Wilkesboro

Police Department

2019 Annual Report

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Message from the Chief of Police,

Craig Garris

Welcome to the Wilkesboro Police Department,

I invite you to learn more about us by reviewing our Annual Report, telephoning us, or visiting us in person or online. The men and women of our department take great pride in serving this beautiful historic community.

I am honored to serve the residents of the Town of Wilkesboro as your Chief of Police. I am also proud to support the accomplishments and fine work of the men and women of this department that continually provide quality service each and every day, to provide you with the best policing services available.

Allow me to extend my personal appreciation to our fine citizens, local officials, and the officers and employees of the Wilkesboro Police Department for their gracious support of me and the professional law enforcement services we provide.

It is my goal our officers work each and every day to strive for the Responsibility of Service and Leadership with Integrity and Conviction.

Sincerely,

Craig Garris

The mission of the men and women of the Wilkesboro Police Department is to strive for the impartial enforcement of state and local laws to foster the peaceful environment of our citizens. We will establish community partnerships by providing proactive police services aimed at crime reduction and the protection of life and property. By ethical interactions with those we serve, we will garner the mutual respect that provides the cornerstone of trust our citizens deserve.
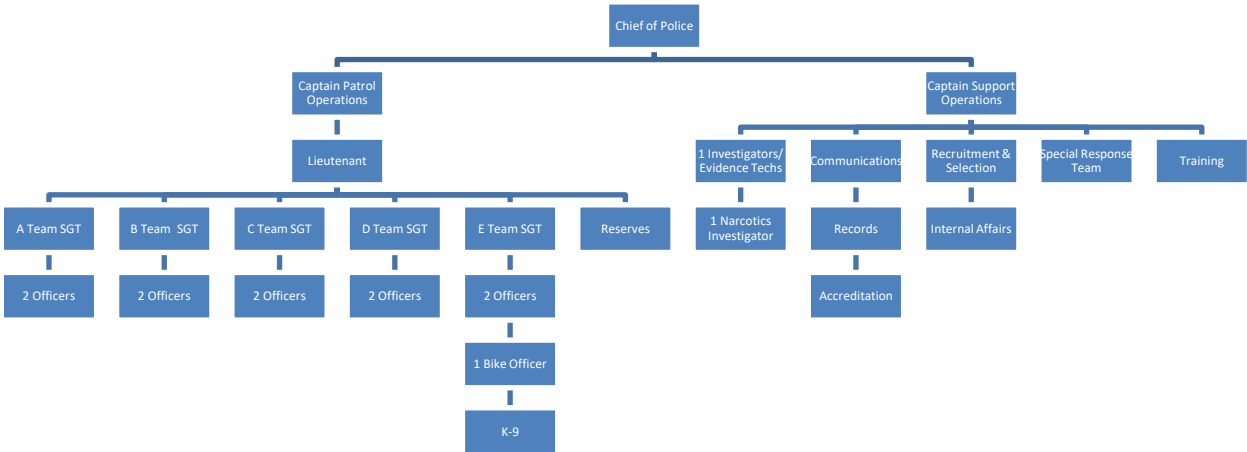
Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

As a Law Enforcement Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint, and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary for the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities, or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

 I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before

God to my chosen profession...law enforcement.

2019 Organizational Chart

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                                    Chief of Police
            ┌───────────────────────────┴───────────────────────────┐
    Captain Patrol                                            Captain Support
    Operations                                                Operations
         │                              ┌──────────┬──────────┼──────────┬──────────┐
    Lieutenant              1 Investigators/  Communications  Recruitment &  Special Response  Training
                            Evidence Techs                    Selection      Team
         │
 ┌───────┬───────┬───────┬───────┬───────┐   1 Narcotics    Records      Internal Affairs
 A Team  B Team  C Team  D Team  E Team  Reserves  Investigator
 SGT     SGT     SGT     SGT     SGT                              │
   │       │       │       │       │                        Accreditation
 2        2       2       2       2
 Officers Officers Officers Officers Officers
                                     │
                               1 Bike Officer
                                     │
                                    K-9
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CALEA

CALEA is an acronym for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. The purpose of this program is to improve the delivery of public safety services by maintaining a body of standards developed by public safety practitioners, establishing and maintaining an accreditation process, and recognizing professional excellence. The accreditation process involves a complete review of departmental standards and an inspection of compliance with those standards. The review is conducted by independent experts in the field of law enforcement, who come from all over the United States. The auditors spend time with officers to ensure their understanding and knowledge of the CALEA process, and they also reach out to the community by allowing public comments on the quality of services provided by the Department.

CALEA is a departmental-wide function and is administered by the Support Operations Division Captain. Various compliance reports are assigned to different personnel within the department. Compliance reports include analyses, summaries, and evaluations that must be completed on a time sensitive schedule. The Support Operations Division Captain ensures that reports are completed, and the Accreditation Manager maintains files of corresponding standards. Although CALEA requires a great deal of hard work on behalf of the Police Department and Town, it produces a number of benefits. Examples of benefits include international recognition, agency accountability, and professional excellence.

The Department was first awarded the CALEA accreditation on November 19, 2011. The Department went before the Commission and received our second reaccreditation at the CALEA conference in Jacksonville, Florida in November 2017.

2019 New Officers

Caleb Johnston

Officer Johnston is a graduate of North Wilkes High School and Wilkes Community College with a AAS degree in Criminal Justice as well as a graduate of Basic Law Enforcement Training program.

Patrol Operations Division

The Patrol Division is commanded by Captain Tommy Rhodes and is the largest section in the agency. There are 16 full-time and 2 part-time sworn officers assigned to the patrol division. The officers are divided into four teams of three officers and one team of four officers. The five patrol teams each have a Sergeant. These teams work a rotating 12-hour schedule and they are the first staff members to respond to all crimes, including responding to 911 calls, calls for service, domestic disturbances and shopliftings. The Patrol Division operates under a patrol-based investigation approach to all crimes. All personnel assigned to the Patrol Division are responsible for taking a proactive approach to partnerships, prevention and problem-solving in the Wilkesboro Community.

In 2019, the Patrol Division responded to 11,269 calls for service which is a 0.2% decrease from 2018. They completed 506 Crash Investigations 1 of which were fatal, 764 Incident Reports, and 342 Arrest Reports and issued 1,791 Traffic Citations totaling 2,225 charges.

Division Commander

Captain Tommy Rhodes

Lieutenant

Lt. Rocky Moore

Team Supervisors

Adam Team

Sgt. Nathan Wells

Baker Team

Sgt. Jerry Parsons

Charlie Team

Sgt. Philip Brown

David Team

Sgt. Ronnie Price

Edward Team

Sgt. Brian McManus

Division Commander

Captain Jason Delbert

Investigators

Inv. Chris Handy

Inv. Chris Arnder

Tele-communicators

Julie Anderson

Ricky Minton

Support Operations Division

The Support Operations Division is commanded by Captain Jason Delbert and is staffed by two Investigators, Two full-time telecommunicators and 4 part-time telecommunicators. Both investigators are assigned to handle felony crimes including homicide, rape, robbery, theft and fraud cases. One investigator is also assigned to investigate drugs and vice cases. The investigators employ a team approach to major crime investigations, where multiple investigators are assigned to all major crimes such as a homicide, robbery and missing person cases. This division is also responsible for several other duties within the department to include; Evidence and Property Management, Recruitment and Selection, Information Technology, Background Investigations, Records, Communications and Law Enforcement Accreditation.

One Investigators are trained in Crime Scene Investigation which allows the department to process most crime scenes without calling for assistance from

outside agencies. The agency recovered and or seized property valued at $144,765.00.

ANNUAL REVIEW

AND ANALYSIS

Response to Aggression

Because the application of force on an individual by a police officer is subject to scrutiny by society, the Wilkesboro Police Department investigates all incidents involving officers where some type of response was used on an individual. All responses must be reasonable and necessary. Each response to aggression incident is reviewed by the Division Commander and then by the Senior Command staff for compliance with policy and reasonableness of the response used.

During 2019, Wilkesboro Police Department Officers were involved in 13 Response to Aggression incidents. This was an 8% increase from the previous year. All incidents in 2019 were reviewed and found to be within departmental policy. Below is a listing of the incidents for the last three years.

Shift	2017	2018	2019
Day (0700-1900)	3	3	5
Night (1900-0700)	2	9	8
Division			
Patrol	5	12	13
Support	0	0	0
Suspect Activity			
Assaultive	3	5	0
Non-Compliant	1	2	5
Running/Evading	0	4	4
Fighting	0	0	0
Known Threat/Felony Stop	1	1	2
Weapon Found on Suspect	0	0	1
Officer Response			
Firearm (Drawn)	1	3	4
Firearm (Fired)	1	0	0
Hands	3	4	8
Taser	0	4	1
Pepper Spray	0	1	0
Response by Race			
White	2	5	12
Black	0	5	1
Other	3	2	0
Response by Sex			
Male	5	10	11
Female	0	2	2
Totals	5	12	13

Internal Affairs/Complaints

The Wilkesboro Police Department investigates all complaints received by the agency. Complaints may be received in writing, in person, by telephone, by email; anonymous complaints are accepted. The preferred method is in writing on a *Citizen Complaint Form.*

The agency uses a two-tiered investigative system that involves the First Line Supervisors for minor complaints that may be a misunderstanding of policy or procedures and a formal investigation for more serious complaints. All officers assigned to internal investigations have specialized training in internal investigative affairs. The Chief of Police assigns all complaints to either a First-Line Supervisor, Division Commander or to Internal Affairs for a complete investigation.

The agency investigated one complaint filed in 2019 on employees of the Wilkesboro Police Department. The complaint filed were on a full-time officer from the Patrol Operations Division. This complaint was an external complaint and resulted in and internal investigation being completed at the request of the Chief of Police. This investigation resulted in discipline for the employee involved. Below is a breakdown of the complaints:

Complaint Origin	2017	2018	2019
Citizen	3	2	1
Internal	0	0	0
Originating Action			
Traffic Stop	2	1	0
Arrest	0	0	0
Officers Conduct	1	1	1
Disposition			
Sustained	1	0	0
Not Sustained	0	0	0
Unfounded	0	2	1
Exonerated	2	0	0

Definitions

Sustained- The allegation is supported by sufficient evidence to believe the incident complained of occurred

Not Sustained- Investigation discloses insufficient evidence either to prove or disprove the allegation

Unfounded- The investigation disclosed that the act complained of never occurred and therefore is false

Exonerated- The incident complained of occurred; however, the actions of the staff member were lawful and proper

Vehicle Pursuits

During 2019, the Wilkesboro Police Department had four (4) Motor Vehicle Pursuits. In 2018, the agency had five (5) Motor Vehicle Pursuits. Of the four pursuits in 2019 two (2) occurred during day shift and two (2) occurred during night shift. The average duration of the pursuits was 12.6 minutes. The average distance the pursuits covered was 11.9 miles. The longest pursuit traveled 27 miles and lasted twenty-nine (29) minutes. The pursuits were initiated due to a variety of driving behaviors to include Careless and Reckless Driving, Speeding and assisting another agency. A total of 27 charges were filed in 2019 involving police pursuits. One of the pursuits was terminated by the officer due to losing sight of the suspect. The longest pursuit traveled into Watauga County when the suspects were stopped using tire deflation devices put out by the Watauga County Sheriff's Office. All the pursuits were reviewed by the agencies command staff and found to be within departmental policy. The department also had one deployment of a tire deflation device; we were requested to deploy the device to assist the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office in a pursuit which was entering our town. The deployment was successful in ending the pursuit with no injuries.

Performance

Reports

Crime Statistics

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 18,000 city, university, and college, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies (LEAs) voluntarily reporting data on offenses reported or known. Since 1930, the FBI has administered the UCR Program and continued to assess and monitor the nature and type of crime in the nation. The program's primary objective is to generate reliable information for use in (LE) administration, operation, and management. However, over the years, UCR data have become one of the country's leading social indicators. Criminologists, sociologists, legislators, municipal planners, the media, and other students of criminal justice use the data for varied research and planning purposes.

The FBI's UCR Program prepared this manual to assist LEAs in reporting their crime statistics via the Program's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

Originally, the UCR Program was designed as a summary system to collect only the most serious offense within an incident. However, the Program began using incident-based reporting (i.e., NIBRS) in 1989 to capture all offenses within an incident—up to ten crime occurrences. Through NIBRS, LEAs report data on each offense and arrest within 24 offense categories made up of 52 specific crimes called Group A offenses. For each of the Group A offenses coming to their attention, the LE collects administrative, offense, property, victim, offender, and arrestee information. LEAs report only arrest data for an additional 10 Group B offense categories.

By design, LEAs generate NIBRS data as a by-product of their respective records management systems (RMSs). Therefore, an LEA builds its system to suit its own individual needs, including all of the information required for administration and operation, then forwards only the data required by NIBRS to the National UCR Program. As more agencies report via NIBRS, the data collected will provide a clearer assessment of the nation's crime experience.

Homicides

	Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter	Negligent Manslaughter	Justifiable Homicides	Total Homicides

(Values: all zero across 2017, 2018, 2019)

Legend: ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019
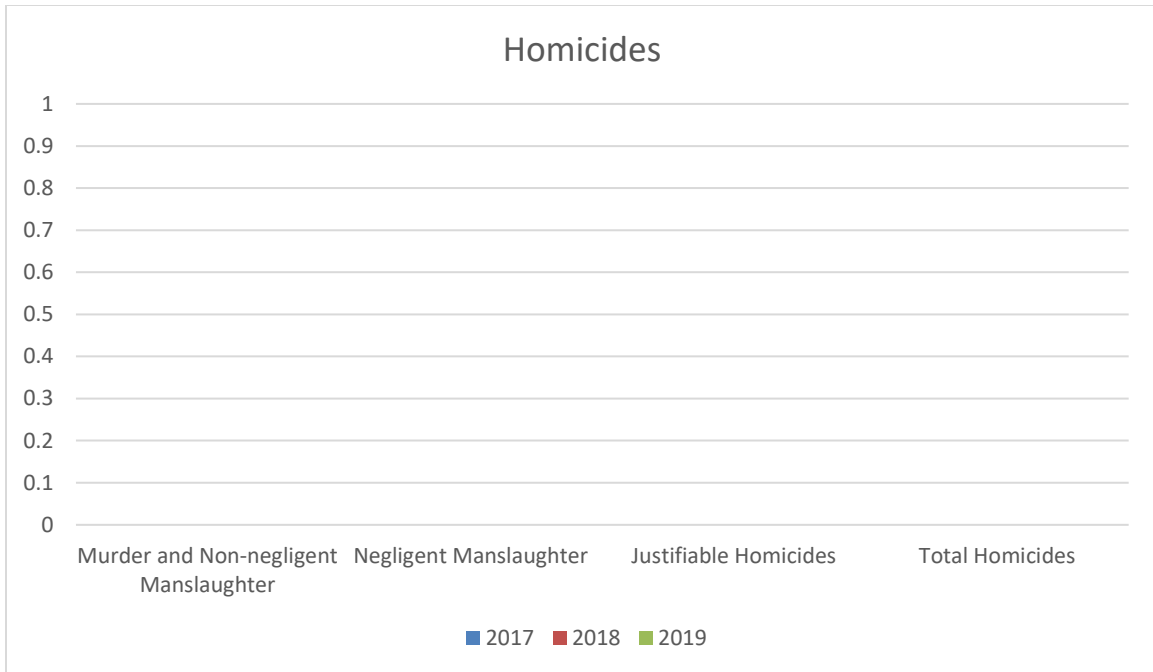
The Wilkesboro Police Department again did not have any homicides in 2019.

Kidnapping/Abductions

Kidnapping/Abduction

Legend: ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019
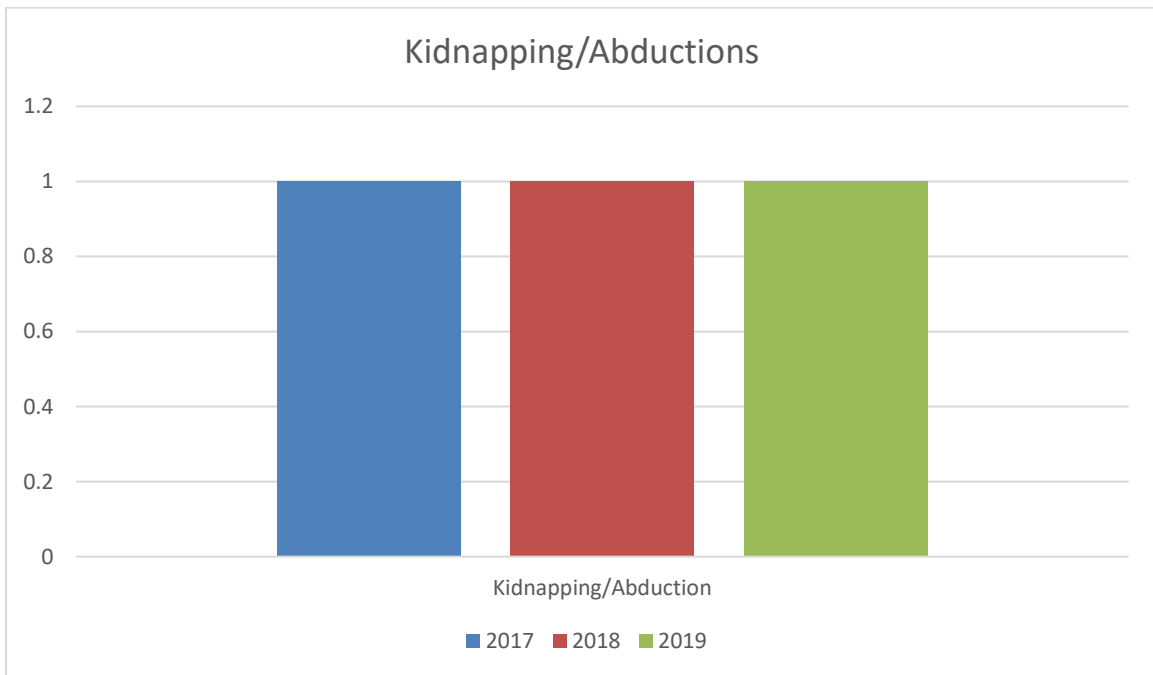
The department had no change in this category with the department reporting one (1) each year.
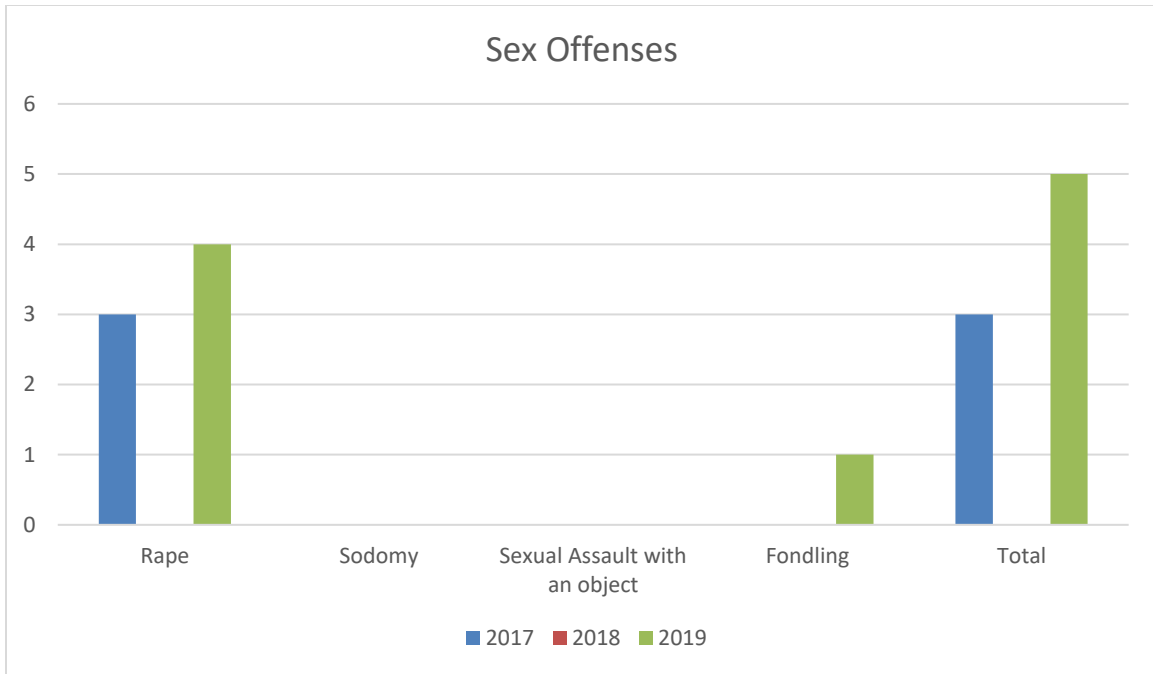
Sex Offenses

The department saw an increase in this area across the board with five (5) sex offenses in 2019.

Robbery
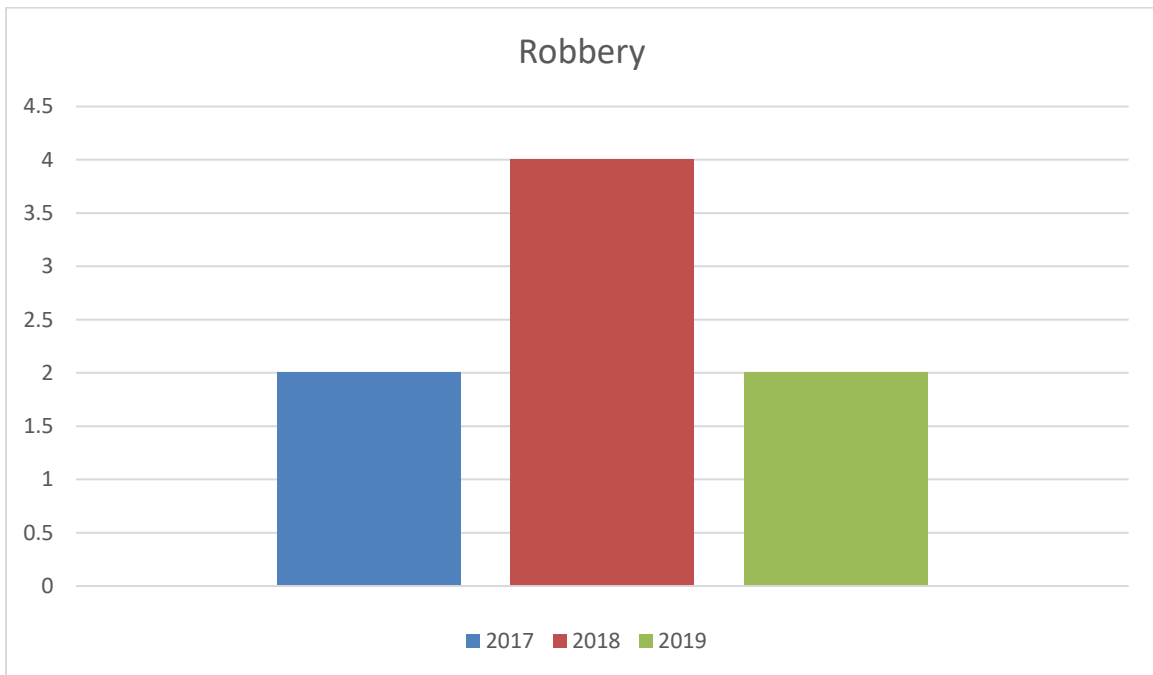
The department had a 50% reduction in this category, going from four (4) in 2018 to two (2) in 2019.
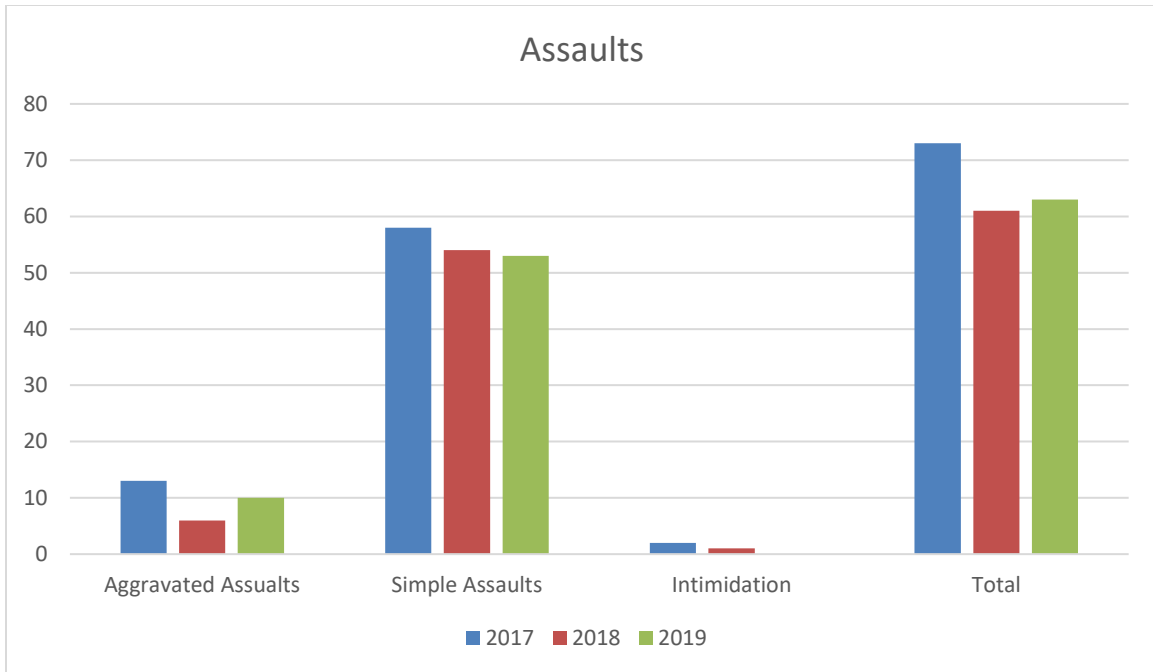
Assaults

The department had a 66.7% increase in aggravated assaults, a 1.9% decrease in simple assaults and a 100% decrease in intimidation cases. Overall, we experienced a 3.3% increase in these crimes.

Arson
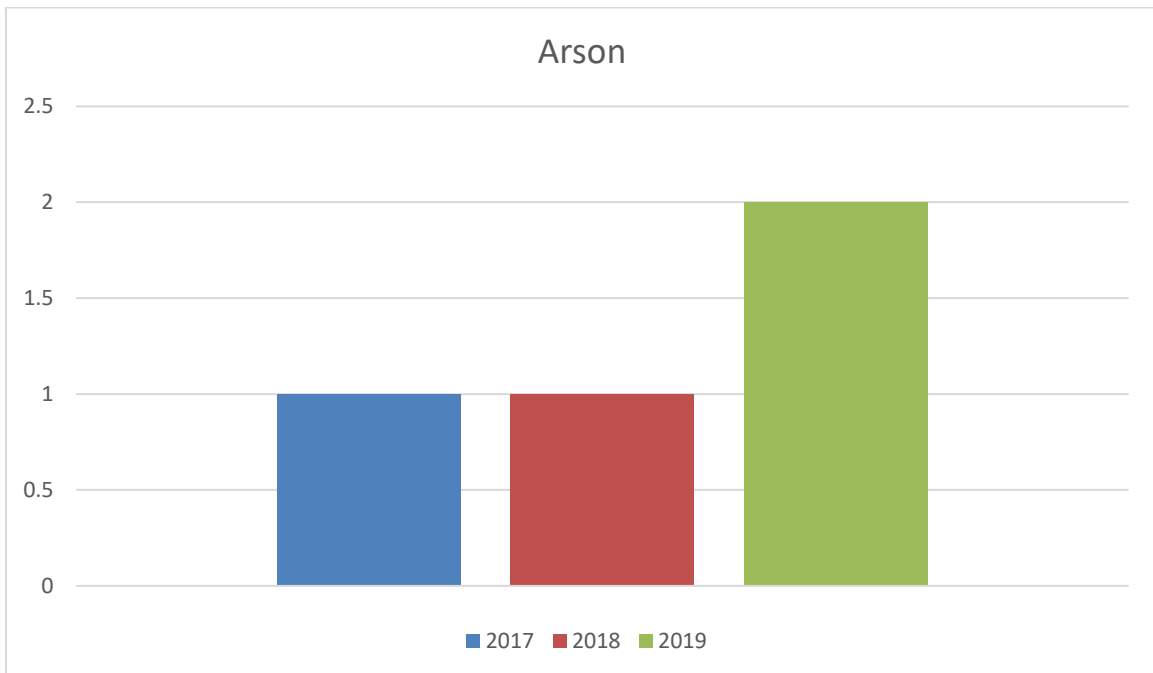
The department saw a change in this category between 2018 and 2019 with two (2) in 2019. One of the two cases unfounded and closed.

Extrotion/Blackmail
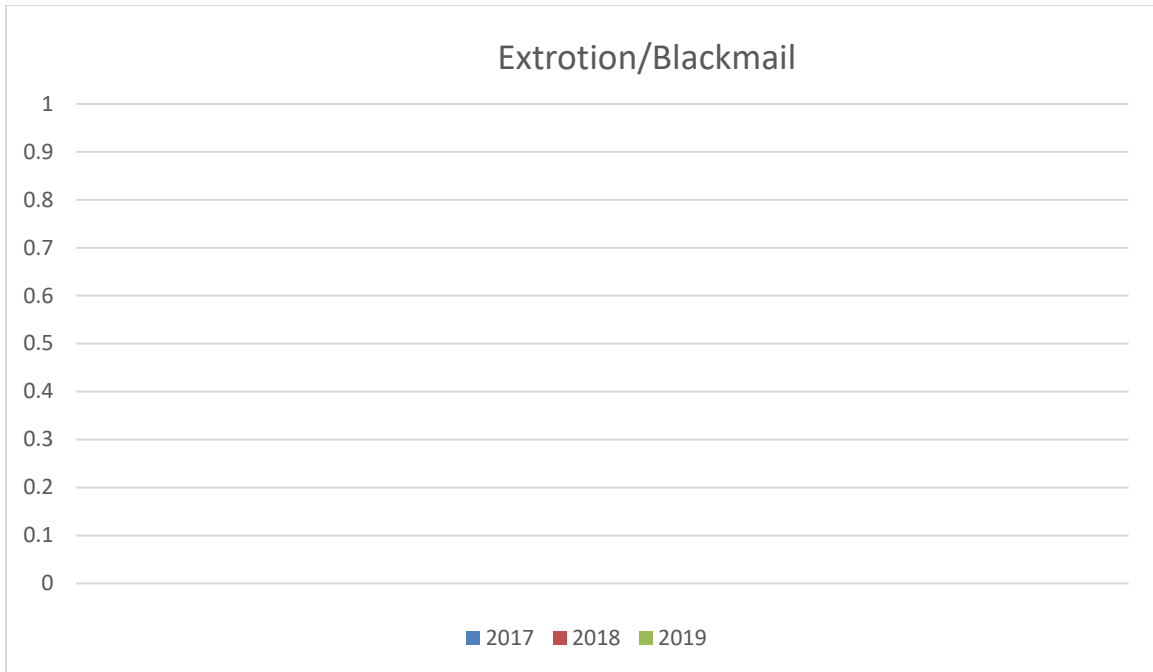
The department did not have any crimes in this category for either year.

Burglary/ Breaking and Entering
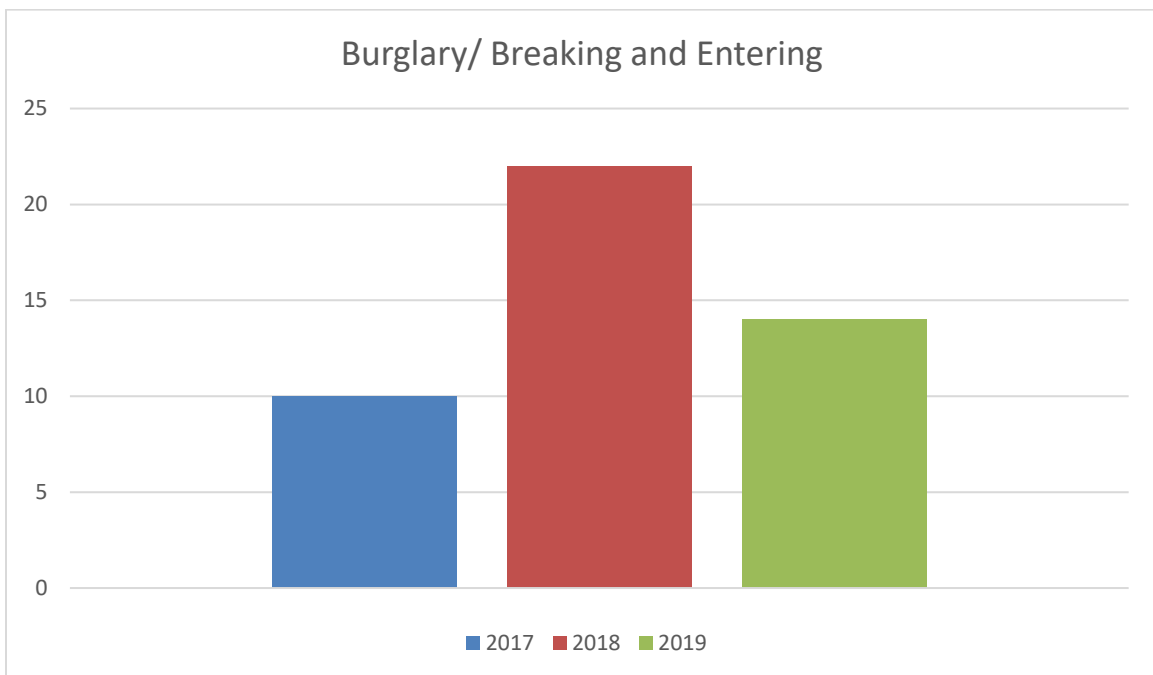
The department saw a 36.4% decrease in this category going from twenty-two (22) in 2018 to fourteen (14) in 2019.

Larceny/ Theft
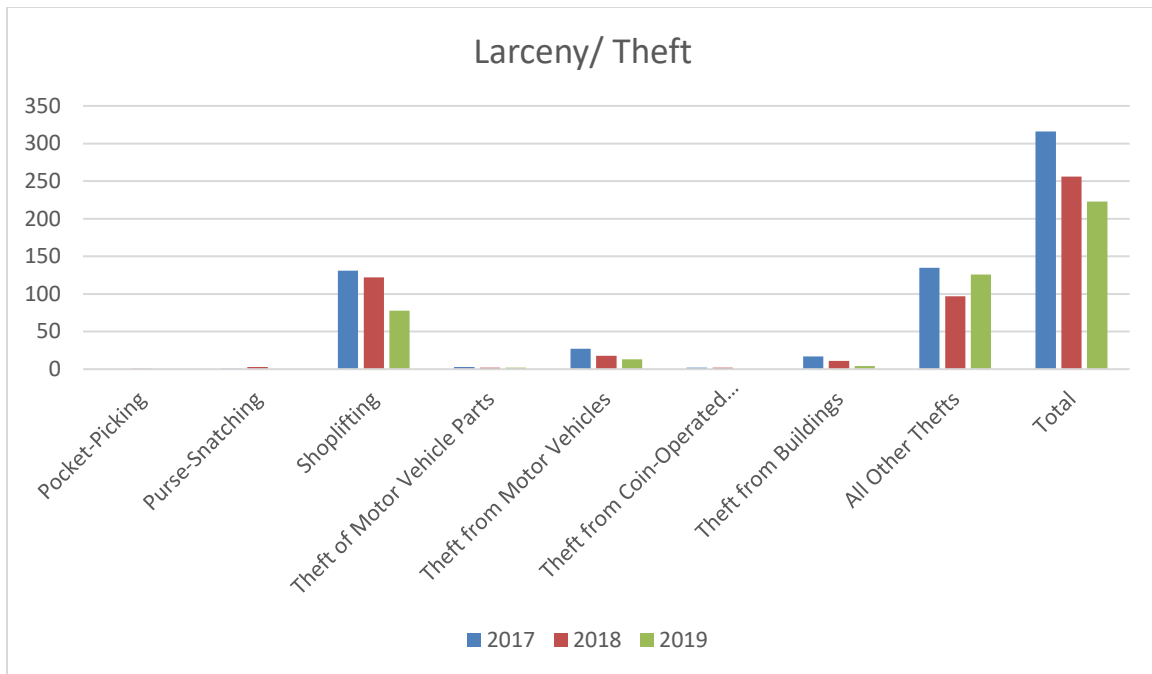
The department had a reduction in all larcenies and thefts except for all other thefts which went from ninety-seven (97) in 2018 to one hundred twenty-six (126) in 2019, a 29.9% increase. Overall, we had a 12.9% reduction in these crimes from the previous year.

Motor Vehicle Theft
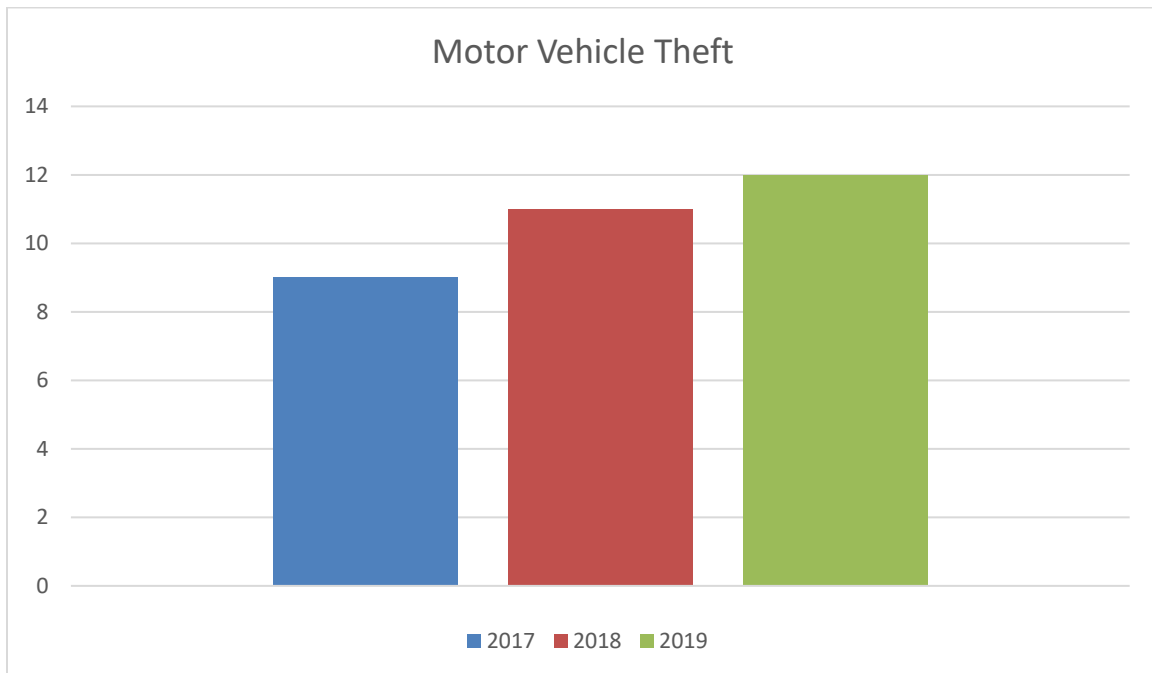
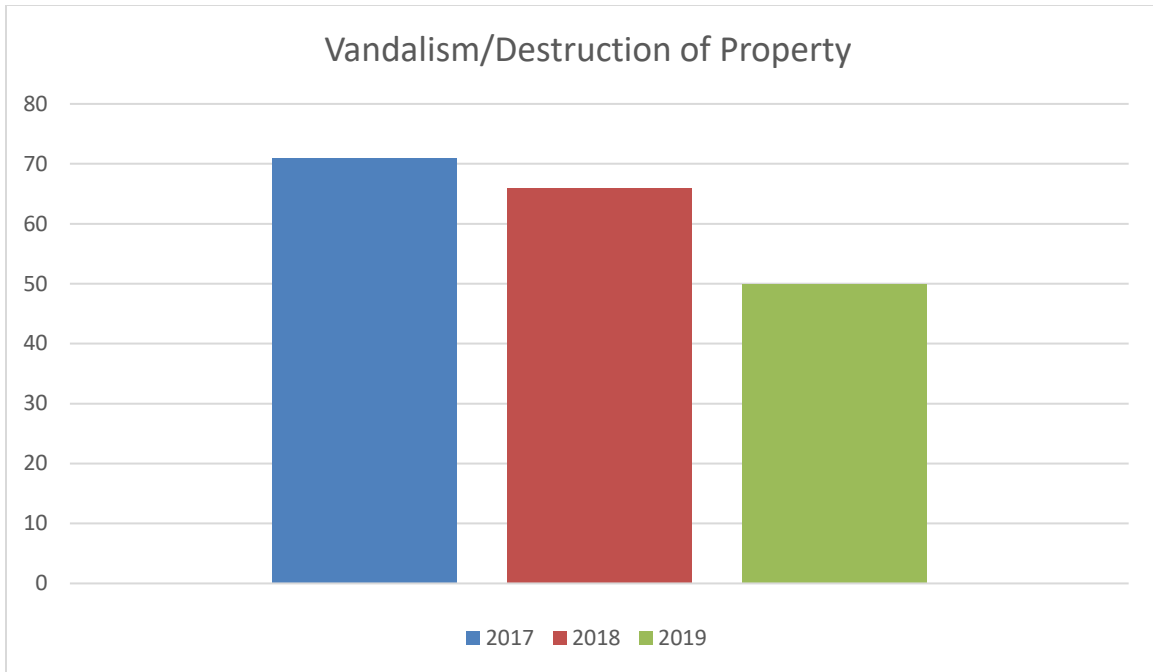The department had a 9.1% increase in motor vehicle thefts, with eleven (11) in 2018 and twelve (12) in 2019.

Counterfeiting/ Forgery
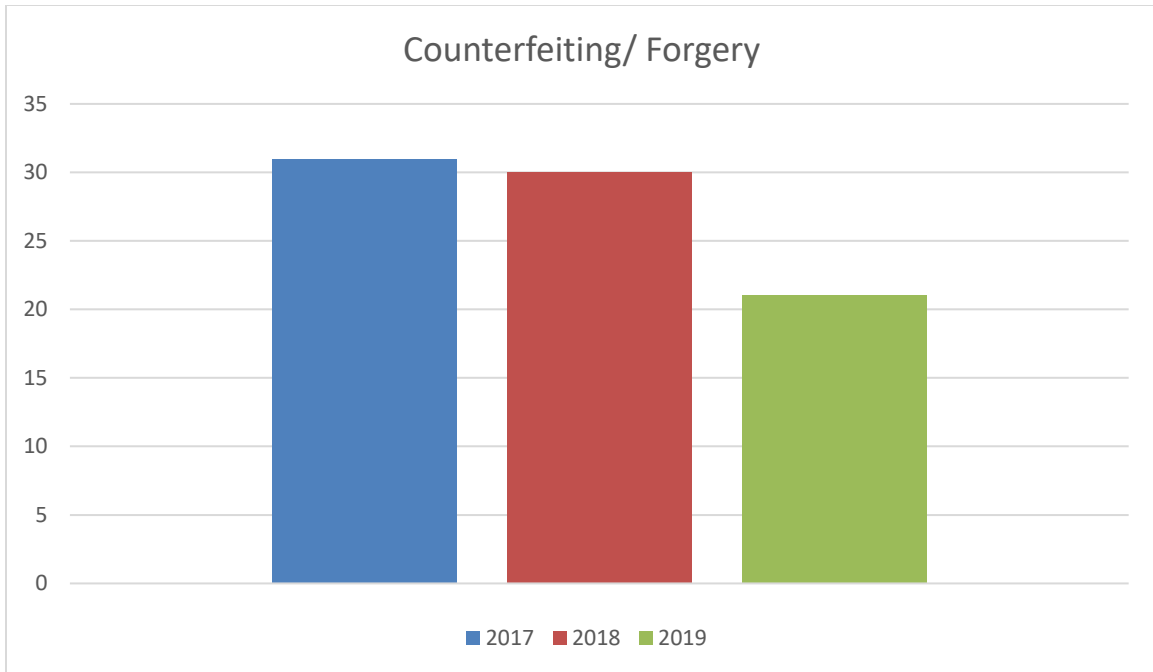
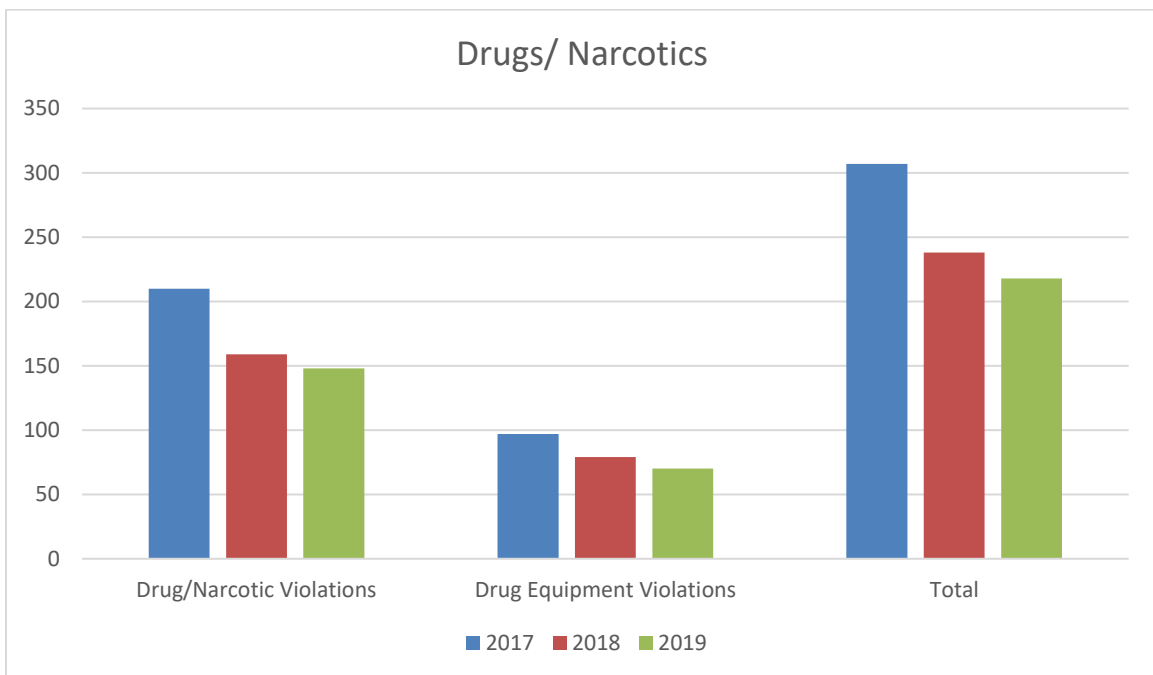The department had a 30% decrease in these crimes in 2019.
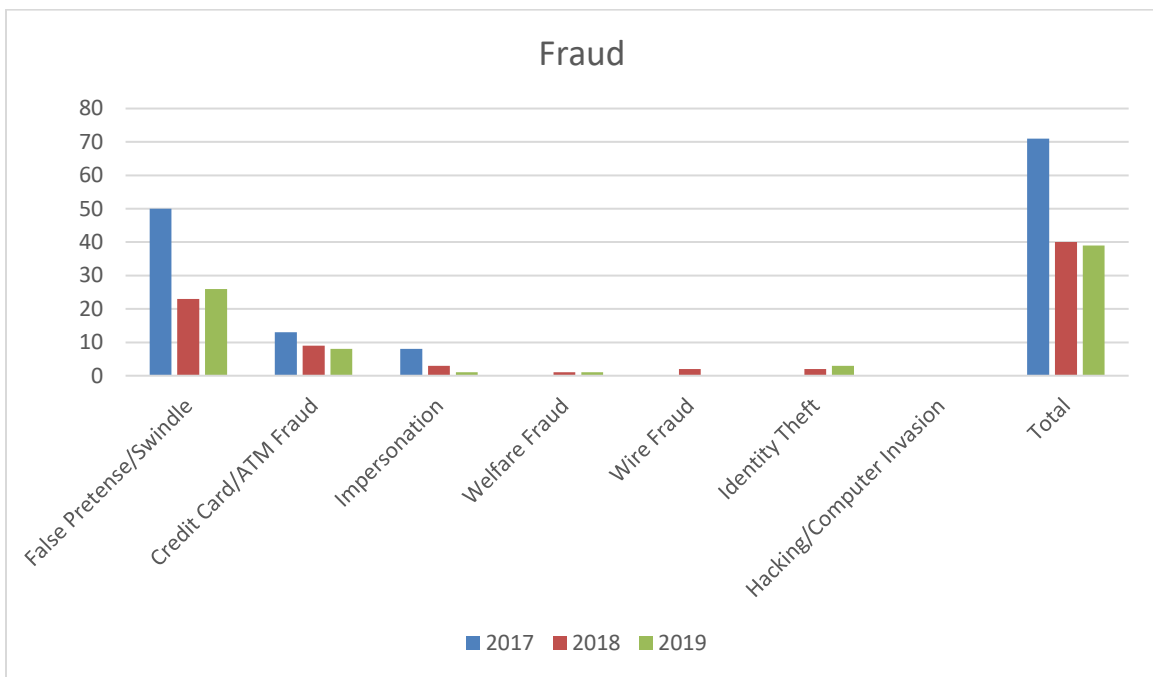
Fraud

The department again had a decrease in almost every crime in this category except False Pretenses cases. Overall, we had a 2.5% decrease in Frauds.

Embezzlement

Legend: ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019

Stolen Property

Legend: ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019
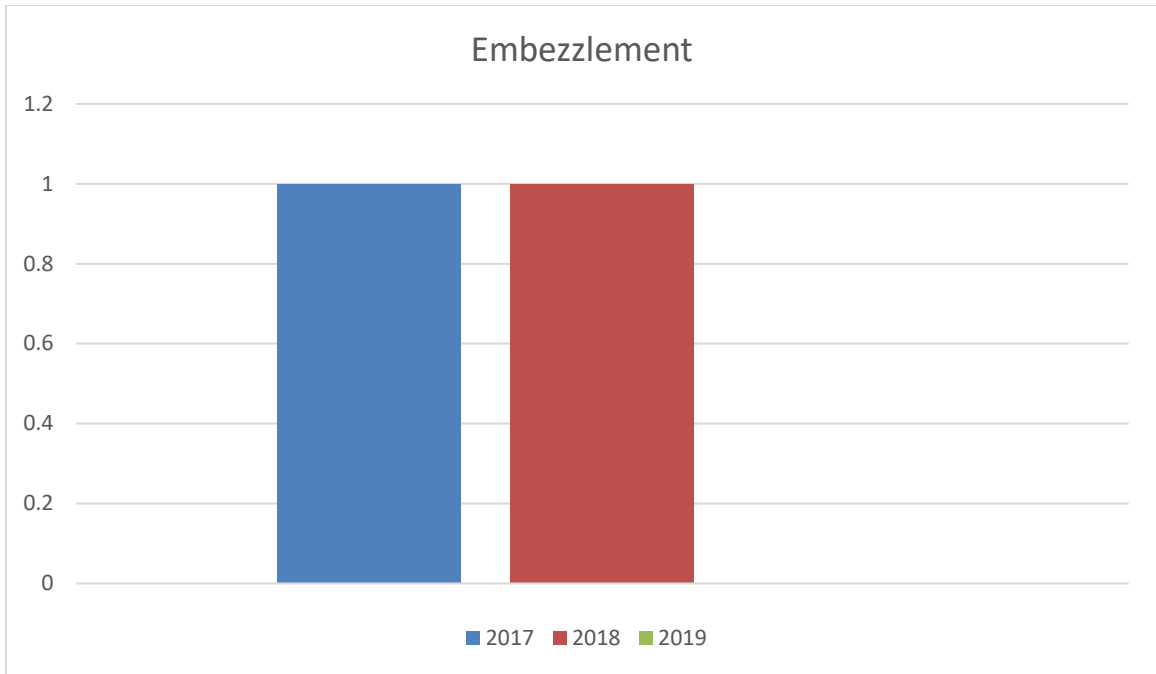
Stolen property had a decrease of 42.9% for 2019.

Vandalism/Destruction of Property

Legend: 2017 2018 2019

Vandalisms went down 24.2% in 2019.

Drugs/ Narcotics

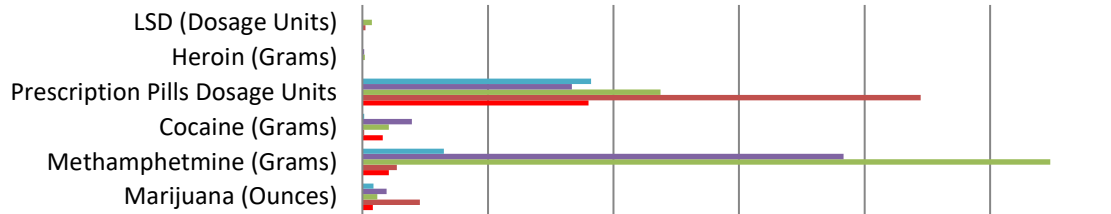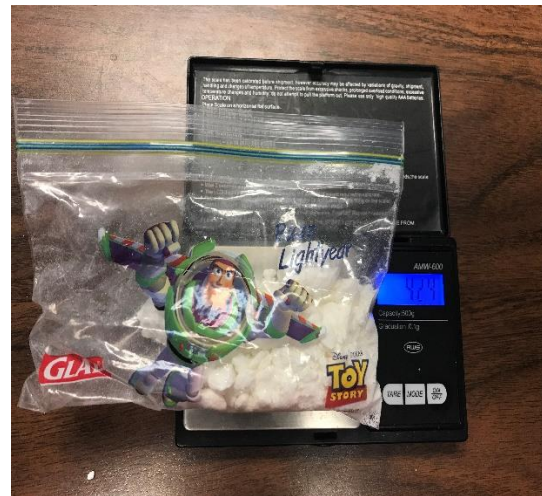Categories: Drug/Narcotic Violations, Drug Equipment Violations, Total

Legend: 2017 2018 2019

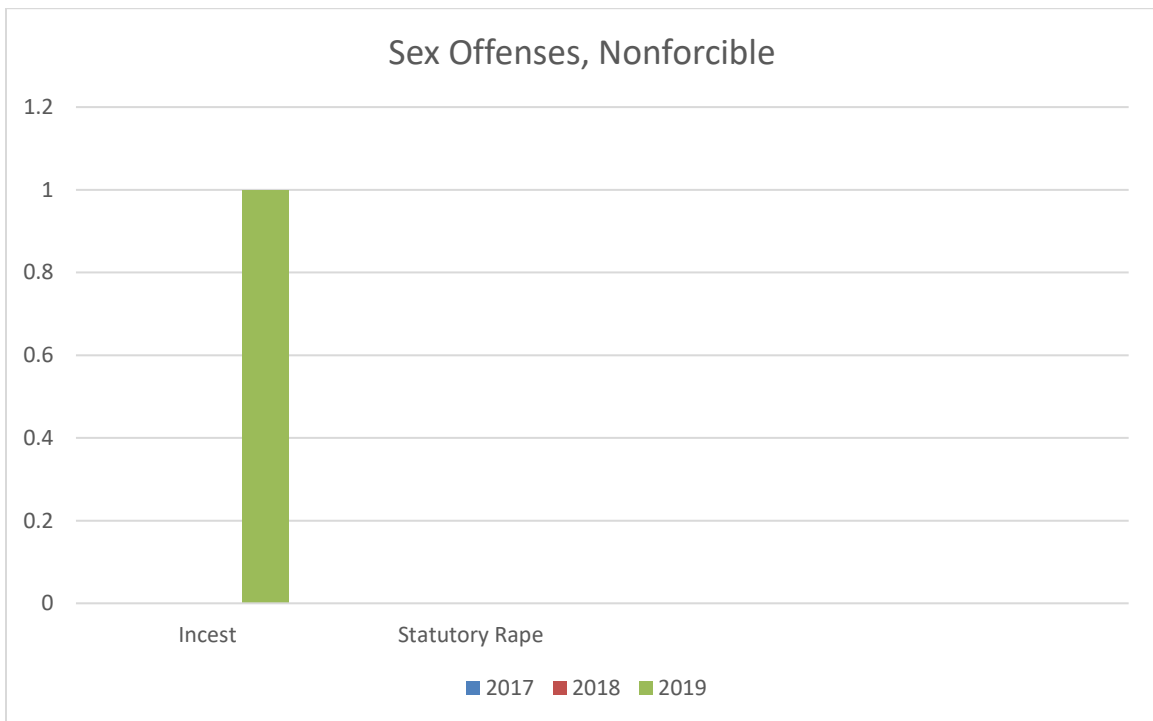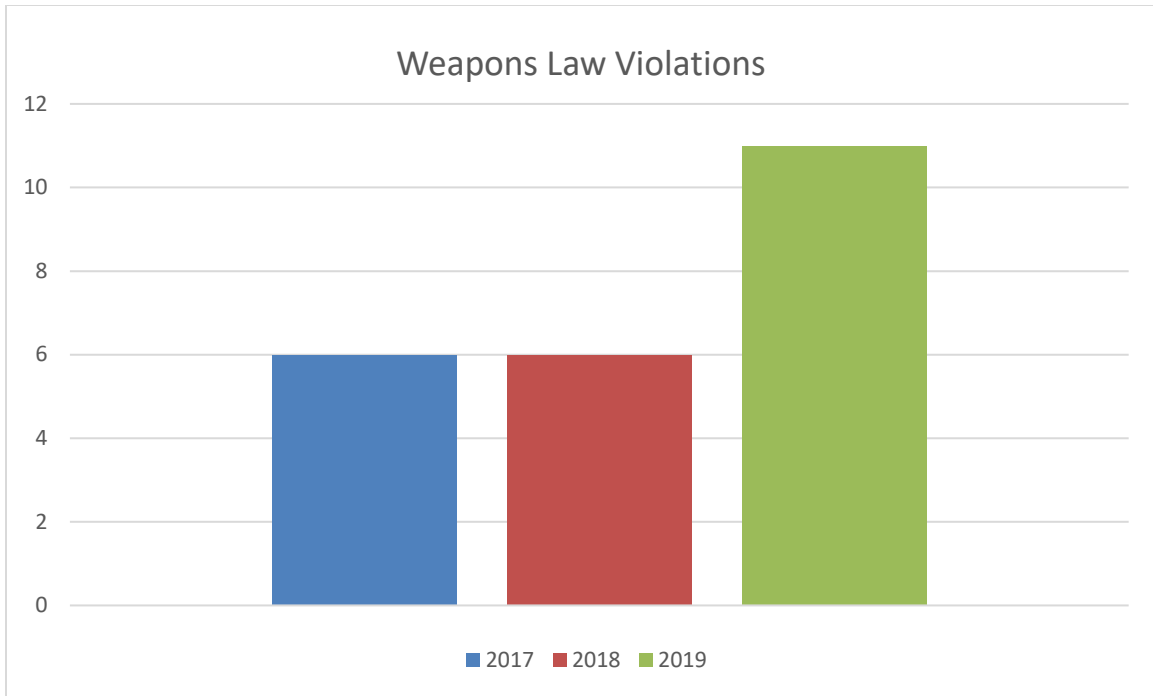The department had a reduction in this category for 2019, decreasing by 8.4% total.
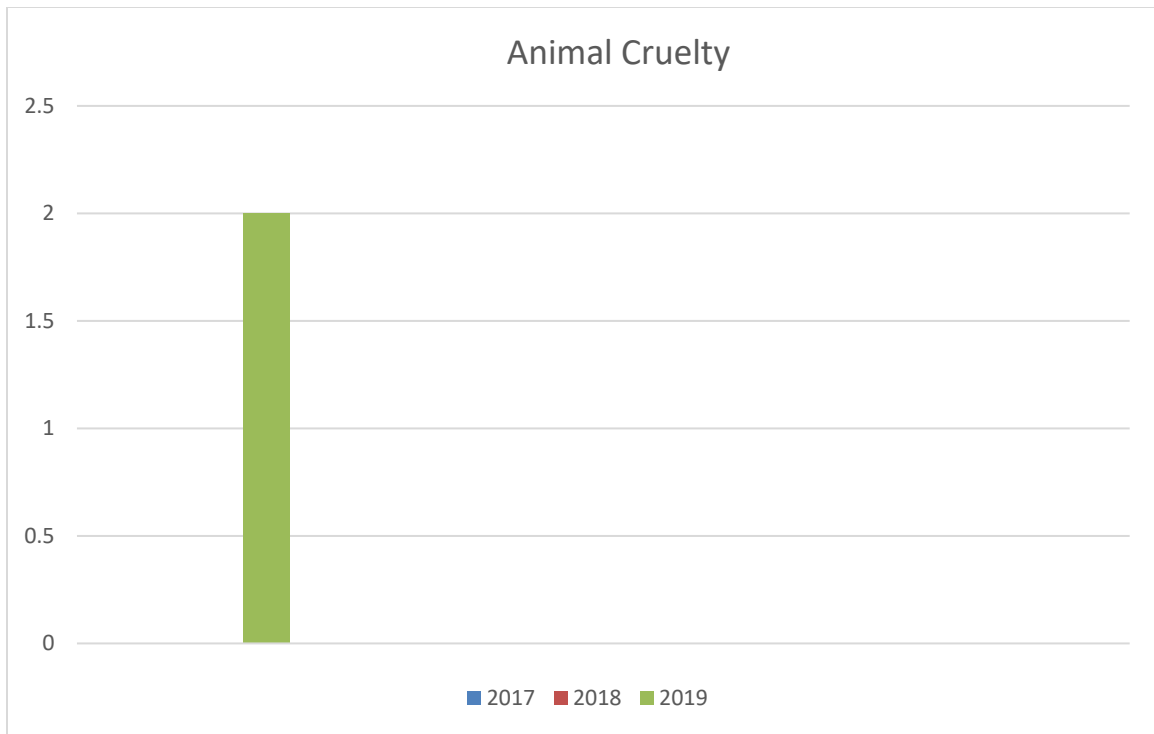
Drug Seizures last 5 years

	Marijuana (Ounces)	Methamphetmine (Grams)	Cocaine (Grams)	Prescription Pills Dosage Units	Heroin (Grams)	LSD (Dosage Units)
■ Drug Seizures 2019	17.52	130.03	3.1	364.5	1	0
■ Drug Seizures 2018	38.56	766.32	78.62	333.5	3	0
■ Drug Seizures 2017	23.7	1095.72	42.21	475.15	3.8	15
■ Drug Seizures 2016	91.64	54.85	3.01	889.5	0.3	5
■ Drug Seizures 2015	16.70	42.01	32.2	360	0	0

In 2019, the Wilkesboro Police Department continued its working relationships with other local, state and federal agencies. The result of this cooperation has resulted in the seizure of $1,690.00 cash, 563.2 grams of crystal methamphetamine, 197 grams of cocaine and 5 firearms. Most of these large cases have started locally and then spread throughout the state and nation. Four narcotics dealers in our area have been brought up on Federal charges making our town safer.

Weapons Law Violations

Legend: ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019

Sex Offenses, Nonforcible

Incest   Statutory Rape

Legend: ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019

Animal Cruelty

The following crime categories had zero (0) crimes reported in either 2017, 2018 or 2019. Pornography/Obscene Material, Gambling, Prostitution, Bribery and Human Trafficking. Overall in 2019, the Wilkesboro Police Department observed a total reduction in crime of 10.2%.

Traffic Data

Citations

Citations differ from arrests in law enforcement reporting. Citations are primarily issued to offenders charged with infractions or minor misdemeanors that do not require the signing or the posting of a bond (waivable offenses). Citations are written for traffic violations, violation of ABC Laws, violations of the Town Ordinances and other minor violations that are not included in the UCR totals for a given year. In 2019, officers of the Wilkesboro Police Department issued 1,791 citations with 2,225 charges and conducted 1,962 traffic stops.

Citations by Offense
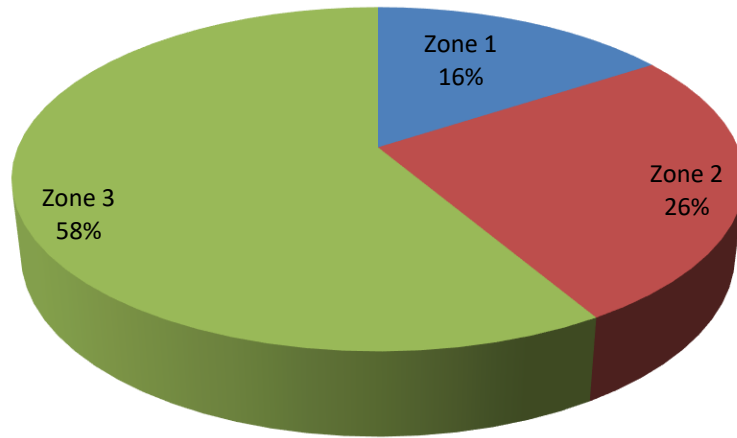
Legend: 2018 (blue), 2017 (red), 2019 (green)
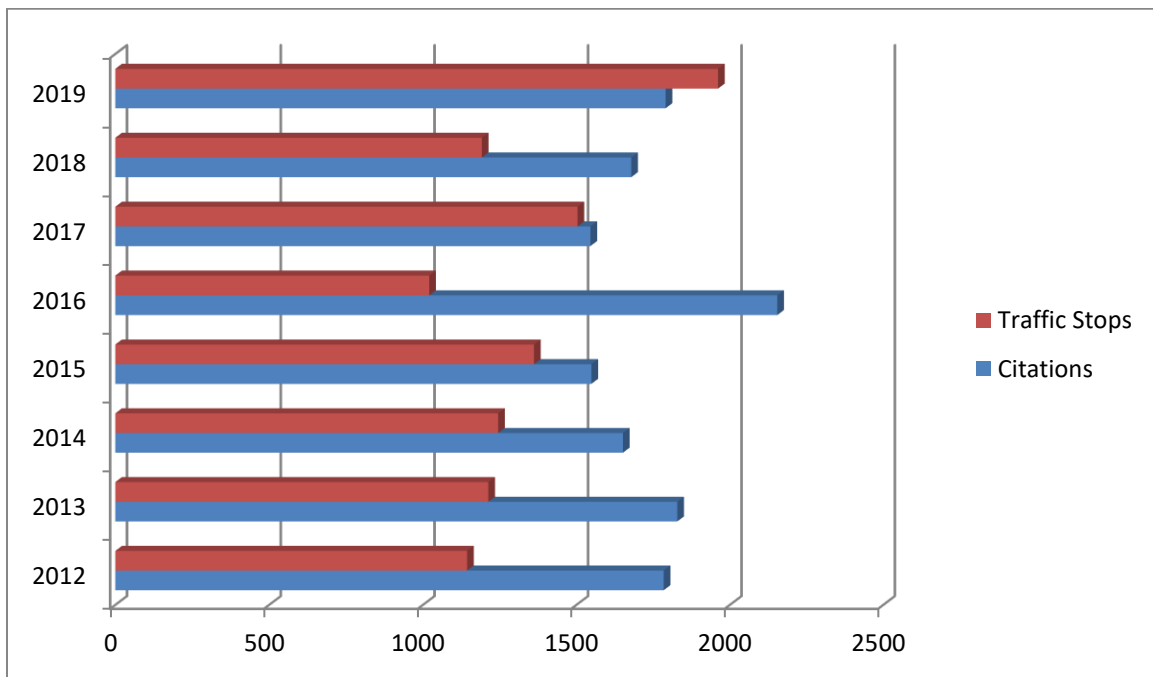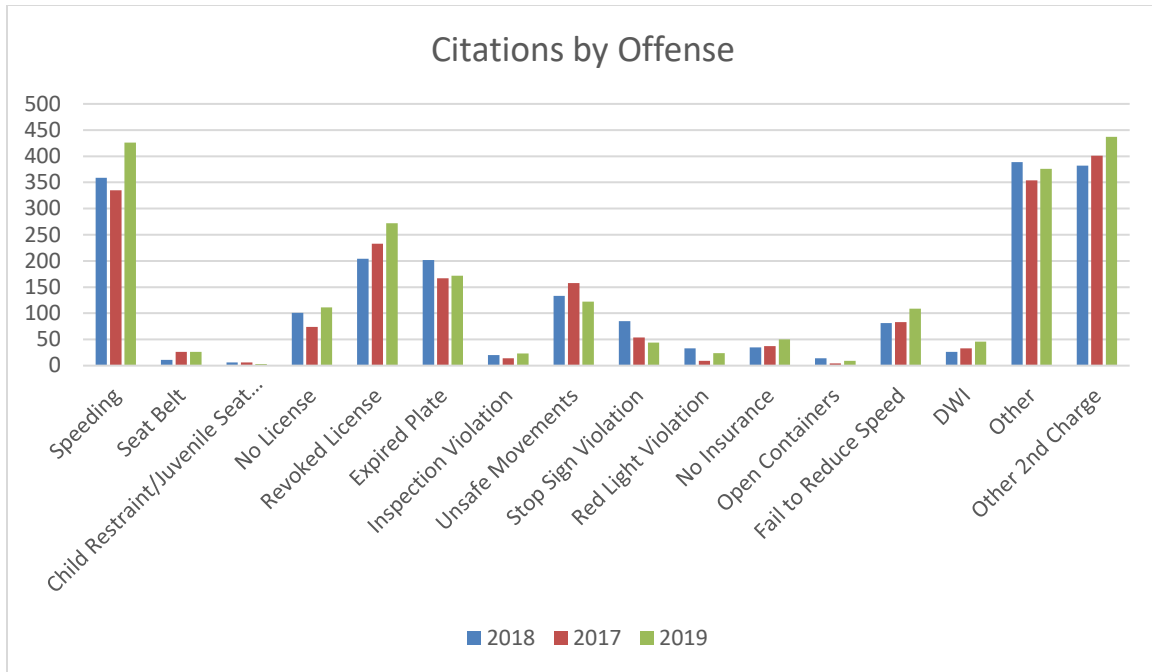
Traffic Collisions

In 2019, officers of the Wilkesboro Police Department investigated 506 traffic collisions including one (1) fatal crashes. The fatal crash resulted in a 2nd degree murder charge being brought by the District Attorney's Office.
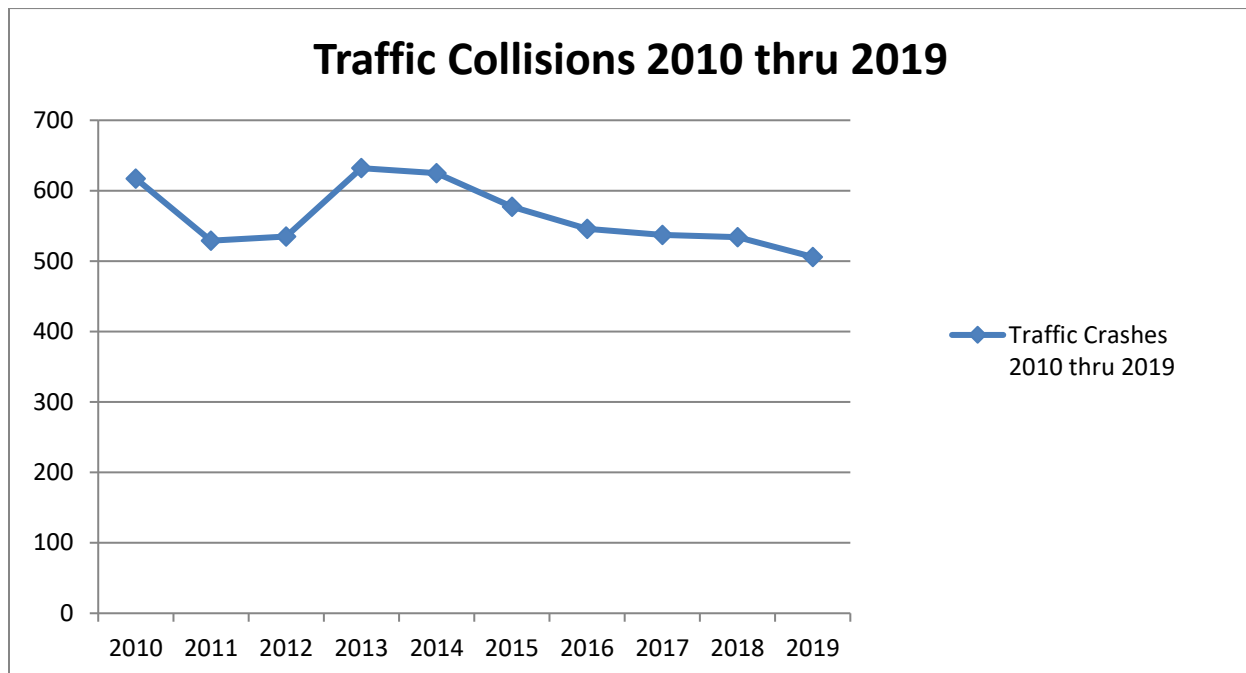
2019 Collisions by Area

Zone 1
16%

Zone 2
26%

Zone 3
58%

2018 Collisions by Area

Zone 1
18%

Zone 2
27%

Zone 3
55%

Traffic Collisions 2010 thru 2019
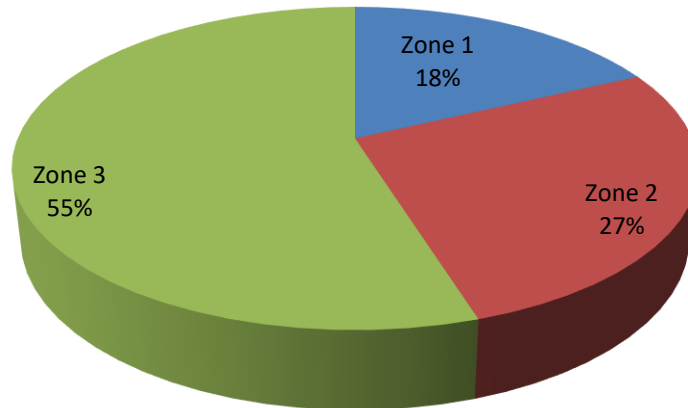
Collisions by Area

To provide better coverage of the city the Wilkesboro Police Department has divided the city into three zones. Zone 1 consists of the East side of the city, which is from NC Hwy 16 South and Cherry Street, East to the city limits. Zone 2 consists of the middle section of the city which contains River Street, NC Hwy 268 West, Curtis Bridge Road, and US Hwy 421 Business. Zone 3 consists of the West side of the city which is the US Hwy 421 area. This area contains a lot of retail stores in the city.
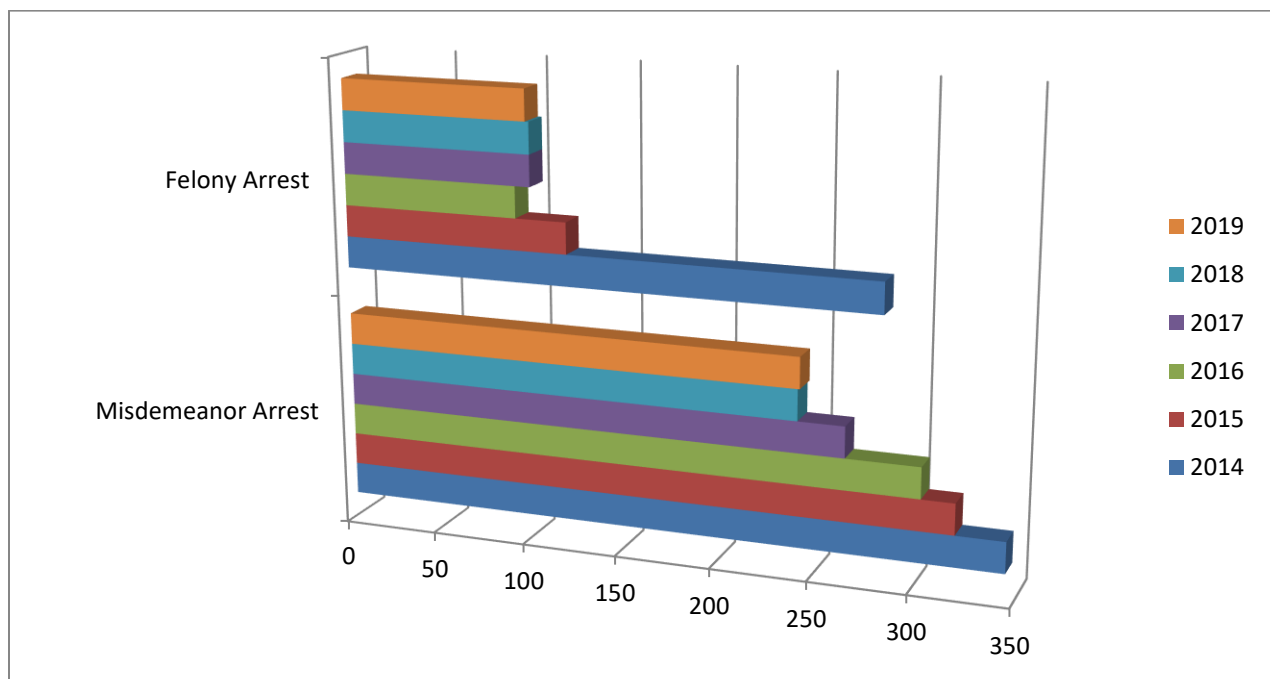
Arrest Data
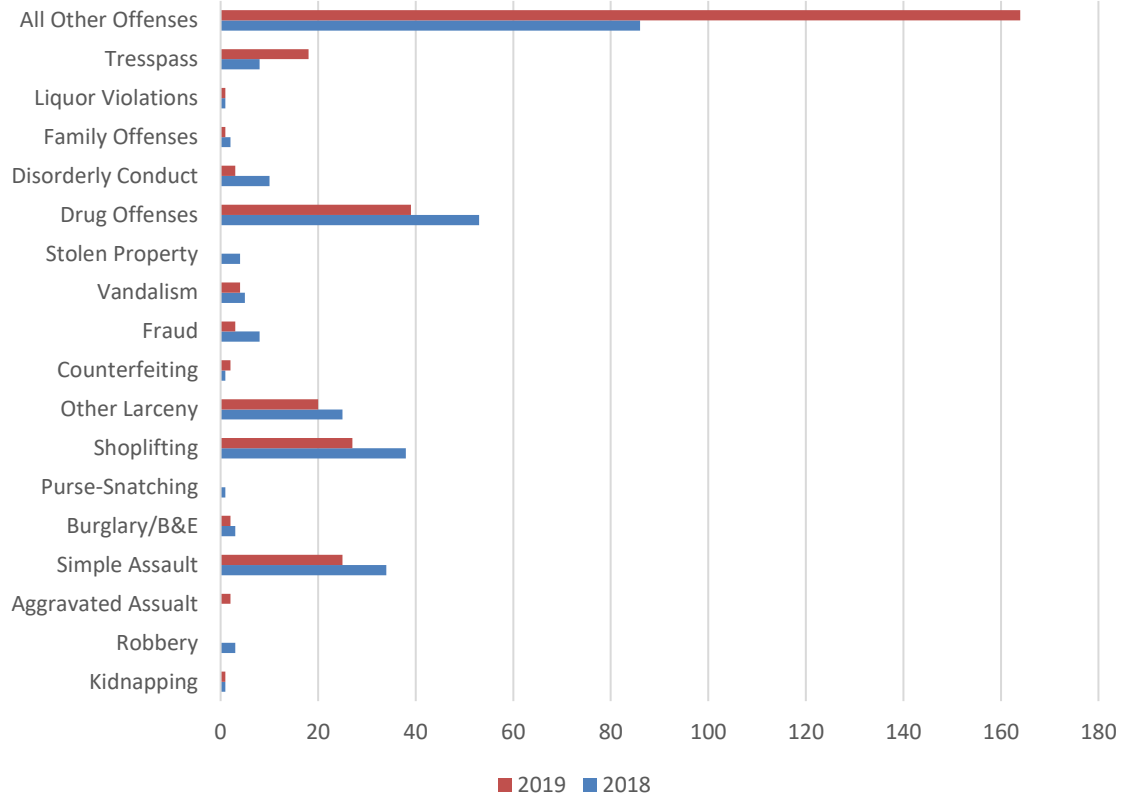
Misdemeanor Arrest Charges

In 2019, the Wilkesboro Police Department made 448 Misdemeanor Arrest Charges and made 242 Misdemeanor Arrests.

Felony Arrest Charges

In 2019, the Wilkesboro Police Department made 365 Felony Arrest Charges and made 100 Felony Arrests.

Arrests by Offense

Offense	2019	2018
All Other Offenses	164	86
Tresspass	18	8
Liquor Violations	1	
Family Offenses	1	2
Disorderly Conduct	3	10
Drug Offenses	39	53
Stolen Property		4
Vandalism	4	5
Fraud	3	8
Counterfeiting	2	1
Other Larceny	20	25
Shoplifting	27	38
Purse-Snatching		1
Burglary/B&E	2	3
Simple Assault	25	34
Aggravated Assualt	2	
Robbery		3
Kidnapping	1	1

Legend: 2019 (red), 2018 (blue)
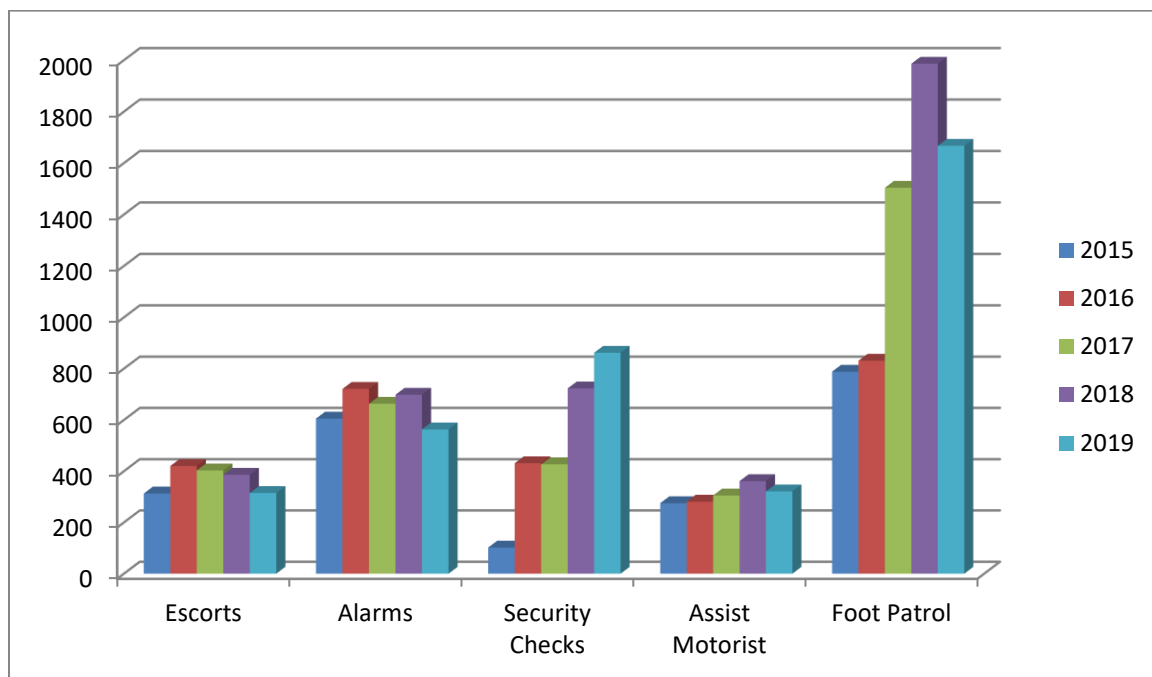
Wilkesboro Police Department Training

In 2019 all officers within the department completed 68 hours of In-Service Training. Of those 66 hours, 24 hours are mandated by the State of North Carolina Training and Standards Commission. The additional 44 hours of in-service training is mandated by the department. Members of the department also attended 1,584 hours of additional training throughout the year. The department sent officers to 240 hours of advanced crash investigation courses, 707 hours of Special Response Team Training. Every year officers receive an eight-hour block of instruction on Law Enforcement Driver Training, and we have begun sending officers each year to the North Carolina State Highway Patrol Driving School which is an additional 40 hours per officer who attend, this year 4 officers attended resulting in 160 hours of extra driver training. The department also sent officers to several conferences including the Southern Software Conference, State, and National SWAT Conference, Management Development Conference. All other training hours were devoted to re-certifications.

Community Service

The Wilkesboro Police Department has maintained the community service philosophy during 2019. With community service in mind, every police officer is encouraged to interact with the public during their shifts. These activities have included vacation/residence checks, funeral and business escorts, responding to alarms and emphasis patrols in addition to the daily community policing contacts in retail and residential areas of the town.

2019 North Carolina Special Olympics

In June 2019, the Wilkesboro Police Department held the annual golf tournament to benefit the North Carolina Special Olympics. The agency also participated in the North Carolina Special Olympics Torch Run in 2019. The run started at Wilkes Community College and traveled through downtown Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro ending at West Park in North Wilkesboro. Officers of the Wilkesboro Police Department have carried the torch through the two towns for many years. Often runners are joined by Special Olympians for portions of the run. In 2019, the agency raised approximately $10,000.00 to benefit North Carolina Special Olympics. The Wilkesboro Police Department received the Gold Standard Agency Award for our continued efforts in supporting North Carolina Special Olympics.

Halloween Fun Walk

The Wilkesboro Police Department participated in the Halloween Fun Walk in North Wilkesboro on the Yadkin Greenway. This event is designed to give kids a safe alternative for Trick or Treating. The police department purchased bags of candy and passed them out during the event. Each year the event hosts approximately 3,000 kids.

Operation Christmas Cheer

For several years the Wilkesboro Police Department has conducted Operation Christmas Cheer. This program was developed to assist citizens in Wilkesboro by delivering food boxes to them. Every year, the program has been funded by donations from Kulynych Family Foundation One, Wilkesboro Business and Professional Club, Cook Family and the Town of Wilkesboro.