Murray Police Department

2024

Annual Report

Samuel Bierds, Chief of Police

Table of Contents

A Message from the Chief of Police

Dear Community Members,

It is with great pride that I present the Murray Police Department's Annual Report for 2024. As we reflect on the year, I am reminded of the strong partnership between our department and the citizens we serve. Together, we have continued to ensure that Murray remains one of the region's safest communities. I am proud to report that crime rates have remained low, and even more proud to announce that 2024 saw our lowest crime rate in five years.

Throughout 2024, our department maintained its commitment to fostering a safe and secure environment for residents, businesses, and visitors. We take great care in adapting to the ever-evolving challenges of modern policing while ensuring that the values of trust, respect, and integrity remain at the forefront of our efforts.

In our pursuit of excellence, the Murray Police Department has made great strides in adopting progressive methods and technologies to enhance our capabilities. This year, we have integrated state-of-the-art technology for more efficient operations, expanded our community outreach programs, and focused on improving our officers' training to meet the demands of a changing landscape. These advancements enable us to provide a higher level of service, increase public safety, and build stronger relationships with the community.

As we move into the future, we remain committed to staying ahead of emerging challenges and exploring new ways to improve public safety. With the support and engagement of community members, we are confident that we can maintain our city's safety while continuing to build on the trust and cooperation that define Murray.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to keep Murray a great place to live, work, study, and raise a family.

Sincerely,

Samuel Bierds
Chief of Police
Murray Police Department

Department Overview

The Murray Police Department (MPD) serves as the primary law enforcement agency for the city of Murray, Kentucky. Located in the western part of the state, Murray is the county seat of Calloway County and is home to around 19,000 residents. The department is responsible for ensuring public safety, maintaining order, and enforcing laws within the city limits.

MPD provides a range of services, including patrol, criminal investigations, traffic enforcement, community policing, and emergency response. It operates with a commitment to public service, transparency, and community involvement. The department works closely with other local, state, and federal agencies to address crime and improve overall safety.

Murray is also home to Murray State University, which adds a unique dimension to the department's responsibilities, as they serve both the residential community and the student population.

MPD emphasizes community engagement, holding events and outreach programs to build trust and foster positive relationships between officers and residents. The department is staffed by 37 sworn officers, 7 emergency telecommunicators, and ones records specialist.

Administration

Chief of Police Samuel Bierds

Major Angel Clere

2024 Retirees

Officer Patrick Morris

School Resource Officer Patrick Morris retired after 20 years of dedicated service to the department and community. Officer Morris served as a patrol officer, field training officer, and most noticeably, the School Resource Officer at Murray Middle School. In the fall of 2024, Officer Morris returned to the Murray Police Department as a contract officer, continuing his excellent service to the students, faculty, staff, and parents of Murray Middle School.

Major John Cooper

Major John Cooper retired at the end of 2024. Major Cooper rose through the ranks at MPD, serving as a patrol officer, sergeant, captain, and assistant chief of police. Major Cooper was a pillar of the Murray Police Department. His dedication to service and commitment to leadership left an indelible legacy for the department and community.

K9 Ringo

MPD K9 Ringo retired after four years of service to the department and community. Ringo, a Dutch Shepheard, was trained in narcotics detection and criminal apprehension. Ringo was, and is, a beloved member of the department, and still comes by for visits when he finds time in his busy schedule of taking naps and chewing on toys.

Officer Patrick Morris   **Major John Cooper**   **K9 Ringo**

Patrol Services Division

The Patrol Services Division of the Murray Police Department plays a crucial role in maintaining public safety and order throughout the community. This division is dedicated to providing proactive policing by responding to calls for service and actively engaging in crime prevention efforts. Officers in the Patrol Services Division are responsible for patrolling neighborhoods, ensuring a visible law enforcement presence, and deterring criminal activity before it occurs. They respond to a wide variety of emergency situations, from accidents and medical emergencies to domestic disturbances and violent crimes.

In addition to responding to emergencies, officers in this division focus on traffic enforcement to ensure road safety, reduce accidents, and deter impaired or reckless driving. They work to maintain order on the roads by enforcing laws related to speeding, seat belts, driving under the influence, and other violations that can endanger the community.

Patrol officers also conduct routine checks on businesses, schools, and public spaces to ensure these areas remain safe and secure. These proactive measures help foster a sense of security for residents, business owners, and students alike. Officers frequently engage with the community through outreach programs, meetings, and direct interactions to build trust, address concerns, and strengthen relationships between the police department and the people they serve.

One of the most important roles of the Patrol Services Division is preventing crime by being a visible and approachable presence in the community. Officers utilize strategies such as neighborhood patrols, community involvement, and targeted interventions to prevent criminal activity before it occurs. The division is often the first point of contact for the public, making their role essential not only in emergency response but also in shaping the department's overall relationship with the community.

Overall, the Patrol Services Division is at the heart of the Murray Police Department's mission to maintain public safety, prevent crime, and ensure that residents feel secure and supported in their daily lives.

Support Services Division

The Support Services Division of the Murray Police Department plays an essential role in the overall functioning of the department by providing specialized support in key areas of law enforcement. This division is made up of two critical components: the Criminal Investigations Unit and the Telecommunications Unit. Each of these units is integral to ensuring that the department operates efficiently and effectively in tackling crime and maintaining public safety.

The **Criminal Investigations Unit** is responsible for handling more complex and in-depth investigations that go beyond initial police responses. Detectives in this unit specialize in investigating a variety of serious crimes, including theft, assault, fraud, homicide, and other major offenses. They work tirelessly to gather evidence, interview witnesses, analyze crime scenes, and follow up on leads to solve cases. Their work often requires collaboration with other law enforcement agencies, forensic experts, and legal professionals. By conducting thorough investigations and building strong cases, detectives in this unit help bring perpetrators to justice and provide closure to victims and their families.

The **Telecommunications Unit** plays a vital role in ensuring effective communication across all levels of the department. This unit is responsible for managing and operating the department's communication systems, including handling emergency 911 calls, dispatching officers to incidents, and coordinating the flow of information between the public and law enforcement. Telecommunications specialists ensure that officers receive critical information in real-time, enabling them to respond quickly and efficiently to emergencies. They also play a key role in maintaining communication within the department, ensuring that officers in the field are supported and have access to the resources and information they need to perform their duties safely and effectively.

Together, these units in the Support Services Division strengthen the overall capability of the Murray Police Department to respond to incidents, investigate criminal activity, and maintain a high level of public safety. By providing crucial support services, the division helps ensure that both routine and complex law enforcement operations are carried out smoothly, contributing to the overall effectiveness of the department in serving the community.

Member of the Crime Scene Response Team attend a training session.

Community Services Division

The Community Services Division of the Murray Police Department is dedicated to fostering positive relationships between the police and the community, focusing on proactive engagement, transparency, and support. This division includes several key components.

School Resource Officers work in local schools to ensure a safe environment, educate students on safety and law enforcement, and serve as mentors and resources for both students and staff.

The **Records** office is responsible for maintaining, managing, and processing police records, including incident reports, arrest records, and other important documents, ensuring that information is accurate, accessible, and in compliance with legal standards.

The **Public Affairs** officer handles communication with the public, media, and community organizations. This team manages public relations, releases information about police activities, and supports community outreach programs to foster trust and transparency.

The **Grant Management** team oversees securing and managing funding through grants, ensuring that the department has the necessary resources for specialized programs, equipment, and initiatives.

Together, these areas within the Community Services Division play a vital role in community engagement, ensuring public safety, and enhancing the department's overall effectiveness.

2024 Lifesaving Awards

| Officer | Detective | Officer | Officer |
| Zach Tyler | Trista Winebarger | Daniel Griggs | Caleb Cope |

2024 Officers of the Quarter

| Officer | Officer | Officer | Officer |
| Caleb Cope | Mike Robinson | Eddie McGuire | David Bailey |

2024 Officer of the Year

Officer Eddie McGuire

2024 Telecommunicator of the Year

Telecommunicator Noah Jackson

2024 Chief's Award

Records Clerk Emily Weatherford   Captain Andrew Wiggins

2024 Police CAD Activity

Activity	Dayshift	Nightshift	Total
Drugs	14	12	26
911 H/U	477	329	806
Out W/ Subject	45	191	236
ATS- Warrant	137	125	262
Sec. Check	4126	5088	9214
Collision (No Inj.)	658	180	838
Collision (Inj.)	49	15	64
Mental Health	42	23	65
Abuse Inv	9	4	13
AI	24	26	50
Alarm	263	276	539
Animal	163	86	249
Assault	53	24	77
Assist Other Agency	108	52	160
BOLO	86	40	126
Burglary	12	30	42
Custody Dispute	9	7	16
Civil Matter	108	23	131
Clear Parking Lot	0	3	3
Crim. Mis	50	22	72
Counterfiet	3	0	3
Death Investigation	20	6	26
Dispute	72	62	134
Domestic Violence	121	108	229
Reckless Driver	140	99	239
Gas Drive Off	1	1	2
Special Detail	66	11	77
Illegal Dumping	6	0	6
EMS Assist	33	35	68
EPO	43	19	62
Escort	177	6	183
Extra Patrol	198	301	499
Fight	10	31	41
Fire	4	4	8
Fire Alam	1	1	2
Follow Up	209	129	338
Scam/Fraud	89	15	104
Escort Funds	9	0	9

Harassment	119	40	159
Information	607	234	841
Investigation	12	6	18
Lockout	8	0	8
Motor. Assist	164	53	217
Misc.	98	83	181
Missing Person	9	5	14
Missing Juvenile	16	15	31
Noise Complaint	33	155	188
Odor Invest.	0	0	0
Out of Cont. Subj.	40	21	61
Suspicious Package	7	2	9
ATS- Papers	33	24	57
Parking Enf.	16	20	36
Parking Comp	47	32	79
Prop. Damage	17	12	29
Prop. Maint.	1	0	1
Found Property	93	33	126
Runaway Juv	16	25	41
Rape/Sex. Assault	10	3	13
Repossession	48	30	78
Road Hazard	26	8	34
Robbery	2	1	3
School Traffic	92	0	92
Search Warrant	0	0	0
Shots Fired	5	8	13
Sus. Person	56	131	187
Standby	22	7	29
Suicide or Attempt	3	14	17
Sus. Activity	142	246	388
Sus. Veh.	60	261	321
Traff. Enf.	109	9	118
Theft	281	112	393
Threats	66	38	104
Traff. Cont.	36	7	43
Transport Subject	5	2	7
Trespassing	46	20	66
Traffic Stop	1162	2202	3364
Unk. Disturbance	35	16	51
Unwanted Subject	124	71	195
Welfare Check	420	231	651
Total	**11,721**	**11,561**	**23,282**

Reports

Report Type	2024	2023	2022
Crime Reports	740	962	923
Collision Reports	758	772	729
Citations Issued	1,216	1,500	921
Call Response Reports	151	242	366
Mental Health Crisis Reports	36	45	43
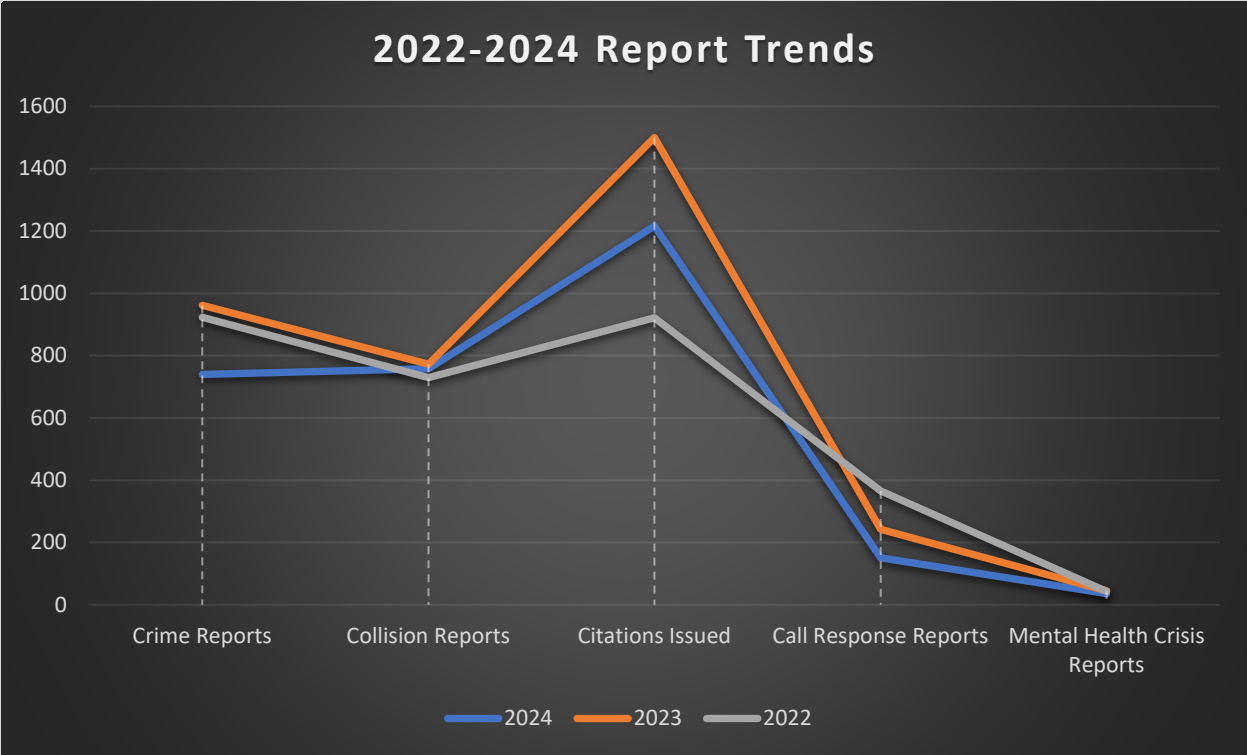
Calls Handled by MPD Telecommunications Center

By Agency

Murray Police Department – 22,119

Murray Fire Department – 3,719

Murray-Calloway EMS – 4,385

By Line

Admin Line – 34,504

911 – 9,942

Crime in Murray

UCR Stats

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program is a nationwide effort that collects and compiles crime data from law enforcement agencies across the United States. Established in 1930, the UCR program aims to provide a reliable, consistent, and comprehensive set of crime statistics that can be used for research, policy-making, and public awareness. It collects data on various types of offenses, including violent crimes (such as murder, rape, and robbery) and property crimes (like burglary and larceny-theft), as well as arrests and law enforcement officer-related incidents.

UCR Description	2024	2023	
MURDER AND NON-NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER	1	6	-83.33%
FORCIBLE RAPE	8	6	33.33%
ROBBERY	2	1	100.00%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	9	9	0.00%
BREAKING AND ENTERING	27	42	-35.72%
LARCENY-THEFT (EXCEPT AUTO THEFT)	263	330	-20.30%
AUTO THEFT	11	16	-31.25%
OTHER ASSAULTS	169	227	-25.55%
ARSON	1	1	0.00%
FORGERY AND COUNTERFEITING	6	12	-50.00%
FRAUD	23	52	-55.77%
STOLEN PROPERTY;BUYING,RECEIVING,POSSESS	4	4	0.00%
VANDALISM	50	88	-43.18%
WEAPON OFFENSES;CARRYING,POSSESSING,ETC.	2	13	-84.62%
SEX OFFENSES (EXCEPT FORC. RAPE & PROST.)	12	24	-50.00%
SALES/MANUFACTURING - OPIUM/COCAINE & DERIVATIVES	0	1	-100.00%
SALES/MANUFACTURING -MARIJUANA	4	8	-50.00%
SALES/MANUFACTURING -SYN NARCS	4	4	0.00%
SALES/MANUFACTURING -OTHERS-DANG. NON-NARC DRUGS	30	30	0.00%
POSSESSION - OPIUM/COCAINE & DERIVIATIVES	2	3	-33.33%
POSSESSION -MARIJUANA	15	21	-28.57%
POSSESSION -OTHERS-DANGEROUS NON-NARC DRUGS	37	35	5.71%
OFFENSES AGAINST FAMILY & CHILDREN	25	16	56.25%
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	96	117	-17.95%
LIQUOR LAWS	21	19	10.53%
DRUNKENNESS	38	43	11.63%
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	77	53	45.28%
ALL OTHER OFFENSES (EXCEPT TRAFFIC)	103	78	35.05%
RUNAWAYS	0	1	-100.00%
TRAFFIC	256	281	-8.89%
OTHER	24	45	-46.67%
TOTALS	**1320**	**1586**	**-16.77%**

Five UCR Year Crime Trends
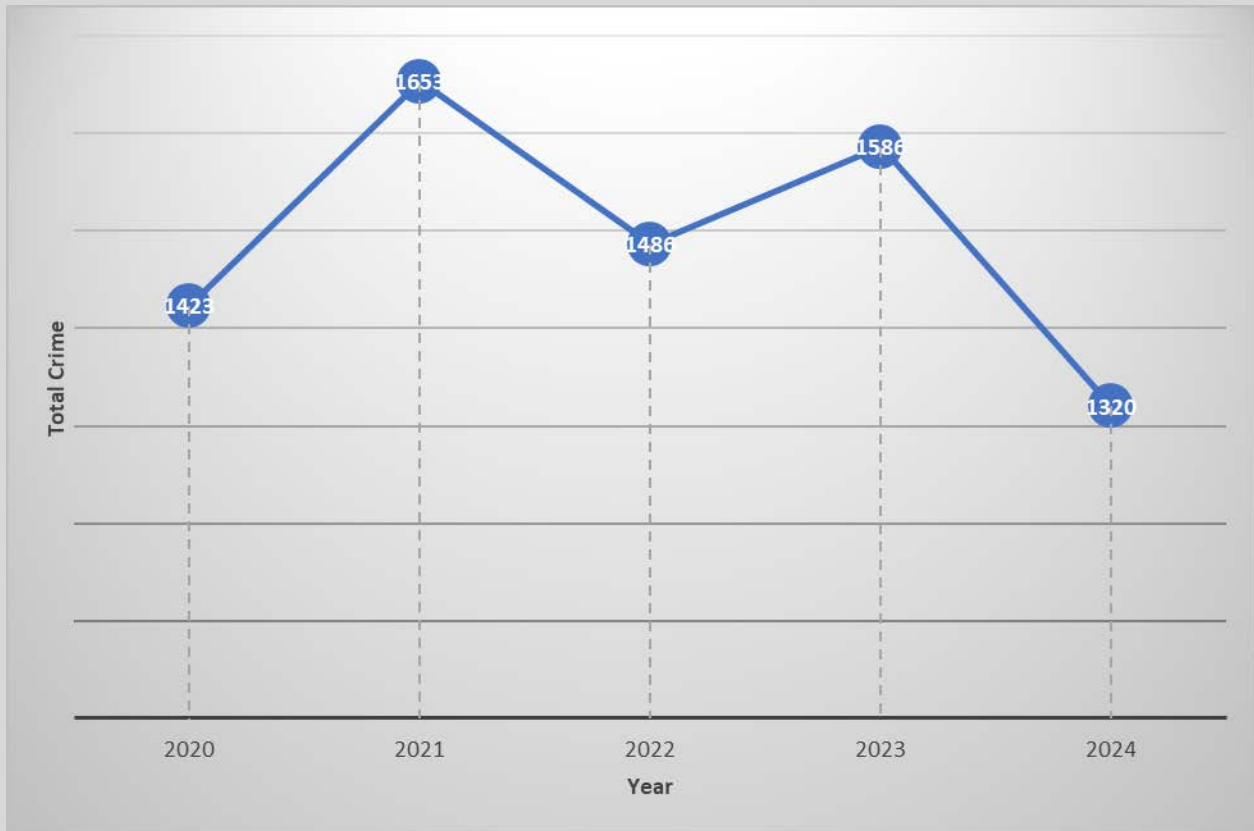
7.24% decrease from 2020

16.77% decrease from 2023

NIBRS Stats

The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is a comprehensive crime reporting system used by law enforcement agencies to collect detailed data on criminal incidents. Unlike the traditional Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) summary system, NIBRS captures information about each specific offense within an incident, including details on victims, offenders, and arrestees, as well as the circumstances surrounding the crime. This enhanced data collection allows for more accurate analysis of crime patterns and trends, enabling law enforcement to better understand and address community safety concerns. NIBRS provides a more nuanced and detailed view of crime, supporting improved decision-making and resource allocation in law enforcement operations.

NIBRS Group A and B Offenses

Group A	Cases	Clearances	Clearance Rate
Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter	1	1	100%
Kidnapping/Abduction	5	3	60%
Rape	8	2	25%
Sodomy	1	1	100%
Fondling	4	1	25%
Robbery	2	1	50%
Aggravated Assault	19	14	74%
Simple Assault	95	61	64%
Intimidation	47	34	72%
Arson	1	1	100%
Extortion/Blackmail	1	0	0%
Burglary	27	9	33%
Shoplifting	79	55	70%
Pocket-Picking	1	0	0%
Purse-Snatching	1	0	0%
Theft from Building	1	0	0%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	8	2	25%
All Other Larceny	150	41	27%
Motor Vehicle Theft	9	3	33%
Counterfeiting/Forgery	6	6	100%
False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	1	1	100%

	Cases	Clearances	Clearance Rate
Credit Card/ATM Fraud	14	8	57%
Impersonation	1	0	0%
Identity Theft	3	0	0%
Stolen Property Offenses	4	4	100%
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	50	19	38%
Drug/Narcotic Violations	45	41	91%
Drug Equipment Violations	25	25	100%
Pornography/Obscene Material	2	0	0%
Weapon Law Violations	4	4	100%
Animal Cruelty	7	5	71%
Group B	**Cases**	**Clearances**	**Clearance Rate**
Disorderly Conduct	21	20	95%
Driving Under the Influence	96	90	94%
Drunkenness	33	32	97%
Family Offenses, Nonviolent	20	10	50%
Liquor Law Violations	1	1	100%
Trespass of Real Property	15	11	73%
All Other Offenses	86	60	70%
Totals	**894**	**566**	**63%**

2023 NIBRS Clearance Rate:

54%

"The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, and not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them."

Sir Robert Peel, Father of Modern Policing

Arrest Data

2024 Total Arrests

705

Male

White	390
Black	104
Am. Indian/Alaska Native	3
Asian/Pacific Islander	1
Unknown	20
Total	**518**

Female

White	165
Black	18
Am. Indian/Alaska Native	0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0
Unknown	4
Total	**187**

Criminal Citations

Crimes charged by Murray PD, includes warrant service for charges filed in other jurisdictions.

Aggravated Assault

Disarming a Peace Officer – 1

Assault, 3rd Degree (Police Officer) – 5

Assault, 3rd Degree (EMS or Firefighter) – 1

Assault 3rd Degree (School Employee or Volunteer) – 1

Strangulation, 1st Degree – 4

Strangulation, 2nd Degree – 4

Criminal Abuse 1st Degree (Child 12 or Under) – 2

Larceny

Theft of Mail Matter – 4

Theft of Controlled Substance – 2

Theft by Unlawful Taking – 15

Theft of Bicycle – 2

Theft of Gasoline – 1

Theft of Credit Card – 1

Theft by Deception – 2

All Other Offenses

Fleeing or Evading Police, 1st Degree (Vehicle) – 3

Fleeing or Evading Police, 1st Degree (Foot) – 3

Fleeing or Evading Police, 2nd Degree (Foot) – 7

Fleeing or Evading Police, 3rd Degree - 1

Failure to Comply with Sex Offender Registry – 1

Harassing Communications – 3

Resisting Arrest – 16

Harassment, Physical Contact – 5

Obstructing Emergency Responder – 4

Abuse of Corpse – 1

Driving on DUI Suspended License, 1st Offense – 17

Driving on DUI Suspended License, 2nd Offense – 1

Hindering Prosecution or Apprehension, 2nd Degree – 3

Giving Officer False Identifying Information – 1

False Report which Generates Emergency Response – 2

False Report to Law Enforcement Officer – 1

Obstruction/Interference with Officer – 1

Tampering with Physical Evidence – 5

Fugitive from Justice – 6

Animal Cruelty

Sexual Crimes Against Animals – 1

Cruelty to Animals, 2nd Degree – 6

Burglary

Burglary, 1st Degree – 2

Burglary, 2nd Degree – 5

Burglary, 3rd Degree - 5

Counterfeiting/Forgery

Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument, 2nd Degree – 2

Credit Card/ATM Fraud

Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card – 1

Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card, $500-$1,000 – 1

Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card, $1,000-$10,000 – 3

Destruction/Damage/Vandalism

Criminal Mischief, 1st Degree – 7

Criminal Mischief, 2nd Degree – 5

Criminal Mischief, 3rd Degree – 12

Disorderly Conduct

Disorderly Conduct, 1st Degree – 1

Disorderly Conduct, 2nd Degree – 19

Drug Violations

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia – 29

Volatile Substance Abuse – 3

Possession of Controlled Substance, 1st Degree (Methamphetamine) – 32

Possession of Controlled Substance, 1st Degree (Cocaine) – 1

Possession of Controlled Substance, 1st Degree (Opiates) – 1

Possession of Controlled Substance, 1st Degree (Other Drug) – 3

Possession of Controlled Substance, 2nd Degree (Hallucinogen) – 1

Possession of Controlled Substance, 3rd Degree – 2

Possession of Marijuana – 15

Trafficking in Marijuana – 4

Trafficking in Controlled Substance, 1st Degree (Date Rape Drug) – 1

Trafficking in Controlled Substance, 1st Degree (Methamphetamine) – 6

Trafficking in Controlled Substance, 1st Degree (Other Drug) – 2

Drunkenness

Alcohol Intoxication in a Public Place – 61

Public Intoxication (Controlled Substance) – 21

Family Offenses, Nonviolent

Abuse/Neglect of Adult – 1

Violation of EPO/DVO – 12

Fondling/Incest

Sexual Abuse, 1st Degree (Victim Under 12) – 1

Incest – 1

Intimidation

Menacing -13

Terroristic Threatening, 2nd Degree – 1

Terroristic Threatening, 3rd Degree – 11

Wanton Endangerment, 1st Degree - 12

Wanton Endangerment, 1st Degree (Police Officer) – 2

Intimidating Participant in the Legal Process – 1

Retaliating Against Participant in Legal Process – 2

Kidnapping/Abduction

Unlawful Imprisonment, 2nd Degree – 1

Kidnapping (Adult) – 1

Motor Vehicle Theft

Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle – 2

Theft by Unlawful Taking, Motor Vehicle – 1

Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter

Murder (Attempt) – 1

Pornography/Obscene Material

Possession of Matter Portraying Sexual Performance by a Minor Under 12 – 1

Possession of Matter Portraying Sexual Performance by a Minor Over 12 & Under 18 – 1

Possession of Matter Portraying Sexual Performance by a Minor Under 12 - 1

Rape

Rape, 1st Degree (Victim Under 12) – 1

Robbery

Robbery, 1st Degree – 1

Shoplifting

Theft by Unlawful Taking- Shoplifting – 70

Simple Assault

Wanton Endangerment, 2nd Degree – 1

Assault, 4th Degree (Domestic/Dating Violence) – 47

Assault, 4th Degree (Child Abuse) – 3

Assault, 4th Degree – 20

Sodomy

Sodomy, 1st Degree (Victim Under 12) – 1

Stolen Property Offenses

Receiving Stolen Property Over $10,000 – 1

Theft from Motor Vehicle

Theft by Unlawful Taking Contents from Vehicle – 1

Trespass of Real Property

Criminal Trespassing, 3rd Degree – 20

Weapon Law Violations

Possession of Defaced Firearm – 1

Fraudulent Firearm Transaction – 1

Possession of Firearm by Convicted Felon – 1

Possession of Handgun by Minor – 1

Response to Resistance

Response to resistance refers to the actions taken by law enforcement officers when an individual resists or attempts to avoid lawful authority or control during an encounter. It encompasses a range of responses, from verbal commands and de-escalation techniques to the use of physical force, including non-lethal and, in rare cases, lethal methods, depending on the circumstances and threat level faced by officers. The goal of a police officer's response to resistance is to protect themselves, the public, and the individual involved, while using the least amount of force necessary to safely resolve the situation. These incidents are closely monitored and reviewed to ensure that responses are appropriate, in compliance with department policies, and aligned with legal and ethical standards.

Race/Ethnicity

White	8
Black	3
Asian	0
Hispanic	1
Unkown/Other	0

Suspect Injury Treatment Required

None	6
First Aid	6
E.R. Treatment	0
Hospitalization	0
Death	0

Gender

Male	11
Female	1

Type of Force*

Physical	9
OC Spray	0
Taser	4
Baton/Impact Weapon	0
Firearm	0
Other	0

Officer Injury

None	12
Minor	0
Serious	0

Precipitating Activity

Subject in Crisis	3
Domestic Assault	2
Public Disturbance	1
Other	6

Total Response to Resistance Incidents	12

Collision Data

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Total Collisions	761	772	727	780	626
Injury Collisions	50	48	45	52	48
Total Injured	71	72	60	63	62
Total Killed	0	2	0	4	0
Parking Lot Collisions	250	269	236	265	199

Five-Year Collision Trends
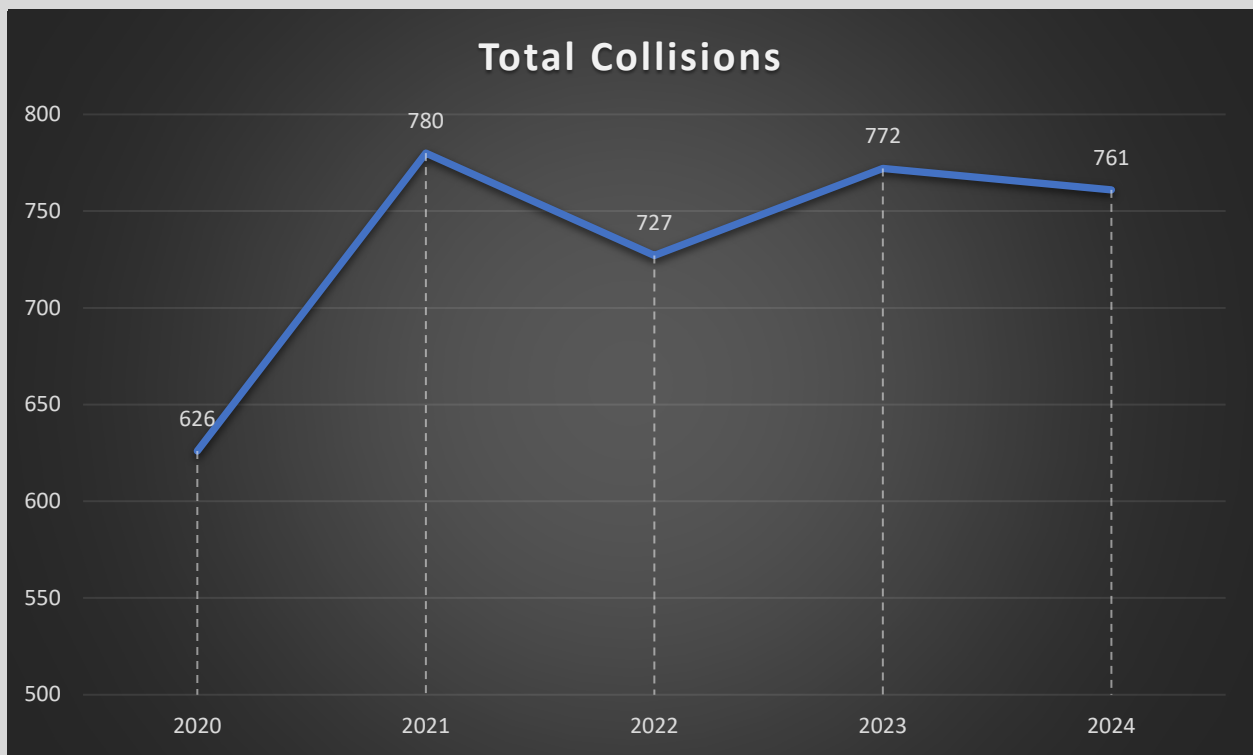
Roadways with 20 or more collisions

12th Street – 336

Main Street – 55

Chestnut Street – 54

Poplar Street – 52

16th Street – 47

KY121 – 40

Sycamore Street – 26

Lowes Drive – 22