

Monroe Police Department Monroe Communications Center 2015 Annual Report





MONROE POLICE DEPARTMENT

233 South Main Street • P.O. Box 330 • Monroe, Ohio 45050-0330

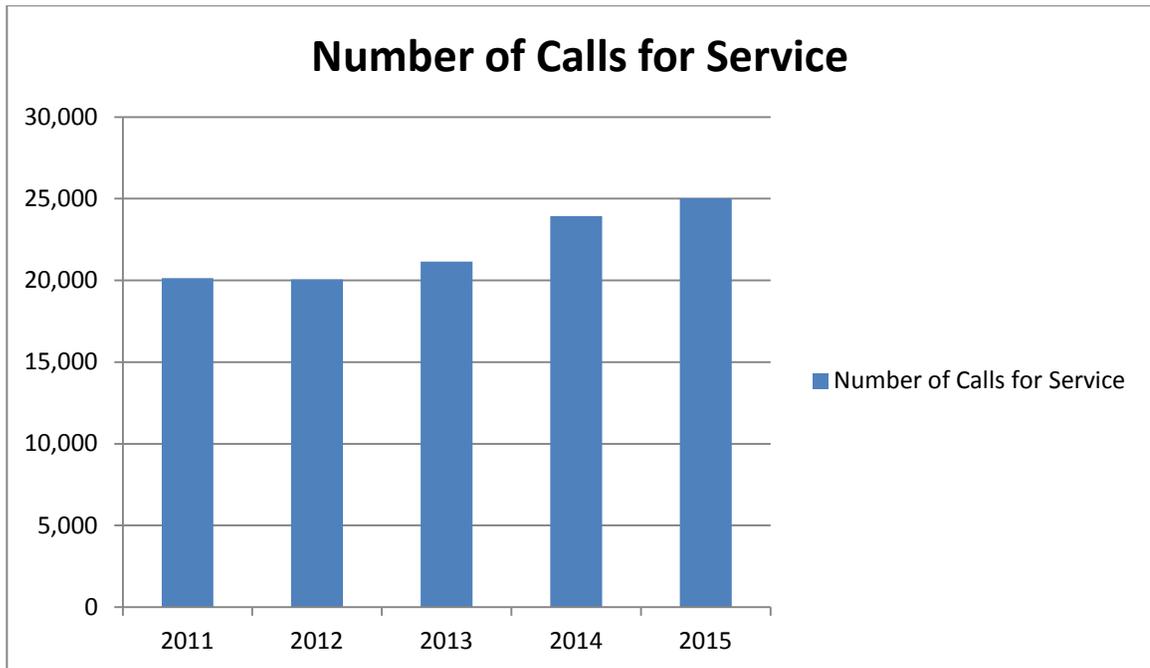
2015 has been very successful year for the Monroe Police Department. We worked very hard to provide a high level of service to the citizens of the City. The biggest change to the Monroe Police Department was that we no longer patrol the Lemon Township portions outside the City limits. Although police services were no longer maintained in the Township, our fire, emergency medical units and service department continued to provide services to that area. Although we are disappointed to pull back from the Township and the wonderful community partners that we developed over the years, this allowed us to focus all of our enforcement efforts within the City. We made a concentrated effort to increase our patrols in the City's residential neighborhoods and focus on crime prevention initiatives.

We continued to work through 2015 while facing several staffing challenges. We had two officers resign for positions with other departments which dropped our sworn ranks to 25 officers. We were able to promote one part-time officer to a full-time position and converted several un-filled part-time positions into full-time positions. This brought our authorized full-time officer strength to 30. We conducted a hiring process in the late summer and were able to hire three quality professional police officers by December. Each of the three officers came from area police departments, and brought 14 years of combined work experience to our department. These professionals have been welcome additions to our department.

We continued to work to build our community relationships with events such as the Monroe National Night Out and the bike rodeos that were held in our subdivisions. We also continued to work with the Monroe Local School District and Butler Tech by partnering with these schools to provide a school resource officer to their campuses. The Monroe PD continues to provide the D.A.R.E. curriculum to our students in the Monroe Schools.

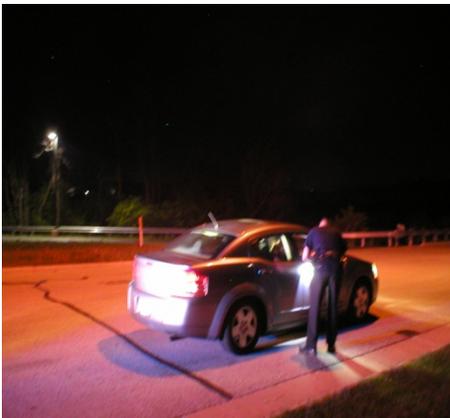
The men and women of the Monroe Police Department continue to work with our residents, community partners and business leaders to provide a wonderful and safe environment in which to work, live and visit. There are many exciting changes coming to our area and the law enforcement and communication professionals of your police department are working to meet the challenges ahead. We will strive to provide the best customer service possible by living by our core values: Integrity, Respect, Quality, Courage and Honor.

2015 CALLS FOR SERVICE



The Monroe Police Department saw a 4.6% increase in the number of calls for service from 23,929 to 25,035 calls for service in 2015. This upward trend in the amount of calls for service is consistent with the past 4 years. With the growth of the City and surrounding areas, it is anticipated that the amount of calls for service will continue to rise.

The increase that we observed this year was significant in that the department no longer patrols the area of Lemon Township. Without the resources being drawn into the Township, the department was able to re-direct its efforts into the City limits and increased the service levels provided to the City, while still handling the increase in calls for service.

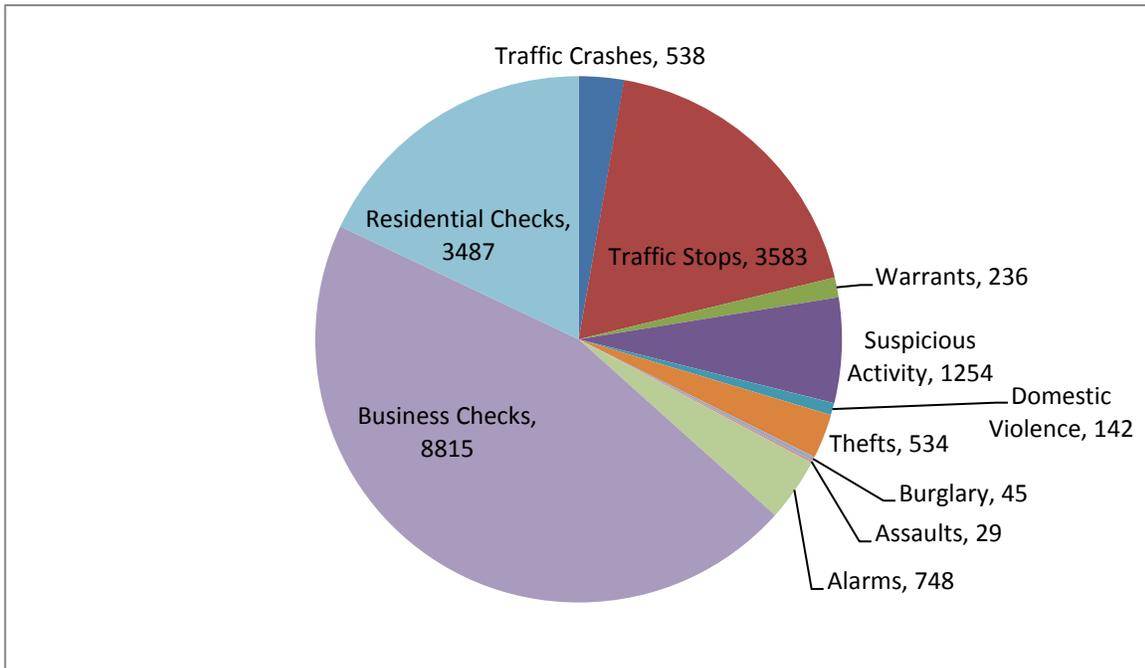


2015 PATROL INITIATIVES AND STATISTICS

The Monroe Police Department is committed to providing the most safe and secure environment for our citizens, businesses and visitors. A proactive approach to our patrol efforts helps us maintain this environment. By concentrating our efforts in the areas of traffic enforcement, traffic crash investigation, patrol assignments and criminal investigation, we strive to provide the quality of life that our community partners expect.

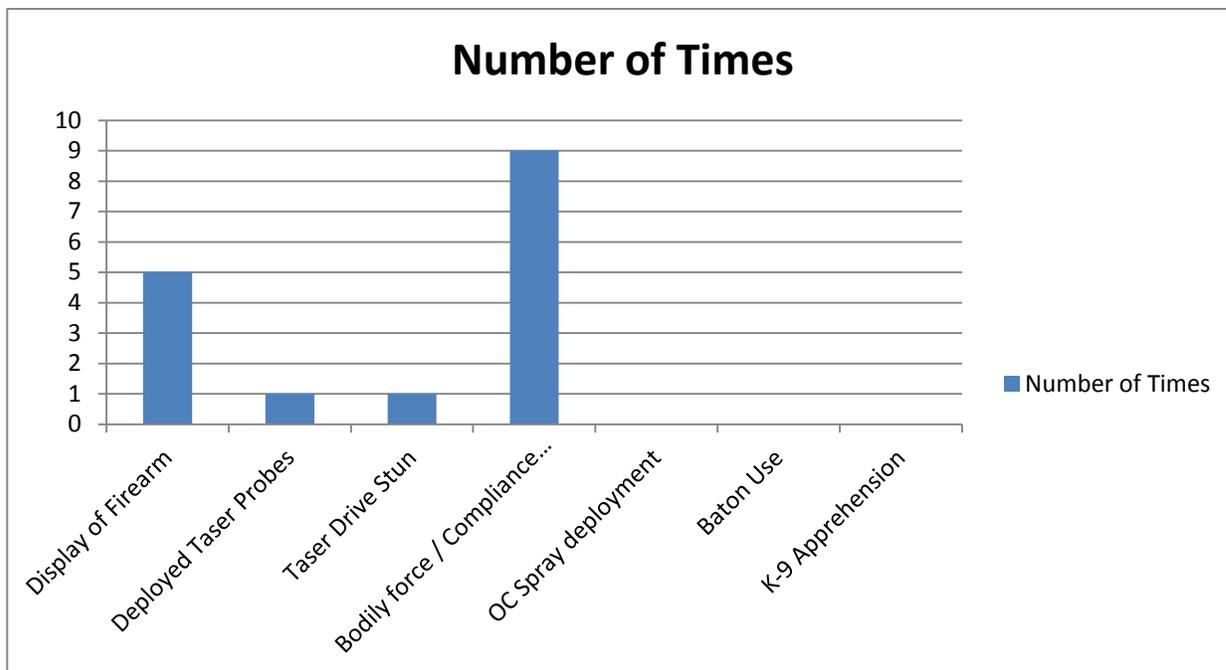
The Patrol Division is commanded by the Operations Lieutenant. His division consists of three shifts that is each commanded by a Patrol Sergeant. Throughout 2015, the department was below our authorized strength. This was due to two officers resigning and taking jobs with other departments and injuries. For the majority of the year, dayshift had four officers assigned, while the evening and overnight shifts each had five officers assigned. With our current staffing levels, we do not maintain a dedicated traffic enforcement unit. The patrol officers concentrate their efforts on both criminal investigation / prevention and traffic enforcement.

2015 Activity Report



Use of Force Analysis

In 2015 the department had 12 incidents in which force was used. This resulted in 20 applications or displays of force being used by 18 officers to overcome resistance. The majority of the uses of force (13 incidents) involved officers using bodily force to overcome resistance. The type of bodily force included escort holds (3), officers taking the suspect to the ground by arm bar or balance displacement (8), and strikes (3). There were also three deployment of the Taser EMD devices by officers. Two in the form of drive stun and one by discharging probes. Finally the department had four incidents in which officers pointed a firearm at suspects.



During 2015 the department examined the manner in which the officer's use of forces were reported, reviewed and tracked. It was determined that several changes were necessary. The first was to change the use of force report to integrate directly with our current records management system, and include additional reporting indicators, such as pointing a firearm at an individual. The suspect and officer characteristics were also added to the form and utilized during the review process. The second was to look at each use of force not only from a reporting standpoint, but as a medium to identify training needs for individual officers and the department as a whole. This involved the review process including the department's training officer as well as the shift supervisor and the operations commander. Finally the data from each of the use of force incidents was utilized to complete the analysis. These changes occurred as the year progressed and the whole system was in place by the end of 2015.

When we examined the use of force we determined that a training requirement for the whole department to involve our use of hands on especially at the time of arresting a suspect. This training would focus on verbal commands and communication with the suspect prior to the arrest and looking at point when an officer closes the distance to arrest a suspect. Eight of the thirteen uses of force incidents that involved bodily force, take downs or compliance holds were initiated

at the point of arrest of the suspect. There were no indications that the officers responded inappropriately in any of the incidents. It was determined that the focus on the training was to try and improve the officer and suspect safety by reinforcing our arrest techniques and procedures. This topic would be forwarded to the training committee to implement a lesson plan for this topic. There was also one incident that identified a training need for an individual officer. The officer used force three separate times on a single suspect. Once at the point of arrest, then again during a medical examination by EMS and finally at the start of transport. Each of the uses were justified by the suspect actions, however the issue of communication between the officer, dispatch and his supervisor became a factor. This training session took place between the officer and his sergeant during the sergeants review of the use of force report shortly after the incident.

The remaining uses of force did not identify specific use of force training needs. There were no citizen complaints against the department or our officers for improper or excessive use of force in 2015. There were no substantial injuries to suspect or officers during these use of force incidents and officers followed policy and procedures concerning providing medical care to suspects involved in use of force incidents. The goal for 2016 is to increase our training in use of force and to continue to explore ideas, equipment and training that may help us to reduce the number of use of force incidents.

Vehicle Pursuit Analysis

The Monroe Police Department had one vehicle pursuit in 2015. This single pursuit involved a stolen vehicle that fled from an officer who tried to pull the vehicle over on a traffic stop. The initiation of the initiation of the pursuit was valid, but there were policy violations found during the review of the incident in which the pursuit was not terminated once the officer lost sight of the suspect's vehicle. These violations were corrected with a counseling session with the officer during the review.

Due to the single incident, we were unable to identify any trends or problems with our current policy or procedures. It was determined that training on pursuits, pursuit termination techniques and the policy and procedures concerning pursuits should be reviewed and training sessions should be held periodically throughout the year.

2015 OVI TASK FORCE

The Monroe Police Department also participates in the Butler County OVI Task Force. This task force is used to locate and stop impaired drivers on our roadways. Their efforts help to protect all motorists that use our roads. The task force is funded by a grant provided by the State of Ohio.

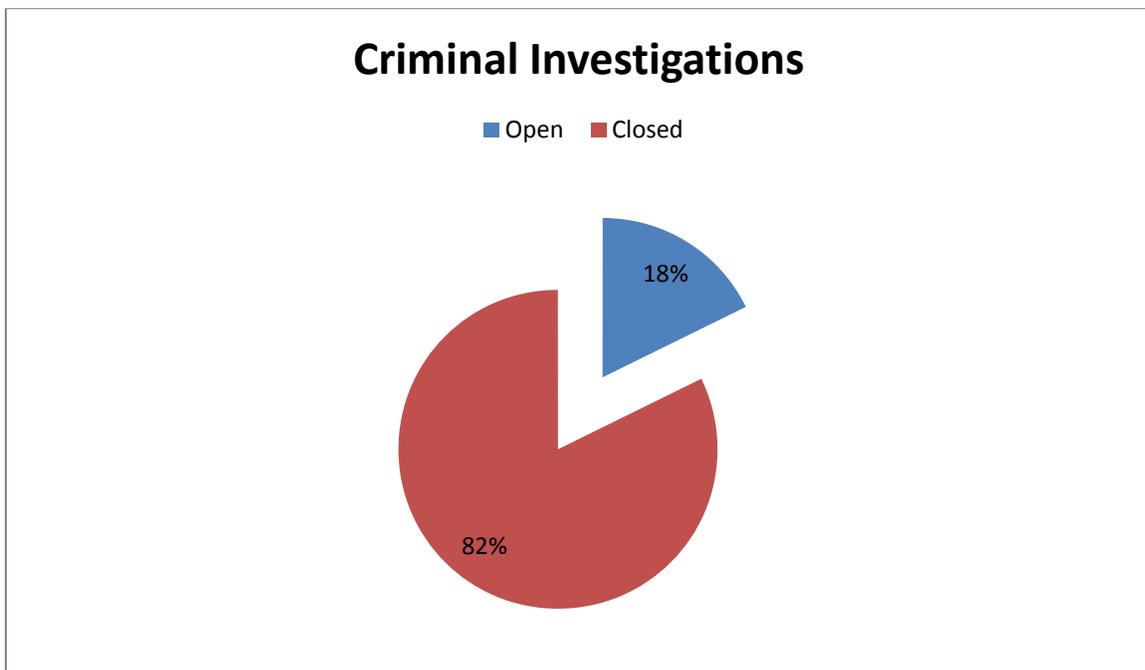
FY 2015 OVI GRANT BALANCE

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>LABOR COST</u>
October	\$0.00
November	\$391.88
December	\$1,413.74
January	\$457.18
February	\$135.60
March	\$0.00
April	\$0.00
May	\$0.00
June	\$0.00
July	\$0.00
August	\$0.00
September	\$0.00
Starting Balance	\$9,500.00
Total Labor Cost to Date	\$2,398.40
Remaining Balance	\$7,101.60

2015 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Detective Section of the Monroe Police Department is currently staffed with three detectives. The Detective Section is commanded by the Support Lieutenant. The detectives investigate felony crimes and certain misdemeanors that occur within the City of Monroe. They also coordinate with many regional investigative units and task forces to work collaboratively on multi-jurisdictional crimes. They are also the intelligence gathering arm of the Police Department. The Detective Section is also responsible for the Monroe Police Department's evidence room.

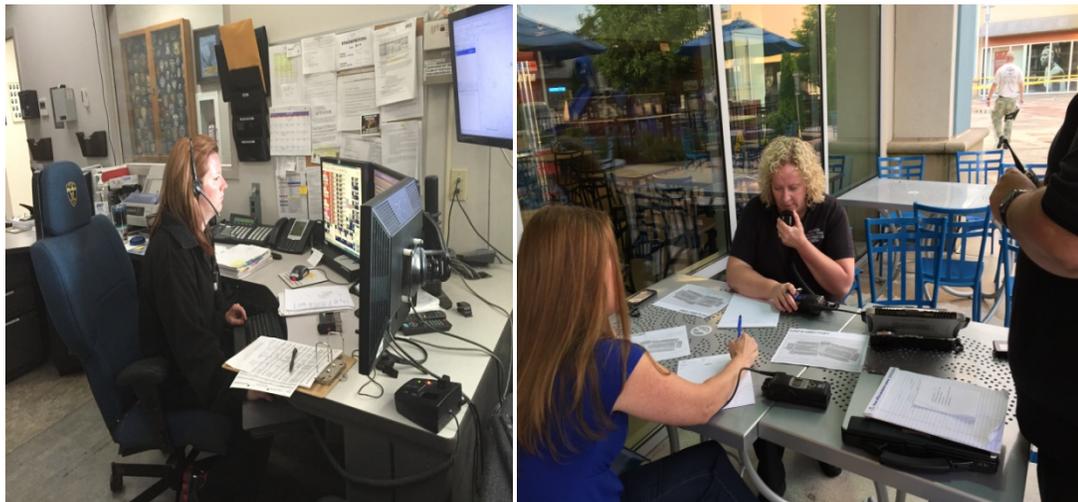
In 2015 there were 158 criminal cases referred to the Detective Section. Of those cases, 130 were either solved or closed. Solved would indicate that the case was closed either through criminal charges or referrals to other law enforcement entities, closed would be that the allegations were either unfounded or that all available investigative methods had been used to investigate the case. This number results in a 82.27% clearance rate for the year.





The members of the communication center have had a very successful year. These specialists are the first point of contact for the City of Monroe in many incidents. They are the afterhours contact for the citizens and serve the community 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. They are the lifeline of communication for our police and fire units, directing them to both emergency and non-emergency calls for service. They also assist the Monroe Public Works Department in their day-to-day operations. They not only work closely with the departments within the City, but are the liaison with the other public service organizations and first responders in the surrounding areas and counties. They are also the primary point of contact with the area courts that serve the citizens of Monroe. All of this has been accomplished in 2015 with only 5 communication officers. Although faced with this shortage of staff, the communication center continued to operate at a high level of efficiency.

During 2015 our communications officers answered a total of 65,135 calls for service on land and cellular lines, and were transferred 2,178 '911' calls from the Butler, Warren County, West Chester and Middletown Communication Centers. The communication center averaged 184 calls per day. They also participated in a regional active shooter drill that provided some excellent training for our dispatchers.



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

The Monroe Police Department is proud to once again partner with the Monroe Local School District and Butler Tech to provide a School Resource Officer in the educational facilities within the City of Monroe. The SRO works closely with the teachers and staff of each school building to provide the safest learning environment possible for the students.



The SRO also works as the D.A.R.E officer for the district. The D.A.R.E curriculum was taught to over 200 6th grade students in 2015. The program covers topics including safe and responsible decision making, risky situations, resistance strategies, responding to pressure, communication, bullying and safe reporting. The skills acquired in DARE combined with involved parents and caring teachers will help our young people make the best decisions they can in order to lead a healthy and productive life.



The police department also sponsored a school supply drive to collect supplies for students that needed them. The donations from the community were collected in the lobby of the police department, and then given to the schools. It was wonderful to see the amazing support for this effort given by our citizens.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The members of the Monroe Police Department are committed to having a positive impact on our community. Our officers and staff participate in many outreach program to help promote positive relationships with our citizens and establish long term community partners that help us in our fight against crime. In recent years we have had to cut back on many of the programs that have helped us build those relationships. Even though we faced those cutbacks, we were still able to participate in several community events in 2015, such as the National Night Out and the Butler County Law Camp. We were also able to host several "Bike Rodeos" in our neighborhoods, as well as provide tours of the police department for several organizations.



BIKE RODEO



NATIONAL NIGHT
OUT

TOUCH-A-TRUCK

We were also very happy to host our 19th Citizen's Police Academy in the fall of 2015. This year's class met once a week on Wednesday nights. Classes on use of force, traffic stops, firearms, evidence collection, crime scene investigation, tactical operations and the K-9 were just a few of the many subjects taught during this year's academy.



This academy provides our citizens with the opportunity to see the inside operations of the police department. It is a great way for our citizens to interact with the officers and gain an understanding of why the police do what they do. Many of our auxiliary officers are former participants in the Citizen's Police Academy. These volunteers are one of the main reasons that the Monroe Police Department is so successful.



2015 GOALS



At the end of 2014 we set several goals for our department as we moved into the future. They were:

1. *Complete current hiring process for police and communications, and look to begin new hiring processes to bring the department back up to our authorized staffing levels.*
 - This goal was achieved as we were able to hire several part-time dispatchers and we held hiring processes for entry level police officers, lateral entry police officers and full-time dispatchers.
2. *Establish a recruitment plan and program for the department to attract and recruit the most highly qualified professionals possible.*
 - This goal was achieved as we revamped our hiring standards and trained and deployed recruiters to area police academies in advance of our testing process for police officer.
3. *Evaluate our current property room operations and determine methods to improve this operation.*
 - The property room officers worked very hard to obtain court orders for the release, destruction or conversion of property held by the department.
 - We were able to work with Miami University's criminal justice program and offered an internship program to one of their students who worked in the property room computer program to assist in setting up the orders to purge property.
4. *Evaluate and identify any training, equipment or operational needs to enhance our investigative capabilities. The objective is to increase our case clearance rate in 2015.*
 - With the limited manpower in the patrol section we continued to use our detectives for more and more things. We did identify a need for better recording capabilities in our interview rooms and budgeted for those upgrades in the 2016 budget.
5. *Look at opportunities to increase our community oriented events in the spring and summer months in 2015.*
 - Again, our manpower situation limited us in the number of events that we could do, but we had great success with the events that we did hold. We will continue work to provide more community oriented events into 2016.
6. *Finalize a 5 year plan for the police and communication departments.*
 - This was completed and presented to city management , and many of the concepts in the five-year plan have been placed in the city's overall strategic plan.



2016 Goals

As we move into 2016, the members of the Monroe Police Division commit ourselves to build upon the success achieved in 2015. With that in mind we have established some goals for ourselves in 2016.

- Complete the hiring process and bring our department sworn strength to 30 officers.
- Identify, assign and train a community service officer for the department to assist with our community oriented policing initiatives.
- Identify and assign an officer to the Warren County Drug Task Force.
- Increase our criminal case clearance rate by our detective section.
- Increase our department training events by 20%. Especially in the area of policy, use of force and unarmed self defense.
- Train our communications officers in emergency medical dispatching.
- Explore the advantages of becoming an accredited agency, make the decision, and begin the process if beneficial to the agency and the City.