

# Savannah Police Department 2025 Annual Report



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### **Mission Statement**

**The mission of the Savannah Police Department is to make Savannah a safer place to live, work, and visit.**

### **Vision Statement**

**The vision of the Savannah Police Department is to be a forward-thinking agency, by providing proactive services and programs that make our community a better place to live, work, and raise a family.**

### **Motto**

**The motto of the Savannah Police Department is “Honor, Integrity, Service”**

## Message from the Chief:

I am pleased to submit to you the 2025 Annual Report of the Savannah Police Department. This past year has seen many challenges as well as many triumphs. Through all of these, the men and women of the Savannah Police Department have not been deterred in their mission to make Savannah a safer community to live, work, and visit.

I am happy to report that **for the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row, the crime rate in Savannah has dropped.** 2024 saw no homicides in our city. **In total crime, Savannah saw a 12.5% reduction in 2024. Our overall crime rate for 2024 was the lowest since the TBI began tracking this data.** All of that to say that the hard work of the men and women who make up our department is showing dividends in the safety of our citizens. For the year, our top two crimes were simple assaults and drug related charges. As such, we will be putting a concentrated effort on further combatting those issues in 2025.

In association with the reduced crime rate numbers, I am extremely proud to report that **our patrol division performed more than 5,400 business/church/school walk throughs during 2024.** This program requires officers to go into businesses/churches/schools and introduce themselves to patrons and employees, check the area, and be present. By encouraging these “out of car” activities, we are helping local business owners and residents get acquainted with our officers and have positive interactions. This is the basis of community policing, and I am proud that our department is excelling in this area.

Any accomplishments that this department makes are not possible without the hard work, dedication, and determination of the men and women that come to work each day committed to making Savannah better. From the newest officer to the most senior employee, everyone understands their role in the big picture and embraces it to accomplish our mission. It is truly an honor to lead this department, and I look forward to what 2025 has in store.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MPitts'.

**Michael Pitts**  
**Chief of Police**

## IN MEMORIAL



City Marshal Fred Stricklin  
Shot and Killed in the line of duty July 20, 1942



Officer Jamison Woody  
October 2, 1984 – August 15, 2014  
Killed in an off-duty car crash

## **2024 QUICK FACTS**

<u>City of Savannah Population</u>	7,286*
<u>Savannah Police Department Authorized Personnel</u>	26 full-time sworn 2 clerical civilian 2 part-time sworn
<u>Savannah Police Department Budget July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</u>	\$2,803,231.00
<u>Savannah Police Department Budget July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025</u>	\$2,625,565.00
<u>Total Calls for Service</u>	10,670
<u>Total Business Walk-Thrus</u>	5,436
<u>Total Number of Incidents with Crimes in 2024:</u>	759
<u>Total Number of Arrests**</u>	724
<u>White Offenders</u>	646 (89.23%)
<u>Black Offenders</u>	73 (10.09%)
<u>Hispanic Offenders</u>	3 (0.41%)
<u>Asian Offenders</u>	2 (0.27%)
<u>Other Race or Unknown Offenders</u>	0
<u>Male Offenders</u>	494 (68.23%)
<u>Female Offenders</u>	230 (31.77%)
<u>Total Number of Traffic Stops Performed</u>	2,341
<u>Total City Court Citations</u>	1398
<u>Total General Sessions Citations</u>	128
<u>Total Warnings</u>	1311
<u>Total Miles Patrolled</u>	132,819
<u>Total Number of Traffic Crashes</u>	402
<u>Fatal Crashes</u>	1
<u>Injury Crashes</u>	39
<u>On Roadway Property Damage Crashes</u>	188
<u>Off Roadway/Private Property Crashes</u>	174

\*2023 Estimate

\*\*Includes arrests for offenses committed outside jurisdiction such as warrants, etc

## Savannah Police Department - NIBRS Agency Crime Overview - 2024

2023 Population Estimate		7,286		Offenses (*)		Arrests (**)	
				Reported	Cleared	Adult	Juvenile
Offense Overview		Group A Offenses					
		Crimes Against Persons					
Offense Total	759	Murder		0	0	0	0
Number Cleared	454	Negligent Manslaughter		0	0	0	0
Percent Cleared	59.82%	Negligent Vehicular Manslaughter		0	0	0	0
Group A Crimes per 100,000 population	10,417.2	Kidnapping/Abduction		1	1	0	0
		All Rape		3	3	1	0
		Criminal Sexual Contact		3	0	0	0
		Incest		0	0	0	0
		Statutory Rape		3	2	2	0
Arrest Overview		Aggravated Assault		47	42	26	1
Total Arrests	507	Simple Assault		124	106	57	7
Adult Arrests	470	Intimidation		37	10	4	0
Juvenile Arrests	37	Stalking		0	0	0	0
Unknown Age	0	Commercial Sex Acts		0	0	0	0
Arrests per 100,000 population	6,958.6	Involuntary Servitude		0	0	0	0
		Crimes Against Property					
Average number offenses/incident		Arson		1	0	0	0
		Bribery		0	0	0	0
Domestic Violence Victims		Burglary		35	9	8	0
Offense	Reported	Cleared	Counterfeiting/Forgery	20	5	6	0
Murder	0	0	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	51	24	7	2
Aggravated Assault	8	6	Embezzlement	2	0	0	0
Simple Assault	77	70	Extortion/Blackmail	0	0	0	0
Intimidation	6	4	Fraud - False Pretenses	65	27	24	0
Stalking	0	0	Fraud - Credit Card/ATM	25	4	1	0
All Rape	0	0	Fraud - Impersonation	3	2	1	0
Criminal Sexual Contact	0	0	Fraud - Welfare	0	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	Fraud - Wire	13	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	Fraud - Identity Theft	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping/Abduction	1	1	Fraud - Computer Hacking/Invasion	0	0	0	0
Commercial Sex Acts	0	0	Robbery	0	0	0	0
Involuntary Servitude	0	0	Theft - Pocket-picking	0	0	0	0
Total	92	81	Theft - Purse Snatching	1	0	0	0
Group B Arrests		Theft - Shoplifting		46	30	32	4
Offense	Adult	Juvenile	Theft From Building	19	6	5	0
Bad Checks	0	0	Theft From Coin Machine	0	0	0	0
Curfew/Vagrancy	0	0	Theft From Motor Vehicle	15	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	2	0	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts	7	0	0	0
DUI	40	1	Theft - All Other Larceny	50	11	7	1
Drunkennes	100	0	Motor Vehicle Theft	17	7	4	0
Family-Non Violent	2	0	Stolen Property Offenses	6	5	3	0
Liquor Law Violations	8	3	Crimes Against Society				
Peeping Tom	0	0	Animal Cruelty	6	6	6	0
Trespass	5	5	Drug/Narcotic Violations	100	97	89	1
All Other Offenses	12	9	Drug/Narcotic Equipment Violations	52	51	14	3
Total Group B	169	18	Gambling - Betting/Wagering	0	0	0	0
		Gambling - Operating/Promoting		0	0	0	0
		Gambling - Equipment Violations		0	0	0	0
		Gambling - Sports Tampering		0	0	0	0
		Pornography/Obscene Material		1	0	0	0
		Prostitution		0	0	0	0
		Prostitution Assisting/Promoting		0	0	0	0
		Purchasing Prostitution		0	0	0	0
		Weapon Law Violations		6	6	4	0
		Total Group A Offenses		759	454	301	19

### Crime in Tennessee 2024

(\*) Offenses are counted using the FBI Units of Count for Crime

(\*\*) The 'Arrests' column shows arrests made for incidents during the selected period, regardless of arrest date. Arrest counts for the same period may change over time.



## **2024 Personnel Changes**

### **Left the Agency**

- Sergeant Bobby Crumby resigned in January 2024
- Officer Talon Creasy resigned in May 2024
- Corporal Ethan Lusk resigned in June 2024
- Detective Cody Magness resigned in September 2024
- Sgt. Detective Mark Mitchell retired in September 2024

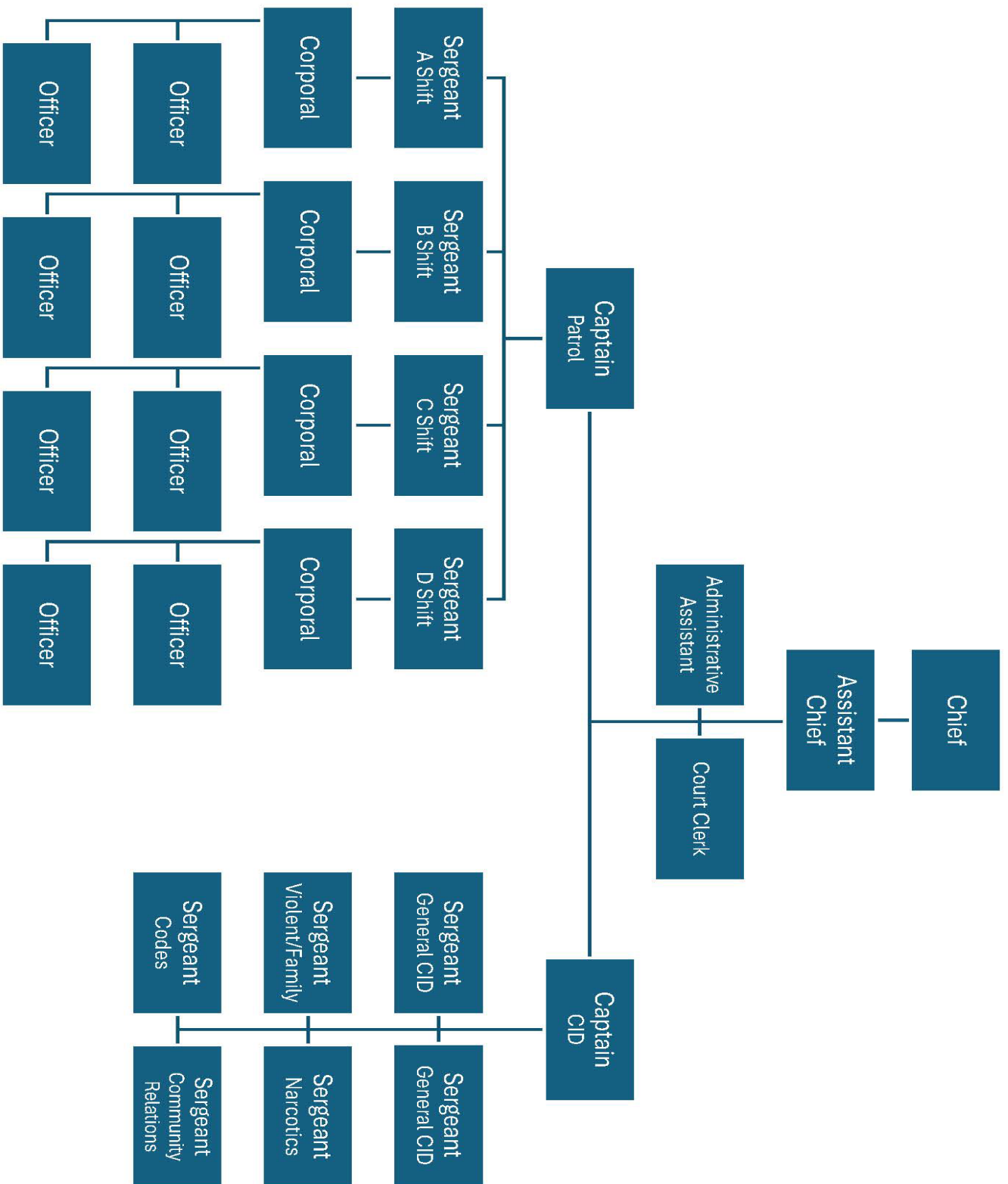
### **New Hires**

- Ian Qualls was hired as an officer in January 2024
- Blake Huckabee was hired as an officer in September 2024
- Josh Gilbert was hired as an officer in September 2024
- Blake Buntyn was hired as an officer in October 2024
- Dustin Flake was hired as an officer in October 2024
- Ethan Lusk was rehired as an officer in November 2024

### **Promotions**

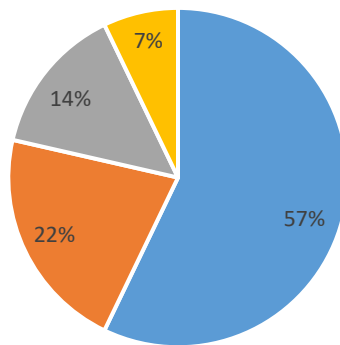
- Wesley Alexander was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in February 2024
- James McDonald was promoted to the rank of Corporal in June 2024
- Jeff Garland was promoted to the rank of Corporal in June 2024
- Charles White was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in November 2024
- Jeff Garland was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in November 2024
- Sergeant Wesley Murphy was reassigned to the investigations division in November 2024.
- Sergeant Micheal Darrington was reassigned to the role of department public information officer in November 2024
- Sergeant Ben Cossey was reassigned to the investigations division in November 2024





## Personnel Distribution 2024

28 Total Employees



■ Patrol - 16 Employees      ■ Investigations - 6 Employees  
■ Administration - 4 Employees      ■ Support Services - 2 Employees

### Administration

1 Police Chief  
1 Assistant Chief  
2 Captains

### Investigations

6 Sergeant Detectives  
1 Violent/Family Crimes Detective  
1 Narcotics Detective  
1 Codes Enforcement Detective  
1 Public Information/Community Relations  
2 General Crimes Detectives

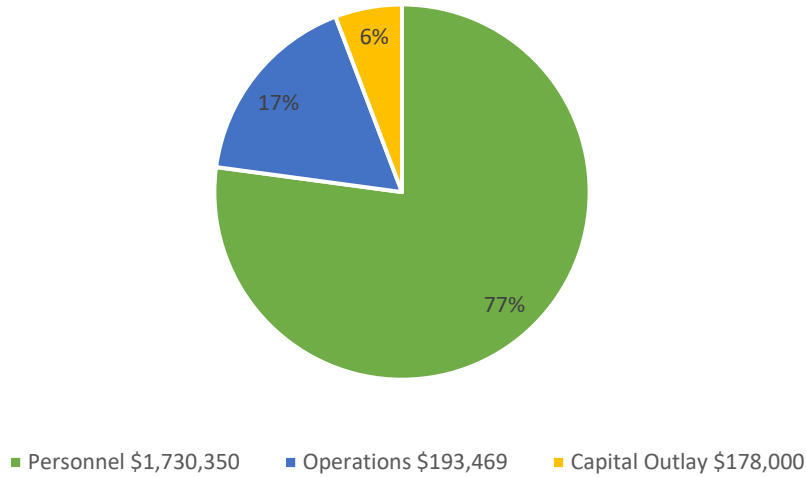
### Support Services

1 Administrative Assistant  
1 Court Clerk

### Patrol Division

4 Sergeants  
4 Corporals  
8 Officers

Budget Overview FY24  
Total Budget Allocations \$2,626,565



FY25 Major Fiscal Projects

- Purchase of three (3) new vehicles: (2) unmarked SUVs for investigations, (1) marked SUV for patrol
- Purchase of twenty-six (26) new Glock 45 .9mm sidearms with 509T holographic sight
- Purchase of sixteen (16) new Angstadt UDP-9 patrol rifles for assignment to patrol division

**2024 Departmental Awards**  
**As voted by peer officers**

**Going the Extra Mile Award**

Selected by department vote for the employee who goes above and beyond for the citizens of Savannah.

- Officer Chelsea Fralix

**Chief's Award**

Selected by the Chief for a sworn employee who has an outstanding commitment to boost morale, foster a positive work environment, and make a positive impact every day.

- Sergeant Charles White

**Outstanding Leader Award**

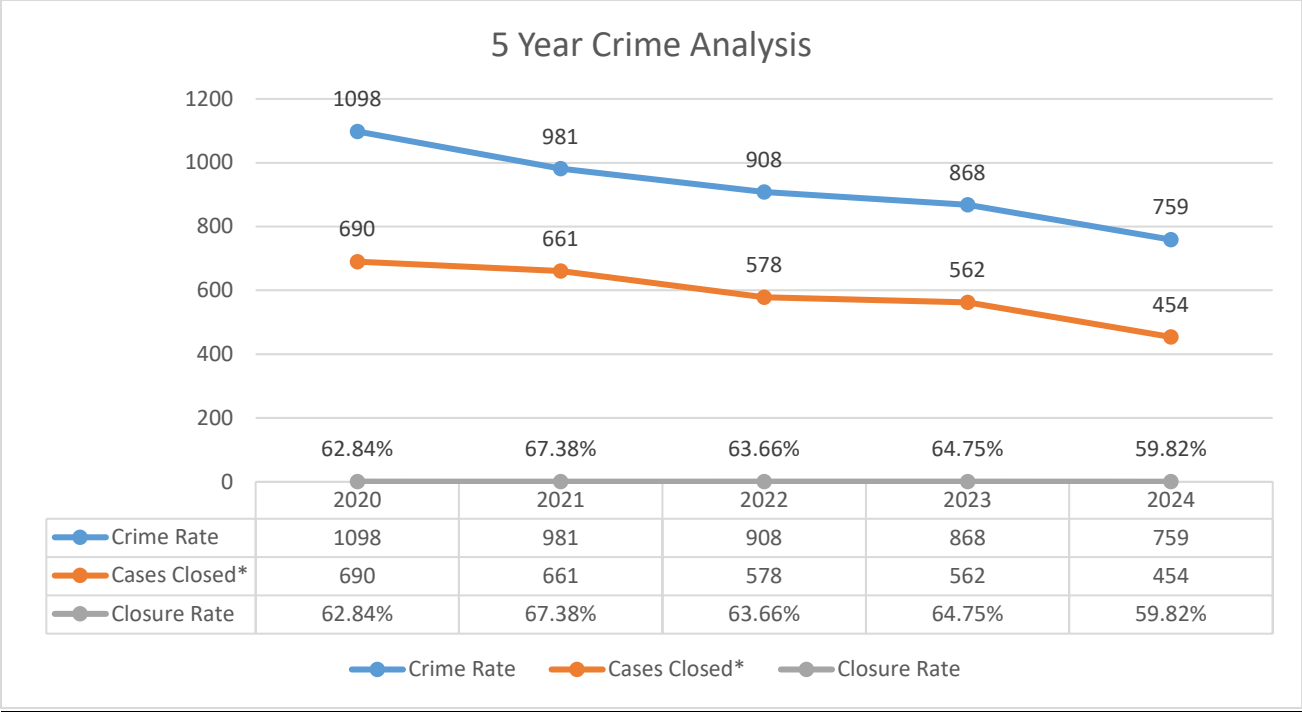
Selected by department vote for the employee who has best exemplified the qualities, characteristics, and commitment of an outstanding leader.

- Captain Alan Hooper

**Officer of the Year**

Selected by department vote for the employee who has best exemplified the qualities, characteristics, and commitment of a police officer.

- Officer Jerry Hardin



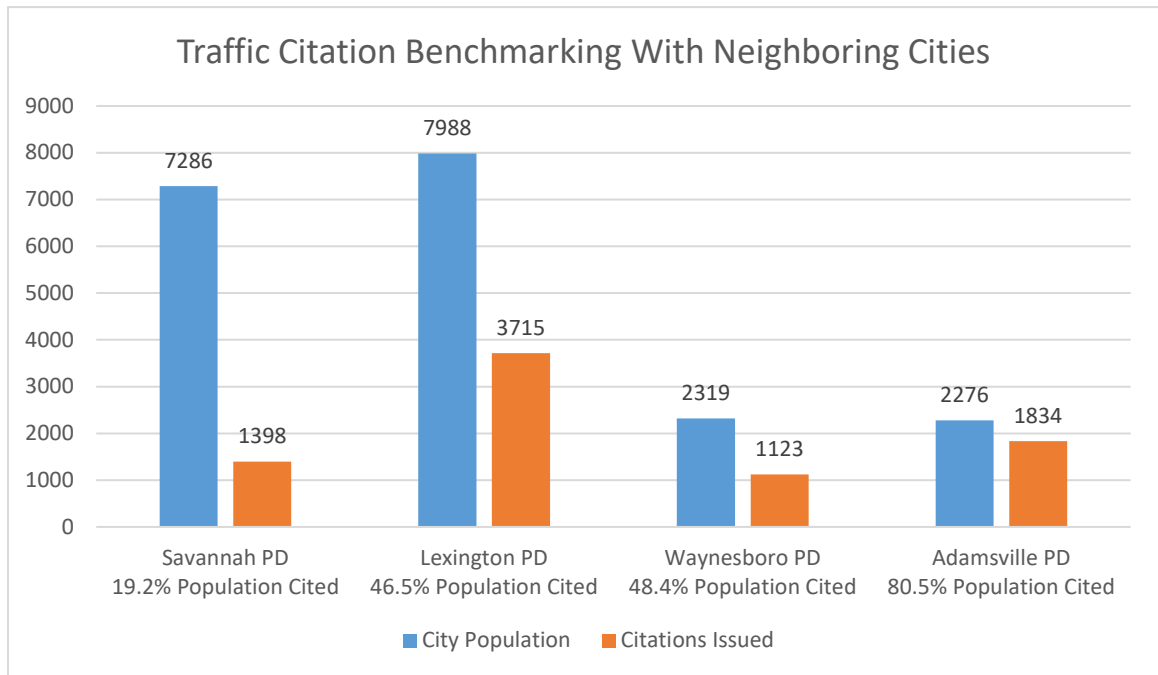
Overall, crime in Savannah has been declining over the past several years, with the crime rate peaking in 2016 and then slowly decreasing each year since. This is attributed to the hard work and dedication of our officers who deeply desire to see that number continue to decline.

Additionally, the number of cases closed by either arrest or exemption has remained relatively constant. While the percentage of closed cases dipped slightly this year in relation to previous years, much of this can be attributed to the loss of 1 detective for a significant portion of the year as well as a technology issue with our reporting vendor. That said, a significant emphasis is being put on case closure in 2025.



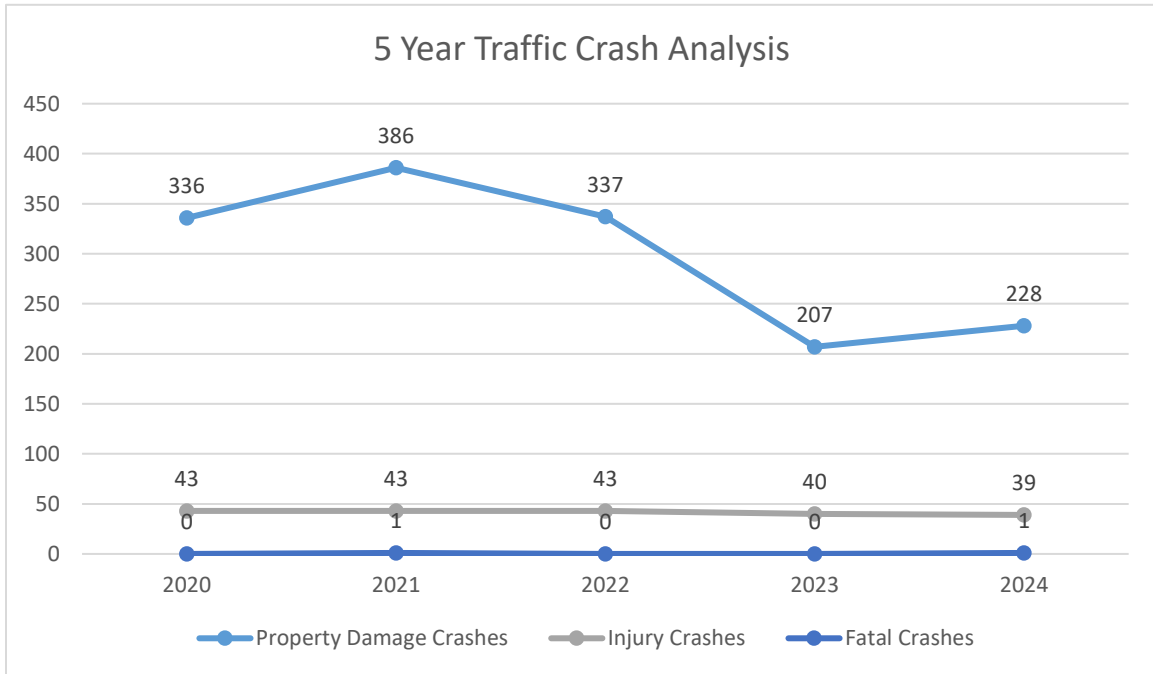
\*(Arrest or Exemption)

## Traffic Enforcement Analysis



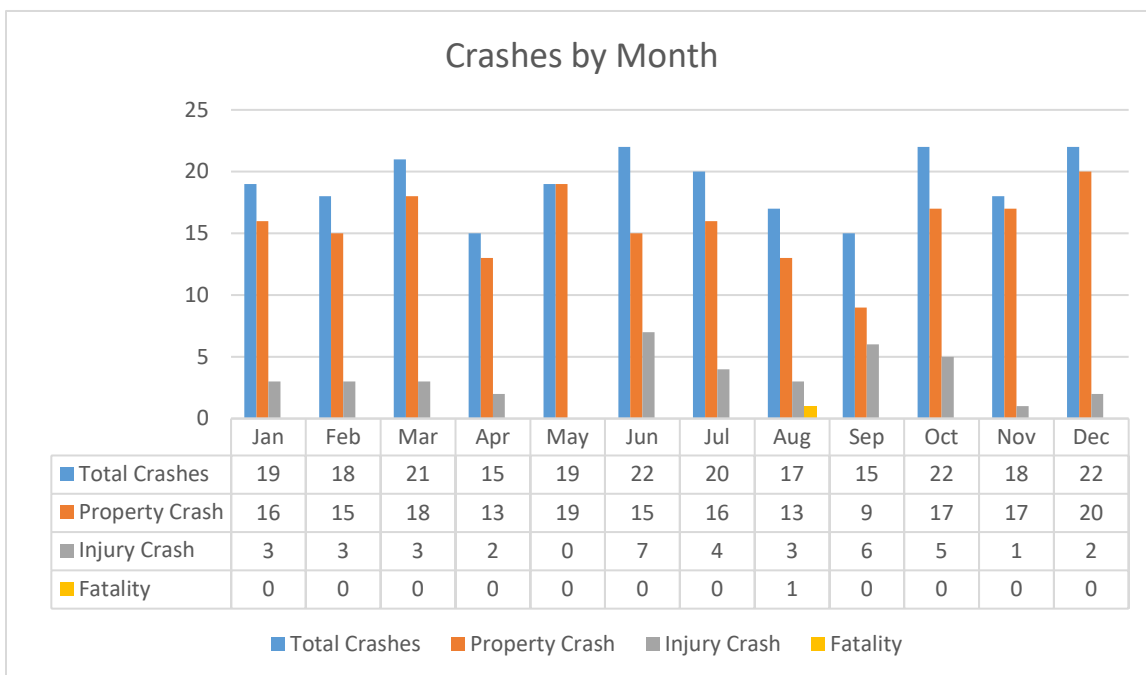
Savannah Police Department has primary jurisdiction over 6.5 square miles comprising the city of Savannah. This includes enforcement of all traffic laws and investigation of alleged traffic violations. These include municipal ordinance and state law violations. All municipal violations are cited through Savannah Municipal Court and state law violations are cited through Hardin County General Sessions Court. Savannah Police Department utilizes electronic citations to ensure the validity, accuracy, and accountability of citations issued by our officers. As shown above, SPD issues far less citations proportionally to our population than other cities around us.





Traffic crashes have been trailing in a downward trend over the last few years. A change in TITAN reporting rules through the state of Tennessee reduced the number of reported crashes. While we would certainly love to take credit for this dramatic reduction in crashes, it is statistically an anomaly. This reduction should be overlooked since an outside variable played a dramatic part in the last two years' reduction in crashes.

### Crashes by Month





<b>Savannah (TN) Police Department</b>	<b>My90</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Total Responses	190,364	65	101
Response Rate	19%	15.6%	21%
Percentage of Respondents who answered, "Very Positive" or "Positive" to the question "Based on your interaction, how do you view the agency?"	85%	89%	86%
Percentage of Respondents who answered, "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" to the following questions:			
I was treated with respect	90%	100%	91%
I was treated fairly	87%	89%	91%
The Officer/Staff listened to me	88%	100%	89%
The Officer/Staff answered my questions	85%	100%	93%
I understood what the Officer/Staff told me	90%	100%	89%
Percentage of respondents who answered "Yes" to the question "Did you receive the help you needed?"	85%	88.6%	79%
Percentage of Respondents who answered the following to the question "What is your top safety concern in your community?"			
Traffic Offenses (Crashes, Intoxicated Drivers, Speeding, Etc.)	14%	10%	9%
Gang Activity	9%	5%	0%
Gun Violence	13%	5%	2%
Physical Attacks	8%	5%	2%
Drug Use/Sales	12%	40%	41%
Theft	25%	20%	20%
Percentage of Respondents who answered the following to the question "What would you most like your law enforcement agency to do to improve safety in your community?)"			
Increase patrol car visibility	55%	64%	44%
Increase community engagement	17%	18%	20%
Increase information sharing	9%	4%	9%

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Increase agency staffing	10 %	11%	15%
Increase officer training	8%	4%	11%
Demographics			
Percentage of respondents who answered the following to "What best describes your race/ethnicity?"			
Black/African American	12%	2.17%	1%
Native American	15	4.35%	1%
White	66%	93.48%	93%
Percentage of respondents who answered the following to "What best describes your gender?"			
Male	42%	45.5%	26%
Female	58%	54.5%	72%
Percentage of respondents who answered the following to "What is your age range?"			
21-27	7%	11.4%	10%
28-35	12%	22.7%	15%
36-45	19%	6.82%	17%
46-60	31%	25%	25%
61+	29%	34.1%	31%