

Richmond County Sheriff's Office 2025 Year-End Report & Accomplishments

Sheriff Eugene Brantley
Prepared January 2026



Message from Sheriff Brantley

As we close the first year of this new administration, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the citizens of Richmond County, the men and women of the Sheriff's Office, and the many partners who helped us achieve one of the most successful operational years in recent agency history.

When we began 2025, we faced challenges across nearly every division—staffing shortages, strained community trust, rising violent crime, detention center infrastructure issues, outdated technology, and limitations in training, oversight, and interagency coordination. Despite these obstacles, our team embraced change and committed themselves to rebuilding an agency defined by professionalism, accountability, integrity, and innovation.

This report represents not just statistics, but the collective hard work and perseverance of every deputy, investigator, detention officer, communications professional, civilian employee, and support staff member. We strengthened public trust by enhancing transparency, hosting media days, engaging with the business community, and launching new communication tools such as the Sheriff App. We improved interagency collaboration by hosting the first CSRA Law Enforcement Luncheon—establishing a strong regional partnership that has already led to joint successes.

Most importantly, we achieved large reductions in violent and property crime, reduced traffic fatalities, modernized our equipment and technology, implemented real-time intelligence capabilities, and improved safety and professionalism across all operations.

I am proud of the progress we made together, and I am committed to continuing this momentum. We will build upon the successes of 2025 and remain focused on the mission of protecting and serving every resident of Richmond County with dignity, courage, and unwavering integrity.

Thank you for your trust, support, and partnership.

Executive Summary

The Richmond County Sheriff's Office made historic advancements in 2025. Crime declined significantly, major technological upgrades were implemented, and nearly every division saw improvements in staffing, training, and operational output.

Highlights:

- 29 percent overall reduction in Part I crimes, including major decreases in homicide, robbery, burglary, and auto theft.
- 43 percent reduction in traffic fatalities.
- More than \$10 million in federal grants secured in one year—an unprecedented milestone.
- Creation and expansion of multiple special units including HOT, Drone, CST expansion, and SWAT doubling in size.
- Major improvements to the Charles B. Webster Detention Center, including sanitation, infrastructure, maintenance, medical access, shakedowns, contraband reduction, and visitation enhancement.
- Over 70 deputies onboarded and trained through FTO.
- Expanded intelligence-led policing and full modernization of the Real Time Crime Center.
- Repaired relationships with neighboring agencies, strengthened community trust, and established consistent internal accountability.

The collective result is a stronger, more capable, more trusted, and more professional Sheriff's Office prepared to continue progress in 2026.

Crime Statistics Overview

The Criminal Intelligence Division provided comprehensive crime analysis for 2024–2025. Overall, Part I crimes dropped from 4,212 in 2024 to 3,008 in 2025—a reduction of 29 percent.

Significant Reductions:

- Homicide: 49 → 32 (–35%)
- Aggravated Assault (gun): 280 → 182 (–35%)
- Auto Theft: 837 → 522 (–38%)
- Burglary 2nd Degree: 617 → 271 (–56%)
- Robbery – Residence: 51 → 28 (–45%)
- Larceny from Auto: 1476 → 1301 (–12%)

Traffic Safety:

- Collisions decreased by 3%.
- Fatalities decreased from 44 to 25 (–43%).

These improvements are attributed to data-driven deployment, CST expansion, RTCC enhancements, focused patrol actions, and intelligence-supported investigations.

Agency-Wide Accomplishments

2025 marked a transformational year for the Richmond County Sheriff's Office. Key accomplishments include:

Transparency & Media:

- Hosted multiple media days.
- Provided rapid information releases.
- Implemented open-communication protocols, increasing agency credibility.
- Developed strong relationships with local media outlets.

Community Engagement:

- First-ever CSRA Law Enforcement Luncheon with more than a dozen agencies represented.
- Hundreds of citizens engaged through community meetings, school programs, youth initiatives, and public safety events.
- Expansion of CHAMPS, Youth Citizen Police Academy, and Explorer Programs.

Fiscal Responsibility:

- Secured over \$10 million in federal grant funding, reducing burden on taxpayers.
- Modernized equipment using grants and donated assets.
- Implemented cost-saving training partnerships with FBI-LEEDA, GPSTC, and Augusta Tech.

Operational Excellence:

- Major expansions of training, technology, drone deployment, and investigative resources.
- Strengthened accountability with decisive disciplinary measures and immediate reporting to POST.
- Launch of the Sheriff App for community notifications, tips, inmate information, and emergency updates.

Division Reports

ROAD PATROL

Road Patrol completed a historic modernization of SOPs, aligning with GSA, OSAP, and CALEA principles. Supervisory accountability strengthened, and the FTO program successfully trained more than 70 deputies. AXON technology upgrades included automated tagging, live-call monitoring, and improved evidence workflows.

TRAFFIC DIVISION

Over 21,000 stops were conducted, with 756 DUI arrests and targeted enforcement initiatives. Traffic fatalities dropped by 43 percent. New HEAT positions were obtained via grant, along with updated vehicles, radars, printers, and in-car cameras.

CRIME SUPPRESSION TEAM

CST made 1,227 arrests, seized 374 firearms, recovered narcotics including fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, and marijuana, and assisted in undercover operations, jail sweeps, and major events such as the Masters Tournament.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

CID achieved an 87 percent homicide clearance rate—far above the national average. Property Crimes solved a major burglary ring impacting multiple jurisdictions. Narcotics seized more than 11 kilograms of fentanyl and 45 kilograms of methamphetamine. Gang Unit dismantled multiple criminal organizations and seized \$350,000 in assets.

REAL TIME CRIME CENTER & CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE

RTCC expanded technological capacity with fifteen 85-inch monitors, added over 300 new cameras, enhanced analytics, and achieved rapid suspect identification in multiple violent crimes. Intel analysts built custom software to automate crime data reports, reducing workload from hours to minutes.

DRONE UNIT

The Drone Team logged over 789 flights with flight time totaling over four days. Missions included missing persons searches, active shooter overwatch, Masters Tournament security, homicide scene mapping, and SWAT deployments. A new Drone Command Vehicle was donated, and SPLOST-funded aircraft upgraded capabilities.

SWAT TEAM

SWAT doubled its team size from 13 to 26 operators, added four snipers, integrated K-9 and bomb squad capabilities, modernized weapons, and repurposed the DUI truck into a command vehicle. A world-class SWAT competition is planned for 2026.

BOMB SQUAD

Two new hazmat technicians completed initial training. Explosive breaching capabilities increased, and partnership with FBI strengthened through annual Post Blast Investigations courses.

DETENTION CENTER

Significant improvements included pest control, sanitation upgrades, two shakedowns per month, medical enhancements (on-site dialysis), renovated infrastructure, restored staffing, establishment of an internal maintenance department, increased visitation access, remote attorney consultations, and NCCHC survey completion.

COURT SERVICES & CIVIL

Court Services took full control of courthouse security, expanded juvenile court operations, participated in community safety programs, and trained deputies in advanced security and EEO compliance.

TRAINING DIVISION

20 full in-service weeks conducted, FBI-LEEDA Trilogy hosted, ABLE training implemented, multiple academies supported, and thousands of training hours delivered. Accreditation progress advanced substantially.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Processed 6,000+ open records requests, 556 complaints, 158 polygraphs, and 175 Use of Force reviews. IA added new staff to support transparency and aims to go paperless in 2026.

PEER WELLNESS & CISM

Over 579 wellness contacts, dozens of CISM interventions, expanded partnerships with Support 1 and Valor Station, and ongoing peer support for critical incidents.

Notable Success Stories

- Drone-assisted burglary arrest within minutes of launch.
- HOT Team captured fugitive serving life without parole through fingerprint scanner deployment.
- RTCC identified serial robbery suspect from 2022 and 2025 cases, leading to multiple arrests.
- Gang Unit arrested major gang leaders involved in violent crimes and narcotics trafficking.
- CID solved a nine-business commercial burglary series impacting the region.
- SWAT safely resolved multiple high-risk incidents involving armed and barricaded offenders.

2025 By The Numbers (Infographic Summary)

- 29% Reduction in Part I Crime
- 43% Reduction in Traffic Fatalities
- 1,227 CST Arrests
- 374 Firearms Seized
- 21,000+ Traffic Stops
- 789 Drone Flights
- 6,000+ Open Records Requests
- 579 Peer Wellness Contacts
- 1,310 Average Daily Jail Population
- 70+ Deputies Onboarded in FTO
- \$10M+ in Federal Grants Secured

Strategic Priorities for 2026

- Complete Drone as First Responder (DFR) deployment.
- Continue detention center renovations and staffing expansions.
- Improve court case management and bond backlog reduction.
- Enhance juvenile crime enforcement strategies.
- Advance accreditation goals through OSAP.
- Expand RTCC capabilities and regional interoperability.
- Grow specialized units including CST, SWAT, HOT, and UAV.
- Strengthen recruitment pipelines and improve deputy career development.

2024–2025 Part 1 Crime & Traffic Statistical Summary

| Crime Category | 2024 | 2025 | Total | % Change |
|--------------------------|------|------|-------|----------|
| Aggravated Assault | 115 | 103 | 218 | -10% |
| Aggravated Assault – Gun | 280 | 182 | 462 | -35% |
| Auto Theft | 837 | 522 | 1359 | -38% |
| Burglary 1st Degree | 523 | 349 | 872 | -33% |
| Burglary 2nd Degree | 617 | 271 | 888 | -56% |
| Homicide | 49 | 32 | 81 | -35% |
| Larceny From Auto | 1476 | 1301 | 2777 | -12% |
| Rape | 79 | 70 | 149 | -11% |
| Robbery – Business | 26 | 19 | 45 | -27% |
| Robbery – Other | 82 | 69 | 151 | -16% |
| Robbery – Residence | 51 | 28 | 79 | -45% |
| Robbery – Street | 77 | 62 | 139 | -19% |

Traffic Collision Summary

| Type | 2024 | 2025 | Total | % Change |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|----------|
| Collisions | 10672 | 10402 | 21074 | -3% |
| Fatalities | 44 | 25 | 69 | -43% |

This data reflects crimes reported to the Richmond County Sheriff's Office for the selected dates. Figures are preliminary and subject to change. Provided by the Criminal Intelligence Division.