



Action Requested/Required:

- Vote/Action Requested
 - Discussion or Presentation Only
 - Public Hearing
- Report Date: _____
Hearing Date: 4/18/24
Voting Date: _____

Department: Police **Presenter(s) & Title:** Alec Robles Crime Analyst

Agenda Item Title:

2023 Annual Report from Police Department at City Council.

Summary:

Present the 2023 Annual Report at City Council by Crime Analyst Alec Robles.

Budget Implications:

Budgeted? Yes No N/A

Total Cost of Project: Check if Estimated

Fund Source: General Fund Water & Sewer Sales Tax Other:

Staff Recommendations:

Reviews:

Has this been reviewed by Management and Legal Counsel, if required? Yes No

Attachments:

Please see Attachments



Canton Police Department

2023 Operational Report

“The Mission of the Canton Police Department is to Create a Safer Canton by Reducing Crime, Ensuring the Safety of Our Citizens and Continuing to Build Trust in Partnership with Our Community.”





**Canton Police Department
2023 Operational Report**

I am humbled and honored to present to you the Canton Police Department (CPD) Operational Report for 2023. The following information was compiled and generated by the staff of our agency. We trust the material will give a framework of our annual crime statistics, population growth, calls for service, vehicle accident figures, clearance rate of investigated crimes, personnel training numbers, records / customer service, evidence handled and or processed, community outreach initiatives, a list of organization successes and employee awards issued during the past year.

As you will see, our Officers serve an ever-growing population and responded to over 27,000 calls for service in 2023. To meet the needs to protect and engage with our community, our Commanders and Supervisors meet each month to go over crime and vehicle accident data in an effort to pinpoint areas of concern in order to deploy the most effective and efficient strategic police services with the goal of minimizing the impacts of crime and vehicle crashes in our city. Over the year, Officers have also worked hard to build partnerships and trust with those we serve through numerous successful outreach programs and through a very vibrant social media campaign.

Every day, our employees strive to meet and go above and beyond the standards set forth in our status as a Certified agency in the State of Georgia, which we have been for twenty-five (25) years. The activity and successes outlined in this report would not be possible without the vital backing and partnerships we have with our citizens and the invaluable continued support we have from our Mayor, Council and City Manager.

The Canton Police Department team remains steadfast to improve the Quality of Life and to provide the most professional and current best practice Law Enforcement services to this great city. We are committed to carry on our cultivation of trust with every segment of our citizenry and continue to build a culture within our organization, which reflects a mindset of community, an attitude of service and a heart of protection.

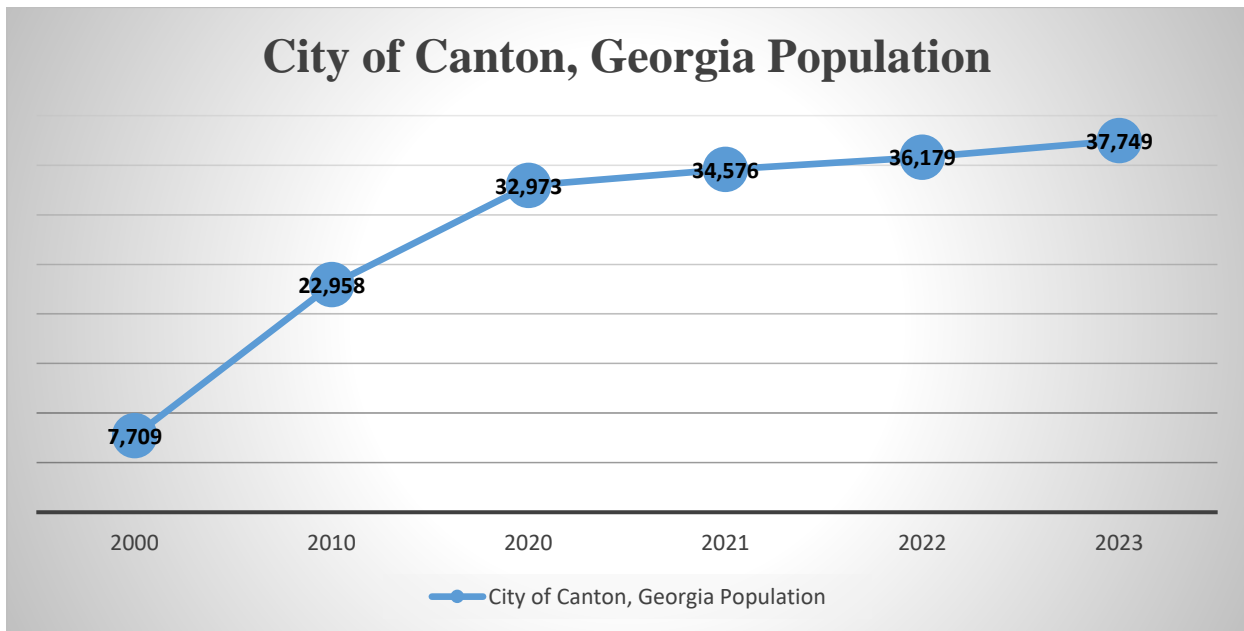
Sincerely,

John Lummus

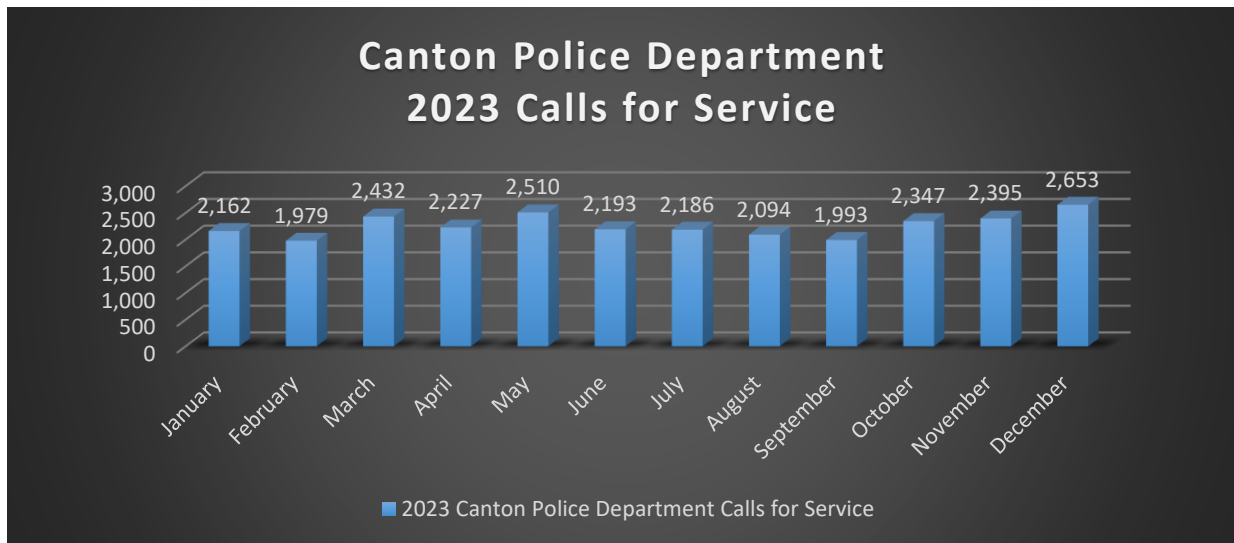
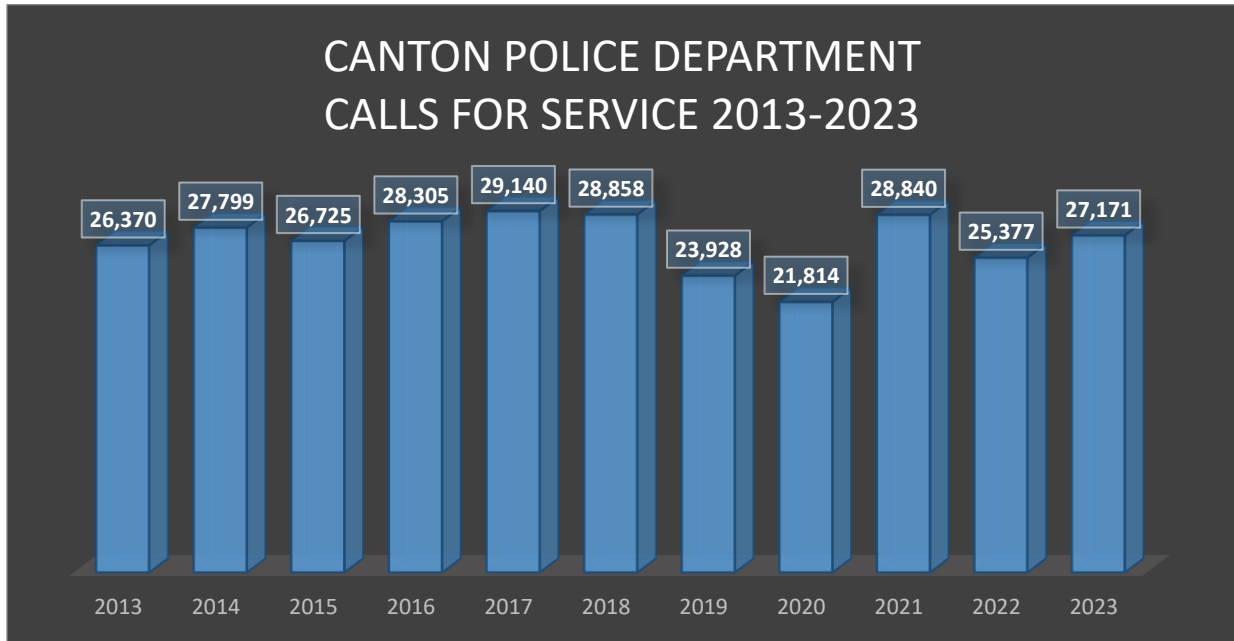
Interim Chief of Police

- **Population, Calls for Service and Crime Comparison**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the City of Canton, Georgia grew 44% over the past decade from year 2010 (22,958) to 2020 (32,973). According to the latest estimates, Canton most recently grew 3.6% from 2021 (34,576) to 2022 (35,809). If you take the average growth from years 2010-2022 (4.7%) and apply it to 2023 to obtain a projected population, the result is 37,749.



The Canton Police Department responded to 27,171 calls for Police Services from the Cherokee County 911 Center during 2023, showing a 7% increase from 2022. The total calls for service have increased 3% from 2013-2023. The monthly and annual synopsis is provided below:



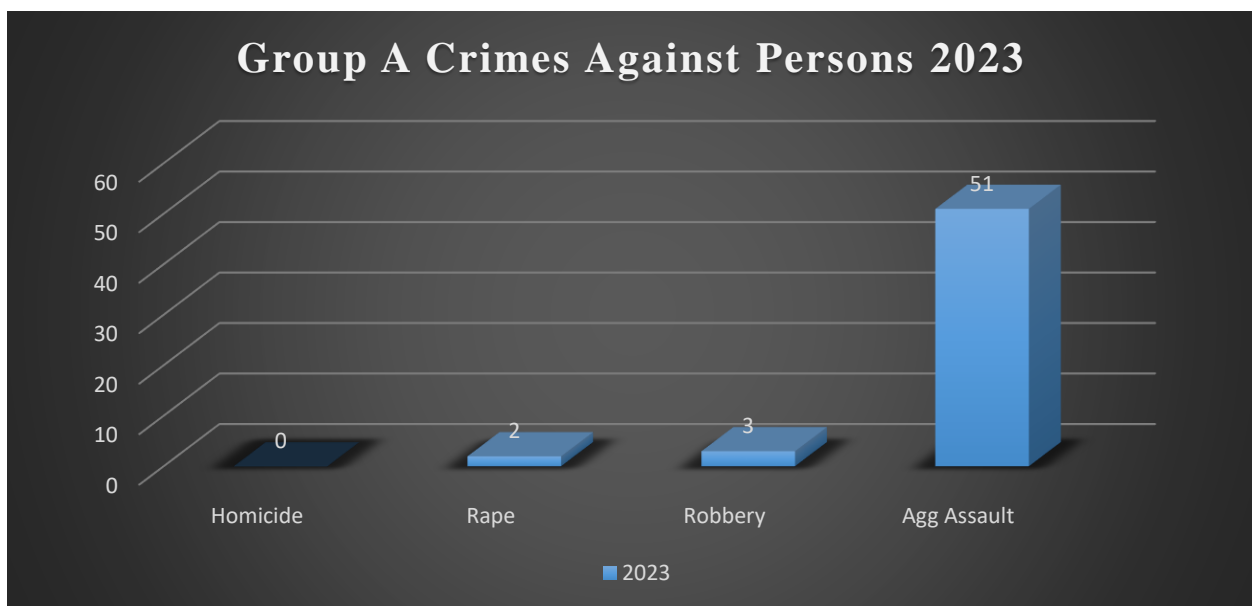
2023 Canton Police Department Operational Report



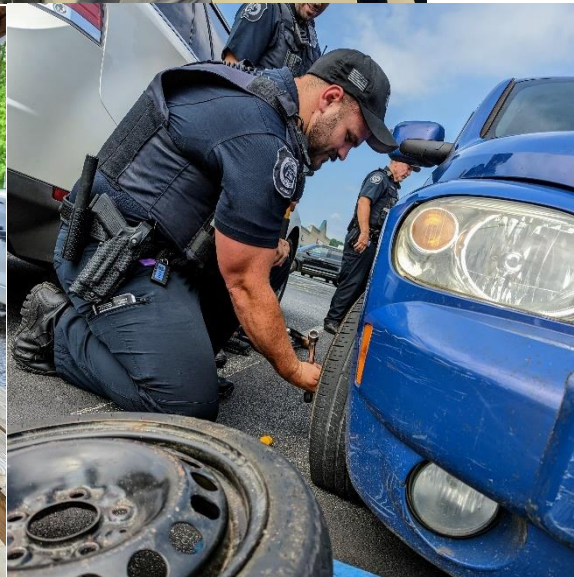
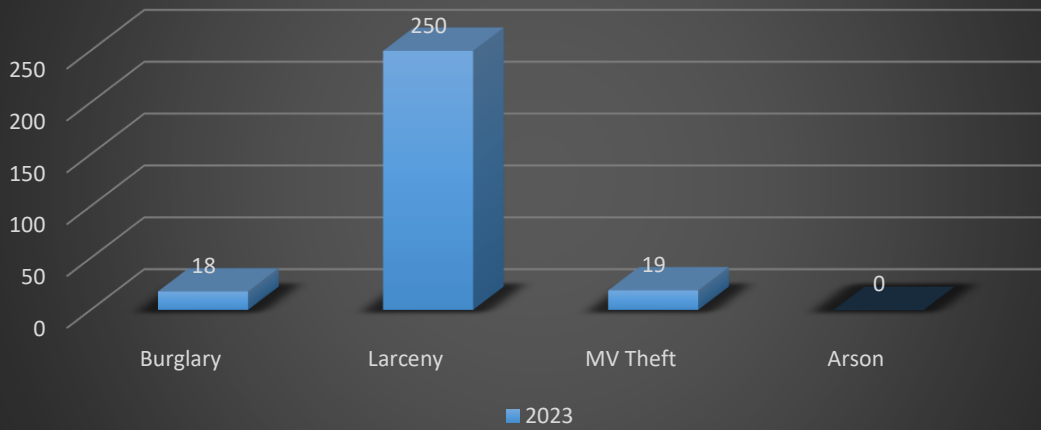
Beginning in 2023, the Canton Police Department made the permanent change to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) as per FBI guidelines. This is different from the Summary Reporting System (SRS) guidelines which were previously in place nationwide. The purpose of implementing NIBRS style reporting is to, “improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement. It captures details on each single crime incident, as well as on separate offenses in the same incident” (FBI.gov). This improvement allows agencies to collect more information on crime data that could provide more context as opposed to the sometimes vague nature of the SRS.

Because of the change in reporting, there is no way to accurately compare data from 2023 to previous years. We will be using 2023 data as our starting point for data comparison in the future. Moving forward, CPD will continue to strive to collect and provide the most detailed and accurate data it can offer.

According to the newest department data, total Crimes Against Persons remained low even with the changes in reporting. This trend also carried over to Crimes Against Property, where we saw a particularly low count of crimes such as burglary and motor vehicle theft. Below is a breakdown of our NIBRS data for 2023:

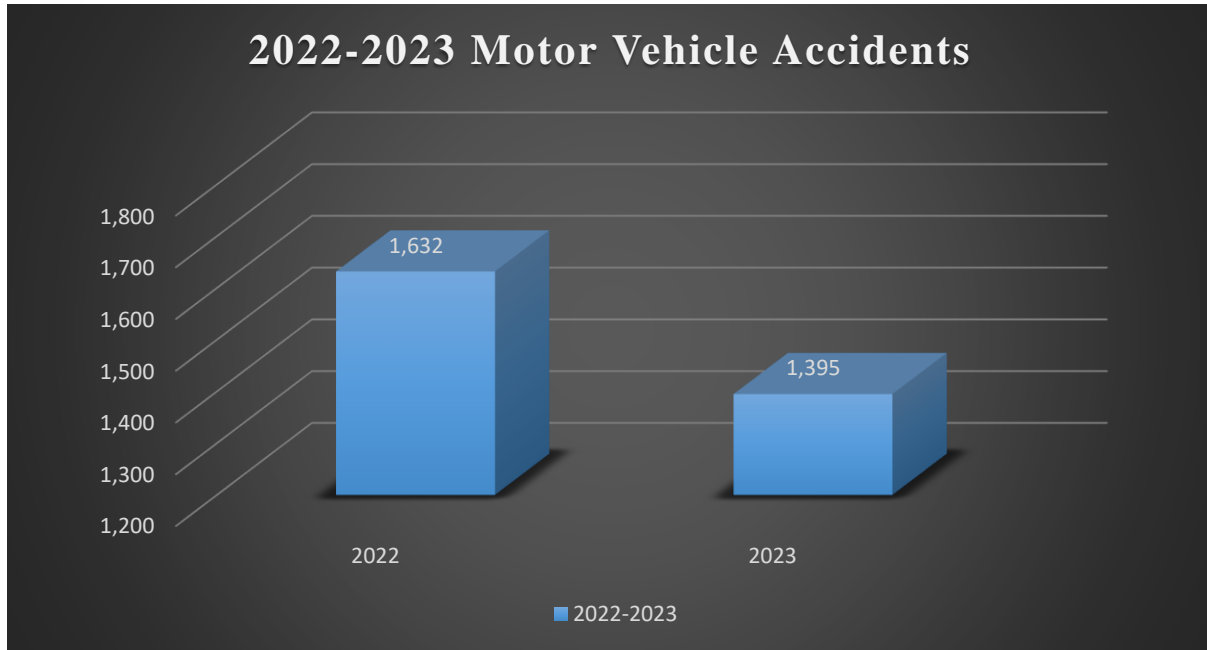


Group A Crimes Against Property 2023

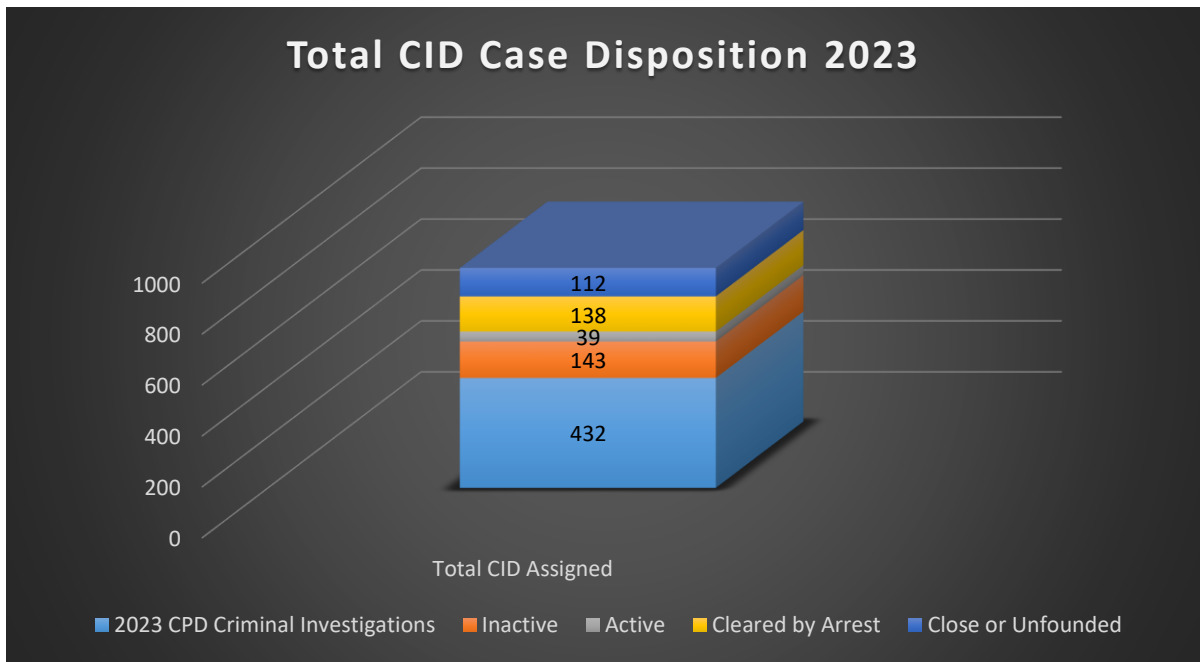


- **Motor Vehicle Accidents, Criminal Investigations and Professional Development**

Motor Vehicle Accidents occurring in the City of Canton for year 2023 has seen a 15% decrease from 1,632 occurrences to 1,395. With our City being in an ever-evolving state of expansion and improvement, we strive to ensure that our roadways always remain safe.

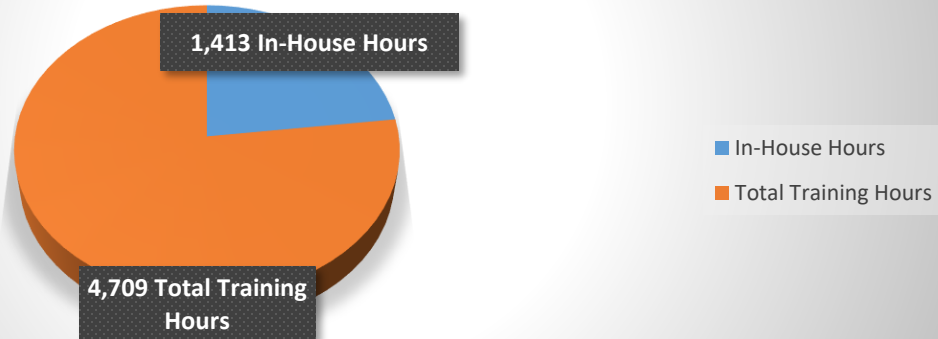


Criminal Investigations is a vital part of any law enforcement organization. Our detectives and supervisory staff worked vigorously in 2023 to solve crimes and bring closure to victims. There were 432 cases assigned to CID in 2023: 143 cases were marked inactive during the year, 39 are still active and on-going as of December 31st, 138 were cleared by arrest during the year, and 112 were closed or determined to be unfounded during the year. Our strict solvability factor policy places priority on cases which are more likely to be solved based on certain factors. When a case does not meet this threshold of solvability, the case is marked as inactive or closed. Based on the clearance rate by either inactive, cleared by arrest, closed or unfounded; CID experienced a 57.9% rate of closure for 2023 and an arrest rate of 32%. Below is the 2023 synopsis of criminal cases:



Ensuring that our officers maintain the highest level of knowledge and training is a priority of the Canton Police Department. We believe a well-trained team member results in higher quality of work performed which leads to better service to our community. In 2023, the Canton Police Department completed 4,709 training hours. Of those, 1,413 hours were in-house training hours delivered by instructors with the Canton Police Department.

2023 Canton Police Department Training Received



In addition to the hours of professional development, the following accomplishments were received by members of the Department for 2023:

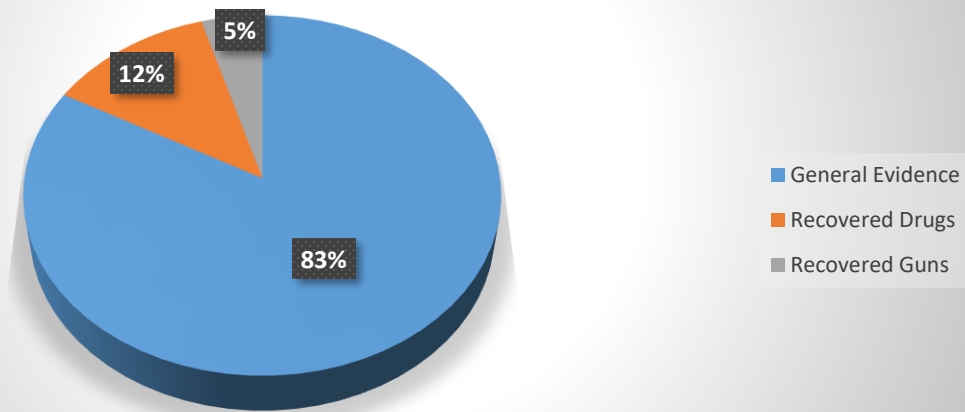
- Detective Fulenwider and Sergeant Lilley received their Instructor Certifications.
- Corporal Crowe, Corporal Cruz, and Corporal Rogers were promoted to their current positions.
- Sergeant Reynolds, Sergeant Mueller, and Sergeant Johnson were promoted to their current positions.
- Lieutenant Cromer was promoted to her current position.
- Sam Snell was promoted to Records Supervisor.
- Detective Sweat transitioned to his current role in CID.



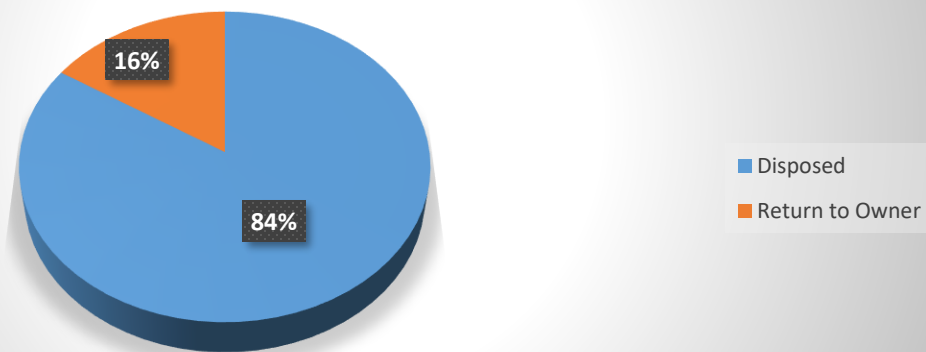
- **Evidence, Records, and Community Outreach**

Evidence care and handling is an important function of law enforcement. From returning found property to the rightful owner to keeping strict chain of custody records for evidence and prosecution in criminal investigations- evidence handling is a vitally important role for any law enforcement agency. The property and evidence room is audited multiple times per year so as to maintain the highest level of accountability and tracking of each incoming and outgoing item. Year 2023 intake was 818 pieces and 523 pieces were disposed of. Below is the 2023 synopsis for the Canton Police Department Property and Evidence storage:

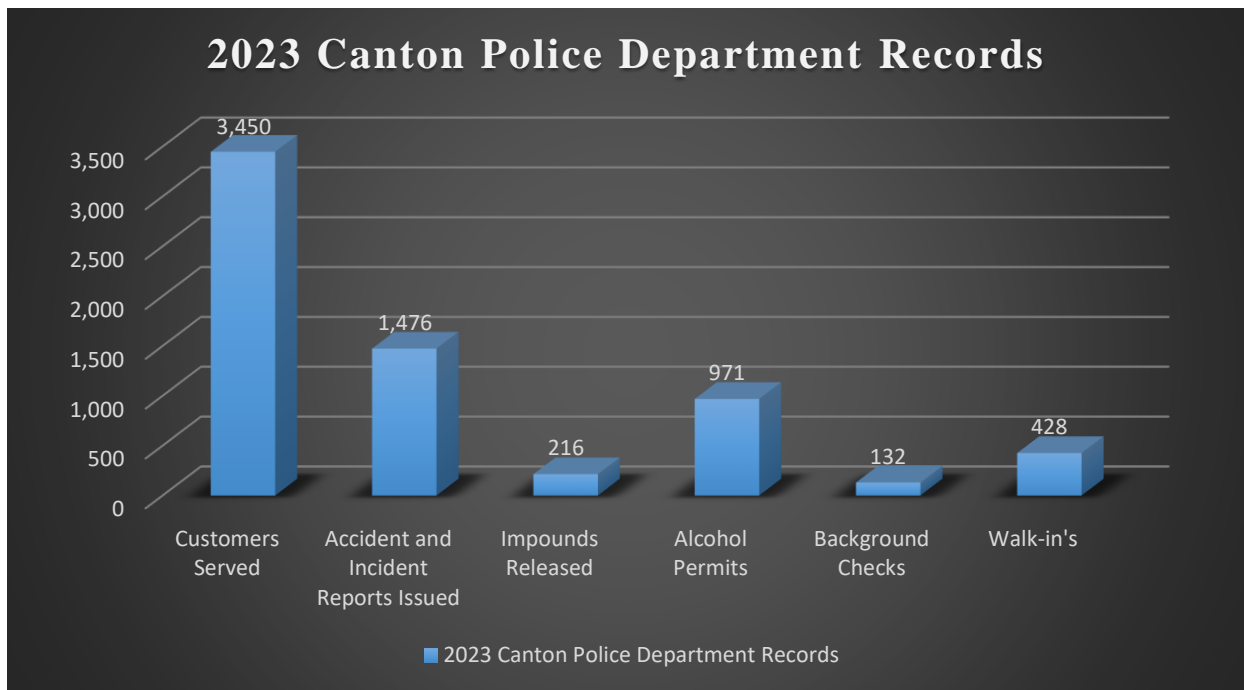
2023 Property and Evidence Canton Police Department Intake (818 pcs)



2023 Property and Evidence Canton Police Department Disposed (523 pcs)



Records management and distribution is a large administrative task for the Canton Police Department on a daily basis. In 2023, the agency served our community's needs by serving customers at our records counter, issuing copies of various accident and incident reports, releasing impounds, processing alcohol server's applications, issuing alcohol permits, releasing personal records information to proper persons, giving directions, and answering a variety of questions the public may have. Below is a highlight of 2023 activity:



2023 Canton Police Department Operational Report

In 2023, we continued with our most popular community policing events in an effort to maintain our strong relationships with members of the community:

Officers got into character and brought stories to life during *Read with a Cop*:



2023 Canton Police Department Operational Report

Coffee with a Cop remained a vital part of community relations for Canton Police, where citizens came together to fellowship with officers:



The **Multicultural Festival** at Etowah River Park showcased the different cultures in our community by sharing customs and enjoying a day of food and dancing:



CPD Awards Dinner



Award Winners

FTO of the Year- Officer Henao

Rookie of the Year- Officer Redd

Supervisor of the Year- Sgt. Johnson

Officer of the Year- Cpl. Rogers

Civilian of the Year- Pam Wetzel



- **Agency News**

The Canton Police Department successfully completed several agency projects in 2023 to continue our effort in being one of the best Departments in the state. Our most notable project was the addition of our DRONE Team. CPD



purchased a DRONE to aid in investigations and give a quick and accurate aerial view above a scene. Our DRONE team is comprised of several CPD officers who went through training to obtain their FAA licenses.

Departmental Changes

In 2023, the Canton Police Department saw the retirement announcements of



both Deputy Chief Wendell Turner (left) as well as Chief of Police Stephen Merrifield (second from left). With their departure, John Lummus (second from right) was named Interim Chief of Police heading into 2024. Interim Chief Lummus has served the Canton Police Department for over 25 years and will be leading the department during the selection process for a new Chief of Police. All three are pictured here with City Manager, Billy Peppers (right).