

2022

# ANNUAL REPORT

BRANSON POLICE  
DEPARTMENT

*Prepared by Kristen Burton, Crime Analyst*  
*Presented by: Eric Schmitt, Chief of Police*

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# CITY LEADERSHIP



**Larry Milton**  
Mayor



**Cathy Stepp**  
City Administrator



**Clay Cooper**  
Ward I  
Alderman



**Marshall Howden**  
Ward I  
Alderman



**Cody Fenton**  
Ward II  
Alderman



**Chuck Rodriguez**  
Ward II  
Alderman



**Ruth Denham**  
Ward III  
Alderman



**Ralph LeBlanc**  
Ward III  
Alderman

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# CHIEF'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the men and women that comprise the Branson Police Department, I welcome you to our city. I am convinced that you will find some of the best law enforcement professionals in the nation right here in the heart of the Ozarks. We have people of character, who demonstrate a love of the area and care about the wellbeing of our community. We strive to convey that very feeling to our residents, businesses, and visitors and take pride in our ability to achieve positive outcomes for those we serve. We seek to harness the good rapport that we build through our daily interactions in the community, in order to provide the highest level of service and problem solving available.

Whether you live, work or play here, own a business, or are visiting the many shops, restaurants, shows or attractions in Branson, our employees want you to be safe and feel safe. In order to accomplish this, we need your help. If you see anything suspicious or need our help, please feel free to contact us. We have placed several links for many of our services and programs throughout our website: [www.bransonmo.gov/police](http://www.bransonmo.gov/police).

Finally, I encourage you to read our Mission, Vision and Values, which are found on our website. I am very proud of these, as our employees wrote them! They help us to hold ourselves accountable and to remember why we do what we do. Feel free to send me a message from time to time to let me know how we are doing.

*Eric Schmitt*  
Chief of Police

## ABOUT THE NEW CHIEF OF POLICE

Police Chief Eric Schmitt has served the Branson community for the past five and a half years as Assistant Chief, before being named Chief of Police in December of 2022. Chief Schmitt has been a police officer for 31 years (25 years in Colorado's metro Denver area) and active in law enforcement since the age of 16 as an Explorer Cadet.

His career has allowed him to participate in Patrol, Traffic, K-9, Field Training Officer, Firearms Instruction, SWAT, Negotiations, Investigations, and Professional Standards/Internal Affairs.

Chief Schmitt has a Masters in Organizational Leadership, with an emphasis in Human Resource Performance. He is a graduate of FBI National Academy Session 282, Northwestern University's SPSC (Class 176) and Executive Management Program. He has also completed PERF's Senior Management Institute for Police (Session 64 and is an IACP certified instructor for the "Leadership in Police Organizations" program.





## MISSION

Our reason for being is our community; so we hold ourselves to the highest standards in building and maintaining community trust and partnerships. We will always strive to enhance our community through a commitment to excellence, compassion and impartiality in all of our actions.

## VISION

The Branson Police Department will be a source of pride for the community, exemplifying **SERVICE, INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**. We want to serve our community and to be the area leader in providing superior law enforcement results. We will accomplish this through dedication to our values, the community and each other.

## VALUES

**INTEGRITY**: We will conduct ourselves with honor, always displaying honesty and striving to do the right thing.

**Teamwork**: We are a family. We will always strive to work together, contribute and help each other as we pursue our individual, city and community goals.

**PROFESSIONALISM**: We vow to remain steadfast in our standards, utilize the best law enforcement techniques, and seek to continually improve ourselves and our services.

**SERVICE**: We serve all, from our community to our fellow city employees, and no service is beneath us. If we are unable to help, we will do all in our power to find someone who can.

**COMPASSION**: We are dedicated to treating all fairly, equally and with respect, regardless of their circumstances, and seek opportunities to help improve their situations.

**ACCOUNTABILITY**: We will always be trustworthy, by holding ourselves to the highest standards in all of our duties, responsibilities and actions. We will own our mistakes and learn from them.

**COMMITMENT**: We commit to honoring our profession, providing excellent service to the community and always helping others by demonstrating each of these values.

**FUN**: We believe that a fun place to work results in employees that enjoy their jobs and creates stronger bonds with each other and our community. We strive for a family atmosphere that is respectful, encourages creativity, team-building, and allows our people to pursue happiness every day.

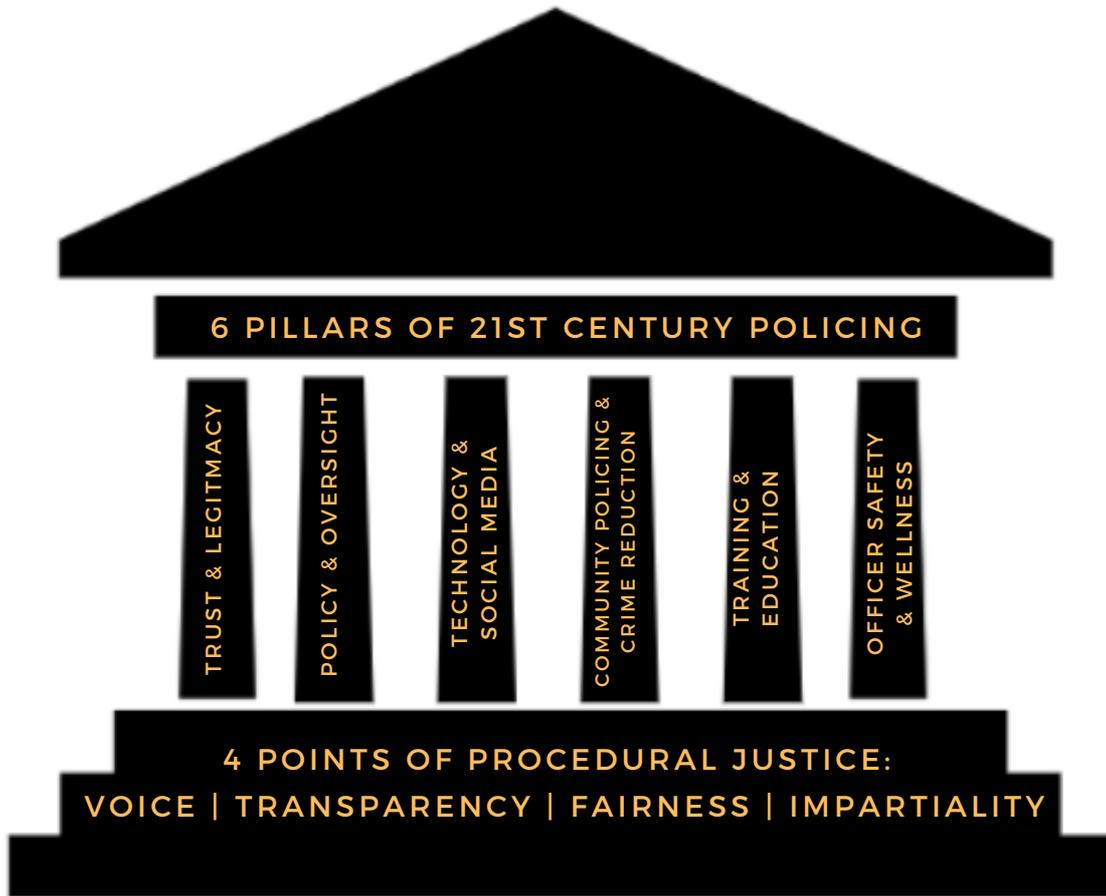
# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

THIS OUTLINES OUR CURRENT DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE.



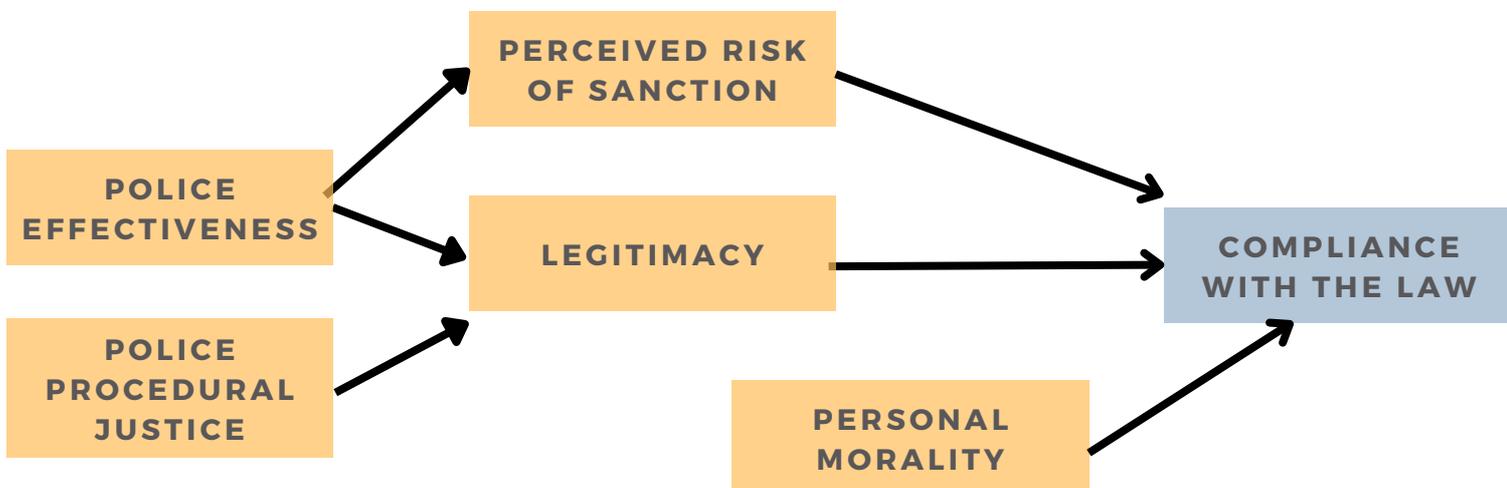
# OUR POLICING PHILOSOPHY

THE BRANSON POLICE DEPARTMENT'S POLICING PHILOSOPHY COMBINES THE SIX PILLARS OF 21ST CENTURY POLICING WITH A FOUNDATION OF THE FOUR POINTS OF PROCEDURAL JUSTICE.



## COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW FLOW CHART

FROM THE SCOTTISH CENTER FOR CRIME & JUSTICE RESEARCH



# AGENCY GOALS

- Balancing Discretionary Time vs Non-Discretionary Time (call load):
  - This will allow for 3 basic building blocks of patrol:
    - Handling Calls for Service
    - Proactive policing, based on community needs and data
    - Community interaction
- Implementing and improving Crime Reduction Strategies:
  - This will focus on the following:
    - Repeat Offenders
    - Drug Offenders
    - Domestic Violence
    - Reluctant Victims and Victim Resources
    - Panhandlers and Individuals Experiencing Homelessness
- Providing Top-Notch Customer Service:
  - This looks like:
    - Spending time with our victims and witnesses
    - Doing whatever we can to help solve the problem
    - Following Chief Schmitt's Golden Rule



## HOW DO WE GET HERE?

- STAFFING & SCHEDULING
- TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENTS & IMPROVEMENTS

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# AGENCY VISION, GOALS & PRIORITIES

## SHORT TERM

- Achieving full staffing
- Switch to 10-hour shifts with training emphasis

## MID TERM

- Completion of new CAD/RMS Implementation
- Addition of improved crime analytics capabilities
- Completion of new Police Station

## LONG TERM

- Redistricting project for new police sectors to improve customer service & response times
- Partner with regional private and public sector agencies for regional public safety training center
- Developing our own crime lab and forensic capabilities

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# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

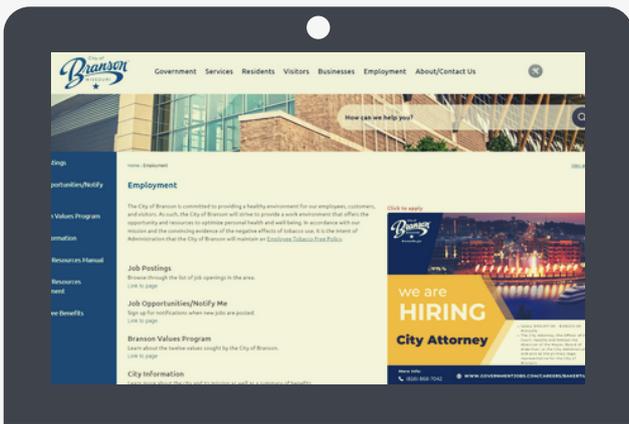


- Acquisition of new Police Department building
- Successful implementation of Rifle Purchase Program
- Obtained grant funding to begin modifying our vehicle barriers for parades and events
- K9 Tygo retired after seven years of dedicated service to BPD
- K9 Flex joined our K9 Unit
- K9 Handler Officer Gamble became certified as a K9 Instructor
- First female SWAT Operator joined the BPD SWAT Team
- BPD launched our Lateral Entry program for recruiting experienced Police Officers
- Developed a relationship and hosted several regional trainings for a nationally-recognized law enforcement training company
- Our BPD Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) team raised \$2655 for Special Olympics Missouri through multiple fundraisers in 2022
- Then-Assistant Chief Eric Schmitt graduated FBI National Academy session 282
- Lieutenant Mike Hoag completed School of Police Staff & Command at Northwestern University
- Lieutenant Sean Barnwell retired in January 2022 after 29 years of service to the City of Branson
- Added the value of FUN to our Department values

# 2022 DEPARTMENT APPLICANTS

THESE TOTALS REFLECT THE APPLICATIONS PROCESSED BY OUR RECRUITMENT COORDINATOR.

	CODE ENFORCEMENT	DISPATCH	POLICE OFFICERS	POLICE SERVICE ASSISTANT	TOTAL
# OF APPLICANTS	38	99	111	38	286
# OF INTERVIEWS	6	51	53	5	115
# OF BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS	1	11	33	3	53
# OF JOB OFFERS	1	4	10	3	14
# OF NEW HIRES	1	3	10	0	11



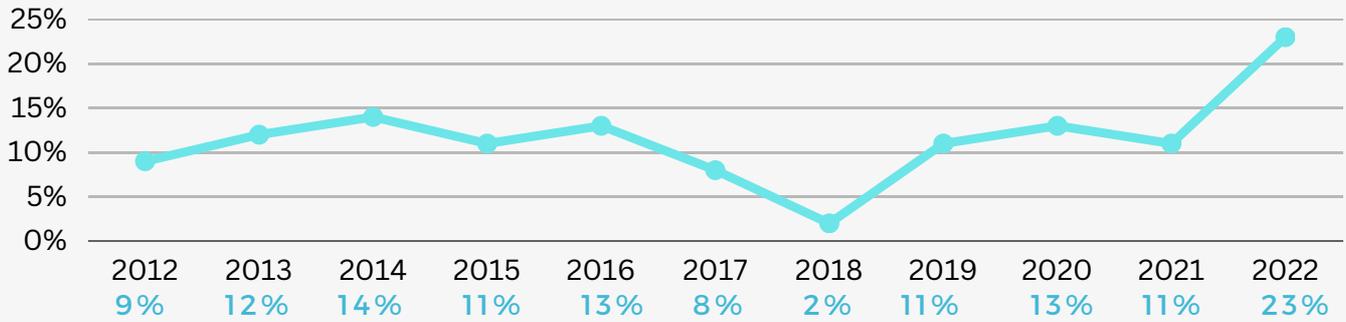
## BREAK-DOWN OF POLICE OFFICER NEW HIRES:

- 2 LATERAL-ENTRY POLICE OFFICERS
- 1 ENTRY-LEVEL POLICE OFFICER
- 7 POLICE OFFICER TRAINEES

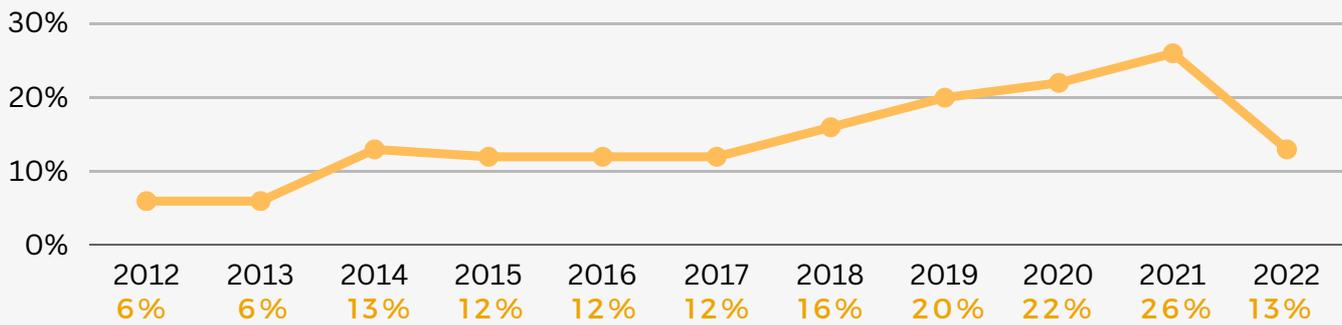
# 2022 ATTRITION & RETENTION

THE CHARTS BELOW REFLECT ATTRITION RATES FOR COMMISSIONED STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF.

COMMISSIONED PERSONNEL



PROFESSIONAL STAFF



# DISPATCH ACTIVITY

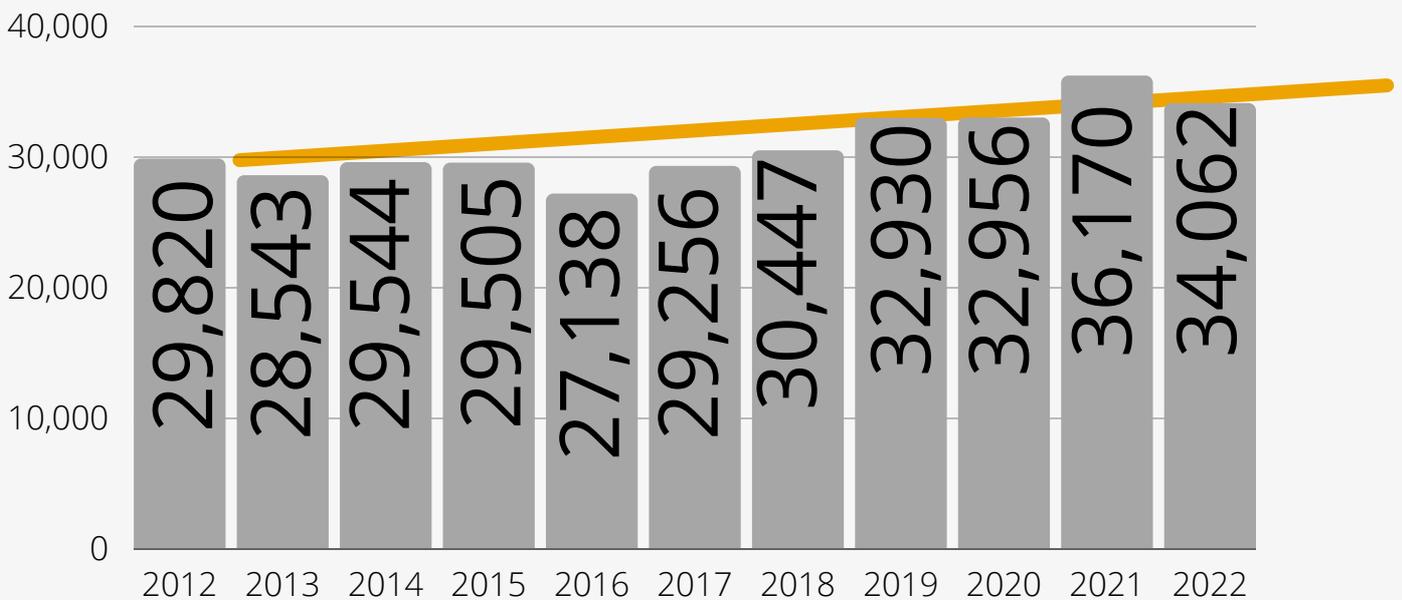


DISPATCHED CALLS, POLICE & FIRE CALLS FOR SERVICE

CALLS FOR SERVICE	2022	2021	% CHANGE
DISPATCH CALLS	34,062	36,170	-5.83%
POLICE CALLS	20,428	20,709	-1.36%
FIRE CALLS	5,901	5,605	+5.28%

CALLS FOR SERVICE BY RESPONSE TYPE		
	OFFICER-INITIATED (EXCL. TRAFFIC)	DISPATCHED
2021	4,923	14,789
2022	5,565	12,926

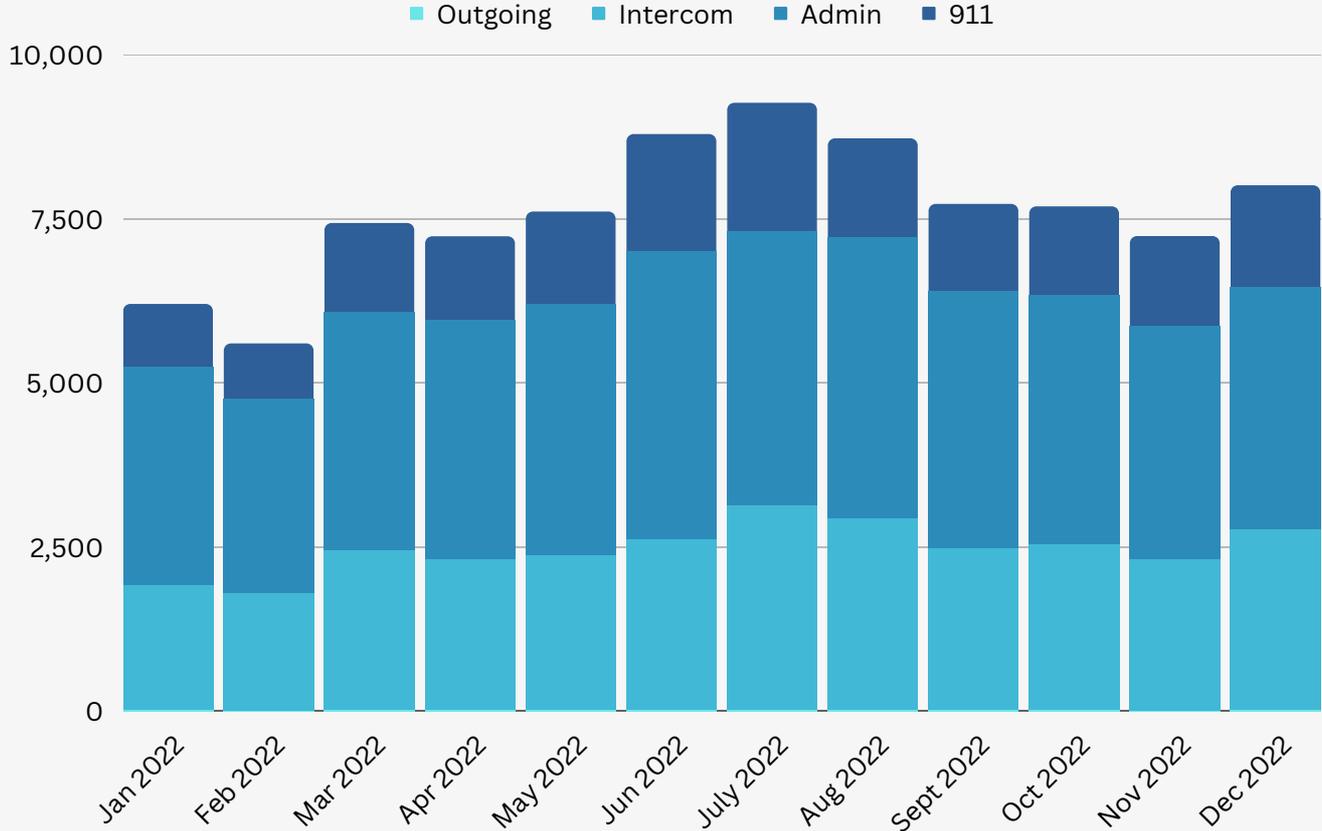
## Dispatch Workload: Calls for Service 2012-2022



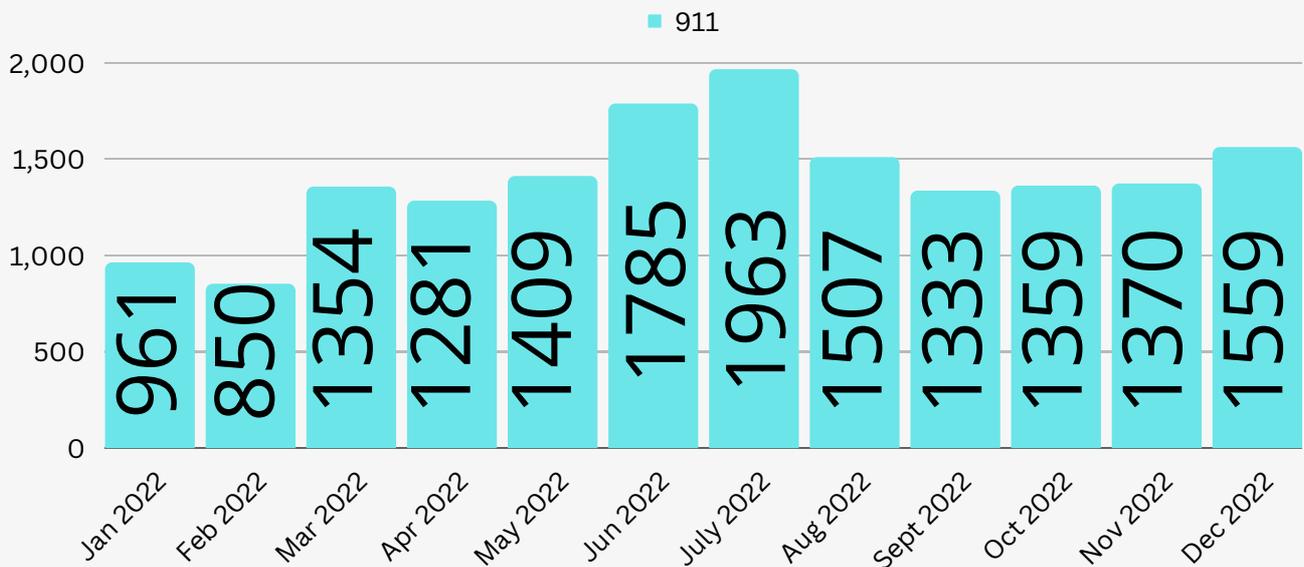
# DISPATCH ACTIVITY

THIS REPORT CONTAINS INFORMATION ON OUR PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT (911 PSAP).

MONTHLY CALL TYPE VOLUME PER LINE GROUP

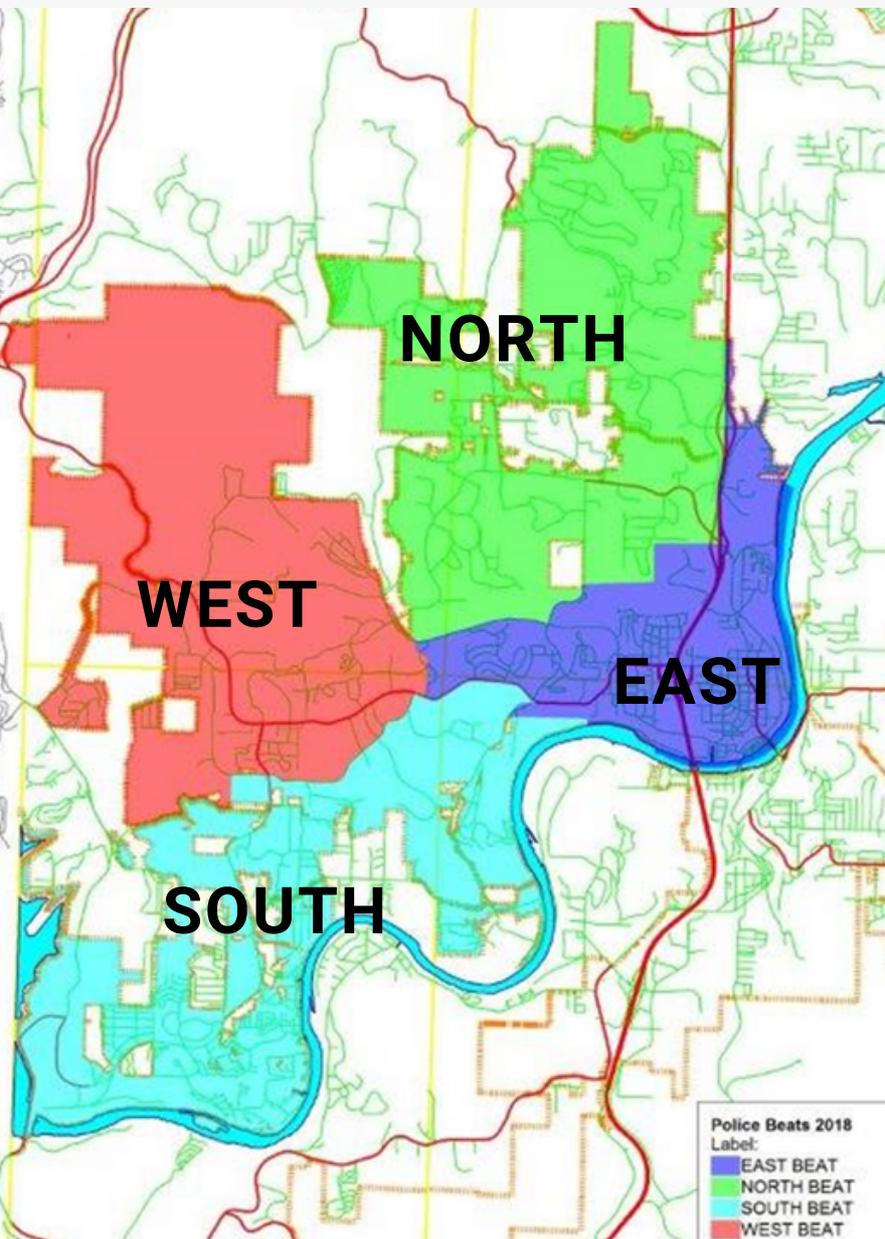


MONTHLY CALL VOLUME FOR 911 CALLS



# FIELD OPERATIONS

CALLS FOR SERVICE FOR 2022 BY SECTOR



## NORTH SECTOR

Sgt. Jones

3,598



## EAST SECTOR

Sgt. Kauffman

6,619



## SOUTH SECTOR

Sgt. Stowers

3,514



## WEST SECTOR

Sgt. Teig

6,426

# 20,428 Total Police Response Calls for Service in 2022

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# ONLINE CRIME REPORTING

In 2020, Branson Police Department introduced online reporting for non-emergency offenses to provide an easy way of reporting after an incident occurred. Our online reports are processed by Police Service Assistants and Police Officers for investigation and follow-up. This service has allowed us to free up time for officers day-to-day for higher priority calls and faster processing for reporting parties. The online reporting systems can be utilized for: civil matters, juvenile issues, forgery, lost property, fraud, past disturbances, theft, ongoing harassment issues, theft from vehicles (if suspect is not present), identity theft, and vandalism/property damage.

In 2023, we will be adding an additional Police Service Assistant to help with our online reports and other case processes and follow up.

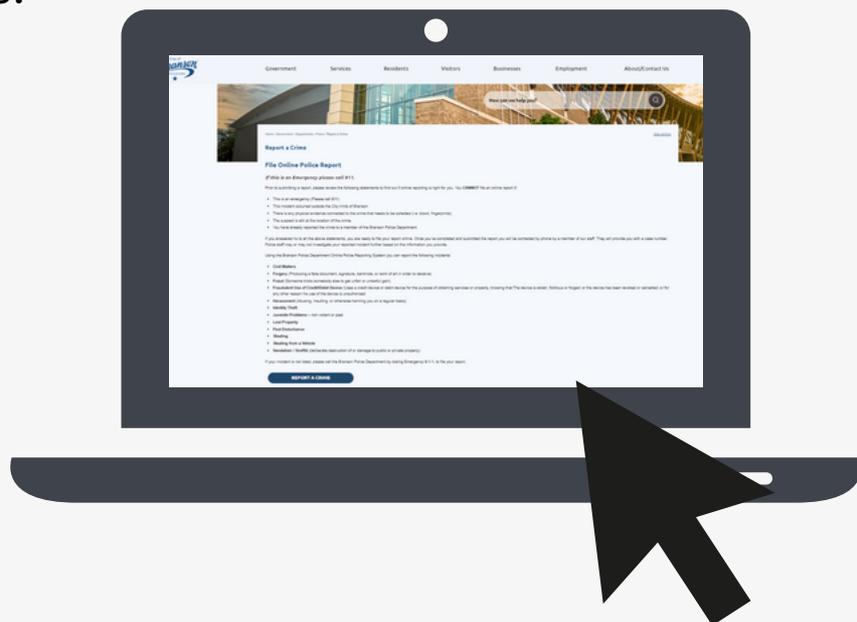
*To make an online report, visit [www.bransonmo.gov/police](http://www.bransonmo.gov/police) and click Online Crime Report.*

2022 Online Report Stats:

# 358

Online reports received

- 280 Administratively closed to Records
- 46 Referred to BPA or TCPA (13% of cases)



# NIBRS REPORT

THE BRANSON POLICE DEPARTMENT SUBMITS FEDERALLY MANDATED NATIONAL INCIDENT BASED REPORTING SYSTEM (NIBRS) DATA EACH MONTH. NIBRS ACCOUNTS FOR ALL REPORTED INCIDENTS TO BPD, REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF INVESTIGATION.

## 2022

GROUP A REPORTED OFFENSES	
435	Crimes Against Persons
1,114	Crimes Against Property
233	Crimes Against Society
<b>1,782</b>	<b>Total Group A Offenses</b>

### GROUP A OFFENSE OVERVIEW

- 0 Murder/Nonnegligent Manslaughter
- 10 Rape (Forcible and Statutory)
- 20 Sexual Assault (All others than rape)
- 7 Robbery
- 15 Kidnapping/Abduction
- 346 Assault (Total)
  - 34 Aggravated Assault
  - 312 Simple Assault
- 53 Burglary/Breaking & Entering
- 694 Larceny (Total)
  - 100 Theft from Motor Vehicles
  - 36 Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts
  - 254 Shoplifting
- 61 Motor Vehicle Theft
- 3 Arson
- 106 Drugs/Narcotics Violations
- 91 Drug Equipment Violations
- 34 Weapon Law Violations

## 2021

GROUP A REPORTED OFFENSES	
358	Crimes Against Persons
960	Crimes Against Property
191	Crimes Against Society
<b>1,509</b>	<b>Total Group A Offenses</b>

### GROUP A OFFENSE OVERVIEW

- 2 Murder/Nonnegligent Manslaughter
- 10 Rape (Forcible and Statutory)
- 18 Sexual Assault (All others than rape)
- 6 Robbery
- 3 Kidnapping/Abduction
- 282 Assault (Total)
  - 35 Aggravated Assault
  - 247 Simple Assault
- 43 Burglary/Breaking & Entering
- 591 Larceny (Total)
  - 140 Theft from Motor Vehicles
  - 72 Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts
  - 179 Shoplifting
- 46 Motor Vehicle Theft
- 1 Arson
- 92 Drugs/Narcotics Violations
- 76 Drug Equipment Violations
- 20 Weapon Law Violations

Note: Group A Offense Overview is not an exhaustive list of the Total Group A Offenses reported. Group B Offenses are only reported in Missouri if they accompany a Group A Offense.

# CRIME TRENDS & DATA ANALYSIS

## 2021 VS 2022 CRIME DATA

- There was an 18% increase in NIBRS reportable offenses for 2022.
  - Crimes Against Persons **21.5% increase**
  - Crimes Against Property **16% increase**
  - Crimes Against Society **22% increase**
- There were significant increases in the following crime types: simple assault, shoplifting, motor vehicle theft, and weapon law violations.
- BPD saw a significant decrease in theft from motor vehicles and theft of vehicle parts. Extra patrol efforts and investigations focused on targeting repeat offenders for these crimes in order to decrease these offenses, such as catalytic converter theft.

## Reported Violent Crime Analysis 2018-2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
HOMICIDE	0	0	0	2	0
MANSLAUGHTER	0	0	0	0	0
RAPE/SEX. ASLT	9	9	16	10	10
ROBBERY	10	16	11	6	7
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	65	46	57	35*	34*
<b>TOTAL MAJOR VIOLENT CRIMES REPORTED</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>51</b>

From 2017 to 2020, BPD experienced an overall 32% decrease in Part I UCR offenses. In 2021, Branson PD transitioned to FBI-standard NIBRS reporting. UCR and NIBRS data cannot be compared 1:1. Overall crime is down when crime type comparisons were conducted for 2021 to 2020. This trend continues in 2022 with a **3% decrease in major violent crime** compared to 2021 crime data.

\*\*Note: With the transition to NIBRS, there were changes to the definition of Aggravated Assault, which can account for the decrease in reported aggravated assault in 2021 and 2022, and increase in simple assault (not pictured in major crimes chart), compared to prior years.

# ARRESTS & CITATIONS

THIS REPORT PROVIDES INFORMATION ON ARRESTS, CITATIONS AND CASE DISPOSITIONS.



## ARRESTS & CITATIONS

	2020	2021	2022
CUSTODY ARREST	917	706	626
BOOK & RELEASE	114*	57	41
CITATIONS	359	214	248

\*2020 B&R numbers were higher than typical due to the COVID-19 pandemic and changes in jail admission policies, leading to an increase in Book & Release.

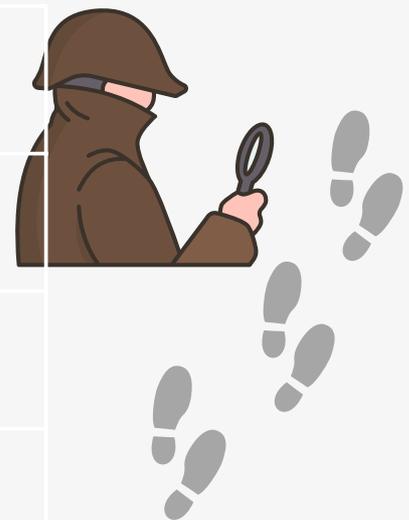
## POLICE ACTIVITY DISPOSITIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2022
CHARGES SENT TO TANEY COUNTY PROSECUTOR	665	513	488	503
CHARGES SENT TO BRANSON CITY PROSECUTOR	1205	834	916	1310
CASE ADMINISTRATIVELY CLOSED TO RECORDS	3959	3308	3570	3106

## REFERRED TO INVESTIGATIONS

### # OF CASES

CASES SENT TO INVESTIGATIONS FOR REVIEW; NO FURTHER ACTION COMPLETED IN INVESTIGATIONS; HANDLED BY PATROL	109
PATROL & INVESTIGATIONS CASES ASSIGNED TO AN INVESTIGATOR IN 2022	125
CLOSED BY INVESTIGATIONS IN 2022; ASSIGNED PRIOR TO 2022	122
CLOSED BY INVESTIGATIONS IN 2022; ASSIGNED IN 2022	202



**Our Investigations Unit handled a total of 324 cases in 2022**



# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

The BPD Criminal Investigations Unit researches and investigates serious cases against persons, property and society, as well as assists Patrol as needed in their regular investigations. The unit is comprised of a Lieutenant, Sergeant, General Detectives, VICE Detectives, and a Crime Analyst.

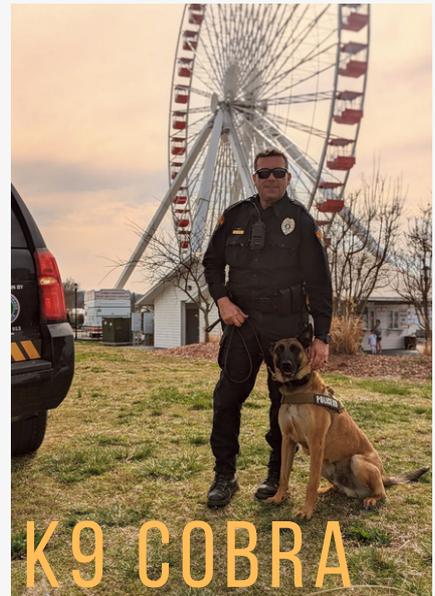
The status of the cases assigned in 2022 is as follows:

Open - Under Investigation	21
Closed - Cleared by Arrest	57
Closed - Cleared by Exception	4
Closed - Completed	69
Closed - Suspended	73
Closed - Unfounded	5

# POLICE K9 UNIT

K9 Cobra has been with the department since 2019 and is a single-purpose K9 specializing in Narcotics.

K9 Flex joined BPD in spring of 2022, completed training in May 2022 and began working as a dual-purpose K9 trained in Patrol & Narcotics.



2022 K9 Team Stats	K9 Cobra	K9 Flex
Controlled Substance Weight	301.10g	451.05g
Weapons Seized	2	7
Public Relations & Demos	13	12
Assist Officers or Other Agencies	97	83
Arrests (Misdemeanor & Felony)	49	58
Sniffs (Vehicles, Residence, Parcel, etc)	38	31

## K9 TYGO RETIRED



On January 14, 2022, officers and staff held a "Last Call" ceremony for K9 Tygo as he had his last official day with Branson Police Department and started his retirement.

K9 Tygo served the Branson community for 7 years with handlers K9 Officer Brendan Gamble and former K9 Officer Frank Hirahara before retiring due to health issues. In his career, K9 Tygo made 222 controlled substance finds and 205 drug paraphernalia finds. His Career Statistics can be found on our Facebook page @BransonPolice.

Tygo was adopted by his handler, Brendan Gamble, and is now loving retirement with his family.

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# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Branson Police Department proudly partners with Branson Public Schools and Taney County Sheriff's Office to ensure there is a School Resource Officer (SRO) at every Branson school campus to protect & build positive relationships with our children.

## **CEDAR RIDGE CAMPUS**

Officer Donathan has been with BPD for 24 years in various capacities, and has served as an SRO the last 2 years. He is responsible for the safety and security of staff, students and visitors. He routinely walks the interior and exterior of the 3 buildings on campus to look for anything suspicious or unusual. He spends time with faculty and administration helping however he can with issues from security to lending a helping hand in any other way. He also enjoys spending time with students to build relationships and encourage them however he can by being a positive influence. *Officer Donathan is also responsible for many of our great community programs - National Night Out, Summer Teen Engagement Program (STEP), Citizens Police Academy, Neighborhood Watch, and the Safe Housing Hotel/Motel Program.*

## **BRANSON JUNIOR HIGH**

Officer Davisson is completing his first year as an SRO, and has served as a Police Officer with BPD for almost 7 years. He is passionate about using his Critical Incident Training (CIT) and Peer Support training to work with kids one-on-one if they're experiencing a crisis or need mental health support and resources. Officer Davisson spends his days identifying and addressing security issues, getting to know students and staff, and will be helping Officer Donathan with the Summer Teen Engagement Program (STEP) in summer 2023.

## **BRANSON HIGH SCHOOL**

Officer Mobley has been with BPD for 19 years, and served 11 of those as an SRO. He has implemented many safety programs and relationship building platforms during his time at Branson High School, such as:

- Safe & Sober program every fall
- ALICE or Active Shooter training for teachers and staff twice a year
- Chess Club - Officer Mobley serves as the Coach!
- Vaping - educating students on the dangers of vaping
- Seatbelt Checks multiple times a year
- Serving as a member of the Branson School District Safety Committee



SRO Darold Donathan  
Cedar Ridge campus



SRO Taylor Davisson  
Branson Junior High



SRO Steven Mobley  
Branson High School

# ANIMAL CONTROL

**BRANSON POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS ONE FULL-TIME ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER.**

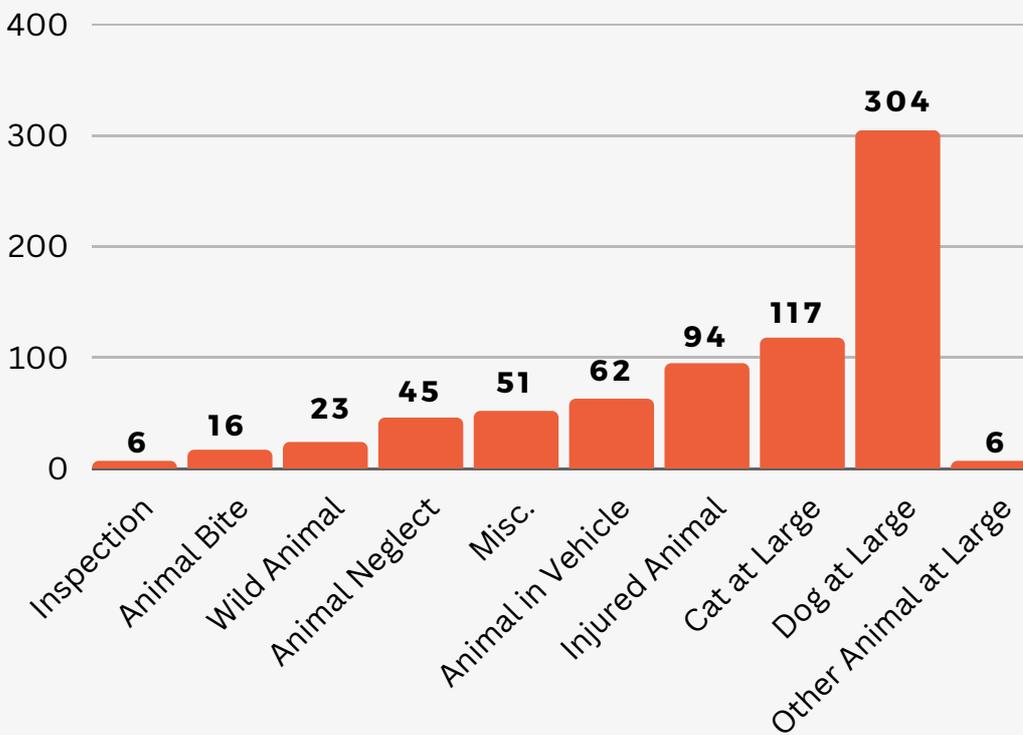
In 2022, Branson Animal Control transported and rescued 121 dogs, 133 cats, 1 hamster, 1 turtle and 0 birds. When our ACO is not on-duty, our Police Services Assistant or Police Officers assist with animal situations and transport lost/found animals to the shelters. BPD responded to 724 animal control related calls in 2022.

Branson Police Department partners with Taney County Animal Shelter for the intake of dogs (and this year, hamsters and turtles), and Shepherd of the Hills Animal Shelter for the intake of cats. ACO Hurst has helped reunite countless pets with their owners. Any wild animals helped go to Conservation or a licensed rehabber.

Branson Animal Control responded to our first dangerous zoo animal on the loose call. The zoo staff were able to handle the situation without the need for our officers or staff to be involved; however, BPD did respond on scene to help locate the animal and on stand-by for safety.



**2022 ANIMAL-RELATED CALLS FOR SERVICE**



# CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Code Enforcement Unit moved back to the Branson Police Department from the City's Community Development group. We are happy to have them back, along with the addition of a third Code Enforcement Officer to the team.

Code Enforcement had a very busy year of lodging establishment inspections and investigating complaint cases to help keep Branson structures safe for our residents and guests. Branson has approximately 123 locations that have/had Lodging Establishment Licenses. Some properties have as many as 25-50+ structures each that Code inspects. Nearly all properties are inspected at least twice a year. Complaint cases are identified by Code Enforcement Officer observation, walk-in, online, telephone and email complaints, or from other City personnel. These case types include nuisance violations and a significant number of structural and life safety-related violations. Code Enforcement also responds to complaints in residential subdivisions, Apartment buildings, condominiums and businesses for property maintenance, nuisance, building, zoning and sign violations.

Visit the Code Enforcement website for more information on Branson Municipal Code, reporting potential violations, requesting an inspection, or to learn more about the unit at: [www.bransonmo.gov/211/Code-Enforcement](http://www.bransonmo.gov/211/Code-Enforcement)

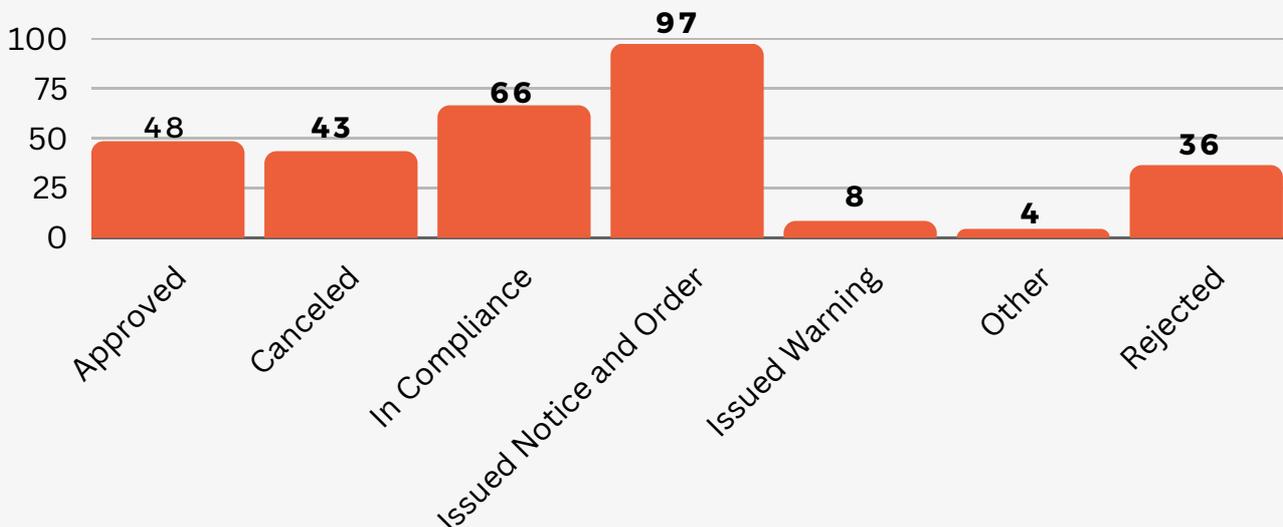


## 2022 COMPLAINT CASES

329 CASES OPENED  
359 CASES CLOSED  
**814 INSPECTIONS COMPLETED**  
223 NOTICE & ORDERS ISSUED

## 2022 CODE ENFORCEMENT LODGING ESTABLISHMENT INSPECTION OUTCOMES

**305 TOTAL COMPLETED**



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# PROPERTY & EVIDENCE

THE PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE UNIT HAS 1 FULL-TIME PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE TECHNICIAN, ALONG WITH A POLICE SERVICE ASSISTANT (PSA) FOR CRIME SCENE RESPONSE.

## - 2022 STATS -

### PROPERTY INTAKE

**1,755 Property Entries**



### PROPERTY DISPOSITIONS

**91 Items auctioned**

**4,621 Items destroyed**

**0 Items donated**

**243 Items returned**

**49 Items transferred to PD**

**5,004 Total Items Disposed**

## - P&E TRAINING -

In spring of 2022, our Crime Scene Technicians (Evidence Technician, Tammy Jones, and Police Services Assistant (PSA), Emilee Norris) attended a Blood Spatter Pattern Analysis training. This training taught techniques for photographing a crime scene, more in-depth analysis of blood spatter, and crime scene processing techniques.

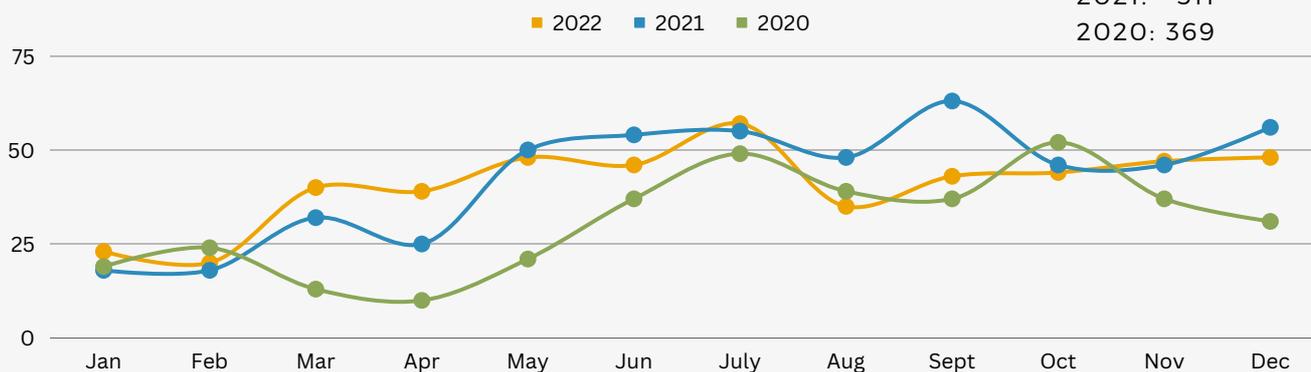
Our Evidence Technician, Tammy Jones, also attended a week-long training academy in fall of 2022 for death investigations to continue her professional development and education on all things evidence-related. During this training, Tammy learned more in-depth techniques on investigating homicides, suicides, baby and child deaths, and autoerotic deaths. This training also taught her how to distinguish between human bones and animal bones for outdoor investigation. Living in the Ozark mountains, we get several calls a year for found bones and it's helpful to be able to distinguish it in the field quickly.

Developing new techniques and knowledge helps relay current techniques and information to our officers for better processing in the field.



### Crashes by Month

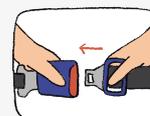
2022: 490  
2021: 511  
2020: 369



### Crashes by Severity

Fatal	2
Injury (Non-Fatal)	139
Property Damage Only	349
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>490</b>

### Driver Safety Device Usage



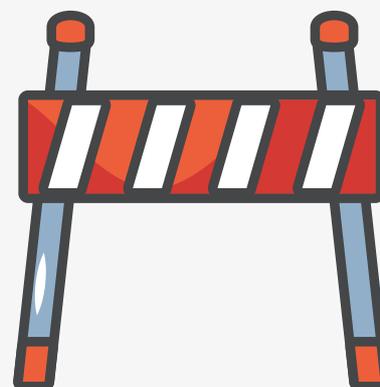
Safety Belt(s) Used	690
Safety Belt(s) Not Used	16
Unknown	127

### MoDOT Traffic Grant Information

Branson Police Department participated in two Missouri Department of Transportation Grant initiatives in 2022: Driving While Intoxicated Saturation Patrols and Hazardous Moving Enforcement. Participation in these initiatives allows us to increase specific enforcement for these traffic and safety issues in our area in addition to current patrol efforts.

## 3 E'S OF TRAFFIC SAFETY

**ENGINEERING**  
**EDUCATION**  
**ENFORCEMENT**



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# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Branson Police Department has many local partners that assist in providing resources and services to community members in need. These community partnerships help us address community needs like mental health crises, substance abuse issues, and family relationship issues.

Our regional partners are: Burrell Behavioral Health, Salvation Army Branson, Cox Health Branson, Elevate Branson, and Communities of Recovery Experience (CORE).

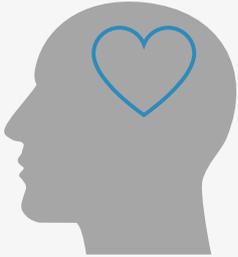
- *Burrell Behavioral Health* has assigned a Community Mental Health Liaison, Lela, to our department. We are able to make referrals to our liaison regarding individuals needing resources or assistance. Lela spends two days a week at our agency doing ride-alongs with officers so that we can have a behavioral health professional on scene at the time of crises or need, and can follow up on referrals while she is working with us.
- *Salvation Army Branson* helps with placement of individuals in dire circumstances without any ability to afford temporary lodging. They also provide a warming and cooling center during extreme temperatures.
- *Cox Health Branson* provides emergency medical care for substance abuse and mental health issues.
- *Elevate Branson* has a variety of resources for individuals with disabilities, substance abuse issues, or needing help for housing, workforce education, and skills development. They also have a Sensory Room available for parents of children with autism and partner with us for the Project Lifesaver program.
- *Communities of Recovery Experience (CORE)* is a resource for us for people with substance abuse issues and in need of temporary housing and means to become employable. They also assist with major community needs in emergency placement situations for large numbers of people, in situations such as natural disaster or closed unsafe lodging.



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# COMMUNITY CHALLENGES

The City of Branson faces many community challenges that affect policing, but require solutions beyond what just law enforcement can do. Through our experiences in the community, BPD believes there is a need for improved mental health services, victim services, and detox services in Branson. These services would help address these community challenges and provide improved resources to the area.



## **Mental Health** *services*

The glaring area of need is involuntary mental health placement in certified mental health treatment centers. Currently, our regional resources do not support these involuntary placements regularly. This creates a revolving door situation in which our officers deal with the same person in crisis multiple times per shift. In the worst case scenarios, we have been unable to prevent suicides or assaults because these individuals were released back into the streets with no treatment.



## **Victim** *services*

This region would benefit greatly from a county-wide Victims Assistance Unit that will be available 24/7 to respond and assist all victims and those in need of immediate support. A Victims Assistance Unit would provide personnel and support to assist victims throughout the entire process involving the criminal justice system/medical/mortuary/etc., from start to finish, securing safe lodging, essential needs, and helping navigate the victim protection programs. Situations this unit would respond to include, but are not limited to: assaults, domestic violence, sexual crimes and human trafficking, robberies, burglaries, deaths of loved ones, drug overdoses, suicides, stranded visitors, homeless and/or drug addicts needing help. This program would positively impact several health-related problems. There is a gap between first responders and the resources designed to help people in family relationship issues, neglect, malnutrition, mental health or substance abuse situations. This program will bridge these gaps by providing instant and continual follow up and dedication to locating useable resources and developing new ones.



## **Detox** *services*

Our community would greatly benefit from improved detox services. Currently, when there is an individual needing to be held for detox for their safety due to high levels of intoxication, there is not always available space to fulfill this need. Regional resources do not currently support the need for involuntary placements like this. The inability to place individuals into detox care could potentially escalate a situation into a life-safety incident or elevate to a crime-related incident from lack of available assistance. This also puts an increased burden on the county jail for detox holds.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Branson Police Department supports several initiatives that help build rapport and partnerships within our community, such as: National Night Out, Citizens Police Academy, Explorer Post, School Resource Officers, Chaplain Program, Volunteer Program, Summer Teen Engagement Program (STEP), and our Community Watch Program.

While these are great programs, true community policing is done in the day-to-day efforts of our officers and staff when we partner together with the community to solve problems the community is experiencing and build those relationships.

Since these day-to-day relationships are vital to our success with the community, the Branson Police Department has prioritized our staffing needs to provide the officers the time necessary to build this daily rapport.



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# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The Branson Police Department offers many special programs to our community in order to strengthen our community relationships and partnerships. Many of them also provide the opportunity for Branson residents and business owners to learn more about the Branson Police Department and our daily operations.

Our Special Programs include youth programs, adult programs, crime prevention programs, safety programs, and allow us to be more involved in our community.

For more information on our Special Programs and Crime Prevention resources, visit our website at [www.bransonmo.gov/police](http://www.bransonmo.gov/police) and click on Special Programs.

BPD is proud to offer the following programs:

- Citizens Police Academy
- Law Enforcement Torch Run with Special Olympics Missouri
- Summer Teen Engagement Program (STEP)
- Project Lifesaver
- Vitals App
- DEA Drug Takeback Events
- National Night Out
- Chaplain Services
- Shop with a Hero with Salvation Army
- Explorer Program
- Hire An Officer
- Neighborhood Watch
- Crime Prevention
- ALICE Active Shooter Program

## CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Citizen Police Academy offers a behind-the-scenes look at the Branson Police Department and will give participants hands-on experiences and insights into the department's patrol procedures, narcotics investigations, crime scene processing, traffic enforcement, accident investigation and SWAT.

Participants will also get to meet our K-9 team and take a tour of the department. At the conclusion of the program, graduates will have the opportunity to ride with a police officer and to experience policing from an Officer's perspective. Participation in the Ride-along program is not required but is available to those who are interested

The Citizen Police Academy is a 12-week program that is offered each fall. Interested candidates must be at least 21 years old and have no felony convictions. Priority will be given to people who live or work in the City of Branson.





## LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

Branson Police Department is a proud partner with Special Olympics Missouri through the Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR). LETR raises awareness and funds for the Special Olympics Missouri movement in our southwest region.

Throughout the year, Branson personnel participate in the planning and organization of several fundraising events, such as Tip-A-Cop and Polar Plunge. This is also a great opportunity for community building and connecting with the Special Olympics Missouri community.

## STEP PROGRAM

The Summer Teen Engagement Program (S.T.E.P.) consists of identifying 12 local “at risk” teenagers and offer them a week long opportunity of positive police interaction and mentoring while participating in some fun local attractions.

We also make time for daily life lesson discussions on topics such as leadership, integrity and character.

Branson Police Department is grateful for our community partners that make hosting this program possible for our Branson youth.





## PROJECT LIFESAVER

In 2018, The Branson Police Department partnered with Project Lifesaver and launched the premier search and rescue program specifically designed for “at risk” individuals prone to the life-threatening behavior of wandering. Wandering is walking away or leaving with no notice to anyone. The program’s objective is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children with the propensity to wander due to a cognitive condition. The program utilizes a personalized custom fitted radio receiver capable of tracking the individual’s

location. The program can reduce search times from hours to mere minutes.

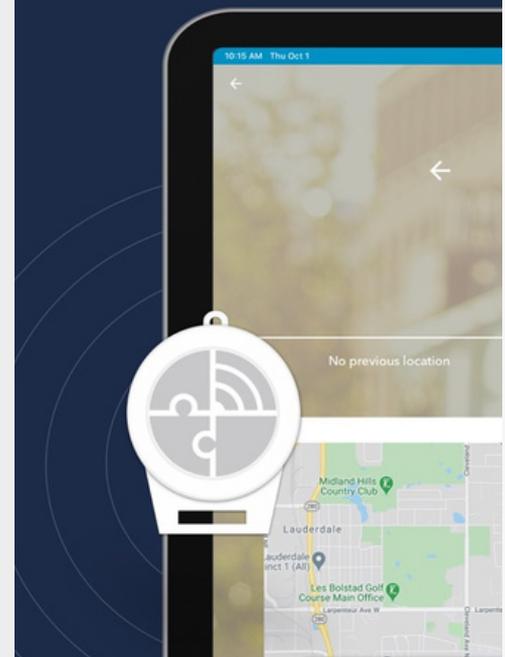
Branson Police Officers have been certified by Project Lifesaver and trained to respond to incidents involving children and adults with autism, Alzheimer’s, and other cognitive conditions. This training provides first responders an understanding of these conditions and potential conditions so we are better able to interact with this population in a more effective and successful manner.

Project Lifesaver program applications program are currently being accepted. Applications are available on the City of Branson website or applications may be picked up at the Police Department.

## VITALS APP

Vitals is a new app-based service that will allow Branson Police Officers to better interact with residents or guests who have special conditions or disabilities that make them vulnerable at times. This program uses Bluetooth technology to alert police if they are in the vicinity of any Vitals enrollees. Officers will have instant access to important information like medical information or behavior triggers on their smart phones that will help them de-escalate or resolve a situation by providing a response catered to a person’s specific needs and vulnerabilities. This program is being funded by the local Viet Nam Veterans group, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 913 who realized the importance of a service like this that is effective for any special needs, including war heroes who may have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Learn more at [bransonmo.gov/834/Vitals-App](http://bransonmo.gov/834/Vitals-App)

Real-time digital medical ID to bridging the information gap between first responders and vulnerable individuals



# DEA DRUG TAKEBACK



The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Program aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the public about the potential for abuse of medications.

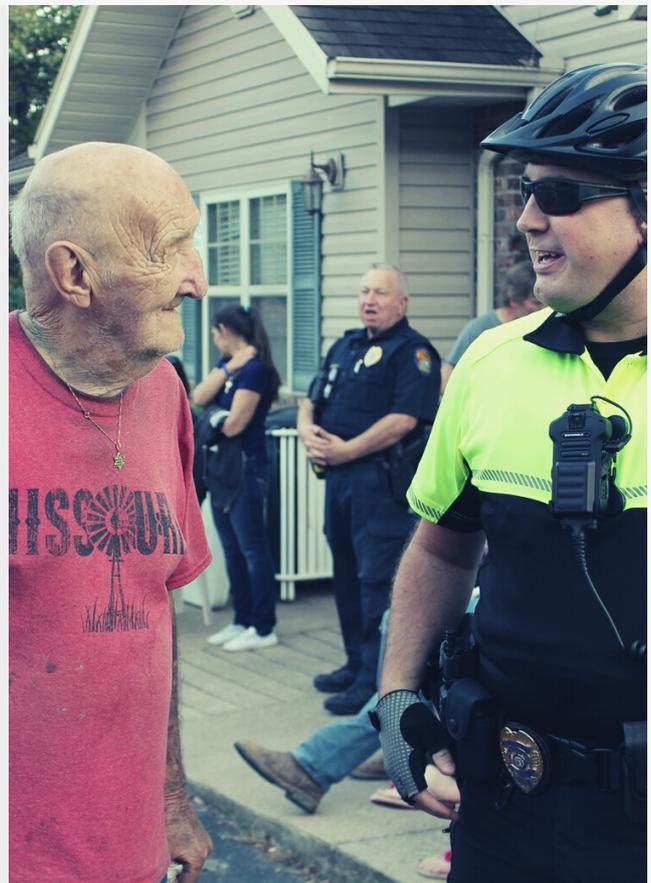
The Branson Police Department actively participates in the National Prescription Drug Take-Back and has positioned a Drug Take Back Receptacle in the Police Department. The receptacle is available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week in the Police Department first floor lobby at 110 W Maddux.

# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

We celebrate National Night Out on the first Tuesday in October. Neighborhoods throughout Branson will host block parties, cookouts and various other community events, visits from emergency personnel and much, much more.

If you would like more information about National Night Out and to find out how you can get involved, contact Officer Darold Donathan at 417-337-8503 or [ddonathan@bransonmo.gov](mailto:ddonathan@bransonmo.gov)





## CHAPLAIN SERVICES

The Police Chaplain Program is a partnership with various community faith-based leaders who respond and assist police and other first responders providing an overall better quality to the citizens of cities and communities.

Our goal is that our police/clergy partnership working together during times of crisis or incidents provides a more comprehensive response to those in crisis/need. Our Police Chaplains perform tasks of a more emotional, social or spiritual nature while the officers handle tasks specific to the law enforcement role.

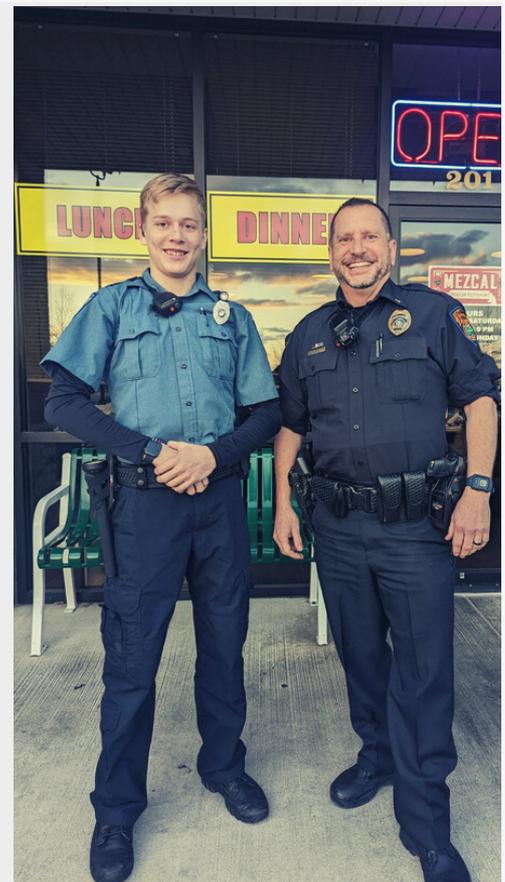
The role of the Chaplain is to be the 'balancer.' Our Police Chaplains provide support for Police Officer and civilians in their needs. Chaplains provide appropriate assistance, advice, comfort, counsel, and referrals to those in need who may request support.

For additional information please contact EJ Jones at (417) 337-8507 [ejones@bransonmo.gov](mailto:ejones@bransonmo.gov)

## EXPLORER PROGRAM

Law Enforcement Exploring is the preeminent career orientation and experience program for young people contemplating a career in the field of criminal justice. Its mission is to offer young adults, ages 14-21, interested in a career in law enforcement a personal awareness of the criminal justice system through training, practical experiences and other activities.

The Branson Police Department Law Enforcement Exploring is a hands-on program that provides young adults a personal awareness of the criminal justice system through training, practical experiences, competition, and other activities. Additionally, our program promotes personal growth through character development, respect for the rule of law, physical fitness, good citizenship, and patriotism.





## SHOP WITH A HERO

Shop with a Hero is an event to help local Taney County youth have a better Christmas. The Branson Police Department began the program in 2003. It consists of local "Heroes" such as police, fire, EMT, and current and Veteran U.S. military, being paired up with a child and shopping for Christmas gifts for the child.

The event takes place in December at both Wal-Mart stores in Branson. The Hero accompanies the child while they shop and he/she are given \$100.00 to spend on gifts for themselves. There are volunteers at a gift wrapping station so they can take their presents home for Christmas Day. After, the Hero and children get to eat dinner and treats together.

The program is funded entirely by donations from local donors and our local Wal-Mart stores. The goal each year is to be able to assist approximately 150 children. This involves more than just the children shopping; it builds positive relationships between emergency responders and the children and is always a fun event for all!

## HIRE-AN-OFFICER

Officers are available for hire at a rate of \$40 per hour. The city reserves the right to adjust this rate as necessary. Officers hired for extra-duty employment will be assigned in uniform with a patrol vehicle. In this status, they are fully empowered to enforce any law as they would during a normally assigned shift.

By special request, Officers can be provided in plain clothes attire.

To hire an officer, please contact the office of the Chief of Police, 417-337-8532.

A written agreement with the City of Branson is required for these services. Payment is made to the City of Branson and not directly to the officers.



# COMMUNITY WATCH



Branson Police Department has a Community Watch program where our goal is to assist you in resolving issues, in effort to provide you with the best possible quality of life within your neighborhood. This is a program for citizens, run by citizens.

Community Watch involves:

- A proactive approach to neighbors getting to know each other and working together to reduce crime.
- Educating neighbors to be more alert in recognizing suspicious activities and taking the appropriate actions.
- Implementing other crime deterrents and basic home security measures.

If you are interested in steps you can take to help minimize criminal activity where you live, or would like to know about the crime reduction programs Branson Police Department already have in place, contact Officer Darold Donathan at (417) 337-8503 or [ddonathan@bransonmo.gov](mailto:ddonathan@bransonmo.gov).

Additionally, BPD partners with the Nextdoor App and Neighbors by Ring as free, digital neighborhood watch platforms that you can share and view important crime and safety information in your neighborhood.

# CRIME PREVENTION

Did you know the Branson Police Department can assist Branson residents and businesses with information and presentations on residential, neighborhood, and business crime prevention?.

If you'd like someone from our agency to present at an HOA meeting, neighborhood meeting or business meeting, contact us at [police@bransonmo.gov](mailto:police@bransonmo.gov)

You can find the following crime prevention resources on our website:

- CPTED Home Security Checklist - Ensure your home is secure!
- Child ID Kit - do this 1=2 times a year to save crucial time if your child goes missing
- Operation Identification - Log serial numbers of electronics, tools, firearms and property in case it goes missing or gets stolen.
- Flock Program - ALPR to assist in solving & reducing crime. Also available to HOA, schools, and businesses.



## ALICE TRAINING FOR ACTIVE THREATS

Branson Police Department offers ALICE Training to churches, schools, healthcare facilities, and businesses in our community to help them prepare to respond to violence with confidence and resilience. The ALICE Training program is active threat training. Our department has several ALICE Certified instructors. This program is available to our community free of charge.

ALICE training offers a proactive, options-based response strategy and can help prepare for the worst situations.

To schedule a training, please contact our ALICE Training Coordinator, Sergeant Stowers, at [mstowers@bransonmo.gov](mailto:mstowers@bransonmo.gov) or visit our website [www.branstonmo.gov/police](http://www.branstonmo.gov/police) and complete the interest form under Special Programs.



**Churches**



**Schools**



**Healthcare Facilities**



**Businesses**

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# GRANTS & DONATIONS

BRANSON POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED NUMEROUS GENEROUS GRANTS IN 2022, TOTALING \$62,506.10, AND \$14,241.00 IN DONATIONS. THESE ALLOW US TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES THAT ARE NOT ALLOCATED IN THE BUDGET.



## GRANTS

MoDot Driving While Intoxicated Saturation Patrols	\$5,950.00
MoDot Hazardous Moving Enforcement	\$5,250.00
MO DOJ Bulletproof Vest Partnership	\$5,232.50
US Secret Service Treasury Funds Grant	\$500.00
MO DPS Protection of Soft Targets/Crowded Places	\$15,000.00
MO DPS Local Violent Crime Prevention	\$22,800.00
National Police Dog Foundation	\$2,500.00
Livescan Equipment	\$5,273.60
	<b>\$62,506.10 TOTAL GRANTS</b>

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## DONATIONS

Private (various)	\$2,621.00
Shop with a Hero community donations	\$11,620.00
	<b>\$14,241.00 TOTAL DONATIONS</b>

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# SPECIAL PROJECTS

## FLOCK SAFETY PROGRAM

In 2022, BPD completed several special projects that will assist with our goals, vision and priorities. With our Missouri Department of Public Safety Local Violent Crime Prevention Grant, we started our Flock Safety Program. We have installed automated license plate reading (ALPR) cameras around the City of Branson to help solve and reduce crime. The new cameras are built by Flock Safety, the public safety technology company that helps neighborhoods, communities, and law enforcement work together to fight crime. Flock Safety ALPR cameras send a real-time alert to law enforcement when a stolen car or known wanted suspect from a local, state or national crime database is detected. They can also alert to vehicles associated with a missing person in an AMBER or Silver Alert. BPD selected Flock Safety for our ALPR initiative due to their privacy features and advanced technology. "We are excited to partner with Flock Safety and look forward to this system to help us in our goal of making Branson safer. One of the main reasons we chose Flock was because of their cost-effective programs for Home Owners Associations and businesses, which serves as a force multiplier for Branson PD. We will be striving to grow this program by encouraging Branson entities to consider adding these systems to their areas," said Branson Police Chief Eric Schmitt.



To learn more about our program or how your school, business or HOA can participate in the program, visit [www.bransonmo.gov/flock](http://www.bransonmo.gov/flock)

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## RIFLE PURCHASE PROGRAM



Branson Police Department started a rifle purchase program where participating officers can purchase individually-owned rifles after completing payroll deductions to reimburse the department for the purchased rifles. The program allowed our agency to transition away from the Ruger Mini 14s and outfit patrol vehicles with shotguns. The program has provided the opportunity for officers to purchase modern rifles and set them up custom for them. After completing a request for proposal (RFP) process through the City,

BPD selected Sons of Liberty for this purchase program and officers can select from a list of approved rifles and accessories. This program has several advantages for both the department and our officers.

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## VEHICLE BARRIERS

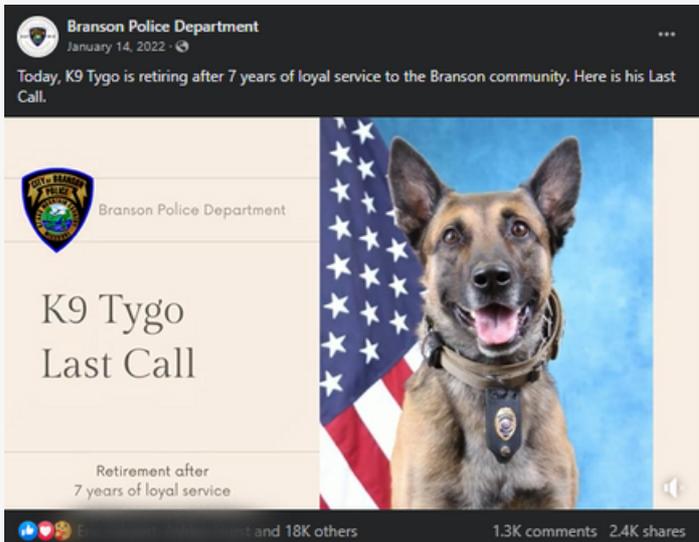
Partnering with Public Works, BPD identified several pieces of equipment to assist in planned road closures. We received a Regional Homeland Security Grant to purchase vehicle barricades to help assist us in protecting our citizens at parades or other special events. We secured the grant and Public Works handles the storage and deployment based on event needs. These barriers are also available to other local agencies through the request of Region D Homeland Security. In the fall of 2022, we deployed two different types of barricades to prevent vehicle intrusions at the Veterans Parade and Adoration Parade.

- STAR barriers have three steel spikes specifically designed to stop a threat vehicle. These can be strung together to form blockades to guide or stop traffic. These types of barriers are deployed on our lower-speed roadways.
- MVB3X barriers are a modular system that is yellow and black. These types of barriers are deployed on our higher-speed roadways and can stop passenger vehicles, and trucks up to 7.5 tons.

# SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is one of the best mediums for providing quick, reliable information to our community and visitors. It also allows us to provide additional transparency, hold open conversations, and educate our community on crime and safety, as well as crime prevention efforts. Social media is part of the overall communication strategy for the Branson Police Department that is aligned with the City of Branson's communication strategy. Increasing communication through this accurate, reliable and transparent information will hopefully continue to increase the public trust with BPD and the City of Branson.

Branson Police Department has official social media pages on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Instagram, Nextdoor and Neighbors by Ring.



## K9 Tygo Retirement Post Performance Metrics

18,000 Reactions  
 1,300 Comments  
 2,400 Shares  
 85,000 Post Engagements  
**594,000 Total Reach**



find us on social media



@BransonPolice

# TRAINING PROGRAM

Branson Police Department is steadily working on improving our training program with the intent on becoming the best-trained agency in the region. It is a goal of ours over the next two years. We would like to obtain additional manpower and staffing levels to move to new schedules for officers. This would allow an overlap in patrol days to accommodate for additional training time for officers. This also provides dedicated training days for SWAT and other specialty units.

Our goal in 2023 is to expand the training program with more in-service training, better quality training and a wider variety of training and development opportunities for officers and professional staff. Our long-term goal is to be the premier training agency in the region.



## - TRAINING STATS -

	POST	In-Service
Commissioned Personnel	3414.75	1110
Dispatch Personnel	-	377.25
Civilian Personnel	-	163.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3414.75</b>	<b>1651.15</b>

**5065.9**  
**TOTAL**  
**HOURS**  
 (equivalent to 211 full days)

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# ANNUAL AWARDS RECOGNITION

BPD HELD ITS THIRD ANNUAL BANQUET & AWARDS CEREMONY ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2023 AT THE HILTON CONVENTION CENTER TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE ALL EMPLOYEES FOR THEIR EXCELLENT SERVICE.



**NORM TEED**  
CODE ENFORCEMENT  
OFFICER



**TANNER MUCKENTHALER**  
PATROL SERGEANT



**JEREMY DIXON**  
POLICE OFFICER

## CITIZEN COMMENDATIONS

For risking their own safety to assist BPD.

- Shane Childress
- Joseph Sapp

## PETE & CAROLYN WALDO COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARD

- Lela Cook

## SAFE DRIVING AWARD

For accident-free, safe driving.

- Officer Mike Sheehan (5 years)
- Sergeant Tanner Muckenthaler (5 years)
- Sergeant Stan Kauffman (15 years)

## CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

- Officer Amber Edie
- Dispatcher Mike Staworski
- Officer Mindy Shook
- Officer BJ Russell
- Sergeant Caleb Teig
- Property & Evidence Tech. Tammy Jones

## LIFESAVING AWARD

- Officer Kaleb Deskins
- Officer Brendan Gamble
- Officer Zach Hamilton
- Officer Michael Wachob

## MEDAL OF MERIT

- Officer Steven Parrish
- Sergeant Caleb Teig
- Sergeant Greg Yartz

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

- Crime Analyst Kristen Burton
- Sergeant Stan Kauffman
- Dispatcher John Pate
- Police Officer Trainee Bill Tyler

## MEDAL OF VALOR

- Officer Brendan Gamble
- Sergeant Tanner Muckenthaler

# 2023 DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES

1. **GIVE EMPLOYEES A VOICE** - This has already evolved into a project to "rebrand" the police department. Our Uniform Committee is working on a redesign of many aspects of our uniforms for both civilian and sworn personnel.
2. **IMPROVE STAFFING** - We are on our way to being the closest to 'fully staffed' as our department has been in the last 5 years. This will allow us to better prioritize training, officer & staff wellness, and offer even better service to the community.
3. **ENSURE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS A FUN PLACE TO WORK** - BPD has added the value of "FUN" to our agency values, and we mean it! This results in employees that enjoy their jobs and creates stronger bonds with each other and our community. We strive for a family atmosphere that is respectful, encourages creativity, team-building, and allows our people to pursue happiness every day.
4. **MAINTAIN EXCELLENT POLICE SERVICE FOR THE COMMUNITY** - BPD strives to provide top-notch service to our residents and visitors, and is working to continually improve.



"BRANSON POLICE DEPARTMENT IS WELL ON THE WAY TO BEING THE LEADING LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDSETTING AGENCY IN THE REGION."

- POLICE CHIEF ERIC SCHMITT