

**CITY OF MORGANTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**



**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR
2022**



**Proudly Protecting the Lives & Property
for the Citizens of Morganton**



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Mission Statement

Our Mission:

We, the members of the Morganton Department of Public Safety, are committed to protect the lives, property, and Constitutional Rights of all residents and visitors of OUR community by providing professional law enforcement and fire protection services.

Our Values:

- ❖ **Integrity:** High ethical standards, honesty and fairness
- ❖ **Professionalism:** Individual excellence, education and training
- ❖ **Honor:** Official dignity, repute, and esteem
- ❖ **Accountability:** To take responsibility for all actions and decisions
- ❖ **Respect:** Treating others as you would like to be treated
- ❖ **Equality:** Fair, impartial, and equitable treatment of all people

Our Vision:

The *Morganton Department of Public Safety* strives to be a leader in the delivery of public safety services which combines law enforcement and fire protection. Our employees strive to be leaders in OUR community in name and deed conducting themselves in a manner to which others will aspire.

Retirements

The Morganton Department of Public Safety proudly recognizes the retirement of the following employee in 2022. Upon retirement, the City of Morganton and the Department of Public Safety offers their sincere appreciation for his dedicated and exemplary service:



Tony Lowdermilk
Chief of Public Safety
Effective February 2022
28 years of service

Department Personnel Allocations

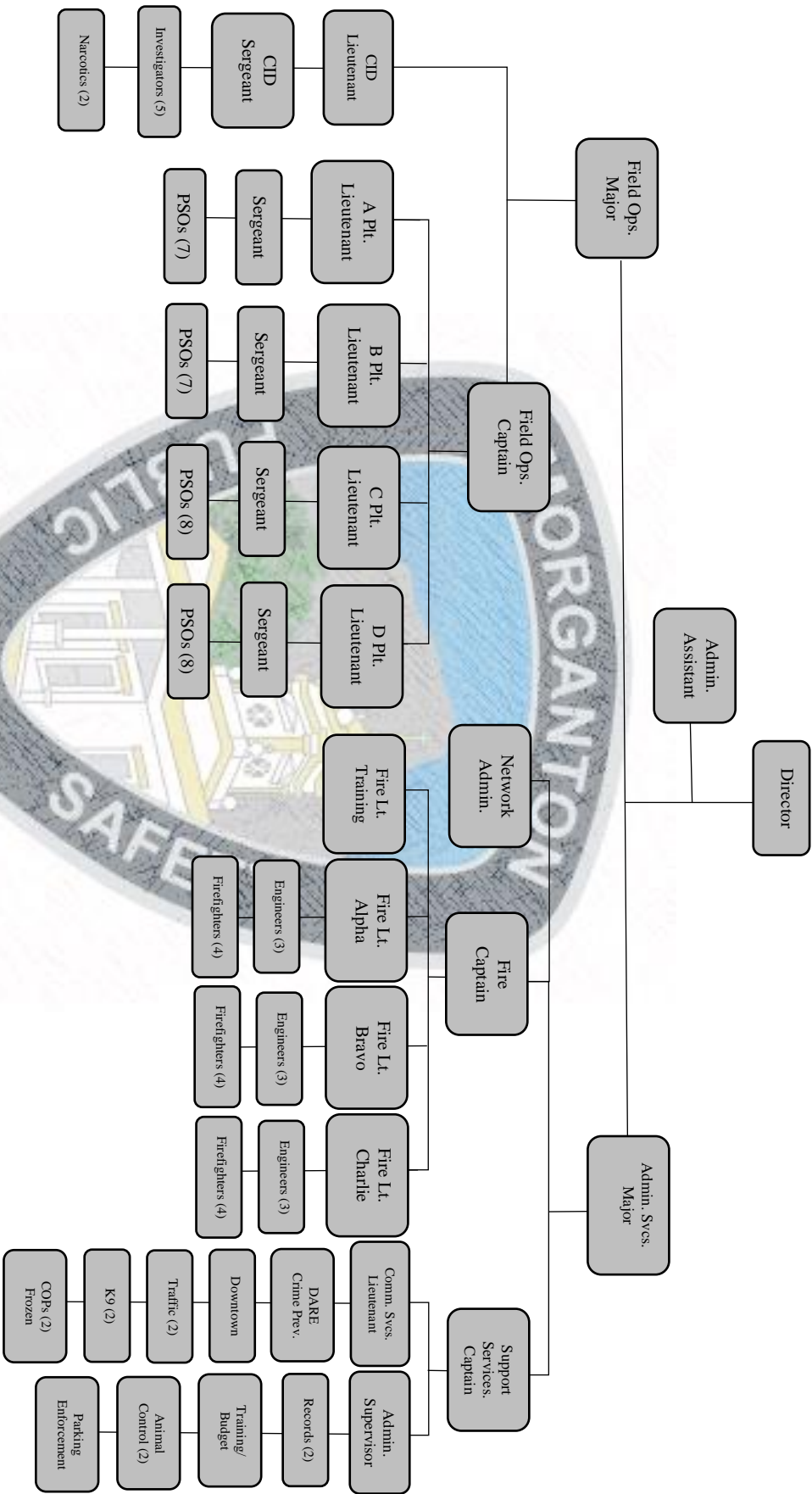
January 2022

Department Position	Allocate	Assigned	Frozen	Vacant
Public Safety Chief	*1	*1		
Major	*2	*1		*1
Captain	*2	*2		
Lieutenant	*6	*6		
Sergeant	*5	*5		
PSO	*45	*39	*2	*4
Fire Capt	1	1		
Fire Lt	4	4		
Engineers	9	8		1
Firefighters	12	11		1
Admin Supervisor	1	1		
Admin Manager	1	1		
Admin Specialist I	2	1	1	
Network Admin	1	1		
Customer Serv Rep	2	1		1
Parking Enforcement	1	1		
Animal Control	2	1		

Total Sworn*	*61	*54	*2	*5
Total Civilian	36	32	1	3
GRAND TOTAL	97	86	3	8

* Indicates sworn personnel

Morganton Department of Public Safety



Accomplishments

🛡️ The following promotions took place:

- 🛡️ **Captain Jason Whisnant** promoted to Chief
- 🛡️ **Lieutenant Tim Corriveau** promoted to Captain
- 🛡️ **Sergeant Joseph Beaver** promoted to Lieutenant
- 🛡️ **PSO Joey Belanger** promoted to Sergeant
- 🛡️ **Firefighter Byron Burleson** promoted to Fire Engineer

🛡️ The following personnel were recognized for their career progression achievements:

- 🛡️ **Investigator Cody Storie**, Advance Law Enforcement Certificate
- 🛡️ **PSO Tuo Vue**, Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate



Captain Keith Bowman successfully completed the *FBI National Academy* at Quantico, VA. The *FBI National Academy* is a professional course of study for U.S. and international law enforcement managers nominated by their agency heads because of demonstrated leadership qualities. The 10-week program provides coursework in intelligence theory, terrorism and terrorist mindsets, management science, law, behavioral science, law enforcement communication, and forensic science and serves to improve the administration of justice in police departments and agencies at home and abroad.



Lieutenant Nick Edwards successfully completed the *Administrative Officers Management Program* (AOMP) at N.C. State University. AOMP is a twelve-week on-site Management and Leadership Education program designed specifically for Law Enforcement Professionals. This unique educational experience, operated as part of a nationally accredited Public Administration Program, offers participants the opportunity to earn fifteen college credits. AOMP is a continuing education activity of the Public Safety Leadership Initiative (PSLI) in the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Boards & Committees

- ♣ **Chief Jason Whisnant:** Burke Substance Abuse Network, Kate B. Reynolds-Grant Committee, Burke County Safe Communities Task Force, Morganton Human Relations Commission, Homeless Task Force, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion-Burke Case Review, Burke County Homeland Security Task Force, Morganton-Burke Crimestoppers (ex officio member), and Board of Directors member for Mission Ministries Alliance.
- ♣ **Major Ryan Lander:** Burke County United Way, NC Law Enforcement Accreditation Committee, Domestic Violence Task Force, Burke County Communication Technical Advisory Board, Burke County Homeland Security Task Force, NC-FBINA Dist. 5 Rep.
- ♣ **Captain Keith Bowman** – Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, Critical Mentorship Freedom High School
- ♣ **Captain Tim Corriveau:** Law Enf. Assistance Diversion, Burke Substance Abuse Network
- ♣ **Amy Swanson:** Morganton-Burke Crimestoppers, MDPS Social Media Committee, MDPS Recruitment Committee
- ♣ **Lt. Tayler Alexander** - The Outreach Center (Secretary), North Carolina Law Enforcement Women's Association (Secretary), MDPS Interview Board, MDPS Social Media Committee, MDPS Recruitment Committee
- ♣ **Lt. Nick Edwards:** Explorer Post Committee Chair
- ♣ **Lt. Josiah Brown:** Morganton-Burke Crimestoppers
- ♣ **Lt. Joseph Beaver** - MDPS Social Media Committee, MDPS Recruitment Committee, MDPS Interview Board, WPCC Criminal Justice AAS Degree Board
- ♣ **Eng. Aubrey Hendricks** - New Truck Committee, Rescue Committee, MDPS Social Media Committee and Honor Guard
- ♣ **Investigator Kyle Goforth** – International Association of Arson Investigators, National Tactical Operators Association
- ♣ **PSO Stacey Huffman** – NC Governors Highway Safety County Coordinator

Part 1 Crimes

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) guidelines track eight “Index Crimes,” known also as Part 1 crimes. The UCR system includes crimes that are most likely to be reported to the police and to occur with sufficient frequency to provide an adequate basis for comparison. Part 1 crimes are further split into two categories, **Violent** and **Property**. Below is analysis of Part 1 crimes reported to Public Safety:

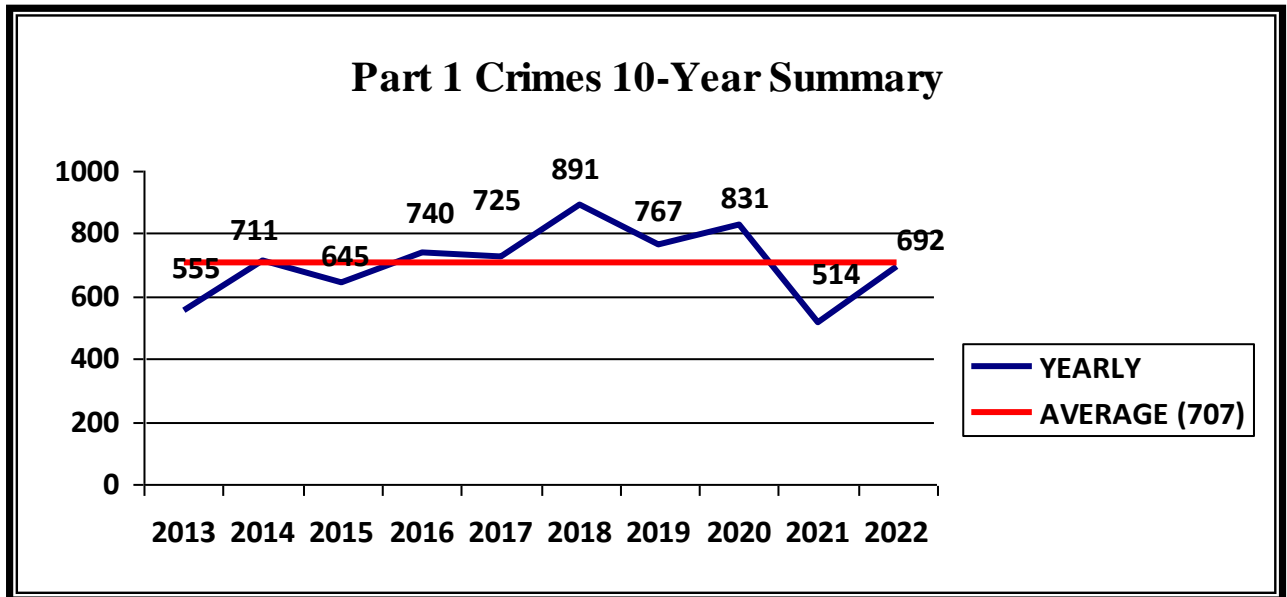
Violent Crimes	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Murder	2	1	0	1	2
Forcible Rape	18	17	19	7	17
Robbery	22	7	7	7	6
Aggravated Assault	43	37	36	23	53
TOTAL	85	62	62	38	78

Property Crimes	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Burglary	326	203	177	85	160
Larceny	460	453	542	354	409
MV Theft	18	47	49	34	44
Arson	2	2	1	3	1
TOTAL	806	705	769	476	614

2022 Part 1 Summary													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
<i>Murder</i>	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
<i>Rape</i>	0	0	3	1	2	1	1	2	2	3	1	1	17
<i>Robbery</i>	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	6
<i>Assaults</i>	4	4	2	3	3	9	5	1	5	7	7	3	53
<i>Burglary</i>	15	7	22	7	12	9	15	14	17	11	19	12	160
<i>Larceny</i>	20	14	25	30	35	44	41	32	38	40	53	37	409
<i>MV Theft</i>	2	4	1	6	5	3	7	3	3	2	4	4	44
<i>Arson</i>	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	41	29	54	48	58	67	71	53	66	63	85	57	692

Part 1 Crimes Continued

10-YEAR SUMMARY										
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<i>Murder</i>	0	3	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	2
<i>Rape</i>	8	6	4	11	15	18	17	19	7	17
<i>Robbery</i>	21	11	16	12	11	22	7	7	7	6
<i>Assaults</i>	23	47	56	59	52	43	37	36	23	53
<i>Burglary</i>	133	149	132	154	223	326	203	177	85	160
<i>Larceny</i>	351	466	413	474	415	460	453	542	354	409
<i>MV Theft</i>	18	18	20	28	7	18	47	49	34	44
<i>Arson</i>	1	11	3	2	2	2	2	1	3	1
TOTAL	555	711	645	740	725	891	767	831	514	692

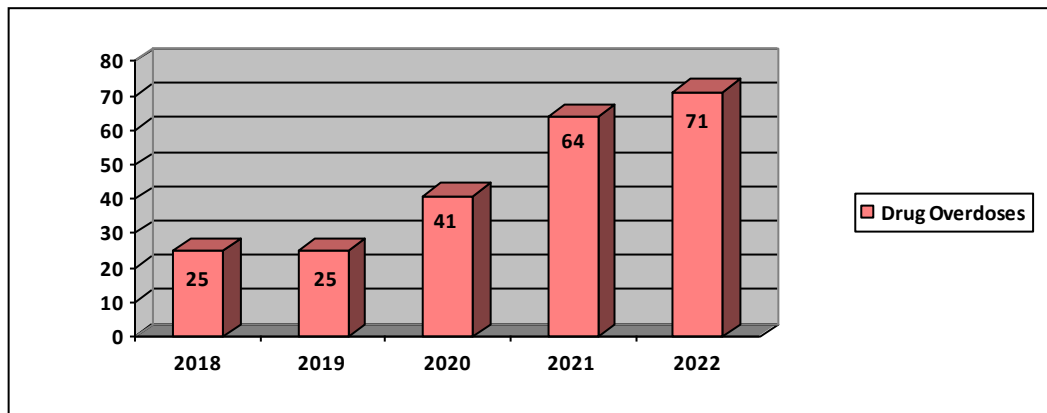


Calls For Service

2022 Top-10 Call Types

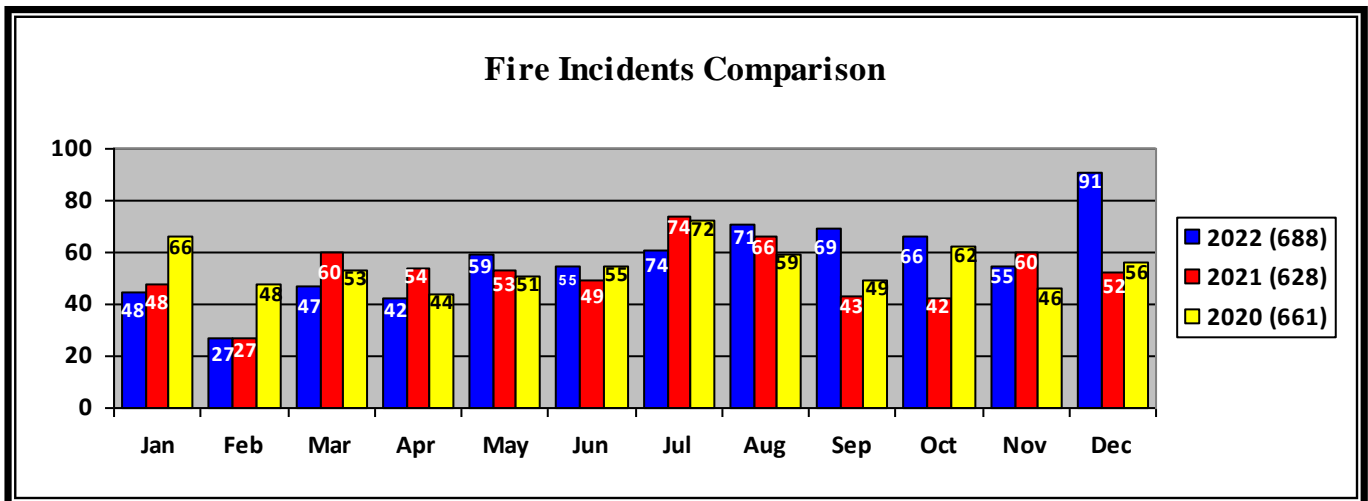
Calls for Service (125 total categories)	2019	2020	2021	2022
Vehicle Stop	8,979	4,964	4,782	5,433
Extra Patrol	3,221	4,980	4,055	4,099
Security Check	3,600	2,961	4,116	3,499
911 Hang-up	2,475	2,622	3,049	2,419
Speak to Officer	1,937	1,848	1,647	1,849
Investigation	1,197	1,218	1,341	1,361
Alarm Activation	1,469	1,431	1,315	1,337
Suspicious Person	1,358	1,230	1,174	1,258
Property Damage MVA	1,127	987	1,167	1,123
Follow-Up	1,347	1,258	1,183	1,019
All other call categories	12,950	11,835	11,403	12,082
TOTAL	39,660	35,334	35,232	35,479

- 🛡️ The total *Calls for Service* increased more than **1%** from previous year
- 🛡️ Public Safety responded to an average of **97** *Calls For Service* each day utilizing 6-8 personnel per 12-hour shift

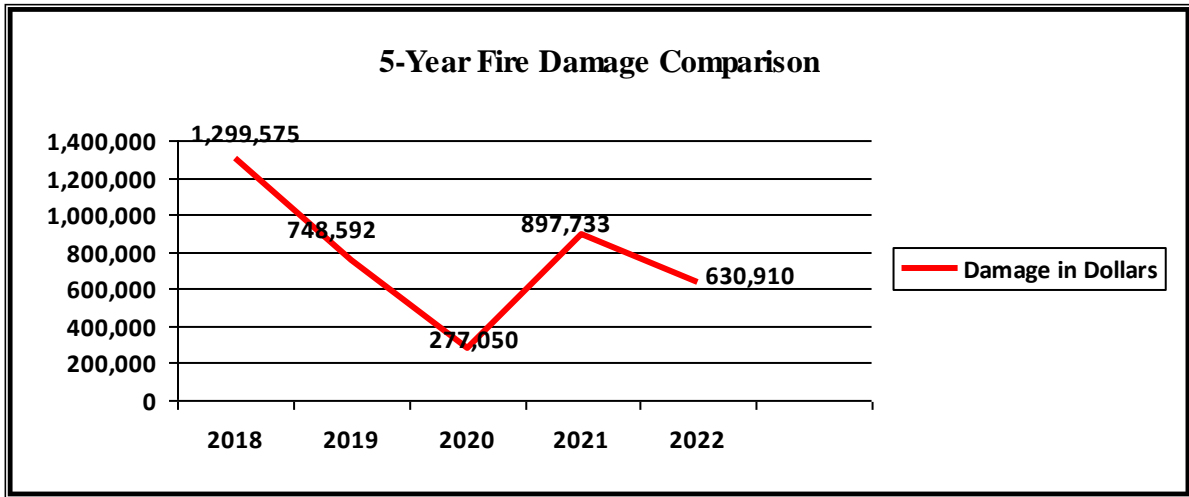




FIRE RESPONSE 2022													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<i>Number of Calls</i>	45	27	47	42	59	55	61	71	69	66	55	91	688
<i>Property Damage</i>	\$20,000	5,000	\$1,100	\$20,300	\$6,000	\$0	\$11,700	\$33,000	\$100,250	\$0	\$429,560	\$4,000	\$630,910
<i>Man Hours Spent</i>	112:30	104:25	139:30	146:07	169:20	112:30	212:22	194:28	239:90	163:50	206:90	295:00	2,095:29



Fire Statistics Continued



Traffic Analysis

5-YEAR SUMMARY – TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<i>Accidents Reported</i>	1,209	1,215	1,029	1,253	1,167
<i>Number Injured</i>	236	251	163	244	241
<i>Fatalities</i>	0	2	2	2	3
<i>Acc. Arrests/Citations</i>	959	990	785	1,043	959
<i>Property Damage</i>	\$4,119,086	\$3,750,000	\$2,998,713	\$4,196,424	\$4,262,867

5-YEAR SUMMARY – DWI ARRESTS, CITATIONS					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<i>DWI Arrests</i>	343	288	285	405	400
<i>Traffic Citations</i>	5,187	6,759	3,724	3,122	4,000

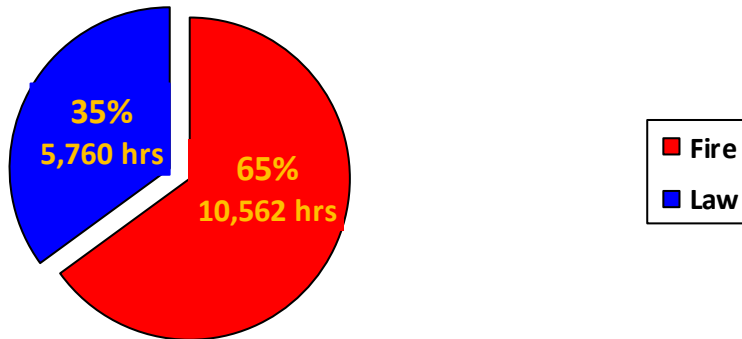
Traffic Checkpoints:

Public Safety conducted a total of **44** traffic related events during 2022 at various locations throughout the city and as a result **369** citations were issued. Checkpoints include seat belt enforcement, saturated patrols, speed enforcement and educational events.



Training

Training Hours by Category
Total Hours: 16,322

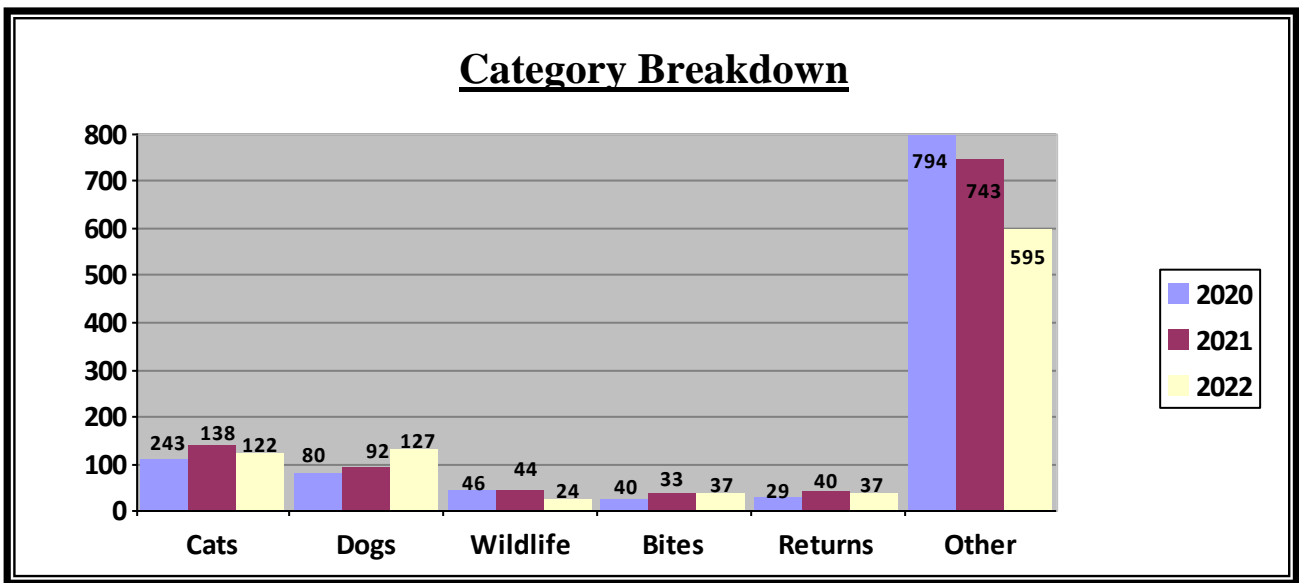


- Total police-related training for 2021 was **5,760** hours, resulting in each sworn officer (60) averaging **96** hours of training
- Total fire-related training was **10,562** hours, resulting in each firefighter (90) averaging **117** hours of training for the year
- In 2022, eight PSO's attended Fire Academy at over 400 hours each
- In 2022, nine PSO's attended WPCC BLET at over 640 hours each



Animal Control

	2020	2021	2022
<i>Calls for Service</i>	1,080	1,092	942
<i>Citations Issued</i>	125	78	69









Animal Control Officer
Kyle Bradshaw

Special Events and Highlights

Drug Enforcement:

The mission of the Public Safety *Narcotics Division* is drug interdiction and enforcement. Below is a summary of their activity for 2022:

<u>Drug</u>	<u>Amount Seized</u>	<u>Value</u>
 Meth	921 grams	\$46,050
 Fentanyl	104 grams	\$20,800
 Cocaine	273 grams	\$13,650
 Marijuana	589 grams	\$2,061
 Crack	76 units	\$1,520
 MDMA	70 units	\$350

Total estimated value: **\$84,431**

The hard work of our Narcotics Division resulted in 79 felony drug cases (2 Federal) with 48 indictments (5 Federal) and 57 individuals charged. Furthermore, \$3,061 in cash was seized, of which our department received 75% (\$2,295).

Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT)



Public Safety's SWAT team is comprised of 10 members and is responsible for hostage situations, barricaded persons, sniper incidents, aggravated suicide attempts, high-risk building searches & arrest warrant service, crowd control and other potential life threatening incidents which exceed the routine response of on-duty Public Safety personnel. The team conducted 6 operations in 2022 as well as monthly training events.

K9 Program:

PSO Holder completed his 10-week Handler training and then trained and oriented his newly-assigned canine TIGO. PSO Huffman is assigned canine JAROS. Canine units are responsible for apprehension of fleeing suspects, article searches, tracking suspects or missing persons, building searches, and narcotics detection. Below is their activity for 2022:

Training and Usage

Tracks.....	4
Vehicles searched.....	71
Building searches.....	2
Apprehensions without force.....	3
Total training hours.....	172



Drug and Money Seizures

Marijuana.....	1061 grams (Street value \$3,713.00)
Methamphetamines.....	8139 grams (Street Value \$329,580.00)
Cocaine/Crack.....	20 grams (Street Value \$1,800)
Heroin/Fentanyl.....	20 grams (Street Value \$2,000)
MDMA Seized.....	10 dosage units (Street Value \$5,075)
Money.....	\$9,888.00
Weapons.....	4

Community Services Division:

☛ “Coffee With A Cop” is a national event that focuses on connecting community members with Law Enforcement. In 2022, Public Safety hosted **8** events at businesses. The program continues to be well received by members in the community.



☛ Public Safety’s annual “Blue Elves” outreach event reached nearly **125** children in the city of Morganton with assistance from The Marine Corps League Toys for Tots, Morganton Housing Authority, Morganton-Burke Fraternal Order of Police, Morganton Recreation Department and other donors. These partnerships have allowed Public Safety to facilitate this event which includes toys, snacks and activities for youth and parents.



Explorers Program:

In 2022 Public Safety continued its *Law Enforcement Explorers* program which is a hands-on career-oriented program that gives youth from ages 14 to 21 years old the opportunity to explore careers in law enforcement and firefighting. We ended the year with 5 youth participating in our program supervised by our personnel. The Explorers assisted our Community Services Division with community projects which included our annual Blue Elves toy giveaway, Spooky Meadows Haunted Trail, Historic Morganton Festival and Parades.



Fire Services:

Fire Prevention efforts included presentations to more than 4,406 citizens at 33 different events throughout the year totaling 65 man-hours. Events were held at local elementary schools, recreation centers and community events and included information on fire prevention and life safety. Conducted 4 tours of our facilities for our citizens allowing them to observe the specialized equipment used in firefighting. Assisted hearing-impaired citizens with proper installation of smoke detectors and bed-shaker alarms. Performed 11 events assisting citizens with correct child car seat installations.



Breast Cancer Awareness

Public Safety showed its support in the fight against breast cancer by designing and selling t-shirts and patches during October's *Breast Cancer Awareness Month* and raising/donating over \$1,400 to Blue Ridge Healthcare Foundation to help fund mammograms for those in need.



Autism Awareness

To show our support during *Autism Awareness Month* in April, Public Safety designed and sold patches and raised \$1,000 in 2022 which was given to North Liberty School to further their autism programs.

