

# St. John The Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office



## 2011 REPORT



# St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office

## 2011 Projected Expenditures:

Dear fellow citizens,

Welcome to this report on some of the recent activities and initiatives of your sheriff's office.

As our parish grows, so does the responsibility of managing this office. We have numerous divisions, hundreds of employees and a multi-million dollar budget. Through the hard work of dedicated professionals, we strive every day to meet your expectations for professional law enforcement while being a good steward of the public's money.

Our 2011 operating budget is some \$26 million dollars - most of which comes from property and sales taxes. The biggest single expenditure, about \$15.6 million, is for salaries and benefits for our 300 or so employees and pensions for retirees. Much of what we spend here goes back into the local economy.

By carefully managing our money and wisely using grants to pay for our activities, we have been able to put aside \$5.3 million in reserve funds. This account provides enough money to weather any fluctuations in the national, state and local economies. While other law enforcement agencies are shedding employees and cutting programs, we continue to build a stronger, professional crime-fighting team. In short, your sheriff's office is on very firm financial footing.

We not only save money, we continue to invest it on intense training for employees and upgrades to our office. In this report you'll find stories about automated vehicle locators in patrol units, videoconferencing with inmates, new traffic control measures and the continued expansion of our crime camera system.

Our efforts are paying off. For the second straight year, statistics from the FBI show an overall drop in crime; a 10 percent cut in 2009 and a 17 percent decline in 2010. We continue to work with the criminal justice system to ensure that repeat offenders, particularly violent ones, are taken off our streets.

We are currently considering issuing Tasers to deputies, as these "less-than-lethal" weapons could provide an extra measure of protection for officers and citizens. A decision on deployment of Tasers will be made once we complete thorough research on the pros and cons of the weapon and our funding priorities.

Help keep St. John safe by communicating with us. Use the telephone, write an E-mail or visit in person. Dial 911 immediately if you see anything suspicious.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I or this office can ever be of service to you.

Sincerely,

**WAYNE L. JONES**  
Sheriff, St. John the Baptist Parish  
sheriff@stjohnsheriff.org

Salaries/Pensions.....	12,645,118
Unemployment / Social Security / Medicare.....	162,000
Automobiles.....	400,000
Radio.....	270,000
Computer.....	55,000
Deputy Equipment.....	40,000
Office / Other Equipment.....	305,000
Deputy Liability / Automobile.....	600,000
Deputy Liability.....	160,000
Hospitalization.....	3,000,000
Lease / Rentals.....	40,000
Accounting / Auditing.....	55,000
Attorney / Professional Services.....	55,000
Rescue.....	2,500
Auto (fuel & oil).....	675,000
Auto (repair).....	400,000
Motor Pool.....	40,000
Uniforms.....	115,000
Equipment & Supplies.....	50,000
Training.....	150,000
Office Expense : Supplies.....	55,000
General Office.....	175,000
Maintenance.....	115,000
Telephone & Utilities.....	260,000
Radio.....	65,000
Prisoner Maintenance.....	300,000
Prisoner Medical.....	150,000
Prisoner Transport.....	4,000
Jail Maintenance/Expenses.....	225,000
Inmate Work Program.....	25,000
Criminal Investigation.....	75,000
Crime Scene.....	2,500
Dues & Subscriptions.....	34,000
Canine.....	13,000
Computer Costs.....	100,000
Community Education Programs.....	53,000
Other Expense.....	60,000

**Total Projected Expenditure.....\$20,931,118**

Fund Balance as of 12/31/10.....\$5,342,403

Total Funds Available:.....\$26,273,521

## Automated Vehicle Locators – AVL

SJBPSO patrol units and other vehicles are now outfitted with AVL's – Automated Vehicle Locators. Using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, 911 operators can pinpoint a unit's location and quickly send help to where it's needed.

"This new system allows 911 operators to see which unit is closest to a situation that needs our attention." Sheriff Jones said. "We had a very good response time before these AVL's were installed. In an emergency, seconds count and now we will get to the location of a call for assistance even faster."

The AVL technology also assists in sending the correct type of help. "If for example, a call for help is a medical emergency, we can dispatch that particular type of unit," Sheriff Jones said. "Fire



Sheriff Jones, Lieutenant Kirt Tregre and Chief Deputy Harold Klibert

## Forensic Science Academy Graduates Tregre

A 21-year veteran of the SJPBSO, Lieutenant Kirt Tregre has completed a seven-week, 280-hour training program at the International Forensic Science Academy in Camp Shelby, Mississippi. The course educates law enforcement professionals in numerous fields dealing with crime scenes including photography, gathering and preserving DNA evidence, incident reconstruction and courtroom testimony. Lieutenant Tregre's training further enhances the department's investigative abilities.



Sheriff Jones and 911 Operator Deputy Jessica Wildes observe the locations of SJBPSO patrol units with the new AVL system.

department vehicles, EMS, as well as some school board and parish vehicles are using a similar system."

AVL's also help schedule maintenance of vehicles as the GPS locator tells how far a vehicle has traveled or how many hours it has run since it's last maintenance work. "Better maintenance will help our vehicles last longer and ultimately save taxpayer money."

*Did you know? Because of their high performance engines with increased electrical capacity, idling a SJBPSO patrol unit for one hour is equivalent to driving it 1,100 miles.*





(L-R) Deputy Anthony Bullock, Deputy John Champagne III, Deputy Bernard Tassin, Sheriff Jones, Major John Gonor – SJBPSO Director of Training, Deputy Carlos Ledesma and Corporal Russell Smith.



(L-R) Deputy Michael Schaeffer, Deputy Robert Coleman, Deputy Danielle Lear, Sheriff Jones, Deputy Cindy Faucheux, and Major John Gonor.

## POST Certified

Nine SJBPSO officers have completed the requirements to be POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) certified. The 17-week, nightly training course features extensive classroom as well as field instruction in numerous law enforcement guidelines and techniques.

Professional training officers provide detailed instruction on Louisiana traffic and criminal law, techniques for conducting interviews and interrogations, writing reports, investigation guidelines, physical fitness and firearm use.

The course is held at the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office Regional POST Academy in Thibodaux.



Warden Philip Hebert oversees all operations of the parish jail. Major Hebert has specialized in corrections work over his 26-year law enforcement career.

## Parish Jail Earns Recertification

After a thorough examination, the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections has recertified the Sherman Walker Correctional Center as meeting or exceeding established jail guidelines. Inspectors deemed the jail "One of the nicer and better managed facilities in the Southeast."

Sheriff Jones said the recertification process is extremely thorough. "An extensive on-site inspection is coupled with an evaluation of all operations including cleanliness, food, medical and mental health services, literacy, GED and drug rehabilitation programs. Even the library gets an assessment."

The Walker Center accommodates 312 prisoners. An additional 60 inmates can be held at the jail in the parish administration building.

The Sherman Walker Correctional Facility, located on Deputy Barton Granier Drive, is named for the SJBPSO Lieutenant who lost his life in the line of duty in 1985. The street is named to honor Granier, who was killed while on duty in 1996.



## Need a Speaker For Your Next Meeting?

Let us know if your organization would like to have a representative of the St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office address your group. With a wide variety of experts on everything from the history of law enforcement in our parish to the latest crime-fighting techniques, our specialists will gladly put together a presentation on a topic of your choosing. Contact our community relations division at 985.652.7058 for more information.

## Big Ox

The Special Operations Response Team (SORT) training facility and a new vehicle now bear the name of a SJBPSO deputy killed in the line of duty in 2006.

"Deputy Octavio "Ox" Gonzales helped create SORT," Sheriff Jones said. "We honor his memory by naming this and the training grounds after him."

Located next to the Sherman Walker Correctional Facility, the SORT training facility simulates a multitude of situations and special operations teams from numerous parishes practice there.

A Homeland Security grant funded the acquisition and outfitting of "Big Ox." On the scene of a high-risk operation, the panel truck can deploy SORT members as needed.



(L-R) Lieutenants Conrad Lewis and Mike Murden, 14-year veterans of the SJBPSO, discuss the newest tool in the SORT arsenal, "Big Ox," with Sheriff Jones. Murden, a team leader, has served on the SORT for ten years while Lewis has been a member for nine.

## Holiday Shopping Security

As it has done for years, the SJBPSO again stationed deputies and equipment in shopping centers during the busy holiday season to ensure the safety of citizens and merchants.

"A visible police presence deters crime," Sheriff Jones said. "We used our elevated observation post, 'Big Brother', while other personnel patrolled on foot, in marked and unmarked units and with other motorized vehicles. We had no reports of any illegal activity."

Sheriff Jones said the \$75,000 cost in overtime is a good investment. "When people feel safe and secure, they don't hesitate to go out and shop locally. Businesses prosper, jobs are created and our tax dollars stay right here at home."

# Call 985.652.DRUG

**to leave an anonymous tip  
about suspected drug activity.  
All calls are confidential.**

## stjohnsheriff.org

As part of our ongoing effort to keep up with the ever-growing array of services available through the Internet, citizens will soon be able to pay traffic fines, fees and property taxes through our web site; stjohnsheriff.org.



Using names or drivers license numbers, users will be able to securely access their accounts.

Our Internet home provides users with timely information, a directory of services, contact info and the latest news from your sheriff's office. Many of the forms and information needed to transact business with us are available online.

After surfing our site, consider clicking over to the official parish site; sjbparish.com and signing up for E-mail news updates and/or emergency text notifications.

Visit stjohnsheriff.org often and don't hesitate to give us suggestions on how we can continue to improve our site.



(TOP): Elevated some 30 feet, Major Sam Moody scans a parking lot from atop 'Big Brother.'

(BOTTOM RIGHT): Captain Andy Breaux accompanies shoppers during holiday patrols.



## FBI Academy Graduates Fountain

Detective Captain Jerry Fountain is the SJBPSO's most recent graduate of the prestigious FBI Academy. An 18-year veteran of law enforcement, Detective Fountain completed the rigorous 11-week course at FBI headquarters in Quantico, Virginia.

"This is a great honor as one percent of law enforcement officers in our nation get to attend the academy," Sheriff Jones said. "Detective Fountain's achievement enhances our overall professionalism and we are all very proud of him."

Detective Fountain leads the Crimes Against Persons Unit, investigating offenses where someone has been harmed. To date, seven other members of the SJBPSO have graduated from the FBI Academy.

## Highway Safety

New traffic signals, video cameras and electronic information signs have been installed on Airline Highway as part of an overall traffic flow management plan to help make roadways safer.

"The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, LADOTD, monitors traffic all across the New Orleans area from a building on West End Boulevard near I-10," Sheriff Jones said. "There, they can control the synchronization of lights and dispatch law enforcement and emergency personnel to accidents and breakdowns. The electronic message boards provide timely information to drivers."

The boards alert motorists to an accident, road work and even provide estimated travel times to certain destinations. They can also suggest alternate routes so drivers can avoid problem areas.

*Electronic information signs on Airline Highway provide a variety of messages to St. John motorists.*



# 911

We are currently upgrading the 911 communications system by merging our 700 megahertz operations into an 800 megahertz one. This change will further enhance our capabilities to communicate with our officers and with other law enforcement and governmental agencies when needed.

If you see suspicious activity, anywhere, anytime, please dial 911 immediately and we will respond. Your continued help keeps St. John the Baptist Parish safe.

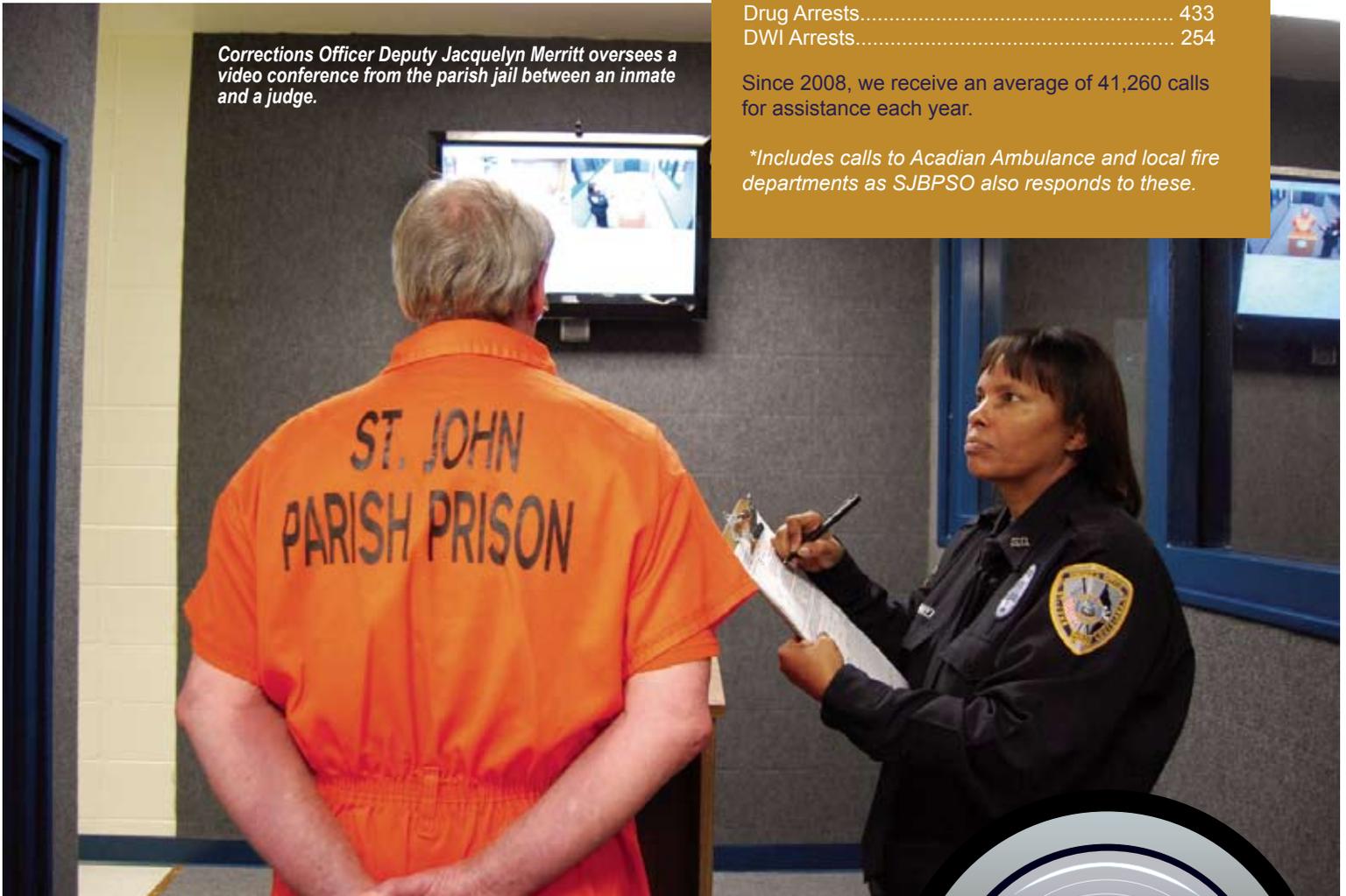
## Video Conferencing at Jail

Prisoners at the Sherman Walker Correctional Center no longer must leave the facility for court appearances as a new, video conferencing system enables proceedings to be done over the Internet.

Transferring audio and video, prisoners appear before a judge electronically by using the new system. The time spent as well as the cost for transporting prisoners will be dramatically cut as deputies no longer have to physically transport a prisoner to court.

The video arraignment system is also safer as prisoners never leave the secure environment of the jail so there is no chance of an escape.

*Corrections Officer Deputy Jacquelyn Merritt oversees a video conference from the parish jail between an inmate and a judge.*



## The Numbers

### 2010

Arrests.....	3,138
Traffic Accidents Worked.....	1,422
Calls for Assistance.....	38,195
Drug Arrests.....	587
DWI Arrests.....	409

### 2009

Arrests.....	3,026
Traffic Accidents Worked.....	1,882
Calls for Assistance.....	40,835
Drug Arrests.....	458
DWI Arrests.....	338

### 2008

Arrests.....	2,978
Traffic Accidents Worked.....	1,867
Calls for Assistance.....	44,749
Drug Arrests.....	433
DWI Arrests.....	254

Since 2008, we receive an average of 41,260 calls for assistance each year.

*\*Includes calls to Acadian Ambulance and local fire departments as SJBPSO also responds to these.*

## Crime Camera Update

More live video cameras are being used in the parish than ever before with some 25 now operating. These cameras, broadcasting on a 4.9 gigahertz frequency that only government and law enforcement is authorized to use, record continually and are linked to the SJBPSO 911 center where they are monitored 24/7.

Some cameras are visible while others are "hidden in plain sight," near traffic signals and on utility poles. Portable cameras can be used in areas where crime continues to be a problem. In the parish jail, 60 cameras monitor the movements of inmates and correctional officers.

Our main communications tower, highways, playgrounds, parks, the parish airport and shopping centers are all constantly monitored. The camera network has room to expand and add many more cameras in the future.

