

**CITY OF MORGANTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**



ANNUAL REPORT



Proudly Protecting Lives and Property



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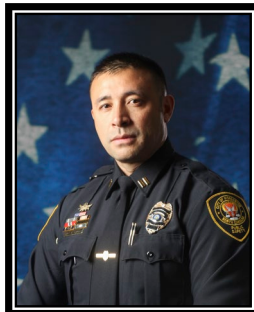
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Morganton Department of Public Safety I am honored to present our 2017 Annual Report. We are pleased to provide our partners and community members with the opportunity to learn about our agency's work and revisit some important activities from the past year.

The Morganton Department of Public Safety remains committed to the foundational principals of building trust and nurturing legitimacy through building good relationships and treating people with dignity and respect. Partnerships, planning and advancement continue to be the key components of our foundational principals. We are proud of all of our community activities but this past year we are especially proud of our fund raising efforts for Breast Cancer Awareness / Diagnoses, and our community outreach programs such as Coffee with a Cop, Operation Blue Elves, Operation Safe Haven, Sanctuary Security Workshops and the introduction of Partnership for Change.

The department continues to change and evolve with 2017 being no exception. In 2017 Public Safety went through it largest restructuring since 1976 when the fire and police departments were organized into Public Safety. It had become clear that staffing adjustments within Public Safety were necessary if we expect to continue to deliver effective and efficient services to the citizens of our community. At Public Safety we transitioned and modified several Public Safety Officer and Fire Engineer positions into 12 Firefighter positions and 4 Fire Lieutenant positions. This was in no way an effort to split Public Safety but an effort to modify our structure to meet our internal needs and the external mandates placed on this agency. This restructuring improves our response in part by enhancing our division of labor and these modifications were the direct result of changes over time in the laws and governing board requirements placed on our agency by OSHA, NFPA, NCDOJ and NCDOI.

Our values of Integrity, Professionalism, Honor, Accountability, Respect and Equality guide our decision making as we work to enhance safety and quality of life in the City of Morganton. We are committed to active community involvement, quality training and collaborative partnerships. I am proud of the members of the Morganton Department of Public Safety. They remain vigilant and engaged in improving the quality of life for our citizens. In the coming year we will continue to explore and consider advancements in policing and firefighting strategies. We are honored to serve the citizens of Morganton by delivering the highest standard of law enforcement, fire services and customer service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronnie D. Rector". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ronnie D. Rector
Director of Public Safety

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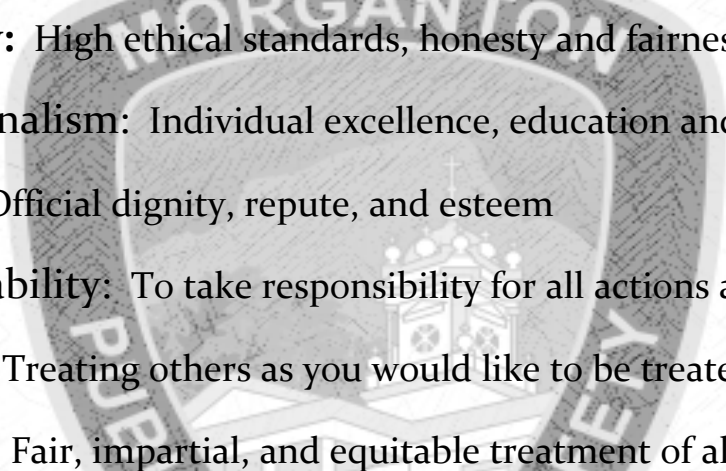
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Mission Statement

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

- 
- The logo is a shield-shaped emblem. At the top, the word "MORGANTON" is written in a semi-circle. In the center, there is a depiction of a building with a steeple. At the bottom, the words "PUBLIC SAFETY" are written in a semi-circle, with "NC" centered below it.
- ♥ **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 combining 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 following Morganton Department of Public Safety employees retired during 2017:



Public Safety Officer
Ronnie Gibbs
Retired December 2017
26 years of service



Animal Control Officer
Brian Smith
Retired June 2017
29 years of service



Public Safety Officer
Shane Fulp
Retired August 2017
9 years of service



Fire Engineer
Eddie Nalley
Retired January 2017
11 years of service

In Memoriam

On May 19, 2017, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, after many years of hard work, dedicated the bridge over Interstate 40 on Enola Road in memory of Morganton Public Safety Reserve Firefighter **Kelly Michael Kincaid** for his professional and personal sacrifice to the City of Morganton. Kelly also served a full-time patrol Lieutenant with the Burke County Sheriff's Office. He gave his life in the execution of those duties and for those he served. His sacrifice and his life will forever be remembered by all who cross the **Kelly M. Kincaid Bridge**.



Captain Ronnie Hudson (Retired) passed away on April 4, 2017. Captain Hudson retired after faithfully serving our department and our community. He served on the committee to form Morganton-Burke Crime Stoppers, Inc., worked to establish the D.A.R.E program in Burke County and was a charter member of the Christian Law Enforcement Officers Association. He also coordinated the annual Christmas party for children living at the Morganton Housing Authority providing gifts for under-privileged children every year.



End of Watch for K-9 Shrek - In 2017, Morganton Public Safety had to say goodbye to **K-9 Shrek**, a 7-and-a-half-year-old German Shepherd, who was relieved of his duties due to a series of debilitating issues with his hips and lower back. Shrek put up a valiant fight for several weeks but his condition was determined to be terminal. To avoid any further suffering, he was put to rest on Thursday, May 25, 2017. Shrek started his career in 2011 and was a full-service Police K-9 trained in drug detection, tracking and apprehension. He had a busy and productive six-year career at Public Safety.

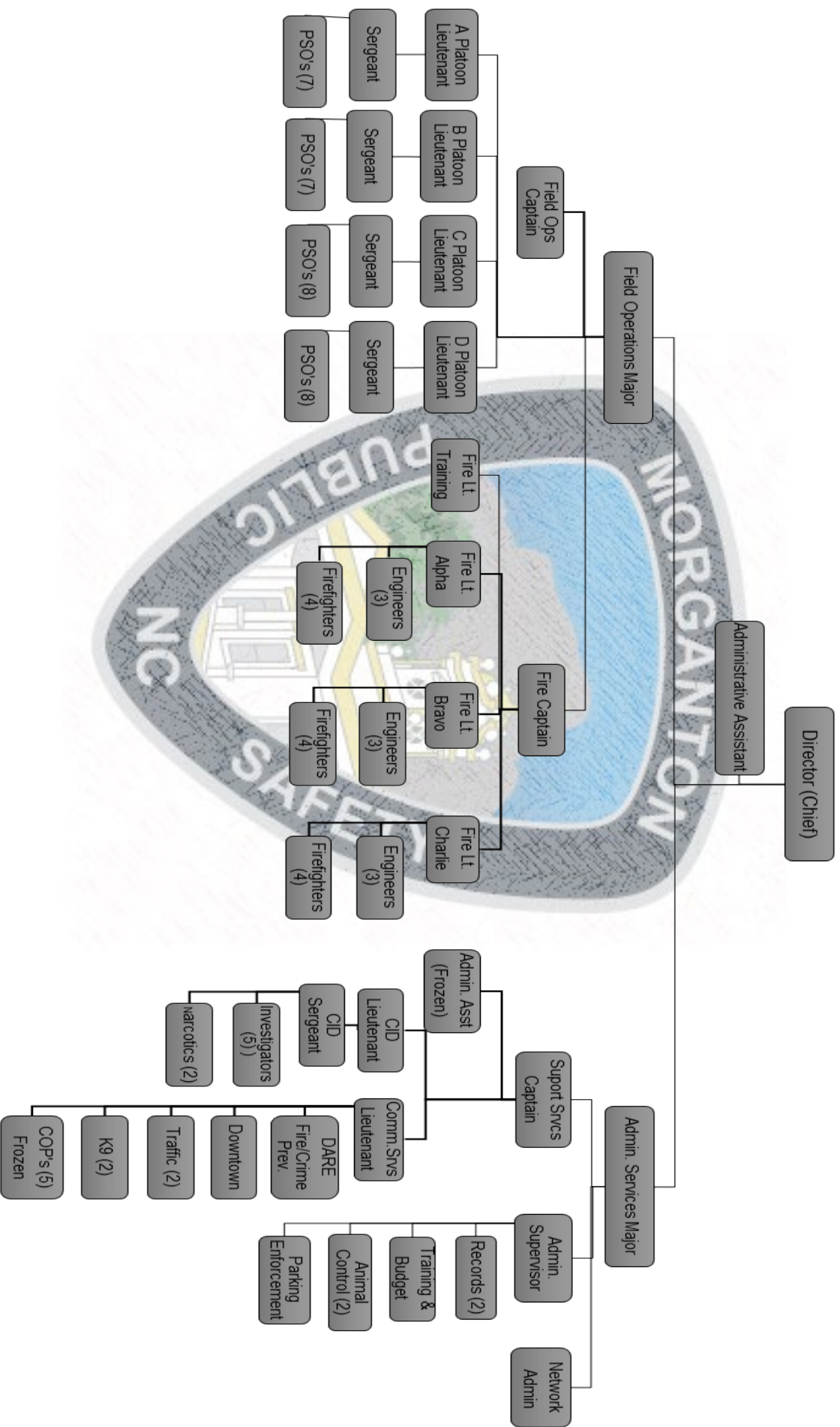
Department Personnel Allocations

January 2018

Department Position	Allocate	Assigned	Frozen	Vacant
Public Safety Chief	*1	*1		
Major	*2	*2		
Captain	*3	*3		
Lieutenant	*5	*5		
Sergeant	*6	*4		*2
PSO	*44	*40	*2	*2
Fire Capt	1	1		
Fire Lt	4	4		
Engineers	9	9		
Firefighters	12	12		
Admin Supervisor	1	1		
Admin Manager	1	1		
Admin Specialist I	2	1	1	
Network Admin	1	1		
Customer Serv Rep	2	2		
Parking Enforcement	1			1
Animal Control	2	1		1
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>				
Total Sworn*	*61	*55	*2	*4
Total Civilian	36	33	1	2
GRAND TOTAL	97	88	3	6

* Indicates sworn personnel

Morganton Department of Public Safety



Highlights & Accomplishments

🛡 The following personnel were promoted:

- 🛡 **Sgt. Josiah Brown** promoted to Lieutenant
- 🛡 **Sgt. Brad Buchanan** promoted to Lieutenant
- 🛡 **Sgt. Will Lackey** promoted to Lieutenant
- 🛡 **Sgt. Gary Massey** promoted to Lieutenant
- 🛡 **Sgt. Robin Triplett** promoted to Lieutenant
- 🛡 **Engineer Jamie Clark** promoted to Fire Lieutenant
- 🛡 **Engineer Israel Gibson** promoted to Fire Lieutenant
- 🛡 **Engineer Chris Rhodes** promoted to Fire Lieutenant
- 🛡 **Engineer Clay Rudicill** promoted to Fire Lieutenant

🛡 The following personnel were recognized for specific accomplishments:

- 🛡 **PSO Tayler Johnson**, *Advance Law Enforcement Certificate*
- 🛡 **PSO Josh Marshall**, *Advance Law Enforcement Certificate*
- 🛡 **Inv. Kyle Goforth**, *Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate*
- 🛡 **PSO Kirstie Puckett**, *Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate*
- 🛡 **Inv. Ryan Stotts**, *Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate*
- 🛡 **PSO Kim Davis**, successfully completed *N.C. Traffic Enforcement and Investigation Certificate Program* requiring over 500 hours of training
- 🛡 **Lt. Will Lackey**, 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 (CHASS) at North Carolina State University.

Boards & Committees

- 🛡️ **Chief Ronnie Rector** – Burke County Homeland Security Taskforce, Burke County Domestic Violence Task Force, Burke Substance Abuse Network, Burke County Communication Technical Advisory Board (CTAB), Burke County Narcotics Task Force Board of Directors, Downtown Parking Committee, HMF Inc. Board of Directors ex-officio member, member of Advisory Board for Public Safety Leadership Initiative for N.C. State University, Morganton-Burke Crime Stoppers, Inc. – ex officio member

- 🛡️ **Major Ryan Lander** - Burke County Homeland Security Taskforce, Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, NC Training & Standards LE Accreditation Committee

- 🛡️ **Major Tony Lowdermilk** – Domestic Violence Task Force, Burke County Homeland Security Taskforce, Burke Substance Abuse Network

- 🛡️ **Capt. Keith Bowman** – Burke County United Way, A Caring Alternative, N.C. Coalition Initiative, Partnership for Change and New Dimensions School

- 🛡️ **Capt. Jason Whisnant** – Burke Substance Abuse Network, Burke/Catawba Crisis Collaborative and Overdose Prevention Program

- 🛡️ **Lt. Tim Corriveau** – Morganton-Burke Crimestoppers, Inc. Coordinator/MDPS

- 🛡️ **Administrative Supervisor Jason Smith** – City of Morganton Safety Committee

- 🛡️ **Inv. Donny Dellinger** – Burke Substance Abuse Network

- 🛡️ **Inv. Kyle Goforth** – N.C. Gang Net Association member

- 🛡️ **Inv. Cody Storie** – Child Advocacy Center – Child Abuse Prevention Team

- 🛡️ **PSO Stacey Huffman** – NC Governors Highway Safety Coordinator

- 🛡️ **Administrative Specialist Renee Carswell** – Morganton-Burke Crimestoppers, Inc. Treasurer; CTAB Secretary, City of Morganton Communications Team; NC Crimestoppers Board of Director

Grants

Public Safety received and implemented the following grants in 2017:

🛡️ **Governors Crime Commission Grant**

- Law Enforcement Block Grant to purchase equipment for our Narcotics Investigation Unit - \$24,500

🛡️ **Tactical Remote Device Grant**

- \$24,500 grant to purchase a Tactical Remote Device for use with call-outs, hostage events, HAZMAT, etc.

🛡️ **Walmart Foundation Community Grant**

- Funds to go towards the cost of our annual D.A.R.E. Safe Haven Summer Camp in July - \$1,000

MDPS personnel actively serving...



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 (*The below percentage change is a comparison of 2015 to 2016*):

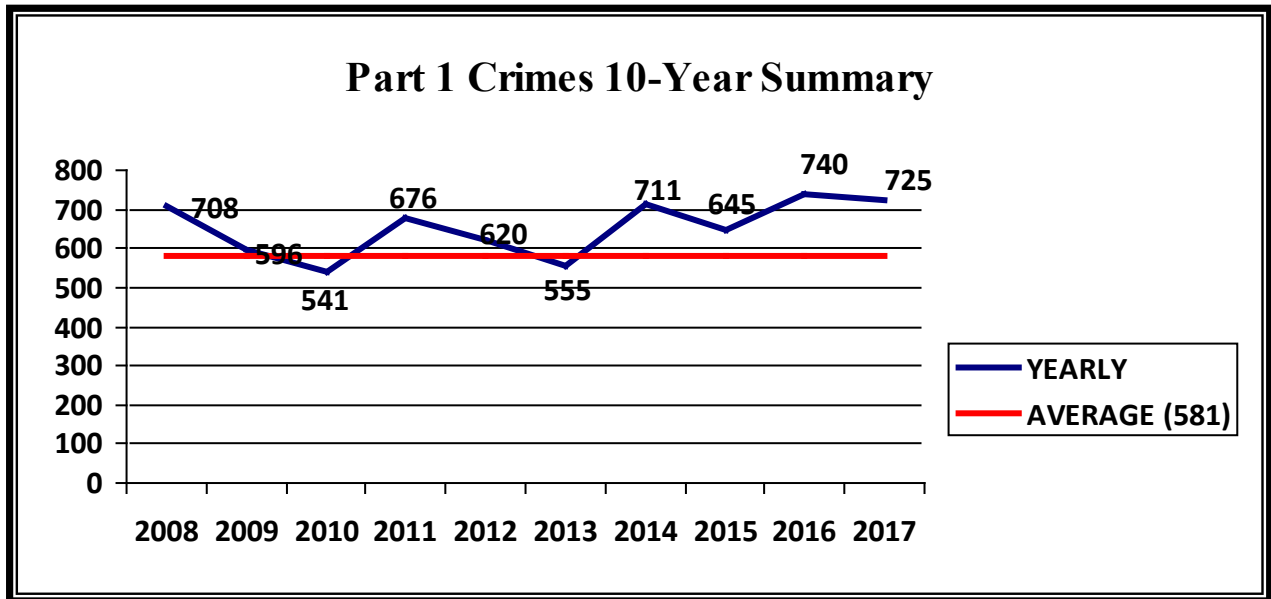
Violent Crimes	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change
Murder	3	1	0	0	0%
Forcible Rape	6	4	11	15	+27%
Robbery	11	16	12	11	-8%
Aggravated Assault	47	56	59	52	-12%
TOTAL	67	77	82	78	-5%

Property Crimes	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change
Burglary	149	132	154	223	+31%
Larceny	466	413	474	415	-12%
MV Theft	18	20	28	7	-75%
Arson	11	3	2	2	0%
TOTAL	604	568	658	647	-2%

2017 Part 1 Summary													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
<i>Murder</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Rape</i>	0	1	3	0	2	2	0	0	2	4	1	0	15
<i>Robbery</i>	0	1	2	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	2	1	11
<i>Assaults</i>	6	6	5	4	2	6	9	2	5	2	3	2	52
<i>Burglary</i>	19	9	9	17	11	21	21	19	22	25	26	24	223
<i>Larceny</i>	37	35	28	29	36	38	42	42	34	32	33	29	415
<i>MV Theft</i>	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
<i>Arson</i>	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	66	55	47	52	51	69	73	64	63	64	65	56	725

Part 1 Crimes (con't)

10-YEAR SUMMARY										
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<i>Murder</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	0
<i>Rape</i>	2	3	4	5	3	8	6	4	11	15
<i>Robbery</i>	12	12	12	6	17	21	11	16	12	11
<i>Assaults</i>	43	31	25	31	32	23	47	56	59	52
<i>Burglary</i>	208	139	127	144	172	133	149	132	154	223
<i>Larceny</i>	420	390	357	461	374	351	466	413	474	415
<i>MV Theft</i>	23	19	13	29	19	18	18	20	28	7
<i>Arson</i>	0	2	3	0	2	1	11	3	2	2
TOTAL	708	596	541	676	620	555	711	645	740	725



Part 1 Crimes (con't)

2017 PART 1 CRIME ARRESTS													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
<i>Murder</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Rape</i>	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	9
<i>Robbery</i>	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	3	0	6	0	2	16
<i>Assaults</i>	10	8	10	12	4	12	20	12	8	11	6	12	125
<i>Burglary</i>	7	8	4	16	7	11	5	11	5	8	22	4	108
<i>Larceny</i>	58	30	57	50	36	74	44	44	70	88	61	60	672
<i>MV Theft</i>	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	4	1	0	9
<i>Arson</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	75	46	72	78	54	99	73	71	84	117	92	78	939

Note: Arrests are higher than incidents due to incidents involving multiple Subjects, warrant service outside jurisdiction, service of warrants for unreported incidents, etc.

Part 1 Crimes Arrests	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change
Murder	3	1	0	0	0%
Forcible Rape	2	2	3	9	+66%
Robbery	5	25	8	16	+50%
Aggravated Assault	30	64	90	125	+28%
Burglary	34	47	71	108	+34%
Larceny	318	528	616	672	+ 8%
MV Theft	1	9	18	9	-50%
Arson	3	3	4	0	-400%
TOTAL	396	679	809	939	14%

The above percentage change is a comparison of 2016 to 2017

Calls for Service

2017 Top-10 Calls for Service

Calls For Service (125 categories)	2014	2015	2016	2017
Security Check	996	3,157	6,827	8,689
Vehicle Stop	7,905	6,805	7,219	6,001
911 Hang-up	2,218	3,093	3,570	2,850
Extra Patrol	888	3,187	2,518	2,290
Speak to Officer	1,054	1,129	1,397	1,875
Alarm Activation	1,568	1,469	1,500	1,497
Follow-Up	*	1,212	1,372	1,484
Property Damage MVA	1,079	1,135	1,633	1,192
Suspicious Person	1,124	1,360	1,221	1,187
Disturbance	808	944	1,048	945
All Other Calls for Service	12,434	16,663	16,611	14,122
TOTAL	31,452	40,426	44,712	42,132

* *Category implemented in 2015*

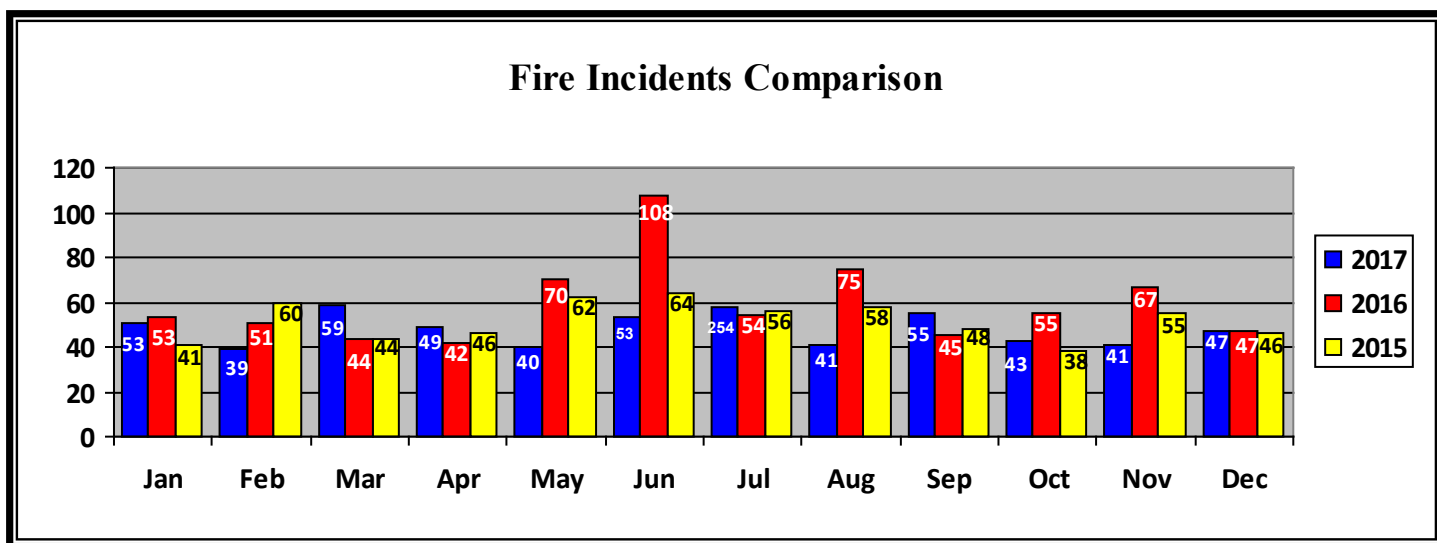
- ♣ The total *Calls For Service* have increased **25%** from four years ago
- ♣ Public Safety responded to an average of **115** *Calls For Service* each day utilizing 6-8 personnel per 12-hour shift



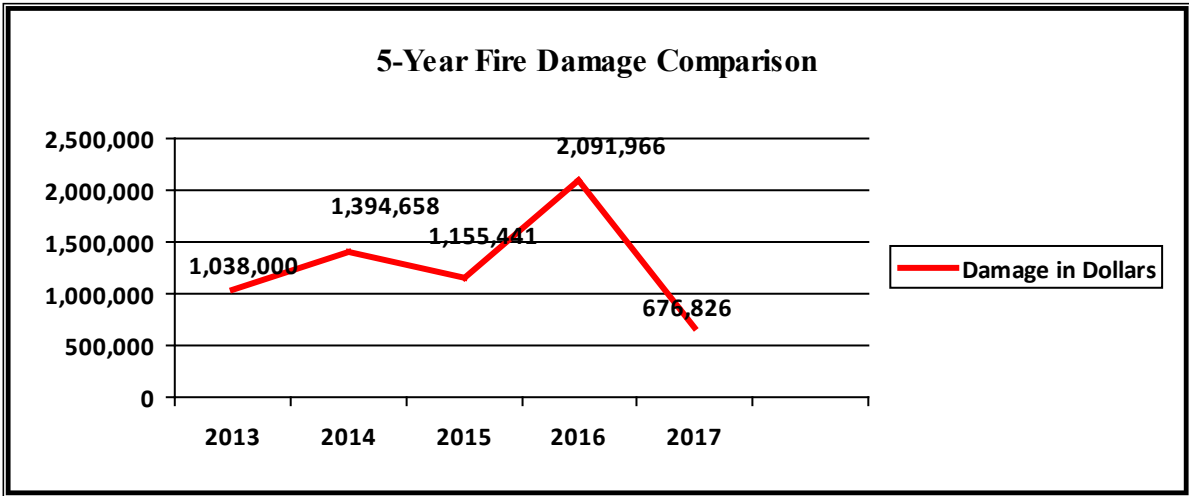
Public Safety Officer Bess conducting a Field Sobriety Test on a DWI suspect

Fire Statistics

MAJOR INCIDENT FIRE RESPONSE													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<i>Number of Calls</i>	51	39	59	49	40	53	58	41	55	43	41	47	576
<i>Property Damage</i>	\$170,025	\$188,800	\$90,500	\$157,800	\$100	\$1,000	\$1,150	\$23,800	\$6,301	\$2,200	\$34,650	\$500	\$676,826
<i>Man Hours Spent</i>	208:05	124:32	236:43	347:31	172:29	197:07	266:54	225:53	280:21	185:21	166:58	233:41	2,645:33



Fire Statistics (con't)



Public Safety firefighters taking part in a live-burn training exercise

Traffic Analysis

5-YEAR SUMMARY – TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<i>Accidents Reported</i>	1,142	1,027	1,203	1,200	1,104
<i>Number Injured</i>	346	252	293	286	230
<i>Fatalities</i>	0	2	2	3	1
<i>Acc. Arrests/Citations</i>	595	655	933	979	891
<i>Property Damage</i>	\$3,136,890	\$2,932,099	\$3,528,638	\$3,518,898	\$4,082,463

5-YEAR SUMMARY – DWI ARRESTS, CITATIONS					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<i>DWI Arrests</i>	283	249	211	345	356
<i>Traffic Citations</i>	3,342	4,677	4,836	5,378	4,341



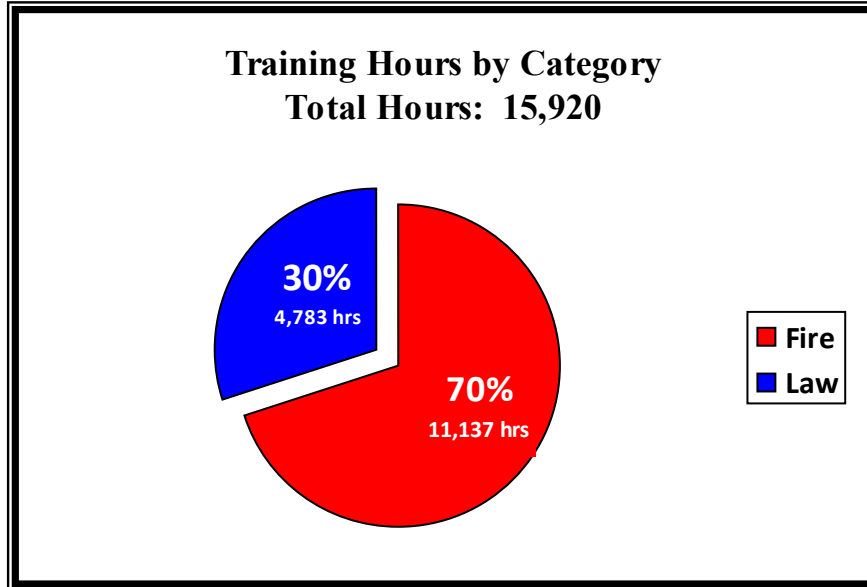
Public Safety assisting with a downtown event

Traffic Analysis (con't)

Governors Highway Safety Program grant in 2014 funded a 2-person Traffic Unit, below is an analysis of their activity for 2017:

Traffic Unit Data 2017	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Alcohol DWI	3	3	2	3	3	4				5		8	31
Drug DWI	4	5	2	3				1	3	1			19
Seat Belt	1	1	1	1	3	4	4	4					19
Child Restraint				2		2		1					5
Speed	12	11	16	25	19	43	23	10	2	4	6		171
DWLR	9	8	5	1	8	10	7	4	2	4	4		62
NOL	5	10	8	4	7	6	6	4		2	4		56
GDL	1	1			1								3
Helmet Violations					2	2	2				2		8
Other Violations	44	51	31	18	40	71	39	31	13	23		2	363
Warning Citations	19	28	1	10	14	21	18	13	2	38	10		174
Total Traffic Offenses	98	118	66	67	97	163	99	68	22	77	26	2	903
Total Drug Charges	10	11	3	13	6	6	7		6	15	2	1	80
Total Criminal Charges	38	41	12	9	10	10	16	4	3	12	4		159
Total Charges	146	170	81	89	113	179	122	72	31	104	32	0	1,139
Day DWI Checking Stations								1					1
Night DWI Checking Stations									2				2
Day Seat Belt Initiatives	1	1		1	1	1							5
Night Seat Belt Initiatives	1												1
Day License Checks			1	1		1	1						4
Saturated Patrol Day		1	1	2	3	2							9
Saturated Patrol Night	1			1	2	1		1					6
Night License Checks		2			1					1			4
Watch For Me NC	1												1
Total Number of Traffic Stops	56	85	46	44	53	86	73	45	21	17	14	2	542
Total Number of Speed Surveys	1	2	1	2	3	2							11
Fugitives Arrested	8	6	2	4	1	4	5	2	1	5			38
Stolen Vehicles Recovered		1					1						2
Injury Crashes	2	5	1	3	6	7	1		2	1		2	30
Impaired Injury Crashes			1			1							2
PD Crashes	22	11	8	6	6	13	15	11		1		4	97
Impaired PD Crashes		1		2						1			4
Total Crashes	24	17	10	11	12	21	16	11	2	3	0	6	133
Public Info Presentations	2	2	1	2	1		1		2				11
Public Info Displays	2	2	1	4	2	1	1	3	2	4			22
Number of Public Reached	220	400	350	575	1,000	300	900	460	1,300	500			6,005
Project Hours Worked	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Enforcement	157	203	174	141	113	143	98	48.5	33.75	35	20		1,166.25
Training	7	13	64	73.5	58	21	27	63.5	48	10	10		395
Court	27.5	19	21	6	13	28	4	10	14	26	30		198.5
Crashes	17	14.25	12	11	15	24	6.5	4	3.5	66			173.25
Public Info	6	8	7.5	24.5	18	5	32	13.5	8	15			137.5
Other	36	20	56	74	77	104	5.5	16	5	13			406.5
Total Hours	250.5	277.3	334.5	330	294	325	173	155.5	112.3	165	60	0	2,477

Training



- ☛ Total police-related training for 2017 was 4,783 hours, resulting in each sworn officer (60) averaging 80 hours of training
- ☛ Total fire-related training was 11,137 hours, resulting in each firefighter (90) averaging 124 hours of training for the year
- ☛ 4 personnel attended the WPCF Fire Academy at 464 hours each
- ☛ 11 newly-hired Firefighters completed departmental acclimation training of 240 hours each



SWAT (Special Weapons & Tactics)



Public Safety's **SWAT** team is comprised of 10 members. They are responsible for hostage situations, barricaded persons, sniper incidents, aggravated suicide attempts, high-risk building searches and arrest warrant service, crowd control and other potentially life threatening incidents that exceed the routine response of on-duty Public Safety personnel. SWAT Highlights for 2017:



- 10 call-outs to include stand-offs, executing high-risk warrants and assisting the Burke County Narcotics Task Force and Burke County Sheriff's Office

K-9 (Canine)

Our canine program is comprised of two handlers each assigned to a K-9, PSO William Miller assigned to K-9 Kimo and PSO Stacey Huffman assigned K-9 Jaros. Canine Units are responsible for apprehension of fleeing suspects, article searches, tracking suspects or missing persons, building searches and narcotics detection.

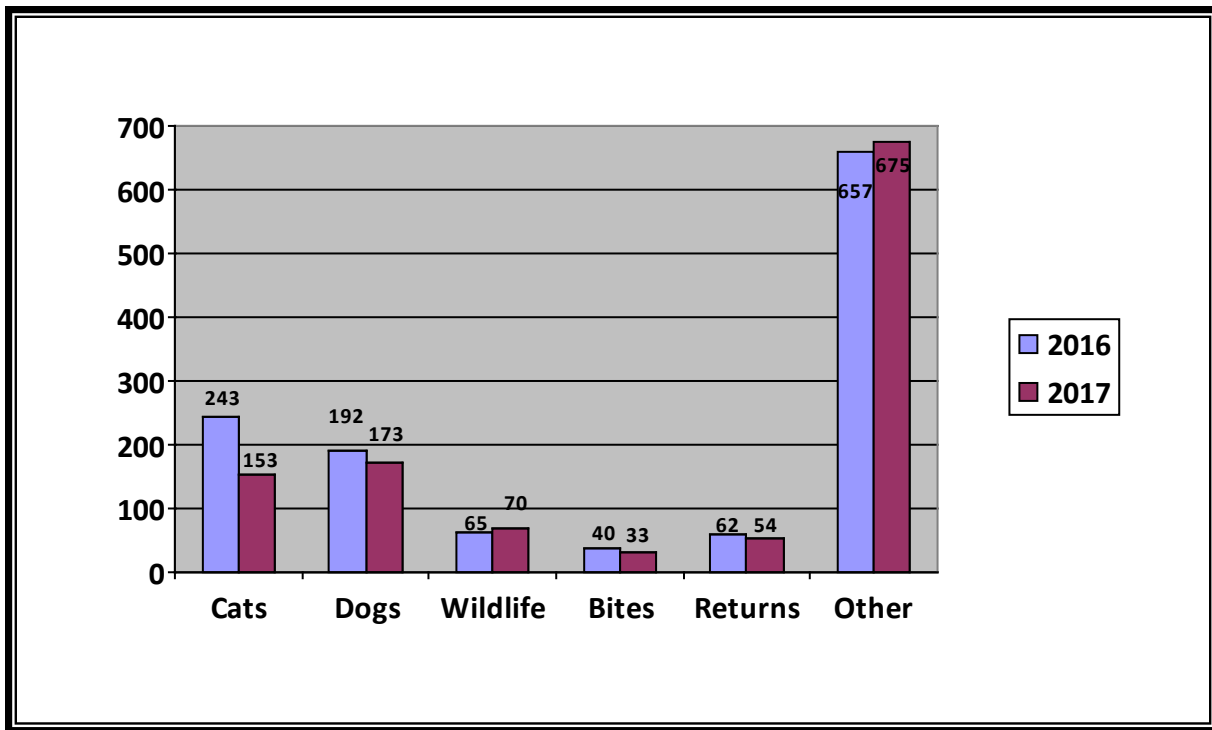


- All Canines accrued over 250 training hours
- Conducted over 100 searches of building and vehicles
- Drug Seizures:
 - Marijuana – **13.09 kilos with street value of \$36,902**
 - Methamphetamines – **164.25 grams with street value of \$20,866**
 - Cocaine/Crack – **62.70 grams with street value of \$7,805**
 - Money - **\$24,611**
 - Weapons – **17**

Animal Control

	2015	2016	2017
<i>Calls for Service</i>	1,206	1,259	1,307
<i>Citations Issued</i>	119	95	149

Category Breakdown



Departmental Highlights

Department Patch Redesigned

In 2017, Public Safety formed a committee to update the department patch. The new patch encompasses three iconic figures that have helped shape the City of Morganton to what it is today:



- ❖ **The Historic Burke County Courthouse** – 1847 until 1862 the NC Supreme Court held their August session in the courthouse. Morganton became known as “Court Town”.
- ❖ **Table Rock** – Visible from most points in the City of Morganton and is the backdrop to the Historic Courthouse as you enter the city from the South.
- ❖ **The Council Oak Tree** – A giant oak tree that leaders of a 1,400 man colonial patriot force met under in September 1780. The tree was known as the “Council Oak”. They then marched south to engage in the Battle of Kings Mountain against loyalists in October 1780. This was a turning point of the American Revolution in the South.

A department’s patch (or shield) is a symbol of their past, present and future. It represents and goes before them in everything they do. With that in mind, after months of hard work the committee presented the department and city leaders with a new patch design. The new patch is worn by all Public Safety employees on departmental clothing and is proudly displayed on our newer vehicles and equipment.



Citizen Police Academy

In January 2017, Public Safety implemented the *Citizen Police Academy*, which is a 13-week community-oriented program that offers participants the chance to learn more about how Public Safety operates on a day-to-day basis and to open the lines of communication between citizens and Public Safety. The last Police Academy was conducted over 20 years ago.

On April 6, 2017, the first class of 20 participants (pictured below) were recognized during a graduation ceremony for completing the academy:



A participant of the inaugural class, **Tayla Orleans**, was impressed by what she experienced and learned. She made a life-changing decision to become a sworn law enforcement officer. She applied for a paid sponsorship and was hired by MDPS as a trainee. She enrolled in the Western Piedmont Community College Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) class. She completed BLET and went on to complete Fire Academy training. She is currently completing a rigorous Field Training program with the Morganton Department of Public Safety and looking forward to a successful law enforcement career.



PSO Tayla Orleans sworn-in & official!

Explorers Program – Post 226



In 2017, Public Safety re-instituted the *Law Enforcement Explorers* program. This is a hands-on career-oriented program that allow youth from 6th grade to 20 years old the opportunity to explore careers in law enforcement and firefighting by working with local agencies. Over 20 local youth participate in this bi-weekly program supervised by 10 Public Safety personnel.

K-9 Jaros Begins Partnership with PSO Huffman

K-9 Jaros began his career with Public Safety shortly after K-9 Shrek's retirement. K-9 Jaros has quickly made an impact in detecting narcotics and apprehending suspects, following in the footsteps of his predecessor Shrek. K-9 Jaros was named in honor of fallen LEO Jason Crisp and his K-9 Maros who were killed in the line-of-duty while tracking a suspect in March 2014.



Stacey Huffman (second) from right poses with her new K-9 Jaros and members of Jason Crisp's family. The dog was named after Crisp and his K-9 Maros, who were killed in 2014.

Community Services

☛ **“Coffee With A Cop”** is a national event that focuses on connecting community members with Law Enforcement. In 2017, Public Safety hosted this event at ten local restaurants and has been well received by members in the community. The department has hosted, and received requests, from the following for future *Coffee With A Cop* events: Pat’s Snack Bar, Grace Ridge Retirement Community, The Grind Coffee Shop, Carolina’s Healthcare System Blue Ridge, Denny’s, Allison’s Family Restaurant, Chick-Fil-a and Abele’s Family Restaurant.



☛ Public Safety’s Annual **“Blue Elves”** toy drive reached nearly 250 children in the City of Morganton with assistance from The Marine Corps League and Morganton Housing Authority. By forming these partnerships Public Safety was able to facilitate a larger event which included toys, snacks and department led activities for the youth and parents. Additional toys were donated to The Outreach Center where over 600 families were assisted with food, clothing and toys.

☛ In 2017, our **D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)** program was presented over a 3-month period to 5th graders at the following elementary schools: Hillcrest, New Dimensions and several private schools. The D.A.R.E. curriculum uses national research based educational techniques to teach youth better decision making skills to help them avoid negative influences in life.

☛ **“Operation Safe Haven”** provided a week-long summer camp in June for 45 students who successfully completed the D.A.R.E. program in 2017. The following activities were enjoyed by all who attended:

- Team-building activities with local fire and law enforcement
- Fun Depot in Asheville; games, go-carts and laser tag
- Swimming and canoeing at Lake James State Park
- Carowinds and Boomerang Bay Water Park
- Community service projects, i.e., a Treasure Hunt in downtown Morganton that challenged teams to collect the most amount of trash by weight
- Meals and transportation the entire week
- Awards Banquet with a meal for the children’s families



Traffic Checkpoints

Public Safety conducted **52** traffic checkpoints during 2017 at various locations throughout the city resulting in **398** citations served and **53** fugitives apprehended.

Fire Prevention



Fire Lt. Israel Gibson teaching youth about the importance of fire safety

Fire Prevention efforts included presentations to more than **3,850** citizens at **23** different events throughout the year. Events were held at local elementary schools, recreation centers and community events. Each presentation included information on fire prevention and life safety. Tours of our facilities were also conducted allowing citizens to observe the specialized equipment used in firefighting. The Fire Services Division assisted hearing-impaired citizens with proper installation of smoke detectors throughout 2017.

Breast Cancer Awareness

Public Safety supported local efforts in the fight against breast cancer by designing and selling t-shirts during October's *Breast Cancer Awareness Month*. Public Safety personnel raised over \$1,600 to donate to the Blue Ridge Healthcare Foundation to help fund mammograms for those in need.



Community Services Capt. Keith Bowman pictured displaying the 2017 t-shirt design

Sanctuary Safety Workshops

In an effort to inform and equip local churches in defending against potential active-shooter incidents, Public Safety conducted multiple “Sanctuary Safety Workshops” in 2017. The primary purpose was to inform and educate attendees about the need for churches to have an Emergency Operations Plan in place prior to an incident occurring and to offer assistance in helping church leadership develop those plans.



Partnership for Change

In October 2017, Morganton Department of Public Safety formed a group comprised of faith-based, education, medical and law enforcement leaders in an effort to build relationships through transparency, communication, trust and networking. Bringing leaders together face to face at a time when the community needs to know and understand what we all have in common and how we can overcome our differences is already making a positive impact.

The group continues to meet on a quarterly basis with each meeting highlighting an area of concern in our community including Drug Addiction, Mental Health, Education, Community Relations and Building Family Leadership.

Stephen Andrade Community Center Re-Opened

In March 2017, the Stephen Andrade Community Center located at 300 Wrighton Street in Morganton was re-opened. Summit Community Church teamed up with the Morganton Housing Authority and the Morganton Department of Public Safety to revive a long-unused community center and launch an outreach effort to residents who live in the surrounding area.

The Center was created in 2005, under the leadership of Capt. Jason Whisnant who was a PSO assigned to the Special Operations Division at the time, to honor the memory of 8-year-old Stephen Andrade Button who was murdered on nearby Center Street, along with his mother.

The church has committed to staffing the center each Wednesday from 6-8 pm with thirty-six members divided into four teams taking turns providing a meal, helping children with their homework and providing games and activities for them to enjoy.