



ONONDAGA COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
AVIATION

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History of OCSO Aviation

- The Onondaga County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) Aviation Unit was founded in 1975, using three surplus Korean War-Era Helicopters as a joint program with the City of Syracuse Police (SPD/CYP).
 - *In 1979, OCSO purchased a new Bell Jet Ranger which entered service in 1980.*
 - *In 1998 OCSO purchased a Bell 407, this helicopter entered service in 1999 remains in service to this day.*

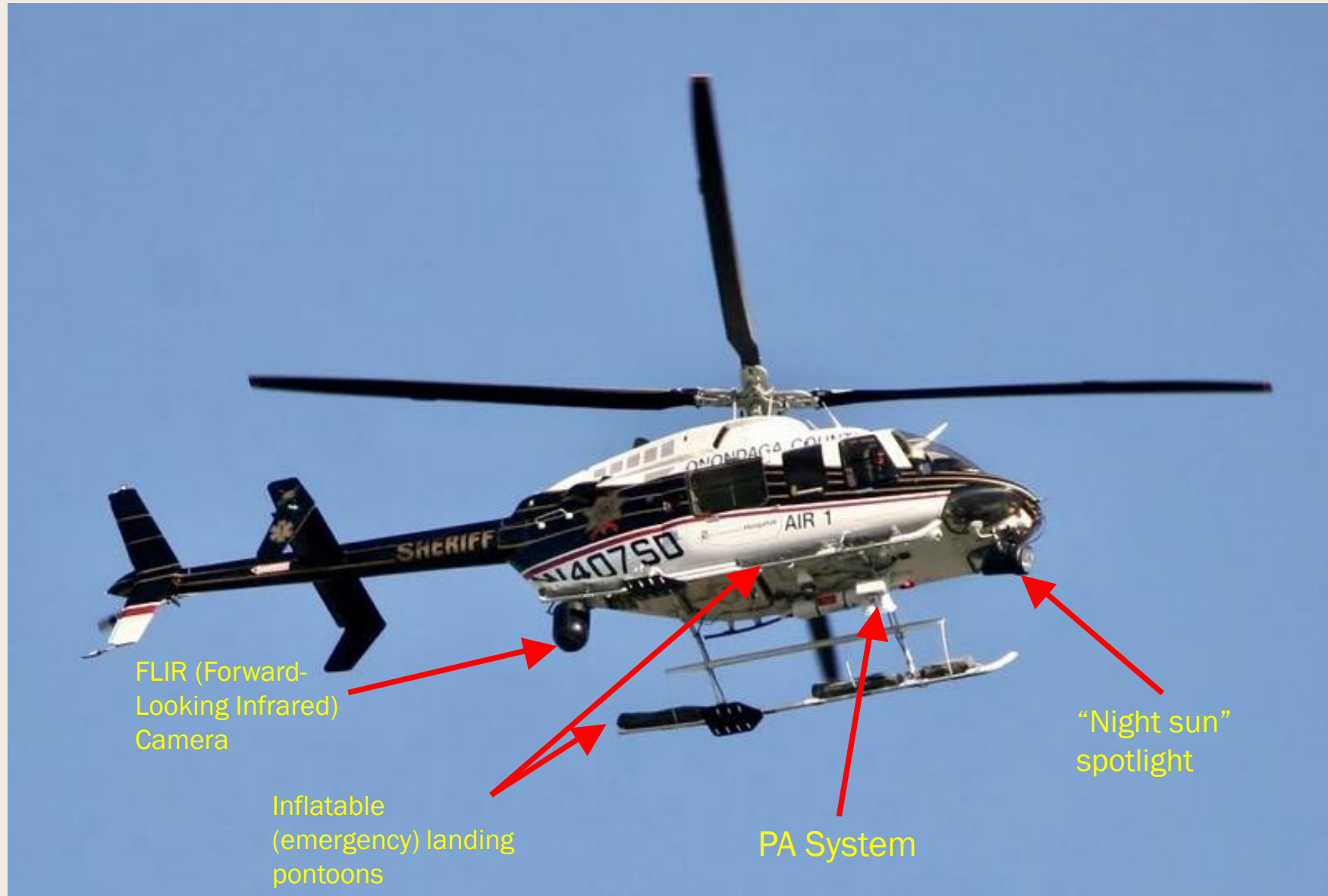




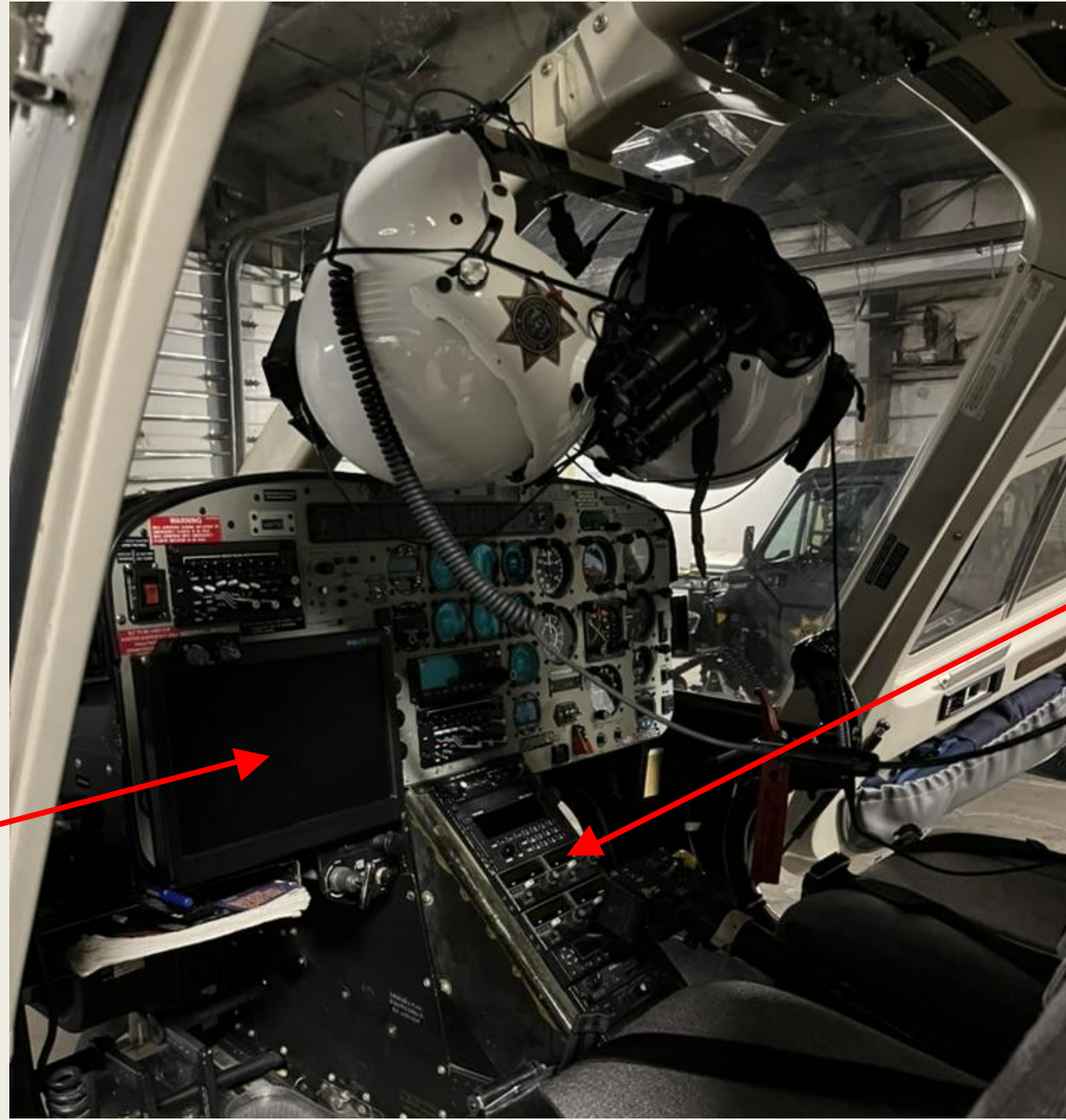
OCSO Aviation today

- The Aviation Unit is currently made up of three Police/Road Deputies and a Sergeant.
 - Aviation follows a special shift pattern, working from 4:30pm to 2:00am to align with busier call times.
- Onondaga is one of three Upstate New York counties with a sheriff's helicopter
- In 2014 the New York State Police moved their Syracuse-based helicopter to Rochester
 - From the Canadian border to Pennsylvania, from Rochester to Schenectady Air 1 is the **sole** firefighting, rescue, and law enforcement helicopter

Equipment



Continued



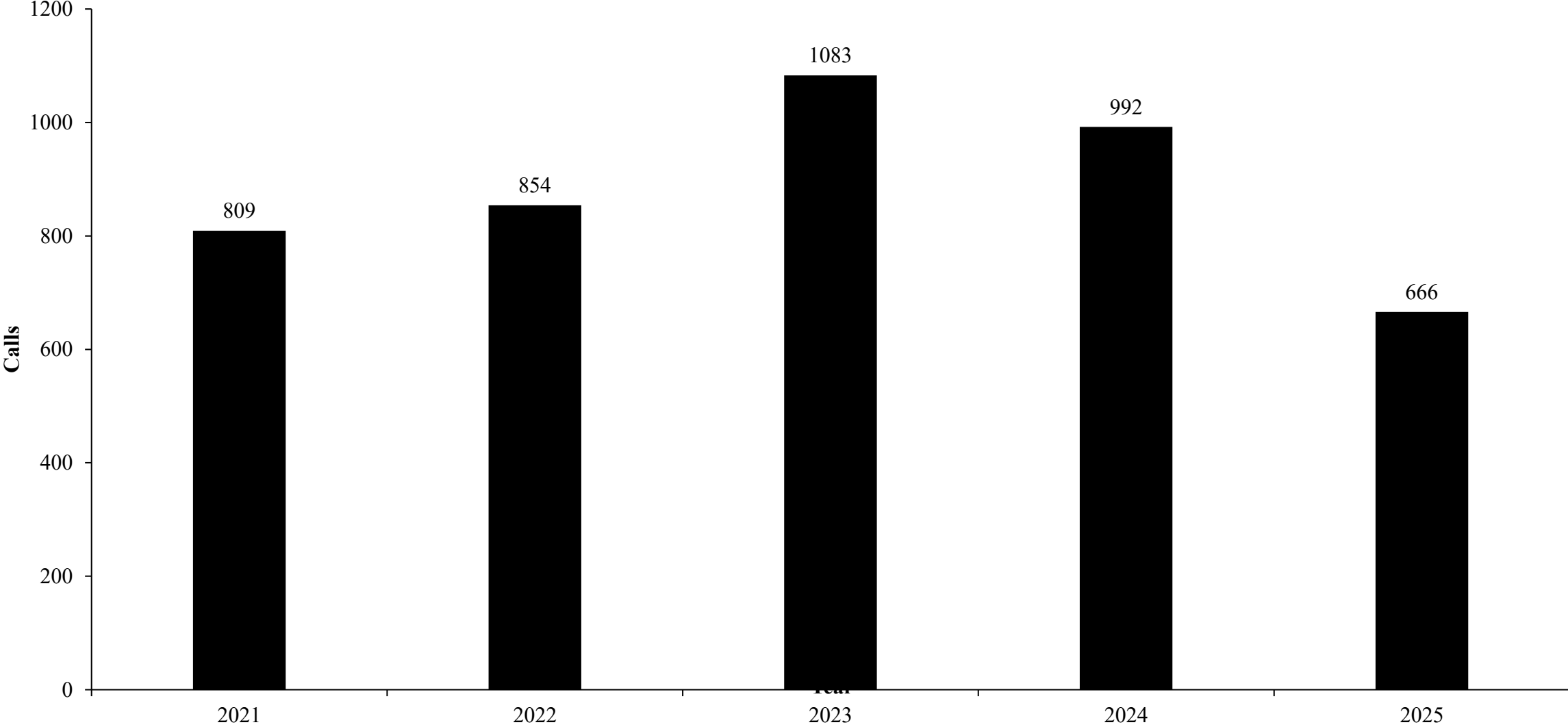
FLIR Display

Radios, access to fire, police, and aviation channels

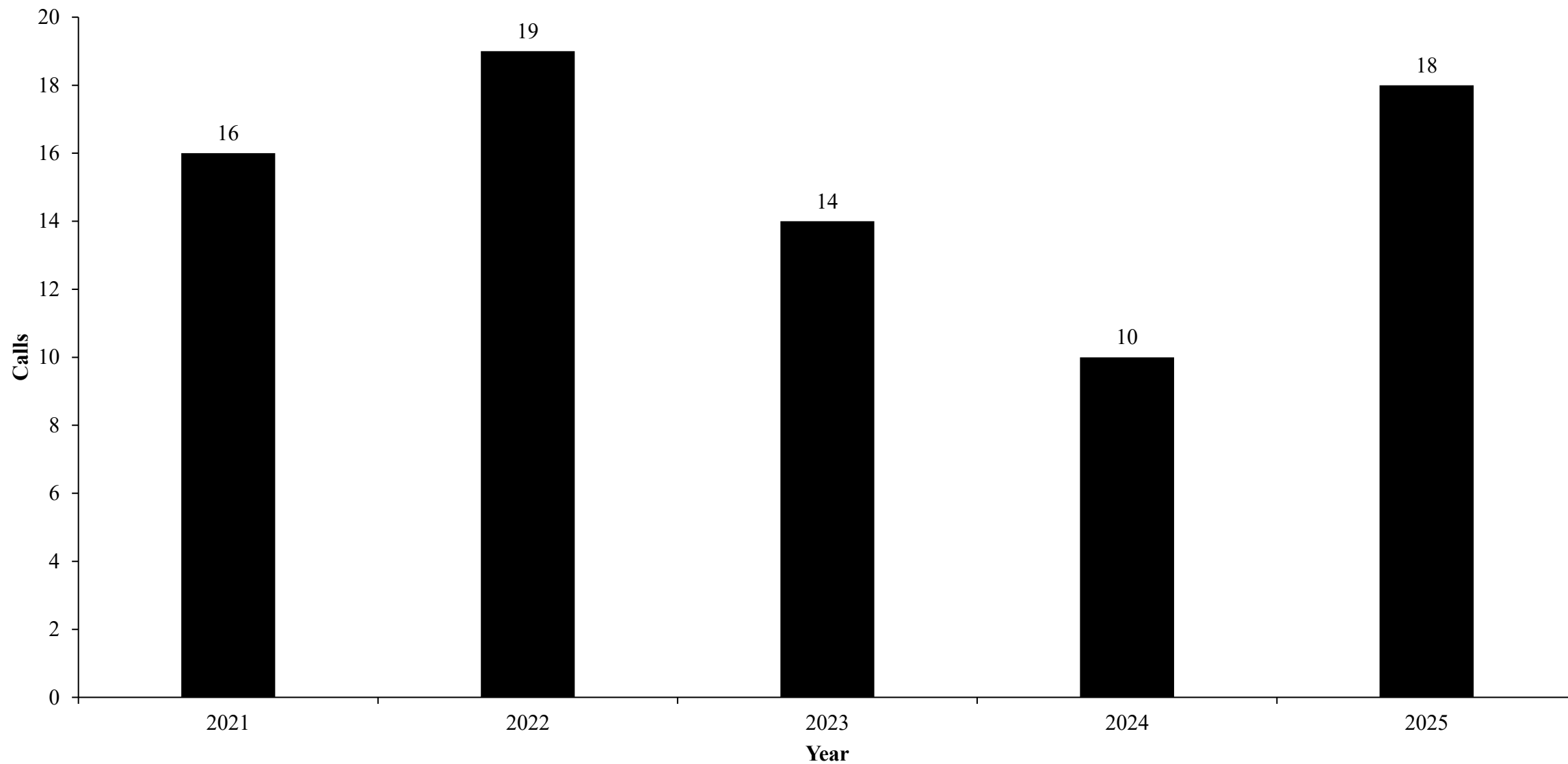
AIR 1 BY THE NUMBERS



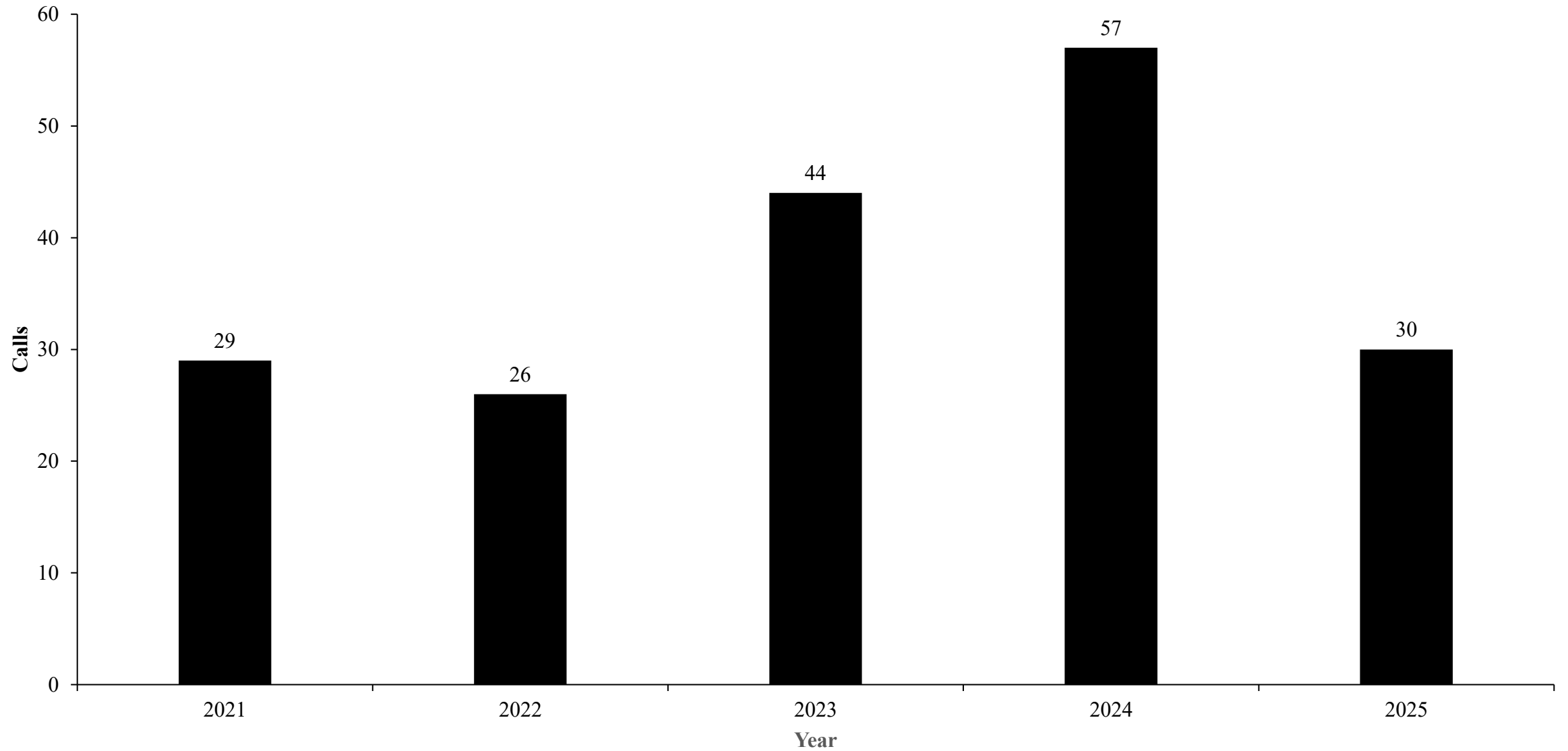
Calls for service 2021 to 2025 (n=4404)



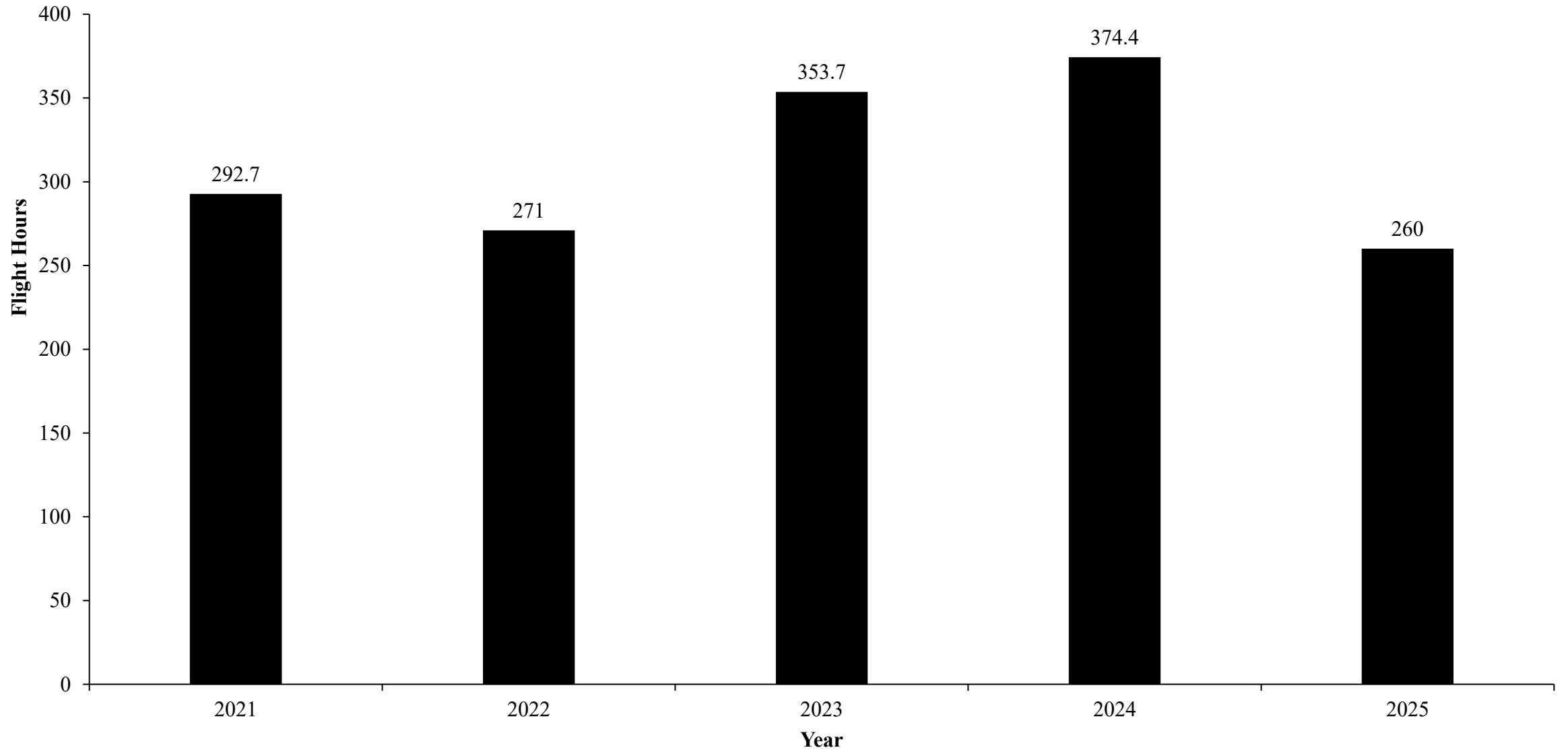
Calls outside of Onondaga County, 2021 to 2025 (n=77)



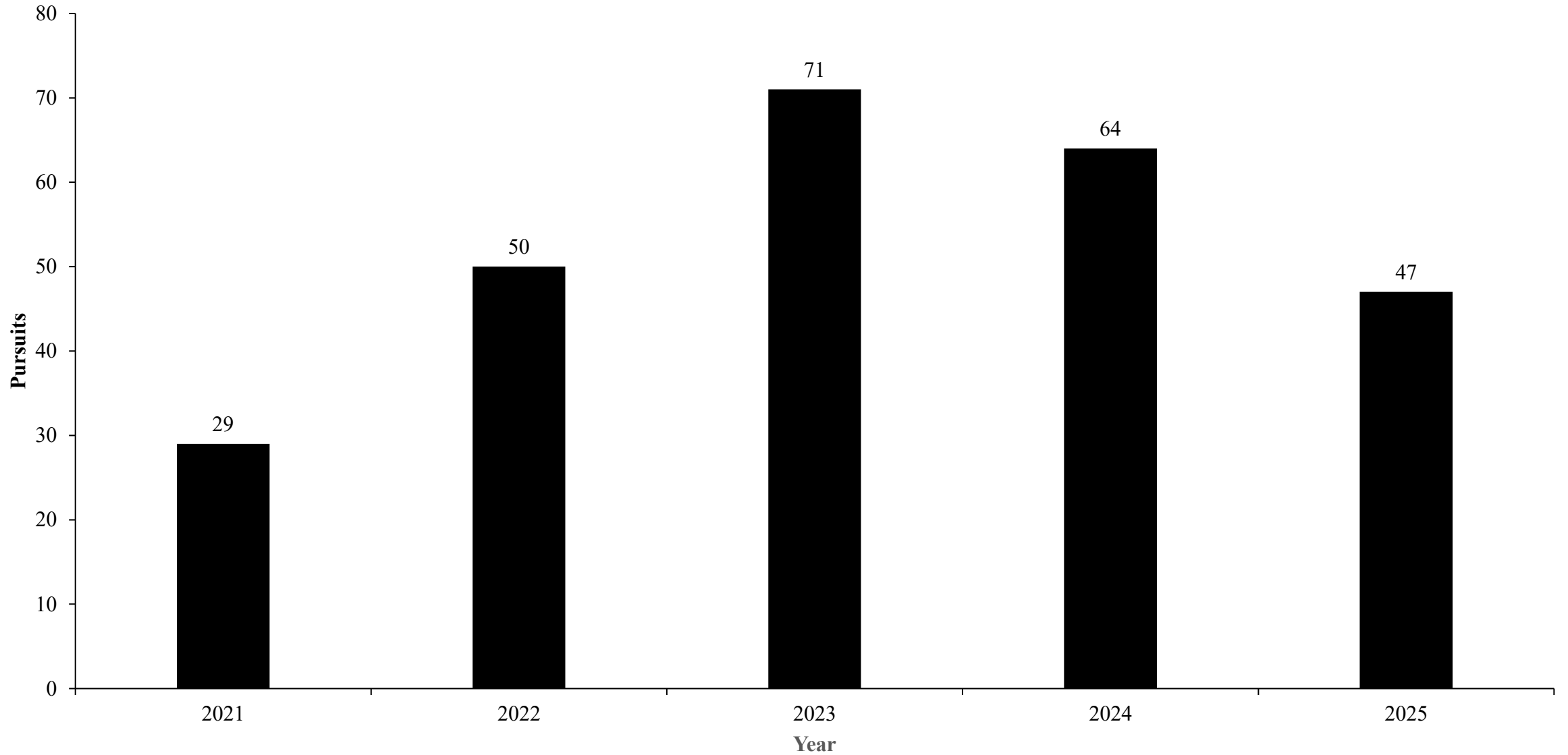
Missing/Lost Person Calls (File 6), 2021 to 2025 (n=196)



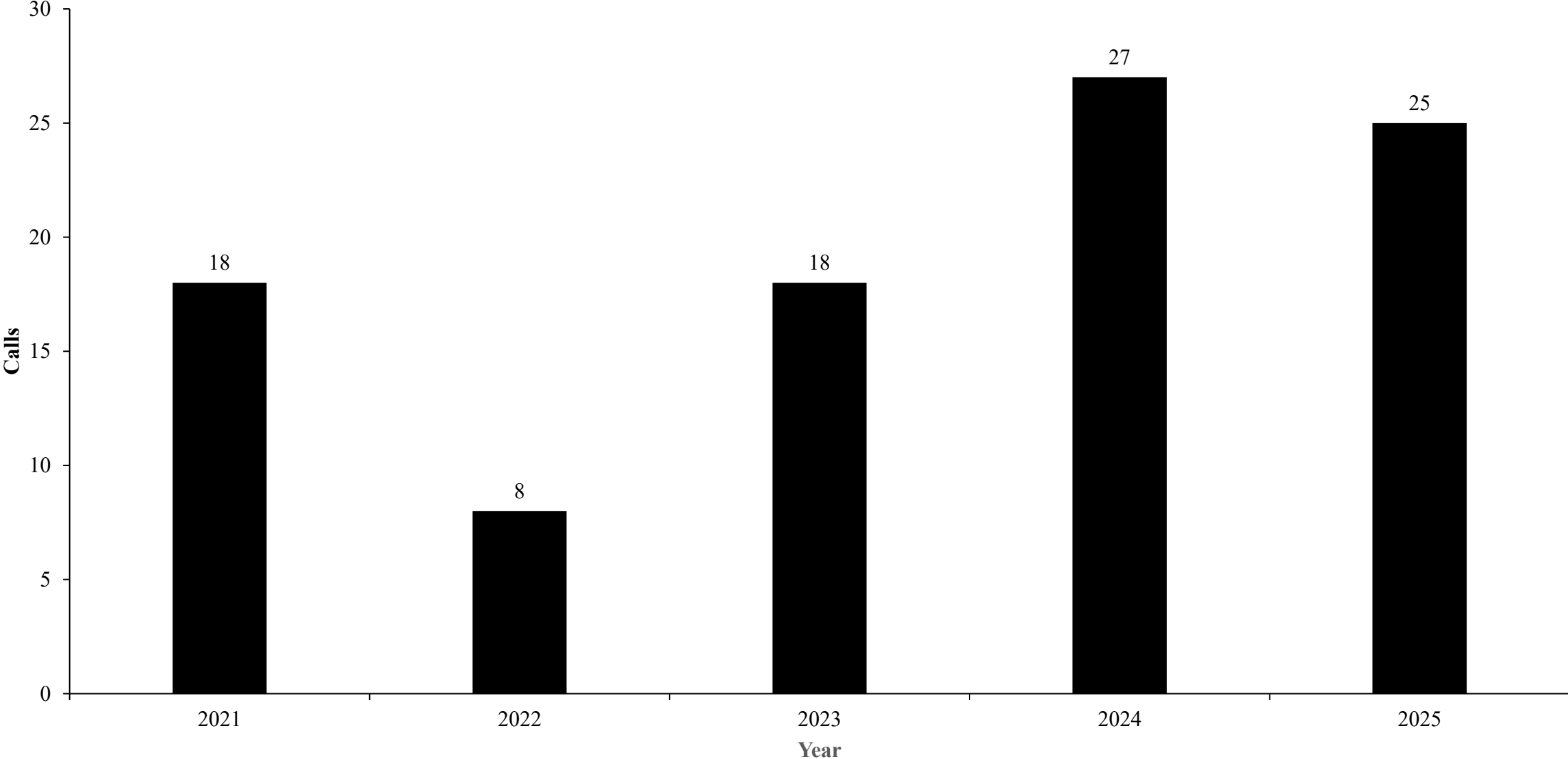
Flight hours 2021-2025 (n=1551.8)



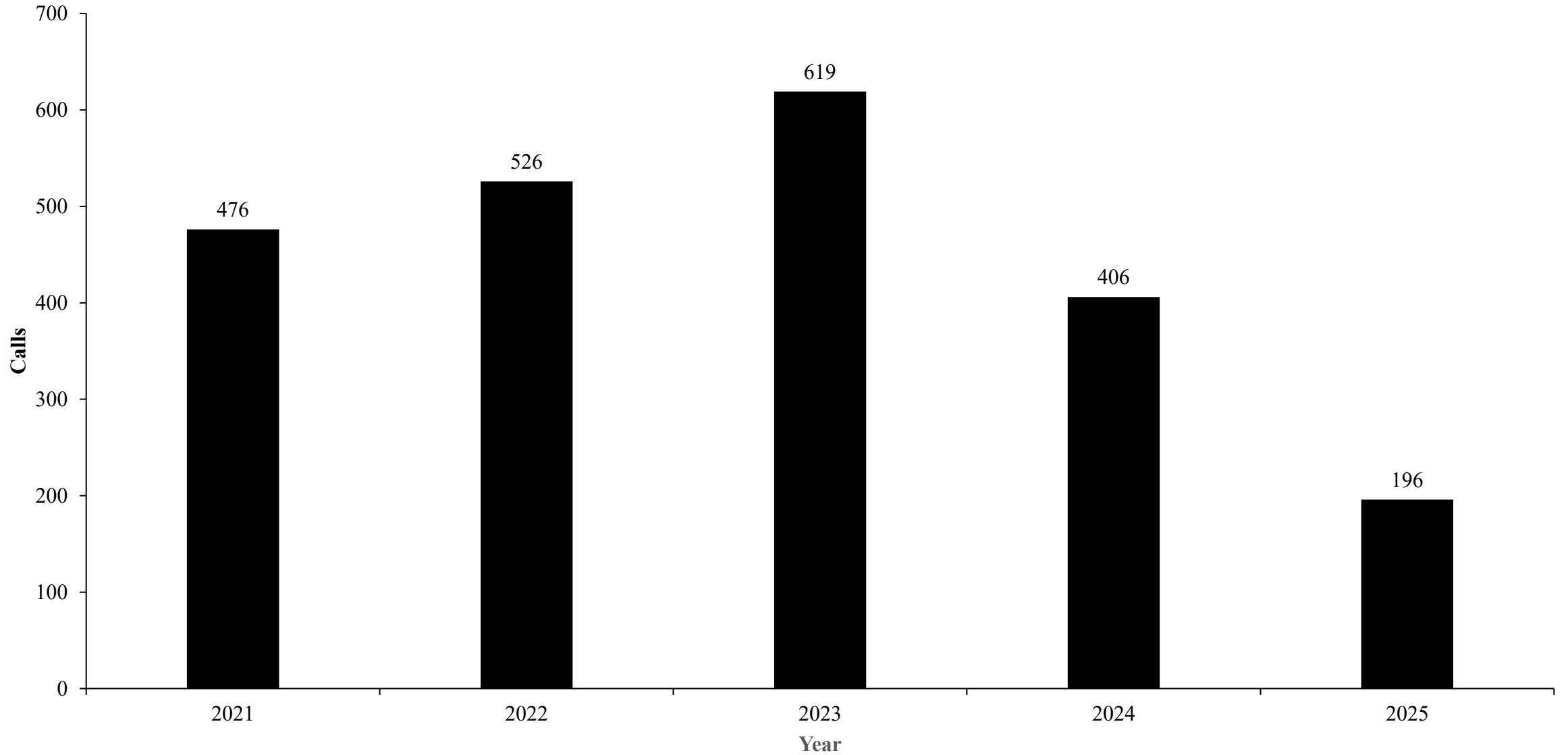
Vehicle and Foot Pursuits, 2021 to 2025 (n=261)



Shot(s) Fired Incidents, 2021 to 2025 (n=96)



Property and Navigation Checks (n=2203)





HIGHLIGHTS

- **April 8th, 2021** Assisted fire departments in Oswego with a large outdoor fire, utilizing the Bambi bucket they conducted several water drops on the area to prevent extension.
 - After clearing this, Air 1 assisted city police (CYP) with a dirt bike/ATV detail, resulting in 8 towed vehicles and 11 Uniform Traffic Tickets.

- **January 18th, 2022** Assisted CYP and Syracuse University Public Safety (SU DPS) with locating suspects from an armed robbery in the 800 block of Sumner Ave.,
 - Used FLIR camera to locate a suspect in the 800 block of Lancaster Ave. suspect fled towards Ackerman Ave. and entered a house at 841 Ackerman.
 - Used the night sun spotlight on the house and a suspect was taken into custody by CYP and SU DPS units.

- **February 9th, 2023** Assisted OCSO and CYP in a pursuing a vehicle involved in a shots fired incident.
 - Suspects fled to the Onondaga Nation and were involved in a crash. Units were directed to the scene and suspects were brought into custody.

- **February 15th, 2023** Responded to an ATV in the ice on Oneida Lake, spotted an occupant on an ice sheet, crews extracted the occupant and brought them safely to shore.

- **July 1st, 2024** Assisted units in Nedrow with locating a subject who had menaced a group of kids with a knife,
 - Used the night sun spotlight on the suspect who was quickly spotted and taken into custody.

- **July 8th, 2025** Assisted De Witt PD (DWP) in locating a 13-year-old suicidal subject who had left their residence after ingesting pills.
 - Utilizing FLIR and the night sun they were able to locate the subject on a rock face in Jamesville and directed DWP and EMS to them.

Other duties

- Details (ATV/Dirt bike, Syracuse Nationals, Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE, formerly Operation Impact)).
- Dignitary escorts (POTUS, Gov., Pope, etc)
- Community policing (National Night Out, school demonstrations, static displays)
- Trainings and technical flights

Takeaways

1. Air 1 is among the (if not the) greatest public safety resources in Onondaga County.
2. The wide variety of duties, calls, and operations show the usefulness and need for such a resource in Onondaga County.



THANK YOU,
QUESTIONS?

