



## From the Chief's Desk



Dear Residents of Smithville,

Thank you on behalf of the men and women of the Smithville Police Department for your interest in our 2023 Annual Report. Our dedicated team, consisting of sworn officers and civilian staff, tirelessly strives to set the standard for modern policing and cultivate future leadership. Their commitment to the well-being of our city's residents, workforce, and visitors consistently contributes to making Smithville an outstanding place to live, work, and visit. I take immense pride in the diligent service provided by the men and women serving our community.

Nationwide, there has been a steady increase in early departures from the law enforcement profession and a significant decline in applicants interested in becoming police officers. The Smithville Police Department has not been immune to this trend, and this year, we faced stiff competition for qualified police recruits. While we were fortunate to maintain a full staff for the majority of 2023, we remain dedicated to recruiting new officers and working diligently to retain the exceptional officers currently serving the community of Smithville.

Our department remains steadfastly focused on building partnerships through innovation, professionalism, and accountability, all aimed at fostering a safer community. The commendable dedication of our officers to ensuring the safety and security of Smithville, coupled with their commitment to delivering top-notch service, is noteworthy. We understand that, to continue accomplishing our mission, we must earn and maintain the confidence, support, and trust of the people who live and work in Smithville.

On behalf of the entire Smithville Police Department, I express sincere gratitude for your time in exploring our department's endeavors. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Jason Lockridge, Chief of Police



### IN THIS ISSUE:

**From the Chief's Desk** **Calls for Service** **Traffic Information**

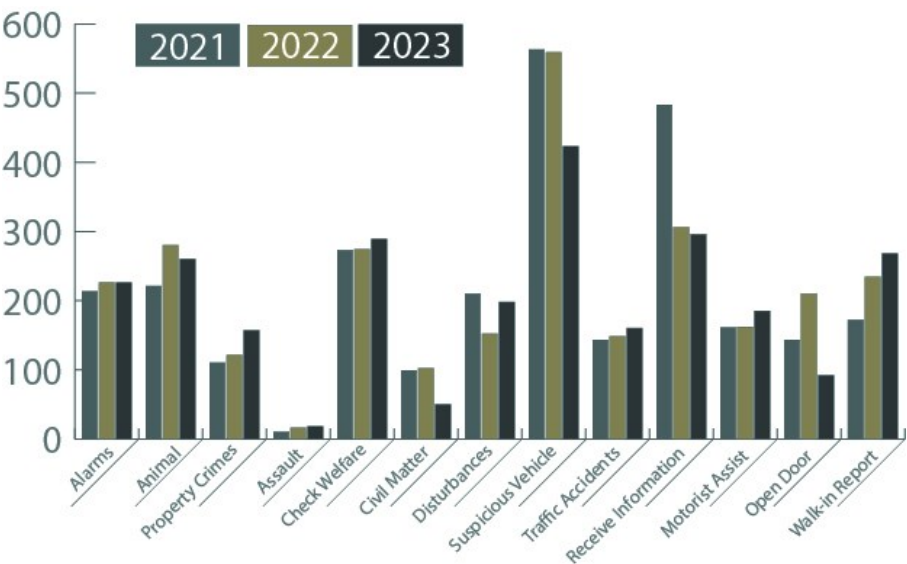
**Crisis Intervention** **Community Events** **Personnel**

**Equipment Updates** **Looking to the Future**

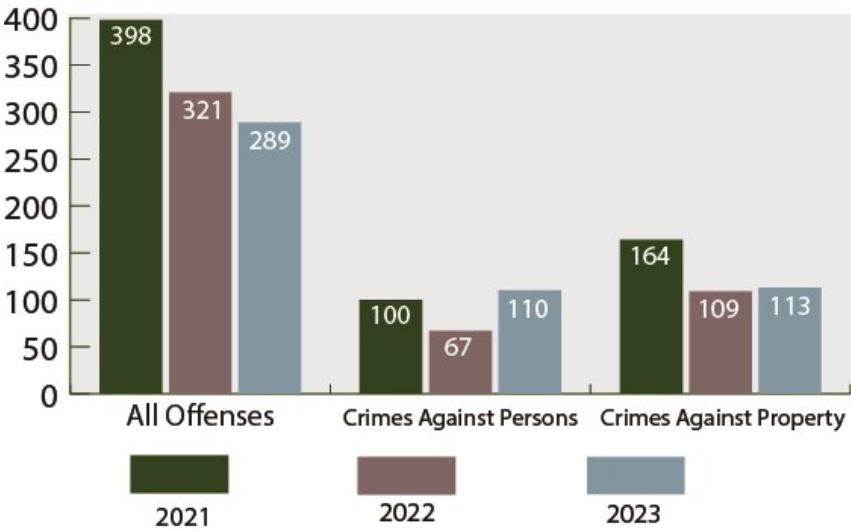
Calls for Service



During 2023, officers were dispatched to 4,001 calls for service, with an additional 3,619 self-initiated traffic stops and completed 1,267 reports. Within the 4,001 calls for service, there was an increase in property damage calls as well as an increase in check welfare calls. Officers also completed 5,762 business checks within the city, averaging about 480 per month, and 19,373 subdivision checks, averaging about 1,614 per month. The chart below shows some general categories of calls for service.

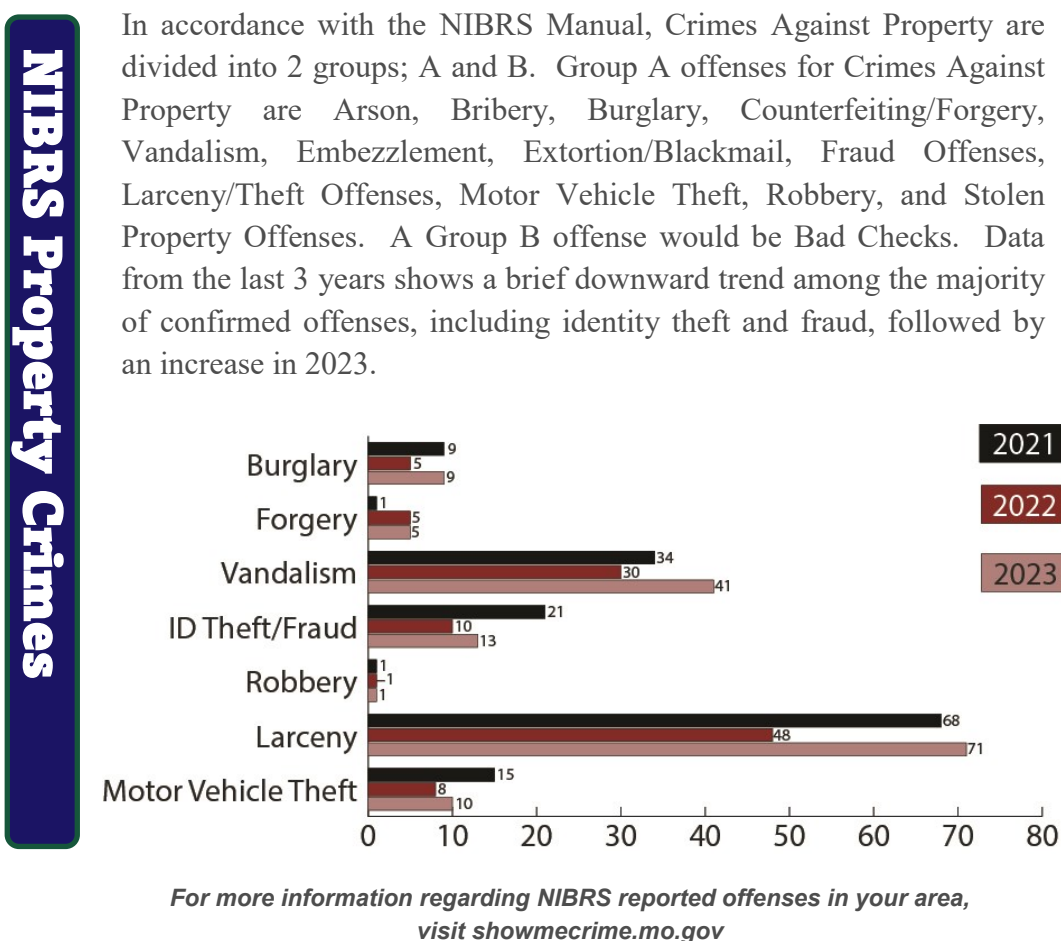
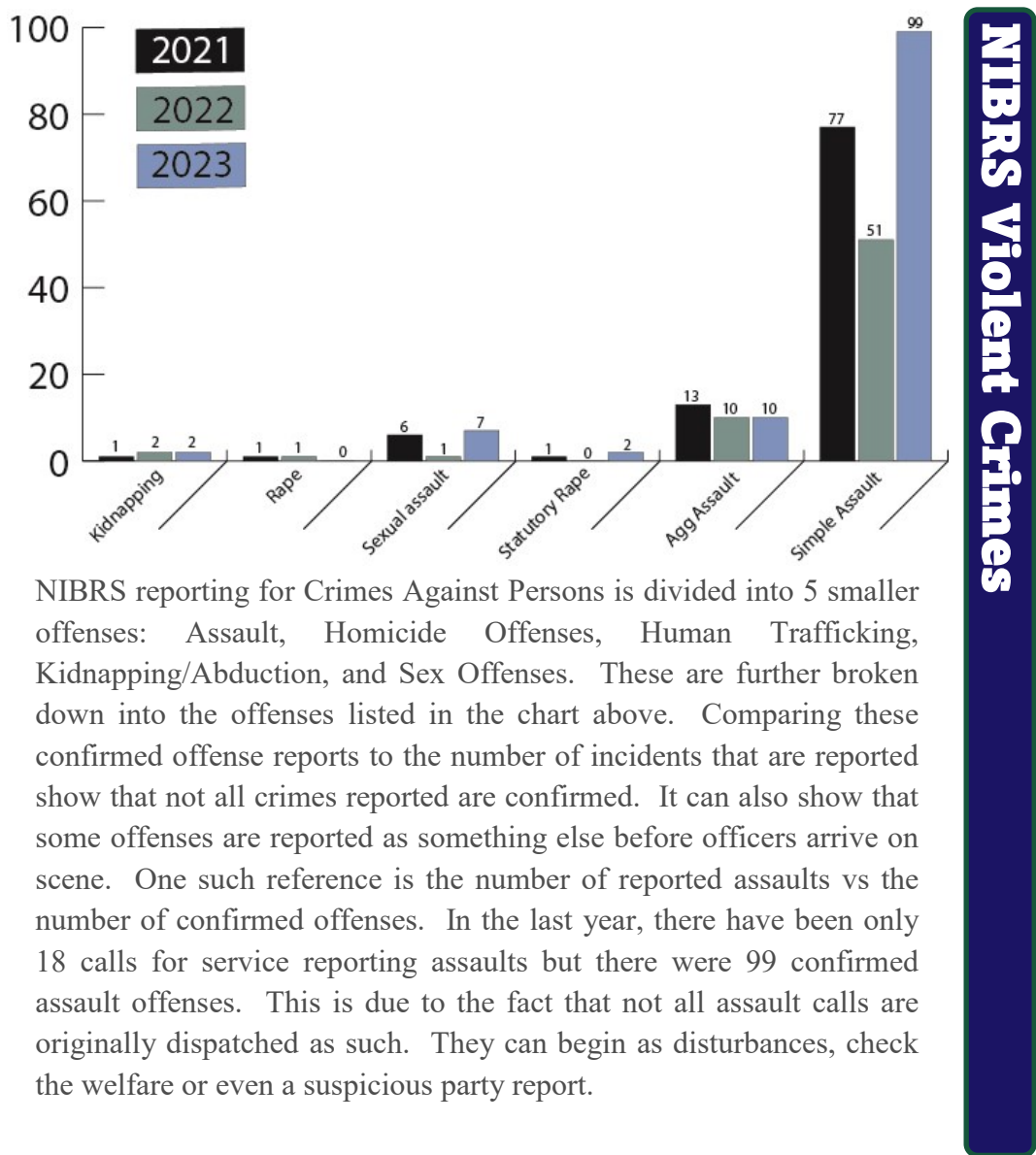


When officers are dispatched to calls for service, a crime may not always have occurred. The officer determines if an actual criminal offense has occurred. The National Incident-Based Reporting System breaks offenses down into specific categories within Property Crimes and Violent Crimes. For the 2023 year, of the 4,001 calls for service, officers completed reports involving 281 offenses, including 111 verified Property Crimes and 103 verified Violent Crimes. The remaining 66 are considered Crimes Against Society, such as Drug/Weapons Offenses, DUI, Liquor Law Violations, and Distribution/Possession of Child Pornography, among others.



This information is collected in a database kept by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for analysis as well as tracking of crime statistics. The information collected is much more detailed than previous databases and can provide circumstances and context for crimes such as location, time of day, and whether the incident was cleared.

National Incident-Based Reporting System





## Highlights of the Year

In March of 2023, Sgt Dan Gearhart presented to the Board of Alderman the specifics of the new Drone Program. Sgt Gearhart was instrumental in securing the funding for the purchase of the drone as well



as the creation and implementation of the accompanying policy. Since its inception, there have been 2 other officers trained as Drone Operators and 98 flights traveling approximately 90 miles in total.



Two officers were given Life-saving Awards for their actions during response to overdose calls in August of this year. Officers Matthys and Tso each arrived on scene at their respective calls for unresponsive parties before Smithville Area Fire Protection District and Northland Regional



Ambulance District and administered their department-issued NARCAN, a drug used to combat opioid overdoses. Their actions were instrumental in protecting someone's life. The individuals were then transported to the hospital.



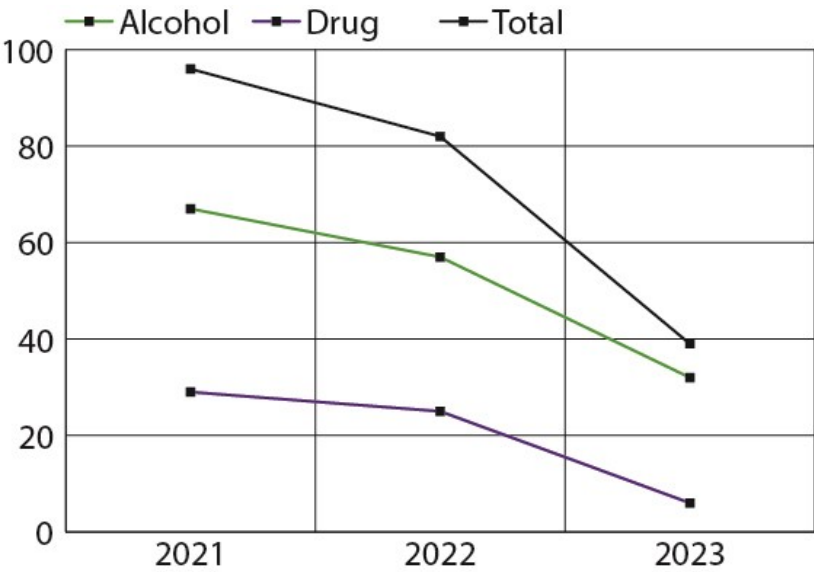
Officers were able to help Kansas City Police Department and other area agencies with both the Super Bowl LVII parade for the Chiefs win as well as the NFL Draft a few months later!

Police Clerk Jeanette Chastain was nominated and named the City of Smithville "Employee of the Year"! With nearly 23 years of unwavering dedication to the City of Smithville, Jeanette has become an indispensable part of our team.

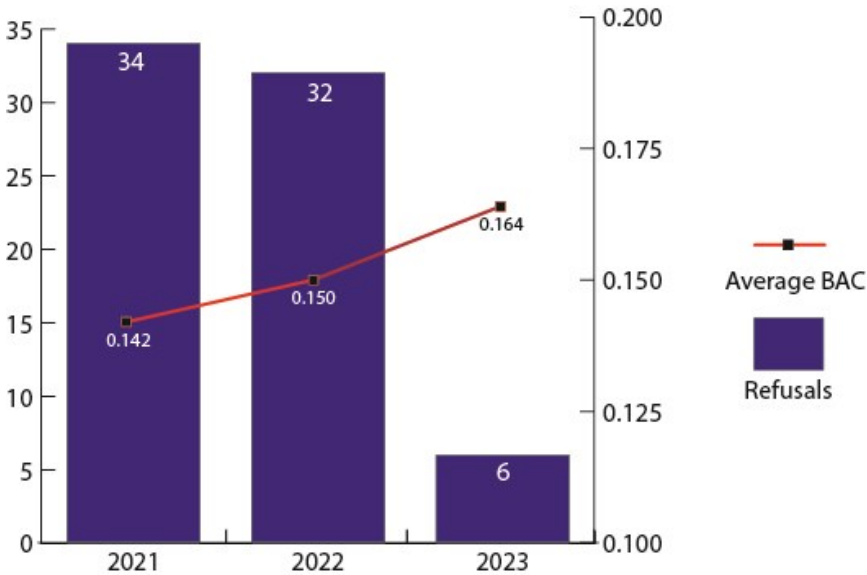


*"Jeanette is the epitome of a model employee. Without her knowledge, dedication, and compassion, this job would be much more difficult for all of us."*

DWI Enforcement Campaigns

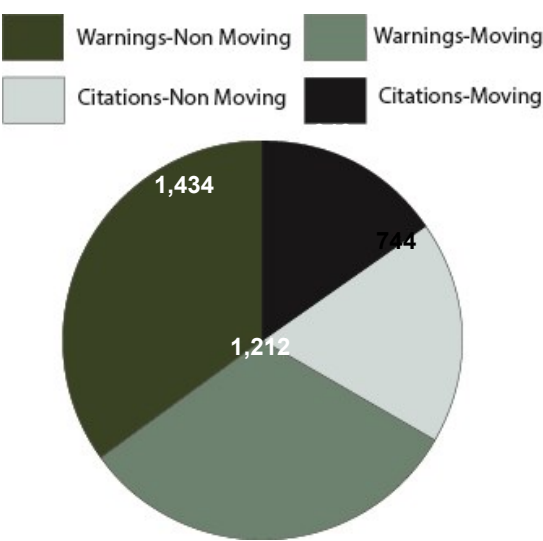


	Alcohol	Drug	Total
2021	67	29	96
2022	57	25	82
2023	33	6	39



Traffic Enforcement

As part of the 3,619 traffic stops, officers issued 1,384 citations and 2,646 warnings. The majority of citations issued were for non-moving violations, totaling 744, with 1,434 warnings being issued.



Moving violations include speeding, improper passing, failure to yield, and improper lane use, among others. Non-moving violations include registration, defective equipment, license violations and financial responsibility (insurance), to name a few.

Traffic Crashes

Out of the total 174 motor vehicle crashes, involving 299 vehicles, in the city this year, the majority of them occurred on **169 Hwy at State Route 92**. The top 5 intersections with crashes were; 169 Hwy @ MO 92 Hwy; 169 Hwy @ Amory Rd; 169 Hwy @ Hillcrest St; 169 Hwy @ Second St; MO 92 Hwy @ 169 Hwy. The following are the most common contributing circumstances to the accidents: failure to yield, inattention, improper backing, following too close, and too fast for conditions. 15.91% of the drivers were in the 16-20 year old category, accounting for the highest percentage.

The highest month of crashes was October with 22, just behind that was June, with 20. The rest of the months had between 13 and 18 crashes. 2023 had more crashes than the previous year with 174 as opposed to 132.





Crisis Intervention Team

In 2023, law enforcement officers compiled a total of 130 reports addressing individuals in crisis. Among these reports, 106 pertained to adults, while 24 were related to juveniles, with some cases involving multiple calls for the same person. Out of these incidents, 73 necessitated transportation of the individual to the hospital, with 49 placed on a 96-hour hold. Furthermore, officers provided assistance in resolving issues during 57 of these encounters. Notably, 37% of the individuals encountered in crisis were already receiving mental health treatment.

	2021	2022	2023
CIT REPORTS	75	114	130
ADULTS	51	73	106
JUVENILES	24	12	24

Whenever officers respond to calls requiring crisis intervention, they initiate a referral process with our partners at Beacon Mental Health. This referral is overseen by our CIT Coordinator, who serves as a link between our department and Tri-CIT, our local Crisis Intervention Council. Subsequently, the Community Behavioral Health Liaisons from Beacon Mental Health follow up with the individual to guarantee access to necessary behavioral health programs. Additionally, they follow up with case managers to ensure access to other required resources.

This year Sgt Morgan was awarded the CIT Officer of the Year! Sgt Morgan has served as the CIT Coordinator for Smithville for the past 3 years as well as assisting with the Basic CIT courses put on by Tri-County Mental Health. He is also a member of the department Peer Support Team as well as the Northland Peer Support Team. *“Jim always makes himself available to CBHL team when needed. He compiles statistics that are very helpful to CIT. Jim volunteers to teach de-escalation for our Basic CIT classes. He has so much knowledge and expertise and he takes the responsibility of educating the officers that are newer in their careers. He is very kind and empathetic with our clients on calls. Jim genuinely cares about people who can do nothing for him.”* - Award Recognition Letter



Megan’s Paws and Claws Animal Pound, which is a municipal dog pound run by the City of Smithville and has been in operation since 2011. Officers with the Police Department are responsible for picking up dogs at large and bringing them to the intake shelter. Once there, employees scan them for a microchip and attempt to locate the owners using social media. In 2023, 62 of the 86 dogs that were picked up were reunited with their owners.

In July of 2019, Officers began a partnership with the shelter in an attempt to get dogs that could not be reunited with their owners adopted. #PuppiesAndThePopo was started as a canine ride-along program to get the adoptable dogs out among the public, hoping that they would meet their forever families.



	Total Dogs	Adopted	Euthanized	Returned to Owner	Left at Shelter
2021	46	7	0	37	2
2022	88	25	0	62	1
2023	86 + 1 Rooster	20 + 1 Rooster	0	62	4

Megan’s Paws & Claws Pound