

Wilkesboro Police Department



Annual Report

2022

Table of Contents

Letter from Chief of Police Agency

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

Division Annual Review and Analysis

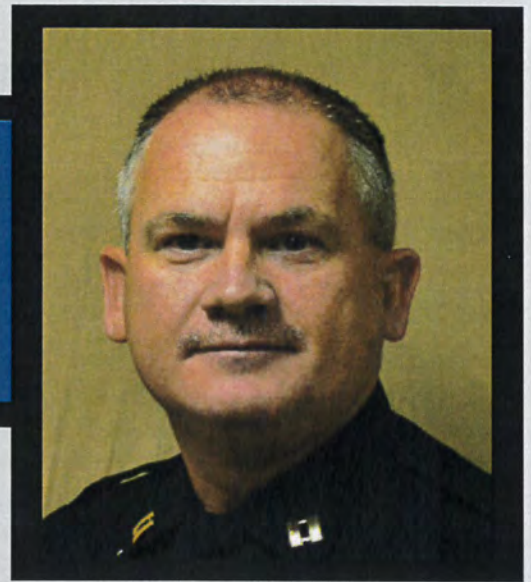
- I. Response to Aggression
- II. Internal Affairs/Complaints
- III. Vehicle Pursuits

Performance Reports

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

Message from Chief of Police

Tommy Rhodes



Welcome to the Wilkesboro Police Department,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Tommy Rhodes

Chief of Police

Mission Statement of the Wilkesboro Police Department:

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

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

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

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

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

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

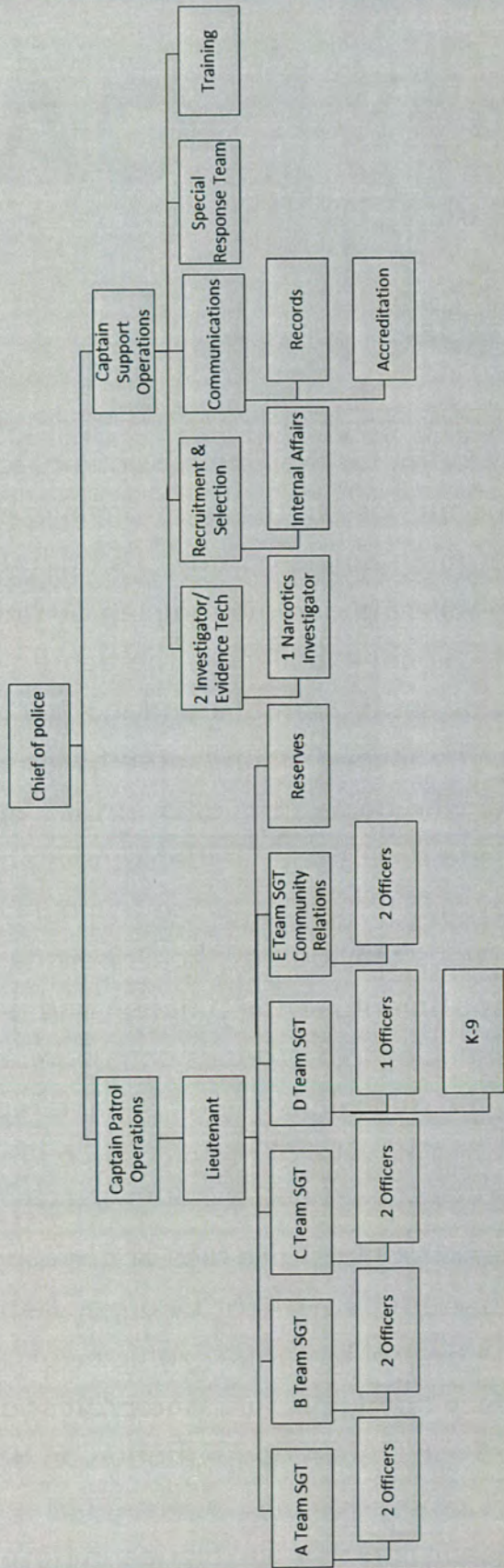


CALEA

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

CALEA is a departmental-wide function and is administered by the Support Operations Division Captain. Various compliance reports are assigned to different personnel within the department. Compliance reports include analyses, summaries, and evaluations that must be completed on a time sensitive schedule. The Support Operations Division Captain ensures that reports are completed, and the Accreditation Manager maintains files of corresponding standards. Although CALEA requires a great deal of hard work on behalf of the Police Department and Town, it produces several benefits. Examples of benefits include international recognition, agency accountability, and professional excellence. The Department was first awarded the CALEA accreditation on November 19, 2011. The Department went before the Commission and received our second reaccreditation at the CALEA conference in Jacksonville, Florida in November 2017.

Organizational Chart



New Employees



Kenia Porter joined the department as a part-time officer transferring from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg police department in 2022.



Dalton Hall joined the department as a full-time officer in 2022, graduating from Guilford college with a bachelor's degree, and completed Basic Law Enforcement Training at Wilkes Community College.



Olivia Fletcher joined the department as a full-time officer in 2022, after graduating from Appalachian State with a bachelor's degree, and completed Basic Law Enforcement Training at Wilkes Community College.



Nathan Miller joined the department as a full-time officer in 2022, after receiving an associate's degree from Wilkes Community College, and completing Basic Law Enforcement Training at Wilkes Community College.



Manly Pruitt joined the department as a full-time officer in 2022, after completing Basic Law Enforcement Training at Wilkes Community College.



Cole Ball joined the department in 2022, after completing Basic Law Enforcement Training at Wilkes Community College.

Promotions



Chris Handy was promoted to Lieutenant of the Patrol Division in 2022. He will supervise all other members of the Patrol division. Handy has dedicated his service to the Town of Wilkesboro since 2002.



Preston Parsons was promoted to Sergeant in 2022. He is the first-line supervisor for the Adam Team. Parsons has dedicated his service to the Town of Wilkesboro since 2016.



Michael Shumate was promoted to Sergeant in 2022. He is a first-line supervisor for the David Team. Shumate has dedicated his service to the Town of Wilkesboro since 2013.

Patrol Operations

The Patrol Division is commanded by Captain Rocky Moore and is the largest section in the agency. There are 15 full-time and 2 part-time sworn officers assigned to the patrol division. The officers are divided into five teams of three officers. The five patrol teams each have a Sergeant. These teams work a rotating 12-hour schedule, and they are the first staff members to respond to all crimes, including responding to 911 calls, calls for service, domestic disturbances, and shopliftings. The Patrol Division operates under a patrol-based investigation approach to all crimes. All personnel assigned to the Patrol Division are responsible for taking a proactive approach to partnerships, prevention and problem-solving in the Wilkesboro Community.

In 2022, the Patrol Division responded to 11480 calls for service which is an 9.8% increase from 2021. They completed 511 Crash Investigations, 652 Incident Reports, and 218 Arrest Reports, and issued 998 Traffic Citations totaling 1273 charges.



Division commander
Captain Rocky Moore

Team Supervisors

Adam Team
Sgt. Preston Parsons

Baker Team
Sgt. Caleb Johnston

Charlie Team
Sgt. Philip Brown

David Team
Sgt. Michael Shumate

Edward Team
Sgt. Ronnie Price

Support Operations

The Support Operations Division is commanded by Captain Jason Delbert and is staffed by Three full-time Investigators, Two full-time telecommunicators and 2 part-time telecommunicators, and 1 part-time CALEA accreditation manager. All investigators are assigned to handle felony crimes including homicide, rape, robbery, theft and fraud cases. One investigator is also assigned to investigate drugs and vice cases. The investigators employ a team approach to major crime investigations, where multiple investigators are assigned to all major crimes such as a homicide, robbery, or missing person case. This division is also responsible for several other duties within the department to include, Evidence and Property Management, Recruitment and Selection, Background Investigations, Records, Communications and Law Enforcement Accreditation.



Division Commander
Captain Jason Delbert

Investigators

Inv. Chris Arnder
Inv. Brian McManus
Inv. Bradley Dancy

Telecommunicators

Michelle Sparks
Nikki Beck



Division Annual Review and Analysis

Response to Aggression

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

During 2022, Wilkesboro Police Department Officers were involved in 16 Response to Aggression incidents. This was an 33% decrease from the previous year. All incidents in 2022 were reviewed and found to be within departmental policy. Below is a listing of the circumstances of the incidents in 2022.

Shift	
Day (0700-1900)	5
Night (1900-0700)	8
Indeterminate	3
Division	
Patrol	14
Support	1
Administration	1
Officer Response	
Firearm (Drawn)	8
Firearm (Fired)	0
Hands	0
Taser (Drawn)	5
Taser (Fired)	1
SCAT Techniques	2
Pepper Spray	0
Other	0
Officer Years of Experience	
20 Years	2
12 Years	5
7 Years	2
6 Years	3
5 Years	2
2 Years	6
Other	17

Number of Officers Involved in Incident	
1 Officer	9
2 Officers	3
3 Officers	2
4 Officers	4
Suspect Received Medical Help	
Yes	12
No	3
Unknown	2
Suspect Detained After Firearms Seized	
Yes	100%
No	0%
Number of Suspects Involved in Incident	
1 Suspect	15
2 Suspects	1
Suspect Detained in Field Treatment	
Yes	2
No	15
Suspect Sex	
Male	13
Female	4
Suspect Race	
White	12
African American	3
Latino	1
Asian	1

Suspect Age	
<10-20	3
21-25	2
26-30	1
31-35	4
36-40	3
41-45	3
>50	1
Type of Incident	
Assist Another LE Agency	4
Traffic Stop	3
Suspicious Person	2
Warrant Service	1
Burglary	1
Public Intoxication	1
Robbery	1
Other	5
Type of Suspect in Contact with Officer	
White Officer African American Suspect	5
White Officer Latino Suspect	2
White Officer White Suspect	10

Internal Affairs/Complaints

The Wilkesboro Police Department investigates all complaints received by the agency. Complaints may be received in writing, in person, by telephone, by email, by website portal; anonymous complaints are accepted. The preferred method is in writing on a Citizen Complaint Form through the website portal. The agency uses a two-tiered investigative system that involves the First Line Supervisors for minor complaints that may be a misunderstanding of policy or procedures and a formal investigation for more serious complaints. All officers assigned to internal investigations have specialized training in internal investigative affairs. The Chief of Police assigns all complaints to either a First-Line Supervisor, Division Commander or to Internal Affairs for a complete investigation. There were three complaints in 2022 for the Wilkesboro Police Department and its employee's.

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

Complaint Origin	2019	2020	2021	2022
Citizen	1	1	0	0
Internal	0	2	0	3
Investigative Action				
Traffic Stop	0	0	0	0
Arrest	0	0	0	0
Officers Conduct	1	3	0	1
Other	0	0	0	2
Disposition				
Sustained	0	2	0	2
Not Sustained	0	0	0	0
Unfounded	1	0	0	0
Exonerated	0	1	0	1

Definitions

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

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

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

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

Vehicle Pursuits

During 2022, the Wilkesboro Police Department had three (3) Motor Vehicle Pursuits. In 2021, the agency had nine (9) Motor Vehicle Pursuits. Of the three pursuits in 2022, one (1) occurred during day shift and two (2) occurred during night shift. The average duration of the pursuits was seven (7) minutes. The average distance the pursuits covered was five (5) miles. The longest pursuit traveled eleven (11) miles and longest lasted thirteen (13) minutes. The pursuits were initiated due to a variety of driving behaviors to include DWI Homicide and other reason. All the pursuits were reviewed by the agencies command staff and found to be within departmental policy.

Reason for Pursuit	DWI - Drugs	Homicide	Other
Age of Driver	31-35	36-40	41-45
Race of Driver	White	White	African American
Sex of Driver	Male	Male	Female
Distance of Pursuit	1 Mile	11.10 Miles	4.16 Miles
Time of Pursuit	13 Minutes	3 Minutes	6 Minutes
Pursuit Terminated	No	No	No
State Strike Declared	No	No	No

*The columns are not individual cases, but statistics.

Performance Reports

Crime Statistics

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

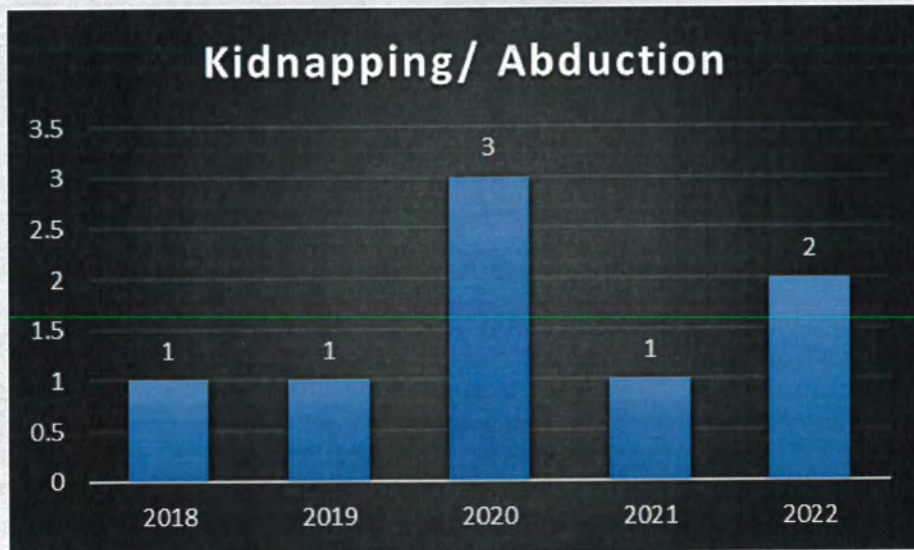
The FBI's UCR Program prepared this manual to assist LEAs in reporting their crime statistics via the Program's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

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

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



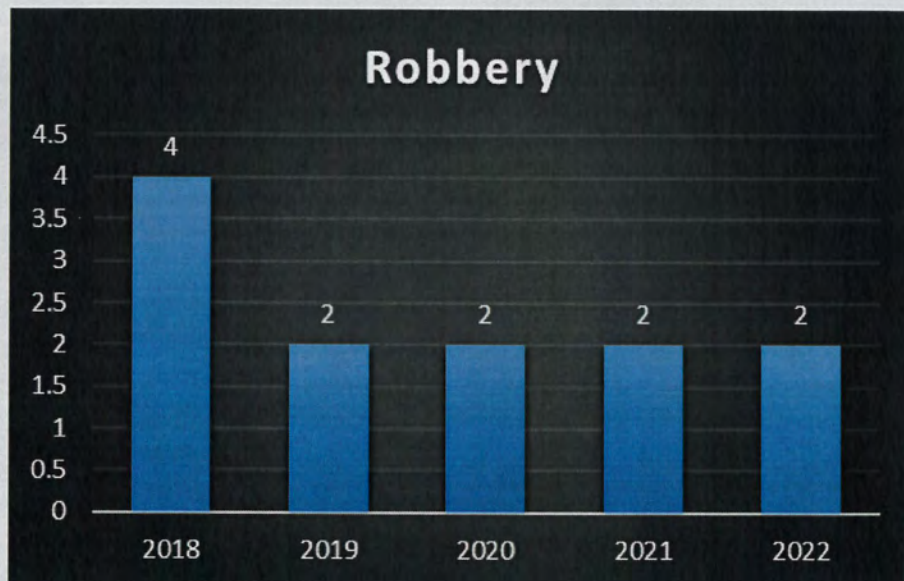
Similar to previous years, 2022 has no homicides with no change in rate.



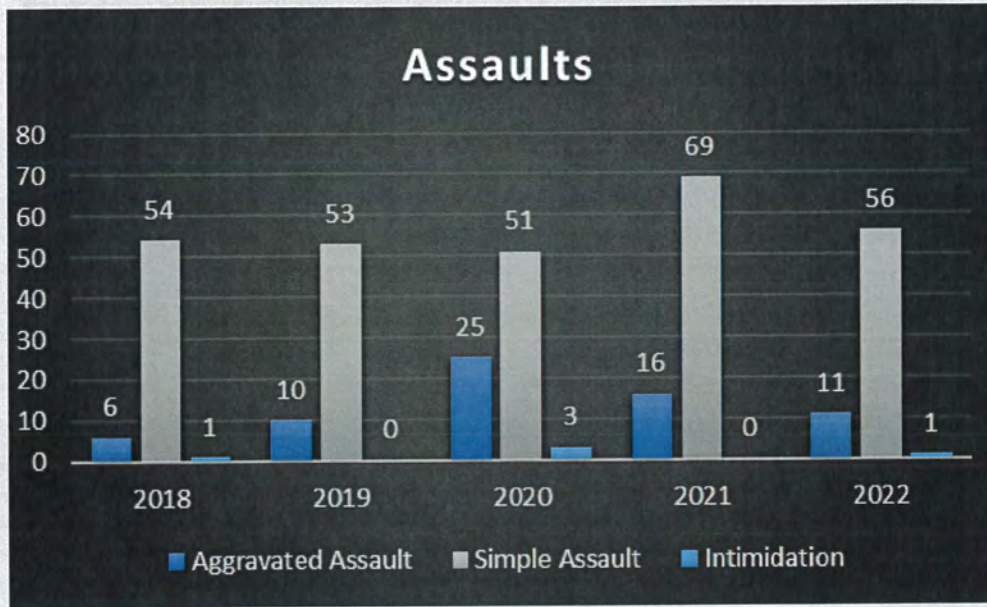
In 2022 Kidnappings and Abductions are up 100% compared to 2021. However the connotation of the percentage is unneeded as there has only been an increase of 1 case.



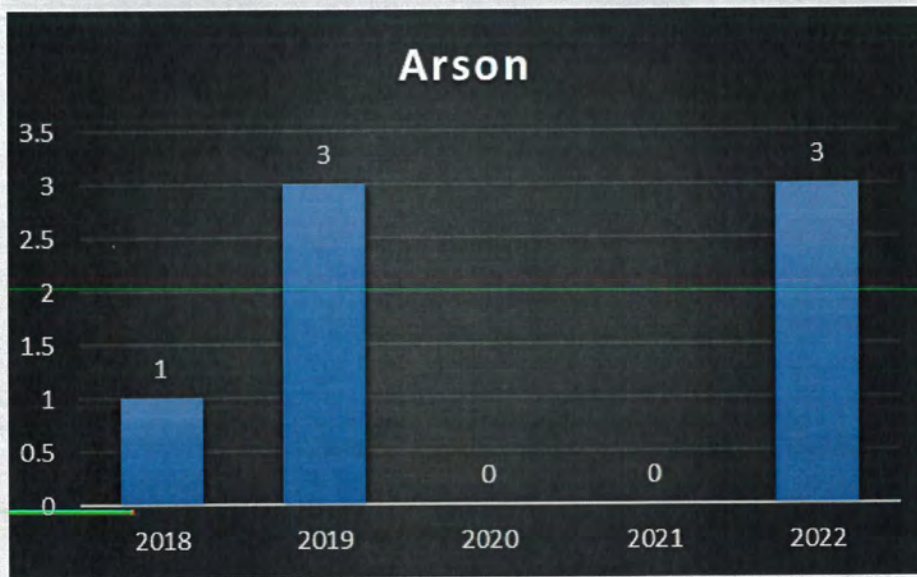
There has been a reduced rate of total sex offenses of 60% in 2022 and a 100% reduction in fondling cases as a subset of the data.



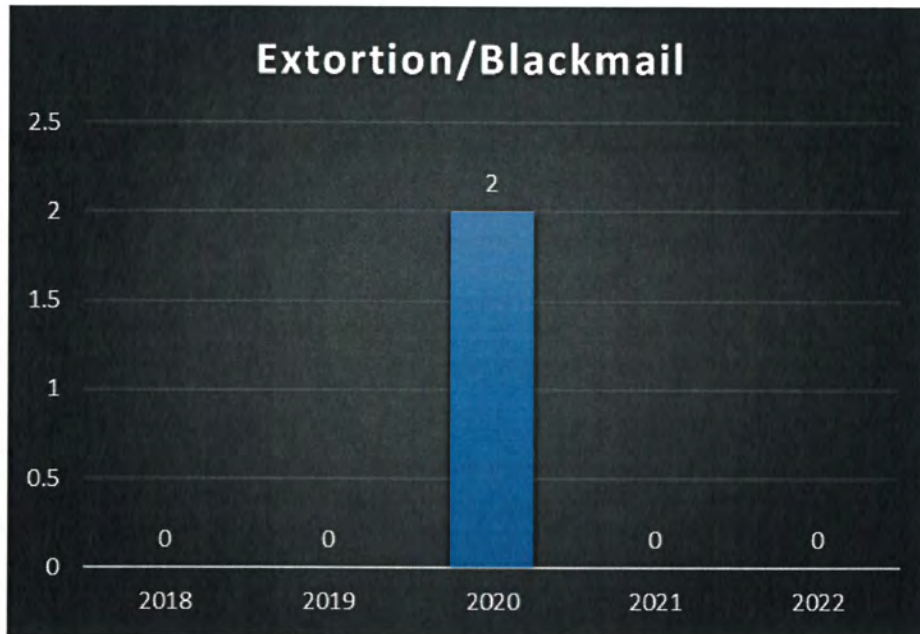
There has been no change in robbery charges since 2019, as of 2022.



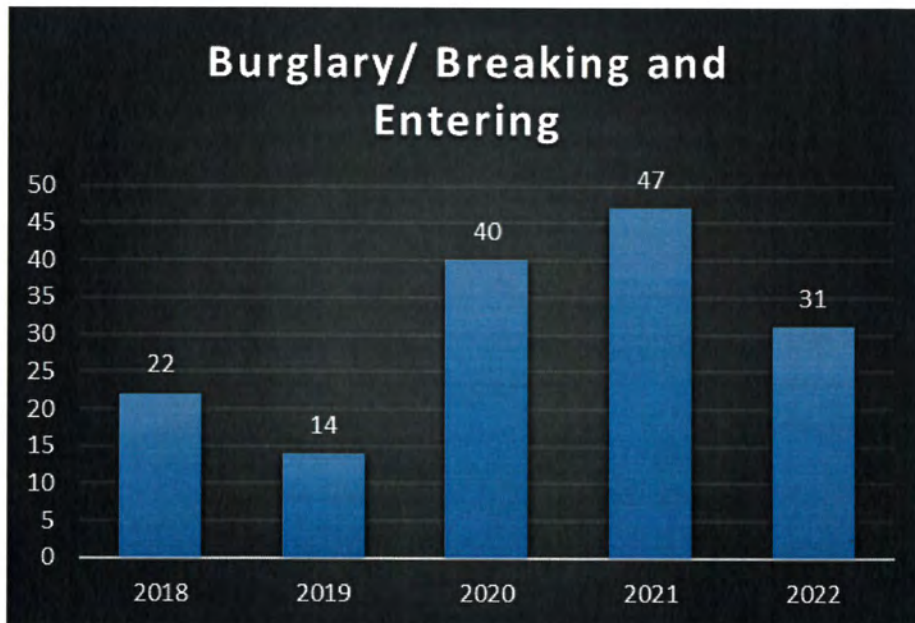
In terms of total Assaults, compared to 2021, there has been a reduction of 20%. The biggest rate of change of a specific category is Aggravated Assault which has gone down by 31.3%.



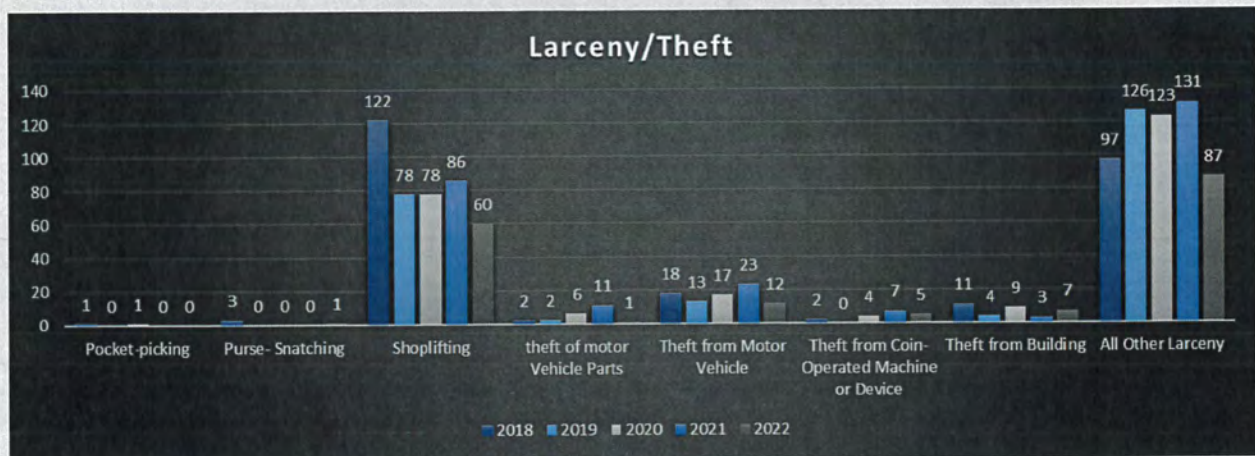
Arson has gone up by 300% in the past year, now matching 2019.



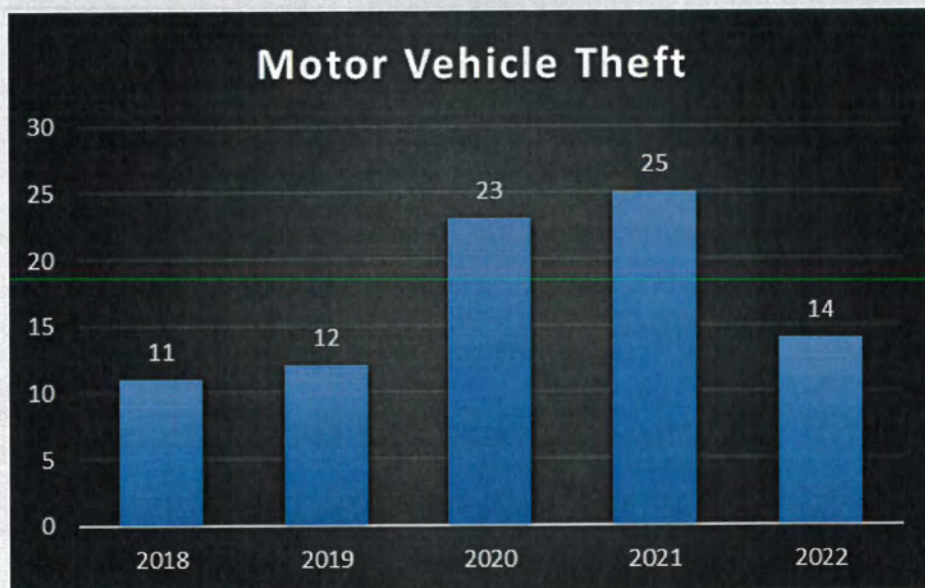
Extortion has not changed in the past year, with both years reporting at zero.



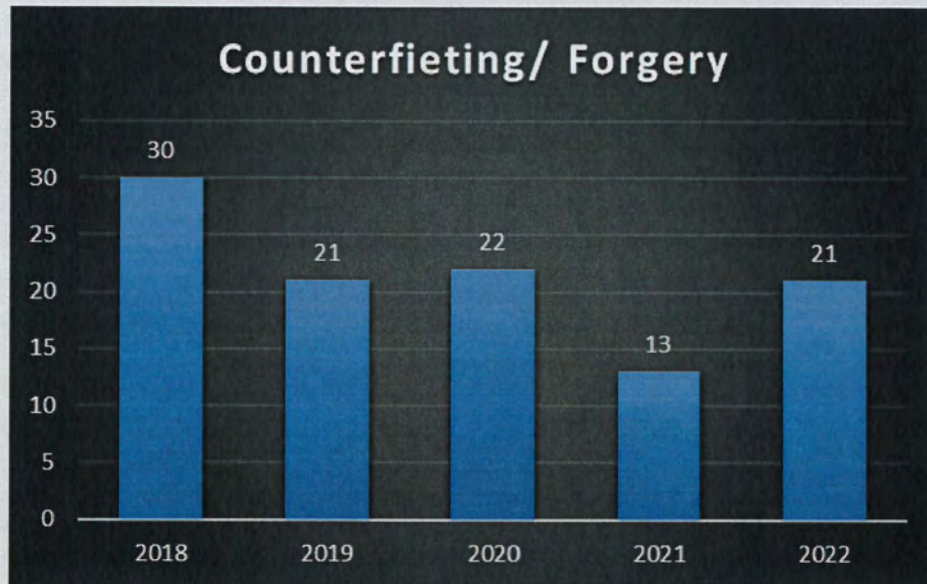
There has been 34% reduction in burglary and B&E reports in the past year



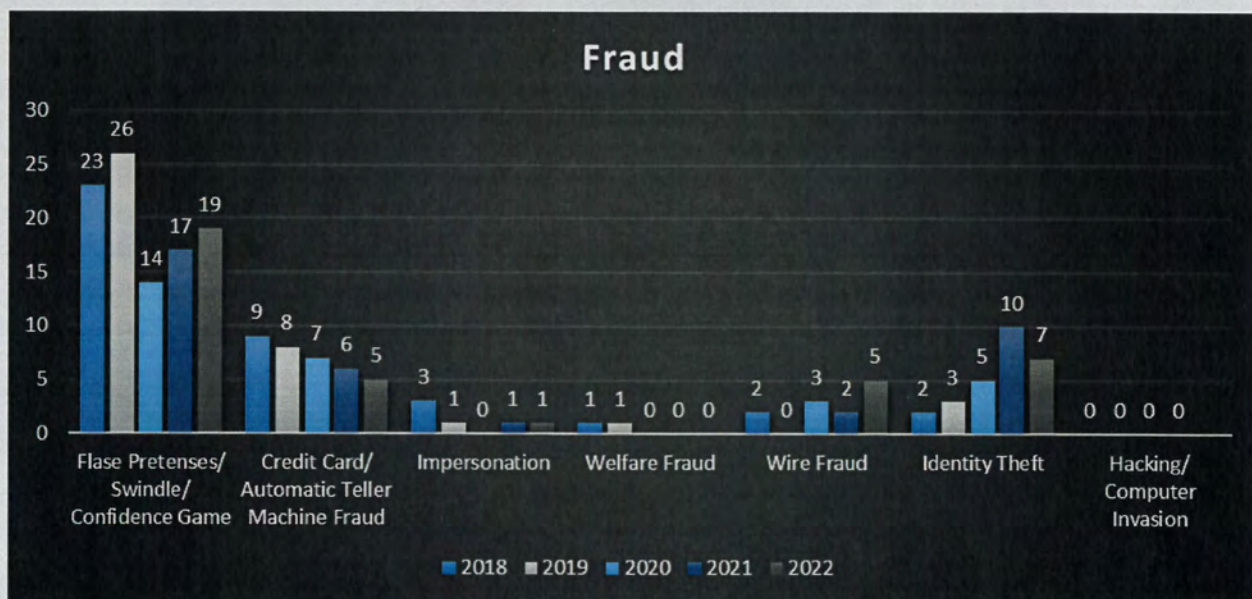
Similar to burglary there has been a 34.2% reduction in all larceny reports in 2022. The largest reduction being theft of motor vehicle parts at 90.9%.



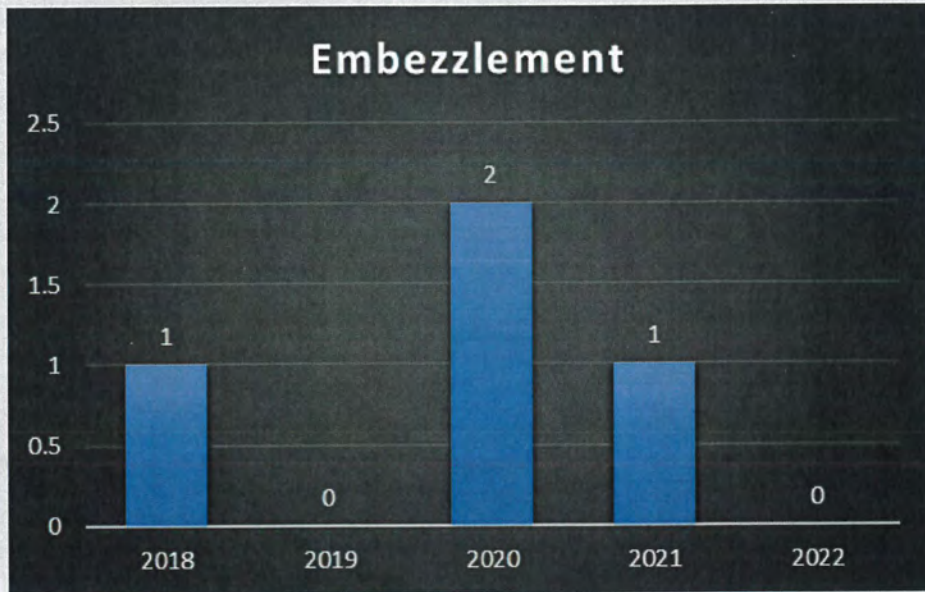
In the past year Motor Vehicle Theft has gone down by 44%, yet it still isn't as low as 2018 and 2019.



Counterfeiting and Forgery have gone up by 61.5% in the past year, now in the same area as 2019 and 2020 yet still lower than 2018.



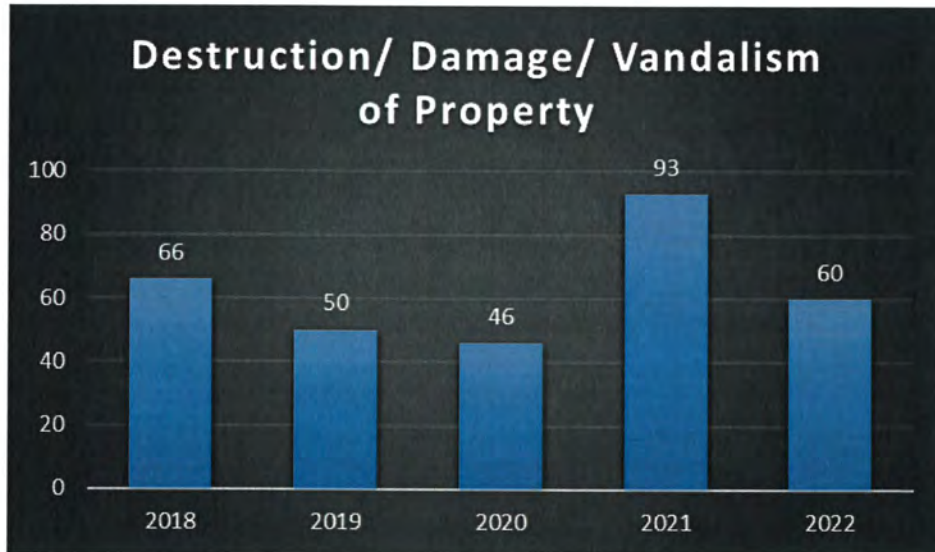
Total instances of fraud in the past year remain the same compared to 2021 at 37 offenses.



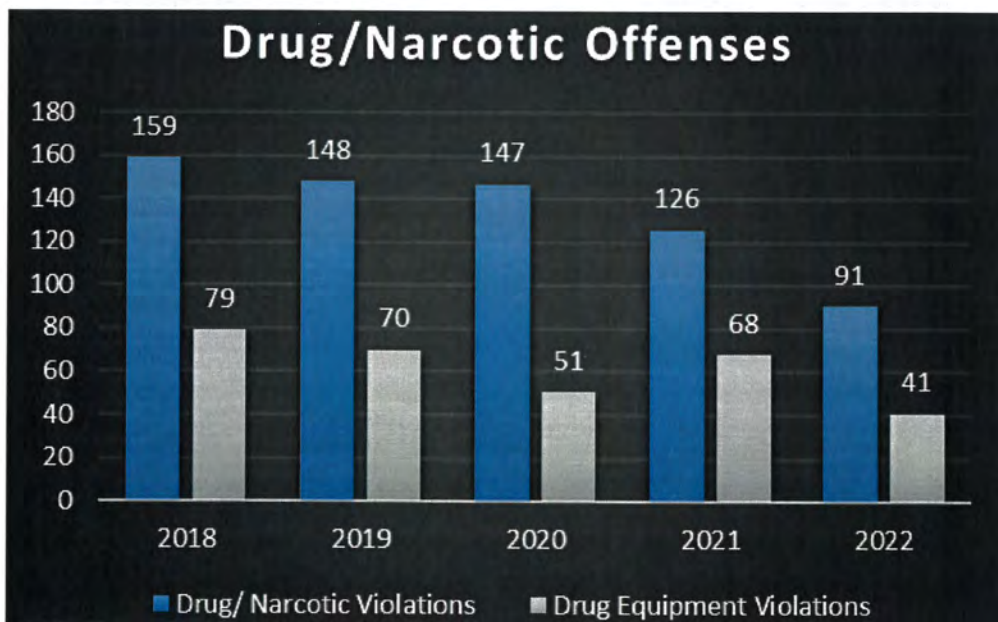
Embezzlement has seen a 100% reduction in the past year. It should be noted as well that this is from 1 to zero.



In the past year stolen property has gone down by 28.6%.



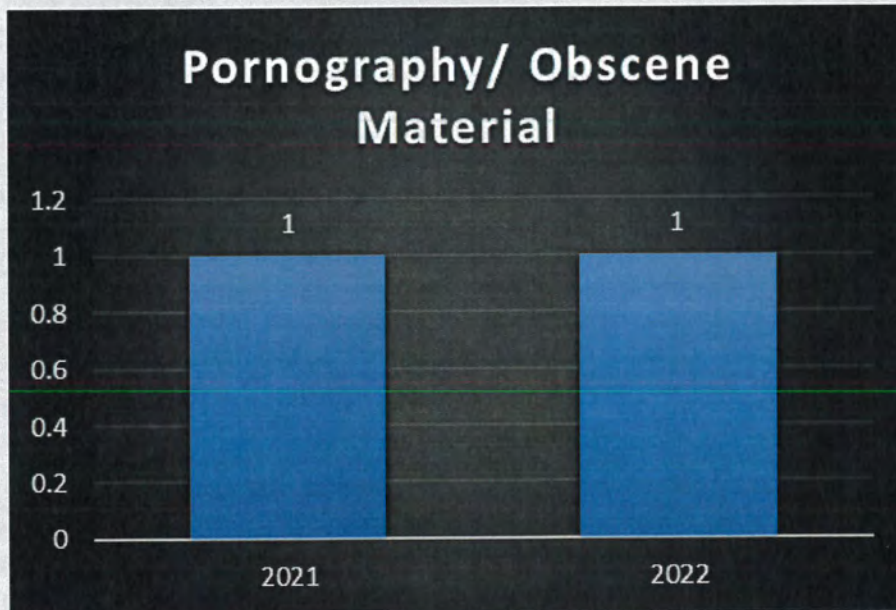
Property damage, destruction, and vandalism has gone down by 35.5% in the past year.



Drug/Narcotic offenses have gone down by 32% in the past year.



There has been a 100% increase in sex offenses in the past year, however this is from 0 to 1.



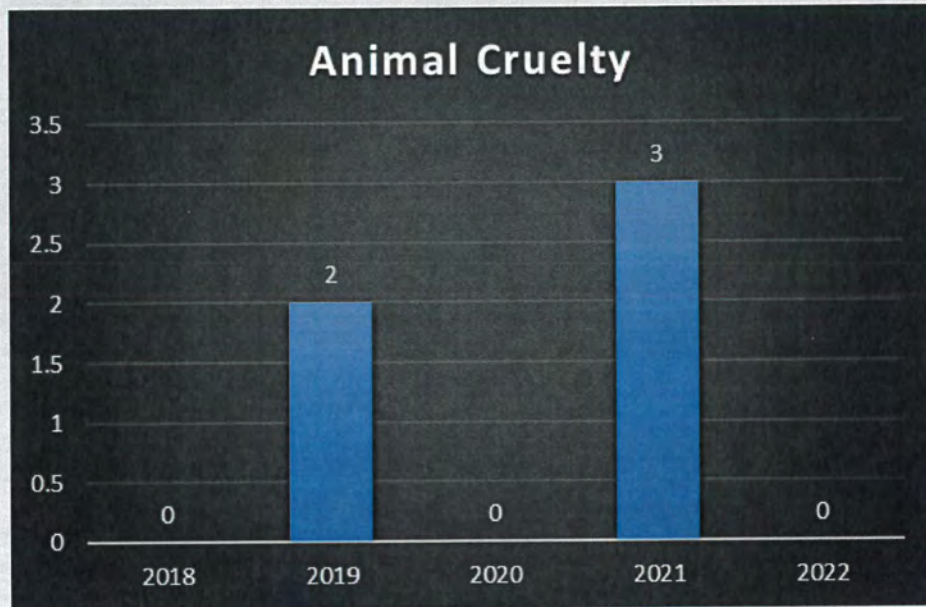
There has been no change in obscenity offenses in the past year.



There has been a rise in gambling offenses from 0 to 4, a 400% increase.



Weapon laws violations has gone down by 58.3% in the past year.



Animal Cruelty has seen a 100% reduction in 2022.

In total there were 789 offenses in 2021 and 561 in 2022 which means that in the past year there has been a 28.9% reduction in these reported offenses.

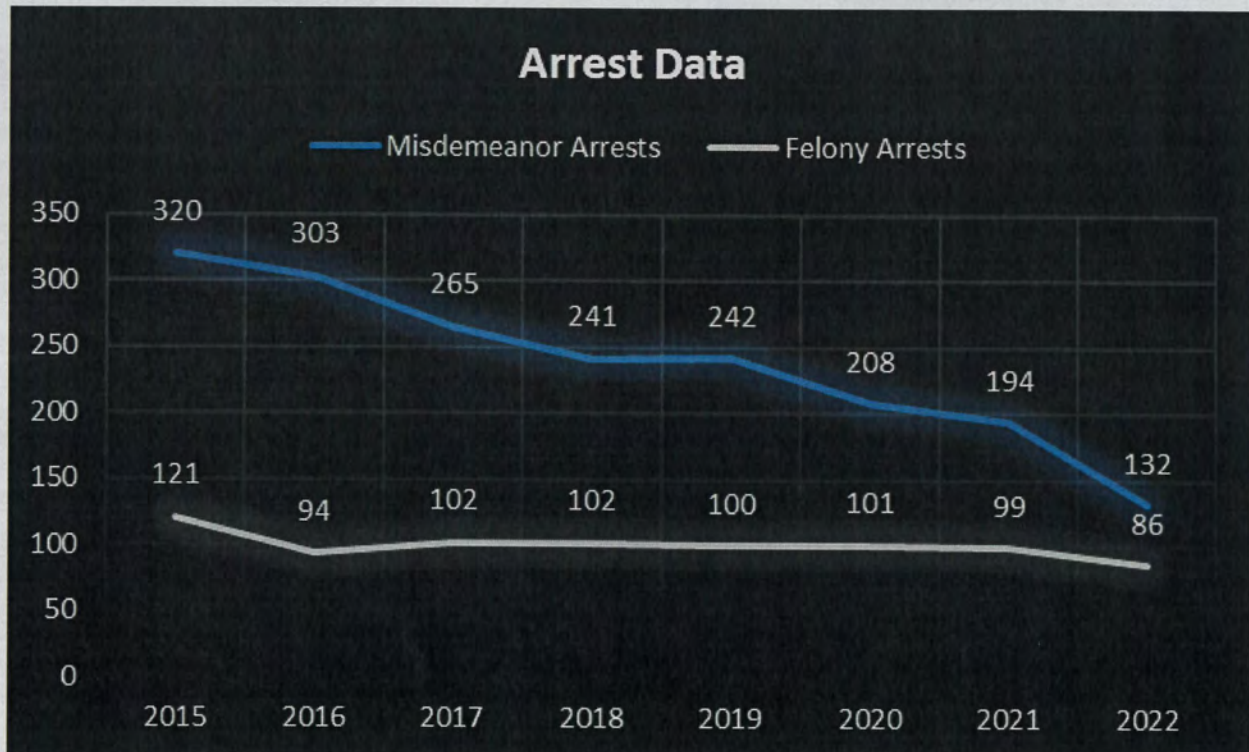
Arrest Data

Misdemeanor Arrest Charges

In 2022, the Wilkesboro Police Department made 182 Misdemeanor Arrest Charges and made 132 Misdemeanor Arrests.

Felony Arrest Charges

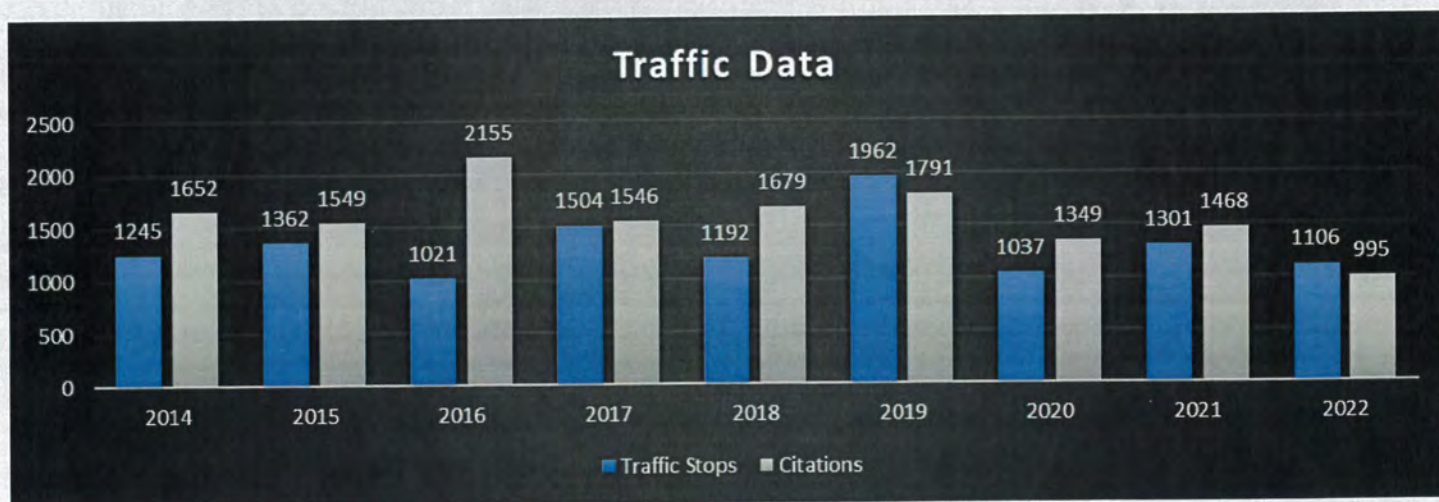
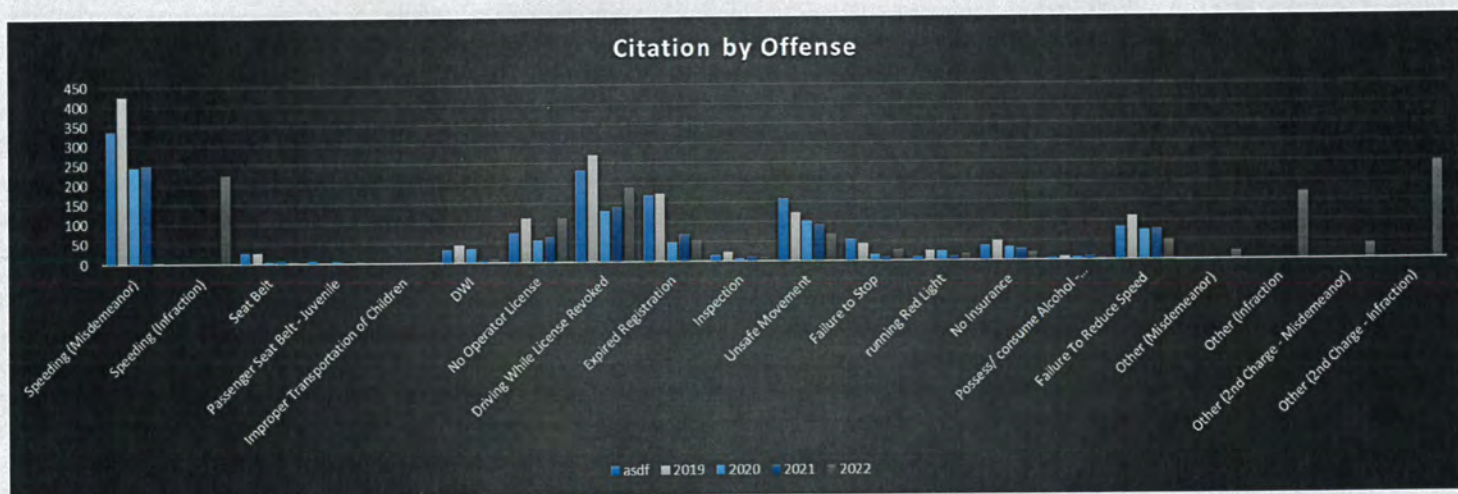
In 2022, the Wilkesboro Police Department made 122 Felony Arrest Charges and made 86 Felony Arrests.



Traffic Data

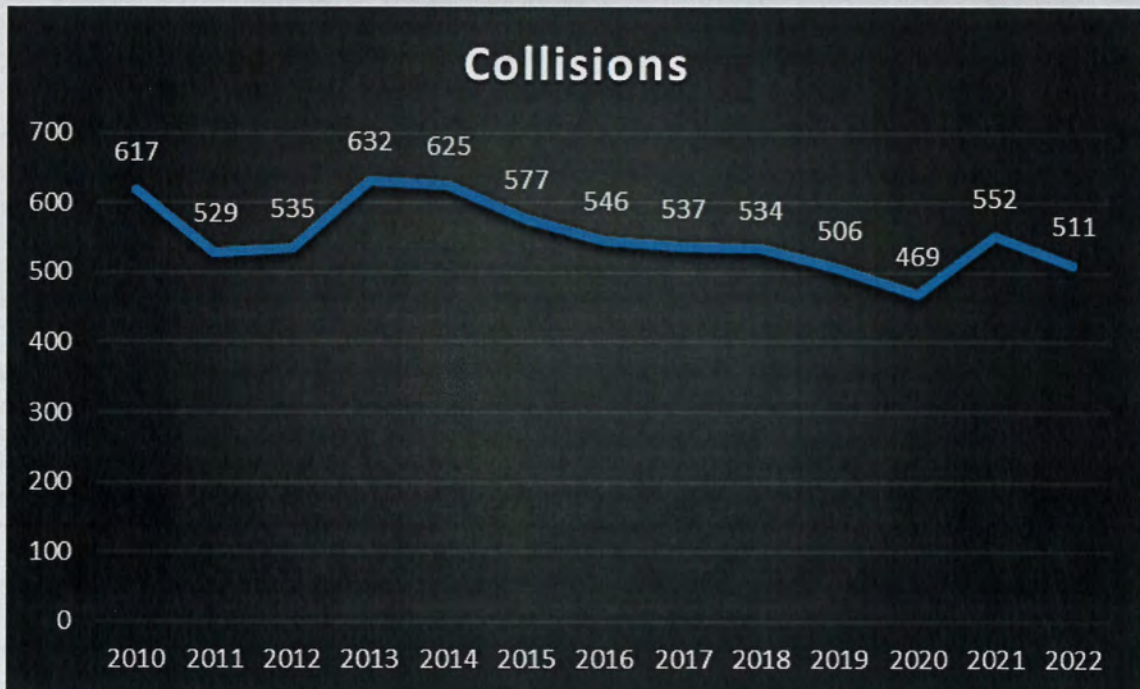
Citations

Citations differ from arrests in law enforcement reporting. Citations are primarily issued to offenders charged with infractions or minor misdemeanors that do not require the signing or the posting of a bond (waivable offenses). Citations are written for traffic violations, violation of ABC Laws, violations of the Town Ordinances and other minor violations that are not included in the UCR totals for a given year. In 2022, officers of the Wilkesboro Police Department issued - citations with - charges and conducted - traffic stops.



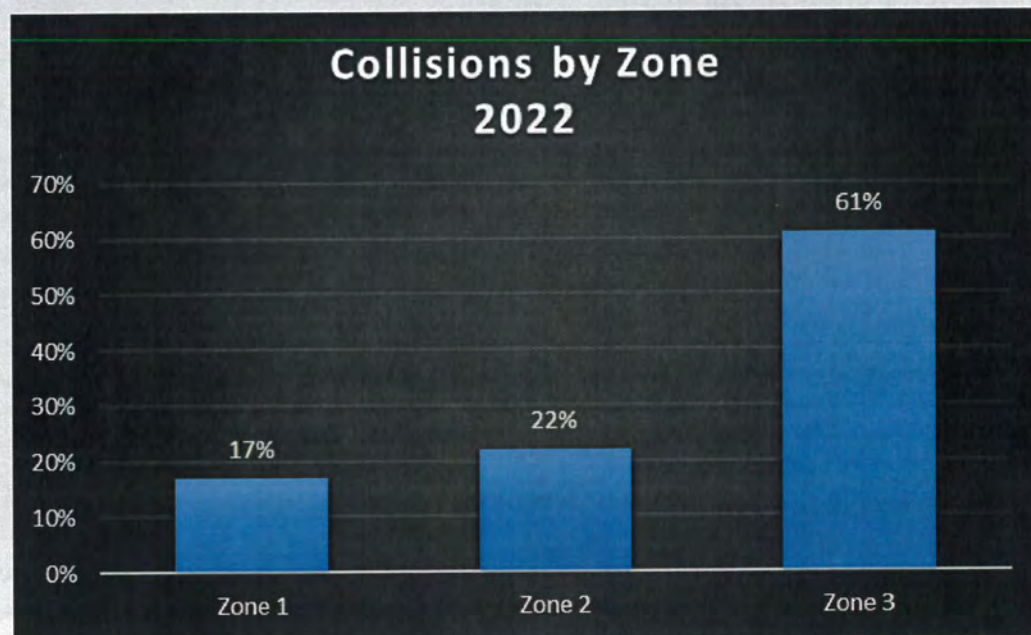
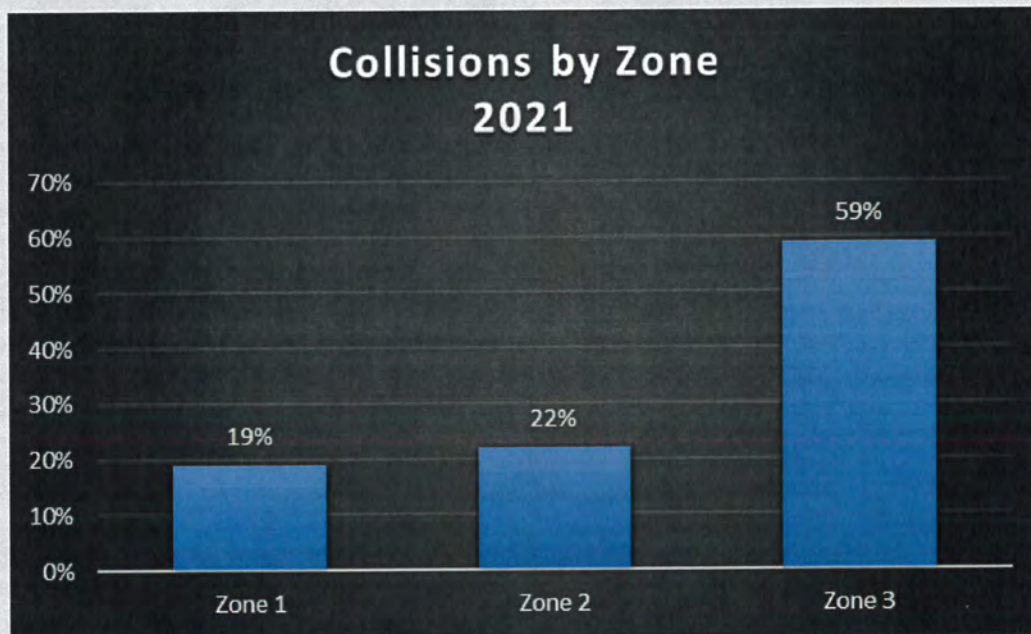
Traffic Collisions

In 2022, officers of the Wilkesboro Police Department investigated 511 traffic collisions.

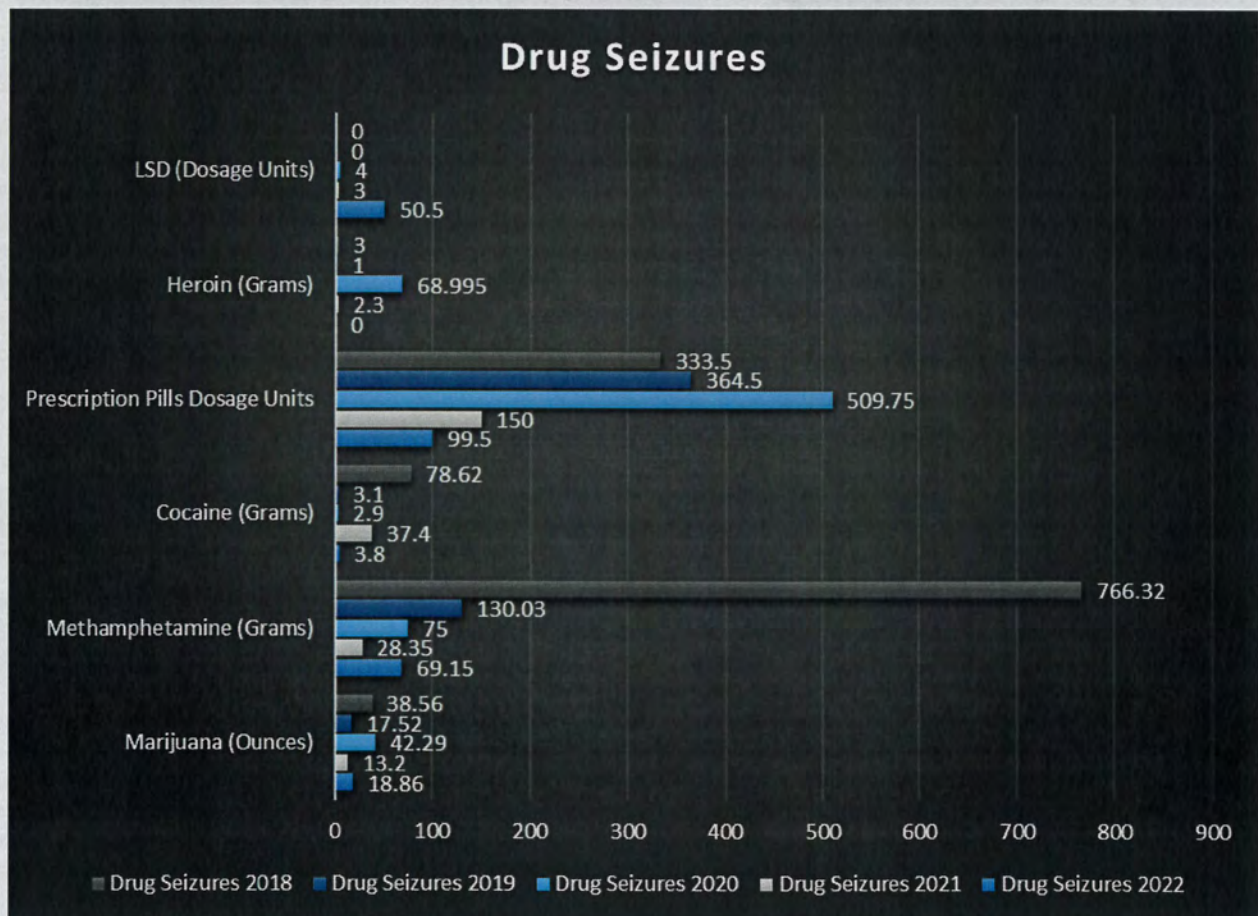
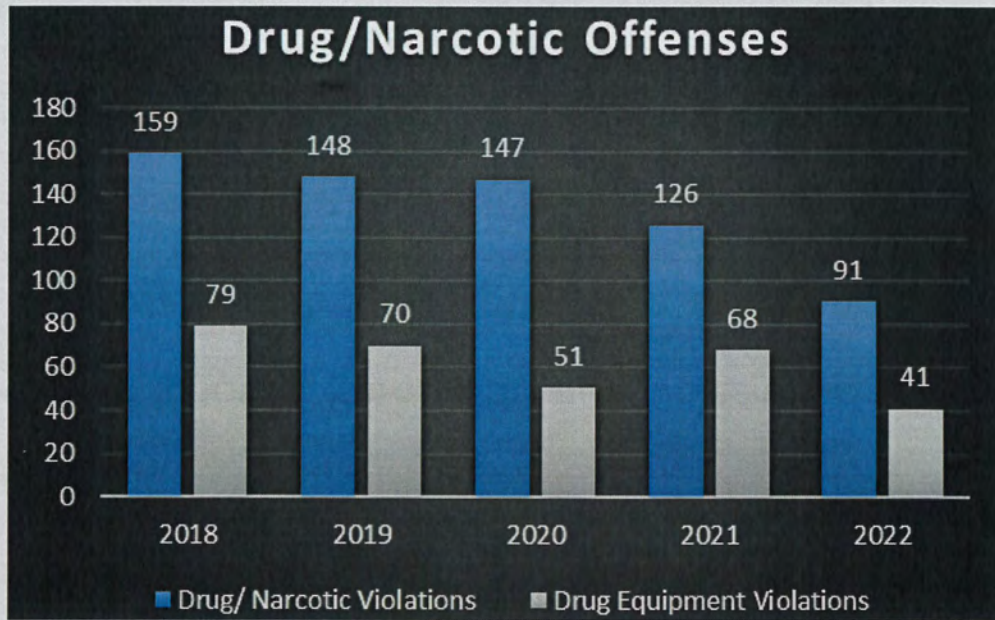


Collisions by Area

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



Drug Summary



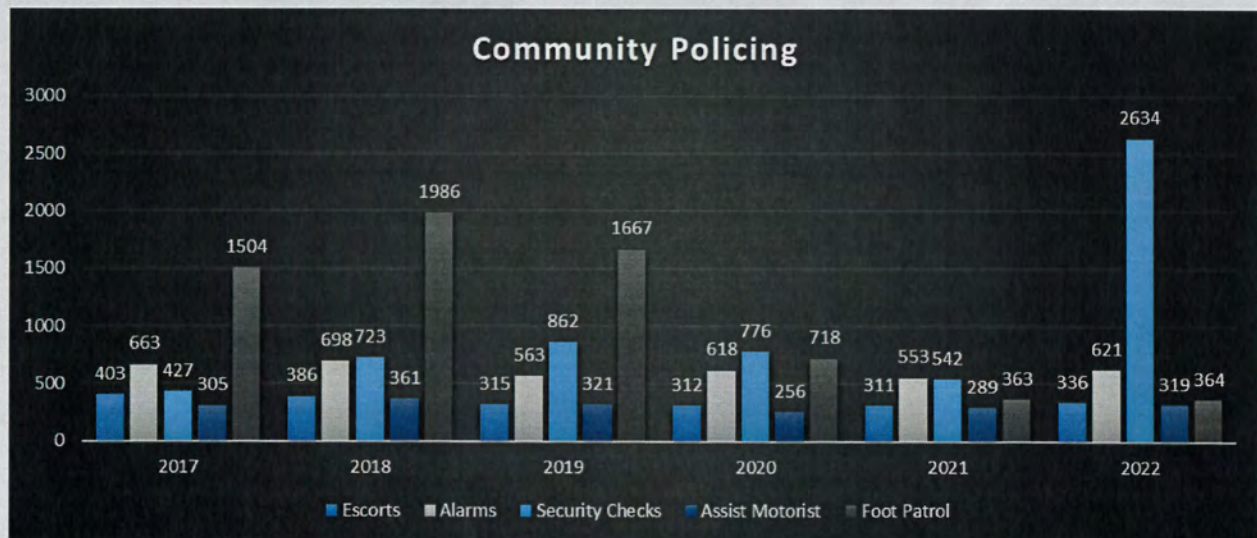
Department Training

In 2022 all officers within the department completed 40 hours of In-Service Training. Of those 40 hours, 24 hours are mandated by the State of North Carolina Training and Standards Commission. The additional 16 hours of in-service training is mandated by the department. Members of the department also attended additional training throughout the year. Every member of the department received 4 hours of de-escalation specific training.

Near the end of 2022, with grant help, Wilkesboro Police Department was able to purchase a VR training simulation, we plan to use it in the future to train officers in immersive scenarios in order to make them more effective.

Community Service

The Wilkesboro Police Department has maintained the community service philosophy during 2022. With community service in mind, every police officer is encouraged to interact with the public during their shifts. These activities have included vacation/residence checks, funeral, and business escorts, responding to alarms and emphasis patrols in addition to the daily community policing contacts in retail and residential areas of the town.



Operation Christmas Cheer

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



Citizens Police Academy

The Citizens Police Academy is designed to increase understanding between citizens and police officers through education. The intent is to acquaint citizens with law enforcement's role in the criminal justice system and provide an understanding of the tasks police officers face in their daily work. With better understanding, it becomes easier for police and citizens to find realistic solutions to neighborhood problems.

Our Citizens' Police Academy (CPA) is an eight-week program designed to provide Wilkesboro residents and business owners first-hand information about how their Police Department works. One session of our Citizens' Police Academy is offered each year in the Spring.

Sessions begin with a presentation of the Wilkesboro Police Department's philosophy regarding community-oriented policing. Subsequent sessions include: Agency Mission and Structure, Property & Evidence, Patrol Procedures, K-9, Accreditation, Special Investigations (vice and narcotics), Crime Scene Investigations, Criminal Investigations and Cold Cases, Special Response Team, and Collision Investigation and Reconstruction.



Other Community Events

These are events hosted/supported by the Wilkesboro Police Department in 2022 that deserve mention.



Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign



Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign



Downtown Halloween Block Party



Volunteer seminar on driving safety



Christmas Toy Drive



Downtown Halloween Block Party