



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## **I. Message from your Sheriff**

On behalf of the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, I hope this message finds you well. It is a privilege to serve as your Sheriff. I am grateful and honored to lead a very dedicated, professional team that pledges to serve their public, uphold the law, protect our community and carry out our duties with integrity to the best of our ability.

This is a declaration to our community to show our commitment to uphold and support the Constitution, enforce justice impartially with dignity and respect. It is my goal to provide the residents of Jackson County an overview of the Sheriff's Office activities that will better inform the public, strengthen community relations, to maintain public confidence and trust.

## **II. Introduction**

The annual report is based on information compiled from a variety of resources including but not limited to our internal records management system (RMS), as well as other county and state resources. The Sheriff's Office relies on employees to input data that is sometimes subject to error for various reasons. It is our goal to provide the highest quality and most accurate information.

The Jackson County Sheriff's Office is the largest law enforcement agency in Jackson County, serving the entire County including the communities of Black River Falls, Alma Center, Hixton, Melrose, Merrilan and Taylor. There are about 21,000 citizens that live in Jackson County, a total area of 1,000 square miles and about 1,700 miles of roadways that would include ATV and snowmobile trails and private driveways.

## **III. Office of Sheriff**

The Office of Sheriff is created by the Wisconsin Constitution (Article VI, Section 4). It is an elected office in each county with a four-year term. Consequently, the Sheriff is a constitutional officer who is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer of the County. The Sheriff's duties are varied and for the most part, defined by the Wisconsin Statutes. These duties include, but are not limited to, maintaining the peace, running the jail, and serving both criminal and civil process.

The Office of Sheriff has certain unique duties, powers, and responsibilities different from other law enforcement agencies. Some of these include (Wis. Stat. § 59.26 - 59.29):

- The Sheriff shall have command of the law enforcement force of the County.
- Take the charge and custody of the jail maintained by the county, including any portion of the jail that is used by the County in a joint government building, and the persons in the jail, and keep the persons in the jail personally or by a deputy or jailer.
- Keep a true and exact register of all prisoners committed to jail.
- Attend upon the circuit court held in the County during its session.
- The Sheriff, by the Undersheriff or deputies, serve or execute all processes, writs, precepts, and orders issued or made by lawful authority and delivered to the Sheriff.
- To enforce in the County all general orders of the department of safety and professional services relating to the sale, transportation, and storage of explosives.
- Conduct operations within the County and in waters of which the County has jurisdiction for the rescue of human beings and for the recovery of human bodies.
- Enforce all city, or village, ordinances in a city or village, in which the sheriff provides law enforcement services under a contract described under Wis. Stat. § 62.13(2s)(a).
- The Sheriff, Undersheriff, and deputies shall keep and preserve the peace in the County and quiet and suppress all affrays, routs, riots, unlawful assemblies, and insurrections; for which purpose, and for the service of processes in civil or criminal cases and in the apprehending or securing any person for felony or breach of the peace they may

call to their aid such persons or power of the County as they consider necessary.

- County law enforcement agencies may request the assistance of law enforcement personnel or may assist other law enforcement agencies as provided by law.
- The Sheriff or other officer who has legally arrested any person in any county may pass across and through such parts of any other county or counties as are in the ordinary route of travel from the place where such person was arrested to the place where the person is to be conveyed, according to the command of the process by which such arrest was made.
- The Sheriff has the power to call a posse comitatus (68 Atty. Gen. 334).
- The Sheriff can, on a case-by-case basis, assert leadership, control, and direction by reason of his/her superior position as chief law enforcement officer of the County. It is the duty of the local police officers to cooperate. Local law enforcement personnel are subject to the command of the Sheriff even when acting within their municipal boundaries when the Sheriff exercises a call to aid under Wis. Stat. § 59.28(1). The Sheriff has concurrent authority with local law enforcement personnel regardless of municipal boundaries (61 OAG 79).
- Perform all other duties required of the Sheriff by law.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Jackson County Sheriff's Office is to communicate and work with the community to maintain a safe environment, prevent crime and enforce the law, while protecting the rights of all.

### **Values**

As members of the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, we proudly commit to the following values that will be used to guide our daily thoughts and actions:

<b>Integrity</b>	<b>Dedication</b>
<b>Excellence</b>	<b>Courage</b>
<b>Compassion</b>	<b>Impartiality</b>

### **Vision**

To be a highly respected, well educated, professional law enforcement agency committed to leadership, unity and excellence.

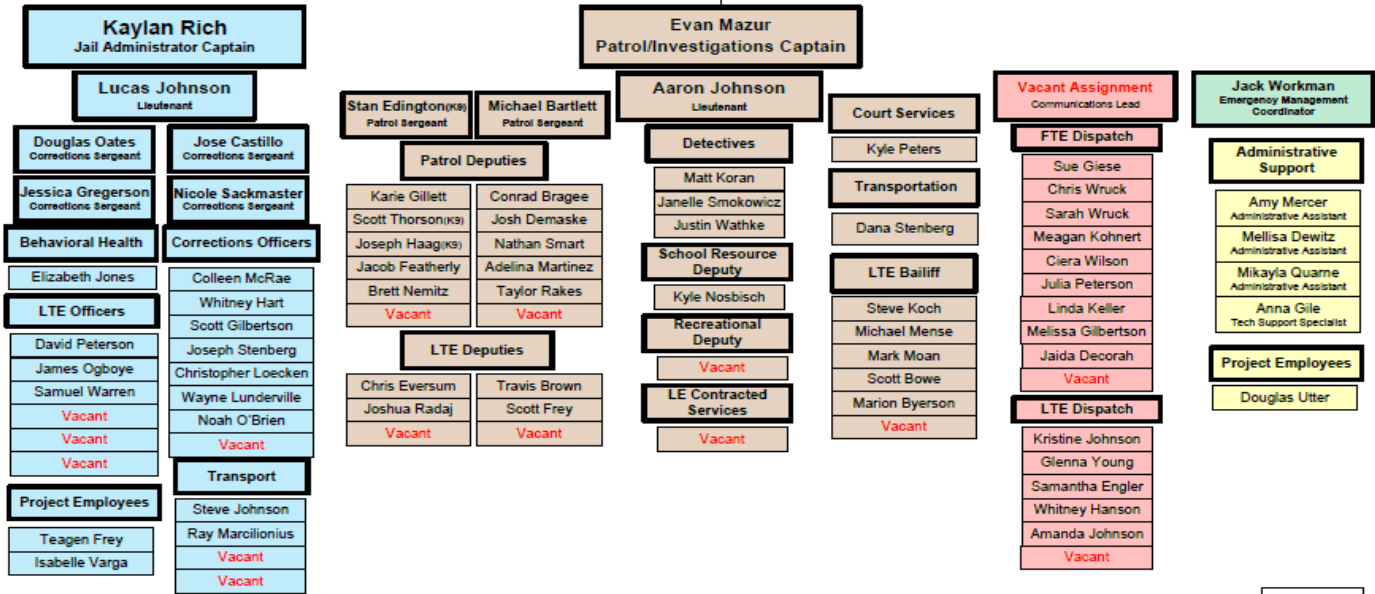
## **IV. Organization Structure**

In 2024, the Sheriff's Office was authorized to staff 56 full-time employees (FTE) and 29 limited term employees (LTE). Recruiting and maintaining staff was difficult; at year end the FTE vacancies were as follows: 1 corrections officer, 1 communications officer, 4 patrol deputies and 10 part time or LTE staff. It should be noted that the Sheriff's Office was able to staff three (3) project employees, two through an opiate funding opportunity that assisted with jail planning.

# Jackson County Sheriff's Office

**Duane M. Waldera**  
Sheriff

**Nicholas Gray**  
Chief Deputy



Appendix A Updated 12-12-24

## Employee Years of Service Milestones:

### Five Years of Service:

- Deputy Scott Thorson
- LTE Deputy Douglas Utter
- Corrections Lt. Lucas Johnson
- Transport Deputy Steven Johnson

### Ten Years of Service:

- Sgt. Stan Edington
- Communications Officer Kristine Johnson
- Communications Officer Linda Keller

### Retirement:

- Corrections Sergeant Douglas Oates

- Communications Officer Chris Wruck
- ### Fifteen Years of Service:
- Detective Justin Wathke
  - LTE Deputy Steven Koch (Court Services)
- ### Twenty Years of Service:
- Chief Deputy Nicholas Gray
  - Patrol / Investigations Captain Evan Mazur
- ### Twenty-five Years of Service:
- Sheriff Duane M. Waldera



**V. Budget Comparison:**

SALARIES / BENEFITS	2023	2024	+ / -
LE CONTRACTED SRV	80,774.00	92,169.00	11,395.00
SCHOOL RESOURCE	94,420.00	105,020.00	10,600.00
REC. LAW ENF.	74,587.00	78,690.00	4,103.00
TRIBAL LAW ENF.	69,926.00	74,161.00	4,235.00
SHERIFF	2,182,084.00	2,433,510.00	251,426.00
COMMUNICATIONS	730,367.00	818,062.00	87,695.00
EM - EMPG	77,710.00	86,143.00	8,433.00
BAILIFF LAW ENF.	163,302.00	255,159.00	91,857.00
JAIL	1,188,551.00	1,300,846.00	112,295.00
EMERG. MEDICAL JAIL	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,661,721.00</b>	<b>5,268,760.00</b>	<b>607,039.00</b>

13.02%

OPERATIONAL EXP.	2023	2024	+ / -
TRAFFIC	308,372.00	326,615.00	18,243.00
COMMUNICATIONS	67,405.00	62,900.00	(4,505.00)
TELETYPE	10,344.00	10,200.00	(144.00)
CANINE PROGRAM	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
ELECTRONIC MONITOR	30,000.00	25,000.00	(5,000.00)
EM-EMPG	55,820.00	49,450.00	(6,370.00)
JAIL	438,650.00	520,250.00	81,600.00
EMERG. MEDICAL JAIL	172,332.00	166,928.40	(5,403.60)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,083,923.00</b>	<b>1,162,343.40</b>	<b>78,420.40</b>

7.23%

CAPTIAL EXPEND.	2023	2024	+ / -
REC LAW ENF.	15.00	395.00	380
VEHICLE	250,000.00	220,000.00	(30,000)
OFFICE	3,000.00	3,000.00	0
COMPUTER	31,600.00	31,600.00	0
RADIO	5,000.00	5,000.00	0
GRANTS (Other)	0	23,975.00	23,975

EQUIP. EMP	1,000.00	1,000.00	0
EM - CHAZ GRANT	10,000.00	10,000.00	0
TOTAL	300,615.00	294,970.00	(5,645)

-1.88%

Revenues	2023	2024	+ / -
INTER-GOVT. REVENUE	279,432.00	299,793.33	20,361.33
FINES, FORFIETS, & PENAL.	0.00	0.00	0
PUBLIC CHARGE FOR SER.	235,900.00	224,500.00	(11,400)
MISC. REVENUE	30,000.00	0.00	(30,000)
Totals	545,332.00	524,293.33	(21,039)

-3.86%

BUDGET COMPARISON	
2024 Expenditures	6,726,073.40
2024 Revenues	524,293.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,201,780.07</b>

2023 Expenditures	6,046,259.00	679,814
2023 Revenues	545,332.00	(21,039)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,500,927.00</b>	<b>\$700,853.07</b>

11.30%

## VI. 2024 Significant Changes or Accomplishments (Budget Narrative)

- Transition Capital Vehicle purchases to Enterprise Lease / Rental program, the goal is to reduce spending over a 5-year period regarding purchase and maintenance of vehicles. Also work with an Enterprise fleet manger to assist with maintaining our vehicles.
- Enter into a 5-year agreement with Motorola Solutions to improve our Records Management System (RMS) and update our body camera program.
- RACOM tower equipment analysis completed.
- Eliminated walk in access to LEC front lobby to improve efficiency of administrative operations - citizens use the lobby phone to contact the appropriate division that is needed to assist them.
- Filled FTE position for jail - Jail Lieutenant
- Assigned current FTE Deputy to transportation / utility work as needed; primary duty is to manage the transportation of inmates to and from court, the jail and other court ordered transportation needs.
- Assigned current staff to FTE Administrative Assistant – Records
- Jail received an MAT law enforcement funding opportunity to assist with providing medicated assisted treatment and reduce opiate related deaths in the community, prevention and education of substance abuse,
- Footprints in Time requested to end their Correctional Health Services to the Jail.

## VII. Administrative Support

Administrative support has three (3) Law Enforcement Administrative Assistants assigned to the division. Administrative Support is responsible for data entry, records management, maintaining and distribution of case reports, civil process, records requests, Sheriff sales, managing accounts payable and receivable, and other duties and responsibilities as assigned.

Our RMS Spillman software allows us to utilize workflow activities to assist with processing cases from when the communications center assigns the case to the deputy to when it is completed by the administrative staff for final

approval.

The following breakdown shows the number of times a case is reviewed and processed by the administrative staff during the quality control workflow procedure. In 2023 averaged 2,242 workflow activities per month and in 2024 an average of 2359 workflow activities per month.

<b>Month</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
1. January	2367	2255
2. February	2306	2079
3. March	2582	2208
4. April	2190	2342
5. May	2687	3163
6. June	2692	2487
7. July	2553	2771
8. August	2175	2547
9. September	2092	2485
10. October	2337	2169
11. November	2022	1800
12. December	896	2002
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,899</b>	<b>28,308</b>

The Administrative Assistant completed the following cases in workflow:

<b>Month</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
1. January	794	883
2. February	831	772
3. March	1002	819
4. April	797	945
5. May	966	1346
6. June	1058	1028
7. July	951	1115
8. August	846	923
9. September	763	942
10. October	846	844
11. November	726	650
12. December	740	751
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,320</b>	<b>11,018</b>

The following categories are some of the areas that are monitored throughout the year.

<b>Categories</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
• Civil Process	561	541
• Sheriff Sales	7	11
• Citizen Records Requests	509	1034
• Discovery Records Requests	334	197
• Case referrals to DA's Office	603	824

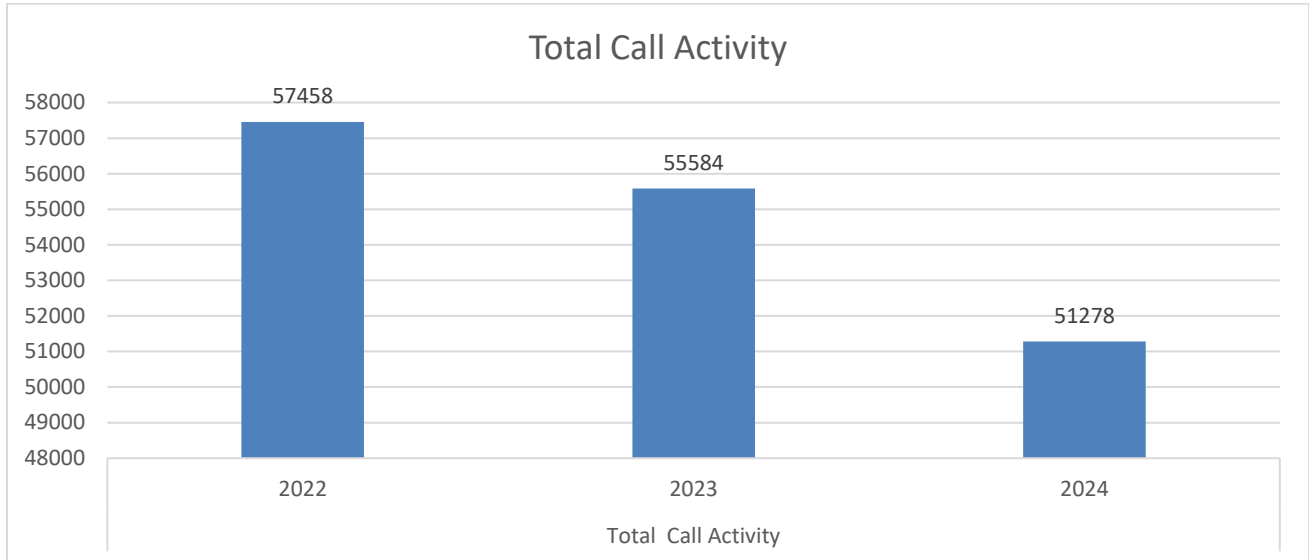
## VIII. Emergency Communications Center - Dispatch

The Emergency Communications Center (ECC) also known as Dispatch is the first point of phone contact with most calls for service. The ECC is the designated PSAP (Primary Safety Answering Point) for Jackson County. All emergency 911 and non-emergency calls are received at the dispatch center. The dispatchers are also responsible for all radio communications Jackson County public safety and emergency services. The dispatcher's responsibility is to receive all the information and then forward the information to the respective persons, departments or agencies within Jackson County or the State of Wisconsin that would respond to the call for service. The dispatchers will assign most of the case numbers that occur in Jackson County. The dispatchers are also responsible for entering all warrants and

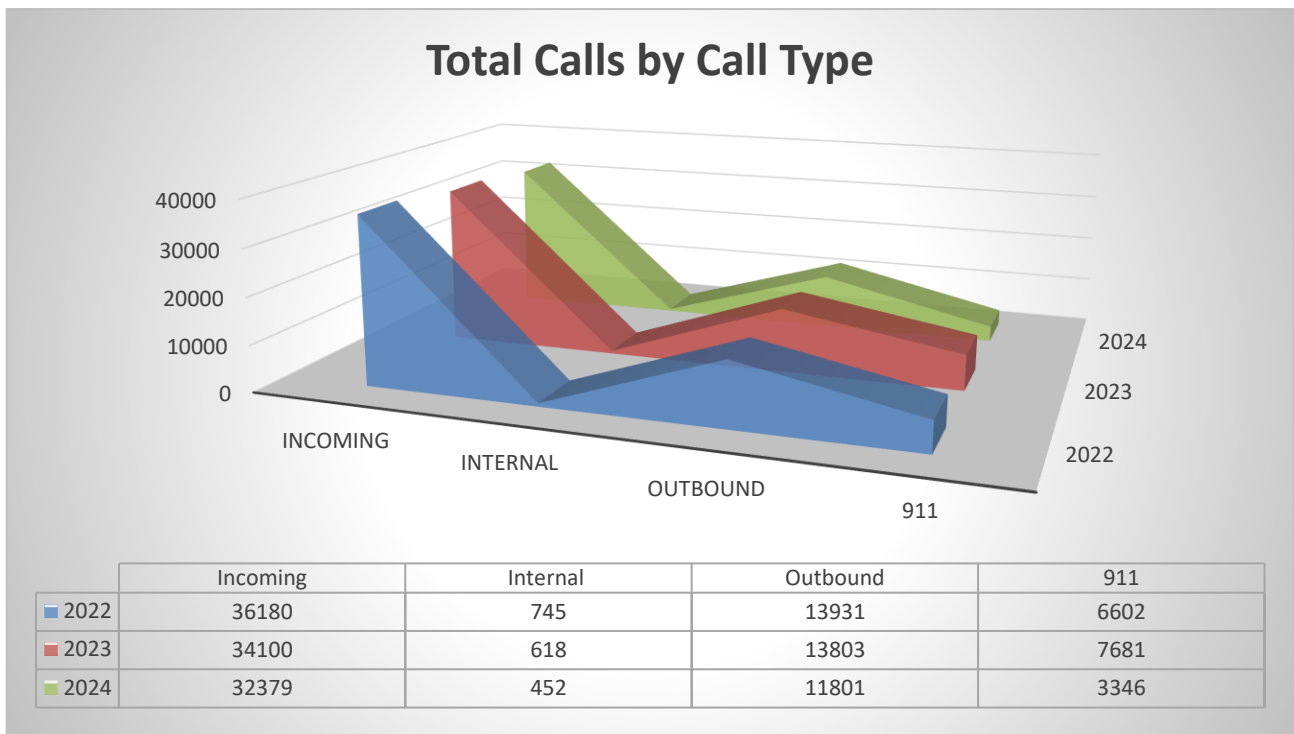
injunctions that are processed in Jackson County.

## Jackson County Sheriff's Office Emergency Communications Center Call Data and Comparison

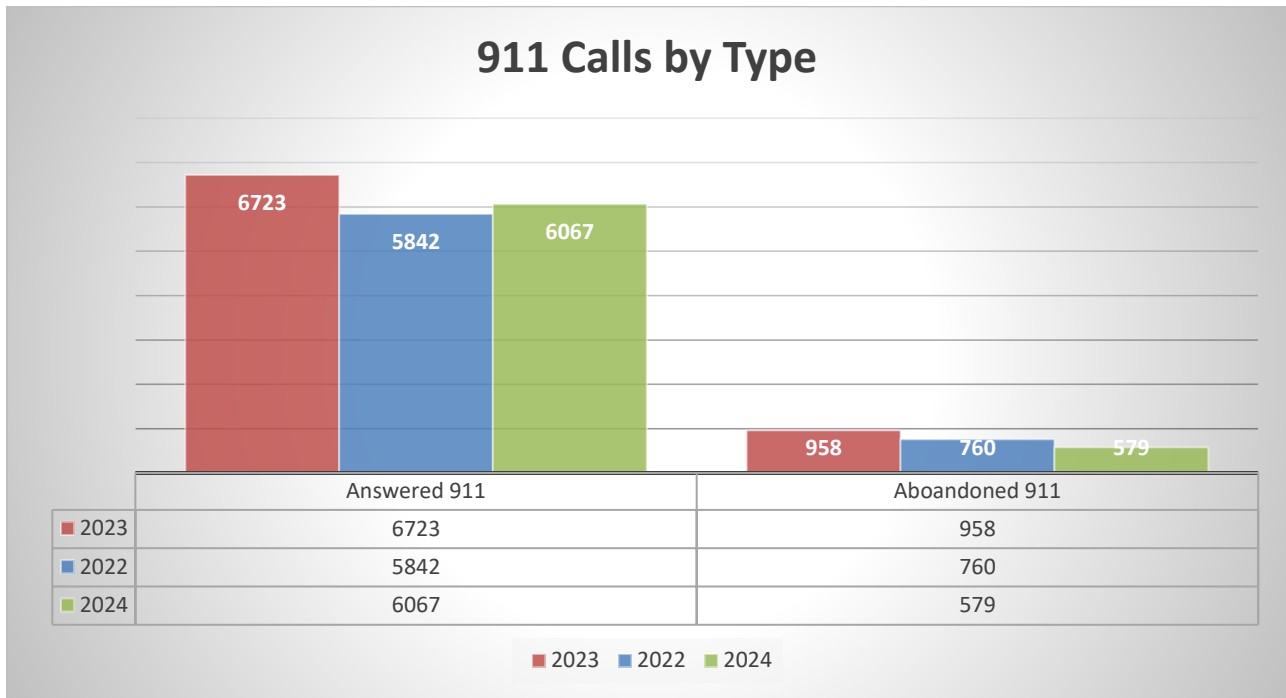
This chart shows total call activity, which is all incoming and outgoing calls from all dispatch stations. Current data shows a slight reduction in total call volume.



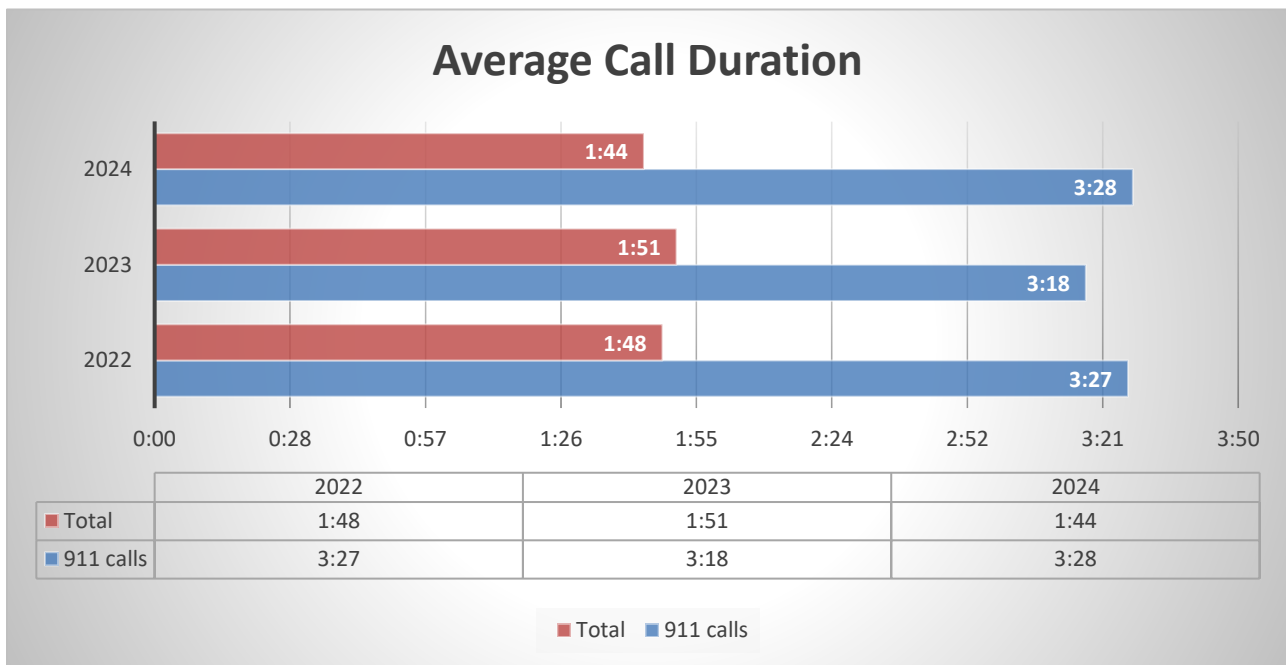
This is a breakdown of the total call activities by type of call. Administrative Calls, Internal Calls (courthouse extensions), and 911 Calls are calls received in dispatch. Outbound is the total of outbound calls made from dispatch. Administrative call volume moderated and 911 call volume increased.



This is a breakdown of 911 calls by answered and abandoned. 911 call volumes increased in 2023.



This chart shows the average call duration in minutes, both 911 calls and for all call types.



## IX. Patrol Division

The command structure and span of control for the supervision and management of the patrol division is comprised of one (1) Patrol/Investigations Captain, one (1) Patrol/Investigation Lieutenant, and two (2) Patrol Sergeants. The

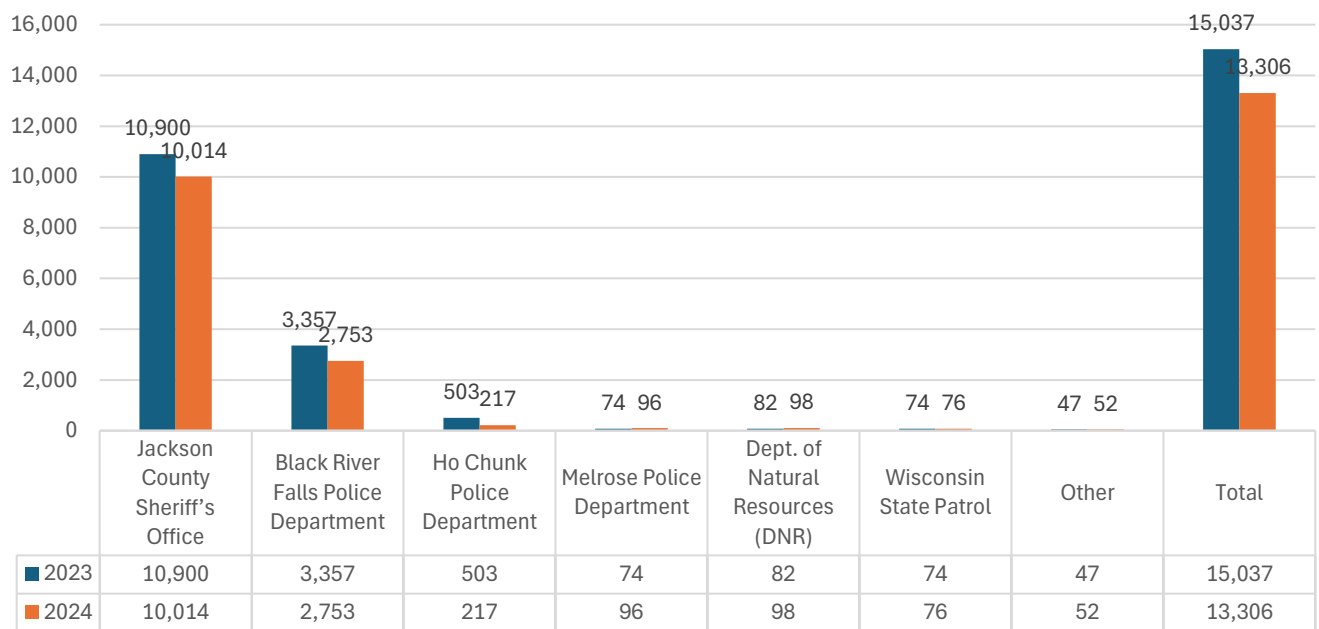
patrol division consists of twelve (12) full time certified deputies who work six (6) days on duty followed by three (3) days off. The deputy’s pay is based on 1950 hours per year; they cover 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In addition to the 12 full time certified deputies, we also have a law enforcement contract for services for a full time Village Deputy and School Resource Deputy. We also received DNR reimbursement for the Recreational Deputy position.

Limited Term Employees (LTE) are considered part time, at-will employees. LTE deputies support the patrol division when needed. LTE deputies are assigned to work law enforcement contract services, forestry and parks, patrol sector assignments, and several other duties as needed. The Sheriff’s Office has between six (6) to eight (8) available LTEs. The number of LTE deputies employed at the Sheriff’s Office is based on the need for their support and availability.

The Sheriff’s Office is contracted to provide law enforcement services to townships and villages in Jackson County. The Sheriff’s Office continues to maintain contracts with the Village of Taylor and Town of Millston. In 2022, the Sheriff’s Office, in collaboration with three villages, created a full-time deputy position to be assigned to the Villages of Alma Center, Hixton and Merrillan.

The Patrol Division handles many of the initial calls and complaints that are received by dispatch. Patrol deputies have additional responsibilities including, but not limited to, serving civil process, premise checks, case follow-ups and traffic enforcement.

### Incident Number by Agency



Incident Numbers by Agency	2023	2024
• Jackson County Sheriff's Office	10,900	10,014
• Black River Falls Police Department	3,357	2,753
• Ho Chunk Police Department	503	217
• Melrose Police Department	74	96
• Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)	82	98
• Wisconsin State Patrol	74	76
• Other	47	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,037</b>	<b>13,306</b>

2023 Sheriff's Office Disposition Summary	2024 Sheriff's Office Disposition Summary
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**Jackson County Sheriff's Office**  
Law Incident Disposition Change Report

<u>New Disposition</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
(Unknown disposition (	1
Active	21
Clrd Adlt, Arst (One Incident)	492
Clrd Adlt, Arst (Multi-Clear)	12
Clrd Juv, Arst (One Incident)	27
Clrd Juv, Arst (Cnt Arrestee)	3
Clrd Juv, Arst (Multi-Clear)	1
Closed Case	146
Clrd Adlt, Prosecutn Declined	1
Clrd Adlt, Victim Uncooperativ	20
Clrd Juv, No Custody	12
Inactive	122
For Information Only	1560
No Report Taken	12549
Pending	31
Transferred	26
Unfounded	13

Total reported: 15037



**Jackson County Sheriff's Office**  
Law Incident Disposition Change Report

<u>New Disposition</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
(Unknown disposition (	4
Active	21
Clrd Adlt, Arst (One Incident)	481
Clrd Adlt, Arst (Multi-Clear)	13
Clrd Juv, Arst (One Incident)	16
Clrd Juv, Arst (Cnt Arrestee)	2
Clrd Juv, Arst (Multi-Clear)	1
Closed Case	101
Clrd Adlt, Victim Uncooperativ	33
Clrd Juv, No Custody	1
Inactive	110
For Information Only	1526
No Report Taken	10911
Pending	25
Transferred	32
Unfounded	29

Total reported: 13306

The statistics indicated below represent all citations, warnings and accident reports completed in 2023 and 2024.

<b>Traffic Information</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Total Traffic Citations	1,089	874
Total Non-Traffic Citations	235	201
Total DNR Citations	73	16
Written Warnings Issued	1,727	1,145
High Speed Pursuits	8	5
Driver Behavioral	6	6
All Traffic Accidents	Total 439	Total 469
• Fatality	• 3	• 5
• Injury	• 23	• 37
• Property Damage	• 129	• 117
• Deer/animal	• 278	• 294
• ATV Accidents	• 6	• 16
Operating While Under the Influence	Total 54	Total 54
• 1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	• 32	• 36
• 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	• 8	• 6
• 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense	• 9	• 4
• 4 <sup>th</sup> Offense	• 3	• 1
• 5 <sup>th</sup> Offense	• 1	• 1
• 6 <sup>th</sup> Offense	• 1	• 2
• Controlled Substance	• 4	• 2
• Absolute Sobriety Violation	• 1	• 2

**X. Canine (K-9) Program**

The Jackson County Sheriff's Office has a very productive K-9 program. The Sheriff's Office has been able to support three (3) K-9 units, and the program is funded primarily by donations and other non-levy related finances.

1. Sergeant Stan Edington and K-9 Legend
2. Deputy Mark Moan and K-9 Gus
3. Deputy Joseph Haag and K-9 Oaklee
4. Deputy Scott Thorson and K-9 Cash



Legend



Gus



Oaklee



Deputy Thorson and K-9 Cash

## XI. Emergency Response Tactical (ERT) Team

The Emergency Response Tactical Team is not a full-time team but is comprised of individuals with various permanent duty assignments. The ERT team may be activated whenever necessary to accomplish the goals of the Sheriff's Office.

The primary responsibility of the ERT team is the resolution of difficult law enforcement situations outside the realm of ordinary patrol response, using developed skills, tactics, and specialized equipment capabilities.

In accordance with sound and acceptable principles of crisis management, it is the goal of the ERT team that once containment of an incident has been established, we will use all available means to enforce that containment until the situation is resolved.

Additional responsibility of the ERT team will be to provide a wide range of police services, in furtherance of the Sheriff’s Office duties and responsibilities to the communities and citizens of Jackson County.

Incidents requiring deployment of the ERT team include, but are not limited to:

- Hostage situations
- Barricaded subjects
- High risk/Unknown risk search warrants
- Unusual occurrences
- Armed suicidal subjects
- High risk arrest situations

The ERT team trains every month to ensure their preparedness and readiness to respond to crisis situations.

## **XII. Detective Division**

The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office investigates most of the child related sexual assaults and neglect cases that occur in Jackson County. The detective division investigated most of these cases, and the remainder of the cases were assigned to a patrol deputy when assistance was needed. Many of these cases are generated and begin as referrals from the Jackson County Department of Health and Human Services.

The detectives also investigate the major crimes that occur within the county to include but not limited to, death investigations, sex offenses, drugs/controlled substances, fraud, and thefts/burglaries.

### **Detective Incident Disposition Summary:**

<b>Disposition</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Active	12	9
Cleared by Arrest / Referral / Other	33	18
Closed	3	1
Inactive	3	2
Information Only	51	62
No Report Taken	29	30
Pending	4	2
Transferred	1	1
Unfounded	2	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>135</b>

## **XIII. Recreational Patrol Program**

In 2007, the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office created a Recreational Deputy that handled ATV, Snowmobile and Boating related issues and enforcement. The funding to offset the cost of this position is received through the State of Wisconsin DNR reimbursable funds specific to all three disciplines mentioned. Each discipline and enforcement changes based on seasonal conditions. Boat Patrol and funding have changed over the years and the Sheriff’s Office has reduced patrol hours due to not having a boat and the reduced amount of reimbursable funds allocated by the state.

### **2024 ATV Patrol:**

The DNR Recreational Program issued 74 citations and 71 warnings during ATV patrol. The Recreational Deputy also assisted with 6 ATV Crash investigations. The Sheriff’s Office received a net cost of \$73,483.33 for patrol and enforcement reimbursement from the state.

### **2024 Snowmobile Patrol:**

The DNR Recreational Program issued 3 citations and 0 warnings during snowmobile patrol. The Recreational

Deputy was able to patrol the trail for about 3 months. The Sheriff’s Office received a net cost of \$6,636.09 for patrol and enforcement reimbursement from the state.

**XIV. School Resource Program**

Jackson County and all three school districts joined together to help fund a school resource deputy. Deputy Kyle Nosbisch assisted with providing necessary training on readiness, preparedness, security and other law enforcement resources to the School Districts of Black River Falls, Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan, and Melrose-Mindoro.

**XV. Court Services**

The Sheriff’s Office has been providing courthouse and courtroom security since 2012. The original funding to provide these duties started at about \$25,000.00. The need for court security is a necessity throughout our nation. The County Board has recognized this and has provided adequate funding to allow this service to occur.

Bailiff duties include conducting security checks at the designated security check point near the courtroom lobby area, assisting with transporting inmates to and from the courts, and conducting courthouse security checks throughout the building as needed. Court Service Deputies assist the Clerk of Courts and County Treasurer’s Office with transporting bank deposits. In 2023 escorted 286 cash deposits compared to 280 in 2024.

The Sheriff’s Office mainly utilizes retired, certified law enforcement personnel for bailiff duties. In 2022 the Sheriff’s Office identified the need for a full-time bailiff position, which they created and filled internally with existing employee, Deputy Kyle Peters.

**XVI. Corrections Division**

The Corrections Division is supervised and managed by the Jail Administrator who has the rank of Captain. There are Four (4) Corrections Sergeants that assist with daily operations, supervise and manage, eight (8) Corrections officers and four (4) LTE – part time Corrections Officers Their primary responsibility is the safety and security of the jail 24/7, 365 days a year.

Categories	2023	2024
Jail Intake and Receiving – bookings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Female</li> <li>• Male</li> </ul>	Total: 684 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 177</li> <li>• 507</li> </ul>	Total: 601 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 144</li> <li>• 457</li> </ul>
Arrest / Booking Date by Agency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jackson County Sheriff’s Office</li> <li>• Black River Falls Police Dept.</li> <li>• Wisconsin State Patrol</li> <li>• Department of Natural Resources</li> <li>• Ho Chunk Nation Police Department</li> <li>• Department of Corrections</li> <li>• Melrose Police Department</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	Total = 1026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 742</li> <li>• 157</li> <li>• 39</li> <li>• 0</li> <li>• 39</li> <li>• 16</li> <li>• 0</li> <li>• 32</li> </ul>	Total = 886 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 712</li> <li>• 87</li> <li>• 37</li> <li>• 0</li> <li>• 12</li> <li>• 4</li> <li>• 1</li> <li>• 37</li> </ul>
Average Daily Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All inmates</li> <li>• Female</li> <li>• Male</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 51.15</li> <li>• 8.23</li> <li>• 42.93</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 48.41</li> <li>• 7.96</li> <li>• 40.45</li> </ul>
Average Time of Incarceration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Inmates</li> <li>• Female</li> <li>• Male</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 days, 7 hours</li> <li>• 10 days, 6 hours</li> <li>• 16 days, 7 hours</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 days, 6 hours</li> <li>• 7 days, 5 hours</li> <li>• 10 days, 6 hours</li> </ul>

<b>Inmate Race</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asian</li> <li>• Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic</li> <li>• White/Latin, Hispanic</li> <li>• Black, Hispanic / Non-Hispanic</li> <li>• Indian/Alaska Native, Non-Hispanic</li> <li>• White, non-Hispanic</li> <li>• No Code entered/unknown</li> <li>• Pacific Islander/Hawaiian</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4</li> <li>• 2</li> <li>• 8</li> <li>• 50</li> <li>• 144</li> <li>• 460</li> <li>• 15</li> <li>• 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6</li> <li>• 3</li> <li>• 14</li> <li>• 11</li> <li>• 122</li> <li>• 403</li> <li>• 5</li> <li>• 0</li> </ul>
<b>Classification</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Felony</li> <li>• Local Ordinance</li> <li>• Misdemeanor</li> <li>• Non-Criminal</li> <li>• Traffic</li> <li>• No Code Entered</li> <li>• Civil Forfeiture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 99</li> <li>• 6</li> <li>• 223</li> <li>• 3</li> <li>• 116</li> <li>• 236</li> <li>• 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 129</li> <li>• 2</li> <li>• 181</li> <li>• 2</li> <li>• 79</li> <li>• 208</li> <li>• 0</li> </ul>
<b>Inmate Judicial Status</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holds for other Jurisdictions</li> <li>• Holds for State Prison</li> <li>• Pre-Sentence</li> <li>• Probation Holds</li> <li>• Sentenced</li> <li>• Sentenced, Electronic Monitoring</li> <li>• No Code Entered</li> <li>• Sentenced, Work Release</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21</li> <li>• 5</li> <li>• 204</li> <li>• 119</li> <li>• 121</li> <li>• 9</li> <li>• 204</li> <li>• 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17</li> <li>• 6</li> <li>• 201</li> <li>• 103</li> <li>• 115</li> <li>• 10</li> <li>• 149</li> <li>• 0</li> </ul>
<b>Inmate Security Class:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electronic Monitoring</li> <li>• Huber/Work Release Inmate</li> <li>• Inmate Worker</li> <li>• Inmate Worker 8</li> <li>• MAX Security 1</li> <li>• MAX Security 2</li> <li>• Maximum Security</li> <li>• Medium High Security 3</li> <li>• Medium Low Security 5</li> <li>• Medium Security</li> <li>• Minimum Security</li> <li>• Minimum Security High 6</li> <li>• Minimum Security Low 7</li> <li>• No Code Entered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4</li> <li>• 6</li> <li>• 90</li> <li>• 1</li> <li>• 3</li> <li>• 32</li> <li>• 9</li> <li>• 72</li> <li>• 3</li> <li>• 184</li> <li>• 69</li> <li>• 13</li> <li>• 5</li> <li>• 193</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2</li> <li>• 6</li> <li>• 42</li> <li>• 42</li> <li>• 4</li> <li>• 32</li> <li>• 5</li> <li>• 89</li> <li>• 2</li> <li>• 173</li> <li>• 60</li> <li>• 9</li> <li>• 6</li> <li>• 171</li> </ul>

## **XVII. Jail Facility Review:**

The current jail facility is a linear design. The jail can house 60 inmates and has two (2) intake receiving cells. Our current jail has 10 housing units; 28 beds are located on the maximum-security housing side of the jail. Four (4) housing units on maximum side have six (6) beds and two (2) housing units have two (2) beds. There are 32 beds on the Huber or minimum-security side of the jail. These housing units are dorm style, double bunked and have eight (8) beds.

The linear style jail is rectangular, with corridors leading to either single or multiple occupancy cells at right angles to the corridor. The design only allows intermittent staff surveillance and supervision of inmates. Surveillance cameras are utilized to monitor inmates inside the housing units and during officer / inmate escorts throughout the corridors. There are several blind spots and unsupervised areas of the jail that do not allow line-of-sight of inmates. The current solution to reduce the blind spots is to increase the number of surveillance cameras for the jail control officer to monitor. The control officer is responsible for observing about 51 inmate cameras, incoming – outgoing phone calls, and citizen walk ups in the jail lobby. Blind spots and lack of line-of-sight, being able to consistently observe the

inmates have been identified as a safety and security issue.

The Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) regulations require the jail to properly house and complete inmate security classifications on every inmate confined to the jail. The Jackson County Jail classification process is designed to identify security and health issues so that inmates may be held in such a way as to foster a safe and secure facility. The initial classification process is intended to identify predatory, violent and at-risk inmates. Inmate classification should occur early in the intake process to allow for appropriate supervision while an inmate is being temporarily held in jail and until a decision is made to place the individual into a more permanent housing assignment. The following criteria are used to evaluate every inmate:

- Age
- Sex
- Current charges
- Behavior during arrest and intake process
- Criminal and incarceration history
- Emotional and mental condition
- Potential risk of safety to others or self
- Special management inmate status
- Special needs assessment for vulnerable inmates
- Behavioral or physical limitations or disabilities
- Medical and mental health condition
- Level of sobriety at booking
- Suicidal ideation
- Escape history and degree of escape risk
- Prior assaultive or violent behavior
- The need to be separated from other classifications of inmates (e.g., juvenile offenders gang affiliation, confidential informant, former law enforcement, sexual orientation)
- Prior convictions for sex offenses against an adult or child
- Whether the inmate is or is perceived to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex or gender non-conforming (see Prison Rape Elimination Act Policy for transgender and intersex definitions)
- Previous sexual victimization
- The inmate's own perception of his/her vulnerability
- Whether the inmate is detained solely for civil immigration purposes
- Whether the inmate is a foreign national and if so from what country (see Foreign Nationals and Diplomats Policy)
- Prior acts of sexual abuse, prior convictions for violent offenses and history of prior institutional violence or sexual abuse, as known to the Office (28 CFR 115.41)
- Any other criteria as deemed appropriate by the Sheriff or the authorized designee

Inmates are housed based upon the following criteria:

- Classification level
- Age
- Sex
- Legal status (e.g., pretrial or sentenced)
- Need for protection or separation
- Criminal sophistication
- Any other criteria identified by the Jail Administrator

The National Institute of Corrections reports (NIC) that an objective jail classification (OJC) is a process of assessing every jail inmate's custody and program needs and is considered one of the most important management tools available to jail administrators and criminal justice system planners. An effective system of inmate classification will reduce escapes and escape attempts, suicides and suicide attempts, and inmate assaults.

Improved ideas based on the current square footage of the jail were discussed and reviewed. Some of the ideas were

brought to the DOC jail inspector with no resolutions to solve our current issues. It was determined that a remodel of the current square footage of the jail is not an option. A jail expansion or major structural improvement would need to occur to improve the current safety and security issues.

The Sheriff Office requested a jail study to be conducted by a consultant to assist with identifying our housing and classification needs. The jail study would also be able to provide necessary information to the Law Enforcement Committee to assist with making financial improvements, a possible remodel or construction of a new jail. The Law Enforcement Committee approved funding to have the Samuels Group from Wausau, WI conduct the study.

The facts and information found in the jail study were presented to the Jackson County Board of Supervisors.

**XVIII. Jail Project Activity Timeline:**

<p>Tuesday, January 16, 2024</p>	<p>LEC Meeting</p>	<p><b>Public Comments:</b> Tom Cooper researched inmate classifications and presented packets of the information he obtained. Jackson County uses a paper version of Northpoint. Northpoint is an accredited inmate classification system meaning if we purchase and implement the full Northpoint System our facility could become an accredited facility. The estimated cost for an 80 bed facility is a \$70,000 one time set up fee with annual maintenance of \$16,000 - \$19,000. An estimate for a facilities study by Northpoint is about \$6,000. Cooper strongly suggests we get the facilities study done by Northpoint. There are about 30 different companies that provide some type of inmate classification system. Sheriff Waldera will check with BSSA to see if they have a recommendation as far as what company to use for inmate classification. Cooper is aware of three agencies in Wisconsin that use the full Northpoint System. Did not ask if the State reviews inmate classification accreditation. The counties that were polled are within 500-1000 of our population. We have sent jail staff to Northpoint training. Jail Inspector states majority of counties in his region use Northpoint. DOC does not require a specific system to be used as long as classification is objective. Additional questions from LEC Member Laurent will need follow-up to be answered. (Definitive answer as to classification overrides to meet housing needs and can a medium and low risk inmate be housed together?). Attorney Bach states items discussed in public comment are not meant to be a back and forth discussion. If more discussion is needed, items will need to be added as future agenda items.</p>
		<p><b>Resolution to Fund or Stop Unfunded Mandates from DOC:</b> In September a number of discussions began regarding action to write something up for funding assistance. After speaking with several Legislative Representatives, it was suggested to present a resolution. Laurent presented a resolution. Motion by Laurent to approve resolution upon contingency of Corp Counsel approval and bring back to LEC in February 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rolbiecki. All in favor; Motion carried.</p>
<p>Tuesday, February 20, 2024</p>	<p>LEC Meeting</p>	<p><b>Resolution to Fund or Stop Unfunded Mandates from DOC:</b> Resolution was approved by Corp Counsel. Motion to approve resolution and forward by Laurant 2nd by Rolbiecki; all in favor; motion carried.</p>
		<p><b>Update on Jail Planning/Building Needs:</b> Samuels Group will not be here today. Venture is working on other items. Will return in March. Tracking of open items: How many agencies use Northpoint. 13 responded and all 13 use Northpoint. Several use paper version. We have sent staff to Marathon County for training put on by Equivant which trains Northpoint. There is no copyright on the paper version and we have permission to use it. Northpoint Equivant is the gold standard in the field but it is an actual jail management system and most counties already have a JMS so that is why they use the paper version. Nine basic classifications and then can go into subcategories. The best way to look at classification is risk management.</p>
<p>-</p>		<p>Pending on the number of linear jails in operation in Wisconsin. Sheriff will compile information on jail design by counties that responded. There are at least 11 linear jails in operation. Jackson is 50th in state by population. Will bring back more information in March.</p>

Thursday, March 21, 2024	LEC Meeting	<b>Update on Jail Planning/Building Needs:</b> Plans from Samuels Group will be presented in May. Plans coming forward will show a layout for keeping jail here. Sub-committee which includes Rolbiecki and Laurent. Add facilities. If want a true sub-committee it should be appointed by the County Board Chair and agenda/minutes. 1. Change orders from Trempealeau County requested from Samuels Group. 2. Medical area did not have definition in our plans. Possible would be in current jail. 3. What are the inspection standards for the quarantine room. Initial draft has 2 spaces. What standard will they be built to. Will be built to hospital ventilation standards. Laurent presented DOC 350 section regarding quarantine and isolation statute. 252 communicable diseases presented. Who inspects the quarantine area to know that it meets the requirements? Quarantine cell is not defined anywhere in DOC 350. Looking for a clear definition of what a quarantine cell is. Laurent proposes to sit down with Corp Counsel to discuss what liability and requirements are for quarantine cell. Would like to have specific reply to 2022 inspector report to clarify what the requirements specifically are for quarantine. Legal counsel review what is presented by Laurent and draft a letter in response to DOC to find out quarantine requirement. Define statutory requirement for quarantine. Motion by Laurent to contact legal counsel with intent of drafting letter asking for additional requirements and definition of quarantine. 2nd by Hart. All in favor; motion carried.
		Amo is in the process of submitting another grant to Senator Baldwin's office for possible funding. Deadline is Saturday 3/23/24.
Thursday, April 25, 2024	LEC Meeting	<b>Update on Jail Planning/Building Needs:</b> Discussion, no action taken.
Tuesday, May 21, 2024	LEC Meeting	<b>Building Needs:</b> City would rather not close any streets. If 3rd Street is closed it would be an absolute last resort. No action taken
		Discussion on jail work group update. Follow up on SB170 early release of state inmates and potential transfer to county facility. Laurent to research and bring back at later date. Rolbiecki states we need site location options before a building plan can be established. Anderson comments regarding alternate location and the site behind Walmart. Also, with offsite location there would be a transport need. Poff speaks that Samuel's Group needs to specify the amount of land needed.
		Motion by Laurent 2nd by Carney for property committee to take lead for determining alternate site for jail and report back to Sheriff for future discussion presented to LE Committee. All in favor; motion carried.
		<b>Action items for follow up:</b> Sheriff: Jail designs by county; Change orders from Tremp Cty.; Jeff grant from Tammy Baldwin's office; SB170; How much of current jail can be changed before we have to change entire building to bring up to current code vs grandfather. Comment by Tom Cooper Cty Board Supervisor District 10 States no current contract/agreement MOU with Samuel's group as to what the \$150,000 contract would be.
		<b>June agenda items:</b> Discuss contract needs and expectations of County needs and request for RFPs if needed. Cooper states original \$25000 agreement expired 75 working days after signature. Item will be placed on agenda for June. Sheriff to research info from other counties that have used Samuel's group. 5.09 Jail expense reimbursement policy & charges; review of MOU DOC housing.
Thursday, June 20, 2024	LEC Meeting	<b>Discuss/Act on Building Needs:</b> Samuels Group Presentation – Samuels Group recommends using the DHHS site to pursue options. Discussion regarding cost of building at DHHS. Current cost is between \$45-\$50 million.
		Discuss Communication Plan Business Partnership – Communications plan is complete. No resolution as to what the next steps would be. Not contractually bound to continue working with Samuels Group/Venture. Discussion regarding work group responsibility of finding location site. Was taken to the property committee for them to act on finding the location. Need to resolve the differences somehow with what the direction is. Discussion regarding having an architect come in and give recommendations. Discussion regarding what makes the most sense regarding relocation expenses if a remodel were to occur. It was suggested cost estimates are needed for housing/transportation/operations during remodel. Encourage request to County Board Chairman to create ad hoc committee for Jail Study/Build. Will ask property committee to invite LEC to property meeting in June to discuss creating an ad hoc committee for jail study/build.
		Present information regarding counties using Samuel's Group – Survey results verbally presented.
		<b>Report on City Council Meeting Street Closure Discussion:</b> Sheriff presented information regarding discussion with City of BRF on options of closing any of the surrounding streets around the current jail
Tuesday, July 2, 2024	Annual Jail Inspection	2024 Annual Inspection - JAIL (Chapter DOC 350); pursuant to 301.37(3)

Thursday, July 18, 2024	LEC Meeting	<b>Discuss/Act on Building Needs:</b> <i>Jail Needs – Judicial Hearing Room; Discussion regarding reasons a judicial hearing room is needed and cannot continue using the program room to hold attorney/client zoom meetings/hearings. Recommend allowing Sheriff to utilize jail assessment funds to help cover costs of getting a judicial hearing room up and running. Sheriff and Poff will continue working on solutions and bring back to LEC in August. Recommendation to create Ad Hoc Committee for New Jail Planning There is a need to work together to move forward with planning. Ad Hoc committee would be appointed by the County Board Chairman. Chairman Amo agrees ad hoc committee is a good way to go created of board members but also include staff to assist. Discussion regarding next steps. Members of property agree something needs to be done and we need to keep moving forward because the longer it takes the higher the costs will continue to increase. Did the original 1986 blueprints include approved expansions that were approved by DOC? Need architectural design firm to come in and provide design. Motion by Hart to recommend formation ad hoc committee by County Board Chairman Amo consisting of 2 members from the LEC and 2 property committee members plus at least one additional person along with necessary staff members from facilities and law enforcement. 2nd by Carney; Roll call Anderson Yes, Carney Yes, Laurent Yes, Hart Yes, Rolbiecki Yes. All in favor motion carried.</i>
Tuesday, August 20, 2024	LEC Meeting	<b>Building Needs:</b> <i>Jail Study – Members of Ad Hoc Committee; a. Committee has been formed by County Board Chairman Jeff Amo. b. Repairs and updates – Discuss: i. Chairman Rolbiecki is not here. Repairs are prioritized with work order system through facilities. Repairs/updates relate to entire office not only jail. Will prepare list of repairs for future meetings.</i>
Tuesday, September 10, 2024	Jail Ad Hoc Meeting	<b>Discuss/Act – Chair Selection:</b> <i>Motion Rolbiecki/Cooper for Chairman Amo to be the Chair. Approved.</i>
		<b>Discuss/Act – Past studies and history:</b> <i>Original study 11/18/2021 by Samuels Group &amp; Venture Architect with deficiencies noted in the study and provided here for discussion.</i>
		· <b>Linear vs pod:</b> <i>line of sight is compromised with linear design. Prison has direct contact with inmates, County has indirect contact. 350.18(2) states cameras are supplemental observation. Contraband problem, tight hallways.</i>
		· <b>Classification:</b> <i>limited housing does not allow proper classification. Statute does not define classification. Northpoint is good standard for classifications. It is suggested that Northpoint complete a study for \$6,000 regarding classifications. Northpoint indicates industry standard is nine classifications. The Northpoint study will be added to the Law Enforcement committee agenda for consideration. Dorm style bedding creates problems because everyone must be classified the same. How many more cells are needed if we just remodel? 8 or 9.</i>
		· <b>Lack of inmate activity space:</b> <i>used for everything, originally designed for recreation, but now used for programming, education, court, etc. Needs include room for internal court and outside court and confidential area for attorneys; programming areas.</i>
		· <b>Lack of facility support space:</b> <i>Prefer commercial kitchen which could cut meal costs. Without a commercial kitchen, we could have issues in the future, depending on who provides meals. Need commercial laundry machines as opposed to residential machines currently used due to space.</i>
		· <b>Sallyport:</b> <i>Too small. Tear out wall between two stalls (maintenance move to somewhere else) for 1 larger sallyport</i>
		· <b>Booking area:</b> <i>Change over and strip search area not sufficient or secure. Open bathroom is a problem. Used for storage also. Moving the strip search area and bathroom area would help. Cannot see the receiving cells, which are down the hall and around a corner. Also serves as the 3rd court area. Pre-booking area would be ideal. Prefer to remove lockers and use storage bags which would take up less space. Need modesty panels to meet PREA (Federal standards, not currently required) requirements.</i>
		· <b>Huber Work Release:</b> <i>Dorm areas are not efficient. HVAC not designed for how it is currently being used. Higher need for individual cells than dorms.</i>
		· <b>Control Center:</b> <i>Used for breakroom, Sergeant’s room, IT/camera storage so additional space for these uses. Control room is left vacant for bathroom breaks.</i>
		· <b>Medical:</b> <i>Need locked room for locked meds, examination room, separate report room.</i>
		· <b>Offices:</b> <i>Need administrative offices, medical offices (5 offices: Jail Administrator, BH, Medical, training, Sergeants)</i>
		· <b>Visitation Booths:</b> <i>Professional visitation is meeting the current needs</i>
		· <b>Family visitation:</b> <i>Virtual visits whenever the inmates want. No face to face, contact visits.</i>
		<i>Cannot make it work in the present confines of the jail. Third floor is an option, but no inmates can be there without staff escort which could affect staffing in the jail, requiring additional staff.</i>
		<b>Discuss/Act – Remodel present 1986 Jail and Sheriff’s Office:</b> <i>Kraemer has reached out to work with us. Others may also be interested.</i>

		<b>Discuss/Act</b> – Develop Request for Proposals: Need to develop an RFP that allows flexibility. Allow contractors to come in to give options, based on our need list. Third floor could be for county activities as well as Public Defender/Probation & Parole offices, generating revenue. Motion for Amo, Poff, Altman, Sheriff and Rich to prepare a RFP for review by this committee to be forwarded to the Law Enforcement committee by Rolbiecki/Cooper. Approved.
Thursday, September 19, 2024	LEC Meeting	No agenda item on Jail Space Study - No action taken
		<b>Building Needs: Repairs/updates Discuss</b> – Jail Cameras currently with SGTS. Pending list to get things fixed. Discussion regarding camera vendors. Hearing rooms are not complete. Upper jail lobby is non secure entrance but has become a pre booking area. Looking at changing the entrance to be secure.
		<b>Ad Hoc Committee Update:</b> Discuss/Act Equivant Corrections Operational Assessment. Sheriff reached out to Joe Dorsey by phone and email. Referred to website for cost. \$13,000 for a minimal one-day assessment; \$20,000 for full 5-day assessment; Discussion regarding goals of the assessment. Motion by Anderson to approve five-day operational assessment at a cost of \$20,000 2nd by Laurent to move to exec and finance for funding; Roll call Anderson Yes, Laurent yes, Hart yes, Rolbiecki yes. Will send to Exec and Finance Amo reports that they are seeking RFPs for remodel/changes of existing jail for options. Next ad hoc meeting is October 8th.
Wednesday, October 2, 2024	Jail Inspection Report	<b>Notable comments / statements from annual jail inspection report:</b>
		<b>Inspection Results:</b> • There were no violations noted during this year's inspection
		<b>Inspection Comments:</b> • The issues regarding the overall facility in past inspections still exist. Several years ago, the county hired Venture Architect and the Samuels Group for the design and development of a new jail to address the concerns regarding classification, programming and overall safety and efficiency. To my knowledge no decisions have been made on any construction project but, as a reminder, prior to publication of bid documents, please send one complete set of plans and specifications to my office for review and approval. • This year in order to meet code requirements regarding classification and meet the requirements laid out in their compliance plan the county has entered in to contract with another county to house inmates. On the day of inspection, the facility had 19 inmates housed in the Trempealeau County Jail.
Thursday, October 17, 2024	LEC Meeting	<b>Building Needs: Prebook intake:</b> Looking at securing door at jail entrance door. First step is to find out if it can be done by fire code. Would need a different type of door. Weapon lockers would need to be moved etc. There is a need to make it a secure area if possible and feasible. Chairman asks if it is possible to have policy when other agencies are bringing in people to interview in our facility that they go through the body scanner prior to interview interrogation room. Repairs/updates: Pause on the hearing rooms. Discussed the idea of having remote hearing rooms where visitation used to be. It could be done but would need to make the rooms as safe as possible prior to doing so. Like making sprinkler heads recessed, monitor on the opposite side of glass, remove conduit, etc. The Public Defender office wants to have the ability to meet with their clients face to face during revocation hearings, but we only allow via video as it stands today.
		<b>Ad Hoc Committee Update:</b> Proposal was written for new jail space needs study and approval at Exec & Finance for Equivant to come in and do classification assessment.
		<b>Request for Proposal Jail Space Needs Study</b> – Discuss/Act RFP was sent out with LEC packets to LEC members prior to the meeting. Motion by Carney 2nd by Hart to approve RFP and send it out. RFP will be sent out by Sheriff's Office and proposals will be returned to County Board Chair Amo.
Thursday, November 14, 2024	LEC Meeting	<b>Building Needs: Prebook intake:</b> Met with Fire Chief Stoker regarding door. Will receive decision in writing from Chief Stoker regarding being able to lock the door.
		<b>Equivant Assessment Update:</b> Scheduled for December 8-14th Laurent asks if there is an in brief and brief for committee members from the Equivant team to allow for in person questions.
		<b>Jail Space Study RFP Update:</b> Chairman Amo reports that Kraemer Brothers is coming on site November 15th to do a walk through and will likely be presenting bids. Market & Johnson has also expressed interest but have not scheduled a visit. Retired Sheriff from Illinois will be here November 22nd. Proposals are due December 20 <sup>th</sup> .
Thursday, December 19, 2024	LEC Meeting	<b>Building Needs: I.</b> Fire Chief report for Pre-Book Area Letter states Chief Stoker doesn't see any issues with making modifications to make that a secure door. <b>II.</b> Pre-Book Area motion by Carney 2nd by Hart to continue with the project of securing the entrance. Facilities states there is no camera to view who is coming in so that may need to be upgraded. Would need to explore what DOC needs to meet code etc. <b>III.</b>

		<i>Front Lobby Outside Entrance – pending legal advice. Sheriff reports that Corp Counsel advises there could be a restraining order, citation issue, signage regarding hours of operations, etc.</i>
		<b>Equivant Assessment Update:</b> <i>Assessment was completed Friday, December 13, 2024. Waiting on the results of study. Will provide report of findings within 30 days possibly as soon as 15 days.</i>
		<b>Jail Space Study RFP Update:</b> <i>Amo reports three organizations came for a tour and asked questions. Expecting at least one proposal to come back by 12/20/24. Possibly all three will return bids. Kramer/Cline McCarthy, one from Illinois and Market &amp; Johnson partnered with Wold out of Minneapolis. Amo would like to meet on January 7th at 9 a.m. to review proposals.</i>

## **XIX. Emergency Management**

The office of Emergency Management, within the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office, is responsible for helping to prepare for and respond to major emergency situations that are likely to overwhelm the currently available resources in the county. Emergency Management in the state of Wisconsin is based on section 323 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. The County Office of Emergency Management could assist municipalities with their plans and with response to disaster situations. Through relationship building, training, exercising, and pre-planning the office of Emergency Management works with community stakeholders to help protect the citizens of the county.

During the year 2024 Emergency management continued to engage Stakeholders which included Wisconsin Emergency Management who is responsible for overall coordination with regional partners in pre-designated regions throughout the state. The Ho-Chunk Emergency Management whose office is in Jackson County. Ho-Chunk Emergency Management and Jackson County Emergency Management work together to better serve the community because of the proximity and desired community outcomes it is better to work together. The Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (HERC) works with hospitals, healthcare facilities, Public Health departments and medical transportation entities to improve their individual resilience, which better helps the community. The HERC also helps with exercise development and execution, which helps the healthcare facilities and greater community at large. There were also meetings with the Jackson County Fire Association and the Jackson County Emergency Medical Services. Partnering with the fire departments and the EMS association continues to be vital because its membership is the key to response to disasters. The Local Emergency Planning Committee is a committee that is comprised of members from the community and discusses the Community Rights to Know Act. The act is designed to help inform the community of hazardous materials that are made/stored in a community so that people have a better understanding of some of the hazards in the area. The LEPC has a responsibility to understand what events have happened and ensure that if there was a release event that it was taken care of appropriately. In 2024 Emergency Management partnered with Jackson County Public Health to continue the Jackson County Emergency Readiness Coalition. The goal of the coalition was to gather community stakeholders including the hospital, the school districts, sheltering partners, volunteer organizations, law enforcement, fire services, and the electric co-op to better prepare the community. Also, in 2024 the Black River Chamber of Commerce was added to the group to help provide a business view to the coalition. There were also invites sent out to some of the area assisted living facilities and nursing homes, as well as some additional volunteer organizations to try and bring additional community stakeholders/viewpoints to the group.

In addition to making partnerships with key stakeholders’ education also plays an important role in the development of the Emergency Management Program. The Emergency Management Coordinator went to several training courses throughout the year including a local volunteer and donations management class, an Intro to Continuity of Operations for Rural Governments class, a Management of Spontaneous Volunteers class, a Disaster Recovery for Rural Governments class, a class on Crisis Management for School Based Events, Instructional Presentation and Evaluation Skills course, an Evacuation Planning and Re-entry planning course, The Type 3 All Hazards Incident Management Team course, the Incident Command Systems Train the Trainer Course. In addition, training was held at the Wisconsin Emergency Management Association Annual Conference and Governor’s Conference on Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The annual conferences provided a networking opportunity and training opportunities to continue understanding the roles and responsibilities of Emergency Management. Courses were completed to finish the Wisconsin Emergency Management Professional Certification.

During 2024 Emergency Management participated in local and regional exercises. In January Jackson County participated in a regional Public Health exercise. In February Jackson County participated in an exercise with the SW Division Statewide Incident Management Team, the one-day exercise focused on wildfire and allowed the team to get additional practice. In May Jackson County assisted with an exercise that was put on by the Environmental Protection Agency Chemical Release Tabletop. The exercise was about a chemical release at a fixed facility, which is why offsite plans are created and updated annually. In June there was a Search and Rescue exercise held in Jackson County in partnership with the Wisconsin Trail Ambassadors. The exercise paired volunteer responders utilizing four-wheel drive jeeps and UTV's to partner with air resources from the Civil Air Patrol and the Wisconsin Army National Guard to locate exercise victims in an area. This type of exercise helps to prepare for hikers or trail riders who get lost and possibly injured so that they can get help in a timely fashion. Finally in August and September Jackson County participated in the Bright Horizon state recovery exercise. This was the first multi-week recovery focused exercise on what happens after the primary life safety concerns are taken care of. Week one of the exercise began more than 72 hours after the "disaster" struck and covered the timeframe of approximately 1 week of time. The second week brought together community partners to set up a Multi-Agency Resource Center which is a one stop shop for all recovery efforts. The third week focused on recovery efforts for approximately 1 month to 3 months. The final week of the exercise focused on recovery from roughly 3 months until the recovery efforts would have been completed.

While there were events that occurred in Jackson County through the course of 2024 almost all of them were handled by local responders without additional support from county resources, especially from Emergency Management. During 2024 there were 2 traffic accidents on I-94 during the road construction that forced all of the traffic to go through the city of Black River Falls. I-94 was completely shut down in the Eastbound direction and had significant traffic backups in the Westbound direction.

**XX. Public Relations – Community Activities**

Annually, Jackson County Sheriff's Office employees take part in Community Relation activities. In addition to those activities pictured here, we also participated in Drug Take Back events, student Government Day, National Night Out, Trunk or Treat, Pace and Pedal, the Wellness Extravaganza, and the Jackson County Fair.

March 14, 2024 –Women in History recipients:



April 15, 2024 – Donation from Coop Credit Union



May 3, 2024 – Student Government Day:





May 15, 2024 - National Law Enforcement Memorial week – Tribute services:





July 31, 2024, Jackson County Fair:



September 20, 2024 – Donation from Walmart – basic hygiene and food supplies.



September 30, 2024 - Donation from Northwood Vet Services:



August 6, 2024 – National Night Out – Lunda Community Park

**2024**  
**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

National Night Out is a community event that brings citizens together to meet your local law enforcement members and other area resources.

**FREE EVENT**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 6TH**  
5PM TO 7PM  
LUNDA COMMUNITY PARK

Free Refreshments - K-9 Demos - Vehicle Tours - Children's Activities - Bike Rodeo - Gundersen Air - Petting Zoo - Giveaways - and so much more!

For more information: [brfpd.admin@blackriverfallswi.gov](mailto:brfpd.admin@blackriverfallswi.gov)  
Email: [brfpd.admin@blackriverfallswi.gov](mailto:brfpd.admin@blackriverfallswi.gov)  
Call: Black River Falls Police Dept. at (715) 284-9155

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December 8, 2024 – Chriskindl event – Downtown Black River Falls





## XXI. Conclusion

Activities and calls for service in Jackson County remain consistent from year to year. The Sheriff's Office will continue to be innovative with finding solutions to the issues that are occurring in our community. Community support and confidence are important to maintain peace and order.

I will continue to utilize the Sheriff's Office personnel and equipment as efficiently and effectively as possible. We have already made significant changes within the Sheriff's Office, and I will do my part to keep our community up to date on what is happening in our county.

I would like to thank and give credit to all the Jackson County Sheriff's Office supervisors and employees for assisting with preparing this information for the annual report. It is their hard work and dedication to Jackson County that should be recognized.

In closing, I will work hard and provide the citizens of Jackson County professional, competent law enforcement services. I would like to thank all the Jackson County Board of Supervisors for their time and understanding, as well as their help along the way.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane M. Waldera  
Jackson County Sheriff