

2021



JONESBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT • ANNUAL REPORT

FROM THE CHIEF

The officers and staff of the Jonesboro Police Department consider our mission to enhance the quality of life in our city. This past year, our officers responded to a record number of just over 50,000 calls for service. While it may not always seem like it because bad news travels so quickly these days, we also enjoyed one of the lowest per capita crime rates since 2015.

Our community asks a lot of the people who choose to become police officers. Feeling safe may be our expectation - some may feel it a right - but it is not something that happens by chance, and it isn't free. Hours of hard work and effort go into maintaining our low crime rate. We don't get to pick the calls we go on - we respond to all of them - because every single one matters. We care about our community and are dedicated to doing our very best to take of it, every day. Most of that work is never seen by most of the people who reside in and visit our city (and we want to keep it that way).

One of my favorite sayings is "community policing is not a spectator sport." That goes for everyone in our community - not just the officers. Policing can only be successful through continuous partnership with our citizens. We do not have a crystal ball; we cannot predict where every crime will occur, where every perpetrator can be located, or who will need us next. But we will continue to make every effort to be as readily available and responsive as possible, and proactively seek ways to make our city safer. We recently switched to 11-hour shifts that afford us the ability to field more officers during busier times of the day. This is vital to maintaining our level of service during a time when, like many other employers, we struggle to keep positions filled.

Our officers train often and well to tackle the tasks that keep our city safe. Tasks that are often hard. Tasks that others would likely not want to do. Take a minute to speak to them when you see them. It means a lot to them to hear that they are appreciated and we value your support.

As the City of Jonesboro continues to develop and grow, our goal is to continue to provide the highest level of professional police services. Our city deserves nothing less. We value the support of our community and look forward to continuing to work together with you to keep Jonesboro safe.

We are #BetterTogether.

Chief Rick Elliott

Chief Rick Elliott

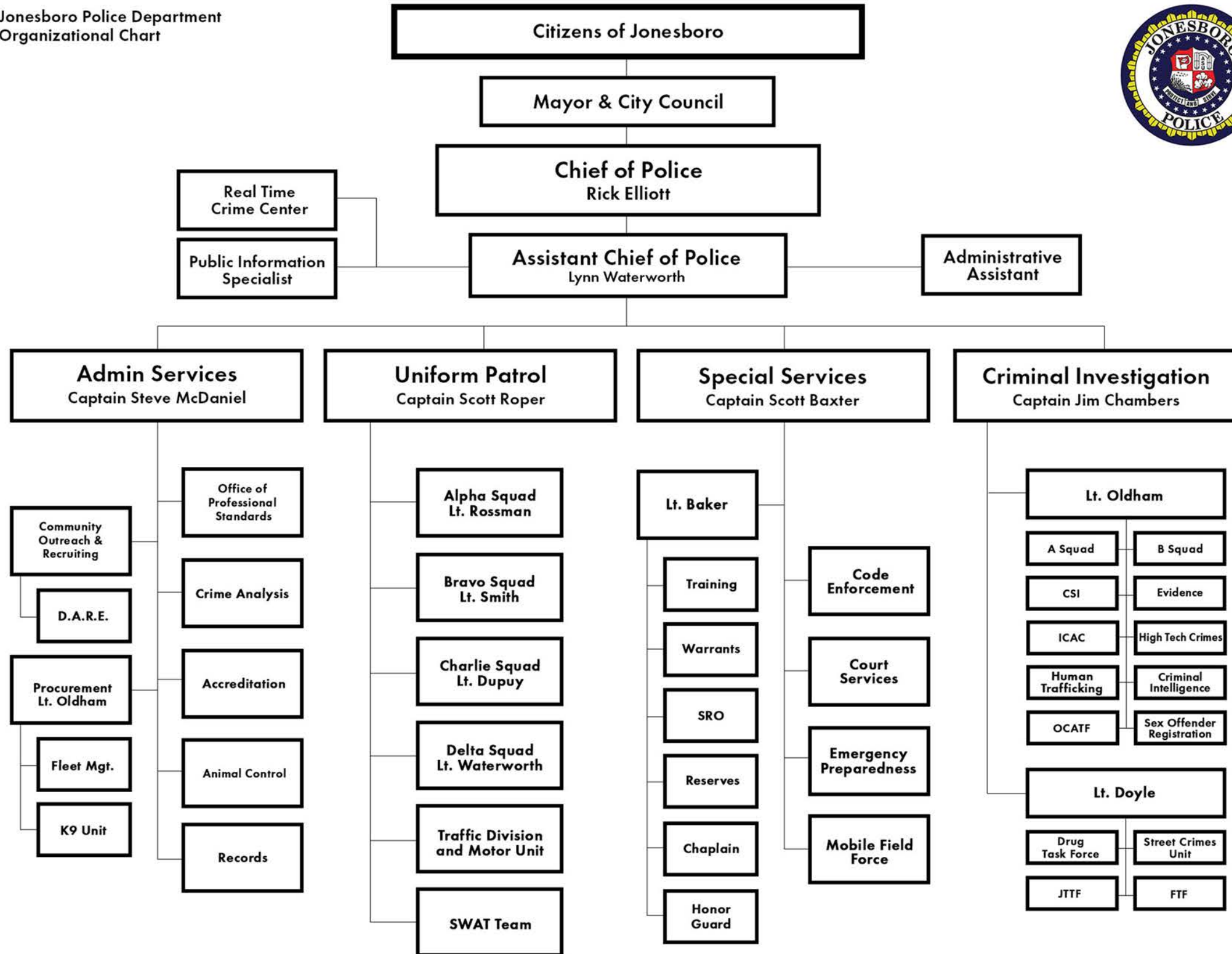


OUR MISSION

The City of Jonesboro Police Department shall strive to ensure that all of our citizens are served in a professional, ethical, and equitable manner that respects individuals, protects our democratic ideals and system of government, pursues greater accountability of police, greater public share in decision making, and greater concern for civil rights and liberties.



Jonesboro Police Department
Organizational Chart



170
SWORN OFFICERS

62
CIVILIANS

11+
AVERAGE YEARS
OF SERVICE

36
SPECIALTY
POSITIONS

STRATEGIC GOALS

IMPROVE SERVICE AND PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

- Increase the number of solved cases through the use of public cameras focused on monitoring high traffic areas and develop a VMS/RTCC plan.
- Continue to develop the new sUAS drone unit and add four additional certified pilots.
- Keep repair costs down by obtaining additional fleet repair equipment.
- Increase cold calls and leverage various computer systems to help locate wanted persons to increase warrant service by 5% over warrants served in previous year, and work with the court in clearing out extremely old warrants.
- Increase the department's visibility and accessibility on social media and our web page, highlighting two new volunteer or community interactions per month.

Despite COVID, we engaged in over 65 in person community outreach events, such as the DJA Springfest, Trunk or Treat, Feed the Need, and the Torch Run for Special Olympics. As evidenced in a number of social media posts, officers also frequently engaged with the community as they did things like sing, dance, play ball and helped a nine year celebrate his birthday. We also found a unique way to interact remotely by having a number of officers, including Chief Elliott, to hone their storytelling skills in our 'Books with the Blue' series.

Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) is relatively new to law enforcement, but JPD recognized the value in this type of training for officers when working with individuals in a mental health crisis. Going beyond initial introductory training, JPD now has over 50 CIT certified officers and three certified CIT trainers! Our goal is to continue to train additional veteran officers and ensure that every new officer receives this certification as soon as possible.

Homelessness often comes hand in hand with mental health issues. While not all homeless individuals are in need of mental health assistance, officers often contact homeless people in need of a variety of assistance, along with food and shelter. Our employees provide assistance whenever possible, often partnering with local businesses and benefactors to provide food, emergency shelter and other items. The need for a more coordinated response to this sector of our population has grown and this past fall, we launched the 'Humanities Task Force', a collection of officers with a penchant for outreach, from different areas of the PD that meet regularly and coordinate efforts to better serve people in mental health crisis and the homeless. Moving forward, these officers will be partnering with other community entities whenever possible to further out capability to serve that vulnerable sector of our city.

PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH CRIME REDUCTION

- Improve communication and develop relationships both inside and outside JPD through interdivisional training and joint operations to solve a higher percentage of crimes, especially violent crime, pursuing at least two additional federal cases per month.
- Again increase DWI enforcement efforts in order to increase the number of DWI arrests by another 10% from the previous year.
- Locate and monitor possible human trafficking cases and make two additional felony arrests per month from cyber tips and online chats.

The task of policing continues to evolve and, despite the challenges from COVID, our officers have continued to answer the call of serving our community with the best police services possible.

During 2021, officers answered over 50,000 calls for service, worked over 3,600 motor vehicle accidents, and made over 6,000 arrests, including a 50% increase in DWI arrests (197 in 2020, 296 in 2021).

Our ICAC division held fast to the fight on behalf of our children, arresting over 25 suspects for crimes from rape to possession and distribution of child pornography.

During the investigation of several violent crimes and the over 1200 hundred drug charges and seizures, our agency also confiscated over 275 weapons, many of which are already slated for seizure and/or destruction.



EMPLOY PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE SERVICE THROUGH PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT



- Continue recruiting from within, produce an attitude survey to find the attitudes towards job satisfaction at the Jonesboro Police Department and produce a plan for better officer retention.
- Develop an officer wellness and resiliency program.
- Host at least four outside training courses to allow more officers to become certified in specialty areas and develop a plan to deliver more leadership training through new partnerships with ASU and other resources to further career and leadership development.

The Jonesboro Police Department continues to utilize technology to further the fight against crime. In 2021, we replaced outdated portable radios, that were faltering in many areas of the city and that were no longer serviceable, in a joint city project with JFD.

The success of our use of social media continued to grow as we increased our number of followers to over 57,000 and saw tremendous numbers of interactions as we used social media to engage, inform, and educate. Such connection is vital during times when in-person contact is not always possible or advisable. It continues to offer tremendous benefit to us in informing the public, solving crimes, and locating missing children.

But, our biggest steps into the technology realm were the strides toward a fully integrated Video Management System. Working with other city departments; Engineering, Information Systems, Parks, and Dispatch, JPD is proud to be a part of the city team that is joined together to implement infrastructure that will provide better safety to visitors and citizens of Jonesboro. This program, funded mainly through a federal grant, allowed the city to install, acquire, and implement integrating software, obtain connectivity hardware, and additional cameras at a number of locations, as well as expand the use of existing cameras with slight modifications. Thus far, the system has served to aid in solving crimes quickly, assist in traffic management, and even locating missing children. This VMS is the first major step toward the reality of a Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) for the city.

During the coming year, we will work with other city departments to continue to expand the city's camera program as well as complete a project to update our less-lethal Taser equipment and, most importantly, upgrade the existing body worn and unit camera systems. The upgrades to the cameras will afford greater safety to the officers in the field, better oversight for high risk and dangerous situations and will allow us to continue our commitment to transparency.

ENHANCE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

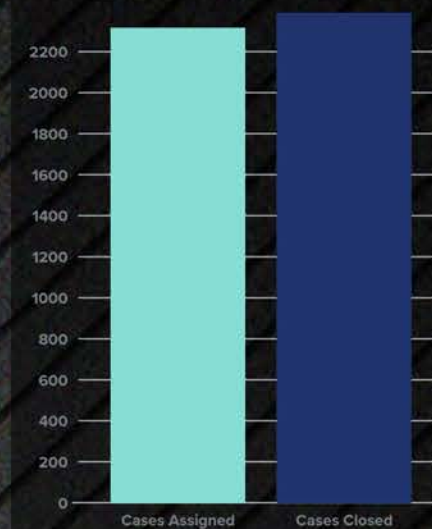
- Reduce opioid abuse related deaths through collaboration by implementing a Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP).
- Certify an additional 20 Crisis Intervention Team Officers and train on the use of the Crisis Stabilization Unit
- Our School Resource Officers will work with their respective schools to develop, implement and provide instruction in at least one new program and curricula, such as "Know your Rights" and "What to do When you get Pulled Over" that will expand the students' understanding of law and the role of law enforcement in society.



While service to the community is our utmost responsibility, we also sought out better means to take care of the health of our agency. Recruiting and retention were the focus of a collaborative partnership with Arkansas State University as university staff conducted a survey of our officers to help us better understand what we can do to recruit from within and retain the officers already on staff.

One of the primary things discovered is the value placed by officers on having an Officer Wellness Program. Throughout the past year, we took advantage of a number of free wellness trainings and seminars and began the process of establishing a peer-to-peer wellness program to combat the physical and mental health issues related to chronic cumulative stress.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION



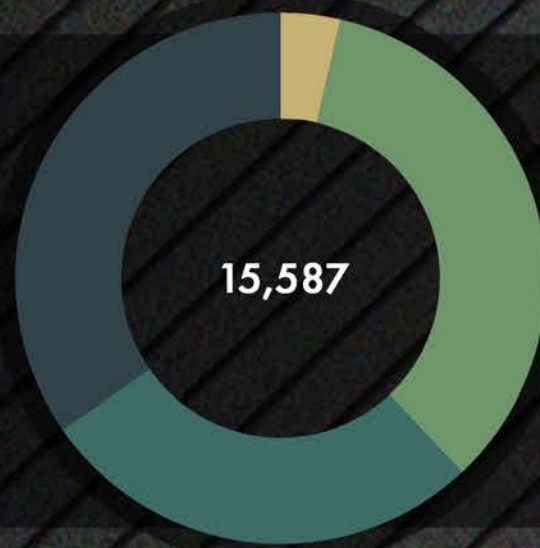
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

Cases Assigned **2,312** Cases Closed **2,385**

Evidence Items Processed in Crime Lab 276
Fingerprints Rolled for Public 1,450

NIBRS REPORTABLE OFFENSES

Crimes Against Persons 562
Crimes Against Property 5,363
Crimes of Proactive Policing 4,260
Other Crimes 5,402



INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

New Cases Worked 123
Cybertips Received 49
Tech Exams 427
Search Warrants Served 142
Polygraph Exams 12



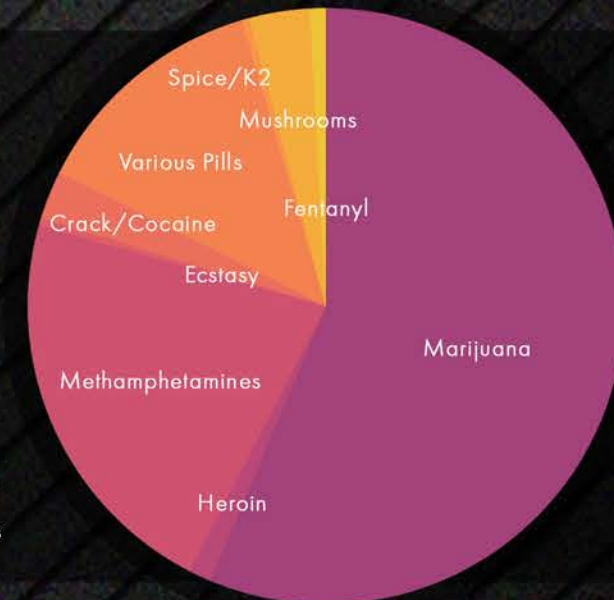
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS	359	331	320	345	402	378	396	416	510	579	563
HOMICIDE	1	4	2	4	4	4	7	4	8	11	8
RAPE	43	25	35	37	33	20	26	32	45	41	33
ROBBERY	85	82	59	63	58	74	62	57	58	56	55
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	179	178	178	205	260	229	243	259	334	397	393
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY	6637	6043	5629	6040	5661	6624	6034	6023	6012	7058	5364
BURGLARY	1340	1192	1029	1233	1089	1566	1201	1174	1120	1080	881
LARCENY THEFT	2814	2570	2486	2741	2319	2757	2525	2411	2350	2274	2014
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	449	119	100	88	98	126	174	184	153	219	235
ARSON	15	12	13	8	9	11	12	11	2	13	14
CRIMES OF PROACTIVE POLICING	2243	2526	2509	2237	2386	2634	3066	3007	3191	3635	3996
DRUG/NARCOTICS VIOLATIONS	708	782	822	775	892	1068	1330	1350	1434	1664	1922
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS	76	61	80	51	74	92	121	102	172	179	200
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	378	559	424	318	273	291	221	172	169	209	326
OTHER CRIMES	9765	8576	8270	7957	7531	8058	4769	3638	3581	3412	3805

EVIDENCE

Marijuana 64956.12 grams
Methamphetamines 7013.24 grams
Heroin 280.24 grams
Ecstasy 3022 tabs
Crack/Cocaine 596.46 grams
Spice/K2 2 grams
Fentanyl 2.08 grams
Mushrooms 746 grams
Various Pills 6995 tabs

NIBIN

333 Firearms Seized **373** Test Fires **482** Entries **37** Leads



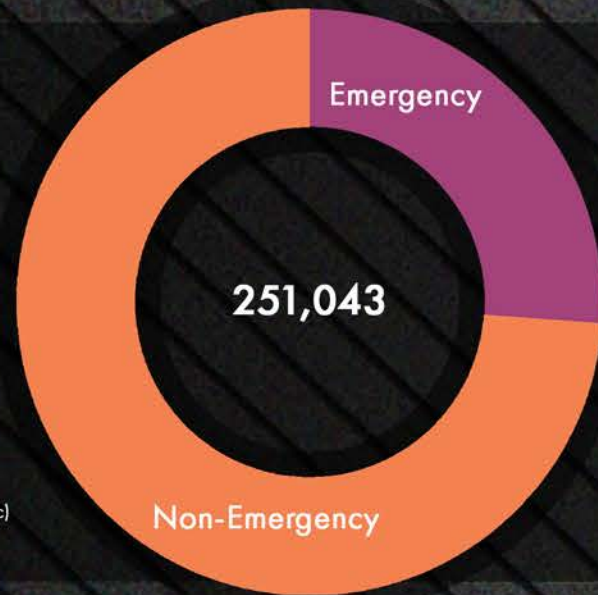


PATROL DIVISION

E911 DISPATCH

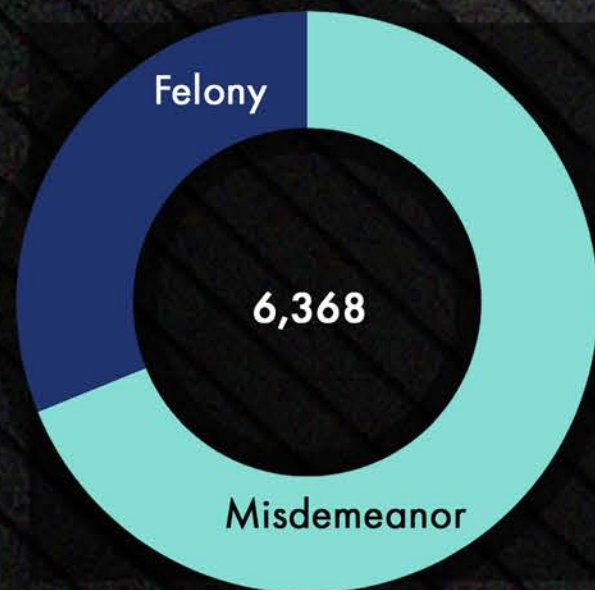
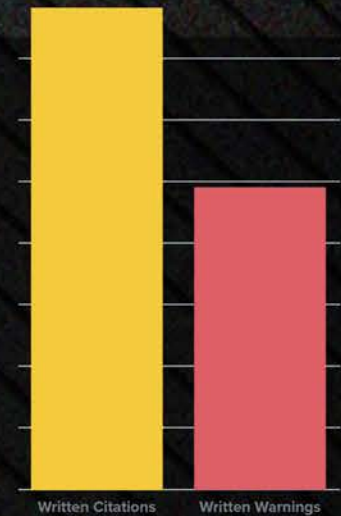
Total Calls Received **251,043**
 Emergency **65,734**
 Non-Emergency **185,309**

69,255 Jonesboro Police Department
43,868 All Others (JFD, CCSO, Ambulance, etc)



TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Street Accidents 3,598
 Private Property Accidents 1,028
 Fatality Accidents 9
 Traffic Stops 19,295
 Written Traffic Citations 3,908
 Written Traffic Warnings 2,446
 DWIs 325



ARRESTS

Total Arrests 6,368
 Misdemeanor 4,384
 Felony 1,984

DWI Arrests 325
 Drug Arrests 1,198



SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION



TRAINING

Department Training Hours
20,915.75

WARRANTS

Warrants Served
4,750

RESERVES

Reserve Officers
32

Volunteer Reserve Hours
1,442

COURT SERVICES

Fees Collected
\$292,850.48

Active Probationers	9,312
Added	1,668
Completed Program	767
Revoked	504



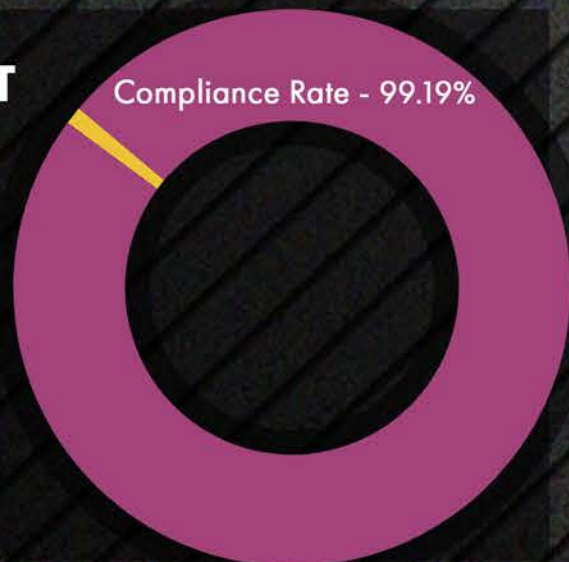
CODE ENFORCEMENT

Cases Opened
4,050

Properties Condemned **1**

Properties Razed **21**

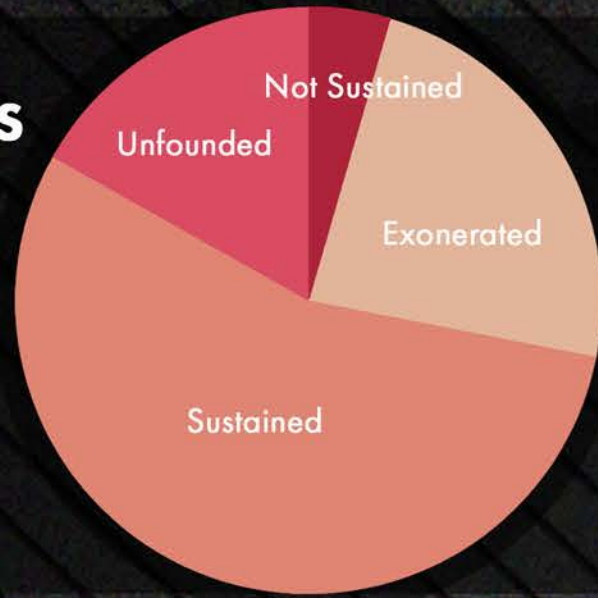
Compliance Rate before second warning **99.19%**



INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Opened **85** Closed **89**

Sustained	49
Not Sustained	4
Exonerated	21
Unfounded	15



ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION



ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal Complaints	18,969
Bite Reports	106
Euthanized	434
Sent to Rescue	138
Adoptions	240



RECORDS

Incident Reports Processed
12,621

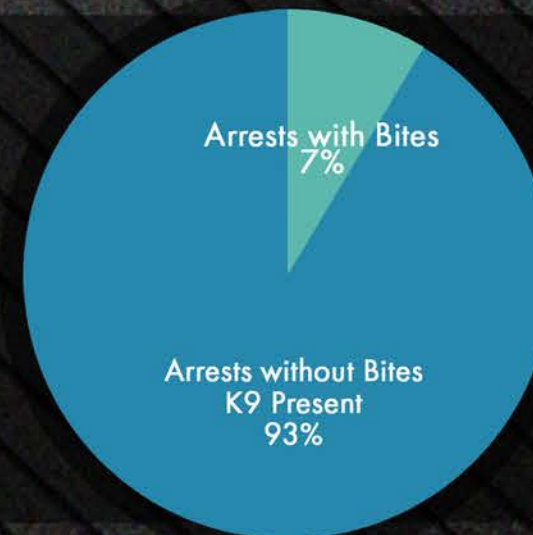
Accident Reports Processed
3,592

Fees Collected
\$81,070

SERVICE DIVISION

Unexpected Repair Costs
\$58,882.47

Preventative Maintenance
\$41,490.37



K9 UNIT

Deployments	1438
Arrests with Bites	9
Arrests without Bites	95
People Found	127

REAL TIME CRIME CENTER

PUBLIC INFORMATION

385

Cameras Installed

34

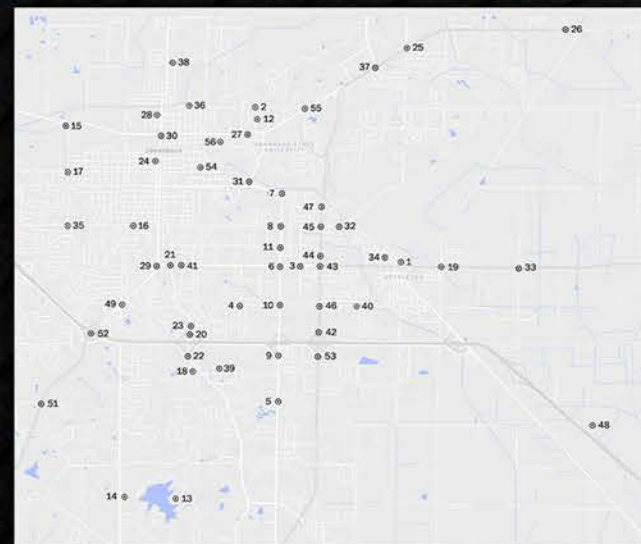
Intersections Recorded

10

License Plate Readers

577

Camera References



Facebook Followers	54,308
Website Visits	109,719
Web Applications Received	419
Online Reports Filed	615
Web Forms Received	1,154
Reports Released	12,621
FOIA Requests Received	778
Video Redaction Requests	671

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Community Outreach Events	61
Officers Volunteered	73
Citizens Attended	9620
Citizen Police Academy Graduates	38
Homeless Outreach Recipients	44

NEW HIRES



Sadie Magee
Tristan Lee
Jasiel Faulkenberry
Zach Williamson
Jacob Lowry
Teddy Henderson
Adam Butler
Heaven Alcorn
Lance McGinnis
Ethan Noell

Darius Johnston
Chris Vermillion
Shannon Simino
Cameron Harrison
Troy Ellison
Richard Prostack
Glenn Light
Carma Butler
Aaron Moore
Demitris Noles

PROMOTIONS



Sgt. Brian Arnold
Sgt. Shane Fox
Lt. Royce Smith
Lt. Lyle Waterworth
Sgt. Tony Zaffarano
Sgt. Erik Johnson

RETIREMENTS

Larry Rogers - 34 Years

Vic Brooks - 21 Years

Brian Sawyer - 33 Years

Gary Shackelford - 27 Years



YEARS OF SERVICE

25 Years
Kenny Howard

20 Years
John Hughes
Owen Smith
Adam Hampton
Jon Wood
Mark Yates

15 Years
Lane Holmes
Jim Flanigan

10 Years
Jacob Daffron
Scott Byrd
Bryan Bailey

5 Years
Brandon Butler
Kiandra McCain
Tanner Huff
Colton Brown
Ryan Crawford
Kaitlyn Inouye
Jordan Fowler
Kelsey Chism
Nicholas Carmichael

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Andy Starnes was chosen as the 2021 Officer of the Year. He was nominated by Assistant Chief Lynn Waterworth: "It is significant and honorable that the Jonesboro Police Department takes time to recognize officers that have exhibited outstanding performance, dedication, and professionalism in their service to our community. That type of performance deserves recognition and I can't think of an officer who embodies that description more than Andy Starnes.

From the time I saw the McMeth video to the many, many times that followed, where I read reports outlining how he had made significant arrests, I saw right away that Andy's skills and abilities were going to be a huge asset to the department, as well as our entire community. He continues to lead the department with arrests, contacts, and other interactions that are the cornerstone of what makes an officer an exemplary crime fighter. I have been privileged to witness many of his successes, including this past September, when he was recognized for his response to a call of a juvenile who was in a mental health crisis. Andy utilized his negotiating skills and quick thinking and provided swift medical intervention that enabled him to bring about a positive conclusion to the situation for that family.

I have listened as his co-workers tell about how he helped them work out a difficult to solve cases and how they feel motivated if they hang around him. I also have heard supervisors talk about how he answers calls without hesitation, completes tasks well and provides an exemplary role model and mentor for younger officers. One supervisor from another division easily summed it up when he said 'He does good stuff. We need more just like that.' I agree.

So many descriptive words came to mind as I wrote this:

- Value
- Commitment
- Excellence

Essentially, the kind of officer that embodies what the public has a right to expect – an officer that does what he should, even when others aren't watching, and makes a difference time and time again."



CRIMESTOPPER OF THE YEAR

Reserve Officer Rachel Anderson was chosen as the CrimeStoppers Officer of the Year. Rachel was chosen by the CrimeStoppers board for her work with the department as a Digital Media Officer/Video Analyst. An excerpt from her nomination reads: "Rachel Anderson has built a following and partnership within the Northeast Arkansas community for the Jonesboro Police Department that allows us to reach tens of thousands of people in innovative ways that yield many tips and ultimately arrests. Rachel's creativity and passion to see that victims are served and suspects are identified has served our community well, and her skillset continues to grow.



AR AG OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge hosts an annual event to recognize officers from each region of the state. Our Internet Crimes Against Children Officers spend countless hours keeping the children of NEA safe from predators. Since December 2019, the department has investigated and charged 54 cases of child rape, internet crimes against children, internet stalking and child trafficking. Of those 54 cases, 20 of them are some of the most aggregates. These Detectives do outstanding work for the Jonesboro Police Department. These qualities, along with their dedication to the safety, not only of their own lives, but that of their fellow officers, make them stand out in the law enforcement community.



HARD DOG/FAST DOG

This state-wide competition among K-9 officers held in Jacksonville, Arkansas offered JPD the opportunity to showcase the abilities of our K9s. JPD's very own K9 Rocket and his handler, Jason Myers, took home First Place honors when Rocket's run clocked in at 29mph. They beat out dozens of other teams to show that Rocket definitely lives up to his name!



EXCHANGE CLUB

This annual event recognizes a Craighead County Law Enforcement Officer for outstanding service. This year, recently retired Sgt. Gary Shackelford was recognized for his work with JPD's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit. Shackelford was instrumental in the organization and implementation of the unit and his work continued to see the successful arrest of a number of suspects every year.



JANUARY

Jeremy Wheelis

FEBRUARY

Chris Pigg

MARCH

Zach McQuay

APRIL

Lynae Batchelor

MAY

Nathan Oliver

JUNE

Jason Chester

JULY

Maddie Mead

AUGUST

Susan Gray

SEPTEMBER

Andy Starnes

OCTOBER

Rich Rothwell

NOVEMBER

Jay Haggans

DECEMBER

Evan Henry





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JPD K9 Rocket