



Annual Report

2024

www.kingsporttn.gov/police



Disclaimer

The Kingsport Police Department is committed to the collection and dissemination of accurate and timely data. This report presents a snapshot of various data points that aid the agency's decision-making processes. Year-to-year variations in totals can be attributed to several factors, including evolving reporting practices and reduced available personnel for proactive engagement. Additionally, the types of calls for service that the police department responds to are continuously evaluated to enhance the quality of services provided to our citizens.



From Your Chief

On behalf of the ever-dedicated professionals of the Kingsport Police Department, I am pleased to present our 2024 Annual Report. I trust this report will provide a snapshot of the hard work and diligent efforts our men and women exert daily, ensuring for the safety and welfare of the great citizens of our "Model City".

I truly consider it an immense blessing and high honor to be the 15th Chief of Police of Kingsport and to have the privilege of leading the men and women of this century old law enforcement agency. Our professional staff and officers are committed to being the best he or she can be and making the city of Kingsport a safe place to live, work, play, and raise a family.

As with any year, 2024 was no different in that many challenges were faced. In addition to meeting our daily tasks, navigating recruiting and retention challenges, and addressing community needs; we analyzed data for the past ten years as it related to crime trends and how effective or ineffective we have been. In order to effectively and efficiently move forward with developing strategies in crime prevention and crime solving, a police department should evaluate where it has been against where it is currently.

With an enhanced enforcement strategy and a proactive approach, a concerted effort was placed on reducing crimes by creating an "omni-presence" throughout our community. With this type of community policing approach, the police department noticed a reduction in several areas over the 10 year window. Burglary is down (-52.35%) since 2014 and robbery, both individuals and businesses, is down (-46.34%), as well. Motor vehicle theft, however, increased 38.84% in that 10 year time frame, but realized a (-50.87%) decrease in the last 4 years. Vandalism also saw a (-37.11%) decrease.

These types of decreases are a by-product of increased police presence and field contacts. In that same time frame, field contacts by officers increased 104.31 %, summons issued increased 122.82%, and ordinance violation enforcement increased by 1150%.

The enhanced enforcement efforts also included a strategic plan placing an emphasis on motor vehicle and pedestrian safety. As a result, the department realized a (-34.59%) decrease in the total number of crashes on our roadways since 2014. We also experienced a (-50.0%) decrease in the number of crash fatalities.

Finally, the overall efforts of the men and women of the Kingsport Police Department has been substantial. These results do not come easy. It is with a tireless and relentless approach coupled with a community that is receptive to our efforts. It is our continued desire to deliver professional police services by utilizing data-based law enforcement strategies and cutting edge technologies, while developing a closer and personal relationship with our community we serve.

Thank you to the men and women of this great department and thank you to the citizens of this very proud city.

Sincerely,



Dale Phipps, Chief of Police



Board of Mayor and Aldermen



The City of Kingsport's government is based upon the Council-Manager form of government. This form of government was established in 1917 when the city was re-incorporated into what is now known as the modern city of Kingsport.

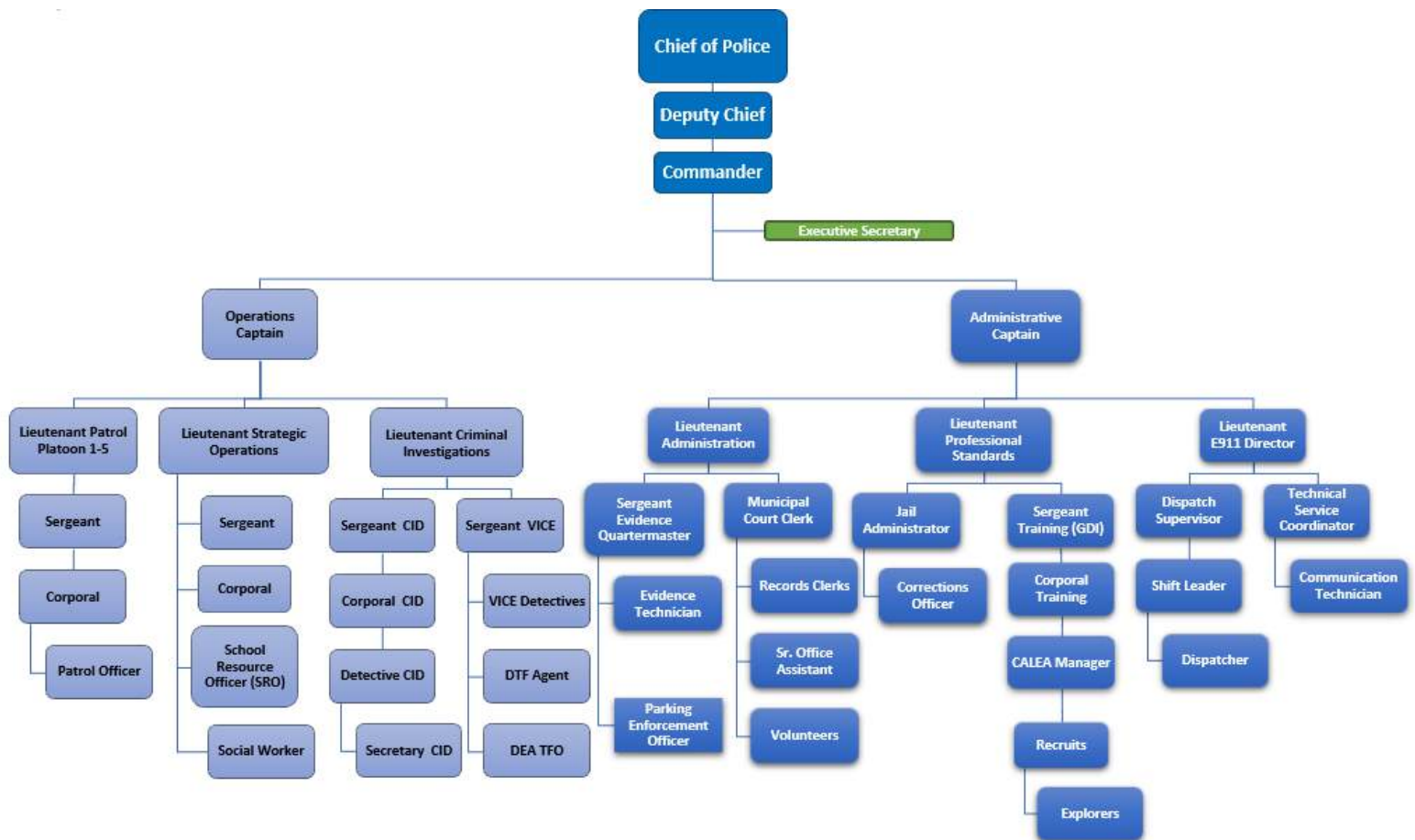
The city is governed by a seven-member Board of Mayor and Aldermen, elected at-large and on a non-partisan basis for four-year staggered terms. The exception to this rule is that the Mayor is elected at-large for a two-year term. Elections are held in August during even numbered years. The new Board of Mayor and Aldermen is seated in September of each election year.

The current Board of Mayor and Aldermen is comprised of the following individuals: Mayor Paul W. Montgomery, Vice Mayor Darrell Duncan, Alderman Colette George, Alderman Betsy Cooper, Alderman James Phillips, Alderman Morris Baker and Alderman Gary Mayes.

To contact the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, please call 423-229-9412.



Kingsport Police Department 2024 Organizational Chart





In 1822 the town of Christianville and the town of Rossville combined to form the incorporated town of Kingsport. The second oldest town in Sullivan County, Kingsport was considered the largest and most influential city in the county. Almost 100 years elapsed before Kingsport officially became a city in March 1917. Until that time, all law enforcement was performed by constables and the Sheriff of Sullivan County.

Upon being notified that the city had been chartered, the new governing body appointed George Barger as Chief of Police and three additional officers, W.P. Flora, A.R. Hagy, and Sam Barger, to serve and protect the City of Kingsport. Sullivan County Deputies W.W. Leedy and S.P. Devault were also still assigned to patrol the city.

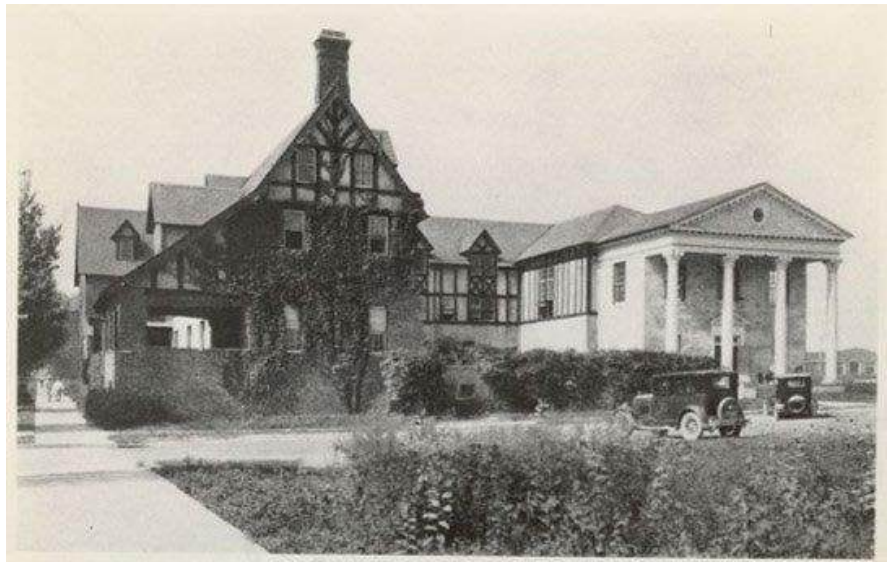
The City of Kingsport has had fifteen Police Chiefs since its charter, with the current being Chief Dale Phipps. Chief Phipps heads the department of 127 sworn officers, when fully staffed, who are supplemented by additional non-sworn professional staff members, for a total of approximately 180 employees.

These officers patrol a city that is roughly 50 square miles in size, and encompasses land in both Sullivan and Hawkins counties. The city has a population of approximately 55,000 and has over 500 miles of roadway including approximately 25 miles of interstate highways.

The Kingsport Police Department also operates the city's 911 Communications Center. K.P.D. is unique in that it is one of the few remaining municipal police departments in the state that operate an in-house city jail.

The Kingsport Police Department moved into the current Justice Center in 1989. Shortly after this move, the department was able to achieve a significant goal by obtaining national accreditation. K.P.D. was the first law enforcement agency in the East Tennessee region, as well as being only the third agency in the entire State of Tennessee, to achieve this honor.

KINGSPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT HISTORY





In 2024, the Kingsport Police Department reported a decline in incidents across several major categories compared to the previous year.

- Reported Burglaries decreased by 26%
- Reported Robberies decreased by 8.6%
- Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts decreased by 16%
- Reported Vandalism decreased by 45%
- Reported Vehicle Collisions decreased by 12%

OPERATIONS

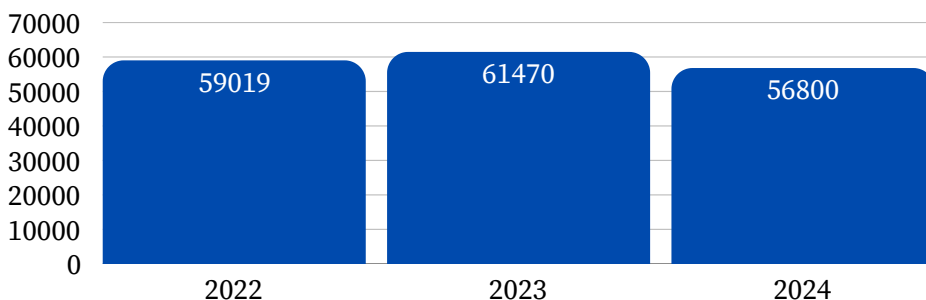
Patrol

As the backbone of the police department, the Patrol Division is divided into four rotating platoons that work 12-hour shifts and one platoon working 8-hour shifts. The 8-hour shift concentrates on traffic enforcement and supplements the 12-hour rotating platoons during times of heavy call volume. These five platoons are responsible for responding to citizens' complaints, handling calls for service, initiating police investigations, and enforcing traffic laws.

With additional specialized units supplementing the Patrol Division, the Kingsport Police Department answered 56,800 calls in 2024 compared to 61,470 in 2023. As a result of these calls and investigations, 4,798 adults and juveniles were either arrested or issued a misdemeanor citation in lieu of arrest.



● Calls for Service





OPERATIONS

Criminal Investigations

The members of the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) play a crucial role in addressing a wide range of serious crimes, encompassing both property and personal offenses.

In 2024, detectives investigated 2,559 cases, achieving an impressive clearance rate of 72%. Additionally, detectives oversee the registration and compliance of individuals listed on the Tennessee Sex Offender Registry.

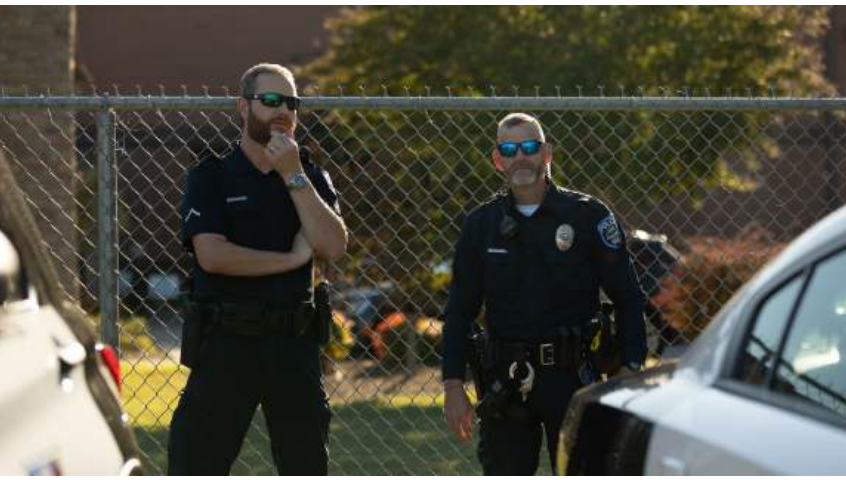


OPERATIONS

Vice/Narcotics

The Vice unit is responsible for investigating various types of crime, including narcotics fraud, illegal drug sales, prostitution, and underage alcohol sales. They work with other local and federal agencies on a wide variety of investigations.

During 2024, the unit seized illegal drugs from our area with a street value of \$1,954,748. They also made 183 arrests, served eight search warrants, seized \$10,280 in currency, and assisted other agencies 174 times. In addition to this, they seized two vehicles totaling \$25,000.



OPERATIONS

School Resource Officer

The Kingsport Police Department employs 12 full-time officers, 2 limited-service employees who are retired officers, and 3 supervisors dedicated to ensuring the safety of our schools. These officers work closely with school administration and faculty to create a secure environment for all students.

In addition to providing security during regular school hours, School Resource Officers (SROs) actively participate in various after-hours events held at each school, reinforcing their commitment to student safety. SROs documented 985 reports during 2024.



OPERATIONS

Special Events

Kingsport Police Officers are charged with protecting the public at several events throughout the year. These include Fun Fest, Red White & Boom, multiple parades, road races, and other special events.

In addition to this, officers work a variety of enforcement and protection-related details. In 2024, officers worked a total of 1896 hours at Fun Fest in addition to working 12 other city-sponsored events during the year. They also worked 38 third party events for a total of 6,162 hours.





OPERATIONS

Traffic Enforcement

The Kingsport Police Department responded to 2,123 collisions in 2024, a 16.67% decrease from the previous year.

The police department uses traffic enforcement to attempt to reduce traffic collisions. In 2024, 12,393 citations were issued, including both local and state violations. The police department also uses grant funds received from the Tennessee Highway Safety Office to conduct D.U.I. and seat belt checkpoints, as well as targeted traffic enforcement based on current crash statistics.





SPECIALIZED TEAMS

K-9

The use of a trained police canine is an effective tool in law enforcement. Although their greatest value lies in the deterring effect of their presence, the use of a canine in making an arrest is only authorized when the circumstances legally justify such use. The canine handlers must be constantly alert to the amount of force they can legally use to make or maintain an arrest, and in determining the degree of force to be used; the handlers must take into consideration all known circumstances.

Canines are assigned to each patrol shift and all are dual purpose dogs. In other words, they may be used for tracking, building searches, apprehensions, and item location (other evidence) at crime scenes which is patrol work. They are also used for scent work (locating narcotics and bombs) as their second job.

The Kingsport Police Department began using K-9s in 1968, and has the second oldest continuous K-9 force in Tennessee, behind Memphis. The KPD uses the Malinois (pronounced MAL-in-wah) breed, generally imported from Holland. They were chosen over the more famous German Shepherd because they have fewer health problems and have longer useful service lives, usually until they are 11 years old. They are also a very high-energy dog.

Dogs and handlers are carefully screened and tested prior to training. It takes 16 weeks to train the basics for a dog. In addition, each dog and handler team currently attends a 2-8 week school together in preparation for their function as a “K-9” team. This time variation depends upon the experience of the handler. Unlike some departments, KPD canines are not assigned “ranks.” Our current K-9 teams are: Officer Travis Bates with Jimi, Officer Billy Boyd with Maverick, Officer Peyton Estep with Ghost, and Officer Carrie Phillips with Whiskey.





SPECIALIZED TEAMS

S.W.A.T.

Commonly referred to as the “S.W.A.T. team,” 14 officers make up this team. Additionally, there are two highly trained hostage negotiators on 24-hour callout that provide a valuable resource to the team.

The S.W.A.T. team is activated only under the most extraordinary of circumstances. The S.W.A.T. team was activated 8 times in 2024. These activations included two barricaded suspects and serving six warrants.



SPECIALIZED TEAMS

Bomb Squad

In 2024, the Kingsport Police Department Bomb Squad responded to seven calls for service and disposed of several different types of explosives, including homemade and military-grade. This team of 4 officers also completed over 1,000 hours of combined training in 2024.

They are called to assist local and federal security agencies for high-profile events, such as a visit from Vice Presidential Candidate JD Vance and the NASCAR race at Bristol Motor Speedway. The Bomb Squad also ordered and received a new EOD suit (pictured) in 2024.



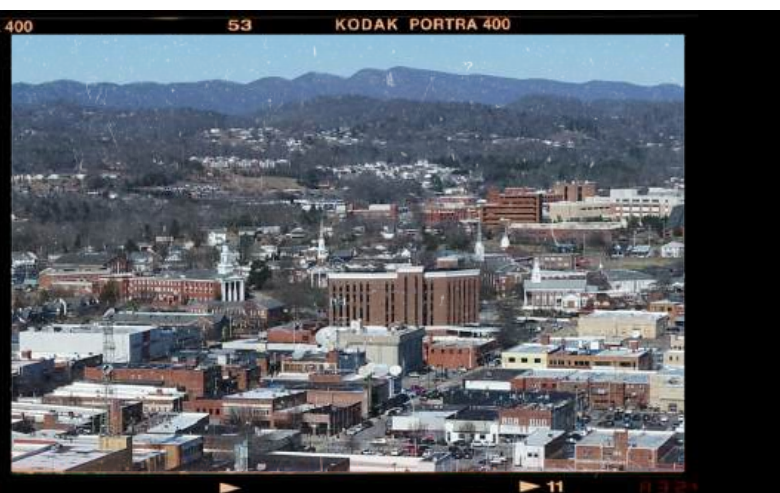


SPECIALIZED TEAMS

Drone Team

The Kingsport Police Department's Drone Team consists of seven members, three of whom are certified drone pilots. The team is deployed during large-scale events to photograph incident scenes for criminal investigations and serious traffic collisions. It is also called upon to assist other agencies.

The drone is an excellent tool to enhance safety during Fun Fest, where it completed 19 flights during the event. The drone was also used on five other occasions to help both the Kingsport Police Department and other agencies.





ADMINISTRATION

Professional Standards

The Kingsport Police Department Professional Standards unit maintains the department's high standards of professionalism. The unit performs several functions, including internal affairs investigations, jail administration, training, public relations, recruitment, and accreditation.

Internal Affairs is responsible for investigating complaints filed with the department. Each investigation is conducted by either the Professional Standards Lieutenant or Training Sergeant, who has received specialized training to conduct these investigations. During 2024, 10 internal investigations were completed, with 6 being unsubstantiated or unfounded, 4 were substantiated.

New police officers must complete a state-accredited police academy and field training program before they can begin work as a solo officer. In 2024, 14 officers graduated from the field training program. After completing the FTO program, every officer must attend at least 40 hours of continuing education each year. The training unit monitors the progress of these new hires and facilitates continuing education through the nine in-services it conducted. In addition to in-service, officers attend various classes throughout the year. For 2024, members of the police department completed over 30,000 hours of training.

The Kingsport Police Department first received accreditation in 1992. This process, which is completed by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (C.A.L.E.A.), is comprised of a review of all the units within the police department. It is designed to ensure the police department meets the highest standards. In 2024, the Kingsport Police Department completed the on-site review portion of the assessment.

The Public Information Officers (P.I.O.) are the face of the police department. They are responsible for passing information to both the media and the public at large through press releases, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and blog posts located on the department's website. They also serve as the department's recruitment arm. In 2024, the P.I.O.s attended 29 community events, conducted four recruiting events, and issued 105 press releases covering a variety of topics.



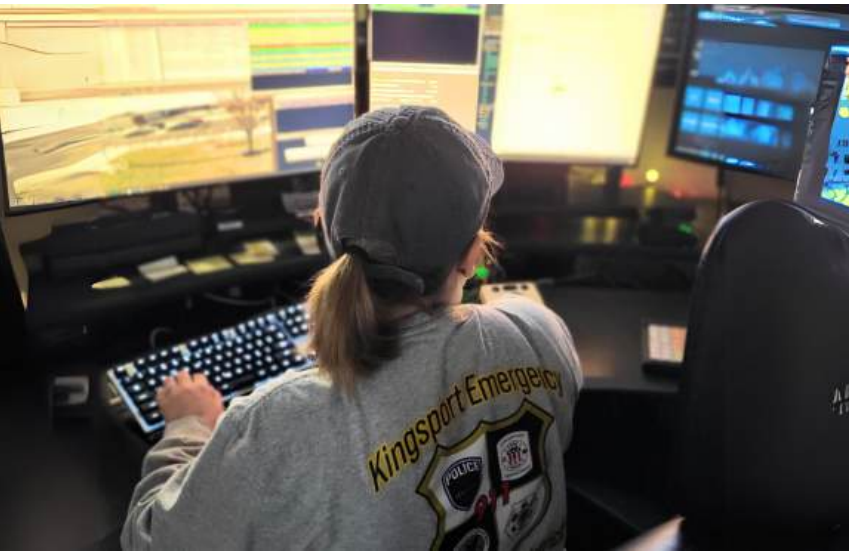


ADMINISTRATION

Dispatch

Central Dispatch at the Kingsport Police Department serves as the primary channel for citizens to request assistance from the police department, fire department, and EMS.

In 2024, dispatchers received a total of 175,700 calls, averaging 481 calls per day. Out of these, 68,384 were 911 calls. While not every call requires an entry into the Dispatch's Computer-Aided Dispatch (C.A.D.) system, many do. On average, dispatchers made 241 C.A.D. entries each day.



ADMINISTRATION

Jail

The police department operates a jail that holds inmates for up to 72 hours. The Jail Administrator oversees the 8 jailers the department employs.

Both the Jail Administrator and Jailers receive 40 hours of continuing education each year, 16 of which are taught by the State of Tennessee. 2,059 inmates were housed at the Kingsport City Jail during 2024.





ADMINISTRATION

Records/Evidence/Parking

The Administrative Division of the police department encompasses records, city court, evidence, and parking enforcement. In 2024, 564 parking citations were written by officers. Of that number, 104 were for illegal parking in a handicapped space.

The Records Division of the police department serves as the central storehouse for almost all records maintained by the police department. This division is often the first member of the police department a citizen will speak to when coming to the Justice Center. It is staffed by 4 full-time records clerks, 1 full-time court clerk, and 1 full-time administrative assistant. Some of the duties they are tasked with include operating city court, interacting with citizens requesting reports or paying citation fines, and handling and depositing money received.

The police department constantly strives to ensure/improve its reporting methods. All reports that are written are checked by a supervisor in the department. In addition to this, all reports are checked using the State of Tennessee TIBRS validation system. At time of publication Kingsport Police submitted 4,735 Group A offenses with 2,353 cases cleared. This is a clearance rate of 49.69%, which is above the state average.

Evidence is responsible for the handling and storage of items brought in by officers. While many of these items are brought in as evidence of a possible crime, the department is also called to collect items listed as found property. During 2024, 4,331 items were processed into evidence. Evidence is also responsible for the storage and disposal of items collected in the department's drug drop box and during department-sponsored drug take events.

Last year, the department destroyed 2,885 pounds of evidence for disposal, unclaimed property, and received drugs.



Promotions



Sergeant Chad Jessee



Sergeant Erik Steele



Corporal Breven Addington



Corporal Jacob Hutton



**Communication Shift Leader
Megan Summey**

Retirements



Dennis Hickman



Bobby Lawson



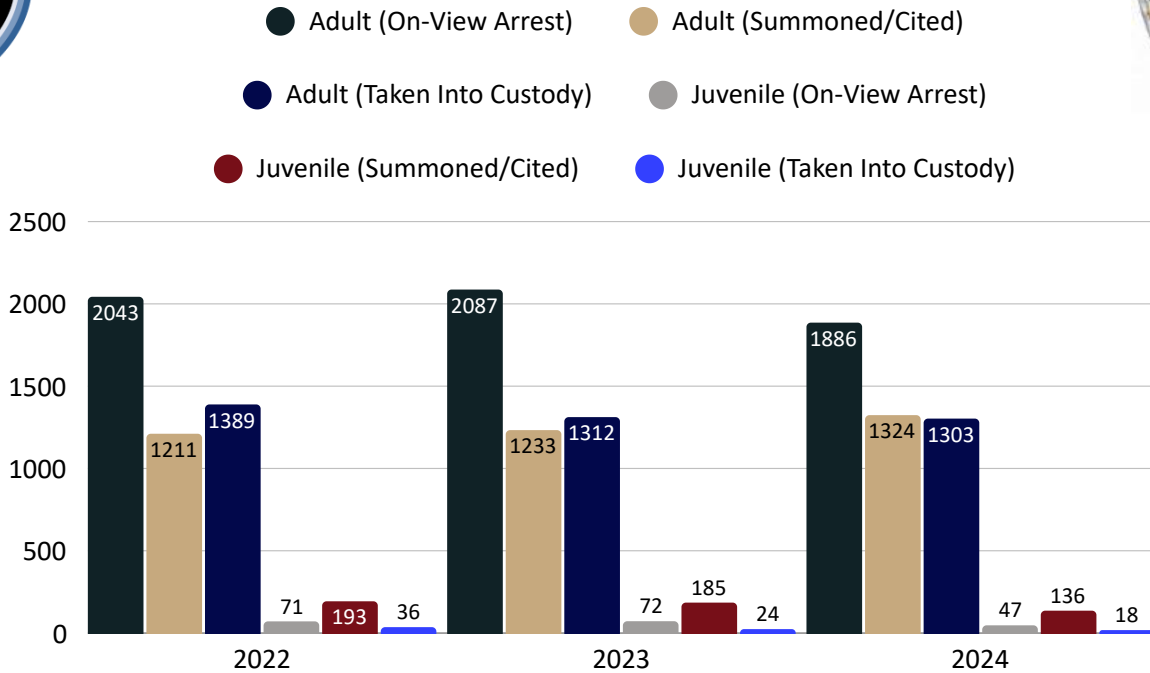
Terresa Dower



Kingsport Police Department Statistics



Arrests by Type



Traffic Collisions

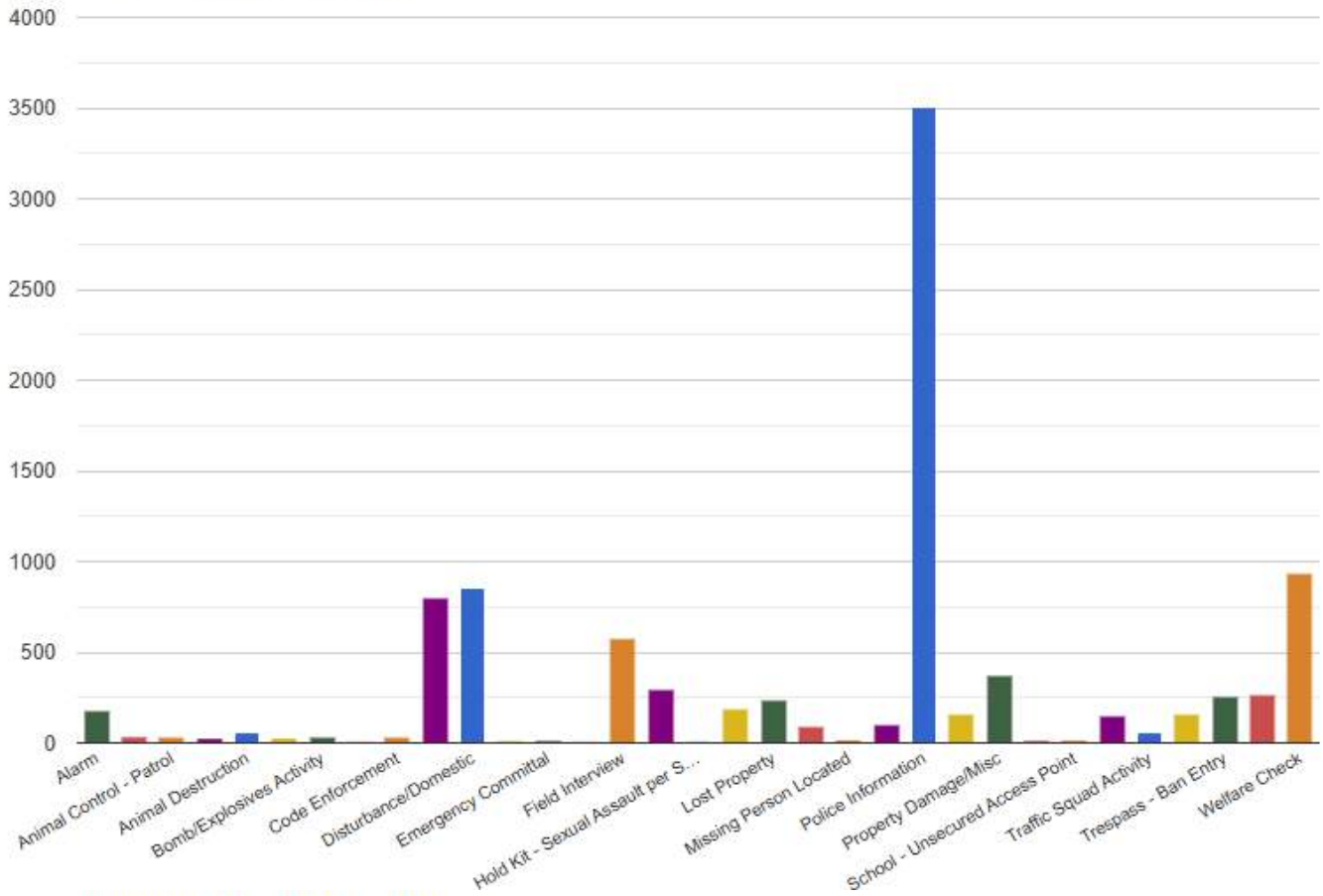
<u>Crashes</u>	<u>Count</u>
Fatal	5
Injury (incapacitating)	29
Injury (non-incapacitating)	38
Injury possible	290
Property damage (over \$400)	1255
Property damage (under \$400)	491
Total	2108

<u>Non-Investigatory Crashes</u>	<u>Count</u>
Injury possible	1
Property damage (over \$400)	9
Property damage (under \$400)	5
Total	15

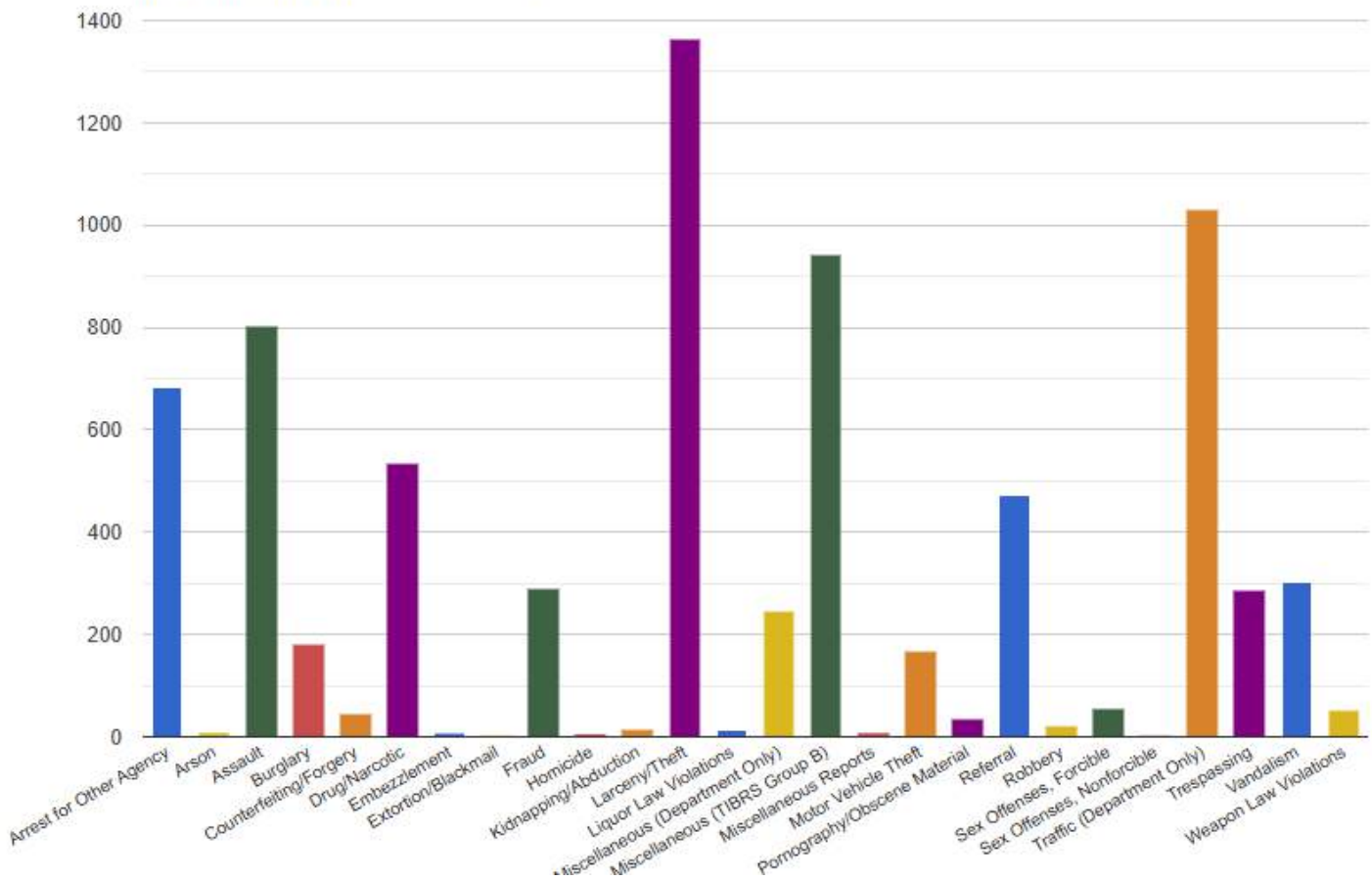
<u>Tickets</u>	<u>Count</u>
Traffic (City Court)	6488
Traffic (City Court - Code Enforcement)	10
Traffic (Sullivan State Traffic Court)	83
Traffic Charges (City Court)	7033
Traffic Charges (City Court - Code Enforcement)	11
Traffic Charges (Sullivan State Traffic Court)	122
Ordinance (City Court)	94
Ordinance (City Court - Code Enforcement)	6
Parking (City Court)	564
Parking (City Court - Code Enforcement)	2
Parking (Sullivan State Traffic Court)	1
Tow	1500
Warning	3645
Total	12393

Reports taken in 2024 by type

Memos - 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2024



Incidents - 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2024





BUDGET



The Kingsport Police Department has an operating budget of \$15,343,600 for the fiscal year of 2023- 2024. These monies were divided amongst eight categories.

	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24
Police Administration	\$1,933,867	\$2,199,400	\$2,336,600
Jail Operations	\$425,739	\$588,800	\$577,600
Training	\$394,689	\$459,000	\$480,000
Criminal Investigations	\$1,682,086	\$1,841,400	\$1,991,800
Patrol	\$5,844,012	\$7,331,000	\$7,936,600
Central Dispatch	\$1,397,755	\$1,632,500	\$1,710,500
Communications	\$159,831	\$315,800	\$286,000
Traffic School	\$15,688	\$23,900	\$23,900
Totals	\$11,853,367	\$14,361,800	\$15,343,600



Contact Information



www.kingsportpolice.com



facebook.com/KingsportPoliceDepartment



[@kingsportpd](https://www.youtube.com/@kingsportpd)



[@kingsportpd](https://www.instagram.com/@kingsportpd)



Emergency: 911

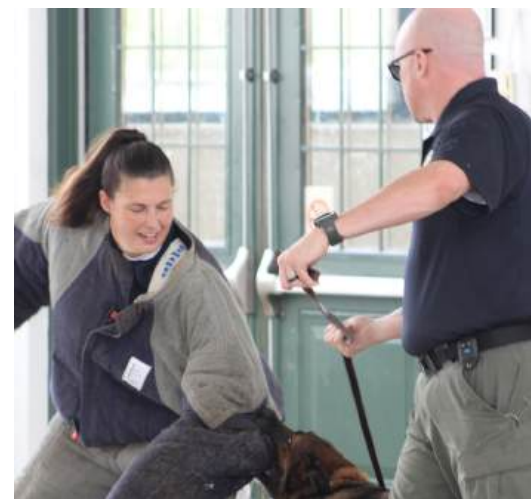
Non-Emergency Dispatch: (423) 246-9111

Administrative Line: (423) 229-9300

PUBLIC SAFETY DAY

With what has become an annual event, the Kingsport Police and Fire Departments host a Public Safety Day for the community. Attendees can check out their local emergency services as they showcase vehicles, specialized teams, equipment & more.

The Kingsport Police Department has patrol cruisers on display and showcases their specialized teams, such as the drone team, bomb squad truck & robot, and the K-9 teams.



Opportunities to serve your community

Kingsport Police Department



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POLICE
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Kingsport Police Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer