

Wilkesboro Police Department



Annual Report 2024

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Message from Chief of Police

Jason Delbert



Dear Members of Our Community,

As we present this year's Annual Report, I want to take a moment to express my deep gratitude for the trust and partnership that you, the public, continue to place in our police department. This report reflects not only the dedicated work of our officers and staff but also the ongoing commitment to the safety, well-being, and prosperity of our community.

Throughout this past year, we have faced challenges and triumphs, each providing an opportunity for growth and reflection. The safety of our residents remains our highest priority, and it is with that in mind that we work each day to build stronger relationships with those we serve. We believe that community policing is not just a strategy, but a mindset—one that fosters open communication, mutual respect, and a shared responsibility for a safe environment.

This year, we have continued to implement new initiatives, improve our training programs, and invest in the tools and technologies that help us better serve you. We have also remained committed to transparency and accountability, understanding that these values are crucial for building trust. Our efforts to improve our services are driven by feedback from you, our community, as well as a steadfast determination to uphold the highest standards of professionalism.

In this report, you will find data that highlights our achievements, the challenges we have faced, and the ongoing work to ensure that our department remains an integral part of this community. We are proud of what we have accomplished, but we know that our work is never finished. We will continue to evolve in response to your needs and the demands of a dynamic, changing world.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we will continue to strengthen the bonds that make this community a place where all can live, work, and thrive in safety and peace.

Sincerely,

Jason L. Delbert

Chief of Police

Mission Statement of the Wilkesboro Police Department:

Wilkesboro Police Department Vision, Mission and Values

VISION STATEMENT

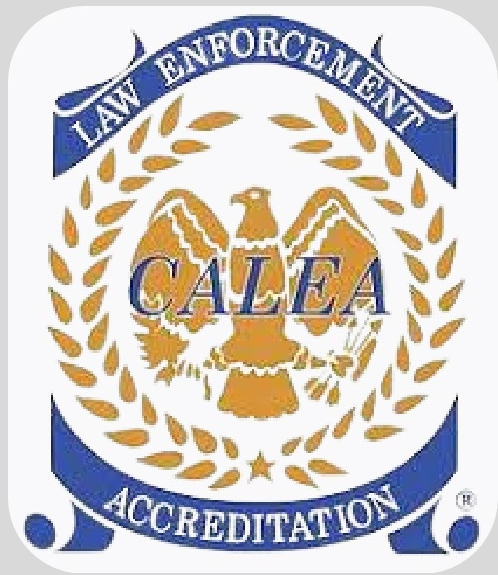
To be a model of excellence in community policing, where our department is recognized for its unwavering commitment to professionalism, integrity, and service. We envision a department where every interaction reflects our core values, strengthening the bond with the community and ensuring a safe, inclusive, and thriving environment for all.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Wilkesboro Police Department is to provide exceptional service to our community by fostering trust, safety, and security through proactive engagement, transparency, and respect. We are dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, dignity, and accountability in all our actions. By working collaboratively with the community, we strive to ensure a safe environment where all individuals are treated with fairness, respect, and compassion.

VALUES

- **Community Service** - We are dedicated to serving the community through proactive engagement, support, and problem-solving, building lasting relationships built on trust and respect.
- **Professionalism** - We adhere to the highest standards of conduct, ensuring that our actions and decisions reflect competence, responsibility, and a commitment to excellence.
- **Integrity** - We act with honesty, transparency, and ethical conduct, holding ourselves accountable for our decisions and actions.
- **Dignity** - We treat every person with respect and fairness, recognizing the inherent worth of all individuals regardless of their background or circumstances.
- **Accountability** - We hold ourselves and each other responsible for our actions, continuously striving to improve and serve the community to the best of our ability.

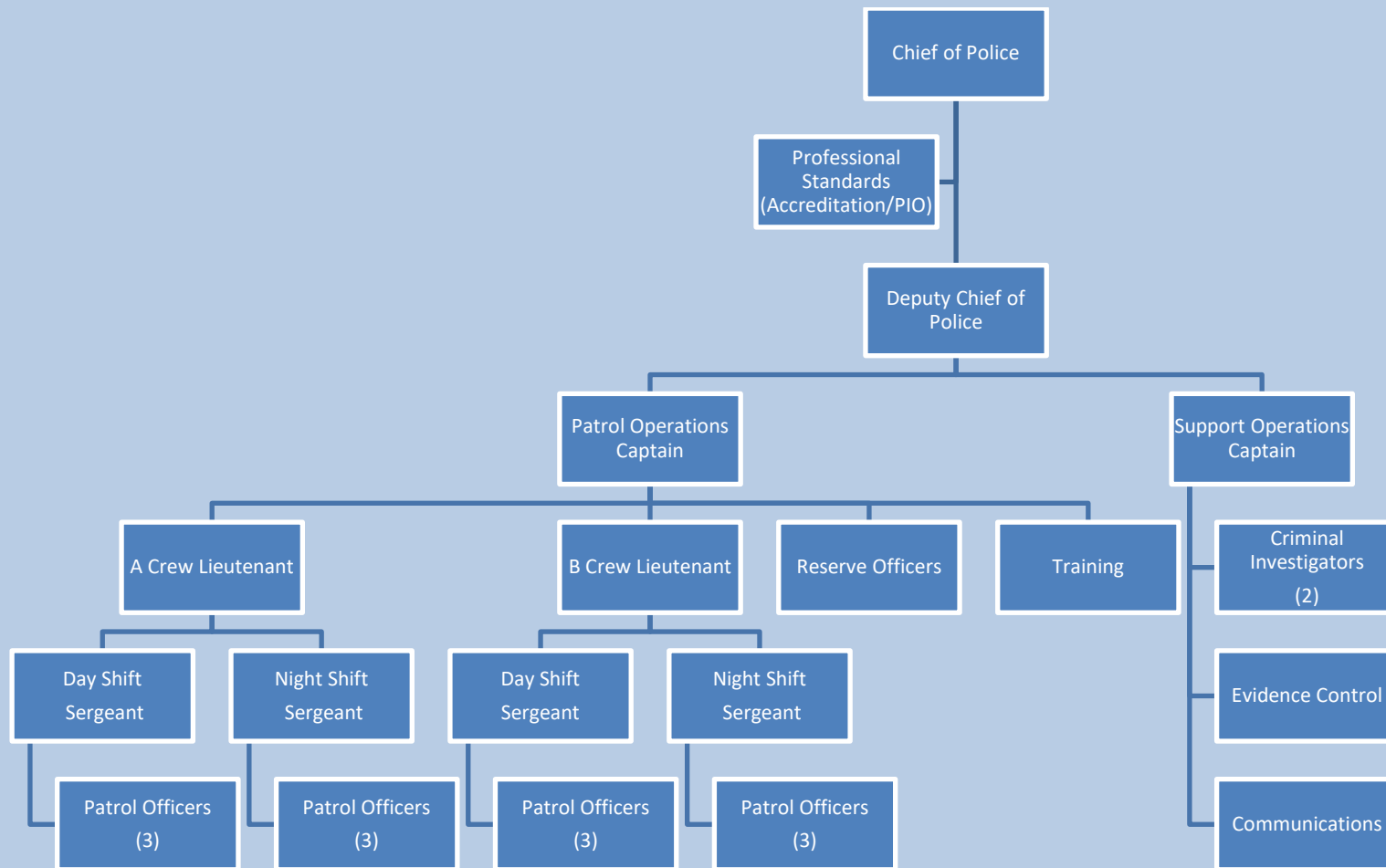


CALEA

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



William Walker joined the department as a full-time Patrol Officer in 2024. Officer Walker graduated from High Point University with a bachelor's degree. Officer Walker completed Basic Law Enforcement Training at Wilkes Community College.



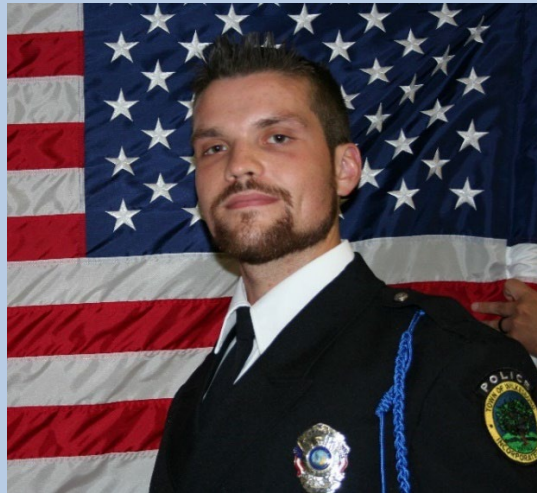
Dalton Blankenship joined the department as a full-time Patrol Officer in 2024. Officer Blankenship completed Basic Law Enforcement Training at Wilkes Community College.



Steven Richardson joined the department as a full-time Patrol Officer in 2024. Officer Richardson graduated from East Mississippi Community College with an associate's degree. Officer Richardson completed Basic Law Enforcement Training at Wilkes Community College.



Cristhian Rubio joined the department as a full-time Patrol Officer in 2024. Officer Rubio graduated from Wilkes Community College with an associate's degree. Officer Rubio completed Basic Law Enforcement Training at Wilkes Community College.



Jacob Roe joined the department as a full-time Patrol Officer in 2024. Officer Roe graduated from Wilkes Community College with an associate's degree. Officer Roe completed Basic Law Enforcement Training at Wilkes Community College.



Samuel Hunnicutt joined the department as a full-time Patrol Officer in 2024. Officer Hunnicutt graduated from Brevard College with a bachelor's degree. Officer Hunnicutt completed Basic Law Enforcement Training at Blue Ridge Community College.

Promotions



Rocky Moore was promoted to Deputy Chief of Police in 2024. He supervises and oversees all members of the Patrol Operations Division and Support Operations Division. Deputy Chief Moore has dedicated his service to the Town of Wilkesboro since 2003.



Chris Handy was promoted to Patrol Operations Captain in 2024. He supervises and oversees all members of the Patrol Operations Division. Captain Handy has dedicated his service to the Town of Wilkesboro since 2002.



Christopher Arnder was promoted to Support Operations Captain in 2024. He supervises and oversees members of the Support Operations Division. Captain Arnder has dedicated his service to the Town of Wilkesboro since 2008.



Brian McManus was promoted to Patrol Lieutenant in 2024. Lieutenant McManus supervises the Adam Team, which consists of 2 Patrol Sergeants and 6 Patrol Officers. Lieutenant McManus has dedicated his service to the Town of Wilkesboro since 2007.



Preston Parsons was promoted to Patrol Lieutenant in 2024. Lieutenant Parsons supervises the Baker Team, which consists of 2 Patrol Sergeants and 6 Patrol Officers. Lieutenant Parsons has dedicated his service to the Town of Wilkesboro since 2016.



Jaymie McHargue was promoted to Patrol Sergeant in 2024. Sergeant McHargue supervises the night shift on the Adam Team. Sergeant McHargue has dedicated her service to the Town of Wilkesboro since 2015.

Patrol Operations

Captain Chris Handy commands the Patrol Division, the agency's largest division. There are 18 full-time and one part-time sworn officers assigned to the Patrol Division. The officers are divided into two teams (Adam Team and Baker Team) of nine officers. Each patrol team has one Patrol Lieutenant, one daytime Sergeant, and one nighttime Sergeant. These teams work a 12-hour permanent schedule. Patrol officers are the first staff members to respond to all crimes, including 911 calls, calls for service, motor vehicle accidents, domestic disturbances, and larcenies. 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 2024, the Patrol Division responded to the following:

- 11,305 calls for service (1.0% decrease from 2023)
- 660 crash investigations
- 605 incident reports
- 243 arrest reports
- Officers issued 1,113 citations totaling 1,482 charges



Division Commander
Captain Chris Handy

Patrol Lieutenants

Lt. Brian McManus

Lt. Preston Parsons

Team Supervisors

Adam Team

Sgt. Michael Shumate

Sgt. Jaymie McHargue

Baker Team

Sgt. Alexander Bare

Sgt. Caleb Johnston

Support Operations

Captain Christopher Arnder commands the Support Operations Division. It is staffed by two full-time Investigators, two full-time telecommunicators, two part-time telecommunicators, and one part-time evidence custodian. All investigators are assigned to handle felony crimes, including homicide, sexual assault, robbery, theft, and fraud cases. The investigators employ a team approach to major crime investigations, where multiple investigators are assigned to all major crimes, such as homicide, robbery, or missing person cases. This division is also responsible for several other duties within the department, including Evidence and Property Management, Recruitment and Selection, Background Investigations, Records, and Communications.



Division Commander

Captain
Christopher Arnder

Investigators

Inv. Philip Brown

Inv. Bradley Dancy

Telecommunicators

Michelle Sparks

Nikki Beck

Evidence Custodian

Courtney Johnson



Annual Review and Analysis

Use of Force

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 a type of force was used on an individual. All uses of force must be reasonable and necessary. Each use-force 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 force used.

In 2024, Wilkesboro Police Department officers were involved in 16 use-of-force incidents, a 16.7% decrease from the previous year. In 2024, there were two incidents where officers had to utilize more than one response option in order to gain control of the suspect. All incidents in 2024 were reviewed and found to be within departmental policy. Below is a listing of the circumstances of the incidents in 2024.

Shift	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Day (0700-1900)	13	11	8	14	12
Night (1900-0700)	8	13	8	8	4
Division					
Patrol Operations	21	24	14	21	16
Support Operations	0	0	2	1	0
Suspect Activity					
Assaultive	2	2	3	2	2
Non-Compliant	9	16	6	6	6
Running/Evading	6	3	5	11	3
Known Threat/Felony Stop	3	2	2	2	3
Weapon Found on Suspect	2	1	1	1	0
Officer Response					
Firearm (Drawn)	4	4	8	10	5
Firearm (Fired)	0	0	0	0	0
Hands	6	6	2	7	9
Taser	11	8	6	5	4
Pepper Spray	0	1	0	0	0
Response by Race					
White	16	16	12	16	12
African American	4	4	3	6	4
Other	1	4	2	0	0
Response by Sex					
Male	19	19	13	16	14
Female	2	5	3	6	2
Total	21	24	16	22	16

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 five (5) complaints in 2024 for the Wilkesboro Police Department and its employees.

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

Complaint Origin	2021	2022	2023	2024
Citizen	0	0	2	3
Internal	0	3	0	2
Originating Action				
Traffic Stop	0	0	1	3
Arrest	0	0	0	0
Officers Conduct	0	1	1	1
Other	0	2	0	1
Disposition				
Sustained	0	2	0	2
Not Sustained	0	0	0	1
Unfounded	0	0	1	2
Exonerated	0	1	1	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

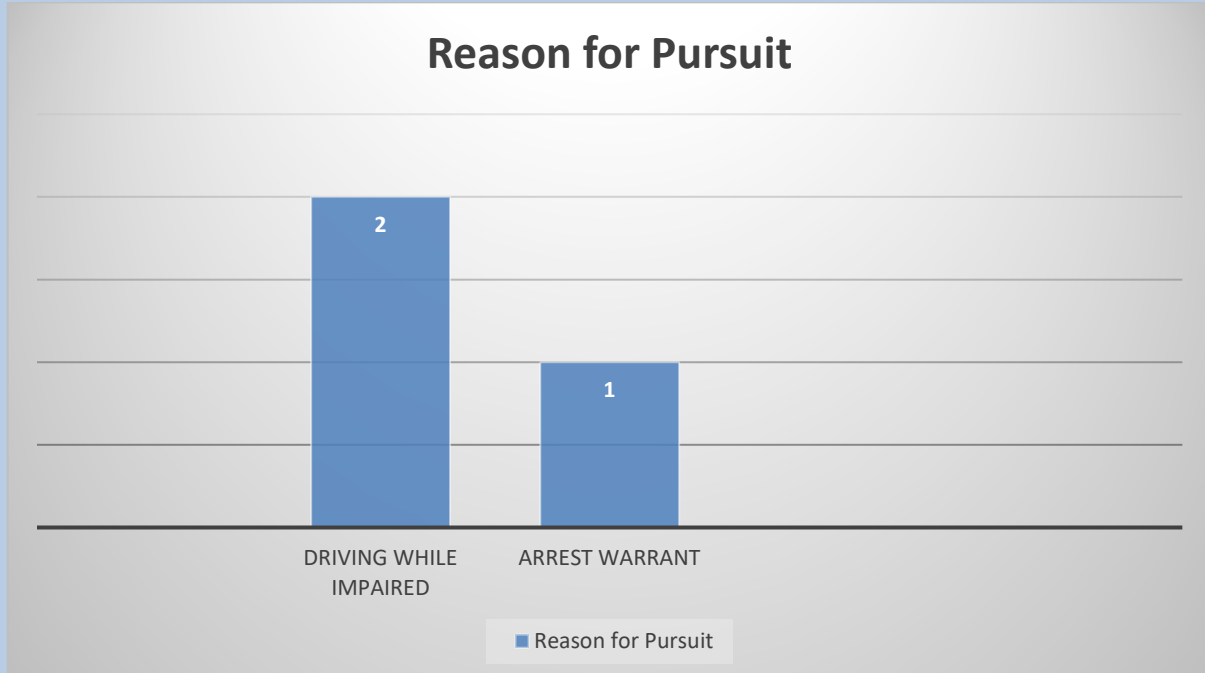
Unfounded- The investigation disclosed that the act complained of never occurred and therefore is false

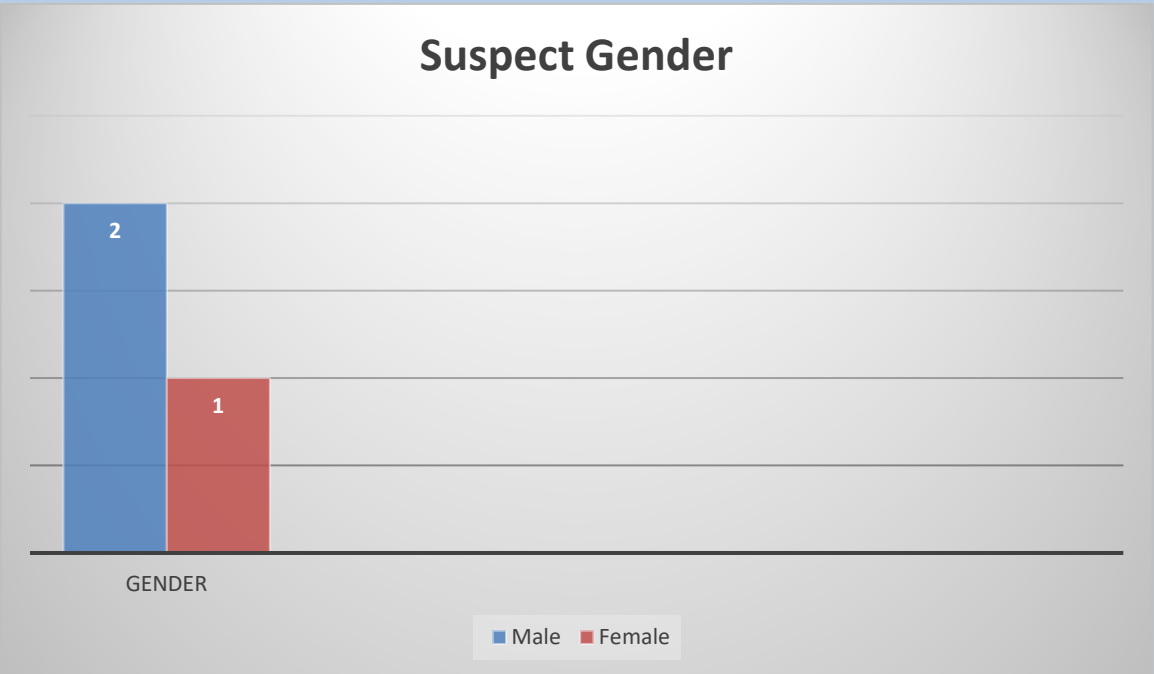
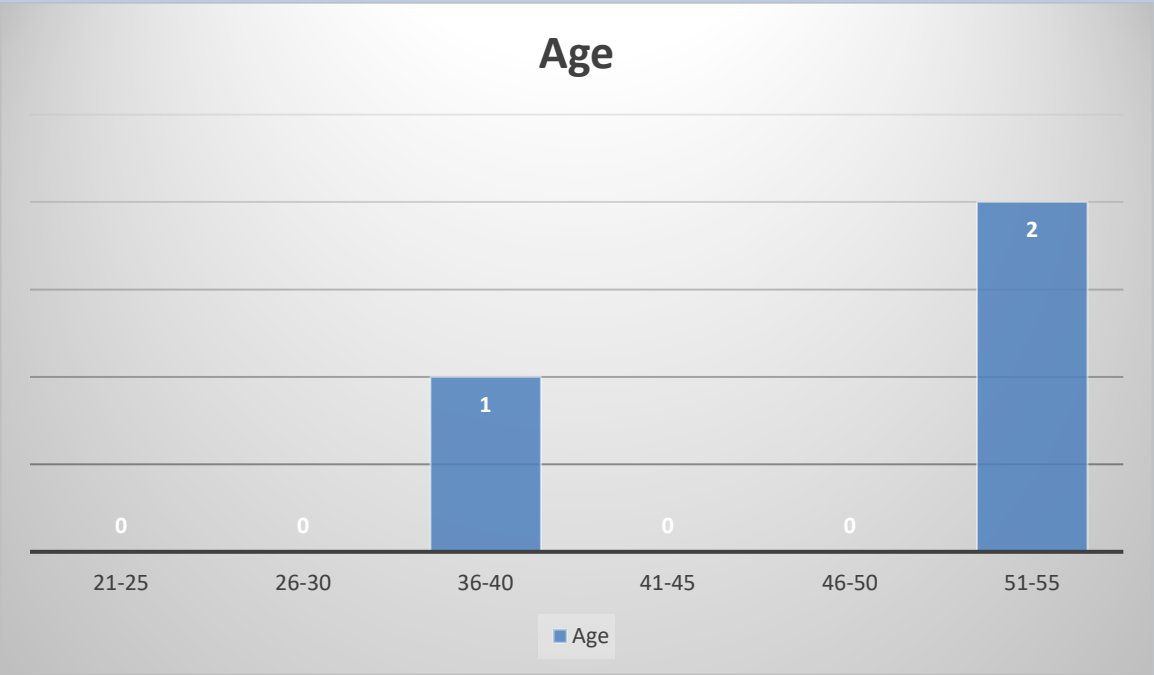
Exonerated- The incident complained of occurred; however, the actions of the staff member were lawful and proper

Vehicle Pursuits

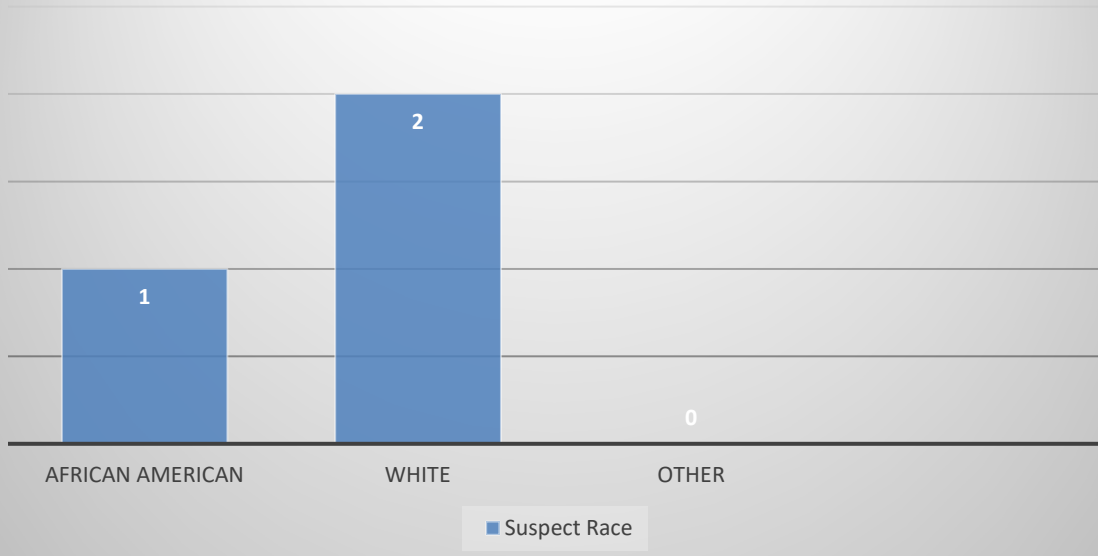
During 2024, the Wilkesboro Police Department had three (3) Motor Vehicle Pursuits. In 2023, the agency had eight (8) Motor Vehicle Pursuits. Of the three pursuits in 2024, all three occurred during the day shift. The average duration of the pursuits was 3.7 minutes. The average distance the pursuits covered was 4 miles. The longest pursuit traveled 9 miles and lasted 8 minutes. The pursuits were initiated due to an active arrest warrant and Driving While Impaired offenses. 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.

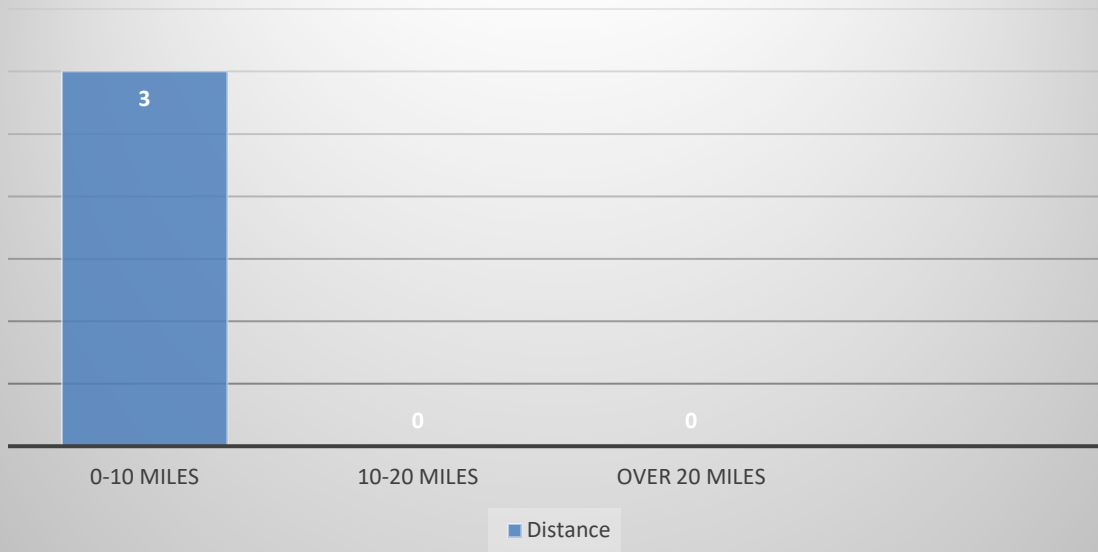




Suspect Race



Pursuit Distance



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.

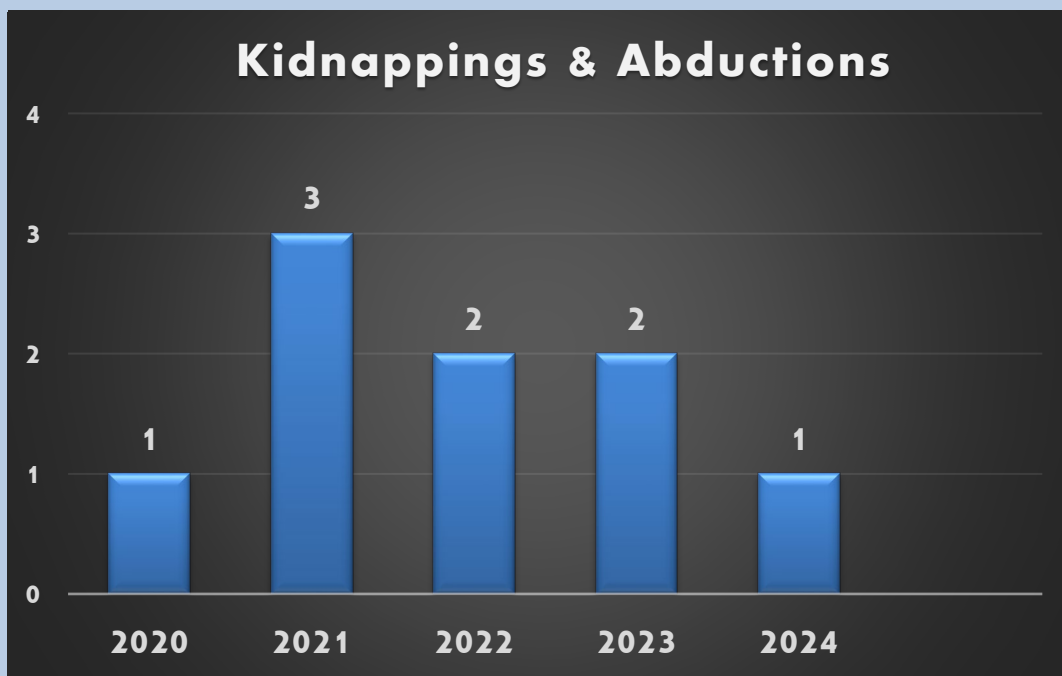
The FBI's UCR Program prepared this manual to assist LEAs in reporting their crime statistics via the Program's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

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.

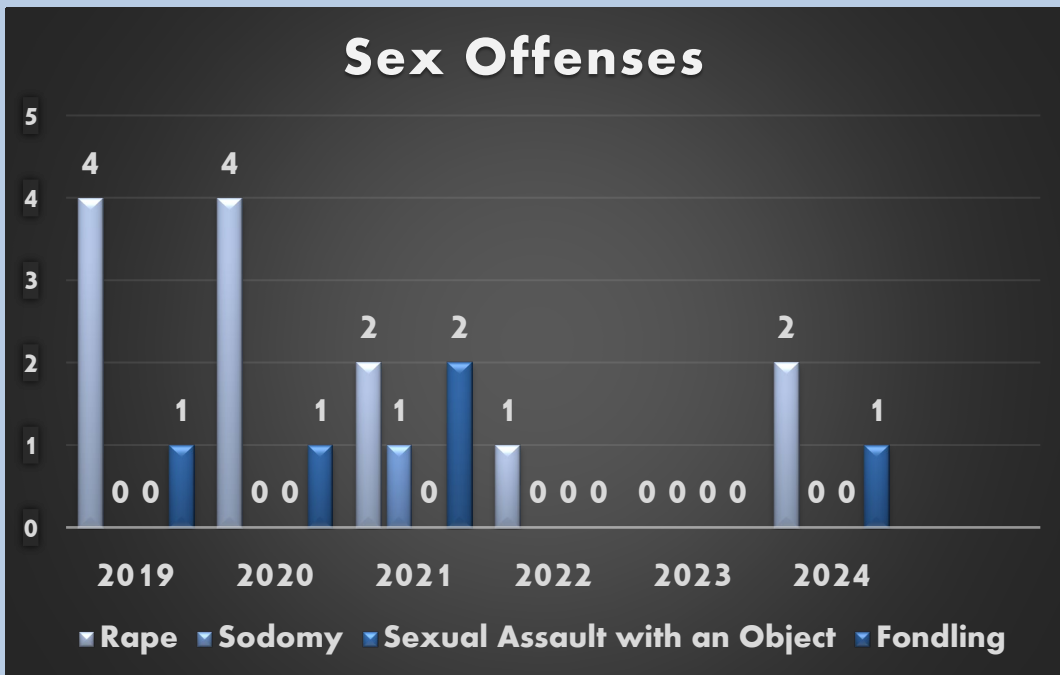
By design, LEAs generate NIBRS data as a by-product of their respective records management systems (RMSs). Therefore, an LEA builds its system to suit its own individual needs, including all of the information required for administration and operation, then forwards only the data required by NIBRS to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



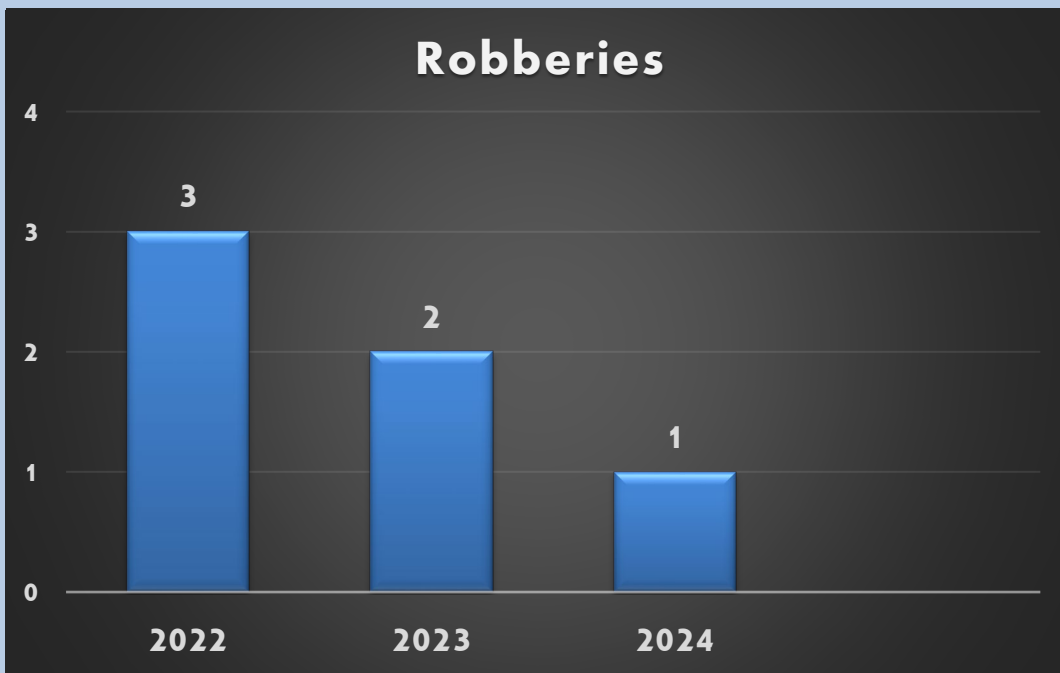
In 2024, we had zero (0) Homicides.



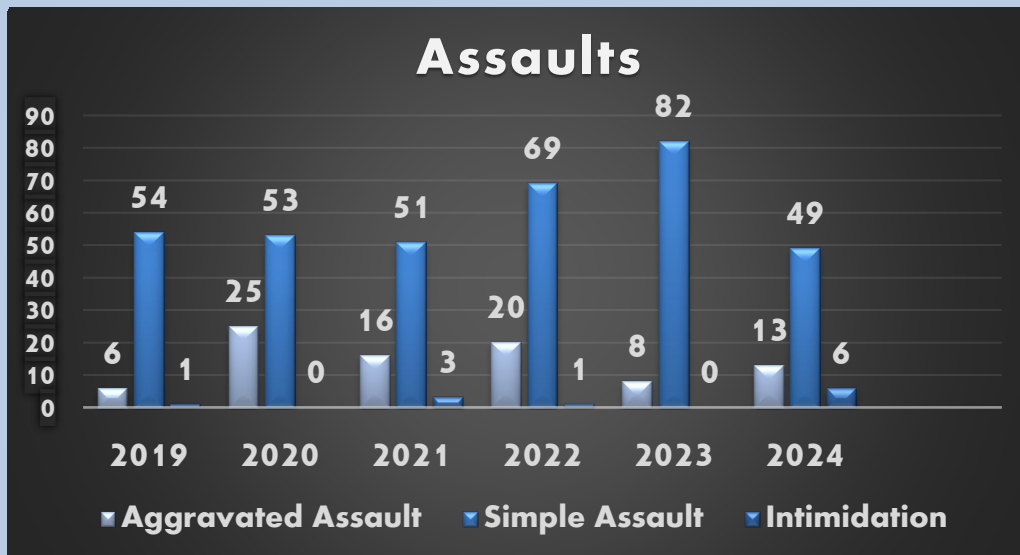
In 2024, we had one reported Kidnapping/Abduction, which is a decrease from 2022 and 2023.



In 2024, there were a total of three (3) reported sex offenses, which is an increase from 2022 and 2023.



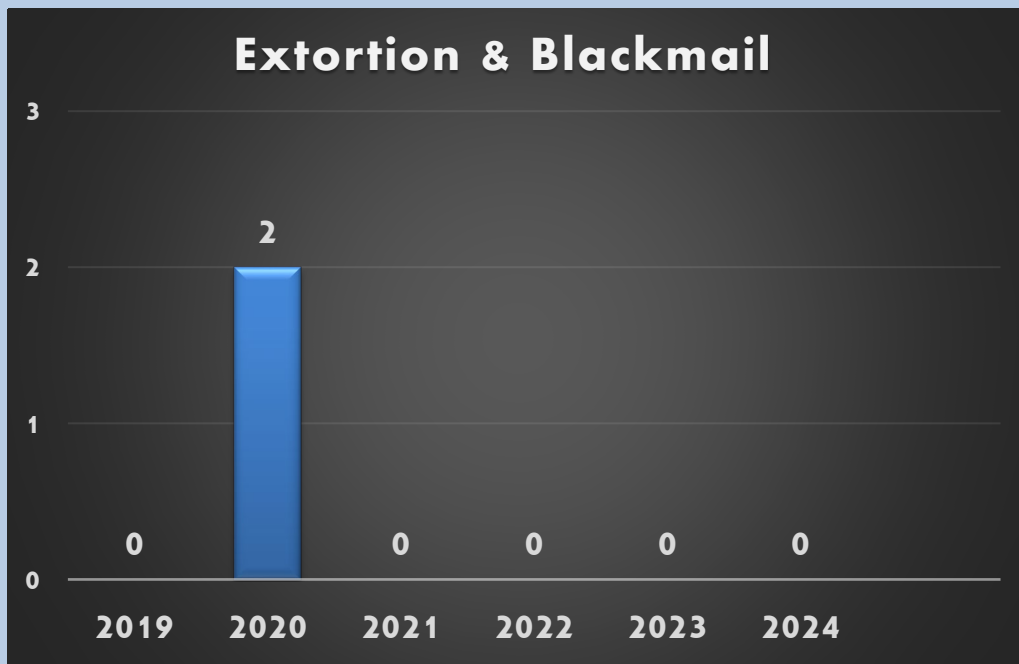
There was a 50% reduction in Robberies, with only one (1) reported in 2024.



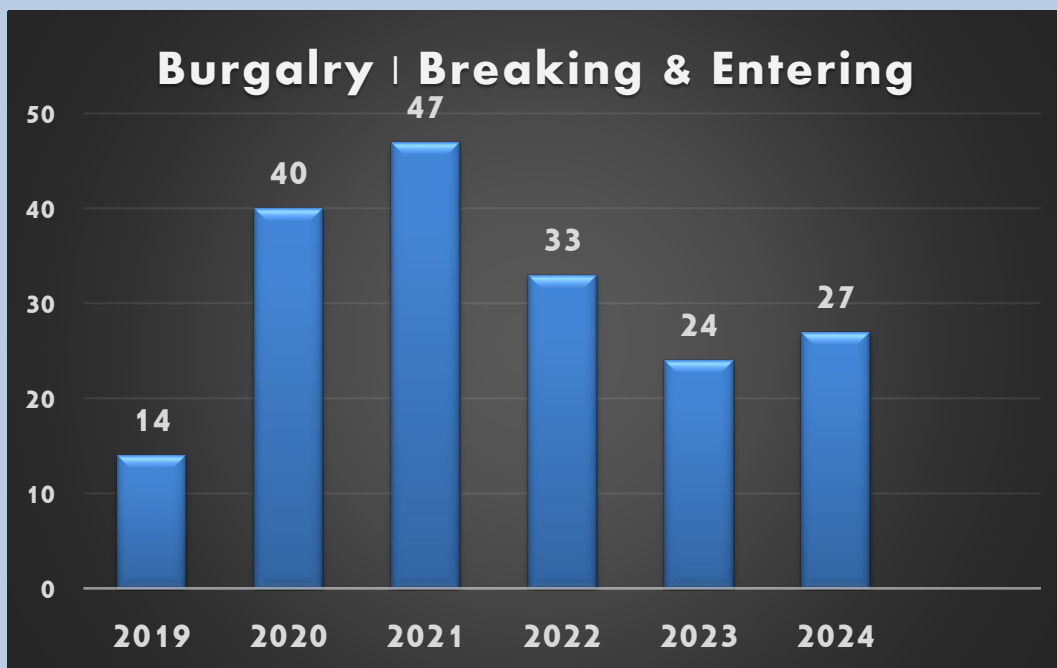
There were ninety (90) assaults in 2023 and a total of sixty-eight (68) assaults in 2024. The most significant rates of change in a subset are Aggravated Assault, which has increased by 62.5%, and Simple Assault, which has decreased by 40.2%.



In 2024, there was one (1) reported Arson, which is the same rate as in 2023.

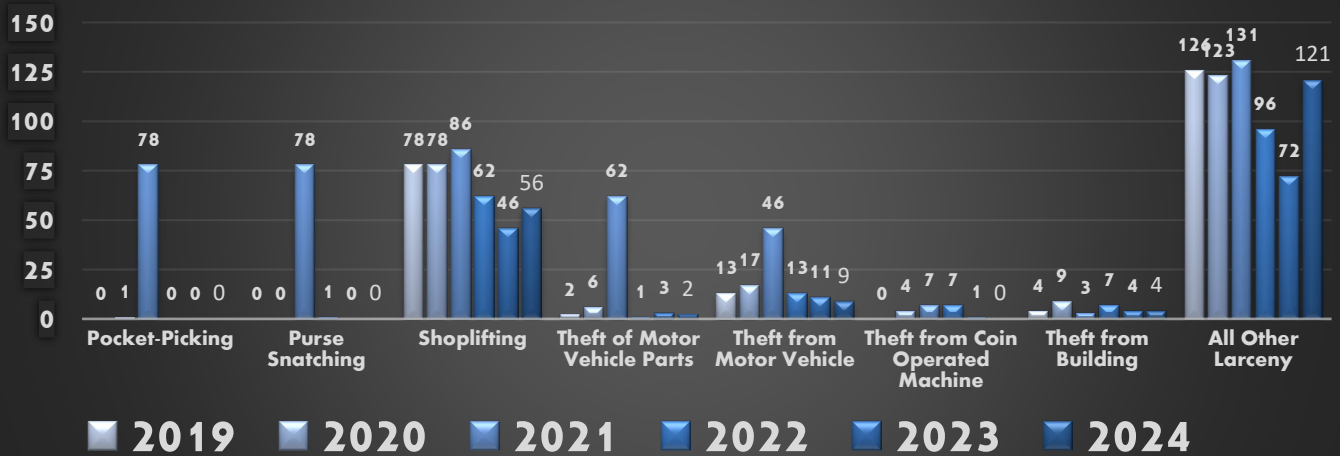


In 2024, we had zero (0) reported Extortion/Blackmail incidents, and the rates have not changed in the past four years.



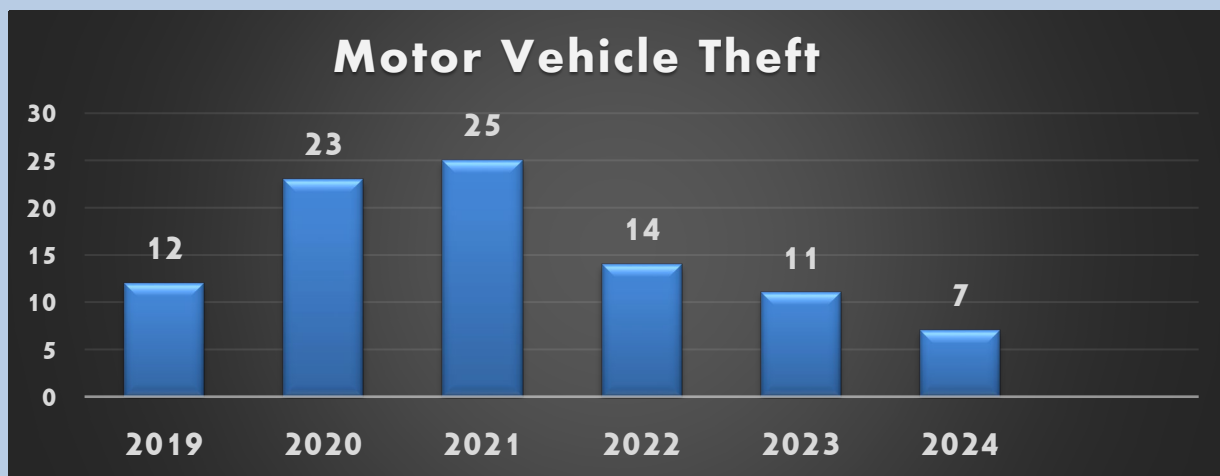
Between 2023 and 2024, there was a 12.5% increase in Burglary and Breaking and Entering incidents, for a total of twenty-seven (27) incidents in 2024.

Larceny & Theft

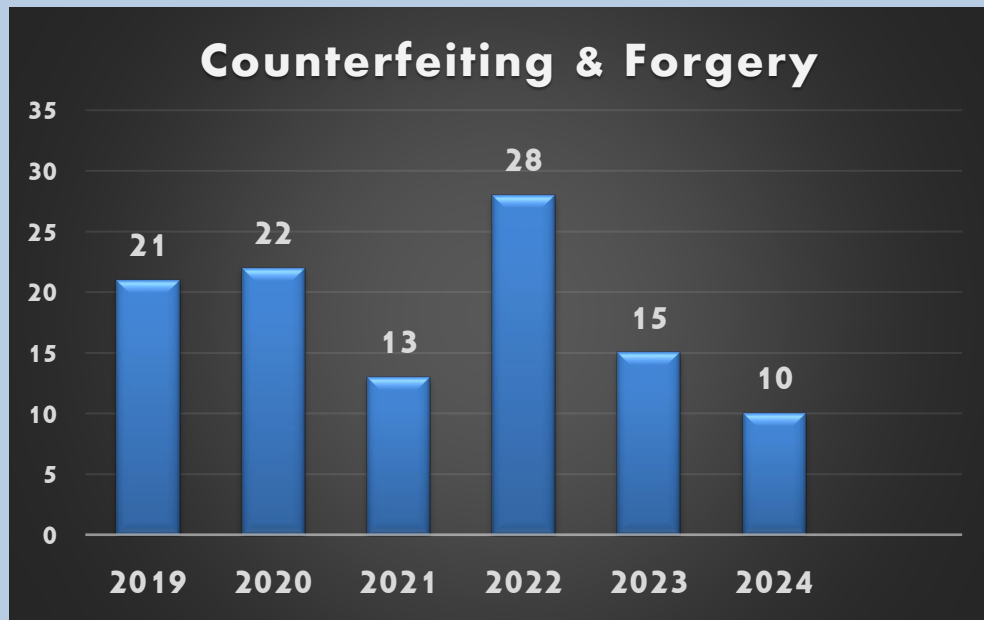


There was a 40.1% increase in all larceny reports in 2024. The most significant increased subset of larceny reports has been the “All Other Larceny,” which encompasses any larceny incidents that do not fall within the listed larceny categories. “All Other Larceny” increased by 68.1% in 2024. Shoplifting also increased in 2024, that increase was 21.7%.

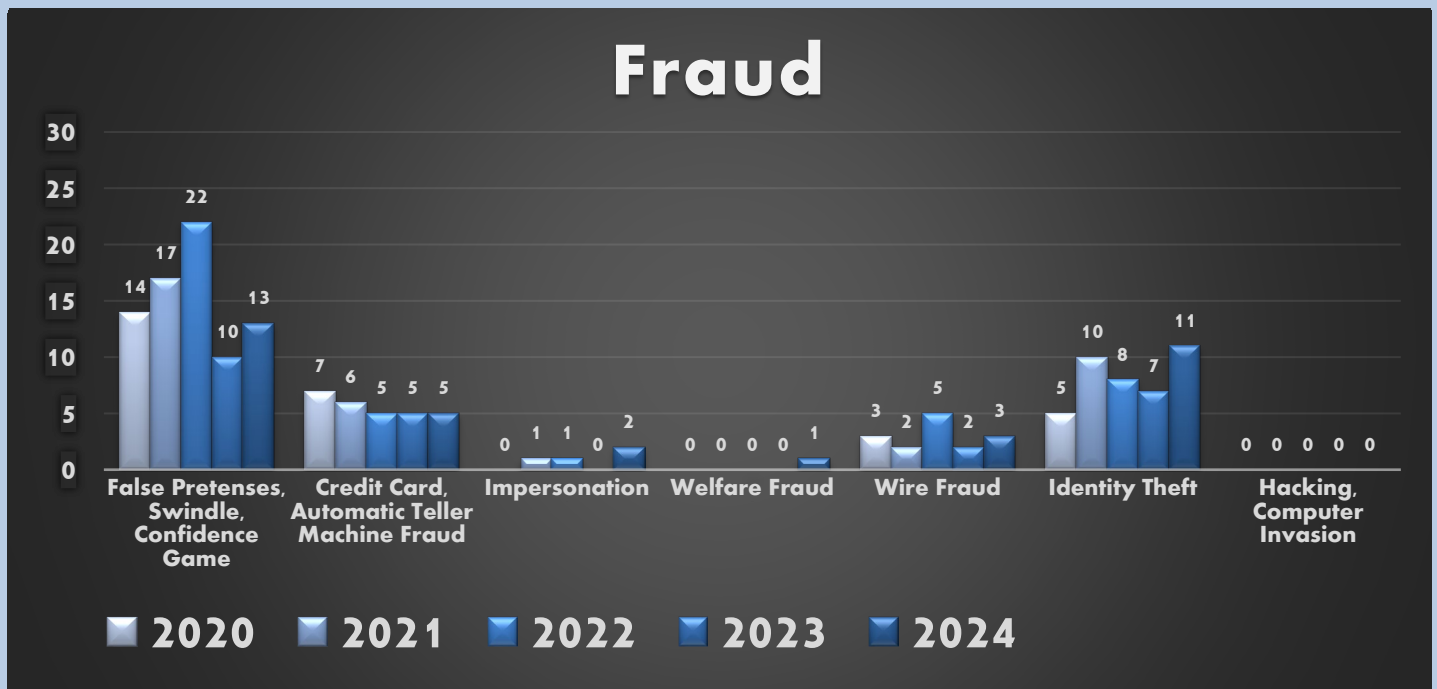
Motor Vehicle Theft



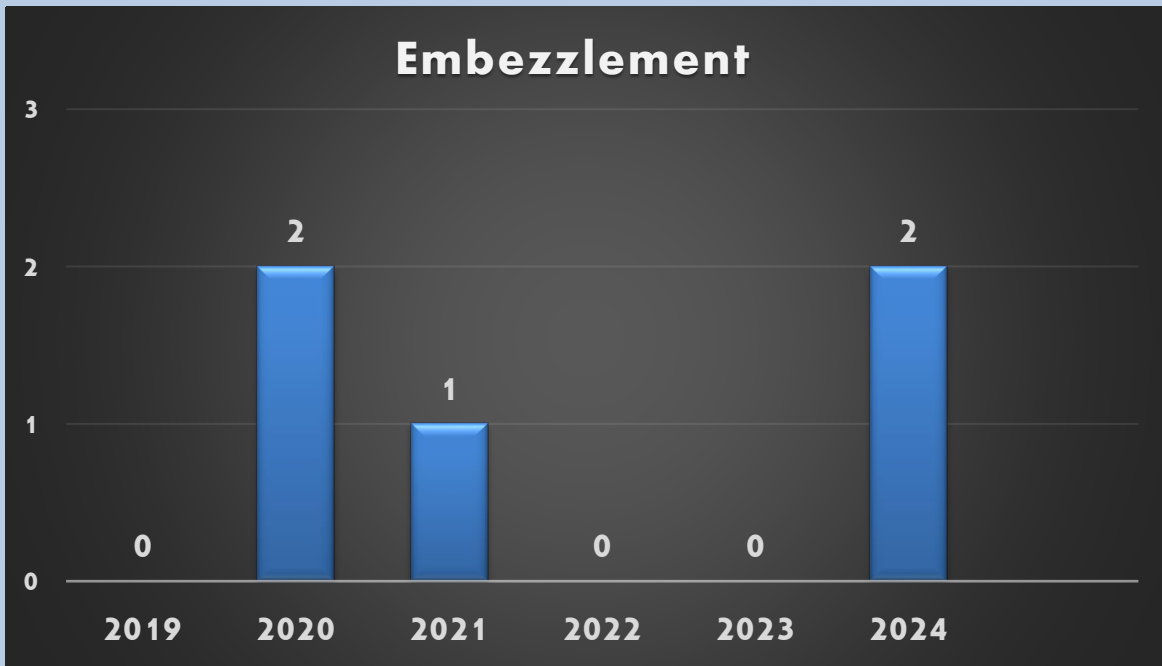
In the past year, Motor Vehicle Theft has decreased by 36.4%, marking it at the lowest level in the past six years, with only seven (7) occurrences.



In 2024, there were ten (10) incidents involving Counterfeiting and Forgery, a 33.3% decrease from the past year and the lowest rate in six years.



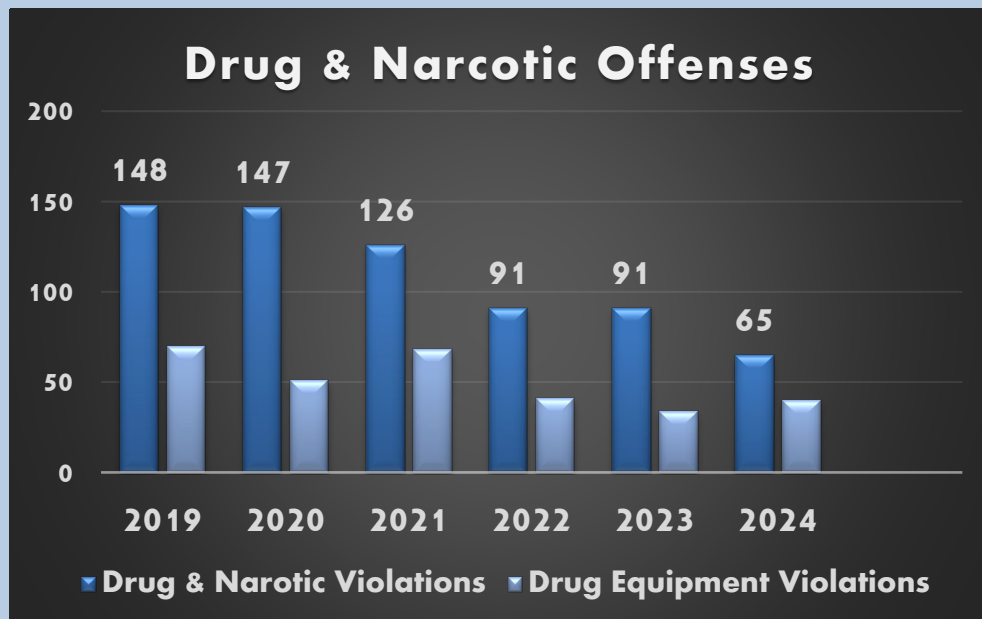
Total Fraud incidents have increased by 45.8% in 2024. The most significant change is the increase in Identity Theft, which increased from seven (7) incidents to eleven (11) incidents in 2024.



There were two (2) Embezzlement occurrences in 2024, the highest rate since 2020.



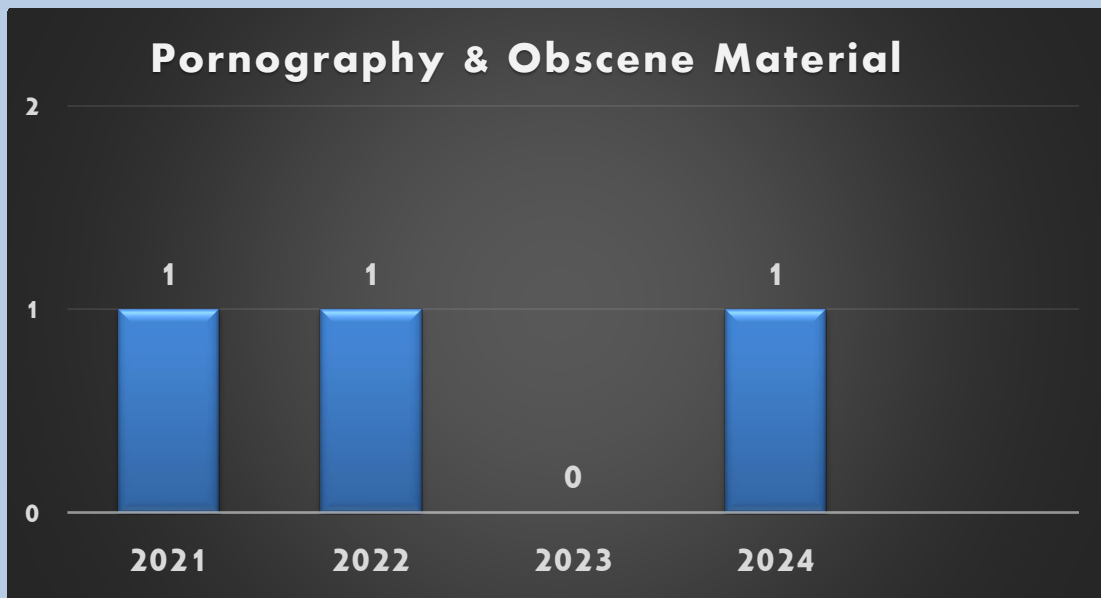
Property Damage, Destruction, and Vandalism have decreased by 45.7% in the past year, the lowest rate in six years.



Drug/Narcotic Offenses have gone down by 16% in the past year.



There have been zero (0) reported Nonforcible Sex Offenses in 2024.



There has been one (1) reported Pornography and Obscene Material in 2024, which is an increase from 2023 and the same rate from 2021 and 2022.



There were zero (0) reported Gambling occurrences in 2024.



Weapon Law Violations have decreased by 60% in 2024, from fifteen (15) in 2023 to six (6) in 2024.



There were zero (0) reported Animal Cruelty incidents in 2024, marking the third year with zero reported incidents.

Total Offenses

There were 497 offenses in total in 2023 and 486 in 2024, which means that in the past year, there has been a 2.2% reduction in the total reported offenses.

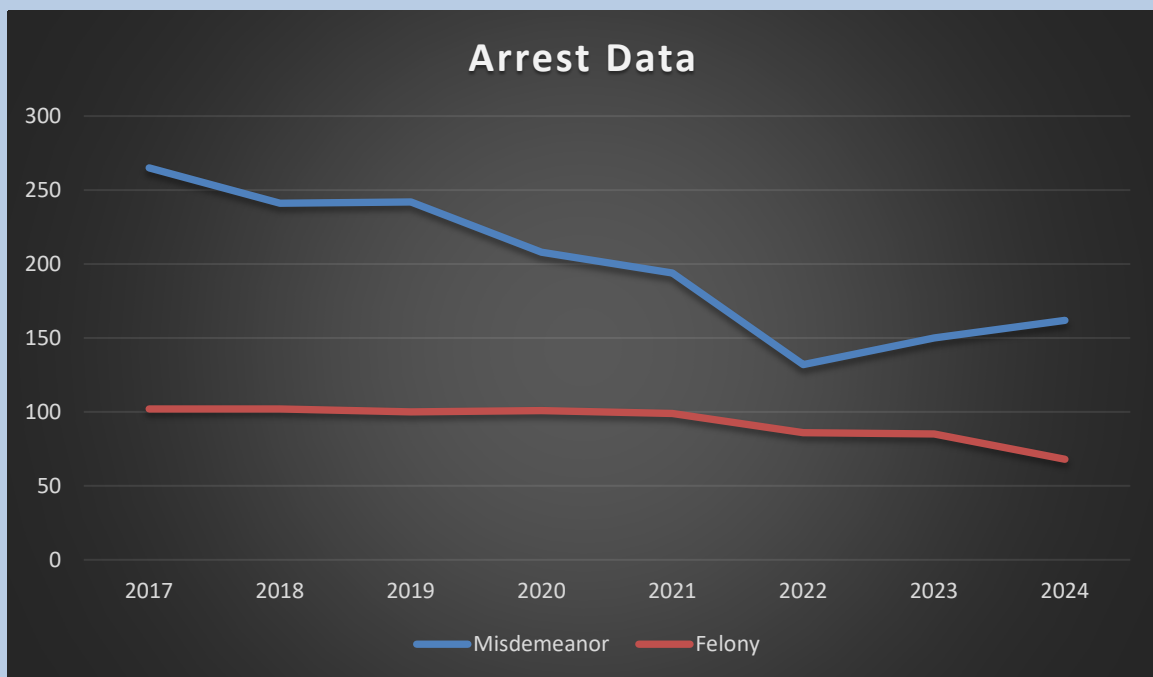
Arrest Data

Misdemeanor Arrest Charges

In 2024, the Wilkesboro Police Department had 316 Misdemeanor Charges on 162 Misdemeanor Arrests.

Felony Arrest Charges

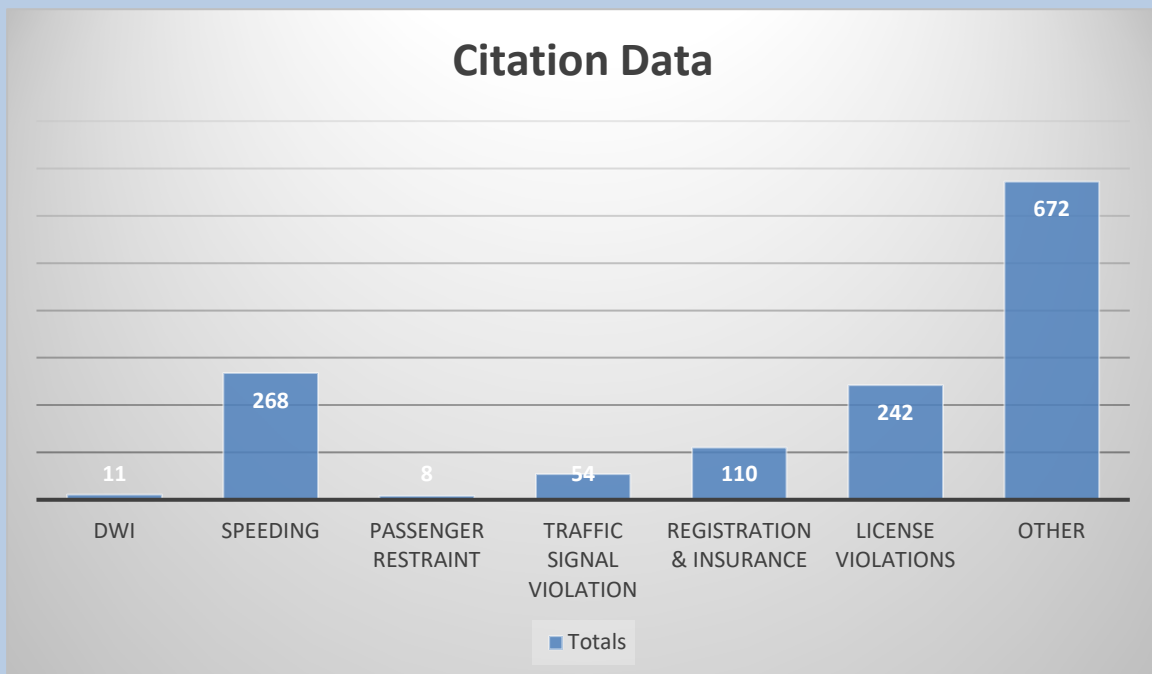
In 2024, the Wilkesboro Police Department charged 237 Felonies on 68 Felony Arrests.



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 posting of a bond (waivable offenses). They are also 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 2024, officers of the Wilkesboro Police Department issued **1,113** citations with **1,482** charges and conducted **1494** traffic stops.



Traffic Collisions

In 2024, officers of the Wilkesboro Police Department investigated 660 traffic collisions, a 12.4% increase from 2023. Out of the 660 traffic collisions, 455 involved property damage with no injuries, which was 68.9% of our total collisions. 79 involved personal injuries, which was 11.9% of our total collisions. 2024 had the highest number of traffic collisions within the past nine years.



Crash Investigations by Year



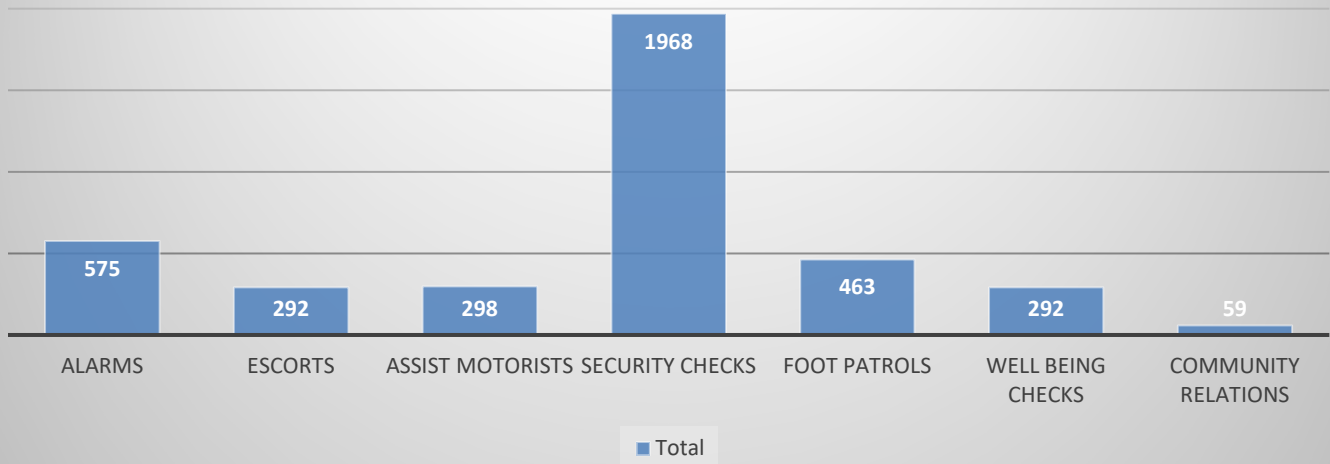
Department Training

In 2024, 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.

Community Service

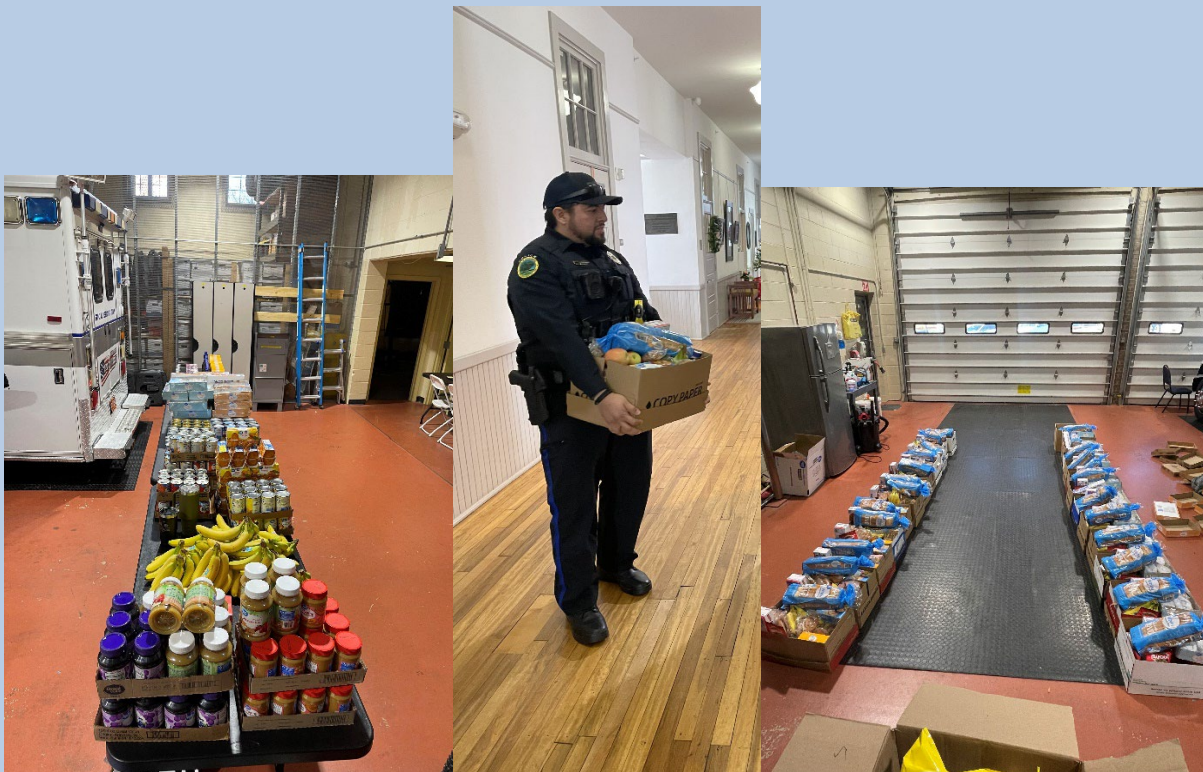
The Wilkesboro Police Department has maintained the community service philosophy. With community service in mind, every police officer is encouraged to interact with the public during their shifts. These activities have included vacation/residence checks, funeral and business escorts, responding to alarms,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

Community Service Calls 2024



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.



Fish 4 Fun Event at Wilkes Community College

In 2024, officers of the Wilkesboro Police Department participated in the annual Fish 4 Fun event at Wilkes Community College. This event allows officers to fish and connect with kids in the community.



Wilkesboro Creepy Creek Trail

Officers of the Wilkesboro Police Department participated in the annual Wilkesboro Creepy Creek Trail, which offers many activities for children and families during the Fall season.



NC Special Olympics Torch Run



Diaper Drive

The Wilkesboro Police Department partnered with the North Wilkesboro Police Department and participated in a community diaper donation drive. This event collected diapers to assist “Our House,” Diapers are a great need in our community. The Wilkesboro Police Department collected 10,047 diapers, and in conjunction with the North Wilkesboro Police Department, a total of 20,450 were collected.



Lead Appalachia Event

Wilkesboro Police officers participated in a Lead Appalachia event hosted by Wilkes Youth Leadership Development (WYLD). Officers allowed teens to participate in a Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) Seat Belt Convincer. The seatbelt convincer is used to educate the public about how beneficial the use of seat belts can be, even when involved in a low-speed collision.



Wilkesboro Police Sponsored Blood Drive



2024 National Night Out in the Commons

The Wilkesboro Police Department hosted the annual National Night Out. This event provides an excellent opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.



Community Awards

Sgt. Jaymie McHargue received the American Legion “Officer of the Year” award.



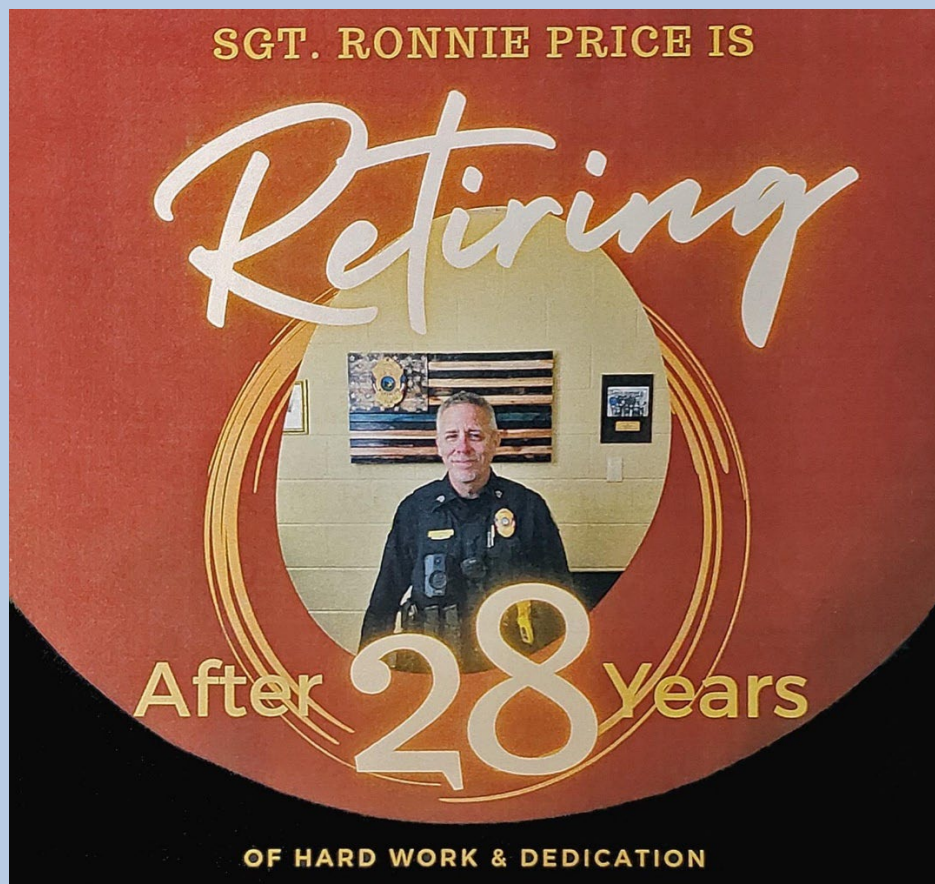
Community Awards Continued

Sgt. Michael Shumate received the “North Carolina Hometown Hero Award” from McNeil Chevrolet Buick Nissan.



Retirements

In 2024, Sgt. Ronnie Price retired from the Wilkesboro Police Department after serving 28 years in Law Enforcement.



In 2024, Chief Tommy Rhodes retired from the Wilkesboro Police Department after serving 30 years in Law Enforcement.

