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.

### FCSO K9 Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>K9 Handler</th>
<th>K9 Name</th>
<th>Breed Details</th>
<th>Specializations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SGT Noah Sprague</td>
<td>K9 Buzz</td>
<td>6-year-old Chocolate Lab</td>
<td>Tracking, Narcotics Detection, Article/Evidence Recovery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFC Enrique Escalante</td>
<td>K9 Ivo</td>
<td>7-year-old Belgian Malinois/ German Shepherd/ Dutch Shepherd hybrid</td>
<td>Full Service Patrol Dog, Narcotics Detection, Tracking/Trailing, Article Searches, Handler Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFC Michael Hobbs</td>
<td>K9 Bouke</td>
<td>7-year-old Belgian Malinois</td>
<td>Full Service Patrol Dog, Narcotics Detection, Tracking, Article Searches, Handler Protection, Apprehension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFC Steven Challenger</td>
<td>K9 Flash</td>
<td>2-year-old Bloodhound</td>
<td>Tracking, Trailing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFC Chris Hobbs</td>
<td>K9 Calvin</td>
<td>2-year-old Golden Retriever</td>
<td>Drug Detection, Tracking, Article/Evidence Recovery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Sheriff II Robert Avedisian</td>
<td>K9 Kimber</td>
<td>Labrador Retriever, born October 20, 2020</td>
<td>Explosive Ordnance Disposal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Welcome to the Team

2021 K9 Unit Stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Seized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methamphetamine</td>
<td>532 g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>952.7 g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana</td>
<td>8.2 g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>1.1 g</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Foot Patrols by SRO K9s: 19
- PR K9 Demonstrations: 30
- School Searches by SRO K9s: 55
- K9 Track Leading to Subject being Located: 8
- Vehicle Sniffs: 76
- Total Number of Calls/Events that FCSO K9 was utilized: 219

K9 team photos courtesy of Amy Jo Photography (amyjophotography.com). We are so grateful for the donation of her time and talents!
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 to set an example of professionalism in our service to others.
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 work tirelessly to be positive role models in our community. Our words and actions demonstrate the willingness to venture into danger and difficulty when our duties call for it.

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.

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.

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 confidence, will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty. I will never act officiously or permit unnecessary delay, but always strive to deal justly and impartially with all persons. I will maintain a high standard of conduct and will be exemplary in the discharge of my duties.

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It is my pleasure to introduce our 2021 Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office Annual Report. Your Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office remains the 3rd largest full-service Sheriff’s Office in Georgia. While we are the 8th largest county population in Georgia, FCSO provides all primary law enforcement services to an area containing over 260,000 residents outside of the city of Cumming, which has only approximately 6,000 residents. Our community partnerships and trust with our citizens are paramount to the continued success of the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office. Our nearly 500 employees strive daily to meet the “Forsyth County Way, Service before Self” motto. Those words mean to us that:

- Integrity Counts
- We treat people fairly and consistently
- We approach crime proactively
- We are innovative in our service delivery
- We are here to serve our community
- We approach crime proactively
- We are innovative in our service delivery

My approach to crime remains relentless. Criminals intent on victimizing our citizens, especially our seniors and residents who are often by themselves, are learning Forsyth is not a place to be for them. While Forsyth County remains the safest metropolitan Atlanta County, our FCSO is constantly looking for new trends and stands ready to react to any threat to Forsyth.

We will spare no effort or expense to bring serious criminals to account. Our judicial system gratefully does a great job in holding those found accountable and, we are not, nor will we become a “Catch and Release” criminal justice system. In 2021 testifies both before the Georgia Senate and House of Representatives about opioid crime from the Metro-Atlanta area. Nearly 50% of significant crime in Forsyth County is committed by offenders from that region. Far too often, we face serious repeat offenders and career criminals who opines Forsyth is a place to hide for them. Our Pups with Purpose Program has expanded in the jail to train shelter dogs to become Therapy Canines for various locations. Our therapy pups are at the Cobb County District Attorney’s Office to work with child crime victims, the Forsyth County Senior Center, Northeast Georgia Hospital, Central High School, East High School, Forsyth 911 Center, and Forsyth County School Safety. These pups are changing lives and giving inmates a new chance at sobriety. Look for me and my Pups with Purpose pup, Marley, at an event near you soon.

2021 brought new and continued challenges to our Forsyth County. The Covid-19 pandemic remained driving force in our Nation and community. I am incredibly proud of the partnerships FCSO, Forsyth County Government, our Federal, State, and local partners. Our public safety, our school system, and Northside Hospital established. We set the standard in the state to run effective and timely vaccination and testing sites across the county. Among other expanding programs, our Inmate Litter Detail picked up over 158,000 lbs of trash and debris from our county roadways at no cost to our citizens. Our FCSO has been under budget every year since 2017.

Ron H. Freeman
Sheriff, Forsyth County

Sheriff Ron H. Freeman
elected to office in 2016, Sheriff Freeman has been a resident of Forsyth County for over 42 years. Sheriff Freeman has been in law enforcement for over 32 years and began his career with 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’s Academy, FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar, Tennessee Sheriff Executive Enforcement 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.

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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 involved in 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 Nick Curry began his law enforcement career at the City of Alpharetta in 1999, where he served in Uniform Patrol, the K9 Unit, and as a SWAT team leader. In 2008, he was one of the 11 inaugural officers that helped start the newly formed Johns Creek Police Department. In 2019, he joined FCSO, serving as the Sheriff Services Captain and the Criminal Investigations Division Commander before being promoted to Major in 2021. Major Curry holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from the UNG and a Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Columbus State. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy class 279 and a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

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 President of the Georgia Jail Association.

Major Nick Curry
Jail Services Bureau

Major Cash
Jail Bureau

Major Mark Hoffman
Law Enforcement Bureau

Major Hoffmann 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 various leadership roles throughout the agency. In 1997 Major Hoffman joined FCSO, where he started the current SWAT Team and has been involved in 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 Nick Curry
Sheriff Services Bureau

Major Cash
Jail Bureau

Major Mark Hoffman
Law Enforcement Bureau

Chief Deputy Joe Perkins

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 1st 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

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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 1st 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.
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
• Orphans / Permits Unit
• Blue Coats

Training Division
Recruitment & Backgrounds

Uniform Patrol Division
• North Precinct
• South Precinct
• Crime Reduction Unit
• K-9 Unit
• Problem Oriented Policing Unit
• Drone Team
• CTDC 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
• Criminal Intelligence
• 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
• Warrant Unit

Public Information
Community Relations

Internal Affairs
Open Records

Operations Division
• Control Operations Unit
• Transport Unit
• Control Communications Unit
• Court Coordination
• Jail Resource Unit
• RSAT
• Letter Detail
• Inventory

Security Division
• Watches (A,B,C,D)
• Inmate Services Unit
• Jail Training Program
• Honor Guard

Law Enforcement Bureau

Communications Division

Jail Bureau

Security Division

Headquarters Division

Training Division

Judicial Operations Division

Operations Division

Security Division

Uniform Patrol Division

Special Enforcement Division

Criminal Investigations Division

Operational Standards

Chief Deputy

SHERIFF RON H. FREEMAN

CHIEF DEPUTY
JOE PERKINS

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

JAIL BUREAU

LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

SHERIFF’S SERVICES BUREAU

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

PUBLIC INFORMATION

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

OPEN RECORDS

OPERATIONS DIVISION

SECURITY DIVISION

UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

OUR ORGANIZATION

CITIZENS OF FORSYTH COUNTY
**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
- Marine Patrol Edgewater Boat (x2)
- SWAT Ford Excursion Armored Vehicle
- Kawasaki Mule (Side X Side ATV)
- 700 Jr. Mobile Command Vehicle
- Crisis Negotiations Team Truck (CNT)
- Command Tactical Ops. Center (CTOC)
- SWAT Command Truck
- SWAT Bearcat
- Polaris ATV (4-wheeler)
- Bike Patrol
- MRAP Vehicle
- Prisoner Transport Van
- High-Water Truck

**CSI & QUARTERMASTER**

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**OUR FLEET**

- Chevy Caprice
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- Dodge Charger
- Dodge Durango
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**FCSO FACILITIES**
We are proud to present the 2021 Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office annual awards recipients. Each of these individuals was recognized for their exemplary service and contributions to the agency.

COMMENDATION BAR
Deputy Sheriff Robert Bradford
Master Deputy Robert Taormina
Deputy First Class Ben Norton
Deputy First Class Joshua Thomas
Corporal Billy O’Haire
Deputy First Corporal Johnson
The FCSO Honor Guard Unit

MEDAL OF MERIT
Deputy Sheriff Dustin Mallory

LIFE SAVING AWARD
Detective Tim Conner (x2)
Deputy Sheriff Steven Witcher
Sergeant Martin White
Corporal Shawn Hollis
Deputy First Class Brandon Keenan

JAIL BUREAU
DEPUTY OF THE YEAR
Deputy Trevor Beck

SHERIFF’S SERVICES BUREAU
CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR
Anna Krause
CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR
Dabney Brand

LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU
DEPUTY OF THE YEAR
DFC Stan Nell

SHERIFF’S SERVICES BUREAU
CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR
Anna Krause
CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR
Dabney Brand

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT AWARDS
SCOT RUCKER
Rucker Dog Training
DR. SCOTT PENNINGTON
Peachtree Orthopedics

LEADERSHIP AWARD
Captain Allan Frampton

DEPUTY OF THE YEAR
Sergeant Mike Nelson

CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR
Anna Krause
CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR
Dabney Brand

AWARDS & HONORS

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 Of the year
DFC Austin Mathews
Sgt. Brandon Wiley

MADD RED PIN 100+ DUIs
DFC Austin Mathews

MADD Silver PIN 50+ DUIs
DS De’Andre Loucks
DS William Raper
DS Johnny Burnette

MADD Bronze Pin 25+ DUIs
Sgt. Kevin Pittman
Sgt. Chambers

For the fourth year in a row, Detective Paige Simpson was presented a Tavern Plate Award by the U.S. Secret Service’s Electronic Crimes Task Force for her accomplishments at a National Computer Forensic Institute (NCFI) Forensic Partner. Det. Simpson ranked #28 (out of nearly 2500 representatives) in the entire United States. During the year, Det. Simpson completed 665 total digital forensic exams with a total volume of 132.36 TB of data.

Deputy First Class De’Andre Loucks was awarded Deputy of the Year by the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety - Northeast Traffic Enforcement Network (NETEN)! Deputy Loucks is currently assigned to our H.E.A.T. Unit and does an outstanding job in traffic enforcement.

During the 22nd Georgia Governor’s Office of Highway Safety (GHOST) Challenge Awards, FCSO Traffic Unit was awarded 1st place in category 7 (agency with 201-500 officers) for strong efforts in Impaired Driving, Speed Enforcement, and Seatbelt/Child Restraint. FCSO also took 1st place for the regional award (category 7). Our H.E.A.T. Unit placed 3rd overall.

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Corporal Deborah Forrest was presented the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal by the Sons of the American Revolution for her distinct, devoted, and exceptional service in law enforcement.

DFC Cheek was recognized for his outstanding service at Chattahoochee Elementary School.
2021 EVENTS

The Honor Guard serves as the ceremonial unit for the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office and represents the agency’s high standards and professionalism. In 2021, the FCSO Honor Guard participated in 34 events; 14 were law enforcement officers’ funerals. Each team member was recognized for their hard work and dedication throughout the year with a Commendation Bar.

In November of 2021, Sheriff Freeman announced that the FCSO Pups with Purpose program was extended to include Canine Good Citizen training, aiming to provide therapy dogs to other agencies, businesses, non-profits, and citizens. Therapy dog training has been a goal for the program since its inception in 2019.

In April, Sheriff Freeman, along with detectives from our Major Crimes Unit, held a news conference in regards to the discovery of an inmate housed in the Forsyth County Jail plotting to have the victim in his case murdered with the help of four others, one also an inmate in the jail and three outside.

FCSO welcomed two new K9s in 2021. Bloodhound K9 Flash was brought on to assist, along side his partner DFC Challinger, in finding missing or wanted persons. Golden Retriever K9 Calvin joined his partner DFC Hobbs in helping to keep our schools safe.

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Sheriff Freeman, Chief Perkins, and other members of FCSO had an opportunity to visit with and provide training to members of Ukraine Law Enforcement who spent several hours at FCSO learning about United States laws and practices concerning Jail and Court security.

Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office community Safety Day took place in late 2021. Members from units throughout the agency were on hand to talk about all things safety, including Motorcycle safety, car seat safety, bike safety, traffic safety, and much more.

FCSO participated in the University of North Georgia’s annual Criminal Justice Career Showcase in Dahlonega. Member of FCSO were able to speak to many potential recruits, and answer their questions about a career at FCSO.

FCSO joined community members for a weekend of resolution and reconciliation during the second annual Faith & Blue Weekend, a collaborative effort to build bridges and tear biases. Graciously hosted by New Life Church, we enjoyed a day of music, food, games, and fellowship.

In the 25th Annual Cops & Kids sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police (Sgt. D.P. Land—Forsyth Lodge 82) was a great success. The event helped to provide holiday gifts to more than 75 children.

FCSO welcomed two new K9s in 2021. Bloodhound K9 Flash was brought on to assist, along side his partner DFC Challinger, in finding missing or wanted persons. Golden Retriever K9 Calvin joined his partner DFC Hobbs in helping to keep our schools safe.

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In April, Sheriff Freeman, along with detectives from our Major Crimes Unit, held a news conference in regards to the discovery of an inmate housed in the Forsyth County Jail plotting to have the victim in his case murdered with the help of four others, one also an inmate in the jail and three outside.

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It’s a critical part of the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office’s mission to effectively communicate with Forsyth County residents and businesses, journalists, and other stakeholders. Primary responsibility for this task falls to the Communications Division. The Communications Division is led by the Director of Communications and includes the Public Information (PIO) Unit and Community Relations Unit.

Responsibilities of the Communications Division include maintaining the agency’s brand, marketing materials, media releases, social media pages, website, and 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 shared on social media. 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 platforms.

Social Media Results for 2021:

- Facebook: 113,814 followers, 374 posts, 6,073,527 reached
- Instagram: 18,343 followers, 14,043 posts, 61,448 reached

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 continued to be suspended through 2021 due to the pandemic, the Community Relations team was still able to conduct or attend nearly 300 public relations events. They attended or participated in career days, truck events, police & fire games, National Faith and Blue Weekend, four Halloween Trunk or Treats, the Cumming Christmas Parade, and more. They also organized FCSO events including Chillin’ with the Cops and the Safety and Social Day.

Because of the unusual circumstances over the past two years, the Community Relations Unit quickly adapted to new ways of engaging Forsyth County citizens. Like many others, they utilized virtual meetings and gatherings, including Coffee with a Cop hosted by the Forsyth County Senior Center, the Sheriff’s Telling Our Parents Promoting Educated Drivers (STOP) program, and SALT (Seniors and Lawmen Together) classes and programs to better the relationship between the community and the Sheriff’s Office.

TIP (Teen Intervention program)

The 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 Stopping Our | Events (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.

Reaching: The sum of users who had FCSO’s post enter their screen.

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

- 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, and S.W.A.T. Demonstrations, ride-along with deputies, and much more.

- TIP (Teen Intervention program)
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- 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.

Social Media Pages to stay informed and better stay connected with us.
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

MAJOR CRIMES UNIT

The Major Crimes Unit (MCU) of the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office will investigate homicides, other death investigations, (excluding traffic fatalities), assault, terrorist threats and stalking, domestic violence, elder abuse, robbery, kidnapping, missing persons, runaway juveniles, rape and other sex offenses to include offenses against children. Major Crimes is also responsible for Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), that investigate crimes involving child exploitation on the internet and to safe guard children from sexual predators. The Sex Offender Registry is responsible for registering and maintaining locations of sex offenders in the county. The Computer Forensic Lab investigates, tracks, and apprehends individuals involved in cyber related crimes.

PROPERTY CRIMES

The Property Crimes Unit of the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office will investigate crimes including but not limited to: Burglary; Larceny; Criminal Trespass and Criminal Damage to Property, Auto Theft, Forgery, Financial Transaction Card Theft/Fraud, Identity Fraud, and Embezzlement. The unit is also responsible for registering for Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), that investigate crimes involving child exploitation on the internet and to safe guard children from sexual predators. The Sex Offender Registry is responsible for registering and maintaining locations of sex offenders in the county. The Computer Forensic Lab investigates, tracks, and apprehends individuals involved in cyber related crimes.

WARRANT UNIT

The Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office Warrant Unit is responsible for investigating and apprehending individuals with active warrants. The Warrant Unit maintains a warrant and wanted persons’ file and enters wanted persons into the in-house computer systems. The unit investigates, locates and arrests wanted persons for offenses and charges stemming from this and other law enforcement and other judicial agencies in this and other states.

In 2021, the Warrant Unit received 4,651 warrants and served 4,144 warrants.

CRIME SCENE UNIT

The Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office Crime Scene Unit will be contacted to evaluate, photograph / video and process the crime scene for physical evidence on the following incidents (This list does not limit requesting Crime Scene Investigations or Evidence Technicians on other offenses where evidence requires processing): Homicide, Suicide, Rape, Robbery, Felonious Assaults/Battery, Burglary, Arson.

In 2021, our Crime Scene Unit responded to 296 scenes and examined 3,329 pieces of evidence.

VICTIM ADVOCATES

The Victim Advocate Unit functions as a support unit of the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office to assist patrol officers and victims of crimes and their families. Victim Advocates are available to assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assaults, and other matters where they can provide help or referral prior to any prosecution or court intervention. Victim Advocates offer assistance throughout the criminal process and assist victims with Temporary Protective Orders (TPO).

In 2021, our Victim Advocates made contact with 557 victims, conducted 17 Forensic Interviews, Assisted with 118 TPOs, and had 598 Follow Ups.

NARCOTICS

The Johns Creek and Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office Narcotics Taskforce is responsible for the investigation of illegal narcotic and controlled substances trafficking and abuse; gathering intelligence and prosecuting illegal narcotic activity of an organized nature. Additionally, the unit will conduct follow-up investigation and often preliminary investigation of, prostitution, gambling, corruption cases, and organized crime.

CRIME ANALYSIS

The Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office Crime Analysis Unit function will identify and analyze methods of operation of criminal activity and provide crime pattern recognition. The Crime Analysis Unit will collect data from arrest files, incident reports, U.C.R. data and field interrogation data. Reports will be prepared identifying the frequency of crime by crime type, geographic, temporal and chronological factors, victim and target descriptors, modus operandi information, suspect descriptors, physical evidence information, suspect vehicle descriptors and community policing strategies as needed.

Chief of Staff

For questions or comments, please contact the Chief of Staff at 706-277-4800.
LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

FORSYTH COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

FORSYTH COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

FORSYTH COUNTY YEAR OVER YEAR COMPARISON

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**PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING (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.

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VOLUNTEER UNIT

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.

The Volunteer Unit is comprised of several specialized units which include:

- Community Emergency Response (CERT) Team - 15 active members
- Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Team - 61 active members
- Citizens Helping in Policing (CHIP) Unit - 30 active members
- Administrative Volunteer Unit - 12 active members
- Sheriff’s Office Reserve Unit - 14 active Deputies

During the 2021 calendar year, we also added two additional teams:

- Criminal Investigations Support Unit - 3 active members
- Judicial Security Support Unit - 33 active members

In addition to these core units, we also have:

- Culinary Team assigned to the EOC during activations. This team has 14 members who can feed up to 70 people four meals per day.
- Logistics Unit consists of 44 specially trained Reserve and CHIP members available to respond to critical incidents to assist Deputies on scene-related items like food and water.
- Jeep Team consists of 24 specially trained volunteers with personally owned 4-wheel drive Jeeps and very well-equipped four-wheel-drive vehicles. This team is available to assist FCSO during severe weather events.
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- Jeep Team consists of 24 specially trained volunteers with personally owned 4-wheel drive Jeeps and very well-equipped four-wheel-drive vehicles. This team is available to assist FCSO during severe weather events.
- Public Safety Cadet Unit (previously the Explorer Program) has 12 active Cadets.

The Volunteer Unit is comprised of several specialized units which include:

- Community Emergency Response (CERT) Team - 15 active members
- Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Team - 61 active members
- Citizens Helping in Policing (CHIP) Unit - 30 active members
- Administrative Volunteer Unit - 12 active members
- Sheriff’s Office Reserve Unit - 14 active Deputies

During the 2021 calendar year, we also added two additional teams:

- Criminal Investigations Support Unit - 3 active members
- Judicial Security Support Unit - 33 active members

In addition to these core units, we also have:

- Culinary Team assigned to the EOC during activations. This team has 14 members who can feed up to 70 people four meals per day.
- Logistics Unit consists of 44 specially trained Reserve and CHIP members available to respond to critical incidents to assist Deputies on scene-related items like food and water.
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- Public Safety Cadet Unit (previously the Explorer Program) has 12 active Cadets.
The Traffic Enforcement Section is responsible for keeping the roads safe and consists of the Traffic Unit, H.E.A.T. Unit and DUI Task Force, the Motors Unit, the Traffic Specialist Unit, and a Traffic Response Vehicle.

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 Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office for our enforcement and educational efforts.

In 2020, we continued our H.E.A.T. Unit program and received a grant from the Governor’s Office for the Georgia Governor’s Office of Highway Safety (G.O.H.S.). In 2020, we 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.

The Traffic Specialist Unit, and a Traffic Response Vehicle.

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.

Traffic Response Vehicle

The Traffic Response Vehicle (TRV), much like the Georgia Department of Transportation’s HERO truck, is designed to help-respondents with road side 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.

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.

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 speeding issues. The Motor Unit is also responsible for funeral escorts and other special assignments.

Crisis intervention Response Team

The Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT) is a grant-funded special unit created in partnership with 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 GPRST Crisis Intervention Team course, Mental Health First Aid, and issues citations as needed. The TRV Unit patrols high-traffic county roads and provides roadside help during busy weekday rush hours.

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When FCSO receives mental health-related calls for service, along with a co-responder from Avita, responds to the scene with patrol deputies 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 and encourage them to maintain access to needed wellness resources.
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-two employees, including the direct line supervision of sixteen Deputies and three Inmate Service Staff. 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 inmates.

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 that ensures compliance and addresses any violations.

Inmate property custodians
Inmate background checks
Inmate booking and classification
Nightly sweeps inside and outside the courthouse
Random and scheduled contraband searches
Administer 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 shakeouts, and hostage situations.

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In 2021, the Jail Litter Detail collected a total of 158,950 pounds of litter in Forsyth County. 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)
- continuous 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 suspended since March 2020 due to the pandemic to safeguard both inmates and staff. The Jail Operations Bureau is eager to commence these programs again in the future when feasible.

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 twelve Civilians, two Corporals, four Transport Deputies, three Jail Resource Deputies and one Litter Detail Deputy. Two Sergeants are 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.

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

In 2021, the Jail Litter Detail collected a total of 158,950 pounds of litter in Forsyth County.
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 May 2021, we celebrated the first group of Forsyth County Jail RSAT program graduates. This group of 11 males began their journey in the RSAT program in 2020. During their time in the RSAT program, participants worked on a community service project in the City of Cumming Cemetery, cleaning up grounds and headstones.

In December 2021, our second group graduated from the Forsyth County Jail RSAT program. Five women completed our first-ever female RSAT program class, and eight men completed the program. The five female inmates in the program were assigned a community service project of printing approximately 5000 T-shirts for various organizations within the county.

These individuals are committed to helping others on their path to recovery, and we are forever grateful to each of them for their support. Thank you to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the grant award that allows us to run this program. Also, to our judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys for trusting the program. We are proud of all of these men and women who complete the RSAT program for all of the hard work they have put in to begin the road to recovery. We hope and have faith that they will continue down that road outside our walls.

PUPS WITH PURPOSE INMATE PROGRAM

Sheriff Freeman created the Pups with Purpose program to make a difference for unwanted dogs and create a positive influence for inmates in the Forsyth County Jail. This unique partnership collaborates between the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office, dog trainer Scott Rucker, and the Forsyth County Animal Shelter. The program allows inmates 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 help them become productive citizens after their release. In addition, the program ensures the rescue dog possesses the skills to enjoy a lifelong relationship with a loving adoptive family.

Many outstanding people help to make this treatment program a success, including attorneys for trusting the program. We are forever grateful to each of them for their support. Thank you to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the grant award that allows us to run this program.

As of the last graduating class of 2021, 15 inmates benefited from the program and 75 dogs were adopted. In September 2021, the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office, in partnership with Scott Rucker Dog Training, donated a three-year-old black Labrador retriever named Rose to the Cobb County District Attorney’s Office, where she provides comfort to crime victims and staff.

Rucker received specialized training from Scott Rucker Dog Training which has prepared her to work within a setting where the dog can serve as a Therapy Dog once they complete and pass 15+ weeks of training with Scott Rucker Dog Training. Rose is now serving across Georgia. My thanks to the Brevard County Florida Sheriff’s Office for helping us get this program off the ground. Because of Pups with Purpose, crime victims, children, and others are being aided through traumatic situations, and inmates are learning a skill and a sense of purpose by helping train our PWP pups. I am excited to see this program grow statewide and for FCSO to be the leader in therapy dogs in Georgia. Sheriff Freeman said of FCSO’s Pups with Purpose program.

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“Child victims will have the opportunity to have Rose there to calm them down and assure them that they are in a safe place so that they can tell their story and not feel afraid of what happens if they tell it,” DA Brody said.

Sheriff Ron Freeman stated, “when exposed to a comfort dog, the disclosure rate for kids went from 30% to 68-70%. We’ve seen firsthand how crime victims, who are under such stress and strain, introduced to the dog and can see their emotions taper down before they sit in a courtroom.”

The Pups with Purpose program saw the first full Therapy Dog class graduate at Forsyth County Jail.

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The Sheriff’s Services Bureau provides services to the community for which the Office of the Sheriff is constitutionally responsible and provides administrative 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 Civil Unit and the Ordinance and Permits Unit.

The Civil 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 e-lections, properly pick-ups, and court-ordered seizures.

The Ordinance and Permits Units enforce certain county ordinances, with an emphasis on quality of life and safety concerns. Areas of focus include the sale of alcohol, 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 Unit is open to the public, generally by appointment.

The Judicial Operations Division oversees the following services:

- Civil Papers Served
- Fingerprints
- Ordinance Compliance Checks
- Protective Orders Served
- Process & Release*
- Entry Through Screening
- Courts in Session
- False Alarm Enforcement
- Criminal Histories
- Civil Unit
- Ordinance and Permits Unit
- Warrant Unit
- Judicial Enforcement Section

On March 5, 2006, after an extensive cleanup and renovation, the Forsyth County Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) was moved from the stone building in downtown Cumming to its current location, 675 Lanier 400 Parkway. Prior to becoming the JJC building it was a motel, lodge, restaurant, and bar. On December 3, 2020, ground was broken for the construction of a new JJC located on the same property just to the south of the current building.

The new building will consist of 3 floors. On the third floor will be the two courtrooms, judge’s offices along with their staff. The second floor will be vacant for future use and build out as the county’s population grows and the need becomes apparent. The first floor will consist of Clerk of Courts offices, Court Security offices, Detention lockup, meeting rooms, and the JJC ADA office. Completion date is set for late spring or early summer of 2022.

New Juvie Justice Center

Before ground breaking, Nov 2020
Progress, Dec 2021

SHERIFF’S SERVICES BUREAU

The idea of Rescue Task Force is to get injured victims critical care while an incident might still be in progress. Instead of waiting until the threat has been eliminated, EMT’s outfitted with helmets and Kevlar vests form up in teams with Law Enforcement and go into areas that have been cleared and provide immediate medical care. The Rescuer Task Force Concept is a proven model that integrates trained medical responders with law enforcement force protection into potentially hostile situations to provide rapid treatment and extraction of the injured.

The Sheriff’s Office teamed with the Forsyth County Fire Department to conduct some advanced training. Units involved were Court Security Deputies from the Judicial Security Unit, Sheriff’s Office Training Unit, SWAT, Negotiators, and Emergency Medical Technicians with the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office. We also had more than fifty civilian volunteers who role played as victims and Emergency Medical Technicians with the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office.

The Sheriff’s Office cooperated with the Forsyth County Fire Department to conduct some advanced training. Units involved were Court Security Deputies from the Judicial Security Unit, Sheriff’s Office Training Unit, SWAT, Negotiators, and Emergency Medical Technicians with the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office.

JUDICIAL SECURITY SECTION

The Judicial Security Section performs multiple functions for Forsyth County and the community. The utmost responsibility is to provide safety and security for all staff and visitors at numerous county buildings. These buildings are the main courthouse, three satellite courts, the Tax Commissioner’s two offices and the county Administration building. Judicial services also work in other county buildings. The judicial services deputies also assist with tours of the main courthouse, these tours include students from our local schools, cub scouts and we host the Mock trial competitively annually. All delegates assigned to this unit train multitude of hours and in numerous different scenarios.

JUDICIAL HIGHLIGHTS

** IMPORTANT INFORMATION **

- Civil Unit
- Ordinance and Permits Unit
- Warrant Unit
- Judicial Enforcement Section

The Judicial Security Section also monitors program compliance of Accountability Courts participants. This assignment is extremely valuable to the success of the accountability courts. The deputy assigned works directly with the programs by conducting home searches, interviews and assisting the coordinators of these programs with face-to-face monitoring of the participants involved. It brings a personal aspect and a trusting atmosphere to the programs.

NEW JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER

Before ground breaking, Nov 2020
Progress, Dec 2021

SPECIAL JUDICIAL SECURITY RESCUE TASK FORCE TRAINING

June 4, 2022

Information learned from the many “Active Shooter Incidents” throughout the Country in the last several years taught Law Enforcement and First Responder that we needed to train and further change our responses to these incidents. To improve the chances of people injured receiving faster critical care on these scenes, Rescue Task Force was developed. This provided rapid treatment and extraction of the injured.

The Sheriff’s Office cooperated with the Forsyth County Fire Department to conduct some advanced training. Units involved were Court Security Deputies from the Judicial Security Unit, Sheriff’s Office Training Unit, SWAT, Negotiators, and Emergency Medical Technicians with the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office.
Despite a busy year for the Training Division, the instructors were able to move into a new Training Facility and ramp up the progress on the Forsyth County Firearm Range. The new Training Facility opened in late Summer, and the Range was near completion by the end of the year.

In 2021, the GCIC Unit processed 34,051 queries and made 13,920 hits. The Unit is responsible for preserving and producing such records in compliance with applicable laws governing record retention and release.

The GCIC (Georgia Crime Information Center) Unit is responsible for the entry, maintenance, retrieval, and control of all information that falls within the GCIC rules and State Law. 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 recommendations, and working with manufacturers, dealers, county Fleet, local service firms, and other partners to ensure safe, reliable, and cost-effective operations.

In 2021, FCSO dedicated a full-time position to managing and maintaining the agencies 370+ vehicles 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.

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.

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

The Quartermaster 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. The Quartermaster also issues and maintains equipment for vehicles such as fire extinguishers, AED’s, and tire deflation devices. The Quartermaster also works with manufacturers and dealers to evaluate and recommend reliable, cost-effective gear.

In 2021, the Evidence and Property Unit logged also logged 72 pounds of drugs held as property or evidence and 511 pounds of drugs turned in through the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Initiative program.
POLICY & ACCREDITATION SECTION

The Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office was awarded Advanced Accreditation in May of 2019 by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Advanced accreditation is awarded to elite organizations that strive to demonstrate professional excellence within a comprehensive range of operational and administrative functional responsibilities. Participation in this program prepares agencies for the management of life, health and safety issues, ensuring issues ranging from community engagement to sound personnel practices are addressed. Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation results in a highly performing organization with the capacity to address operational or administrative challenges and serve as an industry leader.

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. This process includes gathering documented proofs of compliance with each individual standard. The systematic review of each standard and related policy provides an excellent opportunity to recognize and initiate necessary adjustments to current policies and practices. A review of standards conducted in 2021 by a CALEA Compliance Service Manager (CSM) concluded 100% compliance with all standards reviewed.

In addition to CALEA accreditation, the Sheriff’s office also maintains State Law Enforcement Certification by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP). State Certification requires an annual self-assessment to confirm continued compliance with certification standards and newly enacted state laws. The self-assessment conducted in 2021 concluded 100% compliance with applicable standards.

In 2021, SOIT configured all technology equipment for more than 35 vehicles and continued maintenance on the technology equipment for all FCSO personnel to ensure a prompt response for assistance.

BUSINESS SERVICES SECTION

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UNIT (SOIT)

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, vehicle communications equipment, as well as applications such as mobile CAD, records management and reporting, and a myriad of specialized products.

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 $.9M under revised budget.

For fiscal year 2021, FCSO’s actual expenditures were $50.93M versus a revised budget of $51.89M, the Sheriff’s Office ended 2021 approximately $0.96M under revised budget.

SAVED $964,817
Equivalent to the average property taxes for 489 Forsyth County home owners.

For the year ended December 31, 2021, the Sheriff’s Office generated $28,349,142.36 in salary, $8,705,939.19 in employee benefits, $4,676,460.95 in general operating expenses, $2,638,068.24 in inmate medical expenses, $2,064,156.28 in technology maintenance expenses, $1,368,944.00 in internal service fees, $502,251.33 in inmate services, $1,081,105.48 in technology maintenance expenses, $974,696.80 in fuel expenses, $565,018.96 in vehicle maintenance expenses, $2,197,795.26 in wages and salaries, $119,081.78 in employee benefits and $5,813,478.25 in general expenses.

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 452 employees.

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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.

**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
- 457(B) Plan
- Accident and Critical Illness Insurance
- Uniforms & equipment provided
- Vehicle program
- Tuition reimbursement
- Peace Officers Annuity & Benefit (POAB) dues paid

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

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

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

**TESTING**

Our on-site Polygraphist conducts polygraphs for the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office, which helps move the Background process along faster and more efficiently. We also conduct on-site physical agility tests of all sworn applicants. The Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Council’s Physical Agility Testing (P.A.T.) Course requirements are as follows:

- The course measures a total of 870 feet (260 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 interlaced individual tasks, arranged in a continuous format that may be viewed as being essential (physical) job tasks for law enforcement training:
  - Running
  - Jumping (low hurdle)
  - Climbing stairs
  - Low crawling
  - Jumping (broad-type)
  - Climbing a fence (chain-link/four feet)
  - Climbing through a window
  - Moving/dragging a weight (150 lbs.)
  - 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.

**ROSTER TOTALS 2021**

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>95</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL EMPLOYEES</td>
<td>497</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**2021 OPEN RECORDS STATS**

- Online Portal Requests: 1,371
- Mail & Email Requests: 62
- Requests by Other Agencies: 322
- Inmate Record Requests: 442

**2021 BACKGROUND & RECRUITING STATS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applications completed</td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hired: Sworn*</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hired: Civilian</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Excluding POST Clerk and Jailers
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

To all of our Forsyth County residents and business owners,