

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



**SUMTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

*A nationally accredited law enforcement agency*



## Contents

Chief's Message	3
Division Overviews	5
Metrics	37
Notable	45



# OUR VALUES

We believe that strong relationships between law enforcement and citizens are the foundation to creating safe, healthy communities.

We are committed to community-oriented policing strategies and building trust, communication and cooperation between officers and the community.

We are committed to maintaining the city's most valuable attribute-public trust.

We are committed to maintaining public trust by conducting ourselves professionally at all times and by treating all persons fairly and with respect.



# CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Across the country, 2024 has been a challenging year for law enforcement and the communities we serve. National data indicate that firearms are now the leading cause of death in youth ages 0-24. In 2023, offenders under the age of 25 committed 44% of all murders in SC, 78% of which involved the use of a firearm. Concerning trends such as these require law enforcement to reevaluate day-to-day tactics and long-term strategies.

The proliferation of gun crimes in our communities requires a multifaceted approach. Working closely with the Sumter Legislative Delegation to review current state law, we have proposed recommendations for changes to statutes governing the firing of a gun into a car or dwelling. Together with the SC State Law Enforcement Division, SC Department of Public Safety, SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services and Sumter County Sheriff's Office, we have implemented focused deterrence strategies. Noting the crucial role of technology in impeding and solving crime, we have strategically positioned automated license plate recognition and surveillance cameras throughout the city.

We recognize that crime resonates through the entire community, and we are committed to a decisive operating model that promotes the health and safety of all citizens.

*“We are committed to a decisive operating model that promotes the health and safety of all citizens.”*





SUMTER POLICE





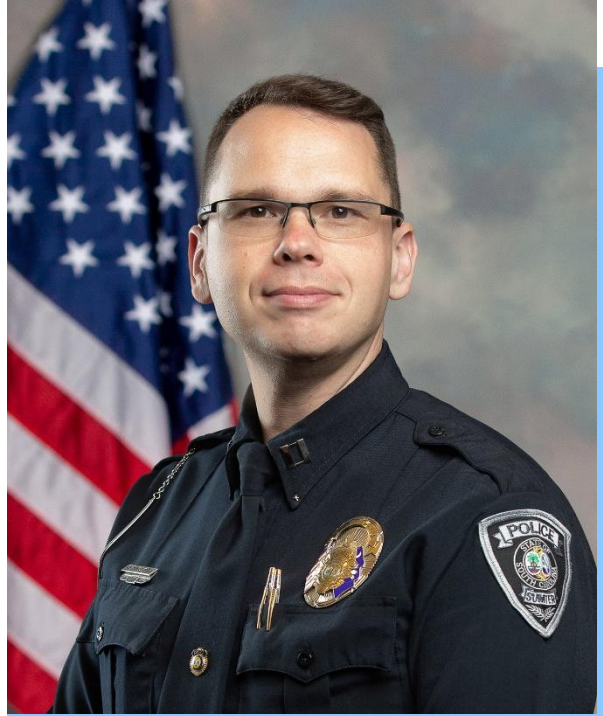
# UNIFORM SERVICES DIVISION



# COMMANDER

Providing 24-hour response to calls for service, the Uniform Services Division is the largest and most visible department entity. In addition to traditional call response, officers adhere to a community-oriented policing philosophy, initiating proactive community contact designed to educate and build public trust.

The division is comprised of uniform patrol officers, a traffic unit, school resource officers, animal control officers, a community services patrol unit, school crossing guards, and a K-9 unit which provides round-the-clock shift assistance and is a perennial favorite with children during school visits.



CAPTAIN ROBERT SINGLETON

## AT A GLANCE

### UNIFORM PATROL

- 4 rotating shifts
- 58 total patrol officers
- 24-hour presence

### ANIMAL CONTROL

- 2 sworn officers

### K-9

- 4 sworn officer handlers

### SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

- 4

### SCHOOL CROSSING

- 18 crossing guards

### TRAFFIC

- 4 sworn officers
- LEN bronze level status

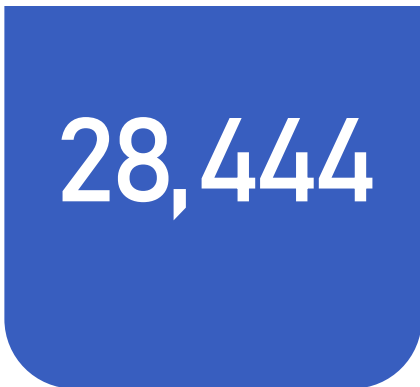
### COMMUNITY SERVICES PATROL

- 3 sworn officers

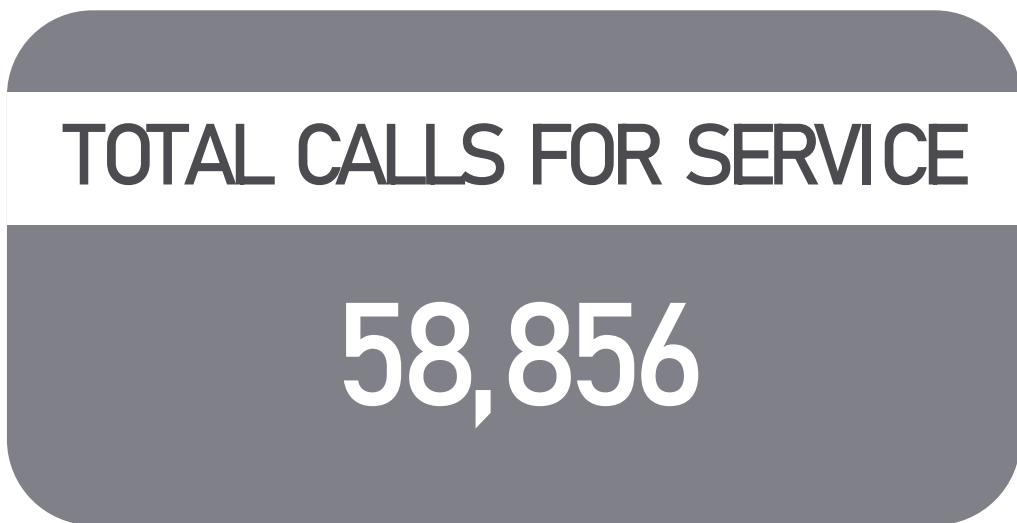
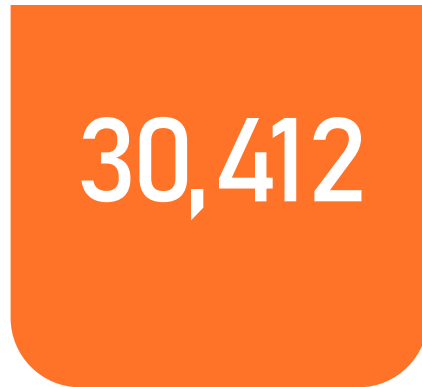
# PATROL CALLS FOR SERVICE



OFFICER INITIATED

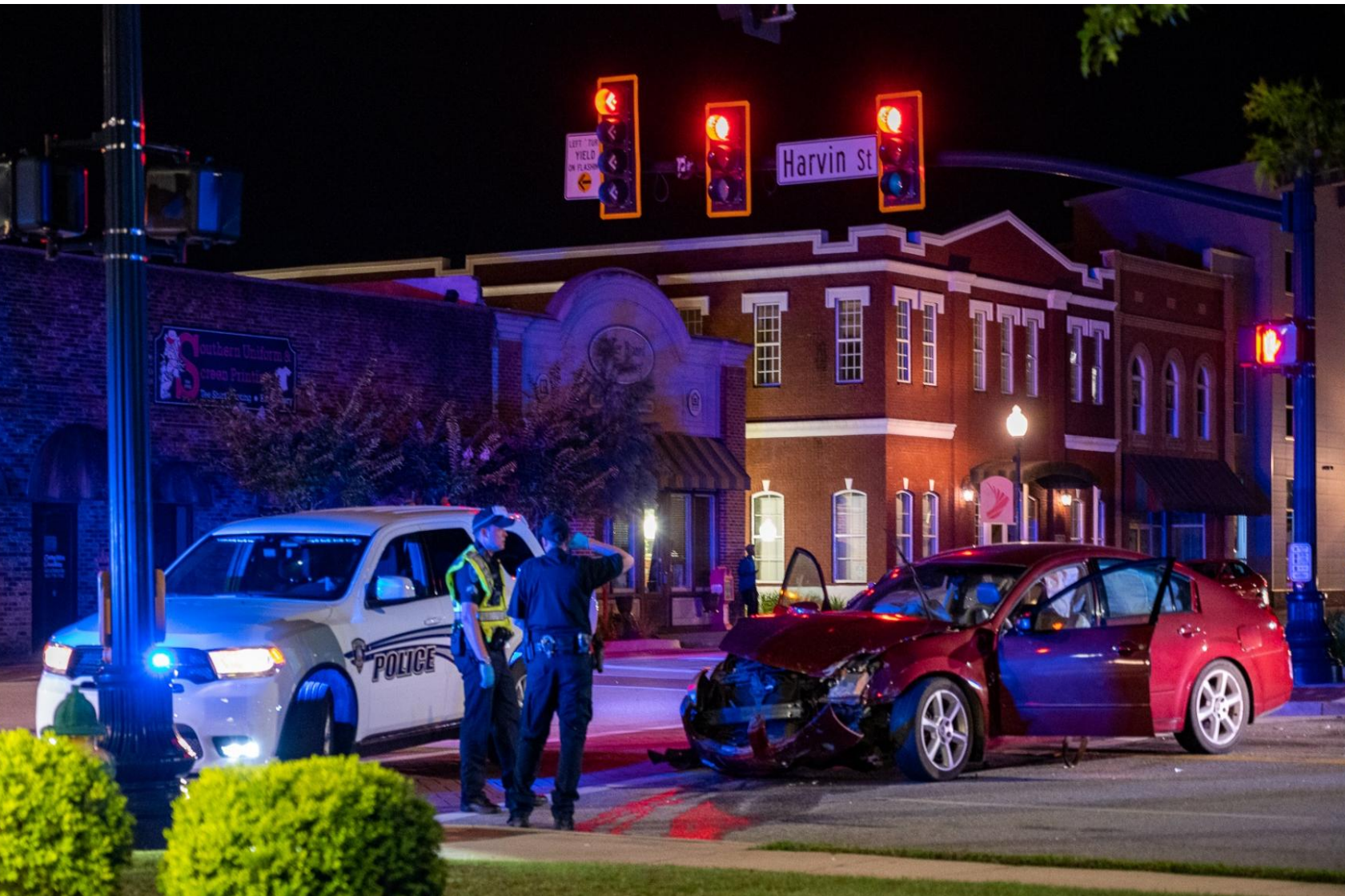


CITIZEN INITIATED





TRAFFIC UNIT



COLLISION INVESTIGATION

TOTAL COLLISIONS INVESTIGATED

1,753

COLLISIONS INVESTIGATED  
BY TRAFFIC UNIT

875



# K-9 UNIT



## DEPLOYMENTS





## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS



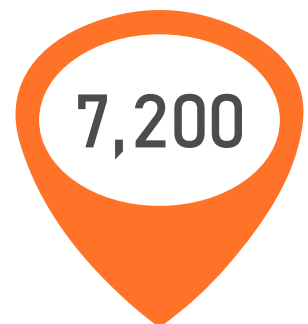
SCHOOL  
RESOURCE  
OFFICERS



ATHLETIC  
EVENTS  
SUPPORTED



TOTAL  
HOURS  
WORKED



## ANIMAL CONTROL



SWORN OFFICERS  
2

CALLS FOR SERVICE  
576

## SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS



CROSSING GUARDS  
18

HOURS WORKED  
6,480



SUMTER POLICE





# INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION





# COMMANDER

Detectives assigned to the Investigative Services Division conduct follow-up investigations to identify and arrest criminal offenders and assist the Solicitor's Office in their successful prosecution.

The division also includes a comprehensive support unit that conducts polygraphs, analyzes fingerprints, and inventories all evidence.

Specialized units within the division provide specific support to include digital forensics, cold case and missing persons assistance.



CAPTAIN WILLIAM LYONS

## AT A GLANCE

### INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

- General Investigations
- Warrants
- Victim Services
- Juvenile Services
- Court Liaison

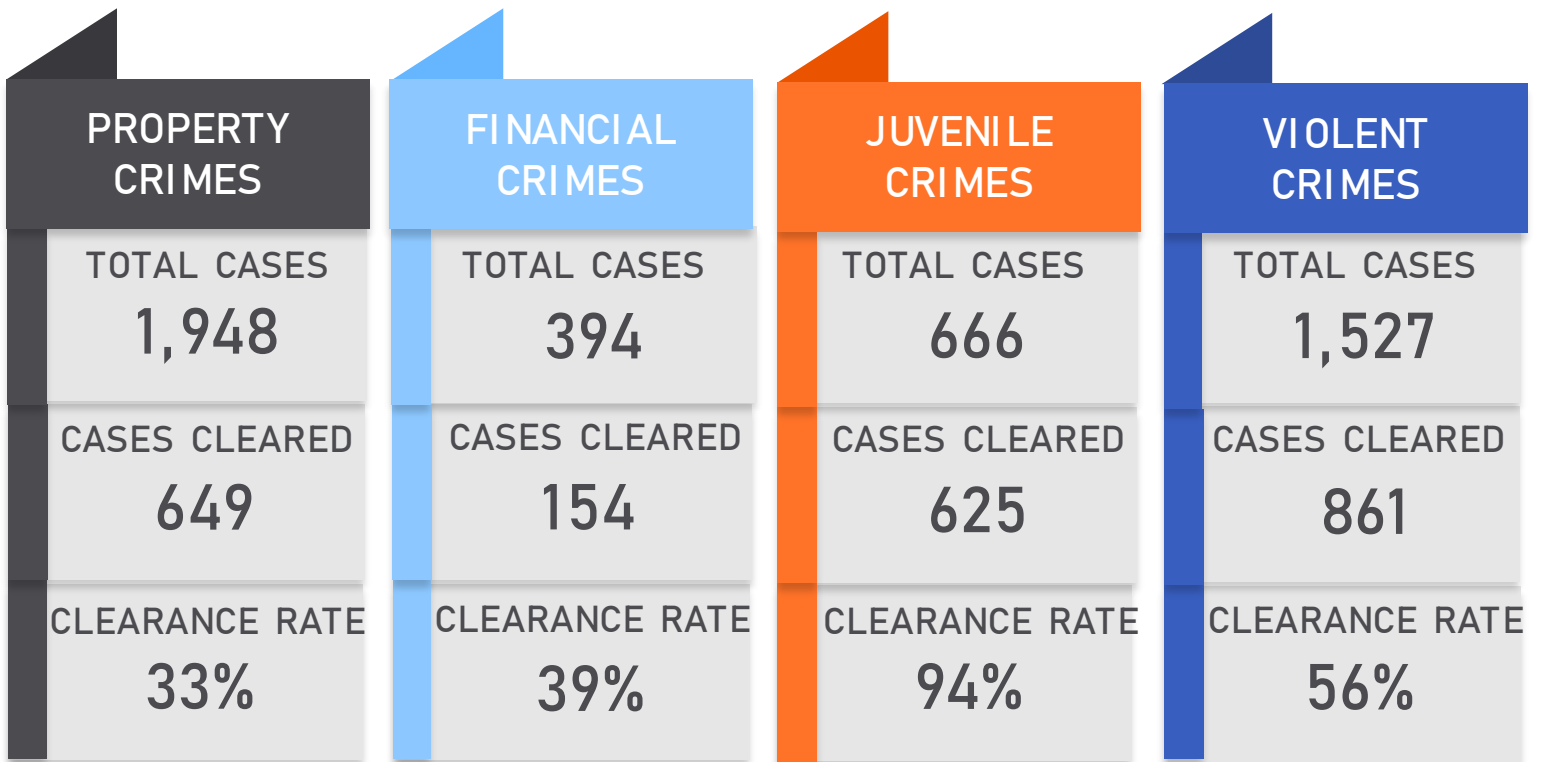
### INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT

- Evidence/Forensics
- Polygraphs
- AFIS

### SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

- Digital Forensics
- Missing Persons
- Cold Cases
- Intelligence

# CASELOAD & CLEARANCE

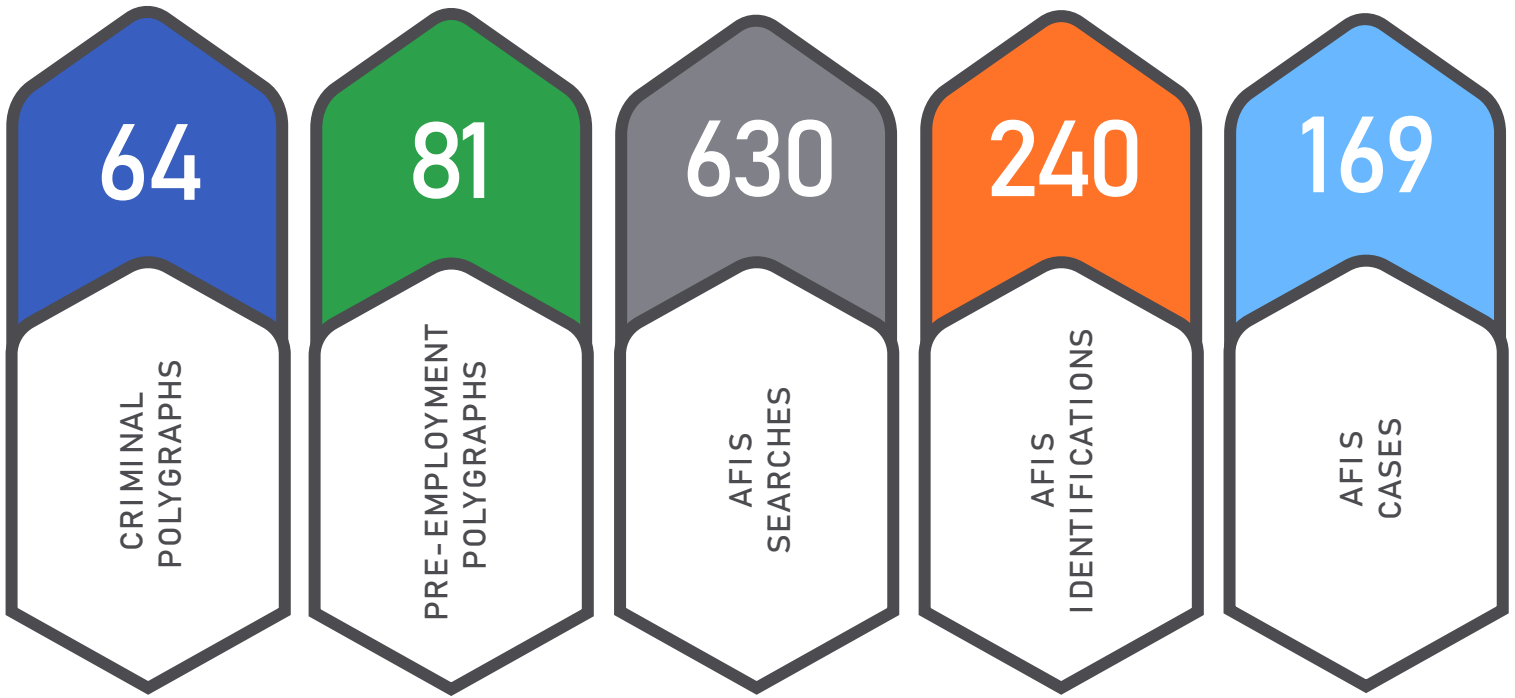


## WARRANTS SECTION

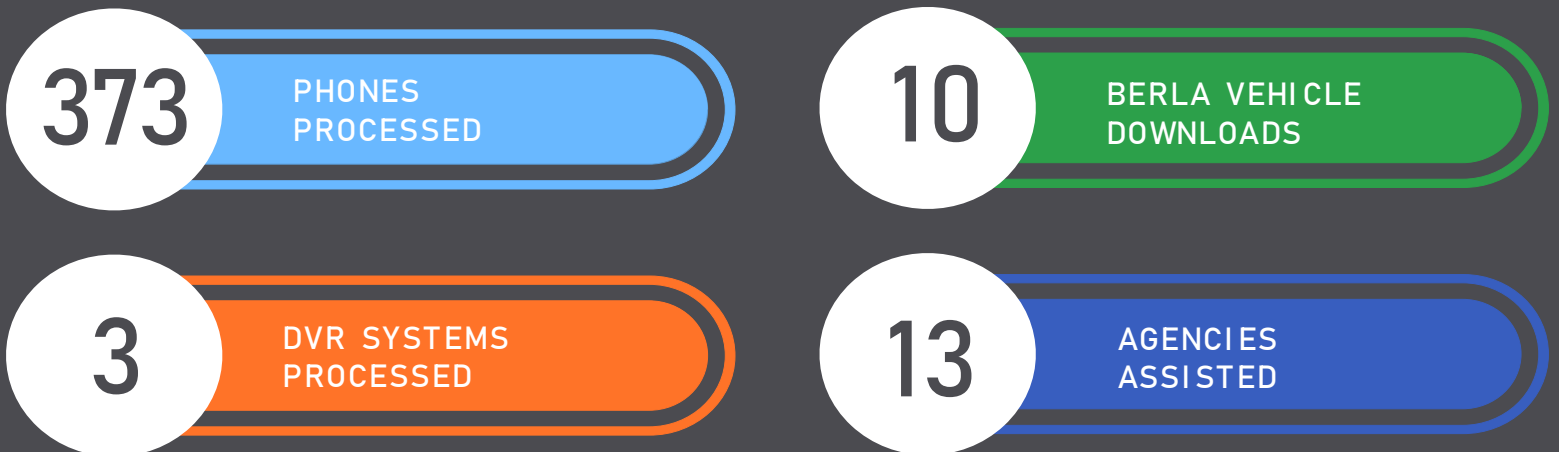




## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES



## DIGITAL FORENSICS



## VICTIM SERVICES

TOTAL CONTACTS

2,760

REFERRALS

594

COURT APPEARANCES

90

CALLOUTS

16



## SIGNIFICANT ARRESTS

Zaqwan Robinson was charged with Murder in connection to the February 4, 2024, shooting death of Westley Vaughn.

Anna Osborne was charged with Involuntary Manslaughter in connection to the death of Joseph Croft on May 17, 2024.

Dimitrius Reed and Travis Rembert were charged with Murder in connection to the shooting death of Blaine Varner on May 20, 2024.

Fernando Adams, Curtis Jefferson and a 16-year-old juvenile were charged with Murder in connection to the shooting death of Tavares McFadden on May 27, 2024. Curtis Jefferson's charges were dismissed at a preliminary hearing.

Keonte Jackson, Cedric Wright and Ja'Hugh Martin were charged with Murder and Jaylen Hammett was charged with Accessory before the Fact in connection to the shooting death of 15-year-old Derrick Wilson.

Tavion Mickens was charged with Murder and Tony Williams Jr. was charged with Accessory After the Fact in connection to the shooting deaths of Saquan Logan and Demari Spann on August 18, 2024.

Christopher England was charged with Burglary 1<sup>st</sup> Degree after attempting to break into a residence where the homeowner fired shots at him on February 15, 2024.

Donovan Jones was charged with Grand Larceny of a Vehicle and Burglary after stealing a vehicle from Floyd's Auto Sales on October 12, 2024, Jones used the vehicle to ram the front glass of Sumter Tobacco on October 14, 2024, in an attempt to steal the ATM. Jones then led the police on a brief chase before being apprehended.

Deonta Cooper and Jakarion Keener were charged with Burglary to the CVS on Calhoun St. on June 12, 2024. Cooper and Keener were arrested again in September 2024 along with several juveniles in connection to multiple burglaries at the Dollar General on Lafayette Dr.

Jaquez Scriven was charged with two (2) counts of Burglary in connection to the House of Clouds Vape Shop and Tobacco and Vape in October and November 2024.

John Mathewes was charged in July 2024 with three (3) counts of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor-2<sup>nd</sup> Degree after an investigation revealed he was in possession of child pornography. A repeat offender, Mathewes is being prosecuted by the SC Attorney Generals Office.

Christina Hodge was charged with Attempted Murder after shots were fired at an occupied vehicle in November 2024. The incident was in relation to a domestic dispute between Hodge and one of the victims.

Authur Reimbeau was charged with Discharging into an Occupied Vehicle, Attempted Murder, Possession of Marijuana 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense, Armed Robbery, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, and Possession of a Weapon During a Violent Crime in connection to an illegal drug transaction in October 2024. Eyan Nathaniel was also charged in the incident with Attempted Murder, Possession of a Weapon During a Violent Crime, PWID Marijuana, Trafficking Marijuana and Felon in Possession of a Firearm.

Jasmine Woods was charged with Murder in connection to the shooting death of Antoin Pugh on August 18, 2024.



## SIGNIFICANT ARRESTS

Tyheim James was charged with Discharging a Firearm into an Occupied Dwelling after firing shots into a Robney Dr. home in October 2024.

James Wilson was charged with Murder in connection to the shooting death of Jeremie Richardson on September 18, 2024.

William Redmond was charged with Murder in connection to the shooting death Sherri Redmond on December 11, 2024.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

On December 31, 2024, the vehicle and body of Tommy Brailey were recovered from a small creek off US 401 in Sumter County. Brailey was reported missing on 8/27/2017 after leaving the former Brewer's Bar and Grille on Wesmark Blvd.. The recovery was the result of the efforts of Adam Brown Adventures, a group which assists families of missing persons. Throughout the 7- year search, Sumter Police Department received assistance from multiple local, state and federal agencies.

In 2024, Sumter Police Department, in response to an increased number of reported motor vehicle thefts (especially Hyundai and Kia models), partnered with Hyundai Motors to offer complimentary vehicle steering wheel locks to the citizens of Sumter. An estimated 350 devices were distributed to the community.

FLOCK license plate cameras along with Statewide Security video surveillance cameras were installed throughout the city in 2024. Under the direction and guidance of Detective Staff Sergeant Heath Gardner, the systems were strategically placed based on data collection and analytics.

## SIGNIFICANT COURT CASES

Mustafa Salaam was found guilty of Murder, Attempted Murder and Possession of a Weapon During a Violent Crime in connection to the 2021 Murder of Joyce Bennett and Attempted Murder of Lorraine Bennett. Salaam was sentenced to Life plus 30 years in prison.

Christopher Fordham pleaded guilty to Voluntary Manslaughter and Possession of a Weapon During a Violent Crime in connection to the 2021 shooting death of Alki Williams. Fordham was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Dywain McKenzie was found guilty of two (2) counts of Armed Robbery in connection to a 2021 incident. McKenzie received two consecutive 20-year prison sentences.

Octavious Brock pleaded guilty to two (2) counts of Armed Robbery in connection to a 2020 and 2021 incident. Brock was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Justice Brock pleaded guilty to Armed Robbery in connection to a 2021 incident. Brock was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Parrish Pollard pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 22 years in prison in connection to the 2018 shooting death of Chester Stavis.

Eugene Martin pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 70 years for four (4) counts of Murder, Burglary 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Attempted Murder, Possession of a Weapon During a Violent Crime, and Failure to Stop for Blue Lights and Siren in connection to a 2020 shooting incident on Marilyn Ave. The shooting injured Delora and Myra Davis and took the lives of Raymond, Randy, Marcus and Myles Davis.

SUMTER POLICE





# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION





# COMMANDER

Administrative Services Division provides continual administrative support to the agency to ensure that law enforcement operations are effective and uninterrupted.

The division includes Recruitment, Telecommunications, Grants and Finance, Records, a Citizen's Assistance Unit, Quartermaster, Information Technology, Accreditation, and Office of Professional Standards.

The division also responds to media, attorney, and citizen requests under the Freedom of Information Act.



CAPTAIN BILLY K. FLOYD

## AT A GLANCE

### RECRUITMENT

- 1 full-time recruitment officer
- 1 full-time civilian
- 659 applications processed

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- 20 full-time 911 operators

### CAU & RECORDS

- 9,041 public interactions
- 1 full-time officer
- 2 full-time civilian staff

### BUDGET ANALYST

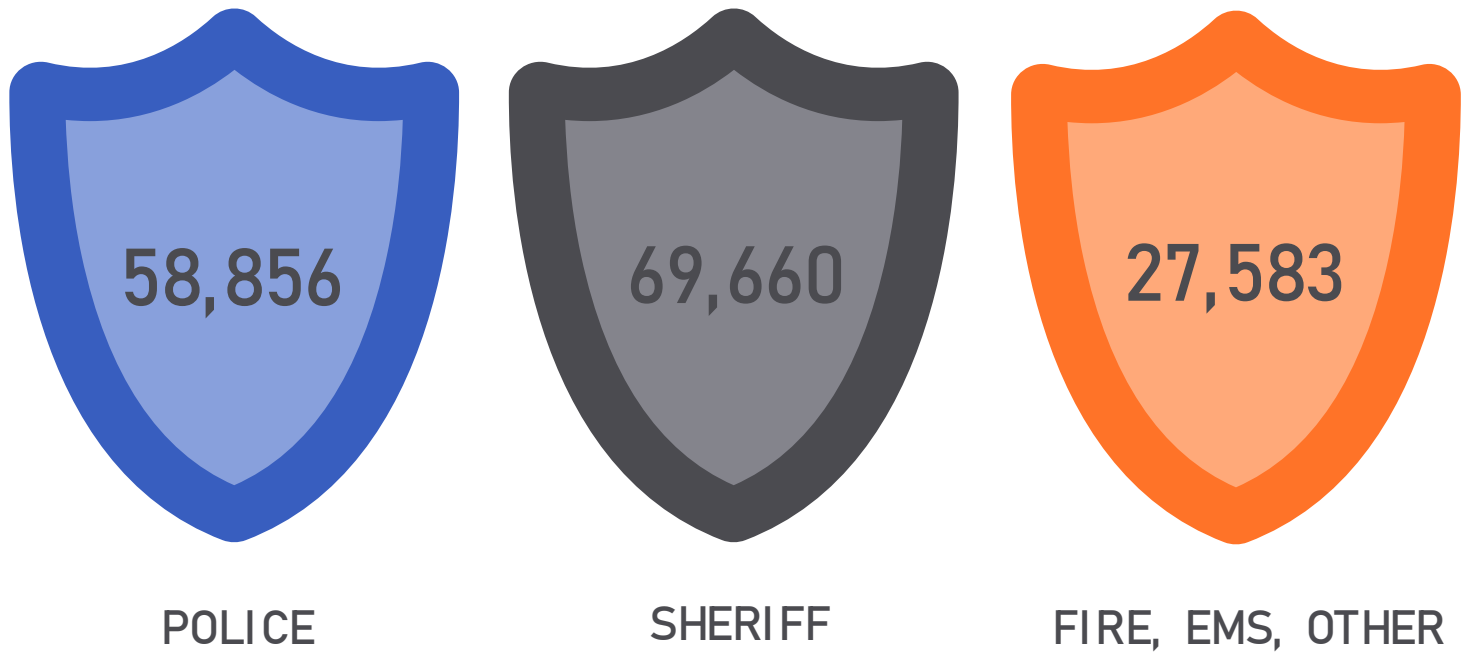
### ACCREDITATION

- 1 full-time accreditation manager
- CALEA accredited since 1995

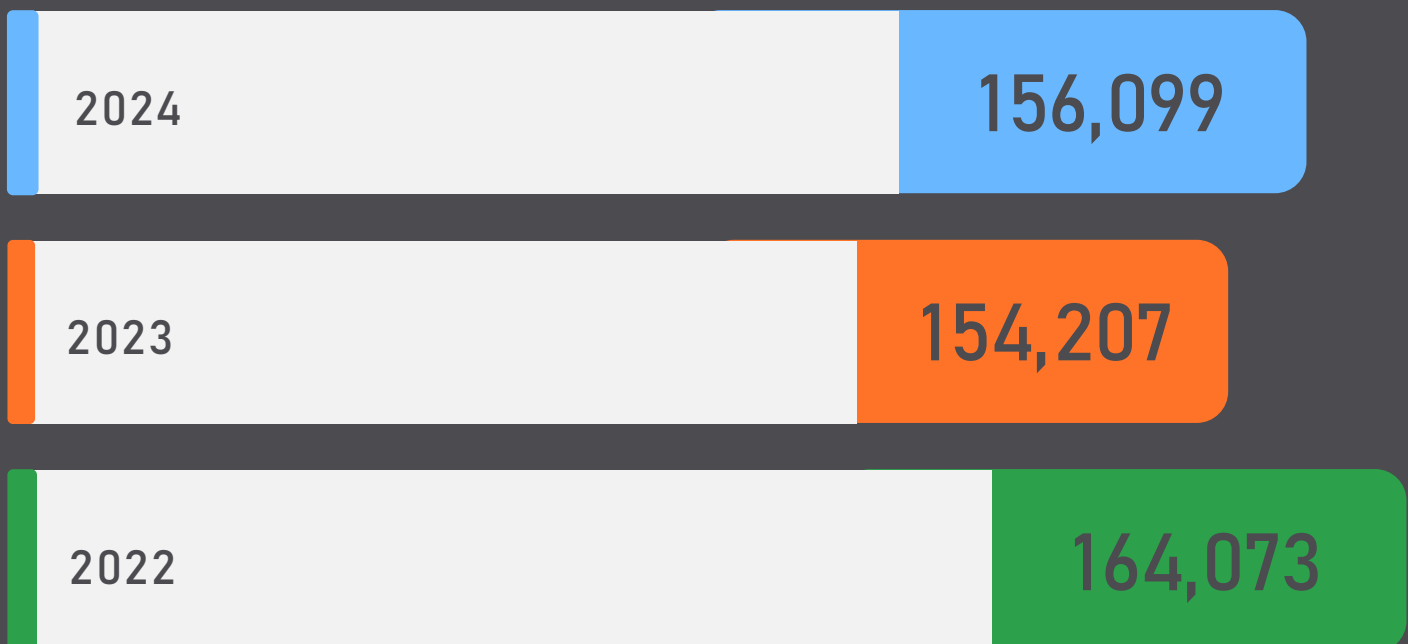
### QUARTERMASTER

# TELECOMMUNICATIONS

## CALLS FOR SERVICE BY AGENCY



## 3 YEAR TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE TREND





## RECORDS MANAGEMENT

EXPUNGEMENTS

551

UCR REPORTING

3,743

RECORD REQUESTS

597

CITY TICKETS

2,011

## CITIZEN ASSISTANCE UNIT



PHONE CALLS

4,121



LOBBY CONTACTS

9,041



REPORTS TAKEN

830

## RECRUITMENT

### LAW ENFORCEMENT



### TELECOMMUNICATIONS



### SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS



### OTHER





SUMTER POLICE





# SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION



# COMMANDER

Special Operations Division is responsible for training, fleet management, research, and professional development. The department's training program is designed to provide professional and challenging training to its personnel, enhancing both performance and work safety.

Providing a comprehensive range of services tailored to the diverse needs of officers and citizens, the division regularly evaluates law enforcement practices that affect the department and community.



CAPTAIN MICHAEL EVANS

## AT A GLANCE

### OFFICER TRAINING

- 396 hours of career path training
- 100% legal update completion rate
- 100% domestic violence training completion rate

### TRAINING FACILITY UTILIZATION

- 164 days in use
- 8 agencies
- 939 officers
- 357 instructors present

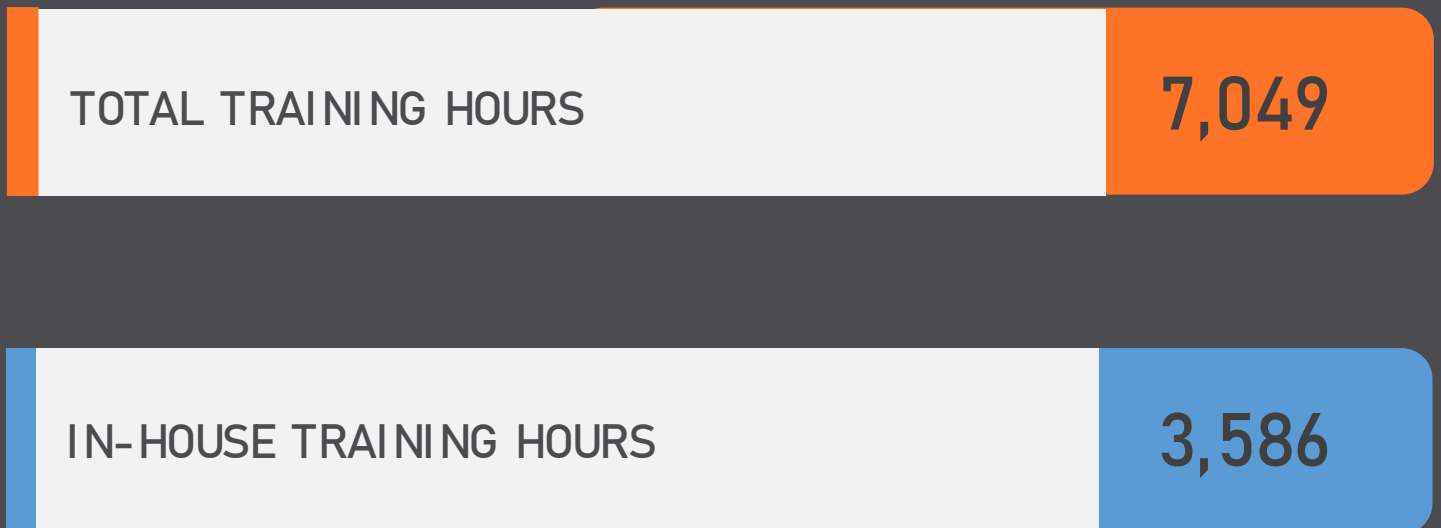


# TRAINING

## SPD SWORN OFFICERS TRAINED



## SPD SWORN OFFICER TRAINING HOURS



**SUMTER POLICE**





# COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION





# COMMANDER

Community Services Division utilizes education and outreach programs to build trust and beneficial relationships in the community. The division works in close partnership with Sumter School District to provide school and community-based mentoring.

CheckMate, the department's award-winning program offers community-based services and companionship to seniors choosing to age in place.

The division also provides specialized patrols in the downtown and Broad Street retail corridors.



SERGEANT MAJOR JAMES SINKLER

## AT A GLANCE

### CHECKMATE

- Senior program
- Community-based

### SPECIALIZED PATROL

- Downtown
- Broad St. retail corridor

### EVENTS/PROGRAMS

- Community outreach
- Community events
- Mentoring
- Education

### CRIME PREVENTION

- Neighborhood Watch
- Business Watch
- Community education

# PROJECT CHECKMATE



While aging in place is the choice of many seniors, the logistics of that decision are often a blind spot for family members. Project CheckMate is designed to help fill the void by pairing participants with a law enforcement officer who visits regularly and assists with basic household needs.



PARTICIPANTS



TOTAL INTERACTIONS



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Letters from Santa & Cram-a-Cruiser



Copcicles





## Black History Month Art/Essay Contest

---



## School-based Mentoring



SUMTER POLICE



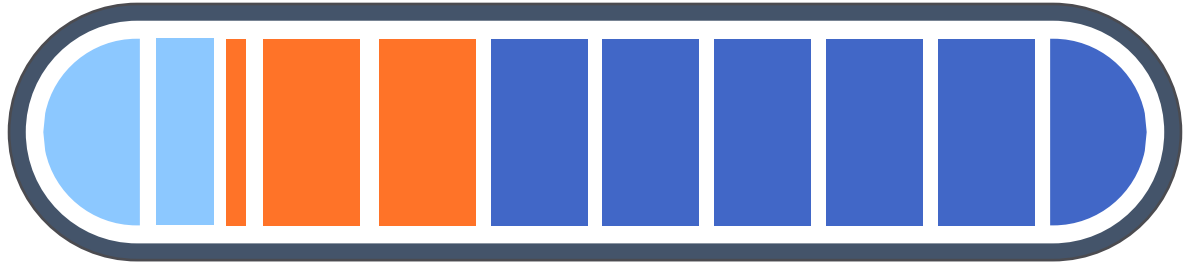





# METRICS



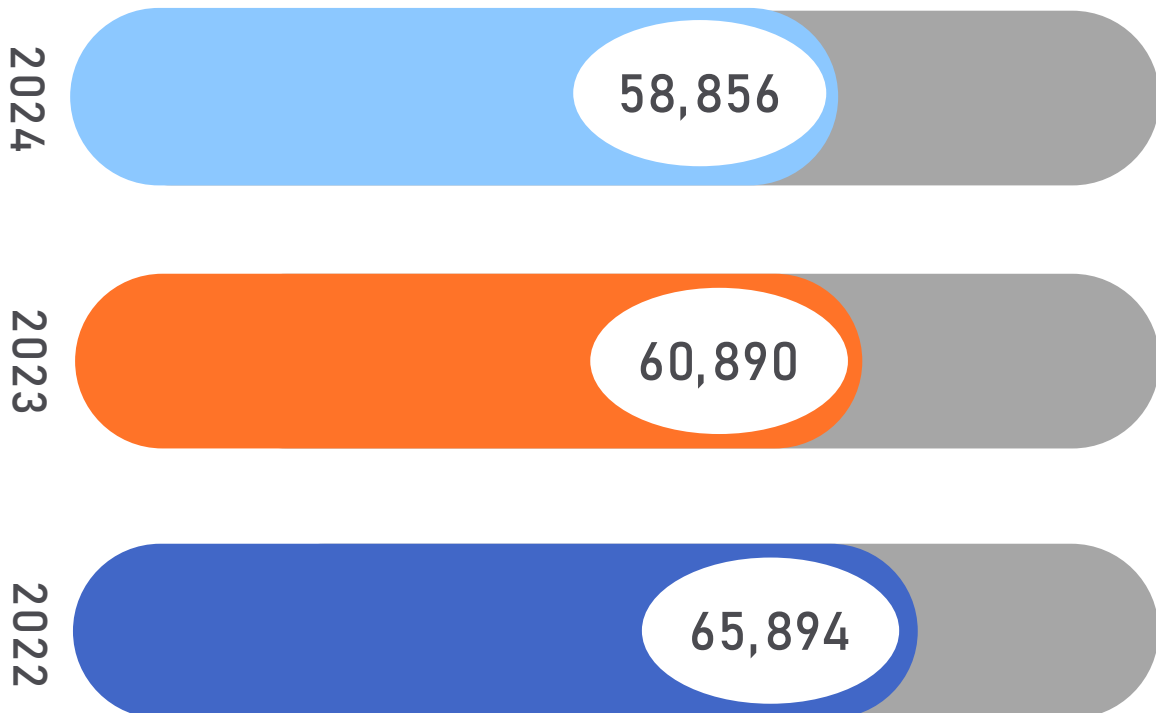


## STAFFING LEVELS

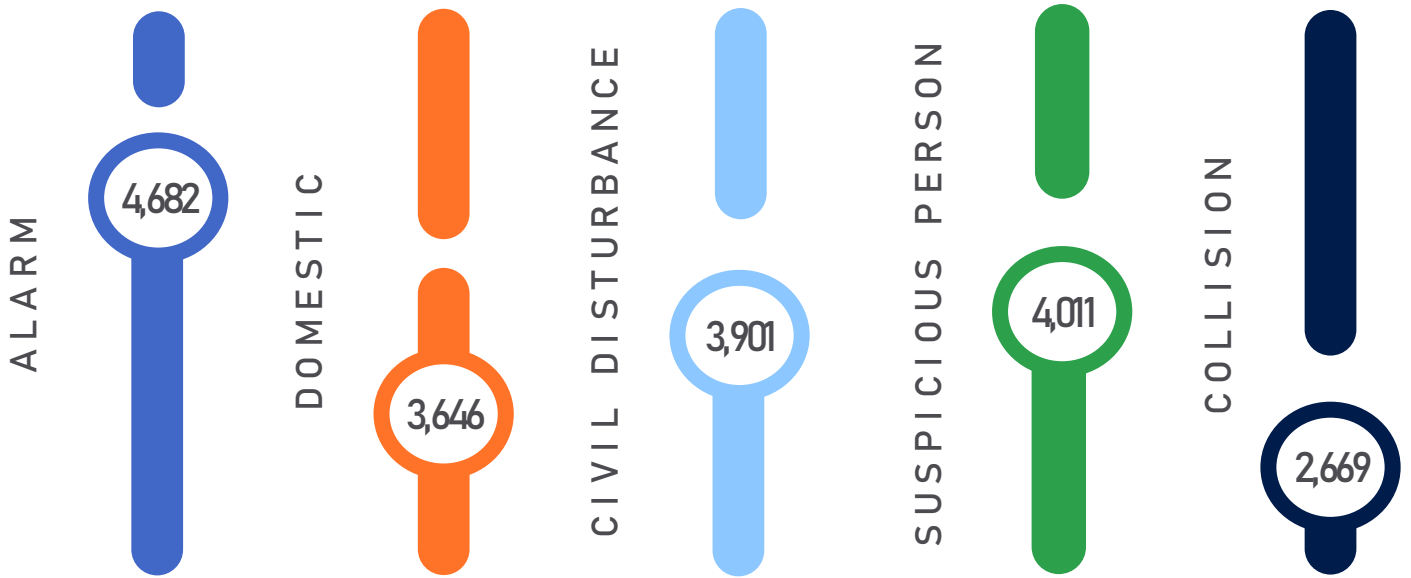


 TELECOMMUNICATIONS	20
 CIVILIAN	41
 SWORN	98

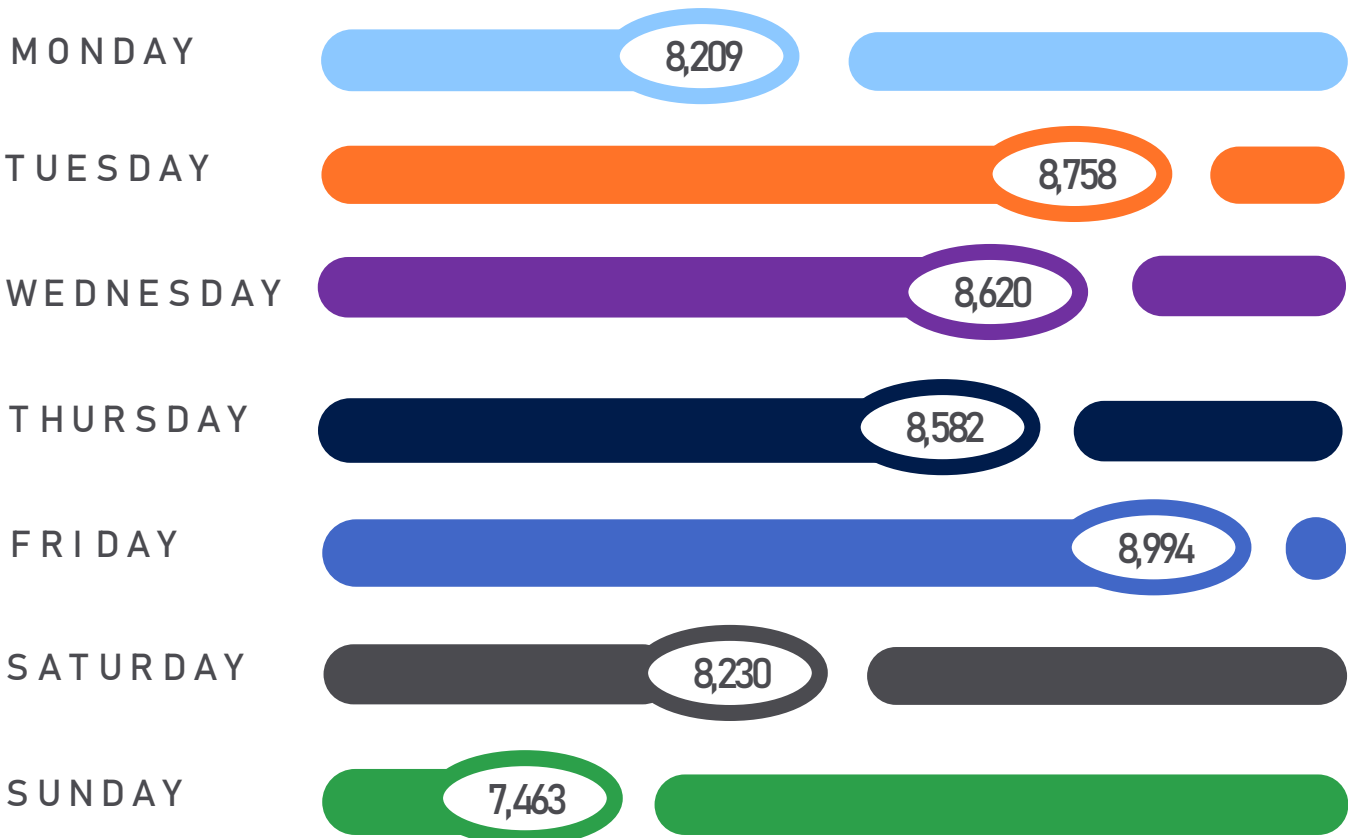
## 3 YEAR POLICE CALLS FOR SERVICE TREND



## TOP 5 POLICE CALLS FOR SERVICE



## POLICE CALLS FOR SERVICE BY DAY OF WEEK

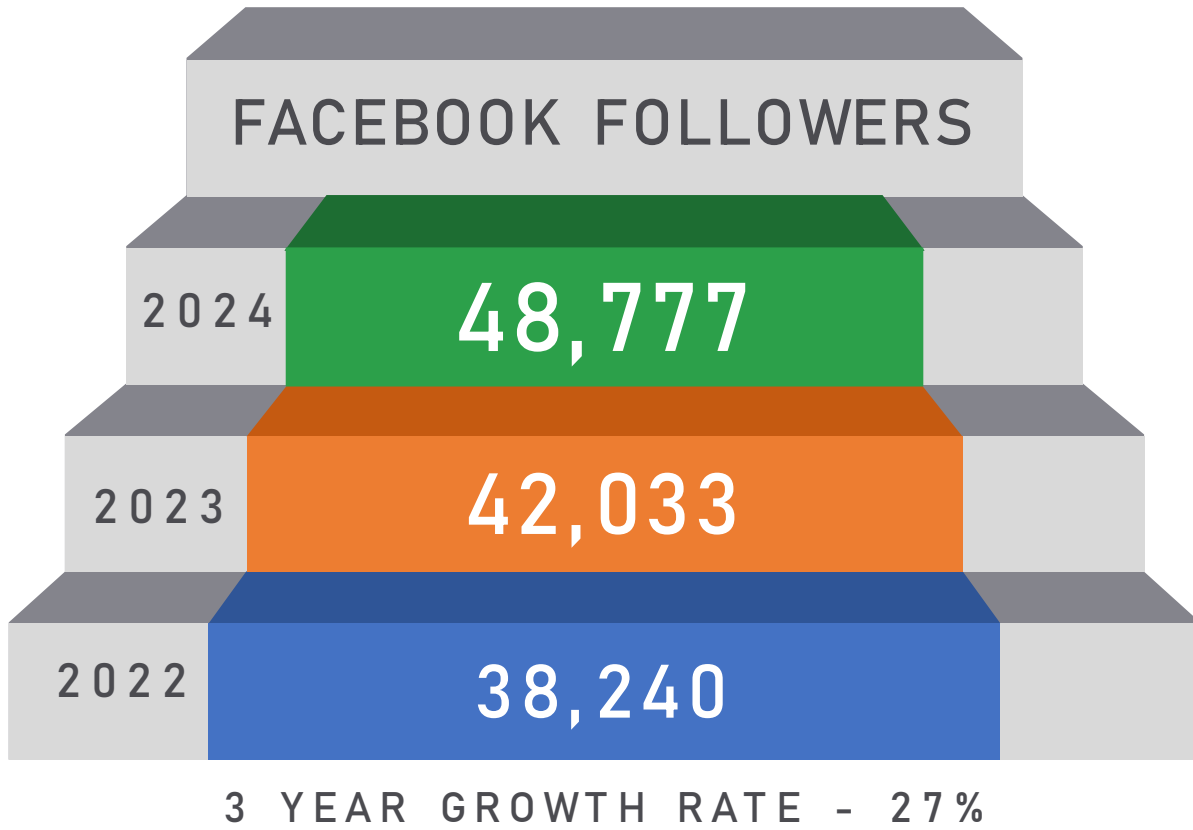




ORGANIZED CRIME & VICE CONTROL

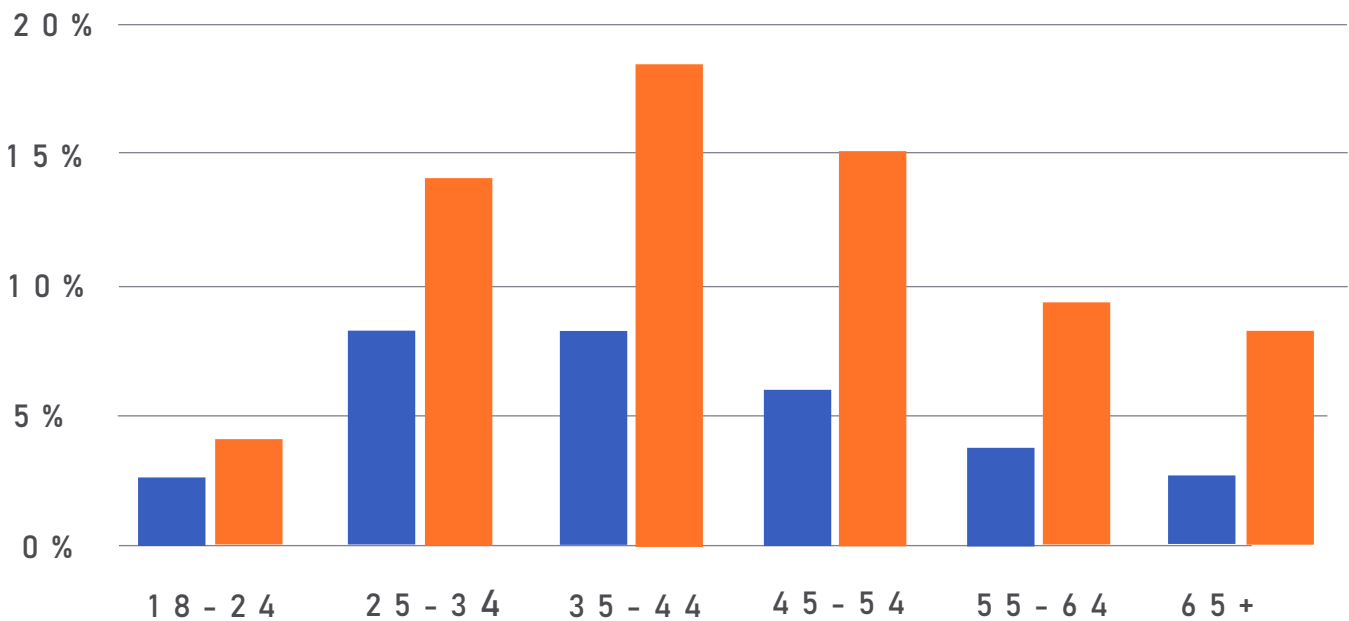


## SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



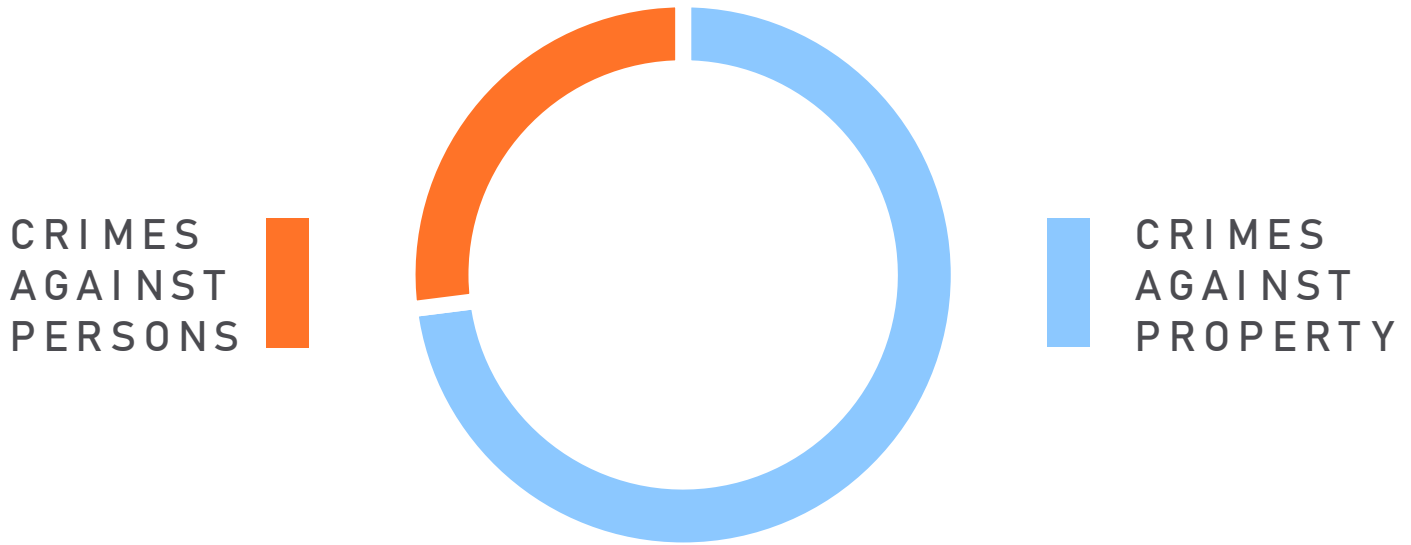
## DEMOGRAPHICS

MALE 31%    FEMALE 69%

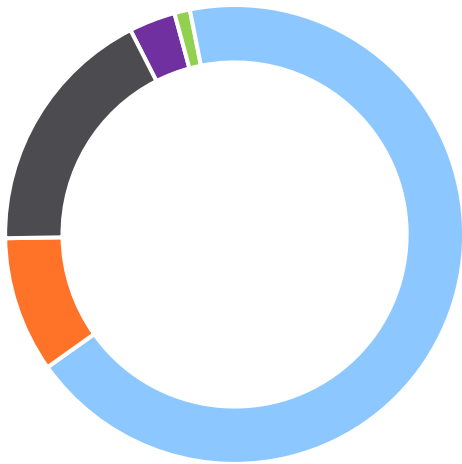




## 2024 TOTAL INDEX CRIMES



### CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS



- Light Blue: AGGRAVATED ASSAULT
- Orange: ROBBERY
- Dark Grey: WEAPON VIOLATIONS
- Purple: MURDER
- Light Green: SEXUAL ASSAULT

### CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY



- Light Blue: AUTO BREAK-IN
- Dark Grey: GENERAL LARCENY
- Orange: BURGLARY
- Light Green: AUTO THEFT

## INDEX CRIMES – 3 YEAR RATE

EVENT	2022	2023	2024	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR
MURDER	6	15	12	-20
SEXUAL ASSAULT	7	8	4	-50
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	206	186	210	+13
BURGLARY	182	156	150	-4
AUTO BREAK-IN	260	497	322	-35
AUTO THEFT	113	152	166	+9
GENERAL LARCENY	270	207	219	+6
WEAPONS CRIMES	84	74	65	-12
VANDALISM	276	326	283	-13
ROBBERIES	23	38	26	-32
TOTALS	1427	1659	1457	-12



SUMTER POLICE





# NOTABLE



## MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS TEAM

In partnership with SC Department of Mental Health, SPD utilizes a mental health crisis team to provide immediate access to crisis services for individuals experiencing an acute mental health crisis. Responding officers work on scene with mental health clinicians who assess the situation and provide mental health intervention and recommendations. Once a crisis has been de-escalated, officers assist SCDMH in putting treatment recommendations in place. The team approach reduces the number of steps required for those in crisis to receive assistance and secures immediate, professional services for at-risk persons. In 2024, the Mental Health Crisis Team responded to 17 calls for service.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES PATROL

In 2024, Sumter Police Department implemented a Community Services Patrol Unit to enhance the department's ability to partner with and improve quality of life in the community. Through data assessment, the unit focuses on educating and empowering neighborhoods to reduce crime and build stronger communities. As part of an ongoing commitment to community service, the department identified an increasing need to address challenges specific to transient populations. Through a structured approach, officers engage with transient persons to assess needs and facilitate referrals to appropriate resources.





## SC 911 DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR



Sumter E-911 Center Director Shirlene Skipper received the S.C. Association of Public Safety Officials/National Emergency Number Association’s 2024 Director of the Year award. An active member of APCO, Skipper has served in public safety for 47 years.

Skipper was recognized at the 2024 APCO/NENA conference for her guidance in the adoption of technological changes over the years and her ability to generate innovative ideas. Her steadfast leadership was particularly evident as she worked to ensure

continued 911 center operations as it experienced staffing challenges during the 2019 COVID pandemic. Skipper is a true professional who takes pride in her job. Her creativity, flexibility, positive attitude, and commitment to Public Safety and 911 have positively impacted the state and Sumter community.



## OFFICER OF THE YEAR



An 18-year veteran of the department, **Detective Staff Sergeant Heath Gardner** has served as a patrol officer, detective, and member of the US Marshals Fugitive Task Force. His fervor for modern technology and intelligent data was the genesis for a special investigations unit to oversee digital forensics, cold cases and missing persons cases. Under his leadership, the department has acquired and implemented the most advanced digital forensic technologies.

Recognizing the crucial role of data and technology in law enforcement investigations, SSgt. Gardner researched and beta tested automatic license plate recognition software to determine how the system could best protect our community. To further promote community safety, SSgt. Gardner recommended partnering with a SC company to designedly install video surveillance cameras across the city. Under his guidance, the department has strategically positioned more than 70 FLOCK cameras and numerous surveillance cameras throughout the city. Since implementation, the systems have aided in solving a broad spectrum of crimes.

In addition to supervising the Special Investigations Unit, SSgt. Gardner serves on the department's Quick Response Team. His commitment to service and respect for others exemplifies the character and traits expected of a Sumter Police Department officer, and we are honored to have him as a member of our team.





Mayor  
David Merchant

Mayor Pro Tempore  
James Blassingame

City Council  
Colin Davis  
Anthony Gibson  
Calvin Hastie  
Lynn Kennedy  
Gifford Shaw

City Manager  
Deron McCormick

