

Rome Police Department



Annual Report

2023

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Chief's Welcome



Members of the Rome City Commission
Sammy Rich, City Manager
City of Rome
601 Broad Street
Rome, GA 30161

Commissioners and Mr. Rich:

On behalf of the men and women of the Rome Police Department, it is my pleasure to present to you the 2023 Annual Report, entitled, "Our People."

For the past 147 years, *our people* have made the Rome Police Department an integral part of the City of Rome community. A career with this department is more than a job; it is a lifestyle packed with goals, opportunities, and continuous aspirations.

Our purpose, through our people, is to make a positive impact on the lives of our citizens while protecting those very people. To achieve this, we promote our values and our culture, characterized by diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunities. We maximize our talent and continually provide opportunities for learning and professional growth. We must guarantee our community that we are presenting the highest quality, best trained workforce of police officers possible.

This report contains information regarding agency operations and functions, including reported criminal activity, calls for service, investigations and arrests, traffic data, citizen complaints, collected revenues, and agency achievements.

Throughout the year, employees continued to participate in local, state, and federal programs including Leadership Rome, Teen Safe Driving Expo, Teen Vehicle Operations Course (TVOC), Rotary, Exchange Club, Hospitality House, Boys and Girls Club, Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE), FBI National Academy, and others.

I express my sincerest thanks to this community which continues to demonstrate support and encouragement throughout the year. I also thank each employee, sworn and non-sworn, for their continued dedication and commitment to the betterment of our city, and the Rome Police Department.

We are, because of our people.

Respectfully,

Chief Denise Downer-McKinney
Chief Denise Downer-McKinney

Dedication

Our people.

The nearly 100 men and women of the Rome Police Department commit themselves daily to compassion, empathy, and a desire to make a difference in the lives of those they encounter as they continue serving the City of Rome. Our core values of integrity, excellence, and dedication are on display in all we do. Integrity, empathy, effective communication, adaptability, and a commitment to community engagement are just a few of the traits that each of us possess.

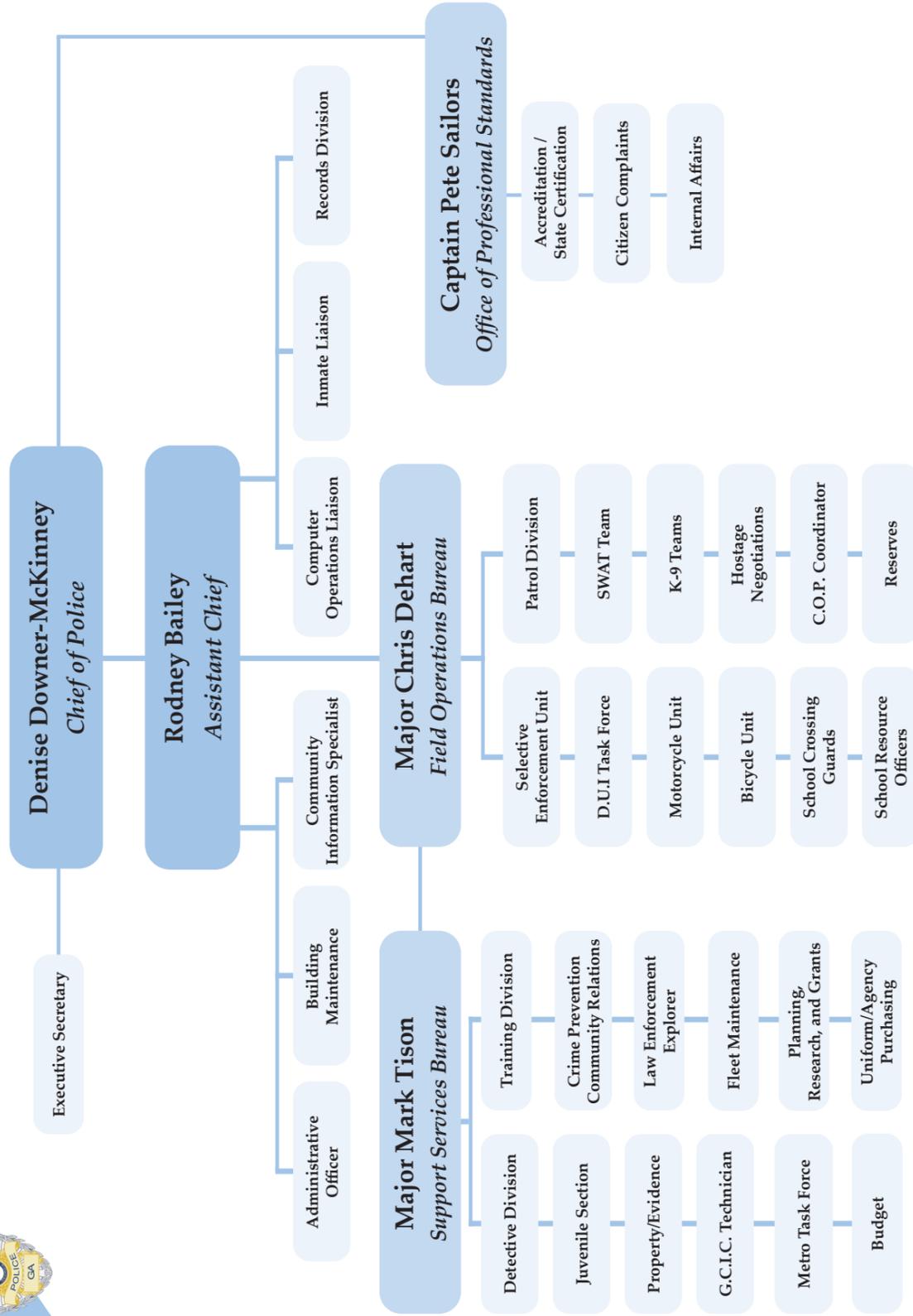


From educational awards to graduating from the FBI's National Academy, our people are talented, experienced individuals who hold many advanced degrees and certifications. As we closed 2023 out, five members of the team retired, representing a combined 174 years of service to the department. Trying to replace that level of longevity, service, and experience could present a challenge, yet our succession planning helps create a seamless transition. Promotions within the department included 1 Assistant Chief, 2 Majors, 2 Captains, 2 Lieutenants, and 3 Sergeants. Two officers achieved Patrolman First Class status, and eight new officers were hired.

Our people - from the officers, to the civilians, mechanic, secretaries and clerks - we are eternally grateful for the deeds of each. The courageous men and women at Rome Police Department who have taken the oath to serve and protect the citizens of the City of Rome are recognized for their dedication, loyalty, and sacrifices. The Rome Police Department recognizes that, in the present day environment of continuous public scrutiny, the demand for quality service is higher than ever. However, as the peacemakers of our community, your first contact during an emergency or disaster, providing comfort, kindness, or first-aid, all are a vital part of our service delivery.



Rome Police Department Organizational Chart



Our Mission

To be the model of excellence
in law enforcement.

We strive for peace, safety,
and the suppression of crime.

We will maintain the trust and
confidence of all people while
working to improve quality of life.

INTEGRITY

We obey the law and respect the human dignity of all people. We are committed to honesty and ethical behavior in all of our actions in order to bring credit and honor to our city, our department, our profession, and our peers.

EXCELLENCE

We are committed to excellence in the service we provide. We are committed to excellence in the community we serve. We are committed to excellence in our personal performance and professionalism.

DEDICATION

We will be dedicated to defend, promote and secure the blessings of liberty for all. We recognize that we must sometimes put the needs of others ahead of our own, even if it means the ultimate cost.



2024 Goals and Objectives

Departmental Goal #1:

To ensure the successful relocation of the Rome Police Department from its current location to a new facility while maintaining uninterrupted services and implementing a comprehensive Continuity of Operations (COOP) plan.

Objectives:

- Facilitate a seamless transition coordinating logistics and resources from the current location to the new facility.
- Conduct Comprehensive COOP exercise to ensure essential police services are maintained outlining timelines, responsibilities, and contingencies for potential disruptions.

Departmental Goal #2:

To fully integrate and implement new technologies including body-worn cameras, fleet video systems, criminal interview room video systems, and automated license plate readers to enhance operational effectiveness, transparency, and public safety within the department.

Objectives:

- Deploy and integrate technological solutions integrating these systems into existing infrastructure and workflows to maximize efficiency and effectiveness.
- Provide training and support for officers and staff on the proper use and maintenance of new technologies.
- Establish protocols for data management with policies and procedures for the collection, storage, and management of data captured by body-worn cameras, fleet video systems, criminal interview room video systems, and automated license plate readers.

Departmental Goal #3:

To replace end-of-life administrative vehicles and the departmental Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) to ensure reliable, safe, and efficient transportation for administrative staff and operational needs.

Objectives:

- Determine the specific requirements for replacement vehicles based on departmental needs, usage patterns, budget considerations, safety features, fuel efficiency, and cost-effectiveness.
- Initiate and begin the procurement process, soliciting bids, negotiating contracts, and coordinating with vendors or manufacturers to acquire the desired vehicles.

Departmental Goal #4:

To sustain an effective and ongoing recruitment process for the police department, establishing a steady influx of qualified candidates to meet staffing needs and enhance departmental diversity and capability.

Objectives:

- Identify key demographics and communities where potential candidates may be found, including universities, military bases, community centers, and online platforms.
- Tailor recruitment efforts to reach out to underrepresented groups and communities to promote diversity within the department.
- Enhance marketing and branding by developing and implementing a comprehensive marketing strategy to promote the police department as an employer of choice.
- Provide guidance and support to potential candidates throughout the recruitment process, including assistance with application preparation, physical fitness training, and interview skills.

Departmental Goal #5:

To significantly reduce the number of speed-related crashes in the city, enhancing road safety and minimizing the risk of injuries and fatalities.

Objectives:

- Implement targeted enforcement measures by increasing police presence and enforcement efforts in areas with high incidences of speed-related crashes, including residential neighborhoods, school zones and high-traffic corridors.
- Enhance Public Awareness and education participating in national and state campaigns highlighting the best driving practices and their impact on road safety, i.e. Seat belts, DUI's.
- Utilize data-driven approaches, crash data, traffic studies, and statistical analysis to identify trends, patterns, and contributing factors and address specific issues and challenges identified.

Departmental Goal #6:

Initiate the process to procure a Certificate of Authorization (COA) for the Rome Police Department, enabling qualified personnel to operate drones effectively and safely in support of law enforcement activities and public safety initiatives.

Objectives:

- Conduct comprehensive research of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) identifying regulations and guidelines pertaining to obtaining a Certificate of Authorization for drone operations by law enforcement agencies.
- Develop training programs and certification protocols for drone pilots within the Rome Police Department.
- Establish protocols for pre-flight checks, mission planning, airspace coordination, data management, and compliance with privacy laws and regulations.

Department Awards

Officers of the Month

January
PFC Jeffery Jackson

February
Officer Evan Kimbel

March
Captain Danny Story

April
PFC Sam Gongwer

May
PFC Robert Groover

June
PFC Dalton Gibbs
PFC Bradley Weeks

July
PFC Tony Boston

August
Investigator Chris Ridling

September
Investigator Misael Castrejon

October
PFC Kevin Drew

November
PFC Dow Turrentine

December
Investigator Chris Ridling

Civilians of the Quarter

1st Quarter
Jenalee Roberts

2nd Quarter
Rhonda Flemister

3rd Quarter
Kristi Rogers

4th Quarter
Valerie Connell
LaShunda Gibby

Officer of the Year

Investigator Chris Ridling

Investigator Chris Ridling was chosen as 2023 Officer of the Year for his actions in both August and December 2023. He worked tirelessly in pursuit of solving several cases which included working over many hours to find witnesses and suspects in cases involving burglary, and robbery. He turned up evidence to clear not only the cases he was working on but cases with other investigators and cities as well. Throughout the year he recovered property and firearms amassing to over \$172,535 in value. Investigator Ridling also tracked down property located several states away so the local jurisdiction would have the capability to seize it. His dedication to the department and the citizens of the City is shown as he requested for certain cases to be assigned to himself. Investigator Ridling is an “outside of the box” thinker, and very detailed in his cases.



Civilian of the Year

Kristi Rogers

Kristi is a hardworking employee that, given her position, often goes unnoticed by others in the department. She always offers to help investigators and others locate information they need and often provides additional information on her own accord. Kristi was instrumental in completing a necessary statistical report within a few days, that in years past took weeks. At the same time, Kristi took a major role in locating and verifying the Task Force’s serialized equipment with little assistance from investigators. Following the submission of these reports, Kristi presented several recommendations to make reporting in the future easier.



Lifesaving Awards

January

Sgt. Brian Sutton

PFC Joey Gravell

PFC Josh Taylor

Officer Stefan Tanner

On a Monday in early January, at about 5:30 pm, Sergeant Sutton received a call regarding a suicide attempt. The caller stated that the individual was cutting himself with a knife, had lost a lot of blood, he had left in a red vehicle, and might be heading toward Atlanta. EMS arrived on the scene of the caller and advised other personnel that a significant amount of blood had been lost, and individual needed to be found.

Sgt. Sutton immediately began patrolling the area for the car. PFC Davis arrived on the scene of the initial incident and began talking to the complainant. He was able to communicate crucial information to Officer Tanner, PFC Taylor, PFC Gravell, and Sgt. Sutton to assist in locating the suicidal patient. PFC Gravell found the car sitting in the parking lot of neighborhood shop and observed blood in the seat. Sgt. Sutton, Officer Tanner, and PFC Taylor responded to the area to locate the patient.

PFC Gravell went inside the shop to watch the exterior camera and observed the patient go into a location attached to the store and never come out. Officer Tanner and PFC Taylor went to the side door to attempt to communicate with the man. An effort was made at the front door to gain entry, but the suicidal man locked the door, and had the key inside. After several minutes of negotiation, the man came to the door, and Sgt. Sutton was able to see the significant injury to his left forearm as well as how pale he was from blood loss. Sgt. Sutton immediately applied pressure to the wound, elevated it above his heart, and called for an ambulance.

EMS arrived on the scene and took the gentleman to the hospital for help. Without the collaborative effort of this group of men to find this man, he would have passed away. These officers went above and beyond to find him and get him the help he needed.



June

PFC Tony Boston

On June 17th, PFC Tony Boston responded to a location in reference to a possible overdose and ongoing CPR. PFC Boston arrived to find the subject laying on the floor, in a very small space, unresponsive, barely breathing with a faint pulse. PFC Boston had to move the subject a short distance to provide a better area for CPR, if further necessary. Soon, the subject's eyes rolled in the back of his head and he lost a pulse. PFC Boston quickly administered a dose of nasal NARCAN and began CPR. After the first set of compressions, PFC Boston checked for a pulse, and felt a faint one. As fire and EMS arrived on scene, PFC Boston administered another dose of NARCAN. Shortly after, the subject opened his eyes and attempted to sit up. Fire and EMS took over the scene, and within a few minutes the subject was able to stand up and walk around. PFC Boston's quick thinking during a stressful situation potentially saved the life of the male subject.



October

PFC Kevin Drew

On October 4 around 5pm, PFC Drew was dispatched to a male sitting with both legs hanging off the side of a bridge on 27 South. When PFC Drew arrived, he contacted the male who was distraught and suicidal. PFC Drew moved the man off the concrete railing onto the bridge, and utilized his calm reassuring demeanor to speak with the man. He provided positive reassurance to the subject, reminding him that he did matter, and that his well being was important, until EMS arrived on scene. PFC Drew did an excellent job handling this situation, potentially saving this man from serious injury or death. When PFC Drew cleared this call, once the subject was safe, he went straight back into service.



November

PFC Dow Turrentine

On November 1, PFC Turrentine was assisting another officer with a traffic stop on Mathis Drive off 411 when a severe accident occurred at the intersection. PFC Turrentine ran to the scene as a GMC Acadia's engine compartment burst into flames. PFC Turrentine and an unknown Good Samaritan attempted to remove the driver and her young son, but the doors were locked. PFC Turrentine shattered the windows to gain access to the occupants and removed them from the burning vehicle that had become fully engulfed. Everyone was moved to safety in PFC Turrentine's patrol car until EMS arrived on scene.



Office of Professional Standards

Complaint Analysis

Type of Complaint	Number of Complaints	Number Founded	Number Unfounded	Number Exonerated
Job Performance	4	0	0	4
Harassment	3	0	0	3
Illegal Search	2	0	0	2
Rudeness	2	0	1	1
Biased Policing	2	0	0	2
Unsafe Driving	1	0	1	0
Misconduct	1	1	0	0
Sexual Assault	1	0	0	1
False Arrest	1	0	0	1
Totals	17	1	2	14

During the 2023 calendar year, there were 17 formal complaints filed regarding officers of the Rome Police Department. The chart above shows the categories complaints were filed in, as well as the number of each type of complaint. This also shows how many of each type of complaint was founded, unfounded, and/or exonerated.

A founded complaint indicates the citizen had a valid complaint and there was sufficient evidence to indicate the officer's actions were improper. An unfounded complaint indicates there was not sufficient evidence to indicate whether the complaint was or was not valid. An exonerated finding indicates that there was sufficient evidence to clear the officer of any improper action or wrongdoing.

In 2023, complaints increased to seventeen, from eleven in 2022.

- All four complaints concerning an officer's job performance resulted in the officer being exonerated and cleared of the allegations.
- There were three complaints alleging harassment on the part of an officer. The investigations resulted in all three complaints concerning harassment determining the officers were exonerated.
- Two complaints were received and investigated concerning illegal searches. All officers involved were exonerated.
- There were two complaints regarding rudeness. One complainant was unfounded, and one officer was exonerated.
- The department received two complaints regarding biased policing. The officers were exonerated in both complaints.
- One complainant was received about unsafe driving. This complainant was investigated and logged as unfounded.
- There was one complaint regarding misconduct. The one misconduct complainant was founded. This founded complaint resulted in the suspension of the officer.
- There was one complaint regarding sexual assault. The officer was exonerated in this complaint.
- One complainant alleging false arrest was received and the officer was exonerated.

There were 46,246 calls for service during the year and there were 13,199 enforcement actions taken against citizens. Seventeen citizen complaints indicate an approximate 0.036% rate of complaints compared to the calls for service. The number of complaints as compared to the number of enforcement actions is approximately 0.128%.



Criminal Investigations Division

Under the command of Captain Rusty Blair, the Criminal Investigations Division is responsible for investigating fraud, forgeries, assaults, burglaries, property crimes and other such cases. An investigation can include processing crime scenes, retrieving physical evidence, conducting interviews, and presenting completed case files to the Floyd County District Attorney's office for prosecution.

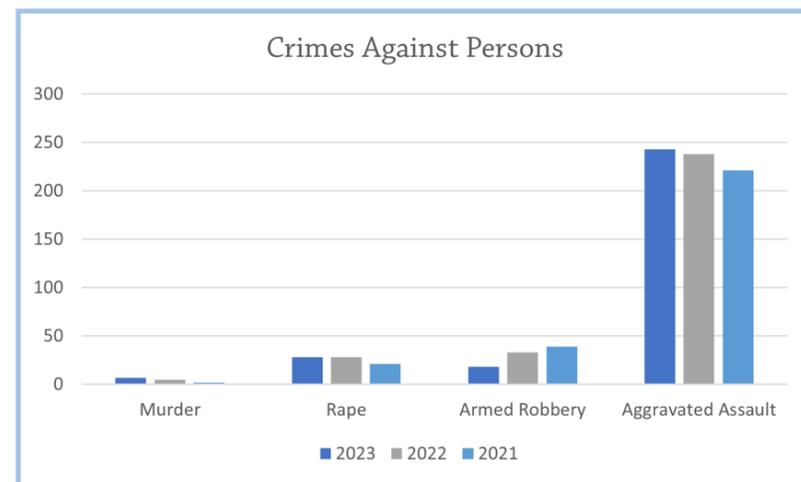
The CID is comprised of one captain, one lieutenant, one sergeant, four investigators who operate on a rotating, on-call schedule, a juvenile investigator, an evidence technician, an administrative secretary, a case file clerk, and a GCIC technician.

The Rome Police Department submits crime data to the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). This allows us to measure crime and case clearance rates with counterparts across the nation.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Cases Assigned	526	336	295	304	379
Total Arrests	180	135	85	115	99
Felony Arrests	136	82	61	132	213
Cleared by Arrest	225	138	69	106	86
Polygraphs	25	25	66	50	78
Recovered Property	\$221,190	\$95,624	\$33,400	\$88,200	\$44,112

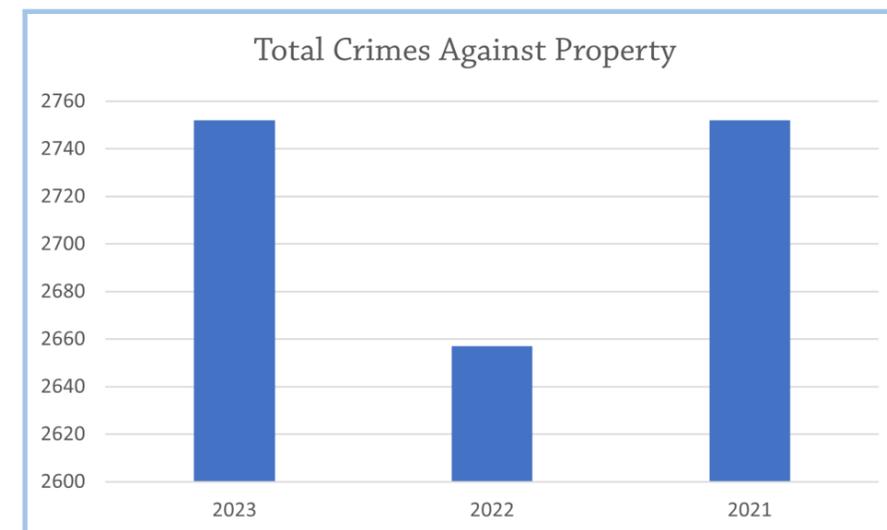
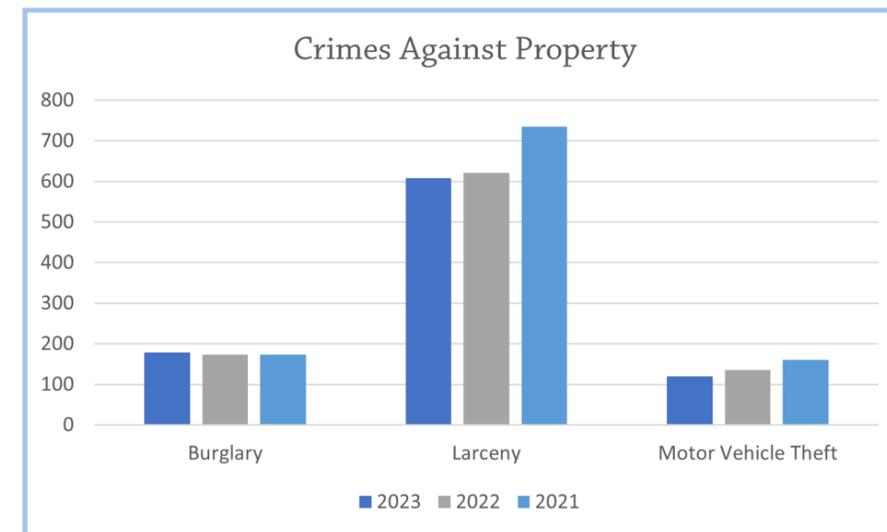
Crimes Against Persons

Crimes against persons are crimes that are violent and often high-profile. Murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault are crimes contained within this category. There were 1,519 crimes against persons reported in 2023, compared to 1,504 in 2022. This is an increase of 1%.



Crimes Against Property

Crimes against property consists of crimes that involve the intruding, taking, or destroying property of another person. Property crimes do not involve force or threats toward the owner. These crimes include burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. There were 2,752 property crimes reported in 2023 compared to 2,657 in 2022. This is an increase of 4%.



Selective Enforcement Unit

Under the command of Captain Danny Story, the Selective Enforcement Unit is comprised of officers specially-trained in various aspects of traffic enforcement: DUI enforcement, Motor Officers, Accident Reconstruction, school security, and Child Passenger Safety Technicians.

The Unit services the community in three major areas: enforcement actions, public information, and community education. Enforcement actions include DUI patrols, speed enforcement details, distracted driving enforcement periods, and seat belt enforcement zones. These efforts are carried out in conjunction with Governor's Office of Highway Safety mobilization periods. Community education efforts include the Safe Seat Initiative which provides new car seats to qualified caregivers. It also includes participation and promotion of the Teen Vehicle Operation Course.

A major critical issue that affects this unit is the continued loss of manpower within the department. Throughout the year, officers from the unit are reassigned to help maintain appropriate staffing requirements within the Uniform Patrol Division. This unit also includes the Accident Investigation Team, which provides a means by which accidents with injuries or fatalities can be investigated thoroughly by specially trained investigators, followed with extensively documenting evidence in collisions.

In 2023, the SEU conducted 34 concentrated patrols, with the results listed below.

Hands Free Offense	181	Child Restraint Violation	13
Seat Belt Violation	87	Other Traffic Offense	79
No Insurance	6	Speeding Violation	283
DUI Arrest	4	Equipment Violation	7
Warnings Issued	144	VGCSA	10
Suspended License	20	Traffic Crashes Investigated	475



Training Division

13,415 TOTAL HOURS

8,043 POST HOURS

5,372 NON-POST HOURS



Captain Trixie Morgan and her team manage the Rome Police Department's stand-alone Training Center, the place where sworn officers, civilians, and even other community LEO members benefit from state-of-the art POST, continuing education, hands-on, and new hire training.

The Training Division's primary function is to ensure that officers receive the necessary skills, knowledge and continuous training needed to perform their duties effectively. The Training Division assists in developing and delivering training and topics relative to current law enforcement trends and Georgia Law. The Center provides annual training to the Department's officers on domestic violence, cultural competency, crisis intervention, de-escalation techniques, and use of force, just to name a few. In addition, the Training Center provides firearms proficiency training, remedial training when needed to in-house staff, and community service programs such as women's firearms safety, bank security training, active shooter training to various businesses, schools and churches, Pastors, and Citizens Police Academy, etc. This unit is also responsible for maintaining each officer's certification and continuing education documentation.



Citations

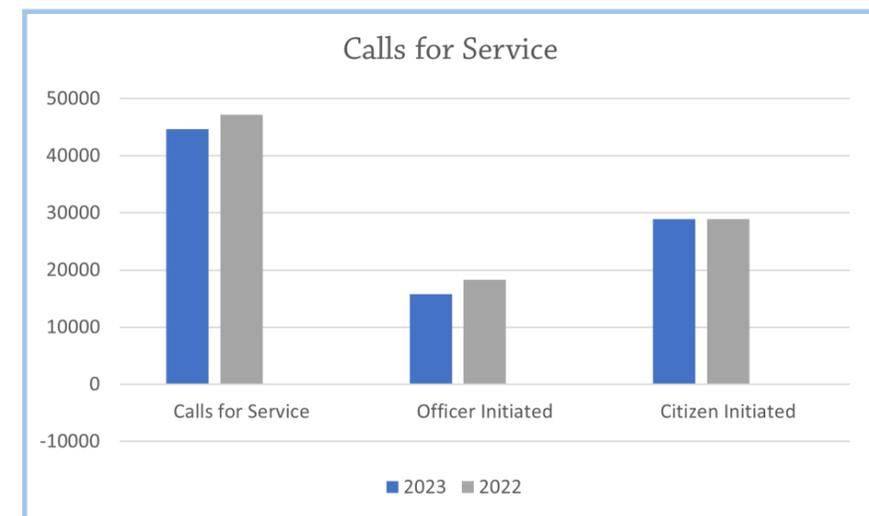
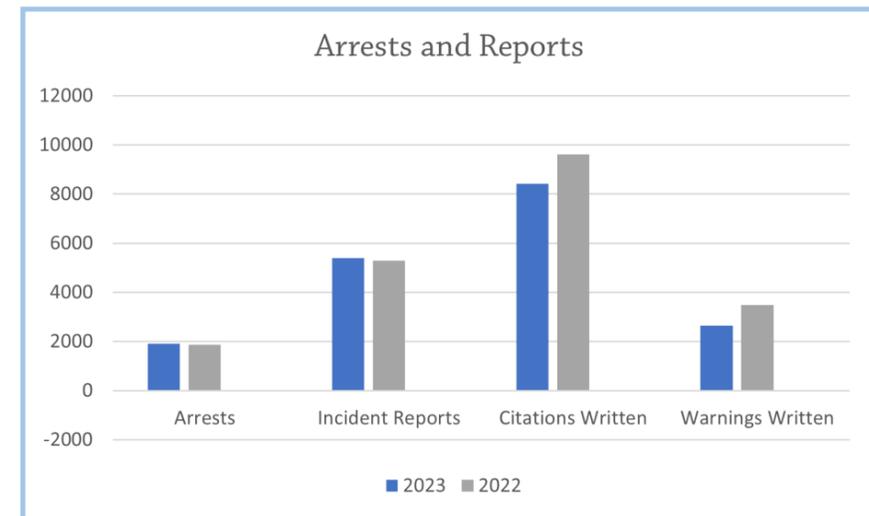
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Attempt To Elude	12	13	11	23	9
Child Restraint Violations	132	134	118	494	160
Distracted Driving	797	107	123	860	251
Driving Without License	234	297	370	306	314
DUI	292	263	326	101	214
Fail To Yield Right Of Way	74	60	79	94	158
Following Too Close	631	669	611	559	717
Improper Backing	58	46	47	35	64
Improper Equipment	138	235	254	256	233
Improper Lane Change / Usage	970	888	887	768	806
Improper License / Registration	742	574	584	436	780
Laying A Drag	9	7	8	13	6
Leaving The Scene Of Accident	37	43	47	38	23
No Insurance	265	303	290	222	273
Other Violations	1,032	1,005	931	7,530	1,069
Reckless Driving	58	33	37	1,550	38
Seatbelt Violations	303	455	380	197	1,179
Speeding	1,927	1,995	2,262	508	2,325
Suspended / Revoked License	240	289	319	304	318
Too Fast For Conditions	80	82	69	304	100
Vehicular Homicide	0	0	0	0	2
Violation of Traffic Light or Sign	646	736	581	101	749
TOTAL	8,677	10,256	10,355	16,719	11,807

Accidents

	2023	2022	Change
Accidents Investigated	2234	2292	-3%
Accidents with Injuries	466	482	-3%
Injuries Reported	703	738	-5%
Accidents with Fatalities	9	8	13%
Total Fatalities	9	8	13%
DUI Related Accidents	62	64	-3%
Private Property Accidents	778	813	-4%

Uniform Patrol

Under the direction of day watch Captain Roy Willingham and night watch Captain Gary Pace, Uniform Patrol provides twenty-four-hour protection and renders general public safety assistance to those who live, work and play in the City of Rome. This Unit acts to prevent street crimes through visible preventive patrol; respond rapidly to all requests of an emergency nature; respond to motor vehicle accidents and render aid to victims; assist citizens in dealing with legal, medical, social or humanitarian problems through direct crisis intervention; and improve law enforcement and community relations through increasing the quality and quantity of contact between citizens and the Rome Police Department.



Patrol officers assigned to night shift routinely conduct building checks to deter criminal activity and check security of buildings. In 2023, the Uniformed Patrol Division conducted **20,522** Night Eyes checks.

Metro Task Force

	2023	2022	2021
Felony Charges	765	314	747
Misdemeanor Charges	263	136	279
Narcotic Cases	238	104	236
Miscellaneous Cases	67	32	23
Search Warrants	142	48	86
Money Seized	\$186,779	\$54,818	\$100,631
Vehicles Seized	14	2	9
Firearms Seized	127	75	61
Surveillance Hours	1,690	2,551	684
Training Hours	2,353	1,419	1,115
Court Hours	200	140	60

Miscellaneous Stats

	2023	2022
Calls for Service	46,246	47,168
Miles Patrolled	466,118	529,105
\$ Amount of Property Recovered	\$221,190	\$123,674
Fines & Forfeitures		
Court Fines (+)	\$626,052	\$671,285
Probation Co. Receipts (+)	\$442,636	\$424,618
False Alarm Revenue	\$42,260	\$26,900
Parking Fines (+)	\$1,460	\$950
Net Fines	\$1,112,408	\$1,123,644
Miscellaneous Revenue		
ID Cards, PTV Decals, Etc.	\$24,740	\$26,757
Photostat Copies, Background Checks	\$16,868	\$18,806
Subtotal	\$41,608	\$45,562
Total Fines and Misc. Revenue	\$1,154,016	\$1,169,207

Reserve Unit

	Patrol	Detail	Training	Admin	Annual
Azar-Dickens	20	35	47		102
Kidd	10	88.5	168.5	14	281
Perri	492		43		535
Self	467	160.5	29	11	667.5
Annual Hours	989	284	287.5	25	1585.5



National and State Certifications



In 1986, the Rome Police Department gained accreditation status through CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies), a national program that maintains a comprehensive body of law enforcement standards and recognizes professional excellence.

In 2023, the department successfully completed its 2nd year of the four-year cycle for the CALEA re-accreditation review.

Since 1998, the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP) has recognized the Rome Police Department with a State Certification for meeting stringent professional police standards. In 2023, the department received the Meritorious Gold Award for continuous commitment to law enforcement excellence and best professional practices for 20 consecutive years as a State Certified agency.

Achieving the Certification status represents a significant professional achievement for our agency. Certification acknowledges that we have implemented policies and procedures that are conceptually sound and operationally effective. Our officers and employees are trained to follow these specific policies and procedures, which means we are giving our citizens the very best.

In 2023, the department also completed its 4th year of a four-year cycle for the State Certification process.



Achievements

Lt. John Walters was recognized as the Public Safety Officer of the Year at the annual Georgia International Association of Special Investigations Units (IASIU) Fraud Seminar on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. This award was presented after he investigated several insurance fraud cases that culminated in the arrest of six suspects with a total of 63 felony charges and 28 misdemeanor charges. These suspects were responsible for over \$2 million dollars in fraudulent charges.



Captain Trixie Morgan graduated as a member of the 287th session of the FBI National Academy on September 14, 2023. Captain Morgan is the thirty-first officer in our department's history to complete this prestigious program available only to United States and international law enforcement managers.



Lt. Joel Stroupe received his Master of Science in Criminal Justice from Jacksonville State University.



Sgt. Aaron Thacker received his Associate's Degree in Law Enforcement from Thomas University.



PFC Taryn Carswell received her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from American Intercontinental University. She also gave birth to twins in December.



Retirees



Debbie Burnett, Assistant Chief
31 Years of Service

Assistant Chief Debbie Burnett began working with the Rome Police Department on February 28, 1992. She worked in various divisions including patrol, DUI, Criminal Investigations, and Office of Professional Standards

Assistant Chief Burnett is an FBI National Academy Graduate, a Certified Polygrapher, and a participant in the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange program (GILEE). She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from Columbus State University. She was promoted to Assistant Chief in 2016.



Paul Webber, Major, Field Operations
46 Years of Service

Major Paul Webber began working with the Rome Police Department on June 19, 1976. He worked in multiple roles and divisions including patrol, DUI, Metro Drug Task Force, Office of Professional Standards, and Training Division.

Major Webber retired as Major over Field Operations. He is an FBI National Academy Graduate, Session #259, a graduate of Leadership Rome, and holds a BA in Business Administration. For the last seven years, he served as Major over Support Services and Patrol Operations.

During his career, Major Webber served under five different Chiefs and four city managers, and witnessed many changes within the department and in law enforcement across the nation.



Paul Greene, Lieutenant
30 Years of Service

Lieutenant Paul Green joined the Rome Police Department in 1992 and spent the next 30 years as a patrol officer, member and manager of the Honor Guard, a firearms instructor, defensive tactics instructor, and SWAT member.

Lieutenant Green flourished in rapidly changing and stressful situations, and shared a tremendous amount of his knowledge by training and instructing others. Greene graduated from the FBI Academy and Georgia Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar (Ga LEEDS).



Stephanie Hudson, Accreditation Manager
39 Years of Service

Stephanie Hudson became one of the first female African American police officers to be included on the force of the Rome Police Department when she began in 1984. She served on patrol, as the Juvenile Officer/Investigator, was instrumental in establishing the Northwest Georgia Child Advocacy Center, also known as the Harbor House Child Advocacy Center, and played a key role in the establishment of the CART (Child Abduction Response Team). In 2016, she was appointed as the department's Accreditation Manager, where she was responsible for both CALEA and State Certifications.

Throughout her tenure, Mrs. Hudson also served on the Floyd County Child Death Review Team and the Board of the Sexual Assault Center.



Randy Gore, Investigator
28 Years of Service

Investigator Randy Gore joined the Rome Police Department in January 1995 as a patrol officer. In 2001, he moved into the Criminal Investigations Division where he honed his skills as an investigator, served as the primary Elder Abuse Investigator, backup Evidence Custodian, and Crime Scene Technician. He served as the Juvenile Investigator and as the Field Training Officer to new investigators that joined the division. As a certified Forensic Interviewer, he was instrumental in the development of the CART (Child Abduction Response Team,) and as the co-administrator of the RAPID electronic pawn reporting system.

Investigator Gore is a POST general instructor, certified fingerprint examiner, and served as the department's Historian.

In Memory



*Dewey "Frankie" Franklin Hill
March 17, 2023*

Mr. Hill retired in 2021 after 40 years of faithful service as the department's mechanic. Known as a jokester, Frankie would do anything for anyone, and was a dedicated father and grandfather.



*Ray Branson Gayler
June 18, 2023*

Mr. Gayler retired in 1990 after 20 years with the City of Rome. He helped organize the first Civil Defense Auxiliary Police, later called Special Police, in 1961, and served as Chief of these groups for 12 years. The present-day Sheriff's Reserve and City Police Reserve are both outgrowths of this group. He worked hundreds of hours with the Sheriff's Department and City Police over the years. He began working for the City of Rome as Business License Inspector in 1970, retiring as City of Clerk and Secretary to the City Commission.



*Officer Jose "Joe" Picon
April 3, 2023*

Officer Joe Picon retired from the Rome Police Department in 2019; he joined the Department after serving for many years in the 82nd Airborne stationed in Fort Bragg, the Gordon County Sheriff's Office, another stint with the 1-108th from Calhoun GA, the Army/National Guard, and the Rome/Floyd Metro Task Force. Officer Picon was dedicated to his faith, family, and services in the military and law enforcement. His patriotic attitude was contagious and was overshadowed only by his selflessness.



*Georgia Ann Howard
December 3, 2023*

School Crossing Guard Georgia Ann Howard joined the Rome Police Department in 2018 and kept faithful watch over the East Central Elementary School students until her untimely passing.

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