

The background is a dark blue collage of various forensic science and laboratory-related icons. These include chemical structures, a DNA helix, a microscope, a test tube, a flask, a pie chart, a bar graph, a human silhouette, a globe, and various scientific symbols. The icons are rendered in a lighter blue or white color, creating a textured, layered effect.

Building a Comprehensive Crime Laboratory

Enhancing Chandler Forensic Services

Council Work Session
July 15, 2024

Agenda



Background & History



Current State



Proposed Future State



Next Steps



Questions

Background and History

Chandler Police Department
Forensic Services Section



92% of survey respondents agree that they **feel safe** in Chandler¹

“I HAVE ALWAYS HAD
OUTSTANDING SERVICE WITH
CHANDLER POLICE”

“MY CAR WAS STOLEN IN
SEPTEMBER 2023. THE POLICE
SHOWED UP IMMEDIATELY AND
MY CAR WAS LOCATED THE
SAME DAY. **EXCELLENT LEVEL OF
COMMUNICATION, EMPATHY
AND INSTILLED TRUST.**”

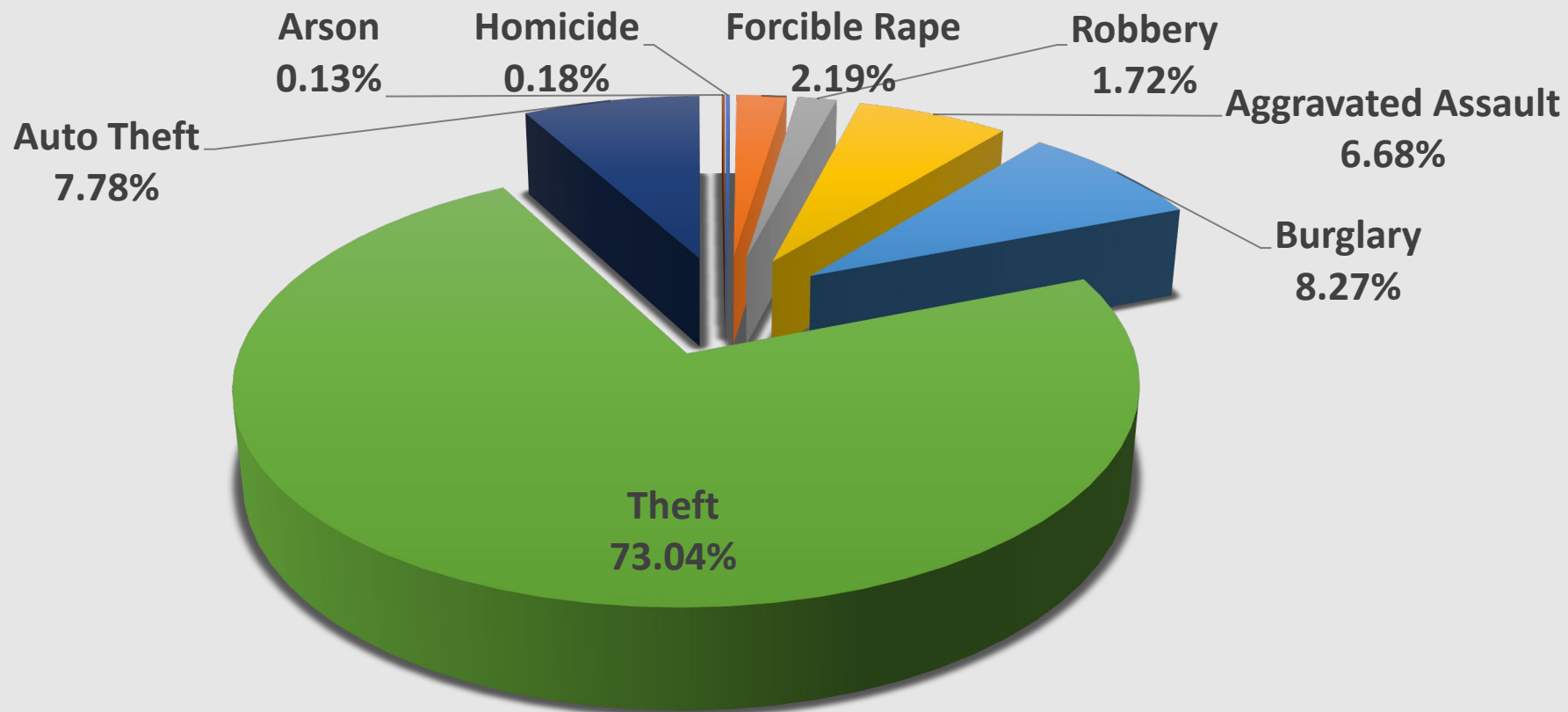
“FANTASTIC SERVICE FROM MY
**INITIAL CALL TO THE FOLLOW-UP
REPORT** BY THE OFFICER. VERY
IMPRESSED GREAT JOB ALL
AROUND.”

“WE **FEEL VERY SAFE**, THANK
YOU TO CHANDLER PD FOR
YOUR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE!”



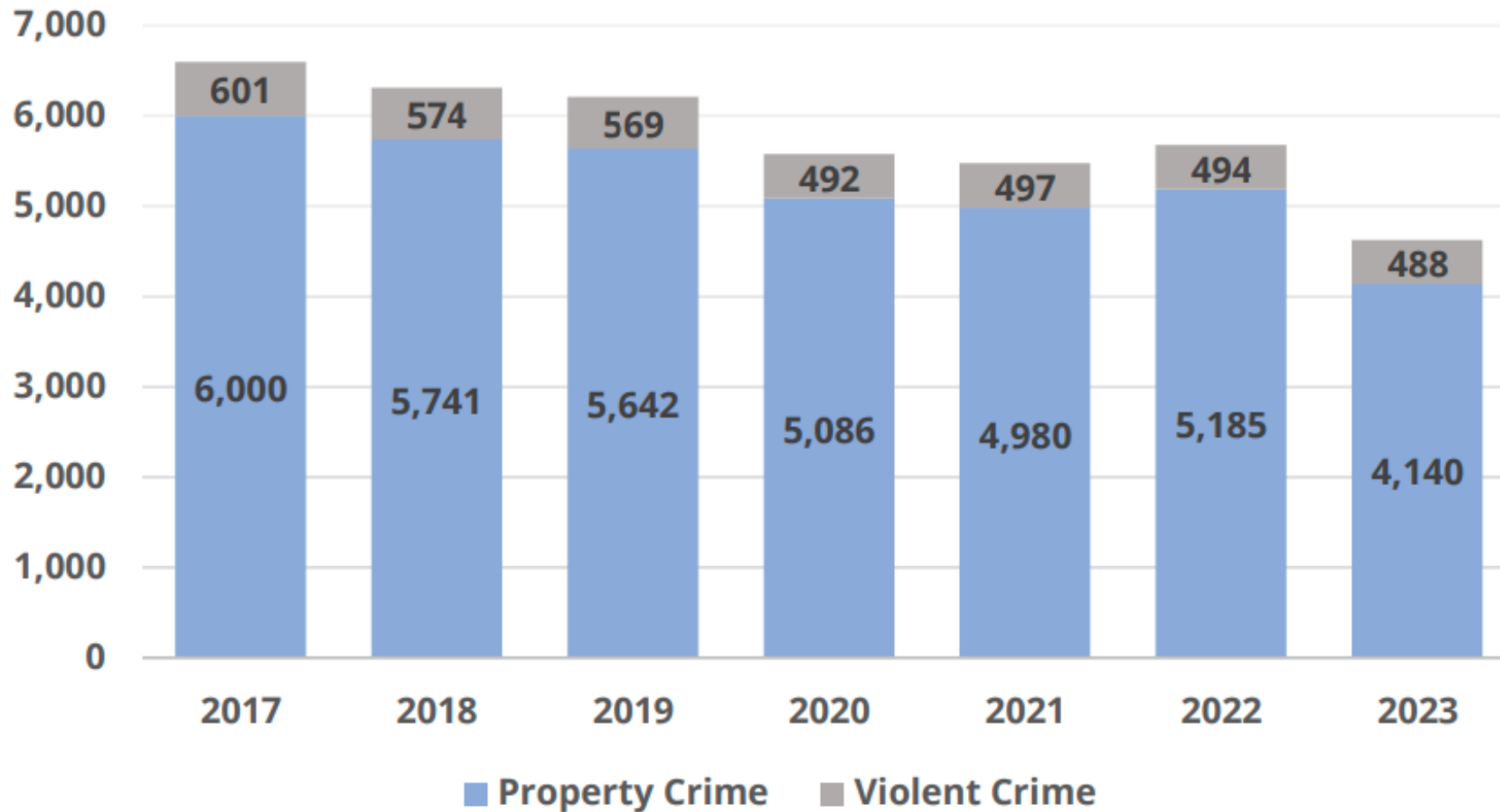
Chandler Police Department

2023 UCR Part I Crime Index by Crime Category

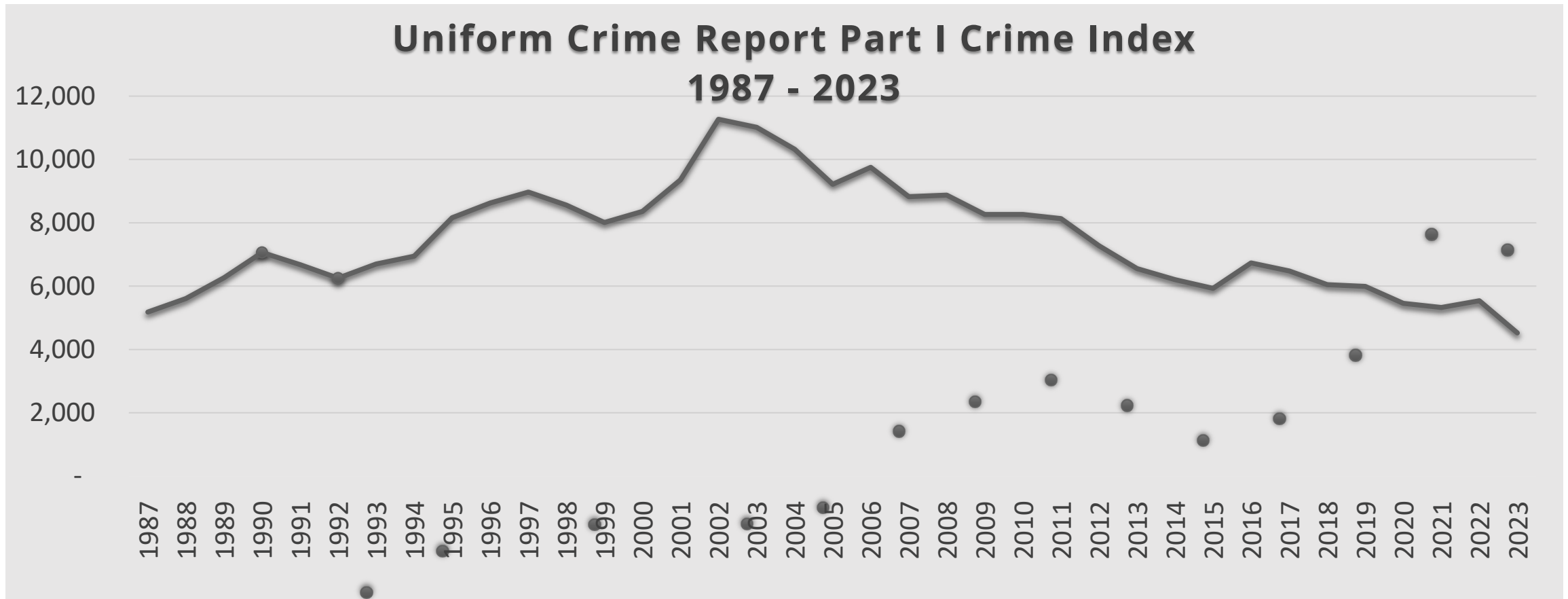


YEAR-TO-DATE TOTALS

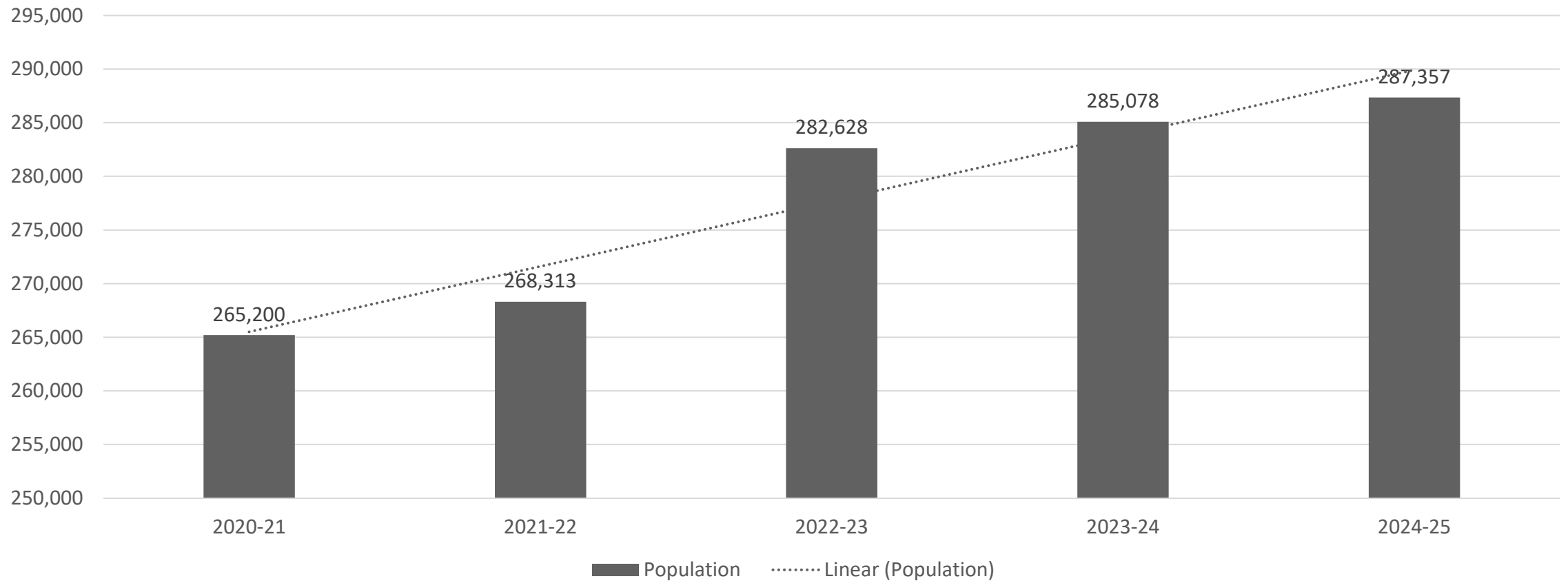
JAN. 1 - DEC. 31



Crime Rate History & Trends



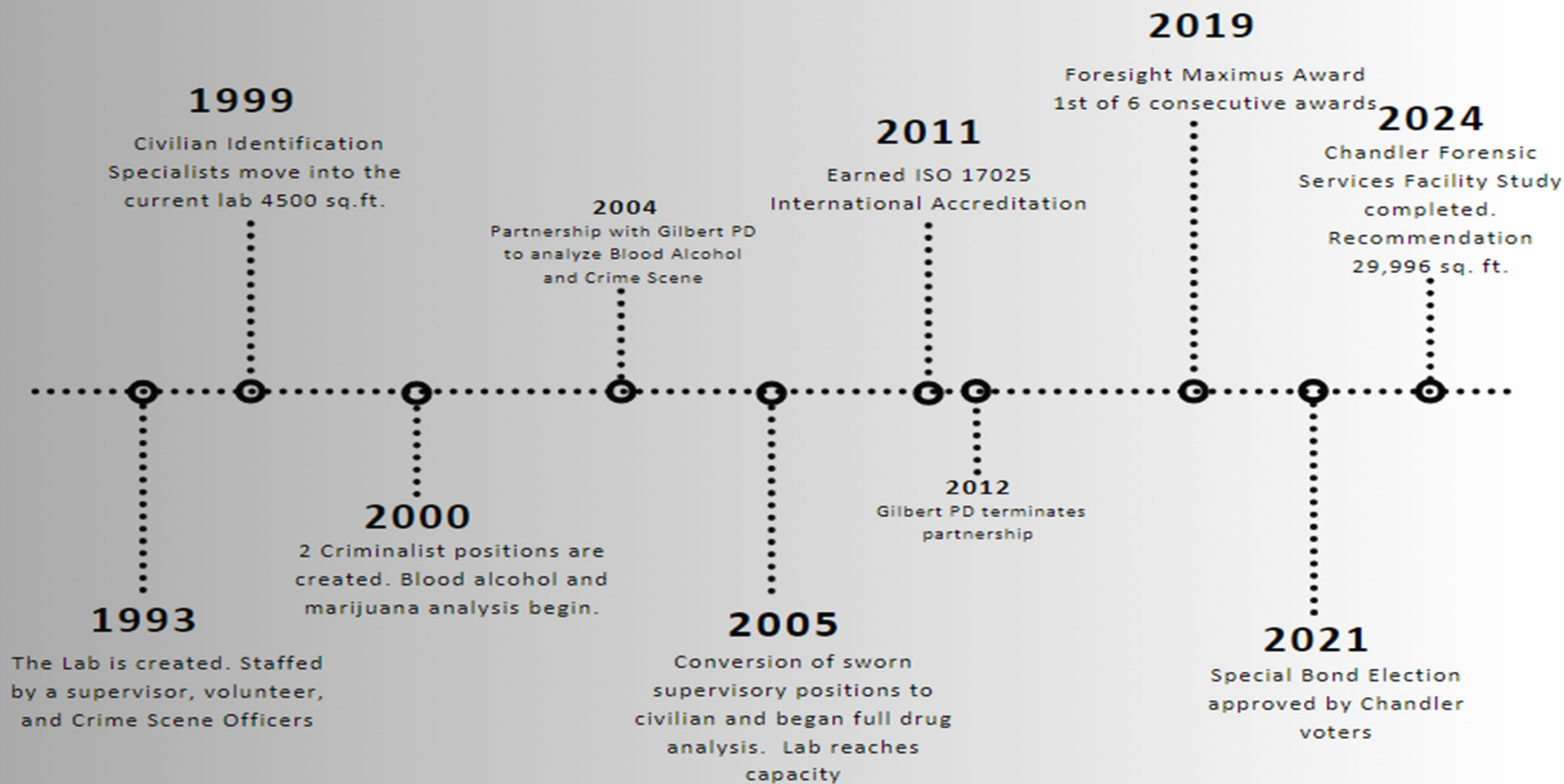
Chandler Population Growth



Chief Chapman

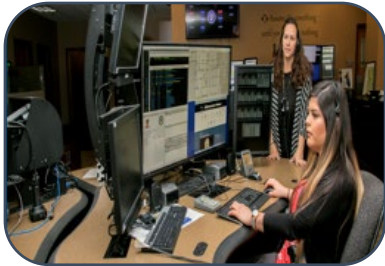
“While our city's proactive approach to adopting advanced technologies and innovative strategies has contributed to a downward trend in the crime rate, we must continue to evolve to keep pace with our growing population and emerging challenges.”

History of Forensic Services



Citizen Bond Exploratory Committee

Public Safety Subcommittee – Police 2020



CIB &
Communications
Renovations
\$6.4M



Forensic
Services Facility
576 W. Pecos Rd
\$38.3M



Emergency
Vehicles
\$1.6M



Main Station
Renovations
\$9.6M

23,500 square feet recommended for Forensic Services expansion based upon 2014 Facilities Master Plan.

Committee Recommendations

Public Safety Subcommittee

Police Projects

The Subcommittee also toured related Police needs: Public Safety Training Center, Police Main Station, and several public safety response vehicles. The group developed consensus on the priority of the Police projects. Most of the conversation centered around the need for additional space and services to be provided from a new Forensic Services Facility. The current small Forensic Services Section is housed within the Police Main Station and does not fit the growing needs of the Department. A new facility will allow for new specialties to be developed along with the potential

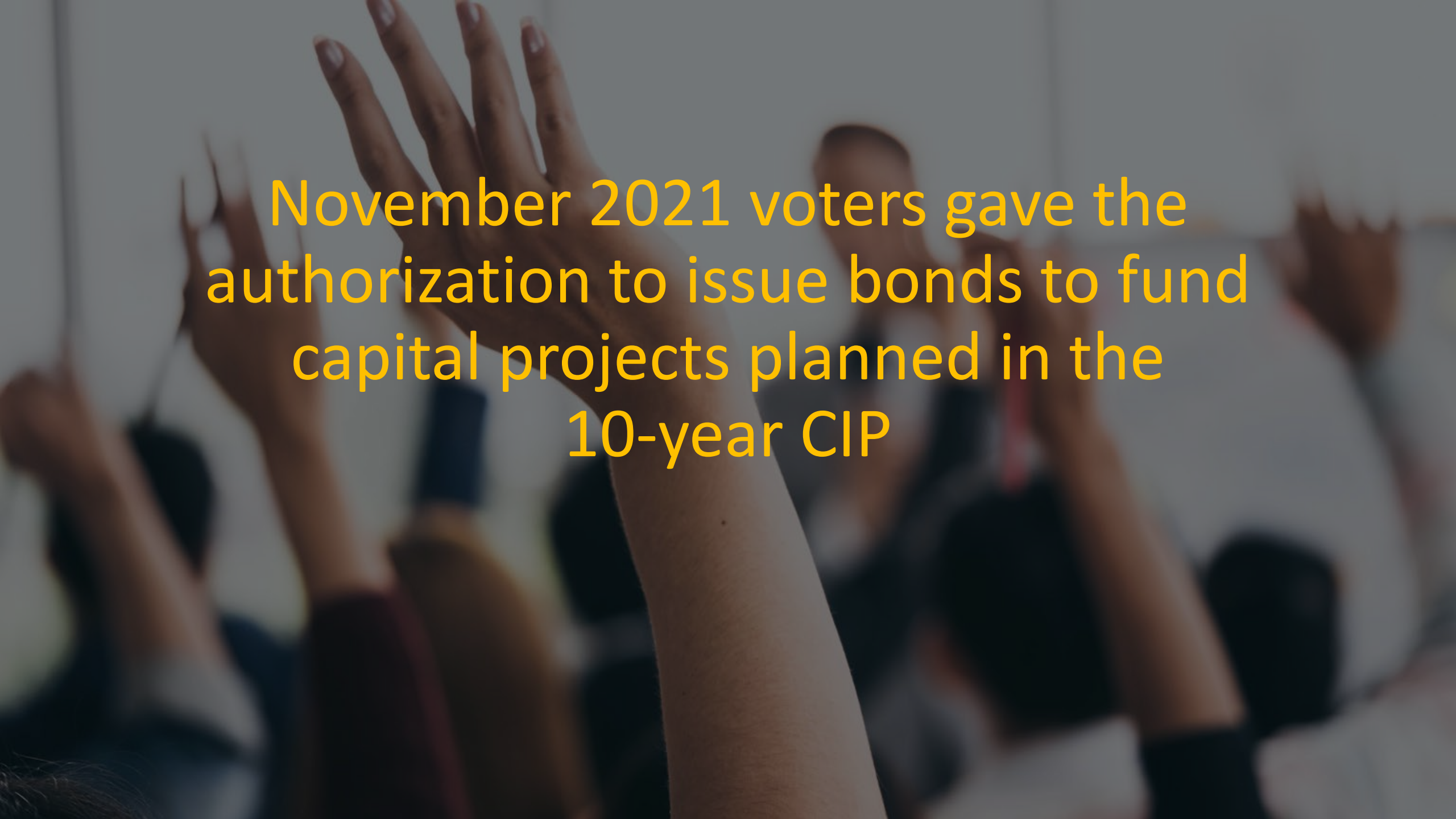


to develop regional partnerships to help offset costs of the facility. If the Forensic Services Section moves into a new facility, this will then allow for expansion of the Communication and Investigations Bureau (CIB) Section along with other areas to help with growth in the Department. The need for a Detention Facility was also discussed given concerns with the longevity of utilizing the existing shared Gilbert facility, but the Forensic Facility was deemed to be a higher priority.

The Finance Subcommittee evaluated financial options and then completed additional analysis (see pages 19-20) regarding the Operations & Maintenance (O&M) needs of the new facilities. Police was agreeable to phase in Forensic Facility specialties over a 3 year period, but the Detention Facility O&M caused the need for a higher primary tax rate. The Finance Subcommittee then recommended to the Steering Committee to include all prioritized projects which are listed below, with the exception of the Detention facility by shifting this out of this bond election request. All remaining projects fit within the current and future financial constraints without increasing the primary or secondary property tax rates.

Project Name	Bond Projected Amounts
Forensic Services Facility	\$38,325,000
CIB, Communications Renovations	\$6,361,000
Police Emergency Vehicles	\$1,623,000
Wellness Center	\$495,000
Main Station Remaining Renovations	\$9,686,000
Total	\$56,490,000
Remaining Authorization	\$1,300,000
2021 Bond Authorization Needed	\$55,190,000

Committee Recommendations
Public Safety Subcommittee



November 2021 voters gave the
authorization to issue bonds to fund
capital projects planned in the
10-year CIP

Current State



Unit Accomplishments



ANSI National Accreditation Board

A C C R E D I T E D

ISO/IEC 17025

**FORENSIC TESTING
LABORATORY**

- More than a decade as an ISO 17025 accredited Forensic Laboratory
- Recipient of the Maximus Award for six consecutive years, demonstrating sustained excellence and high efficiency.

Crime Scene Unit Personnel

10 full-time Crime Scene Technicians
2 Crime Scene Technician Leads
1 Crime Scene Supervisor

4 cross-trained for ABIS ten print

24/7 Crime Scene Response



Forensic Analysis Unit Personnel

5 full-time Forensic Scientists

1 Forensic Scientist Supervisor

Cross-training is not commonly adopted as an industry standard.

Blood Alcohol



Seized Drugs



Latent Print





2023 Caseload



945

Blood Alcohol Cases



1213 Seized Drug Cases



2631

Crime Scenes processed

520

Latent Print Cases

Blood Alcohol Analysis

An evaluation of blood alcohol analysis over the past five years.



Average turnaround 14 days



Seized Drug Analysis

An evaluation of seized drug analysis over the past five years.



Average turnaround 14 days

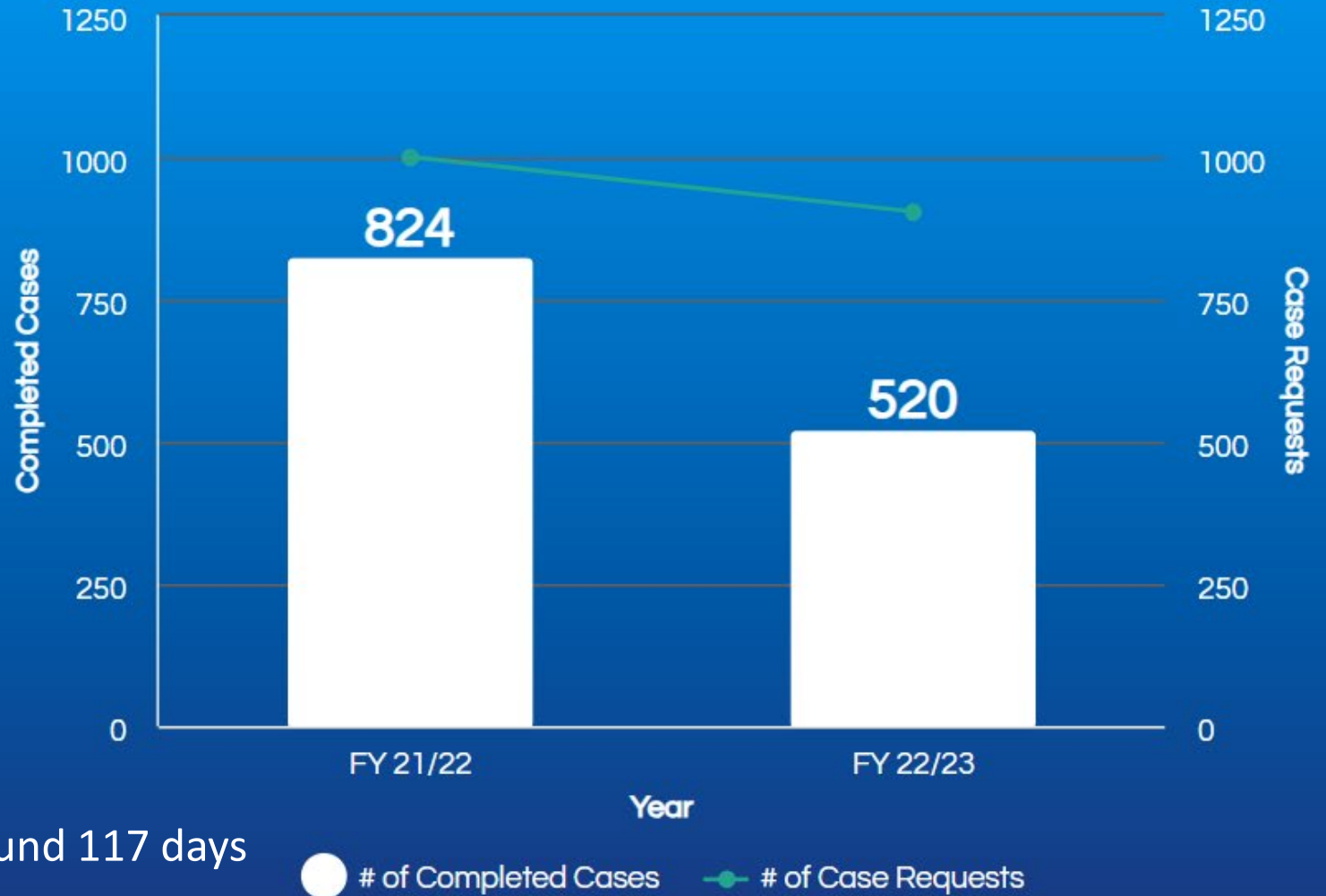


Latent Print Analysis

An evaluation of latent print analysis
(comparison and processing).



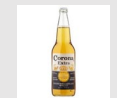
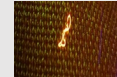
Average turnaround 117 days



Performance Metrics

Indicator (Fiscal Year)	Curr. YTD	Goal
Percentage of requests for blood alcohol analysis completed within 30 days	100%	95%
Percentage of requests for controlled substances analysis within 60 days	100%	95%
Percentage of requests for latent print analysis within 90 days	70%	95%
Percentage of crime scene analysis report requests completed within 14 days	98%	95%

Forensic Services

	Crime Lab Services	Agency Provider
	Crime Scene	In-House
	Latent Fingerprint	In-House
	Controlled Substances	In-House
	Toxicology – Alcohol	In-House
	Firearms – NIBIN Database only	In-House – non laboratory
	Computer Forensics / Digital Evidence	In-House – non laboratory
	Firearms / Toolmarks	Outsourced
	Toxicology – Drugs	Outsourced
	Trace Evidence	Outsourced
	DNA	Outsourced
	Questioned Documents	Outsourced

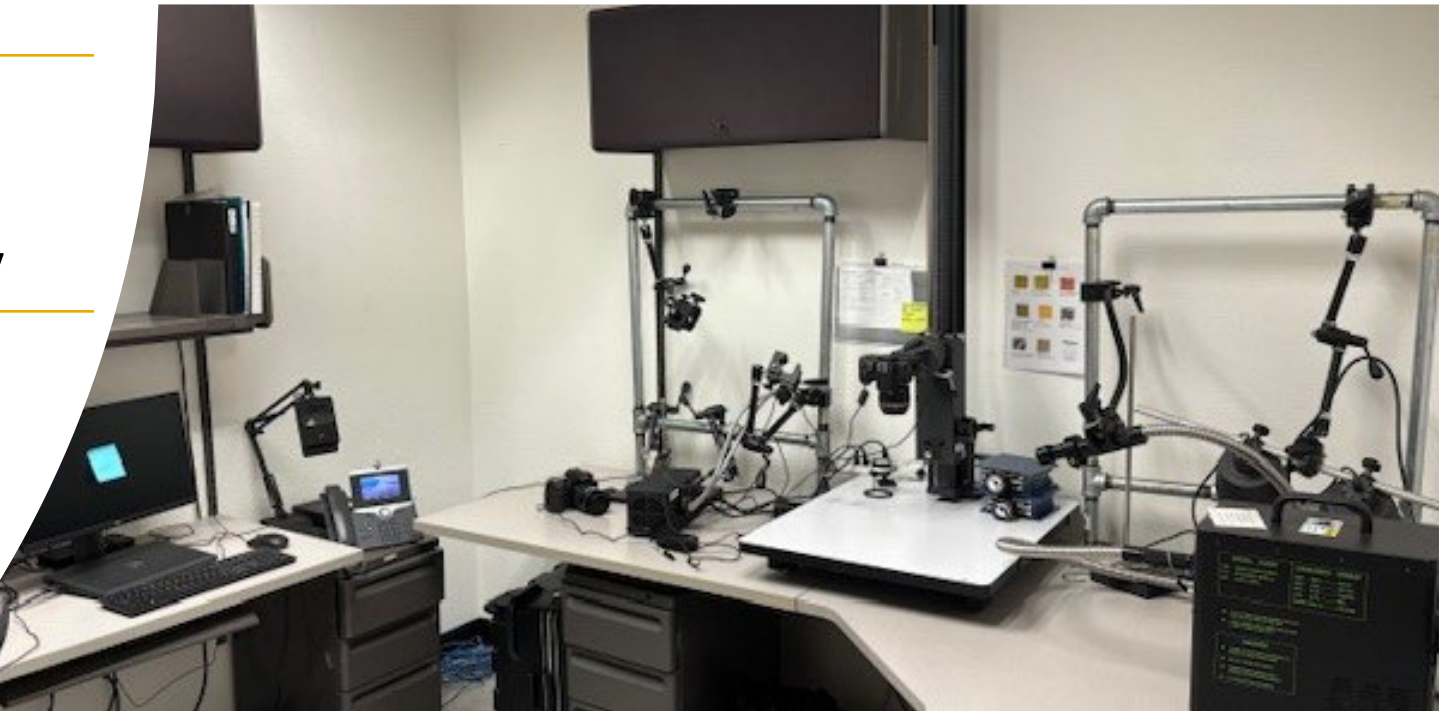
Current Facility Limitations

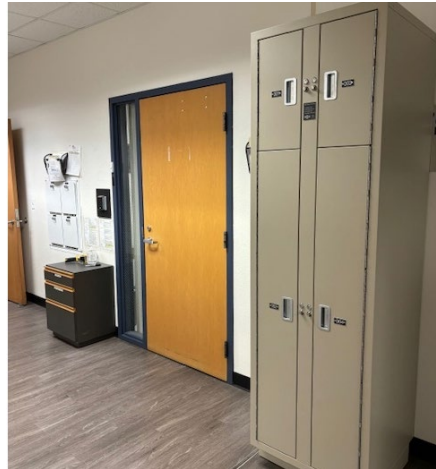
Built in 1999

5,500 sq. ft. lab

3,000 sq. ft. biohazard and vehicle bay

Reached capacity in 2005





Outsourcing Services - Limitations



2023 Blood Drug Analysis

177

Blood Drug Cases submitted
to AZDPS for analysis

Outsourced



2023 DNA Analysis

97

DNA Cases submitted
to AZDPS for analysis

Outsourced

DNA Analysis



1:10

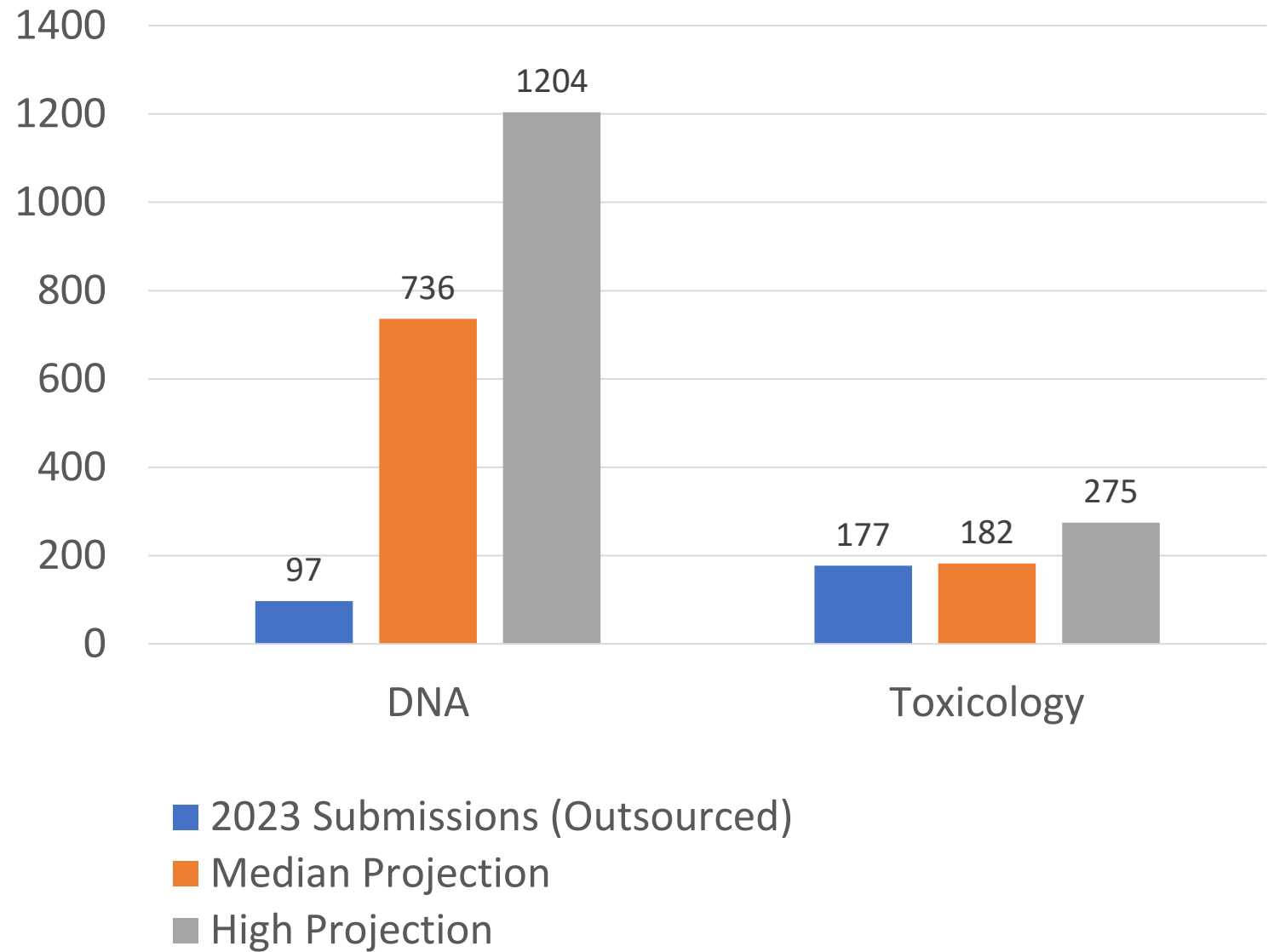
Cases in which DNA evidence is collected is submitted for analysis to AZDPS

Chandler experienced a significant number of property crimes, 10 were submitted for DNA analysis.

For Property Crimes cases, the AZDPS lab will process 1 item of evidence per **suspect** with a known exemplar.

Projected Case Numbers

Chandler Case Projections



Forensic Services

Current

24/7 Crime Scene Response

Ten-Print Analysis

Blood Alcohol Analysis (DUI)

Seized Drugs

Latent Fingerprints

Key Additions

DNA

Blood Drug Analysis (DUI
and Sex Assault)

Computer Forensics/Digital
Evidence

Current Lab built 1999
Reached Capacity 2005
Recommended Square Feet 29,996



Future State of Forensic Services

Impact of Expanding DNA to Forensic Services

Evidence shows that applying DNA analysis to property crimes yields results.

- More than twice as many suspects are identified, arrested and accepted for prosecution





Computer Forensics / Digital Evidence

Freeing up Officers to
concentrate on investigations

Standardized Practices to
efficiently collect and analyze
large volumes of evidence

Leverage Expertise for a reliable
and verifiable analysis

Impact of Expanded Forensic Services



Firearms - Database

- The nationwide database is used to match ballistic evidence with other cases.
- Guns need to be test-fired so the bullet patterns can be matched to those in the database.
- This is a chance to create a proper space for both test-firing guns and using the database.

Forensic Facility Benefits to Chandler

Supporting Forensic Needs: Committed to fulfilling criminal justice requirements.

Forensic Science Utilization: Developing investigative leads through advanced forensic science.

Prioritizing Investigations: Aligning with officers' investigative priorities.

Expedited Testing: Providing rapid, selective analysis.

Public Trust: Sustaining and strengthening public confidence.

Feasibility Study

The city conducted RFQ and selected SmithGroup to perform a pre-design study.

The scope of services included:

- Facility needs and requirements
- Adjacency to the existing Property and Evidence Facility
- Potential public outreach services
- Pre-design services
- Preliminary cost estimate

Received \$290,000 of funding in FY 2022-23 for the feasibility study.

The Feasibility Study was completed in FY 2023-24.



Feasibility Study Recommendation

29,996 Square Feet – Single Story

\$59.2M

Connected to the Property & Evidence Building

Capital Budget

Design



\$5,259,000

FY2024-25

Public Safety Bond
Fund 460

Construction



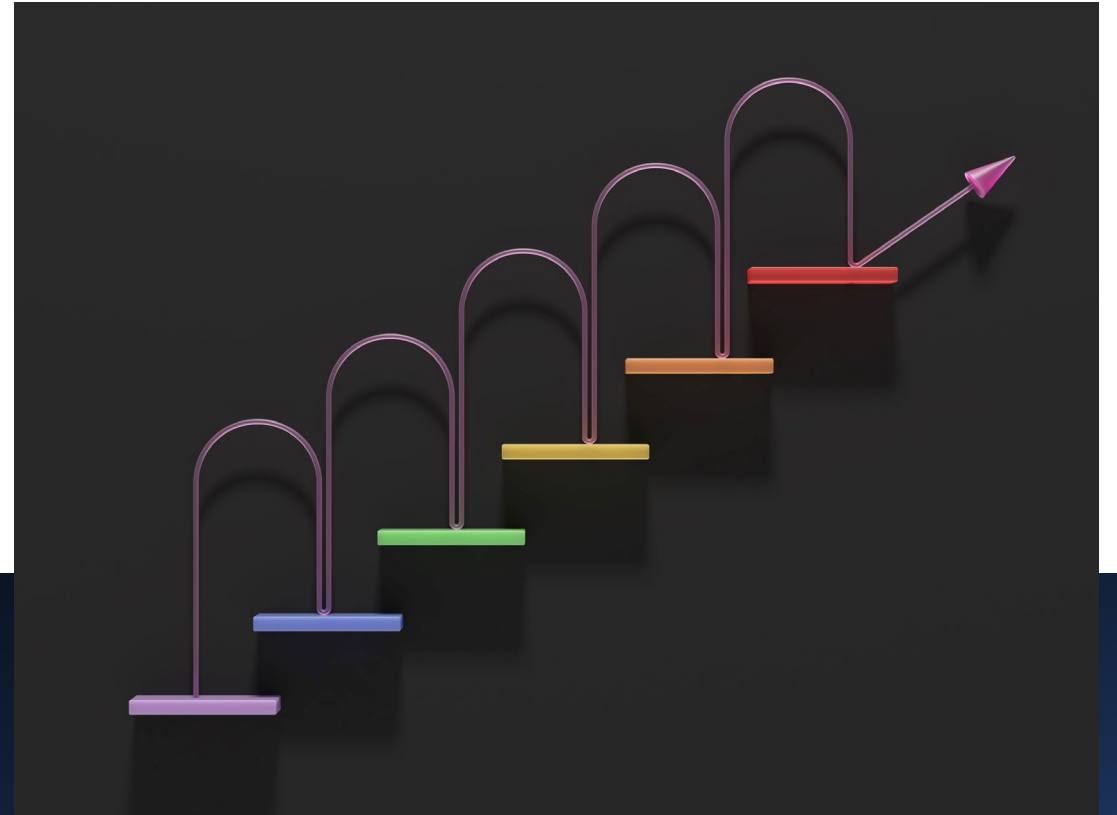
\$59,212,000

FY2025-26

\$50,081,000 from Public
Safety Bond Fund 460

\$9,131,000 from General
Fund 401

Next Steps



Design Phase FY2024-25

Continuation of
the partnership
with the
SmithGroup

Design a better
future for forensic
services in our city

Exploring Partnerships

- Potential Partnership with Town of Gilbert
 - Looking at business model, timing, cost sharing, and level of service expectations
 - Partnership would include Maintenance & Operations, and Capital from both agencies
 - Will return to City Council if partnership makes sense for both parties

Further Considerations



CENTRAL LOCATION AND
PROXIMITY TO PROPERTY
AND EVIDENCE ARE
CRITICAL



RENOVATIONS OF THE
MAIN SUBSTATION
CANNOT PROCEED UNTIL
THE LABORATORY
MOVES OUT



AGING INFRASTRUCTURE
OF THE CURRENT
LABORATORY & COST
INCURRED BY
CONSTRUCTION DELAYS



LABORATORY MOVES
REQUIRE AN
ADDITIONAL SET-UP
PERIOD

Process Timeline

	Process	Estimated Timeline
	Continue to Explore Potential Partnerships	Ongoing
	Design Services	1 Year
	Construction	2 Years
	Transition Period	6 – 9 Months
	Fully Operational - Goal	2-3 Years



Forensic Services Facility

Investing in a crime lab will result in **enhanced public safety and increased community trust.**

Questions

