



MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 1:30 pm**

Meeting Location **WebEx/Courthouse Assembly Room, Courthouse, 500 Forest St., Wausau** Committee

Members: Matt Bootz, Chair; Jean Maszk; Vice-Chair, Bruce Lamont; Stacey Morache, Allen Opall, Tim Sondelski, Jason Wilhelm

Marathon County Mission Statement: *Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated: 12-20-05)*

Committee Mission Statement: *Provide leadership for the implementation of the Strategic Plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing, and recommending to the County Board policies related to public safety initiatives of Marathon County.*

*Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the **telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:***

Phone #: 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 146 235 4571

When you enter the telephone conference, **PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!**

The meeting will also be broadcast on Public Access or at <https://tinyurl.com/MarathonCountyBoard>

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Public Comment (15 Minutes)** *(Any person who wishes to address the County Board, or one of its committees, during the "Public Comment" portion of meetings, must provide his or her name, address, and the topic he or she wishes to present to the Marathon County Clerk, or chair of the committee, no later than five minutes before the start of the meeting.)*
- 4. Approval of the April 6, 2022 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**
- 5. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination**
- 6. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**
- 7. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
- 8. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
 - A.** Overview of Committee Responsibility relative to [2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan](#)
 - B.** Review [of 2020 Annual Update to the Strategic Plan](#)
 - C.** Committee Reporting relationships overview
 - 1) Updates from District Attorney's Office (Theresa Wetzsteon)
 - 2) Updates from Sheriff's Office (Scott Parks)
 - a) Law Enforcement Appreciation Project (LEAP) Updates
 - 3) Updates from Clerk of Courts' Office (Kelly Schremp)
 - 4) Updates from Medical Examiner's Office (Jessica Blahnik)
 - 5) Updates from Emergency Management Director
 - D.** Review of committee work during last term and areas where members would like to focus this coming term.
- Next Meeting Time, Location, Announcements and Agenda Items:**
 - E.** Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
 - F.** Next meeting: **Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at 1:30 pm**
- 9. Adjournment**

**Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 261-1500 or e-mail countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us one business day before the meeting*

SIGNED /s/ Matt Bootz

Presiding Officer or Designee

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and other Media Groups

EMAILED BY: _____

DATE & TIME: _____

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE _____

BY: _____

DATE & TIME: _____



**MARATHON COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at 1:30 pm
WebEx/Courthouse Assembly Room, (B105), Courthouse, 500 Forest St., Wausau**

Members	Present/Web-Phone	Absent
Chair Matt Bootz	X	
Vice Chair Brent Jacobson	Phone	
Jennifer Bizzotto	W	
Bruce Lamont	W	
Jean Maszk	W	
Allen Opall		X
Vacant		

Also Present/WebEx/Phone: Kurt Gibbs, Craig McEwen, Lance Leonhard, Chad Billeb, Michael Puerner, Sandra La Due, other Sheriff Department staff, Toshia Ranallo, and members of the public.

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bootz at 1:30 p.m.

2. Public Comment

Jon Graveen, 1650 Naugart Dr. Merrill, WI made public comment regarding agenda item 6c. and expressed opposition for spending county tax dollars for state funded positions.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY JACOBSON TO APPROVE THE MARCH 2, 2022, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination

- A.** Consideration of Recommendation to Move Forward with an Application to Allocate \$2 Million Toward a Regional Forensic Science Center Project (Medical Examiner Jessica Blahnik)

Discussion:

Craig McEwen reported the Regional Morgue Task Force held a meeting on April 1, 2022, and discussed funding options for a new forensic science center after learning they were unsuccessful in securing a State of WI Neighborhood Grant. As a result, they propose \$2 million of ARPA funds be allocated towards the forensic science center to potentially help increase fundraising opportunities and secure other grant funding. Similarly, to the previous NCHC pool project a few years ago. If the task force is unable to produce the remaining funds needed for the project, the \$2 million dollars would be returned to the ARPA fund account. The estimated project cost for a larger facility is \$8.3 million, or \$6 million for a smaller model. The task force seeks a recommendation from this committee to have staff prepare and submit an ARPA request application to the HR Finance & Property Committee for consideration.

Action:

MOTION BY LAMONT; SECOND BY MASZK TO RECOMMEND THE REGIONAL MORGUE TASK FORCE STAFF SUBMIT AN ARPA APPLICATION TO ALLOCATE \$2 MILLION TOWARDS THE FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER PROJECT. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:

- A.** Sheriff’s Office Justice Technology Grants Related to Public Safety (Chief Deputy Chad Billeb)
 - 1. Acceptance of Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant
 - 2. Automated License Plate technology (No action required)

Discussion:

Chief Deputy Chad Billeb explained the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant requires acceptance approval by this committee and the county board to receive the grant funds. In the past, this was a \$60,000 grant and shared between the City Of Wausau Police Department and the Marathon County Sheriff's Department. Over the years this grant has decreased to \$13,000. The grant will be used for technology in

the forensic lab located at the sheriff's office as a shared resource with the City of Wausau.

Billeb reported on automated license plate recognition technology that is available to law enforcement for crime prevention detection and public safety initiatives. This technology will only be used for major incidents and crimes such as amber and silver alerts, and homicide suspects. A policy will be implemented to ensure the technology is not misused. Billeb expressed the Sheriff Department's entire policy manual will be available on the website once all the updates are complete.

Lieutenant Stewart was able to secure a grant for \$50,000 that will provide this technology for four years for five cameras.

County Board Chair Kurt Gibbs reported this grant had been previously discussed in detail at the HR Finance & Property Committee meeting and was unanimously approved and recommended to accept the grant.

Action:

MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY BIZZOTTO TO MOVE TO ACCEPT THE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow thru:

Forward to the county board.

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Sheriff's Department Lifesaving Award Presentation (Chief Deputy Chad Billeb)

Discussion:

Chief Deputy Chad Billeb indicated he is experiencing a significant shift pertaining to daily happenings within the county's correctional facility. Inmates require more care from staff due to the rise of substance abuse, mental health crises, and increased stress as a result from the pandemic.

on February 28, 2022, staff were alerted to an inmate who was attempting suicide, unresponsive, and not breathing. Staff entered into the cell and initiated three rounds of CPR which resulted in saving this inmates life. If it had not been for staff's quick action, thinking, and ability to implement their training, there may have been a different outcome.

Billeb congratulate each of them for their life saving efforts and performing their daily duties while enduring an extremely difficult job environment. He issued awards to the following staff.

1. Lieutenant Lucas Volden - Life-Saving Award
2. Corporal Lorraine Zamzow - Life-Saving Award
3. Corrections Officer Ashley Berndt - Life-Saving Award
4. Corrections Officer Jacob Engel - Sheriff's Commendation

B. Discussion of Shelter Home Operations Plan (Chief Deputy Chad Billeb)

Discussion:

Billeb reported the Marathon County shelter home has been closed due to utilization and staffing shortages. The Sheriff's Department has been working with Social Services to develop an alternative solution to provide shelter care services either here in Marathon County or with another partner.

The juvenile detention facility has also been temporarily closed until additional staff can be hired. The corrections division has numerous vacancies and staff from the juvenile detention facility is needed to help with operations. The option to shut down blocks within the jail would have a significant financial burden upon the county's budget. The Sherriff's Department and County Administration continue to discuss solutions and opportunities on how to recruit and hire more staff.

The juvenile detention facility is estimated to reopen by September 1, 2022. Billeb added the 911 center has similar staffing shortages.

Administrator Leonhard provided additional information on the following three options being explored and discussed as part of ongoing efforts referenced in the Administrator's Work Plan:

1. A county entity directly providing services
2. Contract with a non-profit or private entity to provide services
3. Set up an intergovernmental agreement with another governmental partner

- C. State Award of Funding for Two (2) Additional Assistant District Attorney Positions to Address Court Backlog and Update on Potential Need for Supplemental Assistance through County Allocated ARPA Funds.

Discussion:

Administrator Leonhard gave a brief overview on the DA's proposal to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars to support additional prosecutors to address court backlog related to the pandemic. He indicated there will be a similar strategy needed for additional Clerk of Court staff to assist with the goal. These ARPA applications will be presented to the HR Finance & Property Committee for consideration.

District Attorney Theresa Wetzsteon clarified these two additional Assistant District Attorney positions allocated to Marathon County by the governor are funded by the state for the purpose to address the court backlog. These positions are only for a two-year period, and It is the county's responsibility to provide them with facilities and office support staff per WI state statutes.

Next Meeting Time, Location, Announcements and Agenda Items:

- A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
 - 1. Potential Regional Forensic Science Center CIP update
- B. Next meeting: **Wednesday, May 4, 2022, at 1:30 pm**

7. Adjournment

MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY BIZZOTTO TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 2:42 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted by,
Toshia Ranallo

[Click here to view the recording of the meeting.](#)

Strategic Plan Priorities - Designation of Lead Committees and Departments

<u>Goal Area</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Committee Lead</u>	<u>Committee Support</u>	<u>Department Lead</u>
Healthiest	3.3 – Ensure that every child makes it to adulthood with health, stability, and growth opportunities.	HHS	Public Safety	DSS
	3.7 – Ensure that every person has local access to effective mental health treatment.	HHS	RCA/Public Safety	Health (primary support by NCHC)
	5.2 – Promote sound land use decisions that conserve and preserve natural resources in decisions with economic development and growth.	ERC	Infrastructure & EEEDC	CPZ
	6.3 – Protect and enhance the quality of potable groundwater and potable surface water supplies.	ERC	Infrastructure & EEEDC	CPZ
Safest	7.1 – Provide cost-effective and high quality public safety services.	Public Safety	HR Finance Property	Emergency Mgmt
	7.2 – Mitigate the impacts of heroin and methamphetamine epidemics in Marathon County through evidence-based practices.	HHS	Public Safety	Health
	8.7 – Strive to provide affordable, reliable, high-speed internet access throughout the county.	EEEDC & Infrastructure		UW Extension
Most Prosperous	10.6 – Ensure the future availability of a skilled and flexible workforce prepared to meet the needs of both existing and emerging industries and technologies.	EEEDC	HR Finance Property	Administration (primary support MCDEVCO)
	10.8 – Encourage development and redevelopment of key employment centers in areas that possess strong market potential, provide good transportation access for workers, and promote the efficient movement of goods.	EEEDC	Infrastructure	Administration (primary support MCDEVCO)
	10.10 – Create an innovative atmosphere to foster an entrepreneurial-supportive environment.	EEEDC		Administration (primary support Educ. & Entrepreneurial Center)
	10.12 – Maintain infrastructure to support economic growth.	Infrastructure	HR Finance Property & EEEDC	Highway
	12.3 – Promote cost-effective public services	Executive		Administration

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

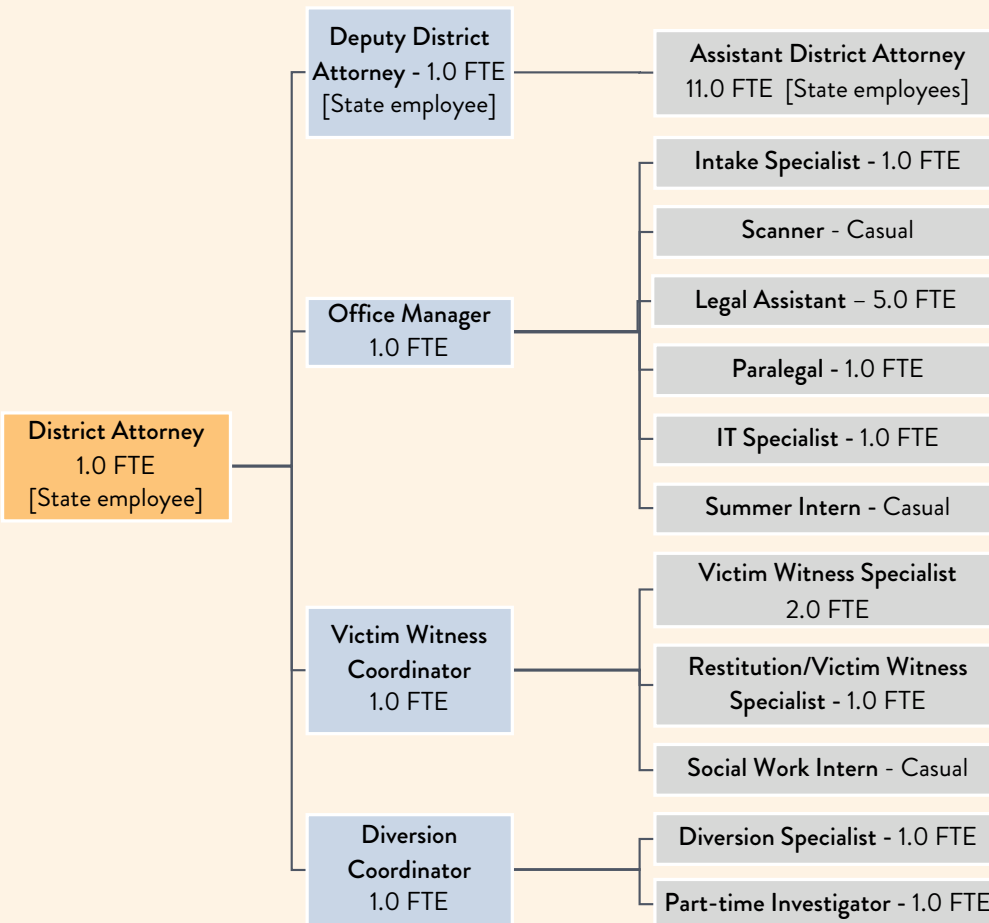
OUR MISSION

The mission of the Marathon County District Attorney's Office is to use all reasonable and lawful diligence to hold accountable those who violate the law; to ensure that crime victims are treated with fairness, dignity and respect; and to maintain safety and obtain justice for the residents of Marathon County.

OUR TEAM



Theresa Wetzsteon
District Attorney
since 2016



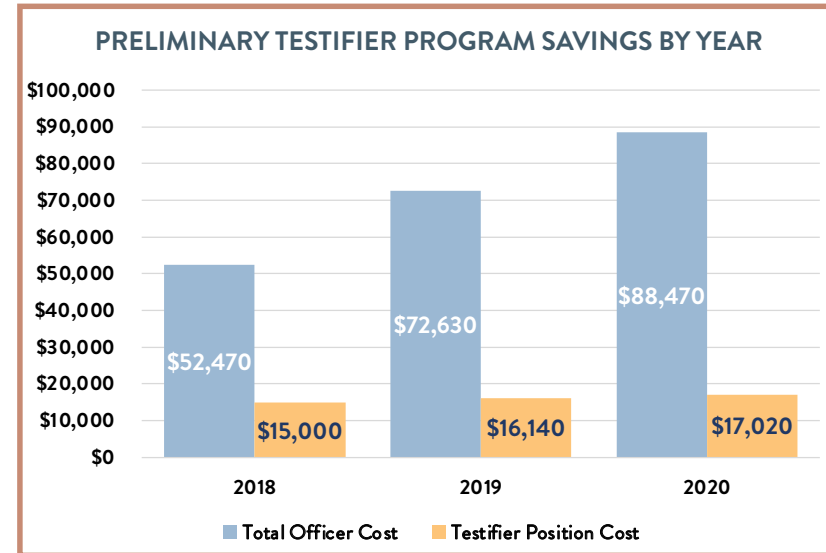
ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The District Attorney is the head law enforcement officer in Marathon County and is the prosecutor in all cases of crime or county traffic ordinance violations committed in Marathon County. In this capacity, the District Attorney along with department staff work with the Marathon County Sheriff's Department, the Wisconsin State Patrol and local police departments to ensure the effective, efficient and uniform enforcement of the criminal laws and the administration of criminal justice throughout the county.

The District Attorney's Office also operates a Court Diversion Program that affords low-risk, first-time offenders the opportunity to avoid criminal charges and/or convictions if they agree to successfully complete a customized agreement that the District Attorney believes will be beneficial to them in hopes that they will not repeat criminal behavior in the future.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- The District Attorney’s Office was awarded one additional Assistant District Attorney through the State as part of the biennial budget. The Administrator’s proposed 2022 budget also provides for the addition of one Legal Assistant to support the work of the new Attorney, while also serving to alleviate some of the workload shared by other assistants within the office, as currently, each legal assistant supports three attorneys.
- In 2021, the Office rolled out an electronic discovery process to record and share evidence in a more cost-effective manner. It is estimated that the District Attorney’s Office processes approximately 15,000 digital media files each month. This process improvement has also impacted how the department charges for discovery as they’ve moved to a data model instead of charging by pages.
- The Superior upgrade to facilitate enhanced information transfer from the law enforcement database to the State of Wisconsin DA PROTECT system was not completed as scheduled, which has necessitated the continuation of staff intensive data entry work. The revised project schedule calls for the integration to be complete at the end of 2021.
- The preliminary testifier program was expanded to include two part-time testifiers and continues to be extremely successful, providing significant savings to local law enforcement agencies through the reduction of overtime costs. The chart to the right illustrates the increasing annual savings to local law enforcement, totaling more than \$165,000, since the program’s inception in 2017.



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022

- The criminal court backlog created by the pandemic will likely result in a significant increase in the number of jury trials conducted in 2022.
- The District Attorney’s Office is leading three projects as part of the County’s [UniverCity Year](#) partnership with the UW System. The projects aim to (1) enhance our understanding of, and reduce, racial and socio-economic disparities in the Marathon County criminal justice system, (2) help us more efficiently process cases in the justice system by examining potential sources of delay, and (3) help us implement tools to assist law enforcement in making initial arrest determinations.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

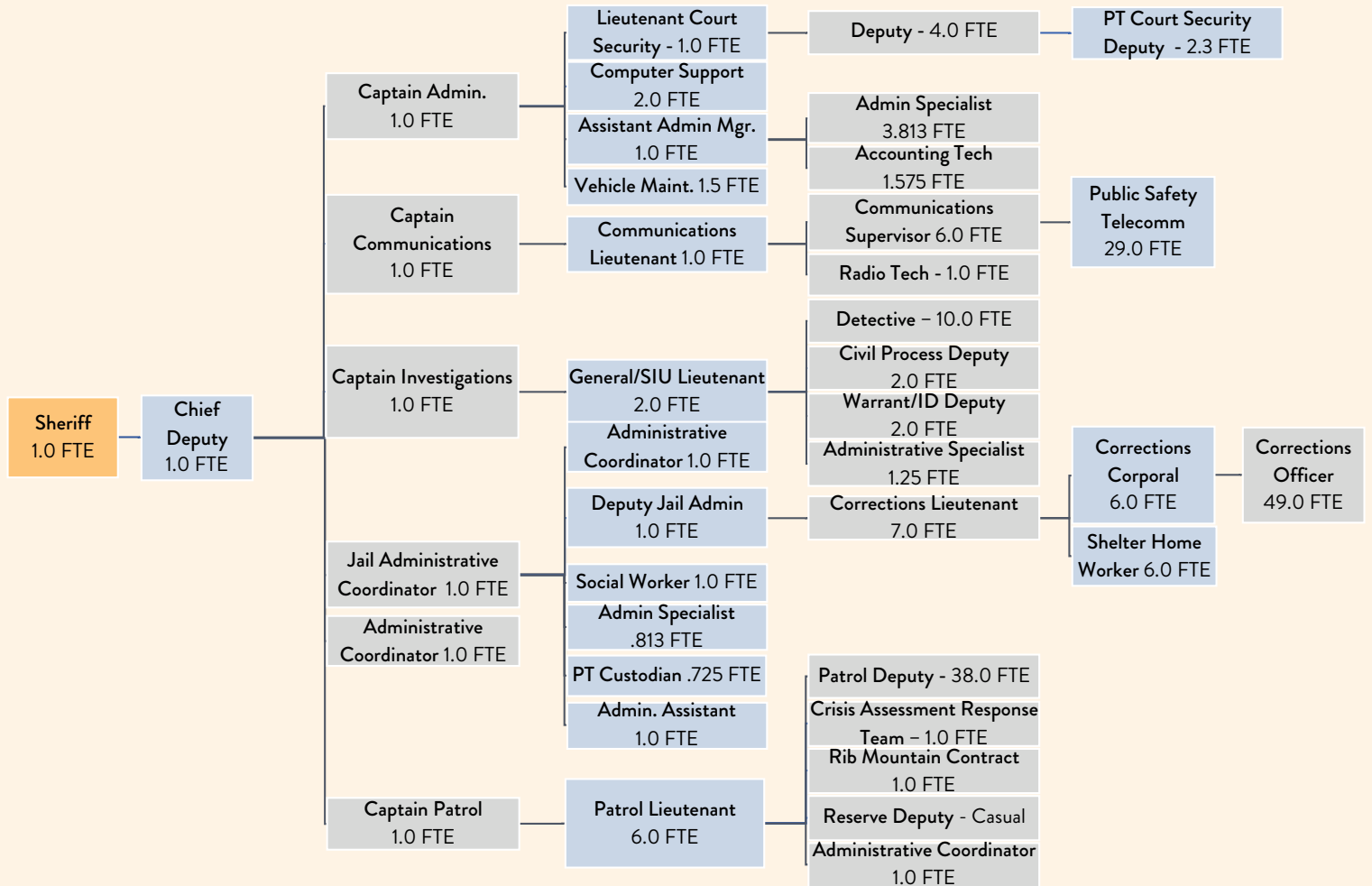
OUR MISSION

The Marathon County Sheriff's Office exists to provide a safe, secure, and crime-free community through trust-building, enforcement, and public safety management.

OUR TEAM



Sheriff Scott Parks
Sheriff
 since 2013



ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Sheriff's Office team is made up of more than 200 professionals who strive to provide a safe, secure and crime-free community. The department is divided into five different divisions:

- **Administration** provides direction, coordination, and control necessary to successfully accomplish the office's goals.
- **Communications** handles all emergency calls and is responsible for paging and radio dispatching for nearly 80 emergency services agencies in Marathon County.
- **Corrections** is responsible for the operations of the jail and juvenile facility.
- **Investigations** is responsible for conducting criminal investigations within the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Office.
- **Patrol** is the front-line team tasked with patrolling and providing service throughout the more than 1,500 square miles of Marathon County.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Key projects completed during 2021 include:

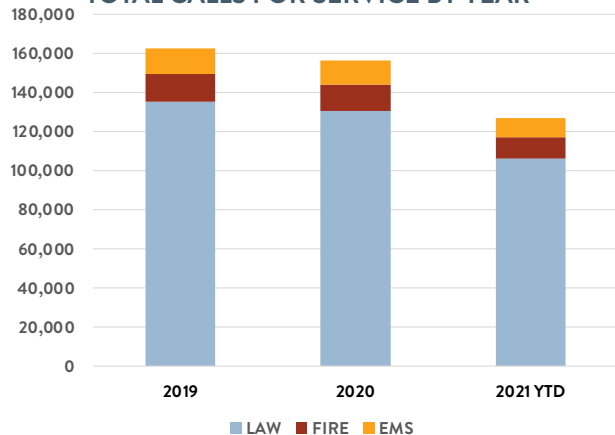
- Implementation of body camera and new squad camera technology over the past year. Body cameras are now on patrol with every uniformed deputy, as well as detectives, when they are in the field. These cameras will be implemented in the jail very soon.
- The Communication Division has continued preparation for a metro area municipal police channel that will service the Everest Metro Police Department and Rothschild Police Departments. This will significantly improve communication with officers in the field.
- The Sheriff's Office continues to work to manage the jail population. As pandemic protocols were relaxed, the jail population began to rise. For additional background information on our jail population and our efforts to manage census, see pages 24-26.
- Law Enforcement Records System Implementation - The Sheriff's Office is in the final stages of completing the Superior project with expected completion by the end of the year.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022

As we head into 2022, the Sheriff's Office will prioritize the following projects:

- The Communications Division has continued to work with a number of providers to open the metro police channel. With the additional staff member hired in 2022, the Sheriff's Office will recruit and hire the final dispatch position to open the metro area channel.
- The Sheriff's Office has been in conversation with Social Services and other law enforcement partners about the feasibility of alternative service delivery models for our shelter home, including the potential for regional management.
- With the Town of Rib Mountain considering incorporation, the Sheriff's Office has been approached about expanding the program to add another deputy. The town has been excellent to work with and the partnership is very strong.
- The Sheriff's Office will continue to utilize Priority Based Budgeting tools to help identify efficiencies within programs to better manage costs.

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE BY YEAR



CLERK OF COURTS

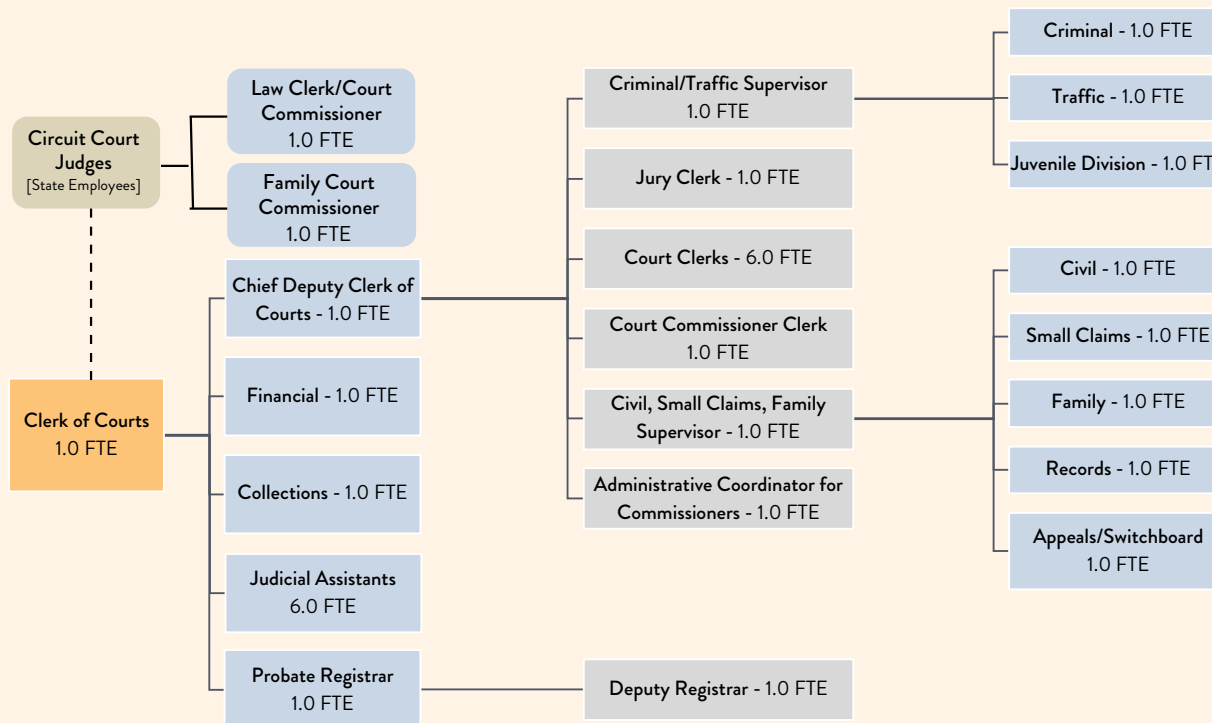
OUR MISSION

The Marathon County Clerk of Courts Department exists to assure complete and responsive access to justice and to maintain the successful operations of the courts. They are successful when the public and the courts have what is needed to assure an outcome that is timely, ethical, efficient, and which respects the dignity and value of all involved.

OUR TEAM



Shirley Lang
Clerk of Courts
since 2014



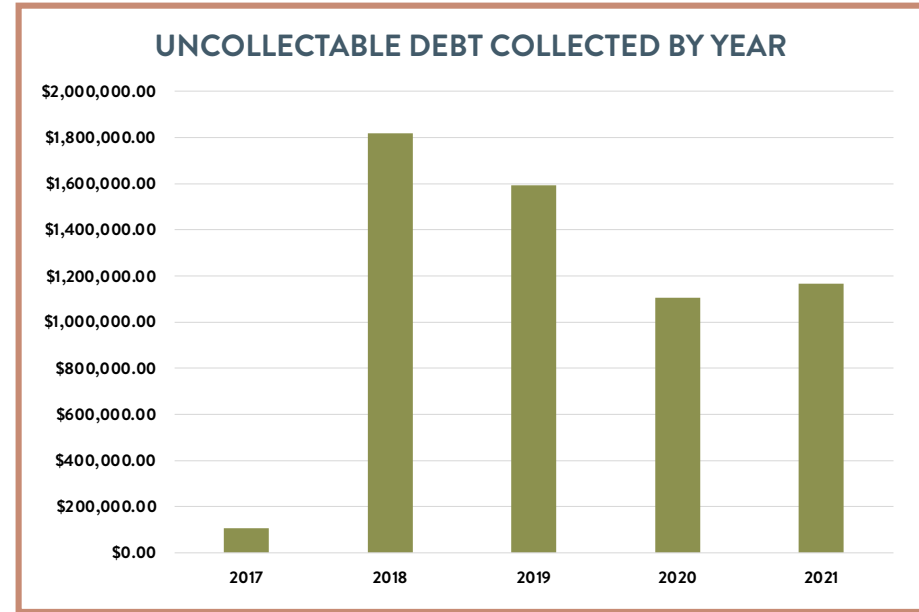
ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Clerk of Courts Office performs a wide range of responsibilities to ensure the functioning within Marathon County Circuit Court. Some of those duties include: the receipt, maintenance, and securing of all official circuit court records; responsibility for ensuring staffing for all circuit court proceedings; management of the jury process; and primary responsibility for the collection and disbursement of funds in accordance with court orders and Wisconsin State law.

The Clerk of Courts budget is comprised of funding from a number of sources, including the State of Wisconsin, county levy, and user fees, such as fines, and forfeitures.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Clerk of Courts began utilizing the State Debt Collection (SDC) agency in early 2017 to collect past due court-ordered obligations. Prior to that time, the office had been performing that function internally, which required significant staff resources and was not overly successful in collecting past due debt. At that time, there was \$16 million in uncollectable debt, dating back to 1989. The conversion has been extremely successful. To date, the Clerk of Courts has collected nearly \$6 million in otherwise uncollectable debt (see the chart to right). And, while the Office is collecting a significant portion of that debt for later disbursement, it does get to maintain a portion of the receipts, which has a positive impact on the annual budget.
- In 2021, the Clerk of Courts also worked to operationalize an addition branch within our courthouse, Branch 6. It did so without seeking additional staffing, reallocating existing staff within the office to perform the work. It will continue to assess the viability of this approach throughout 2022.



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022

- Comprehensive Courtroom Audio/Video Technology Upgrades – currently, each of the courtrooms is set up differently with respect to our audio and video equipment, which makes moving staff and judges to accommodate certain operational issues, particularly virtual court reporting, exceedingly difficult. The Clerk of Courts is working with the Judges and county staff to develop a project request for the use of ARPA funds to update all of our courtrooms with equipment that meets our current needs and is consistent.
- Electronic calendaring – you may be surprised to stop by our courts and see that a fair amount of our scheduling is still completed using paper calendars. This system is antiquated and we need to transition to full utilization of electronic calendaring.
- Expanding use of the SDC to collect restitution – we need to examine how we collect restitution on behalf of victims of crime. We have had great success using the SDC and it is available for use collecting restitution.
- CJCC, Case Processing, and System Budgeting – the Clerk of Courts will be vitally important to the success of each of these endeavors, as its plays a central role in the operations of our local justice system.

MEDICAL EXAMINER

OUR MISSION

The Medical Examiner's Office is dedicated to providing professional, accurate, and efficient medicolegal death investigation to the residents of Marathon County. The Medical Examiner's Office investigates deaths and issues cremation authorizations and disinterment permits as prescribed by Wisconsin State Statutes.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Medical Examiner's Office is charged with investigating and determining the cause, circumstances, and manner of death in each case of unattended natural, non-natural, unexpected, or unusual deaths. These deaths may include homicide, suicide, accidents whether the injury is or is not the primary cause of death, death without a physician in attendance, or death in which the attending physician refuses to sign the death certificate. The Medical Examiner's Office is also responsible to issue cremation authorizations, mass fatality preparedness, participate in death prevention initiatives (highway safety, suicide, infant/child, overdose), community awareness and education, close follow-up with affected families, and collaboration with other agencies involved in the death investigation.

OUR TEAM



Jessica Blahnik
Medical Examiner
Since 2013

Medical Examiner
1.0 FTE

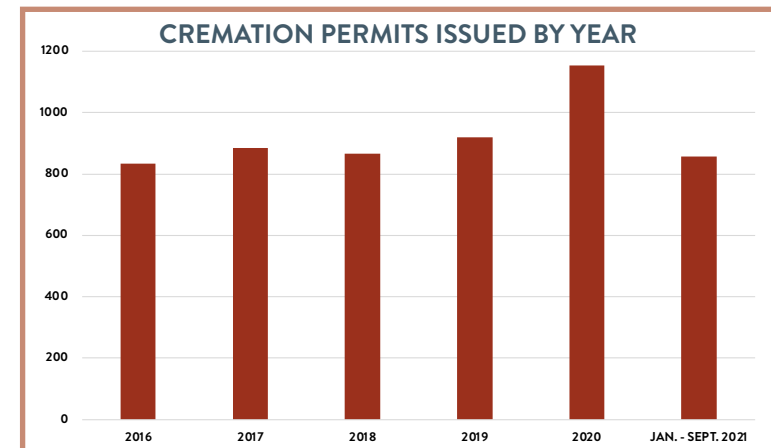
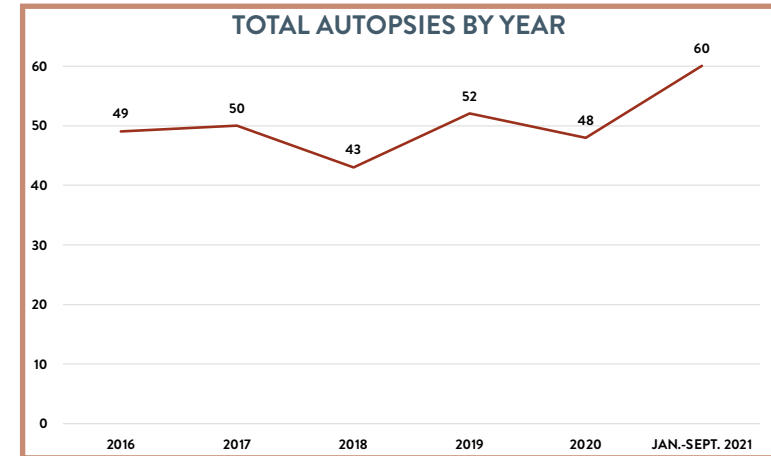
Chief Deputy
Medical Examiner
1.0 FTE

Full-time Deputy
Medical Examiner
(2) 1.0 FTE

Part-time Deputy
Medical Examiner
(6-7) Casual

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Medical Examiner's Office caseload has continued to increase over the past few years, putting 2021 on track for a record year. Not only has the caseload increased, but so has the complexity of the cases. Additionally, this has been a record year for autopsies; there would have been even more autopsies conducted if there was not a forensic pathologist shortage in Wisconsin. It should be noted that these increases are not related to the pandemic.
- Cremation as a final disposition has also steadily increased in popularity. The Medical Examiner's Office is responsible for issuing cremation authorizations for each individual who dies within their jurisdiction. Cremation authorizations are the primary revenue source for the department. They are on track for another record year for cremation authorizations.
- There has been a lot of progress on the Marathon County Regional Forensic Science Center project this past year. A space needs analysis and general facility layout were completed. There have also been numerous conversations with Aspirus Health System and Marshfield Clinic Health System regarding potential partnerships. Over the next few weeks, the main focus will be to identify the location for the facility and move the project forward to the County Board for approval.
- The Medical Examiner's Office was awarded \$49,000 in grant funding for the cycle of September 1, 2020, - August 31, 2021, to support the Overdose Fatality Review Team. The goal of this team is to review all overdose deaths that occur in Marathon County and identify ways the death could have been prevented or changes that can be made within systems to prevent future deaths. This funding allowed Marathon County to complete an additional eight autopsies, send community partners to training, implement some identified prevention measures, and much more.



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022

- The 2022 Medical Examiner's Budget remains consistent with the budget's of previous years and has been developed to include grant funds that were awarded in the amount of \$33,500, with additional funding available at a later date for implementation funds. If the grant implementation funds are not received, there would be a request for a contingency transfer in the event autopsies exceed the projected count.
- With the County Board's approval, work will continue on the Regional Forensic Science Center. Having an operational Forensic Science Center in Marathon County would improve the time frame and ability to conduct autopsies caused by the forensic pathologist shortage in the state. This would provide better service to the families and complete death investigations in a timelier manner.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Marathon County Office of Emergency Management is to assist the community in mitigating known hazards and in preparing for, responding to, surviving and recovering from both natural and man-made disasters.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

Marathon County Emergency Management is the lead county agency charged with coordinating Marathon County's planning, preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery efforts for natural and man-made disasters.

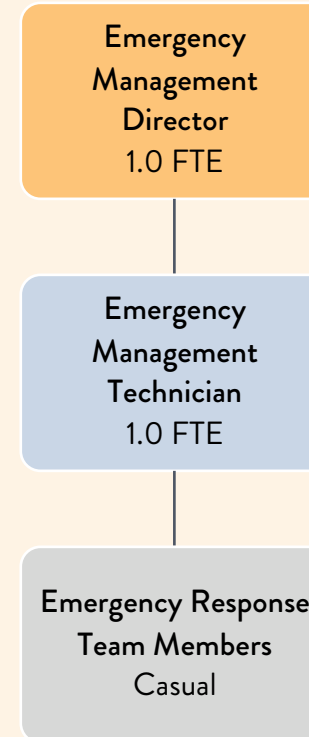
Marathon County Emergency Management provides assistance to county departments with their planning and to local municipalities with emergency responses, requests for county and state assistance, severe weather incidents, special events planning, and other threats to public safety.

Emergency management operates under the authority of Chapter 323 of the Wisconsin Statutes and county ordinance.

OUR TEAM



Phil Rentmeester
*Director of Emergency Management
since 2015*



GRANT FUNDING

Marathon County Emergency Management looks to two grants for substantial funding of its operation: the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) and the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG).

These grants are allocated to Marathon County through State and Federal sources and are used to cover eligible expenses that support hazardous materials planning and preparedness activities and the building and sustainment of critical capabilities in disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities. These functions are the backbone of emergency management and provide essential capabilities vital to the safety and security of our county at a value to the taxpayers. The EMPG and the EPCRA requires a dollar-for-dollar match from every dollar received from the federal government.

During the grant cycle, the emergency management department provides:

- Emergency Planning
- Training
- Exercises
- Professional development
- Emergency response support
- Communications systems support
- Emergency Operations Centers
- Mutual Aid assistance
- Public outreach campaigns
- Preparation for, response to, and recovery from all hazards

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- Emergency Management entered into two agreements with the City of Wausau in 2021. One agreement was for the City to provide hazardous materials release response services throughout the county. The other agreement is for Marathon County to provide emergency management services to Wausau. Both agreements will continue through 2022.
- Emergency Management staff are working with the UniverCity program on several projects related to improving emergency service delivery.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022

- Several local communities have begun discussions regarding potential regionalization of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The Emergency Management department will play an integral role in those conversations and the evaluation of next steps.
- Looking forward, the department will work to expand usage of the mass notification system, exercise emergency operations plans, and continue development of technical rescue capability within the county.