

Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office

2017 Annual Report

IOWA



"Excellence In Law Enforcement"

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Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office

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Sheriff's Welcome



Black Hawk County Citizens:

Thank you for taking the time to review this 2017 Annual Report. You will find that your Sheriff's Office continues to be an aggressive, fiscally responsible, and forward-thinking organization. We recognize the importance of doing our very best to positively impact public safety throughout the Cedar Valley, while doing so in the most effective and efficient manner possible. In the following pages, you will see not just the statistics that drive the "bottom line" for our efforts, but also some of the unique approaches that we employ to derive positive results.

I believe that the year 2017 will be seen as "the year of change" within our organization. We have had so many programs and projects that have been initiated during this year and the impacts of these changes will be felt for years to come. First of all, the first complete year of transition from fully sworn peace officers to civilian detention officers within the jail division is a significant departure from our previous approach to corrections. From recruitment and retention improvements, to tax-based cost savings, we are just starting to see efficacy in this transition.

Late in 2017, we started to transition our jail security hardware and software. This change was predicated on the necessity of a failing system that was over 23 years old. Interestingly enough, the system we are replacing failed during the final weeks of December and right in the middle of the transition to the new security system. As it could not be revived, the timing of this replacement could not have waited even one more week.

Though it was unfortunate timing, due to our security software project, our newly developed 9-1-1 P25 Land Mobile Radio project entered into its final stages of development and implementation during the 4th quarter of 2017. We ended the year being the first Black Hawk County agency to operate (and test) the full capacity and capabilities of this new system. We anticipate full implementation of the new radio system for all law enforcement, fire, and EMS services late in the 1st quarter of 2018.

These changes are just a few of the developments we have navigated through during 2017. I could not be more proud of our efforts, the staff's ability to accommodate change, and deal with the challenges that such change brings. I hope as you review this annual report that you also walk away with this same, deep-seated pride in your sheriff's office, its staff, and our capabilities and our positive impacts on our county. We are proud to serve and truly commit ourselves to our agency motto "Excellence in Law Enforcement" each and every day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Thompson".

Sheriff Tony Thompson

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Mission Statement



Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office to provide professional, high quality, and effective law enforcement, correctional and court support services in partnership with the communities we serve. We, the members of the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office, believe that our work has a vital impact on the quality of life in our county. To demonstrate our commitment to our profession, on and off duty, we subscribe to the following values:

PRIDE

The office recognizes that its employees are the vital component to the successful delivery of law enforcement, corrections and court support services. We believe we can achieve our highest potential by actively involving our employees in problem solving and outwardly demonstrate our support for and pride in our staff.

INTEGRITY

Integrity is defined as being honest, moral, upright and sincere. Public trust can only exist with our integrity and respect for one another. At the very foundation of the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office is the expectation of the highest level of integrity in its employees.

PROFESSIONALISM

Recognizing the changing and diverse needs of the communities we serve, the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office promotes and encourages a policy of professional individual excellence, which is passionately delivered and enhanced by continuing education, training, and administration support. This commitment is evidenced by the expected outward demonstration of that professionalism to our citizens.

FAIRNESS

Sheriff's Office members shall uphold laws in an ethical, impartial, courteous, and professional manner while respecting the rights and dignity of all persons. We shall strive to achieve a balance between enforcement and community needs which reflects both the spirit and the letter of the law. We support an organizational climate of mutual trust and respect. We endeavor to always be fair and impartial in our decisions and responses to issues which fall within the confines of our assigned duties.



Significant Statistics



Calls For Service			
	2015	2016	2017
Total CFS in Black Hawk County	111,808	107,628	107,445
Total CFS for the Sheriff's Office	12,086	8,189	7,925



Downward Trending a Good Thing!

Though the total numbers demonstrate an overall downward trend (which we are not upset with at all!), there is a recognized natural “ebb and flow” of crime in the unincorporated areas of Black Hawk County. And, while one person arrested may account for 10-15 rural burglaries or thefts, please know that the Sheriff's Office is prideful of its approach to law enforcement, crime investigation, and making criminal arrests in cases that we work here in Black Hawk County. With some of the highest case closure ratings in the Midwest, our agency continues to work diligently both to deter and divert crime, and also to solve crimes, detect offenders, and hold them accountable when crimes are committed within our jurisdiction. We firmly believe that the harder we work, the less the citizens of Black Hawk County will be victimized by crime.

Sheriff's Office Arrests			
	2015	2016	2017
Total Arrests	4,096	3,664	3,658



Sheriff's Office Traffic Stops			
	2015	2016	2017
Total Stops	2,301	2,188	3,843
Citations Issued	3,357	3,083	3,430



Significant Statistics



"A" Offenses

Offense	2015	2016	2017
Arson	1	0	1
Aggravated Assault	3	3	6
Assault Domestic	11	19	10
Assault Simple	17	16	11
Burglary	63	72	68
Criminal Mischief	41	33	45
Drug Violations	270	252	258
Kidnapping	0	1	0
Robbery	1	0	1
Murder	1	0	0
Sexual Offenses	6	10	7
Thefts	81	67	80
Larceny of Motor Vehicle	6	15	11
Entice/Exploitation Child	0	0	1

"B" Offenses

Offense	2015	2016	2017
Liquor Law Violations	15	6	4
OWI	105	112	103
Public Intoxication	31	16	13
Family Offenses	12	16	4
Runaway	7	4	1
Suspicion	3	3	5
Bad Checks	2	2	6
Trespass	6	7	17
All Other Offenses	10	16	5



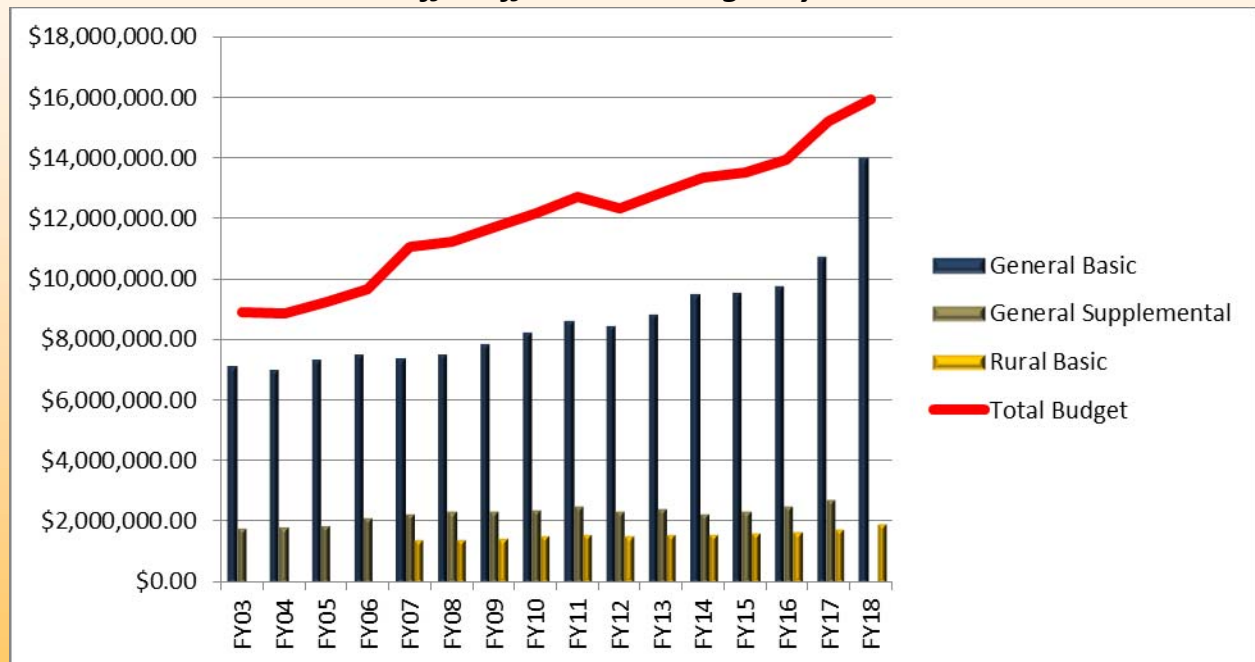
Significant Statistics



While our overall budget continues to moderately increase, the cost of doing business around the Sheriff's Office has remained relatively stable. Most of the cost increases are attributable to negotiated salary increases

for the 140 staff members of the office. Some commodity purchases such as fuel and contracted services are also increases but, relatively modest compared to market. There is a notable jump in FY18 which accounts for just over \$2 million for the Jail Security Software System upgrade. Otherwise operation expenses remain low and demonstrate a considerable value for the cost of law enforcement services for the citizens of Black Hawk County.

Sheriff's Office Total Budget by Fiscal Year



Total Mental Health Orders Served

	2015	2016	2017
Total Services	1,258	1,204	1,049



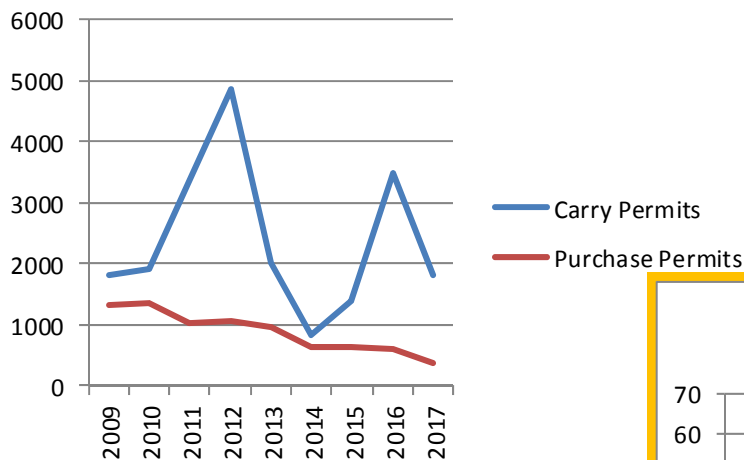
Significant Statistics



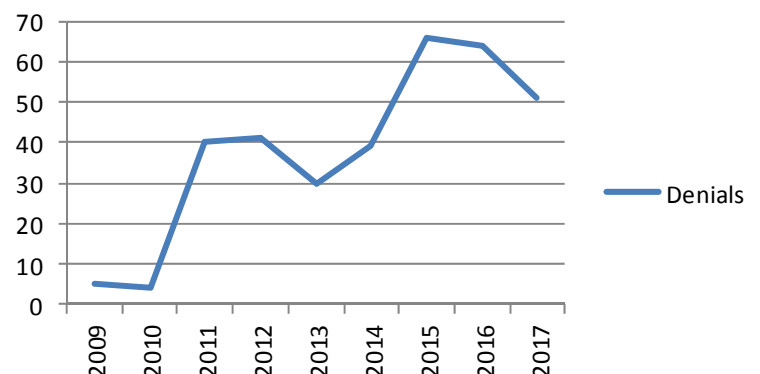
Weapons Permitting in Iowa Continues to Evolve through Legislation

Though the procedure has experienced minor tweaks and changes since the major 2011 legislative changes, the interest in carrying and purchasing weapons in Black Hawk County continues to be a large focus in the administrative office. Our front office staff process an average of **3,277** permit requests per year (since 2009). Since that same time, **29,502** permits (both permits to acquire and permits to carry) have been issued. While **340** permits have been denied upon application for various reasons, most of which are due to felony or domestic violence convictions, or mental health commitments. Only **147** permits have been suspended or revoked over this same time period (2009-2017), though we did see a significant uptick in suspensions during the last 12 months. The most common reason for a suspension is a criminal offense regarding an incident which could preclude weapons possession if convicted.

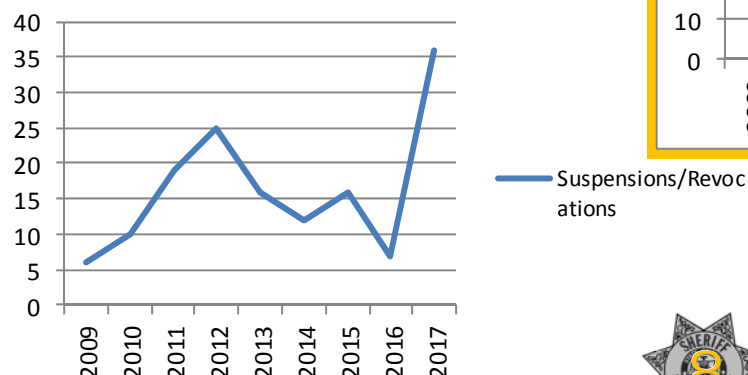
The most recent and biggest change our citizens will now notice is a standardized plastic permit, issued from the state. It has no photo on it, but the standardized permit is now being issued by the Iowa Department of Public Safety and is being mailed to the applicant's home of record or the Sheriff's Office for issuance. Applications will continue to be performed through the county Sheriff's Office.



Denials



Suspensions/Revocations



Jail Services Division



From the Commander:

The Black Hawk County Jail has been located in our current location since 1995, when our office constructed the 272 bed facility. In addition to the residential-level beds, there is additional capacity for 39 arrestees in the intake area of the jail. These beds are classified as temporary housing because the arrestee can only remain in this area prior to their initial court appearance, which is held in the jail courtroom every morning of the year.

Our jail is currently staffed by 50 deputies, 18 detention officers, 12 booking clerks, 12 master control technicians, and 2 commissary clerks. These men and women manage our 272 bed facility 24/7/365; and make sure those inmates who are ordered here by the court are kept safe and secure. Their role in preventing escape is vital to the safety of our community and their role is just as vital in preventing the inmates from harming themselves or each other. This year, our staff prevented 3 inmate suicide attempts, in addition to their other important duties.

During the year, the jail booked **7,199** inmates into the jail and booked **7,180** inmates out of the jail. The 2017 average daily population in our jail was **228**.

This year we have made two major changes in the division. First, we implemented a new inmate property storage system. This system is a conveyor-type system with cloth hanging bags. It replaces our traditional metal property lockers, freeing up space, allowing for greater efficiency in storing and recalling inmate property. This aids in reducing the number of mistakes and likelihood of lost or misplaced items.

The second change in the jail was the installation of a new security system. This system controls all cameras, door locks, intercoms, and other electrical systems within the jail. Needless to say, the installation of this system has been a huge undertaking and has been very time consuming for all involved. This installation involved replacing locks, old cameras with new IP cameras, monitors, hardware and intercoms/wiring.

Throughout this entire process, the security of the jail, as well as the safety of all inmates and staff has remained paramount. The stress for all involved during this time cannot be overstated. But, the training and dedication of the staff was evident and the changes they helped bring have been vital to this agency and the public we serve.



In 2016, we began incorporating civilian detention officers and have continued hiring them as the need arises. We have had great success with this addition to the agency and we look forward to the continued positive contributions they bring to the jail division.

Captain Tom Mulnix
Jail Division Commander
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Jail Services Division



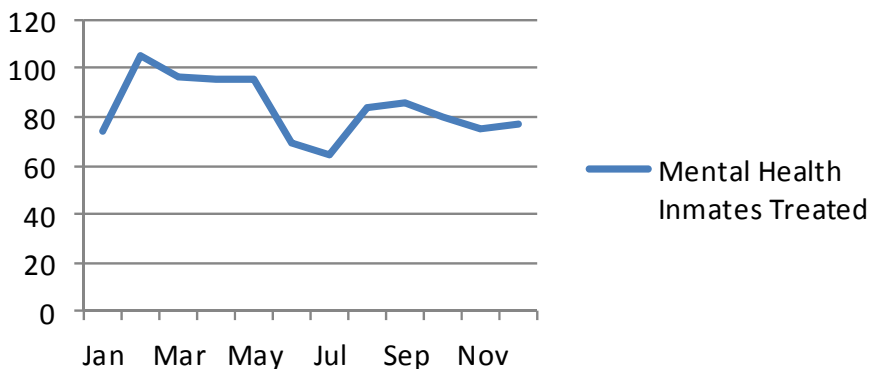
	2015	2016	2017
Average Daily Population	262	216	228
Jail Bookings	7,914	7,074	7,199
Jail Transports	969	908	654

The State's Mentally Ill Are Still Finding Themselves in Jail Rather than Treatment

The Black Hawk County Jail continues to be a location where the mentally ill are finding treatment and placement. Much of this is as a result of a broken statewide mental health delivery system, which causes the criminalization of our mentally ill population.

Our privately contracted correctional health care company, Naphcare, provides 24/7/365 medical and mental health care coverage for our facility. In 2017, they treated **1,003** inmates diagnosed with mental illness in custody of the Black Hawk County Jail.

Mental Health Inmates Treated



2017 Inmate Demographic Summary

RACE	Male	Female
Black	2,003	715
White	3,206	1,387
Asian	47	17
Indian	14	5
Total Inmates	5,270	2,124
Hispanic: Yes- 237 No- 7,067		



Field Services Division



From the Commander:



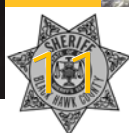
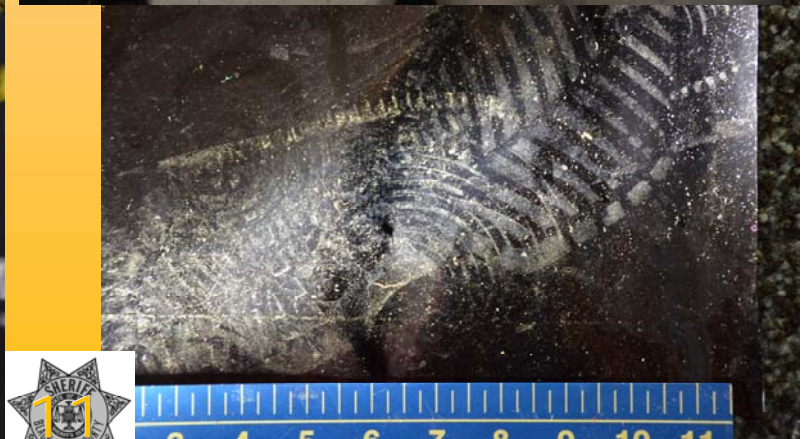
Captain Rick Abben retired from the agency in April and I proudly took command of the Patrol /Investigative Divisions and SWAT team. I am also serving as the department's new Chief Deputy. I previously served as the Jail Administrator, a Shift Lieutenant, a Patrol Sergeant, and numerous years as a deputy working in the jail, civil and patrol divisions, including 9 years as a K-9 handler.

This year, the patrol division also lost two seasoned deputies who have taken promotions to be supervisors in our Jail Division. These staffing changes provide more deputies exposure to acquiring experience in different facets of the department, thereby producing a more robust and globally experienced department.

The Patrol Division is staffed 24/7/365 and stands ready to respond to any call for assistance within our jurisdiction and they also proactively patrol the communities that we serve to enforce law infractions.

The Investigative Division continued this year at the same staffing levels with the same personnel assigned. This past year, our investigative personnel were very busy with a missing person investigation that lasted several weeks and a string of burglaries that occurred over a couple month time period. Both of these major investigations were successfully investigated to closure and final fruition.

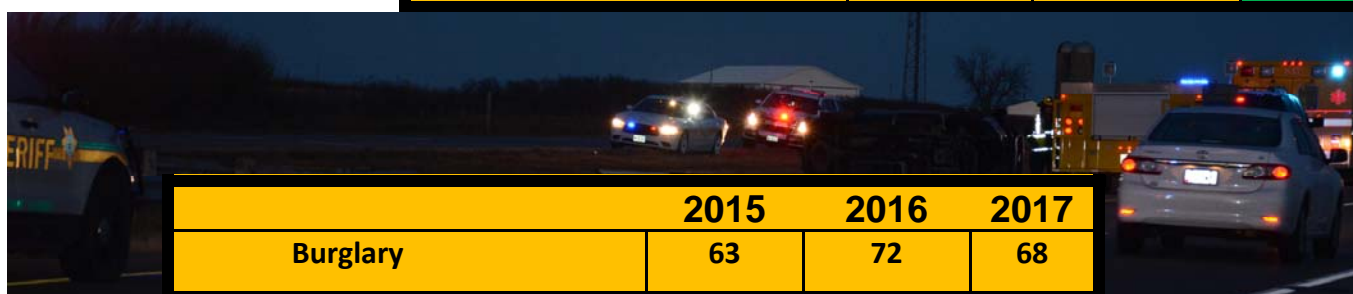
Captain Mark Herbst
Field Services Division Commander
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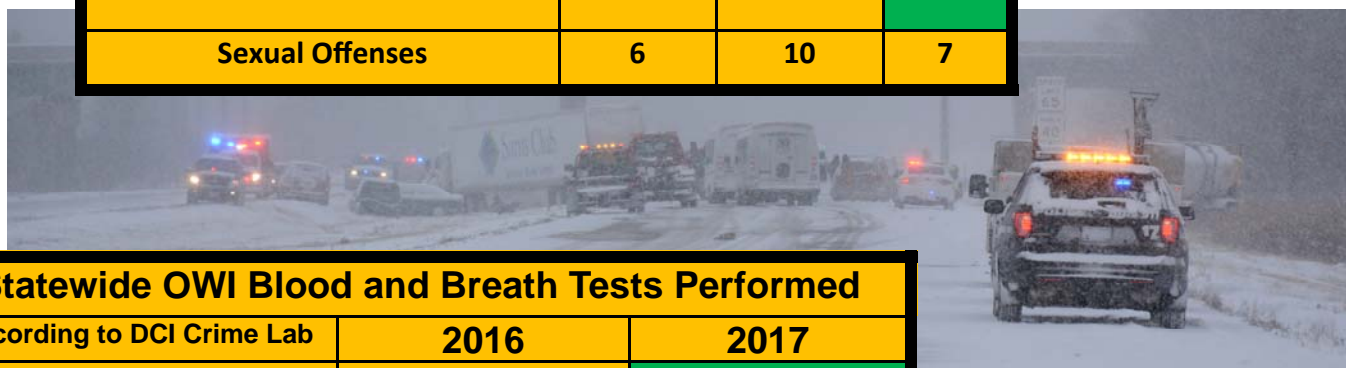
Field Services Division



	2015	2016	2017
Calls for Service	12,086	8,189	7,925
Arrests	4,096	3,664	3,658
Accidents (Fatal)	4	1	1
Accidents (Property Damage)	214	216	190
Accidents (Injuries)	36	43	28
Citations Issued	3,357	3,083	3,430
Warrant Services	796	1,426	1,668
OWI Arrests	105	112	103
Thefts	81	67	80
Drug/Narcotics	270	252	258



	2015	2016	2017
Burglary	63	72	68
Criminal Mischief	41	33	45
Sexual Offenses	6	10	7



Statewide OWI Blood and Breath Tests Performed		
*According to DCI Crime Lab	2016	2017
Blood Tests	533 (.163avg)	541 (.170avg)
Breath Tests	13,888 (.136 avg)	13,349 (.136avg)



Special Services Division



From the Commander:

The Special Services Division of this office consists of sub-divisions including civil, clerical, training, information technology and records. In total, about 50 of our staff members are involved in special services.

Civil is responsible for getting court orders and other legal documents served and executed. These services include papers such as wage and bank garnishments, divorce papers, subpoenas, evictions, repossessions, protective orders and many other types. In calendar year 2017, our deputies served and executed **12,475** of these documents and orders.

Clerical staff administratively supports all divisions, in addition to handling the issuance of gun permits, facilitating Sheriff's sales, registering of sex offenders and receiving of money from the public for inmate accounts.

Training staff are continuously training virtually all staff at least one day every month on a variety of topics tailored to our current needs and state requirements. We train our staff at our training facility in Raymond, which this year expanded in land and water size and is continuously being upgraded to fit our needs and the needs of any other law enforcement agencies wanting to train with us. The classrooms are large enough to hold regional seminars and we do a few of those every year.

Information Technology is handled by our full-time Network Administrator. We are definitely in an era of time in which this type of technology is ever-changing and improving in quality. One such area is the jail's security system. We are currently undergoing an entire replacement of that 23 year old system. Another major system currently being replaced and overseen by our Special Services staff is our radio communications network for all public safety entities in Black Hawk County.

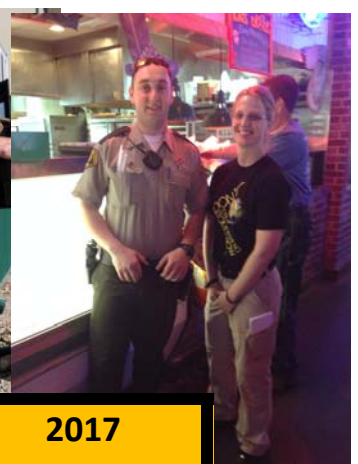
Our records staff handles the release of our records per the current open records laws. The interpretation of and pending court challenges to these relatively new laws are making it difficult for us to decide what can and can't be released without the advice of legal experts.

It was a successful year for the Special Services Division and I expect the same looking forward to the year 2018. I am thankful for my diligent and hard-working staff, and I thank the citizens of Black Hawk County for their support of our efforts. If you have any concerns or questions please contact me.

Captain Reinhard Boeschen
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Special Services Division



Civil Process (Type)	2015	2016	2017
Executions	2,084	1,932	1,906
Real Estate Sales	200	214	188
Condemnations	11	47	40
Writ of Attachment	1	1	0
Garnishments	2,065	1,900	1,870
1.1020.1 Levy	0	2	0
1.1020.2 Levy	2	4	0
Cash Register Levy	0	5	2
Demand	15	10	25
Security Lien	3	1	0
Temp Protective Order	152	190	164
Writ of Ejection	456	545	523
Writ of Possession	28	29	37
Writ of Replevin	50	22	25
Papers Served	13,261	12,730	12,475
Papers Un-served	1,154	1,161	1,172
Total Processes	14,415	13,891	13,647

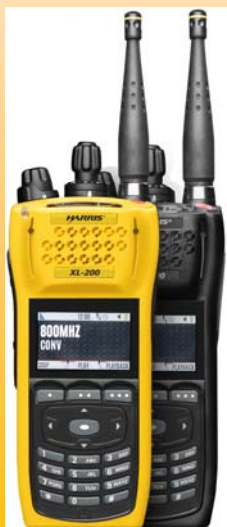


Administrative Services Division



SARA (Shared Area Radio Agreement) P25 Radio Network Nearing Reality

The Shared Area Radio Agreement between Black Hawk County, Linn County, Johnson County, the Racom Corporation (including Grundy, Polk, and Marshall counties), and several newly joining counties (Dubuque, Iowa, and Jasper) is finding its foothold in the state of Iowa. The SARA network provides emergency radio services for public safety entities responding to many of the most populous counties in the state of Iowa. It is recognized for connecting several county radio systems together, providing service to nearly half of the state's population base. Black Hawk County is proud to have partnered in this effort to provide seamless interoperability between law enforcement, fire, and EMS agencies throughout these counties. It is the next generation of public safety radio systems. The biggest and most obvious improvements of this networking are the lives that are positively impacted, crimes deterred, crimes detected, and crimes solved... But, most importantly, the multi-disciplinary mutual aid between counties and agencies are more favorably impacted to help bring to bear all the assets and resources of every partnering county on any incident or situation.



Administrative Services Division



2017 Deputy of the Year

The 2017 Deputy of the Year was called “Mr. Can Do Everything” by his direct supervisor, and judging by Deputy Nick Stocks’ involvement in SWAT, the Water Safety Patrol Team, the Honor Guard, and as an FTO in the Jail Division, it is clear that he may be just exactly that. Deputy Stocks was recognized with this honor during the annual Black Hawk County Law Enforcement Association’s Christmas Party on Friday, December 15th. He is also recognized by the Early Risers Exchange Club for his service and professionalism in a separate ceremonial breakfast.

It is a prideful thing to recognize our outstanding performers in this manner each year, and while several officers and employees were recognized for their contributions during this annual recognition ceremony, they represent an entire staff of exemplary employees who commit themselves daily to the difficult task of ensuring the safety and security of the citizens of Black Hawk County.



Jail Security Upgrade Complete

During 2017, the Black Hawk County Jail completed one of the most substantial upgrades in its 22 year existence. The “brains” of its security programming was failing and following several years of working with the Board of Supervisors, funding was allocated to replace and upgrade the security software and hardware within the building. This was no small feat, as it required running the entire building on keys for several weeks as new wiring, intercoms, cameras and locks were installed. Interestingly enough, during the installation the system that was requiring the replacement finally failed and was not able to be brought back up. The timing was unfortunate, but thankfully, its replacement was being installed at the same time, so we got every last ounce of good out of the old system. Now, the jail has new IP based camera systems which capture nearly every nook and cranny in the building, improved intercom and pod paging capabilities, as well as an improved interface with the locks and other electronic controls that manage this 272 bed facility.

