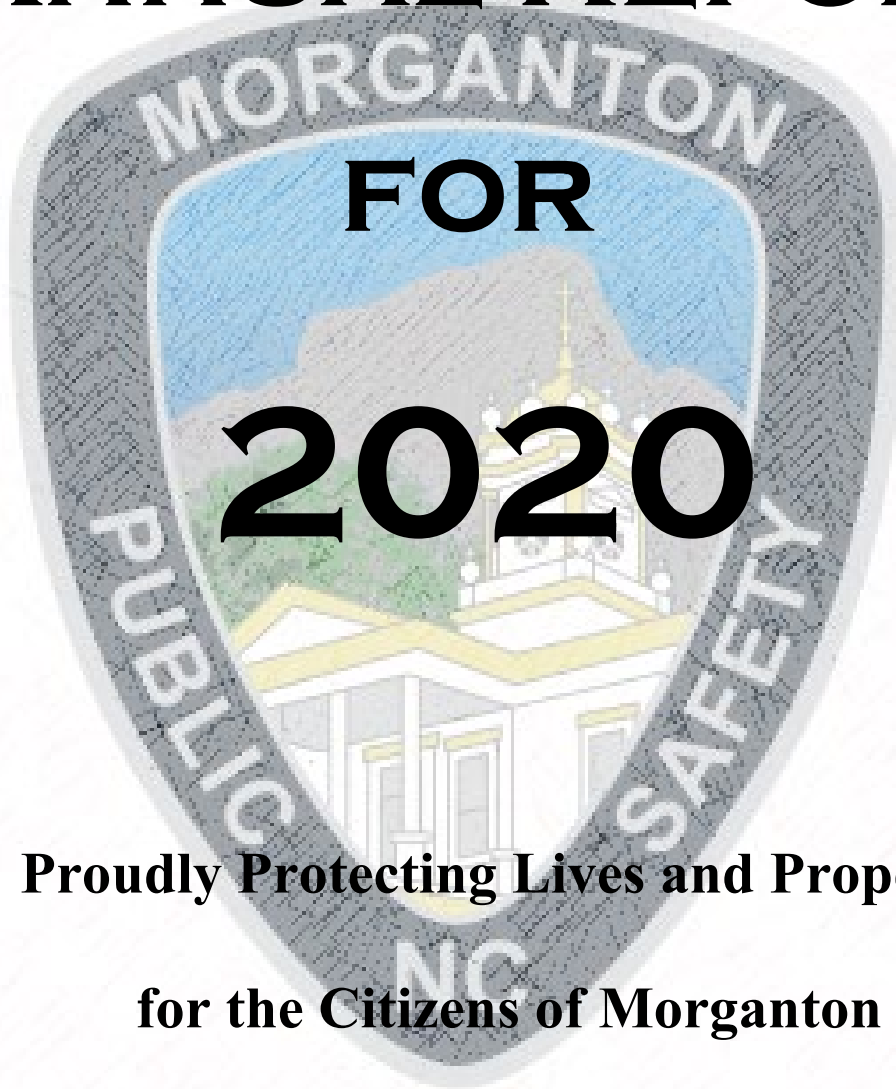


**CITY OF MORGANTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**



ANNUAL REPORT



Proudly Protecting Lives and Property

for the Citizens of Morganton



Tony Lowdermilk, Chief
828-432-2676
tlowdermilk@morgantonps.org



Ryan Lander, Major
Field Operations
828-432-2673
rlander@morgantonps.org



Jason Whisnant, Captain
Support Services
828-432-2681
jwhisnant@morgantonps.org



Keith Bowman, Captain
Road Patrols
828-432-2696
kbowman@morgantonps.org



Israel Gibson, Captain
Fire Services
828-432-2522
igibson@morgantonps.org

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Morganton Department of Public Safety I am honored to present our 2020 Annual Report. We are pleased to provide our partners and community members with the opportunity to learn about our agency's work and revisit some important activities and statistics from the past year. We want to continue to build upon the success of innovative police and fire services our citizens have come to expect.



I was honored to be named the Director of Public Safety in 2020. While we, as well as the rest of the nation experienced a difficult and trying year, our Public Safety team was and is dedicated to approaching each day as an opportunity for improvement.

The Morganton Department of Public Safety remains committed to the foundational principals of building trust and nurturing legitimacy. This is accomplished through building good relationships and treating people with dignity and respect. Partnerships, planning and advancement continue to be the key components of our foundational principals. The citizens of Morganton desire and deserve professionalism, equal treatment, transparency and a well-trained diverse workforce representing our community. Additionally, citizens desire a law enforcement workforce with a guardian mindset and a strong emphasis on community.

Our values of Integrity, Professionalism, Honor, Accountability, Respect and Equality guide our decision making as we work to enhance safety and quality of life in the City of Morganton. We are committed to active community involvement, quality training and collaborative partnerships. This commitment enables us to provide a safe and stable environment for all of those who live, work, play in and visit our community.

Community Partnerships provide the foundation that leads to trust and ultimately to a reduction in crime within our neighborhoods. It is paramount that our Departmental leaders and community leaders pursue avenues that allow two-way communication, transparency, collaboration and relationship building. At Public Safety we continually engage with our community in various capacities and levels throughout the year. This past year Public Safety was not able to participate in several of our community engagements due to the ongoing pandemic, however, we were still able to continue with "Coffee with a Cop", continue D.A.R.E in our private schools and held our annual "Blue Elves" event for Morganton Housing Authority in addition to several other events.

I am proud of the members of the Morganton Department of Public Safety. They remain vigilant and engaged in the constant endeavor of improving the quality of life for our citizens. In the coming year we will continue to explore and consider advancements in policing and firefighting strategies. We are honored to serve the citizens of Morganton by delivering the highest standard of law enforcement, fire services and customer service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Lowdermilk".

Tony Lowdermilk
Director of Public Safety

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Mission Statement

Our Mission:

We, the members of the Morganton Department of Public Safety, are committed to protect the lives, property, and Constitutional Rights of all residents and visitors of OUR community by providing professional law enforcement and fire protection services.

Our Values:

- ♥ **Integrity:** High ethical standards, honesty and fairness
- ♥ **Professionalism:** Individual excellence, education and training
- ♥ **Honor:** Official dignity, repute, and esteem
- ♥ **Accountability:** To take responsibility for all actions and decisions
- ♥ **Respect:** Treating others as you would like to be treated
- ♥ **Equality:** Fair, impartial, and equitable treatment of all people

Our Vision:

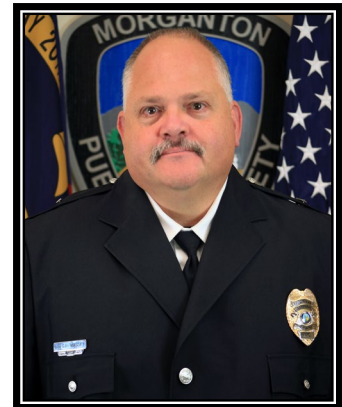
The *Morganton Department of Public Safety* strives to be a leader in the delivery of public safety services which combines law enforcement and fire protection. Our employees strive to be leaders in OUR community in name and deed conducting themselves in a manner to which others will aspire.

Retirements

The Morganton Department of Public Safety proudly recognizes the retirement of the following employees in 2020. Upon their retirement, the City of Morganton and the Department of Public Safety offer our sincere appreciation for dedicated and exemplary service:



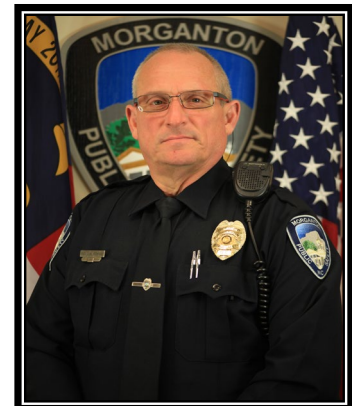
Chief
Ronnie Rector
Effective February 2020
28 years of service



Lieutenant
Gary Massey
Effective May 2020
27 years of service



Lieutenant
Robin Triplett
Effective February 2020
30 years of service



Sergeant
Marty Coward
Effective June 2020
29 years of service



Public Safety Officer
Joseph Jones
Effective July 2020
6 years of service

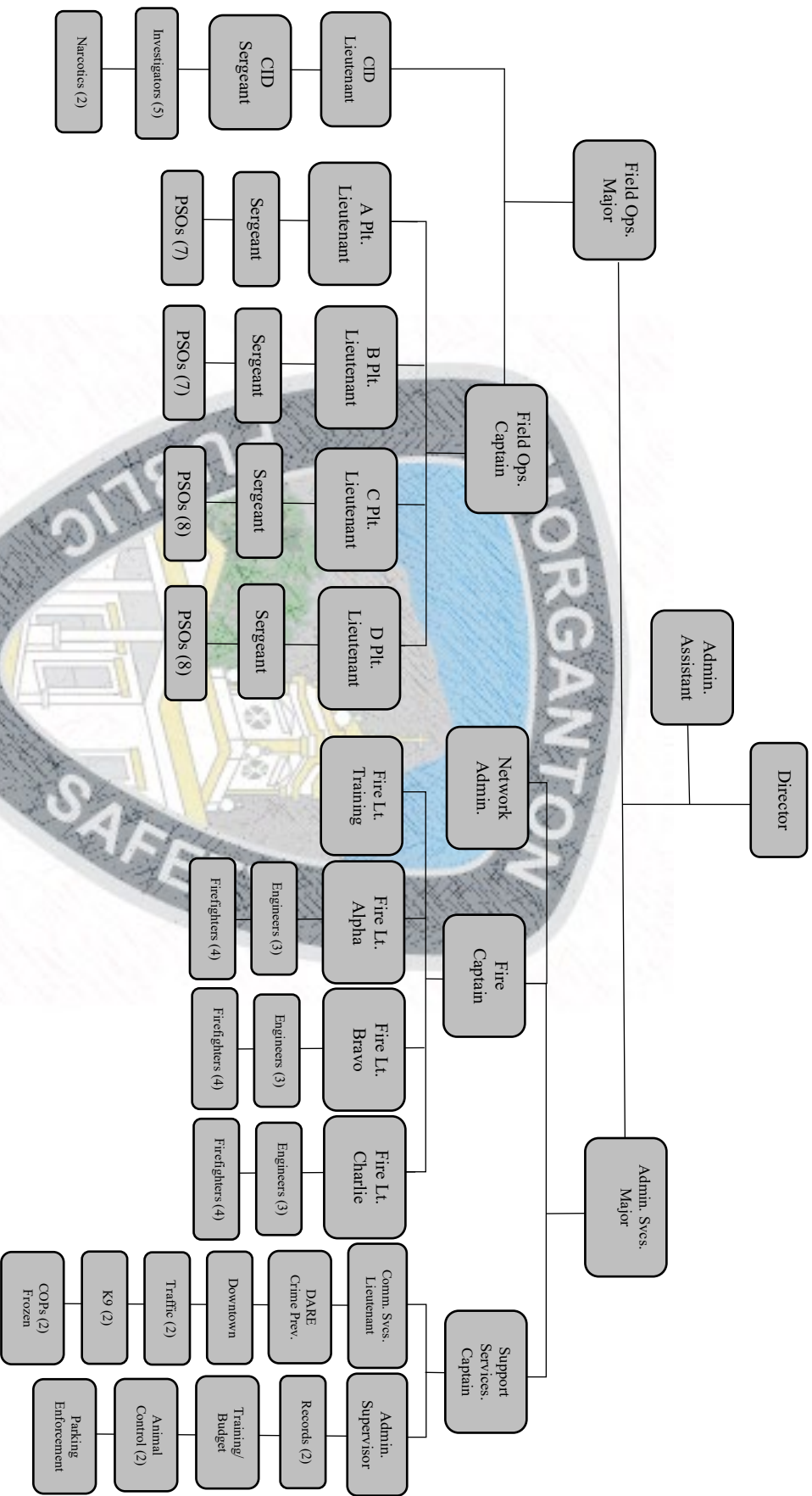
Department Personnel Allocations

January 2020

Department Position	Allocate	Assigned	Frozen	Vacant
Public Safety Chief	*1	*1		
Major	*2	*1		
Captain	*2	*2		
Lieutenant	*6	*6		
Sergeant	*5	*5		
PSO	*45	*42	*2	*1
Fire Capt	1	1		
Fire Lt	4	4		
Engineers	9	9		
Firefighters	12	12		
Admin Supervisor	1	1		
Admin Manager	1	1		
Admin Specialist I	2	1	1	
Network Admin	1	1		
Customer Serv Rep	2	2		
Parking Enforcement	1	1		
Animal Control	2	1		
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>				
Total Sworn*	*61	*57	*2	*2
Total Civilian	36	34	1	1
GRAND TOTAL	97	91	3	3

* Indicates sworn personnel

Morganton Department of Public Safety



Accomplishments

🛡️ The following promotions took place:

🛡️ **Major Tony Lowdermilk** promoted to Chief

🛡️ **Sergeant Nick Edwards** promoted to Lieutenant

🛡️ **Sergeant Tayler Johnson** promoted to Lieutenant

🛡️ **PSO Joseph Beaver** promoted to Sergeant

🛡️ **PSO TJ Hall** promoted to Sergeant

🛡️ **PSO Adam Miller** promoted to Sergeant

🛡️ The following personnel were recognized for their career progression achievements:

🛡️ **Sergeant Aaron Palmer**, Advance Law Enforcement Certificate

🛡️ **PSO Clint Lail**, Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate

🛡️ **PSO Tyaise Newman**, General Law Enforcement Certificate

🛡️ **PSO Jenell Beavers-Vonbargen**, General Law Enforcement Certificate

Boards & Committees

- ♣ **Chief Tony Lowdermilk** – Burke County Homeland Security Taskforce, Burke County Domestic Violence Task Force, Burke Substance Abuse Network, Burke County Communication Technical Advisory Board, Downtown Parking Committee, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion-Burke, HMF Inc. Board of Directors ex-officio member, Morganton-Burke Crimestoppers – ex officio member

- ♣ **Major Ryan Lander** - Burke County United Way, NC Law Enforcement Accreditation Committee, Burke County Chamber of Commerce

- ♣ **Captain Keith Bowman** – Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

- ♣ **Captain Jason Whisnant** – Burke Substance Abuse Network, Kate B. Reynolds-Grant Committee, Burke County Safe Communities Task Force, Morganton Human Relations Commission, Homeless Task Force, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion-Burke Case Review

- ♣ **Supervisor Jason Smith** – City of Morganton Safety Committee

- ♣ **Investigator Kyle Goforth** – N.C. Gang Investigators member

- ♣ **PSO Casey Kinard** – City Accident Review Board, Workforce Development Board, Safe Kids Burke County Secretary, New Dimensions School Boardmember, Burke Substance Abuse Network

- ♣ **PSO Stacey Huffman** – NC Governors Highway Safety County Coordinator

- ♣ **Renee Carswell** – Morganton-Burke Crimestoppers, N.C. Crimestoppers Association, City of Morganton Communication Team, CTAB Secretary

Part 1 Crimes

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) guidelines track eight “Index Crimes,” known also as Part 1 crimes. The UCR system includes crimes that are most likely to be reported to the police and to occur with sufficient frequency to provide an adequate basis for comparison. Part 1 crimes are further split into two categories, **Violent** and **Property**. Below is analysis of Part 1 crimes reported to Public Safety (*The below percentage change is a comparison of 2019 to 2020*):

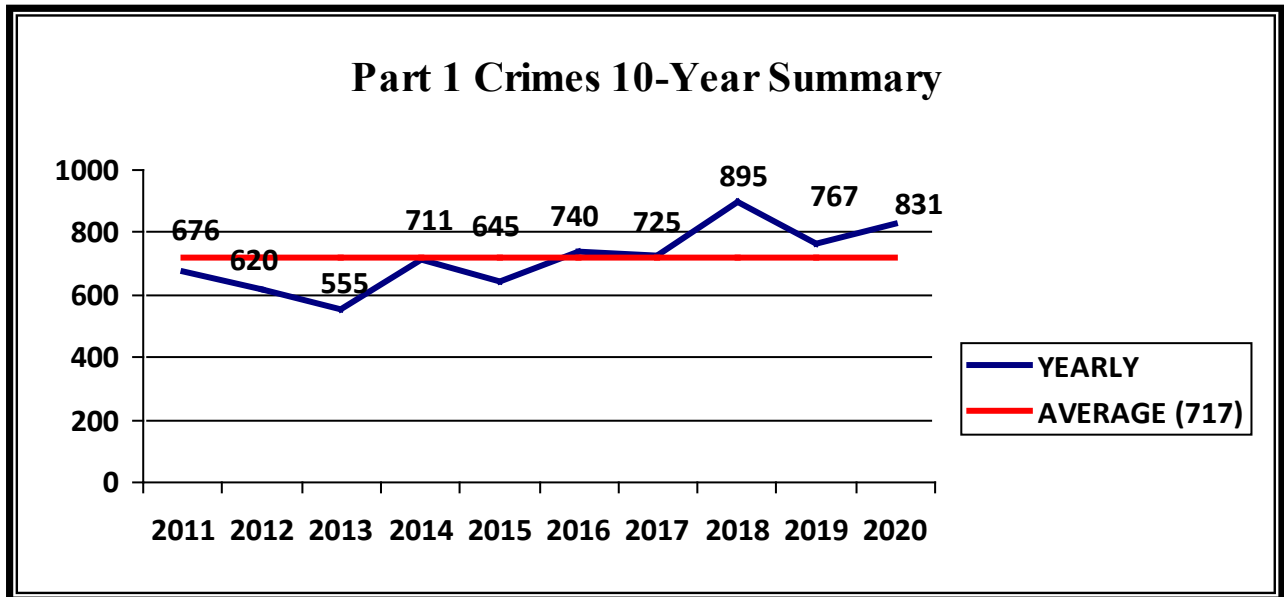
Violent Crimes	2017	2018	2019	2020	% Change
Murder	0	2	1	0	-100%
Forcible Rape	15	18	17	19	+12%
Robbery	11	22	7	7	0%
Aggravated Assault	52	43	37	36	-3%
TOTAL	78	85	62	62	0%

Property Crimes	2017	2018	2019	2020	% Change
Burglary	223	326	203	177	-13%
Larceny	415	460	453	542	+20%
MV Theft	7	18	47	49	+4%
Arson	2	2	2	1	-50%
TOTAL	647	808	705	769	+9%

2020 Part 1 Summary													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
<i>Murder</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Rape</i>	0	3	2	0	2	0	2	5	0	2	2	1	19
<i>Robbery</i>	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	7
<i>Assaults</i>	2	4	2	2	8	2	2	2	1	2	4	5	36
<i>Burglary</i>	12	20	14	16	11	16	16	18	16	16	11	11	177
<i>Larceny</i>	45	38	39	38	35	71	43	57	52	46	41	37	542
<i>MV Theft</i>	3	3	1	2	2	3	6	6	6	9	3	5	49
<i>Arson</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	63	68	58	58	58	94	69	88	76	78	62	59	831

Part 1 Crimes Continued

10-YEAR SUMMARY										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<i>Murder</i>	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	2	1	0
<i>Rape</i>	5	3	8	6	4	11	15	19	17	19
<i>Robbery</i>	6	17	21	11	16	12	11	23	7	7
<i>Assaults</i>	31	32	23	47	56	59	52	43	37	36
<i>Burglary</i>	144	172	133	149	132	154	223	327	203	177
<i>Larceny</i>	461	374	351	466	413	474	415	461	453	542
<i>MV Theft</i>	29	19	18	18	20	28	7	18	47	49
<i>Arson</i>	0	2	1	11	3	2	2	2	2	1
TOTAL	676	620	555	711	645	740	725	895	767	831



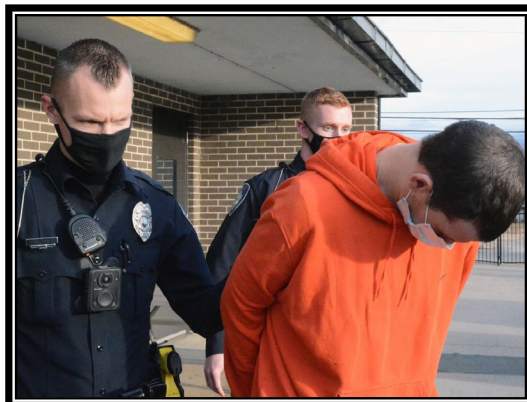
Part 1 Crimes Continued

2020 PART 1 CRIME ARRESTS													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
<i>Murder</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Rape</i>	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	2	4	11
<i>Robbery</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Assaults</i>	13	13	5	17	12	14	11	22	10	18	19	15	169
<i>Burglary</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	4
<i>Larceny</i>	36	37	30	23	32	40	48	49	52	54	38	35	474
<i>MV Theft</i>	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	1	4	12
<i>Arson</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	49	51	35	40	44	58	65	74	62	74	60	58	670

Note: Arrests are higher than incidents due to incidents involving multiple Subjects, warrant service outside jurisdiction, service of warrants for unreported incidents, etc.

Part 1 Crimes Arrests	2017	2018	2019	2020	% Change
Murder	0	2	1	0	-100%
Forcible Rape	9	3	7	11	+57%
Robbery	16	1	0	0	0%
Aggravated Assault	125	116	147	169	+15%
Burglary	108	1	0	4	+400%
Larceny	672	650	364	474	+30%
MV Theft	9	15	18	12	-33%
Arson	0	0	0	0	0%
TOTAL	939	788	538	670	+25%

The above percentage change is a comparison of 2019 to 2020



Calls For Service

2020 Top-10 Calls For Service

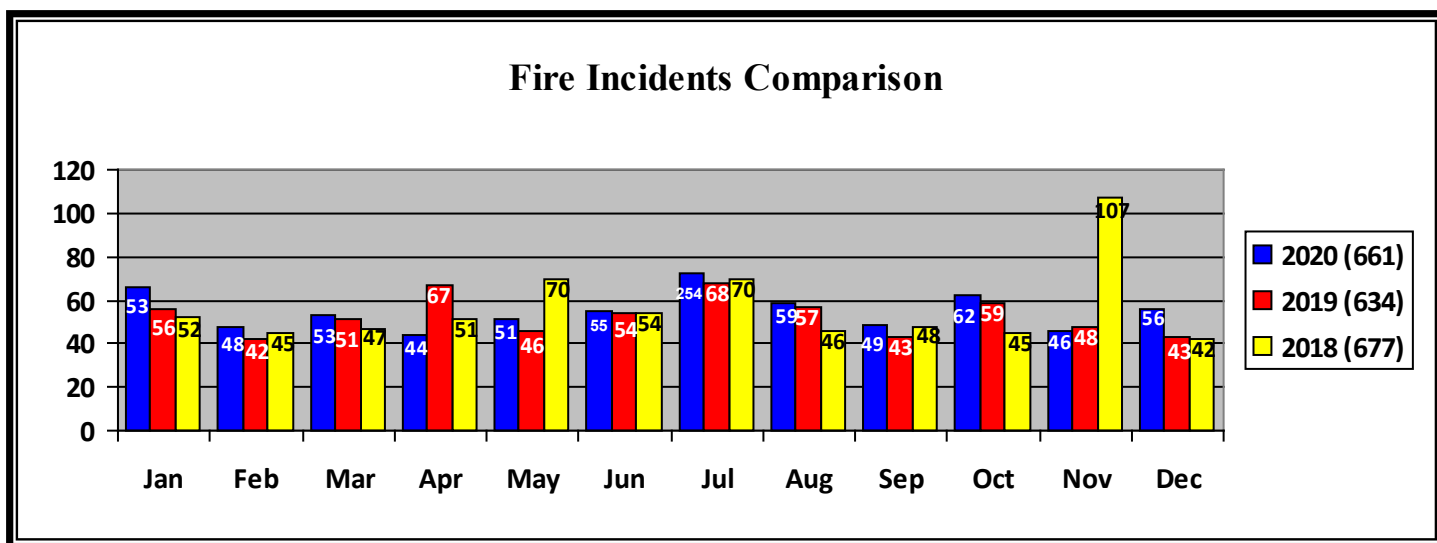
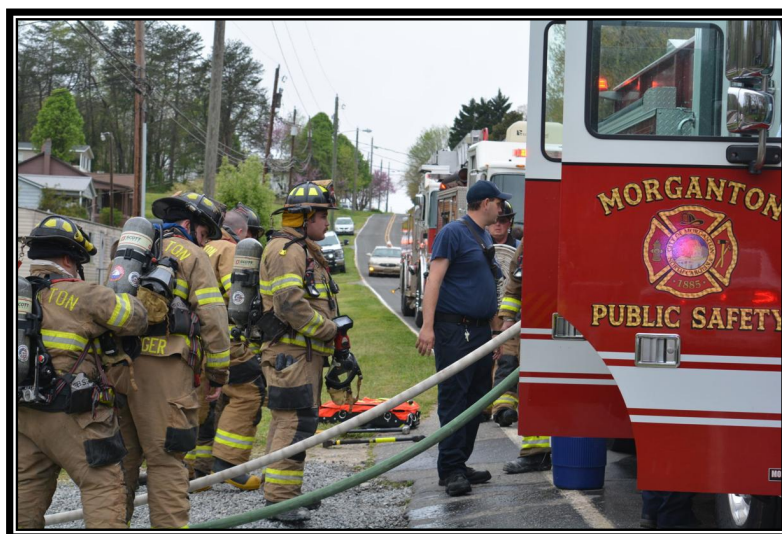
Calls For Service (125 categories)	2017	2018	2019	2020
Extra Patrol	2,290	1,795	3,221	4,980
Vehicle Stop	6,001	6,797	8,979	4,964
Security Check	8,689	5,174	3,600	2,961
911 Hang-up	2,850	2,893	2,475	2,622
Speak to Officer	1,875	1,819	1,937	1,848
Alarm Activation	1,497	1,552	1,469	1,431
Follow-Up	1,484	1,411	1,347	1,258
Suspicious Person	1,187	1,262	1,358	1,230
Investigation	947	963	1,197	1,218
Property Damage MVA	1,192	1,206	1,127	987
All other calls for service	14,122	13,865	12,950	11,835
TOTAL	42,132	38,660	39,660	35,334

- 🛡️ The total *Calls For Service* decreased **11%** from previous year
- 🛡️ Public Safety responded to an average of **97** *Calls For Service* each day utilizing 6-8 personnel per 12-hour shift

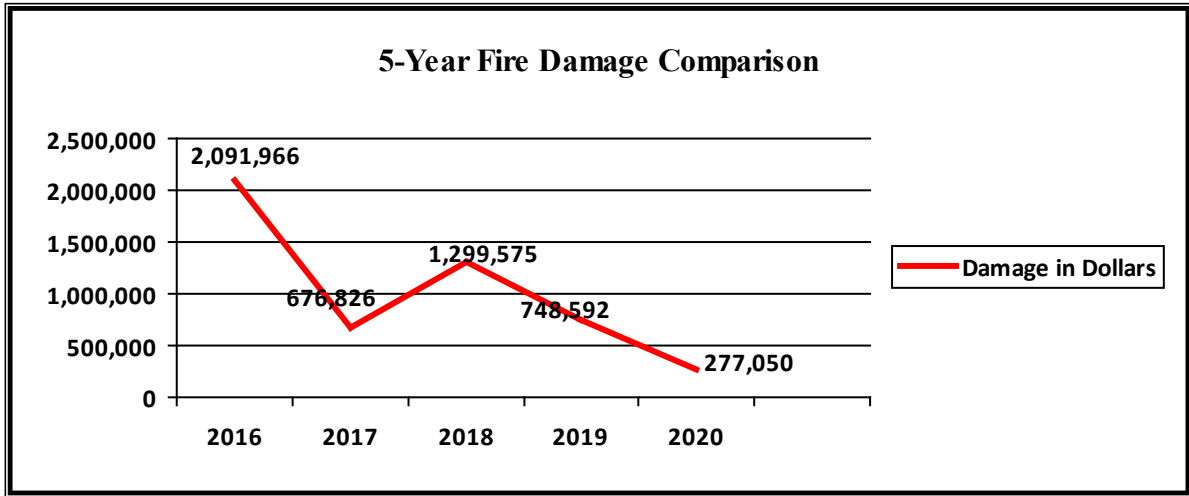


Fire Statistics

FIRE RESPONSE													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<i>Number of Calls</i>	66	48	53	44	51	55	72	59	49	62	46	56	661
<i>Property Damage</i>	\$500	\$21,500	\$23,650	\$53,500	\$15,000	\$5,400	\$8,800	\$47,500	\$22,500	\$0.00	\$17,500	\$61,200	\$277,050
<i>Man Hours Spent</i>	378:5	149:56	202:50	163:28	169:43	128:18	225:24	193:19	221:19	169:35	119:29	168:05	2,287:78



Fire Statistics Continued



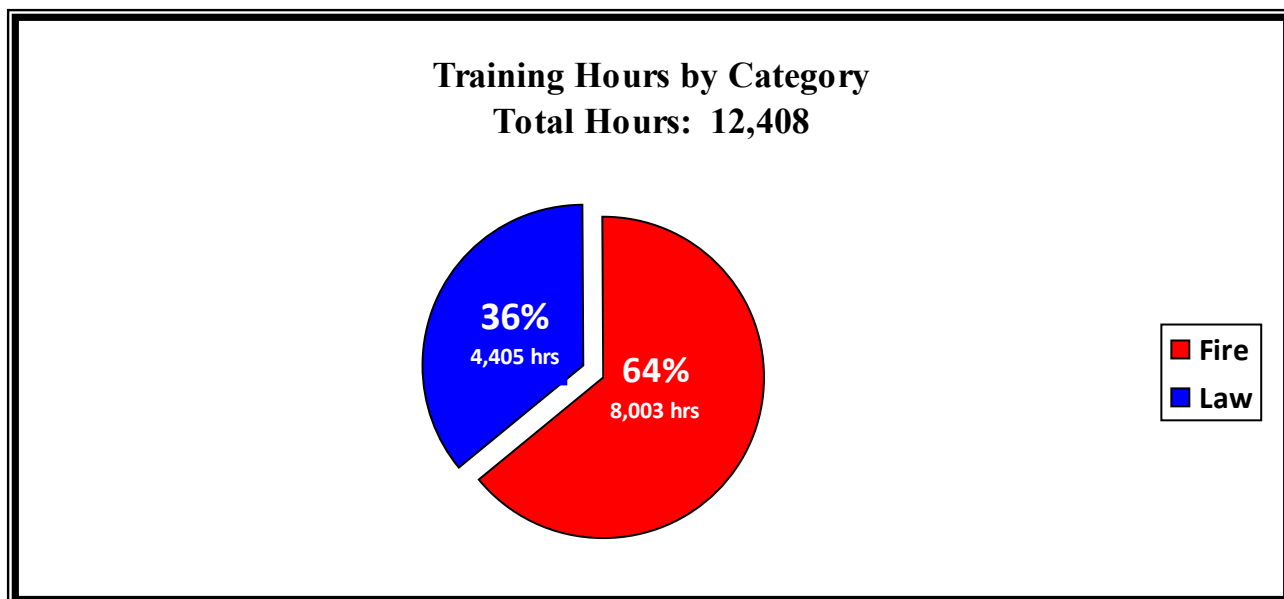
Traffic Analysis

5-YEAR SUMMARY – TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<i>Accidents Reported</i>	1,200	1,104	1,209	1,215	1,029
<i>Number Injured</i>	286	230	236	251	163
<i>Fatalities</i>	3	1	0	2	2
<i>Acc. Arrests/Citations</i>	979	891	959	990	785
<i>Property Damage</i>	\$3,518,898	\$4,082,463	\$4,119,086	\$3,750,000	\$2,998,713

5-YEAR SUMMARY – DWI ARRESTS, CITATIONS					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<i>DWI Arrests</i>	345	356	343	288	285
<i>Traffic Citations</i>	5,378	4,341	5,187	6,759	3,724



Training



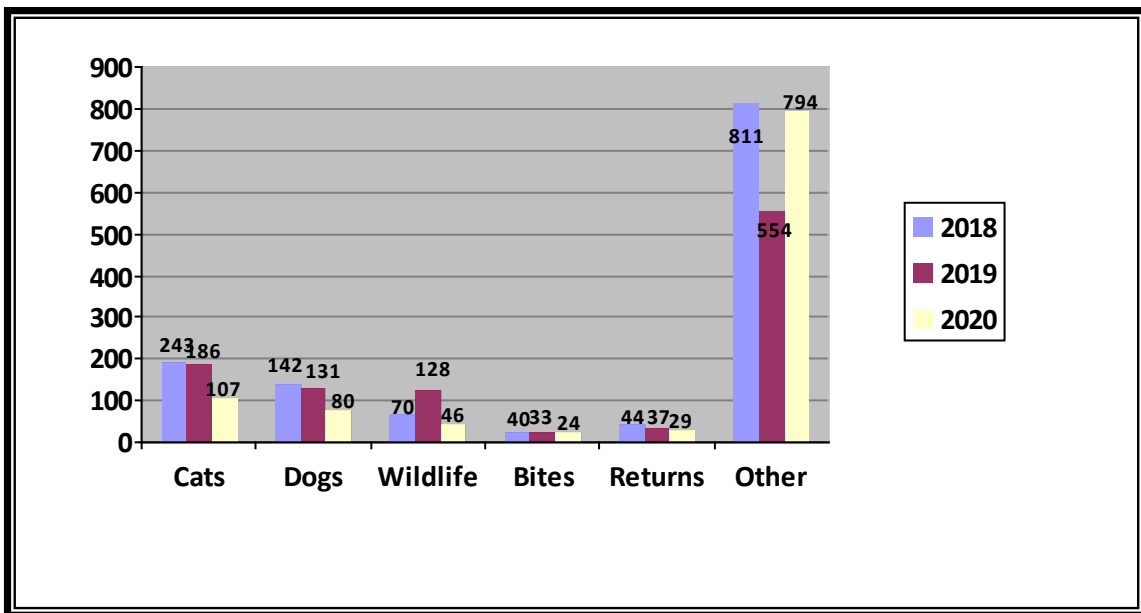
- 🛡️ Total police-related training for 2020 was 4,405 hours, resulting in each sworn officer (60) averaging 73 hours of training
- 🛡️ Total fire-related training was 8,003 hours, resulting in each firefighter (90) averaging 89 hours of training for the year
- 🛡️ In 2020 two PSO's attended WPCF Fire Academy at over 400 hours each



Animal Control

	2018	2019	2020
<i>Calls for Service</i>	1,288	1,061	1,080
<i>Citations Issued</i>	174	121	125

Category Breakdown



Special Events and Highlights

Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT)



Public Safety's SWAT team is comprised of 10 members and is responsible for hostage situations, barricaded persons, sniper incidents, aggravated suicide attempts, high-risk building searches & arrest warrant service, crowd control and other potential life threatening incidents which exceed the routine response of on-duty Public Safety personnel. The team conducted 2 operations in 2020 as well as monthly training events.

K9 Program:

Our canine program is comprised of two handlers each assigned to a canine, PSO William Miller left Morganton Public Safety and was the Handler over K9 ECHO. K9 ECHO was kept behind MDPS HQ for a couple of months until the new handler selection process was completed. PSO Gabryszewski was selected to be the new Handler for K9 ECHO and PSO Stacey Huffman is assigned canine JAROS. Canine units are responsible for apprehension of fleeing suspects, article searches, tracking suspects or missing persons, building searches, and narcotics detection. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, replacement handler process, and K9 Echo behaviour issues the K9 team had some challenges. Below is their activity for 2020:

Training and Usage

All canines accrued over 230 training hours for the year.
Conducted 1 public demonstration.
Conducted over 4 searches of building.
1 Apprehension of Suspect without Force.
Assisted with 2 Narcotic Search Warrants.
Conducted 47 total searches (vehicle and/or Areas)
Controlled Substances Arrest / Charges-----19
Other Arrest / Charges-----16
Traffic Citations-----12

Drug and Money Seizures

Marijuana.....5 grams (Street value \$135.00)
Methamphetamines.....10 grams (Street Value \$820.00)
Cocaine/Crack.....14 grams (Street Value \$1,324.00)
Heroin.....62.65 grams (Street Value \$5,901.00)
Money..... \$815.00
Weapons..... 1

Explorers Program:

In 2020 Public Safety continued its *Law Enforcement Explorers* program which is a hands-on career-oriented program that gives youth from ages 14 to 21 years old the opportunity to explore careers in law enforcement and firefighting. We ended the year with **10** youth participating in our bi-weekly program supervised by our personnel. The Explorers assisted our Community Services Division with community projects which included our annual Blue Elves toy giveaway.



Special Operations Division:

- ☛ “Coffee With A Cop” is a national event that focuses on connecting community members with Law Enforcement. In 2020 Public Safety hosted **3** events at businesses. The program continues to be well received by members in the community.



- ☛ In 2020 our D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program was presented to 5th graders at New Dimensions School, Morganton Day School and home school groups with **74** students completing the program. The D.A.R.E. curriculum uses national research based educational techniques to teach youth better decision making skills to help them avoid negative influences in life.

- ☛ Public Safety’s annual “Blue Elves” outreach event reached nearly **150** children in the city of Morganton with assistance from The Marine Corps League Toys for Tots, Morganton Housing Authority, Morganton-Burke Fraternal Order of Police, Morganton Recreation Department and other donors. These partnerships have allowed Public Safety to facilitate a larger event which includes toys, snacks and activities for youth and parents.



Traffic Checkpoints:

Public Safety conducted a total of **66** traffic related events during 2020 at various locations throughout the city to include Checkpoints, seat belt enforcement, saturated patrols, speed enforcement and educational events.

Fire Services:

Due to COVID19 restrictions we were unable to conduct our usual fire safety events at our local schools. However, our fire personnel produced fire safety videos to give to the schools for teachers to use in the classroom. Topics included “Serving Up Safety in the Kitchen”, “Meeting Place at the Home”, “Get Out and Stay Out” and “Stop, Drop and Roll”. Also, MDPS was awarded the *N.C. Smoke Detector Grant* which provided **52** smoke detectors that our Firefighters installed in homes throughout the city.

