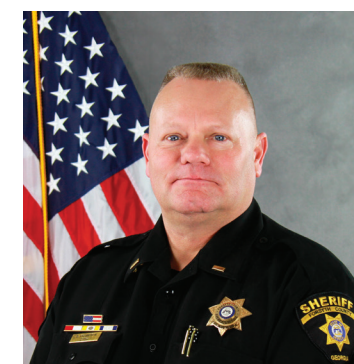
Captain Nick Curry
Criminal Investigations Division



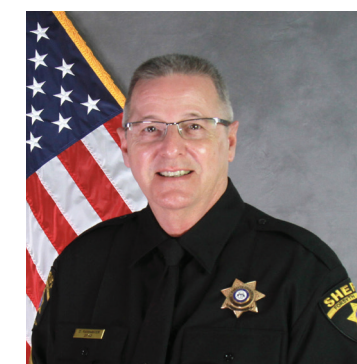
Captain Eric Silveus
Special Enforcement Division



1st Lieutenant Tom Moore
Jail Security Division

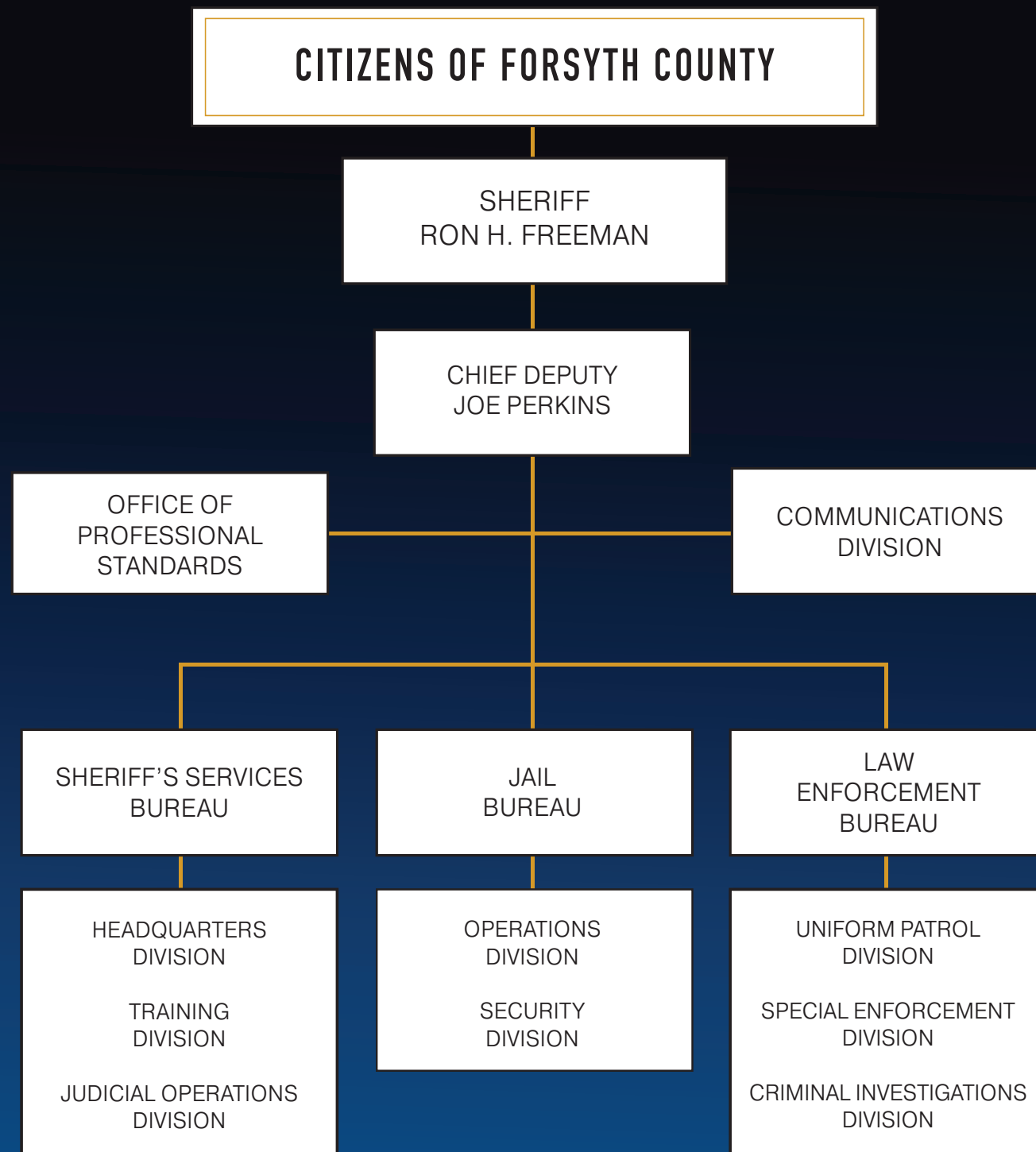


Lieutenant Allan Frampton
Judicial Operations Division



Sergeant Doug Rainwater
Executive Officer / IA

OUR ORGANIZATION



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

- Internal Affairs
- Backgrounds Investigations
- Recruitment
- Open Records

SHERIFF'S SERVICES BUREAU

- **Support Services**
 - Evidence / Property Unit
 - GCIC / Records Unit
 - Logistics Unit
 - Fleet Manager
- **Business Services**
 - Finance Unit
 - Technology Unit (S.O.I.T.)
- **Policy & Certification Unit**
- **Chaplain Unit**
- **Judicial Operations Division**
 - Main Court
 - Magistrate Court
 - Probate Court
 - Juvenile Court
 - Accountability Court
 - Civil Unit
 - Ordinances / Permits Unit
 - Warrant Unit
 - Blue Coats
- **Training Division**

JAIL BUREAU

- **Operations Division**
 - Control Operations Unit
 - Transport Unit
 - Control/Communications Unit
 - Court Coordination
 - Jail Resource Unit
 - RSAT
 - Litter Detail
 - Inventory
- **Security Division**
 - Watches (A,B,C,D)
 - Inmate Services Unit
- **Jail Training Program**
- **Honor Guard**

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

- Public Information
- Community Relations

LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

- **Uniform Patrol Division**
 - North Precinct
 - South Precinct
 - Crime Reduction Unit
 - K-9 Unit
 - Problem Oriented Policing Unit
 - Criminal Intelligence
 - Drone Team
 - CTOC Team
- **Special Enforcement Division**
 - Traffic Enforcement Section
 - Traffic Unit
 - Motor Unit
 - Traffic Specialist Unit
 - Traffic Response Vehicle
 - Incident Response Team
 - School Resource Unit
 - Marine/ Bike Patrol Unit
 - Volunteer Unit
 - Explorers Unit
 - C.E.R.T. Unit
 - C.H.I.P. Unit
 - Reserve Unit
- **Criminal Investigations Division**
 - Major Crimes Unit
 - Victim Advocates
 - Property Crimes Unit
 - Financial Crimes Unit
 - Narcotics Unit
 - Drug Task Force
 - Hi-Tech Crimes Unit
 - ICAC
 - Computer Forensics
 - Sex Offender Registry
 - Crime Scene
 - S.W.A.T & C.N.T. Teams
 - Peer Support Team

OUR FLEET

Chevy Caprice
Chevy Tahoe
Dodge Charger
Dodge Durango

Ford Explorer
Ford F150 Truck
Ford F250 Truck
Ford Taurus

Kia Optima
CSI Crime Scene Van
Traffic Response Vehicle (TRV)
Harley Davidson Electra Glide
Prisoner Transport Van

700 Jr. Mobile Command Vehicle
Command Tactical Ops. Center (CTOC)
Crisis Negotiations Team Truck (CNT)
SWAT Command Truck
SWAT Bearcat
SWAT Ford Excursion Armored Vehicle

Kawasaki Mule (Side X Side ATV)
Polaris ATV (4-wheeler)
Bike Patrol
MRAP Vehicle
High-Water Truck
Marine Patrol Edgewater Boat (x2)



The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office's complete fleet is comprised of a variety of different makes and models of vehicles. Not all are pictured.

OUR FACILITIES

HEADQUARTERS



100 East Courthouse Square
Cumming, GA 30040

FORSYTH COUNTY JAIL



202 Veterans Memorial Blvd.
Cumming, GA 30040

NORTH PRECINCT



2310 Keith Bridge Rd.
Cumming, GA 30040

SOUTH PRECINCT



2985 Ronald Reagan Blvd.
Cumming, GA 30041

TRAINING SECTION



3520 Settingdown Rd.
Cumming, GA 30040

CSI & QUARTERMASTER



2314 Keith Bridge Rd.
Cumming, GA 30040

AWARDS & HONORS

We are proud to present the recipients of the 2020 Forsyth County Sheriff's Office annual awards. Each one of these individuals is recognized for their exemplary service and contributions to the agency.



BUREAU OF THE YEAR

Jail Bureau

LEADERSHIP AWARD

Captain Jody Chapman

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Deputy Jeff Wagner

LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

DEPUTY OF THE YEAR
DFC Austin Mathews

CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR
Andrea Carder

SHERIFF'S SERVICES BUREAU

DEPUTY OF THE YEAR
DFC Jason Blackwell

CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR
Alicia Porter

JAIL BUREAU

DEPUTY OF THE YEAR
Deputy Kelly Maradiaga

CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR
Mike Durden

COMMENDATION BAR

Corporal Corey Miller
Corporal Will Sessa
DFC Zachary Archer
DFC Ian Conchar
DFC Mark Cook
DFC Todd Lewis
DFC Austin Mathews
Master Deputy Brandon Wiley
Deputy Sheriff II Jeffrey Folk
Deputy Sheriff II Sean Hammock
Deputy Sheriff II Samuel Roberts
Deputy Sheriff II Ryan Wakim
Explorer Zack McKenzie

LIFE SAVING

DFC Enrique Escolano
Deputy Sheriff II Cornelia Acosta
Deputy Sheriff II Rod Reeves
Deputy Sheriff II Brandon Zonyk

MEDAL OF VALOR

DFC Carl Welch

MEDAL OF MERIT

Lieutenant Allan Frampton
Corporal Deborah Forrest
DFC Austin Mathews



Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), as part of their MADD Golden Shield Awards, recognized several FCSO Deputies for their outstanding work to end impaired driving. Those honored were:

- MADD Red Pin (150+ DUI Arrests)
Sgt. Kevin Pittman
DFC Brandon Wiley
- MADD Gold Pin (100-149 DUI Arrests)
DFC Christopher Hobbs
DFC Austin Mathews
- MADD Silver Pin (50-99 DUI Arrests)
DFC Enrique Escolano
- MADD Bronze Pin (25-49 DUI Arrests)
DFC Brittany Swartout
Cpl. Kurt Chambers



Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) presented Sgt. Kevin Pittman with the DUI Hero Award for achieving 178 DUI arrests in one year through his commitment to stopping impaired drivers from endangering our community. Sgt. Pittman is the first Forsyth County Sheriff's Office Deputy to receive this prestigious award.



The Optimist Club of Forsyth-Cumming named Deputy Baxter their Deputy of the Year for his work with the Accountability Courts. Judge McClelland presented the award to Deputy Baxter. He was praised for his outstanding work, especially during the COVID shutdown when he worked around the obstacles of the pandemic to continue doing all that he could, including delivering groceries and supplies to several participants who had been out of work.



The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) awarded FCSO Deputy Jeffrey Folk the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal. This award is presented to those who have served with distinction and devotion in the field of law enforcement and is intended to recognize exceptional service or accomplishment.



Our Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit was recognized by the Georgia Bureau of Investigations (GBI) for its outstanding work to apprehend internet predators and keep our children safe. Detective Roe (and Boo Berry) accepted the award, along with a Certificate of Excellence for Det. Roe for ICAC Affiliate of the Year.



For the third year, Detective Paige Simpson was presented a Tavern Plate Award by the U.S. Secret Service's Electronic Crimes Task Force for her accomplishments as a National Computer Forensic Institute (NCFI) Forensic Partner. Det. Simpson was the top examiner out of the Atlanta Electronic Crimes Task Force and was ranked #35 out 1750 agents, completing 281 digital forensic exams with a total of 79.13 TB of data.



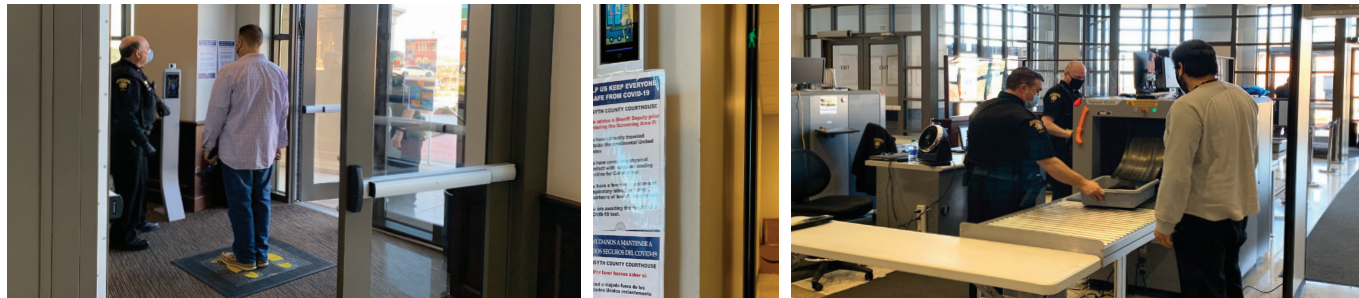
Sgt. Pete Sabella, who heads up our Volunteer Unit, was presented the 2020 Georgia Sheriff's Association's Deputy Sheriff of the Year Award for Professional Contribution. This award is given to one Georgia deputy for their outstanding contribution to the Office of Sheriff and the community through exceptional achievement and performance of duties in an exemplary manner.

2020

COVID19 PANDEMIC

With the onset of a global pandemic early in 2020, the year was quite different for everyone. Staff at the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office had to quickly adapt to new procedures and protocols to address safety concerns. Adjustments were promptly made throughout the agency to ensure the essential day-to-day operations of FCSO were kept intact. Some of the many changes included a mask requirement, health screening at doors, limited non-essential community interaction, cancellation of all planned FCSO in-person programs and events, and the suspension of court hearings. A thorough quarantine and testing protocol were also established for employees.

As 2020 continued, so did the pandemic. Still, with the safety protocols and procedures in place, the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office staff had acclimated to working during COVID19 and continued to do a stellar job at keeping Forsyth safe.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Forsyth community showed their support and appreciation throughout the year with countless messages of encouragement and donations. The community donated nearly 5000 masks, 2000 ounces of hand sanitizer, 1000 safety suits, and medical gloves to assist in keeping our deputies safe. There were also many meals and snacks donated to help keep our staff well fed. We are always amazed at the incredible support and appreciation from our community, and even during a global pandemic, they showed that they know kindness truly matters.



SALUTE TO HEALTHCARE HEROES

The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office called on our partners at the Forsyth Fire Department, Cumming Police Department, Georgia State Patrol, and Central Ambulance Service to join us as we visited Northside Forsyth Hospital to salute our incredible Healthcare workers. The parade of emergency vehicles around the hospital was a simple effort to show our appreciation for all that they do every day, especially during the COVID19 pandemic.



NATIONAL FAITH & BLUE WEEKEND

FCSO joined community members for a weekend of resolution and reconciliation during the first National Faith & Blue Weekend, a collaborative effort to build bridges and break biases. Communities are stronger and safer when residents and law enforcement professionals can relate as ordinary people with shared values, hopes, and dreams. Graciously hosted by New Life Church, we enjoyed a day of music, food, games, and fellowship.



FORSYTH DRUG TAKE BACK PROCLAMATION

The Forsyth Board of Commissioners presented a proclamation declaring the third Saturday of each month as Forsyth Take Back Day. In partnership with the Forsyth County Drug Awareness Council and Youth Council, the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office invites all residents of Forsyth County to participate in making our community a safer place by removing and disposing of unused prescription drugs properly.



TRUNK OR TREAT

Thankfully Halloween wasn't canceled due to the pandemic, and there were two local Trunk or Treat events the FCSO Community Relations team was able to participate in. The theme was Sesame Street, and the team did not disappoint with their outstanding handmade, interactive decorations.



CUMMING CHRISTMAS PARADE

The annual Cumming Christmas Parade is always a fun community event; however, this year, it was even more special as many were able to get out with family and enjoy some time outside of the house to see the fantastic displays put on by our community— including the FCSO.

LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

The Law Enforcement Bureau is a significant component of the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office and includes the Patrol Division (North and South), Criminal Investigations Division (CID), and Special Enforcement Division. Law Enforcement consists of the prevention, detection, and investigation of crimes and the apprehension of suspect violators of the law. Many specialized units fall within this bureau, including JCaF Drug Task Force, School Resource, SWAT, Traffic, and more.



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) is comprised of investigative units whose primary responsibility is to investigate and follow-up on crimes committed against persons or property in Forsyth County. The Major Crimes Unit, Hi-Tech Crimes Unit, Property Crimes Unit, Narcotics Unit, SWAT & Crisis Negotiation Teams, and Peer Support Team all fall under the Criminal Investigations Division.

MAJOR CRIMES

The Major Crimes Unit of the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office is responsible for investigating all major crimes within Forsyth County, except for property crimes. Investigators within the Major Crimes Unit are tasked with providing follow-up investigations on cases where a major crime has been committed but no arrest has been made, as well as initiating new cases independently. Cases involving violent acts or death, sexual assault, threats, etc., are classified as major crimes.

VICTIM ADVOCATES

It has always been the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office's policy to offer assistance to victims of crimes when responding to a call. Still, often, deputies have other calls to which they must immediately respond and cannot devote the time that the victim needs. Therefore our Victim Advocates assist victims of crime through the criminal justice system. Further, we know from first-hand experience that victimization does not end with the mere filing of a report to law enforcement, so Victim Advocates offer assistance throughout the criminal process.



NARCOTICS

The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit is responsible for finding and investigating illegal narcotics use and distribution, as well as gambling, prostitution, and human trafficking within Forsyth County. This unit works hand-in-hand with the Major Crimes Unit.

These detectives are assigned county-wide and work wherever they find illegal narcotics being manufactured, distributed, possessed, stored, or used. Our narcotics unit also investigates Vice-type crimes like gambling, prostitution, and human trafficking.

PROPERTY CRIMES

Property Crime Detectives of the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office are assigned to investigate and respond to calls and crime trends that need follow-up by a trained investigator. Crimes investigated include, but are not limited to, burglaries, thefts, auto theft, entering autos, theft of trailers, and large construction equipment.

2020 PROPERTY CRIME STATS	
1415	Cases Assigned
160	Cases Cleared By Arrest
36	Ex-Cleared
148	Unfounded

CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

The Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Unit is responsible for collecting, preserving, and analyzing evidence for all criminal investigations at FCSO. Each member of the unit is specially trained in specific investigative techniques, such as processing latent prints and marijuana identification.

In 2020, the CSI Unit examined 2911 pieces of evidence, responded to 278 scenes, and took 35077 photographs of crime scenes. On 93 occasions, they were called out after hours to assist on a scene.



2020 HI-TECH CRIME STATS	
62	Cyber Tips Received
161	Cases Assigned
1	Bit Torrent Investigations
16	Tablet Analyzed
173	Cell Phones Analyzed
86	External Analyzed
88	HDD Analyzed
118	Previews
41	Search Warrants Executed
244	Criminal Arrest Warrants Executed
29	Arrests
176	Sexual Offenders Registers
185.4 TB	Total Data Imaging

HI-TECH CRIMES

The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office Hi-Tech Crimes Unit investigates, tracks, and apprehends individuals involved in and participating in cyber-related crimes; including identity theft/white-collar crime, unauthorized computer access, cyberstalking, online child enticements and exploitation, the possession, distribution, and manufacturing of child pornography, and much more.

The Hi-Tech Crimes Unit is comprised of the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), Hi-Tech Crimes, Sex Offender Registry, and Crime Scene. ICAC Detectives work to safeguard children from sexual predators by investigating crimes involving child exploitation on the internet and track those involved with child pornography. Hi-Tech Crimes Detectives investigate the many other cyber-related crimes.

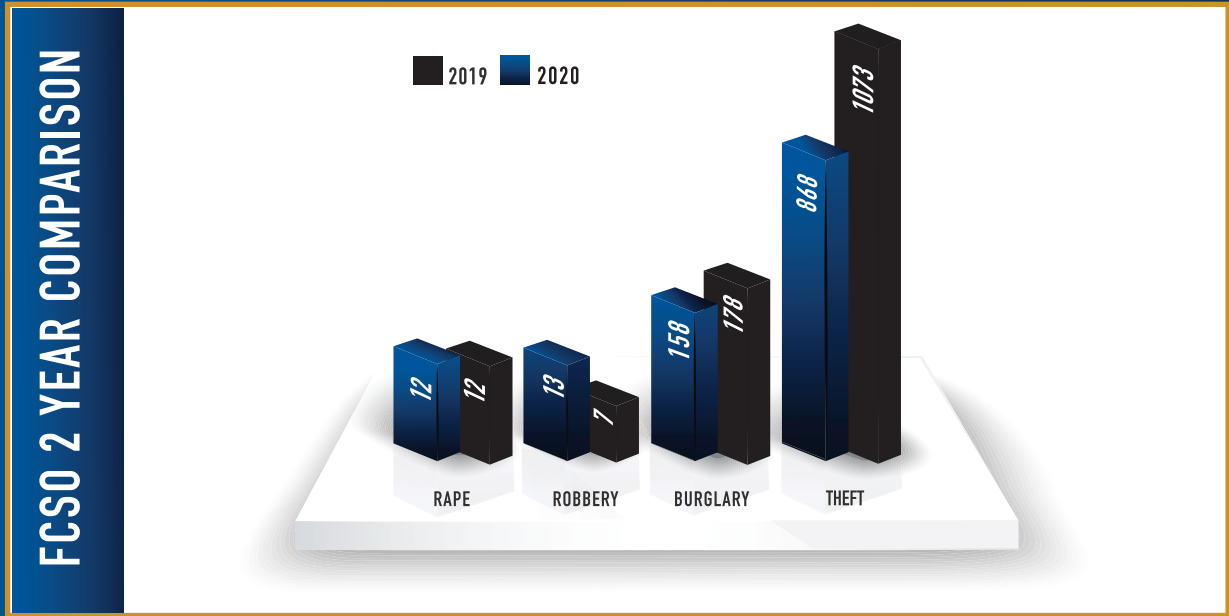
The Hi-Tech Crimes investigative teams also conduct forensic examinations of cell phones, computers, and other types of digital media seized in investigations.

White Collar Crimes fall under this unit as well. White-collar investigations include the theft of credit and debit cards used in a fraudulent manner and forgery of any kind, whether it documents, checks, or unlawful signing of a name without one's permission.

LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

2020 METRO PART 1 CRIME STATS	COUNTY	MURDER	RAPE	ROBBERY	BURGLARY	MV THEFT	THEFT
	CHEROKEE	1	30	17	132	71	862
	HALL	5	50	58	342	240	1874
	FORSYTH	0	12	13	158	85	868
	FULTON	66	102	314	909	1194	6387
	COBB	38	143	363	1275	1172	8676
	DEKALB	119	217	910	2228	2784	11770

Stats provided by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, via GBI Crime Statistics Database (UCR & NIBRS)



UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office Uniform Patrol (UPD) Division is comprised of both the North and South Patrol Precincts, the Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) Unit, and the Crime Reduction Unit (CRU). Uniform Patrol as a whole is responsible for providing uniformed Deputies to manage and respond to calls for service, crime prevention, and maintain order.

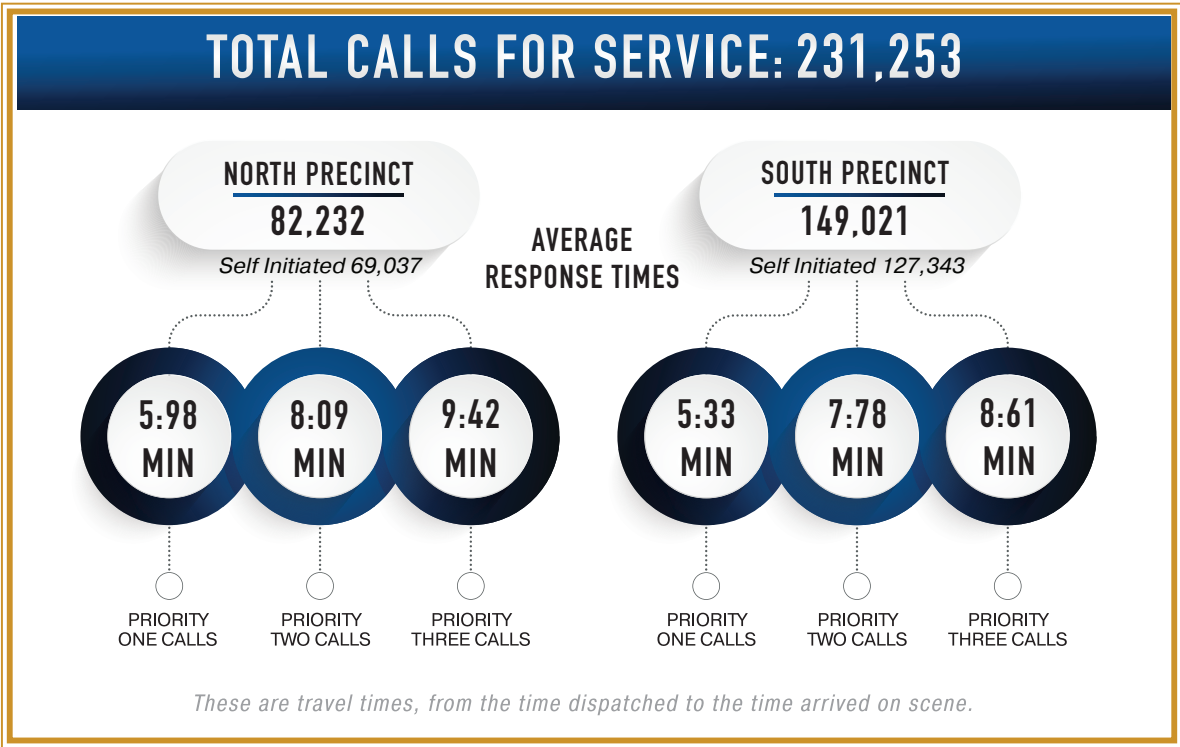


POP UNIT

The Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) Unit was developed to improve strategies that prevent and reduce crime. POP Deputies analyze crimes and problem areas within the community and search for effective solutions. Communication is critical for our POPs team, so they spend a lot of time out in the community talking with citizens and business owners in Forsyth County. The POP Unit also heads up the FCSO Business Watch program and the Neighborhood Watch program.

CRIME REDUCTION UNIT

The Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) was developed to provide intelligence-driven proactive criminal enforcement throughout Forsyth County. The CRU includes both uniformed Deputies and K9 Deputies with a variety of training and experience. The unit's primary function is to target patternable crimes, such as Burglary, Entering Auto, and Vehicle Theft. CRU is a force multiplier for Uniformed Patrol and provides a quick response for additional resources on any critical incident.



Priority 1: Respond immediately, emergency equipment, lights & sirens.
Priority 2: Respond immediately, under normal traffic conditions.
Priority 3: Respond once all priority 1 and 2 calls are handled.

LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

The K9 Unit is currently composed of six K9 Teams. These teams vary in breed, size, and trained specialties. The primary duties of the K9 Unit include, but are not limited to:

- Tracking lost or missing persons
- Tracking suspects engaged in criminal activities
- Evidence recovery
- Assisting in high-risk warrants
- Locating illicit narcotics
- Providing an extra set of highly evolved senses to alert Deputies to the presence of danger

The K9 Unit works throughout the county and has assisted other agencies when requested. Each K9 Handler is responsible for daily training with their partner and attending weekly training as a group with the K9 Unit Trainer.

In 2020, the K9 Unit successfully tracked and located ten persons, located four items of evidence, took two individuals into custody without a use of force.

2020 K9 DRUG SEIZURES

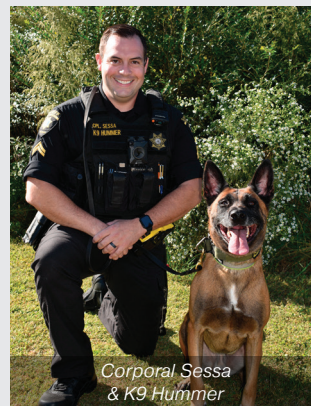
Heroin	20 grams
Cocaine	51 grams
Methamphetamine	2,123 grams
Marijuana	23,012 grams



Sergeant Sprague
& K9 Buzz



Master Deputy Banning
& K9 Xena



Corporal Sessa
& K9 Hummer



Deputy First Class Escolano
& K9 Ivo



Deputy First Class Hobbs
& K9 Bouke



Deputy First Class Challenger
& K9 Flash



We introduced our first certified comfort dog, Boo Berry, in late 2019. In 2020, Sheriff Freeman officially swore her in and presented her with a Forsyth County Sheriff's Office K9 badge.

Since joining FCSO, Boo Berry, along with her partner Detective Roe, has been working hard in fulfilling her duties. She has been there whenever needed to help both child and adult crime victims.

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

The Special Enforcement Division consists of the School Resource Officer (SRO) Unit, Volunteer Unit, Seasonal Patrols, Crisis Intervention Response Team, and the Traffic Enforcement Section.

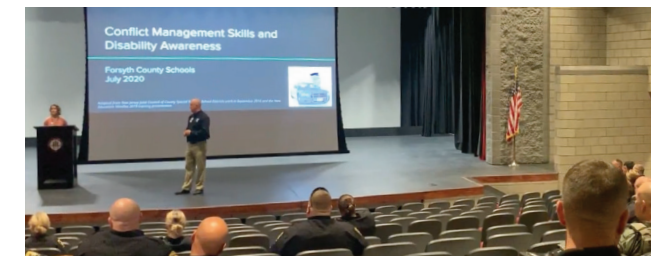
SCHOOL RESOURCE (SRO)

The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office School Resource Officer Unit falls under the Law Enforcement Bureau. It is committed to working closely with the Forsyth County Board of Education and School Safety Department to maximize the safety of our most valuable treasure, our youth. Sheriff Freeman and the Board of Education have developed a plan to staff a minimum of one SRO at each public school campus in Forsyth County. **Our School Resource Officers protect nearly 51,000 students and 8,000 school staff within 40 school campuses.** The SRO deputies provide direct services to the schools, including campus safety inspections, classroom presentations, criminal investigations, student and parent conferences, and a variety of other activities, including traditional law enforcement duties and security.



2020 SRO UNIT INCLUDES

1	Lieutenant
3	Sergeants
6	Corporals
2	K9 Deputies
31	Deputies



The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office will always be committed to securing the safety of our schools and will continue to have an enhanced presence on all campuses. A **School Safety Task Force** was established in early 2018 by Forsyth County Schools Superintendent Dr. Bearden and Forsyth County Sheriff Freeman to assess the safety and security of all Forsyth County school campuses. The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office leads the task force, which includes staff from Forsyth County Schools and representatives from both the Forsyth County Fire Department and Forsyth County Emergency Management Agency.

In a continued effort to ensure the students and staff are safe at our schools, FCSO School Resource Officers go through extensive training every year, including firearms training, de-escalation training, active shooter scenarios, and more.

LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SECTION

The Traffic Enforcement Section is responsible for keeping the roads safe and consists of the Traffic Unit, H.E.A.T. Unit and D.U.I. Task Force, the Motors Unit, the Traffic Specialist Unit, and a Traffic Response Vehicle.



MOTOR UNIT

The Motor Unit, which grew to six deputies in 2020, is tasked with aggressive traffic enforcement, targeting high traffic crash areas and complaints from citizens of traffic issues. The Motor Unit also oversees deploying “Speed Smart Trailers” and TraxxPro devices. These devices help the agency target dates and times to best focus on speed enforcement and educate the public on speeding issues. The Motor Unit is also responsible for funeral escorts and other special assignments.

H.E.A.T. UNIT

The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office is proud of its continued partnership with the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety (G.O.H.S.). In 2020, we continued our H.E.A.T. Unit program and received a grant from the Governor's Office for our enforcement and educational efforts.

The mission statement for the H.E.A.T. members is to reduce accidents, fatalities, and serious injuries through education and enforcement. The H.E.A.T. Unit members aggressively target unsafe driving behavior in the areas of D.U.I., speeding, occupant protection, and distracted driving. They also spend time on educational efforts. The H.E.A.T. members are commonly requested to teach at schools, businesses, and community events to educate the public about Traffic Safety issues.



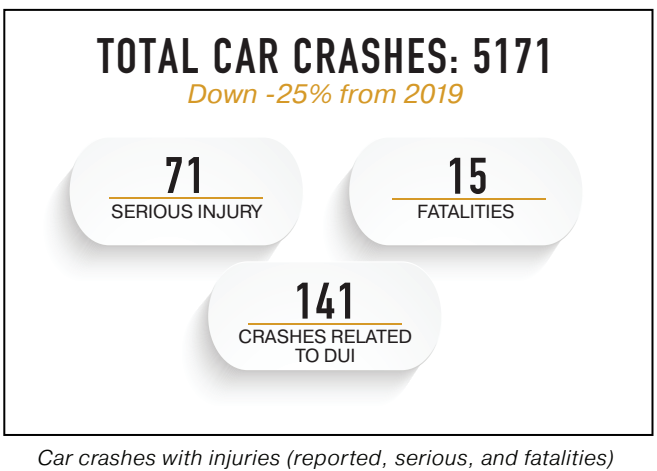
TRAFFIC RESPONSE VEHICLE

The Traffic Response Vehicle (TRV), much like the Georgia Department of Transportation's HERO truck, is designed to help residents with roadside problems. However, the FCSO Traffic Response Vehicle also enforces laws and issues citations as needed. The TRV Unit patrols high-traffic county roads and provides roadside help during busy weekday rush hours.



TRAFFIC SPECIALIST UNIT

The Traffic Specialist Unit consists of a specially trained team that investigates serious injury and fatal traffic crashes and hit and run incidents in Forsyth County. Traffic Specialist Deputies are equipped with numerous state-of-the-art pieces of equipment, including the Total Station System, which is used to map a crash or crime scene to scale, a Bosch Crash Data Retrieval System that retrieves crash data from an airbag module, and other critical investigative software and hardware. Most of this equipment was purchased using drug seizure funds at no cost to taxpayers.



CRISIS INTERVENTION RESPONSE TEAM

The Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT) is a **grant-funded special unit** created by a partnership between the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office and Avita Community Partners. The unit's primary goals are to provide a specialized response to citizens experiencing a mental health-related crisis, encourage connections between mental health consumers and local resource providers, and reduce the prevalence of mental illness in the Detention Center. The unit is funded in part by a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance's Justice and Mental Health Collaborative Program. The CIRT seeks to accomplish its goals by employing both reactive and proactive methods.

Three members currently make up our CIRT Unit led by Sgt. Terry Hawkins, a twenty-year veteran of FCSO who has had advanced training for the position through courses such as the GPSTC Crisis Intervention Team course, Mental Health First Aid, and many others. Avita provides the other two members of CIRT, a licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Certified Peer Specialist.

When FCSO receives mental health-related calls for service, Sgt Hawkins, along with a co-responder from Avita, responds to the scene with patrol deputies. CIRT will seek to de-escalate individuals experiencing a crisis and then advise on best practices to assist those persons in a way that caters to their unique situations. Some examples of CIRT activities on scenes have included: simply talking with people until emotional distress has subsided, setting up crisis plans with individuals and their families, setting up appointments with care providers, and occasionally involuntary commitment for an emergency examination.

When individuals are not in crisis but may live with a condition that puts them at risk of crisis, an Avita representative can meet with them to advise and encourage them to maintain access to needed wellness resources.

2020 CIRT STATS	
Calls Responded To	114
Persons Assessed	90
Persons Connected to Resources	100
Training Hours Taught by CIRT	29
Students Taught by CIRT	289

FORSYTH COUNTY JAIL

The Jail Bureau is comprised of the Security Division and the Operations Division. The bureau also has Grievance Deputy who reports directly to the Jail Commander and serves as a non-partial representative to handle inmates' grievances regarding jail staff, contractors, or other inmates.

SECURITY DIVISION

The Jail's Security Division consists of four Watches, each working 12-hour shifts. Each watch consists of approximately twenty-three employees, including the direct line supervision of seventeen Deputies and three Inmate Service Specialist by a Lieutenant, Sergeant, and Corporal.

The Security Division has many roles within the jail; however, the most critical is managing all inmate housing areas. There are fourteen inmate housing areas, as well as an Infirmary. The Infirmary sees and treats inmates with medical issues, mental health issues, and suicide watches. Flex Housing is utilized for discipline issues, sex offenders, and housing the administrative segregation population consisting of individuals with mental health issues, those in protective custody, or the high profile.

All arrestees in the Forsyth County jurisdiction and geographic area are brought to the detention center for intake. The arrestees may be brought in by the Sheriff's Office, City Police, Department of Natural Resource, Georgia Bureau of Investigations, Corp of Engineers, or Georgia State Patrol. The Security Division is responsible for fingerprinting, photographing, and confirming the identification of all intakes.

After an inmate is processed through booking, it is the responsibility of the deputies in this Security Division to ensure the safety, security, medical, and dietary needs of each inmate are met. Inmates are given an Inmate Handbook and are expected to comply with its content; however, it is the Security Division that ensures compliance and addresses any violations.

Briefly, other essential functions of the Security Division include, but are not limited to:

- Jail Deputy training
- Manage Inmates working the kitchen
- Inmate movement for court appearances, visitation, meetings with evaluators, etc.
- Random and scheduled contraband searches
- Nightly sweeps inside and outside the courthouse
- Inmate booking and classification
- Inmate background checks
- Inmate property custodians

The Special Response Unit (SRU) is a team within the jail's Security Division trained to handle riots, unruly inmates, mass movements of inmates from one location to another, large-scale shakedowns, and hostage situations.



4612
JAIL BOOKINGS



4642
JAIL RELEASES

2020 Totals

The Litter Detail Deputy coordinates with Forsyth County Clean and Beautiful for road clean up. The Deputy supervises four inmates who perform county roadside trash removal.

In 2020, the Jail Litter Detail collected a total of 262,700 pounds of litter in Forsyth County.

Total pounds include bags of litter and other bulk items.

OPERATIONS DIVISION

The jail's Operations Division has several areas with many responsibilities. These areas include Administrative, Communications, Resources, Litter Detail, Transportation, and Programs. The jail's Operations Division consists of ten Civilians, four Transport Deputies, two Jail Resource Deputies, one Litter Patrol Deputy, a Sergeant, two Corporals, and an Administrative Support Supervisor who are all the direct line supervision for Operations.

The essential functions of the Operations Division include, but are not limited to:

- Documentation and records
- Bonding processes and records
- Inmate court files
- Security control and communications
- Inmate transportation; on and off-site
- Inmate release
- Jail sanitation and maintenance
- Inmate laundry
- Kitchen security
- Support and supplies for facility
- Supervision of inmate workers who cut grass, pick up litter, and move equipment for the entire Sheriff's Office, Georgia State Patrol, and National Guard.



2732
BAGS OF LITTER
COLLECTED

418
ROADWAYS
WORKED

Another function of the Operations Division is the Programs Unit. This unit provides the service of book carts, a law library, and a notary for the inmates. It also coordinates several activities and beneficial programs for inmates housed in the jail. Through partnerships with a significant number of community volunteers, we are able to provide the following programs to our inmates:

- GED training and testing (through Lanier Tech)
- Continued high school education (through Forsyth County Board of Education)
- Church Ministry
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Transition Classes; including anger management, parenting skills, budgeting and managing money, listening skills, and interviewing techniques
- Celebrate Recovery

Unfortunately, these programs were canceled in March 2020 due to the COVID pandemic to safeguard both inmates and staff. The Jail Operations Bureau is eager to commence these programs again in the future when feasible.

FORSYTH COUNTY JAIL

RSAT INMATE PROGRAM

The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office Jail Bureau's Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program targets high-risk, high-needs offenders with a history of substance use as a crime-producing behavior.

In 2020, the RSAT group began a community service project cleaning the City of Cumming Cemetery, located behind the jail. The project participants are in sobriety, and this project helps guide them through emotions they have never faced before while teaching them new skills to move forward to a healthy, sober life with confidence.



Participants work hard to clear out dead trees and overgrown brush and to restore headstones. From day one, the participants have eagerly worked on the project with great pride, giving them a sense of accomplishment as they see their progress. A few of the participants have had this to say about the project:

"The cemetery project is wonderful therapy. To be doing something positive and productive is an amazing feeling. It is beneficial in helping me realize to appreciate that most things that are worth doing are not easy. Just like recovery, it is not easy, but the harder I work at it, the greater the milestones."

"Thank you for letting me help with this project; it gives me great pleasure to be able to give back to the community and restore some of the awesome histories that this county has."

"I feel this is a way for me to give back for the wrong I have done, and it is helping me find peace and forgiveness with myself. It gives me a sense of pride and a new level of standards."



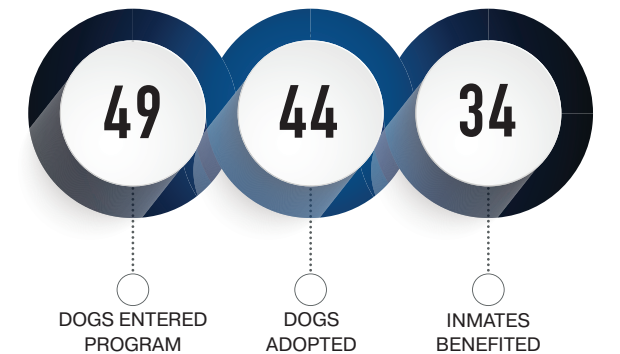
PUPS WITH PURPOSE INMATE PROGRAM

In the second half of 2019, we introduced our Pups with Purpose inmate program at the Forsyth County Jail. The Pups with Purpose inmate training program is a unique partnership between the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, dog trainer Scot Rucker, and the Forsyth County Animal Shelter. The program gives carefully selected inmates an opportunity to give back to society by providing foster care and basic obedience training to homeless, unwanted animals while enhancing the inmate's social and vocational skills, which can aid them in becoming productive Citizens after release. In addition, the program ensures the rescued dog possesses the skills to enjoy a lifelong relationship with a loving adoptive family.

In 2020, fifteen male inmates and nineteen females inmates were routed through the program. The Pups with Purpose program has seen great success thus far through both the inmates who participated and the rescued dogs who went on to new homes.



2020 PUPS WITH PURPOSE STATS



SHERIFF'S SERVICES BUREAU

The Sheriff's Services Bureau provides services to the community for which the Office of the Sheriff is constitutionally responsible and provides administrative and logistical support to the agency. The Bureau is comprised of three divisions: Judicial Operations, Training, and Headquarters, as well as the Policy and Accreditation function.

JUDICIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Judicial Operations Division is responsible for the constitutional duties of Judicial Security and Enforcement.

JUDICIAL ENFORCEMENT SECTION

The Judicial Enforcement Section consists of the Warrant Unit, the Civil Unit, and the Ordinance and Permits Unit.

The Warrant Unit is responsible for locating and apprehending fugitives from justice. Warrant deputies work closely with Forsyth County prosecutors and courts as well other local, State, and Federal Agencies. Also, a deputy from this unit is assigned to the U.S. Marshall's Services Fugitive Task Force.

The Civil Unit provides personal service of official court papers such as summonses, civil complaints, protection orders, and other documents pertaining to legal proceedings. The Civil Unit also facilitates activities like evictions, property pick-ups, and court-ordered seizures.

The Ordinance and Permits Unit enforces certain county ordinances, with an emphasis on quality of life and safety concerns. Areas of focus include the sale of alcohol, vape and non-traditional tobacco products, and spa and massage businesses. The unit also provides fingerprint and criminal history services for Forsyth County residents and businesses for various purposes such as employment, adoption, firearms licenses, and alcohol permits. The Permit Office is open to the public, generally by appointment.

2019 VS. 2020 HIGHLIGHTS		
2019	2020	
2,270	1,411	Courts in Session
281,821	116,443	Entry Through Screening
N/A	141	Process & Release*
873	599	Warrants Served
9,212	6,945	Civil Papers Served
309	256	Protective Orders Served
709	739	Ordinance Compliance Checks
3,002	4,985	Fingerprints
8,060	9,636	Criminal Histories
N/A	1,850	Security Hours Other Than Court*

* New category.

** The COVID pandemic reduced many court activities.

JUDICIAL SECURITY SECTION

The Judicial Security Section is responsible for the safety of staff and visitors at the County's four Court buildings, the Administration Building, the Tax Commissioner's two offices, and other county facilities as needed. Judicial Security also monitors program compliance of Accountability Courts participants. Deputies assigned to this Section are trained in Courtroom Security, access control, inmate movement, and emergency response, using a variety of tools and technologies.



TRAINING DIVISION

The Training Division is dedicated to ensuring that Forsyth County deputies are knowledgeable, skilled, and well-prepared to meet the high expectations of the Sheriff and the community. Experienced instructors provide constant on-going training in tactics, firearms, driving, de-escalation/negotiation, respond to mass-casualty incidents, emergency medicine, and more.

The unusual circumstances in 2020 required creative approaches to training, and the Training Division met the challenge in exemplary fashion. Classroom instruction was largely moved to virtual environments. Tactical training was accomplished with appropriate distancing, using radios and other tools for effective communication.



POLICY & ACCREDITATION SECTION

The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office was awarded Advanced Accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) in May of 2019. Advanced accreditation is awarded to elite organizations that strive to demonstrate professional excellence within a comprehensive range of operational and administrative functional responsibilities.

An annual self-assessment is required to maintain CALEA Advanced Accreditation. Self-assessment encompasses a detailed review of policies, practices, and procedures to confirm continued compliance with existing and newly enacted CALEA standards. Self-assessment also includes gathering documented proofs of compliance with each individual CALEA standard. The systematic review of each standard and related policy provides an excellent opportunity to recognize and initiate necessary adjustments.

In addition to employee training and development, the Training Division is responsible for reviewing all incidents involving vehicle pursuits or use of force. It does this to monitor compliance with legal and best practice standards and gather practical feedback on doctrine, policy, and training effectiveness.

27
Classes Hosted
(Most classes from April- Aug canceled due to COVID)

43,176 Hours
Of Post-Certified Training Completed
(Peace Officer Standards & Training)

535 Hours
Of De-escalation Training

845 Hours
Of Community Policing Training

98%
Of FCSO Patrol Deputies PIT-Certified,
Plus More Than 95 Officers From Other Agencies
(Pursuit Intervention Technique)

The Sheriff's office also maintains State Law Enforcement Certification by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP). State Certification also requires an annual self-assessment to confirm continued compliance with State Certification Standards and new state laws as enacted.

An initiative was commenced in 2020 to achieve accreditation from the National Institute of Jail Operations (NIJO) for the Forsyth County Jail. NIJO accreditation comprises approximately 600 standards that guide agencies in establishing and maintaining policies and procedures compliant with established legal standards. An on-site assessment by a NIJO Assessment Team is planned in 2021.

While the year 2020 brought about many challenges, Forsyth County Sheriff's Office personnel utilized the guidance and resources offered by Accreditation and Certification processes to meet those challenges and advance toward established goals.

SHERIFF'S SERVICES BUREAU

SUPPORT SERVICES SECTION

FLEET UNIT

The Fleet Unit ensures that the agency's 360+ vehicles are maintained to emergency vehicles' stringent standards. Specific responsibilities include forecasting vehicle needs, developing appropriate recommendations, and working with manufacturers, dealers, county Fleet, local service firms, and other partners to ensure safe, reliable, and cost-effective operations.

SUPPLY UNIT

The Supply Unit is responsible for meeting the agency's uniform and equipment needs, including issuing duty gear, body armor, and uniforms for deputies, and certain civilian employees, and other personal equipment except for weapons. Supply also issues and maintains equipment for vehicles such as fire extinguishers, AED's, and tire deflation devices. As with the Fleet Unit, Supply personnel works with manufacturers and dealers to evaluate and recommend reliable, cost-effective gear.

RECORDS UNIT

The Records Unit is the official repository of incident reports, crash reports, citations, inmate records, and other Sheriff's Office activity documentation. The Unit is responsible for preserving and producing such records in compliance with applicable laws governing record retention and release.

In 2020, the Records Unit provided 1505 reports through its walk-up window and processed 4691 report attachments, 5029 report supplementals, 2686 requests by e-mail and/or NeXT Request, most of which were report request related.

GCIC UNIT

The GCIC (Georgia Crime Information Center) Unit is responsible for the entry, maintenance, retrieval, and control of all information that falls within the Georgia Crime Information Center's scope. Such information includes active arrest warrants, stolen item files, missing persons, and other law enforcement-sensitive records. The Unit is also responsible for institutional and individual compliance with GCIC rules and State Law.

In 2020, the GCIC Unit processed 38,330 GCIC queries and made 12,534 GCIC entries.



EVIDENCE & PROPERTY UNIT

The Evidence & Property Unit maintains custody of all evidentiary material and property that has been confiscated under a court order or turned over to the Sheriff's Office for safekeeping. The Unit stores and maintains detailed and accurate records of tens of thousands of items, most of which are subject to court orders for production, retention, and ultimately destruction or disposal.

In 2020, the Evidence and Property Unit logged 5,950 items of property & evidence, returned 442 items of personal property, and destroyed 3,993 items no longer needed; including 800 pounds of drugs held as property or evidence and 298 pounds of drugs turned in through the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Initiative program.

BUSINESS SERVICES SECTION

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UNIT

SOIT is responsible for evaluating, acquiring, supporting, and securing a wide range of technology platforms that are integral to agency operations. These include hardware such as cell phones, laptops, in-car, and body-worn cameras, and vehicle communications equipment, as well as applications such as mobile CAD, records management and reporting, and myriad specialized products.

In 2020, SOIT configured on board electronics for more than 50 new vehicles and deployed and supported laptops and cellphones for administrative staff working remotely due to the COVID pandemic.

FINANCE UNIT

The Finance Unit is responsible for budgeting, financial analysis and reporting, purchasing and contract administration, inventory control, grant coordination and compliance, banking, accounting, and payroll for the Sheriff's Office's 492 employees.

2020 FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

For fiscal year 2019, FCSO's actual expenditures were \$45.5M versus a revised budget of \$46.8M, the Sheriff's Office ended 2019 approximately \$1.3K under revised budget.

For fiscal year 2020, FCSO's actual expenditures were \$50.4M versus a revised budget of \$51.3M, the Sheriff's Office ended 2020 approximately \$0.9M under revised budget.

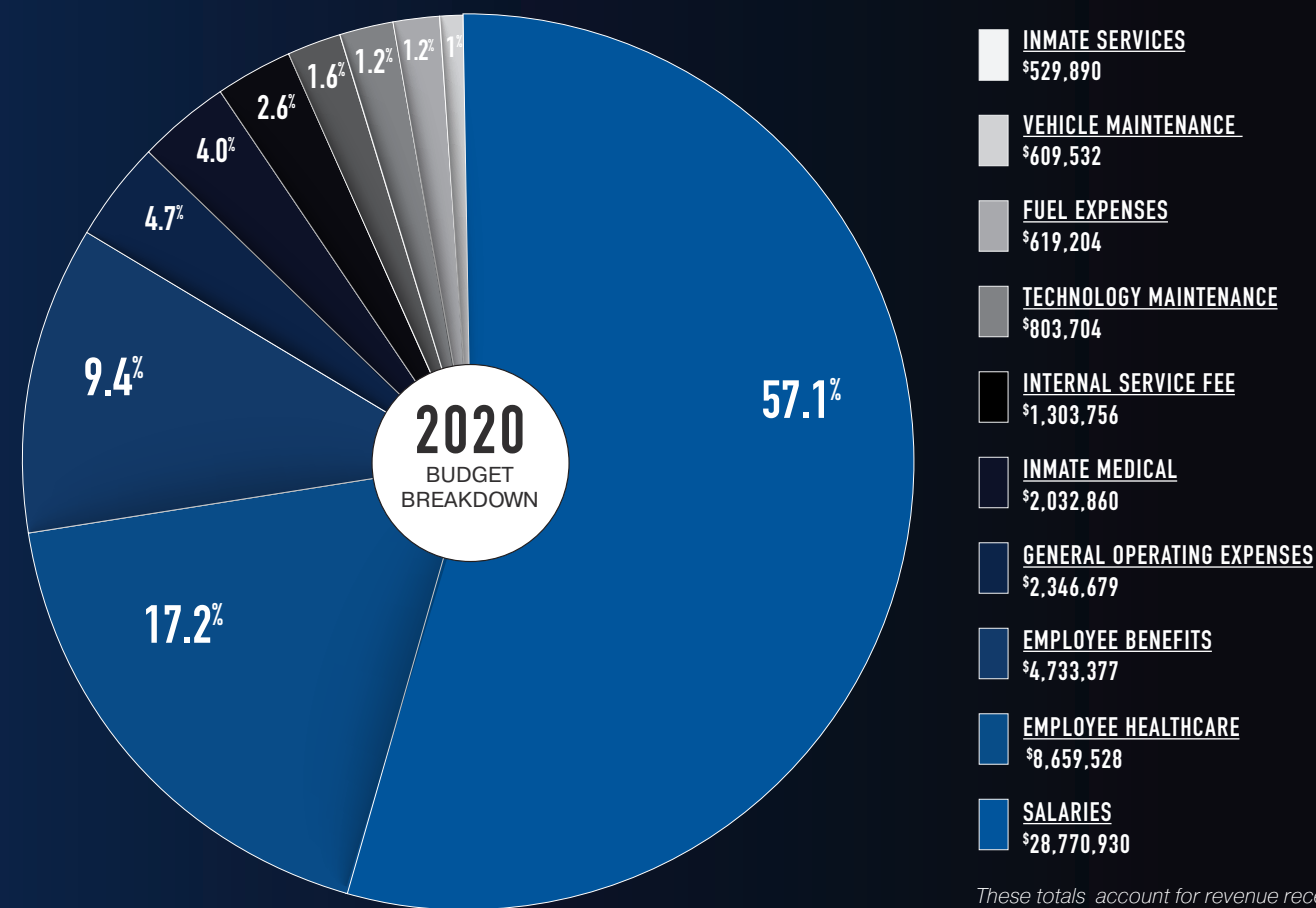
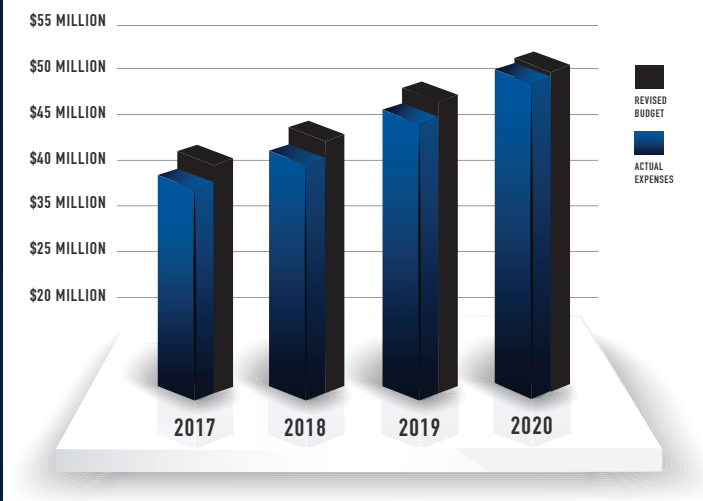
SAVED
\$900,000

Equivalent to the average property taxes for 455 Forsyth County home owners.

50 HOME OWNERS=



BUDGET TO ACTUAL EXPENSES



These totals account for revenue received.

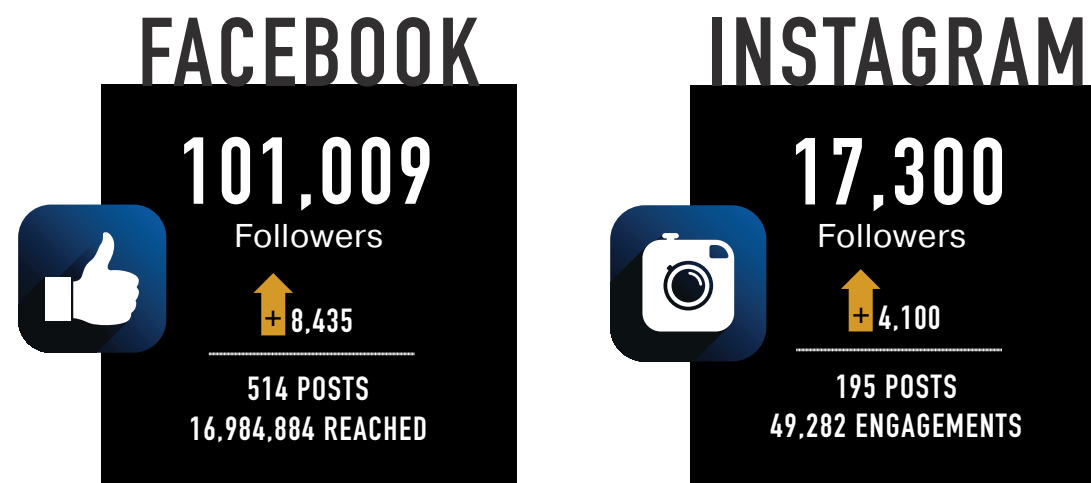
COMMUNICATIONS



It's a critical part of the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office mission to communicate with residents and business owners of Forsyth County effectively. The primary responsibility of this falls on the Communications Division. It includes maintaining the brand of the agency, media releases, website, social media pages, as well as all community-related events, programs, and classes.

Social Media continues to be a predominant platform for FCSO to connect with Forsyth County citizens, allowing us to build better relationships with our community through stories and engagement. FCSO currently utilizes Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube to get valuable information out to the public quickly and to get feedback from our citizens. We encourage the citizens of Forsyth County to follow the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office on our Social Media pages to stay informed and better stay connected with us.

2020 SOCIAL MEDIA RESULTS



Facebook Reach: The sum of unique users who had FCSO's post enter their screen.
Instagram Engagement: The sum of likes and comments received on FCSO Instagram Posts.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS



The Community Relations Unit is a vital component of the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, as they promote safety and education to Forsyth County citizens and businesses. They are responsible for coordinating and delivering special classes and programs to better the relationship between the community and the Sheriff's Office.

Along with the Community Relations Unit's many classes and programs, they also partner with other organizations throughout the year and attend many community events. Although many planned events and classes were canceled in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic, the Community Relations team was still able to conduct or attend 229 public relations events. They participated in Safety Fairs, Career days, Touch a Trucks, 5Ks runs, Halloween Trunk or Treats, the Cumming Christmas Parade, and one of our most significant events in 2020 was the first National Faith in Blue event.

Because of the unusual circumstances in 2020, the Community Relations Unit quickly adapted to new ways of engaging Forsyth citizens. Like many others, they utilized virtual meetings and gatherings, including Coffee with a Cop hosted by the Forsyth County Senior Center. The team also assisted The Place of Forsyth on many occasions throughout the year, doing whatever was necessary to serve Forsyth citizens, including delivering meals and necessities to those unable to leave their residences, helping to stock the food bank, and assisting in their drive-through pantry. The Community Relations Unit also assisted with the Holiday House program, which served over 2400 families.

It is also the responsibility of the unit to enter traffic complaints, security checks, and vacation checks submitted by citizens. In 2020 they completed 993 entries, with 377 of those being vacation checks.

The FCSO Community Relations Unit provides many programs and classes to Forsyth County citizens. Some of the most popular programs and classes include:

PROGRAMS

SALT (Seniors and Lawmen Together)

Open to all Forsyth County Senior Citizens and held monthly. Each month features different speakers and different topics pertaining to senior safety.

CLEA (Citizens Law Enforcement Academy)

The program closely follows the actual hands-on training that deputies undergo. Topics include constitutional law, conducting traffic stops, judgmental use of force, K9 and S.W.A.T. demonstrations, ride-along with deputies, and much more.

TIP (Teen Interception program)

TIP has the sole purpose of saving teen lives by redirecting them to make better choices and live successful lives. This seven-week program includes several vital speakers and trips to a funeral home, the Forsyth County Jail, and a homeless compound in Atlanta.

STOPPED (Sheriff's Telling Our Parents Promoting Educated Drivers)

If, for any reason a vehicle is stopped by a deputy while being driven by a teen, a notification letter is sent to the registered owner of the vehicle. *1043 notifications were sent out in 2020.*

CLASSES

Women's Self Defense

Designed to teach women situational awareness.

CRASE (Citizens Response to Active Shooter Event)

Intended to teach what to do/not do in the case of an active shooter. The skills taught are to Avoid, Deny and Defend-STAY ALIVE and Survive!

Stranger Danger

Educates and empowers children ages 4-11 with knowledge and skills that will help them be safer from various crimes against children.



Forsyth County Sheriff's Office is the 3rd Largest Full Service Sheriff's Office in Georgia.

BACKGROUNDS & RECRUITMENT UNIT

The Backgrounds and Recruitment Unit is responsible for promoting careers with the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office in locations such as colleges, technical schools, military posts, and other events. The unit also processes all applications, conducts applicant background checks, coordinates pre-employment testing and interviewing, and ultimately makes hiring recommendations to the Sheriff. FCSO has many career opportunities for jailers, certified law enforcement officers, and civilians.

2020 ROSTER TOTALS

53

Sworn Jailers

308

Mandated Deputies

90

Civilians



451 TOTAL EMPLOYEES

HIRING PROCESS

- Written exam
- Physical agility test
- Preliminary interview
- Background check
- Polygraph test
- Psychological evaluation
- Drug screen
- Medical exam

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS

- High School Diploma or G.E.D.
- United States citizen
- 18 years of age or older
- Valid driver's license
- No felony convictions

BENEFITS AVAILABLE

- Competitive salary
- Comprehensive medical, dental, & vision plans
- Paid vacation, sick leave, & holidays
- 401K provided & matched based on tenure
- Uniforms & equipment provided
- Vehicle program
- Tuition reimbursement
- Peace Officers Annuity & Benefit (POAB) dues paid

GUARDIAN TRACKING

The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office began utilizing Guardian Alliance Technologies, Inc. to provide applicants with one online place to complete their Personal History Questionnaire, upload required documents, and provide reference information. This new system also helps the Background Unit to conduct the investigation, log the results, and communicate with employer and social references in one location.

TESTING

In 2020, Detective Joe Amnicki completed the arduous polygraph school and now conducts on-site polygraphs for the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, which helps move the Background process along faster and more efficiently.



The Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (P.O.S.T.) recently updated the Physical Agility Testing (P.A.T.) requirements. The P.A.T. Course description:

- The course measures a total of 870 feet (290 yards/265.2 meters) (half-court basketball court)
- There is a time limit of two minutes six seconds. Time starts on candidates movement from the starting line and ends when they pass the finish line
- The course consists of a series of nine interspersed individual tasks, arranged in a continuous format that may be viewed as being essential (physical) job tasks for law enforcement training:
 1. Running
 2. Jumping (low hurdle)
 3. Climbing stairs
 4. Low crawling
 5. Jumping (broad-type)
 6. Climbing a fence (chain-link/four feet)
 7. Climbing through a window
 8. Moving/dragging a weight (150 lbs.)
 9. Changing direction on the run

OPEN RECORDS

The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office adheres to the Georgia Open Records Act, which states all public records are available for inspection and copying unless they are specifically exempted from disclosure under the law. The Open Records Unit responds to all public records requests from citizens, inmates, law firms, and other private entities. Public records provided by the Open Records Unit vary greatly from initial incident reports, to body camera videos, to complete investigative files. Requested documents and files are only released in accordance with Georgia law or court orders. Public records requests can be submitted on our website or via mail/email.

In 2020, the Open Records Unit and the Records Unit began utilizing a new tracking software called NextRequest. This new system has allowed Open Records to track, communicate, and fulfill Open Records Requests electronically while carefully protecting each citizen's information.

2020 BACKGROUND & RECRUITING STATS

Applications completed	131
Hired: Sworn*	43
Hired: Civilian	9

Including POST Certified and Jailers

2020 OPEN RECORDS STATS

Online Portal Requests	1078
Mail & Email Requests	684
Requests by Other Agencies	457
Inmate Record Requests	467

If you, or someone you know, are interested in a career with the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office visit www.forsythsheriffcareers.com






FORSYTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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