



2022

MARION
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL
REPORT

I am proud to present this Annual Report on behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Marion Police Department. Our Command staff has worked hard to prepare this report, which includes relevant and accurate highlights and activities of calendar year 2022. We hope you find the information to be beneficial.

Our department continues to look for ways to improve our overall service to the community by combating crime in our neighborhoods through training and enforcement, staying involved in community projects and business development, and working with other agencies in a combined effort to provide a safe and stable environment for all who live, work, and play inside the City of Marion. Our Leadership has remained vigilant in allocating resources as effectively and efficiently as possible. Our weekly Command Staff meetings allow us to discuss the most significant current issues and encourage us to continue looking forward in constant improvement. We are trying to work smarter in everything we do.



The men and women of the Marion Police Department are proud to be a part of the City of Marion and will continue to work hard to provide the highest standard of law enforcement and customer service to its citizens.

We recognize the challenges the City faces and commit ourselves to being good stewards of the taxpayers' money while never sacrificing the high level of character and professionalism expected and deserved by our community. We thank you for the opportunity to serve and look forward to another successful year.

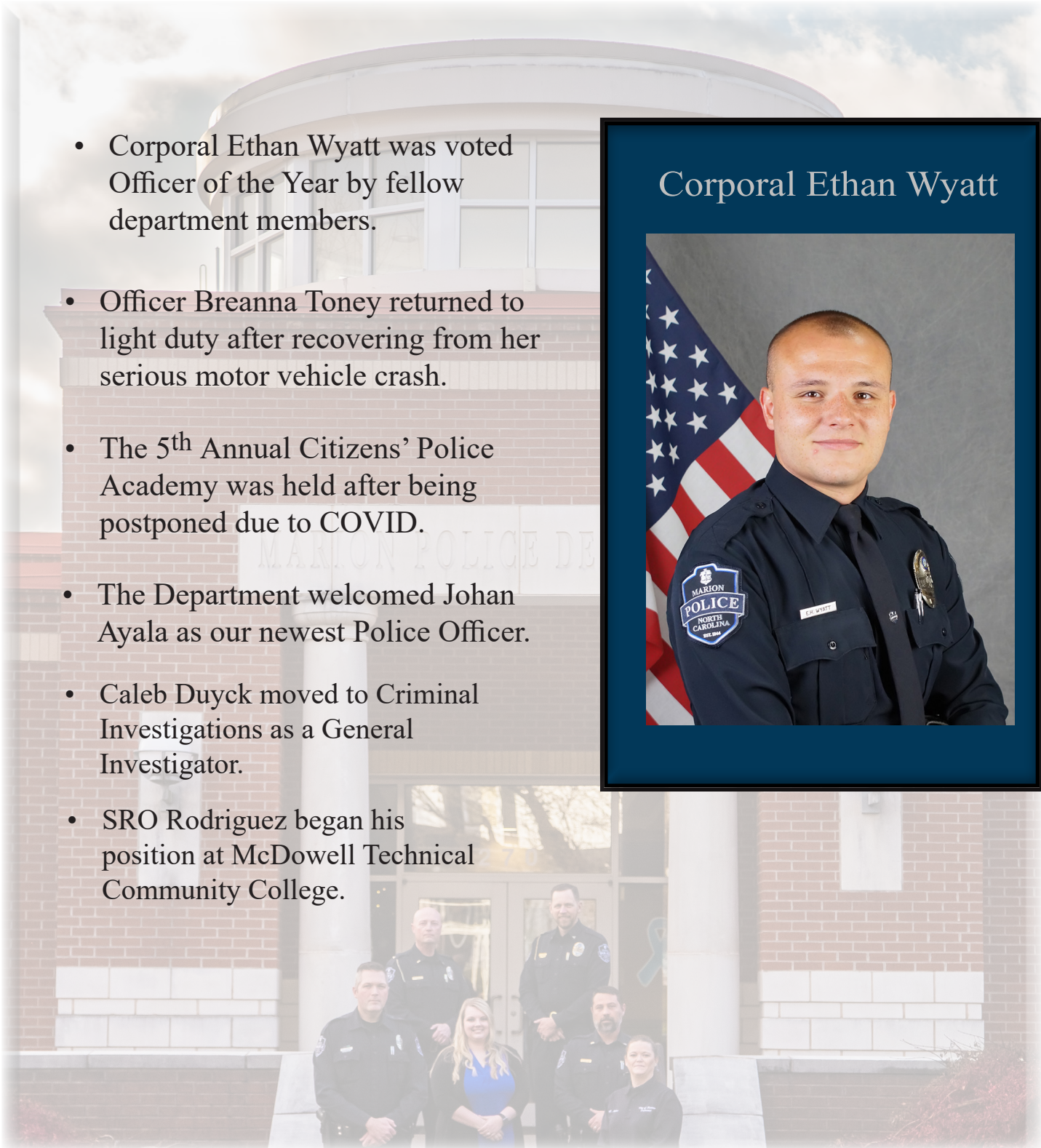




Agency Highlights

- Corporal Ethan Wyatt was voted Officer of the Year by fellow department members.
- Officer Breanna Toney returned to light duty after recovering from her serious motor vehicle crash.
- The 5th Annual Citizens' Police Academy was held after being postponed due to COVID.
- The Department welcomed Johan Ayala as our newest Police Officer.
- Caleb Duyck moved to Criminal Investigations as a General Investigator.
- SRO Rodriguez began his position at McDowell Technical Community College.

Corporal Ethan Wyatt





Agency Highlights

- Corporal Melissa Suttles was promoted to Patrol Sergeant.
- Sergeant Jerry Lewis won the Top Gun Award, scoring a perfect 100 on all Firearms.
- The following Officers achieved the Expert Firearms Award with a score of 93% or better:
Sgt. Zach Wilson, Cpl. Ethan Wyatt, Ofc. Josh Maddux, Sgt. Jerry Lewis, Ofc. DJ Barrier, Lt. Jamie Harklerode SRO Eric Rodriguez, Det. JC Cyr, Det. Caleb Duyck.
- The Division Champion Belt was presented to C-Line for their overall high score during firearms training.
- Sgt. Lewis completed the WNC Law Enforcement Leadership Academy

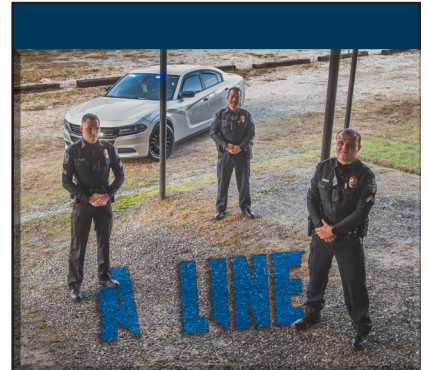


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Marion Police Department

Mission Statement

The mission of the Marion Police Department is to provide a professional level of police service to the citizens and visitors of Marion. We are committed to improving the quality of life, increasing public safety and protecting our community.

Vision Statement

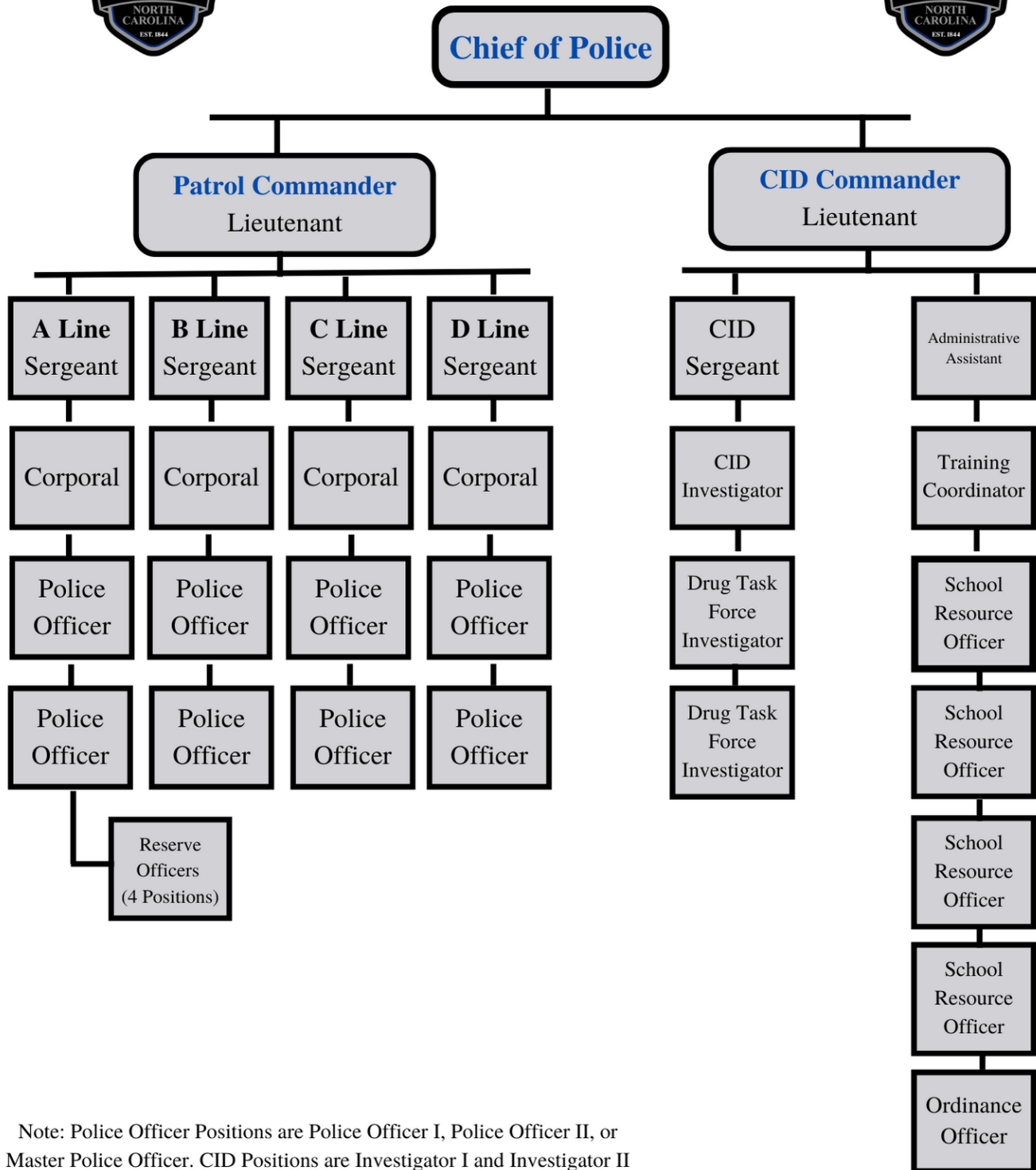
To provide the highest level of service to our community through excellence in performance

Core Values

Professionalism through courage, leadership, and teamwork!



Organizational Chart



Note: Police Officer Positions are Police Officer I, Police Officer II, or Master Police Officer. CID Positions are Investigator I and Investigator II



Division Breakdown

Command Staff

Chief	1
Investigative Lieutenant	1
Patrol Lieutenant	1
Volunteer Chaplain	3

Criminal Investigations Division

Lieutenant	1
Sergeant	1
Narcotics Investigator	2
Investigator	1
Training Coordinator	1
School Resource Officer	4
Parking Enforcement/Animal Control (non-sworn)	1
Administrative Assistant (non-sworn)	1
Vacant Position	0
CID Full-Time Civilian	2
CID Full-Time Sworn	9

Patrol Division

Lieutenant	1
Patrol Sergeant	4
Patrol Corporal	4
Patrol Officer	8
Vacant Position	1
Reserve Officer	3
Vacant Reserve Officer Positions	3
Patrol Division (Full Time)	16

Total Authorized Full-Time: 28 Sworn/2 Non-Sworn	30
Total Part-Time Civilians	0
Total Reserve and Volunteers: 3 Sworn/3 Non-Sworn	6



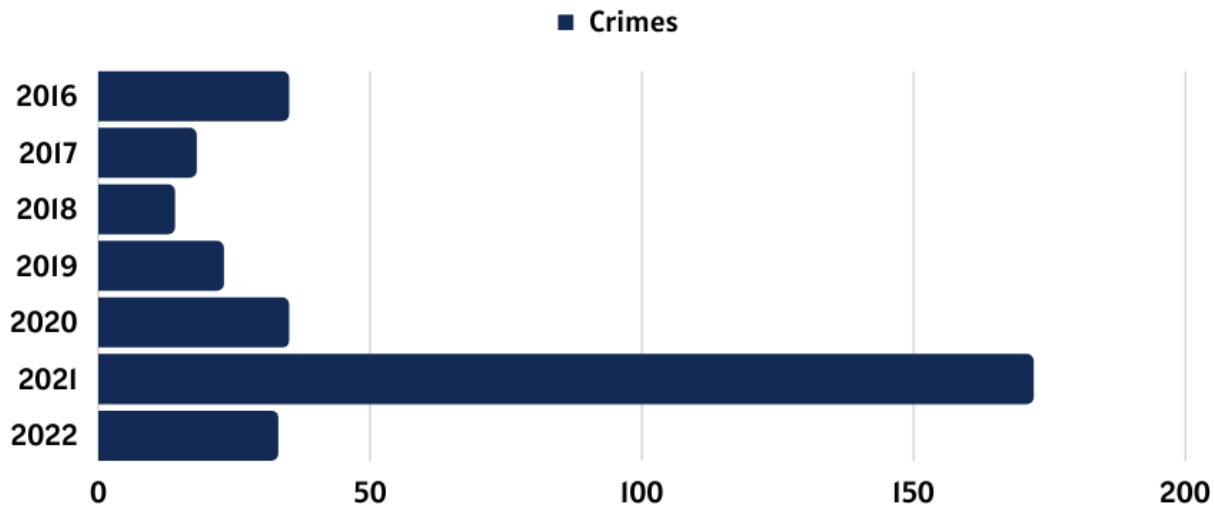
Part 1 Crime Comparison

Violent Crimes

Cities and states review “Part 1 Crimes” in determining the rise and fall in the crime rates nationally. Uniform Crime Reporting standards work to compare cities and states in a standard way. The crimes captured under the “Part 1 Crimes” category are those used for national comparison.

VIOLENT CRIMES								2016-2022
VIOLENT CRIMES	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% CHANGE
MURDER	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	100%
FORCIBLE RAPE	0	3	3	4	8	8	9	12.5%
ROBBERY	6	4	3	1	0	1	3	200%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	27	11	8	5	9	4	12	200%
BURGLARY				13	17	87	7	92%
TOTAL	35	18	14	23	35	172	33	81%

“Part 1 Crimes” is inclusive of two separate break downs of the following categories: violent crimes and property crimes. Numbers for the last four years for violent crimes are depicted in the table and graph below.





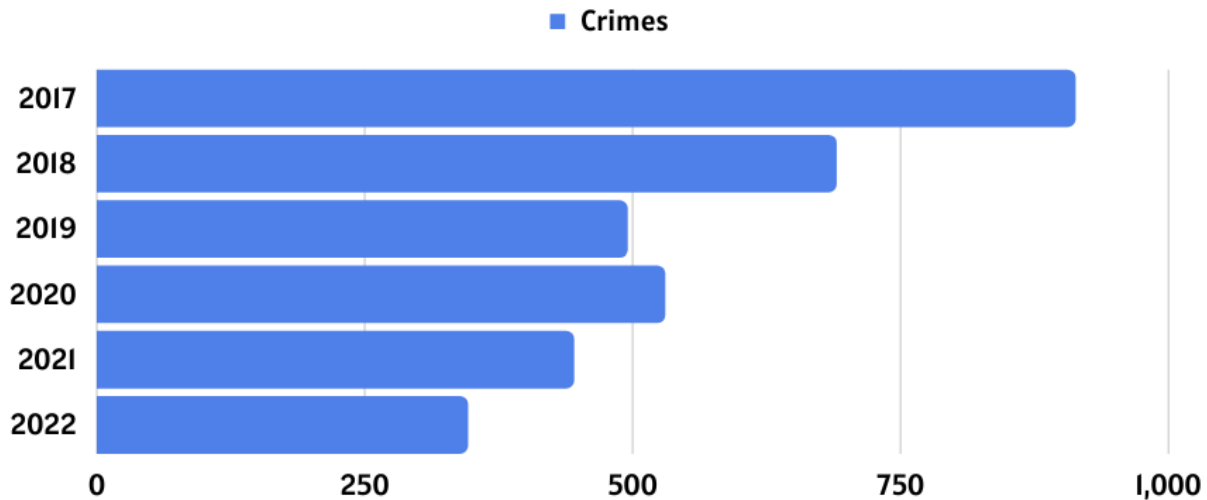
Part 1 Crime Comparison

Property Crimes

PROPERTY CRIMES

2017-2022

PROPERTY CRIMES	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% CHANGE
BREAKING & ENTERING	232	178	44	55	76	47	- 38%
LARCENY	631	474	422	430	339	264	- 22%
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	44	35	29	44	30	32	6%
ARSON	6	3	0	1	0	3	100%
TOTAL	913	690	495	530	445	346	22%



LARCENY BREAKDOWN

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
BREAKING & ENTERING TO AUTO WITH LARCENY	87	44	43	36	40
B&E TO COIN OPERATED MACHINES	3	3	3	6	2
LARCENY OF AUTO PARTS OR ACCESSORIES	8	1	10	9	13
THEFTS FROM BUILDINGS OR BUSINESSES	59	12	13	13	5
ALL OTHER LARCENIES	225	204	248	224	191

Communications Center

This data represents the data entry, radio call, dispatch and telephone interactivity responsibilities for the McDowell EMS, McDowell Rescue Squad, McDowell County Sheriff's Office, Marion Police Department and 11 County/City Fire Departments. The Communication Center Plays a vital role to the citizens of the City of Marion, McDowell County, Town of Old Fort, and every Department they serve.

Calls Received by Center

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Calls For Service	88,401	86,758	89,671	84,911
9-1-1 Calls	31,696	21,764	23,793	31,493

Processed CAD Police Calls

Police Service Calls	23,860	21,987	24,271	22,499
Property Checks Conducted	4,758	4,252	5,128	3,446
Special Checks Conducted	323	298	171	48
Utility Calls	64	26	22	19
Follow-Ups	835	848	2,249	749

Special Checks are conducted for businesses and residences who express a special need for increased security.

Property Checks are conducted for vacationing property owners and businesses. Auxiliary Entries include, but are not limited to, training, meetings, parking enforcement, special duties, and court.



Community Involvement

Partnerships & Collaborations

National Night Out is an event hosted and coordinated by the Marion Police Department each year. This event is 100% free and is a great opportunity for Officers, Citizens, and our numerous partners to interact, build relationships and enjoy a night of fun.



In 2022, we partnered East Marion International Pentecostal Holiness Church to assist residents of the community with the abilities to obtain an identification card through FaithAction ID Program. The FaithAction ID provides card holders with a verifiable form of identification that can be used as a tool by law enforcement, health centers, and other entities to better identify, serve and protect them.



Members of the Department participated in Shop with a Hero. This event is funded by proceeds earned from sales of the Department calendar, as well as a partnership with Nebo Crossing Church. This past year we served 45 children, helping to give them an enjoyable Christmas.





The 5th annual Citizens' Police Academy was held in 2022. Participants met weekly, beginning in early spring of each year. A wide range of topics are covered in the program which include: Patrol Operations, Crime Prevention/Community watch, 911 Communications, Traffic Enforcement, Criminal Investigations, Narcotics, Defensive Driving and Firearms. This academy allows our agency to be transparent, dispel myths surrounding law enforcement, and build partnerships with the community we serve.

The Marion Police Department is proud to partner with the Marion East, and West Marion Community Forums. Attending meetings and hearing concerns from the communities is very important to our mission. Creating a transparent relationship between our agency and the community we serve.



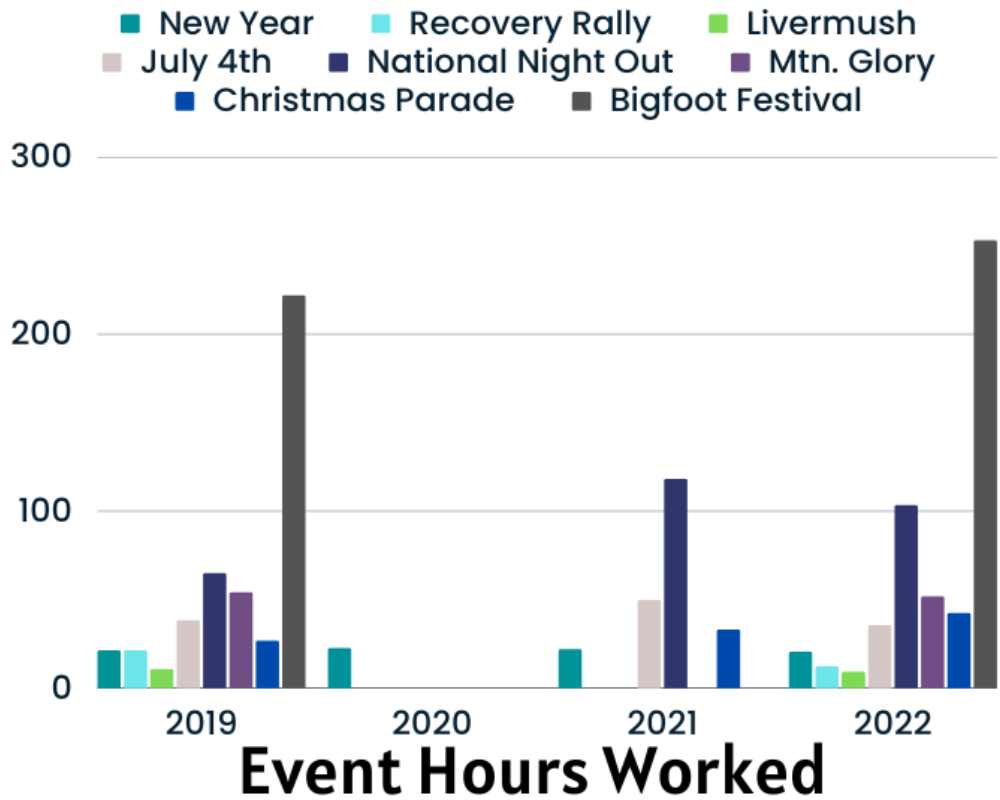


Special Events



Officers are also involved in activities that are in addition to their regularly assigned responsibilities and outside of their current work schedules. The Majority of these activities consist of city sponsored events such as Mountain Glory, Christmas Parade, City Sidewalk Yard Sales, and New Year's Eve Event.

Peacekeeping missions that are funded through private parties such as McCleod Center, Walmart and other various organizations pay for off-duty police services, and are critical to the overall management of police activities and resources. Without their assistance, our on-duty staff would often be overwhelmed with calls for service.





Special Event Hours

EVENT	2019	2020	2021	2022
New Year Event	21.5	22	22	20.75
Recovery Rally	15.75	0	0	12.5
Livermush Festival	11	0	0	9.5
4th of July	38.5	0	49.5	35.75
National Night Out	65	0	117.5	103.5
Mountain Glory	54.65	0	0	50
Christmas Parade	27	0	33	42.5
Big Foot Festival	221.75	0	0	252.75
TOTAL HOURS	503	22	222	527.25

Parking Tickets

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Parking Tickets Issued	232	223	229	234
Handicap Tickets Issued	7	0	8	4
Total Parking Tickets	239	223	237	238



Records Deposits Made to General Fund

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
General Fund	\$3,942	\$1,355	\$1,250	\$1,225
Parking	\$0	\$5,5563	\$5,200	\$5,010
Total Deposits	\$3,942	\$6,918	\$6,450	\$6,235



Patrol Field Operations

Patrol Field Operations	2019	2020	2021	2022
Drug-Related Arrest Charges by Patrol Officers	149	79	77	111
Street Value for Illegal Narcotics Seized by Patrol	\$7,604	\$5,529	\$12,401	\$6,256
Alcohol-Related Arrest Charges by Patrol Officers	57	55	62	46
Assistance to Other Agencies	64	357	357	58

Officer Initiated Activity	2019	2020	2021	2022
Walk-Ins	339	108	65	237
Call Follow-Ups	1,053	269	2,249	662

Calls For Service	2019	2020	2021	2022
Warrants Served	277	112	107	386
Response to Burglar and Bank Alarms	689	493	510	477
Stranded Motorist Assists/Traffic Hazard	745	666	672	727
Domestic Disputes	346	480	550	446
Civil Matters	65	44	33	39
Traffic Accidents Investigated	547	735	583	595
Checking Suspicious Person and Vehicles	2,077	2,314	3,030	2,450
Animal Complaints/Dogs at Large	499	525	482	536
Disturbance/Nuisance/Noise	659	979	843	883
Larcenies	734	782	631	626
Stab/Gunshot/Penetrating	8	4	7	11
Robbery Responses	5	7	1	2





Incident & Arrest Comparison

for Community Offenses

Incident Comparison	2019	2020	2021	2022
Aggravated Assault	5	9	4	8
Arson	0	1	0	3
Breaking & Entering	57	72	76	54
Breaking & Entering to Auto with Larceny	34	43	36	40
Damage to Personal & Real Property	102	154	171	163
Forgery & Uttering/Fraud	17	19	14	16
Larceny	422	390	303	264
Motor Vehicle Theft	29	43	30	32
Murder	0	1	0	2
Obtaining Property or Money by False Pretense	47	38	44	39
Rape	4	8	8	9
Robbery	1	1	1	3
Sexual Assault	3	7	8	5
Total Incident Comparison	721	786	695	630

Arrest Comparison	2019	2020	2021	2022
Aggravated Assault	2	1	3	3
Arson	0	0	0	0
Breaking & Entering	7	16	15	16
Breaking & Entering to Auto with Larceny	4	7	1	20
Damage to Personal & Real Property	11	20	21	40
Forgery & Uttering/Fraud	7	3	1	2
Larceny	79	59	39	82
Motor Vehicle Theft	5	7	6	4
Murder	0	1	0	1
Obtaining Property or Money by False Pretense	15	7	9	9
Rape	0	1	0	1
Robbery	0	1	1	2
Sexual Assault	0	1	0	0
Total Arrest Comparison	126	122	95	180

NIBRS Reporting Changes:

Forgery and Uttering are now reported as fraud. Obtaining Property by False Pretense is now reported as False Pretense/Swindle/Confidence. Gang Rape is to include Statutory Rape. Sexual Assault is now reported as Sodomy, Incest, Sexual Assault with Object, Human Trafficking and Commercial Sex.

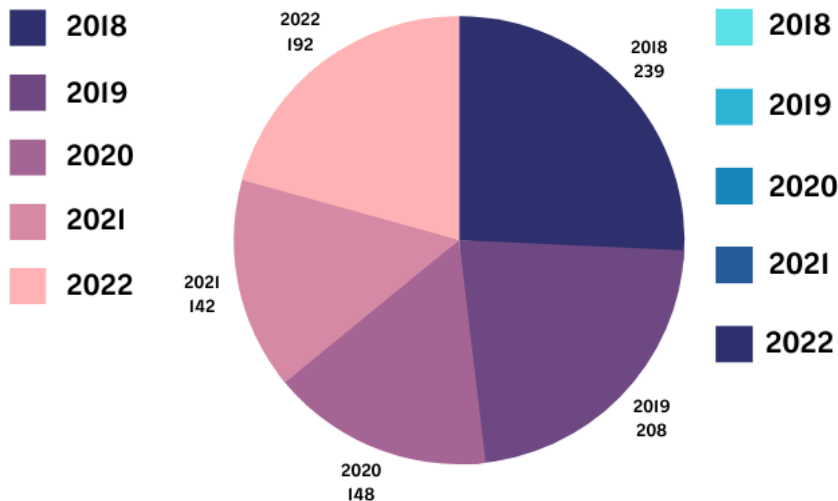


Summary of Arrests

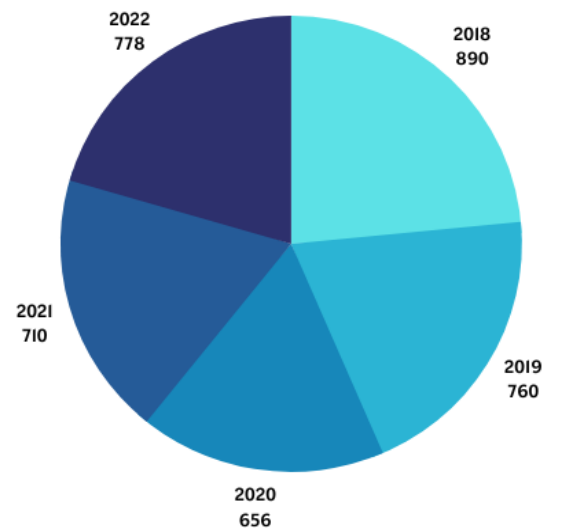
Summary of Arrests				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Adult Arrests				
Felony & Misdemeanor	760	656	710	778
Drug & Alcohol Related	208	208	142	192
Total Adult Arrests	968	804	852	970
Juvenile Arrests				
Total Juvenile Arrests	23	20	26	32
Traffic Charges				
Traffic Related Citation Charges	4517	3175	3669	4262
Total Warning Ticket Citations	0	0	44	70

Warning Tickets are non-punitive and are given as a courtesy by officers for minor infractions. They are not reportable to the Criminal Justice System.

Drug/Alcohol Related Adult Arrests



Felony Misdemeanor Adult Arrests



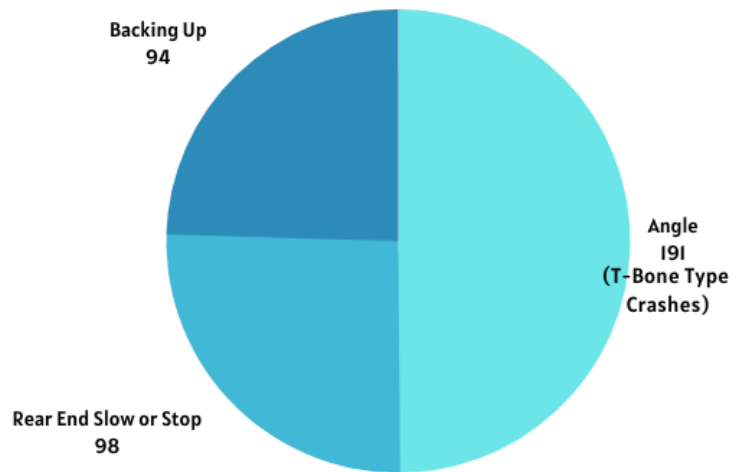
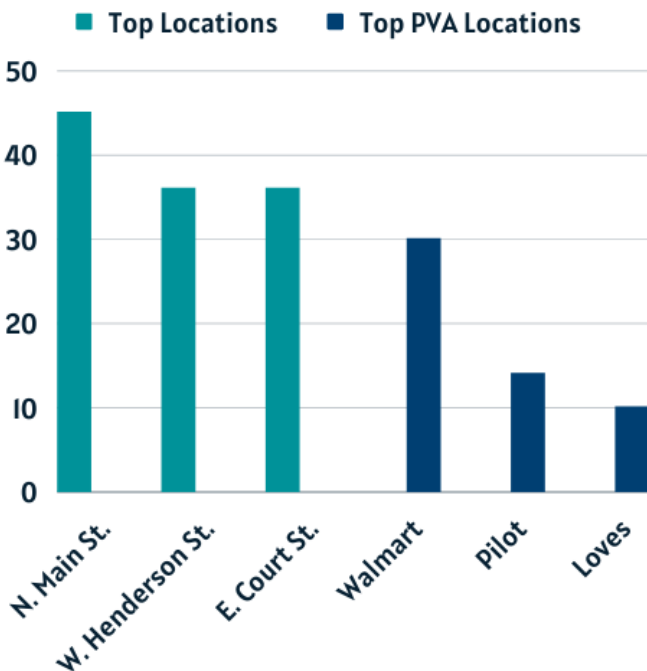


Traffic Crash Summary

TRAFFIC CRASHES	2019	2020	2021	2022
Crashes with Injuries	53	61	72	60
Crashes with Property Damage Only	494	490	523	528
Total Traffic Crashes	547	551	595	588

CRASHES WITH FATALITIES, PEDESTRIANS, HIT & RUNS	2019	2020	2021	2022
Crashes with Fatality	0	0	1	2
Crashes with Pedestrians Injured	7	9	7	6
Hit and Runs	71	73	72	83

TOP LOCATIONS & CIRCUMSTANCES FOR TRAFFIC CRASHES



Top Intersection for Traffic Crashes



Fatality Summary

MONTH	LOCATION	CIRCUMSTANCE	FATALITY
September	Highway 70 East	Head on Collision	Yes
November	Leach Street	Vehicle vs Pedestrian	Yes



Criminal Investigations Division

The Criminal Investigations Division is comprised of one Lieutenant, one Sergeant, one General Crimes Investigator, and two Narcotics Investigators, The division also encompasses, four School Resource Officers, one departmental Training Coordinator, one Ordinance Enforcement Officer, as well as the Administrative Assistant.

Investigators specialize in white collar crime, cybercrime, property crime, crimes against persons, sex crimes, and narcotics related crimes. Many investigations are lengthy and time consuming and force investigators to manage heavy caseloads with sometimes minimal resources. Over the past year, Marion Police Detectives have worked closely with numerous agencies to meet the obligations and responsibilities of their assignment, including:

- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- United States Secret Service
- United States Postal Inspector's Office
- United States Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Agency (Homeland Security)
- United States Attorney General's Office
- North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation
- North Carolina Army National Guard

Investigators were heavily involved in organizations and groups throughout the City of Marion during the year in an effort to improve the quality of life for its citizens. Investigators were routinely involved with:

- McDowell County Department of Social Services
- McDowell Mission Ministries
- North Carolina Criminal Information Exchange
- McDowell County Child Advocacy Center
- As well as several other civic, school and church based organizations



Investigators and Patrol Officers work together to address criminal activity within the City of Marion. They continue to work towards effective communication both inside the agency and with the public. They regularly coordinate with local media to recognize important crime trends and implications, as well as offer ideas for preventing future incidents.



Investigations Case Assignments

Case Assignment Statistics

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Cleared by Arrest	29	32	35	31
Active to Date	32	66	24	34
Assigned to Division	187	182	118	150
Determined Unfounded	8	3	3	7

Investigations Division Activity

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Arrests	29	32	35	31
Illegal Drugs Recovered/Seized	\$8,215	\$23,745	\$11,490	\$133,278
Total Recovered Property (all cases)	\$37,871	\$68,701.68	\$47,797	\$62,596.83
Calibrated Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA)	9	5	0	3



At a time when illegal synthetic drugs have captured the spotlight, the opioid epidemic is still an issue that impacts victims and their families. In an effort to help address these continued problems, the Marion Police Department along with the McDowell County Sheriff’s Office provide pill drop boxes in their lobbies. These boxes are a free opportunity for citizens to dispose of their unneeded or expired medicines. We also participate in Medicine Take-Back Operations that allow for medication drop-off and disposal as well. Collecting amounts have steadily decreased due to pro-activity and education related to prescription medications.

Once medications are collected from either the drop boxes and or the Take-Back Operations, proper disposal is needed. Collected medications are sealed in a secure metal container, transported by law enforcement officers to an approved facility where they are destroyed. Thus, no longer available for illegal activities, misuse, or distribution.

Medicine Take-Back Operations and Drop Box Collections





Narcotics Investigations

Year	Cocaine Powder (GR)	Crack Cocaine (GR)	Marijuana (GR)	Meth (GR)	Pills (DU)	Heroin (GR)
2019	8.2	0	598.68	5703.61	160	350.7
2020	13.1	0	1456.5	3857	0	328.3
2021	3	84	1709	7637.23	334	199.5
2022	99.6	5.5	71,922.25	3671.6	462	104.79

The Narcotics Task Force is a combined team of members from the Marion Police Department, McDowell County Sheriff’s Office, and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigations. This team works together on investigating drug violations and other drug related crimes. Many times, cases begin with a simple tip or phone call from a concerned resident. Sheriff Ricky Buchanan, Chief Allen Lawrence, and all the men and women that make up this task force, are dedicated to making an impact on sale use and distribution in Marion and McDowell County.

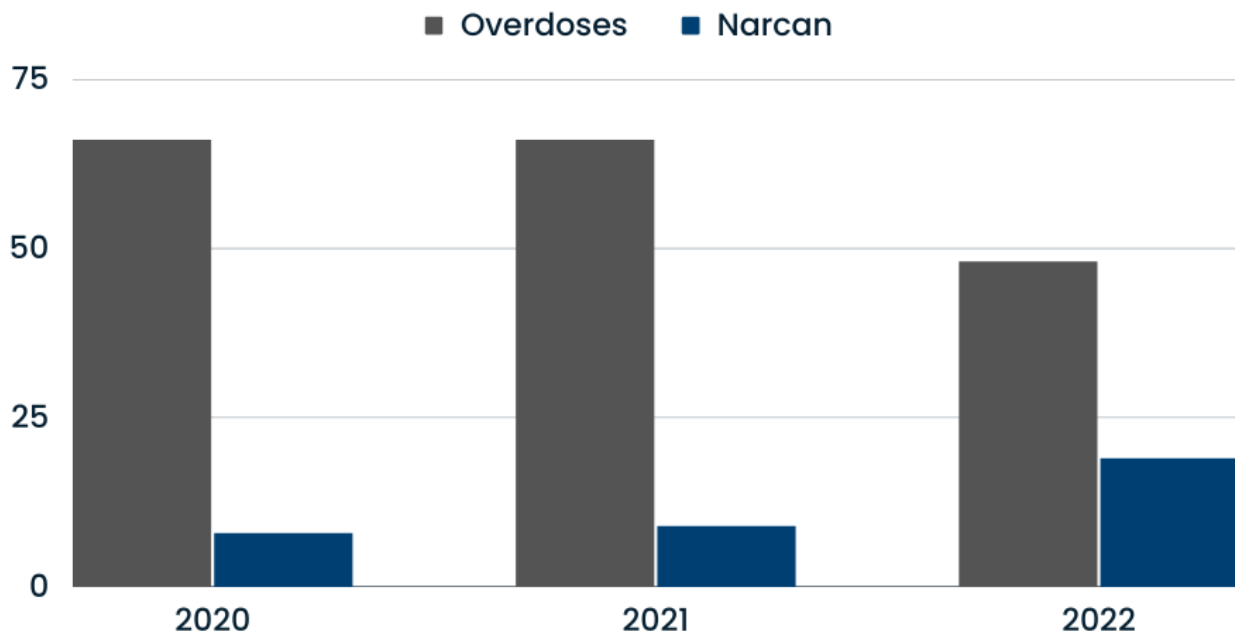
Narcotics Task Force (MPD, MCSO, NCSBI)

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Arrests	24	122	88	27
Illegal Narcotics Seized	\$367,540	\$405,262	\$349,400	\$259,883
Vehicle Seizures	1	0	0	0
Total Joint Investigations	46	184	55	89



Due to the increase in Fentanyl use, the rate of overdoses and Naloxone (Narcan) administration has increased. A recent study by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that in October of 2020-October of 2021, more than 105,000 Americans died of drug overdoses, with 66% of those related to Fentanyl. To help combat this, all Marion Police Officers are CPR certified as well as Narcan certified. Narcan has been called at times the “Miracle Drug” because of its ability to rapidly reverse an opioid overdose. Each officer is equipped with Narcan at all times, to be prepared for quick life saving actions in the event of an overdose.

OVERDOSES & NARCAN ADMINISTRATIONS



In 2022, there were **173** overdoses in McDowell County with **167** Narcan Administrations. The Marion Police Department responded to **48** overdose calls in the city limits, and recorded **19** saves by Narcan Administration.



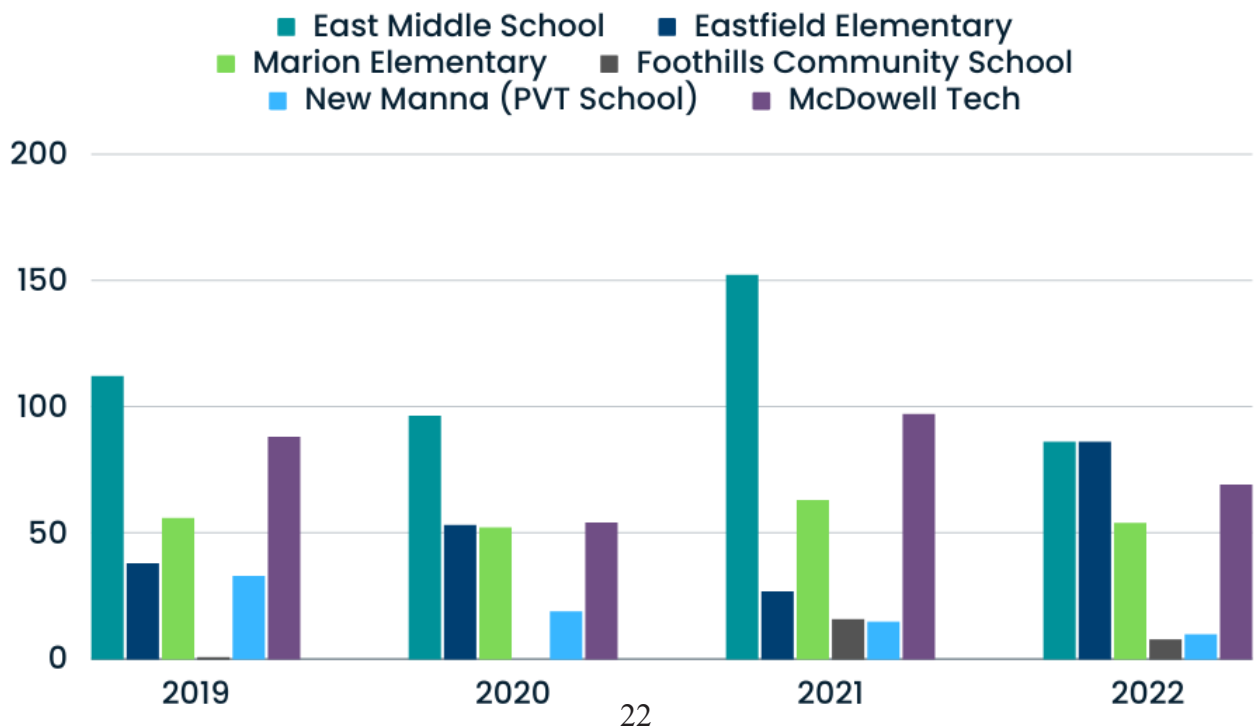
School Resource Officers

Education & Safety

As of 2022, all schools in the City of Marion have full time School Resource Officers staffed by the Marion Police Department. The City of Marion and the McDowell Board of Education work in partnership with the State of North Carolina to provide state funds to cover a portion of the salaries of the SRO's.

Responsibilities of the SRO's include: Investigation of criminal activities and incidents; enforcement of laws; traffic control; campus parking control; teaching law related education; coordinating the security for school events; interacting with faculty and students to promote mutual respect between the school and law enforcement; and providing counseling for personal, scholastic, family, or law related problems.

SCHOOL RELATED CALLS FOR SERVICE





In 2022, SRO Eric Rodriguez became the School Resource Officer for the McDowell Technical Community College, which includes McDowell Early College and McDowell Academy of Innovation. This position is in addition to the campus security staff, provides a full-time sworn officer as well. To assist with costs for the position, the college was awarded a \$22,5000 grant from the Marion ABC Board.



at the heart of campus safety

The Jeanna Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act)

The Clery Act is a consumer protection law that aims to provide transparency around campus crime policy and statistics. There are 7 criminal topics covered under this act that we are required to track and report.

- Murder/Non Neglect Manslaughter/Neglect Manslaughter
- Sex Offenses
- Robbery
- Burglary
- Aggravated Assault
- Motor Vehicle Theft
- Arson

No crimes in these categories were committed on MTCC Campus in 2022.

In addition to the above requirements for reporting, the Marion Police Department provides yearly calls for service to the Community College. During 2022, our agency responded to MTCC on 69 different occasions for various incidents (Motor Vehicle Crashes, Welfare Checks and Keys Locked in Vehicle, etc.).



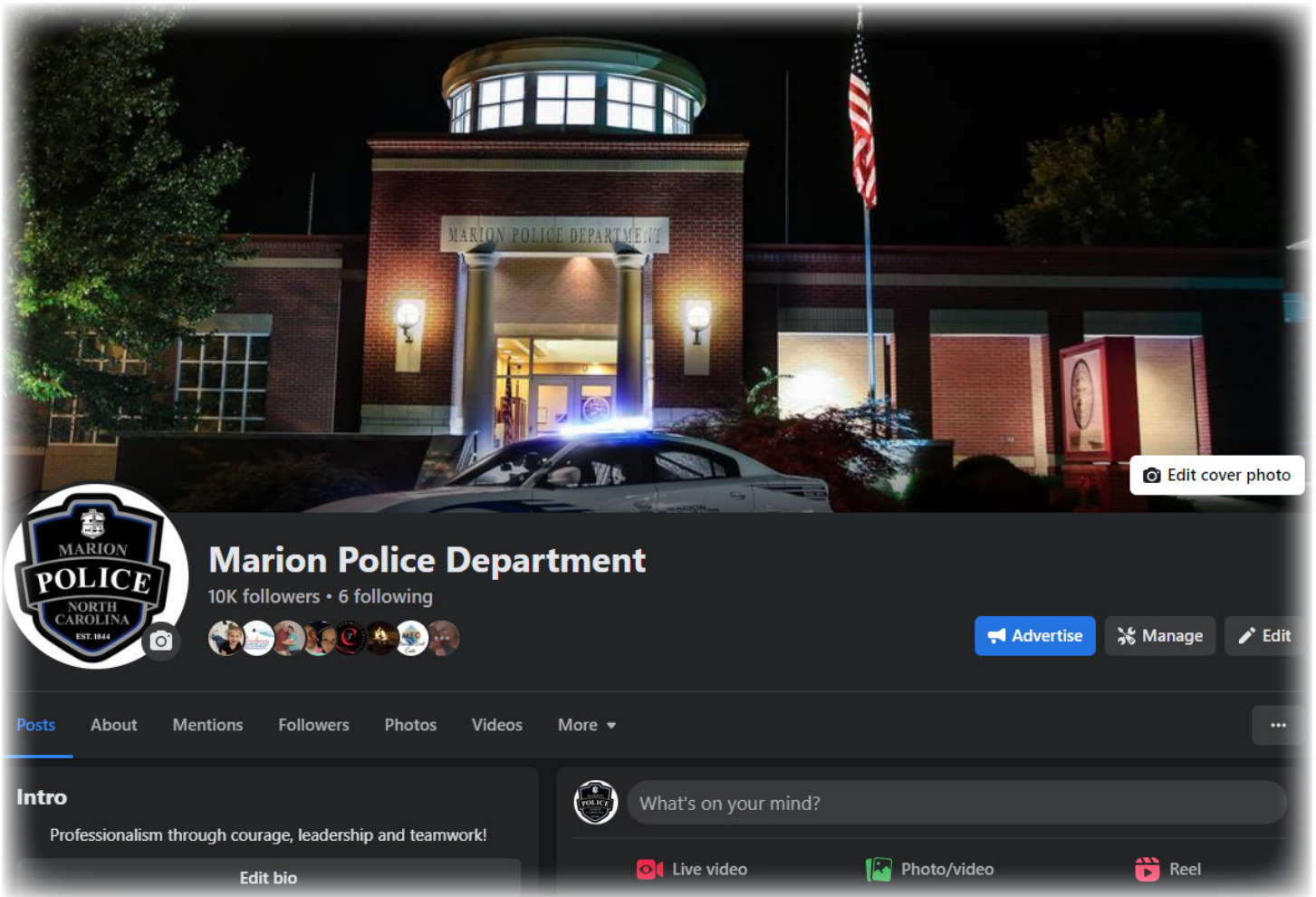
DARE stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. The program is 10 weeks long and covers a variety of topics that students can use to make good choices as they begin to transition into Middle School and beyond. The DARE curriculum has been revised from the program of the 80's and 90's. The old program was shown to be somewhat ineffective in reducing drug use among young adults. The new revised edition focuses on coping skills, assessing risk, support networks, and emotional and mental health topics. All the while, still addressing peer pressure and drug use. Several controlled studies of the new DARE curriculum have shown a reduction in student drug use compared to peers who did not participate.



Each year, our School Resource Officers teach this new revised DARE Program to the 5th grade classes in Marion Elementary and Eastfield Elementary Schools. Our focus is to meet all the goals of the DARE Program, mentor students, and develop long lasting relationships. In 2022, SRO Hensley and SRO Padgett taught a combined **20** hours of DARE in both elementary schools totaling **78** students.



Social Media



The department utilizes Facebook and Nixle as ways of notifying the public of emergency situations. The platforms have also served as educational tools for traffic safety, and have allowed citizens to assist the agency with identifying possible offenders. On a positive note, Facebook has also been utilized as a way to showcase agency accomplishments and awards. In 2022, the department had over 10,000 followers.



Department Training

This report should serve to document and describe the department's in-service educational activity by providing a list of training conducted and the hours involved.

Incident Command/SRT	Contact Hours:
Monthly SRT Training (SWAT)	336

Supervision/Management	Contact Hours:
First Line Supervision	40
WNC Law Enforcement Leadership Academy	162

Instructor Training	Contact Hours:
Field Training Officer	40
Instructor Update	8
Instructor Training Orientation	24
General Instructor	96

Criminal Investigations	Contact Hours:
Search Warrant Preparation	16
Sex Crime Investigations	2
Death and Homicide Investigation	32
Courtroom Testimony	16
Managing Informants	8
Verbal Judo	16
Police Law Institute	76

Field Training	Contact Hours:
J. Ayala	513

Patrol Training	Contact Hours:
Basic Radar	32
Interdiction Mastermind	4
Current Drug Trends	3
Traffic Stops and K9	1.5
SFST Refresher	4
Traffic Crash Recon	80
Troysgate (firearms)	176
Rapid Deployment	116
Basic Intox	70
Intox Recert	35

School Resource	Contact Hours:
SRO Update	4
SRO Conference	32

Administrative	Contact Hours:
Southern Software	28
Drone	80
Fair and Impartial Policing	208
Taser	58
OC (Pepper Spray)	58

Mandated In-Service	Contact Hours:
Firearms	116
Legal Update	112
The Process of De-escalation	116
Creating a Safety Net	56
Ethics	56
Domestic Violence	56
Proactive Wellness	56
Co-Response	56
Subversive Groups	56
Raising the Bar	56

Total Structured Training Hours Received	3,197.5
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