

GREEN COVE SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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Message from the **CHIEF**



In September 2024, I was honored to be selected as the Interim Chief of Police following Chief Guzman's announcement of his early retirement. Leadership transitions can be challenging for any law enforcement agency, especially considering the uncertainty and daily risks our officers face in the field. Despite these challenges, the men and women of the Green Cove Springs Police Department demonstrated exceptional professionalism, adaptability, and resilience. I am proud of their continued dedication to delivering excellent service to our community during this pivotal time.

Our efforts and values are reflected in the results of the 2024 FIBRS Report. I am pleased to share that the overall crime rate in Green Cove Springs decreased significantly in 2024 compared to the previous year. Even more notably, our crime clearance rate rose by 6.7%, reaching 49%, nearly double that of the 2023 statewide average of 25%. The department cleared 61% of persons crimes and achieved a modest yet encouraging improvement in clearing crimes against property, with a clearance rate of 22.9%.

On April 1, 2025, following a comprehensive national search, I was officially appointed Chief of Police for Green Cove Springs. I am both honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve in this capacity. Looking ahead, I am committed to leading the dedicated men and women of the GCSPD into a new era—one centered on professional policing, common-sense leadership, and meaningful community engagement. My priorities are to foster an environment where officers can build mutual trust, receive quality training, form strong community relationships, and exercise sound judgment in the performance of their duties.

To the citizens of Green Cove Springs, our city leadership, and the devoted members of this department: I pledge to lead with integrity, moral courage, and fairness. I will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of this department, our city, Clay County, and the greater Northeast Florida region.

Shawn Hines,
CHIEF OF POLICE

COMPLAINTS & INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

In 2024, the Green Cove Springs Police Department handled 1 Administrative Review, 1 Internal Affairs Investigation, and 17 Complaints. Of these complaints, 13 were initiated internally, 3 by citizens, and 5 issued in error.

- 1. **AI 24-001: (Supervisor Review)**
 - Rudeness: Not Sustained
 - Failure to Activate Body-Worn Camera: Sustained (Verbal Counseling)
- 2. **IA-001: (Internal Investigations)**
 - Domestic Battery: Exonerated
 - Standard of Conduct: Not Sustained

Complaints:

- Comp 24 - 0001:** Issued In Error
- Comp 24 - 0002:** Issued in Error
- Comp 24 - 0003:** Inquiry – No Action Taken
- Comp 24 - 0004:** Policy Violation – Memorandum of Counseling
- Comp 24 - 0005:** Policy Violation – Memorandum of Counseling
- Comp 24 - 0006:** Policy Violation – Written Reprimand
- Comp 24 - 0007:** Inquiry – No Action Taken
- Comp 24 - 0008:** Inquiry – No Action Taken
- Comp 24 - 0009:** Issued In Error
- Comp 24 - 0010:** Policy Violation – Written Reprimand
- Comp 24 - 0011:** Policy Violation – Written Reprimand
- Comp 24 - 0012:** Policy Violation – Memorandum of Counseling
- Comp 24 - 0013:** Complaint Made to the Wrong Agency
- Comp 24 - 0014:** Complaint Made to the Wrong Agency
- Comp 24 - 0015:** Inquiry – No Action Taken
- Comp 24 - 0016:** Inquiry – No Action Taken
- Comp 24 - 0017:** Policy Violation – Not Sustained (AI 24-001)
- Comp 24 - 0018:** Policy Violation – Memorandum of Counseling
- Comp 24 - 0019:** Issued In Error
- Comp 24 - 0020:** Issued In Error
- Comp 24 - 0021:** Policy Violation – Exonerated (IA-001)

2024 SWORN OFFICER DEMOGRAPHICS

	Caucasian	African American	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander	American Indian
Officers	19	1	1	1	0
Sergeants	5	0	0	0	0
Commanders	2	0	0	0	0
Chief	0	0	1	0	0

Our agency-approved staffing levels are 33 sworn officers. We are currently comprised of 28 full-time sworn officers (with one vacancy) and 5 part-time officers (with one vacancy). Among those, the Green Cove Springs Police Department has 24 male officers and 7 female officers. This data has changed throughout the year and reflects mid to late year.

	Applied	Hired
Caucasian	59	5
African American	15	1
Hispanic	8	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	0
American Indian	0	0
Two or more Races	5	0
Male	74	6
Female	14	1
Total	88	7

In 2024, the Green Cove Springs Police Department hired seven sworn officers. Two of those officers were sponsored through the Police Academy. After being hired, 1 officer resigned due to family needs.

New Faces of the **Department**



Preston Powers

Officer



Shawn Green

Officer



Matthew Waller

Officer



Kristy-Ann Whitney

Officer



Tyler Heard

Officer



Andrew Shore

Officer



Stacey Whitehead

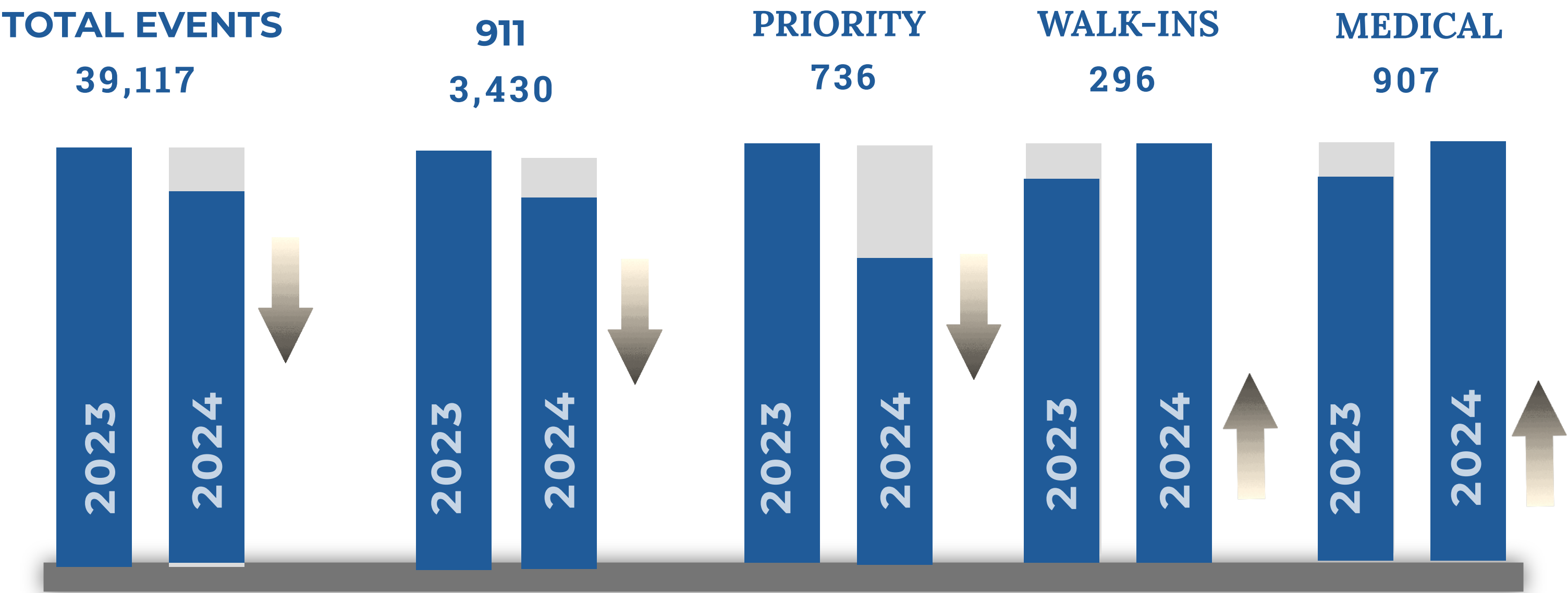
Admin Assistant

COMMUNICATIONS

Our dedicated team of four full-time and two part-time Communications Officers work around the clock to ensure our community receives the support it needs—no matter the hour or the situation. Operating solo during 12-hour shifts, each officer handles all incoming calls for service, in-person walk-ins, and a wide range of other responsibilities with unwavering dedication.

A significant portion of their work involves assisting with non-law enforcement matters. From providing directions to responding to medical calls that don't require police presence, our Communications Officers are often the first point of contact for residents in need of help and guidance.

Following the dissolution of the School District Police Department, we no longer dispatch for them, which has led to a noticeable decrease in our overall call volume.





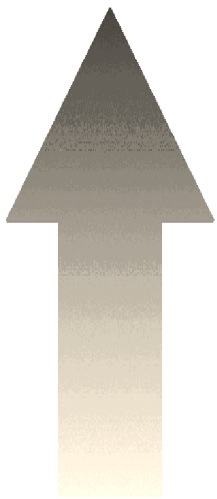
TOTAL EVENTS
36,610



BREAKDOWN

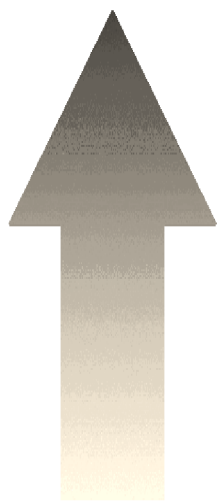
TRAFFIC

TOTAL STOPS
4,180

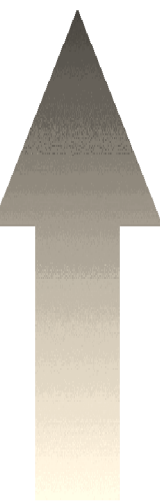


BREAKDOWN

CITATIONS
1,315



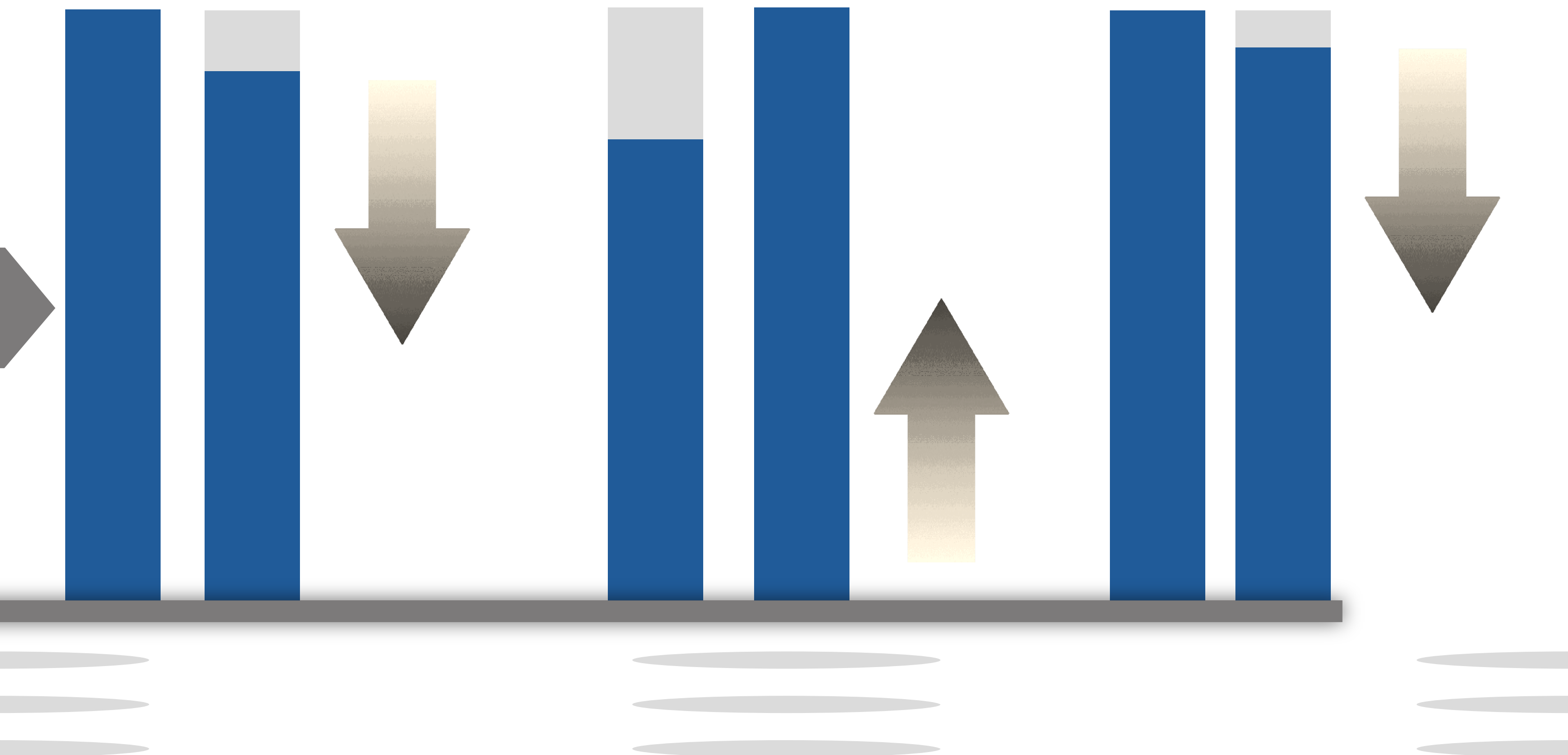
WARNINGS
1,570



CALLS SERVICE
5,319

SELF INITIATED
31,282

ARRESTS
303



TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS

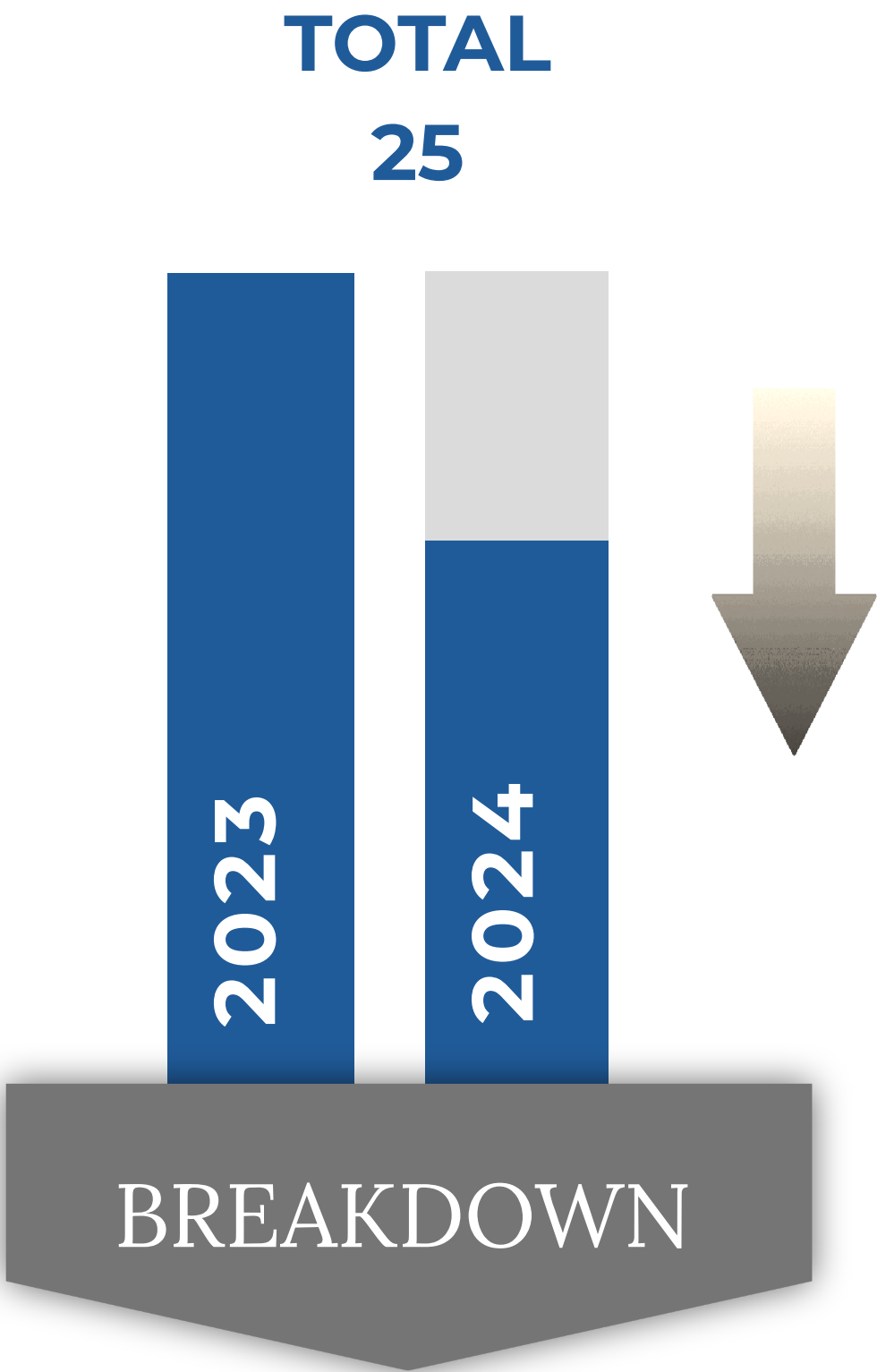
24 Operations

(Ranging from State of Florida requested initiatives such as, Click It or Ticket and Drive Sober, to citizen and department generated initiatives.)

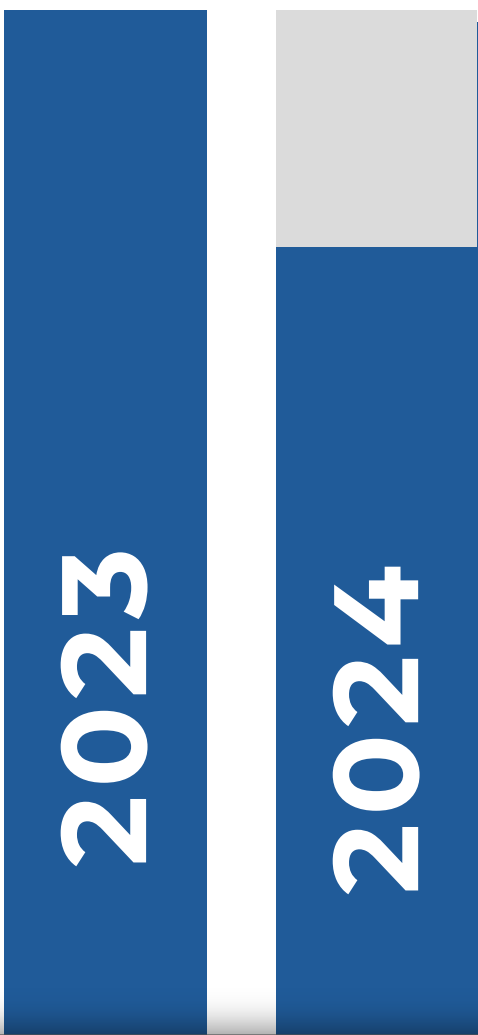
175 Citations

230 Warnings

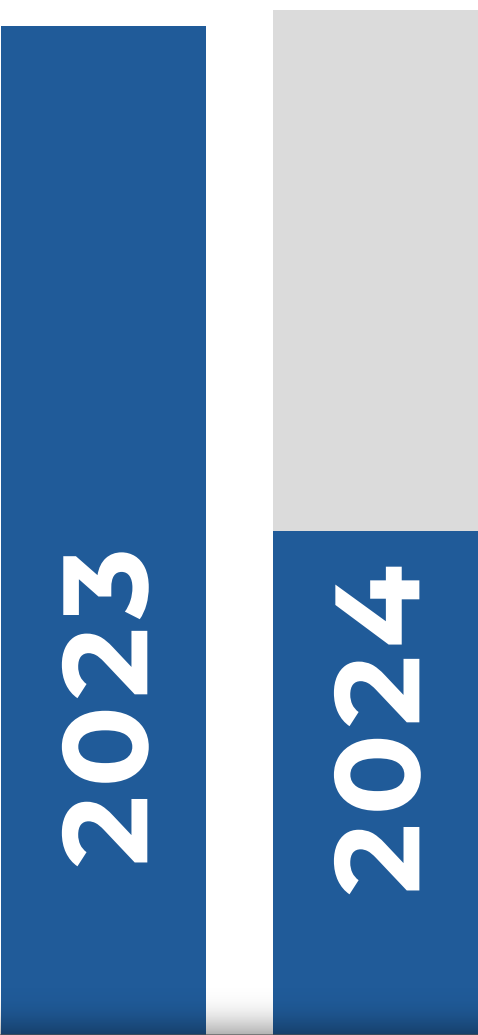
INVESTIGATIONS



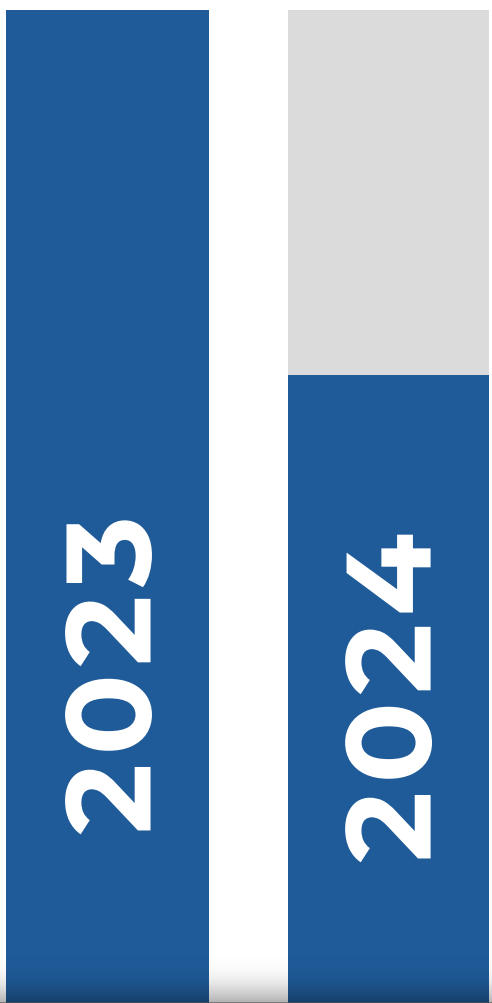
PERSONS CRIMES
13



PROPERTY CRIMES
4



NARCOTICS
8



These totals represent investigations that were formally transferred to a detective. The lower numbers compared to 2023 are primarily due to patrol officers handling more investigations directly, as the detective unit operated short-staffed for most of the year.

SPECIALTY UNITS

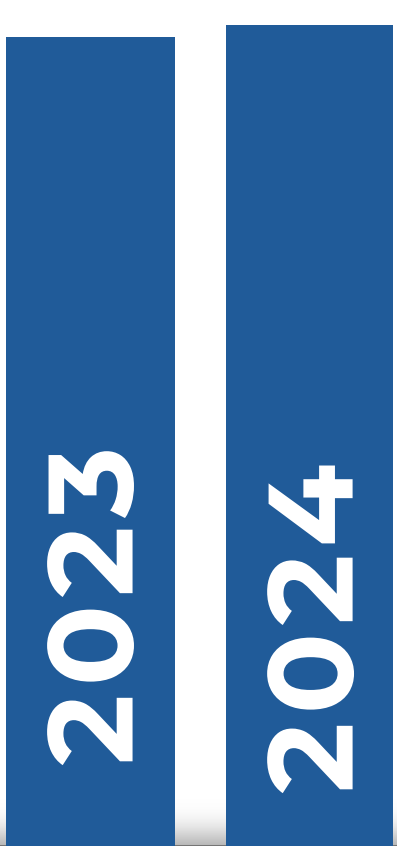
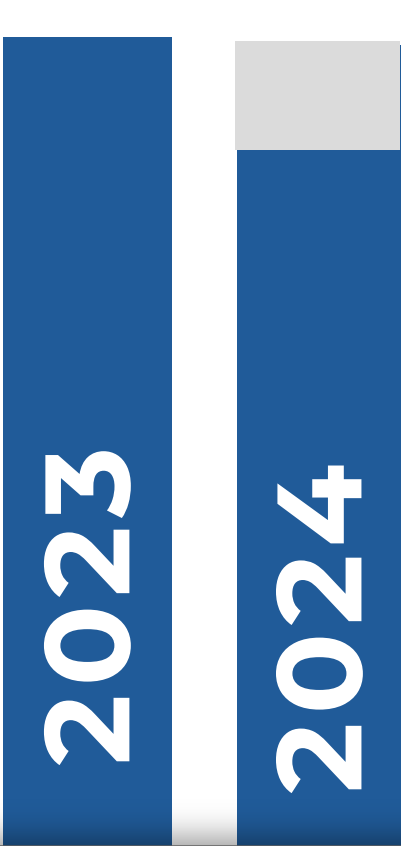
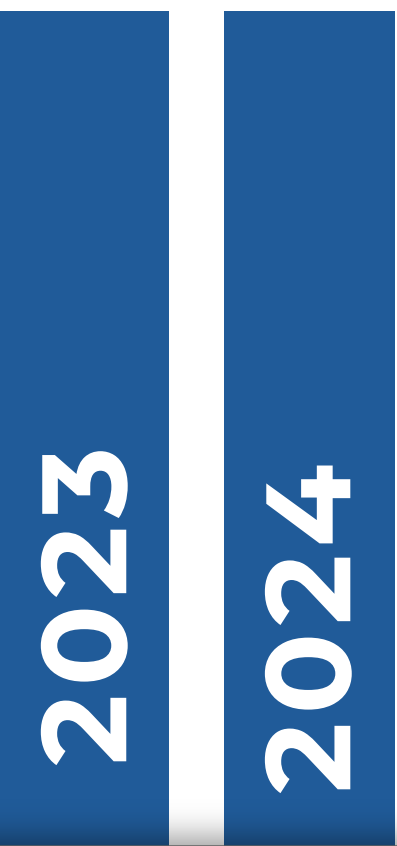
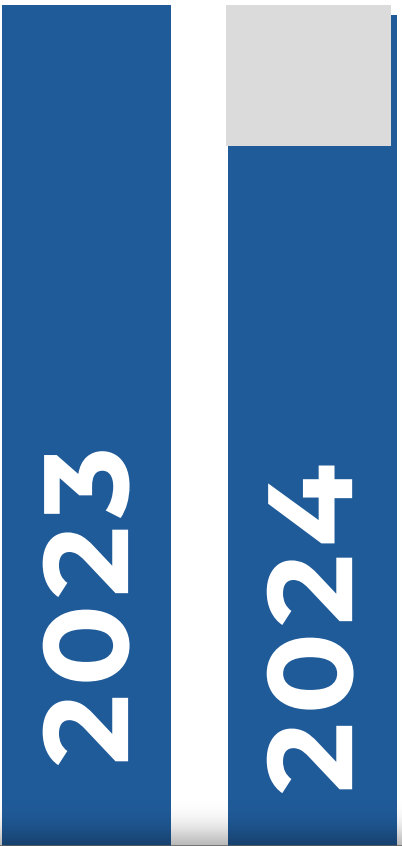
K-9

TRAINING
HOURS
205

GRIT
ARRESTS
7

NARCOTICS
DETECTIONS
27

APPREHENSIONS
(1 BITE)
2



K-9 Grit was also deployed for 5 tracks, 1 building search, 1 tactical, and 6 demonstrations.

MARINE

Our Marine Unit spent 110 hours on the water, which resulted in:

- 4 Safety Checks
- 19 Vessel Stops
- 4 Citations
- 15 Written Warnings
- 9 Calls for Service

- 2 Emergency Call-outs
(armed subject in the water and assisted FWC with a boating accident that resulted in a death)
- 5 Derelict Vessel Investigations
(turned over to FWC)

Also participated in Operation Dry Water and Boater Skip Day

TRAINING

**OVER 1100 HOURS OF
TRAINING**

**ANNUAL QUALIFICATIONS AND
CERTIFICATIONS:**

Firearms Qualifications

Stop Sticks

AED and CPR

Commercial Vehicles

Taser 10 and Body Camera 4

BLOCK SPECIALTY TRAINING:

Tactical Firearms

Driving

Impact/Less Lethal

Evidence Procedures

Records Procedures

**Our Officers also completed hundreds of
hours in continuing education and off-site
specialty trainings.**

COMMUNITY

2024 Community & Department Events

RIVERFEST

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



TRUNK OR TREAT

Magnolia Point
HALLOWEEN

Thanksgiving
MEALS

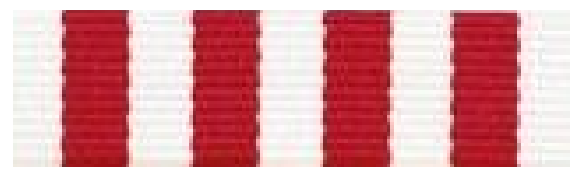
CHRISTMAS ON WALNUT

SHOP WITH A
COP!

SANTA'S JOY RIDE

FUN IN THE SUN

2024 Awards & Recognitions



CHIEF'S COMMENDATION

To recognize deeds or activities beyond the demands of normal duty. It may also be awarded for excellence in the performance of civic responsibilities, showing unselfish devotion to the community, and/or bringing honor to themselves and recognition to the City through those actions.

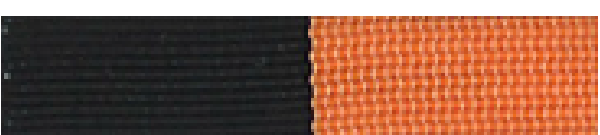
DISPATCH SUPERVISOR
BRANDI ACRES



MEDAL OF MERIT

Awarded to members for a meritorious contribution that greatly benefits the Department and displays selfless service and dedication at the expense of the member for the betterment of the Department.

SERGEANT
CHRIS HESS



SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

SERGEANT
NICK RULON



CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR

EVIDENCE SPECIALIST
JENNY MCQUAID



DISPATCHER OF THE YEAR

DISPATCHER
CARRI RULON

Chief Hines, who had previously served as Acting Chief toward the end of the previous year, made it a priority to ensure that any missed awards and recognitions were rightfully presented. In March of 2025, in keeping with that commitment, he recognized the following members for their overdue accolades during a City Council meeting:



BLUE KNIGHT

SERGEANT

BARBARA LUEDTKE (2020)

OFFICER

NICK RULON (2019)



CHIEF'S COMMENDATION

OFFICER

NEAL NEWTON (2022)



LIFE SAVING



OFFICER

NEAL NEWTON

OFFICER

CORA MILLIKEN



CIVILIAN

DANIEL HAGGERTY

SERGEANT

ERIN VINEYARD

DETECTIVE

DOUG PATTERSON

OFFICER

NEAL NEWTON

DISPATCHER

CARRI RULON

DISPATCHER

TRACY BISHOP



OFFICER

MICHAEL BABCOCK

OFFICER

SEAN HICKMAN

SERGEANT

BRETT MORANDO

OFFICER

NICK RULON

MOVING FORWARD



As Green Cove Springs and Clay County experience significant population growth, the Green Cove Springs Police Department (GCSPD) must evolve to meet new challenges.

Shawn Hines
Chief of Police

Chief Hines is implementing a 3-year vision for growth and excellence in preparation to meet these challenges. This three-year strategic plan outlines the key priorities for GCSPD to ensure the department remains effective, efficient, and responsive to the growing needs of the community. With an emphasis on officer safety, training, community engagement, and operational readiness, this plan will guide the department through short-term and mid-term goals while preparing for long-term growth.

Year 1 and Focus for 2025:

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

- Establish a dedicated recruitment team to attract top-tier talent
- Fill all vacant positions to ensure a fully staffed department, enhancing operational efficiency

DEPARTMENT HARDENING & SECURITY

- Construct a protective perimeter fence around the department to safeguard personnel, property, and equipment.

POLICY PROCEDURE & ENHANCEMENTS

- Review and update all 253 policies and procedures, focusing on high-liability areas, including:
 - Discipline, Recruitment, and Retention
 - Promotional Process
 - Award Recognition
- Ensure policies align with CALEA accreditation standards.

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

- Address gaps caused by the departure of high-liability instructors and recruit new trainers.
- Foster partnerships with external agencies to improve training opportunities.
- Launch a comprehensive training program for newly promoted sergeants.
- Explore a potential transition to 9mm sidearms for increased officer safety and effectiveness.

EVENT SECURITY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Strengthen security measures for key community events like Food Truck Friday, Riverfest, and Christmas on Walnut.
- Hold community forums throughout the city to gather feedback and build stronger ties with residents.

TECHNOLOGY & CRIME PREVENTION

- Implement FLOCK cameras at critical entry/exit points of the Rookery to combat burglary and enhance public safety.

ACCREDITATION & COMPLIANCE

- Send the accreditation officer to CALEA school to begin formal preparations for the department's full accreditation.
- Begin a review of all policies and practices to prepare for mock CALEA certification.

ACCREDITATION & COMPLIANCE

- Research and propose enhancements to pension benefits, including:
 - 20-year retirement option
 - Immediate death benefits
 - Retiree health benefits

GCSPD



Annual Report

2024

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