



# 2024



Beaufort Police Department

# ANNUAL REPORT

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# Chief's Message

Dear Community,

It is with great pride and gratitude that I address you as the Chief of the Beaufort Police Department. As we move into a new year, I am inspired by the opportunities ahead and remain committed to ensuring Beaufort continues to be a safe and thriving place to live, work, and visit.

First and foremost, I want to thank our community for your trust, support, and partnership. Your involvement and collaboration are the foundation of everything we do, and your dedication to making Beaufort a better place inspires us daily. Our focus in the coming year will center on strengthening partnerships with our community, with an emphasis on fostering meaningful engagement with our youth. These relationships are the cornerstone of effective policing and vital to building trust and unity.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the City Council and City Manager, Scott Marshall, for their unwavering support. Their leadership and collaboration play an integral role in making our shared vision for Beaufort a reality.

To the officers and staff of the Beaufort Police Department, your dedication and professionalism are the driving forces behind our mission. I am immensely proud to work alongside such a talented and compassionate team. This year, we remain committed to enhancing officer health and wellness, recognizing that a strong and resilient department is essential to serving our community effectively.

Looking ahead, we will continue to embrace innovative technology to reduce crime and improve the perception of safety in our city. These tools, combined with our proactive community engagement efforts, will ensure Beaufort remains a place where residents and visitors alike feel secure and connected.

Together, we will build upon our accomplishments and seize new opportunities to create a safer, more inclusive, and united Beaufort. Thank you for your continued support as we embark on this journey together.

Sincerely,



**Stephenie Price**

Chief of Police



# About BPD



## Core Values

### Integrity

We conduct ourselves with honesty and uphold the highest ethical standards in all our actions.

### Accountability

We take responsibility for our actions and decisions, ensuring transparency and building trust within the community.

### Mission-Driven

We are dedicated to public safety, enforcing laws fairly, and fostering trust within the community we serve.

### Bravery

We face challenges with courage and are committed to protecting the community, even in the face of danger.

### Professionalism

We maintain the highest standards of professional conduct, demonstrating competence, respect, and fairness in all our interactions.

### Dedication

We are devoted to the community's well-being and diligently strive to fulfill our responsibilities with unwavering commitment.

## Mission

Our mission is to safeguard and serve our community with integrity, fairness, and respect. We are dedicated to ensuring public safety, upholding the law, and fostering trust through community engagement and professional excellence.

## Vision

To enhance community engagement and partnership, advocating for fairness, trust, and respect. We honor our history, remain mindful of the present, and diligently lead the future with unwavering dedication.



# Command Staff

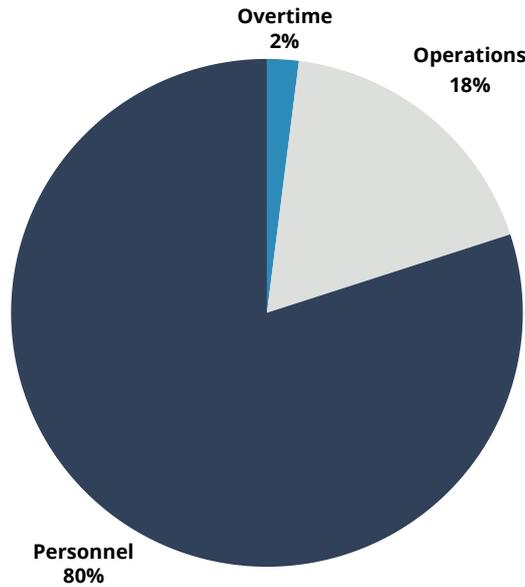


Meet the Beaufort Police Department Command Staff! Throughout the year, they prioritize a proactive approach to addressing evolving challenges, emphasizing community-oriented policing and fostering positive relationships with our residents. Together, they bring a wealth of experience, leadership, and dedication to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community and the Beaufort Police Department.



# 2025 Fiscal Year Budget

**TOTAL BUDGET: \$7,855,088**



## Grants

### **2023-24 SC Department of Public Safety Office of Highway Safety and Justice Program, School Resource Officer**

Total Award: \$268,380

### **In-Car Video Camera Grant**

Total Award: \$ 70,518

### **SC Opioid Recovery Fund**

Total Award: \$25,000

### **2024 Body Armor Assistance Grant (BAAG)**

Total Award: \$17,864

### **Wal-Mart Community Events Grant**

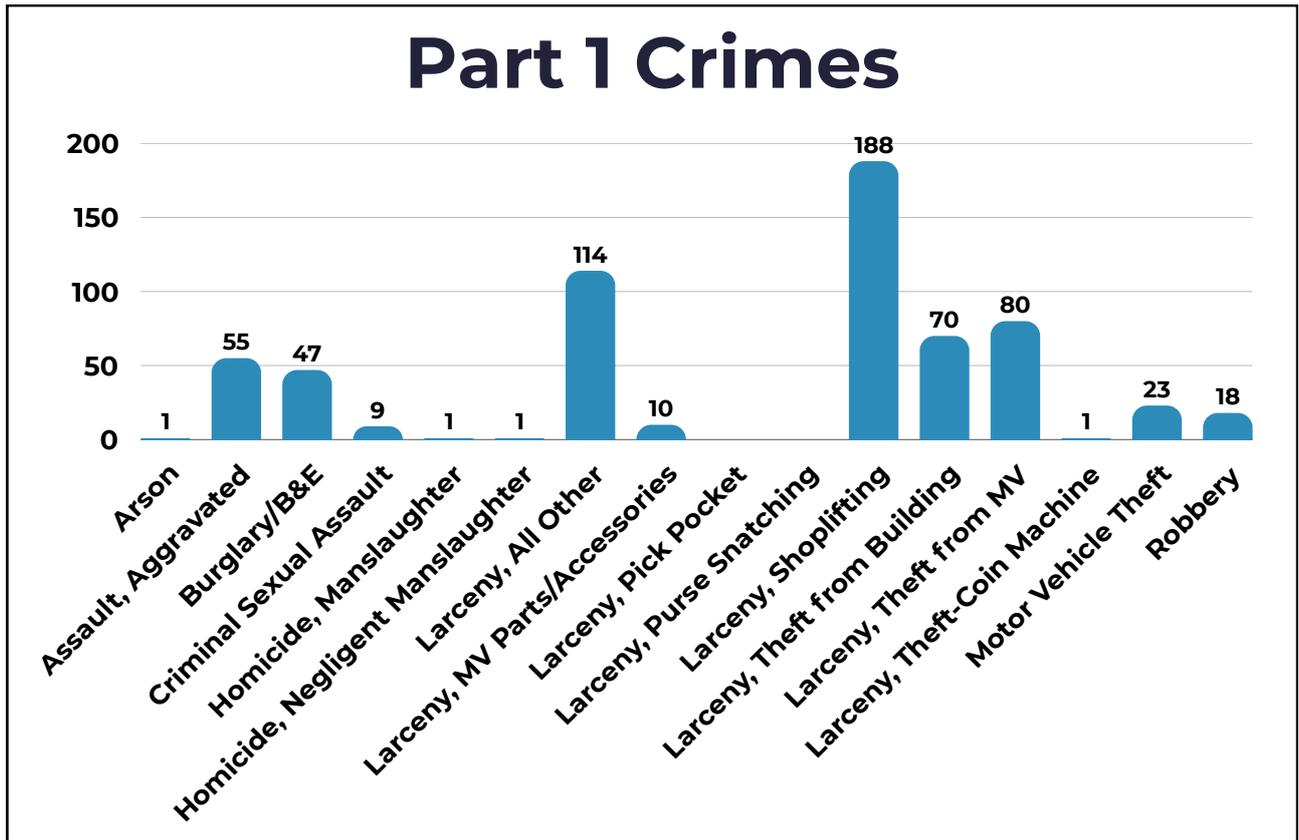
Total Award: \$11,000



### **Department of Justice Crime Analyst in Residence (CAR) Program Grant**

The CAR Program, administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, is designed to assist law enforcement agencies in expanding their data analysis and operational practices. Through a combination of onsite and virtual technical assistance, the CAR Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Team works closely with agencies to integrate tailored crime analysis methods, tools, and information into daily operations and crime reduction initiatives.

# 2024 Crime Statistics



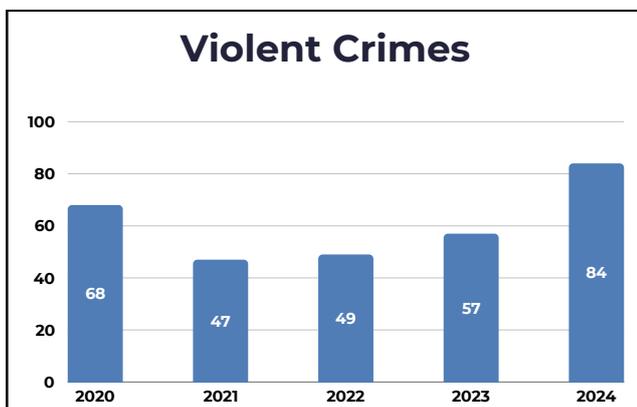
**Larceny** is defined as the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another person or business. There are eight subcategories that make up the total for larceny offense: Pocket-picking, purse-snatching, shoplifting, theft from a building, theft from coin operated devices, theft from motor vehicles, theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories, and all other larcenies.

**Burglary** is defined as the unlawful entry into a building or some other structure to commit a felony or a theft. By definition, a structure has four walls, a roof, and a door.

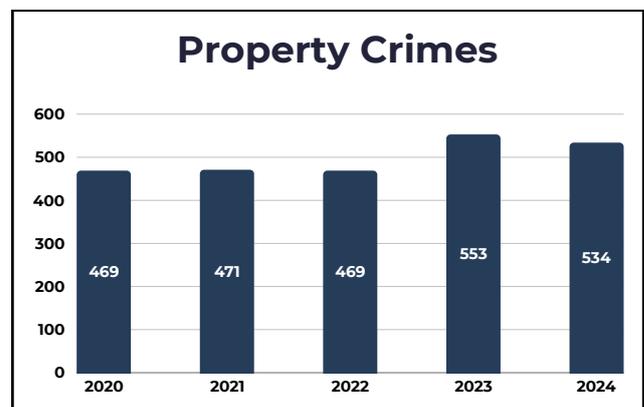
**Robbery** is defined as the taking of anything of value from the control, custody, or care of another person by force or threat of force and/or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm.

**Aggravated assault** is defined as an unlawful attack by one person upon another wherein the offender uses a dangerous weapon or displays it in a threatening manner, or the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury, or where there was a risk for serious injury/intent to seriously injure.

## 5-Year Comparisons



Includes Homicides, Rapes, Robberies, and Aggravated Assaults



Includes Burglaries, Larcenies/Thefts, Motor Vehicle Thefts, and Arsons

# Arrest Demographics

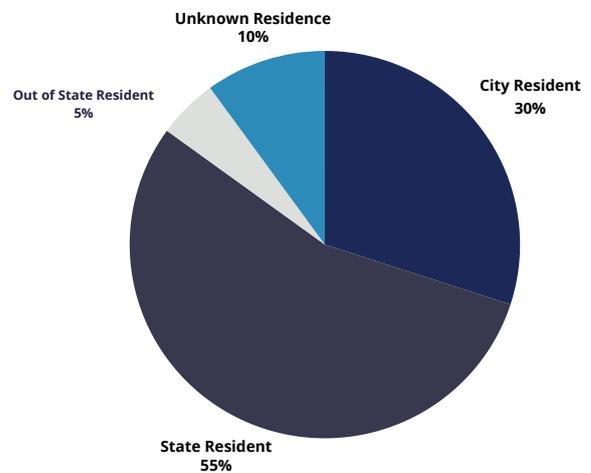
Total Arrests: 586

Male: 432 / 74%

Female: 154 / 26%

Race	Male	Female	Total	
Unknown / Not Recorded	0	1	1	0.2%
Asian	6	2	8	1.4%
Black	278	84	362	61.8%
Indian	0	0	0	0.0%
White/Hispanic/Latin	27	13	40	6.8%
India Native	1	0	1	0.2%
White	120	54	174	29.7%
<b>Age</b>				
1 to 18	14	3	17	3%
19 to 25	70	24	94	16%
26 to 50	282	106	388	66%
51 & Over	66	21	87	15%

City Resident	174	30%
State Resident	322	55%
Out of State Resident	29	5%
Unknown Residence	61	10%



# Patrol Division

Patrol is the largest and most visible division within the Beaufort Police Department. The City of Beaufort is 27.6 square miles and has a population of 13,850.

There are four patrol teams, and each team is led by a 1st Sergeant and assisted by a Sergeant. The Patrol Division is overseen by the Operations Captain and Patrol Lieutenant.

Patrol officers provide many services during their 12-hour shifts, such as responding to calls for service, providing extra patrols, traffic enforcement, and self-initiated proactive policing. Additionally, they attend community events, conduct preliminary investigations of crimes and traffic accidents, write reports, and collect evidence.



**52,456**

**CALLS FOR SERVICE**

**1,262**

**TRAFFIC CITATIONS**

**582**

**CRIMINAL CITATIONS**

**53**

**DUI ARRESTS**

**1,750**

**CRIME REPORTS TAKEN**

**4,125**

**WARNINGS ISSUED**

**556**

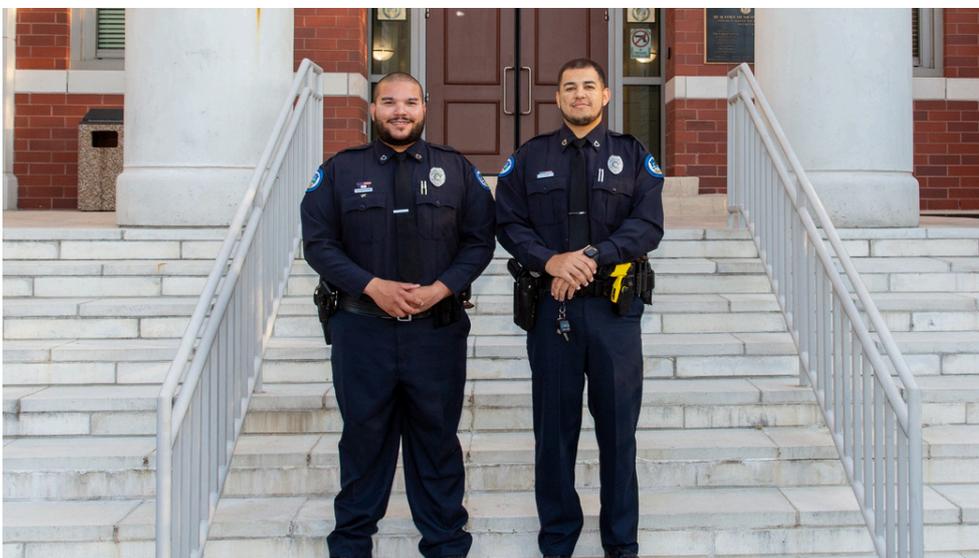
**TRAFFIC COLLISIONS**



# C.ommunity R.esponse T.eam

The Community Response Team (CRT) is a specialized unit within Beaufort PD that focuses on addressing community concerns and enhancing traffic safety in high-priority areas. Working in close collaboration with the K9 Team and Patrol Teams, the CRT takes a proactive approach to solving problems and building stronger connections with the community.

This year, CRT achieved significant milestones, including targeted enforcement efforts and impactful community engagement initiatives, contributing to a safer and more connected Beaufort.



## STATS

# 2,480

**CALLS FOR SERVICE**

# 1,500

**ASSIST OTHER OFFICER**

# 309

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

# 633

**TRAFFIC STOPS**

# 313

**RESIDENTIAL PATROLS**

# 521

**BUSINESS PATROLS**

# K9 Team

Our K9 team was established in July of 2023. The team is comprised of two Sergeants and two 1st Sergeant canines.

Each dog is a certified patrol canine whose responsibilities include tracking, article searches, and criminal apprehension. These teams conduct high-visibility patrols and perform the traditional activities of law enforcement.

In 2024, each K9 and handler passed their North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA) re-certification.



1st Sgt. Supra and Sgt. Wiren



1st Sgt. Jampi and Sgt. Kopylov



**1,194**  
EXTRA PATROLS/  
FOOT PATROLS

**974**  
ASSIST OTHER  
OFFICERS

**184**  
TRAFFIC  
STOPS

**19**  
NARCOTIC  
ALERTS

**960**  
TOTAL TRAINING  
HOURS

**58**  
FREE AIR  
SNIFFS

**36**  
ASSIST  
OTHER AGENCIES

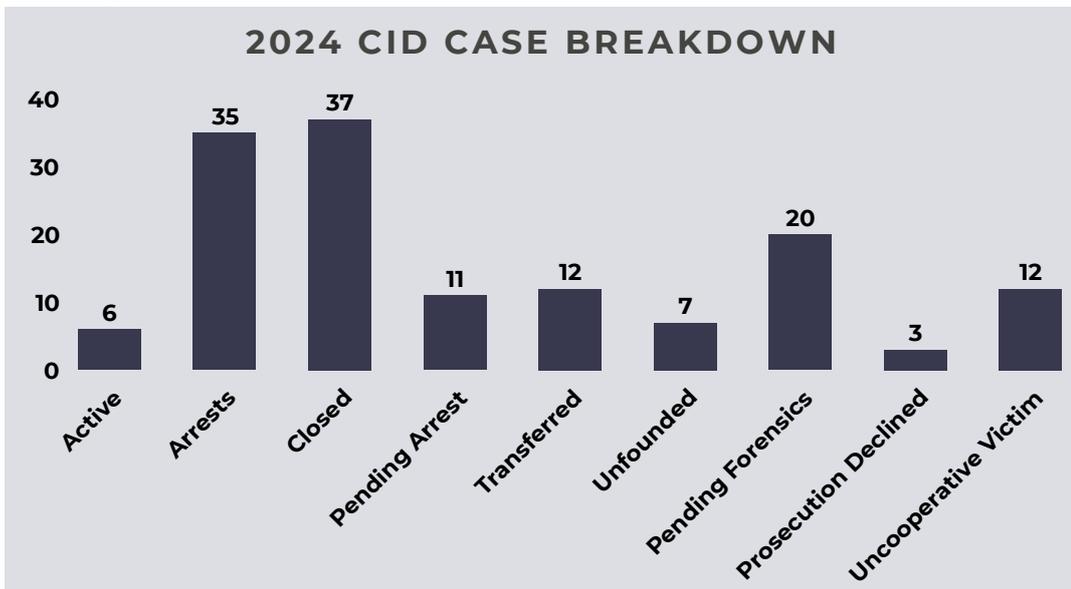
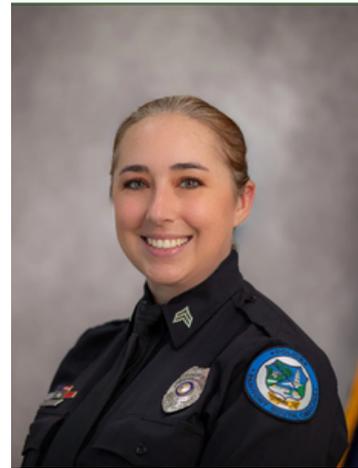
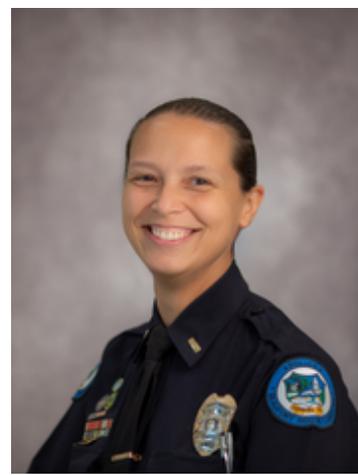
**11**  
SCHOOL  
SEARCHES

**15**  
K9  
TRACKS

# Criminal Investigations Division

The Investigations Division consists of seasoned officers who are specifically trained in conducting criminal investigations and crime scene processing. They conduct follow-up investigations and initiate preliminary investigations.

Investigators' primary responsibilities are to view all available evidence and attempt to locate and gather additional evidence in developing probable cause to effect arrests of person(s) and present cases in court to obtain convictions. The Investigations Division consists of four full-time Investigators and they are supervised by the Investigations Lieutenant.



## CASE STATUS DEFINITIONS

**Active:** Cases currently assigned and under investigation.

**Arrests:** Case closed by arrest of suspect(s).

**Closed:** Cases indicate that an investigation ensued however, charges were not pursued. This includes cases where a suspect was not identified or probable cause for an arrest could not be established. These cases can be reopened if new information is obtained.

**Pending Arrest:** Warrants have been obtained and the case is pending location and arrest of suspect(s).

**Transferred:** The case occurred outside of our jurisdiction. The case was referred to the respective agency.

**Unfounded:** A case reported to law enforcement but investigation revealed the incident did not occur as reported, deemed false, or baseless.

**Pending Forensics:** The case evidence sent to a forensics lab and case is awaiting results for further investigation.

**Prosecution Declined:** The victim(s) declined/refused prosecution on suspects developed during the investigation.

**Uncooperative Victim:** The case was closed due to the victim refusing to cooperate with the investigation.

**155**  
ASSIGNED CASES

**118**  
CASES CLOSED

**100%**  
HOMICIDE SOLVABILITY RATE

**57%**  
NATIONAL HOMICIDE SOLVABILITY RATE

# Noteworthy Cases

Investigators were assigned a case involving a suspect who fraudulently cashed two checks totaling \$16,000. The investigation successfully identified the suspect, uncovering their involvement in 18 additional fraud crimes across multiple states. The suspect was tracked by the FBI and other law enforcement agencies for nationwide fraud exceeding \$100,000. Four arrest warrants have been issued for the suspect.

Investigators were assigned a case involving the fraudulent procurement of a firearm scope. The investigation revealed that the suspect, based in Detroit, MI, was illegally acquiring firearms, accessories, and ammunition across multiple states. Coordination with the Michigan State Police uncovered that the suspect had been under surveillance by the ATF, U.S. Marshals, and other local agencies in areas where the incidents occurred. Further investigation revealed that the suspect was supplying these illegally obtained items to prohibited individuals and gangs. Warrants have been obtained, and the investigation is ongoing with the aforementioned agencies.

Investigations responded to a report of a young child suffering a gunshot wound. Initial claims suggested an unknown individual discharged a firearm into the residence, striking the child. However, the investigation determined that a loaded handgun was left unattended on the child's bed, leading to the child accessing the weapon and tragically discharging it. Further inquiry revealed that the adults in the residence fabricated the initial story, tampered with evidence, and provided false information. As a result, two individuals were arrested and charged with offenses including involuntary manslaughter, filing a false report, unlawful conduct, criminal conspiracy, accessory to the act, evidence tampering, and obstruction of justice.

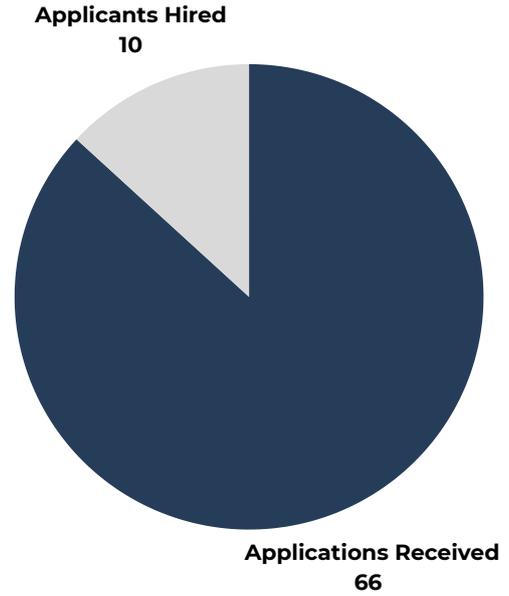
Investigations responded to a report of a gunshot victim laying in a parking lot deceased. The victim was shot numerous times at close range. Four subjects were charged in connection with this, with charges including Murder, Possession of a Weapon During a violent crime & Accessory After the Fact.



# Administrative Division

## Hiring and Recruitment

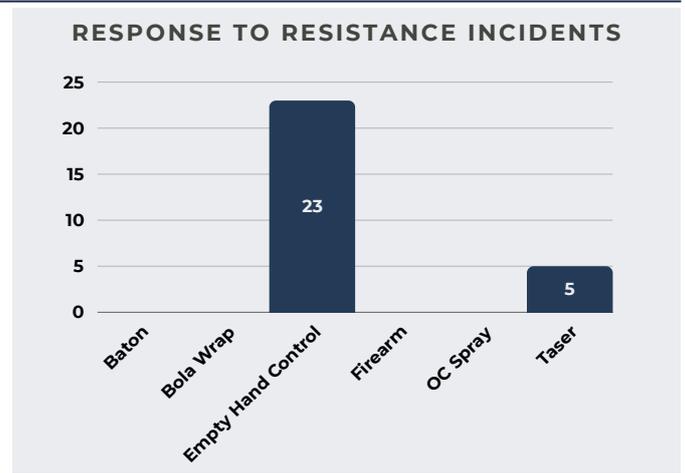
The Beaufort Police Department is dedicated to providing the highest quality of service to the citizens that it serves. Therefore, applicants face an extensive application process that includes a background investigation, extensive testing, interviews, and a physical fitness test.



## Response to Resistance

All response to resistance incidents are analyzed by Command Staff. In 2024, out of the 586 arrests, 28 incidents required officers to respond to resistance to effect the arrest of the individual.

In each of the situations, it was determined that officers used the minimum amount of force reasonably necessary to bring these situations to peaceful resolution.



## Administrative Review

The Beaufort Police Department has an established process for receiving, investigating, and adjudicating complaints. The complaints can be received from citizens, staff, or anonymous sources regarding investigations of employee misconduct. Complaints are accepted in any form, including verbal, written, or from anonymous sources.

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS		
Complaint Category		Disposition
Discrimination	0	-
Improper Conduct	1	Sustained
Improper Procedure	1	Unfounded
Neglect of Duty or Actions	0	-

INTERNAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATIONS		
Complaint Category		Disposition
Discrimination	0	-
Improper Conduct	1	Sustained
Improper Procedure	0	-
Neglect of Duty or Actions	0	-

# Training

Every year, each Beaufort Police Officer is required to undergo hours of training to prepare them to deal with all aspects of their job, both mentally and physically. Officers are taught to be critical thinkers, ethical decision-makers, and technically proficient officers who operate within the agency's guidelines and policies. The ultimate goal is to help officers better serve the City of Beaufort.



## Annual Training

- Mental Health
- Ethics
- Biased-Based
- De-Escalation
- Active Shooter
- Driving
- Defensive Tactics
- Firearms

**11,217**

**TOTAL TRAINING  
HOURS**

- Forensic Evidence Training
- Connecting with Youth and Communities
- Suicide Prevention
- K9 Paramedicine/Tactical
- Female Officer Survival School
- Latent Print Techniques

# School Resource Officers



The Beaufort Police Department School Resource Officers establish and maintain a police presence at assigned schools to promote a positive attitude toward law enforcement, increase safety and reduce crime. Beaufort Police Department School Resource Officers are assigned to Beaufort High School, Beaufort Middle School, Lady's Island Middle School, Mossy Oaks Elementary School, and Beaufort Elementary School.

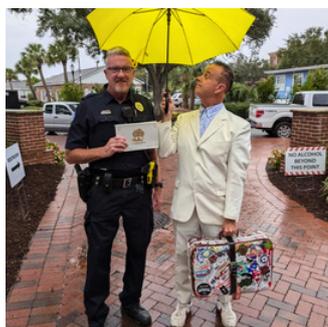
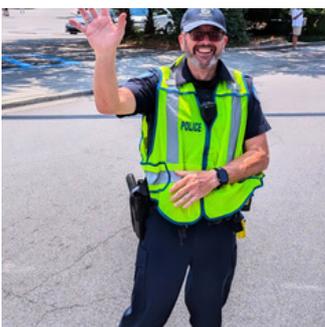
SROs conduct law enforcement, crime prevention, counseling, and law related education to students and school staff. Through grant funding, there is an SRO for every school and two SROs in the High School.



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# Court Security

The Beaufort Police Department employs four part-time Class-3 Court Security Officers. Their primary duties are to provide security for Court and City Council meetings. They also patrol the Spanish Moss Trail and Downtown Beaufort, work city sponsored events, and assist on prisoner transports.



# Records Division



The Records Division handles the administrative and clerical needs of the Beaufort Police Department. This division is comprised of an Office Manager, two full-time administrative assistants, and one part-time assistant. This division oversees the police department's files and records retention.

It is their role to provide immediate assistance on records requests including: victim reports, subpoenas, and discovery requests for court proceedings, background checks, and expungement orders. Further, this division handles the records management technology systems, payroll, and fiscal needs.



**514**

ACCIDENT REPORT  
REQUESTS

**581**

BACKGROUND  
CHECKS

**335**

EXPUNGEMENTS  
PROCESSED

**614**

INCIDENT REPORT  
REQUESTS

**316**

RULE 5  
REQUESTS

**389**

FOIA  
REQUESTS

**8**

SUBPOENAS  
REQUESTS

# Evidence

The Evidence Division is responsible for all property and evidence submitted by Beaufort police officers and investigators:

- Receiving and documenting
- Maintaining integrity and security
- Coordinating specialized processing

In addition to receiving and maintaining control of these items, the property and evidence custodian is responsible for monitoring and arranging the disposition of each item.



**1,890**

TOTAL EVIDENCE  
ITEMS

**416**

TOTAL EVIDENCE ITEMS  
BEING ANALYZED

**593**

TOTAL EVIDENCE  
ITEMS DESTROYED

**150**

TOTAL  
DRUGS

**78**

TOTAL  
FIREARMS

**110**

TOTAL EVIDENCE ITEMS  
RELEASED TO OWNER

# Safe Living Beaufort

Safe Living Beaufort, launched in August 2023, has dramatically reduced crime in the City of Beaufort, particularly within multifamily apartment complexes. A year of data shows significant decreases in offenses such as shots fired, assaults, larceny, drug offenses, and weapons violations, alongside a notable 56% increase in officer-initiated actions at Spanish Trace Apartments, where the initiative began.

The comprehensive effort included detailed crime data analysis, risk terrain modeling, collaboration with apartment managers and residents, and increased police presence through foot and vehicle patrols, community events, and officer training in multi-housing crime prevention. The results far exceeded the department's initial goal of a 10% crime reduction, with some crimes dropping by over 90%.

Following the success at Spanish Trace, the program expanded to other complexes, including Cross Creek, Mossy Oaks Village, and Wilderness Cove Apartments. Key achievements include sustained decreases in major crimes and firearms-related incidents, as well as significant increases in officer-initiated activities, with some months showing over 500% increases.

In 2025, the department plans to expand the initiative to more apartment complexes and continue its efforts to reduce crime through advanced technology, proactive policing, and strong community partnerships.



## Safe Living Beaufort 1 Year Combined Stats August 2023- August 2024

**OFFICER-INITIATED ACTIONS:**  
INCREASED FROM AN AVERAGE OF 165 PER MONTH TO 257 PER MONTH (+56%).

**CALLS FOR SERVICE/MAJOR CRIMES:**  
DECREASED FROM 46 PER MONTH TO 1.5 PER MONTH (-97%).

**SHOTS FIRED:**  
DECREASED FROM 5 PER MONTH TO 0.42 PER MONTH (-92%).

**ASSAULTS:**  
DECREASED FROM 15 PER MONTH TO 1.42 PER MONTH (-91%).

**DRUG OFFENSES:**  
DECREASED FROM 3 PER MONTH TO 0.42 PER MONTH (-86%).

**WEAPONS OFFENSES:**  
DECREASED FROM 4 PER MONTH TO 0.42 PER MONTH (-90%).

**LARCENY:**  
DECREASED FROM 1 PER MONTH TO 0.58 PER MONTH (-42%).



# BPD in the Community

The Beaufort Police Department continues to strengthen community relationships through a variety of programs and events. Longstanding initiatives like "Shop with a Cop" and "Chill with a Cop" provide opportunities for informal interactions that foster family-friendly community bonding.

This year, the department hosted its second annual "Open House," inviting the public to explore the department and organized a special movie day during school breaks, offering parents and children a fun and safe activity.

New initiatives include the Future Guardian Initiative Summer Camp and the LEADS mentoring program, led by School Resource Officers, which focus on leadership development and building positive relationships with youth.

Mental Health Clinician Paul Watkins joined the department this year, providing critical support by responding to calls and offering assistance to individuals in crisis. His presence also ensures officers have access to mental health resources, enhancing their ability to serve the community effectively.

This year, the Beaufort Police Department launched a new chaplaincy program and welcomed Chaplain Steven Bell to the team. Chaplain Bell plays a vital role in the department by providing emotional and spiritual support to officers and community members. His dedication strengthens the department's commitment to serving with compassion and understanding during challenging times.



Paul Watkins  
Mental Health Clinician



Chaplain Steven Bell



# Recognition



## Lieutenant Charles Squires

### 25 Years of Service

Lt. Squires began his career with BPD in 1999 as a Patrolman III, quickly advancing to Patrol Sergeant in 2002, where he led crime watch groups and police boat operations. In 2012, he was promoted to the role of Community Relations Lieutenant, building and strengthening our ties with the community. We thank him for 25 years of dedicated service!

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## Officer Dan Thompson

### 25 Years of Volunteer Service

Officer Dan Thompson has dedicated 25 years of exceptional volunteer service as a reserve officer, including 24 years with the Beaufort Police Department and 1 year with the Port Royal Police Department.

Over the span of his remarkable career, Officer Thompson has shown unparalleled dedication, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to our community. We thank him for his dedicated service!

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## Officer Katalina Palacios

### 2024 Officer of The Year

This prestigious award recognizes an officer's exceptional skills, job knowledge, and ongoing contributions to advancing the law enforcement profession.

Officer Palacios has exemplified these qualities throughout the year, consistently going above and beyond in her duties. She embodies the core values of the Beaufort Police Department and demonstrates an unwavering commitment to serving and protecting our community.



# Connect With Us



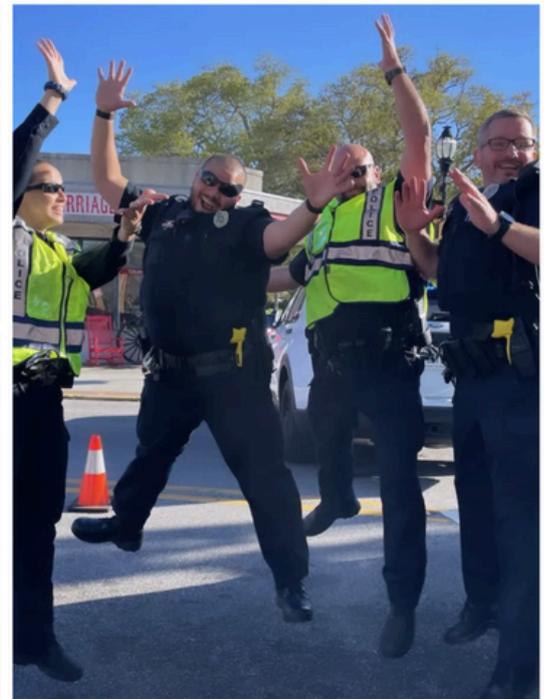
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# Join our Team!

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**BEAUFORT POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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