

Quarterly Report

Police Department

Town Council Meeting Date: November 14th, 2023

2023: July, August, September



Please accept this as the quarterly report for the Warrenton Police Department

Department introduction: The Warrenton Police Department is a state accredited, full-service law enforcement agency. We provide patrol, investigative, parking, The department is authorized 28 sworn officers, 1 sworn, part-time parking enforcement officer, and three civilian employees. Each of our employees, both sworn and civilian, is well-trained. Our personnel use up-to-date equipment to better serve our citizens.

Commendable Achievements: The Police Department promoted one Lieutenant, two Sergeants, and one Corporal during the last quarter. The Lieutenant and one Sergeant position filled vacancies in our Support Services Bureau (CID, Training, Property & Evidence), adding supervisory efficiencies to that section, and the remaining positions filled important supervisory roles in the Operations Bureau (Patrol, Parking Enforcement, Motors). A Detective Sergeant now supervises a group of three detectives, two general and one assigned to drugs, gangs, and vice crimes. The Detective Sergeant's duties include performing case management, completing detective performance evaluations, producing a monthly on-call schedule, organizing CID operations and details, and acting as the liaison with law enforcement agencies and partners, to name a few.

Major Andrew Arnold has been accepted to attend the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy (FBINA) next Spring. The National Academy is one of the premier law enforcement training programs in the world. The 10-week program, established in 1935, provides advanced investigative, management, and fitness training to senior officers who are proven leaders within their organizations. In addition to undergraduate and graduate-level college courses offered in areas such as law, behavioral and forensic science, understanding terrorism and terrorists, and leadership development, students forge lasting connections that strengthen global law enforcement partnerships. Only 1% of all law enforcement officers are chosen to attend the FBINA.

On August 1, the Police Department hosted National Night Out (NNO) at the Warrenton Aquatic and Recreation Facility (WARF). For this event, the Police Department partnered with the Parks and Recreation and Public Works Departments. Also participating in the event was the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Warrenton Volunteer Fire Company, and numerous local businesses, civic groups, and community organizations. The event was a huge success and drew the largest crowd for a NNO event in the post-Covid era.

This quarter the Police Department applied, and was approved, for funding from the American Rescue Plan Act Law Enforcement Equipment and Technology Grant Program in the amount of \$60,000. This non-matching grant will be used to purchase a hybrid law enforcement vehicle and associated equipment, reducing the overall police department vehicle purchasing costs to the Town for FY24 and continuing the Police Department's commitment to fiscal efficiency and environmentally friendly operation.

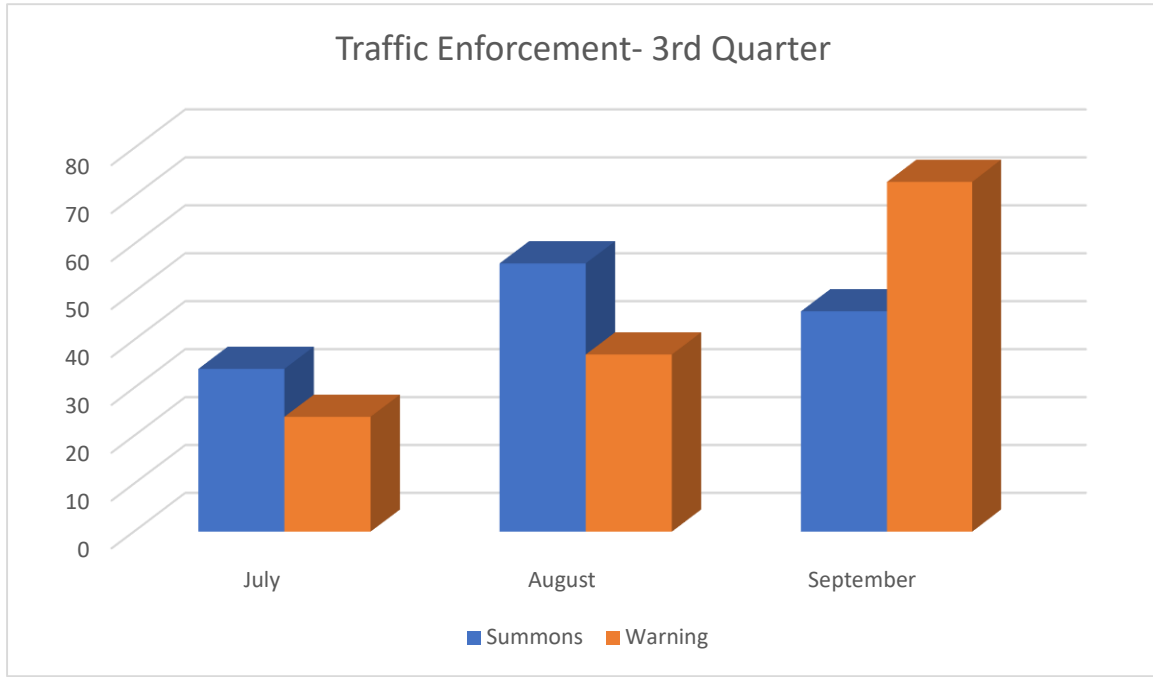
Project Progress: The Police Department has been working hard all year preparing for our state accreditation assessment occurring November 13-15, 2023. The Police Department has been state accredited through the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) since 2007. The assessment is a review of the 191 standards for efficient and effective agency operation. These standards cover all aspects of the agency including policies and procedures, management, administration, operations, and support services. To verify compliance, a team of VLEPSC assessors conducts a three-day site visit.

In this last quarter we have been wrapping up the accumulation of proofs for the last term. A proof is anything, usually a document, that “proves” or shows compliance with a particular standard. Each accreditation cycle is broken down into four, one-year terms and proofs must be collected each term for each of the 191 standards. Many of the standards have multiple parts, each requiring their own proofs, so that the total number of proofs that must be obtained is more than double the number of standards. These proofs are reviewed at the end of the four-year cycle by trained assessors who determine whether the agency was in compliance with the standards during the cycle.

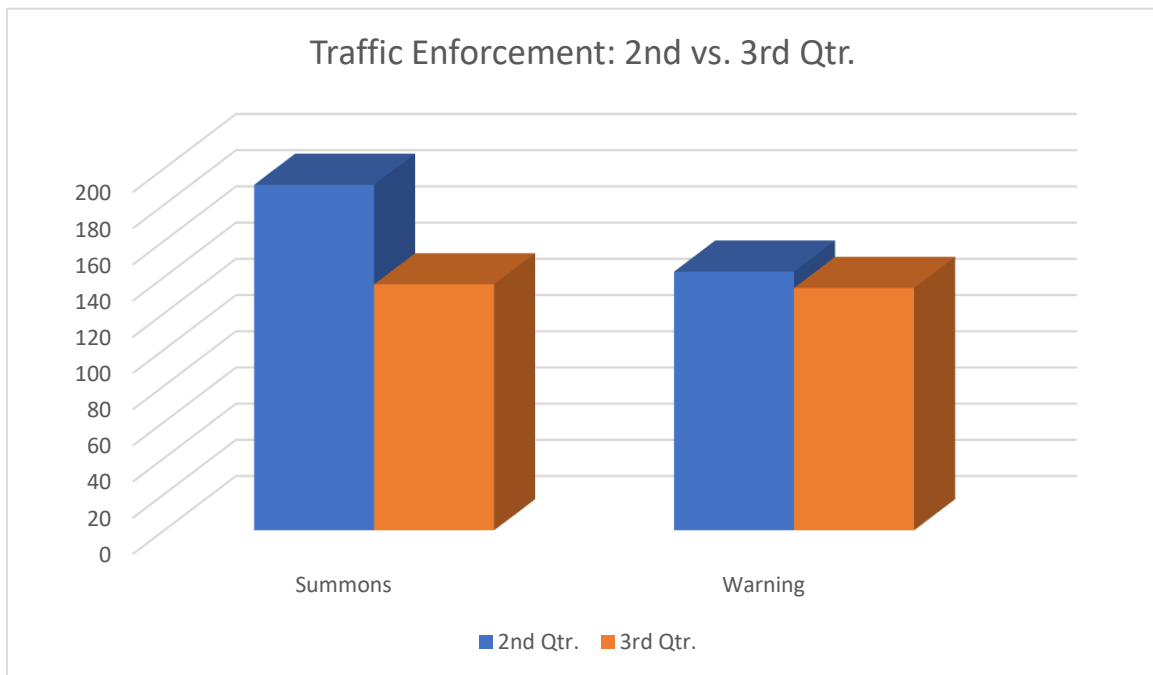
In addition, we have been preparing our police department, vehicles, and equipment for an additional, equally important part of the assessment process, the static display and tour. As part of the assessment, the assessors will be given a guided tour of the police department. Following the tour, they will be shown a static display of the department's equipment, uniforms, and vehicles, and explained the function of each and how they are utilized to accomplish the goals and objectives set by the department. The assessors can ask any questions they choose and request additional information and/or ask to be shown additional items. They also have the right to interview any employee of the department on any related topic and to participate in ride-alongs with any officer on duty.

Following the assessment, the assessment team will prepare an official report for the Professional Standards Commission with a recommendation regarding the department's reaccreditation. The Commission makes the final decision.

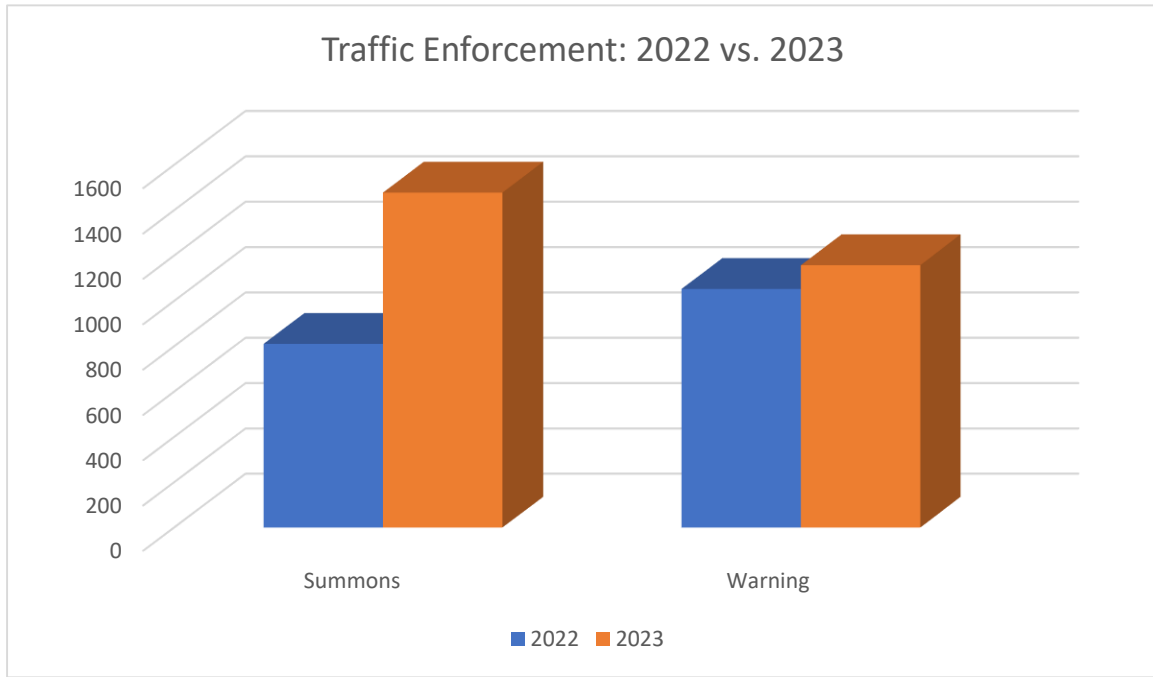
Charts and information:



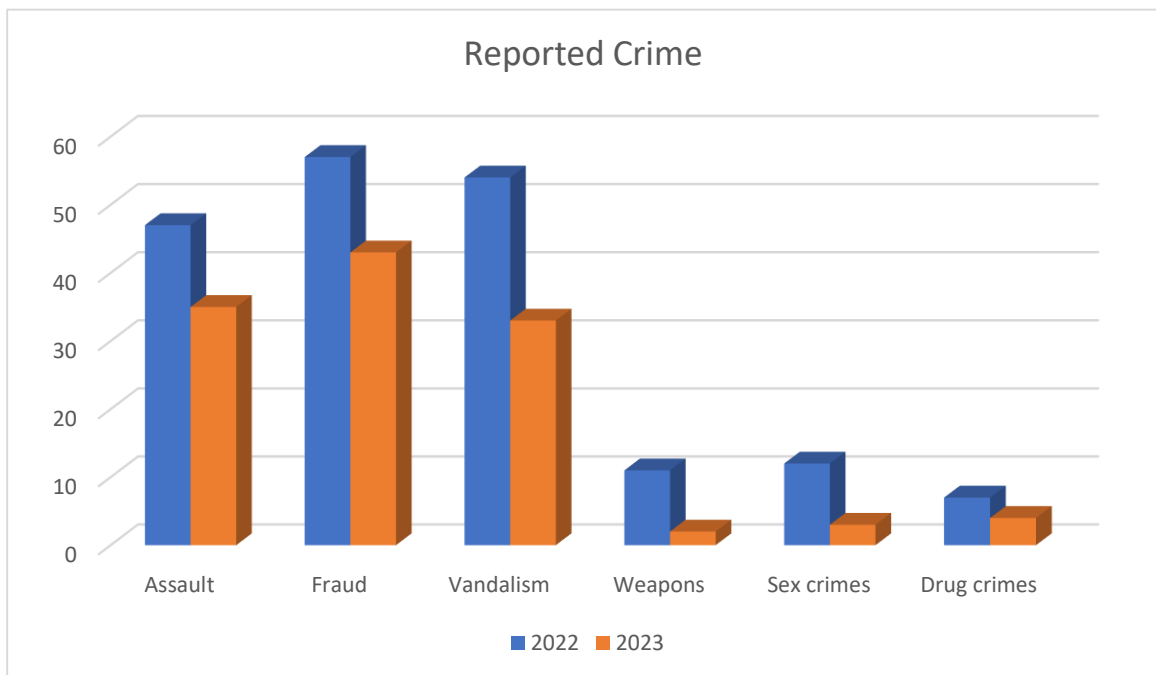
Traffic summonses were up significantly from July to August as were written warnings. Warnings nearly doubled for September, but traffic summonses decreased slightly, partly because of the loss of the use of the police motor due to scheduled maintenance, and other demands of the motor officer during the month.



Traffic summonses were down in the 3rd quarter, but written warnings were relatively even.



Year to date, traffic summonses are up over 82% from 2022 while written warnings are up 10%.



All reported crimes are down compared to this time last year. Assault, fraud, vandalism, weapons offenses, sex offenses, and drug violations are all down significantly over this time

last year. Only larceny offenses are up significantly over this time last year, but this is also a national trend. Reasons for the lower crime rates could include:

- law enforcement efforts to provide fraud prevention education across age groups, but particularly to seniors; and
- community engagement, focused deterrence, and proactive policing initiatives designed to combat assaults, weapons offenses, and drug violations, particularly in areas shown to be more prone to such offenses.

Data: See appended reports