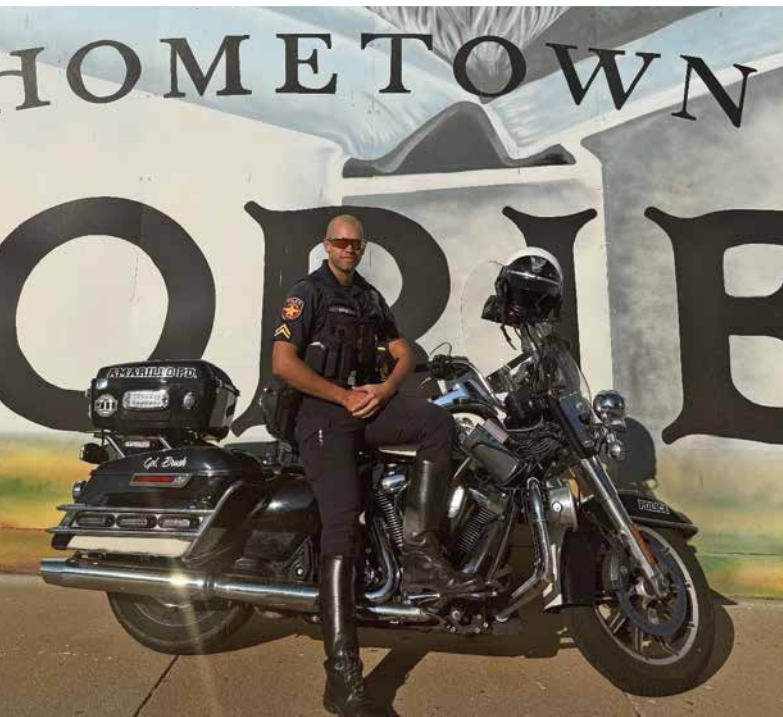


# AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## ANNUAL REPORT



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## KEY PIECES OF ADVICE FOR SUCCESSFULLY PURSUING A CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

**1. Educate Yourself:** Start by gaining a strong educational foundation. While a college degree isn't always required, many agencies prefer candidates with a degree in criminal justice, psychology, or a related field. The more knowledge you have about the law, human behavior, and the justice system, the better.

**2. Stay Physically Fit:** Law enforcement is a physically demanding career. Regular physical fitness is critical for performing duties such as foot patrols, pursuits, and managing physically, challenging situations. Focus on building strength, endurance, and agility.

**3. Develop Strong Communication Skills:** Whether you're de-escalating a tense situation, writing reports, or interacting with the public, effective communication is key. Good listening, empathy, and clear verbal and written skills will set you apart.

**4. Build Emotional Resilience:** Policing can be emotionally and mentally challenging. It's important to develop emotional resilience and learn healthy ways to manage stress. Building a strong support system of family, friends, and colleagues is also helpful.

**5. Get Experience:** Consider starting with a position as a police explorer, dispatcher, or volunteer with community organizations.

## KEY PIECES OF ADVICE FOR SUCCESSFULLY PURSUING A CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

**6. Understand the Ethical and Legal Responsibilities:** Law enforcement officers carry a significant amount of responsibility, and ethical conduct is critical. Understand the laws, human rights, and the consequences of your actions, as you'll be held to high standards.

**7. Prepare for the Academy:** The police academy is rigorous and challenging. Be ready for physical training, classroom learning, and scenario-based simulations. Take time to study, train, and mentally prepare for the academy.

**8. Stay Informed:** Law enforcement is an evolving field. Stay up to date on new techniques, technology, laws, and community policing trends. Continuous learning is key in keeping up with the demands of the profession.

**9. Have a Strong Sense of Integrity:** As a law enforcement officer, you will be entrusted with upholding the law and serving your community. It's essential to have a strong moral compass, make ethical decisions, and hold yourself accountable for your actions.

***Lastly, remember that a career in law enforcement is about serving the community and making a positive impact. It's not just a job, but a calling to protect and help others.***



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## 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 the 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 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

The Amarillo Police Department provides the following Core Values:

**HONOR** – We commit to fulfill our duties in a manner that reflects professional and personal pride, with respect to the dignity of all.

**TRUTH** – We commit to being truthful in all matters and transparent in our manner of conducting business.

**INTEGRITY** – We conduct ourselves in a manner that is consistent with the highest standards of the community.

**SERVICE** – Our service to the community is guided by a strong sense of fairness and righteousness.

**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 the responsibility of public servants. We act as leaders within our community by setting a good example and taking the initiative to solve problems and improve the quality of life in Amarillo.

To Mayor Cole Stanley, City Council, and the Citizens of Amarillo, Texas,

I present to you the 2024 Annual Report of the Amarillo Police Department. This report is a summary of the activities, organization, and condition of the department. 2024 was a successful and productive year for the department. The number of crimes reported in Amarillo dropped more than 11 % from the previous year. Violent crime, especially shootings, continued to be a focus for targeted enforcement. The Specialized Operations Division reorganized their work on gang intervention and successfully orchestrated several anti-gang and anti-gun violence operations. The Homicide unit investigated 17 murders and have solved all but two as of this publication.



Construction of the 5th floor began and was completed in 2024. The 5th floor of the police building was the last remaining unused floor. The floor is being used for additional classroom and meeting space as well as the home of the Amarillo Regional Crime Center (ARCC).

The ARCC is a hub for real-time crime information, digital evidence collection, and crime analysis for Amarillo. As the ARCC matures, it is intended to serve Potter and Randall counties and surrounding areas as needed to help solve crimes and improve crime prevention. The ARCC features live video feeds, real-time license plate reader information, unmanned aerial vehicles, and data integration tools for criminal intelligence.

Police staffing decreased in 2024 due to a significant drop in police applicants in the last two years. There was also an increase in the number of retirements and resignations over the previous year. City Council and city management worked closely with the department and the Amarillo Police Officers Association to address recruitment and retention in the 2024 Meet and Confer Agreement. This resulted in a 16% increase in starting pay for officers, and significant raises for all police officers. The department also refocused marketing and recruiting strategies. These efforts resulted in a 100% increase in applications for the December 2024 testing cycle. I want to thank the Council, city management, and the wonderful residents of Amarillo for supporting the police officers and professional staff who work hard to keep our city safe and bring offenders to justice. I am happy to showcase their hard work and the results that help our city continue to be a safe place to live, work, and play.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jimmy Johnson'. The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'J' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jimmy Johnson

Interim Chief of Police



## Executive Leaders



Assistant Chief of Police  
Jimmy Johnson



Assistant Chief of Police  
Captain Joseph Loftus

## Division Commanders



Captain Erick Bohannon  
Patrol

Captain Aric Howard (not pictured)  
Criminal Investigations

Captain Clay Rolan (not pictured)  
Specialized Operations

## Records



Captain Louis Sanchez  
Training & Personnel



Wallecia Gibson  
Records

## **Chief of Police**

### **Assistant Chief of Police**

#### **Operations Bureau**

ARCC/Intelligence & Analysis

#### **Patrol Division**

AECC/Digital Forensics

Honor Guard

K-9

FTO

#### **Specialized Operations Division**

##### ***Covert Tactical***

SWAT

Bomb

Narcotics

TFO

Crisis Negotiation Team

##### ***Directed Operations***

PACE

Motors

##### ***Community Engagement***

CIT Program

NPO (2024)

##### ***Dive Team***

#### **Training and Personnel**

Police Academy

Shooting Complex

Recruiting

Background Investigation

Training Coordinator

Texas Police Chiefs

Association Foundation (TPCAF)

Best Practices Accreditation

Citizens Police Academy

#### **Records Division**

Front Counter Unit

Data Entry Unit

Validation Unit

Open Records Unit

#### **Police Exploring Program**

## **Chief of Police**

### **Assistant Chief of Police**

#### **Investigation and Staff Services Bureau**

Administration

Budgeting and Staffing

PIO

Internal Affairs

Fleet

Project Safe Neighborhoods

#### **Criminal Investigation Division**

##### ***Homicide***

CSIU

NIBIN

Cold Case Unit

##### ***SVU***

##### ***VCU***

##### ***DVU***

##### ***General Investigations Unit***

Juvenile Offender Squad

School Resource Officers

Traffic Investigation Unit

##### ***Property Crimes Unit***

Burglary Squad

Theft Squad

Financial Crimes Squad

Property

Civilian Investigation Squad

##### ***Property and Evidence Unit***

# TRANSPARENCY



# TRANSPARENCY

## Police Community Advisory Panel – The Citizen’s Voice to the Chief

The Amarillo Police Department is committed to maintaining trust and excellent communication with the citizens of the Amarillo community. The department abides by the pillars of procedural justice: fairness, voice, transparency, and impartiality. In furtherance of this philosophy, the Police Community Advisory Panel (CAP) is established to provide a forum for citizens to have a direct voice to the chief of police. The CAP will address public safety concerns to further enhance quality of life and safety in our community. The Department will provide a high level of cooperation and transparency so that all issues impacting the safety and the constitutional rights of Amarillo citizens are given the utmost attention.

### From the President of the Amarillo CAP

*"The Amarillo CAP is a dynamic group of men and women who are dedicated to providing a citizen perspective to the Chief of the Amarillo Police Department, and his 300 plus officers in an effort to ensure that the City of Amarillo is a safe place to live and visit."*

- Hobert "Gunny" Brown, Amarillo CAP President

### Purpose

The primary purpose of the CAP is to provide a forum regarding law enforcement practices within the community. The CAP is comprised of a diverse cross-section of community members who represent the citizens of the city of Amarillo. The imagination and input of all panel members drives the process and reflects holistic views that serve as catalysts for the integration of community viewpoints into police department planning and strategies.

The CAP will act as a resource for the Chief of Police in the formation of strategies, the development of community policing practices, the solicitation of customer feedback, and the enhancement of community trust.

The CAP will provide a forum for discussions about community concerns, leveraging the experience of persons both inside and outside of policing to benefit the department and the community. During a community crisis, the Chief of Police may enlist the help of the CAP to enhance timely and accurate communication between the department and the citizens of Amarillo.



## **Procedures**

### **I. Membership**

A. The membership of the panel will consist of seven (7) residents of Amarillo who represent the diversity of the community. Members will be from a wide variety of backgrounds, including business, education, non-profits, public relations, and the faith community.

B. In addition to the Chief of Police, the panel will include four (4) members of the police department who represent various levels of experience, diversity, and leadership.

### **II. Roles and Responsibilities**

A. Communicate with the chief of police regarding community needs, concerns, and community response to department programs, priorities, policies, and practices.

B. Educate the community at large about the function and role of the Amarillo Police Department.

C. Attend quarterly CAP meetings

1. The Chief of Police will provide a summary of significant crime and safety information, publicly available information about departmental issues, and plans for future programs or public policy changes.

2. The panel will discuss contemporary issues and emergent trends in law enforcement that affect the City of Amarillo.

3. The panel may make recommendations for the consideration of the Chief of Police.

### **III. Member Criteria**

A. Upon establishment and renewal of the panel, each city council member will provide the mayor with a list of five (5) names of Amarillo residents who would be good candidates for this panel. The mayor will select a total of five (5) members who will serve on the panel. The Chief of Police will also appoint two citizens from the community who will serve on the panel. At the end of the two-year term, a member may be selected to serve a consecutive term.

B. Members must be a resident of the city of Amarillo.

C. Members must have the characteristics of professionalism, integrity, and commitment to the Amarillo community, and have shown an interest civic involvement.

D. Panel members must be a graduate of the Amarillo Police Department Citizen's Police Academy or agree to and attend the next available session of the academy.

E. At least once per year, participate in ride-along shift with an Amarillo police officer, and report back to the panel on this experience.

#### **IV. Meetings**

A. The panel will select a Chairperson at the meeting in the first quarter of the year. The Chairperson will direct the business of the meeting in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, (12th ed). In the absence of the Chairperson, the Chief of Police will facilitate the meetings.

B. The Office Manager for the Chief of Police will serve as the recording secretary for the meeting. The Office Manager will:

1. Serve as the point of contact for the department and will issue meeting notices, agendas, and other information as directed by the Chief of Police.
2. Record the proceedings of the CAP meetings and send a copy to all panel members when completed.
3. Maintain all records related to the CAP.

#### **V. Member Terms**

A. Panelist will serve for two years.

B. A panel member may be removed from participation in the following conditions:

1. The Chief of Police and the city manager together may agree to remove members for cause prior to the end of their term.
2. In the case of those members who, without providing adequate notice and being excused by the Chief of Police, vacate their position by failing to attend two consecutive meetings.
3. In the event of circumstances which render a panel member unqualified to serve such as arrest, or termination of employment in the case of internal members.
4. In cases of misconduct or behavior that impairs the ability of the panel to effectively engage in the duties of the panel, a member may make the recommendation of the dismissal of another member, other than the Chief of Police. Upon this recommendation, a unanimous panel vote in favor of dismissal is required to remove the member.

# ADMINISTRATION



# ADMINISTRATION

The Administration section of the Amarillo Police Department is responsible for overseeing the planning, budgeting, and overall direction of the Amarillo Police Department's operations and staff. This division includes the Chief of Police, two Assistant Chiefs, administrative staff, the Public Information Office, Internal Affairs Investigations, and Fleet Management.



## Operations Bureau

Assistant Chief Jimmy Johnson oversees the Operations Bureau, which encompasses both the Patrol Division and the Specialized Operations Division. The Patrol Division delivers essential first responder services, utilizing marked vehicles and engaging in proactive patrols across all city neighborhoods. Meanwhile, the Specialized Operations Division focuses on specialized problem-solving, covert field investigations, and the management of specialized emergency response teams. Additionally, the Operations Chief is responsible for the Amarillo Regional Crime Center (ARCC) Intelligence and Analysis Unit, which plays a key role in supporting strategic policing efforts.

## Investigation And Staff Services Bureau

Assistant Chief Ken Funtek oversees areas of responsibility to include the Criminal Investigations Division, Property and Evidence Unit, Records Division, Training and Personnel Division to include the Police Academy, Fleet Management, Public Information Office and Internal Affairs.

## Budgeting and Staffing

The Amarillo Police Department had an operating budget of \$64,250,000.00 for fiscal year 2024-2025. 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](https://www.usdoj.gov))) which will provide up to \$500,000.00 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.

### COPS Year 2 (FY24-25) as of 12/31/24

	Year 2	1st Qtr.	Remaining
	Budget	Expense	Yr 2 Budget
City Share	166,667	57,164.74	109,502.26
Federal Share	175,000	60,022.86	114,977.14
Total	341,667	117,187.60	224,479.40

## Police Fleet Management

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 most of the patrol cars assigned to schools.



## Internal Affairs Office

It is the policy of this Department to thoroughly investigate all complaints, whether they are made against Department members or related to Department policies and procedures, regardless of the source. This policy includes a regulated, fair, and impartial Internal Affairs (IA) program responsible for determining the validity of such complaints. If warranted, the Department will take appropriate corrective action.

In addition, IA is tasked with producing quarterly and annual reports on Use of Force incidents, as well as an annual Pursuit Review report. IA is also responsible for investigating all officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths.



### 2024 Internal Affairs Statistics

Complaints from citizens and complaints from within the Department are investigated by the Internal Affairs Investigators. During 2024 there were:

**372** complaints investigated.

After investigation, **185** complaints were **Sustained**.

**177** complaints were **Exonerated or Unfounded**. **9** complaints were **Not Sustained**, and **1** complaint is **Pending** review. Each of the **185 Sustained** complaints resulted in disciplinary action of some type.

There were **5 Officer Involved Shooting** incidents involving a **total of 10 Officers**.

The actions by all Officers were found to be justified and resulted in no action taken by a Grand Jury.

There were **0 animal shootings** in 2024.

There were **0 in-custody deaths** in 2024.

There were **0 unintentional discharge of firearm** investigations for 2024.

There is **1 open investigation** for 2024 that is still being reviewed, and no finding or disciplinary action has been decided. Disciplinary action was taken on all sustained complaints. Such action includes verbal counseling, written reprimands, suspensions, and terminations.

Northern District of Texas

# ProjectSafe Neighborhoods



## Project Safe Neighborhoods

The PSN Target Enforcement Area (TEA) saw a 9% reduction in violent crime in 2024, slightly lower than the 10% reduction citywide.

Non-family aggravated assaults made up a higher percentage of violent crimes in the PSN TEA (55%) compared to the remainder of Amarillo (48%), while family aggravated assaults were a smaller portion in the TEA (18%) compared to the citywide figure (26%).

Monthly trends revealed increases in violent crime in the first half of 2024, with more significant reductions observed in the second half of the year in the TEA.

Sundays saw the highest violent crime volumes in both the PSN TEA and the remainder of Amarillo, but with a more pronounced peak in the TEA.

### Crime Type Breakdown:

- **Non-Family Aggravated Assaults:** Reduced by 11% in the TEA, compared to a 12% decrease citywide, reversing a two-year trend of increases.
- **Family Aggravated Assaults:** Decreased by 9% in the TEA, closely aligned with the 7% reduction citywide.
- **Aggravated Sexual Assaults:** Increased in the TEA from 5 reported incidents in 2023 to 8 in 2024, mirroring a larger citywide increase (14 to 23).
- **Aggravated Robberies:** The TEA saw a significant 39% decrease, while the remainder of the city saw an even larger 52% drop.
- **Non-Aggravated Robberies:** Increased by 14% in the PSN area, while citywide the increase was 65%, though the PSN area saw consistent reductions in robberies in the last quarter of 2024, unlike the remainder of the city.
- **Murders:** Increased in the PSN area from 4 in 2023 to 8 in 2024, contrary to the citywide trend, which saw a reduction from 11 in 2023 to 6 in 2024.

### Impact and Recommendations:

The Amarillo PSN Taskforce's efforts contributed significantly to reducing violent crime levels in the PSN TEA during 2024. Moving into 2025, it is recommended to focus on strategies specifically aimed at reducing robbery rates.

# Incident Based Report Yearly Report

Offense	This Year 2024	Last Year 2023	Percent Change	2024 Rate per 100,000	2023 Rate per 100,000
Homicide	17	16	6.3%	8.3	7.9
Rape	150	164	-8.5%	73.3	80.6
Robbery	176	204	-13.7%	86.1	100.3
Agg. Assault	1059	1076	-1.6%	517.8	528.8
Burglary	767	941	-18.5%	375.0	462.5
Larceny Theft	4096	4624	-11.4%	2002.8	2272.5
Stolen Vehicles	529	677	-21.9%	258.7	332.7
Arson	58	41	41.5%	28.4	20.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6852</b>	<b>7743</b>	<b>-11.5%</b>	<b>3350.4</b>	<b>3805.4</b>

204,512 population received from planning for 2024.  
 203,475 population received from planning for 2023.  
 Totals include all committed AND attempted crimes.

## Public Information Office (PIO)

The Public Information Office (PIO) serves as a vital connection between the Amarillo Police Department and the community. This five-person unit includes:

- **Sergeant Carla Burr** (PIO Supervisor)
- **Corporal Carmela Ogden** (PIO Officer)
- **Corporal Scott Welling** (Amarillo Crime Stoppers Coordinator)
- **Officer Jarrod Robertson** (Student Crime Stoppers of Amarillo Coordinator)
- **Ashley Hicks** (Professional Staff/Administrative Assistant)



Together, they work to educate the public, provide crime prevention resources, and maintain open communication between the department and the community.

The PIO is dedicated to educating the public on various crime prevention topics, including traffic safety, sexual assault awareness, and strategies for preventing crimes based on local trends and police expertise, and any other police or crime related topic.

Many organizations schedule recurring PIO presentations as part of their employee safety education. Additionally, the PIO conducts business and home security surveys at no cost to Amarillo residents, ensuring that all citizens have access to important safety resources. Specialized training is also provided for specific groups, such as realtors, social workers, bank employees, and utility service workers. With increasing public concerns about workplace violence, including active attack scenarios, the PIO regularly conducts site visits and training sessions to help organizations prepare and mitigate risks.



The PIO actively participates in youth and community programs, including the Citizen's and Student Police Academy and the APD Summer Camp. The unit also engages in youth-focused activities and collaborates with Leadership Amarillo and other groups interested in learning about the operations of the Amarillo Police Department. These efforts foster transparency, trust, and mutual understanding between the department and the community. Internally, the PIO provides media interaction training for new sergeants and hostage negotiators, as well as roll call training to keep officers informed about the department's social media outreach. An annually updated media fact sheet is distributed to local media contacts to ensure clear and effective communication, strengthening the department's relationship with the press.

## 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. ACS is certified by the Texas Crime Stoppers Council and incorporated to cover all of Potter, Randall, Carson, and Armstrong County. 23 local community members make up the Board of Directors that govern the program.

In 2024, ACS was selected to host the 37th Annual Texas Crime Stoppers Conference. This event will be held in October of 2026. The last conference hosted in Amarillo was in 2007. The Board is excited to host the conference and it will have a positive impact on our local economy and highlight all Amarillo has to offer. Members from ACS attended the 35th Annual Crime Stoppers Conference in Waco. The program received the "Most Cases Cleared" Award for programs serving 200,000-350,000. Additionally, Board Chair, Belinda Hall, received the "Lifetime Achievement Award". Belinda began volunteering on the Board in May of 1999.

The program received a total of **1,136** tips. Tips led to **248** cases cleared and **88** arrests. The program recovered **\$683,000** worth of stolen property, bringing the total (since it's inception) to over **\$7 million dollars**. The board approved **91** awards, totaling **\$24,100.00**. Of the approved awards, only **30** rewards were paid, totaling, **\$8,200.00**. This shows that the programs are used more for the anonymity it gives and not for people seeking a reward.







The 17th Annual "Shred It Day" was held in April. This service provides the community a safe way to bring sensitive documents to a secure facility for on-site destruction, while making donations to the program. ACS continues to partner with Document Shredding and Storage for this event

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 155 vehicles registered.

The program's success is a direct result of community tips, strong partnerships, and the tireless work of law enforcement. Amarillo Crime Stoppers extends its gratitude to the community for its continued support.

## SHRED IT DAY IMPACT

**\$115,000** total savings

 <p><b>328.1</b> TREES SAVED (\$82,025)</p>	 <p><b>135,100</b> gal OF WATER SAVED (\$607.95)</p>
 <p><b>7,334</b> gal OF OIL SAVED (\$15,401.40)</p>	 <p><b>79,130</b> kW OF ENERGY SAVED (\$6,330.40)</p>
 <p><b>1,158</b> lbs OF POLLUTION SAVED (\$5,790)</p>	 <p><b>96.5</b> y<sup>3</sup> SAVED FROM LANDFILL (\$4,825)</p>



## Student Crime Stoppers of Amarillo

Through the proactive efforts of our students, community and our law enforcement partners, Student Crime Stoppers had one of its best years on record. A total of **1162 tips** were received through the program from the nine school districts it represents (Amarillo ISO, Canyon ISO, Bushland ISO, River Road ISO, Highland Park ISO, Panhandle ISO, Groom ISO, White Deer ISO and Claude ISO) in 2024.

The tips received for 2024 lead to **36 arrests, 542 cases cleared, 2 weapons recovered, 171 underage tobacco possessions, 66 possession of drugs, 20 possession of alcohol by minor, and several tips involving threats against the safety of our schools, 209 violations of school rules.**

Overall, the program was able to remove a total of **\$11,968** worth of drugs and other dangerous substances from the hands of our youth paying out over **\$13,000** dollars. Our success is a direct result of our students, school staff, community and law enforcement partners and their continued efforts in keeping our community and schools safe. Student Crime Stoppers would like to extend its gratitude to the community for its continued support.



Student Crime Stoppers of Amarillo was founded in 1991. We are certified by the Texas Crime Stoppers Council and cover all of Potter, Randall, Carson, and Armstrong County. As always, if you have information on an unsolved case, or information leading to the safety and security of our students or school staff, please call 806-372-8477 (TIPS). You can also submit your anonymous tip at [www.scsfamarillo.com](http://www.scsfamarillo.com) or by using the P3 Tips App.

The 18th Annual "Shred It Day" is scheduled for April, 12th, and our 3rd annual Race-A-Cop is scheduled for June 14th, 2025. We look forward to the community's continued support and a successful year in 2025. "SeeltSayit" with Student Crime Stoppers of Amarillo and let's keep our kids and community safe!



# AMARILLO REGIONAL CRIME CENTER (ARCC)







# AMARILLO REGIONAL CRIME CENTER (ARCC)



Lieutenant Shane Chadwick is the Commander of the ARCC.

The ARCC is comprised of the following units:

- Operations
- Intelligence and Analysis
- Digital Forensics

OPERATIONS BUREAU

## Operations Unit

The Operations Unit is responsible for the provision, management, and deployment of technology and resources. This includes various platforms such as traffic cameras, aLPRs, Drones/Drones as First Responders (DFR), etc. They also serve as a liaison between analysts and the department during real-time operations.



### **The Operations Unit is comprised of:**

- 1-Sergeant, Sgt Craig Cothrin
- 4-Operators, Cpl Jeff Roden, Ofc Jeff Dorris, Ofc Austin McGee
- 1-Volunteer, Doug Johnson

## Intelligence and Analysis Unit

The Intelligence and Analysis Unit supports all divisions within the Police Department. Analysts are responsible for maintaining awareness of real-time patrol responses to priority calls to begin immediate research and dissemination of information; identifying pertinent details and using available resources in case investigations that can be utilized to generate case leads that otherwise wouldn't exist; and facilitating actionable information on current crime trends and criminal offenders through networking internally to the department and externally across multiple CJ agencies. They maintain expert use of over 20 platforms in support of ARCC operations as well as the ability to collect, collate, analyze, and disseminate data from unintelligible forms to clear and succinct formation.



### **The Intelligence and Analysis Unit is comprised of:**

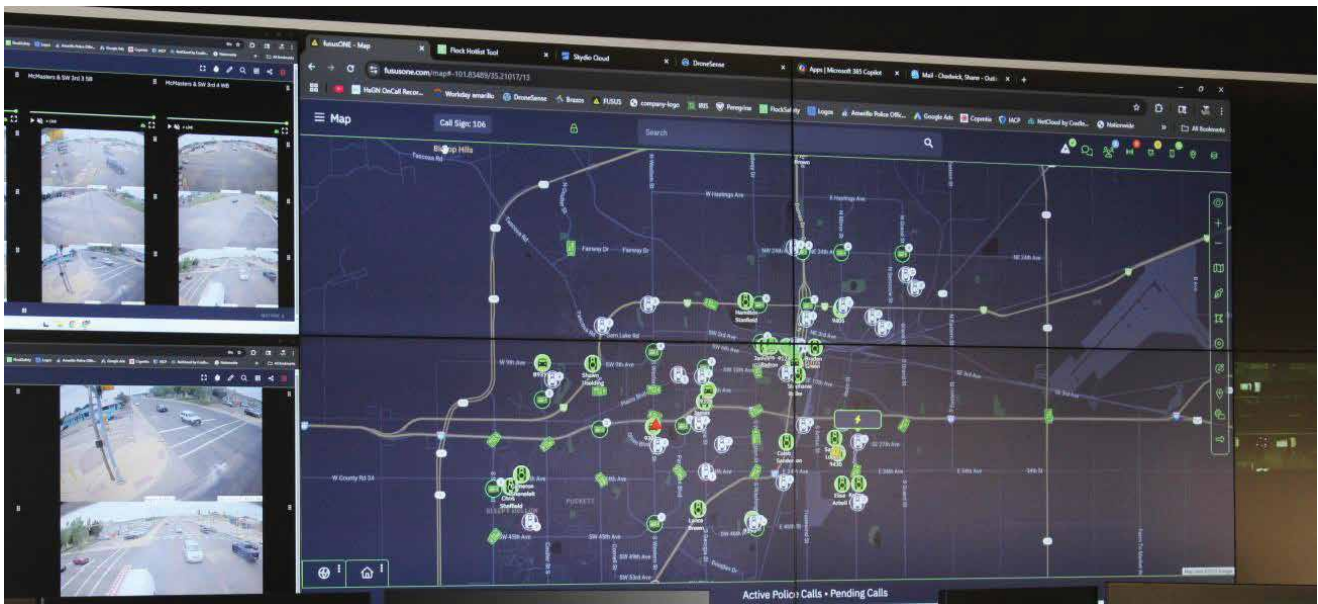
- 1-Crime Data Analyst Supervisor, Haley Hernandez
- 3-Crime Data Analysts, Luis Hernandez, Bella Smith, Madeline Grimes

# Digital Forensics Unit

The Digital Forensics Unit is responsible for the collection, processing, and preservation of digital media evidence. Processing and exploitation of digital media includes video recovery of overwritten data, quality enhancement on videos and images, and download of cellular devices.

In April 2024, construction began on the Amarillo Regional Crime Center (ARCC) which was completed in the final days of December 2024. In addition, all technology changes were researched and deployed by the ARCC in 2024. This included the following changes:

- Migration to Axon in-car and body camera systems
- Officer deployed Dell tablets
- Integration of data systems into Peregrine
- Build of Axon RMS, Respond and Evidence.com
- Replacement of traditional cameras and digital ticket writers by cellphone applications
- Increased scaling of intersection cameras and LPRs throughout the city
- Continued research and deployment of Drones as First Responders



FlockSafety continues to be the choice for License Plate Readers which were scaled out to 87 with an additional 20 LPRs approved by the Amarillo City Council for use on Interstate 40 and Interstate 287. Below are the results of the alerts from LPRs in 2024.

## MISSIONS FOR 2024

Patrol	525
SWAT	87
Special Operations	39
Drones as First Responders	455
Special Events	35
Investigations	169
Training	72
<b>Total Missions</b>	<b>1574</b>

The ARCC researched, developed and is currently deploying Drones as First Responders (DFRs). This program has grown to include rapid deployment drones in the "Patrol" Division, mapping drones, and tactical drones in SWAT and PACE. Since its inception, this program has flown 3891 missions with a combined 852.2 hours of flight time in DroneSense and is testing the Skydio platform as a transition for the dockable drones necessary for the DFR program. The department has trained 20 pilots with 11 of those pilots being licensed by the FAA as Part 107 pilots.

### **The Digital Forensics Unit is comprised of:**

- 1-Sergeant, Sgt Craig Cothrin
- 1-Media Officer, Ofc Daymond Rutherford assigned to the Homicide Unit
- 2-Media Techs, Chloe Marmitt, 1 vacant position

The control operations for incident management utilizes real-time and backward facing platforms to track surveillance cameras, LPRs, 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.



## Amarillo Regional Crime Center's high-tech approach aids in 200+ first-year arrests

AMARILLO, Texas (KVII) — ABC 7 took an inside look at the innovative work being done at the Amarillo Regional Crime Center.

Established just one year ago, the ARCC has already made a significant impact, assisting in over 700 cases resulting in over 200 arrests. The ARCC has implemented a lot of new technology including license plate readers, drones, and surveillance cameras.

"Hundreds of arrests that are directly related to the tech that we are rolling out. We have also seen firsthand, officers' lives saved," said LT. Shane Chadwick, commander of the Amarillo Regional Crime Center.

Drones were used in the recent officer-involved shooting. Chadwick said the real-time data and information helped keep officers safe.

"When the bad guys started shooting at our officers, we had an officer over there who rapidly deployed a drone. We were able to see the suspect fleeing and jumping over fences. Ultimately, he hid himself in a cellar. Without that information, we would have had to do a house-to-house search, and there is a good chance an officer could have been shot opening that cellar door," Chadwick added.

License Plate Readers, deployed just two and a half months ago, have scanned over 6 million plates, assisting in 218 cases, resulting in 66 arrests, and the recovery of 84 stolen cars. Chadwick gives credit to the hardworking staff at APD.

"At the end of the day, my analysts and the officers, they are the ones who have to catch them. Without them, those tools are just tools," Chadwick said.

In the coming months, the ARCC has plans to expand and become fully operational. Advanced facial recognition and gunshot detection are just some of the tech that could be on the horizon.



*Drone deployed from the top of Amarillo Police Department*

# Community



# Engagement





# DIVISIONS



**PATROL**  
**SPECIALIZED OPERATIONS**  
**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION**  
**TRAINING AND PERSONNEL**  
**RECORDS**



# PATROL





## PATROL

The Patrol Division is responsible for delivering police services within the city limits of Amarillo. Under the leadership of Captain Erick Bohannon, the division operates with three overlapping ten-hour shifts, day, evening, and midnight—ensuring continuous coverage throughout the 24-hour period. In addition to regular patrol duties, the division also oversees specialized units, including the the K-9 Unit, the Honor Guard, Amarillo Emergency Communication Center (AECC), and FTO.

OPERATIONS BUREAU

## K-9 Unit

### Duties

The K-9 Unit is a support Unit for Uniform Patrol Officers. The K-9 Unit currently has four dual-purpose Belgian Malinois police dogs that are trained to locate narcotics as well as search for and apprehend fleeing / resisting suspects. When not engaged in K-9 specific tasks, the K-9 Officers will assist patrol with calls for service and traffic enforcement as well as narcotic interdiction. 65 lbs. of methamphetamine, 13 lbs. of cocaine, 47 lbs. of marijuana and \$117,980 were seized during narcotic interdiction. The K-9 Unit also occasionally assists the Narcotic Unit, PACE Unit, NPO Unit and SWAT team with their operations.



### The K-9 Unit is comprised of:

#### 1 Sergeant

- Sgt. Cody Lavery & K-9 Sam

#### 3 Officers

- Cpl. Kaleb Mccarrell & K-9 Taz
- Cpl. Bob West & K-9 Sniper
- Ofc. Eric Skaggs & K-9 Sharro



## Honor Guard

The Amarillo Police Department Honor Guard serves as the ceremonial unit for the department at any official function and currently has fifteen active members who participated in seventeen functions in 2024.



## Field Training Officer (FTO)

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 rotating shifts and field training officers at each phase. At the end of 2024, the department had approximately 38 available FTOs. In February of 2025, we will be adding 15 new Field Training Officers after the completion of a 24-hour FTO School. Twelve new officers completed the FTO training program in 2024 and another six officers will start the program in early February 2025. Once the 15-week FTO program is completed, the recruit officers are assigned to the Patrol Division as Patrol Officers.

## Amarillo Emergency Communications Center

The AECC plays a vital role within the Amarillo Police Department, serving as the backbone behind the scenes. These often-unseen heroes handle a wide range of calls, responding to various situations with skill and composure. The dedicated staff thrives in a high-pressure environment, maintaining a calm and focused approach to ensure the safety and well-being of the community.

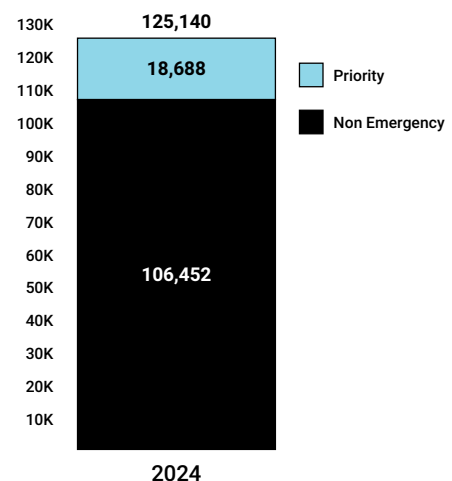
In January 2024, AECC introduced a comprehensive training program for all new hires. The program included approximately six weeks of classroom instruction followed by four weeks of hands-on training. During this time, new employees completed the necessary state licensing and national certifications required to work independently. To date, four training academies have been successfully conducted—one each in January, April, July, and the most recent academy, which began in October.

Additionally, a major remodel/renovation of our facility was completed at the end of 2023. The update included new consoles, chairs, carpet, paint, and enhanced storage equipment, creating a more efficient and comfortable work environment.

The department continues to be co-managed by a police lieutenant and a fire lieutenant:



YTD Calls for Service  
by Priority



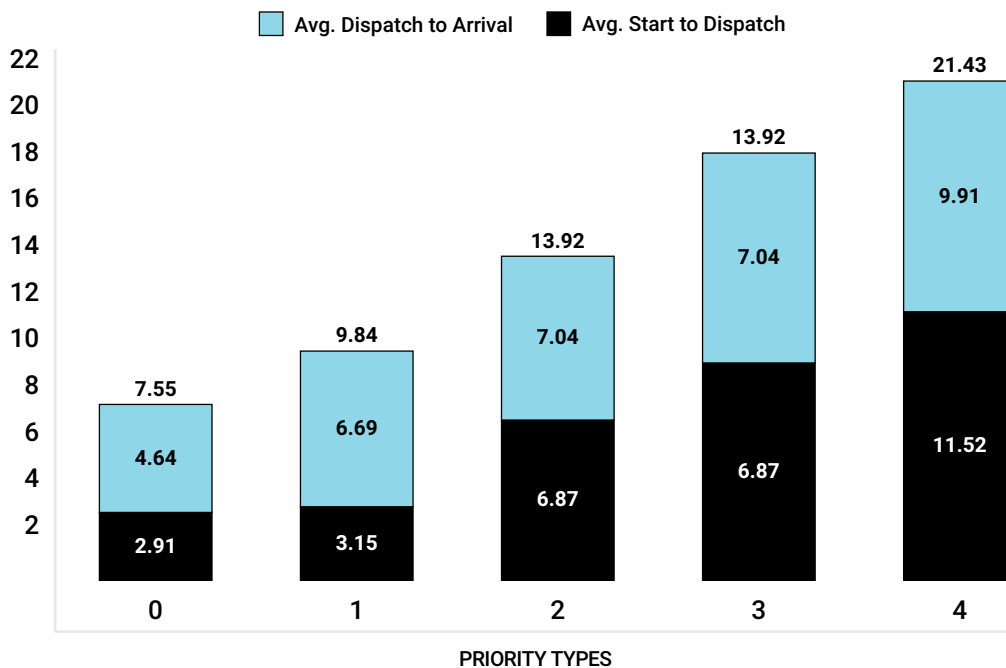
- Lt. Aaron Sawyer (AFD)
- Lt. Aric Howard (APD)

At present, the team includes:

- 39 Full-Time Emergency Communication Specialists
- 6 Part-Time Emergency Communication Specialists
- 3 Senior Telecommunicator Supervisors
- 5 Telecommunicator Shift Supervisors
- 1 Management Coordinator
- 1 Training Coordinator



**Yearly Response Times**  
2024



## **Life Saving Award**

Ashley Gill

Ashley Gill

Meaghan Kempf, Amy Fritsch, Carlos Hood, Christina Lennon

Jeannie Williams

Shawna Mathia

Emilio Jimenez

Caitlin Bettag

(encouraged to submit by Cassandra Perez and Madeline Spruill

LouAnn Humphrey

Evin Molway

Shawna Mathis

Brlah Bailey

Lindzee Roten

Sydney Goodson

Emilio Jimenez

Christina Davidson

Caitlin Bettag

Caitlin Bettag

Kimbrea CTO w/Abigail

Brlah Bailey

# SPECIALIZED OPERATIONS





# SPECIALIZED OPERATIONS DIVISION

The mission of the Specialized Operations Division is to enhance the effectiveness of the Patrol and Criminal Investigation Divisions through targeted and covert operations. This division is made up of three key operational segments: Covert/Tactical Operations, Directed Operations, and Community Engagement. In addition, it oversees the Gang Intelligence Unit and the Dive Team, ensuring a comprehensive approach to addressing crime and public safety challenges.

OPERATIONS BUREAU

# COVERT AND TACTICAL OPERATIONS

The Lieutenant serves as the unit commander for Covert and Tactical Operations, overseeing critical teams that are essential to maintaining safety and order. This segment includes the Bomb Squad, Narcotics Unit, SWAT Team, Task Force Officers, and the Crisis Negotiation Team, all of which work together to handle high-stakes situations with precision and expertise.

## Bomb Squad

The APD Bomb Squad responds to all explosive or incendiary-related incidents, which can include improvised explosive or incendiary devices, suspicious packages, and commercial or military explosives. The squad operates equipment and provides technical assistance to the department's Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT).

The National Strategic Plan for U.S. Bomb Squads requires Public Safety Bomb Squads to respond on a regional level. The APD Bomb Squad's primary response area is the City of Amarillo and the top 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle, with a secondary response area of the 17 counties that comprise the South Plains Region. The Panhandle Regional Planning Commission supports the City of Amarillo in this mission. The PRPC has consistently assisted the Bomb Squad in acquiring federal and state grant funding for training and equipment needs.

The Bomb Squad is accredited by the U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation Hazardous Devices School. It consists of six APD officers who are FBI-HDS certified Bomb Technicians and one Explosive Detection K9.



## Narcotics Unit

The primary mission of the Narcotics Unit is combating the distribution and use of all controlled substances. Paralleling investigations include but are not limited to illegal gambling operations and prostitution investigations involving human trafficking. The unit conducts undercover operations, gathers intelligence, conducts extensive surveillance, utilizes informants, and builds cases for prosecution at both the state and federal levels.

The Narcotic Unit plays a critical role in addressing drug-related issues within our community, aiming to reduce the availability and harmful impact of illegal substances. Interagency coordination is a cornerstone of the unit's operations, which often have overlapping jurisdictions that span local, state, and federal boundaries. Collaboration with these agencies continues to enhance the unit's ability to disrupt, disorganize, and dismantle criminal organizations, prosecute offenders, and address broader public safety concerns associated with drug abuse and criminal activity.



Substance	2023	2024
Amphetamine	85.21 gg	49.67 gg
Cocaine	10,404.37 gg	7,356.42 gg
Crack Cocaine	49.87 gg	154.65 gg
Fentanyl	14,195.74 gg	2,871.98 gg
DMT	3,462.93 gg	0.6 gg
Heroin	56.34 gg	14.65 gg
Marijuana	37,475.06 gg	108,951.07 gg
Methamphetamine	49,242.43 gg	86,532.24 gg
Prescription Pills	617.19 gg	25,289.57 gg
Psilocybin (Mushrooms)	908.99 gg	2,603.54 gg
THC Products	32,348.02 gg	44,335.13 gg

## Task Force Officers

The Task Force Officer (TFO) Unit is comprised of Amarillo Police Officers with State and Federal Authority. Currently, the unit has members of the Amarillo Police Department assigned to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), and Homeland Security Investigation (HSI).

The primary mission of the TFO Unit is to decrease violent crime in Amarillo, assist with large-scale narcotic investigations, and investigate Federal and State offenses in its purview. The unit accomplishes this mission by being a liaison between our State and Federal partners, conducting time-intensive investigations into local shootings, aggravated robberies, firearm crimes, and dismantling or displacing drug trafficking organizations.



## Seized Contraband



## SWAT

The Amarillo Police Department SWAT Team is comprised of one Sergeant, seven full-time Officers/Corporals, and twelve part-time Officers/Corporals. The SWAT Team responds to critical incidents such as hostage rescue events and barricaded person calls and serves high-risk arrest and search warrants. They conduct monthly training on topics such as entry techniques, chemical agent delivery, less-lethal munitions, vehicle operations, and breaching. The Team also instructs firearms, high-risk patrol, and tactical classes for officers and academy recruits. They maintain and train with two armored rescue vehicles, drones, a tactical robot, and various weapons and devices to keep citizens and officers safe. Day-to-day operations for full-time SWAT officers include searching for and locating high-risk fugitives who are considered armed and dangerous.



## Crisis Negotiator Team

The Crisis Negotiator Team consists of officers assigned to various units who are also specially trained to communicate during critical incidents such as hostage situations and barricaded gunmen. The team works closely with the SWAT and Bomb teams to resolve the situation peacefully. Negotiators gather intelligence during callouts and pass the information to command staff and tactical units.

## DIRECTED OPERATIONS

The Directed Operations segment is made up of the PACE Team and the Motorcycle Squad, both of which play key roles in enhancing public safety and responding to specific challenges. Lt. Wade Pennington leads this dynamic division, guiding these specialized units with expertise and leadership to ensure efficient and effective operations.

### Proactive Criminal Enforcement (PACE)

The primary role of the PACE Unit is to support the patrol division and the criminal investigation division. To accomplish this task, PACE uses both conventional and unconventional methods by utilizing covert and uniform tactics to accomplish its goals. PACE officers' primary focus is on self-initiated proactive criminal enforcement to provide long-term solutions to crimes. This is accomplished by researching current crime trends, reviewing crime analysis bulletins, reviewing daily patrol shift reports, and working with detectives, patrol officers, outside agencies, and their many community contacts. PACE assists in working on major investigations, which may include drafting search warrants for locations/phones, conducting interviews/interrogations and searching for evidence, and fugitive apprehension. The PACE Unit works to disrupt or dismantle organized criminal organizations, which include narcotics, violent crimes, retail thefts, robberies, and gang enforcement. The Unit works with other city, county, state, and federal agencies. PACE is the primary unit used for dignitary protection.



### Gang Intelligence Unit

The Gang Intelligence Unit is primarily directed by PACE. The Gang Intelligence Unit includes members from several units and divisions within the Amarillo Police Department and participating external agencies. Internal units include NPOs, School Resource Officers, Juvenile Detectives, Violent Crime Detectives, Patrol Officers, FBI/DEA/ATF/HSI Task Force Officers, Crime Analyst and the Neighborhood Policing Unit. The Gang Intelligence Unit meets monthly to discuss current trends and criminal activity related to street gangs and organized crime in the city. These members also provide the intelligence needed to document and validate gang membership. Texas DPS, Potter County SO, Randall County SO, the FBI, Juvenile Probation, and the County Attorney Office also assist the Gang Intelligence Unit. The Gang Intelligence Unit's primary focus is to diagnose, disrupt, and dismantle gangs and organized crime in our community.

## Amarillo Police Motorcycle Squad

The Amarillo Police Motorcycle Squad is dedicated to enhancing community safety and traffic enforcement by strategically deploying highly trained motorcycle officers. The primary mission is to enhance traffic safety by enforcing traffic laws, deterring aggressive driving behaviors, and conducting proactive traffic control operations. The Motorcycle Squad has significantly impacted the community by reducing traffic fatalities and injuries, enhancing community safety, improving traffic flow and emergency response, and promoting a positive public image. The squad includes 1 Sergeant Supervisor and 8 Officers. The Motorcycle Squad regularly works the STEP Comprehensive and CMV grants annually. This annual report provides an overview of the unit's activities and accomplishments during the fiscal year January 2024 through December 2024.



### 3rd Annual Iron Horse Shootout

The Amarillo Police Motors Unit held the 3rd Annual Iron Horse Shootout at the Santa Fe Depot from July 18–July 20, 2024. All proceeds from this event went to the 100 Club of the Texas Panhandle as the sole beneficiary. The competition combined speed courses with precision riding for each rider competing in the event which included riders from around the country including Canada. The Amarillo Police Department took home the top honors and the event was another huge success.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Community Engagement segment was established in 2022 to address crime and quality of life issues through community-based solutions. Led by Lt. Pennington, this division includes the Neighborhood Police Officer Unit (NPO) and the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). Together, these units work to build stronger community relationships and develop proactive strategies for tackling local challenges.

## Neighborhood Police Officer Unit (NPO)

The Neighborhood Police Unit strategically deploys officers and corporals to geographically designated areas, fostering enduring relationships with community stakeholders. The objective of NPO is to reduce crime, mitigate fear of crime, and enhance the overall quality of life for residents.

NPOs work to familiarize themselves with community members in their assigned areas, identify community problems, and devise solutions to remedy the problems.

Currently, NPOs operate in six specific neighborhoods to ensure targeted and effective deployment. Within these neighborhoods, officers operate from dedicated local offices, providing a physical, accessible presence that facilitates community engagement.



## Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)

The Amarillo Police Department CIT is known throughout the region as subject matter experts on crisis intervention. Outside agencies often consult CIT to provide training and guidance. The unit partners with Texas CIT, which provides resources and training opportunities in crisis intervention.

APD CIT officers provide mental health education for the Amarillo Police Department. CIT trains recruits in the Amarillo Police Academy and provides updates to APD officers during in-service and periodic muster training.

APD CIT partners with several outside entities, including Texas Panhandle Centers, which provides three case managers as part of the Intercept Program funded by HB 13 and LOSS (Local Outreach for Survivors of Suicide) Team.

As of 12/10/24, CIT officers have been assigned 1,490 mental health-related cases for followup. These cases are generated not only by CIT officers but also by officers throughout the police department.



## DIVE TEAM

The Amarillo Police Department Dive Team is a part-time unit consisting of officers who volunteer for the role while fulfilling other departmental duties. Team members undergo an annual physical readiness assessment and diving skills evaluation.

Training is conducted in-house by a PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer, with divers reaching the level of Rescue Diver. Some members also receive specialized training in swift water procedures.

The team responds to various water-related incidents, including urban flooding, water rescues, underwater investigations, evidence and vehicle recovery, and body retrieval. These operations often take place in low to zero visibility conditions. To maintain proficiency, divers participate in monthly training covering dive planning, search and recovery techniques, sonar operation, underwater communications, evidence collection, and body recovery procedures.



# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION





# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

The Criminal Investigation Division is comprised of 86 sworn and 28 professional staff. It is primarily tasked with conducting follow-up investigations of alleged criminal offenses occurring within the city of Amarillo.

Relevant investigative techniques may include but are not limited to: interviewing victims or witnesses, apprehending and interrogating suspects, processing crime scenes for physical and digital evidence, working with crime laboratories to analyze collected evidence, locating and recovering stolen property, conducting surveillance, and coordinating sting operations.

Investigators prepare criminal cases and present them to the appropriate municipal, county, and district attorney's offices for prosecution. The investigators may then be called upon to provide courtroom testimony in support of these prosecutions.

The Criminal Investigation Division includes the following specialized investigative units: Homicide, Special Victims, Violent Crimes, Domestic Violence. Also included in the CID unit is the General Investigations Unit. This unit consists of Juvenile, Traffic Investigations, Staff Investigative, Burglary, Financial Crimes, and Crime Scene Investigations. In addition to its purely investigative role, the Criminal Investigation Division is also home to the School Liaison Unit and the Property & Evidence Unit.

INVESTIGATIVE & STAFF SERVICES BUREAU

# HOMICIDE UNIT

The Homicide Unit is a unit within the Criminal Investigation Division. It consists of: **Cold Case Unit, Crime Scene Investigation Unit** and **NIBIN**. The Homicide Unit is supervised by Lt. James Clements.

## Homicide Unit Investigations

- 1-Unit Commander
- 5- Sergeant Investigators
- 1-Civilian Professional Staff

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 within the City of Amarillo.

The Homicide Evidence Specialist is responsible for all current and past homicide evidence that is maintained at the Evidence Warehouse. She is required to maintain all records and the coordination of physical homicide evidence. The Homicide Evidence Specialist assists in sending required evidence to proper labs and preparing evidence for court trials.

Each Sergeant Investigator plays a key role in managing investigations, coordinating with forensic teams, and ensuring that all aspects of homicide investigations are thoroughly pursued.



## Cold Case Unit

In 2022, the Homicide Unit created a dedicated cold case unit to focus on investigating all unresolved homicide cases. The Unit is still working closely with outside agencies including the Texas Rangers, USMS, and private labs to find justice for the victims and their families.

### **Amarillo police solve 1976 cold case, offering bittersweet closure**

Nearly 48 years after Barbara Ann Garcia was brutally murdered in her home, the Amarillo Police Department held a news conference Thursday afternoon to announce the resolution of this long-cold case. The breakthrough, however, is tempered by the fact that the perpetrator had already passed away by the time of the resolution.

Lieutenant James Clements of the Amarillo Police Department, who oversees the Cold Case Unit, discussed the challenges of solving such old cases. "Cold cases, especially those from 1976, have a very low solvability rate nationwide," Clements said. "Evidence collection and investigative techniques have evolved significantly since then. Witnesses pass away, and evidence deteriorates, making these cases extremely challenging."

Clements expressed gratitude to everyone involved in the case. "I want to thank everyone for being here, especially the Garcia family. I know many of you have traveled from across the country, and your presence is deeply appreciated."

He recounted the tragic events of December 14, 1976. "Barbara Ann Garcia was home alone with her 5-month-old daughter when an unknown assailant broke into her home and brutally murdered her. Her body was discovered the next day in the backyard of her residence at 2700 North Magnolia in Amarillo."

Clements highlighted the devastating situation faced by Natosha Garcia, who was just a baby at the time. "She was left alone for over 23 hours after her mother's murder. Detectives in 1976 did their best with the evidence and witnesses available, but the case quickly went cold due to a lack of provable evidence and reliable witnesses."

Reflecting on the case's long history, Clements noted, "Over the years, multiple detectives reviewed the case and attempted to reopen it, but were unsuccessful. It wasn't until December 2022 that the Amarillo Police Department established a Cold Case Unit dedicated to resolving these old cases. Our current Cold Case Unit, consisting of four officers, began resubmitting evidence for reanalysis."



The breakthrough came in August 2024 when a DNA match was found. "We received a positive hit on a pair of shoes collected in 1976. The DNA matched Billy Gene Cummings, who was living in Tucson, Arizona. Unfortunately, during our search for him, we discovered that Mr. Cummings had passed away several years ago."

Despite the resolution, Clements acknowledged the bittersweet nature of the outcome. "Even though we couldn't prosecute Billy Gene Cummings, we hope this brings some closure to the family. It's important for families to know that we haven't forgotten and will continue to strive for justice for homicide victims."

Meredith Pinkham, first assistant district attorney for the 47th District Attorney's Office, praised the collaborative efforts that led to solving the case. "We commend the Amarillo Police Department's Cold Case Unit, the Texas



Rangers, and the Texas Department of Public Safety crime lab for their dedication and hard work. Although we were unable to prosecute Mr. Cummings, we hope that solving this case provides the Garcia family with some answers and peace."

Natosha Garcia, who was a baby when her mother was murdered, shared her emotional response. "I've waited my whole life for this day and this moment. I don't feel full closure or justice, but what I'm praying for now is peace. My family has endured so much, and I'm thankful for their support. My grandmother, who couldn't live to see this day, would be relieved knowing it has finally come."



Garcia expressed frustration at not having a day in court to confront the perpetrator. "I wanted my day in court to confront him and let him know what he did to my life. Unfortunately, that will never happen. But I trust that he has met the ultimate judge, and that's what I'm holding onto for justice."

She also recounted the painful moment she learned about her mother's death. "When I was 12 years old, I found my baby book and discovered the truth about my mother's death. I had always been told my mother was my grandmother. Finding out the truth was like a punch in the stomach. I was angry because he got away with it. He never served a day for what he did to my mom. She was only 21 years old and didn't deserve this."

Karen Nunez, Garcia's aunt, provided additional insights into the case and her knowledge of the perpetrator. "From day one, we had a strong suspicion that Billy Gene Cummings was responsible. The detectives at the time shared our suspicions, but we needed concrete proof to move forward. I distinctly remember seeing him in the living room that night. My mother had a bad feeling and urged Barbara to come with us, but Barbara trusted Billy Gene. It was gut-wrenching to know who had done this but be unable to prove it until now."

Nunez also shared her experiences with the investigation. "For years, we felt like we were chasing shadows. We were hopeful when DNA testing became



available, but each time we were disappointed. Knowing who the perpetrator was but lacking the evidence to prove it was incredibly frustrating. It's a relief that the case was finally solved, even if it came too late for a trial."

The emotional impact of the case was evident during the news conference. "When we learned that Billy Gene Cummings was identified through DNA but had already passed away, it felt like another blow," Nunez said. "We had hoped for a trial, a chance to confront him and demand justice in court. Instead, we are left with the knowledge that he never faced any legal consequences for his actions."

Amarillo currently has about 49 open cold cases. This case represents the second resolution achieved by the Cold Case Unit since its formation in December 2022. The unit continues to work on other long-unsolved cases.

As the news conference concluded, Clements reassured the family and media. "We understand the feeling of not having full justice, and we share that sentiment. Today is about honoring Barbara Ann Garcia and her legacy. We recognize that it's a difficult day, but we are grateful for the closure we can offer."

The case remains a poignant reminder of the enduring quest for justice and the impact of advancements in forensic science on long-unsolved crimes.

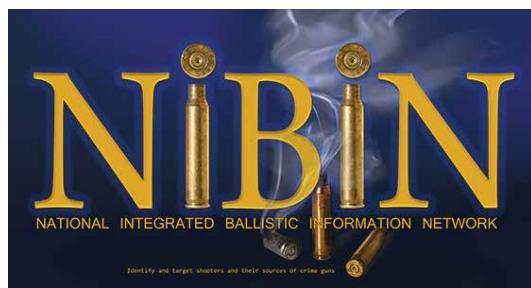
## Crime Scene Unit

The Crime Scene Unit specializes in meticulously documenting and collecting evidence from major crime scenes. Their expertise includes capturing detailed photographs, collecting and analyzing DNA evidence, conducting scene scans, and precisely documenting crucial findings. Additionally, they are skilled in fingerprint lifting and ensuring the proper collection and preservation of all evidence. This unit plays a vital role in supporting every division within the Police Department, providing essential forensic services to aid investigations.



## National Integrated Ballistics Information Network

The NIBIN Unit plays a critical role in forensic investigations by utilizing the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) to analyze and compare ballistic evidence. The NIBIN Technician is responsible for capturing and entering digital images of fired cartridge casings into the system. This process allows investigators to compare casings from different firearm-related incidents, helping to establish connections between crimes and develop valuable investigative leads.



In addition to their specialized work with firearm evidence, NIBIN Technicians provide crucial support to various divisions within the Police Department. They collaborate closely with Violent Crimes and Homicide detectives, assisting in identifying patterns and linking cases that might otherwise go undetected. Their work also aids Patrol officers by providing intelligence that can inform proactive policing and firearm-related incidents. By systematically analyzing ballistic evidence, the NIBIN Unit enhances investigative efficiency and contributes significantly to solving cases and improving public safety.

## SPECIAL VICTIMS' UNIT

The Special Victims Unit (SVU) is supervised by Lt. Chaz Williams.

There are Nine (9) Sergeant Detectives, One (1) Officer Detective, and One (1) Civilian Sex Offender Registration Coordinator.

The Officer Detective is responsible for investigating all child exploitation tips received through ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children). They work closely with NCMEC (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children) on cases referred to the Special Victims Unit (SVU). Responsibilities include drafting search warrants for computers, phones, and other digital devices, and conducting forensic examinations to locate evidence of CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material) or CAM (Child Abuse Material).

The Civilian Sex Offender Registration Coordinator handles all sex offender registration duties for Amarillo. This position maintains up to date personal identifying and location information on all 702 registered sex offenders within the city limits of Amarillo. Compliance checks are also maintained with the cooperation of this office.

SVU investigates cases alleging sex offenses, indecency cases involving adults and children, child abuse cases, child endangerment, missing and endangered persons, sex trafficking and internet crimes against children.

Lt. Williams is the AMBER Alert program coordinator for Amarillo and the surrounding counties within Region 5, and is also a member of the North Texas Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

SVU also investigates Interference with Child Custody and Criminal Non-support cases, within the city limits of Amarillo.

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 referred to as Child Protective Services).

In 2024, the SVU investigated over 1,740 cases. This includes approximately 615 cases involving Crimes against Children, 258 adult sexual assault cases (to include SVU FYI reports), 66 Sex Offender/ Fail to Register cases, 95 Missing Endangered Persons cases, and 217 Interference w/ Child Custody cases.

SVU also received and investigated over 311 Internet Possession of Child Pornography Cybertips from the Dallas Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC.)

Four Detectives from the SVU attended the Crimes Against Children Conference.

Every year, the Special Victims Unit conducts an annual Sex Offender Registration Compliance check in Amarillo. Working in connection with the local office of the United States Marshals Service, Homeland Security and Probation and Parole. Where Registered Sex Offenders in Amarillo are 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 2025.

## VIOLENT CRIMES

The Amarillo Police Department Violent Crimes Unit (VCU) is responsible for the investigations regarding misdemeanors and felony offenses. The offenses include but not limited to robberies, assaults, weapon offenses, evading arrests, and false or fail to ID.

The Amarillo Police Department Violent Crimes Unit is staffed with 1 Lieutenant and 10 Detectives. The unit also partners with several Amarillo Police Department units such as Proactive Criminal Enforcement Unit (PACE), SWAT, Neighborhood Police Officers (NPO), Amarillo Regional Crime Center (ARCC) and Homicide Unit. APD Violent Crimes also works with state and federal agencies such as the Department of Public Safety, the United States Marshals Service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The combined efforts of the above named law enforcement entities are highlighted in the success of programs such as 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.

In the year 2024, the Violent Crimes Detectives investigated 3040 cases with an average of 298 per detective. This includes over 50 call outs to major investigations, 367 presented cases, and 751 cases cleared by arrests.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Amarillo Police Department Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) is responsible for the investigations regarding misdemeanors and felony offenses. The offenses include but not limited domestic violence, stalking and harassment offenses.

The Amarillo Police Department Domestic Violence Unit is staffed with 1 Lieutenant, 1 Sergeant, 7 Sworn Investigators, and 1 Professional Staff Investigator. The unit is partnered with The Domestic Violence Council, which is a coalition of several organizations that have a common goal of combating domestic violence. The unit is also part of the Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT) which targets repetitive high-risk offenders. This group also provides services for victims that require counseling, child care, and relocation. The APD DVU also takes part in several community events associated with the Domestic Violence Council such as the Domestic Violence Council's Faith Summit, Domestic Violence Walk for Victims, and Angel Tree services in both counties.

In the year 2024, the Domestic Violence Detectives investigated 3543 cases with an average of over 440 per detective. This includes 659 presented cases, and 492 cases cleared by arrests.

# GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS

The General Investigations Units of the Criminal Investigation Division are the:

Juvenile Offender Squad, Traffic Investigation Squad, and School Resource/Liaison Unit

General Investigations is supervised by Lt Warren Gross

## Juvenile Offender Squad

The Juvenile Offender Squad is tasked with investigating all felony and misdemeanor offenses committed by juveniles. These investigations cover a comprehensive range of cases, from serious violent crimes such as homicides to incidents involving runaways and other status offenses. They work with Juvenile Probation and prosecutors in both counties to arrest and process juvenile offenders. They work closely with the "Bridge Children's" advocacy center, Child Protective Services and other social agencies.

The Juvenile Squad is comprised of:

1-Sergeant – Sgt Oscar Garcia

4-Detectives – Cpl. Matt Adams, Cpl. Nicholas Burns, Cpl. Vincent Bissoni, and Cpl. Norma Quiles

1-Civillian Investigator – Celeste High

## Traffic Investigation Squad

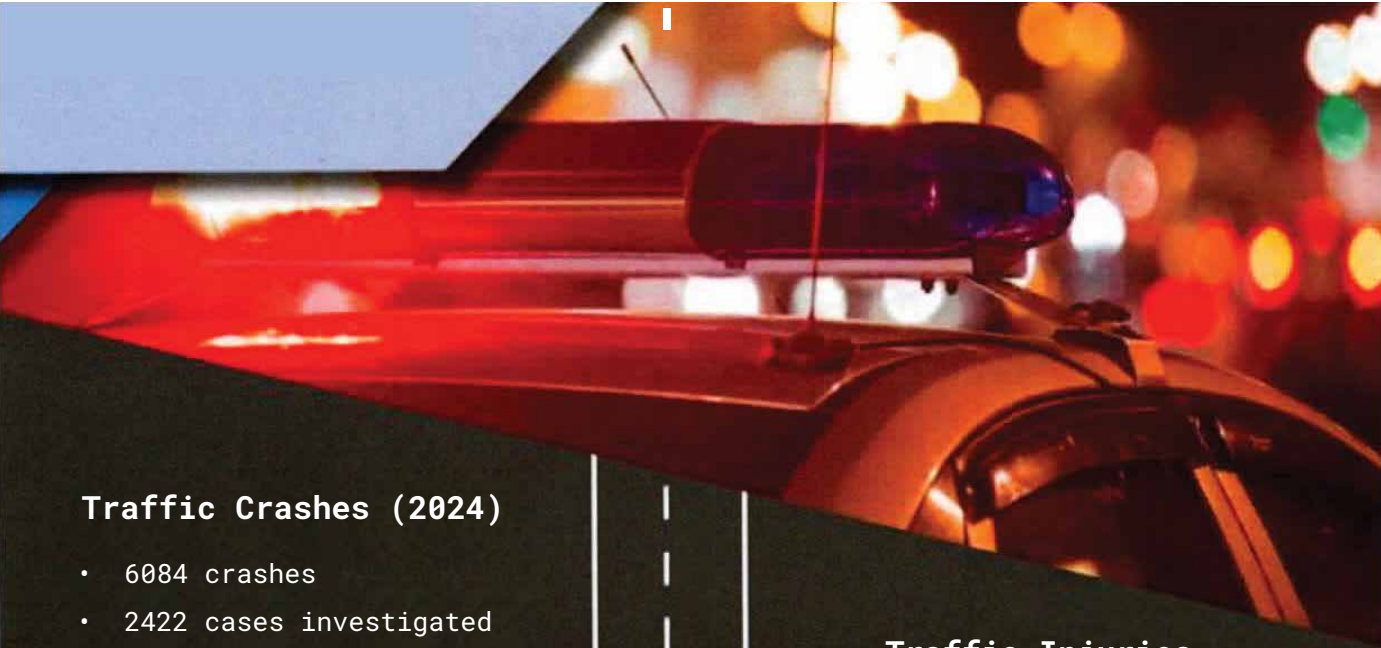
The Traffic Squad investigates fatal crashes, major wrecks, hit and runs, and other traffic incidents that require extra investigation. They also assist CSI, Homicide and other units in the department, as well as helping DPS and other local agencies with their investigations.



**The Traffic Investigation Squad is comprised of:**

- 1 Sergeant – Sgt. Victor Del Fierro

- 5 Detectives – Cpl. Johnny Bermea, Cpl. Toby Garcia, Cpl. Jeremy Strickland, Ofc. Eddy Caballero, Ofc. Chris McElreath



### Traffic Crashes (2024)

- 6084 crashes
  - 2422 cases investigated
  - 594 DWI's
  - 71 major crash callouts
- 
- 
- 

### 25 Fatalities from 20 crashes

- 18 Auto
- 5 Motorcycle
- 4 Pedestrians
- Speed was a factor in 8 fatal crashes
- Alcohol was a factor in 3 fatal crashes
- Marijuana was a factor in 1 fatal
- 5 motorcycle fatalities, speed was a factor in 2. Helmet was worn in all 5

### Traffic Injuries

- 4292 Accidents without injuries
  - 5612 injuries
- 
- 
- 

### Top Crash Factors

- Fail to control speed was a factor in 1789 Accidents.
  - Driver inattention was a factor in 964 Accidents.
- 
- 
- 

### Vehicular Homicides

- 2 Intoxication manslaughter resulting in 5 deaths

## School Liaison Unit

The School Liaison Units are the true practitioners of community policing in the department. They are assigned to schools, and their primary job is to solve problems that arise on their campuses. This covers all aspects, from ensuring the physical security of school campuses to the well-being of students and staff. They are dedicated to protecting our children and often find themselves supporting them through the many challenges young people face. They work closely with the Juvenile Offender Squad and the administration of each of the school districts.

### **High Schools are comprised of:**

- 1 Sergeant - Sgt. Chris Sheffield
- Amarillo HS - Cpl. Craig Putnam, Ofc. Billy Jensen
- Caprock HS - Cpl. Jonathon Crum, Ofc. Faustino Martinez
- Palo Duro HS - Ofc. Toby Matthews, Ofc. Daniel Pedraza
- Randall HS - Cpl. Josh Slatten
- Tascosa HS - Cpl. Matthew Wingate, Ofc. Travis Wiechec
- West Plains HS - Cpl. Adam Gutierrez

### **Middle Schools are comprised of:**

- 1 Sergeant - Sgt. Gabe Luna
- Bowie MS - Cpl. Domingo Laureles
- Fannin MS - Ofc. Wiley Frazier
- Houston MS - Ofc. Dionecia Guzman
- Greenways Intermediate - Ofc. Eric Quirk
- Travis MS - Ofc. Steven Malatesta
- Mann MS - Ofc. Jared Wade
- Randall Jr. High - Ofc. Joey Lopez
- West Plains Jr. High - Cpl. Jeb Hilton

# **PROPERTY CRIMES UNIT**

The Property Crimes Unit is supervised by Lt. Stan Rickwartz. The unit consists of the Burglary Squad, the Theft Squad, the Financial Crimes Squad, and the Civilian Investigator Squad. As the name suggests, the Property Crimes Unit investigates most offenses relating to theft and where some type of property is the focus.

## **Burglary Squad**

The Burglary Squad investigates burglary of habitation, burglary of building, and criminal trespass cases. The squad is supervised by a sergeant and has three detectives.

## **Theft Squad**

The Theft Squad investigates larceny theft, burglary of coin operated machines, criminal mischief (vandalism), burglary of motor vehicles, and stolen vehicles. The Theft Squad also investigates other offenses related to stolen vehicles and trailers relating to vehicle identification tampering and other fraudulent means of obscuring ownership of stolen vehicles. The squad is supervised by a sergeant and has three detectives.

## **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. The squad is supervised by a sergeant and has three detectives and one civilian investigator.

## **Civilian Investigator Squad**

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 squad is supervised by a sergeant and has three investigators.

# 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. The unit also stores and facilitates the return of found property turned in to the Department. Property and Evidence maintains specialized storage areas for DNA evidence, firearms, drugs, jewelry, and money. Evidence collected by the Homicide and CSI Units is also stored in a separate wing of the Property and Evidence Unit building. These units maintain a dedicated technician for their property at the Property and Evidence Unit facility.

Evidence Technicians assist officers with booking and receiving the collected evidence. This ensures it is correctly packaged before it is given its assigned location within the evidence storage area. Assigning each piece of evidence to a specific location in the evidence storage area is a key part of maintaining a proper chain of custody.

The Property and Evidence Unit is responsible for transporting DNA samples to the DPS laboratory in Lubbock, TX for testing as well as transporting controlled substances to the DPS laboratory in Amarillo for testing.

## **Noteworthy Accomplishments in 2024**

**Approximately 30,070 pounds (15 tons) of trash was disposed of in the landfill. 106 items were sent to be auctioned, 14,400 items were destroyed and 1,900 items were returned to owners.**

**The Property and Evidence Unit partners with the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center for a bi-annual medication cleanout. In 2024, 794 cars were served, and 3,272 pounds of medication was collected and safely destroyed.**



# TRAINING & PERSONNEL DIVISION





The Training and Personnel Division is supervised by Capt. Louis Sanchez. The primary areas of responsibility of the Training and Personnel Division are Personnel Services, In-Service Training and Recruitment, the Amarillo Police Academy, managing the Amarillo Shooting Complex, Texas Police Chief's Association Accreditation compliance and holding the bi-annual Citizen's Police Academy Program.

#### INVESTIGATIVE & STAFF SERVICES BUREAU

### Personnel Services

The Personnel Services duties include all personnel issues, maintaining personnel files, coordinating the hiring process of the Amarillo Police Department, and maintaining all training records of our department.

The staff responsible for Personnel Services are:

- 1 – Administrative Supervisor: Gail Motley
- 3 – Professional Staff members: Sabrina Delfierro, Jeanne Thompson, Vacant

### In-Service Training and Recruitment

Every year, police officers are required to complete mandated training, which includes firearms training, scenario-based training, and other training as required legislatively. Specialized training is also to assist the employees of the police department in better preparing them for the job. The Training and Personnel Division coordinates and records this training, which exceeds 10,000 hours annually.

The Training and Personnel Division is also responsible for coordinating all sworn and professional staff recruitment at the police department. With two full-time recruiters and many sworn and professional part-time staff recruiters, there is a diverse array of recruitment engaged in by our department. These include Job Fairs, media recruitment, social media recruitment, and various other recruitment endeavors throughout the year.

The staff responsible for departmental training and recruitment are:

- 1 – Training Sergeant: Sgt. David Wolven
- 2 – Full-Time Recruiters: Cpl. Chrysler Laur and Cpl. Cecely Herr, 1 – Full-Time Background Investigator: Cpl. David Young
- 3 – Part-Time Background Investigator Professional Staff Barry Carden, Gary Trupe, and Mark Glick

## Amarillo Police Academy (APA)

Training and Personnel oversees the Police Academy at the Amarillo Police Department. The Academy is tasked with providing the state Basic Peace Officer Course, and, on average, an extra 500+ hours of training before a police recruit will begin the Field Training portion of the job.

The assigned Cadre of the APA and responsible for day-to-day operations:

1 – Academy Sergeant: Sgt. Casey Ogden

1 – Academy Cadre member: Off. Keith Cargo

The breadth of instructors for the APA is made up of over 100 active full-time officers assigned to other divisions.

The 102nd Academy graduated seven recruits on August 2, 2024. Six of those Police Recruits were Amarillo Police Recruits and one Potter County Sheriff's Office recruit.

The 103rd Academy began on June 6, 2024, with twelve recruits. Ten of those recruits were Amarillo Police Recruits and two Potter County Sheriff's Office Recruits.

The 104th Academy began on December 5, 2024, with twelve recruits. Eleven of those recruits are Amarillo Police Recruits and one Potter County Sheriff's Office recruit.



## 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>

	Applications		Tested	Passed Exam	Passed Physical Readiness
	103rd "A" Civil Service Entrance Exam Dec 2023	103rd "B" Civil Service Entrance Exam Feb 2024			
<b><u>Total</u></b>	106	96	87	63	49
Female	40		16	9	2
Male	162		71	54	47
<b><u>White</u></b>					
Female	21		6	3	0
Male	108		49	40	33
<b><u>Black</u></b>					
Female	3		1	1	0
Male	17		4	3	3
<b><u>Hispanic</u></b>					
Female	10		8	4	2
Male	31		15	9	9
<b><u>A/PI</u></b>					
Female	0		0	0	0
Male	3		2	2	2
<b><u>AI/AN</u></b>					
Female	0		0	0	0
Male	0		0	0	0
<b><u>Other/Unk</u></b>					
Female	0		0	0	0
Male	0		0	0	0

104<sup>th</sup> Academy Began on December 5, 2024, with twelve recruits. Eleven of those recruits are Amarillo Police Recruits and one Potter County Sheriff's Office recruit.

	Applications		Tested	Passed Exam	Passed Physical Readiness
	104th "A" Civil Service Entrance Exam June 2024	104th "B" Civil Service Entrance Exam August 2024			
<b><u>Total</u></b>	124	104	108	84	60
Female	47		24	21	6
Male	189		84	63	54
<b><u>White</u></b>					
Female	18		9	9	5
Male	116		54	41	35
<b><u>Black</u></b>					
Female	4		2	2	0
Male	20		6	4	4
<b><u>Hispanic</u></b>					
Female	23		12	9	1
Male	30		18	15	14
<b><u>A/PI</u></b>					
Female	0		0	0	0
Male	4		3	2	1
<b><u>AI/AN</u></b>					
Female	0		0	0	0
Male	0		0	0	0
<b><u>Other/Unk</u></b>					
Female	0		0	0	0
Male	1		1	0	0

## 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 the year, the Shooting complex hosts all firearms in-service training for the Amarillo Police Department. Also, over 500 officers from outside agencies continue to train and attend schools at the Amarillo Shooting Complex each year.

### **The Amarillo Shooting Complex is managed by:**

- 1 – APD Rangemaster: Sgt. Mitch Woodard
- 1 – Full-Time Professional Staff Range Safety Officer: Robert Broyles
- 9 – Part-Time Professional Staff Range Safety Officers: Jackson Dedek, Jason Cates, Jerry Harrison, Marcos Rael, Mark Walker, Pierce Pillon, Shawn Rainbolt, Thomas Calhoun, and one vacancy

## Texas Police Chief's Association (TPCA) Accreditation

The TPCAF Best Practices Recognition Program is administered through the Office of Compliance Coordinator at the Amarillo Police Department. The program requires compliance with 176 best practices standards. 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.

The reaccreditation process started in late 2024, and will continue through reaccreditation in late 2025.

### **TPCA Accreditation and compliance is maintained by:**

- 1 – Part-Time Compliance Coordinator: John Hildebrand



## The Amarillo Police Department Quartermaster

The Quartermaster oversees and maintains the supplies and equipment necessary to operate the Department. The focus is on providing timely, fiscally responsible assistance to the department's employees. This is done through timely procurement and distribution of equipment. The Quartermaster also serves as the primary purchaser in our department and works closely with the City of Amarillo Purchasing Department.



## Police Exploring Program

Officers and professional staff within the Amarillo Police Department lead the Amarillo Police Exploring Post. Exploring is a career education program for young men and women 14 through 20 years old, focusing on leadership and public service in law enforcement. The post is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. A team of dedicated volunteer employees work together to organize events, host learning experiences for the youth, and participate in community service opportunities throughout the year. The post raises funds to facilitate out-of-town trips for the Explorers. The post is a continuous program where members can progressively learn and become leaders and mentors to newer members. The objective is to develop future police officers and give young people the inspiration and guidance they need to pursue a career in the law enforcement profession.



In 2024, the Explorers hosted a Statewide competition in Amarillo where Explorers came from all over the State to participate in scenario-based police skills competitions. The Amarillo Police Explorers also attended an out-of-town competition and performed well in multiple events.

## Amarillo Police Department Wellness Program

Officer Keith Cargo is the Coordinator of the PD's Wellness Program. The goals of the program are to make sure every police employee has the resources they need to be physically, mentally, spiritually, and financially well. This program is also meant to help you enhance the overall health of your family and personal relationships. We are still developing the scope of our Wellness Program and welcome your input in our development stage. The program has four cornerstones of wellness: physical, psychological, financial, and spiritual.

Physical wellness includes becoming physically fit and achieving that goal through exercise, workouts, and healthy eating. Officer Cargo has extensive training in these areas. Studies show that officers who are physically fit are less likely to be attacked in the field. Fitness helps prepare your body for handling stress.

Psychological wellness addresses stress, coping with life's stressors, and mental fitness. Police work sometimes involves stress – physical threats to safety, exposure to the injuries of victims of crime or accidents, work hours, and more. The Wellness Program will develop training on various aspects of psychology and stress management, and materials for interested officers. This training and information will be available to family members as well.

An important aspect of psychological wellness involves Critical Incident Stress Debriefings (CISD). The Peer Support Team is trained in CISD techniques and will continue to provide debriefings for incidents that have the potential to cause post traumatic stress in the officers who were involved.

The program also provides in-depth training for our Peer Support Team in the various resources available to officers. Sherrie Dowty-Montano's Lone Star Readiness program that connects officers with carefully vetted current and retired officers for peer support, and carefully vetted licensed counselors for free counseling, paid for by the State of Texas. All these programs are anonymous and confidential. The Peer Support Team can explain these resources including the City of Amarillo Employee Assistance Program (EAP), the APD counseling program, and more.

Financial wellness is important to reduce stress in your homelife, help achieve a balance between work and homelife, and retirement. We will offer classes on basic financing and money management open to our employees and family.

Finally, spiritual wellness is the final cornerstone. Lt. Shane Chadwick, an ordained minister, heads that program and has other vetted ministers to assist him. Our Wellness Program motto is *Auxilium Amicus Amicus*.



# RECORDS DIVISION





## RECORDS DIVISION

The Police Records Division serves as a foundational pillar within any police department, playing an indispensable role in its daily operations. Far more than a simple filing unit, this division is tasked with the meticulous organization, preservation, and dissemination of critical documentation that supports law enforcement activities across the board.

By maintaining accurate and up-to-date records, including incident reports, arrest records, evidence logs, and case files, the division ensures that officers and investigators have timely access to the information they need to conduct thorough and effective investigations. This direct support enhances case resolution, aids in prosecutorial efforts, and helps uphold the department's commitment to justice.

Equally important is the division's role in promoting transparency and accountability within the department. By processing requests for public records, assisting with audits, and ensuring compliance with local, state, and federal guidelines, the Records Division fosters trust between the police department and the community it serves.

Additionally, the division contributes to administrative efficiency by managing internal reports, and departmental statistics used for planning, training, and resource allocation. In short, the Police Records Division is not only a crucial support system but also a guardian of institutional memory and public accountability. This is essential to the integrity and effectiveness of modern policing.

INVESTIGATIVE & STAFF SERVICES BUREAU

## Data Entry

This unit is responsible for walk-in customer service, criminal history/background checks, verifying arrest data, and publishing the public records. They are also responsible for scanning paperwork and assisting officers. The unit verified arrest data for 6,796 arrests in 2024.

The Data Entry Unit is also responsible for ensuring compliance for the City's alarm ordinance, to include requesting the City Accounting department to issue billing invoices for alarm violations. 3,014 alarms were processed in 2024.

Data Entry unit is comprised of:

1-Supervisor

6-Professional Staff

1-Part time employee

## Front Counter/Report Writer

The four Report Writer are responsible for answering phone calls for the Police department, and customer service at the front counter. The report writers are responsible for following up on phone report requests and verifying all online reports. In 2024, the Report Writers made a total of 6,583 reports, 24% of the reports were made with the Police Department. The four Report Writers are responsible for answering phone calls for the Police department, and customer service at the front counter.

Front Counter/Report Writer unit is comprised of:

1-Supervisor

4- Professional Staff



## Open Records Unit

The unit is responsible for all requests received for documents under the Texas Public Information Act. They process interagency request from all over the state and country. The unit received 4,353 record requests and 45 court subpoenas for records for 2024.

1-Supervisor

3-Professional Staff

1-Part time employee



## Validation Unit

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 2024.

Validation unit is comprised of:

1-Supervisor

3-Professional Staff



# EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS





### 1st Quarter

Lt. Wade Pennington was selected as the Amarillo South Rotary's Officer of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2024. Lt. Pennington was nominated by Capt. Loftus for his work on putting together and implementing the S.O.R.D. training for his department.



### 2nd Quarter

Officer Sammy Garcia was selected as the Amarillo South Rotary's Officer of the Second Quarter 2024. Officer Garcia was selected based on a nomination letter by Lt. Norm Fisher.



# EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

## Amarillo South Rotary Officers of the Quarter

### 3rd Quarter

Officer Aaron Fulcher was selected as the Amarillo South Rotary Officer of the Quarter for the 3rd quarter. He was nominated by Lt. Chaz Williams for his work on a very successful Online Solicitation operation.



### 4th Quarter

Sgt. Toby Hudson was selected as the Amarillo South Rotary's Officer of the Quarter for the last quarter of 2024. He was nominated by Officer Cargo.



# EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

## Amarillo South Rotary Officer of the Year



Officer Sammy Garcia was selected as the Amarillo South Rotary Club's Officer of the Year.

Officer Garcia was nominated by Lt. Norm Fisher and the nomination letter included two life saving awards as well as numerous other examples of outstanding work.

## Civilian Employee of the Year



## **Awards And Citations (May 2024)**

### **Longevity Award 15 yrs.**

Ofc. Erick Quirk • Cpl. Josh Woodroffe • Sgt. Michael Stephenson Sgt. Rafael Quiles  
• Lt. Kevin Korinek

### **Longevity Award 20 yrs.**

Ofc. Neil Jensen • Cpl. Jay Puckett • Sgt. Jamie Butler Sgt. Joel Hodges • Cpt. Joe Loftus

### **Longevity Award 30 yrs.**

Cpl. Ken Donais • Sgt. Joe Brown

### **Longevity Award 35 yrs.**

Sgt. Richard Ray

### **Education Award**

Cpl. Vincent Bissoni

### **Division Citation**

Cpl. Ed Carroll • Ofc. Cindy Palacios • Ofc. Susan Dorris • Ofc. Justin Baxley  
• CST Jennifer Torres • CST Madeline Grimes • CST McKaylee Prieto  
• CST Daniel Rosario-Class • Ofc. Tyler Brown Ofc. Justus Burton • Ofc. Bryan Gaitan  
• Cpl. Blake Gray • Cpl. Chris Holcomb • Sgt. Toby Hudson • Cpl. Bryan Hughes  
• Ofc. Ricky Matthews • Cpl. Logan McFarland • Ofc. Cody M. Moore • Cpl. Ben Prewitt  
• Sgt. Darrell Roberts • Cpl. Sy Slover • Cpl. Jaycin Smothermon • Cpl. Michael Vigil  
• Ofc. David West • Cpl. Michael Woodard • Ofc. Cody Adams • Cpl. Brian Ainsworth  
• Ofc. Austin Billstrom • Sgt. Wes Brown • Ofc. Keith Cargo Ofc. Jacob Daughett • Cpl. Ken Donais  
• Ofc. Christian Eder • Ofc. Bryan Gaitan • Cpl. Gary Hamilton • Cpl. Chris Holcomb  
• Sgt. Tony Hudson • Cpl. Bryan Hughes • Cpl. Jerry Jackson • Lt. Kevin Korinek  
• Cpl. Kris Koval • Ofc. Ricky Matthews • Cpl. Logan McFarland • Ofc. Travis McDonald  
• Sgt. Michael Mogelinski • Cpl. Ben Prewett • Ofc. Erick Quirk • Sgt. Troy Roberson  
• Cpl. Sy Slover • Cpl. Jaycin Smothermon • Cpl. Christopher Thompson  
• Cpl. Nathan Thompson • Cpl. Michael Vigil • Ofc. David West • Ofc. Michael Whitfield  
• Sgt. David Wolven • Cpl. Michael Woodard • Sgt. Mitch Woodard • Sgt. Joel Young

### **Meritorious Service Citation**

Ofc. Cody Adams • Cpl. Gary Hamilton • Lt. Wade Pennington

### **Medal of Valor**

Cpl. Blake Gray • Ofc. Isaiah Williams • Ofc. Omar Paz • Ofc. Tysen Auldrige • Ofc. Tyler Brown  
• Ofc. Lucero Enriquez • Ofc. Daniel Rivera • Ofc. Eric Skaggs • Ofc. Nathan Reyes

### **Life Saving Award**

Ofc. Samuel Garcia • Ofc. Damarcus Harman • Ofc. Nathan Reyes • Ofc. Lucero Enriquez  
• Ofc. Keifer Burton • Ashley Gill • Shawna Mathis • Briah Bailey • Meghan Kempf • Amy Fritsch  
• Carlos Hood • Christina Lennon • Christina Long

## **Awards and Citations (October 2024)**

### **Longevity Award 35 yrs.**

Lt. David Hagler • Sgt. Mitch Woodard

### **Physical Wellness and Health**

Sgt. Sheldon West

### **Community Engagement**

Captain Joe Loftus

### **Operations Citation**

Ashley Ernst • Ofc. Aaron Fulcher • Ofc. Shelby Giles • Sgt. Rafael Quiles • Sgt. Wes Hill • Sgt. Zachary Charter • Sgt. Cody D. Moore • Sgt. Sheldon West • Sgt. Jeremiah Hopper • Sgt. Gordon Eatley • Sgt. Terry Moore • Sgt. Travis Leake Sgt. Dustin Glick

### **Division Citation**

Sgt. Michael Hancock • Sgt. Joe Brown • Sgt. Roberto Cisneros • Sgt. Chuck Jewett • Ofc. Samuel Garcia • Ofc. Susan Carrillo • Ofc. Tanner Howell • Ofc. Ivan Gonzalez • Ofc. Tyler Webster • Ofc. Whitney Calvert • Ofc. Vinilla King • Ofc. Josh Jenkins • Cpl. Christopher Thompson • Sgt. Michael Stephenson • Lt. Clay Rolan • Ofc. Jarrid Gray • Ofc. Jacob Daughett • Ofc. Caleb Drake Ofc. Steven Deal • Cpl. Royce Bushey • Sgt. Shea Lichtie • Ofc. Andrew Kreusel • Cpl. Sy Slover • Cpl. Thomas Newton • Sgt. Kevin Anderson • Cpl. Anthony Kennedy • Ofc. Erick Quirk • Ofc. Randy Mincher • Ofc. Douglas Richardson • Cpl. Brian Ainsworth • Cpl. Gary Hamilton • Cpl. Jaycin Smothermon • Cpl. Michael Vigil • Ofc. Bryan Gaitan • Cpl. Benjamin Prewett • Ofc. Cody Adams • Ofc. David West • Cpl. Chris Holcomb • Ofc. Jarod Hesse • Ofc. Cesar Huerta • Ofc. Morgan Powell • Cpl. Brian Ainsworth

### **Citizen Citation of Service Steven Garcia**

Camron Curless • Ceyton McEwen • James Bayless

### **Life Saving Award**

Ofc. Quirino "Q" Mariscal • Ofc. Keifer Burton • Ofc. Jarod Hesse  
Jeannie Williams • Emilio Jiminez • Shawna Mathis  
Lou Ann Humprey • Evin Molway • Sydney Goodson

## 2024 Retirements

Billy Haden	35 years
Richard Ray	35 years
Tammy Peavey	26 years
Donna Hill	26 years
Mary Willis	26 years
Elizabeth Brown	23 years
Troy Roberson	22 years
Jay Puckett	20 years
Freddy York	18 years
Norris Ray Tollerson	15 years
Kristopher Koval	12.5 years

## **2024 Honorable Mentions**

### **Juvenile**

The Juvenile unit investigated 1467 cases.

Juvenile investigators wrote several commendations for investigations on violent crime and gang activity.

### **Traffic**

The Traffic unit investigated 2422 cases, including 594 DWI cases filed.

There were 71 major crash callouts with 20 fatal crashes resulting in 25 Fatalities.

Cpl. Strickland seized a 2012 Toyota Tundra from a habitual DWI driver to be used on callouts.

### **School Liaison**

High School Liaisons Personnel received Commendations for 5 different incidents during 2024. These incidents were results of their diligence and quick responses in removing firearms from campuses or investigations into threats to their campuses. The Liaison Unit also hosted the Lisa Cherry Summer camp. This is a major community engagement project.

### **Amarillo Crime Stoppers**

Amarillo Crime Stoppers made significant strides this October by attending the 35th Annual Crime Stoppers Conference in Waco, TX. The program, led by Police Coordinator Cpl. Scott Welling, earned the Productivity Award for Most Cases Cleared among programs serving populations of 200,001-350,000.

Board Chair Belinda Hall received the Lifetime Achievement Award for her exceptional service since joining the board in 1999. Her dedication has been instrumental in the program's success.

Additionally, Officer Jarrod Robertson, Coordinator for Student CrimeStoppers of Amarillo, Inc., was sworn in as a member of the Texas Crime Stoppers Council. Officer Robertson was appointed to this prestigious role by Governor Greg Abbott.

The Council advises the Governor on issues concerning crime stoppers programs in Texas and is statutorily required to certify local crime stopper programs in Texas for them to receive repayments of rewards or payments of probation fees established by the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Members from Amarillo Crime Stoppers and Student Crime Stoppers of Amarillo Inc. attended the Crime Stoppers USA Conference in Denver in November. Student Crime Stoppers of Amarillo Coordinator, Officer Jarrod Robertson, was selected as the Crime Stoppers USA Coordinator of the Year for 2023. He was selected over all other submissions throughout the United States. His dedication to our community and the safety of our students is truly amazing.

## From Recruit To Police Officer

From Recruit to Police Officer in 2024, the Amarillo Police Department welcomed 7 dedicated individuals into its ranks upon their graduation from the APD Training Academy. These recruits embody the values of integrity, courage, and service, essential qualities that define our force. As they embark on their journey as law enforcement officers, they join a tradition of excellence and commitment to the safety and well-being of our communities. We are proud to have them as part of the Amarillo Police family, and we look forward to their contributions in upholding the highest standards of professionalism and accountability.



On December 13, 2024, the recruits of the 103rd Amarillo Police Academy reached a significant milestone by passing their Basic Peace Officer Licensing Exam - on their first attempt! This remarkable achievement reflects the dedication, perseverance, and effort they have put in. The recruits' success on their state exam is a direct reflection of the incredible dedication and expertise of our instructors, mentors, and everyone who contributes to their training.

### **103rd SESSION OF THE AMARILLO POLICE ACADEMY**

**LANCE BROWN**

**KODY JONES**

**KYLER KIRKWOOD -**

**VICE PRESIDENT OF 103rd ACADEMY**

**JAITON MCMORRIS -**

**TOP SHOOTER OF 103rd ACADEMY**

**AUSTIN PERRY - PRESIDENT OF 103rd ACADEMY AND RECEIPIENT OF  
CARVER ACADEMY AWARD FOR OUSTANDING ACADEMICS**

**KEEGAN POMPA**



Kody Jones



Keegan Pompa



Kyler Kirkwood



**Austin Perry**, 26, is originally from East Texas, and graduated from Amarillo High School in 2016. He attended Tyler Junior College, earning paramedic and firefighter certifications. He later returned to Amarillo and worked as a paramedic for Amarillo Medical Services and briefly with the Amarillo Fire Department.

While at AMS, he had the opportunity to work alongside the Amarillo Police Department. The professionalism and dedication of the officers inspired him to pursue a career in law enforcement.

Austin enjoys traveling, hiking, fly fishing, and exploring the outdoors. He is excited to start his career in law enforcement and looks forward to contributing positively to the community.



**Lance Brown**, 23, is from Tulia, Texas, and graduated from Tulia High School in 2019. After working in security, he decided to pursue a career in law enforcement by applying to the Amarillo Police Academy. His goal is to serve the community as a law enforcement officer.

Outside of work and study, he enjoys hobbies that help him relax and stay connected with others. At 23, Lance is focused on building a career that makes a positive impact while adhering to his values.



**Jaiton McMorris**, 23, is a graduate of Tascosa High School and attended Tulsa Welding School. After completing his training, he worked as a TIG welder at Midwest Machine for three years. Seeking a career change, Jaiton decided to pursue law enforcement, applying for the 103rd academy.

He is focused on serving the community, building trust, and fostering positive relationships, particularly with younger generations. As he progresses through the academy, Jaiton aims to enhance his skills, pursue specialized training, and take on leadership roles to grow professionally.

## Thank You to the Citizens of Amarillo



September 24, 2024, at approximately 12:35 p.m., Amarillo Police responded to a call regarding a man walking in traffic on Amarillo Boulevard West and Western. One officer made contact with the man, and while attempting to engage him, the suspect suddenly attacked the officer. Citizens in the area quickly intervened to assist, and additional officers arrived on the scene. The suspect fled but was apprehended a short distance away and taken into custody.

The suspect was transported to a nearby hospital for treatment of injuries sustained during the encounter. Charges are currently pending. The officer involved was also transported to a local hospital and treated for non-life-threatening injuries. The investigation into this incident is ongoing and is being handled by the Violent Crimes Unit.

The Amarillo Police Department extends its heartfelt gratitude to the citizens who stepped in to assist the officer during this dangerous situation. Their bravery and willingness to help undoubtedly made a difference.

Chief Birkenfeld shared his appreciation, stating, "I cannot express enough how grateful we are for the incredible people of Amarillo who stand behind our police officers. This incident is yet another example of how we are supported, not just through words, but through the courageous actions of individuals who risked their own safety to assist an officer in a critical moment."

## History of Amarillo Police Department

John Snider served as the Amarillo City Marshall from 1910 to 1914. On May 20th, 1914, a City Ordinance was passed creating the first official Amarillo Police Department. John Speed was appointed as Chief of Police for the newly founded department. John Snider served the city a second time when he was appointed as Chief of Police in 1923.

The roster of Chiefs of Police included:  
John Speed, J.B. Wheatley, Charles Davis,

Jim Keeton, John Snider, Clark Cain, CJ Blackwell, Horace Gaither (father of Paul Gaither, former Sheriff), W.R. McDowell, Albert (Sid) Harper, Ralph (Rusty) Rhodes, Wiley C. Alexander, Paul Hulse, Lelond Spradlin, Jerry Neal, and Chief Robert Taylor, Ed Drain and Martin Birkenfeld.



When the department was founded, there were five officers employed to keep law and order in the city limits. The first Amarillo officers were patrolmen mounted on horses. The officers had to purchase his own horse and feed, but were reimbursed for feeding expenses. In 1915 the first motor vehicle afforded our department was a Model T Ford which was converted into a paddy wagon. Another Model T was added later and used by A.L. (Jelly) Giles to patrol East Amarillo. Within the first ten years of its existence, the Police Department grew from 5 officers to 53 officers.

The first police radio communications came to the department in 1935. Mr. Malcom Clack built the base station and the vehicle radios. At the time, the dispatcher could talk to the patrolmen in their vehicles; however the patrolmen could not talk to the base station. There were 4 vehicles in 1936 that Mr. Clack built two-way radio communications for. In 1945, he built two-way radios for the motorcycles. Going from the first primitive radios to the present, Mr. Clack installed the first closed circuit television in the police department in 1966.

One of the early attempts at public relations came in the early 1930's. Sgt Elmer Green hosted a noon radio program on station WDAG. Sgt. Green would give the police news of the day from the police station, which was located in the 100 block of 4th street.

Old City Hall was a 3-story red brick building with a basement. The basement housed the city jail and the police station. Two floors were used for city offices and the 3rd floor housed the Health Department. The police department first moved to 609 S. Pierce in December 5, 1955, then relocated to 200 SE 3rd Ave in November 1992.

## Oath of Office

*IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS*

*I do solemnly swear (or affirm), that I will faithfully execute the duties of RESERVE POLICE OFFICER, CITY OF AMARILLO, STATE OF TEXAS, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and the laws of the United States and of this State, so help me God.*





