

Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office Annual Report

2019



Brad Thurman, Sheriff





Message from Sheriff Brad Thurman

The Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office was established in 1854 and has been proudly serving the community and ensuring justice through dedicated service and sacrifice. While our community continues to grow and evolve, so does the Sheriff's Office. In 2019, when I took Office, the Sheriff's Office had begun a new era in policing for Cowlitz County with a commitment to ensure the quality of life for all citizens.

The evolution has begun and while things are not quite like they were a year ago, they are not quite where we want to be. In reviewing the last year, it is hard to believe everything that has happened. Some changes have been cosmetic like uniforms, beards, and car decals. Others have been substantial i.e. the Records Division returning to the Sheriff's Office, being fully staffed, the deputies and sergeants settling their Collective Bargaining Agreement to allow for security duties to be contracted out, a draft policy out for review, the addition of a Finance/Budget Manager, the approval to develop the new shooting range, and a deputy funded by other County departments that is working on code violations and civil issues.

We also rolled out a new core values:

- **Leadership** – Taking the lead in serving the citizens of the County in every opportunity you have. Taking the lead in solving problems before they are compounded and become chronic issues. Taking the lead in mentoring co-workers, taking the lead as a citizen in volunteering and community service projects.
- **Excellence** – A commitment to excelling in preparation for and carrying out your daily duties, excellence in self-improvement to better serve citizens, co-workers, and your families, and excellence to dominate your area of assignment!
- **Service** – Serving others by putting the needs of others before yourself. Service before self. Embracing the privilege you have to serve and to be given the opportunity daily to helps those in need.
- **Sacrifice** - In honor of Justin DeRosier and the sacrifice he made. In law enforcement, we never know what the next call may be or what may be required of us to carry out our duties. We all make some sacrifices working late, holidays, missed events along the way but we all realize that this profession may exact the ultimate sacrifice.



I hope this report provides insight to the incredible work performed by deputies, staff, and volunteers in serving the public safety needs of Cowlitz County. I have been blessed to have served the citizens of Cowlitz County for the past 32 years and am well aware that we are most effective when we have an engaged and informed public that we serve. Working together we will maintain the quality of life we enjoy and can only do so with the support of the community.

Our work was significantly impacted along with our other vital duties by the April 14th, 2019 line of duty death of Deputy Justin DeRosier. This was the first such event in the 165 years of the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office and for those who were here at this time, it will forever impact our lives and how we carry out our duties. This report is dedicated to the memory of Justin DeRosier and the many men and women who have served with the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office throughout its history.



Respectfully,

Brad Thurman, Sheriff

Administrative Staff



Darren Ullmann
Undersheriff



Troy Brightbill
Chief Criminal
Deputy



Dave Handy
Chief Admin.
Deputy



Ernie Schnabler
DEM Director



Katrina Harris
Budget/Finance
Manager



Clara Angel
Records
Manager

Support Staff

The support staff at the Sheriff's Office handles a number of different roles; front office support, records management, emergency management, civil function, evidence, and many other assigned duties. Their hard work and dedication to the mission of the Sheriff's Office allows our Administrators, Deputies, and Detectives to do their work with minimal disruption.



Rebecca Clark



Aryn Erdelbrock



Nikki Galloway



April Hamby



Julie Harris



Larry Hembree



Lori Hendrickson



Brandi Huffine



Jessica Hunter



Jennifer Jackson



Lori Kelley



Suzie Leach



Shelley Lenzi



Cathie Nagorski



Melissa Rand



Tammie Rogen



Margie Snyder



Kris Taff



Andrea Taylor



Samantha
Thompson



Libby Warren

Sergeants



Ryan Cruser



Corey Huffine



Marc Johnson



Andy Nunes



Jordan Spencer



Fred Taylor



Jeremy Tonissen



Deputies



Ness Aguilar



Derek Baker



Brad Bauman



Kim Beedle



Tim Britcher



Justin DeRosier



Geary Enbody



Zo Gladson



Jason Hammer



James Hanberry



Brent Harris



Nate Hockett



Landon Jones



Troy Lee



Todd McDaniel



Riley McNeal



Craig Murray



Caitlyn Neill



Cory Parker



Kelly Pattison



Ryan Plank



Courtney Potter



Lisa Praytor



Alexis Price



Cory Robinson



Andy Ross



Steve Ross



Brady Spaulding



Rob Stumph



Justin Taylor



Kelton
Wheeldon



Trevor Wolff

Cowlitz County at a Glance



Located in the heart of the Pacific Northwest, and rich in history and natural beauty, Cowlitz County is home of the Monticello Convention of 1852, where the Washington Territory was born. With a balanced blend of rural and urban environments, most residents of Cowlitz County live about an hour from Mt. St. Helens, the Pacific Coast, and Portland OR, providing a unique quality of life. Long known as a world-class center for manufacturing, predominantly in the forest products industry. For many years to come, the region will continue to combine natural resources, many transportation alternatives, and a community atmosphere to produce an economic environment.

Our community includes thriving export-import activities, healthcare services, retail sales, senior living communities, a mix of public and private schools, a community college with four-year degree extension programs, tourism, outdoor recreation, plus a wide variety of public, private and voluntary organizations.

Cowlitz County is home to approximately 108,950 residents, roughly 56 percent of whom live in the incorporated cities of Castle Rock, Kelso, Longview, Kalama, and Woodland. The remaining 44 percent live in rural, unincorporated communities such as Ryderwood, Toutle, Yale, Silver Lake, Lexington, Ariel and Cougar. These unincorporated areas of the County cover approximately 1,166 square miles, and are where the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office actively patrol and respond to calls for service.

According to 2019 demographic statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau, the reported ethnic makeup of the County is 91.1% white, 9.2% Hispanic or Latino, 2% American Indian or Alaska Native, 1.6% Asian, and 1.1% Black or African American.*

*Source: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/cowlitzcountywashington/PST045219>

Operations

In 2019, the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office handled 22,585 calls for service. These incidents involved everything from property line disputes to murders. Of those calls, 15.5% (3,504) required written reports. In total, the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office made 862 arrests. Of those, 226 were "Group A" reports which are typically theft, burglary, robbery, rape, fraud, etc. "Group B" are arrests only and consist of disorderly, DUI, warrant arrests, etc. (See page 8-9)



Use of Force

The use of force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Deputies are involved on a daily basis in numerous and varied interactions and, when warranted, may use reasonable and necessary force in carrying out their duties. Our deputies have an understanding of, and true appreciation for, their authority and limitations. This is especially true with respect to overcoming resistance while engaged in the performance of law enforcement duties.

The Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. Vesting deputies with the authority to use reasonable and necessary force and to protect the public welfare requires monitoring, evaluation and a careful balancing of all interests.



In 2019, there were 38 incidents that involved the use of force. Each of these were documented by our deputies in a separate report referred to as a "Use of Force" report. The Use of Force report documents what type of call for service the deputy was responding to, the level of resistance encountered, contributing factors, and the physical control used. It also documents whether a canine, chemical munitions, impact devices, electronic control devices, or other measures were used to gain compliance.

To put that in perspective, of the 22,585 calls for service Sheriff's Office personnel had with our community, 0.17% (38) of those contacts involved the use of force. Additionally, of those 22,585 documented contacts, no chemical munitions were used and we had **zero** citizen complaints regarding deputy's excessive use of force.

Crime Statistics

The Sheriff's Office participates in Washington State Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program of criminal offenses and arrests. These statistics are compiled and presented in the *Crime in Washington 2019 Report* produced by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC).

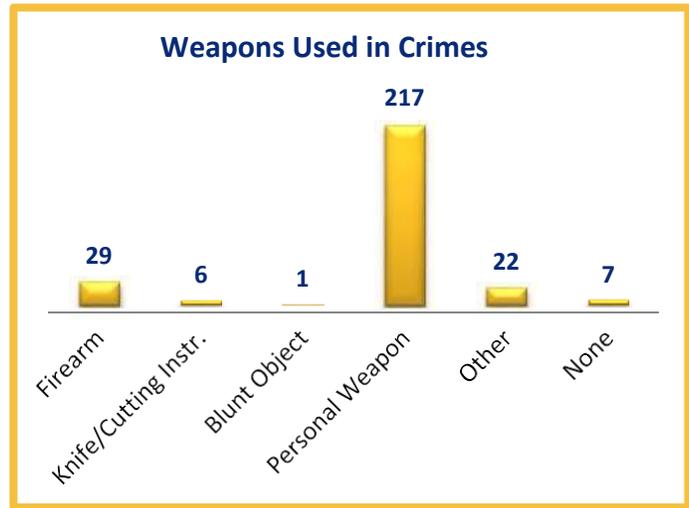
CCSO Offense Overview		CCSO Arrest Overview	
Offense Total	1,062	Arrest Total	862
# of Cleared Offense	283	Adult Arrest Total	835
Percent Cleared	26.6%	Juvenile Arrest Total	27

Group A Offenses	Reported 2018	Reported 2019	% of Change	Crime Rate per 1,000	Total Arrests	DV Totals
Murder	0	3		0.1	1	0
Manslaughter	0	0		0.0	0	0
Rape	24	22	-8.3%	0.5	1	3
Sodomy	2	1	-50.0%	0.0	0	0
Sexual Assault w/Obj.	1	0	-100.0%	0.0	0	0
Fondling	10	4	-60.0%	0.1	0	0
Aggravated Assault	50	39	-22.0%	0.8	6	22
Simple Assault	211	211	0.0%	4.5	79	140
Intimidation	86	42	-51.2%	0.9	8	14
Kidnapping	6	2	-66.7%	0.0	3	2
Incest	1	0	-100.0%	0.0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0		0.0	0	0
Human Trafficking	0	0		0.0	0	0
Violation of Order	56	55	-1.8%	1.2	14	42
Robbery	8	2	-75.0%	0.0	1	0
Burglary	120	89	-25.8%	1.9	5	4
Larceny-Theft	218	171	-21.6%	3.6	21	5
Motor Vehicle Theft	103	52	-49.5%	1.1	2	2
Arson	2	5	150.0%	0.1	0	0
Destruct. of Property	115	91	-20.9%	1.9	18	19
Counterfeit /Forgery	8	15	87.5%	0.3	3	1
Fraud Offenses	68	64	-5.9%	1.4	6	1
Embezzlement	0	2		0.0	0	0
Extortion/Blackmail	1	4	300.0%	0.1	0	0
Bribery	0	1		0.0	0	0
Stolen Property	28	36	28.6%	0.8	12	2
Animal Cruelty	0	0		0.0	0	0
Drug/Narcotic Viol.	165	121	-26.7%	2.6	41	0
Drug Equipment Viol.	10	11	10.0%	0.2	2	0
Gambling Offenses	0	0		0.0	0	0
Pornography	3	1	-66.7%	0.0	0	0
Prostitution Offenses	0	1		0.0	0	0
Weapon Law Viol.	29	17	-41.4%	0.4	4	0
Grand Total	1,325	1,062	-19.8%	22.5	226	257

Crime Statistics

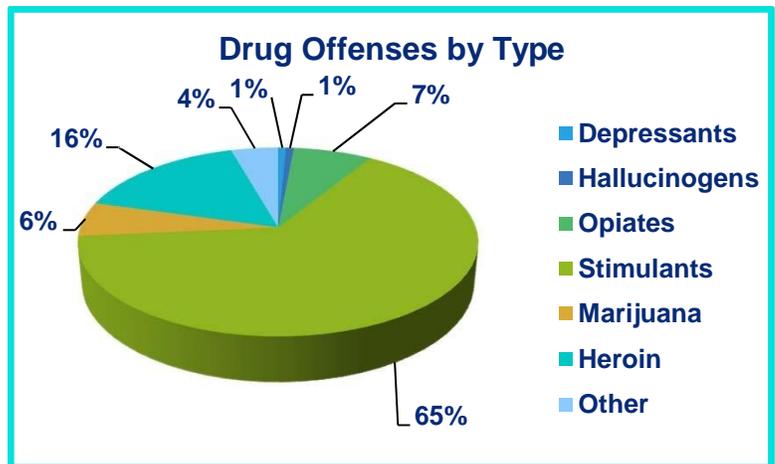
2019 Group B Arrests

Offense	Adult	Juvenile
Bad Checks	0	0
Curfew/Vagrancy	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	6	0
Drunkenness	0	0
DUI	59	0
Family Offenses	0	0
Liquor Law Violations	4	0
Peeping Tom	0	0
Trespass	29	1
All Other Offenses	536	1
Total	634	2



2019 Property Values by Type

Type	Value
Seized	\$1
Burned	\$156
Counterfeited/Forged	\$2,396
Destroyed/Damaged	\$106,533
Recovered	\$144,056
Stolen	\$3,034,715
Total	\$3,287,857



Investigations



In 2019, CCSO Detectives received 119 new investigations. 72 of these cases were crimes against children, typically child sex offenses or cases involving depictions of minors engaged in sexual activity. CCSO utilizes the Children's Justice & Advocacy Center for forensic interviews of juvenile victims.

Our detectives also do forensic examinations of digital evidence from these investigations. We also assist other agencies that do not have these forensic capabilities. Each device extraction can take several hours to complete and analysis of the data takes much more time. In 2019, there were 43 cases which utilized digital forensic investigation.

Some notable cases our detectives handled in 2019 include the murders of Kelso resident Rick Huckaby and Ryderwood resident Travis Seiber. There was also a murder for hire case and a Controlled Substance Homicide case. Thanks to the hard work of our detectives, all four cases were solved.

In 2019, detectives had several major cases go to trial. Two suspects were convicted in the 2016 murder of Woodland resident Donny Howard. Kelso resident Robert Munger was convicted – in multiple separate trials – of various child sex offenses.

Our detectives unit also includes our Sex Offender Registration unit. There were an average of 722 registered sex offenders residing in Cowlitz County in 2019; CCSO was responsible for verifying and tracking 322 of these offenders. CCSO conducts address verifications on these offenders every 3 – 12 months depending on offender risk levels, in addition to verifications of any address changes. CCSO conducted 23 Failure to Register investigations and conducted 150 full registrations in 2019.

K-9 Program

The Sheriff's Office K-9 Program has been going strong for many years and we are fortunate to have strong community support for the program. Each of our dogs receives dog food donated by our local Wilco Store in Kelso. In addition, veterinary services were provided at a discount by VCA Ocean Beach Animal Hospital in Longview. We wish to thank both companies for their ongoing support and care for our K-9's.

K-9 Icarus is a German Shepard and is used for tracking suspects. Icarus is handled by Deputy Brady Spaulding and was deployed 70 times over the course of 2019. K-9 Icarus assisted local law enforcement in the arrests of 42 suspects wanted for a wide range of crimes against the community. 15 of those suspects arrested were captures by K-9 Icarus during tracks and searches with a compliant suspect surrender, along with physical apprehensions. K-9 Icarus and Deputy Spaulding participated in 8



community related events, to include multiple National Night Out appearances, throughout Cowlitz County.

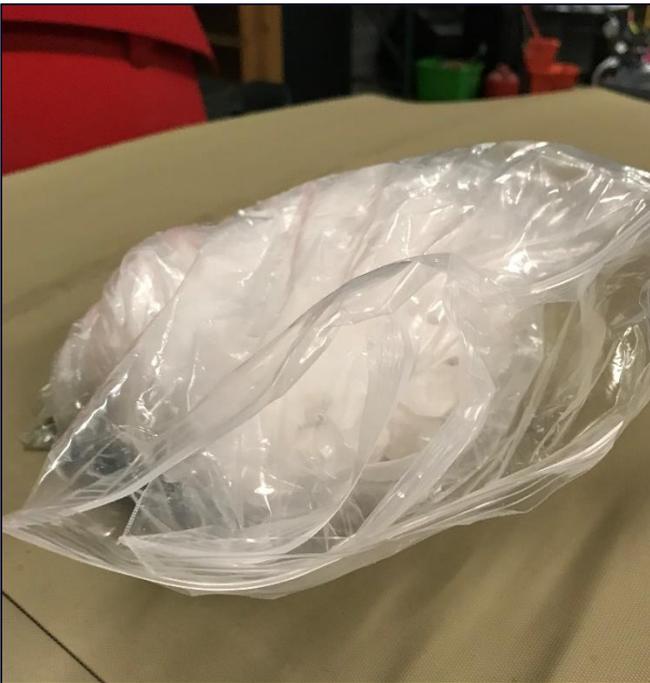
K-9 Kelo is a Springer Spaniel that is trained in narcotics detection. Kelo is handled by Deputy Ness Aguilar and has been in service since 2015. The total deployments for the K-9 narcotics team in 2019 were 37. Out of those deployments, 9 were alerts leading to the seizure of 36.3 grams of methamphetamine, 47.8 grams of heroin, and a multitude of paraphernalia.



Narcotics Task Force

Established in 1986, the Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Narcotics Task Force is a cooperative investigative agency that focuses on reducing large-scale drug trafficking in the Lower Columbia region. It uses resources from the federal Department of Justice through the Washington State Department of Commerce which pays for staff and general funding. Additional funding comes from the Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties, City of Kelso, the Washington State Patrol, and NW HIDTA.

The mission of the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Narcotics Task Force is to dismantle gang and drug organizations through diligent criminal and financial investigations, and cause a sense of vulnerability for any gang/drug traffickers involved in mid and upper-level drug distribution and/or violent conspiratorial crime.

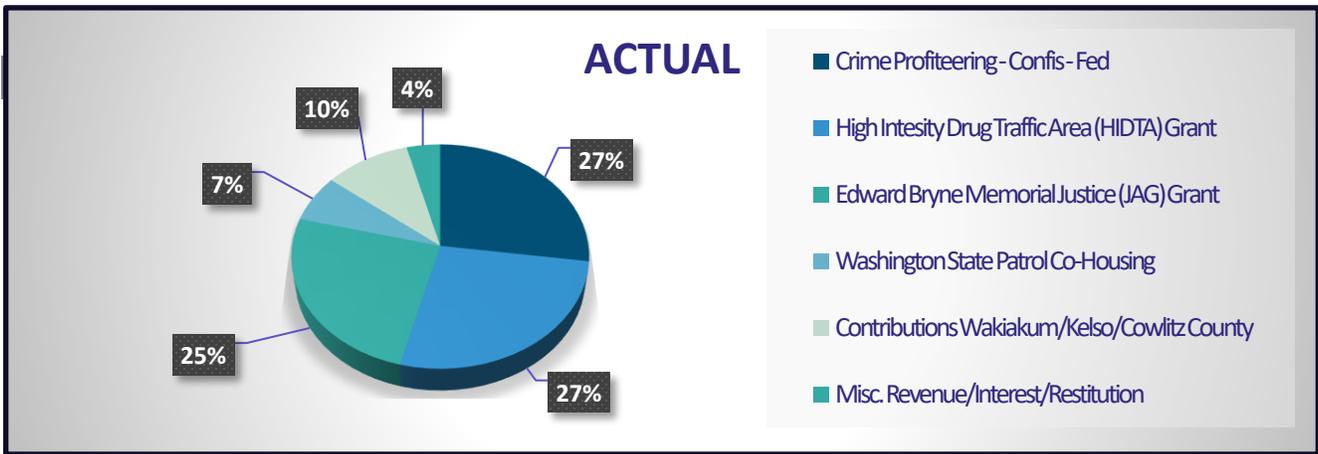


Over the past five years, the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Narcotics Task Force has written 250 search warrants and has arrested over 450 individuals. The team seized more than \$350,000 worth of cash, vehicles, and equipment used in the sale and trafficking of narcotics. In addition, the CWNTF has removed 1,297 weapons/explosives from the streets.

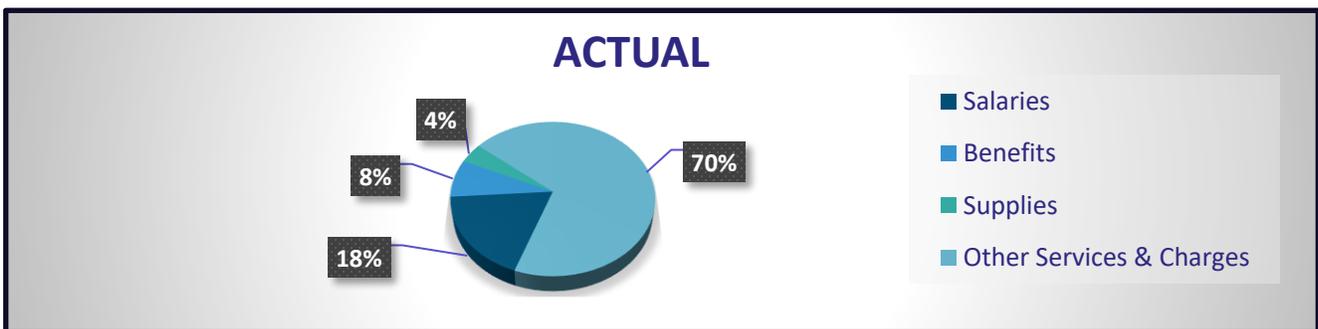
While Methamphetamine and Heroin continue to be the main threat to our community, there has been a rise in the availability of Fentanyl. In the same five year period, the CWNTF seized more than 36 pounds of Methamphetamine and over 24 pounds of Heroin from the streets.

Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Narcotics Task Force - 2019 Financial Report

REVENUE	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Beginning Fund Balance		\$143,833.00
Crime Profiteering - Confiscated - Fed	\$71,837.57	\$42,500.00
High Intensity Drug Traffic Area (HIDTA) Grant	\$70,770.82	\$103,059.00
Edward Bryne Memorial Justice (JAG) Grant	\$66,007.25	\$114,927.00
Washington State Patrol Co-Housing	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00
Contributions Wahkiakum/Kelso/Cowlitz County	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00
Misc. Revenue/Interest/Restitution	\$10,570.81	\$7,623.00
Total Revenue	\$264,186.45	\$456,942.00



EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Ending Fund Balance		\$102,056.00
Salaries	\$47,249.07	\$50,931.00
Benefits	\$20,103.54	\$27,977.00
Supplies	\$10,646.62	\$10,500.00
Other Services & Charges	\$178,803.14	\$265,478.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$256,802.37	\$456,942.00



Administrative / Civil Function

Washington State law requires that the Sheriff of each county is to serve the civil processes of the courts within their jurisdiction. The Sheriff is also required to accept and serve civil processes from all other Washington State counties as well. The civil processes include all types of papers resulting from civil litigation. This includes summons and complaints, subpoenas, court orders, writs of execution, writs of garnishment, evictions and writs of restitution (eviction orders).

In 2019, the Sheriff's Office processed:

- Civil Processes: 5,435
- Subpoenas processed: 4,146
- Writs of Restitution processed: 173
- Protection Orders processed: 265
- Writs of Execution for Personal Property: 3
- Judicial Foreclosures—Sheriff's Sales of Real Property: 24
- Issued 1,897 Concealed Pistol Licenses

Budget and Finance

2019 saw the addition of a new position at the Sheriff's Office; Budget and Finance Manager. Katrina Harris was selected for this new position and immediately has proven to be a wonderful asset. Katrina manages the front office staff as well as the budgets for the Sheriff's Office, Department of Emergency Management, Records Division, and the Narcotics Task Force. She also administers several grants that the Office oversees.

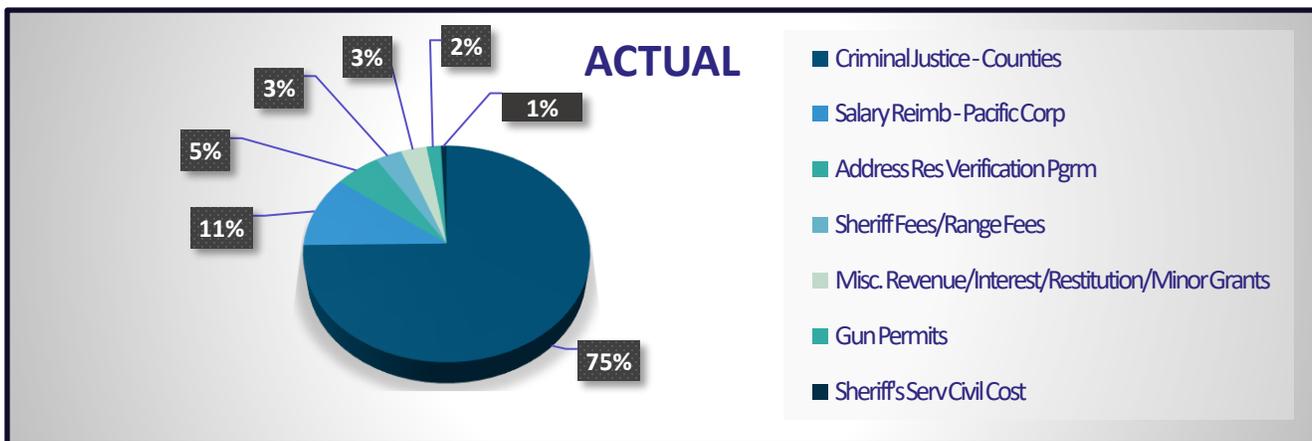
Evidence

The evidence department of the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office receives all items taken in criminal cases for the Sheriff's Office and the Cowlitz Wahkiakum Narcotics Task Force. Additionally, items are often taken for safekeeping, found, or seized. These items are also managed through evidence as well. Each item is carefully tracked throughout the system in what we refer to as the "chain of custody". Many items will be released, destroyed, or sold at auction (depending on the circumstances).

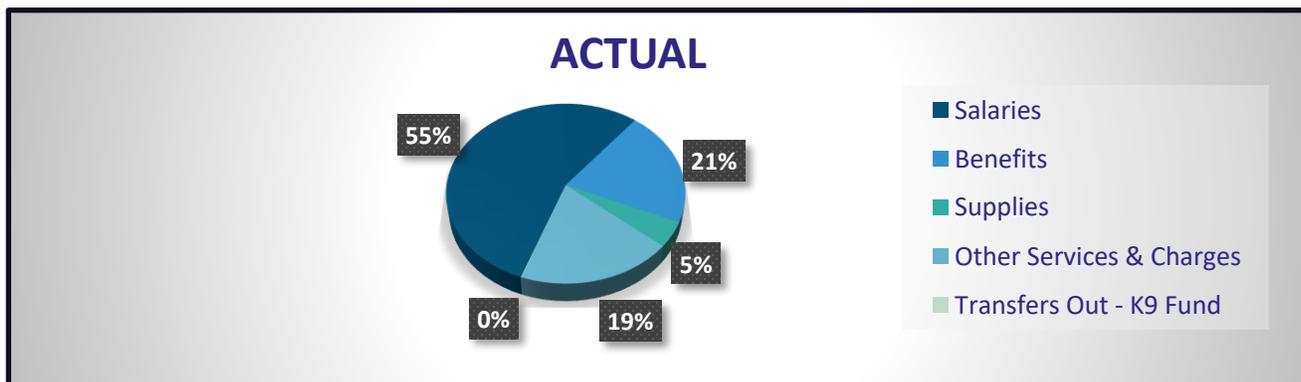
In 2019 we entered 4,343 pieces of evidence. At the same time, we destroyed 1,962 pieces of old evidence that were no longer needed or were ordered destroyed by the courts. There were 72 items auctioned in 2019 and 680 items released back to the owners of the items. In total, 2,714 pieces of evidence were purged from our system in 2019.

Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office - 2019 Financial Report

REVENUE	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Criminal Justice - Counties	\$1,063,585.45	\$1,010,000.00
Salary Reimbursement - Pacific Corp	\$151,833.22	\$147,000.00
Address Res Verification Program	\$79,722.48	\$93,000.00
Sheriff Fees/Range Fees	\$46,524.24	\$59,800.00
Misc. Revenue/Interest/Restitution/Minor Grants	\$45,652.98	\$57,876.00
Gun Permits	\$25,318.00	\$25,000.00
Sheriff's Serv Civil Cost	\$9,793.20	\$6,000.00
Total Revenue	\$ 1,422,429.57	\$1,398,676.00



EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Salaries	\$4,061,720.64	\$4,247,011.00
Benefits	\$1,534,077.58	\$1,763,967.00
Supplies	\$335,670.00	\$283,800.00
Other Services & Charges	\$1,425,690.71	\$1,442,476.00
Transfers Out - K9 Fund	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$7,362,158.93	\$7,742,254.00



Records Division



2019 saw the Sheriff's Office welcome back Cowlitz County Records to our team after being an independent department for many years. Records handles all reports, public records requests, warrants, and enters orders into our system. Our Records division handles records for both the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office and the Longview Police Department.

The Records Division, led by Records Manager Clara Angel, not only handles the high volume of written paperwork for the office mentioned above, they are also an important resource for police operations and are experts at locating reliable and accurate data for deputies and officers, using a wide variety of programs and software. Our Records Division is staffed 24/7, so they are open to assist all police agencies in the County after regular business hours.

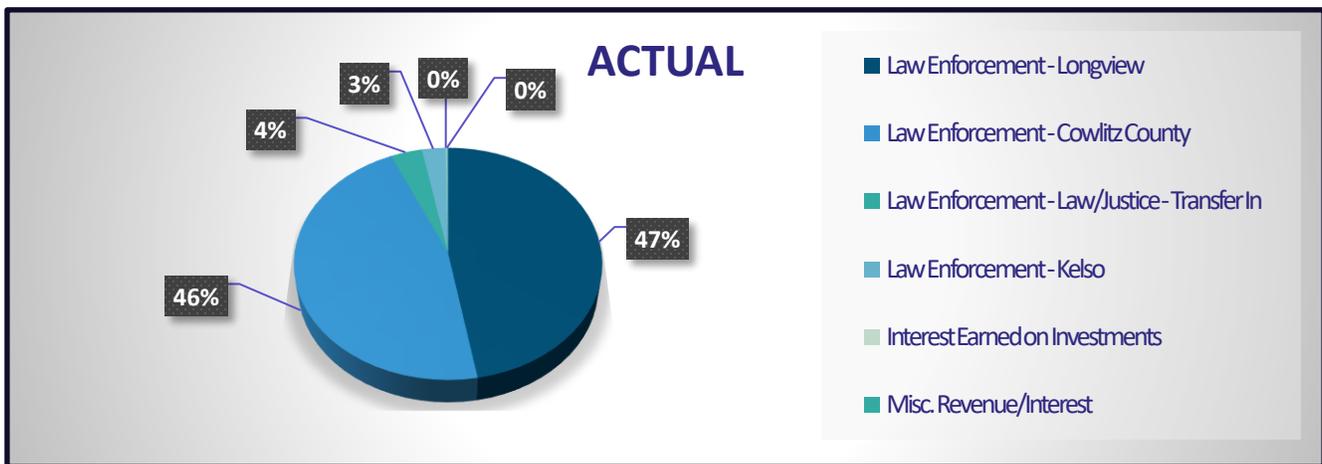
Work in the Records Division can be very fast paced and unpredictable, and the skilled staff is adaptive, resilient, and highly collaborative, in order to provide excellent service to the public and our hard working deputies.

Records activity for 2019:

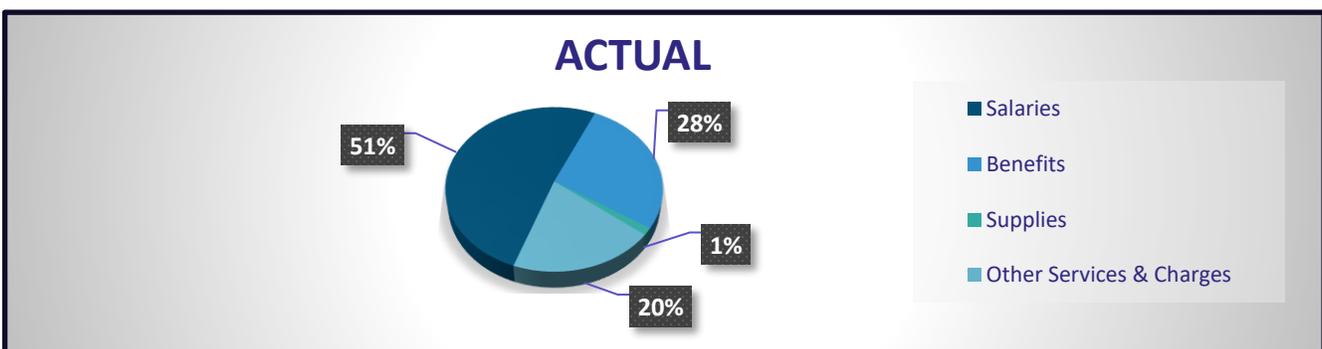
- **Public Disclosure Requests:** After switching to a new software program called GovQA, there were 2,577 disclosures processed from May to December. On average, the Sheriff's Office will receive 300 public records requests per month.
- **Warrants:**
 - Misdemeanors: Total misdemeanor warrants entered was approximately 1,570 with approximately 1,590 cleared.
 - Felonies: Total number of felony warrants entered was approximately 340 with 288 cleared.
- **Orders:** 123 entered.
- **Reports:** 3,505 entered.

Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office Records - 2019 Financial Report

REVENUE	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ -	\$408,094.00
Law Enforcement - Longview	\$577,360.86	\$577,361.00
Law Enforcement - Cowlitz County	\$564,749.00	\$564,749.00
Law Enforcement - Law/Justice - Transfer In	\$44,327.00	\$44,327.00
Law Enforcement - Kelso	\$33,966.15	\$33,967.00
Interest Earned on Investments	\$1,515.71	\$2,500.00
Misc. Revenue/Interest	\$1,237.07	\$7,500.00
Total Revenue	\$1,223,155.79	\$ 1,638,498.00



EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Ending Fund Balance	\$-	\$313,368.00
Salaries	\$656,158.32	\$663,622.00
Benefits	\$351,993.97	\$326,881.00
Supplies	\$17,596.14	\$27,803.00
Other Services & Charges	\$256,711.38	\$306,824.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,282,459.81	\$1,638,498.00





Emergency Management

The Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office Department of Emergency Management (DEM) provides emergency management services throughout the County and its five cities - Castle Rock, Kalama, Kelso, Longview, and Woodland. The Department's team consists of three full-time personnel, one Director (Ernie Schnabler) and two specialized Emergency Management Coordinators (Lori Hendrickson and Larry Hembree). One of the three DEM personnel is available and responding 24/7/365 and can be called into service via Cowlitz 911. DEM's mission follows the emergency management scope of responsibilities – preparedness, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery.

Preparedness-Protection

A well-prepared “Whole Community” – responders, public servants, business & industry and residents – is a resilient community in the face of emergency and disaster. Therefore, the prime tasks of DEM are to establish a vibrant emergency preparedness education and outreach program; to maintain executable, agreed upon emergency response plans; to provide training for responders, emergency volunteer workers, and others; and to engage and maintain important relationships locally as well as regionally across jurisdictions and disciplines.

Mitigation

DEM reviewed and updated the County's Hazards Identification and Vulnerability Analysis (HIVA) and has started work on the more refined Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment (THIRA) process to have a better basis to decide upon mitigation projects and possibly request FEMA funding support

for such projects. The “key” to successfully receive Federal grant-funding support is an updated County Hazard Mitigation Plan, which has been in process and will be completed later in 2020.

Response

DEM’s role in incident response is that of “support and coordination” for the incident command at the incident in the field and/or at an incident command post.

Numerous incidents of medium and larger significance have required the engagement of the Department in 20+ such events. None of these events, however, required the full activation of DEM’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Had that happened, the EOC staffing would require the notification and deployment of our trusted EOC volunteers.

Recovery

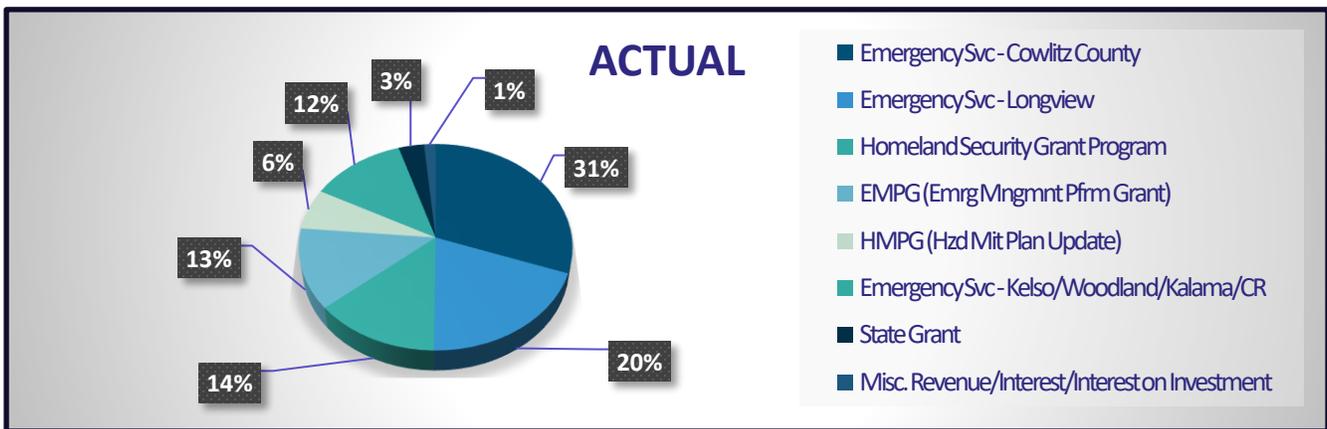
In 2019, Cowlitz County was spared major flooding, landslides, wind storms, snow and ice storms, volcanic events, or earthquakes. However, we did have two urban-interface wildfire events, one of which (Rose Valley Complex Fire) required an evacuation order to more than 80 residences and the set-up of a shelter in Kalama.

Fortunately, the fact that every evacuee was able to return to their undamaged residences the next day made for a very short “Recovery” period. Yet, in order to be prepared for a more significant emergency event and disaster requiring extensive recovery efforts, DEM facilitated a workshop detailing all the requirements for FEMA assistance, which included an overview of FEMA’s Public Assistance (PA) Program, detailed procedures for response procurement and contracting, and Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) protocols.

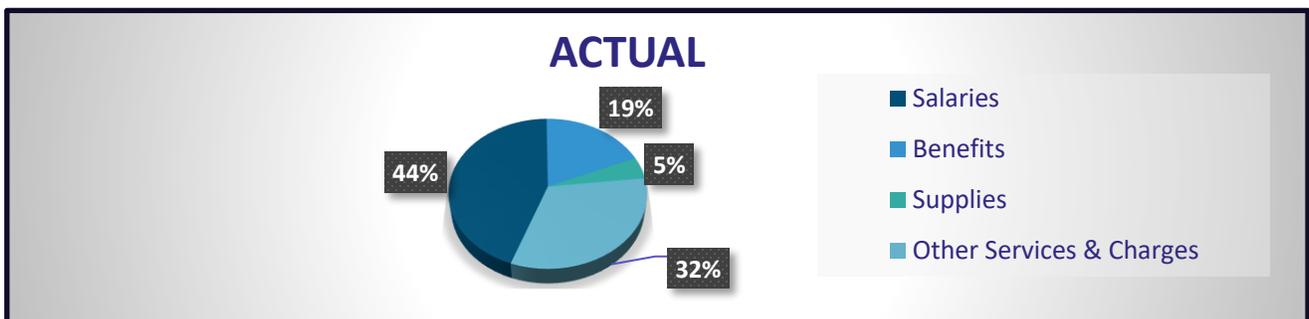


Department of Emergency Management - 2019 Financial Report

REVENUE	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ -	\$351,371.00
Emergency Svc - Cowlitz County	\$143,783.00	\$143,783.00
Emergency Svc - Longview	\$92,642.00	\$92,642.00
Homeland Security Grant Program	\$64,315.06	\$57,000.00
EMPG (Emergency Management Pfrm Grant)	\$59,425.00	\$59,539.00
HMPG (Hazard Mitigation Plan Update)	\$30,017.75	\$40,000.00
Emergency Svc - Kelso/Woodland/Kalama/CR	\$58,444.00	\$58,444.00
State Grant	\$15,500.00	\$ -
Misc. Revenue/Interest/Interest on Investment	\$7,072.67	\$5,800.00
Total Revenue	\$ 471,199.48	\$808,579.00



EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Ending Fund Balance	\$ -	\$388,045.00
Salaries	\$178,994.29	\$186,170.00
Benefits	\$75,720.48	\$90,863.00
Supplies	\$18,903.88	\$14,450.00
Other Services & Charges	\$131,117.61	\$129,051.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$404,736.26	\$808,579.00





Services Division

The Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office Services Division is managed by Sgt. Jeremy Tonissen. The Services Division is responsible for coordinating training for the Office to include firearms, use of force, first aid, and any outside training. They also work with our local volunteers when there are Search and Rescue missions or water rescues. Sgt. Tonissen and Deputy Justin Taylor are our primary patrol boat operators.

Marine Patrol

Cowlitz County is home to 15 lakes and three rivers. The patrol boats of the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office operate in all waters of Cowlitz County that allow power boats. The Sheriff's 2012 24' Munson outboard boat is moored at the Kalama Marina for quick response on the Columbia River. 2019 saw the purchase of a new Rogue Jet Boat that is ready for rapid response on the Cowlitz River but also for Silver Lake, Merwin and Yale Lakes. An 18' John jet boat is kept in Kelso and is used on smaller waterways and lakes.

The Services Division coordinates with the US Coast Guard, WA State Dept. of Wildlife, Washington State Parks Dept. and Cowlitz County Dive Rescue, along with various other local agencies. Our boat program is funded in part by the Washington State Parks Department with grant money and vessel registration fees. The main objective of the boat program is boating safety conducted through education and enforcement. The unit conducts free community education classes throughout the year. In 2019, the Services Division conducted seven classes (56 hours) educating 60 people on boat safety and education. Our boat patrols spent 288 hours patrolling the waters of Cowlitz County looking for violations of the law, county ordinances and boating regulations. We also conducted 172 boat safety inspections.

Training

Training is an essential function of any law enforcement agency. It is imperative that our deputies remain current in all of the certifications and legal updates. In total, our deputies had a combined 1,500 hours of internal training and 1,180 hours of outside training.



These trainings covered a variety of topics to include:

- Patrol Tactics
- Firearms
- Less Lethal
- Crisis Intervention
- Interview and Interrogation
- SWAT

Additionally, 2019 saw Initiative 940 pass into law. I-940 created new mandates to include requiring all deputies to have de-escalation and mental-health training; requires officers to administer first aid to a victim of deadly force; and requires independent investigations into the use of deadly force. The Sheriff's Office is committed to providing the best possible training for our entire staff and are working diligently to meet the demands of I-940.

Community Outreach

Educating the community about the role and function of the Sheriff's Office is an important part of our mission. The Sheriff's Office is committed to providing quality outreach and education programs such as The Citizens Academy, Every 15 Minutes, and National Night Out.

Citizens Academy



The Citizens' Police Academy is a 10 week program designed to teach you, the citizen, as much as possible about our local law enforcement system.

Our goal is to take you through the profession of a peace officer from how they're trained to some of the experiences that they go through. You'll get classes on Patrol Procedures, Investigations, Drugs, SWAT, K-9, Use of Force, and many more topics. You'll receive training by experts in each field and you'll hear first-hand accounts and experiences from the officers and deputies themselves.

Every 15 Minutes

Every 15 Minutes is a two-day program focusing on high school juniors and seniors, which challenges them to think about drinking, driving, personal safety, and the responsibility of making mature decisions. Along with alcohol-related crashes, it focuses on the impact that their decisions would have on family and friends.



National Night Out

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Volunteers

Guided by the volunteer spirit of giving back to the community, while following the mantra so that others may live, the volunteers for the Cowlitz County Sheriff's office have been active for nearly 70 years, with missions ranging from recovering victims after the Mount St. Helens eruption to searching for overdue hunters, lost children, missing hikers, and downed aircraft. The job involves an inexplicable blend of desperation, anxiety, suffering, joy, and grief.

Evolving tactics and practices over the years have altered our volunteer groups a bit, but the overall mission of saving lives hasn't changed at all. The volunteers that assist the Sheriff's Office are lawyers, teachers, mechanics, and millwrights. They are housewives, neighbors, cousins, and friends, using their time, money, and skills to provide an essential service, with no expectation of recognition or reward.

Reserve Deputy Program

The Sheriff's Reserve Unit is an all-volunteer organization made up of people from many walks of life throughout our community. Their primary mission is to assist the Sheriff's Office in routine duties such as patrol work, community oriented policing, disasters, and search and rescue.



Our Reserve Unit currently has 10 members and is led by our Reserve Chief, Brent Courtney.

Search and Rescue

By Washington State law, the Sheriff's Office is mandated to be in charge of all search and rescue missions within their jurisdiction (the unincorporated portions of the County). The Sheriff's Office accomplishes this task in cooperation with the Cowlitz County Search and Rescue (CCSAR) team.



CCSAR is an independent, non-profit organization that works under the direction of the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office. Their mission is to save lives and reduce suffering of the family members whose loved one is lost or missing.

Cowlitz County Search and Rescue volunteers were called out to 20 live missions for over 2,000 hours. They dedicated more than 6,300 hours to training, drills, and supported several other community events. During these deployments they used their private vehicles driving over 34,000 miles.

Dive Rescue

The Cowlitz County Dive Rescue Team is a professional, non-profit group of volunteers that serves Cowlitz County, Southwest Washington, and its neighbors. They respond to any water-related incident, including:

- Vehicle water recovery
- Lost swimmers
- Missing persons near the water
- Flood incidents
- Swift water rescue
- In-water evidence recovery

Members of the dive team are not only divers, but are also surface support personnel to aid the divers in search and recovery operations. Although all of the members go through specialized training to properly serve the community while staying safe, they are not paid in any way.



Cowlitz County Dive Rescue / swift water rescue volunteers were activated for 14 live missions for 120 hours, they dedicated 300 hours during training and drills, and drove their private vehicles for over 4,000 miles.

Auxiliary Communications Service



Cowlitz County ACS serves as a volunteer communications service supporting the citizens of Cowlitz County through various public and private agencies. Amateur radio operators ("hams") have long been associated with emergency communications because of their ability to communicate without external infrastructure. Cowlitz County hams enjoy strong support from County officials and are given every opportunity to participate in the County's official disaster management planning.

In 2019, the Auxiliary Communications Support (ACS) Team, which also includes a highly skilled and trained "UAS" Team (Unmanned Aerial System – aka "drones"), deployed on 12 missions for over 200 hours. They dedicated over 1,400 hours on training events and drills, almost 500 hours supporting community events, and in doing this drove their private vehicles more than 11,000 miles.

Employee Recognition

When it's all said and done, it's our personnel that makes the Sheriff's Office excel in all that we do. 2019 was a difficult year due to a new administration and the loss of a co-worker, friend, husband, and father in Deputy Justin DeRosier. With heavy hearts, our personnel were able to continue their excellent service to our community and as a result, many received awards for their achievement, heroism, hard work, and for saving lives.

Medal of Honor & Purple Heart– Deputy Justin DeRosier

Deputy Sheriff Justin DeRosier responded to investigate reports of a disabled vehicle on April 13th, 2019. After arriving at the scene, Deputy DeRosier came under fire and was struck three times, twice in the vest and once through his arm and chest. With undaunted courage, Deputy DeRosier was able to tactically retreat to his vehicle and call for assistance while retrieving his patrol rifle and taking up a defensive position. While being transported to the hospital, Deputy DeRosier was able to provide a description of the suspect allowing for his successful capture.

Deputy DeRosier succumbed to his injuries and died just after midnight on April 14th, 2019.



Deputy Justin DeRosier

Distinguished Service Medal(s) – “D-Team”

On the evening of April 13th, 2019, all of the working deputies assigned to D-Team immediately responded to the remote location where Deputy Justin DeRosier had been attacked.



“D-Team”

Deputies Caity Neill, Rob Stumph, James Hanberry, Ness Aguilar, and Sgt. Andy Nunes

During the course of events, Sergeant Nunes displayed extraordinary leadership coordinating resources and establishing the command post. Deputy Stumph and Deputy Neill secured the scene and remained despite the ongoing threat to their safety. Deputy Aguilar remained with Deputy DeRosier while he received medical attention. He provided a much needed role of support and a familiar face. Deputy Aguilar acted without hesitation with a great toll on his own well-being. Off duty, Deputy Hanberry responded from his home directly to the scene

and provided scene security while the suspect’s location was still unknown.

Under immense duress, at the risk of their own lives, each deputy performed their duties despite the enormous hardship and the continuing, unknown threat. The heroic actions of each member of D-team reflect great credit upon themselves, the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office, and the Cowlitz County Community.

Meritorious Service Medal – Detective Riley McNeal

2019 saw the culmination of two major cases that were led by Detective Riley McNeal. Through skilled and diligent investigative work that began in late 2016, Detective McNeal and his fellow detectives were able to solve a homicide case with a confession and plea and ultimately with the successful prosecution. This was an aggravated murder case that took incredible organization and attention to detail which directly contributed to the successful prosecution in trial. The two week trial ended with guilty verdicts on all counts.



Detective Riley McNeal accepting his award from Sheriff Thurman

The second case began in 2017 and involved the exploitation and victimization of children in our community and elsewhere. Detective McNeal, with the help of fellow detectives, combed through tens

of thousands of photos and hundreds of hours of video cataloging and documenting each item for a successful case to be presented at trial.

The immense work involved undoubtedly saved countless other children in our community and around the world from falling victim to this predator. Detective McNeal's actions had a profound and positive impact on our community.

Lifesaving Award – Sergeant Jordan Spencer

On February 16, 2019 at approximately 10 p.m., Sergeant Jordan Spencer was at home when he heard a loud banging on his front door. A distraught individual advised him that a nearby neighbor had collapsed and was unconscious. Sergeant Spencer immediately left his residence and ran to the nearby home. Upon entering the garage of the home, Sergeant Spencer observed James Cunningham lying on the ground.



Sergeant Jordan Spencer and James Cunningham

Sergeant Spencer observed that Mr. Cunningham was in distress, turning purple and non-responsive. He promptly instructed others to place Mr. Cunningham on his back and then coordinated the process of administering Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation. Sergeant Spencer, Castle Rock Police Officer Zimmerman and others on scene took turns administering CPR to the individual. This process went on for several minutes until the aid crew could detect a heartbeat.

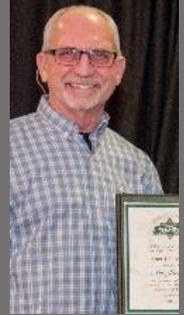
After Mr. Cunningham was stabilized, he was transported by ambulance to a local hospital and survived. During this action, Sergeant Jordan Spencer personified the core values of the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office - *Leadership, Excellence, Service and Sacrifice*.

Yearly Awards

Each year, Sheriff Thurman will be recognizing individuals for their hard work and dedication to the mission and values of the Office. These are special awards recognizing individuals not for a specific event, rather for the collective of their work and sacrifice towards making the Sheriff's Office a wonderful organization.

These awards are open to employees and non-employees who work with the Sheriff's Office.

For 2019, Sheriff Thurman recognized the following individuals:

<i>Supervisor of the Year</i>	<i>Deputy of the Year</i>	<i>Civilian Employee of the Year</i>	<i>Sheriff's Award</i>	<i>Volunteer Of the Year</i>	<i>Reserve Deputy of the Year</i>
					
Sgt. Mark Johnson	Lorenzo "Zo" Gladson	Tammie Rogen	Art Jordan	Holly Von Rock	Matt Willett

Other Awards

- The Certificate of Commendation was awarded to Justin Taylor for assisting a suicidal subject in an exemplary manner.
- Certificates of Achievement were awarded to Sgt. Corey Huffine, Deputy Cory Robinson, and Records Specialist Suzie Leach for showing excellence in teamwork and leadership.

Thank You

From everybody at the Sheriff's Office, THANK YOU. Thank you for being an amazing community that has allowed us to do our jobs knowing that we are supported in all that we do. We see it and feel it every day. This not only makes our jobs easier, it makes living in Cowlitz County amazing.

This report is for the citizens of Cowlitz County. We strive to offer complete transparency and will continue to do so in the years to come. We look forward to ongoing feedback while we continue our mission of protecting the quality of life that we have all become accustomed to and continue to enjoy.



