



Annual Report 2024

Detention Bureau
Marion County Sheriff's Office
3290 NW 10th Street
Ocala, Florida 34475



HISTORY OF THE MARION COUNTY JAIL

The current facility opened in December of 1985. The facility consisted of four separate housing units (pods) with a total housing capacity of 384 inmates. On May 20, 1987, as a direct result of overcrowded conditions, the Marion County Jail received permission from the Florida Department of Corrections (which at that time governed jails) to double bunk most of the existing single bunked cells. This raised the capacity to 664 beds. In 1990, the jail was still experiencing growth, and a 224-bed open dormitory (echo pod) addition was constructed, which increased the capacity to 888 beds. In 1992, with the anticipation of future growth, an additional 224 bed open dormitory (foxtrot pod) was constructed. This increased the jail's total housing capacity to 1,112 beds. In December 1993, inmates were moved into the Tri-County Work Camp. The work camp was funded by the State and operated by the Sheriff. By moving inmates into the work camp and reducing the overcrowded conditions at the jail, it was not necessary to open foxtrot pod. On March 31, 1997, State funding was discontinued for the Tri-County Work Camp and the facility was turned over to the Department of Juvenile Justice. The closing of the work camp forced the opening and staffing of the second open dormitory section, foxtrot pod. In 1997, the echo and foxtrot pod housing capacities increased by adding eight beds to each section of both pods, bringing their capacity to 256 beds each. Additionally, eight of the existing single bunked cells in alpha pod were double bunked increasing the total housing capacity in the jail to 1,248 beds. As a result of aggressive fiscal management, coupled with the sale of excess military property, the MCSO returned approximately 2.5 million dollars to the Board of County Commission for FY 98/99. An additional amount of \$614,736.00 was returned from the FY 99/00 budget. A portion of these funds were approved for the construction of a low cost 256 bed inmate worker barracks, bringing the housing capacity to 1,504. The remainder of those funds were earmarked for additional infrastructure expansion at the jail. The inmate capacity exceeded the authorized bed space, forcing the use of temporary bunks in various areas of the jail. Jail overcrowding can lead to discipline problems involving the custody and control of inmates, violation of accreditation standards and the possibility of judicial intervention. During 2002, the county taxpayers approved a one-cent sales tax increase to fund capital improvement in the county. Much of this money was used to fund the expansion of the jail. Construction started in the spring of 2005 and continued through 2006. Food services and laundry completed their move into the new expansion in 2006. Booking, medical, and additional housing units were completed in January 2007 bringing the bed capacity to 2,164. In 2009, we double bunked alpha pod, b-section which added an additional 16 beds which brought the bed capacity to 2,180. During 2007, the Interim Building, which was used in the past for housing inmates, was in the process of being renovated. Upon completion in 2008, Jail Administration, Video Visitation, the MCSO's Fitness Facility and the Multi-Purpose Conference Room were all located in that building. In 2010, the inmate worker barracks was renovated and pre-trial juveniles along with direct file juveniles began being housed in what was referred to as the Marion County Juvenile Detention Center. Because of this, the jail's current bed capacity was 1,924 and the Marion County Juvenile Detention Center was 256 beds. The Jail Administration moved back into the jail in May of 2011. In 2014, the juveniles were moved to an adjoining building to the jail (b-pod) for the safety and security of the juveniles, staff and increased medical response times in emergency situations. Because of this, the adult bed capacity was 1,732 and the juvenile capacity was 192. Effective July 1, 2018, pre-trial juveniles were no longer housed in the Marion County Jail. They were moved back under the Department of Juvenile Justice. The total maximum bed capacity for the Marion County Jail as of July 1, 2018, is 1,924.



ACCREDITATION

The Marion County Jail is currently accredited through the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC) and meets all Florida Model Jail Standards. The accreditation process is a voluntary program that offers jails the opportunity to evaluate their operations against established standards, remedy deficiencies, and upgrade the quality of the correctional programs and services.

The **Florida Model Jail Standards** are minimum standards which jails across Florida must meet ensuring the constitutional rights of those incarcerated are upheld. Prior to 1996, the Florida Department of Corrections was responsible for the standards and the inspection process for local county jails. Legislation was passed in 1996 that gave the authority of inspections to the local level. This change required the Florida Sheriff's Association and Florida Association of Counties to appoint individuals to serve on a committee that would govern standards that local jails must comply with. The Florida Model Jail Standards Committee has three representatives appointed by the Florida Sheriff's Association and two appointed by the Florida Association of Counties. The Florida Sheriff's Association provides support to the FMJS Committee; however, the FMJS Committee is a separate entity. Committee members serve two-year terms and elect a chair. The goal of the FMJS Committee is to develop and continually enforce model standards adopted by the group.

In July 1997, during the Florida Sheriff's Association (FSA) meeting in Naples, Florida, a sub-committee was formed by the Florida Model Jail Standards (FMJS) Committee to develop an independent, voluntary corrections accreditation program. The **Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission, Inc. (FCAC)** is the result of the committee's efforts. The Florida Corrections Accreditation Program offers the opportunity to evaluate each facility's operations against standards developed by the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission. This process allows staff to remedy deficiencies and upgrade the quality of correctional programs and services.

The recognized benefits from such a process include: • improved management • a defense against lawsuits • potential reduction in liability through adoption of sound operating practices • demonstration of a "good faith" effort to improve conditions of confinement • increased accountability • enhanced public credibility for administrative and line staff • a safer and more humane environment for personnel and inmates • establishment of measurable criteria for upgrading programs, personnel and the physical plant.

The Marion County Jail has been accredited through the FCAC program since its inception in 1998. In addition to submitting annual reports certifying continued compliance, the jail is required to be inspected every three (3) years by a group of assessors appointed by the accrediting body. An extensive audit determines our continued compliance with approximately 236 standards.

The Marion County Jail was inspected April 9-11, 2024, and was recommended for reaccreditation with excelsior status to the FCAC.

The Marion County Jail was inspected March 14, 2024, and was found to be in compliance with all serious and notable standards by the Florida Model Jail Standards.



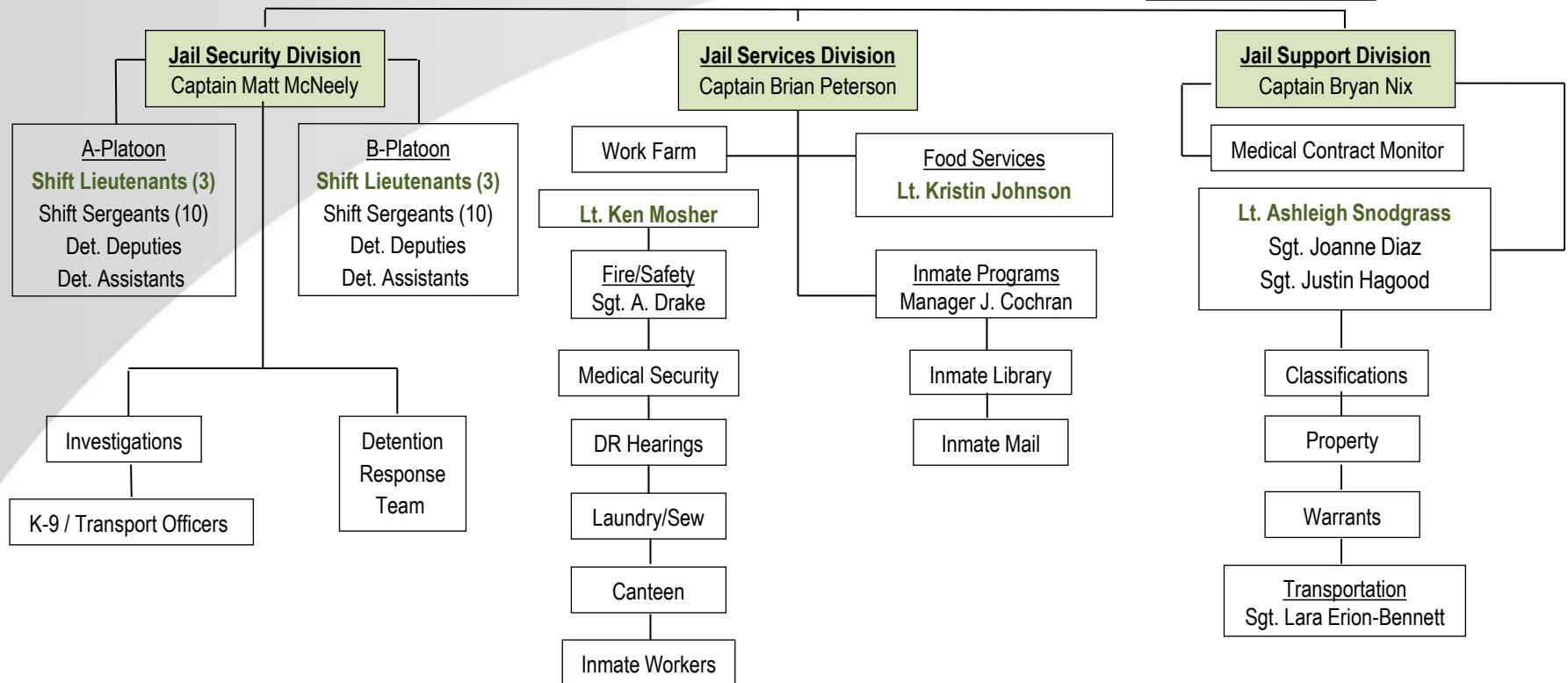
DETENTION BUREAU

SHERIFF BILLY WOODS

Chief Robert Douglas

Chief Deputy Clint Bowen – Bureau Chief

PREA Coordinator
Meyer Carter





BUDGET – DETENTION BUREAU

INMATE COST PER DAY

The average daily inmate population during 2024 was 1,822. However, during the Fiscal Year 23/24, the average daily population was 1,813. These figures determine the cost per day to house an inmate in the Marion County Jail.

(see below)	\$57,041,726.76 / 1813	=	\$31,462.62
	\$ 31,462.62 / 365	=	<u>\$86.20 (COST PER DAY)</u>

This \$86.20 cost per day for FY 23/24 is \$12.38 more than last year's \$73.82 cost per day

During the fiscal year 2023-2024, which runs from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, it cost \$57,041,726.76 to operate the jail. During this period, the jail generated funds from a daily subsistence fee, booking subsistence fee, inmate medical service fee, U.S. Marshal's Service for housing/hospital federal inmates, the Bureau of Prisons for housing inmates and Social Security Administration, totaling \$3,034,724.24. This money was returned to the Board of County Commissioners resulting in an actual cost of \$57,041,726.76 to operate the jail.

Jail Budget FY 23/24 was \$57,041,726.76
County Budget FY 23/24 was \$1,408,558,754

TOTAL JAIL OPERATING EXPENSES:	\$60,076,451.00
Inmate Meals	\$758,935.63
Inmate Medical	\$42,094.31
Inmate Booking Subsistence Fees	\$182,648.23
Inmate Medical Intake Fees	\$61,924.37
Inmate Damage Fees	\$1,224.27
Miscellaneous Fees	\$134.83
Imported Debt	\$17,804.42
Inmate Housing for U.S. Marshal's Office	\$1,897,125.00
Inmate Transportation for U.S. Marshal's Office	\$786.48
Inmate Hospital for U.S. Marshal's Office	\$11,436.70
Social Security Administration	\$36,800.00
US Immigration & Customs	\$3,300.00
Border Patrol	\$750.00
Bureau of Prisons	\$19,760.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	\$ 3,034,724.24
ACTUAL OPERATING EXPENSES:	\$57,041,726.76



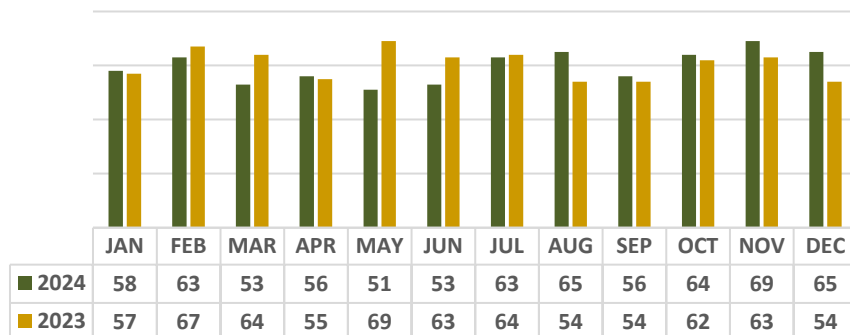
INMATE POPULATION

The average daily population for 2024 was 1,822 inmates, compared to 1,719 inmates for 2023. The average daily breakdown of the inmate population consists of 64.6% white inmates and 34.91% black inmates and .49% other. The inmate population fluctuates from day to day and month to month. During 2024, our peak population was recorded at 1,922.

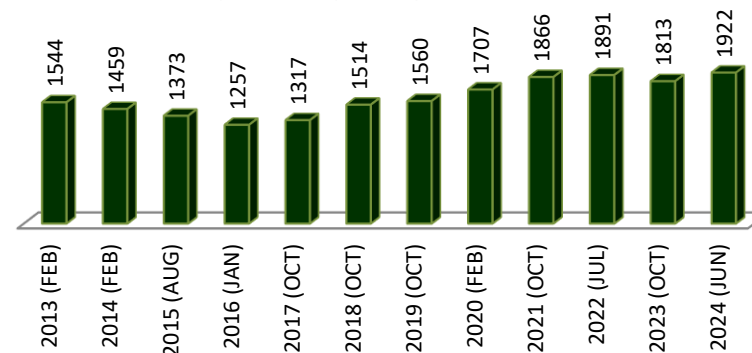
AVERAGE POPULATION

Total Males:	1503	Felonies:	1353	74%
		Misdemeanors:	150	8%
Total Females:	319	Felonies:	271	15%
		Misdemeanors:	48	3%

Average Length of Stay



Yearly Average Population Peak Month





CUSTODY & SECURITY

Custody and Security consist of a Division Commander and Watch Commanders who oversee the overall custody and security of the jail facility. Custody and Security is the backbone of the Marion County Jail operation. It is comprised of two platoons with two shifts on each platoon. Sergeants work directly under the watch commanders to assist in the supervision of the shift employees. The Marion County Jail is comprised of ten adult housing units with a rated capacity of 1,924 beds. The jail population is comprised of sentenced and un-sentenced adult inmates and juveniles who have been adjudicated as adults, who are in jail for any number of offenses. The jail employs sworn and non-sworn personnel. The sworn are responsible for supervising the inmate population and coordinating daily activities within the facility. Some of these duties include recreation, visitation, serving meals, headcount, medical visits, laundry exchange, responding to emergency situations and inspections of housing areas for sanitation and security breaches. The non-sworn provide a variety of clerical and support functions for the sworn. A detention deputy is required to complete 420 hours of training to become a state certified corrections officer within the Detention Bureau. Detention deputies are also required to complete a minimum of 40 hours in-service training each year. A non-sworn employee is required to have 16 hours of in-service training each year.

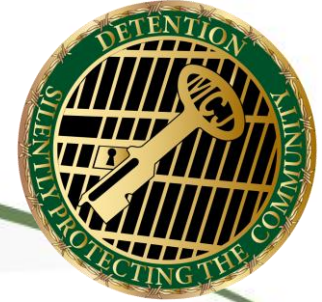
JAIL INVESTIGATIONS

The Detention Investigations Unit consists of a sergeant, two full-time investigators, two drug detection dogs with two full-time K-9 handlers, and one volunteer.

- Investigations - The investigators handle all criminal complaints involving inmates at the Marion County Jail and the Marion County Courthouse, conducting investigations and making arrests, as necessary. The investigators handle Prison Rape Elimination Act investigations, assist with reviewing non-criminal complaints involving the jail and courthouse and administer the user side of security video systems for the jail and other MCSO facilities. The investigators administer the inmate communications systems for the jail, and with the assistance of the volunteer, locate and disseminate intelligence to other divisions and outside agencies. The investigators also assist records staff with fulfilling investigative and or public information requests involving the jail.
- K-9 Handlers - The K-9 unit is tasked with conducting searches for illicit drugs and tobacco products inside the jail, at the inmate work farm and outside the jail in areas where inmate workers are present. When not engaged in conducting searches, the K-9 handlers are tasked with transporting inmates throughout the jail.

DETENTION RESPONSE TEAM (D.R.T.)

The Detention Response Team consists of sworn deputies, who are utilized to supplement other detention personnel during situations which present a high risk of danger or injury if handled through conventional methods. The members are required to have 40 hours of specialized team specific mandated training before being utilized in an activation or high-risk situation. Team requirements include a 2-mile run and completion of 100 push-ups and 100 sit-ups in 30 minutes. This is also an annual requirement to retain a position on the team. The members then attend 8-hours of team specific training each month. Team members are highly trained in high-risk transports, less lethal munitions and the handling of cell extractions and disturbances that occur within the jail. Deputies interested in becoming a member of this specialized team must submit a request in writing to the D.R.T. Commander. When there are openings, perspective members will submit a request to be considered and be interviewed by current members of the team or the D.R.T. Commander.



JAIL SUPPORT DIVISION – Classifications – Mental Health Court – Drug Court

CLASSIFICATIONS

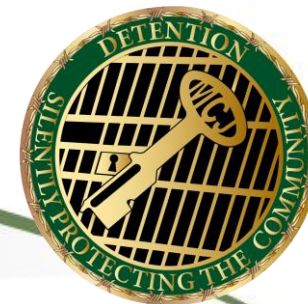
The Classifications Unit is a high liability area. The staff is responsible for the proper processing of inmate arrest and release paperwork, court dispositions, criminal histories and preparing court dockets for inmate transport. They also communicate with other local, state and federal agencies on law enforcement and immigration matters. They are responsible for cell assignments, inmate worker clearance, classifying inmates, calculating release dates, confirming warrants after hours and the proper storage of inmate records per retention requirements. It is the policy of the Marion County Sheriff's Office to segregate inmates housed in the Marion County Jail to ensure safety and security of the individual inmates, as well as smooth operation of the facility. Not all inmates are segregated from each other.

MENTAL HEALTH COURT

MCSO is an active participant in the Marion County Mental Health Court (MCMHC). The mission is to divert non-violent defendants with mental illness from the Marion County Jail and active criminal prosecution in the Marion County Court to appropriate community-based treatment and support services to best protect public safety, reduce recidivism and help those defendants to build successful lives. The priority of the Marion County Mental Health Court (MCMHC) is public safety. In that regard, the MCMHC seeks to address the mental health issues that often result in certain defendants being repeatedly taken to the Marion County Jail. The MCMHC offers certain defendants the chance to be diverted from the jail while those defendants are connected to therapeutic and other community services. MCSO has been fully involved from the inception of the MCMHC and will continue to be dedicated to the future success and continuation of the program.

DRUG COURT

In 2024, MCSO became an active participant in the Marion County Misdemeanor Drug Court. The program is a pre-plea diversion drug court for non-violent offenders charged with an eligible misdemeanor with admission of a substance use disorder. Defendants are required to participate in substance use treatment, peer support meetings, random and frequent drug screens, and personally appear in court as required. The program is a minimum of six months and if successful, the court will dismiss the related charges.



JAIL SUPPORT DIVISION – Transportation - Warrants

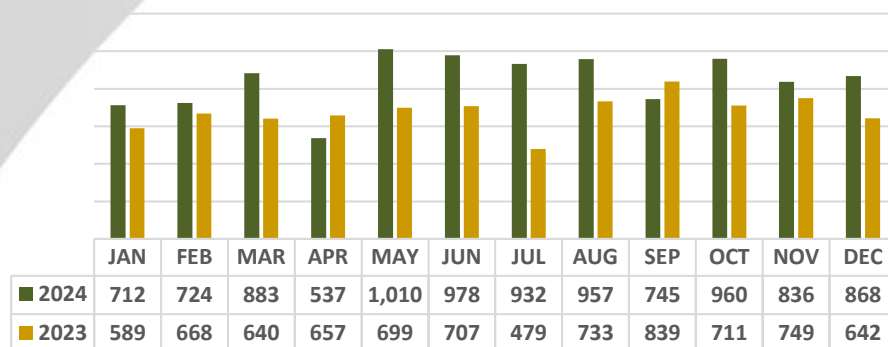
TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation Unit is responsible for safely and securely transporting inmates to and from other counties and jurisdictions, judicial hearings, and outside medical appointments. The Transportation Unit is comprised of one sergeant and seven detention deputies.

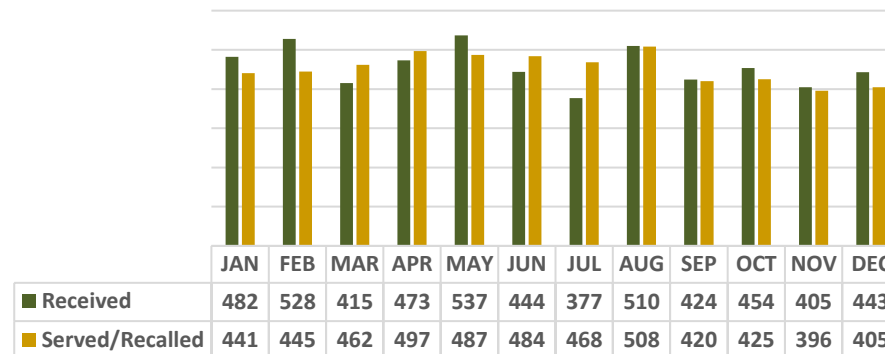
WARRANTS

The warrant clerks enter all the warrants into the local and national system through FCIC and NCIC databases. The deputies then use this information to apprehend wanted persons. Citizens contact warrants daily to ascertain if someone has an active warrant. The Warrants Unit is a high liability area that requires a good working knowledge of CJIS procedures and FSS regarding warrants and extradition issues. FDLE and the FBI conduct audits of this unit to ensure proper procedures are being done with entering warrants into NCIC/FCIC.

2024 Inmates Transported by MC Jail



2024 Warrants Received/Served or Recalled





PREA – Prison Rape Elimination Act

The topic of sexual abuse of inmates was acknowledged by the United States Congress in 2003 when it unanimously passed The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). The federal Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 was designed to “provide for the analysis of the incidence and effects of prison rape in federal, state and local institutions and provide information, resources, recommendation and funding to protect individuals from prison rape”. PREA required the Department of Justice to issue standards outlining the steps that facilities should take to address sexual misconduct prevention, detection, and response. On June 20, 2012, DOJ issued the final rule for the national standards which went into effect August 20, 2013. The PREA standards require agencies to ensure that each facility operated by the agency, or by a private organization on behalf of the agency, receive an external audit. There are 43 PREA standards, most having sub standards for a total of 190 standards; the MCSO must meet 100% of the standards to comply. The MCSO recognized the necessity and impact PREA would have on the agency. The MCSO has always been proactive in maintaining high standards of care, custody and control of the inmate population; including inmate sexual harassment and sexual abuse. However, the adaptation of the PREA standards acts to enhance policy, practice and procedures that were already in place to facilitate our high standards of excellence as we maintain the smooth and orderly running of our facility. Due to the implementation of P.R.E.A., the Marion County Jail has made policy changes, developed a curriculum for employee and inmate education and implemented a review process of data collection and standard analysis. The Marion County Jail underwent an exhaustive audit on June 30-July 2, 2015. This audit was conducted by Buddy Kent who represented an outside entity and was certified to conduct such audits. At the conclusion of the audit, Mr. Kent found The Marion County Sheriff's Office to be compliant in 41 of the 43 standards, with six standards exceeding; 2 standards were found to be not applicable to our operation. This was a great achievement for the MCSO, particularly for the officers at the Marion County Jail. As Mr. Kent noted in his exit interview, it is a major accomplishment for an agency to pass this audit on its first attempt without any corrective action to be taken. A second audit was performed on November 14-16, 2016. This resulted in 3 exceeded standards, 38 met standards with 2 found to be not applicable to our operation. There were no standards not met in 2016. A third audit was performed on December 13-16, 2021. This resulted in 3 exceeded standards, 38 met standards with 2 found to be not applicable to our operation. There were no standards not met in 2021. A fourth and most recent audit was conducted December 2-4, 2024. This resulted in one exceeded standard and 42 met standards. A new inspection cycle occurs every 3 years.

There are many P.R.E.A. standards which include: Prevention planning, responsive planning, training and education, screening for risk for victimization and sexual abuse, official response to reports, investigations, discipline, medical and mental health care, data collection and review, audits.



JAIL SERVICES DIVISION – Inmate Services

The Inmate Services Unit of the Marion County Jail is responsible for laundry, sewing, religious services, inmate programs, inmate mail, video visitation, medical security and inmate workers. Along with providing inmates clean uniforms, mattresses, pillows and mail services, the jail works hard at reducing recidivism and assisting with providing the community with a productive member of society.

- **Laundry/Indigent Services**

The jail is comprised of a laundry room which is operational seven (7) days a week. On an average day, 4,000 pounds of laundry is washed and dried. Indigent Services is responsible for providing specific supplies to the indigent inmate population. An indigent inmate is defined as any inmate who has a negative balance in their account for a period of at least thirty (30) days.

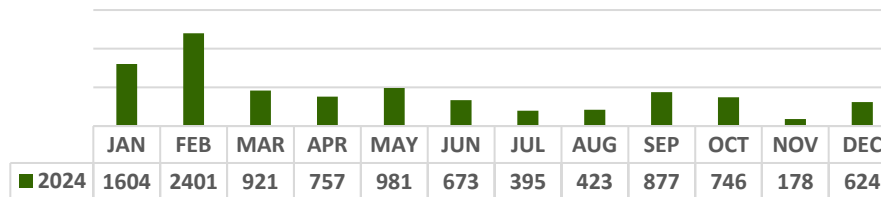
- **Sewing**

A program is offered for female inmate workers to learn different sewing stitches and garment making techniques. The inmates assigned to this program make all the jail inmate uniforms from bulk/rolled material. Repairs to garments are taught and made when necessary. Inmate workers are also taught to make the mattresses, and pillow covers that are used within the jail facility. The inner core of the pillow and mattress are bought and then stuffed into the made covers. They also repair used covers to save on cost.

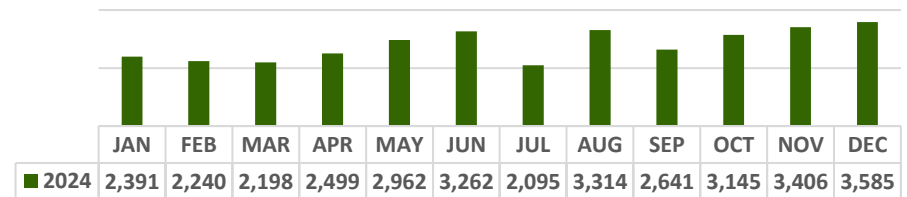
- **Inmate Mail**

This unit is responsible for receiving and sending all mail for the jail inmates. In 2024, the mail program had 34,741 pieces of incoming mail and 25,956 pieces of out-going mail. In October 2018, the jail implemented e-messaging, provided through Securus, as an additional means for the inmates to correspond with their family and friends. This system provides a quick and secure way for the inmates' family and friends to communicate with their loved ones while reducing the amount of physical mail coming into and from the facility. There were approximately 423,737 e-messages in 2024.

Sewing - New Uniforms Completed



Sewing - Repaired Uniforms Completed





JAIL SERVICES DIVISION – Inmate Services continued.....

- **Inmate Library**

The Inmate Library provides general library services (reading materials) to jail inmates. Books are taken to each housing unit on a weekly basis and inmates may check out these books for their reading pleasure. Books are donated to the library or purchased through the Inmate Welfare Fund. The library also provides access to legal materials for those inmates who are serving as their own legal representative or pursuing legal matters other than their own criminal cases. Maintenance of the law library is governed by Florida State Statutes and accreditation standards. During 2024, the law library provided 434 motions and 272 samples of case law to assist the pro-se inmates in preparing their court cases.

- **Inmate Canteen**

The Inmate Canteen Services provides canteen services once a week to the inmate population. Over the counter medications, snacks, personal hygiene care products and clothing are available for sale at fair market value. Canteen services are provided through a contractual agreement with Oasis Commissary. This contractual agreement allows us to free up personnel which were transferred to other functions of the facility. The canteen service processes all inmate accounts, deducts charges and balances credits and holds. In accordance with Florida State Statutes, all profits from the canteen are used to provide services that benefit the overall inmate population.

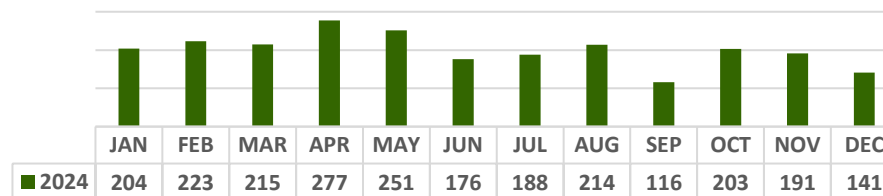
- **Medical Security**

Medical services are provided to all inmates in a medical clinic located inside the jail facility. To ensure safety of all medical staff and inmates, one (1) detention deputy is assigned to this post.

- **Inmate Workers**

Each inmate is evaluated upon being booked into the jail for work placement in and outside the facility. Depending on their classification and medical status, inmates are assigned work duties while being housed at the jail. This program is designed to correlate actual inmate jobs into public sector jobs. While working and providing a valuable labor source for governmental agencies within Marion County, the inmates are also learning a usable trade. Inmate workers provided 8,288 man-hours of labor per week or 430,992-man hours of labor for the year to governmental agencies. At an average minimum wage of \$13.00, this resulted in a savings to the taxpayers of \$5,602,896.00.

Average Number of Inmate Workers in a Day





JAIL SERVICES DIVISION – Inmate Programs

Inmate Services provides nearly 39 in-jail programs that include personal development and re-entry assistance. The objective of the Inmate Services Unit is to reduce recidivism and assist in providing the community with a productive member of society. This in turn will reduce the financial burden of the taxpayers. The Marion County Sheriff's Office recognizes the importance of peer counseling for persons incarcerated with substance abuse problems. Our target is to identify inmates with current arrests for substance abuse and enroll the individual into a peer support/fellowship program. Inmate workers identified with a history of substance abuse are required to participate in substance abuse programs. There are approximately 210 hours of inmate programming over each seven (7) day period. Inmate programs relies on the generosity of 68 volunteers – some seasonal, some full-time (at least one day a week). The Inmate Services Unit provides spiritual education, church services and Bible study to the inmates of the Marion County Jail. With one full-time chaplain, one part-time chaplain and a multitude of volunteer chaplains, the Marion County Jail assists in serving the inmate population with specific spiritual guidance. When requested, the chaplains provide individual counseling with inmates requesting personal guidance. The chaplains also assist outside clergy with inmate visits. Many local organizations and individual citizens donate Bibles to the Marion County Jail. Bibles are provided to the inmates without charge.

The Faith and Justice Coalition Re-Entry Building is a one-stop information source for people to get their lives back together after incarceration. Volunteers will provide details on where to get food, medical services, find shelter and apply for a job. Inmate Services coordinates direct interaction between inmates and the Marion County Homeless Council and the Mid Florida Homeless Coalition. Representatives from both housing services will come into the jail to conduct phase one assessments, to identify available housing to satisfy the inmate's needs upon release.

- **Religious Services**

Church services are usually provided to the general population and segregated inmates. There were 3,556 Bibles distributed to inmates in 2024. In 2024, an average of 1,233 inmates attended religious services each month.

- **Alcoholics Anonymous**

Alcoholics Anonymous is a substance abuse program supported by volunteers from the local AA community. It is a fellowship of men or women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other so they may solve a common problem, while helping others to recover from alcoholism. An average of 39 inmates attended Alcoholics Anonymous per month in 2024.

- **Drug/Mental/Veterans Court Application Programs**

This program works with the Marion County Adult Drug Court/Dependency Drug Court, to provide applications to people while incarcerated and assist with getting the signed applications to the court program specialists. This program accelerates the application process.



JAIL SERVICES DIVISION – Inmate Programs continued.....

- **Christian 12-Step Programs**

This is a Christian Bible based support group recovery program for both males and females with addiction to drugs, alcohol, or other control habits. This program provides inmates with a clearer concept of their “Higher Power” in Jesus Christ. The local chapter of 12-Step Ministries partner with the jail to provide this service. An average of 25 inmates attended Christian 12-Step per month in 2024.

- **Celebrate Recovery**

This program is designed as a Christ-based, 12-step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind.

- **Anger Management**

This program is designed to educate males and females that anger is an emotion that can block healthy recovery. This ten-week program consisting of classroom instruction and group participation, provides tools to make positive lifestyle changes for understanding anger as an emotion. It attempts to teach the inmates how to deal with anger and accept responsibility for one's behavior. Anger Management averaged 33 inmates in attendance per month in 2024.

- **Narcotics Anonymous**

Narcotics Anonymous is a program adapted from Alcoholics Anonymous, assisting inmates to break the addiction from drugs. The NA recovery program is offered to the male and female inmates of the Marion County Jail through the Chapter of Community NA Volunteers. An average of 45 inmates attended Narcotics Anonymous per month in 2024.

- **Culinary Programs**

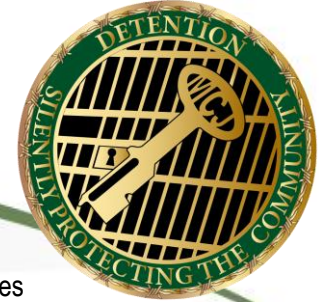
The instructor is a chef, who leads an 8-week personal development life management skills program teaching inmates' general culinary skills. The Marion County Jail utilizes this program to prepare the meals for staff dining. Inmates are eligible to receive a certificate-of-completion that could help in their job search.

- **Bakery Program**

The inmates are instructed how to create breads, cakes and pastries from raw ingredients. Inmates are trained over a course of 8-weeks.

- **R.I.D.E. (Re-Entry Information Direct Ex-Offenders Program)**

This program provides re-entry information direct to people minutes before they are released from jail. Although re-entry information is available in both digital and printed form, the R.I.D.E. program is a conversation to direct people towards help outside of jail.



JAIL SERVICES DIVISION – Inmate Programs continued.....

- **Smart Recovery**

Designed to help inmates seeking abstinence from addiction by building and maintaining the motivation to stop negative actions; cope with urges and cravings; manage thoughts, feelings, and behaviors; and understand the importance of living a balanced life. Smart Recovery averaged 8 inmates in attendance per month in 2024.

- **Veterans Services Liaison**

Although a VA representative routinely makes visits to the Marion County Jail, often there are issues of which the jail assist the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The jail has coordinated getting prescriptions eyewear or hearing aids to inmates; printed documents, delivered for inmate review and signature, and then forwarding those documents for inmates, who have a military history; coordinating interviews of inmates by agencies that are ready to provide post-incarceration services; and alerting the VA of request for services from inmates.

- **Second Chance Job Event**

Working with professionals at Career Source, the Marion County Jail has coordinated local employers who are willing to accept applications from inmates, and then speak face-to-face while the job seekers are incarcerated in the design for inmates to gain employment immediately upon release.

- **Inmate Florida I.D. Program**

This program, which began with the help of a corrections/community partnership, gives people, soon to re-enter society, a chance to receive a free Florida I.D. while they are incarcerated. Having a valid ID is essential in the quest for a better life for many people who have incarceration as part of their history.

- **Alternative Education Course**

Designed for 18–22-year-old inmates who want to work towards receiving a Florida high school diploma upon passing four exams.

- **Marion County Jail Reader-Glasses Program**

Marion County Jail holds a very limited supply of Ocala Lions Club donated glasses. Sometimes the agency does not have glasses of the power/strength requested. The inmate has the option to purchase glasses from the canteen.

- **Custom Garment Making**

This vocational / textiles program trains inmates in the basics of sewing.

- **Birth Certificates**

Assist inmates with securing a birth certificate while incarcerated.



VIDEO VISITATION

Video Visitation provides real time, two-way video and audio communication between the public visitors and the inmates housed in jail. Every inmate is allowed one visit per day for thirty minutes up to two hours of visitation a week. The visitor can call to schedule an appointment up to one week in advance. The stations are adequately equipped with an ADA compliant handset for the public and inmate. Since video visitation is detached from the main jail, it helps reduce and eliminate the introduction of contraband, for example: drugs, weapons and other items. Video visitation is available in all areas of the jail. Visitors can schedule appointments by telephone at (352) 438-5961 from 9am to 9pm or schedule an appointment in person at the Video Visitation Center or schedule an onsite or home visit at www.securustech.net. Visitation by appointment reduces wait times for the visitors and creates a more orderly process for providing visitation.

A kiosk machine has been placed at the Video Visitation Center for a convenient and efficient way for family and friends to deposit funds into an inmate's account.

Our Public Defenders Office supplied their own video visitation stations in each pod separate from the visitation stations to communicate with their clients easier. This in turn assists the Public Defender's Office from coming to the jail every time to speak to a client.

Internet Video Visitation is provided through Securus and is a web-based video online visitation used in detention facilities. This system provides an easy and more accessible environment for interactions with inmates who are currently incarcerated. Inmates can visit with family or friends in 15-minute or 30-minute blocks of time. A visitor can visit with an inmate from anywhere in the world if they have a computer, internet access, an email account, a web cam, and a credit card. The benefits to the family and friends of the inmate is that it manages the inconvenient incarceration, it eliminates the need for childcare, it eliminates travel expenses associated with inmate visits, increases the opportunities to visit with loved ones, expands inmate's visitation list, and visits no longer require pre-approval. The visitor pays for the visit at the time of scheduling. The visit must be scheduled one day in advance.

Video Relay Service for the hearing impaired is provided through Securus. This service allows the hearing-impaired inmate to use sign language over video to communicate with his or her family via a licensed sign language interpreter.

During each visit, there will be no nudity or illegal behavior, or the visit can be terminated at the discretion of the facility.

In 2024, there was a total of 3,790 on-site video visitation visits completed. There were 191,598 internet visits completed in 2024.



FACILITY SERVICES

JAIL TO WORK

Through the Jail to Work initiative, inmates are exposed to work intensive programs designed to develop employable skills to assist the inmate in acquiring a job upon release and reduce recidivism. Several businesses in Marion County have joined with the MCSO and agreed to assist in finding jobs for the graduates of these programs. As the inmates are learning the skills needed, they are providing a service to the community by working for numerous governmental agencies. Violent offenders are not eligible to participate in the jail to work program. They serve 100% of their sentence. The jail to work initiative is comprised of work-related programs. This includes formal vocational training and inmate worker programs. The Facility Services Unit is associated with jail maintenance, janitorial services, inmate laundry, car wash, key control, and fire safety/sanitation. The jail maintenance duties are light electrical, light plumbing, doors, door lock maintenance and various other minor maintenance problems.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Several inmate work crews are supervised by an MCSO employee. They are responsible for the general up-keep of the grounds including lawn maintenance, weed removal, waste removal, painting and minor construction. Inmate Workers completed many different special projects throughout the year. Many of these projects were to help other county agencies such as fire departments, community centers, and neighborhood cleanups. These same inmates study and apply shop and occupational safety skills such as: utilize manual and power tools, identify building materials, read blueprints, install doors, walls and ceilings, build forms, and install exterior covering and trim. They also learn site preparation with the set up and use of a transit and level. Putting these skills to work resulted in the completion of the renovation of several pods which consisted of sanding and painting the entire pod, replacing the ceiling tiles, installing new lights and refinishing the showers. By utilizing these work crews, the Marion County Sheriff's Office saves the taxpayers money.

FIRE/SAFETY SERVICES

The fire, safety and sanitation sergeant conducts daily, weekly and monthly inspections of the jail to ensure compliance with all local, state, and federal fire safety and sanitation regulations. An example of what is reviewed at these inspections are fire extinguishers, fire hoses, air packs, emergency lighting fixtures and fire exit signs, temperature and light checks in all housing pods along with a sound decibel reading in all the housing units. The jail key control system is a program for always ensuring the accountability and operational readiness of all keys. Fire safety is taught to the entire jail staff on a routine basis. Quarterly fire drills are also conducted.



FOOD SERVICES

The **Food Service Unit** provides three nutritional meals a day for the inmate population. The food services staff consistently excels in formulating and executing strategies to manage cost, process and store farm crops, maintain equipment and meet or exceed cleaning standards. The Unit is comprised of a lieutenant, two sergeants, eight detention deputies, a culinary arts instructor, a baker and one warehouse technician. The unit supervises 45 to 60 inmate workers during the preparation of meals and cleanup. The Food Services Unit operates a full-service staff dining room for MCSO personnel serving a variety of options for breakfast, lunch and night shift meals. The total meals served to staff in staff dining was 24,688 in 2024. The kitchen is open and staffed seven days a week, 22 hours a day to meet the demands of the inmate population. The staff is very skilled and effectively provides for the culinary needs of the MCSO, supplying meals, beverages and desserts for events within the agency and in the community. Culinary arts and bakery programs are provided to select inmate workers as a tool to improve their employability. The inmate workers assigned to the Food Services Unit must complete a medical screening along with food handling and safety training before working in the kitchen. The total inmate meals served in 2024 were 2,098,919. The average cost per inmate food tray in 2024 was \$.92.

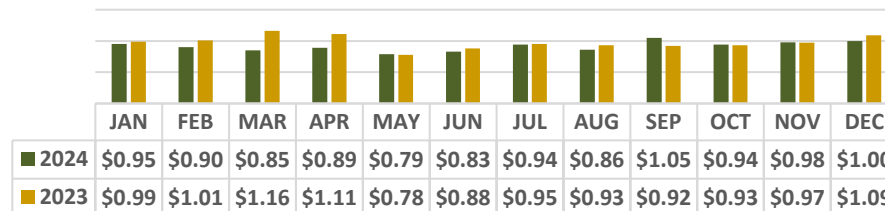
CULINARY PROGRAM

The **Culinary Program** is under the supervision of the Culinary Arts Instructor Tim Kaleida. The course is 320 hours long and students upon completion of the program are given a certificate of completion. The students will learn and demonstrate proficiencies in food preparation, food handling, and safety and sanitation practices. The skills learned can be used to gain potential employment or improve life skills.

BAKERY PROGRAM

The **Bakery Program** is under the supervision of Baker Peggy Wells who is a skilled and proficient baker. The students are trained in basic bakery skills, proper food handling, and safety/sanitation practices. The students learn and demonstrate proficiency at different stations using commercial equipment. The fundamental skills required for baking, mixing, scaling and preparing bakery goods are taught. The students gain the skills required to work as bakers at any commercial bakery. Upon completion of the program, the students are given a certificate of completion. The inmate population and staff enjoy nutritional and delicious bakery items at a greatly reduced cost because of this program.

Inmate Meals - Cost Per Tray





INMATE WORK FARM

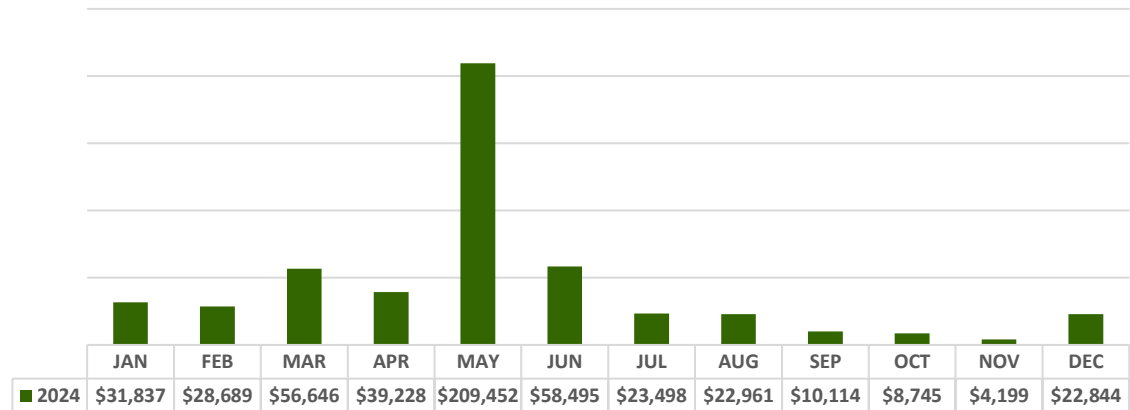
The Marion County Sheriff's Office operates a 58-acre inmate work farm. The farm runs in cooperation with the Marion County Board of Commissioners, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Office of Greenways and Trails. The operation's headquarters is located at the intersection of County Road 35 and County Road 464. The Inmate Work Farm is comprised of three components. The first provides agricultural training class opportunities involving the growing of row crops for inmate consumption through the Food Services Unit of the Marion County Jail. The second component is animal husbandry. Beef cattle, feeder hogs and egg laying birds (poultry) are raised throughout the year. The third component involves providing poultry and swine classes for the inmate workers at the farm. Upon completion of these classes with a passing grade, the inmate receives a certificate of completion and a valuable skill that can assist them upon re-entry into society.

Roberts Quarterhorse Farms allows the inmate work farm to graze its cattle on approximately 120 acres of pastureland.

The Department of Environmental Protection and the Office of Greenways and Trails have provided the property through a sub-lease to the county for five (5) years with an option for two, five (5) year renewal terms. In addition, the Marion County Board of County Commissioners donated several tractors and other equipment for farm operations at the inmate work farm. The present-day Inmate Work Farm is reminiscent of a past concept that was prevalent during the operation of the Maricamp Prison Work Farm. Inmates from Marion and surrounding counties managed crops, livestock and produced cane syrup for consumption during their incarceration.

The farm yield for calendar year 2024 was \$516,708.00

Inmate Farm Yield





INMATE HEALTHCARE

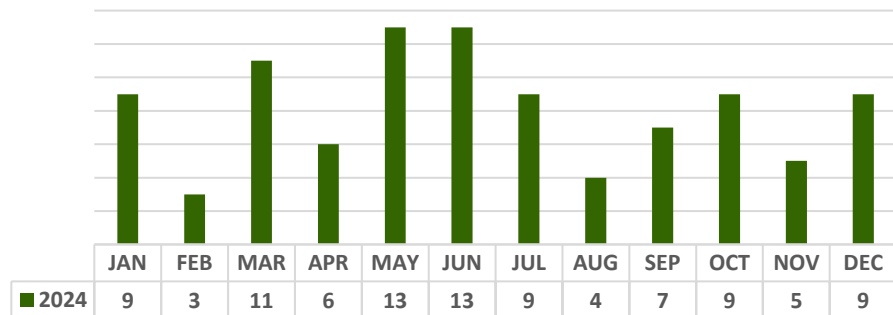
The Marion County Sheriff's Office joined with community leaders in 2007 to establish a not-for-profit corporation, **Ocala Community Care (OCC)**, to oversee the medical operation and provide inmate healthcare services to the inmate population at the Marion County Jail. Ocala Community Care began full operation on January 2, 2008. The OCC provided comprehensive medical, nursing, dental and mental health care services to those individuals incarcerated at the Marion County Jail.

The **Heart of Florida** took over the inmate medical services at the jail effective April 18, 2020. Heart of Florida Health Center provides inmate medical, dental and mental health care services in an out-patient clinic setting and in a medically supervised infirmary. Our staffing includes fifty (50) licensed clinical staff (LPN, RN and MA) a full-time physician/medical director, a full-time dentist, two (2) full-time ARNP, two (2) psychiatric APRN, four (4) mental health counselors, and several records and administrative staff. In addition, there is twenty-four (24) hour; seven (7) days a week on call clinician coverage.

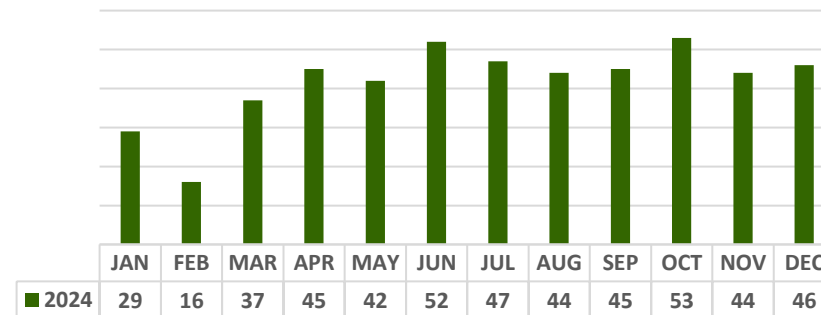
The infirmary is designed to house up to thirty-five (35) inmates and is where inmates requiring critical nursing supervision and care are housed. There is also a separate medical housing unit near the infirmary which holds approximately sixty (60) inmates. The infirmary has twenty-four (24) hour registered nursing coverage, and the medical housing unit has twelve (12) hour nursing coverage. Inmates are screened on intake and are given routine physical examinations within fourteen days of admission where they are evaluated for acute and pre-existing chronic medical, dental and mental health conditions, and referrals are made to provide appropriate care.

Inmates are charged for medical services provided at the jail; however, inmates are not charged for emergency care, staff referrals, or treatment of infectious/communicable diseases, and are never denied services because of a lack of ability to pay. If the inmate does not have available funds at the time of service, a debit is placed on the inmate's account so that reimbursement is made as funds become available. Any reimbursements received are forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners.

Inmate Hospital Admissions



Emergency Room Visits





SUMMARY

This report has been prepared as an instrument to inform decision makers in government positions and the public of the status of the Marion County Jail. This report gives background information about the jail and describes various functions within the jail. Statistical data was presented in both numerical value and graphs so the entire operation would be better understood. This report is not intended to be an in-depth explanation of the day to day operation. Planning for the future is the key to eliminating problems associated with growth. This report is intended to answer questions a reader may have concerning the jail.

MARION COUNTY JAIL'S AVERAGE DAILY INMATE POPULATION 2004-2024													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YR AVG
2004	1562	1588	1620	1611	1608	1685	1704	1711	1761	1765	1793	1725	1678
2005	1701	1753	1863	1911	1889	1882	1917	2006	2052	1956	1876	1835	1887
2006	1814	1794	1817	1794	1789	1843	1845	1930	1965	1998	1988	1938	1876
2007	2006	2039	1988	2036	1980	1956	1988	1996	2084	2101	2006	1956	2011
2008	1952	1840	1847	1851	1805	1788	1819	1861	1856	1815	1726	1635	1816
2009	1604	1621	1628	1620	1608	1619	1674	1668	1706	1719	1684	1630	1648
2010	1661	1727	1712	1672	1671	1686	1642	1647	1674	1716	1709	1649	1681
2011	1626	1631	1630	1649	1698	1687	1658	1718	1756	1688	1677	1595	1668
2012	1592	1626	1621	1633	1683	1648	1620	1614	1595	1594	1582	1550	1613
2013	1543	1544	1519	1493	1520	1529	1465	1467	1462	1441	1410	1353	1479
2014	1374	1445	1426	1413	1430	1414	1373	1354	1350	1344	1319	1253	1375
2015	1241	1250	1226	1219	1201	1218	1260	1341	1334	1305	1246	1209	1254
2016	1231	1207	1185	1165	1123	1116	1075	1112	1131	1084	1039	1004	1123
2017	1035	1015	1079	1116	1147	1184	1189	1212	1259	1297	1262	1242	1170
2018	1295	1253	1275	1261	1292	1350	1373	1454	1475	1492	1410	1401	1361
2019	1427	1281	1379	1350	1440	1394	1422	1391	1425	1522	1454	1516	1417
2020	1603	1680	1604	1480	1453	1493	1448	1481	1567	1633	1557	1632	1553
2021	1665	1690	1688	1655	1631	1648	1648	1701	1782	1825	1834	1817	1715
2022	1826	1832	1821	1832	1801	1809	1854	1832	1807	1780	1726	1660	1798
2023	1684	1667	1637	1645	1662	1720	1724	1759	1767	1771	1749	1706	1708
2024	1695	1795	1829	1841	1864	1887	1884	1876	1864	1888	1781	1664	1822