

**RUSK COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Sheriff Jeffery S. Wallace**



It is my pleasure to present you with our 2018 Annual Report. This year's report provides you with information on each division and includes a brief narrative and statistics detailing a 5 year trend.

At years end, we made great strides toward meeting the goals of our mission and purpose statements which are listed below. Thank you again for your support in accomplishing everything we have been able to do in 2018.

Respectfully,

Jeffery S. Wallace  
Rusk County Sheriff

### **Department Mission and Purpose**

The mission of the Rusk County Sheriff's Office is to provide timely, courteous, and professional service to all people, businesses, and agencies who request assistance from any member of the Rusk County Sheriff's Office.

#### **WE MUST ALWAYS BE WILLING TO HELP**

The purpose of the Rusk County Sheriff's Office is to provide professional law enforcement, criminal investigation, search & rescue, civil process, records, dispatch, and corrections (jail) service to people who need and/or request assistance.

#### **WE MUST ALWAYS BE PREPARED AND TRAINED TO RESPOND**

In joining the Rusk County Sheriff's Office, deputies make its responsibilities their own. All department employees are expected to carry out these responsibilities diligently and courteously and take pride in the service they provide.

#### **SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY**

### **Constitutional Authority**

The Office of Sheriff is Created by the Wisconsin Constitution (Article VI, Section 4). It is an elected office in each county with a four year term. Consequently, the Sheriff is a constitutional officer who is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer of the County. The Sheriff's duties are varied and for the most part are defined in the Wisconsin Statutes. These duties include, enforcing state law and County ordinances, maintaining the peace, running the jail, and serving both criminal and civil process.

### **Budget - Levy**

<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>
4,844,866	4,912,720	4,671,553	4,656,865	4,736,848

## Personnel Changes

Retirement

Lorie Jaedike, Dispatch/Jail

New Hires

Abigail Schesel, Patrol Deputy  
Zachary Neal, Patrol Deputy  
Rich Green, Dispatch/Jail  
Kristina Kanning, Dispatch/Jail  
Samantha Burch, Dispatch/Jail

In Memory



Deputy Dan Glaze, #110  
End of Watch 10/29/16



Emergency Response Team Sq. 110  
*In memory of Deputy Dan Glaze, #110.*

## Patrol/Investigations Division



**Chief Deputy Phil Grassmann**

Investigator Riley Kummet  
Investigator Steven Gronski  
Investigator Zachary Dieckman

Deputy Burton Zielke, Utility Officer  
Deputy Mark Ohmstead  
Deputy Michael Buehler  
Deputy Rae Pyfferoen, resigned 12/1/18  
Deputy Matthew Wojcik  
Deputy Nathaniel Behnke, resigned 6/23/18  
Deputy Zachary Neal

Deputy Marc Egle, Utility Officer  
Deputy David Fenstermacher  
Deputy Anthony Engel  
Deputy Benjamin Reisner  
Deputy Michael Majeskie, resigned 2/1/18  
Deputy Abigail Schesel

The Patrol Division strives to provide the highest level of professional law enforcement service to all the people who live in or travel through Rusk County. Our commitment to professional standards helps foster a strong relationship between the community and the Sheriff's Office.

The Patrol Division is responsible for handling both emergency and non-emergency calls for service. It is dedicated to protecting life and liberty, preserving the peace, enforcing state and local laws, suppressing crime, conducting preliminary investigations, enforcing traffic laws and investigating traffic crashes.

The Investigations Division currently has three (3) investigators working on specific assigned cases in addition to any criminal cases assigned. Inv. Kummet is assigned the Narcotics/K9 and Major crimes; Inv. Gronski is assigned Property and Major Crimes; and Inv. Dieckman is assigned Sensitive Crimes and Major Crimes.

The Rusk County Sheriff's Office receives thousands of calls for service each year. Some complaints are criminal in nature while others are not. Each criminal complaint is usually assigned to a deputy in the Patrol Division and completes a written report of the incident. After the report is completed, the Chief Deputy reviews it. If the complaint is of a criminal nature, the Chief Deputy will compare all of the known facts of the case that have been reported to establish "solvability factors". The Chief Deputy will then decide if the case should be forwarded to the Investigations Division.

Some cases that will immediately be outside the realm of the patrol deputy may be assigned to an investigator from day one. Examples of these would include unanticipated death investigations, undercover drug investigations, child abuse referrals from Child Protective Services, elder abuse referrals from Adult Protective Services or any other case that is determined that an investigator should be the first responder or point of contact. Investigators also receive non-criminal assignments such as welfare fraud referrals, child welfare checks, fire investigations that may not be criminal in nature, forensic previews of cell phones for other agencies, follow-up requests and John Doe investigations from the district attorney’s office and forensic recorded child victim interview to name a few. These additional assignments are not captured in the crime data that is reported to the federal government for tracking purposes and all of these assignments may not appear in the total cases referenced below.

Each year deputies receive specialized and ongoing training in a wide variety of topics. Some of these included legal updates, CPR and first aid, defense and arrest tactics, firearm training, officer safety and ethics training.

**CAD – Calls for Service**

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
14,293	13,855	15,169	15,890	14,530

**OCA – Case Assignments**

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2017</u>
4,593	4,676	4,564	4,152	3,671

**Arrests - WI Uniform Crime Reporting by DOJ – Total Crime Reports**

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Offenses	274	444	349	221	214
Victims	293	476	366	237	231
Clearances	141	267	290	185	192
Adult Arrests	113	223	222	143	133
Juvenile Arrests	21	33	28	6	5

## Rusk County Tactical Team



**Pictured is the Barron Co./Rusk Co. ERT Team training exercise with the Barron County Bearcat**

Sheriff Wallace formed a Tactical Team in 2018. Members of the Rusk team are: Investigator Riley Kummet, Investigator Zach Dieckman, Patrol Deputy Mark Ohmstead, Patrol Deputy Ben Reisner and Patrol Deputy Matt Wojcik. The members of the Rusk County Team have joined forces with the Barron County ERT team. This team consists of 1 Commander, 13 Entry, 4 Snipers, 2 Negotiators and 4 Tactical Medics.

In 2018 the Sheriff's Office obtained a Humvee through the WI Dept. of Defense. The state has the authority to transfer excess property to be used for Law Enforcement activities. This program is known as the 1033 Program. Some anonymous volunteers and L'Cars Automotive donated their time to make this vehicle operational. This armored vehicle is used by the Emergency Response Tactical Team and has been assigned the number ***110 in memory of Deputy Dan Glaze, #110.***

## Transport Team

In 2016, Sheriff Wallace formed a transport team with retired deputies assigned to the transport team. Deputy Mark Warner, Deputy Anthony Arts, Deputy Steve Pyfferoen, Deputy Peter Jones and Deputy Tim Miller's primary responsibility is to transport individuals safely to jails, prisons and other secure facilities. These transports may require travel to out of state locations. The transport team may be assigned court security duties as needed.

## **Project Lifesaver**

In 2016, our agency renewed its affiliation with Project Lifesaver International. The program allows for caregivers of certain people who may have a tendency to wander to sign them up and have the ability to locate and safely return their loved ones through the use of a tracking device. The clients typically have cognitive conditions such as Alzheimer's, Dementia, Autism or Downs Syndrome, however any cognitive condition the client has which gives them a tendency to wander may be considered for the program. Once approved by a caregiver with parental/guardianship or power of attorney rights, the client has a small transmitter which emits an FM radio signal placed on their wrist or ankle. If the client wanders from home or the facility, the caregiver can call 911 and specially trained deputies respond with FM receivers to attempt to locate and safely return the individual.

### **K9 Patrol Kona, Badge 159**



The first Rusk County K9 handler was Ronald Baures. From 2002 – 2014 Jeffery Wallace was the K9 Deputy. In 2015, Deputy David Fenstermacher was assigned K9 duties and K9 Xaro was acquired from and trained at the Colorado Springs Law Enforcement Center, Colorado. In November of 2016, K9 duties were reassigned to Deputy Rae Pyfferoen. K9 Xaro was retired in September 2018. K9 Kona #159 joined the department in November 2018. Kona is certified in narcotics detection. His handler is Investigator Kummet.

The K9 assists in narcotics detection, handler protection, criminal apprehensions, article searches and tracking. The K9 has been used in helping keep drugs/narcotics out of the schools and assists with many search warrants and cases. As you can see, the K9 is very busy and very valuable to the sheriff's office and the citizens of Rusk County.

## Utility Patrol

The Utility Patrol consists of two deputies. They are responsible for enforcing ATV, snowmobile and boating laws throughout the county. Additionally, the utility patrol is assigned to EDGE (formerly DARE), courtroom security and county conservation duties. These positions are reimbursed through the DNR for hours worked and through the Forestry Department for hours patrolled in the county forests. Deputy Mark Egle and Deputy Burton Zielke are assigned the duties of Utility Patrol.

	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>
<b>Courtroom Security Hours</b>	1216.25	1222.5	986.5	1198.5	1127
<b>Park &amp; Forest Patrol Hours</b>	1262.75	1135	1205	1101.25	1219.75

## Dispatch/Jail Division



**Jail Captain George Murray**

Deputy Lorie Jaedike, ret. 9/30/18  
 Deputy Jane Nitek  
 Deputy Stephanie Stone  
 Deputy Ryan Tuma  
 Deputy Kerry Read  
 Deputy Gina Olson  
 Deputy Mary Meyer  
 Deputy Kristina Kanning

Deputy Keith Duchnowski  
 Deputy Thomas Olynick  
 Deputy Amy Ahneman, resigned 10/22/18  
 Deputy Dolores Hraban  
 Deputy Samuel Rohe  
 Deputy Kyle Madlon  
 Deputy Rich Green  
 Deputy Samantha Burch

Rusk County Dispatch/Jail Division serves the needs of the public in emergencies and provides a safe, secure and humane environment for those individuals committed to our custody through fair treatment, respect and dignity. Our dispatch/jailers are cross trained to answer 911 calls as well as conforming to state and national standards for jail operations.

All inmates sentenced and/or booked in the Rusk County Jail are classified to determine their housing according to the Sheriff's Office classification system. The purpose and goals the classification decision are based on The U.S. Constitution, state law, administrative code and the Rusk County Sheriff's Office Policy and Procedure. Specific areas of the jail are designed to house the various classifications of inmates based on the above guidelines and the inmate's needed. 2018 was the first year we housed inmates out of county due to crowding issues.

Inmates remanded to the custody of the Rusk County Sheriff following a court proceeding undergo a primary classification process in a manner that protects both the inmate population and jail staff. The reclassification process assures the appropriate inmate housing to maintain the overall safety and security of the jail.

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Yearly Inmate Booking	664	809	849	808	762
Average Daily Inmate Count	39	38	41	42	42
Out of Co. Inmate Housing Revenue	\$65,901.88	\$46,838.16	\$62,685.26	\$92,907.86	\$75,152.10
Out of Co. Housing Exp.					\$14,362.00

**The Rusk County Jail has many programs provided to the individuals in custody.**

**Commissary** – Stellar Services holds the contract for jail commissary services. Inmates are allowed to purchase items such as hygiene products, over the counter medications, snacks, and stationary items. Families are able to deposit money on an inmate account. Commissary profits from purchases are used to purchase items needed for all inmates in the jail.

**Medical** – Advanced Correctional Healthcare holds the contract for jail medical services. ACH provides a jail nurse three (3) days per week for five (5) hours per day.

**Food Service** – Rusk County HHS/Senior Services provides jail meals. The meals are prepared at the senior center and delivered to the Rusk County Jail. Two hot and one cold meal are served daily.

**Jail Programming and Inmate Resources** – Inmates of the Rusk County Jail have access to an array of programs, support groups, services, and educational opportunities. Some programs are not only AODA based, but also faith-based. Rusk County Law Enforcement Chaplains provide religious services and intervention programs in the jail.

**Other**

- Painted the jail black/gray
- Removed the metal bunks from the two receiving cells and replaced with concrete slab
- Removed all metal shelving units from the library and school room, replaced with correctional grade fixtures/furniture. – Funded by commissary profits.
- Kiosks were installed in every cell block – some funding provided by commissary profits.
  - On-line video visitation
  - Email options for inmates
  - Law library on kiosk for legal research on inmate cases - \$2,500 annually funded with commissary profits
  - Inmate inquiry/grievance process to staff
- Implemented the 911 Marker Systems along the ATV trails in NW Rusk County also with the Forestry and Rusk Riders ATV Club.
- Spectrum Charter Communications monthly billing paid with commissary profits.

## **Support Services**

### **Office Coordinator Debra Flater**

The Office Coordinator position is required to carry out daily work assignments and also supervises the work of other employees. As such, it requires the person in this position to be deputized with limited powers and have working knowledge of department rules and regulations, policy and procedure, while at the same time being able to relay that knowledge to fellow employees. This involves utilizing good judgment and communicating with other employees, agencies, and the public.

### **Jail Account Specialist Ann Boehmer**

This position will be required to have general clerical, bookkeeping and accounting knowledge to assist and manage the jail canteen account, jail inmate Huber account, other agency inmate billing, grant reporting, local/sentenced inmate billing, inmate medical billing, juvenile detention billing and any other duties assigned by the Sheriff.

### **Records Management Specialist Christa Doughty**

This position requires providing counter service to citizens, updating and maintaining the department computer records as needed, transcription, data entry, filing, answer telephone calls and routing messages. Acts as a fill in and assists other areas in the department as is needed or as requested by the Ladysmith Police Department.

### **Victim Service Specialist Nancy Hahn**

This position provides services to victims and witnesses of crimes requiring early intervention services after the occurrence of the crime, follow-ups may occur at timely intervals; works closely with law enforcement, other service providers, and other victim/witness staff to coordinate services; trains and instructs volunteers to be sensitive to victim issues and understand program goals.

Position exists to enhance existing services and close a gap through early intervention contact and services. If critical incident stress debriefing and crisis response is necessary for individuals or groups who have suffered traumatic crime impact, necessary contacts can be made.

## Law Enforcement Chaplaincy Program

The purpose of the Rusk County Law Enforcement Chaplaincy Service is to: 1) support the efforts of the law enforcement agency by offering spiritual guidance and assistance to persons confronted with crisis experience when requested, 2) Serve as a communication link between persons in crisis and their own spiritual advisors, 3) Coordinate follow-up counseling for those indicating both a need and interest in such help, and 4) Lighten the burden of the law enforcement officer by encouraging, supporting and assisting, when requested, in the performance of tasks which tend to have a greater spiritual, rather than legal, implication, i.e. death notifications, domestic disturbances, spiritual counseling requests, etc. These services are provided on an on-call basis, 24 hours a day, and seven days a week.

### 2018 Chaplain Volunteer Hours

<u>Office</u>	<u>Jail</u>	<u>Bible Study</u>	<u>Training</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Meetings</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Transport</u>
25	67.5	41.25	10	34	124.5	2	122	12.5

### 2017 Chaplain Volunteer Hours

<u>Office</u>	<u>Jail</u>	<u>Bible Study</u>	<u>Training</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Meetings</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Transport</u>
22.5	54.5	97	14	29	79	25	52.5	

## Law Enforcement Memorial

The Rusk County Chaplaincy Program sponsors an annual Law Enforcement Memorial dedicated to honoring America's law enforcement community. National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

On a local level, the elements of the Law Enforcement Memorial symbolize loss and honor the memory of fallen officers: Presentation of Colors, National Anthem, Recognition of Local Officers, various presentations and guest speakers, and the "Reading of Fallen Officers", followed by the Retrieval of Colors by the Honor Guard and Taps. The Chaplains close with the benediction.

After the service, there is a pie and ice cream social. All proceeds go to the Rusk County Chaplaincy Program.

## Honor Guard



Pictured left to right: Investigator Zach Dieckman, Deputy Kerry Read, Deputy Anthony Engel, Investigator Riley Kummert and Deputy Mark Ohmstead.

## Shop With A Cop/Christmas for Kids

Shop With A Cop/Christmas For Kids has been funded by local donations for more than 25 years. The Rusk County Sheriff's Office, Ladysmith Police Department, WI DNR and WI State Patrol and many citizens have volunteered their time to participate in this program.

In 2018 we were able to serve 178 children from 66 different families.

The children that participated in the Shop With A Cop program are between the ages of 7 – 11. They have breakfast with the officers, played dodgeball, created crafts, and went shopping with local law enforcement personnel. Each participating family also received a food basket at the end of the program to take home for a holiday/Christmas meal.

The Christmas for Kids program assists families with children that are not eligible to participate in the Shop With A Cop Program. Volunteers pre-shop for the children and families receive their gift bags as well as a food basket.



## **TRIAD**

### *Law Enforcement and Senior Citizens Working Together*

A major purpose of TRIAD is to develop and implement useful crime prevention and education programs for senior citizen community members, which includes combating unwarranted fear of crime and instilling good crime prevention practices. TRIAD works to encourage a coordinated and cooperative approach to crime-related problems of older persons. TRIAD meets the first Wednesday of every month at the Ladysmith Senior Center. If interested, contact Nancy Hahn or Lindsay Ohmstead, the TRIAD secretary.

## **Drug Drop Box Program**

Rusk County was awarded a grant from the WI Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to purchase a drug drop box. The drug drop box is located at the entry of the Rusk County Law Enforcement Center. The goal of this drop box is to reduce the health and environmental risks posed by unwanted prescription drugs.

Investigator Steven Gronski collects the drugs and packs into specific shipping containers provided by DOJ and disposed of through the no-cost drug disposal offered by DOJ.

## **Drug Education, Prevention & Enforcement**

The Rusk County Sheriff's Office has formed a community alliance to educate the public on the threats and dangers of methamphetamine, as well as all drugs, within our community. Through this effort, law enforcement administrators and assigned drug personnel will organize meetings, trainings and informational sessions with all county schools, local EMS/hospital staff, children service agencies, area businesses and other service agencies on local drug trends and enforcement concerns. Investigator Riley Kummert has been assigned the lead drug investigator and presents drug education seminars at local events such as Meth Town Hall Meetings, schools and Safety Wellness Council.

## Community Support

I would like to thank the community for their strong support of law enforcement in Rusk County. Over the past several years we have faced some extremely difficult incidents, and the outpouring of support from our community has been extremely appreciated.



*Thank You*