

# Annual Report

2021



Chief Cunningham at a news conference the morning after the June 20, 2021, tornado

Woodridge  
Police  
Department





# Letter from Chief Cunningham



## Village of Woodridge

Police Department – Administration | One Plaza Drive | Woodridge, IL 60517

Emergency and Non-Emergency - Dial 9-1-1

Brian Cunningham, Chief of Police

## Letter from the Chief

Chief Brian Cunningham



### A Year in Review

In the past few years, law enforcement has faced unprecedented challenges, which have included the COVID-19 pandemic, calls for defunding the police, political polarization, increased mental health issues, and changing crime patterns. Moving into the year 2021 did not eliminate any of these issues, but we continued to address them positively this past year.

The Woodridge Police Department continues to listen, collaborate, and adapt to every challenge. We have continued to modify policies, training, and procedures to meet community expectations. We understand building community partnerships makes for a safe community. Because of our community partnerships, the Woodridge Police Department launched several new police programs, which include:

- An improved training program focused on de-escalation and officer wellness. The training program's goal is to provide officers with a variety of tools to handle difficult situations with the primary focus on safety and preservation of life.
- Adding a social worker to the police department staff. Our social worker assisted with outreach to those impacted by the tornado, domestic violence victims, senior issues, crime victims, and especially mental health issues.
- The first year of our Body-Worn Camera Program (BWC). The BWC program has increased department transparency, improved evidence collection, assisted in documentation, and protected our officers.
- Continue our facility improvement project; which has led to a spring 2022 groundbreaking for the new police department.

Our community partnerships have given us the ability to overcome many challenges – nothing more notable than on the night of June 20, 2021. On that night, we experienced a devastating tornado. Personally, the community response was a watershed moment in my police career. My heart was touched as I watched neighbors working side-by-side, with public safety throughout the night, weeks, and months that followed. The entire police department witnessed the outpouring of support, and it reaffirmed our dedication to the Woodridge community.

Sincerely,

Brian Cunningham  
Chief of Police



# Mission Statement

The mission of the Woodridge Police Department is to provide dedicated, professional service and impartial law enforcement in an active partnership with the citizens of the Village of Woodridge to achieve a higher quality of life for all.

## New Employees

**CSO Almaraz** has an associate's degree in criminal justice, and he ultimately would like to become a police officer. Before coming to Woodridge, he worked at Walgreens – where he worked his way up from stock clerk to one of the store's managers. He was an auxiliary police officer for the Village of Rosemont.



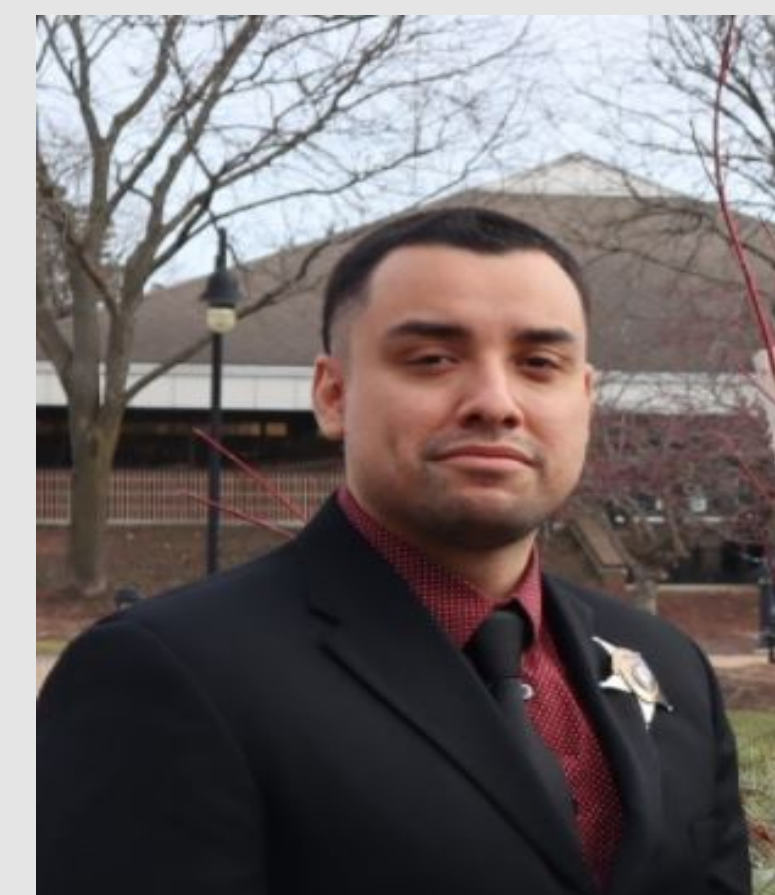
CSO Almaraz started at the Woodridge Police Department on March 16, 2021.

**Officer Harvey** was sworn in by Joseph Heneghan, Village Clerk, at the Police Department. Officer Harvey came to the Woodridge Police Department as a lateral hire from another Illinois municipality.



Officer Harvey was sworn in on December 9, 2021.

**Officer Almazan** is a graduate of Western Illinois University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in law enforcement and justice administration. After WIU, Officer Almazan earned a master's degree in justice and ethical law at DePaul University. He worked in several public service positions, including with the Blue Island Police Department.



Officer Almazan was sworn in on December 22, 2021.

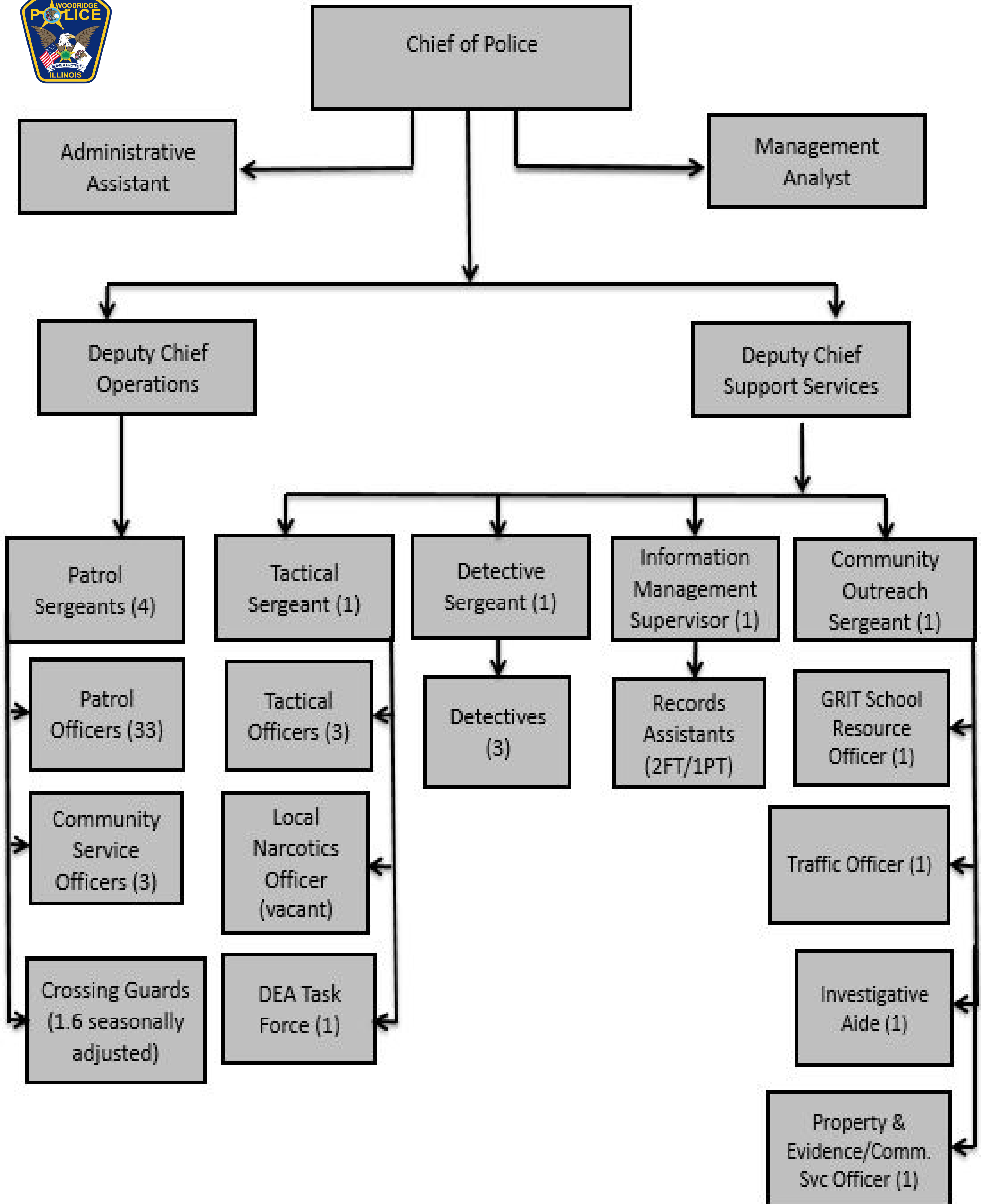
## Retirement - Officer Michael Piotrowski

A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Officer Piotrowski served as a tactical officer and was a member of the Union Board. He specialized in identity theft investigations. In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Officer Piotrowski took more than 200 reports about ID theft. The Woodridge Police Department is thankful for Officer Piotrowski's service to the Woodridge community, and we wish him the best in his future endeavors.





# Organizational Chart



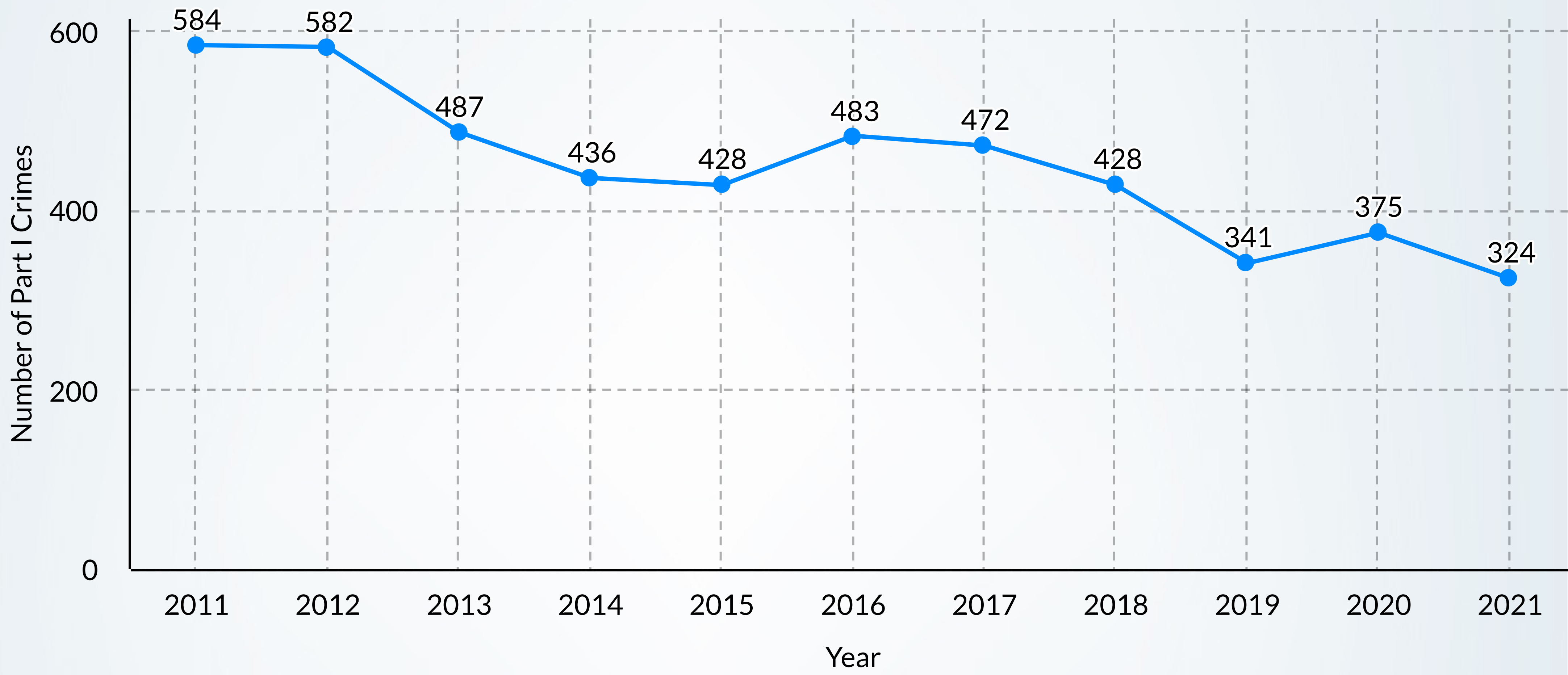


# Crime Data - Part I & Part II

## Part I Crimes

**PART I CRIMES:** The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program divides offenses into two groups, Part I and Part II crimes. Part I crimes include the most severe crimes impacting society (i.e., homicides, thefts, and assaults.) In 2021, there were 324 Part I crimes committed in Woodridge. Part I crimes decreased by 45 percent in 2021 compared to a decade ago. Part I crimes continue to fall significantly compared to 1990 when the Part I crimes reached 1,043.

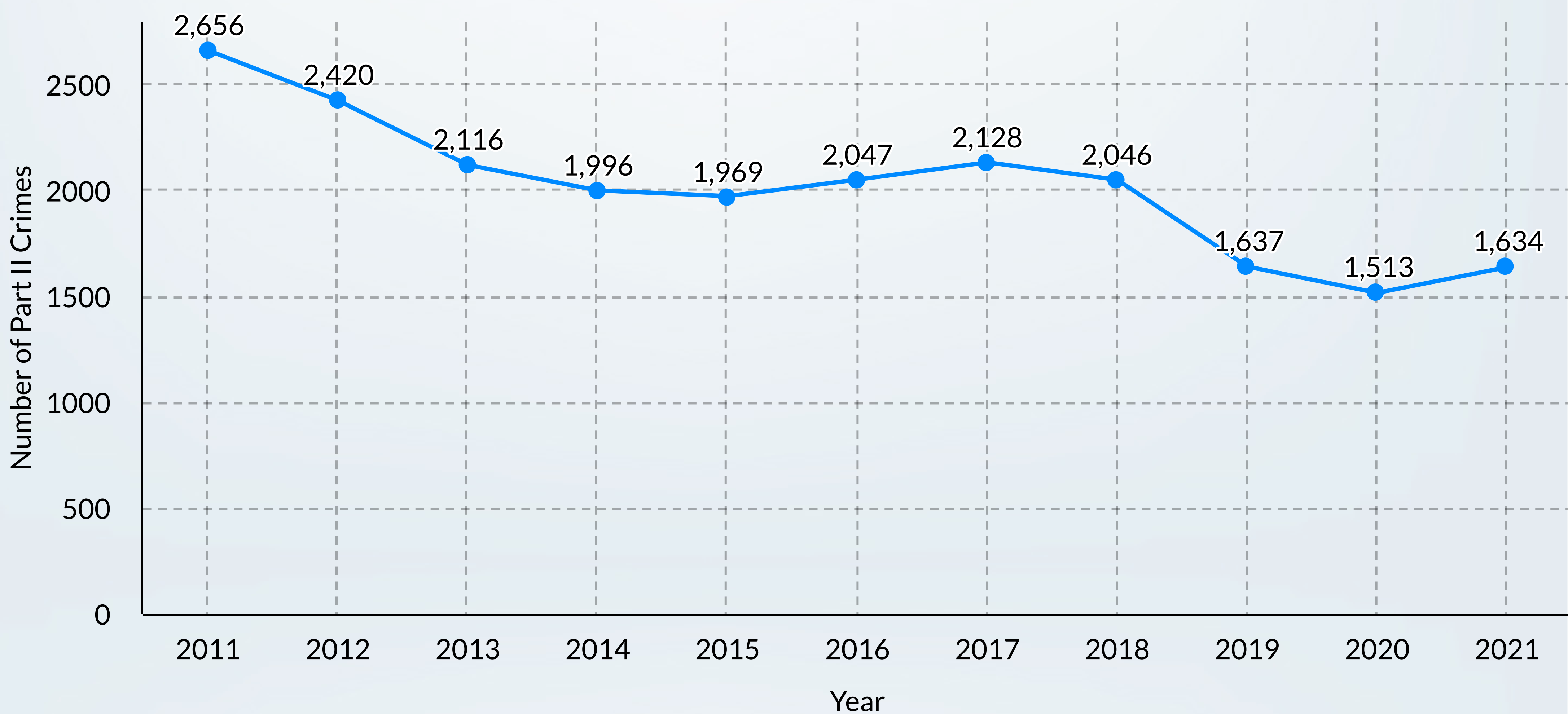
### Part I Crimes: 2011 - 2021



## Part II Crimes

**PART II CRIMES:** Part II crimes include controlled substance violations, vehicle offenses, vandalism and are generally less serious than Part I crimes according to the FBI. Part II crimes in 2021 increased by nearly 8 percent compared to 2020.

### Part II Crimes: 2011 - 2021



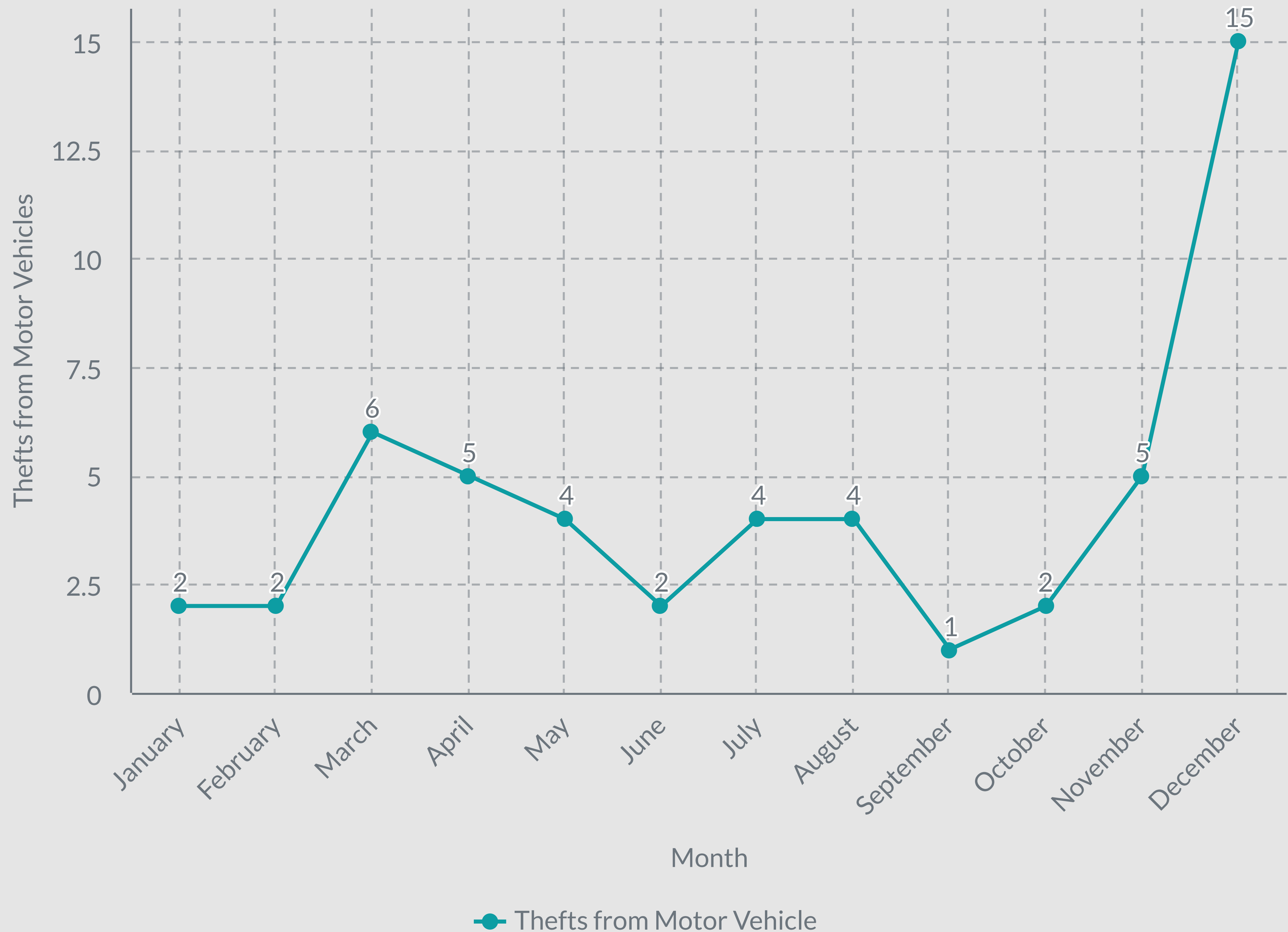


# Crime Data - Catalytic Converter Thefts

A theft from a motor vehicle is when something is stolen from the *outside* of a vehicle (e.g., catalytic converter, hubcap). Theft from a Motor Vehicle is different from a burglary to a motor vehicle (BMV) because a BMV occurs when something is stolen from *inside* of the vehicle. Woodridge saw a sharp increase in thefts from motor vehicles from 10 in 2020 to 52 in 2021 mainly due to catalytic converter thefts.

To help prevent catalytic converter thefts, park in a garage or well-lit area, install a security camera, or etch the vehicle's VIN or license plate onto the converter. Some thieves can remove a catalytic converter in as little as three minutes using a cordless reciprocating saw. A thief may receive between \$50 - \$250 per converter according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, and the replacement for a coverter could range from \$2,000 - \$2,500.

## 2021 Thefts from Motor Vehicles



# 420%

Increase in  
Thefts from  
Motor Vehicles in  
2021 compared  
to 2020



The catalytic converter is located on the underside of a vehicle and looks like a large metal box. The thefts from motor vehicles increased in 2021, primarily due to catalytic converter thefts. The converters typically contain platinum, palladium, rhodium, and other precious metals that thieves can sell to metal dealers.



# Community Outreach

The coronavirus pandemic continued to bring extraordinary challenges that derailed many of our traditional outreach events. The COVID metrics started to improve in the summer only for breakthrough COVID cases to occur, and the state of Illinois reinstated the mask mandates. Then the Omicron variant hit towards the winter 2021. Nevertheless, the Woodridge Police Department adapted to COVID by hosting various events and following public health guidelines.



School Resource Officer Jeff Bean created a scavenger hunt with prizes for the winners. The scavenger hunt featured strategically placed QR codes for clues throughout Woodridge.



The Woodridge Police Department partnered with the Seven Bridges Neighborhood HOA for a community roll call. The officers on the shift introduced themselves and described their actions on the night of the June 20 tornado.



In July, the Woodridge Police Department and Windsor Lakes Apartment Homes held a touch-a-truck event featuring squad cars, fire trucks, Public Works vehicles, and ice cream.



Officer Calero and trick-or-treaters gather on a picturesque tree-lined Woodridge street during Halloween. This photo would later appear in the Woodridge Focus Newsletter for the winter 2021 issue.



With Illinois in Stage 5 of COVID mitigations, the Woodridge Police Department hosted National Night Out on August 3 at the Woodridge ARC Pavilion. Target, Coldstone, and Aurelio's Pizza helped sponsor the event.



Woodridge VFW Post 1578 is very active in the Woodridge community and a tremendous group of veterans. Woodridge Police joined the VFW for their annual Memorial Day service at Memorial Park.



# 2021 Highlights

## Patrol

The Patrol Division is the largest component of the Woodridge Police Department. The Division responds to emergency and non-emergency calls for service. Officers routinely respond to calls for service about criminal offenses, traffic crashes, alarm activation, disturbances, traffic complaints and more. In addition to patrol functions, officers also train in specialties such as, juvenile law.



Video: Woodridge Seven Bridges Community Roll Call August 11, 2021

The Woodridge Police Department is committed to protecting privacy rights. As a result, Woodridge police officers received extensive body worn camera training during the roll out in 2021. The Woodridge Police Department monitors changes in the law and stay on the cutting edge of the best law enforcement practices.

# 6,223

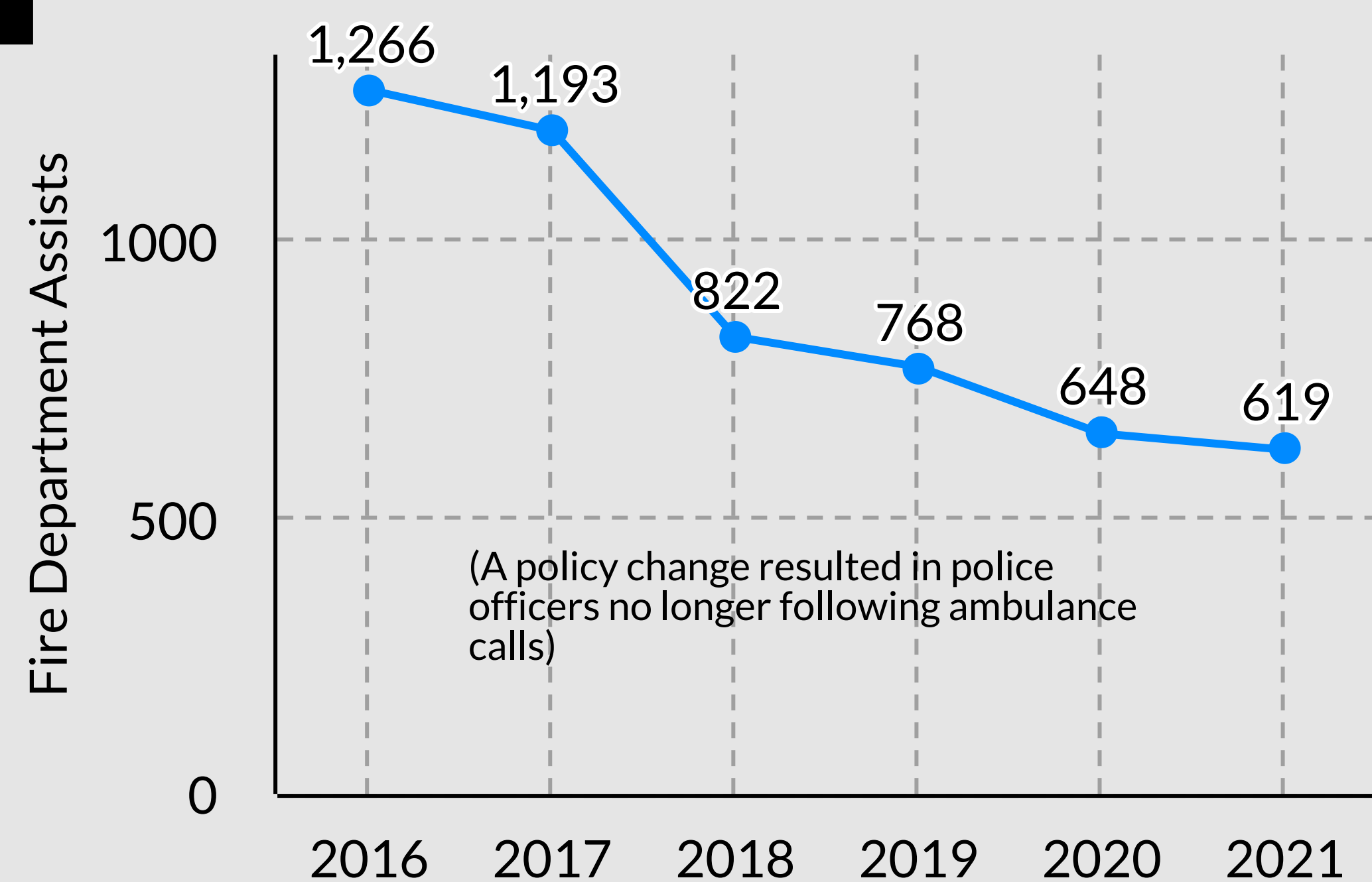
Extra patrols, a 2.6 % increase in 2021 from 2020

## Service Anniversaries

These officers celebrated their service anniversaries in 2021. We thank them for their service!

- Officer Owens: 25 years
- Officer Edson: 25 years
- Sgt. Murray: 20 years
- Admin. Asst. Pam Ward: 20 years
- Officer McIntyre: 15 years
- Officer Redic: 5 years
- Officer Sander: 5 years
- Officer Rodriguez: 5 years
- Officer Perez: 5 years
- Officer Wolfe: 5 years
- Officer Kristof: 5 years
- Officer Schaefer: 5 years
- Chief Cunningham: 5 years

## Assists to Fire Departments: 2016 - 2021



Assists to Fire Departments



# 2021 Highlights

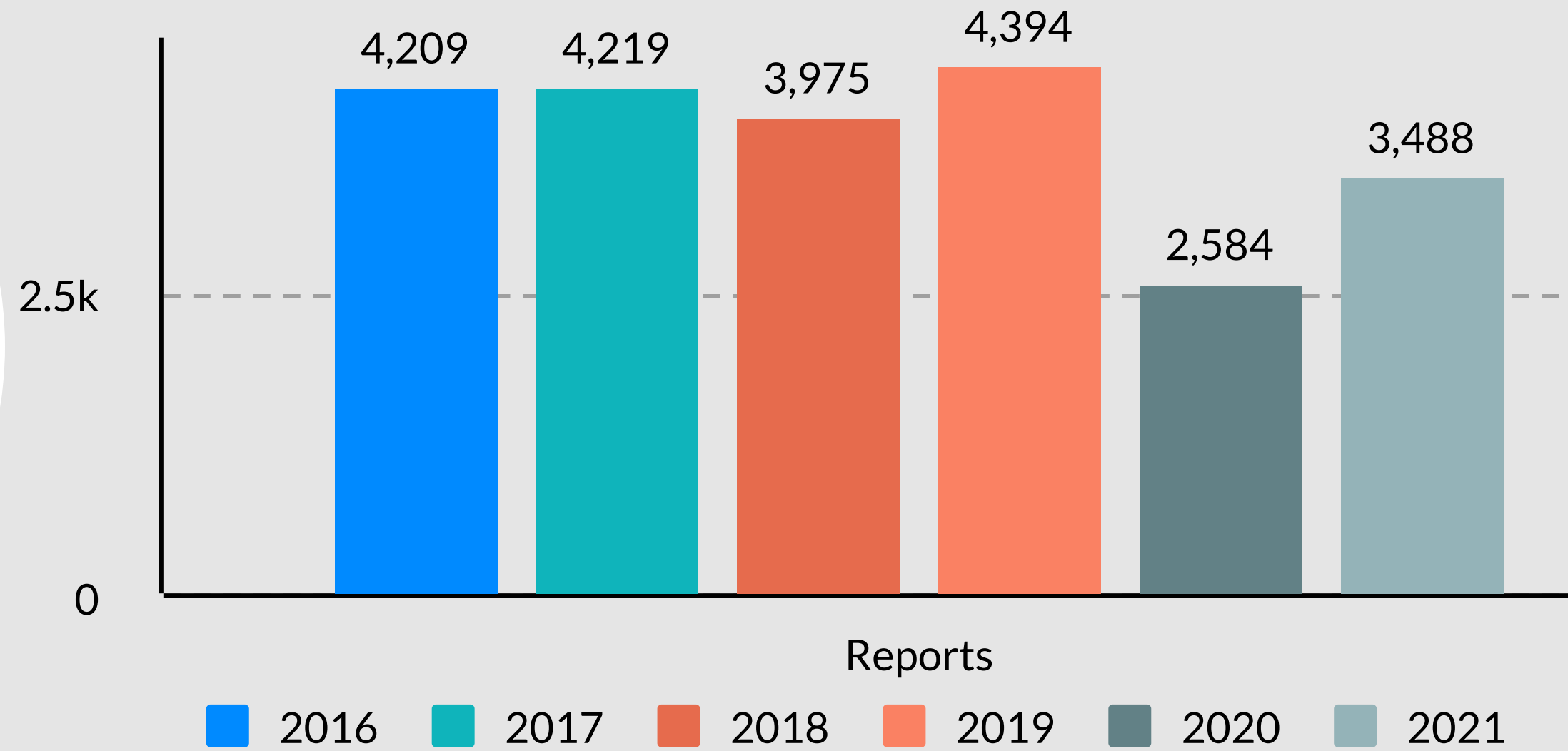
## Records Unit

The Records Unit processes all police reports, traffic tickets, felony and misdemeanor charges, parking tickets, court notices, expungements, and subpoenas, as well as FOIA requests, and criminal history requests. In addition, the Records Unit is responsible for maintaining monthly crime data. Staff also assist residents with police-related questions.

**3,488**

Incident reports processed in OnCall Records

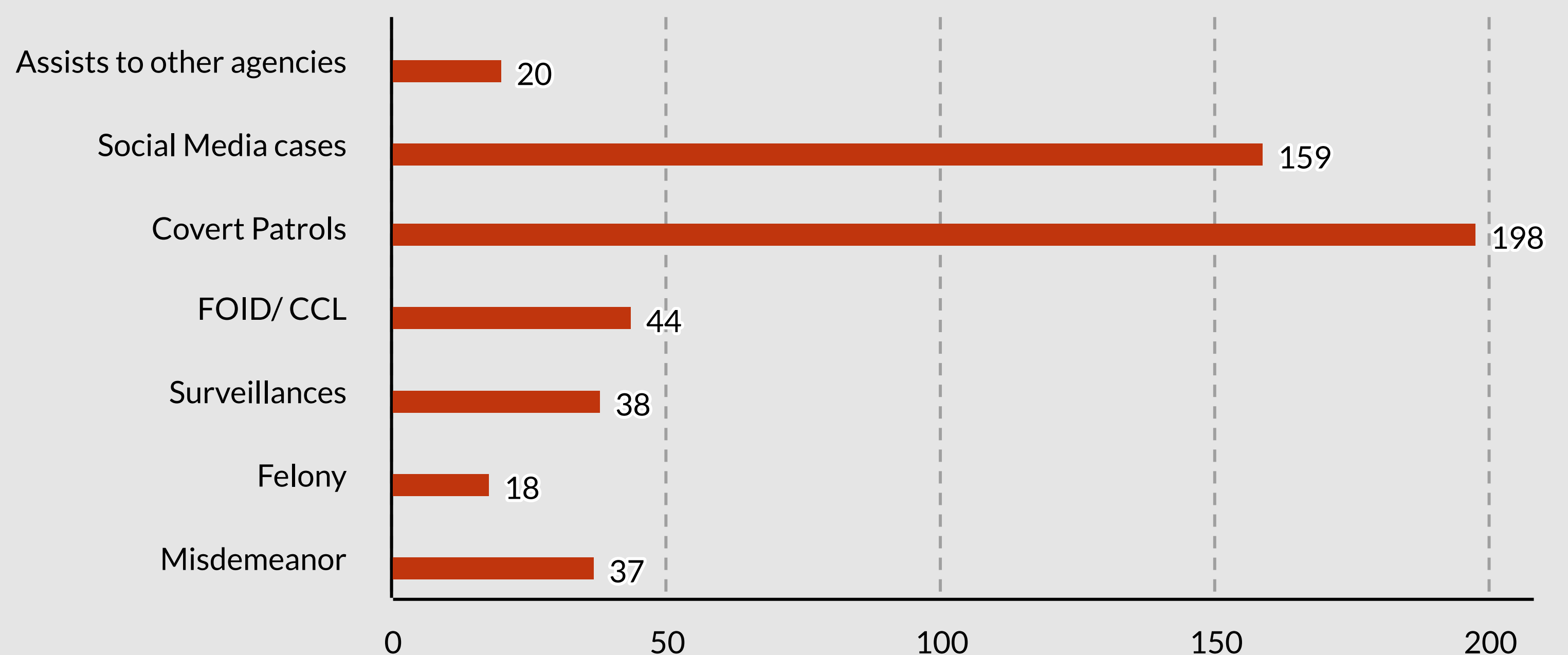
### Reports Processed



## Tactical Unit

The Tactical Unit targets narcotic investigations and gang activities. The Tactical Unit is responsible for the department's property seizures, including vehicles, cash, and other property due to illegal activities. They conduct regular alcohol and tobacco enforcement throughout the Village and assist other agencies such as the DuPage County Sheriff's Department, Illinois State Police, DEA, and other area municipal police departments.

### 2021 Tactical Unit Activity



**127**  
Total arrests

## Detective Unit

The Detective Unit investigates criminal statutes of the State of Illinois and ordinances of the Village of Woodridge. Detectives routinely investigate cases based upon patrol officer reports that require comprehensive follow-up and analysis.

**30**

Missing persons cases or runaway juvenile cases

**24**

Completed sex offender and violent offender against youth registrations updates

**300**

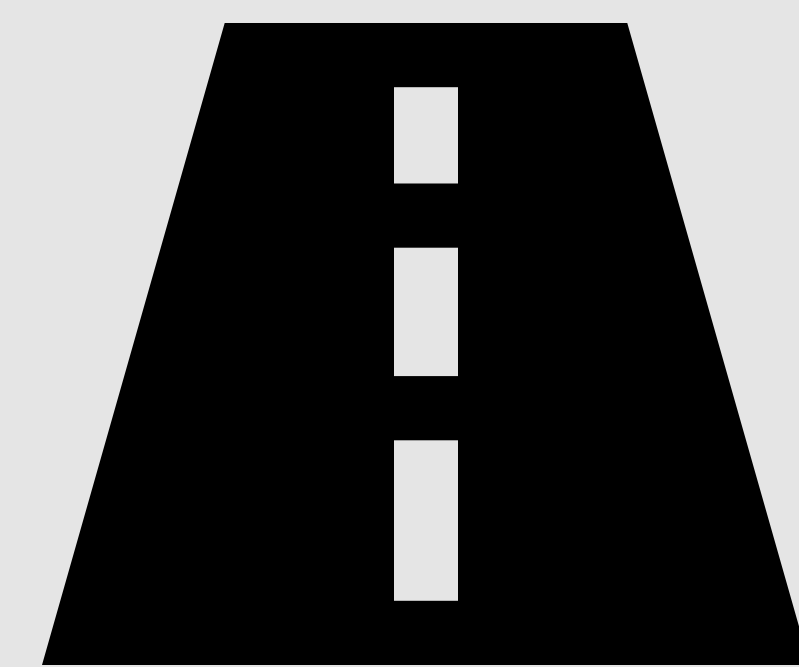
New investigations opened in 2021

**15**

Death investigations handled and closed



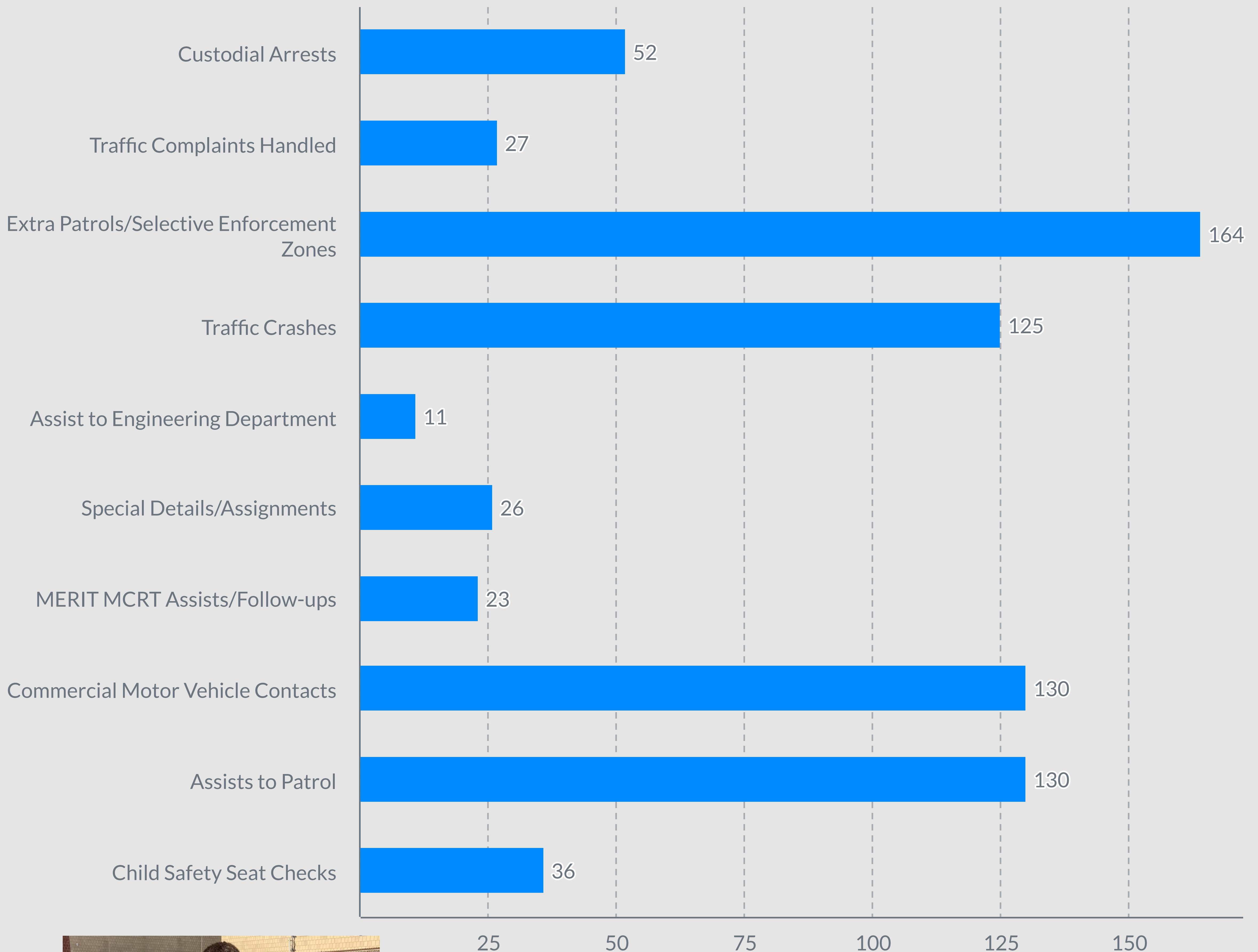
# Traffic Unit



The primary goal of the Traffic Unit is to reduce the number of traffic collisions and encourage overall traffic safety in our village streets and neighborhoods through a combination of enforcement, public education, and engineering.

Woodridge Police Department Officer John Phelps was awarded second place (municipalities with 36-50 sworn officers) in the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge. Officer Phelps completed the Traffic Safety Challenge for four years, and he successfully placed every year.

## Traffic Unit Stats



The Woodridge Police Department has certified child safety seat technicians available for safety seat inspections for Woodridge and the residents of the surrounding communities. To make an appointment for a child safety seat inspection, please contact the Woodridge Police Traffic Unit at (630) 719-6105. Pictured is Officer Phelps with a junior officer after a child seat safety check.

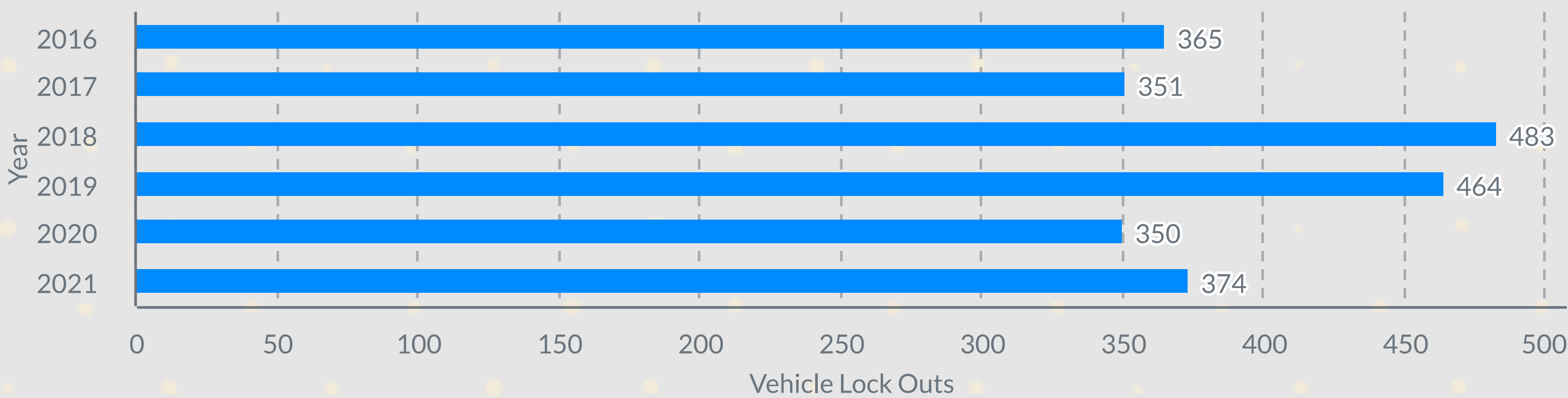


# 2021 Highlights

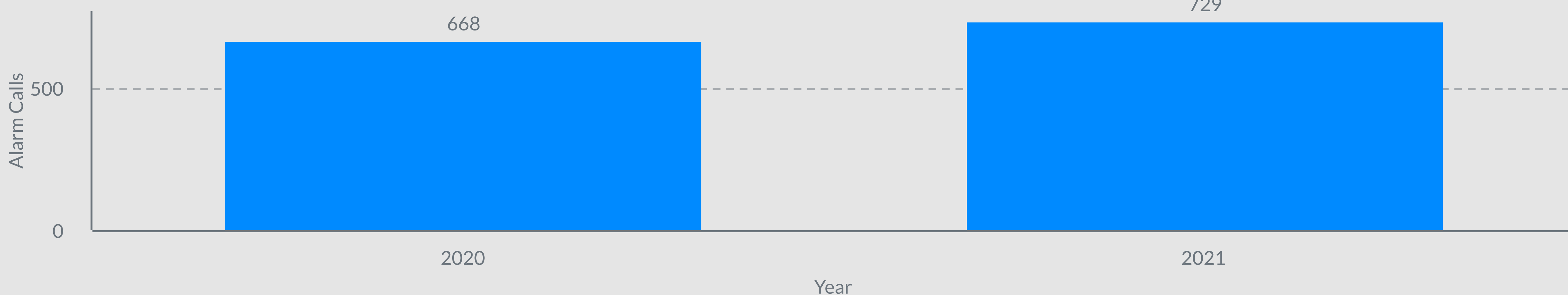
## Community Services

The Community Services Unit focuses on non-emergency calls for services that include vehicle lock-outs, code enforcement, as well as animal control functions. Community Service Officers (CSOs) assist patrol officers by responding to many types of non-emergency calls. CSOs also assist with daily calls for service to allow sworn officers to focus on priority policing initiatives. They provide essential non-emergency assistance to the Police Department and Village Hall, and assist the Community Development Department with code enforcement.

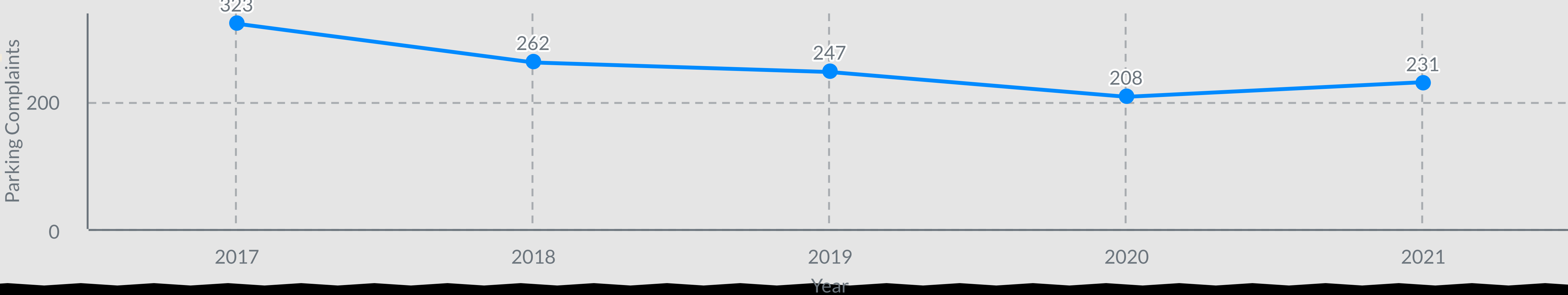
### Vehicle Lock Outs



### Alarm Calls

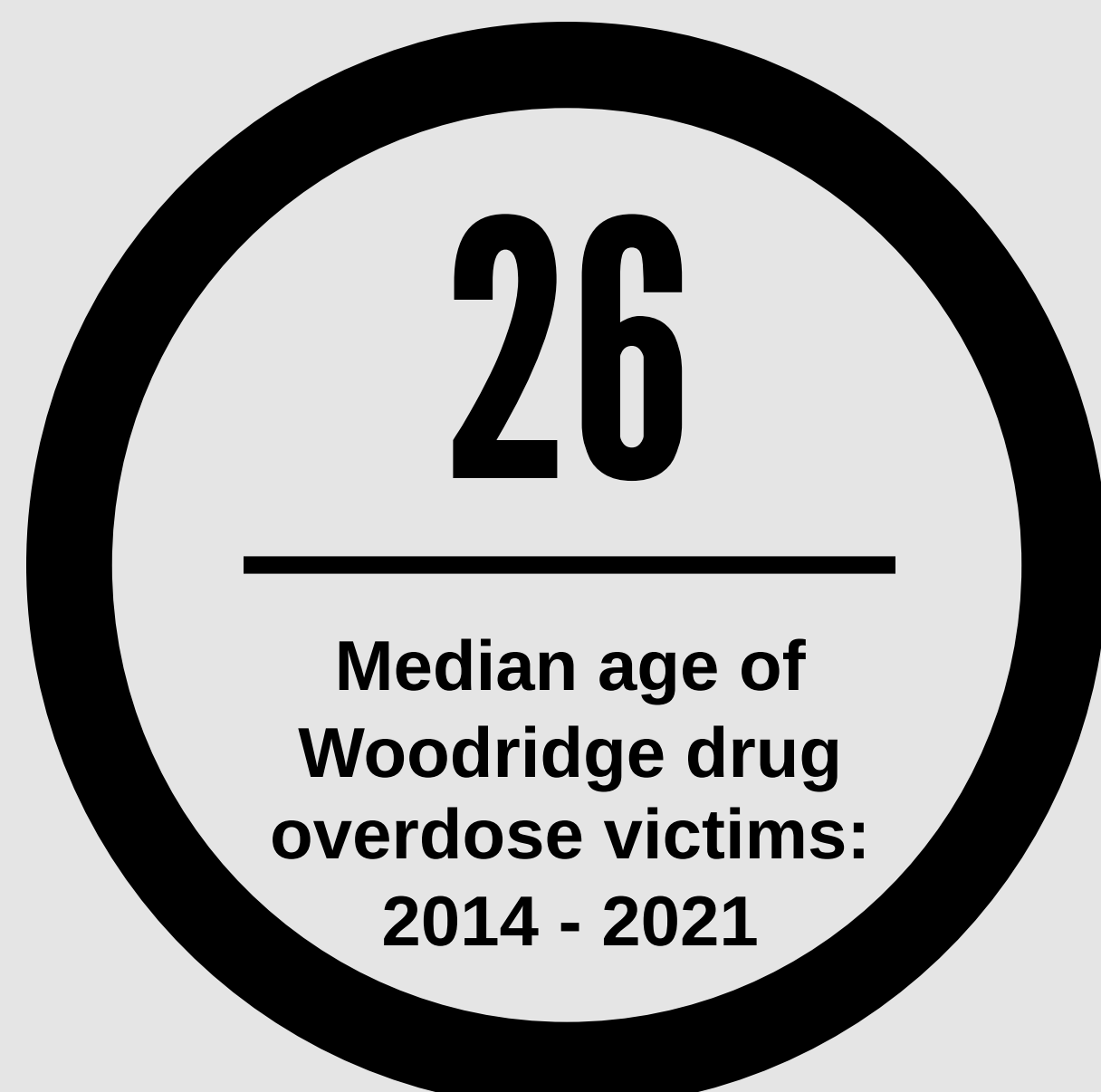


### Parking Complaints



## Narcan Deployments

NARCAN is a needle-free spray that Woodridge officers carry to help counteract the life-threatening effects of an opioid overdose. According to the DuPage County Health Department, in 2020, DuPage County experienced an all-time high of 112 opioid-related overdose deaths.\* Additionally, 194 opioid-overdose reversals were performed with the use of NARCAN by individuals participating in the [DuPage NARCAN Program](https://hopedupage.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=36). The Woodridge Police Department had five NARCAN deployments and saved four lives in 2021.



NARCAN Deployments: 5



Lives Saved: 4


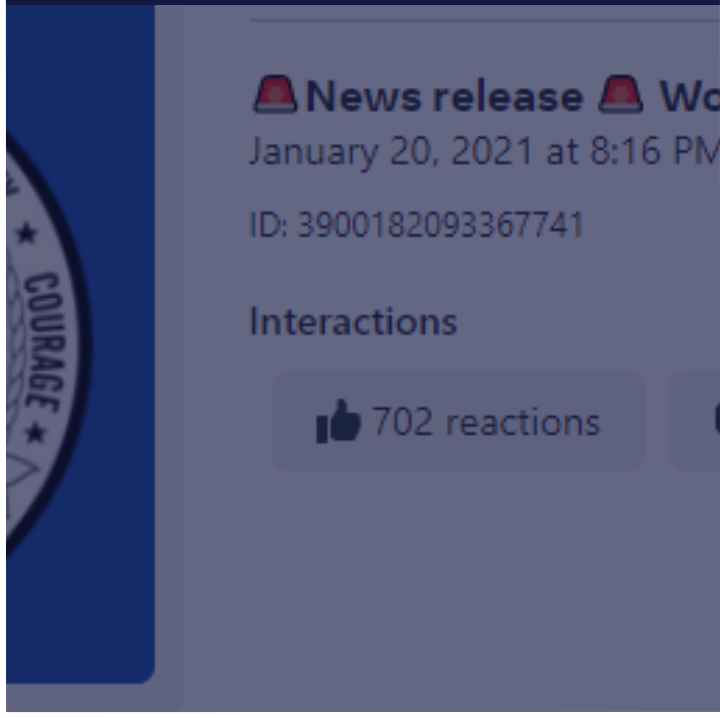


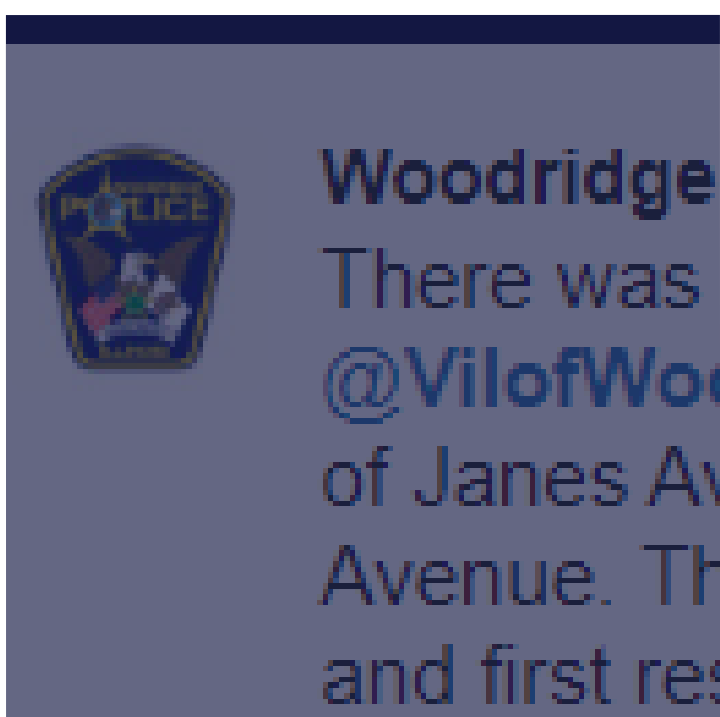

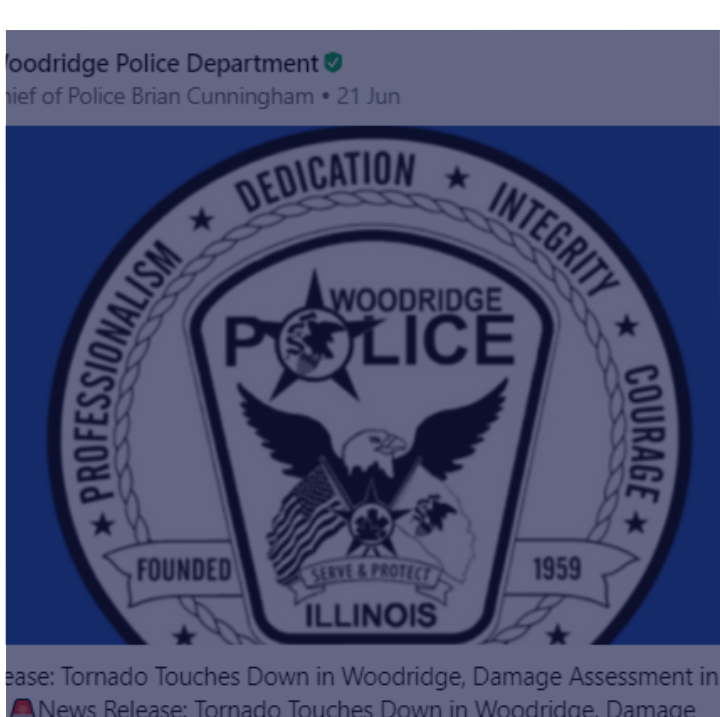
\*DuPage Narcan Program Annual Reports. (2020). HopedDuPage. Retrieved February 21, 2022, from <https://hopedupage.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=36>



# 2021 Highlights

## Communications

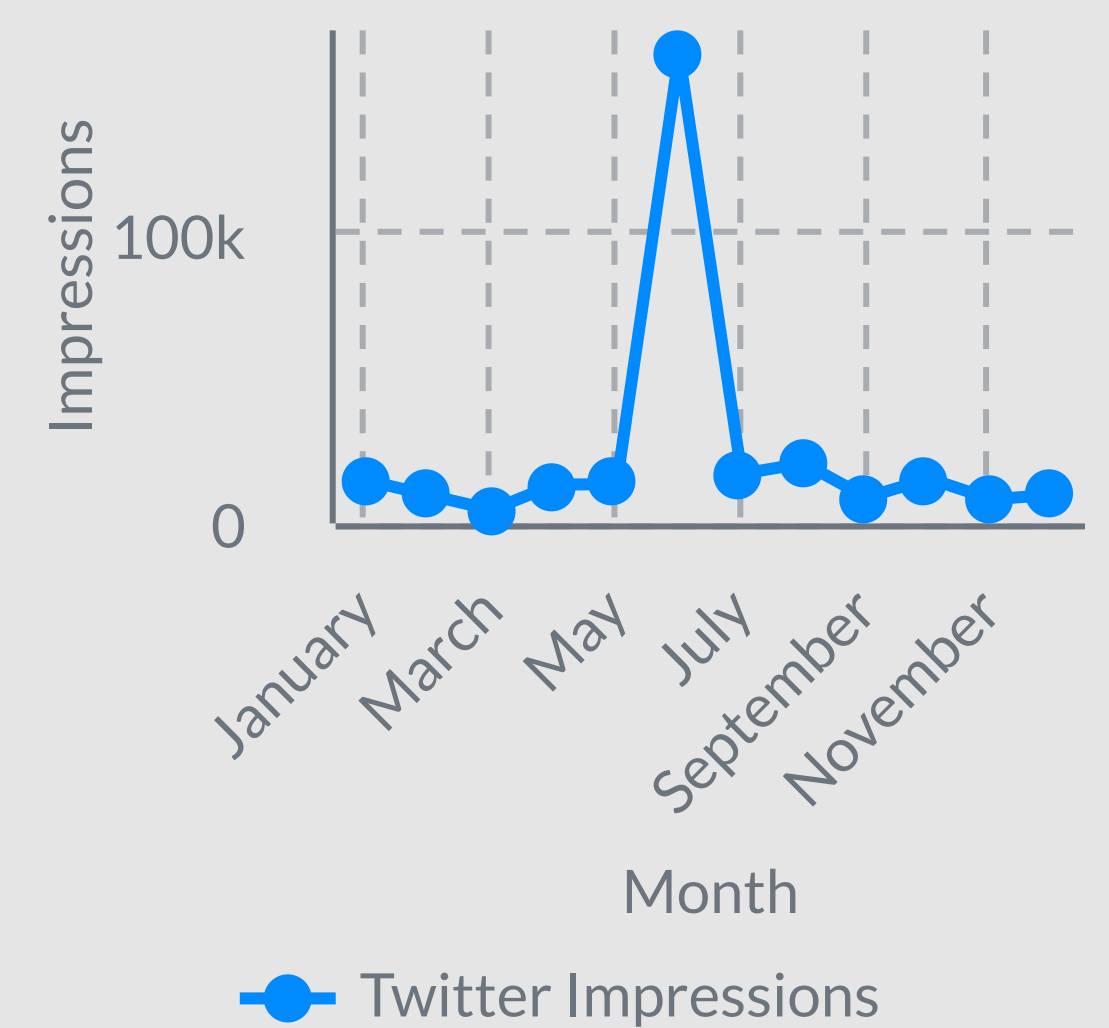
The Woodridge Police Department is committed to sharing accurate and timely information as a part of the active partnership with the Woodridge community. In 2021, social media traffic spiked during the Woodridge Tornado and for several days afterwards. The Woodridge Police Department maintains two GIS story maps: the [Information Portal](#) for crime information and the [New Facility Needs](#) website.

	2021 Reach	Post w/ the Most Reach
	256,006	 <p>1/20/21 – News Release: Armed Robbery Reach: 46,281   Engagement: 702</p>
	1,988	 <p>2/2/21 – WPD Condolences to FBI Reach: 602   Engagement: 73</p>
	297,300	 <p>6/21/21 – Confirmed Tornado Reach: 59,145   Engagement: 4,409</p>
	16,377	 <p>6/21/21 – Confirmed Tornado Reach: 59,145   Engagement: 4,409</p>

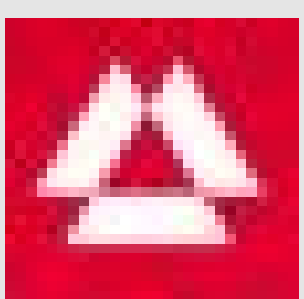
**572k**

Total number of unique people that saw Woodridge Police Department social media content in 2021

### Twitter Impressions



## 5 CODERED LAUNCHES



CodeRed  
Emergency  
Notifications

81%

Average Connection Rate

- ✔ 3,310 Texts Sent
- ✔ 1,629 Emails Sent
- ✔ 17,780 Phone Numbers Called

36

News Releases

News Release



Woodridge Police Website  
Pageviews:

**5,770**

1.81% of the total  
Woodridge website views

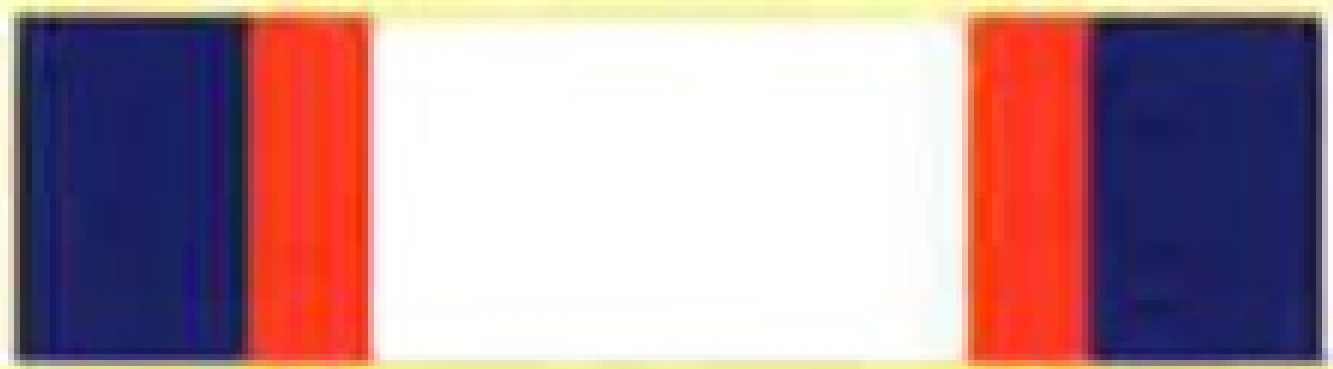
YouTube Videos Watch  
time:

**25.2 Hours**

+12 subscribers



# 2021 Awards



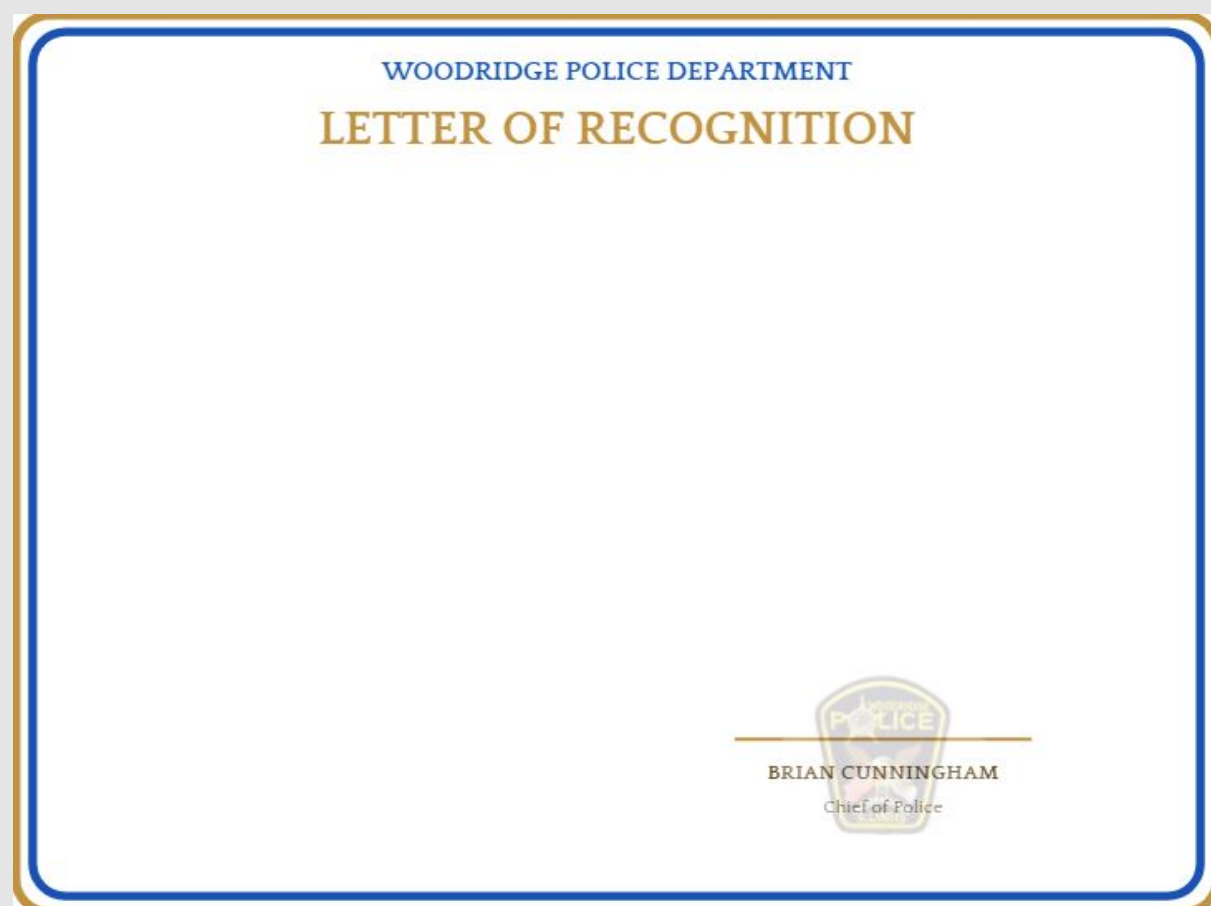
*Commendation Award: An achievement that brings great credit to the Department and involves performance above and beyond that required by the member's basic assignment*

## Woodridge Tornado Commendations

On Sunday, June 20, 2022, at approximately 11:10 p.m., an EF-3 tornado touched down in the Village of Woodridge. The National Weather Service reported the tornado-packed winds of 140mph, and the total path ran for more than 16 miles – crossing I355 and I55 – and reaching a maximum width of 600 yards before dissipating. The Police Department received more than 200 calls for service. Many of the first calls to 911 involved life-threatening emergencies, downed power lines, gas leaks, and fires. There were 6,429 ComEd customers without power and 11 reported injuries. The Department put out an all-page request for every available officer to respond and activated the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) for mutual aid. For going above and beyond during the largest natural disaster in Woodridge history, these officers received the Commendation Award.

Officer David Brockway | Officer Marlys Gilbert | Officer Matthew Schaefer | Officer Zach Duffield | Officer Jairo Perez | Officer John Kasperski | Officer Brett Kielbasa | Officer Nick Panko

- Officer Bill Bodnar and Officer John Calero received a Commendation Award for their work with an attempt to locate a missing suicidal subject. They put their own safety at risk in order to locate this person in need of assistance.



*Letter of Recognition: Presented due to an act that fulfills a police purpose in a manner beyond that usually expected*

## Woodridge Tornado Letter of Recognition

Sergeant Dan Murray | Sergeant Bob Chrusciel | Sergeant Jody Porras | Sergeant Dennis Brinkman | Officer Brett Kielbasa | Officer Joe Wolfe | Officer Adriana Redic | Officer Dan McIntyre | Officer Heidi Begy | Officer Steve Edson | Officer Sierra Scroggins | Officer Brian Michels | Officer Jim Rion | Officer John Kasperski | Officer Deputy Chief Tom Stefanson | Chief Brian Cunningham | Tracy Severson (DU-COMM Dispatcher)

- Officer John Phelps and Officer Bill Bodnar received a Letter of Recognition for their excellent work with the MERIT Major Crash Reconstruction Team
- Sergeant Tony Johnson, Officer Greg Bernard, and Officer Brett Kielbasa received a Letter of Recognition for helping to take several guns off of the streets



*Life Saving Award: Granted for the successful effort in saving a human life that involved exceptional courage or performance.*

- These officers received a Lifesaving Award for administering a Naloxone to people who had overdosed on opiates: Officer John Kasperski (twice) | Officer Joe Wolfe | Officer Jim Rion | Officer Tom Cybulski | Officer Sean Murray | Officer Brian Michels



Officers receive awards for acts of bravery and extraordinary service.



Civilian of the Year, Jim Hoff, management analyst, with Chief Brian Cunningham.



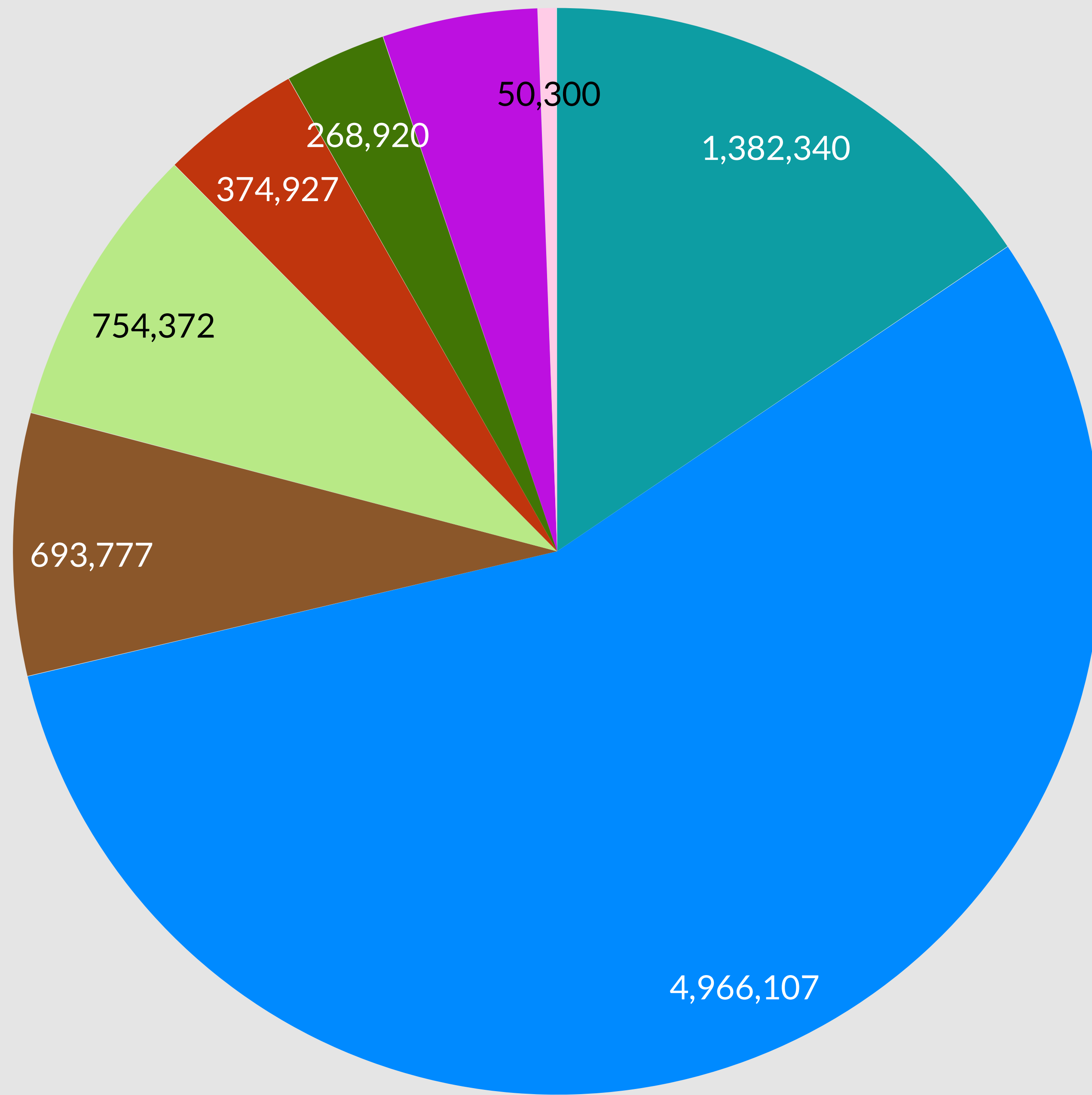
(L-R) Officer William Bodnar and Officer John Phelps



# FY2021 Budget

The Police Department's budget is a part of the Village's General Fund. The Police Department's budget consists of several cost centers that include expenditures related to core police functions, such as squad car equipment, training, uniforms, and salaries.

## Police Department Budget FY2021



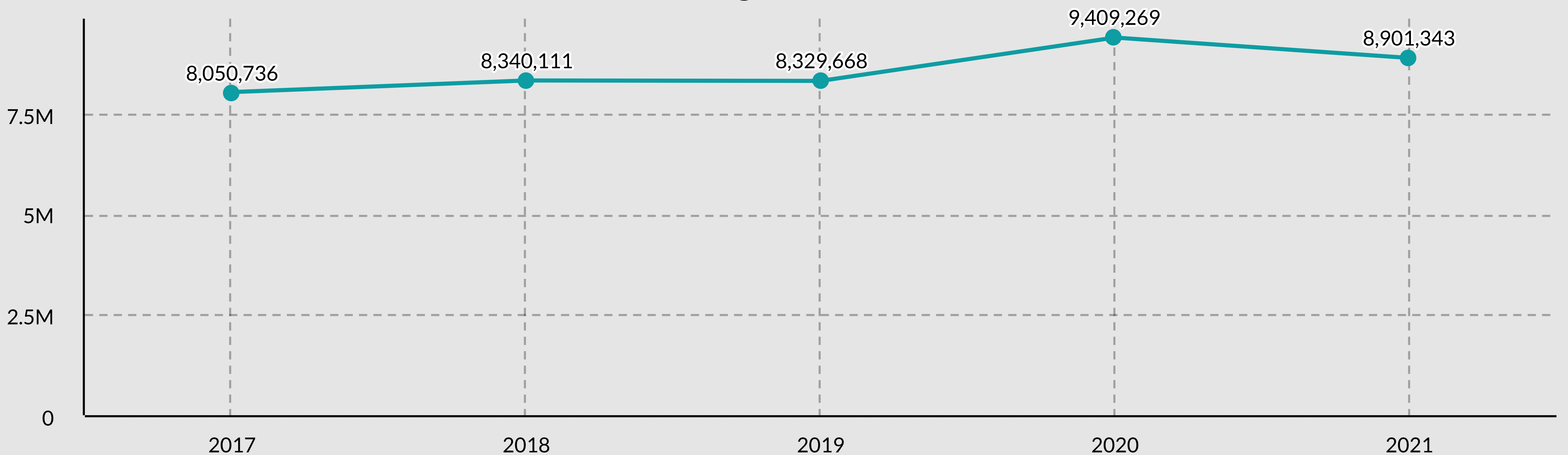
- Administration (15.53%)
- Patrol (55.79%)
- Detective Unit (7.79%)
- Tactical Unit (8.47%)
- Community Outreach (4.21%)
- Community Services (3.02%)
- Records Section (4.61%)
- Training (0.57%)

Administration: \$1,382,340  
 Patrol Division: \$4,966,107  
 Detective Unit: \$693,777  
 Tactical Unit: \$754,372  
 Community Outreach: \$374,927  
 Community Services: \$268,920  
 Records Section: \$410,600  
 Training: \$50,300



**\$ 32,163**  
**Cost Savings in 2021**

### Police Budget: 2017 - 2021





## Woodridge Police Wellness Initiative (WPWI)

The Woodridge Police Wellness Initiative was launched in May 2021. The group consists of Sergeant Tony Johnson, Officers Heidi Begy, Jon Calero, Tom Hogan, and Alex Wagner; Officers Begy, Calero, Hogan, and Wagner are also Certified Peer Support Counselors, which is another program the Woodridge Police Department officially started in July 2021.

Each month, WPWI picks a topic to feature and a resource to highlight in the WPWI newsletter. The goal is to review various wellness topics to encourage and promote overall wellbeing and to ensure easily accessible resources.

2021 WPWI Features:

- May 2021: Burnout with an introduction to our resources
- June 2021: Fitness with a resource spotlight featuring COPLINE
- July 2021: Sleep with a resource spotlight featuring Crisis Text Line
- August 2021: Emotional Survival with a resource spotlight featuring our Peer Support Program
- September 2021: A continuation of a focus on Emotional Survival with a resource spotlight on First Responders Support Network
- October 2021: Meditation with a feature of two meditation resources, Ziva and Insight Timer
- November 2021: Nutrition with a resource spotlight featuring First Responders Wellness Center
- December 2021: Family and Gratitude with a resource spotlight featuring National Suicide Prevention Lifeline



Woodridge Police  
Wellness Initiative

## Frontline

First launched in 2018, the [Frontline Portal](#) allows residents to request a vacation watch and overnight street parking. The vacation watch enables residents to request officers to monitor a residence when a resident is out of town or on vacation.

**Woodridge Police Department**

As a resident, you have the ability to request your own entries that will be directed right to your Law Enforcement Agency. Simply choose the selection below and fill out a form for your request.

**OVER NIGHT PARKING**

Provide us the details of your vehicle and the location it will be parked over night. We will add your request to our database to ensure a ticket is not given.

[SUBMIT NOW](#)

**VACATION WATCH**

Provide us the details of your property and the date ranges you will be gone. Once added to our database, your property will be added to our list of vacation watches for officers to check on (time-permitting).

[SUBMIT NOW](#)

**5,212**

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**Overnight  
street parking  
requests in  
2021**

## Facility Needs Website

Since the early 2000s, the Village Board has identified the need for new and improved facilities for Police and Public Works as a strategic priority for the Village. The [Facility Needs Website](#) provides details about the project timeline, the project drivers, financing, and public comment opportunities. The new Police facility will be located between Janes Ave. and I-355 near Jefferson Junior High School.



The Facility Needs website utilizes the ArcGIS StoryMap, a platform that creates inspiring, immersive stories by combining text, interactive maps, and other multimedia content.



# 2021 Woodridge Police Department



Woodridge Police Department Group Photo



2021 New Squad Car Design



Future Woodridge Police Department Rendering

## Looking forward to 2023: Goals

Implement  
Social Worker  
Program

Training  
Emphasis  
on Defensive Tactics

Prioritize  
Officer Mental  
Health