

# AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT



## ANNUAL REPORT





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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

To the Honorable Mayor Ginger Nelson and the City Council of Amarillo,

It is my pleasure to present the 2020 Amarillo Police Department Annual Report. I hope that you find this information an insightful and helpful overview of the department's operations, resources, and strategy.

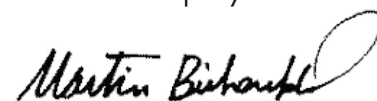
2020 was an eventful year and the Amarillo Police Department was forced to weather considerable change and adaptation to local and world events. In February of 2020, Chief Ed Drain left the department to take over as the Police Chief for Plano, Texas. Price Robinson was brought in as Interim Chief of Police while the selection process for a new chief was underway. On March 21st, 2020, I was honored to be selected as Amarillo's 13th Chief of Police.

The department provides police services to an estimated 208,945 residents covering a geographical area of more than 104 square miles. The overall Part 1 crime rate in Amarillo went down from 2019 to 2020. However, violent crime trended upward, driven primarily by an increase in shootings and aggravated assaults. This upward violent crime trend was also observed in the rest of the United States.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused significant operational changes at the department. The structure of contact with the public and internal and external meetings hampered communication and changed the look of policing in the community. Internally, many police employees were quarantined throughout the year due to virus exposure or illness. Many department members lost loved ones to this illness. Despite all the hardships caused by the pandemic, police officers and civilian staff did a tremendous job of adapting and overcoming the various obstacles that were placed in their way. The police department continued to provide excellent public service to the community.

Civil unrest dominated headlines in the country during the summer months of 2020. The department developed plans to provide for the safety of all attendees during rallies or protests and added equipment to improve readiness in the event of violence or property damage. Amarillo saw several of these types of events during this time period; however, all events were peaceful, and no arrests were made during protests.

Enclosed is a summary of activities and crime information in Amarillo for 2020. It is our honor to serve the residents of our great city. We appreciate the support of City Council and the citizens of Amarillo in keeping our city a safe place to live work and play.



Martin Birkenfeld  
Chief of Police

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



Martin Birkenfeld  
Chief of Police



Interim Chief Price Robinson  
February 2020 - May 2020



Chief Ed Drain  
October 2016 - February 2020

# MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Amarillo Police Department is to provide excellent public service and law enforcement to the community, with the goal of keeping Amarillo a safe place to live, work, and play. The Department shall provide this service by utilizing best practices in law enforcement, continuous improvement in leadership and professionalism, and partnership with the community.

## VALUES

Members of the Amarillo Police Department, through leadership and a professional culture, are guided by the highest ethical standards. We embrace the values of Honor, Truth, Integrity, Service, Courage, and Leadership. It is our commitment to maintain the trust of the community through a cultural dedication to these values. We have the utmost respect for the rights of the individual, the needs of the community, and the values outlined by laws and the Constitution of the State of Texas and the United States of America. It is our goal to consistently take actions that increase the safety of the community while communicating our actions in a manner that reduces the fear of crime.

### Core Values

**Honor** – We recognize the value of honor in our profession and our personal lives. We commit to fulfilling our duties in a manner that reflects professional and personal pride, with respect to the dignity of the individual, the sanctity of community, and the consideration of fairness to all.

**Truth** – The truth is of the highest importance to maintain the trust of the community and the respect for the individual. We commit to being truthful in all matters and transparent in our manner of conducting business.

**Integrity** – Strong moral and ethical values are the backbone of the Amarillo Police Department. We conduct ourselves in a manner that is consistent with the highest standards of the community. Our integrity guides our conduct while on duty as well as in our personal lives.

**Service** – Our service to the community is guided by a strong sense of fairness and righteousness. We serve in such a manner that promotes the wellbeing of all, with the understanding that each person's success contributes to the overall health of the community.

**Courage** – We hold that courage is the mental, moral, and physical strength to overcome fear, and to do what is right. The ability to make tough decisions under stress, pressure, and danger are essential to mission success.

**Leadership** – Leadership is a responsibility of public servants. Each member of the police department displays leadership within the department to mentor others and foster a culture that supports these values. We act as leaders within our community by setting a good example and taking initiative to solve problems and improve the quality of life in Amarillo.

# *Administration Division*

The Administration Division is responsible for planning, budgeting, and the overall direction of staffing and operating the Amarillo Police Department. The division includes the chief and two assistant chiefs, public information office, internal affairs investigations, and fleet management.

Asst.Chief Ken Funtek is responsible for the Operations Bureau. The Operations Bureau consists of the Patrol Division and the Specialized Operations Division. The Patrol Division provides first responder services using marked vehicles and proactive patrol in every city neighborhood. The Specialized Operations Division provides focused problem solving and police services, covert field investigations, and special emergency response teams.



Assistant Chief Ken Funtek

Assistant Chief Jimmy Johnson is responsible for the Investigation and Staff Services Bureau. This bureau consists of the Criminal Investigation Division, the Training and Personnel Division, and the Records Services Division. The Criminal Investigation Division provides investigative services for almost all crime reports. This division also contains the Property and Evidence Unit, the Crime Scene Investigation Unit, and the Crime Analysis Unit. The Training and Personnel Division operates the Amarillo Police Academy and provides recurring training to all police officers and civilian employees. The Records Services Division maintains the departments records management system and public information requests.



Assistant Chief Jimmy Johnson

# BUDGET AND STAFFING

The Amarillo Police Department had an operating budget of \$48,805,745 for fiscal year 2019-2020. The department applies for several grants each year to supplement operations and equipment. The department is authorized 373 police officer positions, 62 full time civilian positions.

Sworn police officer staffing at the end of 2020:

Chief of Police	1
Asst. Chief of Police	2
Captains	4
Lieutenants	16
Sergeants	78
Corporals	78
Officers	155
Recruit Officers	20
Total	354

Police Officer Gender Demographics:

Males	315	89.0%
Females	39	11.0%

Police Officer Race Demographics:

Asian	1	0.3%
Black	7	2.0%
Hispanic	62	17.5%
White	284	80.2%

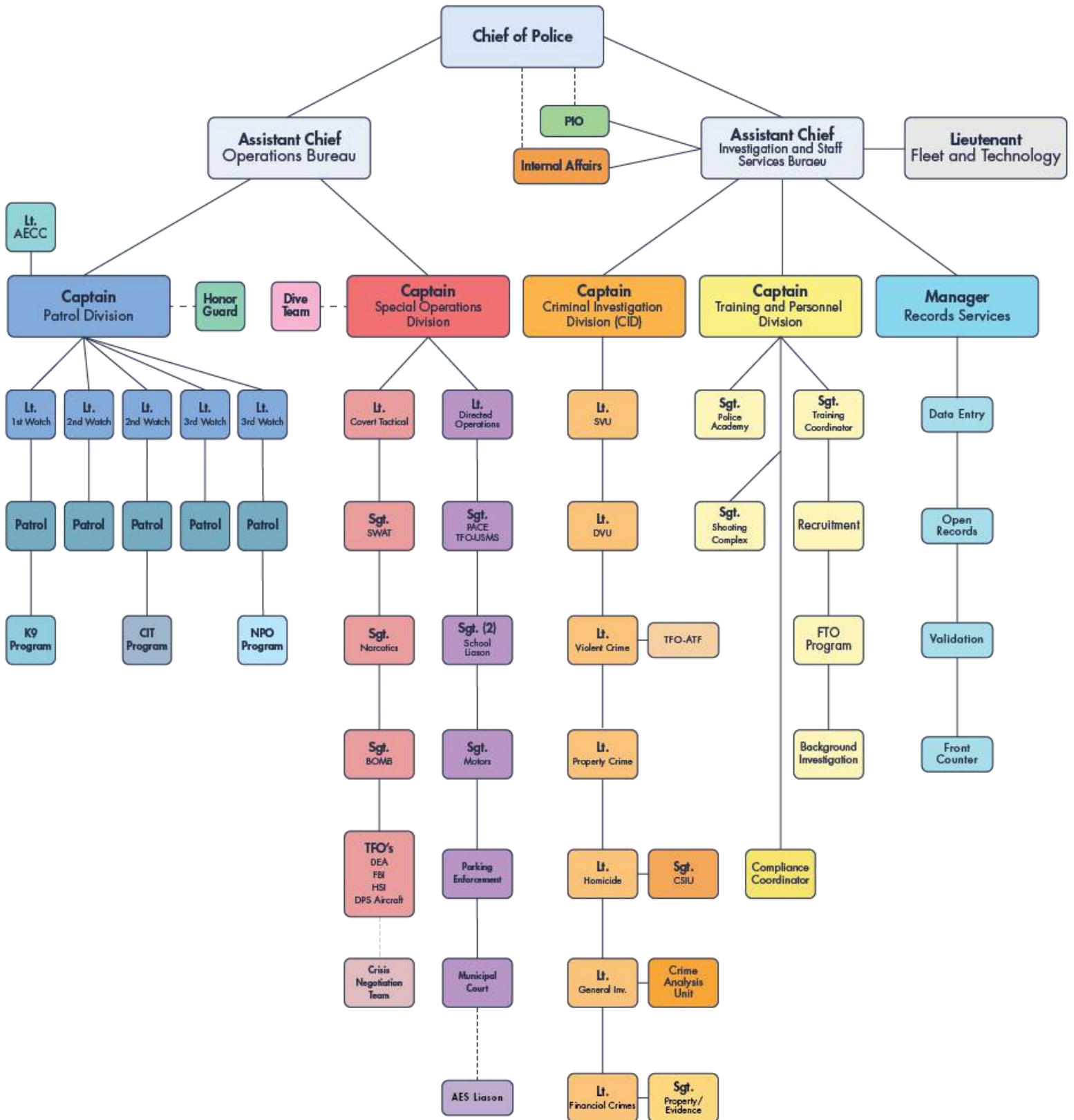
# POLICE FLEET

The Police Department operates a fleet of vehicles designed to provide optimum service usage. The largest number of vehicles are dedicated to patrol and are primarily marked black and white patrol cars. Most of the cars are the Ford Police Interceptor SUV. These vehicles are purpose built for police work and have been the preferred patrol car since 2014.

Other cars are used for administrative and investigative transportation and call out responses. These vehicles are primarily unmarked cars, although most are equipped with emergency lights for occasional use. A portion of the fleet is refreshed each year with new vehicles, based on mileage or years of service. Most cars are purchased and maintained by the City of Amarillo Fleet Services. A few specialty vehicles are purchased separately by the department. The Amarillo Independent School District and Canyon Independent School District purchases and maintain a majority portion of the patrol cars assigned to schools.

Type of Vehicle	Assignment	Number of Vehicles
Marked Patrol Cars	Patrol Division	98
Marked Patrol Cars	School Liaison unit	15
Marked Police Motorcycles	Motorcycle Unit	13
Unmarked Vehicles (mixed)	Administration and CID	40
Special Purpose Vehicles	Specialized Operations Division	35

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





# INTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

The Amarillo Police Department investigates every complaint received. The goal of this program is to maintain public trust and transparency. The Internal Affairs (IA) office reports directly to the Chief's office. The IA investigators receive complaints and investigate allegations of misconduct, excessive force, or other criminal violations. The IA office tracks all investigations and disciplinary records and compiles yearly reports on the dispositions.

Most complaints are generated internally when supervisors discover misconduct or policy violations. All patrol officers are equipped with body cameras, and there are stationary cameras in all patrol vehicles. Supervisors regularly review reports and video of incidents to ensure that officers are providing quality service and complying with policy and laws.

Type of Complaint Received	Internally Generated	Externally Generated
Excessive Force	4	6
Unlawful Arrest	2	0
Neglect of Duty	63	2
Conduct Unbecoming	8	3
Criminal Offense	0	1
Unlawful Search	0	0
Falsify/Release of Records	0	0
Racial Profiling	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>12</b>

Complaint dispositions include sustained, not sustained, exonerated, unfounded, or pending. A sustained complaint results in corrective action such as remedial training, written warning or reprimand, or suspension, demotion, or separation from employment.

Type of Complaint	Sustained	Not Sustained	Exonerated	Unfounded	Pending
Excessive Force	1	0	9	0	0
Unlawful Arrest	0	0	2	0	0
Neglect of Duty	62	0	2	1	0
Conduct Unbecoming	10	0	0	0	1
Criminal Offense	0	0	0	0	1
Unlawful Search	0	0	0	0	0
Falsify/Release Records	0	0	0	0	0
Racial Profiling	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

# INTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE cont.

The IA office also investigates all cases where a police officer discharges their firearm. These incidents are also reviewed by command staff for training and policy recommendations.

Type of Incident	Justified (Exonerated)	Not Justified	Negligence
Animal Attack	4	0	0
Animal Severely Injured	1	0	0
Deadly Force Encounter	1	0	0
Accidental/Negligent	0	0	0

## PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

In January 2019, the Amarillo Police Department entered a partnership with surrounding law enforcement agencies to reduce violent crime in Amarillo. This partnership was driven by the Assistant United States Attorney's (AUSA) office in Amarillo and was named Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). Statistical analysis and mapping identified areas where violent crime was highly concentrated. This area of violence was labeled as the PSN Zone. Working with the AUSA and other agencies, violent crime in the PSN has been addressed through community outreach, targeted operations, and vigorous prosecution of convicted felons in possession of firearms. From 2019 to 2020, the PSN zone saw a reduction of Part 1 crimes by slightly more than 16%. Unfortunately, violent crimes trended upward in this same area by more than 7%. The department will continue to make violent crime reduction a priority.

## PUBLIC SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

In June of 2019, the city of Amarillo was selected as one of ten cities in the nation to participate in the Public Safety Partnership (PSP) to combat violent crimes. This partnership is provided through the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) and provides additional support to Amarillo by collaborating on public safety strategies. The DOJ directly engages with APD to identify and prioritize resources needed to address violent crimes in the city, specifically those regarding repeat violent offenders and those using weapons to commit crimes. PSP support has provided assessments of the investigative and crime analysis functions of the department. PSP also provides training and technical assistance, and experienced consulting to better understand grant opportunities to enhance violent crime reduction initiatives. The PSP program is provided at no cost to the department and will continue through June of 2022.

# PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

The Crime Prevention Unit was renamed the Public Information Office (PIO) in 2019. Crime Prevention is still the most significant part of what this unit does. The PIO has 1 Sergeant, 2 Corporals, and an Administrative Assistant. The PIO provides public education in crime prevention ranging from traffic safety to sexual assault awareness. The PIO also creates presentations using nationally accepted crime prevention strategies. The office adds information based on local crime trends and police experience, creating programs that are original and that can be tailored to people in specific jobs or businesses. Due to COVID in 2020, in-person presentations decreased for a significant portion of the year. However, virtual meetings were held for those groups and organizations who still wanted to obtain the information but were unable to meet face to face.

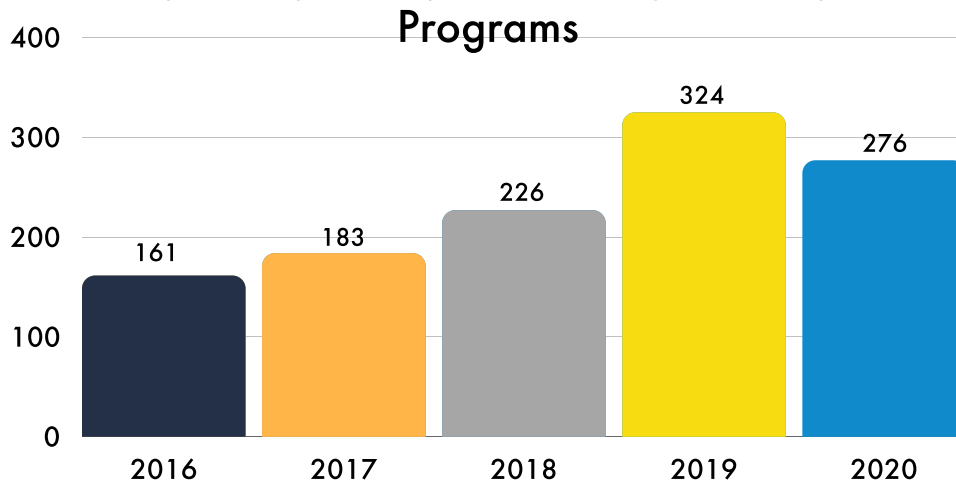
Some organizations schedule PIO presentations on a recurring basis as employee safety or prevention education. Programs are provided upon request to anyone interested in safety, prevention, or APD operations. Sgt. Carla Burr and Cpl. Jeb Hilton are Certified Crime Prevention Specialists and Public Information Officers. This designation gives the PIO credentials and access to networking that can provide the latest information and trends in all areas Crime Prevention related. The PIO has provided job-specific crime prevention and safety training for realtors, social workers, bank employees, and utility service employees. Public concern about violence in the workplace, including “active shooter events,” continues to generate requests for site visits and presentations to address the issue. Cpl. Hilton is a certified instructor for CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events) and offers presentations to any type of group in the community.



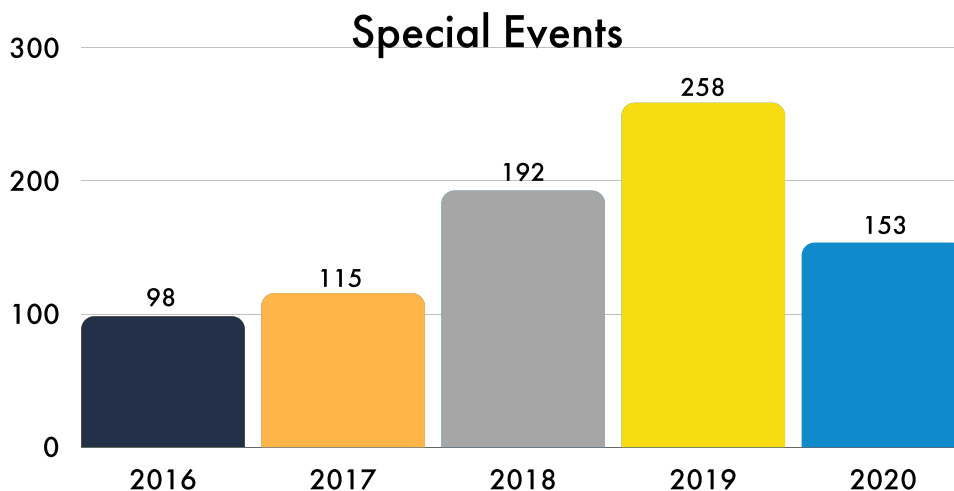
Cpl. Jeb Hilton, Cpl. Scott Welling (Crimestoppers Coordinator), Ashley Hicks, and Sgt. Carla Burr



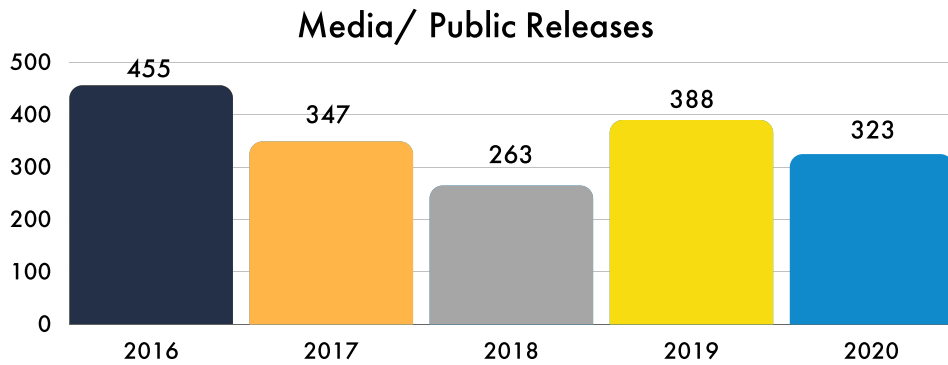
The PIO provides presentations for the Citizen’s and Student Police Academy and APD Summer Camp as well as other youth-oriented activities. The CPU coordinates with Leadership Amarillo or any group that wants to learn about the operations of the Amarillo Police Department. The unit educates the public in both prevention and the Department’s efforts to serve and protect and provided 276 formal presentations reaching 7171 people in 2020. The PIO provides classroom training in media interaction for new sergeants and hostage negotiators and roll call training to make officers aware of the APD social media outreach. The PIO also provides police department training to new dispatchers at AECC.



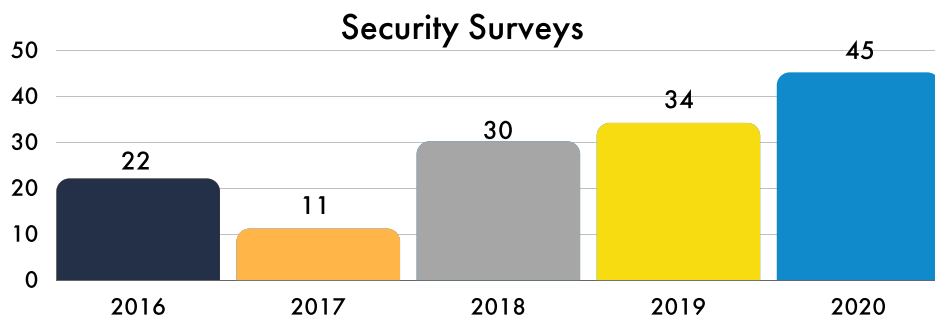
There were 153 special event appearances in 2020 down from 258 in 2019, but again this was due to COVID-19, and being unable to meet in person or in large groups. The “special event” designation reflects a variety of public contacts in which the unit participates that are not specific educational programs. These special events can be static patrol car displays at school, civic or non-profit organization events, attending meetings of community groups, coordinating media event coverage, radio interviews with PSA production, or any of the other tasks the PIO is assigned to complete.



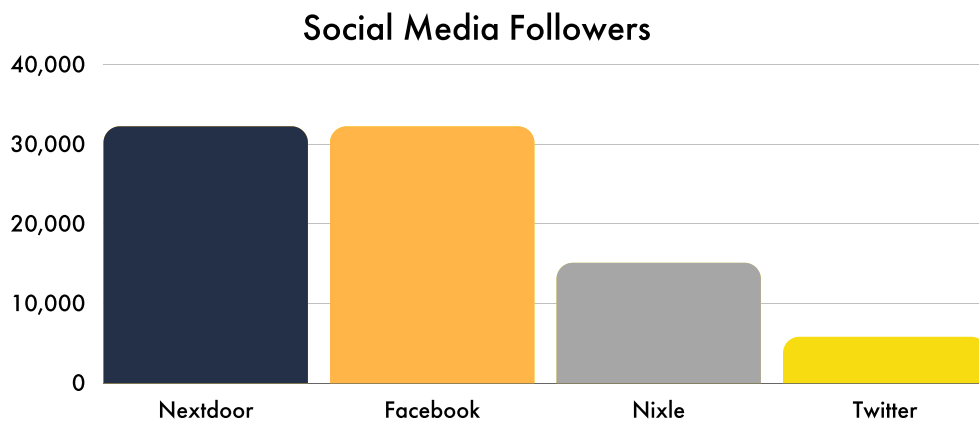
Written press releases allow the PIO to provide detailed information to the public and media. In 2020, the PIO created, reviewed, or published 323 formal releases, and posted one or more updates to many of those releases. In addition, the PIO provides information directly to the media through daily contact. Most often, the media requests information about routine incidents they are made aware of through scanner traffic, social media, or other sources. They also contact the PIO for additional information and interviews to complete reports of their own or to obtain interviews and follow up on releases.



The PIO provided 45 security surveys to home and businesses in 2020, which was an increase from 34 in 2019. These are provided at no cost. This inspection helps citizens prevent burglary, theft, and other crimes and allows for “one-on-one” crime prevention education.



The PIO provides information about APD operations and activity through media releases, which are distributed through multiple platforms including Nixle, Twitter, Facebook, and Nextdoor. The PIO is currently building a presence on YouTube.



# AMARILLO CRIME STOPPERS

In 2020, Amarillo Crime Stoppers received 1,565 tips. From those tips, the police department cleared 224 cases and arrested 103 suspects. Those tips led to the recovery of \$356,315 in property. Successful tips also removed \$6,500 in narcotics from our city streets. Amarillo Crime Stoppers approved 110 rewards for 2020, for a total of \$26,250. Even though a total of 110 rewards were approved, only 38 of the tipsters called back to collect a reward for a total of \$9,950. paid out. This goes to show that most of the public that submits tips, does so for the anonymity that the program offers and not for the reward.

In October of 2020, Amarillo Crime Stoppers attended the Basic Crime Stoppers class in Dallas, Texas. At this class, the program received the required training hours to maintain program certification through the State of Texas. Certification with the state allows the program to collect probation fee's that is used to pay out rewards.

The Fugitive of the Week program provides the public with information on wanted persons and publicizes the reward program. Every week, information on the Fugitive of the Week is distributed to every local television/radio broadcast outlet. This information also is sent out via Nixle and various social media platforms. This year tips lead to the arrest of a total of 85 fugitives. Crime Stoppers tips directly led to the arrest of 103 people this year.

Amarillo Crime Stoppers continues to put out a "Fugitive of the Week", "Crime of the Week", and the weekly "Stolen Auto Day". This information comes from the 6 different law enforcement agencies that are covered by Amarillo Crime Stoppers. There are also several other smaller crimes that are put on as a "Do You Know Me?" series. All of this is sent out via Nixle, social media, and is all published on the Amarillo Crime Stoppers website.

Crime Stoppers is grateful that the citizens of the Amarillo area support this program by providing tips, volunteering on the Board, and for the generous monetary support to keep the program running. The program could not have been this successful without the tremendous help of the law enforcement community following up on the tips received. The Crime Stoppers anonymous reward system and help from the public continues to make the Amarillo area a safer place for all to live and work.

Due to COVID-19 Crime Stoppers had to move the 12th Annual Crime Stoppers Car Show to a virtual platform. This event was held over a two-week span in September, and 91 vehicles registered for the show in 6 different categories. After registration, people used on line voting for their favorite vehicle. The event was not as successful as previous years but look forward to having an in-person show Labor Day weekend in 2021.



Our annual “Shred It Day” was once again a huge success. This year’s event had to be pushed back to July due to COVID restrictions during our normally scheduled time in April. This event is set up as a drive thru operation where citizens can bring sensitive paperwork, they no longer need to be properly disposed of and recycled. This prevents people from becoming victims of identity theft. Document Shredding and Storage is on-site to shred all the documents that are deposited into shred bins by both boards of Amarillo Crime Stoppers and Student Crime Stoppers.

**13TH ANNUAL**  
**“SHRED IT DAY”**

**AMARILLO CRIME STOPPERS**  Sponsored by   

**Saturday, July 18th, 2020**  
**10am - 2pm**  
**Market Street United**

The Amarillo Crime Stoppers website is updated daily with new crimes and fugitives. The website offers anonymous tipping software called “P-3 tips”. The website and embedded software offer fully encrypted web tipping and a smart phone app for iPhone and Android based users. The Crime Stoppers website is [www.amapolice.org](http://www.amapolice.org).

# PART 1 CRIME STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

Comparison from 2019 to 2020. Amarillo saw 3% fewer Part 1 crimes in 2020.

Offense	2020	2019	Change
<b>Homicide</b>	15	16	-6.3%
<b>Rape</b>	140	171	-18.1%
<b>Robbery</b>	241	250	-3.6%
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	1279	1030	24.2%
<b>Burglary</b>	1400	1443	-3.0%
<b>Larceny Theft</b>	4903	5441	-9.9%
<b>Stolen Vehicles</b>	1066	975	9.3%
<b>Arson</b>	32	39	-17.9%
<b>Total</b>	9076	9365	<b>-3.1%</b>

The overall Part 1 crime rate in Amarillo dropped in 2020. However, aggravated assaults and stolen vehicles increased in 2020.

Offense	2020 Rate per 100,000 <sup>2</sup>	2019 Rate per 100,000 <sup>3</sup>	2019 US Cities Rate per 100,000 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Homicide</b>	7.2	7.7	5.7
<b>Rape</b>	67.0	82.6	47.6
<b>Robbery</b>	115.3	120.8	108.4
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	612.1	497.7	287.7
<b>Violent Crime Rate</b>	801.6	708.9	449.2
<b>Burglary</b>	670.0	697.3	368.1
<b>Larceny Theft</b>	2346.6	2629.3	1862.7
<b>Stolen Vehicles</b>	510.2	471.2	265.5
<b>Arson</b>	15.3	18.8	13.9
<b>Property Crime Rate</b>	3542.1	3816.6	2510.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>4343.7</b>	4525.6	2959.6

[1] For detailed definitions of Part 1 crimes see <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/offense-definitions>

[2] 2020 population estimate from City of Amarillo Planning Department = 208,945

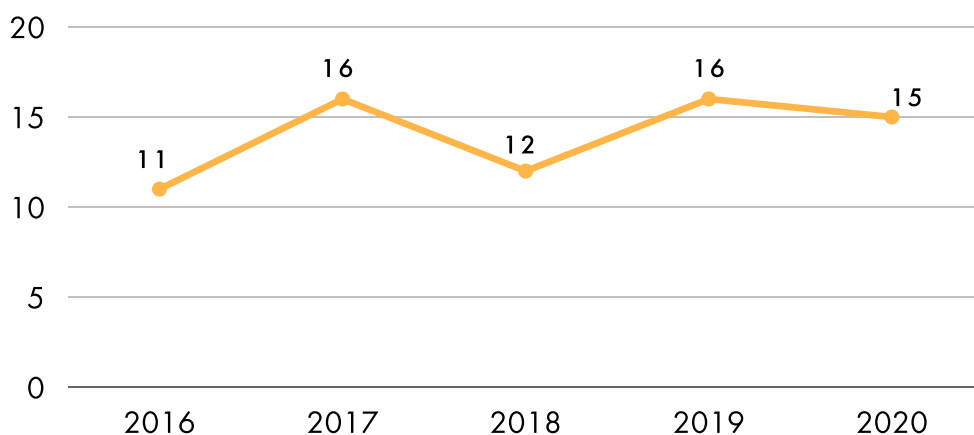
[3] 2019 population estimate from City of Amarillo Planning Department = 206,936

[4] Total cities data from <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/tables/table-16>

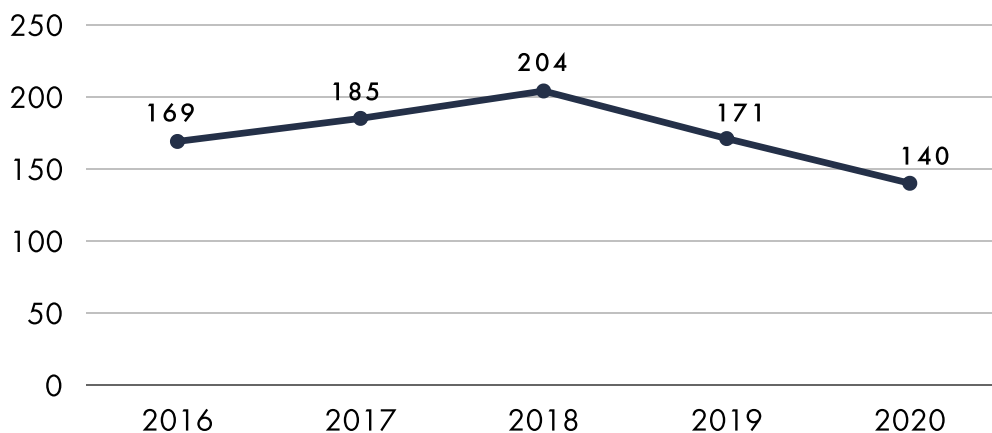


# HISTORICAL TREND OF PART 1 OFFENSES BY NUMBERS

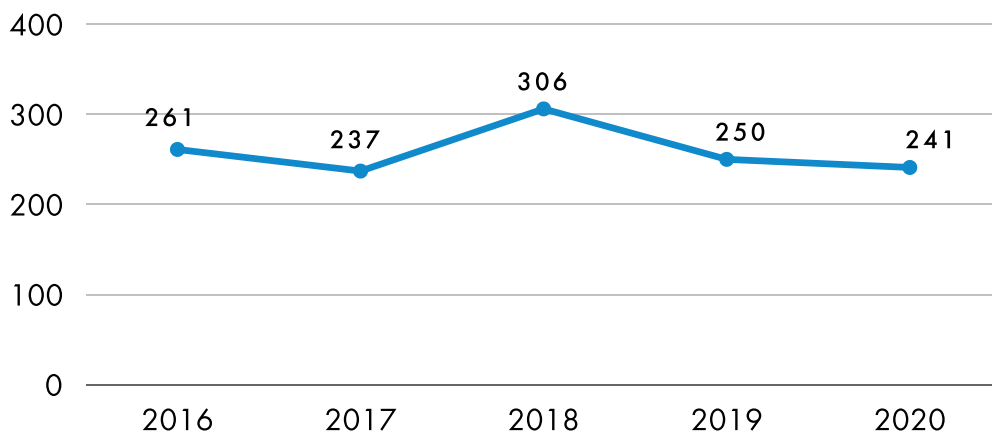
## HOMICIDE



## RAPE



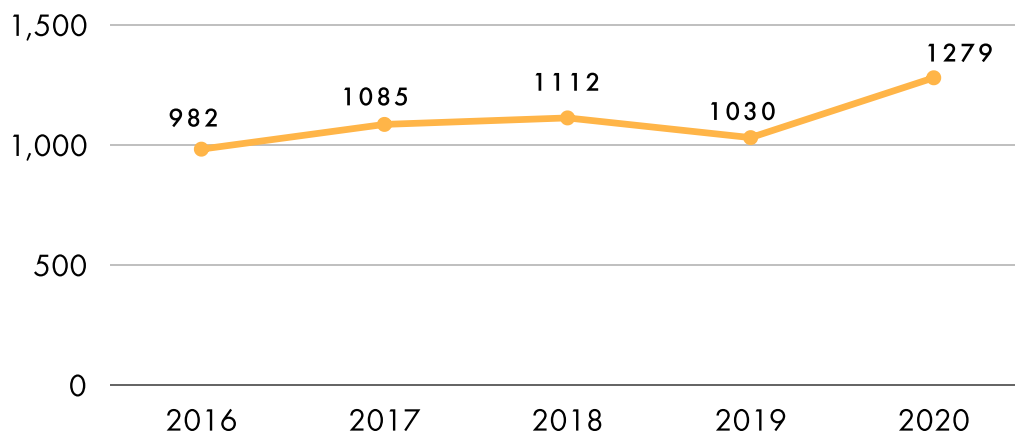
## ROBBERY



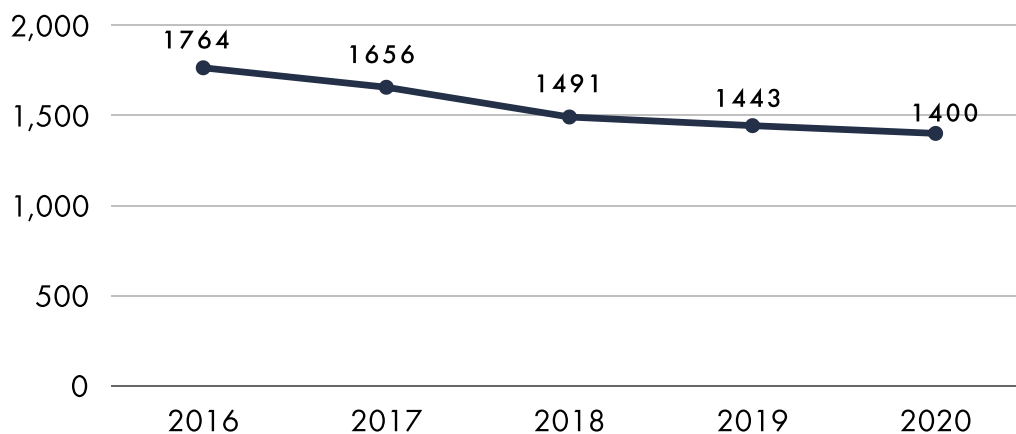
# HISTORICAL TREND OF PART 1 OFFENSES BY NUMBERS



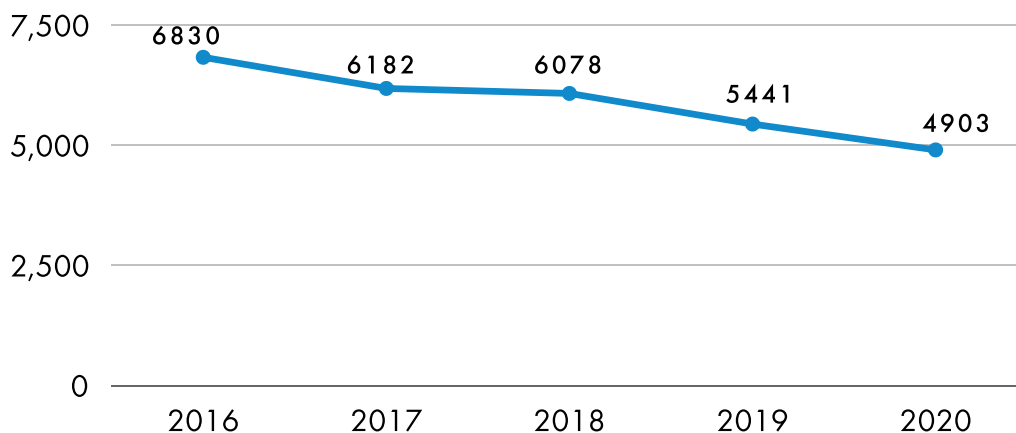
## AGGRAVATED ASSAULT



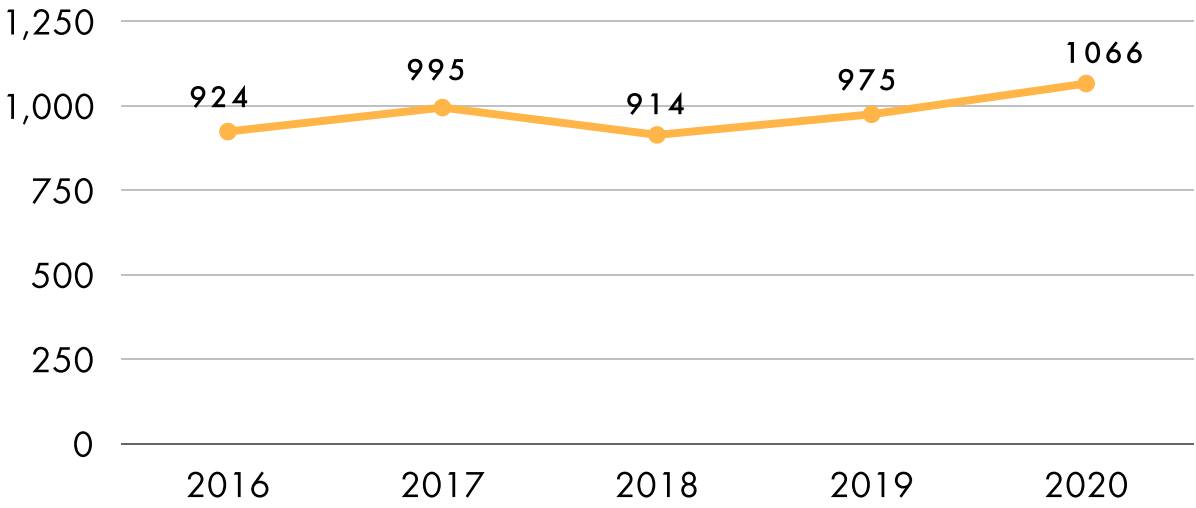
## BURGLARY



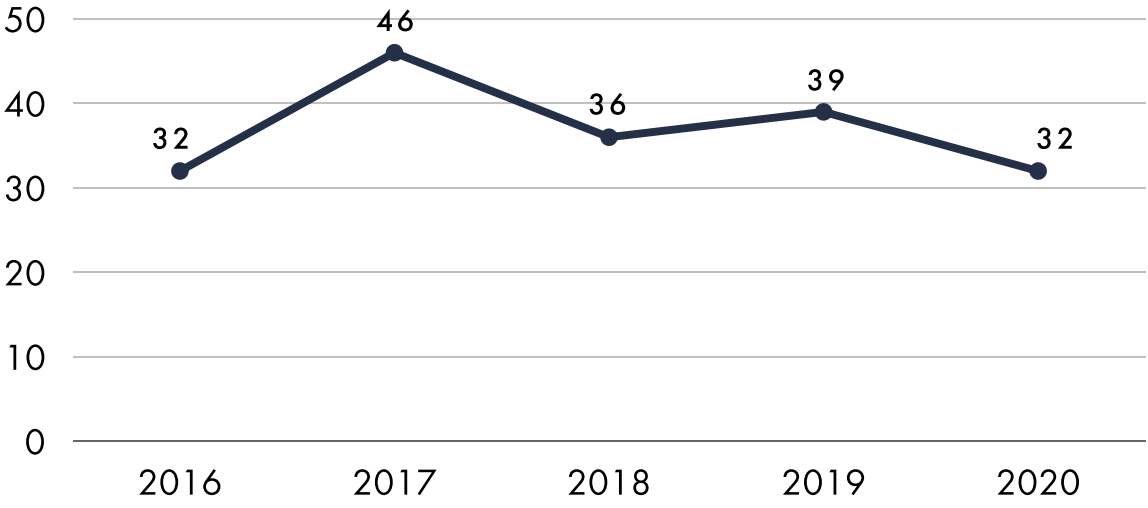
## LARCENY THEFT



## STOLEN VEHICLES



## ARSON



# Patrol Division



**Captain Louis Sanchez – Division Commander**

The Patrol Division, provides excellence in protecting and serving the Amarillo Community. The Division is responsible for providing uniformed first responders for law enforcement services as well as innovative approaches to community problems. The Patrol Division is also in partnership with the Amarillo Emergency Communications Center (AECC), which provides dispatch services to many public safety entities within the city of Amarillo.

The officers in the Patrol Division provide police services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Patrol officers are assigned to 3 overlapping 10-hour watches and are staffed accordingly during the busiest times to better serve the citizens of Amarillo with a timely response. Day shift (2nd Watch) is lead by two lieutenant watch commanders, seven sergeant patrol supervisors, and patrol officers. Evening shift (3rd Watch) is lead by two lieutenant watch commanders, seven sergeant patrol supervisors and is staffed with the highest number of patrol officers. Midnight shift (1st Watch) is lead by one lieutenant watch commander and six sergeant patrol supervisors. The overlap between evening shift and midnight shift is the longest due to call volume being the largest during this time of day. APD is represented at the AECC by a police lieutenant, who works in conjunction with the Amarillo Fire Department, to lead the AECC operation.

In 2020, the Amarillo Police Department had 94,601 calls for service, down from 99,918 calls for service in 2019. APD Priority Call response time in 2020 was down 2% from 2019, while APD Non-Priority Call response time was down 15% from 2019. Officers made 6012 arrests during 2020; however, this is a significant decline from previous years. This decline is attributed to the pandemic. APD officers also investigated 4,941 traffic accidents during the year.

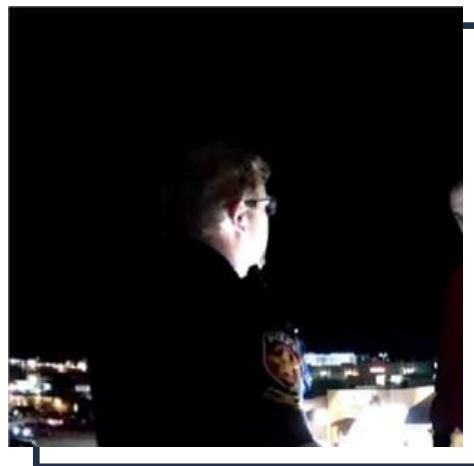
In addition to the patrol function, the Patrol Division is supported by several specialized units. These include the Neighborhood Policing Unit (NPO Unit), the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT Unit), and the K9 Unit. The Patrol Division also oversees the Mobile Field Force Unit, which responds to Civil Disturbance events. Many officers in the Patrol Division hold part-time assignments in these other specialized assignments: SWAT, Hostage Negotiators, Bomb Squad, Honor Guard, Dive Team, Field Training Officers, Instructors, and other assignments.

# CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM

APD CIT is partnered with numerous agencies and organizations, including the Panhandle Behavioral Health Alliance, to help improve the quality of mental healthcare available to consumers in the Panhandle's top 26 counties. APD CIT officers provide most of the mental health training for the police department. CIT is directly involved in training recruits in the academy and providing in-house training to APD officers during in-service and periodic muster training to the Patrol Division. CIT is well known throughout the region as an authority on mental health crisis intervention. Outside agencies frequently consult the team to provide advice and training. APD is also partnered with the State Association of Crisis Intervention Teams and will be hosting the annual CIT conference in April 2021.

Local Outreach for Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) is a recent partnership between APD CIT and Family Support Services. The LOSS team is a grant-funded project that brings a group of volunteers who can contact family and/or friends who are suicide survivors and provide them aftercare and resources following these traumatic events. The Intercept Program is a partnership with Texas Panhandle Centers, the brings licensed counselors into the CIT. These counselors ride along with CIT officers to help guide the response and appropriate care for persons in a mental health crisis. The intercept team provides follow up services with the goal of finding the right solutions for person who experience chronic mental illness. The CIT conducts follow-up investigations in conjunction with the Intercept Program. The follow-up investigations help prevent another crisis and ensure an opportunity for further treatment to those involved in crisis incidents. By having the CIT officer involved from initial report to final disposition, the likelihood of someone needing repeat contact by police and possibly more emergency detention is greatly reduced. In 2020, the five full-time CIT officers answered over 30 % of the over 3300 calls for service directly related to a mental health crisis or suicide attempt and conducted follow-ups on the majority of the 3300 total calls.

The CIT program is an outstanding example of police-community partnership. This program exemplifies the Amarillo Police Department's dedication to public safety and improving lives in the Amarillo community.



# NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE OFFICER

The NPO Unit provides designated geographic areas or "neighborhoods" with the services of the police officers who concentrate their efforts according to the philosophy of Community-Oriented Policing and Problem-Solving to prevent crime and provide a better quality of life for the citizens of Amarillo. The mission of the NPO unit is to promote positive police relationships within the community designed to reduce crime and improve the overall quality of life. This philosophy creates a partnership with the community to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime. The philosophy encourages the community to determine its own needs through the exchange of ideas and problem-solving techniques. Developing trust within the community is one of the NPO's top priorities.

The NPO Unit is comprised of twelve officers and one sergeant supervisor. The officers are assigned to six small neighborhood zones and a downtown zone. These small zones create an area of responsibility for the officers to learn about the problems that are important to the residents and business owners who live and work there. The officers are asked to take calls for service in their zones which helps them understand crime problems and contributes to reducing response times to calls for service. The officers are highly pro-active in police work and community involvement. NPO Unit officers undertake various endeavors that reach outside traditional law enforcement. Some of these include a partnership with community stakeholders, community groups, businesses, other agencies, other City departments, and other divisions within the Amarillo Police Department. These partnerships allow for problem-solving approaches that would otherwise not be available to traditional law enforcement officers.



In 2020, the NPO Unit worked on many special assignments and events. While the pandemic hit hard locally, the NPO's were still able to be involved in each of their neighborhoods. Several events the NPO's were able to attend were the following: the Sanborn Salsa Taste Event, "Coffee with Cops" at McDonalds, Defense Tactics for Kids at the East Public Library, the spring break basketball tournament at Eastridge Mission Center, North Branch Hillside Christian Church food pantry, Sam Houston park outdoors event/concert, Wesley Center project involving building planters for the center, Water Bash event at Bones Hood park, the Northside Toy Drive at Thompson park, "Popsicles with Cops" at the Wesley Center, assisting with the Explorers program, "Cops for CASA", and the Sun Adventure bike ride to the Amarillo Children's Home.

The NPO Unit was also involved in numerous operations throughout the year. Some of these include involvement in a Project Safe Neighborhood operation, Domestic Violence Warrant round-up, sex offender compliance operation, and pandemic related operations (food pantries and community events).

On August 23, 2020, the NPO unit put on the "1st Annual Swing for a Cause" golf tournament held at Palo Duro Creek golf course. The tournament was created to gather donations, benefitting the "Los Barrios De Amarillo" scholarship fund. This fund gives 10 different students a monetary scholarship to help them financially through their first year of college. A total of \$16,000 was raised from all the donating parties. This was the most money raised from any NPO fundraiser in the past 4 years.



#### NPO Offices:

- North Heights - 1330 NW 18th in the Charles Warford Activity Center
- Hamlet - 3100 Angelus inside the New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church
- San Jacinto office - 609 S. Carolina at Heal the City
- Southlawn - 1923 S. Lincoln Street in the Maverick Boys and Girls Club
- Barrio Neighborhood - 1615 S. Roberts at the Wesley Community Center
- Eastridge - 1300 Evergreen in the Eastridge Baptist Church
- Downtown - 200 SE 8th Ave. inside the Happy State Bank building

# HONOR GUARD

The Amarillo Police Department Honor Guard serves as the ceremonial unit for the department at any official function designated by the Chief of Police. The Honor Guard also represents the Amarillo Police Department at funerals for officers of other agencies who die in the line of duty. The mission of Amarillo Police Department's Honor Guard is to bring honor and dignity to the Amarillo Police Department, its members, and to the members of the larger law enforcement community. There are nineteen current members of the APD Honor Guard.



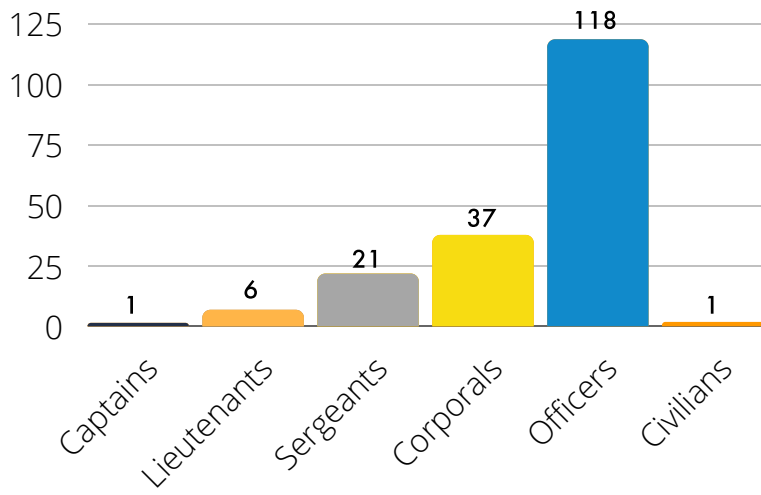
In 2020 the APD Honor Guard participated in two Memorial Services, three pre-COVID-19 out of town funerals, six funerals in the top 26 counties of the Panhandle, and two presentation of colors at special events.



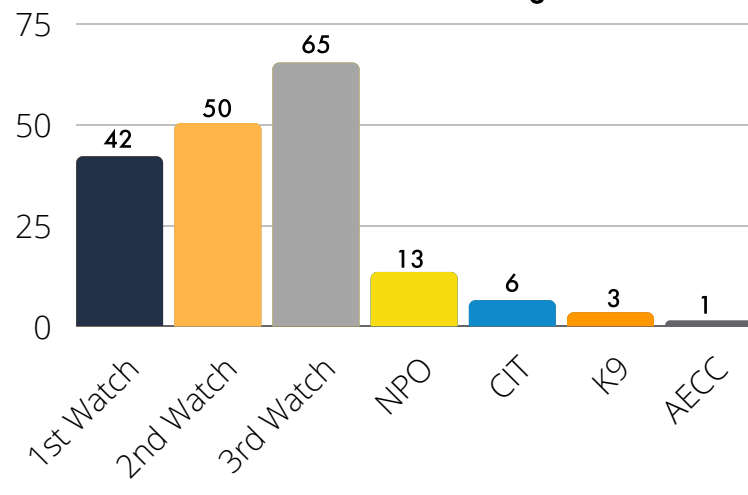


# PATROL DIVISION STATISTICS

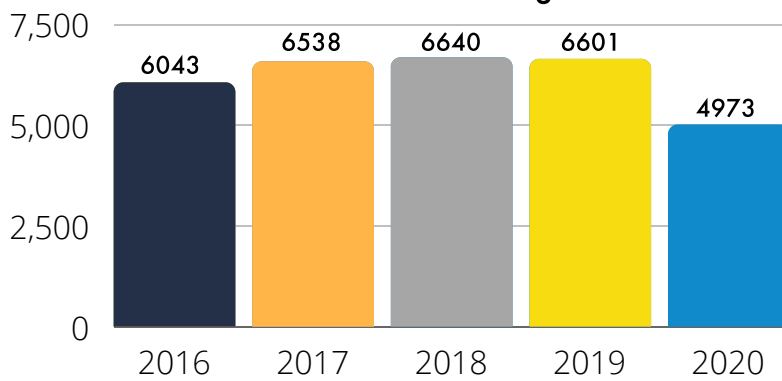
**Patrol Division Personnel Allocation 2020**



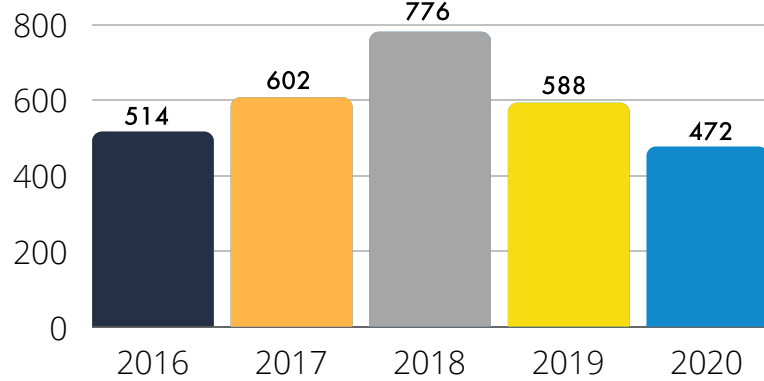
**Patrol Division Personnel Assignment 2020**



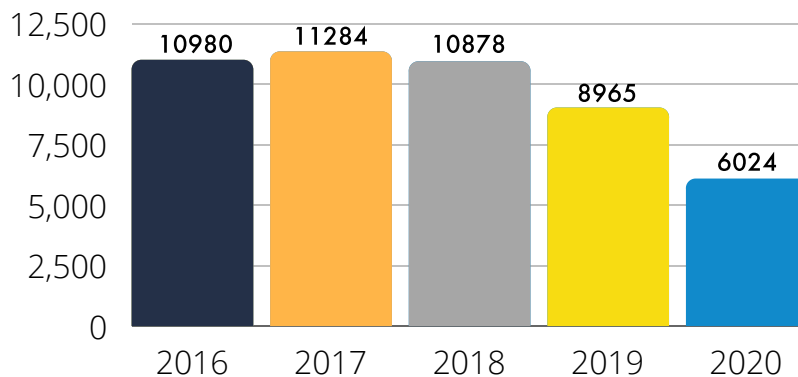
**Traffic Accidents Investigated 2020**



**DUI Arrests 2020**



**Adult Arrests 2020**



The primary mission of the Amarillo Emergency Communications Center (AECC) is to provide a vital link for police, fire, and emergency medical services to the citizens of Amarillo. The AECC answers emergency and administrative phone calls for the Amarillo Police Department, Amarillo Fire Department, Animal Management and Welfare, Baptist St. Anthony's ambulances, and Emergency Medical Services ambulances. As the communications center's biggest customer, the partnership between the Amarillo Police Department and AECC continues to grow and be successful at meeting the needs of the citizens of Amarillo.

In 2020, AECC upgraded the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software to the latest version to support enhanced features for fire, ambulance, and police services. AECC pushed diligently to increase dispatch staffing to become fully staffed to ensure calls were answered and dispatched. AECC worked with area high schools to provide students with an opportunity to intern as dispatchers with the expectation that they may apply for a dispatching career when they graduate from high school. The interns work side by side with call takers and dispatchers to learn the expectations and requirements of the job.

Operational performance measurement is essential for maintaining effectiveness. Call processing and incident handling are the focus of operational performance measurement. AECC handled 464,397 phone calls in 2020.

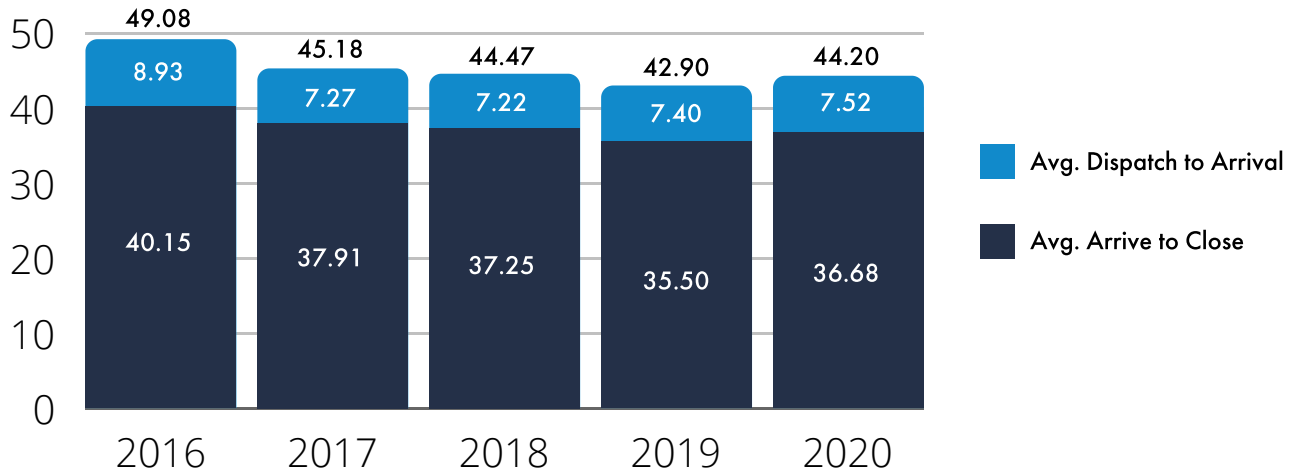
Call reception performance is measured in two ways. The first is the overall average compliance score, with a goal of 90% of 911 calls answered within 10 seconds. 134,283 calls were 911 calls. 88.6% of the 911 calls were answered in less than 10 seconds. The average call duration for all calls was 130 seconds. The average call duration for 911 calls was 170 seconds. 911 hang ups comprised 10.3% of all 911 calls.

The second performance measure is an overall average of one minute or less from the "Time Received" to "Time Dispatched" on priority calls. The police department's calls were dispatched in one minute and 45 second on average. Dispatch times are affected by availability of officers and time constraints on how long calls can pend. All of these are indicators of the level of service being provided from call initiation to dispatch.

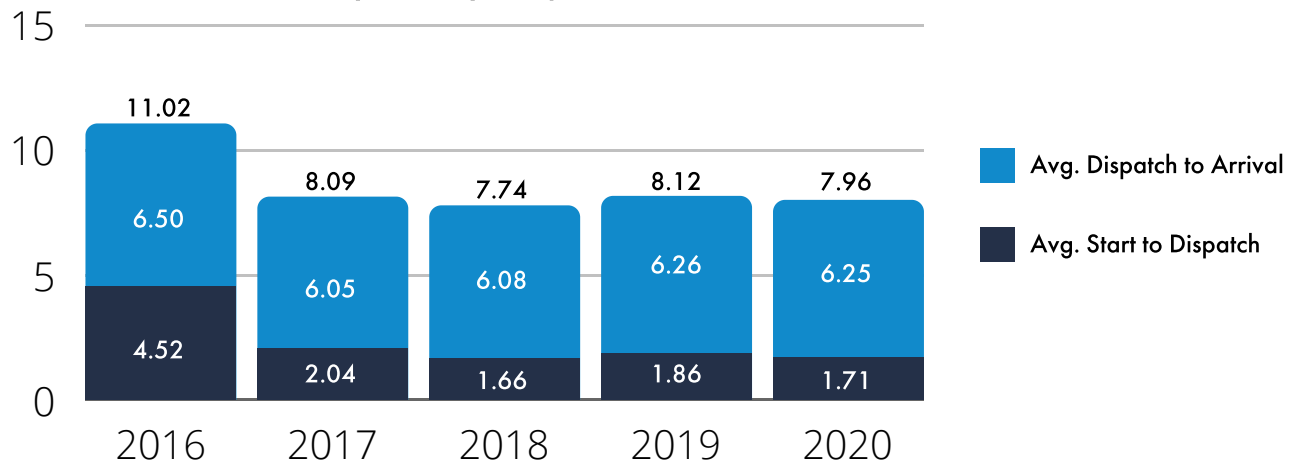
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# CALL FOR SERVICE TIME STATS

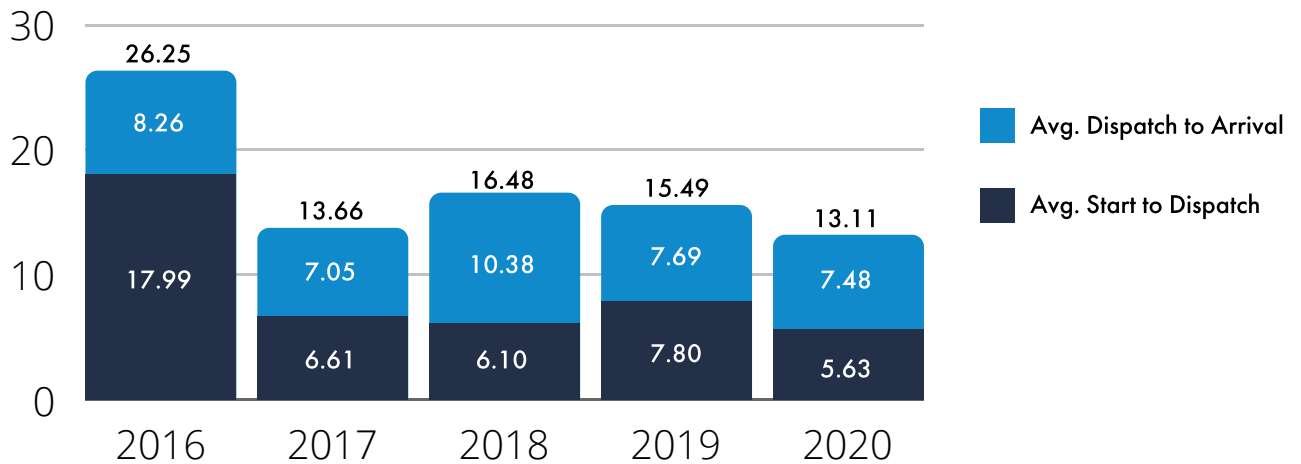
## Yearly Call Duration



## Yearly Priority Response Times



## Yearly Non-Emergency Response Times



# *Specialized Operations Division*



Captain Elizabeth Brown – Division Commander

The mission of the Specialized Operations Division is to support the Patrol and Criminal Investigation Divisions by providing covert and directed operations.

The Specialized Operations Division is comprised of 2 Lieutenants, 7 Sergeants, 28 Corporals, 27 Officers, and 5 civilian employees. There are two operational segments of this Division: Covert/Tactical Operations and Directed Operations. The officers in this division work a variety of different hours to accommodate the unique operational needs of their work.

# COVERT/TACTICAL OPERATIONS

The Covert Operations Segment consists of the Bomb Squad, Narcotics Unit, and SWAT Unit.

## BOMB SQUAD

The Amarillo Police Department Bomb Squad consists of seven APD Officers. The squad currently has 5 FBI/HDS certified Bomb Technicians and two in the training pipeline [5]. Two of the Bomb Technicians and an Explosives Detection K9 are staffed full time.

The Bomb Squad receives a significant amount of funding through State Homeland Security Program grants. The bomb squad serves as a regional resource to the 26-county area of the panhandle.

The Bomb Squad currently trains 30 hours per month, which meets the FBI/HDS minimum standard for basic skills. The Bomb Squad has been unable to attend outside training or host outside training classes due to the pandemic, but the squad has been able to conduct numerous webinar training events.

The Bomb Squad responded to 59 call outs during the year, including suspicious packages, critical incidents, abandoned ordinance, and improvised explosive devices. The squad also gave two public demonstrations. 13 of the calls were to assist an agency outside of the Amarillo area.

The Bomb Squad provides equipment and technical assistance to the department's Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) and maintains the mobile incident command vehicle.



[5] See <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/hazardous-devices-school>

# NARCOTICS UNIT

The Narcotics Unit is tasked with conducting investigations of narcotics sales and related crimes in Amarillo. The narcotics agents work in various investigative capacities including undercover, visual surveillance, and remote surveillance. In addition to other local and state agencies, the Narcotics Unit works closely with federal partners such as the DEA and the Assistant United States Attorney's (AUSA) office to make sure that drug traffickers are held accountable at the highest possible level.

The department assigns agents to serve as task force officers (TFO) in several federal agencies including the FBI, HSI, and the DEA. These agents receive federal credentials, which allow them to investigate cases that have ties outside the jurisdictional boundary of Amarillo. This is a critical component of the unit because interstate 40 and Interstate 27 are well known interstate routes of drug and human trafficking. Of the 134 cases investigated by the unit, 62 were adopted and prosecuted at the federal level.

The narcotics agents receive significant training in topics such as surveillance, undercover agent rescue, vehicle containment & assaults, search warrant execution and entry training, and scenario training. They agents routinely assist other departmental units with time intensive investigations or situations requiring unique technical expertise.

## Drugs Seized in 2020 (not including Federal Investigations)

Substance	Amount
Cocaine	<b>162.93 gg</b>
Crack Cocaine	<b>222.74 gg</b>
Heroin	<b>136 gg</b>
Prescription Pills	<b>996 dosage units</b>
Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD)	<b>3 dosage units</b>
Fentanyl	<b>30 dosage units</b>
Marijuana	<b>26,967.57 gg</b>
Methamphetamine	<b>4,971.80 gg</b>
Psilocybin (Mushrooms)	<b>120.6 gg</b>
THC Products	<b>3,847.39 gg</b>
Unknown Substances	<b>33.20 gg</b>

# SWAT UNIT

The SWAT Team responded to 14 critical incident callouts during 2020. The majority of this year's incidents involved barricaded persons with high-risk arrest warrants or armed suicidal individuals. The average time spent on each incident was just under 4 hours per call. All these incidents were resolved without death or serious injury to anyone involved.

SWAT officers are called on to do a large portion of instruction for both the Amarillo Police Academy and training for commissioned officers. In 2020, several SWAT officers helped teach a month-long Active Threat Integrated Response Course (ATIRC) that included police, fire, and EMS personnel. They were also responsible for a 56-hour block of instruction for academy defensive tactics, 40 hours of academy patrol procedures, 72 hours of academy firearms, 40 hours of high-risk patrol tactics, 16 hours of ALERRT (active shooter training), 8 hours of ASR training, and smaller blocks of review. These academy hours are doubled because of two police academies each year. SWAT officers also taught a 40-hour Patrol Rifle School and a 60-hour Basic SWAT School. The team takes their instructor roles seriously and take pride in their effort to make other officers better.

SWAT officers made 103 arrests for the calendar year. Of those 103 arrests, 78 were felonies and 25 were misdemeanor offenses. Most were assault-related, and 10 of those were directly related to homicide investigations. Many of the felony arrests involved outstanding warrants for Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon or Aggravated Robbery, while others included new charges like Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Felon. Several of those cases were filed federally in conjunction with the PSN initiative. These investigations led to the recovery of 25 guns. Other cases involved shooting suspects caught committing on-view misdemeanor crimes. Several of these suspects took several days or even weeks to track down and apprehend.

APD SWAT officers aided several outside agencies, including DPS, the United States Marshals Service, Randall County Sheriff's Office, and the Oldham County Sheriff's Office.

The department took delivery of a new armored rescue vehicle in November of 2020. A fundraising campaign that began in 2017 resulted in a partnership between the City of Amarillo and the 100 Club of the Texas Panhandle to purchase a Lenco BearCat. The vehicle is equipped with state-of-the-art technology. The vehicle allows officers to conduct many functions that previously risked exposure to gunfire outside of an armored rescue vehicle to perform. The SWAT team is grateful for this lifesaving equipment, and stands ready to deploy at a moment's notice with a highly trained, professional team equipped and prepared for critical incidents.



Amarillo PD Swat Team 2020

# CRISIS NEGOTIATION TEAM

The Crisis Negotiator Team consists of members of the department who are specially trained in communications during critical incidents. The officers on the team are assigned throughout the department but are on call to respond whenever needed. The negotiator team responded to 9 critical incidents during 2020. The team assisted the SWAT and Bomb teams to resolve each of these situations peacefully.

# DIRECTED OPERATIONS

The Directed Operations Segment encompasses the Pro-Active Criminal Enforcement (PACE) Unit, Motorcycle Squad, and School Liaison Officers.

## PACE

The PACE unit focuses on proactive criminal enforcement, looking for known fugitives and criminals responsible for crime trends. PACE looks for specific crime problems such as drug activity, burglaries, gang activity etc. The unit works various hours and uses both uniformed and covert tactics to accomplish goals. One of the PACE officers is credentialed with the United States Marshal's Service as a part of the North Texas Fugitive Task Force [6]. This partnership allows the police department to coordinate the tracking and arrest of dangerous felons who have left the city or the state.

### PACE Activities for 2020

Major Complaints Investigated	<b>36</b>
Search Warrants	<b>15</b>
Arrests	<b>248</b>
Proactive Investigations	<b>28</b>
Stolen Vehicles Recovered	<b>18</b>
Firearms Recovered	<b>21</b>





# MOTORCYCLE SQUAD

The Motorcycle Squad is tasked with high visibility enforcement of traffic laws. The squad focuses on areas where crashes occur most often, as well as school zones and other high-risk thoroughfares. The squad also investigates citizen complaints of repeat traffic violations. The squad also conducts funeral escorts and routine patrol duties. The primary goal of the unit is to reduce traffic crashes and increase compliance with traffic laws.

The motorcycle supervisor also manages the parking enforcement unit. There are two civilian parking enforcement officers. One officer is assigned primarily downtown and the other handles violations of city ordinance (VCO) parking complaints in other parts of the city.

## Motorcycle Squad Activities for 2020

Traffic Stops	<b>14,077</b>
Citations and Warnings	<b>19,646</b>
Parking Citations	<b>53</b>
Arrests	<b>312</b>
DWI Arrests	<b>11</b>
Stolen Vehicles Recovered	<b>5</b>

## Parking Enforcement for 2020

Parking Citations and Warnings	<b>4207</b>
Impounded Vehicles	<b>120</b>
VCO's Investigated	<b>1172</b>
Dispatched calls	<b>511</b>
Follow up from Patrol	<b>389</b>



# SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICERS

The School Liaison unit places officers in the school environment to provide safety for students and to promote public relations through formal and informal interactions. The program objectives are to provide the youth in our community with programs directed toward the prevention of delinquent behavior through education and communication and to provide law enforcement responsibilities. There are two supervisors and fourteen police officers assigned to the various schools in Amarillo. Officers are assigned to both AISD and CISD. The school districts fund approximately 75 percent of the salaries and vehicles for this program.

## School Liaison Activities for 2020

Complaints Investigated	<b>4,532</b>
School Presentations	<b>31</b>
Firearms Seized	<b>5</b>
Other Weapons Seized	<b>16</b>
Narcotics Cases	<b>28</b>
Marijuana Cases	<b>45</b>
Narcotics Paraphernalia	<b>58</b>
Felony Arrests	<b>26</b>
Misdemeanor Arrests	<b>40</b>
Misdemeanor Citations	<b>134</b>





# Criminal Investigation Division



**Captain Erick Bohannon – Division Commander**

The Criminal Investigation Division is comprised of seven (7) Lieutenants, forty-three (43) Sergeants, twelve (12) Corporals, eight (8) Patrol Officers, twenty-six (26) civilians, and one (1) part-time civilian.

The mission of the Criminal Investigation Division is to conduct follow-up investigations of cases originated by the Patrol Division and to process crime scenes and to process any evidence collected from those crime scenes. Follow-up investigations include, but are not limited to, interviewing suspects, victims, and witnesses of crimes; recovering stolen property; testifying in court; identifying suspects for apprehension; and presenting criminal cases to the appropriate prosecutor's office.

## CID Command Chart



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT

The Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) is supervised by Lieutenant Dustin Ponder. The unit consists of seven (7) detective sergeants and one (1) Civilian Investigator. This unit is an active participant in the Amarillo-Potter-Randall Domestic Violence Coalition and Lt. Ponder sits on the Executive Board for the Coalition.

The Domestic Violence Unit investigates incidents involving most issues related to familial and dating relationships, which include physical assaults, threats, thefts, vandalisms, violations of Protective Orders, harassments, and other incidents as needed. The unit investigated 3530 Incident Reports, during the 2020 reporting period, resulting in numerous arrest warrants being issued and 500 arrests.

## NATIONAL INTEREGATED BALLISTICS INFORMATION NETWORKK PROGRAM

In 2019, the Amarillo Police Department acquired the technology to process shell casings to be entered into the NIBIN system. The NIBIN program has been very successful, resulting in dozens of connections being made on different cases. The program was instrumental in the clearance of an unsolved homicide and has made connections to shootings in Lubbock and Abilene. [7]

The NIBIN Technician enters digital images (acquisitions) of fired cartridge casings into NIBIN for comparison to cartridge casings from other gun crimes to develop investigative leads. The NIBIN technician entered a total of 925 acquisitions in 2020. He test fired 381 weapons booked as evidence this year. His work led to 243 leads for detectives to investigate. [8]



[7] Image Source: <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/national-integrated-ballistic-information-network-nibin>

[8] For more information on NIBIN, see [www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov).

# SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

The Special Victims Unit (SVU) is supervised by Lt. James Clements. There are eight (8) Detective Sergeant and one (1) Civilian Investigator. The Civilian Investigator handles all sex offender registration duties for Amarillo. SVU investigates cases alleging sex offenses, indecency cases involving adults and children, child abuse cases, child endangerment, missing and endangered persons, and internet crimes against children. SVU also investigates Interference with child custody and Criminal Non-support cases.

SVU works closely with The Bridge - Children's Advocacy Center, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (most commonly referred to as Child Protective Services). Lt. Clements is the Amber Alert program coordinator for Amarillo and the surrounding areas.

In 2020, the SVU investigated over 1800 cases. This includes approximately 480 cases involving Crimes against Children, 186 adult sexual assault cases, 82 Sex Offender/ Fail to Register cases, 89 Missing Endangered Persons cases, and 634 Interference w/ Child Custody cases. SVU also received and investigated over 160 Internet Possession of Child Pornography Cyber-tips from the Dallas Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC).

Every year, the Special Victims Unit conducts an annual Sex Offender Registration Compliance check in Amarillo. Working with the local office of United States Marshals Service, the compliance check was conducted from August 3rd thru August 7th, 2020. All 661 Registered Sex Offenders in Amarillo were checked for compliance. Additionally, SVU also coordinated with Texas DPS investigators and conducted a proactive online solicitation sting resulting in several arrests for online solicitation of a minor. This coordinated operation will continue in 2021.

SVU expanded office space to accommodate 8 investigators. This included an additional interview and interrogation room and a family room for victims and children to feel safe and comfortable. The furniture, decor, coloring books, and toys in the family room were graciously donated by The Bridge Children's Advocacy Center.



# HOMICIDE UNIT

Lt. Brenda Hadley supervises the Homicide Unit. The unit consists of 3 Detective Sergeants, 1 Crime Scene Investigation Unit (CSIU) Sergeant, 4 Crime Scene Investigators, 3 civilian Crime Scene Technicians, 1 Administrative Assistant, 1 Computer Forensics Officer, 1 civilian Computer Forensics Civilian Technician, 1 civilian National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) Technician, and 1 part time CSI civilian.

The Homicide Unit, formerly known as the Special Crimes Unit, consistently maintains a clearance rate much higher than the national average. The most recent FBI Uniform Crime Report lists the 2019 national clearance rate for homicides in the United States at 61.4% [9]. The clearance rate for the APD Homicide Unit in 2020 was 94% and, with few exceptions, the unit typically maintains a clearance rate of 90% or greater each year.

The Homicide Unit investigates all death cases including, but not limited to, homicides, suicides, sudden deaths, and baby deaths. The Homicide Unit also investigates officer-involved-shootings. Homicide Investigators were assigned 485 cases in 2020. There were 26 additional cases from previous years that required additional investigation, bringing the total of cases worked to 511. The unit had 17 Homicides in 2020. Investigators also presented 2 cold cases where indictments were granted.

The CSIU responded to 163 callouts that occurred after normal business hours. The unit specializes in documentation and collection of evidence on major crime scenes. This includes photographs, sketches, scans, and lifting fingerprints. The unit also processes evidence booked by officers for fingerprints when requested by an investigator. They also compare prints and enter them into the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). If a fingerprint match is made, the CSIU will notify the investigator of the lead.

The duties of the Media Lab include retrieving video evidence obtained from business security systems and converting the video to a usable format for investigators and prosecutors. They also download phones and perform computer forensics.



# VIOLENT CRIMES UNIT

The Violent Crimes Unit (VCU) is supervised by Lt. Warren Gross. The Violent Crimes Unit investigates robberies, discharging firearms, evading arrests, false or fail to ID, aggravated assaults, and assaults with bodily injury that are not domestic violence related. The VCU also investigates cases of unlawfully carrying a weapon, carrying a prohibited weapon, and felons unlawfully in possession of firearms.

The Violent Crimes Unit consists of 8 Detective Sergeants with one detective assigned as a Task Force Officer (TFO) to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). This investigator assists ATF with federal investigations and files all APD felon in possession of firearms cases at the state level.

In August of 2020, the Amarillo Police Department created a Violent Crime Response Team (VCRT), which is composed of members of the VCU and officers from other units within the department who are willing to assist in cases where violent crimes are committed and the VCU needs additional help. The reason for the creation of the VCRT was to address the issue of continuing gun crimes occurring in Amarillo. Since its inception in August and through the end of 2020, the VCRT was called out to the scene of forty-four (44) violent crimes. The majority of these were investigations into gun crimes.

The VCU works with other units within the department and outside the department to help locate those responsible for the gun crimes perpetrated in Amarillo. These units include the Proactive Criminal Enforcement Unit (PACE), SWAT, Neighborhood Police Officers (NPO), APD Homicide Unit, the United States Marshals Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the APD Crime Analysis Unit (CAU). This collaborative effort is further enhanced by the department's participation in Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN) and the Public Safety Partnership (PSP). PSN and PSP allows the Amarillo Police Department to invoke the assistance of our federal partners, including the United States Attorney's Office, to investigate and prosecute gun crimes in Amarillo.

One of the key components to the reduction of gun crimes in Amarillo is NIBIN (as described in the Homicide Unit section). NIBIN generated 223 leads that led to 10 arrests by the VCU. During 2020, the VCU was assigned 2,482 cases with 524 cleared by arrest.



# GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The General Investigations Unit is supervised by Lt. Shane Chadwick. General Investigations consists of the Juvenile Offender Squad, Traffic Investigation Squad, the Crime Analysis Unit, and three (3) Civilian Investigators.

## JUVENILE OFFENDER SQUAD

The Juvenile Offender Squad is composed of one (1) Sergeant, five (5) investigators, and one (1) Civilian Investigator responsible for investigating runaway cases. This unit is responsible for all cases regarding suspects that are under the age of 17 years and older than 10 years. Additionally, the Juvenile Offender Squad, working with the School Liaison Officers, investigate violations of the Social Host Ordinance passed by the Amarillo City Council in 2020. Investigators in the Juvenile Offender Squad investigated 1,611 cases in 2020. This is a 24% decrease from 2019 (2121 cases).

In October of 2020, the Juvenile Offender Squad began targeting underage drinking locations as a part of a department-wide initiative to reduce crimes and accidents associated with drinking. The squad used social media, Student Crime Stopper tips, and dispatched calls to locate potential underage drinking events. The squad participated in nighttime patrols and checked numerous problem locations from October through December. They filed two cases for violation of the city's social host liability ordinance in Municipal Court. They also wrote a total of 45 different citations for underage drinking violations.

## CIVILIAN INVESTIGATORS

There are three (3) Civilian Investigators assigned to the General Investigations Unit. These investigators follow up on misdemeanor cases in which there are no leads or suspects identified in the original report. However, there are many cases in which the Civilian Investigators develop suspects, and the case will either be reassigned to a detective or the Civilian Investigators will file the cases themselves, typically in Municipal Court. The investigators were assigned 5,273 cases in 2020, which is a decrease from 2019 of 14.6%.

# TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION UNIT

The Traffic Investigation Unit consists of one (1) Sergeant, six (6) investigators, and one (1) Administrative Assistant. This unit is responsible for investigating fatal/near-fatal crashes, DWIs, Hit-And-Run Accidents w/leads or suspects, and evading in a motor vehicle. The unit also assists the Homicide Unit with specialized equipment that creates computerized 3D imagery of homicide scenes. The Traffic Investigation Unit investigated 1,942 cases in 2020, 535 of which were DWIs. This is a 16.7% decrease from 2019.

# CRIME ANALYSIS UNIT

There are three (3) civilian Crime Analysts assigned to the Crime Analysis Unit. This unit is responsible for the gathering and analysis of data to support the four major functions of Crime Analysis.

- Tactical Crime Analysis
- Strategic Crime Analysis
- Crime Intelligence Analysis
- Administrative Crime Analysis

The Crime Analysis Unit provides crime information to many units with the Amarillo Police Department and to other outside agencies. The work the analysts do assists investigators in solving violent crimes, locating suspects in various major cases, and determining crime trends around the City of Amarillo to allow for a more focused attention from Patrol and PACE. The Crime Analysts create crime bulletins providing information about various offenses to push crime intelligence to the entire department. The Crime Analysis Unit works closely with our federal partners in the Project Safe Neighborhood and Public Safety Partnership initiatives.

# FINANCIAL CRIMES UNIT

The Financial Crimes Unit (FCU) and Property and Evidence Unit is supervised by Lt. Stan Rickwartz. These units consist of one (1) Lieutenant, five (5) Detective Sergeants, one (1) Property and Evidence Sergeant, five (5) Evidence Technicians, one (1) Civilian Investigator, and one (1) Administrative Assistant.

The Financial Crimes Unit investigates a myriad of money related crimes. The investigations into these crimes by FCU are often long and complicated. These crimes include but are not limited to: forgeries involving U.S. currency; business checks; personal checks; structured embezzlements that include employee theft over an extended period; scam/confidence games; identity theft; and frauds.

Crimes of this type are often perpetrated after the identity of the victim is compromised and furthered using the internet. The unit has seen a rise in unemployment fraud cases since the Covid-19 epidemic began. Based on information from the FBI, this activity originated out of Nigeria and began in Washington State before spreading nationwide. Monetary losses observed locally were minimal. However, state unemployment programs across the nation have lost over \$30 billion. These cases are referred to the Texas Workforce Commission for investigation.

The unit also investigates some mail theft but many of these cases are referred to the United States Postal Service, Office of the Inspector General. The unit investigated 1,916 cases during the year 2020, recovered over \$75,000. Sgt. Celia Vargas received a community recognition award from the Top of Texas Silver Star Board for her work with the elderly regarding elderly exploitation cases.

# PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE UNIT

The Property and Evidence Unit is where all evidence collected by the Amarillo Police Department is stored pending the outcome of a criminal investigation. Certain types of evidence are kept in separate areas away from general evidence. This includes DNA evidence, guns, drugs, jewelry, and money. Each of these types of evidence have their own specialty storage areas. Evidence collected by the Homicide Unit is also stored in a separate wing of the Property and Evidence building.

Evidence Technicians receive evidence collected by officers to ensure the evidence is correctly packaged before it is given its assigned place within the evidence storage area. Assigning each piece of evidence, a specific location in the evidence storage area allows for ease of accessibility in the event the evidence is needed in court. Evidence Technicians received and booked 16,495 pieces of property and evidence in 2020.

# PROPERTY CRIMES

The Property Crimes Unit is supervised by Lt. John Krizan. The unit consists of the Burglary Squad with four (4) Detectives, the Theft Squad with one (1) Sergeant and four (4) Investigators, and three (3) Sergeants who are assigned to the Panhandle Auto Burglary and Theft Unit (PABTU).

The Burglary Squad investigates the following crimes: burglary of a habitation, burglary of a building, and criminal trespass. The Burglary Squad investigated 1,752 cases in 2020.

The Theft Squad investigates the following crimes: larceny theft, burglary of coin operated machines, criminal mischief (vandalism), and burglary of a motor vehicle. The Theft Squad investigated 2,131 cases in 2020.

## PANHANDLE AUTO BURGLARY THEFT UNIT

PABTU investigates the following crimes: unauthorized use of a motor vehicle; all thefts involving trailers; farm and construction equipment; ATV and other types of recreational vehicles; title, insurance, and registration fraud; hindering secured creditors; and auto salvage, parts, and recycler fraud. The Unit also conducts inspections on all businesses involved in the sale of automobiles, parts, and recycled products. PABTU conducts Educational Outreach for the community and law enforcement. The Panhandle Auto Burglary and Theft Unit investigated 1,414 cases in 2020.

# *Training and Personnel Division*



**Captain Joseph Loftus – Division Commander**

The Training and Personnel Division is responsible for providing personnel services and in-service training for the department, as well as operation of the Amarillo Police Academy. The division's primary areas of responsibility include:

- Basic Peace Officer Academy for newly hired officers
- Coordinate the Field Training Officer (FTO) program
- Host In-Service training
- Manage the Amarillo Shooting Complex
- Implement all TCOLE mandated training and standards [10]
- Coordinate recruiting and hiring for the Amarillo Police Department
- Conduct background investigations for sworn and civilian staff
- Maintain all personnel records
- Coordinates the Citizens Police Academy
- Ensures compliance in the Texas Police Chief's Association Best Practices

The 2020 Training and Personnel sworn staff consists of 1 Captain, 1 Training Sergeant, 1 Academy Sergeant, 1 Range master Sergeant, 1 Training Cadre member, and 2 Background Investigators. The civilian staff includes the Compliance Coordinator, 4 administrative assistants, 2 part time civilian background investigators, 1 full time range officer, and 9 part time range officers. All Academy recruits are also assigned to Training and Personnel.

Division Motto: We are leaders who engage the community to build a stronger and more diversified police department.

[10] The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) establishes training requirements and minimum standards for all peace officers in the state of Texas.

# NEW BASIC PEACE OFFICER COURSE

TCOLE updated the Course Curriculum for the Basic Peace Officer Course, which is a 30-week course taught in the Academy. This training is mandatory for all Texas Peace Officers. The new curriculum required every single lesson plan to be completely re-written before the start of the 95th Police Academy. The new curriculum was announced October 2019; the 95th Police Academy began January 9th, 2020. In the Fall of 2019, Training and Personnel hosted multiple training sessions on how to create the new lesson plans and how to stay in compliance with TCOLE rules. 107 instructors attended this training. After the training sessions, the instructors who teach in the academy were successful in submitting their lesson plans to Training and Personnel for review before the start of the 95th Police Academy. The recruits of the 95th Police Academy were among the first in the State of Texas to take the new State licensing exam. Of the 25 recruits who took the test, 24 passed on their first attempt and the other recruit officer passed on the second attempt.

# 95TH AMARILLO POLICE ACADEMY

The 95th Amarillo Police Academy began on January 9th, 2020 with 32 recruits. On August 7th, 2020, 22 recruits graduated. Of the recruits who resigned during the Academy, 7 resigned during the early stages of the Academy, 3 resigned during "High Risk Patrol Procedures" training after passing the State Licensing Exam.

Of the 25 recruits who took the state licensing exam, 24 passed on the first attempt. The one person who failed the exam on their first attempt, passed on their second attempt.



95th Academy and PT Instructors out for a morning run



95th Academy Graduation Photo

# 96TH AMARILLO POLICE ACADEMY

The department conducted two separate entrance exams and physical readiness tests in the winter and spring of 2020 to obtain 22 qualified recruits.

96th Testing Cycle "A"			
	Tested	Passed Written	Passed Physical Readiness
Total	68	60	48
<b>Female</b>	12	10	6
<b>Male</b>	56	50	32
Asian	2	1	1
<b>Female</b>	0	0	0
<b>Male</b>	2	1	1
Black	2	0	0
<b>Female</b>	0	0	0
<b>Male</b>	2	0	0
Hispanic	28	25	20
<b>Female</b>	9	8	4
<b>Male</b>	19	17	16
AI/AN	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Female</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Male</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Female</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Male</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
White	36	34	27
<b>Female</b>	3	3	2
<b>Male</b>	33	31	25

96th Testing Cycle "B"			
	Tested	Passed Written	Passed Physical Readiness
<b>Total</b>	67	53	38
Female	22	19	9
Male	45	34	29
<b>Asian</b>	1	1	1
Female	0	0	0
Male	1	1	1
<b>Black</b>	9	4	3
Female	3	3	2
Male	6	1	1
<b>Hispanic</b>	24	21	14
Female	11	10	5
Male	13	11	9
<b>AI/AN</b>	1	1	1
Female	1	1	1
Male	0	0	0
<b>Other</b>	1	1	1
Female	0	0	0
Male	1	1	1
<b>White</b>	31	25	18
Female	7	5	1
Male	24	20	17

The 96th Amarillo Police Academy began on October 15th, 2020 with 22 recruits. This academy was originally scheduled to begin in July, it was postponed due to the pandemic. All the recruits were issued a laptop computer at the start of the Academy. Due to pandemic quarantines and illness some classes were conducted in an online format so the recruit officers could maintain the curriculum. This class is scheduled to graduate May 21, 2021.

# FIELD TRAINING OFFICER PROGRAM

The Amarillo Police Department takes great pride in its Field Training Officer (FTO) program. In 2020, there were 55 active FTO's in the program. These FTO's were selected by their supervisors and endorsed by command staff as being highly competent trainers. The program puts officers from the police academy into patrol cars to train one on one with the FTO. This training period generally lasts four months, and the new officer rotates between the three shifts to get a variety of training experience.

In August of 2020, the 95th Amarillo Police Academy, entered the FTO program. Of those 22 officers, 20 completed the training and are currently assigned to single person patrols throughout the city. Two officers were delayed due to injuries but entered the FTO program on December 7th, 2020.

## PHYSICAL FITNESS

In 2017, the Amarillo Police Department implemented a physical fitness test (PFT). The PFT consists of a 2000m row for time. A percentage is created based on the individual's time, standardized age, weight, and gender norms. In 2020 the department incorporated the 500m row and 4-minute row test as options for the PFT. An officer may choose any one of the three options. An officer must score a minimum of 50% on the row test to be considered passing. The fitness program is an incentive-based program and over 90% of the Department voluntarily participated in the test.

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>% of Staff</b>	<b>Average Score</b>
Female	26 (of 28)	93%	82.15%
Male	264 (of 285)	92%	76.59%

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Average Score</b>
Officer	78%
Corporal	78%
Sergeant	74%
Lieutenant	77%
Captain	85%
Asst. Chief	69%
Chief	80%



# AMARILLO SHOOTING COMPLEX

The Amarillo Shooting Complex serves the public and law enforcement agencies alike, providing a safe place for firearms practice. The complex includes pistol and rifle ranges, covered shooting platforms, a law enforcement range, and a law enforcement training building. The training building is used to provide the opportunity for a variety of scenario training to enhance decision making under pressure. Officers participate in training with “simulations” that improve officer tactics through realistic, high stress scenarios.

The complex is open to the public Thursday through Sunday, and is reserved for law enforcement officers on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The shooting complex served 3,400 public customers last year. The complex was closed to the public for four months. Law enforcement training, including in-service training, was reduced.

In addition to Amarillo police officers, approximately 200 officers from outside agencies come to the range to train on their own each year. Agency sponsored training brings an additional 500 officers to the complex. Those agencies include local county sheriff’s offices, the Texas Department of Public Safety, Department of Defense and the Department of Energy security forces, Bell Helicopter security, The Potter County District Attorney’s Office investigators, Texas game wardens, and WTAMU Police.

## IN-SERVICE TRAINING

Throughout 2020, the Amarillo Police Department hosted 238 courses and provided 27,362 total hours of TCOLE credit. In February the department hosted Active Threat Integrated Response training (ATIRC). This is a one-day class taught multiple times throughout the month to all members of the Amarillo Police Department, Amarillo Fire Department, Amarillo Medical Response, and various officers from DPS, PCSO, and RCSO to attend. This training builds trust and coordination between first responder agencies and integrates a multi-agency response to mass casualty incidents with the goal to save more lives.

From August through December, the department hosted a week-long block of in-service training to provide essential skills refreshers as well as mandated training. This training helps the department maintain recognition with the Texas Police Chief’s Association best practices. This year’s training included Crisis Intervention refresher, Criminal Investigations, Sexual Harassment, Emergency Vehicle Operations, Civil Disturbance Response, Defensive Tactics and Firearms, De-Escalation training, and Implicit Bias training.

# CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The goal of the Citizen Police Academy is to help the residents of Amarillo understand how the police department works and how officers perform their jobs in the community. The academy is an opportunity to build trust and new relationships, and to get feedback from the community on police operations. One goal is for the graduates to become partners with the department in identifying problems and solutions to the crime issues that are affecting our community. Graduates will take their knowledge back to their families and friends where they can use it to enhance the quality of life in our city. There is no cost to attend.

The Citizen Police Academy normally runs from September through November every year. In 2020, the pandemic limited the number of members, but 13 persons attended the academy. The last two classes were postponed to 2021 due to city-wide building closures.

## RECRUITING ACTIVITIES

The Training and Personnel Division participated in on-site recruiting activities including the Red, White and Blue Job Fair the West Texas A&M Career fair. Many recruiting opportunities were lost due to the pandemic closures.

Throughout 2020 the department advertised for police employment using billboards, television, and radio commercials in Amarillo and Lubbock. The department also advertised in multiple web and social media-based platforms and utilized a college-based jobs website to reach applicants in 147 different colleges and universities. After an individual applies to the Department, they are directed to a closed group on Facebook to increase communications with the applicant and decrease the likelihood that the applicant will withdraw from the process.

In 2020, the Training and Personnel Division created a specialized assignment Recruiting Team to increase the department's recruiting capacity. Nine volunteer officers from diverse backgrounds and experience and were chosen to make up this team. The recruiters were given an eight-hour block of instruction to give them knowledge of recruiting practices, advertising, social media, background investigations, hiring processes, and human resources. All the recruiters are required to submit a project for social media once a month. This is either an image, advertisement, collage, or video. In addition to this assignment, our recruiters have assisted with teleconferenced recruiting events and radio interviews.

The Training and Personnel Division successfully obtained the funding from three separate Justice Assistance Grants (JAG). The JAG grant is a shared grant between the Amarillo Police Department and the Potter County Sheriff's Office. These grant funds were for police equipment improvements and additions. The application for the 2020 JAG grant was also completed this year.

In 2020, Training and Personnel Division applied for and obtained the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program Grant through the Department of Justice. This grant is designed to respond to and mitigate the pandemic, through 2021. The department used this grant on various unplanned expenses due to the pandemic. The expenses included both overtime and equipment.

## TEXAS POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION BEST PRACTICES RECOGNITION

The office of the Compliance Coordinator administers the TPCAF Best Practices Recognition Program. This program provides recognition/accreditation for police departments in Texas. The program requires compliance with 170 best practices standards. The office is busy preparing files and proofs for the department's 2021 site visit and inspection by the TPCAF Recognition Program. The department expects to be recognized again, which will be the fourth consecutive recognition. Inspection and re-recognition occur every three years.

Jack Hildebrand is the Compliance Coordinator and serves in a research capacity to identify programs and policies that keep the department aware of contemporary issues. Research from this office in 2020 contributed to improvements in employee fitness and wellness, use of force policy and city ordinance example on topics such as social host liability.

Mr. Hildebrand was selected by the TPCA Recognition Program to be on the statewide standards review committee, which will shape policy for all Texas police agencies.

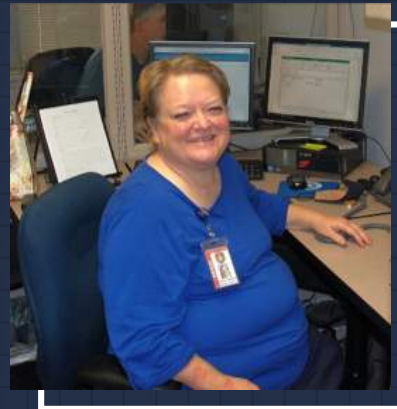


# Records Division



Tammy Peavery – Division Manager

The Records Division is responsible for providing essential support to the everyday operation of the department, as well as providing a variety of records services to the public. The Records Division serves as the official repository for all criminal records and documents of the department. Responsibilities include data entry, maintaining all police reports, arrest records, online reports, phone reports, and crime statistics, as well as the point of contact for all requests for copies of records under the Texas Public Information Act [11]. The Records Division is comprised of four units: Front Counter, Data Entry, Open Records, and Validation unit, with a total of 23 full time civilian employees and two part-time civilian employees.



[11] See <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/members-public/overview-public-information-act>

The Front Counter Unit is staffed a supervisor, five Report Writers and two Administrative Assistants. The Report Writers are responsible for contacting citizens that are requesting to make a report that does not require an officer. They also verify and validate all reports made by the citizen through our online reporting system. In 2020, the Report Writers made a total of 8,755 reports, which is 29.5% of all crime reports made with the department. The primary responsibility of the Administrative Assistants is customer service at the front counter, including answering phones, scanning paperwork, issuing solicitor permits, and various other duties.

The Data Entry unit is staffed by four full time civilians and one supervisor; the unit is responsible for customer service, criminal history/background checks, verifying arrest data, and publishing the public release information on the Police Department website. The unit completed 1,565 arrests reports and verified arrest data for approximately 6,000 arrests in 2020.

The Validation unit is staffed by three full time civilians and one supervisor; the unit is responsible for validating NCIC/TCIC entries, entering and clearing items from NCIC/TCIC for the Criminal Investigation Division, documenting all data entry with supplements, and entry of protective orders and pawn transactions. The unit validated well over 8,000 items; as well as closed out 584 cases in 2020.

The Open Records Unit is staffed by three full time civilians and one supervisor; the unit is responsible for all requests received for documents under the Texas Public Information Act, as well as processing court subpoenas received for documents. The unit received 3,806 record requests for 2020. The Open Records Unit is also responsible for ensuring compliance for the City's alarm ordinance, to include requesting the City Accounting department to issue billing invoices for alarm violations; 6,626 alarm entries were recorded in the alarm database. In addition, the unit is responsible for downloading all case photos daily; officers and detectives turn in thousands of case photos yearly.



# POLICE EXPLORING PROGRAM

The Amarillo Police Department hosts a law enforcement exploring program known as Amarillo Police Exploring Post 5507. This program is guided by the principles of the Exploring organization [12]. Exploring is a career education program for young men and women who are 14 through 20 years old. The post is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The mission of Amarillo Police Exploring Post 5507 is to develop life skills for youths in Amarillo, with a focus on leadership and public service in law enforcement.

A team of dedicated volunteer officers work together to organize events, host learning experiences for the youth, and participate in community service opportunities throughout the year. The post raises funds to facilitate out of town trips for the Explorers.

The post is a continuous program where members can progressively learn and become leaders and mentors to newer members. One of the stated goals of law enforcement career exploring is: "The program promotes personal growth through character development, respect for the rule of law, physical fitness, good citizenship and patriotism." This is not only good for law enforcement, but also good for the community as these young people are developed into potential community leaders.

The objective is to develop future police officers and give young people the inspiration and guidance they need to come to work in the law enforcement profession.



# ROTARY OFFICER OF THE QUARTER

For over 30 years, The Amarillo South Rotary Club has honored the exceptional work of area law enforcement officers. Each quarter, an Amarillo Police Officer is selected as the "Officer of the Quarter." The Rotary Club hosts the officer and their family at one of their weekly meetings and presents the officer with a plaque to honor their hard work. Once per year, the club selects an officer for the Amarillo South Rotary Officer of the Year.

## 1st Quarter

Officer Ricky Matthews



Officer Ricky Matthews was selected for this award and was commended for his consistent hard work and dedication to arresting fugitives from justice. Off. Matthews was selected for making 19 arrests during this time period, 15 of which were felonies. The arrests consisted of violent felons, domestic assault suspects, burglars, robbers, and a homicide suspect. Most of these arrests were from proactive police work by Off. Matthews, while still handling his normal assignments with excellence.

## 2nd Quarter

Officer Keith Quirk



Officer Keith Quirk was selected for this award due to his work in locating and rescuing a kidnapping victim. Off. Quirk was assigned to investigate a suspicious call where it was believed a woman was in danger. Off. Quirk worked diligently, interviewing witnesses, and following leads in order to determine the whereabouts of the female. Off. Quirk located the female at a house and brought her out to safety. The female had been abducted at gunpoint by an acquaintance and was being held against her will. The suspect was arrested and subsequently charged with aggravated kidnapping.

# ROTARY OFFICER OF THE QUARTER

CONT.

## 3rd Quarter Sgt. Shea Lichtie



Sgt. Lichtie was honored for his part in solving seven different aggravated assaults with three different suspects. Sgt. Lichtie also solved several shootings and arrested a dangerous felon in connection with those shootings, including seizing a firearm used in one shooting.

Sgt. Lichtie investigated another case involving an aggravated robbery and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. He interviewed numerous people involved with both the suspect and his family to solve this case.

In yet more investigations, Sgt. Lichtie obtained a confession from a suspect, solving three aggravated robberies. Sgt. Lichtie is an exceptional investigator and often gets information on other person who are wanted for committing violent crimes.

Sgt. Lichtie was also chosen as the Amarillo South Rotary Officer of the Year.

## 4th Quarter Sgt. Mike Dunn



Sgt. Dunn was commended for this work on a long, complicated, and convoluted homicide investigation. In a series of linked cases that read like a crime novel, Sgt. Dunn identified a complex network of people that were involved in at least two homicides and conspiracies to kill more people. As a result of the investigation, the following work was completed by Sgt. Dunn: Nine criminal cases presented for prosecution, 10 suspects charged with crimes, 71 searches completed, 258 interviews conducted, 401 pieces of evidence collected and evaluated, 37 cell phones examined, and 1841 phone numbers investigated.



For more information, please contact the Chief's Office at  
(806) 378-6101

Chief of Police - Martin Birkenfeld

Asst. Chief Ken Funtek - Operations Bureau

Asst. Chief Jimmy Johnson - Investigative and Staff Services Bureau

Captain Elizabeth Brown - Specialized Operations Division

Captain Joe Loftus - Training and Personnel Division

Captain Erick Bohannon - Criminal Investigation Division

Captain Louis Sanchez - Patrol Division

Lieutenant Fred Harmon - Police Fleet and Technology Manager

Lieutenant Shannon Kuster - Amarillo Emergency Communications Center

Property and Evidence: (806) 378-9400

Sgt. Shawn McLeland - Property and Evidence Unit

Public Information Office: (806) 378-6147

Sgt. Carla Burr – Public Information Officer

Records Requests: [apdrecords@amarillo.gov](mailto:apdrecords@amarillo.gov)

Police Employment Information: (806) 378-4263

AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT



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