

Ouray County Sheriff's Office Annual Report 2021



Compiled by Sheriff Justin Perry

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Message from the Sheriff



There are very few things in life that bring high levels of meaning and satisfaction, as does serving the members of our communities. Having the opportunity to work with the amazing people of Ouray County has been an incredible experience and honor. The past year was not easy for most of us, as we navigated and traversed the challenges that life brought to us. Filled with a seemingly endless pandemic, dangerous dry conditions from the get go, and challenging monsoons that left many trails, roads, and backcountry inaccessible. Regardless of the challenge, trouble or danger that found us, I saw a county come together in many instances helping, volunteering, and working with

one another to save lives and safeguard the incredible landscape and beauty we all call home.

Along with an amazing response from community members, I must highlight the professional and reliable response of our law enforcement, fire departments, Public Health Department, EMS, and Mountain Rescue Team. The dedication and loyalty all of these responders have for the people of this county and our mountain surroundings, is demonstrative of the love they possess for the citizens and the quality of life that has brought all of us here. Each day, they put their own personal safety in jeopardy as they respond to the needs of our county residents and visitors.

Our local law enforcement has been faced with an exponential growth in calls for service, many of which require a response to volatile and highly dangerous situations. Law enforcement is much more than a job or career, it is a calling in life. The desires to run into a life-threatening situation such as a gunfight, is generally not a natural response by any human standard. It is a natural response however, to those who have an innate and insatiable desire to protect, to serve, to help and to love. Each day I arise, I am blessed not only to serve the great people of this county, but to work with the women and men who serve in law enforcement. I personally see the care and love they have for the county each and every day, and it is truly awe-inspiring. My deepest gratitude goes out to them, and to the amazing people of this county.

Message from the Undersheriff

I would like to start by stating that 2021 was an amazing year for the Ouray County Sheriff's Office. The commitment and compassion of the Ouray County Sheriff's Office team has been instrumental this past year in serving the public. We accomplished many great things this past year by focusing on community outreach and establishing good working relations with the public. Some of the highlighted accomplishments I would like to comment on are, the implementation of a Traffic Safety and Patrol Program, Training and the Purchase of new and updated equipment.



As our team started out the year in 2021, we recognized the need for more patrol efforts on Ouray County Roads. While it has been challenging to provide patrol services due to the lack of personnel, we were able to implement a Traffic Safety and Patrol Program to ensure our deputies are able to do directed patrols on as many county roads as possible. As part of the program deputies rotate their directed patrols between day and night shifts and in doing so, are able to patrol eight county roads a day Monday through Friday. These directed patrols are aimed to cover the majority of the Ouray County Roads watching for speeders, illegal activity, and for general traffic safety. In 2021 deputies conducted 1851 directed patrols in Ouray County.

Additionally, we were able to send Ouray County deputies to extensive trainings throughout the year. One training in particular that we are proud of was, a Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). Ouray County Sheriff's Office hosted this forty- hour training at the Ouray County Fairgrounds with over thirty attendees from the Western Region. The CIT training program for Law Enforcement, is aimed to implement de-escalation skills to help guide interactions between law enforcement and those living with Mental Illness. The Sheriff's Office was able to pay for this and all other extensive trainings through Colorado Post grant funding in the amount of nearly \$18, 0000.

The Ouray County Sheriff's Office also received \$65, 0000 in grant funding through the Department of Justice to purchase and upgrade our radios used to communicate with the dispatch center and other first responders. These new equipment upgrades will assist with dispatch efforts and aid in public and officer safety. It is important to the Sheriff's Office that we make efforts to be resourceful and fiscally responsible, and the grant funding we received in 2021 has been instrumental in this effort. In closing, I would like to thank all of our Ouray County residents, visitors, first responders and other stakeholders for a great year. The Ouray County Sheriff's Office is committed to the public safety of our county. I am optimistic that our agency will only continue to build strong relationships and provide excellent service as we move forward.

Ouray County Sheriff's Office

Ouray County Sheriff's Deputies provide law enforcement services to the public 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Deputies respond to a myriad of calls for service as dispatched by Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center, and they perform extensive self-initiated activities. The Sheriff's Office has two shifts each day, consisting of a day shift and a night shift. Due to limited staffing, only one deputy is on duty at a time, and shift timeframes may vary depending on current enforcement operations, special events, seasons, and population fluctuation. There is never a time period when Ouray County does not have a deputy on duty or on call.



A typical shift for a deputy often includes responding to dispatched calls for service, civil service processes, investigative follow up, and performing proactive policing activities. Proactive activity involves conducting directed vehicular patrols, foot patrols, security checks, community policing activities, etc. In addition, because the Sheriff's Office is a 100% reporting agency, deputies spend time in the office and their patrol vehicles writing reports. As part of our efforts of raising the bar of professionalism and standards, every law enforcement action requires a written report by the deputies. This ensures accountability of law enforcement activity and the Office's actions as a whole.



Ouray County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to the Community Policing philosophy and strives daily to build and foster relationships of trust. This has been a very proven and effective method of policing nationwide, and in Ouray County has involved citizens on various levels with enforcement and problem solving. The Ouray County Sheriff's Office believes there is no problem that can't be fixed or solved, and therefore we do whatever it takes with the community to strategize and respond to each identified issue.

Frequently, deputies assist with not only criminal issues, but civil problems as well. If an issue has been identified, regardless of nature, we respond to assist. If we can't solve the problem, we partner with citizens, groups, and organizations that can.

2020-2021 New Beginnings

Beginning in July of 2020 when the new Sheriff's Administration took Office, we identified nine areas that needed to be addressed, namely, staff, policy, training, supervision, discipline, evidence, reporting, operations, and community policing.

Each area was reviewed in detail and the following is a brief recapitulation of our findings and actions taken: (Note, much of the information provided in this section was presented to the Board of County Commissioners in September 2021)

Staff

- Identified opportunities for professional growth.
- Assessed how the agency was viewed by internal and external stakeholders and developed a plan for change in order to build credibility, integrity, and our relationships of trust. We found that the lack of trust revolved around lack of knowledge/understanding of position, poor timely responses, lack of follow through, misinformation, poor investigations and follow up.
- As 2021 brought many changes throughout the year with raising the bar of professionalism and standards, we had one deputy who did not continue with the organization. This provided the opportunity for Deputy Chism to step into a full-time role vs. part-time.
- We identified through an informal staffing analysis that based on total service area, county needs, workload, and calls for service, we have a great need for 5 additional full-time deputy positions. Four to serve on patrol and one as an investigator. This truly is an officer safety concern for all of us at our current staffing levels. In 2021, our County Administrator and Board of County Commissioners tremendously assisted in dedicating enough funds to hire 2 new positions for 2022. This allows for a full-time investigator position as well as an additional position for patrol.

Policy

- Conducted a full review of policy and procedures to ensure all federal and state laws are covered, thereby ensuring law enforcement best practices are being met. It was found very quickly that many policy and procedures were not in place or were far below the standards of professionalism for a law enforcement agency.
- We created and issued a new Lexipol policy manual that meets and or exceeds standards for law enforcement best practices, and all state and federal requirements. This manual is continuously updated as new legislation is passed.

Training

- Assessed the status of training for all deputies and identified weaknesses and compliance issues.
- We changed training documentation procedures to ensure training is being properly documented and that an official policy exists for training and training documentation.
- We applied for training grant funds and received \$8,625 throughout the year.
- We received POST grant funds for \$17,000 to host a week long regional Crisis Intervention Training.
- We built a training programing that has brought all deputies into training compliance and is furthering their knowledge and education.

Supervision

- Determined effectiveness of current chain of command structure that includes reporting and Notification.
- Assessed the response strategies for critical incidents and high risk calls for service.
- To meet the needs of supervision for the Ouray County Sheriff's Office and to provide better accountability, we promoted our senior deputy to Corporal status. Additionally, this Corporal will oversee and coordinate various new programs instituted through policy. Some of these programs include Homeless Program, Reserve Deputy Program, Limited English Proficiency program, Exposure Control program, etc.

Discipline

- Conducted a full review of complaint investigation procedures and determined how citizen complaints were being handled. We implemented new policies and accountability procedures for all personnel investigations to include Ouray County Personnel Policies.
- Disciplinary actions are now clearly outlined and understood by all within the organization. We are following Ouray County Personnel Policies and our new Lexipol policy manual.
- In 2021, we conducted 5 personnel investigations, three of which were founded. All investigations and disciplinary action are thoroughly documented and retained according to our retention policies.

Evidence

- Conducted a full review of evidence handling policies and procedures and made changes for improvement and accountability where necessary.

- Full evidence audit has begun and we're currently in the process of transitioning to a new updated barcode system that will provide full chain of custody and location stamps.
- Implemented Lexipol policies that provide best practices for evidence storage, retention, release, and purge.

Reporting

- Conducted full review of incident reporting procedures to ensure best practices exist for 100% officer accountability.
- Assessed report review process to ensure all reports are reviewed and approved by a supervisor daily. Procedures for daily report review have been implemented.
- Implemented new procedures for investigation classifications, reporting and documentation procedures.
- Implemented new policies for follow-up review, investigation, and reporting. We have established timelines for required reporting.
- We implemented policies that now bring us in compliance with all State and Federal reporting.
- We implemented a NIBRS Coordinator within the Office who is now responsible for all State and Federal reporting for all Sheriff's Office cases. The Sheriff's Office had previously been non-compliant in this area for over 15 years. We are now fully compliant.

Operations

- Implemented official operational directives and procedures.
- We implemented a traffic safety and patrol program for county roads 24, 1, 10/8, 361, 14/14^a, 5 and Red Mountain Pass. This program remains flexible and new roads are included as complaints are received.
- Court Security – Utilizing a part-time security deputy to assist with very busy dockets.
- Forest Service Patrols – 2-3 runs per week depending on deputy availability and resources. Forest Service employees have reported that they had over 300 reported campfire issues during the restrictions.
- Provided Fire Safety and education while patrolling backcountry.
- Responded to almost weekly Mountain Rescue and missing hiker cases throughout the summer months.

- Conducted a full review of equipment issued and or belonging to the Sheriff's Office and have either purchased or received through the State the following:
 - 8 Axon Tasers, cartridges, and holsters
 - 8 Axon Body Worn Cameras and Storage
 - 10 Glock 17 Handguns, holsters, and lights
 - 8 Remington 870 shotguns acquired from the State
 - Evidence Processing Equipment
 - Private Property Enforcement signs
 - Basic patrol equipment
 - New body armor – replaced all outdated and expired vests
 - 2 new patrol vehicles
 - 4 Simunition Training Guns
- Received approval for \$65,000.00 in State grant funds for new dual band radios and mobile data computers.
- Applied for and received \$2000 in grant funding through the Department of Justice for new body armor.
- The 7th Judicial District Child Advocacy Center donated video and audio equipment to the Ouray County Sheriff's Office for investigative purposes. This equipment was installed free of charge to the County and is currently operational.
- The Ouray County Sheriff's Office received the State's Intoxilyzer 9000 instrument to better enhance our ability to conduct DUI investigations. This machine is housed in the Ouray County Sheriff's Office and available for use by all law enforcement agencies.
- Implemented many accountability measures for standard responses, report writing, vehicle maintenance, office cleanliness, evidence control, criminal investigations and personnel investigative procedures.

Community Policing, Special Events, Committees

- We are expanding the Neighborhood Watch Program throughout the county and are currently in the process of expansion to Log Hill Village and Elk Meadows.

- Created a Private Property Enforcement Campaign that assists with patrol and enforcement strategies, to minimize trespassing issues commonly seen throughout the county.
- Created the Backcountry Education Committee, comprised of the Sheriff/Undersheriff, citizen stakeholders, and regional agencies FS, CPW, CAIC, CSP, and CDOT.
- Created an Internal Affair review panel, consisting of Sheriff/Undersheriff and three outside (outside of Ouray County) law enforcement entities.
- Created a Community Advisory Committee that provides a forum where the Sheriff's Office can receive information and feedback regarding Ouray County law enforcement. The main objective is to improve the quality of services provided by Ouray County Sheriff's Office, and to further accountability and transparency.
- Created a Use of Force Review Board consisting of regional law enforcement representatives.
- With the assistance of the PIO, we have an excellent online presence that is enhancing our ability to communicate and build relationships of trust.
- Participated in the Mock Accident Event in Ridgway.
- Ride the Rockies.
- Hosted the first Annual National Night Out event on Log Hill, with an excellent turnout.
- Deputies provided security at the Fireman's Dance on July 3rd.
- Imogene Run
- Mount Sneffels Run
- Log Hill Hustle
- Worked with the State in having over 600 waste tires removed from a property on County Road 22.
- We hosted a waste tire drop off event for the County residents on October 9th at the County Fairgrounds. We collected 1000 tires during this event.
- We conducted a donation campaign for the Holidays, providing meals to families in need.
- In collaboration with Ouray PD and Ridgway Marshal's Office, we hosted our first annual Christmas "Shop with a Cop" event. Each law enforcement agency sponsored three kids and had the opportunity to shop with them for their families.



Ouray County Sheriff's Office Mission

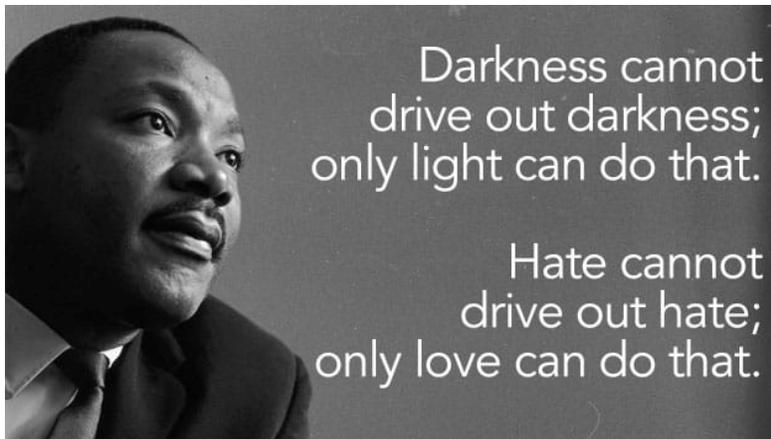
The Ouray County Sheriff's Office is committed to building positive relationships of trust and partnerships through community policing, and will continuously serve with integrity, professionalism, compassion, and accountability.

Ouray County Sheriff's Office Vision

Creating and maintaining high level professional standards, response, and investigations
Maintain relationships of trust and partnerships with county residents and visitors
Fiscal responsibility while advancing and progressing in a new era of law enforcement
Provide quality services by highly trained, educated, and dedicated deputies
Create an improved quality of life that includes a safer and more crime-free county

Ouray County Sheriff's Office Core Values

Integrity
Professionalism
Compassion
Accountability



Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against abuse or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or abuse and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession . . . law enforcement.

Ouray County Sheriff's Office Reporting Structure

To ensure the highest of professional standards and accountability, deputies write formal reports for all calls for service, which include not only calls generated through dispatch but also self-initiated activities. Every call for service requires a case number which is an identifying method of documenting activity. The reporting structure consists of three main report forms, namely, Minor Incident Report "MIR", Incident Report "IR", and Accident report "AR".

MIRs are utilized for documenting activity that does not rise to a criminal level such as directed patrols, security checks, civil issues or field interviews. IRs are used when documenting all criminal cases, lost and found property reports, runaways, missing persons, etc. ARs are written for all vehicle accidents that we might be involved in. Typically, this is a Colorado State Patrol function, however we are occasionally requested to handle these investigations and as such, provide the documentation required. Either the Sheriff, Undersheriff or their designee reviews all reports daily to ensure completeness of

response, and thorough documentation standards are met. Having this type of workflow structure ensures that proper response, investigation, documentation, and case completion occurs every time. This method of reporting enhances the likelihood of convictions on cases, and dramatically improves the Sheriff's Office's ability to respond to citizen complaints regarding law enforcement response. Without proper documentation of deputy activity, our ability to respond to citizen complaints and questions would be virtually impossible.



In addition to the aforementioned, this type of reporting structure provides the Sheriff's Office with critical information regarding criminal activity, locations of identified problems and offender information. This data can be highly useful for determining focal points for patrol, strategic law enforcement operations, and community policing program development. Information from the given data can provide officers with a better response to issues and more meaningful proactive activity to prevent crimes from occurring.

Ouray County Sheriff's Office Evidence

Ouray County Sheriff's Office utilizes two evidence technicians who are responsible for all property and items of evidence submitted for safekeeping or retention in the evidence vault. Guided by policy, deputies are required to properly collect, handle, package, document and submit items. All items submitted are thoroughly documented in a case report by the collecting deputy, and in an evidence log book by the evidence technicians. In 2021, the Sheriff's Office began preparations for transitioning to an automated barcoded system that will provide a higher degree of accountability and organization within the vault. The following is an account of activity within the evidence/property vault in 2021:

Evidence/Property Submitted Into the Vault	10
Evidence/Property Released From the Vault	11
Evidence/Property Disposed	12



Ouray County Sheriff's Office Training Program

Ouray County Sheriff's Office places significant emphasis on training that will increase knowledge and understanding, decrease complacency, build confidence and skills, reduce liability, and enhance ethical decision-making abilities. In 2021, Ouray County Sheriff's Office participated in a combined total of 795.88 hours of training, with an average of 113.7 hours per full-time deputy, to include Court Security. The following is a detailed account of 2021 trainings attended:

Training



Civil disputes - Water and property rights

Leadership training

Victim Rights

Child Abuse Investigation

Sex assault Investigation

Death Investigations

Crime Scene investigation

De-escalation



Anti-Bias

National Incident Based Reporting

CCIC/NCIC Coordinator training

Train the Trainer

Mental Health Co-Responder

Community Policing

Firearms

Defensive Tactics/Arrest Control

Driving

Policy training

Legislative Update

Use of Force

Mental Health Response

Interview and Interrogation

Search and Rescue

Missing Person Investigations

Wildlife Concerns

Child Death Investigation

Crisis Intervention Training

Intoxilyzer 9000 Certification

Intoxilyzer Instructor Certification

Report Writing

Search and Seizure

Taser

Active Shooter Training

Two Sheriff's/Undersheriff Conference
Training

Certified VIN Inspector Certification

Mock Accident – Emergency Management



According to POST requirements and policies beginning January 2015, certified officers are required to complete 24 hours of In-Service training each calendar year (Rule 28). This includes the mandatory disciplines of three high liability areas, Firearms, Driving, and Arrest Control. In addition, every full-time, part-time, and reserve peace officer in the State of Colorado, is required to train in Proper Holds and Restraints, Anti-Bias training, Community Policing / Community Partnership training and De-Escalation training.



The Ouray County Sheriff’s Office has dedicated significant time, money and energy to training, not just to adhere to a mandate or to be in compliance, but more so we can develop and maintain the trained and educated deputies the county deserves. As part of our official Vision Statement, we will continuously strive to “Provide quality services by highly trained, educated, and dedicated deputies”. The following is the official Policy Statement, Training Philosophy and Training Objectives from the Ouray County Sheriff’s Office Policy and Procedure manual:

Training

203.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

It is the policy of this office to administer a training program that will meet the standards of federal, state, local and POST training requirements. It is a priority of this office to provide continuing education and training for the professional growth and progressive development of its personnel. By doing so, the Office will ensure its personnel possess the knowledge and skills necessary to provide a professional level of service that meets the needs of the public.

203.2 PHILOSOPHY

The Office seeks to provide ongoing training and encourages all personnel to participate in advanced training and formal education on a continual basis. Training is provided within the confines of funding, requirements of a given assignment, staffing levels and legal mandates. Whenever reasonably possible, the Office will use courses certified by the Colorado POST Board or other regulatory or nationally recognized entities.

203.3 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the training program are to:

- (a) Enhance the level of law enforcement service to the public.
- (b) Increase the technical expertise and overall effectiveness of Office personnel.
- (c) Provide for continued professional development of Office personnel.
- (d) Assist in compliance with statutory requirements.



As we began developing our training strategy for the Sheriff's Office, one main goal was to have in-house instructors. By having local instructors, we are not dependent on other organizations for the training success of our deputies. We now have instructors in all high liability areas of training, which are as follows:

Sheriff Justin Perry – Firearms Instructor, Community Policing Instructor

Undersheriff Stroup – Firearms Instructor, Taser Instructor, VRA Instructor

Deputy Perez – Intoxilyzer Instructor, Driving Instructor

Deputy English – Arrest Control Instructor

Deputy Chism – Driving Instructor, Alcohol Server Instructor

2021 Special Events and Security Operations



Special events are an important part of Ouray County and occasionally deputies are requested to assist with security functions. In some circumstances small events only required minor road closures or occasional walk-throughs. Due to time frames involved and minimal security needs, these events were handled as a courtesy by the Sheriff's Office and considered public relation opportunities. The following are events that deputies participated in throughout the year:

- Fire Department Dance at Fellin Park
- National Night Out – Log Hill
- Mount Sneffels Half-Marathon
- Halloween Main Street Community Policing Event
- 9/11 Patriot Day ceremony and presentation by the police department, Sheriff's Office, fire department and EMS
- Internet Safety Classes for 7th and 8th graders
- Thanksgiving family donation event
- Christmas Shop with a Cop
- 4th of July backcountry education and engagement event
- Mock Accident scenario presented to Ouray and Ridgway schools
- Ride the Rockies
- Imogene Run
- Log Hill Hustle
- Law Enforcement Backcountry Forest Service Patrols

Community Policing/Community Relations



As stated in our Mission Statement, “The Ouray County Sheriff’s Office is committed to building positive relationships of trust and partnerships through community policing...” For the Ouray County Sheriff’s Office, we know the importance of building incredibly strong bonds of trust and relationships that promote and lead to partnerships. Together, the public and law enforcement can address problems in a much more effective manner than any individual deputy could ever achieve. The famous declaration by Sir Robert Peel of the London Metro Police Department in the 1800s rings just as true now as it did then, “The police are the public and the public are the police”.



Our policy manual states the following regarding community relations:

“It is the policy of the Ouray County Sheriff’s Office to promote positive relationships between office members and the community by treating community members with dignity and respect and engaging them in public safety strategy development and relationship-building activities, and by making relevant policy and operations information available to the community in a transparent manner.”



Ouray County Sheriff's Deputy Monty English visits with Jim and Pam Phelan of Albuquerque, New Mexico, near County Road 31 before they snowshoed to the Yankee Girl Mine. Sheriff's deputies are passing out pamphlets to educate backcountry users on safety tips amid a dangerous avalanche season and anticipated popularity due to COVID-19. Erin McIntyre – Ouray County Plaindealer

The Office of Sheriff is about the people and for the people, and community policing is the professional standard by which we police. With consistent collaboration, our vision of creating a better quality of life that is safer and with less crime, will become the reality. The following are community programs that we began and or participated, which are focused on a collaborative community approach to solving problems:

- Neighborhood Watch & Tire Disposal Events
- Backcountry Education Committee
- Community Advisory Committee
- Private Property Education Campaign
- Traffic Safety and Patrol Program
- Community Scholarship Program
- Wayfarer Program



In addition to the above programs, we believe in as much community engagement as possible, and work with state and local groups/partners to provide input or assistance. The following is a list of groups the Sheriff's Office worked with throughout 2021:

- Men Ending Rape Culture
- Safer More Affirming Communities
- Dolphin House/MDT
- Voyager – Serving as a board member (Undersheriff Stroup)
- Bridging the Gap
- Neighborhood Watch
- Log Hill group (specifically the County Road 22 region)
- Ouray Silver Mines – Working with the mines and focusing efforts on safety, traffic problems, community and backcountry awareness
- Juvenile Services – Teaching classes at Ridgway and Ouray Schools regarding internet safety and situational awareness
- Center for Mental Health – Board member (Sheriff Perry)
- Working closely with FS, CPW, Homeland Security, CDPHS, CBI, DHS, and the District Attorney's Office
- Six Basins
- Montrose SART (Sexual Assault Response Team)
- Ouray County Residents – Continuous in person contacts
- Undersheriff Stroup is serving on the Sheriffs of Colorado Legislative Committee along with serving as the State Representative for the Western Slope FOP
- Colorado POST – Board members
- Sheriff Perry serving on the Colorado Search and Rescue working group for implementation of new legislation and grant committee
- Sheriff Perry served on the State's Safe Gun Storage Committee with Attorney General Weiser
- Deputy English is serving as a deputy Coroner and member of the Colorado Coroners Association

Ouray County Victim Services Program

The victim services program is one of the most important divisions or resources for any policing agency. Our job as law enforcement officers is to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone, and quite frankly without an effective victim services program, our ability to do this is drastically decreased. Consistent and continuous monitoring and support provides the necessary means by which our victims remain safe and receive the dedicated service they deserve.



Ouray County law enforcement agencies attempted volunteer programs in the past, but these were sadly ineffective. The difficulties with volunteer programs in our region has been finding citizens who have the knowledge and experience dealing with and handling the situations many of our victims encounter. The time it takes to provide the necessary service often surpasses any volunteer's timeframe capabilities. In addition, very few volunteers desire to be in an on-call status, which is



a very critical aspect of a victim services program. Crimes against persons occur at all times of the days, nights, and holidays. In 2015, Ouray PD, Ouray Sheriff's Office, and Ridgway Marshal's Office teamed up with Tri-County Resources and created a Victim Services program tailored specifically for Ouray County. Through grant funds (Victim Assistance & Law Enforcement Fund grant), victim advocacy services were funded and provided to all who were in need.

In 2017, the program was primarily functioning through an amazing group of victim advocates within the Seventh Judicial District, who were on-call and highly responsive to the agencies of our county. Towards the middle of that year, Ouray county law enforcement agency executives came together and decided a more formal system-based program was essential to better serve our victims. The three presented to the Victim Assistance & Law Enforcement grant board and were successful in receiving over \$40,000 in non-matching funds to support our new victim services program, which included a part-time employee with guaranteed weekly hours. The format and structure of the Victim Services program has not changed since its inception and still functions with a part-time victim advocate. Recent discussions in 2021 resulted in a revitalization of structure and format to ensure proper services are being provided to all victims.



Ouray County Sheriff's Office Administrative Duties

The Ouray County Sheriff's Office handles many administrative details behind the scenes, which takes a high level of knowledge and understanding to accomplish. Our Administrative Deputy, Shelly Kuhlman, is an expert in this area and has extensive experience working in law enforcement. In 2021, Shelly transitioned our entire concealed handgun permit database to a newer and more powerful ID system. The data transfer had to be done manually and took an extensive amount of time (436 concealed handgun permits), but has proven to be a huge success and benefit to the agency. Below is a table showing specific administrative items completed in 2021 (not to include records management items):

Concealed Handgun Permit – Renewals	82
Concealed Handgun Permit – New Applicants	94
Civil Processes	111
VIN Inspections	12
Fingerprints	96

Ouray County Court Security



The global COVID -19 pandemic continued to affect the Courthouse operations in 2021. There were local and state emergency orders in place limiting the number of people being able to enter the courthouse building from January through April 12th. In March, people were able to attend in-person court proceedings and on April 12th people were able to start conducting in-person business transactions with the other Departments. During these first three months, the Security

Deputy contacted people outside of the building and either referred them to phone numbers or web sites, or if they qualified for entry, let them enter the building. Those entering the building had to wear face masks, social distanced and have their temperature taken. By August 2021, most of the restrictions were lifted except for the mask requirement that lasted through the end of 2021.

There were several court trials / jury trials scheduled throughout 2021. Most of the trials were either settled or were continued. There were four trials (two by court and two by jury) that took place during the year. Two additional trials had the summoned jurors report to the courthouse and after screening, the trials were postponed.

The Security Deputy was successful in stopping over 600 weapons from coming into the Courthouse. The total number of weapons was 623. Of that number, 579 were knives, 9 were handguns, 19 were canisters of pepper spray or mace, 2 were Tasers and the remainder were scissors, razor blades, credit card knives, belt buckle knives, Kubaton (a personal defense weapon) or pry bars.

The Security Deputy also assisted the Sheriff’s Office and the Courts by fingerprinting 16 people. The Deputy served two people civil process paperwork. The Deputy also took on an additional assignment of data entry of NIBRS (National Incident-Based Reporting System). Data entry became mandatory as of January 1, 2021. The Deputy was able to go back through August of 2019 through all of 2021, completed 2 ½ years of data entry. The Deputy also assisted in updating the Courthouse Emergency Plan and the Department Policy manual.

The Security Deputy does also monitor up to twenty-three cameras throughout the building during the shift. This year there were two additional part-time deputies to assist with jury trials, heavy court dates, and to cover the Primary Deputy during training and personal time.

The Deputy also completed over 40 hours training required for POST certification. The training was in the area of Defensive tactics, driving, firearms, victim rights, de-escalation, HIPPA, ADA compliance, and first aid. There were two occasions when students from the Ouray School toured the building and learned about court procedures. There were several weddings that took place in the courtroom as well, which added an additional level of security needs.

Ouray County Courthouse Security 2021 Review

	# of People	# of Days Worked	# of Weapons
January	253	14	1
February	233	15	3
March	373	19	7
April	686	17	55
May	891	16	67
June	1,144	18	107
July	1,172	16	84
August	1,072	18	75
September	1,184	18	83
October	756	15	40

November	717	16	42
December	743	18	59
Total	9,224	200	623

Ouray Mountain Rescue Team/Fire/EMS/Road & Bridge

It is hard to put into words the incredible job that our Mountain Rescue Team, Volunteer Fire Departments, EMS, and Road & Bridge does. Their dedication to this county and the people they serve is of the highest level. They train regularly and excel in every capacity, only to be able to selflessly serve the people with quality and consistent response. It is an honor for Ouray County Sheriff's Office to be able to work with such fine women and men who without hesitation, rush into danger and compromising situations to save lives and property.





Ouray County Sheriff's Office 2021 Calls for Service

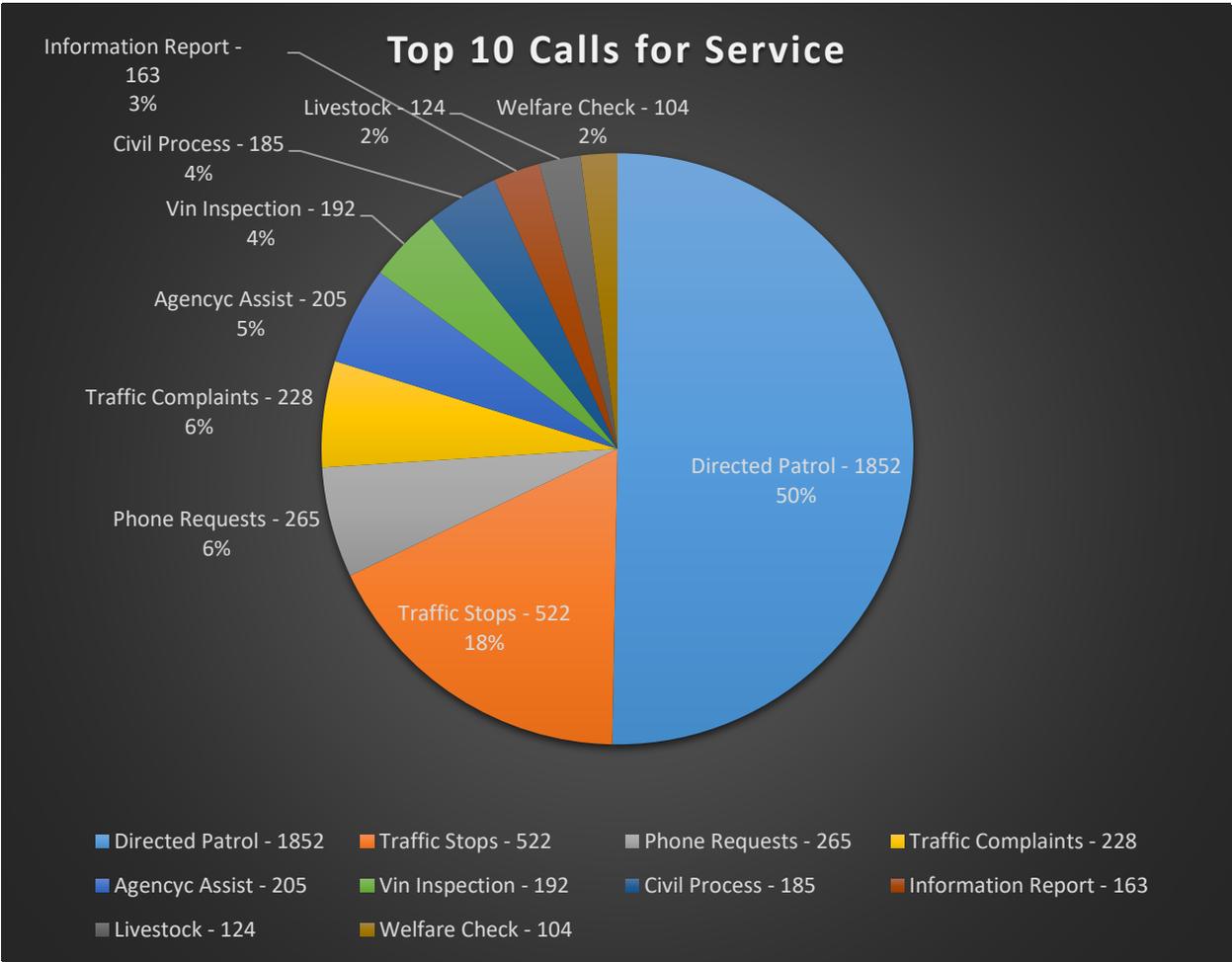
2021 Nature of Call	2021 Total Calls Received
911 Call	8
911 Hang Up	59
911 Misdial	30
911 Open Line	46
Abandoned Vehicle	30
Accident	75
Agency Assistance	205
Alarm	70
Alarm Medical	1
Allergy	1
Animal Bite	18
Animal Deceased	6
Animal Noise	8
Animal Problem	8
Animal Stray	35
Animal Vicious	2
Animal Welfare	8
Assault	2
Assault Cold	1
Assist Motorist	66
Bear	8
Breathing	9
Burglary	3
Business Contact	1
Car Camping, RV Camping	2

Cardiac Arrest	8
Chest Pain	3
Citizen Assist	70
Civil Matter	48
Civil Process	185
Civil assist, Keep the Peace	12
Code Enforcement	2
Controlled Burn	2
Convulsions	9
COPS	16
Court Security	1
Criminal Mischief	7
Directed Patrol	1852
Disaster	1
Disturbance	19
Domestic Violence	13
Drowning	1
Drugs	2
DUI	1
Fall Victim	21
Field Interview	16
Fire	54
Fireworks	5
Fish & Game	1
Follow up	34
Foot Patrol	1
Found Property	15

Fraud	32
Harassment	17
Head Pain	1
Heart Pain	6
Hemorrhage	5
Impounded Vehicle	1
Information Report	163
Injured Person	13
Intoxicated Person	1
Litter/Pollution/Public Health	6
Livestock	124
Lockout	6
Lost Property	21
Medical Emergency	14
Missing Person	3
Natural Disaster, flood,	4
Noise, loud music	6
Overdue Party	32
Parking Problem	20
PD Accident / Assist	65
Phone Request	265
Prisoner Relay	10
Property Damage	2
Recovered Vehicle	2
REDDI Report	76
Restraining Order Violation	3
Ride Along	5

Search Warrant	1
Security Check	50
Sex Assault	1
Sex Offender Registration	1
Sick	6
Smoke Investigation	22
Special Event	2
Stabbing	1
Stolen Property	1
Stroke	3
Suicide Attempt	1
Suspicious Person/Circumstance	41
Theft	23
Theft-Motor Vehicle	3
Threatening	11
Traffic Complaint	228
Traffic Hazard	60
Traffic Offense	1
Traffic Stop	522
Trespassing	47
Unconsciousness	9
Unknown Medical	3
Unwanted Person	12
Utility Problem	2
Vagrancy	6
Victim Notification	5
VIN Number Inspection	192

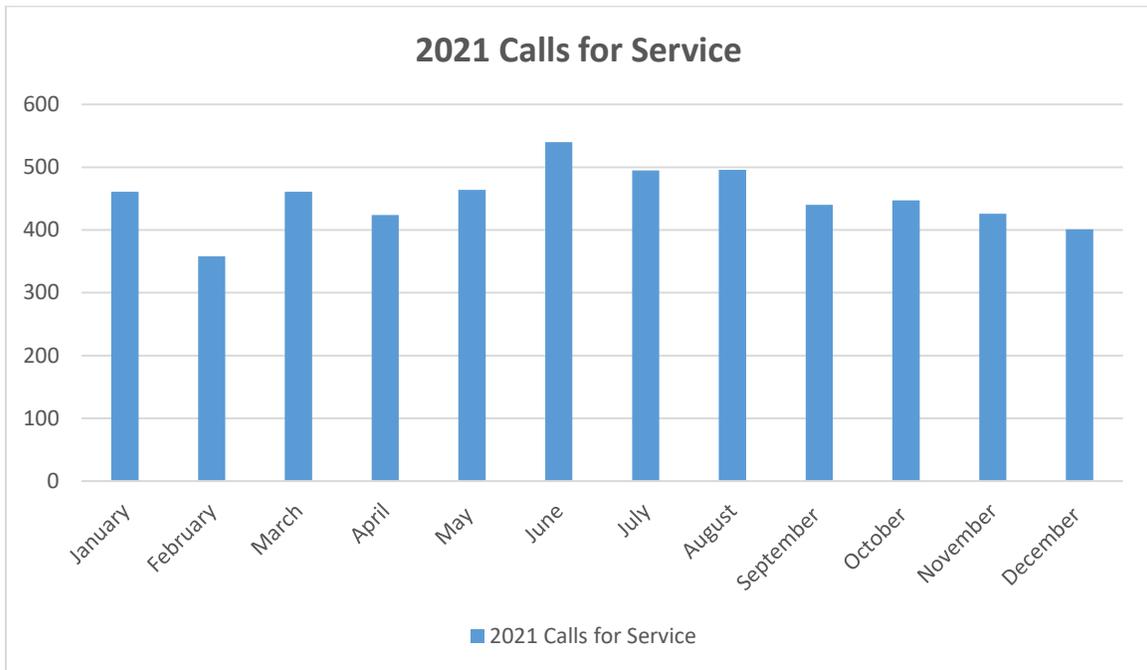
Wanted Person	3
Weapon Offense	19
Welfare Check	104
Wildlife	29
Total	5413



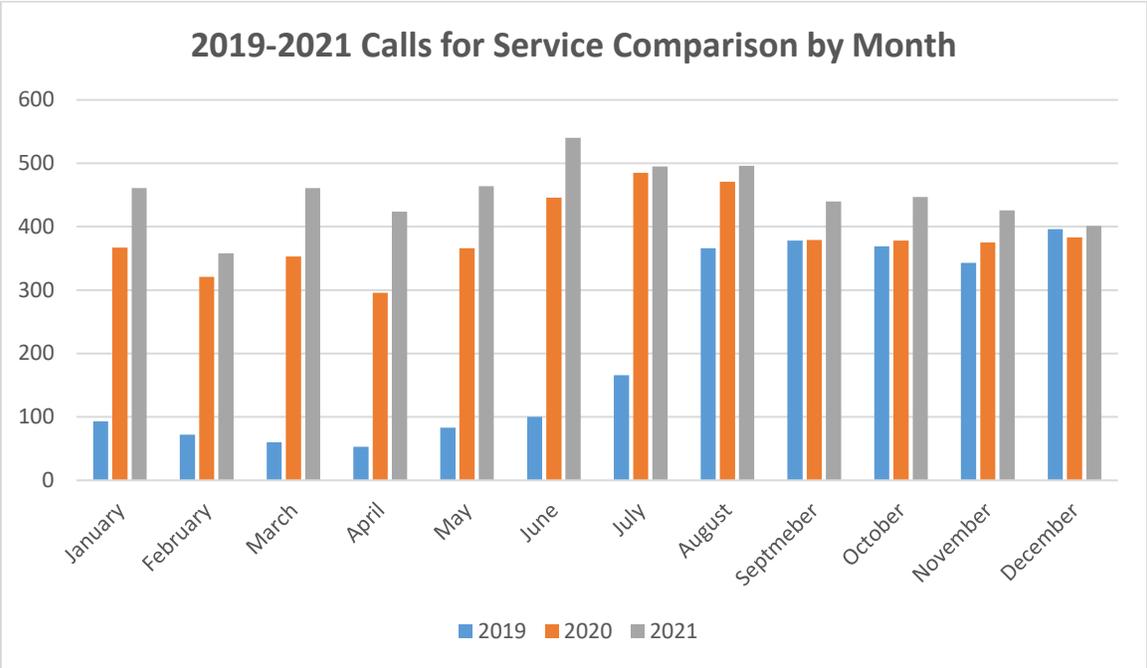
MONTHLY CALLS FOR SERVICE

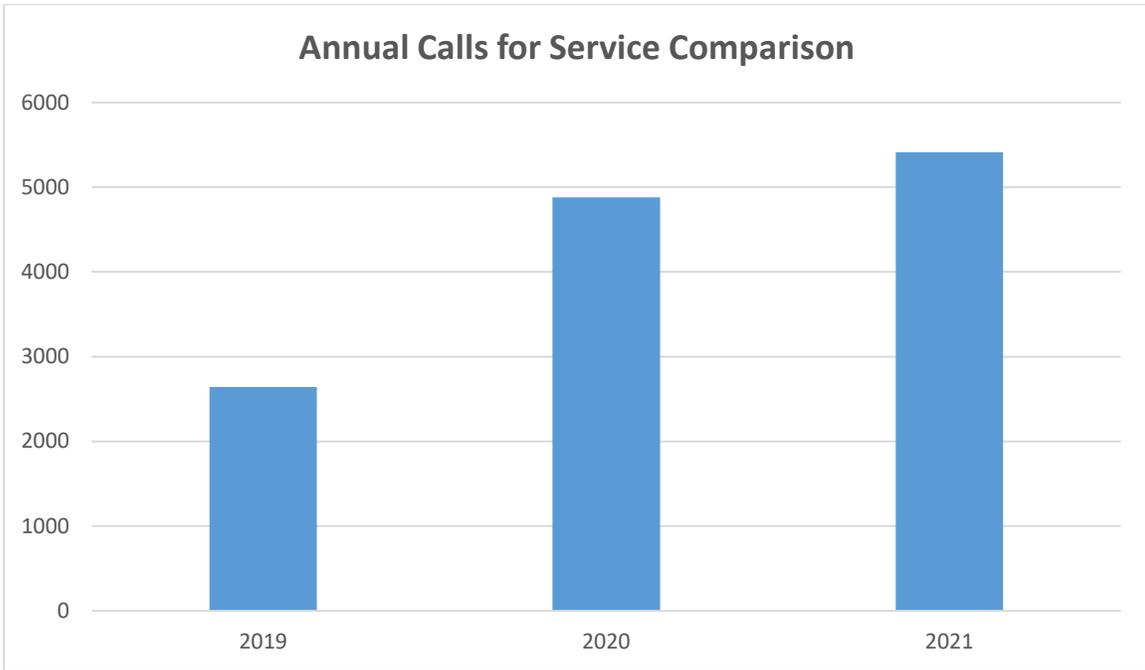
2021

January	461
February	358
March	461
April	424
May	464
June	540
July	495
August	496
September	440
October	447
November	426
December	401



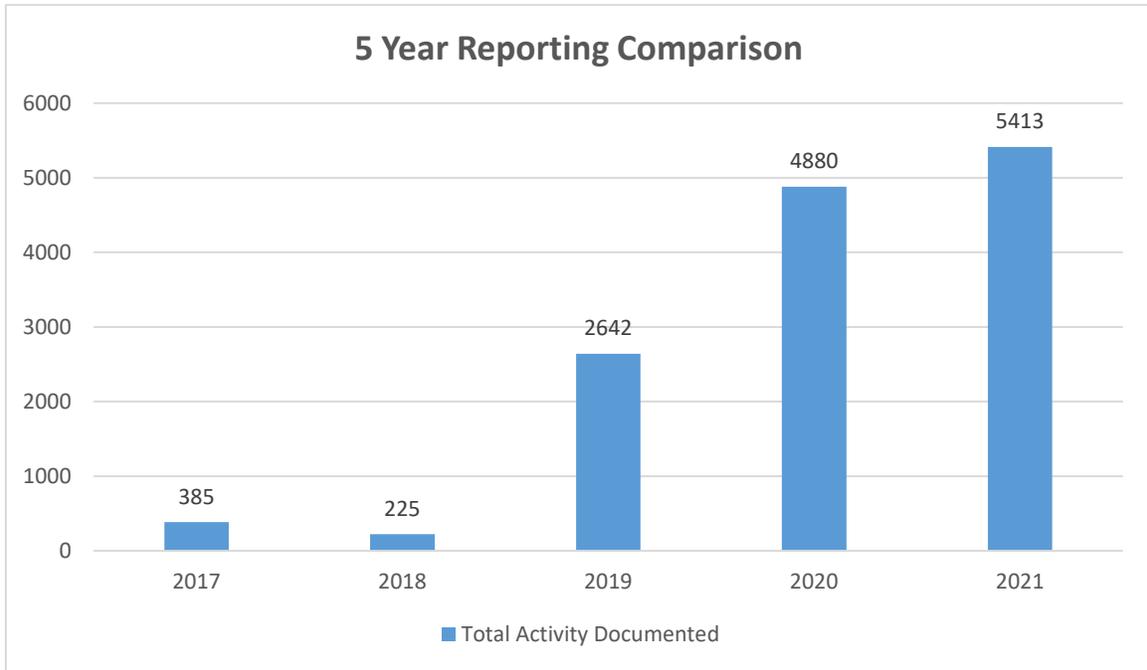
2019-2021 Monthly Calls for Service			
Months	2019	2020	2021
January	93	367	461
February	72	321	358
March	60	353	461
April	53	296	424
May	83	366	464
June	100	446	540
July	166	485	495
August	366	471	496
September	378	379	440
October	369	378	447
November	343	375	426
December	396	383	401
Phone Calls	163	260	
Total	2642	4880	5413





2019/2021 Variance				
Year	Calls for Service	Year	Calls for Service	Percentage Change
2019	2642	2021	5413	+105%

As is shown in the above tables and graphs, the Ouray County Sheriff’s Office has seen a 105% increase in calls for service from 2019 through 2021. This includes all law enforcement activity from dispatched calls for service, to self-initiated work.



The above graph represents the reported law enforcement activity by Ouray County Sheriff’s Office over the past five years. In 2017 and 2018, there were only 610 law enforcement activities reported in an official law enforcement report. In 2019 and part of 2020, many case numbers were obtained for law enforcement activity, however a review of the reports written and reporting structure has shown discrepancies between the case numbers and amount of reports written. As stated in the Reporting Structure section of this report, Ouray County Sheriff’s Office is now a 100% reporting agency. This means, if there are 5,413 reported incidents throughout the year, there are 5,413 reports to go with it. This provides the critical accountability needed for any professional law enforcement agency.

2019 Nature of Call	2019 Total Calls Received	2021 Nature of Call	2021 Total Calls Received	% Change From 2019-2021
911 Call	6	911 Call	8	+33%
911 Hang Up	12	911 Hang Up	59	+391%
911 Misdial	9	911 Misdial	30	+233%
911 Open Line	13	911 Open Line	46	+253%
Abandoned Vehicle	21	Abandoned Vehicle	30	+42%
Accident	71	Accident	75	+5%
Agency Assistance	120	Agency Assistance	205	+70%
Alarm	78	Alarm	70	-10%
Alarm Medical	0	Alarm Medical	1	+100%
Allergy	0	Allergy	1	+100%
Animal Bite	4	Animal Bite	18	+350%
Animal Deceased	2	Animal Deceased	6	+200%
Animal Noise	4	Animal Noise	8	+100%
Animal Problem	7	Animal Problem	8	+14%
Animal Stray	14	Animal Stray	35	+150%
Animal Vicious	0	Animal Vicious	2	+200%
Animal Welfare	7	Animal Welfare	8	+14%
Assault	5	Assault	2	-60%
Assault Cold	0	Assault Cold	1	+100%
Assist Motorist	28	Assist Motorist	66	+135%
Bear	12	Bear	8	-33%
Breathing	0	Breathing	9	+900%
Burglary	2	Burglary	3	+50%
Business Contact	0	Business Contact	1	+100%
Car Camping, RV Camping	0	Car Camping, RV Camping	2	+200%
Cardiac Arrest	0	Cardiac Arrest	8	+800%
Chest Pain	0	Chest Pain	3	+300%
Citizen Assist	41	Citizen Assist	70	+70%
Civil Matter	13	Civil Matter	48	+269%
Civil Process	94	Civil Process	185	+96%
Civil assist, Keep the Peace	7	Civil assist, Keep the Peace	12	+71%
Code Enforcement	1	Code Enforcement	2	+100%
Controlled Burn	0	Controlled Burn	2	+200%
Convulsions	0	Convulsions	9	+900%

COPS	9	COPS	16	+77%
Court Security	3	Court Security	1	-66%
Criminal Mischief	11	Criminal Mischief	7	-36%
Directed Patrol	382	Directed Patrol	1852	+384%
Disaster	0	Disaster	1	+100%
Disturbance	13	Disturbance	19	+46%
Domestic Violence	14	Domestic Violence	13	-7%
Drowning	0	Drowning	1	+100%
Drugs	1	Drugs	2	+100%
DUI	0	DUI	1	+100%
Fall Victim	0	Fall Victim	21	+2100%
Field Interview	7	Field Interview	16	+128%
Fire	30	Fire	54	+80%
Fireworks	1	Fireworks	5	+400%
Fish & Game	0	Fish & Game	1	+100%
Follow up	4	Follow up	34	+750%
Foot Patrol	2	Foot Patrol	1	-50%
Found Property	8	Found Property	15	+87%
Fraud	9	Fraud	32	+255%
Harassment	11	Harassment	17	+54%
Head Pain	0	Head Pain	1	+100%
Heart Pain	0	Heart Pain	6	+600%
Hemorrhage	0	Hemorrhage	5	+500%
Impounded Vehicle	0	Impounded Vehicle	1	+100%
Information Report	38	Information Report	163	+328%
Injured Person	0	Injured Person	13	+1300%
Intoxicated Person	4	Intoxicated Person	1	-75%
Litter/Pollution/Public Health	3	Litter/Pollution/Public Health	6	+100%
Livestock	77	Livestock	124	+61%
Lockout	1	Lockout	6	+500%
Lost Property	11	Lost Property	21	+90%
Medical Emergency	54	Medical Emergency	14	-74%
Missing Person	2	Missing Person	3	+50%
Natural Disaster, flood,	0	Natural Disaster, flood,	4	+400%
Noise, loud music	4	Noise, loud music	6	+50%
Overdue Party	14	Overdue Party	32	+128%
Parking Problem	8	Parking Problem	20	+150%
PD Accident / Assist	82	PD Accident / Assist	65	-20%
Phone Request	163	Phone Request	265	+62%
Prisoner Relay	2	Prisoner Relay	10	+400%

Property Damage	7	Property Damage	2	-71%
Recovered Vehicle	1	Recovered Vehicle	2	+100%
REDDI Report	66	REDDI Report	76	+15%
Restraining Order Violation	0	Restraining Order Violation	3	+300%
Ride Along	2	Ride Along	5	+150%
Search Warrant	0	Search Warrant	1	+100%
Security Check	38	Security Check	50	+31%
Sex Assault	1	Sex Assault	1	0%
Sex Offender Registration	0	Sex Offender Registration	1	+100%
Sick	0	Sick	6	+600%
Smoke Investigation	8	Smoke Investigation	22	+175%
Special Event	1	Special Event	2	+100%
Stabbing	0	Stabbing	1	+100%
Stolen Property	0	Stolen Property	1	+100%
Stroke	0	Stroke	3	+300%
Suicide Attempt	0	Suicide Attempt	1	+100%
Suspicious Person/Circumstance	46	Suspicious Person/Circumstance	41	-10%
Theft	14	Theft	23	+71%
Theft-Motor Vehicle	1	Theft-Motor Vehicle	3	+200%
Threatening	8	Threatening	11	+37%
Traffic Complaint	161	Traffic Complaint	228	+41%
Traffic Hazard	49	Traffic Hazard	60	+22%
Traffic Offense	5	Traffic Offense	1	-80%
Traffic Stop	483	Traffic Stop	522	+8%
Trespassing	27	Trespassing	47	+74%
Unconsciousness	0	Unconsciousness	9	+900%
Unknown Medical	0	Unknown Medical	3	+300%
Unwanted Person	7	Unwanted Person	12	+71%
Utility Problem	5	Utility Problem	2	-60%
Vagrancy	2	Vagrancy	6	+200%
Victim Notification	1	Victim Notification	5	+400%
VIN Number Inspection	59	VIN Number Inspection	192	+225%
Wanted Person	1	Wanted Person	3	+200%
Weapon Offense	4	Weapon Offense	19	+375%
Welfare Check	69	Welfare Check	104	+50%
Wildlife	18	Wildlife	29	+61%
Total Overall	2642		5413	+105%

Internal Affair Investigations

1007.2 POLICY

The Ouray County Sheriff's Office takes seriously all complaints regarding the service provided by the Office and the conduct of its members. The Office will accept and address all complaints of misconduct in accordance with this policy and applicable federal, state, and local law, municipal and county rules, and the requirements of any collective bargaining agreements (CRS § 24-31-305). It is also the policy of this office to ensure that the community can report misconduct without concern for reprisal or retaliation.

1007.3 PERSONNEL COMPLAINTS

Personnel complaints include any allegation of misconduct or improper job performance that, if true, would constitute a violation of office policy or of federal, state or local law, policy or rule. Personnel complaints may be generated internally or by the public. Inquiries about conduct or performance that, if true, would not violate office policy or federal, state or local law, policy or rule may be handled informally by a supervisor and shall not be considered a personnel complaint. Such inquiries generally include clarification regarding policy, procedures or the response to specific incidents by the Office.

1007.3.1 COMPLAINT CLASSIFICATIONS

Personnel complaints shall be classified in one of the following categories:

- Informal - A matter in which the Sheriff is satisfied that appropriate action has been taken by a supervisor of rank greater than the accused member.
- Formal - A matter in which a supervisor determines that further action is warranted. Such complaints may be investigated by a supervisor of rank greater than the accused member or referred to the Sheriff/Undersheriff, depending on the seriousness and complexity of the investigation.
- Incomplete - A matter in which the complaining party either refuses to cooperate or becomes unavailable after diligent follow-up investigation. At the discretion of the assigned supervisor or the Sheriff/Undersheriff, such matters may be further investigated depending on the seriousness of the complaint and the availability of sufficient information

Personnel investigations that determine substantiated findings result in some form of disciplinary action, which can range from verbal or written reprimands, remedial training, or up to termination. The following is an account of total investigated Informal and Formal citizen complaints against deputies and the findings.

2021 Deputy Complaints	Investigations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated
5	5	3	2
2020 Deputy Complaints	Investigations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated
0	0	0	0