

STAFFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



Dedicated, innovative people, working with the community, to serve and protect Stafford County while using the best tools and technology available.

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Sheriff D.P. Decatur, and Major C. S. Kimmitz receiving a generous donation to the Stafford County Sheriff's Office from Mission BBQ. These donations are used for our community outreach programs.



In Memoriam

The deaths of Deputy Toby Humphrey and Deputy Jason Mooney are reminders of the inherent dangers of police work, and that any given shift may end abruptly in serious injury or death. In honor of Deputy Humphrey, the Public Safety Center in Stafford County, which houses the Sheriff's Office and the Fire and Rescue Department, was named after him. In memory of Deputy Mooney, a sign was erected on I-95 southbound at the scene of his accident, the road for Fire and Rescue Station 2 where he volunteered, was named after him, and Lake Mooney Reservoir opened in 2016.

In memory of our fallen brother, Deputy Sheriff Ford Tyson "Toby" Humphrey, who lost his life in the pursuit of serving and protecting the citizens of Stafford County. On October 9, 1980, 26-year-old Ford Tyson "Toby" Humphrey was killed in the line of duty by a gunman while attempting to quell a domestic disturbance. Deputy Humphrey served his community as a Deputy Sheriff as well as a volunteer member of the Fredericksburg Rescue Squad. In Deputy Humphrey's honor, the Public Safety Building which serves as the headquarters for both the Stafford County Sheriff's Office and the Stafford Department of Fire and Rescue, was named after him.



In memory of our fallen brother, Deputy Sheriff Jason Edward Mooney, who lost his life on October 19, 2007, in service to the citizens of Stafford County. Jason Edward Mooney, age 24, was killed in the line of duty while responding to a traffic accident on I-95. Deputy Mooney epitomized public service. He served in the United States Marine Corps in Al-Asad, Iraq, had been a boy scout and was also a volunteer fireman with Stafford Company 2 at the time of his death. There are several memorials in honor of Deputy Mooney including the Lake Mooney Reservoir, Lake Mooney Drive at Fire and Rescue Station 2 where he volunteered. In addition, a sign was erected on I-95 at the scene of his accident.





Sheriff's Message

Annual Reports are a great way to reflect and highlight the great work done by the dedicated professionals of our agency.

There have been challenges nationwide in recruiting and retaining law enforcement officers. In January 2023, the Board of Supervisors provided a fifteen percent scale adjustment to the Public Safety Salary Scale to make our salaries more competitive with Northern Virginia agencies. This pay scale adjustment, which was out of the normal budget cycle, was significant in the retention of our personnel.

To help keep our agency moving forward we started a Strategic Planning process in 2017. Please take a look at our Strategic Planning efforts that start on page 23. The work that our staff has done in these Focus Areas embodies our vision that we highlight on the cover of this report: *"Dedicated, innovative people, working with the community, to serve and protect Stafford County while using the best tools and technology available."* The work done through our Strategic Planning process provides on-going evaluations of our agency to confirm that we are employing contemporary law enforcement practices.

Our strategic planning efforts led to the paneling of a committee to research and develop a new field uniform for our operational personnel. This included direct feedback from members within the agency. The new field uniform included a new outer carrier system for the deputies' body armor. This new field uniform allows for a more comfortable, breathable, and functional uniform.



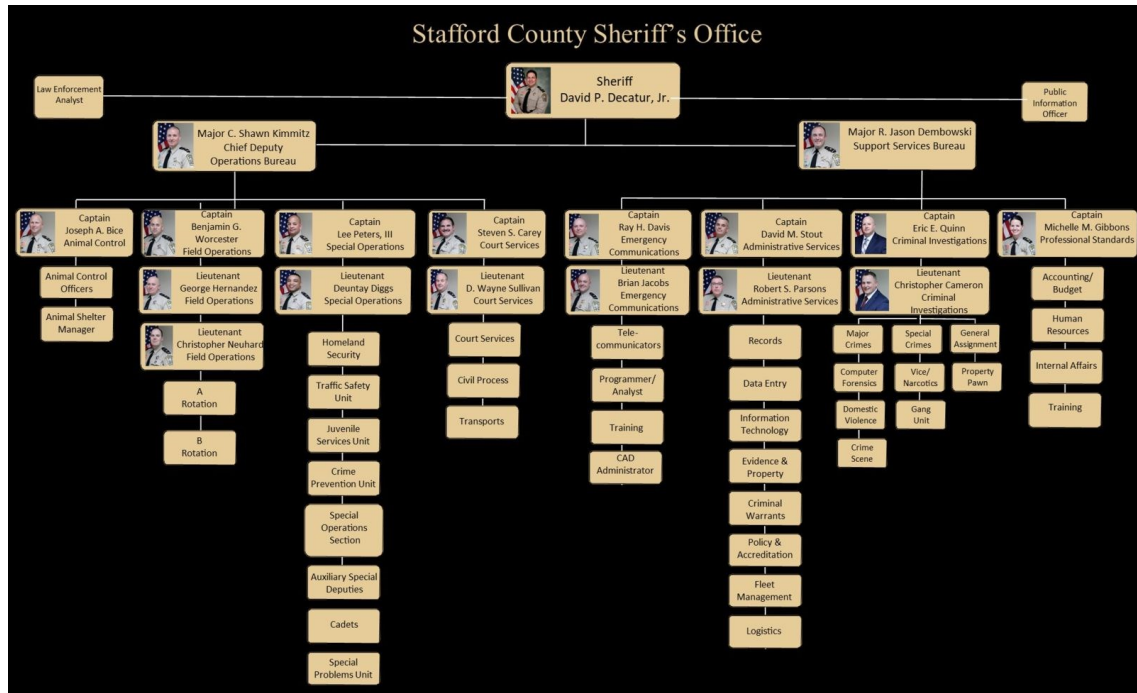
Our agency continues to lead in the area of community engagement. This past year our National Night Out had a record crowd in attendance. It is events like this and the countless others we do each year that allow for the men and women of our agency to connect with our community and develop meaningful partnerships to keep Stafford County safe.

I count myself truly blessed to live and serve in Stafford County. Thank you for your continued support.

Sheriff David P. Decatur, Jr.



Organizational Chart



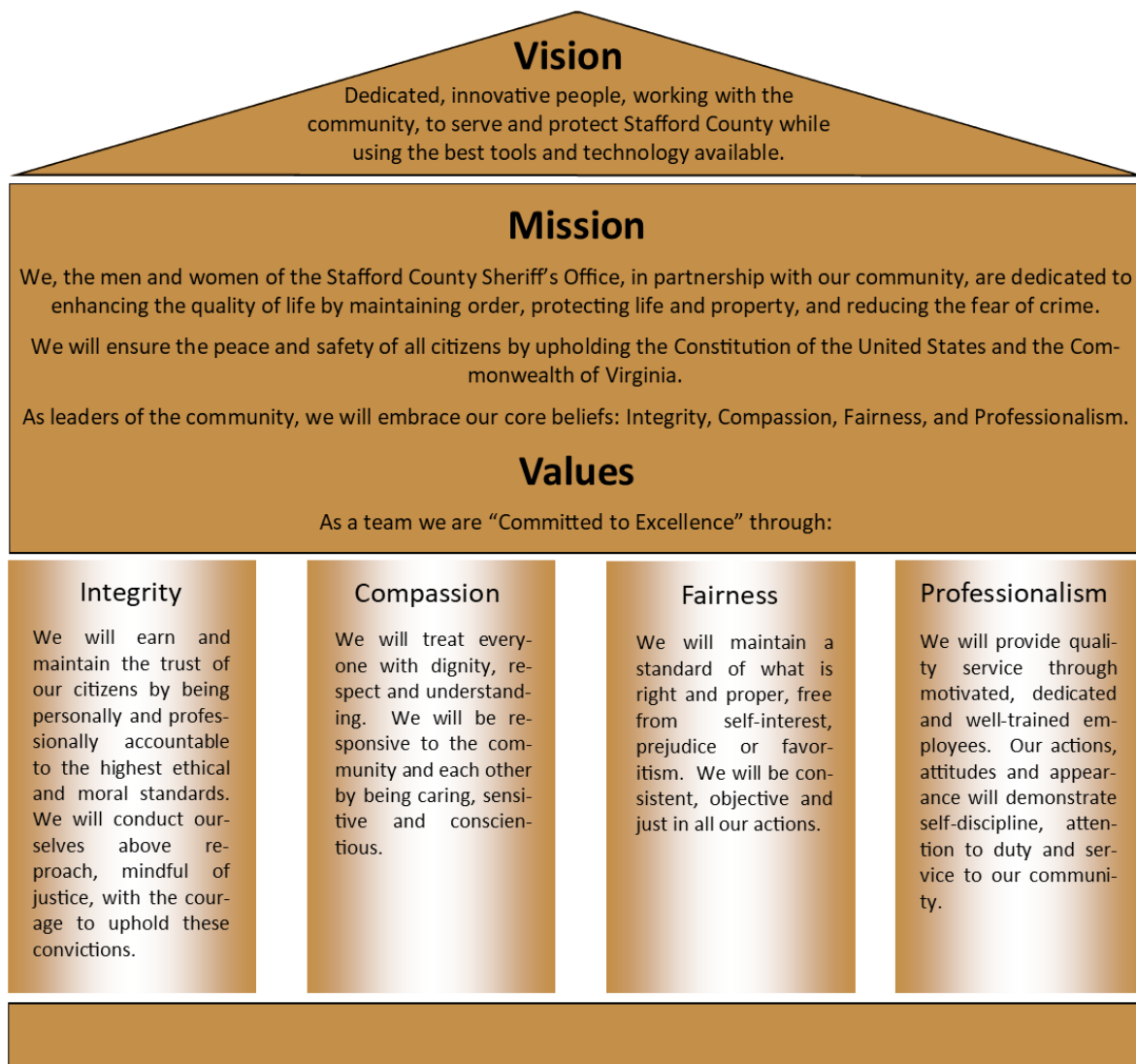
Congratulations to Law Enforcement Basic Class 165 who graduated in December. From left to right, Deputy B.M. Stanfill, Deputy I.E. Baldi, Deputy J.J. Holetzky, and Deputy M.N. Sayegh.



Vision, Mission and Values

Our vision, mission and values provide a roadmap for our organization for the future. Our vision is an aspiration that describes what we would like to achieve for its future. Our mission describes how we can fulfill our vision. Values provides guidance for how we should behave in carrying out our mission and fulfilling our vision.

Sharing a vision, mission and values helps to inspire us to coordinate our actions toward common future. During our Strategic Planning Process, members of the Sheriff's Office Strategic Planning Team reaffirmed our Mission and organizational values. They were also asked to envision their desired future state as a department. Common elements of these statements were culled to develop the Vision and Vision Principles.





Stafford At A Glance

Historic Treasures

Stafford County played an important role in the events that shaped our nation's history. George Washington grew up at his boyhood home in Falmouth, Aquia sandstone was quarried for the White House and the U.S. Capitol at Government Island, and many African American slaves traveled the "Trail to Freedom" through Stafford's Aquia Landing. The Stafford Sheriff's Office is honored to protect these historic assets and preserve them for future generations.

A Vibrant Community

Located midway between Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Virginia, Stafford is full of opportunities for young professionals and growing families. Residents and visitors can take advantage of the county's excellent schools, parks and recreational amenities, historic treasures, the Stafford Hospital, Riverside Dinner Theater, the Stafford Airport, and many shopping and dining offerings.

Committed to Excellence

In 1664, Stafford became one of the first counties in Colonial Virginia to appoint a sheriff. Since then, a long line of sheriffs have served in Stafford, including George Mason and William Fitzhugh. Sheriff David P. Decatur became Stafford's 108th Sheriff in 2016. Today, the Sheriff's Office has 297 employees and handles law enforcement, court operations, emergency communications and community engagement.

165,184

Stafford's
Population

277

Stafford's Area in
Square Miles

30

Total Number of
Stafford Schools

343

FY24 Authorized
Positions



2023 Highlights

January

The Sheriff's Office responded to a call for a disturbance with a weapon. A convicted felon brandished a handgun in a parking lot and fled in a vehicle when deputies confronted him. The suspect surrendered after a short pursuit. The suspect was arrested for felon in possession of a firearm, brandishing, eluding, reckless driving, and second offense DUI in 5 years.

February

Deputies stopped a suspended driver on Warrenton Road at I-95 North. An unrestrained passenger provided false identification and the driver fled the traffic stop, initiating a pursuit on I-95. The suspects exited I-95 at Centreport Parkway, where deputies used intentional vehicle contact to end the pursuit. Drugs were found inside of the vehicle. The driver was arrested for driving suspended and eluding. The passenger was arrested for being wanted by three jurisdictions and for providing false identification.

March

The 23rd Session of the Citizen's Police Academy started. This 11-week program allows participants to learn about all facets of the Stafford County Sheriff's Office.

April

Communications Officers in the Stafford County Emergency Communications Center were recognized for their hard work and dedication during National Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week (April 9-15). Stafford's communication officers process calls for law enforcement and fire and rescue.

May

Deputies responded to a residence to attempt to serve two felony warrants on a man inside the home. The suspect refused to cooperate, assaulted a deputy and fled from the home. The suspect was arrested after a brief foot pursuit. The suspect was served on his active warrants and was additionally charged with assault on law enforcement, obstruction by force, and fleeing law enforcement.

June

The Junior Deputy Academy welcomed elementary school students and middle schoolers from Stafford County during two different sessions. Deputies and members of the SCSO Cadet program taught kids about law enforcement through interactive and fun activities.

July

Deputies responded to a robbery at the Atlantic Union Bank on Warrenton Road. The suspect produced a note demanding cash, but fled without the money. The suspect was identified from surveillance video and was apprehended with two accomplices within three hours of the incident. All three were arrested and held without bond.



2023 Highlights

August

The Sheriff's Office responded to Celebrate Virginia for a missing woman who suffers from dementia. Detectives investigated numerous leads to include entering the missing woman's license plate information into a database for License Plate Readers. The Search and Rescue Team responded to assist the search efforts. One member of the Search and Rescue Team was bitten by a copperhead during the search and required hospitalization. The missing woman was found safely in another jurisdiction late that night.

September

Deputies observed a wanted man in the courthouse for an unrelated case. The wanted man fled on foot out of the Courthouse and was apprehended after a foot pursuit that ended on Richmond Highway. The suspect was served on the outstanding warrants and charged with additional offenses as a result of the foot pursuit.

October

The Sheriff's Office hosted National Night Out in Stafford Marketplace. This event had a record crowd for the event and featured demonstrations by the Motor Unit and K-9 Unit.

November

Deputies stopped a commercial vehicle that was improperly hauling diesel fuel in the area of Richmond Highway and Hospital Center Boulevard. Due to a leak, 300 gallons of diesel fuel spilled onto the highway causing road closures and two significant accidents. The truck was placed out of service and the driver was issued 10 summonses for varying offenses.

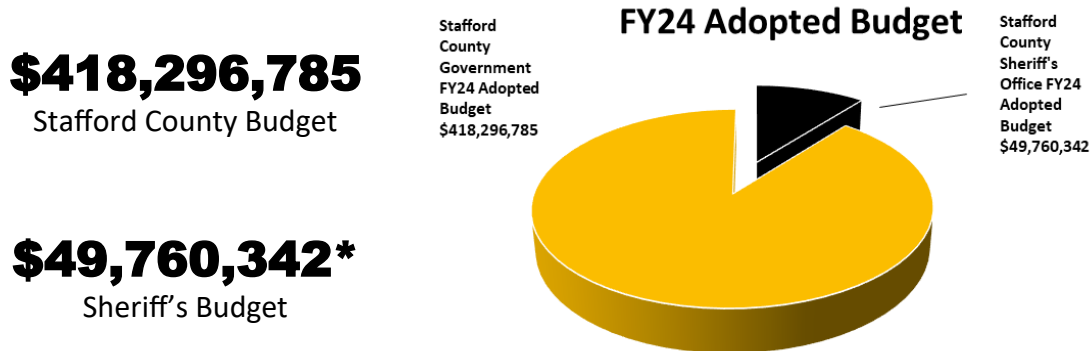
December

The Sheriff's Office held its annual Holiday Toy Drive with donations coming in from several organizations in Stafford and the community. The Sheriff's Office turned its training room into Santa's headquarters. Children were able to meet and take pictures with Santa while receiving presents and treats. The Sheriff's Office also went into the community to deliver toys and candy canes.



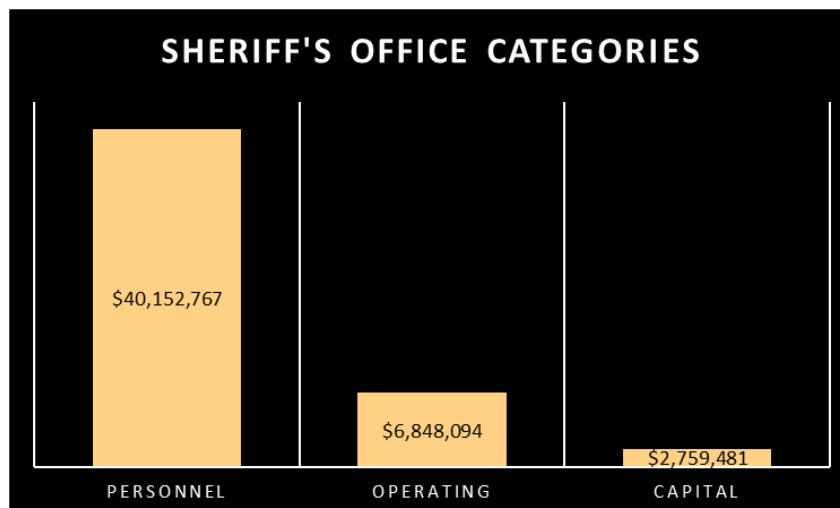
Financial Statistics

The Stafford County Sheriff's Office budget is but one piece of the overall Stafford County budget (see chart below). For the FY 2024 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024) the total County budget was \$418,296,785. The Sheriff's Office budget was \$49,760,342 (including the Court Deputies) or 12% of the overall County Budget.



*Includes Court Deputies

The 12% slice of the County Government's budget pie is divided into three major categories totaling \$49,760,342* (see chart below). The three categories are Personnel, Operating and Capital. Personnel costs include the salaries and benefits of the 343 Sheriff's Office employees. Operating costs deal with the day-to-day operations of the Sheriff's Office to include training, technology and fuel. Capital costs include vehicles and associated equipment for the Sheriff's Office.

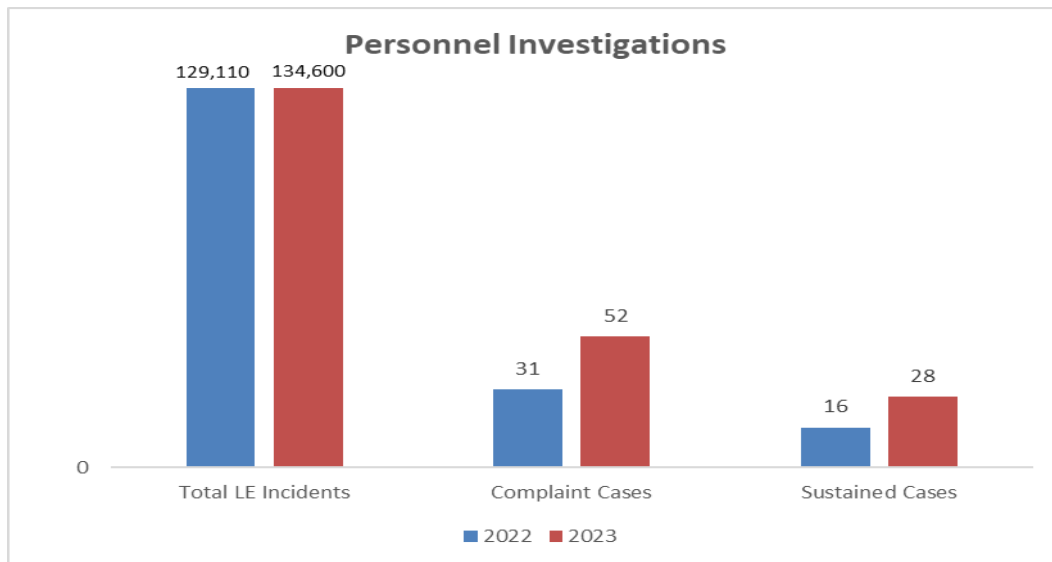


*Includes Court Deputies



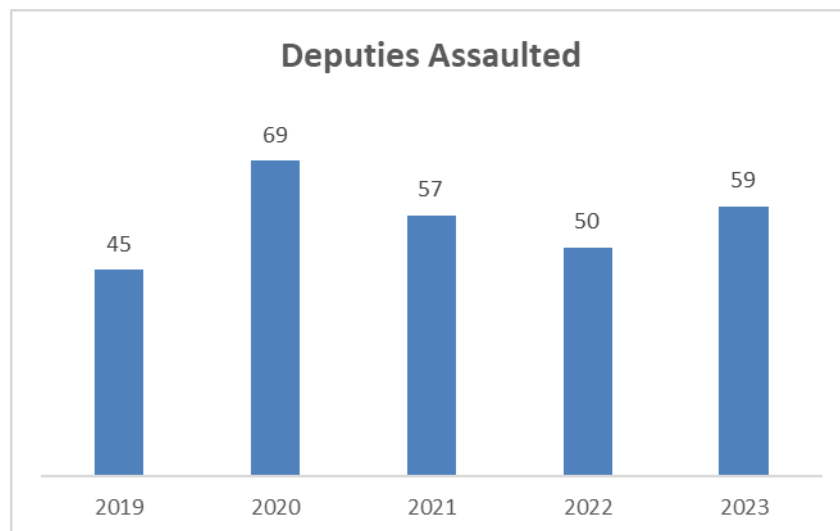
Personnel Statistics

The image of the Stafford County Sheriff's Office depends on the personal integrity and discipline of every one of its employees. The Sheriff's Office encourages citizens to bring forward grievances regarding misconduct by personnel. The Sheriff's Office investigates all complaints made by citizens. In addition, many of the complaints investigated are internally initiated by the Sheriff's Office. Proactive internal investigations ensure the public that our personnel adhere to the highest standards in performance.



In 2023, the Sheriff's Office responded to 134,600 law enforcement incidents. The 52 personnel investigations in 2023 accounted for less than .04% of all the calls responded to by Sheriff's Office Personnel.

The graph on the right shows the number of assaults on deputies over the past five years. Assaults increased by about 18% from 2022 to 2023.

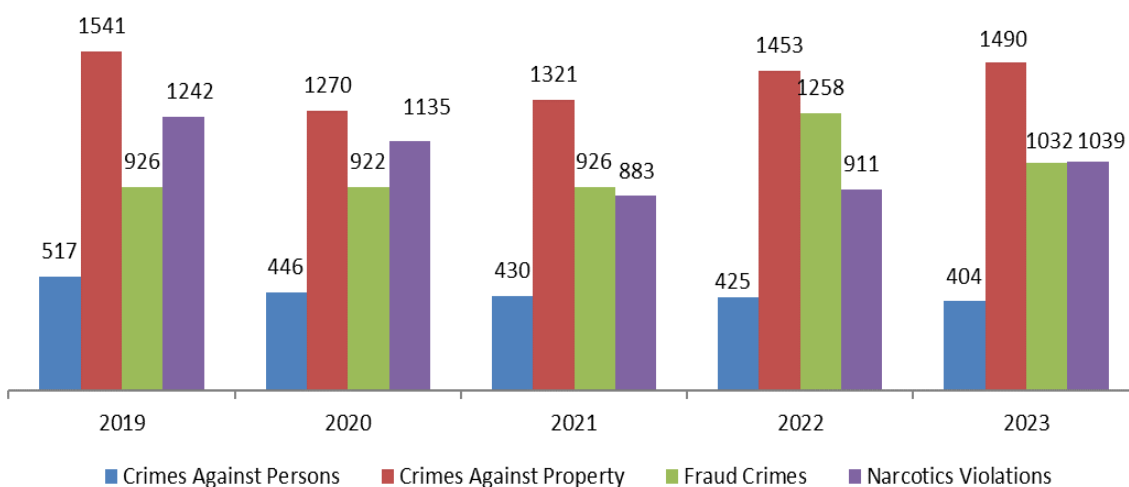




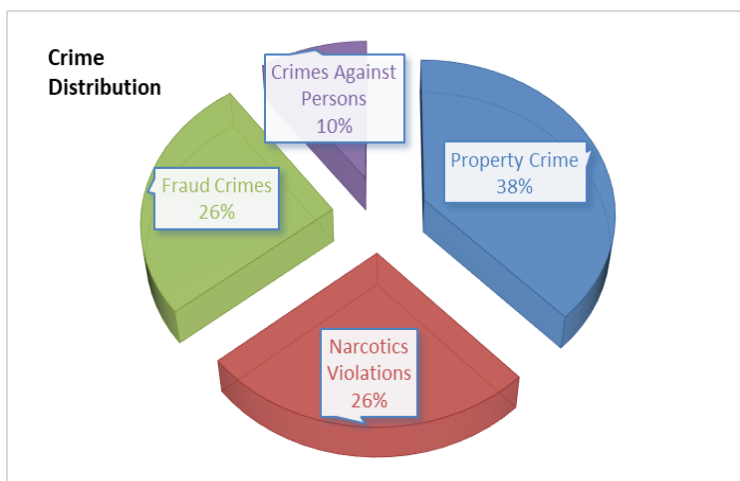
Crime Statistics

The following pages provide statistics that reflect different activities handled by the Sheriff's Office in Calendar Year 2023. Fraud Crimes saw the biggest change from 2022 to 2023 with a decrease of approximately 18%. Crimes Against Persons dropped 5%. The two areas that saw increases were Crimes Against Property, which rose 3%, and Narcotics Violations, which increased approximately 14%.

All Crimes Reported



The chart on the right summarizes the major crimes reported in Calendar Year 2023. Property Crimes made up the largest percentage of all major crimes in 2023 at 37% but only increased in the number of crimes by 13%. The Fraud Crimes category and Narcotics Violations category both equaled 26%, but Fraud Crimes decreased in the number of crimes from 2022 to 2023 by 18%. Crimes against Person equaled 10% of the overall crime but decreased in the number of crimes by 5%.

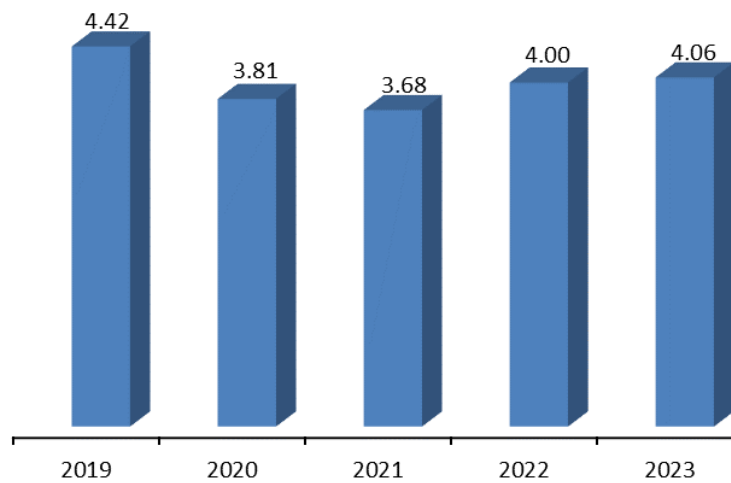




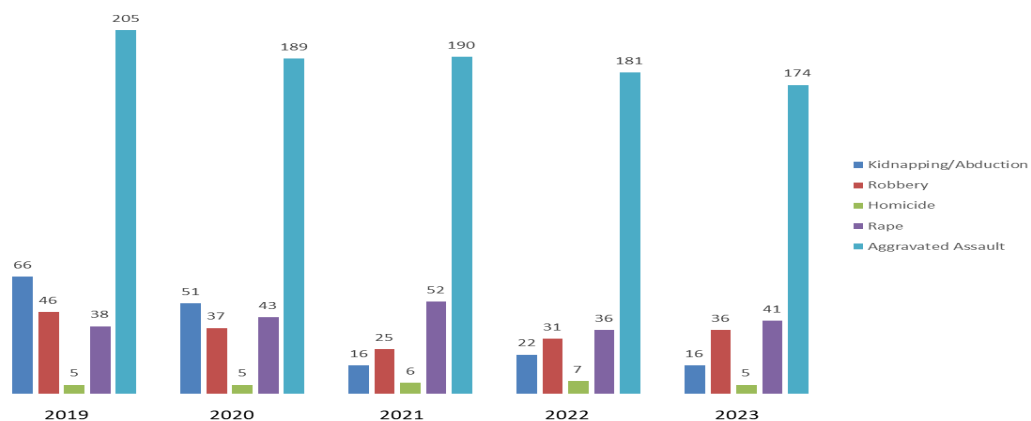
Crime Statistics

Stafford's crime rate showed an extremely minimal increase in 2023 in comparison to 2022. Overall, Stafford's crime rate remains low when considering the growth rate for the county. Contributing factors to maintaining a low crime rate include the Sheriff's Office's community engagement initiatives and strong partnerships with businesses, citizens and elected officials.

Crime Rate per 100 Residents



Significant Crimes Against Persons



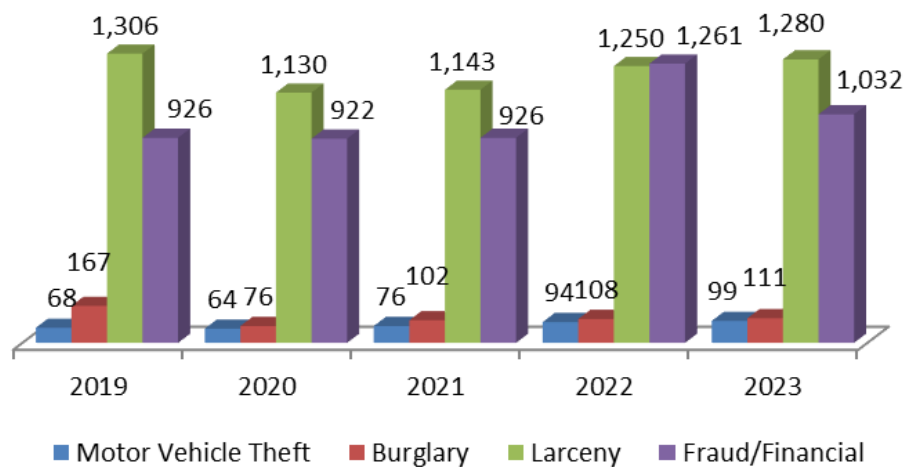
Of all the Crimes Against Persons, two categories decreased from 2022 to 2023: Aggravated Assaults decreased 4% in 2023 and Kidnapping/Abductions decreased about 27%. Homicides decreased from 7 in 2022 to 5 in 2023; Rapes increased by five, growing from 36 in 2022 to 41 in 2023. Robberies also increased from 31 in 2022 to 36 in 2023, a 16% increase.



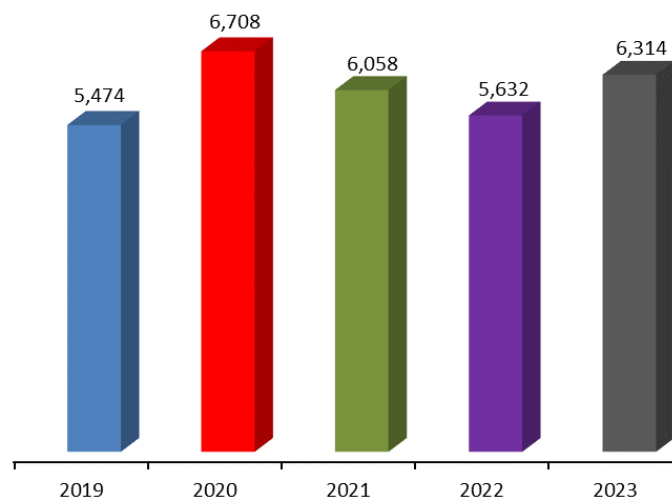
Crime Statistics

All categories, except for Fraud Crimes, in Crimes Against Property showed increases from 2022 to 2023. Motor Vehicle Theft increased by 5%, Burglaries increased by 3%, and Larcenies increased by 2%. Fraud/Financial Crimes decreased approximately 18%.

Crimes Against Property—General



Criminal Arrests



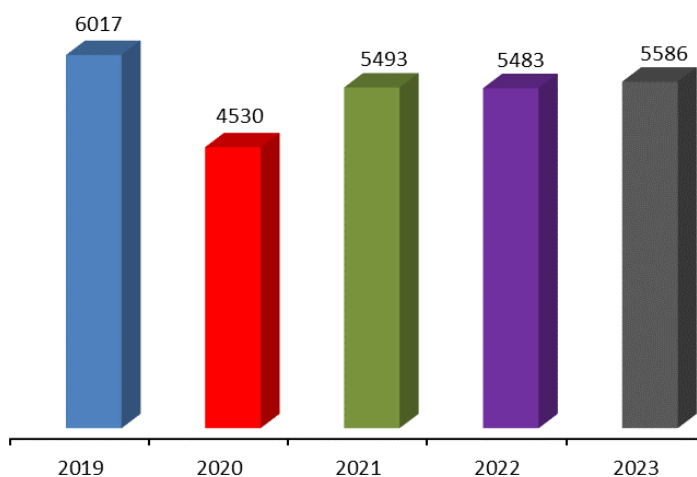
Criminal Arrests increased by 12% from 2022 to 2023.



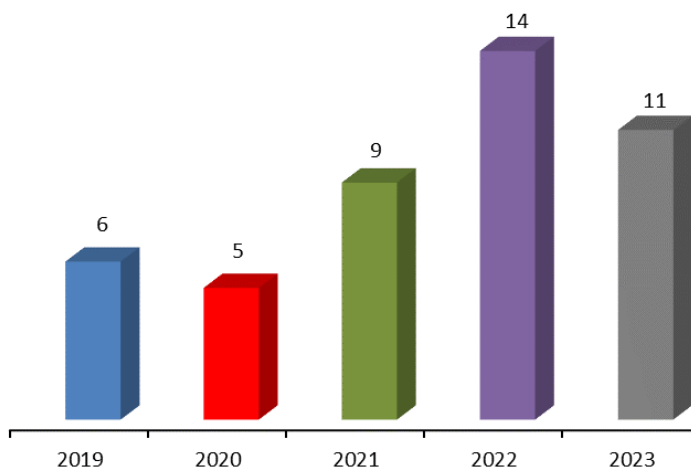
Traffic Safety Statistics

The Special Operations Division is responsible for the Traffic Safety Unit, which manages the control of traffic movement, enforcement of traffic laws and the reduction of traffic collisions through directed and proactive enforcement. Traffic accidents increased minimally in 2023, and Fatal Auto Accidents decreased 21% from 2022 to 2023 (decreased in number by 3).

Traffic Accidents



Fatal Traffic Accidents

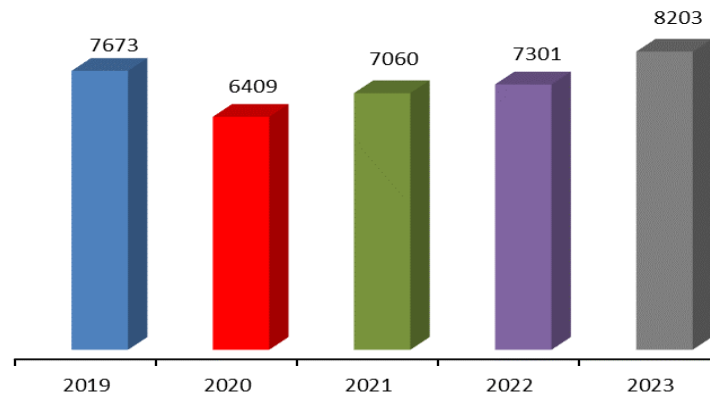




Traffic Safety Statistics

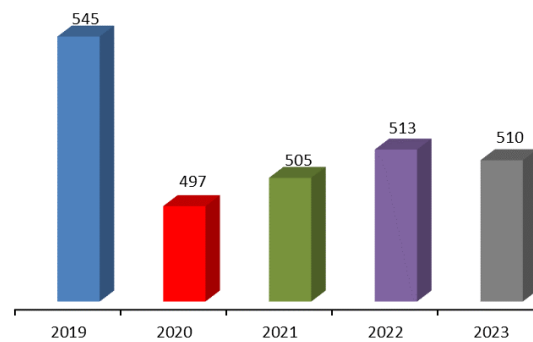
The number of citations issued has risen over the past three years. Citations issued from 2022 to 2023 rose approximately 12%.

Citations

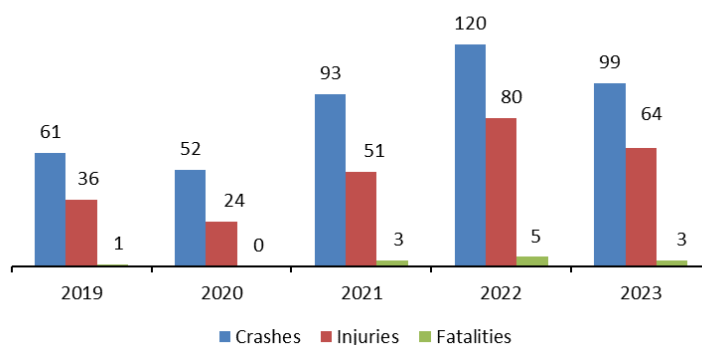


DUI

DUIs decreased slightly from 2022 to 2023 at approximately 0.6%.
(Decreased in number by 3)



Alcohol Related Incidents



Each category of Alcohol Related Incidents reflected decreases from 2022 to 2023. Crashes decreased almost 18%; Injuries decreased about 20%; and the number of Fatalities decreased by a total of 2.



Court Services Statistics

The Operations Bureau oversees the Court Services Division. The Court Services/Civil Process Division provides a variety of services such as security at the Stafford Courthouse, prisoner transportation and the processing of all legal civil documents. They also provide regular security checks around the Stafford Government campus. The workload of the Court Services Division continues to grow as reflected by the chart below.

Court Service	2022	2023	% Change
Courthouse Visitors Screened	104,901	114,996	10%
Jurors Screened	1,200	2,604	117%
Civil Process	30,728	33,952	11%
Civil Process at Rappahannock Regional Jail	1,019	1,090	7%
Evictions	392	749	91%
Transports	457	555	21%
Extraditions	70	52	-26%
Mental Transports	221	229	4%
Warrants Served	298	397	33%
Prisoners Transported	4,570	6,374	39%
Circuit Court Days	632	655	4%
General District Court Days	361	420	16%
Juvenile/Domestic Relations Court Days	421	408	-3%

From left to right, Deputy D.O. Williams, Deputy B.S. Beltethon, First Sergeant E.D. Chinault, Deputy K.M. Webb-Broce, and Deputy D.E. Chaves with our Court Services Division.



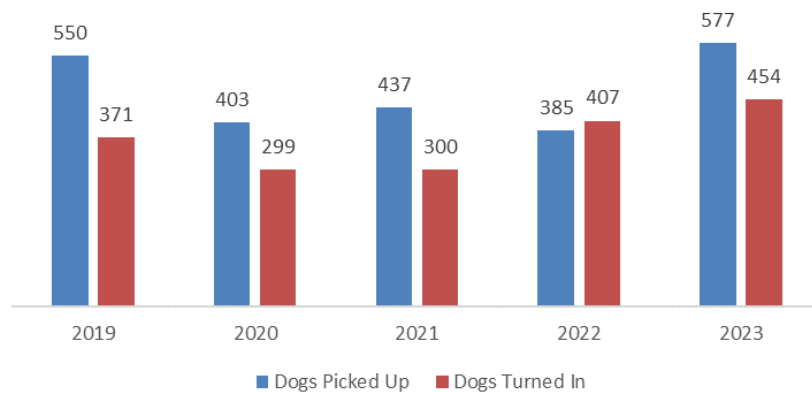


Animal Control Statistics — Dogs

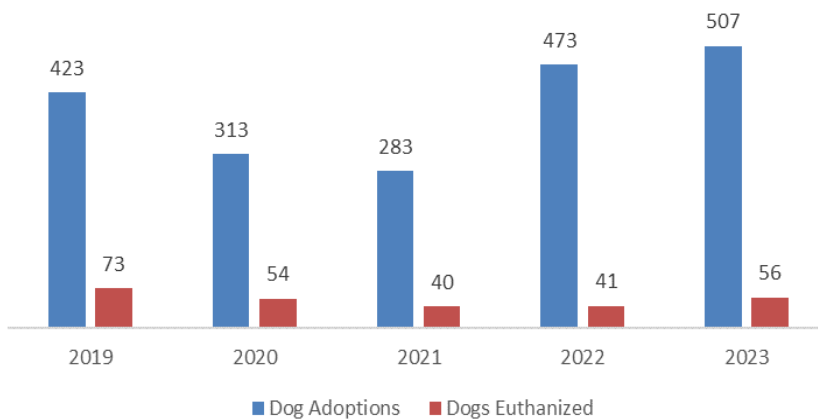
Animal Control is composed of two entities: sworn officers and the Animal Shelter staff. Each group falls under the command of the Stafford County Sheriff, but they have different regulating authorities under the Commonwealth of Virginia. The officers are regulated by the Sheriff and the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services with specific training requirements set by the Virginia Department of Agriculture (VDAC). The Animal Shelter and staff are regulated and inspected by VDAC, the Virginia Board of Pharmacy and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Dogs Coming to the Shelter

The number of dogs picked up increased by about 50% from 2022 to 2023. Dogs turned into the shelter increased 12% from 2022 to 2023.



Dogs Leaving the Shelter



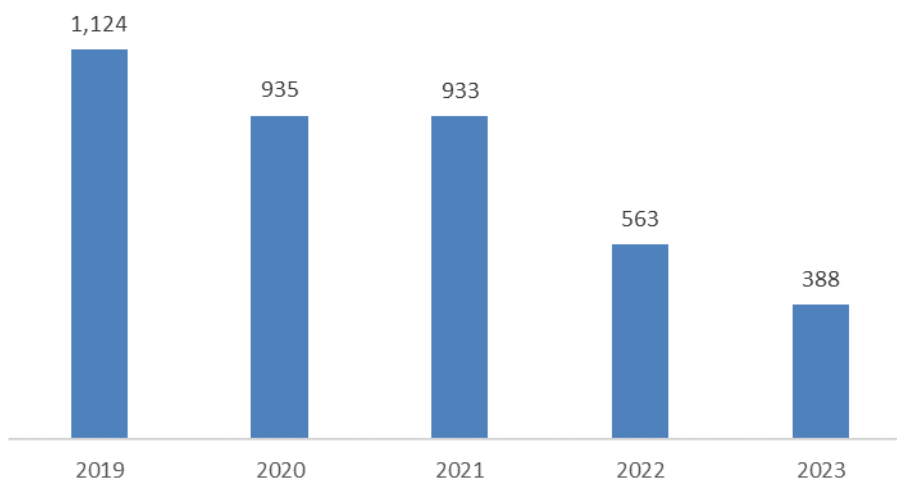
Dog Adoptions increased by approximately 7%. Dogs euthanized increased in number by fifteen (37% increase).



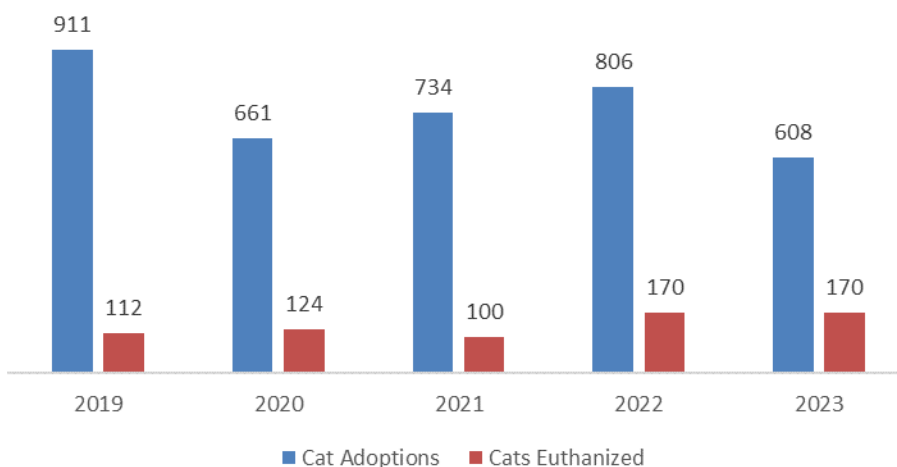
Animal Control Statistics — Cats

The number of cats turned in decreased by approximately 31% from 2022 to 2023.

Cats Turned In



Cats Leaving the Shelter



Cat adoptions decreased by 24% from 2022 to 2023. The number of cats euthanized stayed the same as in 2022.



Law Enforcement Operations

The Support Services Bureau consists of the Criminal Investigations Division, the Administrative Services Division, the Professional Standards Division and the Emergency Communications Division. Staff monitors and coordinates technology initiatives, service delivery programs, crime patterns and data shifts, budget efficiencies, community expectations and the impact of new laws and regulations.

Criminal Investigations Division

The Criminal Investigations Division oversees the assignment, coordination and investigation of cases. The Major Crimes Unit handles the assignment and investigation of all major crimes. The General Assignment Unit handles runaways, missing persons and property crimes. The Special Investigations Unit manages drug-related crimes and investigations. The chart to the right reflects statistics involving the division's cases in 2022.

Administrative Services Division

The Administrative Services Division supports Sheriff's Office operations including Records, Data Entry, Information Technology, Evidence and Property, Criminal Warrants, Policy and Accreditation, Fleet Management and Logistics.

Professional Standards Division

Professional Standards oversees Accounting/Budget, Human Resources, Internal Affairs and Training. Human Resources recruits and hires personnel, administers employee benefits and maintains personnel records. Internal Affairs provides oversight for the Sheriff's Office and investigates complaints of Sheriff's Office personnel. Training staff documents, certifies and implements training requirements.



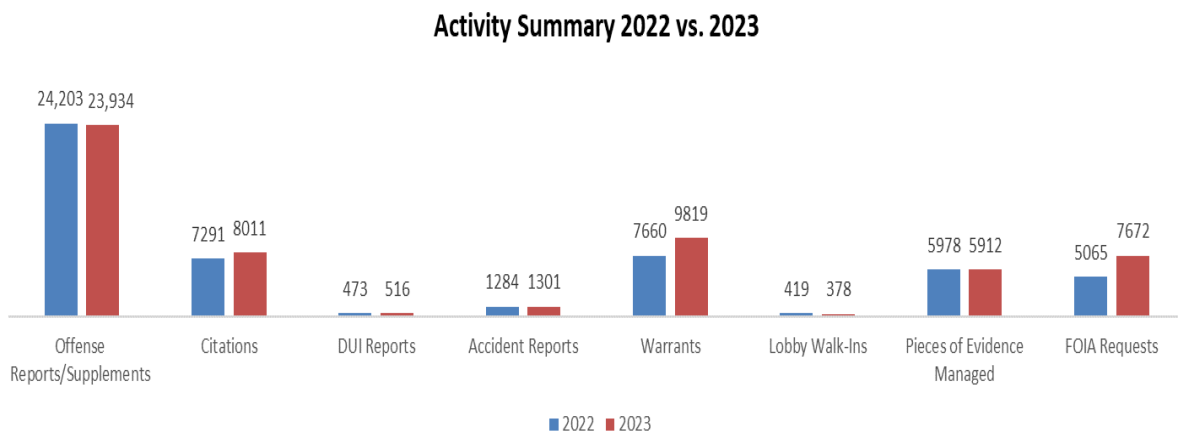
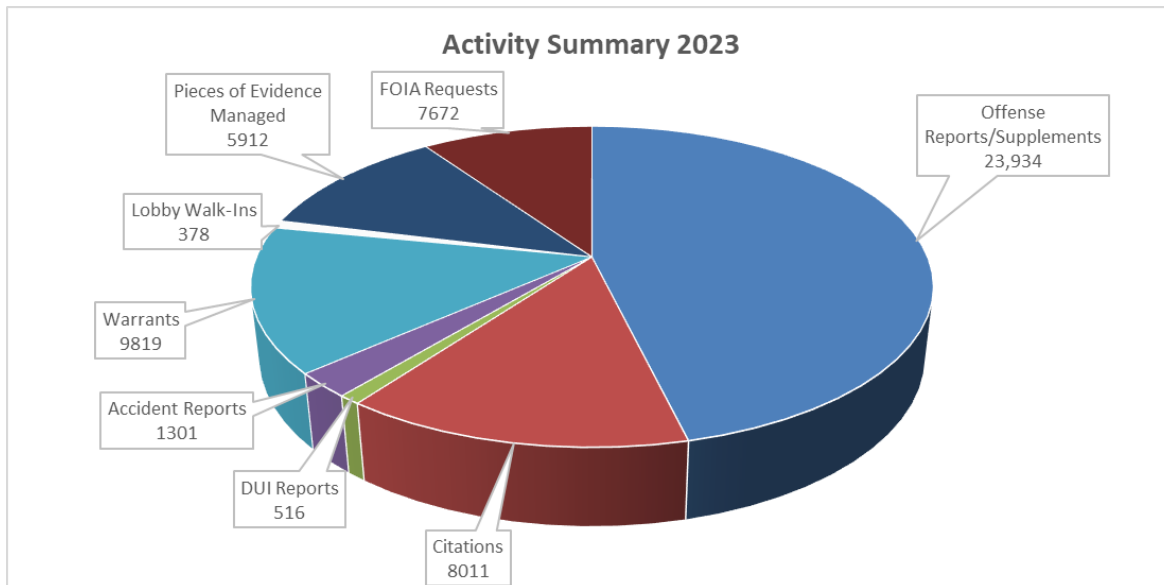
Sheriff Decatur and Major Kimmitz presenting Sergeant C.R. Burgess with her retirement shadowbox.

Major Crimes Unit	
Search Warrants Issued	376
Court Orders Issued	92
Direct Indictments	109
Felony Warrants	337
Misdemeanor Warrants	82
Child Forensic Interviews	126
General Assignment Unit	
Search Warrants Issued	213
Court Orders Issued	287
Direct Indictments	53
Felony Warrants	139
MISD Warrants	58
Value of Prop. Recovered	659,289.37
Special Investigations Unit	
Search Warrants	96
Court Orders	395
Direct Indictments	46
Felony Warrants	242
MISD Warrants	59
Surveillance Events	569
Surveillance Hours	1287.5
Control Buys	53
Money Spent	\$38,438.00
Est. Value of Prop. Seized	\$291,594.00
Est. Value of Drugs Seized	\$1,562,130.00



Law Enforcement Operations

The chart below reflects the number of major activities handled by the Administrative Services Division in 2023. The second chart below compares the number of activities in each category in 2022 and 2023. FOIA Requests increased significantly by 51% as compared to 2022. Warrants increased by 28%, Citations increased by 10%, DUI reports increased by 9%, and Accident Reports increased by 1%. There were slight decreases in Offense Reports/Supplements, Lobby Walk-Ins, and Pieces of Evidence Managed. Lobby Walk-Ins decreased by 10%, Pieces of Evidence Managed decreased by 1%, and Offense Reports/Supplements decreased by 1%.



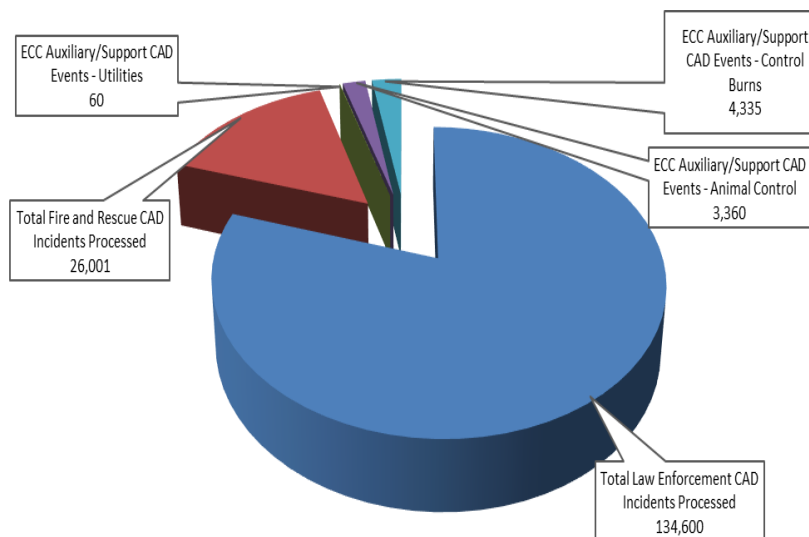


Emergency Communications Center

The Emergency Communications Center (ECC) is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year supporting operations through an ever-changing comprehensive communications infrastructure.

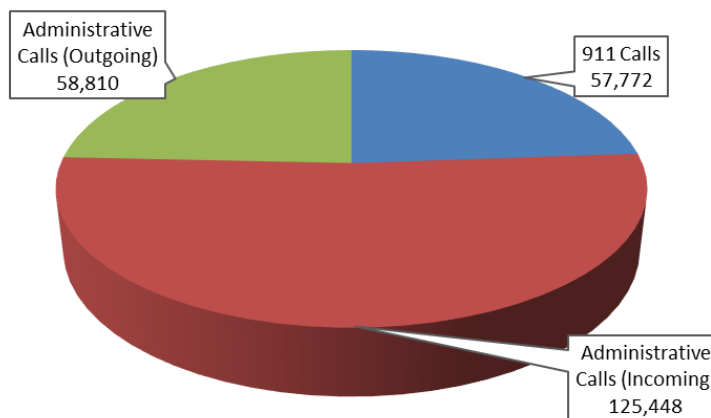
The Emergency Communications Center processed a total of 168,356 incidents in 2023. The chart to the right shows the type and number of incidents that dispatchers received as well as the number of ECC phone calls. The majority of incidents are Law Enforcement-related, but Animal Control issues, Fire and Rescue, and Utility calls after hours are also part of the division's daily workload.

Total CAD Incidents Processed in 2023



The total volume of phone calls that the Emergency Communications Center processed in 2023 is 242,030. The chart to the right indicates the types and number of calls handled by the division. Of the 911 calls from the public, 8,841, or 15%, were made from landline phones and 48,350, or 84%, were made from cell phones. Also, 531 calls of the total 911 calls were 911 to Text calls which was approximately 1% of the total.













ECC Phone Activity 2023





Strategic Plan Overview

After a joint effort by the Strategic Planning Leadership Team and the Strategic Planning Team, Focus Areas and corresponding Strategic Goals and Objectives were developed. Focus Groups were first set in place in 2018 when the Strategic Planning Leadership Team appointed members of the Sheriff's Office to participate in the groups to work on selected goals and objectives from our Strategic Plan. To date, there are a total of 12 Focus Areas (see below). Details on all of the Focus Areas and Objectives can be found in the Strategic Plan document on the Sheriff's Office website at www.staffordsheriff.com. Click on the "About Us" link. The following pages reflect the Strategic Plan's impact on our community.

1	2	3	4	5
Effective and Comprehensive Community Engagement	Recruiting and Retention of Personnel	Effective Contemporary Policies	Effective Career Training and Development	Effective and Comprehensive Employee Communications
				
6	7	8	9	10
Effective Use of Current and Emerging Technologies	Filling Funding Gaps	Homeland Security and Crime Prevention	Traffic Safety	Taking Care of Our People
				
11		12		
Infrastructure		Legislative and Regulatory Influences		
				



Impact on Our Community

The following reflects concrete examples of how the Sheriff's Office's strategic planning efforts impacted Stafford County in 2023.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement has long been a priority of the Stafford County Sheriff's Office. Strategic Planning efforts enhanced the office's legacy programs while also implementing new programs, such as the Community Engagement Team, which was established in 2020.

Ongoing Community Engagement Programs

"In the Know with the Stafford S.O." Podcast

The podcast, which is staffed and produced in-house by Sheriff's Office employees, was used to communicate Covid-19 information to the public in 2020 as well as to highlight different programs, issues, events and other important information. The podcast can be found on the Sheriff's Office website at www.staffordsheriff.com.

Continued "Happening Now" Videos

Happening Now" videos were used on social media to inform the community of incidents currently underway such as crimes or traffic incidents. The videos allow SCSO staff to quickly inform citizens about emergency events in real time and provide updates until the incident has ended.



School Resource Officers showing their support for Stafford County Public Schools.

Stafford County Public Schools

After many years of working together on various issues and projects including participating on a Joint Safe School Task Force examining current safety practices and procedures, the Sheriff's Office and Stafford County Schools entered into an official Schools Law Enforcement Partnership in January 2021. The goal of the partnership is to foster relations, mutual respect and understanding to build a positive and safe school environment.

The Sheriff's Office has designated a point of contact between the agency and the schools to address operational and administrative issues and to serve as a consultant on safety and security.

School Resource Officers work in middle and high schools. Two D.A.R.E. Officers who work with elementary schools. Six School Protection Officers are assigned to six elementary schools to protect the schools, school staff and students.

Cameras installed in the Emergency Communications Center at the Ford T. Humphrey Public Safety Center have software which is able to monitor schools. In addition, radios on all school buses helped to improve the safety of kids riding the buses.

High schools also offer the Youth of Virginia Speak Out (YOVASO) leadership program that focuses on saving the lives of teenage drivers. Deputies assigned to the Traffic Safety Unit work with the school YOVASO Sponsor.

Badges for Baseball

During this annual summer program, Stafford deputies serve as mentors and coaches to youth from community-based organizations. The goal of the five-day camp is to teach kids the fundamentals of baseball, foster a relationship with coaches and mentors and expand participants' life skills. A



Impact on Our

character education curriculum is also included.

Business Watch

This partnership among businesses, law enforcement, and other organizations that represent business interests seeks to reduce and prevent crime through cooperation and education. The program was rebooted in late 2019. Monthly meetings are held with businesses at which the Sheriff's Office exchanges trend information and provides training.



From left to right, Cadet Kronquist, Cadet Edson, Cadet Vetter, and Cadet Davis posing for a photo after volunteering with the Junior Deputy Academy.

Cadet Program

Since 1973, the Sheriff's Office has offered young men and women between the ages of 14 and 20 an opportunity to experience law enforcement first hand through its Cadet Program. Lead by Sheriff's Deputies, the program

allows youth to train and work in a wide range of law enforcement procedures. The goal is to help interested individuals cultivate a better understanding of the profession and enable them to make an informed decision about pursuing a law enforcement career.

Citizen's Police Academy

This 11-week program was designed to enhance citizens' understanding of the functions and services of the Sheriff's Office. Participants get an inside look at the daily operations and the "Hows



Citizens Police Academy Class of 2023.

and Whys" of police work. Graduates of the academy act as advocates to promote community policing.

Coffee With a Cop

These informal gatherings with the Sheriff and other members of the Sheriff's

Office allow

citizens and business representatives to connect on a one-on-one basis with law enforcement. Events are held at different businesses throughout Stafford.

Crime Solvers

Crime Solvers is a non-profit community-based organization that works with the Sheriff's Office and the community to combat crime. The group pays individuals for tips that lead to the arrest and conviction of suspects involved in crimes. Crime Solvers holds several fundraising events, such as the Stafford Shredding event and the Community Yard Sale, throughout the year.

D.A.R.E.

The Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program seeks to provide kids with the skills they need to avoid drugs, gangs and violence. Each year, fifth grade students from Stafford County Public Schools commemorate the completion of their DARE program with a huge celebration hosted by the Stafford Sheriff's Office.



Deputy F.E. Shannon Jr. working the drive-through at our Coffee with a Cop event.

Halloween Safety

The Sheriff's Office goes above and beyond to ensure trick-or-treaters enjoy a safe and fun-filled Halloween. Deputies increase their pres-



Impact on Our Community

ence in neighborhoods throughout the community on Halloween night to ensure trick-or-treaters have a safe night. Traffic tips are also sent out to remind motorists to watch for pedestrians, especially when driving through residential areas where children may be going door to door trick-or-treating. In addition, the Sheriff's Office x-rays candy at the Stafford Courthouse on Halloween night to detect metallic objects.

Junior Deputy Academy

This one-week summer program is geared toward upper elementary and middle school students. Participants attend a camp-style educational program during which they participate in daily activities that focus on building character as well as basic instruction in law enforcement duties and responsibilities.

LEU Ride

The Law Enforcement United Ride honors officers who have died in the line of duty and works to ensure their family members are supported and not forgotten. Members of the Stafford Sheriff's Office participate in the ride each year, which starts in Chesapeake, Virginia and ends in Washington, D.C.

National Night Out

National Night Out is an annual event held at Stafford Marketplace and in Stafford neighborhoods that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer and more caring places to live.



Sergeant S.C. Jett pinning a junior badge during National Night Out.

Stafford's National Night Out has been recognized by the National Association of Town Watch. Participation and attendance in this celebration grow every year.

Neighborhood Watch

The Neighbor-



First Sergeant H.R. Torrance congratulating a Junior Deputy after her graduation ceremony.

hood Watch program allows communities throughout Stafford County to work together and in partnership with the Sheriff's Office to reduce crime and improve their quality of life. The Sheriff's Office provides a starter kit, information guide, and meets regularly with Neighborhood

Watch groups.



Deputy C.D. Brown, on left, and Lieutenant R.S. Parsons, on right, leading the LEU Ride.

Operation Medicine Cabinet

The Sheriff's Office is a regular participant in Operation Medicine Cabinet and the annual Fall Drug Take Back program at Stafford Hospital. In addition, there is a drug disposal unit in the lobby of the Ford T. Humphrey Public Safety Building, which provides a safe and easy way to dispose of expired or unwanted prescription drugs.

Ring Neighbors App

The Sheriff's Office joined the Neighbors app by Ring to provide the community with real-time, local crime and safety information. Citizens can text "staffordco" to 555888 from their smartphone to download the Neighbors app for free and share crime and safety related videos, photos and text-based posts. They can also receive real-time safety alerts from their neighbors, law enforcement and the Ring team.



Impact on Our Community

Special Olympics

The Sheriff's Office supports Special Olympics each year and participates in the program's events such as the Torch Run and the Polar Plunge.

Special Star Force Cadets

The Special Star Force Cadets is a program for young people with intellectual challenges, ages 13-22. Cadets experience various duties of a law enforcement officer in a safe and hazard free environment.

RETENTION & RECRUITING

Worship Watch

This partnership with Stafford's places of worship aims to fight crime and keep members safe. The program includes training, information exchanges, and security assessments.

Public Safety Pay Scale

The Public Safety Pay Scale was created and implemented in 2020. The scale enhanced the full compensation package for employees and is more competitive with neighboring jurisdictions. For Fiscal Year 2024, the Board of Supervisors approved a 8% salary scale adjustment for the ranks of 1st Lieutenant and above. This was implemented after the ranks of 1st Sergeant and below received a 15% salary scale adjustment.

EFFECTIVE POLICIES

Standard Operating Procedures and General Orders Redefined

The Sheriff's Office purchased a new software program to modernize the updating and distribution of policies within the Sheriff's Office.

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Training Provided for Supervisory Development

Additional training programs covering various

topics such as employment law were facilitated to continue developing supervisors' managerial and leadership skills.

New Training Offered

To help enhance the quality of training provided to our sworn staff, several new classes were hosted by the SCSO. Those classes included the National Tactical Officer's Association class on Supervising Patrol Critical Incidents, as well as, additional wellness classes.

FILLING FUNDING GAPS

Additional Positions Approved

Twenty-one new positions were added in Fiscal Year 2024 including eleven part-time School Protection Officers and four Deputy Sheriff positions. A Sergeant for Juvenile Services, two Mental Health Deputies, an Investigator for Homeland Security, and a part-time to full-time upgrade to an existing Investigator position were approved in the FY24 Budget. In regards to the Body-Worn Camera Program, a Records Specialist position was added.



The SWAT Team posing for a picture after winning second place overall during the Harrisonburg Police Department's 21st Annual SWAT Competition.



Impact on Our Community

EMPLOYEE COMMUNICATIONS

Continued Focus on Employee Communications

The SCSO continued to focus on improving communications with our employees. A monthly newsletter was created by our Public Information Officer. This newsletter and other important news are distributed to employees via email.

TECHNOLOGY

Purchase of Upgraded Security Cameras

The Sheriff's Office installed new upgraded security cameras at the Humphrey Building and will be working on upgrading other county buildings to provide better security monitoring capabilities.

HOMELAND SECURITY/CRIME PREVENTION

Homeland Security Detective Added

The Homeland Security Unit was allotted with a new full-time investigator to conduct in-depth investigations into Homeland Security matters.

TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

New Uniforms Distributed

The Sheriff's Office deployed a new field uniform to include outer vests. This will allow deputies to operate in a more comfortable and functional uniform.



Deputy O.J. Martins saving a snake from a snake trap before releasing it back into the wild.



Impact on Our Community

INFRASTRUCTURE

Addressing Future Infrastructure Needs

A focus group was developed to look at both the physical and cyber infrastructure needs of our agency. This will be beneficial in guiding our agency as we continue to grow.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY INFLUENCES

Being Proactive With Legislative Changes

A focus group was developed to form an internal system to monitor bills and motions for legislative items that could directly impact public safety and the services that we deliver.



Deputy S.H. Curtis presenting a junior badge to a student during First Responder Day.



Deputy S.C. Martin allowing a child to sit on one of the Sheriff's Office motorcycles.



Impact on Our Community



Social Media Connections

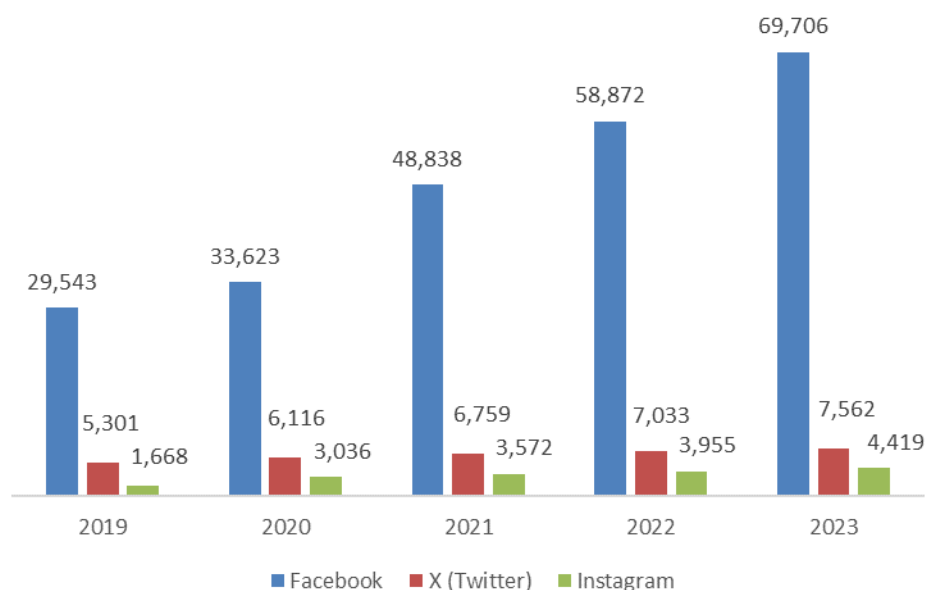


The Stafford County Sheriff's Office is committed to being transparent and accountable to Stafford citizens. A key tool to fulfill that goal is communication. The Sheriff's Public Information Officer (PIO) serves as the spokesperson for the Sheriff's Office and is on call 24 hours a day/365 days a year. The PIO is responsible for contact with all media outlets, disseminates information and responds to information requests from the public on a daily basis. In addition, the Public Information Officer acts as the Sheriff's Office photographer and social media coordinator.

The Sheriff's Office has Facebook (Office of Stafford County Sheriff), Twitter (@StaffcoSheriff) and Instagram (staffordsheriff), which was launched in 2018. All platforms have been instrumental in helping to spread the word on events and issues. The Sheriff's website at www.staffordsheriff.com offers a multitude of resources for citizens including information about community events, media releases, crime statistics as well as requests for child car seat inspections.



Social Media Statistics





Impact on Our Community

Fighting Drug Addiction

Mitigating the use of illegal drugs is a goal of the Homeland Security and Crime Prevention Unit. The unit engages in several activities each year such as DARE Day and National Drug Take Back Day to help rid the community of illegal drugs. During 2023, the Sheriff's Office collected 891 pounds of drugs and sharps.

In addition, a drug collection unit is installed in the lobby of the Public Safety Building located at 1225 Courthouse Road. Drug drop-off is available Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. in the lobby. The unit allows citizens to dispose of prescription medication properly and safely.

The battle against opioids continues to be a growing challenge in Stafford County. The graph at the bottom shows the drug activity for the last five calendar years. All categories showed decreases from 2022 to 2023: Total overdoses decreased 31%; Non-Fatal Overdoses decreased about 30%; and Fatal Overdoses decreased 31%. The number of Narcan administrations by Sheriff's Office personnel increased by 47% and the number of Narcan saves by Sheriff's Office personnel increased by 20%.

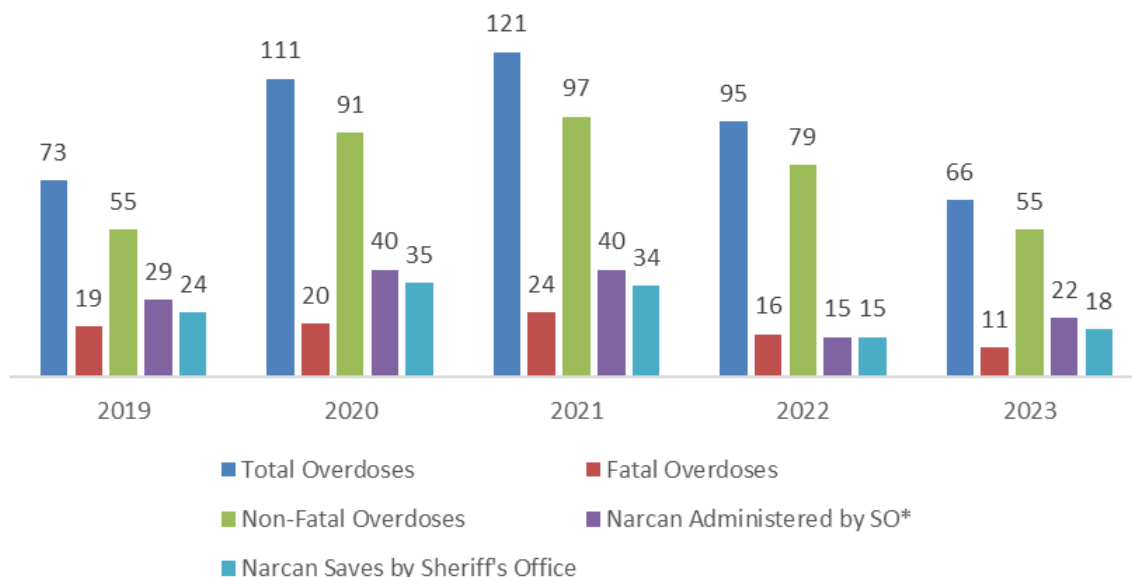
To help combat this crisis, the Sheriff's Office has implemented many programs. All deputies began carrying Narcan in their vehicles in August 2016. Narcan is a lifesaving nasal spray that neutralizes heroin/opiate overdoses. The graph at the bottom shows the impact of Narcan.

In addition, the Sheriff's Office has teamed up with officials from the Knockout Addiction program to raise awareness of the drug addiction problem in the Stafford, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania region.



Over 35,000 fentanyl pills seized due to our Special Investigations Unit back in October.

Overdose and Narcan Use





Law Enforcement Awards

The Sheriff's Office held its annual awards ceremony in May 2023 to honor law enforcement personnel who provided exemplary service to the community in 2022. The Medal of Valor is the highest award presented for Bravery and Heroism. It is awarded in situations in which a Sheriff's Office member knowingly places their his or her life in peril of death or extreme bodily injury while saving or attempting to save the lives of others. Meritorious Awards recognized a Sheriff's Office member for demonstrating judgment, ingenuity or performance that clearly exceeds what is required and expected during an emergency situation. Commendation Awards were given in instances during which a Sheriff's Office member demonstrates exemplary service. Traffic Safety Awards were given to deputies for traffic safety prevention, education and enforcement. Individuals for all awards are nominated by other deputies or personnel of the Sheriff's Office. Candidates are selected by an Awards Committee consisting of personnel from the Operations Division, Professional Standards Division, and Criminal Investigations Division. The committee evaluates the nominations and forwards them to the Sheriff for his review and action.

Silver Star / Meritorious Award

1st Sergeant Jason Kreider, Sergeant Adam Assur, Deputy First Class Charles Szentkuti, and Deputy First Class Tanner Givler

1st Sergeant Jason Kreider, Sergeant Adam Assur, Deputy First Class Charles Szentkuti, and Deputy First Class Tanner Givler responded to a North Stafford neighborhood where residents were reporting that a subject in an altered mental state was shooting inside of a home. The suspect had already chased another homeowner back into their house while shooting at them. Sergeant Assur and Deputy First Class Szentkuti arrived first and saw the suspect on the front porch of the home still armed with a handgun. Without concealment and cover, the deputies ordered the suspect to drop the weapon, and the suspect complied with that order. The suspect initially indicated compliance in following additional commands, but then suddenly lowered his shoulder and charged at the deputies. Sergeant Assur was able to transition to his Taser and deploy probes which immediately stopped the suspect. The suspect was able to quickly recover, pull out the Taser probes, and immediately prepared to attack again. The Taser was deployed again but the suspect continued to attack. First Sergeant Kreider and Deputy First Class Givler arrived on scene and assisted in taking the suspect into custody after Sergeant Assur utilized his OC spray. For their actions, Sergeant Assur and Deputy First Class Szentkuti were awarded the Silver Star, and First Sergeant Kreider and Deputy First Class Givler were awarded the Meritorious Award.

From left to right: Sheriff David Decatur, presenting Sergeant A.I. Assur with the Silver Star Award, and First Sergeant J.J. Kreider with the Meritorious Award.





Law Enforcement Awards

Meritorious Awards

Sergeant Gregory Haney, Deputy First Class Jeremy Hurt, Deputy First Class Mark Holub, Deputy First Class Jonathan Thomas, and Deputy First Class Elliott Osborn

On October 1, 2022, deputies responded to an auto accident on I-95. It was reported that one of the drivers involved in the accident had a knife stuck in their neck. Deputy Holub checked on the other drivers involved in the crash and formed a perimeter. Deputies were able to observe that the subject had an approximately six inch-long knife protruding from his neck. Deputy Hurt continued to work on building rapport with the subject while spike strips were placed in front of the vehicle's tires to attempt to eliminate the ability for the suspect to drive away and initiate a pursuit. A plan was formulated to approach the vehicle on both sides with ballistic shield teams and simultaneously grab and handcuff both hands. Sergeant Haney and Deputy Hurt provided shield coverage as Deputies Osborn and Thomas reached in simultaneously and detained the suicidal subject. Once the subject was detained, Sergeant Haney sat in the backseat with the subject and held the man's head in place so medics could begin treatment. For their actions, Sergeant Haney, Deputy First Class Jeremy Hurt, Deputy First Class Mark Holub, Deputy First Class Jonathan Thomas, and Deputy First Class Elliott Osborn were awarded the Meritorious Award.

Deputy First Class Frank O'Neill and Deputy First Class Robin Hubbard

On December 20, 2022 a couple was visiting a plot of land that they had recently purchased in Stafford County. As they arrived at the location, the 51-year-old male went into cardiac arrest. Deputies O'Neill and Hubbard responded to the scene and began life-saving measures, providing CPR to the victim for nearly ten minutes, until rescue arrived and took over care. A pulse was reestablished and the male was transported to the hospital for care.



From left to right: Deputy R.L. Hubbard and Deputy F.C. O'Neill receiving the Meritorious Award at the SCSO Awards Ceremony on May 11, 2023.



Law Enforcement Awards

Other Award Recipients

Letter of Commendation

Sergeant Adam Assur
 First Sergeant Lance Barley
 Detective Brandon Boyle (2 Awards)
 Sergeant Baris Demirci
 Sergeant Justin Forman
 Deputy First Class Madison Gordon
 Senior Deputy Evan Houde
 Deputy First Class Steven Jett
 First Sergeant Jason Kreider
 Detective Kassandra Lawrence
 Detective Joshua Lynch (2 Awards)
 Sergeant Kevin Lytle
 Detective Timothy Martin
 ACO Olivia Martins
 Deputy First Class Franco Martinez
 Detective William McWaters
 Senior Deputy George Motley, V
 Deputy First Class Michael Pearce
 Master Deputy Virginia Powell
 First Sergeant Daniel Purcell, Jr.
 Detective Nicholas Ridings (4 Awards)

Deputy Cameron Sacke
 Sergeant Kenneth Simpson
 Deputy Kacey Steffenhagen
 Detective Brandon Talbot
 Senior Deputy Elliot Taylor
 Detective Dominic Torrice
 Master Deputy Joshua Truslow
 Deputy First Class Travis Vasquez (2 Awards)
 Deputy First Class Erin West
 Detective Benjamin Woodson
 Detective Hunter Young
 Sergeant Nicolas Zotos

Traffic Safety Award

Deputy First Class John Alford
 Deputy First Class David Jett



Sergeant N. Zotos receiving a Letter of Commendation Award from Sheriff David Decatur at the SCSO Awards Ceremony on May 11, 2023.

Civilian Awards

Each year, the Sheriff's Office recognizes its civilian employees who have provided exemplary service to the community and the organization. A ceremony is held to honor the efforts of civilian personnel and to highlight four individuals who personify the core values of the Sheriff's Office: Integrity, Compassion, Fairness and Professionalism. The 2022 award winners follow:

Integrity

Megan Williams

Compassion

Darla Keefer

Fairness

Mashawn Hamn

Professionalism

Todd Roller



Volunteers

Volunteers play an integral role in helping the Stafford County Sheriff's Office keep citizens safe. Their duties range from performing data entry, to assisting with special events, or participating in the Sheriff's Office counterterrorism efforts. Stafford's citizen assistance volunteers annually give thousands of hours in service to assist throughout Stafford County Government. The volunteers who were able to come in served more than 7,300 hours. Volunteers are recognized each year by the Stafford Board of Supervisors for their contribution and dedication to Stafford County.

SCSO's Citizen Volunteers

Alexandria Adams	Haley Harmon	Gabriel Pearl
Victoria Allen	Valerie Hart	Garrett Pearl
Albert Anderson	Paul Henry	Brina Post
Linda Barrett	Richard Herdt	Frank Pote
Madaline Bice	Ralph Hitt	Brian Priester
Edmund Bowen	Lisa Hudson	Kumi Priester
Kimberly Brooks	Sharlene Jackson	Brandon Richardson
Joseph Clark	Ayleen Keeton	Frank Ringquist
Jonathan Colwell	Michael Lambrecht	Leah Rios
Kimberly Colwell	Amy Landman	Kyle Roberson
Denise Cooper-Water	Hannah Landman	Cynthia Romero
Amanda Cubbage	Anthony Lee	Chantal Roy
Jason Dejarnett	Arthur Lee	Dorothy Russell
Jill Del Vecchio	Stephen Littlewood	Mabel Saez
Dymond Dempster	Charles Logan	Kenna Sander
Edward Dixon	Raymond Manfredi Jr.	Abigail Scrivener
Toni Doyle	Donna Martinelli	Tom Seal
Janice Edenfield	Tiffani Mastyk	Mark Seymour
Betty Fitzgerald	Nancy May	Brenda Terreault
Lindsay Foster	Stacy Mitchell	Ainsley Vickers
Jacqueline Gale	Bart Mix	Laurie Vorrath
Sara Gamelli	Kim Mix	Stefan Walter
Sydney Griffith	Theresa Monahan	Kaylee Webster
Sean Haley	George O'Neill	Dakota White
Lori Hall	Cynthia Pearl	Brian Whited

Elected Officials

Constitutional Officers

Stafford County has five Constitutional Officers elected by citizens every four years with one exception. The Clerk of the Circuit Court, who serves for an eight-year term. Below are the Constitutional Officers:

Sheriff

David P. Decatur
(540) 658-4450
ddecatur@staffordcountyva.gov

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Kathy Sterne
(540) 658-8752
ksterne@staffordcountyva.gov

Commissioner of the Revenue

Scott Mayausky
(540) 658-4132
commrev@staffordcountyva.gov

Commonwealth's Attorney

Eric Olsen
(540) 658-8780
eolsen@staffordcountyva.gov

Treasurer

Laura Rudy
(540) 658-8700
Treasurer@staffordcountyva.gov

Board of Supervisors

Stafford County is governed by a seven-member Board of Supervisors. Board members are elected for four-year terms. Elections are held as part of the Virginia general election in November of odd-numbered years. Below are the current members of the Board:

Chairman

Pamela Yeung
Garrisonville District
(540) 273-2506
pyeung@staffordcountyva.gov

Vice-Chairman

Tom Coen
George Washington District
(540) 368-4924
tcoen@staffordcountyva.gov

Tinesha Allen

Griffis-Widewater District
(540) 940-5099
tallen@staffordcountyva.gov

Meg Bohmke

Falmouth District
(540) 809-2857
mbohmke@staffordcountyva.gov

Darrell English

Hartwood District
(540) 295-5974
denglish@staffordcountyva.gov

Monica Gary

Aquia District
(540) 220-2315
mgary@staffordcountyva.gov

Crystal Vanuch

Rock Hill District
(540) 361-0905
cvanuch@staffordcountyva.gov

The County Administrator is appointed by the Board of Supervisors and serves at the will of the Board. Randal E. Vosburg currently serves as the County Administrator.

Mr. Vosburg's phone number is (540) 658-4541. His email is rvosburg@staffordcountyva.gov.



Stafford County Sheriff's Office
Ford T. Humphrey Public Safety Building
1225 Courthouse Rd.
Stafford, VA 22554
www.staffordsheriff.com

E-mail: info@staffordsheriff.com
Facebook: Office of Stafford County Sheriff
Twitter: StaffcoSheriff
Instagram: staffordsheriff

Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: (540) 658-4400
Information: (540) 658-4450