

# **WEED POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **Annual Report**



**2023**

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## Message from the Chief

It is my pleasure to present the annual report of activity for the Weed Police Department for the year 2023. Prepared by police department administrative staff to provide information to the members of our community about our activity, our programs, and our personnel. Within the contents of this report, you will find information on our public safety strategies and crime prevention activities as well as information about our calls for service, crime reporting, arrest information, and community outreach. Moreover, we have included some key accomplishments and the various department operations.

As the leader of the Weed Police Department, I have worked to ensure the entire membership of this organization demonstrates a commitment to modeling law enforcement practices that are contemporary and at the forefront of the policing profession. We strive not only to meet but exceed our community's expectations of public safety service. Continuing to develop strong community partnerships remains a foundational principle for our success in the work that we do, and we continue to embrace Community Oriented Policing principles as part of our organizational philosophy. Ensuring fair and impartial policing is represented in our work by treating people with dignity and respect and being worthy of the trust that our community has placed in us.

With this report, I hope to provide a better understanding of who we are, as your police department, and what we do throughout the year to serve the City of Weed.

Sincerely,



Justin Mayberry  
Chief of Police

# **MISSION STATEMENT**

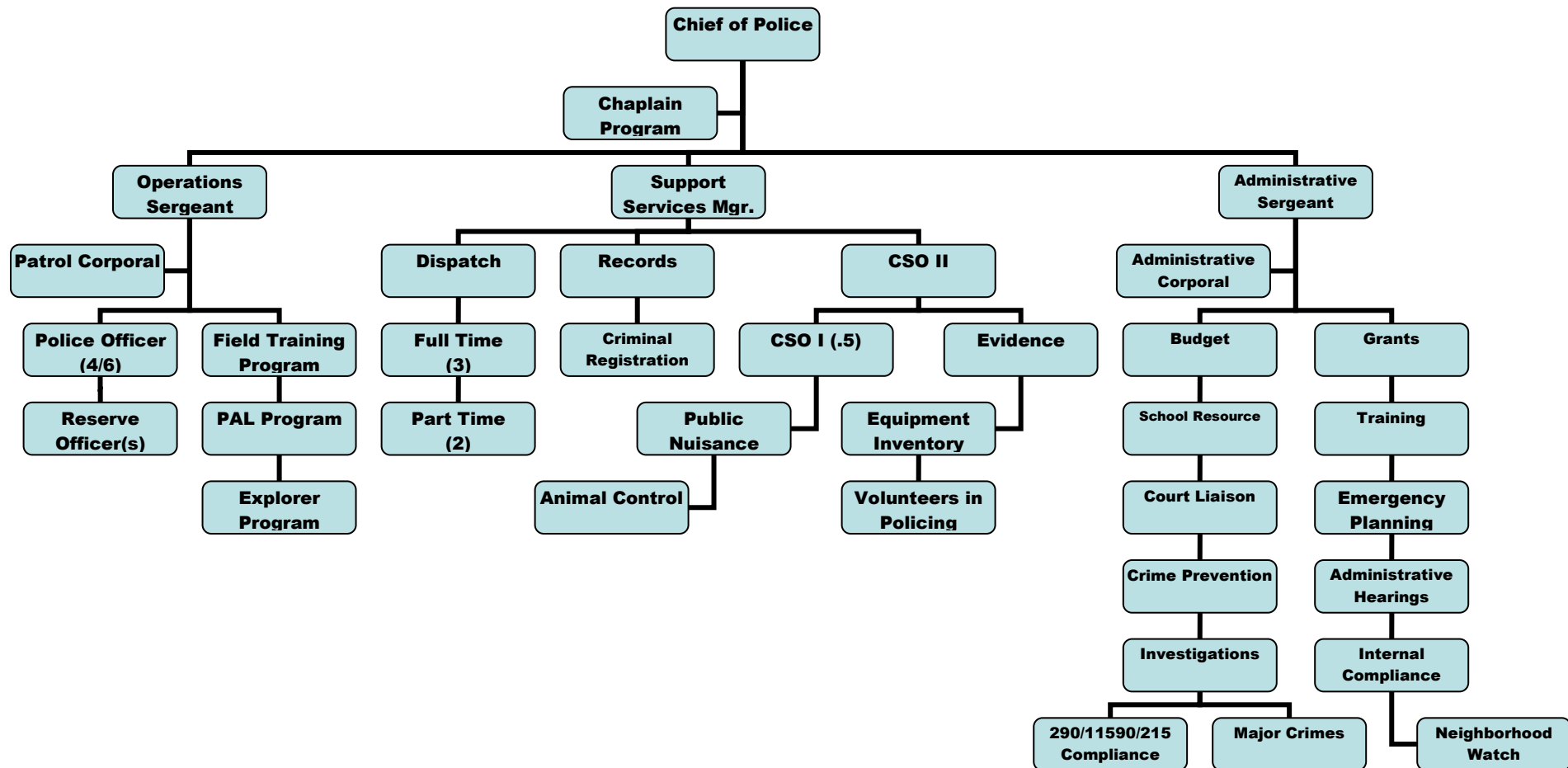
The mission of the Weed Police Department is to maintain social order and provide professional law enforcement services to citizens in the community, within prescribed ethical, budgetary, and constitutional constraints. This department strives to enforce the law and maintain order in a fair and impartial manner, recognizing the need for justice, and consistent appearance of justice. The department recognizes that no law enforcement agency can operate at its maximum potential without supportive input from the citizens it serves. This department actively solicits and encourages the cooperation of all citizens to reduce and limit the opportunities for crime and to assist in bringing to justice those who break the law.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The following objectives have been established to accomplish the mission within the budgetary and manpower constraints imposed on the department:

- A. Protect Life and Property: To provide services that contribute to the preservation of life, the protection of property, and the safety of the community.
- B. Maintain Public Order: To maintain peace and public order. To assist during times of natural or technological occurrences or disasters. To provide for the safe and effective flow of both vehicular and pedestrian traffic and the investigation of traffic related accidents.
- C. Prevent, Detect, and Investigate Criminal Activity: To prevent crime through aggressive patrol that limits the opportunity for a crime to occur, and through education of citizens that reduces the likelihood of them becoming victims of crime while providing a thorough, appropriate, and efficient investigation of criminal activity.
- D. Maintain an up-to-date system of incident reporting and statistical analysis, utilizing the most effective options for information dissemination to the public.

# Weed Police Department Organizational Chart 2023



## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **Public Safety Dispatch**

The Weed Police Department public safety dispatchers are responsible for answering emergency and non-emergency calls for Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services for the citizens of Weed. The Weed Police dispatch center runs 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. This 24/7 coverage is handled by four full-time dispatchers and two part-time employees.

The Weed Police Department has two dispatch positions that have their dedicated circuits. It is not uncommon for each to be utilized simultaneously during patrol shifts. In 2023 we had a total of 1,772 911 calls. Dispatchers utilize Rapid Deploy for our Next Gen 911, connecting emergency calls and the critical information that matters most in a unified Next Gen 911 map. Rapid Deploy is the leading cloud-native platform for public safety. Rapid Deploy's mission is to save lives by reducing response times.

Dispatch answered a total of 23,999 calls on our administrative lines in 2023. These calls include non-911 emergencies, calls for services, and calls for supervisors. Dispatchers often handle callers who are requesting information without requiring an officer to come into the department or to place a callback.

Besides the responsibility for answering 911 and administrative calls, public safety dispatchers handle Weed PD lobby traffic and officer radio transmissions. The dispatcher gathers all the necessary information required to direct the officers to a call for service. During these calls, they are responsible for the officer's safety and finalizing the call disposition within the Computer Assisted Dispatch. They are responsible for protected information accessed via the LEAWEB system (WEB-based interface with the Department of Justice), which includes inquiries and entries into the system. There are 20 different sections within this system. Some of the items available within the system include arrest warrants, stolen vehicles, missing persons, and stolen property just to name a few. Dispatchers ensure all necessary case attachments (paperwork) are available for the officer for all reports pulled. Additional responsibilities include clerical

duties or other routine duties that may be requested by the officer they are working with.

The department welcomed Sarah Platt in Dec 2023. Sarah has a bachelor's in communications and was formerly the Public Information Officer for Yosemite National Parks and Shasta-Trinity National Forest Services. Besides extensive on the job training, she will complete the POST required 3 weeks Basic Public Safety Dispatchers course to obtain her certificate.



The Weed Police Department dispatch heads up the You Are Not Alone (Y.A.N.A) Program. The program is designed to do a daily check on our seniors; some of whom are disabled or homebound or who live alone within the community. Dispatchers place a daily call to those signed up with the program. Those enrolled can pick the time of day they would like a dispatcher to make this daily call to check in on them ensuring everything is ok and if there is any assistance that they might need. If there is no answer, the dispatchers will request an officer to do a personal visit to check on the individual. Currently, the department has 9 seniors enrolled with calls scheduled from 4:30 am to 10:00 am daily.

As a local service, the department also provides a House Watch program for citizens who take a vacation or leave their houses vacant for a short period. Dispatch completes the form when a community member requests a property to be entered into the program. The daily list is provided to the officers to check the curtilage of the residence daily while the homeowners are gone for any unusual activity.

## **Police Support Services Manager**

Dispatch is directly supervised by the Police Support Services Manager. The Police Support Services Manager acts as the day shift dispatcher receiving incoming emergency calls, calls for service, radio calls, & lobby traffic. The Police Support Services Manager has the added responsibility of preparing cases to be sent to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution, fielding discovery requests from the D.A.'s office, providing citations to the courts, and ensuring the proper release of information to citizens.

Additionally, the Police Support Services Manager registers and maintains records for those individuals required by law upon conviction to register as sex, arson, or drug violators who reside within the city limits. Records include taking initial information, fingerprints, and photos, and preparing all proper paperwork to update with the Department of Justice.

The Police Support Services Manager handles all audits that pertain to Criminal Offender Record Information and completes the required upload of monthly stats to the California Department of Justice.

Initial paperwork for the physical license for California Concealed Weapons (CCW) permits issued by the Chief of Police is maintained through the Police Support Services Manager as well.

## **Community Service Officers**

The Weed Police Department currently has 1 full-time Community Service Officer (CSO) and one part time CSO on staff. The full time CSO II position fulfills the role of CSO Supervisor within the department. The CSOs have a diversified role at Weed PD. In a support role, they are responsible for a variety of duties which include public nuisance abatement, vehicle abatement, and animal control with extensive training in code enforcement.



June of 2023 brought the retirement of CSO Mark Blevins. CSO Blevins was with the department for 13 years. Starting as a CSO I, Blevins moved to CSO II and was the Evidence Technician for the police department since 2016.



With the retirement of Blevins, CSO Ryan Coates stepped right into the position of CSO Supervisor with guidance and training from CSO Blevins. Also serving as an Evidence Technician. In this role, he assists with crime scene investigation having received valuable training in the following areas: evidence collection, property management, and fingerprinting. The job requires maintenance of detailed records, proper storage of all evidence, and direct contact with the Siskiyou County Court for proper evidence/property disposal. The process can be lengthy; requiring monitoring individual case status within the court system. When additional evidentiary testing is required, the CSO Supervisor is responsible for providing the item(s) to the Department of Justice as required for forensic examination. In the role of evidence technician, the CSO Supervisor is at times called upon to testify in court regarding any evidence that is under his control.

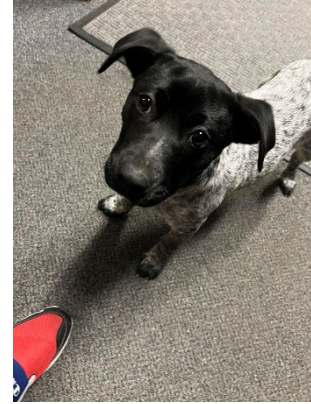
In 2023 the CSOs were responsible for abating 38 abandoned vehicles and 244 identified public nuisances. Much of the CSO's time is devoted to working with property owners to clean up or abate nuisances. This includes identified safety issues or municipal code violations related to vehicles, unlawful RVs, or debris. Nuisance abatements require locating the property owner for notification letters, photographing the property, and contacting the owner or tenants to set up a schedule for them to clean up the property.

Once contact has been made the CSOs make regular checks to make sure the property clean-up is being performed. If the owner or tenant fails to take the appropriate action to abate the violation, a citation may be issued.

Animal control duties take up a large portion of the CSO workday. The CSOs provide information regarding vaccination and licensing within the city. They will investigate all domestic and wild animal complaints including loose dogs, dog and cat bites, ordinance special animal permit requests or violations, and reporting animal cruelty incidents. In 2023 there were 396 animal-related incidents. The CSOs impounded a total of 49 K-9s in 2023. 33 of the K-9s were returned to the owner, and 15 of the K-9s were transferred to the other facilities. As part of this, the CSOs maintain the Weed City Kennel in good daily working order.

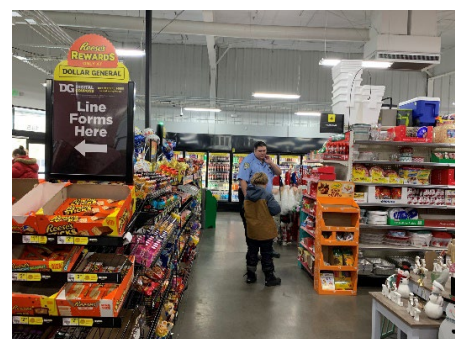


The CSOs work closely with the Siskiyou County Health Department and local vets to host the rabies clinic every year. This event allows the opportunity for the community to license their dogs at the same time they are obtaining the required rabies vaccination. CSOs have a great working relationship with the Siskiyou Humane Society to assist in the adoption process and public education for animals when efforts to locate owners are unsuccessful. Having the CSOs available allows the officers to keep their attention on patrol, incident response, and investigations.



The dog pictured, which was later adopted out, was just a couple of many handled by animal control.

Support services participate in many of the activities the Weed Police Department is involved in such as Trunk or Treat, Shop With A Cop, Kids Day, and The Weed Community Christmas Baskets. It is an opportunity for the community to get to know our public safety dispatchers as well as the Community Service Officers.





## **ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION**

Acting under the supervision of the Chief of Police, the Administrative Division of the City of Weed Police Department consists of the Administrative Sergeant. Current duties assigned to the Administrative Sergeant include grant writing, internal compliance, homeless liaison, and court liaison. The Administrative Sergeant is also tasked with administrative hearings to include parking citations and municipal code violations, as well as internal compliance with department policies. As part of the duties of compliance, the Administrative Division utilizes the previously implemented body camera system for review and determination of officer conduct. The administrative division also assists the support services manager with the submission of video evidence to the court. The Administrative division works closely with the City Clerk, Building Department, and Code enforcement.

The Administrative Sergeant works regularly with Weed Elementary School (WES), Weed High School (WHS), and College of the Siskiyous (COS), in crime prevention and response to reported crime.



*Weed Elementary students preparing to participate in the 18th annual (2023) Shop With A Cop program, organized yearly by the Weed Peace Officers' Association.*

## **Investigations**

The Investigations Division is supervised by the Administrative Sergeant. The Investigator position is an assigned role and is responsible for the follow-up of investigations on criminal allegations involving crimes against people, property crimes, and juvenile crimes. The investigator is assigned follow up based on referral from the initial officer after review by a supervisor. The Investigator also conducts compliance checks and residence verifications on registered sex registrants. The Investigator works closely with our Evidence Technician during the preservation and collection process.

## **Body Worn Cameras**

The Weed Police Department remains committed to maintaining a functioning officer worn body camera system. The data collected is utilized both internally and presented as evidence in court. Administrative staff reviews footage frequently to ensure professional service and identify training needs. The Support Services Manager fields discovery requests from the District Attorney's office regularly in the prosecution of cases; and makes the request to administrative staff for the retrieval of data to be forwarded back. As the cost of maintaining body worn cameras continues to rise, due to the storage of evidence in the cloud-based system, the Weed Police Department strives to keep this as a tool we use.

In 2023, The Weed Police Department upgraded to the Axon Body 3 after a recommendation from the Measure O Fund Committee, utilizing local tax measure funds for the initial 5 yea contract purchase.



*Axon 3 body worn cameras that officers wear during shift*

## PATROL DIVISION

The City of Weed Police Department Patrol Division operates under the Patrol Sergeant with a Corporal assigned to assist. As needed, the Administrative Sergeant is also utilized in the role of patrol. The Weed Police Department makes patrol a priority and actively recruits new officers to complete the ranks to maintain service to the community.

The Patrol Division recorded a total of 20,406 incidents in 2022 and 26,092 incidents in 2023. These incidents consist of calls for service; Officer initiated incidents, arrests, citations, and traffic collisions.

The Weed Police Department is devoted to community service and providing a peaceful, safe environment for its citizens and visitors. The Weed Police Department strives to be proactive and keep property crime incidents to a minimum. As an example, the Weed Police Department received 122 theft reports during the calendar year of 2023. Weed Police Department conducted 1,712 commercial business and extra patrol checks in 2023, to keep the number of thefts at this low level.

The Weed Police Department has adjusted the patrol schedule to provide more visibility of the Police on peak days to reflect the proactive attitude of the Department.



*Narcotics and firearms recovered by officers from a traffic stop during “routine” patrol.*

Weed Police Department takes the training and education of its Officers very seriously, going far beyond the mandatory 24 hours of training every two years required by Peace Officers Standard and Training. Officers are sent to beginning and advanced training in fields such as Sexual Assault for First Responders, Domestic Violence Investigations for First Responders, Human Trafficking Investigations, and Field Training Officer updates to name just a few.

As part of an ongoing agreement with the College of the Siskiyous, which does not maintain its own campus law enforcement authority, the Weed Police Department provides police services necessary to ensure the safety and security of the campus. The responsibilities of the Weed Police Department include:

- Responding to reported crimes and performance of investigation
- Traffic and parking control, including collision investigations
- Prevention and detection of crime through routine patrol, working with campus safety regularly
- Enforcement of state, and municipal laws and COS District regulations and policies.
- Assignment of officers for special events (as requested)

## K9 Drax



The Weed Police Department K9 Unit is responsible for assisting with suspect apprehension, narcotics scent detection, and handler protection. Aside from the required training, the team trains together both on and off duty to strengthen the team's bond and enhance their skills. The canine resides with the handler at his residence, where the handler cares for the canine's daily needs. The K9 Unit is available for call outs while on and off duty for the Weed Police Department, and to assist outside agencies who request assistance. These requests include searches for suspects involved in crimes, open air narcotics "sniffs", building searches, and high-risk traffic stops.

In 2023, K9 Drax conducted "open air vehicle searches" for the Weed Police Dept. and allied agencies. During one notable incident, K9 Drax was alerted to the odor of narcotics during a vehicle stop, and as a result, both narcotics and a stolen gun were located. The suspect was a convicted felon and could not possess a firearm. During another traffic stop, K9 Drax was alerted to the odor of narcotics, and 95 lbs. of processed illegal cannabis was located within the vehicle.



One of the invaluable benefits of a K9 Unit on patrol is called “a surrender.” When a suspect noticeably changes their behavior due to the K9’s presence and the situation de-escalates, it’s noted as a “surrender.” In March of 2023, K9 Drax assisted the California Highway Patrol with a pursuit that originated in the Montague area and terminated on I-5 near the City of Dunsmuir. Upon K9 Drax’s arrival, the suspect was not responding to verbal commands. Once the suspect observed K9 Drax, the suspect complied and was safely taken into custody.

In May of 2023, K9 Drax and his handler again completed their yearly recertification. K9 Drax and handler Cp. Green participated in community events representing the Weed Police Department. During the Rolling in Weed Car Show, K9 Drax, The Friends of K9 Drax, and the California Highway Patrol held a “Bike Rodeo.” Local students from Weed Elementary School participate in a coloring contest. The artwork was then entered into a drawing where the lucky students received new bicycles purchased with funds donated by Elite Realty, Grocery Outlet, and Mark & Mary Mazzoni. Approximately 20 bikes were given away along with bicycle helmets donated by Weed Technology & Fabrication.

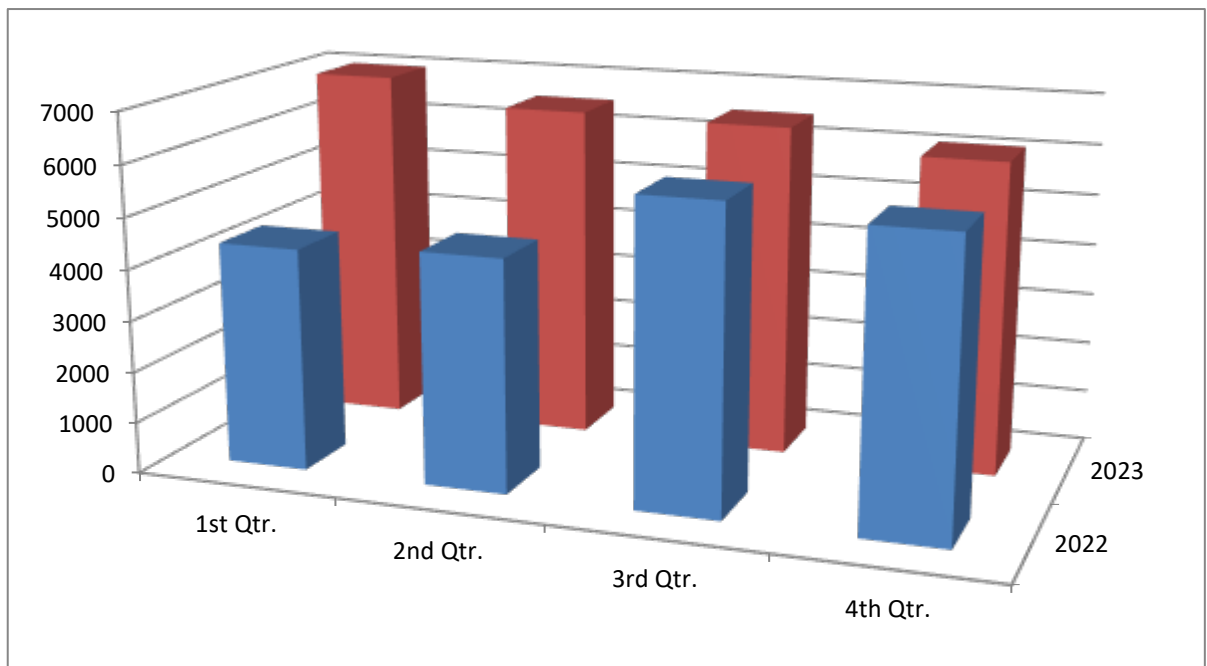
K9 Drax and his partner are looking forward to the coming year and continue to serve the community, both in their law enforcement roles and community caretaking.



## Statistical Data

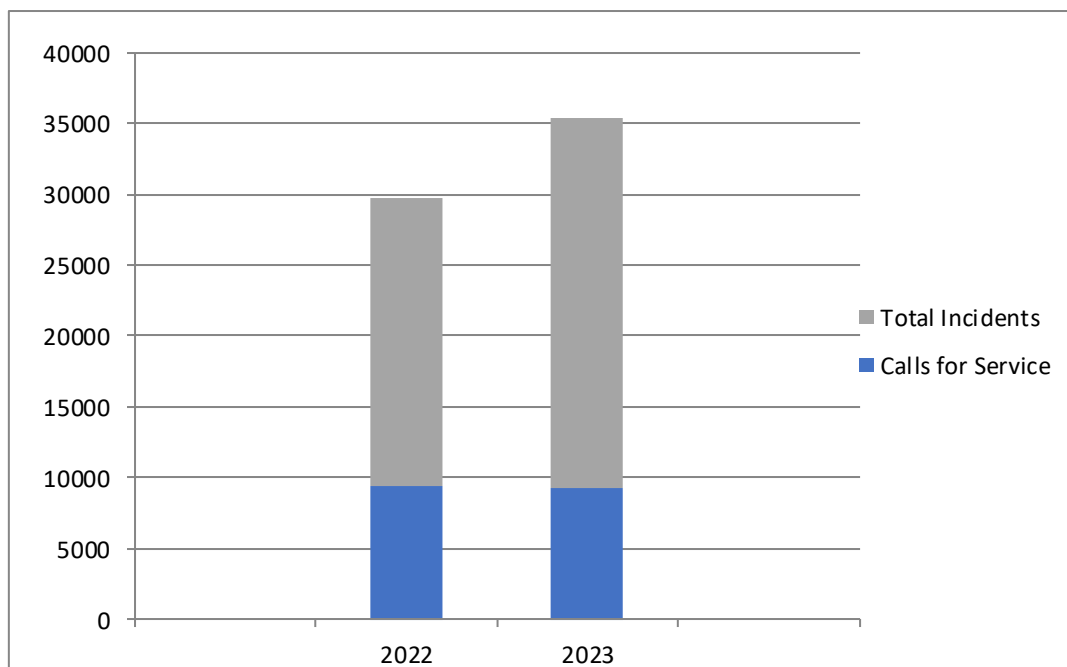
Below you will find statistical data related to our department's activities. As you can see from the chart below, as officers complete the field training program and become solo officers, incidents tend to increase, as the department becomes fully staffed.

Incident Totals



## Calls for Service

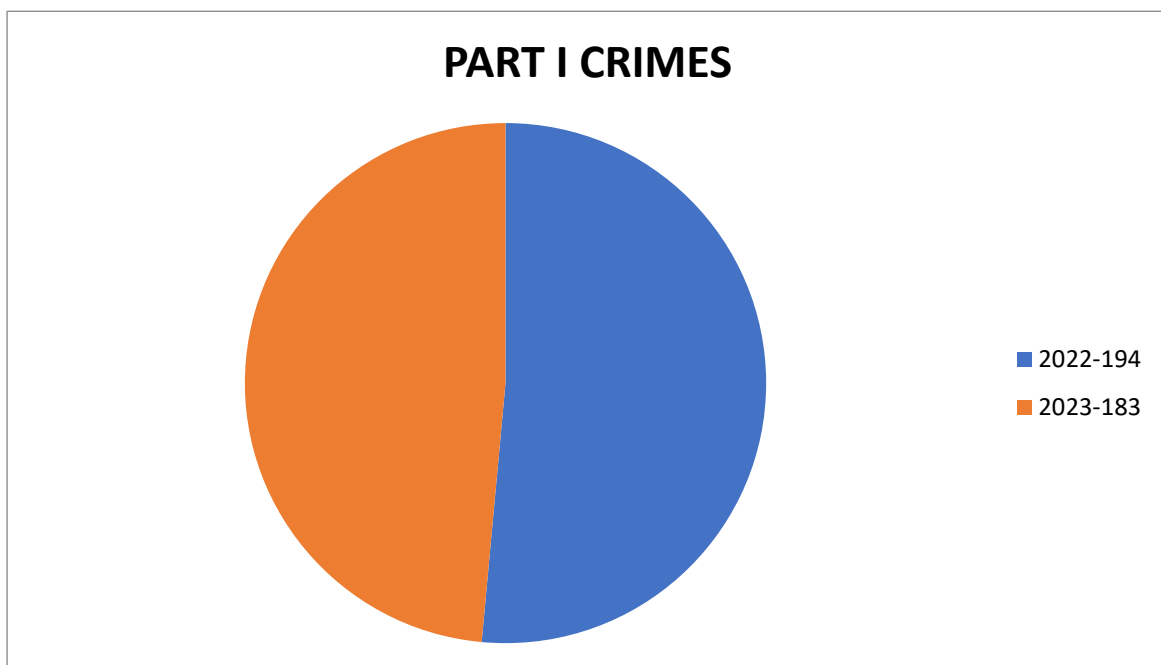
The Weed Police Department responds 24 hours a day to a large variety of different types of calls for service.



Total calls for service in 2022 were at 9,380 and in 2023 were at 9,259. The Weed Police Department has seen an increase of over 5,000 incidents from the previous year. When looking at the chart, it's important to remember that it is our goal to have a larger amount of an officer's time spent in the grey portion. This allows the officer to focus on being proactive in deterring crime. Time spent in the blue portion can also be attributed to calls for service in grey that would include extra patrol requests, area specific traffic enforcement requests, or problem-oriented policing.

## Part I Crimes

The types of crimes that are considered Part I crimes are defined by the California Department of Justice (DOJ) when criminal statistical data is reported. Part I crimes consist of Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated and Simple Assault, Burglary, and Theft. In 2022, the Weed Police Department had 194 Part 1 crimes. In 2023, the Weed Police Department had 183 Part I crimes. Our staff is dedicated to deterring crime and identifying those responsible for criminal acts. With the support of our community members, our dedicated neighborhood patrols, and neighborhood watch programs, we were able to see a decrease in Part I crimes in the future, regardless of the limitations imposed on us that are out of our control.



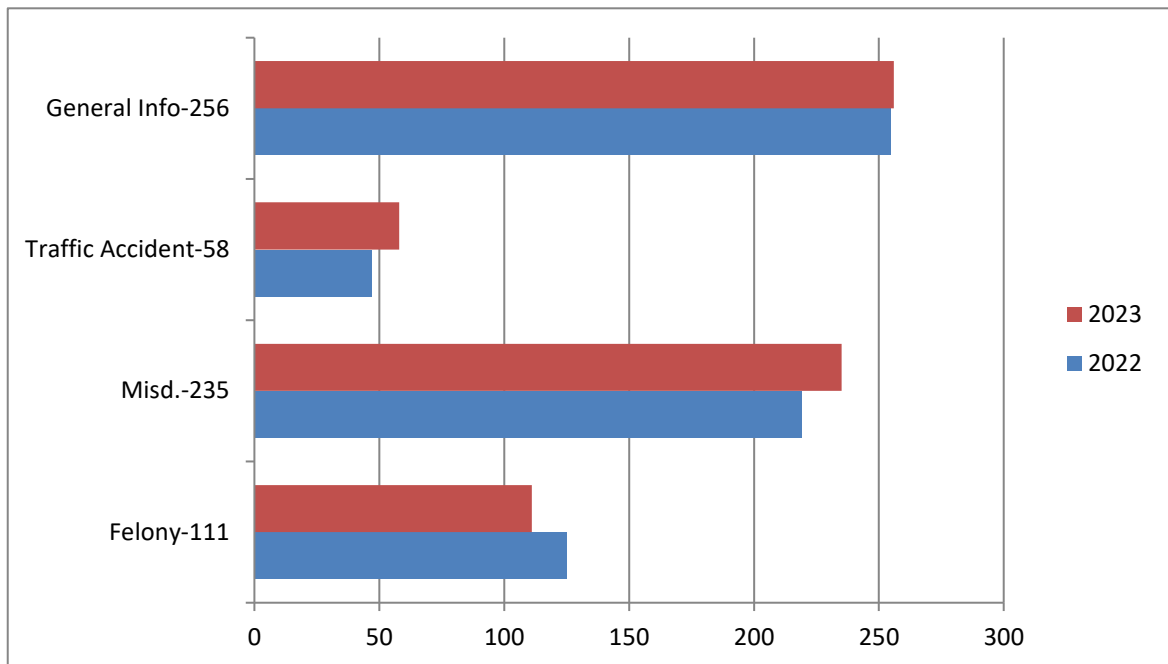
## **Traffic Collisions**

During 2022, the Weed Police Department responded to a total of 139 traffic collision incidents. In 2023 the Weed Police Department responded to a total of 166 traffic collision incidents. In the Weed Police Department system, collisions consist of on roadway incidents (occurring on city streets or state highways) and off roadway incidents (occurring on private property or parking lots). Collision incidents include those labeled as hit and run. Officers will complete reports for both types of collisions, or the involved parties may exchange information in some instances. During 2023 there were a total of six (6) traffic collisions where injuries were reported. The Weed Police Department attempts to keep this number low by enforcing traffic laws and being proactive when it comes to counseling drivers about unsafe driving techniques.



## Case Investigations

There was a total of 646 cases pulled in 2022 and 660 cases pulled in 2023. The graph below shows that although felony crime reports are decreasing, misdemeanor crime trends are continuing to rise.



## Case Arrest by Offense Level

### 2022

Felony Arrests 81

Misdemeanor Arrest 170

### 2023

Felony Arrest 85

Misdemeanor Arrest 195

\*Arrests include those related to initial case investigation(s) and those made according to a warrant issued by a court.

## Weed Police Department Incidents by Type (2022)

<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Incident Tot.</u>	<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Incident Tot.</u>
Total Incidents	20,406	Calls for Service	9,380
Off. Initiated Activity	11,026	Pedestrian Checks	335
Commercial Checks	1,168	Area Checks	3,632
Vehicle Checks	1,656	Citizen Assists	665
Welfare Check Req.	211	Mental Health Inc.	29
Outside Agency Assist	346	Found Property Inc.	76
Traffic Stops	628	Parking Violations	1,106
Public Nuisances	149	Subpoena Service	48
Citations (Inc. Parking)	397	Traffic Accidents	139
Reckless Driver	58	Civil Issue Complaint	124
Animal Calls	396	Missing Person	41
Y.A.N.A.	2,067	Sex Offender Reg	31
Domestic Disputes	22		
Disturbances (Includes physical fights, verbal altercations, and initially unknown)	491		

## Weed Police Department Incidents by Type (2023)

<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Incident Tot.</u>	<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Incident Tot.</u>
Total Incidents	26,092	Calls for Service	9,259
Off. Initiated Activity	16,833	Pedestrian Checks	289
Commercial Checks	1,542	Area Checks	5,797
Vehicle Checks	2,285	Citizen Assists	853
Welfare Check Req.	200	Mental Health Inc.	51
Outside Agency Assist	387	Found Property Inc.	82
Traffic Stops	1,229	Parking Violations	1,540
Public Nuisances	167	Subpoena Service	48
Citations (Inc. Parking)	593	Traffic Accidents	166
Reckless Driver	50	Civil Issue Complaint	123
Animal Calls	396	Missing Person	28
Y.A.N.A.	2,012	Sex Offender Reg	32
Domestic Disputes	27		
Disturbances (Includes physical fights, verbal altercations, and initially unknown)	337		



## **CONCLUSION**

The goals established by the Weed Police Department have been enacted to guide improvements in management support, inter-agency cooperation, personnel development, and basic operational skills addressing a wide range of police responsibilities. As a result, the Department will be challenged to integrate improvements in each area. Such is required to maintain organizational cohesiveness and to ensure that efforts in each area effectively contribute to the overall police mission.

The Department will continue to work toward building an organization ideally suited to promoting a police-community coalition against crime in the City of Weed. Success in that regard demands:

- that maximum benefit be derived from the outstanding skills and talents of department employees,
- that the organization be structured to provide accountable and responsive service to the community; and
- that the department remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting the citizens of this community.

As crime continues to be a community concern, this report intends to provide an update on where we stand today...and to encourage continued and expanded participation by everyone so the future will be safer for the citizens of Weed.