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Bozeman Police Department 2024 Annual Report



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Message from Police Chief Jim Veltkamp



Reflecting on 2024, I am extremely grateful for the dedication and professionalism of our officers and staff. As the City of Bozeman has continued to grow, so have the challenges. More critical incidents, more calls from the community, more events, and increasing drugs in the community have all meant an increasing workload. Yet through it all, they have continued to serve with the same sense of purpose that drew them all to a career in law enforcement.

Our department remains committed to building stronger relationships with the people we serve. This year, we received authorization to hire a new Community Liaison, detective and patrol teams interacted with the community in new and unique ways, and we hosted or participated in an ever-increasing number of events. We also focused on providing more timely, clear information to the community, an effort we will continue this year.

Internally, we focused on supporting the mental health and well-being of our officers and staff, increased training in several categories, and improved our ability to respond to critical incident.

We recognize there is always more work to be done and that we can always do better. Looking forward, we plan to focus on working more efficiently, leveraging technology to enhance our operations, and ensuring that we adapt to the evolving needs of the Bozeman community

I want to thank each member of our department for their service, and I also want to express my appreciation to the citizens we are honored to protect. Together, we will continue working hard to keep Bozeman the safe place we all love.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Veltkamp".

Chief Jim Veltkamp

OUR MISSION

Our Mission is to keep Bozeman the most livable place through public safety and community partnerships.

OUR VALUES



LEADERSHIP in the community that is proactive and innovative.



INTEGRITY at all times with transparency and accountability.

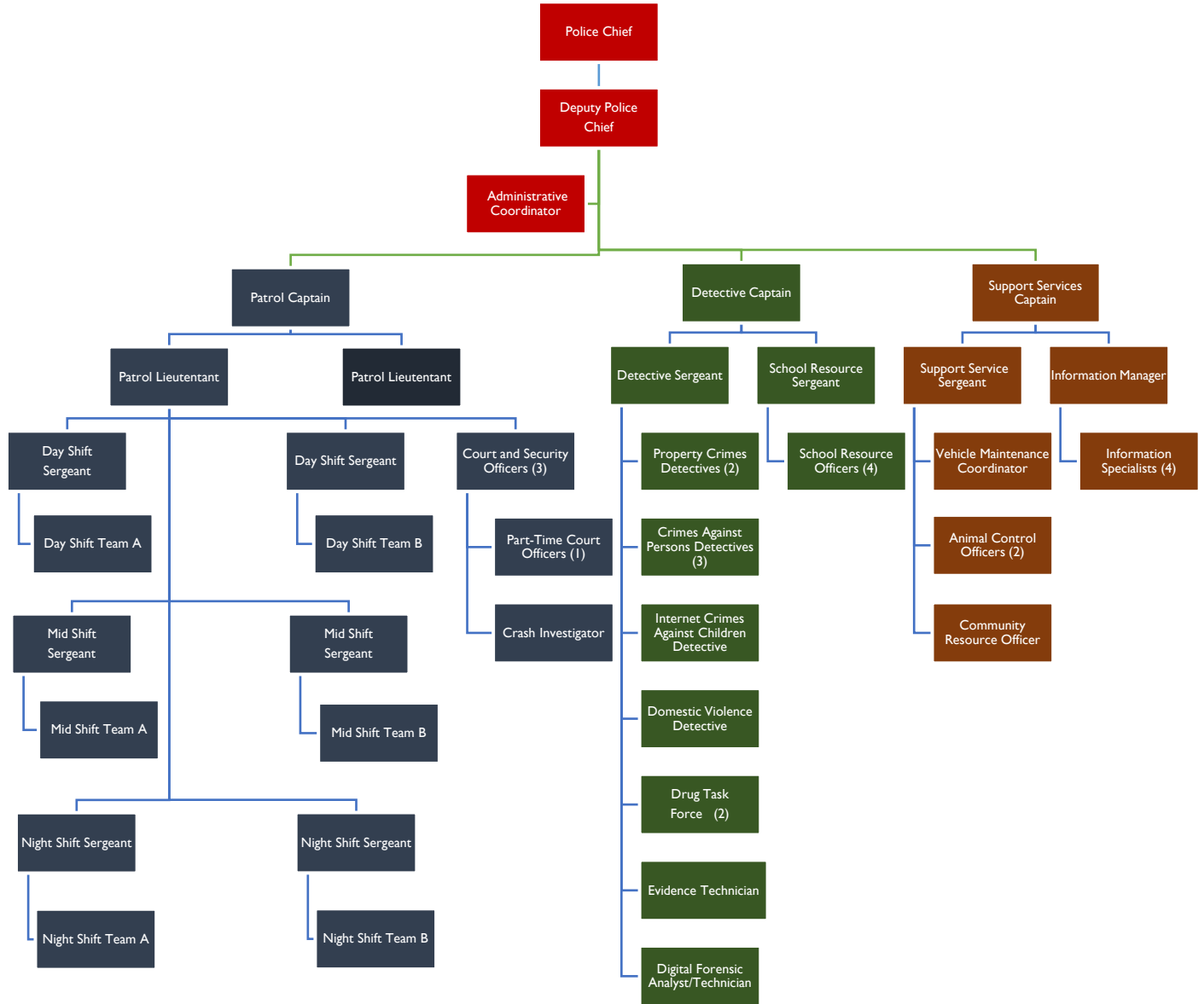


SERVICE above self that is personal, prompt and respectful.



TEAMWORK that promotes collaboration and success.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



OUR DEPARTMENT

76 2024 AUTHORIZED SWORN OFFICERS

68 2024 ACTUAL STRENGTH

17 AUTHORIZED CIVILIAN STAFF

POSITIONS	QUANTITY
Chief	1
Deputy Chief	1
Captains	3
Lieutenants	2
Sergeants	9
Patrol Officers	38
Detectives	9
School Resource Officers	4
Community Resource Officer	1
Animal Control Officers	2
Crash Investigator	1
Evidence Technician	1
Digital Forensic Analyst/Technician	1
Police Information Manager	1
Police Admin Coordinator	1
Police Information Specialists	4
Court and Security Supervisor	1
Court and Security Officers	4
Fleet Manager	1
Part-time Officer	1

58 MALE OFFICERS

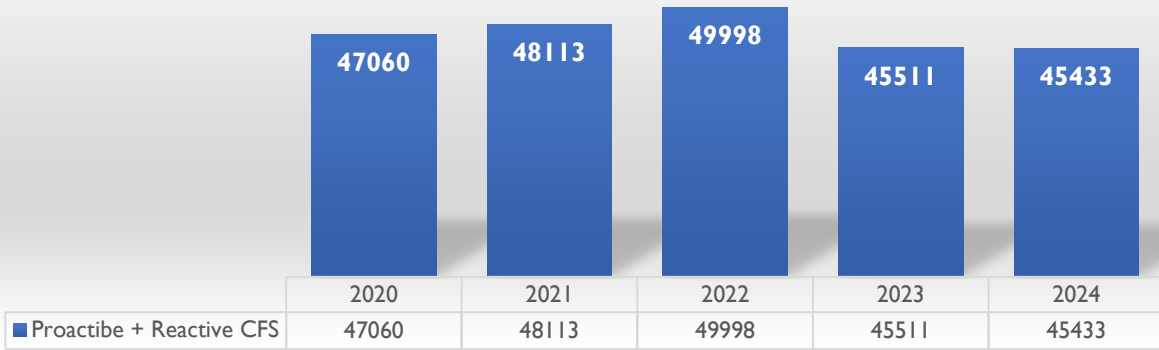
9 FEMALE OFFICERS

37 AVERAGE AGE

8.5 AVERAGE YEARS OF SERVICE WITH BPD

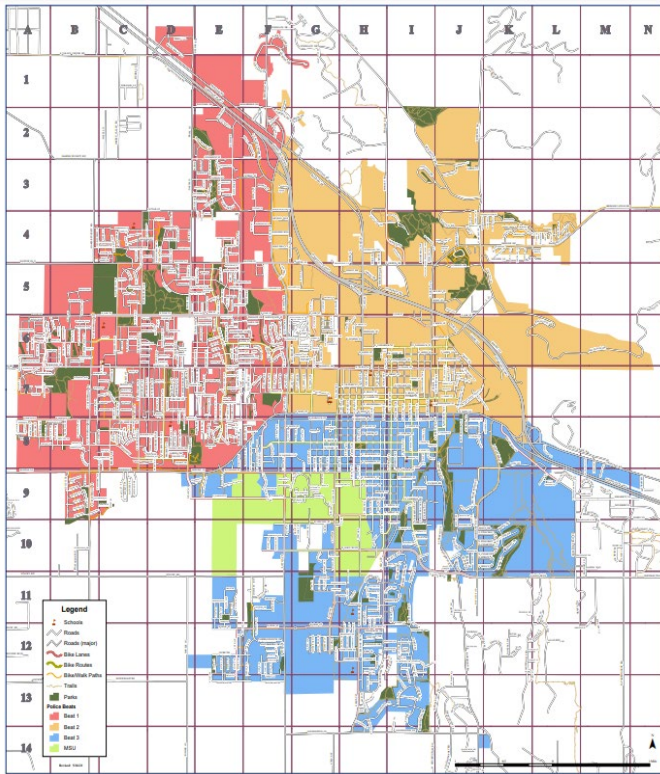
BPD Total Calls for Service

■ Proactive + Reactive CFS

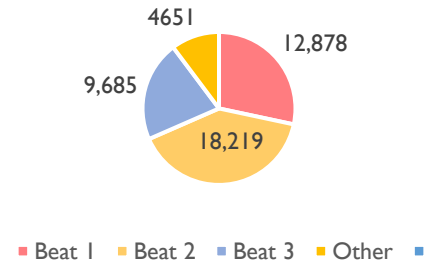


45,433 CFS in
2024

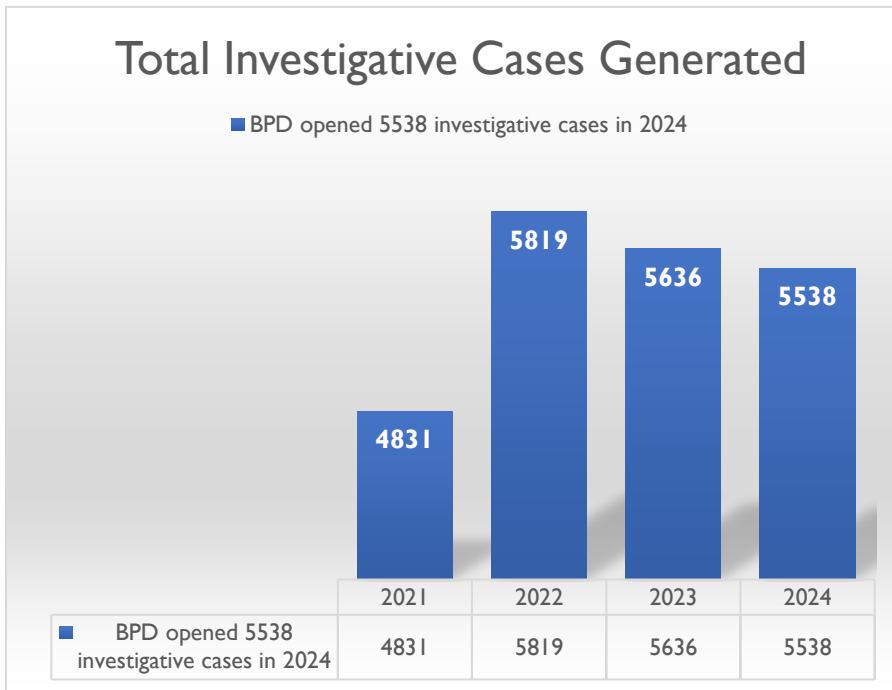




2024 Call for Service by Beat

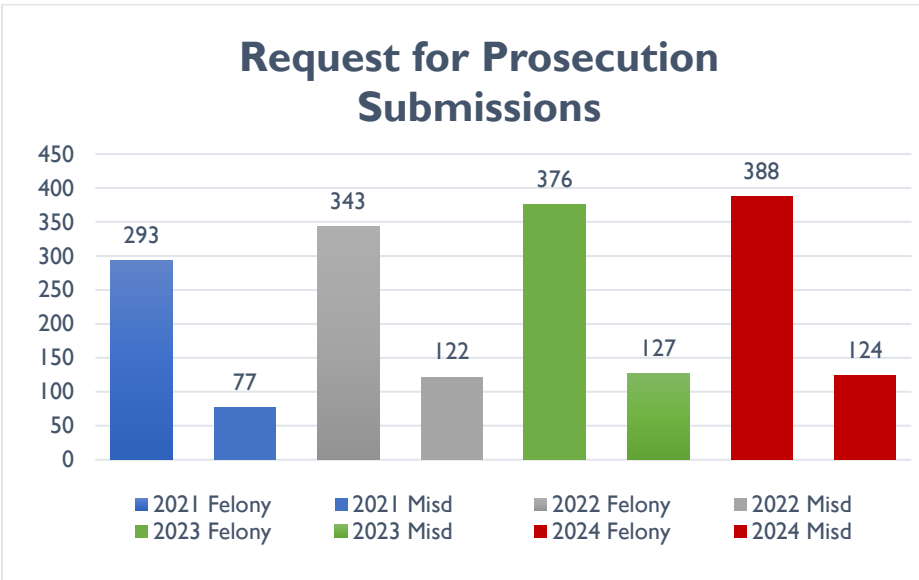


CASES GENERATED



Cases up
14.6%
 from 2021

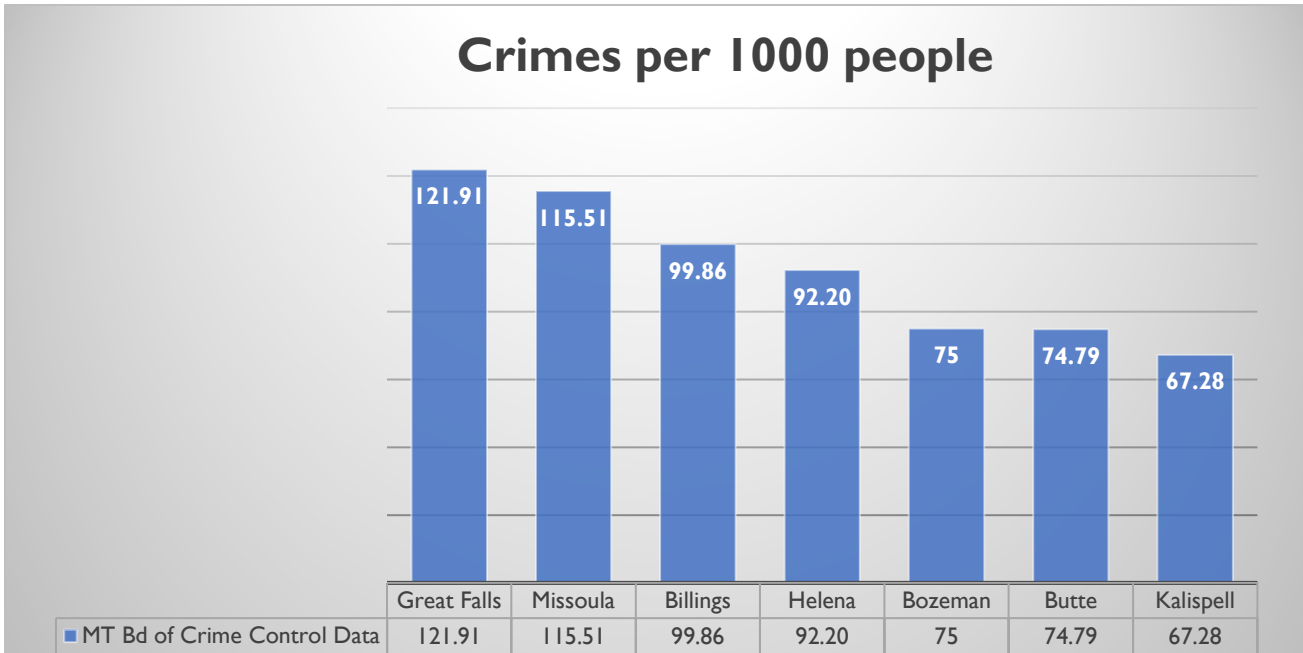
A case typically refers to a specific incident or investigation that has been assigned to a particular officer or team for follow-up and resolution. Cases require significantly more time and follow-up and are generated from calls for service or other sources of information, such as proactive policing efforts or routine patrols.



COMPARED TO 2021,
FELONY RFPs HAVE
INCREASED BY
32%

A request for prosecution (RFP) is a formal request to a prosecutor after a felony arrest or as a presentation of evidence supporting charges against a suspect for a felony or a misdemeanor. An RFP occurs at the end of a lengthy and often complex investigation by an officer and can require additional follow-up if requested.

*These numbers can change as cases get updated and they may not match 2023 annual report estimates.



The Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) determines crime rates per 1,000 individuals by employing the "Type A" offenses from the National Incident Reporting System. These offenses are reported to the FBI by all communities and encompass more severe crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, kidnapping, arson, and motor vehicle theft. By utilizing this system, consistent analysis is facilitated among adjacent jurisdictions and communities that share similar populations and other common traits.

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS

CRIME TYPE	TOTAL OFFENSES	OFFENSES PER 10,000 People
Aggravated Assault	172	29.4
Intimidation	84	14.36
Simple Assault	274	46.83
Homicide	1	.17
Negligent Homicide	2	.34
Robbery	8	1.37
Human Trafficking	2	.34
Kidnapping	37	6.32
Sex Offense - Forcible	52	8.88
Sex Offense - Nonforcible	52	8.88
Total	684	116.9

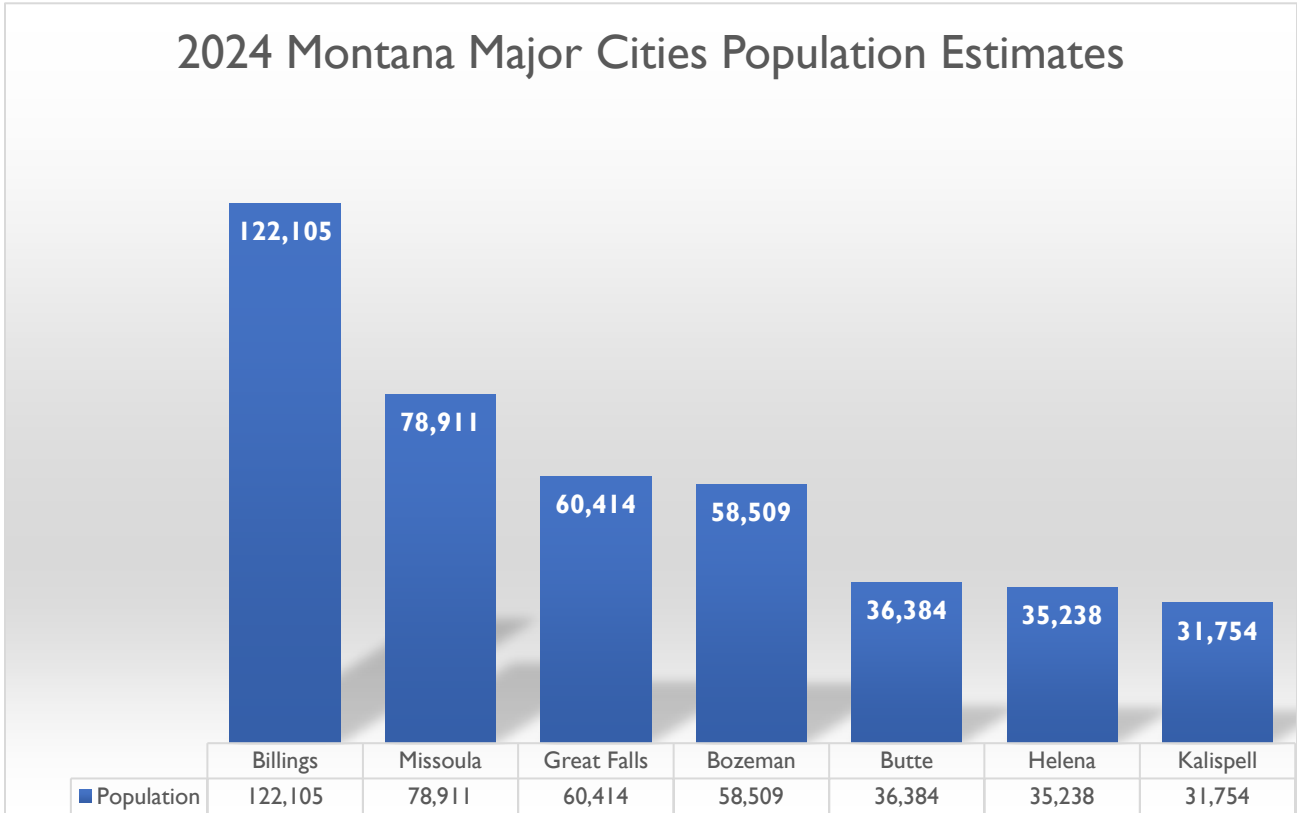
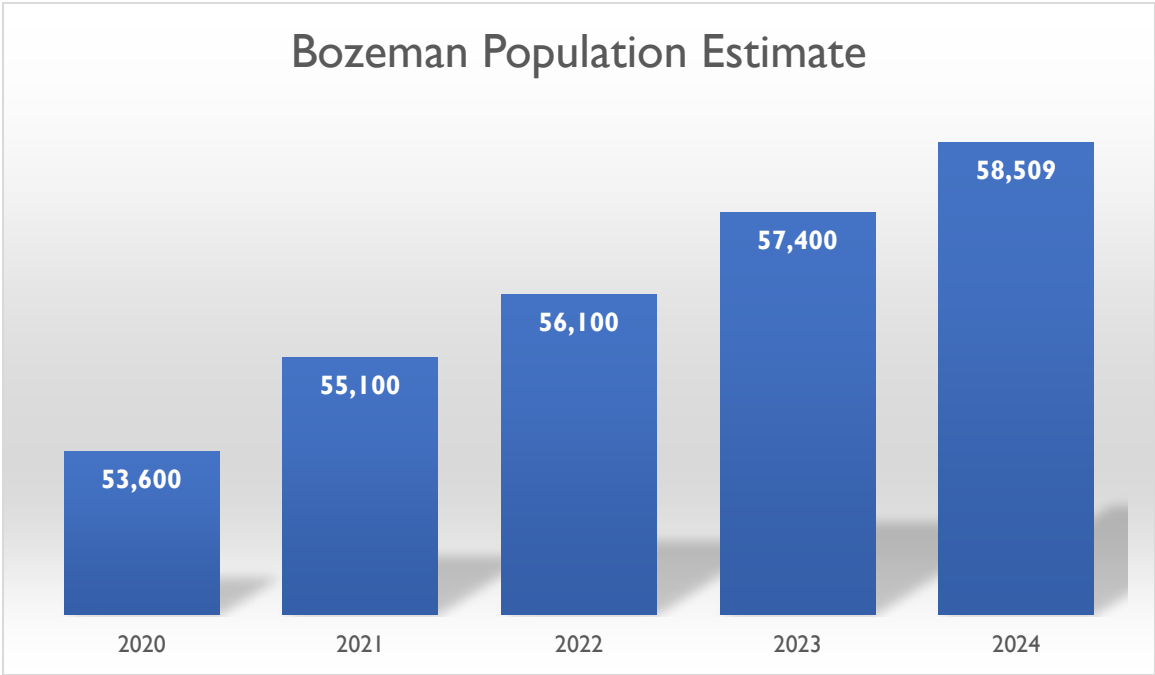
Montana Board of Crime Control NIBRS data

PROPERTY CRIMES

CRIME TYPE	TOTAL OFFENSES	OFFENSES PER 10,000 People
Arson	13	0.45
Burglary	88	15.04
Counterfeit/Forgery	33	5.64
Vandalism	332	56.75
Embezzlement	10	1.71
Fraud Offenses	96	16.41
Theft Offenses	930	158.97
Motor Vehicle Theft	59	10.08
Total	1561	266.8

Montana Board of Crime Control NIBRS data

POPULATION



ATTRACTING TALENT

In 2024, the Bozeman Police Department continued to prioritize the recruitment of qualified, community-focused individuals committed to public safety and service. Our recruiting efforts focused on expanding outreach, increasing diversity, and streamlining the application process to attract the best candidates to serve our community.

To reach a broader pool of candidates the department focused on enhancing our internship program, hosting recruitment events for local applicants, and launching targeted social media campaigns.

NEW POLICE OFFICERS IN 2024

In 2024, The Bozeman Police Department received 146 applications for police officer positions. After extensive testing and background investigations, 5 new police officers were added to the ranks.



5 NEW POLICE OFFICERS HIRED

2 LATERAL TRANSFERS HIRED

50 CANDIDATES INTERVIEWED

146 APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED



TRAINING and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Continued investment in training is essential to building a *PROFESSIONAL*, *ETHICAL*, and *EFFECTIVE* police force. Well-trained officers make better decisions under pressure, de-escalate conflicts more effectively, and apply the law consistently. Regular training ensures our officers are prepared for high-stakes situations, reducing the risk of harm to both the public and themselves.

Consistent training is not optional—it is a cornerstone of effective, fair, and trusted policing. We remain committed to providing our officers with the education and support they need to meet the highest standards of professionalism and public service.



Over **10,300** hours of
officer training
26 courses hosted at the
Bozeman Public Safety
Center



REGIONAL TRAINING

The Bozeman Public Safety Center has emerged as a central location for law enforcement training, drawing officers from across the nation. It offers a diverse range of training opportunities, featuring twenty-six different courses designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of regional law enforcement personnel. Some of the hosted trainings include:

PROCEDURAL JUSTICE AND LEGITIMACY

SUPERVISING PATROL CRITICAL INCIDENTS

COURTROOM SUCCESS

COMMAND LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

LEGALLY JUSTIFIED; BUT WAS IT AVOIDABLE

BASIC NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS

PATROL TEAMS

The Bozeman Police Department employs a collaborative strategy within its Patrol Division. By working and training together during each shift, officers benefit from cohesive supervision and the opportunity to concentrate on four distinct pillars in addition to their regular patrol duties. This approach aims to allocate time evenly across these pillars while also identifying community concerns that need to be addressed. These pillars include:

TRAINING

PROACTIVE PATROL

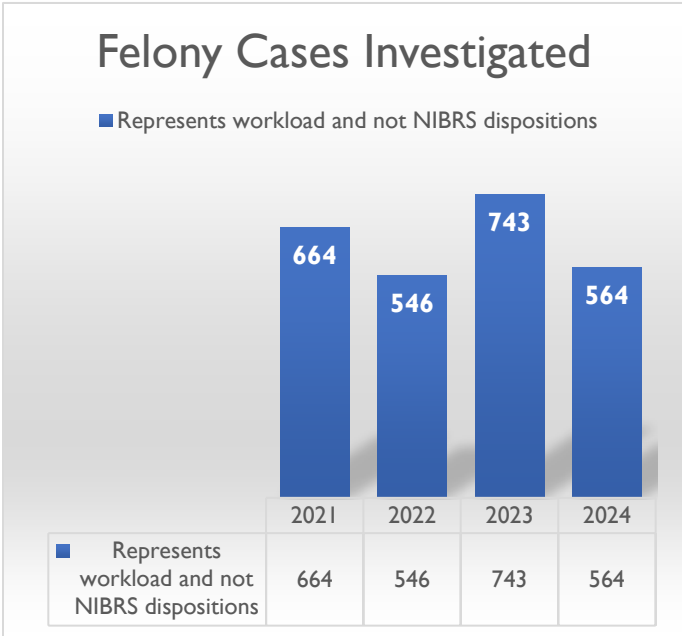
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

WELLNESS



DETECTIVE DIVISION

*It is the mission of the Bozeman Police Department Detective Division to provide high quality criminal investigative support to the Bozeman Police Department and to the victim of a crime by conducting timely, competent, and thorough investigations using advanced investigative techniques. Major initiatives in 2024 continued to focus on **human trafficking and child exploitation**, while we continue to conduct investigations into burglaries, robberies, and homicides.*



Our 2024 General Investigations and Special Victims Unit

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The School Resource Officers added a new four-legged member, Copper, to its agency. Copper is a two-year-old yellow lab and is the only explosives detection K-9 in the Bozeman area. Copper connects with students, and provides support during difficult conversations and serves as a calming presence throughout Gallatin High School.

2175
Calls for Service in 2024



Computer Forensics



Our computer forensics lab has state-of-the-art capabilities to assist in processing computers and cell phones.

This fall, we welcomed a vital addition to our detective team in the form of Computer Forensics Expert, Dani Baca. With her specialized knowledge in managing digital evidence, she plays a crucial role in investigations related to child exploitation, homicides, fraud, and various other significant felonies.

MISSOURI RIVER DRUG TASK FORCE (MRDTF)



Missouri River Drug Task Force Case Statistics 2024



26 Firearms Seized



\$29,685.30 Cash Seized



55 Felony Arrests



19 Requests for Prosecution



88 Cases Opened
66 Cases Closed



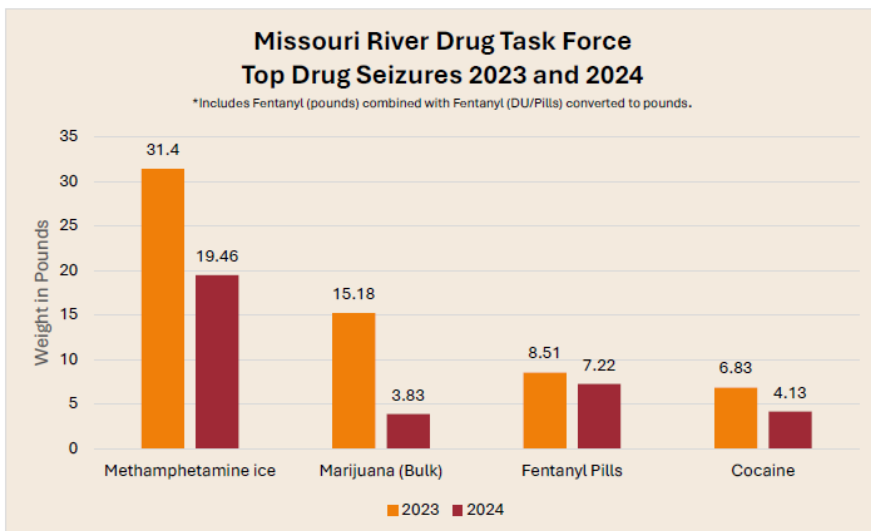
1 DTO Disrupted
1 DTO Suspended
7 Total DTOs Worked



139 Search Warrants



34 Outreach Events
≈823 Attendees

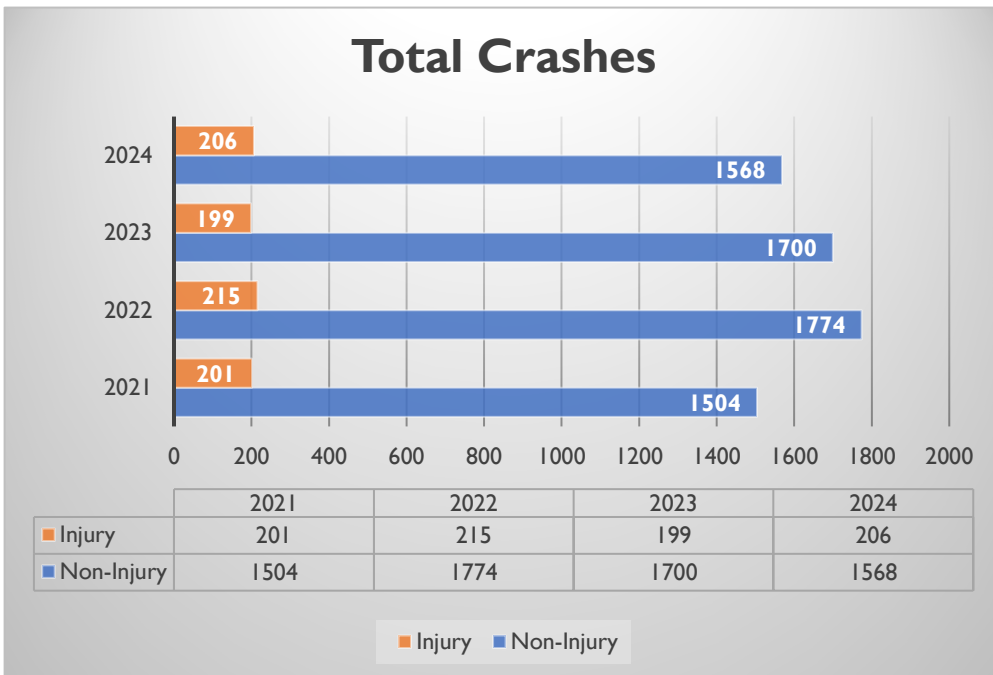


Total Drugs Seized 2024		
Methamphetamine Ice	19.46	Pounds
Fentanyl Pills	7.22	Pounds
Cocaine	4.13	Pounds
Marijuana (Bulk)	3.83	Pounds
Hallucinogens	1.60	Pounds
Methamphetamine Pills	1.02	Pounds
Fentanyl Powder	164.50	Grams
Methamphetamine Powder	50.98	Grams
Pharmaceuticals	50.30	Grams
Crack Cocaine	8.49	Grams
Heroin Tar	2.50	Grams
Pharmaceuticals	159	DU/Pills
Methamphetamine Liquid	53.82	mL
Pharmaceuticals	10	mL

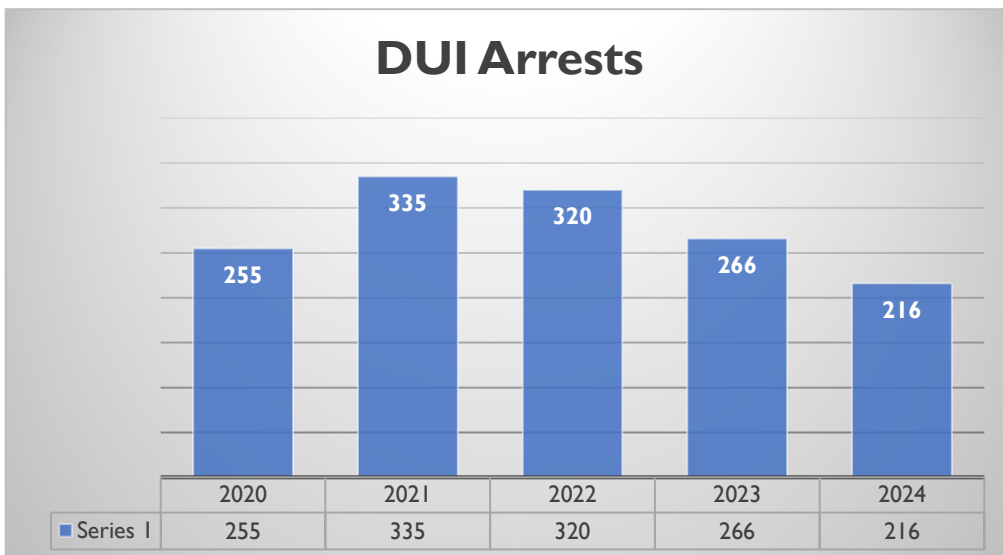
*Approximately 453.6 grams are equal to 1 pound.
**Includes Fentanyl (pounds) combined with Fentanyl (DU/Pills) converted to pounds.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

As part of Bozeman's **SAFE** plan, law enforcement officers focused their efforts on enhancing safety at critical transportation points and intersections.



677
HIT AND RUN
CRASHES in
2024



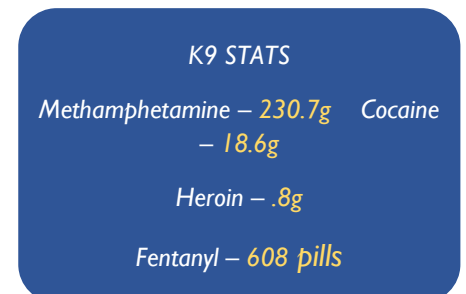
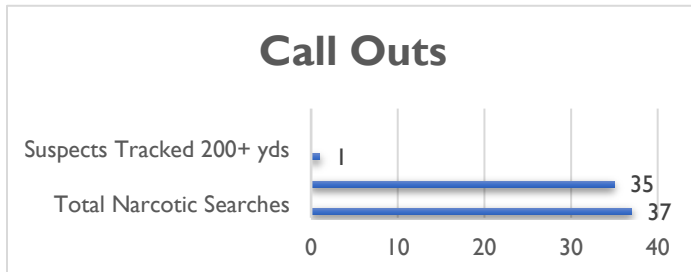
216
DUI
ARRESTS IN
2024

OFFICER WELLNESS

Supporting the wellness of our officers isn't just an investment in their health—it's an investment in the quality of service, community safety, and the long-term success of our department. With incentivized physical and mental health programs, along with a Peer Support Team and a Teams patrol model, we are committed to maintaining a resilient staff capable of handling the demands of their roles.



K9 PROGRAM



The BPD **K9 Program** currently consists of three officers and their K9's:

Officer Peterson and his canine partner [Stretch](#)

Officer Nyquist and his K9 [Hex](#)

Officer Foley and his K9 [Copper](#)

Stretch and Hex serve the community by providing patrol functions as well as locating illegal narcotics and conducting searches of buildings, vehicles and other property for illegal substances and suspects. Hex was acquired late in 2024 and spent most of the year undergoing rigorous training.

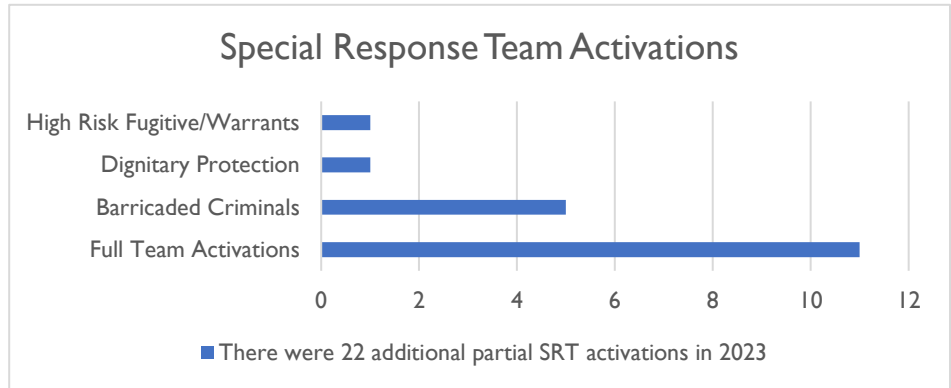
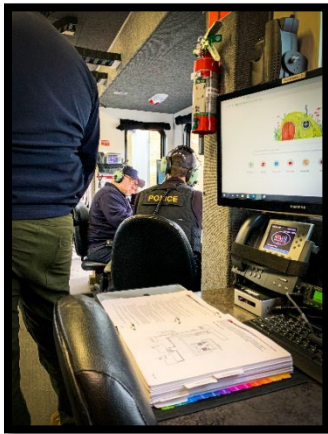
Copper is our newest K9 and he works in the Bozeman area schools and is trained in detecting firearms and explosives.



OTHER SPECIALTY ASSIGNMENTS

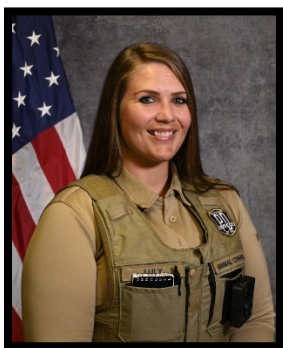
SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM (SRT)

The Bozeman area is served by a Special Response Team (SRT) that includes officers from both the City of Bozeman and Gallatin County. This team was deployed eleven times to various incidents across Bozeman, Gallatin County, and nearby jurisdictions. They are specifically trained to handle high-risk and volatile situations that require specialized skills and equipment, particularly in scenarios where the standard patrol division's capabilities are insufficient.



ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal Control Officers (ACOs) play a vital role in maintaining public safety, promoting responsible pet ownership, and ensuring the humane treatment of animals within our community. While often working behind the scenes, their impact is far-reaching—for both people and animals.



*BPD Animal Control Officers
responded to*

3033

calls in 2024.

ASSITING THOSE IN CRISIS

In Bozeman, Connections Health Solutions offers mobile crisis services to individuals experiencing mental health emergencies in Gallatin County. Available seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., their mobile crisis team provides on-site evaluation, intervention, and treatment planning for psychiatric crises, including support for suicidal behavior, substance misuse-related crises, and those affected by traumatic events. The Bozeman Police Department works closely with these professionals and is proud of our continued work to bring the best services to those in crisis.



Gallatin Mobile Crisis was used

324

times in 2024



BEYOND THE BADGE

COMMUNITY OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

Citizen's Police Academy – The Citizens Police Academy (CPA) is an initiative aimed at educating community members about the workings of law enforcement. Its main objective is to enhance understanding and collaboration between police departments and the communities they serve. In 2024, a total of 45 individuals participated in the Spring and Fall sessions of the Bozeman PD academy.



Downtown Trick or Treat – The department had officers downtown for the kid festivities. The event was extremely fun and well received. We even had Chief Waldo from the Bozeman Fire Department assist in handing out candy.



Christmas Stroll – The first Saturday in December is Bozeman's welcoming in of the Christmas Season. The Police Department is always on hand to serve up cheer, hot chocolate and photos for kids and adults as well.



Coffee with a Cop – Every other month, the department meets for coffee at different locations within the community. No agenda, no program, no schedule. Just a great opportunity to get together and chat, answer questions or address concerns.



Special Olympics Torch Run – Bozeman Police Department Officers proudly led the Torch Run for Special Olympics as it made its way through downtown Bozeman. Earlier in the year, Bozeman Police Officers assisted in raising funds to support the yearly torch run.



National Night Out – National Night Out is an opportunity for communities to come together, strengthen bonds, and demonstrate their commitment to building safer, more vibrant neighborhoods. It serves as a reminder of the importance of police-community partnerships in promoting public safety and enhancing the quality of life for all residents.



Music on Main – Music on Main is a free community event that runs Thursday evenings in Historic Downtown Bozeman. The Bozeman Police Department can be found in the same spot weekly, interacting with the community, playing games with kids and adults alike, and handing out little goodies.



Walk Like MADD – In September, Bozeman Police Department joined Walk Like MADD with other agencies across the state of Montana, to show continued support for a safer Bozeman community.



Neighbor Day – Bozeman Police Department joined with PBS Montana for Neighbor Day, a fun filled day of learning from various community partners in Gallatin County. Kids were able to receive goodies, take photos in Officer Friendly’s vest, and even had their fingerprints done.



SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS in 2024



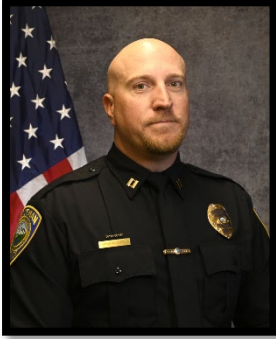
31,230 Facebook followers



7,412 Instagram followers

In 2024, the City of Bozeman established a Communications Specialist role to support all city departments. The uniform messaging provided by this position acts as an essential link between the Bozeman Police Department and the community by ensuring the distribution of precise and prompt information. Such initiatives contribute to fostering stronger and more constructive relationships with our community.

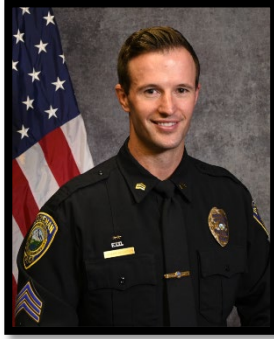
PROMOTIONS and RETIREMENTS



Lt Hal Richardson promoted to Captain



Sgt Ben King promoted to Lieutenant



Ofc Ian Anderson promoted to Sgt



Ofc Quinn Ellingson promoted to Sgt



Captain Cory Klumb retired after 22+ years with the Bozeman Police Department. Klumb served as a Patrol officer, Detective, Patrol Sgt, Patrol Cpt, Detective Cpt, and Support Services Cpt.



Officer Scott Vongehr retired after 20 years with the Bozeman Police Department. Officer Vongehr served as a Patrol officer, Detective, narcotics officer and Community Resource Officer.

BOZEMAN POLICE COMMISSION

A special thank you to the members of the Bozeman Police Commission

Rick Gale
Beth Corriea
Gary Larson

AWARDS

LIFESAVING

- Officer Bridge
- Officer Derrick
- Officer Helsby
- Officer Hodges
- Officer Miller
- Officer Schultz (2)
- Officer Selway
- Officer Taylor
- Officer Webb

DEVOTED SERVICE

- Officer Christy Klewin
- Officer Scott Vongehr

CITIZEN COMMENDATION

- Sean Sandstrom
- Samuel Toledo
- Clayton Thomas
- Zachary Waterman