2024 Annual Report

County of Volusia Division of Corrections

Department of Public Protection

Joseph DeMore, Director





Table of Contents

Introduction
About VCDC
VCDC Population4
What We Do
Administrative Services
Intake/Booking6
Case Management/Inmate Programs
Case Management/Re-entry8
Highlights for 2024
Awards and Recognitions
Finance and Human Resources
Budget and Staffing
Data Detail
Appendix A: Organizational Chart

ABOUT VCDC

As the mission statement of the Volusia County Division of Corrections (VCDC) indicates, the Division is

committed to providing a safe and secure facility for the benefit of the community and the individuals who are housed at the facility. One of the primary responsibilities of the Division is to maintain the physical facilities that it manages. These facilities include the Volusia County Branch Jail (VCBJ) and the Volusia County Correctional Facility (VCCF).

Design Capacity: VCBJ: 1,042 VCCF: 680

Total: 1,722

The Volusia County Branch Jail (VCBJ), opened in 1987, had an original design-rated capacity of 899, while the Volusia County Correctional Facility (VCCF) opened in 1977 and had a design-rated capacity

Mission Statement

The mission of the
Volusia County Division
of Corrections is to
protect the community
by maintaining a
secure jail that also is
safe, humane, and
constitutional in
operation.

of 595. Combined, VCDC had an original design-rated capacity of 1,494. Since then, additional permanent bed space has been added to both facilities when the dorm replacement occurred

added to both facilities when the dorm replacement occurred in 2013 and through adding double occupancy in select units bringing the total capacity to 1,658. In 2024 a new dorm was completed bringing the total current capacity to 1,722.To maintain a manageable jail population, VCDC staff pays close attention to a multitude of statistics regarding various aspects of the jail population and respond as needed by working closely with other stakeholders in the criminal justice system to include local courts and pre-trial services as well as the State Department of Corrections.

Additionally, VCDC meets quarterly with the Public Safety

Coordinating Council (PSCC) to share data and information with other stakeholders in the Volusia County Criminal Justice system, including judges, county council members, and the Volusia County

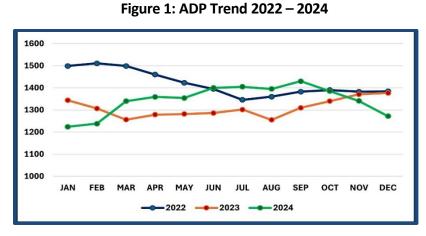
Sheriff's Office, among others. Sharing information and collaborating on current population with the PSCC has been a great help in managing the inmate population at VCDC.



VCDC POPULATION

The primary indicator of the size of the jail population throughout the year is the average daily population, which is an average of

the actual number of inmates recorded at a specific time each day. The average daily population (ADP) in 2024 was 1,345. Figure 1 demonstrates the trend in ADP by month from 2022 through 2024. The ADP is monitored closely throughout the year to identify trends and allocate resources appropriately.



The annual ADP is used to calculate

the incarceration rate for the County of Volusia. In 2024, the incarceration rate continued with a slight upward trend, with a rate of 2.26 incarcerated persons per 1,000 in Volusia County.

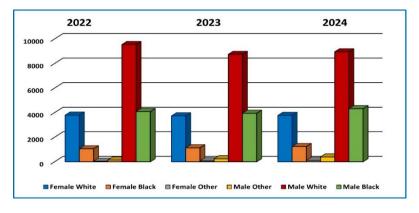
Incarceration Rates, 2022 - 2024



Inmate Demographic Profile

Consistent with prior years, the largest demographic group at VCDC was white males (48%) with the next largest group represented by black males (23%). In 2024, almost (73%) of inmates booked were male, while approximately (27%) were female.

Figure 2: Inmate Demographic Profile 2022 – 2024



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Managing 18,788 inmates that come through the doors of VCDC each year involves a team of people, many of whom are non-sworn, civilian employees. One area comprised entirely of civilian

Responsible for:

- Budget
- Purchasing
- Central supply
- Mail room
- Inmate accounts
- Payroll
- Research
- Contract management
- Case Management/
 Re- entry
- Staffing
- System administration

employees is Administrative Services. As the Organizational Chart (see Appendix A) indicates there are several unique areas of responsibility. Each area is crucial to the daily operations of the facility.

A vital area of administrative services to highlight for 2024 is Human Resources. Our staff in this section handles a variety of administrative tasks for our staff of 375 employees as well as assists in the onboarding of new employees. This was an extremely successful year for the Human Resources section, as over 100 new hires were processed. This significantly improved our vacancy rate for Corrections Officers and support personnel, which improves overall safety along with reducing turnover that stems from an overreliance on mandatory overtime.

Another essential section to highlight involves contract management. With a multitude of contracts utilized by Corrections, it is critical to have oversight of these to ensure that contract obligations are met and that the taxpayer funds are being utilized efficiently. One of the larger areas of contractual oversight involves inmate medical services. The hard work and attention to detail from our staff in this section resulted in cost savings to the County of \$959,051 with medical insurance claims.

Administrative Services plays a crucial role in the smooth operation at VCDC by handling essential non-security related tasks that support the facility's overall function. Their contributions ensure that the jail runs efficiently, meets legal requirements, and maintains organizational order.

Accomplishments for Administrative Services staff in 2024 included:

- Reduced full time officer vacancies by 80%.
- Brought in several new inmate programs that will help with providing job skills to assist with a successful re-entry into society.
- Worked diligently to reduce expenses in 2024 and worked on initiatives that will bring additional savings in 2025.

INTAKE/BOOKING

Identification and Receiving

Officers in the identification and receiving area processed 18,788 people in 2024. While many of these individuals are released soon after intake (through bond or pre-trial release), everyone who comes into the Volusia County Branch Jail is fully processed through the ID and receiving area.

27.5% of inmates booked self-reported alcohol or substance withdrawal

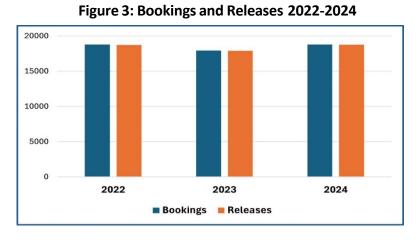
Most bookings proceed smoothly, but there are times when the challenge of substance abuse or mental health issues present themselves to officers. Because the ID/receiving area is the first contact that staff at VCDC have with inmates as they are booked, it is crucial that officers recognize emergent needs of inmates in a timely manner.

In 2024, 27.5% of inmates booked into VCDC self-reported that they were going through substance or alcohol withdrawal at the time of booking. Officers, along with medical and mental health staff in the ID/receiving area identify inmates in need of special housing in a detoxification or mental health housing unit.

Booking and Release

Booking officers work to process all information from the arresting officer or court that might impact an individual's stay at VCDC. Additionally, booking officers are crucial actors in the process of managing the jail population.

They are able to identify and track individuals who are being held for other agencies or who need to be transported to state prison. By tracking this information, booking officers are able to arrange for pick up by holding agencies to release those inmates from VCDC custody. When inmates can be moved to the appropriate jurisdiction, it saves



Volusia County the cost of incarcerating those inmates.

CASE MANAGEMENT/INMATE PROGRAMS

Classification

Most case management counselors work to classify inmates after intake into the appropriate custody level, and manage everyday activities and programming for inmates. Even though most inmates booked into the VCDC are released within 72 hours, case management counselors work diligently to classify all other inmates in a timely manner. Inmates who have not been classified remain in "MAXI"

Case management counselors are responsible for the tasks below (to name a few):

- Reviewing criminal history and background to appropriately classify inmates
- Providing for specific needs of inmates with disabilities
- Responding to inmate requests
- Communicating with family members who are concerned about an inmate
- Enrolling inmates in programming
- Reviewing needs of all inmates and coordinating services

status assigned during intake. As Figure 4 below demonstrates, 58% of inmates booked in 2024 were not classified beyond their intake "MAXI" status. Descriptions of classification statuses are provided below.

Classification involves a review of an inmate's charges and criminal history to identify any issues that might impact the custody level necessary to house the inmate.

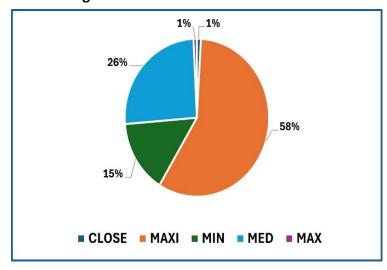


Figure 4: Inmate Classifications 2024

CLOSE: Inmates with behavior issues or who may be

sentenced to Florida State Prison

MAXI: Not Classified

MIN: Minimum custody MED: Medium custody

MAX: Maximum custody

CASE MANAGEMENT/RE-ENTRY

Re-Entry

In 2024 we focused on expanding our re-entry program to better serve our inmate population, improve their chances of a successful re-entry into society and in turn, reduce recidivism.

The following programs and events were added to our program in 2024:

- Virtual Welding
- CPR/Domestic Violence/Drug & Alcohol
- CareerSource- Job Skills Workshop
- Small engine maintenance and repair
- Horticulture
- Inmate Career Fairs
- Construction/Concrete Training Programs

Our re-entry program partners with local vital service departments, colleges and businesses to provide a comprehensive program to assist in reducing recidivism. We work closely with our inmate population to include underserved populations, such as non-English speaking persons, those dealing with mental health diagnoses and juveniles. The re-entry program consists of programs in vocational training, life skills, and life necessities.

Vocational Training

Horticulture



We utilize forty-eight (48) aeroponic garden towers, two (2) hoop houses, and one NFT hydroponic growing system. This program teaches inmates to manage plant growing techniques such as aeroponics, hydroponics, and conventional cultivation methods. Program participants receive certification in The Green-Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMP).

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

This program provides inmates with FDOT Approved Traffic Control (Flagger) training and an FDOT Flagger License that is valid for four years.

Commercial Landscape Maintenance

Inmates that participate in this program learn how to operate commercial lawn care equipment, perform routine maintenance, and receive certification in The Green-Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMP).

Virtual Welding

The Virtual Welding program provides participants with basic knowledge and skills in the career field of welding. Individuals use simulated welding machines to experience multiple techniques used on various metals.



Heavy Equipment

This program provides inmates with education and state-recognized heavy equipment vehicle specific licenses such as an OSHA approved rough terrain forklift license.

Construction/ Concrete

This program provides a comprehensive workforce development system centered around standardized training, assessments and credentials for individuals pursuing careers in multiple trades.



In 2 Work (Food Handling)

Inmates learn kitchen basics, food service management and receive ServSafe certification that is required for employment in the food service industry.

Small Engine Maintenance/Repair



Inmates are instructed on basic small engine maintenance/repairs such as oil changes, blade sharpening, carburetor cleaning/repair and wheel/tire changes.

Life Skills/Necessities

Identity Program

This program works with the Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Volusia County Tax Collector, and the Social Security Administration office to provide identification for inmates prior to their release. This includes official Florida Identification cards/licenses, birth certificates and replacement Social Security cards.

Anger Management, Domestic Violence, Parenting

The purpose of these programs is to educate offenders and teach skills that support a non-violent lifestyle and promote healthy relationships. Programs such as anger management and domestic violence can assist inmates complete court ordered stipulations of their sentence prior to their release.

Life Skills I and II

All the elements of a successful job search are incorporated into the classes: resume development, master job applications, cover letters, references, networking, personal finance education, interviewing and understanding the world of work including employer perspectives and expectations.



GED

Based on the inmate's education level, each participant is provided one-on-one tutoring to assist in preparation for GED testing.

CareerSource Workshop

This program provides resources, job skill education and final resume completion prior to release or inmate career fairs.

Other programs offered include OSHA certifications, Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) program for men and women, conflict resolution, drug awareness and horticulture involving mangroves. In total approximately 2,345 inmates attended these various programs and received services throughout 2024.



Re-entry Participant Enrollment

76% Enrolled in Educational Programs/Services

24% Enrolled in Vocational Programs

We expect these numbers to increase in 2025 as some of these programs started towards the end of the year. We will also be looking to add additional programs throughout the year such as cosmetology, sewing and landscape irrigation. That, in addition to improved staffing, will allow us to service a greater portion of our inmate population, which in turn will increase their opportunities for success post-release.

As seen in Figure 5 below, seventy-six percent (76%) of our re-entry enrollments were for our educational programs/services and twenty-four percent (24%) were for vocational training. Most of the educational programs/services are available to all inmates. Vocational training is primarily open to county sentenced inmates.

Other services the re-entry program assists with are voter registration, inmate transportation and housing. Local and state specific bus passes for work or to family member housing locations are available. The team coordinates with local housing, drug rehabilitation and half-way housing to ease the transition back into the community.

To conclude, re-entry initiatives nationwide have demonstrated that by offering appropriate

Re-entry Programs ID/Lic, SSC, Birth Certificate Anger Management, DV, Parenting 61 44 42 26 Life Skills I & II WRAP Flagge 919 Forklift Career Source- Workshop ■ GED **■** OSHA 253 Drug & Alcohol Landscape ☐ Virtual Welding IN2WORK

Figure 5: Re-Entry Programs as of 2024

vocational training, educational opportunities, and addressing identification requirements, we can effectively decrease the rate of repeat offenses. At the Volusia County Division of Corrections, our objective is to offer these essential services to our population, enabling their time in incarceration to become a transformative experience. By striving to break the cycle of recidivism and eliminating the obstacles that many inmates encounter upon reentering society, we aim to empower them to become valuable contributors to our community.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Officer and Civilian Employee of the Shift

Every six months, shift assignments are reviewed and assigned. VCDC uses this time of reflection and change to recognize outstanding work by sworn and civilian staff in the prior six months, and award "Officer and Civilian Employee of the Shift" recognitions. Nominees are selected by supervisors, and the winners are voted on by all employees and contract staff of VCDC. This award is truly recognition by supervisors and peers of the efforts made by nominees to strive for excellence. This year, VCDC was pleased to award the following staff with Officer or Employee of the Shift.

- Officer Brooke Donnelly
- Officer Hunter Corbett
- Officer Anthony Whited
- Officer Thomas Prudente
- Sergeant Samantha Levesque

- Sergeant Nathan Lalashuis
- Lieutenant Miguel Aviles
- Lieutenant Scott D'Esposito
- David Carr
- John Kollmer

Correctional Officer and Staff Appreciation Week

Correctional officers and staff can have challenging jobs. It is important to recognize the amazing work that they do on a day-to-day basis, but it is great to be able to focus attention and treat staff to something special. During Correctional Officer and employee week and Christmas, staff were treated to 4Rivers Barbecue and Texas Roadhouse with the food being served by command staff as well as leadership from partnering divisions within the County.



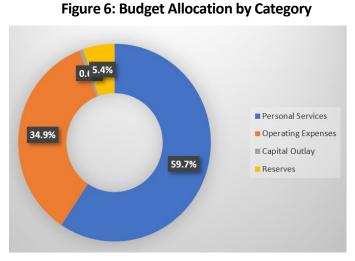
BUDGET AND STAFFING

Total Operating Budget (Less Capital)

VCDC is funded primarily through the Volusia County general fund. As such, VCDC employees work diligently to be good stewards of taxpayer



money and look for ways to maximize financial resources. In FY 2023-24, VCDC had total operating expenses of \$48,849,005. For FY24-25, an operating budget of



\$63,537,210 has been adopted. The budget includes reserves of \$3,406,405. As Figure 6 demonstrates, the largest area of expense is personnel services at 59.7% of the total operating budget. The personnel services budget is \$10,000,000 more than FY23-24 actuals largely due to the improved staffing levels. This is followed by operating expenses at 34.9%. The operating budget for FY24-25 represents a 2.37% increase over

the prior year budget.

Per Diem

The total operating expenses at the end of the fiscal year are used to calculate the fiscal year per diem, or cost per day for an inmate's stay (Per diem = (operating expenses ÷ FY ADP) ÷ 365) The per diem for FY 2024 came to \$100.55. In other words, to house an inmate it costs VCDC \$100.55 per day (or \$36,700.75 a year). The trend in per diem is shown in Figure 7. The ADP plays a role in the per diem expense. This is largely because the operational budget

Figure 7: Per Diem and Fiscal ADP Trend, FY 2020—2024



does not fluctuate in the same way that ADP does. ADP can be unpredictable, and the operating

budget, especially personal services must account for the higher end of these fluctuations. While ADP increased by 1.7% year over year for the fiscal year we achieved a per diem reduction of nearly 10%.

Efforts to Reduce Cost

Staff across the Division continue to take steps to reduce costs even as we have battled inflation pressures throughout the year. These efforts led to a reduction in operating costs year over year of \$1,585,357.

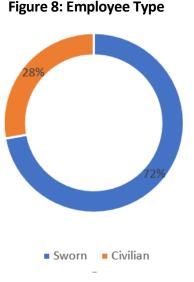
2024 Employment

At year end, VCDC had 374 funded positions with 8 of those being part time; 270 sworn officers, and 104 civilian staff. During 2024 we made great strides in filling

vacancies by reducing full-time officer vacancies by over 80%.

VCDC continues to focus on recruiting efforts, and significant efforts have been made to improve and streamline our onboarding process. Increased staffing levels will provide for a safer facility for both officers and civilians while helping to reduce overtime expenses as well as turnover due to officers being overworked.

https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/volusiaco



Pay and benefits are competitive. Correctional Officers at VCDC receive:

- Tuition and salary pay during Corrections Officer Academy
- Competitive starting salary with increase upon certification
- Advancement opportunities
- Individual and family medical, dental, prescription, life, and vision insurance
- Florida State Retirement, Special Risk
- Earn 28 days/year personal leave. Accruals start at hire, and accruals increase with longevity of service
- Ten paid holidays
- Short— and long-term disability insurance
- Job satisfaction
- Rewarding career providing a vital service to the community

DATA DETAIL

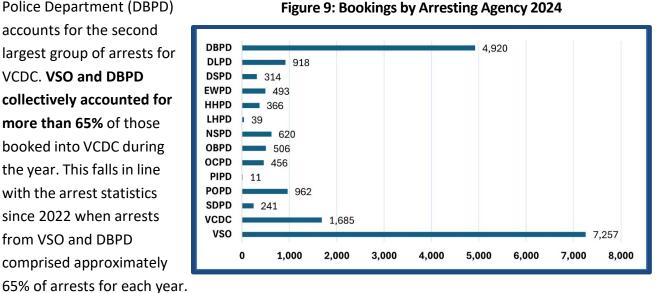
Data Management and Research

Managing the jail population is crucial to meeting the safety and security needs of the inmates and staff at VCDC. While VCDC is mandated to house all arrestees for Volusia County and local municipalities with little control over who or how many are brought to VCDC, closely monitoring various aspects of the jail population can help appropriately allocate resources, or target areas where VCDC staff can have influence. Regular monitoring and working with other relevant organizations allows VCDC to maintain a manageable ADP even in the face of broader population growth in Volusia County and changes in enforcement strategies.

Arresting Agency

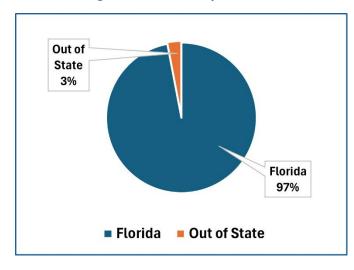
It comes as no surprise that most bookings come from arrests made by the Volusia Sheriff's Office (VSO). As the police department for one of the largest and most popular cities in the county for tourism, Daytona Beach

Police Department (DBPD) accounts for the second largest group of arrests for VCDC. VSO and DBPD collectively accounted for more than 65% of those booked into VCDC during the year. This falls in line with the arrest statistics since 2022 when arrests from VSO and DBPD comprised approximately

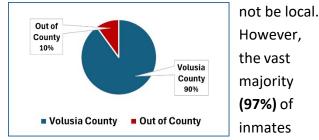


Inmate County of Residence at Arrest

Figure 10: Residency at Arrest



Volusia County is home to several major events that attract people from all over the country and world. As such, some might assume that a large portion of people booked into jail would



that are booked

into VCDC are from Florida; **90% of inmates from Florida resided in Volusia County** prior to

arrest.

Charges

The most common type of new charge in 2024 was related to dangerous drugs, as is typically the case in Volusia County. The most common charges remain consistent from year to year. The top three (3) charge types for 2024 are displayed in Figure 10 (Battery, Drug Charge, and Violation of Parole). A Violation of Parole or Probation (VOP) occurs when someone under community supervision (i.e.,

parole after early release from prison or probation instead of or in addition to a period of incarceration) violates a condition of that type of supervision.

Probation and parole often come with several conditions such as abstinence from illicit substances, employment requirements, programming requirements, or meetings. Probation violations are a major driver of jail admissions.

Figure 11: Top 3 Charges by Gender

14000
12000
10000
8000
4000
2000

Battery

Drug Charge

VOP

Offense Classification

As in previous years, on an average day at VCDC. In 2024, **52**% of jail inmates were held on felony charges, while **48**% were booked on misdemeanor charges. Therefore, the majority were being held for felony offenses. Of these, most inmates were non-sentenced. Eighty-one percent **(81%)** of inmates held on a felony charge were not sentenced, and **86**% of inmates held on a misdemeanor charge were not sentenced (i.e., awaiting trial or sentencing).

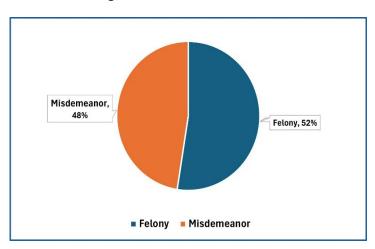
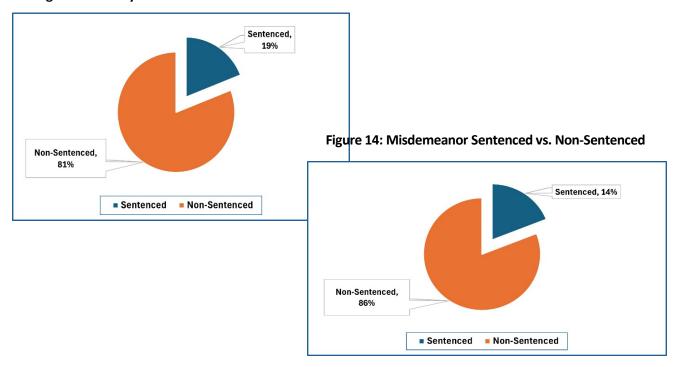


Figure 12: Offense Classification

Figure 13: Felony Sentenced vs. Non-Sentenced



Frequent Fliers

Frequent fliers, or individuals who return to jail several times throughout the year, persist as an issue for VCDC. Often, these inmates have brief stays, which prevents VCDC from offering impactful

programming that might provide resources and skills to inmates upon release. While the individual stays for this group of inmates are brief, the **29 individuals** with 8 or more stays were booked into VCDC **249 times**. This total is **2,977 days** served at VCDC in 2024.

The 8 most common charges for frequent fliers are presented in Table 1 below. Trespass, Possession, and Battery-related charges comprise **65%** of the 2,496 charges for the 29 individuals who were booked.

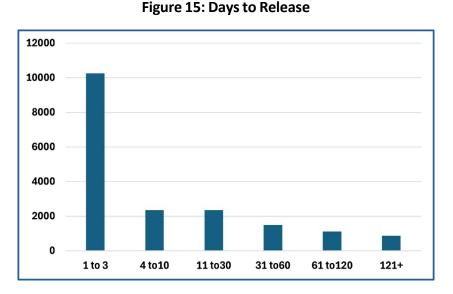
There were 29 individuals booked into VCDC 8 or more times in 2024. These 29 individuals account for just over 1.3% of all bookings in 2024.

Table 1: Frequent Flier Charges

Charge	Frequency
Trespass	672
Possession of Controlled Substances	543
Battery	403
Violation of Probation	296
Fail to Appear	192
Petit Theft	167
Loitering or Prowling	119
Burglary	104
Total	2,496

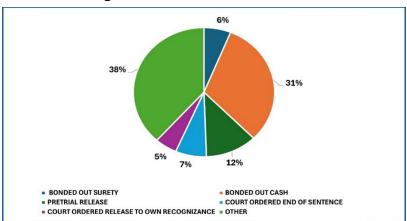
Days to Release

Inmates released in 2024 spent an average of 18 days incarcerated. However, **55.6%** of inmates released in 2024 spent between 1 and 3 days at VCDC. Nearly **89%** of inmates released in 2024 were released within 60 days of their booking. If the average length of stay is adjusted to account only for those who stay beyond 72 hours, the average length of stay in 2024 was 46 days.



Mechanisms for Release

Figure 16: Mechanisms for Release



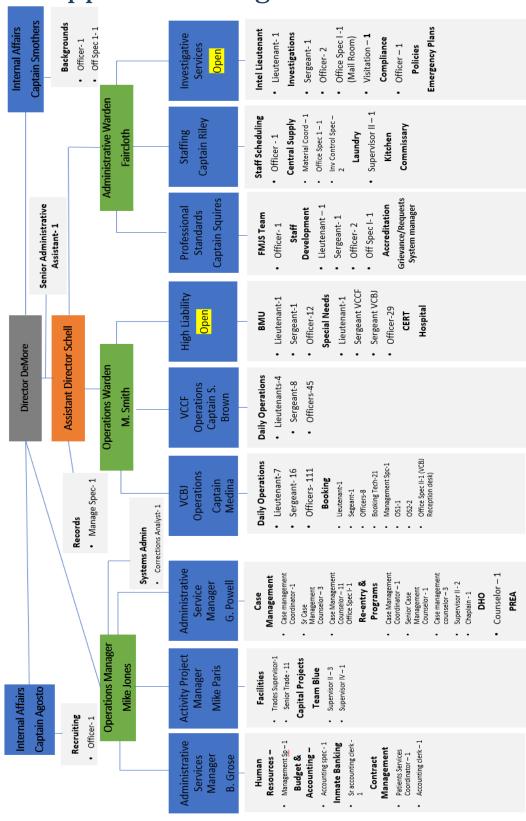
The single most common mechanism for release is bond, with 69% of inmates released in 2024 released on bond. Bonds can be in the form of either cash bonds or surety bonds. Cash bonds allow an inmate to pay an amount, set by the judge or statute, to facilitate release from jail before the resolution of their case.

Surety bonds require the inmate to pay

an amount set by the judge or by statute, but the payments are processed through a bondsman. Only a percentage of the bond is required to be paid before release for a surety bond. Bond allows for inmates to be released before their trial, which helps mitigate the size of the jail population.

Pre-trial release also helps to manage the size of the jail population. Pre-trial release staff assess each inmate prior to first appearance to determine whether they would benefit from this type of release. The goal of this program and type of release is to allow offenders to await trial outside of the jail when there is no concern regarding risk to the community and likelihood of attending trial. Inmates released through pre-trial services often have requirements of release, such as no contact with offenders and/or victims, or drug screenings.

Appendix A: Organizational Chart



Volusia County Division of Corrections Organizational Chart

-	rrections Organizational Chart	
Director	Investigative Services Captain	
Assistant Director	Intel Lieutenant	
 Internal Affairs Captains - 2 	 Investigations 	
Operations Manager	Booking	
Senior Administrative Assistant	Compliance	
Assistant Director	Professional Standards Captain	
Operations Warden	 Florida Model Jail Standards (FMJS) Team 	
Administrative Warden	 Staff Development 	
 Records Manager 	 Accreditation 	
	Emergency Plans	
	 Policies 	
	 Grievance/Requests 	
	System Manager	
Operations Manager	Staffing Captain	
 Administrative Service Managers - 2 	Staff Scheduling	
 Facilities 	Central Supply	
Capital Projects	Laundry	
 Team Blue (Outside Worker Supervisors) 	Kitchen	
 Systems Administrator 	 Commissary 	
Operations Warden	Correctional Facility Operations Captain	
Operations Captain	Daily Operations	
High Liability Captain	CERT Team	
 Investigative Services Captain 		
Administrative Warden	Administrative Service Manager	
 Professional Standards Captain 	Human Resources	
Staffing Captain	Budgeting and Accounting	
Correctional Facility Operations Captain	Inmate Banking	
	Contract Management	
Internal Affairs Captains	Administrative Service Manager	
Backgrounds	Case Management	
Recruiting	Re-entry and Programs	
	Disciplinary Hearing Officer	
High Liability Captain	• PREA	
Behavior Management Unit (BMU)	ement Unit (BMU)	
Special Needs		
CERT Team		
Hospital		

Volusia County Division of Corrections Department of Public Protection



Joseph DeMore

Director

Volusia County Branch Jail

1300 Red John Drive Daytona Beach, FL 32120 386-254-1555

Volusia County Correctional Facility

1354 N. Indian Lake Road
Daytona Beach, FL
386-254-1565

Please visit our website at:

https://www.volusia.org/services/public-protection/corrections/