

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

Michael J. Bouchard
Oakland County Sheriff



2005
Annual Report

**Oakland County Sheriff’s Office
2005 Annual Report**

Table of Contents

Sheriff Bouchard’s Opening Statement.....3

Organizational Chart.....4

Administrative Services Division.....5-6

 Records Unit.....6

Correctional and Court Services7-9

 Corrective Services Division.....7

 Satellite and Court Services Division.....8, 9

Law Enforcement Services10-24

 Patrol Services Division.....10-14

 Technical Services Division.....15-20

 Emergency Preparedness, Training, and Communications Division.....21-24

Community Services.....25-26

Mission Statement:

The Oakland County Sheriff’s Office is dedicated to the safety and protection of the citizens and businesses within our boundaries. We are committed to the task of keeping our courts and correctional system secure and our service is built upon integrity, respect, vision, and leadership.

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

Michael J. Bouchard

January, 2006

Dear Citizens and Local Leaders:

The Oakland County Sheriff's Office is one of the largest full-service law enforcement organizations in the nation, providing services to all residents within our borders of over 910 square miles, including over 2500 miles of roads and more than 450 lakes. In addition to providing comprehensive law enforcement services to more than 1.2 million Oakland County residents - ranging from a Forensic Science Laboratory to a Fugitive Apprehension Team to a Jail and Corrections System housing over 2,000 inmates to an Aviation Unit and more - the Oakland County Sheriff's Office is the sole provider of patrol and law enforcement services for over 275,000 of those residents through law enforcement contracts in 15 different communities.

One of the greatest challenges of recent years has been providing more law enforcement services in tough economic times. We are always looking for new strategies to maximize the efficiency of our personnel and other resources.

With homeland security issues at front and center, increasing demands have broadened the scope of our services. We have consistently met these demands and challenges without any additional costs to taxpayers. Providing the best services with the most technologically advanced resources has always been a goal of mine, and I am proud to say we have accomplished that in 2005. We are one of the best prepared agencies for any type of emergency because of our state-of-the-art equipment, our dedicated and professional personnel and our ongoing focus on improvement and training.

This annual report gives an overview of the organizational structure, services provided, and accomplishments of the Sheriff's Office during 2005. I hope you find its content informative and interesting. As you will see from the statistics and data provided throughout the report, our agency is called upon to assist in a variety of situations. We are dedicated to continuous improvement through consistent, high-quality training for all of our personnel. Additionally, we are ready and able to assist any citizen or agency, local, state, or federal, at a moments notice.

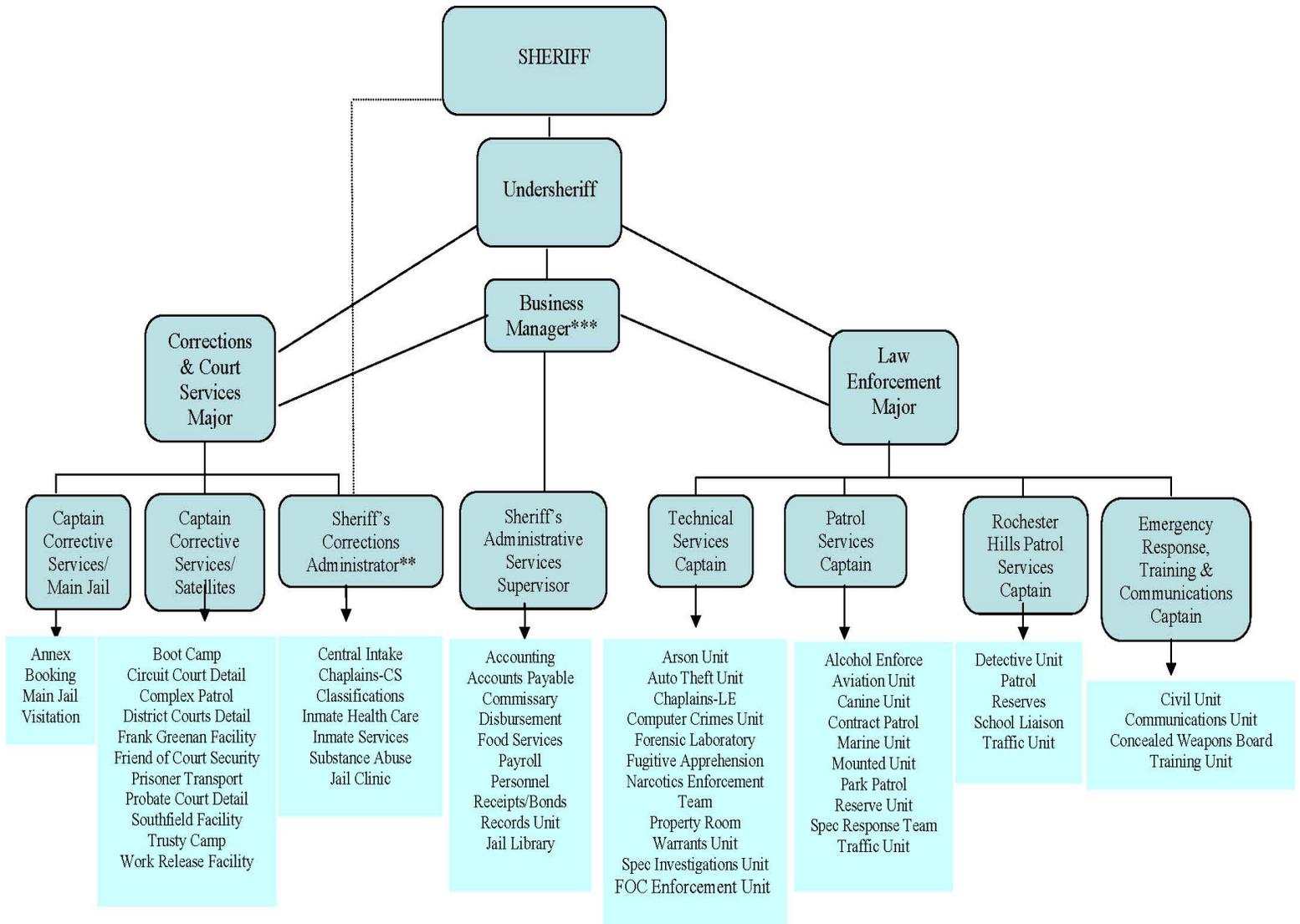
Thank you for your continued support. As always, we are open to comments and suggestions so feel free to contact us via our website at www.oaklandsheriff.com. We are honored to serve and protect the citizens and businesses of Oakland County and look forward to bringing you more news of our progress next year.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Bouchard
OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF

Oakland County Sheriff's Office Organizational Chart



Corrections Policy and Procedures *Financial Supervision Only/Except Admin Services (Direct Supervision)

Administrative Services Division

Chief Financial Officer: Dale Cunningham, Ph.D.

The Administrative Services Division is responsible for conducting all business and human resource functions. Accounting, payroll, uniforms, supplies, benefits, and the Records Unit are all managed within this Division. Income Account Deposits are also maintained here which include bonds, fines and costs, money used for inmate purchases of commissary items, and for inmate lodging at the Work Release Facility.

This Division manages a \$114 million budget and ensures dollars are spent wisely and for the benefit and safety of Oakland County's residents.

2005 Revenues

Contract Law Enforcement Services	\$25,972,604
Contract Correctional Services	\$475,728
Contract Dispatch Services	\$321,486
Inmate Board and Care	\$1,725,000
OUIL Third and Deferred Offender	\$3,315,591
Reimbursement of Salaries	\$2,315,647

The Sheriff's Office collected and deposited \$1,316,627.78 in revenue deposits from the Work Release Facility. That amount includes room and board, laundry, and miscellaneous reimbursements (medical and/or dental fees, or commissary charges). The commissary sold over \$1 million in merchandise to the inmates. The commissary is completely self-supporting with all staff salaries and benefits, vehicle expense and many miscellaneous costs paid for by the commissary's gross profits.

2005 Human Resource Appointments

Full-Time

Deputy I	37
Forensic Lab Specialist II	1
Sheriff Communication Agent	8
Civilian	10

Part-Time

Court Deputy	9
Park Deputy	6
Marine Deputy	1
Mounted Deputy	1
Civilian	24

INMATE ACCOUNT DEPOSITS

Booking Receipts	\$ 789,582.72
Visitation Receipts	\$1,767,806.98
TOTAL	<u>\$2,557,276.20</u>

BOND ACCOUNT DEPOSITS

Regular	\$1,749,932.20
Interim	\$ 409,424.00
Fines & Costs	\$ 531,841.79
Bond Fees	\$ 6,887.00
TOTAL	<u>\$2,698,084.99</u>

Records Unit

The Records Unit is an efficient, customer service-oriented entity that does the processing and retention of all of the OCSO's incident reports, traffic accident reports, tickets, inmate folders and purchase permits. Responsible for the editing, data-entry, retrieval and forwarding of information and statistics from these files, the Records Unit team handles tens of thousands of records while serving the public in a friendly, professional fashion. Other functions of the Records Unit include: sex offender registration, gun registration, concealed weapons applicant fingerprinting and background checks, pawn entries, freedom-of-information-requests, inmate identity transfer corrections, non-public records entries and various government agency, law enforcement agency and citizen requests for background checks and incarceration information.

In 2005, 52,920 accident and incident reports were edited and entered into CLEMIS by Records Unit staff. Additionally, all tickets issued by OCSO Deputies were sorted, filed, and mailed to the various courts.

The Sheriff's Office new contract with TRACVIEW has helped increase efficiency with accident reports now available online to citizens and insurance companies. Mail requests are accompanied by fees, which are tallied at the end of each business day along with those fees collected from fingerprinting and walk-in report requests.

Records Unit Statistics 2005

Gun Registrations	4026
Gun Purchase Permits	2082
C.C.W. (Carry Concealed Weapons) Fingerprints	6046
Miscellaneous Prints	1190
Freedom of Information (FOIA) Requests	1067
Sex Offenders Registered	1144
Photostats	4850
Subpoenas & Discovery	518
License Applications	10

CORRECTIONAL AND COURT SERVICES

Commander: Major Douglas Eader

Correctional and Court Services of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office is responsible for the operation of the Oakland County Main Jail and Satellite Services, which includes County Satellite Jail Facilities, and Court Services.

CORRECTIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Commander: Captain Henry Wallace

The purpose of the Oakland County Jail is the custody and care of inmates, which includes providing clothing and food in a safe and secure environment during their period of sentenced incarceration. Additionally, the inmates receive support in the form of counseling, crisis intervention, adult education, recreation, visitation and chaplaincy.

In 2005, the Oakland County Main Jail and Annex housed, on average, 1020 of the total 1793 inmates in the Oakland County corrections system. These 1020 inmates range from low-level misdemeanor offenders to maximum security inmates charged with serious felonies up to and including 1st degree murder.

2005 Points of Interest:

25,734 inmate admissions, a decrease of 1.4% from 2004;

26,510 inmate releases, a decrease of 2.2% from 2004;

The Jail Overcrowding Act was declared twice due to overcrowding;

Video arraignment implementation continues, leading to projected decreases of jail population, transportation costs and staff time requirements;

Sheriff's Office takes over operation of Jail Health Clinic;

Renovation of CMH building for consolidation of staff, increasing inmate housing in main jail facility;

K-Block opens with 28 beds for special needs (mental & physical challenges) inmates' observation and housing;

Received 2005 Byrne grant to aid in community reintegration for inmates with manageable mental illnesses, saving over 1825 jail days. The Byrne grant has been renewed for 2006.

SATELLITE and COURT SERVICES DIVISION

Commander: Captain Charles Snarey

Satellite and Court Services is headed by Captain Charles Snarey, and is comprised of Satellite Correctional Facilities and Court Services.

Satellite Correctional Facilities- These include the Auburn Hills campus Boot Camp, the Frank Greenan Detention Facility, the Trusty Camp, the Southfield Detention Facility, and Work Release.

Boot Camp

Also known as the Regimented Inmate Disciplinary Program, this program is designed to house non-violent felons in a military-style environment which emphasizes strict discipline along with substance abuse counseling, development of real world work skills, high-school graduation equivalency, first aid training and physical fitness.

The Boot Camp has graduated, on average, over 150 trainees annually since its inception in 1990, and saves Oakland County taxpayers an average of \$1 million every year while participating in extremely high value projects (U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots, Michigan Fallen Heroes Memorial, Oakland County Food Bank, etc.).

Frank Greenan Detention Facility

The Frank Greenan Detention Facility was opened in 1996 to help relieve the growing issue of jail overcrowding in the Main Jail. It is a medium-security complex, and houses low-risk inmates. In 2005, the average number of inmates housed in the Frank Greenan Detention Facility was 183, with a total capacity of 186.

Trusty Camp

The Trusty Camp supervises low-level offenders (known as trusties) who serve their sentences by giving back to the Oakland County community. There were an average of 143 trusties in the program in 2005, with a total capacity of 146, and these trusties gave over 90,000 hours of work back to the community. Every year the Trusty Camp receives many compliments, awards, citations, and letters of appreciation.

Southfield Detention Facility

The Oakland County Sheriff's Office provides contractual correctional services and prisoner processing services to the City of Southfield Police Department, saving the City of Southfield close to \$1 million annually. This facility averaged 62 inmates in 2005, with a total capacity of 68 inmates.

Work Release

The Work Release facility is a minimum security facility that houses inmates who are allowed by a judge to continue to work while they serve out their sentences. Inmates at the facility are charged room and board depending on their level of income. The Work Release facility population averaged 352 in 2005.

Court Services

This division is responsible for courthouse security within and prisoner transport to and from Oakland County 6th Circuit Court, the 43rd, 47th, 48th, 52-1st, 52-2nd, 52-3rd and 52-4th district courts. This includes security for all circuit and district courtrooms and judges' chambers as well as the offices of Prosecutor, Treasurer, County Clerk, Friend of the Court, Probate, reimbursement, and the County Commissioners' offices and auditorium.

The Court Services division:

- performed over 1,795,000 security entrance clearances, and checked in over 9,700 armed officers entering the courts
- provided security and bailiff services at 132 trials
- processed over 13,450 inmates at 6th circuit court
- Made over 2,500 arrests and transported over 11,500 prisoners at district courts
- transported over 3,850 prisoners to and from 91 non-local facilities
- picked up over 19,500 prisoners from and delivered over 15,350 prisoners to local police and court facilities

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Commander: Major Damon Shields

Law Enforcement Services is commanded by Major Damon Shields, and is comprised of a number of divisions, all providing law enforcement services to citizens throughout Oakland County. Those divisions include: Patrol Services, Technical Services, and the Sheriff's Emergency Response, Training and Communications.

- **PATROL SERVICES DIVISION**

Commander: Captain Doug Molinar

The Oakland County Sheriff Patrol Services provides primary police services to over 275,000 citizens in Oakland County. The Patrol Services Division provides contract police services to 11 townships, two cities, and two villages in Oakland County, providing around the clock police protection. The police contract concept allows municipalities to customize police services to best suit the needs of their community. Contracted police services include uniform patrol, traffic enforcement, weigh master enforcement, patrol investigator, school liaison officer and various levels of police command.

The following Oakland County municipalities contract for police services:

Addison Township
Charter Township of Brandon
Charter Township of Commerce
Charter Township of Highland
Charter Township of Independence
Charter Township of Lyon
Charter Township of Oakland
Charter Township of Orion
Charter Township of Oxford
Charter Township of Royal Oak
Charter Township of Springfield
City of Rochester Hills
City of the Village of Clarkston (*midnight shift only*)
The Village of Leonard
The Village of Ortonville

Contract police services were also provided for special public events in various Oakland County communities including: the Renaissance Festival in Holly Township; the DTE Energy Music Theater (Pine Knob) in Independence Township; the Meadowbrook Music Festival in Rochester Hills; Pontiac Silverdome events; and the Woodward Dream Cruise.

Patrol Services Division 2005

Requests for Police Service	134,283
Total Arrests	6,692

Traffic Enforcement Statistics 2005

Traffic Citations	56,829
Traffic Crash Investigation Call Outs-Fatal	25
Traffic Crash Investigation Call Outs-Serious	38
Traffic Crash Investigations-total	11,535

The Patrol Services Division also provides countywide police support services that include: the Aviation Unit; 416 Traffic Unit; Motorcycle Unit and Crash Reconstruction Unit; Marine Patrol and Water Rescue Unit; Special Response Team (SRT, a.k.a-SWAT); County Parks Patrol; Mountain Bicycle Unit; Canine Unit; Alcohol Enforcement Team; Mounted Unit; the Reserve Deputy Unit; and the Explorer Unit.

Major Events 2005:

The Patrol Services Division was called upon to assist during a number of special events around metropolitan Detroit throughout 2005. Those events included: crowd control during the 2005 Blue Angels Air Show at the Selfridge Air National Guard Base; assisting the United States Secret Service with numerous motorcade escorts and protection details; providing Homeland Security protection during the 2005 Major League All Star Game. Additionally, the Patrol Services Division provided assistance to various police agencies and municipalities in the New Orleans area with security and relief efforts during the aftermath and destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina.

AVIATION UNIT

The Aviation Unit provides aerial patrol and emergency response to every municipality and police agency in Oakland County and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The entire Aviation Unit, including the aircraft and pilots, is fully funded thanks to an innovative plan by Sheriff Bouchard that privatized the food services for jail inmates, saving \$1.6 million dollars a year. This annual savings results in no new or additional costs to Oakland County taxpayers.

The Aviation Unit has two A-Star Eurocopter helicopters available for use. Both aircraft are equipped with state of the art avionics including on-board video cameras that can transmit video images to ground units via a microwave transmitter. They are also equipped with a special Forward Looking Infrared system (FLIR) that allows the pilot to detect heat sources in total darkness, and have an on-board computer mapping system that can locate addresses on the ground instantly. They are also equipped with a thirty million candle-power searchlight called “Night Sun” that can illuminate a pitch-dark area as if it was a high noon on a summer day.

In 2005, the Aviation Unit assisted various federal, state, county, and local police agencies with a variety of police related missions including assisting the United States Secret Service with a motorcade/ escort protection detail for the President of the United States. The unit provided assistance to the Federal Bureau of Investigation with various Homeland Security enforcement missions including the 2005 Major League All Star Game. The unit assisted various local police agencies with directed patrols including devil’s night and Halloween night, as well as providing traffic and crowd control support during the 2005 Woodward Dream Cruise.

Aviation Unit – 2005

Flight Hours	937
Calls for service	414
Assist Other Agencies	97

416 TRAFFIC UNIT

The 416 Traffic Unit is a state-funded grant program designed to provide traffic enforcement for county secondary road patrols. The 416 Traffic Unit is available, upon request, to any police agency in Oakland County for traffic-related assistance and enforcement. This group of highly trained deputies is a mobile strike force that can respond to serious multiple car crashes anywhere in the county. Through daily-directed patrols, the 416 Traffic Unit has helped to make our secondary roads safer for all motorists in all of Oakland County.

The Traffic 416 Unit also emphasizes the importance of educating the public about safe driving through numerous community initiatives and zero tolerance enforcement programs. The Zero Tolerance Enforcement programs include: Buckle Up America, Safe & Sober, Construction Zone Enforcement, Operation Blue Collar, Operation Snowplow, Child Safety Seat Inspections, Operation Spotlight, Click It or Ticket, and You Drink, You Drive, You Lose.

MOTORCYCLE TRAFFIC UNIT

Currently the largest police motorcycle unit in the State of Michigan, the OCSO Motorcycle Unit was re-established in 1999 by Sheriff Bouchard and has proved to be a valuable asset to both law enforcement and community relations. Because the Motorcycle Unit has proved to be such a valuable tool, the unit was increased from 12 motorcycles in 1999 to its current fleet of 30 motorcycles. The 30 deputies assigned to the Motorcycle Unit must complete a rigorous 80-hour training course. The police motorcycle provides deputies with a valuable law enforcement tool that can be used in a wide variety of police missions.

ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT TEAM

The Alcohol Enforcement (AE) Team is a county funded unit dedicated to the task of keeping drunk drivers off the roadways of the County. In 2005, the team arrested 315 drunk drivers and had an impressive conviction rate of 99.5 percent. Since the inception of the unit in 1980, the A.E. Unit has arrested 11,361 drunk drivers. The A.E. unit provides back up to local police departments and manpower for various community events including: Southfield Fireworks Display; Oak Park Fireworks Display; Woodward Dream Cruise; and numerous motorcade escort details for the United States Secret Service.

Another important responsibility of the A.E. Team is to educate the students of Oakland County of the hazards of underage drinking and driving. They accomplish this task through the S.C.O.P.E. program (Stop Drinking, Consider the Consequences, Observe Yourself, Protect Society, Educate Others), which in 2005, trained almost 20,000 high school students throughout Oakland County during the school year.

Alcohol Enforcement Team 2005

OWI Arrests	315
Citations	1,388
SCOPE-Students Trained	19,450

CANINE UNIT

In 2005, the Canine Unit was increased from 8 to 13 dogs. Four of the additional dogs were assigned to contract areas and paid for by the contracting municipalities including Rochester Hills, Orion Township, Brandon Township, and Commerce Township. The fifth new dog is assigned to the Corrective and Court Services and is used to search for contraband and narcotics in various correctional facilities and county buildings. The Canine Unit has two bomb dogs and 11 other dogs trained in tracking, property recovery, handler protection, and narcotic detection.

The Sheriff's Canine Unit had a very successful year in 2005, responding to approximately 1,400 requests for police service. The canine unit assisted in finding lost children, robbery suspects, and burglars during the year. They also assisted in narcotic searches during drug raids for several police agencies, including the Oakland County Narcotics Enforcement Team. The canine unit was responsible for the seizure and recovery of hidden drugs on numerous occasions, and also assisted in the recovery of stolen property and recovery of evidence from crime scenes in the year 2005. The canine unit also assisted various school districts throughout Oakland County with narcotic searches in upper grade level schools and school parking lot areas. Additionally, the Canine Unit assisted the United States Secret Service with bomb sweeps and crowd control during various protection details.

Canine Unit Statistics 2005

Calls for Service	1,399
Assists	247
Searches	849
Tracks	196
Jail Searches	85
K-9 Demos	108
Drug Seizures	1,026
Cash Seized	\$825,105
Vehicles Seized	18

MARINE UNIT

The Sheriff's Marine Unit is responsible for patrolling the lakes of Oakland County. Our Sheriff's Office has the largest marine unit in the State of Michigan with 3 full-time and over 64 part-time deputies. The Marine Unit is prepared to respond to any of the 450 plus lakes that cover 54 square miles in the County at any time. The Marine Unit fleet has twenty-seven patrol boats, two emergency jump boats, a hovercraft, four all-terrain vehicles, and four snowmobiles. Maintaining a 12-member, highly-trained dive and emergency rescue team, the dive team is equipped with the latest advanced technology gear and is ready to dive in virtually any weather or water condition. The Marine Unit also trains and educates students in boater safety, snowmobile, and hunter safety.

Marine Safety Unit - 2005

Boater Safety Students Certified	8,776
Hours of Lake Patrol	11,887
Marine Citations	1,340
Search and Rescue Hours	149
Drownings	4
Fatal Boat Accidents	1
Property Damage Boat Accidents	17
Injury Boat Accidents	10
Snowmobile Safety Students Certified	114
Snowmobile/ORV Patrol Hours	539
Hunter Safety Students Certified	503

MOUNTED UNIT

The Mounted Unit currently has 31 part-time mounted deputies assigned to the unit. Deputies provide their own horses and donate significant personal time to this highly professional unit. Each Mounted Unit deputy must complete a strenuous Mounted Unit police-training course. Once the Mounted Unit deputy has completed basic mounted unit police training, the horseback and police training continues on a regular basis. The officer/horse teams must meet basic equestrian requirements and then progress to advanced law enforcement training, which includes crowd control and police work in a variety of environments and police situations.

The Mounted Unit deputies are contracted to patrol our county parks and special public events such as the Southfield and Oak Park Fireworks, the Woodward Dream Cruise, Paint Creek Trail, Selfridge Air Show, 4-H fair, and crowd control in Royal Oak and Birmingham for sports related events and other protection details for the United States Secret Service. This group of highly trained horsemen and women can respond to police calls quickly and get to areas that police vehicles cannot.

Mounted Unit hours worked-2005	4305
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SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM

The Special Response Team (SRT) is a highly skilled and trained regiment of officers selected from personnel throughout the Sheriff's Office. The SRT Unit responds to critical situations involving barricaded gunmen, high-risk warrant arrests, drug raids, civil disturbances, and other police emergencies. Continuous specialized training along with sophisticated equipment provides the necessary tools to help resolve these dangerous missions swiftly and safely.

In 2005, the Sheriff's Office added a new vehicle to the fleet, the Colonel. The vehicle is an eight-wheeled armored tactical vehicle, which was purchased from General Purpose Vehicles (GPV) using drug forfeiture monies. Equipped to respond to tactical situations, natural disasters, and acts or threats of terrorism, the vehicle is amphibious and has a nuclear, biological, and chemical filtration system.

SRT Calls for Service-2005	17
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PARKS UNIT

The Parks Unit provides contractual law enforcement services to: Camp Dearborn, Addison Oaks, Groveland Oaks, Independence Oaks, Red Oaks, Lyon Oaks, Orion Oaks, Rose Oaks and Waterford Oaks County Parks. The park officers provide both a visible patrol force and supervise work details of inmate trustees who help keep our parks among the most clean and beautiful in the state. Deputies provide a number of police services including: citizen assists, traffic enforcement, and responding to dispatched calls for police services within the parks. One of the more recent additions to the parks unit is the Sheriff's Mountain Bicycle Patrol Unit. The bikes are used in a wide variety of police missions within the parks. They are used for routine patrol, community and public relations, searching for lost children and other related missions. The mountain bicycle unit proved to be a valuable asset at major public events in Oakland County such as the Woodward Dream Cruise.

Parks Unit Statistics – 2005

Deputy Hours Worked	16,766
Trusty Work Detail Hours	6,356
Citizen Contacts	6,008
Park Patrol Hours	8,950
Bike Patrol Hours	221
Arrests	66
Citations	1,193

RESERVE DEPUTIES

The Oakland County Sheriff's Office Reserve Unit is made up of 104 active Reserves. It is a community-based cadre of uniformed, trained volunteers. Qualified citizens attend a Reserve Officers Training Academy and upon graduation, join our officers on patrol. The Reserve Deputies also work special events in Oakland County including high school football games, community parades, the Woodward Dream Cruise, March of Dimes Walk America, Southfield and Rochester Hills Fireworks, Leonard Strawberry Festival, Clarkston Health Center Open House, Special Olympics Competition, Selfridge Air Base Blue Angels Air Show, WalMart and Sam's Club Fingerprint days and the 4-H Fair. In addition, the Reserve Deputies assisted with Neighborhood Watch programs and child-fingerprinting programs in various communities. Reserve Deputies have volunteered over 23,020 hours of their time to assist the Sheriff's Office on a variety of details throughout the year 2005.

Reserve Deputy Hours Served – 2005

Patrol	12,317
Training	2,975
Special Details & Events	5,468
Administrative	2,260
Total Hours Worked	23,020

EXPLORERS

The Sheriff's Office is the host of Explorer Post #649. The Explorer Post is comprised of young adults, ages 16 to 21, who are interested in a career in law enforcement. The program is designed to introduce the Explorers to the various components of law enforcement and correctional responsibilities, including basic firearm safety and marine safety. Training sessions are held with experienced officers. The Explorers are responsible for program fundraising and in 2005, held a golf outing as part of their overall fundraising plan. They also participated in competitions throughout the state with other Explorer Posts. The Explorers have assisted with child fingerprinting at numerous community events and assisted with parking/traffic details for events such as Oakland County's annual Yolklund Fest.

Explorer Hours Statistics - 2005:

Active Explorers	15
Special Events Worked	32
Hours Donated	745

- **Technical Services Division**

Commander: Captain Mark Newman

The Technical Services Division is a support division of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Services comprised of multiple units that focus on specific areas of expertise. These highly trained personnel employ a unique and sophisticated approach, as they are equipped to aid law enforcement at the County, State, and Federal levels in solving a multitude of various crimes. Each unit focuses on their specialty but is cross-trained in order to assist one another, the other divisions of the O.C.S.O., and the other 41 police agencies throughout Oakland County. They conduct field investigations focused on such specialized areas as Fire Investigation, Crime Scene Analysis, Narcotics Enforcement, Auto Theft, Major Crime Investigations, Computer Crimes Investigations (Internet), and Warrant and Absconder Apprehension. The Division also includes the Forensic Science Laboratory (Crime Lab), Property Room, Warrants Unit, and Crime Suppression Task Force.

FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY

The laboratory provides forensic services that are grouped into disciplines of Latent Prints, Firearms & Tool Marks, Drugs, and Forensic Art. The lab also provides sub-discipline services such as serial restorations, firearms distance-of-fire determinations, tire track and footwear comparisons and facial reconstruction and identifications. A dynamic part of laboratory services involves crime scene processing and reconstruction. A few of the methods used to develop latent evidence at crime scenes are cyanoacrylate (super glue) fuming, alternate light source, and the application of chemical reagents. Firearms projectile path reconstruction and blood spatter pattern analysis assist in reconstruction of scenes.

The laboratory recently acquired a digital enhancement system that will aid in the processing of latent evidence such as fingerprints. Laboratory specialists will now have the capability to digitally capture all latent prints, enhance their appearance for identification and directly transfer a digital image of the print into AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System).

Additionally, the laboratory has been preparing for the implementation of a new state-of-the-art AFIS system. This system is unique in that it will have the capability to capture, store, and correlate latent palm prints, as well as fingerprints, to known inked impressions. The database will be comprised of Oakland county agency submissions and will also have access to state records as well. Benchmark testing of the system has revealed a significant increase in correlation speed and matching hit success rate.

Within the division, the highly respected Forensic Science Laboratory personnel are frequently summoned to provide professional forensic analysis of physical evidence on a 24-hour, seven-day a week basis. To assist in making this possible, the Laboratory operates a mobile crime laboratory that responds to any crime scene, civil disorder, drowning, or death investigation. They collect and tag evidence, photograph or videotape crime scenes, and remove evidence collected for analysis.

Crime Lab Investigations 2005

Total Crime Scene Independent Investigations	160
Total Assists to Outside Agencies	2,559
Total Examinations	9,603
Total Identifications	4,843

FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT

The Fire Investigation Unit is recognized as one of the best in the country. For calendar year 2005 the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Fire Investigation Unit consisting of 1 Sergeant and 4 Investigators assisted more than 45 law enforcement and fire service agencies within Oakland County. Increases in fire scene investigations were seen in Brandon, Commerce, Oakland and Springfield Townships, Auburn Hills, Birmingham, Hazel Park, Madison Heights and Novi. The total number of fatal fire investigations increased 20% with a total of 8 fatalities. Compared to 2004, arson losses increased over \$1.6 million and accidental fire losses decreased by over \$1.7 million.

The Fire Investigation Unit had an arson arrest rate of 43% compared to the national average of about 10%. The Unit provides professional, expert services for the detection and prosecution of arson offenses around Oakland County.

Fire Investigation Reports 2005

Accidental	87
Arson	40
Undetermined	26
TOTAL FIRES INVESTIGATED	153

COMPUTER CRIMES UNIT

The OCSO Computer Crimes Unit (CCU) assists agencies throughout the county in investigating crimes ranging from child exploitation to homicide through forensic analysis of digital evidence. The Unit also takes a proactive approach on the Internet by posing as children to identify, arrest, convict, and imprison child predators. The CCU also obtains evidence through forensic computer examinations.

This unit also provides Internet safety seminars to parents, teachers, and students throughout the year. These presentations not only educate citizens on the dangers and risks of children accessing the Internet, but also instruct on ways in which they can protect themselves and their loved ones from new threats such as identify theft.

Computer Crimes Unit Activity 2005

Forensic Examinations	57
Arrests and Prosecutions	13
Search Warrant/Agency Assists	30
Search Warrant/O.C.S.O. Cases	28
Equipment analyzed	121
Internet Safety Presentations	15

AUTO THEFT UNIT

The Auto Theft Unit is a multi-jurisdictional task force directed by the Oakland County Sheriff's Office that specializes in investigating all auto theft related crimes. The twelve-member team is comprised of officers from Hazel Park, Waterford, Pontiac, Farmington Hills, Wayne County Sheriff's Office and the OCSO. Funding for this unit is provided by the participating agencies as well as through a grant from the Auto Theft Prevention Authority. In 2005, the unit started 777 new investigations that resulted in 268 arrests with 258 warrants obtained. The unit made 568 recoveries of stolen cars, parts, and other equipment with a total value of \$4,968,560.

Auto Theft Unit Activity 2005

Recovered Stolen Vehicles	568
Recovered Value	\$4,968,560
Number of Cases	777
Warrants Obtained	258
Total Arrests	268

FUGITIVE APPREHENSION TEAM (F.A.T.)

The primary function of this Unit is to target and apprehend fugitives and career offenders who are wanted for arraignment on a warrant for trial. Investigators on the team have highly specialized skills and experience considering the violent nature of individuals that are regularly targeted and confronted. This Unit assists any other unit within the department or any other law enforcement agency in criminal investigations and surveillance. F.A.T. also manages the 24-hour Crime Tip Line, 1-888-TURN-1-IN, for citizens to provide anonymous information on crimes and fugitives.

The personnel assigned to the fugitive unit worked on several major cases in 2005. F.A.T. identified serial criminals that were suspected of committing armed robberies and residential or business breaking & entering. The team made several arrests while the perpetrators were committing crimes while under surveillance.

Fugitive Apprehension Team Statistics 2005

TOTAL Number of Complaints Open	544
TOTAL Number of Complaints Closed/No Arrest	158
Fugitive Arrests	91
Fugitive Counts	112
Assist Other Agencies Arrests	147
Assist Other Agencies Counts	200
Drug Related Arrests	43
Drug Related Counts	51
Background Investigations	54
TOTAL Arrests	238
TOTAL Counts	312
TOTAL Extraditions	49

CRIME SUPPRESSION TASK FORCE

The Crime Suppression Task Force was originally funded through a Federal COPS grant and became operational January 1, 1997. The agencies committed to this task force are the Madison Heights Police Department, Hazel Park Police Department, Ferndale Police Department, Oakland County Sheriff’s Office, Michigan State Police, and Royal Oak Police Department. The stated mission of the task force is to improve the quality of life in the neighborhoods we serve. The goal is to provide communities with additional personnel to augment their policing efforts and to assist in identifying and solving local problems.

The Task Force has geared itself towards identifying and arresting individuals committing crimes in the neighborhoods and businesses primarily in Southeast Oakland County. 2005 was a very successful year for the Crime Suppression Task Force. Through a combination of directed patrol, intelligence gathering, undercover operations and surveillance, the Task Force arrested 123 criminals. Of those arrested 104 were for felonies including murder, attempted murder, criminal sexual conduct, armed robbery, kidnapping, burglary, and home invasion.

The Task Force partnered with the Wayne County Warrant Enforcement Bureau and the Macomb County Sheriff’s Office in “Operation I.C.E.”, an annual three-day fugitive sweep resulting in an additional 141 felony warrant arrests. This type of combined effort with other agencies continues to make the Metro Detroit area safer. The members of the Task Force work as a “team” and are a highly motivated group who are committed to identifying and solving crime problems in our communities.

C.S.T.F. Arrests by Offense 2005

Murder	9
Armed Robbery	4
Unarmed Robbery	3
Home Invasion	3
UDAA	1
Drug Crimes	6
Felony Warrants	36
CSC	5
R & C	4
Prostitution	14
Other	38

WARRANTS UNIT

The Warrants Unit is responsible for obtaining misdemeanor warrants for the Sheriff's Office and then arraigning the defendants at any of the 15 district courts within Oakland County. The detectives assigned to the unit make warrant arrests for felonies in every county in the state, and facilitate extraditions for any out-of-state agencies.

Warrants Unit Activity 2005

Warrant Arrest Pickups	671
Fugitive Arrests	139
Warrant Requests-Denied	146
Warrant Requests-Furthered	65
Warrant Requests-Issued	401
Governor's Warrants	4
Warrant Arraignments-Misdemeanor	901
Warrant Arraignments-Felony	2
Juvenile Petitions	281

NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TEAM

Since January 2001, the Oakland County Sheriff's Office has led the Oakland County Narcotic Enforcement Team (NET) with a highly cooperative working relationship with all federal law enforcement agencies and local police departments. This year NET has sent additional resources to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to target money laundering and asset forfeiture cases targeting southeast Michigan. This cooperative effort is already showing initial success. NET has seized approximately \$10 million worth of illegal drugs throughout Oakland County and has also successfully forfeited over \$1,100,000.00 of assets that were distributed back to the local participating agencies, which include the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Macomb County Sheriff's Office, Sterling Heights PD, and the following local police departments: Ferndale, Hazel Park, Madison Heights, Lathrup Village, Bloomfield Township, Farmington Hills, Troy, and West Bloomfield. In the year 2005, the NET unit has adjudicated several high profile cases. This unit strives to make Oakland County a place where drug dealers and users are afraid to do business.

Narcotics Enforcement Team Activity 2005

Investigations Initiated	670
Arrests – Persons	215
Arrests – Charges	373
<u>Drugs Purchased/Seized</u>	
Cocaine	18,664.5 grams
Crack	244.1 grams
Marijuana	2,549.2 lbs
Heroin	130.8 grams
Ecstasy	829 units
Dangerous Drugs	1,786 units
Approximate Value of Drugs Purchased/Seized	\$10,000,000.00

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT (S.I.U.)

The Special Investigations Unit is a highly-trained, multi-functional, countywide, major crimes investigative unit comprised of six detective sergeants with expertise in homicide, sexual assault, surveillance, financial crimes, internal affairs, child abuse/assault and other complex criminal investigations.

S.I.U. provides investigative support to all divisions of the OCSO, the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office, as well as to all 41 Oakland County Police Departments, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Additionally, S.I.U. is responsible for the investigation of inmate incidents within the Corrective Services Division, including jail disturbances, escapes and assaults on staff. S.I.U. also conducts all internal affairs and officer involved shooting investigations for Oakland County Police Departments. S.I.U. assists in electronic and video surveillance and is equipped with a variety of sophisticated electronic surveillance equipment that is fixed and mobile.

During 2005, S.I.U. investigated one homicide involving a newborn, two suicide investigations, three accidental baby death investigations, and a suspicious death in Addison Township. They also assisted Ferndale, Lathrup Village and Clawson Police Departments with unsolved homicides. S.I.U. investigated one attempted murder and one solicitation to commit murder case. S.I.U. conducted two jail death investigations, two major fraud/embezzlement cases and one open meetings act investigation. S.I.U. investigated three threats on Judges and successfully pursued convictions in one attempted murder trial in Royal Oak Township, and also in the murder of a 92 year old female in Highland Township. S.I.U. continued to investigate the 2000 Royal Oak Township arson multiple murder, the 2002 murder of Michael Smith along with new leads involving the Oakland County Child Killer.

In addition to investigating major crimes, S.I.U. conducted internal investigations and conducted 18 pre-employment background investigations. S.I.U. assisted the Prosecutor's Office and other police agencies with monitoring inmate telephone calls in over 700 cases. S.I.U. processed over 60 liquor license applications and transfers, and processed 54 one-day liquor license applications. There were 129 child abuse cases generated, and S.I.U. participated in 42 CARE House interviews along with six case reviews. S.I.U. attended/participated in four Governor's Task Force meetings, ten child death review meetings and was involved in four domestic violence fatality review meetings.

In 2005, S.I.U. provided public speakers on several occasions, including presentations at the Oakland County Prosecutor's Homicide Investigation Seminar, Michigan Public Health Institute's Child Death Scene Investigation Training, and Common Ground Victims of Homicides Family Support Group.

FORFEITURES

During the year 2005, the Special Investigation Unit processed forfeiture cases. Twenty-four of the forfeitures were drug related and two were Omnibus related. The 2005 year end totals for forfeitures are \$8,352.98, which was deposited into the Law Enforcement Enhancement Fund.

Forfeiture Activity

Drug Related Forfeitures	24
Total Forfeiture Monies	\$8,352.98
Money deposited in the Law Enforcement Fund	\$8,352.98

EVIDENCE/PROPERTY ROOM

A Senior Property Room Technician and one part-time office assistant staff the main Evidence/Property Room and are responsible for ensuring the proper logging and maintenance of all evidence/property coming into the custody of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, excluding the property of inmates. Legal requirements for the storage, handling, and disposition of property must be adhered to in a safe and efficient manner.

The destruction and disposal of drugs, contraband, hazardous materials, and forbidden weapons and firearms used during the commission of a crime are the responsibility of the Property Room Technician. The destruction of property is done after following careful examination of disposition of individual court cases and with the written authorization of the officer-in-charge of the case. All firearms that cannot be legally returned to the owner are submitted to the Michigan State Police Firearms Section for destruction, in addition to those for which rightful ownership cannot be established.

Released property may include recovered property, property held for safekeeping, found property, or evidence. These items may include evidence that is no longer required for court and released to the owner. The disposition of property also includes preparing items for the County Auction, which is held on a semi-annual basis.

Property Room Statistics 2005 - # of items

Total Property Received	3,379
Property Destroyed	1,802
Weapons Destroyed	116
Property Released	544
Property Auctioned	100

NET PROPERTY ROOM

The Narcotic Enforcement Team Unit, better known as NET, has a separate property room for all confiscated items from narcotic raids. The NET property room is staffed with one full-time technician who is responsible for ensuring the maintenance of all property submitted.

NET Property Room Statistics-# of items

Total Property Received	2,337
Property Destroyed	2,079
Weapons Destroyed	56
Property Released	399
Property Auctioned	153
Revenue from Auctioned Items	\$45,144.20

FRIEND OF THE COURT

2005 marked a year of transition as the Friend of the Court Unit became part of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office. The F.O.C. Enforcement Unit is the investigative and enforcement arm assigned to the Oakland County Friend of the Court. Typically warrants are issued by 6th Circuit Court Referees on subjects who have failed to appear for Show Cause hearings stemming from court ordered child support payments. The F.O.C. Investigators utilize a number of sources of information in locating wanted individuals to locate and arrest the defendants wherever they may be. Additionally, the F.O.C. Investigators are responsible for picking up defendants in other parts of the state that are arrested on Oakland County warrants and arraigning them. Changes are being implemented to increase efficiency of the unit by utilizing existing prisoner transportation to/from court and jail.

FOC Activity 2005

New Bench Warrants Issued	4,332
Bench Warrants Withstanding	4,458
Arrests Initiated by FOC	155
Arrest Transports	1,146
Bench Warrants Closed/Canceled	3,429

- **Sheriff's Emergency Preparedness, Training, and Communications (SEPTC) Division**

Commander: Captain Michael D. Johnson

The SEPTC Division consists of five units:

1. Homeland Security and Terrorism
2. Training Unit (which includes the Firearms Range)
3. Communications Unit
4. Civil Unit
5. Concealed Weapons Licensing Board

Additionally, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners has appointed the Division as a liaison to the Oakland County Emergency Management Unit.

1. Homeland Security and Terrorism Preparedness-

State Homeland Security Training Grant - In 2004 funding was secured for training all Sheriff's Office command officers in the Incident Command System (ICS) as the response protocol for handling critical incidents. Command officers were also trained in the National Incident Command System (NIMS). The training was held during June and July 2005 at the Oakland County Emergency Operations Center and members of the Oakland County Emergency Response and Preparedness Division facilitated training. This training brings the Oakland County Sheriff's Office into compliance for integrated response to critical incidents such as C-BRNE and WMD.

IED/Mass Casualty Incident Exercise August 2005 – Approximately 140 first responders from north Oakland County Fire and Rescue mutual aid agencies led by Independence Fire Department, the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Independence Substation, Special Response Team, Aviation Unit, and the Clarkston School District participated in a large exercise at Clarkston High School. The activity was based on the Columbine and Beslan school incidents, involving an active shooter and suicide-bomber using improvised explosive device scenarios requiring Unified Incident Command, tactical operations, mass casualties triage and a review of the school lockdown protocols.

Public Health Readiness Exercise October 2005 – Oakland County Sheriff's Office and the Oakland County Emergency Response and Preparedness were partially activated to assist in this Oakland County Health Department readiness exercise. Players included hundreds of health personnel, hospital personnel, local police and fire departments, Oakland County Medical Examiners Office, Oakland County EMS Medical Control Authority and ARPSC/RACES (Amateur Radio Operators). Technology was engaged to include E-Team CMIS, EM Systems, and live video feed from the OCSO helicopter to the Oakland County Emergency Operations Center. The activity involved actual mass flu shot vaccination operations (approximately 7,000 citizens received flu shots in a matter of hours at multiple sites) while practicing response to a Biological-Terrorism attack (such as Smallpox, Plague or Anthrax) or public health emergency (such as SARS or a Influenza Pandemic).

2. Training Unit

With the new training center under construction in 2005, the Training Unit, comprised of 5 full-time and 1 part-time staff, continued to fulfill its responsibility for the development, planning, scheduling, and maintenance of all in-service and off-site law enforcement related instruction. A strong "in-house" instructional staff, combined with specialized on-site/off-site vendor training, provided members of the department with the best information available in the various topics facing law enforcement and corrections staff. The on shift "in-house" training has exceeded expectations and has been favorably received by the staff. Designated to meet the educational needs of Sheriff's Office personnel, the Training Unit identified educational needs that could be shared by all divisions, which has proven to be successful.

The compliance issues of First Aid, CPR, and AED certifications were conducted on all three shifts and to a mixture of personnel, both civilian and certified. The Fitness Testing of Command personnel was conducted for the first time in 2005 on five separate days as a process to assist with health incentives for Sheriff's Command. The development of a training program running three full Wednesdays was developed to assist newly promoted Deputy II's with their new

supervisory duties. Newly promoted Sergeants participated in a pilot program to review and assist in the development of the program.

The Training Unit maintains records and/or oversees the following departmental functions:

- The State-Certified Corrections Academy (in-house training for newly-hired deputies)
- The Field Training Officers program (both Corrections & Patrol Services)
- The Firearms Range (handgun, shotgun, rifle, “TASER”, baton & pepper spray, Firearms Training System [“FATS”] instruction)
- Candidates attending basic Police Academy training (two (2) 16-week sessions annually)
- The Police Academy (State of Michigan – M.C.O.L.E.S. licensing process)
- All in-service training courses (mandated & non-mandated)
- All off-site training courses
- State & local training fund expenditures
- Student intern & ride-along programs
- Database management of all Sheriff’s employees and related statistics
- Training resource management (equipment, classroom use, video library)
- Concealed weapons permits and their approval
- Emergency deployment of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and training for this process

2005 Training Unit records indicate:

Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) for 2006	537
Police Academy Graduates	14
Corrections Academy Graduates	29
State Grant Funds for Training	\$134,770
Funds from County Training Fund	\$58,469
Various Department Training and/or Travel Funds or Grants	\$153,997
Hours of Specific Officer and Sheriff’s Staff Training-involving 6,021 attendees (including all Academy grads)	22,754

The Training Unit also provided Weapons of Mass Destruction training for our department as well as outside departments on three (3) separate occasions for a total of forty-eight (48) hours of training.

Performance Measures	Calendar Year 2004	Calendar Year 2005
In-Service Training Hours	2,282	2,277
Vendor-Provided Training Hours	6,078	9,094
Firearms Training Sessions	7,487	11,838

3. Communications Unit

SERVICE

The Communications Center provides dispatching service for the Oakland County Sheriff's Office as well as contractually for Clarkston PD, Lake Angelus PD, Oakland Community College Public Safety, and Wixom PD. Additionally, contractual dispatching services are provided to the following fire departments around the county: Addison Township, Brandon Township, Commerce Township, Highland Township, Independence Township, Groveland Township, North Oakland Fire Authority, Royal Oak Township, Springfield Township, and Wixom.

The Communications Center answers incoming calls from twenty-two 9-1-1 telephone lines, ten 10-digit telephone lines, and ten administrative telephone lines. The center is equipped with additional phone lines to be utilized for direct

communication with command personnel during emergencies and a satellite phone. 9-1-1 cellular calls continue to be received at a high volume, and are 73% of the total of all 9-1-1 calls received. Eleven 9-1-1 phone workstations are prepared to provide assistance to area Public Safety Assistance Point (PSAP) centers during telephone outages. Designated as the “alternate” 9-1-1 answering point for Southfield PD, Holly PD, Novi PD, Oxford PD, Waterford PD, and Pontiac PD, 9-1-1 calls from those PSAPs can be automatically routed to our center, where we can provide assistance in answering.

The Sheriff’s Dispatch acts as the “default” 9-1-1 call center for the county. If the 9-1-1 system does not know where to route a call, the call is routed to our center. Our call takers will determine the location of the emergency and transfer the call to the appropriate agency. This process is done seamlessly.

Oakland County is near completion of Phase II cellular call routing. Phase II provides the phone number of the caller, and the tower address receiving the cellular 9-1-1 call. Through a process called re-bidding, the X-Y coordinates of the caller is also provided and pinpointed on our mapping system. This is a major advancement and will help many callers who are unable to identify their location. Technology is moving at a fast pace in the dispatch center. Call takers must be prepared to receive and process emergency calls from various types of call delivery, including VoIP.

CALL VOLUME

The following workload and call volume statistics were recorded for year 2005:

Requests for Services 2005

Sheriff’s Office	134,283
Other Police Agencies	25,214
Fire Departments	10,092
Total Incidents	169,589

TELEPHONE CALLS 2005

9-1-1	35,022
Cellular 9-1-1	95,891
7-digit Emergency	108,337
Administrative Calls	152,886
Total Calls	392,136

EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH (EMD)

The EMD program continues to save lives. The total number of EMD calls performed in 2005 was three thousand eight hundred and forty-three (3843), averaging eleven (11) EMD calls a day. There were numerous medical emergencies that required CPR instructions to be given to callers under stressful circumstances. The Center was informed of one (1) CPR save in 2005 with the assistance Communication Agent Carolyn Godlewski. The EMD calls are reviewed for quality assurance in two areas, technical aspects and customer service, which our Agents averaged 91% and 99% respectively. Numerous letters of appreciation from the community have been forwarded to our dedicated agents.

EMERGENCY FIRE DISPATCH (EFD)

During 2005, the OCSO became the first and only in the State to qualify twelve (12) Communication Agents to be designated fire dispatchers. EFD was performed on eight hundred thirty-five (835) calls in 2005 with average scores of 86% in technical categories and 99% in customer service.

The Communications Unit of the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office is dedicated and committed to providing the best possible service to the citizens, visitors, and agencies of Oakland County through continued education, technical expertise, and exceptional customer service

4. Civil Unit

The Sheriff's Office has contracted its civil process out to County Civil Process Services, Inc. The staff is deputized by the Sheriff to enable them to serve civil process, executions, foreclosures, and host Sheriff Sales. The privatization of the Civil Unit continues to save the taxpayers of Oakland County approximately \$600,000 per year.

Civil Unit statistics 2005

Mortgage Foreclosure Sales	3,169
Summons/Complaints	2,487
Executions	236
Adjournments	4,507
Postings	487
Personal Protection Orders	1,506
Notice of Hearing	468
Motions	576
Orders to Show Cause	276
Subpoena	308
Final Judgments	121
Small Claims	276
Garnishments	263
Public Tax Title Notices	67
Treasurer Tax Notice	1,720
Miscellaneous	662
Probate Court	568
Reimbursement	108

5. Oakland County Concealed Weapons Licensing Board

The Chair of the Oakland County Concealed Weapons Licensing Board is Captain Michael Johnson. The other members of the licensing board consist of Oakland County Board of Commissioner Representative Mark Cortis and a representative from the Michigan State Police. The Records Unit of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office processes the applications for finger printing and background investigations. The Oakland County Clerk's office issues the permits and coordinates the monthly meetings.

The following are the 2005 calendar year statistics for the Oakland County Concealed Weapons Licensing Board:

Permits Issued	7,046
Permits Denied	81
Permits Suspended	78
Permits Revoked	8
Approximate valid permits in Oakland County	15,568

- **Community Services**

The Oakland County Sheriff's Office is involved in a number of community service activities and offers programs that are available to all Oakland County residents. Dedicated to raising awareness of important safety issues as well as fostering a close knit relationship with the community, the OCSO, in addition to participating in countless community events and safety presentations, is continually looking for new ways to assist residents with their daily lives. Whether it is providing a winter coat to a person in need, enabling a resident to shred personal documents to better protect themselves from identify theft, or simply brightening a child's day with a teddy bear or a visit from the Easter Bunny, Sheriff Bouchard and his team at the OCSO care about the quality of life of Oakland County's residents and are dedicated to making it better.

The programs and events below are some examples of the major community programs the Sheriff's Office administers:

Bears on Patrol

The Bears on Patrol program supplies patrol cars with teddy bears for children found in a crisis. These warm and fuzzy friends are one way to ease the fears of young children who are caught in difficult situations, often bringing a sense of security to a child who is overcome with anxiety. Many area service groups and individuals have generously donated teddy bears and other stuffed animals for this program.

Free Document Shredding for Oakland County Residents

The OCSO began teaming up with Absolute Shreds, a local document shredding company, to offer free confidential document shredding to Oakland County residents. Dates, times, and locations are arranged in advance, where Absolute Shreds state of the art high volume shredding truck can be found. That information is available on the Sheriff's website at www.oaklandsheriff.com, in the Community Services section.

Community Parades

The OCSO is proud to participate in many holiday parades that take place around the county throughout the year. This positive interaction with the community is enjoyable to children and adults alike, and the public has come to know the Sheriff's Office through these festive events.

Senior Cell Phone Program

The Oakland County Sheriff's 911 Emergency Senior Cell Phone Program is designed to equip seniors with a mobile means of contacting help in the event of an emergency. The cell phones are available to any Oakland County Senior Citizens free of charge. There is no monthly service fee to use the phone for emergency use and phones are distributed at the Sheriff's Main Office every Friday morning from 9am-Noon.

"Coats for the Cold" Coat Drive

The "Coats for the Cold" coat drive is sponsored by the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, was started 19 years ago by Sheriff Bouchard, and has been growing with each passing year. This year PODS (Portable On Demand Storage) partnered with the OCSO by providing their storage units at all of the drop-off sites around the County. The new or clean, used coats collected are given to several different charitable organizations, who then distribute the coats to those most in need at no cost.

The Easter Bunny Project

For the second year in a row, Sheriff Bouchard and the Easter Bunny have paid visits to area hospitals' pediatric wards around Easter time to brighten the day of children who are ill and may not be able to be home for the Easter Bunny's visit to their house.

Student of the Month Program

"Student of the Month" is a program that helps provide students with one more incentive to excel in their studies. Sheriff Bouchard started this program while in the Senate as the Chairman of the Education Committee as a way to recognize young people doing good things.

Participating schools decide who should be recognized. Selected students receive a certificate and also are role models to others in their class and grade. Typically over 120 schools in Oakland County participated in the Student of the Month program.

U-Turn Program

The U-Turn program is a partnership between Oakland County Youth Assistance and the Oakland County Sheriff's Office. The program's intent is to educate youth and their parents about the consequences of crime and the realities of prison life while reinforcing the value of making smart decisions (staying in school, abstaining from drugs and alcohol, making wise choices about peers, employment, parental involvement, etc.) in order to keep youth from having any further contact with the juvenile justice system.

Modeled after the "Scared Straight" program, the U-Turn program gives youth and their parents an opportunity to view the Oakland County jail and facilities, and to have the children experience face-to-face encounters with deputies and selected inmates who talk to the youth about the repercussions of their behavior.

Law Enforcement Against Drugs Program

This year, the OCSO began providing free drug testing kits to parents wishing to test their children for drug use as part of the Law Enforcement Against Drugs Program (LEAD). Parents may pick the drug test kits up anonymously, however, are limited to one kit per child. The LEAD Program is one more tool parents can use to fight drug use under their own roof and better monitor their child's activities.

Benefit for the Handicapped

The Oakland County Sheriff's Office founded the Benefit for the Handicapped organization in 1987 to sponsor events and activities for Oakland County adults and children with special needs that include mental and physical challenges. The activities for these benefits are run at no cost to the Sheriff's Office. Currently, three annual programs are facilitated through the organization: The Annual Handicapped Fishing Derby held at Dodge Park #4 in Waterford, a Holiday Party at New Horizons Center, and the Holiday Shopping Spree at Kmart for disabled and underprivileged children.