



BIG LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT

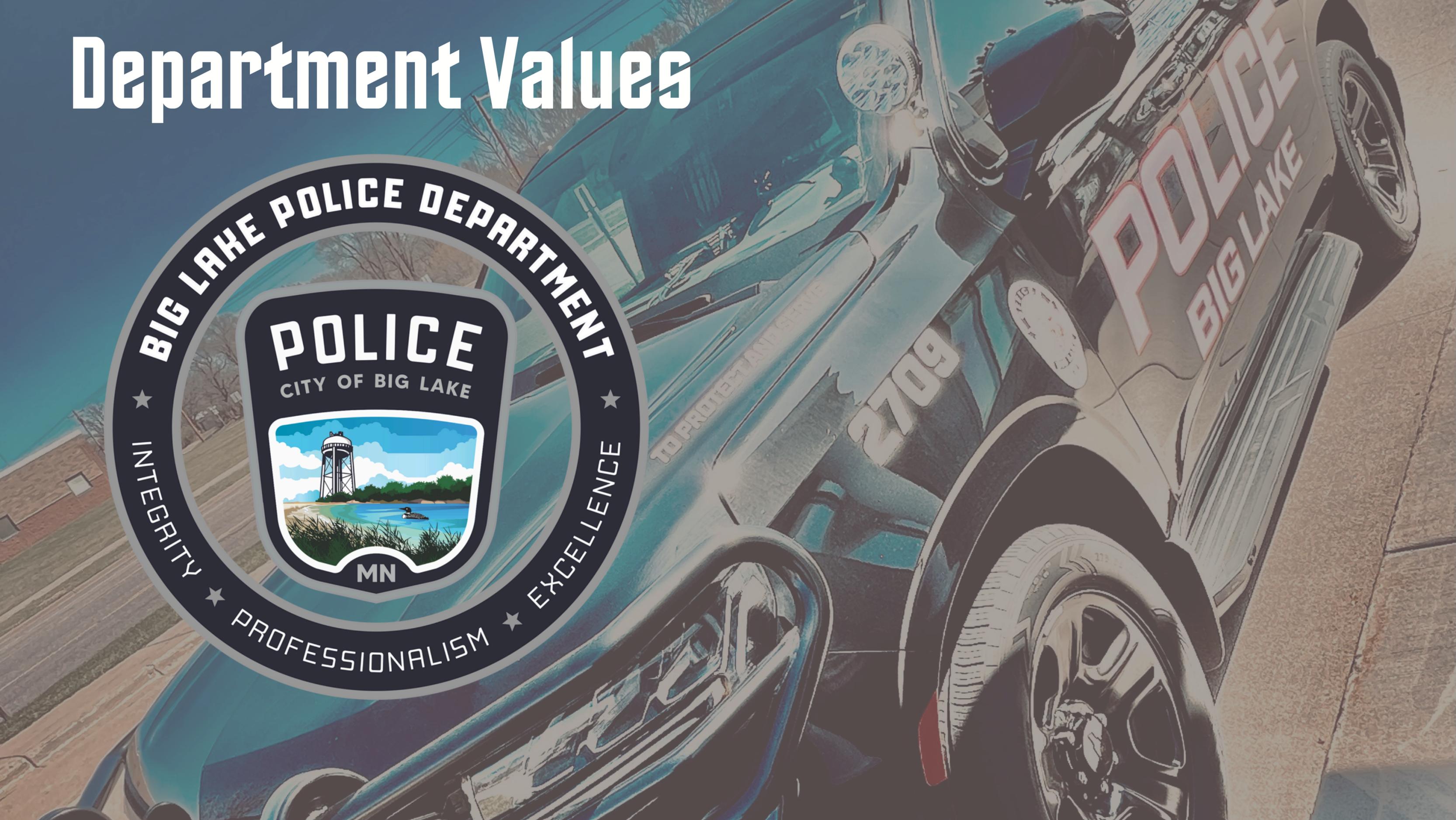
2024 ANNUAL REPORT

“OUR MISSION”

“WE COMMIT TO ENGAGING WITH OUR COMMUNITY, WHILE PROTECTING AND SERVING WITH COMPASSION, HONOR, AND INTEGRITY”



Department Values



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

As your Chief of Police, I am excited to present to you the 2024 Big Lake Police Department Annual Report. The men and women of the Big Lake Police Department strive daily to provide its citizens with the best public safety services possible. We are honored to serve your community and look forward to our continued partnership for many years to come!

We would like to thank our community for their support and generosity. As we embark on 2025, we will continue to serve your community with Integrity, Professionalism, and Excellence. Our mission continues to be at the forefront of each and every citizen contact. We commit to engaging with our community, while protecting and serving with compassion, honor, and integrity. From all of us at the Big Lake Police Department, we wish you a safe and wonderful 2025!



John Kaczmarek - Chief of Police



Lommel

OFFICE MANAGER TINA PETERSON

The records division at the Big Lake Police Department consists of (2) civilian personnel. Office Manager Tina Peterson works collaboratively with Police Specialist Jessica Baker and provides support to the Patrol and Investigations Divisions. Daily responsibilities include processing police records, case management, gun permits, ATV registrations, subpoenas, managing data requests, expungement of records, citation entry/removal, and NIBRS entry.

In addition, Office Manager Tina Peterson answers citizens questions and is the first to greet the community members who stop in at the Big Lake Police Department for assistance. Tina routinely provides a warm welcome to guests and provides them with resources and direction needed. Tina has been with the Big Lake Police Department for 21-years! We thank Tina for her hard work and daily dedication to the Big Lake Police Department!



POLICE SPECIALIST JESSICA BAKER

Police Specialist Jessica Baker started with the Big Lake Police Department in June of 2024. Prior to working for the BLPD, Jessica worked for the Big Lake School District for nearly 15 years. Baker, a resident of Big Lake, has been a great addition to our department!

A Police Specialist is one of two civilian staff members who support the Patrol and Investigations Divisions. Routinely, Baker processes gun permits, ATV Registrations, handles officers court notices, subpoenas, Liquor and Tobacco Background checks, and has a hand in everyday case management for the department.

We thank Police Specialist Jessica Baker for her hard work and dedication. Without your assistance, successful daily operations would not be possible. We are thankful for your consistent hard work and effort!



Captain Sam Olson

Captain Sam Olson has been with the Big Lake Police Department for nearly 22-years as a sworn officer. Prior to being a sworn officer, Olson was a Reserve Officer for the department. Captain Olson has held many roles within the police department during his tenure. Some of those positions include a Patrol Officer, School Resource Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Acting Chief.

Along with providing police services to the City of Big Lake, Captain Olson dedicated 23-years to the Big Lake Fire Department. Captain Olson retired from the BLFD in 2017 as a Captain.

Captain Olson graduated from the FBI National Academy Class # 261, held in Quantico, Virginia in 2015.

We appreciate Captain Olson's long history of providing emergency services to the City of Big Lake!



Sergeant Guy Chaffee

Sergeant Guy Chaffee began his tenure with the Big Lake Police Department in 2009 as a Police Reserve Officer. After serving as a volunteer reserve for 5 years, Chaffee was hired full-time as a Police Officer with the department.

Sergeant Chaffee has taken on many different roles since becoming a police officer in 2014. A few of these notable roles include Patrol Officer, Police Canine Officer, Firearms Instructor, Reserve Program Coordinator and was promoted to Police Sergeant in the fall of 2022.

Sergeant Chaffee takes a very active approach to patrolling the City of Big Lake on a consistent basis. We thank Sergeant Chaffee for his dedication and professional service to the City of Big Lake and its residents!



Sergeant Nic Prigge

Sergeant Nic Prigge joined the Big Lake Police Department in 2015. Prior to working for the Big Lake Police Department, Sergeant Prigge worked as a Patrol Officer for the Bismarck Police Department in North Dakota.

Sergeant Prigge has held many roles and responsibilities during his tenure with the Big Lake Police Department. Sergeant Prigge has held the positions of Patrol Officer, Investigator, and was promoted to Patrol Sergeant in July of 2024. Sergeant Prigge has also been a Field Training Officer, UAV Coordinator, and Patrol Union Vice President. Currently, Sergeant Prigge is in charge of our Field Training Program where he oversees all of our Field Training Officers.

Sergeant Prigge is a very hard worker who will offer assistance to any member of the Big Lake Police Department. We thank Sergeant Prigge for his enthusiastic ability to problem solve and assist on any and all matters pertaining to the Big Lake police Department. Keep up the great work!



Investigator Tom Kucala

Investigator Tom Kucala began his employment with the Big Lake Police Department in 2017. Prior to, Investigator Kucala worked for the Pella, Iowa Police Department for 4-years. Investigator Kucala moved back to Minnesota in 2017 and started with the Big Lake Police Department.

While with our department, Investigator Kucala has held many different positions. Investigator Kucala started as a Patrol Officer and Field Training Officer. As Kucala obtained experience with the department, he took on additional responsibilities such as a Firearms Instructor and was promoted to Investigator in 2022 where he currently assigned.

Investigator Kucala has been a great asset to our department. Investigator Kucala works collaboratively with our surrounding agencies to successfully investigate and prepare solid criminal investigations for successful prosecution. We appreciate his dedication and service to the City of Big Lake!



Investigator Silas Reek

Investigator Silas Reek has been with the Big Lake Police Department for nearly 9-years. Investigator Reek started his career with the Big Lake Police Department in 2016 as a Police Reserve Officer. Investigator Reek volunteered as a Reserve Officer for nearly 2-years before being hired on full-time as a sworn police officer in 2018.

Investigator Reek has accomplished many career highlights during his tenure with the department. Investigator Reek has involved himself in nearly every aspect of our department. Investigator Reek has held the positions and responsibilities of a Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Firearms Instructor, Taser Instructor, and Investigator.

Investigator Reek works collaboratively with Investigator Kucala on complex criminal investigations. As a team, they work in tandem with one another to solve and package criminal investigations before sending them off to the Sherburne County Attorney's office for charging. We thank you for your hard work and determination!



NEW STAFF - 2024



Officer Julie Hawkins



Officer Caleb Sawatsky



Officer Andrew Hanson



Officer Autumn Hanson



Officer Nate Hedstrom



Police Specialist Jessica Baker



Patrol Division



Officer Chris Hoard



Officer Joe Kalla



Officer Sam Norlin



Officer Bill Saliterman



Officer Michael Asfeld



Officer Julie Hawkins



Officer Caleb Sawatsky



Officer Andrew Hanson



Officer Autumn Hanson



Officer Nathan Hedstrom

NEW LOOK!



RESERVE PROGRAM

Chief John Kaczmarek brought back the Police Reserve Program upon his hire in 2022. The program had previously been disbanded in 2017. With the assistance of Sergeant Guy Chaffee and Officer Chris Hoard, we were able to create a new program and set new goals in which it would best enhance the department and community's needs.

Currently, our Reserve Program consists of (6) active Reserve Officers who routinely volunteer their time to the City of Big Lake.

Active Reserve Officers: Crystal Gassman, Aaron Lee, Jada Isais, Andrew Smith, Grant Reitmeier, and Benjamin Bauman.

Annually, Reserves provide assistance in many different areas: Music in the Park, Movie in the Park, SpudFest, Granite Man, park patrols, neighborhood checks, Lakeside Park events, Special Event Permit events, assist on motor vehicle accidents, and much more.

The Reserve Unit is a critical component to the police department in which we value greatly.

Our Reserves were awarded the Bronze Presidential Service Award in 2023 and 2024 for their outstanding volunteerism!



2024

627 VOLUNTEER HOURS!





Big Lake
LIVE BIG!

POLICE
CITY OF BIG LAKE

THE BIG LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:
COFFEE WITH THE CHIEF

Enjoy free coffee and conversation with Police Chief John Kaczmarek about happenings in the City of Big Lake.

SELECT WEDNESDAYS:
FEBRUARY 7, 2024
APRIL 3, 2024
JUNE 5, 2024
AUGUST 7, 2024



Community events



2024



BIG LAKE HIGH SCHOOL CAREER FAIR

SPUDFEST





SPUDFEST PARADE



BLPD vs. BLFD Softball Game

National Night out!





Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called
the children of God.

Matthew 5:9

FALLEN
OFFICERS

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2024

Law Enforcement Memorial St. Paul, MN



2024 Awards - Recognitions



2024 BRONZE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD BLPD RESERVE UNIT



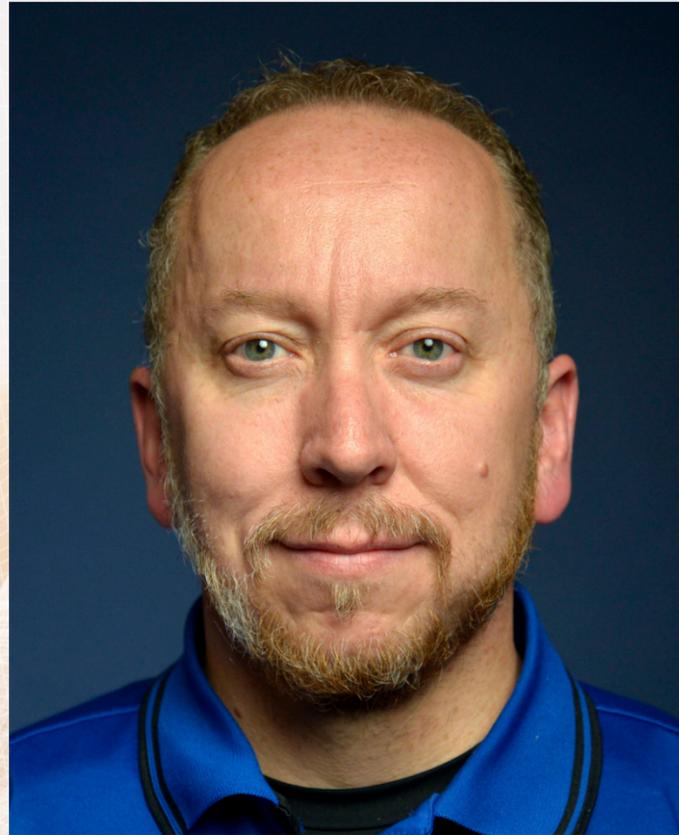
Presidential Volunteer Service
Bronze Level Award
Big Lake Police Reserve
ANDREW
CRYSTAL GA
GRANT RE
AARON



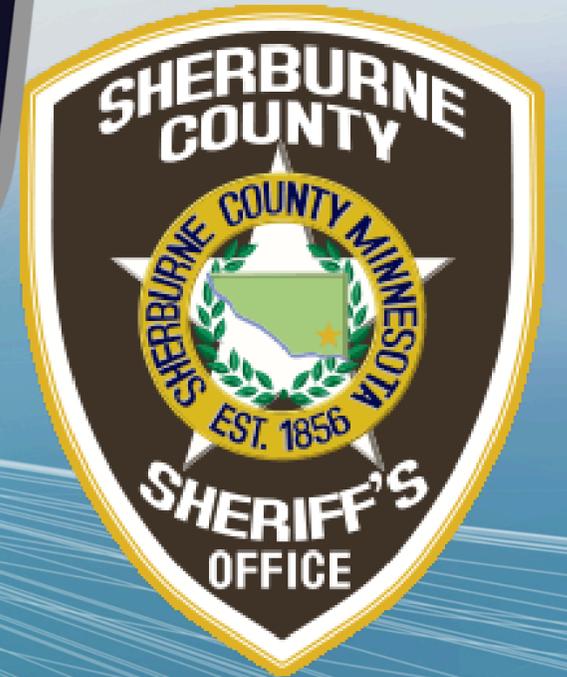
Captain Sam Olson - Recipient of Life Saving Award

Co-Responder Roy Neumann - Recipient of Chief's Letter of Commendation Award

MENTAL HEALTH CO-RESPONDER PROGRAM



Co-Responder Roy Neumann
Sherburne County Health and Human Services



Specially trained and educated in crisis intervention. Assists Sherburne County Sheriff's Office, Big Lake PD, Becker PD, and Elk River PD with mental health crisis situations.

Co-Responder Program launched within Sherburne County in 2021. More than 200 clients have been served since the program launched in the City of Big Lake.

UAV PROGRAM

The Big Lake Police Department currently has (2) UAV's, Autel EVO II Dual and DJI mini 2. Some of the features of these UAV's are:

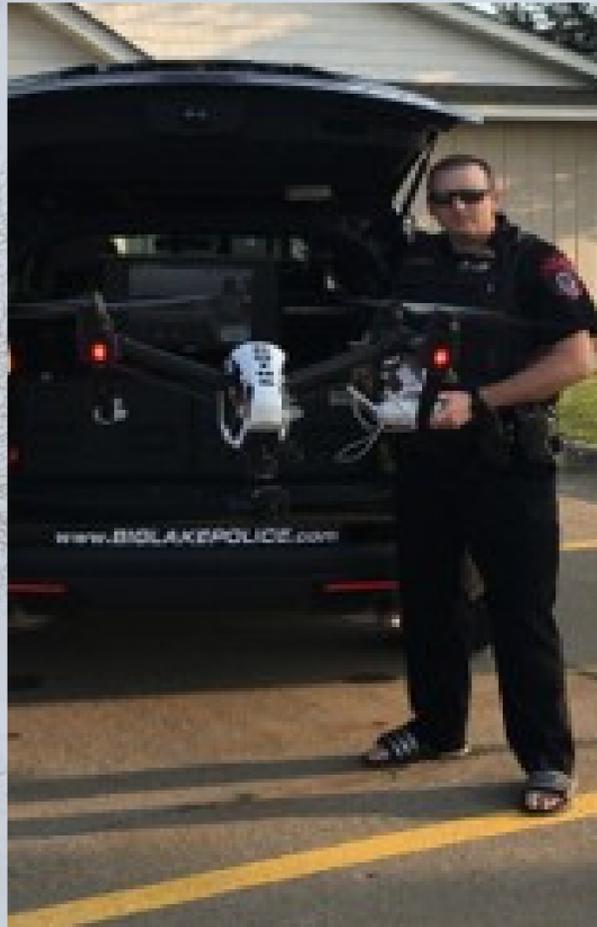
- Long range flight out to (5) miles
- Intergraded thermal and daytime camera
- Compact for flying in small areas
- Blade guards for indoor flying

Officers are able to fly the DJI Mini 2 inside of buildings/structures, while still using the Autel EVO II Dual for larger outdoor deployments.

Currently, our department has (6) assigned pilots: Investigator Silas Reek, Sergeant Nic Prigge, Sergeant Guy Chaffee, Officers' Chris Hoard, Sam Norlin, and Joe Kalla.

UAV's are utilized for vulnerable and missing person searches, critical incident management, suspect location, crime scene mapping, and a large array of other duties.

2024 Deployments: 26 UAV Deployments this past year.



TRAINING



Members of the Big Lake Police Department completed 1,418 hours of training and continuing education as an agency in 2024. Officers are mandated by the state to complete 48 hours of continuing education training every three years to renew their peace officer license.

Minnesota Post Board mandated trainings include:

Emergency Vehicle Operation Course (EVOC)

Use of Force

Firearms Qualification

Crisis Intervention and Mental Illness Crisis

Conflict Management and Mediation

Recognizing and Valuing Community Diversity and Cultural

Differences to include: Implicit Bias, Autism, Crimes

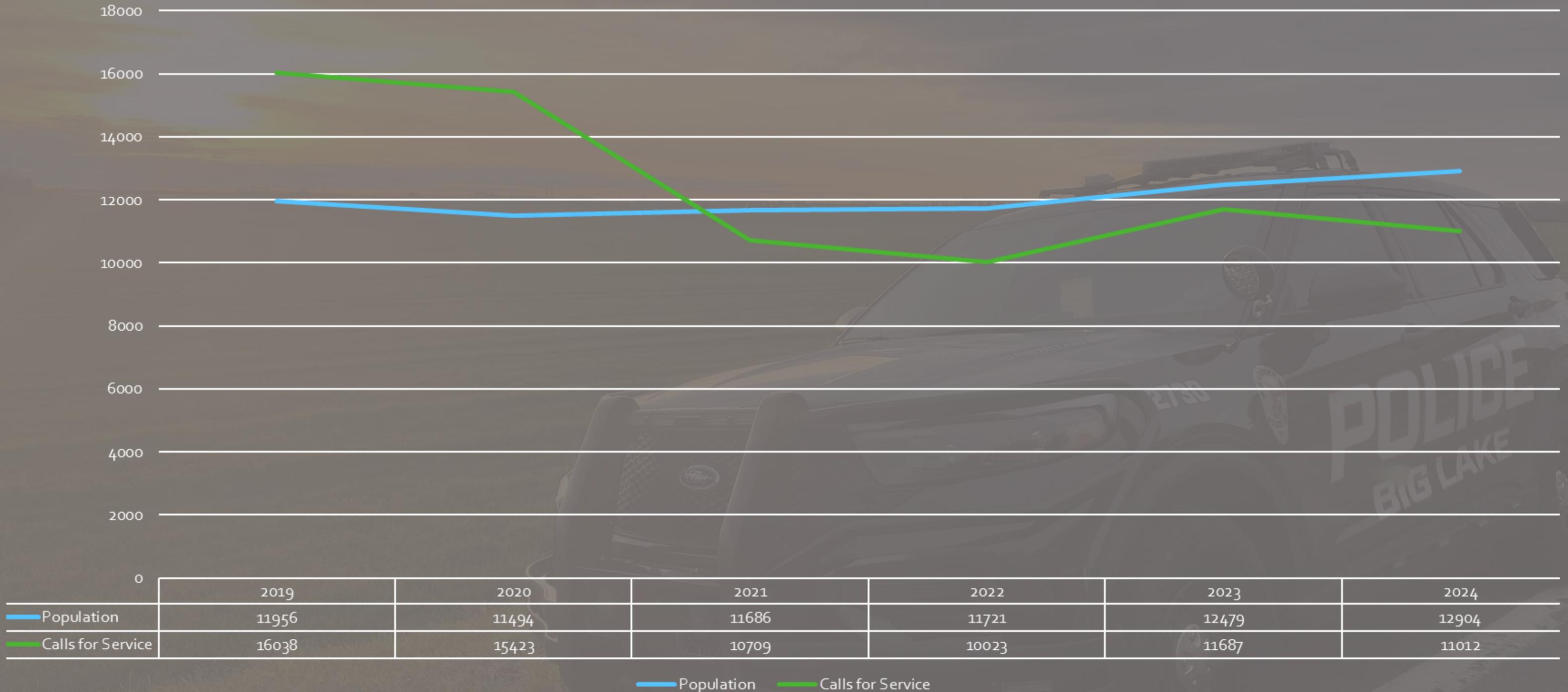
Motivated by Bias





BLPD Statistics

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE WITH CORRESPONDING POPULATION 2019-2024



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Population	11956	11494	11686	11721	12479	12904
Calls for Service	16038	15423	10709	10023	11687	11012

Population Calls for Service

2024 - BIG LAKE CRIME RATES

STATISTICS COMPILED BY NIBRS (NATIONAL-BASED REPORTING SYSTEM)



TOTAL ARRESTS

NIBRS- GROUP A CRIMES:

SERIOUS OFFENSES; RAPE, MURDER, AGGREGATED ASSAULT, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, CRIMINAL SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, ETC.

NIBRS- GROUP B CRIMES:

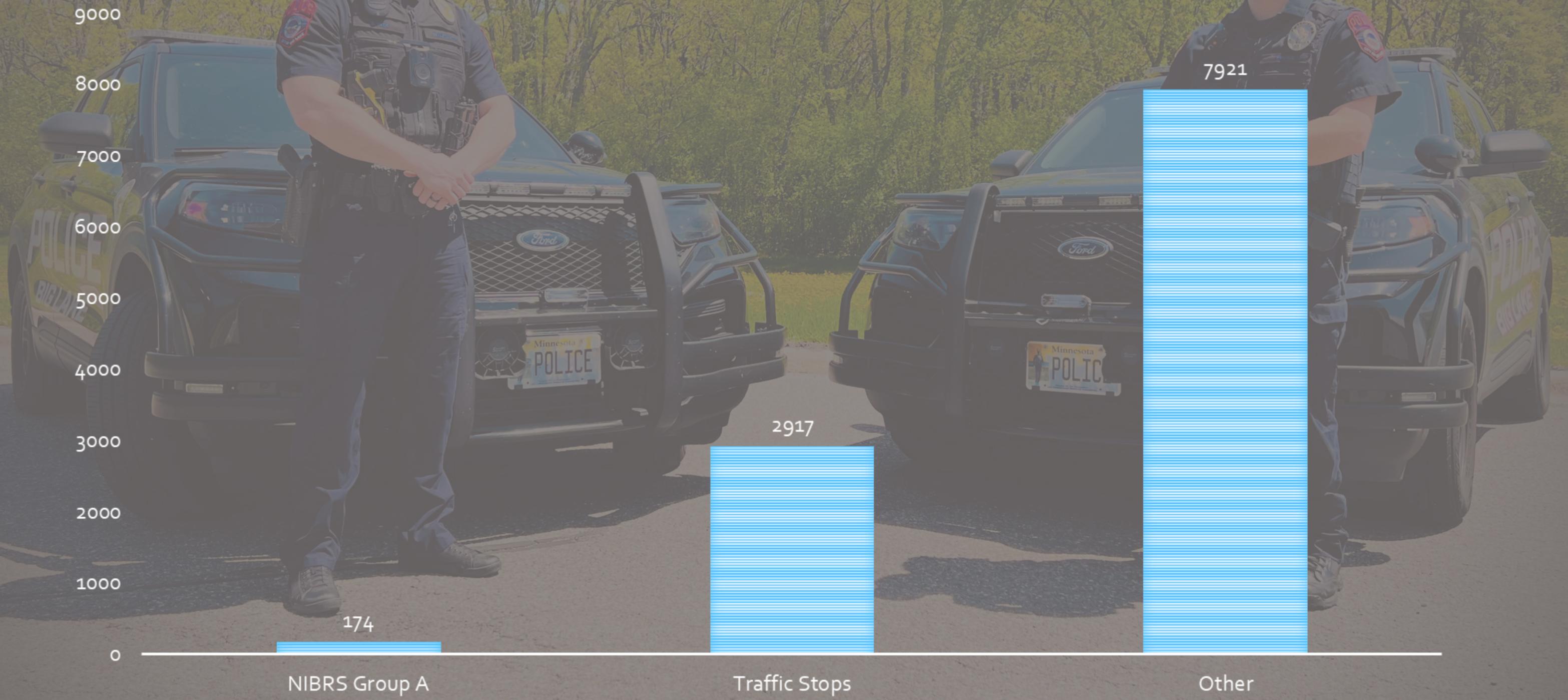
DWI, DISORDERLY CONDUCT, RUNAWAYS, TRESSPASS, AND OTHER LOW LEVEL CRIMES.

NIBRS Group B
56%



NIBRS Group A
44%

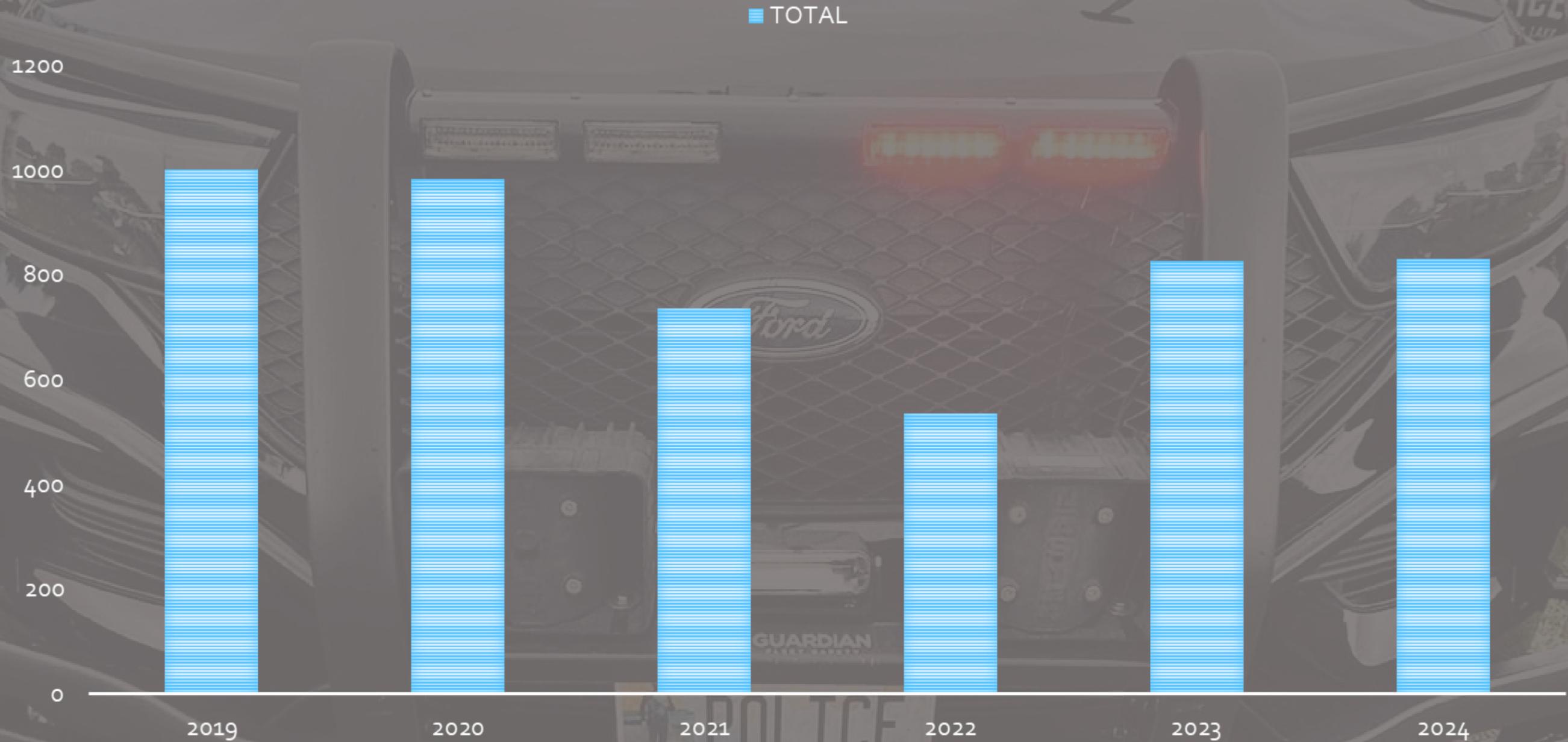
2024 - BIG LAKE CRIME RATES



BIG LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT SUMMONS ISSUED

2019-2024

TOTAL

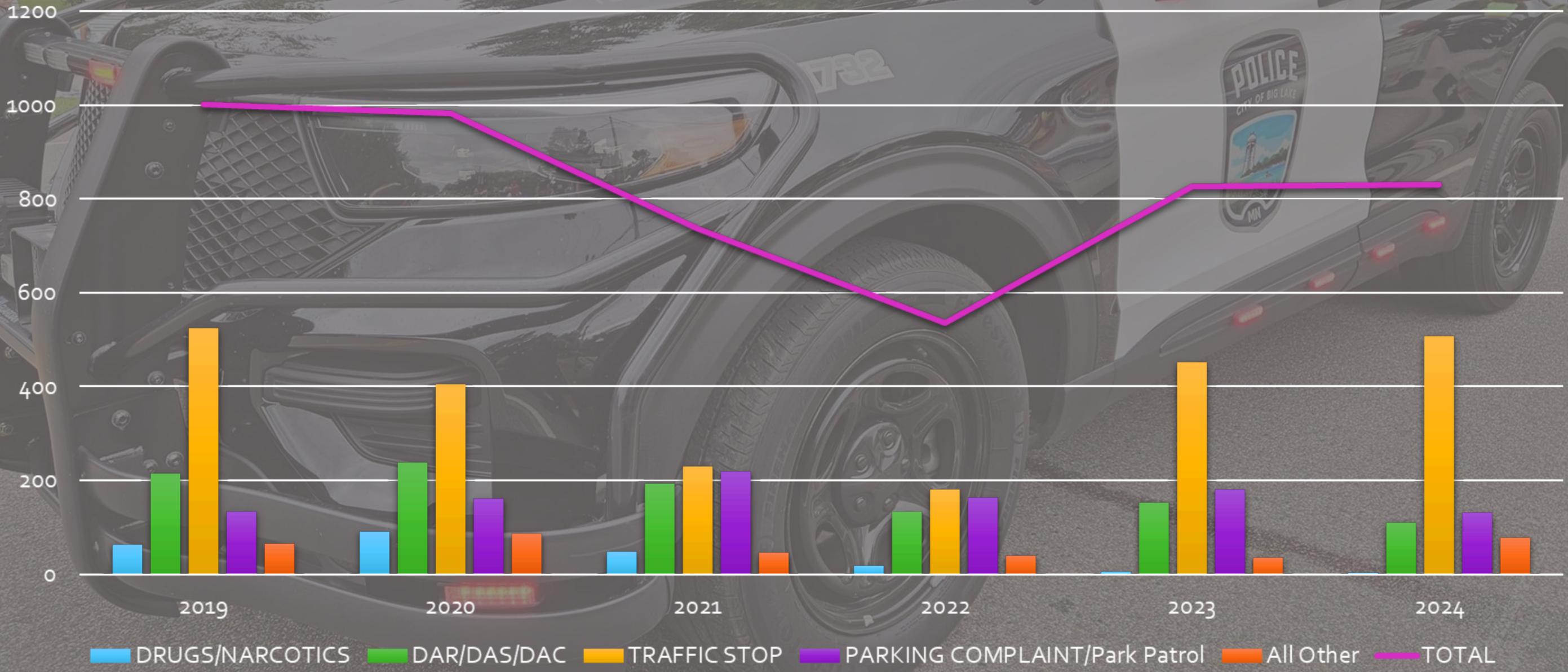


*TOTAL NUMBER OF VIOLATIONS CITED. SOME CONTACTS ARE CITED FOR MULTIPLE VIOLATIONS.

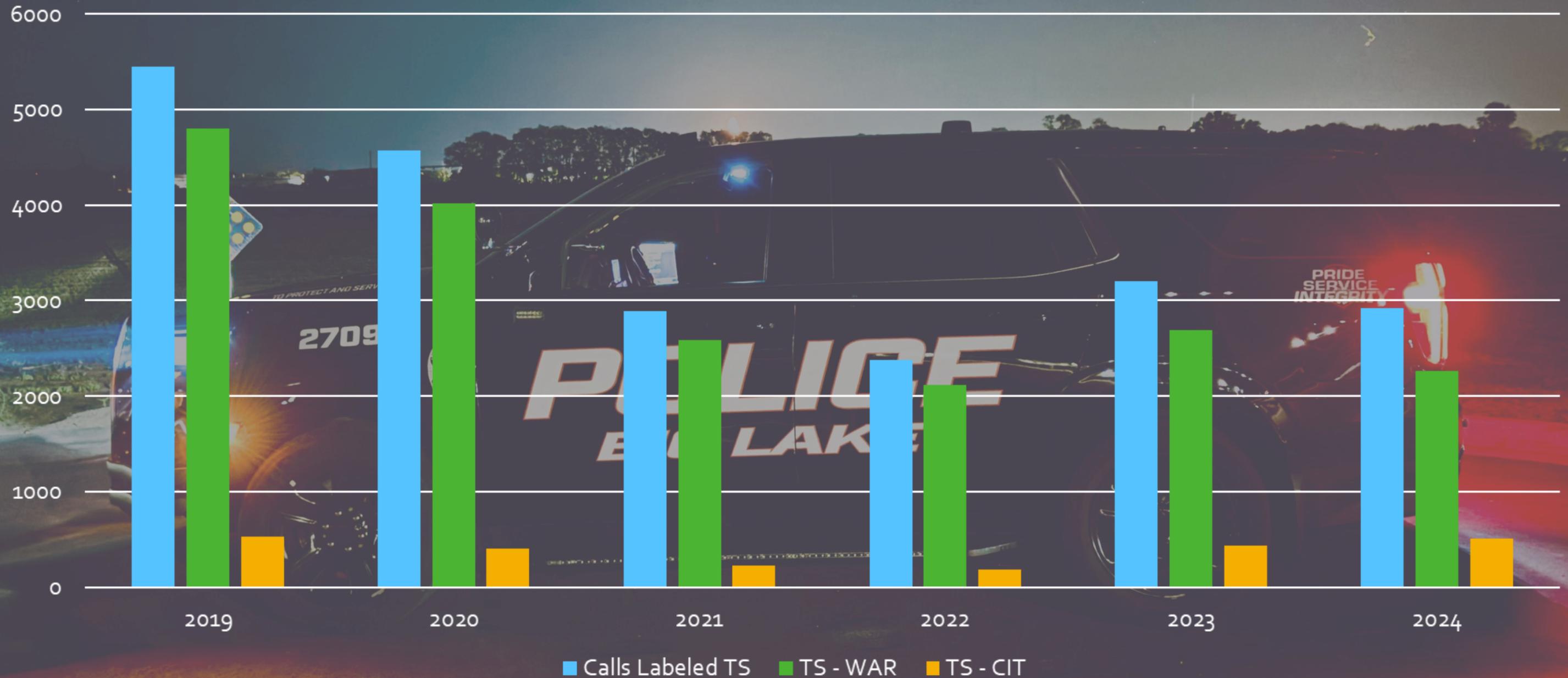
BIG LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT - CITATION TYPE BY YEAR



2019-2024



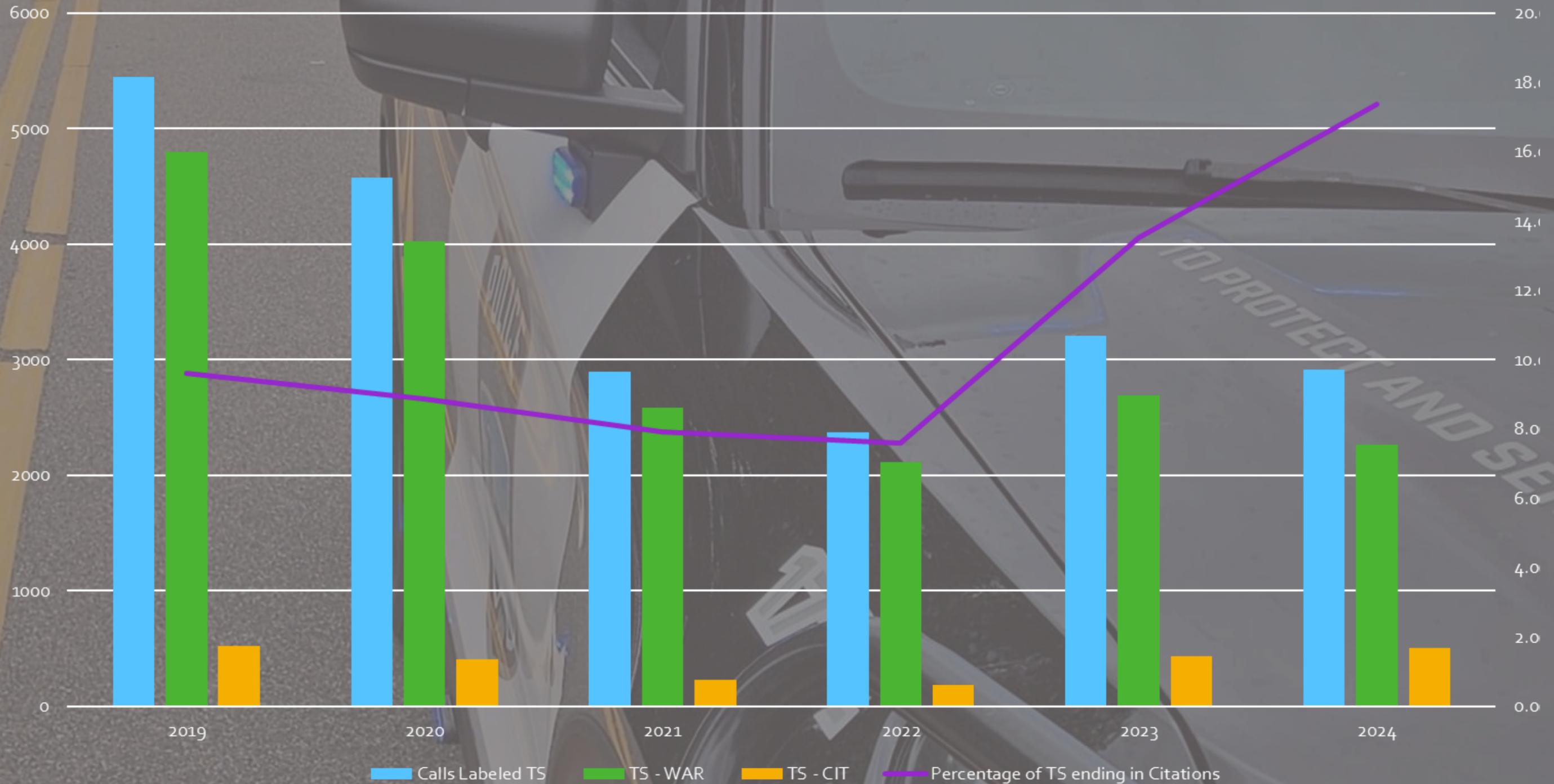
BIG LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAFFIC STOPS – WARNINGS VS CITATIONS 2019-2024



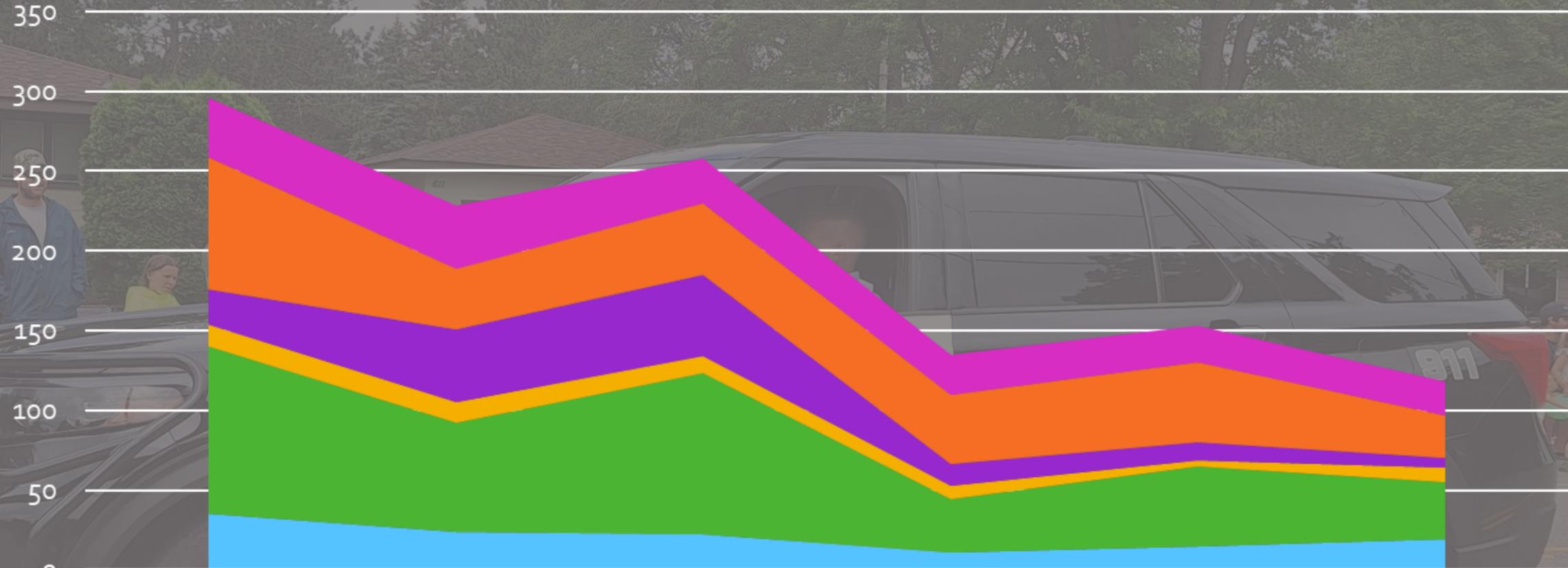
BIG LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT

TRAFFIC STOPS: WARNINGS, CITATIONS, AND PERCENTAGE ENDING IN CITATION

2019-2024



BIG LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS ADULT ARRESTED 2019-2024



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
All Other Arrests	37	39	28	25	23	21
Warrant Arrest	83	38	45	44	50	27
Narcotics	22	46	51	13	11	6
Crimes Against Justice	14	13	11	9	4	9
DWI	105	68	101	33	50	36
Domestic Assault	35	24	22	11	15	19

A blue SUV, likely a Ford Explorer, is parked on a paved road. The vehicle is marked with "POLICE" and "BIG LAKE" in large white letters on the side. The number "2730" is visible on the front fender. A small badge is on the front door. The rear of the vehicle has a decal that says "PRIDE SERVICE INTEGRITY". The SUV has a black bumper and a roof rack. In the background, there is a large American flag on a tall pole, some trees, and a building. The sky is clear and blue.

THIS REPORT IS DEDICATED TO THE CITIZENS OF BIG LAKE!

John Kaczmarek - Chief of Police