

Clayton Police Department



2025 Annual Report



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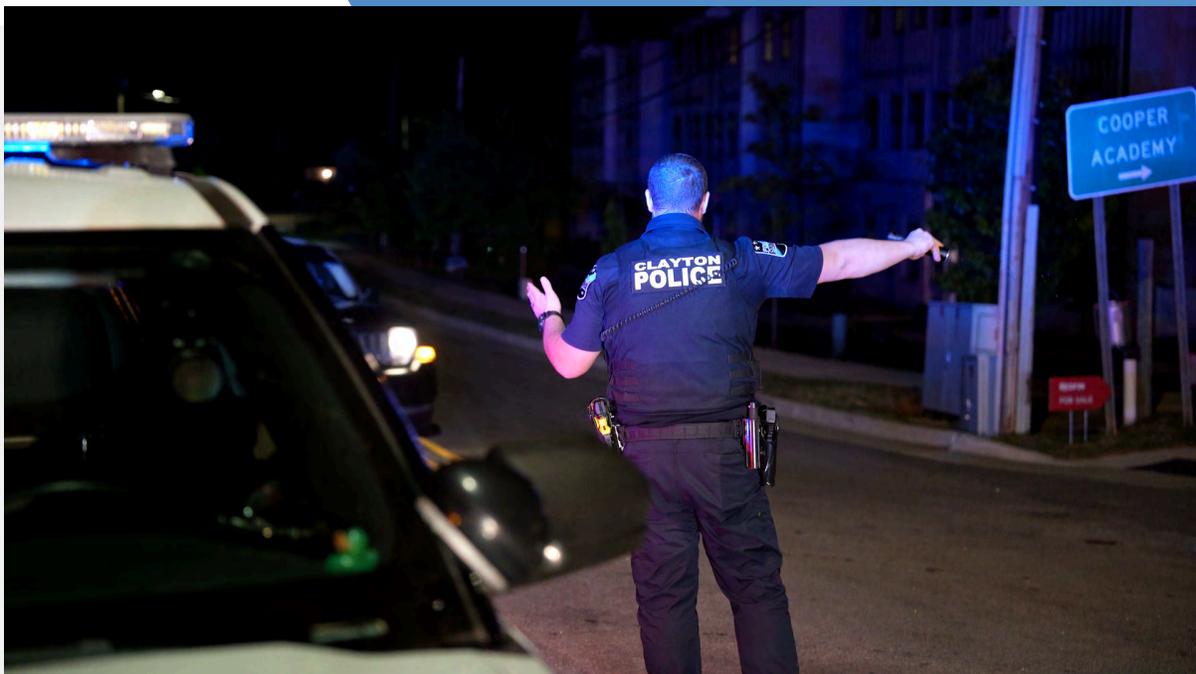


Introduction

The Clayton Police Department prepares an annual report each year to provide our community with a clear view of our efforts, goals, and progress. As a nationally accredited agency with strong ties to the community, we employ 66 sworn officers and 5 non-sworn staff members.

Our organization includes three divisions. Administrative Services oversees the Office of the Chief of Police, Professional Standards, CALEA, Records, and Recruitment. Special Operations covers Criminal Investigations, Traffic Enforcement, Parks, Community Policing, Training, School Resource Officers, and Animal Control. Patrol Services includes four patrol squads with K-9 officers, each led by a Watch Commander, Sergeant, and Corporal.

The Department serves 17.1 square miles with a 2025–26 operating budget of \$7,560,300.



Message from the Chief



Gregory W. Tart
Chief of Police

I am honored and proud to present to you our annual review and analysis of the activities and services provided by the Clayton Police Department in 2025. This report highlights our activities and provides an overall view of our organization. As we continue to grow rapidly as a Town, law enforcement challenges and priorities often change, but we continue to adapt and improve our ongoing efforts to provide excellent police services. I would like to say thank you to our Clayton community for the continued support of our Police Department. We maintain a staff of dedicated law enforcement professionals and support staff who are all committed to providing outstanding service to the citizens of Clayton.

As Chief of Police, I will continue to ensure that our agency remains prepared to serve and protect our community. In 2025, we began moving forward with the construction of two permanent police substations to enhance and decentralize operations by moving our services out in the community instead of from one location. We continue to evaluate and utilize technology along with our operating procedures to determine that we are efficiently serving our community in the best way possible. One of our focus areas has been the recruitment and retention of our staff and providing continuous training to our men and women to ensure that our agency provides the highest level of response to our residents. Another area of focus is community engagement to continue the solid partnerships we have established with residents, businesses, and organizations within our community.

As we move into 2026, our department remains devoted to keeping the Town of Clayton as one of the safest communities in North Carolina. If we can ever be of assistance, please contact us and let us know.

Sincerely,

Gregory W. Tart
Chief of Police

Our Mission

To deliver outstanding police services to everyone, everytime.



Our Vision

To be a model of law enforcement excellence by exceeding the highest standards of quality in our profession.

Our Values

Commitment: We are committed to serving others before ourselves by being alert and vigilant, never influenced by bias or prejudice, and unwavering in the performance of our duties.

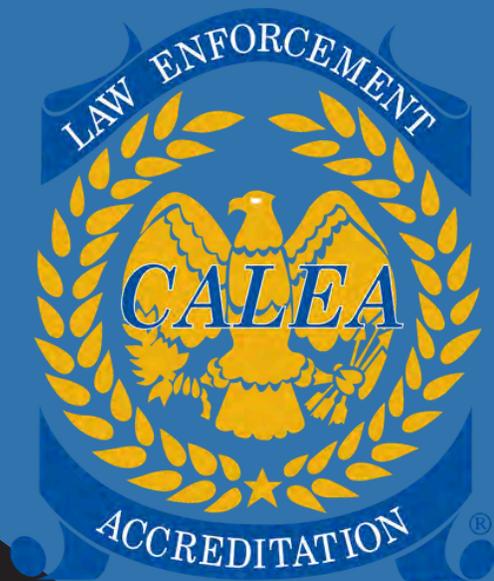
Professionalism: We are responsive and adaptive to our community because we endeavor to be skilled, efficient, and effective in our actions and behavior. We model integrity, honesty, and bravery no matter the cost. Perfection is not our goal; excellence is.

Distinction: We are distinct because we welcome challenges and demand teamwork. We promote creativity and innovation to achieve our maximum potential.

Accreditation

Since 2009, the Clayton Police Department has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). Since its initial accreditation, the department has pursued and maintained its accredited status, benchmarking our policies and procedures against international best practices for law enforcement agencies. This voluntary program sets high standards and reviews agencies to ensure fairness, trust, and clear expectations.

The department received its fifth re-accreditation on November 9, 2023, after submitting yearly reports and completing an in-depth on-site review. More than 100 policies and procedures were examined before final approval by the CALEA Board of Commissioners. The department remains committed to meeting these standards. For more information regarding CALEA, visit www.calea.org.



2025 Training Update

Total Training Hours: 4,667

24

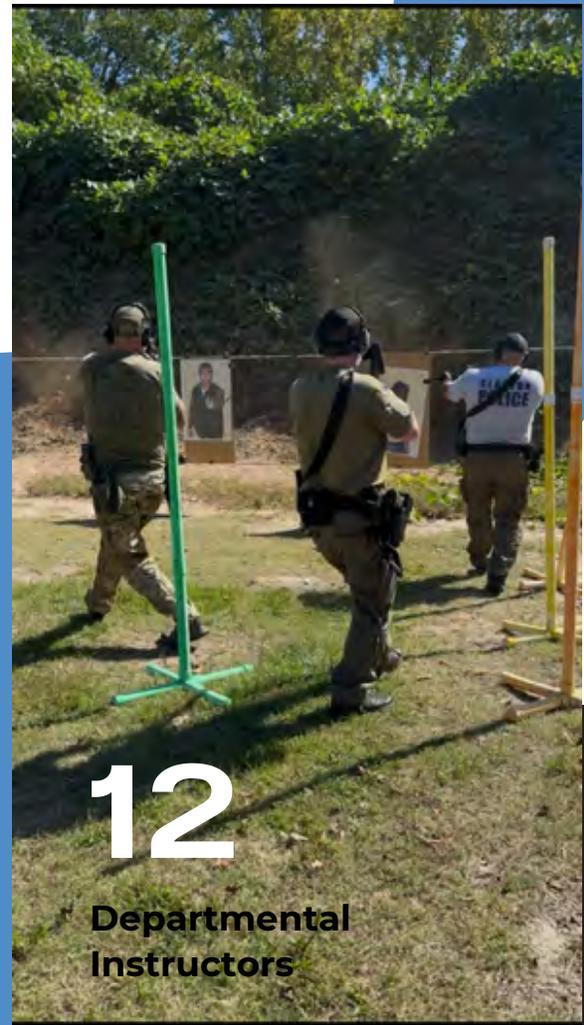
**State Required
Training Hours per
Officer**

80

**Average Training
Hours per Officer**

12

**Departmental
Instructors**



All Officer's received the following training in 2025:

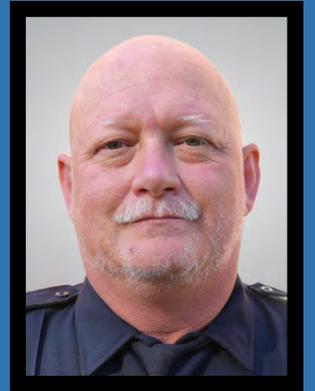
- Juvenile Justice
- Law Enforcement Mental Health/Cultivating Resiliency
- Recognizing/Responding to Hazardous Substances
- Firearms Training/Qualification
- Evidence Handling Best Practices
- Leading by Example- Ethics
- Legal Update
- Legislative Update
- Responding to Traffic Incidents-Officer Safety
- Targeting the Elderly
- Understanding and Responding to Matters of Civil Process
- Taser Certification/Re-Certification
- Decision-Making Reality-Based Training
- Crowd Management Refresher
- Building Search Tactics
- Rapid Deployment to Active Assailants
- Mental Health Refresher
- Compliance and Control Tactics (SCAT)
- Driver's Training
- Decision Making VirTra Training
- Open Mat/Open Range Patrol Rifle

New Hires



Officer Christopher Hendricks joined with the Clayton Police Department in May of 2025. Officer Hendricks has one year experience with the Benson Police Department and is assigned to the Patrol Services Division.

Officer Trenten Peterson joined the Clayton Police Department in May of 2025. Officer Peterson has over 20 years of experience with the Air Force and over 10 years in Law Enforcement. He is assigned to the Patrol Services Division.



Officer William Malcolm joined the Clayton Police Department in May of 2025. Officer Malcolm was previously with the Benson Police Department for eight months.

Officer Brie Merritt joined the Clayton Police Department in June of 2025. Officer Merritt was previously with Raleigh PD for seven years and Wake Med PD for a year and a half. Officer Merritt will be assigned to the Patrol Services Division.





Officer Ramiro Vera joined the Clayton Police Department in June of 2025. Officer Vera was previously with the Benson Police Department for over seven years and will be assigned to the Patrol Services Division.

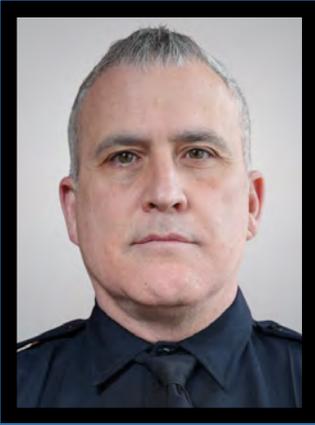
Officer Tomeka Moore joined the Clayton Police Department in July of 2025. Officer Moore has over 17 years of experience with the Selma Police Department and will be assigned to the Special Operations Division as a School Resource Officer.



Officer Hailey Conway joined the Clayton Police Department in August of 2025. Officer Conway has three years previous Law Enforcement experience and will be assigned to the Patrol Services Division.

Officer Keila Santana joined the Clayton Police Department in October of 2025. Officer Santana was previously employed with the NYPD for three years and Wake Med Campus Police for a year. Officer Santana will be assigned to the Special Operations Division as a School Resource Officer.





Officer Adam Basatemur joined the Clayton Police Department in November of 2025. Officer Basatemur has 26 years of law enforcement experience and will be assigned to the Special Operations Division as a School Resource Officer.

Officer Karl Less joined the Clayton Police Department in December of 2025. Officer Less has one year experience with the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office in the Detention Center and will be assigned to Patrol Services Division.



Officer Andrew Stocker joined the Clayton Police Department in August of 2025. Officer Stocker is a recent graduate of Coastal Plains Community College BLET program and is assigned to Patrol Services Division.

Officer Jose Molina joined the Clayton Police Department in December of 2025 after graduating from BLET. Officer Molina was a member of the Marine Corps prior to joining the Clayton Police Department. He will be assigned to the Patrol Services Division.





K-9 Diego joined the Clayton Police Department in 2025. K-9 Diego and his handler, Officer Hamilton King, went through an intensive four-month K-9 training program and began working patrol together in December of 2025.

Retirement



Officer Robert John Moyer retired on December 1, 2025, concluding nearly three decades of dedicated and distinguished service in law enforcement. His career was defined by professionalism, versatility, discipline, and an unwavering commitment to the communities he served.

Officer Moyer began his law enforcement career in September 1996 with the Tabor City Police Department. In 1997, he continued his service with the Kinston Police Department.

In 2000, Officer Moyer joined the LaGrange Police Department, where he served in multiple roles within a smaller agency environment.

Officer Moyer joined the Clayton Police Department in 2005, where he would spend the remainder of his career and make a lasting impact on the department and the Town of Clayton. Throughout his tenure, he served numerous specialized assignments, including Patrol Officer, Bicycle Officer, Detective, Crime Scene Investigator, and K-9 Officer. His broad skill set and willingness to serve wherever needed exemplified his dedication to the mission of the department.

Robert was a meticulous officer who held himself to a high professional standard and consistently maintained peak physical conditioning well into his 50s, ensuring he remained fully prepared for the physical and tactical demands of patrol. His attention to detail, sound judgment, and steady presence earned him the respect of supervisors, peers, and those he served.

Officer Robert John Moyer's retirement marks the conclusion of an exceptional career rooted in service, integrity, and devotion to duty. The Clayton Police Department and the Town of Clayton extend their sincere gratitude for his many years of faithful service and wish him continued health, happiness, and fulfillment in his well-earned retirement.

Promotions



Corporal Brandon Pope was promoted from Police Officer to Corporal in January of 2025. Corporal Pope has been with the Clayton Police Department over two and half years and is assigned to the Patrol Services Division.

Corporal Jeffrey Demarest was promoted from Police Officer to Corporal in April of 2025. Corporal Demarest has been with the Clayton Police Department for over four years and is assigned to the Patrol Services Division. Officer Demarest is also a K-9 handler.



Professional Development



Intermediate Law Enforcement Certification



Corporal Demarest



Officer Barefoot



Corporal Guider



Officer Stewart

The North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission offers the Professional Certificate Program to recognize the level of competency of officers serving governmental agencies within the State, to foster increased interest in college education and professional training programs, and to attract highly qualified people into law enforcement and criminal justice careers. Eligibility for professional certificates is determined by a formula that combines formal education, professional training, and work experience as a law enforcement or criminal justice officer.

In 2025, the Clayton Police Department recognized four officers for obtaining the Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate.



Advanced Law Enforcement Certification



Corporal Will Carter, Sergeant Patrick Smith, Corporal Jonathan Guider, Detective Emily Shotwell, and Sergeant Isaiah Ruffin were all awarded their Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate through the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Division in 2025.

Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET)



Jose Molina and **Andrew Stocker** both graduated from BLET in December 2025. Officer Molina graduated from Johnston Community College's BLET Program, and Officer Stocker graduated from Coastal Plains Community College. Officer Stocker was also awarded for having the highest overall academic average in his class.

North Carolina State University Law Enforcement Executive Program (LEEP)



Sgt. Greg Morris, **Sgt. Isaiah Ruffin**, and **Sgt. Daniel Evans** graduated from NC State University's Law Enforcement Executive Program in 2025 (LEEP). LEEP is a six-month program that builds proactive leadership among law enforcement executives, enabling them to manage their most critical current and future challenges effectively.

Administrative Officers Management Program



Lt. Tim Marquis graduated from the 101st session of the Administrative Officers Management Program at NC State University in April of 2025. This 12-week intensive academic program is made up of law enforcement professionals from across the country and taught by NC State faculty members that focuses on leadership, management, and public administration.

Awards



American Legion Officer of the Year



Officer Jalise Farris has been in law enforcement for eight years and has been employed with the Clayton Police Department since May 2023. She is currently assigned to Clayton High School as a School Resource Officer, where she enjoys interacting with and building positive relationships with both students and staff. SRO Farris is a dedicated employee who always puts others first and believes that the safety of every student, staff, and visitor of Clayton High School is of utmost importance.

2025 Clayton Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Service Award



Detective Jason Linder has served with the Clayton Police Department's Criminal Investigative Unit since 2005. With over twenty years as a Detective, he brings steady dedication, a strong work ethic, and deep knowledge to every case. He is known for supporting newer detectives and leading by example. Even while recovering from prostate cancer, he remained committed to his work. His determination and care in handling difficult cases earned him the 2025 Clayton Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Service Award.



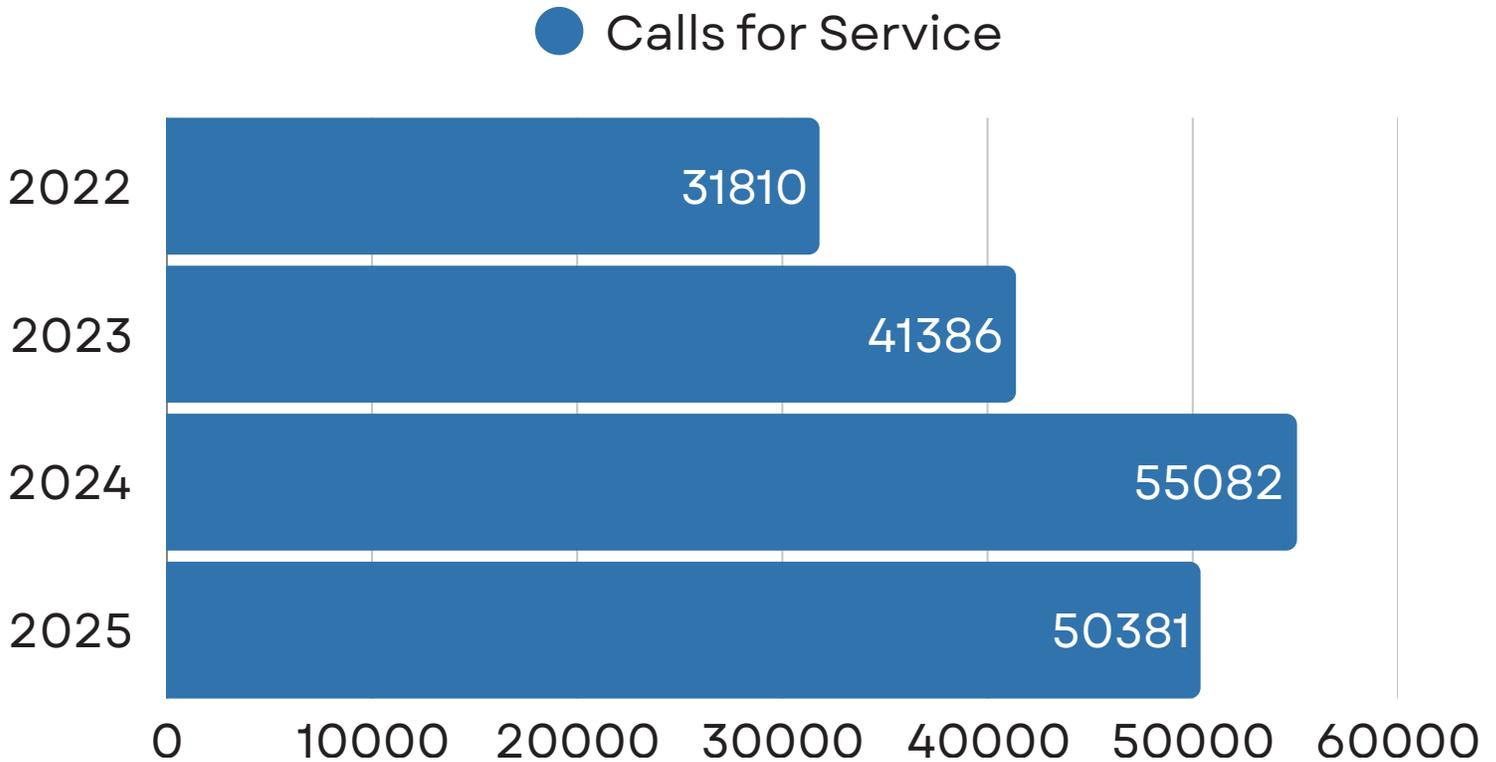
Life Saving Award



Officer David Barbour and Corporal Brandon Pope

Corporal Brandon Pope and **Traffic Safety Officer David Barbour** were awarded the Clayton Police Department's Life Saving Award at the Town Council meeting in April of this year. Corporal Pope and Officer Barbour received this award due to their heroic efforts, rescuing an 11-year-old autistic girl from possibly drowning in a neighborhood pond.

Calls for Service



Calls for service begin when an officer takes action or when someone reaches out for help. These requests come through many places, such as 911, in-person reports, phone calls, email, or social media. Each call can be different in urgency and the type of help needed. They include responding to crimes in progress, crashes, domestic issues, mental health concerns, safety checks, escorts, and officer-initiated activity. In 2025, Clayton Police Officers handled 50,381 calls for service, an 8% decrease from 55,082 in 2024.

Crime Statistics

National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

The Clayton Police Department submits crime statistics to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The Federal Bureau of Investigation developed NIBRS to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement.

NIBRS captures details on each single crime incident as well as on separate offenses within the same incident. Unlike data previously reported through the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Program, NIBRS goes much deeper because of its ability to provide circumstances and context for crimes like location, time of day, and whether the incident was cleared. It can provide more useful statistics to promote constructive discussion, measured planning, and informed policing.

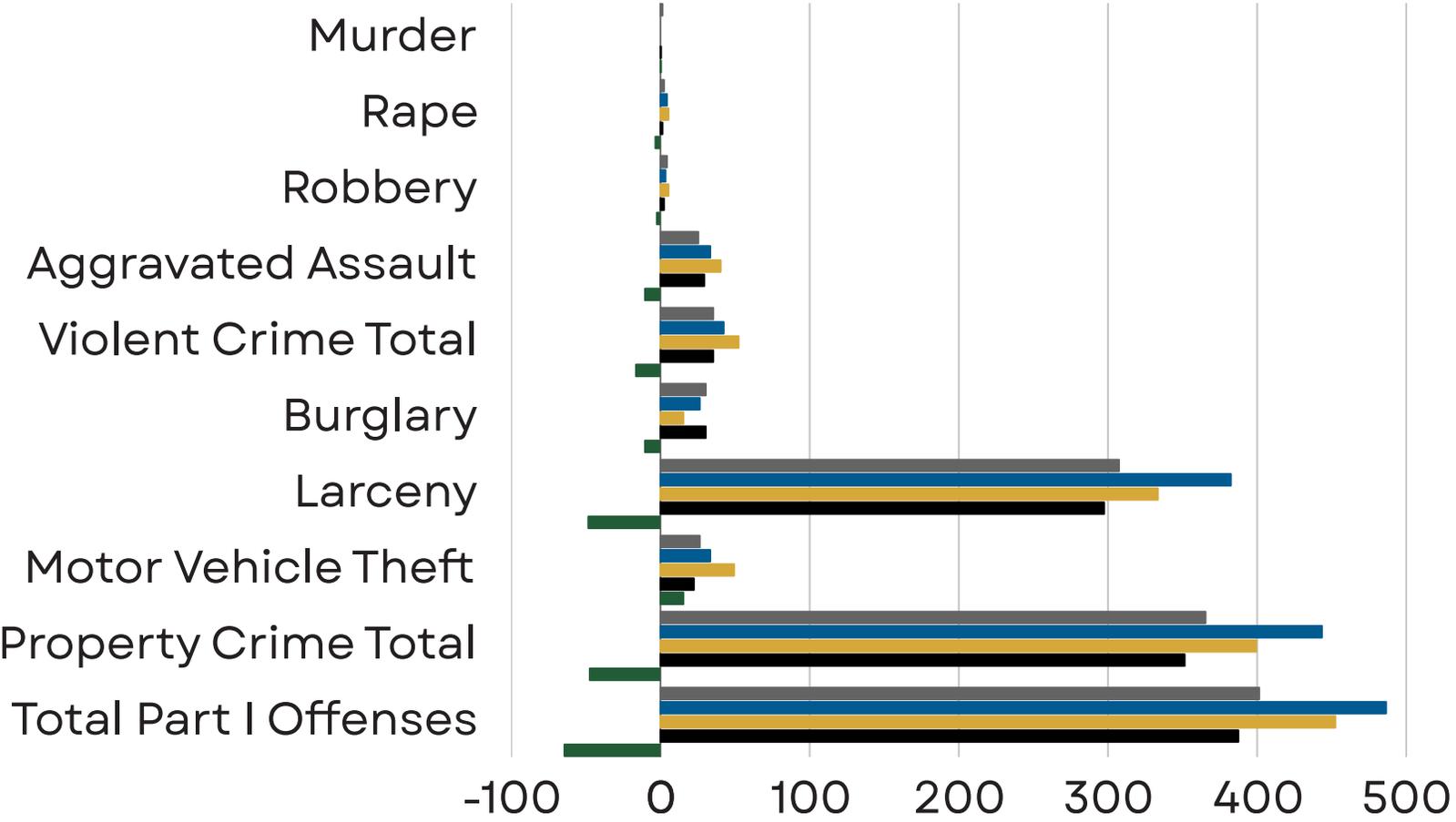
When used to its full potential, NIBRS provides greater specificity in reporting offenses, collects more detailed information, provides greater analytic flexibility, and helps give context to specific crime problems such as drug/narcotics and sex offenses, as well as modern crime issues like animal cruelty, identity theft, and computer hacking.

Part I Offenses: In 2025, the Town of Clayton experienced a 15% decrease in the total number of Part I crimes reported. Part I crimes encompass violent crimes (murder, rape, and robbery) and property crimes (larceny, burglary, and motor vehicle theft).

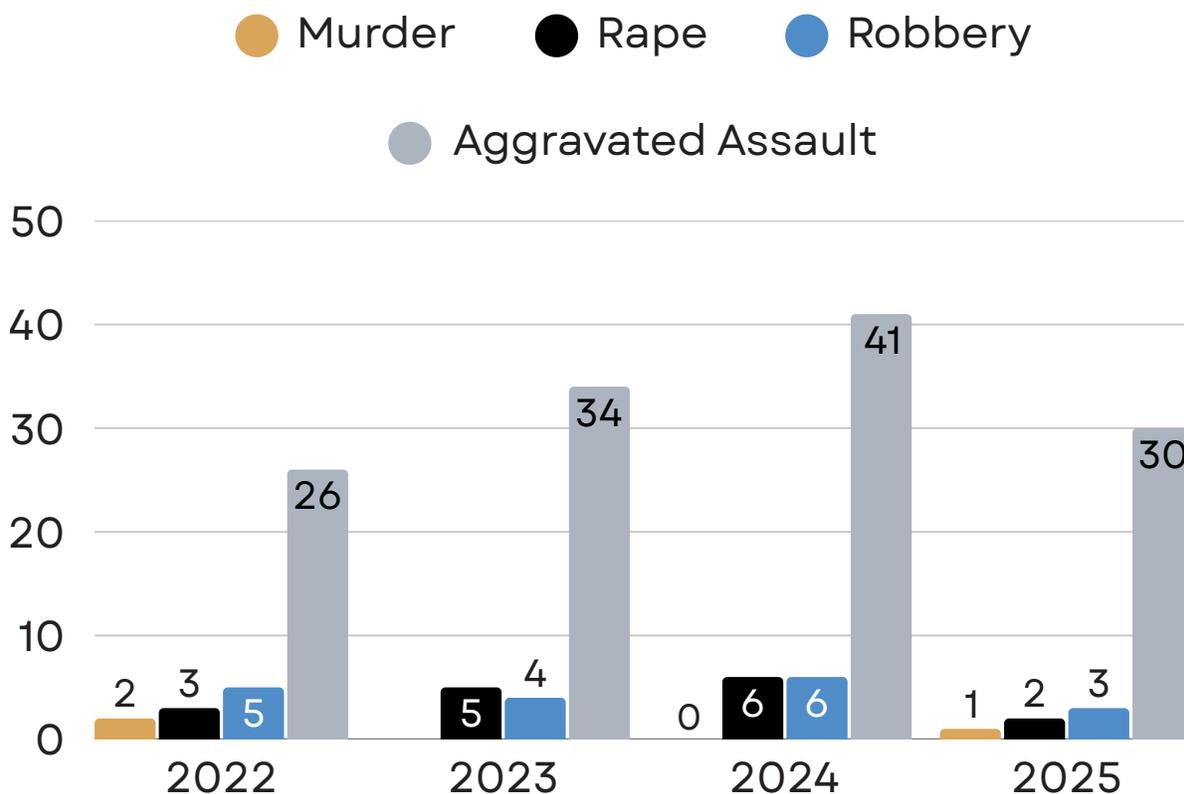
Part II Offenses: In 2025, we had an 11% increase in our Part II crime rate which continues to remain well below State and National levels. This fact is of little consolation to those who have been victimized. The Clayton Police Department continues its commitment to improving our department while creating a better place to live, work, and visit. Proactivity and visibility are areas of improvement that we remain committed to.



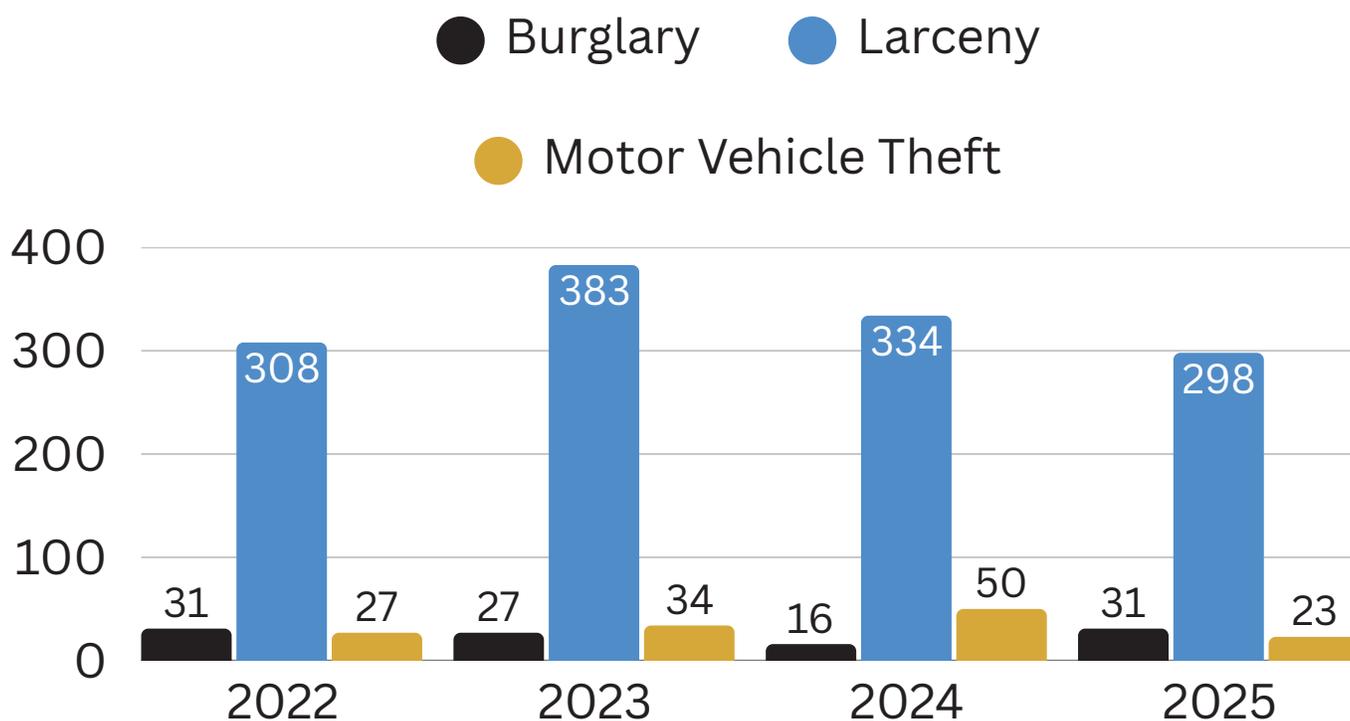
Crime Statistics



Violent Crime by Year



Property Crime by Year



BIASED-BASED POLICING

The Clayton Police Department is committed to treating all people with respect and dignity. A thorough annual review of traffic stop data, use of force data, and complaint investigation practices helps the department ensure that officers are policing without bias. The 2025 analysis of the data did not indicate bias in CPD interactions with the public. Additionally, there were no complaints of racially based enforcement by the CPD in 2025.

The following is a report indicating Enforcement Action Taken by Drivers' Sex, Race, and Ethnicity. This report displays statistics based on Enforcement Action Taken (Verbal Warning, Written Warning, Citation Issued, On-View Arrest, or No Action Taken), by Driver's Sex, Race, and Ethnicity.

Similar reports can be found at: <https://trafficstops.ncsbi.gov/>

Clayton Police Department

Enforcement Action Taken by Driver's Sex, Race, and Ethnicity

Monday, January 5, 2026

Report From 1/1/2025 through 11/30/2025

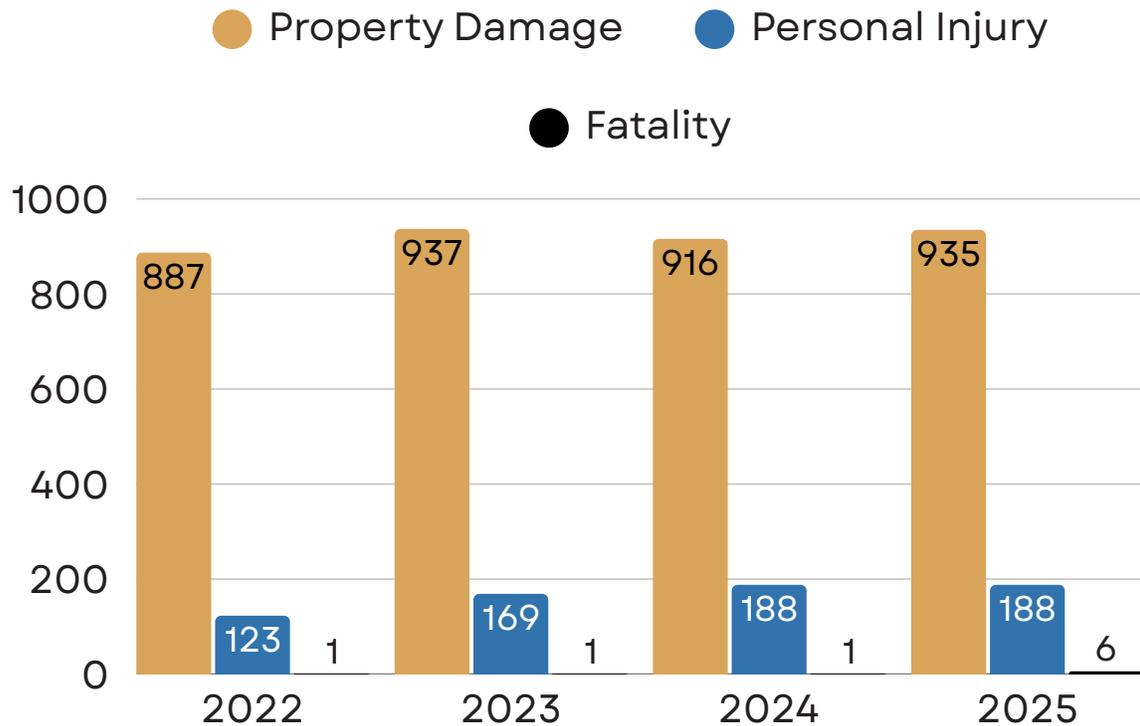
Action	Gender	White	Black	Native American	Asian	Other	Total By Race	Hispanic	Non Hispanic	Total By Ethnicity
Citation Issued	Female	934	750	4	25	4	1717	268	1449	1717
No Action Taken	Female	16	26	0	5	2	49	4	45	49
On-View Arrest	Female	22	42	0	0	0	64	5	59	64
Verbal Warning	Female	772	719	2	13	3	1509	193	1316	1509
Written Warning	Female	46	26	0	0	1	73	9	64	73
Citation Issued	Male	1571	945	6	39	9	2570	559	2011	2570
No Action Taken	Male	36	30	0	0	0	66	11	55	66
On-View Arrest	Male	69	91	0	0	0	160	23	137	160
Verbal Warning	Male	1118	915	7	27	16	2083	354	1729	2083
Written Warning	Male	61	26	0	0	2	89	19	70	89
Female Total	Female	1790	1563	6	43	10	3412	479	2933	3412
Male Total	Male	2855	2007	13	66	27	4968	966	4002	4968
Total		4645	3570	19	109	37	8380	1445	6935	8380

Traffic Analysis

The Clayton Police Department is dedicated to traffic safety and educating the public on safe driving practices. Through education, the department desires to gain compliance with motor vehicle laws; however, the department understands the importance of proactive enforcement of the laws. In 2025, our department participated in all North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Initiatives and conducted several saturation patrols to ensure motorists are abiding by the laws.

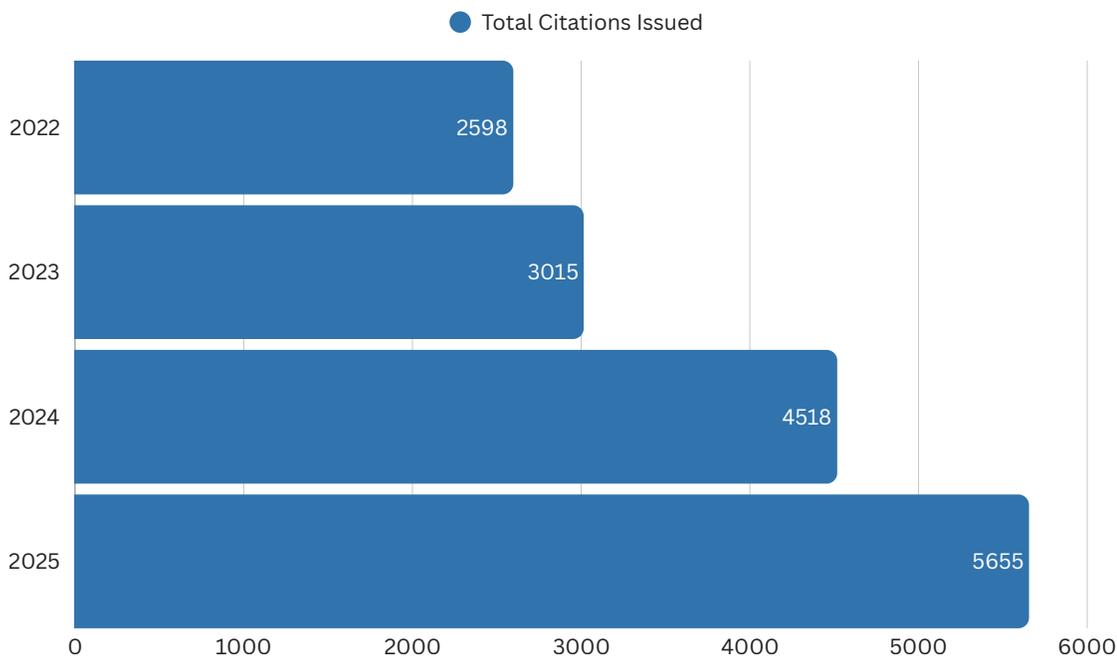
Traffic Crash Data

The Clayton Police Department investigated 1,129 traffic crashes in 2025, up 2% from 1,104 in 2024. Of those crashes, 188 reported personal injury, which was consistent with 2024. There were 6 traffic fatalities in 2025, which was a 500% increase.



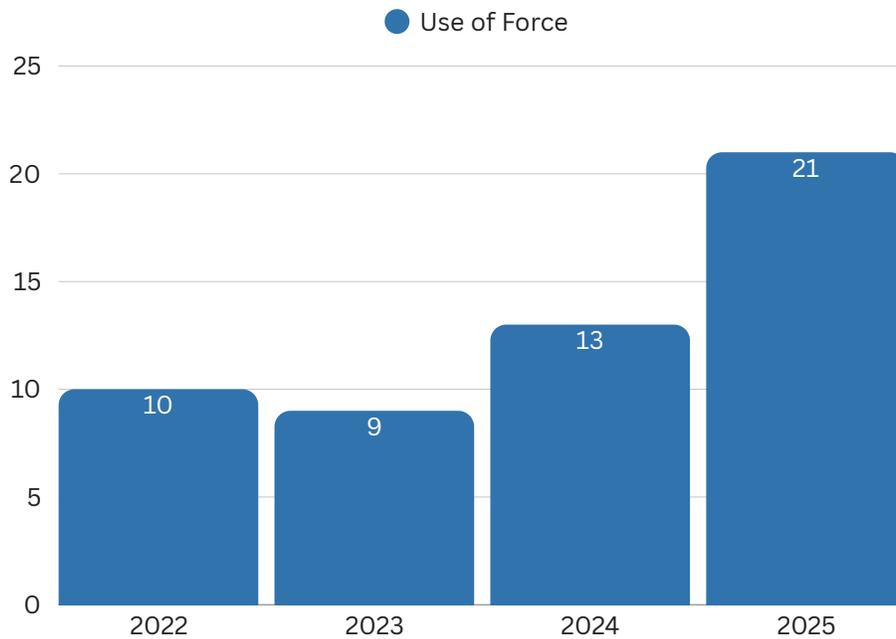
Traffic Citation Data

In 2025, the Clayton Police Department issued a total of 5,655 traffic citations, a 25% increase from the 4,518 issued in 2024.

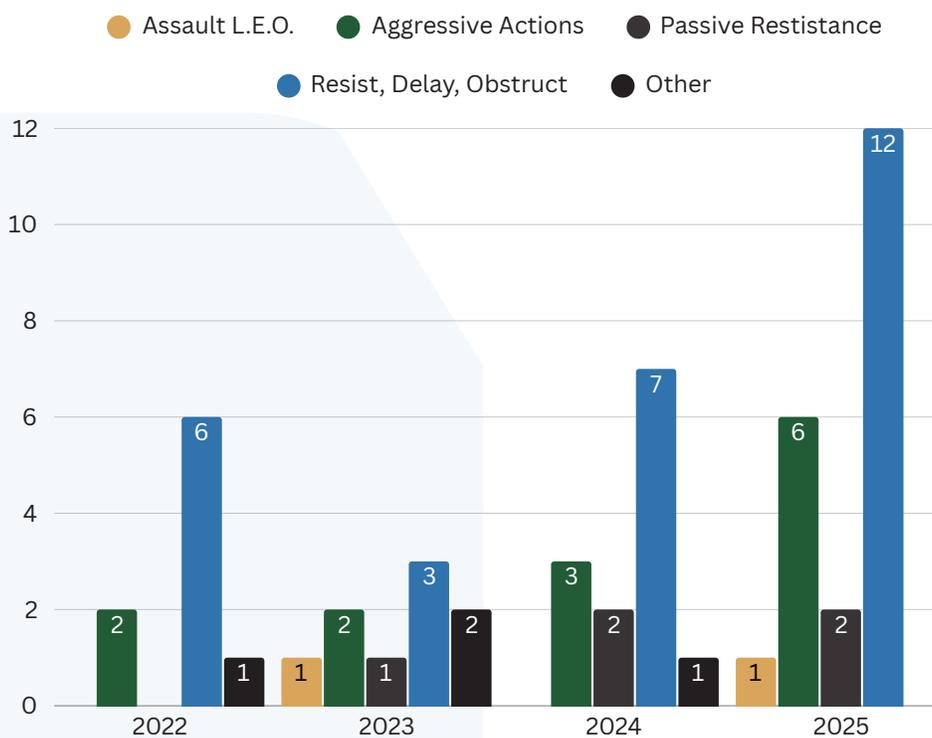


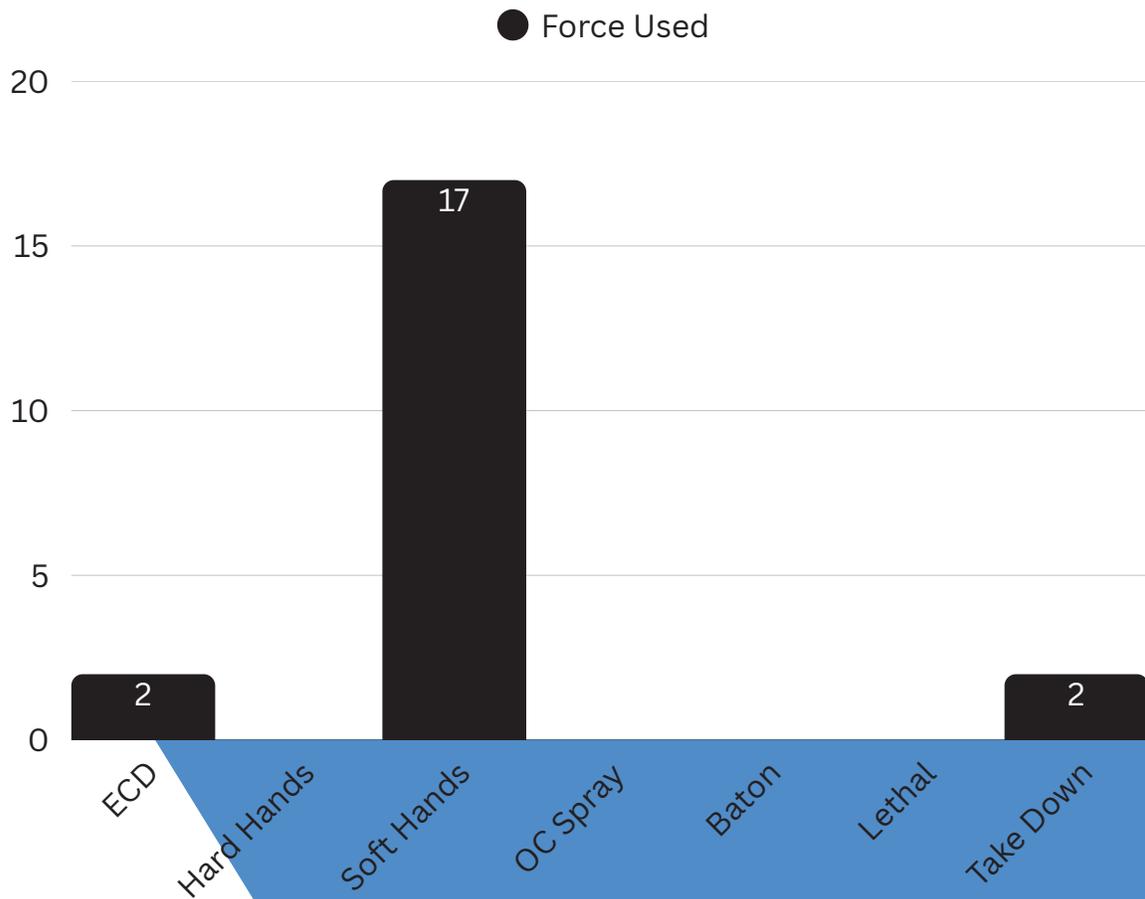
Use of Force

Clayton Police Department policy requires officers to document the use of force (UOF) on every occasion when physical force is used on another person. Each UOF is reviewed by supervisory staff to ensure the appropriate amount of force was delivered to safely control the behavior of the respective person. In 2025, the Clayton Police Department reported twenty-one encounters requiring the use of reasonable force, eight more than reported in 2024.



Subject's action that necessitated the use of reasonable force and the type of force used:





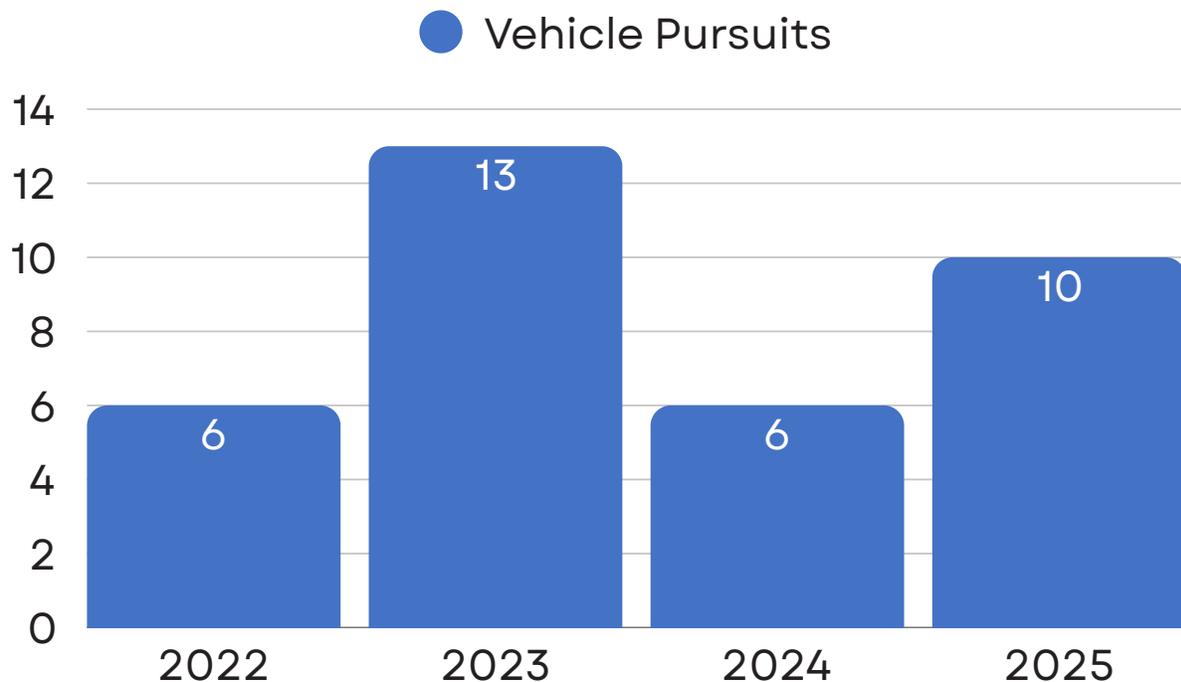
The analysis shows that the most used type of force during the 2025 calendar year was soft hand techniques, with seventeen incidents. These techniques include holding and restraining, but not striking. Of the other four, there were two uses of an Electrical Conduction Device (Taser) and two uses of a take-down.

The analysis of the documented use of force does not illustrate any tendency for officers of the department to use force when it is not necessary. In the cases reviewed from 2025, efforts were made in each situation to use only the necessary amount of force to effect the arrest of the suspects.

Vehicle Pursuits

The Clayton Police Department reported ten vehicle pursuits during the 2025 calendar year, which was a 66.7% increase from the number of pursuits in 2024. Each incident was recorded and forwarded through the chain of command. The actions of the officers involved in each pursuit were reviewed at each level within the command structure to ensure policy and procedures were followed.

After a thorough review of all information about the ten vehicle pursuits, eight were found to be in accordance with policy and procedure. Two were found to be outside of policy and were addressed with those involved and used as a training aid throughout the department.



Community Outreach

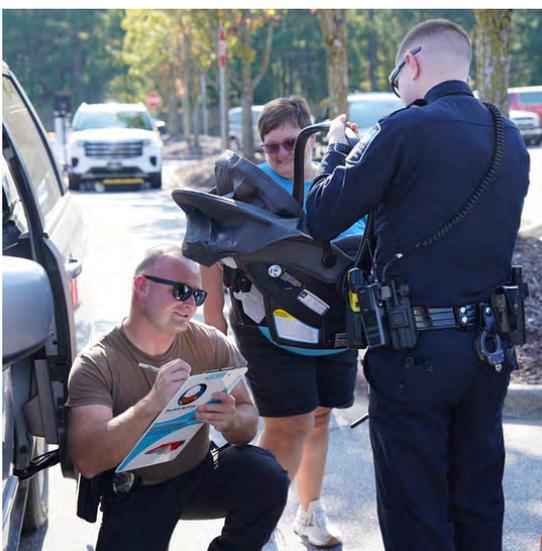


As our Mission Statement suggests, the Clayton Police Department strives “to deliver outstanding police service to everyone; every time.” One way that we accomplish this mission is through the fundamental principles of Community Policing. Community Policing promotes transparency between the Department and citizens of Clayton, which gives the community an opportunity to provide direct feedback about the police services they receive. Community Policing also allows the development of partnerships that garner trust beyond the badge.

Christmas with a Cop is an annual program in which Clayton Police Officers and support staff deliver Christmas gifts to children and families that have been affected by unfortunate or tragic events during the year. This year, our staff delivered gifts to sick children at the Wake Medical Center Children's Hospital, 200 gift bags to residents at local nursing homes, and provided Christmas gifts to several local families in the Clayton community.



The Child Safety Seat Clinic was an event in conjunction with Safe Kids Johnston County and the Clayton Fire Department that checked car seats and raised awareness about keeping kids safe in cars.



Pack-A-Police Car is an event that allows the Police Department to assist local schools in collecting school supplies for the upcoming school year. Each year members of the Clayton Police Department partner with Walmart on this successful event.



National Walk and Bike to School Day provides students from Cooper Elementary School with a Police escort to their school. This not only promotes health and safety for the students, but it also provides officers with an opportunity to build relationships with our youth.



The Special Olympics of North Carolina The Clayton Police Department participates yearly in the NC Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, along with several fundraising events leading up to the run.

Teen Academy provides an opportunity for local teenagers to explore the world of law enforcement firsthand and foster positive interactions between them and police officers. The week-long summer program includes lectures on law, behavioral science, drug prevention, and life skills. From K9 demonstrations and role-playing scenarios to tours of the jail and 911 dispatch center, each day was filled with education and excitement.



The **Women's Self Defense Class** was a new program offered this year at the Clayton Police Department designed to empower women with the skills and confidence to protect themselves. Participants learned practical techniques and strategies to deter threats and safely escape dangerous situations.



A **Fraud Awareness Seminar** was held this year to educate the public about ongoing common scams and schemes, fraud networks, and ways for people to prevent themselves from becoming victims. We hosted a panel discussion with the audience, conducted by representatives from Clayton Police, the US Secret Service, Internal Revenue Service, and SECU.



Clayton Police officers now have another way to support kids during tough moments - **Kits4Kids**. In partnership with Walmart and the nonprofit Kits4Kids, the Clayton Police Department and Clayton Fire Department helped assemble 250 trauma kits that can be used to comfort children in emergency situations. Each kit includes items like ponchos, fidget toys, and encouraging notes. They are small tools that can help ease fear and build trust. Officers can carry these kits in their vehicles, ready to bring comfort when it is needed most. We're proud to stand with our fellow first responders to serve the youngest members of our community with care and compassion.



Retired K-9 Abel EOW July 13, 2025



K-9 Abel's career alongside his partner, Officer Brantley, is a testament to the dedication and bond shared between a handler and their partner. Joining Patrol Services in April 2014, Abel quickly became an invaluable asset to law enforcement, contributing significantly to public safety with his role in drug seizures and the apprehension of dangerous offenders. His presence extended beyond law enforcement duties, fostering community relations through engaging K-9 demonstrations at public events and schools throughout Clayton. Abel's exemplary skills were recognized in 2019 when the K-9 Team secured third place in the USPCA Region II Police Dog I K-9 Trials in Waynesville, NC. This achievement highlighted his proficiency and the effective teamwork he shared with Officer Brantley. As Abel retired on September 1, 2021, after nearly eight years of service, he left behind a legacy of dedication, courage, and community spirit, leaving him dearly missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him.

COMMITMENT PROFESSIONALISM DISTINCTION



- SALARIES BEGINNING AT \$56,700 AND UPWARDS BASED ON EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION LEVEL
- CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND MERIT BASED SALARY INCENTIVES
- TAKE HOME VEHICLE PROGRAM
- ON-SITE FITNESS FACILITY
- SPECIALIZED TRAINING
- TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

APPLY TODAY

CLAYTONPOLICE.ORG/APPLY



If you're considering a career in law enforcement, consider the Clayton Police Department.

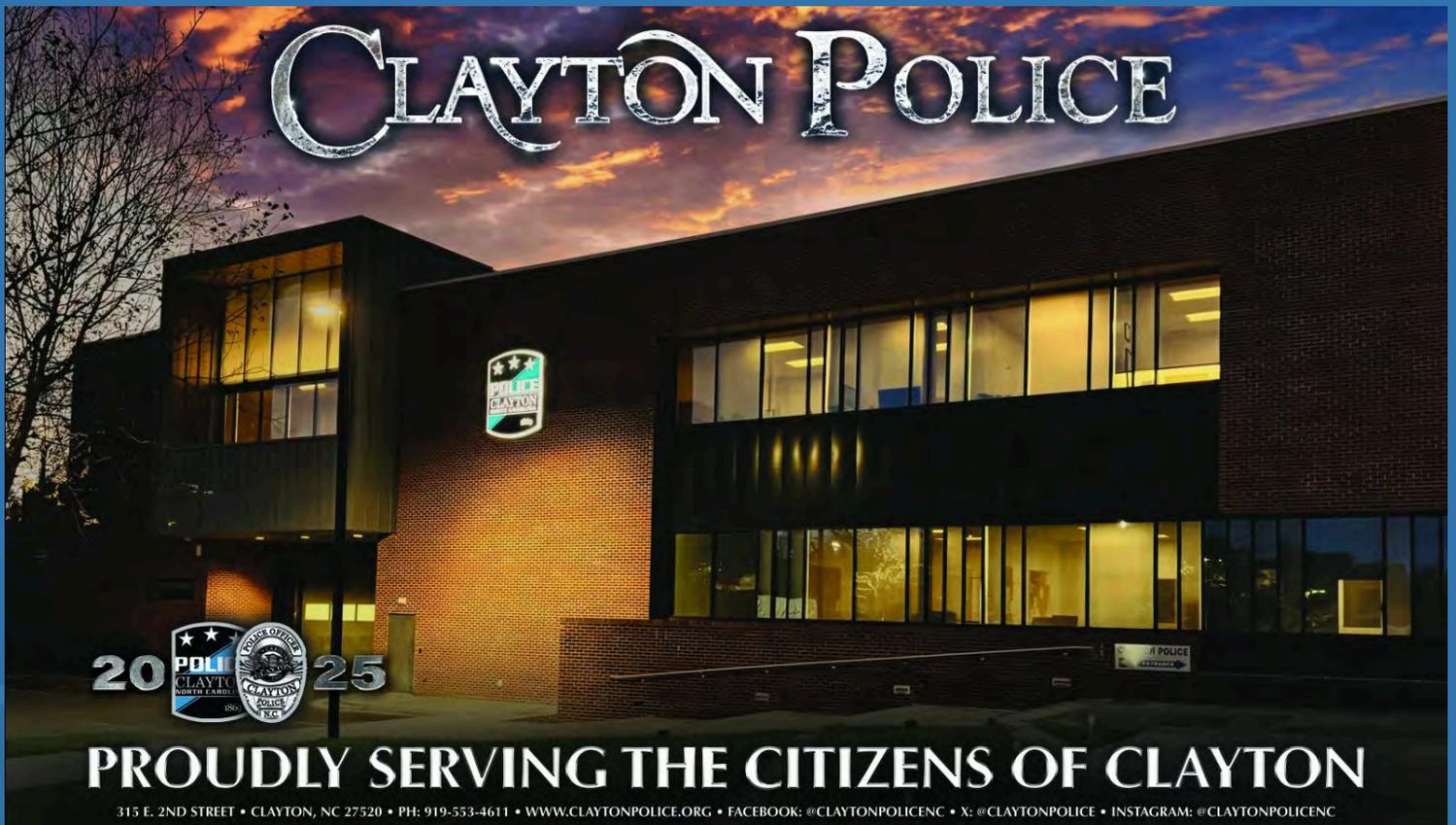
Become a vital part of a nationally accredited agency that believes in building strong community partnerships. View available positions and apply online at the Town of Clayton's [Job Openings](#) page.

"The Town of Clayton Police Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer. As we strive to maintain a diverse workforce, the Clayton Police Department encourages all qualified persons to apply without regard to race, color, ethnicity, sex, gender, age, religious affiliation, disability or any other characteristic protected by law."

Conclusion

This report highlights the work of each division within the Clayton Police Department and offers a clear look at our progress throughout 2025. Our team continues to respond to evolving needs in public safety while strengthening our relationships with the community and local partners.

This report contains an overview of crime patterns in the town. By sharing data openly, we aim to keep residents informed and connected to the work we do every day. We remain dedicated to addressing safety concerns with a proactive approach. Whenever you need us, we're here to help.



“TO DELIVER OUTSTANDING POLICE SERVICES TO EVERYONE; EVERYTIME.”