

# EL DORADO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**“I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT I WILL SUPPORT AND DEFEND THE  
CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE CONSTITUTION OF  
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA...”**

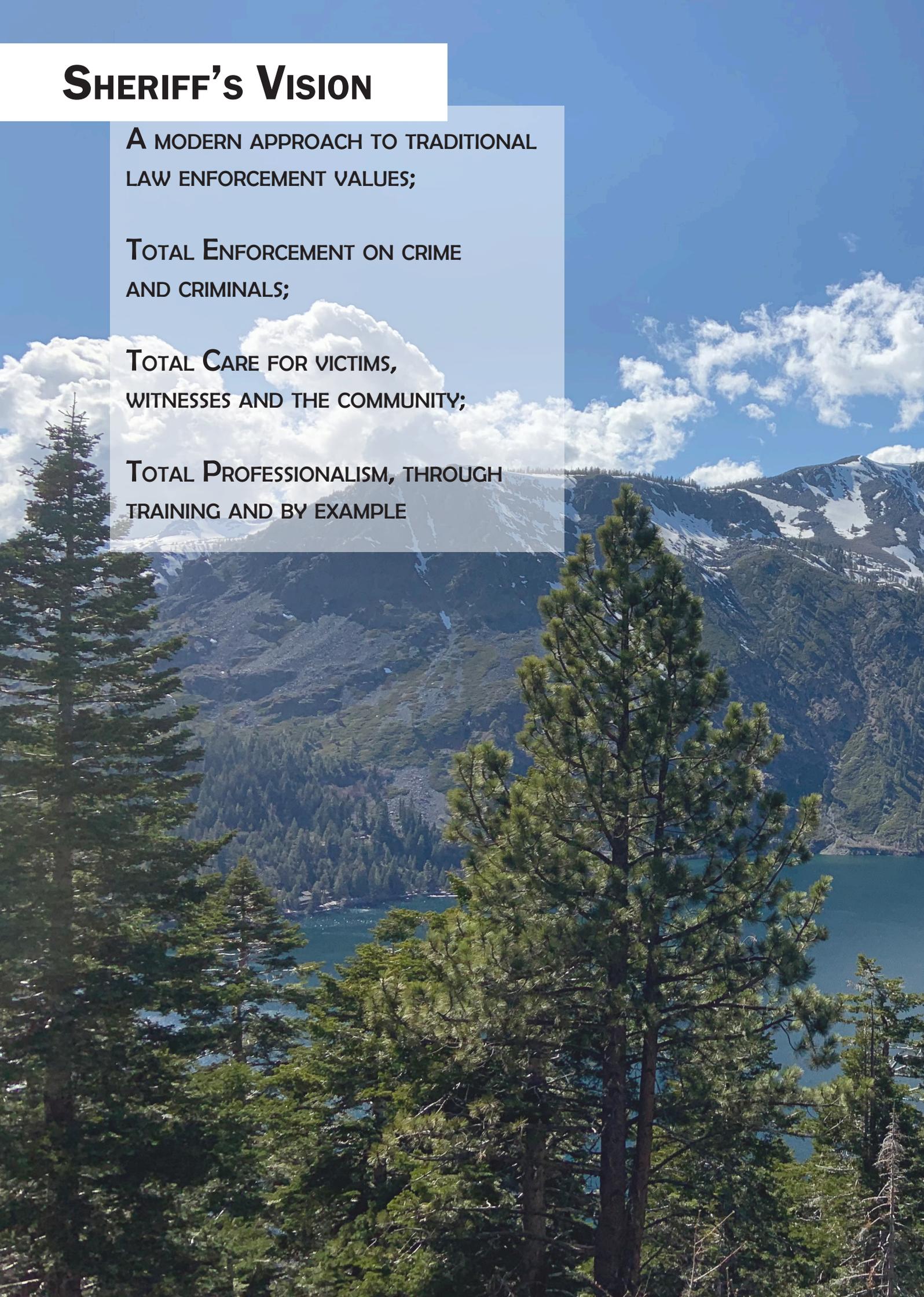
# SHERIFF'S VISION

**A MODERN APPROACH TO TRADITIONAL  
LAW ENFORCEMENT VALUES;**

**TOTAL ENFORCEMENT ON CRIME  
AND CRIMINALS;**

**TOTAL CARE FOR VICTIMS,  
WITNESSES AND THE COMMUNITY;**

**TOTAL PROFESSIONALISM, THROUGH  
TRAINING AND BY EXAMPLE**



# MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE EL DORADO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE IS TO UPHOLD THE LAW THROUGH THE INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CRIMINAL AND CIVIL LAW, TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT TO ALLIED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, TO DELIVER CONSISTENT AND HUMANE TREATMENT TO THOSE PLACED IN OUR CARE AND CUSTODY, AND TO PERFORM THESE RESPONSIBILITIES IN A MANNER THAT IS RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND FAITHFUL TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

# **SHERIFF'S MESSAGE**

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DIVISION COMMANDERS

## **CUSTODY DIVISION**

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JAIL FACILITIES & PROGRAMS  
COURT SECURITY

## **SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION**

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ADMINISTRATIVE & SUPPORTING UNITS

## **OPERATIONS DIVISION**

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PATROL & INVESTIGATIONS  
COLLATERAL TEAMS

## **FISCAL DIVISION**

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GRANTS & BUDGET ACTUALS

## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

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COMMUNITY, FAMILY & EMPLOYEE SUPPORT





**SHERIFF  
JOHN D'AGOSTINI**

This is one of those years where I'm not sure where to start. The laundry list of events and incidents were long. We saw the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic which affected all of us, both in our professional and private lives. We also witnessed social strain and political division which culminated in civil unrest throughout our nation.

It's easy to look back on 2020 with negativity, but what would this accomplish? When I look back, I see our strong community, united and facing these challenges together. Your Sheriff's Office recognized these challenges as well and found new processes that led to increased efficiencies for this year and the future. We took on these challenges as opportunities to be leaders, not only in the law enforcement community, but also leaders in El Dorado County.

As you review this Annual Report, I believe you will see a central theme: your Sheriff's Office is continuously adapting to maintain the level of service this community expects of us. Staff examined and reviewed processes and policies and worked outside the box to solve problems. This resulted in finding new and innovative ways to accomplish everyday tasks and improving service delivery under the constraints of this new environment. As your Sheriff, this is what I expect from my staff and I believe it embodies my vision of Total Care.

In 2020, we met the many extraordinary challenges and prevailed. With that said, I am happy to put 2020 behind us and look forward to 2021. The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office will continue providing law enforcement services in accordance with the United States Constitution and the needs of our community. We will continue to be the bedrock of the county, providing strong leadership to our county, citizens, and staff through any future adversities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'John D'Agostini'.



**EDWARD FALKENSTEIN**  
CAPTAIN  
OPERATIONS DIVISION

**TASHA THOMPSON**  
CAPTAIN  
SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

**MATTHEW FOXWORTHY**  
CAPTAIN  
CUSTODY DIVISION

**BRYAN GOLMITZ**  
UNDERSHERIFF

**JON DEVILLE**  
CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER  
FISCAL DIVISION

**SHERIFF**  
**JOHN D'AGOSTINI**



# CUSTODY DIVISION





The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office operates two jail facilities, located in South Lake Tahoe and Placerville. The Placerville facility houses up to 303 inmates with eight outpatient medical beds and the South Lake Tahoe facility houses up to 158 inmates.

For 2020, the jails did experience lower numbers of bookings than years past. The average daily population for the two facilities declined from 394 to 342. This is directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Efforts to keep inmates socially distanced and measures enacted by the court system limited the number of people being booked into California county jails.

For 2020, the jails averaged 13 booking per day for a total of 4,733 bookings, as compared to the 5,669 in 2019. Releases totaled 4,743. Jail population stood at approximately 75% male and 25% female inmates

Throughout 2020, the world experienced the effects of COVID-19 in ways that were unprecedented in modern times. The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office, like agencies nationwide, had to adapt and adjust their daily procedures to help mitigate the effect of the virus while maintaining custody and care of the inmate population. The Custody Division issued personal protection equipment and implemented facility cleaning procedures to help keep inmates and staff safe. While limiting the number of new intakes processed at one time, medical staff also expanded the medical review process. Inmates remaining in custody after the booking process then began a two week quarantine within the facility. With these measures, staff has been able to significantly limit the spread of COVID-19 in the jails.

Custody staff continue to work with the El Dorado County Public Health Department and other state and county divisions to adapt policies and procedures to keep the inmate population, the public and staff as safe as possible as we continue to navigate through this pandemic.

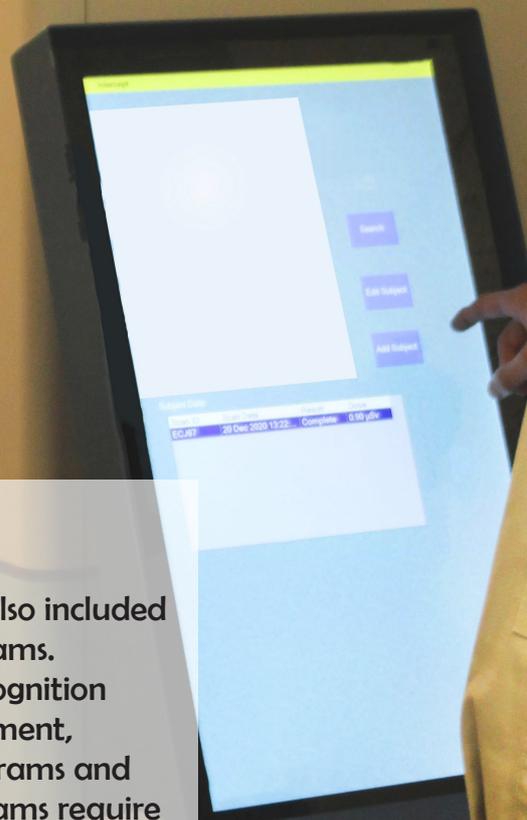
Early in the year, it was decided to suspend all in person visiting and take the opportunity to adapt and use some of the recently upgraded programs. Both facilities are equipped with video visiting capabilities and up until the pandemic were only used by inmates for personal visits. Using the existing equipment, confidential video visits with Attorneys and medical professionals were added to maximize the use of the program. This allowed the inmates to continue receiving necessary and rightful services, while also providing a safe and effective way to communicate.

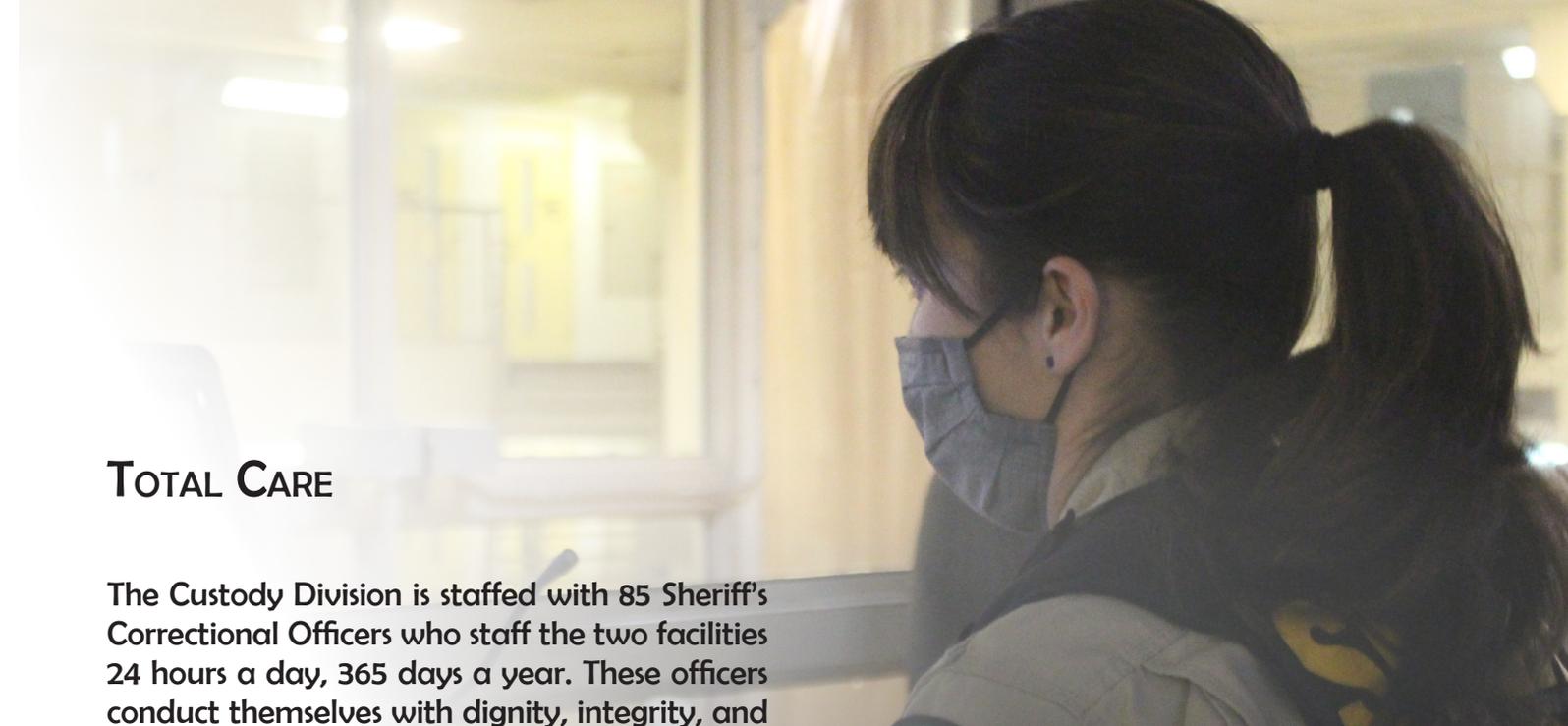
## BODY SCANNERS

In 2020, both jails received Intercept Body Scanners. The purchase of the body scanners is part of a continued effort to increase the level of safety and security of the facilities. The body scanners allow staff to scan inmates for drugs, weapons or other possible contraband that may be on their person. The body scanner is also equipped with a temperature reader which helps alert to a possible fever, allowing staff to investigate the possibility of the subject having symptoms of COVID-19. One scan is equal to the same amount of occurring radiation during an airline flight or a few hours of exposure to naturally occurring radiation at sea level.

## IN CUSTODY PROGRAMS

The suspension of in person visiting also included the suspension of all in person programs. These programs included Moral Recognition Training, Parenting, Anger Management, Adult Education, Self-Reliance Programs and Alternative Sentencing. These programs require in person instruction that was not available due to the safety measures in place. Both facilities were able to work closely with the El Dorado County Office of Education and adapt existing adult education programs into independent study, allowing inmates to continue working on their GED or Diploma. Jail staff met weekly with the dedicated teachers who deliver and pickup schoolwork twice a week. The culinary program continued throughout the year as it is run and taught by the Correctional Cooks and is a vital service within the facilities.





## TOTAL CARE

The Custody Division is staffed with 85 Sheriff's Correctional Officers who staff the two facilities 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. These officers conduct themselves with dignity, integrity, and professionalism and work as a team to serve the community each day. They wear the badge with honor and uphold the highest of moral standards while providing the level of care the community expects for those in our custody. Since most community members rarely see these exemplary employees, we would like to introduce a few of the officers and highlight their actions to save the life of an inmate.

In September, Officers Cornwall and Carvalho were conducting inmate safety checks at the Placerville Jail. Unbeknownst to the officers, an inmate was in the upstairs shower with regularly issued items, intending to craft a makeshift rope and hang himself. The inmate hid behind the shower's privacy wall and was able to secretly tie off a makeshift rope and secure the other end around their neck.

When Officers Cornwall and Carvalho entered the housing unit, the inmate threw themselves over the wall. Both officers immediately responded to the inmate's attempt to take their own life. Officer Cornwall ran upstairs to the second story while radioing for assistance. Officer Carvalho ran to help lift the inmate to relieve the pressure of the makeshift rope. When Officer Cornwall got to the inmate, she immediately began cutting through the makeshift rope so the inmate could be lowered to the ground.

Sergeant Donahue, Officer Spillane and Officer Hill quickly arrived to assist. Sergeant Donahue and Officer Spillane assisted Officer Carvalho in

lifting the inmate's body to relieve the pressure on the inmate's neck. The inmate's waistline was suspended approximately eight feet off the ground, making it extremely difficult for the officers to lift the inmate's body and keep pressure off the inmate's neck.

Officer Hill assisted Officer Cornwall in cutting the material of the makeshift rope with their cut down tools. Because of the way the inmate fashioned the makeshift rope, the cut down tools were ineffective. While forcefully working to cut the material, the tool broke and folded back on Officer Cornwall's hand. Medical staff arrived and were able to supply Officer Cornwall with medical shears and finally severed the material.

Once the makeshift rope was cut, the inmate dropped and Sergeant Donahue was able to catch them by the waist, preventing the inmate's head from hitting the ground. Officers and medical staff were able to remove the makeshift rope from the inmate's neck and administer first aid. Medical staff and paramedics rendered further medical aid and transported the inmate to the hospital.

Thankfully, the only injuries the inmate sustained were abrasions to their neck. This could have ended very differently if it was not for the quick thinking, fast response and excellent teamwork of the staff who responded to this incident. The prompt and dedicated response of the officers and sergeant truly saved this inmate's life.

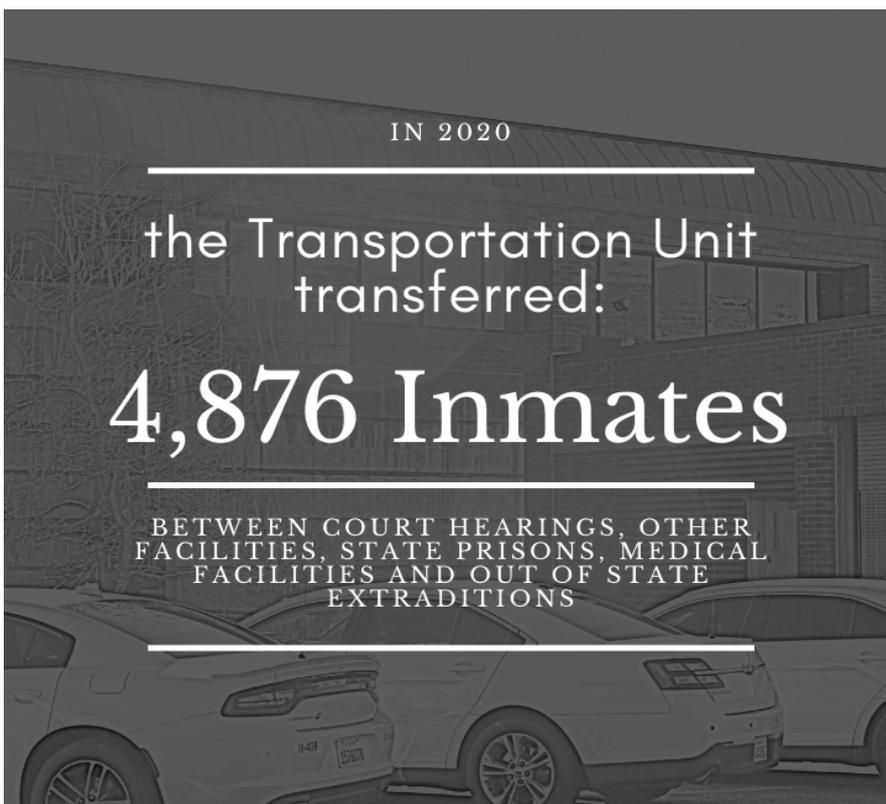
## TRANSPORTATION UNIT

The Transportation Unit is made up of both Correctional Officers and Deputy Sheriffs, dedicated to providing safety and security for the inmates they transport, as well as the citizens of El Dorado County.

Inmates are regularly transported from the two jail facilities in El Dorado County to various locations within the county and the State of California. Inmates are transported to and from court, medical appointments, transferred to state prison or state mental health facilities, and other scheduled appointments. The unit also returns people with warrants to El Dorado County for their court proceedings. They work effectively with many allied agencies throughout the State to complete safe and secure transports.

In 2020, the Transportation Unit completed over 4,800 various transports, pick-ups, and extraditions. Each of these movements requires coordinating the complexities of inmate classification: keeping violent or high-risk inmates, co-defendants, gang affiliates or other factors away from each other. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the changes it brought, the Transportation Unit coordinated a 54-inmate transfer to state prison, which was the largest transfer in the County's history. The operation was completed flawlessly, thanks to the professionalism and dedication of the Unit.

This exceptional team of Correctional Officers and Deputy Sheriffs work together seamlessly. Exercising sound tactical communication and officer safety skills on a daily basis, the Transportation Unit completes their mission with total care for those in their charge, supporting the Sheriff's Vision and the citizens of El Dorado County.





## COURT SECURITY

The State of California Superior Courts of El Dorado County maintain a contract with the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office to provide perimeter and courtroom security to the courts within the county. The Sheriff's Office is responsible for securing the 11 courtrooms within the five different courthouse locations in Cameron Park, the cities of Placerville and South Lake Tahoe.

With the use of metal detectors and X-ray scanner technology, the Sheriff's Security Officers ensure the safety and security of the courtrooms and visitors, preventing persons from bringing firearms, weapons, or other contraband into courthouse facilities. In the past year, the court security team has also been adapting to and directing the public regarding new COVID-19 safety measures enacted by the Superior Courts. The security team has become the point of contact for communications within the courthouses since much of the court's communication has been converted to drop boxes and pick-up.

The Bailiffs are charged with maintaining order inside the courts and facilitating the logistics of the court proceedings. The Bailiffs are responsible for the security of the courtrooms and protecting the judges, court personnel, and members of the public inside the courthouses. They are also tasked with protecting defendants in custody, limiting access to judges, and providing court paperwork and appearance orders to the

public. Additionally, they are directed to arrest and remand people into custody during court proceedings.

Bailiffs and Court Security Officers receive mandated and ongoing training to maintain and sharpen their knowledge and skills. While they maintain the regular repertoire of skills used in Law Enforcement, including firearms, less lethal tools, first aid, CPR, and more, they are also tasked with using the specialized security equipment commonly found in airports and other high-security areas. The daily use of this training and equipment are contributing factors to the safer and more secure courthouses for everyone.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented numerous unique challenges to court services. The Court's security officers and bailiffs responded immediately with a social distancing plan for seating arrangements, face mask requirements, and added new and frequent sanitation protocols inside the courthouses. The team also worked quickly to embrace and support online access to court services through video conferencing, creating safe, efficient, and socially distant access.

The Court Security team continues to work diligently, upholding the Mission of the Sheriff's Office and maintaining safe and orderly access to both the civil and criminal judicial services in El Dorado County

# SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION



TOTAL CALLS ANSWERED  
**194,146**

911 CALLS RECEIVED  
**34,546**

MEDICAL AIDS  
**6,944**

WELFARE CHECKS  
**3,101**



## DISPATCH

Public Safety Dispatchers provide an invaluable service to the Sheriff's Office and the community. They are responsible for gathering information from citizens in crisis and relaying that information to first responders. While speaking to a citizen in an effective and calming manner, they are also dispatching units and providing pertinent information to keep all responding personnel safe. The ultimate multitaskers!

The Sheriff's Office provides extensive training to all dispatch staff, but the heart to serve is something each dispatcher brings with them their first day on the job. Dispatchers pride themselves on keeping citizens, staff and the community safe. The variety of calls for service keeps them on their toes daily.

Sheriff's Office Dispatch receives calls from anywhere in the 1,800 square miles of El Dorado County. From the lakes and trails in the national forest, to the urban and rural communities, they are the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for all emergency calls. The Sheriff's Office is also the backup PSAP for the cities of South Lake Tahoe and Placerville.

In compliance with the CalOES NextGen 911, the Sheriff's Office upgraded the current computerized phone system to include Text2911. Additional laptops with answering software were purchased to be used anywhere with high speed internet in the event of emergency evacuations. The Rapid SOS system is now live, which works simultaneously with the 911 system to pinpoint the actual location of cell phone callers.

Sheriff's Dispatchers remained in the office throughout 2020, answering calls for service. Working remotely was not an option for this unit; and to maintain clear communications. Staff adjusted their work environment to remain safe during the COVID-19 pandemic by installing clear plastic between each workstation. Although the Dispatch Unit is self-contained, staff continued to practice distancing and frequent cleaning schedules to keep the unit running.



## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

The Sheriff's Information Technologies Unit is staffed with five dedicated employees who overcame all the challenges 2020 had to offer. The unit started the year with many plans and projects lined up. Much of which also had to be completed while implementing and supporting remote workstations. Staff used their knowledge and experience to support the growing demand for remote computing within the Sheriff's Office.

The unit continued to provide the Sheriff's Office with modern solutions to help reduce inefficiencies and maintain and increase securities. They maintained a presence at the office while keeping the required social distancing and staffing levels. The team created a plan to migrate the Sheriff's Office to a new e-mail system that is in compliance with increasing security requirements.

A virtual machine environment was completed, enabling the Sheriff's Office to continue providing the community with the services they need while working remotely. Because law enforcement training is mandated and was required to continue throughout 2020, the IT Unit updated the classroom. Audio/Visual systems were added to the classroom to facilitate more effective officer training while maintaining social distancing.

The unit continues to modernize Sheriff's Office equipment and apply security measures to minimize the effects of malware and other cyber intrusions. These measures are vital to ensure victims, witnesses and ongoing investigative information remains secure.

## RADIO UNIT

The Radio shop staff continued working hard on configuring and finishing up systems at the Public Safety Facility. The main building is comprised of steel and concrete making it impossible for VHF radio signals to penetrate from the outside. To solve this, staff designed an in house repeater network. With this system, it is now possible for anyone in the office to connect to all repeaters on the west slope. This allows Command Staff to monitor and interact with deputies in the field in real time, saving time on critical communications.

The Sheriff's Office has also been purchasing multi-band handheld radios over the last four years. At the end of the next budget cycle, we anticipate all sworn personal will be issued one. This will allow staff to communicate with not only our new office systems, but all outside agencies no matter what system they are on. Installation of generators at key repeater sites and remote fire stations have been completed. The west slope repeater sites are now set up with 120 hours of power. This is crucial when power outages occur either from natural causes or during Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). Similar installations will be completed in Tahoe in the near future.

The unit has also been working on the new command trailer project. By the end of 2020, the radio installation was completed. Next, the unit will work on finalizing the main and backup power systems. The unit is confident the command trailer will be fully operational by the 2021 fire season.

The units 2021 project list includes working on a new addition to the VHF repeater system, known as the simulcast. This will allow multiple repeaters to work at the same time and will be a big move in solving total communication throughout the county. Deputies in the core of the county will be able to communicate more effectively, regardless of location.

## RECORDS UNIT

The Records Unit of the Sheriff's Office is the central repository for all agency records, including case reports, criminal history information, and detention records. The Records Unit is also responsible for issuing permits, licenses, and registrations such as special business license permits, concealed carry weapon (CCW) permits, as well as processing arson and sex offender registrants.

The Records Unit is responsible for maintaining internal document control over all original reports, including all crime, arrest, and coroner reports. The Records Unit is the administrative hub of the Sheriff's Office. Staff processes warrants, county restraining orders, law enforcement background checks, concealed

carry permits, licensing, and multiple other public services. Staff also provides support to Sheriff's Administration, sworn staff, other agencies, and the public, all while ensuring compliance with local, state, and federal laws.

The goal of the Record's Unit is to fulfill the vision of the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office of total care for victims, witnesses, and the community. The unit is staffed with 15 Sheriff's Technicians, two Senior Sheriff's Technicians and one Records Supervisor. Staff is on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days per year to support law enforcement agencies and the public. This level of commitment to public service remained a priority throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. While maintaining social distancing, the public counter remained staffed and open all year. The staff is continuously training, updating their skills and knowledge and evaluating processes that could improve the level of service provided.

COVID-19 presented challenges with continuing CCW permit issuance, but the Sheriff's Office dedicated resources to make the process as seamless as possible. To continue issuing CCW permits, the Records Unit implemented virtual interviews and issued CCW's via Certified Mail. Despite COVID-19 limitations, the unit adjusted procedures to serve customers virtually and maintained the same level of community service.

In December, the Sheriff's Office opened a new CCW Unit dedicated to serving the county residents in obtaining their CCW permits. The three Sheriff's Technicians have streamlined the CCW application process, which has significantly reduced the wait time for a CCW permit. The goals of the CCW Unit are to reduce the increasing backlog of CCW applications and decrease wait times for CCW permits. Each staff member has been assigned a caseload of applications and will be in personal contact with each. This will give CCW holders a point of contact throughout the issuance process. We look forward to reporting the CCW Unit's progress and statistics in the 2021 Annual Report.



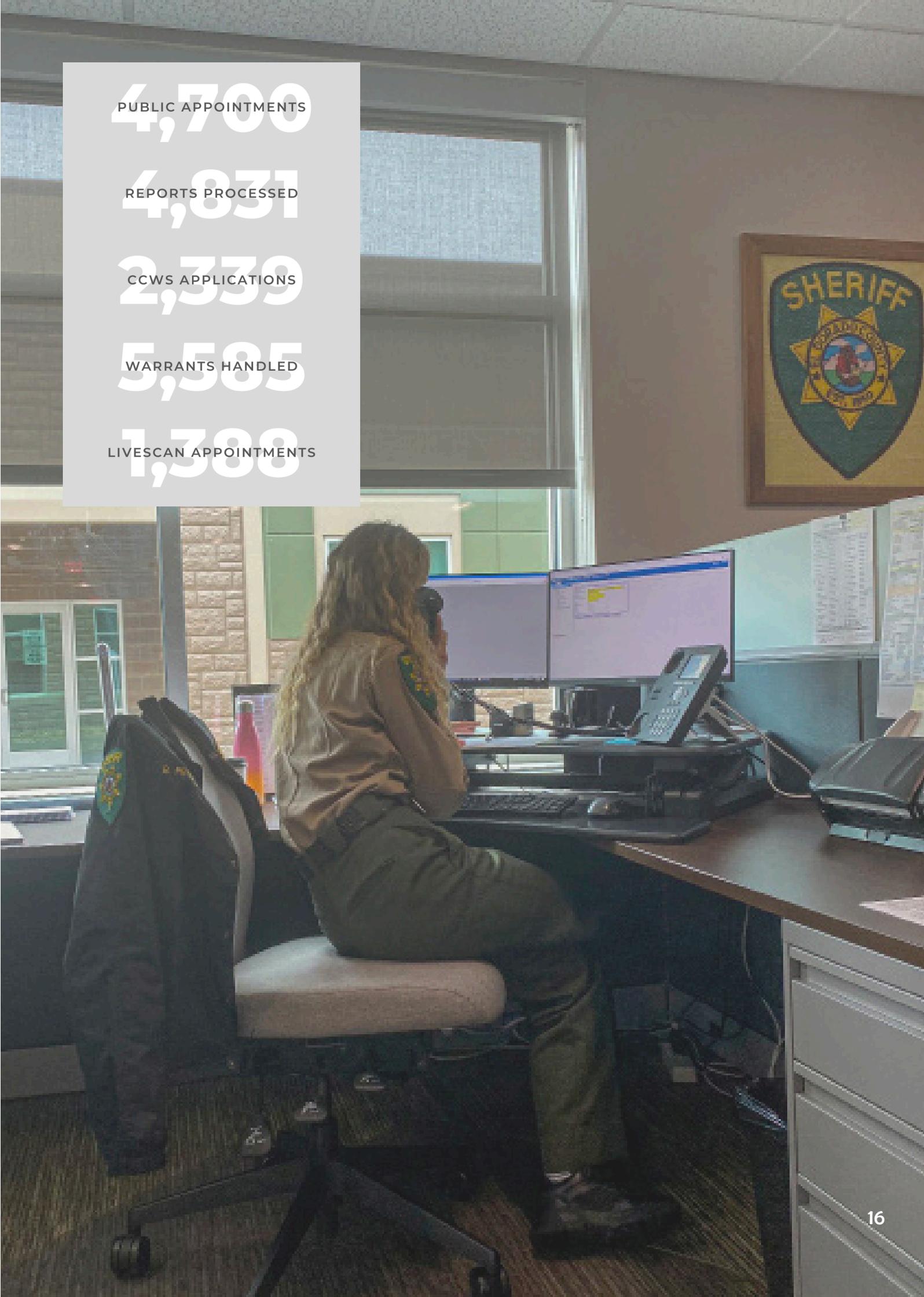
**4,700**  
PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

**4,831**  
REPORTS PROCESSED

**2,339**  
CCWS APPLICATIONS

**5,585**  
WARRANTS HANDLED

**1,388**  
LIVESCAN APPOINTMENTS





Worker in uniform and cap handling a box in the aisle.

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## PROPERTY SECTION

The experienced and dedicated staff of the Property Section rose to the occasion in 2020 and had a great year. While there is often extra help provided by interns and STAR volunteers, staffing was reduced due to COVID-19 precautions, yet the section still ran very smoothly.

Staff stayed busy with an increased number of items booked and a significantly larger number of firearms. A total of 11,105 items were booked, compared to the 10,629 items booked the year before. In addition to physical items booked, deputies entered 7,631 digital items of evidence to include photos, audio recordings, and in-car video recordings. While there was an increase in property intake, staff was also able to purge 10,000 items in 2020 compared to 8,312 items last year.

The Property Section received 486 long guns and 356 handguns in 2020, for a total of 841 firearms; a significant increase compared to 497 firearms received last year. The total

number of firearms stored at the end of 2020 was 1,320, compared to 925 firearms for last year. The ending inventory for 2020 was 30,438 items, compared to 32,285 for last year.

Thankfully, the new Property facility can store this additional inventory, saving the county from having to rent additional storage space. This new space has allowed for additional room to work in. The ability to be creative with storage space has been remarkable. All off site storage locations have been closed and all evidence was moved to the new building. The additional space has allowed staff to store evidence from adjudicated cases separately from active cases.

The Drug Take Back Program remains active, with disposal bins in both the Placerville and South Lake Tahoe offices. In 2020, the program received a total of 485 pounds of pharmaceuticals.

## VEHICLE ABATEMENT

The CA Vehicle Code authorizes cities and counties to adopt ordinances to remove abandoned, wrecked, dismantled or non-operative vehicles from public and private lands. These vehicles can create a condition tending to reduce property value, create fire hazards and cause a public nuisance. Deputies respond to citizen complaints about vehicles possibly in violation of the El Dorado County Ordinance. The responding deputy works with the complainant, property owners, and the registered owner of the vehicle to find a solution to the problem. Often the only solution to the problem is the abatement process.

Vehicle abatement is a multi-step process which takes approximately 30 days to complete. The responding deputy places an

abatement tag on the abandoned/wrecked vehicle and document the vehicle in a report. The report is then processed and forwarded to the abatement unit for further processing. A letter is sent via certified mail to the last known registered owner of the vehicle. If there is no response from the certified letter within a specified period of time, the vehicle can be removed from the location. If the vehicle has been removed from the location, then no further action is taken. If the vehicle in violation has not been removed from the location, the vehicle is then towed away and disposed of in accordance with state law.

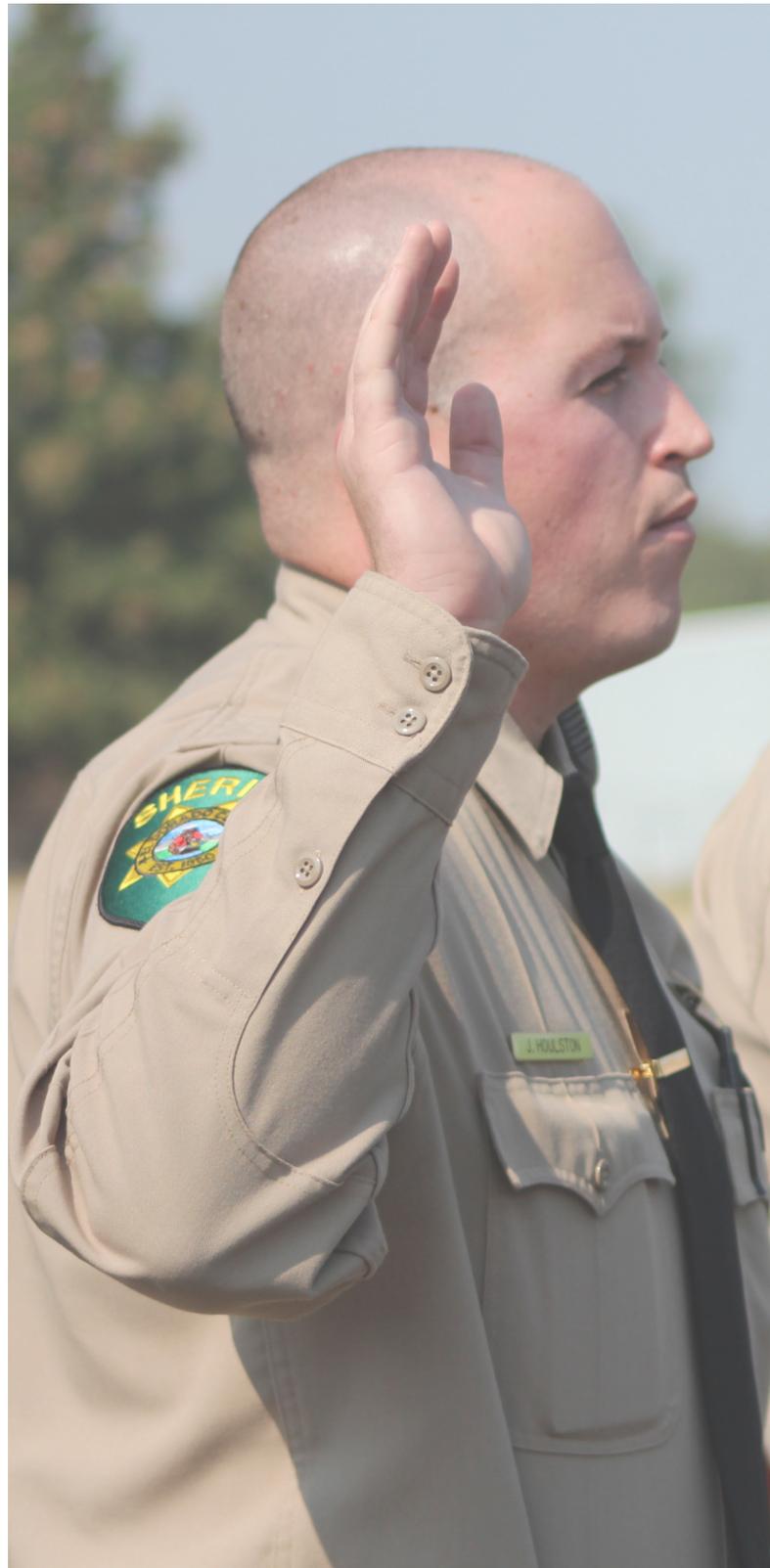
In 2020, the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office investigated and processed over 200 vehicle abatement cases.

## PERSONNEL

Now more than ever, the selection of individuals for a career in law enforcement, specifically this Sheriff's Office, is of the utmost importance to the communities they serve. Although the Personnel Unit has always valued that, in 2020 they strive to do even better, making sure the Sheriff's motto of hiring the "Best of the Best" does not and has not changed. The law enforcement profession, regardless of job title, requires the heart to serve. The Sheriff's Office is proud of the men and women who joined this agency in 2020 and look forward to the professionalism and dedication they will bring in 2021 and beyond.

The hiring process is lengthy and ensures not only that the candidate has the knowledge, skills and abilities to be successful in the position, but also that all employees have the highest moral character. All applications are submitted online but the recruitment process varies a little for each job classification. Recruitments may consist of one or all of the following: written exam, oral exam or performance exam. Once placed on the eligibility list, selected candidates then complete a personal history statement which is used to assist in a thorough background investigation.

Background investigators are experienced detectives each handling upwards of 50 investigations per year. The investigation includes checking the candidate's previous and current relationships with family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and supervisors; as well as reviews of financial and educational records. Correctional Officer, Deputy Sheriff and Public Safety Dispatcher candidates then participate in a Computer Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA) exam to verify their truthfulness in their background information. Once completed, the investigation is reviewed by the Support Services chain of command, up to the Sheriff. Successful candidates are invited to an interview with Sheriff D'Agostini before receiving a conditional job offer and completing the final steps of the hiring process.



The employees of the Sheriff's Office are the result of such a rigorous process. Of all applications submitted to the Sheriff's Office, only about 3% are hired. Standards are high because the citizens of El Dorado County deserve the best public servants. The Professional Standards and Training unit ensures Sheriff's Office employees are given all the proper tools and



accountability to represent the mission and vision of this agency.

At the end of 2020, the Sheriff's Office welcomed 48 new full time employees, 11 extra help employees and promoted 11 current employees to higher job classifications. Nearly 1,500 job applications were submitted to the Personnel Unit, with the highest number of

applicants for Correctional Officer. While staffing numbers have greatly improved this year, the Personnel Unit continues to regularly recruit for all positions. Find more information at:

[www.EDSO.ORG/JOBS](http://www.EDSO.ORG/JOBS)

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Sheriff's Office is highly selective and takes great pride in hiring only the best candidates. Once hired, it is important to ensure our employees maintain the highest level of personal and professional standards, knowing that everyone makes mistakes. It is the job of the Professional Standards Unit to ensure Sheriff's Office employees are adhering to policies involving attendance, conduct, discrimination, performance, safety, supervision, and more.

There are numerous circumstances that are documented, tracked, and reviewed to ensure compliance. This includes use of force, vehicle accidents, vehicle pursuits, forced entries, canine utilizations, citizen complaints, and internally generated inquiries. Not only are complaints from the public fully reviewed, but the Professional Standards Unit also audits conduct internally as well. In fact, only 20% of conduct reviews are generated from the public.

Some incidents of alleged misconduct are investigated by the employee's supervisor, and some are selected for investigation by Internal Affairs (IA) personnel. IA investigations are formal, non-criminal investigations, conducted by IA Sergeants, into allegations of policy violations that may result in discipline. Regardless of the outcome of any investigation, it always provides an opportunity for improvement. That is why the Professional Standards Unit works directly with the Training Unit.



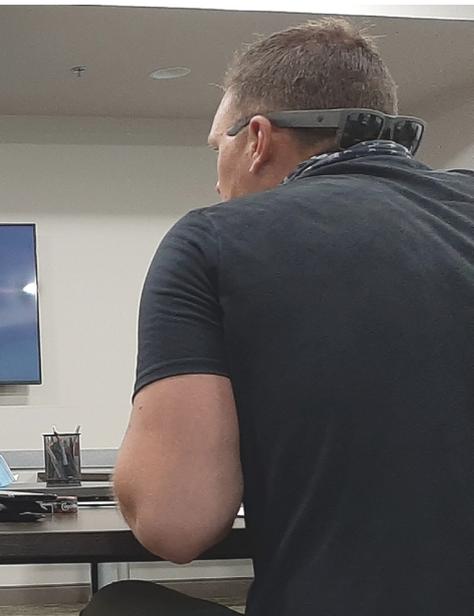
## TRAINING

The Training Unit was excited to have the first full year of training in the Public Safety Facility. This year, we dedicated and named the Brian Ishmael Shooting Range. Brian was a dedicated Range Master and the Sheriff's Office is proud to honor him in this way.

The state of art indoor range is used for quarterly range qualifications, new hire firearms courses, SWAT range training, and patrol rifle courses. The range program focuses on providing quality firearms training to armed personnel, as well as providing leadership and law enforcement support to allied law enforcement agencies in El Dorado County. The Sheriff's Office regularly assists local law enforcement with firearms qualifications, policy and procedure. Currently, the Sheriff's Office is developing agreements with additional law enforcement agencies to allow them to use the indoor range to enhance their training and proficiency as well.

The Special Operation's classroom and mat room are used for both in-house and trainings hosted on site. The facility provides easy transitions between learning and hands-on practices for various mandated skills trainings for Correctional and Sworn staff. This saves staff time in class; and by hosting at the Sheriff's Office, reduces the cost of overtime for traveling.

Due to COVID-19 precautions and travel restrictions, many regional trainings were canceled or converted to virtual learning. With law enforcement being deemed an essential service, trainings had to continue throughout the year. With ample seating, open space and a large smart TV for instruction materials, the classroom was a valuable resource for presenting virtual trainings. Staff logged over 10,000 hours of training in 2020. Continuing that level of training, and maintaining social distancing, would have been more challenging had the Sheriff's Office not had these resources available at the Public Safety Facility





## CORONER

In El Dorado County, the Sheriff is also elected to serve as the Coroner. The Sheriff delegates these tasks to a unit of detectives who work under statutory duties. The Coroner Unit investigates the circumstances surrounding all suspicious or unexpected deaths including homicides, suicides, accidental, unattended or unexplained deaths. They are also responsible for establishing the identity of the decedent, notifying the next of kin and safeguarding personal property. Coroner Detectives work closely with the Assistant Public Administrator when next of kin cannot be located, sharing the ultimate goal of bringing closure to family members.

The Coroner Unit participates in various programs throughout the county, raising awareness of driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol, preventing domestic, elder and drug abuses, and identifying consumer products that cause potentially fatal injuries.

The Coroner Unit participates with non-profit organ and tissue donation agencies as well.

The new El Dorado County Morgue opened for operation on January 1st, 2020. The morgue has operated very well and efficiently during it's first year. The El Dorado County Morgue also provides services to neighboring agencies, the Amador and Alpine County Sheriff's Offices.

The El Dorado County Morgue now has the ability to provide care, and maintain the custody of people who pass away, in El Dorado County. By keeping El Dorado County citizens and visitors in our custody for the duration of the investigation, the Coroner Unit is able to provide the utmost care to the decedents and their family members. The morgue now enables the Coroner Unit to better fulfill the Sheriff's Vision by providing total care to the victims and the community.



## CIVIL

The Sheriff's Office is responsible for enforcing State and Federal Court Orders as well as serving process and notice documents in accordance with CA Govt. Code 26608. Although the Sheriff's Office does not serve all manner of documents, the Sheriff's Office serves process and notice documents required by law that cannot be served by a civilian process server. These include Evictions, Levies, and Restraining Orders.

Overall service statistics were down 19% due to COVID-19's impact on the Superior Courts ability to hear cases. Many deadlines for legal response were extended as the court system adapted to these changes as well. Many orders from local, state and federal offices required Civil staff to learn new ways to conduct their normal duties. Civil professional staff worked with landlords

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

The Public Administrator investigates and administers estates of persons who pass away without a Will or eligible person to act as administrator. The Public Administrator's primary duties are to protect the estate property from waste, loss or theft, make appropriate burial arrangements and conduct a thorough investigation to determine all assets and find heirs. Additionally, the Public Administrator



and tenants to promote understanding and adherence to all COVID-19 related protocols.

With the opening of the El Dorado County Morgue, the Civil/Coroner Detectives' duties increased; however, no service disruption was noticed in the delivery of Civil Process. All processes were timely served with the professionalism our citizens have come to expect from the Sheriff's Civil Unit.

may use the discovered assets to pay decedent's taxes, bills and other encumbrances and to distribute to estate beneficiaries.

The Public Administrator is currently administering approximately 35 decedent estates, which range from formally probated to very small, summary administrations.

## STARS

It has been an interesting year for the STAR Volunteer program. The Sheriff's Office has always known how valuable the volunteers are, but when COVID-19 hit and they were sent home from duty, we were reminded how much they do in the day to day functions of the Sheriff's Office. Normally they are moving vehicles, setting up the speed radar trailer, doing vacation checks for the community, patrolling neighborhoods, making YANA calls, to help with community events and manning the two substations. The Sheriff's Office had to find creative ways to continue those services. STAR Volunteers anxiously waited for the call to return to work and the Sheriff's Office is looking forward to that day as well.

A few of the STARS have been able to work remotely and have been able to keep up with the daily YANA (You Are Not Alone) calls.

Each day, volunteers call 45-50 people for daily check-ins on citizens that oftentimes are home without daily interactions. By making these calls, volunteers ensure these citizens are okay and not needing anything. There have been several instances where callers have not been able to get a hold of the citizen. After following procedures, it was discovered the person had fallen and needed to get to the hospital. Without those daily calls, they could have been unable to receive help for several days.

One event STARS were able to participate in before COVID-19 was the 3rd Annual Battle of the Badges Chili Cook Off. STARS were



awarded the People's Choice second place for their amazing chili. This is a significant fundraiser for the local New Morning Youth and Family Services. It also allowed the STARS to display their honor and gratitude for all law enforcement officers who lost their life in the line of duty in 2019. Volunteers were especially proud to honor our own, Deputy Sheriff Brian Ishmael.

Unfortunately, most community events the STARS usually participate in were canceled, but they look forward to serving the community in the near future.



## PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

The Public Information Officer (PIO) is the Sheriff's Office main point of contact with the media and the public. The PIO responds to major incidents to distribute accurate information in a timely manner. The PIO also monitors and maintains social media platforms for the Sheriff's Office and manages all information released to the public regarding cases and current conditions in the county. This is especially useful in times such as road closures during intense weather conditions, evacuation orders during wildfires, and updates during law enforcement activity.

During 2020, the Sheriff's Office utilized Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube to release information and communicate with our community. The Sheriff's Office continues to provide video content, creating a more modern approach to releasing information. With implementation of social distancing guidelines, the PIO also began live-streaming events on Facebook so more viewers could interact with the Sheriff's Office. This was also beneficial during the Welcome Ceremonies allowing families of new employees to share in the special event even though they could not physically attend.

The Sheriff's Office also maintains an app, available for both iOS and Android devices, which provides quick links for common services and provides answers to frequently asked questions. The app is a great way to stay connected with social media releases, press releases and other important information. The app can also be used to submit tips, file a complaint, or commend an employee.

In 2020, Sheriff's Office social media platforms continued to grow, reaching over 59,000 followers on Facebook and over 17,000 on Instagram. Join us on your favorite social media platform and connect with the Public Information Officer.

## HONOR GUARD

2020 was an unusual year for the Honor Guard. Most of the events the Honor Guard regularly attends were canceled, and large memorial services for fallen officers throughout the nation were curtailed due to COVID-19. Despite this, the team was able to honor and represent the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office at local events. Sierra Vista Winery was able to hold a fundraising event for the unit, and the turnout was far beyond their hopeful expectations. The Honor Guard was also present for the dedication ceremony of the Brian Ishmael Shooting Range. Honor Guard is looking forward to resuming their normal duties of honoring the fallen in 2021.

# OPERATIONS DIVISION





## SOUTH LAKE TAHOE PATROL

The Lake Tahoe region, commonly referred to as the Tahoe Basin, hosts millions of visitors from around the world every year. The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office is involved and present in the Tahoe Basin community, outside the City of South Lake Tahoe. The community has a full-service patrol office which includes a lieutenant, four sergeants and eleven deputies. The Tahoe Station is also staffed with sworn and non-sworn personnel from the Civil, Records, Investigations and Coroner units. The Office of Emergency Services also has a deputy assigned to the Tahoe Station for search and rescue incidents.

The deputies assigned to this station patrol the vast unincorporated areas surrounding South Lake Tahoe, Echo Summit and Rubicon Bay. These areas include residential and recreational areas accessed from Highways 50 and 89 and through communities such as Meyers, Strawberry and Tahoma. The Tahoma township is one of the more remote communities in El Dorado County. Tahoma is patrolled by a specially selected deputy who is assigned to work closely with the West Shore's residents, visitors and business owners on a collaborative basis.

Tahoe deputies respond to all types of calls for service, including crimes, vehicle accidents, lost persons and heated situations. They also address Vacation Home Rental (VHR) code compliance violations. In addition to typical patrol duties, deputies responded to 330 calls for service and issued 106 citations specifically related to the VHR industry in 2020. Tahoe deputies are also regularly dispatched to issues involving bears and humans. Hungry bears commonly break into cars and homes while searching for food within the Tahoe Basin. Deputies respond to these situations with the ultimate goal of reducing conflicts between humans and wildlife since the two must coexist in the Tahoe Basin.

Over the past year, deputies from the South Lake Tahoe station wrote 1,244 reports, made 288 arrests and issued 284 citations. Even with the challenges faced throughout the year, the dedicated employees of the Sheriff's South Lake Tahoe Station continued to provide high quality professional law enforcement services. This was accomplished by appropriately utilizing personal protective equipment, practicing social distancing and regularly sanitizing the work

## WEST SLOPE PATROL

The men and woman of West Slope Patrol make up the biggest unit in the Operations Division and are the most visible to the public. They work 24/7 to provide safety, service and security to residents and visitors of this county.

The Placerville team of the Patrol Unit consists of two lieutenants, eight sergeants and 50 deputies who work together to provide service to the community. El Dorado County consists of over 1,786 square miles of land and the Sheriff's Office is responsible for servicing 1,763 square miles. The other 23 square miles are covered by two police departments who provide service to

the two incorporated cities. While the Sheriff's Office is not primarily responsible for these areas, all agencies work together to provide services and respond to unique situations as needed. The Sheriff's Office also has substations in El Dorado Hills and Georgetown, which are frequently staffed by volunteers and deputies.

Policing in a pandemic was a hurdle that all deputies had to adapt to while continuing to provide a high level of service. The Sheriff's Office worked hard to increase personal protective equipment for the deputies and to provide guidelines for public interaction



while maintaining safety for staff and citizens. Patrol teams began remote briefings instead of meeting in large groups. Not only did this help keep our deputies socially distant, it also ensured we had deputies in their patrol vehicles throughout the county ready to respond to calls much earlier in their shifts. This practice proved beneficial several times, allowing patrol deputies to respond to calls for service in the transitional hours of the patrol shifts, catching criminals in the act of their crimes. While maintaining social distancing recommendations, CDC and OSHA guidelines and state orders, the Sheriff's Office continued to provide its traditional level of

service to the citizens of El Dorado County.

Nationwide, communities faced social unrest and division. The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office values the rights and freedoms of all citizens. The Sheriff's Office responded to several large gatherings throughout the county to ensure the First Amendment Rights of the community were respected while also ensuring safety for all involved. We all come from different backgrounds and have different opinions, but are proud to work for a community that can recognize these differences and allow room for all to have their voices heard.



The patrol vehicle fleet has continued to evolve, phasing out older vehicles and replacing them with Chevy Tahoes. These vehicles allow deputies the safest opportunity to cover the varying types of terrain within El Dorado County. Patrol vehicles are equipped with a great deal of technology including Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL), which provides accurate location of patrol vehicles. Additionally, in car video and audio systems assist deputies in gathering evidence and documenting service contacts. Even with ever-changing advancements in technology, Sheriff's Office patrol deputies understand it is human contact and interaction that has the greatest impact on the safety and security of our community.

91,249  
CALLS FOR SERVICE

19,284  
REPORTS TAKEN

2,211  
ARRESTS MADE

## INVESTIGATIONS

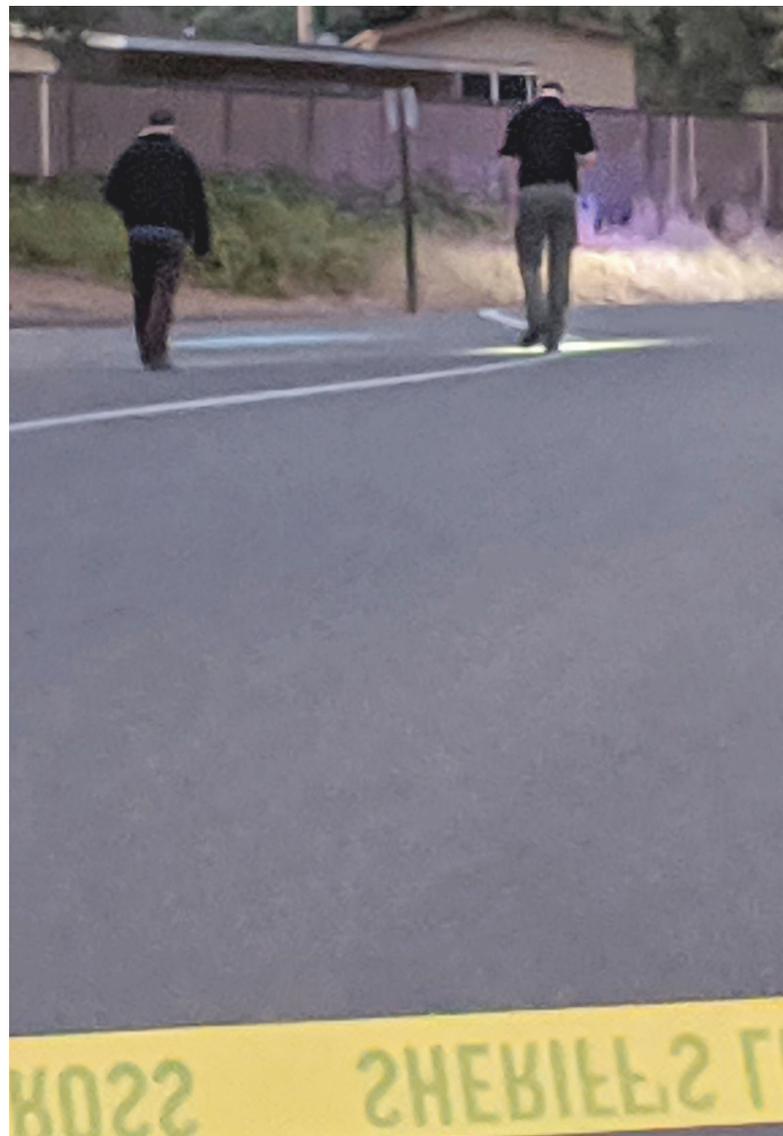
The Investigations Unit is staffed with dedicated investigators, on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to respond to critical incidents and major crimes throughout the county. They manage cases requiring highly specialized training and resources which typically exceed the scope available to a patrol deputy.

Their extensive caseloads include property and financial crimes, elder abuse, child abuse, sexual assault and violent crimes. Detectives also partner with allied agencies to share specialized knowledge and training with other law enforcement officers as well as the community. In accordance with the Sheriff's Vision of Total Care, one of the unit's highest priorities is to uncover all evidence in order to bring closure to the victims of any case. Detectives work collaboratively, regardless of their assigned caseload, to solve complex cases. They also work cooperatively with allied agencies within and outside the county.

2020 was the first full year operating in the new Public Safety Facility. The ability to work closer with other units has improved communication, collaboration, and the ability to solve crimes. With the pandemic in full force, the Investigations Unit had to find ways to work safely and still solve crimes. The experiences 2020 provided the unit with more tools to use in the future and opportunities to improve the skills of investigators.

Being able to work with Patrol more readily helped to solve a complex scamming scheme in 2020. An El Dorado County resident called regarding an active scam where they had lost over \$1,000,000. The scammers used an elaborate scheme to appear as federal law enforcement officers, then coerced the victim into repeatedly sending them money. At the time of the report, the victim was still actively talking with the suspects. Detectives were able to intervene and assist the victim. With the help of detectives, the victim played along with the suspects and set up a fake money "drop." Two suspects were arrested on scene after picking up the fake money "drop."

Detectives utilized resources at the new high-tech lab along with their interview and interrogation skills to build a strong case against the suspects. The detectives were able to tie the same suspects to similar scams nationwide



1  
HOMICIDE

53  
RAPE

31  
ROBBERY

792  
ASSAULT

369  
BURGLARY

1,363  
LARCENY

55  
AUTO THEFT



## CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS

Crime Scene Investigators are a key piece to providing total care to the El Dorado County community. This team is a group of eleven deputies whose scope and training focuses on the proper preservation, collection, and processing of vital evidence.

CSI is a collateral assignment, meaning the eleven deputies on the team have full time assignments such as Patrol or Bailiff, but can be called out to perform CSI duties at any time. The team prides itself on a meticulous work ethic and strives to process scenes with the utmost detail, in the interest of justice.

The team regularly takes part in trainings to keep their skills sharp. Trainings include blood spatter analysis, photography, and crime scene processing. These trainings are conducted both in-house and by surrounding agencies and training entities. Crime Scene Investigation is a field that is constantly evolving with new science and technology and the team understands the importance of keeping up to date with these advancements.

CSI responds to scenes such as homicides, suspicious deaths, robberies, and other violent crimes. They often play a major role in some of the most sensitive and high-profile cases in the community. In 2020, CSI responded to 37 crime scenes. While investigating those 37 scenes, the team took over 29,000 photographs and collected 659 evidentiary items. That is an average of three call outs a month, 785 photographs a case and 17 evidentiary items per investigation.

Time spent on a crime scene by the CSI team ranged anywhere from a few hours to multiple days. Those hours do not include the extra time that is then spent in the CSI lab processing and logging evidence, running additional tests, and writing reports.



## HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

The El Dorado County Sheriff's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) is comprised of two Deputies and one Sergeant.

HOT's Mission is to assist the homeless of our community to achieve sustainable independence with a proactive approach of community policing. Offering both short and long term opportunities with individualized services tailored to meet the needs of the impacted environment, and allowing us to assess and stabilize homeless individuals in immediate crisis, or in non-immediate situations.

HOT's Vision Statement:

- \* Utilize system management to allow homeless individuals to live as independently as possible.
- \* Ensuring that our environment and ecosystem takes as much priority as the individual in question.
- \* Build alliances with the homeless community through proactive outreach and personal contact in the field.
- \* Treating all individuals with compassion, dignity, and respect.

El Dorado County is one of a few counties in California that has limited treatment or housing options available. HOT continues to assist the county's transient population in connecting with applicable resources and services. HOT's goal is to assist the homeless population in breaking the cycle of homelessness. The intention is to provide total care for community members who request it and apply total enforcement in situations where it is appropriate.

Since inception, HOT has reduced the overall homeless population in the county by 95%. Despite the added challenge of navigating COVID-19, HOT assisted 28 homeless individuals to rehabilitation facilities, transitional housing or family reunification in 2020.



## PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT) is a cooperative effort between the Sheriff's Office and El Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency. PERT consists of one deputy and one behavioral health clinician who respond to scenes and assist patrol deputies with citizens in crisis due to a mental health illness. PERT responds to law enforcement requests as well as citizens' concerns regarding individuals who might be in a mental health crisis. PERT focuses on diversion efforts and ensures the client has either a safety plan to remain with friends or family or is taken to the hospital for a mental health evaluation.

When PERT is not responding to calls, they are routinely following up with clients to ensure their mental health needs are met. When necessary, PERT can proactively refer the client to county services. This may assist in connecting the client



with appropriate services and reducing future mental health crises. PERT is also part of the Multi-Disciplinary Team that reviews cases monthly.

The Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) is made up of personnel from various state and local agencies. MDT incorporates outside agencies such as Mental Health, Adult Protective Services, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Homeless Outreach Team, Code Enforcement, local hospitals, State Parole and County Probation officers, the Public Defenders Office and the District Attorney's Office. MDT conducts monthly meetings in both Placerville and South Lake Tahoe to discuss the most effective approach in assisting people in mental health crises throughout the county.

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) assists PERT by following up with people who have previously been in crisis. CIT is made up of deputies who receive additional mental health training to better assist those suffering from a mental health crisis. CIT and PERT work closely with El Dorado County Mental Health, local hospitals, and several other entities within the county to provide the best service possible.

Correctional Officers are also trained in Crisis Intervention Techniques to better serve inmates in the jail facilities. Many Correctional Officers have completed a 40-hour training and nearly all have completed at least a four-hour course. These skills include recognition of those in distress, how to effectively communicate with them and knowledge of available services inside and out of the correctional facilities.

## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Even with students not on campus for much of 2020, School Resource Officers (SROs) continued to work alongside local schools and students to maintain a safe, positive place to learn and grow. With additional grant funding, the SRO program grew to a total of seven deputies. The additional School Resource Officers allow for each local high school to have an assigned SRO, and two SROs available to respond to the middle schools. The Sheriff's Office places great importance on maintaining trust and communication with local students in order to build strong relationships.

Schools drastically changed in 2020 and the SROs rose to the occasion to continue providing services. Resource Officers have acted as liaisons between their assigned schools and the Sheriff's Office in addressing educational concerns during the pandemic. SROs have also been instrumental in keeping students and teachers connected during distance learning by conducting outreach and participating in several other projects and programs. Resource Officers were present for Project LEAD, Red Ribbon Week, backpack and school supply drives, food drives, and "Toys from the Trunk."

SROs continue to focus on underage tobacco and cannabis usage, with an emphasis on vaping. In 2020, SROs partnered with El Dorado County Health and Human Services on educational tools to reach students, families, and staff. E-cigarettes and vaping continue to be very problematic on school campuses. The SROs have become local experts on the topic; working on school campuses to conduct educational and enforcement activities for students, parents, and staff. By educating as many people as possible, the SROs hope to convey how dangerous these devices can be to children and adults. Resource Officers have conducted field operations throughout the year, focusing on the sales of tobacco and cannabis products to minors.

The Sheriff's Office is committed to the health and safety of the local youth and the School Resource Officers will continue to work hard to solidify that commitment.

## RIDE ALONGS

The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office Ride Along Program is a great opportunity for citizens and applicants to see firsthand what the deputies do on a daily basis. It offers the most transparent view of the service a patrol deputy provides. It is also a great way for our deputies to interact with the public and hear their thoughts, concerns and comments about issues they see in the community that the Sheriff's Office can help address.

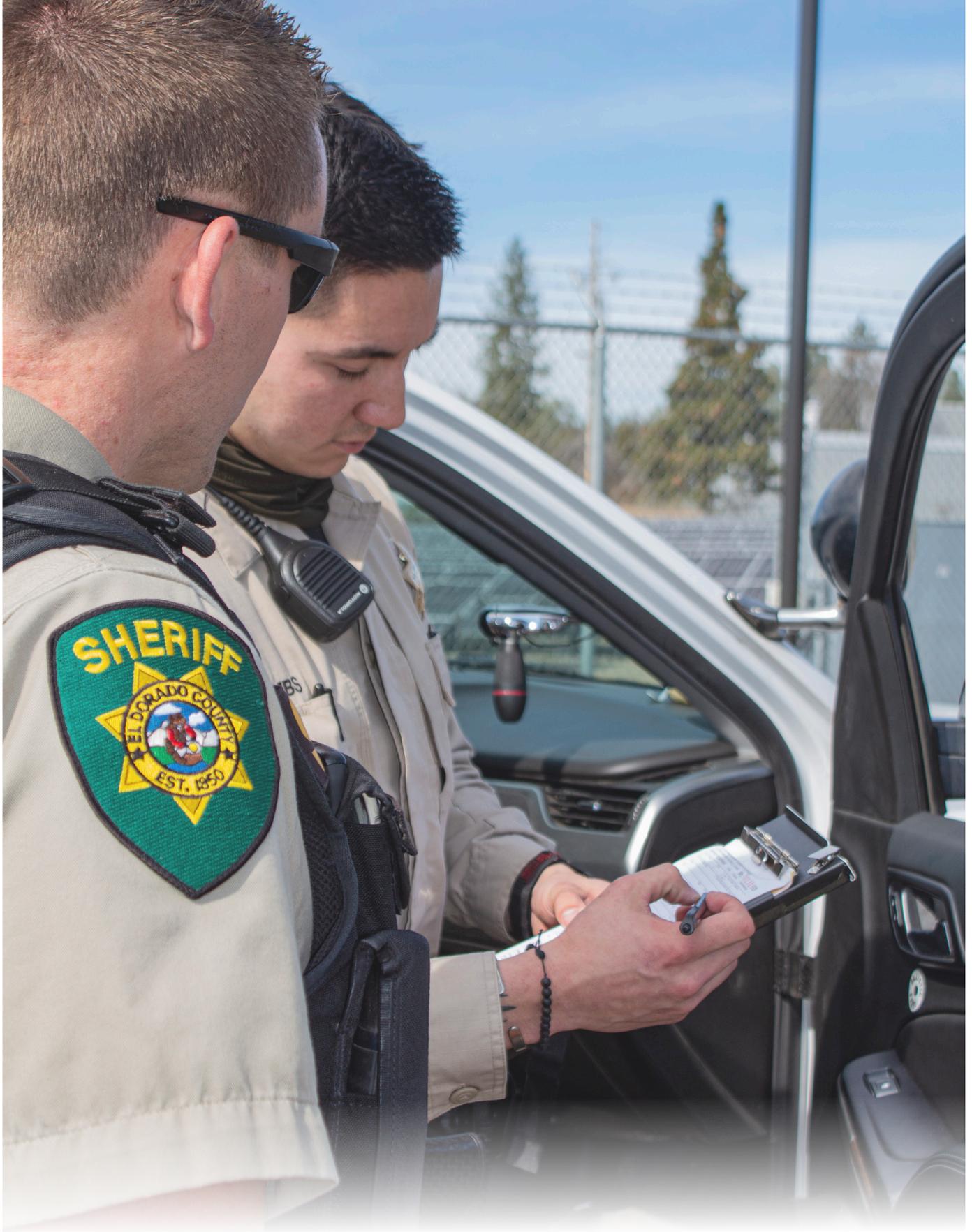
The Sheriff's Office had to restrict the Ride-Along Program in order to ensure the safety of the public and our deputies. Therefore, only 20 participants were able to complete ride-alongs before COVID-19 safety plans were put in place. Deputies are eagerly waiting for the time to come when they can have that one on one interaction with community members once again.

## FIELD TRAINING OFFICERS

The Field Training Officer (FTO) Program provides standardized, professional training based on guidelines set by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) as well as the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office. The FTO program consists of five training phases for a total of 880 hours of field training. This training is conducted after a deputy has already completed the Basic Peace Officer Academy.

The goal of the program is to train newly hired deputies in a way that the trainee is receptive to. The Deputy will gain the skills and knowledge needed to safely and proficiently handle the calls for service and investigations that El Dorado County patrol deputies are called upon to complete each day.

The progression of the FTO program is customized to adapt to the level of experience the new deputy brings with them. The Sheriff's Office often hires deputies who have gained experience in other



communities throughout California. These deputies participate in a shortened FTO program that focuses on policies and procedures specific to El Dorado County.

In 2020, 11 Field Training Officers provided training for 29 newly hired deputies. Each new deputy brings a different perspective and point of view

to help serve El Dorado County. The training officers are dedicated to providing continuous and consistent training to newly hired deputies. In 2020, new deputies completed the FTO program at a seventy-five percent success rate. This increased success rate was not a result of lowering performance standards, but due to hiring quality people and providing consistent field training.



## RESIDENT DEPUTIES

The Resident Deputy program continued to build connections between the Sheriff's Office and the community throughout the year. The goal of the Resident Deputy program is to establish a bond between the residents of the community and the Deputy residing in that area. Resident Deputies still conduct uniformed patrols and investigate criminal activity as Patrol Deputies. Resident Deputies also prioritize working with local businesses, schools, home owners and community groups to help facilitate community functions, meetings, neighborhood watch groups, safety fairs and training.

Resident Deputies are in touch with their local community trends, needs, criminal activity and areas that may require a focused law enforcement presence. These deputies also partner with other local agencies to provide a value-added service to their communities. The greatest attribute a Resident Deputy can offer is to be there when the community needs them; someone familiar that the community knows and trusts to give a high level of service.

In 2020, Resident Deputies attended over 40 community meetings and participated in community events, including National Drug

## RESERVE DEPUTIES

A Reserve Deputy is a sworn officer who has completed the same law enforcement academy and additional training required for full-time deputies, but serves with the Sheriff's Office on a volunteer basis. The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office Reserve Unit is comprised of two deputies, giving their time and effort to serve the citizens of El Dorado County. Reserve Deputies are dedicated to total care for the community and are required to maintain the same professional standard of a full-time deputy.

During 2020, the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office Reserve Unit completed three reports, issued two citations, and made one arrest. The deputies volunteered time working patrol as well as attending training and assisting with community events. The Sheriff's Office is grateful for the time and effort Reserve Deputies volunteer to serve our community and support the mission and vision of this agency.



Take-back, Community Health Fairs, Red Ribbon Week. The Resident Deputies delivered numerous meals and school supplies to children and families in need. Resident Deputies also completed multiple criminal search warrants, assisted detectives with several large-scale investigations and initiated specialized, targeted enforcement projects to focus on specific crimes in their communities.

Many of the Resident Deputies also hold collateral assignments within the Sheriff's Office, such as Search and Rescue Coordinator, Gang Suppression Team, and the Rubicon/OHV Unit.

The Resident Deputies are a hardworking group of people committed to the citizens of El Dorado County. 2020 marked the last full year of service for the North County Resident Deputy. Deputy Cissna has represented the Sheriff's Office in the northern part of the county for many years. After over 24 years of service with the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Cissna is planning a retirement in early 2021. We appreciate her years of hard work and dedicated service to this agency and community.

## OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Since 1994, the Sheriff's Office has been responsible for managing the County's Office of Emergency Services (OES). The OES Office currently consists of one lieutenant, one sergeant, three full time deputies, and nine collateral coordinator deputies. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, OES staff was extremely busy this year, going into unified command with the El Dorado County Public Health Office for the county's response to the pandemic. Although OES typically held in person meetings and trainings in the past, the staff quickly learned new ways to do old business. OES staff successfully migrated to virtual meetings and distanced trainings to maintain safety measures.

OES is responsible for maintaining the readiness of the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the event of local emergencies. The EOC is a physical location where stakeholders in a disaster gather and share information, coordinate with affected agencies, as well as support first responders in disaster response and recovery. In response to COVID-19, OES staff opened the EOC for over three months to coordinate with the El Dorado County Public Health Department for all the county's COVID response needs. COVID testing sites were set up in South Lake Tahoe and Placerville. Once vaccines became available, EOC staff, in conjunction with community partners, planned and coordinated multiple vaccine clinics within El Dorado County. The pandemic response is expected to keep the EOC open well into 2021.

In addition to coordinating for the pandemic, the EOC was also activated for events of civil unrest and the Fork Fire near Volcanoville. During the Fork fire, the EOC assisted with evacuation planning and sheltering assistance, as well as repopulating the community once it was safe to do so.

Throughout the year, OES responded to mutual aid requests by coordinating law enforcement and search and rescue operations with Amador, Lake, Mono, Nevada, Sacramento and Tuolumne Counties. OES also provides one OES deputy to assist with the Cal Fire Type 1 Incident Management Team and the Sacramento Regional Type 3 Incident Management Team. He was deployed three times



in 2020 to assist the incident management teams with regional fire responses.

OES continued to administer multi-year Federal Homeland Security Grants (HSGP) and distributed project funds to local agencies including Health Services, Environmental Management, various Fire Districts and City Municipalities.

OES assisted schools with planning, preparation, and practice in the event of an active violence situation. Conducting these events virtually proved to be complex, but OES overcame the challenges and continued to move forward. OES staff continued to work with the various fire and law enforcement entities within the county to develop



and implement Rescue Task Force planning and training within the county.

The OES team is also responsible for providing guidance and assistance to the El Dorado County Threat Assessment Team (TAT). This team will assess any workplace violence, or external threats to county facilities and employees. In addition to supporting the TAT, OES staff also provides county employees with active violence planning and training.

In addition to handling localized issues, a member of OES works with the state's regional threat assessment team as an El Dorado County Terrorism Liaison Officer (TLO) coordinator. The

TLO coordinator acts as El Dorado County's point of contact for the Sacramento Region Threat Assessment Center.

OES oversees the volunteer-based Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) in the county. Specific teams are located in Pollock Pines and Georgetown with other trained members throughout the county. Unfortunately, the CERT volunteers were unable to train due to COVID-19, but thankfully were not needed or deployed to county incidents this year. The CERT volunteers are looking forward to 2021 and getting back to training and helping the community in any way they can.

## OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

Many visitors come to El Dorado County throughout the year to enjoy off-roading in the rugged and unforgiving terrain of our forestland; much of which is not accessible with a regular patrol vehicle. The Off-Highway Vehicle Unit consists of three sergeants and seven deputies who patrol these remote locations with three exclusively upgraded Jeeps. The unit is present most summer weekends on the Rubicon Trail and, during the winter can be found in the Crystal Basin and Iron Mountain areas. The unit assists Patrol with these calls for service and allows the Sheriff's Office the ability to assist stranded motorists in remote locations and ensure safety throughout all areas of El Dorado County

Although all planned events on the Rubicon Trail were canceled during 2020, the number of people navigating through Desolation Wilderness remained high. The unit encountered over 6,000 people in 2,800 vehicles this year. Deputies issued 152 warnings for safety violations, issued seven citations and made an arrest for a weapons violation. Aside from safety and enforcement, deputies responded to medical emergencies, vehicle accidents and lost parties. The law enforcement presence on these trails is vital to maintaining the public/private partnerships that keep these areas open to four-wheeling enthusiasts. The OHV unit is proud to serve this unique law enforcement function.



## MOTORCYCLE UNIT

The El Dorado Trail, which spans from the western border of El Dorado County to Camino, has remained open throughout 2020 for nature walks, horseback riding and mountain biking. The trail varies from dirt and old railroad tracks to a Class 1, paved bike path. The Sheriff's Office Motorcycle Unit is tasked with patrolling this community treasure and providing safety for all trail users.

The seven member team is trained to ride dual-sport motorcycles on dirt trails and paved roads. The team attends events such as fairs and outdoor venues. The slim design of the motorcycle allows the deputies to maneuver

into areas where a regular patrol vehicle may not be able to go. The increased maneuverability allows deputies to provide assistance when needed or increase patrol functions to address criminal activity in certain areas. The motorcycles are also an asset during operations when a large area needs to be searched.

This year, the Motorcycle Unit patrolled 220 hours on the trail, contacted hundreds of citizens and issued over a dozen citations. The Motorcycle Unit is often found working with the Homeless Outreach Team in their efforts to address the homeless population along the trail.



## BOATING UNIT

El Dorado County is blessed with over 100 square miles of lake surface and several hundred miles of navigable rivers. Every year, tens of thousands of people personally recreate and professionally work on these waters. Activities such as day cruises, dinner cruises, and commercial fishing bring visitors from all over the region to Lake Tahoe. Every year, thousands of private boats launch on Folsom Lake, Jenkinson Lake, the lakes of the Crystal Basin and raft along the incredible white waters of the American River. El Dorado County's waterways are world class.

The Boating Unit is staffed with ten deputies and one sergeant, who are each dedicated to keeping those places safe, ensuring law and order and caring for the public. The unit is a year-round operation capable of responding to emergency calls at any time. However, the Boating Unit focuses its resources during the traditional summertime boating season. With the mission of encouraging safe boating practices throughout the county's waterways, the Boating Unit issued 1,053 warnings and 562 citations in 2020. Of those citations, 229 were issued for dangerous, careless or negligent motor



## DIVE TEAM

vessel operation. An additional 209 citations were issued for not having the required boater safety card. The Boating Unit conducted 243 safety checks, assisted 323 people on 114 vessels, participated in 16 Search and Rescue operations and investigated 21 boating accidents.

The deputies of the Boating Unit are happy to meet all the citizens and visitors who enjoy our local waterways as much as they do!



The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office Dive Team consists of ten team members who have been selected because of their interest and abilities around water. Dive team members are sent to professional training courses each year in order to safely conduct water rescues and perform recovery operations. The team is trained to use specialized equipment and technology to provide the best service to El Dorado County. The Dive Team executes underwater searches for the recovery of evidence, performs swift water rescues, high angle/cliff operations, and is responsible for the recovery of drowning victims.

Divers are called upon to perform these tasks in the diverse water environments that exist in El Dorado County. From the deep, cold waters of Lake Tahoe and the abundant high-country lakes of the Sierras, to the surging waters of the Consumnes and American Rivers. In addition to these varied environments, the Dive Team routinely responds throughout the state to assist other agencies through the California Office of Emergency Services Law Enforcement Mutual Aid System.

The Dive Team utilizes both SCUBA gear and surface-supplied breathing equipment. The team also has a remotely operated submersible vehicle, underwater lifting equipment, inflatable boats, and a multitude of ropes and mountaineering gear.

In 2020, the Dive Team unfortunately had to be utilized to conduct seven recoveries from local rivers and bodies of water. The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office Dive Team would like to remind all citizens to enjoy and recreate in the El Dorado County waterways as safely as possible. Please pay attention to how fast water is flowing in our rivers and always be prepared for the water to be a lot colder than it looks. Snow melt supplies local rivers with fast moving currents and flows into surrounding lakes. Cold water can cause the body to suddenly seize up and not function normally. Please be safe, have fun, and always wear an approved flotation device while in or around the water.

## NARCOTICS

The El Dorado County Narcotics Unit works tirelessly to stop illegal drug activity throughout the county. The Narcotics Unit also works as part of a regional task force, the Tri-counties Drug Enforcement Team (TRIDENT). The team investigates large scale narcotics cases throughout the region, while the Western El Dorado Narcotics Enforcement Team (WENET) primarily serves operations within the county.

WENET diligently investigates medium to large scale narcotic related criminal activity in El Dorado County. These cases often take detectives out of El Dorado County to the source of the illegal narcotics. In 2020, WENET served over 54 search warrants pertaining to illegal narcotics. As a result of these search warrants, the team recovered 9+ pounds of methamphetamine, 7+ pounds of cocaine, 10+ pounds of heroin as well as large amount of psilocybin mushrooms, LSD, fentanyl, and other illegal narcotics. In addition to recovering large amounts of illegal narcotics, detectives recovered 45 firearms, arrested 26 suspects, and dismantled one methamphetamine lab. WENET also seized over \$2 million in illegal narcotics sales proceeds.

2020 saw a rise in fentanyl use and fentanyl related overdose deaths in El Dorado County. In the summer of 2020, detectives investigated the tragic death of an El Dorado County resident who overdosed on suspected fentanyl that was brought into the County. WENET conducted a thorough investigation and was quickly able to identify and locate several subjects who had sold the suspected fentanyl to the decedent. It was determined the subjects selling the fentanyl knew how dangerous the synthetic opiate was and chose to distribute it in El Dorado County. When the investigation concluded, WENET arrested four subjects for manslaughter and recovered a large amount of fentanyl.

In the Spring and Summer, WENET put together the largest campaign against illegal marijuana in El Dorado County history. WENET,



with the assistance of many hard-working patrol deputies, as well as Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Guard Counter-drug Operations and TRIDENT eradicated over 194,000 illegal marijuana plants. WENET served 263 search warrants at properties that were illegally cultivating large scale commercial marijuana in El Dorado County. While serving these search warrants, 156 suspects were arrested, 241 firearms were recovered, and 16 Butane Honey Oil (BHO) labs were dismantled.

This year, two members of WENET were recognized for their outstanding work and dedication to the law enforcement community.

Detective Roberts was recognized statewide by California Narcotics Officers Association (CNOA) as the Region II Narcotics Officer of the Year. Additionally, Detective Thomsen was recognized by TRIDENT as the 2020 Special Agent of the Year.

Even with the challenges of 2020, WENET continued to work and partner with members of our community to help educate the public and our youth. Detectives participated in community meetings, Red Ribbon Week, Citizen Academy presentations, school demonstrations as well as other community events.



## CANINE TEAM

The Canine Unit is comprised of four teams; each team consisting of a Deputy and their canine partner. The teams are assigned to patrol and are deployed around the clock to provide service to the citizens of El Dorado County. The teams are trained in suspect apprehension and narcotics detection with additional training in tracking, area searches, and building searches.

In 2020, the canine teams continued to be an asset to the Sheriff's Office and the community. Collectively, the teams seized large quantities of methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine and marijuana this year. Often, large narcotics proceeds accompanied the illegal narcotic seizures. The teams were also successful in locating and apprehending dangerous felons who had harmed El Dorado County communities.

The senior canine team, Deputy Tucker and his canine partner Carly, completed their final year together. In October 2020 Deputy Tucker promoted to the rank of sergeant and Carly began his life of retirement. The team's final year of service was their most productive year in both suspect apprehension and narcotics detection. Carly is now 10 years old and fully enjoying his life at home.

Deputy Gillespie and his canine partner Cargo have now become the senior team in the



Canine Unit. In 2020, they continued working the graveyard shift and successfully completed several high-risk apprehensions. Cargo turned 8 years old this year and is in the prime of his career.

Deputy Vaughan and his canine partner Apollo entered their second year of service to El Dorado County. Apollo turned 3 years old and is becoming an excellent patrol canine. The team continues to grow and gain experience in both suspect apprehension and narcotics detection.

After completing his narcotics detection training, Deputy Fontana and his canine partner Toby began their first year on patrol. Toby is a 2 year old yellow Labrador Retriever. During the first year the team was very successful in locating a variety of illegal narcotics and narcotics proceeds. Keep up with their activities on the team's Instagram, @toby\_drug\_k9

In October 2020, after successfully completing the interview process, Deputy Hellam was selected to join the Canine Unit and become a handler. Deputy Hellam is a 12-year veteran with the Sheriff's Office. Deputy Hellam was partnered with canine Apollo in November 2020. Apollo is a 1.5 year old German Shepherd from Czechoslovakia. Deputy Hellam and Apollo will start patrol and narcotics training early in 2021.

The Canine Unit was not able to participate in many community events in 2020, but they look forward to more opportunities next year. The teams miss seeing the community and really appreciate all the support given by the citizens of El Dorado County.



## INTERDICTION

The Criminal Interdiction Unit consists of one sergeant, one deputy, two deputy canine handlers, and two canines certified in the detection of controlled substances. The Criminal Interdiction Unit is tasked with interdicting criminal activity entering, exiting, or passing through the County of El Dorado via roadway, air, or parcel.

In 2020, the Criminal Interdiction Unit made 135 arrests for outstanding warrants, transportation of controlled substances, DUI, identity theft, evading, illegal possession of firearms, and other crimes. The Criminal Interdiction Unit also worked with and assisted the investigative divisions within the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office. Traffic stops made by the Criminal Interdiction Unit in 2020 led to follow-up investigations which resulted in the seizures of approximately 600 illegally cultivated marijuana plants and over 30 stolen firearms.

Canines Carly and Toby were vital to the Criminal Interdiction Unit's mission in 2020.



Their ability to detect the odor of controlled substances consistently allowed the unit to further its investigations, seize contraband, and reduce criminal activity within the county. In October of 2020, canine Carly was retired from the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office after several years of service. We appreciate Carly's service as the first canine to be assigned to the Criminal Interdiction Unit, and wish him well in retirement.

## Criminal Interdiction Unit seized

### FROM TRAFFIC STOPS:

417 illegally transported marijuana plants  
545 pounds of illegally transported processed marijuana  
\$12,000+ of illegally transported commercial marijuana products  
**5,945 illegally transported commercial THC cartridges**  
.6 POUNDS METHAMPHETAMINE  
278 Ecstasy tablets  
**\$5,000 in stolen property**  
6 illegally possessed or illegal firearms  
**\$27,513 in suspected illicit drug proceeds**

### INTERDICTED PARCELS:

**18 pounds of illegally shipped processed marijuana**  
14.25 pounds of illegally shipped concentrated cannabis  
**1 pound of illegally shipped THC edibles**  
Illegal anabolic steroids

## SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS

The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team and Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) are committed to resolving difficult law enforcement situations using strategies and tactics that emphasize control, containment and resolution with the goal of protecting all life and property. Both SWAT and CNT are committed to utilizing developed skills, tactics, and specialized equipment and capabilities to resolve situations typically outside the realm of the ordinary patrol response. The members of the SWAT Team are committed to maintaining the highest levels of professionalism, service and training while keeping a modern approach to traditional law enforcement values.

The team utilizes four vehicles: an equipment van, a Bearcat personnel rescue vehicle, a warrant response truck, and an SUV used for the Sniper Team. The team requires members to train an average of 15 hours per month and requires each member to pass strenuous firearms, tactical and physical fitness proficiency tests to remain on the team. Team members remain up to date on modern technology to help safely and successfully complete a mission. They use cameras, robots, chemical munitions and the UAS Unit to gain voluntary compliance with subjects who pose a significant threat to victims, the community and personnel on scene.

The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team had one major call out event in 2020, a barricaded subject with violent tendencies, who was known to have weapons. This person was apprehended after attempting to flee their home on foot. The situation ended without serious injuries to responding law enforcement personnel, community members and suspect. the community or responding personnel.

It is a pleasure and honor of the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team to work professionally and diligently to be prepared and stand ready to assist our community when needed.





## CRISIS NEGOTIATIONS TEAM

The Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) is an ancillary communications element of the SWAT team within the Crisis Response Unit (CRU). CNT is comprised of skilled negotiators who resolve tense and often volatile situations through verbal skills. The primary objective of CNT is to initiate constructive dialogue with persons who have taken hostages, barricaded themselves or have threatened suicide. CNT works to facilitate a surrender in the most expeditious and peaceable manner possible.

CNT consists of seven deputies and is managed by the SWAT Sergeant. Team members are assigned to other full-time duties within the Sheriff's Office and perform their CNT duties as a collateral assignment. In addition to attending the required basic crisis negotiation course, team members have successfully completed the nationally renowned FBI negotiation course. Team members attend several team trainings throughout the year and participate in quarterly joint trainings with SWAT. These trainings sharpen negotiation skills and ensure proficiency with mission specific communication equipment. CNT is outfitted with a response vehicle, cutting-edge communication equipment and leading technology that affords safe application in the field. The team also partners with behavioral health clinician to assist in the peaceful resolution of crisis incidents

Throughout the year, CNT participates in National Night Out, Red Ribbon Week and other local community events. CNT members recognize the importance of fostering positive relationships with citizens, community organizations and allied agencies.

## EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit has always required a “Modern Approach” to stay relevant. Much of the skills needed for bomb disposal require technology, which is constantly changing and upgrading. This also requires additional and continual training for the technicians to maintain and learn the skills necessary to succeed. El Dorado County EOD team members are part of a regional team that trains and learns with surrounding allied agencies.

EOD handles all types of incidents related to explosives, from ammunition inspections to recovering found explosives. Additionally, they have been trained to operate in all types of conditions from high-angle cliffs to confined spaces.

The team also works alongside other specialty units within the Sheriff’s Office to assist on calls not specifically related to explosives. Members of this unit are trained to operate robots that have been used several times to assist SWAT in remotely breaching and searching buildings. These robots can perform forward observation through cameras, clear debris, disable vehicles and retrieve downed officers.

Team members enjoy presenting at community events throughout the year. These events give the team an opportunity to engage with, interact with and educate the adults and youth in the community. These events include Red Ribbon Week, Explorers training, the Citizen’s Academy and the County Fair.

In 2020, there were a total of 13 call outs for EOD. Some of the dangerous items removed this year include several homemade pipe bombs found in a storage shed, dynamite, and blasting caps. This year the team was able to finish the purchase and building of our new EOD response vehicle. The vehicle was specifically designed to fit the needs of the Sheriff’s Office and the areas that we serve in the community. Be sure to check it out at future community events!



9  
EXPLOSIVE PACKAGES

1  
HOAX DEVICE

1  
SWAT ASSISTANCE

1  
SEARCH WARRANT

1  
SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE



## UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS

The Sheriff's Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Unit is responsible for operating small unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, both outdoors and indoors in support of other units. The UAS Unit is frequently called upon to assist with searches for lost people, to provide tactical over watch for SWAT operations, and to assist in crime scene photography and mapping.

The unit consists of two sergeants and seven deputies who all hold Federal Aviation Administration Remote Pilot's Licenses and are qualified to operate a wide range of equipment. Used as a tool in support of existing missions of the Office, the drone provides an incident commander with an aerial perspective and delivers decision quality data. This information aides in developing a clear understanding of the facts on the ground in a manner that has not always been available to law enforcement. The drones used by the Sheriff's Office are robotic tools used to view situations that have already developed.

Over the past year the team has responded in conjunction with SWAT and Search and Rescue missions, providing imaging to help find fleeing felons and lost persons. During the height of fire season, neighbors on an El Dorado Hills hillside were frequently reporting crowds gathering, smoking, lighting fires, and engaging in behaviors that put the community at increased fire risk. The drones were used to direct deputies to the locations of this activity and were instrumental in being able to take enforcement action to restore a sense of safety to the community.

Several of the drones used by the team carry thermal imaging cameras which provides staff additional viewpoints at night and in low light situations. These systems are also used to support our public safety partners in the fire service by providing real time heat maps of fires activity.

# FISCAL DIVISION



The Fiscal Unit is committed to keeping sound financial records, maintaining integrity with every accounting entry, and ensuring each transaction processed is carried out with the taxpayers in mind. The Fiscal Unit is dedicated to pursuing grant opportunities that are in line with the Sheriff's Office Mission and Vision statements. The Fiscal Unit prides itself on being one of the best governmental finance groups in California; with a solid track record of managing accounts payable, accounts receivable, procurement, contracts, FEMA reimbursements, and administering several grants at a high level. The Fiscal Unit continues to strive toward spending less than the allotted annual budget and being stewards of taxpayers' money. The Fiscal Unit is devoted to handling the Sheriff's Office finances with accountability.

Although the Fiscal Unit was under significant pressure carrying out financial transactions during the COVID-19 pandemic in the second half of Fiscal Year 2019/2020, staff members worked hard and maintained a substantial workload to get the job done. They continued to build professional relationships with outside agencies, County departments, other government entities and the private sector. Throughout 2020, the Fiscal Unit occupied the role of Finance Chief in the Office of Emergency Services Joint Command of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The unit serves as the County's liaison with FEMA in regards to Disaster Recovery Public Assistance reimbursement.

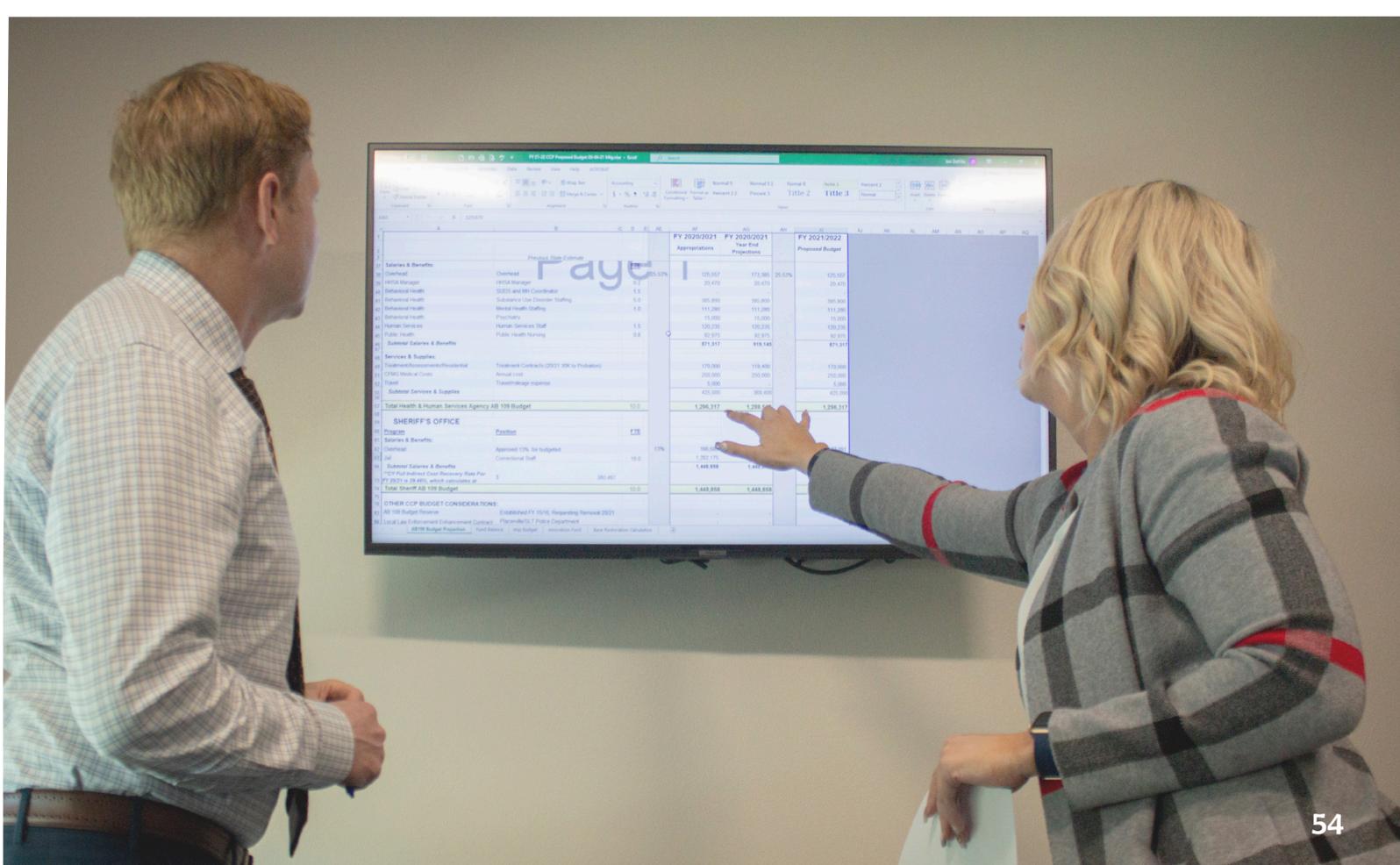
Healthy revenues from the ½ cent Public Safety Sales Tax and fund balances in the Salaries and

Benefits, and Services and Supplies expenditure categories were the driving factors in being \$4,000,000 under budget in FY 2019-2020.

Revenues were 83% to budget or \$17,052,797 in FY 2019-2020. The budget fell short in Revenues mainly due to not utilizing all of the Special Revenue Funding from the Rural Counties account that was originally planned to be used for the Mobile Command truck and trailer. The project had to be re-budgeted in FY 2020-2021 due to a late delivery of the trailer. Special Revenue Funds are discretionary revenues for specific law enforcement uses derived from the State of California. Healthy revenues from licenses, permits, fines from false alarms and Public Safety ½ cent sales taxes drove receipts for the fiscal year.

The Sheriff's Office carried a vacancy rate of at least 5% throughout FY 2019-2020 which led to a fund balance of over \$2,800,000 in the Salaries and Benefits budget category. The Services and Supplies expenditure category also was under budget mainly due to vehicle manufacturer delays which impacted the number of cars being built for Patrol and saving from training cancellations. Other contributing factors of the Sheriff's Office spending less than allotted was from savings observed in computer maintenance, building improvements, and professional services. In all, the Sheriff's Office had a fund balance in Services and Supplies of over \$2,200,000.

Fiscal Year 2019/2020			
	Budget	Actuals	Fund Balance
Revenue	\$ 39,199,138	\$ 17,052,797	
Expenditures	\$ 95,153,889	\$ 68,988,548	
Net County Costs	\$ 55,954,751	\$ 51,935,751	\$ 4,019,000



# SPECIAL PROGRAMS





## SEARCH AND RESCUE

The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (SAR) program is an organization of highly trained, dedicated volunteers who work cooperatively with the OES/SAR Coordinators to assist El Dorado County and the State of California with search and rescue operations. The SAR program currently has 154 members who provide care for those who have lost their way. The SAR program is broken up into seven different teams; Ground Search Team, Technical Rope Rescue, Swift water Rescue, Mounted, Canine, OHV, and Incident Support Team. SAR volunteers dedicate their time and money to make their motto of "So others may live" a reality.

In 2020, the SAR team handled 100 search and rescues within El Dorado County both in the South Lake Tahoe Basin and on the Western Slope of the county. While most SAR operations normally last two to three days, this year there were two campaign searches that went on for several days. These two searches alone accounted for 28 days of active search effort and accounted for tens of thousands of man hours from volunteers, El Dorado County Sheriff's staff and allied agency mutual aid. In addition to the in-county searches, the El Dorado County SAR team was requested for seven mutual aid searches in other counties.

SAR members dedicate thousands of hours of their time to train and constantly improve upon skill sets to bring the lost home. The SAR program conducts a Basic Academy at least twice a year to train new members in the basic techniques of search and rescue. The Basic Academy is followed up with an Intermediate SAR Academy and Land Navigation Field Tests. Additionally, volunteers will do an Unexpected Night Out (UNO) hike, typing qualifications hikes, and a 5-5-5 (5 miles and 5k feet in 5 hours) hike. On top of that, SAR teams did several dozen additional trainings throughout the year.

The Sheriff's Office is proud to work alongside these dedicated volunteers and is grateful for the skills they bring to serve El Dorado County.

**"WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE EL DORADO COUNTY SEARCH AND RESCUE, IN OUR MISSION TO SAVE LIVES AND REDUCE HUMAN SUFFERING, WILL PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH THE MOST EFFECTIVE PERSONNEL AND RESOURCE RESPONSE TO SEARCH, RESCUE, AND DISASTER EMERGENCIES."**

## PEER SUPPORT

As much of the community worked from home, the men and women of the Sheriff's Office had to find ways to continue providing services to the community. The uneasiness felt by everyone was a unique challenge for the Peer Support team. The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office Peer Support team is comprised of a group of deputies, correctional officers and dispatchers who take extra time to focus on the wellbeing of all Sheriff's Office employees. The team welcomed nine new members in 2020. They completed their training and were available to help members of the Sheriff's Office continue to work through challenges. 2020 was a complex year for the world, a difficult one for law enforcement and one where the Peer Support team worked tirelessly to make sure no one was left behind.

The Peer Support team is very fortunate to meet regularly with contracted clinicians and

law enforcement chaplains. These contacts ensure employees can reach out to a variety of support options to meet their needs. The mission of the Peer Support team is to help all employees build resiliency in the face of difficult tasks.

One of the tasks of the Peer Support team is to help facilitate Critical Incident Stress Debriefings following serious or tragic incidents. These debriefings are becoming standard, and highly encouraged in law enforcement and fire services. The debriefings assist law enforcement teams in whole and can provide tools to help individuals cope. A debriefing will usually be a combined effort of law enforcement chaplains, peer support members and a contracted clinician. This allows the involved employees to begin to process the normal post traumatic stress, resulting from facing abnormally dangerous or tragic situations.





## **AIR SQUADRON**

The Air Squadron is composed of citizen volunteer pilots, each with their own aircraft. Established in 1985, the pilots donate their time and use of their aircraft for a variety of air-based missions. These dedicated volunteers work with a small team within the Sheriff's Office to coordinate operations. They assist in several areas, including orientation flights, photo collection and surveillance flights.

The Air Squadron was restricted to remote communication throughout 2020 to ensure the health and safety of the pilots. Taking these increased health and safety measures into consideration, some flights were ultimately canceled. In the face of these new challenges, the faithful members of the Air Squadron were still able to provide vital and essential flights to assist the Sheriff's Office during these unprecedented times.

The hard work, dedication and assistance of the men and women of the Sheriff's Air Squadron is greatly appreciated!

## **SHERIFF'S POSSE**

Although the Posse Members couldn't meet in person like they would have liked to, they continued their mission to assist the Sheriff's Office and staff when needed. With the line of duty death of Deputy Ishmael still fresh in minds and hearts, the Posse remains committed to supporting the employees and families of the Sheriff's Office.

The Posse maintains their support for the auxiliary groups Thrive with 10-35, Explorers and Chaplains. They continued to offer scholarships to high school students within the Sheriff's Office family.

The Sheriff's Posse is looking forward to happier, healthier, and safer times in 2021 and beyond!

**THE MEMBERS OF THE EL DORADO COUNTY SHERIFF'S POSSE SUPPORT MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES OF THE EL DORADO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ENTHUSIASTICALLY, FINANCIALLY, AND IN ANY OTHER CAPACITY DEEMED APPROPRIATE IN TIME OF NEED.**



## SIERRA LAW ENFORCEMENT CHAPLAINCY

Sierra Chaplaincy is a first responder chaplaincy that offers care, comfort and hope to Sheriff's Office personnel and citizens affected by death and unexpected tragedies. Chaplains are always on call and available to all Sheriff's Office personnel. Additionally, they offer stress mitigation and resiliency care to employees and their families who would like a confidential place to address life and job stress. These services are available to any employee who reaches out to the chaplaincy for both personal and professional reasons.

In 2020, Chaplains responded to 45 call outs and facilitated two Critical Incident Stress Debriefings for Sheriff's Office Personnel. The most frequent calls for assistance were for suicides, medical events, drownings, and traffic collisions. The Chaplains arrived to assist the on scene personnel as well as the citizens who were affected by incidents. This year, Chaplains began training with the Search and Rescue teams and are pleased to be able to serve alongside the Office of Emergency Services and

Search and Rescue volunteers. This year, they responded to three missing person incidents and one fire incident.

Chaplains also serve alongside the Sheriff's Office and Thrive Peer Support teams and are grateful to partner with each of these groups to fully serve Sheriff's Office staff and families. Throughout the year, Chaplains have talked with staff and spouses about marriage, parenting, finances and managing stress. Chaplains provided an understanding ear for those processing job-related issues and life situations. In 2020, the Chaplain team grew by four legs and welcomed Bullet, the stress-mitigation-in-training Australian Shepherd. He is already a popular addition to the team, receiving visit requests when he is in the office, and prompting "where is your partner?" questions when he stays home.

The Chaplains feel honored to serve alongside Sheriff's Office staff.

## THRIVE WITH 10-35

For a year filled with stay at home orders, social distancing and canceled events, Thrive stayed very active. Although they were not able to hold their very successful annual fundraising event, they were incredibly blessed by the amazing citizens and businesses of El Dorado County who provided generous donations throughout the year. Thrive continued to organize and host many virtual and socially distant events to keep the Sheriff's Office families connected to each other.

In the early days of COVID-19, Thrive members partnered with some crafty community members to make homemade masks for Sheriff's Office staff. These masks were distributed to Patrol, Custody and those who continued working with one another or the public. Thrive also worked with Chris Steller at Dry Diggins Distillery and Chris Myers to help get hand sanitizer and dispensers for staff and around the facilities.

There were also several urgent situations in which Thrive felt it was important to communicate closely with one another. Thrive is committed to communication, protection, and the law enforcement community well-being. In a great number of ways, 2020 brought to light the need for this support; for spouses and loved ones of those who put it all on the line. Knowledge is comfort, and no one needs to go through these situations alone.

Thrive continued their wellness program and have provided over \$20,000 in support via therapy, counseling, and even hosted an Equine Therapy day which was generously donated to us by Windows to my Soul. Thrive was also able to assist a family member in attending the West Coast Trauma Center.

Thrive was proud to assist the Sheriff's Office families in many ways including providing several meal trains to families with new babies or with health issues. They also coordinated and provided meals for the National Guard when they came to help protect El Dorado County. In June they coordinated with the Chaplaincy and created a Law Enforcement Day, providing meals for all staff. They also partnered with Sierra Vista Winery to host a Hero's Run in honor of Deputy Brian Ishmael. In October, Thrive worked in partnership with Lori Veerkamp and many community members to



provide food trucks, drinks and desserts for the range dedication ceremony in honor of Deputy Ishmael. For Halloween, Thrive hosted a wonderful Trunk or Treat event in the parking lot, it brought a sense of normalcy for many of the Sheriff's Office kids.

In November, Thrive provided peer support training along with resource group partners Warriors Rest and How2LoveourCops. Thrive conducts planning meetings every other month and has a presence at all Welcome Ceremonies to welcome new families to the agency and community. Thrive members often attend many ancillary meetings, either in the community as guest speakers or other groups within the Sheriff's Office.

Thrive and the Sheriff's Office could not be more grateful to our partners, the community and the Sheriff's Office families for their support, as it enables us to further support the families of those who serve El Dorado County.

## EXPLORER POST #457

The Sheriff's Explorer program had a successful year in 2020, despite setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Explorer Post #457 adapted and successfully modified many key portions of the program, keeping the program focused on community service and law enforcement training, while ensuring the safety of the youth members.

Although many of the normal community service and fundraising events were canceled, the Explorer Post was still able to participate in 21 community events, accumulating over 380 volunteer hours. The Explorer Post is dedicated to continuing with fundraising and community service events going into the future.

The number of active participating members in the Explorer Post remained high, with 49 members attending weekly meetings. During the year, these meetings were transitioned into an online format conducted remotely. This allowed for training and vital program operations to continue without the risk of in-person exposure.

The Explorers remained committed to professional development in their pursuit of law enforcement careers. Members of the Explorer Post continued to follow the footsteps of former Explorers who are now Sheriff's Office employees and interns.

In January, the Explorer Competition Team competed against Explorers from 62 agencies in a tactical competition in Chandler, Arizona. The team performed exceptionally well and ranked high during the competition, earning 1st place in a Bungee Challenge, 1st place in the Female Pistol Shoot, 2nd place in the Male Pistol Shoot, 2nd place in the Drug Raid scenario, 3rd place in the Drill performance, 3rd place in the Critical Incident scenario, 2nd place in





the Felony Traffic Stop scenario, 2nd place in the Crisis Intervention scenario and 5th place in the Breaching Challenge.

In February, several new members were added to the Explorer Competition Team. The Explorers maintained a high level of performance at the Stockton CHP competition, allowing for the new members to gain experience with competition-level tactics. This performance earned the team 2nd and 3rd place rankings in the Mental Health Crisis Intervention, Felony Traffic Stop and Critical Incident scenarios.

The Sheriff's Office is very proud of the Explorers not only for their achievements during these competitions, but also for their outstanding job representing El Dorado County.

The members of the Explorer Post received firearm safety training and advanced firearm training from Sheriff's Office Instructors. The Explorers gratefully used the Hangtown Range as the training venue before transitioning their trainings to the Brian Ishmael Shooting Range at the Public Safety Facility.

The firearm training proved to be successful for one of the members of the Explorer Post, who was a top rated participant with an organized shooting

competition. The Explorers intend to continue developing the firearm program and attend more competitions in the future.

The Explorers proudly completed fallen officer memorial runs during 2020. Since these memorial runs are not public events, Explorer participation solely serves to honor regional law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. In October, a memorial run was held to honor Deputy Brian Ishmael, who paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving the El Dorado County community in 2019. The Explorer Post volunteered at several locations of the US Marines' Toys for Tots program. The Explorers worked alongside several local law enforcement agencies with the goal of reaching children in need.

The Sheriff's Office is proud of the accomplishments of the Explorers throughout the year. As 2020 closed, the Explorer Post remained optimistic about continuing to serve the community and providing excellent training to the members of the program.

Going into 2021, the Explorer Post plans to implement a new learning format that will follow the basic layout of a law enforcement academy, participate in community events and competitions, and build partnerships with other community groups to better serve the public.

## DEDICATED TO A LIFE OF EXCEPTIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE...

Much of where the Sheriff's Office is today, and the accomplishments we have achieved would not have been possible without the enthusiastic direction and guidance from Randy Peshon. 2020 marked Undersheriff Peshon's 42nd year in law enforcement and brought with it a long list of accomplishments.

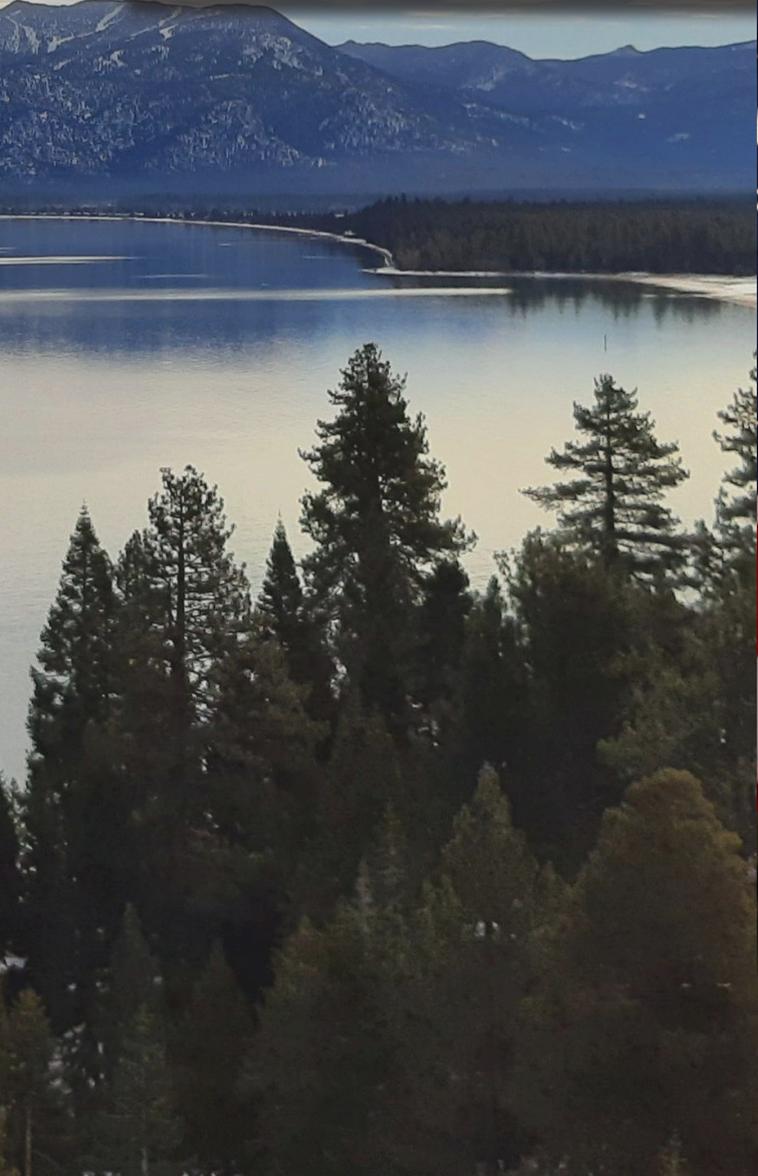
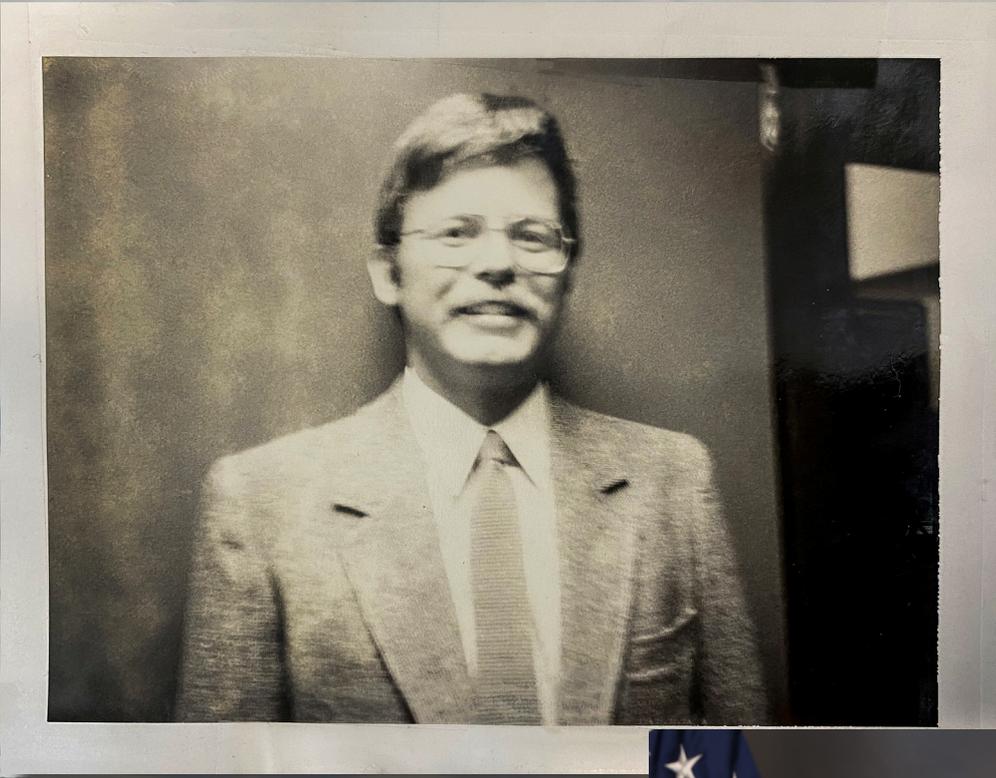
Undersheriff Peshon was a driving force in completing the Public Safety Facility on time and under budget. Throughout his career, Randy maintained a pattern of taking on projects and assignments with complete ownership. He thrived on knowledge and understanding in all aspects of his career. In 1987, at the beginning of his career with the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office, Randy was recognized as a bright officer and an asset to the Sheriff's Office.

Randy was a staple in the South Lake Tahoe office for much of his career. He was the long time Resident Deputy in Tahoma and was highly recognized for his connection with the community. He had a unique ability to identify where the Sheriff's Office could coordinate with other agencies to provide total care. One of these first accomplishments included coordination between the Sheriff's Office and Meek's Bay Fire Department to acquire a rescue vehicle to respond in emergency situations that needed to be handled immediately.

As the Lieutenant in the South Lake Tahoe Jail, he worked tirelessly with community stakeholders to find solutions for mentally ill offenders. His efforts helped connect this population to mental health services and create a mental health court system. These advancements addressed the unique needs of offenders with mental illnesses to help keep them out of jail when possible. Randy continued to adapt to the ever-changing law enforcement environment, which was evident during his response to AB109, an assembly bill that forced county jail facilities to house state prison inmates. This drastically changed the inmate population and the challenges faced in the facilities. Lieutenant, then Captain, Peshon led his staff through these changes with confidence and professionalism.

Undersheriff Peshon will leave a lasting mark on this agency with the countless employees he mentored and guided through many challenges and changes over the years. His knowledge and leadership is well respected, not only within our agency, but with his law enforcement peers throughout the state and nation. We thank him and his family for their continued dedication to public service and the El Dorado County community over the years.

Well deserved retirement, Undersheriff!





**” I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT I WILL SUPPORT AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AGAINST ALL ENEMIES, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC; THAT I WILL BEAR TRUE FAITH AND ALLEGIANCE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA; THAT I TAKE THIS OBLIGATION FREELY, WITHOUT ANY MENTAL RESERVATION OR PURPOSE OF EVASION; AND THAT I WILL WELL AND FAITHFULLY DISCHARGE THE DUTIES UPON WHICH I AM ABOUT TO ENTER.”**

## **EL DORADO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**Public Safety Facility  
200 Industrial Drive  
Placerville, CA  
(530) 621-5655**

**South Lake Tahoe Office  
1360 Johnson Blvd #100  
South Lake Tahoe, CA  
(530) 573-3000**

**Placerville Jail  
300 Forni Road  
Placerville, CA  
(530) 621-6000**

**South Lake Tahoe Jail  
1051 Al Tahoe Blvd  
South Lake Tahoe, CA  
530-573-3031**