

# ANNUAL REPORT



# 2023

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# CHIEF'S LETTER

The Anniston Police Department is committed to providing exceptional service to our community while upholding our mission to protect and serve. We take pride in our innovative policies and programs that have helped us become a leader in law enforcement. Our use of body-worn cameras and accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies are just a few examples of our proactive approach.

We value our relationship with the community we serve, and we strive to build trust through transparency and daily interactions. Our officers are encouraged to engage with the public regularly, not just during calls for service or traffic stops. We believe this will foster good relationships and help us better understand the needs of our community.

We recognize the importance of social media in reaching out to the public, and we were one of the first agencies in the area to expand our presence on these platforms. Our success has been noticed by other law enforcement agencies, and we are proud to share our knowledge with them. We also invite members of our community to join us in our mission. You can contact us anytime by phone, email, or mail. Our website at [www.anniston.al.gov/police](http://www.anniston.al.gov/police) has all the information you need to get in touch.

We would like to thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to serving our community with excellence.

Sincerely,

Chief Nick Bowles





# AGENCY PROFILE

**1**  
**CHIEF**

Since 1883, the Anniston Police Department has been a pillar of the community, committed to providing professional law enforcement services to the City of Anniston. Our primary goal is to ensure the safety of our citizens, and we take great pride in doing so.

**4**  
**CAPTAINS**

Our department is located at 174 West 13th Street and consists of 91 sworn positions and nine civilian positions. We offer services to both the city limits and the police jurisdiction, which has an estimated combined population of 41,007 residents.

**7**  
**LIEUTENANTS**

At the helm of the Anniston Police Department is Chief Nick Bowles, who has been with the department for 23 years, having served in every rank before his appointment as Chief of Police in July 2020. Chief Bowles graduated from the Northeast Alabama Law Enforcement Academy in November 2000 and has since earned over 1,400 hours of continuing education. He obtained a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Central Christian College of Kansas and is a member of the Alabama Chiefs of Police Association.

**11**  
**SERGEANTS**

Chief Bowles began his career at the department in August 2000 as a patrolman in the Uniform Division, later transitioning to the Investigative Division. For the last decade, he has held various supervisory positions, including commanding the Special Response Team and creating the Community Relations Unit. He has contributed significantly to the department's initiatives, such as updating policies and procedures, producing the first recruiting video, and earning our first certification from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

**68**  
**OFFICERS**

Our department is committed to providing the highest quality law enforcement services to our community. Through innovation, training, and effective leadership, we strive to reduce violent crime and maintain a safe environment for all citizens.

**9**  
**SUPPORT  
STAFF**





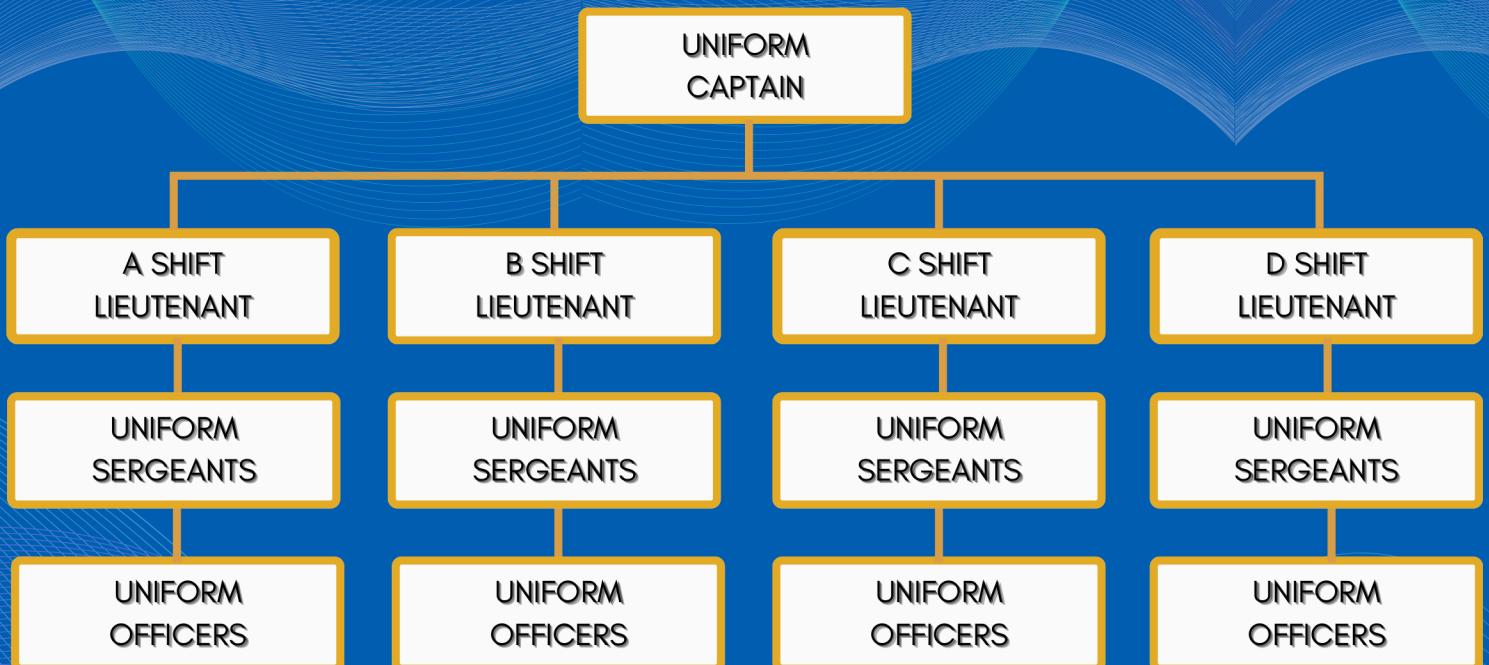
# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

The organizational chart of the Anniston Police Department is listed here. The four divisions (Uniform, Special Operations, Investigative, and Administrative) and the Training and Inspections Unit all have commanders that report directly to the Chief of Police. Each division and unit listed here will be described in greater detail on the following pages.



# UNIFORM DIVISION

The Uniform Division, also known as the "Patrol Division," is led by Captain Matt Caballero. This division is the largest in the Anniston Police Department and considered its core component. The division caters to police service calls and preventive patrol, 24 hours a day. The division is divided into four shifts, each commanded by a lieutenant and overseen by two sergeants. A fully staffed shift consists of 12 officers and supervision.





# SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Special Operations Division, led by Captain Justin Sanford, carries out a range of responsibilities. These include animal control, traffic enforcement, traffic accident investigations, information technology systems management, crime analysis, fleet management, street-level crime investigations, and providing law enforcement support to the local school system. When fully staffed, the division comprises a lieutenant, sergeant, four street crimes officers, two school resource officers, a traffic accident investigator, two civilian animal control officers, and one investigator assigned to the 7th Judicial Major Crimes Unit.



# INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

The Investigative Division, led by Captain Emily McCullars, is tasked with conducting follow-up investigations on reported crimes, gathering and analyzing evidence, locating and arresting individuals with outstanding warrants, and conducting sex offender notifications. This division comprises of a lieutenant, sergeant, seven case investigators, three crime lab technicians, two warrant officers, and a division secretary when fully staffed.

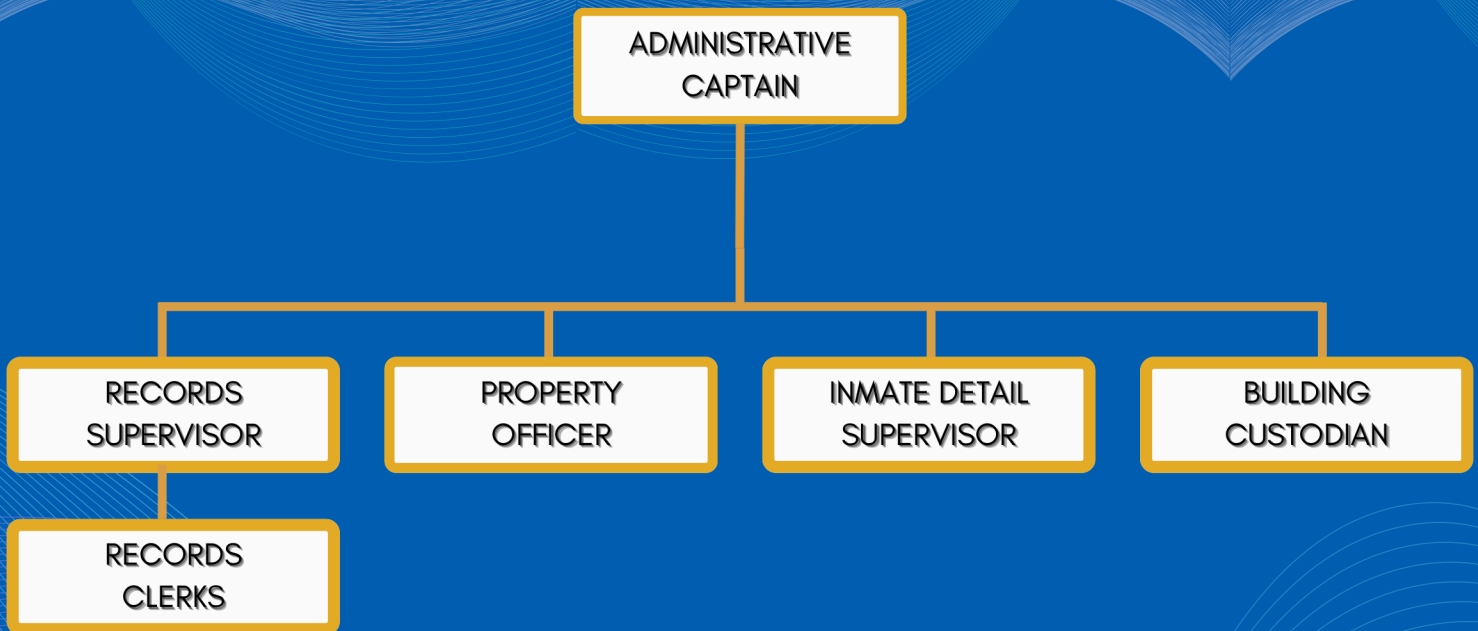




# ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Administrative Division, led by Captain Clint Parris, oversees various tasks, including the police budget, equipment and supplies procurement, record keeping, property control, facility maintenance, and inmate work detail. Additionally, the civilian side of this branch is comprised of a records supervisor, two clerks, an inmate work detail supervisor, and a building custodian. A sworn police officer manages the property room and takes walk-in reports during regular business hours.

The division's commander works with the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office and Calhoun County 9-1-1 to coordinate communication and jail services that are contracted out to these entities.



# TRAINING & INSPECTIONS UNIT

The Training and Inspections Unit, commanded by Lieutenant Brett Lloyd, plays an integral role in the recruitment and training of police personnel. Additionally, this unit handles internal affairs investigations and oversees the management of personnel records and systems. A sergeant supervises the training function of this unit. New police officers are placed under this unit as they undergo basic police academy training.





# 2023 NEW HIRES



**TAYLOR CORNWELL**



**IAN FORD**



**ELIJAH JONES**



**LEONTA JONES**



**TIMOTHY MOTE**



**JACKSON PUGH**



**NOAH WALKER**

# 2023 PROMOTIONS



**Matt Caballero**  
*Promoted to Captain*



**Emily McCullars**  
*Promoted to Captain*



**Brian Brockman**  
*Promoted to Lieutenant*



**Jeff Hamrick**  
*Promoted to Lieutenant*



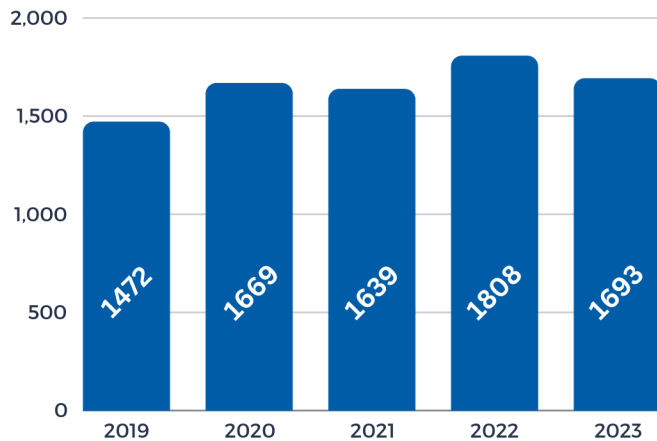
**Dannis Collins**  
*Promoted to Sergeant*



**Justin Hise**  
*Promoted to Sergeant*

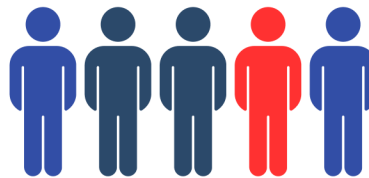


# CRIME TREND BY THE NUMBERS



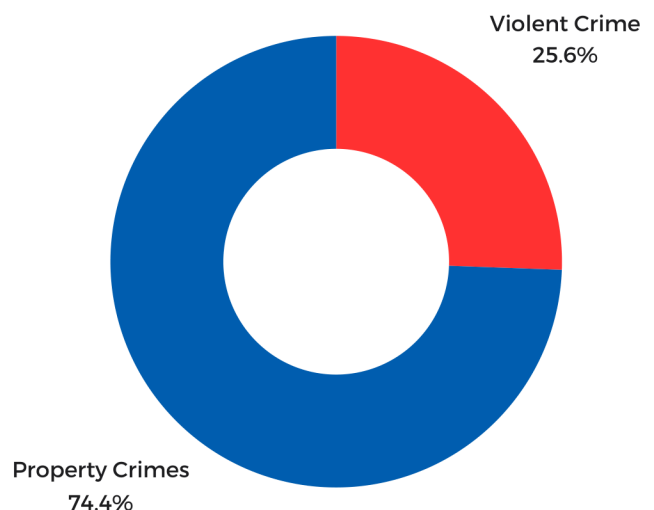
## FIVE-YEAR CRIME TABLE

Part 1 crime encompasses both violent and property crimes, with the Anniston Police Department receiving a total of 1693 reports in the 2023 calendar year. There was a 6.36% decrease in Part 1 crime from the previous year. The chart on the left provides a visual representation of the total number of Part 1 crimes reported over the past five years.



## VIOLENT VS PROPERTY CRIME

433 violent crimes and 1260 property crimes were reported to the Anniston Police Department during 2023. Violent crime is composed of four offenses: homicide, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crime is composed of three offenses: burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft. 60.04% of violent crime and 38.64% of property crime cases were cleared. (Cleared by arrest of the suspect or by exceptional means)



# 44.10%

Part 1 Offense Crime  
Clearance Rate for 2023

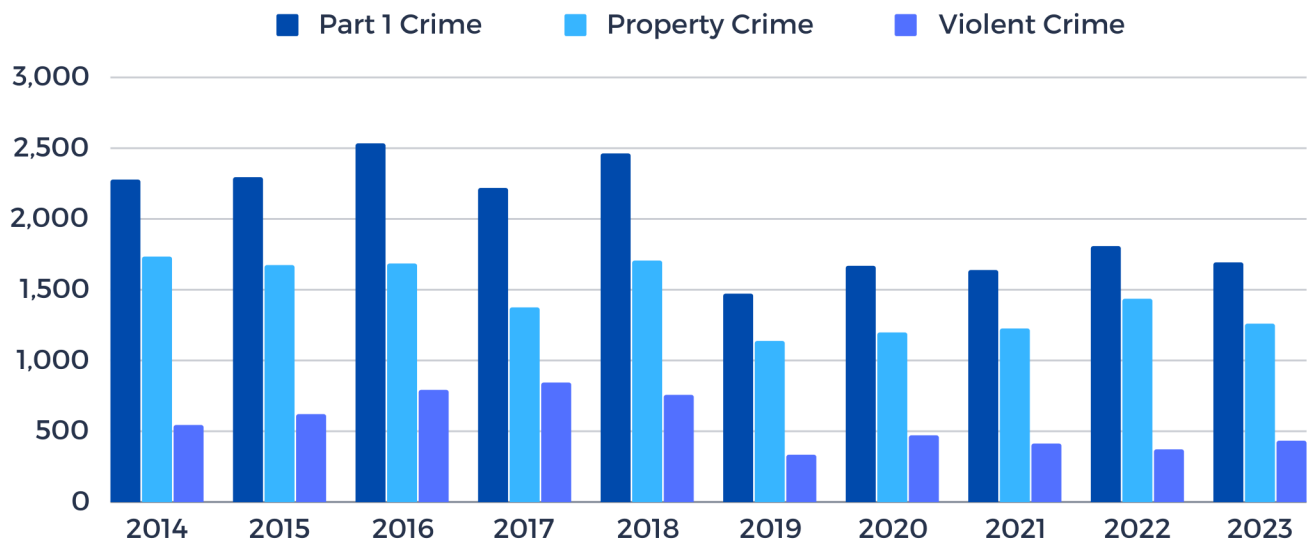
# 60.04%

Violent Crime Clearance  
Rate for 2023

# 38.64%

Property Crime Clearance  
Rate for 2023

# TEN YEAR CRIME CHART



**POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS**

## EXAMINING THE NUMBERS

Over the last several years, crime rates in Anniston have experienced a downward trend. During 2016, there were a staggering 2,534 Part 1 crimes reported, with 792 of those crimes being violent. That year had the highest Part 1 crime rate over the past decade but was closely followed by 2017 and 2018. When viewing the numbers for 2023, there was a 33.18% decrease in Part 1 crime, a 25.22% decrease in property crime, and a 45.32% decrease in violent crime as compared to 2016. This decline in crime rates indicates a positive trend towards a safer community.

### PART 1 CRIME



**33%**



### PROPERTY CRIME



**25%**



### VIOLENT CRIME



**45%**

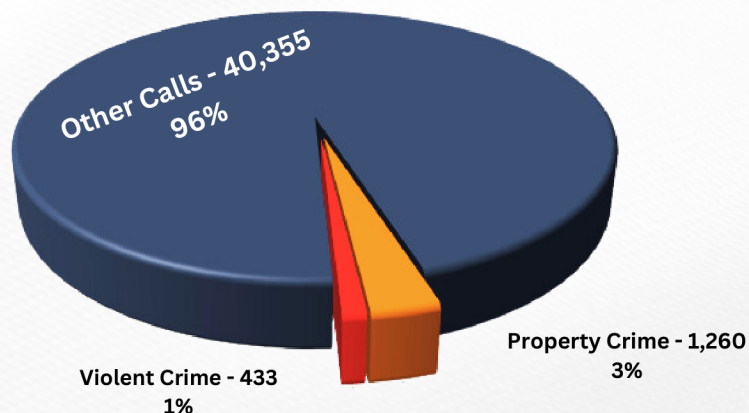




# 42,048 CALLS FOR SERVICE

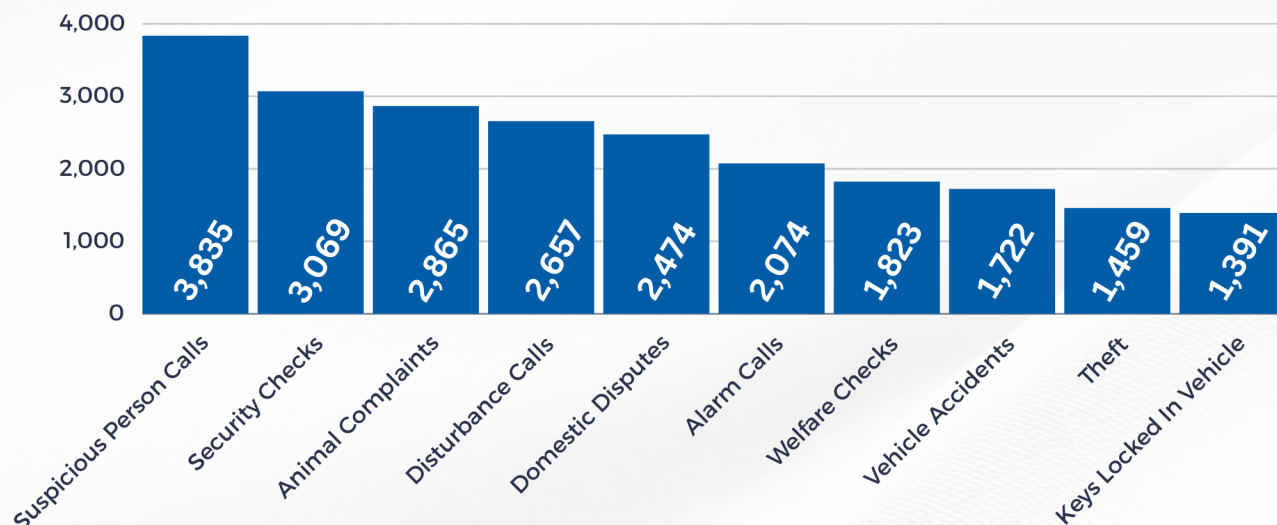
The Anniston Police Department responded to 42,048 service calls in 2023. Based on the most recent US Census data from 2020, the department serves a total population of 41,007 residents. Of these residents, 21,562 live within the city limits, while the remaining residents reside in the police jurisdiction, an area approximately three miles outside the city boundaries. Only four percent of the calls were related to Part 1 crime, and violent crime accounted for just one percent.

Crime reports often present skewed numbers when calculating crime rates as they typically consider only the city population, neglecting areas outside city limits covered by police departments. This leads to inflated crime rates for cities that extend their services to police jurisdictions. For instance, if a city serves a population of 100 residents, including the police jurisdiction, and 10 crimes are reported, the accurate crime rate would be 10%. This means citizens would have a 1 in 10 chance of being a crime victim based on accurate population figures. However, if the crime report includes only 50 city residents but uses the same 10 crimes in its calculations, it would erroneously show a 20% crime rate for the city. This would imply that citizens have a 1 in 5 chance of being victims of crime, which is misleading due to the inaccurate population count.



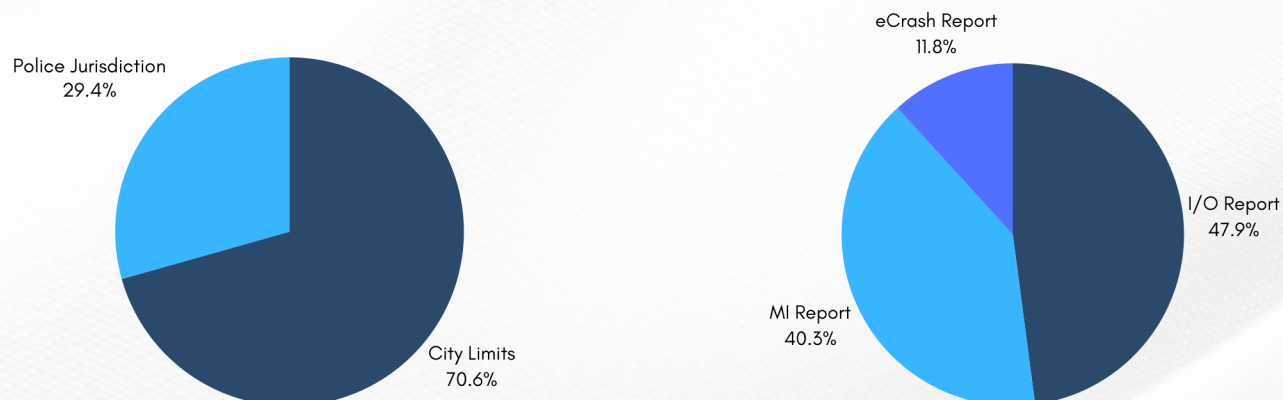
**Violent Crime 01 %**  
**Property Crime 03 %**  
**All Other Calls 96 %**

# TOP TEN CALLS FOR SERVICE



Out of 42,408 calls for service, 70.6% occurred within the city limits, while 29.4% were in the police jurisdiction. Additionally, 3,634 Incident/Offense reports were filed, along with 3,508 Miscellaneous Incident reports, and 895 Traffic Accident reports (eCrash). In 2023, there were 416 felony and 1,627 misdemeanor arrests conducted. The top 10 calls for service accounted for 56% of all of the total calls for service. They are listed on the chart above.

There were 10,138 traffic stops conducted in addition to the calls for service. 20% of the stops resulted in a traffic citation and 476 people were arrested.



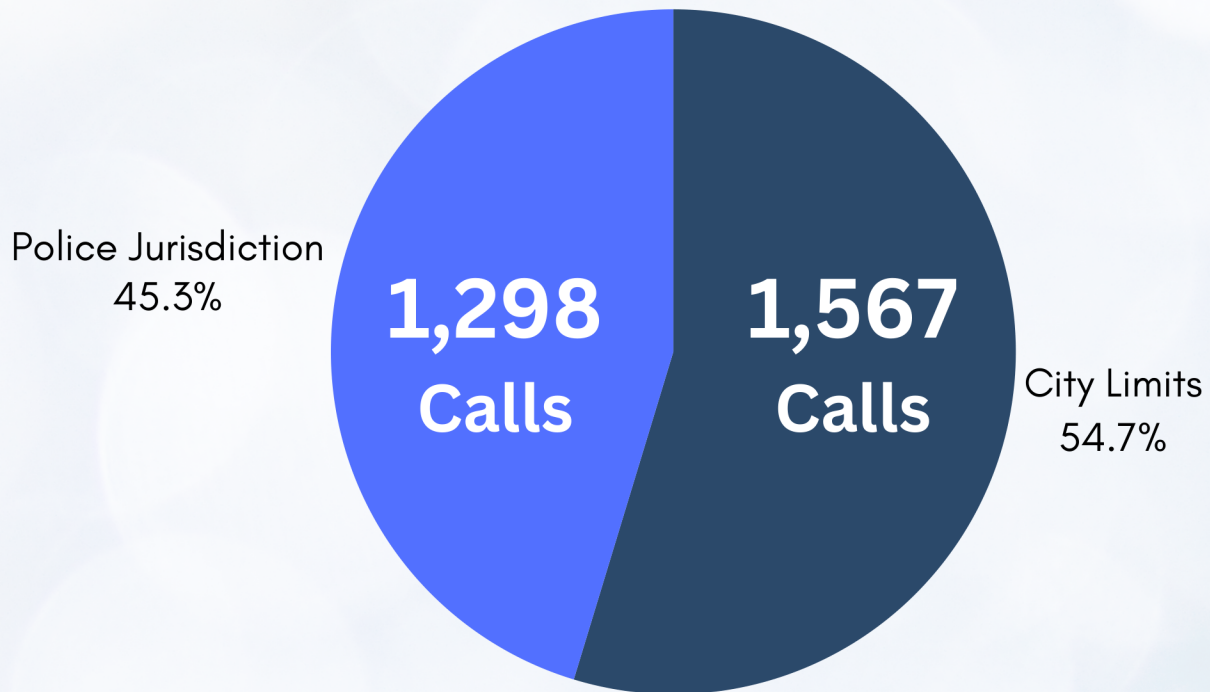
**10,138 TRAFFIC STOPS**  
**2,041 TICKETED**  
**476 ARRESTED**



**416 FELONY ARRESTS**  
**1,627 MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS**



# ANIMAL CONTROL



Animal complaints rank among the top three calls annually reported to the Anniston Police Department. Our animal control services cater to both the city limits and police jurisdiction. Although police jurisdiction calls represent only 28% of our total calls, they make up 45% of animal-related calls. In 2023 alone, animal control officers handled 2,865 animal complaints, averaging about eight calls daily. We contract with two animal shelters for impoundment support, but their resources are limited. In 2023, we impounded 316 stray animals, while 14 wild animals were caught and released as they are not subject to impoundment. Our officers conduct welfare checks on owned animals, ensuring compliance with health and care laws. The Anniston Police Department employs various tools such as education, follow-up visits, arrests, and citations to enforce state and local regulations.

**2,865 Calls for Service**  
**316 Impounded**

# STREET CRIMES UNIT



The purpose of the Anniston Police Department Street Crimes Unit is to address street-level violent crime and its underlying causes in our local community. Several of these crimes stem from the distribution and use of illegal substances. Members of this unit routinely respond to high priority calls in addition to proactively patrolling our community.

During 2023, members of this unit arrested 218 people on for felony offenses, 181 for misdemeanor offenses, and served 562 outstanding warrants. In addition to several illegal substances, they also seized 39 firearms that were used illegally. This unit alone accounted for about 50% of the department's felony arrests, and about 20% of its total arrests.

**39**  
FIREARMS  
SEIZED



**399**  
ARRESTS





# APD Community Relations Unit



## CRU Summary of Events and Donations for 2023

**37 community events attended**

**Over 1000 toys donated to  
nearly 50 families, benefiting  
around 90 children**

**Over 900 food items donated**



# OFFICER OF THE QUARTER

## 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter



### Investigator Jamel Roston

Investigator Roston was chosen for his dedication and leadership displayed during his tenure in the investigative division. He successfully resolved a significant case involving a triple shooting resulting in death while also managing his regular caseload effectively. Additionally, he provided guidance and training to a new investigator throughout this period.

### Corporal Brandon Wheeler

Corporal Wheeler was chosen for his maturity, awareness, and compassion. He effectively communicates with colleagues and community members, taking the time to engage with them. He is always volunteering to help on his days off and even using his own funds to assist individuals, such as buying gas for a citizen in need.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter



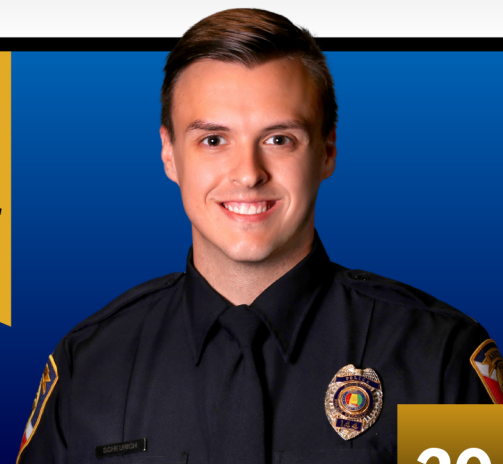
### Officer Matthew Masiak

Officer Masiak, who has been part of the department for just a year, was chosen because he has displayed exceptional performance during this period. He is highly proactive and always on the lookout for new learning opportunities to improve his skills. With a positive attitude, he willingly goes above and beyond to assist others.

### Investigator Cody Scheurich

Investigator Scheurich was chosen for his strong work ethic and willingness to go beyond his duties. He serves in multiple roles, such as the Community Relations Unit and Special Response Team. In November 2023, he obtained ALLEAPS certification. He was recognized as Officer of the Year for outstanding contributions to the community and the department.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter





# Officer of the Year 2023

## Investigator Cody Scheurich

When considering the Officer of the Year award, we envision an individual who exceeds their regular duties, sacrifices personal time, and aims to positively impact the community we serve. Investigator Scheurich consistently embodies these qualities.

As a senior crime lab investigator, he was entrusted with training a new crime lab investigator during 2023. This role demands extensive training and hands-on learning, making it one of the most challenging tasks within the department. Because of this responsibility, he assumed on-call duties every other week throughout the year. Additionally, he continued his commitments to the Special Response Team, taking on the additional role of marksman/observer.

Emphasizing his routine responsibilities underscores the significance of his voluntary contributions to APD and the community. He assumed the leadership role of APD's Community Relations Unit, a role he excelled in. In May, with Chief Bowles' endorsement, he engaged the CRU in a partnership with the United Way, resulting in a successful food drive that supported over 300 individuals. In November, he efficiently coordinated APD's annual canned food drive, ensuring its success. He also orchestrated the APD charity chili cook-off, surpassing the previous year's accomplishments. Furthermore, he oversaw the APD toy drive, ensuring toys reached those families that are truly in need. Both online and within the community, he is the recognizable face of the CRU.



# Retirements 2023



**Captain Curtis McCants**  
**30 Years**  
**1992-2023**



**Captain Christopher Sparks**  
**20 Years**  
**2003-2023**



**Sergeant Todd Owen**  
**20 Years**  
**2003-2023**



# Congratulations!

