

Year in Review 2023



2023

**Warren County Sheriff's Office:
Administrative Services**



Sheriff Larry L. Sims

2023 Year in Review

Greetings,

We are pleased to provide you with our 2023 annual report.

2023 was a very busy year as our men and women work hard to provide services to our Warren County community. Our twenty-four hour records/clerical division handles a variety of record keeping responsibilities in addition to performing background checks and conceal carry issuance. Our uniform patrol responds to calls for service while our criminal investigations and crime scene unit handles more in-depth investigations. We have personnel assigned to our Warren County Drug Task Force as well as our County Tactical Response Team holding special skills and resources allowing us to conduct more complex and dangerous cases.

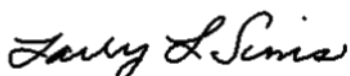
This year we have been able to update our cruisers with a state-of-the-art video camera system allowing us to capture valuable information and more seamlessly transfer it to an electronic evidence storage database.

We have also added two additional drones giving us more availability. The drones are used for a variety of law enforcement purposes which includes assisting us in the location of missing persons as well as suspects.

We continue to have an outstanding relationship with Kings School District and St Margaret of York Catholic School as Deerfield Township approved an additional school resource deputy for the 2023-2024 school year. We now have five School Resource Deputies in Deerfield Township Schools.

Our Corrections Division was equally busy this year with, aside from our daily jail operational duties, our office hosted two State Corrections Academies certifying several of our officers as well as a officers from our neighboring partner counties.

Lastly, our very own Warren County Tactical Response Team was recognized by the Ohio Tactical Officer's Association Team of the Year Award. Our county team consists of members from the Warren County Sheriff's Office, Monroe Police Department, Springboro Police Department, Franklin Police Department, Lebanon Police Department, Hamilton Township Police Department, Clearcreek Township Police Department, Mason Police Department and Warren County Communications Center.



Sheriff Larry L. Sims

Employees of the Year

Every year our office recognizes employees who are nominated by their peers and/or supervisors for their exceptional duty and willingness to go above and beyond to serve our community. An employee of the year is selected for each of three categories; civilian, corrections, and deputy sheriff. Congratulations to 2023's employees of the year.

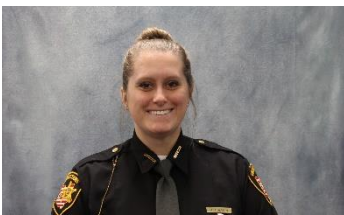
Deputy Sheriff of the Year

Detective Chet Tewmey



Corrections Officer of the Year

Officer Brittini Holman



Civilian Employee of the Year

Clerical Specialist David Johnson



Enforcement Section

Our Enforcement Section is the largest section of sworn personnel within our office. These men and women are comprised of uniformed deputy sheriff's that handle the day to day calls for service. Below are the calls that our office handled within our county in 2023.

2023 Calls for Service

In 2023 our office handled over 70,000 calls for service. Below you find the breakdown of calls for service by area within Warren County.**

TOWNSHIPS

CLEARCREEK - 529
FRANKLIN - 5,977
HARLAN - 2,042
SALEM - 2,056
UNION - 1,989
WAYNE - 2,632

DEERFIELD - 27,503
HAMILTON - 1,083
MASSIE - 896
TURTLECREEK - 8,943
WASHINGTON - 1,836

CITY/VILLAGES

BUTLERVILLE - 102
CORWIN - 205
HARVEYSBURG - 265
LOVELAND - 9
MASON - 1,775
MONROE - 197
PLEASANTPLAIN - 48
SOUTHLBANON - 5,971

CARLISLE - 362
FRANKLIN - 1,092
LEBANON - 3,200
MAINEVILLE - 66
MIDDLETOWN - 571
MORROW - 1,059
SPRINGBORO - 406
WAYNESVILLE - 399

Canine Unit

Our office has three canine units that are assigned to patrol and one that is assigned to our jail. These canine units are a valuable tool in our efforts to stop drugs from coming into our community and our jail. They also are just as valuable in assisting with tracking suspects as well as lost and endangered people. Our canines also have been used in public events in communities throughout our region.



Criminal Investigations

Our Criminal Investigation Section is comprised of general detectives who investigate serious crimes throughout our county. Examples of the types of crimes they investigate are burglaries, frauds, assaults, sex crimes, crimes against children, murder, rape, and crimes against the elderly.

Our office has detectives that are assigned out of our main office and also Deerfield Township. In 2023 the section handled 784 cases.

This section also oversees our Crime Scene Unit. This unit is comprised of specially trained deputies that process our most serious crimes scenes. In 2023, the unit processed 33 scenes. Some examples of the types of scenes that were processed in 2023 include, death investigations, shootings and robberies.



Drug Task Force

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Warren County Drug Task Force remains the only unit within our jurisdiction conducting specialized drug investigations on a full-time basis. Our investigations continue to target all levels of drug trafficking with an emphasis on felony crimes, from the lowest level felonies to long-term federal conspiracy cases. The drug trafficking activities occurring in our jurisdiction remain much different than the open-air trafficking common in larger metropolitan areas. These factors contribute to the difficulty and length of time of our investigations. Consistent with past years, many cases that began in 2023 will continue into 2024 and beyond.

Drug trends during 2023 remained consistent with the past several years as methamphetamine and fentanyl continue to be the most significant drug threats in our jurisdiction. Our investigations continue to identify Mexico as a primary source of supply for the methamphetamine, fentanyl and most drugs seized in our area. Drugs arriving from the southwest border and various west coast states continue to flow through the Cincinnati and Dayton areas and remain readily available for use by our addicted population. December 2023 seizure data, as reported by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, indicate Warren County as the 7th highest county in the State of Ohio for methamphetamine seizures (35+ pounds,) 10th highest for fentanyl seizures (6 pounds,) and 9th highest for cocaine seizures (18.5 pounds.)

The investigation of prescription drug diversion crimes remain a priority for the Drug Task Force. During 2023, Warren County ranked 3rd in the State of Ohio for the highest number of prescription drug seizures.

Prescription drugs remain common drugs of abuse for many, especially those employed within the medical profession with increased accessibility to prescription drugs. This specialized area of investigation directly impacts the continued addiction crisis involving prescription opiates. The Warren County Drug Task Force remains one of the few Drug Task Forces in the State of Ohio providing a full-time investigative focus to drug diversion crimes.

As specific drug threats change, our commitment to target drug trafficking activities is unwavering. The investigation of drug trafficking offenses remain challenging as drug traffickers continue to evolve and learn many of the covert tactics commonly utilized by law enforcement. The ongoing specialized enforcement efforts of the Warren County Drug Task Force are critical as drug traffickers' prey upon our addicted population, and directly impact the quality of life in our communities.

During 2023, the investigative activity of our staff resulted in 331 new cases. These investigations resulted in 114 felony arrests, 125 search warrants, 58 firearms seized, and 1,673 traffic stops. ** DTF 2023 report



Warren County Tactical Response Unit

Our office is part of a joint tactical team that assists our deputies with high risk operations that have an element of heightened danger to the public and deputies. This year this team was recognized by the Ohio Tactical Officers Association as Team of the Year. This was impart due to actions the team took to end a hostage situation in 2022. Below are details of this operation.

On July 11th, 2022 at around 1531 hours the Warren County Tactical Response Unit was requested to respond the Baymont Inn in Mason Ohio for a hostage situation. An individual named Thomas Cromwell had recently escaped from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department jail facility. Cromwell was tracked by Hamilton County Detectives to the Baymont Inn in Mason where he had befriended a female who he had recently met at the hotel. When the detectives attempted to contact Cromwell to take him into custody, he took the woman hostage and stated that he would kill her if they entered the hotel room. The Warren County Tactical Response Unit arrived on scene and began tactical operations at 1605 hours. The following is a synopsis of the team's actions that day that saved the life of the hostage:

- Negotiators from the Warren County Tactical Response Unit established negotiations with Cromwell by cell phone. The phone used belonged to the female hostage. These negotiations made little progress and lasted throughout the evening and into the early morning of July 12th.
- At approximately 0120 hours on the 12th, Mr. Cromwell posted a facebook live video showing him escalating his hostility and holding a large knife to his hostage's throat. All negotiations had failed at this point and the only viable option available was for immediate and non-delayed rescue.
- The team commander determined that the Warren County Tactical Response Unit would conduct a deliberate entry to save the hostage.

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- At approximately 0150 hours, a phone call order was given to negotiators to call Mr. Cromwell. Once on the phone for approximately 10 seconds, command gave the entry team leader the order to initiate the countdown sequence for the deliberate entry.
 - Warren County Tactical Response Unit operators utilized two interior explosive breaching methods on opposing walls of the suspect's hotel room. One breaching point was located on the far sidewall closest to the exterior wall and the second was located on the bathroom wall closest to the hallway.
 - A third breaching point was the barricaded front door where Warren County Tactical Response Unit Operators utilized shotgun breaching in conjunction with mechanical breaching methods.
 - All three breaching points were executed simultaneously by countdown. Once all three locations had a positive breach, Warren County Tactical Response Unit officers were able to enter the hotel room from the front door.
 - Cromwell was found near the middle of the room with his hostage. Immediately identifying that there was an immediate and substantial risk to the safety of the hostage, the lead officer in the entry team fired on Cromwell, who was struck and killed by a single shot.
 - The hostage was rescued and found to be unharmed.

Not only was this hostage saved by the quick and decisive action of the Warren County Tactical Team that day, but also because of a dedication and commitment to the team's training program in the months leading up to this event. The ability to complete a simultaneous entry utilizing three different entry points and neutralizing a suspect holding a hostage achieved a level of tactical proficiency that could only be the result of countless hours of well-developed and focused training.



Court Services Section

The Court Services Section is responsible for the movement of prisoners, court security and service and enforcement of court orders. These deputies are some of the busiest deputies in our office. Many times their job duties have them traveling throughout the state and nation.

COURT TRANSPORTS

COMMONPLEAS – 2,490

JUVENILE - 155

COUNTYCOURT - 384

LEBANON - 234

FRANKLIN – 22

MASON - 566

COURTROOM HOURS

COMMONPLEAS – 1,072

JUVENILE - 97

COUNTY COURT - 285

LEBANON - 271

FRANKLIN - 263

MASON - 474

SOUTH LEBANON – 3

SPRINGBORO - 12

TOTAL HOURS – 2,477

Corrections

Our new correctional facility opened in October 2021. This facility booked and released 10,866 inmates in 2023. This is an average monthly inmate bookings and releasing of 453 in 2023. There have been several upgraded features in our new facility such as, body scanners, surveillance cameras and new inmate/attorney rooms.



Community Services

Our Community Services Section is made up of School Resource Deputies and D.A.R.E. Deputies. These Deputy Sheriff's provide invaluable training and resources for our local school districts. Kings Local Schools have contracted with our office for School Resource Deputies on their property. In addition to Kings Local our office also provides a School Resource Deputy for the Warren County Career Center and St. Margaret of York. These dedicated deputies provide training for all staff and administrators as requested.

Our D.A.R.E. Deputies provide Drug Abuse Resistance Education to Kings Local schools, Little Miami Local schools, Wayne Local schools, Franklin Local schools and Carlisle Local schools. In 2023, our deputies taught and are responsible for the safety of over 6500 students.

Our office also conducts many community outreach programs. These include, National Night Out, Women's Self Defense, Safety Town, Touch a Truck, Fishing Derby's, Warren County Fair, and attends many neighborhood watch programs throughout our great county.



Human Resources

Our Human Resources section had another busy year. Our office processed 286 applications and conducted 19 testing sessions for corrections, deputy sheriff and clerical. Those testing sessions saw over 216 applicants who were seeking employment with our office.

Our office hired 12 deputy sheriffs, 20 corrections officers, 2 clerical specialist, 1 Special Deputy. We had 4 retirements within our office, 2 deputy sheriffs and 2 clerical specialist. Our office also added a School Resource Deputy.



Support Services

This section is comprised of Clerical Specialists who maintain our vast records management systems. Additionally, these individuals assist the public with records, sheriff sales, and background checks.

In 2023 our office processed 3,042 requests for records, 2,352 CCW permits, 191 vacation house checks, and 3,924 Webchecks. We also handled 59 Sheriff Sale properties.

Property Evidence Room

Our Property Evidence Room Section is responsible for all property and evidence that our office takes control of and/or has custody of. Our office has two Property Room Evidence Managers that are dedicated to maintaining, controlling, disposing and releasing property and evidence.

In 2023 the property evidence room received 2,206 items. These items were a mixture of evidence, found property, and/or property kept for safe keeping. In addition to the items received, 609 items were disposed of either by destruction order or by returning the item to its owner.

This document was prepared by the Administrative Services Section of the Warren County Sheriff's Office. If you have questions or would like additional information on any of the topics within, please feel free to reach out to Major Eric Johnson.

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