

BERKELEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff S. Duane Lewis

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Taking Care of People

Berkeley County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff S. Duane Lewis

**223 N. Live Oak Drive
Moncks Corner SC 29461**

**Duty Office: 843-719-4412
Dispatch: 843-719-4505**





Berkeley County Sheriff's Office

2024 year in review

Berkeley County — 229,861 Residents

Calls for Service — 87,157

North: 15,294

South: 71,863

Arrests — 1,993

North: 748

South: 1,245

High Visibility Patrols— 1,482

North: 902

South: 580



Average Daily Inmate Population — 418

Bookings — 6,148



223 N. Live Oak Drive



843.719.4412



<https://sheriff.berkeleycountysc.gov/>

Letter from the Sheriff



Dear Citizens of Berkeley County,

It is my honor and privilege to serve as your Sheriff, and I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for your trust and support. The Berkeley County Sheriff's Office is committed to transparency, and we firmly believe that keeping the public informed is essential to strengthening the relationship between law enforcement and the community.

With that in mind, I am proud to present our 2024 Annual Report, which provides an overview of our operations, achievements, and ongoing efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all Berkeley County residents. Our dedicated deputies work tirelessly each day to uphold the law, protect our citizens, and enhance public safety, and I am incredibly proud of their unwavering commitment to this mission.

We recognize that our success would not be possible without the continued support of our community. Your trust empowers us to do our job effectively, and we do not take that responsibility lightly. I sincerely appreciate each and every one of you for standing with us as we work together to make Berkeley County crime free.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Sheriff. I look forward to continuing our partnership and keeping you informed as we move forward.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. Duane Lewis".

S. Duane Lewis, Berkeley County Sheriff

Get to know your Sheriff



Sheriff Duane Lewis began his law enforcement career in 1984 at the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy. In 1987, Lewis became a Patrolman with the City of Charleston Police Department. While there, he obtained the rank of Investigator. In 1991, He became a Special Agent for I.N.S. Investigations Bureau, a national arson investigative unit for the insurance industry. Lewis was hired as a Detective at the Goose Creek Police Department in 1992. He was soon promoted to the rank of Detective Sergeant and supervised the Detective Division.

In 1994, he accepted a position with the South Carolina Public Service Authority (Santee Cooper) as a Special Agent in the Law Enforcement Division. He served at Santee Cooper for 22 years. During his time, he was promoted to Major and later Deputy Chief. Lewis was responsible for Criminal Investigations, Training and Development, Internal Investigations, and Federal Regulatory Regulations. He served as a member of the National Homeland Security Critical Infrastructure Coordinating Council after the terrorist attacks in 2001.

In June of 2015, Duane Lewis was elected as the Sheriff of Berkeley County. He was re-elected in 2018 and 2022. Sheriff Lewis is a graduate of Goose Creek High School and has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia College.

**OUR MISSION:
"TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE"**

**OUR VISION:
"TO BE THE BEST WE CAN BE IN ALL THAT WE DO"**

OUR CORE VALUES ARE NON NEGOTIABLE:

- Integrity
- Treating people with dignity and respect



Keep in Touch

SHERIFF'S OFFICE / ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:

223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner 29461 > Office: (843) 719-4465

NORTH DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS – ALVIN / ST. STEPHEN:

2184 Santee River Road, St. Stephen 29479 > Office: (843) 749-1006

SOUTH DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS – GOOSE CREEK:

301 Red Bank Road, Goose Creek 29445 > Office: (843) 471-2403

CROSS/PINEVILLE SUBSTATION:

1659 Old Hwy 6, Cross 29436 > Office: (843) 753-2455

HILL-FINKLEA DETENTION CENTER:

300 California Avenue, Moncks Corner 29461 > Office: (843) 719-4546

***THESE OFFICES ARE NOT MANNED 24 HRS A DAY.
PLEASE DIAL 911 IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY.***



Stay Connected with Us!

We invite our citizens to stay connected with the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office through a variety of convenient platforms designed to keep you informed and engaged. Visit our official website for updates, resources, and important announcements, or download our mobile app to receive real-time alerts and access essential services at your fingertips. You can also follow us on social media to stay informed about community news, safety tips, and upcoming events. We are committed to maintaining open lines of communication and keeping our citizens informed every step of the way.

Our website

Berkeley County citizens can also visit the the Sheriff's Office Website at sheriff.berkeleycountysc.gov. Citizens can apply for a job at the Sheriff's Office, request extra patrol, give tips on criminal activity, search for an inmate, and much more.

Our smart phone app

In 2024, Berkeley County Sheriff Duane Lewis introduced BCSO's custom smartphone application that is available to the public. The app serves as an innovative way for the Sheriff's Office to connect with Berkeley County residents and visitors. The app provides information quickly and efficiently to anyone with a smartphone. The app is available to download for free in the Apple App Store and Google Play by searching "Berkeley County Sheriff."

Connect with us on social media



Professionalism you can trust!

In 1979, with support from the U.S. Department of Justice, major international and national executive law enforcement associations created a credentialing authority known as the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. or "CALEA." The purpose of CALEA then and today is to promote uniformity and the improvement of public safety services through the maintenance of professional law enforcement standards and a rigorous accreditation process.

CALEA operates as an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation and is not part of, or beholden to, any governmental entity. CALEA seals of accreditation are widely recognized nationally and internationally as the "Mark of Professional Excellence" and are awarded to public safety agencies that have demonstrated compliance with CALEA standards and have been awarded CALEA accreditation. Each accreditation is a four-year-process, and the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office must meet 376 CALEA standards to receive CALEA accreditation. The Berkeley County Sheriff's Office is a state and nationally accredited public safety organization having received CALEA accreditation three consecutive times in 2016, 2020, and 2024. We are proud to showcase our CALEA gold stars and strive to maintain them for years to come.





Senior Command Staff



Chief Deputy Baker is second in command at the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office and acts on behalf of the Sheriff in his absence. He is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Sheriff's Office, develops and oversees the Berkeley County Sheriff's office budget, and manages and coordinates the various divisions within the Sheriff's Office.



Major Willie Hickman commands the Operations Branch of the Sheriff's Office which includes the North and South Uniform Patrol Districts, the North and South Community Action Team members, Court Security, Warrants, Civil Process, Judgments, and the U.S. Marshal's Task Force.



Major Bobby Shuler commands the Investigations and Support Services Branch of the Sheriff's Office which includes: Criminal Investigations, Drug Enforcement Task Force, Forensics, Crime Analysis, Sex Offender Registry, Victim Advocates, Internet Crimes Against Children, Computer Forensics, Pawn Shop Investigations, Civil Disturbance Team, K9, Traffic Unit, Marine Patrol, Search and Rescue Team, Dive Team, Special Response Team, Bike Unit, Records, School Resource Officers, Duty Office, Animal Control, & LE Explorers.



Major Crumley is the Operations Commander at the Hill-Finklea Detention Center. He is responsible for inmate supervision, Special Operation Response Team (SORT), transport and Litter pick-up.



Director Randy Demory serves as the Director of the Detention Center. Director Demory is a nationally recognized detention professional with 40 years of experience in the corrections field.



Inspector Dan Isgett commands the Office of Professional Standards. The Office of Professional Standards is responsible for Internal Affairs, Grants, National and State Accreditation, Recruitment, Polygraph & Background Investigations, Planning and Research, Emergency Operations, BCSO Awards, Peer Support, Promotional Processes, and Accident Review.



Elisabeth Hoover serves as General Counsel for the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office. She was raised in Moncks Corner and graduated from Berkeley High School in 1998. She earned her degree from the College of Charleston in 2002 and graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2006. Before joining the Sheriff's Office, she served as the administrative judge for the Town of Moncks Corner for seven years and has over 18 years of legal experience.



BCSO Command Staff



Captain Jimmy Mixson
Uniform Patrol North

Uniform Patrol North
Community Action Team North



Captain Dave Kolega
Uniform Patrol South

Uniform Patrol South
Community Action Team South



Captain Annie Jackson
Judicial Services

Court Security
Civil Process
Judgements
Warrants
US Marshal Task Force
Training



Captain Dan Wilson
Criminal Investigations

Criminal Investigations
Drug Task Force
Forensic Services
Victim Advocates
Sex Offender Registry



Captain Christopher Dirks
Special Operations

K9 Unit
Traffic Unit
Special Response Team
Civil Disturbance Team
Marine Patrol
Animal Control
URT



Captain Dean Kokinda
Computer Forensics
Technical Services Division

CJIS
Computer Forensics
Crime Analysis
AFIS
Video Evidence
Records / Duty Office



Captain Matt Woodall
School Resource Officers

Peer Support
Awards



Captain Matt Downing
Hill-Finklea Detention Center
Administration

Training
Records
Classification
Property Management

BCSO Annual Awards

Sheriff Lewis takes great pride in recognizing the dedication and hard work of the deputies at the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office. Through our quarterly and yearly awards, we honor those who go above and beyond in their service to the community. These awards highlight outstanding performance, bravery, and commitment to keeping Berkeley County safe. Sheriff Lewis believes that acknowledging the efforts of our deputies not only boosts morale but also reinforces the values of integrity and excellence within our department.

Deputy of the 1st Quarter: None
Supervisor of the 1st Quarter: Sgt. Bradley Pitsinger
Civilian of the 1st Quarter: Darleen Maloney-Martin



Deputy of the 2nd Quarter: Deputy A. Tarik
Supervisor of the 2nd Quarter: Sgt. B. Scio
Civilian of the 2nd Quarter: Melanie Hilton



Deputy of the 3rd Quarter: Cpl. R. Salka
Supervisor of the 3rd Quarter: Lt. R. Ramsey
Civilian of the 3rd Quarter: Katie Blackwell



Deputy of the 4th Quarter: Det. J. Difalco
Supervisor of the 4th Quarter: Sgt. Brandon LaTullip
Civilian of the 4th Quarter: Samantha Anderson
Detention Deputy of the 4th Quarter: PFC Jack Boling
Detention Supervisor of the 4th Quarter: Lt. Danny Jones
Detention Civilian of the 4th Quarter: Steven Selph



2024 Deputy of the Year: Det. Cpl. Rachel Herbst
2024 Supervisor of the Year: Lt. Corinthian Green
2024 Civilian of the Year: Shannon Mizner
2024 Reserve Deputy of the Year: R/Dep. Stephen Brunson
2024 Volunteer of the Year: Kelli Kemmerer



2024 Detention Deputy of the Year: PFC Ezequiel Valladares
2024 Detention Supervisor of the Year: Sgt. Walter Cohen
2024 Detention Supervisor of the Year: Sgt. Devon Lindsay
2024 Detention Civilian of the Year: Megan King



BCSO Promotions in 2024





School Resource Officers

2024 year in review

The School Resource Officer Division



Completed Incident Reports – **534**

Arrests for School Violations – **230**



The School Resource Officer Division is a collaborative effort between the Sheriff's Office, Berkeley County School District, and Charter Schools USA to provide a deputy sheriff in all schools located in the unincorporated areas of Berkeley County. The SRO Division strives to keep campuses safe and foster positive relationships with the students and community. The SRO Division consists of 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 3 Sergeants, 1 Administrative Assistant and 30 deputies who are assigned to five high schools, seven middle schools, 14 elementary schools, and one charter school. Deputies are often found interacting with students and staff, from providing instruction on drug and gang resistance programs to mentoring and counseling students when appropriate.

SRO deputies use teacher work days and summer break to attend advanced training classes to be better prepared to carry out their duties. SRO deputies host a free Sheriff's Office Summer Camp one week each summer where approximately 65 children from the community enjoy the opportunity to interact with deputies and learn about public safety and military career fields. Campers are able to go on several field trips during the week too. Over Christmas Break, deputies take part in Toys For Tots and assist with collecting, sorting, shopping and delivering Christmas gifts to deserving children in the community





Criminal Investigations

2024 year in review

Cases assigned – 1,721

Cases cleared by arrest – 136

Cases exceptionally cleared – 221

Unfounded cases – 329

Administratively closed cases – 976



The Criminal Investigations Division include Crimes against Persons, Property Crimes, Domestic Violence, Child and Elder Abuse, Financial Crimes, and Sex Offenders.

Drug Enforcement Task Force

The Drug Enforcement Task Force is made up of detectives from the BCSO, the Goose Creek Police Department, the Moncks Corner Police Department, and the Hanahan Police Department. The Task Force works with local, state, and federal agencies to combat the illegal drug trade. Citizens who want to provide information about illegal narcotics activity may call 843-719-4424.

Cocaine – 13.12 pounds

Cocaine Base – 0.314 pounds

Heroin / Fentanyl – 8.04 pounds

Methamphetamine – 28.74 pounds

Marijuana – 94.01 pounds

Psilocybin – 3.35 pounds

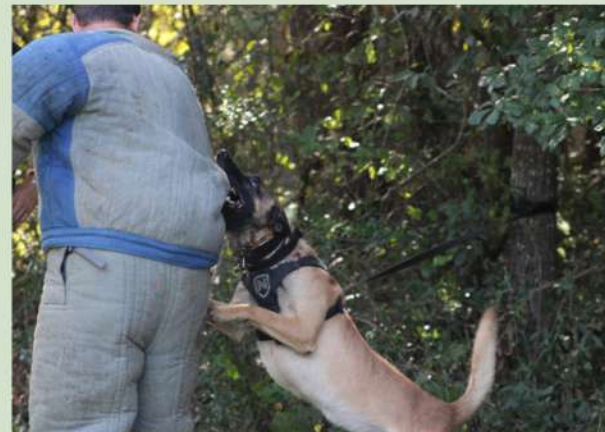
Firearms – 42

Currency – \$3,629.00





K9 Unit



The Berkeley County Sheriff's Office currently has nine handlers and nine canines in service. Seven of these canines are "Patrol Dogs" and two are bloodhounds used only for tracking. In 2024, the Sheriff's Office Canine Unit conducted numerous functions for the agency. In total, the unit deployed canines a total of 329 times. 140 of these deployments were tracks for wanted, lost, or endangered individuals. These tracks were successful in locating the subject, end of the track, or locating evidence to further an investigation on 67 of these tracks. This places the unit at almost a 50 percent success rate for tracking which is well above the national average. Canines assisted in apprehension of 52 subjects with 9 of these being bite apprehensions.

The canine unit seized a total of 28 firearms and 2 stolen vehicles.

The unit assisted with the arrest of 227 individuals this year. This included incident where the handler was the primary charging officer, arresting a wanted subject, or having a direct impact in the arrest with their canine.

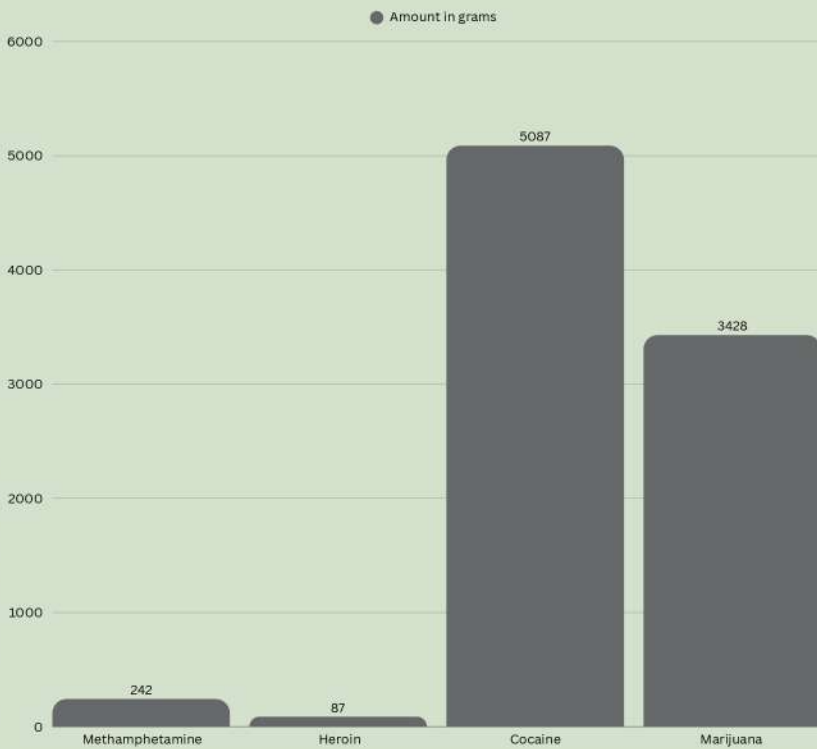
The unit supported other units in the service of 44 search warrants.

From an administrative perspective the unit has entered a training cycle the last several months when bringing on four new canines. Members of the unit spent a large amount of time training new handlers, completing FTO duties and preparing new team members for mission essential tasks.

The unit hosted the NAPWDA SC State Workshop where multiple teams came in for certification. NAPWDA stands for the North American Police Work Dog Association, a non-profit organization founded in 1977 that is dedicated to assisting law enforcement agencies in the training and improvement of police work dog teams worldwide. During this certification all team member not only successfully certified but obtained the Utility Canine Title. Individual team members also completed several training certification classes that adds value to the Sheriff's Office. Team members became instructors and were able to bring this back to the agency and assist in teaching 50 in service classes.

Deputies were utilized for a number of jail narcotic sweeps, school narcotics sweeps, narcotics sweeps of Volvo and other businesses per request.

Deputies assisted in approximately 20 community events and demonstrations. Team members also assisted heavily in surveillance, containment, and take down vehicles for operations with DEU, DEA, Intelligence Unit, CID, SRT, USMTF, and the Warrants division.





Traffic Team



The Berkeley County Sheriff's Office Traffic Unit is comprised of one Lieutenant, One Sergeant and five deputies. In 2024, for the first time ever the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office welcomed three new motor officers to the unit. For the 2024 year the traffic unit made 98 DUI arrests. The agency had 111 total DUI arrests for the year. The team had 88% of the agency's total DUI arrests. Four members achieved SCDPS SC DUI Hero award. The unit achieved one silver award and three bronze awards. The team was also named the state "Mothers Against Drunk Driving Agency of the Year".

The team issued 3,372 Citations; the agency issued 5,614. That's 60% of the agency's citations issued by the traffic team. The Team also issued 2,581 Public Contact Warnings. The team also investigated 109 collisions during the year. The Motor team completed 55 escorts throughout the year. At the 2024 Palmetto State Motorcycle Skills competition, the team placed 1st in the team smart ride and 3rd in Novice ELTRA glide competition.

The team also completed 81 selective traffic enforcements (STE) in complainant areas around Berkeley County. The unit participated in all four of SCDPS enforcement campaigns throughout the year and attended all 9th Circuit Law Enforcement Networks meetings. The Unit has achieved a gold award through the SCDPS Law Enforcement Network. The units completed over 600 hours of advanced training for the calendar year. This includes one member achieving Traffic Safety Instructor Certification (440 Hours of total SCCJA training) and one achieving Traffic Safety Officer Certification (380 hours of total SCCJA training). The traffic unit also hosted two SCCJA SFST Practitioner classes and two SMD Operator classes.

The unit completed 14 safety presentations to over 700 people that included the first ever traffic safety day at NUCOR Steel, where plant operations were suspended for over two hours so Deputies could discuss traffic safety. The traffic team gave Prom Promises speeches to two local High Schools. Four news media stories were aired featuring the traffic unit and two social media videos were also posted. The unit also participated in seven special operational periods and completed 15 SCDPS saturation patrols related to those operational periods. These tasks were completed while all members attended all court proceedings and SCDMV Hearings.

In 2025, the team will continue to work to decrease the number of traffic fatalities and collisions, the traffic unit will continue to dedicate themselves to the main goal of Target Zero traffic fatalities. The unit will also continue to take advanced training to curb traffic fatalities. The team will also welcome one new motor officer to the motor team. The team will also receive two new high performance Ford Mustangs.





Traffic Team



The Bike Team is a collateral duty assignment consisting of 14 sworn deputies and 2 reserve deputies. The Bike Team strives to improve community relations and actively patrols neighborhoods, businesses, hotels, special events, and high crime areas. Team members average between 15-30 miles during their active patrols. In 2024 the Sheriff's Office hosted a Law Enforcement Bicycle Association course, which provides the highest level of training to a bike officer. They provide the most established bike patrol training curriculum available and strive to constantly update our techniques to keep pace with the continually changing requirements of law enforcement.

Berkeley County Sheriff's Office Creates New Public Safety Unit to Address Growing County

In 2024, Berkeley County Sheriff Lewis announced the creation of the Public Safety Unit at the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office. The mission of the Sheriff's Office is 'Taking Care of People'. This unit was created with that vision in mind.

"Our county is continuously growing, and with growth comes new demands." Berkeley County Sheriff Duane Lewis stated. "The purpose of the Public Safety Unit is to assist our citizens with a variety of calls for service quickly and efficiently. The use of the Public Safety Officers will allow deputies to remain available for more serious incidents."



The increase of Berkeley County's population brings more traffic-related incidents. The Public Safety Unit will be patrolling the roadways seven days a week, with the goal of reducing traffic hazards in mind. Each service truck assigned to a Public Safety Officer is fully equipped to assist motorists. Public Safety Officers can assist with a variety of issues including traffic control and direction, changing flat tires, disabled motorists, and vehicle lockouts.

The creation of the Public Safety Unit is another example of the many ways the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office is committed to taking care of people by keeping them safe in the community.

In 2024, the Public Safety Unit responded to 2951 calls for service ranging from standard motorist, neighborhood patrols and business checks. Each Public Safety Officer is also an Emergency Medical Technician that can render on-scene medical assistance until the arrival of EMS. Public Safety Officers are also trained to take basic incident reports so that deputies are available to handle serious incidents and crimes in progress.





Judicial Services



Berkeley County Sheriff's Office Court Security is comprised of both full duty and limited duty deputies. The Berkeley County Courthouse is open Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM, except for holidays. During any given week, there are approximately 1,000 to 2,000 people that enter the Courthouse for various reasons. There are six courtrooms located in the Courthouse: two full-time Family Court courtrooms and the remaining courtrooms are used for General Sessions (Criminal), Common Pleas (Civil), Probate Court, and the Master-in-Equity. Occasionally, all six courts will be in session simultaneously.

Court Security Deputies are tasked with maintaining the peace and protecting the citizens, court staff, attorneys, and judges. Court Security Deputies are also responsible for managing adult inmates and juveniles that are brought into the courtrooms. In addition to the required training all deputies receive each year, deputies assigned to Court Security also receive specialized court security training.

Family Court Session involving Juvenile: 274
Juveniles Detained: 7

Adults Arrested: 142
Manned Court Session: 1244

The Warrants / Civil Process Unit is responsible for serving criminal arrest warrants, family court warrants, and summary court bench warrants. The Warrants/Civil Process Unit also serves jury summons, assists with foreclosures, and serves a variety of civil court documents.

Warrants Issued: 3499
Warrants Served: 2619

Civil Papers Issued: 3735
Civil Papers Served: 2261



Training Unit



The Berkeley County Sheriff's Office Training Unit is responsible for coordinating and conducting training for all LE-1, LE-2, and LE-3 Berkeley County Sheriff's Office personnel. They also help train Detention Deputies, Reserve Deputies, Special Deputies, Retirees, and Auxiliary Personnel. The Training Unit coordinates with the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy (SCCJA) to ensure that Berkeley County Sheriff's Office personnel have required basic law enforcement training as well as advanced training. The Berkeley County Sheriff's Office Training Unit also provides training for other local law enforcement agencies in Berkeley County. In 2024, the training unit conducted three, 12-hour block training classes for sworn deputies. This includes annual firearms qualifications, vehicle operations, and other mandatory in-service training. The Training Unit conducted 36 hours of block training, monthly, in addition to hosting specialized training course. They also conducted 40 hours training for Correctional Officers and several week-long Emergency Vehicle Operation Training (EVOC).



Special Operations

Special Response Team (SRT)

The Special Response Team (SRT) is an elite unit comprised of highly trained deputies who respond to high-risk incidents that exceed the capabilities of standard patrol operations. This specialized team is tasked with handling situations such as hostage rescues, barricaded suspects, high-risk warrant service, and active threats to public safety. Equipped with advanced tactical gear, specialized weapons, and extensive training in crisis response, the SRT is prepared to swiftly and effectively resolve dangerous situations while minimizing risks to civilians and law enforcement personnel. Their dedication, discipline, and teamwork make them a vital asset in protecting the citizens of Berkeley County.



Reserve Deputy Sheriffs

A Reserve Deputy is a volunteer law enforcement officer that has attended all the required training and passed all the required tests as mandated by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. Reserve Deputies receive the same training as full-time deputies. Training takes approximately 162 hours and spans a three month time frame. South Carolina state law requires that each Reserve Deputy maintain 60 hours of service time each quarter or 20 hours per month. They are also required to attend training once a month. Berkeley County currently has 20 Reserve Deputies. Classes for BCSO Reserves Deputies are typically opened yearly.

Law Enforcement Explorers

Law Enforcement Explorer Post 700 is chartered by the Boy Scouts of America. Youths ages 14 to 20 are eligible to become a Law Enforcement Explorer. In 2024, there were about 20 Explorers a part of the program. Law Enforcement Explorers are trained in all areas of law enforcement duties to include traffic control, crime scene investigation, patrol duties, building searches and report writing. During the SCALES (South Carolina Association of Law Enforcement Explorers) conference, BCSO Explorers competed in several events that involved a wide variety of law enforcement-related topics including high-risk traffic stops, drug search warrants, arrest warrants, crime scene, firearms, active shooter, mental health crisis intervention, civil disturbances, officer down scenarios, court room testimony, traffic collision reports, incident reports, an emergency operation course and a physical agility course.





Special Operations

Marine Patrol

The Marine Patrol Unit consists of 13 Boat Captains and 16 crew members. During 2024, the Marine Patrol Unit logged 97 tours of duty, 329 extra patrols, assisted 34 disabled vessels, investigated three collisions, responded to nine disturbances and assisted with four medical responses. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the Marine Patrol Unit logged over 776 hours of active patrolling of the 130 sq miles of Berkeley County's waterways. The Marine Patrol Unit responded and participated in 38 rescue/recovery missions, as well as 30 security/law enforcement related missions.

Dive Team

In 2024, the Dive Team consisted of 13 team members: ten sworn members and three auxiliary members. The team logged 300 training hours, including training with other agencies.

During 2024, the Dive Team assisted with three anti-terrorism missions and had one evidence recovery mission. In 2018, the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office assumed the responsibilities of marine and ground search/rescue operations from the Berkeley County Rescue Squad.



Animal Control



In 2024, there were five Animal Control Officers at BCSO. That year, ACOs answered 6,185 calls for service in Berkeley County. Animal Control Officers at the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office are responsible for enforcing animal-related laws, ensuring public safety, and promoting the humane treatment of animals. They respond to calls involving stray, injured, or dangerous animals, investigate cases of neglect or abuse, and work to reunite lost pets with their owners. Additionally, they educate the community on responsible pet ownership and enforce local ordinances to maintain a safe and healthy environment for both residents and animals. With compassion and professionalism, these officers play a crucial role in protecting both the public and the animals of Berkeley County.

John DiFalco, Animal Cruelty Investigator

In 2024, the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office added a dedicated Animal Cruelty Investigator to the agency, reinforcing its commitment to protecting animals from abuse and neglect. This investigator works closely with local shelters, veterinarians, and the community to investigate cases of animal cruelty, enforce animal welfare laws, and ensure justice for mistreated animals.

Deputy DiFalco's career in law enforcement started in July of 1985 with the New York Police Department. Deputy DiFalco chose law enforcement to follow in his father's and brother's footsteps. He retired in 2005 from the Highway Patrol Unit and moved to Beaufort County, SC. He began working with the Port Royal Police Department in 2006, where he was a shift Sergeant. In 2015, he was offered a position with the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office. In 2022, he retired from that agency.



Deputy DiFalco is dedicated to fighting against animal cruelty, ensuring justice for abused and neglected animals. Through relentless efforts and advocacy, he strives to hold offenders accountable and protect innocent lives.



Forensics



The Forensics Unit is responsible for crime scene processing, all in-custody property, and the processing of evidence. A Lieutenant, Sergeant, and three technicians are available 24/7 to respond to incidents. Members of the Unit are trained in crime scene processing, blood spatter analysis, photography, and latent fingerprint processing.

2024 year in review

ATF Trace - 434
 Processed - 1154
 Call out - 294
 Impound - 22
 IBIS - 564
 Evidence logged - 6583
 Solicitors - 1375
 Detectives - 1222
 Retuned - 968
 Destroyed - 5552
 Search warrant - 100
 SLED return - 1440
 NCIC check - 406
 DNA - 78





Forensics



BCSO Awarded Digital Forensic Workstation from SUMURI to Strengthen Investigations

Berkley County Sheriff Duane Lewis is proud to announce that the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office has been awarded a state-of-the-art Digital Forensic Workstation from SUMURI, a leading provider of cutting-edge forensic solutions. This advanced technology will greatly enhance BCSO's ability to investigate and combat digital crimes, ensuring a safer community for all.

The new Digital Forensic Workstation is designed to streamline the process of recovering and analyzing digital evidence, allowing investigators to efficiently extract critical data from computers, mobile devices, and other digital sources. This technology will be instrumental in solving cybercrimes, fraud, child exploitation cases, and other criminal activities involving digital evidence.

"We are incredibly grateful to SUMURI for their support in equipping our department with this invaluable tool," Berkeley County Sheriff Duane Lewis stated. "As technology continues to evolve, so do the methods criminals use to commit offenses. This forensic workstation significantly strengthens our ability to collect, process, and analyze digital evidence, ultimately helping us bring justice to victims and keep our community safe."



SUMURI is widely recognized for its industry-leading forensic solutions, and this contribution underscores their commitment to supporting law enforcement agencies nationwide. With this new resource, BCSO investigators will be better equipped to handle complex digital investigations with greater accuracy and efficiency.

The addition of this forensic workstation aligns with BCSO's ongoing efforts to leverage innovative technologies to enhance public safety. The department remains dedicated to adopting advanced tools and training to stay ahead of emerging threats in the digital landscape.

For more information, please visit: <https://sumuri.com/sumuri-gives-back-2024/>



Victims Advocates



By advising victims and witnesses of crimes of their rights, and explaining certain court procedures, Victim Advocates provide the public with a better understanding of the criminal justice system. In 2024, BCSO assisted close to 2,000 victims of crime.

2024 year in review

Phone calls - 1547

Walk ins - 92

Letters - 1533

Bond court supplements - 255

Order of Protections or Restraining Orders - 299

Transport - 5

Shelter assistance - 75

Court assistance - 346

Counseling referral - 274



Jenifer Smith

Jenifer Smith has proudly served with the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office since 2009. She was born and raised in Berkeley County, so she has always had a deep connection to this community and a passion for helping others. She graduated from the College of Charleston with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, which provided her with valuable insight into the complexities of human behavior, trauma, and recovery.

For the past 15 years, Smith has dedicated her career to advocating for victims of crime, providing them with the support, resources, and guidance they need during some of the most difficult times of their lives.

"As a Victim Advocate, my role is to stand beside those affected by crime, offering them a voice, comfort, and the reassurance that they are not alone. Whether it's guiding victims through the legal system, connecting them with essential services, or simply being a source of encouragement, my mission is to help survivors regain their sense of security and strength." Smith stated.

While the job can be demanding and challenging, Smith knows that it is also incredibly rewarding. She enjoys seeing the resilience of the human spirit and knowing that she played a small part in helping someone rebuild their life. That is how Smith remains motivated every day.



Candiss Rinehart

Candiss Rinehart was born and raised in the Tri-County area. She has been around law enforcement and education specialists her entire life. That is what gave her the passion for both learning and helping others.

Rinehart obtained a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology with a Minor in Sociology from Charleston Southern University. She also obtained a Master's Degree in General Mental Health and Counseling from Webster University. Rinehart has recently started taking courses for a Doctorate in Educational Psychology.

Rinehart has been a Victim Advocate for the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office for six years. Prior to that, she served as a Duty Officer for the North Charleston Police Department for 12 years.

"I love being in a position where I can help crime victims in our community navigate the criminal justice system. Being a crime victim is very emotional and it can be extremely overwhelming trying to figure out what happens next and what you should expect. Being a Victim Advocate allows me to help these victims through all of this and make the experience a little less stressful." Rinehart stated.

Rinehart is the mother to three amazing children that she enjoys spending time with.





Sex Offender Registry

In South Carolina convicted sex offenders must register with the County Sheriff's Office where they reside. In addition, all persons convicted of violations under the laws of the United States or any other state substantially similar to an offense for which registration is required shall provide to the local agency all necessary information for inclusion in the State Sex Offender Registry within ten days of establishing a residence within South Carolina. Any person required to register shall also be required to re-register within ten days following any change of residence.



The Sex Offender Registry Section is tasked with the following responsibilities:

- Provide the community with public information on registered sex offenders by ensuring that all registered sex offenders are listed on the Sex Offender Registry Website for South Carolina and the information on the offender is current.
- Take appropriate measures to ensure sex offenders are complying with South Carolina Sex Offender Registration Laws.
- Track and verify information given by sex offenders.
- Maintain sex offender files and databases.
- Work closely with South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (S.L.E.D.) and other law enforcement agencies on issues regarding sex offenders.
- Follow-up on cases involving registered sex offenders.
- Provide information to deputies in the field regarding sex offenders.

For additional information regarding the Sex Offender Registry please contact (843) 719-4675.

2024 year in review

Offenders seen - 1164

New offenders - 44

Moved out of jurisdiction - 52

Removed - 16

Home checks - 965

Warrants issued - 9

Arrested - 18

Fingerprinted - 799

Indigent - 84

Failure to report - 15

NCIC validations - 355

SORT - 1209



Office of Professional Standards

The Office of Professional Standards investigates serious incidents and coordinates citizen complaint investigations. The Inspector of Internal Affairs investigations reports directly to the Sheriff for Internal Affairs investigations. In 2021, the Sheriff's Office began using Guardian Tracking software to track administrative documents to including corrective action. This software also allows supervisors to provide coaching documentation.

2024 year in review

Citizen Complaints: In 2024, There were 36 complaints filed by citizens in person or online. Some of the complaints filed included more than one deputy and more than one category of complaint. There were 46 deputies involved in the 35 complaints. Of the 46 complaints filed, only five were sustained.

Category	Complaints	Findings					
		Not Involved	Unfounded	Not Sustained	Exonerated	Sustained	Pending
Criminal Actions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Use of Force	6	1	0	0	5	0	0
Arrest, Search or Seizure	6	0	1	0	5	0	0
Harassment / Bias	3	0	1	0	2	0	0
Demeanor	16	0	3	6	2	5	0
Serious Policy Violation	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Minor Policy Violation	14	0	5	0	9	0	0
Totals	46	1	11	6	23	5	0



Internal Affairs Investigations: Complaints of a serious nature are assigned to The Office of Professional Standards to investigate. Internal Affairs Investigations include serious policy violations, reviews of accidents involving agency vehicles in which death or serious injury are involved and Officer Involved Critical Incidents. In 2024, there were twenty I/A investigations involving twenty-two deputies. Some investigations included more than one category.

INTERNAL
AFFAIRS

Category	Investigations	Findings					
		Not Involved	Unfounded	Not Sustained	Exonerated	Sustained	Pending
Criminal Actions	2	0	0	1	0	1	0
Use of Force	3	0	0	0	2	1	0
Arrest, Search or Seizure	3	0	0	0	0	3	0
Harassment / Bias	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Demeanor	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Serious Policy Violation	11	0	0	0	0	11	0
Minor Policy Violation	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Other	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	22	0	0	1	4	17	0

Corrective Actions: Corrective actions for deputies refer to measures taken to address misconduct, policy violations, or performance deficiencies, ensuring accountability and adherence to professional standards. These actions can range from retraining and counseling to formal discipline, such as suspension or termination, depending on the severity of the issue.

Year	Counseling	Letter of Reprimand	Letter of Suspension	Demotion	Termination/Resignation	Pending	Total
2024	10	14	11	0	7	0	42





Office of Professional Standards

The Grants Office is responsible for developing and submitting grant applications, assisting with project planning, and budgeting and detailing performance measures. Once a grant is awarded, the Grants Specialist reviews procurement expenditures to ensure compliance and managing the submission of financial and programmatic data. In 2024, the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office was awarded seven grants totaling \$2,686,063. The grants awarded were: DUI Enforcement Grant, DUI Prosecutor Grant, Traffic Safety Grant, JAG Allocation Grant, SAVS Grant, SRO Grant, and the COPS Grant. The Grants Specialist wrote and manages these grants which fund the salaries and benefits of 23 Sheriff's Office employees.



Recruitment & the Hiring Process

WE ARE HIRING

Deputy Sheriff applicants must successfully pass an extensive background process including driver's license and criminal history checks, credit checks, verification of employment and education records, a reading comprehension test, a physical abilities test, a polygraph examination, and medical and psychological screening. In 2024, the Sheriff's Office received 317 applications for LEI positions. The Berkeley County Sheriff's Office hired 38 new deputies in 2024.

Individuals interested in joining the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office may apply at sheriff.berkeleycountysc.gov/team/joinus. Questions about employment may be emailed to: recruitment@bcsosc.org.

Job fairs attended –
Total hired –
Total rejected –

5
45
150



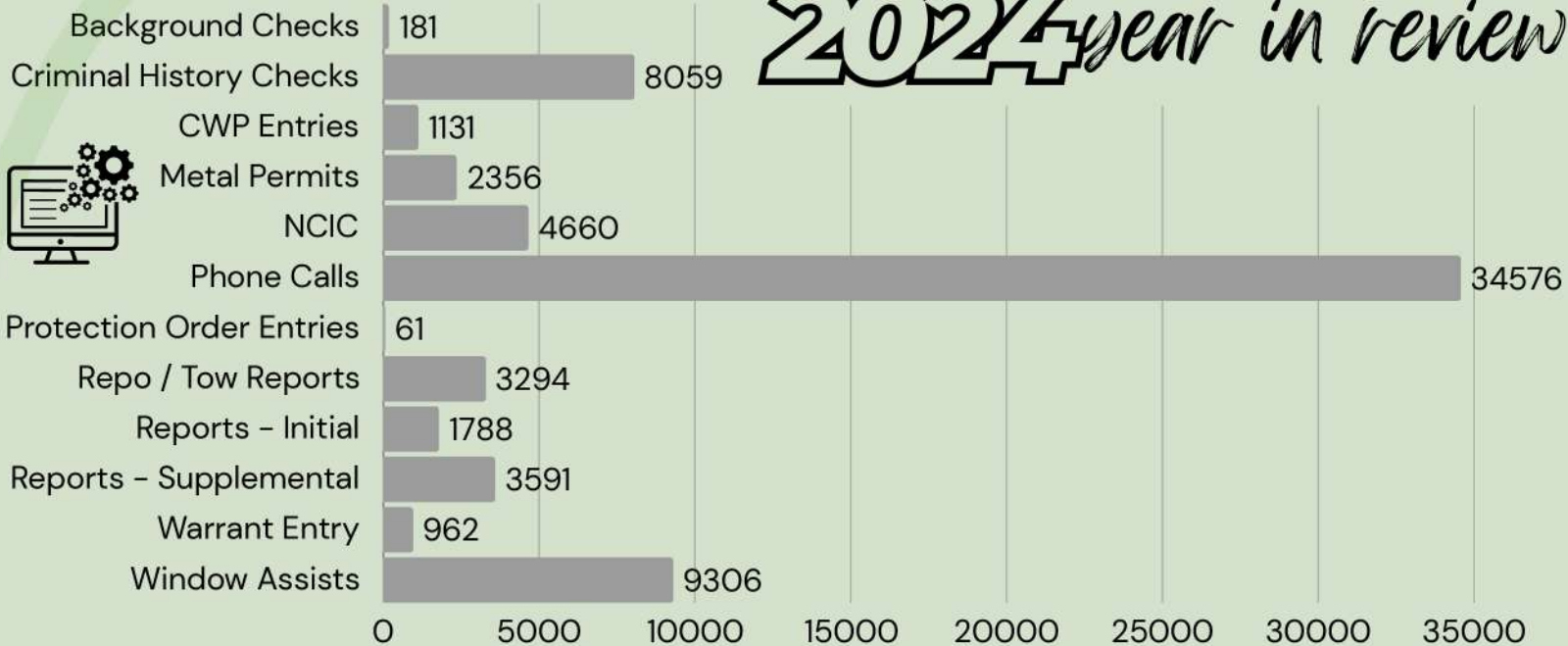


Technical & Support Services



The Technical and Support Services Division oversees all technical projects and equipment for the Sheriff's Office and also conducts forensic analysis of technology for criminal investigations. The Records Office and the Duty Office are included in this Division.

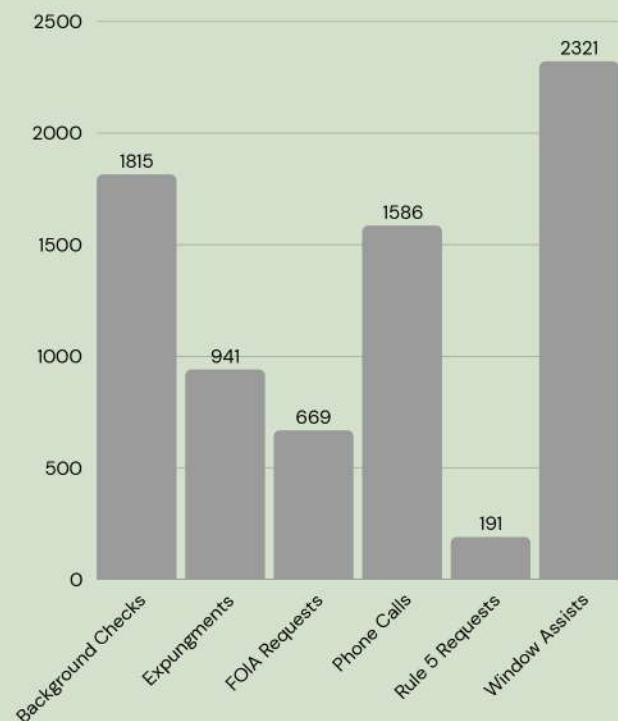
2024 year in review



Records Unit



The Records Unit is staffed by a unit supervisor, three administrative support specialists, and an expungement clerk. Agency reports and documents are submitted to the Records Unit. Records personnel also are responsible for responding to Freedom of Information Act records requests as well as running criminal history checks, military-background checks, and DSS background checks. Records personnel enter warrants and protection orders, process concealed weapons permit entries and responses, enter NCIC (National Crime Information Center) validations, process Rule 5 requests, and process expungements.





Hill-Finklea Detention Center



Major Michael Crumley

Major Michael Crumley began his law enforcement career in 1998 after honorably serving in the U.S. Air Force. With a strong background in investigations and special operations, he assumed command of the detention center in June 2024. Prior to this role, he served as commander of the Criminal Investigations Division and the Special Operations Division.



Major Crumley holds an Associate Degree in Public Service from Trident Technical College (2001) and a Bachelor of Science in Workforce Education and Development from Southern Illinois University (2005). In 2012, he completed a 14-week graduate-level program at the Department of Defense National Center for Credibility Assessment, specializing in the science of Polygraphy. A state-licensed polygraph examiner since 2012, he is also a member of the American Polygraph Association and the American Association of Police Polygraphists.

In addition to his law enforcement expertise, Major Crumley is a certified Dive Master and an ERDI (Emergency Response Diving International) Dive Supervisor, demonstrating his commitment to specialized operations and public safety. He is also an active member of the American Jail Association and the South Carolina Jail Administrators' Association, reflecting his dedication to excellence in detention leadership.

A dedicated leader, Major Crumley is a 2017 graduate of Leadership Berkeley and a 2018 graduate of the FBI-LEEDA Carolina Command College. His career has been marked by numerous accolades, including the 1996 U.S. Air Force 437th Logistics Group Airman of the Year, the 1996 Lifesaver Award from the Ashley River Fire Department, the 2003 Goose Creek Police Department Officer of the Year, and the 2010 Berkeley County Sheriff's Office Non-Uniformed Deputy of the Year.

Captain Matthew Downing

Captain Matthew Downing is a lifelong resident of the Summerville area, where he developed a strong sense of community and service. He attended Fort Dorchester High School, where he first cultivated his interest in public safety and law enforcement. Following his high school graduation, he pursued higher education at Charleston Southern University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Committed to continuous learning and professional growth, Captain Downing is currently furthering his education by working toward a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice.



Throughout his career, Captain Downing has demonstrated a dedication to excellence and leadership in law enforcement. He is a distinguished graduate of the FBI Carolina Command College, a prestigious program that enhances the leadership skills of law enforcement professionals. Additionally, he is the recipient of the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (LEEDA) Trilogy Award, recognizing his commitment to advancing law enforcement leadership through specialized training.

Captain Downing began his law enforcement career with the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, where he gained valuable experience serving the community in various capacities. In 2017, he joined the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office, where he has since taken on a variety of roles, showcasing his versatility and expertise. Over the years, he has worked in multiple divisions, including Patrol, the Detective Bureau, and the Dive Team, where he played a crucial role in specialized operations.

Currently, Captain Downing serves as the Captain of the Hill-Finklea Detention Center, where he is responsible for overseeing the facility's operations, ensuring the safety and security of both staff and detainees, and implementing policies that enhance efficiency and accountability. His leadership and dedication continue to make a significant impact on the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office and the community it serves.



The Hill-Finklea Detention Center is located at 300 California Avenue adjacent to the County Courthouse. Our mission at the Hill-Finklea Detention Center is to provide a healthy, safe, secure and humane environment in a cost effective manner in which to detain persons in our custody.

Randy Demory serves as the Director of the Detention Center. Director Demory is a nationally recognized jail professional with forty years of experience in the corrections field.

2024 year in review

Average daily population **418**
Highest inmate count **481**
Lowest inmate count **371**



INMATES BOOKED INTO HFDC BY AGENCY





Hill-Finklea Detention Center



Berkeley County's detention center will soon get a major expansion over the next few years to add more room and modernize the facility. Berkeley County Sheriff Duane Lewis said the detention center has been over capacity for the last 20 years. An over \$40 million expansion will add an additional floor of space to the current facility. The planning process for the new Berkeley County jail began back in 2018 – and construction is now well underway. The jail currently holds 290 inmates, but it has been overcrowded for years. This new jail will be able to hold 565 inmates. Cells of different sizes will keep dangerous inmates away from each other. Once complete, this building will be four stories tall, taller than the current jail. Ground was broken in May 2023 for the expansion project, and the contracted completion date is currently November 2025.



Operations Division

The Operations Division is responsible for the direct supervision of inmates, SORT (Special Operations Response Team), the Transport Unit, and the litter pick-up programs.

Transport Unit

The Transport Unit is responsible for all local and out-of-state transports, to include transports to court hearings and medical facilities. Transport Unit Detention Deputies are also responsible for the security of inmates at medical facilities. In 2023, the Transport Unit conducted 1587 transports. This included, 951 regular transports, 461 juvenile transports and 175 therapeutic transports.

Litter Pick-up Program

In 2015, the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office instituted the Litter Pick-Up Program. Inmates meeting certain classification criteria volunteer to participate in this program. Under the supervision of detention deputies, the inmates clean up trash from the sides and medians of public roadways and other public areas.



**THE LITTER PICK-UP PROGRAM
REMOVED 26,505 POUNDS OF TRASH
FROM PUBLIC AREAS IN 2024.**



Hill-Finklea Detention Center



Administrative Division

The Administrative Division includes the Classification Unit, Records Unit, Training Unit, Policies and Budgeting, Property Management, and Contract Management.

Classification Unit

The Classification Unit has two detention deputies that are responsible for evaluating incoming inmates for classification. The Unit tracks disciplinary procedures and provides monthly statistics regarding inmate disciplinary actions to the Hill-Finklea Detention Center Director.

Records Unit

The Records Unit is comprised of six civilians and one detention deputy. The Records Unit is tasked with records entry and management, inmate accounts, and management of the inmate files. These records include Jail Management System data, expungements, certain court records, and release records. Members of the Records Unit also are assigned victim notification responsibilities and serve as receptionists in the lobby area of the Detention Center. The Records Unit Sergeant is also responsible for supervising detention deputies that are assigned to the courthouse to supervise inmates at the court house and act as escort officers.



Contract Management

The Administrative Captain coordinates contractor services to include: medical services, food services, inmate phone services, digital mail services, and video visitation.

Training Unit

All detention deputies are required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of training each year. The Training Unit ensures that the training is completed for each detention deputy and maintains all training records. The Unit is responsible for daily, weekly, and monthly internal inspections of life safety equipment. Training detention deputies are also tasked with PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) compliance and assist with the updating and reviewing of policies and post orders. The Training Unit consists of one Sergeant and one Administrative Assistant.

Property Management

The management of inmate personal property is an important role within the Detention Center. Currently, there is one detention deputy assigned to manage the property rooms.

Booking Procedures

Two civilian booking clerks assist with processing inmates and filing and also assist with operations at the front desk controls. With 4,470 inmates booked into the Hill-Finklea Detention Center in 2023, these clerks stayed busy.





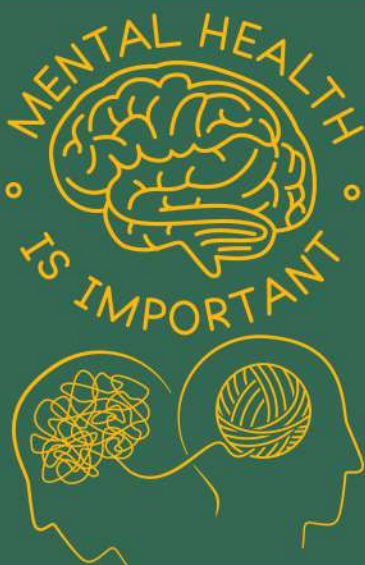
Hill-Finklea Detention Center

Mental Health Program

In 2022, through the combined efforts of Sheriff Duane Lewis and State Representative Sylleste Davis, Berkeley County was able to implement funding of \$378,000 through a pilot program facilitating a partnership between Hill-Finklea Detention Center and Berkeley County Mental Health. The state funding added a clinician and substantially increased the amount of time spent by Mental Health Service providers at the facility. The clinicians receive referrals from medical staff, detention deputies, and inmates themselves. This pilot program also provides mental health follow-up services after release and helps former inmates find employment. As a result of the program's success in 2022, an additional \$ 400,000 was added to the pilot program for the year 2023, furthering mental health services and care for inmates incarcerated.



Mental health assistance in a jail setting is essential for ensuring the well-being of both inmates and staff. Many individuals who enter the criminal justice system struggle with mental health disorders, and without proper treatment, their conditions can worsen, leading to increased behavioral issues, self-harm, or difficulties in rehabilitation. Providing mental health care, including counseling, crisis intervention, and medication management, helps address underlying issues that may contribute to criminal behavior, ultimately reducing recidivism rates. Additionally, supporting inmates' mental health fosters a safer environment within the facility by preventing conflicts and promoting stability. A comprehensive approach to mental health care in jails not only upholds human dignity, but also benefits the broader community by preparing individuals for successful reintegration into society.



Significant findings in 2024 included:

- 58% of inmates evaluated by psychiatrist were prescribed medications
- 7% of inmates evaluated have a serious mental illness
- A total of 3,920 services provided
- 1,920 MHP contacts
- 775 Psychiatrist contacts
- 1,263 Outreach/Resource contacts

Berkeley County Sheriff's Office in Memory Wall



BCSO Captain (Retired) Will Rogers: End of Watch August 27, 2021

Captain Will Rogers passed away after a battle with COVID. Captain Rogers gave over 30 years of his life to service. In 2015, he survived an ambush attack in the line of duty that doctors never expected him to endure. Will was an outspoken advocate for the prevention of violence against members of Law Enforcement until his very last days.



BCSO Lieutenant Mark Tillman: End Of Watch September 27, 2018

Lieutenant Mark Tillman died unexpectedly on September 27, 2018. Lieutenant Tillman was serving as a Patrol Squad Lieutenant at the time of his death. He was a 26-year law enforcement veteran. He served with Berkeley County for 20 years.



BCSO Deputy Marion Eugene Wright: End Of Watch November 19, 2002

Deputy Wright had just finished his shift and was on his way home when he stopped to assist a disabled motorist with a flat tire. A City of Summerville Officer, William Bell, also stopped to assist Deputy Wright. As the officers were changing the tire, an on-coming vehicle left the roadway and struck both officers. Deputy Marion Eugene Wright and Officer William Bell were both killed. The section of highway where the tragedy took place was renamed William Boland Bell and Marion Eugene Wright Highway.



BCSO Deputy Harvey L. Middleton: End Of Watch May 11, 1975

Deputy Sheriff Harvey Middleton was shot and killed when he and the St. Stephen Police Chief attempted to arrest a man on a shooting spree.



Magistrate Warren Calhoun Guerry: End Of Watch May 27, 1947

In the 1940's Magistrates still made arrests in their jurisdiction. Magistrate Guerry had arrested a suspect for robbery and was transporting him to a local constable's home when the suspect stabbed him with a knife. He succumbed to his injuries before other officers arrived on the scene.



Berkeley County Constable Robert Hasell: End Of Watch February 4, 1893

Constable Robert Hasell was shot and killed while attempting to serve a warrant for trespassing. Two people were convicted of Constable Hasell's murder and were sentenced to death. Constable Hasell had only served as a constable for one day.



We are thankful of the dedicated men and women of the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office