

Tioga County Sheriff's Office



GARY W. HOWARD
Sheriff

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RICHARD E. HALLETT
Undersheriff

Sheriff's Office 2020 Annual Legislative Summary Report

Accomplishments:

- With the former Undersheriff leaving the Sheriff's Office, Captain Richard Hallett was appointed Undersheriff.
- With the appointment to Undersheriff, Lieutenant Shawn Nalepa was promoted to Captain of Operations.
- The new CAP (Centralized Arraignment Part) Court has been implemented successfully, Processing 119 arrestees from all police agencies in Tioga County.
- Created and implemented effective COVID-19 safety protocols for employees and visitors of the Sheriff's Office. Despite Dispatch, Corrections and Law Enforcement personnel never stopping work during the pandemic the employees' infections rate was far below that of the general population.

- E-911 Communications Center:
 - With the retirement of Steve DuVarney, Dispatcher Stephanie Cole was promoted to Chief Dispatcher.
 - Hired and successfully trained four new Dispatchers (33% of staff).
 - The training program for new Dispatchers was reviewed and updated.

- Grants:
 - Administered the 2019-20 PSAP grant that provided \$131,130.00 used to offset a portion of the E-911 dispatcher salaries.
 - Two laser measuring devices have been demonstrated as part of 2019 SLETPP (State Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program) grants. The grant money will be used towards a vehicle crash scene/crime scene scanning device.

- Road Patrol:
 - The Sheriff's Office hosted a New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services accredited Firearms Instructor Course, with four TCSO members becoming Certified Firearms Instructors.
 - In coordination with the Tioga County Office of Emergency Services first aid trauma kits were acquired and issued to all members of the Road Patrol, Criminal Investigation Division and Administration to aid in the treatment by Deputies of serious traumatic injuries before EMS can arrive on a scene. The equipment was used to save at least one person's life and likely another.
 - Deputies responded the Dollar General in Berkshire for a report of an armed robbery. A quick response and decisive action led to the arrest of two suspects after a vehicle pursuit.

- Corrections Division:
 - With the former Jail Administrator leaving the Sheriff's Office, Sergeant Timothy Agan was promoted to Corrections Lieutenant.
 - Created and successfully implemented effective protocols to maintain the inmate population in a COVID-19 free environment, meeting CDC, New York Commission of Corrections and New York State Department of Health guidelines. Zero inmates infected through the entire year.
 - Two division members successfully completed the Instructor Development Course and are now certified instructors in General Topics and Defensive Tactics.

- Criminal Investigation Division:
 - Investigator Cliff Alexander was promoted to the rank of Senior Investigator.
 - In order to comply with the New York State discovery laws, a civilian position of Compliance Officer was created under the command of CID.
 - One investigator was certified, and the Senior Investigator was recertified in the use of the Computerized Voice Stress Analysis instrument used in detect deception from suspects.
 - On the follow up investigation to the robbery of the Berkshire Dollar General, Investigators developed evidence that connected the two suspects to a robbery in Elmira.

- Civil Division:
 - Implemented changes resulting from the continuing legislation regarding evictions and COVID-19 mandates.
 - Civil Division Manager Kim Ward taught virtually at the New York State Sheriff's Association's Basic Civil School and the refresher course.
 - Kim Ward was an assessor in the re-accreditation of Broome and Livingston Counties Civil Divisions.

- Records / Pistol Permits:
 - Purged or archived all records older than ten years consistent with records retention laws.

Challenges

- The onset of the pandemic affected almost all facets of operation.
 - Added costs due to cleaning supplies, thermometers, personal protective equipment, and overtime to cover quarantined employees.
 - Increased health risk of infection to Corrections Officers and Deputies when having to use physical force or perform first aid.
 - Creating new protocols for a situation that has not occurred in modern times.

- Because courts were not in session Alternatives to Incarceration had only two participants for the year.
- Restoring inmate programs such as AA, drug and alcohol counseling and religious services.
- Grand Jury being postponed during the pandemic has caused delays in prosecution of felonies.
- With most in-person courses being cancelled we have had to find ways to provide mandated training.