

**Farmville Police Department  
State of Department Annual Report  
2021**



**Chief A. Q. Ellington Sr.**

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## Message from the Chief

Dear Farmville Community,



It is my distinct pleasure to submit to you the Farmville Police Department's 2021 Annual Report. While 2021 was certainly not a usual year, the officers, and staff of the department continued to serve with distinction and provide the residents, visitors, and elected officials with professional, committed, and dedicated public service.

Over the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic changed many things about the department's operations, including limiting interactions with the public and enhancing our officers' safety through the increased use of personal protective equipment and other safety related supplies. These enhanced safety precautions caused the department to identify new and unique ways to address public safety issues while maintaining a strong connection with the citizens of the town. Mental Health calls for service continue to plague our staff as well as many other agencies across the Commonwealth. I have spent and will continue to spend countless hours partnering with other Law Enforcement Agencies, Community Leaders, and local Mental Health Facilities, to correct our derailed Mental Health System within the Commonwealth. We have met with local legislators and look forward to a meeting with the new Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services in the coming weeks. The need for additional resources to address these issues continue to increase daily.

During the year of 2021 we faced an even greater challenge as we suffered the loss of six seasoned officers to other jurisdictions, depleting nearly half of our patrol unit. The remaining force pulled together by working extended hours, coming in on days off, forgoing holidays and planned family events to cover shifts, to assure our Town remained safe and secure. On a brighter note, Town officials quickly recognized the two main issues at hand, retirement, and salaries. In October 2021 the Town of Farmville joined the Virginia Retirement System and January 2022, raised the starting pay for Police Officers immensely. These two components alone will have a vast effect on recruitment as well as retention in the upcoming years for this department. We salute our Town Council, Mayor, and Town Manager for their continued support, and commitment, to allow us to achieve one of our main objectives, to be The Premier Law Enforcement Agency in the region.

I am excited moving forward into 2022, as big changes are in the making. We plan to complete the upgrade of our radio system. All police radios, mobile and portable have been upgraded to digital capabilities. To ensure the 9-1-1 center can maintain constant communication with responders in the field, a radio upgrade to a digitally capable system will occur. This upgrade will replace all consoles in the center and establish a dependable way of communication while allowing interoperability with other agencies and jurisdictions. It is important to note that this complete project came with a hefty price tag to exceed \$850,000.00. All cost were covered with appropriated 911 funds and the remaining with acquired grant funding, therefore relieving the burden from our yearly budget, which is generated with local tax dollars.

We will continue to adapt to recent criminal justice reform legislation so that we can continue our mission, "Providing a safe and secure community through excellence in public service".

Serving you, I am,



Chief A. Q. "Andy" Ellington Sr.

## ***Vision, Mission, Goals and Core Values***

### **Vision:**

To maintain a close working relationship with the citizens, businesses, Longwood University, and other law enforcement agencies to provide professional and unbiased service to the community. This department will constantly pursue advanced technologies while improving our quality of training, and demonstrating innovation and operational flexibility

### **Mission:**

*“To Provide a Safe and Secure Community through Excellence in Public Service”.*

### **Goals:**

*To increase citizen safety and perception of safety*

*To be the premier law enforcement agency of this region*

*To establish, maintain, and enhance community partnerships.*

**Core Values:** *Integrity, Community Safety, Service, and Quality.*

### **VLEPSC ACCREDITED AGENCY**

The Farmville Police Department’s commitment to law enforcement excellence is evidenced by their successful completion of the certification process for the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission. All accreditation programs are designed to measure and confirm compliance of the participating agency with the professional standards in whatever discipline or profession they are involved. It is one of the only means by which citizens and government leaders can be assured that an agency is maintaining the high-performance marks to which the community has a right. The Town of Farmville has demonstrated their commitment to professionalism and their willingness to be measured by and compared to the best in the profession. Virginia’s program was started in the early 1990’s, with the creation of a twelve-member Commission of representatives from the Virginia Sheriff’s Association and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police. The VLEPSC provides law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth with an avenue for demonstrating that they meet nearly 200 accepted standards for efficient and effective agency operation. The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) administers the program for VLEPSC. To obtain accreditation, a law enforcement agency must meet all applicable program standards, maintain their accreditation files on an on-going basis and provide annual verifications of Compliance as required by the Commission. On-site assessments by specially trained program assessors assure consistency and full compliance of all accredited agencies. The Farmville Police Department is currently working on its eighth year as a state accredited Agency.

## **Organization and Structure**

The Farmville Police Department employs 27 sworn officers and two civilian employees. The Farmville Police Department is located at 116 North Main Street in the Town of Farmville, Virginia. The Farmville Police Department provides 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, professional Law Enforcement Services to the citizens of the Town of Farmville. Administrative offices are open Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The Farmville Police Department is led by Chief A. Q. “Andy” Ellington Sr. Chief Ellington is celebrating 32 years of Law Enforcement service to this wonderful community. Chief Ellington Joined the Farmville Police Department in 1989 as a patrolman and has since worked in every supervisory role within the Department. Chief Ellington was appointed to the Chiefs Position in October 2016.



William H. “Bill” Hogan serves as Deputy Chief of Police—Captain—responsible for daily activities of the agency and reports directly to the Chief of Police. The Assistant Chief is second-in-command and has responsibility for and authority over operations, administration, and training for the agency. The Assistant Chief of Police serves as the Acting Chief of Police in the absence of the Chief of Police.



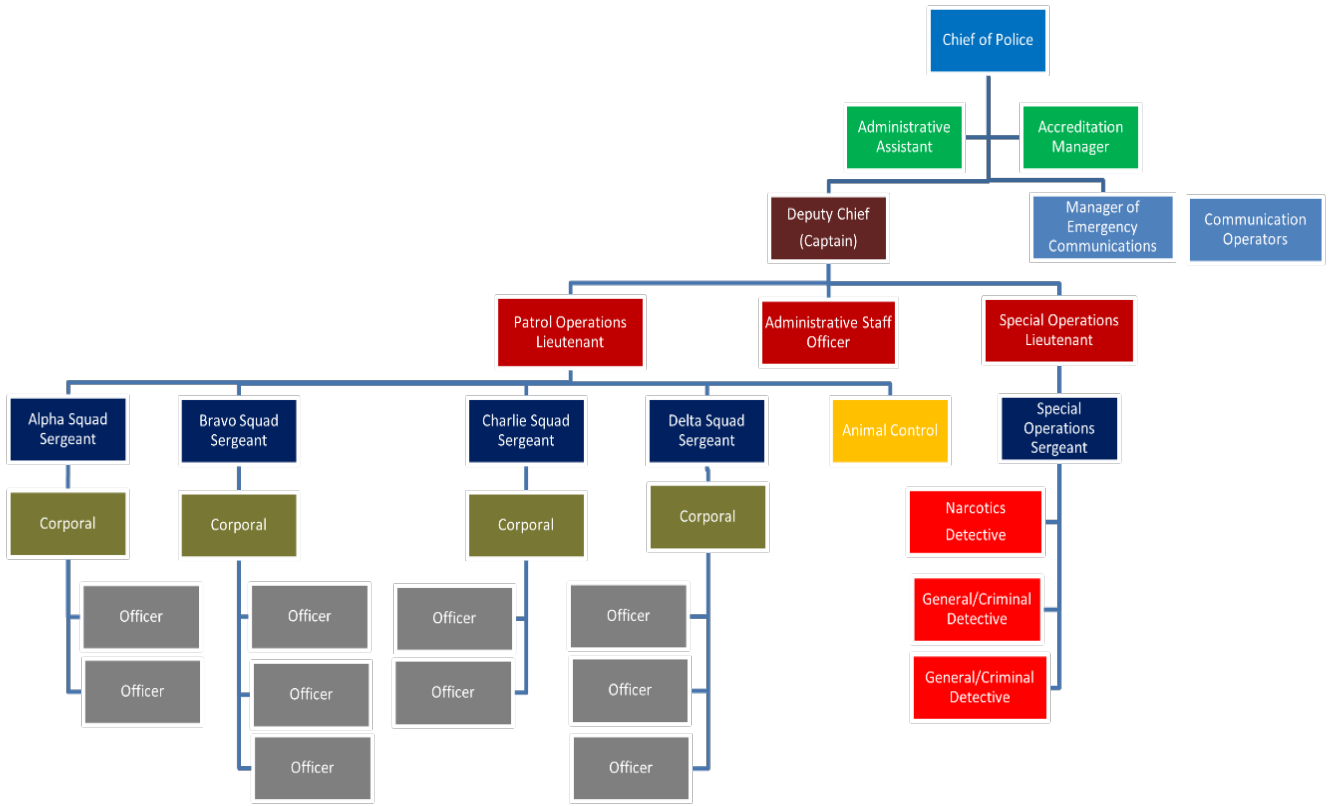
Lt. Bobby Ragland serves as Patrol Division Commander – Lieutenant—responsible for and has authority over, all activities of the patrol operations of the agency. The Patrol Lieutenant delegates authority to supervisory staff and coordinates uniformed law enforcement services, crowd control response, and critical incident response of the agency. The Patrol Lieutenant reports directly to the Deputy Chief of Police.



Lt. Chris Moss serves as Special Operations Division Commander – Lieutenant—responsible for, and has authority over, all activities of the Special Operations Division of the agency. The Special Operations Lieutenant delegates authority to supervisory staff and coordinates the activities of the Criminal Investigations Section, Narcotics Investigations Section, Emergency Planning, Crime Prevention, and the Evidence Room. The Special Operations Lieutenant reports directly to the Deputy Chief of Police.



# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## Agency Awards and Accomplishments



From left, Years' Service Awards; Officers Logan (5), Carter (5), and Rolle (5), Booth (10), Hoyle (15).



We commend Ms. Anita Allen, our Administrative Assistant, for 30 years' service.

"Otto S. Overton" Meritorious Service Award-The Meritorious Service Award named in honor and memory of former Farmville Police Chief Otto S. Overton. The award is for department members who demonstrate exceptional service to the community and to a particular task or assignments. This is the fourth highest award the department can bestow on a member and is accompanied by a certificate. (Top to bottom) Lt. Bobby Ragland, Communications Supervisor Jackie Gilbert, And Corporal Stewart Godsey were each presented with this prestigious award.



## **FISCAL YEAR 2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**



For many years the Farmville Police Department has been working with Town leaders to secure State Retirement for its Officers as well as other Town Employee's. Finally, this year our prayers were answered, and Council saw fit to join the Virginia State Retirement System. We are so grateful to our leaders who always seem to have our best interest in hand. This was a huge step forward towards recruitment and retention for all Town positions.

The Virginia Retirement System, an independent state agency based in Richmond, delivers retirement and other benefits to covered Virginia public sector employees through sound financial stewardship and superior customer service. VRS ranks as the 18th largest public or private pension fund in the U.S. and the 41st largest in the world, serving more than 742,000 active and inactive members, retirees, and beneficiaries. Members include public school teachers, political subdivision employees (cities, towns, special authorities, and commissions), state agency employees, public college and university personnel, state police, Virginia law officers and the judiciary. Approximately 837 employers have elected to participate in VRS.



For the past 3 years, FPD has been working on a capital expenditure project to update our current radio system from analog to the new digital P-25 communications system for Law Enforcement, to include our 911 Communications Center. This project came with a hefty price tag to exceed \$750,000.00. Our goal last year was to acquire additional grant funding to allow us to secure the purchase of 32 handheld radios. This year we met our goal and have acquired 32 new handhelds, therefore completing the radio project for our Police Department. We are currently in the installation process of replacing all consoles within our Emergency 911 Communications Center.

## **2021 Police Officer of the Year Award**



Just like last year, many officers have done exceptional work and performed “above and beyond” their normal duties. Our officers have taken on added responsibilities due to being short staffed, due to the loss of 7 officers over the past year. Officers have also had to deal with the continued effects caused by the Covid 19 virus.

Detective Paulette continued to be a hard worker and has produced many quality cases with his assignment to the Gang and Drug Task Force. In addition to effectively working cases within the Task Force, Detective Paulette has stepped to the plate and assisted the department in the coverage of vacant shift assignments. In doing so, not only has he filled the void within the shifts, but he has lead the department in Traffic Enforcement to include three D.U.I Arrests.

Detective Paulette continues to manage his criminal investigations well while at the same time participating with many of the department’s community relations programs.

With each of these tasks, Detective Paulette works toward carrying out the mission statement of the Farmville Police Department, “Providing a safe and secure community through excellence in public service.”



Farmville Police Department was awarded its Third Accreditation Award, for a period of 4 years, by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission. Congratulations to Dale Dowdy and the entire department for a job well done.

## **Community Outreach**

We continue to offer more than 25 community policing programs yearly.

“Operation Blue Christmas” has become an annual tradition for the Farmville Police Department. This life altering experience joins the department with local businesses to bring the Holidays to children and their families who may not otherwise have the opportunity. Local businesses make financial donations that allow police officers to shop with children during the holiday season. Taco Bell/Long John Silver’s once again opened their doors and partnered with FPD to provide food for the children and their immediate family members. Officers and members of the department’s Advisory Board accompanied 10 children during this year’s event. This provides positive reinforcement to the children and opens trust with youth within our community. Although Covid-19 crashed many parties in 2021, FPD was fortunate to be able to bring Christmas to 10 precious children.



## **National Night Out**

There is no doubt that 2020 and 2021 made our community policing efforts difficult. Officers and staff struggled to find ways to interact with the public while balancing the health and well-being of the community. Although our efforts were less than hoped, the department found unique and new ways to enhance our interaction while holding on to some of the more traditional community policing functions. We were so excited to bring back to the streets, “National Night 2021”. Stay Tuned for an exciting announcement concerning “National Night Out 2022”.



## **Patrol Division Report- 2021**

### **Commanded by Lieutenant Bobby Ragland**

During the 2021 calendar year, the Farmville Police Department's patrol division saw many changes. Even as new computers and Mobile Data Terminals were added to the department, valuable manpower was lost throughout the year, causing a shortage in veteran leadership and experience as well as losing some good young officers. Despite manpower shortages throughout the year, the loss of some of our heaviest enforcement officers, and changes in state code that made it more difficult for officers to initiate traffic stops, the Farmville Police Department still issued 1876 traffic citations. Over 2300 traffic stops were made. Over 900 parking citations were issued. Over 3900 area checks were performed throughout the town. Over 5300 calls for service, excluding traffic stops, were handled. More than 110 reportable traffic crashes were handled during the year. Over 200 arrests were made by Farmville PD officers. Officers also handled 64 ECO/TDO calls.

We continue to work towards upgrading vehicles and equipment. We were able to add three new vehicles to the fleet. Officers and detectives logged over 220,00 miles for the year. Patrol vehicles are the most visible indicator of professionalism to the general public, and it is vitally important that we maintain that image.

Due to funding from our speed and alcohol grants we were able to continue to show an enhanced police presence and obtain several new radar units to upgrade older units.

Covid 19 issues continued to plague the area and cause problems with scheduling events during the year. As the virus eased a bit at times, officers assisted with various community policing projects such as Blue Christmas and National Night Out. One of the department's premier programs, the DARE program at Fuqua School, was forced to be postponed for the year, primarily due to staffing, hopefully to be re-started next year.

# 2021 Reportable Motor Vehicle Crash Report



<u>Year</u>	<u># of Crashes</u>	<u>Damages</u>
2021	112	\$1,085,750.00
2020	71	523,850.00
2019	133	1,019,450.00

## Location of Highest Occurrence of Crashes

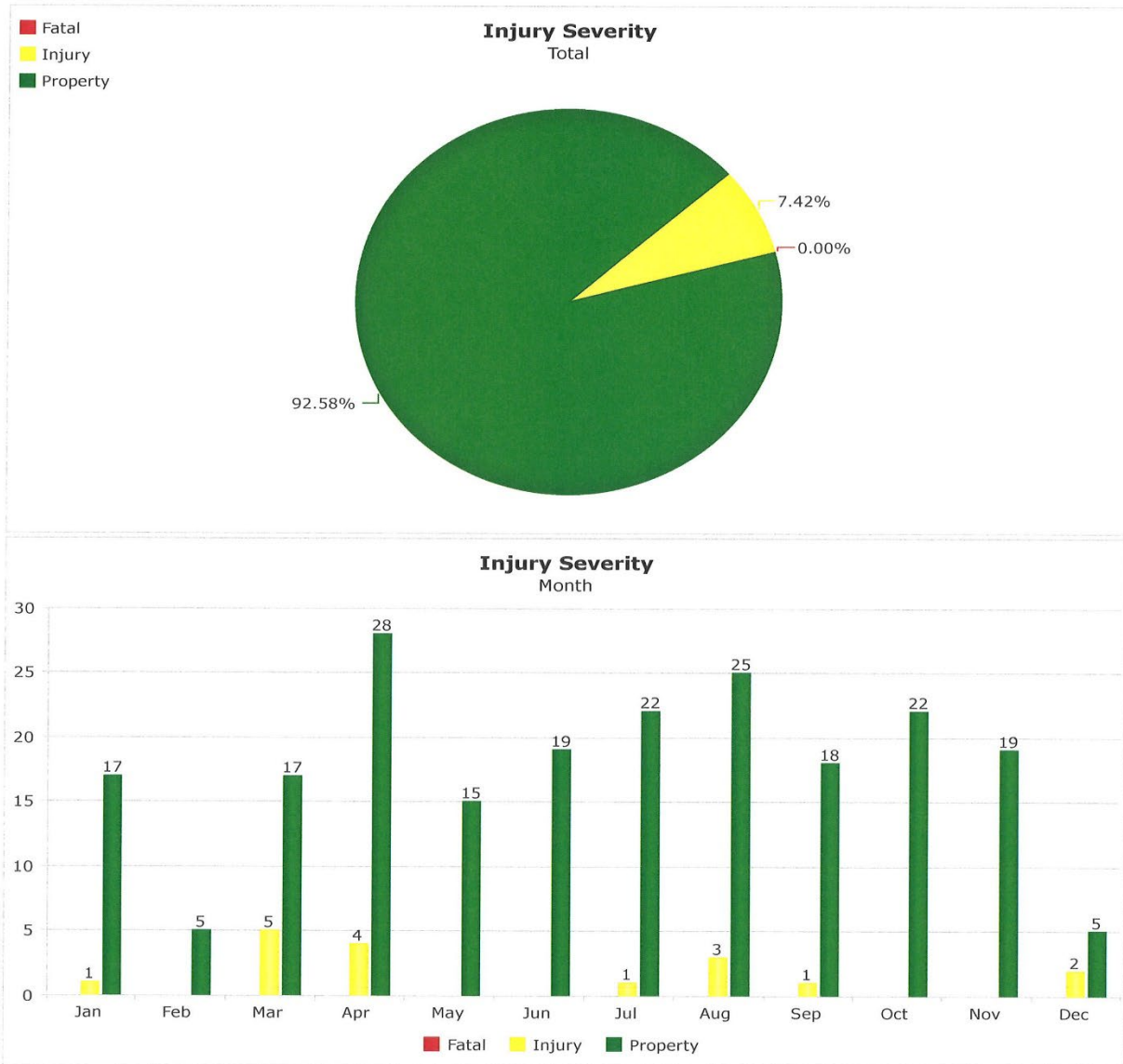
South Main Street and Clark Street	6
South Main and Perry Drive	6
Main and Putney Street	4
South Main and Milnwood Road	4
East Third Street and Milnwood Road	3
South Main and Griffin Blvd	3

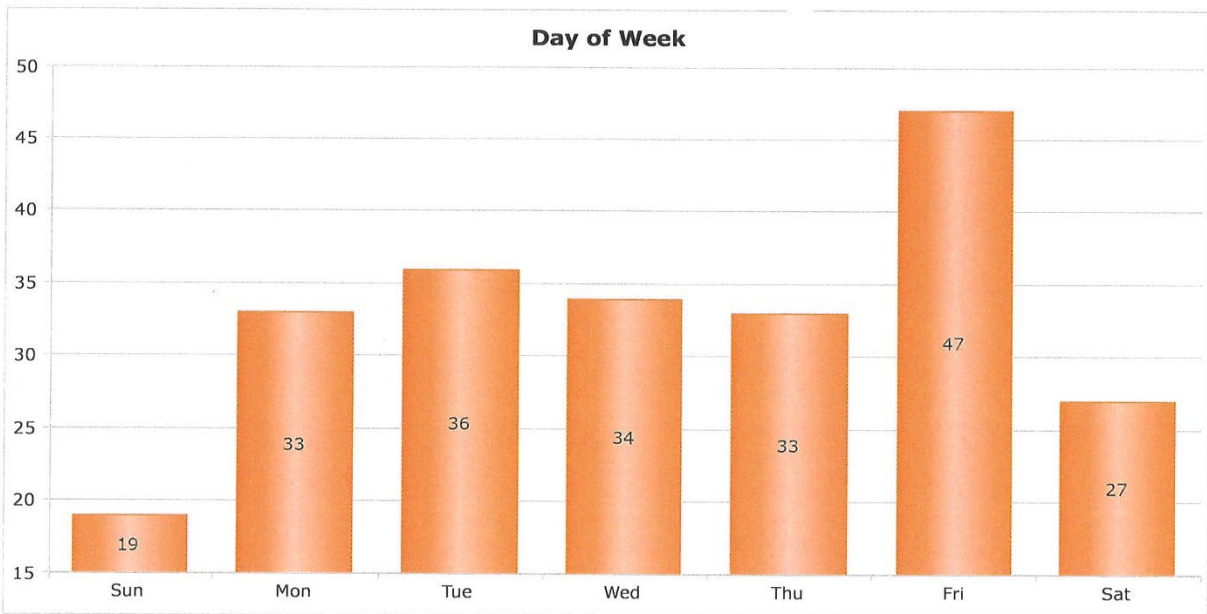
### **Note:**

A reportable crash are those crashes that result in damages of \$1500.00 or more and must be reported to DMV.

The total number of reportable crashes involving injuries in 2021 was eighteen (18), two (2) of which involved pedestrians.

**Total Number of Crashes Reported between 1/1/2021 and 12/31/2021 for [All Reporting Locations]: 229\*\***





## **Special Operations Report for 2021 Commanded by Lieutenant Chris Moss**

When 2020 ended, we were all happy to say goodbye to it and hoped the new year would be much different. We were wrong. COVID-19 cases had declined towards the end of the year and about the time we thought we were done with it, cases started to rise again. Our Community Policing Programs took a severe hit two years in a row with the cancelation of our Citizen's Police Academy and First Responder Kids Camp. The Heart of Virginia Festival was postponed again, with plans for a September Festival that was ultimately cancelled as well. Fortunately, we were able to have National Night Out placing 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation in areas with a population between 5000 and 15000. We finished the year with Operation Blue Christmas helping 10 area kids have a special Christmas.

On the Investigative side of things, we took 168 cases in Special Ops compared to 128 cases last year. That was an increase of 35 cases. One area of decline was the number of shots fired calls we were assigned. This was due in part to the arrest of several offenders since December of 2020. Several other primary suspects, their associates, and adversaries being incarcerated in other jurisdictions.

There was a slight increase in Sexual Assault investigations, but most have been cleared by arrest due to the investigative efforts of the Detective Staff.

The application process was fine-tuned some more this year and four applicants were ultimately hired after moving through two separate hiring processes with minimal issues. With the usage of polygraph and psychological examinations, the time from receiving the application to the start date has increased, but the process has become more fluid and seems to be working well. The addition of a written test has eliminated some of the "non-serious" applicants and allows for an orientation talk that explains the position and hiring process, allowing applicants to make a better decision as to whether this job is right for them. In doing this, the number of applicants we interview and conduct background investigations on is reduced to the more serious and qualified candidates.

Below are case totals for the past three years and clearance rates for the past two years.

Total cases for 2021 - 163

Total cases for 2020 – 128

Total cases for 2019 - 167

Clearance Rate at 2020 years' end – 52%

Clearance Rate at 2021 years' end – 67%

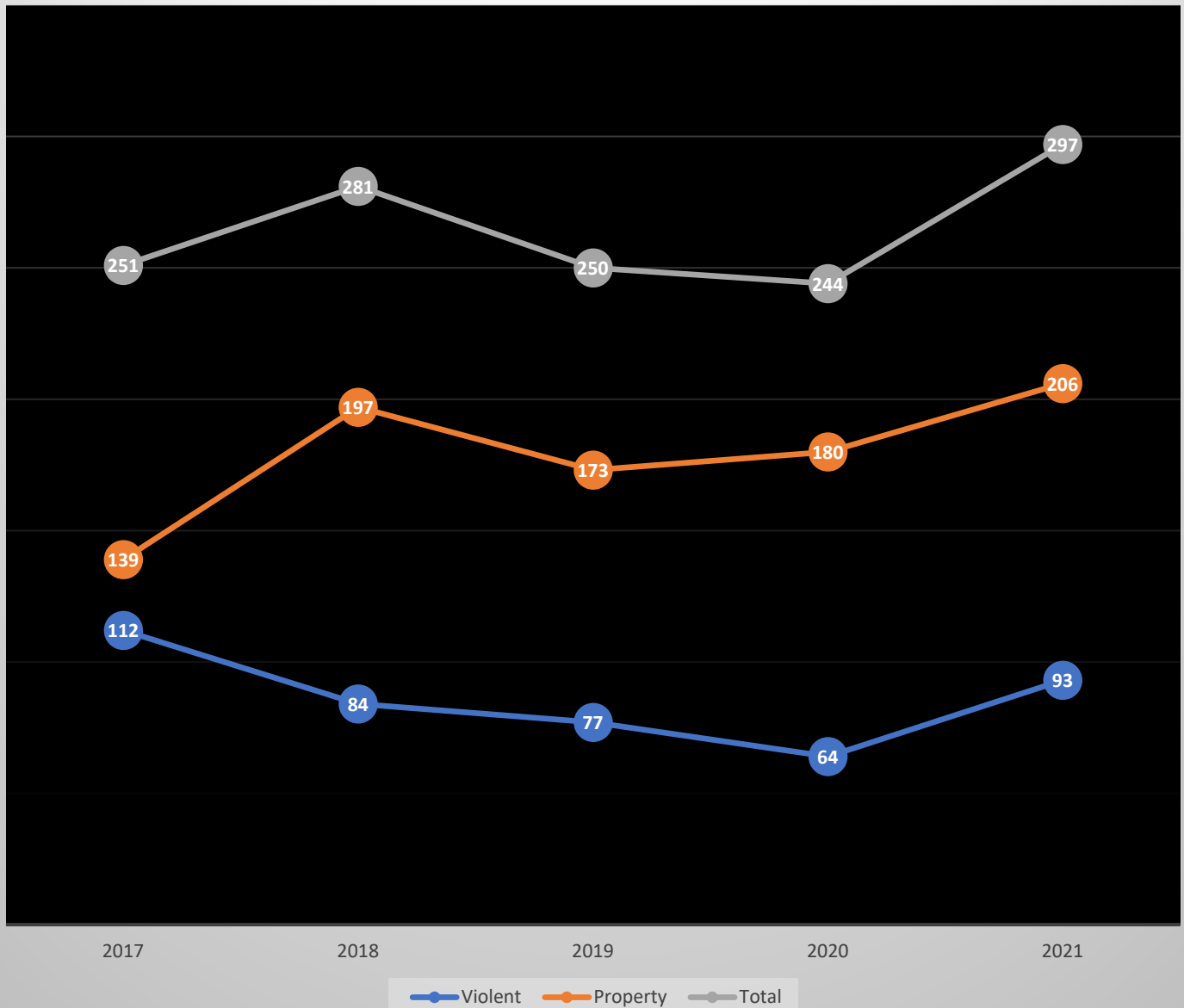
## **Selected Crime Numbers For The Past Five Year Period**

<u><b>VIOLENT CRIMES</b></u>	<u><b>2021</b></u>	<u><b>2020</b></u>	<u><b>2019</b></u>	<u><b>2018</b></u>	<u><b>2017</b></u>
Simple Assault	69	45	53	69	94
Aggravated Assault	14	14	15	9	08
Homicide	0	0	0	1	0
Rape	5	3	3	4	3
Forcible Fondling/Sodomy	5	2	3	2	2
Robbery	0	0	3	0	5
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>112</b>
 <u><b>PROPERTY CRIMES</b></u>					
Burglary	5	3	17	18	22
Larceny	197	174	150	166	105
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	2	5	13	11
Arson	1	1	1	0	1
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>251</b>

- Violent crime, which includes simple assault, for comparison increased by 53 offenses.

- Using the previous four-year average of crime as a measurement for comparison, we find that the average for total crimes is 256.75. *In 2021 we increased 15.675 % from the four-year average. This is not inconsistent with the National Trend.*

### 5 Year Crime Trend Violent Crime and Serious Property Offenses



**Emergency Custody Orders**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Number of calls	59	82	65	68	54
Total Man-hours	389	632.5	521	512	675
Avg. hours per call	6.59	7.7	7.18	7.5	12.5

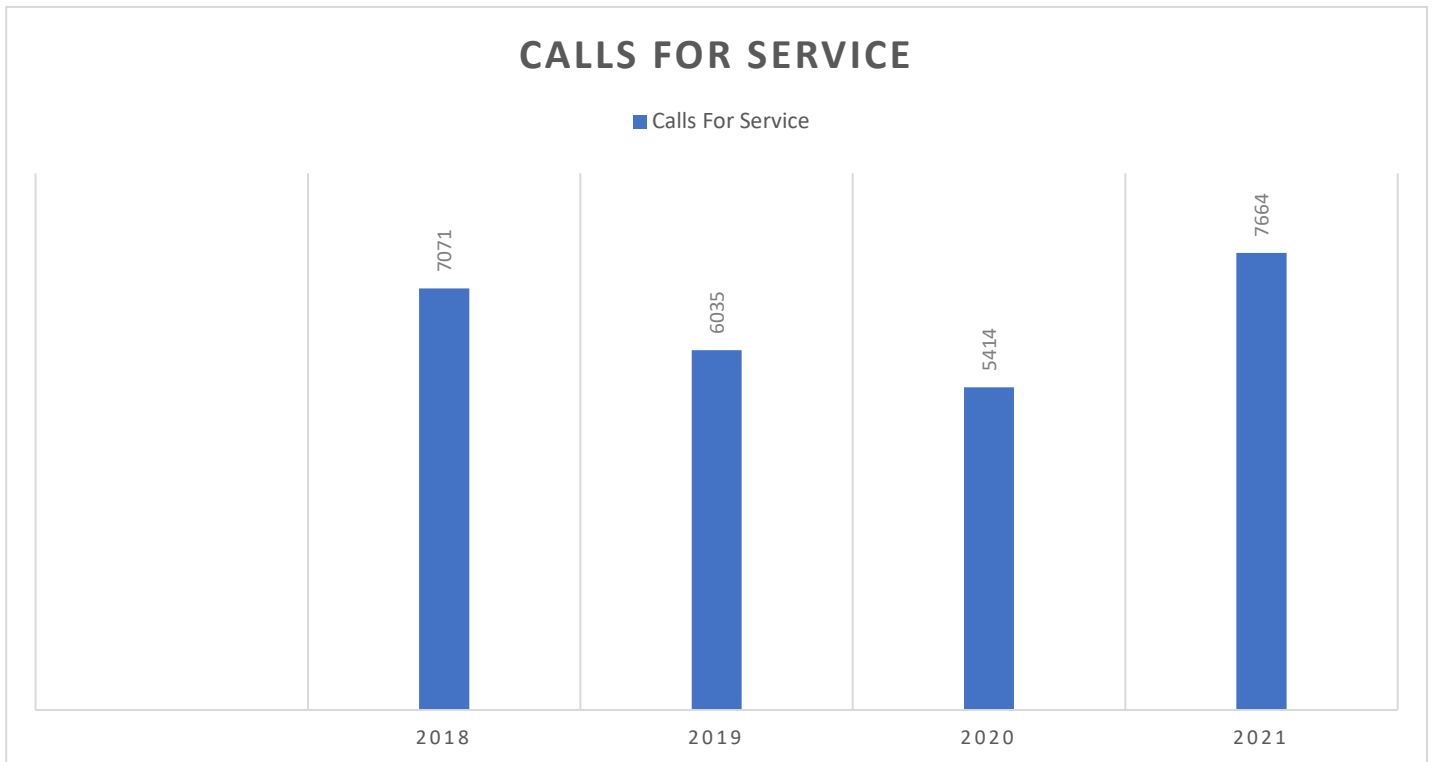
**Temporary Detention Orders (transports only/does not include Medical TDO)**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Number of calls	8	8	13	11	11
Total Man-hours	37	38.5	29	34.5	311.7
Avg. hours per call	4.63	4.81	2.23	3.84	28.32

987.5 total man-hours committed by officers to mental health.

## **Calls For Service Demands**

Answering calls for service is a major function of the agency. Call demand is a strong indication of the public need for police. Ultimately a goal of the agency is to show a reduction of calls for service combined with a reduction in overall crime numbers. In 2021 our overall crime numbers increased, as did the demand for calls for service by 36.4 % from the previous three-year average.

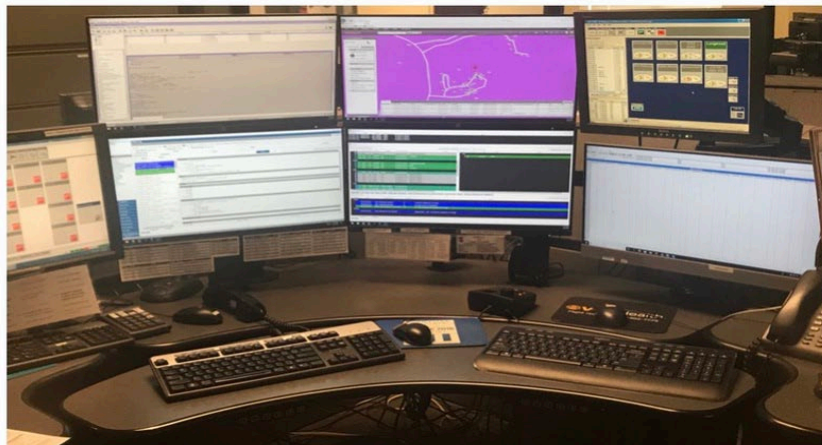


# **2021 Annual Report**

*Prepared by Jackie B. Gilbert*

*Emergency Communications Manager*

## **FARMVILLE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS**



The Farmville Emergency Communications Center is the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for the Farmville area. Our center answers 911 calls for the Town of Farmville and Prince Edward County. The center dispatches the Farmville Police Department, Hampden-Sydney Police Department, Longwood Police Department, Prince Edward, and Meherrin Rescue Squads, seven in county fire departments and Public Works for the Town of Farmville. The Chief of Police of the Farmville Police Department is responsible for the overall management of the Emergency Communications Center. The center employs 18 full-time and 3 part-time Communications Operators.

## **2021 Telecommunicator of the Year**



During National Public Safety Telecommunications Week each year beginning in 2017, our center presents a Telecommunicator of the Year award to a communications operator that has gone above and beyond his or her scope of duties and has garnered the attention of his or her coworkers. This year, on April 7, 2021, Communications Operator Leslie M. Cheatham was selected as the Telecommunicator of the year.

Leslie was nominated by her co-workers for her actions during a call for service on October 28, 2020. Officer Matt McMillian with the Farmville Police Department attempted to stop a vehicle that ran a stop sign and failed to yield to oncoming traffic. The suspect vehicle struck another vehicle that was traveling northbound and then all occupants in the suspect vehicle jumped out and fled the scene. During the investigation, it was determined that the plates on the suspect vehicle were not registered to that vehicle. To assist Officer McMillian, Operator Cheatham was able to locate the registered owner of the plates that were displayed on the suspect vehicle. It was discovered that both the vehicle and tags were stolen from Henrico. The theft had been reported but was never entered into NCIC and VCIN, thus without Cheatham's efforts, officers would have never known the vehicle was stolen.

If questioned about her actions, she will tell you that she was just doing her job, but by thinking "outside of the box" she was able to provide important information that was crucial to the investigation and impacted the outcome of the incident.

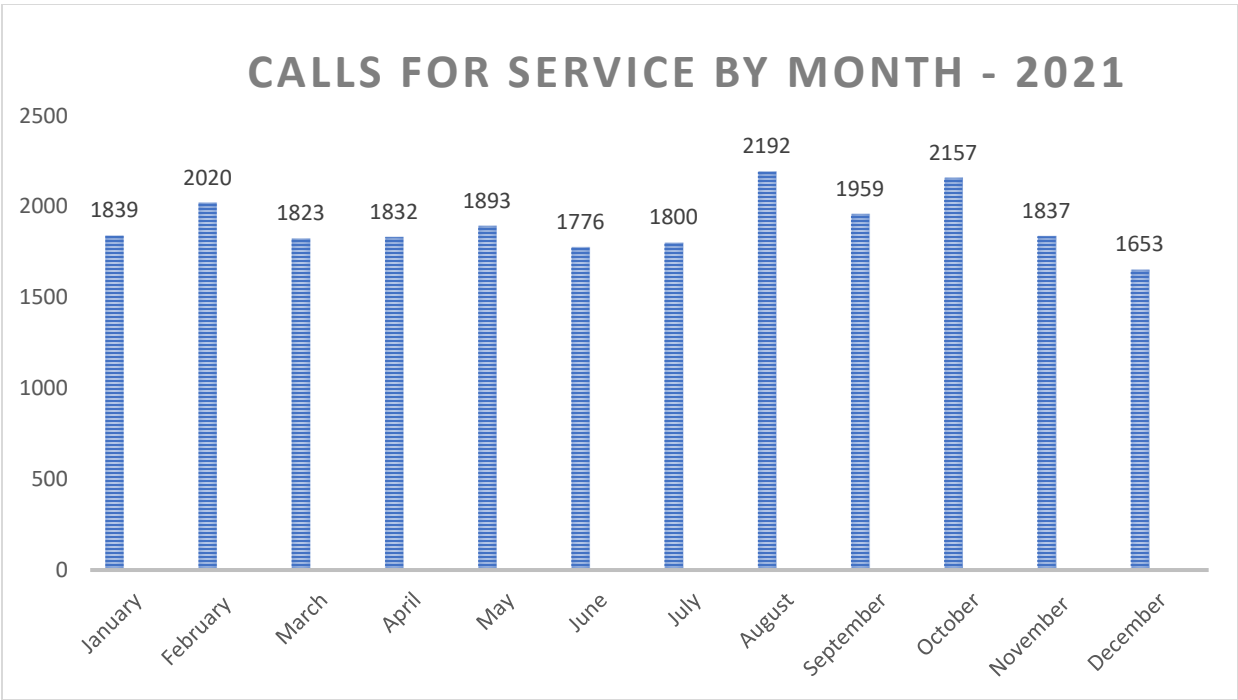
## **Emergency Medical Dispatch**

On May 10, 2021, all Communications Operators began offering pre-arrival instructions on medical calls. The PowerPhone Total Response EMD solution provides instruction, certification, and quality assurance. Operators process requests for emergency medical assistance and ensures that appropriate medical services are dispatched. Operators are now able to provide necessary medical pre-arrival instructions on all chief complaints and have on a few occasions provided CPR and childbirth instructions.

Because of the implementation of Emergency Medical Dispatch, our center will now present operators with a lifesaving award for those times when CPR instructions are provided and the patient survived. We will also present a childbirth assistance award for those calls where the operator assisted with the childbirth process. Our center was honored to present Operator Chris McKay with the childbirth assistance award for his efforts during a call for service on September 20, 2021. With a calm demeanor, Operator McKay used the PowerPhone protocols to assist a father with the successful delivery of his baby girl.



Each operator acquired their emergency medical dispatch certification by completing online training and passing three online tests. In addition to completing the certification offered by PowerPhone, all operators must have a current CPR/First Aid certification.



## **Deployment to Next Generation 911**

The Farmville Emergency Communications Center in conjunction with Lumen, AT&T, Intrado, and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management completed a successful migration to the Emergency Services IP Network on July 14, 2021. Since our migration, we have noticed 911 calls reaching the center faster, and the callers' location updating to the map within a matter of seconds. Farmville was the 9<sup>th</sup> PSAP of 114 PSAPs in Virginia to complete the transition over to Next Generation 911.

## **Upcoming Projects**

### **Radio and Communications Upgrade**

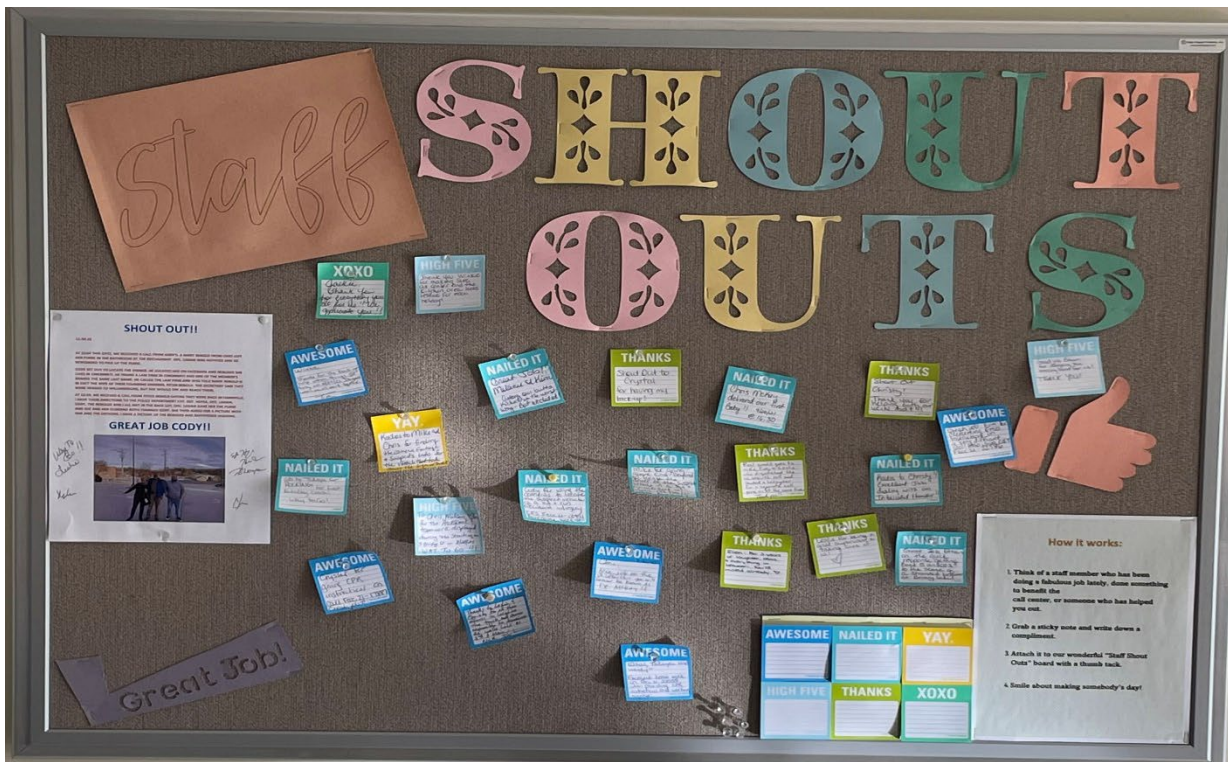


The current four Motorola radio consoles that are in use at the Farmville Emergency Communications Center are nearing the end of productivity and will no longer be supported by the manufacturer. To ensure the 9-1-1 center can maintain constant communication with responders in the field, a radio upgrade to a digitally capable system will occur in 2022. This upgrade will replace all consoles in the center and establish a dependable way of communication while allowing interoperability with other agencies and jurisdictions.

# Map Upgrade

The 911 center will begin using a map that is provided by our CAD/RMS vendor after our contract expires with our current mapping vendor. After this upgrade, operators will be able to dispatch the closest available police unit to calls for service by using automatic vehicle locator (AVL) technology. The map will also allow operators to generate a call for service from the callers' location.

# Recognizing Good Work



There are many times when operators go above and beyond what they are required to do, and it goes unnoticed. Earlier this year, Operator Whaley created a shout-outboard in the dispatch kitchen area that is used to recognize those who did an outstanding job during a call for service. Some have been recognized for providing CPR instructions on medical calls and others for demonstrating teamwork and helping their co-workers.