

# GREAT FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

2023 Annual Report





**CHIEF OF POLICE**  
**JEFF NEWTON**



## Great Falls Community Members,

On behalf of the Great Falls Police Department, it is my privilege to present the 2023 Annual Report. During 2023, both sworn and civilian staff members continued their commitment to our community by providing dedicated service. As you review the report, please note the “quick facts” that provide additional information that may be of value and interest.

The Great Falls Police Department again faced staffing challenges in both the sworn and civilian positions. Despite the staffing challenges, I am proud that our staff continued to work diligently, while focusing on providing professional service to our community members.

There was again a significant increase of fentanyl to our community, which has contributed to peripheral criminal behaviors. In addition, our department experienced a significant increase in assaults on officers, and was compounded by the staffing shortages.

The annual report provides statistics and other information that emphasizes the challenges our community is facing. However, through continued partnerships with our Federal, State, Tribal and local agencies, we will continue to address these issues.

The Great Falls Police Department sincerely appreciates the continued support from our community. The support and collaboration reinforces and highlights our mission statement of Community, Compassion and Courage.

I encourage our community members to visit our department website, [greatfallsmt.net/police](https://greatfallsmt.net/police) and follow us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/GFPolice> to learn more about the Great Falls Police Department, our different bureaus and programs.

Sincerely,

Jeff Newton  
Chief of Police

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# Department Structure

**CHIEF OF POLICE**  
JEFF NEWTON

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT SR.  
DEDE BERGAN

**INVESTIGATIONS  
SERVICES BUREAU**

**CAPTAIN**

ROB MOCCASIN

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
SERVICES BUREAU**

**MANAGER**

RACHEL DARLINGTON

**PATROL  
SERVICES BUREAU**

**CAPTAIN**

JOHN SCHAFER

**COMMUNICATIONS  
SERVICES BUREAU**

**MANAGER**

KAREN YOUNG

**SUPPORT  
SERVICES BUREAU**

**CAPTAIN**

DOUG OTTO

**SWORN POSITIONS**  
24-FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

**CIVILIAN POSITIONS**  
9-FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

**SWORN POSITIONS**  
58-FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

**CIVILIAN POSITIONS**  
22-FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

**SWORN POSITIONS**  
5-FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

**CIVILIAN POSITIONS**  
1-FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

**CIVILIAN POSITIONS**  
2-FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

**CIVILIAN POSITIONS**  
7-FULL TIME EMPLOYEES



# PATROL SERVICES BUREAU



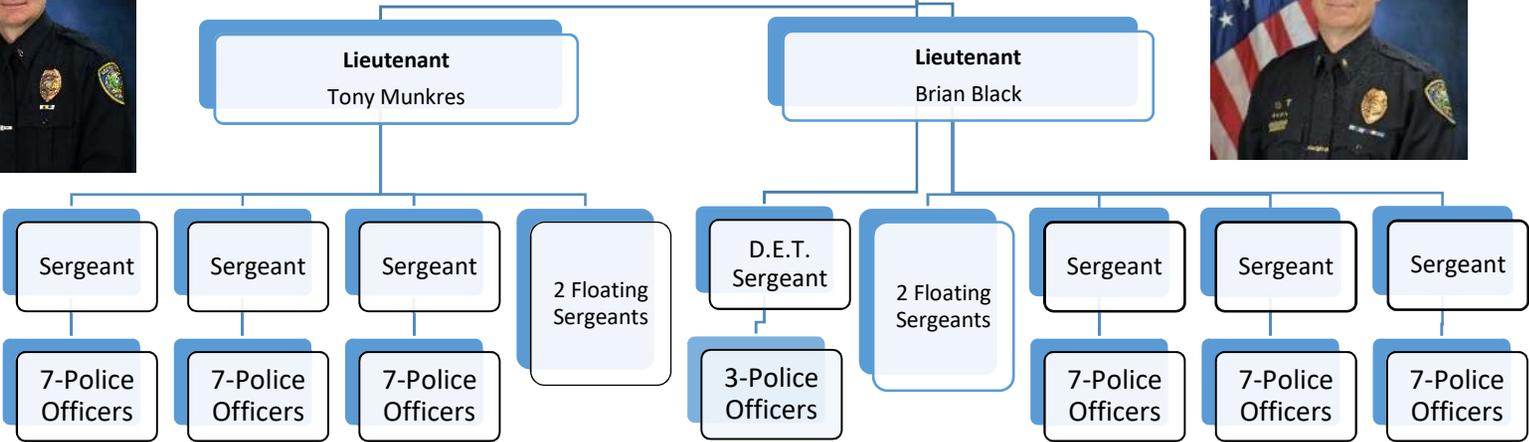
**CAPTAIN**  
JOHN SCHAFER



**Lieutenant**  
Tony Munkres



**Lieutenant**  
Brian Black



# PATROL SERVICES BUREAU PROGRAMS

## - 2023 City Wide Crash Data

18.3% Decrease in Non-Injury

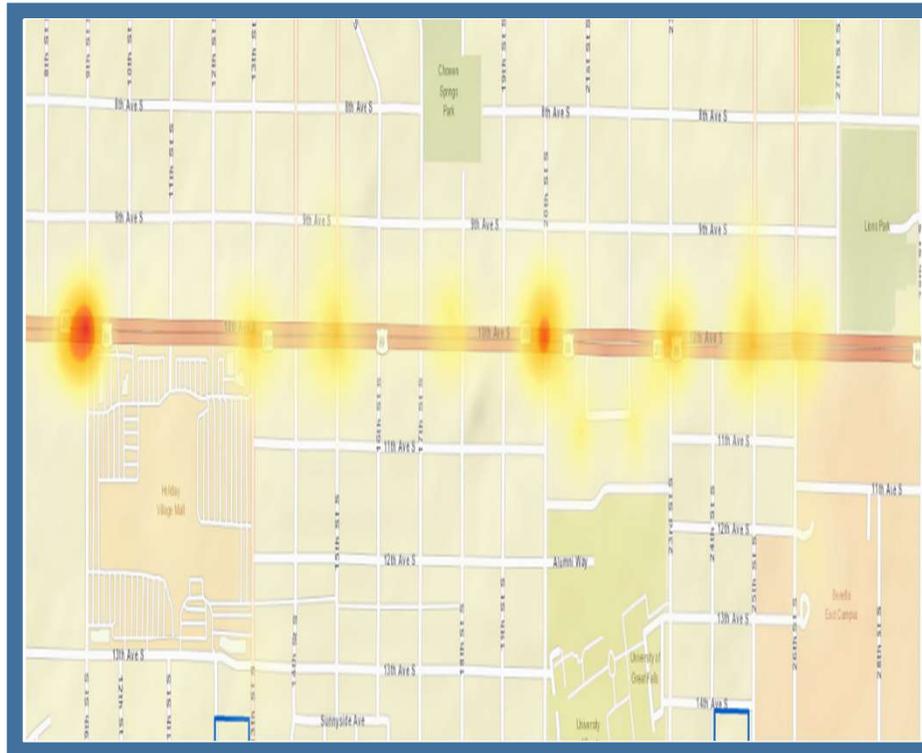
Crashes



2.5% Decrease in Injury

Crashes

City Wide Crashes have  
Decreased 9% over the past 5  
years.



## DDACTS

Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) as a philosophy was developed by the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration and implemented by GFPD in 2012.

DDACTS continues to be utilized as an evaluation tool by the Patrol Services Bureau. By analyzing data on crashes and criminal activity, GFPD can more efficiently and effectively deploy its officers to mitigate the effects on our community. Staffing levels in 2023 prohibited GFPD from fully utilizing DDACTS.

Traffic Enforcement and Crash Reduction was a primary focus in 2023 and traffic stops were up 27.7%.

## -Quick Facts-

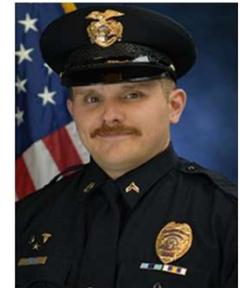
DDACTS will have a fresh look in 2024 with emphasis on identified problems in each patrol zone. Data Analysis will identify the “what and the where” and the Patrol Bureau will assist in developing the strategies to address the problem areas.

# PATROL SERVICES BUREAU PROGRAMS

## Directed Enforcement Team

The Directed Enforcement Team or DET was formed in 2017 in response to specific crime problems that were occurring in our community in addition to supplementing the needs of some of the specialized units within GFPD and other law enforcement partners. The DET focuses in seven main areas:

- 1) Assists other agencies and bureaus
  - a. US Marshals, Investigative and Support Services Bureaus, Russell Country Drug Task Force
- 2) Street Crimes Investigations
  - a. Stolen Autos, Narcotics, Robberies, Thefts, Burglaries
- 3) BRIC (Business, Residential, Involving Community Officer)
- 4) Impaired Driving
- 5) Problem Houses/Businesses
- 6) Mental Health Police Officer
  - a) Assigned to MRT and Mental Health Treatment Court
- 7) Traffic Problems



### -Quick Facts-

*The DET staff was reassigned for a portion of 2023 due to staffing shortages and was reassembled at the end of the year with their focus back on the seven main areas.*

# PATROL SERVICES BUREAU STAFFING



## Staffing Levels July- December 2023

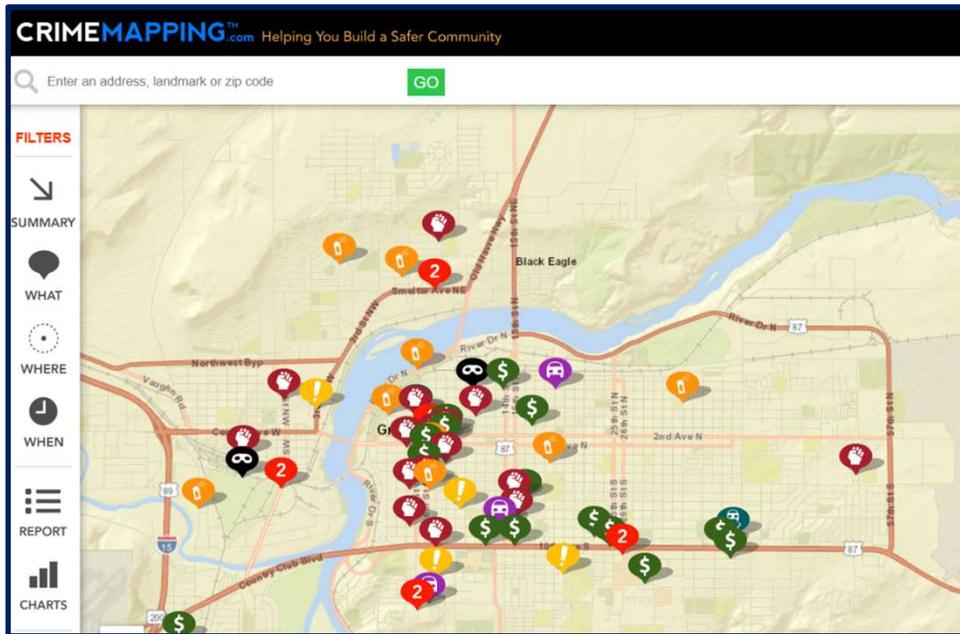
Beginning in July of 2023, Lieutenants reported staffing levels and average calls for service (CFS) each day to command. During that time, Patrol Services averaged 110 CFS/day while averaging 14.2 officers working over a 24 hour period. This does not mean that every officer took 7.75 CFS each day. Most calls at GFPD occur during the hours of 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. It is the officers working those hours that take the majority of the calls.

### -Quick Facts-

*Staffing levels in Patrol Services experienced unprecedented shortages in 2023. Vacancies, applicant pool limitations, injuries to officers, medical leave and officers in training contributed to the shortages. When fully staffed, Patrol Services has 42 uniformed officers and 3 DET Officers. At present 31 officers and 2 DET officers are available.*



# PATROL SERVICES BUREAU PROGRAMS



## CRIME VIEW/CRIME MAPPING

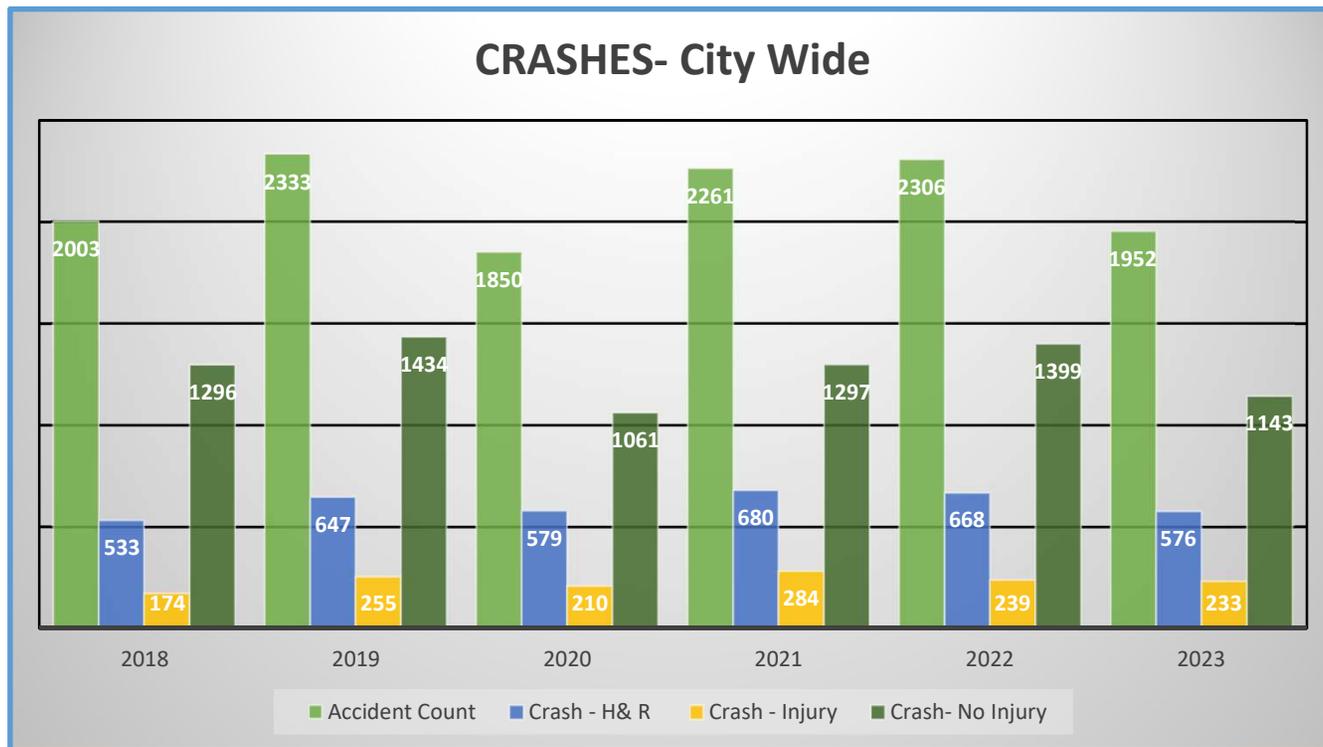
GFPD continues to utilize a software program called CrimeView to look at crime and crash data in our community while providing a similar solution available to the public called Crime Mapping.

Crime View provides officers and supervisors real time data on crime and crash trends that blends effectively with the GFPD and the DDACTS philosophy. Crime Mapping provides our community with the same real time data regarding what is occurring in their neighborhoods. The program provides alerts whenever activity is taking place that community members are interested in.

### -Quick Facts-

*Crime Mapping experienced some software glitches in 2023. There is a new upgrade arriving in 2024 with exciting new features! Stay tuned and make sure you sign up. Get started at <https://www.crimemapping.com/home>*

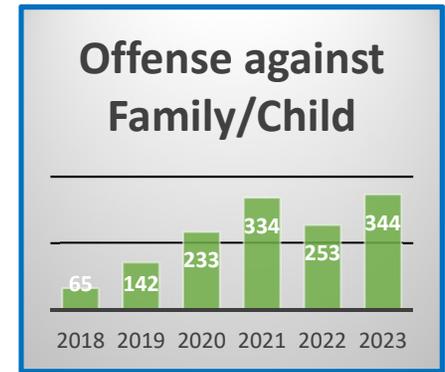
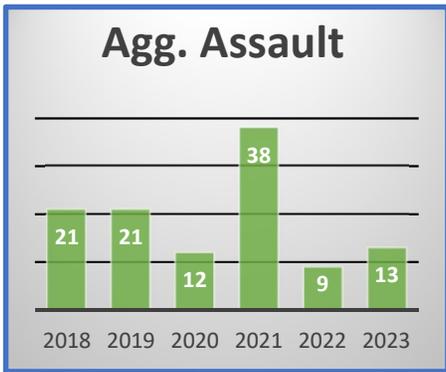
# TRAFFIC – CITY WIDE



**-Quick Facts-**

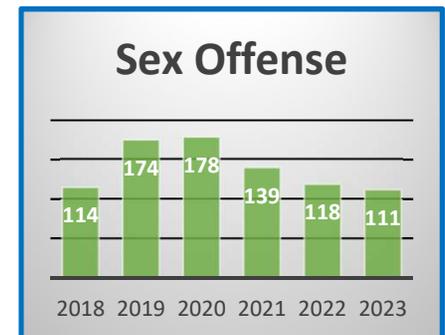
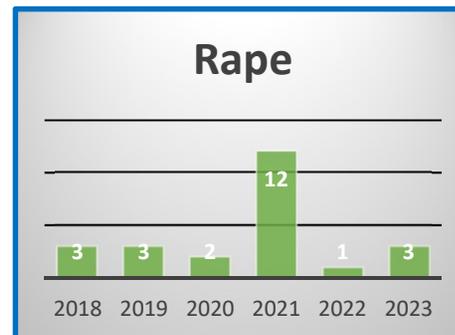
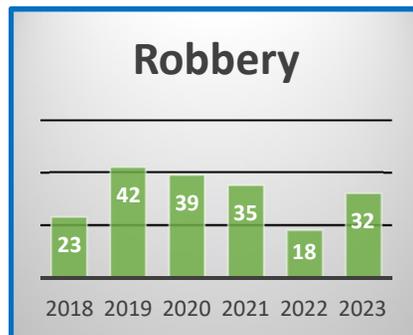
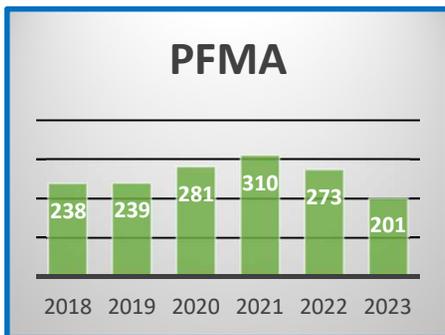
Crashes city wide have decreased 15.4%. Non- Injury Crashes are down 18.3%. Traffic Stops increased 27.6%, Traffic Citations increased by 69% and Traffic warnings increased by 79% from 2022. This is likely a direct reflection of traffic enforcement/engagement efforts

# CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS— CITY WIDE



## -Quick Facts-

Crimes against persons has somewhat stabilized in 2023. There was a significant increase in crimes against family/child. Another increase was in Robberies from last year but in line with the 5 year trend.



# PROPERTY CRIME— CITY WIDE

## Burglary - Commercial



## Buglary - Residential



## Shoplifting



## Auto Theft



## Larceny From Auto



## Theft



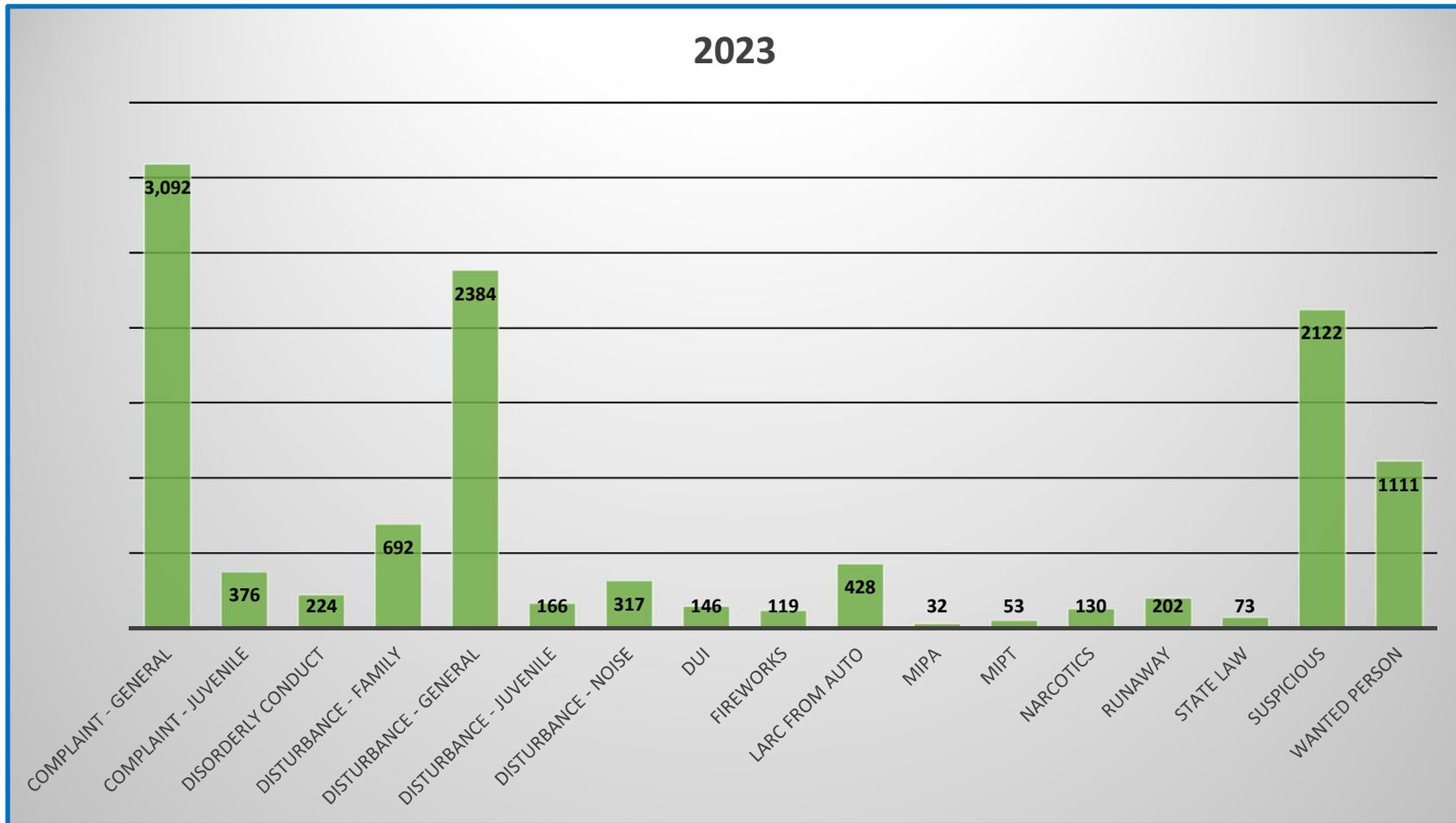
## Fraud



## Vandalism



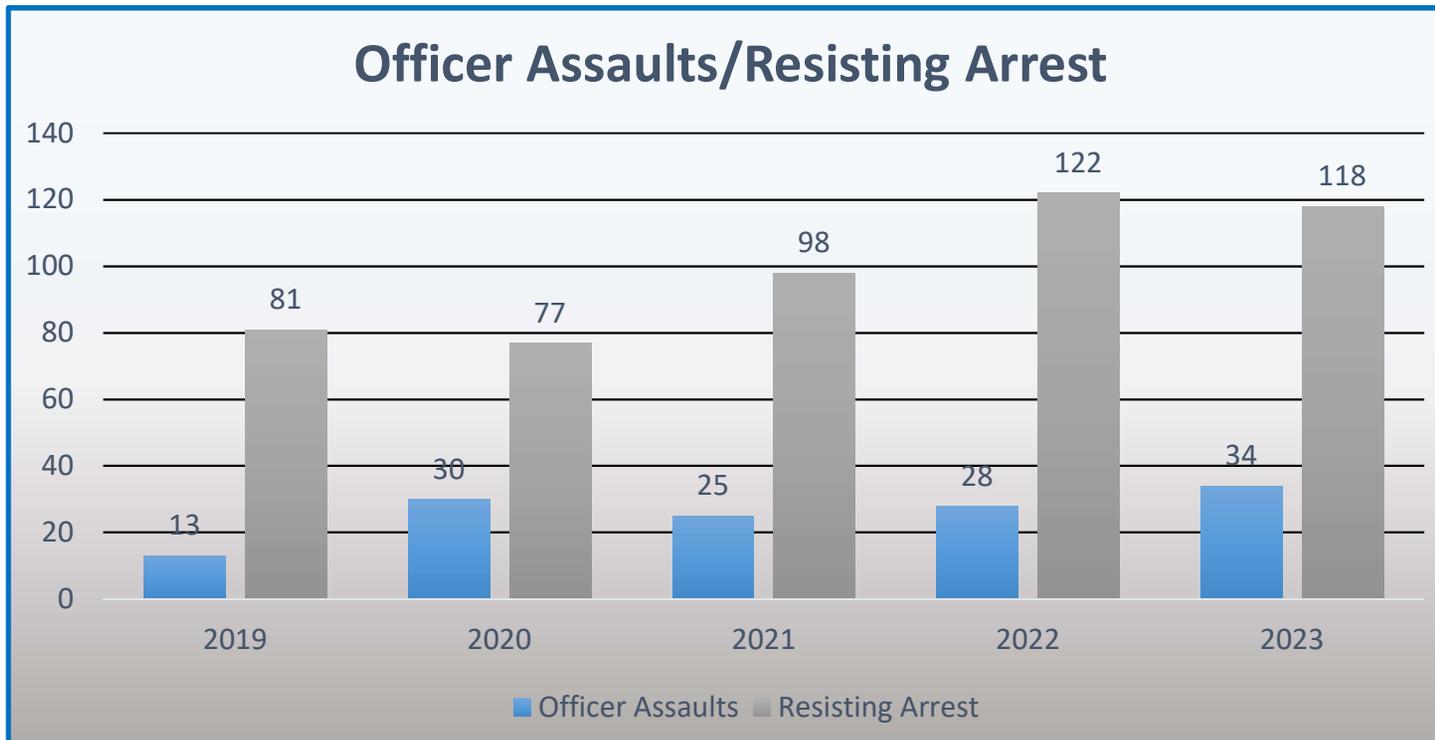
# OTHER CALLS – CITY WIDE



## -Quick Facts-

As seen above, disturbances and suspicious behavior are the majority of the calls for service GFPD officers respond to.

# ASSAULTS ON OFFICERS



*Assaults on our officers have risen 21% since last year. In addition, persons resisting arrest has decreased slightly.*

## **-Quick Facts-**

Did you know assaults on Police Officers have increased 183.3% since 2018 and persons resisting arrest has risen 66.2% . Officers are also encountering an increase of persons who fail to comply with lawful orders.

# USE OF FORCE

## Use of Force Incidents by Bureau

Overall, Use of Force **Increased from 2022 to 2023 by 3.54%**. Physical restraint/strikes and firearm threatened use continues to constitute the majority of force used. The percentage of force used per arrest was 9.7%. GFPD Officers were involved in three officer involved shootings during 2023.

Bureau	2021	2022	2023
Patrol	277	242	245
Investigations	5	12	14
Support	2	0	4
Total	284	254	263

### **-Quick Facts-**

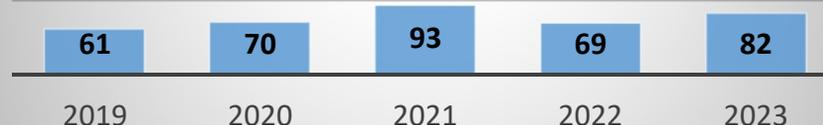
*When a police officer uses force it is always in response to a subject's level of resistance*

# USE OF FORCE

## Physical Restraint/Strikes



## Firearm Threatened Use



## Taser Threatened



## Taser Deployed



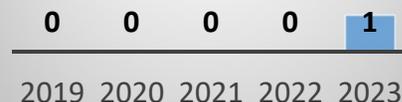
## Firearm Use



## Baton



## OC Spray



### -Quick Facts-

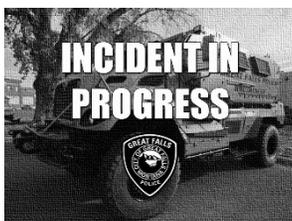
*Suspects and arrestees cannot resist arrest at the time during the arrest even if they feel it is unlawful.*



# USE OF FORCE

73% of the time officers used force, they were dispatched/called to the situation as opposed to some type of self-initiated contact.

These response driven contacts resulted in force due to the nature of the incident as listed below in percentage of assaults on officers and resisting arrest. ACCS (Arrest, Control, Combative and Survival) refresher training continues to assist officers with use of force.



## Use of Force Incidents by Race of Suspect

Race	2023	Percentage
White	145	55.1%
American Indian	98	37%
Black	11	4.0%
Asian	0	0.0%
Hawaiian/PI	4	1.5%
Hispanic	4	1.5%
Other	1	0.38%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>100%</b>

### -Quick Facts-

*All of the Use of Force Reports are reviewed by a Sergeant, a Lieutenant and at least one Captain before being approved.*

# BIASED-BASED PROFILING REVIEW

This chart utilizes percentages from the **2024 American Community Survey (ACS)** completed by the U.S. Census Bureau. The data was utilized for area demographics to compare to the race of those contacted during traffic enforcement activities. The ACS is the largest source of small area statistics for social, economic, housing and demographic characteristics. Local sources, such as Indian Family Health Services, indicate some races such as American Indians and those claiming to be two or more races, could be as much as double the estimated populations at any given time. The 2024 ACS estimates the City of Great Falls' population for redistricting at 60,452.

**\*\*Malmstrom Air Force Base** has a diverse population (4,281) that is not included in the demographics for the City of Great Falls. ACS reports MAFB has 70.22% White, 11.03% African American, 3.11% Hispanic or two or more races and 1.82% American Indian populations. Although African Americans are living and working on base, there is contact with this group within the city through traffic enforcement which is reflected in the overall numbers. These numbers have not changed significantly from 2022 to 2023. With the upcoming missile upgrades in 2024/2025/2026 the population and demographics will change.

**\*Indian Family Health Services (IFHS)** continues to serve over 51 various tribes from throughout the nation, many of which appear Hispanic or have relatives representing two or more races. Officers are prohibited from asking drivers their race and have to make their "best observation" when documenting. IFHS indicate they service a wide area in North Central Montana and many American Indians travel to our area for their services. These factors may account for some of the increased contacts with that race. Additionally the percentage of citations vs. warnings are higher for this group due to the type of citations issued (i.e. no insurance, no registration, and no drivers' license).

# BIASED-BASED PROFILING REVIEW

## Traffic Enforcement Compared to Race Demographic

Jan - Dec 2023							Within Sub-Group		
Traffic Stops	Cited	Warned	Sub-Group	Cited/Warned overall % of total #	GF	ACS Population %	Cited	Warned	
White Male	661	1,658							
White Female	428	1,221	3,968	82.8%	51,517	85.22%	27.4%	72.5%	White
American Indian Male	75	132							
American Indian Female	67	132	406	8.5%	2,563	4.24%	35%	65%	American Indian
African American Male	50	93							
African American Female	22	48	213	4.5%	641	1.06%	34%	76%	African American
Hispanic Male	33	76							
Hispanic Female	13	36	158	3.3%	1,191	1.97%	29%	71%	Hispanic
Asian Male	7	15							
Asian Female	2	3	27	.57%	550	0.91%	33%	67%	Asian
Other Male	2	7							
Other Female	3	2	14	.29%	1,191	1.97%	36%	64%	Other
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,363</b>	<b>3,428</b>	<b>4,776</b>	<b>99.97%</b>	<b>60,452</b>	<b>100%</b>			

### **-Quick Facts-**

By considering some of the local conditions and factors that skew the overall percentages of contacts with minorities, it does not appear that disparate contacts through law enforcement is occurring. There was increase in Hispanic contacts due to an overhaul/upgrade at Calumet Refinery where transient workers from Texas and Louisiana were employed generating numerous traffic complaints.

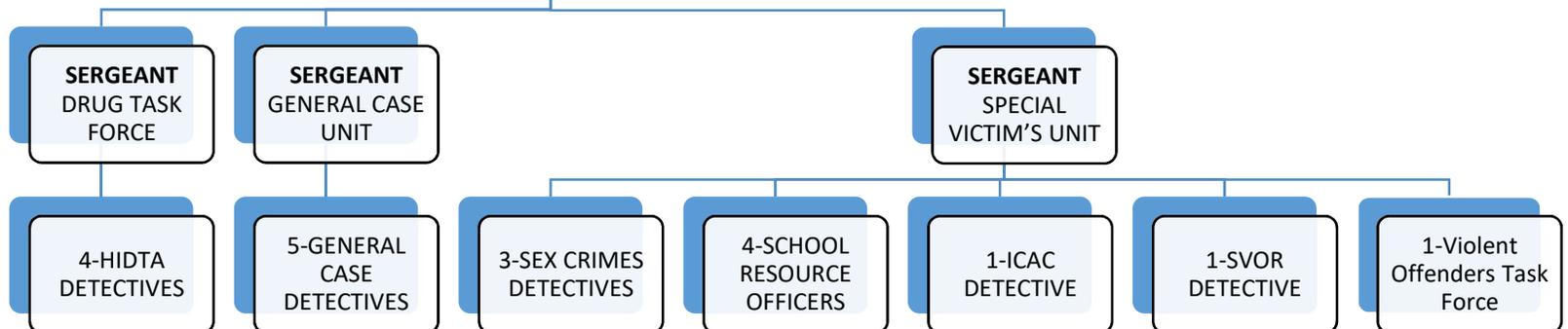
# INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU



**CAPTAIN**  
ROB MOCCASIN



**Lieutenant**  
Mike Grubb



# INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The Investigative Services Bureau (ISB) is comprised of 24 sworn personnel and one civilian when fully staffed. There are 20 personnel assigned as investigators with three Sergeants and one Lieutenant to provide direct supervision and one Captain who manages the ISB.

In 2023, the ISB continued to maintain partnerships with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Department of Homeland Security (HSI), the United States Marshalls Service (USMS), and the Montana Department of Criminal Investigation (MDCI).



All hate related crimes as defined by Montana Coded Annotated are tracked by the Investigative Services Bureau and a Supervisor reviews each report to ensure proper investigation and notifications to the appropriate prosecutor's office for the determination of enhancement as allowed by law. The Investigative Services Bureau also maintains statistics of each crime along with the Administrative Services Bureau.

## **-Quick Facts-**

*The Investigative Services Bureau provides on-call coverage 24/7, 365. Detectives are specialized in many different investigative techniques and procedures. Our Detectives are often sought out by outside agencies for their professional expertise. The Investigative Services Bureau operates a FARO Technologies 3-D Crime Scene Scanner on all major crime scenes. Detectives also utilize latest technologies in cellular data investigations.*

# INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU



## **Total 2023 Cases Assigned-**

125-Cases Assigned  
6% increase from 2022.



## **2023 Homicide Investigations-**

4-Homicide Investigations  
50% decrease from 2022

## **2023 Major General Case Type Investigations-**

Suspicious Deaths / Suicides  
Fraud Investigations  
Arson Investigations  
Elder Abuse/Exploitations  
Fatal / Major Injury Crashes  
Aggravated Assault/Assault with a  
weapon

## **General Case Investigators**

The General Case Unit is comprised of five investigators and one supervisor.

Investigators assigned to the General Case Unit primarily investigate only felony crimes that include, but not limited to, homicides, suspicious deaths, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, thefts, elder abuse/exploitation cases, frauds and sexual assaults.

Additionally, General Case Investigators assist other units within the Investigative Services Bureau that are complex in nature such as sexual abuse of children cases, sexual assault investigations and drug related search warrants, while assisting various federal and local law enforcement partners in their investigations. These detectives also work closely with the Great Falls Fire Marshal and their investigators to cooperatively investigate arson related crimes.

## **-Quick Facts-**

*As is typical for our community, GFPD General Investigators rely upon technology related evidence gathering which requires sophisticated training and certification. An example of technology related evidence is obtained through cell phones, social media and internet technology.. The General Case Unit provides expertise when requested to outside agencies, as allowed, to foster relationships and provided access to equipment, and investigator experience to the requesting agency that did not have available at the time to complete their investigations. One investigator was temporarily assigned for most of the year (2023) to the Russell Country Drug Task Force to assist in a large Drug Trafficking Organization investigation ,which resulted in numerous federal indictments related to Fentanyl distribution.*

# INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

## Special Victims Unit (SVU)

The Special Victims Unit (SVU) is responsible for working primarily with children and adults who are victimized by sexual and/or domestic violence. The unit is comprised of several specialized positions—three sex related crimes case investigators, one Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Investigator, one Sexual and Violent Offender Registry (SVOR) and Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Investigator. One supervisor oversees this unit.

These investigators work closely with adult and child advocates, the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) and local health care facilities to investigate and assist victims. All investigators are required to receive specialized training in proper investigative techniques to properly respond to these abhorrent crimes against our community's children and adult victims of sexual and physical abuse.

**PURSuing  
JUSTICE  
PROVIDING  
PROTECTION  
EMPOWERING  
VICTIMS**

### 2023 SVU Case Types

4-Adult Sex Offenses  
133-Child Sex Offenses  
41-Child Abuse Investigations  
24-Agency Assists  
23-SVOR Violations  
37-DEC Cases  
60-ICAC / Human Trafficking Cases



### Total 2023 Cases Assigned-

330-Cases Assigned  
6% increase from 2022.

### -Quick Facts-

*The GFPD Special Victims Unit works closely with many different adult and child advocates. The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) and local health care facilities such as Indian Family Health Clinic, Little Shell Tribal Health Clinic, Alluvion Health, Benefis and Great Falls Clinic, who are critical partners with the SVU. Many child offenses are initially reported through these services and each agency works closely to protect our most vulnerable population. SVU presented child homicide case review to the Montana Violent Crime Investigator Association to further education in lessons learned during the complex case.*

# INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU



## Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)

The ICAC Task Force is part of a nationwide initiative under the US Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention. The goal of the program is to educate the public, investigate cases and arrest those who use computers to prey upon and exploit children. This is done through collaboration of state, local and federal law enforcement agencies who in turn work with the appropriate prosecutors to ensure that those responsible for these crimes are held accountable.

In 2023 the assigned ICAC investigator worked with other task force members across the state and was tasked with 54 cases and assisted on several other cases where their expertise was needed. Many of these cases were triggered by Cybertips, direct reports, or other means of reporting.

### -Quick Facts-

*The investigator assigned to the ICAC Task Force is a part of a statewide group that investigates crimes against children. The ICAC investigator receives cases from Cyber-Tips and direct reports. This assignment relies heavily on technology and associated equipment which requires ongoing training which is financially supported by the task force. For more information about the Montana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force please visit <https://mticac.org/>*



# INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

## Sexual or Violent Offender Registration / Drug Endangered Children (DEC)

The SVOR Act is designed to protect the public from sexual or violent offenders by requiring offenders to register with local law enforcement agencies in the jurisdiction where they reside. The information gathered about these offenders is then provided to the public. The public can access this information for Great Falls by visiting the State of Montana SVOR web address at <https://dojmt.gov/sexual-or-violent-offender-registry/>.

The assigned SVOR/DEC Investigator continued to make progress in maintaining and building these two programs. The current registrants total 194 sex offenders, 527 violent offenders, and 13 with both designations within the city limits of Great Falls.

With continued training and adequate personnel availability, the Drug Endangered Children program allows for knowledge and services to be provided for drug cases affecting the youth of our community. Impacting and eliminating exposure of dangerous drugs to the children of our community is a goal of our agency. This goal requires not only adequate personnel to give this specific assignment to, but also working closely with local prosecutors, Department of Health and Human Services to ensure proper dispositions.



### -Quick Facts-

*Drug Endangered Children cases are investigated by the Special Victims Unit and are triaged by the severity of the incident. These types of case referrals are made from citizens complaints, officer reports, HIDTA and state agencies. Investigators also work closely with the prosecutors office, Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS) and other local agencies to ensure the best possible care for these vulnerable victims. In 2023 the SVOR/DEC case investigator was assigned to the USMS Violent Offender Task Force due to personnel shortages with the department.*

# INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

## School Resource Officer Program

The SRO program continued in its 25<sup>th</sup> year. The objectives of the program is to provide safety and security for students and staff, investigate incidents that occur around or in relation to the school setting, provide mentoring to students, provide specific safety education to students and staff as requested, and various other duties as they arise.

SROs continue to work closely with the school district to address students that are causing a large amount of disruption in the learning environment. The school district and the GFPD continue to receive training in how to deal with school threats and work together on public messaging to keep the public informed as these incidents occur, allowing for a clearer understanding in regards to the involved threat.



Detective Kristi Kinsey



Detective Brett Munkres



Detective Shayne Stadel



Detective Jesse Rosteck

### -Quick Facts-

*In 2023 our SRO's continued to utilize the diversion program to keep youth from entering into the criminal justice system. Mentoring is an important part of the SRO Program and promotes opportunity to assist our youth with any problems that they may be experiencing so they can be successful. During 2023 the GFPD and GFPS partnered in valuable training of the majority of GFPD officers in how to manage an active ongoing threat in a school.*

# INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU



## Montana Violent Offenders Task Force (MVOTF)

One investigator is assigned to the MVOTF which is an additional way the GFPD is collaborating with Federal partners to provide a more comprehensive approach to addressing violent crime in our community. The partnership has been in place for several years and has resulted in large number of persons being captured and adjudicated.

The Violent Offenders Task Force is comprised of the United States Marshals Service, a Customs and Border Protection Agent, a Montana Probation and Parole Officer, and a Great Falls Police Investigator. The task force actively seeks out persons wanted for serious crimes, persons under supervision and persons that are wanted for crimes which present a threat to the safety of the community.

The decision to assign a fulltime officer to the United States Marshall Service (USMS) Montana Violent Offender Task Force was a response to the rise in violent crime in Great Falls over the previous years. During 2023, the local task force cleared 519 cases (by arrest) keeping violent offenders from victimizing citizens of Great Falls.

### -Quick Facts-

*The GFPD officer assigned to the USMS Violent Offenders Task Force is sworn in as Special Deputy with the United States Marshals Service (USMS). The USMS then provides pay for all overtime, an un-marked police vehicle, training, and required equipment for the individual officer. During the arrest of the wanted offenders Montana task force members seized over 8,000 Fentanyl pills and over 2,000 grams of Methamphetamine.*

# INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

## Russell Country Drug Task Force

During 2023, the RCDTF saw a 68% decrease in felony narcotics related arrests and a 82% decrease in felony warrant requests due to more focus on Fentanyl Drug Trafficking Organizations which are time intensive. The task force has continued its partnerships with local and federal agencies which included but is not limited to the DEA, FBI, USMS, HSI, ATF, MDCI, Montana Air National Guard (MANG), and the Cascade County Sheriffs Office (CCSO).

RCDTF did not investigate any working methamphetamine labs in 2023. Members of the RCDTF investigated a large scale Fentanyl trafficking organization which resulted in several federal indictments.



### Total 2023 Increases over 2022

141.8% Increase in Fentanyl Seizures  
198.5% increase in cocaine Seizures  
161% Increase in Marijuana Seizures (Clandestine Lab)



### Total Decreases over 2023

96.4% Decrease in Heroin Seizures  
30% Decrease in Pharmaceutical Seizures  
66.3% Decrease in Methamphetamine Seizures

### -Quick Facts-

*The RCDTF is a member of the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA). The program was established by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) in 1996. As of 2020, the program has 30 HIDTA designated counties in 4 states (Colorado, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming). The Rocky Mountain HIDTA's mission is to facilitate cooperation and coordination among federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement with efforts to reduce availability by disrupting or dismantling violent drug trafficking organizations.*

# SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU



**CAPTAIN**  
DOUG OTTO

Facilities  
Engineer



**Lieutenant**  
Doug Mahlum

Support  
Services  
Technician

Animal  
Control  
Officers

Support  
Services  
Officer



**Lieutenant**  
Rich LaBard

City Court  
Bailiff

Housing  
Officer

Volunteer  
Coordinator

Process  
Server

# SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU

## Support Services Lieutenant Mahlum

Lieutenant Mahlum is assigned as the GFPD Training Coordinator and Public Information Officer. This position is responsible for overseeing the planning, development, and coordination of all training for both civilian and sworn employees. He is tasked as the range master for the department's outdoor shooting range. One other major duty for the position is handling all media/public information duties and working closely with the media to ensure accurate information is released on incidents that have or are occurring within the community. In addition, Lieutenant Mahlum directly supervises the Animal Control Officers and the Support Services Technician.



## Support Services Lieutenant LaBard

Lieutenant LaBard is assigned to manage all hiring of Sworn Officers and Public Safety Communications Officers (dispatchers). He handles all parts of the hiring process for these positions and is directly responsible for writing and proctoring promotional examinations and interviews. Additionally, he coordinates all promotional ceremonies and the GFPD annual awards ceremony. The position supervises the Volunteer Coordinator and ultimately the Volunteer Program, City Court Bailiff and Process Server along with day to day supervision of the Great Falls Housing Authority Officer.

# SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU

## Process Server

The Process Server (civilian position) handles the delivery of all subpoenas generated through Municipal Court. Additionally, the process server is responsible for the entry and verification of all warrants into the Criminal Justice Information Network (CJIN) that are generated through Municipal Court.

## Municipal Court Bailiff

Under Montana law, the GFPD is required to provide a sworn officer for bailiff duties in the Municipal Court. The bailiff provides court security and prisoner transports for the Municipal Court.

## Support Services Technician

The Support Services Technician (civilian position) is responsible for many different tasks and programs including but not limited to working directly with the GFPD's contracted tow company on vehicle impounds and abatements, handles all travel related requests, conducts civilian employee background investigations, and assists with data entry on warrants and training related information.

## Housing Authority Officer

The Great Falls Housing Authority (GFHA) contracts one officer to provide law enforcement efforts for seven GFHA areas within the City of Great Falls.

The assigned officer addresses problems, citizen concerns and all criminal/traffic/drug complaints in these areas.

The officer attends meetings with GFHA staff and residents as needed.

## Special Projects Office

The Special Projects Office currently has one sworn officer assigned. The officer is responsible for facilitating the department's Citizen Academy, equipment issue to newly hired officers, background investigations, and presentations to groups within the community. Traditionally, the Special Projects Office had three officers assigned, but a shift was made toward having more officers on the street. Two positions were moved to the Patrol Service Bureau from the Support Services Bureau to address this need.



# SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU

The Support Services Bureau (SSB) is responsible for the “behind the scenes” work within the GFPD. The Support Services Bureau handles the logistical readiness for the department which includes oversight of the vehicle fleet, building maintenance and upkeep, training, hiring/retention, media relations, volunteer program, animal control, equipment accountability and many other areas. The SSB handles policy and procedure review/updates, personnel files, promotional testing process, and federal grant management.

The bureau is unique in its make-up, having both civilian and sworn employees assigned. The SSB has 13 total employees; 7 of which are civilian staff and 6 sworn police officers. The Support Bureau has the fewest number of employees department wide, but they handle a broad range of duties to keep the department logistic needs functioning.





# VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Our Volunteers in Policing Service program is led by Volunteer Coordinator, Adrienne Ehrke. Ehrke's primary responsibilities involve recruiting, training, scheduling, connecting with, and evaluating citizen volunteers to reinforce our services to our community. She also serves as our Social Media Manager and continually strives to keep our social media platform relevant and up to date.

The Great Falls Police Department relies upon citizens volunteering their time to our Volunteers in Policing Program. Our volunteers and the volunteer program are invaluable to the success of the Great Falls Police Department. GFPD Volunteers are engaged in projects such as:

- enforcing abandoned and recreational vehicle ordinances
- lending support for the Citizens Academy and Master Citizens Academy
- lending support to criminal investigations
- assisting with records retention and evidence processing
- aiding with community events
- performing crime deterrence patrols
- lending support to officer trainings



Details	2022	2023
Active Volunteers	22	18
Total Hours	3343	2291
Total Abandoned Vehicles Resolved	1853	1768
Abandoned Vehicles	1301	1272
Rec/Large Vehicle Ordinance*	552	496
Vehicles Towed	110	*
Facebook Followers	29401	33643

\*Complete data not available until March 2024

For the second year in a row, volunteers effectively resolved, approximately 500 more abandoned vehicle reports, compared to the average of 1200 annual reports that occurred prior to the recreational and large vehicle ordinance that went into effect March 15, 2022. Approximately 25 volunteers participating as victims and assailants during two days of multi-agency school active shooter response training. Several volunteers assembled over 1,000 packets of information for officers to distribute to victims of domestic violence. In July 2023, Ehrke was recruited by the City Manager to take a lead role in the public communications aspect of the proposed Public Safety Mil Levy. The levy education campaign lasted to November and, during this time, Ehrke was asked to make her duties regarding the volunteer program, and other duties normally assigned to her, a lesser priority.

# ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal Control is normally staffed with three Animal Control Officers. Previous to 2023, ACO staffing was a challenge. Since 2021, call numbers have been decreasing. This is attributed to the ACO staff focusing efforts on enforcement for violations of animal ordinances. The chart for the past two years shows that citation numbers have increased, which directly impacted a decrease in the number of repeated violations. A change for 2023 was ACO's no longer utilizing live animal traps for feral cats. This was due to changes with the intake at the Animal Shelter and weather variations that caused harm to the animals if left in the traps for too long.

Animal Control Officers work closely with the City County Health Department and the Great Falls Animal Shelter. Animal Control Officers (ACO's) are responsible for the enforcement of city ordinances and state laws relating to the control of domestic animals. They respond to animal complaints related to animals at large, noise/excessive barking, animal cruelty investigations, animal license enforcement, animal quarantines, and any ordinance compliance related to domestic animals within city limits.

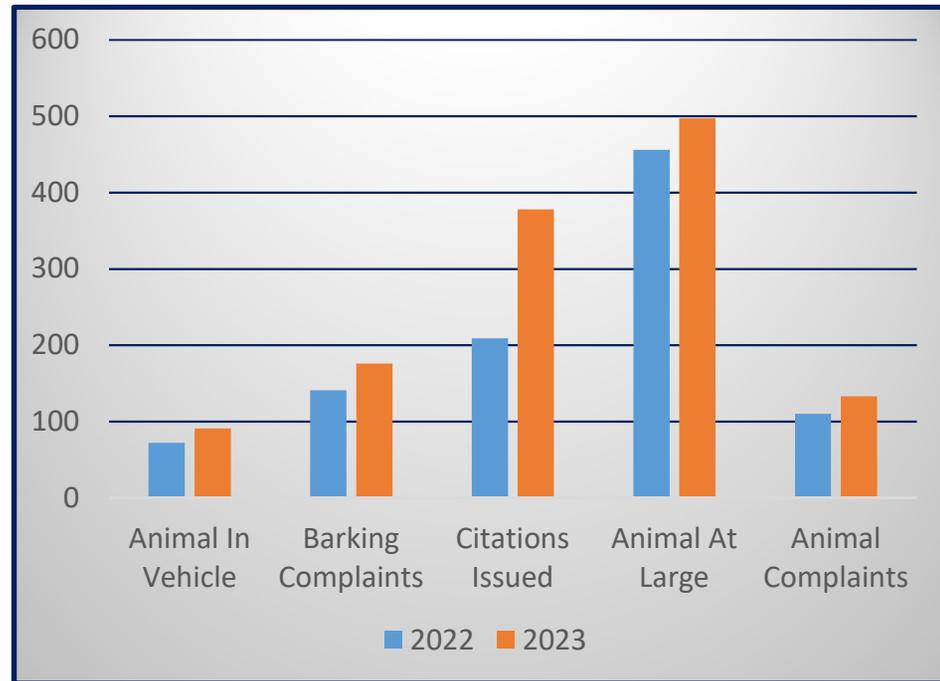
## Total Animal Calls



### -Quick Facts-

*ACO's work Monday through Friday during normal business hours. Over the years, varying shifts and schedules have been tried, but based on call volume during the daytime hours, it was determined that they provide the optimum service during normal daytime hours.*

# ANIMAL CONTROL



## -Quick Facts-

One ACO is on call in the evening hours and on weekends for emergency calls only. These types of calls deal with aggressive or dangerous animals at large, dog bites where the dog is still at large, injured animals without an owner, fire or police department assist requests, and bats.

# TRAINING

GFPD Patrol Services Bureau works a shift that allows a training day every 14-days. This allows the GFPD to conduct “In-House” training. The GFPD must stretch its training budget to the maximum and be creative to provide needed training. In 2023, the GFPD provided 1,961 hours of “In-House” training. Topics covered in 2023 were, Firearms Qualifications, Taser Recertification, Mental Health Training, Legal Update, Arrest Control Combatives, De-Escalation, Traffic Stops, and Active Shooter Response.

## **GFPD In-House Training (Patrol Training Days)**

*Total Individual Training Hours – 1,961*

## **Outside POST Certified Training**

*Total Individual Training Hours – 5,412.75*

## **GFPD Hosted Courses**

*GFPD Hosted 7-Courses available to outside agencies*

## **Active Shooter Response Training**

In 2023 the GFPD provided 2-POST Certified Classes in Active Shooter Response. Hosting the two courses allowed all GFPD Officers to obtain 30-hours each of focused scenario based training on responding to Active Shooter incidents.

The GFPD utilized GFPD Instructors, GFPD Volunteers, and partnerships with outside agencies to conduct the school.



GFPD Hosted Blood Spatter School



GFPD Officers in Active Shooter Response Training



**-Quick Facts-**  
*The GFPD believes consistent and constant training is necessary to be a successful police department. Our staff currently has a combined total of over 40,000 hours of POST Certified Training. We also have 38 sworn officers on our staff who have been through Instructor Development courses, allowing them to provide POST Certified Training.*

# TRAINING

## Field Training / New Hire Training

Newly hired officers of the Great Falls Police Department receive a significant amount of training prior to working on their own. They receive training from the **Montana Law Enforcement Academy**, 504 hours, **The Great Falls Police Academy**, 104 hours, and **the GFPD Field Training Program**, 746.90 hours, all before they are assigned to a team. \*They will have completed 1,354.90 hours prior to being assigned to a patrol team.

## GFPD Academy

The GFPD Academy was started late in 2022 and was continued and refined in 2023. The GFPD Academy was developed to provide relevant training specific to the GFPD assuring our newest officers are comfortable with their abilities on “day one” of the Field Training Program.

## GFPD Academy Classes

- Firearms (Pistol/Rifle/Shotgun)
- ACCS / Baton
- Use of Force decision making
- Patrol Tactics
- Traffic Stops
- GFPD computer system
- Municipal Court
- Public Schools and School Resource Officers
- Animal Control

## 2023 New Officers In Training

16-Officers in various phases of training in 2023.  
7-Officers completed their training in 2023.  
7-Officers began their training in 2023.  
2-Officers resigned while in training in 2023.  
*\*Hours are not counted as “In-House” or Outside training hours*



## -Quick Facts-

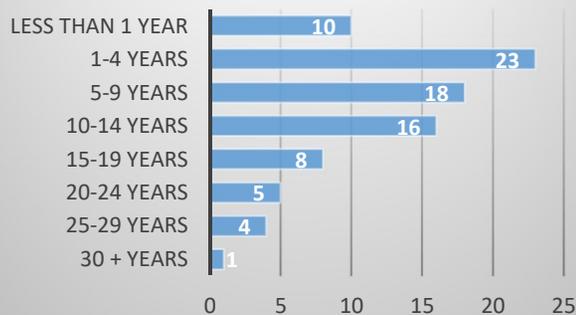
*The GFPD has established instructors in many different topics. These instructors are capable of providing training in driving, crime scenes, tactics, shooting, computer systems, photography, and defensive tactics, just to name a few. GFPD instructors are critically relied upon to provide training to all GFPD officers, to include new recruits.*

# PERSONNEL STATISTICS

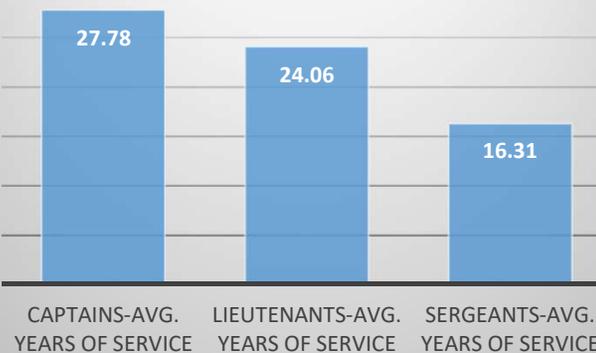
In 2023 ten officers separated from the GFPD. Four of those were officers who had served more than 20 years with the GFPD, earning a traditional retirement. One of the officers had served more than 15 years. Four of the five officers that resigned their positions had less than 5 years on.

Captains at the GFPD average nearly 28 years of experience while Lieutenants average just over 24 years of experience. Sergeants average 16 years of experience. The years of experience are commensurate with rank and time with the organization.

## Sworn Staff Years of Experience



## Supervisory Experience



## 2023- Sworn Separations



### **-Quick Facts-**

30% of GFPD applicants over the past 5 years were under the age of 26. This is less than the number of years served in law enforcement by each of our 3 Captains and the Chief of Police.

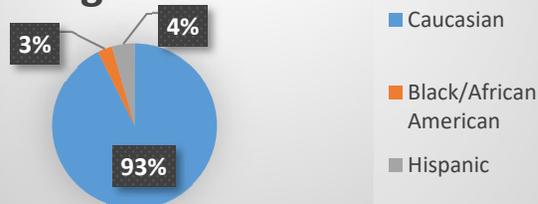
# RECRUITING & TESTING STATISTICS

Like most law enforcement agencies across the country the GFPD continues to see a decline in overall applicants for Sworn Officer positions.

The GFPD tests three times per year, aligning with the Montana Law Enforcement Academy start dates. The hiring start dates have been somewhat in flux as the academy has been making adjustments to their schedule, reading for a possible fourth class per year.

Compounding the low applicant numbers in 2023, 52% of those who applied either did not participate in the testing process (30%) or failed testing (22%). Historically, there has been a 25% fail rate on the written and physical test which is expected. However, the large “no-show” percentage is problematic in a low volume applicant pool.

**Race of Applicants  
Registered for Exam**



**Male vs. Female  
Applicants**



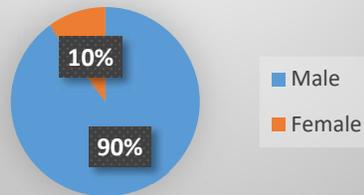
**-Quick Facts-**

Already underway, the GFPD will be expanding its recruiting efforts and capabilities with a new recruiting software called InterviewNow. The software will allow up to 10 recruiters across both police and dispatch to have real-time communications with prospective applicants. We are also expanding our digital footprint and on-line image with a new modern recruiting website,

[www.joingreatfallspd.com](http://www.joingreatfallspd.com) (coming soon).

# HIRING STATISTICS

## Male vs. Female Applicants HIRED

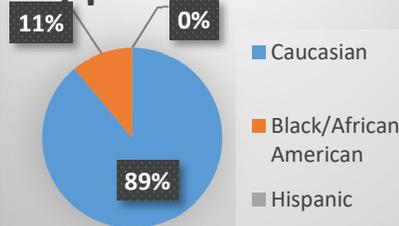


GFPD Swearing In Ceremony- Jeff Culp – April, 2023



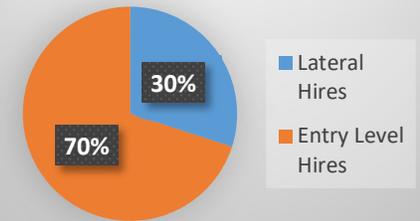
GFPD Swearing In Ceremony- Jamie Carr, Logan Reiman, Aaron Staman, and Patrick Paraiso – August, 2023

## Race of Applicants Hired



%	Officers hired
10%	Have a Bachelors Degree
40%	Have Veteran Status
70%	Hired From Montana
30%	Hired From outside Montana

## Lateral vs. Entry Hires



GFPD Swearing In Ceremony- Peyton Mitchell and Alyssa Olson – April, 2023



GFPD Swearing In Ceremony- Josh Meyer, Malik Ray, and Andrew Paradise - December 2023



# PROMOTIONS

## Master Police Officers



**Kevin Kelsey**  
Master Police Officer



**Jacob Smith**  
Master Police Officer



# AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

## *Lifesaving Award*

*Is hereby recognized with the Great Falls Police Department's Lifesaving Award  
for outstanding performance and prolonging another human being's life*



Police Officer  
**Brett Edelman**



Police Officer  
**Chris Araujo**



Senior Police Officer  
**Cody Irish**

# AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

## Award of Commendation

***Awarded for exceptional performance in a specific situation. May also be given in conjunction with a letter of appreciation directed to an officer by a private citizen, or upon recommendation by any other Great Falls Police Department member.***



Senior Police Officer  
Sam Wavra



Senior Police Officer  
Shayne Stadel



Master Police Officer  
Phil Wilberding

# AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

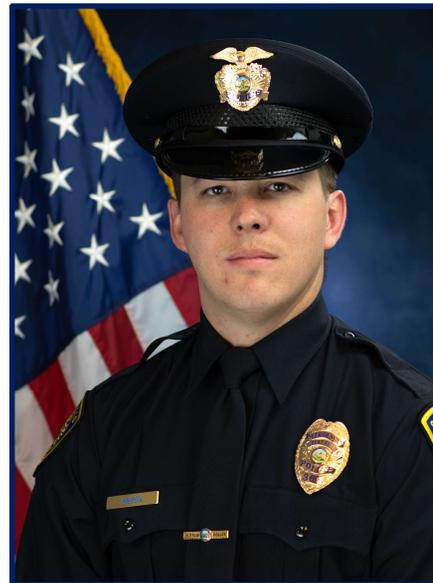
*Awarded for acts of major significance. These may be actions involving some risk to the officer involved. Such action must be of a nature warranting major commendatory action.*



*Great Falls Police Department*



Senior Police Officer  
**Cody Irish**



Police Officer  
**Robert Snook**

# FACILITIES / EQUIPMENT

The Support Services Bureau is responsible for facilities maintenance and upkeep. In 2023, the ongoing project of upgrade to the interview room recording system was completed. This was started in 2021, but was prolonged due to supply chain and technology support issues. The rooms are now fully functional and the support issues are remedied.

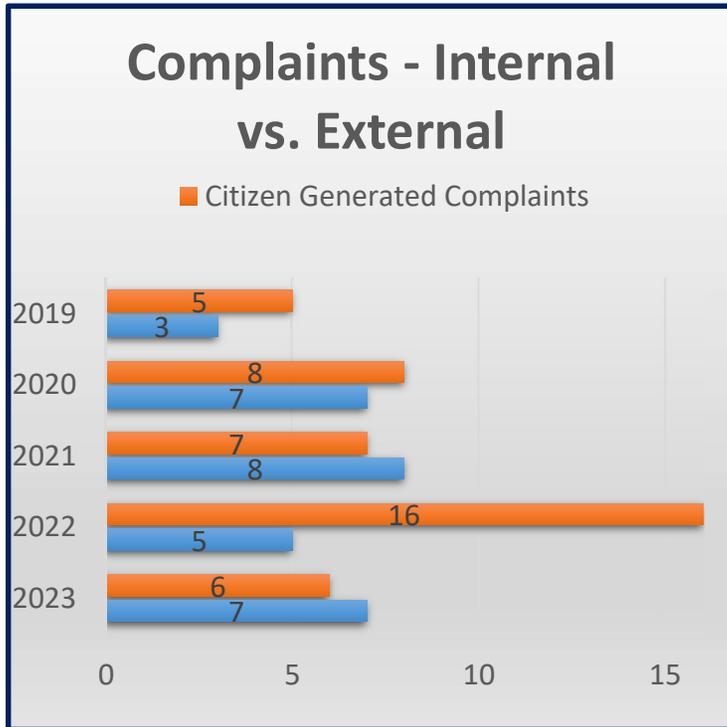
Yearly, focus is put toward capital improvement projects within the department. In the spring of 2023, carpet replacement was a priority. This process was started and approximately 80% of the building carpet was replaced, with funding for this project through fuel and vacancy savings. The remaining carpet replacement is scheduled for spring of 2024 with the same funding sources to be used. Also completed in the spring of 2023 was an extensive air duct cleaning. This was challenging due to the network of air ducts in the building, some of which did not show clearly on the blueprints. A local company navigated through the maze of air ducting and completed the project. Last, upgrades of old desks and workstations were done within Investigations Bureau and the Patrol Shift Commander's office. This gave these areas a much more professional look and provided a more functional work space.

Costs continue to increase for individual and team equipment. The Great Falls Community Police Foundation supported the department with funding to purchase equipment for our High Risk Unit negotiators and marksmen. The total for this equipment was in excess of \$75,000.00, none of which would have been possible with the 2023 department budget.

The Great Falls Police Department utilizes grants to supplement budgetary needs. The Bureau of Justice Assistance Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) was started in 2005 and has been utilized by GFPD for the past 15 years. The JAG program provides states, tribes, and local governments with critical funding necessary to support a wide range of program areas. The GFPD, along with the CCSO as a co-applicant, has been awarded this grant over the years to supplement equipment needs that are unable to be funded through normal budget lines. Items such as mobile data terminals, equipment for crime scene processing, less lethal tools, and technology based products are a few of the items purchased over the years. Since 2009, the GFPD and CCSO have been awarded over \$536,000.00 to utilize for these purchases. These grants have specific criteria on what they can and cannot be utilized for and require mandatory reports be submitted on a quarterly basis. Without these grant funds, many equipment needs for both the GFPD and CCSO would not be fulfilled.



# DEPARTMENT COMPLAINTS



*This chart shows the five year overview of department complaints. Once complaint investigations are complete, they are reviewed by the sworn members of the command staff to ensure the investigation was accurate and complete.*

## Complaint Investigation Process

### Complaint Filed with the Department

- Any supervisor can accept a complaint and will complete a preliminary complaint form. The complaint will be forwarded to named employee's immediate supervisor.
- Regardless of the severity of the complaint, the applicable bureau head will be notified of the complaint. Depending on the level of severity and rank involved, the appropriate level supervisor will be assigned the investigation.
- Outside law enforcement is regularly requested to investigate certain complaints. Complaints of criminal nature are referred to the County Attorney for review after the investigation has been completed.

### Complaint Investigation Completed

- Upon completion, the complaint and disposition will be forwarded in writing to the bureau Captain.
- If disciplinary action is recommended beyond the authority of the bureau Captain, it will be forwarded to the Chief of Police for review and disposition.

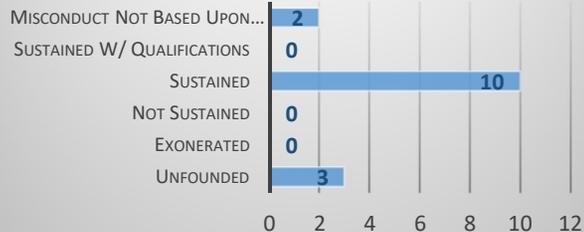
### Complaint Review Committee

- To ensure integrity of the department, a yearly Complaint Review Committee is convened. The panel consists of two citizens at large, Deputy County Attorney, Deputy City Attorney, and Deputy City Manager. The Support Services Captain coordinates the meeting and a summary of the yearly disciplinary data is provided for review. Recommendations for changing procedures, training, or regulations are provided from this review.

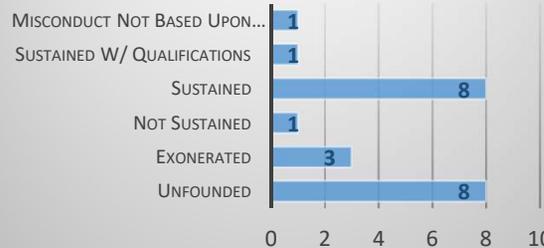
# DEPARTMENT COMPLAINTS

The Great Falls Police Department ensures that our sworn and civilian staff hold themselves to the highest standards. When complaints arise, either internal or external, they are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly. Corrective action is taken to address any misconduct by an employee.

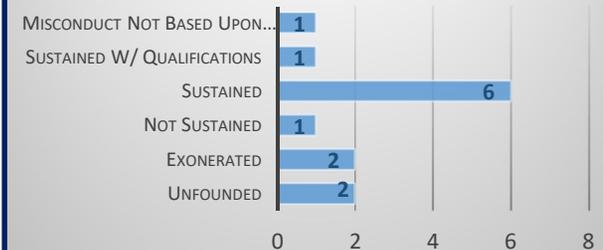
## 2021 Complaint Findings



## 2022 Complaint Findings



## 2023 Complaint Findings



# COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES BUREAU



**MANAGER**  
KAREN YOUNG



**Supervisor**  
Kelly Pocock

3-Dispatchers



**Supervisor**  
Angee Ratliff

3-Dispatchers



**Supervisor**  
Leather Hersey

3-Dispatchers



**Supervisor**  
Amy Hesser

2-Dispatchers



# COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES BUREAU

At the conclusion of 2023, the Communication Services Bureau had eight vacancies. Recruitment and retention of qualified applicants continues to be an emphasis. However, the significant reduction of qualified applicants has become a concern, which translates into lengthy delays in order to fill the vacancies. The Communications Services Bureau is often competing with the private sector for the skill sets required of applicants.

The 911 Communication Center completed its second year using the Panama work schedule comprising of 12 hour shifts. The schedule change maximized the available staffing levels for effective 24 hour coverage, demonstrated a reduction in sick and comp time use, and provided a better balance between work and personal time.

<b>Years of Service</b>	<b># of Employees</b>
0-5 Years of Service	5
6-10 Years of Service	1
11-15 Years of Service	2
16-20 Years of Service	6
21-25 Years of Service	0
25+ Years of Service	1

## **Employee Recognition**

April 9-15, 2023 was designated as the National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week to recognize the dedicated telecommunicators who serve their communities. The Cascade County 911 Public Safety Communications Officers (Telecommunicators) received the following awards which occurred at the Emergency Communications Center.

<b>Communications Officer</b>	<b>Award</b>
Ayers, Robert	Life Saving
Carlson, Jessica	Life Saving x 2
Hersey, Leather	Life Saving
Heser, Amy	Life Saving
Johanneck, Kelly	Life Saving
Lugo, Dakota (now GFPD 371)	Life Saving
Rabe, Renee	Life Saving
Ratliff, Angee	Life Saving
Schultz, Rebecca	Life Saving x 2
Scott, Stephen	Life Saving
Sunderland, Doug	Life Saving
Wreford, Doug	Life Saving
<b>Communications Officer</b>	<b>Award</b>
Skogen, Brandon	Special Recognition

### **-Quick Facts-**

Have you ever wondered why Dispatchers ask so many questions? They are using this information to create an accurate picture of what you are requesting or reporting. This information helps the first responders (Law Enforcement, Fire and/or Medical) prepare to meet your needs.

# COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES BUREAU

At the close of 2023, there was a 18.7% increase in the number of 9-1-1 calls and a 17.1% decrease in the number of non-emergency calls received compared to 2022.

Telephone Calls	2021	2022	2023
9-1-1	44,652	37,340	44,335
Non-Emergency	110,669	98,464	81,559
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>155,351</b>	<b>135,804</b>	<b>125,894</b>

A review of the call volume on a weekly basis shows that during 2023 the low call volume days remained, Saturday (12.49%) and Sunday (11.05%) and the highest call volume day was Friday (15.76%).

A review of the 2023 data indicates the daily call volume began increasing at 7:00 a.m. and started to decrease at 11:00 p.m. which has been consistent for several years. The daily call volume contributes to staffing considerations for the Communication Services Bureau.

## Training

The State of Montana mandates 40 hours of continuing education every two years. Although the 911 Center faced challenges with staffing we were able to participate in on-line and departmental training which allowed us to adhere to the 40 hour mandates.

2023 data indicated a 10.63% increase in the number of calls for service compared to 2022. Law enforcement experienced a 13.01% increase, Great Falls Fire Rescue & Rural Fire experienced an .62% increase, Medical services experienced a 6.44% increase and other agencies experienced a 2.36% increase.

Calls for Service	2022	2023
Law Enforcement	61,166	69,124
Fire	8,664	8,718
Medical	11,264	11,978
Other Agencies	1,271	1,301
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>82,365</b>	<b>91,121</b>



2023	Training Overview
2215.80 Hours	Total Training Hours
262.60 Hours	Training Hours for Supervisors
629.40 Hours	Training Hours for Public Safety Communication Officers
1323.80 Hours	Training Hours for New Hires

# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU



**MANAGER**  
RACHEL  
DARLINGTON

2 Evidence  
Technicians

1 Property  
Research  
Technician



Records Supervisor  
Jim Wells

3 Police  
Information  
Technicians

2 Community  
Service Officer

# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

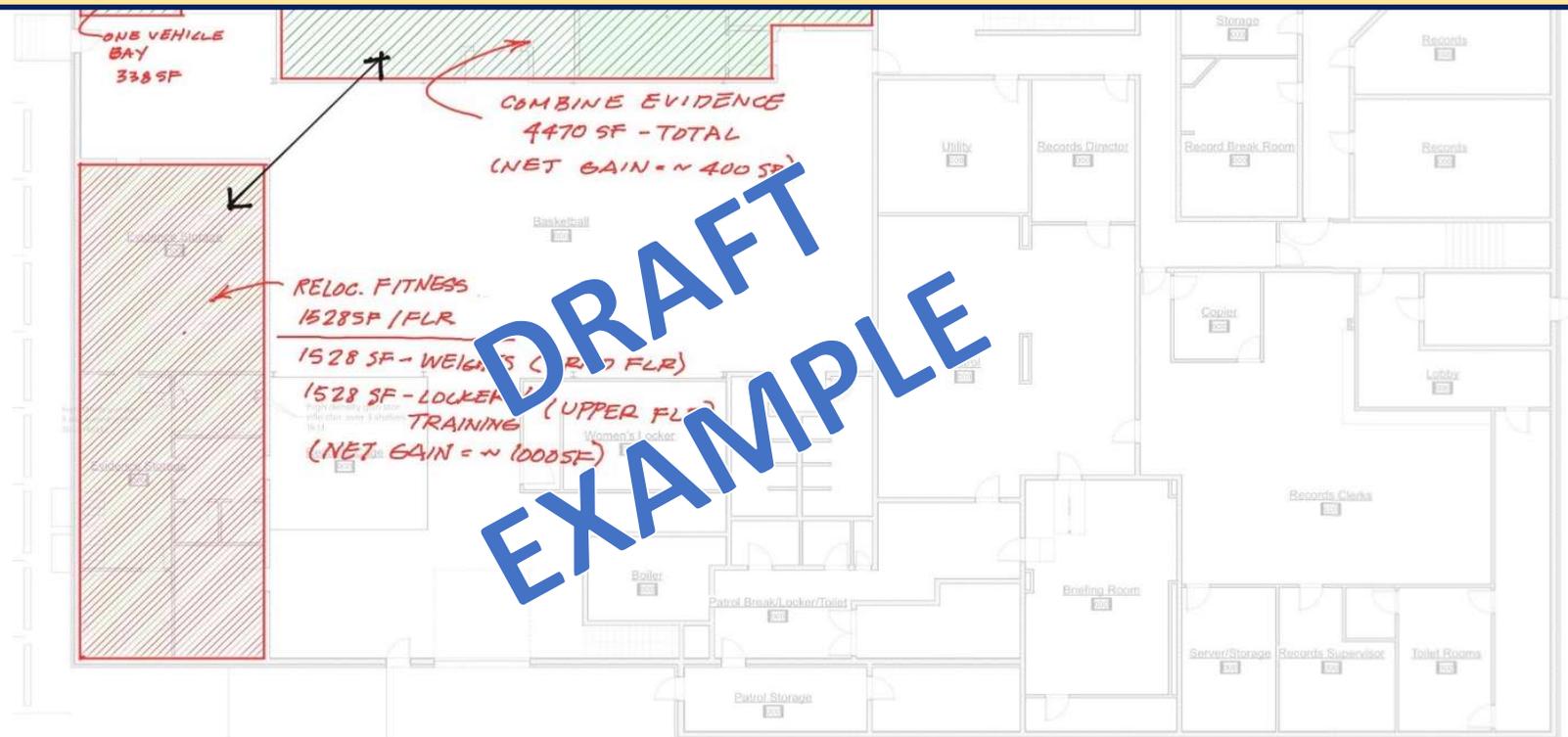
The Records Bureau remained slow and steady throughout 2023 as we continue to work towards some long-term goals. Despite staffing shortages, employees continued to provide services to the department and community with only temporary suspension of some services and department projects. New wages were negotiated for Montana Federation of Public Employee Union members. This new Agreement will likely help with hiring and retention.

The records department was partially staffed through half of 2023. Recruiting new staff proved extremely difficult. Due to reduced staff, job duties and workload were closely examined. It became clear that a 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Service Officer was needed due to the increasing volume of on-line web reports, many of which are retailer shoplift reports. As a result, one of the two open Police Information Technician positions was eliminated and a 2<sup>nd</sup> CSO position was created and filled. The Records Bureau has two loyal volunteers that scanned over 3,500 files in 2023. Volunteers continue to be key in leveraging some lofty record retention goals.

The evidence department had many successes this year as well. In addition to finishing a complete audit cycle started in 2019, evidence staff worked to pull, inventory and organize the department's largest cold case. Much discussion and planning took place surrounding the new evidence addition. A final architectural plan was achieved later in the year. Plans were submitted to City Planning for review with hopes of contractor bidding starting in early 2024.

# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

Throughout the process, evidence staff had the opportunity to work with the architectural firm in planning space design. Evidence staff continue to research and move property to prepare for relocation to the new space scheduled for 2025.



# EVIDENCE / RECORDS

<b>Records</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Report Taken	1198	1330	1131	1382	1267
Interviews Transcribed	24	14	9	6	1
Background Checks	1545	1065	1025	478	523
<b>Revenue Generated from Background Checks</b>	\$19,515.00	\$12,750.00	\$11,310.00	\$7,170.00	\$1,755.00
<b>Evidence</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Pieces In	10177	12726	15086	12877	12860
Pieces Out	6245	9120	10048	8132	3943
<b>Revenue Generated from Auction</b>	\$1,996.55	\$2,377.16	\$2,167.39	\$2,298.22	2,338.21
<b>Discovery</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Number of Requests	911	958	1008	1028	1167
Number of CD/DVD Copied	4832	4755	3701	815	791
<b>Revenue Generated from Discovery</b>	\$1,035.00	\$1,080.00	\$1,530.00	\$60.00	\$0
<b>Fingerprinting</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
General Public Requests	159	197	244	129	55
SVOR Required	49	46	125	46	88
<b>Revenue Generated from Fingerprinting</b>	\$3,610.00	\$4,090.00	\$5,210.00	\$3,085.00	\$3,025.00
	<b>\$26,156.55</b>	<b>\$20,297.16</b>	<b>\$20,217.39</b>	<b>\$12,613.22</b>	<b>\$7,118.21</b>

**Quick Facts:** In some instances, GSPD processes background checks for individuals, law enforcement and other agencies, however this is a check of local GSPD records only. To learn more about obtaining information regarding criminal records and/or driving records, the following links will provide additional options.

<https://doimt.gov/enforcement/background-checks/>

<https://mvdmt.gov/driving-records/>

# PUBLIC SAFETY LEVY SUMMARY

## LEVY HISTORY AND DATES

**1960's:** Voters approved a General Obligation Bond for the construction of four fire stations and a fire training center

**2009:** Voters disapproved a Public Safety Levy

**4/6/2021:** COGF Commission (COGFC) created a Crime Task Force (CTF) with the general purpose to study, review, evaluate, and make recommendations to the COGFC, City Manager, and general public on strategies to address crime

**11/2/2021:** CTF dissolved, with the recommendation to pursue a Public Safety Levy

**3/7/2023:** : COGFC voted (5-0) to send a public safety operations levy, to levy permanently up to 103.75 mills per year, to raise approximately \$10,717,305, to the November ballot

Additionally, the COGFC approved (3-2) to fund The Wendt Agency's \$150,000 proposal to conduct a Community Education Program, marketed under the moniker "Safety in the Falls."

**BALLOT LANGUAGE:** "Shall the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana (the 'City') be authorized to levy mills for the purpose of paying costs of public safety services, including operations, maintenance and certain capital costs of the police department, fire department, city attorney and municipal court services and related public safety expenses?"

**11/7/2023** Election Day Results 14,715 votes cast 5,620 YES 9,095 NO

## GFPD LEVY REQUEST SUMMARY

24 New Police Officer Positions	\$2,650,000
Initial Equipment for 14 New Officers	\$155,652
Training for 14 New Officers	\$29,708
10 Additional Fleet Vehicles (8 Patrol + 2 SRO)	\$870,000
2 New 911 Dispatcher Positions	\$120,000
1 New 911 Work Station	\$400,000
1 Crime Intel Analyst (position new to the dept)	\$85,000
1 New Evidence Staff Position	\$85,000
1 New Records Staff Position	\$60,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,455,360</b>

# PUBLIC SAFETY BOND SUMMARY

## BOND HISTORY AND DATES

**6/20/23:** COGFC voted unanimously to send a \$21.17M public safety infrastructure bond to the November ballot

**BALLOT LANGUAGE:** “Shall the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana (the ‘City’) be authorized to sell and issue general obligation bonds of the City for the purpose of paying the costs of public safety improvements in the City, including acquiring land and designing, constructing and equipping thereon a new fire station, which may serve additional safety functions, purchasing new fire equipment and, if funds remain, making improvements to existing fire stations; renovating and expanding the police department and city attorney’s offices; and related improvements; and costs associated with the sale and issuance of the bonds?”

**11/7/2023** Election Day Results 14,715 votes cast 6,726 YES 7,925 NO

## GFPD BOND REQUEST SUMMARY

Police Department \$6,500,000

To be applied toward police station renovations, to accommodate additional staff sought through the Public Safety Levy



Greg Doyon – City Manager, Jeff Newton – GFPD Chief, Jeremy Jones – GFFR Chief, and David Dennis – City Attorney, at one of many public events held to inform the electorate of the levy and bond details



**“Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much.”**

Helen Keller

