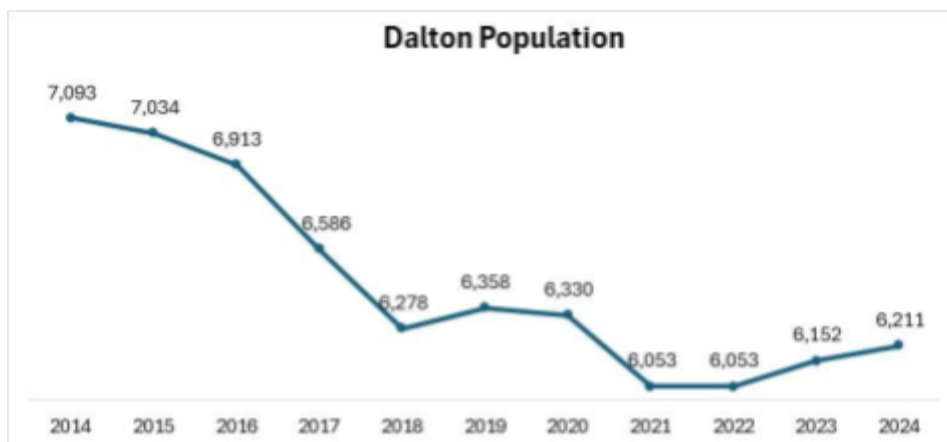


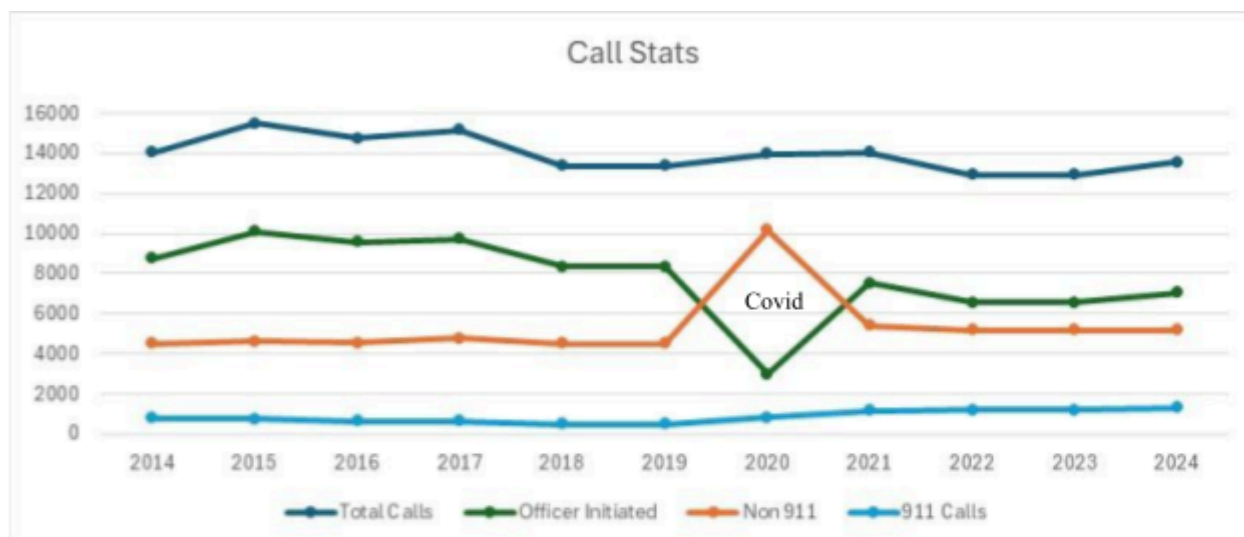
Over the past decade, Dalton's population has declined, and it is expected to continue to decline. [It ranked 10th for largest population losers in 2024.](#)



Source: Dalton, MA Annual Reports 2014-2024

To justify adding a detective to the Department for the first time in 20 years, [Chief Strout stated](#), “So, we are swamped. I mean, just our numbers are through the roof...If our call volume keeps increasing the way it is, we may have a different conversation next year, but I think we had over 15,000 calls for service last year, which is a lot for a smaller department’.”

Conversely, when you look at the data from the past 10 years, call volume and activities have been relatively stable, some even declining.

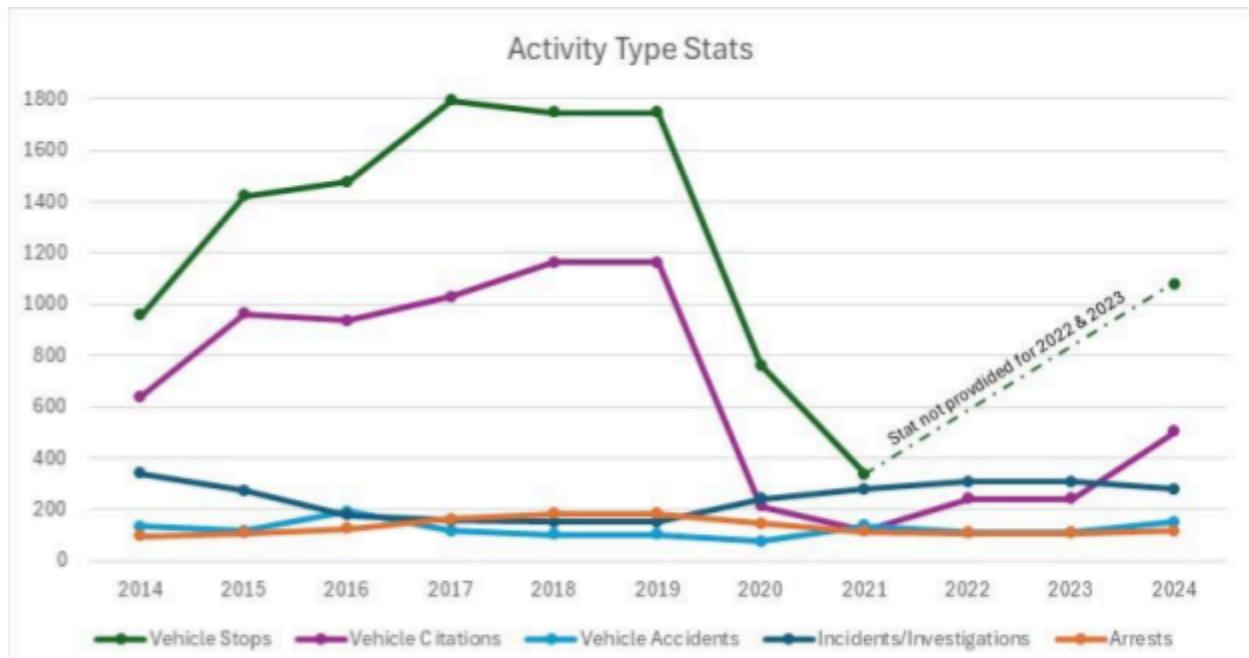


Source: Dalton, MA Annual Reports 2014-2024, note data for 2018 & 2019 and data for 2022 & 2023 were the same

Officer Initiated – These include building checks, Cruiser Maintenance, officer initiated contact with the public

Non 911 Calls – Nonemergency calls made to the main Police Department line

911 Calls – Note that several calls can be received for a single car accident or another incident requiring Police Response. Severe weather causing damage and power outages will create numerous calls.



Source: Dalton, MA Annual Reports 2014-2024, note data for 2018 & 2019 and data for 2022 & 2023 were the same

Vehicle Stops – Any time a car is pulled over

Vehicle Citations – written warnings and tickets with monetary fines

Vehicle Accident- motor vehicle accident on a public way

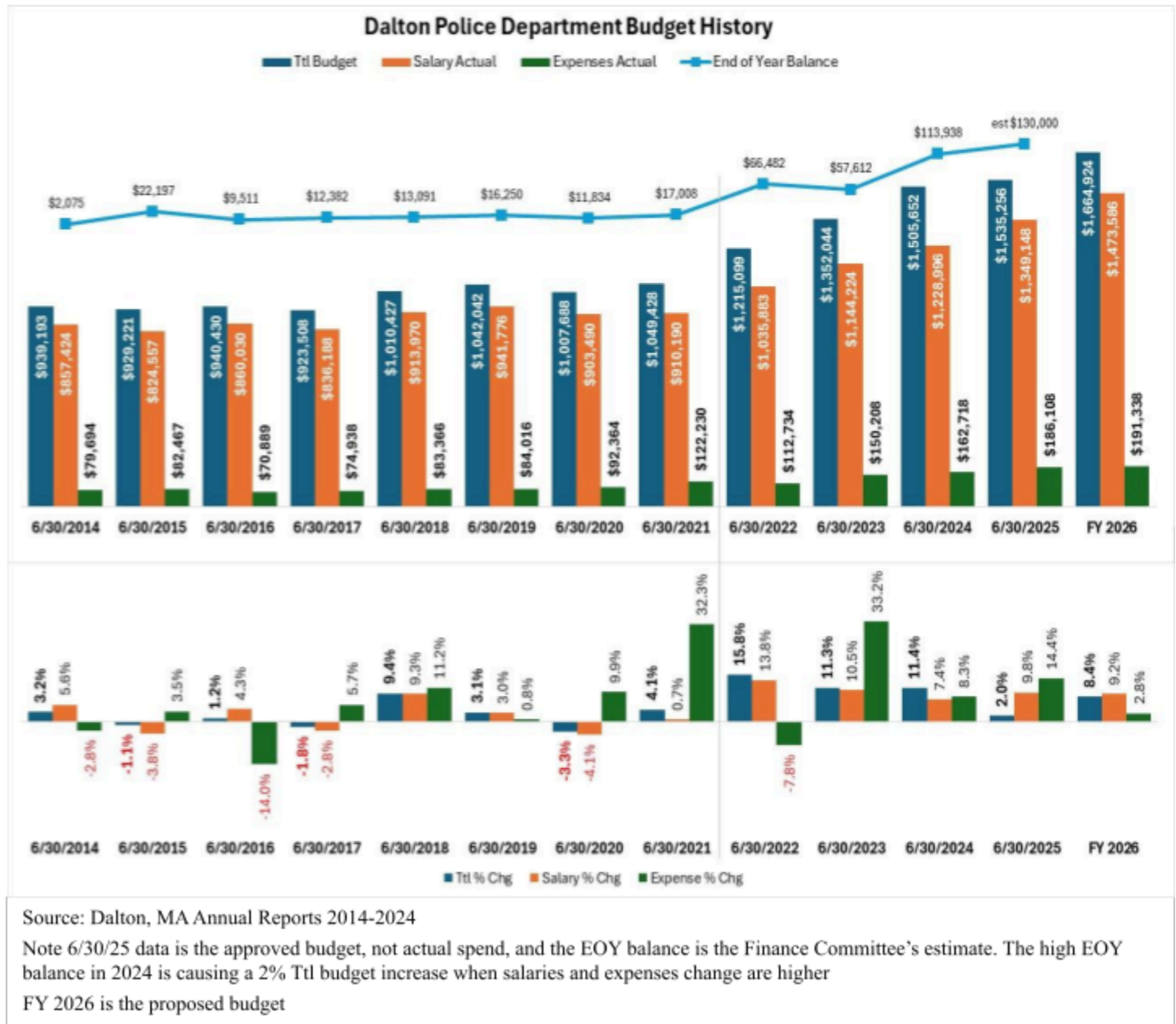
Incidents/Investigations – An investigation into a reported crime or other notable event an officer wants to formally document. These numbers can be influenced by the Chief. For example, if 15 mailboxes are smashed in one night, Chief A may instruct the officer to create an investigation for all 15 mailboxes resulting in one incident report. While Chief B may instruct the officer to treat each mailbox as a separate investigation resulting in 15 incident reports.

Arrests – Formally taking a person into custody for a crime committed or summoning a person to court for a crime committed.

The Dalton PD [submits statistics](#) through EOPSS in accordance with Massachusetts and Federal standards



Over the last decade there has not been a significant shift in the number of calls received. There has been a decline in vehicle stops, citations, crimes and arrests, yet the budget has increased substantially.



- Between FY2014 and FY2020 the police budget increased 7.3% with an average remaining balance of \$12,000.
- Between FY2021 and FY2026 the police budget increased 58.7%. There's been an average \$79,000K balance between FY2022 and FY2024. What amount of excess is too much? Will other town departments start padding their budget?

The police budget is taxpayer funded, however any remaining balance at the end of the year is not returned to the taxpayer. The residents that are on a fixed income would likely prefer to

FY Ending	Ttl Budget % Chg	Salary % Chg	Expense % Chg
6/30/2014	3.2%	5.6%	-2.8%
6/30/2015	-1.1%	-3.8%	3.5%
6/30/2016	1.2%	4.3%	-14.0%
6/30/2017	-1.8%	-2.8%	5.7%
6/30/2018	9.4%	9.3%	11.2%
6/30/2019	3.1%	3.0%	0.8%
6/30/2020	-3.3%	-4.1%	9.9%
6/30/2021	4.1%	0.7%	32.3%
6/30/2022	15.8%	13.8%	-7.8%
6/30/2023	11.3%	10.5%	33.2%
6/30/2024	11.4%	7.4%	8.3%
6/30/2025*	2.0%	9.8%	14.4%
FY 2026	8.4%	9.2%	2.8%
Year 1 of Patrol Officer Contracts			

reduce the budget to keep their earnings in their pocket to help pay bills.

Sources that are not already linked above:

Dalton, MA Annual Reports:

[2024](#)

[2023](#)

[2022](#)

[2021](#)

[2020](#)

2019 – No online copy, Dalton Library

2018 – No online copy, Dalton Library

[2017](#)

[2016](#)

[2015](#)

[2014](#)

[2013](#) – Referenced to calculate the 2014 budget % changes