



Public Safety and Court Services Committee

Meeting Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 10:30 AM

Old Lee County Courthouse, Third Floor, 112 E 2nd St, Dixon, IL 61021

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety on YouTube using the web address below
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJ0cowbZ3SA&t>

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m., by Chair Mike Koppien.

II. Committee Member Roll Call: Chair Mike Koppien, Vice Chair Keane Hudson, Katie White, Michael Pearson, Chris Norberg

Mike Koppien, Keane Hudson, and Chris Norberg attended in person. Katie White and Mike Pearson were absent.

Also present: Dean Freil and Tom Kitson (Board Members), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney), Jeremy Englund (Administrator), Susan Gillespie (Human Resources Director), Amy Johnson (Circuit Clerk), Kevin Lalley (EMA Director), Nancy Petersen (County Clerk and Recorder), Staci Stewart (Director of Probation and Court Services), Clay Whalen (Sheriff), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) all attended in person.

III. Public Attendees

Melanie Willstead attended in person to address the committee regarding the Village of Harmon tornado siren replacement project. She explained that she is scheduled to meet with Kevin Lalley from EMA to discuss the siren and the activation button and potential grant funding for the project.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting - (March 11, 2025)

Minutes from the March 11, 2025, Public Safety and Court Services Committee Meeting were approved as presented without modification.

V. Animal Control

A. Graphs for March 2025

Teri Zinke was not able to attend the meeting but submitted graphs from Animal Control for the month of March. The graphs will be attached to the minutes and included in the April County Board agenda packet.

VI. Circuit Clerk

Amy Johnson provided the committee with an update on the Court Technology Grant Application Process. Following are highlights:

- The request for funding for a new case management system was denied. However, approximately \$29,000 was approved for replacement of computers and an upgrade to the court panic alarm system.
- She contacted the AIC (Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts) for more specific reasons for the denial. The AIC cited a lengthy audit process and the need to prioritize requests from all 102 counties in the state. They also consider the technical feasibility of completing projects within the state's fiscal year

(ending June 30th). Another county was also denied funding for a new case management system.

- Amy will be meeting with the other offices that will be using the new software and members of the County Board to discuss how the project will be funded.
- A start date for the new software project is uncertain due to ongoing legal amendments to the contract with Tyler Technologies. She is hoping for a May or June start. Tyler has a team ready to begin work.
- A recommendation was made to the parties involved to consider hiring retiring Assistant State's Attorney Brian Brim as the project manager for the technology upgrade. Other counties have emphasized the importance of a project manager for meeting timelines and ensuring a successful "go-live."

VII. Judges, Coroner, and Public Defender

No representatives were present from the Judges, Coroner, or Public Defender's Offices and no reports were submitted.

VIII. Emergency Management Agency

A. *Monthly Report*

Kevin Lalley submitted a detailed report from the Emergency Management Agency and was present to answer any questions the committee had. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the April County Board agenda packet.

IX. Health Department

There were no representatives from the Health Department in attendance.

X. Probation

Stacy Stewart expressed her appreciation to the Maintenance Department, Janitorial Staff, and IT Department for their involvement with recent upgrades to the Probation and Court Services Department. The entire department was temporarily moved to the EOC while the office was painted, and new carpeting was installed. The project was completed in one week, ahead of the anticipated two-week timeline. She praised everyone involved for their seamless and efficient work, teamwork, and communication. She also thanked Kevin Lalley for allowing them to use the EOC during the upgrades.

XI. Sheriff

A. *Monthly Report*

Clay Whelan submitted a detailed report for the committee and was in attendance to answer any questions the committee had. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the April County Board agenda packet.

XII. State's Attorney

Charley Boonstra introduced Mike O'Brien as the new Senior Assistant State's Attorney in his office. Mike will be filling the role previously held by the retiring Brian Brim. He also explained that Jenna Reidemann, 711 intern, will be in the office. She is hoping to pass the BAR Exam and join the office as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Fall.

A. *Quarterly Update on the Collection of Unpaid Fines - State's Attorney*

No updates were given during the meeting.

XIII. Report of Abandoned/Nuisance Property Focus Group

Jeremy Englund provided the following information from the Abandoned and Nuisance Properties Focus Group Meeting held on April 8th:

- Efforts are underway to wrap up the Strong Communities Grant Program by the end of the year. Jeremy and Assistant State's Attorney Stephanie Sasscer met with Amboy's attorney to provide them necessary information for their ongoing processing of multiple properties.
- A community group has done significant cleanup at the former Lee Center School, which looks fantastic. A developer is interested in converting the building into 10-20 mid-to-high-level apartments, addressing a housing gap in the County. The committee is awaiting a more solidified plan from the developer.
- The former Eldena School has been purchased by a local business from DeKalb that has been seeking a Lee County location for six years. They have begun cleaning up the property, removing junk and cars. Their plan is to remove some wings of the school and use the main corridor for their shop and distribution area, representing a positive reuse of a nuisance property.
- The committee is working with the out-of-state owners of the Eldena Infirmary (Nursing Home) to understand their future intentions. Communication has occurred, and the property has been posted for health code and nuisance violations multiple times over the years.
- A hand full of residential properties in unincorporated Lee County have been identified as potential projects if funding from the Partner Communities under the Strong Communities Grant falls through.
- Jeremy highlighted the recent hiring of Joe Bay as the new County Building Official, who will be joining from the City of Dixon. This is seen as a significant addition to the Zoning and Building Department and the focus group working on abandoned properties.

XIV. Unfinished Business

There were no items under Unfinished Business.

XV. New Business

There were no items under New Business.

XVI. Executive Session

There was no request for an Executive Session.

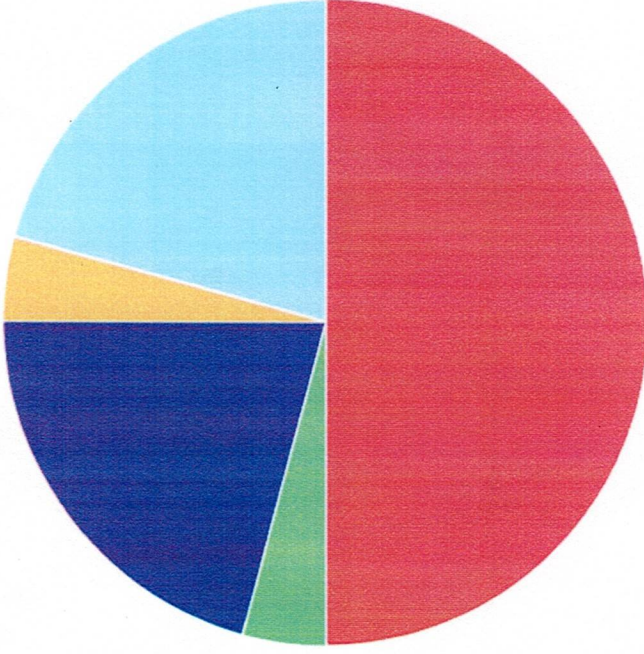
XVII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:46 a.m. **Moved** by Keane Hudson. **Second** by Chris Norberg. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

The next Public Safety and Court Services Committee Meeting is scheduled for
10:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Respectfully submitted by:
Becky Brenner - Board Secretary

****INCIDENTS BY TYPE-GRAPH****



Criteria:

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Enter the to date: 03/31/2025

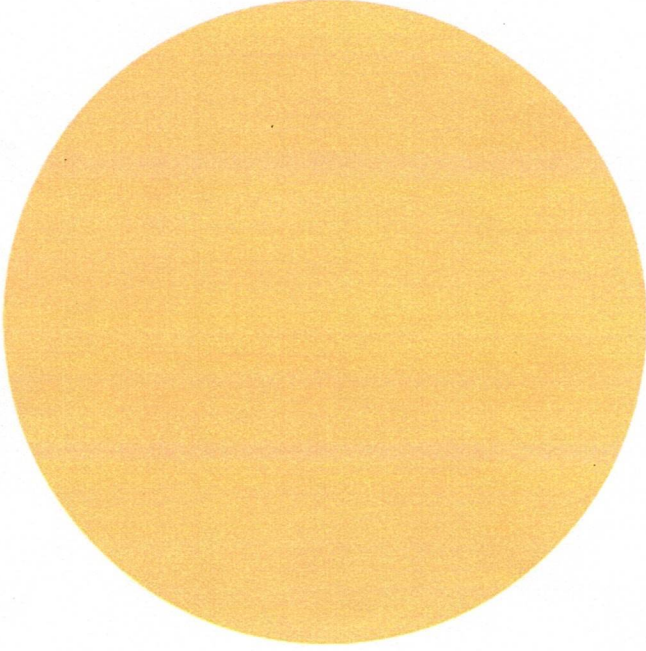
Report: **Animal Control Charts -> **INCIDENTS BY TYPE-GRAPH****

Generated by Animal Shelter Manager 50 [Mon Apr 7 09:27:22 UTC 2025] at Lee County Animal Control on 04/09/2025 by tz2404

****ANIMAL ENTRY REASONS-GRAPH****



Stray (3)



Criteria:

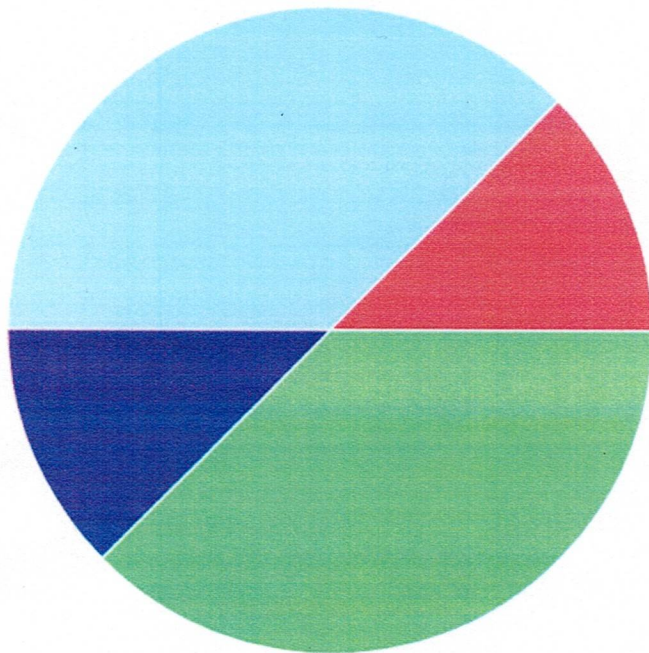
Enter from date: 03/01/2025

Enter to date: 03/31/2025

Report: **Movement Charts -> **ANIMAL ENTRY REASONS-GRAPH****

Generated by Animal Shelter Manager 50 [Mon Apr 7 09:27:22 UTC 2025] at Lee County Animal Control on 04/09/2025 by tz2404

ANIMAL EXIT REASONS-GRAPH



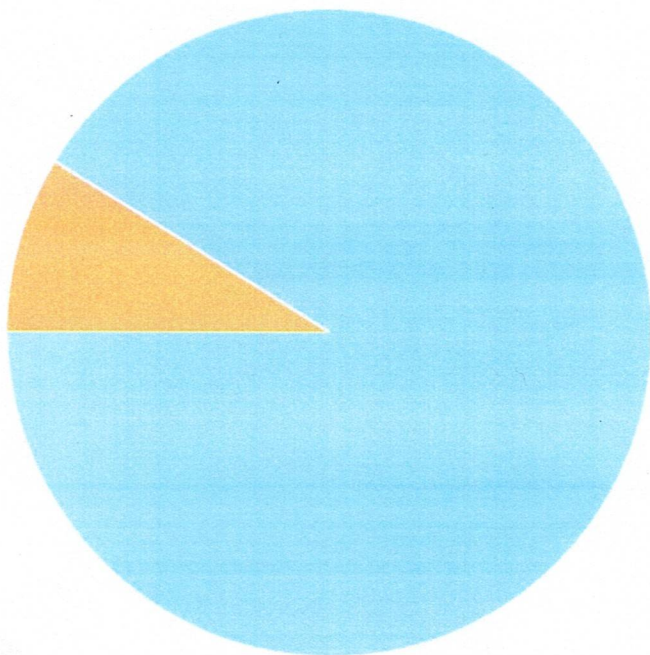
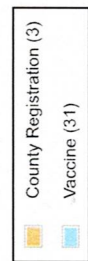
Died (0)
Reclaimed (3)
Adoption (1)
Transfer (3)
Euthanized (1)

Criteria:

Enter from date: 03/01/2025
Enter to date: 03/31/2025

Report: **Movement Charts -> **ANIMAL EXIT REASONS-GRAPH****
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CITATIONS ISSUED BY TYPE-GRAPH



Criteria:

Enter the from date: 03/01/2025

Enter the to date: 03/31/2025

Report: **Animal Control Charts -> **CITATIONS ISSUED BY TYPE-GRAPH****

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Lee County Emergency Management Agency

March 2025 Activity Report for Office of Lee County Emergency Management

Director Lalley attended the annual Pipeline Operators Safety Meeting in LaSalle County. The meeting reviewed responses procedures by fire, police and EMAs to local pipeline incidents. Introduced at the meeting was resent legislation requiring pipeline companies to notify local emergency response agencies of events in their response areas through the local County Emergency Communication Center. The new legislation requirement was relayed to the Emergency Communications Center Director.

The first week of March was Severe Weather Awareness Week. Educational documents and graphics were posted on the EMA social media accounts in an effort to educate Lee County citizens on how to prepare for the upcoming severe weather in Northern Illinois.

During Illinois Severe Weather Week Lee County EMA hosted the NWS Chicago Office meteorologist presentation to discuss weather safety and general weather at Sauk Valley Community College. Attendees were briefed on terminology, and action to take for the different types of severe weather. The Chief Meteorologist for the Chicago NWS Office shared resources available to the public to stay weather aware.

The EMA Director received a phone call on Wednesday March 5 from Mr. Alex Ankum, Sr., Manager at Motorola Solutions. Alex was inquiring on what the “box” was used to support communication in the New Courts Building for patching the UHF radios carried by Court Security to the Starcom21 system to communicate with dispatch and the Jail. Director Lalley explained how the ACU1000 connects COR, PTT, and audio +/- between two disparate radios. The City of Chicago is looking for a method to connect two radios and different frequencies during high profile events in the City of Chicago. Mr. Ankum will be sharing the information with the City of Chicago on how Lee County’s equipment accomplishes this task.

The ASIM tabletop exercises will continue this month and will transition to full-scale exercises in the coming months. Each exercise builds on the last and each is progressively more complex than the last. The next step in progression is a functional exercise.

The director used two weeks of vacation from March 6 through March 23 and was out of state. During that time, Director Lalley monitored for incoming claims to ensure they were processed promptly to ensure late fees were not imposed. The Director monitored the local weather and stayed in tune with the impacts in Lee County. With the prediction of severe weather, the NWS conducted two webinars to brief local stakeholders on expectations which the Director attended.

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Lee County Emergency Management Agency

Severe Spring Weather occurred in the Lee County area on March 12, 14 and again on March 19. Locally, a line of thunderstorms tracked across northern Illinois and northwest Indiana during the late evening of March 14th into the early morning of March 15th. Widespread damaging winds were observed with this line of thunderstorms, which produced a handful of brief tornadoes in the local area. Multiple corridors of notable straight-line wind damage were also observed, including eastern DeKalb County. Additionally, the strong low-pressure system produced two separate periods of strong non-thunderstorm winds on the 14th and again on the 15th. Most locations observed peak wind gusts between 40 and 50 mph during these periods, though some locally higher winds gusts were observed as high as 65 mph as well. Due to the high winds, Lee County experienced many extended power outages on 3/12, 3/14, and 3/20.

A period of poor air quality was also observed on Saturday, March 15th as dust and smoke from dust storms and wildfires across the southern Plains was brought in by the prevailing southerly to southwesterly winds.

Strong to severe thunderstorms rolled across the area during the afternoon and early evening of March 19th. Several tornadoes were reported in northern Illinois. Wet, wind whipped snow fell overnight into Saturday morning with accumulation of 1 to 4 inches.

On Friday March 14 a call was received from NWS satellite image showing a hotspot in lee county south of Harmon and north of Walnut. Director Lalley contacted the Amboy Fire Chief, Chief stated Amboy fire was just dispatched to a large field fire in the conservation area. A call was returned to the NWS and informed them of the status. The NWS Office offered their assistance in providing weather information in fire behavior.

The Sheriff's Office used the EMA asset; side-by-side, and Matrice UAS for a Law Enforcement mission for an investigation located in a corn field. After return, the side-by-side needed a deep cleaning. The side-by-side was taken to 5 Alarm Detailing in Amboy to have the interior and exterior cleaned. The vehicle was returned to the airport and covered with a tarp to protect the asset.

The Director returned from vacation on Monday March 24 to over 650 emails to respond to.

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When completing monthly equipment tests, it was discovered that the tone remote control which connects the repeater system for EMA radio system at the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) [PSAP] failed. The equipment at the ECC allows communication through radios located in Ashton, Compton and Eldena allowing the ECC to communicate with staff in those areas. This system is not only used by EMA but is also used as a backup for the Sheriff's Office in the event of a Starcom failure or in areas where Starcom is unavailable. The cost for a replacement tone remote control, installation and programming is approximately \$2000.

The above repairs will extend the repairs/ maintenance budget in the negative by approximately \$1002.23. This is due to unexpected repairs this year including new battery and maintainer in the side-by-side, new tires, front brakes, and replacement steering center link bushing on the 2019 GMC ¾ ton EMA pickup, and the replacement of the tone remote control for the radio system at the ECC.

With the recarpeting of the fourth floor of the Lee County Court Services Building, the Probation Department was relocated to the Lee County EOC on the third floor of the Lee County Court Services Building. The Probation Department is expected to occupy the EOC for two to three weeks while work is completed in their area.

Director Lalley continued to work with Motorola Solutions on obtaining an Advanced Systems Key (ASK) to correct StarCom21 Radio IDs in StarCom Radios.

The EMA Office responded to a request from Dixon Rural Fire for assistance with a container in the 3 Mile Branch Creek with a Bio-Hazard Label on the outside. The container, 32-gallon size was found in the middle of the 3 Mile Creek. IEMA was contacted and a Haz Mat report filed requesting assistance from the Water Division of the IEPA. After consultation with IEPA, the container was covered with plastic and IEPA will look into the solution.

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Lee County Sheriff's Office

Public Safety and Court Services Committee

April 15, 2025

In the month of March, the Lee County Sheriff's Office logged 934 calls for service.

As far as notable calls for the month, the following incidents occurred...

On March 7th at approximately 7:04 a.m., the Lee County Sheriff's Office was alerted to an iPhone crash detection notification on I-88 near Milepost 63. They could not get a response from the caller, and another passerby reported a single vehicle crash in the area. Lee County dispatched deputies along with Franklin Grove EMS and the Illinois State Police to the scene. A good Samaritan also stopped and indicated that chest compressions were being performed on the driver of the vehicle. It was later learned that the victim was a 19-year-old girl from Iowa City. Within minutes, a trooper with the Illinois State Police arrived along with Corporal Josh Coward of the Lee County Sheriff's Office. The officers took over CPR, and Corporal Coward called for Deputy Justin White, who arrived seconds later, to bring an AED to the location of the victim. The AED was affixed to the victim and notification was provided to deliver a shock to the patient. A shock was delivered, and CPR efforts continued. A total of four shock cycles were administered to the victim before she could be transported from the scene. She was revived and is still being treated at a hospital in Rockford. Corporal Coward and Deputy White received letters of commendation for their actions and will be presented with Life Saving Awards at the Lee County Board Meeting in April.

On the afternoon of Saturday, March 15th, the Lee County Sheriff's Office was alerted to a Burglary in progress at a residence in the area of US Route 30 and Walton Road in rural Dixon. There were two individuals observed on the property going in and out of a garage. Lee County Deputies arrived on scene and arrested Thomas Ulve and Mariann Poff.

Thomas E. Ulve, age 46, from Rock Falls was charged with the following:

- Burglary (a Class 2 Felony)

CORRECTIONS/WARRANTS

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- Possession of Burglary Tools (a Class 4 Felony)
- Possession of a Controlled Substance – Cocaine (a Class 4 Felony)
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (a Class A Misdemeanor)
- Criminal Trespass to Real Property (a Class A Misdemeanor)
- Driving While License Revoked (a Class A Misdemeanor)

Ulve was also taken into custody on arrest warrants from DeKalb County for Retail Theft -Subsequent Offense and Lee County for Contempt of Court. In accordance with provisions of Illinois SAFE-T Act, Ulve was released from custody on March 17th on Lee County Case Number 25 CF 59 for the charges listed above. Ulve also has the following other cases pending.

- 25 CF 11 for Retail Theft – Subsequent Offense (a Class 4 Felony) in DeKalb County
- 25 CF 55 for Possession of a Controlled Substance – Cocaine (a Class 4 Felony) and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (a Class A Misdemeanor) in Lee County
- 25 CM 312 for Retail Theft (a Class A Misdemeanor) in Winnebago County

Mariann C. Poff, age 30, from Rock Falls was charged with the following:

- Burglary (a Class 2 Felony)
- Possession of Burglary Tools (a Class 4 Felony)
- Possession of a Controlled Substance - Fentanyl (a Class 4 Felony)
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (a Class A Misdemeanor)
- Criminal Trespass to Real Property (a Class A Misdemeanor)
- Driving While License Suspended (a Class A Misdemeanor)

Poff also had outstanding arrest warrants out of DuPage County for Failure to Appear – Retail Theft – Subsequent Offense (a Class 4 Felony) and Dekalb County for Failure to Appear – Retail Theft Over \$300.00 (a Class 3 Felony). In accordance with provisions of Illinois SAFE-T Act, Poff was released from custody on March 18th on Lee County Case Number 25 CF 60 for the charges listed above. Poff also has the following other cases pending.

- 25 CF 485 for Retail Theft Over \$300.00 (a Class 3 Felony) in Winnebago County
- 25 CF 10 for Retail Theft Over \$300.00 (a Class 3 Felony) in DeKalb County

Poff is currently in the custody of the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office for a violation of her pretrial release conditions.

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On March 26th, the Lee County Sheriff's Office was notified of a suspicious situation that had been reported to the Amboy Police Department. A homeowner in Harmon located an old shoe and a bone in a crawl space underneath the floor of a house that he was restoring. The homeowner turned the items in to the Amboy Police Department. Investigators responded to the residence and located several more bones after removing additional floorboards. The Illinois State Police – Crime Scene Services was contacted to assist with the investigation. A crime scene investigator arrived, and additional bones were recovered. Pictures of the bones were taken and submitted to an anthropologist that works with the Illinois State Police. On the following day, the anthropologist confirmed that all of the bones discovered were from a deer.

During the evening of March 30th, law enforcement in the Sauk Valley area was advised to be on the lookout for a suspect in a homicide out of Missouri. The Pulaski County Sheriff's Office indicated that 21-year-old Colin Mar was a person of interest in a homicide investigation in St. Robert, Missouri that occurred the day before. The Pulaski County Sheriff stated that the victim was trying to break up a fight and witnesses stated the victim hit one of the people involved. The person the victim hit was Mar's girlfriend, and Mar then shot the male victim. The sheriff's office issued a \$1 million cash warrant for Colin Mar, and he was known to have relatives in the Dixon area. Law enforcement personnel from the Lee County Sheriff's Office, the Dixon Police Department, and the Illinois State Police surrounded a residence on Broadway Street in Dixon. Due to the seriousness of the offense, the Joint Operations Group (JOG) consisting of tactically trained officers from the Lee County Sheriff's Office and the Dixon Police Department were activated. Detectives then made contact with the relative of Colin Mar, and were advised that he had been at the residence earlier in the day. The residence was cleared, and Mar was not located. Investigators were able to determine that Colin Mar had left the Dixon area earlier in the day and was last seen in Alton, Illinois. The information was relayed to Pulaski County Investigators. At approximately 4:30 p.m. on March 31st, Colin Mar was arrested at a hotel in Richland, Missouri. Sheriff Stacy Ball of Pulaski County credited several law enforcement agencies, including police in Illinois, that assisted with the investigation and information that helped in the arrest of Mar.

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Colin Mar

Staffing Update

From the Corrections Division, we are up to full staffing!

From the Patrol Division, we are at our authorized staffing level but are two deputies short on the schedule. One deputy is currently going through the Law Enforcement Academy at Sauk Valley Community College, and another deputy is still off for a few more months on active-duty service with the military.

From the Telecommunications Division, we are at our authorized staffing level but are two telecommunicators short on the schedule. The replacement telecommunicators have been hired, but they are going through training at this time before they can work on their own.

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