

**Farmville Police Department**  
**State of Department Annual Report**  
**2023**



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

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# Message from the Chief



Chief Andy Ellington

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Dear Farmville Community,

As we reflect on the events of the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering support and cooperation of our community. It is through our collective efforts that we have been able to uphold the safety and well-being of our town.

In 2023, the Farmville Police Department remained committed to serving and protecting all members of our community. We worked tirelessly to enhance our community policing efforts, foster positive relationships with residents, and address concerns with empathy and understanding.

As you will read in the following report, we have greatly increased our traffic enforcement tactics which, we can show, contributed to a reduction in vehicle crashes and other vehicle-related offenses, as well as acted as a deterrent to committing crimes due to our increased patrolling efforts.

I encourage all residents to stay engaged with local law enforcement, participate in community initiatives, and communicate any concerns or feedback you may have. Your input is invaluable in helping us tailor our approach to better serve your needs and priorities. Another way you can stay up to date on our department is to follow our Facebook page and other social media we started last year. This allows you to get alerts quickly and efficiently so we can better communicate with you in times of an emergency.

As we look ahead to the coming year, let us remain united in our commitment to building a stronger, safer, and more inclusive community for all. Together, we can overcome any obstacle and create a brighter future for the Town of Farmville.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Sincerely,

Chief Ellington  
Farmville Police Department

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

### **Mission:**

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

### **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.

### **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. 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 for 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 on its ninth year as a state-accredited agency.

## Organization and Structure

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

The Farmville Police Department is led by Chief A. Q. “Andy” Ellington, Sr. Chief Ellington joined the Farmville Police Department in 1989 as a patrolman and has since worked in every supervisory role within the department. Appointed to the Chief’s position in October 2016, Chief Ellington is celebrating 33 years of service to the Farmville Community.



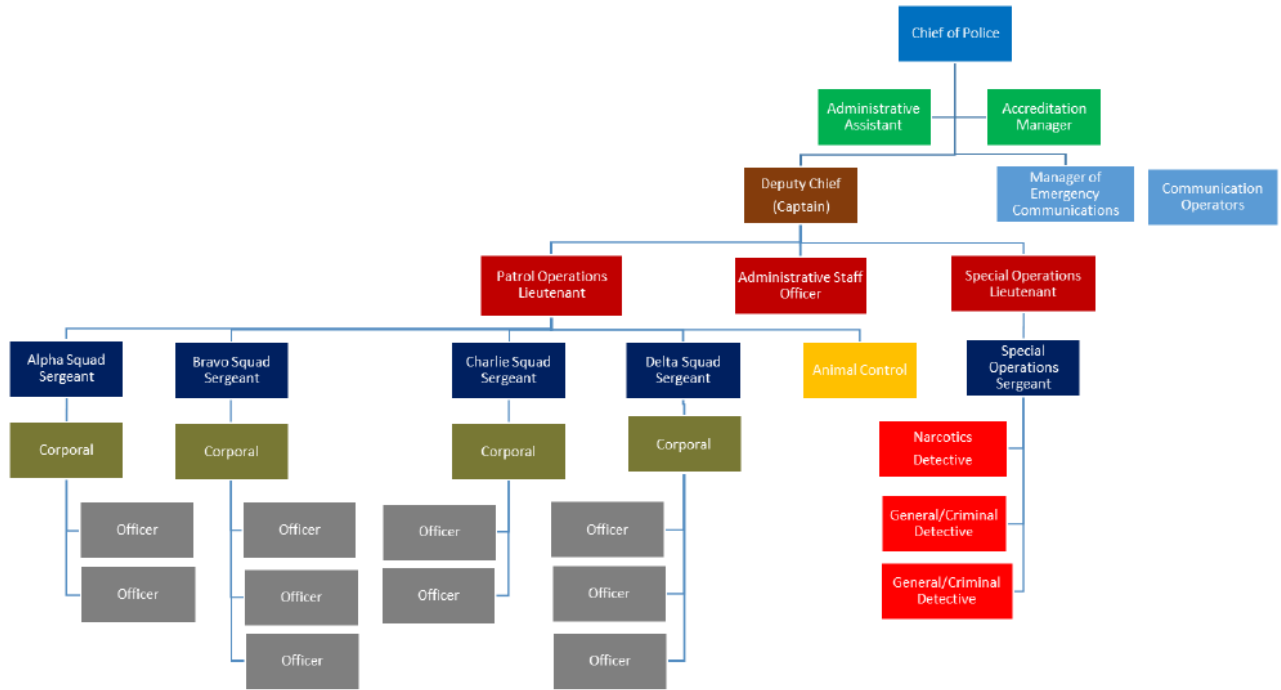
William H. “Bill” Hogan serves as Deputy Chief of Police (Captain), responsible for daily activities of the agency and reports directly to the Chief of Police. The Assistant Chief is second-in-command and has responsibility for and authority over operations, administration, and training for the agency.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

Lieutenant Bobby Ragland serves as Patrol Division Commander, 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.



Lieutenant Chris Moss serves as Special Operations Division Commander, 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

### **2023 “Stuart O. Dunnivant” D.U.I Enforcement Award: Officer Derrick Thompson**



The D.U.I. Enforcement Award is named in honor, and in memory, of former Farmville Police Chief Stuart O. Dunnivant. The award recognizes the department member who demonstrates an outstanding commitment to the prevention, detection, and enforcement of the driving under the influence laws, and for ensuring the safety of the public by removing impaired drivers from the streets of the Town of Farmville. This years recipient is Officer Derrick Thompson, with a total of 28 DUI arrests for 2023. Thank you Derrick for your enforcement efforts that help keep our streets safe.

### **Years of Service Award Recipients**

Cpl. Dalton Foley —5 Years

Cpl. Justin Bowles —10 Years

Cpt. Bill Hogan —25 Years

Sgt. Danny Bowman —30 Years

Chief Andy Ellington—35 Years

### **Citizen Appreciation Award Recipients—The Fishin’ Pig and Third Street Wrecker**

We were please to recognize The Fishin’ Pig and Third Street Wrecker with Citizen Appreciation awards for their longstanding and continued support of the Farmville Police Department.



## 2023 Accomplishments



Since the launch of our social media efforts in 2022, we have been able to get more information to you in the places you are already looking, such as Facebook and Instagram. We are proud to say that, as of this writing, we have 2,641 followers on Facebook and 111 followers on Instagram! We would love to see those numbers higher for one reason: to keep everyone as safe as possible as quickly as possible. The quicker we are able to get information to you, the quicker you can take steps to keep you and your loved ones safe. Thank you to everyone that has followed our pages and please, if you can, share them with your family and friends so we can get as much of our community notified as we possibly can!

Perhaps one of the biggest safety measures we have put into place are License Plate Reader (LPR) cameras from Flock Safety. Law Enforcement Agencies across the country can enter stolen vehicles, vehicles known to be driven by wanted persons, or otherwise suspect vehicles from other crimes into the system, and they will receive an instantaneous alert when one of these cameras picks up that license plate. The key with these cameras is to interrupt cycles of violence and serious crimes that could occur through being able to locate these vehicles the moment they enter our jurisdiction. These cameras have been placed at every entry and exit point throughout the Town of Farmville in order to further keep our community safe.

**flock safety**



## Agency Awards and Accomplishments

### 2023 Police Officer of the Year: Sgt. Chip Hoyle



We are delighted to present Sergeant Chip Hoyle the 2023 Farmville Police Department Officer of the Year Award. As a 16-year veteran of the Farmville Police Department, Sergeant Hoyle has consistently demonstrated an exemplary work ethic and unwavering dedication to serving our community.

Sergeant Hoyle's commitment to his duty is truly remarkable. He consistently goes above and beyond in carrying out his responsibilities, from efficiently managing his shift, to the issuance of parking tickets, and traffic summonses to promptly responding to calls for service. His diligence and professionalism have significantly contributed to maintaining public safety and order within our community, and he exemplifies our mission, "To provide a safe and secure community through excellence in public service."

What truly sets Sergeant Hoyle apart is his selfless attitude and unwavering dedication to his work. Despite the challenges he faces, he approaches each task with a positive and determined mindset, never hesitating to take on additional responsibilities. His colleagues and superiors alike hold him in high regard, recognizing him as a model employee and an invaluable asset to the department.

Sergeant Hoyle's exceptional performance and outstanding character made him an ideal candidate for the "FPD Officer of the Year Award."

## 2023 Patrol Division Report

### **By Lieutenant Bobby Ragland**



Lt. Bobby Ragland

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In 2023, the patrol division of the Farmville Police Department continued to perform well in spite of being short-staffed for the bulk of the year.

The department continues its program for vehicle purchases and the fleet is slowly being overhauled. This program continues, despite difficulties in shipping and availability of vehicles, to allow us to put newer vehicles on the road and cut major maintenance costs involved with keeping older vehicles active. The vehicles ordered in July 2023 have started arriving in the beginning of 2024 and will be on the road soon.

Our body camera system is functioning well and continues to be a great asset to our officers. We have had only a few issues with damage to cameras and all issues have been handled by the company and covered with no extra cost to the department.

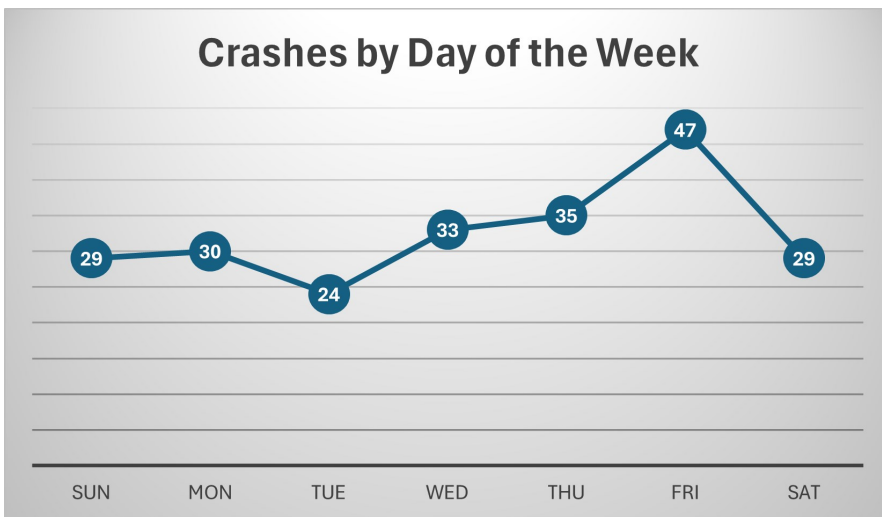
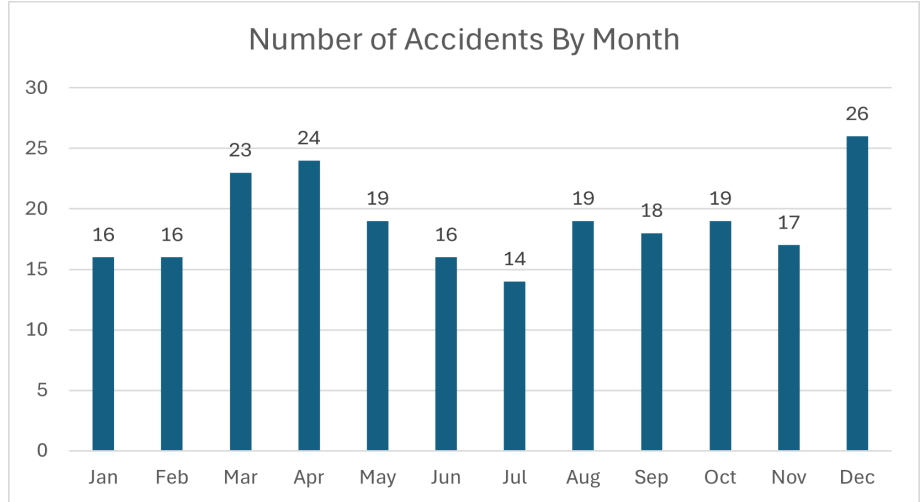
Officers participated in many community events during the course of the year including, but not limited to, Blue Christmas, National Night Out, and an inaugural Career Day event that began in 2023. Our DARE program has continued with Fuqua School and is being taught by Corporal Britton.

During the course of the year, officers handled 36 ECO/TDO calls for service, made 4,702 traffic stops, issued 3,478 citations, arrested 96 drivers for DUI, and issued 1,153 parking citations. Additionally, they conducted 2,253 area checks throughout the town for the year.

Officers also used available grants to work extra traffic patrols and enforce traffic laws regarding cell phone use while operating a motor vehicle. These efforts helped increase awareness of the laws and visibility of officers, which helped drive down total reportable crash numbers last year. Reportable crashes decreased as a result, from 114 in 2022 to 94 in 2023, a drop of nearly 20%.

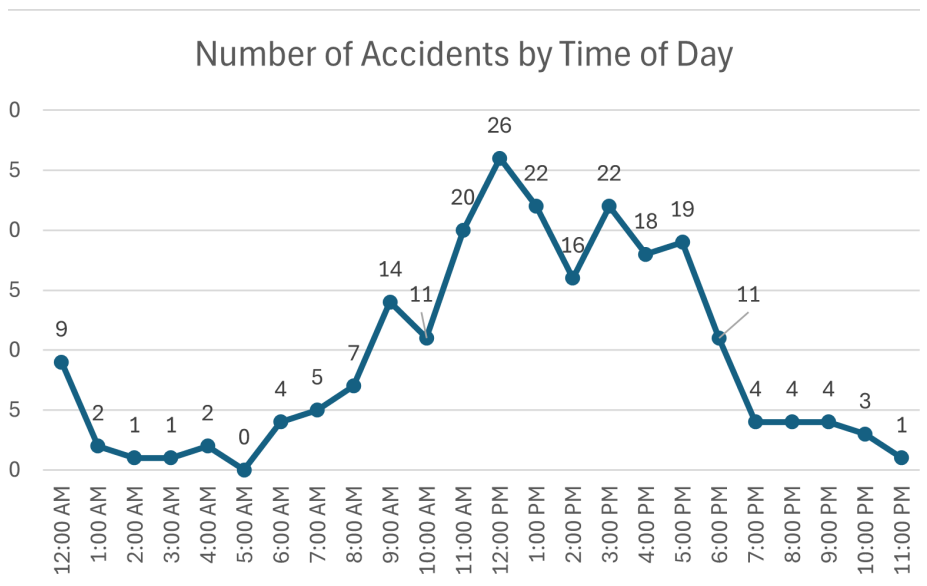
## 2023 Motor Vehicle Crash Report

Most crashes in 2023 occurred in the month of December, with March and April closely behind.



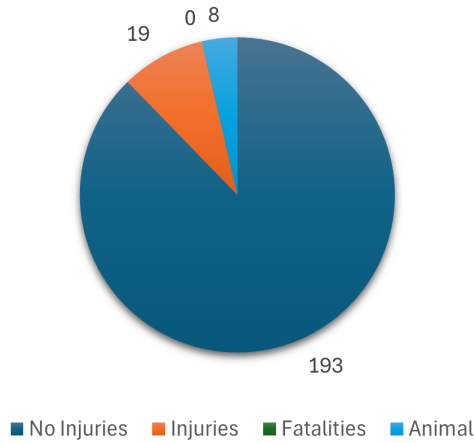
Friday was the day with the most crashes, having a total of 47 that occurred on that day of the week. Thursday was second with 35, and Wednesday just narrowly in third with 33.

Most crashes in 2023 occurred during the lunchtime hours between 11 am and 1 pm. You can see a correlation between crashes and work hours, with the other spikes occurring between 8 am and 10 am as well as 3 pm to 5 pm.



# 2023 Motor Vehicle Crash Report

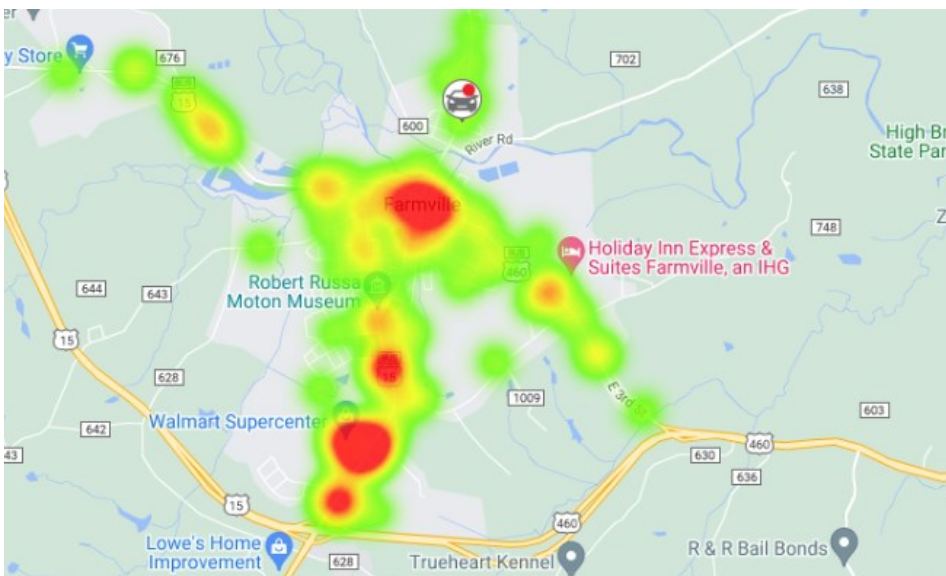
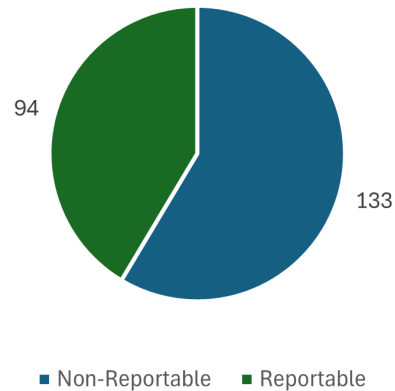
## Accidents by Type



The vast majority of crashes in 2023 did not have injuries. We did have 19 accidents with injuries, 8 involving animals, and zero fatalities. With a lower number of accidents occurring than in 2022, we attribute this to higher traffic enforcement, especially offenses concerning distracted driving such as using cell phones while driving.

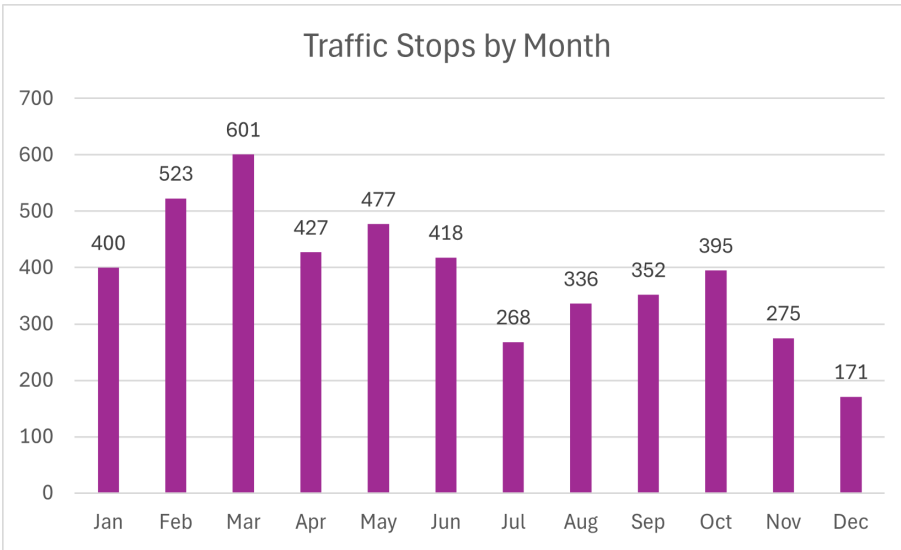
Reportable crashes are defined as having injuries, fatalities, or damage over \$1,500 or that occur on public roadways. We had 94 reportable accidents in 2023 vs 114 in 2022, a 17.5% reduction.

## Number of Reportable vs. Non-Reportable Accidents



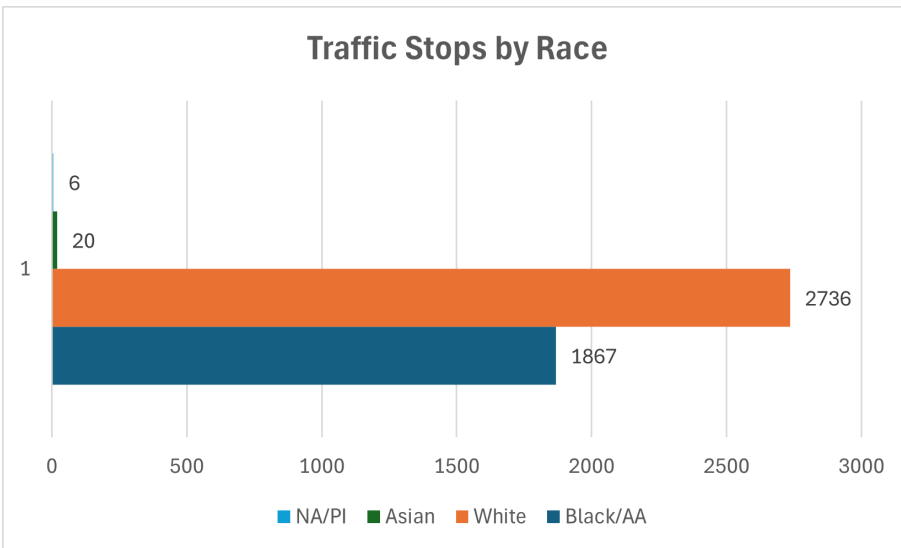
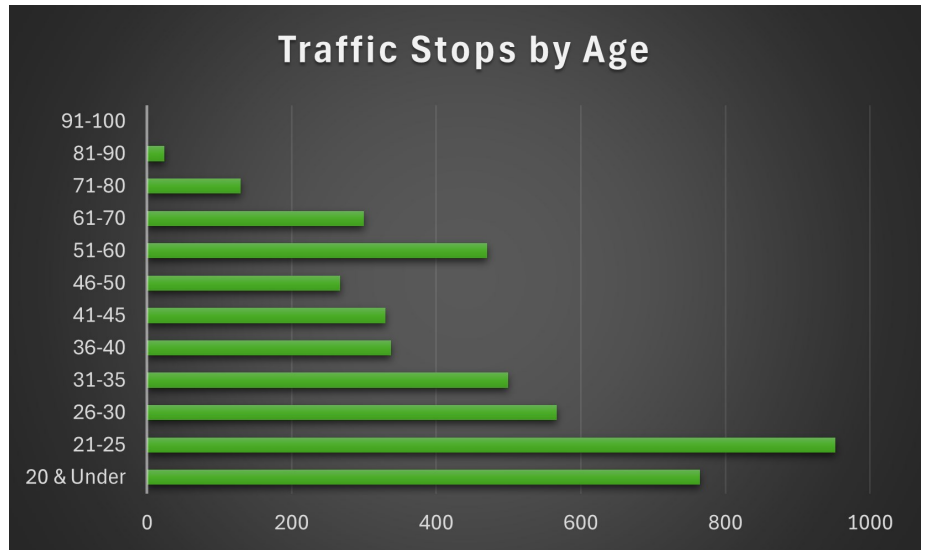
This map shows the location of our reportable accidents in 2023. Most accidents occurred in the area of South Main Street and Peery Dr (Walmart Intersection) and the Main and Third Intersection.

## 2022 Traffic Stop Report



The Code of Virginia requires Police Departments to obtain demographic data of every traffic stop conducted. These results are sent to the state reporting center and then to the governor's office. This chart shows the number of stops made each month by the Farmville Police Department.

Drivers under 30 years of age continue to comprise the majority of stops in 2023, as they were in 2022.

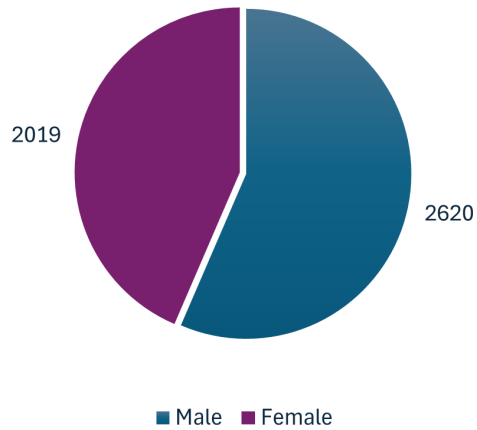


In 2023, 60% of our traffic stops involved a White driver, and 40% of our stops involved a Black/African American driver. In total, we had 4,643 traffic stops in 2023.

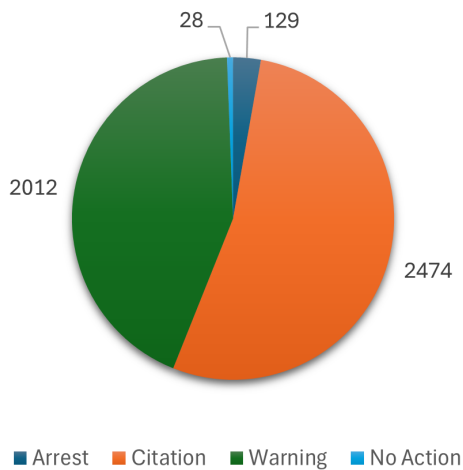
## 2022 Traffic Stop Report

Our citations issued followed the percentage of drivers stopped, with 56% of drivers being male and 44% being female.

### Traffic Stops by Sex



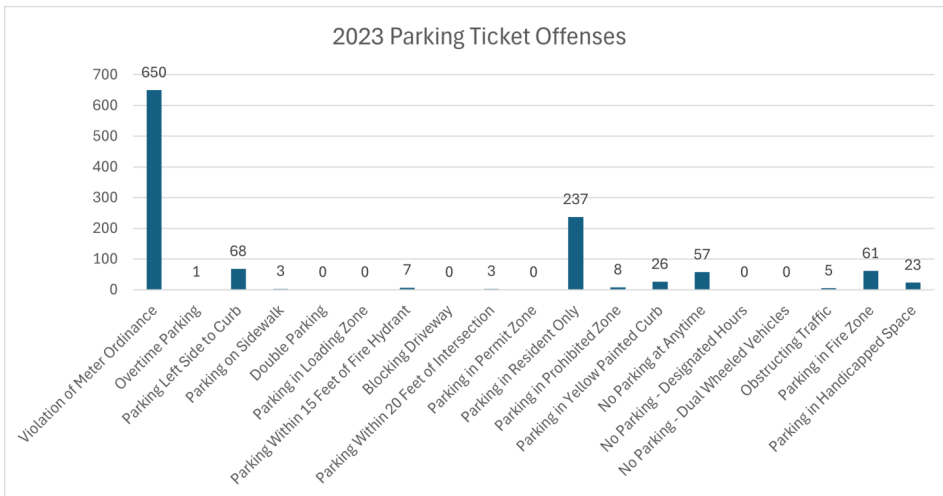
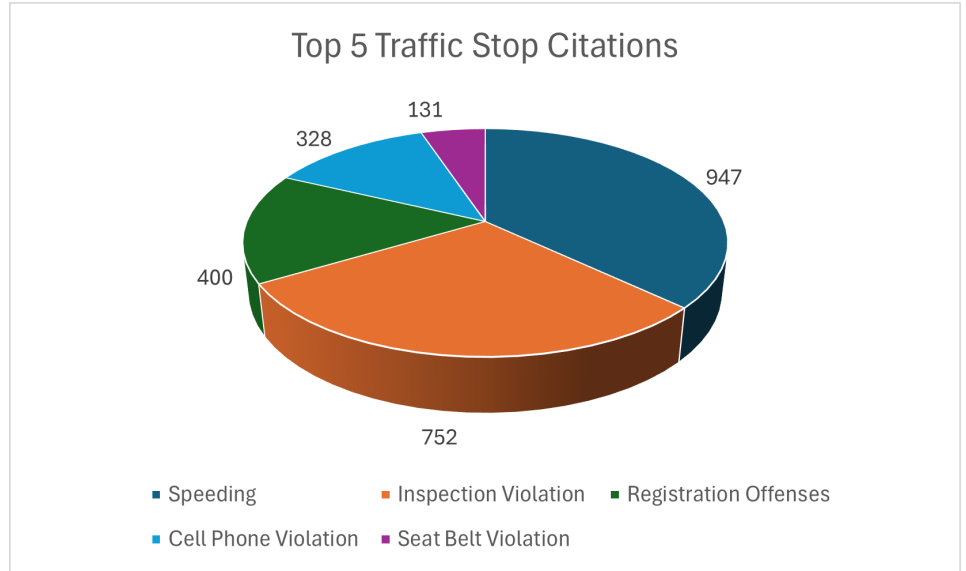
### Action Taken on Traffic Stops



Dispositions are the final result of a traffic stop. They can be no action taken, a warning, a summons (ticket), or an arrest. This chart contains the breakdown of traffic stops by the disposition (action taken). Citations comprised 53.2% of our traffic stops, and 43.3% of them ended with a warning given.

## 2023 Citation and Parking Offenses

In 2023, we issued a total of 3,618 citations. Most offenses were from speeding and inspection offenses. Additionally, we began enforcing a law enacted in 2020 regarding the use of cell phones and handheld communication devices while driving. With 328 citations issued, we believe this to be the cause of the reduction in crash numbers for 2023.



In 2023, meter violations were the largest source of parking tickets we issued. We issued a total of 1,149 parking tickets.

# 2023 Special Operations Division Report

## By Lieutenant Chris Moss



Lt. Chris Moss

### Community Policing

We hosted our eighth Citizens Police Academy. Seventeen students participated in the program, which for eight weeks from March to May of 2023. We are pleased to announce two of the students have since joined the Citizens Advisory Board.

A considerable amount of time was spent during the first half of 2023 preparing for “another” different approach to National Night Out. To “beat the heat,” we held this year’s event at the Five Count Fairgrounds in October rather than August. We enjoyed the much cooler temperatures and plan to add to this event in 2024. In

December, we learned that we were ranked tenth in our awards category in the nation.

The 2023 Heart of Virginia Festival was again held in September, and officers staffed an informational booth to interact with the citizens.

The year ended with Corporal Rachel Herndon and Officer Dante Parker coordinating with Prince Edward Department of Social Services and other local businesses and organizations to facilitate the 2023 Operation Blue Christmas, in which we helped ten local children have the Christmas they deserved.



### Investigations

The Flock LPR cameras have been a game changer when it comes to solving crimes and apprehending criminals. Should funding be secured, the addition of the Flock Safety management software will make the information available to us anytime, anywhere.

# **2023 Special Operations Division Report**

## **By Lieutenant Chris Moss**

Below is a list of cases by month, case totals for the past two years, and clearance rates for the past two years:

<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>
6	12	9	5	8	9	6	7	13	13	7	7

**Total cases for 2023—109**

**Total cases for 2022—140**

**Clearance Rate at 2023 year end—50%**

**Clearance Rate at 2022 year end—69%**

### **Application and Hiring Process**

The hiring process continues to be fine-tuned. We had one police recruit graduate from the criminal justice academy in 2023 and has almost completed the field training process. We currently have three openings for Police Recruits going into 2024.

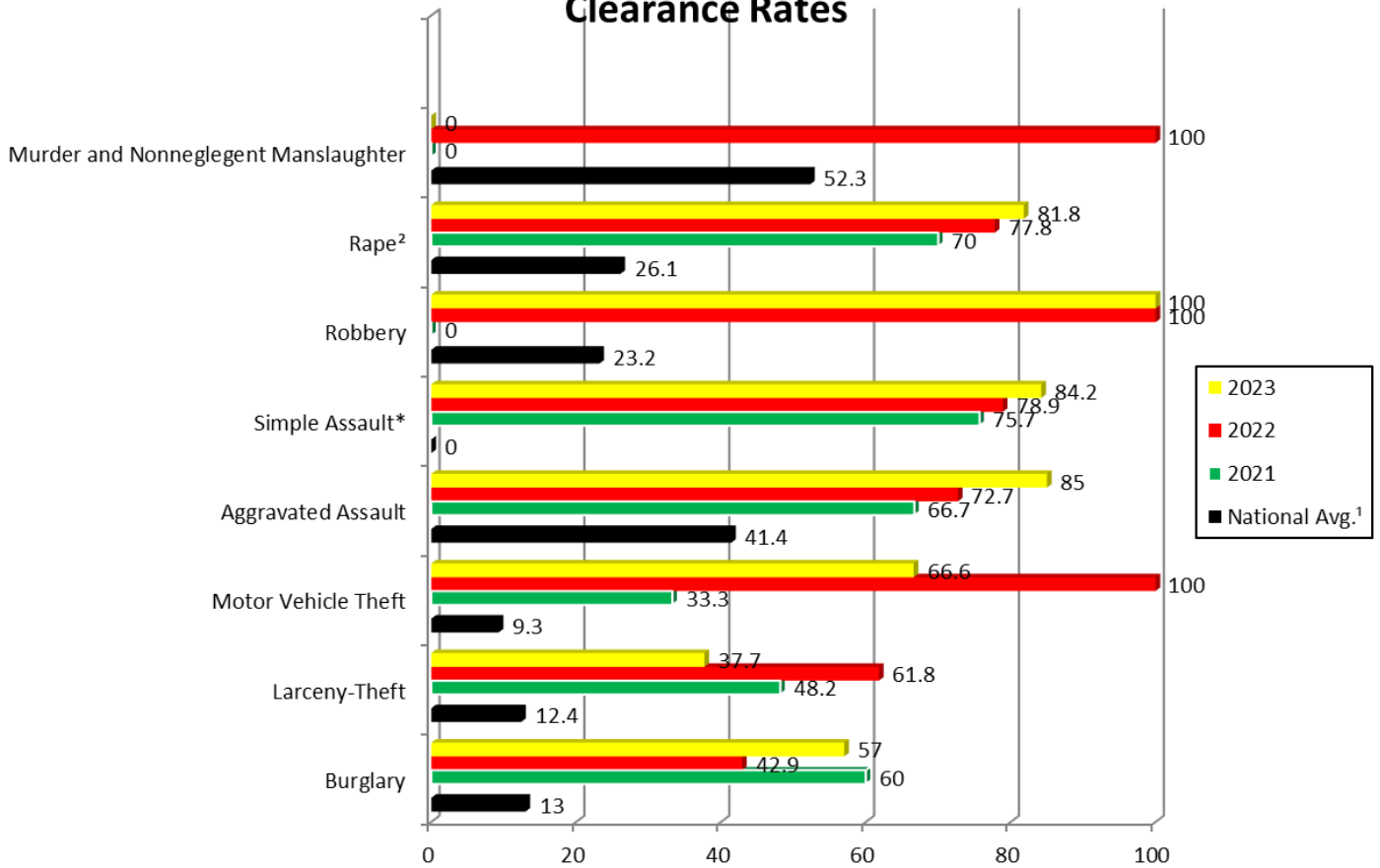
## Selected Crime Numbers for the Past Five Years

<u>VIOLENT CRIMES</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Simple Assault	76	73	70	47	53
Aggravated Assault	20	23	18	14	15
Homicide	0	1	0	0	0
Rape	4	3	5	4	6
Forcible Fondling/Sodomy	7	3	5	2	5
Robbery	1	1	0	0	3
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>82</b>
<u>PROPERTY CRIMES</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Burglary	6	9	6	3	17
Larceny	130	206	193	157	150
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	1	3	2	5
Arson	1	1	1	1	1
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>255</b>

**Note:**

Most crime numbers remained stagnant compared to last year with a couple of notable exceptions: Forcible Fondling/Sodomy had a slight increase and larcenies do show a large decrease. This is predominantly due to changes in how charges of shoplifting are brought before the court that started during the 2023 year.

## Farmville Police Department 2023 Clearance Rates



1. National Average is based on latest available figures from FBI: Crimes in the U.S. (2019)

2. Rape includes forcible sodomy and forcible fondling offenses

**\*The FBI does not consider simple assault a violent crime and does not provide a clearance rate.**

### **Emergency Custody Orders**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Number of Calls	21	33	54	68	65
Total Man-Hours	165.5	237.25	675	512	521
Avg. Hours per Call	7	7.2	12.5	7.5	7.18

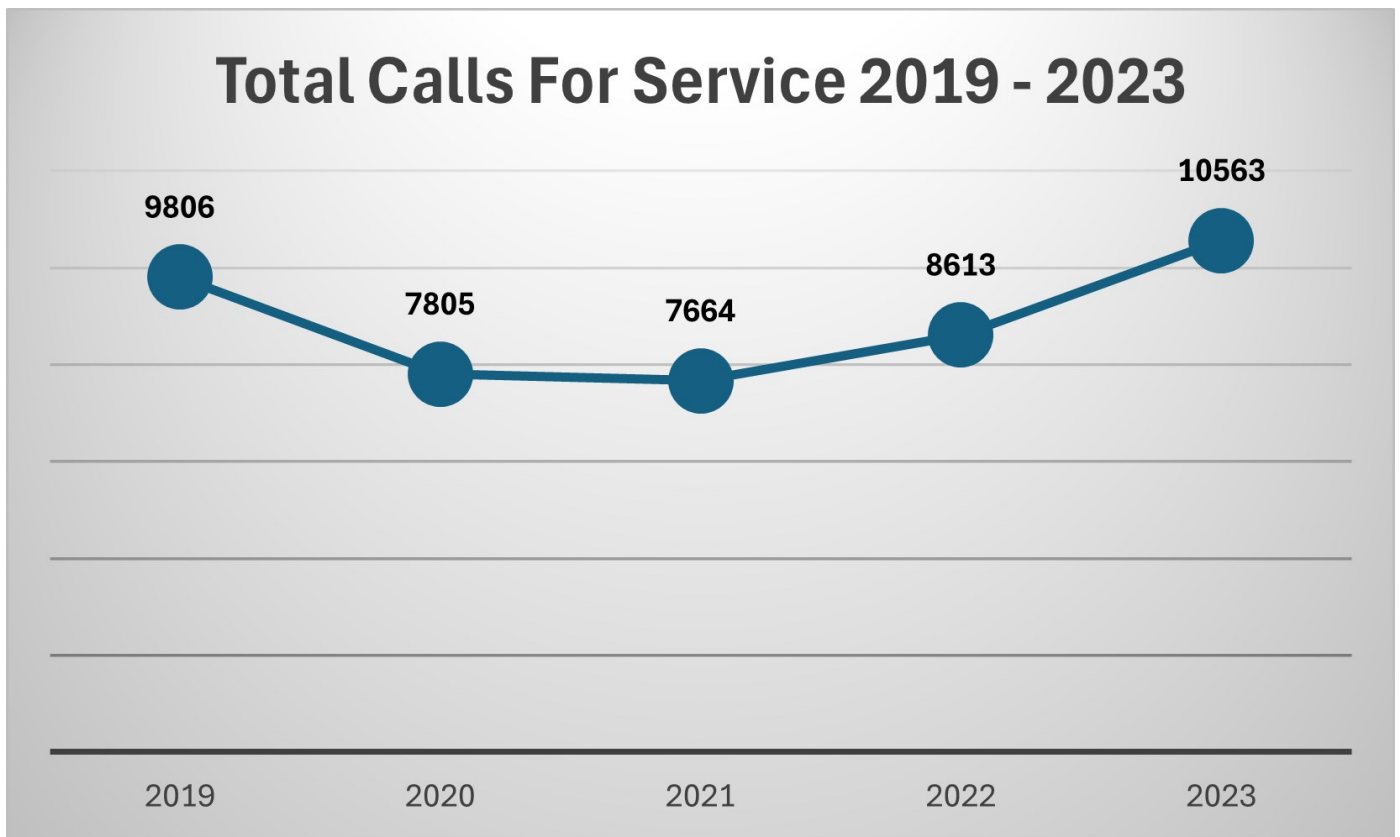
### **Temporary Detention Orders (*transports only; does not include medical TDO*)**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Number of Calls	12	17	11	11	13
Total Man-Hours	54.75	246.5	311.7	34.5	29
Avg. Hours per Call	4.5	14.5	28.32	3.84	2.23

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

## Call For Service Demands

Answering Calls For Service (CFS) 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 2023, our department had a total of 10,563 Calls For Service, showing a 22% increase from 2022 and a 52.4% increase from the average of the previous four years.



## 2023 Farmville Emergency Communications Annual Report

*Prepared by Crystal Barton, Emergency Communications Manager*



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 Price Edward County. The center dispatches the Farmville Police Department, Hampden-Sydney Police Department, Longwood Police Department, Price Edward and Meherrin Rescue Squads, seven in-county fire departments and Public Works for the Town of Farmville. The Farmville Chief of Police is responsible for the overall management of the Emergency Communications Center. The center employs 18 full-time and 3 part-time Communications Operators.

# Message from the Communications Manager



I am pleased to share with you the 2023 Annual Report highlighting the activities and accomplishments of the Farmville Emergency Communications Center. Being my first year as your Communications Manager for the Farmville ECC, I look forward to sharing with you what we have been up to as a center as we look to constantly improve our services in 2024 and beyond. As you read through this report, my hope is that you will be energized and encouraged by our staff's accomplishments.

Over this past year, not only have we completed major projects, but we also implemented new policies and procedures to better serve our community and first responders in a more proficient and timely manner. These major undertakings were a team effort, and we grew as a unit due to the result and efficiency created. None of the success our center has had in completing these projects would be possible without the dedicated staff of our center. I am fully confident this team of amazing professionals will continue to perform at exceptional levels while serving the citizens of our community.

In 2023 our center, while undertaking the projects mentioned above, completed a total of **25,407** calls for service, answered **40,269** administrative calls, answered **16,594** 911 calls, and responded to **83** text message requests to 911 for help. Additionally, nearly **99%** of those calls were answered within 10 seconds of ringing in our center.

While not every call that comes into our center is from the residents of the Town of Farmville and Prince Edward County, many 911 calls for other surrounding localities may come into our center, needing response from their appropriate agencies. Our staff is dedicated to getting all calls handled in a timely manner and sending or connecting the caller to the appropriate resources needed to keep everyone safe in their time of need.

Thank you for taking your time in reading what we have been up to this past year, and I look forward to serving and improving emergency communications for our community in the years to come!

Sincerely,

Crystal Barton  
Communications Manager  
Farmville Emergency Communications Center

## Agency Awards and Accomplishments

### **2023 Telecommunicator of the Year: Melanie Kincheloe**



We are pleased to announce that Melanie Kincheloe was chosen as our 2023 Telecommunicator of the Year. To be a candidate for this prestigious award, the operator must demonstrate the highest commitment to the profession through dedication to continuous improvement and professional development.

Melanie was nominated by her co-workers not only for her wealth of knowledge, but her outstanding dedication to our agency, first responders, and our community. Her attention to detail, while taking on the task of training multiple new employees to reach their full potential, does not go unnoticed. Melanie

has given the opportunity and tools to succeed, all while boosting their confidence. Melanie, we are so proud to have you as part of our team!

### **Years of Service Awards**

Melanie Kincheloe—5 Years

Leslie Cheatham—10 Years

Helene Blanton, Tammy Blevins, Christy Farley—15 Years

### **Award for Outstanding EMS Telecommunications: Ethan Whaley**

Ethan Whaley was nominated for the Old Dominion EMS Alliance Regional EMS Award for Outstanding EMS telecommunications. Not only was he nominated, but he also won in his category. Ethan has proven himself throughout his career while striving to surpass all expectations of his daily duties. Ethan has embraced the challenges and has excelled with the added responsibility of Emergency Medical Dispatch in the center. We hope that we never have to dial 911 for ourselves or loved ones for a medical emergency. However, when you get Telecommunicator Whaley on the other end, you will get someone that is caring and will provide you with the highest excellence of care until the ambulance arrives. Congratulations, Ethan!



## **Agency Awards and Accomplishments**

### **EMD Accreditation**

Our center has become and accredited Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Center through the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services. Receiving this accreditation speak volumes about our dedication to provide excellence in public services to everyone within our community.

Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) is an advanced form of dispatch communication based on specific training and established protocols to provide initial medical assistance over the telephone until EMS resources arrive to establish care. The information obtained from the callers assists in determining the level of care the person in need will receive and the proper response of available resources.

In order to become accredited, Farmville Emergency Communications had to satisfy guidelines, including EMD certification of all Telecommunicators, continuing education hours, be endorsed by an EMS physician, and make sure policies and procedures are followed. The accreditation process requires recertification annually by showing compliance with all of the standards set forth by the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services. The Farmville Emergency Communications Center is committed to constantly improving our level and standards of service to the community. Becoming accredited is one very important step in accomplishing that goal.

## Communication Operations

Total Police  
Calls for Service

14,525

Total Rescue  
Calls for Service

4,199

Total Fire  
Calls for Service

2,565

Law Enforcement Operations  
Total Calls For Service Per Agency

Farmville PD  
Total Calls for Service

10,141

Longwood PD  
Total Calls for Service

4,537

Hampden Sydney PD  
Total Calls for Service

134

Rescue Operations  
Total Calls For Service Per Agency

Prince Edward Rescue  
Total Calls for Service

3,617

Meherrin Rescue  
Total Calls for Service

582

Fire Operations  
Total Calls For Service Per Agency

Farmville Fire  
Total Calls for Service

1,280

Hampden Sydney Fire  
Total Calls for Service

619

Pamplin Fire  
Total Calls for Service

95

Prospect Fire  
Total Calls for Service

165

Meherrin Fire  
Total Calls for Service

164

Darlington Heights Fire  
Total Calls for Service

83

Rice Fire  
Total Calls for Service

159

## Challenging, Yet Rewarding



A career as a 911 Communications Operator is a fast-paced, hectic and, above all else, rewarding career. The staff of the Farmville Emergency Communications Center participated in several community outreach programs in 2023 including National Night Out, Heart of Virginia Festival, First Responder Day, and a Career Expo Day. We are trying to bring awareness of Public Safety telecommunications, explain who we are, and what we do while also meeting many members of our beloved community.

