

GREAT FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

2024 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 2024 Annual Report. During the past year, the Great Falls Police Department again faced staffing challenges in both the sworn and civilian positions, requiring difficult decisions regarding prioritization of call responses and investigative case assignments.

Despite the staffing challenges and changes to our response posture, I am proud that our staff continued to work diligently, while focusing on providing professional service to our community members, within our capacity to do so.

2024 continued to bring a significant increase of fentanyl and methamphetamine to our community, which has contributed to peripheral criminal behaviors. Overall, the crime trends and vehicular crashes were slightly reduced from the previous year. Our department focused on data driven approaches to addressing crime trends in the community, and focused our resources in those areas.

The annual report provides statistics and other information that emphasizes the challenges the Great Falls community is facing, but also highlights some of our successes during 2024. The Great Falls Police Department values our partnerships with our Federal, State, Tribal and Local partners, and collectively we will continue to work toward making our community a safer place to live, work and play.

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, [greatfalls.net/police](https://www.greatfalls.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

**PATROL
SERVICES BUREAU**
CAPTAIN
DOUG OTTO

SWORN POSITIONS
58-FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

CIVILIAN POSITIONS
2-FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

**INVESTIGATIONS
SERVICES BUREAU**
CAPTAIN
BRIAN BLACK

SWORN POSITIONS
24-FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

CIVILIAN POSITIONS
1-FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

**SUPPORT
SERVICES BUREAU**
CAPTAIN
DOUG MAHLUM

SWORN POSITIONS
5-FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

CIVILIAN POSITIONS
7-FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

**COMMUNICATIONS
SERVICES BUREAU**
MANAGER
KAREN YOUNG

CIVILIAN POSITIONS
22-FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

RECORDS BUREAU
MANAGER
RACHEL DARLINGTON

CIVILIAN POSITIONS
9-FULL TIME EMPLOYEES



PATROL SERVICES BUREAU



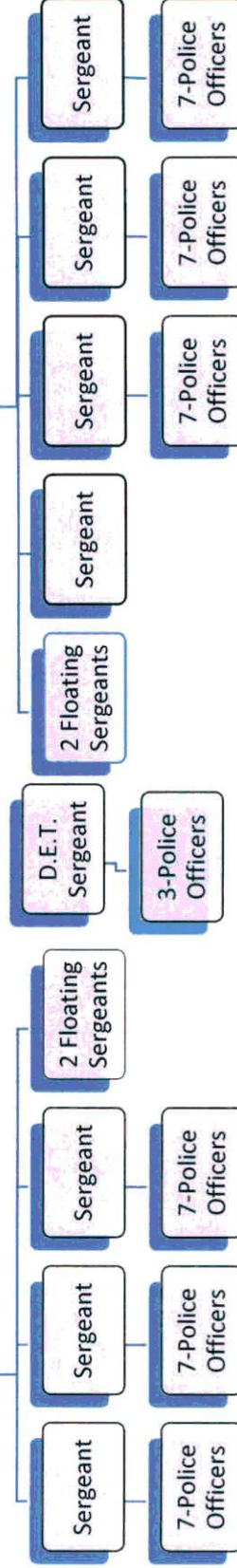
CAPTAIN
DOUG OTTO



Lieutenant
Anthony Munkres



Lieutenant
Aaron Frick



PATROL SERVICES BUREAU PROGRAMS

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 GSPD in 2012.

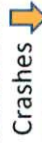
DDACTS continues to be utilized as an evaluation tool by the Patrol Services Bureau. Patrol officer focused on hot spots in many different parts of the city, with high visibility enforcement activities, focusing on both traffic enforcement and criminal activity.

Traffic Enforcement slightly lowered crash numbers from 2023, showing enforcement and visibility to be a key factor in the decrease.

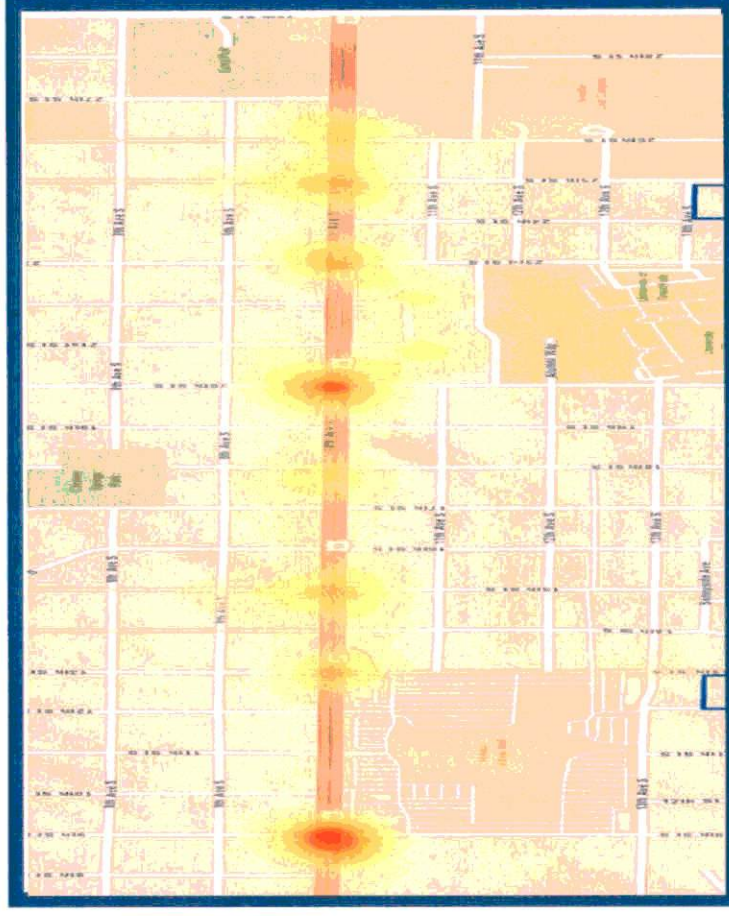
2024 City Wide Crash Data

2.7% **increase** in Non-Injury Crashes

14.5% **Decrease** in Injury



City Wide Crashes have **Decreased 14% over the past 4 years.**



-Quick Facts-

A modified DDACTS approach was utilized in 2024. High visibility enforcement was utilized to address crime and traffic issues in different parts of the city. Patrol lieutenants and sergeants evaluated high crime and crash areas and tasked officers with working those areas. This approach had an impact on crash numbers and crime issues. These areas were in many different parts of the city and are showing results to address problem areas that arise.

PATROL SERVICES BUREAU STAFFING

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 GCPD and other law enforcement partners.

The DET focuses in six main areas:

- 1) Assists other agencies and bureaus
 - US Marshals, Investigative and Support Services Bureau, Russell County Drug Task Force
- 2) Street Crimes Investigations
 - Stolen Autos, Narcotics, Robberies, Thefts, Burglaries
- 3) BRIC (Business, Residential, Involving Community Officer)
- 4) Impaired Driving
- 5) Problem Houses/Businesses
- 6) Traffic Problems



Patrol Squad / Staff Numbers

With a full year of tracking data, we have begun to see a slow but steady increase to our number of officers on shift. During 2024, Patrol Services averaged 106 CFS/day while averaging 14.4 officers working over a 24 hour period. This does not mean that every officer took 7.36 CFS each day. Most calls for service 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.

Patrol officers work 10 hour and 40 min shifts, allowing for overlaps during allotted times during the day. These overlap times match with the higher call volumes. There are not always 14 officers working (as reflected in the yearly average), but during shift overlaps, we can reach upwards of 10 to 12 officers on the street.

-Quick Facts-

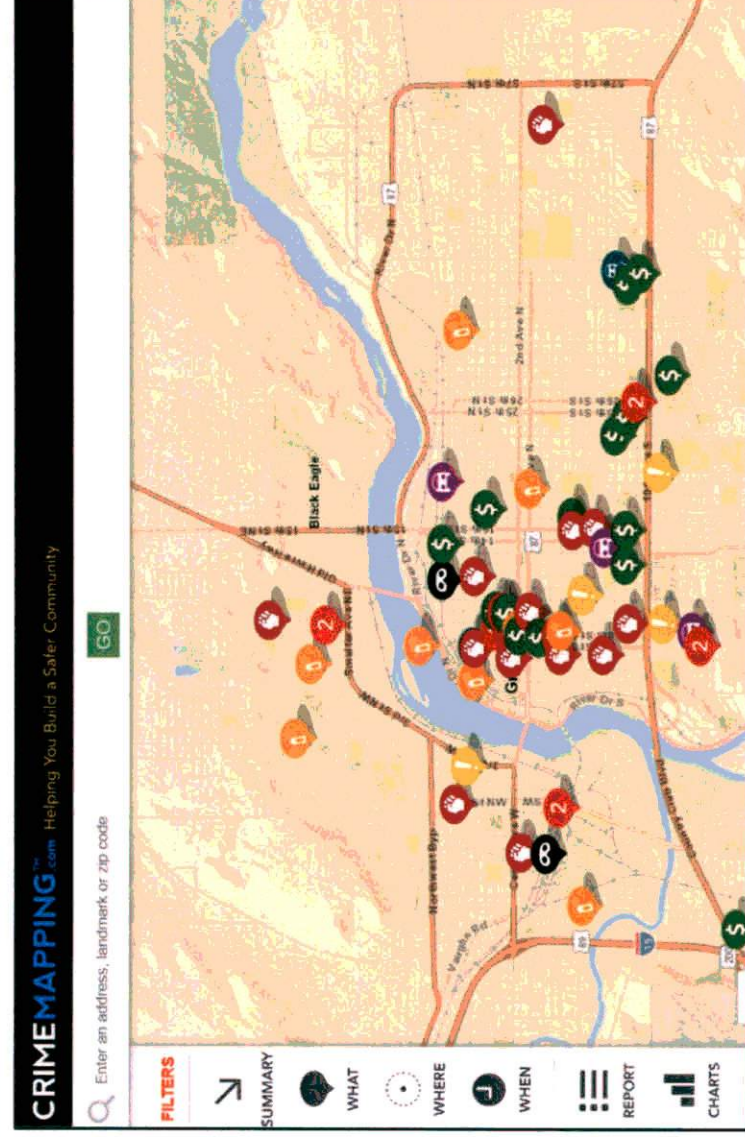
Staffing has not allowed the DET to operate in full force. Currently, GCPD has two officers assigned as the third was selected for a new special assignment and the DET Sergeant was promoted to Lieutenant at the end of the year. Selection of a new DET Sergeant and another officer are expected in late spring of 2025.

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 the 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 happening in their neighborhoods. The program provides alerts whenever activity is taking place that community members want to know about.



TRAFFIC – CITY WIDE

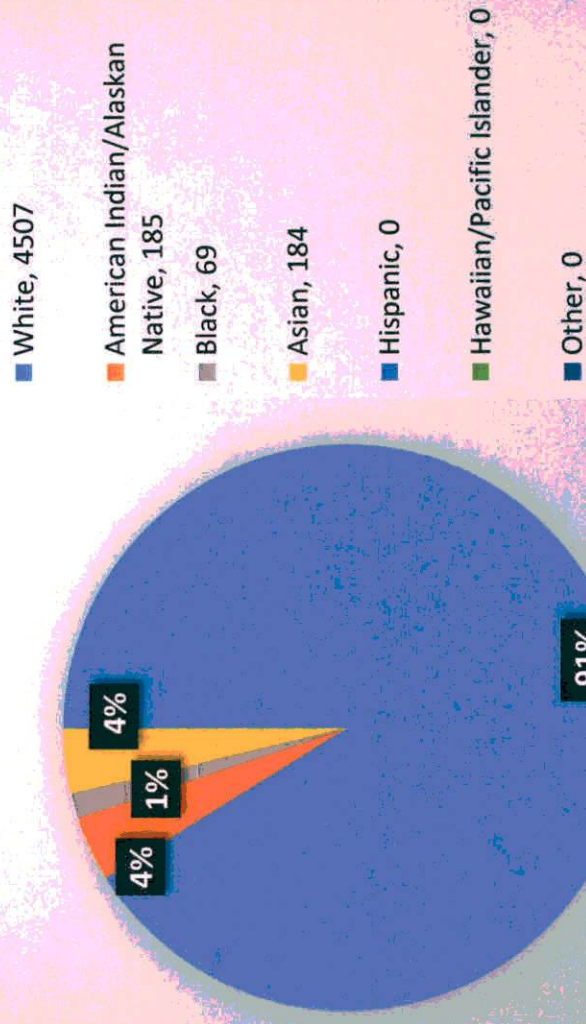


-Quick Facts-

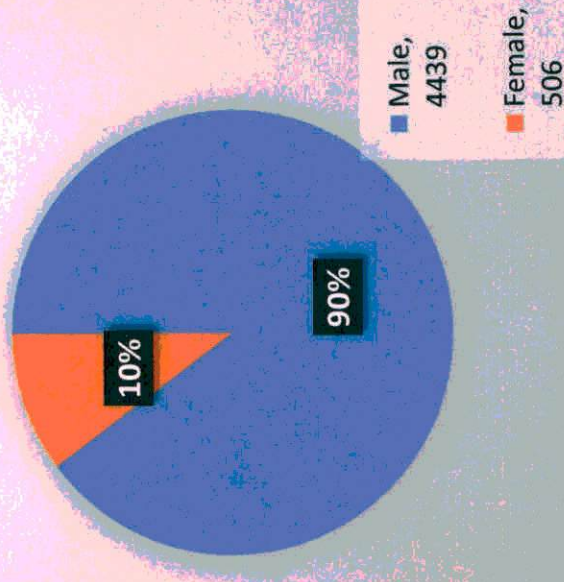
Crashes city wide decreased 2% from 2023, with a continued downward trend over the last four years. High Visibility Enforcement efforts by GPPD patrol officers continues to have a positive effect on lowering crashes on roadways within the city limits.

TRAFFIC STATISTICS

2024 Breakdown of Citation by Race



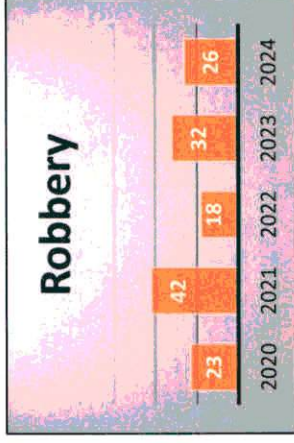
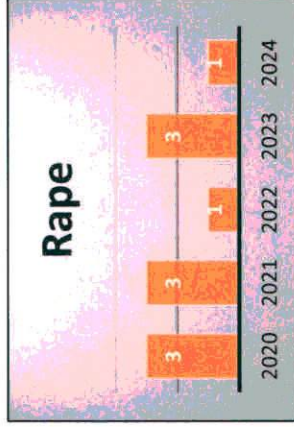
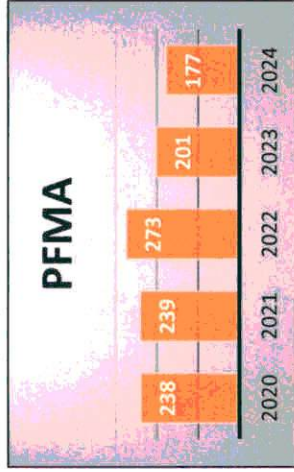
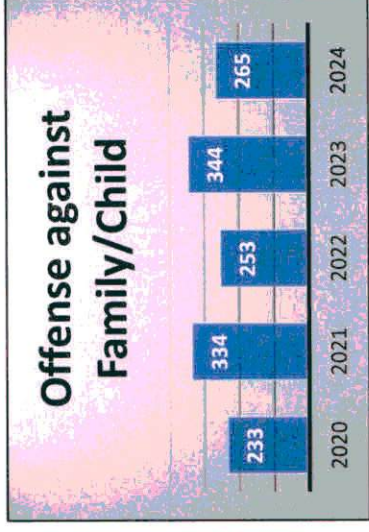
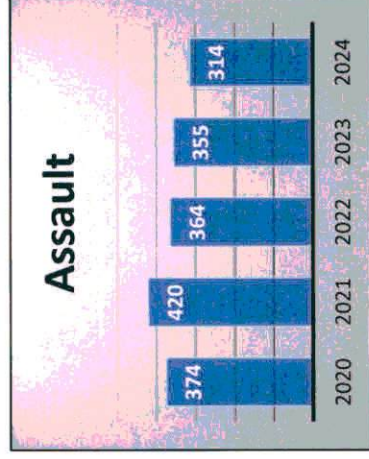
2024 Breakdown of Citation by Gender



-Quick Facts-

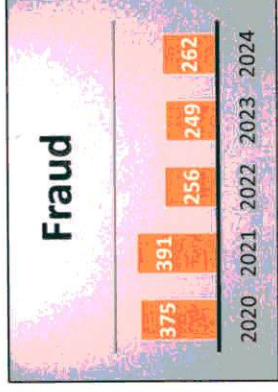
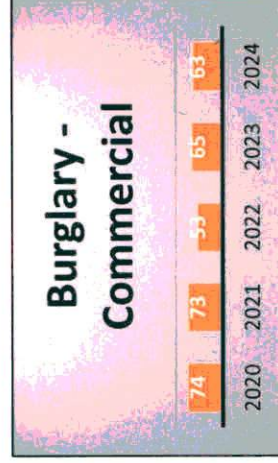
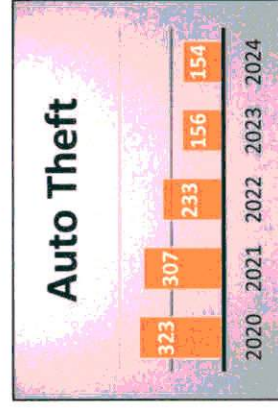
State Law requires law enforcement to track race and ethnicity for traffic stop. GSPD officers wrote 4940 citations and 3124 warnings to 4946 individuals. This may include multiple citations or warnings to individuals on a single traffic stop.

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS—CITY WIDE



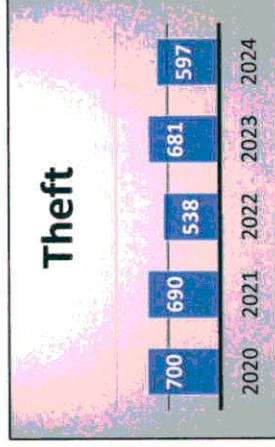
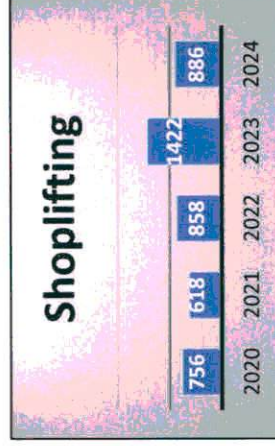
-Quick Facts-
Crimes against persons city wide numbers revealed an overall 17.6 % decrease for 2024 when compared to 2023. Arson numbers did rise in 2024, but all other areas showed lower numbers.

PROPERTY CRIME— CITY WIDE



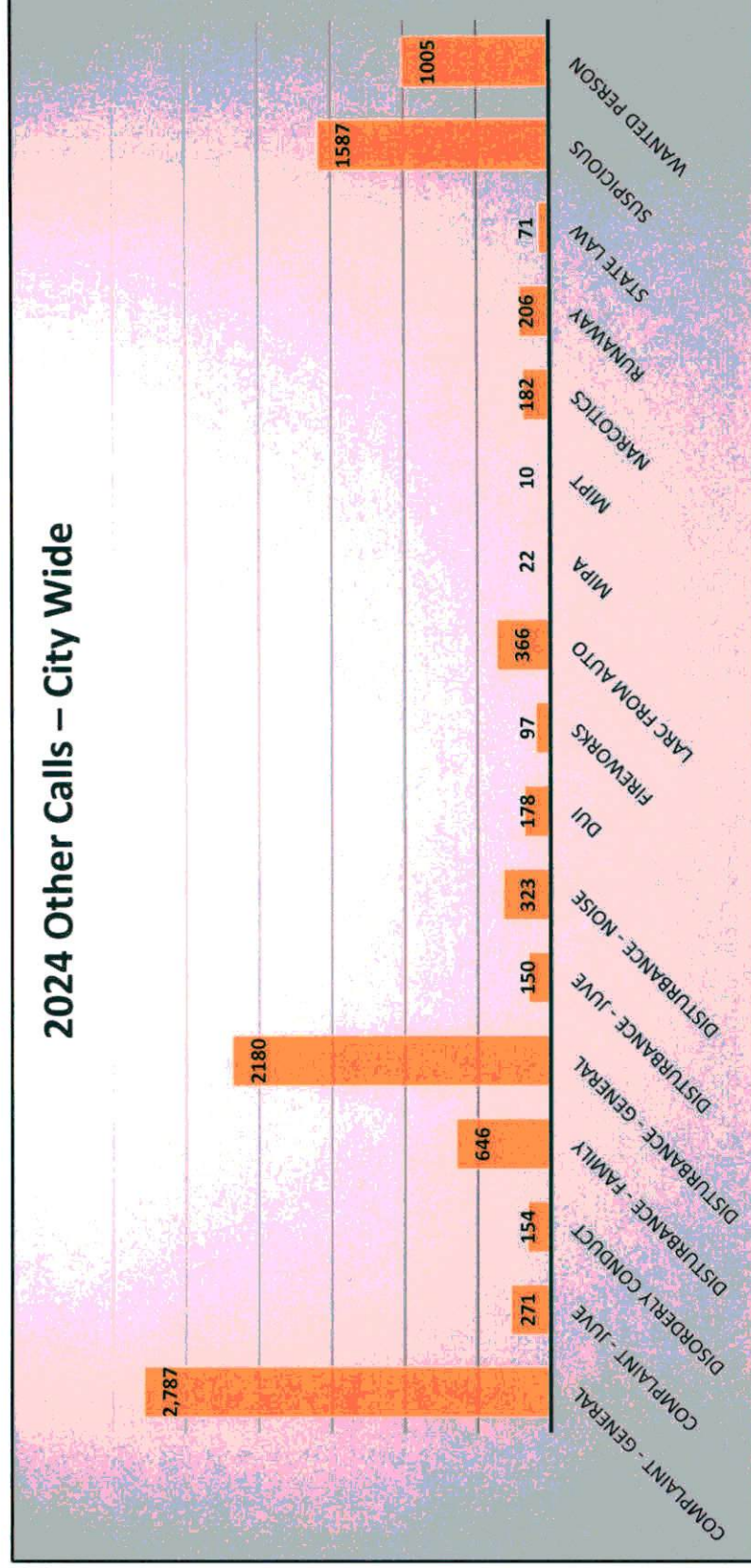
-Quick Facts-

Most of property crimes were consistent with the previous year. Thefts, vandalism, residential burglaries, thefts from vehicles and shoplifting saw fairly significant downward trends



OTHER CALLS – CITY WIDE

2024 Other Calls – City Wide

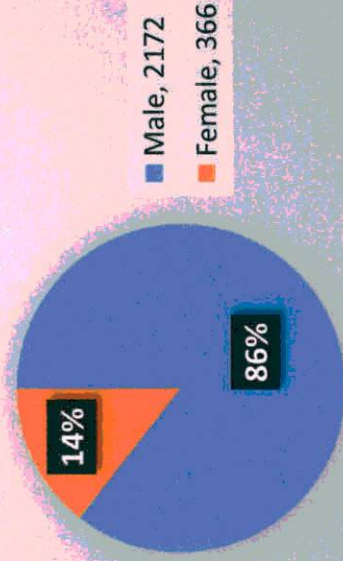


-Quick Facts-

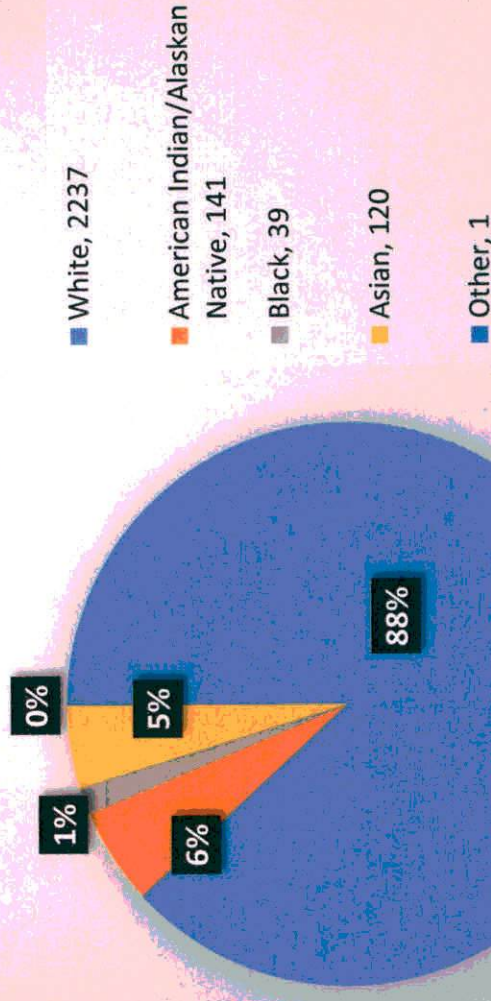
As seen above disturbances, general complaints, and suspicious behavior are the majority of calls for service for GFPD officers.

ARREST STATISTICS

Breakdown of
Physical Arrests by
Gender



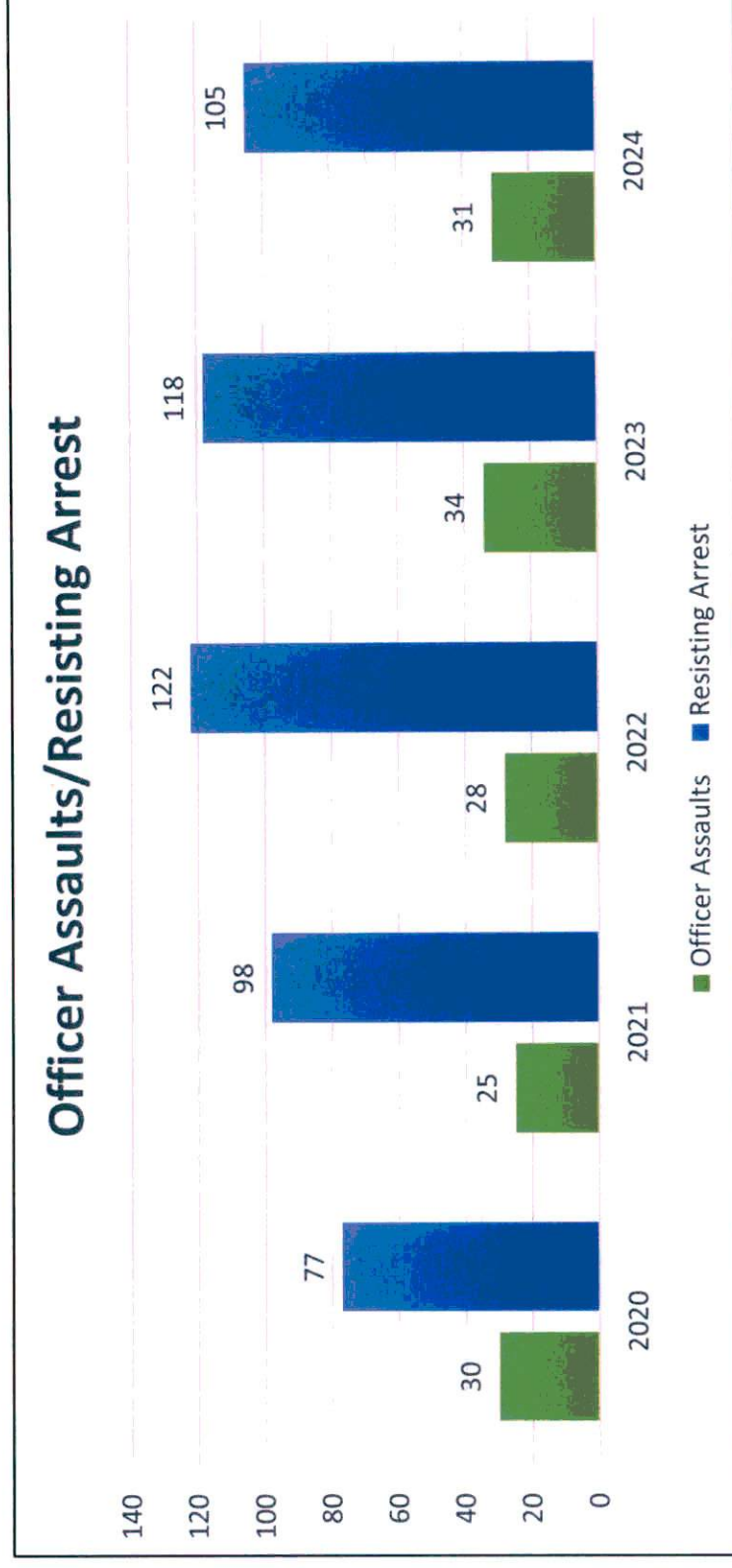
Physical Arrests by Race



-Quick Facts-

Arrests do not always result in a person going to jail. For some crimes, the person is given a notice to appear in court and released.

ASSAULTS ON OFFICERS



-Quick Facts-

Assaults on officers and resisting arrest numbers have decreased slightly for 2024. Officers are still encountering individuals that choose not to comply with lawful orders.

USE OF FORCE

Use of Force Incidents by Bureau

Overall, Use of Force **Increased from 2023 to 2024 by 13.6%**. Physical restraint / strikes and firearm threatened use continues to constitute the majority of force used.

Bureau	2022	2023	2024
Patrol	242	245	271
Investigations	12	14	26
Support	0	4	2
Total	254	263	299

Use of Force Incidents by Race of Suspect

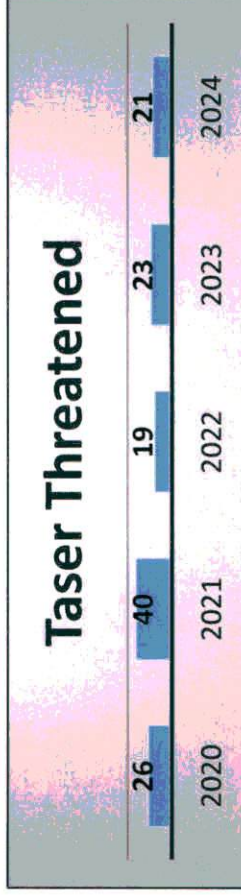
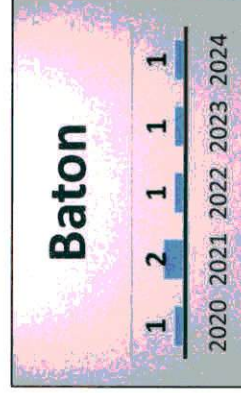
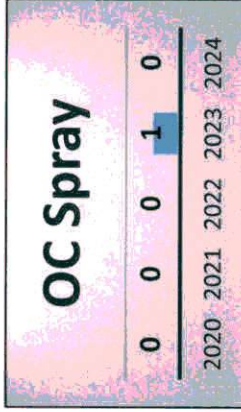
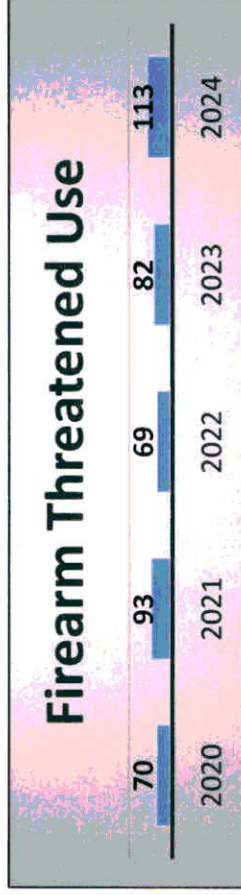
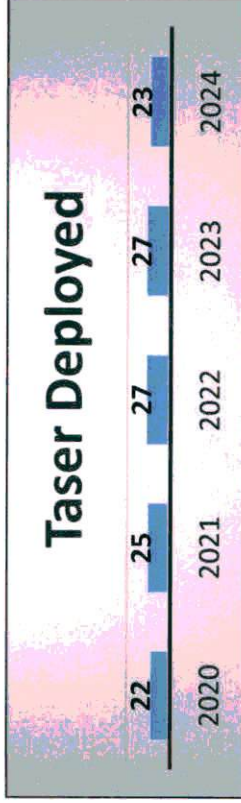
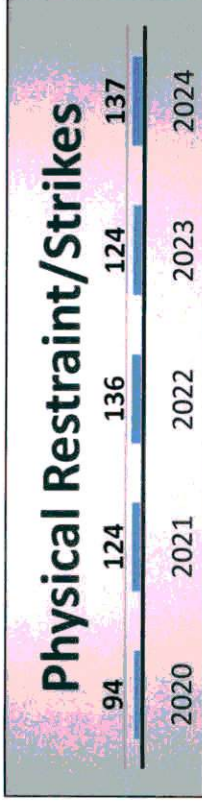
For example, 67% of the time officers used force, they were dispatched/called to the situation as opposed to some type of self-initiated contact.

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.

Race	2024	Percentage
White	170	56.7%
American Indian	102	34%
Black	18	6%
Asian	2	0.6%
Hawaiian/PI	0	0%
Hispanic	8	2.7%
Other	0	0%
Totals	300	100%

-Quick Facts-
When a police officer uses force it is always in response to a subjects level of resistance.

USE OF FORCE



-Quick Facts-

Physical Restraints/Strikes had a 10% increase in 2024. Many of the reports for 2024 were that of simple restraint techniques when taking someone into custody. These restraint techniques are used to control a subject's movements and are not physical strikes. Firearm threatened use had a 27% increase in 2024. This is in direct relation to incidents where there is an unknown of the suspect having a weapon. Felony warrants, high risk traffic stops, and contact with suspects from violent encounters are some of the cases where a firearm was pointed at the suspect until it is determined no threat is present.

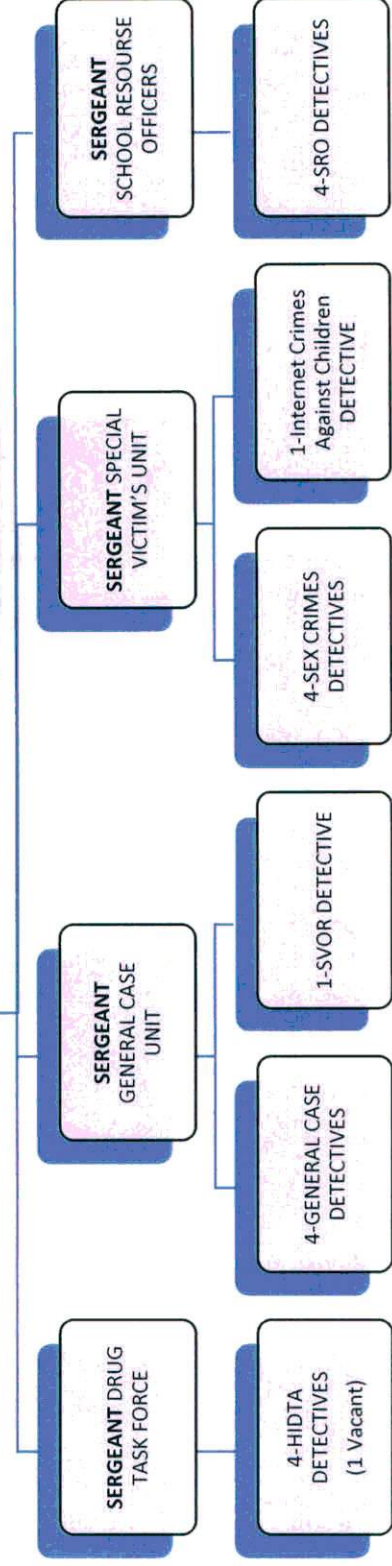
INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU



CAPTAIN
BRIAN BLACK



Lieutenant
Mike Grubb



INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The Investigative Services Bureau (ISB) is made up of a total of 24 sworn personnel and one civilian when fully staffed (currently at 23). There are 18 personnel assigned as investigators (1 vacant) with 4 Sergeants and one Lieutenant to provide direct supervision and one Captain who manages the ISB.

In 2024, the ISB continued to maintain partnerships with the Cascade County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Department of Homeland Security (HSI), the United States Marshalls Service (USMS), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Montana Division of Criminal Investigation (MDCI).

All hate related crimes as defined by Montana Code Annotated are tracked by the Investigative Services Bureau. A Supervisor reviews each report to ensure proper investigation and notifications to the appropriate prosecutors office for the determination of enhancement as allowed by law. The Investigative Services Bureau also maintains statistics of such crimes 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. Detectives are often sought out by outside agencies for their professional talents. 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

General Case Investigators

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

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.



Sgt Joe Dusatko

↓
Total 2024 Cases Assigned
107-Cases Assigned
14% decrease from 2023.

2024 Major General Case Types
Aggravated Assault/Assault with a weapon
Suspicious Deaths / Suicides
Fraud Investigations
Arson Investigations
Elder Abuse/Exploitations
Fatal / Major Injury Crashes

↓
2024 Homicide Investigations
2-Homicide Investigations
50% decrease from 2023
2-Attempted Homicide Investigations

-Quick Facts-

Due to department personnel shortages, in 2024 the General Case unit operated at only 80% of its manning having only four investigators for the entire year. The General Case unit has one GFPD Investigator trained as a Homeland Security Investigator Task Force Officer (HSI TFO). The investigator works directly with our Federal partners to cooperatively investigate serious offenses in the community such as school threats, human trafficking, serious firearms crimes, and identity/commercial fraud. GFPD General Case Investigators rely on advanced trainings in technology related evidence gathering to investigate nearly every major incident. Examples of technology related evidence is evidence obtained through cell phones, social media and internet technology. Collecting, analyzing and reviewing technology related evidence can typically add dozens to hundreds of additional investigative hours to those investigations.

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

Special Victims Unit (SVU)

The Special Victims Unit (SVU) is comprised of one Sergeant and five investigators.

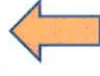
SVU is responsible for working primarily with children and adults who are victimized by sexual and/or domestic violence. The unit is comprised of specialized positions— four sex crime related investigators and one Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Investigator. Drug Endangered Children (DEC) cases are assigned to any SVU investigator based on caseload.

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**



Sgt. Adam Price



Total 2024 Cases Assigned-
341- Cases Assigned
3% increase from 2023.

2024 SVU Case Types
12-Adult Sex Offenses
129-Child Sex Offenses
42-Child Abuse Investigations
26-Agency Assists
19-SVOR Violations
33-DEC Cases
71-ICAC / Human Trafficking Cases

-Quick Facts-

The GSPD 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. Because of a past presentation of a child homicide case by SVU at a Montana Violent Crime conference, investigators were requested to present to a North Carolina Violent Crime conference to educate attendees 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.

The assigned ICAC investigator works with other task force members across the state and was tasked with 71 cases and assisted on several other cases where their expertise was needed in 2024. Many of these cases were triggered by Cybertips, direct reports, or other means of reporting.



-Quick Facts-

The ICAC investigator 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 (SVOR) and 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 current SVOR registrants total 210 sex offenders, 543 violent offenders, and 12 offenders with both sexual and violent designations within the Great Falls area. In 2024, there were 19 registrants charged with failure to register with GFPD.

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, DPHS to ensure proper dispositions. In 2024, there were 33 DEC cases assigned for investigation.



-Quick Facts-

Drug Endangered Children cases are investigated and 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 and other local agencies to ensure the best possible care for these vulnerable victims. In 2024, DEC cases were also assigned to different SVU investigators based on their caseload.

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

School Resource Officer Program

The SRO program continued in its 27th year. There were several big changes in 2024 for the SRO Program. GSPD moved an internal Sergeant position from supervising both the Special Victims Unit detectives and SRO detectives to one Sergeant directly overseeing the SRO program and moving their office into Great Falls High School due to the central location. This was in collaboration with GSPS amending their contract with GSPD in August 2024. GSPD assigns one Sergeant and 4 SRO Detectives to the program.

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. For a more in-depth description of statistics, please, refer to the 2023-2024 annual SRO Report. SROs investigated incidents to include, but not limited to, assault, disorderly conduct, theft, vandalism, narcotics, runaway violations, truancy, minor in possession (alcohol/tobacco), trespassing and weapons complaints.

The SROs continue to utilize the diversion program instituting school consequences when applicable in order to keep youth from entering into the criminal justice system. SROs also provide mentoring to students that seek advice or assistance. This mentoring is an important component in preventing students from entering the juvenile justice system.



Sgt Katie Cunningham



Detective Kristi Kinsey



Detective Brett Munkres



Detective Shayne Stadel



Detective Jesse Rosteck

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

SRO Program Continued

In 2024, GFPD SROs facilitated a partnership between GFPS and Youth Court's Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO) program to place juvenile probation officers in the four major schools - Great Falls High School, CMR High School, North Middle School, and East Middle School. The program has been widely successful at GFHS. Moving forward, the goal is to further implement the program at the other three schools. This program deepened our partnership and understanding of everyone's role within the juvenile justice system. The addition of the program has increased stability and follow through in the diversion program.

Total 2024 SRO Calls for Service and Cases Assigned

853 Calls for Service
74 Additional Cases Assigned for Follow Up

2024 SRO Case Types

89 Disorderly Conduct Cases
50 Assault Cases
45 Theft Cases
31 Offense Against Family/Child
22 Intimidation/School Threat Cases

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

The following numbers are compiled from the calendar year running January 1 through December 31, which does not follow the school calendar year:

-Quick Facts-

Our SROs partnered with additional GFPD officers and GFPS staff, implemented a district wide mandatory training on Armed Intruder Response. 20 trainings were conducted in a single day and approximately 1,100 GFPS staff were trained on the curriculum. This furthers the mission on emergent response by law enforcement and what GFPD can expect from school staff within the building in the event of an incident such as active shooter incidents.

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

Montana Violent Offenders Task Force (MVOTF)

One investigator is assigned to the MVOTF which is another way the GFPD is collaborating with our 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, Customs and Border Protection, Montana Probation and Parole, and a Great Falls Police Investigator. The task force actively seeks out persons wanted for serious crimes, persons under court supervision and persons that are wanted for crimes which present a threat to the safety of the community.

The decision to assign an officer to the USMS Montana Violent Offender Task Force is a response to the rise in violent crime in Great Falls over the previous years. During 2024, the local task force cleared 670 cases (by arrest) keeping violent offenders from victimizing citizens of Great Falls.



-Quick Facts-

The GFD 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 arrests of the wanted offenders, Montana task force members (statewide) seized 52 firearms and nearly 5,900 Fentanyl pills and 6,900 grams of Methamphetamine.

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

Russell County Drug Task Force

(HIDTA Unit – High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area)

During 2024, the RCDTF saw a 75% increase in felony narcotics related arrests and a 50% increase in felony warrant requests. This was, in part, due to multiple long-term investigations leading to federal indictments of several Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs). The task force has continued its partnerships with local and federal agencies.

The Cascade County Sheriff's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, US Marshals Service, Homeland Security Investigations, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, MT Division of Criminal Investigation and Montana Air National Guard are members of the RCDTF.

Members of the RCDTF concluded a multi-year investigation of a large scale methamphetamine trafficking organization which resulted in several federal indictments and seizure of over 100lbs of methamphetamine

Total 2024 Increases over 2023

1241.8% Increase in Methamphetamine seizures

200.8% Increase in Cocaine seizures

900% Increase in long gun seizures*

50% Increase in handgun seizures*



* Seizures in association with related narcotics investigations and arrests

Total 2024 Decreases over 2023

35.2% Decrease in Heroin seizures

46.3% Decrease in Fentanyl seizures

89.6% Decrease in Pharmaceutical 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



LIEUTENANT
RICH LABARD

ANIMAL CONTROL

PROCESS SERVER

FACILITIES ENGINEER



CAPTAIN
DOUG MAHLUM



LIEUTENANT
MATT FLEMING

SSB OFFICER

BAILIFF

GFHA OFFICER

VOL. COORDINATOR

SSB TECHNICIAN

-Quick Facts-

All department hiring of sworn officers and dispatchers move through the Support Services Bureau. All department training and travel is authorized by the Support Services Bureau.

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.



September 7th, 2024 was the 30th Anniversary of the death of Senior Police Officer Shane Chadwick who was killed in the line of duty. A non-profit group of former GFPD officers and Great Falls citizens fundraised to have a mural of Officer Chadwick painted on location where he lost his life, 700 block of 1st Alley No. The Support Services Bureau put together a memorial ceremony that included current, former, and retired officers, along with several Great Falls citizens in attendance. Many of which who traveled in to Great Falls to attend.

-Quick Facts-

Officer Shane Chadwick's death in September of 1994 spawned many things that still exist today such as our High Risk Unit, and Peer to Peer support groups. His memory is not lost upon our department. Our workout center is named after him and every badge sticker we give out to kids today have his badge number, 167, affixed on it.

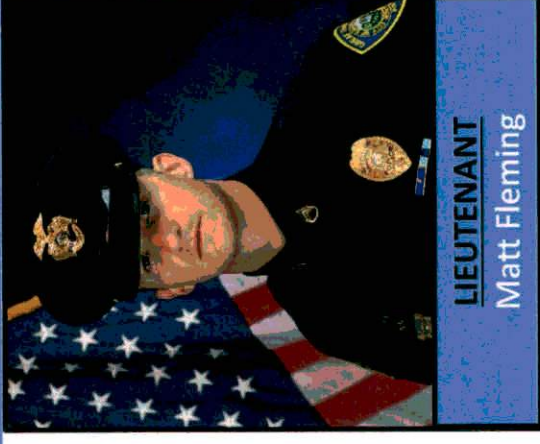
SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU



Support Services Lieutenant

Lieutenant Rich Labard is assigned to manage all hiring of Sworn Officers and Public Safety Communications Officers/Dispatchers. The Lieutenant handles all parts of the hiring process for these positions.

This Lieutenant is directly responsible for writing and proctoring promotional examinations and interviews, to include handling all promotional ceremonies and our annual awards ceremony. This position supervises the Volunteer Coordinator and ultimately the Volunteer Program, along with day to day supervision of the Great Falls Animal Control Officers.



Training Coordinator / Public Information Officer

Lieutenant Matt Fleming is assigned as the department 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. Additionally, the Lieutenant is tasked as the range master for the department 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.

-Quick Facts-

The Support Services Bureau is unique in that the Lieutenants are involved in day to day supervision, but are also specifically tasked with primary duties that are handled by themselves. The Bureau currently does not have the staff for these positions to delegate and only supervise duties associated with Public Information or Recruiting and Hiring.

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.

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.

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.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



Volunteer Coordinator
Adrienne Ehrke



Great Falls MT Police Department

36K followers • 349 following

facebook.com/GFPolice/

The **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 the Social Media Manager and continually strives to keep the GFPD social media platform relevant and up to date. We recently reached over 36,000 followers of our Facebook account, second only to Billings Police Department among Class 1 Montana Cities.

Details	2023	2024
Active Volunteers	18	16
Temp/Event Volunteers		15
Total Hours	2291	2727
Total Abandoned Vehicles Resolved	1768	1730
Abandoned Vehicles	1272	1180
Rec/Large Vehicle Ordinance*	496	550
Vehicles Towed	89	68*
Facebook Followers	29,401	36,508

*28 more potential tows, complete data not available until approximately March 2024

The Great Falls Police Department relies heavily upon our Volunteers in Policing Program. Our volunteers 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 and patrolling
- lending support for the Citizens Academy
- lending support to criminal investigations
- assisting with records retention and evidence processing
- aiding with community events
- lending support to officer trainings



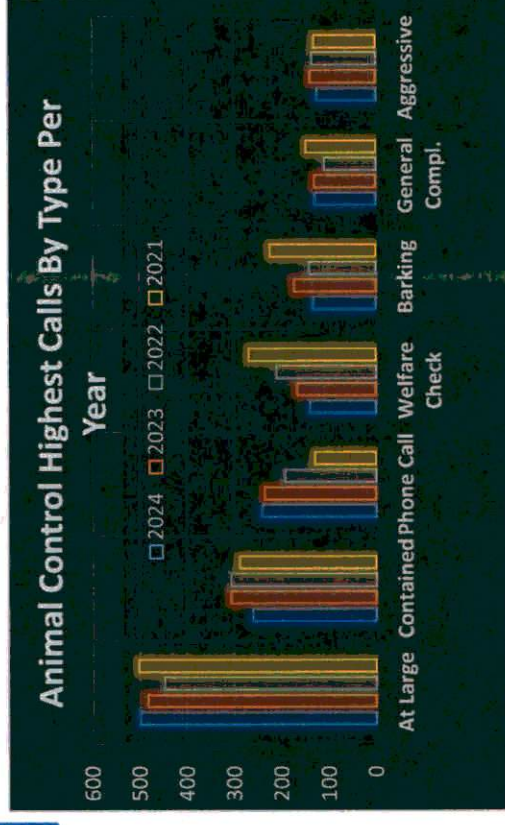
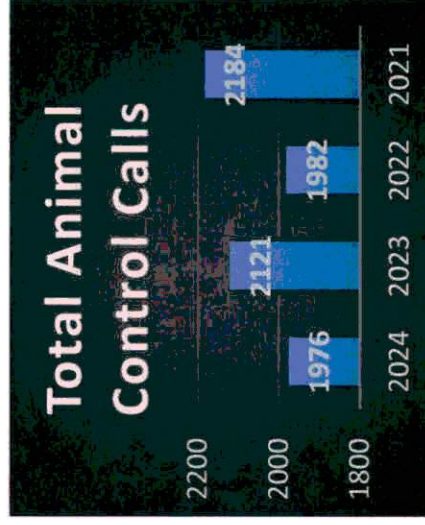
-Quick Facts-

The GFPD Facebook account has recently reached over 36,000 followers! Second only to Billings Police Department among Class 1 Montana Cities.

ANIMAL CONTROL



The 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.



-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. 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 2024, the GFPD provided 3,873.6 individual hours of "In-House" training. Topics covered in 2024 were, Firearms Qualifications, Taser Recertification, Mental Health Training, Legal Update, Arrest Control Combatives (ACCS), De-Escalation, Traffic Stops, and Rescue Task Force Response.

GFPD In-House Individual Training

(Patrol Training Days & GFPD Academy)

Total Individual Training Hours – 3,873.6

Outside POST Certified Training

Total Individual Training Hours – 2,117

GFPD Hosted Courses

GFPD Hosted 2-Courses available to outside agencies



GFPD / GFFR Rescue Task Force 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.*

14-Officers in various phases of training in 2024.

11-Officers completed their training in 2024.

7-Officers began their training in 2024.

1-Officers resigned while in training in 2024.

**Hours are not counted in "In-House" or Outside training hours*

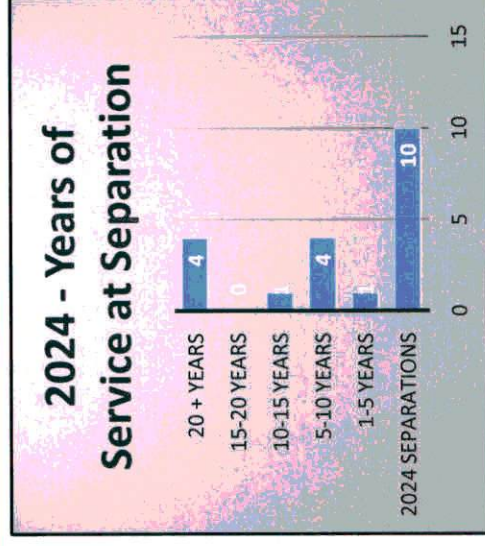
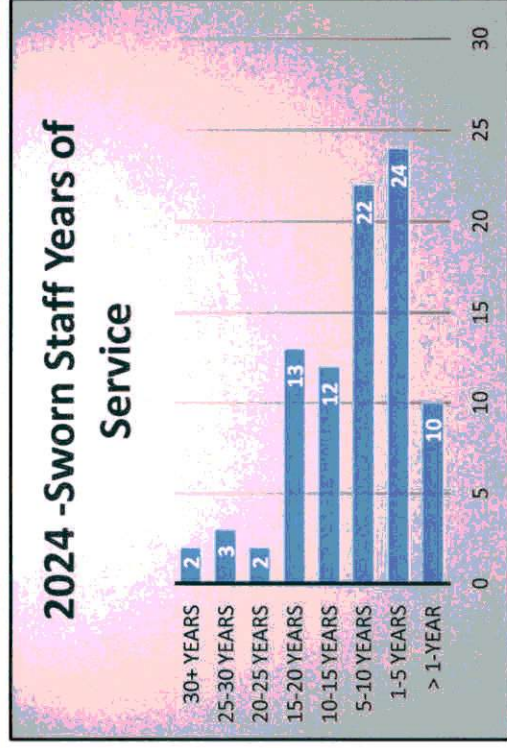
Rescue Task Force Response Training

In 2024 the GFPD provided 2-POST Certified Classes in Rescue Task Force principles, which focus on the secondary response to a mass-casualty event. This training event focused on the coordination between law enforcement, Great Falls Fire Rescue and Great Falls Emergency Services to maximize efficiency between resources during high risk public safety catastrophes.

-Quick Facts-

The GFPD is constantly developing, improving, and implementing relevant training curriculum that spans across all portions of law enforcement activities. We rely heavily upon in house expertise on tactics and technology to develop our staff.

PERSONNEL STATISTICS



In 2024 ten officers separated from the GFPD, which was higher than our 50 year average of 6 per year. Four of those were officers who had served more than 20 years with the GFPD, earning a traditional retirement. One of the officers earned a full retirement which included multiple agencies, but less than 15 years with GFPD. Four officers separated with less than 10 years of service and 1 officer was terminated, with less than 1 year of service.

Captains at GFPD average 26.4 years of experience while Lieutenants average just over 18 years of experience. Sergeants average 15 years of experience. The years of experience are commensurate with rank and time with the organization.

-Quick Facts-

Since 1974, 304 officers have separated from GFPD. Of those 304 officers, 93 or 30% served twenty years or more. From 2021 through 2024, 36 officers separated from GFPD and 12 or 33% of those officers served more than 20 years.

RECRUITING & TESTING STATISTICS

Joininggreatfallspd.com

WE'RE HIRING

- Committed to community outreach and award-winning policing techniques
- State-of-the-art safety equipment and specialized units
- Resources to solve real-life problems
- Resources for career advancements
- Positive work/life balance

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

GFPD continues to host 3 hiring cycles per year for sworn officers. In 2024 we introduced a new hiring website, www.joininggreatfallspd.com. This site allows us to provide up to date information on positions and allows potential applicants to directly interact with recruiters, which are current officers and dispatchers.

We have seen a significant increase in applicants, presumably from our new partnerships with Interview Now and Town Square Media. These two partnerships help us advertise positions and put the GFPD "out there" for others to discover.

TEXT A RECRUITER

First name
John

Last name
Doe

Cell phone number
+1 4151234567

Email address
username@test.com

Submit

By submitting this form you opt-in to receive text messages and accept Interview Now's [Terms of Use](#). We will never share your data with 3rd parties.

POWERED BY
INTERVIEW NOW

The GFPD is continually looking to improve our hiring process and in 2024 a major change took place. We are now pre-screening all applicants prior to any testing or interviewing. This has completely eliminated applicants "no-showing" on test dates and assures us the applicants who are testing are eligible and qualify to be hired as either dispatchers or sworn police officers.

To help improve staffing levels the GFPD continues to take applications from Lateral Police Officers from both within and outside the State of Montana.

-Quick Facts-

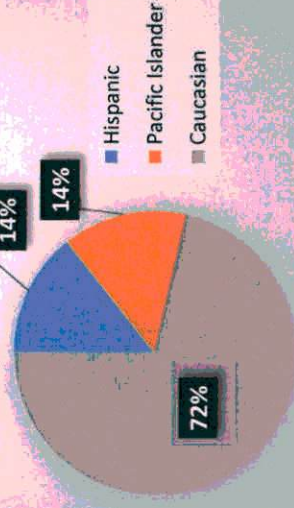
GFPD has expanded its recruiting efforts and capabilities with a new recruiting software called Interview Now. The software allows up to 10 recruiters across both police and dispatch to have real-time communications with prospective applicants. Our new recruiting website is online and up to date. Check out the page at www.joininggreatfallspd.com.

HIRING STATISTICS

Ethnicity of 2024 Applicants
*Self Reported

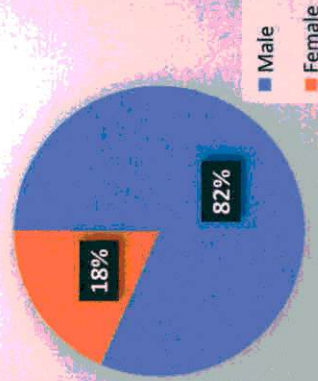


Ethnicity of Hired

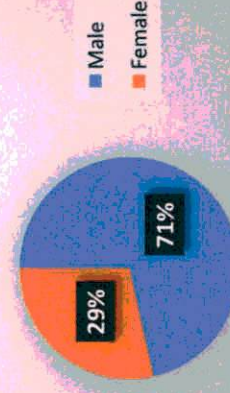


Generally, application numbers are up overall. However, the total volume of applicants needs to increase to satisfy current hiring needs. Routinely GFPD is down 4-6 positions after each hiring cycle. Addressing this issue in the future would require more time and money focused on advertising for the GFPD Sworn positions.

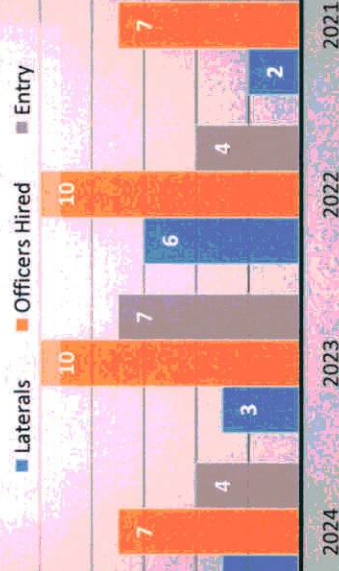
2024 Applicants



2024 Hired



2024 Hired (Lateral vs. Entry)



-Quick Facts-

GFPD entered into a contract with TownSquare Media to assist in advertising for positions within the 911 Center, specifically for Dispatch positions. The advertisement contract has improved the number of applications for vacant 911 Center positions..

Retirements



Captain
John Schaffer
Captain Schaffer, badge #210, retired as the Patrol Services Bureau Captain after serving the Great Falls Police Department for 25 years.
Retirement
March 1st, 2024



Captain
Rob Moccasin
Captain Moccasin, badge #177, retired as the Investigative Services Bureau Captain after serving the Great Falls Police Department for 30 years.
Retirement
August 16th, 2024



Sergeant
Jeff Bragg
Sergeant Bragg, badge #236, retired as a Sergeant within the Patrol Services Bureau after serving the Great Falls Police Department for 21 years.
Retirement
June 7th, 2024



Senior Police Officer
Travis Palmer
Senior Police Officer Palmer retired as a patrolman in the Patrol Services Bureau after serving the Great Falls Police Department for 23 years.
Retirement
May 6th, 2024



Sergeant
Derek Mahlum
Sergeant Mahlum retired as a Sergeant in the Investigative Services Bureau after serving the Great Falls Police Department for 13 years.
Retirement
October 4th, 2024

PROMOTIONS

Captain



Doug Mahlum
Promoted
March 17th, 2024

Lieutenant



Aaron Frick
Promoted
March 17th, 2024



Matt Fleming
Promoted
September 16th, 2024

-Quick Facts-

The GPPD tests for every promotion after the Senior Police Officer Rank. This competitive process typically consists of a lengthy written exam, often times a writing project, and followed by interviews to include follow up interviews at times. Frequently, members of partner agencies and community members are invited to take part in one or more of the interview panels.

PROMOTIONS

Sergeants



Jacob Smith
Promoted
March 17th, 2024



Clayton Henderson
Promoted
June 23rd, 2024

-Quick Facts-

The rank of Sergeant at the GFPD is considered a First Line Supervisor position. Our Sergeants are actively in the field with subordinate officers in a support role assisting in decision making and guiding our officers to successful outcomes. The GFPD is staffed with 12 Sergeants, 9 within the Patrol Services Bureau and 3 within the Investigative Services Bureau.

Master Police Officers



Michael Draper
Promoted
March 17th, 2024



Lance Souza
Promoted
March 17th, 2024

-Quick Facts-

Master Police Officer is the first rank that requires promotional testing and is often the most tested for rank. Officers who have obtained the rank of Senior Police Officer are eligible to test for the rank of Master Police Officer.

AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

Each year in May, during National Police Officer's Memorial Week, the Great Falls Police Department hosts their Annual Awards Ceremony recognizing efforts of staff from the previous year. The 2024 Awards Ceremony recognized many events from 2023. A record amount of awards and recognition were provided for incidents involving our staff in 2023.

There were a **record 69 individual awards** given, ranging from Commendations to the highest possible award, Valor, and most prestigious award, Honorary Service.

There were several more award recommendations that did not reach the level of formal recognition. Each nomination must be reviewed and voted upon for approval by the Commendation Review Board.



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*



Master Police Officer
Jacob Smith



Senior Police Officer
Adam Stergionis



Senior Police Officer
Michael Nelson



Senior Police Officer
Clayton Henderson



Senior Police Officer
Aaron Burges



Senior Police Officer
Alex Vance



Sergeant
Rick Brinka



Senior Police Officer
Dimas Patina

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
Kaleb Larson



Master Police Officer
Will Fleming



Senior Police Officer
Adam Stergionis



Senior Police Officer
Cody Irish



Senior Police Officer
Tanner Lee



Sergeant
Derek Mahlum



Senior Police Officer
Zaine O'Meara



Master Police Officer
Jesse Rosteck



Master Police Officer
Jacob Smith



Senior Police Officer
Lance Souza

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.



Police Officer
Chris Araujo



Senior Police Officer
Aaron Burgess



Senior Police Officer
Taylor Crouch



Sergeant
Joe Dusatko



Senior Police Officer
Cody Irish



Sergeant
Thad Kimmet



Senior Police Officer
Paul Kummer



Senior Police Officer
Alex Vance



Master Police Officer
Scott Bambenek



Probationary Officer
Jeff Culp

AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

Chief's Award of Excellence

May be presented to the head (or designee) of another agency, or specific person(s) who played a specific role during an incident, case, or project involving the Great Falls Police Department.



Communications Officer
Jessica Larson



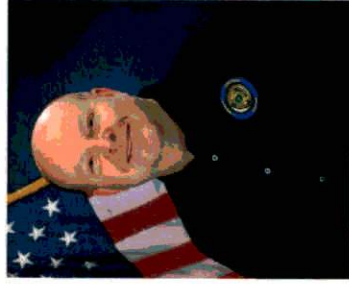
Communications Officer
Renee Rabe



Communications Officer
Dustie Lassila



Communications Supervisor
Angie Ratliff



Facilities Engineer
Jeff Schott



Communications Officer
Jenifer Lawson

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



Master Police Officer
Jacob Smith



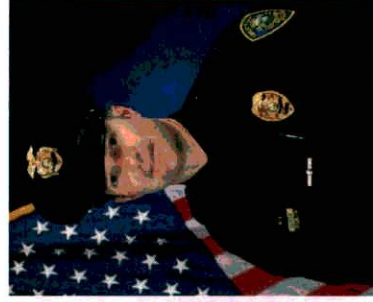
Police Officer
Shane Klippenes



Senior Police Officer
Tanner Lee



Senior Police Officer
Zaine O'Meara



Master Police Officer
Travis Burrow



Senior Police Officer
Cody Irish

AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS



Sergeant
Matt Fleming



Master Police Officer
Travis Burrow



Master Police Officer
Will Fleming



Master Police Officer
Adam Hunt

Award of Merit

Awarded to an officer who exemplifies a continuous high level of performance during his or her professional duties or off-duty time relating to his profession. May be awarded for an outstanding accomplishment which has resulted in improved administration, or improved operation, or substantial savings in manpower or operational costs, where the member has contributed far beyond the requirements or expectations of the normal duty assignment, warranting special recognition.



AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

AWARD OF VALOROUS UNITY

Awarded to a unit of police officers or designated team, joined by an event, who conscious of danger, intelligently and definitively, distinguished themselves by performing and act or acts of gallantry and valor at imminent hazard to lives involved, above-and-beyond the call of duty. During the course of these acts and because of their cohesive unity and valor, they represented the Great Falls Police Department with the highest of professionalism.



Police Officer
Chris Araujo



Senior Police Officer
Chris Brown



Senior Police Officer
Taylor Crouch



Sergeant
Joe Dusatko



Sergeant
Matt Fleming

AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

AWARD OF VALOROUS UNITY

Awarded to a unit of police officers or designated team, joined by an event, who conscious of danger, intelligently and definitively, distinguished themselves by performing and act or acts of gallantry and valor at imminent hazard to lives involved, above-and-beyond the call of duty. During the course of these acts and because of their cohesive unity and valor, they represented the Great Falls Police Department with the highest of professionalism.



Senior Police Officer
Samantha Gondeiro



Sergeant
Tom Halloran



Probationary Officer
Zachary Hattan



Sergeant
Thad Kimmet

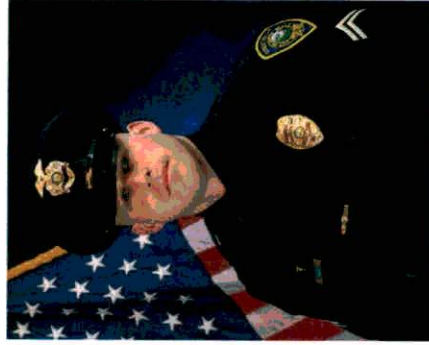


Police Officer
Shane Klippenes

AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

AWARD OF VALOROUS UNITY

Awarded to a unit of police officers or designated team, joined by an event, who conscious of danger, intelligently and definitively, distinguished themselves by performing and act or acts of gallantry and valor at imminent hazard to lives involved, above-and-beyond the call of duty. During the course of these acts and because of their cohesive unity and valor, they represented the Great Falls Police Department with the highest of professionalism.



Senior Police Officer
Paul Kummer



Lieutenant
Rich Labard



Probationary Officer
Dakota Lugo



Senior Police Officer
Brett Munkres



Master Police Officer
Jesse Rosteck

AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

AWARD OF VALOROUS UNITY

Awarded to a unit of police officers or designated team, joined by an event, who conscious of danger, intelligently and definitively, distinguished themselves by performing and act or acts of gallantry and valor at imminent hazard to lives involved, above-and-beyond the call of duty. During the course of these acts and because of their cohesive unity and valor, they represented the Great Falls Police Department with the highest of professionalism.



Master Police Officer
Phil Wilberding



Police Officer
Alex Vance



Sergeant
Kevin Supalla



Police Officer
Robert Snook

AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS



Senior Police Officer
Stephanie Kazior

HONORABLE SERVICE

This award may be given to an employee (sworn, non-sworn) only once during their career. It is given to an employee who develops creative partnerships, serving as a positive role model in a significant manner within the community, by volunteering their own time outside the department.



AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

AWARD OF VALOR



Senior Police Officer
Frank Torres

*Awarded to an officer who, conscious of danger,
intelligently and in the line of police duty,
distinguished themselves by performing an act of
gallantry and valor at imminent personal hazard to
life, above and beyond the call of duty.*



AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS



Senior Police Officer
Frank Torres

GFPD Officer of the Year

Anyone within the Great Falls Police Department, Sworn or Un-Sworn can nominate an officer of the year. Once initial nominations are made letters of support are then provided to support individual nominees. Once the support letters are completed they are provided to the GFPDs Administrative Staff and put to a vote. In 2023 an unprecedented ten Police Officers were nominated, Officers Travis Burrow, Scott Bambenek, Brian Tovson, Kaleb Larson, Cody Irish, Jacob Smith, Zaine O'Meara, Clayton Henderson, Shayne Stadel, and Frank Torres.

Through this process Officer Frank Torres was selected as Officer of the Year for 2023. Officer Torres is a 14 year veteran of the Great Falls Police Department, currently assigned to the Support Services Bureau as an officer inside the Great Falls Housing Authority. Officer Torres has had many additional duties to include Field Training Officer, certified background investigator, and lead Taser Instructor.

Officer Torres has received several commendations and awards throughout his career to include the GFPD's Lifesaving Award on 3 separate occasions, DUI Task Force Award, and the Montana Chief's of Police Medal of Valor.

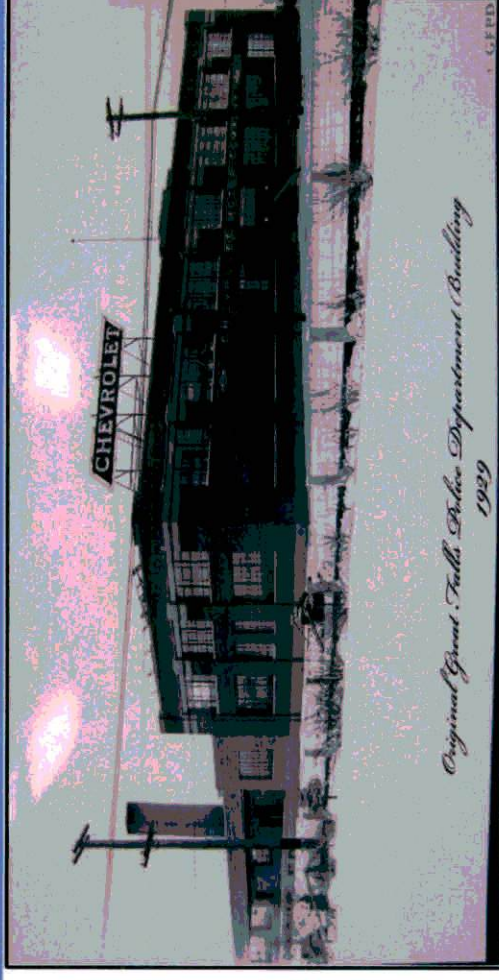
Although assigned to the Great Falls Housing Authority, Officer Torres has always had a knack for keeping in touch with officers in the field and has constantly found himself in a position to help and protect his fellow officers. In recognizing his efforts he has been awarded the 2023 GFPD Officer of the Year.



FACILITIES / EQUIPMENT

The Support Services Bureau is responsible for facilities maintenance and upkeep. Yearly, focus is placed on capital improvement projects within the department. In the spring of 2023, carpet replacement was a priority throughout the building. Much of the project was completed in 2023, but carried into and completed, spring of 2024. This project was funded through fuel and vacancy savings. During 2024 we were also able to upgrade some additional office furniture to include upgrading some infrastructure that allowed us to create a temporary backup 911 location within the department, should it ever be needed.

Early 2024 we utilized funding from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) to assist us installing weapons vaults within some select vehicles, purchase Tasers for our School Resource Officers and gas mask radio emitters for our High Risk Unit. We have again applied for and received JAG funding for 2024 and look forward to using the funds to create a multi-media center here at GFPD.



-Quick Facts-

The GFPD continues to be flexible in retrofitting our aging building as needed. The current GFPD was originally a Chevrolet parts building in 1929. We look forward to future changes in the building and modifications to keep our facilities relevant and useful.

FACILITIES / EQUIPMENT

GFPD Evidence Building Project

We are well on our way to seeing through our new evidence building project. The General Contract was awarded to Wadsworth Builders in February of 2024 and the project kicked off in August. The overall project budget, set by the City Commission is, \$4,058,457.50. The project has been moving forward with many different partners along the way and is preparing for spring startup in March, 2025, after a planned winter stoppage in late November. The project schedule has a completion date in November of 2025. This project has been funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).



GFPD | EVIDENCE ROOM EXPANSION

-Quick Facts-

The GFPD was awarded funding through Montana's State-Local Infrastructure Partnership Act (SLIPA) which will allow us to proceed with a remodel for our front counter / lobby of the department. This project is under contract and set to begin in early 2025. We are excited for a long needed upgrade.

FACILITIES / EQUIPMENT

Costs continue to increase for individual and team equipment. The **Great Falls Community Police Foundation** (GFCPF) continues their outstanding support to the Great Falls Police Department. During 2024, the GFCPF funded the purchase of equipment supporting the Drone Program, Arrest-Control-Combatives-Survival (ACCS) program, and the SRO Program. The GFCPF funded well over \$50,000.00 in equipment acquisition that could not have happened with the 2024 department budget. With the assistance of the GFCPF, purchases were made to include 2 DJI Mavic 3T Enterprise Drones, certifications and license of 10 Drone Pilots through the Federal Aviation Administration.



Stock DJI Enterprise Photo

DEPARTMENT COMPLAINTS

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.

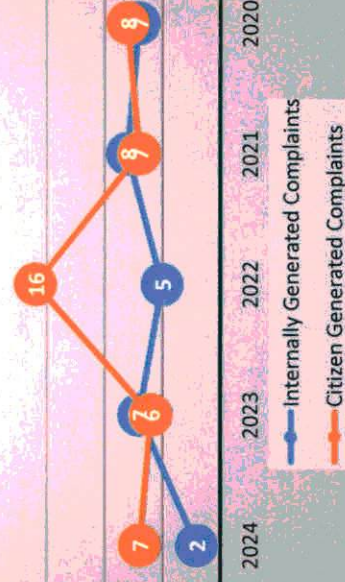
Complaint Investigation Completed

- 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

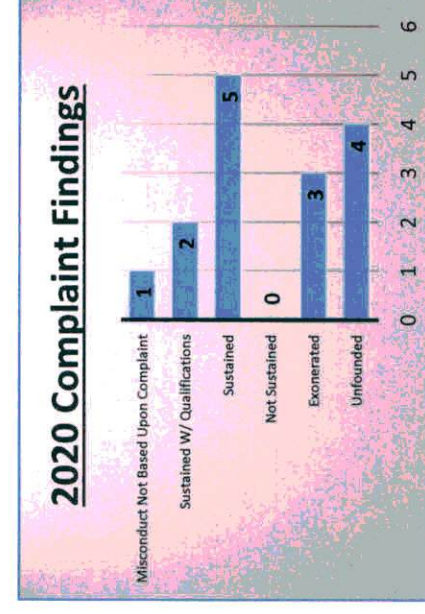
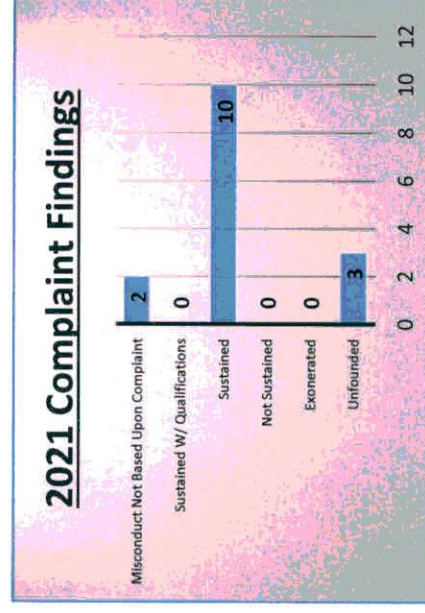
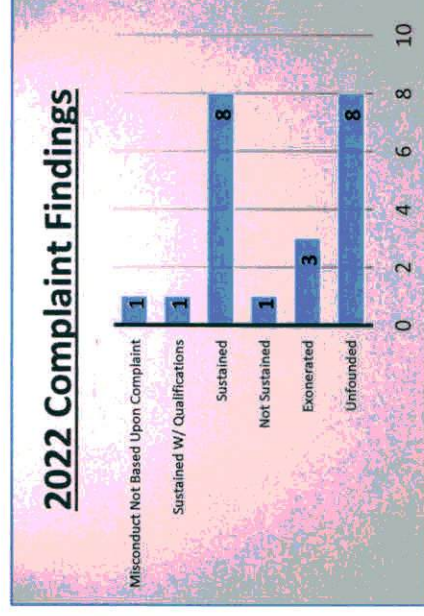
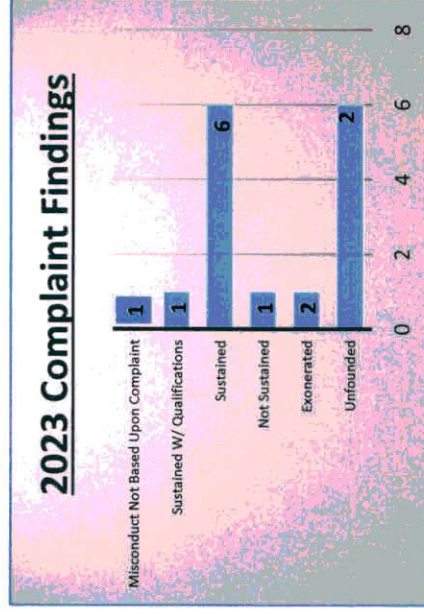
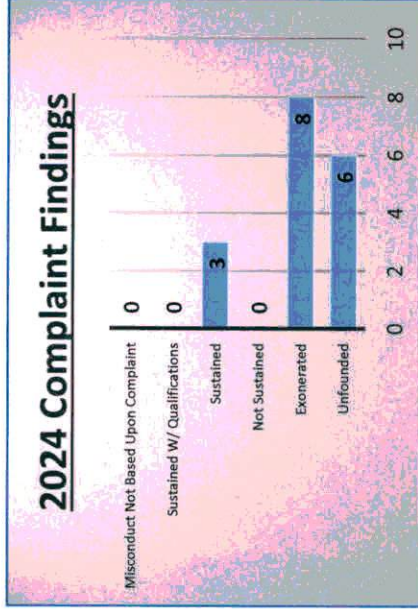
- To ensure integrity of the department, a yearly Complaint Review Committee is convened. The panel consists of two citizens at large, Deputy County Attorney, Deputy City Attorney, and Deputy City Manager. The Support Services Captain coordinates the meeting and a summary of the yearly disciplinary data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

Complaints - Internal vs. External



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.

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.

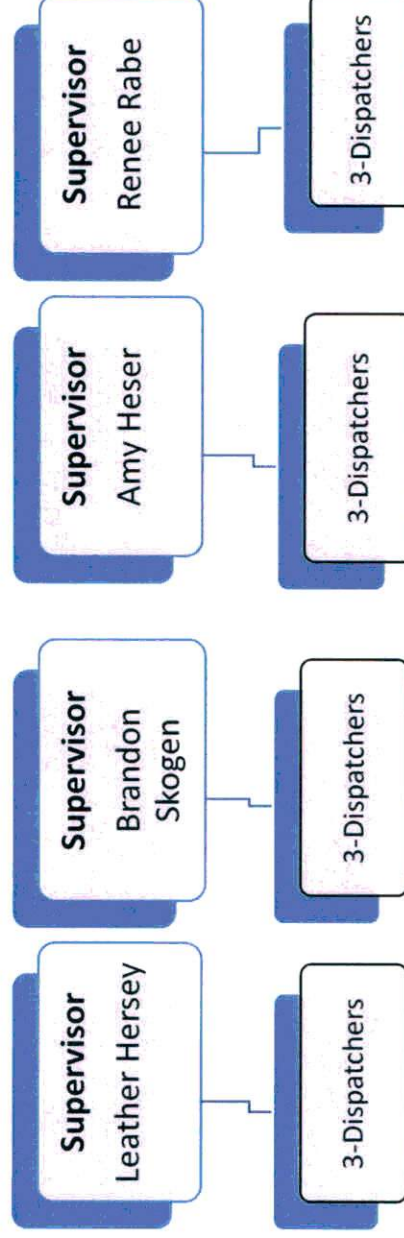
COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES BUREAU



EMERGENCY SERVICES
DIRECTOR
KAREN YOUNG



Deputy Director
Kelli Johanneck



-Quick Facts-

Did you know that the most important piece of information a caller can provide is their location!

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES BUREAU

At the conclusion of 2024, the Communication Services Bureau had five open positions. The following changes were implemented during 2024: 1) Townsquare Media was hired to produce several short videos, posted on multiple social media platforms, focused on generating awareness, interest and recruitment for our open positions 2) a 911 Deputy Director position was created and filled by Kelly Johanneck with her focus directed towards recruitment and training 3) the GFD Support Services Bureau streamlined the background investigation process to include applicants who applied for the Public Safety Communications Officer (911 Dispatcher) positions 4) HR agreed to expand their conditional offer to include the background investigation, which helped shorten the hiring process.



Employee Recognition
April 14-20, 2024 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:

Years of Service	# of Employees
0-5 Years of Service	9
6-10 Years of Service	1
11-15 Years of Service	1
16-20 Years of Service	5
21-25 Years of Service	1
25+ Years of Service	1

Communications Officer	Award
Ayers, Robert	Life Saving
Johanneck, Kelly	Life Saving
Lawson, Jennifer	Life Saving
Rabe, Renee	Life Saving
Ratliff, Angella	Life Saving
Stadel, Evelyn	Life Saving x 4
Sunderland, Douglas	Life Saving
Communications Officer	Award
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 2024, there was a 12.1% decrease in the number of 9-1-1 calls and a 22.1% increase in the number of non-emergency calls received compared to 2023.

Telephone Calls	2022	2023	2024
9-1-1	37,340	44,335	38,965
Non-Emergency	98,464	81,559	99,681
Total Calls	135,804	125,894	138,646

A review of the call volume on a weekly basis shows that during 2024 the low call volume days remained, Saturday (12.39%) and Sunday (10.80%) and the highest call volume day was Friday (16.01%).

A review of the 2024 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.

2024 data indicated a 2.55% decrease in the number of calls for service compared to 2023. Law enforcement experienced a 0.27% decrease, Great Falls Fire Rescue & Rural Fire experienced an 1.38% decrease, Medical services experienced a 18.47% decrease and other agencies experienced a 14.91% increase.

Calls for Service	2023	2024
Law Enforcement	69,124	68,932
Fire	8,718	8,597
Medical	11,978	9,765
Other Agencies	1,301	1,495
Total Calls	91,121	88,789



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.

2024	Training Overview
3376.00 Hours	Total Training Hours
310.50 Hours	Training Hours for Supervisors
521.00 Hours	Training Hours for Public Safety Communication Officers
2544.50 Hours	Training Hours for New Hires

RECORDS BUREAU



MANAGER
RACHEL
DARLINGTON



Records Supervisor
Jim Wells

2 Evidence
Technicians

1 Property
Research
Technician

3 Police
Information
Technicians

2 Community
Service Officer

RECORDS BUREAU

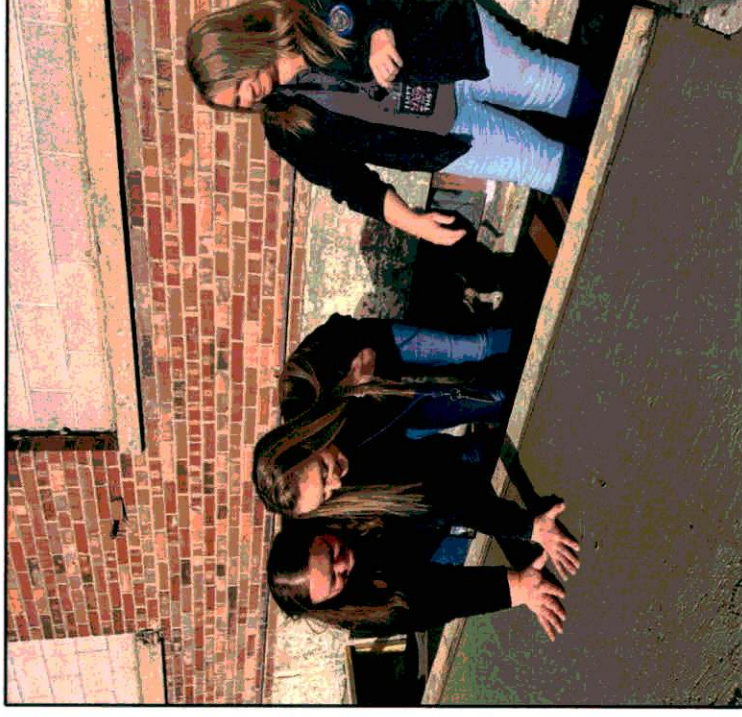
GFPD Evidence Building Project

2024 was a very successful year for the Records Bureau with some much needed projects on the horizon.

The Records Bureau was fully staffed for much of the 2024 year. The steady staffing has allowed us to be up-to-date with daily tasks and also take on additional projects. There was much focus on reducing paper files by having them digitized by volunteers, staff and an outside digitizing company. Conversion of the paper files freed up two large rooms at the Police Department for other purposes. The department Record Management System (RMS) was updated to comply with changes to the State and FBI NIBRS repositories. The conversion created challenges which required many staff hours to work through the changes.

As for the Evidence Division, a bid was awarded for the new evidence addition early in the year.

Wadsworth Builders broke ground in August and completed all foundation work before the cold winter hit. Construction will continue in the Spring of 2025 with completion scheduled in November 2025.



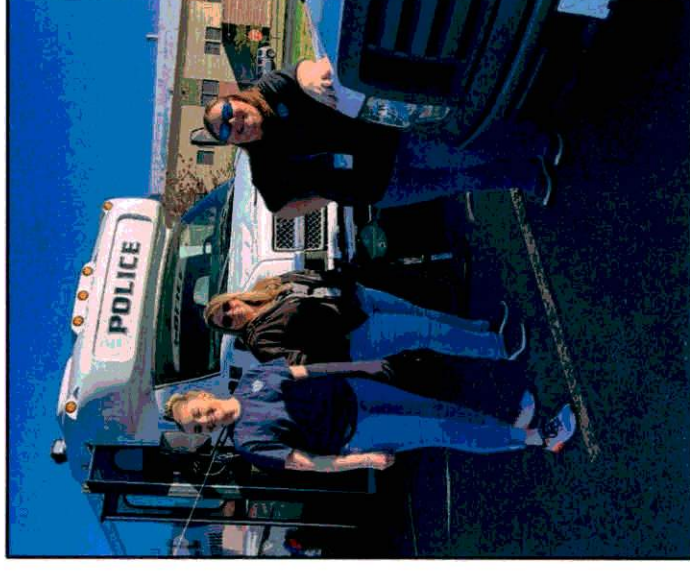
RECORDS BUREAU

Despite being short staffed due to some extended absences, evidence staff completed required audits and continued to work towards the move into the new addition.

Staff also participated in the department's Citizen's Academy, hosted interns and demonstrated fingerprint lifts to area high school students at the World of Works (WOW) event.



Records Bureau Staff is responsible for maintaining accurate and timely electronic and paper records, evidence records and found property. This involves GFPD records with various other Criminal Justice records according to state, federal and department regulations. Additional work responsibilities include clerical duties, extensive customer service with the public and partnering agencies.



Quick Facts: The department has a 90 day retention on most found property or property that is being held by the department for safekeeping. Each month a new list of this property is posted on the City of Great Falls website. If you have been incarcerated and your personal property is being stored at the GFPD or you simply lost your personal property such as a wallet, review the listing to claim your property before it is purged. <https://greatfallsmt.net/police/unclaimed-property-0>

RECORDS BUREAU

GFPD Evidence and Records

Records	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Report Taken	1330	1131	1382	1267	957
Interviews Transcribed	14	9	6	1	0
Background Checks	1065	1025	478	523	539
Revenue Generated from Background Checks	\$12,750.00	\$11,310.00	\$7,170.00	\$1,755.00	\$1,695.00
Evidence	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Pieces In	12726	15086	12877	12860	12563
Pieces Out	9120	10048	8132	3943	4267
Revenue Generated from Auction	\$2,377.16	\$2,167.39	\$2,298.22	\$2,338.21	\$1,232.06
Discovery	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of Requests	958	1008	1028	1167	1029
Number of CD/DVD Copied	4755	3701	815	791	712
Revenue Generated from Discovery	\$1,080.00	\$1,530.00	\$60.00	0	0
Fingerprinting	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
General Public Requests	197	244	129	55	75
SVOR Required	46	125	46	88	82
Revenue Generated from Fingerprinting	\$4,090.00	\$5,210.00	\$3,085.00	\$3,025.00	\$3,175.00
	\$20,297.16	\$20,217.39	\$12,613.22	\$7,118.21	\$6,102.06