

Tioga County Sheriff's Office



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Sheriff's Office 2022 Annual Legislative Summary Report

Accomplishments:

- The Sheriff's Office changed to the new Spillman records management system. This involved facilitating training to all Dispatcher and Deputies as well as all other Police Officers from local Police Departments within Tioga County along with working closely with Tioga County ITCS for software installation.
- The Operation Lifesaver program was implemented. This program allows us to provide small radio frequency transmitters to people at risk of wandering or getting lost, such as people with Alzheimer's disease or Autism. When a person with a transmitter is lost or leaves their residence, Sheriff' Office personnel can use radio trackers to locate them quickly.
- In cooperation with the Personnel Department, Deputies certified as Physical Fitness Instructors have conducted physical tests required by Civil Service Law for certain positions. This has eliminated the County's dependence on other agencies to conduct these tests.
- The Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) was implemented in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Justice and Tioga County Public Health. The program allows overdoses in Tioga County to be tracked in near real time and alerts program users to spikes in the number of overdoses, enabling agencies to get information to the public to help prevent future incidents.
- E-911 Communications Center:
 - Dispatchers received or were sent to formal training to include; Communications Training Officer School, Public Safety Dispatcher II and various Incident Command System classes.
 - All Dispatchers were also certified or recertified in the Emergency Medical Dispatch Protocol Program.
 - The Communications Division received an award from the Tioga County Advocacy, Support and Prevention Coalition (ASAP) for their effort to make the ODMAP program a success. All overdoses from the Sheriff's Office and local police agencies are reported through the Communications Division.
- Grants:
 - Administered the 2021-22 PSAP grant that provided \$129,044.00 used to offset a portion of the E-911 dispatcher salaries.
 - The Governors Traffic Safety Board awarded a Patrol Traffic Services grant for \$10,530 to go towards traffic enforcement overtime.
- Road Patrol:
 - Several training sessions were conducted at the Public Safety Building to get eight Sheriff's Office members trained in the use of the TruNarc drug testing instrument. This allows Deputies and Investigators test drugs and other substances while reducing the risk of exposure to Fentanyl.
 - Three Deputies completed the basic police academy.

- In two separate drug take back events the Sheriff's Office took possession of 680lbs of unwanted prescription and non-prescription drugs for destruction.
- In May one Deputy was certified as a Drug Recognition Expert to help combat impaired driving.
- Corrections Division:
 - Eleven applicants hired and enrolled in the Corrections field training program with nine successful completions.
 - Many members completed training in several areas. Some trainings were mandated for the position but most were completed to add to the Division's already excellent service. These trainings included: Basic Corrections Academy, Suicide Prevention Instructor certification, Glock Armorer recertification, Peer Support Advocate training, Officer Wellness training, Firearm Instructor certification, Jail-time Calculation certification and recertification.
 - The mandated Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program was developed and implemented in compliance with NYS laws and the Commission of Corrections Minimum Standards.
 - 289 Centralized Arraignment Part court (CAP) arraignments completed.
 - 433 Inmates processed through intake, including 56 revenue generating board-ins.
- Criminal Investigation Division:
 - Investigators received formal training in many areas to include crimes against children, forensic interviewing of children, forensic interviewing of people with disabilities, blood pattern analysis, computerized voice stress analysis and the Henry Williams Homicide Seminar, which was attended by homicide investigators from all over the world.
 - In compliance with New York State's recent discovery compliance laws, the Sheriff's Office provided all required material to the District Attorney's Office for 239 Sheriff's Office cases. Discovery material was also provided to other local police agencies and New York State Police for their compliance in 188 cases.
 - Two rounds of search warrants were executed on local cannabis stores which were operating illegally and without a license. In total, over 435 pounds of suspected cannabis products and approximately \$142,000 in suspected proceeds were seized as evidence.
 - In June the Sheriff's Office responded to a call where a woman was found shot to death in her residence. Because of the time that had passed between when the woman was killed and when she was found, the case required extensive crime scene processing, numerous search warrants and many hours of investigation. As a result of this extensive investigation CID was able to arrest a person for the charge of Murder in the Second Degree.
- Civil Division:
 - Re-accreditation was awarded by the New York State Sheriff's Association.
 - With the eviction moratorium lifted, the number of evictions processed went from 12 in 2021 to 105 in 2022 and the number of evictions enforced went from 2 in 2021 to 33 in 2022.
 - Civil Manager Kimberly Lombardoni conducted accreditation audits and assessments in the civil divisions of Onondaga, Ontario, Wayne and Greene Counties.
- Records / Pistol Permits:
 - Coordinated with the newly elected Tioga County Court Judge to revamp the pistol permit application process.

Challenges

- Because of the lack of participation in the work force, all divisions were affected by the lower number of qualified candidates applying for or testing for positions at the Sheriff's Office.
- Many New York State laws were changed, affecting every division:
 - Corrections adjusted to the unfunded mandate of Medication Assisted Treatment as well as the Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement Act (HALT), which vastly restricts discipline of inmate behavior.
 - The Road Patrol and Criminal Investigation Divisions were effected by another Raise the Age law, restricting what juveniles could be arrested for as well as the new Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) law that requires more search warrants to be applied for.

- The Records/Pistol Permit Division had to revamp all paperwork and procedures for pistol permit applications following the change in laws pertaining to pistol permits.
- The Civil Division can no longer enforce income executions arising from medical debt and the interest rate that can be enforced on consumer debt went from 9% to 2%. This resulted in changes needing to be made in the Sheriff's Office processes and computer software.
- Because of COVID-19, 47 employees were quarantined with a loss of 192 work days in 2022.

Goals for 2023

- Complete a proposal for body worn cameras leading to the purchase and deployment of the cameras.
- Complete mutual aid agreements with bordering New York Counties.
- Reduce overtime by achieving appropriate staffing levels.
- In conjunction with the Tioga County radio project rebuild the E-911 Communications work stations.