

Wilkesboro Police Department



Annual Report

2023

Table of Contents

Letter from Chief of Police Agency

- I. Mission Statement
- II. Accreditation
- III. Organizational Chart
- IV. New Employee's
- V. Promotions
- VI. Patrol Operations Division
- VII. Support Operations

Division Annual Review and Analysis

- I. Response to Aggression
- II. Internal Affairs/Complaints
- III. Vehicle Pursuits

Performance Reports

- I. Crime Statistics
- II. Arrest Data
- III. Traffic Data
- IV. Drug Summary
- V. Department Training
- VI. Community Service

Message from Chief of Police

Tommy Rhodes



Welcome to the Wilkesboro Police Department,

We invite you to learn more about our agency by reviewing our 2022 Annual Report, telephoning us, or visiting us in person or on our website. On behalf of the men and women of the Wilkesboro Police Department, I would like to thank you for taking the time to review our annual report. Our agency takes great pride in serving this beautiful historic community.

I am honored to serve the citizens of the Town of Wilkesboro as your Chief of Police. I am also proud to support and share the accomplishments and fine work of the men and women of this law enforcement agency. Our law enforcement officers continually provide quality service each and every day, to provide you with the best policing services available.

The Wilkesboro Police Department serves our community by utilizing our core values which include Service, Accountability, Professionalism, Integrity, and Dignity. We are committed to serving our community with a servant's heart and being a community-policing organization that learns from citizen feedback and community involvement.

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

Sincerely,

Tommy Rhodes

Chief of Police

Mission Statement of the Wilkesboro Police Department:

Not One Step Backwards with Service, Accountability, Professionalism, Integrity, and Dignity We provide quality law enforcement to our community with Service, Accountability, Professionalism, Integrity, and Dignity. We will always work in unison with our citizens and law enforcement partners while applying our objectives to make Wilkesboro a great place to Live, work, and visit.

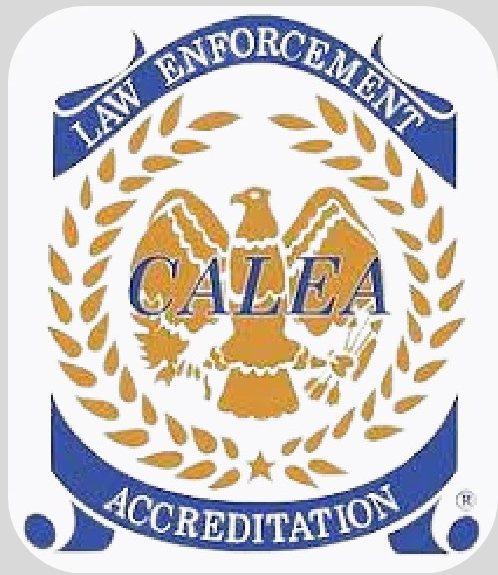
Service- Our community and department members are deserving of our full efforts and attention every minute of every day.

Accountability- We recognize that personal and organizational ethics are essential for the department to perform at the highest professional level and to the accomplishment of our mission. We know that we must always be transparent with the ones we serve and report to them often. We realize that the Wilkesboro Police Department ultimately belongs to the citizens

Professionalism- We strive for excellence in providing quality service while maintaining a work environment that develops our members through effective, timely training and progressive leadership.

Integrity- Greatly valued by the Wilkesboro Police Department. Departmental integrity requires that members maintain the highest standards for the law enforcement profession and are held accountable for the exercise of their authority. The Constitutions of the United States and of North Carolina, State statutes, and Departmental Policy serve to establish boundaries by which authority may be responsibly used recognizing that policies and procedures cannot be written to anticipate every circumstance in which authority may be exercised appropriately.

Dignity- Treating everyone with a caring and compassionate attitude while ensuring fairness and equality for all.

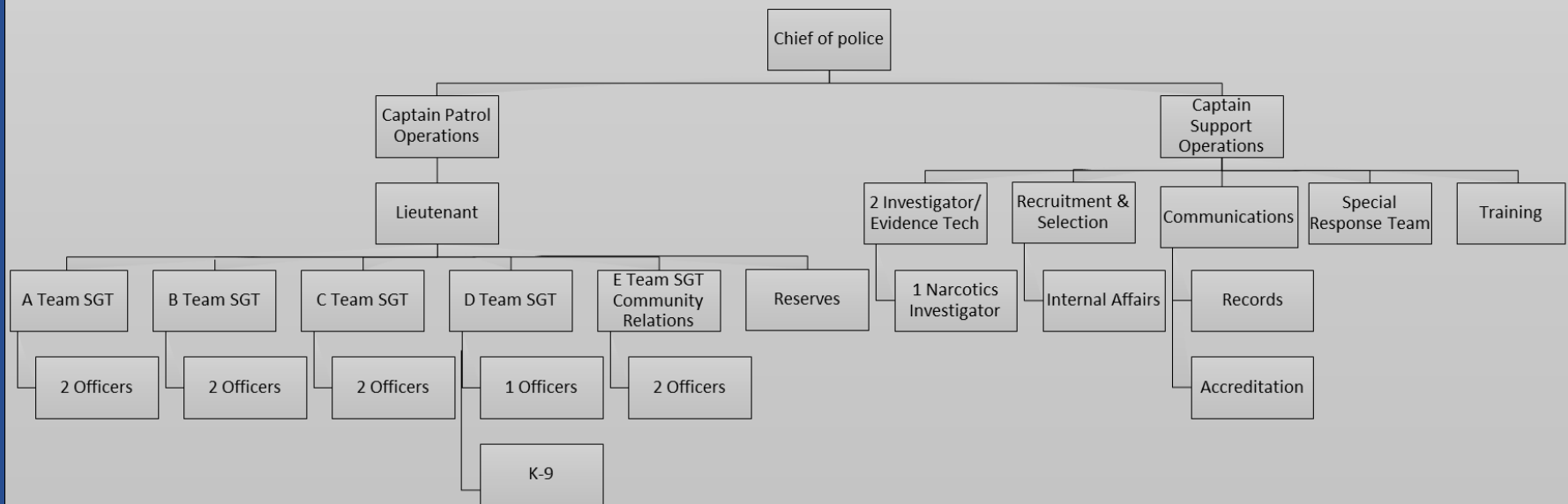


CALEA

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 several 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 fourth reaccreditation in November of 2021.

Organizational Chart



New Employees



Alice T. Prince joined the department as a full-time officer in 2023, graduating from East Carolina University with a bachelor's degree, and completed Basic Law Enforcement Training at Wilkes Community College



Kristen Church joined the department as a full-time officer in 2023, graduating from Wilkes Community College with an associate degree, and completed Basic Law Enforcement Training at Wilkes Community College.

Promotions

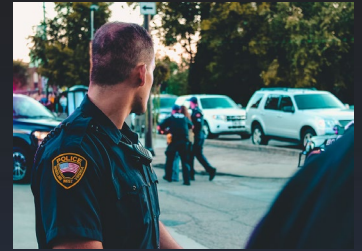


Christopher Arnder was promoted to Lieutenant in the Patrol Division in 2023. He will supervise all other members of the Patrol Division. Lt. Arnder has dedicated his service to the Town of Wilkesboro since 2008.

Patrol Operations

The Patrol Division is commanded by Captain Rocky Moore and is the largest section in the agency. There are 15 full-time and 1 part-time sworn officer assigned to the patrol division. The officers are divided into four teams of three officers and one community Sergeant. The four 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 2023, the Patrol Division responded to 11,592 calls for service which is a 1.0% increase from 2023. They completed 587 crash investigations, 450 incident reports, and 235 arrest reports. Officers also issued 994 citations totaling 1,306 charges.



Division Commander

Captain Rocky Moore

Patrol Lieutenants

Lt. Chris Handy

Lt. Chris Arnder

Team Supervisors

Adam Team

Sgt. Preston Parsons

Baker Team

Sgt. Caleb Johnston

Charlie Team

Sgt. Philip Brown

David Team

Sgt. Michael Shumate

Community Officer

Sgt. Ronnie Price

Support Operations

The Support Operations Division is commanded by Captain Jason Delbert and is staffed by Two full-time Investigators, Two full-time telecommunicators and 2 part-time telecommunicators, and 1 part-time CALEA accreditation manager. All 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, or missing person case. This division is also responsible for several other duties within the department including Evidence and Property Management, Recruitment and Selection, Background Investigations, Records, Communications and Law Enforcement Accreditation.



Division Commander
Captain Jason Delbert

Investigators

Inv. Brian McManus

Inv. Bradley Dancy

Telecommunicators

Michelle Sparks

Nikki Beck

Accreditation Manager

Courtney Johnson



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 reviews 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 First- and Second-Line Supervisors and then by the Senior Command staff for compliance with policy and reasonableness of the response used.

During 2023, Wilkesboro Police Department Officers were involved in 22 Response to Aggression incidents. This was a 37.5% increase from the previous year. All incidents in 2023 were reviewed and found to be within departmental policy. Below is a listing of the circumstances of the incidents in 2023.

Shift	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Day (0700-1900)	5	13	11	8	14
Night (1900-0700)	8	8	13	8	8
Division					
Patrol Operations	13	21	24	14	21
Support Operations	0	0	0	2	1
Suspect Activity					
Assaultive	0	2	2	3	2
Non-Compliant	5	9	16	6	6
Running/Evading	4	6	3	5	11
Known Threat/Felony Stop	2	3	2	2	2
Weapon Found on Suspect	1	2	1	1	1
Officer Response					
Firearm (Drawn)	4	4	4	8	10
Firearm (Fired)	0	0	0	0	0
Hands	8	6	6	2	7
Taser	1	11	8	6	5
Pepper Spray	0	0	1	0	0
Response by Race					
White	12	16	16	12	16
African American	1	4	4	3	6
Other	0	1	4	2	0
Response by Sex					
Male	11	19	19	13	16
Female	2	2	5	3	6
Total	13	21	24	16	22

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, or by website portal; anonymous complaints are accepted. The preferred method is in writing on a Citizen Complaint Form through the website portal. 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. There were two complaints in 2023 for the Wilkesboro Police Department and its employees.

Below is a breakdown of the complaints from the previous four years.

Complaint Origin	2020	2021	2022	2023
Citizen	1	0	0	2
Internal	2	0	3	0
Originating Action				
Traffic Stop	0	0	0	1
Arrest	0	0	0	0
Officers Conduct	3	0	1	1
Other	0	0	2	0
Disposition				
Sustained	2	0	2	0
Not Sustained	0	0	0	0
Unfounded	0	0	0	1
Exonerated	1	0	1	1

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

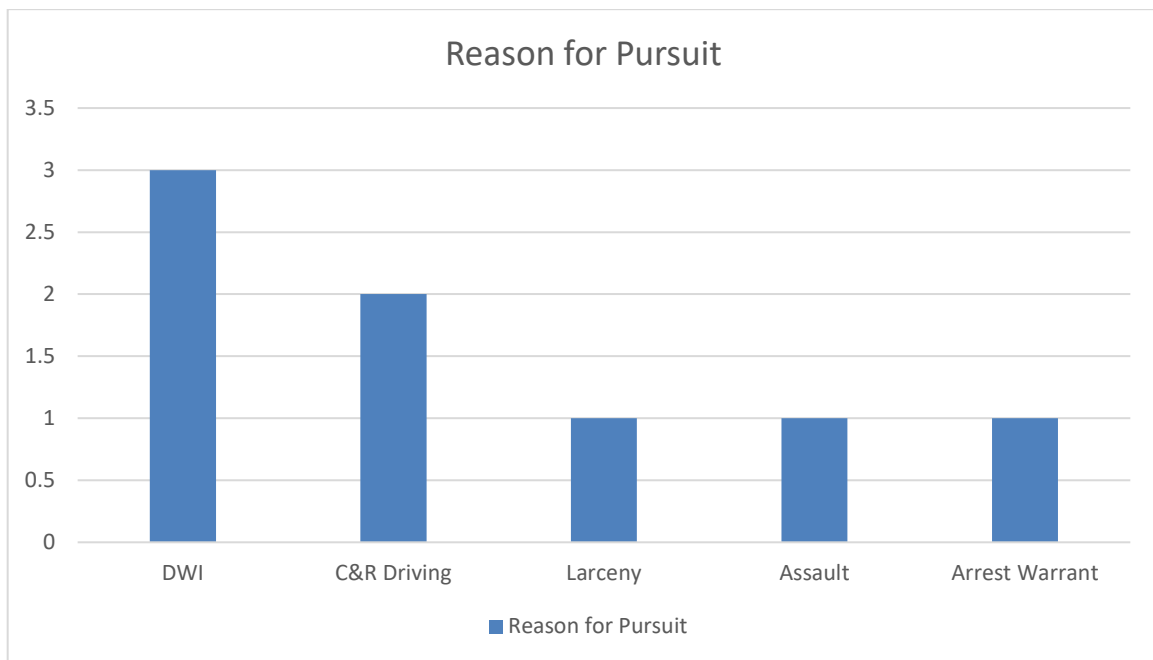
Unfounded- The investigation disclosed that the act complained of never occurred and therefore is false

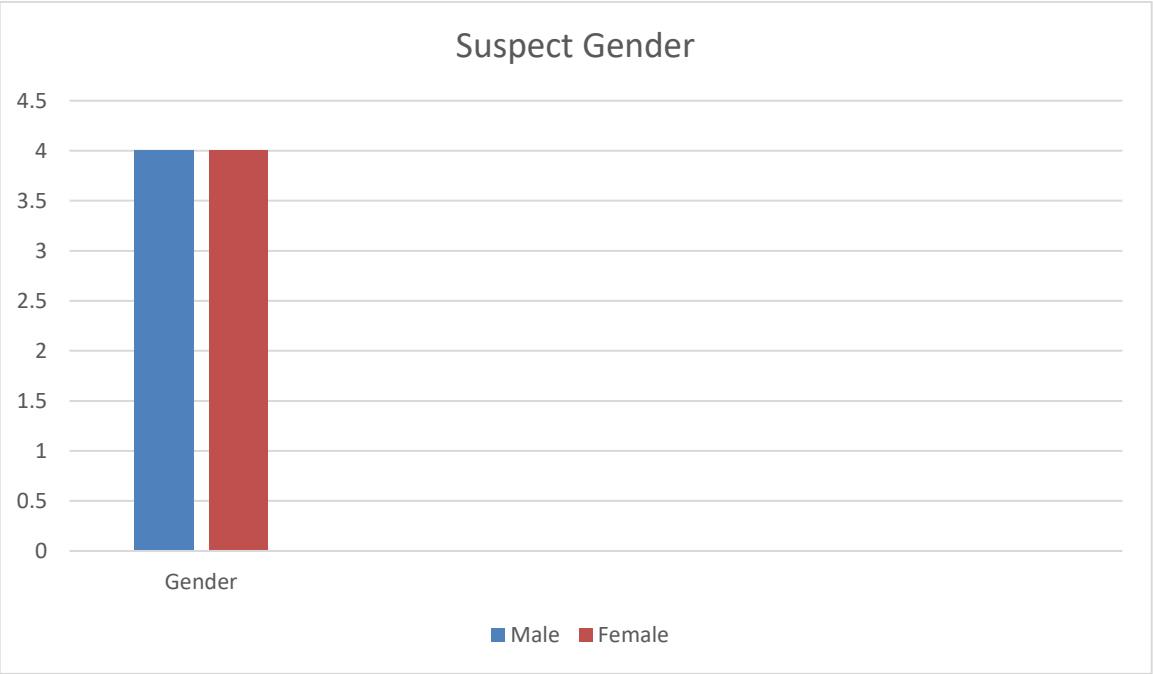
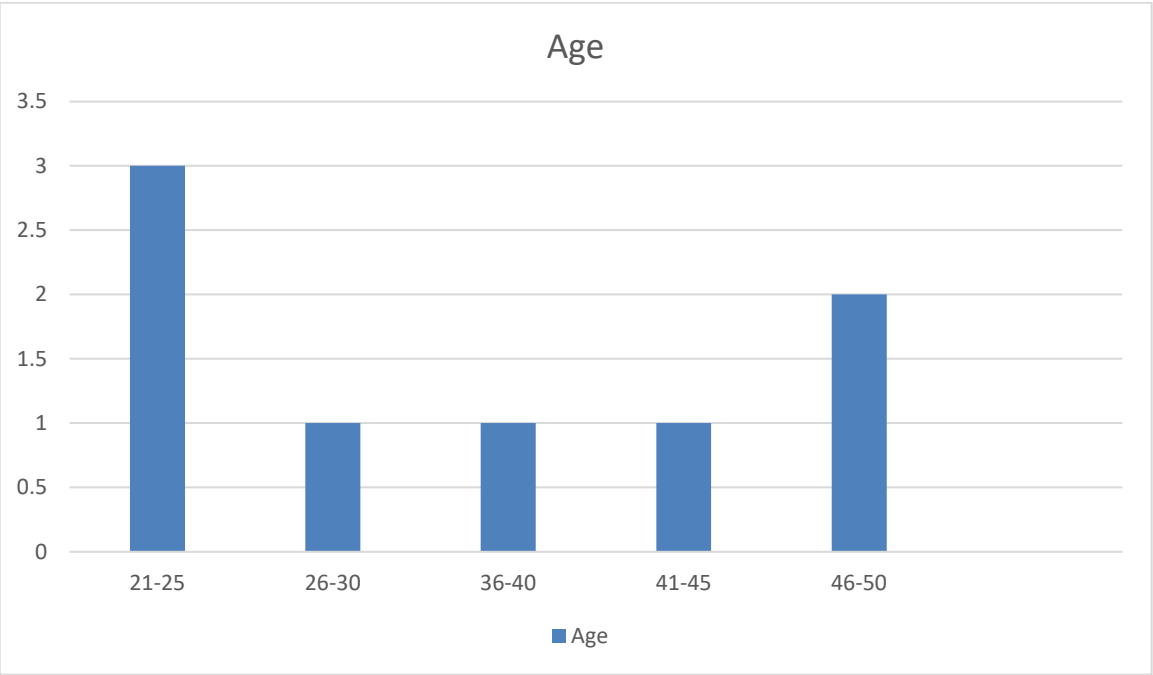
Exonerated- The incident complained of occurred; however, the actions of the staff member were lawful and proper

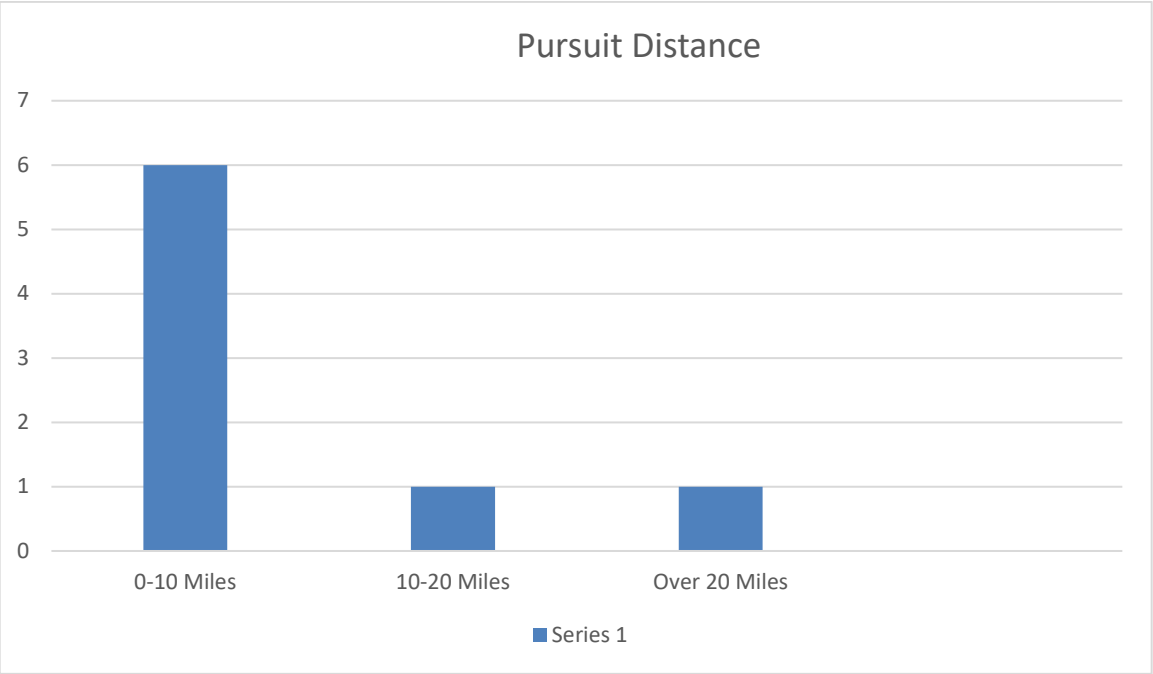
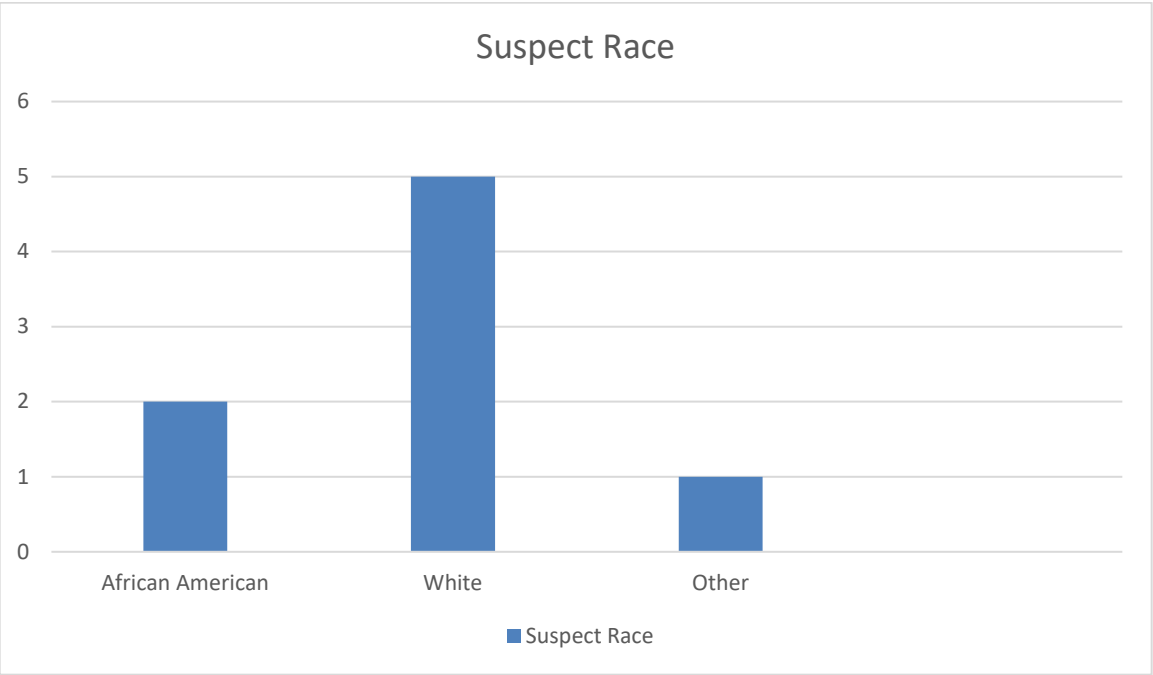
Vehicle Pursuits

During 2023, the Wilkesboro Police Department had eight (8) Motor Vehicle Pursuits. In 2022, the agency had three (3) Motor Vehicle Pursuits. Of the eight pursuits in 2023, four (4) occurred during day shift and four (4) occurred during night shift. The average duration of the pursuits was seven (7) minutes. The average distance the pursuits covered was 6.7 miles. The longest pursuit traveled 37.5 miles and lasted 30 minutes. The pursuits were initiated due to a variety of driving behaviors to include DWI Homicide and other reasons. All the pursuits were reviewed by the agency's command staff and found to be within departmental policy.

*The columns are not individual cases, but statistics.







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.

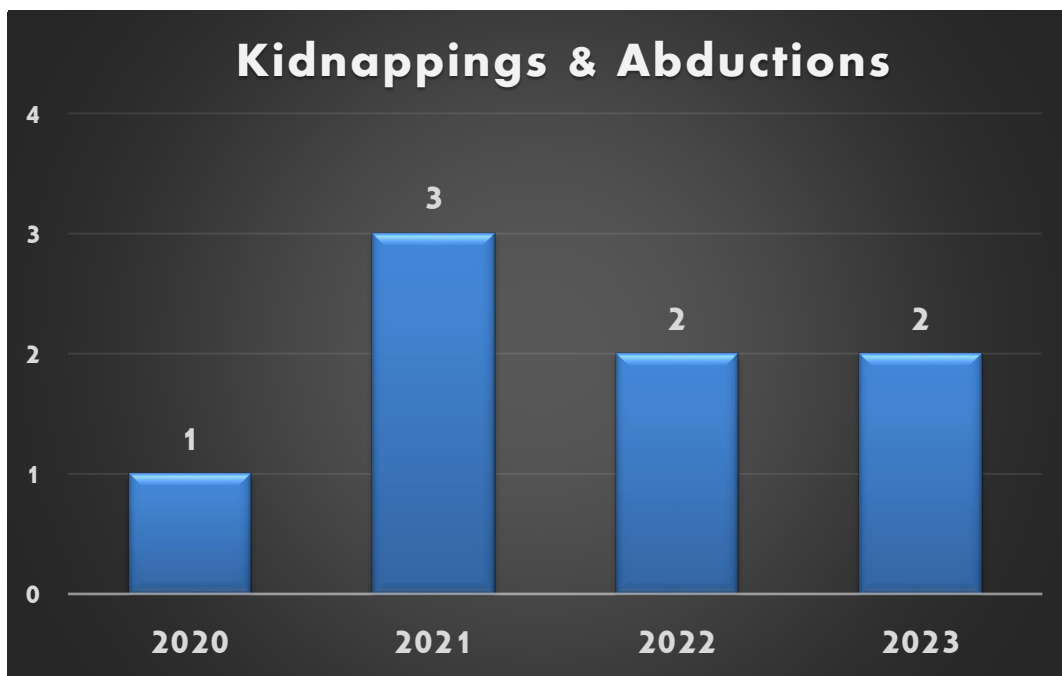
The FBI's UCR Program prepared this manual to assist LEAs in reporting their crime statistics via the Program's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

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.

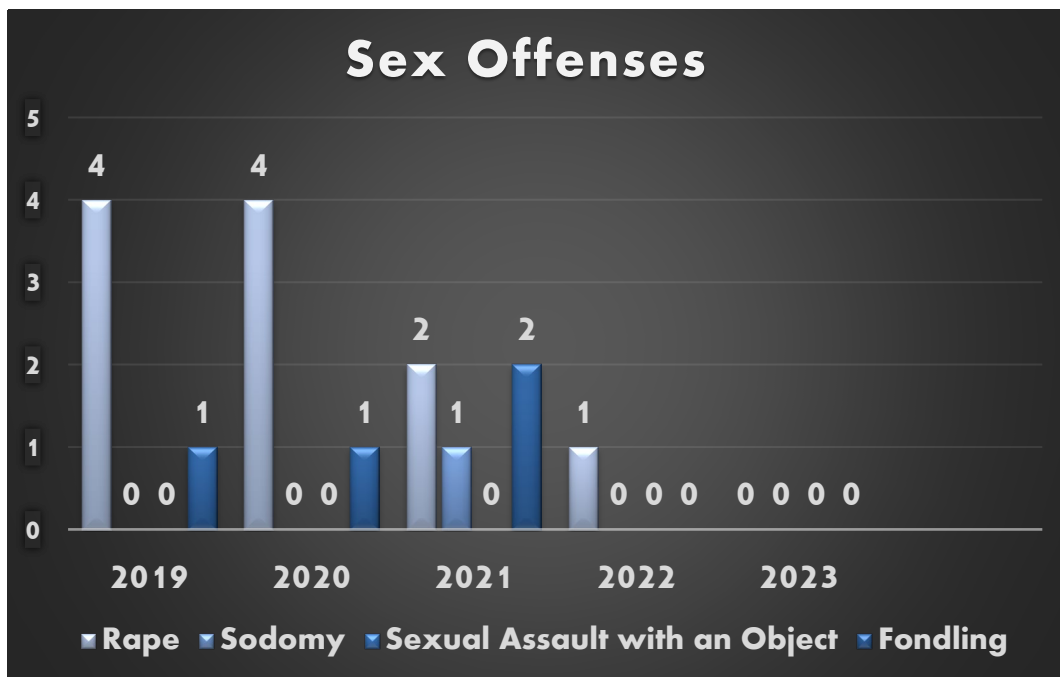
By design, LEAs generate NIBRS data as a by-product of their respective records management systems (RMSs). Therefore, an LEA builds its system to suit its own individual needs, including all of the information required for administration and operation, then forwards only the data required by NIBRS to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



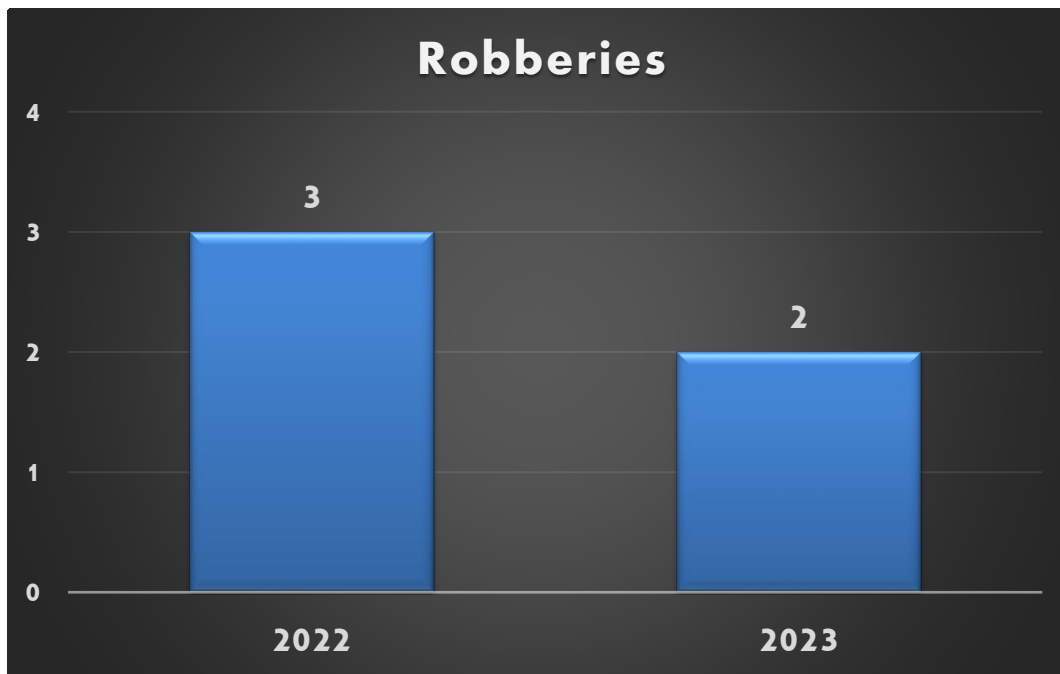
In 2023 we had two (2) homicides, the first in many years.



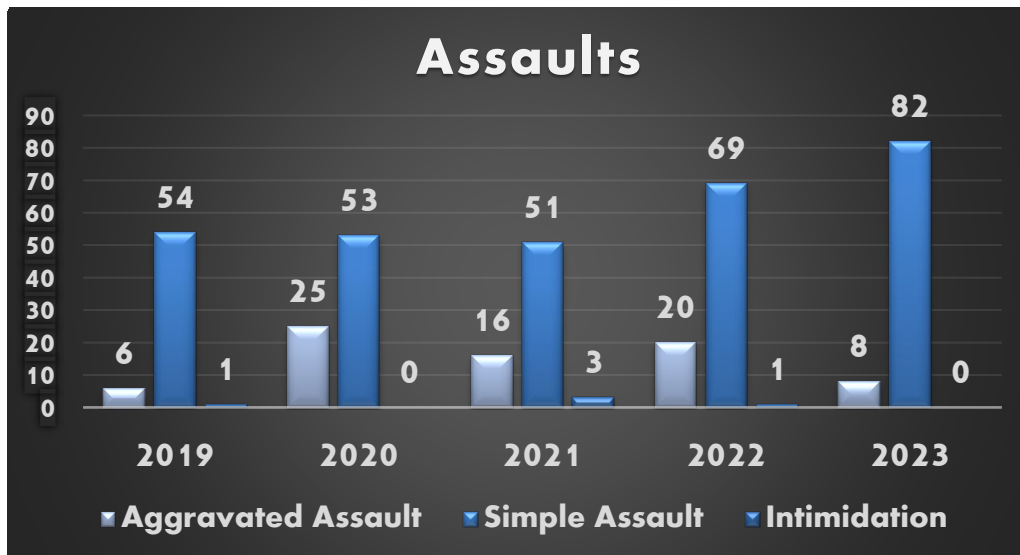
In 2023 Kidnappings and Abductions are at the same rate as 2022, with a total of two (2) each year.



There has been a reduced rate of sex offenses of 100% in 2023. However, this has gone from only one reported occurrence in 2022 to zero in 2023.



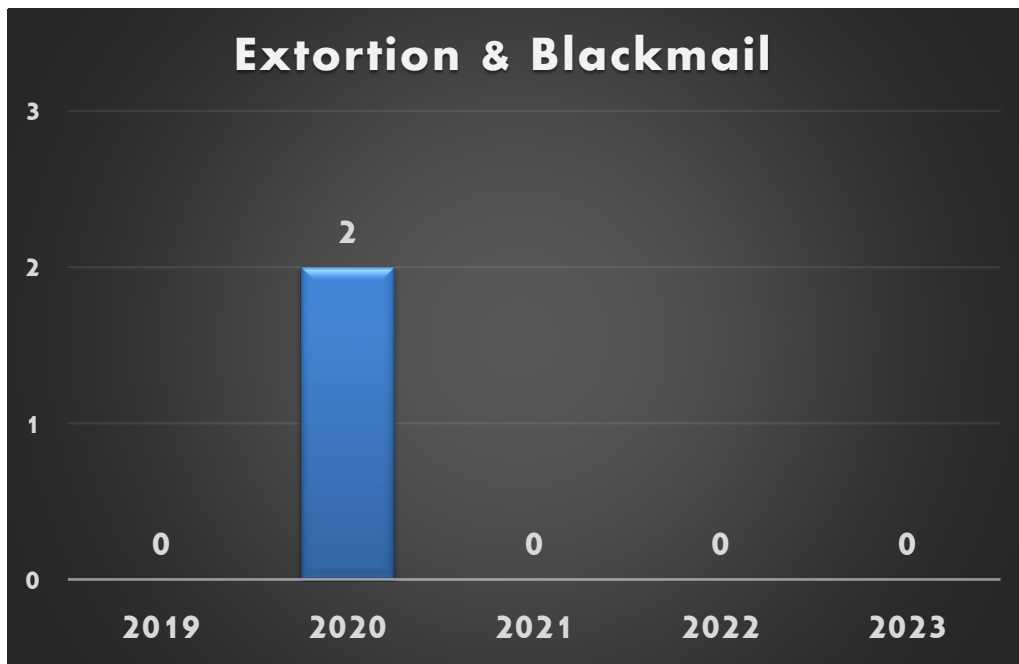
There was a 33% reduction in Robberies with only two (2) being reported in 2023.



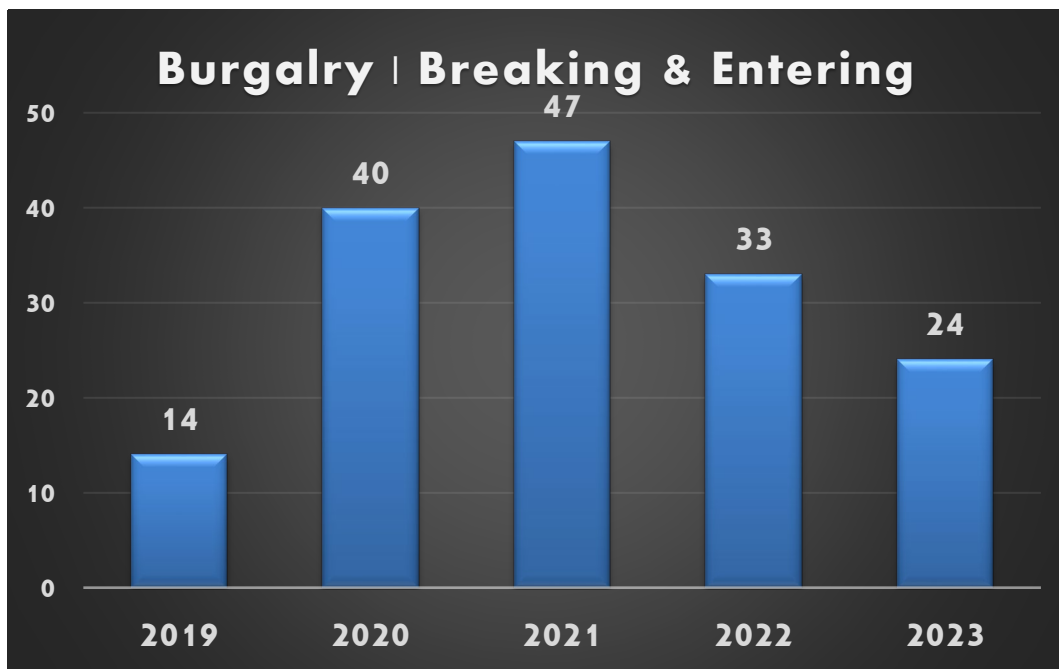
In terms of Total Assaults, 2022 and 2023 are at the same rate with a total of ninety (90) assaults. The largest rates of change of a subset are Aggravated Assault which has gone down by 60% and Simple Assault which has grown by 19%.



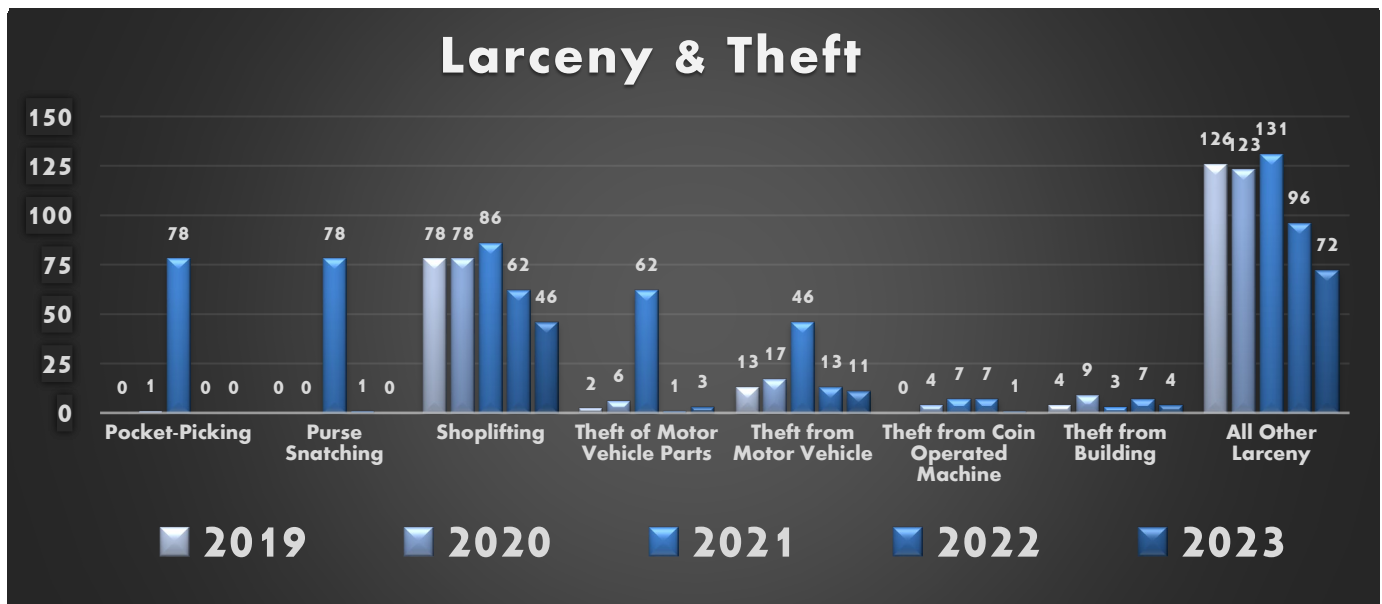
Arson has dropped by 67% in the past year compared to 2022 with a total of only one (1) occurrence.



Extortion has not changed in the past year, with both years reporting at zero.

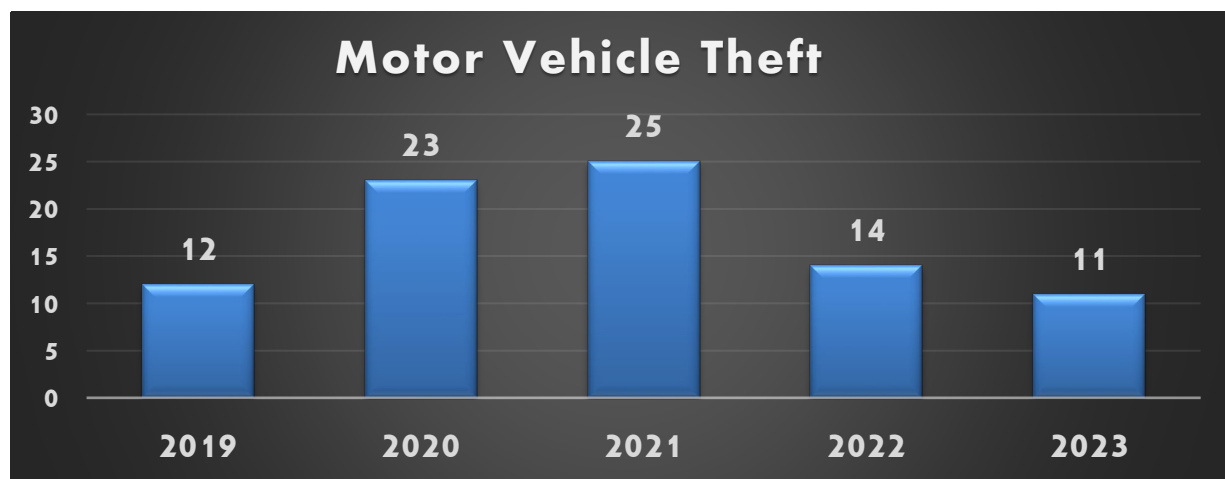


There has been 27% reduction in burglary and B&E reports between the years 2022 and 2023, ending with a total of twenty-four (24) incidents.

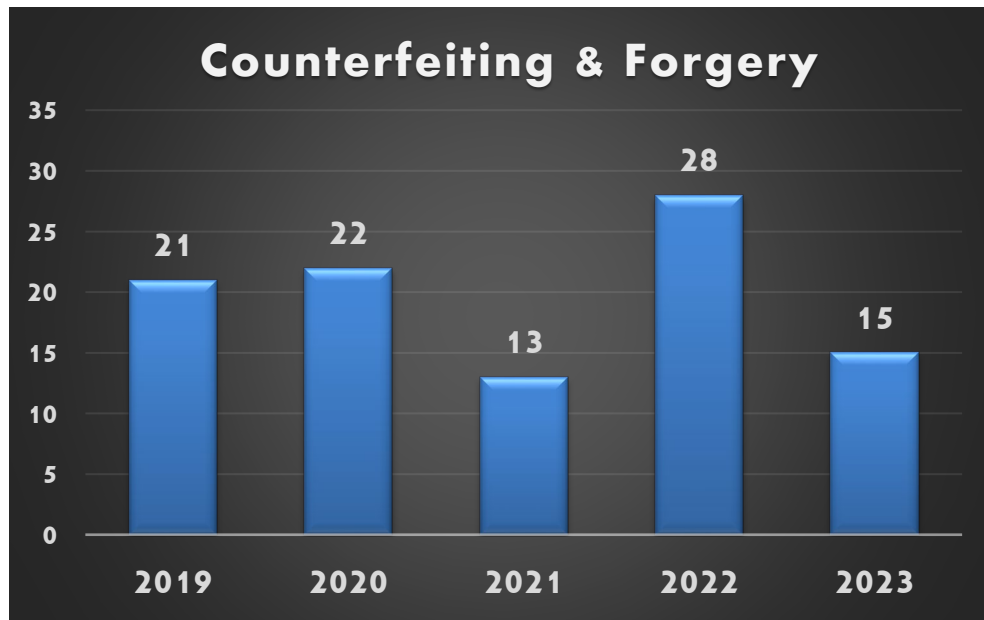


There has been a 27% reduction in all larceny reports in 2023.

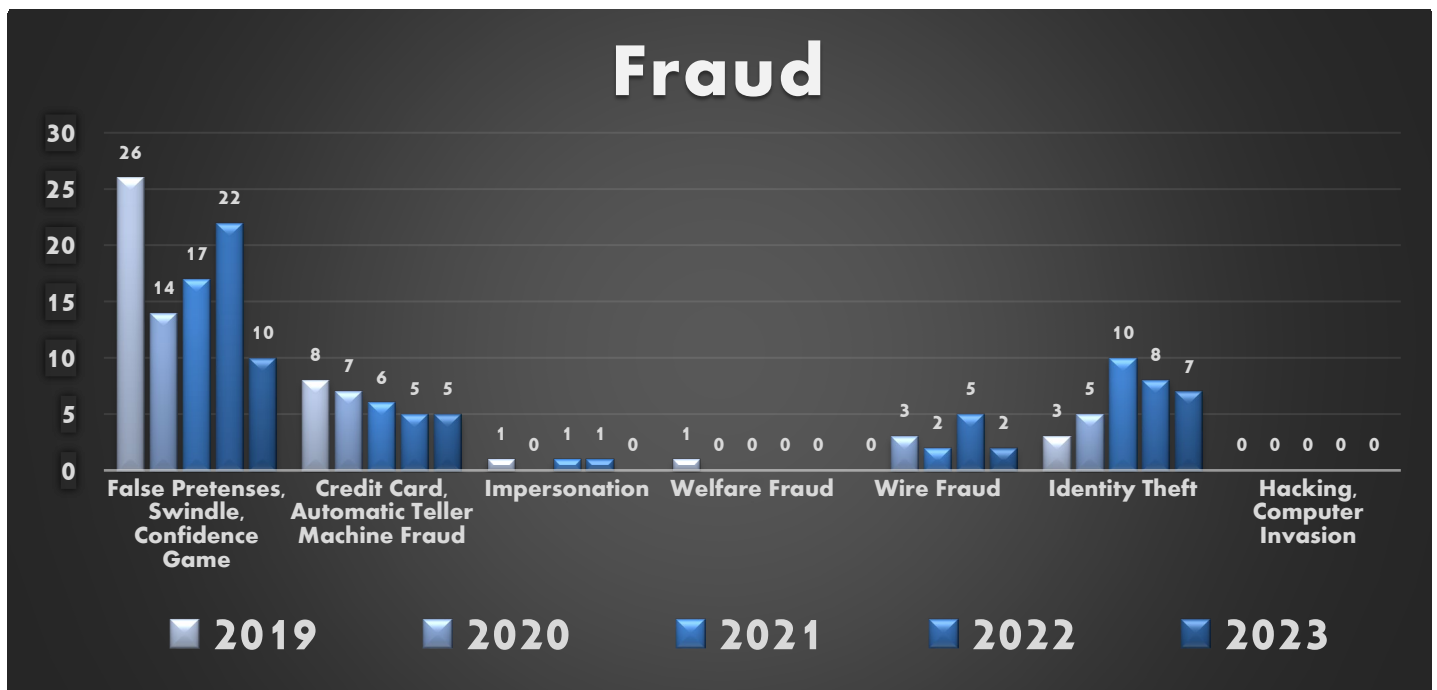
The largest increased subset of larceny reports has been theft of motor vehicle parts; however this went from one (1) to three (3).



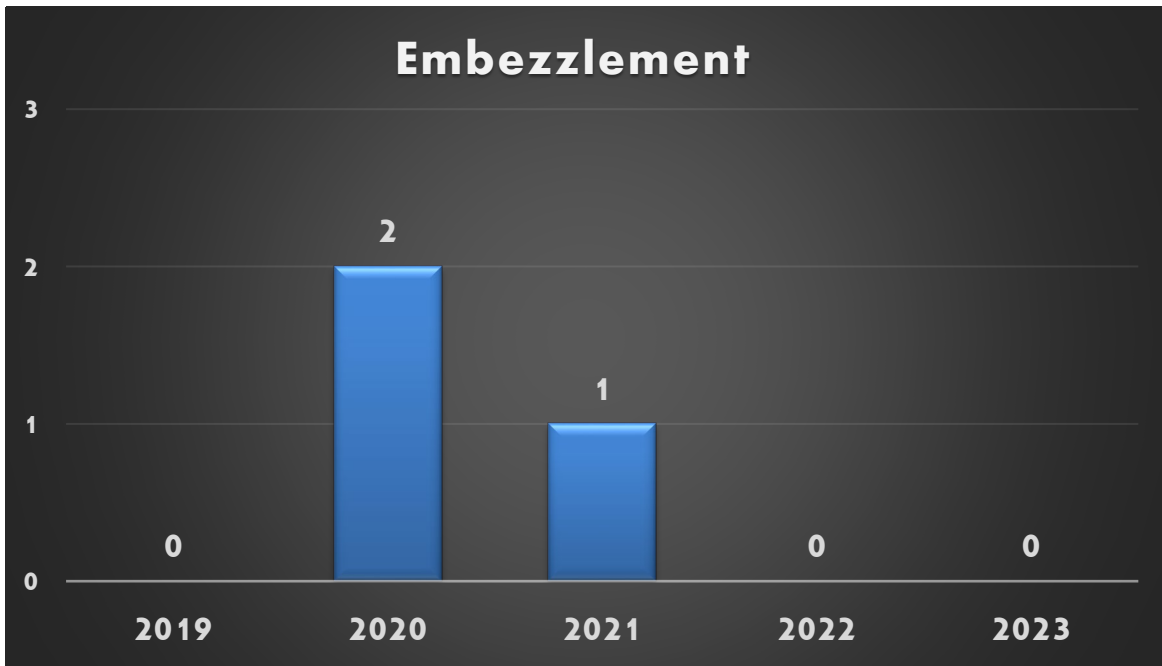
In the past year Motor Vehicle Theft has gone down by 21%, marking it at the lowest in the past five years with only eleven (11) occurrences.



Counterfeiting & Forgery have decreased by 46% in the past year, now in the same range as 2021 as the second lowest rate in five years.



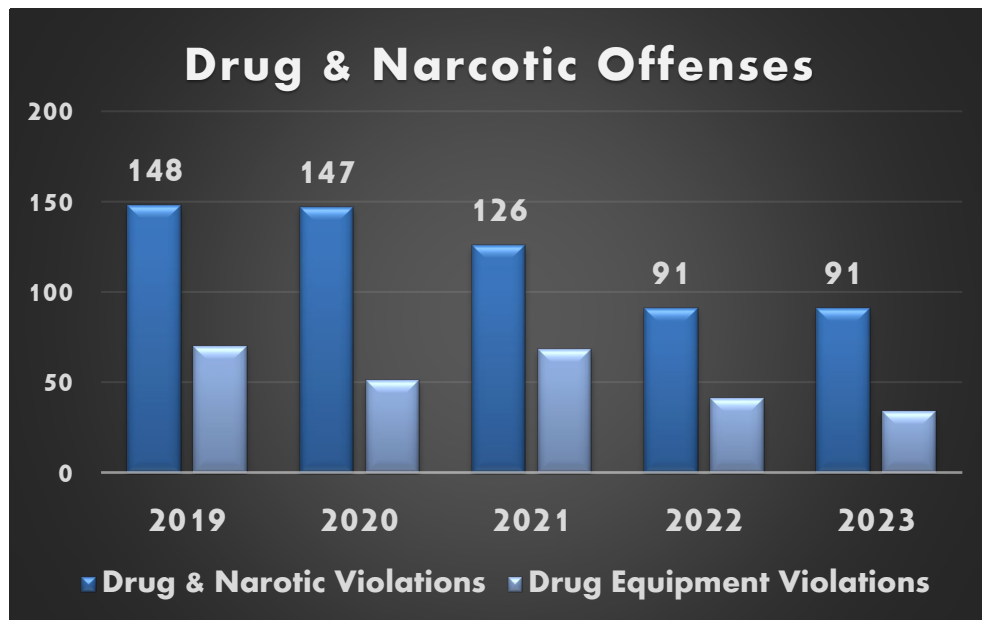
Total instances of fraud in the past year remain the same compared to 2021 at 37 offenses.



Embezzlement has remained at zero occurrences in 2023.



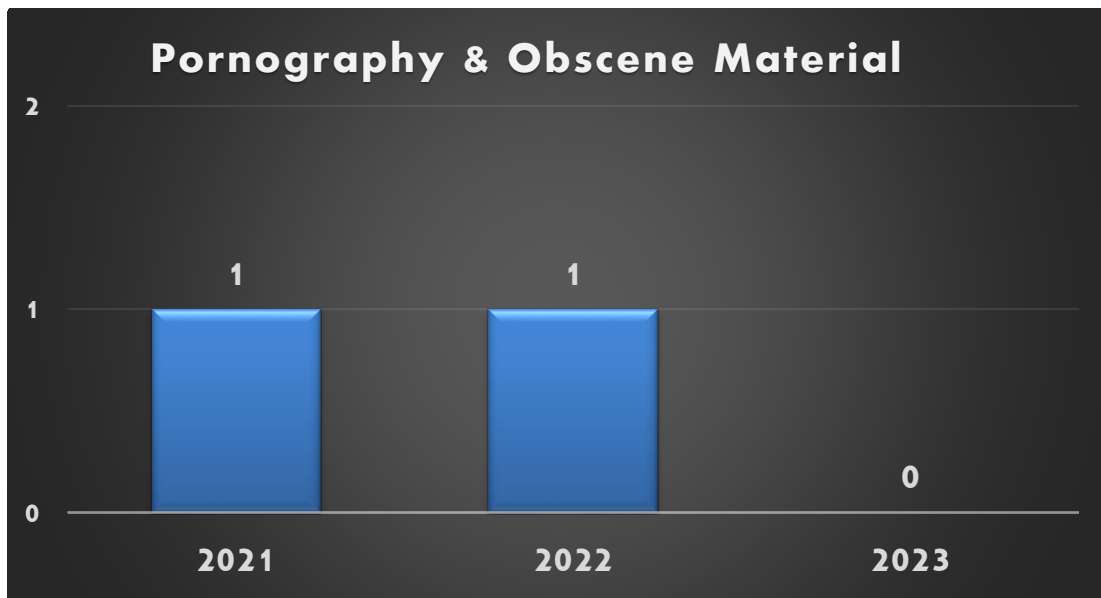
Property damage, destruction, and vandalism have gone down by 27% in the past year.



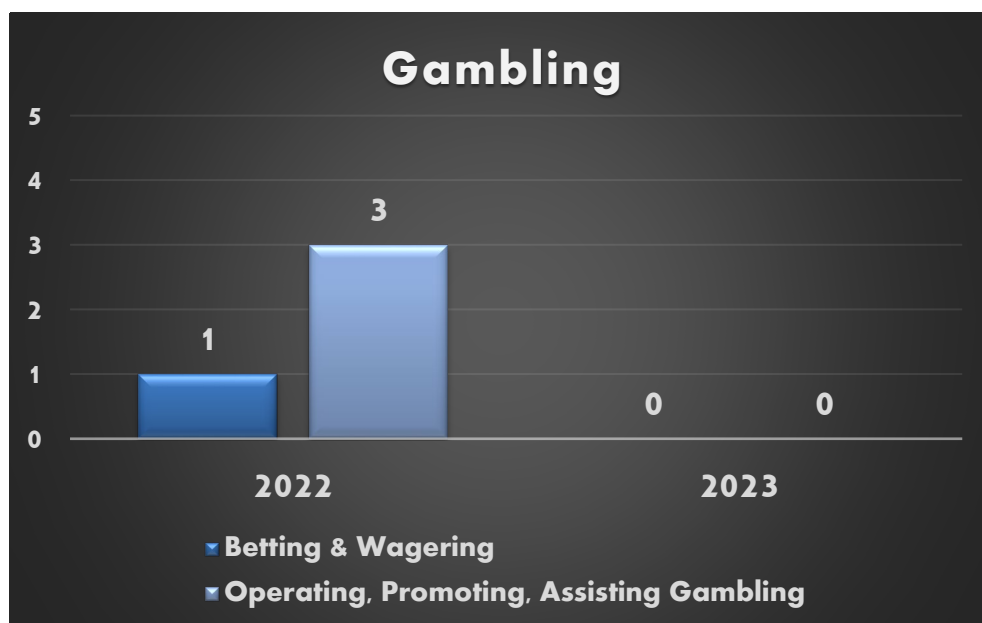
Drug/Narcotic offenses have gone down by 5% in the past year.



There has been no change in reported nonforcible sex offenses between 2022 and 2023, with a total of only one (1) occurrence.



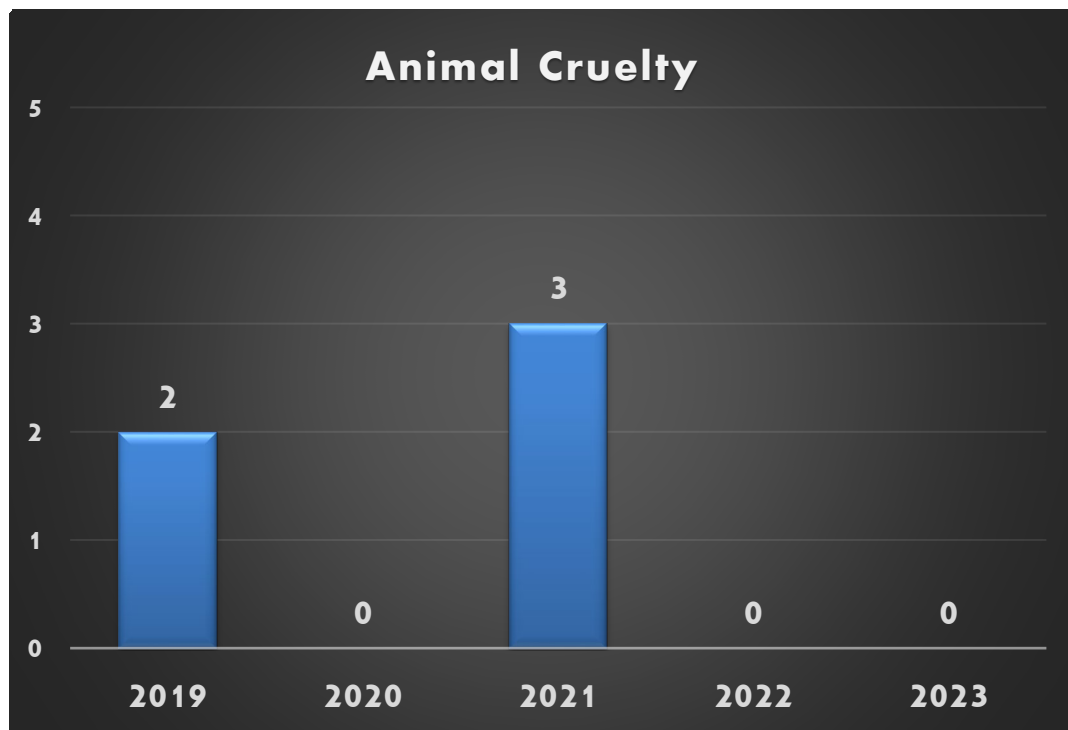
There has been a reduced rate of reported pornography & obscene material of 100% in 2023. However, this has gone from only one reported occurrence in 2022 to zero in 2023.



There were zero reported occurrences of gambling in 2023, indicating a 100% decrease from 2022.



Weapon laws violations have risen by 200% in 2023, growing from five (5) to fifteen (15) since 2022.



Animal Cruelty has seen a second year of zero reported occurrences in 2023.

In total there were 614 offenses in 2022 and 497 in 2023, which means that in the past year there has been a 19% reduction in total reported offenses.

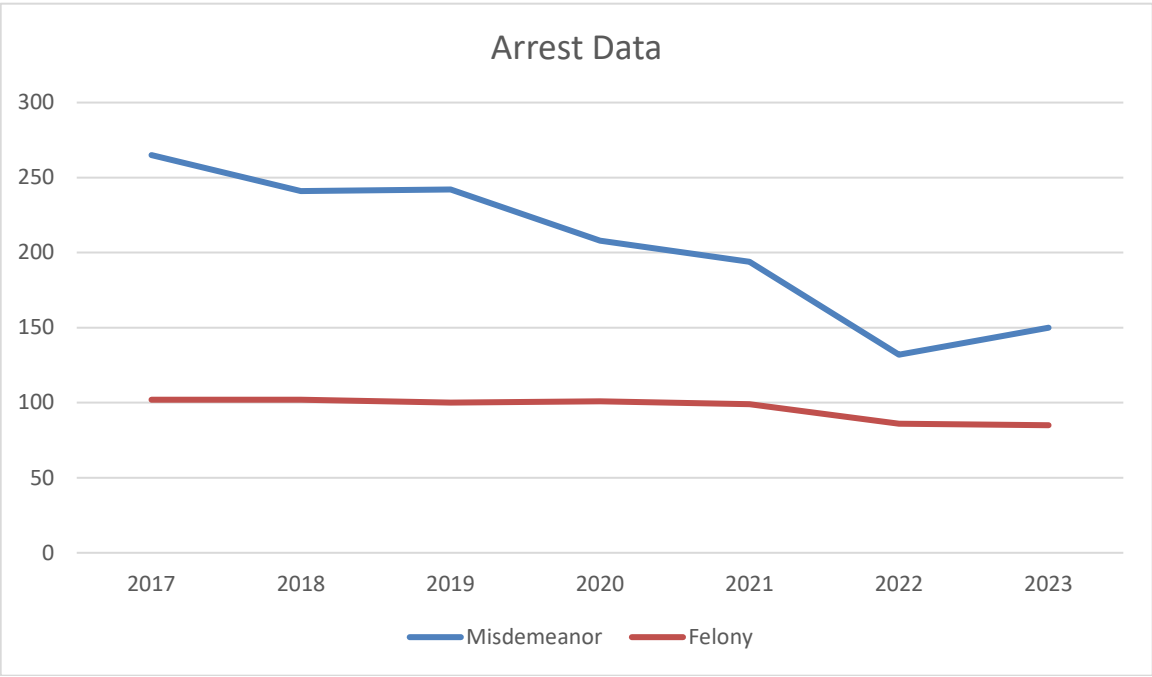
Arrest Data

Misdemeanor Arrest Charges

In 2023, the Wilkesboro Police Department had 261 Misdemeanor Charges on 150 Misdemeanor Arrests.

Felony Arrest Charges

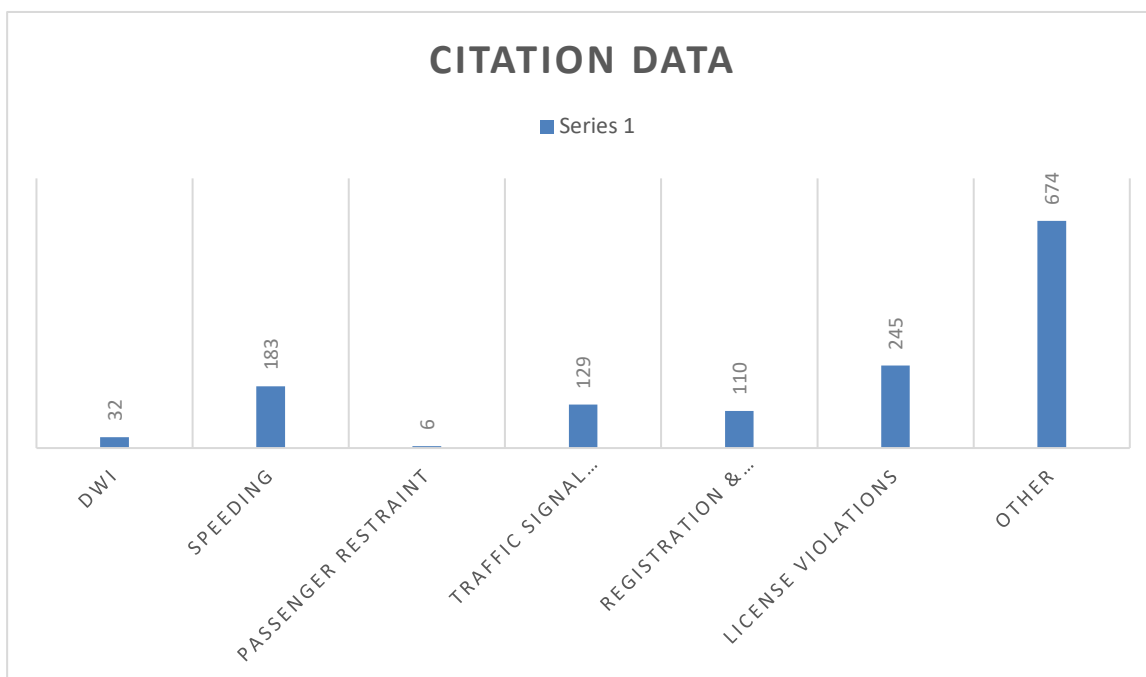
In 2023, the Wilkesboro Police Department charged 246 Felonies on 85 Felony Arrests.



Traffic Data

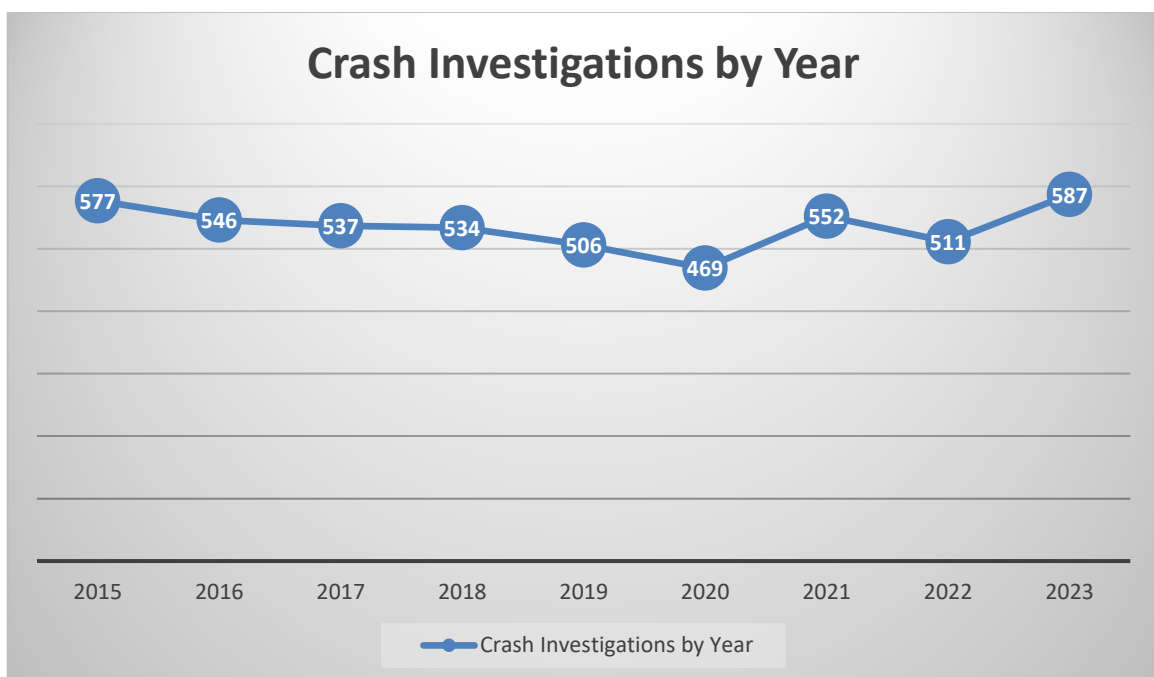
Citations

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, violations 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 2023, officers of the Wilkesboro Police Department issued 994 citations with 1306 charges and conducted 1162 traffic stops.



Traffic Collisions

In 2023, officers of the Wilkesboro Police Department investigated 587 traffic collisions.

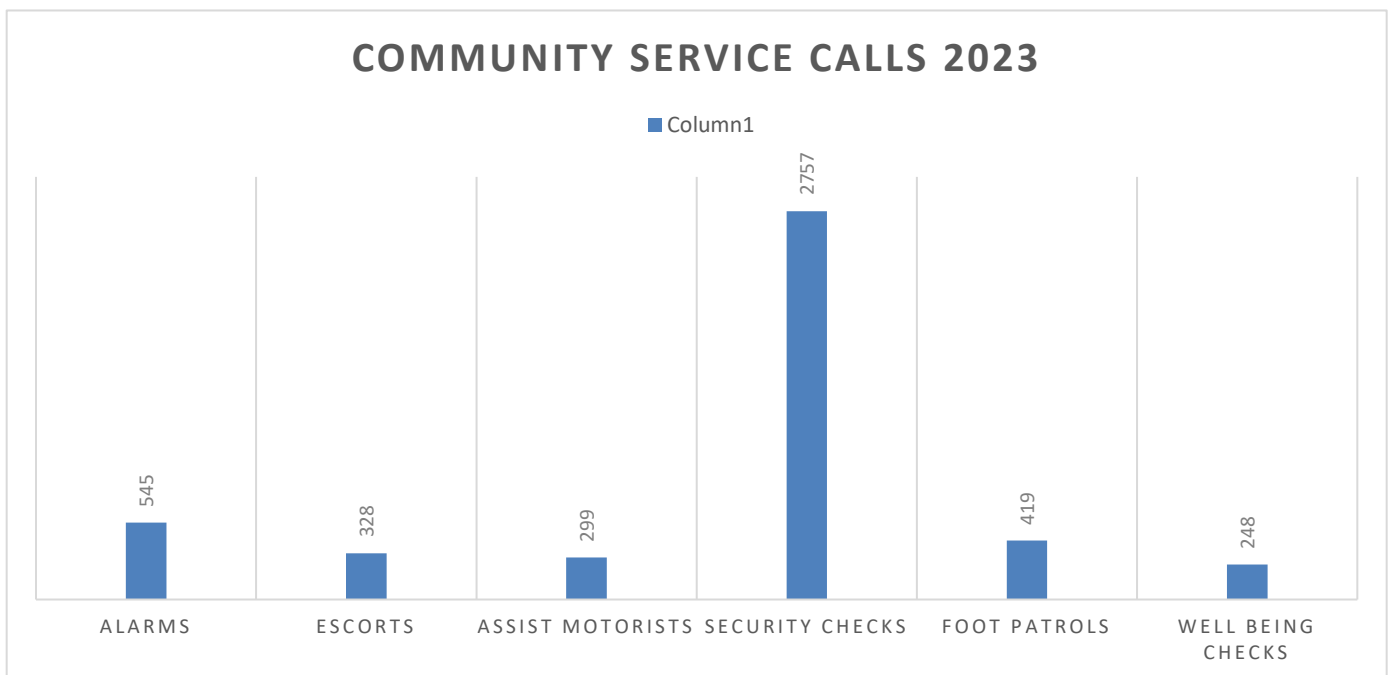


Department Training

In 2023 all officers within the department completed 60 hours of In-Service Training. Of those 60 hours, 24 hours are mandated by the State of North Carolina Training and Standards Commission. The additional 36 hours of in-service training is mandated by the department. Members of the department also attended additional training throughout the year. Every member of the department received 12 hours of de-escalation specific training. Half of this training was done using our Virtual Reality Simulator which was funded through a grant in 2022.

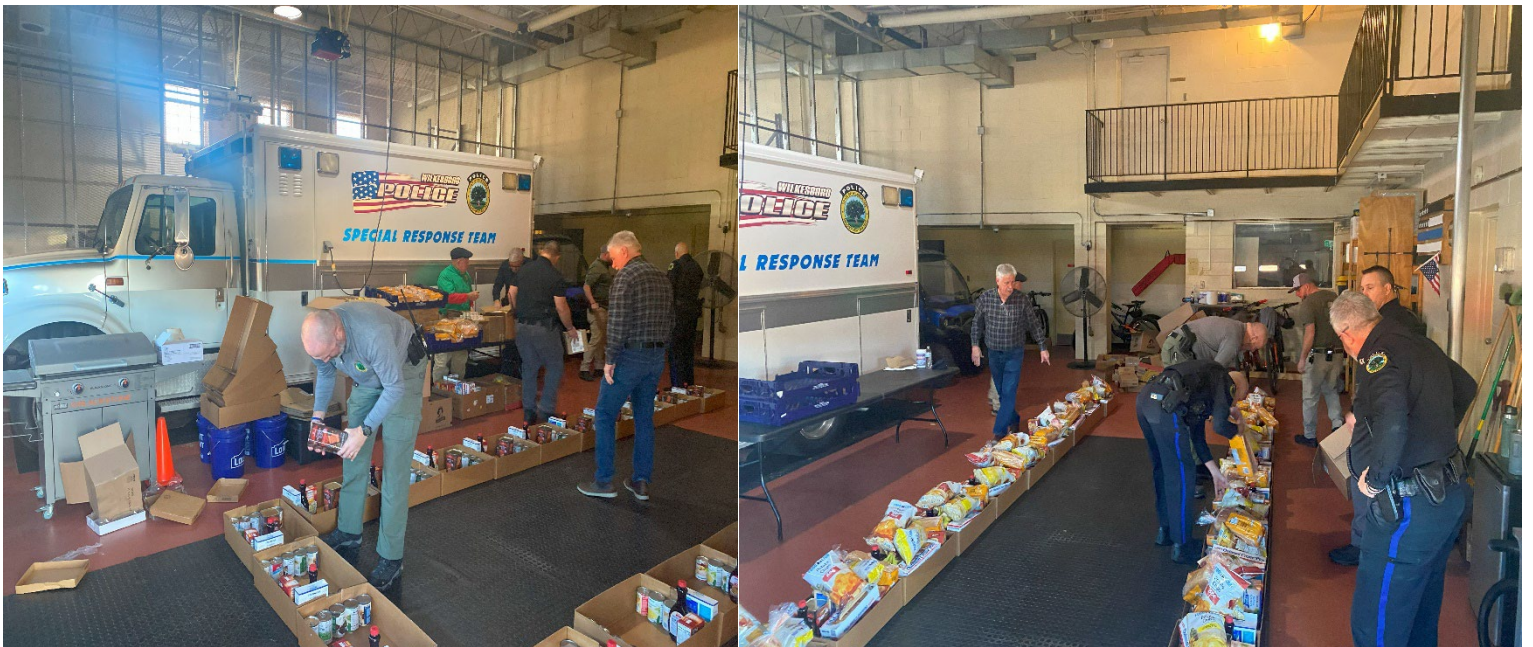
Community Service

The Wilkesboro Police Department has maintained the community service philosophy during 2023. 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.



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, Wilkes County Cruisers, Wilkesboro Business and Professional Club, Cook Family, Isom Family, and the Town of Wilkesboro.



Other Community Events

These are events hosted/supported by the Wilkesboro Police Department in 2023 that deserve mention.

2023 National Night Out in the Commons



Sponsored Blood Drive



Christmas Bike Raffle



Scentsy Buddy Drive for Kids

