



# LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



# LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT MISSION, VALUES STATEMENT, & CORE VALUES

## MISSION STATEMENT

Through collaborative efforts and partnerships, the Ludington Police Department will protect life, property, and constitutional rights of all. We will pursue justice with compassion and respect for all our citizens to ensure a safe and secure community.

## DEPARTMENT VALUES STATEMENT & CORE VALUES

The Ludington Police Department is proud of our dedicated and professional law enforcement team, who are committed to this community and focus on creatively solving problems. We believe in:

- Integrity in all aspects of our work;
- Respect for ALL persons we encounter;
- Commitment to our Community;
- The pursuit of Justice with compassion;
- The courage to do what is right, every time.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

As we reflect on the past year, I am honored to share with you our Annual Report for 2024, detailing the accomplishments, challenges, and continued efforts of your Ludington Police Department. Our mission has always been to serve and protect, and we remain committed to enhancing public safety, fostering community partnerships, and maintaining trust within our diverse community.

Throughout the year, our department has worked tirelessly to build stronger relationships with residents, local organizations, and businesses. We have made significant strides in improving communication and transparency, providing an array of programs designed to meet the unique needs of our community. The support and cooperation of each of you have played a crucial role in the successes we've achieved.

### Key Achievements

- **Crime Reduction:** Our dedicated officers have been working around the clock to reduce crime in our city. This year, we saw a 20% reduction in reported crime, and a 45% increase in arrests, a testament to our proactive approach and collaboration with community partners.
- **Community Engagement:** We believe in the power of community partnerships. Through neighborhood meetings and outreach initiatives, we've engaged our community more than ever before. These efforts have allowed us to listen to your concerns and work together to address them.
- **Mental Health Support:** Recognizing the growing need for mental health services, we've expanded our Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), providing officers with the training and resources to assist individuals in crisis with compassion and understanding. Additionally, we've partnered with local mental health organizations to enhance services for those in need.
- **Youth Programs:** Engaging with young people in our community has always been a priority. Our youth engagement activity continues to grow, fostering positive relationships between law enforcement and youth. In addition, we held several events aimed at keeping young people engaged in productive and safe activities.
- **Training & Development:** We remain committed to ensuring that our officers receive the best training available. This year, our team participated in [list of significant training or certifications], strengthening our ability to respond to various challenges with professionalism and care.

### Challenges

While we've had many successes, we also faced ongoing challenges, particularly in the areas of staffing shortages, budget constraints, criminal drug activity, and incidents involving those with mental illness. These challenges require all of us to stay committed to the work of building a safer, more resilient community, through collaborative and proactive means.

## Looking Ahead

As we enter the new year, we are focused on continuing to improve. Our priorities include:

- **Enhancing Public Safety:** We will continue to focus on reducing crime, while fostering a culture of safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists.
- **Expanding Community Involvement:** We plan to increase our presence in community events and establish even more opportunities for residents to interact with officers in non-enforcement settings.
- **Investing in Technology and Resources:** To better serve you, we are investing in new technologies and resources that will improve our ability to respond to emergencies and serve our community more efficiently.
- **Fostering Inclusivity and Trust:** We are dedicated to fostering a department that is inclusive, transparent, and accountable to the people we serve. This will include additional training in community policing, cultural competency, and anti-biased policing, for all members of our department.

## Gratitude

I am incredibly grateful for the ongoing support we receive from each of you. Your trust in our department allows us to do this important work every day. Together, we can continue to build a safer, stronger community for everyone.

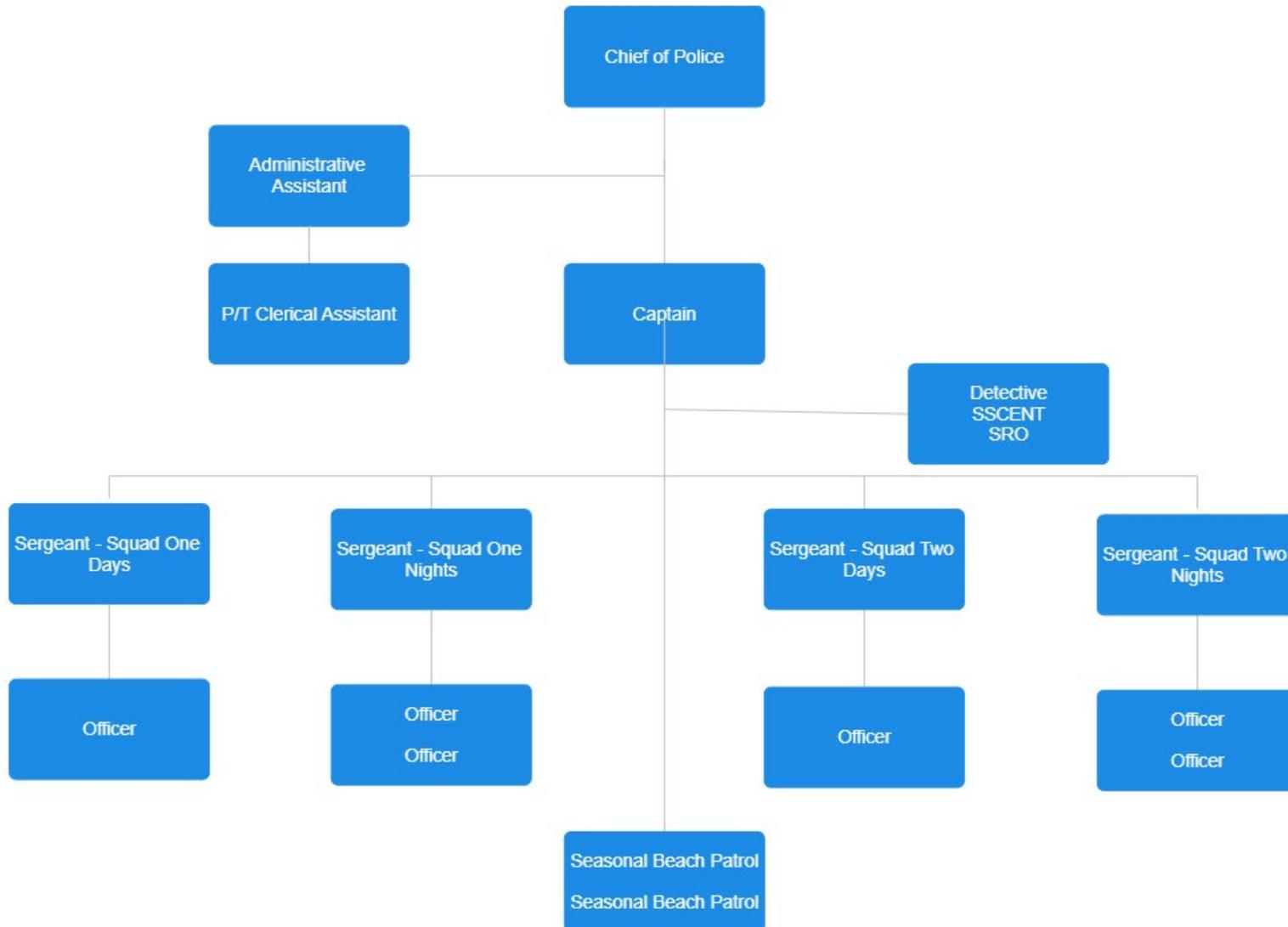
On behalf of all the officers and staff of the Ludington Police Department, I thank you for your continued partnership. We look forward to another year of service to this great community.

Sincerely,



Christopher Jones

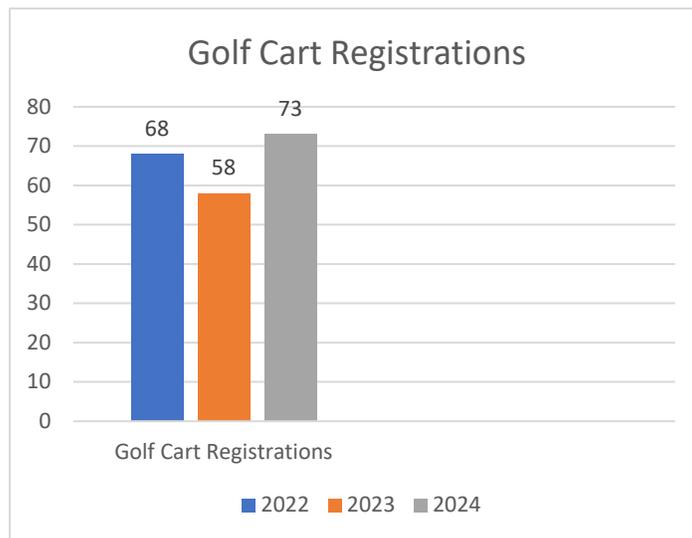
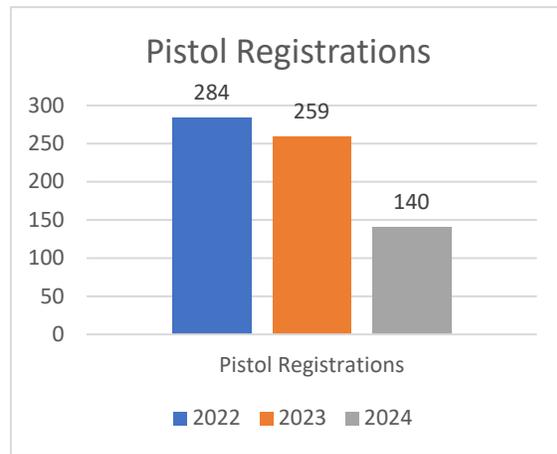
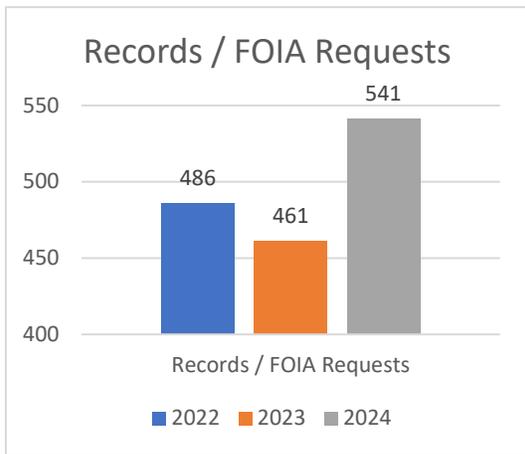
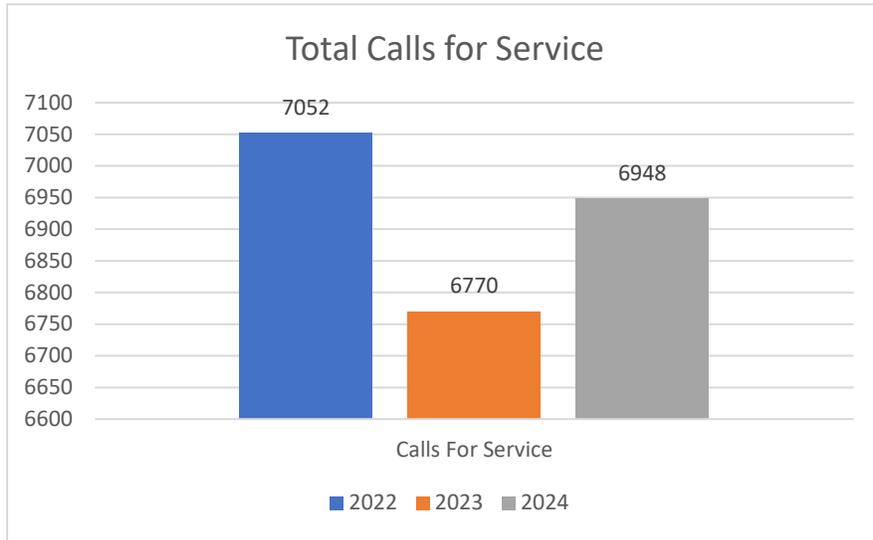
# LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT – 2024 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## LPD DEPARTMENTAL ROSTER (AS OF 1/15/2025)

OFFICER	TITLE	EMAIL
Chris Jones	Chief	jones201@ci.ludington.mi.us
Mike Haveman	Captain	haveman211@ci.ludington.mi.us
Jason Smith	Sergeant	smith210@ci.ludington.mi.us
Austin Morris	Sergeant	morris217@ci.ludington.mi.us
Jared Versluis	Sergeant	<a href="mailto:versluis222@ci.ludington.mi.us">versluis222@ci.ludington.mi.us</a>
Mike Gilmurray	Sergeant	gilmurray203@ci.ludington.mi.us
Jacob Miller	Detective	miller209@ci.ludington.mi.us
Angela Babinec	Officer	babinec216@ci.ludington.mi.us
Conor Gallihugh	Officer / SRO	<a href="mailto:gallihugh220@ci.ludington.mi.us">gallihugh220@ci.ludington.mi.us</a>
Bryan Sanders	Officer	sanders221@ci.ludington.mi.us
Matt Murphy	Officer	murphy202@ci.ludington.mi.us
Austin Mendez	Officer	<a href="mailto:mendez204@ci.ludington.mi.us">mendez204@ci.ludington.mi.us</a>
Braden Kronlein	Officer	kronlein208@ci.ludington.mi.us
Marshall Law	Officer	<a href="mailto:law218@ci.ludington.mi.us">law218@ci.ludington.mi.us</a>
Edward Forfinski	Sponsored Recruit	forfinski219@ci.ludington.mi.us
Valerie Marquardt	Administrative Assistant	vmarquardt@ci.ludington.mi.us
Larson Laura	P/T Clerical Assistant	<a href="mailto:llarson@ci.ludington.mi.us">llarson@ci.ludington.mi.us</a>
Susan Maltbie	Retired – March 2024	
Jacob Ross	Resigned – June 2024	
Noah Noble	Resigned - June 2024	

# LPD OPERATIONS - 2024



## **LPD TRAINING - 2024**

In 2023, LPD officers completed over 1,670 hours of in-service training covering the following topics:

- Firearms
- Defensive tactics / control tactics / less lethal
- Legal Updates
- Scenario-based training / De-escalation
- Rescue Task Force
- Active Assailant Training
- Supervisor / Leadership Training
- Human Trafficking
- Crime Scene Investigations
- FEMA NIMS
- NASRO Advanced SRO
- Criminal Investigations
- Financial Crimes
- HazMat Awareness
- Ethics
- Officer Wellness
- Anti-bias Policing
- Mental Health Awareness

Additionally, two new LPD officers completed over 728 hours of field training during 2024.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS - 2024**

- Love Ludington
- Gus Macker
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade & Fireworks
- Community Garden
- Blessing of the Boats & SPLKA Light Show
- Skate, Scooting, Boogie Skate Competition
- Rhythm & Dunes
- Numerous foot races
- Halloween Trick or Treat on the Avenue
- LHS Homecoming Events
- Shop with A Cop Pie Auction & Pig Auction
- Shop with A Cop
- Aglow on the Avenue Parade
- New Year's Eve Ball Drop

## 2024 DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Ludington Police Department is proud to recognize the incredible work done by our officers in 2024.

### TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARD

The Traffic Safety Award goes to the officer that consistently focuses on traffic safety and traffic enforcement, throughout the year. The officer that receives this award went well beyond what is expected and a demonstrated commitment to traffic safety. Chief Jones is pleased to announce the Traffic Safety Award recipient for 2024 – Officer Matt Murphy.

### CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT AWARD

The Criminal Enforcement Award goes to the officer that consistently focused on crime reduction and enforcement throughout the year. The officer that receives this award went well beyond what is expected and demonstrated a commitment to criminal interdiction. Chief Jones is pleased to announce the Enforcement Award recipient for 2024 – Officer Austin Mendez.

### SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Sgt. Smith has proven to be a source of knowledge and professionalism at LPD. He has worked diligently to improve the efficiency of the Department as it relates to the day-to-day operations. Additionally, Sgt. Smith has worked tirelessly to maintain the high standard set and improve the internal processes within the evidence room. Sgt. Smith's supervisory skills have been of great benefit to LPD. In addition to the general patrol and supervisory tasks Sgt. Smith has, he is responsible for several ancillary tasks that often go unnoticed. Sgt. Smith's performance this year is a model for all other supervisors to follow. Because of Sgt. Smith's skill as an officer and supervisor, desire to serve, and his expectation of professionalism from those he leads, Chief Jones is very pleased to name Sgt. Jason Smith the 2024 Ludington Police Department Supervisor of the Year.

### OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Matt Murphy is into his second year at LPD and has already made a mark. His positive personality, "let's do it" attitude, and willingness to help anyone in need are examples of how Officer Murphy has made LPD a stronger department. Officer Murphy's work ethic has proven to be top notch. He is at the top or near the top for traffic enforcement and criminal arrests. He is regularly found engaging people of all ages and fostering positive relationships within the community. Because of Officer Murphy's overall body of work, his passion to serve, and his commitment to professionalism and excellence, Chief Jones is very pleased to announce Officer Matt Murphy as the 2024 Ludington Police Department Officer of the Year.

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD – 2024

The Distinguished Service award is given to a member who demonstrates extraordinary effort through diligence and perseverance and performs activities beyond what are normally expected outside of crime prevention, life and property protection, or criminal apprehension. Activities to be considered include, but are not limited to, unique and complex staff assignments and special assignments that are especially challenging or which require extraordinary effort and represent a significant contribution to the department's vision.

RECIPIENT – **SGT. AUSTIN MORRIS**

#### **MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD – 2024**

The Meritorious Service award is given for service rendered when a member, because of diligence and perseverance, performs difficult tasks under unusual circumstances and goes beyond that which is normally expected of most members where crime is prevented, life and property is protected, or criminals are apprehended.

**RECIPIENTS –**        **SGT. MICHAEL GILMURRAY**  
                              **OFFICER AUSTIN MENDEZ**  
                              **DET. JACOB MILLER**

#### **LIFE SAVING AWARD – 2024**

The Lifesaving Citation is awarded to a member who, through his or her direct actions, saves a life. Such actions shall be significant actions and not simply routine measures unless it can be shown that they were performed under difficult or dangerous conditions.

**RECIPIENTS -**        **SGT. JASON SMITH**  
                              **OFFICER ANGELA BABINEC**

#### **PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD 2024**

The Professional Excellence award is given for service rendered by a member who does not come within the above classifications, but which the Chief of Police wishes to formally recognize as an act of outstanding service.

**RECIPIENT -**        **CAPTAIN MICHAEL HAVEMAN**

#### **CITIZEN RECOGNITION AWARD 2024**

**RECIPIENTS -**        **SHERRY MOTCHECK**  
                              **FRIENDS OF LUDINGTON POLICE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

We would like to thank each of these individuals for their service and dedication to the department and community.

## 2024 Use of Force Report

The definition of reportable force for this summary is the application of physical techniques or tactics, chemical agents, or weapons to another person that is likely to cause pain or injury. LPD requires officers to complete a force report each time they use this type of force.

Force in this report includes Control techniques, chemical/natural agents, baton, specialty impact munitions, firearms, and Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) - also known by trade name Taser®.

Every reported use of force undergoes a meaningful review by the immediate supervisor, an appropriate use of force instructor, and the Chief of Police (or designee). Each reviewer will independently determine:

- Whether further investigation is warranted.
- Whether the force applied was within departmental training and policy guidelines.
- Were there any unique problems.
- Is Department training and policy adequate.
- Does the Department member require further training or counseling.

Additionally, LPD participates in the FBI National Use of Force Data Collection Program, reporting all use of force on a monthly basis.

### Analysis of 2024 Use of Force Incidents

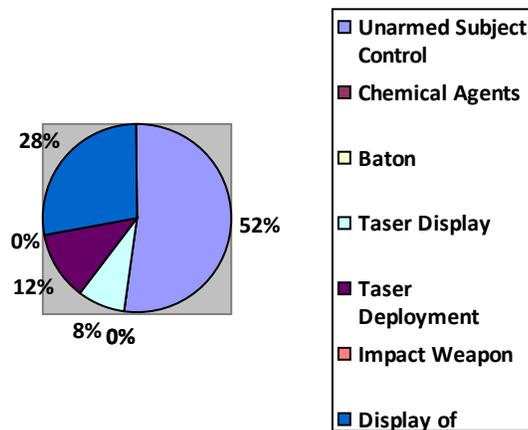
In 2024, twenty-one criminal incidents occurred, where the use of force was required to effect a lawful arrest. A total of twenty-six applications of force were required to effect a lawful arrest. A meaningful review of each reported use of force incident was conducted, including an assessment of each incident to ensure departmental policy was followed, whether discipline was warranted, training was required, or if any equipment issues occurred. The review was conducted by departmental use of force instructors and command staff.

- *Policy Compliance* – None of the twenty-one reported use of force events violated the departmental use of force policy.
- *Equipment Issues* – No equipment issues were noted as part of the review.
- *Training* – None of the twenty-one reported use of force events revealed a deficiency in training, however, subject control tactics and de-escalation training will continue to be a point of emphasis in 2024.
- *Discipline* – None of the twenty-one use of force events resulted in a need to discipline any officers.

## 2024 Use of Force Statistics

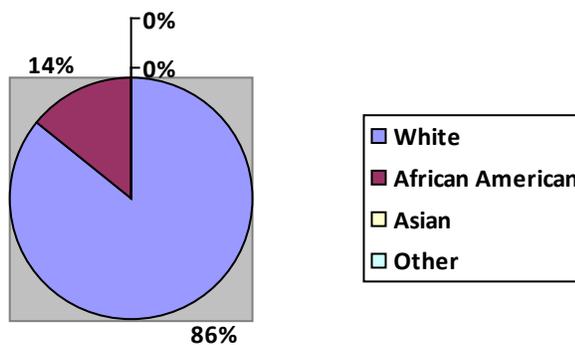
### APPLICATIONS OF FORCE USED BY TYPE

UNARMED SUBJECT CONTROL	CHEMICAL AGENTS	BATON	TASER DISPLAY	TASER DEPLOYMENT	IMPACT WEAPON	DISPLAY OF FIREARM
13	0	0	2	3	0	8



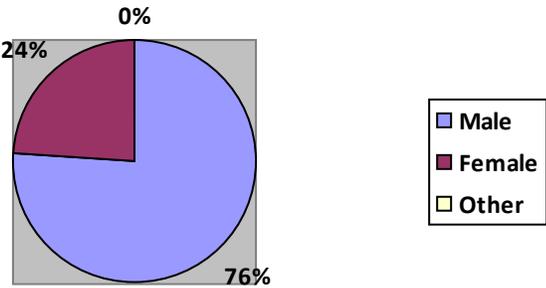
### APPLICATIONS OF FORCE USED BY RACE

WHITE	AFRICAN AMERICAN	ASIAN	OTHER
18	3	0	0



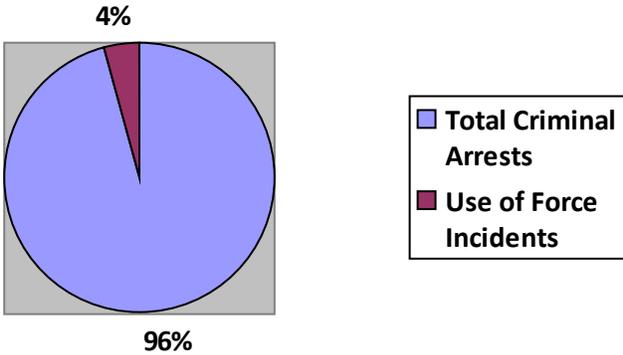
**APPLICATION OF FORCE USED BY GENDER**

MALE	FEMALE	OTHER
16	5	0

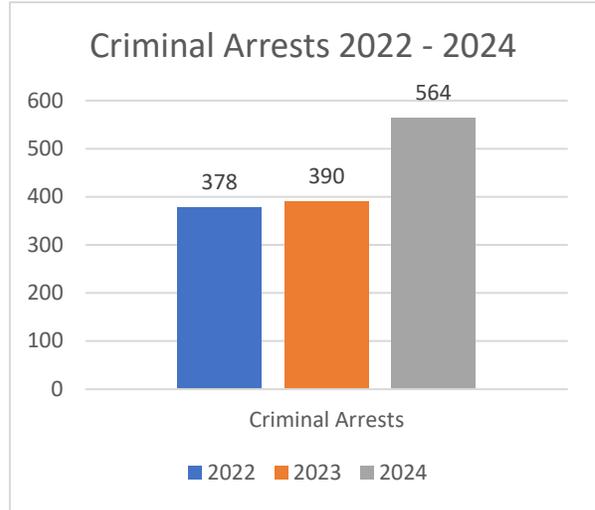


**TOTAL INCIDENTS VS. USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS**

TOTAL CRIMINAL ARRESTS	USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS
564	21



## 2024 CRIMINAL REPORT & ARREST SUMMARY

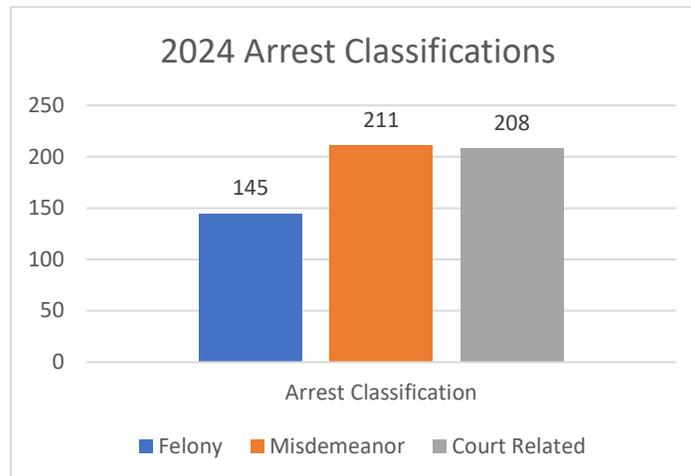


### CRIMINAL ARRESTS BY RACE - 2024

Race	Arrests	Percentage
White	479	85
Black	41	7.3
Unknown	43	7.6
Asian	1	.1

### CRIMINAL ARRESTS BY GENDER - 2024

Gender	Arrests	Percentage
Male	409	72.6
Female	154	27.3
Unknown	1	.1



**CRIMINAL REPORTS BY TYPE 2022 - 2024**

<b>Report Type</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Homicide	0	0	0
Kidnapping	0	1	0
Sexual Assault	10	19	18
Robbery	0	0	2
Assault	94	83	82
Stalking	1	4	7
Arson	1	0	1
Burglary	17	12	9
Larceny	71	98	74
Motor Vehicle Theft	4	4	4
Fraud	80	68	61
Embezzlement	1	3	3
MDOP	79	65	59
Retail Fraud	19	11	6
Narcotics	44	45	48
Liquor Violations	5	2	2
Public Intoxication	4	7	4
Weapons Offenses	6	11	12
Disorderly Conduct	403	338	234
OWI	34	27	25
Animal Complaints	125	115	74
Trespassing	26	33	31
Misc. Juvenile	58	59	46
Other (Court Related, etc.)	2268	1956	2567
K9 Assist	0	0	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>3351</b>	<b>2961</b>	<b>3381</b>

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION**

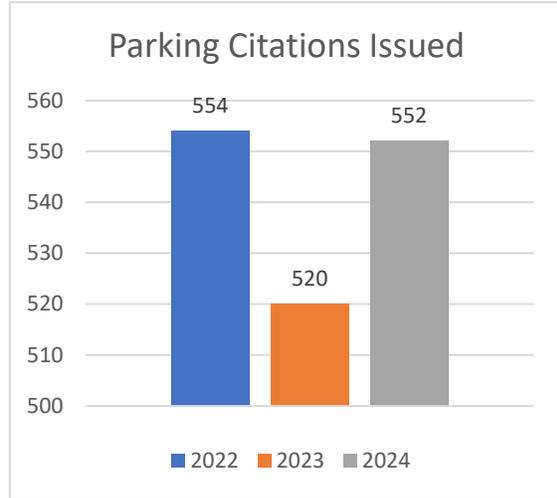
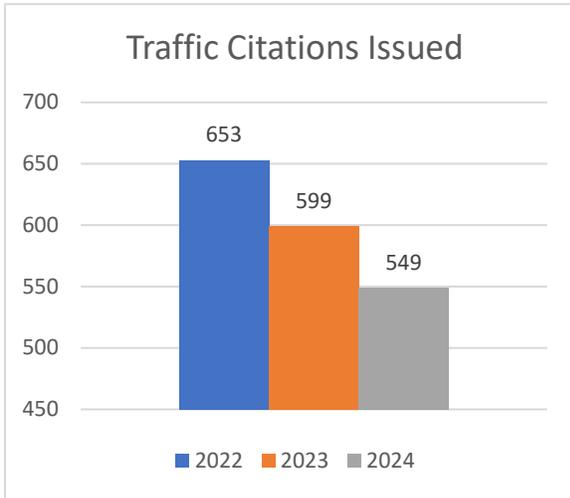
<b>Offense Type</b>	<b>2024 Investigations</b>
Criminal Sexual Conduct	21
CSAM	2
Death Investigations	22
Fraud	18
Child Abuse	28
UDAA	2
Felony Assault	3
Weapons	4
Trafficking	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>

DIGITAL FORENSICS LAB CASES

Type	Investigations
CSAM / Solicitation of Minor	5
CSC / Sex Trafficking	11
Narcotics	8
Threats	3
Death Investigation	14
Att. Murder	2
Arson	4
Other	8

Agency	Investigations / Assists
Ludington PD	38
Oceana County Sheriff	8
SSCENT	4
Hart PD	0
Shelby PD	0
Pentwater PD	1
Mason County Sheriff	1
FBI	1
Total	53 (128 Devices)

## TRAFFIC & PARKING ENFORCEMENT



### TRAFFIC CITATIONS ISSUED BY RACE & GENDER - 2024

RACE	CITATIONS - NUMBER	CITATIONS - PERCENTAGE
White	418	76.2
Black	19	3.4
American Indian	1	.1
Unknown	111	20.3

GENDER	CITATIONS - NUMBER	CITATIONS - PERCENTAGE
Male	315	57.4
Female	234	42.6

### TRAFFIC CHARGES BY CATEGORY - 2024

CITATION CHARGE	NUMBER ISSUED
Registration Related	146
License Related	50
Insurance Related	123
Texting While Driving	21
Traffic Control Device Related	16
Stop Sign	23
Reckless / Careless	3
Speeding Related	198
Seat Belt	13
Driving While License Suspended	23
Other Traffic	99
Parking	552
<b>Total</b>	<b>1119</b>