



Jennings County Sheriff's Office

P.O.Box 367, Vernon, Indiana 47282 812-346-8642



Wm. Kenny Freeman, Sheriff

2021 Jennings County Sheriff's Office Annual Jail Report

The Jennings County Jail is located, at 925 south State Street, North Vernon, Indiana 47265. The mailing address is: P. O. Box 367 Vernon, Indiana 47282.

The current jail was constructed and opened 01 April, 2001.

Jail total beds – 156 is the total capacity (128 in the back / 20 in the holding area, includes 8 for inmate workers). The total approved capacity by jail inspectors is 144. Additionally, we have the flexible capability to add 36 more beds to the large pods in a dorm style setting. This could make the total capacity 180.

1- Padded cell and 1 large - Detox holding cell

Average daily population for 2021 = 138 (2020=138)

Booking for 2021 – 1,148 (down 32% from 2020)

Releases for 2021 – 1,648

Juveniles – 0

Escapes – 1

Deaths in custody- 0

Top 10 Offenses:

- 1) Wanted on Warrant
- 2) Operating while Intoxicated Possession of Methamphetamine
- 3) Court Orders
- 4) Possession of Methamphetamine
- 5) Theft
- 6) Resisting Law Enforcement
- 7) Possession of Narcotic or Legend Drug Violation
- 8) Driving While Suspended Prior
- 9) Maintaining a common nuisance
- 10) False Identity Statement

Transports for the year: Approx. 233 (down 19% from 2020) transports spanning around 43,264 miles (down 7% from 2020).

The total Department of Corrections reimbursement to Jennings County for 2021 was \$259,084.00.

Jennings County Jail Services

In 2021, the Jennings County Jail Division continued several programs inside the jail aimed at providing inmates, upon their release, tools to assist them in life once they rejoin the community. Some of our programs were slowed due to the COVID-19 restrictions and recommendations. The jail suspended work release programs for a few weeks, several times during the year. We are still researching other ways to better support the transition of inmates back into productive society. Upon release, inmates are given several informational items aimed at helping them succeed long term goals.

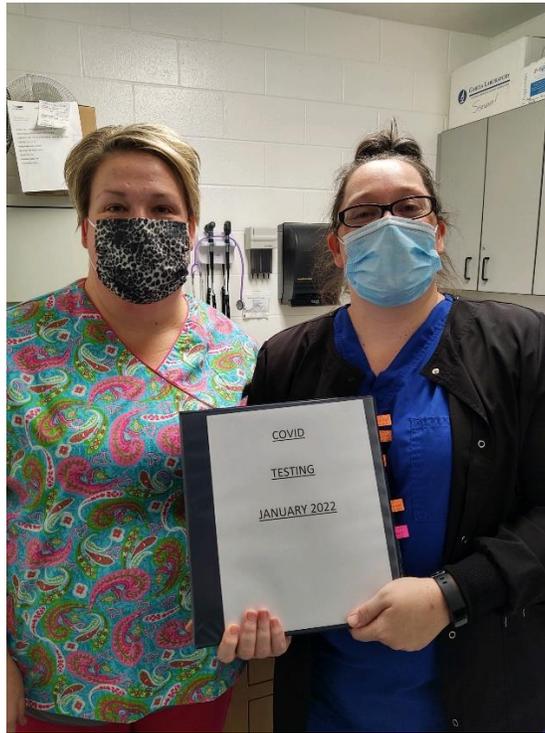
Substance / Abuse Resources			
<u>Outpatient Addiction Treatment</u>		<u>Detoxification & Residential</u>	
Christopher & Associates	812-523-0386	Columbus, Ctr for Children / Adolescents	800-562-5213
Life Springs, Scottsburg	812-752-2837	Bloomington Meadows Hospital	800-972-4410
Centerstone, North Vernon	812-346-4468	Valle Vista Health System, Greenwood	800-447-1348
Recovery Associates / Columbus	812-376-4888	Center For Behavioral Health and Detox	812-339-1691
Tara Treatment Center, Franklin	800-397-9978	Fairbanks Hospital, Indianapolis	800-225-4673
Valle Vista Health System, Greenwood	800-447-1348	Men's Healing Place, Louisville, KY	502-583-0369
		Methodist Hospital Substance Abuse, Indy	317-962-2622
		Tara Treatment Center, Franklin, IN	800-397-9978
		Turning Point/Life spring, Jeffersonville, IN	812-280-2080
		V.A. Medical Center, Indianapolis, IN	317-554-0000
		V.A. Medical Center, Louisville, KY	800-376-8387
<u>Substance Abuse Education Programs</u>		<u>Domestic Violence/Sexual Abuse</u>	
Our Place M. St. Frances, New Albany, IN	800-276-9773	Jennings Domestic Violence	812-346-1592
Celebrate Recovery, North Vernon	812-346-2069	Turning Point Domestic Violence	812-379-9844
Bethel Baptist Church	812-346-2737	Turning Point Outreach Office	812-523-3472
		Turning Point Women's Shelter	800-221-6311
		ICADV Nation Domestic Violence Hotline	800-799-7233

Employment Resources Available



Note: There are plenty of other companies that will hire – we have just listed a few.

Jail Health (Nurse's assessment)



Nurses- Verda Stutzman, RN and Patty Steward, LPN(both from Advanced Correctional)

Sheriff Freeman and the jail administration place the health of our inmates as a priority.

The Jennings County Jail Medical Team and Lt. Genie Campbell coordinates with the Jennings County Health Department to offer a voluntary Covid vaccine clinic to inmates. A total of 34 inmates took advantage of this clinic. A list of inmates wanting to receive the vaccine was compiled by Lt. Campbell and was forwarded to our county health nurse, Pam Petry. Nurse Petry, along with her team researched where each inmate was in their vaccine process. They came prepared and administered vaccines tailored to each inmates need; whether that was a first dose, second dose or a booster.

In 2021, The Jennings County Health Department, the Jennings County Jail Medical Team and Jail Admin coordinated twelve Covid Vaccine Clinics for inmates and/or staff with a yearly total of 152 vaccines given.

The health assessment of the jail is better than it has ever been. Pro-active measures are taken in the jail to help keep inmates healthy. COVID 19 cases for inmates for the 2020 year were zero. Our jail staff conducted intake screening and constant monitoring for any illness. All our jail staff are trained to recognize and be proactive in preventing spread of all types of pathogens. Staff keep the jail clean which helps prevent disease and the spread of germs. We also have a company that comes into the facility and sprays monthly that mitigates germs, viruses, mildew and others things. We believe that this helps reduce the number of colds, flu, and skin infections. (number of skin infections in 2017 & 2018 = 42 and the number in 2019 was 6)

Since day one of Sheriff Freeman taking over office the nurse, jail commander and the Jennings County Health Department have been working together to battle the hepatitis in the jail when this administration started 01 January 2019. The first reportable hepatitis A infection was reported on 11 September, 2018. A total of 11 active cases of hepatitis A were diagnosed and treated at the jail from 2018 to 2019. We have had NO cases since that time.

When Sheriff Freeman’s administration took over in January of 2019, the jail division was battling a Hepatitis A problem, as were several other jails in the area. A few inmates were quarantined inside the jail to the best of the jail staff’s ability. A meeting was arranged with the Jennings County Jail Division’s Head Nurse, Lisa Carmer. A plan was formulated, in January 2019, with collaboration of the Jennings County Health Department, The Jennings County Jail Commander and jail medical staff and a private infectious disease control company, the outbreak was quickly contained, and soon after completely eradicating the disease from the jail.

Medical Statistics

Year	2021	2020
Nursing Sick Calls	976 (up 41%)	403
Medication (percent of inmates on medications)	26%	24%

Staff Issues / Miscellaneous

According to the Jail Staffing Analysis (completed in 2016) the jail is short 7 jail officers which put the other officers in eminent danger.

County Council and Commissioners are now aware of the staff shortage. In 2019 the County Council and Commissioners approved two new employees for the beginning of 2020. However, due to budget constraints the County Council did NOT approve any additional jail staff for 2021.

The Jennings County Jail was given a fresh coat of paint in 2020. In 2021 we began painting with epoxy which will prolong the lifespan of the painted surfaces. This was done with the help of inmates, helping us save taxpayer dollars. We were able to get the Jail Inspector to approve our additional beds – for a total of 144 capacity and a total bed space of 156 and we still have flexibility to add more beds to the male cell blocks.

2021 Jail Inspection Results



(From left to right: Sheriff Kenny Freeman, Jeffrey D. Groh - State Jail Inspector)

The jail did very well during the annual jail inspection. There were two negative responses to the 219 inspection questions – they were “not enough beds for inmates and the ratio for inmates to showers was too great”. These two items are the same as last year. However, after this inspection the capacity was approved. We will continue to address these two items over the next couple of years.

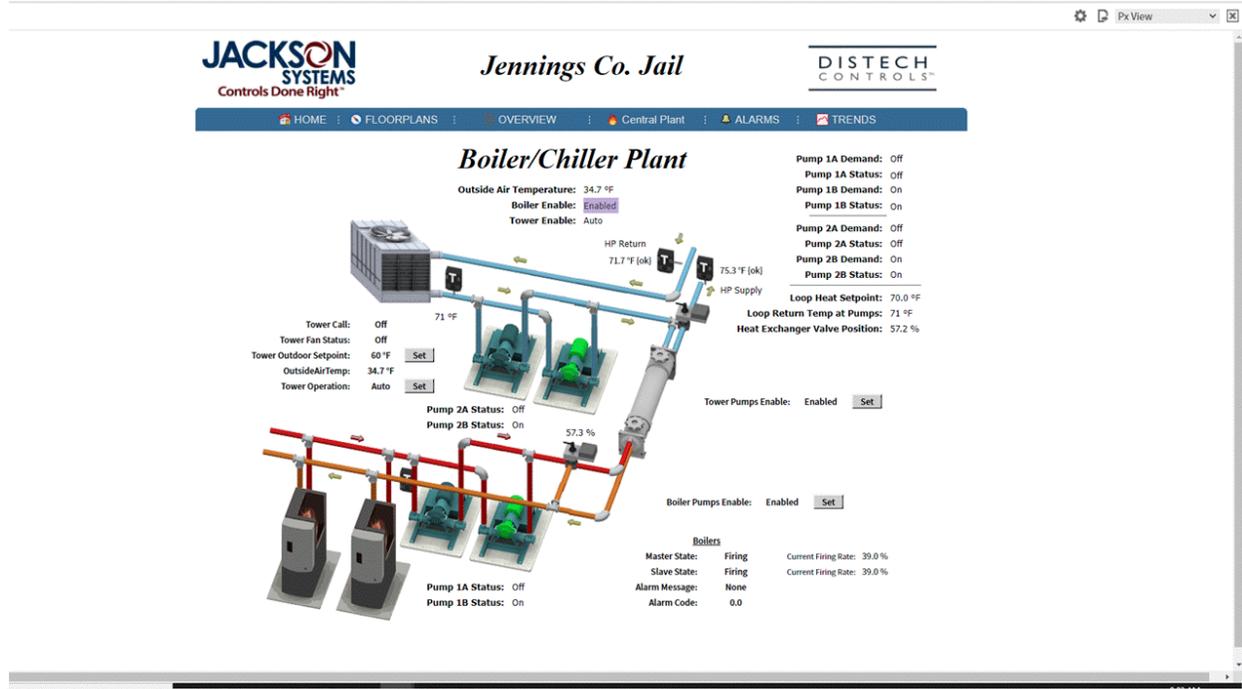
William Kenny Freeman

Wm. Kenny Freeman
Jennings County Sheriff
20 February 2022

Steve Frey

Steve Frey
Jennings County Jail Commander

New Jail Improvements



Heat and Air Condition System

We have finally replaced the heat and air condition system. This has been a long process to answer the jail inspection from 2017. Jail inspection comment section (from 2017) stated: **“HVAC is marginal at best and needs to be replaced.”**

We continue to upgrade areas of the jail and improve efficiency. Working towards energy savings and water conservation.

We reduced water usage by 15% in 2021.

Recidivism (the tendency to re-offend)

One of the goals of the Sheriff’s Office is to reduce the recidivism rate in Jennings County Jail. In order to do that we have to exam what the rate is and what are the root causes of recidivism.

The number of inmates booked in to the county jail for 2019 was 2,362 people. We divided the number of people who were re-arrested to include the 155 inmates that were present in the jail on 1 January 2020 by the number booked-in, which is a 48% recidivism rate. However, when you take out the number of inmates that were booked in for weekend jail time (20 people were booked 146 times due to weekend time) the number is more accurate as a true recidivism rate – is 47% after the weekends are taken out of the equation.

Sheriff's Office Work Release Programs

Rose Acres Farms (partnership)



Rose Acres came to us early in the year of 2019 and asked if we could work out some type of work release program. We developed the plan together into a wonderful partnership.

The Rose Acres Farms partnership with the Jennings County Sheriff's Office was our pilot program for the male inmates. Transportation is provided by the business and the inmate workers get paid directly from the company. This is a great benefit to the inmates when they get released from jail and they are financially prepared. There has always been an issue with someone who is released from jail and gets a job – then have to wait for their first paycheck. We continued the program through 2020 and plan to keep this program in place.

Decatur Plastic Products INC (partnership)



Decatur Plastic Products partnership with the Jennings County Sheriff's Office work release program: Started 8 August 2019 with three members all of those members graduated. Of those three: one continues to work at DPP, one went on to work at Wendy's and one pointed out at the beginning of 2020.

A total of 4 female inmates participated in the program between 1 January 2020 and 31 December.

DPP currently has no inmates working at their plants as a result of slowed production due to COVID-19.

Future work release program research is ongoing. We have begun talks and preliminary planning with Pet Supplies Plus in Seymour and Eler Industries Inc.

Jennings County Jail Work Crew

The work crew are inmates that are transported by the jail to the work sites for the County or City Projects. Their projects are limited to government owned work or non-profit organizations. They are monitored by a jail officer or deputy to maintain custody.

“Work-Crew Snow Removal”



“Work-Crew Painting Jail”



“Help at Animal Control”



“Clean Up for Indoor Soccer Field”



Road Deputy Statistics



Arrests	.....	Total = 456 (down 19%)
Traffic Stops	.....	Total = 1559 (down 10%)
Paper service	.....	Total = 2497 (up 13% from 2020)
Number of times dispatched	.....	Total = 22,205 (down 3% from 2020)
Case Reports	.....	Total = 10,544
Crash Reports	.....	Total = 611 (up 45% from 2020)
Miles Patrolled	.....	Total = 526,750 (up 17% from 2020)



Training Deputies

In addition to all the other duties that deputies perform they have to keep up with their training. There are mandatory topics that must be updated annually and then there is the additional training that we require to keep our team top notch. Also, many of our deputies are instructor qualified and must complete a certain amount of platform instruction time to stay current and qualified. The number of hours that our full-time deputies completed last year was 2,649 hours (up 40% from 2020). The reserve deputies completed 700 and the instructors completed 204 hours of instruction time. Total hours training including SWAT and jail staff hours is 4,260 hours.

Sheriff's Senior Representatives (TRIAD)

Our senior representatives conducted 57 home visits to elderly folks. They were slowed this year by the COVID-19 precautions and restrictions. They made numerous phone calls instead of visits. They attended or conducted 25 meetings with outside organizations. They normally attend the fair but did not this year due to COVID-19. Made business and agency contact with 21 providers. This year they began a new project. The 911 house number project – they have the Sheriff purchase and install house numbers on homes that don't have easy identifiable numbers. Additionally, made 42 referrals to other organizations. Their biggest accomplishments were hands on projects for elderly: Built a deck, built a handicap ramp, yard maintenance, appliance repair/replacement. Finally, they mailed Birthday, Anniversary, and Christmas cards to all their clients. They traveled approximately 1,789 miles this year conducting their mission.

K9 Unit's Report



VAMPIR (Retired)



AXEL



Our K9 program is vital to our counter-drug operations and we are very proud of our K9 program. The training group that our K9s belong to is among the best in the nation. Having the flexibility to use K9s is a great asset to the Sheriff's Office. In addition to doing work in our county we sometimes get called by surrounding agencies to assist in article searches, apprehensions, school walk throughs and tracking subjects.

K9 Annual Summary Team Statistics

Jennings County K-9 Unit is led by Sgt. Allen Ritchie with Canine Vampir and Sgt. Cody Low with Canine Axel. Both teams are certified through the North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA) in Dual-Purpose Narcotics. NAPWDA is one of the select few Police Dog certifications that is Nationally recognized. The areas of certification are, Area Search, Article Search, Building Search, Tracking, Narcotics (Marijuana, Methamphetamine, Heroin, and Cocaine), and criminal apprehension.

The use of our K-9s in the 2021 year decreased due to COVID-19 restrictions and limiting contact with the public for the majority of the year. However, our K-9 Teams were able to seize over 200 grams of Methamphetamine, over 800 grams of Marijuana, and over 60 grams of Heroin/Fentanyl.

Jennings County K-9s contributed to the arrest of 46 subjects for a variety of drug offenses. Including 88 deployments, 32 non-physical apprehensions, and 3 physical apprehensions. Over 500 hours of continuing training. Jackson County, Ripley County, and Decatur County, and Indiana State Police have requested assistance from the Jennings County K-9 Teams at different times in 2021.

Sgt. Allen Ritchie and his K-9 Partner Vampir retired during the summer of 2021. Sgt. Ritchie served the Jennings County Sheriff's Office for 12 years. Vampir retired after serving 5 years with Sgt. Ritchie. K-9 Vampir located and assisted in apprehension of hundreds of suspects during the time of his service.

Jackson County, Ripley County, and Decatur County, and Indiana State Police have requested assistance from the Jennings County K-9 Teams at different times in 2021.

The Reserve Deputy Program



The reserve deputy program is very important to the Sheriff's Office. This year we ran one reserve class and graduated 4 reserve officers. Our reserves volunteered 2,471 hours (down 11% from 2020) to law enforcement, serving court documents and training. The value put onto our reserve program is approximately one and a half deputies which would cost the county about 100,000 dollars plus the benefits that would go with full time employment.

NOTE: The two main reasons people want to be part of the reserve program are: one they are trying to get the foot in the door to later make law enforcement their career and two they want to do law enforcement, but their careers pay a lot more than a full time police officer.

NEW TO THE PROGRAM: We have done a couple things to help with response times to Country Squire Lakes. First, we have reserves that are dedicated to Country Squire Lakes for periods of time on random days. Additionally, we have drug interdiction shifts (level III reserves are included) that are also scheduled randomly – although the focus is for the entire county some investigations lead us back to Country Squire Lakes.

Jennings County SWAT Team Training Philosophy





The Jennings County SWAT members CO-TRAIN with the Indiana State Police SWAT monthly. This training philosophy allows for a smooth transition between teams when necessary. Our training is focused on SWAT fundamentals and marksmanship. We have partnered with Country Squire Lakes Management to provide us with different and realistic training venues. We use the SWAT team in various roles to include arrest warrant service, search warrant security, and other high-risk situations.

For 2021 the Jennings County SWAT team conducted over a dozen Special Operation Missions, to include, High Risk Search Warrants and Wanted Person Apprehensions, including the capture of a work release escapee that was located in another county.

The Jennings County SWAT team also maintains a close working relationship with the Scott County Sheriff's Office SWAT team. In 2021 we assisted the Scott Co SWAT team with (3) High Risk Search Warrants. Those investigations had ties to Methamphetamine being brought into Jennings County.

Light Armored Vehicle



In 2021 the Jennings County SWAT team received a L.A.V. (Light Armor Vehicle) from the Scott County Sheriff's Office at no expense to the Jennings County tax payer. This vehicle is classified as a rescue and approach vehicle and can be utilized in many different situations that could provide safe operations for SWAT team members.





Jennings County Sheriff's Posse





CPR Training



Helicopter EVAC



Monthly Meeting

The Jennings County Sheriff's Posse is a search and rescue team that conducts monthly training on various topics. The Posse was seriously slowed down during COVID-19 restrictions. Additionally, they conduct a couple exercises annually that incorporate the training, communication and movement throughout the county. The Posse is a group of volunteers that use horses, UTV's and ATV's as transportation to search for missing persons. The organization of a team of people is very useful in an emergency situation. Additionally, they patrol the County Fair and participate in local parades. The Posse was deployed 3 times searching for a person- initially we were looking for a reported missing person and later found that we were looking for a possible murder victim 2020.





Jennings County Detectives Division

Our detective division is made up of three detectives, one of those is our narcotics detective. They conduct the majority of our major crimes that result in lengthy investigations. Some of the investigations are initiated by our road deputies and get passed on to the detectives. Our detective team works with other agencies for additional resources. Our narcotics detective coordinates with surrounding counties, ATF, DEA and the Indiana State Police in order to enhance our capabilities to fight drug trafficking.



Miscellaneous



The Sheriff's Office believes in total transparency. We have been successful in keeping the community informed via our Facebook page and news releases throughout the year. Our Facebook following is up to 16,000 (up 13% from last year) followers (we reach about 55,000

people weekly through our Facebook, up 19% from last year). Our reach is currently at 161,000 up 8% from last year.

Our commissary is a major source of funding we use for training, equipment and systems to support both the jail and the deputies. The beginning balance of the commissary this year was \$124,351.33 (down 4% from 2020) and the ending balance on 31 December 2021 was \$346,846.71 (up 35% from 2020).

Administrative Office



The administrative office is the face of our Sheriff's Office. They assist the walk-in public and answer the phones during our business hours. They track and forward all case reports to the prosecutor's office and other agencies.

Our front office does many tasks: checking warrants, payroll, commissary, balancing all our books, tax warrants, sheriff sales, hand gun permits, visits, printing accident reports, and turning in claims. Monthly, quarterly, and annually fill out, file and track the Uniform Crime Report.

We process all the paper service from the courts, track, and follow up to ensure proper service. We served 390 tax warrants (up 30% from 2020) and set 89 Sheriff sales (up 33% from 2020). We processed 474 gun permits in 2021 (up 3% from 2020). Also, they processed and printed 358 (up 58% from 2020) accident report-request.

"The Panther Patrol"

The Panther Patrol is our version of a community watch program. Panther Patrol is where a group of people who live in the same area and who want to make their neighborhood or community safer. They work together in conjunction with the Jennings County Sheriff's Office to reduce crime and improve the quality of life. In order to be effective, the groups will have to have regular meetings to plan how they will accomplish their specific objectives. We will need group leaders with good communication skills and be able to organize meetings.

As individual members, you can impact your community by reporting anything suspicious.



Panther Patrol Intelligence Sheet

Who (How many people, names if possible, tag/plate number of vehicles)

What (what activity, crimes or suspicious acts)

When (time and date)

Where (address or the nearest one / intersection and direction from known local)

Why (why do you think the activity is suspicious)

How (how or what the activity was in detail)

Comments - people's clothing / backpack / other

Jennings County Mental Health Awareness Information Form

Name of Subject:
 First _____
 Middle _____
 Last _____
 DOB: _____

Alert Safety Information:
 1. Risk to Self Y N
 2. Risk to Others Y N
 3. Likely to Resist Authority Y N
 4. Combative Y N

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Mental Health Diagnosis:

Mental Health Provider:
 Name: _____
 Phone: _____

Emergency Contact Information:
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____

TRIGGERS:

Attach Photographs

HOME INVENTORY for Insurance and Police Reporting

Call
 Locking
 Alarm
 Motion
 Detector
 Fire
 Protection
 Burglary
 Alarm
 Other

Fill in the blanks with the information
 please (submit to Sheriff's Office)
 If it's a Fire & Central Dispatch report it

Community Out-Reach

“Received K9 Vest Donation”



“CSL Fishing Tournament”



“Fair Grounds Activities / 4th of July”



“Eagle Scout Ceremony”



“County Park Activities”



“D.A.R.E. Program”



Sunny Day in Scipio



“Rotary Auction”



School Walk-Throughs



“The Next Step = Leveraging Technology”



Sheriff Kenny Freeman states "we use technology in order to establish a competitive advantage over criminals". "We are optimizing technology to ensure that we take the Sheriff's Office to the next level". "We are going to do more with less while increasing value with a shrinking number of resources."

Below are just a few of the examples of "leveraging technology" at the Jennings County Sheriff's Office.

- FLEX police reporting/ CAD system to communicate and have more situational awareness ... etc.
- Toughbook laptop computers to run the new FLEX software which will allow more flexibility and better performance for deputies on calls.
- More efficient radios with increased wattage and better range adding to increased safety for all. Additionally, lower in cost than older radios currently in use.
- Pistol with electrical optics system to improve marksmanship and additional confidence.
- Speed trailer and new radar systems for vehicles.
- New AED's to be carried in patrol vehicles for faster response to heart patients.
- New canine light weight ballistic vests with state-of-the-art design and material.
- New Sheriff's Office website (jenningssheriff.org).
- Mini Ballistic Shield for SWAT applications and felony traffic stops.

These items were non-budgeted items and were procured through grants and other funding options.

Sheriff Kenny Freeman says "we will continue to seek out new technology and funding options to enhance the capabilities of the Jennings County Sheriff's Office which will make Jennings County a safer place for all".

