



STARK COUNTY **SHERIFF**



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MISSION / LETTER FROM THE SHERIFF	1
GRANTS	2
ORGANIZATIONAL CHARD	3
2023 BUDGET	4
BUDGET COMPARISSON	5
K9 DIVISION	6
2023 HIGHLIGHTS	7 - 8
TRANSPORTS	9
CRIME COMPARISONS	10 - 12
TRUCK REGULATIONS	13
PUBLIC RELATIONS COMPARISONS	14 - 15
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	16

MISSION

The Stark County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing fair and proactive law enforcement services to the citizens of Stark County. We are dedicated to community involvement and we will strive to continually increase our positive interactions with the citizens of our county, to include people of all ages and walks of life.

It is our goal to provide strong leadership and a superior work environment for our employees to increase quality, retention, and to promote a safe and comfortable atmosphere that will not only attract strong employees but encourage them to stay and become vested in our communities.

It is through this mission that we will continue to provide a high quality of service to our citizens while continuing to build relationships and successfully address the issues that we face in our fluid and rapidly changing society.

SHERIFF COREY LEE

Greetings everyone and thanks for taking a look in at our 2023 year end report. As always, this year had its own set of challenges and changes. We once again strive to retain our high-quality employees while being extremely selective and critical of those we bring in to replace the average of two people that leave each year. This is, of course, still down from the average of seven annually, that had been occurring prior to our current administration taking over in January of 2019. Our goal is not only to retain our staff, but to also make sure that when they do move on, they are doing so for the right reasons, with us supporting their future endeavors as they move ahead.

With increased retention comes experience and over the last five years we have not only drastically changed the structure of our department, we are now operating with more seasoned and experienced staff that both allow us to operate more efficiently but also offer familiar faces for our constituents to rely and depend on.

Through the midst of our changing area and the volatility that is law enforcement, we are also proud to continue with our internal goal to participate in public events that bring us together for constructive engagement while providing a sustained interaction between law enforcement and the public.

Thank you for your time and your continued support!



GRANTS

***** NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANTS **\$15,067**

We apply for this grant every year that allows us to qualify for a few categories with options that help with our annual needs. In 2023, we were approved for Occupant Protection, Distracted Driving, and Speed Enforcement.

Occupant Protection **\$5,000**

Distracted Driving **\$4,067**

Speed Enforcement **\$6,000**



***** BULLETPROOF VEST GRANT **\$4,666.77**

The Bullet Proof Vest Grant is an ongoing grant we apply for each year through the Department of Justice to help cover the cost of our sworn peace officers' ballistic vests. This grant will cover 50% of each vest. They are required to be NIJ compliant and can withstand up to five years of use until they expire/ are recommended for replacement.

***** SIRN GRANT **\$51,000**

This grant helped upgrade our radio's to be in compliance with the state SIRN Program.



***** COPS GRANT **\$125,000**

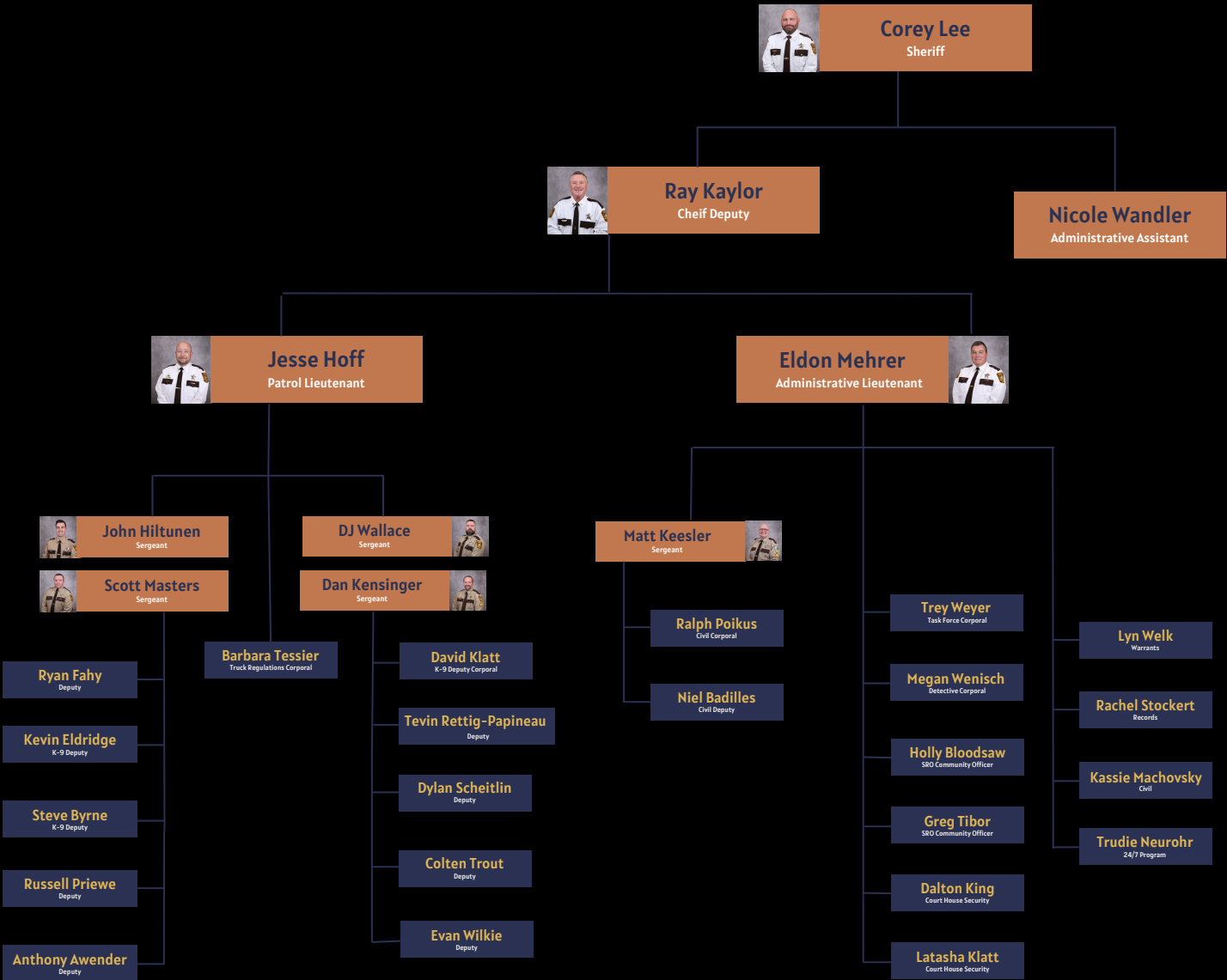
We were awarded the COPS Grant in 2020 and will be closing out this grant in 2024. This helped fund one of our Community/School Resource Deputies. The grant would cover 59% of wages and or up to \$125,000 for the first three years and Stark County would be responsible for the fourth year.

***** BNSF GRANT **\$5,000**

We were able to invest in community events across Stark County.

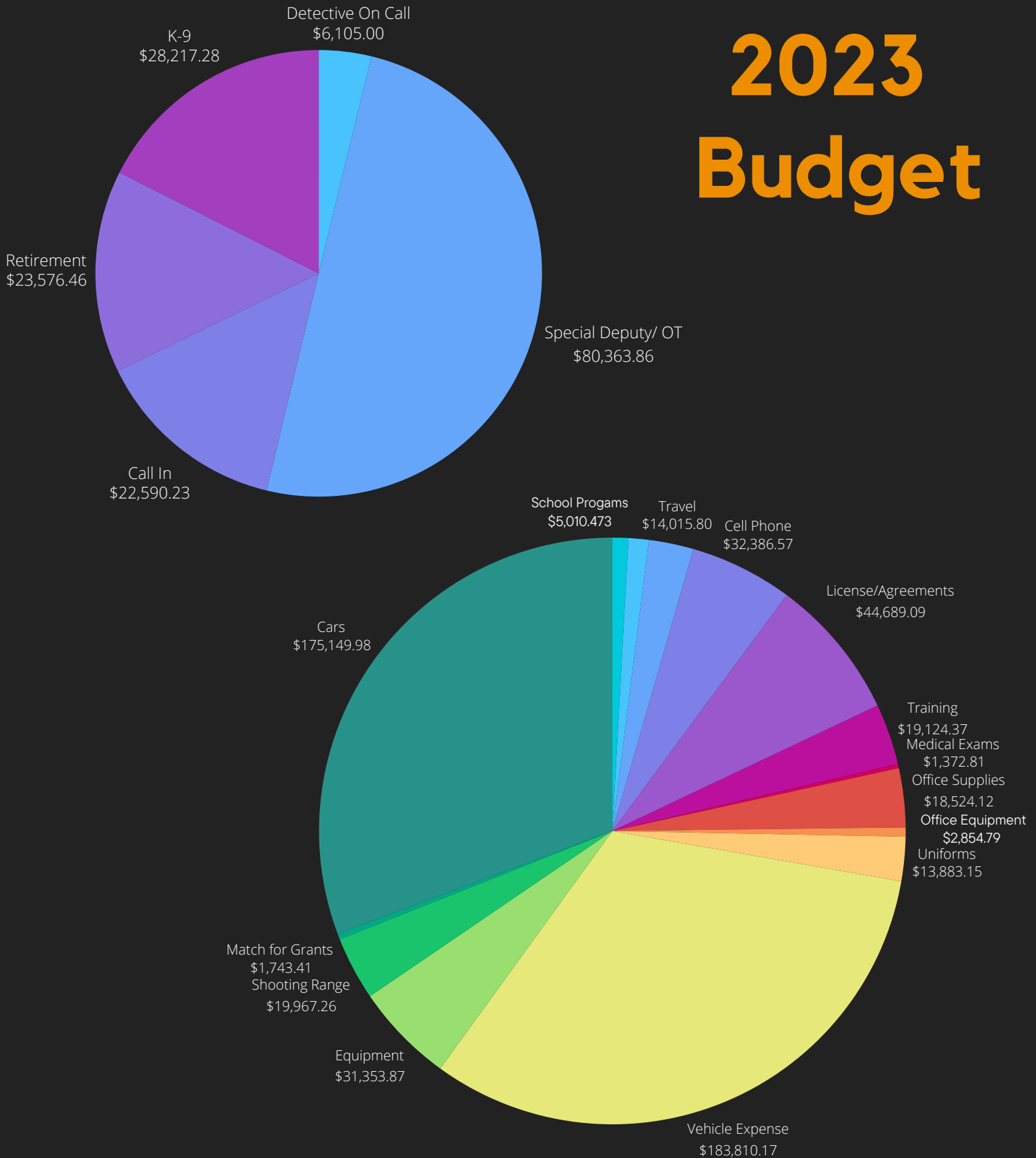
Stark County Sheriff's Office

Organizational Chart 2023



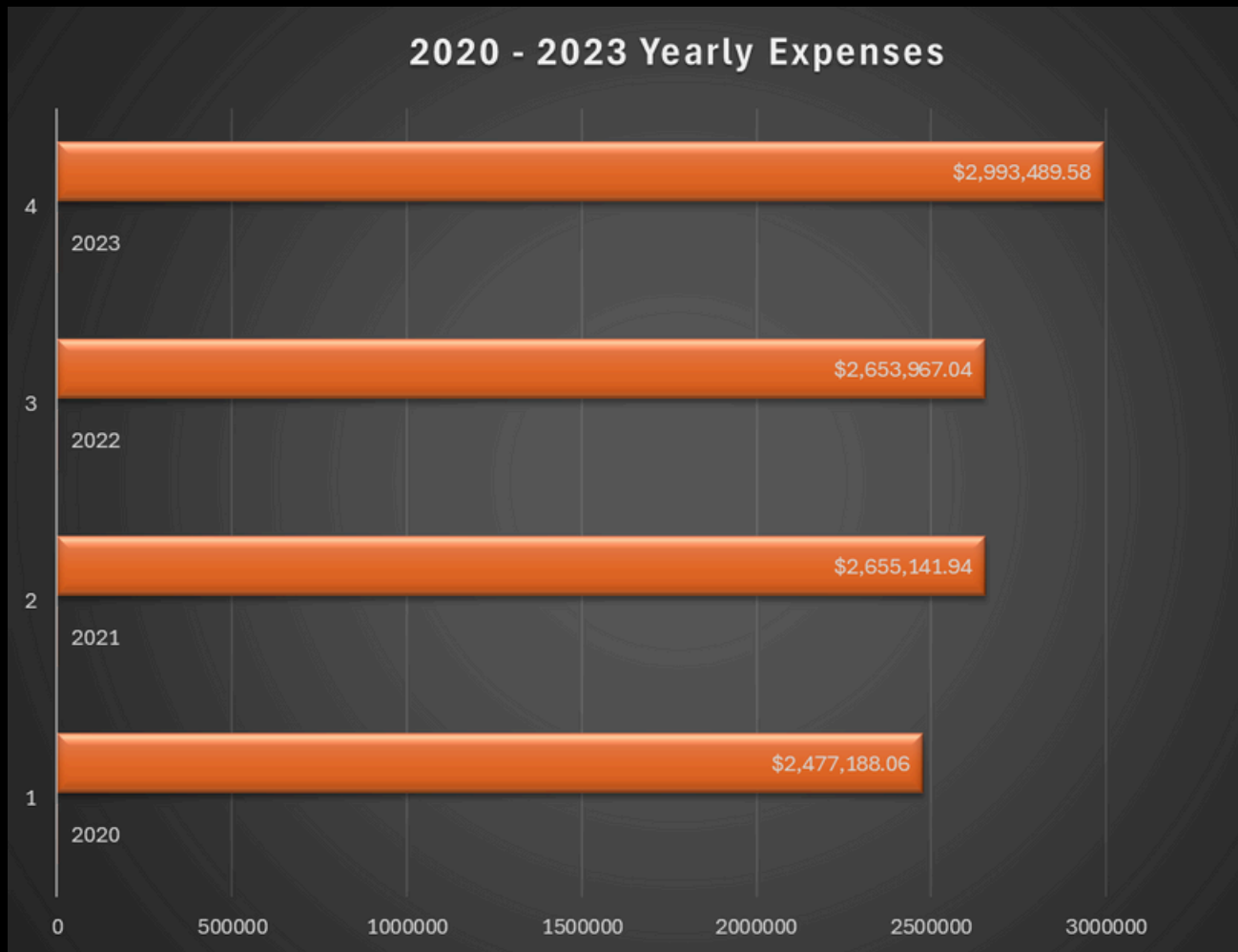
Stark County Sheriff's Office remains fully staffed with a total of 34 full-time employees. This consists of 29 full-time sworn peace officers and five civilian staff. We also offer a Reserve Program with both sworn and non-sworn individual. Our Reserve Program helps with transports, court house security, and community events.

2023 Budget



We budgeted for a total of \$3,035,107.00 and our year to date expense was \$2,993,489.58 and of that final year to date expense we had \$2,262,393.43 invested in salary for our 34 full-time employees.

Budget Comparison



We have always made it a priority to keep fiscal responsibility a priority, 2023 price increases did make it difficult in some areas causing us to increase our budget in a few places. Our K-9 division is funded through both donations and the county. We only needed a minor increase in our K-9 care fund to help maintain year-round care for each of them, which our handlers take care of daily. We still focus strongly on retention and investment of our employees; we were able to come in under budget with our training expenses and we were still able to send staff to some of the top training courses. The previous year we were fortunate to have our new squad car purchases covered with funds from the government after COVID, but with that came increases to keep our vehicles in good condition to maintain our emergency response for each responding unit. Even with the minor increases, we still fought to be fiscally responsible and were able to come in under budget. In 2023 we budgeted for \$3,035,107 and came in with a total of \$2,993,489.58.

K-9 Division



Stark County Sheriff's Office K-9 Division remained busy throughout 2023 with 348 K-9 usages. K-9 Archer had a large find in a search warrant during the summer and location about 2 1/2 lbs of methamphetamine. K-9 Jerry Lee suffered from an ACL injury at the beginning of the summer and was releases back to full duty before the end of July.



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

In January we had an increase in arrests totaling in 113 and we are usually around the 70-80 mark, most are warrant related.

We celebrated the retirement of Greg Barros in February after providing over 35 years to his community. He gave us, the City of Dickinson, and military many years of service and brought knowledge that will always be useful to our entire Sheriff's Office. We are fortunate that he will stay on as a Reserve Deputy with our department by helping with transports and courthouse security as we need it. Stark County Sheriff's Office welcomed Courthouse Security Deputy, Latasha Klatt, to the Sheriff's Office.



Arrests were up again in March with 99 total arrests. This was also a month when weather hit us hard, but luckily accidents remained low. We also assisted ND Highway Patrol with a couple large narcotics busts.

The annual Easter Egg hunts held by Stark County Sheriff's Office was again successful across the county at multiple locations.

In early spring a pursuit was successfully ended in Stark County that began in Bismarck. Deputies were able to bring the driver to a stop and apprehend the individual, but resulted in two of our squad car being struck by the driver that was under the influence causing significant damage to both patrol vehicles.

After a serious motor vehicle accident on the interstate, we requested to take a more proactive approach for all emergency responders when weather is bad to help assist with their visibility safety. We asked to purchase LED signage that will be brought scene by local emergency responders as needed.

In April, due to a critical incident we assisted Dickinson Police Department with call coverage in the city of Dickinson.

We participated in another Kids Health and Safety Fair, this free event is always a full event for families and always a huge success. We did in addition receive recognition for best interaction at this event and had fun with the attendees.

Narcotics use is an increasing problem in Stark County, specifically the fentanyl narcotics leading to multiple overdoses in the area.

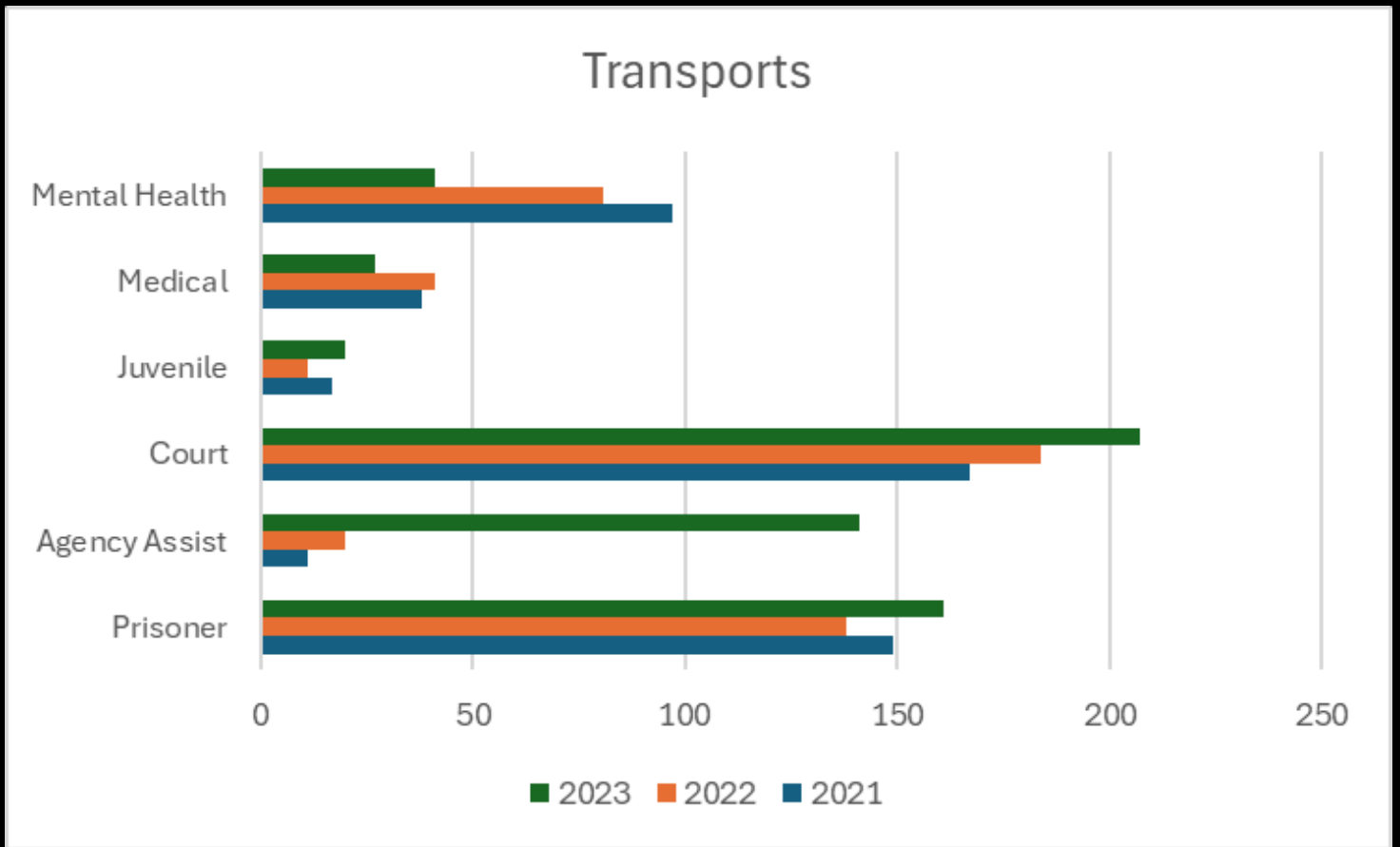
2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Roughrider days took a good chunk out of our overtime, but led to successful and safe events for the Sheriff's Office and the community. We also pushed to wave the city contract fee for Richardton for Little Opryland Days just as our way to keep doing great for the public.

Our calls for service for the first half of the year remained up from 2022 due to a request for more relations with the public. Summer events throughout the county continued and we also successful for each location. We welcomed a new civilian staff to our team, Rachel Stockert, she brings a great deal of knowledge and experience in Law Enforcement. The summer and fall months were high with arrests with July having 111, August 96, September at 109, and October with 103 total arrests; all above our average. We did continue to experience water leaks in the Sheriff's Office at the Law Enforcement Center and are still working to repair and prevent these continued issues and costly repairs. Our 24/7 has continued to grow rapidly and in September we hit the highest amount of participants we have ever seen with this program and confirms our suspicions of the high amount of narcotics use in Stark County is growing at alarming rates based off of our patch results. September had another big pursuit that resulted in many agencies working closely together. We had an influx of accidents in October, totaling in 40, due to weather being a contributor again. In November, one of our full-time deputies was deployed with the National Guard, scheduled to be gone on active duty with them for a full year. Due to being down one deputy for that period and Belfield paying for two positions, it was proposed look at the city of Belfield's contract and with them being a smaller city that we forgo one month billing for the City of Belfield in the coming year. To stay closer with our community, we moved forward with adopting an assisted living facility to make a special point to stop at once a month and visit with its residents along with the staff. In November, the Sheriff's Office hosted their annual hat and mitten drive and was successful and very much appreciated once again and given to families across Stark County. There were four Corporal positions opened to patrol staff and filled. The promotions were awarded to Deputy Ryan Fahy, Deputy Dylan Scheitlin, Deputy Colten Trout, and Deputy Tevin Rettig-Papineau. There was also an open deputy position that was filled in December that is also bringing years of law enforcement and military experience. Each months calls for service remained up from 2022 with the exception of December being 1,543 and December of 2022 being 1,634. We came across vehicle expense concerns and quickly came to the solution to help with financial burdens and to move forward in a different direction to help with those costs.

Our Civil Division had another busy year and continues to get busier with paper services of subpoenas, civil documents, criminal paper, and their continued attempts to make these services happen and our patrol deputies help with this process as well.

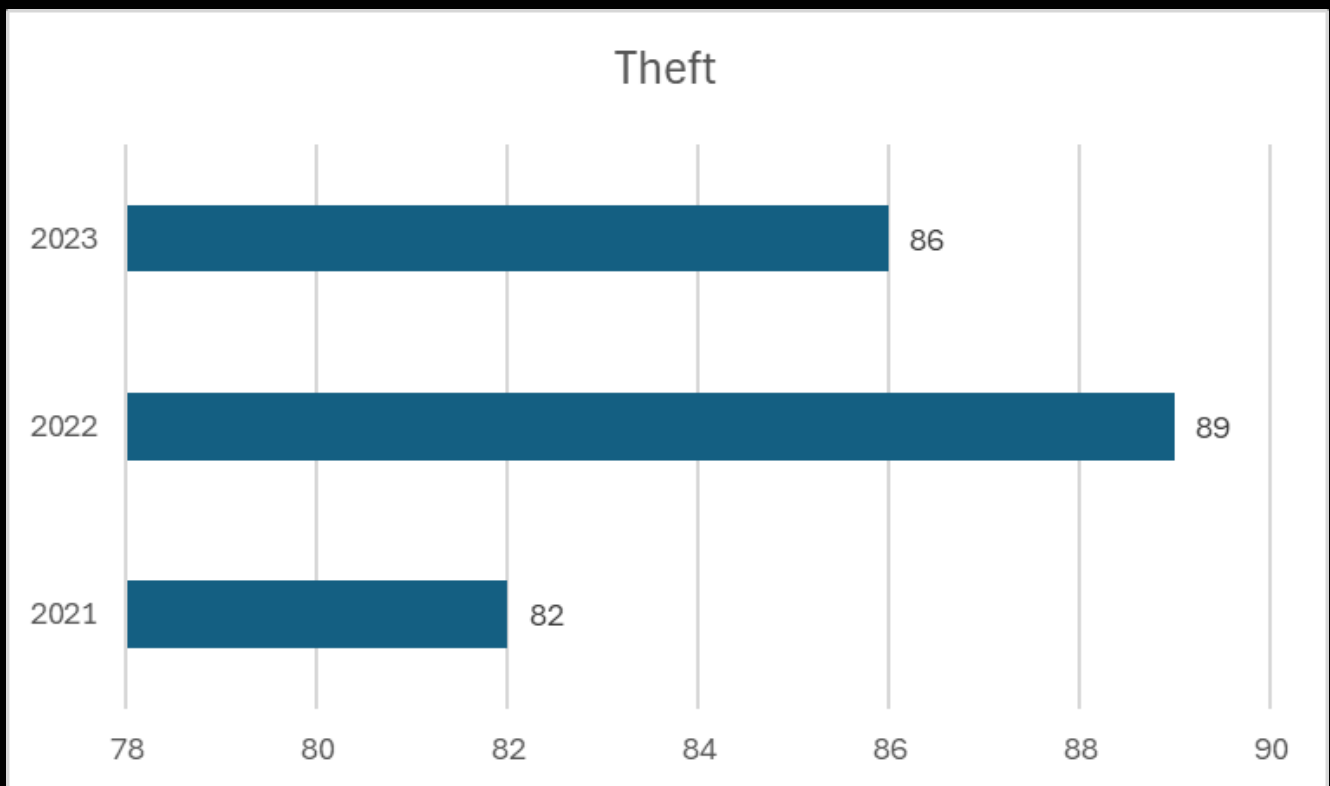
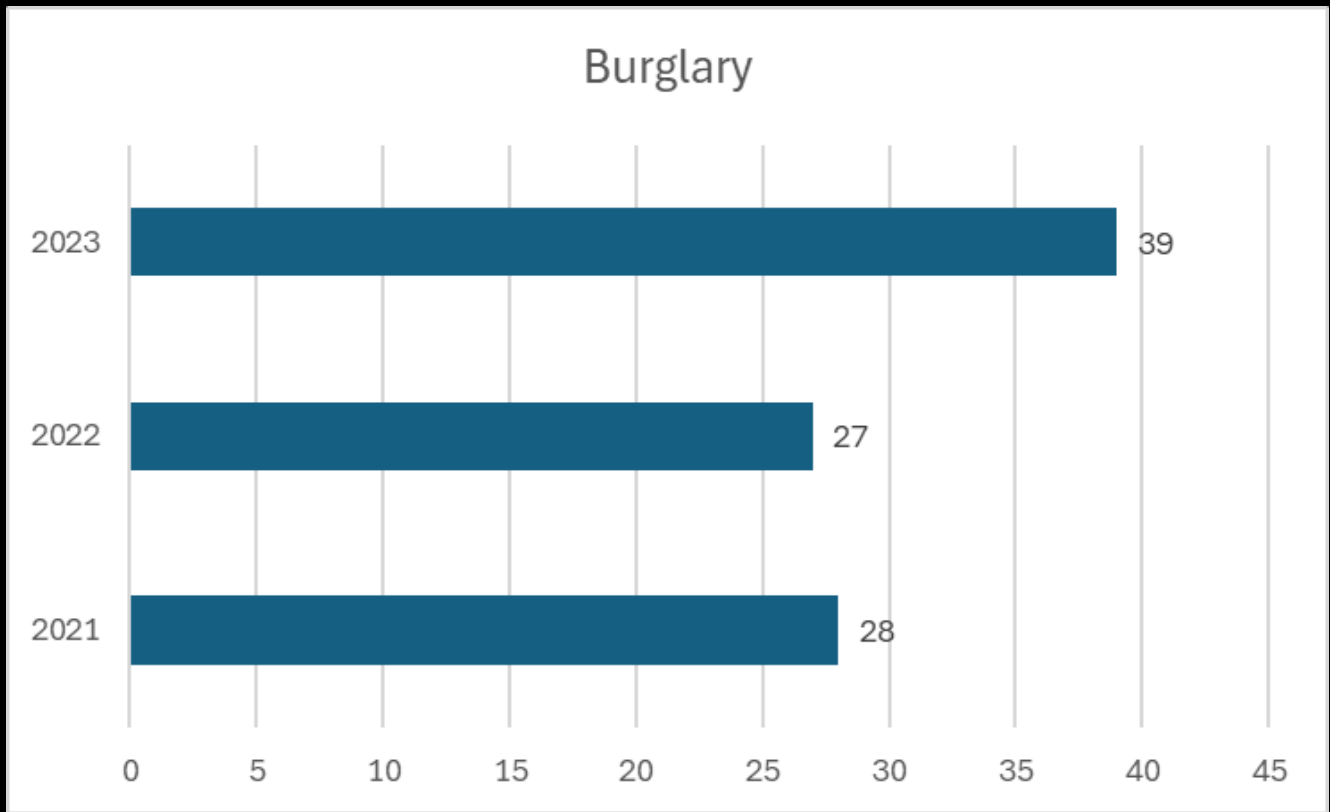
TRANSPORTS



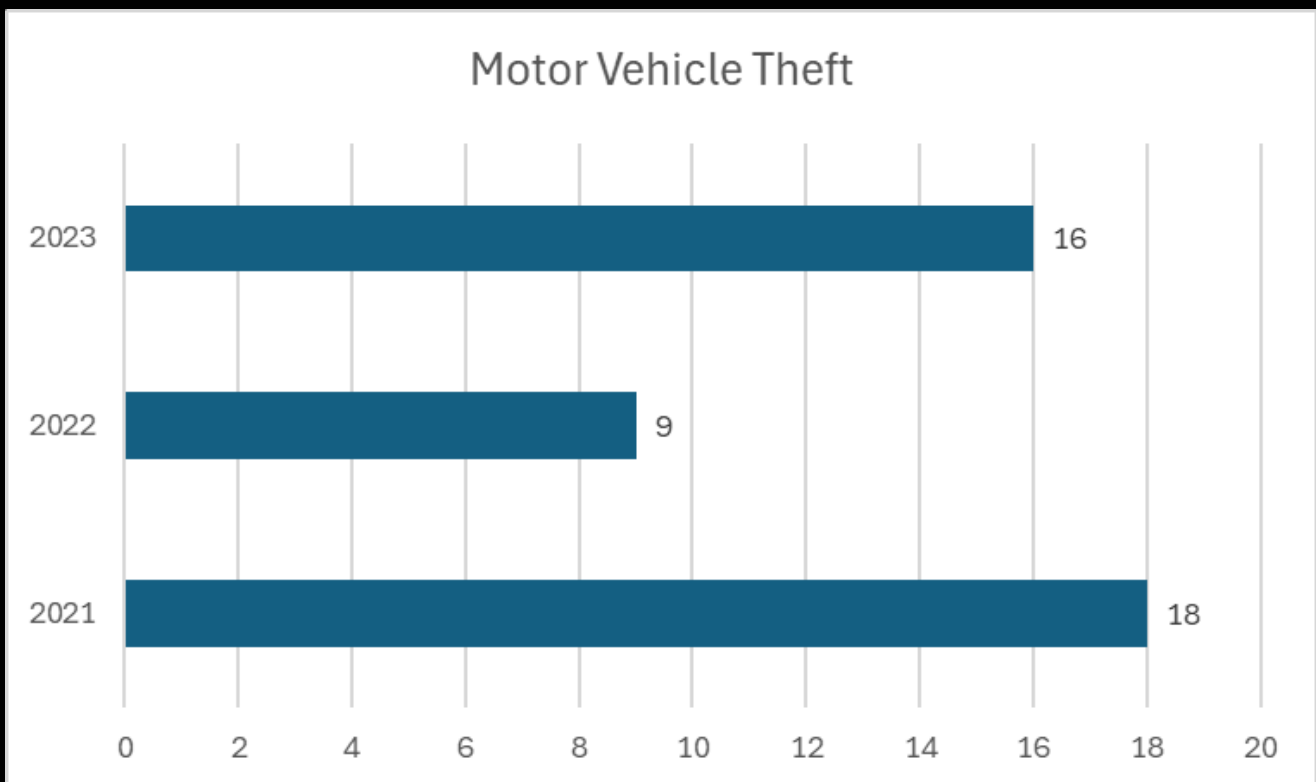
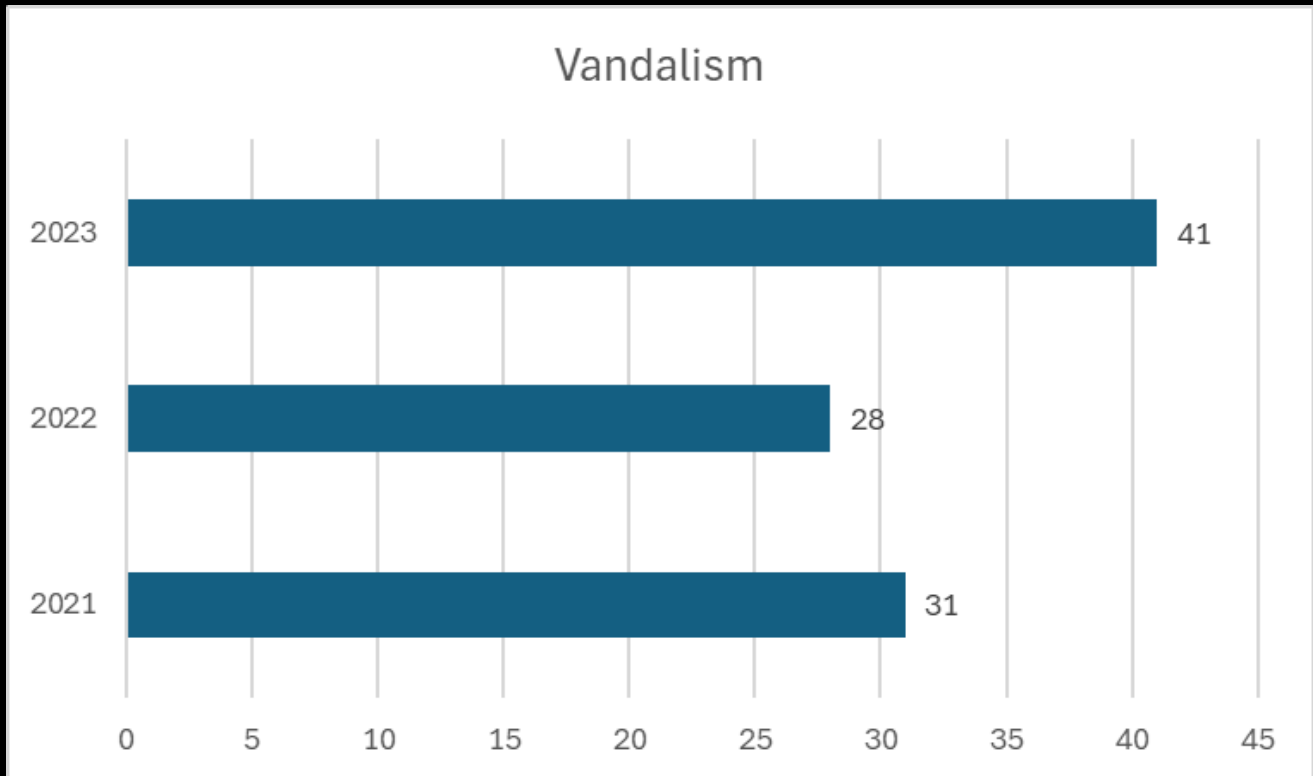
An increase from 475 transport in 2022 to 597 transports in 2023 had us very busy. Prisoner Transports were 161, 207 Court transports, Juvenile Transports at 20, Medical Transports were 27, and Mental Health transports at 41. We also helped agencies in the area and did 141 agency assist transports.



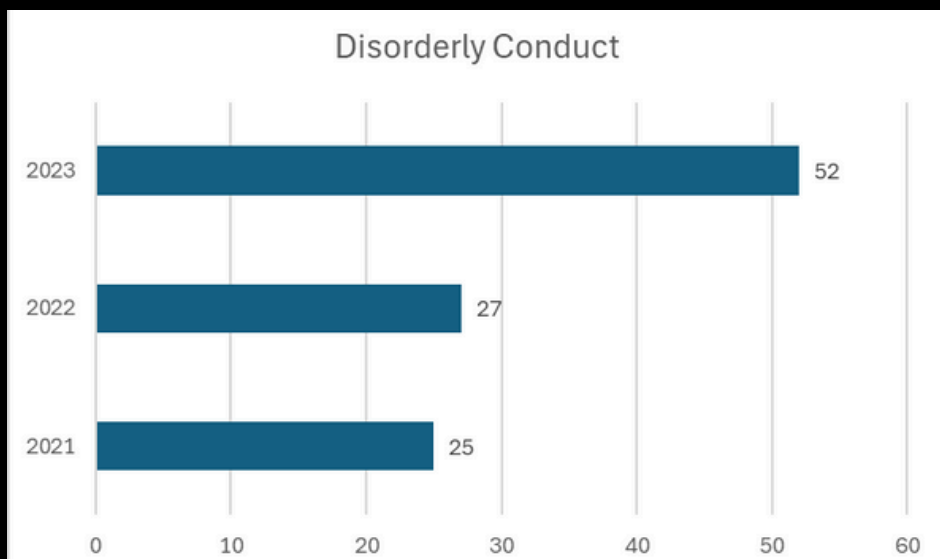
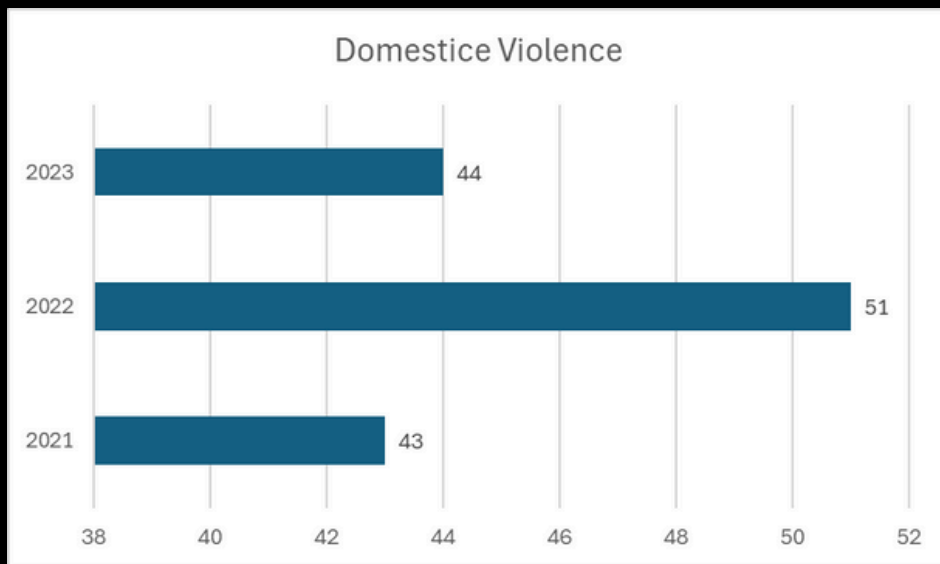
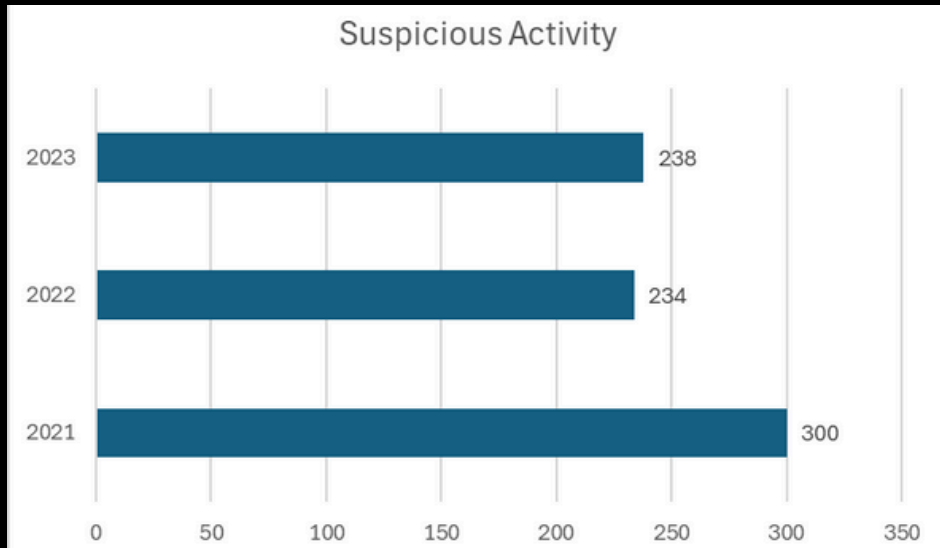
Crime Comparisons



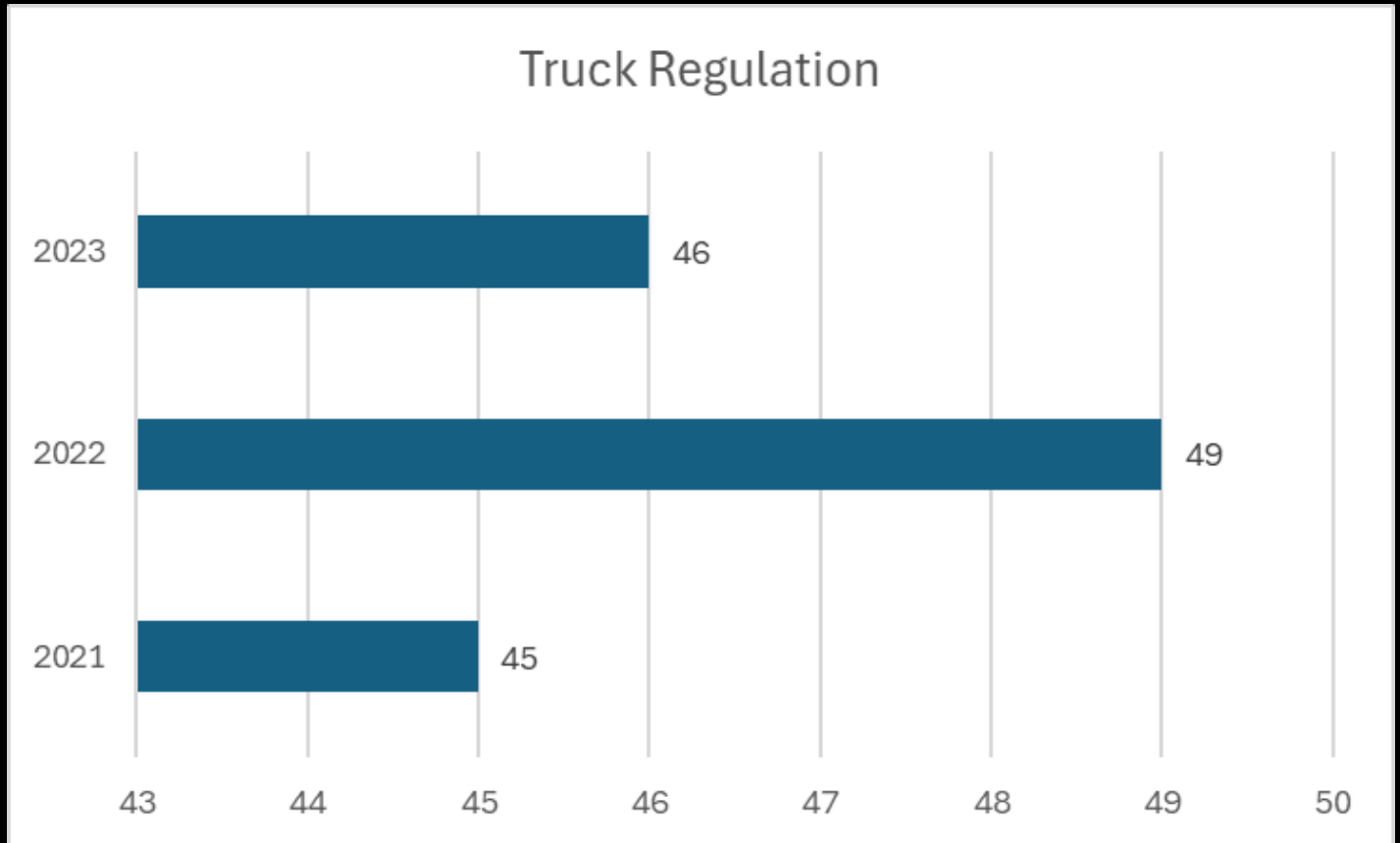
Crime Comparisons



Crime Comparisons



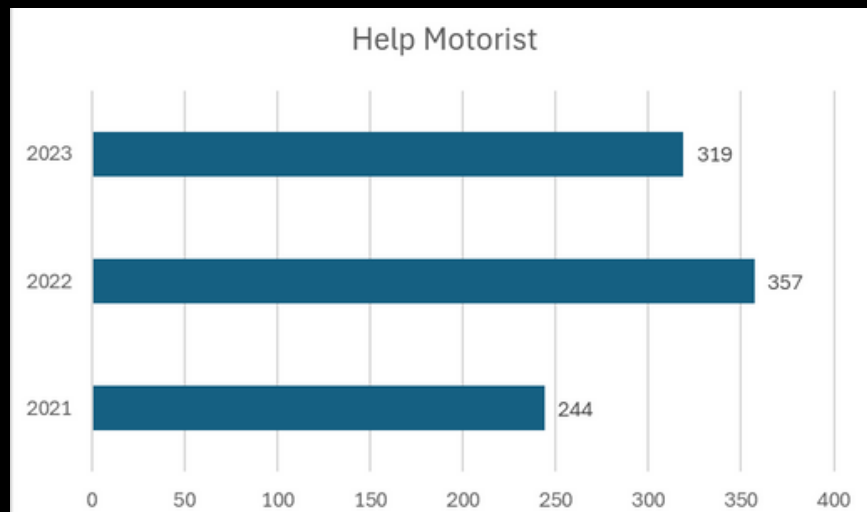
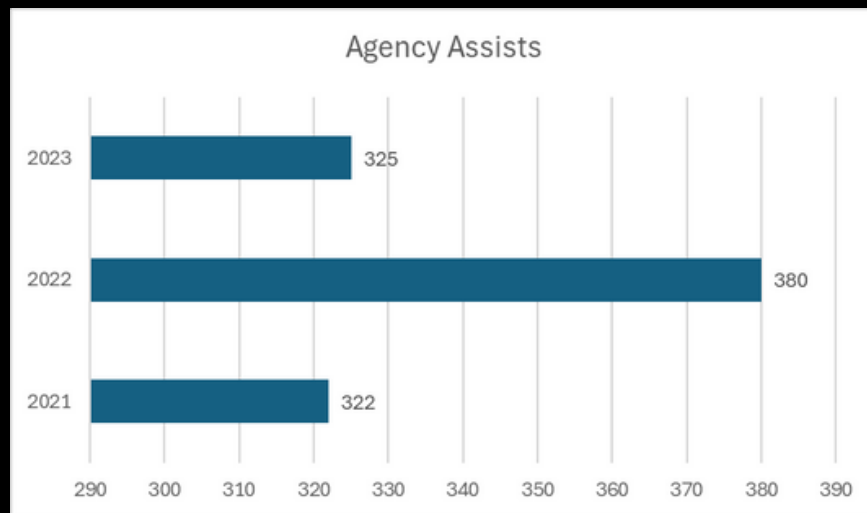
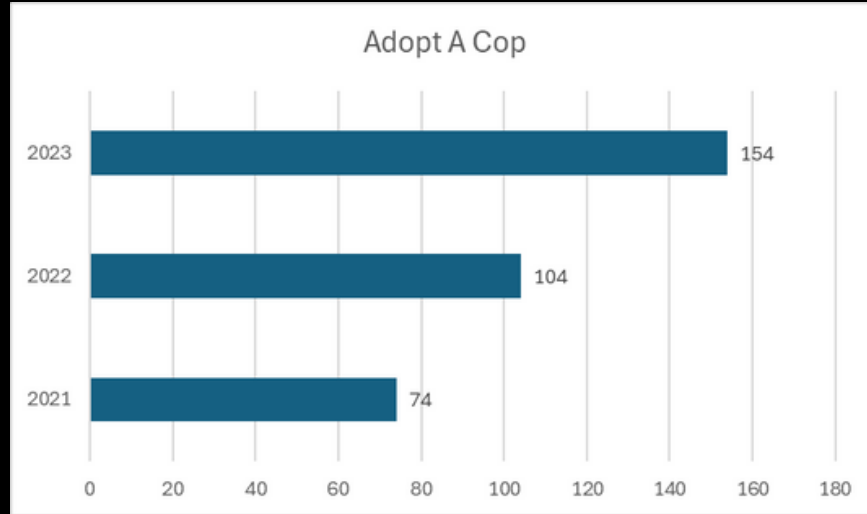
Truck Regulation



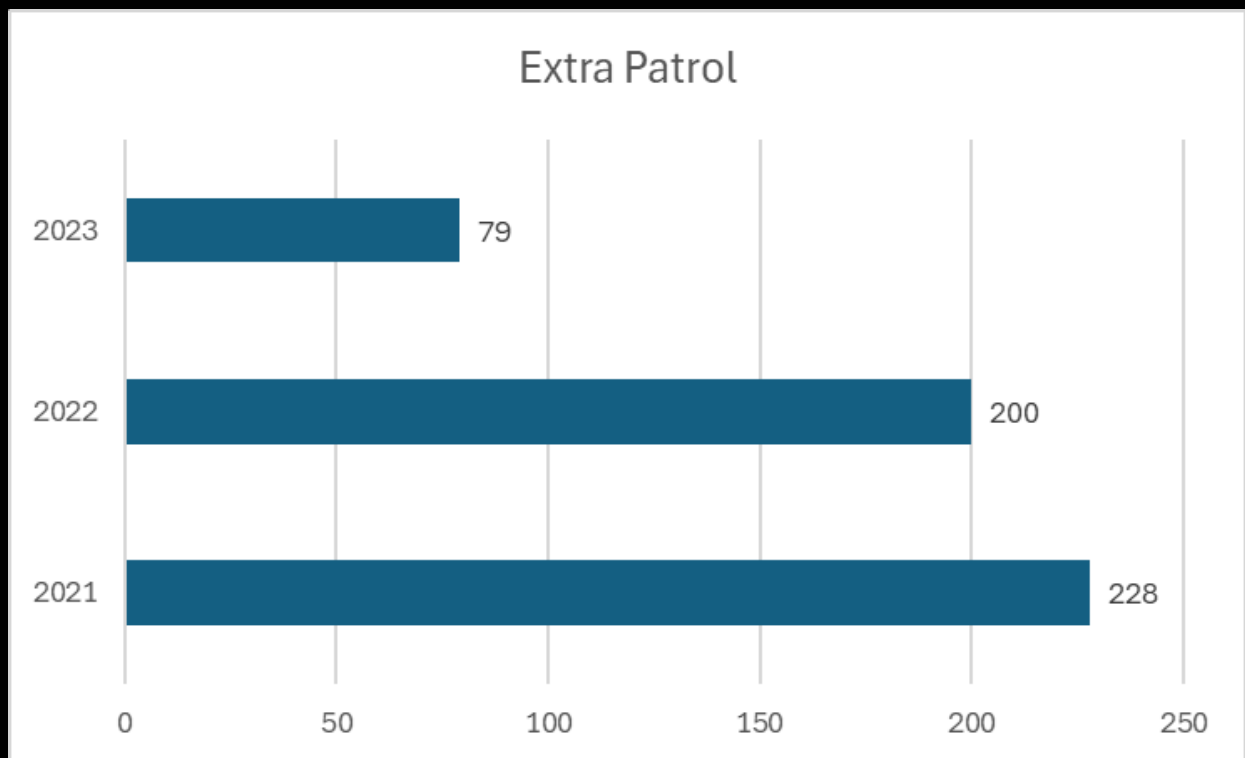
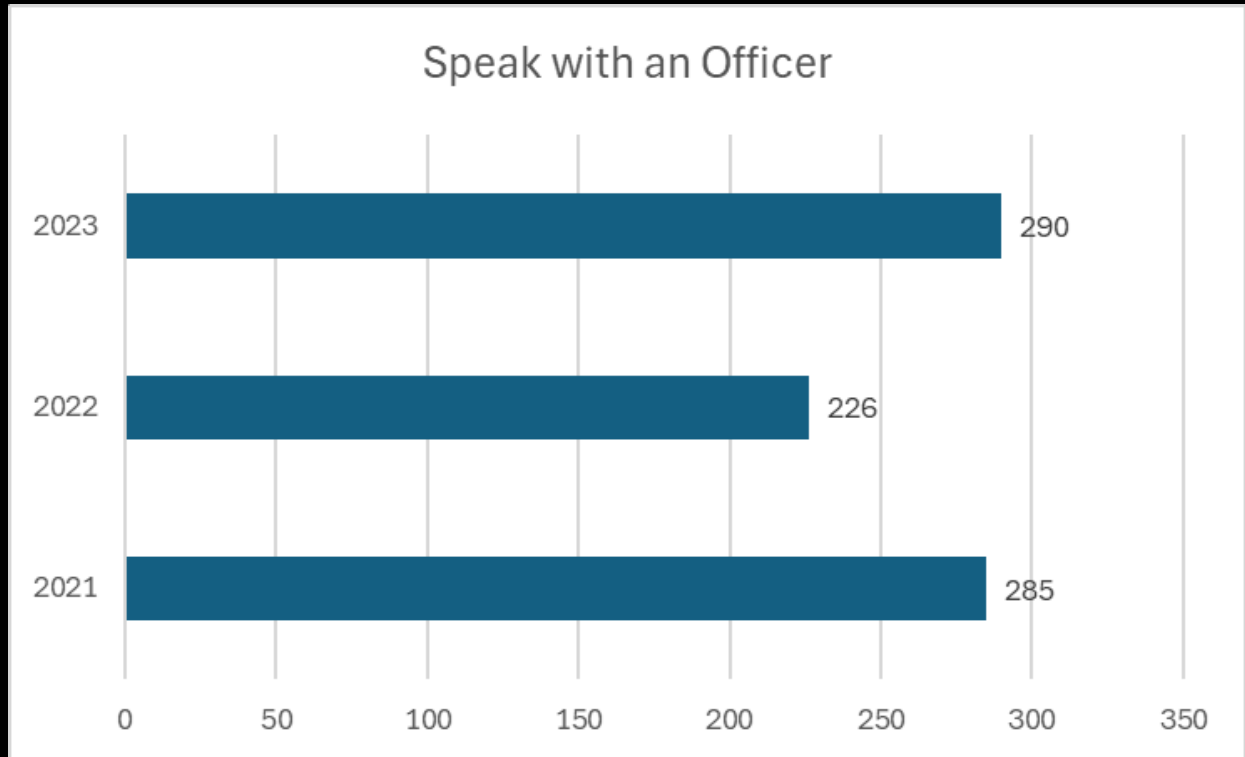
Deputy Tessier returned from light duty in March and was cleared for full duty in her position as Truck Regulations. She remained busy all year long and assisted the Patrol Division with calls for service. Numbers stayed consistent over the years keeping her busy, training other deputies in truck regulations and working closely with other departments within the county,



Public Relations Comparisons



Public Relations Comparisons



Community Involvement

Stark County Sheriff's Office strives to be present in all areas of the community. We enjoy the activities each have going on and being invited to take part and have the opportunity to visit with them.

In 2023, we had some really great ones to be apart of and some of our favorites are shared below.





THANK YOU!