

# AUGUSTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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# INTRODUCTION

**The Augusta County Sheriff's Office respectfully submits the following information as its 2020 Annual Report. Throughout**

**2020, the Augusta County Sheriff's Office has continued its dedicated efforts to keep the streets of Augusta County safe for all citizens and visitors. 2020 was a very challenging year for our agency and our Nation as a whole. Virtual all of our 2020 efforts were adversely affected by the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Pandemic. We successfully balanced the challenges that 2020 brought us, and we are proud of our efforts and accomplishments throughout this challenging year.**

**We look forward to continuing our committed service in the coming year and steadily improving our quality of service to our community.**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

***Donald L. Smith***

*Sheriff*

# Augusta County, VA



## HISTORY

Augusta County was formed in 1738 and named for Augusta, the Princess of Wales and Mother of King George, III. The county boundaries once stretched all the way to the Mississippi River. Currently, the County covers 967 square miles, more than half of the size of Rhode Island. It is the second-largest county (in land area) in Virginia.

## POPULATION

According to the 2020 Census, there are 75,581 people in Augusta County. Combined with Staunton and Waynesboro, VA, the area population exceeds 110,000. The median age in Augusta County is 45.1 years.

## GOVERNMENT

Augusta County is governed by a seven-member Board of Supervisors. The County is divided into seven magisterial districts with Board members elected from each district. The Board of Supervisors meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

## ECONOMY

Augusta County has a diverse economy. While manufacturing accounts for approximately 30% of the jobs in the County, the governmental, services, and trade sectors are also very strong. In fact, the Augusta Correctional Center and Target are two of the County's largest employers.

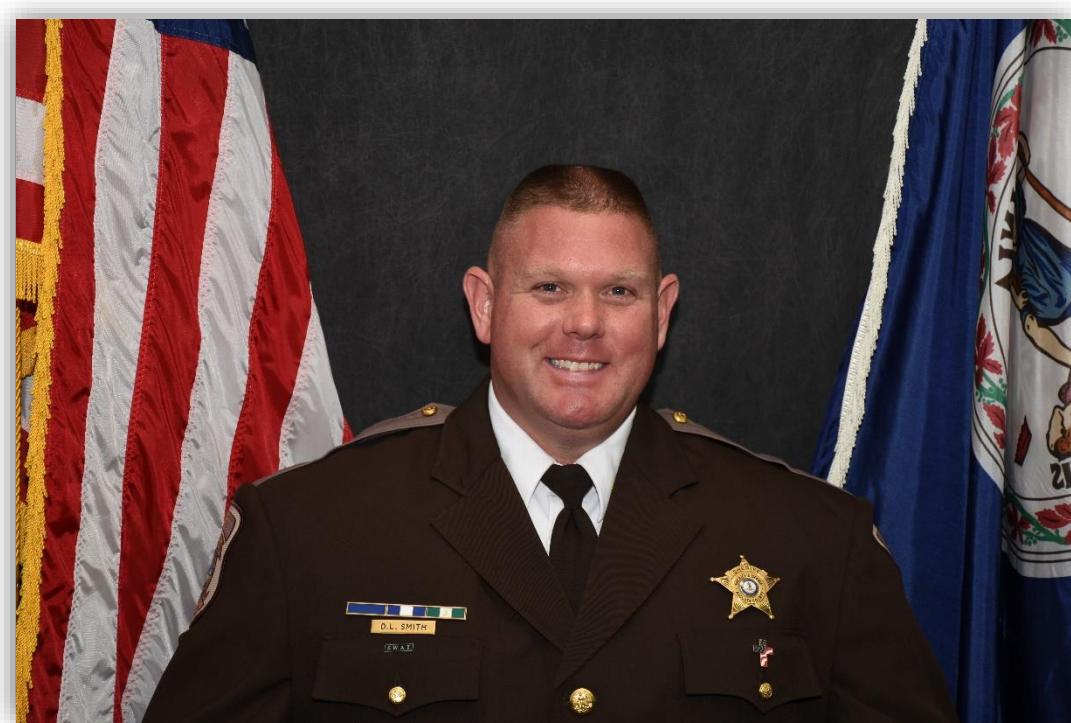
## AGRICULTURE

Agriculture has traditionally been an important part of the County's economy. This remains true today. As of January 1, 2000, Augusta County had 37,400 beef cows and 75,000 sheep and lambs, ranking first in both categories in Virginia. According to the latest Census of Agriculture, there are 1,499 farms in Augusta County covering more than 282,000 acres. The average farm in the County is 188 acres.



# DONALD L. SMITH

## SHERIFF OF AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA



Donald L. Smith was born and raised in Augusta County, Virginia. He graduated with honors from Fort Defiance High School in 2001, and during his free time in school, he participated in the Augusta County Sheriff's Office Ride-Along Program where he shadowed the deputies and learned about their responsibilities. That experience had a tremendous impact and inspired him to pursue a career in public service where he could serve and protect the citizens of Augusta County.

In 2003, Donald graduated Magna Cum Laude from Blue Ridge Community College with an Associate Degree in Applied Sciences with a Major in Administration of Justice. In the same year, he also graduated from the Police Academy and was hired as a patrol deputy for the Augusta County Sheriff's Office. He returned to college and earned his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice degree from Liberty University.

For the past 15 years, Donald has been faithfully serving the community and moving up the leadership ranks within the Sheriff's Office, due to hard work and motivation. He became a Firearms Instructor in 2005 and was assigned to the SWAT team as an operator. He became a Master Deputy in 2006 and because of his leadership and hard work, was the youngest deputy ever in Augusta County to earn the title of Assistant SWAT Commander in 2009. Sheriff Smith took office on January 1, 2016, and was re-elected to a second term on November 5, 2019.

# MISSION STATEMENT

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office will commit its resources in partnership with the community to:

- Promote a safe and secure environment, free from crime and the fear of crime
- Maintain order and provide for the safe and expeditious flow of traffic
- Practice our core values of integrity, respect, service and fairness

**Integrity:** Integrity is the hallmark of the Augusta County Sheriff's Office and we are committed to the highest performance standard, ethical conduct, and truthfulness in all relationships.

We hold ourselves accountable for our actions and take pride in a professional level of service and fairness to all.

**Respect:** We treat all persons in a dignified and courteous manner, and exhibit understanding of ethnic and cultural diversity, both in professional and personal endeavors. We guarantee to uphold the principles and values embodied in the constitution of The United States and the State of Virginia

**Service:** We provide quality service in a courteous, efficient, and accessible manner. We foster community and employee involvement through problem-solving partnerships.

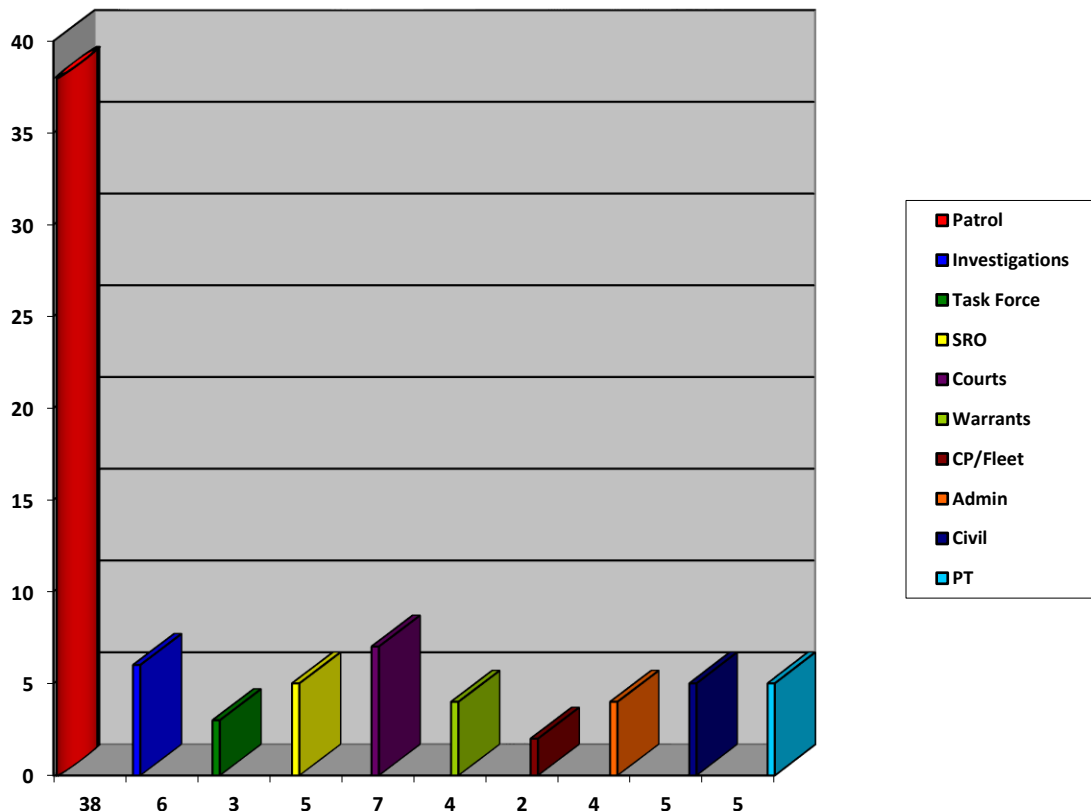
**Fairness:** We treat all people impartially, with consideration and compassion. We are equally responsive to our employees and the community we serve

# AUGUSTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office consists of 78 full-time deputies and 11 civilian staff. Employees serve in the Patrol, Investigations, Civil Process, Courts, Crime Prevention, School Resource and Administrative Divisions. Sheriff's Office Support staff includes an Administrative Assistant, an Office Manager, Dispatchers, and services support personnel.

The Sheriff's Office reinstated the Reserve Program in 2019, and during 2020 Reserve Deputies added 2541.75 volunteer hours to the agency.

During 2020 our agency responded to 22,534 calls for service and we had 42,704 self-initiated incidents for a combined total of 66,517 incidents, a **12.44%** increase over 2019's numbers. We also completed 12,398 Extra Patrol requests in 2020, during 2020, a **71.39%** increase from 2019.





# ACSO STAFF OFFICERS



**MAJOR BRIAN JENKINS**  
CHIEF DEPUTY

## PATROL / COURTS



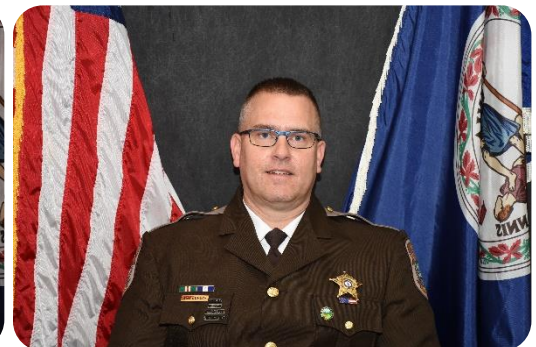
**LT. JAMES SNYDER**

## INVESTIGATIONS



**LT. STEVEN CASON**

## ADMINISTRATIVE



**LT. AARON LEVECK**



**LT. LESLIE SNYDER**



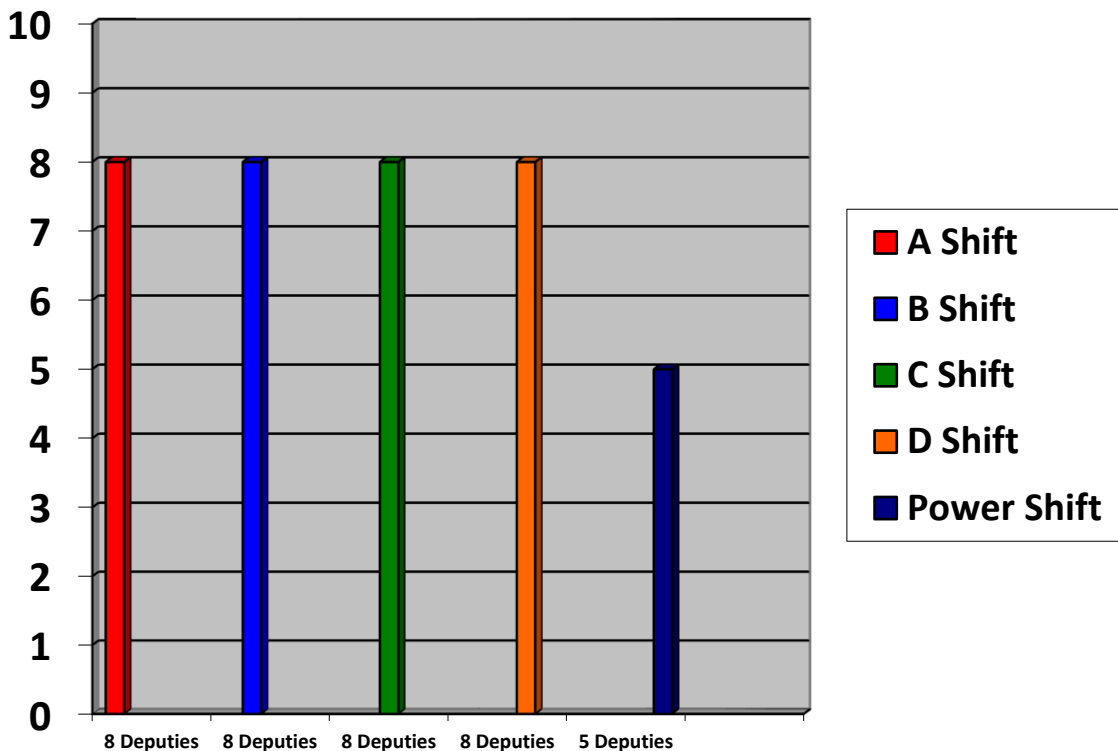
# SHERIFF'S OFFICE UNITS

## PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is the backbone of the Department's enforcement efforts and with 43 assigned personnel and 1 Division Commander, the division not only answers calls for service and investigate all manner of criminal complaints, but they also contribute the lion's share of effort that is directed by the Department in the area of enforcement. Each year, manpower fluctuates and the demands on the division's resources are stretched, but the division manages to successfully combat all types of violations.

The Division is divided into 4 rotating shifts that work 12 HR tours of duty and Patrol Shifts are assisted by the Power Shift at peak busy hours. Patrol shifts are commanded by First Sergeants. The Division is commanded by Lieutenant James Snyder and in 2020 the Division completed 3,307 Crime Incident Reports, they made 2,923 arrests and wrote 4,871 traffic summonses.

### ACSO PATROL DIVISION



## PATROL POWER SHIFT

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office Power Shift answered 6,289 calls for service, backed up other deputies on 2,327 occasions, for a total of 8,616 incidents. The shift generated 508 crime reports, and 9 motor vehicle crash reports. The members also issued 1,879 summonses and made 857 arrests during 2020.

## RESERVE DEPUTIES

Eight (8) Augusta County Sheriff's Office Reserve Deputies completed initial training in 2019, and during the course of 2020, the Reserves logged 2,541.75 Hours of service to the community by riding with full-time deputies and staffing community events. Deputy M. Mader contributed the most reserve time this year, logging 987 hours in 2020.

## COURT SERVICES DIVISION

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office Court Services Division currently consists of First Sergeant Jerry Shifflett and 7 Bailiff's and one part-time Bailiff. The Division provides court security in three county courts and is responsible for transporting prisoners to and from the court complex. In 2020 the Division screened 41,444 court complex visitors and served 3,659 total civil papers. They also completed 119 jail transports, and they handled 470 inmates. Additionally, the Court Security Division made 39 arrests, processed 214 individuals, and conducted 22 security escorts to parking areas.

The prisoner transport van is used for the bulk of the Court Security Division's transports outside of Augusta County. Use of the transport van generated the following numbers for 2020:

- Total states traveled: Virginia (*all transports were in-state due to COVID19*)
- Total inmates transported: 59
- Total miles: 8,468
- Total facilities: 19 Jails and 2 VA. State Prisons

Total Days in session:

Circuit Court – 258
Juvenile and Domestic Relations – 285
General District Court – 154

**Court days in 2020 were drastically affected by COVID19 Court Closures**

\* The total number of court days reflects the fact that there are days when multiple courtrooms are in session simultaneously for a particular court (i.e. JDR court), requiring additional personnel to staff those courtrooms.

## **CIVIL PROCESS DIVISION**

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office Civil Process Division consists of Cpl. Jeff Dietz and 3 fulltime deputies. In 2020 the Civil Process Division served 15,791 pieces of civil process of all types. The civil division responded to calls for service on 618 occasions and backed up other deputies on 288 occasions. Additionally, the four members of the Civil Division wrote 26 reports and made 11 arrests in 2020.

The civil division also completed 63 evictions, 41 repossessions, and 12 complaints on inoperable vehicles from the Augusta County Community Development Department in 2020.

## **TASK FORCE**

Narcotics Investigations are handled by Sheriff's Office members assigned to the Skyline Taskforce, which during the bulk of 2020 had two investigators assigned. In 2020, Task Force investigators wrote 149 reports and executed 39 narcotics search warrants. Investigators made 199 Narcotics arrests in 2020. Total assets seized were \$59,781 in currency and four automobiles.

## **INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION**

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division is commanded by Lt. Steven Cason and consists of a Sergeant and five investigators in General Investigations. Investigators are on call for all manner of criminal investigations and in 2020 they wrote 320 initial reports and handled 615 assigned cases. Additionally, Investigators responded to or generated 543 incidents, and backed up other deputies' 483 times in 2020. Investigators also wrote 8 traffic summonses and made 14 arrests in 2020.

Investigators fielded numerous interagency referrals in 2020:

*Child Protective Services Referrals: 188*

*Adult Protective Services Referrals: 181*

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

In 2020, our agency processed 21 post-arrest DNA samples and 2,796 concealed weapons permit applications and renewals. Additionally, 142 citizens were fingerprinted for employment and background checks. We also processed 25 volunteers and individuals for the Fire Department and local EMS services. Support Services were drastically affected by our COVID19 lobby closure, and our lobby was either closed or access restricted for much of 2020.



## EVIDENCE

In 2020, our agency processed 1,949 items of evidence and completed quarterly and bi-annual audits of the Evidence Room. A full inventory of all of the property and evidence held by the Sheriff's Office was conducted in November of 2020. During 2020, the Evidence Custodian submitted items of evidence from 405 cases to the Department of Forensic Science for forensic examination.

## DRONE TEAM



In 2020, the Augusta County Sheriff's Office established a new Drone Team. During the team's first year we had 7 deployments for search and rescue, 6 trainings events, 3 deployments involving suspect searches and 2 deployments for evidence collection. All in all the Drone Team completed 18 total deployments of all types.



## SCHOOL RESOURCE DIVISION

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office School Resource Division is commanded by Sgt. Chris Pultz and he oversees four School Resource Officers and two part-time SRO's. These deputies provide police services at all of the County's High Schools, Middle Schools and Elementary Schools, during school hours and at after-hours events. During 2020, the School Resource Division completed 148 crime incident reports. SRO's also handled 1,362 calls for service, backed up other deputies on 525 occasions, and they wrote 14 citations and made 17 arrests in 2020.





# 2020 COMMUNITY EVENTS



Virtually all of our community events were cancelled due to the COVID19 Pandemic, but we were still able to participate in some community events.

**“Walk a Mile in her shoes”** sponsored by New Directions.

This year’s event was conducted remotely by the submission of a video. The Sheriff’s Office was successful in defending our title for the second year in a row!





# 2020 ACSO Foundation Golf Tournament







## CHRISTMAS 2020 BIKE DELIVERY

This year on Christmas Eve, members of the Augusta County Sheriff's Office continued our tradition of delivering bicycles to needy children throughout Augusta County. This year we delivered 87 bikes to kids!



This event was sponsored and made possible through the generous anonymous donations of local businesses and community members throughout Augusta County.



# 2020 AWARDS

In 2020, deputies received the following recognition:

## Traffic Safety Enforcement Awards Perpetual Plaques

**2020 Occupant Protection Award – Sgt. Aaron Will**  
27 Citations

**2020 DUI Enforcement Award – Deputy Cody Stroop**  
11 Arrests

**2020 Speed Enforcement Award - Sgt. Aaron Will**  
682 Citations

**Individual 2020 Departmental Awards will be announced in February of 2021.**

# 2020 PROMOTIONS

**Lieutenant –** Steven Cason, James Snyder, Leslie Snyder

**Sergeant –** Chris Pultz, Dave Browning, William Mikolay

**Corporal –** Jonathan Wells, Matt Wilcher, Shamica Spears

**Investigator –** Ryan Chandler, Trevor Rexrode



# **STATISTICS FOR 2020**

**Total Civil Process Served: 19,613**

**Total Crime Incident Reports: 3,824**

**Criminal Warrants Served: 2,236**

**Criminal Summons: 221**

**Order of Protection Served: 138**

**Child Protective Order Served: 16**

**Capias Served: 1,395**

**Probation Violation: 26**

**Temporary Detention Orders Served: 304**

**Emergency Custody Orders Served: 291**

**Juvenile Detention Orders Served: 19**

**Traffic Charges: 5,015**

**Augusta County DUI Arrests: 48**

## 2020 TOTAL OFFENSES: 2,367

-7.53% Decrease from 2019 (2019 TOTAL 2,560)

Incidents	Total
<b>Offense Type</b>	<b>Total</b>
All Offense Types	2,367
Crimes Against Person	570
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	
Negligent Manslaughter	
Justifiable Homicide	
Kidnapping/Abduction	9
Forcible Rape	19
Forcible Sodomy	10
Sexual Assault With An Object	2
Forcible Fondling	38
Incest	
Statutory Rape	
Aggravated Assault	84
Simple Assault	362
Intimidation	46
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	
Crimes Against Property	1,339
Arson	4
Bribery	
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	163
Counterfeiting/Forgery	32
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	237
Embezzlement	22
Extortion/Blackmail	10
False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	63
Credit Card/Automatic Teller Fraud	54
Impersonation	15
Welfare Fraud	1
Wire Fraud	96
Identity Theft	25
Hacking/Computer Invasion	1
Robbery	3
Pocket-picking	2
Purse-snatching	

Shoplifting	47
Theft From Building	55
Theft From Coin Operated Machine or Device	5
Theft From Motor Vehicle	104
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts/Accessories	103
All Other Larceny	233
Motor Vehicle Theft	60
Stolen Property Offenses	4
Crimes Against Society	458
Drug/Narcotic Violations	303
Drug Equipment Violations	64
Betting/Wagering	
Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling	
Gambling Equipment Violations	
Sports Tampering	
Pornography/Obscene Material	17
Prostitution	
Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	
Purchasing Prostitution	
Weapon Law Violations	57
Animal Cruelty	17
Missing	