

LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
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Lee County Sheriff's Office

Public Safety and Court Services Committee

June 11, 2024

In the month of May, the Lee County Sheriff's Office logged 864 calls for service.

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

On May 11th at approximately 5:04 p.m., the Lee County Sheriff's Office responded to a motorcycle accident with injuries near the intersection of Rock Island Road and Bloody Gulch Road. The male driver of the motorcycle was identified as 53-year-old Brad Dennison of Rock Falls. His passenger was identified as 53-year-old Tammie Dennison of Rock Falls. Both individuals had significant injuries, and Mr. Dennison was transported by helicopter to OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center in Rockford for life-threatening injuries. Mrs. Dennison was treated at KSB Hospital for her injuries. Brad Dennison was later issued citations for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, Improper Lane Usage, and Failure to Reduce Speed to Avoid an Accident. The Lee County Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by the Dixon Police Department, the Dixon Rural Fire Department, the Dixon City Fire Department, Advance EMS, and OSF Life Flight.

On May 12th at approximately 2:11 p.m., Lee County Dispatch advised that a female had called to report her boyfriend had made a suicidal statement and left the residence with a gun. The subject was identified as John Persona, and he was observed driving by an Illinois Conservation Police Officer heading westbound on Illinois Route 38. Mr. Persona was observed pulling into V.F.W. that is located at 1560 Illinois Route 38 in Dixon. Dixon Police Officers and the Conservation Police Officer made contact with Persona inside of the establishment. Mr. Persona stated he was not suicidal and left the residence due to his girlfriend being drunk. Persona also gave the Conservation Officer permission to get the gun out of his truck. Persona indicated that the gun was given to him by his deceased boss. The handgun was a .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol with five rounds of ammunition. Mr. Persona did not have a valid FOID card, and a criminal history inquiry revealed that he had a previous felony conviction. He was subsequently charged with two counts of Unlawful Possession of a Weapon by a Felon (a Class 2 Felony) and Possession of Firearm without a FOID - Not Eligible (a Class 3 Felony).

CORRECTIONS/WARRANTS

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On May 18th at approximately 12:11 p.m., Lee County Dispatch received a 911 call regarding a 3-year-old child that was located unresponsive and floating in a swimming pool. The address of the incident is just outside the city limits of Dixon and is the jurisdiction of the Lee County Sheriff's Office. Relatives of the child quickly removed him from the pool and a neighbor that happened to be a nurse began resuscitation efforts. Dixon Police Officer Tyler Henson along with Dixon Rural Firefighter / Paramedics Josh Tucker and Matt Hey arrived shortly after the call was dispatched. They quickly loaded the child in the ambulance and continued lifesaving efforts. The child was rushed to the Emergency Department at KSB Hospital and was reported to be crying upon arrival. This was a very good sign, and the child has since fully recovered from the incident. From the time from the call to the time of arrival at KSB Hospital was seven minutes.

Staffing Update

We are currently up to staff in the Corrections Division; however, we are not fully operational. Two correctional deputies were recently hired and will be attending the 8-week Basic Corrections Officer Academy at the Macon County Law Enforcement Training Center in Decatur. Their class begins on June 16th, and they will graduate on August 9th.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office recently welcomed back Deputy Dane Murray to employment at the Department. Deputy Murray had left the sheriff's office in November of 2022 due to financial reasons. With the recent agreement of the labor contract between Lee County and the Fraternal Order of Police, we were able to draw him back to our agency. Deputy Murray is already certified, and he began working again in the Corrections Division with us on June 3rd.

Deputy Joshua Bailey-Smith was recently hired, and he joined Deputy Ben Clark from the Corrections Division to start the 16-week Basic Law Enforcement Officer Academy at the Sauk Valley Community College – Law Enforcement Academy on May 5th. Both deputies are slated to graduate from the academy on August 22nd.

The Department was recently notified that Sergeant Matt McGrail would be attending his annual military training at the beginning of June. He was informed that he will remain on active military orders until the beginning of October. The Sheriff's Office is also down one deputy due to injury. These circumstances will be very likely to present some staffing issues for the summer months.

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