

It is the mission of Berrien County Government to provide: leadership; cooperation with all units of government; sound fiscal management, and planning. Thereby promoting public safety, health, well being, and prosperity in order to improve the quality of life for present and future generations.

In early December, I was asked by the Chair to provide the Board of Commissioners with a list of County Accomplishments for 2015, similar to the one we did for years 2013-2014. On December 14, 2015, I asked all Countywide Elected Officials and Department Heads for their input. I was not prepared for the response!

Here are over 200 County accomplishments for 2015. I have done little to edit these from the original submissions. Note that there may be some redundancies between the Department "All" and other departments.

L-LEADERSHIP; C-COOPERATION WITH LOCAL GOVT; F-SOUND FISCAL MANAGEMENT; P-PLANNING; PS-PUBLIC SAFETY; H-HEALTH; QL-QUALITY OF LIFE; EM-EMPLOYEE MANAGEMENT; T-TECHNOLOGY; I-INFRASTRUCTURE

Department Category		2015 Accomplishment
911	L	Newly appointed Assistant 911 Director (Caitlin Sampsell) invited to speak at Association of Public-Safety Communications Officers (APCO) national symposium in Washington D.C., regarding her post-graduate study on Dispatcher Stress.
911	T	Updated 911 Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Emergency Medical Dispatch software was installed on new primary application servers.
911	I	All Michigan Public Safety Communication System (800MHz) radio sites upgraded with new infrastructure components.
Admin Assistant	L	2015 - We sadly had to bid farewell to a current Commissioner and a former Commissioner with the passing of Neal Nitz and Don Gast.
Admin Assistant	L	In all we had to replace two Commissioners this year mid-term, a feat I don't believe has ever occurred before (we've done one mid-term and even then I've only seen two replacements in my 14 years). This resulted in cementing down a more detailed procedure to filling a vacancy for the Board of Commissioners which is now a part of the completely revised and updated Berrien County Board of Commissioners Bylaws.
Admin Assistant	F	The Per Diem Policy was created which puts all of the of the resolutions, memos, directives, etc. in one place and in one document to assure the proper filing of per diem reimbursements. The Board of Commissioners was revamped to become the permanent list of all boards and commissions that per diems are paid out for. To follow that up, the Boards and Committees Membership Book was revitalized.
Admin Assistant	QL	Work with the calendars of 18 elected officials to schedule the bi-annual photos
Admin Assistant		We now have one complete year of the new requisition review process under our belt which has gone fairly smooth.
Admin Assistant	T	To make documents more accessible, the process for posting the agendas and minutes of all of the committees are now being posted on the website (PHSC, Administration, Finance).
Admin Assistant	L	By request of the Board of Commissioners, complete weekly agenda packets were now being made available for the public.
Admin Assistant	L	A new FOIA policy was implemented and this office now maintains a hard copy of all FOIA's filed.
Admin Assistant	F	Continuing to adapt to the new financial system (MUNIS)
Admin Assistant	QL	Some 300 resolutions were processed and maintained in the Administration Office
Admin Assistant	QL	Weekly posting of the agendas and resolutions on the website.
Admin Assistant	QL	Processed over 300 inquiries through the Berrien County website.
Admin Assistant	L	Completed the process for 35 board re-appointments.
Admin Assistant	QL	Completed the 2015 United Way campaign - donations of \$10,415.16 from Berrien County employees
Admin Assistant	F	After contacting the State Department of Education, I worked with Chikaming Township, Weesaw Township, and Hagar Township to re-write their library agreements so they would no longer include the Berrien County Library Board in them. In doing this, it eliminated an annual meeting necessary to distribute the library funds for those three municipalities. The funds are all distributed directly from the state, eliminating the county's unnecessary involvement.
All	F	The Board of Commissioners initiated a multi-year implementation plan for improving services to seniors and financial accountability. This plan will be executed over 2-3 years by means of the BOC's adoption of the annual "terms of appropriation" for the seven senior centers in the County. (1976 PA 39, MCL 400.571)
All	EM	The Sheriff has been able to continue to train his deputies at the Coloma Township Training Facility while the County successfully (so far to date) defends its actions. The plaintiffs have moved the legal action to the State Court of Appeals where it currently sits.
All	P	In response to a presentation by the Trial Court, the Board of Commissioners has established a department called "Indigent Defense Administration". The current phase of activity is to determine the level of service currently provided; improve where necessary; and to establish a structure that will facilitate attaining higher standards in the future as the are established by the MIDC.

All	I	Completed the consolidation of the Health Department and disposed of the five surplus properties. Sale of the old main building was directed by "use and financial ability" rather than "price".
All	I	Initiated the construction of the new Animal Control Facility
All	I	Initiated the planning for the Jail Intake Remodel Project.
All	QL	Eliminated the use of carbon monoxide at the Animal Shelter.
All	L	Welcomed three new Commissioners onto the Board: 1 by election; 2 as replacements after a very open and transparent process.
All	L	Went through the closure of the Lakeshore Coordinating Council (LCC) and full implementation of the Southwestern Michigan Mental Health Assoc. (SWMBHA)
All	F	Hired Russell Investments to act as a "manager of managers" for the pension plan and healthcare trust.
All	EM	Hired a new Corporate Council, James McGovern, who began the job in February.
All	EM	Hired a Michigan Master Assessing Officer, Tony Meygaard, who began in December.
All	L	Began the process of re-structuring economic development activities in Berrien County to include expansion of the EDC, approval of an MOU between ED Partners, a new ED website, and other initiatives to be brought to the Board in 2016.
All	C	Marketed and finally sold (closing is pending) the old ICG building in Bridgman, creating jobs and tax base.
All	L	Chief Judge Tom Nelson retired: Judge Gary Bruce moves into Chief Judge of Trial Court
All	EM	Three out of four expiring labor contracts approved prior to expiration.
Animal Control	PS	Saved a senior citizen's life while she was having a stroke in Niles.
Animal Control	I	Began construction on new Animal Control shelter
Animal Control	PS	Handled 6,317 complaints with 4 FT and 2 PT officers. All the county, 24x7 hours.
Bldg. & Grounds	T	Courthouse. Add DSX entry system to the 3 rd and 4 th floor. (Judges Areas)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Courthouse. Removed, redesigned and installed domestic hot water storage system (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Courthouse. Constructed a Supervisor's office in FOC Accounting. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Courthouse. Converted 3 rd floor restroom in to a single use restroom. Completed to single use codes along with adding a "Baby Changing Station" for convenience. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Courthouse. Completed asphalt project surrounding the Courthouse. Also at that time repairs were made to all of the failed cement including the drain structures.
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Courthouse. Started repairs to the Courthouse windows. Improper installation prohibited water run off. We also added TPO membrane to the exterior parapet wall to block water from entering building.
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Jail. Re configured cooling tower reservoir tank. The current design will save over 250,000 gallons of chemicals treated water every summer. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Jail. Converted three of the abandoned visitation rooms in to open meeting rooms or to use as holding areas during shake downs. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Jail. Designed, fabricated and installed procedure to correct poor design in foundation around cell doors which has saved major repair cost. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Jail. Rebuilt one of the two boilers along with two of the commercial dryers using in-house staff.
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Jail. Replaced Sheriffs Administration sign along Port St. All power and lighting was completed by in-house staff.
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Jail. Removed, repaired and replaced the exterior east steps. Sealed with an anti-skid surface. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Jail. Fabricated and installed stainless steel privacy panels in the old part of restricted area. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Jail. Completed over 8 blitzes which includes repairs to any mechanical, plumbing or electrical issues. Prepared and epoxied painted hallways, catwalks, end caps, stairways, slabs and doors. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Jail. Repaired spalled cement on sidewalks and sealed the north and south entrances with anti-skid coating.
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Jail. Installed building relief dampers to control building pressure. The dampers are control by installing static pressure sensors in building.
Bldg. & Grounds	T	Jail. Mounted and cabled security cameras. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	T	Jail. Isolated server room from house HVAC. Installed a self-contained mini split system. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Jail. Installed sidewalk ramps on the south side of building (Employees entrance).
Bldg. & Grounds	T	Health Dept. Installed all DSX equipment, along with duress buttons and Iphone installation prior to moving in. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Health Dept. Created easy access to the mezzanine to utilize all available storage space. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Health Dept. Constructed a wall with door and DSX system to control access the conference area. (In-house Staff)

Bldg. & Grounds	I	Health Dept. Installed additional roof drains and tied into existing storm sewer drain to eliminate water overflow on west side of building. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Health Dept. Removed three concrete car ramps, leveled and seeded. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Health Dept. Installed a rust inhibitor system on well side of water supply.
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Health Dept. Consolidated 5 Health Dept. buildings in to one. This consisted of loading and unloading nineteen 26' moving trucks along with setting up all office furniture and wall hangings. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	2100 Empire. Started asphalt project
Bldg. & Grounds	I	2100 Empire. Constructed 2 offices for the Sheriff's Dept. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	2100 Empire. Completed 2nd phase of RTU for 911 area.
Bldg. & Grounds	I	2100 Empire. Re located all critical HVAC compressors in to the warehouse area to avoid damage from the elements. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	2100 Empire. Reconstructed the foundation and path of the entry and exit gates. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	South County. Installed backup generator for the Sheriff's Dept.
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Juvenile Center. Added 2nd phase of fabricated ladders and catwalks.
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Juvenile Center. Continuing to totally replace pipe chases when new design. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Juvenile Center. Re designed and installed new awnings and overhangs that eliminate an old design that was labor intense to keep up and at time was a hazard.
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Juvenile Center. Removed vertices windows located in the gym and detention area that have always been a problem leaking. We covered the opening with a TPO membrane and match the metal siding currently on building.
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Juvenile Center. Installed commercial washer and dryer along with installing a new door for access. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Juvenile Center. Replaced RTU in kitchen area.
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Juvenile Center. Started the control room expansion project and it looks like late January we will have it complete. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Three Oaks. Replaced the RTU over the State Farm agency.
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Three Oaks. Remodeled the bank section of the building, roughly 1/2 of the building. Demo, reconstructed, patched and painted, new carpet, replaced the ceiling grid along with lighting fixtures. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Three Oaks. We repaired and patch all the exterior windows on the South and West sides of the building. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Three Oaks. Repaired the failed cement in the back of the building along with refastening hand rails. (In-house Staff)
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Madeline Bertrand Park. Installed new furnace with the addition of 2 mini split systems to add cooling in the summer months.
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Madeline Bertrand Park. Corrected the electrical panel that was discovered by Dave Puckett.
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Silver Beach. Completed the 2nd phase of electrical for Silver Beach upgrades.
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Silver Beach. Made operational; 10 walkway pole lights, 3 statue lights, 5 flag pole lights and upgraded the pavilion lights with LED's.
Bldg. & Grounds	I	Silver Beach. Installed 2 cameras on the new pavilion fabricated a Wi-Fi mount and installed.
Bldg. & Grounds	T	Silver Beach. Ran cable to new restroom and mounted Wi-Fi equipment along with running cable to the gator house to install Wi-Fi booster, this included power also.
Bldg. & Grounds	T	Silver Beach. Fabricated mounts to install camera on walkway light pole near emergency call box
Bldg. & Grounds	F	Countywide B&G. Converted over 250 fixtures to energy efficient T8 florescent and LED's where it was economically a good fit. Along with the energy savings we received more than \$10,000 in rebates.
Bldg. & Grounds	T	Countywide B&G. We have completed the basic install of our building controls and will continue to work out the issues and plan for the next steps.
Bldg. & Grounds	T	Countywide B&G. We are starting the lengthy process of building a plan to recommission several of our larger buildings, this process will take all the work that has been done over the past decade and make sure that all the mechanical changes and upgrade are working as planned and also that they are all working together.
Bldg. & Grounds	P	Countywide B&G. We will also start collecting information to complete a building conditions report. This will chart every piece of mechanical equipment the county uses to operate its buildings. This will include current condition and expected life span of every piece of equipment. This will give us a replacement priority list and will be necessary to help forecast general and capital budgets well in advance of equipment failure.

Clerk	QL	Vital Records-Same sex marriage licenses were federally mandated which required all changes to all vital records forms.
Clerk	QL	Vital Records-With the elimination of the Gun Board, County Clerks have complete management control of the Concealed Pistol license. This statute created new forms, background checks, appeal process, file management, new software program, new reporting and new training. There are additional statutes and amendments to come.
Clerk	EM	Vital Records-Hired a temporary part-time deputy clerk.
Clerk	F	Elections-Conducted audits of all 2015 elections.
Clerk	EM	Elections-Began 2016 election training for staff
Clerk	EM	Elections-Hired a temporary part-time elections clerk to work on Campaign Finance.
Clerk	L	Elections-Continued to work with the Secretary of State Office and the Michigan Association of County Clerks on legislative issues and election equipment.
Clerk	P	Elections-Preparing for the March Presidential Primary and ballot questions.
Clerk	T	Courts-Electronic imaging equipment was purchased to begin imaging in the Family Division (for domestic cases only) in partnership with FOC.
Clerk	EM	Personnel-Continuation of reviewing job descriptions
Clerk	EM	Personnel-Continuation of cross training the staff.
Clerk	EM	Personnel-Hired one (1) temp part-time clerk for elections and one (1) temp part-time clerk for the Vital Records Office.
Clerk	EM	Personnel-Added a full-time clerk in the Family Division
Clerk	I	Vital Records Office had an electronic key fob access installed
Clerk	QL	Made available the sale of a Berrien County Flag.
Clerk	QL	Created and sold the third in a series of County Ornaments.
Com. Dev	C	Completed the Oronoko/Berrien Springs Water & Sewer System 31 Project. This \$4.9M project was first envisioned in 1996 and was attempted on four separate occasions before we were able to finally initiate and complete it this year.
Com. Dev	QL	Completed the demolition of 110 residential units using Federal, State and local (Treasurer's) funds
Com. Dev	QL	Finished the NSP I & II projects (\$13M in total funding over the last 5 years.
Com. Dev	QL	Secured nation Blight Elimination Grant to undertake an additional 30 grant funded demos in 2016
Com. Dev	P	Completed the Transportation Consolidation Study and began introducing it to local transit agencies
Com. Dev	F	Secured \$950K in Harbor Maintenance Trust funding for dredging the St. Joseph Harbor; secured an additional \$1.5M for 2016 dredging.
Com. Dev	P	Initiated a new economic development partnership with Cornerstone, SMEGA and Kinexus. This partnership will be ongoing in 2016 and will include marketing, employment retention and business attraction activities.
Drain Commissioner	L	Roger Zilke was Elected President of the State Drain Commissioners Assoc. (MACDC) for a Two year term.
Drain Commissioner	I	Started the Royalton Heights Drain project in St Joseph Twp, and completed Division 1, with Div's 2 and 3 to be completed in 2016, but have shut down for the winter.
Equalization	EM	Hired a new full time Equalization Director
Equalization	EM	Filled three assessor positions
Equalization	I	Office renovation / remodel was completed
Financial Services	F	Assisted in maintaining our Standard and Poor's AA bond rating.
Financial Services	F	Began review and rewrite of Purchasing Policy.
Financial Services	F	Completed interim reporting on financial status of General Fund keeping
Financial Services	F	Presented proposed 2016 Budget to Board of Commissioners and General Public in a Public Hearing. Filed Qualifying Statements for Municipal Codes to allow for future bonding/note issuances. Completed adopted balanced budget for 2016.Revised and improved budget publication for 2016 budget cycle.
Financial Services	F	Completed 2 nd year with new Munis Financial Software.
Financial Services	F	Completed CIP requirements providing for state revenue sharing of \$728,553.23 for October 2015 through September 2016.
Financial Services	F	Met weekly/biweekly with Treasurer and Treasurer personnel to review status of chargebacks and reconciliations for delinquent taxes. Achieved monthly reconciliations. Cleared/wrote off old unreconciled balances.
Financial Services	F	Achieved "Unmodified" opinion for 2014 Fiscal Year Audit. Audit and F-65 submission to State by Due Date. Filed Qualifying Statements for Municipal Codes. Addressed 4 previous audit findings (No longer reported or noted as resolved) - Preparation of Financial Statements in Accordance with GAP, Delinquent Property Taxes/Chargebacks and Reconciliations, Preparation of Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA), and Allocation of Annual Leave and Retirement Payouts (2013) for federal programs. o Compliance with GASB 67 – Financial Reporting for Pension Plans for annual report.

Financial Services	F	Established new Pistol Permit Fund to comply with law change.
Financial Services	F	Revised accounting for Library Penal Fine Fund to convert to agency fund accounting from special revenue fund accounting.
Financial Services	F	Revised reporting and accounting for Pension and Post-retirement to transition to Russell and break into two separate funds and support financial reporting requirements.
Financial Services	EM	Budgeted for and posted position for Financial Analyst addition to staffing to support objectives, including revenue review and document of policies and procedures.
GIS/Land Desc	C	The GIS/Land Description department created and provided over (30) Land Value Maps to local assessors for their use during the "audit of minimum assessing requirements" (AMAR) review.
GIS/Land Desc	C	The GIS/Land Description department worked with Berrien County's Regional Education Service Agency (RESA) to assist in the dispersal of Galien School District into two neighboring school districts.
Health Dept.	I	Consolidated five office locations into a new Health Department building with only a brief service interruption. Sounds so simple but it was huge!
Health Dept.	H	Added a second breastfeeding peer counselor to expand the program beyond just WIC mothers and initiating the Berrien County Breastfeeding Coalition
Health Dept.	C	Worked with the City of Benton Harbor to create a playground in Union Park (to be installed in 2016) to increase physical activity of youth in the surrounding neighborhood
Health Dept.	P	Laid the foundation to integrate Family Planning and STD services in a manner that feels seamless to clients to increase staff efficiency under the heading of Reproductive Health
Health Dept.	H	Scaled up the amount and intensity of Triple P Services by receiving 3 years of continuation funding for Triple P from 2 separate sources
Health Dept.	H	Monitored travelers returning from West Africa for Ebola in accordance with CDC guidelines
Health Dept.	H	Stayed in compliance with restaurant inspections despite being at 50% staffing levels for several months
Health Dept.	H	Celebrated 15 years of serving the community with the Nurse-Family Partnership program in Berrien County
Health Dept.	H	Hired 3 additional Medical Examiner Investigators to better spread the work load and strengthen the staff compliment of Medical Examiners
Health Dept.	T	Implemented Electronic Death Record System (EDRS) for processing cremation permits and death certificates
Health Dept.	L	Board of Health officers change – Dr. McBride stepped down from being Board of Health Chair since 1994; new Board Chair is Peg Kohring and Vice Chair is Joe Wasserman
Health Dept.	EM	Re-organization within Administration to create funds for clinic area support – consolidation of positions to Deputy Health Officer and Communications & Administrative Services Manager positions allowed for the funds saved to support a much-needed addition of a Supervisor within the Clinical and Community Health service area
HR Dept.	EM	Finalized the 2 Sheriff's Dept. CBA's without going to 312 arbitration.
HR Dept.	EM	Participated in hiring Corporate Counsel
HR Dept.	EM	Participated in Commissioner Freehling and Smith's selection process
I/S	T	Replaced analog T1's with Fiber to all (11) County sites
I/S	T	Implemented Blade Technology - Servers
I/S	T	Moved Health Department to Napier
I/S	T	Implemented Presentation Technology in Napier Conference Room
I/S	T	Added Road Commission to County Phone system
I/S	T	Added DHS to County Phone System
I/S	T	Added MSUE to County Phone system
I/S	T	Upgraded Exagrid – Backup County storage system at our remote site
I/S	T	Replaced McAfee with Barracuda – Internet filtering and monitoring
I/S	T	IP Camera replacements at Juvenile Center
I/S	T	Added Mobile Technology (tablets/Surface Pros) for business use at County
I/S	T	New World Upgrade/ProQ Upgrade – Dispatch/911
I/S	T	Convert Jail to new Jail Management System - GTL/OMS
I/S	T	Convert Jail to new Mugshot System - PictureLink
I/S	T	Convert Jail to new Classification System - NorthPointe
I/S	T	Convert Jail to new Commissary System – Canteen (Inmates now order by phone)
I/S	T	Begin hosting Centralized Jury System – four (4) Counties joined with Berrien County
I/S	T	Implemented Medical Software at the Jail - CorEMR
MSUE	QL	From July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015, approximately 35,301 visitors from District 13 (including Berrien) viewed more than 60,000 pages on the MSU extension website, of those 52.2 percent were first time visitors. The reporting areas of Niles and St Joseph indicate 7054 unique visits with an average session duration of 3 minutes 34 seconds.
MSUE	QL	Since launching in April 2012, the MSU Extension website has been visited by more than 75,000 people in District 13, more than 1,000,000 people from Michigan and more than 5,000,000 people overall.
Parks	I	Upgraded 30+ year old heating system at Madeline Bertrand lodge and office and upgraded air conditioning in Bertrand Lodge.
Parks	QL	Acquired 24 acres that adjoins Love Creek County Park, known as "The Simpson" property. FMV was \$203,000. Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant was acquired for \$114,500, Mr. and Mrs. Simpson donated \$78,500 of land value and \$10,000 was used from the Parks Endowment fund to acquire the property.

Parks	QL	Made significant improvements to Love Creek's already popular winter recreation program by expanding cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trails and creating the department's first fat tire snow bike trail and rental program.
Parks	QL	In 2015, Berrien County served 1,775 residents by collecting 176,226 pounds (over 88 tons) of household chemicals and recyclable electronics; ultimately keeping these materials out of our local landfills and ensuring they are disposed properly or put back into use through recycling.
Printing	F	Printing began billing all grant based projects and clients, as well as (approved) non-profit clients for design and editing. In 2015, this increased revenue by at least \$1500
Printing	F	Printing continues to improve design, layout and editing capabilities to further assist departments in providing hi-end, professional communication throughout the county.
Printing	F	Good care of existing, old machines enabled Printing to cancel several unnecessary maintenance contracts for a savings of approximately \$5000 which allowed us to purchase a new folding machine to replace one that was obsolete and unserviceable, without requesting additional funding.
Prosecutor	QL	Mr. Weeber
Prosecutor	C	Established relationship with LMC for support staff intern.
Records	P	Purchase of warehouse shelving (2nd phase of project begun in 2014) which will increase Storage capacity and lead to better organization and retrieval times for court files. Expected to be completed by January 2016.
Records	T	Completion of first full year as a 100% digital scanning department with elimination of microfilming. In addition to making the department more efficient when doing records searches, the financial savings of not having to purchase, maintain or repair outdated microfilming equipment is very significant.
Register of Deeds	T	Register of Deeds began electronically recording documents, including working with GIS/Land Description and the Treasurer's office so that we are able to electronically record conveyances as well.
Register of Deeds	T	Register of Deeds office worked with GIS/Land Description to have the "old" aerials digitized - all aerials are now available via computer.
Register of Deeds	T	Register of Deeds working with Drain Commissioner has had the oldest of the old drainage documents scanned, and will be working to assist with indexing those documents.
Register of Deeds	L	Berrien County Register of Deeds has been heavily involved in legislation whereby all recordings would be one, flat fee -- regardless of the number of pages, thereby eliminating one of the most common reasons for rejecting documents -- this legislation would also be instrumental in helping banks and land title persons meet new federal closing regulations.
Sheriff	P	Emergency Management-Emergency Management coordinated a successful demonstration in 2014 of an organized response to a hostile action based incident at Palisades Nuclear Plant, without any findings and a successful demonstration of a response to an industrial accident at DC Cook in 2015 using new dose assessment and improved protective action strategies without any findings. Lessons learned and recommendations from both major exercises were applied to the Berrien County Emergency Operations Plan.
Sheriff	P	Emergency Management-Emergency Management improved the school safety program by making adjustments in the reporting system to more accurately report the number of drills being conducted and by tracking local first response agency participation within those drills. The drill reporting process still encourages the documentation of lessons learned and those items are incorporated into recommendations to school administrators for inclusion into their emergency response plans. In the school year 2013 to 2014, for example, only 89 total school drills were documented as completed and there was no way to determine first responder involvement. With these enhancements, we are able to identify for 2015 that 174 drills were completed and that first responders participated in 169 of those drills (97%). Further, school plans are now able to be accessible on a secure IT platform which improves first responder access to photos of classrooms, important telephone numbers, building diagrams, and obtain critical information before and during a crisis.
Sheriff	F	Emergency Management-Emergency Management has continued to strengthen Berrien County's capacity to prepare for and respond to matters of homeland security by applying for grants wherein Berrien County has received training or equipment benefit in the amounts of \$228,485 for FY 2014 and \$109,142 in FY2015. These projects enhanced communications and safety equipment for first responders enhanced the capability for diverse public alert and warning system, strengthened operational direction and control, and provided a law enforcement information sharing network. Emergency Management Performance grants (EMPG) help our program to elevate the standards established for the field of emergency management and help drive preparedness within the State of Michigan. EMPG allowed Emergency Management to be awarded \$38,021 for 2014 and \$34,946 for 2015. EM also was able to apply for a supplemental to the EMPG allocation awarded in 2012. The grant awarded was in the amount of \$44,170 and the supplemental awarded on top of that award in 2014 was \$11,575. Finally, EM was awarded \$6,110 for 2014 and \$3,250 for Emergency Planning of chemical facilities that are regulated under Federal Law (SARA Title III).
Sheriff	T	Jail Division-The new Offender Management System and CORE electronic medical records went live in August 3rd, 2015. This project was a huge undertaking and collaboration between Information Systems staff, Jail staff and Medical services but thanks to the many hours/years of pre-implementation work and continued support, the transition has been relatively smooth.
Sheriff	PS	Jail Division-The Mental Health Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) was started up in conjunction with Riverwood. This team, made up of Jail, Patrol and Riverwood staff, looks for people that may be more appropriately diverted into mental health programs as an alternative to jail. Funding is through a grant received by Riverwood.

Sheriff	F	Jail Division-The BI Service Agreement was renegotiated in 2015 resulting in the implementation of new technology (Soberlink) providing the courts with more options to monitor tether clients and reducing the cost of the service to both the County and clients. This has resulted in a significant increase in the number of clients on the tether program, particularly pre-trial detainees on tether bonds.
Sheriff	EM	Enforcement Div.-All Berrien County Sheriff's Office Road Patrol Deputies have received training on the carrying and use of Naloxone Hydrochloride, a narcotics blocker to be administered to suspected opiate overdose victims. The Naloxone Hydrochloride kits were provided to the Berrien County Sheriff's Office by Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health.
Sheriff	C	Enforcement Div.-The Berrien County Sheriff's Office was the lead agencies in a multi-jurisdictional investigation into 3 large marijuana grow operations in the Southern Part of Berrien County. This investigation resulted in the seizure of a quantity of marijuana plants and processed marijuana. The other agencies that took part in this investigation were the Federal Bureau of Investigation Violent Crimes Task Force and the Michigan State Police Southwest Enforcement Team.
Sheriff	C	Enforcement Div.-The Berrien County Sheriff's Office provided extra patrols in the City of Benton Harbor during the summer, which resulted in the Berrien County Sheriff's Office making 210 arrests for various felonies and misdemeanors in addition to handling 332 investigations
Sheriff	C	Enforcement Div.-The Berrien County Sheriff's Office continued "Operation Nighthawk", which is a joint venture between the Berrien County Sheriff's Office and the Michigan State Department of Corrections in conducting home checks on parolees and probationers to ensure they are obeying all requirements of their respective parole and probation stipulations.
Treasurer	L	Berrien County is only one of two counties in the state offering lower % rates on delinquent taxes of homestead owners.
Trial Court	C	Successful initial transition of Van Buren and St. Joseph counties to the regional jury management system that is being hosted by Berrien County – additional counties will be coming on board in 2016. (I/S and Court involved in implementation)
Trial Court	PS	The Family Division implemented the STAR program, a gender specific intensive community-based treatment model for delinquent girls.
Trial Court	I	Improvements were made to the juvenile center, including major renovations to the control center and improvements to furniture in the residential unit to better serve the juvenile population and staff.
Trial Court	PS	Problem Solving Courts (including Drug Treatment Court, Regional Mental Health Court, and Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program) received \$601,000 in grant funding for operations in fiscal year 2016 following two successful site visits/audit from SCAO.
Trial Court	T	Completed transition of all misdemeanor probation cases to the new cloud-based case management software, CaseloadPro. The software now allows us the ability to determine success rates for misdemeanor probationers, which for 2015 was 94.8%.
Trial Court	PS	Implementation of the juvenile justice mental health navigator model to deflect youth away from juvenile court. This effort was completed in partnership with Riverwood. Additional grant funding was used to successfully implement the 3-WINS Juvenile Community Service Restitution Program.
Trial Court	T	The juvenile intake department assisted the Prosecutor's Office with implementing a paperless delinquency petition process.
Trial Court	EM	Implemented Relias; a web-based training platform that ensures all instruction meets American Correctional Association and State of Michigan standards and provides staff a vehicle to pursue professional development.
Trial Court	F	Second annual FOC Amnesty Program was held for a week in May, 2015 at the St. Joseph and Niles courthouses as well as offsite at the Department of Human Services in Benton Harbor. The program targets payers with child support arrearages having outstanding bench warrants and has been designed, through partnership with several community resources and providers, to assist non-custodial parent/payers of child support with employment services, educational related resources and transportation needs. The two-year effort has serviced over 600 individuals with various barriers to successfully meeting their court ordered obligations. Child support payments made during the amnesty event and ongoing payments from obtaining and continuing employment total over \$318,000 as of December 31, 2015 attributed to the efforts of the amnesty program.
Trial Court	F	GPS Tether Program—Implemented in the Fall of 2015, this non-traditional enforcement jail alternative program is primarily targeted at delinquent payers of child support who are employed in areas of the economy where payment is often in the form of cash and not able to be easily tracked or monitored in traditional ways. Twenty one (21) individuals meeting the criteria have been placed on tether since the inception of the program with over \$11,000 having been paid for child support. FOC currently pays the cost of tether for the payer allowing payments made to be used to meet the child support obligation.
Veterans	QL	Started counseling services for veterans and family members through the South Bend Vet Center on Thursdays at Berrien County Veterans Services (see attached poster).
Veterans	C	Received a new 2015 Ford Transit van from the Disabled American Veterans for transporting veterans to and from the VAMC in Battle Creek