



Oak Island Police Department



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

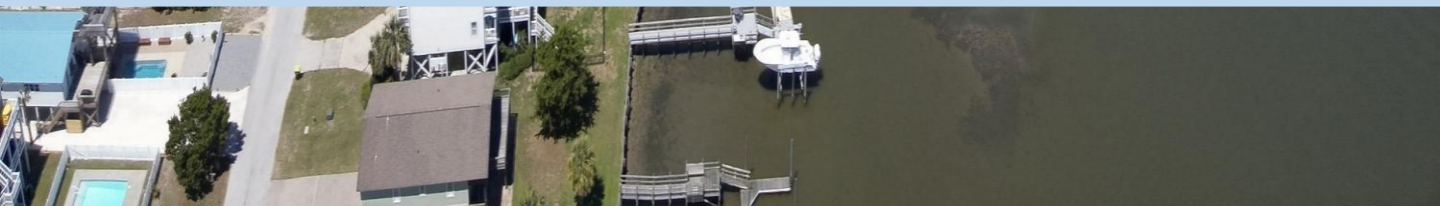




Table of Contents

3

**Mission
Statement**

4

**Vision
Statement**

5

**Leadership
Team**

6

**Message from
the Chief of
Police**

7

**S.W.O.T
Analysis**

8

**Organizational
Chart**

9

**Call and
Report Activity**

10

**Top 10 Calls
for Service**

11

**Crimes Against
Person &
Property
Crimes**

12

**Town – Wide
Patrol at a
Glance**

13 - 14

**Traffic
Summary**

15

**Traffic
Accident
Comparison**

16

**Traffic
Accident with
Injuries**

17

**Narcotics
Violations**

18

**Officer's
Annual
Mileage**

19

**Agency
Accreditation**

20 - 23

**Keeping our
Community
Safe**

24

Training

25 - 26

New Hires

27 - 28

Promotions

29

Achievements

30

Awards

31 - 32

**Community
Engagement**

33

**Beach
Services Unit**

34 - 35

2024 Timeline

36 - 38

Year in Review

39

**Department
Goals**

40

End of Report



Mission Statement



CHIEF
CHARLES A. MORRIS II

OAK ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT



MAJOR
FRANKLIN COOKE



LIEUTENANT
MICHAEL OXFORD



LIEUTENANT
LOYD HAMES JR.



DETECTIVE SERGEANT
BRADLEY STEVENS



DETECTIVE
THOMAS O'BRIEN



CRO
MATTHEW TWEEDIE



SERGEANT
JESSE BIRCHFIELD



SERGEANT
KRISTY DEMELLO



SERGEANT
DAVID LOCKLEAR



SERGEANT
MARK TAYLOR



CORPORAL
JORDAN CUTCHINS



CORPORAL
VICTOR DENOBLE



MPO
NICOLAS BASS



MPO
CATHRYN BROWN



MPO
ROBERT PHILLIPS



MPO
MATTHEW WATTS



OFFICER
ALVIN BARNES



OFFICER
BEAU BOOSE



OFFICER
ALYSSA CREECH



OFFICER
MATTHEW HALLUM



OFFICER
RAYMOND HOLLEMAN



OFFICER
ZACHARY KNEPPSHIELD



OFFICER
TODD OSBORNE



OFFICER
DANIEL SASSER



OFFICER
JACOB SCHWEIBER



OFFICER
JOSEPH TRAHEY



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
THERESA TICKLE



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
SARA EDGE



VOLUNTEER
CYNTHIA GRANT



VOLUNTEER
CHARLES MARTIN



VOLUNTEER
EILEEN RAMSDALE

2025

"PROUDLY SERVING OUR COMMUNITY"

EMERGENCY: 911 • NON-EMERGENCY: 910-278-5595 • WWW.OAKISLANDNC.COM/POLICE • PHOTOS BY BRENDA TORREY PHOTOGRAPHY

The mission of the Oak Island Police Department is to serve and protect the community by delivering professional police services; officers will enforce the law, ensure the safety of our community, and protect the rights of all citizens by policing with fairness and integrity.



Vision Statement

We strive to exceed the expectations of those we serve, focus on being positive, and treat everyone with the highest level of professionalism.





Leadership Team



**Chief of Police
Charles A. Morris II**



**Assistant Chief
Franklin Cooke**



**Detective Lieutenant
Michael Oxford**



**Patrol Lieutenant
Loyd Hames**



Message from the CHIEF OF POLICE

On behalf of all the members of the Oak Island Police Department, it is my pleasure to present our 2024 Annual Report. The information contained in the following pages reflects the outstanding work completed by our dedicated staff and officers.

The report outlines the services and accomplishments achieved by the Department, along with statistical information on crime and traffic, as well as partnerships that have been built with the community throughout the year.

The Department works daily to keep our community protected and streets safe. Traffic safety, community engagement, beach safety, and employee development continue to be priorities as we remain focused on delivering the highest quality of police services possible.

Even though our town has thousands of visitors each year, the Town maintains a low crime rate. Over the past few years, the Department has overseen and greatly improved the Traffic Safety Camera project expanding to more than sixty safety cameras throughout the Town which capture the high traffic and high liability areas. This has been a great addition that adds another layer of safety to our community.

As with many beach communities, the use of Low-Speed Vehicles (LSVs) is a popular and convenient way to travel around the island during the summer season. In response to the increasing number of LSVs, the Department launched the “Slow Ride: Take it Safely” campaign, which included a video and map to help LSV drivers navigate the Island in a safe manner.

Additionally, the Department conducted Active Shooter training for Town employees and completed security assessments for numerous town buildings.

Community engagement and partnerships continue to remain a priority, as our Community Resource Officer and patrol officers are accessible and frequently involved in Town events. In 2024, we hosted or participated in community events such as National Night Out, School Supply Drive, The Clause Cause, Banding Together for Western North Carolina, and many others. We are grateful for the community support as we work to reinforce our established relationships, solving problems together as they arise.

I want to thank all the members of the Oak Island Police Department for doing an outstanding job and extend a special Thank You to the Oak Island community for their support and for allowing us to serve.

Charles A. Morris II

Charles A. Morris II
Chief of Police



S.W.O.T Analysis

Strengths

- Residents Feel Safe
- Traffic Safety Measures
- Support from the Community
- Community Oriented Policing
- Officer Training
- Vehicles and Equipment

Weaknesses

- Recruitment of New Officers
- Increase our online presence

Opportunities

- Further law enforcement accreditation
- Providing a positive professional working environment that enables Officers to perform at their highest levels
- Increase recruitment efforts
- Increase In-Service training beyond state minimum

Threats

- Natural disasters: Hurricanes and Tropical Storms
- Minimal police officer applicant pool
- Seasonal influx of visitors



Organizational Chart



OAK ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Staffing Summary

Full-time Officers: 28

Part-time Officer: 1

Administrative Staff: 2

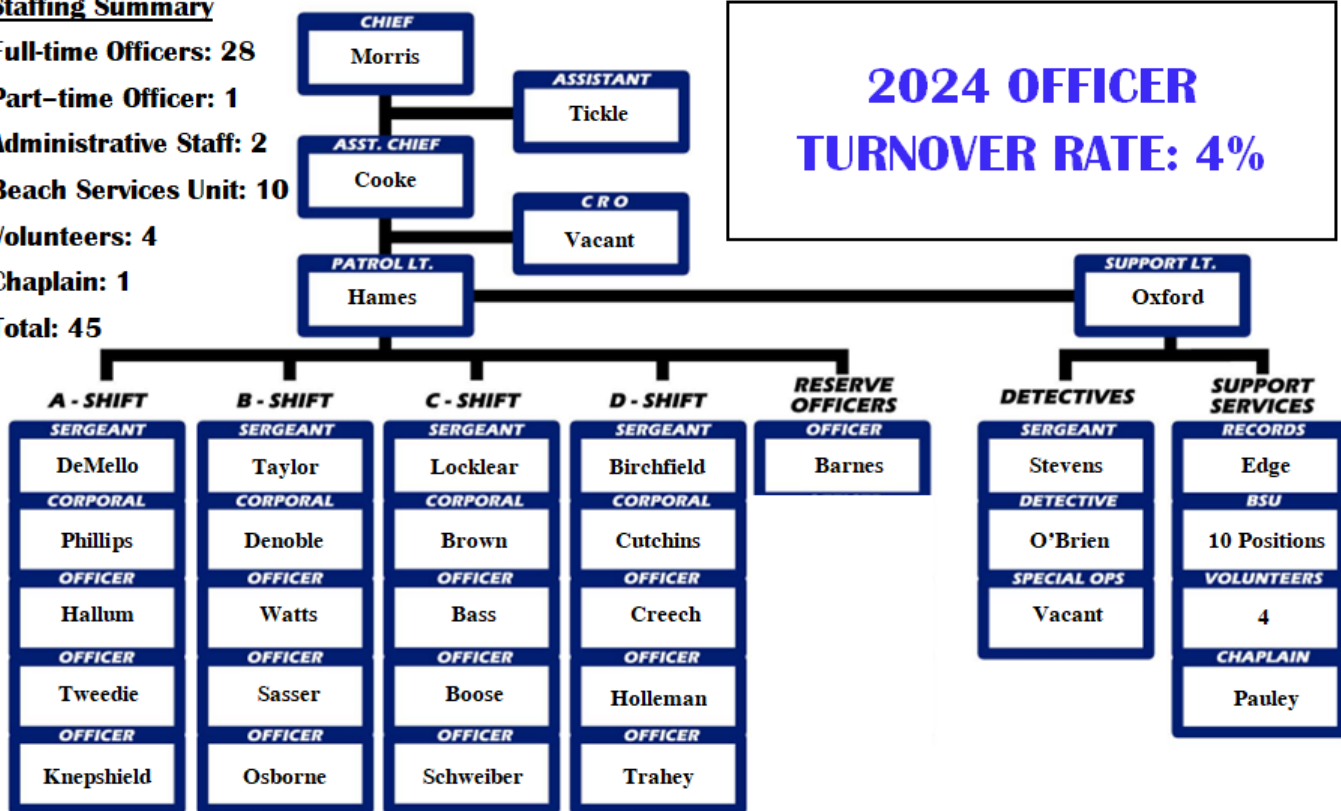
Beach Services Unit: 10

Volunteers: 4

Chaplain: 1

Total: 45

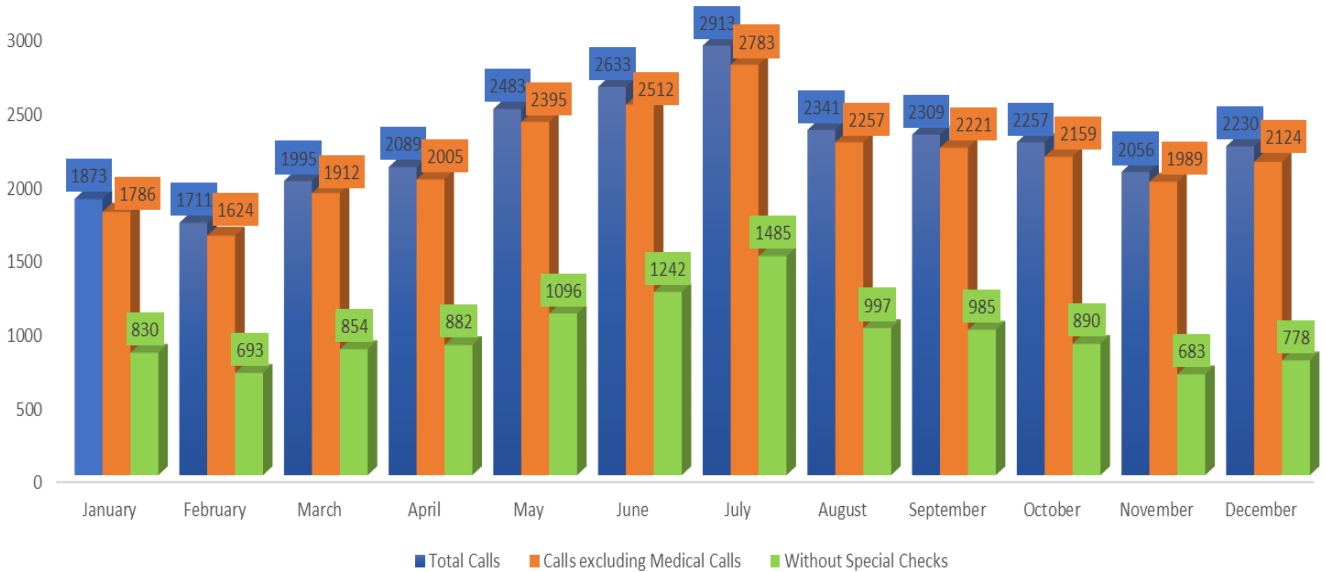
**2024 OFFICER
TURNOVER RATE: 4%**



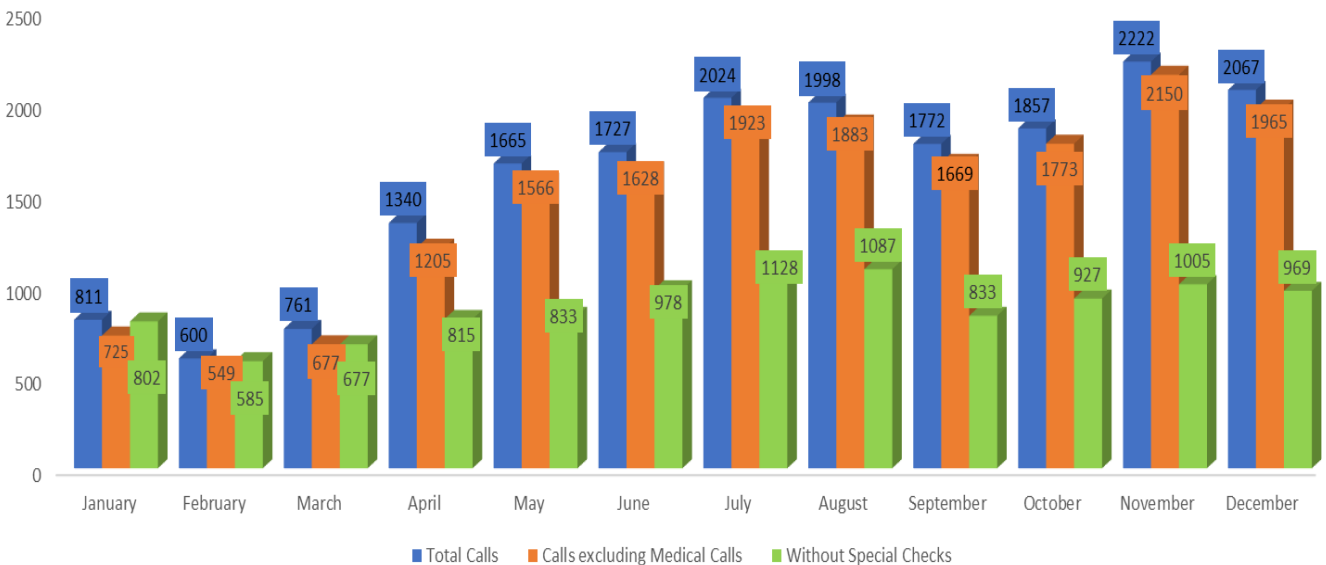


Call and Report Activity

2024 Annual CAD Statistics



2023 Annual CAD Statistics





Top 10 Calls for Service

Calls for Service	2023	2024
Special Business/ Res. Checks	8,216	15,482
Call by Telephone	796	814
Alarm	399	459
Suspicious Vehicle/Person	393	378
Take Written Report	369	331
Animal Control	287	384
Attempt to Locate	292	318
Meet with Complainant	277	322
Improperly Parked Vehicle	227	201
Disturbance - Disorderly	196	192

**Average Response Time
for Emergency Calls:
2 Minutes 51 Seconds**



Crimes Against Person and Property Crimes

Crimes Against Person	2023	2024
Simple Assault	57	87
Fraud	38	60
Death Investigation	17	15
Communicating Threats	34	31
Aggravated Assault	7	5
Missing Person/Runaway	12	13
Assault Inflicting Serious Injury	0	2
Murder	0	0
Robbery	0	0

Property Crimes	2023	2024
Larceny	84	89
Damage to Property	50	55
Breaking and Entering	10	13
Theft from Motor Vehicle	2	3



Town-Wide Patrol at a Glance

Violations Issued

2024: 3,128

2023: 2,790

% CHANGE:

+12.1%

Traffic Stops

2024: 4,261

2023: 3,532

% CHANGE:

+20.6%

Warnings Issued

2024: 1,537

2023: 1,220

% CHANGE:

+25.9%

DWI Arrests

2024: 23

2023: 21

% CHANGE:

+9.5%

Self Initiated Arrests

2024: 180

2023: 193

% CHANGE:

-6.7%

Warrants Served

2024: 13

2023: 13

% CHANGE:

0%



Traffic Summary

**TOTAL
TRAFFIC
ACCIDENTS**
2024: 219
2023: 240



**TRAFFIC
ACCIDENTS
WITH
INJURIES**
2024: 26
2023: 28

**GOLF CART
ACCIDENTS**
2024: 13
2023: 8



**GOLF CART
ACCIDENTS
WITH
INJURIES**
2024: 5
2023: 1

**TRAFFIC
ACCIDENTS IN
A PVA**
2024: 73
2023: 74



**TRAFFIC
ACCIDENT
FATALITIES**
2024: 0
2023: 0

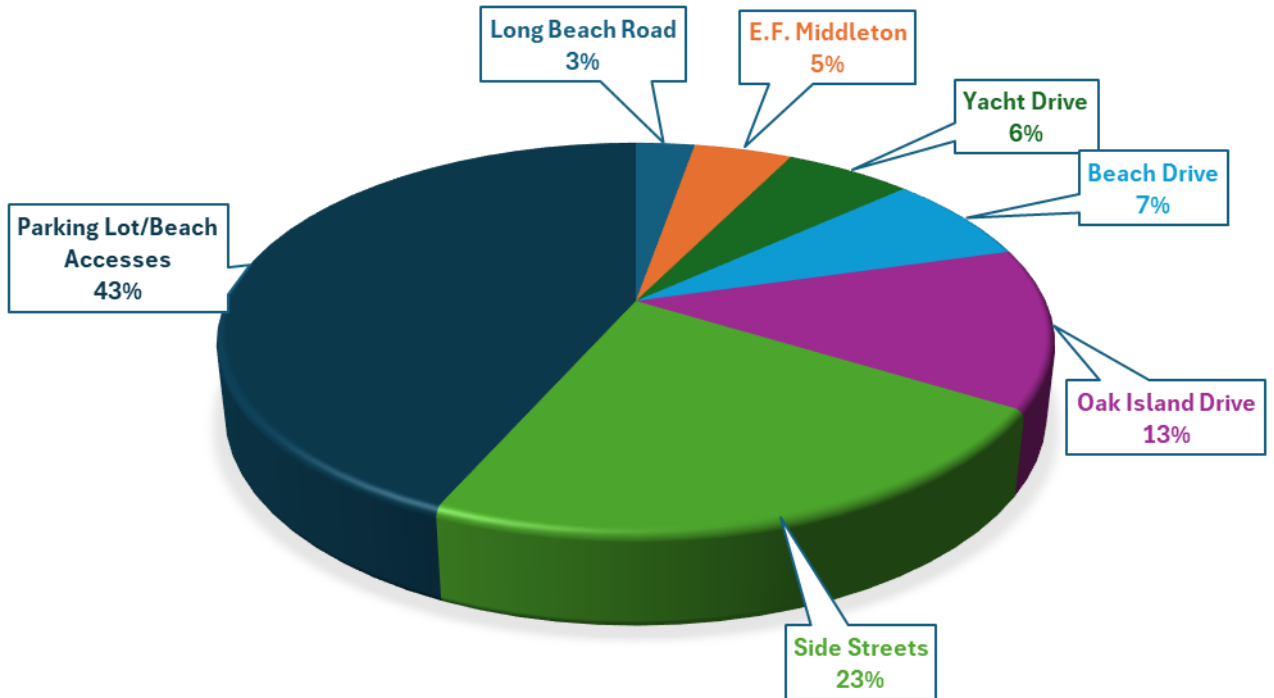


Traffic Summary Continued

Activity	2023	2024
Traffic Stops	3532	4261
LSV Stops	217	356
DWI Arrests	21	23
Speeding	877	996
Revoked/ No License	373	258
Seat Belt	62	168
Expired Registration	575	413
Other Traffic Violations	496	775
Citations/Charges	2,385/2,790	2,611/3,128



Traffic Accident Comparison



Location	Amount of Accidents
Long Beach Road	6
E.F Middleton Ave	10
Yacht Drive	13
Beach Drive	16
Oak Island Drive	29
Side Streets	50
Parking Lots/ Beach Accesses	95
Total Accidents	219



Traffic Accidents with Injuries



Long Beach Road



Middleton Avenue
Midway Road



Yacht Drive



Oak Island Drive



Beach Drive



Indicates all Vehicle Accidents in 2024 that listed Injuries- Total 8



Indicates all Golf Cart Accidents in 2024 that listed Injuries- Total 5



Narcotics Violations

Crime	2023	2024
Felony Arrests	21	13
Misdemeanor Charges	59	55
Maintain Dwelling for Drug Distribution	0	0
Non-Fatal Overdoses	4	6
Fatal Drug Overdoses	0	0
Non-Residents	3	4



Officer's Annual Mileage

433,247
Total Miles
Driven in
2024

38 Fleet
Vehicles

16,290
Annual
Average # of
Miles on One
Marked
Patrol Vehicle



Agency Accreditation



In an effort to maintain accountability and provide a professional level of service, the Oak Island Police Department reached a milestone by completing the Risk Review Process through the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

This was an in-depth review of the Department's high-risk policies, operations, and administrative practices of all high liability areas, which concluded with an onsite assessment. This achievement truly enhances the police services provided to the community and ensures the department is operating under industry best practices.



Keeping Our Community Safe

Traffic Monitoring and Safety Cameras





Keeping Our Community Safe

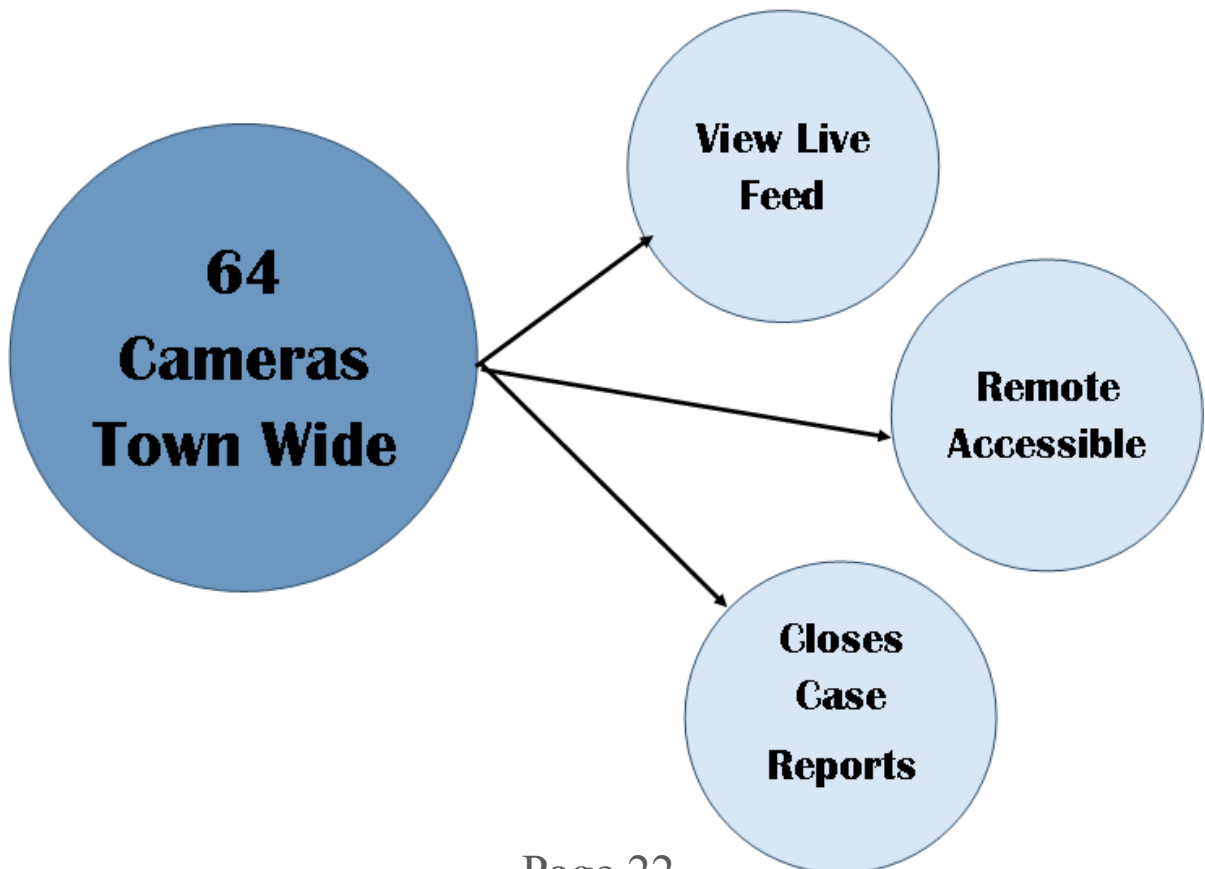
Traffic Monitoring and Safety Cameras



View of the Athletic Facilities



Street View





Keeping Our Community Safe



February 15, 2024 Oak Island Citizens Academy

Officer Tweedie speaks about what it's like to be an Oak Island Police Officer.



April 24, 2024 Ocean Conversation Meeting

Officer Tweedie discussed how to communicate with people who have mental challenges and/or intoxicated customers.



July 13, 2024 Fraud Prevention Class at Community Center

Det. SGT Stevens and Officer Tweedie explained how to detect fraudulent activity and avoid scams.



Summer 2024 Mobile Radar Trailer

Mobile radar trailer is moved around different areas to deter speeders.



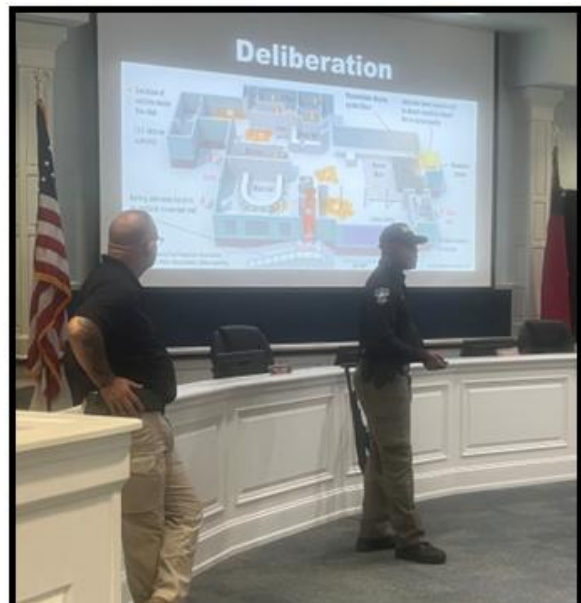
Keeping Our Community Safe



August 26, 2024

Low-Speed “Slow Ride” Campaign

Chief Morris worked with Communication Director Mike Emory, to produce an educational video about Low-Speed Vehicle safety and created new Low-Speed Vehicle information cards.



October 22, 2024 and October 23, 2024

Active Shooter Training

Active Shooter training was provided to the Town of Oak Island employees.



Training

1,001 Hours In-Service Training

Examples: Legal Update,
Juvenile Justice Training,
Firearms, CPR, etc.

355.75 Hours Traffic Courses

Examples: LIDAR, RADAR,
Intoximeter, etc.

3,199
**2024 Total
Training Hours**
**Combined
Online & Seated Classes**

1,016 Hours Other Police Related Training

Examples: Crisis Intervention
Training, DCI Class, PLI, Patrol
Rifle Operator, etc.

802.25 Hours Leadership Training

Examples: FBI LEEDA, FEMA,
General Instructor, etc.



2024 New Hires



Officer Holleman

Officer Holleman moved to Brunswick County four years ago, where he then completed his Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) at Brunswick Community College

He then worked for 2.5 years with the Boiling Spring Lakes Police Department.

During his free time, he enjoys attending car shows and being at home with his family and friends.

Officer Holleman joined the Oak Island Police Family February 13, 2024.



Officer Trahey

Officer Trahey has been working as a law enforcement officer in several different agencies since 1995.

In 2000, Officer Trahey joined the Charlottesville Virginia Police Department, then headed north to the City of Fairfax Police Department, just outside Washington D.C., where he worked for the next twenty years serving as a S.W.A.T. Team Operator, Motor Carrier Inspector, Children's Safety Seat Technician, Motorcycle Police Officer, patrol and several supervisory positions. In 2022, he went to work in the courts of Spotsylvania County through the Sheriff's Office, where he eventually retired from law enforcement in Virginia.

Officer Trahey joined the Oak Island Police Family May 7, 2024



2024 New Hires

Continued



Officer Hallum

Officer Hallum has been in law enforcement since 2016, having started with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, where he was assigned to the patrol division for 5 years.

During this time, he received his Intermediate Law Enforcement Certification through NC Training and Standards and became certified in Traffic Crash Reconstruction.

Following this, he moved to Minnesota, where he was sworn in as a Minnetonka Police Department Peace Officer, serving for a year and a half before returning to North Carolina to join the Oak Island Police Department.

Officer Hallum joined the Oak Island Police Family August 28, 2024.



Officer Knepshield

Officer Knepshield moved to Brunswick County four years ago, where he was hired as a Basic Law Enforcement Training (B.L.E.T) cadet by the Oak Island Police Department.

On, December 20, 2024, Knepshield graduated the Cape Fear Community College B.L.E.T Program and is eager to start working for the Oak Island Police Department.

During his free time, he enjoys basketball and spending time with his family. He has always known that he wanted to be a law enforcement officer and serve his community.

Officer Knepshield's first day on the job with his Oak Island Police family was January 1, 2025.



Promotions



Detective Sergeant Bradley Stevens was promoted from the rank of Detective in January 2024. Detective Sergeant Stevens has been with Oak Island Police Department since September 2020 and is assigned to the Detectives Division.



Sergeant David Locklear was promoted from the rank of Corporal in February 2024. Sergeant Locklear has been with Oak Island Police Department since April 2017 and is assigned to the Patrol Division.



Promotions

Continued



Master Police Officer Nicolas Bass was promoted from the rank of Officer in April 2024.

MPO Bass has been with Oak Island Police Department since February 2019 and is assigned to the Patrol Division.



Master Police Officer Matthew Watts was promoted from the rank of Officer in September 2024.

MPO Watts has been with Oak Island Police Department since April 2021 and is assigned to the Patrol Division.



Achievements



March 1, 2024

**Lt. Hames,
Det. SGT Stevens,
SGT Birchfield,
SGT DeMello, and
SGT Taylor attend
FBI LEEDA
Training**



April 2024

**SGT Birchfield achieves his
Advanced Certificate**



May 2024

**CPL Denoble achieves his
Advanced Certificate**



Awards

Annual Departmental Awards



**Traffic Safety Award
Officer Osborne**



**Officer of the Year
Officer Holleman**

Awards from the Oak Island Community



**September 2024
Officer Boose earns the
VFW Officer of the Year
Award**



Community Engagement

Big Toy Day



**Total Number of
Events
Participated in
2024:**

61

Dutchman Dingy Dash



Chop with a Cop



Fire Safety Camp



School Supplies Drive



Community Engagement



Operation North State



Banding Together



Sunset on Summer



**Number of Events
Hosted in 2024:**

13



Spooktacular



Beach Services Unit:

Enforcement Actions

Dog at Large

2024: 508

2023: 522

Holes on the Beach

2024: 568

2023: 858

Miles Driven

2024: 10,299 miles

2023: 11,306 miles

Citizen Contacts

2024: 6,822 Citizens

2023: 8,958 Citizens

Sand Dune

2024: 229

2023: 1,086

Glass Bottle

2024: 282

2023: 630

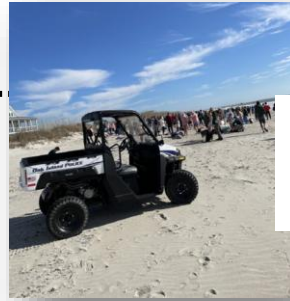


The Memories from 2024

Mardi Gras
Parade



January



Residents of Oak
Island participate in
2024 Polar Plunge

OKIPD was
presented
with NNO
Rookie of the
Year Award



February



OKIPD attends
Annual Easter Egg
Hunt hosted by the
Recreation Dept.

March



Meet & Greet at Pine Forest

April



Beach Patrol
Begins

OKIPD Hosts 2nd Annual
BADGES, BOATS & BOOTS
Softball Tournament



May



BEMC Awards
\$2,000 Grant for
National Night Out

June

Chop with a Cop is a success





The Memories from 2024



Dutchman
Dingy Dash
kicks off with
a splash.



July



Oak Island hosts Annual
4th of July Festival

August



Tropical Cyclone #8
makes landfall

September



OKIPD brings home the
trophy in the 1st Annual
“Truck Pull”

October



OKI “Bands
Together” to
help the
victims of
Hurricane
Helene

November



“Claus for Cause Present
Delivery

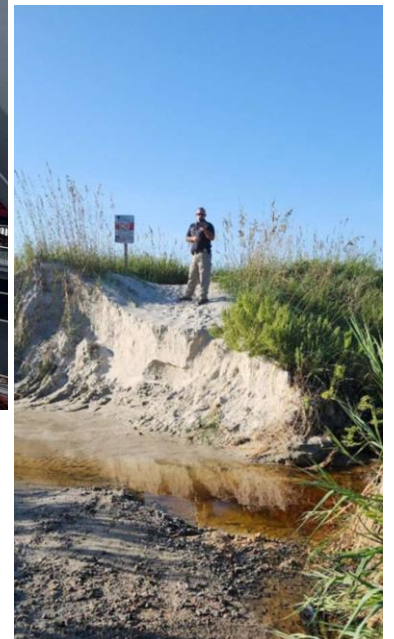
December



OKIPD
judges the
Christmas
Cookie
Contest



2024 Year in Review





2024 Year in Review





2024 Year in Review

Cyclone #8



The National Hurricane Center issued advisories on **Tropical Cyclone #8**, an area of low pressure off the South Carolina coast. This was projected to become a subtropical or tropical storm prior to landfall on Monday, September 16, 2024. In a 12- hour time frame, Brunswick County received up to 20 inches of rain. In the image shown, Officer Bass is blocking Long Beach Road after it was deemed unsafe for travel due to flooding.



Departmental Goals

Category: Safe Community

Goal	Objectives	Activity	Measure
<i>Ensure a Safe Community</i>	Calls for Service Times	The average length of time it takes an officer to arrive after an emergency call for service is received.	2 minutes & 51 seconds
	Clearance Rates	The percentages of violent and property crimes cleared by arrest or exceptional means.	86%
	Traffic Safety	The annual number of traffic accidents with and without personal injury	219 Without 13 Injuries
	Expand Traffic Safety Services	Purchase additional radar speed trailer/mobile message board	Completed by 7/1

Category: Community Engagement

Goal	Objectives	Activity	Measure
<i>Continue to engage the community and build partnerships</i>	Increase the PD's online presence	Enhance the town's new "App" with meaningful content	Provide framework and information to the Communications Department by 5/1
	Establish an online platform for citizens to communicate with the PD	Create an online form for citizens to comment: Commend or complain	Information provided to the Communications Department by 5/1
	Publish monthly crime statistics to the community	Create an accessible online category for reporting monthly statistical information	Information provided to the Communications Department by 5/1

Category: Employee Recruitment and Development Strategies

Goal	Objectives	Activity	Measure
<i>Enhance recruitment and staff development efforts</i>	Review recruiting process to expand on the applicant pool	Create a recruiting committee to provide recommendations on ways to expand the pool of quality applicants	Completed by 3/1
	Enhance the online recruiting efforts	Create a professional recruitment video	Completed by 1/1/2026
	Develop Employee Retention Strategies	Create a committee to identify employee recognition avenues	Completed by 3/1
		Create employee retention committee to promote professionalism and increase morale	Completed by 3/1
	Maintain and Further Departmental Accreditation	N.C. League of Municipalities / N.C. Training and Standards	2025



Annual Report Produced By:

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