



## Beaufort County Sheriff's Office

### 2023 Annual Use of Force Report

It is the policy of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office to use the minimal amount of force necessary to deal with any given set of circumstances. In no instance shall any deputy sheriff exercise use of force without due consideration for the safety of the public, other deputies or the safety of suspects. The mission of the Sheriff's Office is to apprehend criminal offenders and bring them before the proper court for the administration of justice according to law.

Of the arrests made by Beaufort County Sheriff's Office deputies in 2023, there were 17 incidents in which force was used to effect an arrest.

Altogether, 21 deputies were involved. Of the 17 documented incidents, eight involved more than one deputy. Five deputies were involved in two or more incidents.

Of the 17 incidents:

- Zero involved a juvenile, of which zero were during school hours
- Five reports stated there were no injuries to the defendant or deputy involved
- Nine reports stated minor injuries to the defendant to include but not limited to scrapes, bruises, lacerations etc. due to resisting arrest
- Five reports stated a deputy(s) were injured due to the defendant resisting arrest

All 17 incidents were found to be in compliance with the Sheriff's Office standard operating procedures for use of force.

| Defendant Race/Sex | Total |
|--------------------|-------|
| Black Male         | 7     |
| Black Female       | 3     |
| White Male         | 4     |
| White Female       | 2     |
| Animal             | 1     |

| Defendant Age           | Total |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Under 18 years old      | 0     |
| 18 - 30 years old       | 6     |
| 31 - 40 years old       | 3     |
| 41 - 50 years old       | 1     |
| Older than 50 years old | 6     |
| Unknown                 | 0     |

There were eight incidents where a combination of techniques was utilized. A review of the incidents shows each of the incidents started with minimum force and escalated under the Use of Force Continuum until compliance with lawful orders was achieved. The review also revealed in nearly every one of these incidents, the initial technique was ineffective.

| Technique Used   | Total |
|------------------|-------|
| Takedown         | 7     |
| Knee Strike      | 9     |
| Drive Stun       | 6     |
| Soft Empty Hands | 10    |
| Taser            | 6     |
| Sidearm          | 2     |
| OC Spray         | 1     |

Of the 17 incidents, four incidents resulted in a single criminal charge, 10 incidents resulted in multiple criminal charges, two incidents had zero charges listed, and one incident involved an animal. Out of all 17 incidents, two involved a mental subject.

| Criminal Charge                                      | Total |
|--|-------|
| Resisting Arrest                                     | 5     |
| Resisting Arrest with Assault                        | 1     |
| Failure to Stop for Blue Lights                      | 1     |
| Assault & Battery                                    | 4     |
| Narcotics  | 1     |
| Fleeing to Evade                                     | 4     |
| Fugitive from Justice                                | 1     |
| Public Intoxication                                  | 1     |
| Public Disorderly Conduct                            | 3     |
| Trespassing  | 1     |
| Murder   | 1     |
| Leaving the Scene of a Crime                         | 1     |
| Unlawful Carry of a Firearm                          | 1     |
| Possession of Fentanyl                               | 1     |
| Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine | 1     |
| Possession of a Schedule I-IV, 1 <sup>st</sup>       | 1     |