



Fort Bend County
Sheriff's Office

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Sheriff Eric Fagan



Table of Contents

FBCSO Profile	4
Message from the Sheriff	5
Department Organization	6
Organizational Chart	7
Office of Chief Deputy	8
Budget	8
Crisis Intervention Team	9
Internal Affairs Division	11
Administration Bureau	12
Grants	13
Investigations Command	14
Professional Development	20
Public Information Office	27
Support Services Division	29
Operations Bureau	32
Detention Command	32
Field Operations	37
Human Resources	46
Looking Ahead 2024	48
Groundbreaking for Advanced Regional Training Complex	49
Index	50



K-9 deputies during bite suit training



Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Command Staff

DEPARTMENT PROFILE

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office (FBCSO) was founded in 1837 and is the largest law enforcement agency in Fort Bend County, –the most diverse county in Texas. The FBCSO has 917 employees, including 615 sworn peace officers dedicated to protecting and serving nearly 900,000 Fort Bend County residents. Among the 10 fastest-growing counties in the nation, Fort Bend covers 885 square miles and includes 21 unincorporated communities.

Mission

It is the mission of persons employed by the Sheriff's Office of Fort Bend County to protect the lives, property, and rights of all people in this County. In accomplishing this mission, Sheriff's Office employees shall be, at all times, courteous, impartial, and diligent. In the execution of their duties, they shall be guided by those constitutional and legal principles, which are the foundation of the United States of America and the State of Texas.

MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF ERIC FAGAN

The men and women of the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office are the foundation for an adaptive and effective police organization. Through their efforts to forge community partnerships, engage colleagues in neighboring agencies at all levels of government with public safety initiatives, and their response to emergency and non-emergency calls from citizens, the Sheriff's Office accomplished much in calendar year 2023. For relentless pursuit of excellence, and their commitment to public service, I am honored to work with our employees and with you to achieve our mission: Protect lives, property, and rights of all citizens of Fort Bend County at all times striving to be courteous, impartial, and diligent.

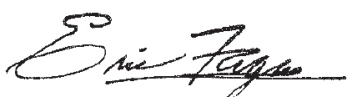
This past year, the Sheriff's Office maintained its strategic vision to seek alliances with organizations, such as the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board, the Sheriff's Foundation, numerous Municipal Utility Districts and neighborhood organizations, and law enforcement entities, such as the Houston's Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance, the Houston Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, Office of Emergency Management, Greater Harris County 911, the Texas Attorney General's Office, and many other community organizations. Collectively, the collaborations represent a milestone in achievement over previous strategic plans as this administration recognizes the significance of synergism attributed to working as teams for our communities to improve quality of life and dismantle and disrupt criminal associations. Examples include numerous arrests related to human and drug trafficking, and weapons seizures. Eliminating these public health problems improves our community resiliency and well-being.

While the current public safety milieu in the United States is suffering from rising rates of retirement and inadequacies with recruitment and retention, the Sheriffs' Office maintained its level of staffing while meeting the challenge of employee turnover. New programs strengthened the Sheriff's Office mission, and over \$5.4 million in grant funding, a historic landmark, acquired from local, state, and federal grantors, made a robust impact on crime. Grants awarded to improve public services include the Crisis Communication Pilot Program, Organized Crime Drug Enforcement, Selective Traffic Enforcement, and funding to prevent, respond to, and recover from terrorism through the Urban Area Security Initiative. I cannot recognize each program in this Message, but I hope you take the time to read this Report and critically think about the work your Sheriff's Office has accomplished.

The 2023 Annual Report is our report to you, as Fort Bend County stakeholders, to disclose and define our operations and initiatives. Our commitment is to ensure accountability of our employees, uphold the highest values for ethics and integrity, and use all resources provided to the Office in a parsimonious manner, including achieving operational efficiency and efficacy in all the services we provide.

I am proud to serve as your Sheriff and consider the work of our employees to be a blessing. When I was elected Sheriff in 2021, I promised to serve with distinction, committing our operations to excellence, and realizing that "We have work to do!"

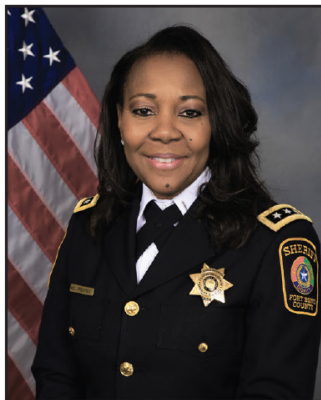
May GOD bless and keep us all. We are here to protect and serve you.



DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

Executive Command

Eric Fagan
SHERIFF



Mattie Provost
CHIEF DEPUTY



Norman Wong
**ASSISTANT CHIEF
DEPUTY**



Manuel Zamora
**ASSISTANT CHIEF
DEPUTY**



James Burger
MAJOR



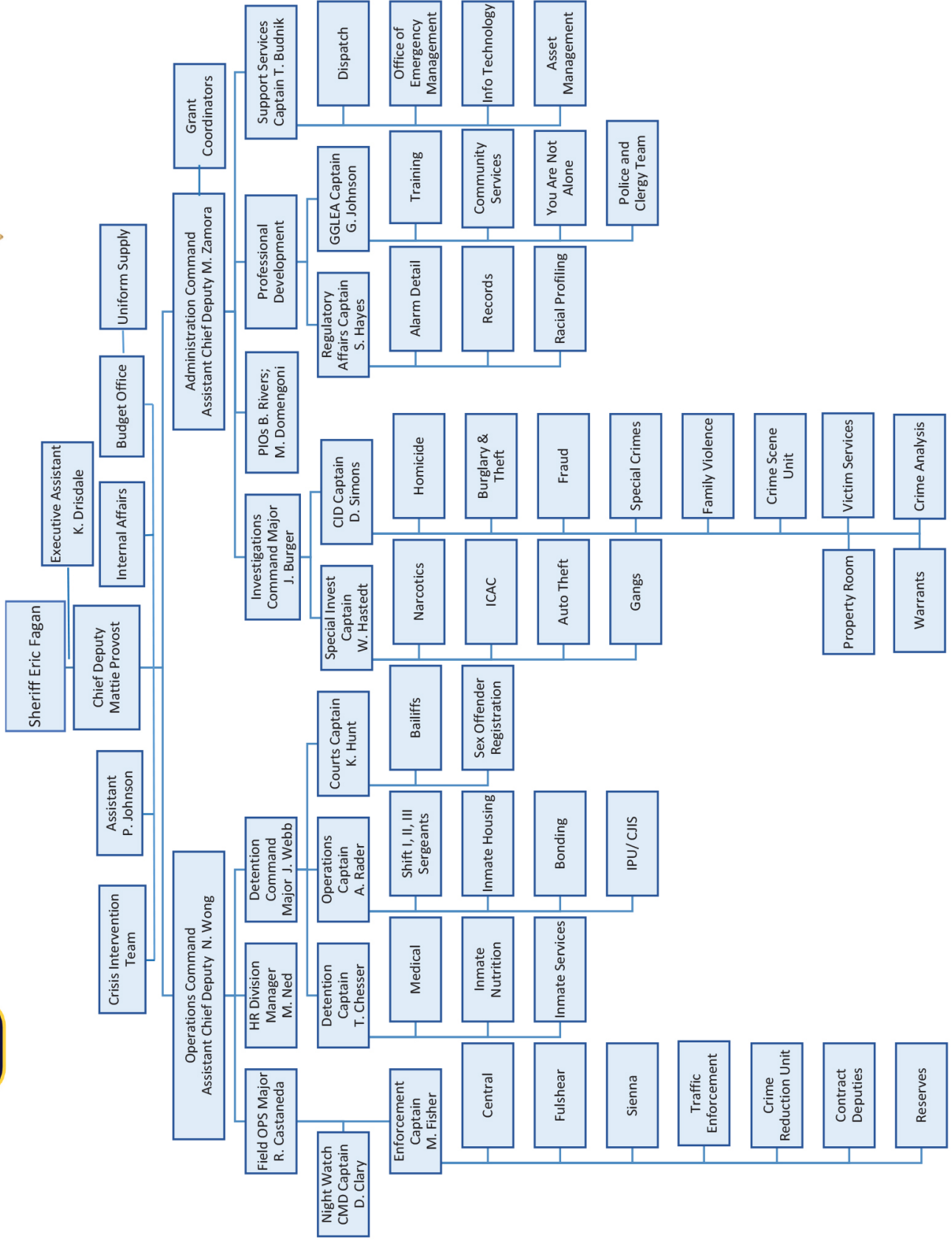
Rudy Castaneda
MAJOR



Jacob Webb
MAJOR



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





CHIEF DEPUTY MATTIE C. PROVOST

As the Chief Deputy, Mattie C. Provost serves as the Sheriff’s Office senior ranking officer below Sheriff Eric Fagan. She provides overall leadership and direction on all aspects of the Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office. Chief Deputy Provost directly oversees the Budget Department, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), and the Internal Affairs Division.

Budget

The Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office budget supports its personnel; tools, technology, and equipment; programs; projects; and the initiatives needed to help the Sheriff’s Office protect all stakeholders in Fort Bend County. In addition, the Sheriff’s Office is responsible for the care, custody, and control of individuals charged with a crime in Fort Bend County who are not released on bond and inmates who are serving time for misdemeanors. This responsibility includes providing housing, clothing, nutrition, and healthcare services to meet the needs of inmates. Detention also facilitates visitation, vocational training, education, and ministry.

The FY2023 annual budget of the Sherriff’s Office is \$93,895,235. The FY2024 budget increased by 14.05% to \$105,441,367. The following table represents budget by Sheriff’s Office category:

Budget Category	FY2023	FY2024	Percent Change
Enforcement	48,166,782	53,929,699	11.96
Detention	41,231,860	46,197,951	12.04
Bailiffs	4,496,593	5,313,417	18.16
Total	\$93,895,235	\$105,441,367	14.05

The FY2024 budget, effective October 1, 2023, was designed to meet the following performance goals:

Enforcement Reduce vehicle crashes and fatalities by 5% over FY2023.

Address violent crime, public disorder, and delinquency.

Engage community stakeholders via community-oriented policing strategies.

Investigation Disrupt the illicit supply chain, including, but not limited to human, sex, labor, contraband, drug, weapons, and bulk cash smuggling, by successful initiatives each month.

Improve case clearance rates for violent crime by at least 3% over FY2023.

Ensure investigators are immediately deployed for all violent crime cases when citizens are injured and that cases are aggressively investigated.

Crisis Intervention Teams

Engage in evidence-based practices/best practices to reduce the number of mental health commitments by 4% over FY2023.

Detention Ensure all Detention supervisors and managers complete American Jail Administration standards.

Ensure supervisors and managers complete the FBI-LEEDS training trilogy.

Increase the number of inmates who graduate from educational/vocational classes.

Reduce the total of Inmate grievances of all types by 10% over FY2023.

Bailiffs Provide Justice Center and courtroom security for all courtroom workgroups and citizens.

Crisis Intervention Team

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is under the command of Chief Deputy Mattie Provost and managed by Lieutenant Jerome Ellis. CIT is a specialized policing unit trained in mental health crisis response and de-escalation. The team assists the patrol division and surrounding agencies, performs mental health follow-ups, and collaborates with Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Services and director, Dr. Connie Almeida.

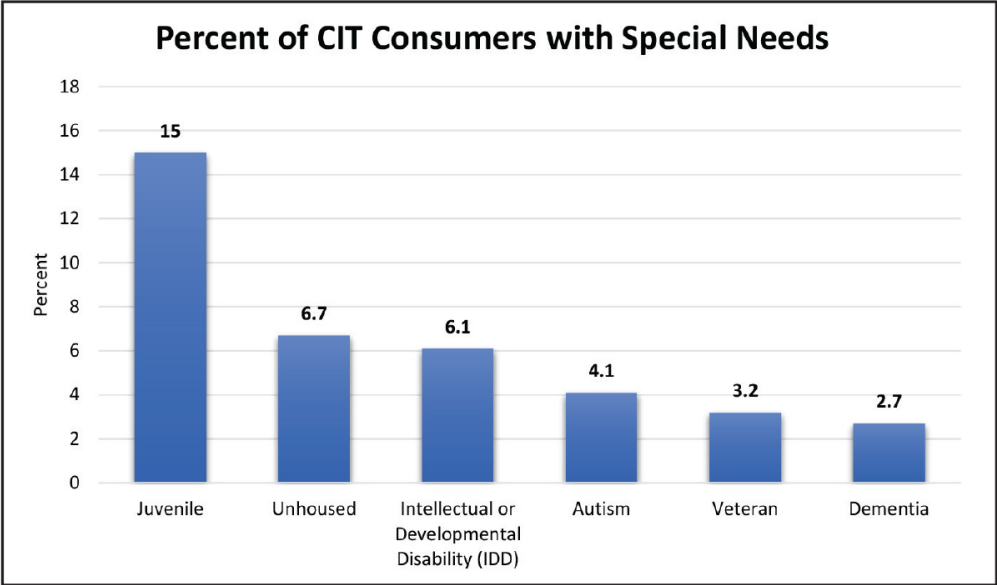
The team oversees initiatives within the Fort Bend County Community Collaborative Program for Justice-Involved and At-Risk Youth with MI (mental illness) or CMISA (co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse). Subsequent to vetting, selection, training and implementation of a Youth FOCUS CIT Deputy, 2023 marked a 3% annual decline in mental health crisis with individuals identified as juveniles. Additionally, several justice partners and advocates were trained to identify MI in youth by our selected Youth FOCUS CIT Deputy.

CIT operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Primary delivery methods are through specially trained and vetted deputies who possess the capabilities to effectively diminish crisis situations and provide appropriate emergency services. In 2023, Fort

Bend County Sheriff’s Office received **6,916** calls for service that referenced mental health concerns or prompted a need for a crisis response. Of those calls for service, CIT was instrumental in responding to **3,746** calls. CIT formally recorded **2,479** of those instances as contacts with mental health consumers in need of resources. Of these contacts, **1,828** unique consumers (individual persons counted regardless of multiple encounters in an annual cycle) received crisis intervention and/or follow-up services by CIT. Subsequently, roughly **3%** of CIT encounters resulted in jail-diversions. Texana Mobile Crisis Outreach Team responded/accompanied CIT to several calls for service and **completed 142 safety plans**. Ultimately, **924** Emergency Detention Orders were completed by CIT.

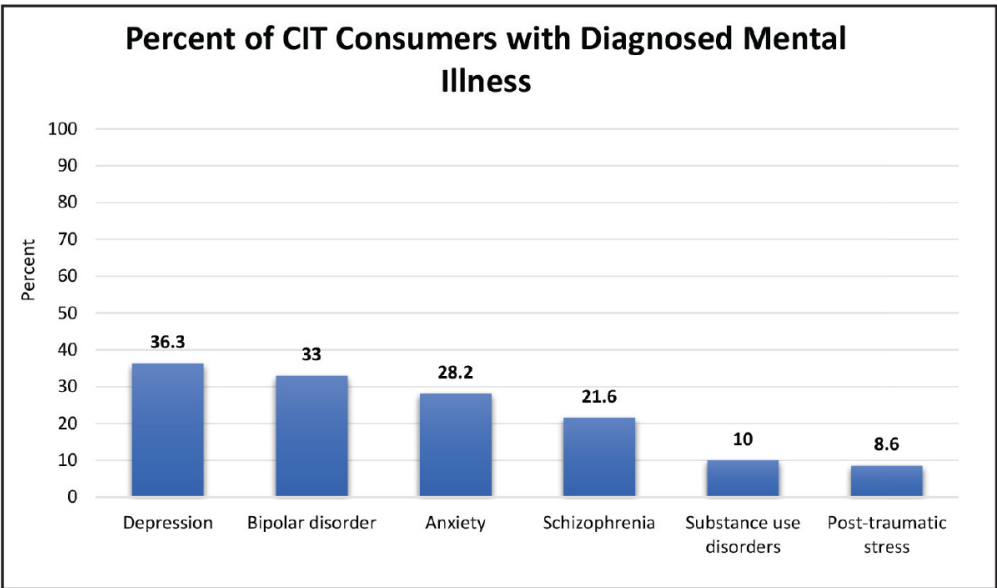
Special Needs

A small percent of CIT consumers presented with special needs, including: 372 (15%) juvenile, 166 (6.7%) unhoused, 152 (6.1%) intellectual/developmental disabilities, 102 (4.1%) autism, 79 (3.2%) veteran, and 66 (2.7%) dementia.



Mental Illness

CIT consumers displayed various mental health needs. Of the CIT contacts, 899 (36.3%) of consumers identified as having depression, 818 (33%) bipolar disorder, 699 (28.2%) anxiety, 536 (21.6%) schizophrenia, 348 (10%) substance abuse disorders, and 213 (8.6%) post-traumatic stress disorder.

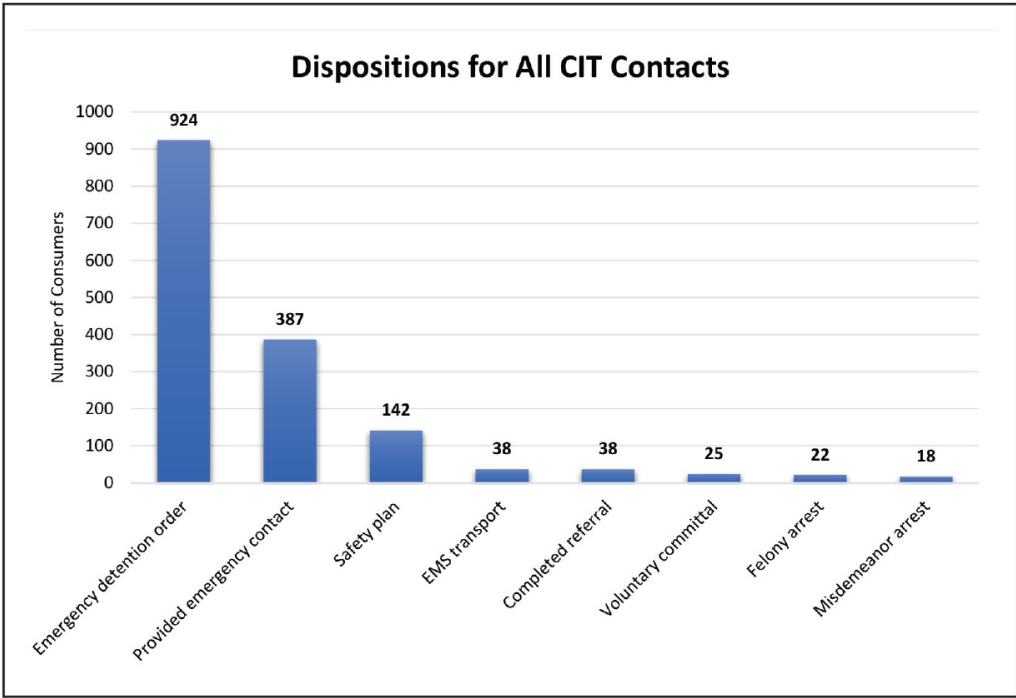


There were also CIT contacts with consumers without diagnosed mental illness but presented with symptoms of behavioral and mental health disorders. For each CIT contact, the responding CIT officer recorded whether behavioral and mental health symptoms were observed and/or reported.

Ninety-six percent (96%) of CIT contacts had at least one symptom of behavioral and mental health disorders, either observed and/or reported, or had a diagnosed mental illness.

Dispositions

Of all CIT contacts, the following dispositions were most common: emergency detention order (924), provided emergency contact (387), and safety plan (142). Many CIT contacts resulted in multiple dispositions; for example, they were given a safety plan and emergency contact and completed a referral.



Internal Affairs Division

The Internal Affairs Division (IAD) has the responsibility for conducting investigations of alleged misconduct involving employees of the Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office. Internal Affairs investigates complaints from both citizens and the administration. Internal Affairs thoroughly and impartially investigates reports of misconduct to ensure professional standards of behavior are maintained and to preserve the public’s confidence in the department.

In 2023, IAD conducted 112 investigations. Of those, 11 were citizen complaints and 101 were internal policy violation investigations. All Sheriff’s Office employees are expected to adhere to the highest standards of professionalism and integrity.

In addition, Internal Affairs has two other sections. The Background unit conducts all pre-employment investigations on perspective Sheriff’s Office candidates. The Polygraph unit administers polygraph examinations that are associated with criminal investigations and pre-employment background investigations.



Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Executive Command Staff

ADMINISTRATION BUREAU

The Administration Bureau is under the command of Assistant Chief Deputy Manuel F. Zamora, Ph.D. The bureau consists of the following: Grants Section; Investigations Command, which includes the Special Investigations Division and the Criminal Investigations Division; Public Information Office; Professional Development Division, which includes the Gus George Law Enforcement Academy and the Regulatory Affairs Division; and the Support Services Division. With the exception of the Investigations Command, each division serves as a support function to field operations and detention personnel. Investigative divisions are comprised of employees who follow-up on reported crimes and engage in proactive efforts to disrupt and dismantle criminal operations.

Grants

The Grants Section of the Sheriff's Office is led by Dr. Elizabeth Signorotti and Katina Scott. The office is responsible for identifying equipment, technology, personnel, and other resources needed to advance Sheriff's Office initiatives. The Grants Section actively seeks funding sources for crime-related initiatives and projects and programs to advance the mission of the Sheriff's Office. These efforts include community-oriented projects to enhance the quality of life in Fort Bend County communities.

The table below summarizes grants awarded calendar year 2023:

FY2023 Sheriff's Office Grant Awards		
Grantor	Project, program, initiative, or equipment	Award Amount
Urban Area Security Initiative	SWAT Equipment	\$477,840.00
Urban Area Security Initiative	Satellite Fusion Analyst	\$128,378.00
Urban Area Security Initiative	Mobile Command Equipment	\$65,000.00
Urban Area Security Initiative	Dispatch/Emergency Communication Center Equipment	\$238,239.00
TX Department of Transportation	Strategic Traffic Enforcement (Comprehensive)	\$49,860.00
TX Department of Transportation	Strategic Traffic Enforcement (CMV)	\$49,860.00
TX Department of Transportation	Strategic Traffic Enforcement (Click It Or Ticket)	\$12,000.00
TX Department of Transportation	Strategic Traffic Enforcement (Operation Slowdown)	\$7,000.00
Texas Office of the Governor	Bullet-Resistant Shields	\$313,260.00
FEMA	Generator	\$156,150.00
Bureau of Justice Assistance	State Criminal Alien Assistance Program	\$459,176.00
Bureau of Justice Assistance	Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership	\$2,702.97
Justice Assistance Grant	Mobile AFIS and Individual First Aid Kits	\$21,338.00
Texas State University	Tobacco Enforcement Program	\$9,375.00
Donation: FBC Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association	K-9 Equipment	\$3,226.00
HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas)	Overtime and Vehicle Allowance (Law Enforcement Officers)	\$260,600.00
HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas)	Intelligence Analysts	\$733,118.00
OCDETF (Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces)	Overtime (Law Enforcement Officer)	\$39,681.50
OCDETF (Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces)	Aircards and Vehicle Allowance	\$13,535.28
OCDETF (Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces)	Language Analyst	\$170,012.80
OCDETF (Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces)	Printers	\$4,141.28
HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas)	National Drug Control Policy Board Initiatives	\$993,715.00
Greater Harris County 911	911 Call Takers and Supervisors	\$1,010,000.00
Texas Office of the Governor	Training Funds (Certification/Elective Courses)	\$182,504.00
Texas Statewide Automated Victim Notification System	Build, Implement, and Improve Victim Notification	\$34,601.64
	Total	\$5,435,314.47

Investigations Command

Criminal Investigations Division

The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) is under the command of Major James Burger and managed by Captain Dalia Simons. The division is comprised of six investigative units. The data below reflects the caseloads and number of cases managed.

CID Case Load Assessment

Burglary & Theft Unit

Unit Case Load Total (YTD).....	3,365
Detective Case Load Average (YTD)	561
Detective Monthly Case Load Average (Monthly).....	47

Fraud Unit

Unit Case Load Total (YTD).....	2,693
Detective Case Load Average (YTD)	674
Detective Monthly Case Load Average (Monthly).....	57

Family Violence Unit

Unit Case Load Total (YTD)	3,816
Detective Case Load Average (YTD).....	546
Detective Monthly Case Load Average (Monthly).....	46

Special Crimes Unit

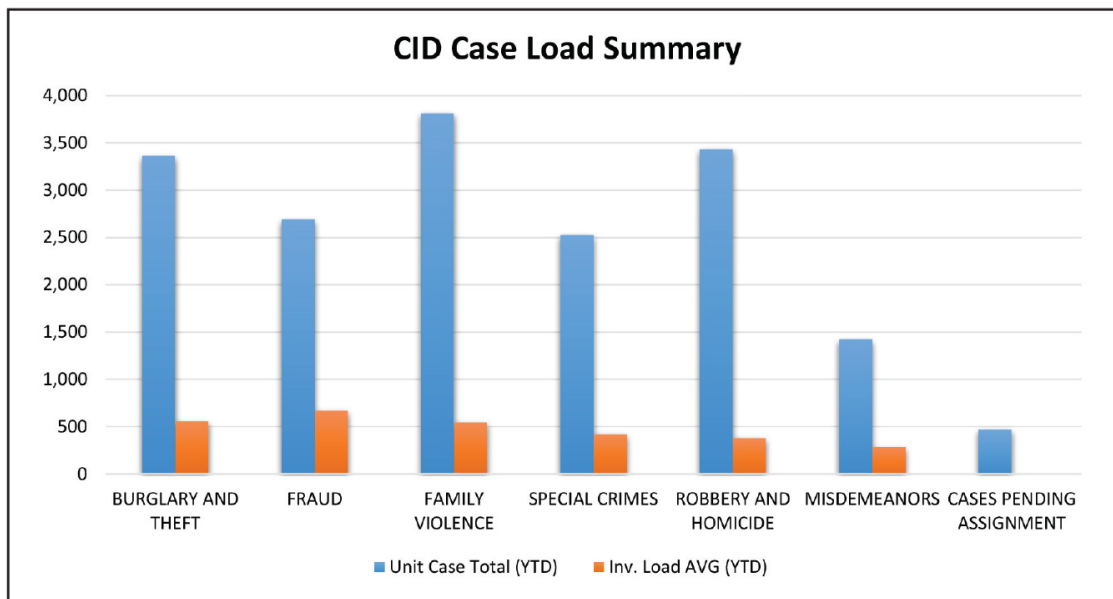
Unit Case Load Total (YTD).....	2,530
Detective Case Load Average (YTD).....	422
Detective Monthly Case Load Average (Monthly).....	36

Robbery & Homicide Unit

Unit Case Load Total (YTD).....	3,436
Detective Case Load Average (YTD).....	382
Detective Monthly Case Load Average (Monthly)	32

Misdemeanor Unit

Unit Case Load Total (YTD).....	1,426
Detective Case Load Average (YTD).....	286
Detective Monthly Case Load Average (Monthly).....	72



CID Total Assigned Case Load (YTD): 17,266

Cases Pending Assignment: 473

CID Total Cases (Assigned/Pending): 17,739

Detective Assigned Case Load Avg (YTD): 467

Detective Assigned Case Load Avg (Monthly): 49

The Division is also comprised of Investigative Support Units including Warrants and Crime Scene Investigators. The Warrants Unit is responsible for the apprehension of fugitives in addition to prisoner transports and out of state extraditions. The Crime Scene Unit is charged with the collection, retention, and processing of scene evidence.

Additional supporting units include Crime Analysis, Crime Victim's Liaison, and administrative staff. These support units assist in identifying crime trends, analyzing data, and organizing complex information needed during investigations. Additionally, employees assigned to CID assist victims and submit incident-based information to state and federal agencies.

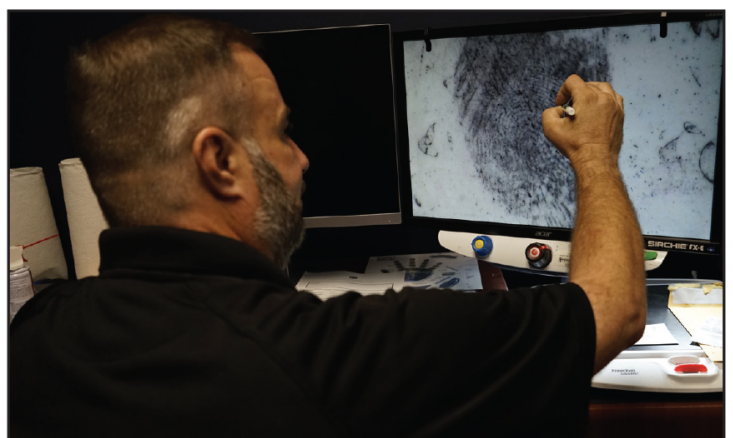
Homicide Case Study

On February 13, 2023, at approximately 1:10 am, Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the 9800 block of S. Mason Road, Richmond, Fort Bend County, Texas, regarding a Homicide investigation.

Prompting this response, a 911 caller reportedly found a deceased male lying on the ground in a business parking lot. It was later learned the decedent had been shot to death by unknown suspect(s), and the victim's vehicle was found parked nearby.

Investigators aggressively followed up on these leads which included searching Flock Safety camera data (license plate reader program available to Sheriff's Office personnel), which identified the suspect vehicle.

Within three days of a true "who done it" Homicide, detectives identified, located, and obtained confessions from the two male suspects involved. Both males were subsequently arrested and charged with Murder.



Crime Scene Investigator processing evidence

Cold Case Study

Peggy Anne Dodd had been missing since 1984. Her family had long worried about her whereabouts, wondering if they would ever get closure concerning their loved one's fate. That is until Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office veteran Homicide Detective, and a team of genealogists, identified her remains nearly 38 years later.

On December 22, 1984, remains were found on a property off FM 762 in Richmond, Fort Bend County. Sheriff's investigators were left trying to fit the pieces of an intricate puzzle together with only minimal information. An autopsy was conducted and revealed the remains to be that of a young Caucasian woman with light brown hair and no known cause of death.

Between 2020 and 2022, the Sheriff's Office collaborated with DNA laboratories that used advanced DNA sequencing technology to extract DNA from the remains, enabling scientists to build a genetic genealogy profile that ultimately helped identify the young woman as Peggy Anne Dodd, who was 29 years old at the time of her disappearance. The manner of Dodd's death remains undetermined.

The identity of this victim was made possible through the close collaboration between the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office, Harris County Institute of Forensic Science, Intermountain Forensics, Astrea Forensics, and a volunteer team of forensic genealogists.

Burglary and Theft Case Study

On January 19th, 2023, a Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Burglary and Theft Investigator began his investigation into a "Porch Pirate" who was stealing packages in the Grand Mission area of Fort Bend County, Texas. In a few reported cases, a subject and his vehicle were captured on home surveillance.

The assigned Investigator learned that residents were taking to social media and sharing their stories after falling victims to the "Porch Pirate."

The Investigator spent countless hours conducting follow up with victims, collecting video, and researching License Plate Reader data for vehicles traveling in the area. The Investigator identified a suspect, subsequently obtaining an arrest warrant.

The suspect was arrested and cooperated with the investigator, providing a full confession. A total of 11 cases were filed: 10 for theft and 1 for fraud. Subsequently, over 140 items were recovered and returned to victims residing in Fort Bend County, Harris County, and Brazoria County.

Family Violence Unit



Special Investigations Division

The Special Investigations Division is under the command of Major James Burger and managed by Captain Wayne Hastedt. The division is comprised of multiple units including the Fort Bend County Narcotics Task Force, Human Trafficking and Internet Crimes Against Children Unit, Gang Unit, and Auto Theft Unit. The units under this command specialize in proactive investigations and often involve gathering of information and intelligence and organizing an effort to dismantle them. In many instances, proactive operations extend into multijurisdictional task force work.

Narcotics Task Force - Criminal Interdiction

The multi-agency Narcotics Task Force is a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Initiative (HIDTA), and is responsible for the disruption, dismantling and prosecution of all narcotics trafficking organizations or individuals involved in the manufacturing, transportation, distribution, sale and/or use of all illicit narcotics in or being transported through Fort Bend County. The Narcotics Task Force is comprised of the following agencies working in unison for this purpose:

- Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office
- Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office
- Richmond Police Department
- Rosenberg Police Department
- Missouri City Police Department
- Sugar Land Police Department
- Drug Enforcement Agency

During the 2023 calendar year, the Narcotics Task Force, working along with partner agencies, seized 563 kilograms (1,241 pounds) of illicit narcotics, seized over \$3.7 million in currency linked to narcotics trafficking, along with 44 firearms from suspects involved in the trafficking of narcotics. Additionally, the Narcotics Task Force conducted over 274 investigations and effected 102 arrests, resulting in the filing of 206 criminal charges against suspected offenders.

This Unit focuses on those engaging in offenses involving illicit narcotics on all levels and areas of Fort Bend County, including neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and the thoroughfares traversed by traffickers.



Narcotics K-9 with seized items

Case Study

During the early morning hours of January 12, 2023, the Fort Bend County Narcotics Task Force (FBCNTF) along with members of Fort Bend County Regional SWAT and Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) executed a search warrant at a residential compound in Fresno, Fort Bend County, Texas. The execution of this search warrant was the culmination of a long-term investigation involving the observed and documented illicit sale of narcotics from multiple residences within the secured property. Upon execution of the warrant, Narcotics Detectives seized six different types of illicit narcotics, including cocaine and fentanyl. Additionally, seven firearms, a manual narcotics press machine, and over \$20,000 in illicit proceeds were recovered.

Two suspects were arrested and charged with 10 felony narcotics-related offenses including manufacture/delivery of controlled substance, firearm theft, money laundering and tampering with evidence.

Human Trafficking and Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)

The Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit is devoted to investigating allegations of child exploitation on the internet. The crimes include child pornography and online solicitation of minors. The Human Trafficking Unit investigates all crimes involving trafficking of persons and all runaway cases. This unit is partnered with the Houston Metro Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance (HTRA).

HTRA is a collaboration of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies working together with area social service organizations. Since its inception, it has become recognized as a national model for its partnerships and effectiveness in identifying and assisting the victims of human trafficking, and effectively identifying, apprehending, and prosecuting those engaged in trafficking offenses. This unit works in conjunction with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies during the course of certain investigations and is frequently called upon by outside agencies to assist in criminal investigations.

One such multi-agency operation conducted during September 2023 focused on persons who engage in solicitation and promotion of prostitution within Fort Bend County. This multi-agency initiative resulted in the arrest of over 30 suspects charged with crimes including Human Trafficking, Human Smuggling, Kidnapping, and Prostitution-related offenses.

Case Study

During the afternoon hours of August 30, 2023, along with patrol deputies, detectives of the Human Trafficking/ICAC Unit responded to a reported kidnapping within the Meadows Place area of the county. Upon arrival, detectives began the process of interviewing a victim, who had escaped from his captors, and learned that he and four additional victims had been held captive within the garage of a nearby home for several weeks. The five victims in this case had solicited the services of human smugglers to facilitate their illegal entry into the country via Mexico, and these smugglers were demanding additional money from the victims' families prior to their release.

Human Trafficking Detectives were able to quickly identify the suspected residence at which the additional victims were being held and coordinated surveillance and marked unit response. As result of this investigation, the additional victims within the home were safely recovered as the captors attempted to move their location. The surveillance and coordinated enforcement actions ultimately resulted in the arrest and charging of three suspects for offenses including Human Smuggling and Aggravated Kidnapping.

Auto Theft Unit

The Auto Theft Unit is responsible for the investigation of stolen vehicles, organized theft rings, recovered vehicles, abandoned vehicles and 68A inspections, which are inspections conducted by a law enforcement officer to verify the identity of a vehicle for registration purposes. In addition to providing the aforementioned service, detectives within this unit investigate criminal offenses associated with Auto Thefts, Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicles, Burglary of Motor Vehicles and Vehicle Related Criminal Mischief. In total, this unit investigated approximately 3,000 cases during the calendar year.

In September of 2023, members of the Auto Theft Unit partnered with the Houston Police Department, Harris County Sheriff's Office, and Department of Public Safety in the investigation of an auto theft ring operating within the Greater Houston Area, including Fort Bend County. The auto theft ring was involved in the theft of high-end luxury and sport model vehicles, which were stolen for resale purposes. As result of this investigation, eight members of this organized crime scheme were arrested and 18 stolen vehicles were recovered.

Gang Unit

The purpose of the Gang Unit is to protect the public from street gang violence and to provide the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office with investigative, enforcement, and intelligence support in combating street gang activity.

The Gang Unit pursues violent gangs through sustained, proactive, and coordinated investigations to obtain prosecutions on violations such as racketeering, drug conspiracy, and firearms violations. This Unit meets a two-pronged department need. First, to carry out its mission to protect the public and suppress criminal activity, and secondly, to accurately identify and regulate members of known street gangs believed to be involved in criminal activity. Detectives within the Gang Unit are also tasked with assisting fellow detectives in the investigation of various criminal offenses in which gang affiliations are identified.

The Gang Unit initiated an ongoing program in 2023 focusing on the apprehension of fugitive gang members within Fort Bend County. This county-wide program is run in partnership with municipal police departments within the county. Since the inception of this program, 62 fugitive gang members have been apprehended.

U.S. law enforcement agencies developed specialized units to investigate violent street gang crime in the 1980s. Often, the dynamics surrounding gang operations, including rival gang violence and street-level activity, such as drug, human, and gun trafficking, led officers to gather intelligence and document criminal gang activity. The Sheriff's Office analysis of this information and crime statistics led to the development of this Gang Unit in 2021.



GGLEA Class 45 graduates



Professional Development

Gus George Law Enforcement Academy

The Gus George Law Enforcement Academy (GGLEA) is under the command of Captain Gregory Johnson and managed by Lieutenant David Bentley. The GGLEA staff is responsible for ensuring licensed Fort Bend County Sheriff deputies, telecommunicators, and corrections personnel are current on all mandated Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) training. This division provides several police agencies with TCOLE classes in our region. In addition, the GGLEA conducts two Basic Peace Officer Courses (BPOC) every year. BPOC successfully concluded this year with the 45th annual full-time, police academy. The Basic County Corrections Licensing Course is also one of the numerous tasks assigned to the Academy Division. GGLEA also serves as a test site for Peace Officer, Telecommunications officer, and Detention officer TCOLE licensing exams.

The division consists of the Training Unit, Community Services, the You Are Not Alone Program (YANA), as well as the Police and Clergy Team (PACT).

Training Unit

Basic Peace Officer Course Accomplishments

- 896 total training hours
- 27 students licensed
- 100 % pass rate
- 7 cadets employed by FBCSO

Training Course Accomplishments

- Attendance increased from 3,553 in 2022 to 3,959
- Contact hours increased from 66,836 to 81,882 in 2023
- 665 TCOLE classes presented

ALERRT Courses

Gus George Academy continues to provide Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) Level 1 as well as ALERRT Active Attack Integrated Response (AAIR) classes to meet TCOLE requirements and ensure our officers are properly trained.

ALERRT and AAIR courses are necessary to improve integration of all first responders, regardless of the agency employing them and includes fire responders (firefighters and technicians), Emergency Medical Services (e.g. paramedics), and telecommunicators. The courses are now mandated by recent legislation, SB1852 (88th TX legislative session), and the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, and involves tactical first aid and the rescue task force model to increase survivability and safety. Coordinated efforts by first responders enable a more effective response to active attack and shooter incidents.

New courses added this year:

Red Dot Transition Course

The red dot transition course assists students in learning the nuances of using a red dot pistol sight versus traditional iron sights. In this course, students will learn how better to operate their pistol with iron sights, red dot sights, and in the worst-case scenario, no sights at all. This is a 10-hour TCOLE credit course. The published literature on accuracy and safety associated with micro red dot systems (MRDS) and testing of the system by firearms instructors led to the revision of the existing weapons use policy this year. Successful completion of new firearms training and successful qualification of the course with an MRDS equipped firearm enables deputies to carry the MRDS.

Basic ATV/UTV Operator

The ATV/UTV course teaches operators how to safely operate ATV/UTV and tow vehicles. This course offers a trailering obstacle course, ATV/UTV obstacle course, and a trail ride course that qualifies students to operate these vehicles. This is a 16-hour TCOLE credit course.



Deputies after an ALERRT training course



Deputies during the Red Dot Transition Course



Deputies during the Basic ATV/UTV Operator Course

Basic County Corrections Licensing Course Accomplishments

- 4,320 total contact hours
- 36 students completed Jailer Academy
- 100% pass rate
- 91.67% passed on first attempt

TCOLE License Exams Administered

- 58 Basic Peace Officer Exams
- 55 Basic Jailer License Exams
- 90 Basic Telecommunications Operator Exams

Community Services

The Community Services Section of the Sheriff's Office includes the Kids & Cops Unit and the Crime Prevention Unit.



Kids & Cops Unit

Kids & Cops

Kids & Cops deputies develop and maintain positive and trusting relationships between law enforcement and the youth of Fort Bend County. The program is designed to reduce the likelihood of juvenile delinquency by providing children with opportunities to interact and gain a better understanding of policing and community involvement. Kids & Cops initiatives, such as summer camps and school presentations, enhance community bonds and provide opportunities that boost the probability of young citizens participating in future civic responsibilities and displaying positive behavior.

In 2023, the unit completed its 26th annual Kids & Cops Summer Camp program and coordinated the FBCSO Trunk or Treat event which was estimated to have over 1,000 kids and parents in attendance. Kids & Cops also partnered with Mazda North American Operations to purchase toys for families in need and raised over \$2,000 for the Fort Bend County Toy Drive benefiting hundreds of kids.

Kids & Cops Accomplishments

- 1,280 school presentations
- 19,745 students reached
- 420 Summer Camp attendees
- 56 community events



*Deputy Diane Fullinwider
retirement celebration*



Kids & Cops Holiday Toy Drive

Crime Prevention

Crime prevention is a collaborative effort to help safeguard the residents of Fort Bend County against criminal activity in their lives, homes, and businesses. Deputy Gerard Argao provides safety presentations to civic groups, business entities, and residential communities. He also attends Homeowners Association meetings to provide crime statistics and insights on how to reduce vulnerability to property crimes. He conducts residential and commercial risk assessments and oversees the Neighborhood Watch Program. Deputy Argao is a certified child passenger safety seat technician, thus providing a valuable service to families who want to ensure their child safety seat is installed correctly.

Deputy Argao and the Crime Prevention Unit also coordinates the annual Citizens Police Academy (CPA). CPA is intended for community members who wish to be more informed on local law enforcement issues as well as those contemplating a career in the field. The 11-week program is free of charge and consists of an overview of the criminal justice system and various functions of the Sheriff's Office through classroom presentations and practical hands-on experience.

Crime Prevention Accomplishments

- Property checks: 255
- Traffic/parking complaints: 11
- Neighborhoods Safety courses: 53
 - 2,412 citizens reached
- Residential risk assessments: 80
- National Night Out: 30 neighborhoods visited
- Inspected/installed car seats: 280
 - 304 parents educated
- Graduates from annual Citizens Police Academy: 46



Citizens Police Academy: Fall 2023



Citizens Police Academy Graduation



Citizens Police Academy: Spring 2023

Volunteer Services

You Are Not Alone

The You Are Not Alone Program (YANA) is managed by Senior Services Coordinator, Michael Kahlenberg. YANA is a program designed to assist senior citizens and individuals with disabilities in Fort Bend County who live alone. YANA volunteers conduct daily phone calls and perform welfare checks on its members. Volunteers also conduct other services for YANA members, such as providing water or necessities when needed, ensuring smoke detectors are functioning properly, and changing light bulbs.

This year, YANA saw an increase in the annual giftbag giveaway. We would like to give special thanks to the Rosenberg Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3903 who made a generous donation to provide 250 gift bags to YANA members and others in the community. Also, Cub Scout Pack 10 of Richmond assisted in the assembly of the giftbags. Thank you all for your help and support!

YANA Accomplishments

- 249 members in the Club Express system
- 5,943 calls and member contacts
- Received 14 referrals from social service programs and other county agencies in Fort Bend



YANA volunteer at senior citizens event



Sheriff's Office Volunteers



Cub Scout Pack 10, Richmond helping assemble giftbags

Project Lifesaver Program

The Project Lifesaver Program was established under the YANA program and is a free resource to safely locate individuals with cognitive disabilities, such as autism, dementia, Alzheimer's, or traumatic brain injury, who have a history of wandering. Project Lifesaver saw tremendous growth in 2023. The growth is attributed to Katy ISD special needs programs as well as Fort Bend ISD parents that are seeing benefits to the program.

In 2023, Project Lifesaver welcomed the Sugar Land Police Department as they started their own standalone program to add to the capabilities of bringing loved ones home. Sugar Land PD's addition will greatly assist FBCSO by adding more trained police officers to perform searches, as well as take lead on locating individuals that live within the city of Sugar Land. Project Lifesaver has also been included in the new Probationary Police Officer training program at FBCSO, thus allowing for more trained officers in the field.

A grant from the Alzheimer's Foundation of America allowed Project Lifesaver to train the FBCSO Air Support Unit as well as Texas DPS Region 2 Air Support. Collectively, this will provide a wider containment area to search for those who are reported missing. This partnership will allow search capabilities to 35 South East Texas counties as well as expand the distance from which the client can be located.

Project Lifesaver Achievements

- 43 clients wearing bracelets
- 20 FBCSO Deputies and Probationary Police Officers trained
- 2 volunteers trained
- 25 applications awaiting return for processing



Project Lifesaver Training

Police and Clergy Team

Police and Clergy Team (PACT) is a peace-officer- facilitated, faith-based outreach and volunteer chaplaincy program. PACT will enhance communication and establish strong and lasting partnerships with local leaders in the faith community, with a goal of better understanding the community served as well as those with whom we serve beside.



PACT Breakfast

Deputies respond to many tragic calls every day and see a lot of negative. In law enforcement, there is a two- to- one suicide versus line of duty death ratio among officers. This means law enforcement officers (LEOs) are killing themselves twice as much as the bad guys are. Having a chaplain or clergy riding along from time to time with deputies can give deputies an ear to bend privately to debrief and get rid of stress. The chaplain can also help at tragic scenes with victims of crime to ease their pain and provide future resources for help.

In August of 2023, PACT was unveiled at a dinner hosted by Fort Bend Prays and National Day of Prayer Coordinators, where a group of over 100 Fort Bend Pastors came together for a night of praise, worship, and prayer. October 2023, PACT hosted the first PACT Breakfast, welcoming over 60 clergy, chaplains, and law enforcement officers.

PACT Accomplishments

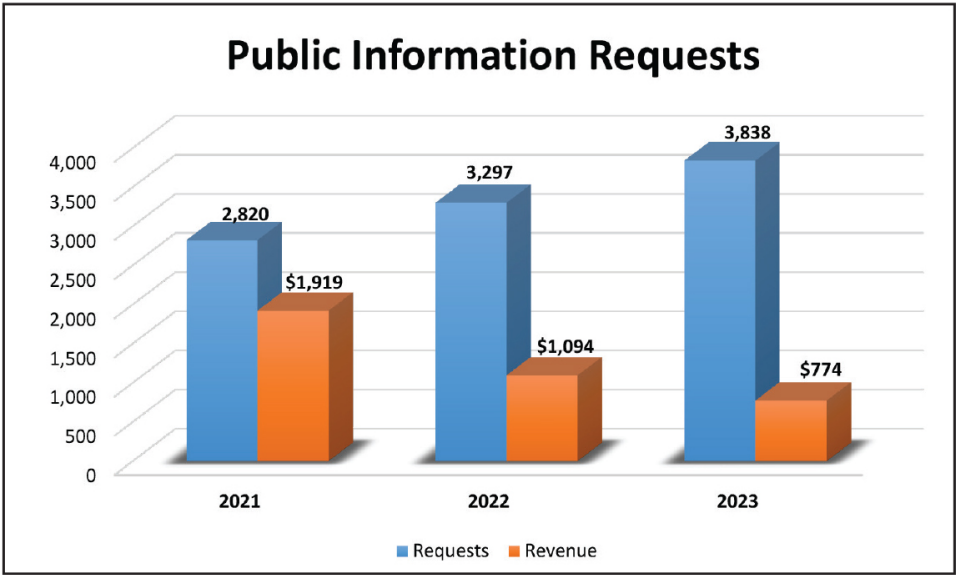
- 13 completed applications
- 7 applicants received volunteer credentials
- 1 call out for service

Regulatory Affairs Division

The Regulatory Affairs Division is under the command of Captain Sam Hayes. The division manages Records and the Alarm and Game Room Details section within the Sheriff’s Office.

Records

The Records Section collects, processes, and protects all criminal and detention records filed within this Division and maintains accurate and complete records of information reported to regulatory agencies. Records serves to increase public confidence with the Sheriff’s Office by providing access to business records in a timely manner, as authorized by law. The Records Division provides services to the general public on a daily basis to include criminal history checks, copies of offense reports, crash report information, assisting with fingerprinting information and payment, referring the public to Patrol Intake Deputy or Communications to file offense reports and other general matters. Records also completes law enforcement and government agency requests daily. For the entire calendar year of 2023, Records collected \$10,682.30 for services provided.



In 2023, the Records Section received 3,838 Public Information Requests. For reports in which a fee is assessed, the Records Section collected \$774.80 in total revenue. In comparison, the Records Section received 3,297 Public Information Requests in 2022. For reports in which a fee was assessed in 2022, the Records Section collected \$1,094.10 in total revenue. The Records Section received 2,820 Public Information Requests and the assessed fees totaled \$1,919.05 in 2021. The availability of business records and the public’s interest in assessing government operations contributed to the increase in public information requests.

Alarm Detail and False Prevention Unit

The Fort Bend County Alarm Detail and False Prevention Unit (AD & FPU) is a Unit of the Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office, Professional Development Command. The Regulatory Affairs Division is responsible for the compliance and enforcement of the alarm regulations set forth by Texas Local Government Code Sec. 233.092 as adopted by the Fort Bend County Commissioner’s Court. Accordingly, the AD & FPU works in a collaborative effort with the Emergency Communications and Patrol Division, ensuring all residences and businesses owning and operating an alarm system are treated with utmost professionalism while working to bring them into compliance with State and County Laws and Regulations.

In 2023, the Emergency Communications Center generated and dispatched First Responders to 16,816 alarm calls. Of the 16,816 calls for service, only (6) offense reports were taken and all other calls for service were preventable false alarms.

See index for Alarm Permit Data Productivity Report.



*Joint Press Conference with
Houston Police Department*

Public Information Office

The Public Information Office (PIO) is led by Public Information Officers (PIOs) Michelle Domengoni and Brionna Rivers. The office works closely with the Sheriff's Executive Command to provide clear, concise, and up-to-date newsworthy information to the public. The PIO serves as the liaison between the Sheriff's Office and the community including the news media.

The PIO responds to public information requests, develops media relations with local and state outlets, and coordinates press conferences for the release of public information. The office also assists with recruitment efforts, and composes press releases and public service announcements, including safety messages during emergencies.

In 2023, the PIOs covered copious events including Promotion and Award Ceremonies, the Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony, Coffee with a Cop, Spring Summit, National Night Out, and Trunk or Treat.



*Joint Press Conference with the Fort Bend County
District Attorney's Office*



JJAC July 4th Event



Coffee with a Cop Event



Coffee with a Cop Event



National Night Out

The PIO also creates content for all FBCSO social media platforms including photographing and video recording various division trainings and events throughout the year.



Promotion & Awards Ceremony



Sheriff's Office Trunk or Treat



Support Services Division

The Support Services Division is under the command of Captain Tiffaney Budnik. The Division consists of the Communications Center, Support Services, and Fleet and Asset Management.

Communications Center

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Communications Center is the third largest communications center by call volume in the Houston-Galveston Area and serves as the primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for the unincorporated areas of Fort Bend County. The FBCSO Communication center is the primary dispatch service provider for 12 law enforcement agencies, Fort Bend County EMS and 8 Fire Departments. It is also the after-hours point of contact for various county entities including Animal Control, Medical Examiner, Assistant District Attorney on-call Investigators, Road and Bridge, and TXDOT.

In 2023, the FBCSO Communications Center received a total of **435,064 calls** that included 9-1-1 and administrative phone calls. Of the **186,578** 9-1-1 calls received, **97% of those were answered in 15 seconds or less**, surpassing the Greater Harris County 9-1-1 network service level standard of 95%.

The Communications Center currently employs 62 Public Safety Telecommunicators and support staff. Staffing shortages have been a concern for many emergency communications centers throughout the nation; however, due to ongoing recruiting efforts, pay raises and the addition of certificate pay for Telecommunicators, the FBCSO Communications Center has improved the attrition rate from 14.29% in 2022 to 6.35% in 2023. These men and women work in a dynamic environment where no two shifts are the same. They are responsible for training, quality assurance, answering administrative calls, 9-1-1 calls, entries into the Texas and National Crime Information Center (TCIC/NCIC) database, monitoring License Plate Recognition (LPR) system hits and dispatching both emergency and non-emergency calls for service, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Communications support team encompasses varying responsibilities to include validations, quality assurance, communications training, scheduling, and mental health care coordinators. The quality assurance program is a proactive step to ensure the highest standards are achieved in the handling of administrative calls, 9-1-1 calls, dispatching, and receipt of information from responding units. In 2023, over 5,454 random quality assurance reviews were completed. These reviews yielded an impressive score of 92.4%, reflecting the dedication and commitment of our team to maintaining and improving the quality of our services.



Telecommunications Officers

The Communications Center training unit worked endlessly in 2023 to train an influx of new hires, provide continuing education for current employees, and revamp the Dispatch U in-service training. Additional trainings completed by Communications Center personnel included a 40-hour Mental Health course, TEEX Active shooter, and Active Attack Integrated Response training. Moreover, the Communications support team has continued to foster relationships with the Fire Departments and Emergency Management Coordinators, as well as many other agencies within the county. These relationships have allowed the Communications Center to increase real life scenario-based trainings for our emergency Telecommunicators.

In August of 2023, the Communications Center began the Crisis Call Diversion pilot program. Though the call volume has been low for the onsite mental health care coordinators, this program brings immense benefit to our citizens who live with or have family impacted by mental health. Having mental health care coordinators within the center allows Telecommunicators to transfer calls immediately to a licensed mental health professional who can further assess the needs of the caller and coordinate resources. Emergency personnel continue to be dispatched to mental health related calls where there is imminent risk of harm.

From the training of our Telecommunicators to providing the technology needed to ensure emergency 9-1-1 calls are received and disseminated in moments of crisis, the Communications Center is the lifeline of the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office and the individuals who make up this unit are without a doubt our "Heroes in Headsets."

See index for Communications Productivity Report and Call Volume Statistics.



Support Services

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Information Technology team provides internal support, as well as technical support for 12 law enforcement agencies, Fort Bend County EMS, and eight fire departments within Fort Bend County. To ensure there is little to no interruption in emergency services, the technical support staff provide an on-call service after hours for all supported to service Fort Bend County.

Support Services Achievements

- Cisco network equipment upgrade
- Cisco telephone system replacement
- Detention Wi-Fi system installation
- AFIS (HCITC) fiber connectivity
- USDD fiber connectivity (EMS/Fulshear)
- Panasonic Mobile Data Computer replacement (175)
- Axon Fleet 3/Cradlepoint configuration
- Fort Bend County time clock upgrade/replacement (on premise)
- State mandated information technology updates for internal/external systems for information distribution

The Support Services Division is also coordinating and assisting with the significant upgrade of the current Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS). This project has a tentative date of February 2025 to go live. Support Services is also assisting with the planning of the new Training Academy and Emergency Communications Dispatch Center that will be located near the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds.

Emergency Management

Captain Tiffaney Budnik is the liaison between the Sheriff's Office and the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) in pre-planning and coordinating responses to critical incidents and severe weather events that require Level III activation. Level III is the "monitoring" phase of emergency management.

Throughout 2023, Sheriff's Office field operations personnel and support staff participated in multiple functional exercises including the following: loss of communication, active attack involving a response to a local high school, response to major hurricane or flood, and more. The functional exercises aim to prepare all county personnel for significant events, organize field operations, manage public response, and exchange best practices in information sharing, with a focus on mitigating identified vulnerabilities.

We worked with Fort Bend Office of Emergency Management to aid with the extreme heat our county experienced this summer, as well as attended multiple trainings covering rail safety, Veoci emergency management software program, and all hazards management.



Captain Budnik and Fort Bend County OEM personnel

Fleet / Asset Management

The Fleet and Asset Management section manages a total of 456 vehicles assigned within the Sheriff's Office, including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), a high-water rescue vehicle, mobile command vehicles, and helicopters. The office also catalogues, tracks, and accounts for over 2,156 Capital Inventory items utilized by the Sheriff's Office. For calendar year 2023, Fleet Management assisted in replacing a total of 72 vehicles throughout the agency. Capital Inventory items are any asset purchased by the county for over \$5,000. The Asset Manager, Michael Baranowski, is responsible for coordinating necessary moves of resources with vehicle maintenance and the auditor's office. The primary goal of the Asset Manager is to ensure each department within the Sheriff's Office orders and receives the proper equipment needed to serve the community.



Fort Bend County Regional SWAT Unit



Sheriff's Office fleet

OPERATIONS BUREAU

The Operations Bureau is under the command of Assistant Chief Deputy Norman Wong. The bureau consists of Detention Command, which includes the Courts Division and the Detention Division, Field Operations, and Human Resources.

Detention Command

Courts Division

The Justice Center Court Staff is under the command of Captain Kevin Hunt. The Division includes 41 Sheriff's deputies, two Sergeants, one Lieutenant, and one Captain. The Court staff is dedicated to providing a safe and secure environment for the courts, employees, and citizens who appear and work in the Fort Bend County Justice Center.

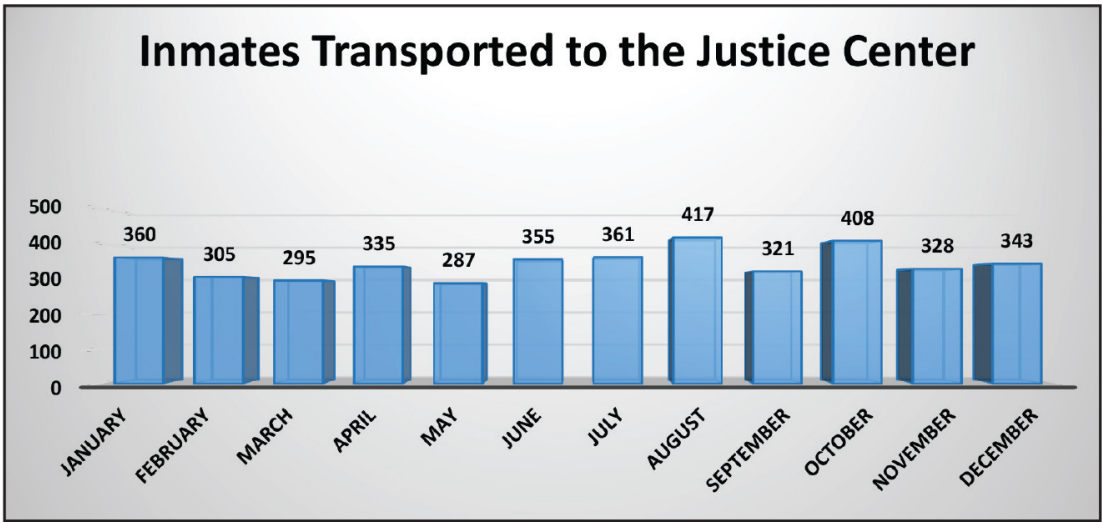
The Courts Division is also responsible for ensuring the safety of all courtroom work groups, including judges, prosecuting attorneys, witnesses, and others. Therefore, court personnel are responsible for assisting in the orderly operations of the courts in Fort Bend County, as well as the processing of detained persons and management of defendants.

During their tour of duty, the Courts staff is required to submit reports documenting incidents that occur in the Fort Bend County Justice Center.

The Division completed 37 reports:

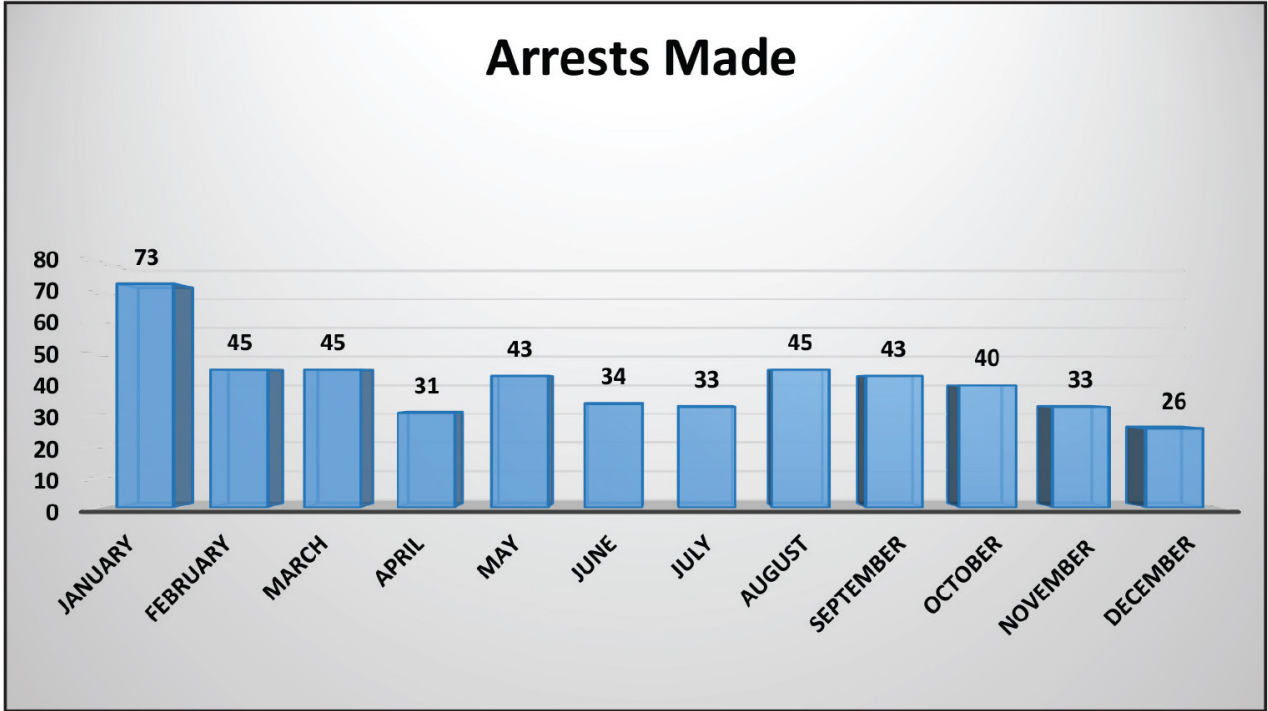
- Risk management - 32
- Use of force - 2
- Office of court administration - 1
- Offense report - 2

Court staff are required to escort inmates from the Jail to the courthouse for their scheduled court appearances. In 2023, **4,115** inmates were escorted from the Jail.

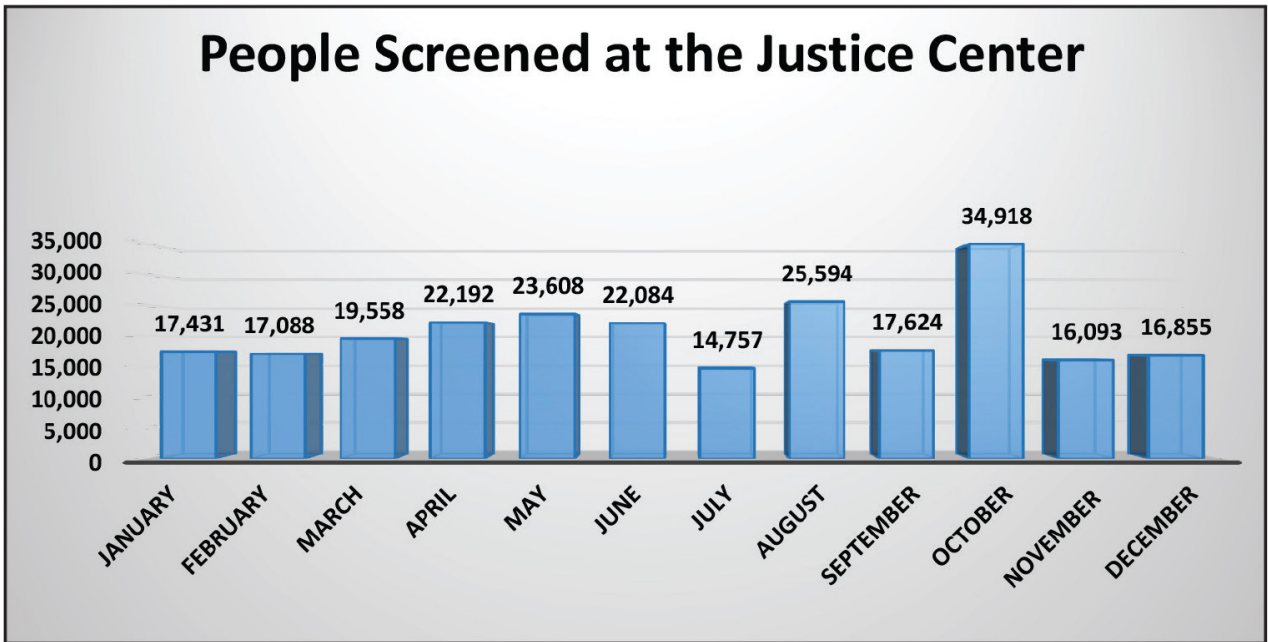


Bailiff team picture

In addition to escorting inmates from the Jail there are times when defendants out on bond appear before the court and are taken into custody. In 2023, **491** people were arrested who appeared in court and had outstanding warrants or were sentenced to serve jail time.



To maintain the safety and security of the facility Court staff ensures that weapons and contraband do not enter the Justice Center by monitoring and inspecting all items and persons that enter the security screening area. In 2023, **247,802** people were screened.





Bailiff conducting security at the Justice Center



Bailiffs overseeing courtroom safety

Detention Division

The Detention Division is under the command of Major Jacob Webb and managed by Detention Administration Captain Tim Chesser and Detention Operations Captain Angel Rader.

The Fort Bend County (FBC) Jail is comprised of three connected sections within the jail, totaling 1,766 beds and a holding cell capacity of 90. The sections include the newer East Tower, the West Tower, and the Old Jail. The average daily inmate population is approximately 850, including inmates from other counties. The Old Jail has undergone a recent renovation and is nearing completion. The area will tentatively reopen early 2024.

The FBC Jail is a Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) facility. The goal of PREA is to eradicate prisoner rape in all types of correctional facilities. All Detention staff members attend PREA certification training when they are hired, and they are required to complete annual recertification. The FBC Jail became a PREA-certified facility in 2013 and was the first jail in Texas to attain this certification. A PREA audit is conducted every three years. In August 2023, the FBC Jail passed the audit without any corrective action for the fourth consecutive time. The FBC Jail is also inspected annually by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards and remains in compliance with state standards as of March 2023.

In early 2023, the Detention Division collaborated with an outside company to bring in a program to assist our Military Veteran inmate population. The program is **The Stars & Stripes Reentry Program**. This program implements a 16-hour-a-week program that identifies veterans incarcerated in the Fort Bend County Jail and houses them in one cellblock with the goal of creating a healthy thriving community that transforms and transitions them back to the community better than they were before they were incarcerated. The program is managed by a Director and a Case Manager, each participant is assessed through a bio-psychosocial assessment to identify risks, needs, and strengths and offers a response in terms of recommendations for a continuum of care. The program includes court support, which includes staff collaborating with the courts to share assessment findings, advocacy, discharge planning, and resource support.

The Detention Division is also starting a new program called **The Reentry Workforce Development Program**. This program consists of robust training programs leading to stable employment and is the critical element needed to firmly close the revolving door of recidivism among incarcerated individuals in Texas. Built on the vision of sending participants home better than they came, the program will provide employment opportunities to incarcerated individuals in the Fort Bend County Jail through streamlined access to comprehensive training and employment services.



Detention Staff with Sheriff Fagan

The program seeks to offer career pathways in the four core sectors: 1) construction; 2) transportation; 3) electrical; 4) welding and computer science. Computer classes will reach the 21st century with the inclusion of a VFX class for those individuals who are interested in learning special effects and video game design.

Additionally, the program offers three components:

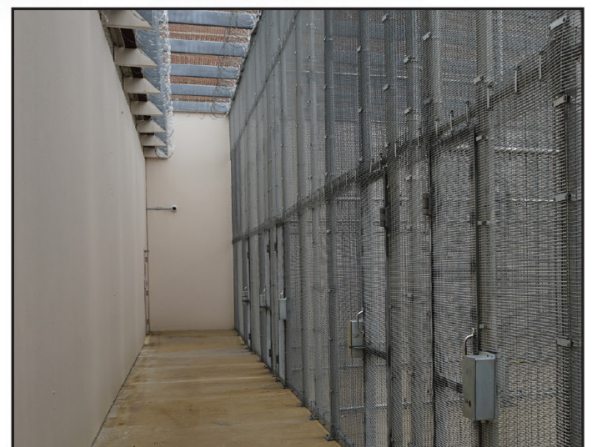
1) Jail In-Reach Job Readiness Training - Education and instruction offered in the jail setting that covers basic soft skills such as:

- o Self-Assessment
- o Professional Conduct
- o Networking
- o Application

2) Training through wrap-around services - on-site training through partnerships with community agencies such as:

- o Goodwill
- o WorkFaith Connections
- o The Worksource
- o SER Jobs

3) Employment-collaborating with real-time employers that will hire ready-to-work individuals who have been incarcerated



Fort Bend County Old Jail renovations



Detention Lieutenant Reiser during jail tour

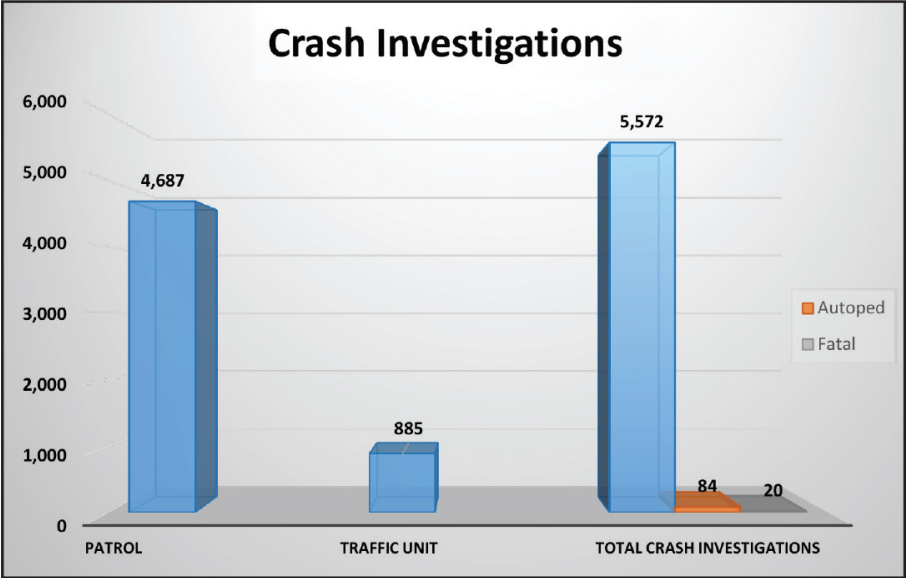
Field Operations

Field Operations is under the command of Major Rudy Castaneda, Patrol Captain Michael Fisher, and Night Command Captain David Clary.

Patrol Division

The Patrol Division is made up of dedicated essential employees who are the First Responders for all citizens of Fort Bend County. The Patrol Division's primary role within the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office is to answer calls for service, conduct traffic enforcement, investigate crashes, and support other Law Enforcement Agencies within Fort Bend County.

The Patrol Division consists of many units including Traffic Enforcement, Air Support, Drone, Livestock, K-9, SWAT, Crime Reduction Unit, Take Me Home, Honor Guard, Dive Team, and the Reserves. The Patrol Division is dedicated to the development and training of all Patrol personnel in the newest, most effective, techniques and technologies to better serve all residence and business owners in Fort Bend County. The Patrol Division is committed to our core values of Service, Honor, and Dignity for all citizens within Fort Bend County.



Traffic Unit

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Traffic Enforcement Unit is a unique unit whose primary responsibility is investigating fatality vehicle crashes. The Traffic Unit also enforces traffic laws, handles traffic complaints, maintains vehicle mobility within the county, and patrols school zones for enforcement. Traffic Unit employees consist of deputies assigned to patrol Tahoes and motorcycles.

Of the **5,572** crashes investigated by the Sheriff's Office Patrol Division, the Traffic Unit worked 885.

Additionally, the Traffic Unit also handled the following traffic-related incidents:

- Traffic complaints: 169
- Failure to stop and give information: 407
- Failure to stop and render aid: 23



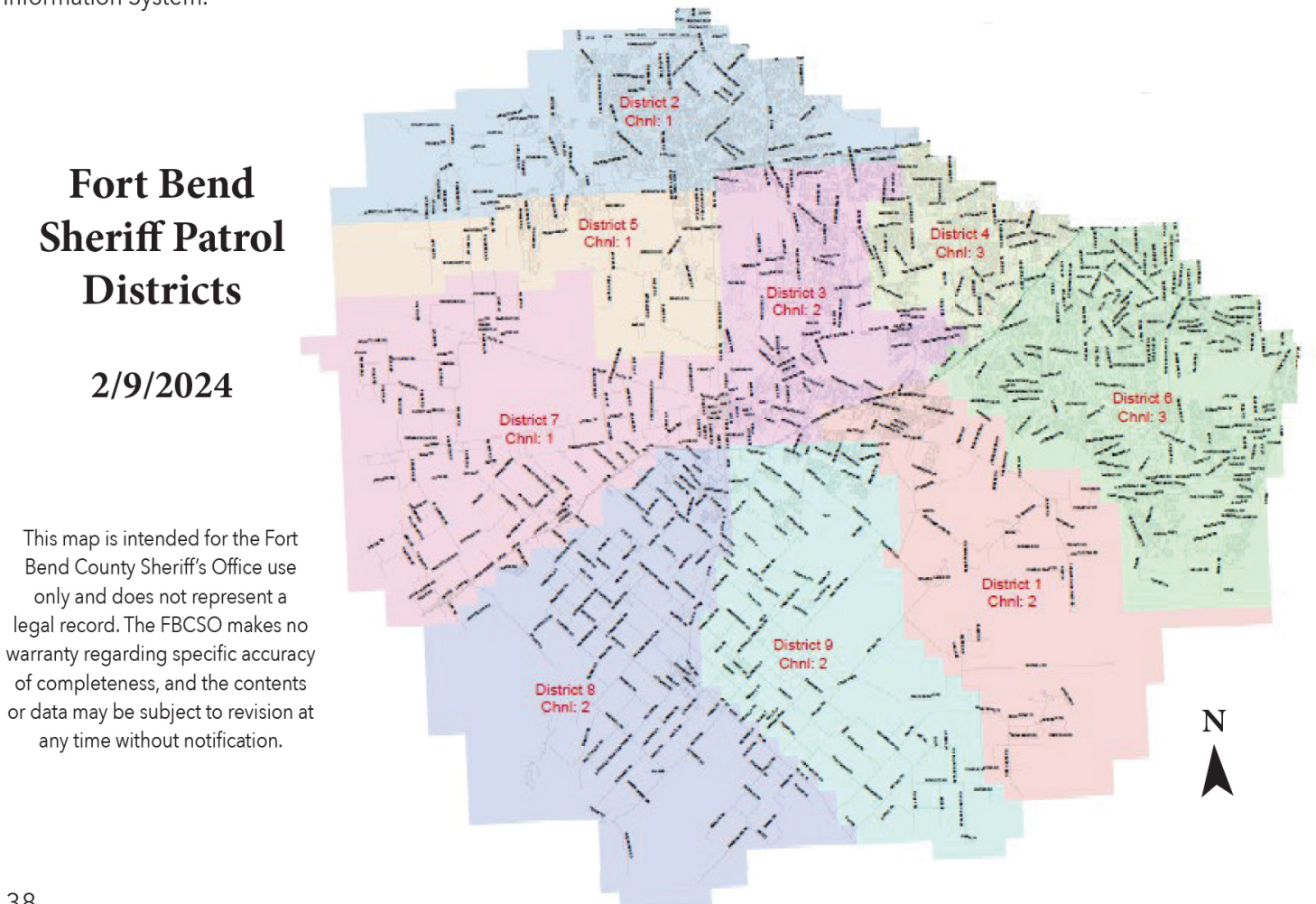
Traffic Unit

Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Patrol Districts

Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office patrol districts have evolved throughout the years since 1837 in consideration of factors and dynamics, such as the number of police calls for emergency and non-emergency services, community and neighborhood design and layout, anecdotal information related to ease of mobility, such as consideration of major thoroughfares and how quickly assigned units can arrive to emergency calls, patrol staffing levels, and academic and practical models of patrol allocation. The factors are not exclusive and also include police operations analysis. The era of community-oriented policing also affected the district design, and today, the district map represents consideration of all the dynamics mentioned.

The assignment of uniformed police personnel is made by police district and police radio channel, whereby dispatchers assigned calls to the nearest unit, or the unit assigned to sets of districts. For example, Patrol Radio Channel #1 manages Districts 2, 5, and 7, while Patrol Radio Channel #2 deploys units to Patrol Districts 1, 3, 8, and 9. The Patrol 3 police radio dispatcher assigns units in Districts 4 and 6. When non-assigned units, such as Warrants Units, Criminal Investigators, Detention Transport Units, SWAT Units, Crime Reduction Units, Special Operations Units, and Police Managers and Administrators encounter a public safety issue, they sign on to the appropriate district radio channel and communicate with the dispatcher and other units who monitor and listen to radio calls within their districts and beats.

The current Fort Bend County Geographic Information System (GIS) is implemented to monitor any need for change in District boundaries. Factors, such as the increased population growth, expansion of the industrial complex, presence of new neighborhoods and schools, and construction of critical infrastructure each influence any redesign of police districts. The current review of police districting far exceeds any expectation presented by Northwestern University Professor William Stenzel's "Bud-Shell Method" of district design. More effective and progressive mapping models have been used by the Sheriff's Office, such as MAPS, to modify district boundaries and the National Institute of Justice's Mapping the Path to Problem Solving. The MAPS method was the country's first multi-agency system and used by the San Diego County's Automated Regional Justice Information System.



Air Support Unit

The Air Support Unit consists of Pilots and Tactical Flight Officers (TFOs) who assist the Sheriff's Office during distress and in-progress calls, active shooter events, automobile and foot pursuits, missing persons searches, as well as providing regional assistance to other law enforcement and fire agencies.

The Sheriff's Office currently has two pilots, one who doubles as a flight instructor as well as a pilot, and two TFOs.

The Sheriff's Office possesses two helicopters named Raven 8 (N218FB) and Raven 9 (N259FB). In 2023, the next round of upgrades for the units was initiated. When completed, both ships will have new spotlights, mapping systems, cameras, downlink transmitters, traffic avoidance systems and updated instrument gauges.

Yearly Stats:

- Calls for Service: 128
- Flight Hours: 240.8
- Other Agency Assist: 30
- Missing Persons: 17

*Air Support Unit
partners with Texas
DPS for Project
Lifesaver Training*



Drone Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Program

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office UAS drone program is a unit assigned to the Patrol Division. Its primary purpose is to support the Patrol Division in Search and Rescue, monitor crowd control during events, conduct surveillance of active shooter situations, and manage other dangerous calls to give real time data to deputies without jeopardizing their safety. The Drone Unit also monitors and evaluates flood / weather events.

The unit's training team provides training to the pilots to ensure they are proficient in both the equipment and the laws surrounding the UAS program. The primary front-line supervisor is Sergeant Dustin Medlin.

The UAS drone program currently uses software that allows the ability to stream live video footage to decision makers from multiple different scenes and multiple different drones at once, giving them a first-hand look at what is happening in real time.



Drone Training

The UAS unit also provides the capability to use UAS to assist in Crash Reconstruction Investigations with the addition of specialized equipment and training.

Our regular Patrol UAS Fleet consists of two DJI Mavic 3T's, a DJI M30T, and an Autel drone that is also thermal imagery capable. The Traffic Unit Autel can also be used for regular Patrol calls when needed. We utilize three older Mavic Pro Enterprise units for training purposes. Our goal in 2024 is to add additional updated equipment to the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office's UAS fleet to further enhance Patrol capabilities and to better serve the citizens of Fort Bend County.

Flight breakdown:

- Crash reconstruction flights: 27
- Training flights: 110
- Calls for service flights: 21



Drone Training

Livestock Unit

The Livestock Unit is a group of deputies assigned to investigate and respond to livestock related issues and violations within the county. The unit also investigates animal cruelty cases within the unincorporated area of Fort Bend County.

Livestock Unit Accomplishments

Loose Livestock:

- Penned by deputy: 3,317
- Livestock owner notified: 1,967
- Livestock impounded: 396
- Citation issued: 78
- Unfounded / gone on arrival: 1,340
- Check or repair fence: 1,047
- Follow-up investigation: 1,897



Livestock Unit

Auto/Livestock Accident:

- Check or Repair Fence: 114
- Livestock Owner Identified: 97
- Livestock Owner Contacted: 108
- Follow Up: 92

Neglected Livestock:

- Cruelty Investigation: 315
- Livestock / domestic seizure: 78
- Follow-up: 327
- Adopted: 87

Livestock Auction:

- Estrays sold: 227
- J.P./County Court: 164
- County Clerk's Office: 123

Stock Owner:

- Contact: 934
- Assist/bury/move livestock: 216
- Outside agency assist: 109

Miscellaneous Assistance:

- Motorist assist: 92
- Off-duty calls for service: 256
- Training hours: 160
- Office of Emergency Management meetings/ Animal Disaster Plans: 5

The Livestock Unit's duties include seizure of neglected animals. Stewie was discovered alone in a barn with no food and very little water. He was among 10 horses being neglected on the property. After a short rehabilitation at Houston Humane Society, the horses were given to Bluebonnet Horse Rescue. Bluebonnet Horse Rescue fosters horses with horse trainers. Every year, Bluebonnet Horse Rescue hosts a training competition. In October 2023, Stewie won 1st in the obstacle course, 2nd in the Freestyle, 6th in basic skills, and Reserve Overall Champion. Stewie was adopted that day at the competition.



*Stewie Before
and After*



K-9 Unit

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office provides trained police Canine Team(s) to enhance the Sheriff's Office efforts in crime prevention, narcotics detection, criminal apprehension, officer safety, and service to the community. Deployments include area searches, building searches, tracking and narcotic sniffs. During 2023, the K-9 unit assisted the US Marshals service, Texas Department of Public Service, Houston Police Department, Harris County Sheriff's Office, Sugar Land Police Department, Missouri City Police Department, Katy Police Department, and Rosenberg Police Department. They also conducted operations with FBCSO SWAT, Criminal Investigations Division, and the Warrants unit. Additionally, the K-9 unit has assisted with Explosives searches at Katy ISD and the Smart Financial Center in Sugarland.

K-9 Accomplishments

- Deployments: 83
- Apprehensions: 39
 - Capital Murder suspects: 3
 - Murder suspects: 4
 - Robbery suspects: 9
- Events: 16

In addition to these stats, in 2023, two new K-9 teams were added to the unit, including the first explosive detection K-9. Lastly, a Police

K-9 training group was established to assist K-9 teams in the area. The training group provides advanced training to multiple area agencies with the goal of enhancing overall K-9 team effectiveness in the greater Fort Bend County area.



K-9 Unit

SWAT

The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team is a designated section of the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office whose members are tested, selected, trained, equipped, and assigned to resolve critical incidents involving a threat to public safety which would otherwise exceed the capabilities of traditional law enforcement first responders and/or investigative units. The SWAT Team is focused on tactical resolutions, as opposed to other functions. The purpose of the SWAT Team is to increase the likelihood of safely resolving critical incidents; however, additional responsibilities for which the SWAT team is tasked include specialized support for the agency's Patrol and Criminal Investigations Divisions, and training of agency personnel. SWAT currently consists of 17 team members and the Crisis Negotiations Team currently consists of 5 team members.

SWAT Accomplishments

- Armed barricaded subject scenes: 10
- High-risk search and arrest warrant scenes: 12
 - Two capital murder warrants;
 - Human trafficking search warrants; and
 - Narcotics search warrants
- Limited Response Search Warrant Operations: 18

It should not go unnoticed that although SWAT is designed to deal with and negotiate highly volatile situations, the team was

only involved in one use of force situation out of the 40 operations that were conducted. The use of force was the deployment of a taser, and it is a testament to the training and dedication of team members that 39 operations were conducted with tactical efficacy to limit any use of force.

The SWAT Team participated in numerous training exercises throughout 2023 for a total of 250 training hours. The SWAT Team conducted training with the Houston Police SWAT Detail, East Fort Bend Regional SWAT Team, and the Harris County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team. In September of 2023, the SWAT Team attended a 40-hour Advanced Hostage Rescue Course at Combat Shooting and Tactics in Nacogdoches, Texas, which was paid through grant funds. In October of 2023, the SWAT Team was awarded \$477,000 in grant funds by the Houston Urban Area Security Initiative for the purchase of the Rook Armored Critical Incident Vehicle.



SWAT during firearm training



Fort Bend Regional SWAT

Crime Reduction Unit

The Crime Reduction Unit assists the Patrol Division in surveilling hot spot areas throughout the jurisdiction in efforts to reduce crime. Deputies deploy during peak offense time periods and identify criminal suspects when offense details are determined by crime analysis algorithms. The Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) completed the team's second year of enforcement activities at the conclusion of 2023. The team was involved in more operations and was requested for assistance more frequently.

CRU Accomplishments

- Traffic Stops: 2,737
- Assisted with Dispatched Calls: 564
- Arrests: 463
- Joint Operations: 21

The CRU also participated in a county wide jugging operation with the Sugar Land Police Department, Missouri City Police Department, Houston Police Department, and Rosenberg Police Department. The CRU assisted the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office with several human trafficking operations that resulted in several arrests for promotion and compelling of prostitution.



Crime Reduction Unit

CRU also assisted the Criminal Investigations Division, specifically Burglary and Theft, with several burglary operations that resulted in numerous burglary suspects being identified and captured. The CRU further assisted the Investigation Division's narcotics and gang units with several operations that included the roundup of several known gang members in the county that had outstanding warrants. The Crime Reduction Unit also attended several tactical refresher training courses and a few DWI enforcement related training courses.

Take Me Home Program

The Take Me Home Program is managed by Sergeant Matthew Hricko. The families of individuals with a cognitive impairment or a disability, and who are prone to wander, may register their family member by providing emergency contact information, which is entered into a database. In the event of an emergency, law enforcement officers may use the database to locate a missing individual or identify an individual if they are not able to communicate due to their disability.

In 2023, the program saw a 54% increase in dependents registered from 138 to 213 and a 12% increase in law enforcement registered from 352 to 393.



Sergeant Hricko at Senior Health Expo

Honor Guard

The Fort Bend County Honor Guard is comprised of men and women of the Sheriff's office who volunteer their time to train and participate in various functions. The Honor Guard was designed with its primary purpose of service at the funerals of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. However, they serve in an array of functions that include funerals of non-line of duty deaths, parades, rodeo grand entry, civic functions on holidays such as 4th of July, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and any special event as dictated by the Command Staff. This includes assisting outside agencies as the need arises, not only in Fort Bend County, but throughout the State of Texas. The Honor Guard is comprised of the following units: Color Guard, Mounted Color Guard, Fire Team, Memorial Team, Family Assistance Team, and Motorcycle Escort Team.



Honor Guard during 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony



Honor Guard during FBC Law Enforcement Memorial

Dive Team

The Fort Bend Regional Dive Team is a FEMA- certified Public Safety Dive Team. The Northeast Fort Bend Fire Department provides the equipment and training for the dive team. The Fort Bend Regional Dive Team is a regional asset due to the team's status through FEMA, which allows them to respond to water rescues and recoveries all year long, supporting multiple agencies in and around Fort Bend County.

The Fort Bend Regional Dive Team is comprised of 13 divers and four tenders. The divers are a combination of 10 firefighters from the Northeast Fire Department and three divers from the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office. The Dive Team personnel must pass the International Association of Dive Rescue Specialists (I.A.D.R.S.) Annual Watermanship Test each year to show their ability to operate in an aquatic environment. The Dive Team members must also complete a minimum of 18 dives in a three-year period to remain certified.

The Dive Team performs quarterly training throughout the year and takes advantage of specialty training when it is available. The team will participate in Swift Water Rescue training in 2024.

Dive Team Accomplishments

- Deployed 9 times for vehicle recoveries
- Recovered 2 victims

The Fort Bend County Airboat provided to the Dive Team was deployed on 3 of the above incidents. The Airboat was used to rescue a victim stranded on a sandbar, to recover a victim that jumped off a bridge, and to assist with the removal of a vehicle from a lake.

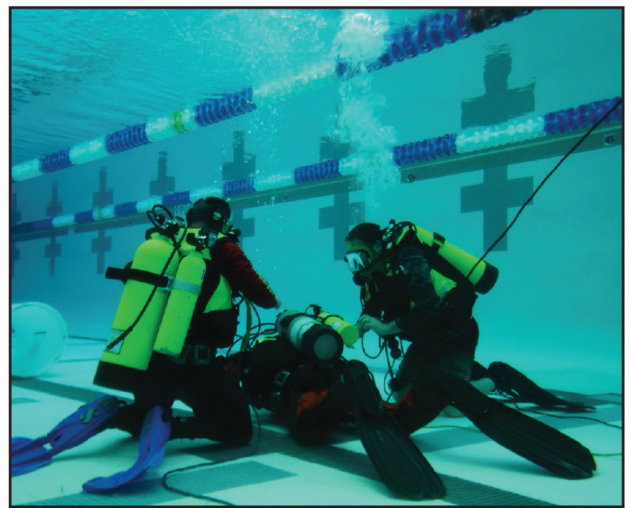
Reserves

The Reserves supplement and support other divisions across the Sheriff's Office, including Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Community Services, Training Academy, Emergency Operations, Courts, and Detention. The Reserves also handle a significant number of self-managed assignments and initiatives.

Duties performed by Reserve Deputies save the taxpayers of Fort Bend County thousands of dollars each year. In 2023, the Reserves provided 4,725 total hours, including 674 Patrol hours and 1,431 Court hours. Additionally, 1,422 hours were dedicated to special assignments and community events throughout the year.



Dive Team in training



Dive Team in training



FBCSO Reserve deputies



Human Resources

The Sheriff's Office Recruiting Team

The Human Resources (HR) Division is led by Human Resources Manager Mark Ned. HR supports the Sheriff's Office by performing functions that include staffing, providing human resource services, coordinating personnel support, recruiting, and conducting analysis.

Human Resources ensures the Sheriff's Office is properly staffed by conducting position reviews, posting job vacancy announcements, vetting, and processing employment applications.

HR Accomplishments

- 408 Freedom of Information (Brady) requests processed
- 106 Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) Secure Share Requests processed
- 68 FMLA applications completed
- 25 Open Records requests from outside entities processed



The Sheriff's Office Recruiting Team at job fair

In coordination with recruiter Deputy Frank Davis, the Human Resources department attended 74 career fairs, local police academies, high schools, and colleges, making over 900 contacts. Human Resources received 414 employment applications and hired 131 personnel. In addition, 12 retirement requests were processed for those that honorably served the Sheriff's Office and Fort Bend County.



The Sheriff's Office Human Resources Team



Coffee with a Cop event

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2024

Building upon the achievements of 2023, we eagerly anticipate the promising prospects that lie ahead in 2024.

In 2023, the Sheriff's Office demonstrated its commitment to technological progress by equipping the regional dive team with cutting-edge technology, such as the Diver Mounted Display. This device enables divers to see up to 300 feet underwater, significantly reducing search and rescue times. Additionally, a partnership between the FBCSO and FUSUS, a public-private crime mitigation and safety platform, was established to create an effective ecosystem for mapping call locations and fuse camera systems with CAD, Axon, and Flock Safety systems.

We look forward to strong leadership and dedicated service in the year to come, January 2024 saw 21 FBCSO employees receiving promotions, while 13 deputies were commended for their exceptional contributions.

Emphasizing collaboration, the Sheriff's Office worked closely with local agencies and The Texas Department of Public Safety to expand the Project Lifesaver Program. Sheriff Eric Fagan's election as Chair of the Houston High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Executive Board further strengthened the Sheriff's Office, providing additional tools and strategies to assess and combat drug trafficking threats in the region and enable greater multijurisdictional collaboration as we manage complex criminal investigations and violent crime.

While significant achievements were made in 2023, there is more work ahead. The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office's goals for the next fiscal year include:

- Continued focus on community-oriented policing, working with neighborhoods and communities to address crime, disorder, and delinquency
- Engagement with neighboring police jurisdictions, community leaders, and NGOs to interdict and dismantle human, drug, bulk cash smuggling, labor, and sex trafficking and other forms of organized crime
- Ensuring a well-trained and competent work force by establishing training priorities, such as ALERRT/AAIR training
- Continuing to seek programs, projects, and initiatives to improve community well-being and resiliency
- Seeking funding sources for police technology, tools, equipment, and projects that are not currently budgeted
- Promoting police accountability, ethics, and integrity of our employees to ensure legitimacy

To the dedicated men and women of the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office: Your daily efforts are truly commendable, and we applaud you. Thanks to your commitment, our community remains in safe hands. Let's continue the outstanding work!



Groundbreaking for Advanced Regional Training Complex

In September 2023, Fort Bend County Commissioners Court approved a County Property Lease for a new Sheriff's Office Training Facility. Groundbreaking occurred in January 2024 and construction is currently underway.

The training complex will be among the most advanced regional training complexes in the metropolitan Houston area and the largest in Fort Bend County. The 189,523 square foot complex will host training sessions for municipal, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

The 2-story training facility will contain 8 modern classrooms, an auditorium, administrative offices, conference rooms, and space for the Sheriff's Office Emergency Communications Center and EMS administrative offices. The facility will house Academy instructors and supervisors, administrative staff, Kids and Cops Officers, and firearms and driving skills instructors. Additionally, Telecommunicators, dispatchers, supervisors, and support staff will occupy the second floor.

A separate firearms range on the same complex will facilitate both rifle and handgun training and qualification, allowing for realistic simulations of active shooter scenarios.

The training complex will also include a ½ mile concrete driving track, a skills tower for SWAT teams, an area for K9 training, a physical fitness center, padded defensive tactics room, and a computer lab.

Since the founding of the Sheriff's Office in 1837, employees have received firearms training at outdoor firearms ranges owned by other law enforcement agencies. This new complex provides the County's first-ever firearms training center and will be available to Sheriff's Office employees and officers of other agencies.



INDEX

Communications Productivity Report	i
Call Volume Statistics	ii
Alarm Permit Data Productivity Report	iv

FBCSO Communications Productivity Report

Call Data	2023	2022
• Calls Incoming/Outgoing		
○ 9-1-1	186,578	164,274
○ 10 Digit	248,486	323,750
▪ Total.....	435,064	488,024
• Calls for service		
○ E.M.S.	51,909	48,727
○ Fire	40,855	39,570
○ Police	472,836	430,630
▪ Total	565,600	518,927
<u>Radio Transmissions</u>		
• Police Channels		
○ PAT 1 (Districts 2,5,7).....	801,881	819,110
○ PAT 2 (Districts 1,3,8,9).....	811,291	846,178
○ PAT 3 (Districts 4,6).....	870,091	891,259
▪ Total	2,483,263	2,556,547
• Fire/EMS Channels		
○ ERD 1&2.....	362,341	375,101
○ ERD 3&4.....	334,708	346,922
○ ERD TAC 1.....	15,671	15,631
○ ERD TAC 2	4,934	3,885
▪ Total	717,654	741,539
<u>Data Entry</u>		
• Entries/Clears into TCIC/NCIC database		
○ Entries/Modifies/Locates.....	8,575	
○ Clears/Cancel	4,807	
Total.....	13,382	
<u>Staff Retention</u>		
• Number of TCOs hired, transferred, terminated, or resigned in 2023		
○ Hired.....	20	
▪ Of those 20 retained	13	
○ Total Resignations	10	
○ Transferred	1	
○ Terminated	0	

Call Volume Statistics

The Communications Center is recognized as the Fort Bend County Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and serves as the Fort Bend County 911 Emergency Call Center, operating 24 hours per day. The Call Center's 2023 performance was outstanding, as call-takers, radio dispatchers, and support staff managed all incoming Fire, EMS, and Police calls within the Communications industry standards for best practices. Of the **186,578** 9-1-1 calls received, **97% of those were answered in 15 seconds or less**, surpassing the Greater Harris County 9-1-1 network service level standard of 95%. Every conceivable call type was handled by standards upheld by the Association of Public Safety Officials (APCO) and GHC911 best practices.

This year, the following call volume was managed by each of the separate radio dispatch channels:

PAT 1, districts 2, 5, and 7, representing Northwest Fort Bend County (Katy, Fulshear, Rosenberg, and Orchard areas); 106,243;

PAT 2, districts 1, 3, 8, and 9, representing Southwest and Central Fort Bend County (Rosenberg, Beasley, Pleak, Needville, Fairchilds, and Longpoint areas); 93,766;

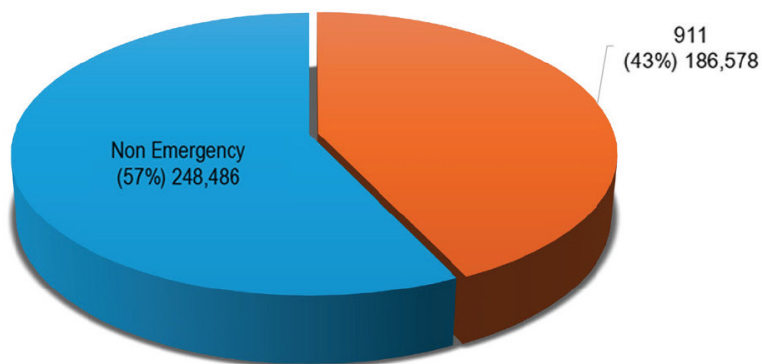
PAT 3, districts 4 and 6, representing East and Northeast Fort Bend County (Sugar Land, Fresno, Missouri City, Greatwood, Meadows Place, and Four Corners areas); 108,561;

CW, representing calls involving units such as warrants, task forces, multijurisdictional units, and others; 6,579;

OUT, representing outside first responder agencies; 33,365; and

SOU, representing Special Operations Units for dedicated programs, projects, and initiatives; 1.

The percentages are depicted in the Police Calls pie chart and Calls by DGroup.

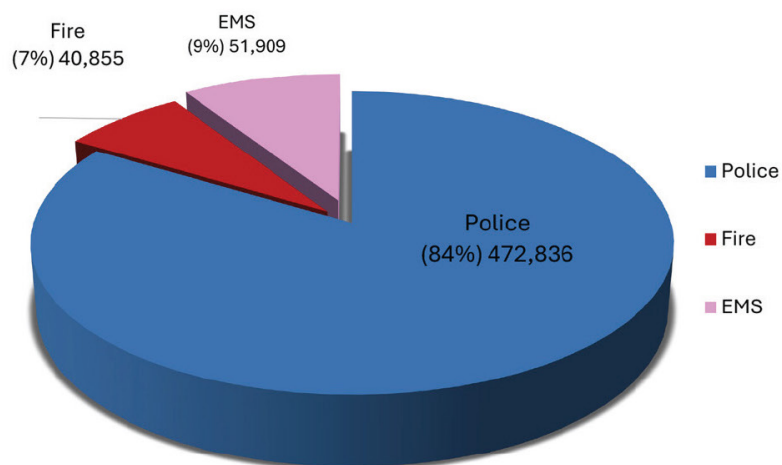
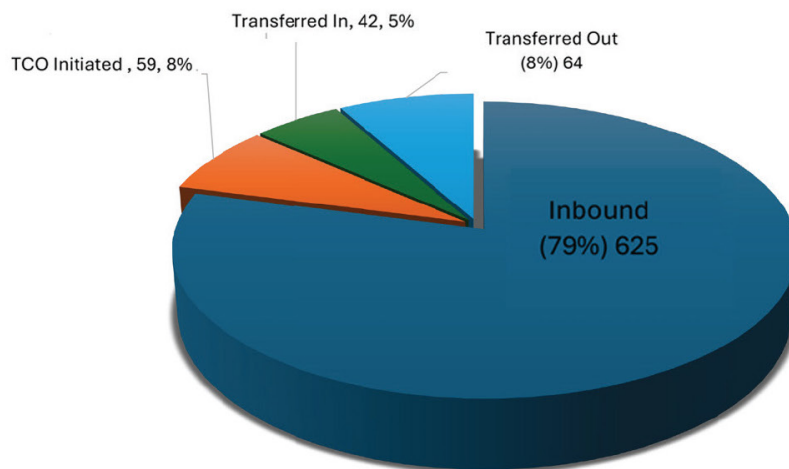


Incoming Call Volume

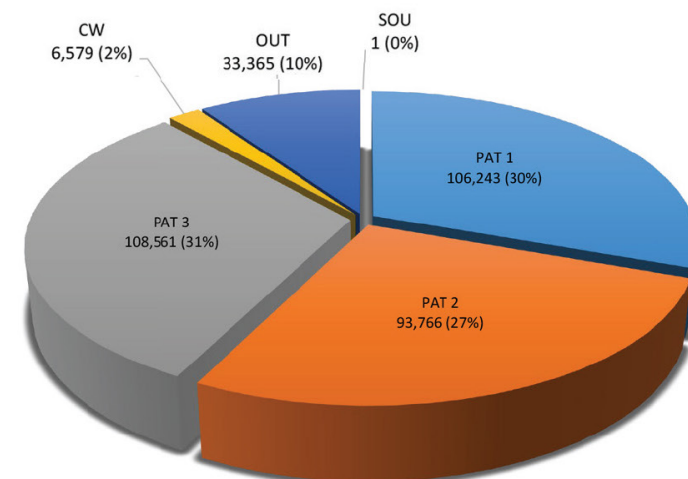
911
Non Emergency

Text to 9-1-1

Inbound
TCO Initiated
Transferred In
Transferred Out



Calls Received by Service Type



Police Calls by Patrol Channel (PAT)

PAT 1
PAT 2
PAT 3
CW
OUT
SOU

Alarm Permit Data Productivity Report

	In-Office	Online	Total
New Permit \$35	239	1,673	1,912
Total	\$8,365	\$58,555	\$66,920

Expired \$35	196	1,750	1,946
Total	\$6,860	\$61,250	\$68,110

Renewal \$10	3,504	18,823	22,327
Total	\$35,040	\$188,230	\$223,270

Overall Total	3,939	22,246	26,185
Total	\$50,265	\$308,035	\$358,300

Alarm | Calls For Service

- Alarm Calls For Service | 16,816
 - Preventable False Alarms | 16,810
 - Offense Reports | 6
 - (2) Disturbance
 - (1) Felony Theft
 - (1) Burglary Of Business
 - (1) Attempted Burglary
 - (1) Significant Incident

Annual Stats | False Alarm Calls

2023	16,816
2022	17,503
2021	17,042
2020	14,838
2019	21,333
2018	20,803
2017	24,231



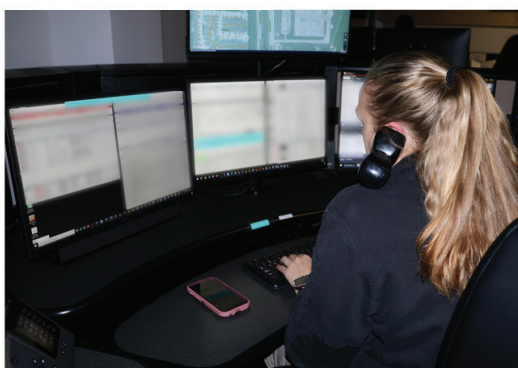
**WE'RE
DOING
THE
WORK!**

#WEAREFORTBEND



FBCSO IS HIRING

APPLY TODAY!



- **Civilian Detention Officers**
- **9-1-1 Dispatchers**
- **Patrol Deputies**

Contact Us

☎ **281.341.4665 non-emergency**

✉ fbcso pio@fortbendcountytexas.gov

📍 1840 Richmond Parkway
Richmond, Texas 77469

🌐 fbcsheriff.org

FOLLOW US!



Eric Fagan
FORT BEND COUNTY SHERIFF

