

# 2024 ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT



## **Message from Sheriff David J. Lucero**

The Pueblo County Sheriff's Office remains committed to transparency, community partnership, and continuous improvement in the services we provide. This Accountability Report outlines our efforts, achievements, and challenges throughout the year as we work to ensure the safety and well-being of all who live, work, and visit Pueblo County.

## **OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

The Office of Professional Standards continues to play a vital role in supporting our accreditations by ensuring compliance with established policies and procedures. It upholds the highest standards of accountability and transparency while addressing employee discipline through thorough and impartial investigations. This commitment reinforces the integrity of the Sheriff's Office and fosters public trust in our organization.

In 2024, the Office of Professional Standards received 46 citizen complaints, which were carefully reviewed and categorized based on their findings. Of these complaints:

- 9 Sustained
- 4 Not Sustained
- 28 Unfounded
- 4 Exonerated
- 1 Closed by Mediation

Additionally, there were 4 cases of *Misconduct not based on Complaint*, reflecting the office's proactive approach to ensuring accountability and adherence to policy.

Alongside citizen complaints, the office completed 18 internal investigations and the results of these internal reviews were:

- 13 Sustained
- 4 Not Sustained
- 1 Unfounded
- 0 Exonerated

These outcomes highlight the office's commitment to maintaining transparency, upholding professional standards, and addressing both internal and external concerns to ensure accountability within the Sheriff's Office.

# **LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU**

## **PATROL DIVISION**

Under the leadership of Captain John Romo, the Patrol Division responded to approximately 33,232 calls for service in 2024, a decrease from 36,378 in 2023, while continuing to provide coverage across Pueblo County's expansive 2,400-square-mile jurisdiction.

In addition to responding to calls for service, deputies engaged in proactive policing efforts, including focused traffic enforcement initiatives. In 2024, they conducted 1,077 targeted traffic missions, resulting in 4,942 traffic stops and 1,776 citations. These efforts underscore the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office's ongoing commitment to promoting roadway safety and protecting all members of the community.

To strengthen operational effectiveness and community engagement, the Bureau onboarded several new patrol deputies through its Police Training Officer (PTO) program. These additions brought fresh insight and enthusiasm to the patrol division, enhancing overall capabilities and underscoring the agency's ongoing commitment to professional growth and development.

In 2024, the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) Law Enforcement Bureau proudly maintained its accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), underscoring the Bureau's commitment to excellence.

This accomplishment is a testament to the professionalism, dedication, and hard work of its personnel. CALEA assessors commended the Bureau for its operational effectiveness and consistent adherence to nationally recognized law enforcement standards.

In 2024, the Patrol Division experienced an 8.65% reduction in total calls for service and a 4.59% decrease in criminal calls for service.

A comparative breakdown of our top call types for total calls for service in 2024 versus 2023 is provided below.

<b>Category</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Burglary	150	116
Criminal Mischief	249	263
Fraud	240	214

<b>Calls for service</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Harassment	159	155
Shoplifting	169	206
Shots Fired	200	145
Theft	423	312
Theft from Auto	162	165
Theft-Automobile	182	168
Trespassing	222	241

## **SOARR TEAM**

In 2024, the Sheriff’s Office Aerial Response & Rescue (SOARR) Team remained a vital operational resource, responding to 32 callouts, completing 110 flights, and logging over 14 hours of flight time. Operating a fleet of 13 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), the team supported diverse missions such as crime scene documentation, traffic crash investigations, public event surveillance, missing person searches, and other urgent operations. The deployment of UAV technology significantly improved investigative efficiency and reduced on-scene time for deputies.

## **PUEBLO COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE SWAT TEAM**

In 2024, the Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office SWAT team responded to five critical callouts, including agency assists for search warrants and fugitive apprehensions. These operations ranged from illegal marijuana cultivation investigations to high-risk warrant service.

Beyond tactical deployments, the SWAT team actively engaged in several community outreach events, offering the public a firsthand look at their specialized equipment and armored vehicle to promote



## **PCSO OFFICE SWAT TEAM**

transparency and understanding of SWAT operations. Committed to ongoing advancement, the team continually refines its training and strategies to meet evolving societal and operational challenges, ensuring mission readiness with minimal disruption.

Collaboration with specialized units such as K9 and SOARR (drone operations) enhances mission effectiveness, while the integration of a certified Bomb Technician provides vital explosive breaching capabilities in critical scenarios. Additionally, the Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) team—, comprised of a registered nurse, a paramedic, and two EMT-IV certified personnel—trains monthly alongside SWAT to ensure medical readiness and rapid response in high-risk environments.

## **PUEBLO METRO BOMB SQUAD**

During 2024, the Pueblo Metro Bomb Squad responded to 36 calls for service. These calls were of various natures, such as the collection and destruction of old explosives, checking on suspicious packages, the collection and disposal of chemicals with explosive properties, assisting CBI in looking for dynamite a suspect was selling out of his residence in Walsenburg.

The Pueblo Metro Bomb Squad proactively worked with CSU-P and Dutch Clark Stadium to do pre-event safety sweeps for multiple sporting events and dignitary events.

Members of the Pueblo Metro Bomb Squad attend training two times per month to practice their skills. We have 3 Certified Bomb Technicians, and they have attended advanced training to include advanced explosive destruction techniques and advanced hand entry training. The team is working on getting 2 more members of the bomb team certified.

## K9 UNIT

The Pueblo County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit plays a critical role in enhancing public safety and operational efficiency. Patrol canines are trained to search buildings and open areas for suspects, reducing the risk to deputies and serving as a force multiplier by acting as a cover officer. They are exposed to high-risk scenarios, including gunfire and chemical



munitions, and are invaluable in SWAT missions. Throughout the year, the K9 Unit responded to numerous calls involving suspect tracking, narcotics detection, and article recovery. In many instances, suspects were located or surrendered without incident due to the presence and commands of the canine teams.

The unit currently consists of dual-purpose and single-purpose K9s, each trained in specific law enforcement tasks. K9 EDO, along with new additions K9 Zues and K9 Gunner—both Belgian Malinois—are trained in tracking, area searches, suspect apprehension, handler protection, and drug detection (excluding marijuana and mushrooms). In March 2024, SRO K9 Loki, a two-year-old Springer Spaniel, was added as a single-purpose narcotics detection dog used primarily in schools, correctional facilities, and the jail. These canines have proven effective in locating illegal substances during vehicle searches and identifying areas within correctional facilities where contraband may have been exchanged.



The K9 Unit is widely respected across the community and by surrounding agencies that rely on their expertise for operations requiring canine support. The team regularly trains with other law enforcement partners including the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Colorado Springs Police Department, and Woodland Park Police Department. As active members of the National Police Canine Association (NPCA), the unit's handlers have maintained certifications in their respective disciplines through 2024. Canine teams rotate weekly for on-call duties, ensuring 24/7 availability for critical incidents.

# K9 UNIT

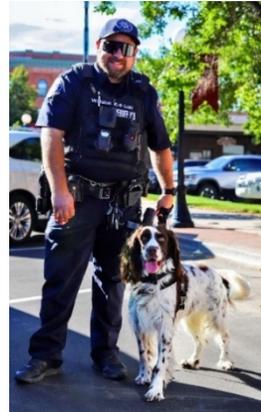
## **The Team is comprised of the following personnel**

Lt. Joshua Rude, K9 Gunner – K9 Unit Commander. Lt. Rude is also the Day Shift Patrol Watch Commander.

Sgt. Benito Martinez, K9 EDO – They remain assigned to the Dayshift Detention Facility and are also attached to the STAT Team.

Deputy Chris Carter, K9 Zues- They are assigned to the Graveyard shift patrol division and are both attached to the SWAT team.

Deputy David Weldon, K9 Loki- They are assigned to the dayshift patrol division, SRO.



## **2024 K9 Unit Utilization Summary**

The Pueblo County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit was deployed a total of 107 times in 2024. These deployments supported a variety of operations beyond routine patrol functions and demonstrated the unit's versatility and community impact.

### **Breakdown of K9 Deployments:**

- 8 Community Outreach Demonstrations
- 47 Drug Detection Responses at Pueblo County Jail, DOC, and Federal Prison
- 9 Agency Assists with Pueblo Police Department and Colorado State Patrol
- 7 Agency Assists with DEA and U.S. Marshals
- **Total Specialized Utilizations (non-patrol related): 36**

### **Call Out Times by Shift:**

- 64 Day Shift (06:00 – 14:00)
- 26 Afternoon Shift (14:00 – 22:00)
- 17 Graveyard Shift (22:00 – 06:00)
- **Total K9 Call Out Responses: 107**

## **D.A.R.E. SRO-School Resource Officers**

The Pueblo County Sheriff's Office School Resource Officer (SRO) Program is comprised of five deputies, one sergeant, and one lieutenant dedicated to fostering safe and supportive learning environments across District 70 schools. SROs work in close partnership with administrators, educators, and staff to ensure student safety while addressing criminal activity reported within school settings.

While they are responsible for investigating violations of the law and making arrests, when necessary, SROs also serve as trusted mentors—striking a balance between enforcement and positive engagement with students through guidance, support, and relationship-building.

A key component of the SRO program is teaching the DARE curriculum to 5th-grade students. In 2024, the team successfully delivered this program to 757 students across District 70. The curriculum promotes informed decision-making and aims to prevent drug use, gang involvement, and violent behavior. SROs also provide instruction on internet safety, sexting awareness, bullying prevention, and active shooter preparedness.

Their impact extends beyond the classroom, with officers regularly participating in extracurricular activities, athletic events, and school dances to build meaningful connections with students and their families.

Enhancing the program's capabilities, both the SRO lieutenant and a deputy are supported by certified drug-detection K9s, "Gunner" and "Loki," who assist with proactive school drug sweeps. Serving more than 20 schools, the SRO team responds to calls for service and promotes a consistent and visible law enforcement presence.

By combining education, mentorship, and safety enforcement, the SRO program plays a critical role in Pueblo County's efforts to maintain a secure and positive school environment.

# **COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY-PUEBLO**

## **CAMPUS SAFETY**

The Pueblo County Sheriff's Office provides contracted law enforcement services to Colorado State University Pueblo (CSU Pueblo), staffing the campus with a Lieutenant



and eight Deputies who provide 24/7 coverage year-round. Deputies are dedicated to protecting life and property while fostering a safe environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Much of the patrol work is done on foot and by bike to enhance visibility and accessibility. In 2024, deputies responded to 1,303 calls for service—a 44.3% increase

from 903 calls in 2023.

Beyond law enforcement, the Sheriff's Office collaborates with the CSU Pueblo Clery Manager to report Clery Act crimes, as mandated by the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990. This ensures compliance with federal reporting requirements and contributes to the Annual Safety Report published each October. On any given day, the campus hosts over 6,000 individuals, including students, staff, faculty, contractors, and community members, reinforcing the importance of maintaining a strong, visible public safety presence.

The Sheriff's Office also plays an active role in educating the campus community about emergency preparedness and safety procedures. Deputies regularly engage with students and staff, and the assigned Lieutenant participates in CSU Pueblo's "Pack Cares" meetings to address student concerns and offer behavioral guidance. The partnership reflects a shared commitment to student well-being and the continued mission to ensure a safe, positive learning environment.

# **INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION**

In 2024, the Investigations Division was comprised of a Captain, a Detective Lieutenant, five Major Crimes Detectives, two Crime Scene Detectives, one full-time and one part-time High-Tech Crimes Unit (HTCU) Detective, and one part-time Cold Case Detective. These investigators handle complex cases, support trial preparation with the District Attorney, and frequently provide expert courtroom testimony.

Collaboration is essential, with detectives assigned to the DEA Task Force (two detectives), overseeing a Narcotics Division that includes a Special Investigations Sergeant and four detectives who are also sworn members of the U.S. Marshals Violent Offender Task Force and participate in BATTLE (Beat Auto Theft Through Law Enforcement). Many of these seasoned detectives also share their expertise by instructing at the Pueblo Law Enforcement Academy and training new law enforcement hires.

The Investigations Lieutenant reviews all case reports to decide if further investigation is needed, often sending cases back to patrol for follow-up. Cases involving serious factors like suspect ID, violence, or high-value loss are assigned to detectives, who also support patrol and handle major incidents. Weekly meetings track case progress, aiming to provide thorough investigations into successful prosecution, with detectives receiving ongoing specialized and legal training.

Notable achievements for 2024 are as follows:

## **BATTLE-Related Statistics (2024):**

- 121 stolen vehicles recovered
- 78 individuals arrested

## **U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) Arrests:**

- 24 arrests with direct involvement from Special Investigation Narcotics (SIN) Detectives

## **Additional Warrant Arrests (Non-USMS Related):**

- 28 arrests executed by investigators

In 2024, the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office investigated 23 marijuana-related cases, seizing 388 plants and about 78.8 pounds of processed products. Seven grow sites were dismantled, with one disrupted by burglary, and eight illicit operations were stopped.

## INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

Six firearms were seized, and two arrests made—one warrant-based and one for sales to minors—with one active investigation ongoing. Additionally, three patrol cases involved marijuana-related offenses including DUID and juvenile distribution.

In 2024, approximately 7,069 fentanyl pills were seized, with around 42 synthetic opioid investigations conducted throughout the year. Four narcotics-related investigations remain active. Additionally, law enforcement seized an estimated 541.6 gross grams of suspected methamphetamine. Several search warrants and arrests were executed involving large-scale distribution of narcotics and marijuana, many of which resulted in the recovery of firearms, which were found in the possession of suspects.

**"Solving the Unsolvable: Detectives Use Genetic Genealogy to Identify Victims and Suspects,"** Unidentified female DNA was submitted for Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy, successfully leading to the identification of the decedent's family. Additionally, the victim of a 2022 homicide was identified through this method, which subsequently led to the identification of a suspect in the case.

Throughout the year, detectives made significant strides in complex investigations, including managing and providing critical support in multiple officer-involved shooting incidents. They successfully recovered \$80,000 in stolen property linked to three separate burglaries, resulting in an arrest, and secured \$30,000 for a victim in a fraud case. These efforts are only a small part of the detectives' overall dedication to conducting thorough investigations and ensuring justice is served for the community.

## **CIVIL/FUGITIVE**

The Civil/Fugitive Unit is comprised of one Sergeant, three Detectives, two Criminal Justice Records Technicians (CJRTs), and one Fugitive CJRT. In accordance with Colorado state law, all Sheriff's Offices are mandated to maintain a Civil Unit. The Pueblo County Sheriff's Office is responsible for serving a wide range of legal documents throughout Pueblo County, including civil papers, domestic-related documents, court orders, subpoenas, and writs.

<b><i>Document Type</i></b>	<b><i>Received</i></b>	<b><i>Change from 2023</i></b>	<b><i>Served</i></b>	<b><i>Service Rate</i></b>	<b><i>Change from 2023</i></b>
Civil Documents	8,655	+289	5,339	61.68%	-62.7%
Protection Orders	671	+85	418	62.7%	+60.0%
Writs of Restitution (Evictions)	320	+16	—	—	—
Pueblo DA Subpoenas	354	+66	152	42.94%	+39.93%
Other DA/Public Defender Subpoenas	286	+120	153	53.50%	+47.59%

This data highlights a steady increase in civil documents received and served in 2024, reflecting growing demands on the Civil Unit. While service rates on civil documents saw a slight decline, protection orders and subpoenas demonstrated improved service efficiency compared to the previous year. During 2024, the Civil Unit generated a total of \$179,914.38 in fees.

The Fugitive Unit is additionally tasked with processing warrant information, executing warrant arrests, and coordinating transportation for out-of-state inmates. Transportation services for fugitives are conducted by PCSO Detectives, private vendors, or through the

## CIVIL/FUGITIVE

Northwest Shuttle System. From September 9-11, 2024, the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office proudly hosted the 45th Annual Northwest Shuttle Conference, which brought together over 100 attendees from 24 states. The conference focused on training designed to reduce extradition costs and strengthen interagency relationships.

### 2024 Extradition Statistics – Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

<b>Category</b>	<b>Count</b>
Extraditions Incoming	21
Extraditions Outgoing	30

<b>Transported By</b>	<b>Number of Transports</b>	<b>Cost</b>
PCSO/Northwest Shuttle	15	\$21,381.57
Private Vendor	6	\$22,350.00
Total	21	\$43,731.57

This summary reflects the volume and costs associated with fugitive extraditions during 2024, emphasizing the agency's efforts to efficiently manage resources while maintaining public safety.

## **CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMITS**

In 2024, the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office Concealed Handgun Permit Unit implemented an online application system accessible through [pueblosheriff.com](http://pueblosheriff.com). This platform allows applicants to conveniently apply for services, submit payments, upload required documentation, and schedule appointments—all in one place. The online system streamlines the process, ensuring applicants receive efficient, timely, and user-friendly service.

Throughout 2024, the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office Concealed Handgun Permit (CHP) Unit processed a total of 3,272 permits. The breakdown of permit activity is as follows:

<b>Permit Type</b>	<b>Number Processed</b>
New Concealed Handgun Permit	1,637
New Concealed Handgun Permit – Active Military	54
New Concealed Handgun Permit – PCSO Employee	15
Renew Concealed Handgun Permit	1,259
Renew Concealed Handgun Permit – PCSO Employee	23
Address Change	39
Name Change	21
Replacement for a LOST or DESTROYED Permit	35
Replacement for a STOLEN Permit	10
Separated Law Enforcement	179
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,272</b>

This volume reflects continued public interest and demand for concealed handgun permits, as well as the CHP Unit's commitment to efficient and secure permit processing.

## CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMITS

Out of the 3,272 total permits processed in 2024, 2,248 applicants chose to voluntarily disclose their gender. The breakdown is as follows:

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number of Applicants</b>
Male	1,548
Female	680
X (Non-Binary/Other)	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,248</b>

This data represents approximately **69%** of total applicants who chose to report their gender. The remaining applicants either declined to respond or left the field blank.

# TRAINING DIVISION

In 2024, Sergeants Josh Ragan and JC Williams, Master Deputy Paul Padilla, Kylee Taylor, and Training Specialist Kathy Mora were assigned to the Training Unit. Training staff coordinated and delivered a total of 20,898 in-service training hours agency-wide,



meeting the annual requirements set by Colorado P.O.S.T. Additionally, 1,303 hours of instruction were provided for the Pueblo Law Enforcement Academy (PLEA), resulting in eight deputy graduates. The Detention Division trained six new-hire groups totaling 52 deputies, each receiving 160 hours of orientation, adding up to 8,320 hours. Nine deputies joined Patrol, including three with prior experience,

completing 960 hours of onboarding training.

In-service training covered a broad array of essential topics, including Arrest Control, Building Searches, Active Shooter Response, Emergency Driving, Ethics, PREA, Report Writing, CPR/First Aid, Civil Disputes, Fleet Operations, Body-Worn Cameras, Taser/VR, Safety and Emergency Procedures, and Suicide Risk Awareness and Prevention. Employees also attended various outside training courses throughout the year. These external opportunities allowed staff to gain specialized knowledge, stay up to date with best practices, and return with fresh skills that enhance agency operations and performance.

The Pueblo County Sheriff's Office also hosted several specialized courses in 2024, including Incident De-Escalation, ALERRT Active Shooter Response, Chop Shop Investigations, and Crisis Intervention. These offerings reflect the agency's continued investment in developing capable, well-prepared personnel. The 2024 training budget was set at \$159,000 for Law Enforcement and \$54,000 for Detention—demonstrating a strong commitment to professional growth, readiness, and excellence in service.



## EVIDENCE/PROPERTY

The Evidence/Property Section is staffed by two civilian-appointed Evidence Custodians who are primarily responsible for the lawful intake, storage, retrieval, and release of items designated as evidence in criminal investigations, as well as property that is not considered evidentiary. This section operates under the supervision of the Administrative Services Captain and a POST-certified Administrative Services Sergeant. The Evidence Custodians adhere to strict industry standards for evidence handling and documentation as established by the International Association for Property and Evidence (IAPE). In addition to managing evidence, this section is also responsible for overseeing the agency's Quartermaster and Office Supply operations, including the ordering, issuance, and tracking of equipment and supplies.



Since the Evidence/Property Section was remodeled in 2012, due to the installation of a new shelving System, other changes have been steadily occurring.



In compliance with policy, audits of all firearms, narcotics, and currency are conducted semi-annually, and a full inventory of all property is completed annually. Evidence is retained based on case requirements—some indefinitely, such as in

homicide investigations, while others await court dispositions or involve abandoned property without an identified owner. A destruction cage within the Property/Evidence Section separates active cases from those marked for disposal, helping ensure timely case closure. The section also utilizes refrigeration and freezer units for items requiring temperature-controlled storage.

Since implementing the Evidence On Q records management system in late 2012, approximately 61,875 evidence items have been submitted. This stand-alone, state-of-the-art document management system has greatly improved accuracy, efficiency, and traceability in evidence handling. In 2024, a total of 3,048 evidence items were submitted, slightly down from 3,162 in 2023. During the same year, 4,159 items—including firearms,

## **EVIDENCE/PROPERTY**

drugs, and abandoned property—were destroyed, a significant increase from the 2,558 destroyed in 2023. An additional 3,563 long-term evidence items previously stored in the original 2,406-square-foot Pueblo Plex “igloo” facility were destroyed or auctioned following court orders. A second igloo was acquired in 2024 and is now being used for records storage.

In 2024, 201 items met the criteria to be converted to County property and auctioned, compared to 281 items in 2023. Additionally, 213 items were returned to their rightful owners, down slightly from 246 in the previous year. The Sheriff’s Office remains committed to maintaining the integrity, security, and accuracy of its evidence and property handling procedures in accordance with best practices and legal standards.

# **DETENTION BUREAU**

## **JAIL SECURITY**

The Pueblo County Sheriff's Office Detention Bureau services local, state, and federal law enforcement entities. The Detention Bureau strives to operate a clean, safe, and secure environment for individuals that are incarcerated. An average of 453 offenders are housed



on a daily basis (average 361 males and 92 females). The facility holds individuals arrested on certain misdemeanor and felony as well as a limited number of municipal warrant arrestees. Staffing for the jail and judicial includes 114 deputies, and 29 detention specialists. Four lieutenants and 17 sergeants provide supervision for jail staff. A total of 8,174 incident reports were generated in 2024 for events occurring within the jail. These included 3,443 informational reports, 1,716 reports documenting negative inmate

behavior, 449 medical-related events, 318 hospital transports, 101 inmate fights, 99 inmate assaults, and 58 incidents involving arrestees attempting to introduce contraband into the facility.

The Jail operational staff offers a range of educational and treatment opportunities aimed at supporting personal growth and rehabilitation. Our goal is to equip individuals in custody with the skills and resources necessary for a successful reintegration into the community upon release. Working towards the reduction of recidivism, we work with community partners to provide services to offenders. These services include housing, employment, education, substance abuse and mental health treatment, and coaching in parenting. The detention bureau is divided into three divisions: operations, security and judicial. Operations are responsible for inmate services, jail intake/reception, property,

## JAIL SECURITY

fire safety, inmate mail and classifications. Security is responsible for housing and supervision, detention criminal investigations, and inmate behavior management (IBM). The judicial branch is responsible for transportation, court security, judicial intake, booking, and public fingerprint services. Striving to be one of the best facilities in the country, our facility has maintained an accreditation from the American Correctional Association (ACA) since January 2011 and re-accredited every 3 years, with our next accreditation coming in 2025. We look forward to the completion of our new 680-bed jail facility, which represents a significant step forward in improving safety, efficiency, and inmate care. This modern facility is being built to meet current and future needs, reflecting our ongoing commitment to public safety and professional excellence in detention operations.



## JAIL INTAKE

The reception window at the Pueblo County Detention Facility, located at 909 Court St, Pueblo, CO, is operated by detention deputies 24 hours a day. This window serves as a hub for processing incoming bonds, assisting citizens with depositing money into inmate accounts via a kiosk, and registering video visits (Tuesday through Sunday). Deputies also register professional visitors such as attorneys, public defenders, and inmate program representatives. Upon arrival, all inmates are screened through a live body scanner to prevent contraband and dangerous items from entering the facility.



## **JAIL INTAKE**

In addition to processing bonds, Jail Intake/Reception deputies are responsible for escorting arrestees to municipal and advisement hearings held via video conferencing. There are four types of bonds an individual can be released on: Surety, Cash, Personal Recognizance (PR), and Property. In 2024, a total of 716 inmates were released on bond, including 537 on PR bonds, 46 on cash-only bonds, and 133 on a combination of cash or surety bonds.

The Pueblo County Detention Facility also offers remote video visitations through a contract with GTL, allowing the public to visit with inmates via an app that is available for both Apple and Android devices. This service provides an accessible way for families and friends to maintain contact with their loved ones while they are incarcerated.

## **JUDICIAL INTAKE**

Judicial Intake, located at the Dennis Maes Judicial Building in Pueblo, Colorado, operates 24 hours a day and is staffed by detention deputies across three shifts, along with

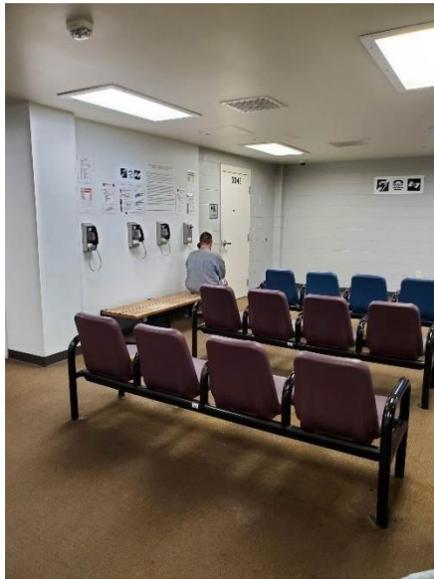


sergeants, a lieutenant, and supporting civilian personnel, including detention specialists and medical staff from NaphCare. Judicial Intake serves as the central booking

location for all arrests made within Pueblo County by the Sheriff's Office and partner agencies. As part of the intake process, arrestees undergo medical screenings to address any immediate health concerns before being cleared for custody. Once cleared, deputies

conduct searches, dress arrestees in inmate uniforms, take photographs, fingerprints, and inform them of their charges.

Detention specialists play a critical role in the booking process by managing records through the office's records management system and coordinating notifications with the courts, NCIC/CCIC databases, and other relevant agencies. After processing, individuals



who are not eligible for bond are transferred to the main detention facility at 909 Court Street. Additionally, detention specialists monitor the judicial control room, which oversees security systems, cameras, and intercoms throughout the building, ensuring the safety of employees, judicial staff, and citizens conducting business at the Judicial Building.

In 2024, Judicial Intake processed and booked a total of 5,383 individuals into the Pueblo County Detention Facility. This included 3,739 males and 1,644 females.

The thorough intake procedures and support systems ensure a secure and efficient process while maintaining safety and proper care for all individuals entering the facility.

# CLASSIFICATIONS

Classification deputies at the Pueblo County Detention Facility specialize in inmate services to assess inmates' risk levels based on factors such as criminal history, institutional behavior, and new charges. Assigning risk scores to inmates allows for better housing needs of similar scores to better maintain a safe and effective management of the inmate population. Based on their risk scores, inmates can access tailored programs and services that support rehabilitation. Classifying inmates is objective-based, focused on fairness, consistency, and decision-making. Inmates are further classified by biological gender, legal status, and risk score, rather than by race or other personal characteristics.



Classifications offer Inmate programs through community volunteers and contracted organizations, to provide educational, therapeutic, and faith-based opportunities aimed at reducing recidivism. These programs include offering classes for Nurturing Fathers & Mothers, Moral Recognition Therapy, and Life Empowerment & Fulfillment. In 2024, a Veteran's group was established to provide outreach for those that have served our country. This group meets weekly in conjunction with Veteran Affairs (VA) to provide information for available resources to our veterans through their court process and transition back to the community. All inmate programs are voluntary.

# **JAIL BASED BEHAVIORAL SERVICES (JBBS)**

JBBS is a department within the detention bureau that offers substance treatment and community service resources to inmates transitioning from incarceration back into the community. They are state funded through the Colorado Behavioral Health Administration and adhere to the state fiscal budgeting system July to June. The JBBS office is offsite to provide discreet access to resources. Services provided include



Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT), liaison to mental health services, transportation, education, and indigent services to assist with clothing, medication, and low-cost housing.

In 2024 JBBS programs assisted 3,059 inmates, averaging 255 clients monthly. As a steward to improve the health & wellbeing of recovering addicts, JBBS aided our inmates held in custody by improving program rooms with new furniture and media equipment for educational presentations. JBBS resources also contributed to the safety and lifesaving services by replacing AEDs throughout the detention bureau, and offsetting costs to replace Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for emergency incidents.



# **FIRE SAFETY & SANITATION**

Fire Safety & Sanitation deputies at the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office are tasked with



maintaining safe and clean environments across various facilities, including the Main Detention Facility, Dennis Maes Judicial Building, Investigations Annex, and Pueblo West Substation. They work closely with the operations captain to ensure all locations are well-maintained and are subject to emergency callouts. Their responsibilities also involve coordinating with county maintenance and external vendors for repairs, conducting regular

inspections, and handling equipment maintenance for items like Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), Automated External Defibrillators (AED), fire alarms, lighting, and first aid stations.

In addition to their regular duties, Fire Safety deputies collaborate with external agencies, such as the Pueblo Fire Department for fire code audits and the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) for health code inspections. They also handle background checks for civilian volunteers and contract service staff entering the detention facility. To ensure smooth operations, Fire Safety oversees ongoing maintenance for the facility, contributing to approximately \$476,000.00 in needed repairs and major equipment replacement in 2024. This unit received the Sheriff's Commendation award for 2024 for their attention to detail and out of the box thinking.



## **(STAT) SPECIAL TACTICS AND TECHNIQUES**

The Pueblo County Sheriff's Office Detention Tactical Team, known as the Special Tactics and Techniques (STAT) Team, is composed of highly trained deputies, including a Detention Security Captain, Detention Lieutenant, two Sergeants, and multiple STAT Deputies. These dedicated team members embody Sheriff David J. Lucero's commitment to "Service Over Self," responding to high-risk incidents without receiving additional compensation. In 2024, the STAT Team responded to seven emergency incidents within the jail, including a significant event in October involving a violent, high-profile inmate on a courtesy hold. After four hours of attempted de-escalation, the inmate—armed with makeshift weapons—was safely subdued using riot shields and less-lethal munitions.

Beyond emergency responses, the STAT Team supports high-risk inmate transports, conducts targeted searches for drugs and weapons, and provides facility security during large-scale inmate movements, such as the reorganization to accommodate increased female inmate populations. The team also plays a critical role during high-alert periods like New Year's Eve, ensuring order and preventing disruptions. Each year, the STAT Team partners with the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and the Sheriff's Office to conduct a comprehensive facility-wide shakedown for contraband.

To join the team, candidates must first complete a timed obstacle course, followed by a rigorous interview process assessing their understanding of team operations. In 2024, the STAT Team completed 40 hours of intensive riot control training within housing units, taking advantage of reduced inmate populations to conduct specialized exercises on barricaded subjects, threat assessments, and shakedowns. Members also trained and requalified on all lethal and less-lethal weapon systems and participated in physically demanding, team-based exercises to build cohesion. Cross-training with the SWAT team further prepared STAT members for tactical integration and future assignments within the agency.

# **NEW DETENTION CENTER PROJECT OVERVIEW**

Design for the new Pueblo County Detention Center commenced in January 2022 in



partnership with HOK Architects, followed by a ceremonial groundbreaking in October 2022. Construction began in August 2023, led by J.E. Dunn Construction, with the total project cost estimated at \$145 million. Completion is anticipated in January 2026.

The facility will initially provide 680 beds for medium- and maximum-

security inmates, with infrastructure in place to support future expansion by an additional 224 beds—bringing the total capacity to 904. The modern design also features a state-of-the-art training center, enhanced staff amenities including a dining room, outdoor patio, meeting spaces, and a warehouse for operational storage. A secured employee parking area will enhance vehicle safety, and on-site fitness and locker room facilities will support staff wellness and physical readiness.

The new detention center represents a significant advancement in safety and operational efficiency compared to the existing downtown facility. A double-perimeter security system offers between 40 to 180 yards of controlled space surrounding housing units, while updated surveillance and electronic access systems further enhance security. Purpose-built housing areas will support more direct, face-to-face interaction between inmates and mental health professionals—ensuring improved access to critical services.



# **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

At the core of the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office's mission is a steadfast commitment to Emergency Management. Under the direction of Sheriff David J. Lucero and our Emergency Management Coordinator, Joshua Johnson the Office continues to prioritize regional preparedness, effective incident management, and whole-community resilience. Building on prior moment, 2024 marked significant advancements in training, operational capability, and collaboration with both internal and external partners.

The EOC was activated several times throughout 2024, supporting both planned events and unplanned incidents. Notable activations included:

- Wind-driven wildfires impacting our rural communities
- EVRAZ Structure Fire
- Spring severe weather events, including flooding and debris flow concerns
- Storm-caused Forest fire causing evacuations in the Beulah Community
- Support for major planned events include the Colorado State Fair and other community festivals.
- Participation in Statewide drills for radiological and agricultural incident response.
- Interagency coordination for monitoring election security for 2024 general elections.



In addition to those previously mentioned, an Emergency Management Coordinator from the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office was deployed through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) to Sarasota County, Florida in support of Hurricane Milton response operations. The coordinator served in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for 15 days as the Deputy Planning Section Chief and assumed the role of Planning Section Chief on weekends, overseeing a team of more than 20 personnel in a large-scale EOC environment.

In 2024, the Emergency Services Division (ESD) played a key role in the South Region's Integrated Preparedness Planning (IPP) process, contributing essential data and scenario planning aligned with local and state objectives. The Division updated the Pueblo County Evacuation Center Emergency Plan for the St. Charles Mesa Recreation Center and successfully finalized the 5-year renewal of the Pueblo County Hazard Mitigation Plan with approvals from DHSEM and FEMA. Support was also provided to Fremont County through

feedback on their Hazard Mitigation Plan update. Additionally, the Division managed several federal grants—including EMPG, SRHS, and BSAR—supporting critical equipment and training initiatives, while continuing to offer and host trainings listed on the region’s training and exercise plan.

Community engagement remained a strong focus throughout the year. Emergency Management hosted orientations of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Joint Information Center (JIC), and 911 Center for local schools, Parkview Medical Center leadership, fire department academies, newly elected officials, and law enforcement associations. Briefings were delivered to elected officials and regional partners on severe weather preparedness and emergency closures. Staff actively participated in local group meetings and maintained a visible presence at public events such as the AMR Safety Jam, offering demonstrations and public education on emergency preparedness, response, and family safety.

The PCSO Volunteer Posse made a significant impact in 2024, logging over 13,300 volunteer hours across eleven functional teams including Fire, Dive, Search & Rescue, ACOVA, and administrative support. Members participated in full-scale search and rescue operations and received specialized training in water rescue and rural fire response. The program also grew its membership and enhanced its onboarding documentation to better support incoming volunteers.

Working with partners outside of our community, our Dive team has been working closely with two other Sheriff’s Offices to build or enhance their respective Dive Team capabilities. One office is actively building their team from the ground up, while the other is enhancing their existing small team with new training and operational support provided through our office. The PCSO Search & Rescue Team is also partnering with local fire departments on cross-training and increasing breadth and depth of SAR training around the county.



# COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

In 2024, the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office Communications Center handled nearly 23,000 emergency 9-1-1 calls and 65,000 non-emergency calls, entering over 41,000 calls for law enforcement, fire, and EMS services. The center achieved a major milestone by earning its third CALEA Gold Standard accreditation, fifth Medical Accredited Center of Excellence (ACE) through the International Academy of Emergency Dispatch, and fourth APCO Agency Training Program Certification—an exceptional accomplishment in public safety communications. The team also participated in the county's annual Mass Casualty Incident Drill, testing their capabilities in a simulated airplane crash scenario involving 50 patients and coordinating with partner agencies.



The Communications Center provides dispatch services for the Sheriff's Office, Pueblo County higher education institutions, and six fire departments. Regular participation in monthly Fire Chief meetings fosters collaboration and supports the center's EMD accreditation. Professional development remains a top priority, with each communications officer completing over 24 hours of continuing education in areas such as emergency medical dispatch, IPAWS alerts, and fire response protocols. Mental health and peer support are emphasized, along with ongoing mentoring and employee recognition efforts to maintain morale in a demanding profession.

Despite national staffing challenges, the center made progress by adding two Communications Training Officers and two EMD Quality Reviewers, with six new recruits currently in training. Recruitment efforts include career fairs and social media outreach.



Quality assurance remains strong through structured performance monitoring and call reviews to uphold protocol compliance and customer service standards. The team also remained active in community outreach events, focusing on educating children about emergency services. With continued

advancements in training, staffing, and public engagement, the Communications Center remains committed to innovation, professionalism, and compassionate service.

As we reflect on the past year, the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office remains steadfast in our mission to serve with integrity, professionalism, and a deep commitment to those who call Pueblo County home. We recognize the importance of accountability in building and maintaining public trust, and we will continue to evolve, improve, and partner with our community to ensure a safer and stronger future for all.

In service to our community,

David J. Lucero  
Sheriff