



STATE OF THE AGENCY REPORT

ST. TAMMANY PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE ||| 2021



**KEEPING ST. TAMMANY
PARISH SAFE AND STRONG**



82% SOLVE RATE
100% BETTER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

WOMEN PROTECTING US DAILY
8 TRAFFIC, 30 SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

180 MEN & WOMEN
72 PATROL DEPUTIES, 60 DETECTIVES, 10 MENTORS

733 EMPLOYEES

752
26,010 EVENTS
GENERATED THROUGH THE DISPATCH CENTER MONTHLY

Dear Fellow Citizens of St. Tammany Parish,

We've outfitted all deputies with body cameras to ensure transparency and accountability. We've trained deputies on how to manage mental health calls, an escalating challenge for all police departments. To ensure retention and to acquire the top recruits, we have invested in our personnel with improved wages and benefits. We've added strategically located new police districts to improve response time and serve as a deterrent to crime. We continue to provide resource officers to 27 public schools to further protect our children and give parents peace of mind. Our technology is upgraded regularly to guarantee that officers have the best crimefighting equipment in their fight against crime. We have invested in a new mobile command center that now allows us to manage any crisis from the scene. And we have made all these additions and improvements remaining fiscally responsible and budget conscience. In fact, our financial officers and finance department have been lauded with multiple honors for smart money management and fiscal responsibility.

Your Sheriff,



Sheriff Randy Smith

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 1120, Covington, LA 70434





**REMAINING
ACCOUNTABLE
AND TRANSPARENT TO
OUR COMMUNITY**



360 New Body Cameras Promote Accountability and Transparency

Body cameras are tools that help ensure police accountability and increase transparency. Sheriff Randy Smith has outfitted all deputies with body cameras, and he has established clear criteria for the use of body cameras and access to the video. All deputies have had extensive training on the cameras' mechanisms and operations. The records management tool is embraced by the St. Tammany Parish Sheriffs and has become a smart way to document actions on the scene of a response.

Technology Upgrades Advance the Department's Ability to Share Information and Data

EVIDENCE.COM

In efforts to promote an open environment, Evidence.com streamlines the process for collecting video footage, and helps increase the transparency and accountability of the collection of evidence. The cloud-based digital evidence management system allows:

- Better management and easier reviewing and sharing of digital evidence
- Captured video from body cameras to be quickly uploaded
- St. Tammany Parish residents to submit video evidence

GovQA

GovQA is a premiere, government-focused software program that provides a central portal to track all Public Records Requests and data exchange, while promoting better transparency and accountability for the citizens of St. Tammany Parish as well as between agencies. The benefits of the nationally recognized program are:

- Pertinent files and information may be easily requested
- Duplication of requests are avoided
- A record of information for all parties is maintained with efficiency and transparency
- Data and information is more secure





Enhanced Training Prepares Deputies for Modern Day Policing

Under Sheriff Smith, STPSO analyzed and adopted new policy on use of force and de-escalation techniques. Now, the agency has certified Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trainers on staff providing crisis intervention and de-escalation training for all enforcement personnel. The STPSO added additional diversity and sensitivity training for all employees during the 2020 Fiscal Year. This training helps:

- Deputies identify an individual in a mental health crisis
- Ensure the public and Sheriff employees are treated respectfully and appropriately

DIVISIONS

- Corrections & Maintenance**
- Maintenance
- Corrections
- Visitation
- Inmate Mail & Money
- Enforcement**
- Operations
 - Communication
 - Court Security
 - Reserves
 - Narcotics
 - Special Operations
 - Traffic
 - School Resource Officers
- Criminal Patrol
- K9
- Finance & Administration**
- Criminal Records
- Civil
- Property Tax
- Sales Tax
- Occupational Licenses
- Information & Communication Systems
- Purchasing

- Investigations & Professional Standards**
- Investigations
 - Investigations
 - Property
 - Persons
 - Special Victims Unit
 - Major Crimes
 - Financial Crimes
- Crime Lab
- Training Center
- Human Resources
- Internal Affairs
- Public Affairs**
- Public Affairs

**INVESTING IN A
SKILLED, DEDICATED
TEAM OF
CRIMEFIGHTERS**





Highly Competitive Employee Benefits and Appreciative Recognition Help With Recruitment and Retention

BENEFITS PACKAGE

We offer our employees a highly competitive benefits plan.

Some of our benefits include:

- Employee Premium Health and Dental Insurance (100% paid by the STPSO)
- Annual Leave
- 12 Paid Holidays
- Pension Plan
- Extended Illness Bank
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Term Life Insurance Policy (100% paid by STPSO)
- Deferred Compensation Plan (The Sheriff will match any contribution by the employee up to 5%)

IN-HOUSE TRAINING

The St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office provides in-house state-of-the-art training for prospective and current employees.

The benefits of offering in-house training:

- Meets specific needs of the communities
- Boosts morale and instills tradition in our deputies
- Helps the agency save money
- Maintains the standard of performance needed for our K9s
- Enables proper training for transferred employees (Traffic Division)
- Teaches deputies different maneuvers over a 12-day course before getting on an agency motorcycle (Traffic Division)
- Offers its own POST Academy for employees and other agency cadets

HEALTH CARE

The St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office and Ochsner Health Network developed a partnership to reduce health care costs for services at Ochsner Health System facilities, including its partner hospitals, Slidell Memorial Hospital and St. Tammany Parish Hospital. STPSO is reinvesting savings garnered through the partnership to offset the cost of health care for employee dependents and to support the organization's operational budget. Through this partnership, the STPSO is saving approximately \$500,000 annually.

Benefits of Ochsner Anywhere Care:

- Implementation of a virtual clinic by the Sheriff's Office, saving the agency \$60,000
- Three virtual wellness centers for all employees to use
- Connection of employees to licensed health care providers for a diagnosis or treatment plan without leaving home or office

RECOGNITION

Through the creation of the Years of Service Ceremony and the Deputy of the Quarter Program, Sheriff Smith recognizes employees and boosts morale.

- Years of Service Ceremony: recognizes employees who have hit service milestones
- Deputy of the Quarter Program: recognizes outstanding deputies and their efforts to go above and beyond the call of duty

The St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office employs 733 employees, both full-time and part-time – 288 Enforcement, 181 Corrections, 49 Dispatchers, 39 Court Security, and 20 Civil Deputies. There are 124 administrative employees and 32 part-time employees.



**STAYING VIGILANT
AND VISIBLE TO
PROTECT AND SERVE**



Highly Visible New Third District Station Will Serve Over 100,000 People Daily

Responding to the needs of the public, Sheriff Smith relocated the 3rd District Station to Highway 59 near Interstate 12 in order to better meet the needs of the public. The highly visible complex is directly across the street from Fontainebleau Junior High and High School. Rapid population growth in west St. Tammany and the increase in traffic on the north and south arteries of the west side of the parish demanded more attention from the department.

The new location helps:

- Improve response times
- Centralize manpower
- Increase visibility south of Interstate 12



New, Life-Saving Measures Employed to Protect Our Parish

SAFE TRADE LOCATIONS

For the safety of our citizens, Sheriff Randy Smith has designated “Safe Trade” spots at all St. Tammany Parish Sheriff’s Office facilities. The designated trade areas will allow citizens and visitors to complete exchanges or Internet sales under the watchful eye of video surveillance.

NARCAN

There is a rise of opioid use and overdoses in St. Tammany Parish. In response, our deputies have been equipped with Narcan, a drug that counteracts the effects of opioids in those who overdose. A single-use dose of NARCAN nasal spray is administered when a deputy:

- Knows or suspects an opioid overdose case, and/or
- An individual is accidentally exposed

NARCAN nasal sprays are obtained from Florida Parishes Human Services Authority at no cost to the STPSO.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

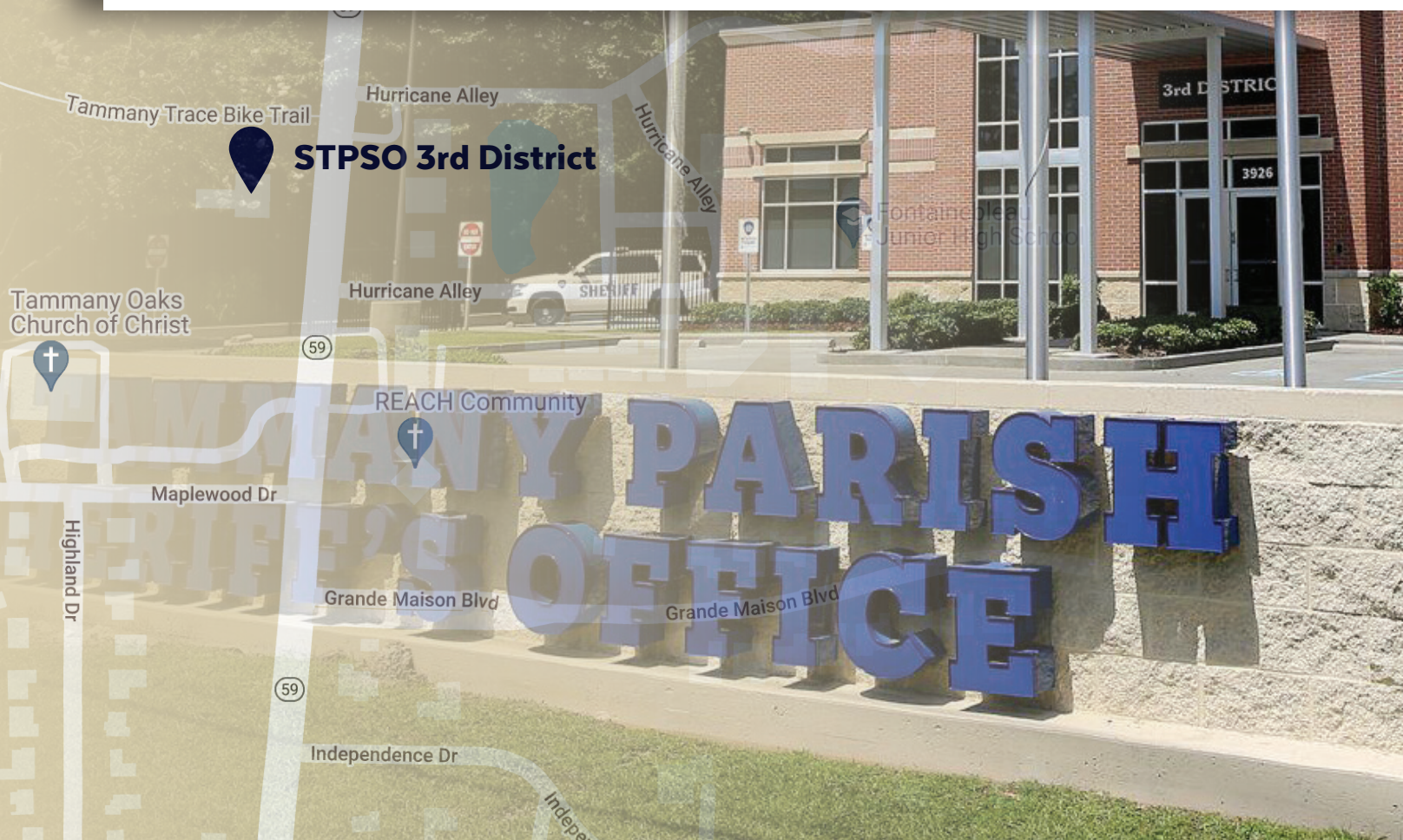
To keep our students safe, Sheriff Smith, in partnership with the St. Tammany Parish School Board, assigned School Resource Officers (SRO) to 27 public schools and one private school in St. Tammany. The benefits of SRO are:

- Law enforcement officers are specifically trained, commissioned and armed to work in collaboration with schools to maintain a safe learning environment and develop special programs
- Law enforcement officers develop positive relationships with students
- Law enforcement officers act as a resource for students, parents, faculty, and staff

JAIL RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS

The Sheriff’s Office is committed to providing education, rehabilitation and re-entry support to individuals incarcerated at the St. Tammany Parish Jail. While creating better and safer communities, the goal is to help inmates become productive citizens. We also help families break the generational cycle of crime and addiction, thus reducing recidivism and the financial drain on St. Tammany Parish and the state of Louisiana. A multifaceted approach is used to reduce recidivism by:

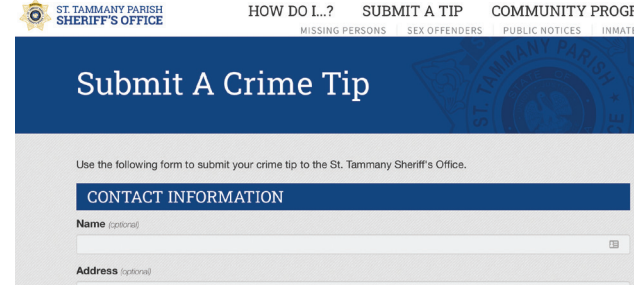
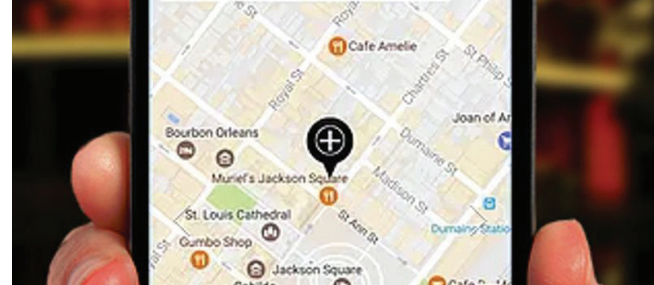
- Changing an offender’s thinking process
- Addressing substance abuse, and anger and violence issues
- Increasing education, and teaching marketable and life skills
- The entire unit, employees and operations are funded by the Department of Corrections, and we are the HUB for the Florida Parishes





**PROVIDING
CUTTING-EDGE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
TECHNOLOGY**





Easier Online Access, Smartphone App Dispatching, and Cutting-Edge Software and Hardware Strengthen the Department's Connectivity and Forensic Policing

IMPROVING THE AGENCY'S TECHNOLOGY

To better serve the citizens of St. Tammany Parish, Sheriff Randy Smith has dramatically improved and upgraded technology within the agency. The agency offers more services online as a convenience to residents and visitors. By going to STPSO.com, a user may:

- Pay tickets online
- Purchase police reports
- Report an anonymous crime
- Request a visit from a deputy
- Access current inmate roster with photos, charges and bond amounts
- GovQA (Public Records Request)

IN THE FIELD, CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Sheriff Smith streamlined the agency's day-to-day operations by employing a new records management system, jail management system and computer-aided dispatch system.

Aside from acquiring better management software, the Sheriff reduced costs and the high-end capital drain of a department helicopter, replacing it with high-performance commercial drones. The benefits of flying drones rather than a helicopter are:

- Significant cost savings
- Faster deployment
- Faster arrival to a scene
- Direct streaming of the drone footage to our mobile devices

TASK FORCE APP & ONLINE CRIME TIP SUBMISSION

Through the use of the state-of-the-art smartphone app, residents can report crime and suspicious activity taking place in real time. Residents can also take advantage of the 'submit a tip' feature on our website to provide the Sheriff's Office with important details. The benefits of the app include:

- Drastically reducing response time for deputies
- Providing deputies with exact GPS directions
- Providing deputies with photos and/or videos in reports

CRIME LAB ACCREDITATION & LIMS

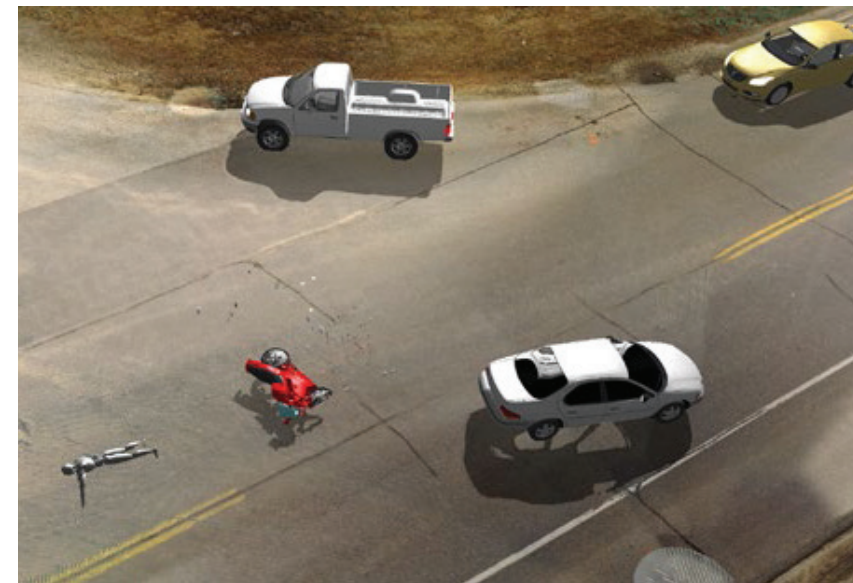
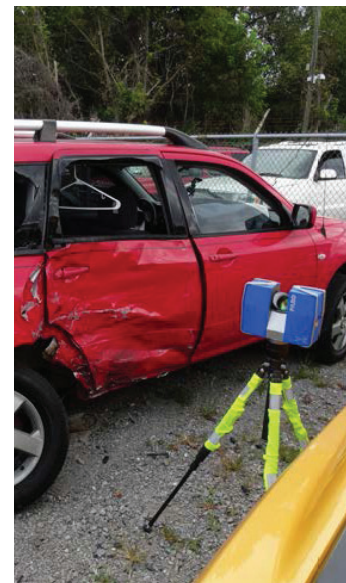
The Crime Lab is accredited under ISO/IEC 17025 in the field of forensic testing. The certificate of accreditation is issued by the ANSI/ASQ National Accreditation Board in the fields of drug analysis and trace analysis.

The new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) protects the integrity of the evidence, while streamlining how evidence is received from external stakeholders and then forensically analyzed. It assists with effectively managing data and workflows, while tracking evidence through the judicial process.

USING 3D CAPTURE TO STRENGTHEN INVESTIGATIONS

FARO is one of the world's leading manufacturers of precise 3D measuring and imaging technologies for law enforcement. The St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office has outfitted its investigations unit with FARO 3D Scanners.

The FARO 3D reality capture technologies help investigators, reconstructionists, prosecutors, and facility managers serve the justice system and promote safety. The equipment digitizes crime scenes, and helps analyze and better interpret forensic data. The technology also allows our Sheriff's Department to digitize the details of buildings so that we may develop safety plans for emergencies.





NEW VEST

- Designed for long wear and better mobility
- Designed with more versatility
- Worn under or over uniforms
- Holds items when worn over uniform
- Allows for easy access in intense situations
- Relieves the weight from a deputy's lower back

OLD VEST

- Worn over uniforms
- No room for tactical items
- Items are all worn around the waist adding strain to a deputy's lower back

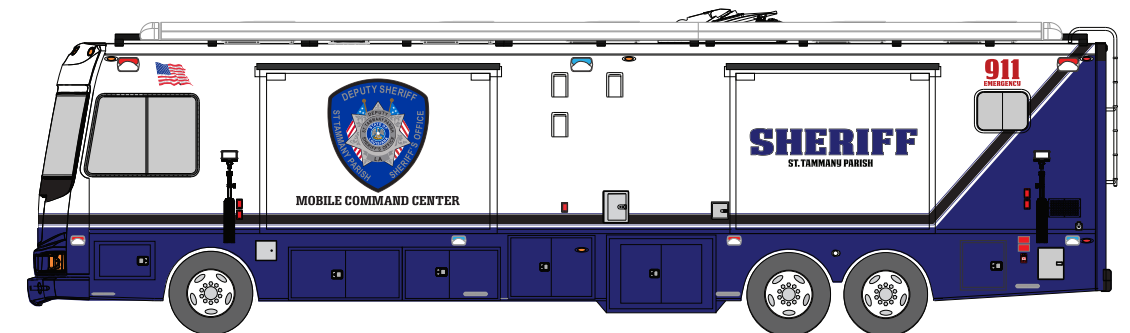
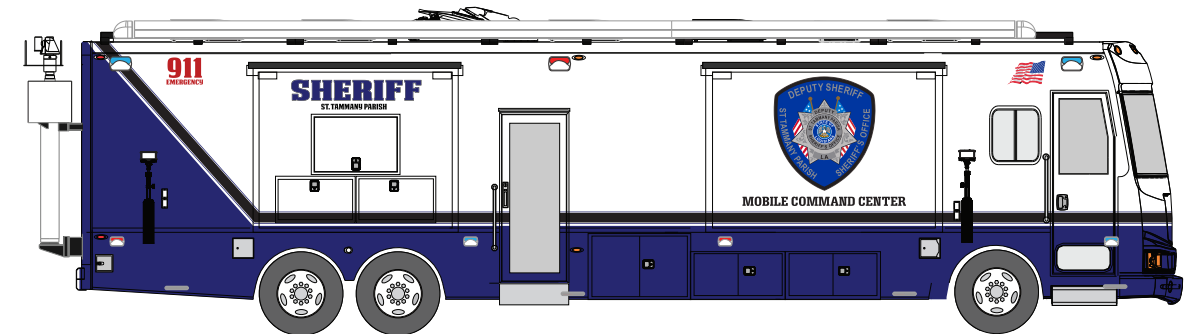
Newly Designed Body Armor Shields Deputies and Improves Health

Today's state-of-the-art body armor takes between 20 and 40 layers of Kevlar to stop a bullet, and those layers of heavy material often result in a weight of 10lbs or more. By the time a deputy adds his tactical gear including radio, taser, gun, cuffs, and more, the weight of a vest can rise to over 30lbs. The long-term effects used to result in significant insurance claims to cover back strains and injuries to deputies. But Sheriff Randy Smith's decision to upgrade body armor to newly designed vests that evenly disperse the weight will mean more comfort for deputies, fewer claims against insurance, and more productivity and efficiency when using gear.

From Community Outreach to Crisis Control, Our New Command Center Serves As a Hub for Mobile Operations

Our agency's first Command Center went in the field in 1997. Outdated and archaic, it was replaced this year with a new, state-of-the-art Command Center that addresses the needs and technology required to fulfill a law enforcement mission. The benefits of our new Command Center are:

- More interior workspace
- Enables the operation of traffic safety and community relations
- Serves as a vital asset during emergencies
- Deters violation of traffic laws and increases public awareness through location visibility





**A FISCALLY
RESPONSIBLE OFFICE
WISELY INVESTS
TAX DOLLARS**



Grant Funding Saves Taxpayer Dollars and Smart Money Management is Lauded By a Fiscal Watch Agency

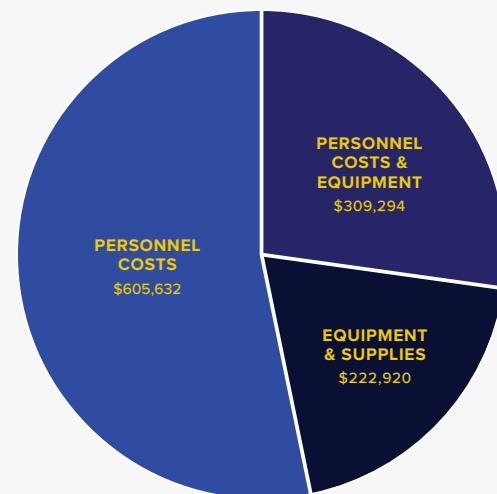
STPSO RECEIVES \$7.1 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDING

Each year, we seek out alternative funding to lessen the financial burden placed on taxpayers. This year, the STPSO gained a total of \$7.1 million in grant funding from various Federal Grants.

The United States Department of Justice’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) allows the STPSO to continue deputies’ assignments dedicated to community policing and community relations. Through the grant:

- The STPSO can retain deputies assigned to our Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and Highway Enforcement Unit (HEU), created by Sheriff Smith, to address mental health cases and drug trafficking in our community.
- CIT deputies are trained to address matters related to mental health and substance abuse by learning de-escalation techniques and other community resources that help those who suffer with substance abuse and mental health disorders to recover.
- The HEU narrows in on traffic enforcements and intercepts traveling criminals mostly on the interstate systems who travel into and through St. Tammany Parish. Sheriff Randy Smith created this unit to reduce drug trafficking, human trafficking and illegal immigrants along the I12/I59/I10 corridor.

Estimated Use of Grant Funding



Estimated FY2021 \$1,137,846 use of federal grant revenue.

STPSO’S AUCTION GENERATED \$374,503

The Sheriff’s Office held its annual surplus auction in February, generating record sales. The auction was held online due to COVID-19, but opened the sales to a broader audience helping us generate \$374,503. Money raised from the surplus auction will be used to purchase new equipment. The items sold come from various divisions from within STPSO and other items forfeited by seizure.

AWARD-WINNING FINANCES

Once again the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff’s Office earned both the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for developing the agency’s budget and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for producing the agency’s Comprehensive Annual Fiscal Report. Both honors are presented annually by the Government Finance Officers Association, a major professional association that services nearly 20,000 appointed and elected government officials and finance practitioners. These two awards are a testament to the finance department’s daily determination to serve the residents of St. Tammany in the most diligent, professional and transparent manner possible.

ST. TAMMANY PARISH SHERIFF’S OFFICE EXECUTIVE STAFF



RANDY SMITH
SHERIFF



JEFF BOEHM
CHIEF DEPUTY



BRET IBERT
DEPUTY CHIEF
Patrol / Operations / Tax Collections



GEORGE COX
DEPUTY CHIEF
Training / Investigations / Human Resources
Crime Lab / Legal / Records / Civil / IS



DOUG SHARP
DEPUTY CHIEF
Corrections / Maintenance



ANDREA COSSE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER





MISSION STATEMENT

The St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office is committed to upholding the public's trust, and protecting life and property within our community. We will utilize sound judgment, reason and creativity to solve the problems we face, using proactive planning and responsive problem solving. We recognize the badge of our office as a symbol of public faith, and we accept it, as a public trust.

www.stpsso.com