Stafford County Sheriff's Office



Annual Report

2024

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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Members of the Stafford County Sheriff's Office receiving a generous donation 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



Deputy Sheriff

Ford Tyson "Toby" Humphrey

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.



Deputy Sheriff

Jason Edward Mooney

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.

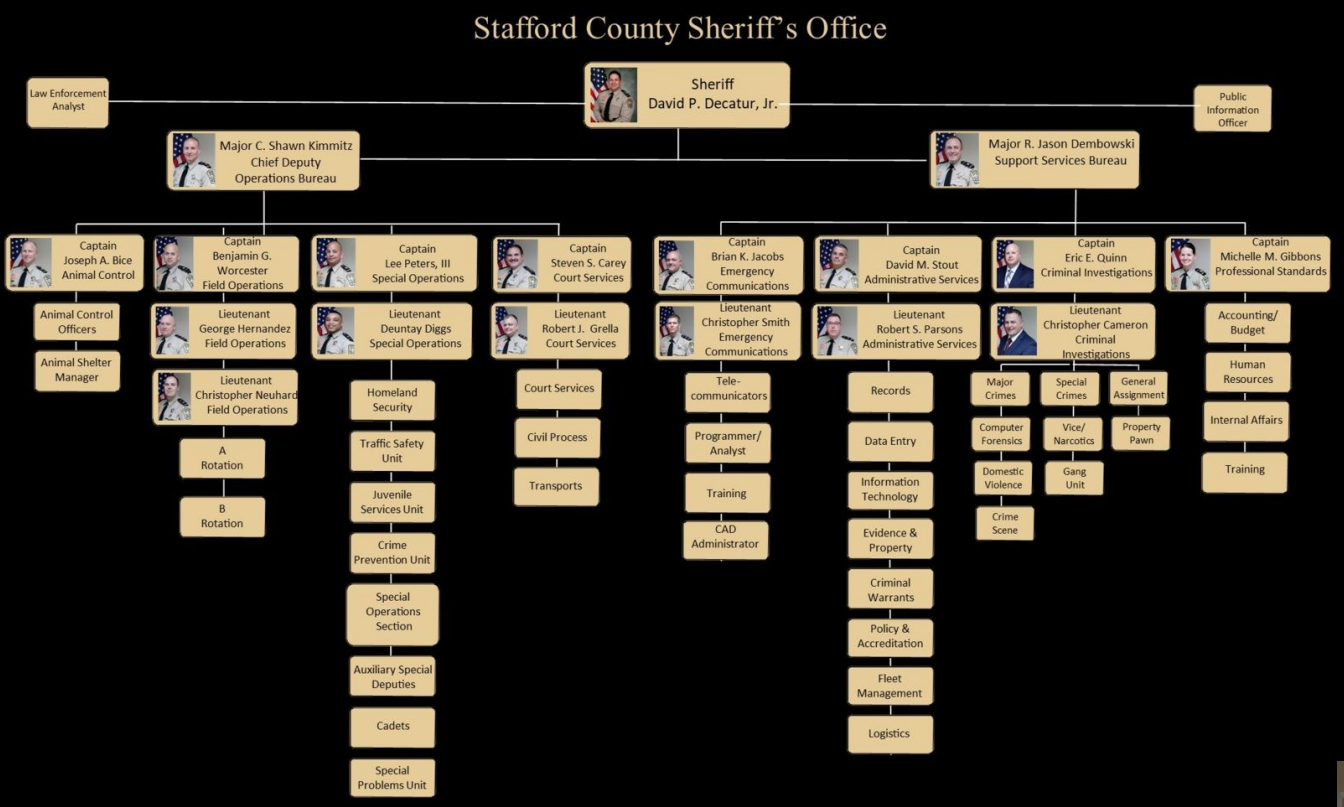


Our agency continues to lead in the area of community engagement. This past year our National Night Out had a record crowd in attendance. It is events like this and the countless others we do each year that allow for the men and women of our agency to connect with our community and develop meaningful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





In May 2024, the Stafford County Sheriff's Office hosted Governor Youngkin as he signed bipartisan bills to protect Virginia's youth.

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.

Vision

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

Mission

We, the men and women of the Stafford County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with our community, are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life by maintaining order, protecting life and property, and reducing the fear of crime.

We will ensure the peace and safety of all citizens by upholding the Constitution of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As leaders of the community, we will embrace our core beliefs: Integrity, Compassion, Fairness, and Professionalism.

Values

As a team we are "Committed to Excellence" through:

Integrity

We will earn and maintain the trust of our citizens by being personally and professionally accountable to the highest ethical and moral standards. We will conduct ourselves above reproach, mindful of justice, with the courage to uphold these convictions.

Compassion

We will treat everyone with dignity, respect and understanding. We will be responsive to the community and each other by being caring, sensitive and conscientious.

Fairness

We will maintain a standard of what is right and proper, free from self-interest, prejudice or favoritism. We will be consistent, objective and just in all our actions.

Professionalism

We will provide quality service through motivated, dedicated and well-trained employees. Our actions, attitudes and appearance will demonstrate self-discipline, attention to duty and service to our community.



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 treasurers, 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 346 employees and handles law enforcement, court operations, emergency communications and community engagement.

167, 687
Stafford's Population

277
Stafford's Area in Square Miles

34
Total Number of Stafford Schools

346
FY25 Authorized Positions

2024 Highlights

January

Detectives worked with several other law enforcement agencies to locate and arrest the suspect in a homicide on Deacon Road. The suspect was arrested in Richmond and is being held without bond.

February

Deputies responded to a missing person suffering from dementia. K-9, Drone, Search and Rescue and Fire Department Boat assisted in the search for several hours. Thankfully the woman was located unharmed several hours later next to a wooded area in the neighborhood.

March

Deputies responded to a disturbance with a weapon. A suspect had broken into a residence and fled on foot when confronted by the homeowner. The suspect, armed with a hammer and chainsaw, attempted to carjack a nearby resident in her car. He again fled on foot into the wood line towards I-95. After a 3-hour manhunt, the suspect was arrested and charged with numerous offenses.

April

Captain Carey delivered the eulogy at the funeral of Sgt. Dale Colona. There was a large law enforcement presence at the funeral at Stafford Covenant Chapel

May

Governor Youngkin came to the Ford T. Humphrey Public Safety Building to sign several bills protecting juveniles in Virginia. Sheriff Decatur spoke at the ceremony.

June

Deputies responded to a serious crash in the on Brooke Road. The investigation revealed the driver of a motorcycle attempted to pass several slower vehicles behind some farm equipment on a blind hill. The motorcyclist went into the oncoming lane and struck another motorcyclist head-on. The at fault motorcyclist was flown from the scene with life-threatening injuries. The other motorcyclist received serious injuries, but is expected to recover.

July

Deputies responded to an intentional crash on Richmond Highway. The suspect intentionally hit a motorcyclist and fled the scene. He proceeded to strike a truck and then led deputies on a pursuit at over 100 mph. Deputies used a PIT to end the chase and the suspect was arrested for numerous charges including attempted murder.

August

Deputies responded to the Chatham Bridge for an auto accident. The driver of a Jeep made an illegal U-turn and crashed into a Honda sedan. The four occupants of the Honda suffered injuries and the Jeep driver fled on foot. A perimeter was established and the Jeep driver was detained. He was charged with hit and run, reckless driving, driving suspended, illegal U-turn, expired tags and no insurance.

2024 Highlights

September

Sheriff Decatur spoke at the 9/11 Ceremony in front of the Stafford County Administration Building as a bald eagle flew over.

October

The Sheriff's Office hosted a packed house for National Night Out in Stafford Market Place. It rained throughout the day but fortunately the rain stopped before the event and drew a huge crowd to our largest event to date.

November

Sheriff Decatur attended an event hosted by Attorney General Miyares to sign a charter with TRIAD. TRIAD works to reduce crimes against senior citizens.

December

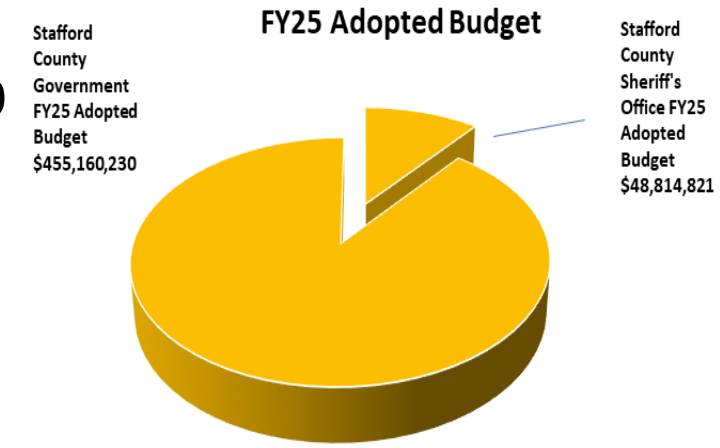
Deputies responded to a lost child/runaway call. The 11-year-old had run away from his family and was seen several hours later in Stafford Market Place. The family waited several hours to call and report the incident. Fortunately, drone operators located the juvenile in the woods near Foxwood Village and he was returned home safely.

Financial Statistics

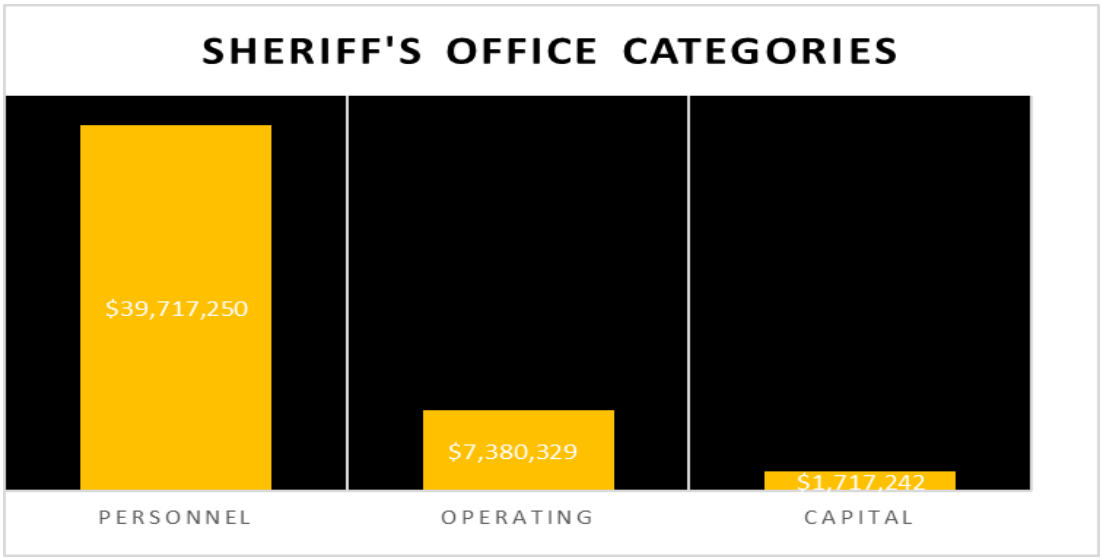
The Stafford County Sheriff's Office budget is but one piece of the overall Stafford County budget (see chart below). For the FY 2025 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025) the total County budget was $455,160,230. The Sheriff's Office budget was $48,814,821 (including the Court Deputies) or 10.7% of the overall County Budget.

$455,160,230
Stafford County Budget

$48,814,821*
Sheriff's Budget



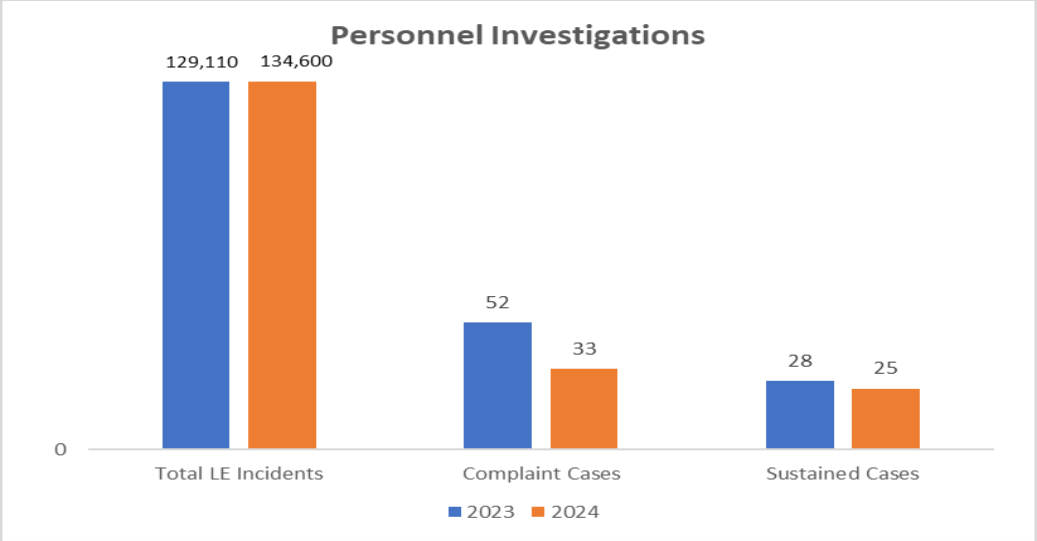
The 10.7% slice of the County Government's budget pie is divided into three major categories totaling $48,814,821* (see chart below). The three categories are Personnel, Operating and Capital. Personnel costs include the salaries and benefits of the 346 Sheriff's Office employees. Operating costs deal with the day-to-day operations of the Sheriff's Office to include training, technology and fuel. Capital costs



*Includes Court Deputies

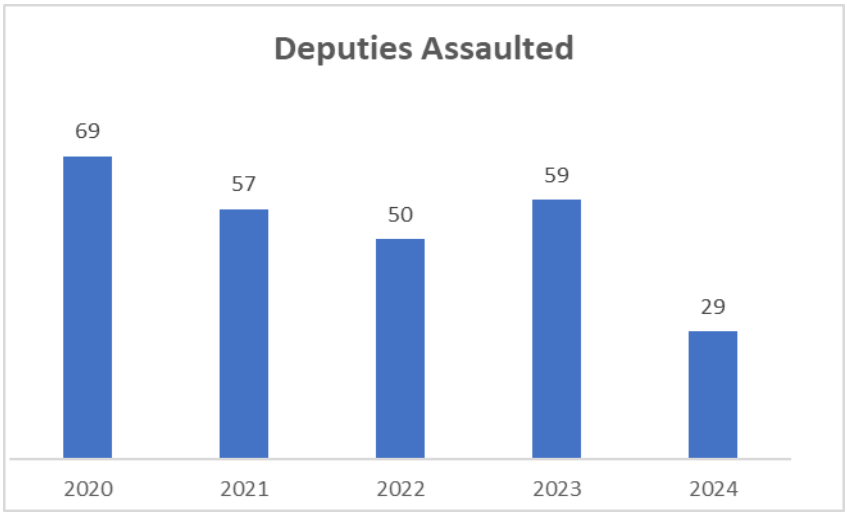
Personnel Statistics

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.



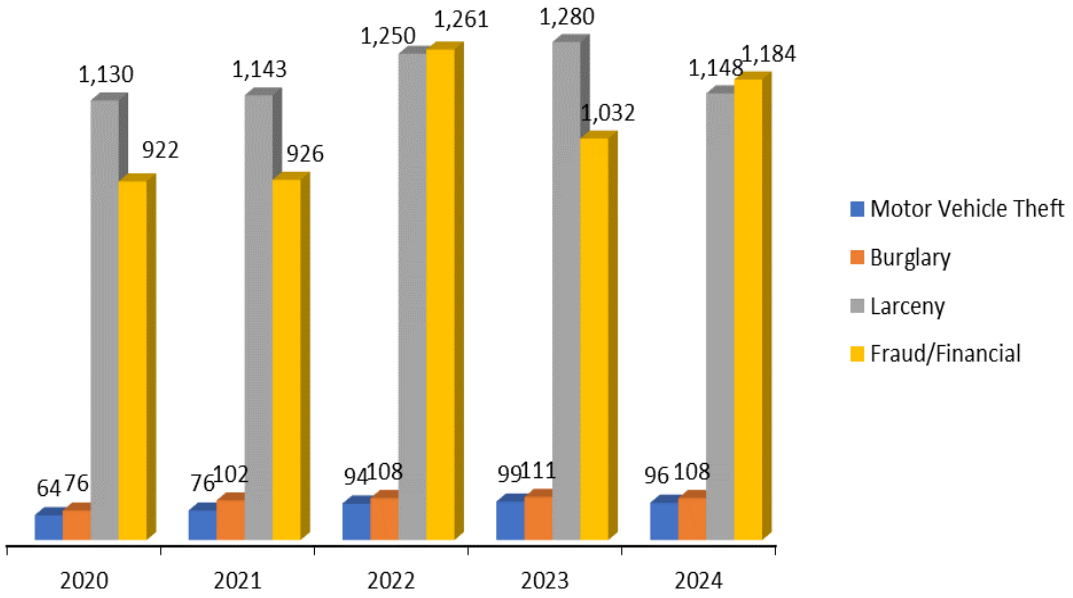
In 2024, the Sheriff's Office responded to 130,978 law enforcement incidents. The 33 personnel investigations in 2024 accounted for less than .02% of all the calls responded to by Sheriff's Office Personnel.

The graph on the right shows the number of assaults on deputies over the past five years. Assaults decreased from 2023 to 2024.

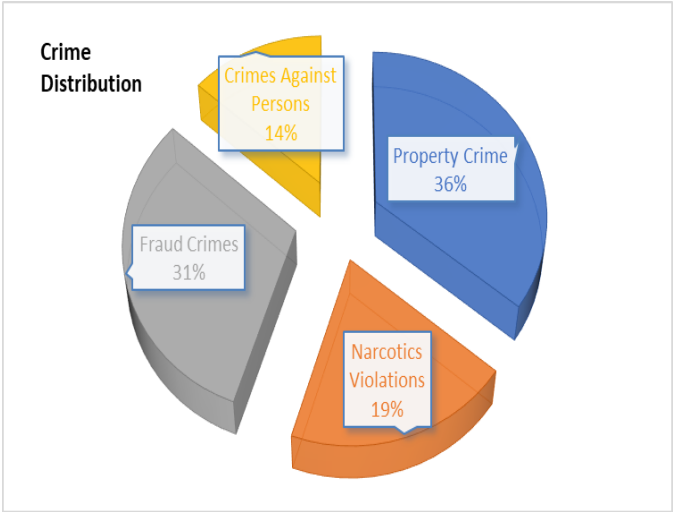


Crime Statistics

The following pages provide statistics that reflect different activities handled by the Sheriff's Office in Calendar Year 2024. Fraud Crimes saw the biggest change from 2023to 2024 with an increase of approximately .8%. Crimes Against Persons dropped 4%. The other two areas that saw decreases were Crimes Against Property, which decreased 2%, and Narcotics Violations, which decreased approximately 7%.

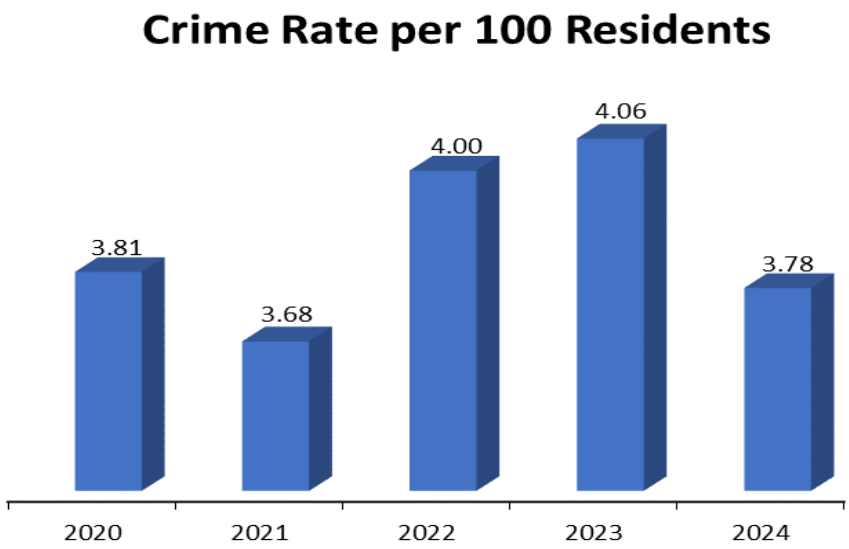


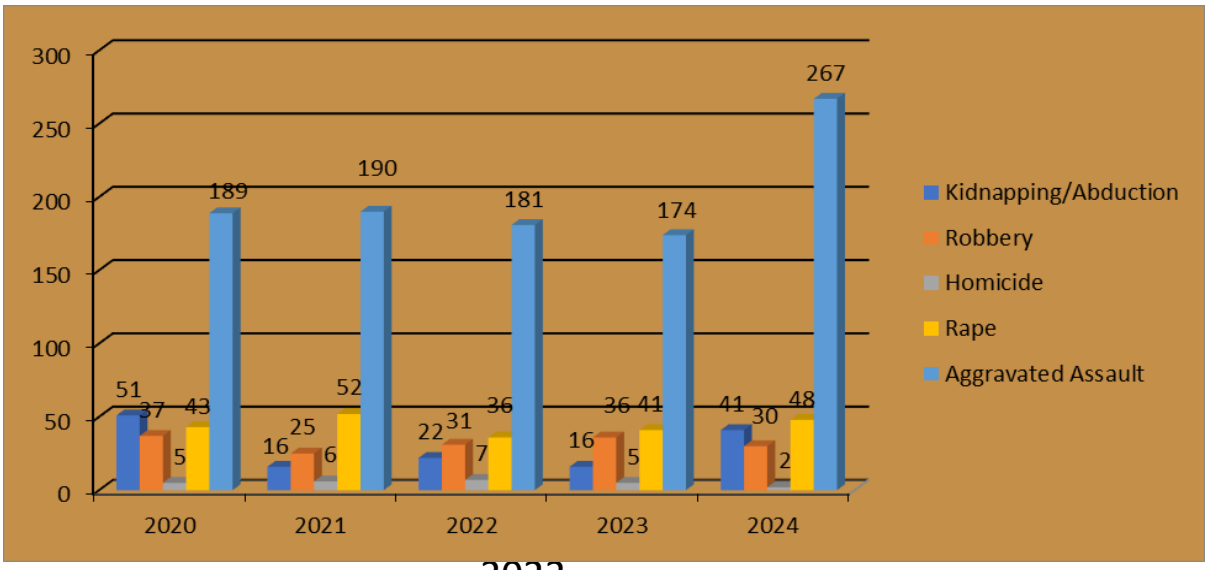
The chart on the right summarizes the major crimes reported in Calendar Year 2024. Property Crimes made up the largest percentage of all major crimes in 2024 at 36% but decreased in the number of crimes by 2%. Fraud Crimes increased in the number of crimes from 2023 to 2024 by 5%. Narcotics Crimes decreased by 7%. Crimes against Person equaled 14% of the overall crime and increased in the number of crimes by 4%.



Crime Statistics

Stafford's crime rate showed a decrease in 2024 in comparison to 2023. 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.





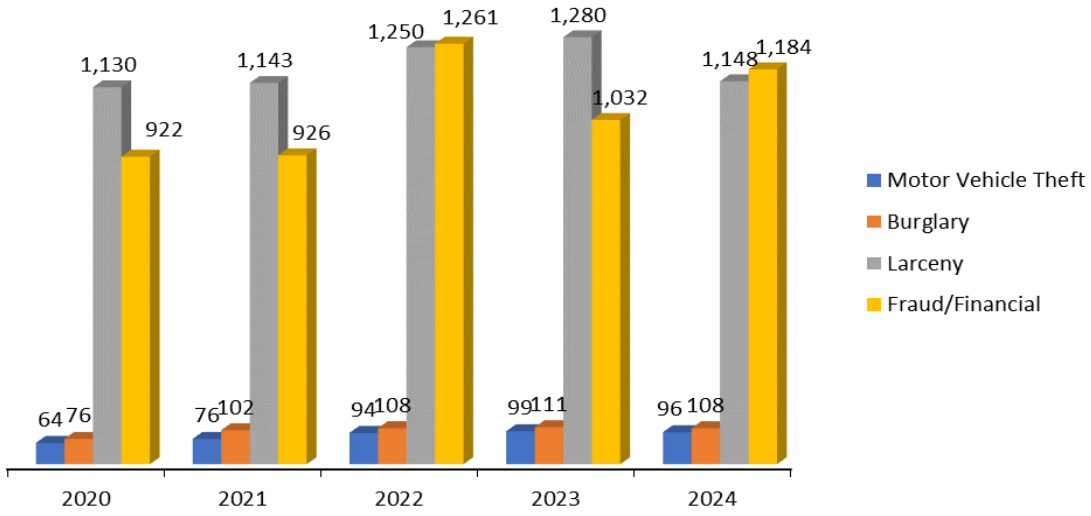
2022

Of all the Crimes Against Persons, two categories decreased from 2023 to 2024: Robberies decreased .83% in 2023 and Homicides decreased from 5 in 2023 to 2 in 2024. Kidnapping/Abductions increased from 16 in 2023 to 41 in 2024; Rapes increased by seven, growing from 41 in 2023 to 48 in 2024. Aggravated Assaults also increased from 174 in 2023 to 267 in 2024.

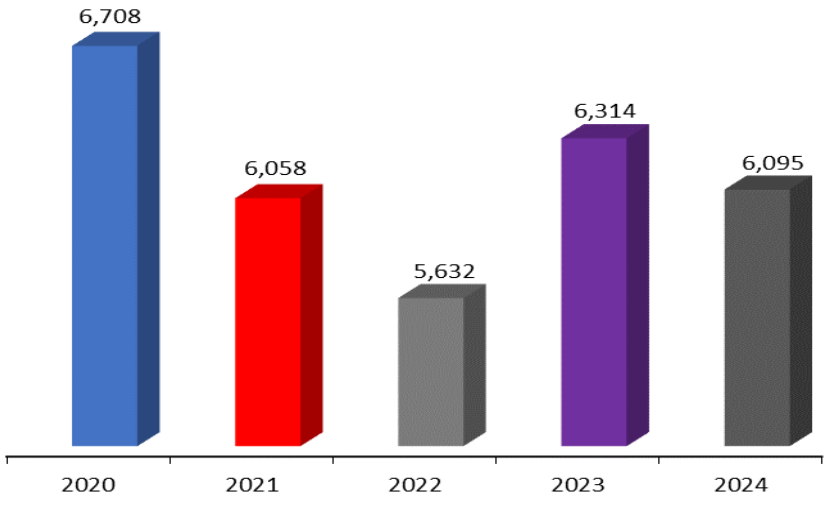
Crime Statistics

All categories, except for Fraud Crimes decreases from 2023 to 2024. Fraud Crimes increased by 52.

Crimes Against Property—General



Criminal Arrests

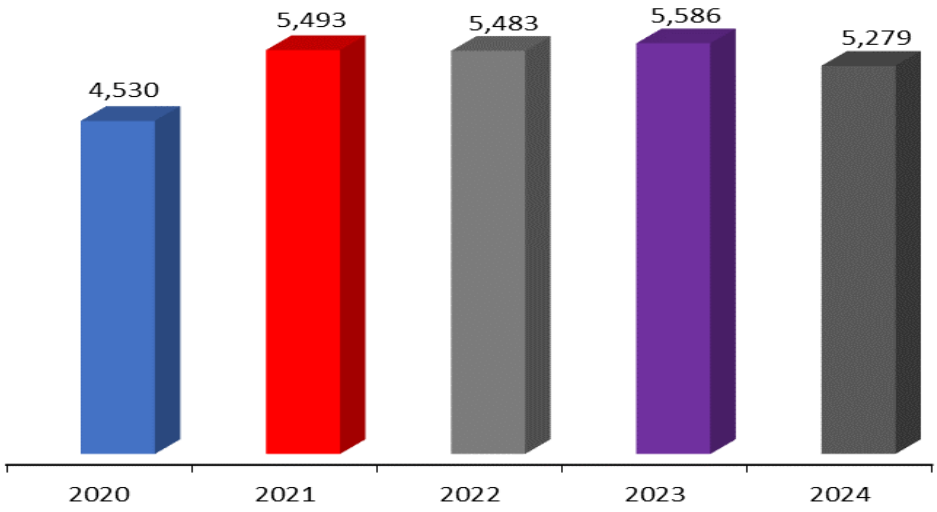


Criminal Arrests decreased by 219 from 2023 to 2024.

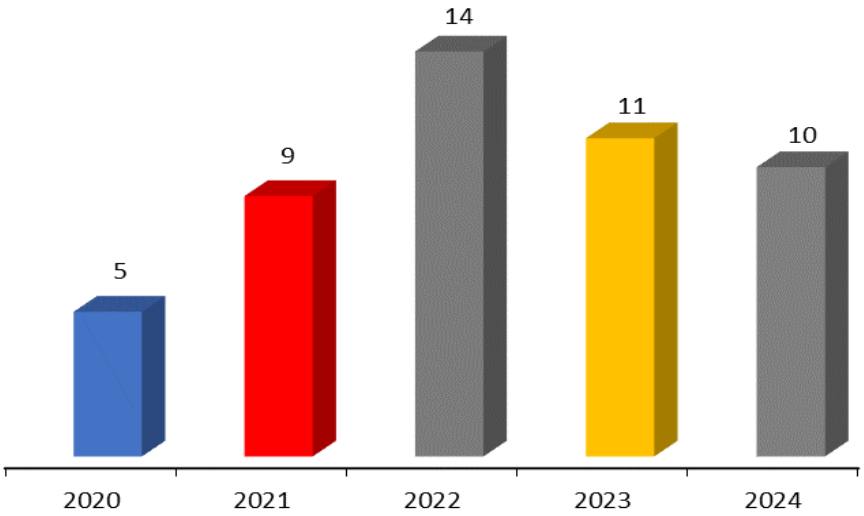
Traffic Safety Statistics

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 decreased in 2024, and Fatal Auto Accidents decreased .9% from 2023 to 2024 (decreased in number by 1).

Traffic Accidents

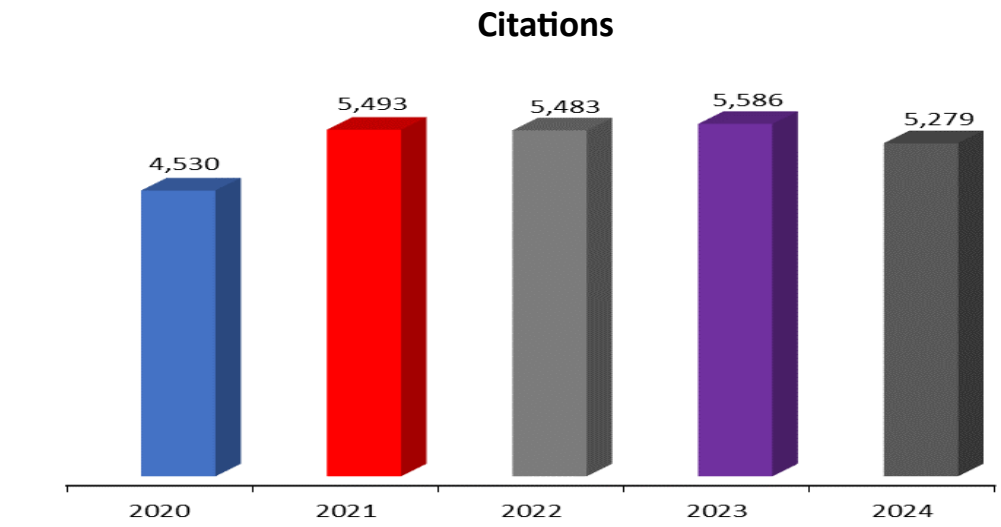


Fatal Traffic Accidents

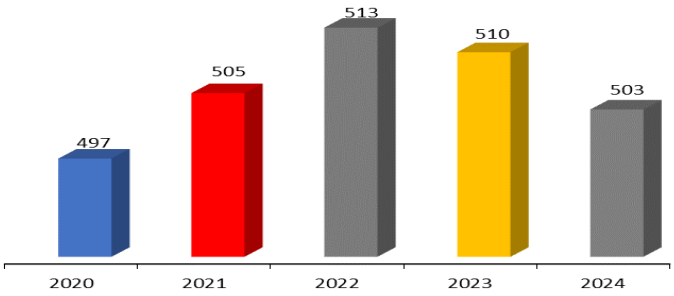


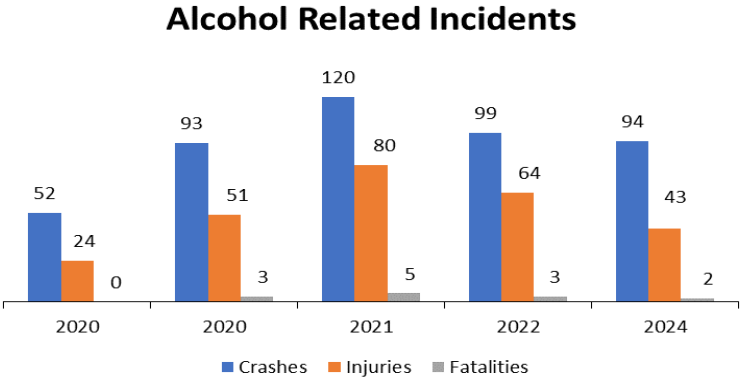
Traffic Safety Statistics

The number of citations issued has risen over the past three years. Citations issued from 2023 to 2024 rose approximately .96%.



DUIs decreased slightly from 2023 to 2024 at approximately 0.6%.





Each category of Alcohol Related Incidents reflected decreases from 2023 to 2024. Crashes decreased almost .94%; Injuries decreased by 21; and the number of Fatalities decreased by a total of 1.

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.

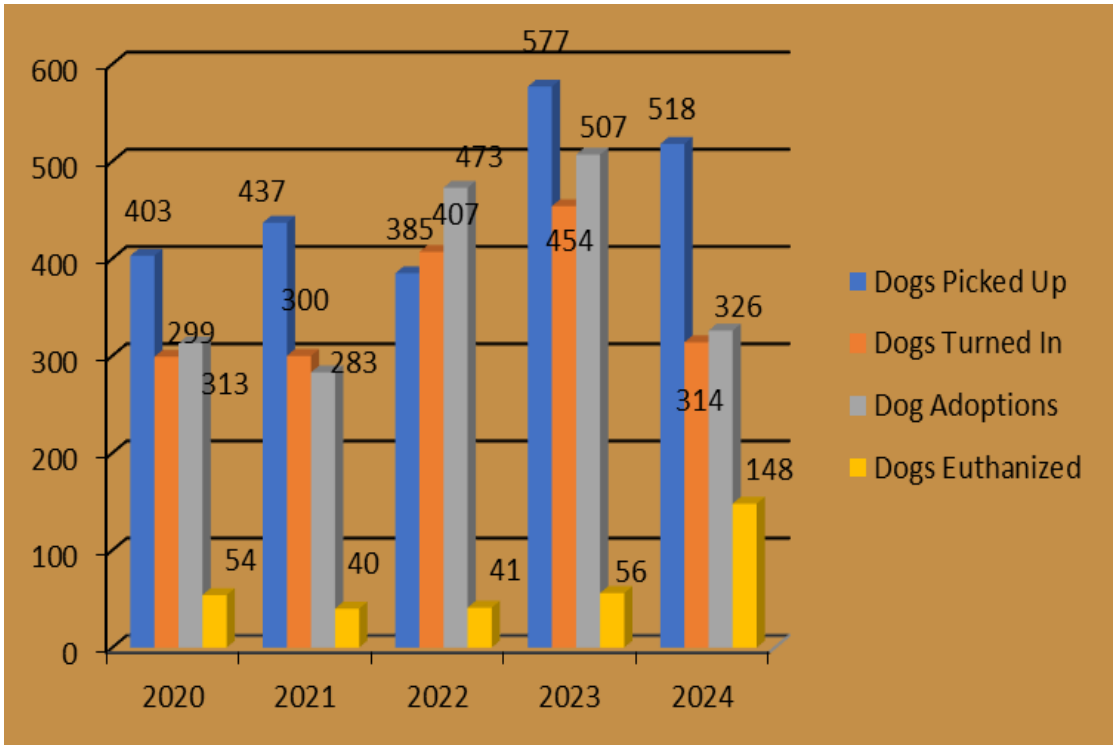
Court Service	2023	2024	% Change
Courthouse Visitors Screened	114,996	109,940	-10%
Jurors Screened	2,604	2,177	-8%
Civil Process	33,952	35,215	10%
Civil Process at Rappahannock Regional Jail	1,090	996	-9%
Evictions	749	687	-9%
Transports	555	471	-8%
Extraditions	52	81	64%
Mental Transports	229	182	-8%
Warrants Served	397	329	-8%
Prisoners Transported	6,374	6,567	10%
Circuit Court Days	655	702	9%
General District Court Days	420	457	9%
Juvenile/Domestic Relations Court Days	408	433	9%

In April 2024, First Sergeant R.J. Grella Jr. was appointed to the position of Lieutenant in Court Services. We congratulate him on his well-earned appointment.



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.

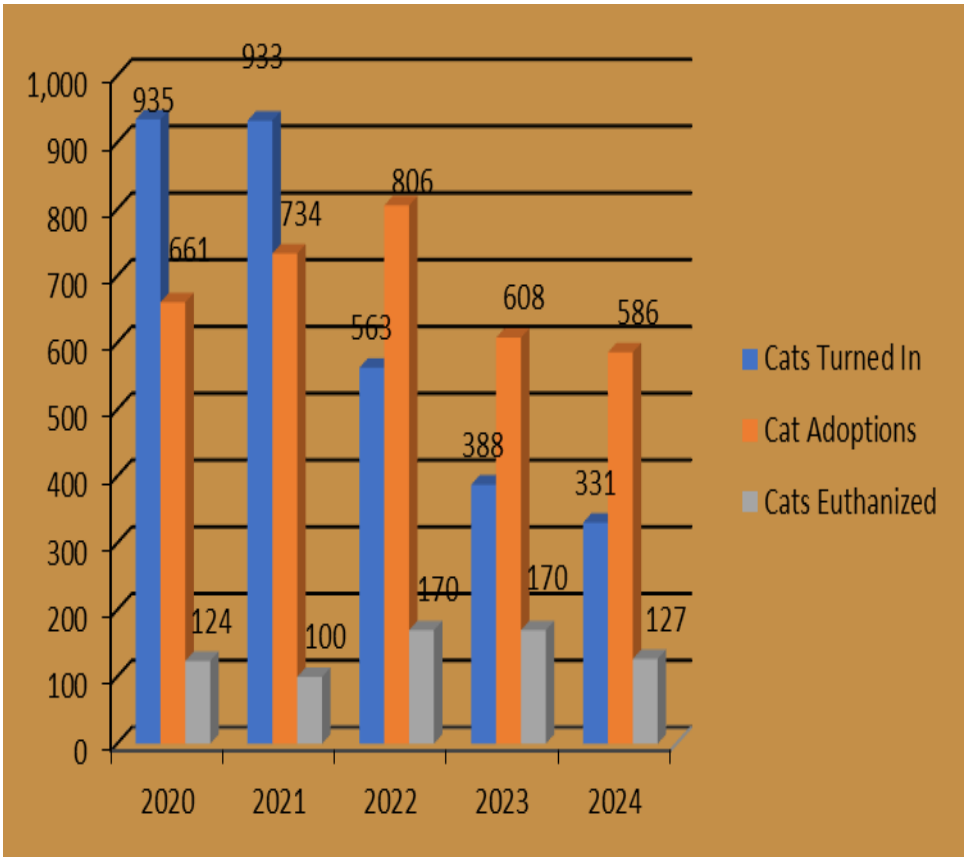


The number of dogs picked up decreased by about 59 from 2023 to 2024. Dogs turned into the shelter decreased by 140 from 2023 to 2024.

Dog Adoptions increased by approximately . Dogs euthanized increased in number by 92.

Animal Control Statistics — Cats

The number of cats turned in decreased by 57 from 2023 to 2024.



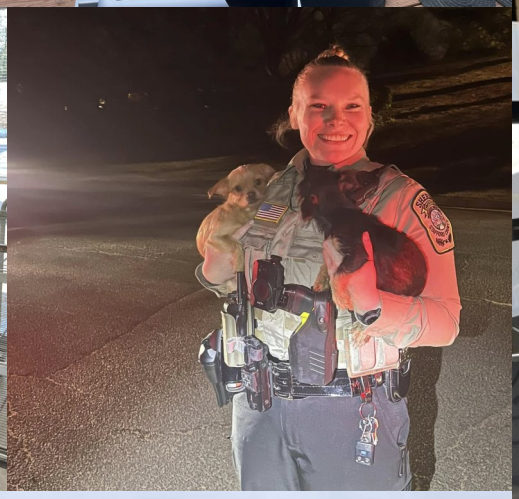
Cat adoptions decreased by 22 from 2023 to 2024. The number of cats euthanized decreased in 2024.






ANIMAL










ANIMAL CONTROL
STAFFORD COUNTY
ANIMAL CONTROL



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 2024.

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.

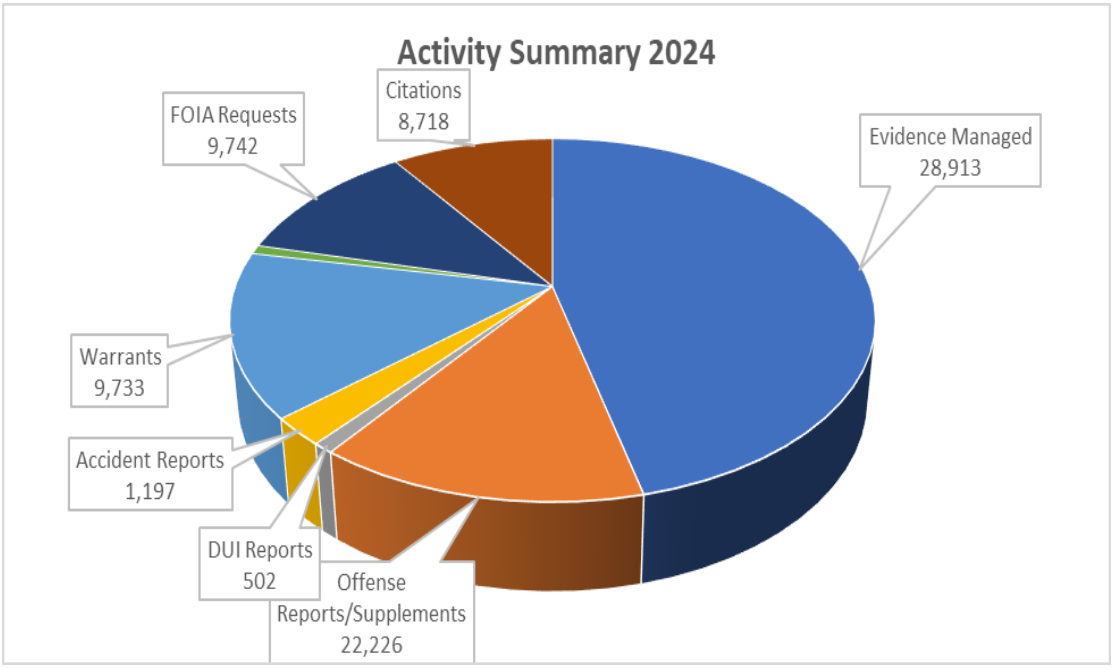


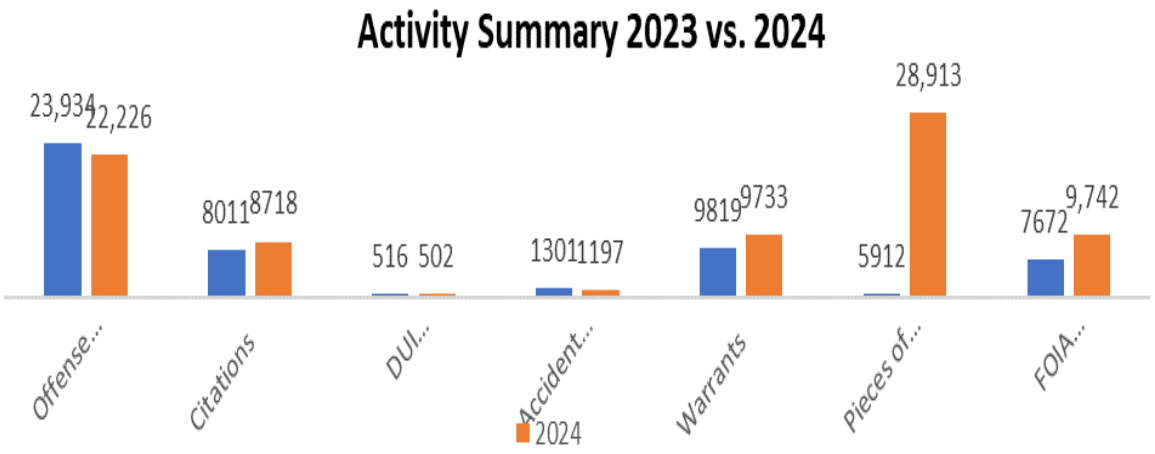
Sheriff Decatur, Major Kimmitz, and Major Dembowski presenting Captain R.H. Davis II with his retirement shadowbox.

Major Crimes Unit	
Search Warrants Issued	254
Court Orders Issued	56
Direct Indictments	50
Felony Warrants	218
Misdemeanor Warrants	67
Child Forensic Interviews	130
General Assignment Unit	
Search Warrants Issued	243
Court Orders Issued	324
Direct Indictments	37
Felony Warrants	210
Misdemeanor Warrants	163
Value of Prop. Recovered	$1,367,843.58
Special Investigations Unit	
Search Warrants	166
Court Orders	363
Direct Indictments	47
Felony Warrants	174
Misdemeanor Warrants	34
Surveillance Events	588
Surveillance Hours	1807
Control Buys	62
Money Spent	$26,645.00
Est. Value of Prop. Seized	$100,537.00
Est. Value of Drugs Seized	$1,535,88500

Law Enforcement Operations

The chart below reflects the number of major activities handled by the Administrative Services Division in 2024. The second chart below compares the number of activities in each category in 2023 and 2024. FOIA Requests increased significantly as compared to 2023. Warrants decreased slightly, Citations increased by 707, DUI reports increased by 14, and Accident Reports decreased. There were slight decreases in Offense Reports/Supplements, Lobby Walk-Ins, and Pieces of Evidence Managed increased.

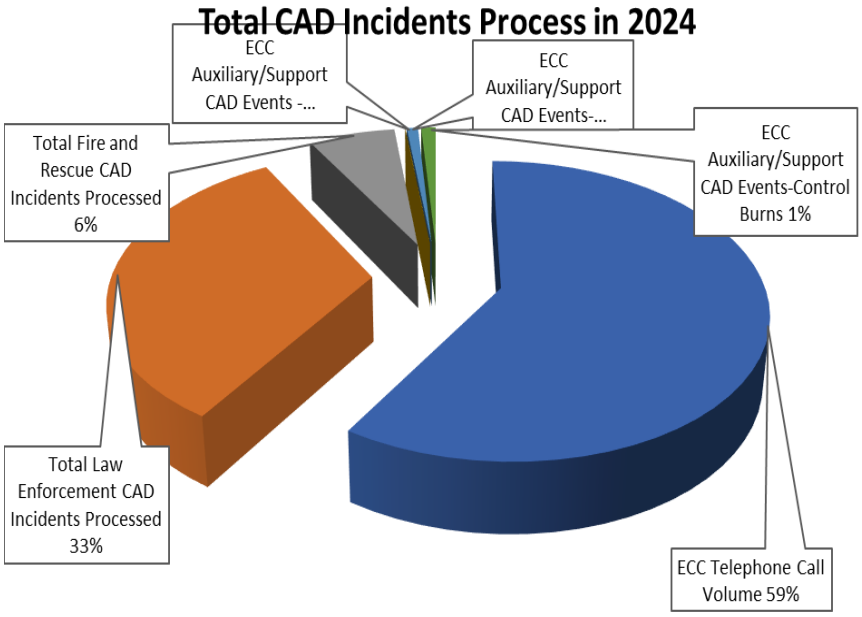




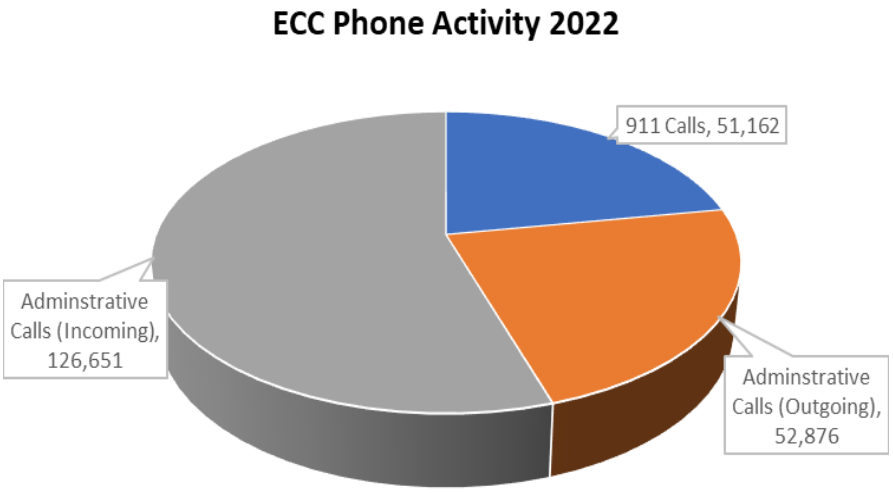
Emergency Communications Center

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



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



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 2024.

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.



Major Kimmitz on scene of a pursuit to provide a "Happening Now" video to the community.

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 Community

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.

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



Citizens Police Academy Class of 2024.

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.



Lieutenant C.M. Neuhard greeting the community during Coffee with a Cop.

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.



Deputy T.A. Scoggins congratulating 5th graders during the Ferry Farm Annual D.A.R.E. Parade in September.

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.

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 presence in neighborhoods throughout the community on Halloween night to ensure trick-or-treaters have a

Impact on Our Community

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.



Recruits of the Junior Deputy Academy striking a pose in-between lessons.

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



Deputy A.J. Charoenthep of the SWAT Team letting the community try on tactical gear during 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. 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 Neighborhood 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.

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.

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

Impact on Our Community

young people with intellectual challenges, ages 13-22. Cadets experience various duties of a law enforcement officer in a safe and hazard free environment.

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.

RETENTION & RECRUITING

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 2.25 salary cost of living adjustment and a step increase for sworn personnel.

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 Provided for Supervisory Development

EFFECTIVE POLICIES

Additional training programs covering various topics such as employment law were facilitated to continue developing supervisors' managerial and leadership skills.

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

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.

Additional Positions Approved

One new sergeant position was approved for 2024 in Traffic Safety. A new administrative specialist was approved, and a part-time to full-time upgrade to an existing records management position

FILLING FUNDING GAPS

were approved in the FY24 Budget. In recruitment a new webpage was created to serve as a hub to better provide information to those seeking employment with the sheriff's Office. This new webpage allows civilian and sworn applicants to research all aspects of the process and benefits in one location.



The SWAT Team posing for a picture after winning first place during the Harrisonburg Police Department's

Impact on Our Community

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 Courts Building and will be working on upgrading other county buildings to provide better security monitoring capabilities.

HOMELAND SECURITY/CRIME PREVENTION

Community Policing Event

The sheriff's office supported 550 families during our annual Christmas Toy Drive in 2024. This program helps families in need during the holiday season.

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.



Sergeant S.C. Jett, Head of Recruitment, engaging the future of law enforcement.



Deputy D.S. Jett, a Drug Recognition Expert, conducting field sobriety tests.

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.



Major Kimmitz handing out roses to citizens on Valentine's Day.



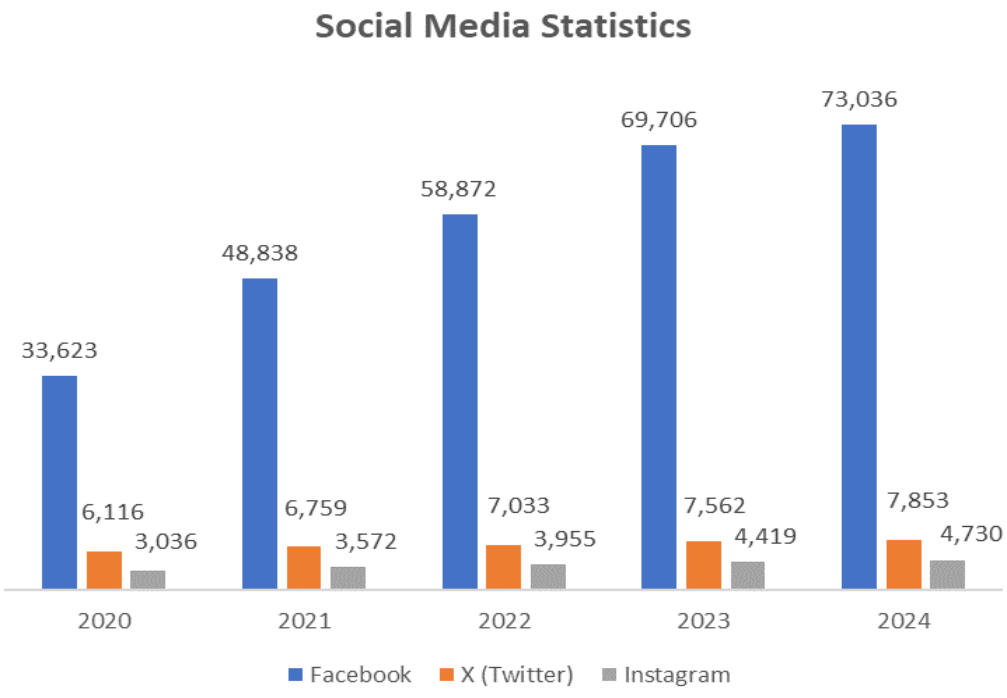
Deputy S.C. Hall (left) and Deputy M.A. Floriendo (right) hand delivering toys during our Annual Holiday Toy Drive.

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.



Impact on Our Community

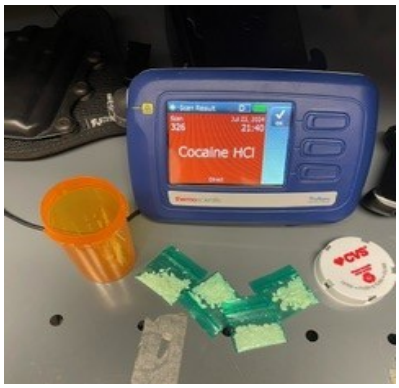
Fighting Drug Addiction

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 2024, the Sheriff's Office collected 313.9 pounds of drugs and sharps.

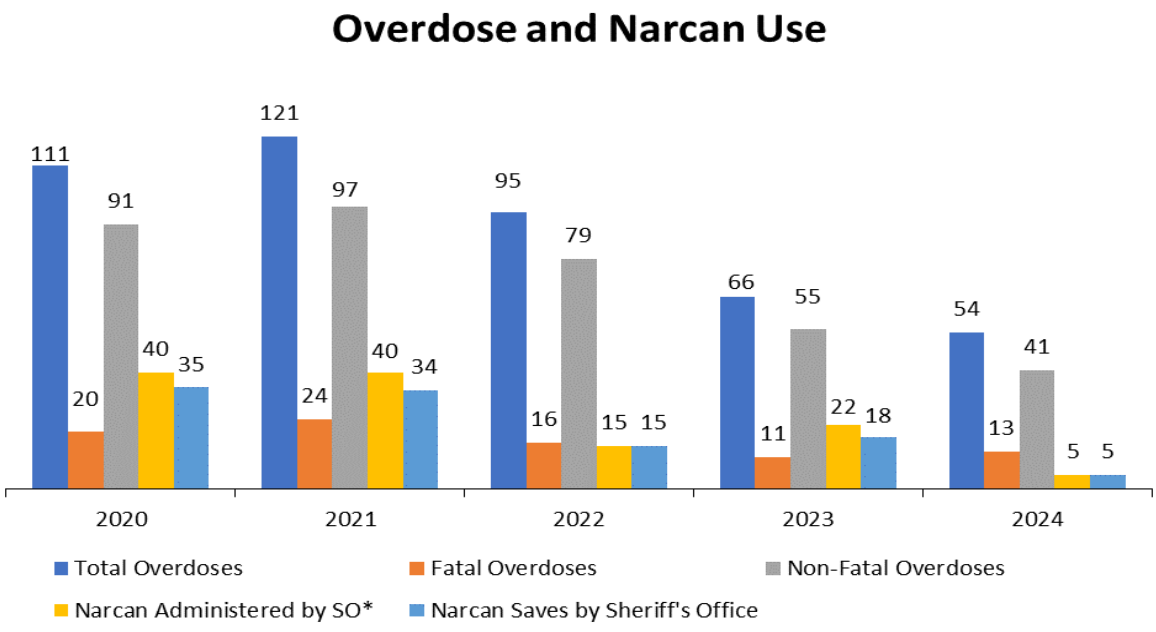
In addition, a drug collection unit is installed in the lobby of the Public Safety Building located at 1225 Courthouse Road. Drug drop-off is available Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. in the lobby. The unit allows citizens to dispose of prescription medication properly and safely.

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 2023 to 2024: Total overdoses decreased by 12; Non-Fatal Overdoses decreased by 14 and Fatal Overdoses increased by 2. The number of Narcan administrations by Sheriff's Office personnel decreased and the number of Narcan saves by Sheriff's Office personnel decreased.

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.



Suspected controlled substances identified as cocaine using TruNarc, a drug identification device the Sheriff's Office obtained in May.



Law Enforcement Awards

The Sheriff's Office held its annual awards ceremony in May 2024 to honor law enforcement personnel who provided exemplary service to the community in 2023. 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.

Meritorious Award

Sergeant Jeremy Hurtt and Deputy Kasey Steffenhagen

On November 30th of 2023 Sgt. Hurt and Deputy Steffenhagen responded to a town home on Alice Court for a welfare check. Upon arrival, the deputies observed an unresponsive 18-year-old male on the bedroom floor. Identifying no breathing or pulse on the man, Deputy Steffenhagen began administering CPR. Sgt. Hurt observed evidence of drug use in the room, so while Deputy Steffenhagen prepared to administer Narcan, Sgt. Hurt took over the role of CPR.

Shortly after the dose of Narcan, the man regained a pulse and began breathing on his own. Thanks to the quick life-saving actions of these two deputies, this young man received a second chance.

First Sergeant Nicolas Zotos, Deputy First Class Joshua Cordes and Deputy First Class Tiffani Phillips

On July 3rd of 2023 these deputies responded to an overdose call at a residence in South Stafford. Deputy Philipps arrived first and provided a dose of Narcan to the unresponsive female victim. Deputy Phillips then began life-saving CPR. Deputy Cordes arrived next and administered a second dose of Narcan and took over the compressions for CPR.

First Sgt. Zotos was the next to arrive on scene and he took over CPR, which was administered for over 5 minutes to the victim. As First Sgt. Zotos continued compressions, the female became alert and was moved to a recovery position to await paramedics from Fire and Rescue.

Thanks to the quick actions and excellent composure under stress by these deputies, this woman was provided a second chance at life.

Law Enforcement Awards

Meritorious Awards

Communications Supervisor Sara Palau

On January 23rd of last year, a distraught man called 911 and reported he was contemplating suicide. As Communications Supervisor Palau began a dialogue with the man, he indicated he was holding the gun to his head and she was able to hear the distinctive sound of the revolver's hammer being cocked back.

As deputies rushed to the scene, Communications Supervisor Palau maintained a calm demeanor and talked with the distressed man. She maintained a compassionate conversation and convinced the man to put down the gun and surrender peacefully to deputies. In an interview with deputies at the hospital, the distraught man revealed he had his finger on the trigger and was ready to end his life, but was swayed by the kind words of Communications Supervisor Palau.

Leadership Award

Law Enforcement Awards

Other Award Recipients

Letters of Commendation
Investigator II Nicholas Ridings
Sergeant Nicolaos Zotos
Master Deputy John McAlister
Deputy First Class Frank O'Neill
Deputy First Class Ashley M. Pitts
Deputy Xavier D. Bates
1st Sgt. Derek W. Fetterolf
Deputy First Class Mark Holub
Deputy Christopher Newman
Sergeant Justin Forman
Deputy First Class Charles Sterne
1st Sgt. Daniel Purcell, Jr.
Sergeant Jeremy Hurt
Master Deputy Elliott Taylor
Senior Deputy Shawn Eastman
Master Deputy Ryan Weatherholtz
Deputy First Class Shawn Martin
Detective Travis Vasquez
Senior Deputy Dominic Ferrell
Deputy Alec Charoenthep
Senior Deputy William Bolinsky, Jr.
Deputy First Class Joshua Cordes
Sergeant Anthony McCall
Investigator I David Flues
Investigator II Brandon Boyle
Investigator II Nicholas Ridings
1st Sergeant Christopher Smith
Investigator I Brigit Abramaitys
Investigator III Kurt McBride
Investigator II James Wright, III
Investigator II Joshua Lynch
Investigator III Sean Danyluk
Sergeant Johnny Kyle
Investigator III Timothy Martin
Investigator II Joshua Lynch
Animal Control Officer Katherine Busch

Traffic Safety Award
Master Deputy John McAlister
Deputy First Class David Jett

Unit Citation
Communications Officer Payton Franklin
Communications Officer Russell Ferguson
1st Sgt. Joseph Floirendo
Deputy First Class Brian Gildea
Deputy First Class Clint Harding
Senior Deputy Dominic Ferrell
Master Deputy William Walker
Deputy First Class Franco Martinez
Sergeant Baris Demirci
Sergeant Ryan Dominguez
Investigator I David Flues
Investigator I Travis Vasquez
1st Sgt. Robert Grella
Sergeant Daren Volpe
Investigator III Ray Haney, III
Investigator III Nicholas Chiappini
Investigator III Joshua Scott
Investigator II James Wright, III
Investigator III Rinaldy Mervil

Civilian Awards

Each year, the Sheriff's Office recognizes its civilian employees who have provided exemplary service to the community and the organization. The 2024 award winners follow:

Integrity
Kelsey Caudill

Compassion
Beth Hall

Fairness
Bobby Baxter

Professionalism
Andy Sentipal

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 8,627 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
Ellianne Adams
Albert Anderson
Linda Barrett
Jena Berglund
Edmund Bowen
Kimberly Brooks
Kelly Burnthorn
Brian Ceballos
Aaron Chudosky
Joseph Clark
Rhianna Contreras
Denise Cooper-Waters
Jon Couch
Amanda Cubbage
Caroline Davis
Jason Dejarnett
Jill Del Vecchio
Dymond Dempster
Edward Dixon
Toni Doyle
Lindsey Foster
Robert Fredericks
Jacqueline Gale
Mandy Gensimore
Ynolde Gillan
Sydney Griffith
Lori Hall
Alyssa Halstead
Halley Ham
Haley Harmon
Valerie Hart
Paul Henry
Richard Herdt
Ralph Hitt
Sharlene Jackson
Ayleen Keeton
Michael Lambrecht
Anthony Lee
Adam Lerner
Samuel Lerner
Stephen Littlewood
Charles Logan
Evan Lustig
Mark Malmgren
Donna Martinelli
Nancy May
Joann McCormick
Kailey McCroskey
Regan McIntyre
Molly McNear
Stacy Mitchell
Bart Mix
Kim Mix
Theresa Monahan
Barbara Moody
Mary Beth Nuehard
Destiny Palmer
Cynthia Pearl
Sarah Placke
Kathryn Porter
Brina Post
Frank Pote
Brian Priester
Kumi Priester
James Proctor
James Reightler
Frank Ringquist
Leah Rios
Kyle Roberson
Michael Robinson
Jessica Rockx
Mabel Saez
Kenna Sander
Caroline Schembs
Tom Seal
Mark Seymour
Joshua Smith
William Smith
Zachary Snyder
Brenda Terreault
Tammy Tolson
Ainsley Vickers
Laurie Vorrath
Katelyn Warner
Brian Whited
Brian Willey
Jeannine Willingham
Sharon Wilson

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
Michael O. Sienkowski
(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
Deauntay Diggs
George Washington District
(540) 368-4924
tcoen@staffordcountyva.gov

Vice-Chairman
Tinesha Allen
Griffis-Widewater District
(540) 940-5099
tallen@staffordcountyva.gov

Pamela Yeung
Garrisonville District
(540) 273-2506
pyeung@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. William H. Ashton II currently serves as the County Administrator.



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
X: StaffcoSheriff
Instagram: staffordsheriff

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