

PORTERVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

Chief of Police, Jake Castellow



PORTERVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
350 N D STREET
PORTERVILLE, CA 93257

Emergency Number: 911
Non-emergency number (559) 782-7400
Records: (559) 782-7428
Anonymous Crime Tips: (559) 784-3673

Online Crime Reporting
http://www.ci.porterville.ca.us/depts/police/report-a-crime.cfm

Extra Patrol Requests
http://www.ci.porterville.ca.us/depts/police/extra-patrol-form.cfm

www.ci.porterville.ca.us/depts/police

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CITY COUNCIL



Martha A. Flores

MAYOR



Kellie Carrillo

VICE-MAYOR



Don Weyhrauch

COUNCIL MEMBER



Raymond Beltran

COUNCIL MEMBER



Greg Meister

COUNCIL MEMBER



John Lollis

CITY MANAGER

A WORD FROM THE CHIEF

In 2023, the Porterville Police Department worked to reduce crime in the city and to improve the quality of life. I believe in the promise to uphold the highest standards of law enforcement, to serve and protect everyone in the city.

The Porterville Police Department's continued goal is to make Porterville the safest city in California where people can live and play. We cannot achieve this goal alone. The Police Department needs the community's eyes, ears and voice. We believe the Porterville Police Department is a business and our product is to provide the best public safety in partnerships with the people who live and work here. The philosophy developed by the Chief of Police and command staff includes being proactive in policing, through intelligence-based policing and crime prevention, which will reduce crimes and deter potential offenders.

A proven successful law enforcement agency, such as ours is one that makes community relations a high priority. The Porterville Police Department has built stronger relationships with our federal, state and local law enforcement partners.

The Police Department also continues to engage the community, speaking with our faith-based groups, local civic groups and holding our own community engagement events to connect with the people we serve and have open dialogue about policing.

Lastly, and equally important, the Porterville Police Department strives for a standard of professionalism by all our law enforcement staff.

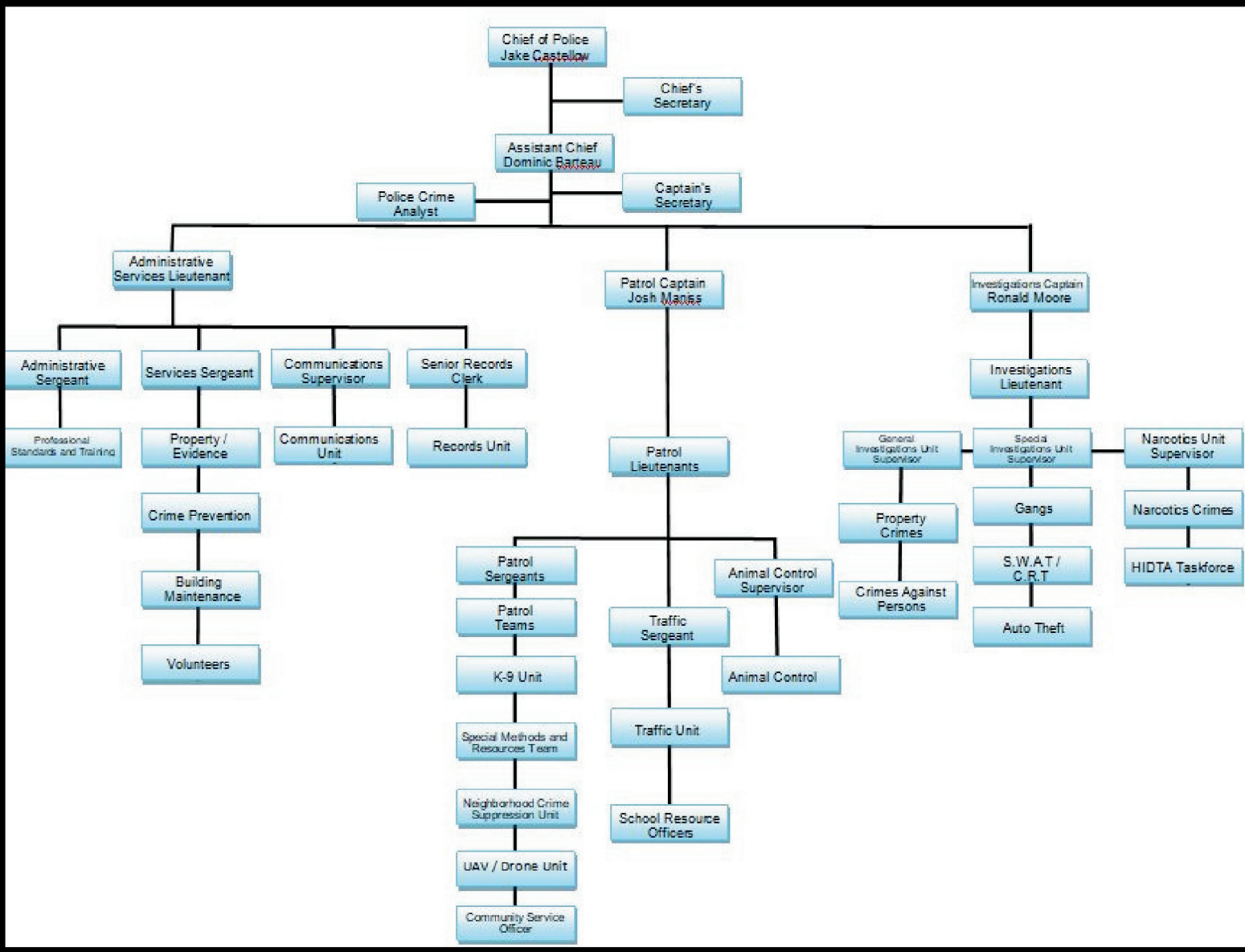
The Porterville Police Department is committed to the safety and security of the community while providing quality service with excellence, honesty and integrity.



Jake Castellow

Chief of Police

ORGANIZATION CHART



Mission Statement

The members of the Porterville Police Department are committed to the safety and security of the community while providing quality service with excellence, honesty, and integrity

Core Values

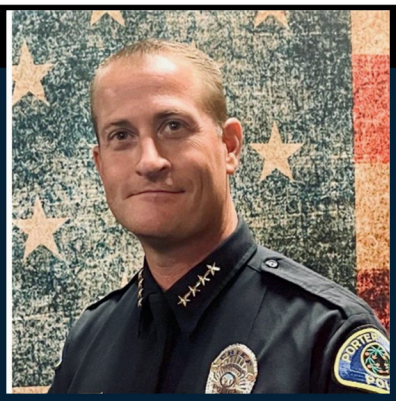
HONESTY - INTEGRITY - ACCOUNTABILITY - PROFESSIONALISM - RESPECT - COMMITMENT

All members of the Porterville Police Department are expected to adhere to our core values; conducting themselves at all times with honesty, integrity, accountability, professionalism, respect, and commitment.

Star of Success



EXECUTIVE STAFF



CHIEF OF POLICE

Jake Castellow



ASSISTANT CHIEF

Dominic Barteau



PATROL CAPTAIN

Josh Maniss



INVESTIGATIONS CAPTAIN

Ronald Moore

COMMAND STAFF



Bruce Sokoloff

INVESTIGATIONS



Mark Azevedo

SERVICES



Rose Gurule

PATROL



Mark Hatch

PATROL



Orlando Ortiz

PATROL

BY THE NUMBERS



CALLS FOR SERVICE
66,967



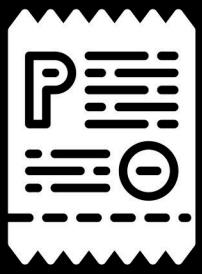
FIRE CALLS DISPATCHED
6,458



POLICE CALLS DISPATCHED
58,004



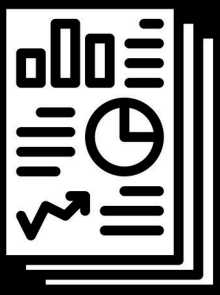
ANIMAL CONTROL
4,511



CITATIONS
1,374



TRAFFIC COLLISIONS
635

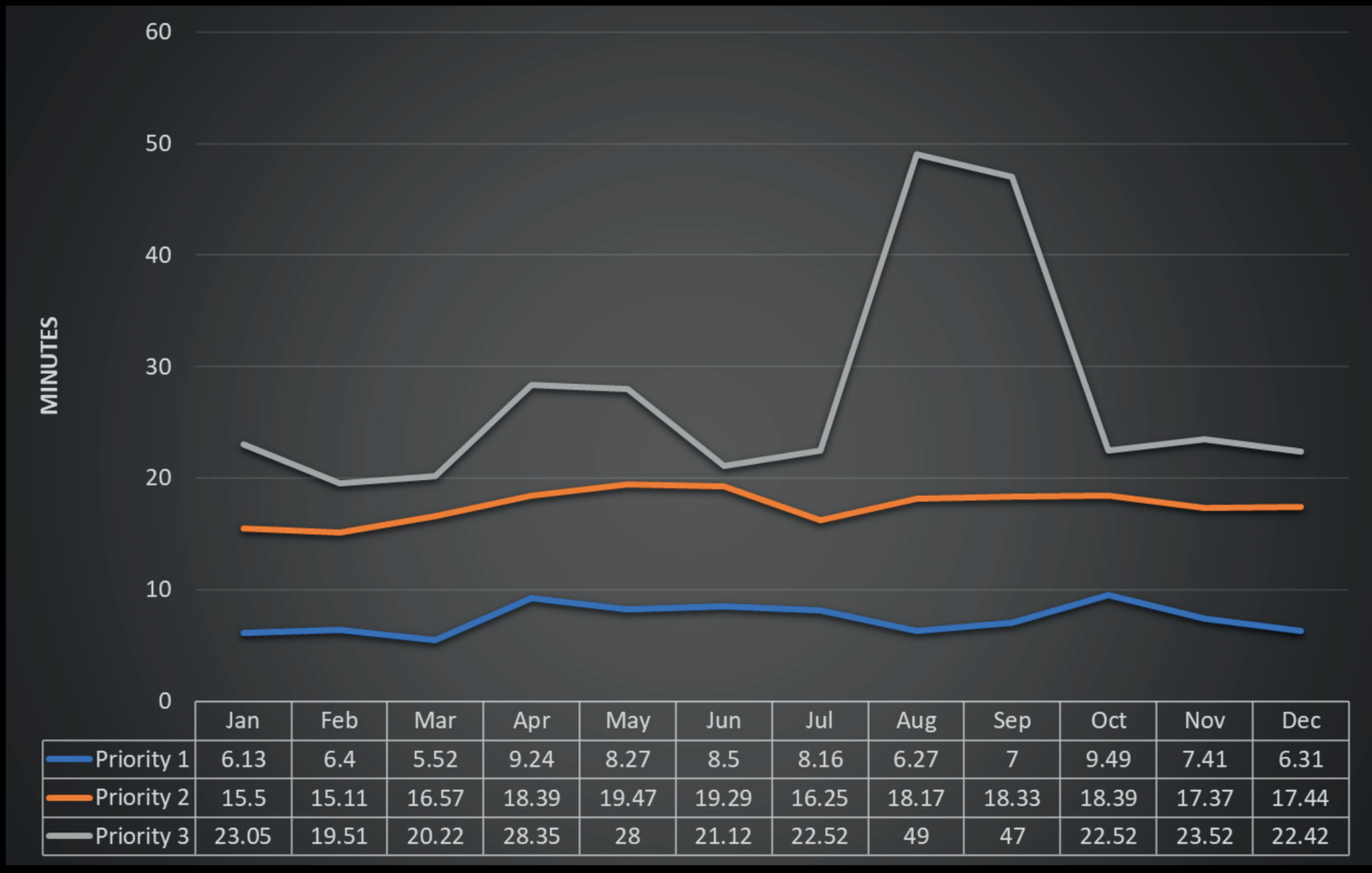


REPORTS
7,884



TOTAL ARRESTS
4,409

RESPONSE TIMES

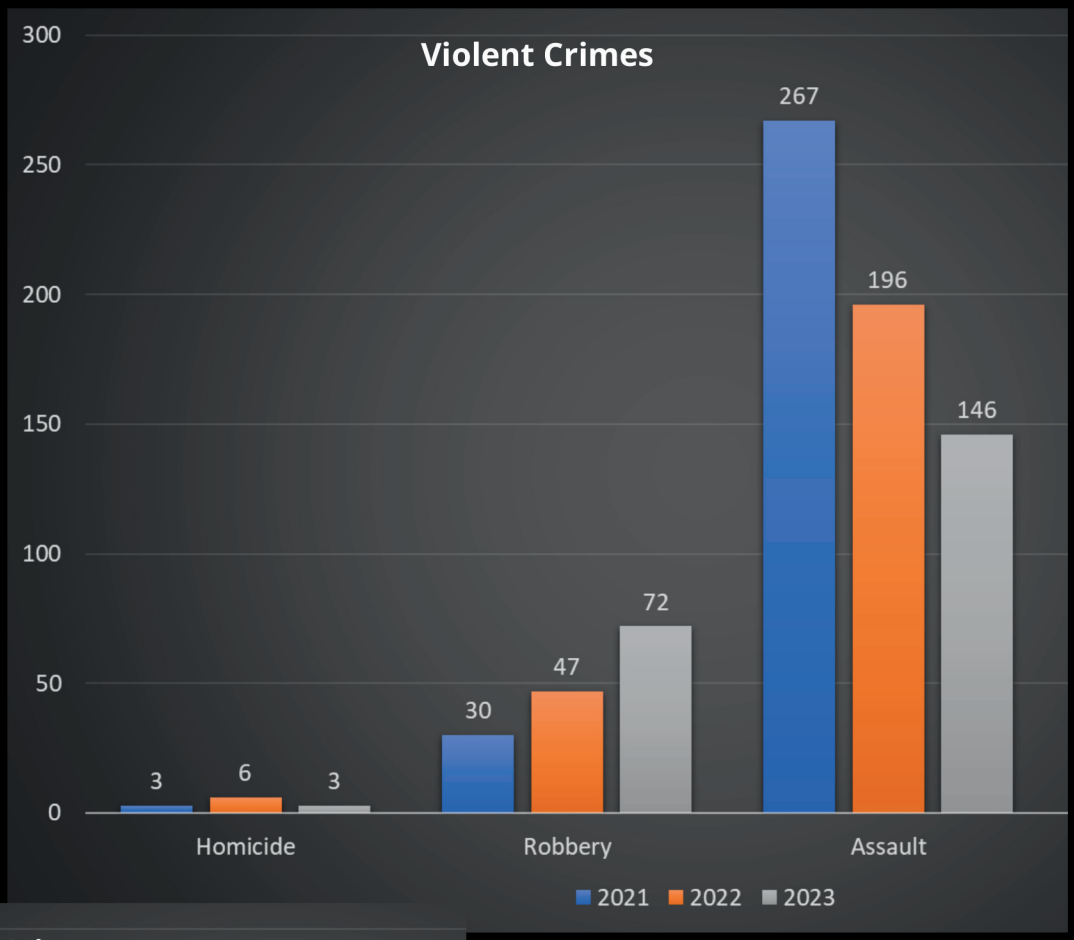


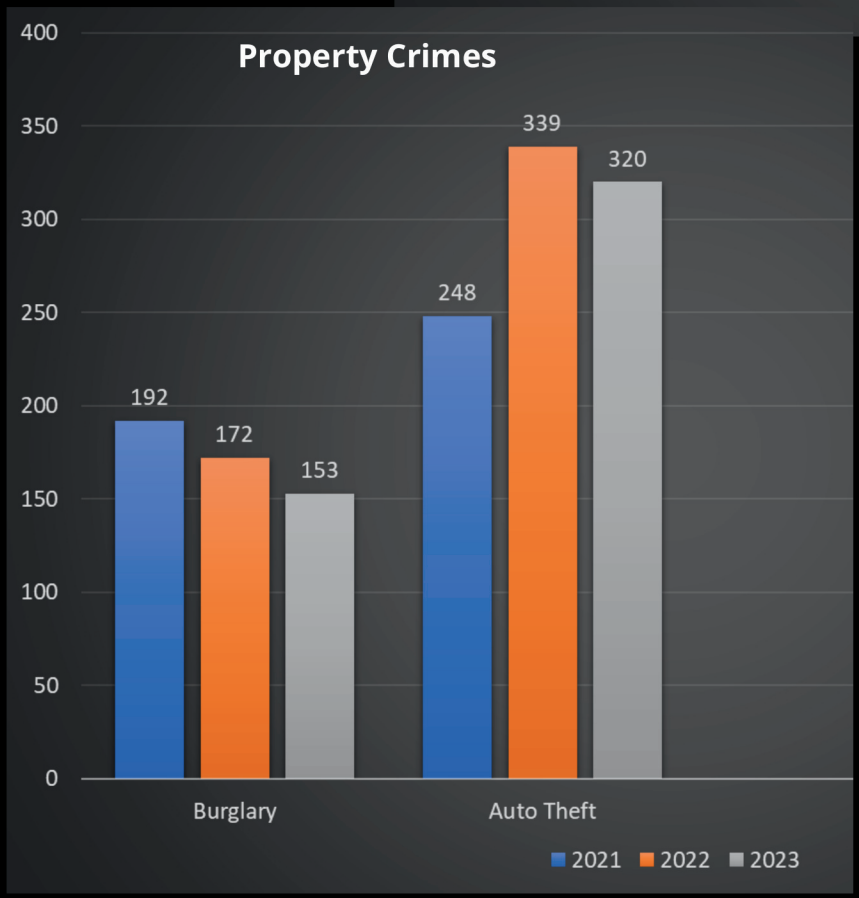
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Priority 1	6.13	6.4	5.52	9.24	8.27	8.5	8.16	6.27	7	9.49	7.41	6.31
Priority 2	15.5	15.11	16.57	18.39	19.47	19.29	16.25	18.17	18.33	18.39	17.37	17.44
Priority 3	23.05	19.51	20.22	28.35	28	21.12	22.52	49	47	22.52	23.52	22.42

NIBRS UPDATE

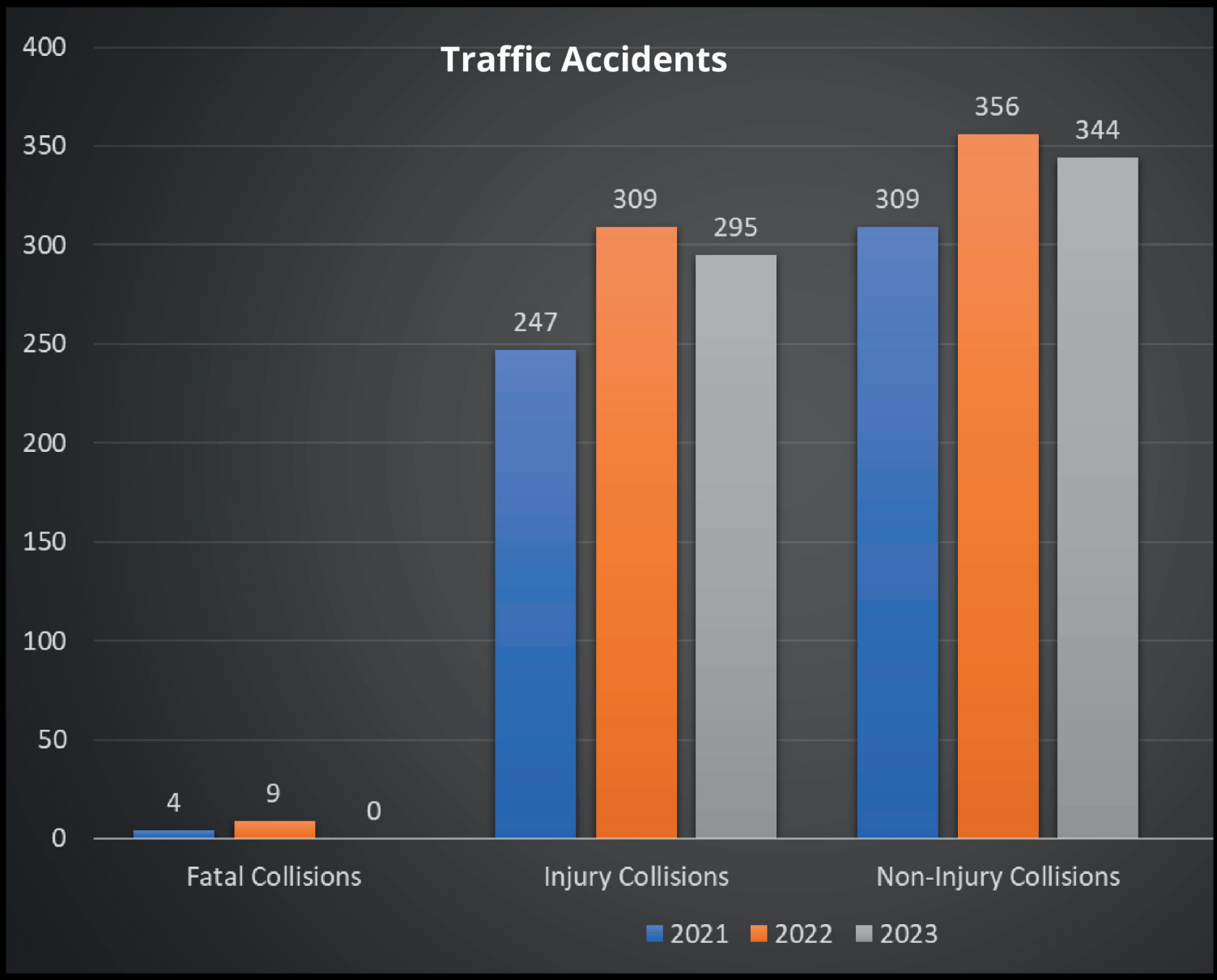
*Beginning January 1, 2021, the Porterville Police Department implemented the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) to improve the overall quality of the crime data collected. NIBRS provides the circumstances and context for crimes in more detail than the traditional Summary Report System (SRS). As of January 1, 2021, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) made the nationwide implementation of NIBRS a top priority to provide more useful statistics to promote constructive discussion, measures and informed policing. NIBRS establishes a new baseline that more precisely captures reported crime in a community.

3-YEAR COMPARISON





3-YEAR COMPARISON



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The School Resource Officer Unit is supervised by Corporal Maria Aguillon. There are three additional officers assigned to the unit; Officers Jasmine Scott, Sarai Jimenez, and Laura Torres-Salcido. They are assigned to the schools within Porterville Unified School District and Burton School District. Officers are actively present on campus and make contact with staff and students. Officers assist with large events such as Walk to School Day, sporting events, and other events on school campuses.



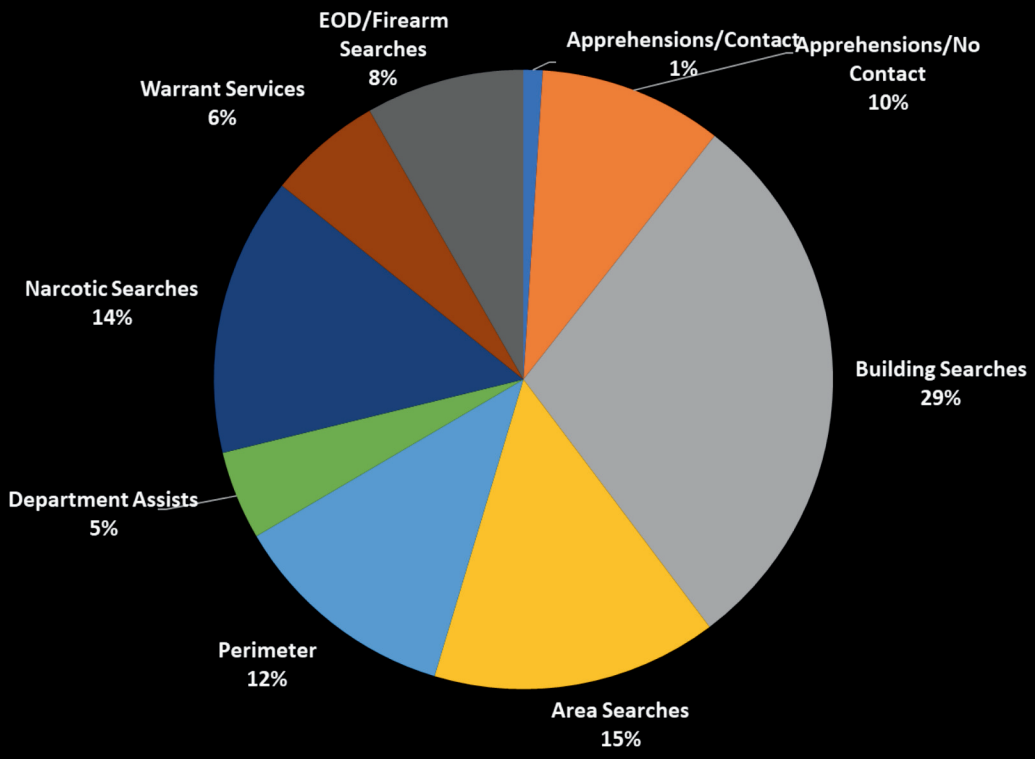
K9 UNIT





The K-9 Team is overseen by Lieutenant Hatch and ended the year being led by Corporal Ellestad. The team was comprised of Corporal Ellestad and his partner Kaiser, Officer Gonzalez and her partner Enzo, Officer Hernandez and her partner Neith, and Officer Scott and her partner Kindel.

These highly trained teams complete monthly training throughout the year to assist with effective performance in the field.



UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (DRONE)





2023 was the second year of the UAV program for the Porterville Police Department. As the team has grown, more equipment was added to the team as well. With the rainy year of 2023, drones were added that could continue to fly in rain and wind. All pilots complete training and are certified by the FAA Part 107 licensing.

Apprehensions	38
Searches	61
Perimeter	22
Assist Other Agency	16
Flight Time	8,185 minutes

TRAFFIC



635
Traffic Accidents

346
Injury Collisions

0
Fatal Collisions

Primary Collision Factor

Failure to Yield Right of Way	**151**
Unsafe Speed	138
Unsafe Turning	129

2,772
Citations

29
Traffic Details

18
DUI Operations

408
DUI Arrests

SPECIAL METHODS AND RESOURCES TEAM

In the second year of the Special Methods and Resources Team, a Crisis Intervention Specialist was added to advance the mission of the team.

SMART expanded its partnerships to include: Kings Tulare Homeless Alliance; Kingsview PATH,; Psychiatric Emergency Team; HHSA; CalWORKs; Adult Protective Services; Child Welfare Services; Family Crisis Center; Porterville Navigation Center; The Light House Mission Shelter; Turning Point of Central California; The Porterville Rescue Mission; Domestic Violence Mobile Health Services; Employment Connection; Parenting Network; CSET; Family Services; Tulare County Housing Authority; Porterville Parks & Leisure Department; and Porterville Code Enforcement.

This collaborative effort works to provide a holistic solution to the mental health issues in the community.

Self-initiated Contacts	**348**
Call for Service Contacts	322
Mental Health Service	7
Housing Service Referrals	16
Drug Service Referrals	3

ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT

The Animal Control Unit continued to receive donations. A total of $459,551.12 in donations was received over 2023.

Porterville Spay and Neuter continued to work with the Animal Shelter to offer low-cost spay and neutering and Trap Neuter and Release Programs. These partnerships assisted in providing assistance to the community and aiding in the reduction of euthanized animals. The shelter also received a grant from UC Davis to assist with the program. 375 dogs and 456 cats were spayed or neutered with the grant funding.

The animal shelter received a large donation from a community member to honor former Animal Control Supervisor Augie Gonzalez.

The construction on the shelter continued in 2024. The construction should be completed in early 2024. 2024 will bring new commitments and a new shelter for Porterville Animal Control.

Calls for Service	4,462
Animals Picked Up	1,776
Animals Adopted/Rescued	1,013
Animals Returned to Owner	268
Animals Euthanized	415
Injured Animals Picked Up	336
Deceased Animals Picked Up	596
Citations Issued	75

GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

Cases	2023	2022	2021	3-year average
Assigned	680	736	571	662
Closed	553	482	593	543
Total Arrests	79	50	78	69
Call-outs	137	128	98	121
Warrants Written	340	133	102	192



SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

Gang Related Arrests	**95**
Warrants Served on Members/Associates	25
Gang Supplemental Reports	8
Felony Arrests	87
Misdemeanor Arrests	30
Search Warrants	155
Handguns Seized	20
Rifles Seized	9
Shotguns Seized	5
Residential Probation Searches	40
Methamphetamine Seized	153 grams
Marijuana Seized	56
Fetanyl/Opioid Pills	4,008 pills



NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS UNIT



Search Warrants	48
Knock-and-Talks	3
Firearms Seized	37
Controlled Buys	3

Methamphetamine	2,009.7 grams
Heroin	14.78 grams
Psilocybin Mushrooms	23.14 grams
Oxycodone pills with fentanyl	1,100 pills
Marijuana	64,403.9 grams

HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA

HIDTA, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area taskforce is comprised of members from Porterville Police Department, Tulare County Sheriff's Office, California Army National Guard, Visalia Police Department, Kings County Sheriff's Office, and Drug Enforcement Administration. The Tulare County Tactical Narcotics Team works to promote coordinated law enforcement efforts towards dismantling drug manufacturing, smuggling, and distribution organizations as well as assist partner agencies with violent crime and gang investigations as it affects Tulare County rural communities, incorporated cities, and other surrounding areas in the Central Valley. The Porterville Police Department provided personnel for the year of 2023 to assist with the disruption of drug trafficking organizations.

Methamphetamine	498.1333 Lbs.
Cocaine	1.89 Kg.
Heroin	3.973 Kg.
Xanax	280 (Pills)
Fentanyl	7.1408 Kg / 287,05 (powder/pills)
Marijuana	12,167/680.63 (plants/processed Lbs.)
SW Executed	43
Firearms	63

Arrests	**58**
Cash/Assets Seized	$459,463 (unsettled funds)
Drug Seizure Value	$21,100,686.25
Total Disruption	$21,560,149.25

SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS TEAM





Training Hours	Deployments
2,016	15

A Special Weapons and Tactics Team and Crisis Negotiators Teams are designated teams of law enforcement officers which are specifically trained and equipped to work as a coordinated team to resolve critical incidents that are so hazardous, complex, or unusual that they may exceed the capabilities of first responders or investigative units. Some examples of these incidents include, but are not limited to, hostage-taking; barricaded suspects; snipers; terrorist acts; and other high-risk critical incidents. As a matter of department policy, such a unit may also be used to serve high-risk search and arrest warrants, where public and officer-safety issues warrant the use of such a unit.

CRISIS NEGOTIATIONS TEAM



The Crisis Response Team was deployed 11 times in 2023. Of those, eight were in support of high-risk search warrants, and three were requests for Crisis Negotiators during a call for service.

In August, the team was recognized in front of City Council for their work in 2023.

COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

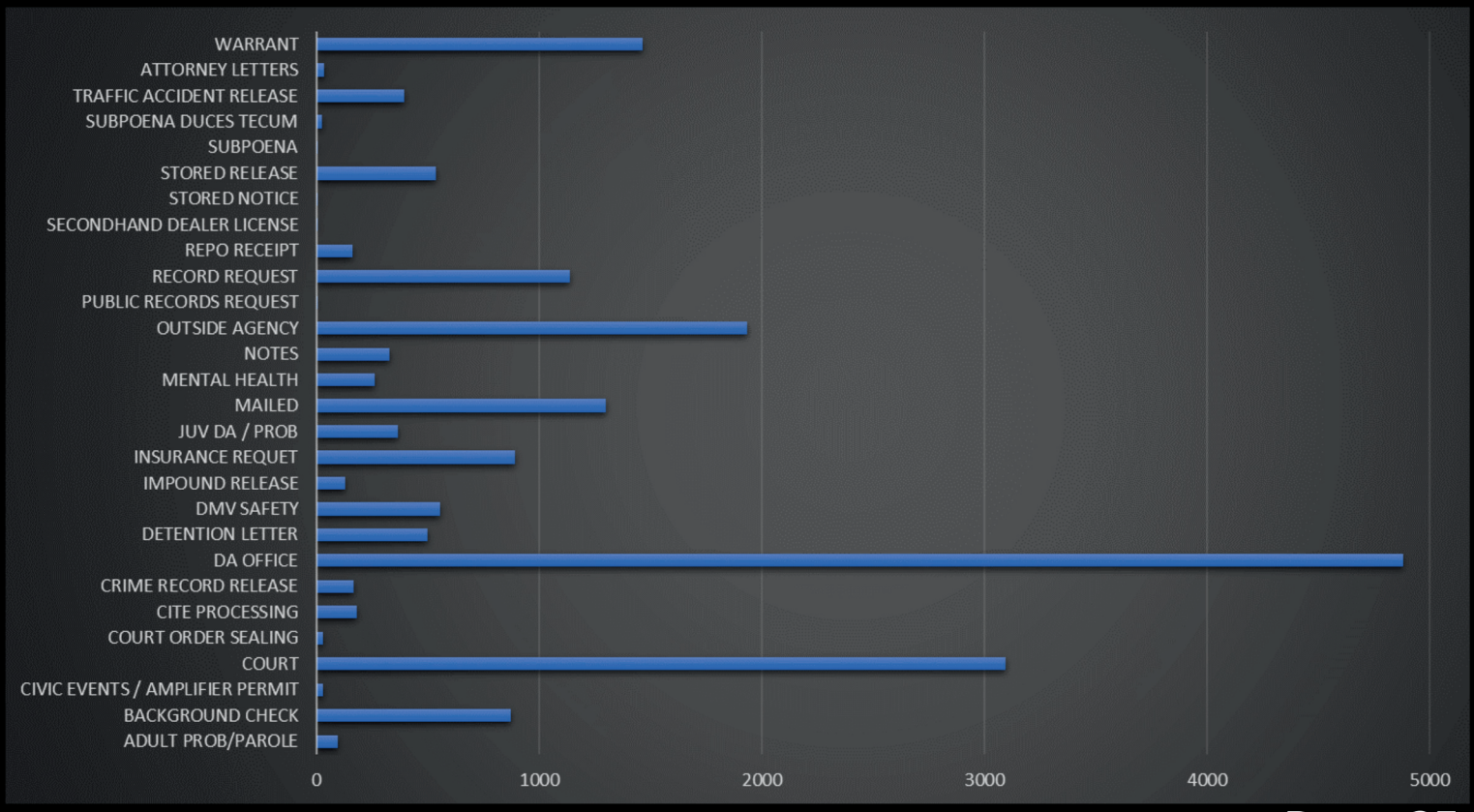
The Communications Unit is comprised of a Communication Supervisor, Senior Communication Dispatcher, and 14 Communication Dispatchers. The Communications Unit continues to be one of the busiest units in the Department. Communications Dispatchers answer each of the calls in the Communications Center while simultaneously dispatching police and fire personnel on the computer as well as via radio. Communicaitons Dispatchers answered 97.74% of all 911 calls within the required 15 seconds.

Total Incoming Calls	86,675
Total 9-1-1 Calls	22,637
Total Outgoing Calls	30,927
Text to 9-1-1	20

RECORDS



The Records Unit added the position of Senior Records Clerk in 2023. The Senior Records Clerk is responsible for supervision of the unit. The unit is responsible for distributing records to the various allied agencies as well as throughout the Department. The unit is responsible for assisting the public as they enter the lobby for records request, livescan services, or other police services.



PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE

The Property and Evidence Unit is supervised by Sergeant Carl Jordan and is staffed by Property and Evidence Tech Joanna Ramos. The property and evidence unit is responsible for all property that is collected by the Porterville Police Department. They establish and maintain records to ensure proper handling of physical evidence

Items Disposed

DMV	227
Return to Owner	255
Sierra View Hospital	104
Secret Service	13
Landfill/Shredded	576
Other	237
Ammunition Disposal	1
E-Waste	57
Biohazard	1
City Finance	$3,000
Other Agency	1
Items Entered in Error	86
Social Security	3

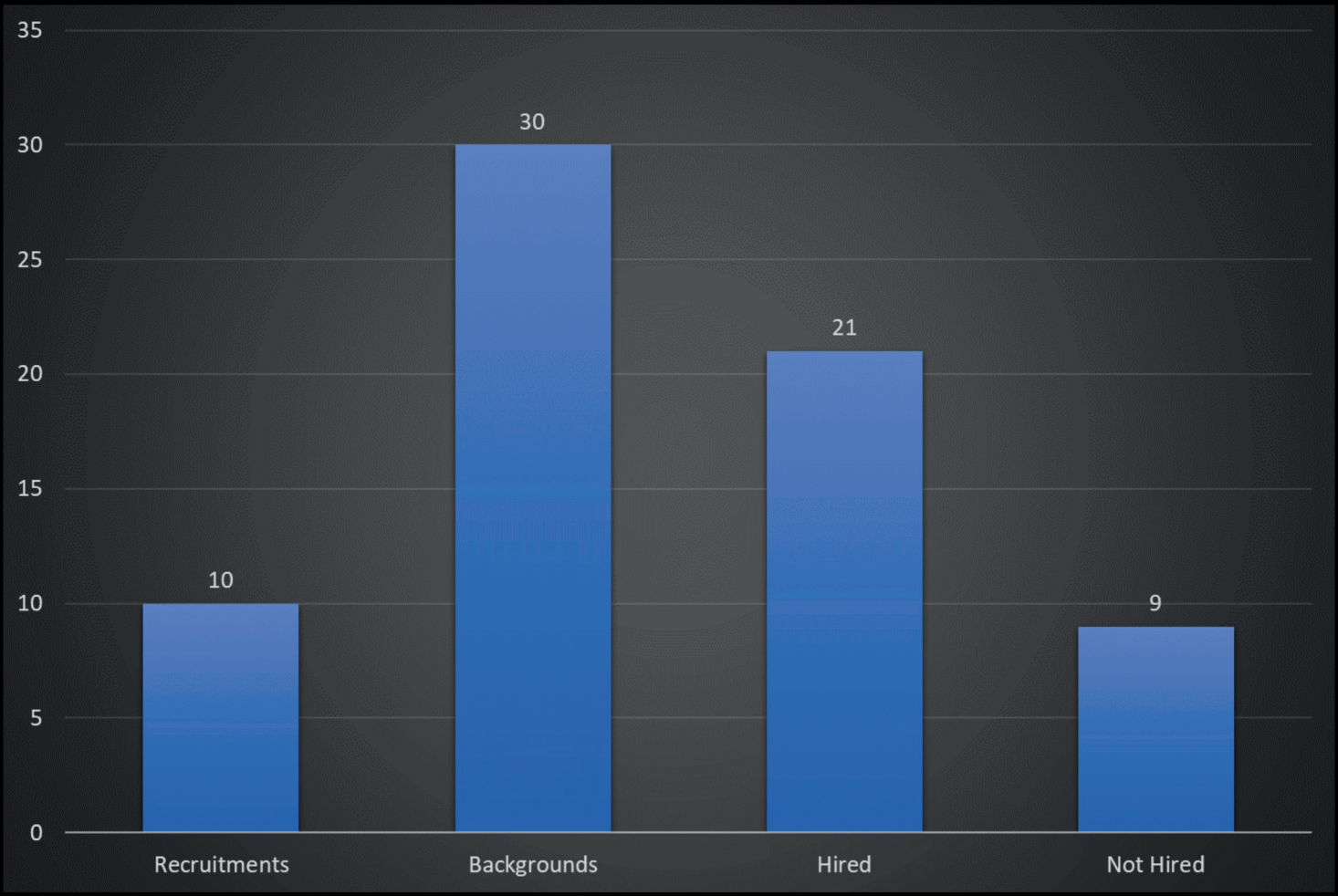
Items Out

Fresno Lab	660
TCSO Lab	182
Investigations/Court	168
Fresno Sheriff	5
Firearm Testing	35

Items In

Evidence	3,386
Found	313
Safekeeping	566
Destruction	65
Forfeiture	148
Recovered	60
Controlled buy	4

ADMINISTRATIVE SERGEANT'S OFFICE



The Administrative Sergeant's office is comprised of Sergeant Oscar Ibarra and Officer Jesus Gallardo. This unit handles recruitments and trainings for the Department. It continues to be a busy division for the department. During 2023, there were 30 backgrounds started for recruitments for 10 positions. Of those backgrounds, 20 persons were hired by the Department. Of those new employees hired, the positions filled were Communications Dispatcher, Animal Shelter Supervisor, Animal Shelter Community Service Officer, Live Release Coordinator, Police Trainee, Crisis intervention Specialist, Police Officer, Student Intern, Property and Evidence Technician, and Community Service Officer.

CRIME PREVENTION

The Crime Prevention Unit is the unit responsible for the community engagement within the City. The unit hosted 8 station tours, coordinated 8 community events including National Night Out Citizens Police Academy, Junior Police Academy, Trunk-or-Treat, Coffee with a Cop, and toy drives. The Crime Prevention Unit also serves as advisors for the Law and Justice Pathway for Porterville Unified.

Crime Prevention is responsible for handling all social media posts and press releases provided by the Department.





8

8 Community events were planned and hosted by the Crime Prevention Unit. These events brought together the community with the Police Department and engage with the community.



134

134 juveniles were cited to appear to Juvenile Diversion

WELLNESS GRANT





in 2023, the Porterville Police Department received funding from the Bureau of Community Corrections to assist with officer wellness. Bodie the facility dog was added to the Police Department to assist officers and promote wellness. Bodie is Yellow Labrador Retriever puppy.



FLOOD FIGHT











NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



LEADERSHIP PORTERVILLE VISIT





SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RUN









COMMUNITY EVENTS











