



Office of the Sheriff

William "Bill" Wilke

Annual
Report

2023

A Message from Sheriff Wilke



“ I am honored to serve the people of Haywood County with leadership, integrity, and strength. I want every citizen to rest well knowing that we will defend your God given rights protected by our Constitution with everything we have. My door will always be open to you, the people of Haywood County; the Sheriff’s office is your office, and I am privileged to have your trust to serve in it. May God bless you, Haywood County, the State of North Carolina and may God bless the United States of America.”

William D. Wilke



Our Mission

The Haywood County Sheriff's Office will use every resource at our disposal to protect our God given rights as intended by our federal and state constitutions; to suppress crime and bring perpetrators before a court of law affording all due process; to maintain a safe, efficient, and effective detention center; to work with and promote the efficiency of our court system; to promote the well-being of our county in every way possible; to provide the most effective and professional services possible; and to carry with us and display the integrity and transparency of our actions as we serve.



Our Vision

The men and women of the Haywood County Sheriff's Office seek excellence in Leadership for the communities we serve, Integrity in the actions we take whether in public or private, and Strength in making decisions that support our mission.



Patrol

Our Patrol Division consists of four squads that work 12-hour shifts. Each of these squads have seven deputies assigned to the county including one deputy that covers the Town of Clyde.

Patrol is divided into four squads of seven deputies each, with one squad on duty at a time. Each squad has a sergeant and five deputies and one deputy assigned to the Town of Clyde. Patrol works twelve-hour shifts and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our Patrol is often supplemented by deputies from other divisions and part-time officers.

Deputies respond to calls for service, conduct minor criminal investigations, collect evidence, surveil problem areas, address domestic issues and neighbor disputes, serve involuntary commitments, serve warrants and civil papers, initiate missing person searches, patrol business districts and residential neighborhoods, and enforce criminal and traffic laws. To better get to know our citizens, our deputies also participate in a variety of community-related events across the county.



4387 Reported Incidents

1842 Closed by Arrest





Civil Process

6 Civil Process Deputies

3,279 Papers Served

\$177,568 Collected

Haywood County Sheriff's Office Civil Process Division, one of the oldest documented responsibilities of a County Sheriff, consists of deputies who work civil process, child support, domestic violence, litter enforcement and tax collection.

Civil Process is responsible for the service of civil papers in Haywood County as outlined by the North Carolina general statutes. The Haywood County Sheriff's Office is entrusted to serve civil processes in a professional and timely manner. The division serves not only those processes which originate in Haywood County, but from other counties and states, as well. These processes include:

- Civil and Magistrate Summons
- Claim & Deliveries
- Writs for Possession & Writs of Execution
- Civil Orders for Arrest
- Tax Warrants
- Attachments
- Temporary & Permanent Restraining orders
- Child Custody Orders





Court Security

6 Court Deputies

651 Court Sessions

87,127 Citizens through Metal Detection System

One of the duties of the Sheriff, as compelled by North Carolina General Statute, is to provide security in the courtrooms within their county.

During operating hours at the Haywood County Justice Center, a deputy is stationed at the metal detector. Deputies help ensure the safety of court personnel and citizens entering the facility by searching bags and briefcases and scanning everyone with the metal detector.

In 2023 there were 87,127 citizens that went through the metal detection system.

The justice center and the historic courthouse are used after hours by the community and local government groups. At least two deputies must be on hand at all times while people are in the building. Deputies are present at events such as N.C. Bar Association meetings and all county commissioner meetings. **In 2023, there were 651 Court Sessions.** These include District, Superior, Juvenile, Child Support and DSS Courts.





Criminal Investigations

588 Cases

68 Search Warrants

**\$1,159,925
Recovered Property**

The Haywood County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division, CID, handles cases not readily resolvable on the initial call. These cases usually demand significantly more time than a patrol deputy can devote to a single case, and often require specialized training, experience and/or expertise.

CID consists of 8 full time investigators and one full time evidence technician. They are assigned cases which include general property crimes, child abuse, sexual assaults, domestic violence, murder, fraud and identity theft. This team has been instrumental in returning money, equipment, vehicles, and personal property back to the citizens of Haywood County.

EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT

426 New Cases

345 Cases Disposed Of

204 Cases Sent to Lab

Over 3,000 Pieces of Evidence Cataloged



CRIME SCENE • DO NOT CROSS



Crime Suppression Unit

The Haywood County Sheriff's Office Crime Suppression Unit (CSU) is two teams.

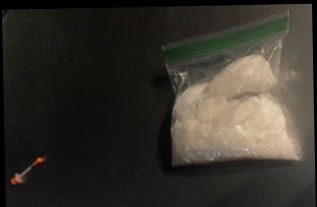
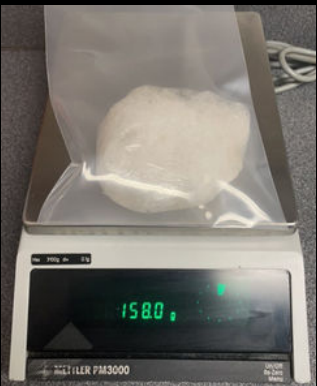
Each team having a Sergeant and multiple team members.

The focus of CSU is on high crime problems that arise within our communities related to nuisance locations, property crimes and narcotics. They work with stake holders and citizens in their communities to reach long-term solutions. CSU works in conjunction with the Criminal Investigation Division and they remain vigilant within the communities to suppress crime.

281 Arrests

35 Search Warrants

**55 Charges for Trafficking
*Methamphetamine/Opium/Heroin***





Narcotics Summary

Crack	44.3 Grams
Cocaine	241.3 Grams
Heroin	20.3 Grams
Marijuana	1766.2 Grams & 23 Dosage Units
Morphine	56 Dosage Units
Fentanyl	1005.4 Grams
Opium	26.8 Grams & 101 Dosage Units
Methamphetamines	3821.32 Grams & 87 Dosage Units
Barbituates	88 Dosage Units
Other	1103 Grams & 483 Dosage Units

**Other Narcotics include other hallucinogens, other stimulants, other depressants and other narcotics that have not yet been identified.*



K-9 Unit

The Haywood County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit is made up of six K9's. Our K9s are all trained in tracking, evidence recovery, and narcotic detection. Two of the six are considered full patrol K9s. They are also trained in the apprehension of suspects. Our other four K9s have been used to track suspects, lost children, and elderly with dementia. All of our handlers train a minimum of 10 hours per month with their partners. This year our K9s were responsible for removing nearly 500 grams of narcotics from Haywood County.

Upon approval by the County Commissioners, we were approved to spend drug asset forfeiture funds to purchase an additional K9 unit. On December 8th, 2023, Deputy Mease and his new partner, K9 Bren, graduated from K9 School. It was a special day to announce the name of our newest K9 as "Bren", in honor of our fallen brother, Deputy Brennan Mehaffey. After the graduation ceremony concluded, we unveiled the new K9 car for Deputy Mease and for Brennan's parents, Carroll and Nancie Mehaffey.

An additional approval of drug asset forfeiture funds, allowed us to purchase K9 Riley from the Canton Police Department. Both K9 Riley and his partner, Deputy Travis Johnson, joined our team in August, 2023.



10

Tracks

65

Vehicle Searches

5

Jail Searches

6

School Searches

610

Hours Training

25

Assist Other Agencies





S.R.T

Special Response Team



The Haywood County Special Response Team (SRT) is a 13-member team of deputies who have received specialized training for high-risk situations that require skills and knowledge beyond that of the average deputy. The Haywood County SRT's primary mission is to serve the citizens of Haywood County by providing a higher level of tactical support during critical, high-risk incidents and for preservation of life during incidents which they may be called out for.



Haywood County SRT trains twice a month to maintain skills needed for high-risk warrant services, search and rescue operations, tracking lost or injured persons, safely resolving incidents regarding barricaded persons, injured person extraction, and many other scenarios that have become commonplace in today's society.





Communications Center

The Haywood County 911 Communications Center, also known as Haywood Communications, answers emergency and non-emergency calls for service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and dispatches the appropriate help. The professional staff is dedicated to providing quality service not only to our citizens but also to the first responders that we serve.

The 911 Telecommunicators are the “first” emergency responders and play a critical role in answering any call for assistance. No matter what discipline of emergency services is needed, the telecommunicator must be efficient and professional to ensure the proper resources are sent to an appropriate location and that the responding field agencies receive the correct information.

There were approximately **170,000** telephone calls answered in the Communications Center in 2023, which continues to increase each year. A Telecommunicator takes one call at a time, does it quickly, gets it out to responders, and moves on to the next call. Any delay in getting help to the caller could mean the difference between life and death.

Currently there are 19 Full Time and 8 part time Telecommunicators employed by the Sheriff's Office. There are four on duty at all times working 12-hour shifts. There are also call takers that work 8am-5pm (Monday-Friday) and 2pm-2am (7 days a week). There is also a manager who generally works weekdays who oversees the entire operation.

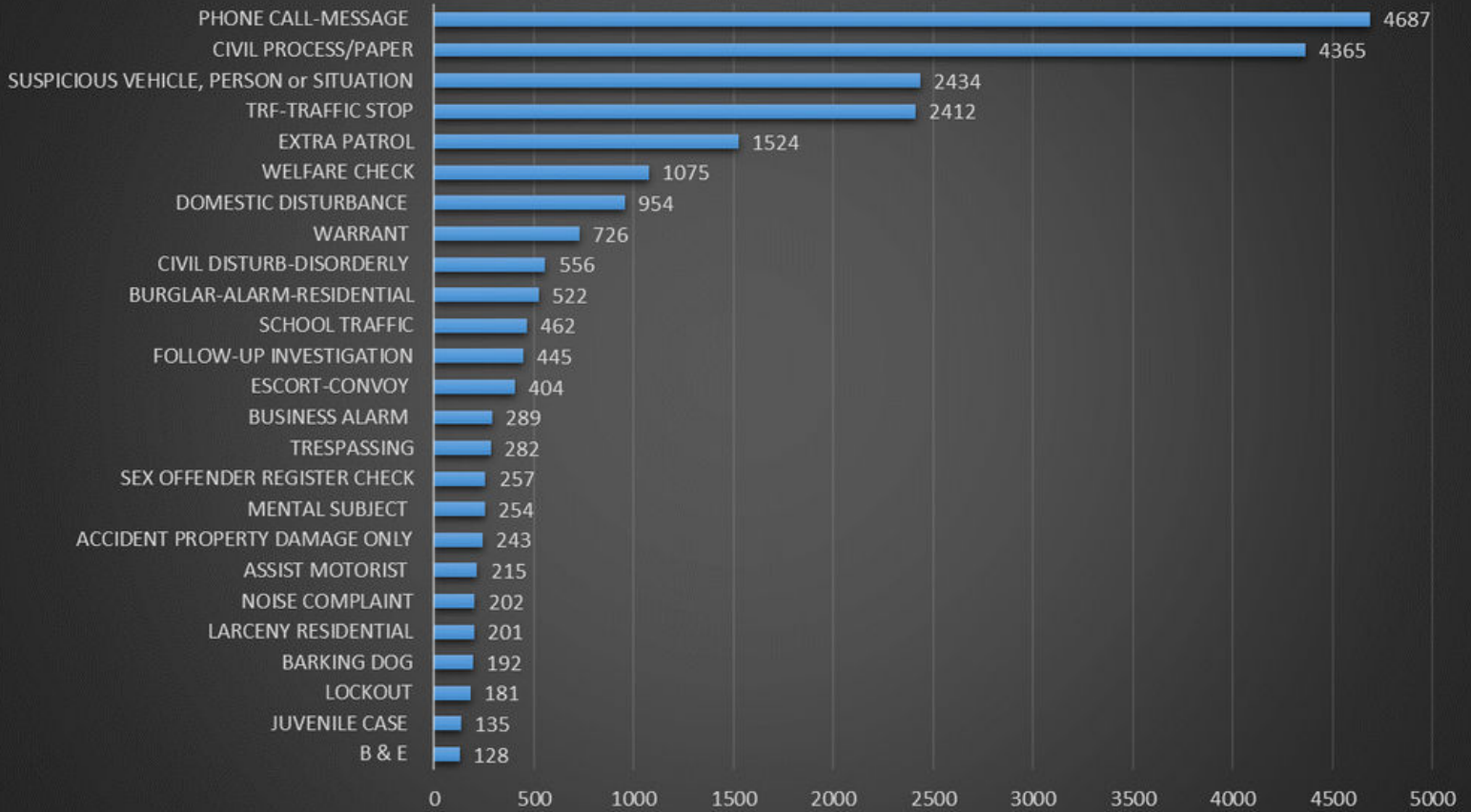
Haywood County 911 Director Chanda Morgan received the North Carolina APCO Communications Director of the Year award for 2023 in Wilmington for dedicated service to the public safety communications industry and service to the citizens of Haywood County.



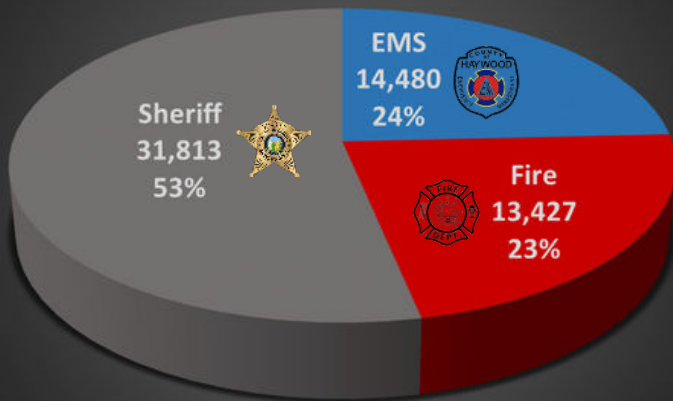


Call Data

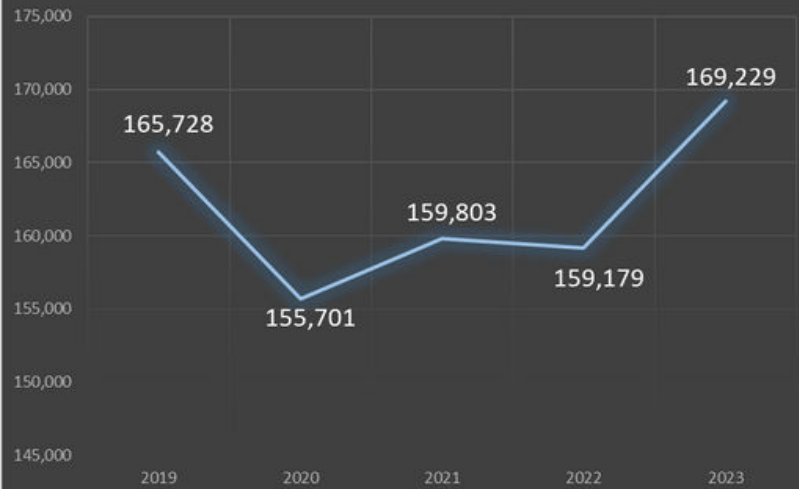
Sheriff's Office - Top 25 Call Types



Dispatched by Agency



Telephone Calls





Detention Center

The Haywood County Detention Center houses 109 inmates. All pre-trial arrestees unable to make bond in Haywood County as well as inmates who are sentenced or ordered to be held in custody by the courts are held in our confinement facility. The Detention Center utilizes an in-direct supervision style of inmate management and comprises five different housing units with a booking area and central control. Several facilities are comprised of a medical unit, a video-to-video visitation lobby, inmate laundry services, facility maintenance, and a large kitchen area.

In May of 2023, a Classification Case Manager/Reintegration Programs Coordinator was added to the staff at the Detention Center. This role plays an important part in developing and expanding services to our inmates. These services include AA and NA meetings that take place within the Detention Center for men and women that choose to attend. In late 2023 those meetings were well attended and a wait-list was even started. In addition to those recovery groups, we have staff who interview and facilitate referrals to local treatment centers and recovery programs as needed.





Detention Data

Total Males Confined	1956	Total Volunteers	68
Total Female Confined	973	Volunteer Hours	1,120
Head Counts Performed	97,744	Detention Officer Certification Graduates	10
Special Watches Performed	92,763	Detention Officer Training Hours	1,180
Cell Checks Performed	580,873	Full Time Employees	40

2023 Top Charges in Custody

Failure to Appear Misdemeanor/Felony	2,011
Probation/Parole Violation	314
Trafficking Narcotics	187
Resist Public Officer	168
Possession Methamphetamine	160



School Resource Officers

A big thank you to our Haywood County Commissioners who approved the funding needed this year to place an SRO (School Resource Officer) in all Haywood County Schools.

Our SROs not only protect the lives of our children and school staff daily, but they participate in the day to day functions at each school and participate in activities, sporting events, and even morning and afternoon car line greetings. These functions play a very important and special part in every school in Haywood County. Each of our SRO's have built many positive relationships with their students, parents, and staff. We believe they are one of the most important roles in the lives of our children and in our communities.





Domestic Violence

The Haywood County Sheriff's Office has a full-time victim advocate who specializes in domestic violence and sexual assault cases. If you are a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault or know someone who is, contact the Haywood County Sheriff's Office at (828) 452-6666 to speak with the domestic violence advocate, deputy, or detective for more information.

PROTECTIVE ORDERS

- 180 Active Orders
- 48 Through HSCO DV Advocate Assistance
- 76 Through REACH DV Advocate Assistance
- 50 Through Other means

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WARRANTS

- 71 by HCSO
- 64 by Victim



APRIL

Sexual Assault
Awareness Month



OCTOBER

Domestic Violence
Awareness Month



Denim Day 2023

Our office was proud to participate in Denim Day 2023. Denim Day raises awareness about all forms of sexual violence. On this day we stand in support of survivors and echo the message that there is no reason for sexual assault, not even the type of clothes a person wears. For more information on Denim Day and how it began, visit <https://denimday.org/>



Front Office Support Staff

Our civilian support staff plays a crucial role within the Sheriff's Office. These employees are the face of our office as the public comes in and conducts day-to-day business. Their dedication, professionalism, and integrity is unwavering. These men and women contribute significantly to the smooth functioning of this office and our overall success daily.

SEX OFFENDERS

112 Registered Offenders

182 Residences Checks w/6 Offenders Charged

7 New Offenders

7 Removed Offenders

CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMITS

377 New Permits

1,095 Renewed Permits

17 Denied Permits

11 Revoked Permits

MONEY COLLECTED

\$36,370 Civil Service Fees

\$1,250 Out of State Service Fees

\$3,050 Fingerprinting (712 Fingerprints)

**2023
Support
Staff**





Community Events





Staff Awards



Office of the Sheriff

LEADERSHIP
INTEGRITY
STRENGTH

**Support Staff
of the Year**
Brenda Rogers
Donna Henson



Office of the Sheriff

LEADERSHIP
INTEGRITY
STRENGTH

**Top Gun
of the Year**
Crime Suppression Unit





Office of the Sheriff

LEADERSHIP
INTEGRITY
STRENGTH

**Deputy
of the Year**
Michael Buckner



Office of the Sheriff

LEADERSHIP
INTEGRITY
STRENGTH

**Detention Officer
of the Year**
Baldemar Cantu



Office of the Sheriff

LEADERSHIP
INTEGRITY
STRENGTH

**Telecommunicator
of the Year**
Cortney Evans



Office of the Sheriff

LEADERSHIP
INTEGRITY
STRENGTH

**Detective
of the Year**
Taylor Yates





2023 Summary

CID

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\$1,159,925 Recovered Property

CRIME SUPPRESSION UNIT

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55 Charges for Trafficking
See Narcotics Summary

K9 UNIT

10 Tracks
65 Vehicle Searches
5 Jail Searches
6 School Searches
610 Training Hours
25 Assists to Other Agencies

INCIDENT/ARRESTS

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1842 Closed by Arrest

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7 New Offenders
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EVIDENCE ROOM

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+3,000 Pieces of Evidence Cataloged

CIVIL PROCESS

6 Civil Process Deputies
3,279 Papers Served
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COMMUNICATIONS

169,229 Calls
19 Full-time TCs
8 Part-Time TCs
Thursday Highest Call Volume
31,813 / 53% HCSO Calls
14,480 / 24% EMS
13,427 / 23% Fire

COURT SECURITY

6 Court Deputies
651 Sessions of Court
87,127 Citizens

DETENTION

1956 Males Confined
973 Females Confined
68 Volunteers
40 Full Time Employees
1,180 Training Hours

See each page for more data