

# Tioga County Sheriff's Office



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## Sheriff's Office 2021 Annual Legislative Summary Report

### Accomplishments:

- The Criminal Investigation Division conducted a joint drug trafficking investigation with several federal, state and local police agencies, spanning multiple states. The investigation resulted in 8 search warrants, 11 people arrested and large amounts of methamphetamine and weapons being seized.
- Implementation of new use of force procedures and training in the Corrections Division contributed to no labor time being lost because of work related injuries in 2021 after 408 hours lost in 2019 and 128 hours lost in 2020.
- In cooperation with Buildings and Grounds, we were able to replace the walk-in cooler and freezer for the Jail kitchen.
- The video surveillance system and access control for the building was upgraded
- Sheriff's Office employees trained and certified as Physical Fitness Instructors to assist Civil Service with fitness testing.
  
- E-911 Communications Center:
  - Re-accredited through the New York State Sheriff's Association, a recognition of maintaining high standards for a Public Safety Answering Point.
  - Certified and/or Re-certified the entire division in Emergency Medical Dispatching Protocol Program
  - Dispatchers received or were sent to formal training to include; Communications Supervisor School, Communications Training Officer School, Public Safety Dispatcher 1 and various Incident Command System classes.
  - Chief Dispatcher Cole was certified as a Notary Public.
  
- Grants:
  - Administered the 2020-21 PSAP grant that provided \$129,555.00 used to offset a portion of the E-911 dispatcher salaries.
  - A laser measuring device has been purchased as part of 2019 SLETPP (State Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program) grants. The device will be used to document vehicle crash and crime scenes.
  - The Governors Traffic Safety Board awarded a Patrol Traffic Services grant for \$12,150 to go towards traffic enforcement overtime.
  
- Road Patrol:
  - In May 2021 the Road Patrol division certified 9 members in Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement, with the purpose of increasing arrests of drug and alcohol impaired drivers throughout Tioga County.

- On September 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 the Road Patrol division investigated a complaint of animal cruelty on Pennsylvania Ave. in the Town of Owego. This investigation led to the rescue of 33 dogs, 15 chickens, and 1 miniature pony. The owner of these animals was subsequently charged with 49 counts of animal cruelty.
- In 4 separate drug take back events the Sheriff's Office took possession of 1,290lbs of unwanted prescription and non-prescription drugs. The drugs were then disposed of at a facility in Syracuse.
- A new Conducted Energy Device (Taser) program was developed and deployed.
- Corrections Division:
  - 4 Staff members successfully trained and certified as Field Training Officers.
  - 1 Suicide Prevention Instructor achieved recertification.
  - 6 New hires completed Corrections Basic Academy.
  - 11 applicants hired and enrolled in the Corrections field training program with 10 successful completions.
- Criminal Investigation Division:
  - Investigator Timothy Schmidt was promoted to the rank of Senior Investigator.
  - Road Patrol Sergeant Michael Gunning and Deputy Ryan Bunce were promoted to Investigator.
  - Discovery Compliance Officer Vera Clark successfully transmitted a total of 272 Tioga County Sheriff criminal cases to the District Attorney's Office via the Prosecutor Case Management System. We also provided discovery material to the local police agencies in Tioga County and New York State Police for discovery in their cases. All New York State discovery laws were adhered to without issue.
  - CID's focus on drug investigations resulted in the execution of two search warrants, the recovery of over 2 ounces of crystal methamphetamine and felony charges against 6 separate defendants.
- Civil Division:
  - Implemented changes resulting from the continuing legislation regarding evictions and COVID-19 mandates.
  - Civil Division Manager Ward taught virtually at the New York State Sheriff's Association's Basic Civil School and the refresher course.
  - Kim Ward was an assessor in the re-accreditation of Chemung and Seneca Counties Civil Divisions.
  - Kim Ward was an assessor in accreditation of Madison County Civil Division.
- Records / Pistol Permits:
  - Purged or archived all 2010 records according to records retention laws.
  - Certified Records Clerk Sandra Short as a Notary Public.

### Challenges

- Sr. Investigator Clifford Alexander was lost to Covid.
- The Road Patrol Lieutenant was on long term medical leave for the last four months of the year.
- A Road Patrol Sergeant was hospitalized after being assaulted while investigating a suspicious condition call.
- The continuation of the pandemic affected almost all facets of operation.
  - 37 Employees were quarantined because of Covid for the year, with a loss of 281 working days.
  - Increased health risk of infection to Corrections Officers and Deputies when having to use physical force or perform first aid.
  - Adjusting to ever-changing quarantine, payroll and safety laws as well as regulations from New York State and the federal government.
- Because of reduced court schedules Alternatives to Incarceration worked only 35 days for the year.
- Restoring inmate programs such as AA, drug and alcohol counseling and religious services that have been suspended because of Covid.
- 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.