

AUGUSTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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INTRODUCTION

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office respectfully submits the following information as to its 2023 Annual Report.

Throughout the year, the Augusta County Sheriff's Office has continued its dedicated efforts to keep the streets of Augusta County safe for all citizens and visitors. 2023 was a very challenging year for our agency and we successfully balanced the challenges that 2023 brought us, and we are proud of our efforts and accomplishments throughout this challenging year.

We look forward to continuing our committed service in the coming year and constantly improving our quality of service to our community.



**AUGUSTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE**

Sheriff Donald L. Smith

Augusta County, VA



HISTORY

Augusta County was formed in 1738 and named for Augusta, the Princess of Wales and Mother of King George, III. The county boundaries once stretched to the Mississippi River. Currently, the County covers 967 square miles, more than half of the size of Rhode Island. It is the second-largest county (in land area) in Virginia.

POPULATION

According to the 2020 Census, there are 76,264 people in Augusta County. Combined with Staunton and Waynesboro, VA, the combined area population exceeds 110,000. The median age in Augusta County is 45.1 years.

GOVERNMENT

Augusta County is governed by a seven-member Board of Supervisors. The County is divided into seven magisterial districts with Board members elected from each district. The Board of Supervisors meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

ECONOMY

Augusta County has a diverse economy. While manufacturing accounts for approximately 30% of the jobs in the County, the governmental, services, and trade sectors are also very strong. The Augusta Correctional Center and Target are two of the County's largest employers. There are 4,978 businesses in Augusta County.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture has traditionally been an important part of the County's economy. This remains true today. According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, there are 1,665 farms in Augusta County covering more than 290,911 acres of land. The average farm in the County is 175 acres and the market value of items sold in 2017 was \$292,547,000.

DONALD L. SMITH

SHERIFF OF AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA



Donald L. Smith was born and raised in Augusta County, Virginia. He graduated with honors from Fort Defiance High School in 2001, and during his free time in school, he participated in the Augusta County Sheriff's Office Ride-Along Program where he shadowed the deputies and learned about their responsibilities. That experience had a tremendous impact and inspired him to pursue a career in public service where he could serve and protect the citizens of Augusta County.

In 2003, Donald graduated Magna Cum Laude from Blue Ridge Community College with an Associate Degree in Applied Sciences with a Major in Administration of Justice. In the same year, he also graduated from the Police Academy and was hired as a patrol deputy for the Augusta County Sheriff's Office. He returned to college and earned his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice degree from Liberty University.

For the past 20 years, Donald has been faithfully serving the community and moving up the leadership ranks within the Sheriff's Office, due to hard work and motivation. He became a Firearms Instructor in 2005 and was assigned to the SWAT team as an operator. He became a Master Deputy in 2006 and because of his leadership and hard work, was the youngest deputy ever in Augusta County to earn the title of Assistant SWAT Commander in 2009. Sheriff Smith took office on January 1, 2016, and was re-elected to a second term on November 5, 2019, and a third term on November 7, 2023.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office will commit its resources in partnership with the community to:

- Promote a safe and secure environment, free from crime and the fear of crime
- Maintain order and provide for the safe and expeditious flow of traffic
- Practice our core values of integrity, respect, service and fairness

Integrity: Integrity is the hallmark of the Augusta County Sheriff's Office and we are committed to the highest performance standard, ethical conduct, and truthfulness in all relationships.

We hold ourselves accountable for our actions and take pride in a professional level of service and fairness to all.

Respect: We treat all persons in a dignified and courteous manner, and exhibit understanding of ethnic and cultural diversity, both in professional and personal endeavors. We guarantee to uphold the principles and values embodied in the constitution of The United States and the State of Virginia

Service: We provide quality service in a courteous, efficient, and accessible manner. We foster community and employee involvement through problem-solving partnerships.

Fairness: We treat all people impartially, with consideration and compassion. We are equally responsive to our employees and the community we serve

AUGUSTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office has an authorized strength of 96 full-time deputies and 11 civilian staff. Employees serve in the Patrol, Investigations, Civil Process, Courts, Crime Prevention, School Resource, and Administrative Divisions. Sheriff's Office Support staff includes an Administrative Assistant, an Office Manager, Dispatchers, and services support personnel.

The Sheriff's Office reinstated the Reserve Program in 2019, and during 2023 Reserve Deputies added 3,649 volunteer hours to the agency.

During 2023 our agency responded to 50,087 calls for service and we had 46,670 self-initiated incidents for a combined total of 74,770 incidents. We also completed 10,920 Extra Patrol requests in 2023.



ACSO COMMAND STAFF



MAJOR BRIAN JENKINS
CHIEF DEPUTY

PATROL / COURTS



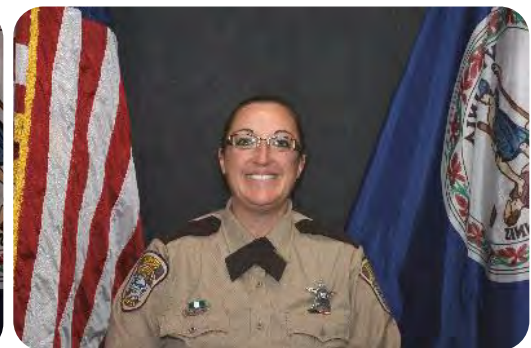
LT. JAMES SNYDER

INVESTIGATIONS



LT. STEVEN CASON

ADMINISTRATIVE



LT. LESLIE SNYDER

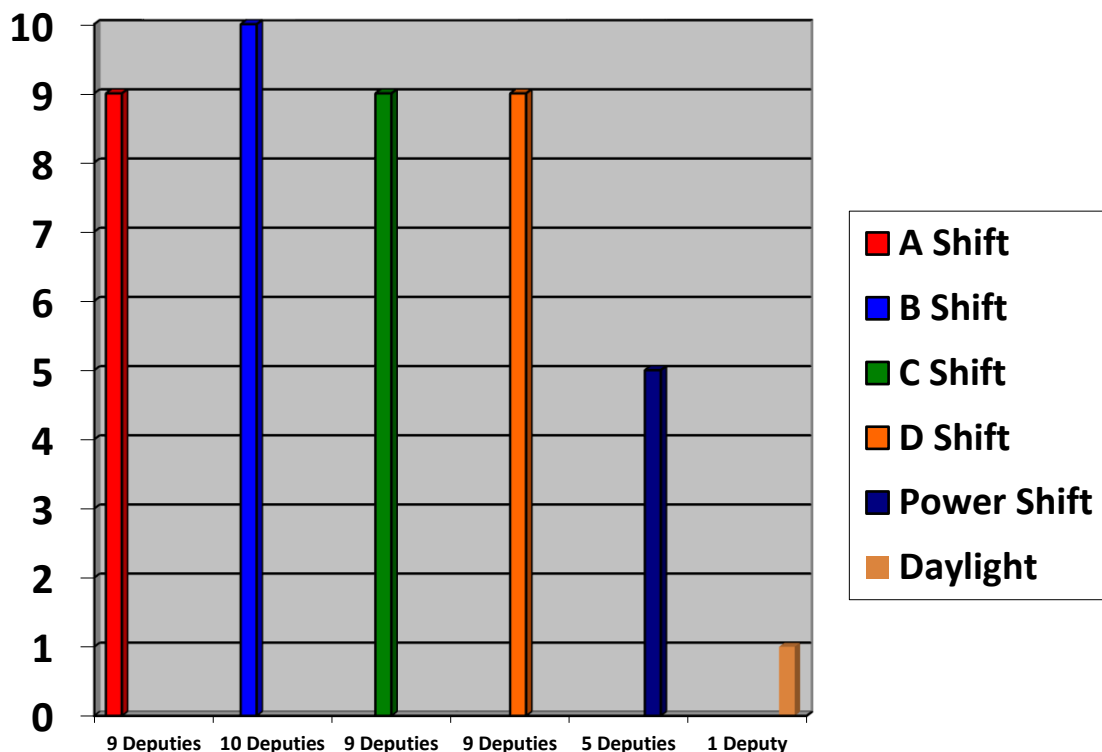
SHERIFF'S OFFICE UNITS

PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is the backbone of the Department's enforcement efforts and with 43 authorized personnel and 1 Division Commander, the division not only answers calls for service and investigate all manner of criminal complaints, but they also contribute the lion's share of effort that is directed by the Department in the area of enforcement. Each year, manpower fluctuates and the demands on the division's resources are stretched, but the division manages to successfully combat all types of violations.

The Division is divided into 4 rotating shifts that work 12 HR tours of duty and Patrol Shifts are assisted by the Power Shift at peak busy hours. Patrol shifts are commanded by First Sergeants. The Division is commanded by Lieutenant James Snyder and in 2023 the Division completed 2,824 Crime Incident Reports, made 3,668 arrests, and wrote 6,098 traffic summonses.

ACSO PATROL DIVISION



PATROL POWER SHIFT

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office Power Shift, staffed with 4 members in 2023, answered 5,325 calls for service, and backed up other deputies on 1,610 occasions, for a total of 6,935 incidents. The shift generated 202 crime reports, and 3 motor vehicle crash reports. The members also issued 1,457 summonses and made 1,096 arrests during 2023.

RESERVE DEPUTIES

During 2023, the Reserves logged 3,649 Hours of service to the community by riding with full-time deputies and staffing community events. Deputy Eric Gilbert contributed the most reserve time this year, logging 694 hours in 2023.

COURT SERVICES DIVISION



The Augusta County Sheriff's Office Court Services Division currently consists of First Sergeant Jerry Shifflett 7 Bailiffs and one part-time Bailiff. The Division provides court security in three county courts and is responsible for transporting prisoners to and from the court complex. In 2023 the Division screened 58,890 court complex visitors and served 4,886 total civil papers. They also completed 248 jail transports, and they handled 380 inmates. Additionally, the Court Security Division made 65 arrests, processed 124 individuals, and conducted 96 security escorts to parking areas.

The prisoner transport van is used for the bulk of the Court Security Division's transports outside of Augusta County. Use of the transport van generated the following numbers for 2023:

- **Total states traveled: Virginia and North Carolina**
- **Total inmates transported: 11**
- **Total miles: 1,941**
- **Total facilities: 9 Jails**

**Total Days in session: Circuit Court – 301
Juvenile and Domestic Relations – 299
General District Court – 185**

* The total number of court days reflects the fact that there are days when multiple courtrooms are in session simultaneously for a particular court (i.e. JDR court), requiring additional personnel to staff those courtrooms.

CIVIL PROCESS DIVISION

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office Civil Process Division consists of Sgt. Jeff Dietz and 3 fulltime deputies and one P/T Deputy. In 2023 the Civil Process Division served 13,723 pieces of civil process of all types. The Civil Division responded to calls for service on 2,785 occasions and backed up other deputies on 1,758 occasions. The four members of the Civil Division wrote 19 reports, 288 citations, and made 8 arrests in 2023.

The civil division also completed 105 evictions, 51 repossessions, and 14 complaints on inoperable vehicles from the Augusta County Community Development Department in 2023.



INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division is commanded by Lt. Steven Cason and consists of a Sergeant and six investigators in General Investigations. Investigators are on call for all manner of criminal investigations and in 2023 they wrote 518 initial reports and handled 750 assigned cases. Additionally, Investigators responded to or generated 880 incidents, and backed up other deputies 279 times in 2023. Investigators also wrote 85 traffic summonses and made 14 arrests in 2023.

Investigators fielded numerous interagency referrals in 2023:

Child Protective Services Referrals: 247

Adult Protective Services Referrals: 230

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office saw 2023 as the year that all of the hard work by Sheriff's Office Investigators, the FBI and the Virginia State Police in the 2021 no-body homicide case involving 3-year-old Khaleesi Cuthriell, would finally be resolved by court findings against the two suspects. The Khaleesi Case, has been one of the most heartfelt and tragic homicide investigations in the history of Augusta County, and all are most grateful that in some small part, we have achieved justice for Khaleesi.



KHALEESI HOPE CUTHRIELL

Press Conference May 24, 2022



NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT

Narcotics Investigations are handled by Sheriff's Office members assigned to the Skyline Taskforce which during 2023 had Three ACSO investigators assigned. The Task Force dissolved in 2023, but our investigators continue to combat narcotics trafficking in Augusta County., and remain hard at work.

In 2023, Narcotics investigators wrote 118 reports and executed 26 narcotics Search warrants.

The total assets seized were \$ 54,367 in U.S. currency and 11 Firearms.

2023 STATS

Methamphetamine

11,186.1 GRAMS
24.6611 pounds

Psychedelics

138.99 GRAMS
4.9027 oz

Marijuana

4207.7043 GRAMS
9.2764 pounds

Hashish

200 DOSES

Cocaine

130.96 GRAMS

Prescription Pills

(Mostly Fentanyl)
4,388 DOSES

Fentanyl powder

90 GRAMS

Heroin

.8 GRAMS

Other Pills

588 DOSES



SUPPORT SERVICES

In 2023, our agency processed 42 post-arrest DNA samples and 59 post-arrest court-ordered fingerprints. During 2023, we processed 1,947 concealed weapons permit applications and renewals. Additionally, 181 citizens were fingerprinted for employment and background checks.

EVIDENCE ROOM

In 2023, our agency processed 1,859 items of evidence and completed quarterly and bi-annual audits of the Evidence Room. In 2023, the Evidence Custodian submitted items of evidence from 339 cases to the Department of Forensic Science for forensic examination. 24 trips to the Virginia Department of Forensic Science were completed in 2023. Our annual Evidence Room Audit was completed on December 14, 2023.

In 2023, we continued to lawfully dispose of evidence and property in the Sheriff's Office Evidence Room. We currently have 3,178 items of evidence on hand, down from 3,764 items of evidence on hand in 2022, a 15.56% reduction. This effort has been greatly aided by Mary Wood, who is a part-time employee who generates requests for Destruction Orders and Declinations of Prosecutions, which are the legal process required for lawful disposal.



ACSO DRONE TEAM

In 2020, the Augusta County Sheriff's Office established a Drone Team. During 2023 the team had 7 deployments for search and rescue, 16 training events, and 4 deployments involving missing person searches. The Drone Team completed 23 total deployments of all types in 2023.



CRIME PREVENTION

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Office is manned by Sergeant Josh Graves. During 2023, above and beyond his Crime Prevention duties, he completed 16 crime incident reports and 77 calls for service, and he backed up other deputies on 61 occasions. Graves also wrote 3 citations and made 3 arrests in 2023.

During 2023:

- Presented Active Shooter training classes to local businesses and Medical Offices.
- Conducted numerous Neighborhood watch seminars on Staying safe in our Neighborhoods and tips for preventing Crime.
- Deployed the Radar trailer in different areas in Augusta County to warn drivers of speeding in residential neighborhoods.

DRUG TAKE-BACK

Sgt. Graves coordinated with the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on our agency's Drug Take-Back Days. The Sheriff's Office has had a collection point for prescription drug disposal since 2016, and we hold a Take Back Day twice a year, in conjunction with the DEA.



2023 ACSO Take-Back Results

April 2023 – 204 lbs.

October 2023 – 328.5 lbs.

BUSINESS WATCH PROGRAM

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office Business Watch Program is managed by Sgt. Graves and spearheaded by Reserve Deputy Guy Williams. Business Watch is a network of neighboring businesses working with the Augusta County Sheriff's Office to:

- Promote communication and understanding between law enforcement and the business community.
- Encourage cooperation between neighboring merchants.
- Teach merchants to crime-proof their properties to watch over neighboring businesses and report any suspicious activity to authorities.
- Develop a telephone tree system for quick dissemination of information regarding criminal activity in the area.
- Encourage the development of signals to activate in adjacent businesses when someone needs help.



During 2023, Reserve Deputy Guy Williams conducted 715 Business Watch checks at area businesses. Deputy Williams also assisted Patrol deputies on 33 occasions in 2023.

It with a heartfelt thank you that we bid farewell to Guy as he enters his "official" retirement as of December 31, 2023. He will be greatly missed.



Guy Williams. Submitted.

SCHOOL RESOURCE DIVISION

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office School Resource Division is commanded by Sgt. Chris Pultz oversees nine (9) School Resource Officers and one (1) part-time SROs. These deputies provide police services at all of the County's High Schools, Middle Schools, and Elementary Schools, during school hours, and at after-hours events. In 2023, the School Resource Division completed 205 crime incident reports. SROs also handled 1,385 calls for service, backed up other deputies on 607 occasions, wrote 67 citations, and made 31 arrests in 2023.



On June 17, 2022, Governor Glenn Youngkin announced more than \$37.5M in Criminal Justice Grant Funding, including funding for 86 SRO positions and 15 SSO positions for FY23 in school divisions throughout the Commonwealth. In July of 2022, the Augusta County Sheriff's Office submitted a proposal and grant application to the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services for this FY23 SRO/SSO Incentive Grant Program.

In August of 2022, our agency was awarded a grant for the Augusta County SRO Program. This grant award totals \$778,583.00. These DCJS grant funds continued in 2023, and have utilized to hire, train, and deploy new School Resource Officer positions for Augusta County Public Schools.

DEPARTMENTAL CHAPLAIN

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office was pleased to add Chaplain Mike Wood to our team in 2021. Chaplain Mike assists in death notifications, rides along with patrol deputies, and sends out inspirational video messages to our agency.



ACCREDITATION

On March 8, 2023, Todd Clingenpeel, the Accreditation Manager from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services presented the Augusta County Sheriff's Office with its Accreditation Award at the Augusta County Board of Supervisors' Meeting. Deputy Grant Davis is our agency's Accreditation Manager.

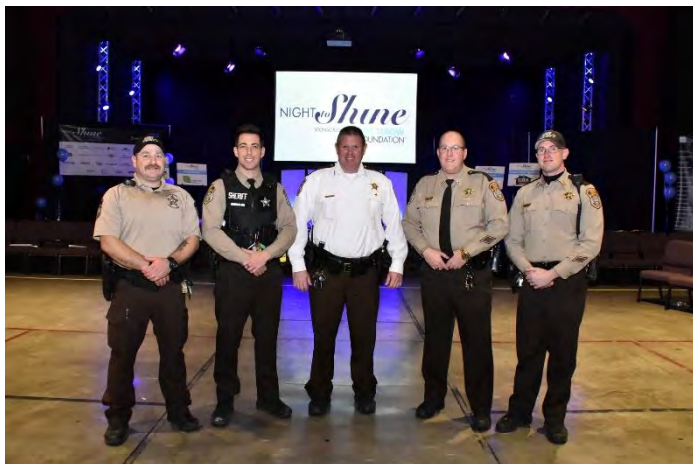


2023 COMMUNITY EVENTS



The Augusta County Sheriff's Office participated in a great number of community events during the year. Here in the following pages are just a few of the highlights.

NIGHT TO SHINE



2023 RELAY FOR LIFE



May 2023 – KIDS MATTER DAY



READING AT CLYMORE ELEMENTARY



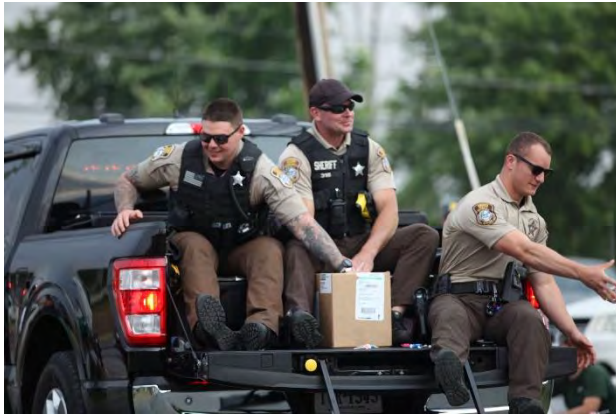
CROSSROADS BAPTIST POLICE WEEK DINNER



JUNE – GROTTOS CARNIVAL



JUNE - WEYERS CAVE PARADE



CHURCHVILLE JULY 4TH PARADE



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA PARADE AT GYPSY HILL PARK



STUARTS DRAFT FIREMAN'S PARADE – AUGUST 2023



2023 AUGUSTA COUNTY FAIR



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2023



2023 ACSO FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

2023
AUGUSTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE FOUNDATION
**6TH ANNUAL
GOLF FUNDRAISER**

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6TH
9 AM SHOTGUN START

**THE CLUB AT
IRONWOOD**

65 Country Club Road
Staunton, VA 24401



9-11 CERMONY AT SUN RETREATS



2023 TRUNK OR TREATS

Trick or Treat

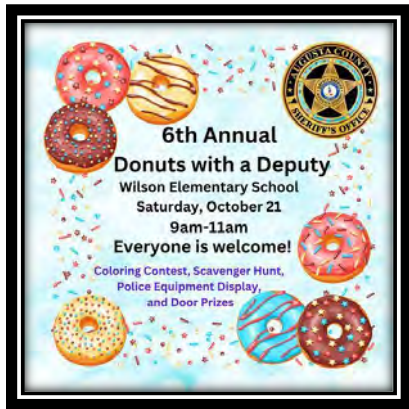
Deputies Davis and Reeves enjoyed giving out candy on Sunday in the community. The kids were excited to see the deputies and get lots of candy!

Trunk or Treat Calvary United Methodist Church

Deputy Avery and Deputy Sloan attended a trunk or treat at Calvary United Methodist Church in Stuarts Draft over the weekend. The Deputies had a great time interacting with the kids and seeing all of the different costumes!



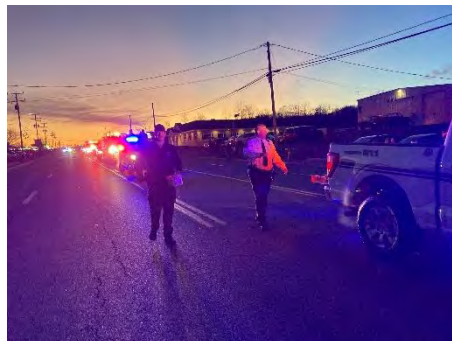
2023 DONUTS WITH A DEPUTY AT WILSON ELEMENTARY



2023 DISPLAY AT GYPSY HILL PARK



2023 CHRISTMAS PARADES





CHRISTMAS 2023 GIFT DELIVERIES



This year on Christmas Eve, members of the Augusta County Sheriff's Office continued our tradition of delivering Christmas to needy children in our community. Instead of giving bicycles this year, we bought clothes and presents for approximately 90 children from all of the county schools.



This event was sponsored and made possible through the generous anonymous donations of local businesses and community members throughout Augusta County.



2023 AWARDS

In 2023, deputies received the following recognition on our Traffic Safety Enforcement Awards Perpetual Plaques.

2023 Occupant Protection Award – Cpl. Shamica Spears - 167 Citations

2023 DUI Enforcement Award – Sergeant Aaron Will and Cpl. Cody Stroop - 7 Arrests

2023 Speed Enforcement Award – Cpl. Shamica Spears - 813 Citations

Individual 2023 Departmental Awards will be announced in February 2024.

2023 PROMOTIONS

Corporal – Wesley Henderson
Corporal – Timothy Byrd

RETIREMENTS

Deputy Eddie Trott – 29 Years of Service

LOSSES

Retired Lt. Dolly Troutman
Retired Sgt. Bruce Cole
Retired Sgt. Bob Hardin
Retired Dispatcher Brenda Brooks

2023 ADDITIONS

147TH BLE GRADUATION



The ACSO would like to congratulate Deputies, Chris Costello, Cora Bush, Tristen Naftel, and Colten Stiltner with graduating the 147th Basic Law Enforcement Academy at the Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Training Academy.

148TH BLE GRADUATION



The ACSO would like to congratulate Deputies, Ethan Avery, Alan Byers, Jacob Green, Thomas Sloan and Joshua Wheeler with graduating from the 148th Basic Law Enforcement Academy at the Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Training Academy.

STATISTICS FOR 2023

Total Civil Process Served: 17,011

Total Crime Incident Reports: 3,909

Criminal Warrants Served: 2,259

Criminal Summons: 225

Order of Protection Served: 149

Child Protective Order Served: 16

Capias Served: 1,860

Probation Violation: 59

Temporary Detention Orders Served: 226

Emergency Custody Orders Served: 175

Mental Health Transports Out of Jurisdiction – 39

Mental Health Transports within Jurisdictions – 281

Extraditions - 25

Juvenile Detention Orders Served: 93

Traffic Charges: 6,722

Augusta County DUI Arrests: 45

2023 TOTAL OFFENSES: 2,184

4.42% Decrease from 2022 (2022 TOTAL 2,285)

Incidents	Total
Offense Type	Total
All Offense Types	2,184
Crimes Against Person	541
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0
Justifiable Homicide	0
Kidnapping/Abduction	12
Forcible Rape	17
Forcible Sodomy	5
Sexual Assault With An Object	1
Forcible Fondling	46
Incest	2
Statutory Rape	1
Aggravated Assault	47
Simple Assault	341
Intimidation	69
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	0
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	0
Crimes Against Property	1,234
Arson	4
Bribery	0
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	127
Counterfeiting/Forgery	39
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	200
Embezzlement	24
Extortion/Blackmail	14
False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	60
Credit Card/Automatic Teller Fraud	49
Impersonation	7
Welfare Fraud	5
Wire Fraud	103
Identity Theft	69
Hacking/Computer Invasion	3
Robbery	4
Pocket-picking	1
Purse-snatching	0

Shoplifting	66
Theft From Building	89
Theft From Coin Operated Machine or Device	1
Theft From Motor Vehicle	79
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts/Accessories	54
All Other Larceny	168
Motor Vehicle Theft	67
Stolen Property Offenses	1
Crimes Against Society	409
Drug/Narcotic Violations	231
Drug Equipment Violations	42
Betting/Wagering	0
Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling	0
Gambling Equipment Violations	0
Sports Tampering	0
Pornography/Obscene Material	53
Prostitution	0
Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	1
Purchasing Prostitution	0
Weapon Law Violations	73
Animal Cruelty	9
Missing	0