

JONESBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



#BETTERTOGETHER

CONNECTING AND SERVING



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A WORD FROM THE CHIEF

Our commitment to transparency and accountability remains strong.

We strive for this through several mechanisms, such as our early adoption of body worn cameras, regular review and adoption of state and national best practice standards, pursuing and achieving state accreditation and thorough and regular policy review. We regularly open our doors to the community with regular CPA classes and recently expanded the number of personnel tasked with the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) response.

Our goal is to continue to work toward maintaining obtainable transparency that bolsters public trust while not compromising our crime investigations.

RICK ELLIOTT
CHIEF OF POLICE



43 YEARS OF
LAW ENFORCEMENT

2023 JONESBORO EXCHANGE CLUB
OFFICER OF THE YEAR

CURRENTLY SERVES ON THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS FOR:
ARKANSAS STATE CRIME LAB
CRAIGHEAD COUNTY 911
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT DTF
BRTC LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

AT-LARGE STATE REPRESENTATIVE,
ARKANSAS CHIEFS ASSOCIATION



2023 MILESTONES

Following a healthy re-work of our salary structure, JPD saw a day where we were **FULLY STAFFED** for the first time in a long time!

We will continue to engage in our effort to recruit the very best and strive to achieve and maintain a diverse staff reflective of our community.

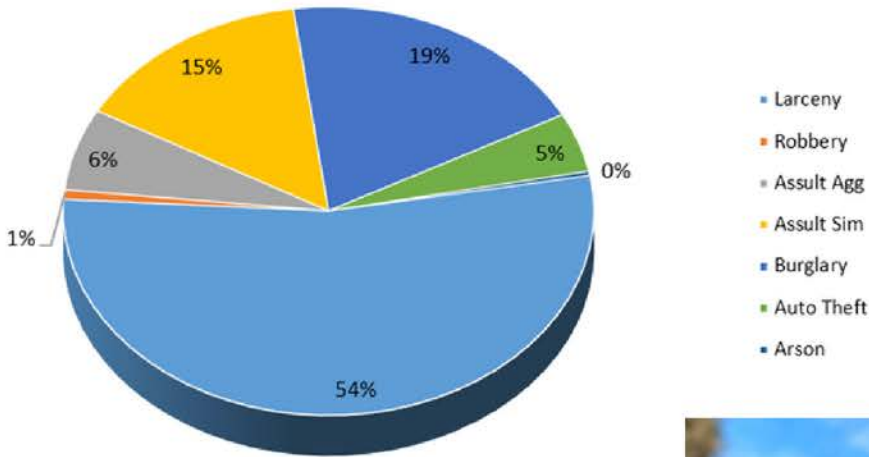


Efforts to expand our CIT program received a massive boost with a 3-year **Connect and Protect grant award - \$550,000** over the next three years. The funding will provide for a full-time CIT Program coordinator and a full-time licensed therapist to co-respond with our officers, as well as provide reimbursement for officers' salaries while working with the program.

JPD also received approval for an unprecedented **third Body Worn Camera grant**, completing our capability to outfit every employee, including all officers (full-time, part-time, and reserves) and all civilian enforcement personnel to be outfitted with Body Worn Cameras. Recognizing the transparency benefits, JPD remains committed to properly using BWCs, and supervisors regularly compare BWC recordings with calls to ensure the cameras are being utilized and examine random incident footage to ensure compliance with policy.



Total of 2023 Part 1 Crimes



While some categories saw slight increases, 2023 saw a **reduction in Part 1 Crimes** overall. Property crimes were also down by 5%, and most notably, homicides returned to the lowest level in 10 years!

2023 saw a **reduction in Motor Vehicle Accidents** overall, and **Fatalities were down by 30%**. This is despite a continued increase in the city population growth and the number of new businesses.



We **expanded our ability to keep our community safe** by adding several camera feeds - 697 camera feeds now cover the city! JPD also partnered with local media outlets to inform commuters of traffic hazards and delays.

Jonesboro Police Department
 Jul 20, 2023 · 📍
 Traffic has been extremely backed up on Red Wolf from Stallings to Hilltop because of the recent milling/overlay project and lane closures. We've worked several traffic accidents in this area over the last few days. Please use caution, drive slow, pay attention, and above all 🙏 be courteous 🙏



2023 MILESTONES

CONNECTING AND SERVING

WELLNESS

JPD is proud to introduce our new Wellness Coordinator, Mike Hart. Mike is familiar with law enforcement, having served seven years as a Reserve officer and an eight-year chaplain for JPD. Under his stewardship, JPD successfully launched our Peer-to-Peer Program to provide much-needed support to our officers.

Officers are better positioned to connect outward when they are better connected and healthier internally. Mike has seen quick success in mitigating the challenges of launching our new program.



MENTORING

The department also launched a mentoring program to enable newly hired or promoted officers to successfully assimilate into their new roles.

The Mentor Program is intended to operate separately but supports the training and wellness programs. Mentors were chosen based on their above-average interpersonal skills, willingness to assist others, and communication skills. The Mentor must possess a strong desire to participate in the personal and career development of the Protégé by sharing their skills and knowledge.



CONNECTING AND SERVING THROUGH TEAMS

Currently, 72 percent of JPD first-line responders are CIT-certified, with many other CIT-certified officers serving in other roles in the department. Six JPD officers have received CIT Trainer certification and, along with our partners from Arisa Health, have joined the efforts to train other officers in the area. Our goal for 2024 is to continue to increase our own number of first-line responding officers who are CIT certified and provide assistance to train others.



We continue to see the need for crisis response and were fortunate to be awarded a Connect and Protect grant of \$550,000 over the next three years, providing a more focused response for our community.

CRISIS INTERVENTION



JPD records show that incident reports labeled as "mental health" issues doubled between 2018 and 2022. Calls for service related to mental health crises increased 20% in the same span. Examination of other calls revealed that many that were initially labeled as a "disturbance" or a "welfare check" were triggered by a mental health crisis. Partially due to better recognition of call types early in the response, in 2023, the number of CIT-related calls surged to over 650.

candy

DONATIONS
NEEDED

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



TRUNK or TREAT Community Block Party

October 25 from 5-7pm

Union and Matthews at First Baptist Church

Come join the fun!



387

ENGAGEMENTS

BY OFFICERS NOT ASSIGNED TO COMMUNITY
OUTREACH

Over the past year, JPD re-doubled our efforts to get ALL officers involved with our community. To track these

interactions, we added the ability for officers to check out under 'community engagement' in our reporting system.



CONNECTING WITH
OUR COMMUNITY

117 EVENTS

Meeting with our community remains one of our primary priorities. We appreciate the opportunity to get to know you!



CONNECTING AND
SERVING THROUGH
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

CPA

This past year, we saw the addition of 39 new members of the JPD Citizen Police Academy!

We graduated two classes, one in June and one in October. These individuals spent their weeks learning about various aspects of law enforcement, such as handling firearms, making traffic stops, investigating crime scenes, and more, but mostly letting us go on about all the cool things about our jobs! They also had the opportunity to participate in Stop The Bleeding and VIRTRA training, visit the RTCC and Dispatch, and learn the roles we all play in the safety of our community.



JOB SHADOW

On a similar note, Students from our area schools participated in our job shadow program in May. Officers discussed their job, tools, and technology and provided some "hands-on" fun with the tasers. They visited the Real Time Crime Center and posed with our awesome K9 Vault and Officer Obregon. Officer Kaja always takes every opportunity to show off his mad motorcycle skills.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

#BetterTogether: Partnerships are Key to Public Safety

Strong partnerships between law enforcement and schools are essential for addressing the root causes of juvenile involvement in crime. Our dedicated school resource officers play a vital role in this collaborative effort. Our SROs put in many long hours throughout the school year.



Building relationships and conducting targeted patrols at certain times of the year helped us see a reduction in the number of crimes committed by juveniles!



A testament to that relationship building is the coffee bar put together by Cpl. Rayonica Thomas. Students are allowed to visit the coffee bar to celebrate special achievements and it also serves as a support center where they can connect for confidential conversations or help with certain resources.



CONNECTING AND SERVING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Successful partnerships require careful planning and shared goals. By maintaining clear communication, defined roles, and mutual respect, JPD is working to navigate potential challenges and provide improved outcomes, ensuring a sustainable, impactful collaboration that positively impacts our community.



Valuable collaboration with the prosecutor, various specialty courts, and federal task force partners continues to provide successful prosecutions and reduced recidivism. In 2023, JPD partnered with federal agencies to make 366 arrests, serve 518 felony warrants, and had 107 federal case adoptions.

CRAIGHEAD COUNTY
ESTABLISHED 1899
ARKANSAS

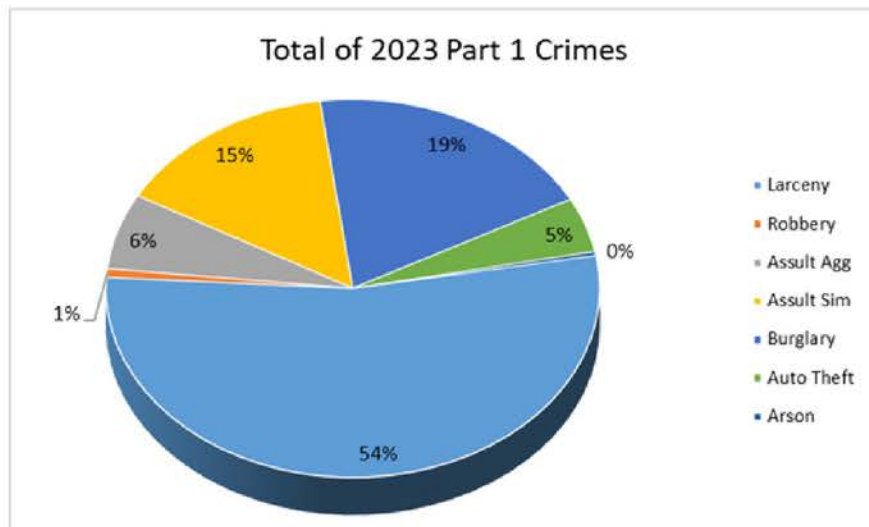


Working with local legislators saw the creation of the Vincent Parks Law which requires police academy instructors to complete training on the recognition and management of certain health conditions. The bill was created following the death of JPD Officer Vincent Parks in the hope to prevent future incidents.



BY THE NUMBERS

Jonesboro continues to experience a significant decrease in crime across almost all categories. Homicides and robberies in Jonesboro have plummeted to their lowest levels in a decade, marking a significant milestone for the community. Additionally, aggravated assaults are down to the lowest level in 5 years, and all property crimes, such as Breaking or Entering and Theft, are down 5% from 2022 numbers, demonstrating a comprehensive improvement in public safety.



Responses to aggressive behavior were only deemed necessary in 166 contacts during the year. Officer-generated video has become instrumental in the review of those responses, as well as the investigation of complaints. Our goal as a department is that through careful study and consideration of those circumstances that resulted in a response to an aggression incident, we will be better equipped to ensure that the outcome of such incidents will best serve our officers, the offenders, and our community.

IN 2023, OFFICERS RESPONDED TO 68,514 CALLS FOR SERVICE AND MADE 6,398 ARRESTS

Motor Vehicle Accidents	
No Injury	2428
Injury	669
Fatality	4
Grand Total	3101

While also reflective of national statistics, this positive downtrend likely reflects a combination of factors, including increased availability of officers due to the shift staffing model being utilized and the increased situational awareness provided by the RTCC. This decrease in crime offers numerous benefits to Jonesboro residents, including a stronger sense of security, improved quality of life, and potential economic advantages. Let's celebrate this achievement and continue working together to make Jonesboro a safer and more vibrant community.

The increased utilization of Drones provides real-time information in police operations. Not only do they offer an excellent overview for scene documentation, but they also provide the ability to get 'eyes on' a situation much quicker. JPD currently has six drones of various sizes and is working to expand our number of licensed pilots and additional drone capabilities.



1,322 CASE ASSISTS

**1,032 MVAS CAPTURED
414 DISCOVERY REQUESTS**

INTELLIGENCE THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

The mission of improving situational awareness and keeping the public safe remains the primary focus of our Real Time Intelligence Center. Utilizing mostly grant funding, we continue to expand our camera system and analytics capabilities. Keeping traffic moving is a bonus, and we use social media and work with local media partners to keep drivers informed.



AWARDS

JPD OFFICER OF THE YEAR
ADAM HAMPTON



JPD CHIEF'S MEDAL
TROY ELLISON



JPD CHIEF'S MEDAL
BILL BROWN

EXCHANGE CLUB OFFICER OF THE
YEAR CHIEF RICK ELLIOTT



OPTIMIST CLUB OFFICER OF THE
YEAR DETECTIVE NICK DUMOND



CRAIGHEAD COUNTY CIT
OFFICER AWARD
BRUCE WRIGHT

DOUBLE AWARD
RECIPIENT

DARE OFFICER AND
CRASE INSTRUCTOR
JAMIE SEABORN
NEA OPTIMIST CLUB
AND ROTARY CLUB



CRIMESTOPPERS AWARD
ICAC - SGT BILL BROWN,
CHRIS PIGG, ADAM HAMPTON,
AND KERI VARNER



BEST
OF NORTHEAST ARKANSAS
2023 WINNER

Jonesboro Police
Department
Voted Best Social Media Account

BEST
Presented May 11, 2023
www.BestOfNEA.com

Presented by
PAKMAIL
SUPER CENTER

Morshaydrick Racy

December 2022

Donna Johnston

April 2023

Andy Starnes

August 2023

OFFICER OF THE MONTH

Nathan Ivy

January 2023

Josh Beasley

May 2023

Zach Nead

September 2023

Anthony Zaffarano

February 2023

Carma Butler

June 2023

John Hughes

October 2023

Adam Hampton

March 2023

Greg Trout

August 2023

Jake Chambers

November 2023



WELCOME ABOARD

C.J. KELEMEN
DEVAN ECHOLS
NATHAN SWINDLE
TREVOR DOEPFER
CALEB GUSTIN
JOSH CHAFFIN
AARON PARHAM
TOSHA GEROR

CHRIS ROGERS
TAYSHAY EARLY
SHANE WILLIAMS
AJ ORDAY
LEVI CHISM
TIM NEAL
CHAD HALL
KEVEON DAY

JIM NEELY
JAMES JOHNSON
KANE REYNOLDS
KAVION ALSTON
JOHN CROSBY
HUNTER DAVIS
PAYTON PERKINS
SCOTT MARTIN

LONDON WHITLOW
DARIUS THOMAS
KYLE NORRIS
CODY DAVIES
PAUL BASS
BRANDON MEEKER
AARON DOWDY
LAKEVA MOORE
SHANNON SIMINO

With so many new faces, JPD again conducted our own academy classes, twice in 2023. Utilizing a number of our experienced officers, as well as other instructors, over 700 hours of instruction was delivered to prepare these new recruits for their new roles.



**BE THE CHANGE
MAKE A CHANGE**

The Jonesboro Police Department is hiring!

WRITTEN AND PHYSICAL TEST
FEBRUARY 11, 2023

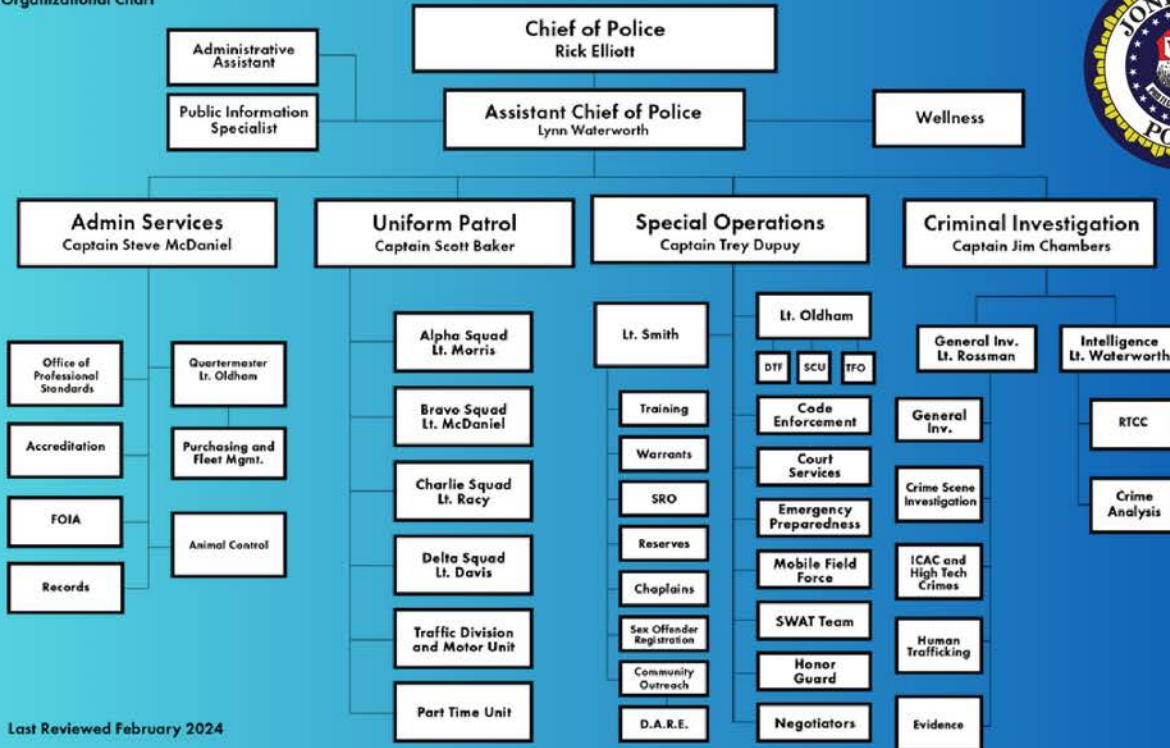
PROMOTIONS



Several officers received a promotion in 2023. Officers Michael Bush, Nathan Ivy, Scott Byrd, Chad Hogard, and Bill Brown were promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Sergeants David McDaniel, Bryan David, and Shon Morris were promoted to Lieutenant, and Lt. Trey Dupuy received his Captain's bars. Congratulations to these officers on their accomplishments!

STAFFING, DIVISIONS AND UNITS

Jonesboro Police Department
Organizational Chart



Last Reviewed February 2024

INVESTIGATIONS



Technology continues to revolutionize the capability of law enforcement. As technology evolves, detectives continue to reexamine old files, and in 2023, three 'cold case' sexual assault cases were closed utilizing new DNA searches. These cases ranged from ten years old to one that occurred in 1999!

Utilizing forensic ballistics (NIBIN), we connected several violent crimes throughout the region. NIBIN leads provide critical connections and documentable evidence that significantly aids in closing cases involving firearms. In 2023, JPD investigators test-fired all firearms brought in and collected shell casings from numerous incidents.



We will continue the fight against human trafficking and child predators, making arrests for possession of CP or luring.



2,358 CASES ASSIGNED
199 OTHER ARRESTS
978 FELONY CASES
462 GUNS SEIZED
153 CRIME SCENES
427 DEVICES PROCESSED

DRUG TASK FORCE / SCU



Fentanyl is the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 45. Nationwide, enough fentanyl was seized in 2023 to kill every American and the fentanyl we see today is even deadlier than before. A few years ago, JPD made a commitment to do everything we could to help combat opioid related deaths in our community and every officer is supplied with naloxone. Partnerships have allowed us to keep this commitment by replenishing our supplies, such as the one pictured which is only a portion supplied by The Medicine Shoppe - thank you for your support!

552 CASES ADOPTED
445 ARRESTS
1,647 DRUG ITEMS SEIZED



ADMINISTRATION

Our administrative staff are responsible for ensuring that the police department operates efficiently and effectively. They work to communicate with the public about police activities and support our sworn officers in their efforts to keep the community safe.

1552 FOIA REQUESTS
5360 DOCUMENT REQUESTS
334 RECRUIT APPLICATIONS



TRAINING

IN 2023,
JPD OFFICERS
COMPLETED
16,761
CONTINUING
EDUCATION
HOURS



PREVENTUS LEADERSHIP TRAINING



Preparing new recruits for the job and keeping our officers well-trained is a large task. Along with completing two academies of 670 hours each, current officers also completed over 16,000 hours of continuing education in a number of topics, from mandatory defensive tactics to crisis intervention.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS



SPECIAL OPERATIONS



The team of officers and civilian personnel that make up the Operations Division manage a number of diverse responsibilities that are vital in supporting our mission to protect and serve our community. They fill a number of support positions from sex offender registration to court security.



K-9

The JPD K-9 Unit currently consists of 6 Dual Purpose Narcotics K9's and will soon gain a Dual Purpose K9 that can detect explosives.

During 2023, the K9 Unit seized more than 44 Kilos of Marijuana and over a pound of Methamphetamine. The K9 Unit also located 61 suspects during building searches and tracks.



PATROL AND TRAFFIC



As the backbone of police work, officers from the Patrol Division are usually the first ones at the scene of any incident. These officers not only answer questions and take reports, they check businesses, direct traffic and provide assistance and direction every day. From checking on suspicious activity to stopping violent acts in progress, these officers can be depended on to answer the call every day!





GIVING BACK



The Jonesboro Fraternal Order of Police and Rotary Club paired to bring the "Shop with a Cop" event. The Woodmen Life prepared and served breakfast to over 30 kids before venturing on their annual shopping excursion with area law enforcement officers. We also participated in "Shop with a Hero" and "Blue Crew".

JPD officers played in the inaugural KAIT Region8 Charity Basketball Tournament benefiting @TogetherWeFoster, an organization that aids Children and Biological parents during reunification. Our team won the trophy!





Jonesboro DARE's "Color Me Egg-Cited" color run, "Dare 2 Tread the Trails", and new "Dare 2 Show Your Ride" events raised funds to keep DARE programs free for 5th graders in all 3 Jonesboro school districts!



Officers Kara Austin, Rachel Griffin and Jake Chambers responded to a call and discovered a family had a need to replace a basketball goal. The community stepped up and bought this young man a new goal.



Several JPD officers joined with officers from other agencies in the area to run alongside local athletes to complete the local leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Arkansas. The 2-mile run began at the Jonesboro Police Department Centennial Bank on Highland DR. JPD's Sergeant Brian Arnold was on hand to receive two generous donations that aided athletes to participate in the summer games at no cost.



Sgt. Arnold also represented the The State of Arkansas and the United States in the running of the final leg of the Special Olympics Flame of Hope as it traveled through Germany before arriving for the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023.



FAVORITE SOCIAL MEDIA POST 2023



Finally – we always want to take advantage of giving back a smile. Our renegade chicken post went VIRAL across the globe in September. JPD is grateful to Field Training Officers, like Cpl. Kinnard, who go the extra mile to ensure that officers are prepared for any assignment, and congratulations to Ofc. Swindle on this difficult apprehension!



