

2020 Annual Report

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MAYOR & CITY COMMISSIONERS

Mayor George P. Bray • Mayor Pro Tem Sandra Wilson • Commissioner Raynarldo Henderson
Commissioner David Guess • Commissioner Carol C. Gault • City Manager Jim Arndt

A Message from CHIEF BRIAN LAIRD

To the citizens of Paducah,

Challenging, unprecedented and stressful are what most of us will remember about 2020. The way we lived changed dramatically and everyone was forced to adapt to new ways of going about our most basic routines. What started as two weeks to "flatten the curve" led to businesses, restaurants and schools being closed for an extended period of time. Like everyone else, we had to adjust procedures, often on a daily basis, while trying to maintain a high level of service to the community. Policing in a pandemic was new to all of us.

Despite the challenges being faced, we were determined to keep moving forward as a department. Although many of our goals and ideas had to be put on the shelf, we re-directed our focus to the items we could safely work on. Early in the year we applied for a grant to hire three officers for the purpose of creating a School Resource Officer Program. The police department has never had full-time officers in the school system, but it is something I felt was needed. Just as we were all in pandemic overload, we received notice our grant application was approved. This led us to enter into a partnership with Paducah Public Schools to provide an officer at Paducah Tilghman High School, Paducah Middle School, and a third officer to float between the elementary schools. We are extremely excited about this program and look forward to its start in July 2021.

As a result of several high-profile police incidents from around the country, some police procedures and policies gained national attention. In June, I published a summary of how we do things in Paducah related to use of force, chokeholds, body-cameras, hiring standards, training and our commitment to Community Policing. If you would like more information about these topics, please take a look at our Facebook page. Thank you for taking the time to look at our annual report. Our officersand staff work hard each day and we are proud to highlight their accomplishments in 2020.



Please feel free to contact me at blaird@paducahky.gov with any questions, concerns or compliments.

Brian Laird,
CHIEF OF POLICE

POLICE FOUNDATION

Chair David Riley
Vice-Chair Brandon Barnhill
Treasurer Tyler Kennady
Secretary Erica Harrison

Directors

Penrod Cappock
Tony Miliano
Leigh Ann Ballegeer
Josh Esper
Shannon Livingston
Patrice Hoffman

The Police Foundation is a non-profit organization focused on helping the police department enhance community partnerships, improve public safety and assist with employee development. Since its creation in 2015, the Police Foundation has been an important partner for the Paducah Police Department.

Coming off the heels of a large fundraising campaign, the Police Foundation started the first quarter of 2020 with completing the purchase of an interactive training simulator for the police department. More information about this valuable piece of equipment is featured on the next page.

As part of our continued focus on employee development, officers participated in the fifth year of the Cultural Leadership Academy. The Foundation continues to provide a key role by providing the financial support necessary to maintain the program. In partnership with Murray State University, Paducah Police Officers go through a training program designed to enhance cultural competence for law enforcement. The program is taught in four modules: Intercultural Leadership, Social Intelligence and Nonverbal Communication, Ethical Practices in the Community, and Community Interaction and Group Dynamics. Participating officers are eligible to earn college credit for their work. To date, more than 30 of our officers have completed the Cultural Leadership Academy.



The main fundraising initiative in 2020 focused on the purchase of a new K-9, due to the retirement of our two older K-9 units. The Foundation met its goal and approved the purchase near the end of 2020. Officer Benjamin Anthony and his K-9 partner "BARY" completed training in early 2021 and are already out serving the community. Thank you to all of the donors for helping provide this essential asset for our community.

Due to the pandemic, the Police Foundation did not host its annual in-person fundraising event.



If you would like to make or donation or just learn more about the Police Foundation, follow their Facebook page – Police Foundation of Paducah-McCracken County.



TI SIMULATOR

The Police Foundation completed a large fundraising campaign in 2019 to purchase an interactive training simulator for the department. This year-long project became reality in the Summer of 2020 when the department received the simulator and immediately put it to use.



The simulator depicts scenarios allowing officers to train for a variety of law enforcement situations. It has more than 800 professionally filmed realistic and relevant scenarios. Many of the scenarios are focused on: crisis intervention, active shooter, de-escalation, traffic stops, and numerous patrol related functions. The advanced technology allows us to train with the same equipment our officers carry. The simulator integrates with our handguns, rifles, tasers, pepper spray and even flashlights. Additionally, the 33-foot, three-screen system allows the outer screens to rotate and change the configuration of the system. Moving the screens to match the scenario creates the ultimate immersive training environment. By incorporating this system into our training program, we are able to enhance our capabilities across multiple training disciplines. It provides for a safe training environment and allows for mistakes to be made in classroom and not on the street.

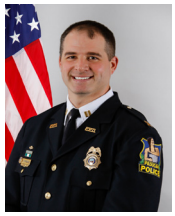
Besides helping train our officers, the simulator is great to use with our Citizens' Police Academy and community groups. It allows us to bring people into an environment so they can experience what it is like to be a police officer and see some of the split-second decisions that have to be made.

At the time of purchase, this Ti Training Recon 180 three-screen system was the only one in the Kentucky. Previously, PPD would get to use a travelling one screen simulator, sponsored by the Kentucky League of Cities, for about three weeks each year.

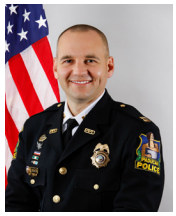
We want to thank the Police Foundation for facilitating the purchase of the simulator, along with all of the businesses and individual financial donors. This was truly a community project.



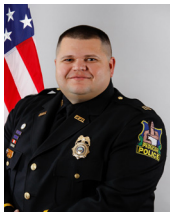

Brian Laird

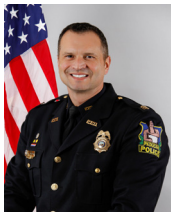

Anthony Copeland

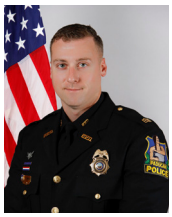

Justin Crowell

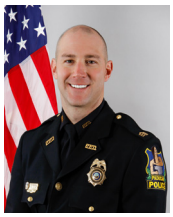

Joseph Hayes


Matthew Smith

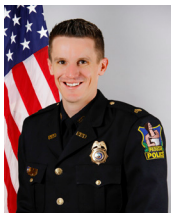

Christopher Baxter


Troy Turner

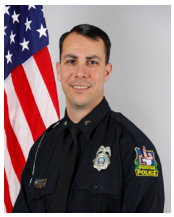

Nathan Antonites


Shawn Craven


Justin Hodges


Travis Watson


Matthew Hopp

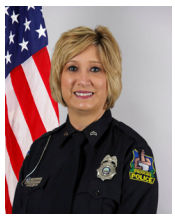

Matthew Scheer

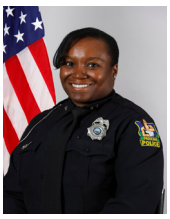

Steve Thompson


Jason Hicks


Travis Counts


Justin Canup

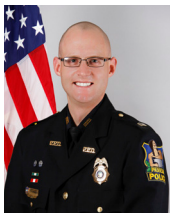

Gretchen Morgan


Dana Davie


James Robbins


Jarrett Woodruff


Corey Willenborg


Joshua Bryant


Beau Green


Nathan Jaimet


Christopher Fearon


Keith Thuline


Kevin Collins


Derik Perry


Blake Quinn


Nickolas Francescon


Eric Taylor


Andrew Parrish


Matthew Jones


Chelsee Breakfield


Lucas Stone


Cody Santel

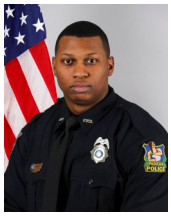

Daniel Kimball


Ryan Hudson


Kevin Wilson

Danny Slack

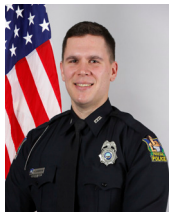
Zane White


Eric Abbott

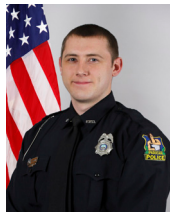

Jordan Murphy


Cassandra Ravens

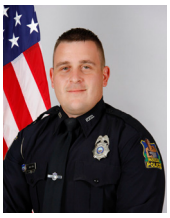

William Hendrickson

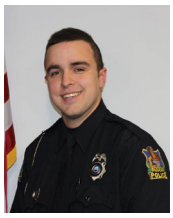

Alex Liebenrood

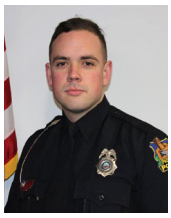

Luke Fraley

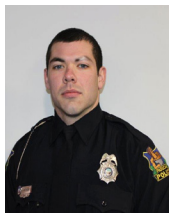

Jason Armstrong


Matthew Strohmeier


Codey Strong


Cameron Thomason


Brandon Jones


Benjamin Anthony


Tyler Bradley


Adam Brown


Tyson Riley


Logan Barrow


Pedro Loredo Jr.

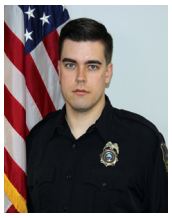

Matthew York

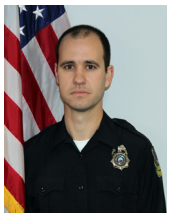

Carlos Kerley, Jr.


Casey Steenbergen

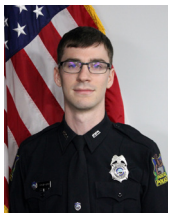

Jon Michael Wentworth

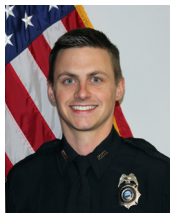

Noah Willett

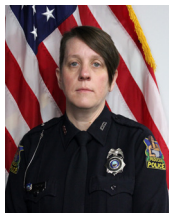

Ryan Euteneier

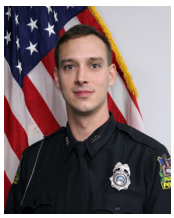

Michael Vowell

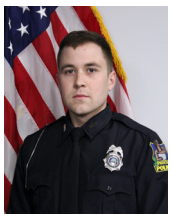

Alex Whitworth

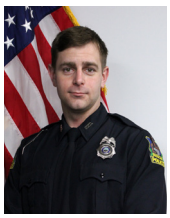

Daniel Hunerkoch


Dylan Cook


Jennifer Szyszkiewicz


Bryan Potts


Taylor Cissell


Thomas Shiels


Robin Newberry


Vicki Miller


Amy Travis


Kimberly Newlon


Amanda Fooshee


Jon Boulton


Meridith Barkley


Mary Farrell


Sabrina Miller

PADUCAH POLICE DEPARTMENT 2020



OUR VETERANS

Our veterans are proud to have served their country before coming home to serve their community as law enforcement officers. Some of them are still serving in the National Guard or Reserves.

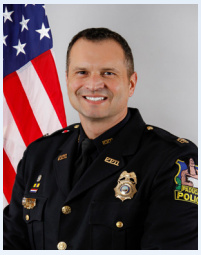
Eric Abbott, U.S. Army, 2008-Present
Nathan Antonites, U.S. Army Reserves, 2005-2012
Christopher L. Baxter, U.S. Navy, 2000-2005
Adam Brown, U.S. Army, 2007-Present
Travis Counts, U.S. Navy, 1993-2001
Jaime Euteneier, U.S. Army, 2013-2020
Luke R. Fraley, U.S. Navy, 2016-Present
Joseph A. Hayes, U.S. Marine Corps, 1996-2002
William A. Hendrickson, U.S. Army National Guard, 2005-Present
Matthew Hopp, U.S. Navy, 2002-2006
Brandon Jones, U.S. Marine Corps, 2012-2016
Matthew Jones, U.S. Army, 1992-2012
Daniel Kimball, U.S. Army National Guard, 1995-Present
A.J. Parrish, U.S. Army Reserves, 2011-2018
Blake Quinn, U.S. Army, 2001-2009
Thomas M. Shiels, U.S. Army; U.S. Army National Guard, 2015-Present
Lucas Stone, U.S. Air Force, 2006-2012
Matthew Strohmeier, U.S. Army National Guard, 2012-Present
Codey Strong, U.S. Army, 2010-2016
Keith Thuline, U.S. Army, 1985-2008
Troy Turner, U.S. Navy, 1993-1995
Michael Vowell, U.S. Army National Guard, 2007-2009
James Whitworth, U.S. Army National Guard, 2012-2020
Noah Willett, U.S. Marine Corps, 2014-2019
Kevin Wilson, U.S. Air Force, 1998-2013
Matthew York, U.S. Army Reserves, 2007-2015

RECRUITING MILITARY PERSONNEL

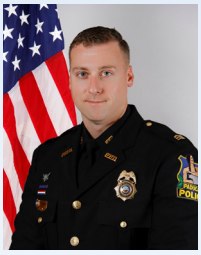
We are always interested in recruiting people who have military experience. If you are (or know of) someone who is close to separating from full-time military service and interested in policing, contact our recruiting team at: jcrowell@paducahky.gov.

We make every effort to provide special test dates/times to accommodate those military personnel who may not otherwise be able to test with us. These arrangements are made on a case by case basis. If you find yourself in this situation, please let us know and we will try to make arrangements so you can meet our testing obligations.

PROMOTIONS



Troy Turner was promoted to Captain in April 2020. He rose though the ranks from patrol officer, detective, sergeant, and now captain. Captain Turner has served in both the Operations and Support Services divisions. He is currently serving on the 3rd shift in the Operations Division.



Nathan Antonites was promoted to Captain in July 2020. Prior to his promotion Captain Antonites served as a K9 handler and is currently team leader of the SWAT team. Captain Antonites is currently serving on the 2nd shift in the Operations Division.



Jason Hicks was promoted to Sergeant in April 2020. Prior to his promotion Sgt. Hicks was a detective in the Support Services Division. Sgt. Hicks is a member of the honor guard and the crisis negotiation team. Sgt. Hicks is currently serving in the Support Services Division.

RETIREMENTS



Wesley Orazine began his career with the department May 2001. His career started in the Operations Division and he served on the SWAT team and honor guard. Captain Orazine finished his career in the Operations Division overseeing the 3rd shift platoon.



Paul Stevenson began his career with the department July 2000. During his career Officer Stevenson served as a member of the bomb squad and was a mentor in Explorer Post 111. Officer Stevenson finished his career in the Operations Division.



Matthew Wentworth began his career May 2001. During his career he served as a police training officer, member of the SWAT team, and a detective in Support Services. Officer Wentworth finished his career in the Operations Division.



Jason Montgomery began his career August 2001. During his career he served as a police training officer, member of the SWAT team, firearms instructor, and a detective in Support Services. Officer Montgomery finished his career in the Operations Division.

AWARDS

Civilian Service Awards
- Michaela McCormick
- Courtney Coley
- David Johnson
- Demetric Burns
- John Saxon
- Will Shelby

Safe Driving Awards 5-Year
- Sgt. Travis Watson
- Officer Cody Santel
- Officer Daniel Kimball
- Officer Danny Slack

Safe Driving Awards 15-Year
- Officer Jarrett Woodruff

Administrative Awards
- Officer Christopher Fearon (3rd)
- Mary Farrell
- Samantha Collins
- Laura Peery
- Sarah Lambert

Service Commendations
- Capt. Troy Turner (3rd)
- Officer Justin Canup (5th)
- Det. Ryan Hudson (4th)
- Sgt. Travis Watson (1st)
- Officer Benjamin Anthony (1st)
- Officer Jason Armstrong (1st)
- Officer Logan Barrow (1st)
- Det. Chelsee Breakfield (1st)
- Officer Adam Brown (3rd)
- Officer Nickolas Francescon (3rd)
- Det. Beau Green (5th)
- Officer William Hendrickson (2nd)
- Sgt. Jason Hicks (3rd)
- Sgt. William Hodges (3rd)
- Officer Daniel Hunerkoch (1st)
- Det. Nathan Jaimet (6th)
- Officer Pedro Loredo (1st)
- Det. Jordan Murphy (2nd)
- Officer Cody Santel (1st)
- Officer Danny Slack (2nd)
- Officer Casey Steenbergen (1st)
- Det. Eric Taylor (2nd)
- Officer Cameron Thomason (1st)
- Sgt. Steven Thompson (2nd)
- Det. Corey Willenborg (7th)
- Det. Kevin Wilson (1st)
- Officer Andrew J. Parrish (3rd)
- Officer Dana Davie (3rd)
- Det. Ryan Hudson (5th)
- Officer James Robbins (4th)
- Officer Cody Strong (3rd)

Chief's Awards
- Officer William Hendrickson (1st)
- Det. Jordan Murphy (1st)
- Officer James Robbins (2nd)

Lifesaving Awards
- Officer Zane White
- Officer Adam Brown
- Officer Matthew York
- Sgt. Steve Thompson
- Officer Josh Bryant
- Officer Dana Davie
- Officer James Robbins
- Officer Brandon Jones
- Officer Cameron Thomason
- Officer A.J. Parrish
- Officer Matthew York (2nd)
- Officer Zane White (2nd)

GRANTS AND BUDGET

Each year, the Paducah Police Department seeks grants to supplement its regular budget. In 2020, the department was the recipient of more than $1.19 million to help purchase equipment – from radios to a bomb robot – and hire three School Resource Officers.

The department faced a whole list of challenges in 2020, many centered around the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The police department, like all city departments, faced budget cuts due to decreased revenue caused by the global pandemic. The grants we received in 2020 allowed us to purchase equipment that otherwise would have been out of our financial reach. City Grant Administrator Ty Wilson was of immeasurable assistance in securing and managing these grants.

The three most exciting grants were a Homeland Security grant for $442,181 for the purchase of a Remotec FX robot for the bomb squad; a second Homeland Security grant for $314,450 for new in-car and hand-held radios; and a $375,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services to hire three School Resource Officers.

The other, smaller, grants are nonetheless important to the department.

Initially, it was unclear how COVID-19 would impact the department's budget, with additional costs related to personal protective equipment (i.e. masks and gloves) and overtime. As an agency, we were determined to not allow this financial burden to affect our high level of service to the community.

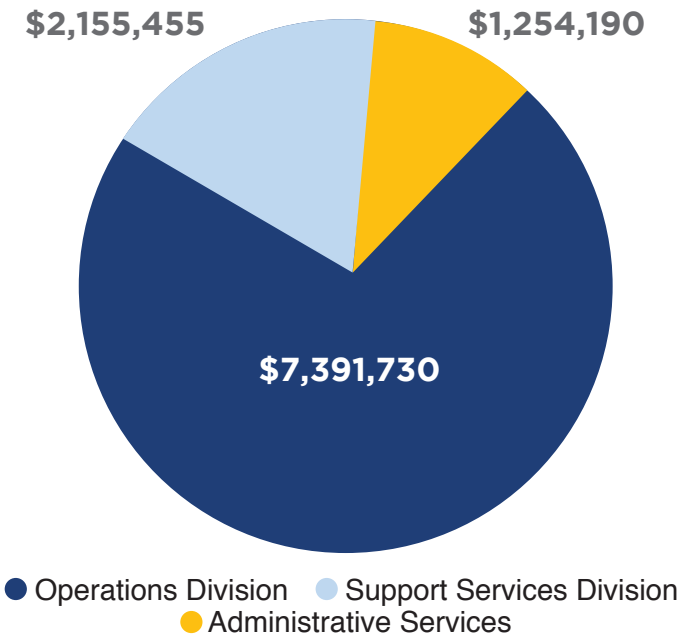
Due to COVID-19, our training and travel were curtailed and we diverted some of those budgeted funds to purchase necessary PPE for our officers.

As mentioned previously, there was belt-tightening across the city as COVID-19 affected revenues. Four open officer positions and a Crime Analyst position were frozen to help save money.

The police department's total budget for FY2021, which began July 1, 2020, is $10,801,375. Of that, 84 percent is earmarked for Personal Services (salaries and benefits). Twelve percent goes to fuel, equipment and supplies.

The police department remains determined to use the taxpayers' money wisely, and nearly every year returns a portion of its budget at the end of the fiscal year.

Budget By Division



GRANT FUNDS AWARDED IN 2020

$442,181	HOMELAND SECURITY REMOTEC FX ROBOT - BOMB SQUAD
$314,450	HOMELAND SECURITY IN-CAR AND HAND-HELD RADIOS
$375,000	U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES THREE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS
$33,529	KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES RECORD DIGITIZATION
$21,370	KENTUCKY OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY EDUCATION & TRAFFIC DETAILS
$11,316	BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE LESS LETHAL EQUIPMENT

$1,197,846 TOTAL 2020 GRANT AWARDS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Throughout 2020 community engagement continued to be a top priority. The year started out strong but quickly changed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Our ideas to engage the community had to shift gears and our officers were ready to meet the challenge.

As students spent more time at home, our officers filmed themselves reading books to keep the students engaged. We had "virtual tours" via Zoom and in person socially distanced presentations. While it was challenging, our community showed us their support and appreciaton during this unprecedented time by providing us with treats and goodies.







LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORER POST 111

The Paducah Police Department's Law Enforcement Exploring Program, known as Explorer Post 111, is designed for young people, ages 14-20, who are interested in a policing career. Participants should have a strong desire to learn more about policing and be willing to make a serious commitment since the program meets regularly throughout the year.

Explorer Post 111 meets every Monday from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the police department. Each week they practice and learn the fundamentals of police work from patrol tactics, radio communications, defensive tactics, and report writing. They practice these fundamentals through classroom work and practical exercises. In 2020, the group participated in a competition in Gatlinburg, Tennessee- Winterfest. Explorer Post 111 placed first in Fox Hunt (a land navigation competition) and second place in felony traffic stop competitions.

The Explorers regularly assist in local events. They have assisted in blocking intersections at road races, helped with Halloween on Jefferson Street, holiday parades, Christmas Cops, and other events. If you know of someone that may be interested in participating the Explorer program please contact Josh Bryant at: jbryant@paducahky.gov.

D.A.R.E.

The Paducah Police Department teaches the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E) program at our City elementary schools, as well as St. Mary Elementary School. In 2020, Officer Gretchen Morgan and Officer Jarrett Woodruff divided the responsibility of teaching the classes. In 2020, 175 students graduated from the D.A.R.E program. We were not able to complete the programs at St. Mary and McNabb Elementary schools due to COVID-19, but we were able to send at-home lessons with the students during the quarantine. We are thankful for the cooperation and partnership with both the Paducah City Schools and St. Mary School System for allowing us the opportunity to make a difference in these students' lives.

The D.A.R.E. program is supported financially by the Paducah Police Department. Teaching materials and rewards are purchased each year for students. If you are interested in contributing to the D.A.R.E. effort, contact Officer Gretchen Morgan for more information. She can be reached by email at: gmorgan@paducahky.gov.

OPERATIONS DIVISION

As the Mission Statement of the Paducah Police Department outlines, our goal is "to enhance the quality of life in the community by working with our partners, to fairly enforce the laws, preserve the peace, reduce fear, and provide a safe environment to the citizens and visitors that we serve."

The Paducah Police Department's efforts to fulfill this mission starts with the officers assigned to the Operations Division. These officers responded to more than 50,000 calls for police assistance in 2020.

51,777 POLICE 24/7 **TOTAL CALLS**

What We Do

Responding to calls, although a major part of the responsibilities of a police officer, it is not the only task officers fulfill. When answering calls, officers assist people in their time of need. They often identify needs and problems of citizens that other groups and programs in the community can assist with. Many times officers take the first step in coordinating these community resources and engaging the public to build trusting, caring and professional relationships.

In 2020, officers investigated 2,381 criminal reports, enforced traffic laws, completed collision reports, investigated criminal complaints, and also responded to alarm and hazardous incident calls. Officers assisted people having emotional or mental crises and checked on the welfare of citizens about whom family, friends, or others were concerned.

Many of the officers assigned to Operations wear several hats. Along with their normal responsibilities, some additional assignments include: Police Training Officer, Bomb Technician, Accident Reconstruction, Crisis Intervention, DARE, K-9, SWAT, and community outreach.

COVID-19 Changes

In 2020, staffing shortages and the COVID-19 pandemic introduced a variety of challenges to overcome. In an effort to ensure the professional services provided to the public were not hampered, many extra precautions were taken to protect the health and safety of the public and police officers.

One major change was to increase the use of "Calls by Phone" to assist citizens who were not the victim of a crime that was in progress, but who needed assistance or information from a police officer. The change resulted in officers taking 5,394 calls by phone in 2020 as compared to 3,778 calls by phone in 2019. This increase of more than 1,600 calls ensured the public recieved the services they needed while maintaining proper social distance.

Officers were determined to continue to positively engage the community while being mindful of COVID-19 safety precautions. In 2020, officers were able to make 6,828 community-oriented police contacts. They also completed 9,043 extra patrols and premise checks.

Neighborhood Walk Through Program

An additional step taken to build relationships in the community was the emphasis placed on officers getting out of their patrol vehicles and walking through neighborhoods. This simple action enabled officers to engage the community where they live while identifying needs and problems. Officers completed 857 neighborhood walkthroughs in the first six months the program was implemented.



School Resource Officer Program

While officers are regularly present in school zones and involved in youth outreach programs, the Paducah Police Department set a goal of further engaging with the youth of the community. A desire to interact with the youth of the community and to care for youth in need, drove the Department to begin a partnership with the Paducah Public Schools to establish a School Resource Officer program. In January of 2020, the Paducah Police Department applied for a school resource officer grant through the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. The federal grant was awarded and the program is set to launch in the fall of 2021 semester with the grant covering up to 75% or $375,000 of the program cost.



While the safety of the students and staff of the schools will be a top priority of the school resource officers, a focus will also be placed on engaging the youth and fostering long term relationships. Some of the officers other tasks will be to assist with in-school and after-school programs, acting as a liaison between families in need and community resources, assisting with safety education and helping with special events.

PADUCAH POLICE

NOW HIRING

RECRUIT OFFICERS

LATERAL OFFICERS

DISPATCHERS

APPLY TODAY

VISIT:
PADUCAHKY.GOV







CRIME REPORT

Annually, the Paducah Police Department and many other law enforcement agencies across the nation submit crime information to the FBI. The FBI then analyzes and reports national crime trends. The last pandemic took place before the FBI began collecting data to release their Uniform Crime Report (UCR). The unknown for 2020 crime data is what kind of impact a worldwide pandemic will have on crime statistics.

Early analysis and reporting by the National Commission on COVID-19 and Criminal Justice (CCJ) has found crimes such as aggravated assaults and homicides increased in 2020. The CCJ study showed that when compared to 2019, aggravated assaults were up across the nation by 6%, motor vehicle thefts increased by 13%, and homicide rates were also 30% higher. Like many other cities across the nation, Paducah saw an increase in these crimes.

Paducah also saw notable crime reductions in the several categories with significant reductions in robbery, decreasing by 61% and thefts down by 30%. When all of the Paducah Police Department's 2020 crime reports are compared with 2019, the City saw a 16% reduction in overall crime.

As agencies and cities attempt to make sense of these trends, with very little historical precedence to compare them to, one thing remains the same: community and police partnerships are key to reducing crime and violence and increasing the quality of life for all residents. These relationships build a foundation enabling police to solve crimes, address community problems, and enact strategies aimed at reducing crime.





Citation: Rosenfeld, Richard, Thomas Abt and Ernesto Lopez. Pandemic, Social Unrest, and Crime in U.S. Cities: 2020 Year-End Update. Washington, D.C.: Council on Criminal Justice, January 2021

CRIMES PART 1	2018	2019	2020	CHANGE
MURDER	4	1	3	⬆2
RAPE	23	23	21	⬇2
ROBBERY	24	23	9	⬇14
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	52	42	53	⬆11
BURGLARY	139	117	125	⬆8
LARCENY-THEFT	996	1,067	745	⬇322
AUTO THEFT	85	64	81	⬆17
ARSON	10	8	11	⬆3

CRIMES PART 2	2018	2019	2020	CHANGE
NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER	0	1	0	⬇1
OTHER ASSAULTS	561	629	545	⬇84
FORGERY/COUNTERFEITING	64	50	32	⬇18
FRAUD	251	246	174	⬇72
EMBEZZLEMENT	15	7	2	⬇5
STOLEN PROPERTY(BUY/REC)	39	33	41	⬆8
VANDALISM	346	328	337	⬆9
WEAPON OFFENSES	53	33	30	⬇3
PROSTITUTION/VICE	7	4	2	⬇2
SEX OFFENSES	55	55	64	⬆9
DRUG VIOLATIONS	766	706	650	⬇51
DOMESTIC OFFENSES	85	93	64	⬇29

As stated by the FBI, "The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program divides offenses into two groups: Part I and Part II crimes. Each month, participating law enforcement agencies submit information on the number of Part I offenses that become known to them; those offenses cleared by arrest or exception; and the age, sex, and race of persons arrested for each of the offenses. Contributors provide only arrest data for Part II offenses.

The UCR Program collects data about Part I offenses in order to measure the level and scope of crime occurring throughout the Nation. The program's founders chose these offenses because they are serious crimes, they occur with regularity in all areas of the country, and they are likely to be reported to police."

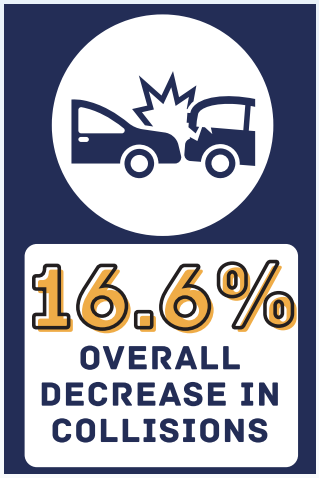
What steps can you take to help reduce crime in our community?

Be a good neighbor! - Get to know your neighbors and be knowledgeable about what is going on in your neighborhood. You are the best source about the needs and problems in your neighborhood because you live there. With this knowledge, you help the police take care of your community by connecting people to the resources they need.

Be aware! - This can mean awareness of possible criminal activity and reporting it, but it also means ways you can reduce the likelihood you will become a victim of crime. For example, how can you prevent thefts from vehicles and thefts of vehicles? In most cases you can avoid becoming a victim by locking your car, taking your valuables out of the vehicle, and not leaving your keys inside of the vehicle.

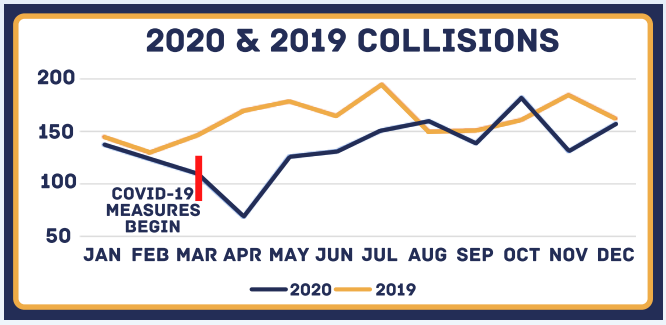
COLLISIONS

During 2020 there were 1,623 collisions reported in the City of Paducah. These collisions occurred for various reasons, but the leading contributing factor in 2020 was inattention. Inattention was the leading cause for 742 collisions, over 45% of total collisions. The second leading case was failing to yield right of way with 313 collisions, and the third was following too closely, with 286 collisions.



In the same regard as crime, little was known as to what affect the COVID-19 pandemic would have on traffic collisions. At the start of the Covid-19, the City of Paducah saw a drastic reduction in collisions. Numbers reached a five-year low in the month of April with only 69 collision. While the previous four years had seen an average of 145 collisions in the month of April. The City continued to see a reduction in collisions from April through July. In the end, the City saw a 16% reduction in collisions compared to 2019.

Although collisions were significantly reduced, many of the high traffic areas, such as Hinkleville Road, Irvin Cobb Drive, and Lone Oak Road see higher collision density than other parts of the City.



A. HINKLEVILLE RD. 226 COLLISIONS
Olivet Church Rd. to Coleman Rd.

B. IRVIN COBB DR. 87 COLLISIONS
Bethel St. to Wayne Sullivan Dr.

C. LONE OAK RD. 72 COLLISIONS
In the area of the intersection with I-24

D. LONE OAK RD. 63 COLLISIONS
In the area of Jackson St.

E. JACKSON ST. 60 COLLISIONS
28th St. to the Beltline Hwy.



SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

Despite facing the challenges of a global pandemic, the Support Services Division maintained a continued level of excellence in service to the community in 2020. If there was a theme for the year, it could be summed up in one word: Partnerships. Whether it was solving a crime or improving the efficiency of the Department, the various units within the Support Service Division worked hand-in-hand with several state, local, and federal entities in 2020 to best serve our community.

General Investigation and Drug Units

The General Investigations Unit (GIU), consisting of five detectives and one Sergeant, worked 324 investigations in 2020. These case types included theft, sexual assault, robbery, homicide, internet-based crimes, and were assigned to a detective due to the extensive follow-up required. The Unit boasted an impressive clearance rate of 75%. For comparison purposes, the national average clearance rate is 46.5% for violent crimes and only 17.6% for property crimes.

The Drug Unit, which was comprised of three detectives and supervised by the Captain of Support Services, worked 103 investigations in 2020. In addition to being charged with the detection and prevention of drug and drug-related crimes, the Unit also performs an essential intelligence gathering function for the Department and is frequently tasked with locating wanted individuals who have proven to be difficult to find. Due to the nature of the work encountered by both Units, members of both GIU and the Drug Unit frequently assist each other in investigations.



Perhaps one of the greatest demonstrations of teamwork and partnerships this past year was a shooting investigation on Paducah's Northside on August 8, 2020 in which one person was killed and four others were injured. As the investigation unfolded, it was determined the cause for the incident was the result of an on-going feud between out-of-state individuals in rival gangs from Southern Illinois. Cooperation with and assistance from Local, State, and Federal agencies across Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, and Illinois were key in solving this crime and ensuring the individuals who participated were arrested.

Another highlight for the year was the successful resolution of a case involving a missing person who had stolen money from a local festival bank account associated with many area charities. On November 4, 2018, David Boggs was reported as missing after he was confronted about stealing nearly $25,000 from an account associated with the BBQ on the River Festival---an event which he served as executive director. Boggs left a suicide note as well as many other personal belongings which led many to believe that he was deceased. A large-scale search was conducted in the Paducah area immediately after the initial report and numerous interviews and search warrants were conducted over the course of a year and a half. Despite the slow progress, detectives continued to search for Boggs. Scouring social media, detectives recognized Boggs in a video and a photograph on social media postings and were able to identify the location as Finlay Park in Columbia, which is a known gathering spot for homeless people. The photograph showed him standing in line to receive items being handed out to homeless people. Working with local authorities, detectives traveled to West Columbia, South Carolina in May of 2020 and were able to locate and arrest Boggs for the theft. Through the investigation, detectives learned Boggs had hitchhiked to South Carolina and spent approximately 6 months living in the woods. By following up on every lead, using every available resource, and harnessing the power of technology, detectives were able to successfully solve this mystery.

Digital Forensics Unit

The Digital Forensics Unit (DFU) is the Department's main resource for examining digital evidence, such as cellphones, computers, memory cards, and other forms of digital media. The unit is composed of 4 part-time examiners and 1 supervisor, who, in 2020, completed 302 examinations on digital evidence not only from the Paducah Police Department, but also 18 different Local, State, and Federal agencies. As the digital component of crime becomes more prevalent, it has become increasingly important to stay current with the changing landscape of technology.

In addition to the many other local agencies served, the DFU continued their partnership with the United States Secret Service (USSS). By working with our federal partners, the Unit was able to secure in excess of $10,000 in forensic equipment. Additionally, they received advanced training through the National Crime Forensic Institute in topics such as

Digital Currency, Network Investigations, and Digital Evidence. These assets enable the Department to immediately respond to crimes that have a digital component without having to send devices to an external lab for analysis.

Records and Evidence

The Records Unit is responsible for greeting customers visiting the lobby of the Police Department, fulfilling records requests, preparing case files for prosecutors for use in court, and maintaining records for the Department. The Unit consisted of two Records Clerks and is supervised by the Records Manager. In all, the Records Unit responded to 1380 Open Records requests in 2020.

For the second year in a row, the Records Unit partnered with he Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives in 2020, resulting in a grant in excess of $33,000. This grant helped the Department digitize a large number of old records, resulting in greater efficiency in both storage and retrieval of reports and continuing the course of bringing the Department into the digital age.

The Evidence Unit is responsible for the secure storage of property and evidence collected by officers and detectives in the field. It is comprised of two Evidence Technicians and is supervised by the Records Manager. On average, officers and detectives collected nearly 8 items of evidence and property per day in 2020. The Evidence Unit processed each of these items, by categorizing them and storing them according to Department protocol and State law.

Due to the limited availability of storage space, Evidence Personnel have the responsibility of working to make sure items that can be released, returned, or destroyed are done so in an expeditious manner. This requires a good working relationship with the courts and local prosecutor's offices to ensure property is disposed of in accordance with law. The Evidence Unit disposed of a total of 2036 items and maintained over 12,000 items of property and evidence throughout the year.

In addition to being responsible for the storage and maintenance of physical evidence, the Evidence Unit is also responsible for managing the storage and retrieval of body-worn and in-car camera footage collected by officers and detectives in the course of their daily duties. An immense amount of footage has been captured since the Department originally began using in-car (1998) and body-worn cameras (2015) in the field. The Evidence Unit ensures videos are retained in accordance with open records laws and produces copies when requested.

Polygraph

Det. Nathan Jaimet continued to serve as the Department's polygrapher in 2020. Having this capability is a great asset to the Department, the community, and surrounding agencies, as it provides a means of quickly performing pre-employment screening and furthering criminal investigations. Despite having to adjust for social distancing requirements, Det. Jaimet was able to perform a total of 45 polygraph examinations. Of these, 23 were for pre-employment purposes and 22 were related to criminal investigations. While the majority of these examinations were for the Paducah Police Department, 14 were performed in assistance to other local agencies.





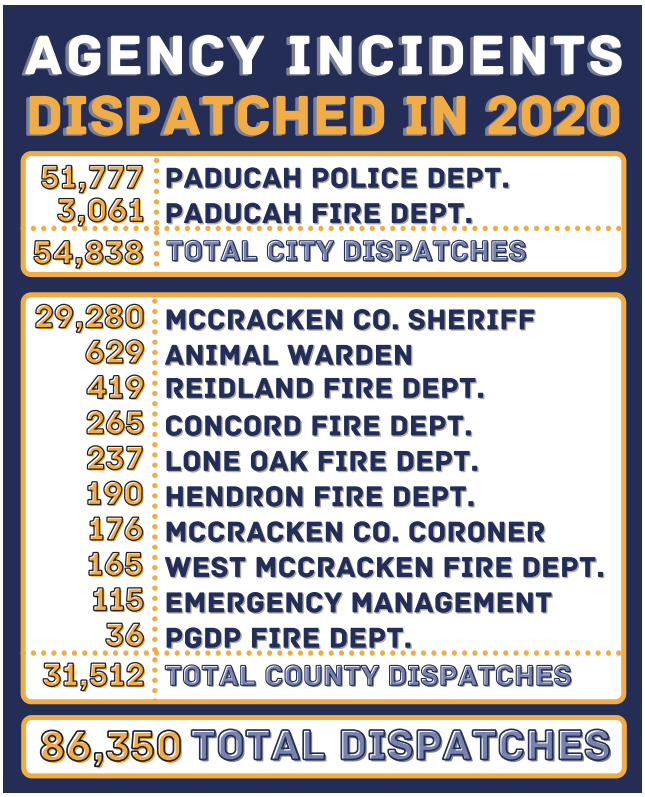


911 COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES DIVISION

The Paducah Police Department 911 Communications Services Division is the designated Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for Paducah and McCracken County. The Division is staffed with 14 Telecommunicators, 4 Telecommunicator Supervisors, a 911 Systems Administrator, an Administrative Assistant, and a 911 Division Manager and operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition to providing dispatching services for the Paducah Police Department, the Division also services all first responders in Paducah and McCracken County.

A major accomplishment for 2020 was the re-accreditation of the Division through the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police (KACP). The Division originally achieved accreditation in 2016, which demonstrated that the communications center met or exceeded commonly accepted standards for effective and efficient operations in areas such as policy, fiscal management, personnel management, and training. Despite being challenged by the pandemic, the Division received accreditation in May of 2020.

The general public is often surprised upon learning about the volume of work employees perform on any given day.



The Division handled 147,601 emergency and non-emergency phone calls in 2020—an average of more than 400 per day. This was a 10% decrease from 2019, where the Division handled 161,465 calls. Telecommunicators answered 94% of all 911 calls in less than 10 seconds, which is well above the national standard of 90%.

The Division dispatched 86,350 calls for service in 2020—an average of 236 calls per day. 94% of these calls were police related, with the remaining being distributed among the other departments serviced. This total is down 15% from 2019, where the Division dispatched 100,015 calls for service.

In addition to handling phone calls and dispatching calls for service, telecommunicators made more than 250,000 inquiries into stolen items, vehicle registrations, missing or wanted persons, and operator licenses. This resulted in close to a million returns which telecommunicators reviewed and communicated to first responders.

A new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) program was implemented in December of 2019, which provided a much-needed upgrade in the 911 Center. With the new CAD and hard work of telecommunicators, the overall average 911 call processing time was reduced by 1 minute and 7 seconds in 2020 over the previous year. This was accomplished, in part, by the use of proximity dispatching-- telecommunicators now have a map that displays the real-time locations of police and firefighters. This results in first responders arriving to a scene and providing assistance much faster.

Another major stride the Division made in 2020 was the implementation of a Quality Assurance Program, which is comprised of structured evaluations and after-action reviews. In this program, telecommunicators are randomly evaluated on 5 calls per month. Employees are given an opportunity to self-evaluate on how they performed on a call, and then meet with a supervisor to discuss areas of excellence and improvement, if any. Additionally, the Division conducts after-action reviews on critical incidents—such as vehicle and foot pursuits, fires, major collisions, and other major incidents. Looking towards the future, the 911 Communications Services Division is focused on the continued work related to the replacement of a severely outdated and aging radio infrastructure. Radio is currently the primary and most efficient means of communicating with first responders. As such, it is imperative a reliable and cost-effective system is identified to best serve the citizens of Paducah and McCracken County.

E-911 STAFF 2020


Robyn Hood


Amber Spears


Allyson Tatman


Stephanie Goins


Courtney Quinn


Samantha Collins


Ashley Burrow


Taryn Reed


Ashleigh Collins


Kimberly Genis


Hannah Abbott


Hillary Stephens


Auston Scutt


McCall Buckingham


Serena Taylor

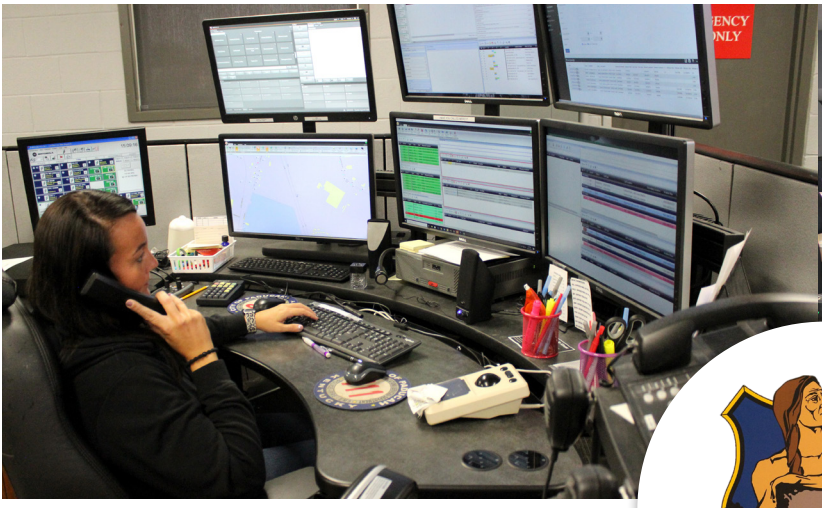

Tara Martin


Chris Noel


Patrick Bugg


Laura Peery


Sarah Lambert





PADUCAH POLICE

TRAINING

Training is an integral part of being a police officer. Generally speaking, once an officer is hired, they must attend or have attended an approved police academy. Once the officer graduates from the academy, they must go through a 16-week Police Training Officer program. This additional training builds off of the basic foundation established in the academy. In civilian terms, this would be comparable to going to college and then receiving on the job training.

As the officer progresses in their career, they are required to attend 40 hours of training each year. This training is typically provided by the Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT) and is specific to law enforcement topics. Supervisors sign officers up for classes based on their career development needs.

In addition to the training requirements outlined above, Paducah Police officers receive additional in-house, virtual, and external training hours. These trainings are based on the needs of the officer, the community and the agency. They focus on high liability areas, officer development, accreditation and recertification.

The department has certified instructors that help officers remain current with issued equipment and critical tasks. Instructors provide training in the areas of: Driving, Active Shooter Response, Firearms, Mobile Field Force, Less Lethal, Defensive Tactics, Verbal De-escalation, CPR/AED and First Aid, and Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE). Each discipline works hard to provide current and relevant training.

In 2020, Paducah Police Officers received a minimum of 65 hours of in-house training. The training required officers to retain knowledge and demonstrate a standard level of proficiency. The training consisted of: police review, legal updates, verbal de-escalation techniques, bias-based policing, community policing strategies, driving training, felony traffic stops, firearms, CPR/AED and first aid, mobile field force operations, Taser and less lethal devices, emergency protective orders and DUI investigations.

Due to concerns of COVID-19, trainers had to be innovative in how courses were taught. Some trainings were administered virtually, while others were held in large open areas.

The addition of the three screen TI simulator system enhanced the level of training instructors could provide officers. Having a multitude of scenarios that cover emotionally disturbed persons, domestic violence, school shootings, traffic stops, and casual citizen encounters allows officers to make mistakes in a training environment, instead of on the street where mistakes can have dire consequences. The TI simulator incorporates each weapon and tool officers carry on-duty for added realism.

The ability to focus on fundamentals and provide additional training in high liability areas makes our officers calmer under stress. It gives them the confidence to handle some of the most difficult situations and it is part of what makes them some of the best officers in the country.


Mobile Field Force and Less Lethal


Driving


Active Shooter


CPR


Firearms/Defensive Tacticts

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Office of Professional Standards is responsible for department accreditation, internal affairs records and investigations, department training, special events coordination and Homeland Security Issues. Due to restrictions related to COVID-19, there were no major special events in 2020. Professional Standards was staffed by Captain Joe Hayes and Training Officer Chris Fearon.

Complaint Investigations

The public may make a complaint against an employee of the Paducah Police Department at any time. Once received, the complaint is reviewed and assigned to an investigating supervisor depending upon the severity of the accusation. These are classified as external complaints by the agency. Most complaints are generated internally, meaning that they were discovered by a supervisor or an employee. Once the complaints are investigated and potential policy violations are identified, the complaint is reviewed by the Chief of Police.

In 2020, the Paducah Police Department received 19 complaints. Three were external complaints and 16 were internally generated. Out of the internally generated complaints, 14 were sustained and two were not sustained. The resulting discipline from the sustained complaints ranged from a verbal counseling to written reprimand and Performance Improvement Plan (PIP). The external complaints resulted in one sustained, one not sustained and one exonerated. The sustained complaint resulted in an Employee Improvement Notice (EIN).



Response to Resistance

The utilization of force by an officer is authorized in specific situations outlined within the Kentucky Revised Statutes and department policy. When force is used, it is documented and reviewed objectively by multiple layers within the officer's chain of command. A final review is conducted in all cases by the Chief of Police.

The purpose of this rigorous process is to ensure that in all cases, the officer's use of force was reasonable and the least amount necessary to accomplish the arrest. Additionally, these reviews can provide a level of training value for officers within various stages in their career. As an agency the Paducah Police Department strives to become better than we were yesterday. We continually ask ourselves, how can we better serve our community?

In 2020, the Paducah Police department responded to 51,777 calls for service. There were 56 incidents where a Response to Resistance report was generated. A Response to Resistance report is generated when force greater than normal handcuffing is used. Force greater than handcuffing was utilized in incidents involving the following demographic breakdown: Male 39, female 17, African- American 29, Caucasian 27.

The Paducah Police Department requires officers to complete a report if they point their weapon at someone. This occurred 16 times and in each case, the weapon was not fired. The pointing of a weapon can occur if the suspect is armed, non-compliant or there is a perceived danger by the officer.

The moments just prior to handcuffing can be some of the most stressful for an officer. Statistically this is the time when someone is most likely to resist. In most of the incidents, officers had to restrain someone or use greater strength to put a subject's hands behind their back when handcuffing. This occurred in 32 of the incidents.

The invention of less lethal equipment has provided officers with additional options when met with aggression. These less lethal options include Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray also known as pepper spray, Taser, and the bean bag. In 2020, OC was used twice, a Taser was deployed three times and a bean bag was utilized once. Utilization of this equipment very rarely results in injury to the subject. In most cases, the person is evaluated by medical personnel as a precaution.

During these encounters, the officer may sustain injury as a result of the actions of a suspect. In 2020, there were seven incidents where an officer was injured. All officers were treated and the injuries were non-incapacitating.

Our canine partners are invaluable assets. They search for drugs, help locate people and also help apprehend dangerous felony suspects. Our canines were utilized twice in this capacity in 2020.

In 2020, officers responded to 366 calls for an emotionally disturbed person. In some of these incidents, the person was armed and wanting to harm his or herself. Our officers receive a week long Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) that assists them in talking the subject down from crisis. In only nine of the 366 cases, officers used force to restrain someone. Once restrained they were transported to a mental health facility for treatment.

SPECIALIZED UNITS

Paducah Police Officers perform job functions that include responding to calls for service, patrolling and investigating crimes. At times due to the circumstances, a specific type of training, expertise or a specialized piece of equipment is called for. In these cases, the department has specialized units that can respond to support patrol and investigative units. These units consist of Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), the Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT), Bomb Squad, Collision Reconstruction Team (CRT), and K-9.

Training hours are critical to each unit's exceptional level of performance. Each unit member attends a basic skills course and receives additional training throughout the year that meets the industry standard. Due to restrictions related to COVID-19, each unit had to reduce their training at times throughout the year. Even with the COVID restriction, each unit member was able to maintain their proficiency through perseverance and innovation.

The SWAT team is a highly trained tactical unit. Its purpose is to enhance the level of safety for the public, officers and suspects. They respond to situations involving highly dangerous individuals that have committed serious crimes or may be emotionally disturbed or suicidal. Their utilization greatly reduces the potential of injury for all persons involved. The SWAT team was utilized three times



SWAT Team

in 2020. Two callouts involved a barricaded subject and one was for the execution of a search warrant. In each case the suspect was apprehended without injury to the public, officers or the suspect.

In many cases CNT works directly with the SWAT team. Their primary role is to establish communication with someone who has committed a serious crime and taken hostages, has barricaded themselves, or is emotionally disturbed. CNT members have specialized training that equips them to de-escalate these volatile situations. CNT worked with SWAT during both of the barricaded subject situations. They also assisted patrol with a suicidal veteran. In each case the subject was taken into custody without injury.

The Bomb Squad is one of five teams in Kentucky. The Paducah squad covers the 13 most western counties in the Purchase Area of Kentucky. With Western Kentucky being mainly rural, it is not uncommon to encounter dynamite in an old barn or military ordnance brought home as a war souvenir. The Bomb Squad was called out twice in 2020 for homemade explosive devices. They also



Bomb Squad



Collision Response Team

assisted SWAT and CNT by providing visual support with their robot.

The CRT responds to collisions that result in or may result in serious physical injury or death. These officers have specialized training in mathematics and physics. They employ equipment that allows them to calculate speed, determine the manner of collision and document potential scenes. Given the severity of the situation, the evidence documented by CRT members can be used to prove/disprove negligence. The CRT also assists the General Investigations Unit (GIU) with the documentation of homicide scenes. CRT assisted GIU twice in 2020 and was called out for major collision investigations four times.

The K-9 teams are the only full-time specialized unit. They assist with build searches, tracking felony suspects, narcotic searches and apprehensions. In 2020, K-9's Huub handled by Sgt. Shawn Craven and K-9 Junior handled by Capt. Nathan Antonites were retired. This left K-9 Don and his handler Officer AJ Parrish as the only remaining handler. In June of 2020, the department added K-9 Joker and his handler Officer Will Hendrickson. K-9 teams were utilized to conduct 17 tracks, 5 building searches, 66 narcotics searches and had 59 apprehensions. They recovered heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine , marijuana, pills, synthetic drugs and six firearms.

Each of these units work hard to remain proficient in their unique skill sets. These units have different missions that are equally important. They are able to work individually or collectively and are proud to serve the citizens of Paducah and Western Kentucky.

NEW K-9

The canine selection process is an integral part in determining the success of the team. A handler travels to Indiana and reviews many different dogs. All have differing personalities. They are typically Dutch shepherds, German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois or a blend. The key to an effective team is matching the personalities and drive of the dog with the personality and drive of the handler.



As you can see from the picture, Officer Will Hendrickson and Joker selected each other. Joker is a Belgian Malinois and German Shepherd mix. Both he and Officer Hendrickson have a very strong work ethic.

Officer Hendrickson and canine Joker attended six-weeks of training at Vohne Liche Kennels in Denver, Indiana. Joker and Hendrickson trained hard in the areas of building and area searches, narcotics detection, apprehension and tracking. They graduated as a certified canine team on July 31, 2020.

Since their graduation in July, they have conducted five tracks for dangerous felons and 28 narcotic searches that resulted in the confiscation of illegal drugs and a firearm. Officer Hendrickson and Joker continue to work hard in training and on their assigned shift. We look forward to seeing the positive impact they have within the community as they progress in their careers.

ROBOT

The Paducah Police Department applied for and was awarded a Kentucky Department of Homeland Security Grant in the amount of $442,181 for the purchase of a Remotec Andros FX Bomb Disposal Robot. The FX robot was purchased to replace the Remotec Andros F6A Bomb Disposal Robot that was purchased nearly 20 years ago. In addition to declining service and availability of parts for repair, the operational efficiency of the F6A was declining. These issues coupled with the dramatic increase of Bomb Disposal Robot technology highlighted the need for an upgrade.



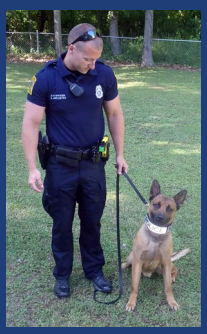
The upgraded technology provides much welcomed increase in the safety of our bomb technicians and the public at large. Some of the improvements in technology include an extended range wireless capability, thermal cameras to locate active homemade explosive labs and a longer and stronger arm that can lift up to 250 pounds to remove or relocate explosive devices. The arm also has increased maneuverability that allows it to reach around corners reducing standoff distance from hazardous devices and longer tracks that increase the stability and maneuverability of the robot during operations. The robot also has a number of different remote disposal systems for certain explosive devices that eliminates the need for a bomb technician to approach these types of devices.

In November of 2020, after construction of the FX was complete, Paducah Police Department Bomb Squad members traveled to Remotec Headquarters in Clinton, TN for a course with the manufacturer that taught them the operational capabilities and how to diagnose and repair the robot. Since returning, the Bomb Squad has been training extensively with this piece of equipment.

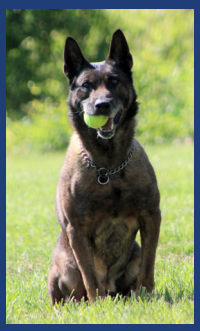
Retired K-9's

There comes a time in each officer's career when it is time to hang up the uniform. The department observed several retirements in 2020. This included two of our canine partners. When a department Canine retires, the handler has the option of purchasing them for $1.

Canine Junior and his partner Captain Nathan Antonites began serving together in March of 2012. Canine Junior retired in April 2020. Junior is enjoying his well-deserved retirement with the Antonites' at their home. In his free time Junior stays active chasing chickens and goats.



Canine Huub (pronounced hub) and Sergeant Shawn Craven began serving together in April 2013. Huub began having hip and sight issues and Sgt. Craven felt it was best for him to retire. Huub retired in April of 2020 and went to enjoy retirement as the Craven family pet. He enjoyed eating "people food" and playing with his ball according to Sgt. Craven. Sadly, Huub passed away on December 5, 2020.



EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

DEDICATION • PROFESSIONALISM • COMMITMENT • PRIDE • HONOR

These are just a few of the words used to describe the Paducah Police Department's Employee of the Year for 2020.

Each year, the Chief of Police has the difficult task of selecting one employee nominated by his or her peers, whose performance rose above all others during the previous year. For 2020, that employee was Detective Kevin Wilson.

In his nomination of Det. Wilson, fellow detective Jordan Murphy cited a number of occasions that Det. Wilson put service before self to ensure justice for crime victims.

"His continued commitment to the department does not go unnoticed," Det. Murphy said. "While on paternity leave, Det. Wilson made a middle-of-the-night visit to the office to compile documents for a court proceeding, solely to ensure the wheels of justice never stopped turning, despite his being off work."

Like many others, Det. Wilson had to quarantine after a COVID-19 exposure, but he did not stop working.


Detective Kevin Wilson

"When recently forced to quarantine, Det. Wilson declined taking sick time instead requesting to work from home to continue investigating his open cases, so justice could continue being sought for his victims," Det. Murphy said.

The novel coronavirus affected all areas of life, and law enforcement was no exception. The virus made investigation of crimes more difficult.

However, Det. Wilson investigated 53 criminal cases in 2020 and closed 33 of those – 19 with an arrest.

"Numerous violent offenders have been arrested and successfully prosecuted due to Det. Wilson's hard work and dedication," Det. Murphy said. "He is also a team player, setting aside his work when needed to assist the unit as a whole. This was evidenced as he spent weeks conducting in-depth follow-ups, processing evidence and compiling information during a homicide investigation."

Det. Wilson was lead investigator in one homicide case in 2020, and secondary investigator in two others. He secured a confession in an attempted murder case, and through his interviews was able to close multiple cases involving the same suspect in other states. On three separate occasions, he identified a suspect in an investigation only to learn that the suspect had fled Kentucky. He worked with authorities in other jurisdictions to assure the suspects were taken into custody and evidence was secured.

Det. Murphy said Det. Wilson sets a superior standard as senior detective in the General Investigations Unit, and displays pride and honor in his work.

"I truly believe one would be hard-pressed to find a harder worker at the Paducah Police Department."