



## Beaufort County Sheriff's Office

### 2024 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 2024, there were 17 incidents in which force was used to effect an arrest.

Altogether, 33 deputies were involved. Of the 17 documented incidents, 14 involved more than one deputy. Three deputies were involved in two or more incidents.

Of the 17 incidents:

- Three involved a juvenile, of which zero were during school hours
- Four reports stated there were no injuries to the defendant or deputy involved
- 13 reports stated minor injuries to the defendant to include but not limited to scrapes, bruises, lacerations etc. due to resisting arrest
- Three 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	1
White Male	6
Other Male	3

Defendant Age	Total
Under 18 years old	3
18 - 30 years old	1
31 - 40 years old	7
41 - 50 years old	3
Older than 50 years old	3
Unknown	0

There were six 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	10
Knee Strike	6
Drive Stun	3
Soft Empty Hands	1
Palm Heel Strike	1
Taser	4
Closed Fisted Strike	2
OC Spray	2
Leg Sweep	1
Headlock	1

Of the 17 incidents, three incidents resulted in a single criminal charge, 13 incidents resulted in multiple criminal charges, and one incident had zero charges list. Out of all 17 incidents, one involved a mental subject.

Criminal Charge	Total
Resisting Arrest	10
Failure to Stop for Blue Lights	5
Threatening Life of a Public Official	1
Public Disorderly Conduct	4
Reckless Driving	1
Runaway	1
Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon	14
Possession of Cocaine	1
Possession with Intent to Distribute Crack Cocaine	1
Possession with Intent to Distribute MDMA	1
Possession of a Stolen Vehicle	1
Use of a Firearm while Under the Influence	1
Uninsured Motorist	1
Driving without a License	1
Driving Under Suspension	1
Burglary, 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1
DUI	1