



2021 Annual Report

POLICE

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City Leadership



Mayor
Larry Milton



City Administrator
Stan Dobbins

The mayor is the presiding officer of the Board of Aldermen. The City Administrator is responsible for administration and management of the government business, officers, and employees of the City. Board of Aldermen meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers.



Assistant City
Administrator
John Manning



Bill Skains
Alderman
Ward I



Cody Fenton
Alderman
Ward II



Clay Cooper
Alderman
Ward I



Jamie Whiteis
Alderman
Ward III



Jeff Seay
Alderman
Ward II



Ruth Denham
Alderman
Ward III



CHIEF'S MESSAGE

It's my honor to present the Branson Police Department 2021 Annual Report. As a department, we are proud of our 2021 accomplishments and continue our pledge to provide the best police service available.

We looked toward 2021 through the lenses of optimism hoping the pandemic had passed and operations would normalize. Unfortunately, the department experienced many of the challenges departments across the country experienced: staffing shortages and increased workloads. 2021 staffing levels receded to 2018 levels as we struggled to maintain staffing and customer service delivery. The department focused on innovative recruiting processes and measures to attract qualified applicants. We launched initiatives to recruit qualified applicants and remain committed to providing quality police services. We will employ all reasonable measures to recruit/hire/train qualified sworn personnel.

This year, staff exceeded expectations. Personnel worked short staffed, volunteered for mandatory overtime to cover shifts, exchanged duty to cover vacations all while maintaining a positive outlook. I'm extremely proud of our personnel, their dedication, and commitment to our community. As we close out 2021, I'm confident we are moving in the right direction and our upward trajectory is encouraging to all.

In general, 2021 was a difficult year for law enforcement across the country. Our community stood with us; supported us; and encouraged us all year. Branson residents are the best and we enjoy positive police/community relationships. We will continue to work hard to earn the right to police our community. On behalf of the men and women of the Branson Police Department I wish to thank our community for their very intentional support.

BRANSON POLICING PHILOSOPHY

The Branson Police Department's policing philosophy aligns with the principles of procedural justice. We strive to make every decision utilizing: Fairness, Transparency, Voice, and Impartiality.





OUR 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.

OUR 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.

OUR 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.

SERVICE



INTEGRITY



ACCOUNTABILITY



2021 Highlights

- In May, the department completed the most challenging and complex investigation in our history working to solve a double homicide. The department partnered with numerous local, state, and federal agencies.
- 25% increase in 911 calls over 2020.
- Continued reduction in crime over five year analysis.
- Branson experienced a dramatic increase in tourism activity in 2021.
- Transitioned to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS).
- Converted to the Missouri Statewide Interoperability Network (MOSWIN).
- Established the Ozark Mountain Peer Support Team, positively impacting 40 first responders and counting.
- Achieved 1 to 1 ratio in evidence management.
- Submitted and cleared all backlogged untested sexual assault kits. Branson Police is the regional collection hub for untested sexual assault kits.
- Hired 3 sworn personnel; 5 police trainees in the last quarter.
- K9 Cobra has re-certified as a team with Officer Jason Ward in drug/narcotic detection.
- Hosted 2nd Annual Summer Teen Engagement Program (STEP).
- Partnered with 17 neighborhoods for National Night Out.

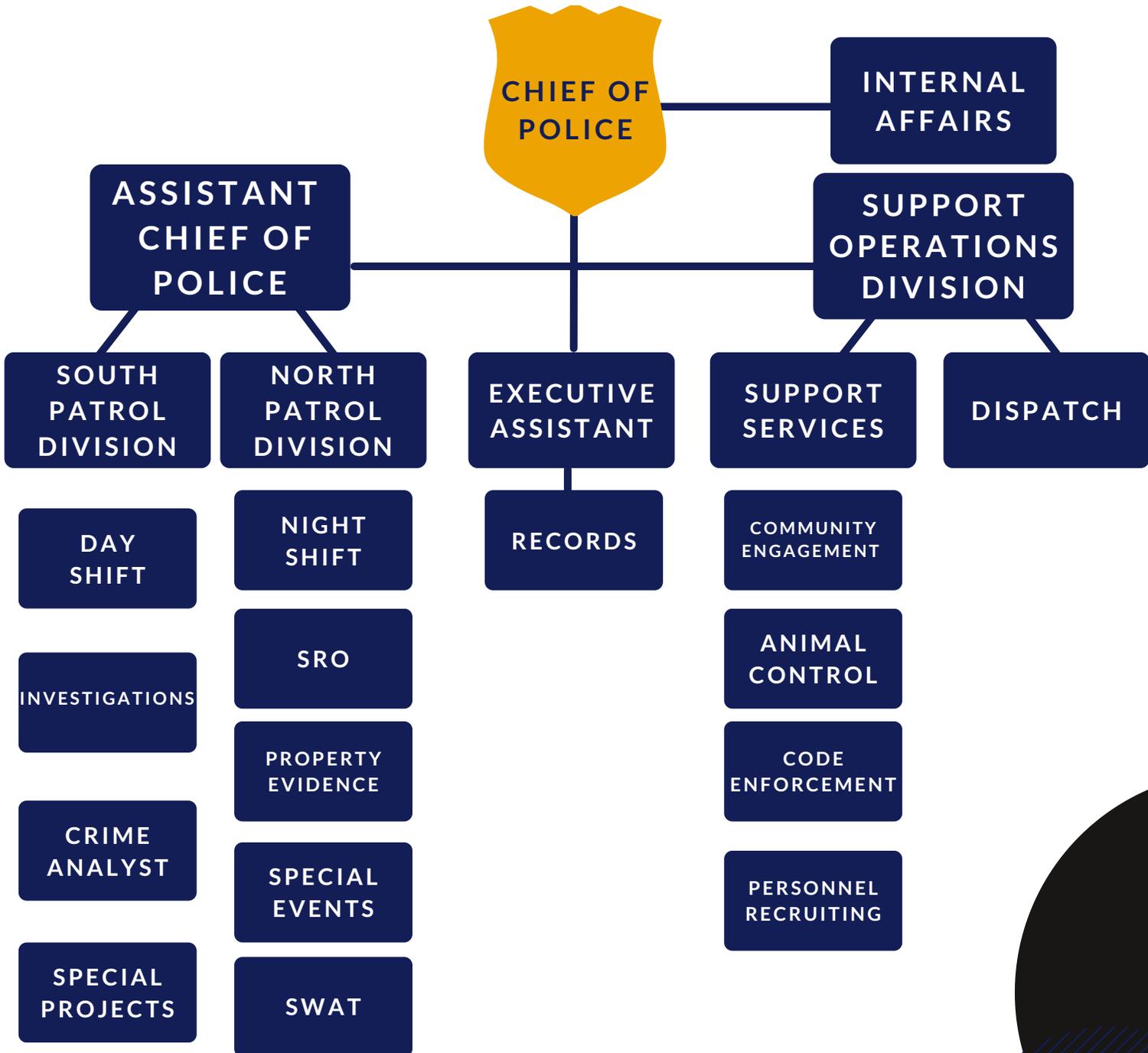


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@BransonPolice

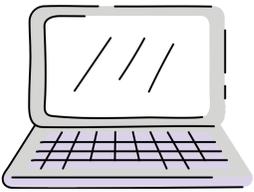
Organizational Chart



Advancing with Modern Policing

A major challenge in modern policing is overcoming staffing challenges while workload maintains or increases. Branson is not immune to these difficulties. The initiatives the Branson Police Department implemented to overcome these challenges and increase our efficiency include:

ONLINE CRIME REPORTING



In 2020, the department launched an Online Crime Report feature. Citizens are able to report minor crimes online. These are investigated by staff and help take initial reports that do not need a physical officer response.

CRIME & DATA ANALYSIS



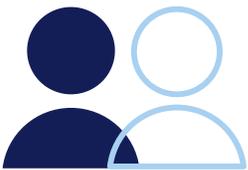
Command staff and supervisors utilize data-driven intelligence to review staffing, call volume, crime data, and administrative performance measures to direct resources best fitting the department and community needs.

POLICY CHANGES



The department constantly reviews policy and procedure to ensure alignment with best practices and industry standards. One example is the handling of crash investigations. The department no longer investigates minor crashes with no injuries. As a courtesy, staff provide citizens state reportable forms.

POLICE SERVICES ASSISTANT



The Police Services Assistant position was created to support department needs. This position is charged with handling minor tasks traditionally assigned to sworn officers. The PSA allows officers more time to manage higher priority calls.

2021 Department Applicants



POLICE



DISPATCH

# OF APPLICANTS	60	87
# OF INTERVIEWS	31	25
# OF BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS	21	9
# OF JOB OFFERS	9	4
# OF NEW HIRES	8	3

our transition to

MOSWIN COMMUNICATIONS & NIBRS CRIME REPORTING

MOSWIN COMMUNICATIONS



The Missouri Statewide Interoperability Network (MOSWIN) is a system that provides coverage throughout Missouri's 114 counties and across the state. This provides a statewide interoperable platform to help agencies achieve communications with local, state, regional and federal agencies as needed. Branson Police Department's move to MOSWIN has allowed us to improve department communications.

NIBRS CRIME REPORTING

The UCR Program has transitioned from the Summary Reporting System (SRS) to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) beginning January 1, 2021. The FBI's transition to a NIBRS-only data collection will improve the nation's crime data through rich details and greater specificity of offenses. The purpose of NIBRS is to provide statistics about crime so law enforcement agencies, communities, citizens, researchers, and public leaders can make well-informed decisions about how to deal with crime.



A HISTORICAL LOOK AT DISPATCH

Our Dispatch Unit was established as a full-time communications center in 1978. All incoming calls for service were manually logged on time cards, and all information was logged by handwriting on various forms. In 2002, BPD received Computer Aided Dispatching (CAD) software, which allowed all information to be entered into a computer for storage and be transferred to a Records Management System (RMS) for basic information for reporting.

2008

2011

10 years later

2021

1 Dispatch Supervisor
1 Lead Dispatcher
8 Dispatchers

1 Dispatch Supervisor
11 Dispatchers

1 Dispatch Supervisor
11 Dispatchers

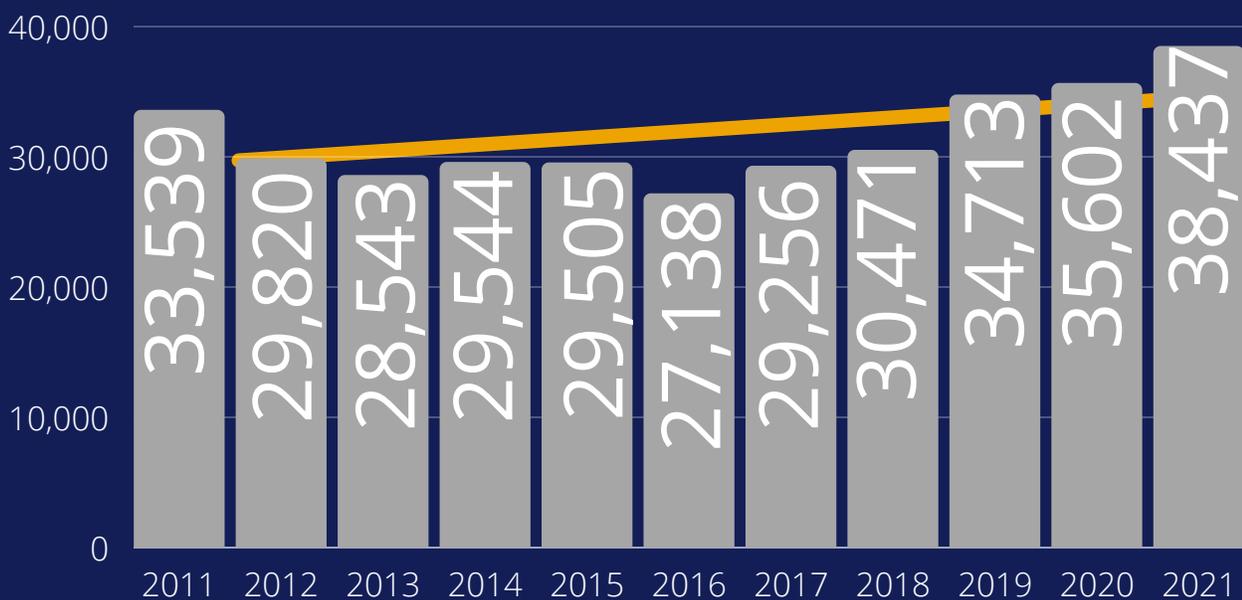
10 Communications Staff

12 Communications Staff

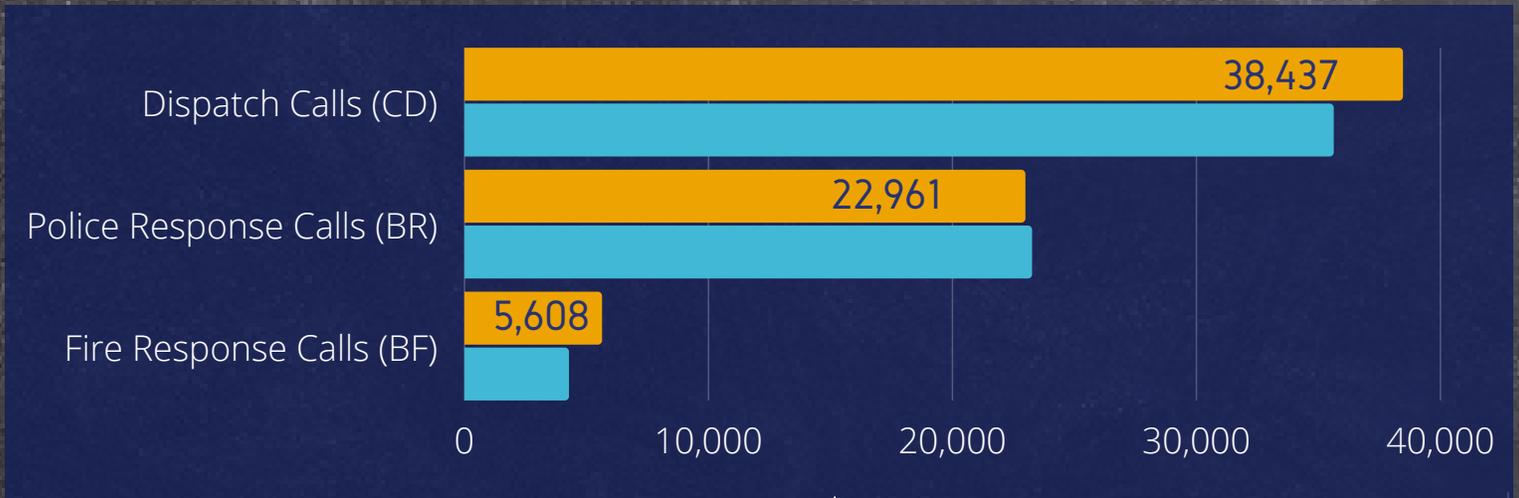
12 Communications Staff



Dispatch Workload: Calls for Service 2011-2021



Dispatch Activity



CALLS FOR SERVICE	2020	2021	% CHANGE
DISPATCH CALLS	35,602	38,437	+7.96%
POLICE CALLS	23,235	22,961	-1.18%
FIRE CALLS	4,260	5,608	+31.64%

■ 2021 CFS DATA
■ 2020 CFS DATA
+7.96% INCREASE IN DISPATCH ACTIVITY

CALLS FOR SERVICE BY RESPONSE TYPE

	OFFICER-INITIATED (EXCL. TRAFFIC)	DISPATCHED
2021	3,416	14,769
2020	4,104	14,278



Top Police Response Incident Types

OFFICER-INITIATED

- 1 - Suspicious Activity
- 2 - Information
- 3 - Code Inspection
- 4 - Extra Patrol
- 5 - Motorist Assist

DISPATCHED

- 1 - Suspicious Activity
- 2 - Check well-being
- 3 - Stealing
- 4 - Disturbance
- 5 - 911 Hang-up

PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT (911 PSAP)

The Police Department continues to encourage citizens to Dial 911 for all Public Safety services, no matter the urgency of the citizen's need.

	Total 2021 911 Calls	Transfer to TCSO	Transfer to BPD	Transfer to TCAD	Transfer to Other
Branson PD	20,049	895	-	3,224	849
Taney Co	23,707	-	2,807	5,071	2,322

DISPATCH ACTIVITY	2020	2021
TOTAL INCOMING CALLS	63,668	67,946
911 CALLS	15,996	20,049
ADMIN PHONE LINE CALLS	47,672	49,883
911 ABANDONED	1,421	1,970
911 TRANSFER	4,408	5,169
OUTGOING CALLS	32,293	35,845
TOTAL CALLS	97,382	105,761 +8.6%

Top 911 Incident Types

- 1- 911 hang-up
- 2- Disturbance
- 3- Suspicious Activity
- 4- Check well-being
- 5- Motor Vehicle Collision



NIBRS REPORTING

1,509 Total Group A Offenses
65 Total Group B Reportable Offenses
1,574 Total NIBRS Reportable Offenses

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
- 591 Larceny (Total)
 - 140 Theft from Motor Vehicles
 - 72 Theft of Motor Vehicle
 - 179 Shoplifting
- 46 Motor Vehicle Theft
- 1 Arson
- 92 Drugs/Narcotics Violations
- 76 Drug Equipment Violations
- 20 Weapon Law Violations



Group A Offenses

- 358 Crimes Against Persons
- 960 Crimes Against Property
- 191 Crimes Against Society
- 1,509 Total Group A Offenses**

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.

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

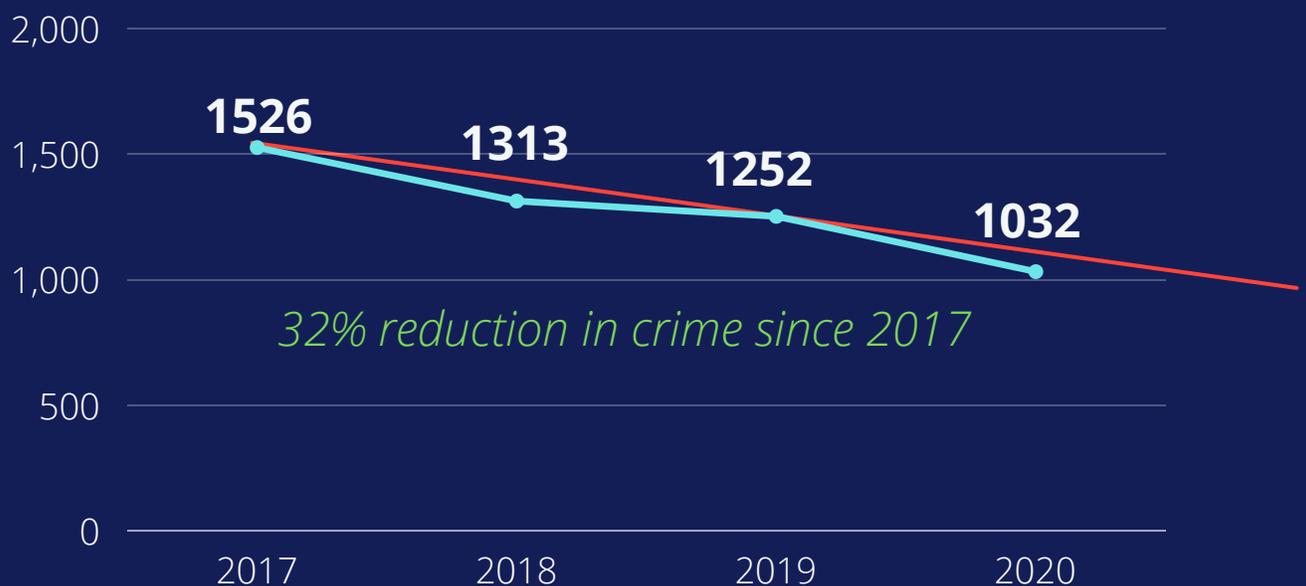
CRIME TRENDS

From 2017 to 2020, BPD experienced an overall 32% decrease in Part I UCR offenses. Branson PD now utilizes NIBRS reporting. Overall crime is down when crime type comparisons are conducted. 2021 Major violent crime reflects an overall **37% decrease** over 2020.

Reported Violent Crime Analysis 2017-2021

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
HOMICIDE	0	0	0	0	2
MANSLAUGHTER	0	0	0	0	0
RAPE	10	9	9	16	10
ROBBERY	15	10	16	11	6
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	54	65	46	57	35
TOTAL MAJOR VIOLENT CRIMES REPORTED	79	84	71	84	53

Total UCR Part I Offenses 2017-2020



DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

ARRESTS & CITATIONS



	2020	2021
CUSTODY ARREST	917	690
BOOK & RELEASE	114*	57
CITATIONS	359	213

*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
CHARGES SENT TO TANEY COUNTY PROSECUTOR	665	513	488
CHARGES SENT TO BRANSON CITY PROSECUTOR	1205	834	916
CASE ADMINISTRATIVELY CLOSED TO RECORDS	3959	3308	3570

REFERRED TO INVESTIGATIONS

OF CASES

CASES SENT TO INVESTIGATIONS FOR REVIEW; NO FURTHER ACTION COMPLETED	41
ASSIGNED TO AN INVESTIGATOR IN 2021	48
CLOSED BY INVESTIGATIONS IN 2021; ASSIGNED PRIOR TO 2021	144



DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

INVESTIGATIONS UNIT



49

DIGITAL FORENSIC
DOWNLOADS



19

CVSA EXAMS



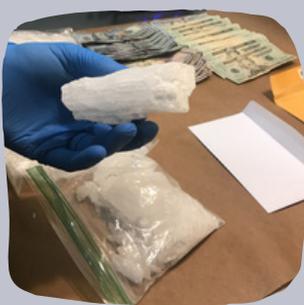
32

CASES CLEARED
BY ARREST

- INVESTIGATIONS CLOSED CASE DETAILS -

	General	VICE
CLEARED BY ARREST	32	8
CLEARED BY EXCEPTION	1	0
INVESTIGATION COMPLETED	33	4
INVESTIGATION SUSPENDED	27	1
INVESTIGATION UNFOUNDED	4	4

**For much of 2021, CID & SID were assigned to a homicide investigation.*



	2020	2021	% CHANGE	YTD
OVERDOSE INVESTIGATIONS				
OVERDOSE CALLS	54	68	+26%	5
OVERDOSE DEATH	6	5	-17%	0

YTD is 01/01/2022-02/08/2022

DEA DRUG TAKE-BACK CAMPAIGN

1532 LBS
OF NARCOTICS

collected in April & October from Branson to help prevent drug abuse & overdose deaths

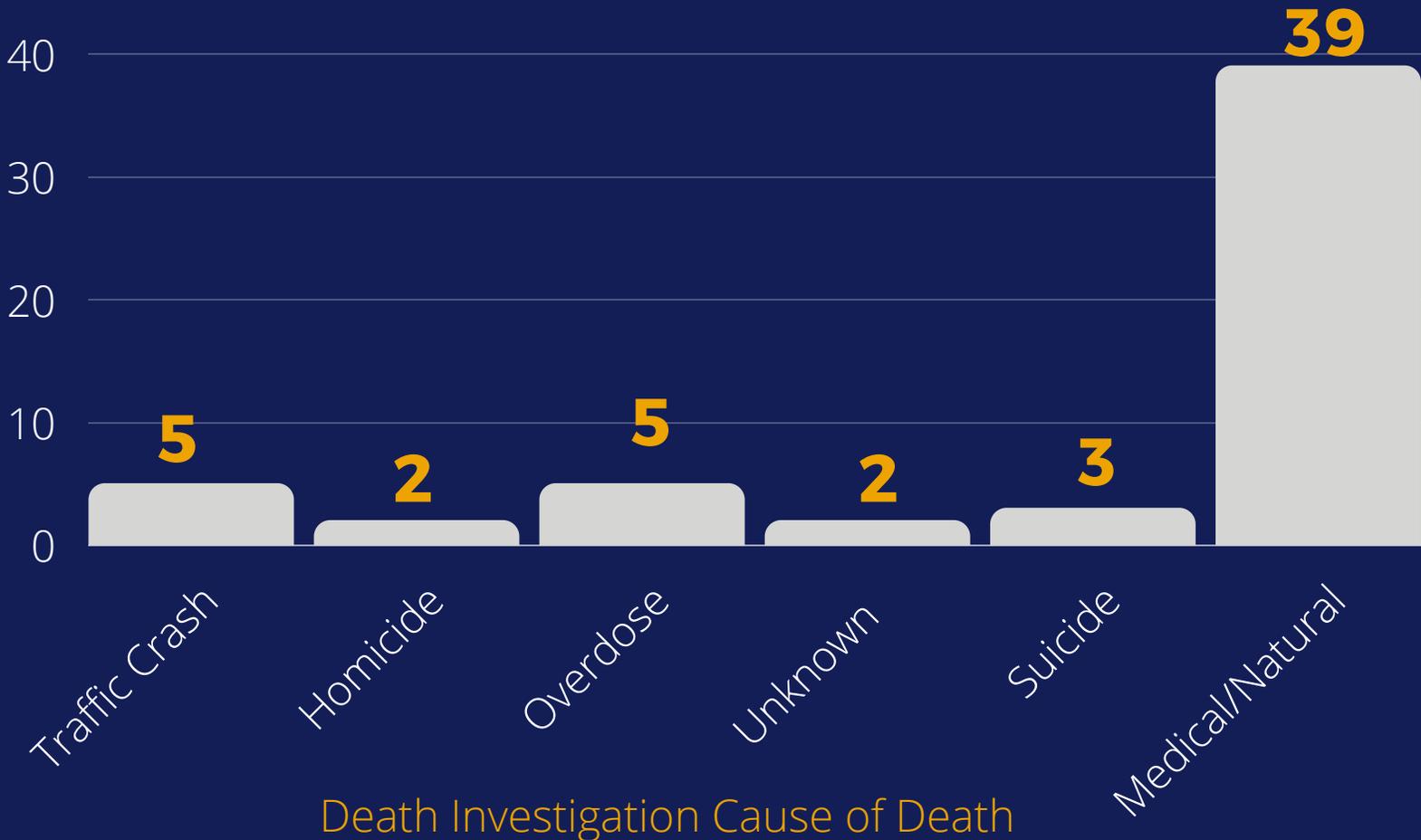


\$7,449+ dollars
seized in narcotics
investigations

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

DEATH INVESTIGATIONS

The department responded to 56 death investigations in 2021. There were 35 males and 21 females deceased with an average age of 59-60 years old.



ONLINE REPORTING

Citizens can report a crime using this link:
<https://bransonmo.gov/FormCenter/Police-Forms-6/ONLINE-CRIME-REPORT-112>

Online reports are routed through our Police Services Assistant. After the initial review and report, the case is forwarded on to its next step.



Online Reports in 2021

394 Online Reports Received

312 Administratively Closed

47 Referred to City of Branson or Taney County Prosecuting Attorney



Offenses Reported Online

Civil Matters	Credit Card Abuse
Juvenile Issues	Theft
Forgery	Harassment
Lost Property	Theft from Vehicles
Fraud	Identity Theft
Past Disturbances	Vandalism/Property Damage



Traffic Enforcement



MODOT Grants & Safety Campaigns

- Driving While Intoxicated
- Hazardous Moving Violations
- Youth Alcohol Enforcement

CRASH CALLS FOR SERVICE

	2021	2020	2019	2018
NON-INVESTIGATED MINOR CRASH	471	364	514	432
NON-INJURY CRASH	451	295	457	671
INJURY CRASH	124	88	125	146
FATALITY CRASH DEATHS	5	0	2	1

Enforcement Goals

1. Traffic Law Compliance
2. Reduction in Crashes
3. DWI Enforcement

Code Enforcement

**BRANSON MUNICIPAL CODES
AVAILABLE ONLINE**

https://library.municode.com/mo/branson/codes/code_of_ordinances

Code Enforcement promotes, maintains, and enforces ordinances and laws to preserve, protect, and enhance Branson's quality of life. These efforts are pivotal in preventing, monitoring, and resolving conditions that pose a threat or that may be detrimental to health and well-being of residents and visitors.

1,473

Assigned Cases

1,194

Initial Inspections

478

Re-Inspections

2,990

I.P.M.C. & B.M.C.
Violations

131

Lodging
Inspections

191

Citations

104

Abated Cases

131

City Inspections



Take pride in your neighborhood & our City.

Animal Control



BPD has one Animal Control Officer. The department responded to 820 calls for service, a 6% increase over 2020.



In 2021, our area responded to numerous calls and recovered 80-100 chihuahuas abandoned in the area.

2021 ANIMALS

TRANSPORTED TO SHELTER/RESCUED

151

DOGS



141

CATS



3

BIRDS



23

PROPERTY & EVIDENCE

- 2021 STATS -

PROPERTY INTAKE

2,112 Property Entries

PROPERTY DISPOSITIONS

43 Items auctioned

2,218 Items destroyed

0 Items donated

494 Items returned

55 Items transferred to PD

2,810 Total Items Disposed

1:1 RATIO

PROPERTY INTAKE VS. OUTPUT





COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ADDRESSING

Panhandling

- City ordinance enforcement
- Special Enforcement efforts
- Working with businesses for Letters of Enforcement
- Providing resources for assistance

10% DECREASE

2021: 72 CALLS | 2020: 80 CALLS

ADDRESSING

Homelessness

- Work with businesses to secure Letters of Enforcement
 - Provide resources for assistance
 - Develop positive community relationships
 - Partner with Elevate Branson for Elevate Connections program, helping homeless individuals obtain needed identification to apply for jobs and housing
-

ADDRESSING

Mental Health

- A department goal is to provide Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to all employees. So far, 21 employees have received this training
- Partner with regional organizations that can help address mental health concerns & provide resources

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

BUILDING

Community Partnerships

- Community partnership with Burrell Behavioral Health - our department is assigned a Community Mental Health Liaison. We make referrals to our liaison regarding individuals needing resources and assistance.
- Our partnerships with Burrell, Cox Health, Elevate Branson, Salvation Army, and other area organizations help us address community needs like mental health crises, substance abuse issues, and family relationship issues.



WORKING AS A TEAM - Our Community Mental Health Liaison comes twice a week to respond to calls with our Patrol Unit to provide assistance and resources to citizens in need faster. The Behavioral Health team can be contacted at any time for referrals or individuals in crisis.

Community Engagement



Citizens Police Academy



A 12-week behind the scenes look at BPD.



TRAINING HOURS

3K DEPARTMENT TRAINING

2.6K SWORN TRAINING

1K SWORN ONLINE TRAINING

265 DISPATCH TRAINING

195 PROFESSIONAL STAFF
CODE ENFORCEMENT
ANIMAL CONTROL
TRAINING

- 24 hours minimum Peace Officer Standards of Training (POST) each year required for sworn personnel
- 24 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) over three year term required for dispatch personnel
- In 2021, four sergeants successfully completed the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (LEEDA) Trilogy
- Lt. Hoag completed the 22-week School of Police Staff and Command (SPSC) through Northwestern University
- Majority of police training is completed online; however, the department is moving toward in-person, scenario-based training with a focus on in-house subject matter experts



GRANTS & DONATIONS

VESTED INTEREST IN K9S

SKAGGS LEGACY FOUNDATION

BULLET PROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP

MODOT TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

MSHP LIVESCAN EQUIPMENT & MAINTENANCE

MISSOURI POLICE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION DEFENSIVE DRIVING

BRANSON AUTO ALLIANCE-CARS FOR K9S

TANGER OUTLETS

HEIN PRIVATE DONATION

BURNEY PRIVATE DONATION

- 2021 Award Winners -

Certificate of Merit:

Jeremy Dixon
John Pate
Chase Rains

Life Saving Award:

Coleton Hillwick

Medal of Merit:

Cody Foster

Distinguished Service:

Tanner Muckenthaler
Brendan Gamble

Officer of the Year

Greg Yartz



Supervisor of the Year

Harold Clements



Professional Staff of the Year

Tammy Jones



Pete & Carolyn Waldo Community Partnership

Branson Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association





2022 AND BEYOND

Department Priorities



No. 01 – Invest in Our Team

Provide quality training to enhance skill sets and meet employee career goals. Leverage technology advancements as workforce multipliers.



No. 02 – Recruit & Retain

Recruiting quality personnel with an added emphasis on current employees to encourage long-term growth within the department.



No. 03 – Realize Value in Service

Focus on community relationships, community engagements, and continue a comprehensive review of policies/processes to ensure industry standards and best practices are met.

