



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF**

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**ANDERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

**SHERIFF PAUL N. WHITE**

July 19, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Operational Analysis - July 2010**

We have completed an operational analysis of the department showing activity over the last ten years. In each and every area, the department has experienced a tremendous increase. These increases show our job is demanding and often overwhelming.

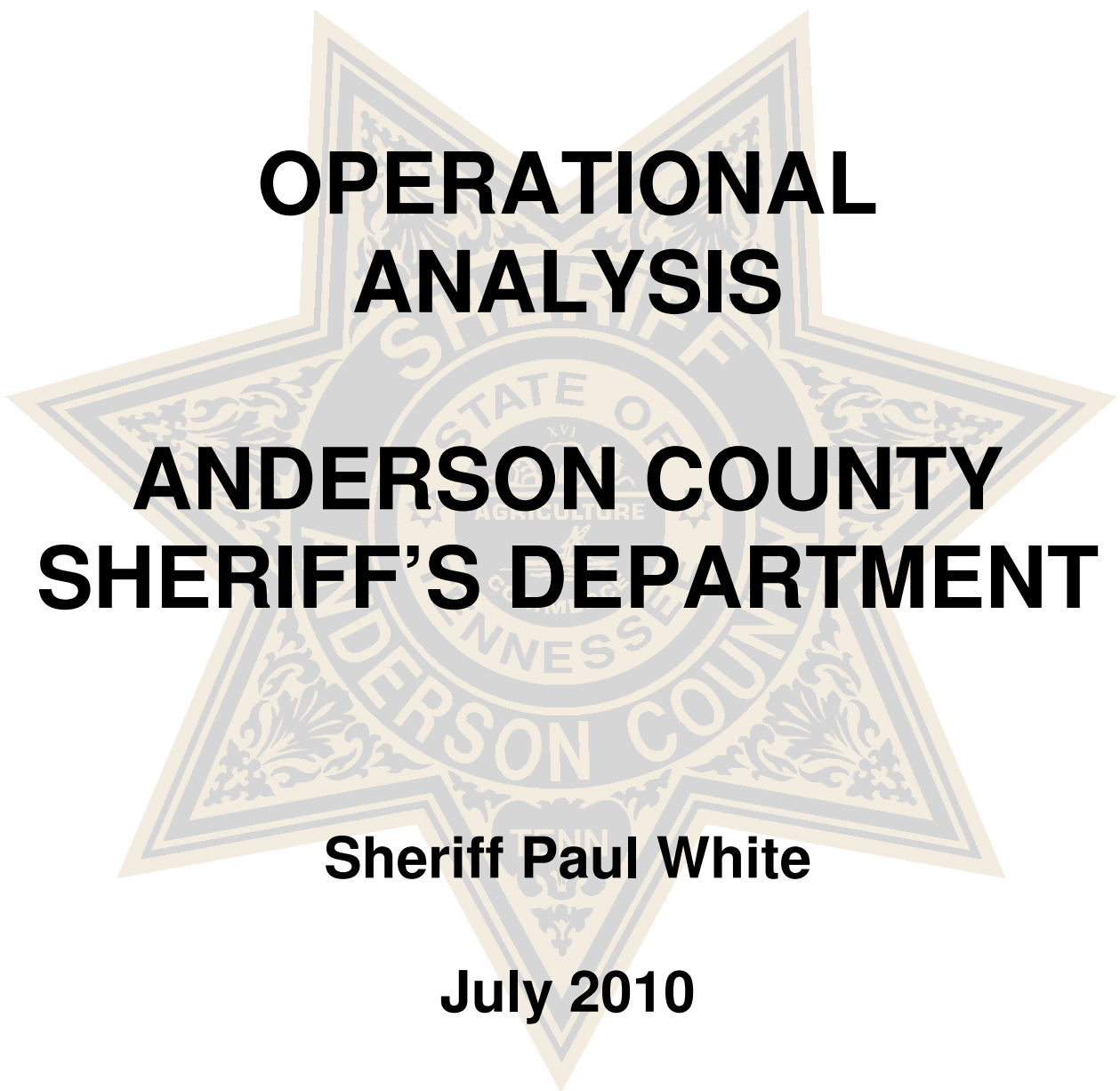
Some of the highlights include:

- Calls-for-service have increased 122% since the year 2000. More serious calls requiring back-up increased by 333%.
- The number of civil papers increased by 114% in the ten year period.
- The number of criminal or arrest warrants increased 175%.
- Persons arrested for crimes in Anderson County increased 237% since 2001. Most of these increases came in the last three years.
- The number of reports filed has increased 75% in just the last five years.
- TBI reported crimes have increased by 45% since 2001. However, property crimes and crimes against persons have dropped the last two years.
- Due to proactive patrols and investigations, burglary and theft arrests have increased 72% since 2001 with the largest increases the last three years.
- Drug arrests have increased 480% since 2001. Again, most of these increases have been over the last three years.
- The number of crimes cleared has increased from a low of 10.4% to 35.4% in 2009. We are now at the state average.
- Jail intakes and releases have increased 41% in ten years.
- The jail population has increased 144% since 2000 to where the jail is significantly overcrowded often exceeding 300 inmates.

- Staffing was only increased for law enforcement operations in 2007 and 2008 despite the rise in activity over the last ten years.

For the Sheriff's Department to operate, adequate staffing must be in place. The duties and responsibilities of the Sheriff must be met as required by law. For the citizens of Anderson County, adequate law enforcement services are a must. These residents ask for, and are entitled to receive, proper police protection.

**Sheriff Paul White**



**OPERATIONAL  
ANALYSIS**

**ANDERSON COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

**Sheriff Paul White**

**July 2010**

The Sheriff is an elected position as declared in the Tennessee constitution and as set forth in other state law. The Sheriff serves as the Chief Law Enforcement Officer of the county and administers his duties through deputies and assistants. The Sheriff's statutory duties include maintaining the peace, preventing crime, patrolling the county, serving civil and criminal process, waiting on the courts, and maintaining the jail. Other responsibilities, as outlined in the Tennessee Code Annotated, include crime reporting to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, fingerprinting and photographing arrestees, maintaining records of inmates in the county jail, maintaining inmates' health, assuring inmate safety, feeding inmates, and accounting for inmates jail time. The Sheriff also has many other statutory duties including transporting persons to mental health facilities and maintaining the sex offender registry. There are some 160 state laws that set forth the Sheriff's duties and responsibilities.

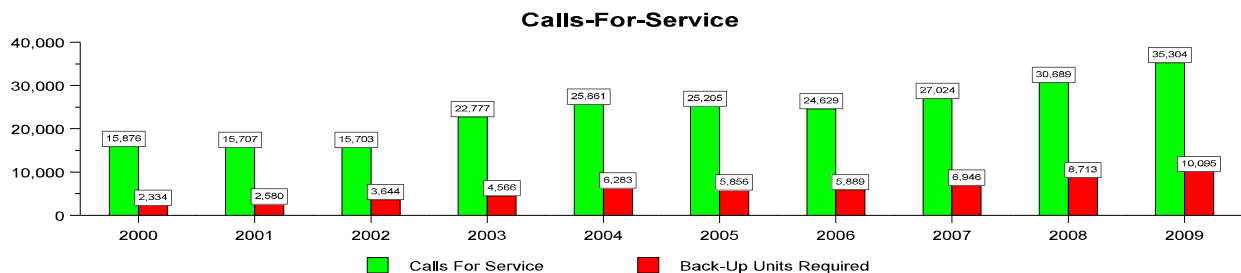
Over the last ten years, the workload of the Anderson County Sheriff's Department has increased substantially. From daily calls-for-service, cases handled by investigators, drug crimes, to transports for mental health evaluations, all areas of the department have seen an increase. From patrol, to the jail, to communications, these increases continue.

The Sheriff's Department has the responsibility to provide primary law enforcement services to the residents of Anderson County outside of the five municipalities. This includes not only patrolling the county roads and answering calls but investigating crimes and illegal activity. The Sheriff's Department is also responsible for assisting the municipal police departments when needed and providing many other law enforcement services.

The Sheriff is also responsible for maintaining the county jail, transporting prisoners, providing security to the courts, serving criminal warrants and civil process, and many other duties set forth by state law. While not well known, the majority of the duties of the Sheriff's Department are done countywide, in each of the cities, not just in the rural areas. In all of these areas, the workload has increased tremendously.

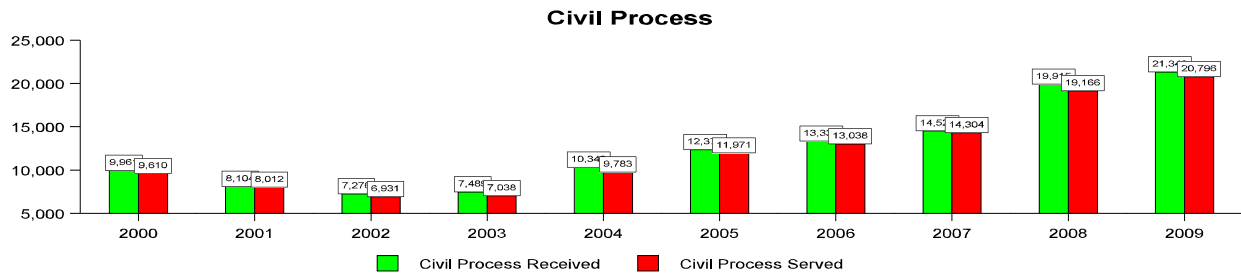
## **Calls-For Service**

One of the primary functions of any law enforcement agency is to respond to citizen calls for assistance. Calls range from routine such as barking dogs and loud music; to reports of burglaries and thefts; to life-threatening calls such as robberies and shootings. In order to keep up with the call volume, there must be adequate staffing of patrol deputies. However, there must also be sufficient personnel to perform proactive patrols to prevent crime and not just simply respond after the fact. Calls-for-service have increased by 122% in the last ten years while calls requiring more than one deputy increased 333%.



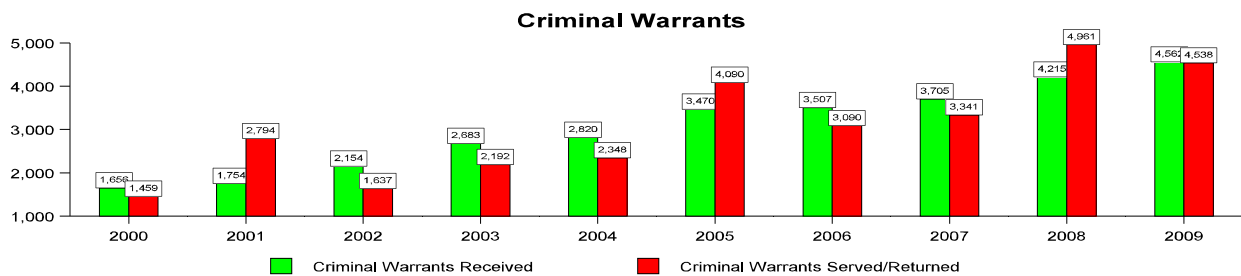
## Civil Process

Other duties of the Sheriff's Department have also increased. Civil and criminal papers continue to rise. The number of civil papers has risen by 114% in a ten year period.



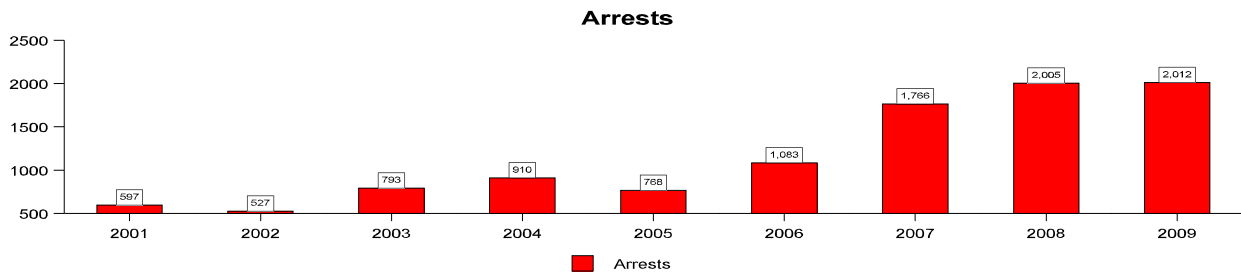
## Criminal Warrants

Patrol deputies are responsible for serving arrest warrants but can find little time to do so. The backlog of unserved warrants has been reduced from 4,200 over the last three years but is still some 3,600 criminal papers with most of the new warrants being issued for probation violation and failure to appear in court. The number of criminal warrants issued has risen by 175% since 2000.



## Arrests

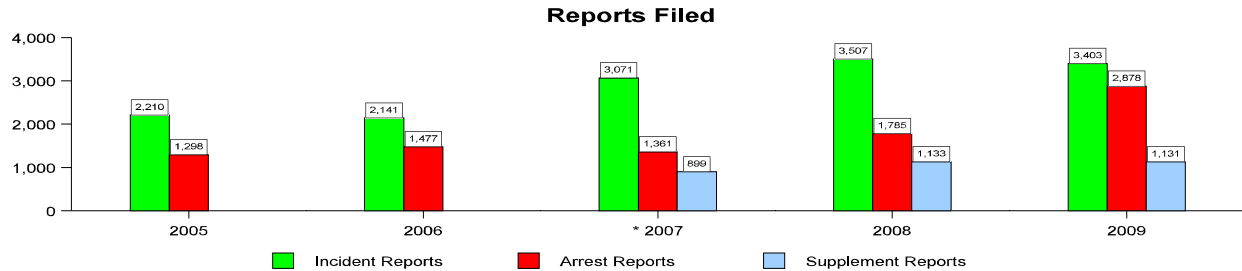
The number of arrests by deputies has also risen over the last few years. Using statistics from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, arrests increased by 237% since 2001. These numbers only include arrests for crimes in Anderson County. Arrests on warrants for other counties are not included.



**TBI/TIBRS DATA**

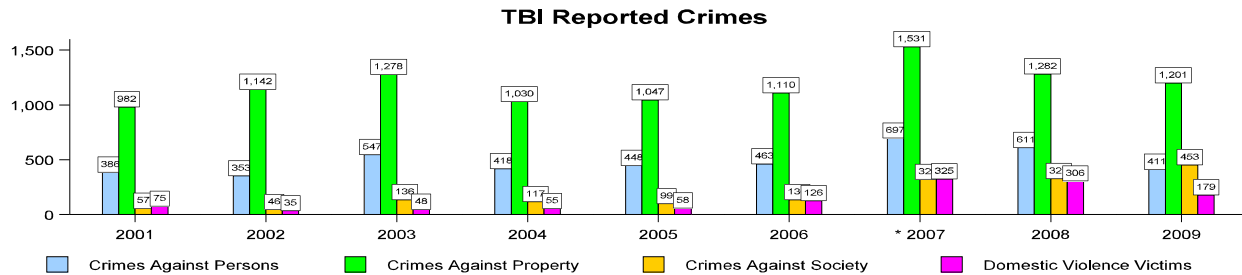
## Reports Filed

The number of reports filed by deputies continues to increase. A new computerized reporting system went online in 2007. This allowed more accurate tracking of reports, crimes, and arrests. The number of reports directly relate to the level of activity within the department. Not including supplement reports that were not tracked until 2007, the number of reports filed increased by 79% in just five years.



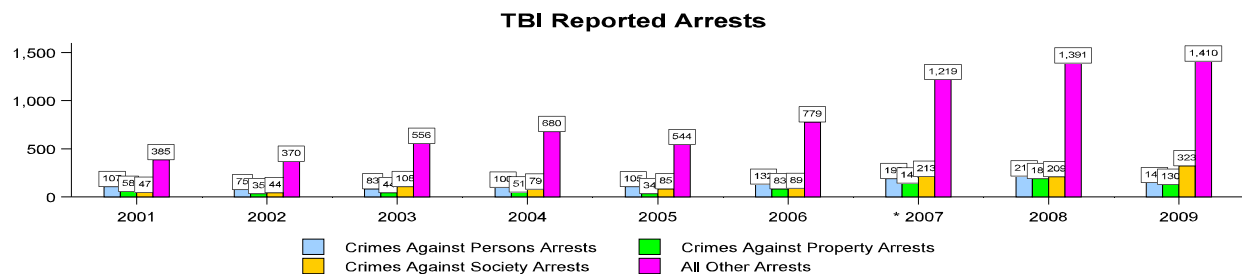
## TBI Reported Crimes

Crimes in Anderson County are reported to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. These incidents may be from citizen reports or from officer initiated arrests. Crimes reported to the TBI increased by 45% since 2001 but have dropped over the last two years. This decrease can be directly attributed to the increase in staffing levels that allow better proactive, preventative policing as well as more arrests and crimes being solved.



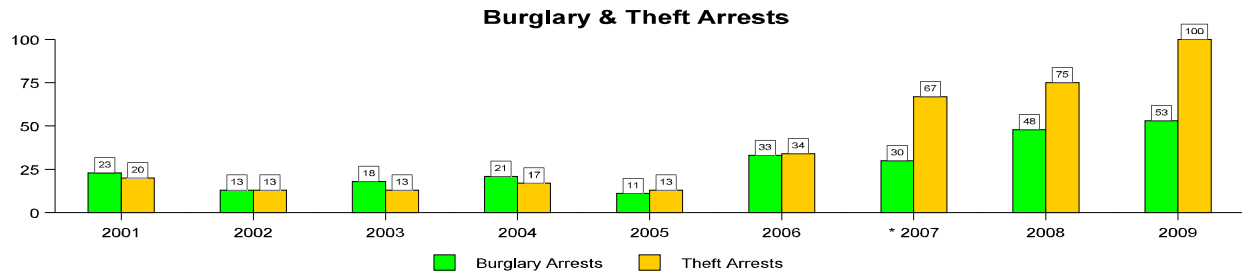
## TBI Reported Arrests

Arrests on crimes in Anderson County are also reported to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. Arrests may be from citizen reported crimes or initiated by sheriff's deputies. There has been a significant increase in arrests. This increase is from enhanced drug enforcement and arrests made by deputies and investigators on crimes reported to the department. Since 2001, arrests have risen by 237% and continue upward. Again, this is from increased staffing levels and more proactive law enforcement.



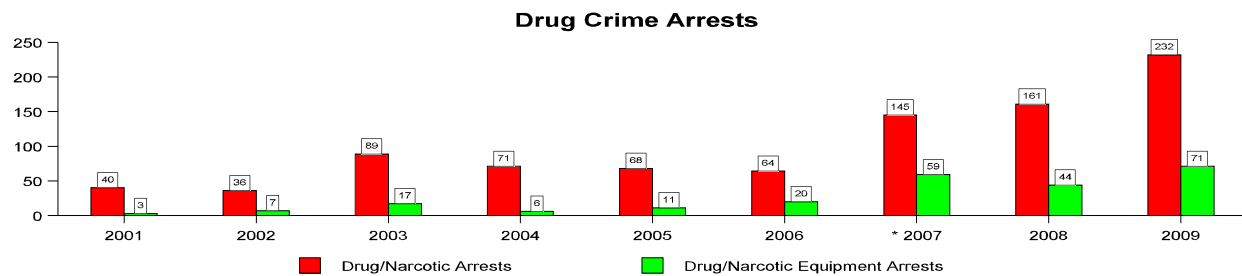
## Burglary & Theft Arrests

Property offenses such as burglary and theft are the most prevalent types of crimes that occur in the rural areas of Anderson County. Over the last three years, emphasis has been placed on enforcement and investigation of these crimes. Increased staffing in 2007 and 2008 has allowed more proactive patrols of the rural areas as well as enhanced investigations of these offenses resulting in more arrests being made and crimes solved.



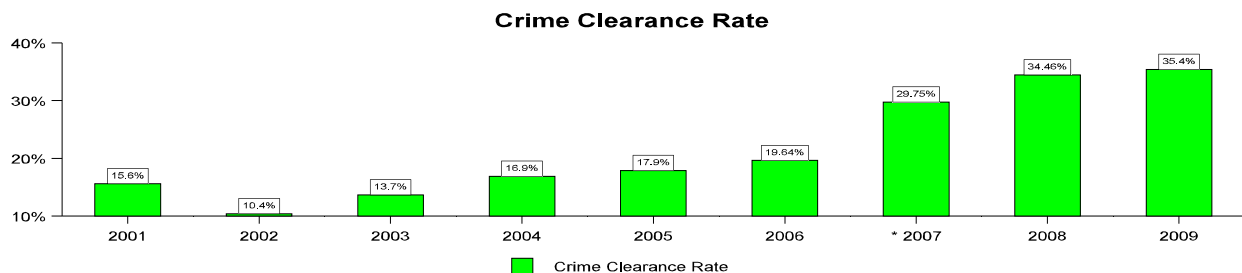
## Drug Crime Arrests

Drug enforcement is also a top priority of the department. Illegal drug activity touches every crime from bad checks to burglary. Most all burglaries and thefts are committed by drug offenders needing money to purchase drugs. Stolen property is sold or traded to finance drug habits. Since 2001, drug related arrests have increased 480% with the most being over the last three years.



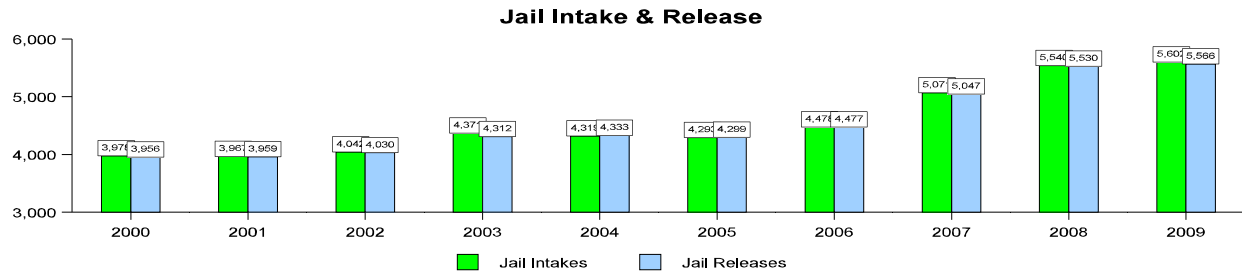
## Crime Clearance Rate

Over the last three years, emphasis has been placed on enforcement and investigation of crimes reported to the department. Increased staffing in 2007 and 2008 has allowed more proactive patrols of the rural areas as well as enhanced investigations of offenses resulting in more arrests being made and crimes solved. In addition, the new computerized reporting system that went online in 2007 now allows better tracking of offenses and dispositions. Using TBI statistics, the clearance rate has increased from a low of 10.4% in 2002, to 35.4% in 2009. The state average is some 35.46%.



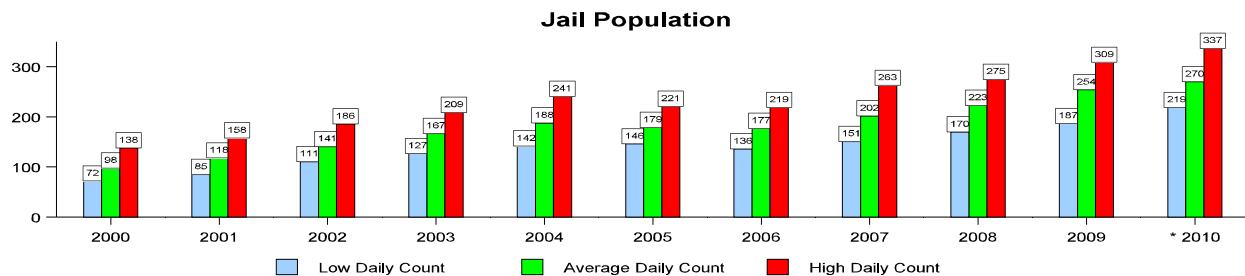
## Jail Intake & Release

The workload of the Detention Facility has also risen over the last ten years. The number of persons arrested and booked into the jail increased by 41% since 2000. These increases have driven the inmate population to record levels.



## Jail Population

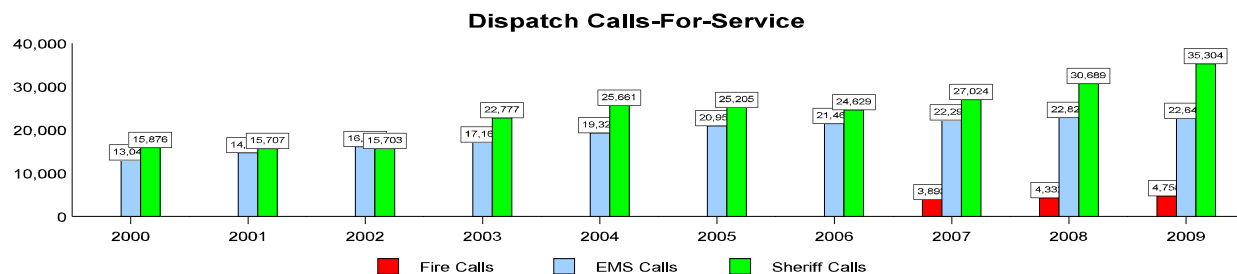
The inmate population has risen to the point where the jail is now significantly overcrowded. Since 2000, the jail population has increased 144% and is continuing to rise. Over the last ten years, the overall number of inmates held in jail has increased to where the population is now often over 300 inmates daily. The rated capacity is 226 beds.



\* Jail Population As Of June 2010

## Dispatch Calls-For-Service

The workload of the Communications Unit has increased substantially over the last ten years. In 2001, the Sheriff's Communications Center consolidated with Anderson County EMS. Currently, the dispatch center handles all calls for the Sheriff's Department, Emergency Medical Services, the five county volunteer fire departments, and the rescue squad. The center receives all 911 calls from the unincorporated areas of Anderson County as well as the cities of Lake City, Norris, and Oliver Springs. Over the last ten years, sheriff calls-for-service increased 122% and EMS calls by 74%.





## Staffing Levels

Staffing levels for law enforcement operations had not changed in many years. While the jail staffing increased, patrol, investigations, and other operations personnel had not increased to keep pace with the rise in calls-for-service and other activity. The first increase came in 2007. Staffing levels in the jail rose by 66% in ten years due to the ever increasing jail population and workload while personnel for operations increased just 28% and this was only in 2007 and 2008. Dispatch staffing increased by only two in 2003 and three in 2006. Given the continued increase for all types of activity within the Sheriff's Department, the staffing levels are still below the number of personnel needed to provide a minimum level of law enforcement services.



In addition to increased staffing in 2007 and 2008, the Sheriff's Department has been restructured to be more efficient and effective. Increased emphasis on patrol operations, criminal investigations, and drug enforcement allows a direct approach in combating crime. Crimes are mapped to determine where and when they occur. A problem solving approach to burglaries and thefts has increased arrests and resulted in more crimes being solved. Enhanced computer software and issuing laptops has kept deputies out in the field instead of in the office writing reports.

However, given the overall workload the Sheriff's Department remains understaffed. The job of patrol deputies is not simply to answer calls but to provide proactive, preventative patrols of the rural areas of the county. The duties of serving civil and criminal process is mandated by law and must be done. Investigating crimes and other illegal activity is another required duty. Providing security to the courts and the judges is also required. Tasks such as transporting persons to mental health facilities, keeping the sexual offender registry, and providing crime statistics are but a few of the many other duties that are set forth by state law. Finally, operating the county jail and keeping prisoners is the most demanding and is also required by law. Added all together, these duties define a demanding and often overwhelming job.

For the Sheriff's Department to operate, adequate staffing must be in place. The duties and responsibilities of the Sheriff must be met as required by law. For the citizens of Anderson County, adequate law enforcement services are a must. These residents ask for, and are entitled to receive, proper police protection.

Your attention in this matter is appreciated.