

# 2024 Annual Report



## ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**SHERIFF CHAD D. SCOTT**

2621 SE Hawthorne Road

P.O. Box 5489

Gainesville, Florida 32627





## January

ACSO deputies and members of our Special Teams attended Newberry High School's Criminal Justice Expo on January 11<sup>th</sup>. They interacted with students and those interested in working in a public service field. The Recruitment Team, Aviation Unit, SWAT Team, Bomb Squad, and Marine Operations/Underwater Recovery Team all participated in the event.



## February

On Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, ACSO highlighted the heroes who keep our kids safe every school day. No matter the weather, they are out on the roadways watching for gaps in traffic to minimize disruptions in the flow and educating children on how to properly and safely cross the street.



## March

ACSO completed a radKIDS© class during Spring Break at Lake Forest Elementary. Eleven children graduated the safety and empowerment course and now know how to recognize and avoid danger.



## April

ACSO deputies assisted with the DEA Drug Take Back events in April. A total of 73.8 pounds of unused medication was turned in for destruction. These events are held semiannually - in April and again in October - each year.



## May

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, ACSO took part in the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Gator Lodge 67 Fraternal Order of Police Law Enforcement Officer Memorial. Each year, we join with surrounding agencies in a uniformed show of support for officers who gave the ultimate sacrifice to the Alachua County community.



## June

Members of ACSO's Special Teams took part in a weapons of mass destruction scenario at the University of Florida. They joined members from several other partner agencies.



## July

ACSO's school resource deputies attended the 2024 Florida Association of School Resource Officer's Conference in Orlando, Florida. During their training, they won first place in a volleyball tournament!

Sgt. PJ Mauldin was also appointed to FASRO's board as the Secretary.



## August

We opened our fifth precinct in the county! The Archer Precinct, located at the Archer Community Center, had its Grand Opening on Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. ACSO Command Staff and other employees met with and greeted Archer's mayor, commissioners, and residents.



## September

Hurricane Helene made landfall as a Category 4 storm on September 26<sup>th</sup> in Florida's Big Bend area. Even though Alachua County was not in the path of the eye wall, Helene's strong tropical storm force winds and gusts caused extensive damage across the area. Deputies cleared roadways and directed traffic, in addition to their routine patrol calls.



## October

National Coffee with a Cop Day was Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. ACSO deputies and command staff visited and enjoyed breakfast with residents of The Village at Gainesville.



## November

The Aviation Unit took part in Santa Fe College's "Run with the Cops" event on Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. This free event encouraged all ages to walk/run alongside law enforcement from local agencies and allowed attendees to see the equipment used in public safety.



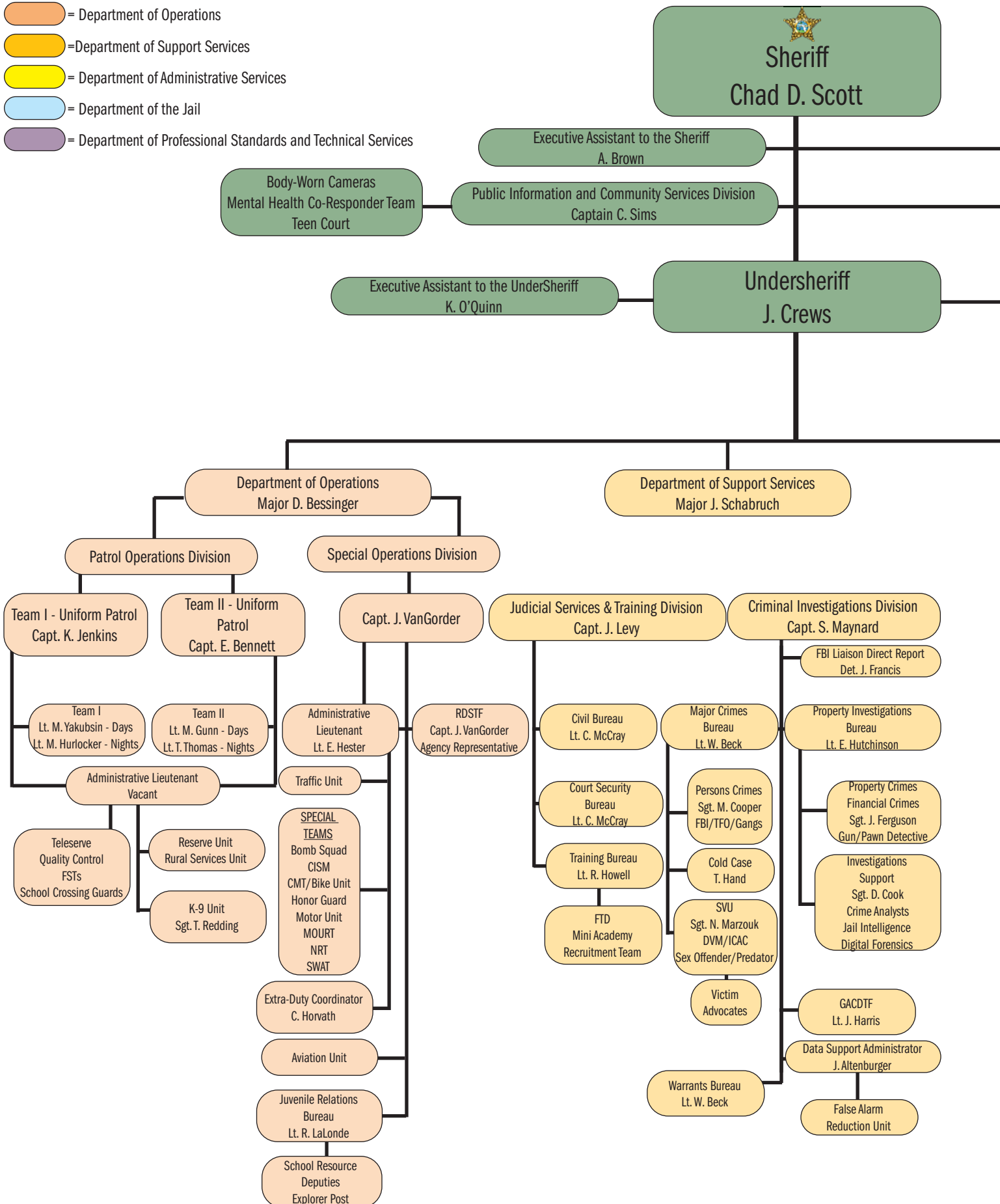
## December

ACSO joined area partner agencies on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Tacachale Center parade in Gainesville.



# Organizational Structure

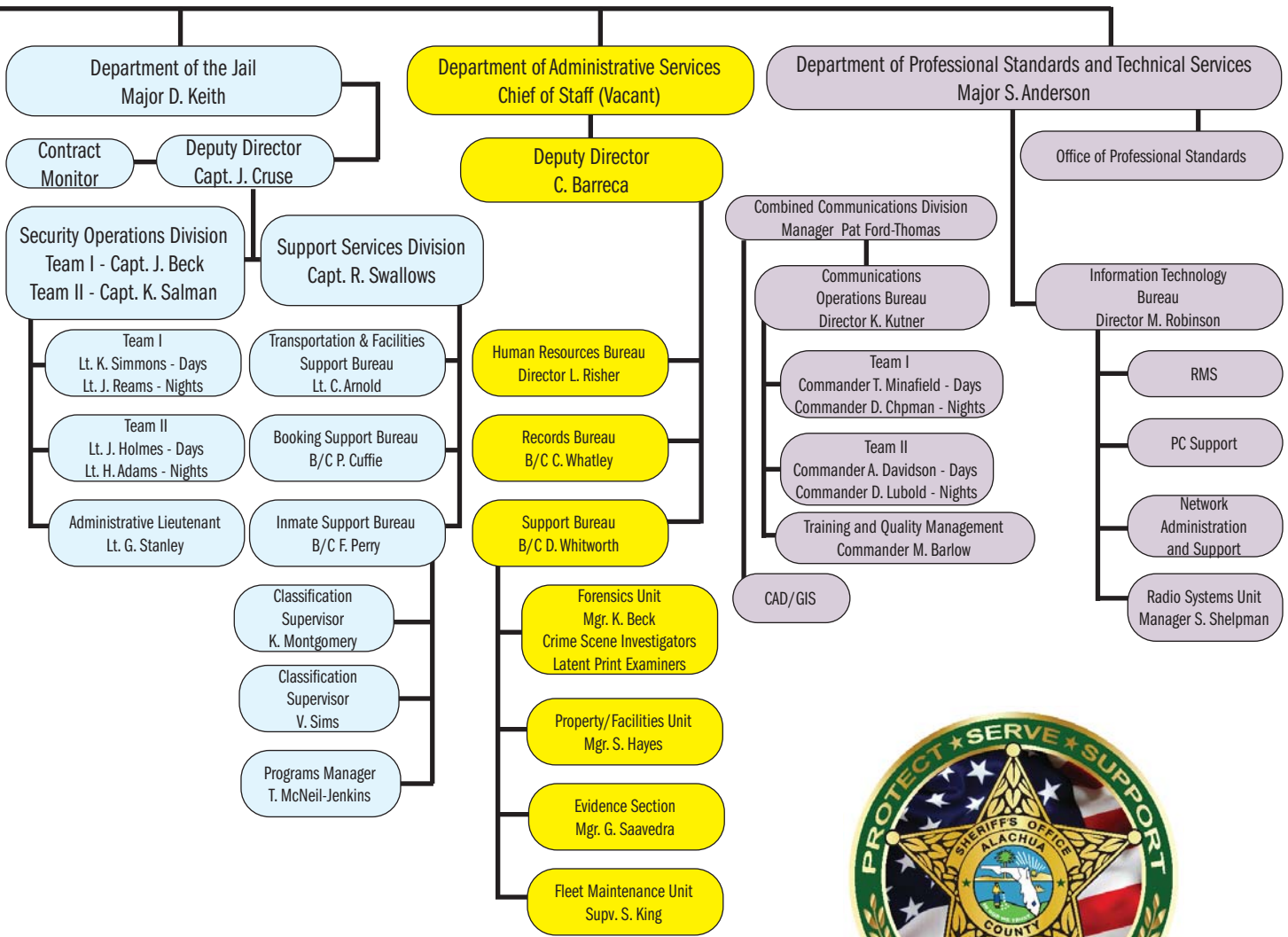
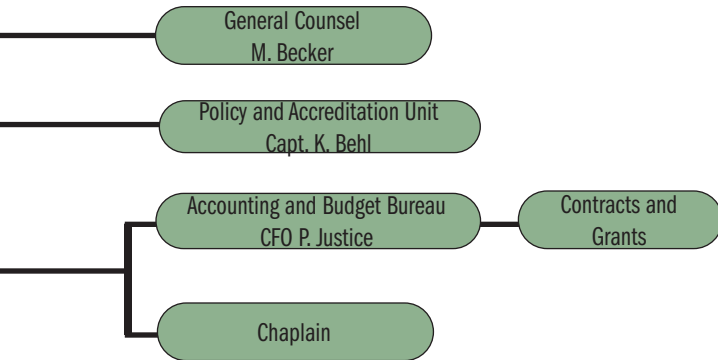
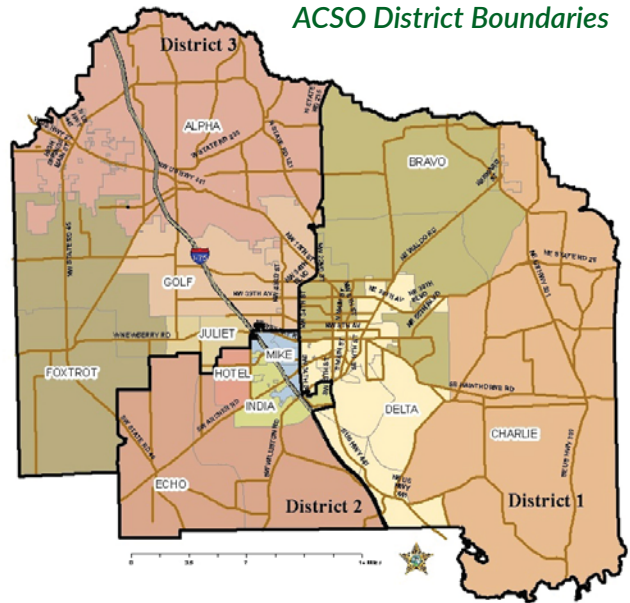
- = Office of the Sheriff/Direct Reports
- = Department of Operations
- = Department of Support Services
- = Department of Administrative Services
- = Department of the Jail
- = Department of Professional Standards and Technical Services





ACSO District Boundaries

|            |
|------------|
| DISTRICT 1 |
| BRAVO      |
| CHARLIE    |
| DELTA      |
| DISTRICT 2 |
| ECHO       |
| HOTEL      |
| INDIA      |
| MIKE       |
| DISTRICT 3 |
| ALPHA      |
| FOXTROT    |
| GOLF       |
| JULIET     |





## Administration Building

Physical Address: 2621 SE Hawthorne Rd.  
Gainesville, FL 32641

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5489  
Gainesville, FL 32627

Phone: (352) 367-4000



## Civil Bureau

Alachua County  
Administration Building

12 SE 1<sup>st</sup> St., #148  
Gainesville, FL 32601

Phone: (352) 384-3051



## Combined Communications

1100 SE 27<sup>th</sup> St.  
Gainesville, FL 32641

Phone: (352) 955-1818

**9-1-1 for  
Emergencies**



## Court Security Bureau

Judge Stephan P.  
Mickle, Sr., Courthouse

220 S. Main St.  
Gainesville, FL 32601

Phone: (352) 264-7081



## Court Security Bureau

Alachua County Family  
& Civil Justice Center

201 E. University Ave.  
Gainesville, FL 32601

Phone: (352) 374-3654



## Department of the Jail

3333 NE 39<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Gainesville, FL 32609

Phone: (352) 491-4444



## Training Bureau

Santa Fe College  
Institute of Public Safety

3737 NE 39<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
#2683

Phone: (352) 271-2903

## ACSO Precincts

5040 SW 91<sup>st</sup> Terr.  
Unit K101,  
Gainesville, FL  
(Haile Plantation)

2851 SW 35<sup>th</sup> Dr.  
Gainesville, FL  
(Butler Plaza)

## ACSO Precincts

6875 SE 221<sup>st</sup> St.,  
Hawthorne, FL

14450 NE 148<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Bldg 1, Rm 002,  
Waldo, FL

## ACSO Precincts

20613 N. SR 121  
LaCrosse, FL

617 SW 69<sup>th</sup> St., Apt. A  
Gainesville, FL  
(Holly Heights)

## ACSO Precincts

16671 SW 137<sup>th</sup> Ave.,  
Archer, FL

22211 W. Newberry Rd.  
Newberry, FL



## Our Mission

Service to the community first,  
commitment to the employees always.



## Our Value Statement

Protect, serve and support our community with integrity.

## Agency Objectives

Provide the highest level of protection to our citizens and the community.

Provide the highest level of professional service to our citizens and  
community.

Provide our employees with support, development, and resources that  
promote excellence in protection and service.

THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIPS, WE ARE THE ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

**A**lways **C**ommitted to **S**erving **O**thers

## A Word on Organization

With a new administration in place at the beginning of 2025, our agency has experienced some organizational changes. While the statistical information for each area is from the calendar year 2024 during Emery A. Gainey's tenure as Alachua County Sheriff, this report is structured to mirror the current organizational structure and lists the current command staff under newly-elected Sheriff Chad D. Scott. Please refer to the organizational chart on the previous page for reference in finding a specific entity within the agency.





Sheriff Chad D. Scott has dedicated over three decades to serving Alachua County through a distinguished law enforcement career. A lifelong resident of the county, Sheriff Scott was born at Alachua General Hospital and raised in Newberry, Florida, where he learned the importance of community values and hard work. After graduating from Newberry High School, Sheriff Scott earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Bethel College in Kansas.

In 1990, Sheriff Scott began his career at the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, where he served with distinction for over 17 years. Starting as a midnight-shift patrol deputy, he quickly gained a reputation for dedication and integrity. He worked as a school resource officer at Newberry High and Oak View Middle School, where he coached football, counseled students, and helped establish a Criminal Justice program that later became a successful magnet program. Sheriff Scott's leadership continued to shine in the Patrol Division, Special Operations, and Criminal Investigations Division. As a SWAT team member and supervisor in Special Operations, Sheriff Scott implemented innovative drug enforcement programs and secured grants that enhanced the department's capacity to combat narcotics. His tireless work ethic earned respect from colleagues, community members, and partner agencies alike.

After serving as Chief of Police in Alachua, from 2014 to 2022, Sheriff Scott returned to the Sheriff's Office as the Major of Operations and was promoted to Colonel, overseeing critical areas like patrol, investigations, and community outreach.

On November 5, 2024, Sheriff Scott was elected as Sheriff of Alachua County. The Alachua County Sheriff's Office is honored to welcome Sheriff Scott home!





Dear Citizens of Alachua County,

As your Sheriff, I am committed to ensuring the safety, well-being, and security of our community. Over the past year, we have made significant strides in addressing critical issues that affect our daily lives, but there is still more work to be done. I want to take this opportunity to share with you some of the priorities we will continue to focus on in the coming months.

## Addressing Gun Violence

Gun violence remains one of our top concerns, and we are dedicated to working alongside our law enforcement partners to reduce these incidents. We are continuing to enhance our strategies, including focused enforcement efforts, community outreach, and prevention programs aimed at keeping firearms out of the hands of those who would use them to harm others. Our goal is to ensure that all citizens can feel safe in their homes, schools, and neighborhoods.

## Expanding the Mental Health Co-Responder Team

We know that mental health is a critical issue in our community, especially when it intersects with law enforcement. That's why we are expanding our Mental Health Co-Responder Team. This team pairs specially-trained mental health professionals with our deputies to respond to situations involving individuals in crisis. This initiative not only ensures that those in need receive the proper care and treatment, but also helps to prevent unnecessary incarceration, allowing us to address mental health challenges with the compassion and support they deserve.

## Combating Deadly Opioids:

The opioid crisis continues to claim lives across the nation, and Alachua County is not immune. We are intensifying our efforts to combat the deadly impact of opioids in our community. Through stronger partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies, we are working to disrupt the flow of illegal drugs, increase access to treatment options, and provide education to help prevent addiction before it starts.

## Recruiting Top Talent

Finally, our work would not be possible without the dedicated men and women who serve in our agency. We are committed to recruiting and retaining the best talent to serve and protect our community. As we continue to grow and evolve, it is crucial that we bring in individuals who share our passion for service, integrity, empathy and compassion. We are actively seeking individuals who are committed to upholding the highest standards of professionalism and who want to make a lasting impact on Alachua County.

As always, I remain grateful for your continued support. Working together, we can build a safer, healthier community for all. If you see something, say something—your involvement is essential in keeping our community safe.

Thank you for your trust and partnership.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Chad D. Scott

Alachua County Sheriff's Office





**Chad D. Scott**

Sheriff of Alachua County



**Josh Crews**

Undersheriff



**Major  
Scott Anderson**

Professional Standards  
and Technical Services



**Major  
Darrell Bessinger**

Operations



**Major  
Dorian Keith**

Director  
Dept. of the Jail



**Major  
Jon Schabbruch**

Support Services



**Chief of Staff  
Vacant**

Administrative  
Services



**Courtney Barreca**

Deputy Director  
Administrative  
Services



**Captain  
Jason Cruse**

Deputy Director  
Dept. of the Jail



**Captain  
James Beck**

Security Operations  
Dept. of the Jail



**Captain  
Kaley Behl**

Policy and  
Accreditation



**Captain  
Ed Bennett**

Patrol Operations  
Team II





**Division Manager  
Pat Ford-Thomas**  
Technical Services



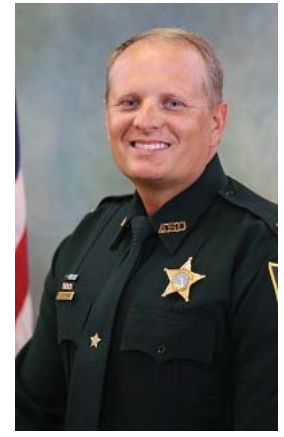
**Captain  
Kelvin Jenkins**  
Patrol Operations  
Team I



**Patty Justice**  
Chief Financial  
Officer



**Captain  
Jayson Levy**  
Judicial Services  
and Training



**Captain  
Steve Maynard**  
Criminal  
Investigations



**Captain  
Kyle Salman**  
Security Operations  
Dept. of the jail



**Captain  
Chris Sims**  
Public Information and  
Community Services



**Captain  
Ray Swallows**  
Support Services  
Dept. of the Jail



**Captain  
Joe VanGorder**  
Special Operations



**Michael Becker**  
General Counsel



**Lisa Brown**  
Executive Assistant  
to the Sheriff



**Laura Compton**  
Executive Assistant  
to the  
Chief of Staff



**Karyn O'Quinn**  
Executive Assistant  
to the Undersheriff



**Cynthia Weygant**  
Contract  
General Counsel

## OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

### *Sheriff Chad D. Scott*

Several entities report directly to Sheriff Scott. They include the General Counsel, Policy and Accreditation Unit, Public Information and Community Services Division, and the Sheriff's Executive Assistant.

Additionally, the Major of the Office of Professional Standards and Technical Services reports directly to the Sheriff regarding internal disciplinary matters.

Undersheriff Crews also reports directly to the Sheriff, as well as having multiple entities that report directly to him, such as:

- Accounting and Budget Bureau
- Agency Chaplain
- Department Managers
  - Administrative Services Chief of Staff
  - Jail Director
  - Office of Professional Standards & Technical Services Major
  - Operations Major
  - Support Services Major



*Undersheriff Crews (left) and Sheriff Scott (right)*

## GENERAL COUNSEL

### *Michael Becker*

The General Counsel provides legal advice and counsel to the Sheriff, Sheriff's Office command staff, and employees in a variety of legal areas, including, but not limited to: the duties, responsibilities, and authority of the Sheriff; criminal law, constitutional law, public records law, and employment law.

The General Counsel also conducts forfeiture litigation, reviews and draft contracts, policy, and mutual aid agreements, as well as providing legal updates to the agency's employees.

## POLICY AND ACCREDITATION UNIT

### *Captain Kaley Behl*

The Policy and Accreditation Unit (PAU) researches, writes, edits, and promulgates the policies and procedures of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office into the Directive Management System (DMS) and ensures that the agency achieves and/or maintains its accredited status. In addition to the unit commander, PAU is comprised of a DOJ lieutenant who oversees the Florida Model Jail Standards (FMJS) and fire inspection processes, an accreditation specialist, and a policy specialist.

Accreditation aids a law enforcement agency's pursuit of professional excellence by strengthening agency accountability, both internally and within the community. Accreditation builds community and governmental support, as well as employee confidence in the direction and future of the agency.

In 2024, unit personnel made 200 substantive policy changes and 792 non-substantive policy changes to keep the agency current with the law and best practices. Changes included 102 revisions to existing policy, 5 new policies, 72 revisions to existing procedures manuals, 1 new manual, 3 revisions to existing forms/worksheets, and 17 new forms/worksheets.



The Alachua County Sheriff's Office is currently accredited through the following accrediting bodies:

#### Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA)

ACSO received its initial CFA accreditation in 1987 and was reaccredited for the fifth consecutive time in 2012, achieving Excelsior Agency status. The last reaccreditation was held in November 2023, with the fifth Excelsior Agency award received in February 2024.

#### Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC)

All aspects of correctional operations are addressed through FCAC standards, including admissions, classification, housing, sanitation, food services, personnel issues, fiscal activities, security, training and medical services. The Department of the Jail received its initial FCAC accreditation in 1999 and was reaccredited for the fifth consecutive time in 2014, earning Excelsior Agency status. The fourth Excelsior award was received in October 2023.



*The ACSO received the National Sheriffs Association's Triple Crown Award in 2000 by simultaneously achieving CALEA, ACA, and NCCHC Accreditation. Acquiring all three at the same time is an extraordinary feat. In fact, Triple Crown distinction is so rare that since the establishment of the award in 1993, only 80 sheriffs' offices nationwide have qualified. This is a one-time award that is maintained by the agency forever.*

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION**

### **Captain Chris Sims**



*Captain Chris Sims*



This newly-created division houses the agency's public information officers and a few of the other high-visibility community services that the ACSO provides, namely Crime Prevention, Community Relations, the Body-Worn Camera Program, the Mental Health Co-Responder Team, and Teen Court.

The agency's two public information officers, Captain Chris Sims and civilian PIO Lisa Sacaccio, are the conduit for the most up-to-date information for the community in all matters relating to the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, providing timely and relevant information directly to the public, as well as to our media partners.

In response to media inquiries, information is researched and shared through print, television, and news releases. Proactive coverage of major events impacting the community, high-profile arrests, and unusual situations occurring within the scope of the ACSO are provided as events unfold.

Media coverage is coordinated to assist other agency functions, including locating fugitives, developing information to aid in criminal investigations, operations at the Jail, and joining with the public to locate missing persons. Additionally, the PIOs maintain the agency website and the agency's social media presence on Facebook, X, Instagram, and YouTube.

The public information function also includes a media production specialist and an administrative specialist who produce educational literature, infographics, videos, the agency annual report, and other projects as needed.

*PIO Lisa Sacaccio as Kim Possible for Trunk or Treat*

## Body Worn Camera Program

*Lieutenant James Coonce*

In 2021, ACSO joined the ranks of law enforcement agencies nationwide utilizing body cameras to improve deputy safety, increase evidence quality, and reduce civilian complaints and agency liability due to false accusations of deputy misconduct or citizen abuse.

## Community Relations

*Community Relations Manager Michelle Sherfield*

Community Relations serves as a liaison between the community and the Sheriff's Office by ensuring that the partnership between ACSO and the community it serves remains strong by attending various community events, developing community partnerships, promoting resources available to community members via the ACSO, and maintaining open communication between the agency and the citizens of Alachua County.

## Crime Prevention Unit

*Sergeant Frank Kinsey*

Crime Prevention offers a plethora of programs and presentations to increase public safety and empower Alachua County citizens of all ages. Currently, the unit offers the following programs to citizens, businesses, religious organizations, and constitutional offices:

- ***RAD for Women***
- ***Introduction to RAD for Women*** (formerly known as SAFE)
- ***RAD for Seniors***
- ***radKIDS®*** (summer camps and support for the nine elementary schools who have integrated ***radKIDS®*** into their curriculum).
- ***Safe Start*** (90-minute introduction to ***radKIDS®***)
- Active shooter/mass casualty awareness & survival
- De-escalation tactics
- Security surveys to homes, churches, and businesses
- ***Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)*** security surveys to homes, churches, and businesses
- Identity theft and scam awareness
- Robbery awareness
- General safety talks to small or large groups
- ***Neighborhood Watch*** and reporting
- ***Deputy Friendly*** to early learning and private schools
- ***Persons with Disabilities Registry***

To find out more about our programs, or view the RAD schedule, visit <https://acso.us/rad-and-safe/>.

## Mental Health Co-Responder Team

*Sergeant Frank Kinsey*

This specialized response group consists of two deputy sheriffs with additional mental health training who are paired with master's level clinicians from Meridian Behavioral Health Services. They provide immediate on scene support, counseling, early trauma



*Manager Sherfield (far right) @ Celebrate the Child*



*2-Hr Intro to RAD to Gator Women's Golf Team*



*From Left: Crime Prevention Deputy Cary Gallop, Bluey, and JRB Deputy Marquise Brathwaite*



*Mental Health Co-Responder Team  
Deputy Matt Davis and  
LE Clinical Specialist Barbara "Babi" Allen*



intervention, and make service referrals for citizens experiencing a mental health crisis. Their goal is to deflect citizens with chronic mental health and substance abuse-related issues from becoming entangled in the criminal justice system.



*Teen Court in session*



*Youth Summit @ Aviation hangar*



*Youth Summit with an ACSO K-9*



*Youth Summit @ Gainesville Fire Rescue*

### Teen Court Youth Services Manager *Olivia Hollier*

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office Teen Court program is a juvenile diversion and alternative sentencing program that offers non-violent, first-time offenders ages 7 to 17 an important second chance, while still teaching them the value of personal integrity, accountability, and responsibility to their community. Serving Alachua County since 1996, Teen Court remains one of the primary tools for addressing juvenile delinquency and prevention.

The program works in coordination with local school administrators and faculty, school resource and patrol deputies, detectives, the State Attorney's Office, Department of Juvenile Justice, Court Administration, and other prevention and diversion programs. Peer case reviews are held throughout the year at the Alachua County Criminal Courthouse.

In 2024, the Teen Court program experienced one of its busiest years yet, processing an impressive 378 juvenile cases - a significant increase from 2023's total of 305 cases. This rise in juvenile delinquency citations reflects the program's growing role in offering a positive alternative to the traditional criminal justice system. The increased volume highlights not only the community's reliance on the program, but also its ability to adapt and expand to meet the needs of Alachua County's youth. Despite the workload, Teen Court staff have remained committed to promoting accountability and providing critical opportunities for personal growth and community connection.

### Community Engagement and Youth Programming

The year has been marked by extensive community engagement and programming. Staff provided vital support in coordinating the annual Washington, D.C. trip, assisting with parking lot logistics and organizing participant paperwork for a smooth and memorable experience.

Youth Services Manager Olivia Hollier represented Alachua County at the annual Youth Court Conference in California, where she presented on diversion utilization, shared program successes on a panel discussion, and gained insights from other diversion programs nationwide.

The **Youth Summit 2024**, organized by Teen Court and Youth and Community Liaison Jasmine Singleton, was a standout event, reflecting the program's dedication to offering educational and enriching experiences for local youth. Youth Summit activities included:

- A full day at ACSO with an opening address from Sheriff Gainey and interactive tours of the Aviation Unit, Combined Communications Center, and the Forensics and K-9 Units.

- Visits to Santa Fe College, UF student life, UF IFAS facilities, and the Florida Museum of Natural History.
- A day long substance abuse prevention seminar hosted by the Health Promotion and Wellness Coalition (HPW), including an interactive escape room.

To ensure accessibility for all participants, Teen Court personnel provided transportation, meals, and snacks throughout the summit. Additionally, Teen Court partnered with HPW for the **Run for Your Life 5K** relay race, offering youth opportunities to earn community service hours while supporting event logistics, and promoting health and opioid abuse prevention education.

## Special Events and Contributions

Amid a very busy year, Teen Court successfully organized the **4th Annual Halloween Trunk or Treat** event at the Alachua County Sheriff's Office. This community-focused event, made possible by ACSO staff, families, and Teen Court volunteers, welcomed over 300 attendees for a safe and enjoyable Halloween experience.

Youth and Community Liaison Jasmine Singleton was instrumental in managing Teen Court's increasingly demanding schedule and fostering new community relationships to support expanded programming. Her achievements include:

- Assisted in organizing the **Youth Summit 2024**, ensuring its success and forging new partnerships to fund and sustain event activities.
- Implemented **Donuts with a Deputy** at elementary schools to strengthen relationships between students and law enforcement.
- Coordinated monthly **Excellence Awards** for deputy-nominated students, recognizing the children's achievements.
- Organized and secured funding for **Shop with a Sheriff**, where over 20 students nominated by school resource deputies shopped for gifts at Five Below or TJMaxx.
- Served as the civilian leader for ACSO's Explorer Program, managing meetings, events, participant recruitment, and transportation.
- Assisted with ACSO's **radKIDS®** summer camp as a certified instructor, promoting safety education and empowerment for youth.

Case Manager Zakiya Speed earned **radKIDS®** instructor certification in 2024 and contributed significantly by assisting with **radKIDS®** summer camp and supporting classes at Micanopy Area Cooperative School (MACS), helping to expand safety education across the county.

Youth Services Manager Hollier played a key role in supporting Crime Prevention Deputy Cary Gallop with **Introduction to Women's RAD** classes across numerous communities, ensuring safety education reached diverse populations throughout the county.

## A Year of Growth and Impact

The Teen Court program continues to exemplify its mission of promoting accountability, opportunity, and community connection for Alachua County's youth. In what has been one of its busiest years to date, the program has risen to meet the demands of a growing caseload, expanded programming, and community engagement. Through the dedication of its staff and strong partnerships, Teen Court empowers youth to make positive changes, strengthen their community connections, and build brighter futures.



from left: Sgt. Charles Hunt, Jasmine Singleton, Olivia Hollier, Zakiya Speed, and Deputy Jack Miller

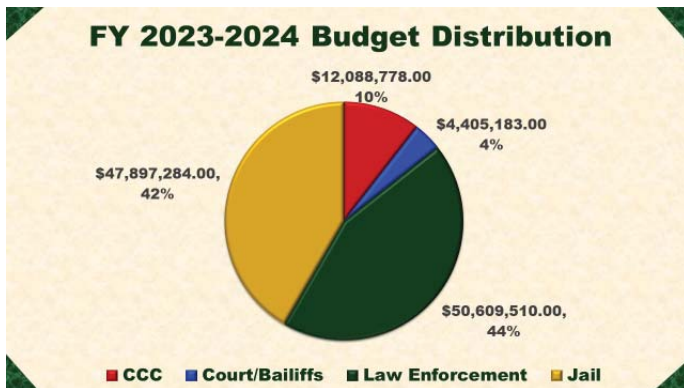


Redbeard the Pirate (AKA JRB Sergeant PJ Mauldin) gave out candy at the 2024 Trunk or Treat. Arrrr!



## UNDERSHERIFF JOSH CREWS

The Undersheriff is the second-in-command at the Sheriff's Office and answers directly to the Sheriff. Undersheriff Crews is responsible for overseeing the Accounting and Budget Bureau, Agency Chaplain, and the managers of the five agency departments: Administrative Services, Jail, Operations, Office of Professional Standards and Technical Services, and Support Services. Each department is headed by a manager at the rank of major except for the Department of Administrative Services, which is headed by a civilian chief of staff.



### Accounting and Budget Bureau Chief Financial Officer Patty Justice

The Accounting and Budget Bureau (A&B) is responsible for the sound and timely accounting of all fiscal matters in accordance with generally-accepted accounting principles and governmental accounting standards. The bureau prepares the annual certified budget for presentation to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and monitors the budget throughout the year.

The bureau also hosts the annual independent audit of the agency's financial statements and prepares the statements for presentation to the Auditor General. Other responsibilities include accounts payable, accounts receivable, bi-weekly payroll processing and quality control, purchasing, trust funds, and grant financial recording.

*The audit for the 2023-2024 fiscal year marked the 25<sup>th</sup> year in a row of clean audit opinions with no audit findings.*

ACSO's General Fund budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year was \$115,000,755. The main sources of funding for the Sheriff's Office budget are transfers from the BOCC, consisting mostly of *ad valorem* revenues in the form of property taxes. The budget funds salaries and benefits, operating expenses, and capital-related items. The budget is divided into four main functions: Law Enforcement, Jail, Combined Communications, and Court Security/Bailiffs.

Salaries and benefits make up over 79 percent of the total General Fund budget. Operating costs consist primarily of technology-related expenses, liability and auto insurance, and mandated contracts such as the Inmate Medical and Mental Health contracts, which alone represents 61 percent of the Jail's total operating costs. Vehicles and replacement equipment represent 100 percent of the capital-related budget.

The agency has various special revenue funds linked to specific sources and legally restricted to expenditures for defined purposes. These special revenue funds consist mainly of state and federal grants awarded to the agency throughout the year. The agency was awarded \$1,837,291 in grant monies which are used to fund many important aspects of the agency such as equipment, overtime, and salary payments.



*Pastor Natron Curtis*

### Agency Chaplain Pastor Natron Curtis

Previously, the Chaplain's Office was entirely a function of the Jail. Now, however, Pastor Curtis is housed at the Main Headquarters Building and is available to offer spiritual guidance and encouragement to all agency employees. He is also responsible for faith-based inmate programming and coordinating volunteer chaplaincy opportunities at the Jail.

*All denominations are eligible to offer services at the DOJ.*

## DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

### Deputy Director Courtney Barreca

The Department of Administrative Services is primarily comprised of civilian employees in administrative support positions and is managed by a civilian chief of staff, equivalent to a sworn major. Currently, the chief of staff position is vacant and the department is under the command of Deputy Director Barreca. The Human Resources Bureau, Records Bureau, and the Support Bureau fall under this department.

### Human Resources Bureau

#### Director Larry Risher

In the last several years, ACSO has experienced some of the same difficulties in attracting qualified staff that have affected the public safety industry nationwide. During 2024, ACSO's Human Resources Bureau continued to work to expand its reach to qualified candidates while the ACSO Administrative Office worked with county and other officials and entities to continue to enhance ACSO's salary and benefits package to keep us competitive in a tight job candidate market. This year, many of our recruiting efforts have been focused on outreach to military veterans who are reestablishing themselves in civilian life, as well as those with prior public safety experience.

The focus of our hiring outreach has been primarily in sworn/certified positions in law enforcement and corrections, and civilian positions in our 9-1-1 call center; however, we've also been able to place many candidates elsewhere in our agency as a result of contacts made while hiring for our three primary areas of focus.

ACSO remains committed to ensuring that when the citizens of Alachua County need assistance, they can rely on the Alachua County Sheriff's Office to provide qualified and compassionate help.



*If you or someone you know is interested in a career in public safety, our open positions are always available at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/alachuasheriff>.*

### Records Bureau

#### Bureau Chief Chris Whatley

The Records Bureau is responsible for customer service to the public and support for agency personnel. The services provided include fingerprinting, public records request fulfillment in accordance with Chapter 119 of the Florida State Statutes, maintenance of all agency law enforcement incident report files, and data entry into various records management systems.

The bureau is responsible for the entry and maintenance of all countywide wanted persons, agency-reported missing persons, injunctions, and agency-reported stolen property items into the Florida and National Crime Information Centers (FCIC/



*Records Bureau Customer Service Window*



NCIC) within guidelines set by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Additionally, the bureau provides centralized storage and retrieval for all incident and traffic crash reports generated by ACSO. Bureau staff also direct all incoming switchboard calls to the proper location and maintain Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data for inclusion into state and national crime statistics.

The Records Customer Service Window, located in the main lobby of the Administration Building at 2621 SE Hawthorne Road, is open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Several services are available to the public. Those services and their associated fees are listed below.

## Additional Information for Records Services

- A local arrest history check or background check provides a listing of Alachua County arrests. Case disposition information is available through the Alachua County Clerk of Court.
- A photo ID is required for most services as some information may be legally restricted to certain persons.
- Accepted forms of payment include cash, money orders, business checks, and debit/credit cards. Please note that we do not accept personal checks.

| Service   | Fee               |
|---|-------------------|
| Notary Services   | Free of Charge    |
| Concealed Weapon Fingerprinting   | \$5.00            |
| Local Arrest History Checks   | \$6.00            |
| Other Fingerprinting Services   | \$6.00            |
| Public Records Requests   | * Cost to Produce |
| * Public records requests requiring more than 15 minutes to produce, or are greater than 20 pages in length, have associated fees based on the employee compensation rate(s) for the time required. No fees are assessed for requests requiring less than 15 minutes to complete, or are fewer than 20 pages in length. |                   |

**Records Customer Service Window  
Table of Fees**

## Support Bureau

### Bureau Chief Daryl Whitworth

The Support Bureau is comprised of the Evidence Section, Fleet Maintenance Unit, Forensics Unit, and the Property Unit.

## Evidence Section

### Evidence Manager Glynda Saavedra



*Evidence storage*

A successful criminal prosecution depends on how evidence is handled and preserved. Evidence must be packaged properly, documented accurately, and stored correctly. If an error occurs, or the “chain of custody” is compromised, criminals can go free, putting the community and its citizens at risk. When a case is over and the evidence is no longer needed, every attempt is made to return items to their rightful owner.

There are over 83,000 individual pieces of evidence and lost or abandoned property currently held in the Evidence Section. More than 800 new items are received and processed each month. In 2024, Evidence Section staff took in over 2,100 narcotics items and more than 480 firearms, which is about 40 firearms per month. This does not include firearms from other agencies. Approximately 135 firearms were turned over to the Property Unit for trade and 144 firearms were destroyed. Our Evidence Section is audited on an annual basis and a full audit is conducted with each change in Sheriff. Over the 18 month period between September 2023 and February 2025, three audits have resulted in zero discrepancies.

The Evidence Section returns property to citizens after their cases are adjudicated. Evidence specialists investigate the case to see which items can be returned or disposed of in accordance with Florida State Statutes. Evidence specialists disposed of over 6,700 items in 2024. We also return personal property to victims’ families following death investigations, which can be extremely emotional events. Staff conduct attorney viewings of evidence in many ACSO cases with the Assistant State Attorney, Public Defender, and/or private attorneys. In cases such as homicides, each article of evidence must be opened carefully so as not to contaminate other evidence, a process that can take several hours.

*Unclaimed evidentiary items and lost or abandoned property are available for sale at [www.propertyroom.com](http://www.propertyroom.com).*

### Fleet Maintenance Unit *Fleet Manager Steve King*

The Fleet Maintenance Unit (FMU) is responsible for acquiring, maintaining, and disposing of all agency vehicles. The seven employees, including a fleet manager, fleet specialist, emergency vehicle electronics technician, and four Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certified master technicians are responsible for the maintenance of over 519 cars, trucks, SUVs, vans, motorcycles, and specialized vehicles. During 2024, those vehicles were driven a combined total of 5,460,154 miles. The bulk of the unit's budget of \$5,195,705 is devoted to the purchasing and outfitting of vehicles, fuel costs, and the repair of agency vehicles.

Some of the duties of the unit include the aftermarket installation of all necessary emergency equipment, radios, decals, and vehicle cameras. Unit personnel are also responsible for maintaining all vehicle titles and license plates, as well as coordinating vehicle collision and damage repairs with the agency's insurance company and outside body shop vendors. FMU personnel coordinated repairs for 152 damaged vehicles in 2024.

The unit ensures vehicle warranty repairs and safety recalls are completed, processes vehicle work orders, and maintains a vehicle repair/maintenance history on every fleet vehicle. Fuel purchases are automated and every driver is issued a PIN number. Fuel costs for calendar year 2024 totaled \$1,254,317.

FMU personnel are responsible for processing all vehicle-related expense payments and disposing of surplus vehicles by advertising to other local agencies and through the use of an auction company. ACSO received \$182,540 in revenue from the sale of surplus vehicles in 2024. The unit also prepares an annual budget for replacement vehicles, fuel costs, anticipated vehicle maintenance expenses, and repair costs. In 2024, the unit replaced 38 agency vehicles.

### Forensics Unit *Manager Katie Beck*

As seen on television, crime scene investigators accomplish the amazing technical feats that lead to the most elusive arrests. In 2024, ACSO's Forensic Unit processed 314 crime scenes and handled another 1,767 requests to analyze evidence seized and brought back to the Sheriff's Office forensics lab.

Latent print examiners compared 2,094 sets of fingerprints related to 189 separate cases, identifying 450 previously unknown individuals.

In addition to the forensic manager, the unit is staffed by six crime scene investigators and two latent print examiners.



*Master Fleet Technician Steven Christoffersen*



*CSI Julia Friedrich processing a vehicle for evidence.*



## Property/Facilities Unit *Property Supervisor Sandi Hayes*



*New hire equipment*



*Property Specialist Dale Cruse and Property Supervisor Sandi Hayes store stock.*



*Property entrance*

The Property Unit is the central receiving and distribution point for all supplies, deliveries, and package pickups for ACSO. The unit serves the agency with two stores for distribution of supplies: one at the Main Administration Building and one at the Department of the Jail. The unit's primary responsibilities are:

- Outfitting all newly-hired deputies with uniforms, weapons, building keys, and first responders' equipment items such as trauma kits and automated defibrillators (AEDs). The unit also issues replacement items for permanent employees and keeps track of all the specialized equipment that is issued to ACSO's Special Teams (SWAT, Bomb, MO/URT, etc.)
- Creating and maintaining ACSO inventories. When an item (fixed asset) is received, it is assigned a property number and entered into the agency's financial management program. The item is then delivered to the receiving unit and inventoried on an annual basis.
- Inspecting weapons housed in the armory for operational readiness on a bi-annual basis. A full inventory on all weapons is conducted annually. The unit also rotates weapons to ensure the agency always has the most capable weapons available on hand.
- Controlling all building keys. This includes keeping track of employees leaving the agency to have keys returned, or cutting new keys as required. The unit maintains a record of all lost or damaged keys, as well as any newly-made keys. Keys are inventoried annually to ensure building security. The unit also oversees the exchange of door handles or re-keying of door locks as needed.
- Acquiring, maintaining, and distributing office supplies and general stock for all of the agency's buildings.

During 2024, Property Unit personnel:

- Processed 86 newly-hired deputy sheriffs, detention officers, field service technicians, school crossing guards, and cadets; to include fitting, ordering, and issuing of all uniforms and equipment needed to perform their assigned jobs.
- Processed 217 additions to the Fixed Asset inventory, totaling \$3,995,499.58; as well as 273 deletions totaling \$2,295,680.69. All were balanced within the GMBA accounting module.
- Processed 188 stock requisitions from agency components, totaling \$101,470.72.
- Processed several store orders to keep stock available for the agency.
- Processed 1,970 purchase orders.
- Received, checked in, and recorded serial numbers for 284 new weapons.
- Received 135 firearms eligible for trade from Evidence.



## DEPARTMENT OF THE JAIL

### *Major Dorian Keith, Director*

The Department of the Jail (DOJ) is a mid-sized detention facility with a design capacity of 970 inmates and a maximum operating capacity of 1,140 inmates. The average daily inmate count for calendar year 2024 was 889.

The DOJ oversees an annual budget covering an array of jail operations, to include personnel and inmate operating expenses and services. Other interesting facts about the DOJ include:

- Accredited by the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC) at the Excelsior level.
- Accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC).
- Meets or exceeds the annual Florida Model Jail Standards (FMJS) and medical standards audits.
- Conducts routine operational readiness and line inspections.
- Compliant with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) zero tolerance policy.
- Regular participant of the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Grant Planning Committee (CJMHSAG).
- Participates in the Public Safety Coordinating Council.

## MEDICAL CONTRACT MONITOR

The medical contract monitor is primarily responsible for monitoring the terms and value of the medical contract held between the DOJ and the current inmate medical vendor - Wellpath. This responsibility is crucial in order to provide adequate and quality health care to our inmates while also ensuring that inmate health services meet standards.

## DOJ SECURITY OPERATIONS DIVISION

### *Captain James Beck Team I*

### *Captain Kyle Salman Team II*

The Security Operations Division is responsible for the overall security of the DOJ, overseeing the safety of all visitors, personnel, and inmates. Detention deputies and detention officers are responsible for the management, accountability, and supervision of each inmate detained in the Department of the Jail. Their duties involve supervising and coordinating daily activities within the facility. Some of these duties include:

- Service of meals.
- Recreation.
- Visitation.
- Inspection of housing areas for security breaches and sanitation.
- Inmate counts.
- Internal movement to educational and religious programs.
- Medical clinic visits.
- Distribution of linen and hygiene items.



*Detention Officer  
Angela Glenn*





*Detention Officers Calob Allen & Nyreka Smith*

- Inmate commissary.
- Reporting facility rule violations by inmates.
- Resolving disputes between inmates.
- Response to emergencies within the jail.

Detention deputies and detention officers assigned to the Security Operations Division also perform the security-related tasks required for the admission and release of inmates incarcerated in the facility. During the admission process, arrestees are searched for contraband and fingerprinted with the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). Digital photographs are taken to confirm identity and to record scars, tattoos, and other identifying markings.

### Cell Extraction Response Team

CERT is a specialized unit comprised of detention deputies/officers from throughout the DOJ. They respond to facility incidents requiring specialized training and equipment to safely resolve high-risk inmate situations, such as barricaded inmates. The CERT team is deployed to provide facility security during protests, demonstrations, and critical weather events such as hurricanes.

## **DOJ SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION**

### ***Captain Ray Swallows***

The Support Services Division is responsible for a number of supporting roles and functions within the jail and includes the following bureaus: Booking Support, Inmate Support, and Transportation and Facilities Support.

### **Booking Support Bureau**

#### ***Bureau Chief Pam Cuffie***

The Booking Support Bureau is a 24-hour operation currently staffed by 54 civilian employees, with six vacancies. This bureau supports the admission and release duties of the Security Operations Division and the classification and follow-up functions of the Classification Unit.

Staff assigned to this area input booking and release-related data based on a set criteria to facilitate the accuracy of criminal history information maintained by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).

In addition, the bureau is responsible for a myriad of administrative processes, including:

- Inmate admissions
- First appearance
- Inmate property
- Inmate money/bond room
- Computer room
- Inmate release
- Records archival
- Public/media record requests
- Biometric Identification System (BIS)

#### **2024 Booking Support Bureau Statistics**

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Inmates Booked                                    | 6, 176       |
| Inmates Released                                  | 6,085        |
| Average Daily Inmate Population                   | 889          |
| Facility Visitors: Onsite                         | 8,404        |
| Facility Visitors: Remote                         | 10,293       |
| Completed Registrations                           | 3,489        |
| Cash Bonds Processed                              | 318          |
| Value of Processed Cash Bonds                     | \$501,912    |
| Cash Purges Processed                             | 158          |
| Value of Processed Cash Purges                    | \$120,828.50 |
| Out of County Cash Bond/Purges Processed          | 53           |
| Value of Processed Out of County Cash Bond/Purges | \$48,750.92  |

### Specialized Bureau Functions

The Archives Coordinator oversees the archival, dissemination, and destruction of all inmate files based on the State of Florida's retention guidelines (General Records Schedule GS2) and the information contained in the Public Records Act - Chapter 119 of Florida State Statutes.

The Civilian Lobby Team is a 12-hour shift staffed by civilian personnel who complete lobby-related administrative tasks with a strong customer service philosophy. The team's responsibilities include coordinating daily inmate visitations, maintaining the professional visitation logs, handling telephone calls, and other general customer service needs.

Court Coordinators review all court paperwork, ensuring that inmates are placed on the court calendar for scheduled appearances and that the calendar includes all charges and counts. Court coordinators enter sentencing information in the Jail Management System (JMS) Sentencing Module and report sentencing information to the Classification Unit on a daily basis.

The Inmate Trust Fund Coordinator makes all deposits and oversees the cash receipt process for all inmate monies received and released. The coordinator completes daily reports relating to inmate population, case status, and cash balances, as well as coordinating all issues related to the Inmate Trust Fund.

The Registration Office is located in the DOJ Lobby and operates between the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The office is closed on weekends and holidays. Registrations and re-registrations are completed for felony offenders, career offenders, and sexual offenders/predators following state and judicial mandates coordinated through FDLE.



*Registration Office*



*Jail Lobby*

### Inmate Support Bureau Bureau Chief Fotina Perry

The Inmate Support Bureau is comprised of the Jail Diversion Specialist, the Jail Release Coordinator, the Classification Unit, and the Programs Unit.

The Jail Diversion Specialist is responsible for screening and referring eligible inmates to various diversion programs, tracking referrals, and participating in the forensic community's diversion efforts. This position was originally created as part of the Criminal Justice Mental health Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant. Upon conclusion of grant funding in 2023, our agency recognized the benefit of this position and secured continued funding. During 2024, the jail diversion specialist completed 218 referrals, with 106 inmates qualifying for further screening and assessment by Meridian Behavioral Health and other community partners.

The Jail Release Coordinator is responsible for identifying inmates with critical medical needs or who are in mental health crisis. Once the inmates are identified, the release coordinator is responsible for referring them to the appropriate community program or forensic court and then facilitating their release. During 2024, the jail release coordinator processed 110 referrals, resulting in the release of 71 inmates to appropriate community programs.



## Classification Unit

*Classification Supervisors Kelly Montgomery and Vivian Sims*

The Classification Unit is responsible for appropriately classifying and housing all of the inmates in the care of the DOJ, as well as observation instructions for inmates in mental health crisis. Additional unit responsibilities include casework, management of the in-house inmate population, monitoring county-sentenced inmates' gain-time releases, transfer documentation for DOC-sentenced inmates, tracking inmate conflicts, and monitoring inmates in disciplinary or administrative confinement, special or medical needs inmates, and juvenile inmates. Classification also receives and responds to all inmate grievances and requests.

In 2024, unit personnel completed the classification process for 5,256 inmates, processed and answered 1,381 written inmate requests, conducted 36,120 administrative segregation reviews and 31,258 mental health reviews; and logged 31,684 face-to-face inmate contacts related to casework.



*GED Class*



*Jail Library*

## Programs Unit

*Programs Manager Takeevia McNeil-Jenkins*

The Programs Unit organizes, facilitates, and manages a wide range of in-house classes, programs, and volunteer services. Additionally, unit staff network and develop community relationships to solicit volunteers, teachers, and other opportunities for the inmates. The unit also provides game supplies for the housing units.

Some of the main programs offered to inmates housed at the DOJ include:

- Daily classes for Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA).
- Classes for anger management, life skills, parenting skills, domestic violence, and substance abuse.
- Jail tours for Teen Court, the Alachua County Citizen's Academy, and other groups.
- GED tutoring and testing.
- Library services.
- Inmate transition program.
- Inmate veterans' program.

This year, the Programs Unit, in conjunction with the Alachua County Library District, held their first Re-Entry Resource Fair. Five vendors participated in the fair, to include Community Springs, Released, Career Source, Oxford House, and Probation and Parole. The inmates were able to gain information from each resource during the fair. A total of 42 inmates, to include males and females, attended the event.



*Re-Entry Resource Fair (male inmates)*



*Re-Entry Resource Fair (female inmates)*

## Transportation and Facilities Support Bureau

### Lieutenant Cliff Arnold

The Transportation and Facilities Support Bureau is responsible for overseeing all of the logistical needs of the jail, to include the 24/7 maintenance and upkeep of the building and grounds. These tasks are divided between the three units that comprise the bureau: Facility Services, Kitchen Security, and the Transport Team.

### Facility Services Unit

#### Sergeant Daniel Carroll

The Facilities Service Unit is responsible for accepting deliveries via the loading dock. During 2024, loading dock personnel received 4,135 deliveries. Staff are also in charge of key issuance and control duties, warehouse inventory, supplies, and accountability. Items issued include cleaning chemicals and supplies, extra bunks, toiletry and hygiene items. Unit personnel also process inmate trusty applications, with 1,567 trusty applications processed during 2024. Trusties, the inmate work force, keep the facility clean, cook inmate meals, and perform various minor maintenance and upkeep functions. For example, trusties cleaned an estimated 311,623 pounds of laundry during 2024. Some of the trusties are selected for the Sheriff's Inmate Work Crew, which provides free labor to governmental agencies when available. Assignments for the work crew include moving furniture/equipment, pressure washing, landscaping, and general cleanup. The work crew completed 3,213 in-house hours worked and 2,242 off-site hours worked.



*Warehouse*



*Loading Dock*



*Laundry Room*

### Kitchen Security Unit

#### Sergeant Carl Sudbury

The Kitchen Security Unit provides security/supervision of inmate workers who assist the jail's food service provider in preparing inmate meals. Unit personnel ensure a high level of kitchen cleanliness is maintained. During 2024, unit personnel oversaw food preparation and served 1,123,292 regular meals and special diet meals.



*Bagged lunches*



*Kitchen*

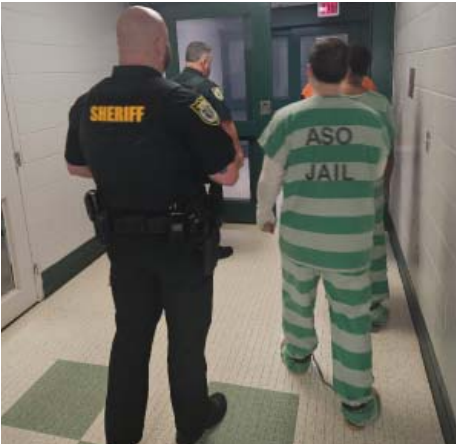




## Transport Team Sergeant Patricia Flynn

The Transportation Unit provides safe and secure transportation of defendants to all court proceedings. This unit protects the general public and defendants, arranges video court appearances at the Department of the Jail, and properly documents the judge's sentences/results from first appearance, bond hearings, civil child support hearings, video arraignments and changes of plea. The unit provides security in each courtroom that has a hearing or trial involving an inmate in our custody.

The unit delivers important paperwork/documents from the courts to the DOJ and vice versa. During 2024, the unit transported a total of 7,749 inmates to court appearances and 606 inmates to the Department of Corrections. Additionally, the unit transports inmates to local drug treatment facilities, Drug Court, Metamorphosis, Bridge House, and the Crisis Stabilization Unit. Last year, the unit transported 273 inmates to medical appointments and/or hospital visits.





## DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS

### Major Darrell Bessinger

The Department of Operations is comprised of the Patrol Operations and Special Operations Divisions, encompassing some of the most visible areas of the sheriff's office.

## PATROL OPERATIONS DIVISION

### Captain Kelvin Jenkins - Team I

### Captain Ed Bennett - Team II

The Patrol Operations Division provides the core responsibilities entrusted to law enforcement by the citizens of Alachua County. Patrol units are the front line response to a variety of dangerous calls, representing the only available lifeline for many citizens.

Patrol deputies are responsible for the preliminary response to calls for service, traffic enforcement, street-level vice and narcotics enforcement, preliminary and follow-up investigations, and preventative patrol. The men and women of the Patrol Operations Division are assigned to one of two teams that are each divided into two shifts: Days and Nights. Patrol deputies work 12-hour shifts to provide services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Each shift is headed by a watch commander at the rank of lieutenant. Our current (2025) watch commanders are shown below.

- Team I Days: Matt Yakubsin
- Team I Nights: Mike Hurlocker
- Team II Days: Marvin Gunn
- Team II Nights: Fred "Todd" Thomas

In addition to their core responsibilities, the Patrol Division is also responsible for several specialty teams/groups under the supervision of an administrative lieutenant. That position is currently vacant.

### Field Service Technicians

ACSO has utilized field service technicians since 1996. The program was created to help assist patrol deputies with non-emergency and not-in-progress calls. The types of calls that Patrol Division FSTs handle include identity theft, credit card fraud, burglaries to homes, vehicles, and some businesses; thefts, and traffic problems, to include minor traffic crashes. FSTs are not sworn and do not carry firearms. They wear light green uniforms and respond in marked patrol vehicles.

By utilizing FSTs to respond to minor incidents, our sworn deputies are available for in-progress and emergency calls. While FSTs are not always the first responders on scene, they do assist deputies with emergency calls, large-scale events, and major disasters, such as hurricanes or multi-vehicle traffic crashes by helping with traffic direction, bringing supplies, water and/or food, and providing transportation.



*From left: Deputies Shelaine Smith, Kimberly Heskett, Lorraine Curtner, and Lexi Burks*



*Lt. Matt Yakubsin*



*Lt. Mike Hurlocker*



*Lt. Marvin Gunn*



*Lt. Todd Thomas*



*FST Posada directing traffic.*





*Patrol shift briefing*

## Quality Control

Quality Control is responsible for ensuring that all case reports that involve criminal charges are reviewed and prepared properly for distribution to the State Attorney's Office and the court system. Quality Control is also responsible for reviewing reports at the request of the Property Unit and Evidence Section to see if property or evidence is eligible for auction or destruction, assisting ACSO's victim advocates with domestic violence reports and Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) screens, and assisting other areas of the agency when court-related clarification is needed.

## School Crossing Guards



*School Crossing Guard*

School Crossing Guards serve a vital public safety role at ACSO. There are 20 locations throughout the county where ACSO crossing guards assist children who bike or walk to school to safely cross busy intersections. Many of the crossing guards are retired and want to give back to the community. They take the time to get to know the children and act as positive role models. The school crossing guards share in the children's accomplishments and help in their times of struggle. They work in all types of weather and traffic conditions in order to keep your children safe.

## Teleserve

Teleserve handles low priority/low danger calls that can be handled via telephone and do not require the presence of a deputy or field service technician on scene.

## K-9 Unit

### *Sergeant Taylor Redding*



*New Patrol K-9 Deputy Dagger and his partner, Deputy Griffeth, at training.*

The K-9 Unit's primary responsibility is assisting patrol deputies in locating and apprehending wanted suspects. The unit also assists with building, narcotics, and bomb searches. ACSO has 11 canines certified in patrol work and either explosives or drug detection assigned to Patrol Operations. An additional two canines are certified in gun detection and search and rescue and are assigned to the Juvenile Relations Bureau for work in our schools.

During 2024, K-9 deputies and their human handlers:

- Responded to 7,928 calls for service.
- Apprehended 15 suspects during call-outs and an additional 339 suspects without call-outs.
- Assisted other agencies 825 times.
- Performed 96 gun searches at our area schools.
- Gave 10 K-9 demonstrations to the general public.
- Started the first Human-Borne Detection K-9 School for the Juvenile Relations Bureau.

The K-9 Unit replaced two retiring canines during 2024, one from Patrol and one from JRB. Both new dogs completed a 240-hour detection school conducted in-house and certified by the Florida Law Enforcement Canine Association (FLECA). Additionally, the Patrol K-9 completed the 480-hour patrol school and was certified for patrol work by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and FLECA.

## Reserve Unit

The Reserve Unit consists of CJSTC-certified law enforcement officers that volunteer their time and talents to the agency and community. Members of the Reserve Unit provide additional personnel in situations such as natural disasters, emergencies, special events, or in supplementing regular law enforcement operations.

ACSO encourages and welcomes citizens' interest in joining the unit. Service as a reserve deputy offers training, challenge, excitement, teamwork, and opportunities for special assignments. If you are ready to make a difference in our community, visit our website at <http://acso.us/reserve-unit/> for additional information or to apply.

## Rural Services Unit

The Rural Services Unit (RSU) consists of two deputies who are responsible for the investigation of farm and agricultural crimes, as well as animal abuse, cruelty, and neglect cases. They provide valuable community service assistance by partnering with local ranchers and farmers to deter crimes which have a negative impact on the agricultural community. These deputies work daily to educate the community on how to properly care for their livestock. They routinely make contact with local farmers and attend meetings and trainings to make sure they are always up-to-date on agricultural crime trends.



*Deputies Brandon Jones (far left) and Perry Koon (3rd from left) make up the Rural Services Unit.*

In addition to working with local farmers and livestock owners in the community, RSU has an airboat, which was purchased by the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, and is used to provide law enforcement on our waterways and as a way to provide county environmental workers access to otherwise inaccessible areas of environmental concern.

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## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION**

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### *Captain Joe VanGorder*

The Special Operations Division is home to several specialized units that support and enhance the primary functions of the Patrol Division, including: Aviation, Extra-Duty, Special Teams, Traffic, and the Juvenile Relations Bureau.

## Aviation Unit

### *Civilian Chief Pilot Richard Bray*

The Sheriff's Office Aviation Unit was originally established in 1996 as a cooperative effort between the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and the Gainesville Police Department. The Sheriff's Office assumed sole control of the unit in 2021 and rebranded it as the Sheriff's Office Aviation Unit.



*Aviation Unit helicopter*

The unit operates three helicopters, two of which are mission-ready to answer calls for service. The third helicopter was obtained in November 2023 from the Benton County Sheriff's Office in Benton, Arkansas, and is used primarily for training purposes. All three helicopters were obtained via military surplus programs and are maintained with forfeiture funds.

In addition to being responsible for countywide air support, including all municipalities, the Aviation Unit routinely assists other county, state, and federal agencies such as Gainesville and Alachua County Fire Rescue, Department of Forestry, Code



*Surplus helicopter*





*Helicopter landing for Run with the Cops event*



*Bomb robot*



*View from the robot's camera*

Enforcement, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Federal Aviation (FAA), and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

During 2024, Aviation Unit members flew 221.9 hours and worked 165 calls for service and 7 call-outs, resulting in 33 arrests and 26 missing and/or endangered persons located. The unit assisted Homeland Security 194 times and participated in 19 static displays.

## Extra-Duty Coordinator *Caitlin Horvath*

The extra-duty coordinator is responsible for the hiring of, and recordkeeping for, deputies and field service technicians working extra-duty tasks under contract upon request. Deputies and FSTs can be hired for security and traffic control details for special events, concerns, sporting events, and others. The approximate number of hours worked by lieutenants, sergeants, deputies, and field service technicians during 2024 was 11,834. The extra-duty coordinator scheduled lieutenants, sergeants, deputies, and field service technicians for 2,802 details. The top five vendors who requested extra-duty services were: (1) B'Nai Israel, (2) The Crossings at Santa Fe, (3) HCA North Florida Hospital, (4) Alachua County Property Appraiser's Office, and (5) Green House Church, Inc.

## Special Teams

### *Administrative Lieutenant Eric Hester*

### Bike Team

Bike Team deputies conduct proactive bike patrol on fully-equipped, specialized 29-inch **Rockhopper** bikes. You will often see them working during Gator football games, or during other large-scale events where a patrol vehicle would be impractical.

### Bomb Squad

The Bomb Squad provides regional response for a variety of calls, ranging from suspicious devices to unexploded military ordnance. They also provide assistance to the ACSO and GPD SWAT teams, other regional bomb squads, and FBI and ATF units in our region with explosive support and mitigation. The team also provides hazardous material and device detection and mitigation for large community events, including UF athletic events.

Bomb Squad members are certified by the FBI and must complete 288 hours of training per year to remain certified. ACSO has one of only three bomb squads in Region 3, encompassing Alachua, Gilchrist, Levy, Marion, Putnam, Flagler, St. Johns, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Baker, Bradford, and Union Counties.

During 2024, the squad responded to 28 calls; seven of which were to surrounding counties, preserving life and/or property in each instance. They also participated in seven static displays for the citizens of Alachua County and conducted bomb sweeps with

operational standby at nine separate UF games/ceremonies. Squad members also participated in a Region 3 tabletop exercise held at the Clay County Emergency Operations Center that included units from Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Marion County Sheriff's Office, Gainesville Fire Rescue's HAZMAT, Clay County's HAZMAT, UF Shands Hospital, 44th CST, the State Health Emergency Center, and others.

## CISM

The Critical Incident Stress Management Team (CISM) is an 18-member unit comprised of personnel from law enforcement, telecommunications, and corrections. The team receives ongoing training in the field of trauma-related stress. They provide services not only for ACSO employees, but numerous public safety agencies throughout the region, assisting with the effects of dealing with traumatic incidents, such as fatal crashes and homicides, and the impact those events have on the lives of those who have dealt with such tragedies. During 2024, CISM members responded 60 times for in-house matters and one out-of-county incident.

## Crowd Management Team

The Crowd Management Team (CMT) responds to incidents involving civil unrest utilizing specially-trained personnel and specialty equipment. In addition to these types of events, CMT members are also deployed after large-scale weather events, such as tropical storms and hurricanes, to assist in removing storm debris from roadways and restoring normal traffic flow.

During 2024, CMT members participated in 72 hours of training. CMT members responded to numerous call-outs during 2024, including to support roadway clearing during/after Tropical Storm Debby, and Hurricanes Milton, and Helene.

The team also acquired a new passenger van and cargo trailer to aid in deployments. The cargo trailer has climate-controlled storage capabilities to house team members' riot gear.



*Clean up after Hurricane Helene.*

## Honor Guard

The Honor Guard participates in a variety of incidents, to include parades, award ceremonies, and the posting of colors at community events. The unit is also called upon to participate in funerals, rendering honors to family and friends of fellow law enforcement officers, both active and retired.

Honor Guard members participated in a total of 30 events during 2024, including 14 funerals, 3 law enforcement ceremonies, 5 parades, 6 opening ceremonies, and 2 other events. Members also participated in 28 hours of training during 2024.



*Honor Guard preparing for an event.*

## Marine Operations/Underwater Recovery Team

The Marine Operations/Underwater Recovery Team (MO/URT) responds to a variety of emergency and non-emergency calls for service on Alachua County waterways. Examples of MO/URT call-outs include waterborne search and rescue operations for missing swimmers and boaters, underwater search and recovery for drowning victims, and the recovery of submerged evidence.

The team also patrols the county's lakes, rivers, and other waterways; conducts boating and water safety education and



*MO/URT divers*





*MOURT recovering a stolen car.*



*Motor Unit*



*Motor Unit*



*Negotiations Response Team*

awareness campaigns and conducts patrol operations during all major holidays to promote safe boating operations.

## 2024 MO/URT Highlights

- Responded to 22 emergency call-outs, including 17 calls for stranded or sinking vessels.
- Conducted 120 hours of routine training.
- Made 1,900 citizen contacts during a safety/enforcement detail on Lake Santa Fe, resulting in 41 warnings and two citations issued.
- Participated in seven static displays.
- Searched for and recovered three firearms.
- Assisted Alachua County Department of Environmental Protection with water sampling and water surveys three times.

## Motor Unit

The Motor Unit is staffed by deputies trained and certified in the operation of motorcycles for law enforcement applications. Each deputy is assigned a Harley Davidson motorcycle, used for specialized missions that a larger vehicle would not be suitable for, such as escorting visiting football teams during all UF home football games, and providing funeral escorts for dignitaries and fallen military service members.

During 2024, the unit participated in 12 team escorts, 5 funeral escorts, 7 parades, 6 other escorts and 8 static displays. Some of the notable events the unit participated in included:

- Funeral escorts for an ACSO's deputy's son, fallen deputies from Palm Beach and Lake Counties, as well as for a US Marshal.
- Static displays for Newberry High School's Criminal Justice Expo, the ACSO Career Fair, car shows, and the YMCA.
- Escorts for Bikers on Parade, the Torch Run in Gainesville and Orlando, away football teams, and Governor DeSantis.

Also during 2024, the unit conducted 152 hours of routine training.

## Negotiations Response Team

The Negotiations Response Team (NRT) responds to incidents involving hostage situations, barricaded subjects, individuals threatening suicide, and other situations where lives are endangered and negotiations may resolve the incident without injury. NRT members perform the unique function of attempting to negotiate the surrender of barricaded persons/hostage takers while still ensuring the safety of hostages.

NRT members participated in 64 hours of regular monthly training. Two members attended the 40 hour basic hostage negotiation course. Additionally, six team members attended the 40-hour Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators (FAHN) Conference.



*SWAT training*



*SWAT briefing during a call-out.*



*SWAT training @ Camp Blanding*

## Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)

SWAT responds to calls requiring specialized training and equipment, such as serving high-risk arrest and search warrants, responding to hostage rescues and armed, barricaded subjects, as well as other hazardous incidents. The team participated in 35 tactical operations and community events during 2024, including the service of 20 high-risk search warrants, and 9 dignitary protection details. Members also responded to three armed barricaded subjects, tracked three armed criminals, and were involved in three use of force incidents.

Team members undergo 16 hours of training each month in order to stay current. Snipers assigned to SWAT must complete an additional eight hours of training per month. During the months of February and September 2024, SWAT participated in weeklong training exercises. In total, team members participated in approximately 260 hours for operators, with an additional 96 hours for snipers. The team believes in continuing education from outside vendors in order to stay relevant in the latest tactical responses and critical incident management.

### Notable Training and Events

- National Tactical Officers Association Conference in Kansas City, Missouri.
- Master Tactical Breacher course in Jacksonville, Florida.
- SWAT/EOD Integration class at Camp Blanding.
- 40-hour Snipercraft Basic Sniper Course in Palm Bay, Florida.
- Daniel Defense DDM4 (AR-15) Armorer School in Savannah, Georgia.
- Eight members competed in SWAT Round-Up International.
- Team members Clayton Litzkow and Jake Barlow were awarded the Medal of Valor.



*Traffic stop*

## Traffic Unit

The Traffic Unit conducts high-liability enforcement throughout the county and routinely works areas that statistically show higher volumes of violators and safety concerns where crashes are more prevalent. Throughout the year, the unit works details over a number of holiday weekends where there is traditionally a spike in motorists traveling through our county.

Unlike the majority of ACSO's specialized units, deputies are assigned to the Traffic Unit full-time. During 2024, traffic deputies issued 5,020 citations, 2,441 warnings, wrote 129 incident reports, attended 126 traffic court dates, and arrested 12 individuals.

Traffic Unit members also serve on other special teams, such as the Bomb Squad and Crowd Management Team, which often pulls them from their full-time assignments. Throughout 2024, unit members assisted the Patrol Operations Division, Juvenile Relations Bureau, and the Judicial Services and Training Division to cover staffing shortages.

They also participated in several special details, assisting with and expanding coverage for other units. For example, members assisted the Patrol Division on 56 days, the Court Security Bureau on 15 days, the Juvenile Relations Bureau on 42 days, and the Training Bureau on four days.





*JRB group photo*

## Juvenile Relations Bureau

### Lieutenant Rich LaLonde

The Juvenile Relations Bureau (JRB) is home to programs centered on the youth of Alachua County.

### School Resource Deputy Program

The ACSO School Resource Deputy (SRD) Program provides law enforcement and campus security duties on school campuses. SRDs also work to educate students in areas of crime prevention, personal safety, substance abuse, and Florida State Statutes, while at the same time providing counseling to students. SRDs also assist in the gathering of information about criminal activity and potential problems within the schools or community and provide law enforcement assistance to school personnel, students, and parents.

As outlined in the contract, the Alachua County School Board pays \$1,819,659 as its share of funding for the Alachua County Sheriff's School Resource Deputy Program, which is comprised of 19 SRDs, one float SRD, two firearm canine handlers, three sergeants, and one lieutenant for the 2024-2025 school year. This includes the 180-day school year, third-grade summer reading camps, and other summer school programs where students attend scheduled classes.

During the 2023-2024 school year, a couple of school assignment changes for deputies occurred; however, at no time were any schools left uncovered. During times that a deputy was away from their school due to leave or a training class, a JRB supervisor covered the vacancy to ensure that the school had adequate security in place of the assigned SRD. The current SRD school assignments for the 2024-2025 school year are listed on the top of the next page.

SRDs completed 742 case reports between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024. Of those case reports, 242 resulted in charging documents: 83 arrests, 73 sworn complaints, and 86 juvenile delinquent citations.

### Critical Incident Training

Deputy Willcox coordinates tactical training for the bureau. During 2024, SRDs attended 36 hours of training, ranging from active shooter scenarios, firearms, and building clearing. This is supplemental training outside of the required 48 hours of agency in-service training that is required per year.

### Gun Detection K-9s

JRB's gun detection K-9s are on a constant mission to reduce the presence of weapons on school campuses across Alachua County. These highly trained K-9s are assigned to the Juvenile Relations Bureau for one purpose: to detect and remove firearms from our schools.

## School Resource Deputy Assignments for the 2024-2025 School Year

*Supervisors: Lt. Rich LaLonde, Sgt. Monica Herrera, Sgt. Charles Hunt & Sgt. PJ Mauldin*

| <u>School</u>            | <u>SRD(s) Assigned</u>            | <u>School</u>         | <u>SRD(s) Assigned</u>            |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Buchholz HS              | Teameika Trueluck & Lloyd O'Quinn | Eastside HS           | Jack Miller & Marquise Brathwaite |
| Hawthorne HS             | Josh Mitchell                     | Newberry HS           | Michael Moore                     |
| Fort Clarke MS           | Shelaine Smith                    | Kanapaha MS           | David Brown                       |
| Oak View MS              | Robert Campbell                   | Queen of Peace        | Jack Huffman                      |
| Archer ES                | Eric Nystrom                      | Chiles ES             | Ivan Useche                       |
| Hidden Oak ES            | Carlos Casanova                   | Idylwild ES           | Sheena Larry                      |
| Lake Forrest             | Christopher Bennett               | Meadowbrook           | Blane Anderson                    |
| Newberry ES              | David Thompson                    | Shell ES              | Ben Caouette                      |
| Terwilliger ES           | Stephen Taylor                    | Wiles ES              | Mike Rodenwoldt                   |
| Gun Detection K-9 Teams: | Tommy Willcox & Tracker           | Michael Ricks & Ruger | Josh Pettit (float)               |

This past year saw employee transfers for this program. Our new handlers are Deputies Michael Ricks and Tommy Willcox. Deputy Ricks transferred from a school resource deputy position to become K-9 Ruger's new handler. Deputy Willcox also transferred from a school resource deputy position and is assigned to JRB's new K-9, Tracker. K-9 Tracker replaced the now-retired K-9 Gauge, who is living the couch life at the home of his handler, Deputy Howard.

These specially-equipped K-9 teams provide a valuable resource for investigating tips regarding weapons on school campuses. They can cover more areas and objects in less time than traditional search methods. Besides searching faster and more efficiently, the K-9 teams conduct their searches in a far less invasive manner. During 2024, gun detection K-9s conducted 111 firearms searches on school campuses. Additionally, they responded to assist patrol deputies with firearms searches six times.



*K-9 Ruger takes a break from sniffing for weapons.*



*K-9 Tracker is happy to join the team.*

### 2024 Washington, D.C., Safety Patrol Trip

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office Safety Patrol Trip completed its 45th Washington, D.C., trip in June 2024. A total of 1,000 safety patrols and chaperones attended the trip to celebrate the students' year of service to their respective schools with a first-class civics lesson and a history tour in our nation's capital. The trip was a success, with only minor incidents occurring. We will continue our partnership with Educational Tours, Inc., for the June 2025 trip.

### Florida Sheriffs Association's Teen Driver Challenge

Vehicular crashes are the number one cause of death among young adults. To reduce this threat to our youth, the Teen Driver Challenge (TDC) course provides young drivers with hands-on experience on an obstacle course that reproduces situations statistically shown to be the leading causes of traffic crashes. This course provides classroom activities and hands-on instruction by certified instructors from the Alachua County Sheriff's Office on



*Washington, D.C., Safety Patrol trip*





*Teen Driver Challenge graduates*

how to safely use driving techniques to maneuver a vehicle. The course is **free of cost** to participants.

During 2024, ACSO held 10 Teen Driver Challenge classes with 128 students completing the course. Our TDC instructors also assisted with community traffic and seatbelt education by participating in the Newberry Criminal Justice Expo and the Newberry Watermelon Festival, as well as by speaking with Alachua County Public Schools' Driver Education Program classes. TDC added four Teen Driver Challenge instructors to the program in 2024. Deputy Lorraine Curtner continues to serve as the coordinator for the program.

### Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches

Rodeo Fundraising Event: From February 23rd through February 25th, eight school resource deputies assisted the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch by patrolling the grounds with 24-hour shifts.

This was an open house and welcome home event for former youth residents of the ranch. Multiple events took place during the weekend. Our deputies patrolled the grounds and even assisted with wrangling some horses that escaped their pens.

Hurricane Relief Assistance: During the 2023-2024 hurricane season, the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch in Live Oak suffered major damage across the ranch. Multiple agencies, along with 10 of ACSO's school resource deputies, assisted with the cleanup. During the weekend of January 12th, JRB members worked for three days cutting up trees, driving skid steers, and rebuilding fences.

Camp Sorenson: Ten ACSO school resource deputies assisted as mentors, role models, and counselors at Camp Sorenson July 3-10, 2024. Located in Nassau County, Camp Sorenson is one of the many locations that provide a free summer camp for students statewide. JRB members were able to bring over 40 children from Alachua County and a couple more from surrounding counties to the camp this summer. The goal was to assist camp counselors in teaching and mentoring the juveniles through the numerous activities and lessons throughout the week. Deputies took groups of kids for different activities such as nature hikes, archery, mountain bike riding, pool time, and even a five-mile kayaking trip.



*Hurricane cleanup at the Boys Ranch*



*Camp Sorenson*

The role of the deputies at camp is to build relationships outside of conventional law enforcement between youth and law enforcement. During the week, deputies dress in civilian attire to be seen as regular people and reduce tension and/or anxiety among the juveniles who might have had prior negative experiences with, or preconceived notions about, law enforcement. Deputies spend both group and individual time with all of the children and even have rewards and special evening parties with their assigned groups. At the end of the week, deputies dress in their "Class A" uniforms and provide a parade with patrol vehicles for the camp graduates, allowing the youth to see them as deputies/law enforcement in order to put a face with the uniform. This experience helps build lasting relationships and trust between our youth and law enforcement.

During the time our deputies were at the camp, they learned that the camp cook had quit two weeks prior, so they volunteered to assist by cooking the meals for the camp that week. Deputies cooked for the campus three-times per day and were up at the chow hall at 5:00 a.m. preparing breakfast.

The last couple of years, JRB members have attended the camp on the 4th of July week. This year, we were able to raise \$500 towards the purchase of fireworks for the campers. Returning campers relayed to us that this was the best fireworks show yet!

### Explorer Post 983

ACSO Explorer Post 983 is an active member of the Florida Sheriffs Explorers Association (FSEA), which is an arm of the Florida Sheriffs Association. The Explorer Post allows qualified members, ages 14 to 21, to explore the law enforcement profession. Explorers attend bi-weekly meetings and training throughout the year. These meetings and training sessions are conducted by Juvenile Relations Bureau personnel who are also agency instructors in high-liability topics. Explorers may participate in “ride-alongs” with Patrol deputies and familiarize themselves with other divisions within the agency. They also attend weekend-long FSEA delegate meetings and training conferences in the spring, fall, and winter of each year. Explorers participate in the weeklong state meetings and competitions in the summer of each year.



*Explorers*

The Explorer Post volunteers for community service hours for events in Alachua County. In 2024, the Explorers volunteered their services at events including the Rotary Club’s Wild Game and Seafood Feasts, Newberry Watermelon Festival, UF Homecoming Parade, City of Gainesville Christmas Parade and ACSO Trunk or Treat, just to name a few. The Explorer Post utilizes deputies and supervisors from within the Juvenile Relations Bureau as advisors. Currently, Sergeant Charles Hunt is in charge of the Explorer Post.

### Stop the Bleed Initiative

This is a national campaign to encourage bystanders to become trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before first responders arrive. Deputy Blane Anderson is the coordinator of the program. In 2024, several classes were taught to school staff and students at four elementary, two middle, and two high schools. Deputy Anderson also provided classes to organizations outside of the schools, including Boy Scout Troop 88 from the city of Alachua and the ICU nurses of UF Health Shands. In all, 109 adults and 144 students were certified during 2024.

### Deputy/Youth Dialogue

Deputy/Youth Dialogues offer Alachua County high school students an opportunity to spend an evening with ACSO deputies having an open and honest conversation about law enforcement. As an added bonus, the youth get the opportunity to educate deputies on how to better communicate with them on the street and earns them community service hours towards graduation. These programs are held at the county-served high schools and for community groups.

### Juvenile Relations Bureau 2024 Highlights

Here are some of the many activities, events, and major calls that occurred between August and December 2024 that JRB was a part of:

- On November 25<sup>th</sup>, JRB assisted command staff and other units with passing out turkeys and meals for Thanksgiving at the Southwest Advocacy Center.
- Held their *Shop with a Sheriff* event on December 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. This year, we were able to help with over 33 kids from elementary to high school.
- Worked numerous football sporting events to keep local school teams and thousands of guests safe and secure.
- Assisted patrol on numerous occasions due to staffing levels. SRDs and their supervisors assisted patrol for 728 hours, on top of their normally-scheduled workdays.



## DEPARTMENT OF THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

### Major Scott Anderson

The Department of the Office of Professional Standards and Technical Services is comprised of the Combined Communications Division and the Office of Professional Standards. The Department is under the direction of the Undersheriff with one exception: Major Anderson, in his capacity as Chief Inspector, reports directly to the Sheriff on disciplinary matters.

## COMBINED COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

### Division Manager Pat Ford-Thomas

The Combined Communications Division is comprised of the Communications Operations Bureau, the Training and Quality Management Unit, and the CAD/GIS Unit. The division is commanded by a civilian division manager, equivalent to a sworn captain, who reports directly to the Department of the Office of Professional Standards and Technical Services Major Scott Anderson.

### Communications Operations Bureau

#### Communications Director Kim Kutner

The Combined Communications Center (CCC) is a consolidated 9-1-1 communications center that provides public safety communications services for the Alachua County Sheriff's Office (ACSO), Alachua County Fire Rescue (ACFR), Gainesville Fire Rescue (GFR), Gainesville Police Department (GPD), and the High Springs Police Department (HSPD). CCC also provides police and fire communications services to other municipalities within the county, including LaCrosse, Archer, Waldo, Micanopy, Newberry, and Hawthorne.



CCC/EOC



CCC telecommunicator station

The center is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with highly-trained, professional 9-1-1 telecommunicators. They are the “first of the first responders” to field hundreds of incoming calls daily, prioritize situations, determine the best course of action, and quickly forward that information to the appropriate public safety first responders. In addition, they monitor multiple radio frequencies, dispatch service calls to police, fire, and medical units; access various local, state, and federal databases; and track activities in the field. Their split-second decisions can mean the difference between life and death.

CCC 9-1-1 telecommunicators receive extensive training and meet stringent standards. They are certified by the state of Florida as public safety telecommunicators and have additional certifications in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), emergency medical dispatch (EMD), and emergency fire dispatch (EFD). The EMD and EFT systems gather critical information and provide life-sustaining instructions in an emergency until the arrival of first responders. CCC 9-1-1 telecommunicators are also trained in emergency mental health dispatch (EMHD) and receive crisis intervention training (CIT) to effectively process service requests involving persons in mental health crises.

During 2024, CCC telecommunicators processed 384,397 emergency and non-emergency calls from citizens in Alachua County. Of these calls, 261,857 resulted in a service request and 185,579 were explicitly for law enforcement.

## Technologically Advanced Service

CCC is equipped with modern and technologically advanced equipment systems and features a fully-redundant and enhanced 9-1-1 system (E9-1-1) that automatically displays the telephone number and location of 9-1-1 calls made from a landline or wireless phone. A computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system tracks all service calls, whether for law enforcement, fire rescue, or emergency medical services (EMS). The center also uses an 800 Mhz trunked radio system that allows for local and statewide interoperable radio communications.



The CCC utilizes another public safety platform called RapidSOS, which delivers cellular phone locations and other data to 911 call-takers when callers cannot verbally communicate their locations. When a 911 cellular call is received, the mobile device is automatically tracked, and its location is plotted on a map and displayed to a call-taker. The location information is relayed to responding officers, saving valuable call processing, response times, and lives.

In 2024, the CCC recognized the significant threats posed by cyberattacks, especially during the transition to Next Generation 911 services. In response, the CCC introduced an advanced cybersecurity framework that integrates a decision-making engine designed to evaluate security measures from an attacker's perspective. This proactive approach allows the CCC to effectively mitigate cybersecurity risks and protect critical communications infrastructure with round-the-clock monitoring. The system continuously identifies and addresses vulnerabilities, enabling rapid protection against malicious actors.



## Raptor Alert

Raptor Alert is a silent panic alert system for local schools. The CCC implemented a new advanced data platform that enables real-time access to precise on-campus school geolocations and incident details. This system significantly enhances CCC's ability to respond rapidly to emergencies within educational institutions. The deployment of this technology ensures a swift and informed response to incidents, leveraging precise geographic information and event data to optimize situational awareness and decision-making during emergencies.

## Nationally Accredited Communications Center



The CCC successfully completed its final re-accreditation assessment cycle, which included an on-site review October 28-30, 2024. Each accreditation cycle spans four years and incorporates mandatory, annual web-based compliance evaluations. This assessment confirmed CCC's sustained adherence to all relevant standards. Since its initial accreditation in 2002, the CCC has consistently maintained its accredited status.

CCC is an accredited **Center of Excellence** by the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch (IAED). To achieve and maintain IAED accreditation, an agency must have effective quality improvement and quality assurance programs to measure compliance with call processing protocols. The **Center of Excellence** designation validates that the agency includes its public safety partners and citizens and provides high customer service.

Additionally, the CCC continues its partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children



(NCMEC). This partnership is a commitment by the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and partner agencies to utilize established best practices to assist these children and their families in some of the worst situations imaginable.

## 2024 Community Service and Education Highlights

In partnership with the ACSO Recruitment Team, CCC engaged in 20 outreach and recruitment initiatives and facilitated 10 information tours. These included collaborations with the Alachua County Citizen's Academy, University of Florida EMT Gator Emergency Medical Response Unit (GEMRU), high school summits, and sit-a-long sessions for newly-hired Gainesville Police Department officer cadets, among others. These efforts provided significant opportunities to enhance community relations and build collaborative networks and included:

- Criminal Justice Recruiting Expo
- Gatornationals Recruitment Event
- PK Yonge College and Career Fair
- Easter Extravaganza Event
- Gator Fly-in
- Newberry Main Street Festival
- Santa Fe College Spring Arts Festival
- GCM Food Fest
- High School Seniors Job Fair
- Home and Garden Show
- Watermelon Festival
- Eastside High School Junior Achievement Event
- Newberry High School Career Day
- Waldo Fall Festival
- Micanopy Fall Festival
- Trunk-or-Treat Community Event
- Eastside High School Career Day
- Alachua Fall Festival
- Feeding the Hungry Community Wellness Event
- Partnership for Strong Families Wish Upon a Star Drive

## Specialized Training/Professional Development

Supervisors are encouraged to participate in professional development training that equips them with essential skills and empowers supervisors to lead effectively and drive positive team outcomes. Supervisors participated in the listed leadership development:

- Communications Center Supervisor Training
- Bullying and Negativity Course
- Communications Center Manager
- NENA Professional Certifications
- CPR Instructor Course
- NENA 2024 Conference
- APCO Annual Conference
- First Responder Retreat for Mental Wellness
- CALEA Annual Conference

## Exceptional Performance

In June 2024, Telecommunicator Trainees Stephen Johnson and Malorie Beck, along with Radio Technician David Burzinski, were recognized as Employees of the Month for their prompt and effective response during a critical incident involving a colleague who experienced an allergic reaction to pistachio nuts. The affected employee exhibited significant respiratory distress, necessitating the administration of an EpiPen for stabilization. Their swift action in this emergency situation demonstrated exemplary professionalism and preparedness.



Malorie Beck

Stephen Johnson

David Burzinski

The following CCC employees were honored with the Gainesville Police Department's Police Service Award in recognition of their significant contributions and crucial role in a homicide investigation that occurred at a local Walgreens. Their involvement was instrumental in advancing the case and ensuring apprehension.

- Commander Tocarria Minafield
- Supervisor Jennifer Frohberg
- Supervisor Kerri Burden
- Telecommunicator Caleb Hall
- Telecommunicator Jeanette Whitworth
- Telecommunicator Paloma Danzy
- Telecommunicator Hannah Mesh
- Telecommunicator Bradley Canaday



Two long-serving employees were recognized for their dedication to the department, collectively amassing 50 years of service. Communications Director Kim Kutner celebrated 20 years of service while Telecommunicator Pauline Stacey marked an impressive 30 years. Both were awarded service plaques as a token of appreciation for their contributions to the community.

*Communications Director Kim Kutner  
20 Years of Service*



*Telecommunicator Pauline Stacey  
30 Years of Service*

### Training and Quality Management Unit - Training Commander Mable Barlow

Due to the diverse and exacting nature of the job tasks that are mandated or necessary to efficiently and correctly perform the duties in the CCC, proper and adequate training is of the utmost importance. Therefore, the TQM Unit supports the employees of the Communications Operations Bureau through structured training provided by members of this highly-skilled unit and certified training officers (CTO) within the Combined Communications Center. During 2024, six TQM staff successfully attained certification as training officers, thereby enhancing internal education capabilities. Staff also conducted 2,615 quality assurance evaluations across all communications functions and successfully completed the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch Center of Excellence reaccreditation.

### CAD/GIS Unit CAD Administrator Marco Ferrante GIS Specialist Fay Walker

The Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Administrator is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the CAD hardware and software. The positions are highly accountable for ensuring data backup and system integrity, maintaining day-to-day workstation functionality, implementing upgrades, and keeping responder safety and other resource information current within the systems.

The GIS Specialist consistently manages and supervises the street data information. All pertinent layers within the CAD system facilitate geography-based dispatching and reporting and assist in GIS-related special projects. Additionally, this position interacts with other county and city agencies to coordinate the parity of mapping data between government entities.

### Information Technology Bureau Director Mike Robinson



The Information Technology Bureau (ITB) is responsible for planning, acquiring, implementing, and developing information technology solutions to facilitate the agency's mission. In addition, ITB evaluates and acquires emerging technologies, network architecture, and information systems that have law enforcement applications. ITB analyzes the needs of different departments and determines ways to meet business objectives by modifying existing or developing new information processing systems. ITB is responsible for the implementation and maintenance of all computers, servers, wireless infrastructure, network infrastructure, and all critical computing



systems for the agency. Bureau staff develop and support all workflow and administrative computer applications within the agency and provides support for law enforcement databases, all agency websites, and other specialized applications. This includes web hosting, design, development, implementation, and management of application development services for systems pertaining to investigations and general information for all staff.

In order to protect our agency from cyber threats, ITB is responsible for annual agency cybersecurity awareness training, protecting the agency's network infrastructure through blocking spear phishing email attacks, conducting vulnerability scanning, and strengthening data and network security through endpoint protection. In addition, quarterly audits are conducted to verify agency user access complies with CJIS security standards. During 2024, ITB staff:

- Replaced multiple end-of-life servers, switches, wi-fi access points, and installed other replacement and new hardware across the agency to ensure security and proper function of the agency network.
- Replaced copper connections between buildings with fiber to prevent lightning damage to network hardware.
- Installed a new SAN to significantly increase network storage capacity and data retrieval performance.
- Replaced the primary network firewall with a Cisco Nextgen Firepower firewall to enhance network security.
- Enhanced the security of our network by implementing a new vulnerability scanning protocol, segregating some systems into separate network zones, and developing a plan to replace additional end-of-life hardware across the agency as funds permit.
- Worked with PIO to create and implement the Persons with Disabilities Registry form on the agency website.
- Closed 7,916 HelpDesk tickets.

### *Radio Systems Unit* *Radio Systems Manager Scott Shelman*

The Radio Systems Unit is responsible for coordinating equipment resources during particular occurrences. They are also responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of specialty equipment assigned to the Combined Communications Center, including the Emergency Deployable Interoperable Communications System (EDICS), radio equipment, spare radio cache, tower sites, Reverse 9-1-1 equipment, FIN, and the telephone system. Technicians assigned to the unit are responsible for system upkeep and system upgrade recommendations to include backbone equipment such as tower sites and repeaters located throughout Alachua County.

Additionally, the unit is responsible for repairing and maintaining the portable and mobile radio systems for ACSO and the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). The service for the BOCC is provided under the guidelines of an interlocal agreement between the Sheriff and the BOCC. During 2024, Radio Unit personnel: Took on the added responsibility of managing the countywide trunked radio system.

- Completion of contractual obligations to ACFR and GFR for yearly preventative maintenance.
- Implementation of an MDM for all agency cell phone users. This allows the ACSO to have more control over which applications can be used and increases security by allowing any ACSO phone to be wiped remotely.
- Unit personnel deployed to assist with Hurricane Helene in the Suwannee County area with State of Florida Strike Team 2.
- Completed an additional 659 agency HelpDesk tickets.

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## OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

### *Major Scott Anderson*

The Office of Professional Standards (OPS) is led by a Chief Inspector at the rank of Major and is comprised of lieutenants and sergeants from both the law enforcement and corrections disciplines. The OPS inspectors provide systematic, objective, and impartial oversight for investigations of possible misconduct or violations of policy or law by agency personnel. Inspectors conduct internal affairs investigations, deadly force incident reviews, including deputy-involved shootings, and in-custody death investigations; review all administrative inquiries and vehicle crashes, as well as conduct various audits and agency inspections on behalf of the Sheriff.

While citizen complaints are frequently based on misunderstandings of the law or established law enforcement or corrections procedures and limitations, they are of great concern and must be investigated to provide

transparency and maintain the trust of the community. All citizens are encouraged to bring forward legitimate comments, concerns, commendations, and/or grievances regarding ACSO employees. All complaints received against the ACSO or any employee will be documented, investigated, and resolved by established procedures. Investigations are completed and issued one of the following findings:

- Unfounded - The act or acts complained of did not occur or did not involve ACSO personnel.
- Not Sustained - Insufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegation or complaint.
- Sustained - The preponderance of evidence clearly proves the allegation/complaint.
- Exonerated - The act or acts did occur, but were justified, lawful, and proper.
- Exonerated Due to Policy Failure - A finding or conclusion that present policy, procedure, rule or regulation covering the situation was inadequate or non-existent.

In 2024, the agency improved its documentation of complaints and resolution of investigations initiated internally, as well as those reports made by community members through the agency website; resulting in a total number of 122 administrative investigations facilitated by the OPS personnel. This figure includes one in-custody death investigation and two deputy-involved shooting investigations and is a 63% increase over the number of administrative investigations from 2023. Of these 122 cases:

- 29 cases were internal affairs investigations either opened by or significant enough to be handled entirely by OPS inspectors. These investigations involved 18 types of violations by 35 agency personnel and resulted in 19 sustained cases (25 sustained violations), concluding in 26 formal and five informal disciplinary actions. Six of the cases were concluded as not sustained or unfounded. One case involving 10 employees and three additional cases are pending as of February 2025.
- 90 administrative investigations, involving 50 sustained formal complaints alleging 11 types of violations were investigated by division-level, first-line supervisors, along with 40 preventable vehicle crash investigations.
- 77 agency members were identified as subjects of administrative investigations representing 9.7% of ACSO's 791 personnel as of December 31, 2024.

In addition, 119 administrative inquiries were conducted in 2024. Administrative inquiries are not included in the total number of cases due to the frequency of the issues involving misunderstandings and matters unrelated to agency policy.

OPS also monitors and facilitates a fast-track discipline (FTD) process. FTD is available for employees who acknowledge and voluntarily admit to policy violations to expedite disposition of the matter. This allows supervisors and OPS inspectors to focus their time and investigative resources on more serious violations.

## Audits and Inspections

During 2024, an Annual Evidence Inspection, Unannounced Evidence Inspection, and an Evidence Function Audit were completed by OPS investigators. Quarterly, an OPS inspector conducted investigative and evidence fund audits on four bureaus, totaling 16 individual account audits per year. Inspectors also conducted unannounced and follow-up inventories of narcotics and explosives used for canine training. The results of all these required audits were within agency guidelines and met accreditation standards for thoroughness.

## Vehicle Crash Review Committee (VCRC)

Inspectors assigned to the VCRC review every crash involving ACSO leased or owned vehicles in order to determine if the incident was preventable, non-preventable, or preventable with extenuating circumstances. ACSO drivers, whether civilian or sworn, who are involved in crashes deemed preventable can face sanctions up to, and including, the temporary loss of their vehicle privileges.

The VCRC reviewed 85 crashes involving ACSO leased or owned vehicles during the 2024 calendar year, a 2% increase from the 83 crashes reviewed in 2023. Of the 85 crashes in 2024, 40 were preventable, 34 were non-preventable, 10 were considered preventable with extenuating circumstances, and one was exonerated by the Sheriff.



*Post-crash remains of a Patrol Tahoe after a driver failed to Move Over. This is an example of a non-preventable crash.*



## DEPARTMENT OF SUPPORT SERVICES

### Major Jon Schabbruch

The Department of Support Services is made up of the Criminal Investigations Division, which is the investigative arm of the agency, and the Judicial Services and Training Division, which houses the court-related functions of Civil and Court Security, as well as the agency's Training Bureau.

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

### Captain Steve Maynard

The Criminal Investigations Division is comprised of the Data Support Administrator, Gainesville-Alachua County Drug Task Force, Major Crimes Bureau, Property Investigations Bureau, and the Warrants Bureau. A detective who functions as a liaison with the FBI also directly reports to the CID division commander.



Administrator Jennifer Altenburger

### Data Support

#### Administrator Jennifer Hagstrom

The Data Support Administrator conducts advanced data analyses and evaluation for ACSO and agencies supported through the Combined Communications Center by identifying trends and developing strategies for increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the agency's operational units, as well as providing data for quarterly and annual reports and agency accreditation for ACSO and all of our partner agencies. In addition, this position serves as a backup for the agency's CAD team, the Crime Analysis Unit, the RMS Administrator, and the Office of Jail Intelligence.

### False Alarm Reduction Unit

#### Manager Thomas Clifford

The False Alarm Reduction Unit (FARU) was established to reduce the number of false alarms within the city of Gainesville and the unincorporated areas of Alachua County. FARU administers all Alachua County and city of Gainesville alarm ordinances from one central office within the Combined Communications Center. FARU's main function is to reduce the number of false alarms that public safety responds to each year. In addition, its manager proactively works with larger alarm sites (i.e. apartment complexes, schools, hospitals, and housing authorities) and responder agencies to formulate holistic approaches to correcting behaviors and technical issues resulting in false alarms. The goal is to reduce both alarm fines and responses and enable better resource management for the responder agencies.

## Gainesville/Alachua County Drug Task Force

### Lieutenant John Harris

Formed in June 2024, the Gainesville-Alachua County Drug Task Force (GACDTF) is comprised of members from the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, Gainesville Police Department, and contingent upon staffing, the University of Florida Police Department. GACDTF has members assigned to the Gainesville DEA Task Force and the North Florida High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) team. GACDTF conducts proactive investigations into narcotics trafficking organizations operating in Alachua County, the city of Gainesville, and the University of Florida, culminating in civil and criminal prosecutions under federal, state, and local laws. This is accomplished through enforcement of street-level sale of narcotics; identification, disruption, prosecution, and dismantling of middle and upper level narcotic trafficking organizations who are well-organized and sophisticated in their narcotics operations; and enforcement conducted by the Domestic Highway Enforcement team (DHE) of laws violated by traffickers who are using the highways of Alachua County as a means of transport for their narcotics, money laundering, and other criminal acts.

There is an undeniable nexus between narcotics violators and violent/gun crimes. In response to this nexus, the GACDTF also commonly investigates narcotics-related gun and violent crimes to include overdose death investigations. ACSO detectives assigned to GACDTF participate operationally in each Gun Violence Task Force operation.

In 2024, ACSO personnel assigned to the GACDTF were challenged with moving their base of operations twice, as well as changing reporting systems and assembling a new combined task force. Despite these challenges, ACSO detectives were the case agents responsible for seizing approximately 121 pounds of cannabis, 4.5 pounds of cocaine, 1.5 pounds of fentanyl, 10 pounds of synthetic cathinone, 23.5 pounds of methamphetamine, 609 prescription pills, and 24 firearms during 2024. This resulted in \$329,800.25 in US currency and other assets being seized that were obtained from or used in narcotics trafficking operations, as well as 31 arrests. Currently, GACDTF has one case with a homicide indictment and is preparing for trial.



*Photo from a long term GACDTF investigation in 2024*

### Major Crimes Bureau

#### Lieutenant Billy Beck

The Major Crimes Bureau houses the Persons Crimes Squad, Special Victims Unit, and a Cold Case Investigator.

#### Persons Crimes Sergeant Mike Cooper

The Persons Squad investigates homicides, attempted homicides, aggravated batteries, death investigations, arsons with injuries, robberies, and other sensitive incidents. In 2024, detectives assigned to the Persons Squad conducted both follow-up and self-initiated additional cases focused on apprehending perpetrators of violent crimes. Persons detectives were assigned 109 cases, cleared 103 cases, and charged 37 separate felony offenders.

The Persons Squad also has a civilian cold case investigator that focuses specifically on unsolved homicides, missing persons, and other high impact unsolved crimes. If you have information related to a case, please contact Investigator Todd Hand at (352) 367-4164 or, if you wish to remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at (352) 372-STOP or submit your tip online on our Cold Case web page at <https://acso.us/cold-cases/>



**JASMINE ROBINSON**

**MISSING / ENDANGERED**

**REWARD**



**Tip Line: 352-491-4550**



#### Notable solved cold cases

- After several years of investigation, two suspects were charged in November 2024 with the murder of 16-year-old Z'hane Sanders.
- In July 2024, three suspects were charged and arrested for the April 22, 2017, murder of Christin Cassels.
- In February 2024, a suspect was indicted for the June 29, 2010, homicide of Sebastian Ochsenius.

#### Special Victims Unit (SVU) Detective Sergeant Nancy Marzouk-Brainerd

SVU detectives are focused on some of our most vulnerable victims, investigating crimes involving victims of sexual battery, child abuse, human trafficking, domestic violence, missing persons, and certain crimes against the elderly. The unit has one detective completely dedicated to investigating intimate partner violence cases.



Another detective is assigned to investigate internet crimes against children (ICAC). In 2024, the exceptional detectives assigned to the SVU received 194 cases for follow-up and initiated another 45 cases against sexual offender/predators and offenders accused of sexual battery, child abuse and molestation, and possession of child pornography. The SVU charged 129 suspects, resulting in 46 on-view arrests and 83 sworn complaints. An additional 36 cases were closed without charges being filed and 26 cases initiated in 2024 remain open investigations at this time. The SVU detectives executed search warrants, led children and their families through countless compassionate interviews and arrested suspects for crimes that included sexual battery on children, human trafficking, domestic battery, and sexual battery on adult victims.

### Victim Advocates

ACSO's victim advocates are grant-funded through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant. They provide services for victims of child physical abuse, child sexual abuse, domestic violence, adult sexual assault, elder abuse, robbery, assault, property crimes, harassment, stalking, and surviving family members of homicide victims. Services include first response and crisis counseling; follow-up contact, information and referral; criminal justice system support, assistance with crime victim's compensation forms, personal advocacy, injunction assistance, case management, and telephone and letter contacts.



*From left: Victim Advocate Jordan Malecki, Victim Advocate Dayana Georgieva, Lead Victim Advocate Susan Hood-Alvarez, and Victim Advocate Sydney Lemmerman*

### Property Investigations Bureau

#### Lieutenant Eric Hutchinson

The Property Investigations Bureau is comprised of the Property Crimes Squad and the Investigations Support Unit.

### Investigations Support Sergeant Donald Cook

The Investigative Support Unit (ISU) is the operational section of the Criminal Investigations Division (CID). ISU is responsible for all proactive and reactive operations for CID. The ISU currently has two full-time crime analysts, one jail intelligence detective, one digital forensics detective, and one investigation support detective.

In 2024, ISU organized a total of 23 proactive operations. There were 21 Gun Violence Task Force operations, one two-day retail theft operation, and two sex offender operations. The Gun Violence Task Force (GVTF) is a joint effort between ACSO, GPD and federal partners to suppress violent crime and shootings. The GVTF began in March 2024 and the primary focus was/is proactive operations aimed at seizing felony firearms and arresting violent criminals. With the assistance of the ISU organizing the details and the collective effort from Patrol, CID, DTF, and K9, a total of 188 firearms were seized in 2024. In total, 177 arrests were made in these cases where firearms were seized. An additional 45 arrests were made for felons in possession of firearms or ammunition. Seven Alachua County Sheriff's Office cases were federally prosecuted.

Between GVTF operations, ISU organized a two-day sex offender detail. The first phase of this detail occurred on the evening of October 9, 2024. Detectives conducted eight sex offender address verifications, verified one offender's compliance, and made one felony violation arrest. A planned second phase of the detail was canceled due to hurricane response.

The final operation of 2024 was a joint operation between ACSO, FDLE, and local retailers. The retail theft operation was a two-day event focusing on retail theft suppression during the holiday season. The detail led to 10 case reports, 12 trespass warnings, 3 arrest warrants served, 4 physical arrests, and 9 total felony cases made.

In addition to the arrests made during the proactive details, the ISU Jail Intelligence Detective made 48 arrests of inmates for crimes committed while incarcerated at the county jail.



*Jail Intelligence Detective Clinton Ferguson*

Aside from the proactive operations, ISU partnered with the Loss Prevention Research Council and acquired 6 FLOCK Flex LPR cameras, 6 Advanced Covert Technology remote view pedestal cameras, and 2 Advanced Covert Technology vehicle drop kits. The surveillance equipment will be assets for the entire agency, whenever cover surveillance is needed.

### Property Crimes *Sergeant James Ferguson*

Detectives assigned to this unit investigate property-related crimes, including residential/business/conveyance burglaries, felony theft, and cases involving guns, pawns, and financial crime. During 2024, property detectives were assigned 341 new property crimes cases, including financial crimes cases. Criminal charges were filed 133 times via arrest or sworn complaint against 106 defendants. Detectives investigated these cases while continuing investigations on cases from 2023. Of the 2024 property crimes assigned, 208 were closed. Property and financial crimes detectives jointly recovered approximately \$250,530.81 worth of property. Property Detectives Andy Adams and Greg Guzman have the versatility, expertise, and tenacity to solve a wide range of these types of cases.

### Financial Crimes - Detective Travis Parsons

The financial crimes detective investigates cases involving credit card fraud, identity theft, schemes to defraud, exploitation of the elderly, cryptocurrency scams, and other white collar crimes. Detective Parsons works closely with the United States Secret Service, financial institutions, local businesses, and numerous local, state, and federal law enforcement partners to identify and charge suspects in these crimes.

Financial crimes accounted for 96 cases of the Property Crimes Unit's 2024 case-assignment workload, with 26 arrests/sworn complaints. However, the number of charging documents is not an accurate reflection of the amount of case effort involved and coordination required for successful prosecution of these financial crimes. For example, many of the ACSO impersonation cases were transferred to Sarasota County to be consolidated for adoption by the FBI. An additional 34 cases were closed for a combination of reasons, such as occurring in another jurisdiction, civil cases with no criminal action, or having insufficient leads for any further follow-up.

It should be noted that because the perpetrators of financial crimes are often known to or closely associated with their victims, an unwillingness on the part of those victims to press charges once circumstances are known affects the number of cases cleared by arrest or sworn complaint. Detective Parsons is working diligently on the remaining 163 cases currently assigned to him.

Detective Parsons traveled twice in 2024 to present his gift card fraud case from 2023 as an example of best practices for the successful investigation and prosecution of this type of transnational crime. He was invited by Homeland Security to present at Target Corporate Headquarters in Minnesota at the beginning of a nationwide coalition between law enforcement and retailers to combat transnational gift card fraud. He was subsequently invited to the International Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference by Homeland Security to present the same information to law enforcement leaders from around the world. This case served as one of the first successful prosecutions of this type of case in the state of Florida.

### Firearms/Pawns - Detective Chris Avery

Detective Avery reviews the previous week's firearms pawn transactions from each pawn shop in the county, to include each municipality, to ensure the person is not a convicted felon or subject to an injunction prohibiting them from owning or possessing firearms. Investigations into gun crimes vary from guns recovered by deputies to recovered stolen guns and numerous other facets of gun crimes.

Patrol Division cases where firearms were used or recovered are reviewed to see if the suspects are candidates for



*Detective Travis Parsons working at his desk*





*Detectives Chris Avery and Andy Adams*

federal prosecution. Pawn shops are contacted approximately five to 10 times per month for several reasons, including: investigating firearms pawned by convicted felons, stolen firearms, placing holds on any property, and conducting questioning regarding suspicious firearm pawn transactions.

Detective Avery also assists the Evidence Section with returning firearms to theft and burglary victims. The number of firearms returned each month varies depending on how many firearms are cleared to be returned. Detective Avery test-fired 225 firearms last year for NIBIN purposes. He also assisted the Evidence Section with grading over 100 guns next year for sale or destruction and assists with the destruction of guns not fit for sale or that cannot be lawfully sold.

## Warrants Bureau

### Lieutenant Mike Hanson

The Warrants Bureau is responsible for receiving, processing, and maintaining active files and executing all criminal arrest processes, civil arrest processes, and criminal summons. Warrants are generated by the Gainesville Police Department, University of Florida Police Department, State Attorney's Office, Alachua Police Department, High Springs Police Department, Alachua County Sheriff's Office, and Probation and Parole, as well as out-of-county and out-of-state sources. The bureau is also responsible for the receiving and serving of Baker Act and Marchman Act orders generated during normal work hours. During 2024, the bureau served a total of 2,517 warrants, 243 civil commitments, responded to Probation and Parole 146 times, and served 443 criminal adult summonses.

### Transport Investigator

The Warrants Bureau coordinates the transportation of persons arrested on local arrest orders throughout the nation and conducts investigations for extradition hearings. The bureau's transport investigator works with private transport companies to coordinate nationwide prisoner pick-ups. During 2024, the transport investigator arranged for 750 inmates to be transported to the Alachua County Jail.

### Fugitive Investigator

Fugitive cases are generated when an individual is arrested in another state on an Alachua County warrant, or when the individual is arrested in Alachua County for a warrant generated by an agency located outside of the state of Florida. The fugitive process begins and is continued until the defendant is brought back to the jurisdiction of the court. In 2023, there were 116 new fugitive cases; 78 from Florida and 38 from other states. The fugitive investigator successfully closed 107 fugitive cases in 2024.

### U.S. Marshal's Regional Fugitive Task Force (USMS)

ACSO warrants investigators submitted 122 warrant cases to be adopted by the Florida Regional Fugitive Task Force during 2024. This was a 24% increase over 2023. Of those cases, five warrant cases were recalled by the courts, two subjects died before they could be apprehended, and 103 were closed by arrest, which is an 89.5% arrest rate. Many of those arrestees are currently in the Alachua County Jail awaiting trial. Warrants investigators worked 1,275 hours participating in joint law enforcement investigations and operations with the Florida Regional Fugitive Task Force. These hours were in addition to regular duty hours and involved investigating, locating, and apprehending fugitives who had active local, state, and federal warrants.



## JUDICIAL SERVICES & TRAINING DIVISION

### Captain Jayson Levy

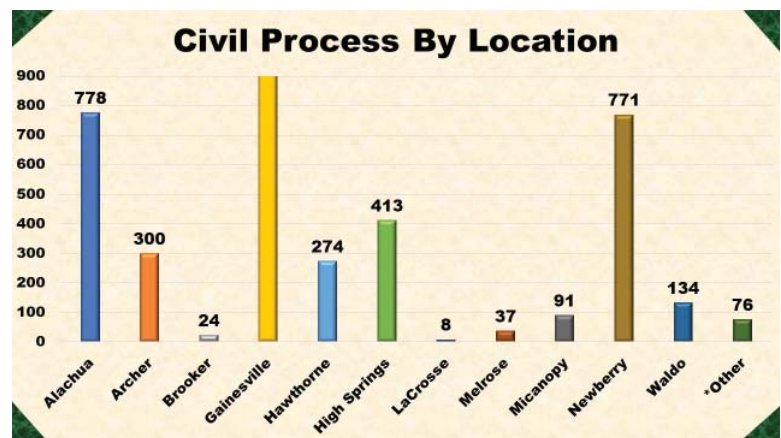
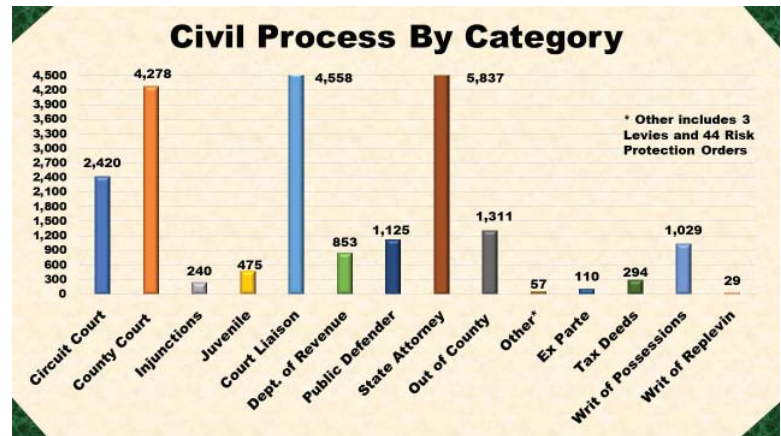
The Judicial Services and Training Division is comprised of the Civil, Court Security, and Training Bureaus.

### Civil Bureau

#### Lieutenant Chuck McCray

The Civil Bureau is located in the County Administration Building and is responsible for the service and enforcement of all types of judicial processes within Alachua County. Additionally, Civil Bureau deputies assist the Court Security Bureau with weekly events, large trials, and personnel shortages. In 2024, the bureau received a total of 22,616 civil papers for service, which included 1,465 Enforceable Writs. Included in the Enforceable Writ total were 44 Risk Protection Orders and three Levies. During 2024, 19,710 civil papers were served which listed a service address in Gainesville. The remaining papers listed other municipal or unincorporated addresses within Alachua County.

\*\*\*Data compiled is based on the best estimated values.

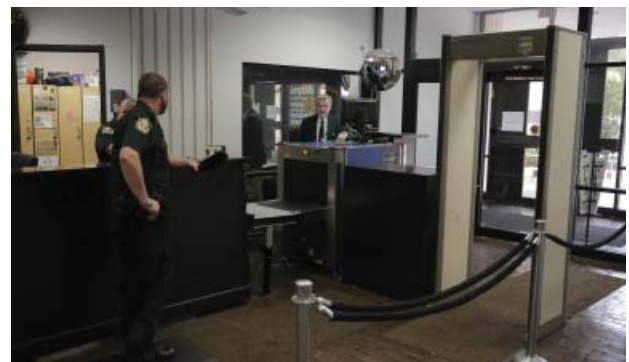


### Court Security Bureau

#### Lieutenant Chuck McCray

The Court Security Bureau has offices in both the Criminal and Civil courthouses in downtown Gainesville. The deputies assigned to the bureau provide safety and security to the officers of the court, citizens, and staff members within the courthouses. Their mission is to serve and protect the citizens of Alachua County as they participate in the legal system. Court Security deputies provide high-level security and support, ensuring that all participants have their rights and freedoms protected while seeking justice.

The Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center handles all family and civil matters, such as domestic violence, juvenile cases, shelter hearings, and lawsuits. The Judge Stephen P. Mickle Courthouse handles all criminal cases, as well as drug, mental health, and veterans' court programs. The Court Security Bureau also provides security for monthly county commission meetings. Deputies screen each visitor entering the courthouses through a comprehensive security station using x-ray machines and magnetometers. Approximately 227,000 individuals were screened during the 2024 calendar year while entering the courthouses.



Court security deputies screening visitors



Civilian court security officer screening visitors



Court Security deputies staffed over 30,000 court cases during 2024. Deputies assigned to the Civil Courthouse staffed a total of 6,375 cases, while the deputies assigned to the Criminal Courthouse staffed 24,900 cases. This total does not include approximately 9,167 cases that were held over the Zoom platform.

The bureau has also been tasked with assisting in the construction of a new justice center which will encompass both Criminal and Civil courthouses, the State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, and the Civil Bureau. This multi-million dollar project is set to open later in 2025.

## Training Bureau

### Lieutenant Rich Howell

The Training Bureau is responsible for over 40 in-house training programs, which include in-service, remedial, supplemental, and Guardian training; all designed to enable employees and Guardians to perform their varied job tasks safely and effectively. Training programs are planned and managed in such a manner as to ensure compliance with the needs of each employee's job classification/description and the requirements of the position.

The State of Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC) directives and applicable accreditation standards are used as guidelines for employee training opportunities provided by the ACSO.

In 2024, all law enforcement and corrections personnel completed Risk Protection, Alzheimer's Awareness, and Use of Appropriate Subject Control Techniques courses. Law enforcement personnel also received refresher training on vehicle tactics and operations and continued to build on active shooter response and building clearing skills with scenarios taking place in a school setting.

### 2024 Highlights

- Trained 34 law enforcement new hires and 40 corrections new hires in high-liability skills.
- Established a Subject Control Techniques curriculum for training deputies, detention deputies, and detention officers in safe and effective defensive tactics maneuvers.
- Attended several instructor de-escalation courses through FDLE and Force Science.



*Training*



*Field Training Deputy with a Trainee*

### Field Training and Evaluation Program

Every new deputy and detention deputy/officer hired by the ACSO must complete the agency's Field Training and Evaluation Program prior to operating in a "solo" capacity in their respective field. ACSO deputies and detention deputies/officers are highly-trained and professionally equipped to handle the ever-changing types of calls and incidents that law enforcement and correction officers respond to. The law enforcement deputies complete a 22-week Field Training and Evaluation Program and the detention deputies/officers complete an 8-week Field Training and Evaluation Program.



### Mini Academy

Every new deputy and detention deputy/officer hired by the ACSO must complete the agency's Mini Academy prior to progressing to the agency's Field Training and Evaluation Program. ACSO deputies and detention deputies/officers are highly-trained and professionally equipped to handle the ever-changing types of calls and incidents that law enforcement and correction officers respond to. The ACSO Mini Academy sets the stage for new deputies and detention deputies/officers to ensure their understanding of ACSO policies, procedures and practices. The law enforcement deputies complete an 8-week Mini Academy and the detention deputies/officers complete a 2-week Mini Academy.

### Recruitment Team

The ACSO Recruitment Team is staffed by full time representatives from Law Enforcement and from the Department of the Jail. The full time personnel are also supplemented by volunteer personnel from around the agency. The ACSO Recruitment Team is responsible for attracting and identifying qualified candidates that wish to join the ACSO. Additionally, the ACSO Recruitment team assists applicants by guiding them through the hiring process. The ACSO Recruitment team focuses their efforts of recruiting on all open positions within the agency.





## 2024 RETIREMENTS - GOODBYE TENSION, HELLO PENSION!



**Detention Officer  
Michelle Boykin**  
1998-2024



**Detention Deputy  
Oscar Chavez-Mejia**  
2005-2024



**Detention Deputy  
Ronald Cobb**  
2011-2024



**Lieutenant  
Sherry French**  
1996-2024



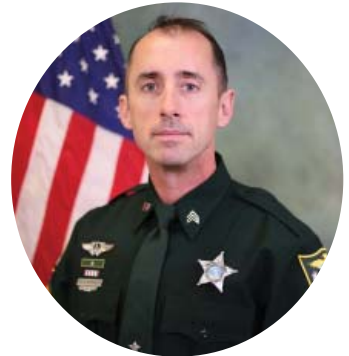
**Lieutenant  
Paul Hinson**  
1998-2024



**Court Security Officer  
Theodore Mavin**  
1998-2012; 2018-2024



**Sergeant  
Thomas Overacker**  
1983-2024



**Lieutenant  
Brett Rhodenizer**  
1988-2024



**Detention Officer  
Wilson Robinson III**  
1988-2024



**Captain  
Corey Warren**  
1993-2024



**Detention Officer  
April White-McNair**  
2011-2024



**Detention Officer  
Gary Wolf**  
2007-2024

## In Memoriam



**Detention Officer Alonzo Dye**  
DOH: November 26, 2018  
EOW: October 24, 2024

**A life that touches others goes on forever -  
Unknown**

<https://www.gainesville.com/obituaries/psar0986115>

## Employees of the Month/Year

Each month, supervisors throughout the agency nominate an employee, or group of employees, who have performed exceptionally well. Those nominations are voted on by the Command Staff and the winning employee or group is awarded \$100, paid by the agency. At the end of the year, all of the Employee of the Month nominees are voted on by the entire agency, with the winner(s) named Employee of the Year and awarded an additional \$300, paid by the Shining Light of Alachua County.

### 2024's Employees of the Month were:

| Month     | Employee(s)  |
|-----------|--|
| January   | Deputy Frank Carroll   |
| February  | Detective Clint Ferguson and Detention Deputy Wesley Martin  |
| March     | Latent Print Examiner Tina Tuck and Crime Scene Investigators Payton Hoehn and Alexandra Horsfall      |
| April     | Deputies Carlton Litzkow and Justin Williams   |
| May       | Deputy Jeffrey Finch   |
| June      | Radio Technician David Burzinski and Telecommunicator Trainees Malorie Beck and Stephen Johnson        |
| July      | Detention Officer Shawn Boyette  |
| August    | Deputy William Patten  |
| September | Deputy Adam Diaz   |
| October   | Deputies Zachary Means, William Patten, and Patrick Tomblor; and Field Service Technician John Stevens |
| November  | Sergeant Mike Powers, Deputy Frank Carroll, and Deputy Trainee Cameron Brown                           |
| December  | No Nominees  |

### And the 2024 Employee of the Year is Deputy Jeffrey Finch!

On Friday, May 31, 2024, Deputy Jeffrey Finch responded to a location on SR 45 in reference to a one-year old child drowning during a swim lesson. Once on scene, he retrieved his AED (automated external defibrillator) from his vehicle. Upon entering the pool area, he observed the swim instructor performing CPR on the baby who was having extreme difficulty breathing. Deputy Finch assessed the baby and could not locate a pulse. He then placed the pediatric AED pads on the child and took over providing high quality CPR while following the prompts from the AED.

When the AED advised to stop touching the patient, Deputy Finch heard the child grunt while exhaling and the child began to cry. The child began breathing again and a weak femoral pulse was located. Alachua County Fire Rescue arrived shortly after and transported the child to the hospital for further medical treatment.

Deputy David Visconti responded to the hospital to check on the child and learned the child's medical condition had stabilized. The doctor treating the child told Deputy Visconti that Deputy Finch's quick action undoubtedly saved the child's life.



*Deputy Finch receiving his award from Sheriff Chad Scott*



## 2024 AGENCY AWARDS

One of the Sheriff's privileges is to honor employees and citizens who go above and beyond the call of duty to serve the community.

The Assist Other Agency Award recognizes any employee who brings credit to themselves or the agency through exceptional performance during a significant event in which the Sheriff's Office is providing assistance to another law enforcement agency. Deputy Thomas Sapundjieff received this award in 2024.



The Hurricane Relief Award recognizes any employee who brings credit to themselves or the agency through exceptional performance while engaged in hurricane relief operations locally or in support of another jurisdiction. The following employees were recognized with this award in 2024:



- Lieutenant Richard Howell
- Lieutenant Joe VanGorder
- Sergeant Scott Bonafide
- Sergeant Chuck Drake
- Sergeant Mike Hurlocker
- Sergeant Frank Kinsey
- Detective Andy Adams
- Deputy Chuck Beveridge
- Deputy Esau Bright
- Deputy Daniel Cruz
- Deputy Robert Diamond Dean
- Deputy Adam Delker
- Deputy Justin Dillon
- Deputy Michael Griffeth
- Deputy Dan Maynard
- Deputy Lance Pallett
- Deputy Travis Parsons
- Deputy Michael Richardson
- Deputy Ricky Robinson
- Deputy Jake Skelly
- Deputy Orey Swilley
- Radio System Manager Scott Shelpman
- Radio Technician Timothy Hettrick

The Lifesaving Award is given to any employee, sworn or civilian, who without risk or harm to themselves, rescues someone from the likelihood of certain death or renders first aid to a person whose life is in immediate jeopardy. 2024 Lifesaving Award recipients were:



- Mr. Jon Birkmire
- Deputy Leo Lowe
- Sergeant Jake Skelly
- Deputy Robert Stafford
- Deputy Jeffrey Finch
- Deputy Mikell McKoy
- Lieutenant Chris Sims
- Deputy Orey Swilley
- Deputy Joshua Meurer
- Deputy Edward Beatty
- Deputy Jason Upshaw



Mr. Jon Birkmire with Sheriff Gainey



Lt. Chris Sims with Sheriff Gainey



K-9 Deputies Orey Swilley and Mikell McKoy with K-9 Sgt. Mike Hurlocker

The Unit Citation recognizes any agency component for extraordinary achievement in accomplishing a specific mission. Two groups received the Unit Citation during 2024: the SWAT Team and Human Resources.



Human Resources - for the pool of employees who worked on and/or expedited the recruitment and on-boarding of a large group of new employees in order to quickly fill vacancies throughout the agency. This group also includes numerous employees from different parts of the agency besides Human Resources, but as it was a joint effort on the part of all concerned, they all received the citation.

- Acting HR Director Jennifer Altenburger
- Booking Support Bureau Chief Pam Cuffie
- Lieutenant Paul Hinson
- Lieutenant Heather Phillips
- On-Boarding Manager Jeimmy Veloza
- HR Employment Manager Celena Durant
- FARU Manager Thomas Clifford
- Sergeant Lance Cannon
- Sergeant Sandi Myers
- Sergeant Michael Richardson
- Sergeant Richard Rooney
- Sergeant Joshua Wallace
- Background Investigator Chuck Beveridge
- Background Investigator Vernell Brown
- Background Investigator Larry Freedman
- Deputy Tommy Steele
- Deputy David Visconti
- Benefits/Risk Coordinator Ramona Excell
- HR Research Analyst Sean Kerns
- Administrative Support Specialist Amber Johns
- Administrative Specialist Sitarani Gracia
- Administrative Specialist Tristan Kimerling
- HR Specialist Mary Leandre
- HR Specialist Richard Martin
- HR Specialist Rachael Wise
- Warrants Technician Kelly Caraway
- Criminal Justice Technician Anthony Gray

The SWAT Team - for their response to a high-risk incident in support of Hamilton County.

- ACFR Lieutenant Wayne Aylor
- GFR Deputy Chief Joseph Hillhouse
- GFR Lieutenant Jason Hendricks
- GFR Lieutenant Brett Thomas
- GFR Driver-Operator Jeremy Cicio
- GFR Driver-Operator David Cook
- GFR Driver-Operator Jamal Hafiz
- GFR Driver-Operator Andrew Picko
- Lieutenant Richard Howell
- Sergeant Donald Tyler Cook
- Sergeant Cleveland Cox
- Sergeant James Ferguson
- Sergeant Monica Herrera
- Sergeant Taylor Redding
- Sergeant Kaifa Tyson
- Detective Andy Adams
- Detective Jacob Barlow
- Detective William Alex Black
- Detective Ryan DePete
- Detetive Michael McKivigan
- Deputy Michael Altman
- Deputy Cody Bierman
- Deputy Matthew Davis
- Deputy Chad Dugan
- Deputy Jose Gonzalez
- Deputy Jon Huckstep
- Deputy Carlton Litzkow
- Deputy Clayton Litzkow
- Deputy Kaleb Payne
- Deputy Jesse Sampson
- Deputy Lloyd E. Smith
- Deputy David A. Visconti
- Deputy David F. Visconti
- Deputy Thomas Willcox



*The SWAT Team received their Unit Citation in December 2024*



The Certificate of Commendation is awarded to any employee or citizen for: (1) Excellence in duty performance by displaying alertness, efficiency, and dedication; (2) duty performance which displays unusual thoroughness, conscientiousness, determination, and initiative; (3) acts of law enforcement service above and beyond the call of duty; (4) outstanding law enforcement-related acts, or service to the community that results in a better ACSO/community relationship.

Ms. Rebecca Hurm and Mr. Robert Obner were awarded the Civilian Certificate of Commendation in 2024. The following employees were also awarded with a Certificate of Commendation during 2024:

- Sergeant John Collin Nobles
- Sergeant Alex Acosta
- Sergeant David McClain
- Sergeant Kaifa Tyson
- Detective Clint Ferguson
- Deputy Jon Huckstep
- Deputy William Baker
- Deputy Matthew Freeman
- Deputy Antonio James
- Deputy Kamari Jones
- Deputy Carlton Litzkow
- Victim Advocate Jordan Malecki
- Deputy Ethan Miller
- Deputy Isaac Minck
- Deputy Justin Williams
- Detention Officer Cylina Miller
- Detention Officer Richard Swygart
- Detention Officer Janeice Jordan



*DO Janeice Jordan*



*Victim Advocate Jordan Malecki*



*Deputy Kaifa Tyson*

The Combat Award is given to any sworn employee who has been in a combat situation involving gunfire or other weapons with criminal suspects, where the action of the recipient was commendable. Deputy Frank Carroll received the Combat Award in 2024.



The Medal of Valor is awarded for an outstanding act of valor involving high risk of imminent personal danger during the performance of duty involving the saving of human life. The Medal of Valor is the highest award given to employees. The only higher award is the Medal of Honor, which is given to the surviving family members of a deputy who is killed in the line of duty while saving a life. Detective Jake Barlow, and Deputies Frank Carroll and Carlton Litzkow received the Medal of Valor in 2024.



*Detective Jacob Barlow*



*Deputy Frank Carroll (center)*



*Deputy Carlton Litzkow (center)*





Deputy Avery cutting a tree blocking a road during T.S. Debby.



NE 77th Lane, east of Hwy 301, washed out during T.S. Debby.



Car hydroplaned into a ditch during T.S. Debby.



Newnan's Lake flooding during T.S. Debby.



T.S. Debby news in the Emergency Operations Center.



Deputies clearing a road during T.S. Debby.



A tree blocking a road during T.S. Debby.



Wilson Robinson Park flooding during T.S. Debby.



The skid-steer at work during Hurricane Helene.



Fallen tree on a car during Hurricane Helene.



Tree on the power lines during Hurricane Helene.



A CCC call screen during Hurricane Helene.





A tree on a home during Hurricane Helene.



Tree on the power lines during Hurricane Helene.



Car in the power lines during Hurricane Helene.



Deputy Perez after Hurricane Helene.



Hydroplane crash in Hawthorne during Hurricane Milton.



Emergency Operations Center during Hurricane Milton.



Found in a driveway during Hurr. Milton & re-located to Lake Alto.



NE 49th Avenue and Waldo Road Crash during Hurricane Milton.



A guest at the Easton Sports Center shelter during Hurricane Milton.



Box truck crash on Hwy 301 in Waldo during Hurricane Milton.



Traffic light out at SW Williston/SW 40th St., during Hurricane Milton.



Command staff manning the phones in the EOC during Milton.



**WHERE LIFETIME CAREERS ARE LAUNCHED!**



**ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**NOW HIRING**



**ACSO.US**

