

# AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

---



## ANNUAL REPORT



# 2023

# Table of Contents

3	Message from the Chief
4	Mission Statement and Values
5	Administration Division
6	Budgeting and Staffing
6	Police Fleet
7	Organizational Chart
8	Internal Affairs Office
9	Project Safe Neighborhoods
10	Public Information Office
11	Amarillo Crime Stoppers
11	Student Crime Stoppers
13	City of Amarillo Crime Statistics
18	Patrol Division
19	Honor Guard
19	K-9
20	Field Training Officer Program
20	Patrol Division Statistics
22	Amarillo Emergency Communications Center
23	Specialized Operations Division
24	Covert / Tactical Operations
24	Narcotics Unit
25	Bomb Squad
26	Swat Team
27	Tactical Flight Officer
27	Crisis Negotiator Team
28	Directed Operations
28	PACE
29	Motorcycle Squad
30	Community Engagement
30	Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO Unit)
31	Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)
32	Dive Team
33	Criminal Investigation Division
34	Homicide Unit
34	Crime Scene Investigation Unit
34	Forensic Media Lab
34	National Integrated Information Network (NIBIN) Program
35	Special Victims Unit
35	Violent Crimes Unit
36	Domestic Violence Unit
36	General Investigations Unit
37	School Resource Officers
39	Training and Personnel Division
40	Police Staffing and Attrition
43	Shooting Complex
43	Physical Readiness Testing
43	Training
43	Recruiting
44	Texas Police Chiefs Association Foundation (TPCAF) Best Practices
45	Records Division
46	Police Exploring Program
47	Civilian Employee of the Year
48	Amarillo South Rotary - Officers of the Quarter
50	Amarillo South Rotary - Officer of the Year
51	American Legion - Officer of the Year



## AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

200 SE 3RD AVE  
AMARILLO, TX 79101  
[amarillopolice.org](http://amarillopolice.org)

To the Honorable Mayor Cole Stanley, the City Council, and citizens of Amarillo.

It is my pleasure to present the 2023 Amarillo Police Department Annual Report. I hope that you find this to be a useful summary of the department's operations, resources, and strategy.

The department provides police service to an estimated 202,434 citizens, covering over 105 square miles. The police department maintains best practice recognition from the Texas Police Chiefs Association Foundation recognition program which outlines over 170 standards the department must continuously meet.

There was a dramatic increase in pedestrian fatalities during 2023. The police department teamed up with other city departments on a pedestrian safety task force to examine the issue. The task force gathered data and brainstormed ideas to increase pedestrian safety. The police department stepped up enforcement of pedestrian traffic laws and made more than 140 arrests and issues nearly 90 citations per month for pedestrian safety violations. The task force is creating an ordinance change proposal for presentation to the Council in 2024.

Part 1 index crimes dropped from 2022 by nearly 10%. This decrease was driven by large reductions in the number of burglaries and stolen vehicles. Homicides were also down from the previous year with 16 murders occurring in the city. Homicide detectives have solved all but two of the murders at the time of publication.

During 2023, the department participated in a greater number of community outreach events including "Chat with the Chief" and National Night Out in many different locations. Neighborhood Police Officers facilitated most of these events and continued to work on crime problems and other community concerns in their assigned areas.

The department focused more on gang activity and created an ad hoc gang task force. This group is led by community engagement but combines the expertise of police officers throughout the department to work on crime problems associated with gang activity. The gang task force conducted several multi-agency operations that focused on known gangs and gang members. Numerous guns and drugs were seized, and several fugitives were arrested during these operations.

The department made significant progress on the Amarillo Regional Crime Center (ARCC) project. The ARCC added video feeds from intersections, installed license plate readers at key locations, and expanded the unmanned aerial surveillance (drone) program. All of these technological pieces have improved officer safety and enhanced the department's ability to respond to and solve crimes.

Enclosed is a summary of activities and crime information in Amarillo for 2023. 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

# 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 staff, and operation of the Amarillo Police Department. The division includes the chief and two assistant chiefs, public information office, internal affairs investigations, and fleet management.



**Jimmy Johnson**  
Assistant Chief of Police

Assistant Chief Jimmy Johnson 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. The Amarillo Regional Crime Center (ARCC) Intelligence and Analysis Unit is also the responsibility of the Operations Chief.



**Ken Funtek**  
Assistant Chief of Police

Assistant Chief Ken Funtek 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 reported crimes. This division also contains the Property and Evidence Unit and the Crime Scene Investigation 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 handles public information requests.

# Budgeting and Staffing

The Amarillo Police Department had an operating budget of \$58,838,501 for fiscal year 2023-2024. The department applied for several grants to supplement operations and equipment. Most notably the department received the 2023 COPS Hiring Program grant (See 2023 COPS Hiring Program Fact Sheet (usdoj.gov)) which will provide up to \$500,000 over 3 years in funding to support four additional police positions. Three of these positions were added to the Neighborhood Policing Unit and one was added to the Amarillo Regional Crime Center. These additions support the department’s mission to reduce violent crime and increase community engagement. With these four additions, the department is authorized 380 police officer positions. The department is authorized 74 full time civilian positions.

Police officer staffing filled at the end of 2023:

Chief of Police	1
Asst. Chief of Police	2
Captains	4
Lieutenants	16
Sergeants	72
Corporals	80
Officers	176
Recruit Officers	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>363</b>

Males	317	87%
Females	46	13%

Native American	2	1%
Black	8	2%
Hispanic	69	19%
White	284	78%

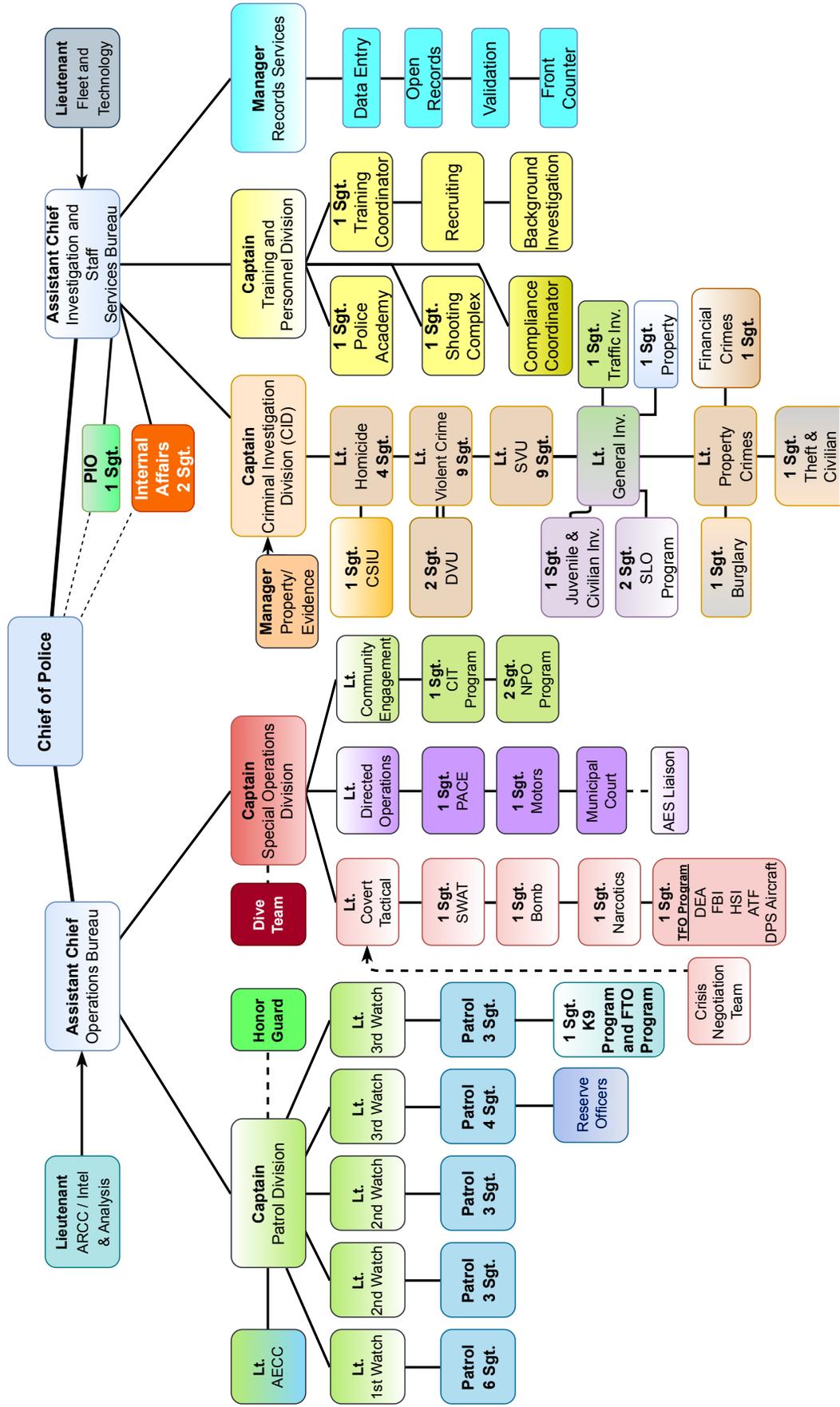
# Police Fleet

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.

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 and Canyon Independent School Districts purchase and maintain a majority of the patrol cars assigned to schools.

Types of Vehicle	Assignment	Number of Vehicles
Marked Patrol Cars	Patrol Division	102
Marked Patrol Cars	School Liaison Unit	19
Marked Motorcycles	Motorcycle Unit	13
Unmarked Vehicles (mixed)	Administration and CID	61
Special Purpose Vehicles	Specialized Operations Division	54

# 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. Many investigations are generated internally when supervisors discover misconduct or policy violations. All patrol officers are equipped with body cameras and there are fixed 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.

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.

During 2023, there were 392 complaints investigated. After investigation, 156 complaints were Sustained, 206 complaints were Exonerated or Unfounded, 11 complaints were Not Sustained and 19 complaints are Pending review. Each of the 156 Sustained complaints resulted in disciplinary action.

Types of Complaint	Sustained	Not Sustained	Exonerated/Unfounded	Total
Excessive Force	0	1	36	37
Unlawful Arrest	0	0	2	2
Neglect of Duty	128	21	114	263
Conduct Unbecoming	28	7	44	79
Criminal Offense	0	1	1	2
Unlawful Search	0	0	7	7
Falsify/Release Records	0	0	0	0
Racial Profiling	0	0	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>392</b>

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.

Types of Incident	Justified (Exonerated)	Not Justified	Negligence
Animal Attack	1	0	0
Animal Severely Injured	1	0	0
Deadly Force Encounter	3	0	0
Accidental/Negligent	0	0	0

There were 3 officer-involved shootings in 2023. The actions of all officers were found to be justified and resulted in no action taken by Grand Jury.

# ***Project Safe Neighborhoods***

In January 2019, the Amarillo Police Department entered a partnership with surrounding law enforcement agencies to reduce violent crime in Amarillo. Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is driven by the Assistant United States Attorney's (AUSA) office in Amarillo and is based on statistical analysis and mapping of areas where violent crimes are concentrated. This area of violence is labeled as the PSN Zone. Working with the AUSA and other agencies, violent crime in the PSN Zone has been addressed through community outreach, targeted operations, and vigorous prosecution of convicted felons in possession of firearms.

Despite the increases in violent crime by 12% in the PSN area Year over Year in 2023, the PSN project has resulted in a downward five-year trend that is steeper and more pronounced than in the remainder of the city, where violent crimes decreased by -8% in 2023 compared to 2022. The Year over Year increases observed during 2023 are largely attributable to aggravated assaults increasing by 11%, aggravated robberies by 50%, and non-aggravated robberies by 62%. In contrast, family aggravated assaults decreased by 5% in the PSN area but increased by 7% in the remainder of the city. Aggravated sexual assaults, too, were lower in 2023 by 17%.

Looking at the larger five-year trends for the various types of violent crimes, aggravated assaults have, overall, decreased in the PSN area, whereas the same five-year trend is pointing upward in the remainder of the city. The family aggravated assault trend in the PSN area is sharply pointing downward and is steeper than the reduction observed in the remainder of the city. Sexual aggravated assaults, too, have declined during the five years in the PSN area, albeit not as sharply as in the remainder of the city. It must be noted, though, that there are few single-digit numbers of incidents of sexual aggravated assaults occurring in the PSN area with only five incidents during 2023, so the downward potential of this trend is limited. The same is the case for murders, which show an overall downward trend that is limited by the low number of annual incidents. Different from sexual aggravated assaults, the remainder of the city has seen a rising five-year trend curve in murders during the same five years, even though the year 2023 had markedly fewer murders than 2022.

Aggravated robberies are the only type of violent crimes that break the overall downward five-year trend seen in the PSN area. Overall, they increased slightly, largely because of the 50% YoY increase seen in 2023. In contrast, the five-year trend for non-aggravated robberies is sharply pointing downwards, despite the 62% in 2023, because of the significant reduction observed in 2022. The year 2022 stands out in comparison to the other four years with markedly lower levels. The increase in 2023 is due to the low numbers in 2022, and it must be noted that the levels seen in 2023 are still markedly lower than during the years 2019 to 2021.

# Public Information Office

The PIO team consists of Sgt. Carla Burr, Cpl. Carmela Ogden, administrative assistant Ashley Hicks, Ofc. Jarrod Robertson (Coordinator for Student Crime Stoppers) and Cpl. Scott Welling (Coordinator of Amarillo Crime Stoppers). 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 and adding information based on local crime trends and police experience. This helps make programs that are original and that can be tailored to people in specific jobs or businesses. The PIO is often the public's point of access to the police department. The unit responds to daily inquiries about the law, criminal activity, and departmental services and operations. The PIO takes pride in this role and in responding to the public's questions quickly and accurately or providing appropriate referrals to the agency or organization that can assist the caller.

Programs are provided upon request to anyone interested in safety, crime prevention, or APD operations. Business and home security surveys are provided by request at no charge to the citizens of Amarillo. The PIO unit has several personnel that are trained Certified Crime Prevention Specialist. 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 unit has certified instructors for Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) and offer presentations to any group in the community. PIO provided 233 formal presentations reaching 6,576 people in 2023.

The citizen subscription has grown significantly on all media platforms. The Amarillo PD Facebook page currently has over 60,000 followers, and @AmarilloPD Twitter has 7,655 followers. APD is also on Next-door, and our reach is over 41,000 households citywide. The Nixle subscription is 16,203 and is used for releases and important APD related notices to the public.



# Amarillo Crime Stoppers

Amarillo Crime Stoppers operates as part of the Public Information Office, playing an important role in coordinating with the media and investigators to publicize information about wanted suspects and unsolved crimes.

Currently there are 26 civilian volunteers that make up Amarillo Crime Stoppers board of directors. ACS was re-certified in 2023 by the Texas Crime Stoppers Council and covers Potter, Randall, Carson, and Armstrong County.

The program held their annual "Shred It Day" in April. 50 tons of paperwork were shredded. Due to the success of the event, a fall "Shred It Day" was added and held in October. Labor Day weekend marked the 16th annual "Crime Stoppers Car Show," held at the Amarillo Civic Center with over 1,500 people in attendance. It was a great turnout with over 145 vehicles registered. The program also attended several events in the 4 counties they cover providing "Kids ID's" to the public throughout the year.

The 2023 Texas Crime Stoppers Conference was held in McAllen in October. While at the conference the program was awarded the "Most Cases Cleared" (for a program covering 200,001 - 350,000 people) and Best Website. In November, members from ACS also attended the annual Crime Stoppers USA conference in Denver, Colorado.

**Amarillo Crime Stoppers Statistics**

Total Tips Received	1,178
Follow-up Tips Received	2,496
Rewards Approved	71 (\$17,600)
Rewards Claimed	21 (\$5,100)
Arrests as a Result of Tips	71
Cases Cleared from Tips	173
Stolen Vehicles Recovered	4
Weapons Recovered	9
Property/Narcotics Recovered	\$469,210

# Student Crime Stoppers

Student Crime Stoppers end of year stats show 1,116 tips which is another record setting year for the program. Officer Robertson received Coordinator of the year for the USA.

Officer Robertson continues to work hand in hand with the Tobacco Free Amarillo Project and AISD to spread tobacco cessation and the dangers of underage drinking to the youth of Amarillo. This information is also given to the School Resource Officers weekly to update them with potential problems within their respective schools.

Student Crime Stoppers had several fundraisers in 2023. The fundraisers consisted of the annual "Scaregrounds" fundraiser, two "Shred-it-day" events, assisting with the Crime Stoppers car show and 2 "Race A Cop" events. The program also attended several events, in the 4 counties that are covered by Student Crime Stoppers, providing "Kids ID's" to the public throughout the year.

**Student Crime Stoppers Statistics**

Total Tips Received	1,116
Follow-up Tips Received	1,602
Rewards Approved	180 (\$10,660)
Rewards Claimed	86 (\$5,165)
Arrests and School Disciplines	498
Cases Cleared from Tips	498
Weapons Recovered	5
Property/Narcotics Recovered	\$5,776

# Intelligence and Analysis Unit

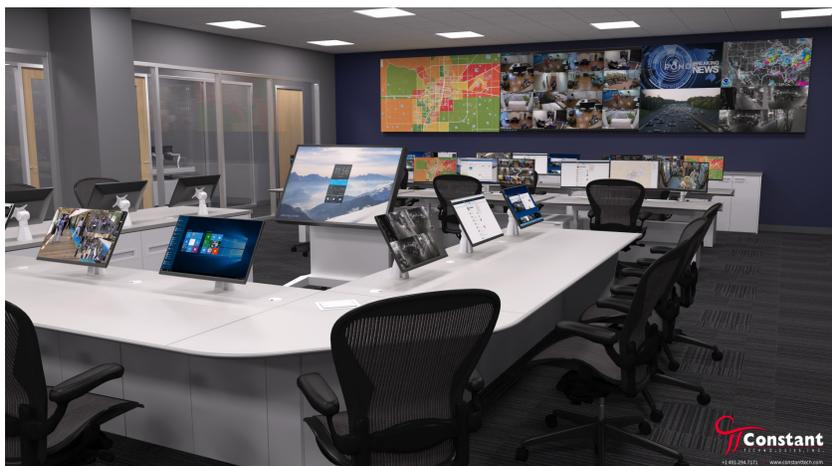
IAU currently has a supervising analyst and 3 analysts that provide services to the community, criminal investigators, and administrators. In addition to IAU, officers have been added to facilitate the technological oversight of License Plate Readers, Drones as First Responders, mapping, and the integration of video feeds to increase the investigative tools necessary to identify violent crime suspects, missing/endangered/exploited children, stolen vehicles, and to provide officers with tools that increase their officer safety and tactical awareness.

## Amarillo Regional Crime Center (ARCC)

In 2023, focus on the Amarillo Regional Crime Center (ARCC) led to the deployment of FlockSafety Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) throughout the city beginning in November 2023. As of January 31, 2024, this technology was used in 218 incidents, resulted in 66 arrests and 84 stolen vehicles recovered.

The ARCC also instituted a drone program and began researching a Drone as First Responder (DFR) program in 2023. This program has grown to include rapid deployment drones in the Patrol Division, mapping drones, tactical drones in SWAT and PACE and installation of drone hangars for the DFR program. In 2023, drones were cited in 188 incidents resulting in 72 arrests. This program has proven to make both the city safer and increased officer safety. This program has flown 2553 missions with a combined 524.55 hours of flight time. The department has trained 20 pilots with 11 of those pilots being licensed by the FAA as Part 107 pilots. Support operations for incident management utilizes real-time and backward facing platforms to track surveillance cameras, ALPRs, officer location, and other first responder agencies. The project will add data integration of various law enforcement platforms in a Social Network Analysis platform and the use of facial recognition to identify unknown suspects. The Analysts were used in 218 incidents resulting in over 38 arrests.

ARCC operations consists of a Unit Commander, a technology officer and one operation officer moving to trial operations in the summer of 2024. Construction of the ARCC, planned for the 5th floor of the Amarillo Police Department, began in April of 2024.



Conceptual Rendering of the ARCC

## CITY OF AMARILLO PART 1 CRIME STATISTICS<sup>2</sup>

Comparison from 2023 to 2022. Amarillo saw 9.8% fewer Part 1 Crimes in 2023.

Offense	2023	2022	Change
Homicide	16	23	-30.4%
Rape	164	194	-15.5%
Robbery	204	199	2.5%
Aggravated Assault	1,076	1,118	-3.8%
Burglary	941	1,166	-19.3%
Larceny Theft	4,624	4,899	-5.6%
Stolen Vehicles	677	932	-27.4%
Arson	41	53	-22.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,743</b>	<b>8,584</b>	<b>-9.8%</b>

The overall Part 1 crime rate in Amarillo dropped in 2023.

Offense	2023 Rate per 100,000 <sup>3</sup>	2022 Rate per 100,000 <sup>4</sup>	2021 US Rate per 100,000 <sup>5</sup>
Homicide	7.9	11.4	6.3
Rape	80.6	96.3	40.0
Robbery	100.3	98.8	66.1
Aggravated Assault	528.8	555.1	268.2
<b>Violent Crime Rate</b>	<b>717.6</b>	<b>761.6</b>	<b>380.7</b>
Burglary	462.5	578.9	269.8
Larceny Theft	2272.6	2,432.3	1,401.9
Stolen Vehicles	332.7	462.7	282.7
Arson	20.2	26.3	11.6
<b>Property Crime Rate</b>	<b>3,088.0</b>	<b>3,500.3</b>	<b>1,954.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,805.6</b>	<b>4,261.9</b>	<b>2335.1</b>

<sup>2</sup> 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>

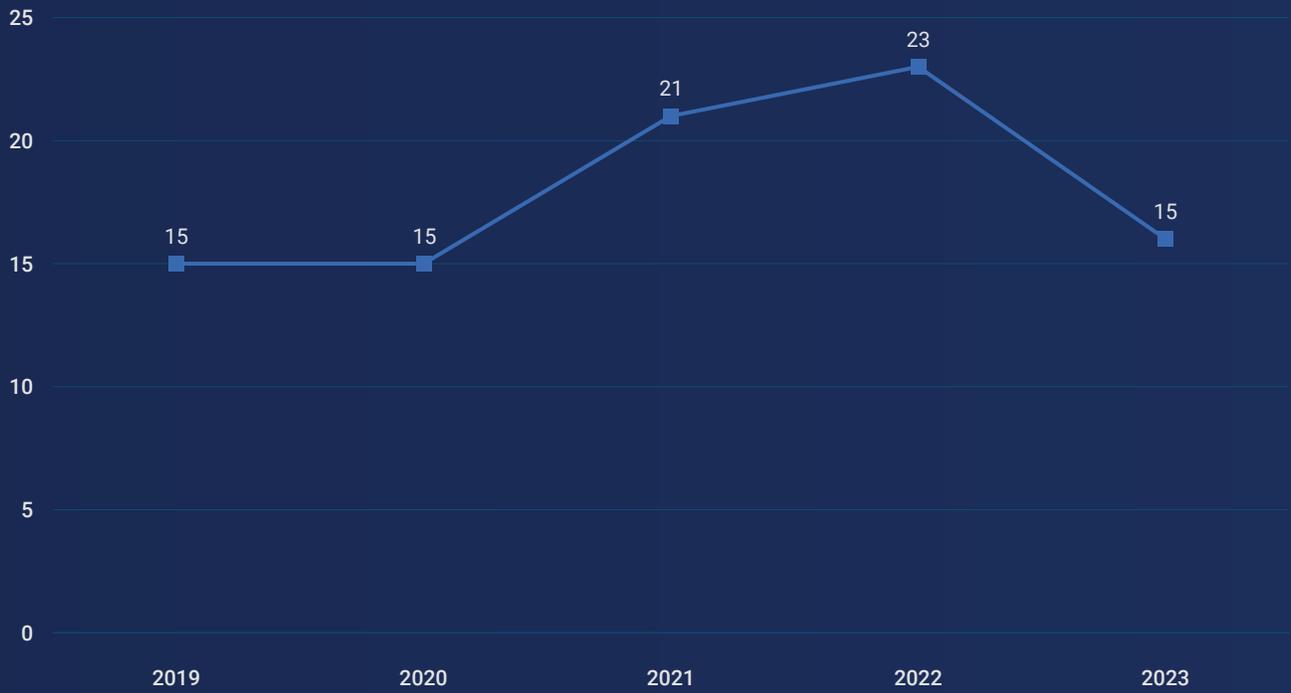
<sup>3</sup> 2022 population estimate from City of Amarillo Planning Department = 202,434

<sup>4</sup> 2021 population estimate from City of Amarillo Planning Department = 201,412

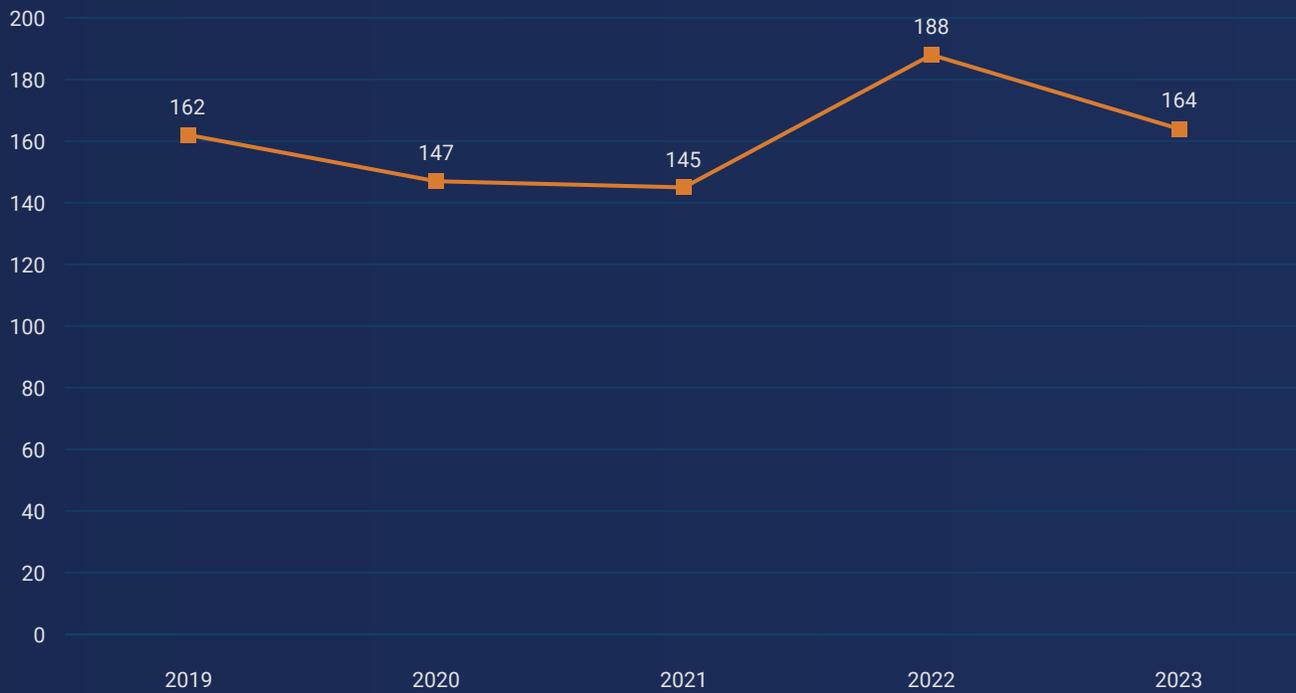
<sup>5</sup> Total US data from <https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend>

# CITY OF AMARILLO PART 1 CRIME STATISTICS

## Homicide

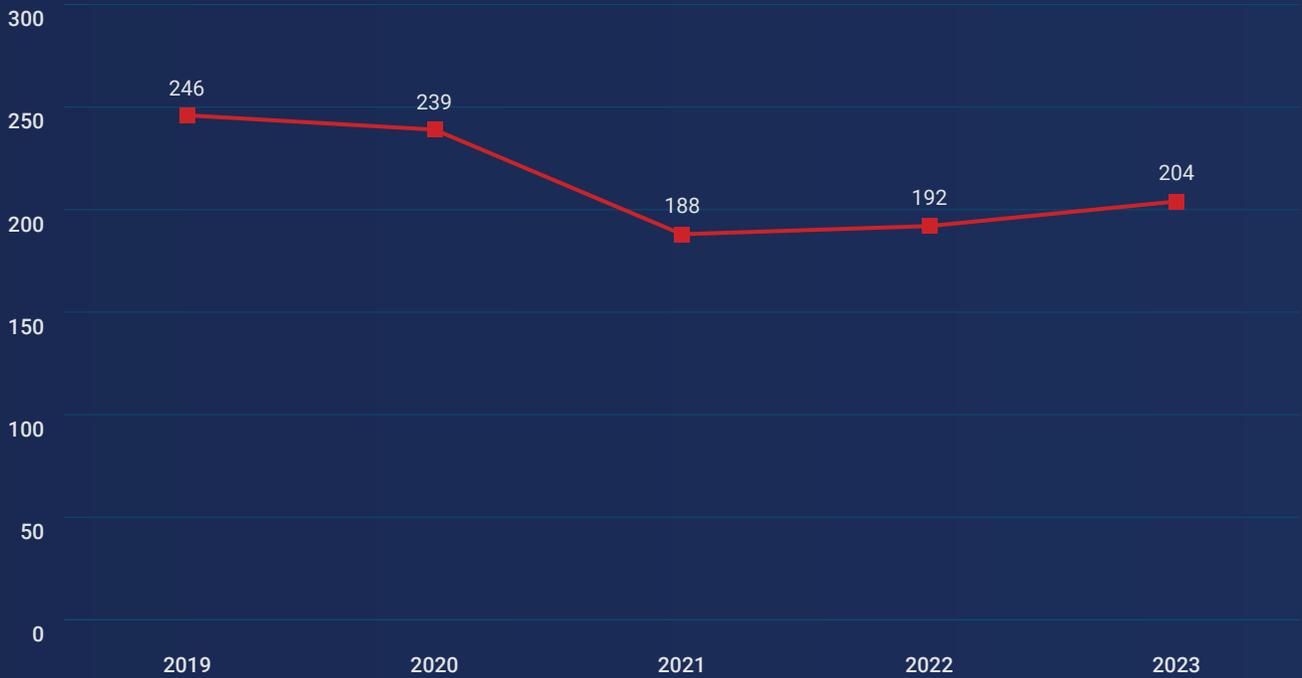


## Rape



# CITY OF AMARILLO PART 1 CRIME STATISTICS

## Robbery

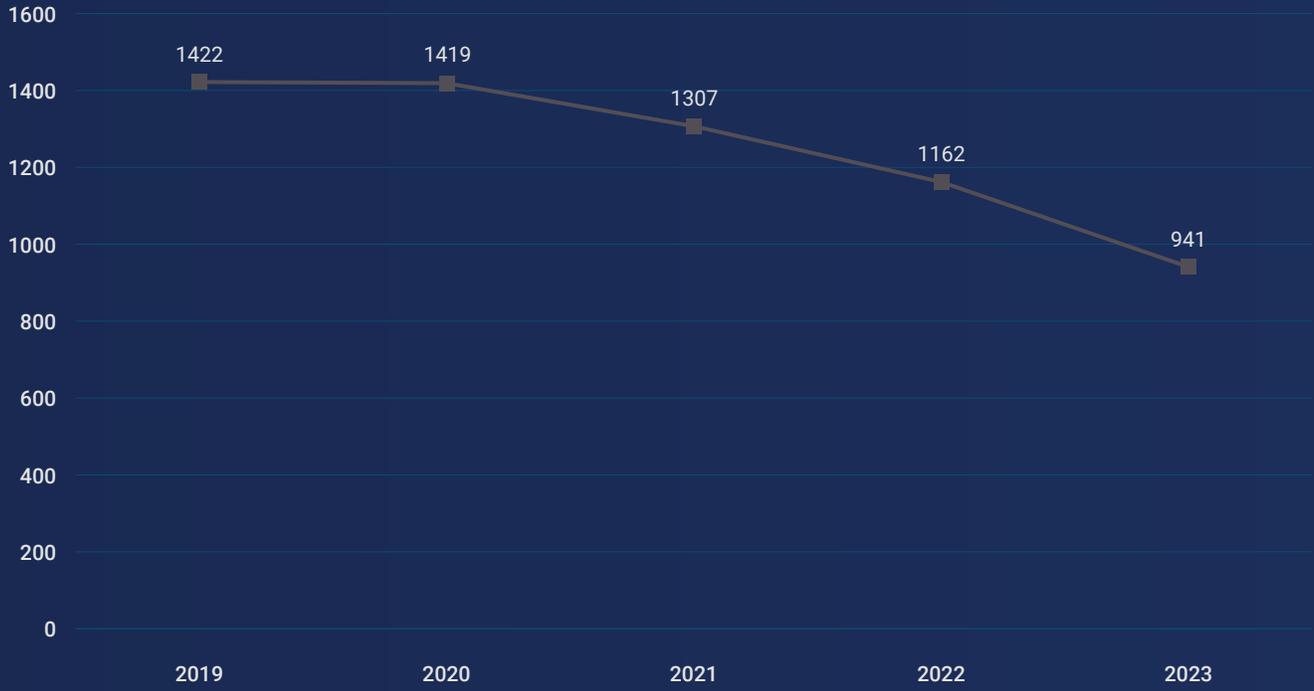


## Aggravated Assault



# CITY OF AMARILLO PART 1 CRIME STATISTICS

## Burglary

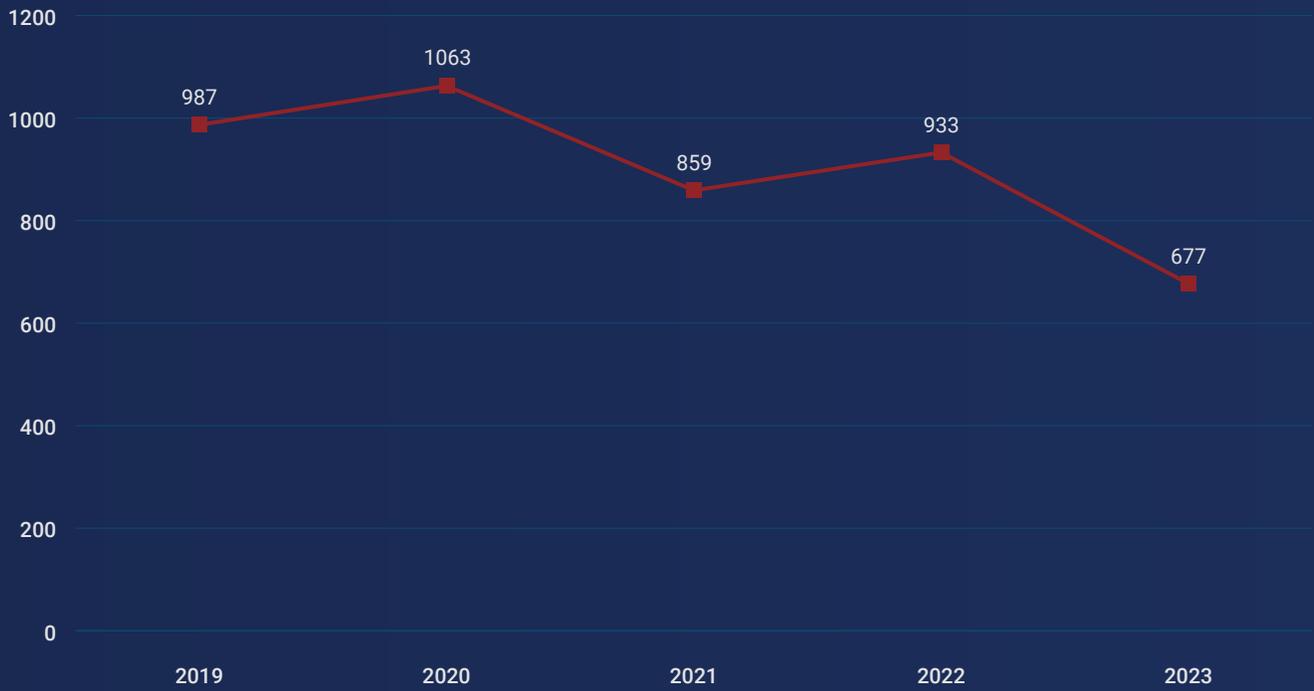


## Larceny Theft

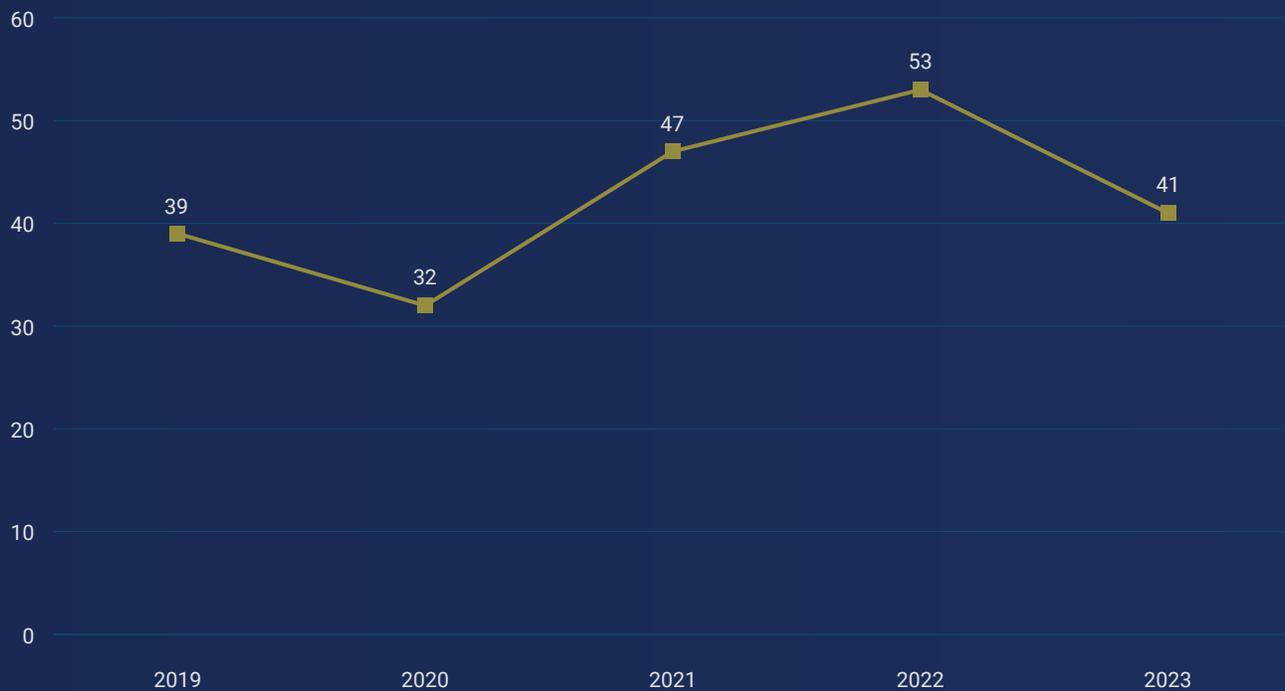


# CITY OF AMARILLO PART 1 CRIME STATISTICS

## Stolen Vehicles



## Arson



# Patrol Division



**Captain Erick Bohannon**  
Division Commander

The Patrol Division provides excellence in protecting and serving the Amarillo Community. The division is responsible for providing traditional law enforcement services to help make Amarillo a safe place to live, work, and play. The Patrol Division partners with the Amarillo Emergency Communications Center (AECC), which provides dispatch services to many public safety entities within the city of Amarillo.

Captain Erick Bohannon commands the Patrol Division. 2<sup>nd</sup> Watch (days) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Watch (evenings) are each commanded by two lieutenants and 1<sup>st</sup> Watch (midnights) is commanded by one lieutenant. APD is represented at the Amarillo Emergency Communication Center (AECC) by a lieutenant who supervises police communications personnel.

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 according to historical call volume to better serve the citizens of Amarillo with a timely response. In 2023, the Amarillo Police Department had 84,646 calls for service, down from 90,745 calls for service in 2022. APD Priority Call and Non-Priority Call response times in 2023 were down slightly compared to 2022.

The Patrol Division also oversees the Mobile Field Force Unit, which responds to Civil Disturbance events. Officers from Patrol, CID, and other units comprise the Mobile Field Force. Many officers in the Patrol Division hold part-time assignments in various other specialized assignments such as: SWAT, Crisis Negotiators, Bomb Squad, Honor Guard, Dive Team, Field Training Officers, Academy Instructors, and In-Service Training Instructors. The K-9 Unit, which is under the direction of a K9 Sergeant, also supports the Patrol Division on all three watches.



## *Honor Guard*

The Amarillo Police Department Honor Guard serves as the ceremonial unit for the department at official functions 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, as directed by the Chief of Police.

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 currently fifteen active members of the APD Honor Guard. In 2023, the APD Honor Guard participated in three Memorial Services, six funerals for retired/former APD officers, one out-of-town funeral, eight presentation of colors/flag raising ceremonies at special events, one parade, and three Amarillo Police Academy Graduations.



## *K-9*

K-9 Unit currently has four K-9 Officers, each with a dual purpose (narcotic/patrol) dog. These four K-9 teams are spread out amongst 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Shifts. During 2023, the K-9 Unit made 1654 backups, 748 self-initiated calls and answered 347 dispatched calls for service. The K-9 teams conducted 374 searches for drugs, evidence and suspects which generated 52 arrests directly credited to the use of K-9s. In addition, the K-9 Unit performed 29 community presentations for schools and other organizations. The K-9 Unit also assisted SWAT 5 times and assisted other agencies 14 times during 2023.

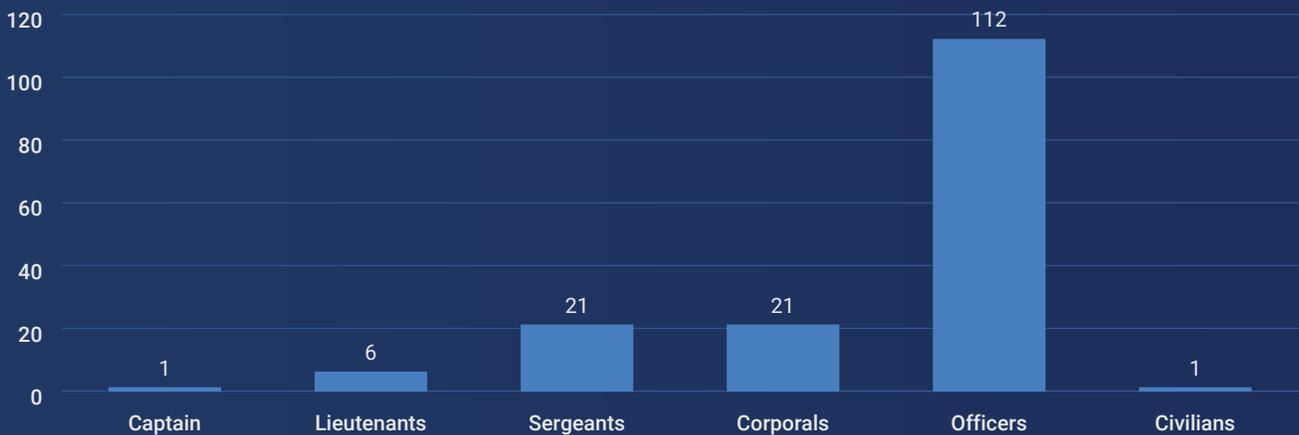


# Field Training Officer Program

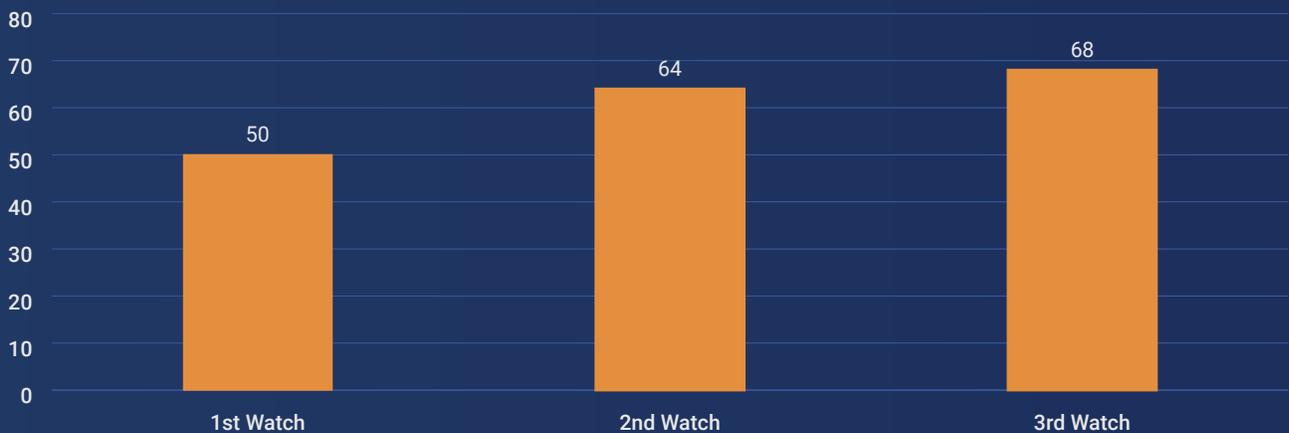
The Field Training Officer (FTO) program at the Amarillo Police Department provides excellent training to recruits after they graduate from the Academy. This program is designed to help transition recruits from the classroom to a practical application of what they have learned in the Academy. All field training officers are selected by their supervisors and approved by the command staff as highly competent trainers. The FTOs provide one-on-one training for the recruits that lasts approximately four months. During that time, the recruits progress through four phases and rotate field training officers and shifts each phase. At the end of 2023, the department had approximately 46 available FTOs. Of those 46, nine are new FTOs that had recently attended our forty hour FTO school. Seven new officers completed the FTO training program in 2023 and another nine officers started the program in late December. Once the 15 week FTO program is completed, the recruit officers are assigned to the Patrol Division as Patrol Officers.

## AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT PATROL DIVISION STATISTICS

### Patrol Division Personnel by Rank

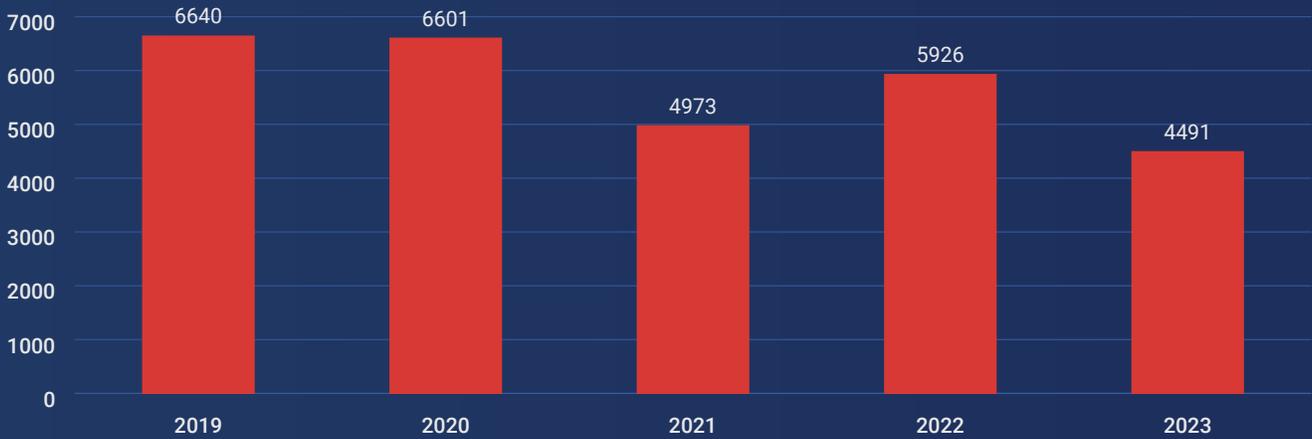


### Authorized Personnel by Watch (including K9)



# AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT PATROL DIVISION STATISTICS

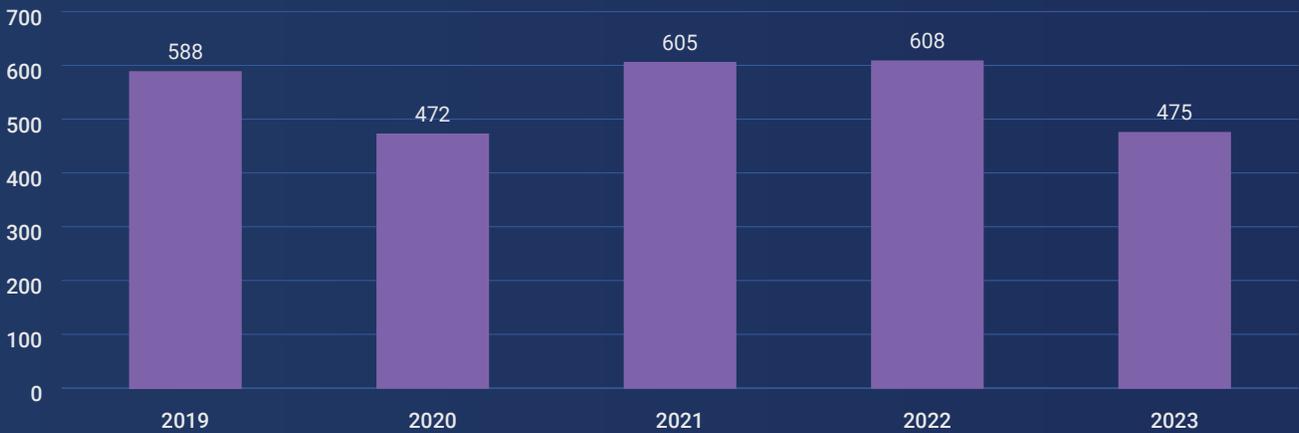
## Traffic Accidents Investigated 2023



## Adult Arrests 2023



## DUI Arrests 2023



# Amarillo Emergency Communications Center

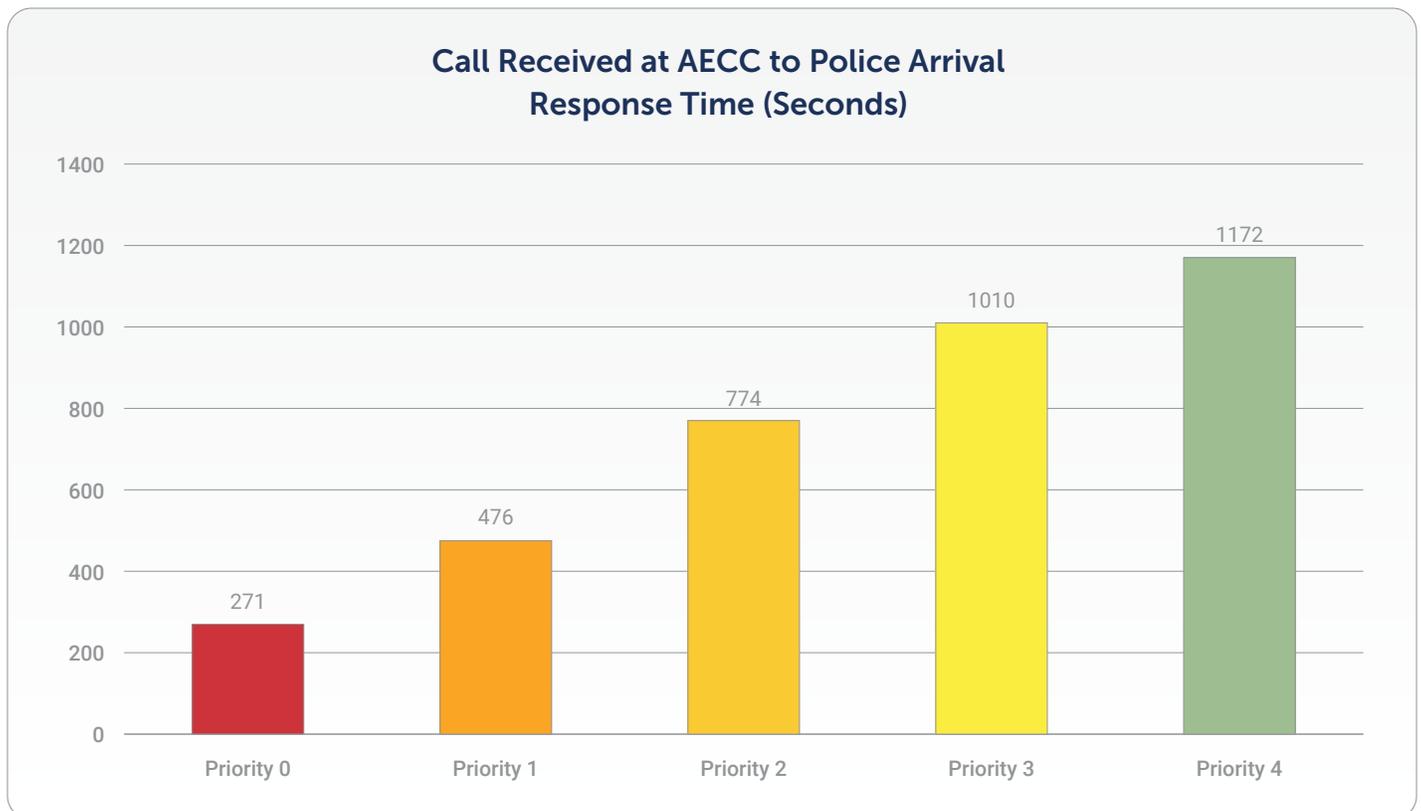
The primary mission of the Amarillo Emergency Communications Center (AECC) is to provide a vital link for police, fire, and emergency medical services to the citizens of Amarillo. The AECC answers emergency and administrative phone calls for the Amarillo Police Department, Amarillo Fire Department, Animal Management and Welfare, Amarillo Medical Services, and Baptist St. Anthony's ambulances, and dispatches each of these entities to calls for service.

Performance measurement provides timely, accurate, and useful information regarding the quality and efficiency of service. Information gathered is evaluated and reviewed in a continuous effort to improve customer service and operations. Operational performance measurement is essential for maintaining effectiveness. Call processing and incident handling are the focus of operational performance measurement.

Police response times are calculated from the time the call is received at AECC until the officer arrives on scene. There are five main categories of priority with zero being the most urgent. Calls are given an automated priority based on the call type. The AECC emergency communications specialist taking the call can upgrade or downgrade the call based on information received from the caller.

AECC is committed to the missions and goals of the city agencies it serves, to continue to assist in making Amarillo a Safe Place to Live, Work, and Play.

Response Time (min:sec)		
Call Type	Received to Dispatch	Received to Arrived
<b>Priority 0</b>	0:45	4:31
Priority 1	1:32	7:56
Priority 2	6:23	12:54
Priority 3	9:19	16:50
Priority 4	11:19	19:32



# *Specialized Operations Division*



**Captain Joseph Loftus**  
Division Commander

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

The Specialized Operations Division is comprised of 3 Lieutenants, 9 Sergeants, 25 Corporals, 29 Officers, and 3 civilian employees. There are three operational segments of this division: Covert/Tactical Operations, Directed Operations, and Community Engagement. This division also manages the department's Underwater Dive Team and the Gang Intelligence Unit. The officers in this division work a variety of different hours to accommodate the unique operational needs of their work.

AMARILLO POLICE

# Covert/Tactical Operations

Lieutenant Clay Rolan is the unit commander for Covert/Tactical Operations. This segment consists of the Bomb Squad, Narcotics Unit, SWAT Team, Tactical Flight Officer and the Crisis Negotiation Team.

## NARCOTICS UNIT

The Narcotics Unit is tasked with conducting investigations of narcotics crimes and vice crimes in Amarillo. Agents continue to improve and develop their skills and knowledge related to our mission. Agents are also trained on topics regarding vehicle related arrests, surveillance, UC rescue, vehicle containment & assaults, window breaching, search warrant execution & entry training, fundamentals of breaching, team movements, and force on force scenario training.

### Seized Contraband

Below are the amounts of illegal narcotics that were seized by the unit during investigations, these amounts DO NOT include federal investigations involving our Task Force Officers (TFO).

Substance	2022	2023
Amphetamine	7.19 gg	85.21 gg
Cocaine	4,114.84 gg	10,404.37 gg
Crack Cocaine	154.7 gg	49.87 gg
DMT	0	3,462.93 gg
Heroin	317.45 gg	56.34 gg
Prescription Pills	688.91 gg	617.19 gg
Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD)	0.5 g	0
Fentanyl	12,597.28 gg	14,195.74 gg
Marijuana	220,738.24 gg	37,475.06 gg
Methamphetamine	29,620.33 gg	49,242.43 gg
Promethazine w/Codeine Syrup	840 gg	1,345.61 gg
Psilocybin (Mushrooms)	297.14 gg	908.99 gg
THC Products	8,520.49 gg	32,348.02 gg

### Agents

In addition to the activities below, the Narcotics Unit continues to support and assist our federal partners and other law enforcement agencies when requested. The unit also responded to nine (9) callouts to assist patrol or other units regarding narcotic related stops and/or arrests.

In addition to generating cases, agents also conduct investigations into asset forfeiture and completed notices associated with those. The unit had several asset forfeitures during 2023 in US currency

Agents also prepared search warrants for phones, ping orders and tracking orders for their investigations as well as assisting other units in obtaining ping and tracking orders Agents generated one hundred eleven (111) cases in 2023. These statistics do not include the overt position.

## Narcotics Unit Activities

Operation	2021	2022	2023
Undercover Buys	39	44	37
Undercover Buy Bust	9	1	3
Search Warrants	38	28	26
Consent To Search	4	2	1
Traffic Stops/Interdictions	22	30	18
Bus Stop/Parcel Interdictions	3	1	2
Knock and Talks	3	5	0
Prostitution Cases	64	13	15
Overdose Death Investigation	6	5	12

## BOMB SQUAD

The Amarillo Police Department Bomb Squad is accredited by the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation Hazardous Devices School and consists of six APD officers who are FBI-HDS certified Bomb Technicians and one Explosive Detection K9. In August of 2023, the APD Bomb Squad once again successfully completed all requirements for accreditation with a new expiration date of August 2028. The Bomb Squad's primary response area is the City of Amarillo and the top 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle.



The Bomb Squad responds to all explosive or incendiary related incidents which can include improvised explosive or incendiary devices, suspicious packages, commercial or military explosives. The Bomb Squad operates equipment and provides technical assistance to the department's Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) and operates and maintains the Mobile Command Vehicle. The Bomb Squad responded to the above type of incidents 67 times in 2022. The Bomb Squad also provided explosive related training to other first responders 12 times and conducted 15 public presentations in 2023. Of the 112 incidents listed above, 14 of them were provided to assist an outside agency.

# SWAT TEAM

The Amarillo Police Department Bomb Squad is accredited by the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal The SWAT Team has 1 full-time sergeant, 7 full-time officers/corporals, and 12 part-time members for a total of 20 operators. The team added one new SWAT Alternate in December of 2023 to replace an Alternate that departed for military service. This officer joins a group that has trained and operated together for approximately two years. The team has part-time members assigned to all three patrol shifts, NPO, PACE, and an ATF TFO.



APD SWAT supports all units within the Amarillo Police Department and Amarillo's surrounding communities with up-to-date tactics, equipment, and training through the use of an experienced, skilled, and professional team. Their mission is to save lives by training, preparing for, and responding to critical incidents.

## Callouts

The SWAT Team responded to 25 callouts for 2023 calendar year. That is a large increase from 15 in 2022 and 18 in 2021. Although SWAT callouts can vary greatly from year to year, the increase in 2023 can be partly attributed to SWAT's willingness to respond to calls for assistance from patrol or other units that do not necessarily rise to the level of critical incidents. SWAT can respond to requests for barricaded suspects in a small structure, or isolated to a small area of a structure, without the need for all 20 operators, crisis negotiators, or bomb squad personnel. Of the 25 callouts in 2023, thirteen were scaled responses and twelve were full C-100s. In addition to callouts, SWAT also assisted in the execution of 19 search warrants for various units.

## Training and Instruction

For the SWAT Team to maintain such a high standard of operation and performance, training is a priority for the team. These officers must be razor-sharp in their decision-making and physical skills. The seven full-time SWAT officers completed 3,343 man-hours of training in 2023. They also attended training from other entities. Some of that training was brought to Amarillo, while some was outside the jurisdiction. Outside training is critical for new ideas and trends in Law Enforcement.

Because of the knowledge of the Team, they are tasked with many instructional duties as well. Full-time Team members teach many high-risk and tactical classes for the academy and in-service training. Operators taught ALERRT (active shooter), Patrol Rifle, Patrol Procedures, Academy Firearms, Defensive Tactics, ASR, and High-Risk Patrol Scenarios. The team spent 2,198 hours teaching in 2023.

## Arrests

When SWAT officers are not on critical incidents, training, or instructing, they are tasked with high-risk arrests. SWAT made 102 arrests in 2023, with 87 of those arrests classified as felonies. SWAT focuses on offenders with violent criminal histories and/or with warrants for violent/armed offenses. SWAT also seeks to apprehend fugitives that have eluded capture by fleeing patrol officers. Often, these fugitives take days or weeks to track down.

## **TACTICAL FLIGHT OFFICER**

One flight officer (a police corporal) is assigned to enhance public safety and to assist other divisions, bureaus, services, and sections of the Department of Public Safety and local governmental agencies in their endeavors to provide for the prevention and detection of crime, and to assist in the apprehension of criminals.

The purpose of the Tactical Flight Officer is to assist the troopers, officers, and deputies of the panhandle region by increasing situational awareness, assisting with scene management, and enhancing tactical capabilities in the air and on the ground. Also to utilize advance reconnaissance and surveillance equipment, radio communications systems, and aerial maneuverability to provide the maximum advantage to law enforcement officers on the ground in a variety of situations. The TFO also assist with training and education to law enforcement agencies about the advantages and limitations of utilizing aircraft in law enforcement and public safety operations.

Major accomplishments: 108.1 hours of mishap free flight time logged of which 78.2% was assisting the Amarillo police department with 265 calls for service. Substantively assisted with 26 arrests. All these numbers are lower than last year, except arrests. This reflects the periods of FMLA taken this year and the decrease in TX DPS staffing. Completion of FAA part 107 drone licensing. Participated as shift supervisor for dive team operations during Western Plaza flooding event.

## **CRISIS NEGOTIATOR 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 team responds to barricaded suspects and works closely with the SWAT and bomb teams to ensure the situation is resolved peacefully. Negotiators gather intelligence for these call outs and pass this information along to command staff and tactical units to aid in this process. The full team responded to multiple critical incidents this year and assisted in de-escalating numerous other incidents during their normal duties. The Crisis Negotiator Team had a proposal approved by the city council to order a new van to work out of which will greatly improve their ability to work these incidents efficiently. The Crisis Negotiator Team also had a proposal approved to bring Dr. Andy Young to assist in team training biannually.

# Directed Operations

The Directed Operations segment consists of the PACE team and the Motorcycle Squad. Lieutenant Wade Pennington is the leader of Directed Operations.

## PROACTIVE CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT (PACE)

The PACE team focuses on the apprehension of known fugitives and criminals responsible for crime trends. PACE works various hours and utilizes covert and uniform tactics to accomplish goals. PACE conducts investigations on a variety of different types of criminal activity, primarily focusing on violent crime. The unit collaborates with Federal agencies and other units such as Detectives, gang intelligence, and SWAT in investigations and operations. PACE also assists in dignitary protection.

PACE 2023 Production

Performance Measures	Total
Crime Stoppers Tips Investigated	70
Search Warrants	44
Arrests	238
Arrest Warrants Served	375
Special Assignments/Assist Other	51
Stolen Autos Recovered	14
Firearms Recovered	65
Traffic Stops	129
Gang Cards Completed	0



# MOTORCYCLE SQUAD (MOTORS)

The primary goal of the Motorcycle Squad (MOTORS) is to reduce traffic crashes and increase compliance with traffic laws. MOTORS is tasked with high visibility enforcement of traffic laws in the areas where crashes most occur. Additionally, the squad deploys according to community complaints, school zones and other high-risk thoroughfares. The motorcycle squad has 1 supervisor, 4 Corporals, and 4 Patrolmen.

The department was the recipient of a \$54,965.00 CMV STEP grant from the State of Texas which ran from 10/1/22-9/30/2023. This grant was for the enforcement of commercial motor vehicles travelling both on Interstate 27 and Interstate 40.

This department was also the recipient of a \$160,999.00 grant from the Texas Department of Transportation for the enforcement of DWI, Speeding, Distracted Driving, and Safety Restraint laws this year. That grant was called the Comprehensive Traffic STEP Grant.

## Production Stats for MOTORS

Traffic Citations/Warnings	17,880
Traffic Stops	13,140
Total Arrests Made	227
DWI Arrests	11

## Commercial Vehicle Stats

Speeding Citations Issued	237
Disracted Driving	1
Other Citations Issued	9
Warnings Issued	652

## Production Stats from Comprehensive Traffic STEP Grant Enforcement

DWI Arrests Made	35
DWI Minor Arrests Made	1
All Other Arrests Made	84
Warrants Served	193
Speeding Citations Issued	1,849
Seatbelt Citations Issued	1,121
Distracted Driving	83
Other Citations Issued	1,329
Intersection Traffic Control	157
Warnings Issued	4,206



# Community Engagement

The Community Engagement segment was created in 2022 to focus on community-based solutions to crime and quality of life issues. Lt. Kevin Korinek leads Community Engagement, which comprises the Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) unit, the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and the Gang Intelligence Team.

## NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE OFFICER (NPO) UNIT

The mission of the NPO Unit is to promote positive police relationships with the community, designed to reduce crime and improve the overall quality of life of the people who live and work here. This philosophy creates a partnership used to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder and fear of crime, while encouraging the community to determine its own needs through the exchange of ideas and problem-solving techniques. In essence, customer service and developing trust is one of the NPO Unit's top priorities. The NPO Unit is currently assigned to 6 small neighborhood zones and 1 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 there. The officers are asked to take calls for service in their zones which helps the officers understand problems and contributes to reducing response times to calls for service. The officers are highly pro-active in police work and community engagement.



The NPO Unit has been split up and is now 2 units, NPO Days and NPO Nights. NPO Days is comprised of 8 officers and 1 Sergeant. NPO Nights is comprised of 4 officers and 1 Sergeant. The current strength of the Days unit is 5 Officers, 3 Corporals and 1 Sergeant. The current strength of the Nights unit is 4 officers and 1 Sergeant. The Units are currently led by Sgt. Wesley Brown (Days) and Sgt. Clay Hegwood (Nights). Every NPO neighborhood has 2 officers assigned to it.



In 2023, the NPO Unit attended many events in their communities. These were done with tremendous teamwork and partnership with the community. The NPO Unit also attended events including but not limited to: Juneteenth Celebration in Bones Hooks Park, the Blue Santa Toy Drive, Cops for CASA, the Sun Adventure bike ride to the Amarillo Children's Home, assisting with the Explorer's Program, Boo at the Zoo, Snack Pack 4 kids, and many others. The NPO Unit also spearheaded the efforts to address the growing gang problem in their assigned neighborhoods.

## NPO Offices:

- North Heights Office - Inside the Charles Warford Activity Center, 1330 NW 18th Ave.
- San Jacinto Office – Inside the Heal the City facility, 609 S. Carolina St.
- East (Barrio) Office – Inside the Wesley Community Center, 1615 S. Roberts St.
- Downtown Office – Inside Happy State Bank garage, 200 SE 8th Ave.
- Eastridge Office – Two locations
  - » Inside Eastridge Baptist Church, 1300 Evergreen St.
  - » Inside Bethesda Outreach Ministries, 1101 Fritch Hwy

## CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CIT)

The CIT Unit of the Amarillo Police Department partners with several agencies and organizations, including Texas Panhandle Centers, and the Panhandle Behavioral Health Alliance, to improve the quality of mental healthcare available to those in need of mental health resources. APD CIT officers provide the majority of the mental health training for the department. CIT is directly involved in training academy recruits and providing in-house training to APD officers during in-service and periodic muster training to the Patrol Division. The Amarillo Police Department is well known through the region as an authority on CIT, and outside agencies often consult our CIT to provide training and guidance. APD is also partnered with the State Association of Crisis Intervention Teams, which afford resources and training opportunities in crisis intervention.



The partnership between CIT and Family Support Services LOSS (Local Outreach for Survivors of Suicide) Team continues to progress and expand. This group of volunteers seeks to contact family and/or friends connected to a completed suicide in our community and provide them aftercare and resources following these traumatic events. APD field supervisors have been instructed on how to contact LOSS in the event of a completed suicide within the city.

CIT continues its partnership in the Intercept Program. Intercept is a collaborative effort between APD and Texas Panhandle Centers (TPC), working through a grant from House Bill 13 that places a mental health professional in the field alongside a CIT officer. Through Intercept, citizens in need of mental health resources have real time access to follow-up appointments with TPC as well as access to prescription medication, telehealth, and counseling. In 2023, two TPC professionals were added to the Intercept Program bringing the total count to three. In 2023, the five full-time CIT officers answered over 1900 calls for service as the primary officer. CIT officers are responsible for taking the initial report and the ongoing tracking of the case. This, along with the follow-up investigations help prevent and mitigate future crises and ensure opportunity for further treatment. CIT officers conducted follow-up on a majority of the 1497 mental health related cases generated by the department during 2023. The team also has four alternate CIT members in the Patrol Division and one in CID (School Resource Unit).

## **GANG INTELLIGENCE TEAM**

The Gang Intelligence team is an ad-hoc group of officers that assemble and coordinate intelligence on criminal gangs in the Amarillo area. The unit works with other local and state agencies to address gang related crime through targeted operations. These operations focus on violent crime and drug crimes and utilize the expertise of officers from various units in the department.

During the year 2023, the Gang Intelligence Unit played a crucial role in facilitating quarterly Anti-Gang Operations. These operations involved various divisions and units within the Amarillo Police Department (APD), including the Patrol Division, Criminal Investigations Division with its Violent Crimes Unit, Crime Scene Investigations Unit, Domestic Violence Unit, Juvenile Unit, School Resource Officers, and the Special Operations Division, which includes PACE, NPO, SWAT, and Task Force Officer Units. The Intelligence and Analysis Unit also played a vital role in supporting these operations. Collaboration extended beyond the APD to include the Texas Department of Public Safety Criminal Investigations Division and the Highway Patrol Division, with officers mobilized from each division to support the efforts. Over sixty officers from agencies such as the Texas Department of Public Safety, Amarillo Police Department, Potter County Sheriff's Office, Randall County Sheriff's Office, and Lubbock County's TAG Unit participated in certain operations.

Throughout 2023, the Gang Intelligence Unit conducted four major Anti-Gang Operations and entered 165 gang cards for identified gang members, resulting in a comprehensive count of 324 individuals affiliated with gangs in Amarillo.

## ***Dive Team***

The Amarillo Dive Team recovers drowning victims and responds to related investigations, underwater crime scene investigation, evidence recovery, water-related accidents and underwater hazards. The Dive Team has PADI certified instructors, a maintenance officer and several PADI certified divers. The team averages five callouts per year and trains monthly.

In June of 2023 the City of Amarillo and surrounding area received record rainfall and experienced significant flooding in several areas of the city. The Amarillo Dive Team played a significant role in rescuing citizens from flooded areas. The Dive Team received recognition for the team's contributions and several members were awarded lifesaving awards.

# ***Criminal Investigation Division***



**Captain Elizabeth Brown**  
Division Commander

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 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.

AMARILLO POLICE

# Homicide Unit

The Lt. James Clements supervises the Homicide Unit, Cold Case Unit, Crime Scene Investigation Unit, Forensic Media Lab, and the NIBIN program. The Homicide Unit consist of five Investigators, one Cold Case Investigator, one Crime Scene Supervisor, nine Crime Scene Investigators, three Forensic Media Lab Techs, one NIBIN Tech, and one Administrative Assistant.

In 2022, the Homicide Unit established a cold case unit that is now directly involved in investigating all past open homicide cases. The clearance rate for the APD Homicide Unit in 2023 was 88%.

The Homicide Unit investigates all death cases including, but not limited to, homicides, suicides, sudden deaths, fire deaths, fatal overdoses, and infant deaths. The Homicide Unit also investigates all officer-involved shootings.

The unit investigated 16 criminal homicides and 2 justifiable homicides for the year. There was a total of three officer involved shootings in 2023 that were all justified and no billed. Homicide investigators were assigned a total of 408 death cases in 2023.

## CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION UNIT

The CSIU responded to 163 major incident callouts that occurred after normal business hours with over 1,250 hours of combined scene investigation time. The unit specializes in documentation and collection of evidence on major crime scenes. This includes photographs, video, scans, and lifting fingerprints.

The unit also processes evidence booked by officers for fingerprints when requested by an investigator. CSIU compares prints and enters them into the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). If a fingerprint match is made, the CSIU will notify the investigator of the lead. CSIU entered over 631 latent fingerprints into the state AFIS / SPEX system with 127 hits for fingerprint matches.

## FORENSIC MEDIA LAB

The duties of the Forensic Media Lab include retrieving video evidence obtained from business security systems, homes, and personal devices and converting the video to a usable format for investigation and prosecution. They also download phones and perform computer forensic analysis for the entire Criminal Investigation Division and assists outside agencies if requested.

Over 1,360 media devices were analyzed by the Media Lab. The Forensic Media Lab was called out 23 times after hours for specialized forensic media downloads and investigation assistance.

## NATIONAL INTEGRATED BALLISTICS INFORMATION NETWORK

The Amarillo Police Department continues to utilize the NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistics Information Network) system to analyze all ballistic evidence recovered at crime scenes. The NIBIN program has been very successful, resulting in dozens of connections being made on different cases. 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 1519 acquisitions in 2023. NIBIN techs test-fired 954 weapons booked as evidence which led to 470 leads for detectives to investigate.



# ***Special Victims Unit***

The Special Victims Unit (SVU) is supervised by Lt. David Hagler. There are ten (10) Sergeant Detectives, one (1) Officer Detective, and one (1) Civilian Investigator. The Officer Detective investigates all child pornography tips obtained from ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children). 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. Hagler is the Amber Alert program coordinator for Amarillo and the surrounding areas.

In 2023, the SVU investigated over 1,829 cases. This includes approximately 547 cases involving Crimes against Children, 197 adult sexual assault cases, 113 Sex Offender/ Fail to Register cases, 133 Missing Endangered Persons cases, and 239 Interference w/ Child Custody cases. SVU also received and investigated over 278 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 the United States Marshals Service, Probation and Parole, the compliance check was conducted from August 21st thru August 25th, 2023. All 685 Registered Sex Offenders in Amarillo were checked for compliance. Additionally, SVU conducted proactive online solicitation stings resulting in several arrests for online solicitation of a minor. These coordinated operations will continue in 2024.

# ***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 10 Detective Sergeants.

In 2023, VCU Detectives responded to 84 call outs to investigate assorted aggravated assaults, robberies, and assist with several homicides. 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 Department of Public Safety, the United States Marshals Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the APD Intelligence Analysis Unit (IAU). This collaborative effort is further enhanced by the department's participation in Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN). PSN 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. VCU has been a part of 3 operations to press the fight on our gun crimes suspects. These operations are targeting individuals that have been identified through NIBIN and incident reports as suspects that pose a danger to the city.

VCU detectives have assisted DVU detectives in writing several search warrants, looking for kidnapping suspects, and helping with gang affiliated domestic violence suspects. DVU has also responded to

quite a few incidents to assist VCU detectives on Aggravated Assaults and Robberies.

During 2023, the VCU was assigned 2,732 cases with 714 cleared by arrest. The unit also submitted 321 cases for review to prosecutors. The number of cleared by arrest cases does not include cases sent to Municipal Court. The detectives average 280 cases each.

## **Domestic Violence Unit**

The Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) is supervised by Lt. Warren Gross. The Domestic Violence Unit investigates all cases of domestic violence in the city to include aggravated assaults, kidnappings, assaults with bodily injury, stalking, and harassment cases involving family members, boyfriend-girlfriend, and roommates.

The Domestic Violence Unit consists of 2 Detective Sergeants. The Sergeants supervise a squad each of 3 or 4 detectives and 1 civilian investigator respectively.

In 2023, DVU Detectives responded to 11 call outs to investigate assorted domestic violence activities. DVU in the last year identified 10 high risk stalking cases and are tracking the offenders and dispositions of those cases.

The DVU works with other units within the department and outside the department to help investigate these crimes. The DVU is part of the local Domestic Violence Council. The council consist of both District Attorney's Offices, the Potter County Attorney's Office, West Texas Legal Aid, Family Support Services, PCSO, RCSO, and Canyon PD. DVU has assisted with Domestic Violence Council's Faith Summit, Domestic Violence walk for Victims, and Angel Tree services in both counties.

During 2023, the DVU was assigned 2,999 cases with 422 cleared by arrest. The unit also submitted an additional 516 cases for review to prosecutors. The number of cleared by arrest cases does not include cases sent to Municipal Court. The detectives average 326 cases each. The civilian investigator was assigned 512 cases.

## **General Investigations Unit**

Lt. Shannon Kuster supervises the General Investigations Unit. General Investigations consists of the Juvenile Offender Squad, School Resource Officers, and the Traffic Investigation Squad.

### **JUVENILE OFFENDER SQUAD**

The Juvenile Offender Unit is responsible for investigating runaway cases and all other cases with suspects that are under the age of 17 years and older than 10 years. Investigators in the Juvenile Offender Unit investigated 1,718 cases in 2023. This is a 6% decrease from 2022 (1,829 cases). A gang investigator position was created to specifically investigate gang activity related to juvenile incidents. Additionally, the Juvenile Offender Unit, working with the School Resource Officers, focuses on reducing underage drinking in Amarillo. Investigators use Student Crime Stoppers tips, social media, and school resource officer information to identify locations where juveniles are purchasing or drinking alcohol. Officers educate minors on the dangers of alcohol and

#### **Social Host Liability Initiative**

Minor in Possession	32
Party Calls/Tips	2
Drug Paraphernalia	4
Offense Reports	14
Traffic Contacts	91
City Arrests	6
County Arrests	1
Felony Arrests	1
Misdemeanor Citations	9

take enforcement action when minors are identified to be drinking or in possession of alcohol. Investigators also enforce the Social Host Liability Ordinance, which holds property owners, managers, and party hosts civilly liable for the costs associated with police and fire response to underage drinking incidents. The goal of this project is to reduce underage drinking in Amarillo and prevent the associated tragedies that can occur as a result.

## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The School Resource Unit places officers in the school environment to provide safety for students and promote public relations. The officers work with youth to deter delinquent behavior and provide education. There are two supervisors and 18 officers assigned to AISD and CISD. The school districts fund approximately 75% of the salaries and vehicles for this program.

During the summer, the School Resource Officers host the APD Lisa Cherry Summer Camp. This program introduces sixth and seventh grade youths to the Police Department and the officers spend the week with the children doing various police and civic activities. Students are recruited by teachers and School Resource Officers.

**School Resource Officer Activity 2023**

Complaints Investigated	17,489
School Presentations	127
Firearms Seized	4
Other Weapons Seized	59
Marijuana Cases	91
Narcotics Paraphernalia	143
Narcotics Cases	169
Felony Arrests	26
Misdemeanor Arrests	14
County Arrests	60
Misdemeanor Citations	219

## TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION UNIT

The Traffic Investigation Unit is responsible for investigating fatal/near-fatal crashes, DWIs, hit-and-run accidents with 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. Investigated 2,148 cases in 2023, including 509 DWI and 31 fatalities. The Traffic Investigation Unit had 76 call outs, 12 of which were CSI assists. The Traffic Investigation Unit hosted two Race-a-Cop events at the Amarillo Dragway in June and September of 2023 to help discourage racing on the city streets and reduce the number of racing fatalities in Amarillo. Over 2,300 people attended and there were 270 registered racers who were able to race in a safe environment.

## *Property Crimes Unit*

The Property Crimes Unit is supervised by Lt. Stan Rickwartz. The unit consists of the Burglary Squad with one sergeant and three investigators, the Theft Squad with one sergeant and three investigators, the Financial Crimes Squad with one sergeant and three investigators, and one civilian investigator, and Civilian Investigator Squad consisting of three civilian investigators.

From January 2023 to August 31, 2023, the Amarillo Police Department was a member of the Panhandle Auto Burglary and Theft Unit (PABTU) with three detectives assigned to that unit. After September 1, 2023, the Amarillo Police Department withdrew from PABTU, and these three positions were reassigned within the department along with the stolen auto cases.

From January 1, 2023, to August 31, 2023, PABTU investigated 461 motor vehicle theft cases. When the Amarillo Police Department took over investigatory responsibilities for motor vehicle theft, the Theft Squad investigated 261 reported motor vehicle thefts. There were 722 reported motor vehicle thefts to the Amarillo Police Department in 2023, a decrease of 27.51% from the 996 reported in 2022.

## **BURGLARY SQUAD**

The Burglary Squad investigates burglary of a habitation, burglary of a building, and criminal trespass cases. Since September 1, 2023, the burglary squad has been conducting investigations of stolen autos, trailers, farm and construction equipment, ATV and other types of recreational vehicles stolen during a burglary. The Burglary Squad investigated 1,493 cases in 2023, a decrease of 6.69% from the 1,600 investigated in 2022.

## **THEFT SQUAD**

The Theft Squad investigates larceny theft, burglary of coin operated machines, criminal mischief (vandalism), burglary of motor vehicles. Since September 1, 2023, the theft squad has been conducting investigations of unauthorized use of motor vehicles, thefts involving trailers, farm and construction equipment, ATV, and other types of recreational vehicles, and hindering secured creditors. The Theft Squad investigated 2,789 cases in 2023, an increase of 29.84% from 2022 (2,148).

## **FINANCIAL CRIMES SQUAD**

The Financial Crimes Squad investigates a myriad of money related crimes. These crimes include forgeries involving U.S. currency, business and 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. Since September 1, 2023, the financial crimes squad has been responsible for investigating frauds associated with vehicle title, insurance, and registration. The financial crimes squad investigated 1,798 cases in 2023, which is a decrease of 4.56% from 2022 (1,880).

## **CIVILIAN INVESTIGATORS**

There are three Civilian Investigators assigned to the Property Crimes 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 7,759 cases in 2023, which is an increase from 2022 (7,067 cases) of 9.79%.

## ***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 to a specific location in the evidence storage area, maintains a proper chain of custody.

The warehouse is under complete updating addressing safety, increasing staffing, and improving efficiency. Noteworthy accomplishments in 2023 include approximately 31,000 pounds of trash removed to the landfill, 178 items sent to auction, and 26,000 items destroyed. The Property and Evidence Unit partners with Texas Tech for a bi-annual medication cleanout. In 2023, they served 794 cars and 3,272 pounds of medication was collected and ultimately destroyed.

# ***Training and Personnel Division***



**Captain Louis Sanchez**  
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
- 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 2023 Training and Personnel sworn staff consists of one Captain, one training Sergeant, one academy Sergeant, two recruiters, two background investigators, and one Range Master Sergeant. The civilian staff includes the Compliance Coordinator, four Administrative Assistants, two part-time civilian background investigators, one full-time range officer, nine part-time range officers, and one part-time Grants Manager. All academy recruits are also assigned to Training and Personnel.

# Police Staffing and Attrition

As of December 31, 2023, the total authorized strength was 380 police officers. Four new officer positions were authorized by the City Council in 2023. This includes 1 Chief, 2 Assistant Chiefs, 4 Captains, 16 Lieutenants, 72 Sergeants, 80 Corporals, and 205 Officers. At the end of 2023, there were a total of 363 officers assigned to the Amarillo Police Department, 17 below authorized strength. The 10 recruits currently in the 102nd session of the Academy are included in the total strength of 363 officers.

In 2023, 5 officers retired, 9 officers resigned, and 12 recruits resigned.

## 100<sup>TH</sup> AMARILLO POLICE ACADEMY

The 100th Amarillo Police Academy began in December 2022 with 18 recruits. 15 of those recruits are Amarillo Police Recruits, 2 are Potter County Sheriff's Office recruits and 1 is a recruit with Randall County Sheriff's Office. This Academy graduated on July 21, 2023, graduating 9 APD recruits, 2 Potter County Sheriff's Office recruits, and 1 Randall County Sheriff's Office recruit.

	Applications		Tested	Passed Exam	Passed Physical Readiness
	100th "A" Civil Service Entrance Exam 06/25/2022	100th "B" Civil Service Entrance Exam 09/10/2022			
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>28</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>108</b>		<b>56</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>White</b>					
<b>Female</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>65</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Black</b>					
<b>Female</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Hispanic</b>					
<b>Female</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>A/PI</b>					
<b>Female</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>AI/AN</b>					
<b>Female</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Other</b>					
<b>Female</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

# 101<sup>ST</sup> AMARILLO POLICE ACADEMY

The 101<sup>st</sup> Amarillo Police Academy began on May 11th, 2023 with 11 recruits. All 11 of those recruits were Amarillo Police Recruits. This Academy graduated December 21st, 2023 with 6 of the original 11 recruits and 1 out-of-state lateral recruit.

	Applications		Tested	Passed Exam	Passed Physical Readiness
	101st "A" Civil Service Entrance Exam December 2022	101st "B" Civil Service Entrance Exam February 2023			
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>56</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>85</b>		<b>52</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>31</b>
<b><u>White</u></b>					
<b>Female</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>64</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>
<b><u>Black</u></b>					
<b>Female</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b><u>Hispanic</u></b>					
<b>Female</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>33</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>
<b><u>A/PI</u></b>					
<b>Female</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b><u>AI/AN</u></b>					
<b>Female</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>Other</u></b>					
<b>Female</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

# 102<sup>ND</sup> AMARILLO POLICE ACADEMY

The 102<sup>nd</sup> Amarillo Police Academy began in December 2023 with 12 recruits. 11 of those recruits are Amarillo Police Recruits and 1 is a Potter County Sheriff's Office recruit. This Academy is set to graduate in the Summer of 2024.

	Applications		Tested	Passed Exam	Passed Physical Readiness
	102nd "A" Civil Service Entrance Exam May 2023	102nd "B" Civil Service Entrance Exam August 2023			
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>75</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>45</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>134</b>		<b>62</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>44</b>
<b><u>White</u></b>					
<b>Female</b>	<b>25</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>79</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>29</b>
<b><u>Black</u></b>					
<b>Female</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b><u>Hispanic</u></b>					
<b>Female</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>
<b><u>A/PI</u></b>					
<b>Female</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b><u>AI/AN</u></b>					
<b>Female</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>Other</u></b>					
<b>Female</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## AMARILLO SHOOTING COMPLEX

The Amarillo Shooting Complex is open to the public from Thursday through Sunday. The complex is reserved for law enforcement Monday through Wednesday. During 2023, the complex hosted the following formal training: two Amarillo Police Academy 40-hour firearms schools, 2 40-hour APD Rifle Schools, a 40-hour Rifle Instructor School, an 8-hour patrol rifle training, a 16-hour active shooter training, and two in-service firearms qualification/training days for the department. The shooting complex is also utilized by the SWAT team every Monday for four hours of training, and an additional 16 hours per month for training for the SWAT team and all SWAT alternates. Rangemaster, Sgt. Woodard helped train several classes for outside agencies in 2023; however, 10 outside agencies utilized the Shooting Complex for firearms instruction and simulation training during the year.

Agencies that utilize the Shooting Complex include RCSO, PCSO, DPS, Fire Marshall's Office, the Department of Defense, Lubbock County SO, Bell helicopter security force, Potter County DA's office, Game Wardens, Department of Energy, WTAMU Police, and other agencies. Over 500 officers from outside agencies continue to train and attend schools at the Amarillo Shooting Complex each year. In 2023, the Shooting Complex saw 2286 customers from the public.

## PHYSICAL READINESS TESTING

The Amarillo Police Department has been utilizing a physical readiness test for its officers since 2017. An officer must score above the 50% percentile each year to pass. This program is an incentive-based program and is done during in-service training. Since the readiness test's inception, the department has seen an increase in the physical readiness scores of its officers, each year, with the average score in 2023 being the highest it's ever been.



## TRAINING

In the spring of each year, all members of the Amarillo Police Department attend some type of force-on-force training or similar scenario-based training. Starting in February 2023, the department began its participation in a two-day active shooter school (ALERTT). This course was ongoing, as it takes weeks to get all officers through the training.

For the recurring annual In-Service training, which began in September 2023 and lasted until December 2023, the department put over 95% of the officers through a 20-hour training, which included the following classes: Legislative Update, Self-Aid Buddy Aid, Crowd Control, Defensive Tactics, and Gang Information. Officers have ongoing online City Core Compliance training, which includes Diversity, Ethics, Sexual Harassment, and ADA/FMLA training.

The Amarillo Police Department strives for excellence in training and staying up to date with all mandated classes so the employees of the department can provide the most effective service to the community it serves.

## RECRUITING

In 2023, the department utilized multiple mediums in our recruitment effort, including, social media, radio, signage, and in-person recruitment.

The recruitment team is made up of officers from different units within the department, with a majority

being uniformed officers. In late 2022, the department began looking beyond the traditional recruitment team and started increasing the recruitment team, to bring in different perspectives and experiences. In 2023, the number of civilians applying has increased because of this new perspective on recruitment. The department also restructured its recruitment to include two personnel taking on more responsibility as recruiters.

## **TEXAS POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION (TPCAF) BEST PRACTICES ACCREDITATION**

The TPCAF Best Practices Accreditation Program is administered through the Office of Compliance Coordinator at the Amarillo Police Department. The program requires compliance with 173 best practices standards. In August, the Annual Report was submitted and accepted by the TPCAF. The Amarillo Police Department was commended by the TPCAF for an excellent annual report.

Michael Shelton serves as the Compliance Coordinator and serves in a research capacity to keep the department aware of contemporary issues. Training is a major component of accreditation with the recognition program. The Amarillo Police Department remains dedicated to this training aspect to not only remain accredited and stay up to date with Texas best practices, but also to provide our staff with the training needed to successfully serve the community of Amarillo.



## **CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY**

The Amarillo Police Department conducted the two sessions of the Citizen's Police Academy in 2023. The 30th session ran from February to May and consisted of 31 members of the community. The 31st session ran from August to November and consisted of 32 members of the community. During the academy, the members are given a realistic overview of the workings of the Amarillo Police Department. This also includes hands-on participation, demonstration, and aspects of transparency in how the department conducts business. The goal of the Citizen and Student Police Academy is to help the citizens of Amarillo understand how the police department works and how officers perform their jobs in the community. It is hoped that all graduates of the Citizen Police Academy will get to know more about the men and women who are protecting their community and why they make the decisions they do while performing that duty. Community-oriented policing plays an important and vital role in reducing crime in Amarillo, and the Citizen Police Academy is a part of our community policing strategy.

# ***Records Division***



**Tammy Peavey**  
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 services to the public. Records is comprised of four units; Front Counter, Data Entry, Open Records, and Validation Units, with a total of 24 full time civilian employees and 2 part-time civilian employees. 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.

**AMARILLO POLICE**

# ***Records Division Units***

## **THE FRONT COUNTER UNIT**

The Front Counter Unit is staffed by seven full time civilians, one part-time civilian, and one supervisor. The four 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 2023, the report writers made a total of 7,132 reports, 26% of all the reports made with the department. The primary responsibility of the four Administrative Assistants is customer service, to include answering phones, scanning paperwork, issuing solicitor permits, and assisting citizens, officers, and other entities.

## **THE DATA ENTRY UNIT**

The Data Entry Unit is staffed by five full time civilians and one supervisor. The unit is responsible for walk-in customer service, criminal history/background checks, verifying arrest data, and publishing the public release information on the Police Department website. The unit verified arrest data for 6,320 arrests in 2022.

## **THE VALIDATION UNIT**

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 8,162 items in 2023.

## **THE OPEN RECORDS UNIT**

The Open Records Unit is staffed by three full time civilians, one part-time civilian, 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 4,092 record requests and 44 court subpoenas for 2023.

# ***Police Exploring Program***

The Amarillo Police Department hosts a law enforcement exploring program known as Amarillo Police Exploring Post 5507. The mission of the post is to develop life skills for youths in Amarillo, with a focus on leadership and public service in law enforcement. This program is guided by the principles of the Exploring organization. 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. 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 raise 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.

In 2023, the Explorers have completed three competitions, where two of them they placed in various events. Each summer the post host a Summer Academy to recruit more young adults interested in a career in law enforcement.



## ***Civilian Employee of the Year***



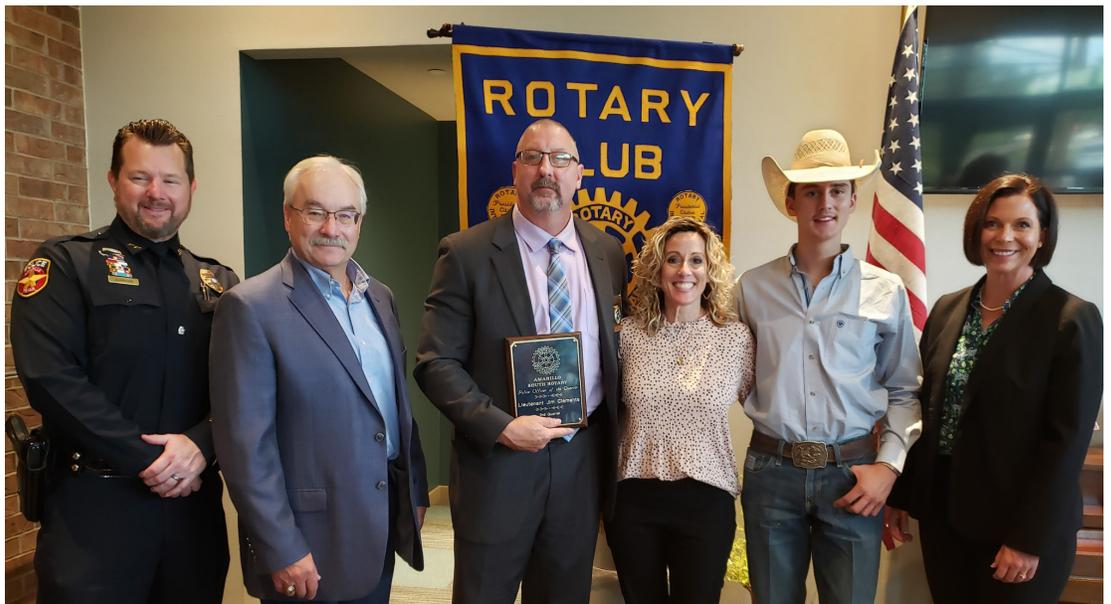
***Congratulations Haley Hernandez***

# Amarillo South Rotary – Officers of the Quarter

1st Quarter – Cpl. Ricky Taylor



2nd Quarter – Lt. Jim Clements



# Amarillo South Rotary – Officers of the Quarter

3rd Quarter – Sgt. Shea Lichtie



4th Quarter – Officer Zach Cremers



# ***Amarillo South Rotary – Officer of the Year***

The Amarillo South Rotary Club recognized Sergeant Shea Lichtie as the Amarillo Police Department's 2023 Police Officer of the Year. He was joined by his wife Kristi, his parents Renee and Terry Lichtie, and past and present leadership of the Amarillo Police Department.



***Congratulations Sergeant Shea Lichtie***

AMARILLO POLICE

# ***American Legion – Officer of the Year***

The American Legion Hanson Post 54 awarded Sergeant Casey Ogden as the Amarillo Police Department's 2023 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, in recognition of Sgt. Ogden's dedication and hard work in serving and protecting the community.



***Congratulations Sergeant Casey Ogden***

POLICE DEPARTMENT



***WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE PUBLIC FOR THEIR UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR FIRST RESPONDERS, INCLUDING THE PAST 110 YEARS OF THE AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT.***

