

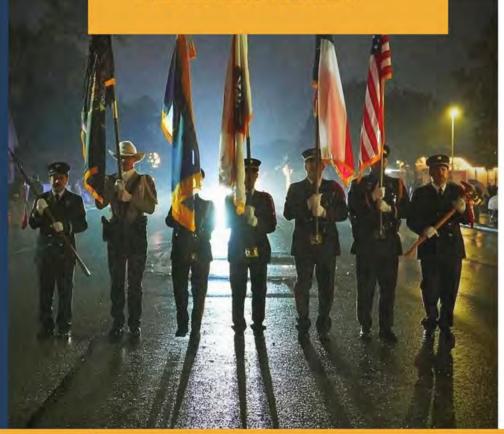


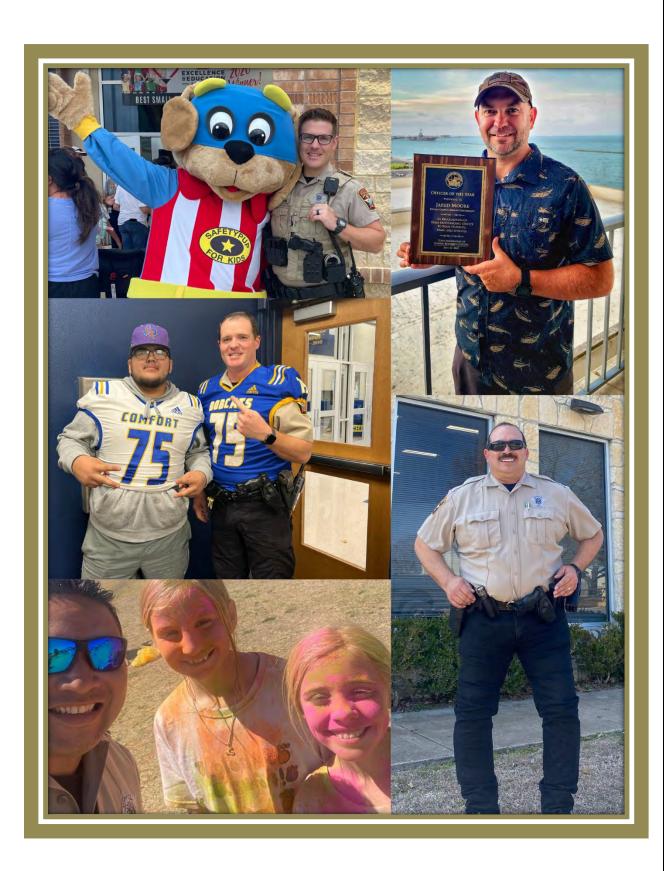
# 2024

# ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by

**AL AUXIER, SHERIFF** 







"Our mission is to protect the lives and property of the residents and visitors of Kendall County through professional policing, community partnerships, and efficient management of personnel and resources."

—Al Auxier, Kendall County Sheriff



### From the Sheriff

Dear Kendall County Community,

As Sheriff of Kendall County, it is my privilege to share with you the Kendall County Sheriff's Office 2024 Annual Report. This report reflects the unwavering dedication and hard work of the people in our Office who serve daily to protect our community. It also highlights the progress we have made this year in advancing our mission: "To protect the lives and property of the residents and visitors of Kendall County through professional policing, community partnerships, and the efficient management of personnel and resources."

One of our most significant accomplishments in 2024 was the introduction of a new pay scale for law enforcement and detention personnel. With the support of County Judge Shane Stolarczyk, a salary committee was established to address the unique compensation needs of our team. This effort resulted in the development of a distinct pay structure for law enforcement roles, marking an important milestone for our Office.

The new pay scale not only differentiates law enforcement and detention personnel from other county positions but also implements a comprehensive 30-year STEP scale. This structure provides fair, predictable compensation based on years of service, ensuring stability and recognizing the commitment of our employees. This is a crucial step forward in retaining and rewarding our talented team, ultimately strengthening public safety in Kendall County.

Additionally, we have focused on fostering partnerships with local and regional agencies, expanding resources to address mental health needs, and maintaining fiscal responsibility while enhancing services. These efforts, combined with the steadfast support of our Commissioners Court and community, have positioned us to effectively meet the challenges of our rapidly growing county.

This report offers a detailed look at our divisions, accomplishments, and the essential roles they play in ensuring the safety of Kendall County. It also underscores our commitment to transparency and accountability in serving this exceptional community.

To the men and women of the Kendall County Sheriff's Office, I extend my deepest gratitude for your dedication and professionalism. To the residents and visitors of Kendall County, thank you for your trust and partnership. Together, we are building a safer and stronger future.

Thank you for taking the time to review this report. Your ongoing support helps make Kendall County a community we are all proud to call home.

Sincerely,

**AL AUXIER, SHERIFF** 

KENDALL COUNTY, TEXAS

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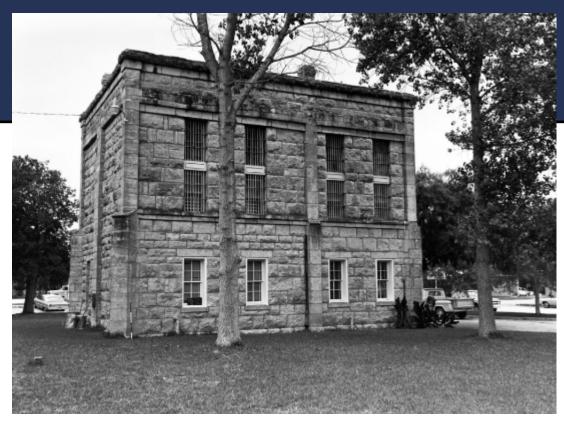


Photo 1 - The first Kendall County Jail, built in 1877.

### **Preface**

#### **Office History**

In 1836, the constitution of the newly created Republic of Texas formally required the position of Sheriff in each county across the state of Texas. In 1862, John Sansom, retired Texas Ranger, was the first Sheriff appointed for Kendall County, Texas, In 1870, the Kendall County Courthouse was built, and the first Kendall County Jail was built in 1877, next door to the Courthouse. At that time, the jail housed four cells and served as a home to the early Sheriffs and their spouses, who would often cook meals for the inmates.

Today, Sheriff Al Auxier, Kendall County's 29<sup>th</sup> Sheriff, is serving his fourth term in office. Sheriff Auxier was initially sworn into office by Kendall County Judge Darrell Lux, on January 1, 2013.

The current Kendall County Adult Detention Center is a 153-bed facility. The original jail is now a museum managed by the Kendall County Historical Society.

#### Responsibilities

Sheriff Auxier has full authority and responsibility for the management, direction and control of the Kendall County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) operation, which is comprised of five Divisions and administrative support for the Office.

The Sheriff also has the overall responsibility for the operation of the Kendall County Adult Detention Center (Detention Center), and for the safe, humane housing of offenders arrested within the county. Monthly, the Sheriff must give a report to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS); and in turn, the Commission inspects the facility annually.

Kendall County has a cost-share agreement with the towns of Boerne and Fair Oaks Ranch for all costs associated with housing prisoners prior to their formal commitment to jail by a Magistrate. The facility has a capacity for 153 prisoners. Kendall County also maintains cooperative agreements with detention centers in surrounding counties when capacity is exceeded at the Kendall County facility.

### Mission, Vision and Core Values

#### Vision

Dedicated, innovative people, working with the community to serve and protect Kendall County while using the best tools and technology available.

#### **Mission**

The mission of KCSO is to protect the lives and property of the residents and visitors of Kendall County through professional policing, community partnerships, and the efficient management of personnel and resources.

#### **Core Values**

#### **Professionalism**

We foster a climate of excellence by recruiting, selecting, and training exemplary deputies and detention officers, and we encourage employee growth and development through extensive training opportunities.

#### **Integrity**

To forge healthy, trusting relationships with the people of Kendall County, we demand that employees of the Kendall County Sheriff's Office demonstrate ethical consistency in their professional and personal lives.

#### Accountability

We are responsible and accountable for our actions. Thus, we expect our officers to exercise self-restraint in times of crisis; and we expect our enforcement actions to adhere to the facts at hand.

#### Justice

The administration of law and order is based on the ideals of justice and fairness for our diverse community. The KCSO treats all citizens and visitors—including those suspected of crimes—with respect, dignity, and fairness.

#### Courage

We will act boldly to serve our community, and we will make tough decisions based on what is best for our citizens and visitors, the Kendall County Sheriff's Office, and the individual employee involved, while acting in accordance with the values described above.

# **Kendall County Sheriff's Office Overview**

#### Kendall County Sheriff's Office Overview and Staffing

The Kendall County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) is led by a Command Staff comprised of the Sheriff, Deputy Chief, and four Lieutenants, one for each division within the organization. The five divisions include Patrol, Criminal Investigations and Training, the Adult Detention Center (Jail), Animal Shelter/Animal Control, and Support Services. Additionally, an administrative support staff assists the Office.

In the sections that follow, the Command Staff and each division will report:

- 1. Their respective accomplishments were made and associated with the KCSO Strategic Plan, referenced by either the Goal or Objective Number;
- 2. Accomplishments made outside those identified in the strategic plan;
- 3. Where available, reported statistics associated with the 2024 accomplishments; and
- 4. A look ahead to 2025 and what each of their respective areas seek to achieve in the new year.

#### **KCSO Staffing**

There are a total of 114 employees employed by the KCSO, including:

- 58 full-time Certified Peace Officers (including the Jail Administrator)
- 2 full-time Transport Officers (Certified Peace Officers)
- 36 Detention Officers
- 18 Civilian Employees

KCSO also has four unpaid Reserve Deputies on staff.

# **Kendall County Sheriff's Office Command Staff**

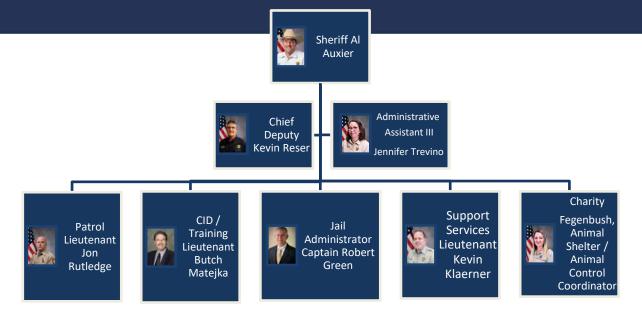


Figure 1 - Command Staff Organization

#### Kendall County Sheriff's Office Command Staff Overview

The KCSO Command Staff organization includes Sheriff Al Auxier, Chief Deputy Kevin Reser, and four Lieutenants, one for each Division within the Sheriff's Office including: Patrol Lieutenant Jon Rutledge, Criminal Investigations and Training Lieutenant Butch Matjeka, Jail Administrator Captain Robert Green, Support Services Lieutenant Kevin Klaerner, and Animal Shelter/Animal Control Coordinator Charity Fegenbush. On the pages that follow, the structure of each Division and their respective roles and responsibilities within the Office are defined, followed by their respective accomplishments, and any associated statistics.

#### **Kendall County Sheriff's Office Budgets**

There are three separate budgets that encompass the Sheriff's Office and include: 1) the Kendall County Sheriff's Office Operation; 2) Kendall County Animal Shelter and Animal Control; and 3) Kendall County Detention Center, for which the Sheriff is responsible.

#### 2024 KCSO Command Staff Strategic Plan Accomplishments

2.1.1 Develop a KCSO Annual Report tied to the KCSO Strategic Plan that provides a transparent look at the work completed during the fiscal year and any additional goals for the upcoming year.

The 2024 Annual Report is organized by the Division, reporting both their respective accomplishments for 2024 toward the 2021-2025 KCSO Strategic Plan and outside the Strategic Plan. Additionally, each Division identifies known goals for 2025.

How the report is outlined will be reviewed annually to ensure the methodology used is transparent and demonstrates KCSO's accountability to the strategic plan and prudent use of allocated funding.

### 2.1.2 - Use the final KCSO Annual Report as a tool to demonstrate goal accomplishments and accountability to the citizens of Kendall County, Texas.

KCSO leadership plans to finalize the 2024 Annual Report and present the report to the Kendall County Commissioners Court at a Court date in February 2025. Once presented to and accepted by the Court, the KCSO will post the 2024 Annual Report on the KCSO website at: <a href="https://www.kendallcountysheriff.com/services">https://www.kendallcountysheriff.com/services</a>.

# 4.2.1 - Continue to work with the County Judge and County Commissioners to strengthen pay and benefits and establish a methodology to implement a county's salary program that results in a defined career path to improve recruitment and retention.

With the input from the Sheriff's Office, the County Judge created a salary committee that was instrumental in developing a separate Law Enforcement Pay Scale. This new pay scale separated the Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement and Detention Personnel onto their own pay scale and established a much needed 30-year STEP scale intended to compensate employees based on longevity.

#### 2024 Accomplishments Outside the Strategic Plan

The current Kendall County Sheriff's Office Strategic Plan ended on December 31, 2024, with the expiration of the Sheriff's current term in Office. The Command Staff, working with an outside consultant, updated and modified the current plan to create the KCSO Strategic Plan for 2025-2029.

## **Patrol Division**

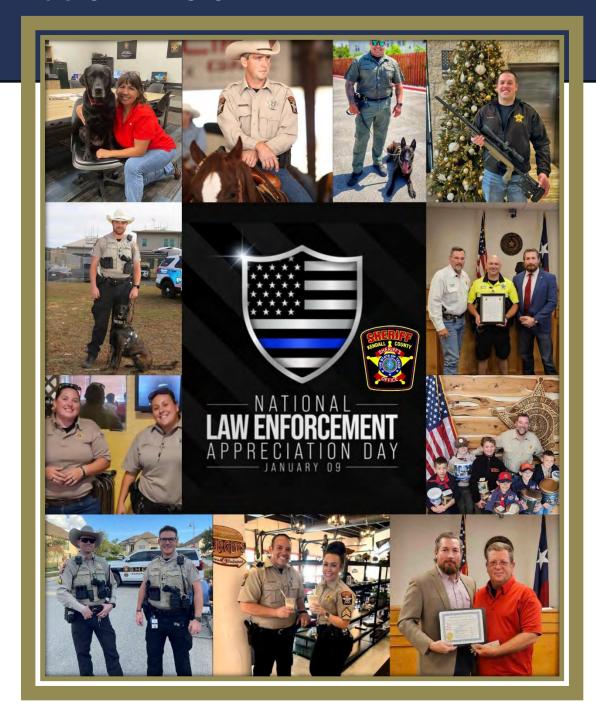
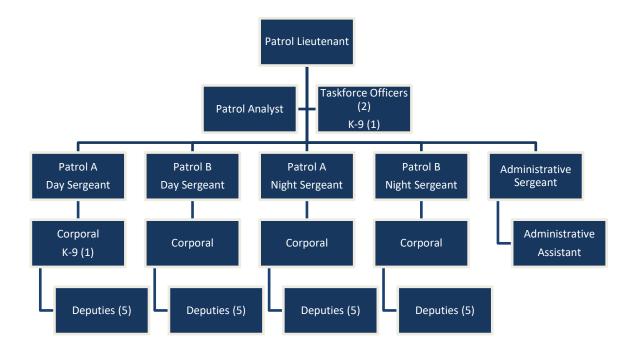


Figure 2 - Patrol Division Organization



#### **Patrol Division Overview**

The Patrol Division is the law enforcement arm of the Sheriff's Office. Deputies patrol the unincorporated sections of Kendall County and respond to citizens' calls for help, conduct traffic enforcement, investigate traffic accidents, and investigate reports of crime or suspected criminal activity.

There are four shifts staffed with a sergeant, corporal, and five deputies on each twelve-hour shift.

#### 2024 Patrol Strategic Plan Accomplishments

Objective 8.1.2 - Annually, compile an inventory of current programs/equipment from each of the three KCSO budget areas; identify any required upgrades/improvements to existing equipment and any new equipment needed (i.e., body cameras, etc.).

In 2024, KCSO added five new Taser 7's to the patrol staff. Slowly, phasing out the Taser X26 unit that required an extensive amount of field work in discharges and downloads. With the new Taser 7 being implemented across the board the data is housed in a server allowing us to keep track of all Taser 7 deployments, as well as battery life, daily testing and revolving supply chain of cartridges from Axon.

KCSO SRT Team were all issued new uniforms and equipment to update outdated and worn items. Each team member received a complete clothing update to include pants, shirts, jackets, boots and belt along with other items such as IFAK (Individual First Aid Kit), goggles, gloves etc. KCSO issued deputies Avon Gas Mask Kits to be able to enter homes after gas munitions have been deployed into a residence for the ability to retrieve wanted individuals from such homes under search warrant or arrest warrant situations.

KCSO added an upcoming License Plate Recognition (LPR) camera and software, which will allow deputies to look for vehicles stolen as well as wanted persons who may be driving vehicles within our county. The system will gather other details such as missing people, officer safety alerts, homicide alerts as well as other alerts that assist in the recovery and apprehension of persons and vehicles.

#### **Accomplishments Outside the Strategic Plan**

The next update to the SRT Team equipment will be the purchase of new rifle-rated helmets and communication system's for members of the SRT team. Currently, the current helmets each member has does not allow for the use of a communication system headset to discreetly communicate with each team member during operations such as search warrants or arrest warrants.

In the pursuit of gathering more information, the Kendall County Sheriff's Office took the above 4 camera LPR system and split it into a two-camera system that will be mounted on two separate patrol units that will be deployed in the County.



Figure 3 - Drugs seized by a patrol deputy with the assistance of his K-9 deputy

#### **Patrol Division Statistics**

#### **Patrol Calls for Service**

Table 1 - Patrol Calls for Service - Other than Assaults.

OTHER THAN ASSAULTS	2021	2022	2023	2024
Robbery	2	1	3	0
Burglary	20	25	29	33
Larceny	117	83	66	100
Motor Vehicle Theft	18	17	14	21
Vandalism	26	23	33	33
Weapons	9	16	18	31
Narcotic Laws	117	109	142	248
Tobacco Laws	8	3	11	42
Liquor Laws	13	14	23	93
DWI - Driving While Intoxicated	51	44	29	72
Public Intoxication	23	25	33	33
Disorderly Conduct	9	4	4	8
Criminal Trespass	44	32	49	44
Other	178	65	86	97
Total Calls	635	436	536	855

Table 2 - Miscellaneous Patrol Calls for Service.

Miscellaneous Calls for Service	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alarms	1043	1036	1010	1019
Ambulance Calls	271	217	219	218
Disturbances	519	476	515	379
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	813	921	892	780
Total Misc Calls	2646	2650	2423	2396

#### **Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics (2021-2024)**

Figure 4 - Assaults (2021 - 2024)

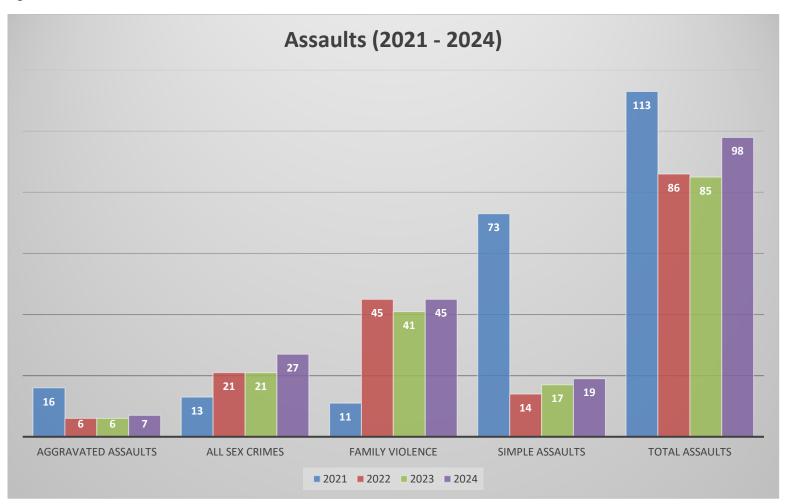


Figure 5 - Criminal Homicides / Officer Involved Shootings (2021 - 2024)

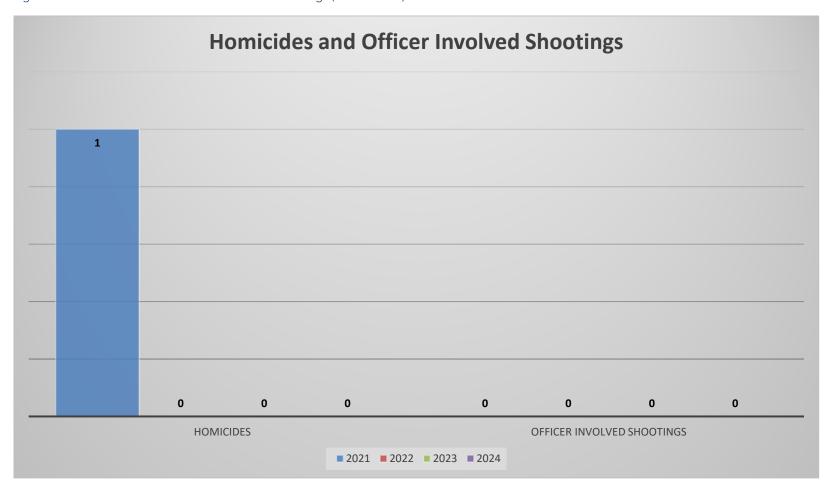


Figure 6 - Number of Accidents Responded to by KCSO Deputies

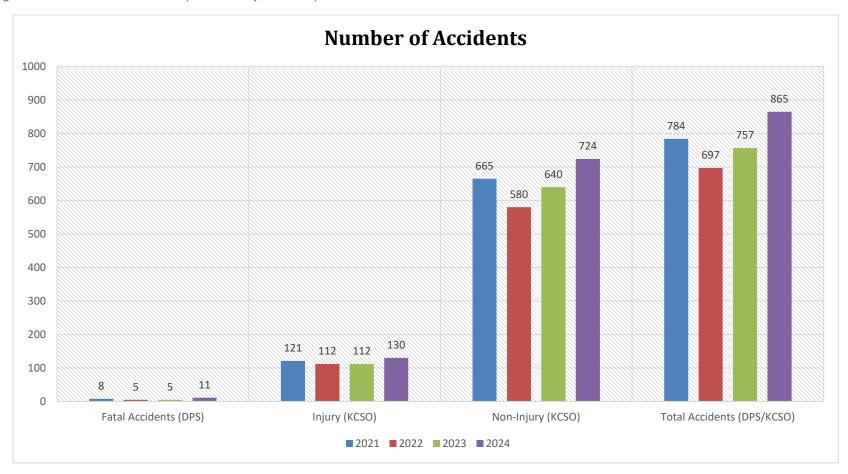
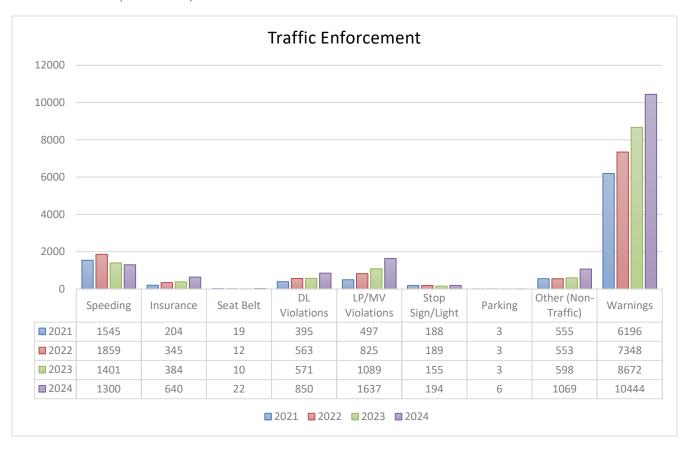


Figure 7 - Traffic Enforcement Actions (2021 - 2024)



# Criminal Investigations and Training Division



Figure 8 - Criminal Investigations and Training Division Organization



#### **Criminal Investigations and Training Division Overview**

#### **Criminal Investigations**

Lieutenant Butch Matjeka commands the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) and the KCSO Training program. The CID includes a command lieutenant, a sergeant, seven investigators, an administrative assistant and one civilian evidence (property) technician. The evidence technician handles the Evidence Processing and Storage Facility and the Sex Offender Registration Unit. CID personnel receive extensive investigative training in evidence collection, interview and interrogation techniques, and crime scene processing.

The primary responsibility of the CID is to conduct follow-up investigations of reported crimes. This important work includes interviewing suspects, victims, and witnesses, analyzing information for validity, reliability, and accuracy, and compiling a factual case for presentation to the County District Attorney's office for prosecution.

#### **Training Unit**

The KCSO is a contract-training provider through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE). As a TCOLE contract-training provider, the KCSO can offer training for peace officers, jailers, and dispatchers to keep their licenses or acquire certificates. The KCSO Training Unit can also offer added courses that meet the needs of the area served.

#### 2024 CID and Training Strategic Plan Accomplishments

#### CID Accomplishments Outside the Strategic Plan

In 2024, CID obtained improved cellphone forensic analysis tools that extract greater amounts of information in the data analysis and allows forced access to cellphones where the passcode and/or biometric unlocking of the phone is not available. These tools increase the amount of evidence obtained by enhancing the probability of successful prosecutions in cases where digital evidence is necessary.

In 2024, one of our CID members successfully completed the Advanced Force Science Specialist Course. This eighteen-week master's level course concentrates on an in-depth analysis of human performance elements as applied to critical incidents and use of force in the police world, focusing on human performance in high-stress situations by providing a solid theoretical and research foundation.

#### **Training Accomplishments**

Goal 6-1 Update and strengthen the training program. Ensure advancement certification, best practices, position based, supervisory development and succession training all provide safe, effective, consistent law enforcement and related services.

In 2024, there were 321 students who completed 18 courses offered through the KCSO Training Unit for a total of 414 training hours.

#### 2024 Criminal Investigation and Training Division Statistics

#### **Criminal Investigation Statistics**

Table 3 - 2023 - 2024 Criminal Investigation Statistics

Total and Type of Cases by Year	2023	2024
Cases Cleared by Arrest	168	283
Cases Cleared by Exception	69	76
Cases Pending Further Investigation	61	86
Cases Unfounded/Closed	77	116
Cases Filed at Large	48	64
Cases Filed with District Attorney (DA)	219	375
Total Number of Criminal Charges Filed	262	490
Assist on Other Case	2155	1539
Death Investigations	140	100
DPS Cases Filed	0	0
Sex Offenders Cases/Actions	118	74
Total Sex Offender Registration	28	30
Total Cases Assigned	388	643



Photo 2 - Sheriff Auxier addresses participants at the 2024 Citizens Academy.

#### Training Statistics (2021 - 2024)

Figure 9 - Contract Training Statistics





Photo 3 - KCSO Celebrates Detention Officers during National Correction Officers Week

# **Detention Division**

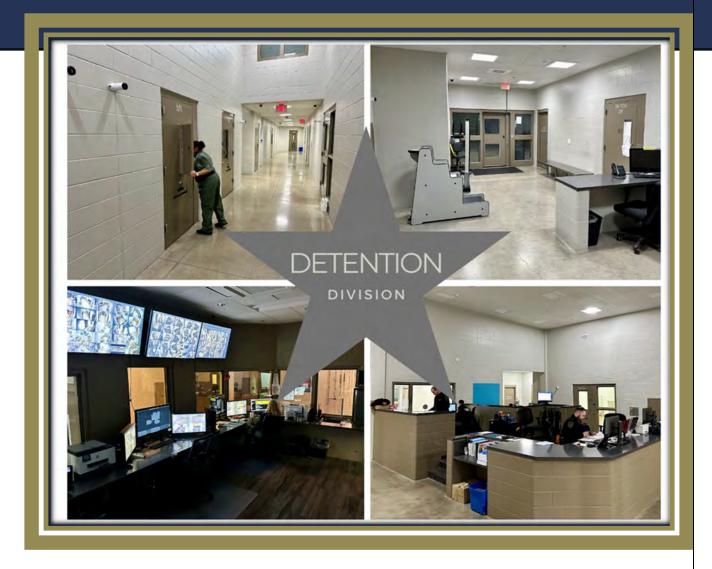
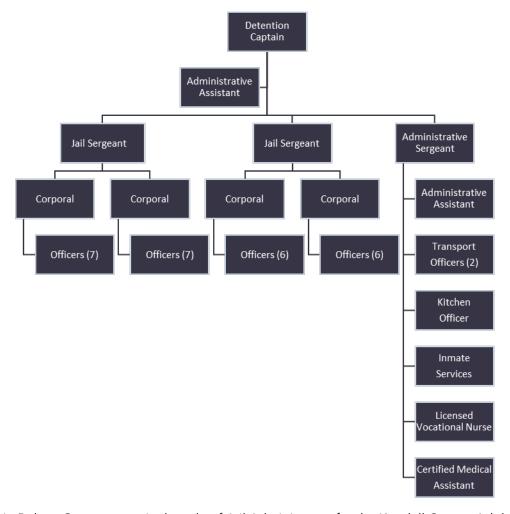


Figure 10 - Detention Division Organization

#### **Detention Division Overview**



Captain Robert Green serves in the role of Jail Administrator for the Kendall County Adult Detention Center (Detention Center). Captain Green provides leadership and oversight for the Detention Center operation with assistance from an administrative assistant, three sergeants and four corporals who supervise each of the four shifts. An administrative sergeant supervises an administrative assistant, two transport officers, a kitchen officer, an inmate services officer, a licensed vocational nurse (LVN) and a certified medical assistant (CMA). In total, 39 detention officers staff the Detention Center.

The primary duty of the Detention Center is to provide a safe, secure environment where staff work, and inmates live. Detention personnel treat the inmates with dignity and respect, and inmates learn to be accountable for their actions. The Detention Center houses inmates accused of misdemeanor or felony charges until the outcome of their trial and sentencing occurs. Typically, the Judge remands inmates to the Detention Center for sentences up to one year and to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) or other state jail facilities for sentences greater than one year.

The Mission of the Kendall County Detention Center is to maintain social order and provide

professional jail services within prescribed ethical and constitutional limits. The Detention Center enforces the law in a fair and impartial manner, recognizing both statutory and judicial limitations relating to the confinement and constitutional rights of all persons. The Detention Center recognizes that no facility can operate at its maximum potential without support and input from the citizens to reduce and limit the opportunities for crime and to facilitate the maximum use of its resources.

#### **Medical Services Unit**

The Kendall County Detention Center employs a nurse and nurse's aide to provide routine medical care (sick call) and medication services for the inmate population. The nurse recommends outside referrals for more advanced medical care, as needed.

#### 2024 Detention Center Strategic Plan Accomplishments

11.1.2.b - Review security policies, procedures and emergency plans annually. As needed, draft new directives and emergency plans for review and approval by the Sheriff.

### Completed a review and revision of the Detention Division Policy and Procedure Manual (Accomplishments)

Policies and procedures must be reviewed and revised periodically to ensure compliance with new laws and regulations. This review is also necessary to evaluate current policies for consistency and effectiveness. Updates in technology and best practices are also considered during the policy review and revision process. A review and revision of the Detention Division policy and procedure manual was completed in March 2024.

#### **Detention Accomplishments Outside the Strategic Plan**

#### **Increased Detention Supervisory Staff (Accomplishments)**

An Administrative Corporal position was reclassified to Administrative Sergeant. This Sergeant supervises two detention transport deputies, an administrative assistant, one LVN and one Medication Aid, kitchen officer and recreation officer. Additional responsibilities for the Administrative Sergeant include compliance audits to ensure Texas Minimum Jail Standards are met by the Kendall County Jail staff. The Administrative Sergeant is responsible for coordinating and scheduling all prisoner extraditions.

#### Iris Camera Installation (Accomplishment)

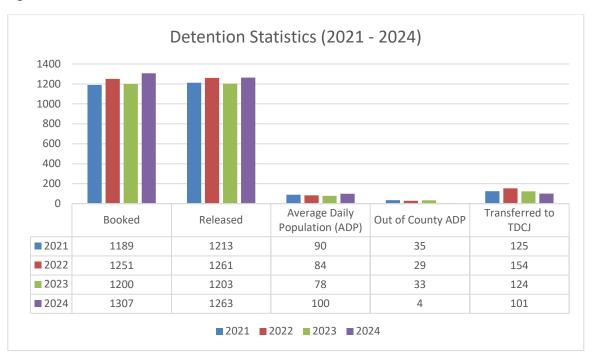
Installed an iris camera in collaboration with the Texas Department of Public Safety to support the DPS and FBI iris repository. The Next Generation Identification (NGI) Iris Service provides a fast, accurate, and contactless biometric identification option for law enforcement and criminal justice users. The NGI Iris Service uses an iris image repository within the NGI system. All iris images enrolled in the repository are linked to a ten-print fingerprint record.

#### **Facility Upgrades (Accomplishment)**

Completed installation of new slip-resistant shower surfaces to enhance safety and reduce the risk of slips and falls. Additionally, the jail HVAC system was upgraded to a more reliable and efficient model, ensuring consistent climate control and improved energy efficiency and reliability.

#### 2024 Detention Division Statistics\*

Figure 11- Detention Center Statistics (2021 - 2024)



<sup>\*</sup>All statistics are rounded to the closest whole number

Table 4- Detention Center Transfer / Transport Activities (2021 - 2024)

Transport Activity	2021	2022	2023	2024
Inmate Transfers to TDCJ	125	154	124	101
Miles Traveled	39,614	63,649	57,796	49,559
Man Hours Expended	Not Reported (NR)	NR	2350	2006
Court Hours	NR	NR	334	411

#### 2024 Community Service Program

Figure 12- Community Service Program (2022 - 2024)

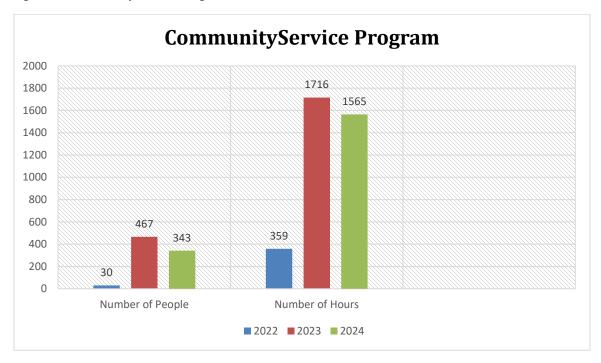
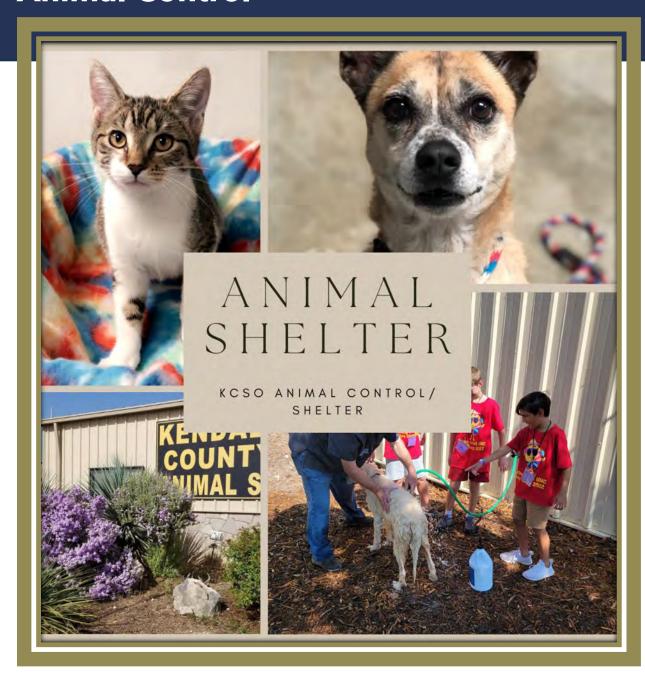




Photo 4 - Sheriff's Office personnel assist with community clean up.

# **Kendall County Animal Shelter and Animal Control**



#### **Kendall County Animal Shelter and Animal Control Overview**

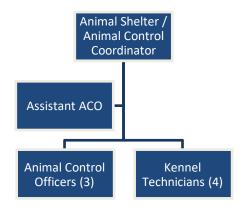


Figure 13- Animal Shelter and Animal Control Overview

The Animal Control/Shelter Coordinator handles the safe, effective operation of the Kendall County Animal Shelter and Adoption Center (the Shelter). The coordinator supervises three Animal Control Officers and four Kennel Technicians. The mission of the Shelter is to provide a safe, humane environment, and quality care for every animal brought into the shelter. The Shelter offers a balance of health, safety, education, and opportunities not just for the animals but also for community members. The Shelter works with other shelter facilities and rescue groups in the surrounding areas to minimize the need for euthanizations and maximize the number of animals placed for adoption. The Shelter experiences a high rate of adoption.

#### **Animal Shelter Statistics**

Table 5- 2024 Impounded Cats and Dogs (2023 - 2024)

Impounded Cats					
	2023	2024			
Total Cats	616	825			
Owner Surrender	184	570			
Stray	424	225			
Protective Custody	10				
Impounded Dogs					
Total Dogs	446	455			
Owner Surrender	154	254			
Stray	271	201			
Protective Custody	23				

Outcome of Animals			
Cats			
Adopted	118	143	
Transferred	1	69	
Returned to Owner	16	18	
Euthanized*	453	573	
Dead on Arrival (DOA)	12	31	
Do	Dogs		
Adopted	134	137	
Transferred to Rescue	75	100	
Returned to Owner	121	120	
Euthanized	113	88	
DOA	09	10	

<sup>\*</sup>Mostly feral cats

Table 6 - 2024 Livestock and Wildlife Calls

Livestock	
Livestock Calls	133
Livestock Picked Up	9
Wildlife	
Wildlife Calls	371
Wildlife Pick Up	263
Miscellaneous Funds and Expenses	
Donations Received	\$11,887
Veterinary Fees	0
Fees/Fines/Penalties	\$21,137
Total Miles Driven	61,001



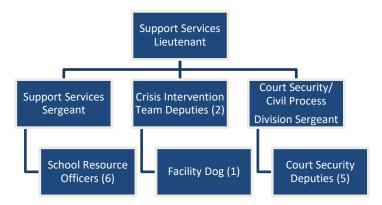
Photo 5 - Kendall County Animal Shelter and Animal Control employees.

# **Support Services Division**



### **Support Services Division Overview**

Figure 14 - Support Services Division Organization



A Support Services Lieutenant leads the Support Services Division, which includes Community Services, Court Security and Civil Processing units, and the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). The Support Services Division is responsible for the goals, objectives and action plans associated with Focus Area 3, Effective, Comprehensive Community Engagement of the KCSO Strategic Plan.

The Support Services Lieutenant provides direct supervision to the Support Services Sergeant, the Crisis Intervention Team, and the Court Security/Civil Process Division Sergeant.

### **Support Services Sergeant**

The Support Services Sergeant oversees the School Resource Officers (SROs) during the school year and the Bike Patrol Unit during the summer.

### **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)**

The KCSO CIT is made up of specially trained deputies that provide crisis intervention aid to the citizens of Kendall County. This specialized team promotes collaboration between law enforcement and mental health professionals to provide progressive crisis intervention and effective crisis stabilization services to individuals in crisis. The CIT Program is designed to divert individuals from unnecessary arrests and bookings and from unnecessary hospitalizations. The program supplies prompt crisis intervention and crisis stabilization services and referrals and linkage to long-term community mental health services.

CIT aids those suffering from emotional and psychological issues and helps them in obtaining the proper social service available for their specific needs. The members of CIT also perform follow-up checks, when necessary.

CIT is structured to help citizens by supplying professional and immediate help in obtaining proper care and guidance, within the parameters of the law. The State of Texas licenses each member of the CIT, with specific training in mental health crisis intervention, first aid, and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). All members are licensed Texas Peace Officers with KCSO. CIT is available 24 hours a day and collaborates with surrounding law enforcement agencies and mental health professionals.

In 2022, a facility dog (Renee) was obtained for the KCSO through Service Dogs, Incorporated. She is currently used on Mental Health calls to assist in de-escalation of individuals in crisis.

A second mental health deputy was hired and is fully funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant program.

Work continues with the South Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC) to improve mental health resources in Kendall County.

### **School Resource Officers (SROs)**

The SROs are under the supervision of the KCSO Community Services Sergeant. There are six SROs currently assigned to the Comfort and Boerne Independent School Districts. Each school within Kendall County has a dedicated SRO assigned, including Comfort Elementary, Herff Elementary, Viola Wilson Elementary, Comfort Middle School, Voss Middle School, and Comfort High School.

These deputies handle the safety and security of the faculty and students within schools. In many cases, the school resource deputy is the first law enforcement contact most students have. This means they have vital roles in bridging the gap between youth and law enforcement. They interact directly with the students to ensure they are attending school in a manner that is safe for them. Each deputy handles any criminal cases that may arise on their campus. They also provide security for all after-school events (i.e., sports, band, theater, etc.). Each deputy teaches instructional classes on their respective campus to increase students' awareness of today's dangers. Some of these dangers include drug usage, Driving While Intoxicated (DWI), bullying, racing cars, or tobacco usage.

#### **Bike Patrol Unit**

The Bike Patrol Unit is a seasonal and special events unit and consists of five SROs, who are certified through the International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA). The IPMBA is an intense weeklong school that combines emergency vehicle operations for bike officers with patrol procedures, tactics, night operations, scenarios, basic bike maintenance, and on-the-road repairs. The deputies learn to ride like a pro, avoid crashes, and use their bike to apprehend offenders.

Bike patrol has been a great asset during large events throughout Kendall County and another tool that the Office uses to help preserve peace within the county. The public can often see these deputies patrolling on foot and/or bikes in the township of Comfort and county parks. Many of the areas patrolled by the Bike Patrol Unit are not accessible by vehicle.

### **Courthouse Security and Civil Processing Unit**

A Sergeant supervises the Courthouse Security and Civil Processing Unit. There are five deputies assigned to the unit. This unit handles the overall security of both the new Kendall County Courthouse and the Historic Courthouse. On court day, deputies serve as court bailiffs and man the security checkpoints around the courthouse.

In addition to the courthouse security duties, these deputies serve warrants and civil processing generated by the county. Civil Process Service can range from a simple civil process to a detailed and time warranting one. Below are all two of the civil processes that the civil officers serve:

- Attorney General citations
- Civil Process

- County Court
- Delinquent Tax Citations
- District and Divorce Court
- Federal Court Citations
- Justice Court
- Protective Orders
- Temporary Restraining Orders
- Writs of Attachment for persons and property
- Writs of Execution (Court Collections)
- Writs of Possession (Court Repossessions) can range from a simple to an incredibly detailed process.

Figure 15 - Kendall County Sheriff's Office Foundation 2024 Golf Tournament Fundraiser.



### **2024 Support Services Strategic Plan Accomplishments**

### **Community Services**

Goal 1-1 As the communities within Kendall County, Texas continue to grow at record rates, ensure adequate staffing to protect all areas equally safely and effectively across the county.

For the 2024 - 2025 school year, the Kendall County Sheriff's Office added one additional Student Resource Officer (SRO) to the new Viola Wilson Elementary School, located within the county to improve the safety of the students, teachers, and administrators.

Objective 3.1.1 - Construct a comprehensive Community Engagement Plan to expand opportunities for engagement and to further strengthen relationships with members of the communities, other governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations, and Kendall County elected officials. Recommend a schedule of events, including associated costs.

The following accomplishments relate to Strategic Plan Objective 3.1.1:

**New School Resource Officer.** The KCSO added a new School Resource Officer (Deputy). This was due to the opening of a new elementary school in the county (Viola Wilson).

**School Safety Committee.** KCSO formed a School Safety Committee of key stakeholders from all public and private schools and first responders that meet bi-annually to discuss school safety and other important topics. This has brought everyone together and ensured we work together on the same common goal, safety and security of the faculty and students. (H.B.3, Sec.85.024)

**Modified Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy in Comfort.** The Community Services Division hosted a modified Sheriff's Citizens Academy for the citizens in Comfort. The Academy was remarkably successful with over 28 citizens graduating from the class. Looking forward to seeing how this grows.

**L.E.A.D. Program.** The Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence program (L.E.A.D.) is the fastest growing school-based K-12 Drug and Prevention Program in the United States. L.E.A.D. utilizes the evidence based Too Good for Drugs and Too Good for Violence curricula. This curriculum develops a framework of social and emotional skills that promote positive, pro-social attitudes and behaviors, while fostering healthy relationships, resistance to substance abuse and conflict and resistance to negative peer pressure and influence. In 2024, the program was continued throughout the public schools within Kendall County.

**Drug Free Comfort Program.** In partnership with the 501(c)(3) non-profit Drug Free Comfort, they successfully organized numerous community outreach events in the Comfort area, including programs on Human Trafficking Awareness, Internet Safety, Positive Parenting, and the "One Pill Can Kill" initiative. Obtained through a grant 45 bullet resistant shields that were assigned to everyone sworn deputy and will be utilized for immediate deployment to active attack/shooter events.

**Safety Pup Program.** This year, we saw even greater success with the Safety Pup Program, and it was an absolute joy to witness the kids' reactions! Funded through the National Child Safety Council, this program emphasizes the importance of staying safe and drug-free, targeting children ages five through twelve. Watching their faces light up with excitement and seeing how well they engaged and paid attention during the lessons made the experience truly rewarding. It's

amazing to see how this program continues to make a positive impact on the young minds in our community!

**New Honor Guard Uniforms.** With the support of the Kendall County Sheriff's Office Foundation and the Kendall County Citizens Law Enforcement Academy Alumni Association, we were able to replace the 18-year-old Honor Guard uniforms with new ones. Additionally, we expanded the team by adding three new members, bringing the Honor Guard to a total of eight members.

## 3.1.4.a - Continue to use social media components currently in place and look for opportunities to expand the program.

**Expanded Social Media Presence.** In 2024, the Community Services Division was able to significantly expand both its social media presence, KCSO Website, as well as other media outlets such as radio.

### 7.1.2 KCSO received all the necessary training classes required.

### **2024 Community Programs**

**D.A.R.E Program -** The Drug Abuse Resistance, and Education (D.A.R.E.) program is not only about drug education. This program teaches students how to identify a problem, a challenge, or an opportunity in any situation they meet. The goal is to teach students to stop and think before deciding; then, focus on the positive. In 2024, there were over 115 graduates from the Comfort Elementary School, with multiple pop-ins to the third and fourth graders.

**Bicycle Safety and Education -** Each year the KCSO conducts a Bike Safety Rodeo for elementary-aged children. This year was the first year to hold a rodeo in both the Boerne and Comfort School Districts. This event teaches children the proper techniques to ride their bike safely. This is a tough course that works on balance, riding, stopping, starting, when to walk, and when to ride. This year the course had an incredible turnout.

**National Night Out -** National Night Out is an annual community building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances relationships between residents and law enforcement, while bringing back a true sense of community. This year, more than 23 subdivisions within the county participated.

**National Coffee with a Cop** - "Building relationships, one cup at a time." Coffee with a Cop brings officers and the communities they serve together over coffee to discuss issues and learn more about each other. This program continues to grow over many cups of coffee.

Citizens Law Enforcement Academy - The Citizens Law Enforcement Academy is a 10-week course that introduces citizens to the KCSO. Participants experience firsthand how the Office conducts its business and why. The purpose of this academy is to enhance, through education and hands-on participation, the positive relationship between local law enforcement and the community. The KCSO designed the program to provide each participant with a better understanding of the Office's mission and operations, affording each the opportunity to gain an appreciation of the current challenges facing law enforcement and to offer attendees an opportunity to comment and suggest ways to solve these challenges. Their valued input allows the Office to continue to improve the services provided. Topics presented include patrol procedures, criminal investigation, jail operations, animal control, warrant service and the use of firearms. This year, over 30 residents participated in the academy. The 2024 academy is in the

planning stages, adding the Comfort Community.

**Civilian Response to Active Shooter Training (CRASE)** - Lt. Klaerner is a certified instructor through Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT). The Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) course was designed and built on the Avoid, Deny, Defend (ADD) strategy developed by ALERRT in 2004. The class provides strategies, guidance, and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event. Topics include the history and prevalence of active shooter events, civilian response options, medical issues, and considerations for conducting drills. Over the course of the past several years, Lt. Klaerner has taught the course to over 3,500 staff and community members throughout Kendall County.

**Kendall County Blue Santa Program -** The Blue Santa Program was organized by the KCSO 28 years ago to provide toys and food during the Christmas holiday to qualified Kendall County families. The program's goal is to share the magic and joy of the Christmas season with less fortunate families. This program is a cooperative effort by the Kendall County Sheriff's Office, Kendall County Sheriff's Office Foundation, Hill Country Family Services, Boerne Community Coalition, Cavender Auto Group, and many generous community donors and volunteers. In 2024, the program provided gifts and assistance to over **786** children and 250 families from Kendall County.

**Shattered Dreams Program -** Every three years, the KCSO partners with the Comfort High School to bring the "Shattered Dreams Program" to the students. This two-day program involves a mock crash scene, living dead, student retreat, and a mock memorial. The program promotes responsible decision making among high school students regarding underage drinking and driving. This event takes an entire year to plan and involves coordinating with both governmental and non-governmental agencies, including the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), Air-Life, Kendall County Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Comfort Volunteer Fire Department, Justice of the Peace Precinct #4 Judge Pressler, Boerne Methodist Hospital, Boerne Dispatch, Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC) Emergency Management, KW Towing, and Five Star Towing. At the completion of the 2024 program, over 50 students participated in its planning and production. The entire student body, faculty and school staff watched the program. This program continues to be extremely popular and successful with high school students.

### 7.1.2 KCSO received all the necessary training classes required.

The CIT Team and two SRO's obtained Juvenile and Adult Mental Health First Aid Instructor certifications through the National Council for Mental Wellbeing. This certification has helped build a stronger collaboration with the school districts and several businesses within the county.

### **Courthouse Security and Civil Process**

## 9.1.1 Ensure adequate security protocols and staffing is in place for all Sheriff's Office facilities.

**Standard Operating Procedure Manual.** Completed a new Standard Operating Procedure Manual for Courthouse Security.

**Surveillance System.** Installed a new state-of-the-art surveillance system to replace the out-of-date system.

Metal Detectors. Purchased new metal detectors and wands for use at the County Courthouse.

**Civil Process Training.** As appropriate, completed training to ensure all Courthouse Security personnel either obtained initial training or attended a refresher training class for Civil Process services.

**Active Shooter Training.** Hosted another large-scale training exercise for active shooter events for all first responders.

### **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)**

**Youth Mental Health First Aid Training.** Provided Youth Mental Health First Aid Training throughout the public and private schools within Kendall County.

**Collaboration with Kendall County District Attorney's Office.** Collaborated with the Kendall County District Attorney's Office and was able to divert three inmates from the Detention Center to inpatient psychiatric treatment.

**Sequential Intercept Mapping Model.** Conducted a Sequential Intercept Mapping model of the criminal justice system with the assistance of the Texas Health and Human Services Department as well as county and city leadership and a collaboration of all our local behavioral health services.

**Hill Country Family Services Collaboration.** Worked on in collaboration with Hill Country Family Services and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker Intern and developed a social worker program that identifies the social determinants of health that cause the crisis situations and incarcerations of our residents.

**Kendall County Behavioral Health Advisory Coalition.** Continued to take part with Kendall County Behavioral Health Advisory Coalition. Members of the CIT Team took positions as cochairs on two of the work groups within the Coalition.

**Joint Peer Support Team.** Continued a strong working relationship with for-profit and non-profit organizations that helped improve mental health and substance abuse services in our county. Because of this collaboration we were able to develop a joint peer support team for all first responders within the county.

**Emotional Support Dog.** Utilized emotional support dog Renee with other first responders to help with stress management and peer support.

**Fusion Liaison Office Training.** CIT Team attended the Fusion Liaison Officer Training which allowed them to participate in threat assessment meetings with the local Fusion Center.

**School District Threat Assessments.** CIT Team participates in all threat assessments of students for both Boerne and Comfort ISD.

**MHDD Partnership**. CIT Team continues to meet monthly with MHDD to provide continuity of care with shared consumers.

**Speaker at the State Hospital Family Day.** CIT Team was invited to speak to families during a family day at the State Hospital in Kerrville about resources available to them as well interactions with law enforcement and individuals with mental illness.

**Kendall County Behavioral Health Initiative.** CIT members continued to take part with the Kendall County Behavioral Health Initiative until the Kendall County Behavioral Health Advisory Coalition replaced it. The KCSO CIT members accepted positions as co-chairs on two of the work groups within the Coalition.

**Strong relationships with For Profit and Nonprofit Organizations.** Maintained a strong working relationship with for-profit and non-profit organizations that helped improve mental health and substance abuse services in the county. Because of this collaboration, KCSO was able to develop a mental and physical wellness program for county first responders.

**Chaplaincy Program Incorporated into programs.** The Chaplaincy Program was incorporated in call outs and a variety of trainings sessions.

The CIT Team spoke at the Texas Systems of Care Conference about the benefits of collaboration and effectiveness. This year was a paradigm shift in collaboration and communication with local school districts within the county. This shift resulted in a request for the CIT Team to speak at the Texas Systems of Care Conference about this collaboration and its effectiveness.

**Emotional support dog, Renee, continues to assist with stress management and peer support.** The CIT utilized emotional support dog Renee with other first responders to help with stress management and peer support.

### **2024 Support Services Statistics**

### **CIT Statistics**

Table 7 - Activity Types and Number of Calls

Activity	Number
Total CIT Calls	181
Calls Inside the City Limits	7
Calls Outside the City Limits	174
Man Hours Spent on Mental Health Calls	808
Average Deputy Time (in hours) - Non-Committal Calls	3
Average Deputy Time (in hours) - Emergency Detentions (ED)	4.5
Average Deputy Time (in hours) - Justice of the Peace (JP) Warrants/ Transports	12
Total Emergency Detentions	77
Total JP Warrants/Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities (MHDD)	3
Referrals to Methodist Hospital/MHDD out-patient	23
Follow-up Calls	478
KSCO Detention Center Diversions (1 males; 2 Females)	3*

Table 8 - Time of Day and Number of Calls

Time of Day for Calls	Number of Calls
0000 - 0559	19
0600 - 1159	49
1200 - 1759	68
1800 - 2359	49

Table 9 - Day of Week and Number of Calls

Day of Week for Calls	Number of Calls
Monday	30
Tuesday	26
Wednesday	22
Thursday	26
Friday	33
Saturday	22
Sunday	25

Table 10 - Breakdown of Contacts by Demographics (Adult and Juvenile ethnicity combined for males and females)

Ethnicity - Male (Adult and Juvenile)	
White Males	63
Black Males	5
Hispanic Males	14
Other Males	1
Total	83
Ages (Male Adults Only)	
18 - 29	16
30 - 49	21
50 - 69	15
70+	9

Ethnicity - Female (Adult and Juvenile)	
White Females	69
Black Females	2
Hispanic Females	22
Other Females	2
Total Females	95
AGES (Female Adults only)	
18 - 29	17
30 - 49	25
50 - 69	15
70+	9
JUVENILES AC	GES/GENDER
Females 5 - 12 years of age	9
Females 13 - 17 years of age	16
Males 5 - 12 years of age	7
Males 13 - 17 years of age	13
OTHERS	
Veterans	6
Homeless	4

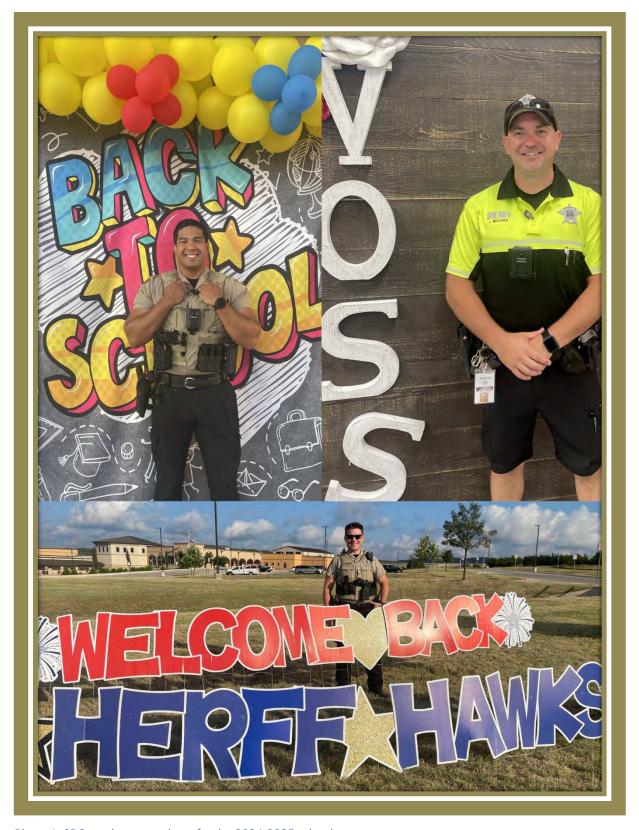


Photo 6 -SROs welcome students for the 2024-2025 school year.

## **Look Ahead to 2025**

### **Command Staff**

### **Develop Compensation Pay for Extra Duties.**

Continue working with the Salary Committee to develop compensation pay for those Deputies that go beyond what is required of them, some examples of these extra duties include TCOLE Instructors, Field Training Officers, SWAT Team Members/Leaders, and Firearms, Tactics, and Taser Instructors.

### Obtain funding for new tasers for all uniformed deputies.

Obtain county funding for new tasers for all uniformed deputies. The current tasers are outdated and no longer supported by the manufacturer. The estimated cost to replace these is \$150,000.

### Seek grant funding for new in-car radios.

10.1.1.f Obtain grant funding for new in-car radios, we are currently short on radios due to the increase in Student Resource Officer positions. We also need to update the existing 10-year-old radio system as they are reaching the manufacturer's recommended end-of-life cycle. The estimated cost to replace these radios is \$500,000.

### **Patrol Division**

### **Conduct Growth Survey and Call for Service Study.**

Conduct a growth survey and Call for Service study to determine the plausibility of redistricting the current patrol districts in Kendall County as well as adding additional patrol deputies within the sheriff's office.

#### Purchase an in-car computer to operate the camera system.

We will need to purchase another in-car computer to run the camera system, as well as have a docking station and power supply for this unit.

### **Criminal Investigations and Training Division**

### Train at least two investigators as certified drone pilots. (Goal)

In 2025, CID goals include having at least two investigators certified as drone pilots to take advantage of the agency's drone program. Drone flights can be used to gain additional intelligence in preparation for search and arrest warrant execution, crime scene overview and documentation, and suspect surveillance under certain conditions.

## Register an investigator for the computer forensics training program with the Secret Service. (Goal)

Due to limited positions in the Secret Service training program in computer forensics, CID was unable to meet the 2024 goal of training an investigator in computer forensic analysis. Our

continued goal for 2025 is to locate and obtain the necessary training in forensic computer analysis for our Investigator, allowing for the full range of forensic analysis capabilities in criminal investigations.

### **Detention Division**

### **Establish a Compliance Audit Process**

The newly created Administrative Sergeant position is responsible for conducting audits to ensure compliance with Texas Minimum Jail Standards. This process will be like audits conducted by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. The objective of this process is to maintain a standard of excellence, identify any deficiencies as early as possible and take corrective action.

### Obtain Services from a Correctional Pharmacy Vendor to Improve Efficiency & Reduce Costs

Explore correctional pharmacy vendors to improve efficiency in ordering and dispensing inmate medications at the most economic cost. The current vendor appears to be overpriced after making comparisons.

#### **Career Advancement for Detention Officers**

By working in conjunction with the Patrol Division, provide a career advancement opportunity for Detention Officers through sponsorship to attend the AACOG Peace Officer Academy. Upon graduation, the cadet will be a licensed Peace Officer and commissioned as a Kendall County Sheriff's Office Deputy.

### **Support Services Division**

### **Community Services**

### **Expand Honor Guard Program and host training.**

Plans to continue to build the Honor Guard program and host a recognized honor guard training.

### 2025 First Responder Active Shooter Training Event

Host another large-scale training exercise for active shooter events for all first responders.

### **Create a Hostage Negotiations Unit and Host Regional Training**

Build and formalize the hostage negotiations unit. Once completed partner with regional assets and host negotiation training.

### **Courthouse Security and Civil Process**

### Develop a plan to add additional security resources to support the new District Court

With the continued rapid growth of Kendall County, a new District Court will be added in 2025. Develop a plan to add an additional Bailiff position to the organization to ensure an appropriate level of security for this new court.

### **Crisis Intervention Team**

### Add a permanent Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Create a permanent Licensed Clinical Social Worker position to work in the Adult Detention Center to provide case management, counseling, and prerelease programs in collaboration with local mental health services.

### Youth Mental Health First Aid Training for public and private schools

Provide Youth Mental Health First Aid Training throughout the public and private school systems within Kendall County.

### **Creating a Jail Diversion Program**

Collaborate with the Kendall County District Attorney's Office to create a jail diversion program.

### **Conduct a Sequential Intercept Mapping Model of the Criminal Justice System**

With the assistance of the Texas Health and Human Services Department and in collaboration with county and city leadership and all local behavioral health services, conduct a Sequential Intercept Mapping model of the criminal justice system.

### Identify social factors that cause crisis situations and incarceration of residents.

Develop a social worker program that identifies the social determinants of health that causes crisis situations and incarceration of residents.

### Joint county and city Mental Health Response Team

Create a joint county and city Mental Health Response Team to better serve the residence of Kendall County.

### **Development of Mental Health and Wellness for First Responders Training**

Create and Teach Mental Health and Wellness for First Responders Training to all local and surrounding first responders.

### **Peer Support Team**

Building a joint Peer Support Team as well as collaboration with for-profit and non-profit organizations to allow for funding opportunities, when needed.



# **Appendix A - List of Acronyms**

Table 11 - Table of Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
ACA	American Correctional Association
ADD	Avoid, Deny, Defend
ADP	Average Daily Population
ALERRT	Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training
ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act
CERT	Correctional Emergency Response Team
CID	Criminal Investigation Division
CIT	Crisis Intervention Team
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
CRASE	Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events
CRB	Community Relations Board
DA	District Attorney
D.A.R.E.	Drug Abuse Resistance and Education
DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration
DOA	Dead on Arrival
DPS	Department of Public Safety
DRE	Drug Recognition Expert
DWI	Driving While Intoxicated
ED/JPW	Emergency Detention/Justice of the Peace Warrant
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
H.B.	House Bill
IPMBA	International Police Mountain Bike Association
ISD	Independent School District
KCSO	Kendall County Sheriff's Office
L.E.A.D.	Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence
MCOT	Medical Crisis Outreach Team
MHDD	Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities
NR	Not Reported
PA	Physician's Assistant
PIO	Public Information Officer

Acronym	Definition
SRO	School Resource Officer
STRAC	Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council
TCJS	Texas Commission on Jail Standards
Tb	Tuberculosis
TCOLE	Texas Commission on Law Enforcement
TDCJ	Texas Department of Criminal Justice
UAS	Unmanned Aircraft System (Drone)
www	Worldwide Web

## **Appendix B - Interesting Facts**

**Blue Santa Program -** In 2024, the KCSO Blue Santa Program reached over 825 children and 260 families, and the program continues to grow each year.

**Law Enforcement Citizens Academy -** In 2024, the Academy, in partnership with the City of Boerne and Fair Oaks Ranch Police Departments, graduated with a record number of 37 participants.

Here are some fun and interesting facts about mental health that highlight its importance and uniqueness in our lives:

**Mental Health Boosts Creativity!** People with good mental health often find it easier to tap into their creativity. Activities like mindfulness and reducing stress can help unlock your creative potential.

**Exercise Is a Natural Antidepressant.** Just 30 minutes of exercise can release endorphins, your body's natural "feel good" chemicals, helping to reduce anxiety and depression.

**Laughter Really Is Medicine.** Laughing boosts your mood, strengthens your immune system, and reduces stress. It's like a workout for your brain!

**The Brain Can Rewire Itself/** Thanks to neuroplasticity, the brain can form new connections and adapt, even in adulthood. This means mental health can improve with practice and care.

**Pets Are Great Therapists.** Spending time with pets can lower stress hormones, reduce anxiety, and improve overall well-being. Plus, they're great listeners!

**Music Heals the Mind/** Listening to or playing music can improve mood, reduce anxiety, and even aid memory. Music therapy is often used to support mental health treatments.

**Sleep and Mental Health Go Hand in Hand.** Getting 7-9 hours of sleep each night is vital for mental well-being. Poor sleep can lead to increased stress and anxiety, while good sleep helps regulate emotions.

**Mindfulness Is Backed by Science.** Practicing mindfulness, like meditation, can reduce symptoms of depression, improve focus, and even make you more empathetic.

**Kindness Is Contagious.** Acts of kindness not only make others feel good but also boosts your own mental health by releasing feel-good chemicals like dopamine and serotonin.

### **Mental Health Awareness Is Growing**

More than ever, people are talking about mental health, breaking down stigma, and recognizing it as an essential part of overall well-being.

Remember, taking care of your mental health can be both fun and rewarding! Engage in activities you enjoy, connect with others, and don't hesitate to seek support when needed.

Non-Emergency Phone Number: (830) 249-9721

https://www.kendallcountysheriff.com/