

STOW POLICE DEPARTMENT
**ANNUAL
REPORT
2015**

A Message from Chief Jeff Film

Mayor Sara Kline,

It is a privilege to serve as the Chief of Police for the City of Stow. Through a collaborative effort with the City Administration, City Council, community leaders and my department personnel, we have been working hard to provide the best possible services to our community. I am proud to present to you and City Council the 2015 Annual Report of the Stow Police Department. This report is a compilation of statistical information as well as an outline of the multiple services that we provide to the community.



In 2015, we hired three officers. The first was to replace a probationary officer who resigned; the second two officers were hired to fill vacancies due to the retirements of Sgt. Matt Reed and Detective Tom Gottas. Officer Erik Dirker was promoted to Sergeant in May. The police department finished the year four officers under its authorized level of 44.

With the increase in drug overdoses, the police department received training in the use of Narcan in 2015 and it is carried by the officers on the streets. In addition, the city is working with the high school administration, city leaders and county agencies to develop additional resources to educate our youth, identify those at risk, and to come up with alternative counseling and treatment options.

The police department's mission, vision and core values were updated this past year with a strong emphasis on commitment to our community and to our profession. The men and women of the Stow Police Department are dedicated to providing the best possible service to the community. It is our goal to continue building our police department's relationship with the public by expanding our services to meet the needs of our community.

The members of the Stow Police Department look forward to the new year where we will strive to meet the challenges that lie before us.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chief Jeffery E. Film". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chief Jeffery E. Film

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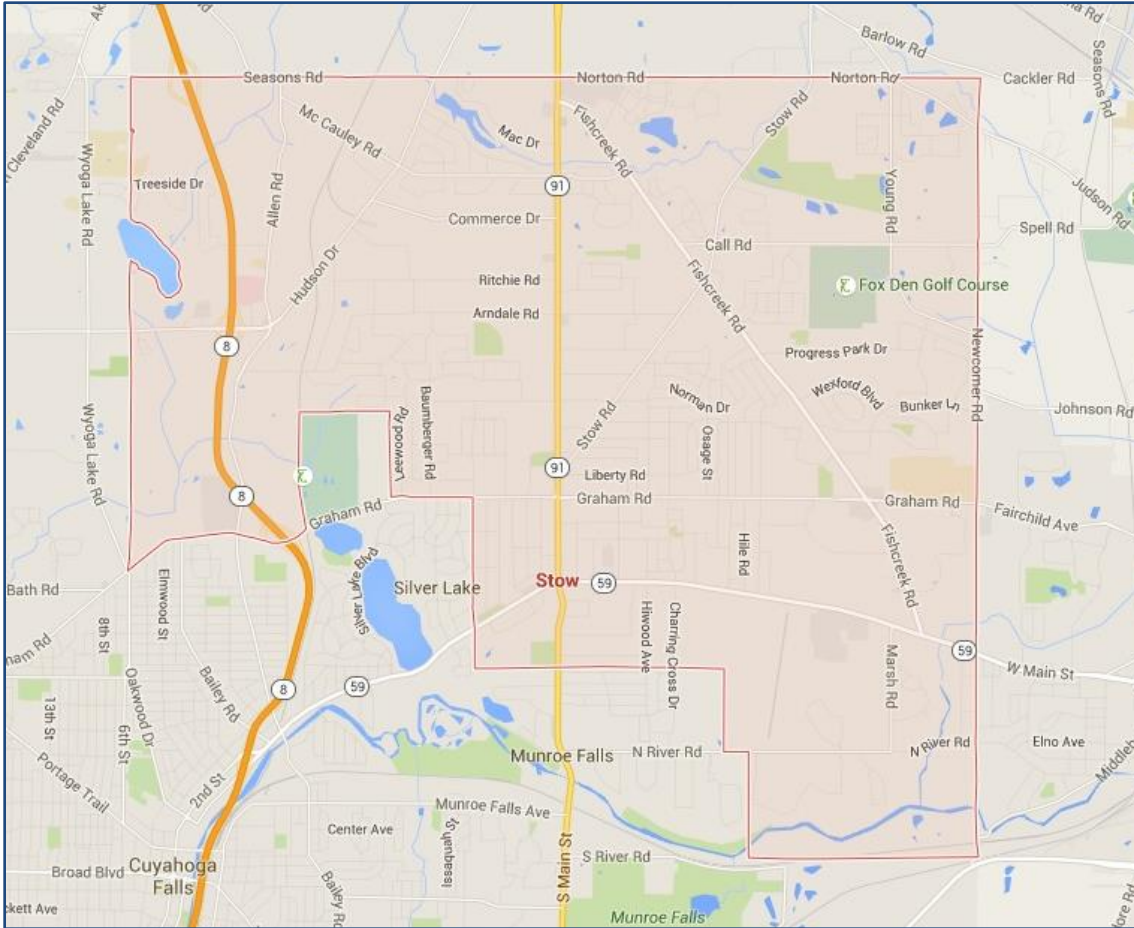
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City of Stow Facts



<p>Ohio Flag</p> 	<p>City of Stow Flag</p> 	<p>City of Stow Logo</p> 
<p>2015 Population 34,837</p>	<p>Founded in 1804</p>	<p>Named After Joshua Stow</p>
<p>Incorporated in 1957</p>	<p>Sq. Miles 17.32</p>	<p>Miles of Roadway 339</p>
<p>3rd Largest City in Summit County</p>	<p>36th Largest City in Ohio</p>	<p>Acres of Parks 410</p>

Stow Police Department

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Website

www.stowohio.org/departments/police

facebook

[Stow Police Department, Stow, OH](https://www.facebook.com/StowPoliceDepartment)



Safety Center

2015 marked the 20 year anniversary of the Stow Safety Center. In 1995 the City built the building to house the Police Department and Fire Department headquarters. The Police Department and city jail occupy the west wing of the building while the Fire Department occupies the east wing. The Safety Center has a shared administrative area for two departments, and also houses the offices of the Stow Law Department, and a large multi-purpose community gathering room.

In December the Safety Center received some long overdue improvements. A fresh coat of paint and new carpet were installed in the interior of the police department, replacing the original paint and carpet.

Core Values, Mission & Vision Statements

The Stow Police Department has had core values, a mission statement, and a vision statement for some time. These key pieces of information help guide us as a police department and define what we do. In 2015, under Chief Film, we re-evaluated our agency and decided to update our mission and vision statements. Our core values, which were selected by the officers years prior, were kept the same but redefined to better reflect our department.



Core Values

- Integrity:** We adhere to a code of honesty and ethical principles in all that we do.
- Service:** We faithfully and selflessly serve those who have entrusted us to perform the duties of a Stow Police Officer.
- Commitment:** We are dedicated to performance reflective of the highest standard of personal and organizational excellence.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to be a visible deterrent to criminals and a visible assurance to the public; to protect those who have been wronged and pursue those who have done wrong; and to serve all with dignity and respect.

Vision Statement

We will meet challenges and inspire public confidence through innovation, professionalism, and a commitment to excellence.

Departmental Restructuring

Beginning in January 2015, the department was restructured. In 2014 each of the three patrol shifts were led by a lieutenant and two sergeants. The detective bureau consisted of a sergeant and three detectives. For 2015, the night shift lieutenant position was removed and an administrative lieutenant position was created. This lieutenant was placed in charge of the detective bureau, the records division and stow youth services. Night shift is now run by two sergeants who report to the patrol commander. The detective sergeant position was dissolved and those duties were assumed by the administrative lieutenant.

Uniformed Patrol



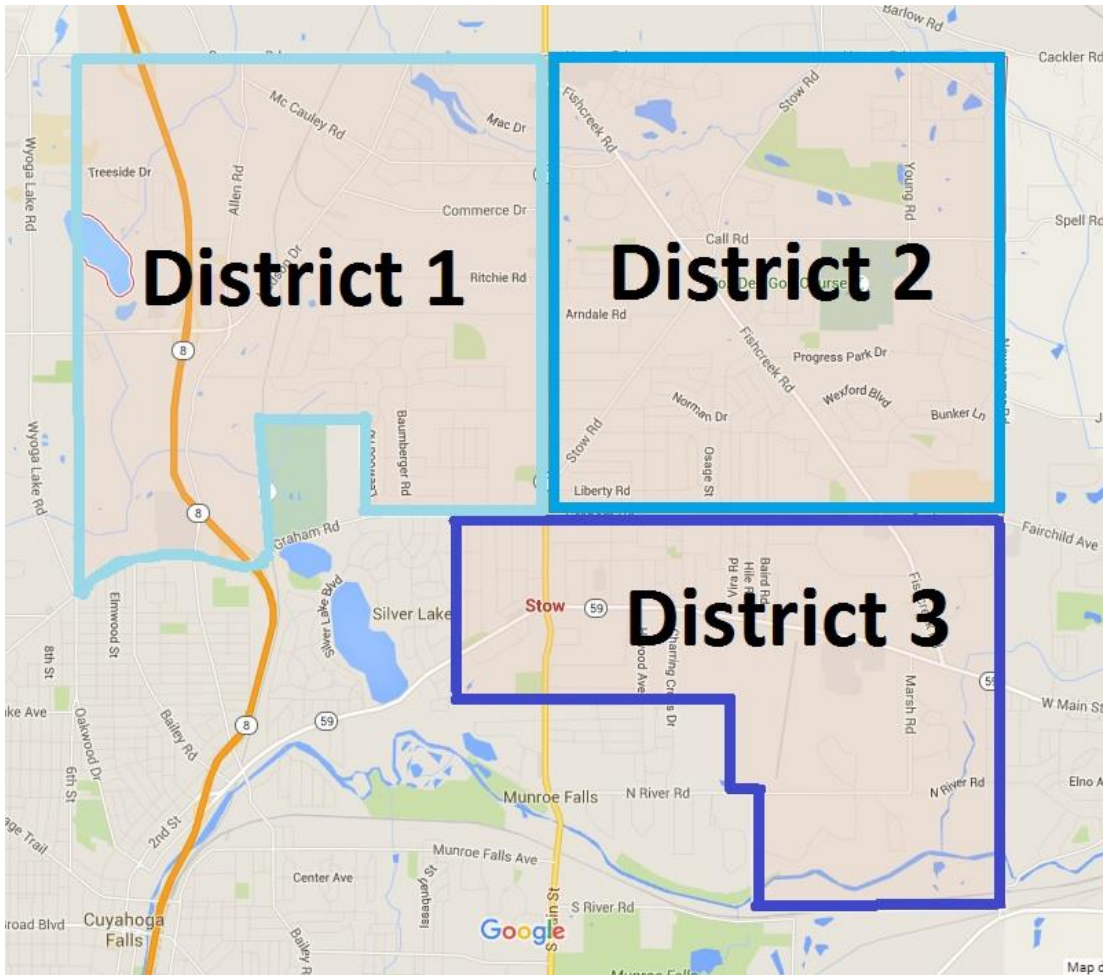
The Uniform Division is the largest division in the police department with thirty-three (33) members, all of whom are full-time sworn peace officers. These uniformed officers are dedicated to patrol duties and are first responders to all emergencies and calls for service from the community.



Patrol is divided into three duty shifts: Day shift operates from 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM and bears much of the responsibility for interacting with schools, courts, local businesses, and banks. Afternoon shift runs from 3:00 PM – 11:00 PM and is typically the busiest of the three shifts, handling the evening rush hour. Night shift runs from 11:00 PM – 7:00 AM and traditionally leads the division in OVI (drunk driving) and alcohol-related incidents and arrests.

Patrol Districts

The city is divided into 3 separate districts for police coverage. Each officer is assigned a district at the beginning of his/her shift. Supervisors and officers who are not assigned a designated district are referred to as “district 4” cars which mean they cover the entire city. Each district has unique characteristics. District 1 houses industrial areas, business districts, SR-8, an ARMY National Guard armory, area hotels, a hospital, and residential areas. District 2 is largely residential, but does contain some business districts, large areas of greenspace, and the city’s high school. District 3 has large areas of retail business, along with the Kent State Airport, three schools and many residential streets.



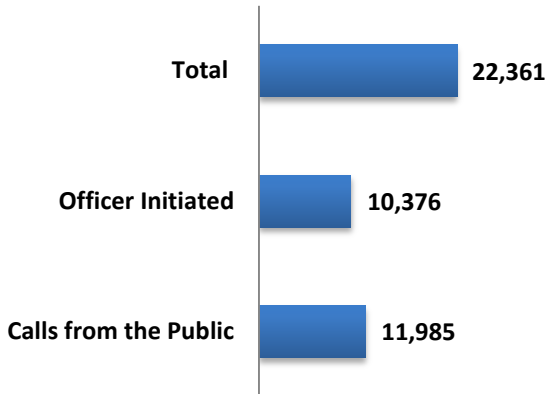
The City of Stow shares a border with seven different towns: Cuyahoga Falls, Franklin Township, Hudson, Kent, Munroe Falls, Streetsboro, and Tallmadge.

While the police department is responsible for law enforcement duties in the city, other law enforcement agencies also have shared jurisdiction in Stow. These agencies include the Summit County Sherriff’s Department, the Ohio State Patrol, as well as other state and federal law enforcement agencies.

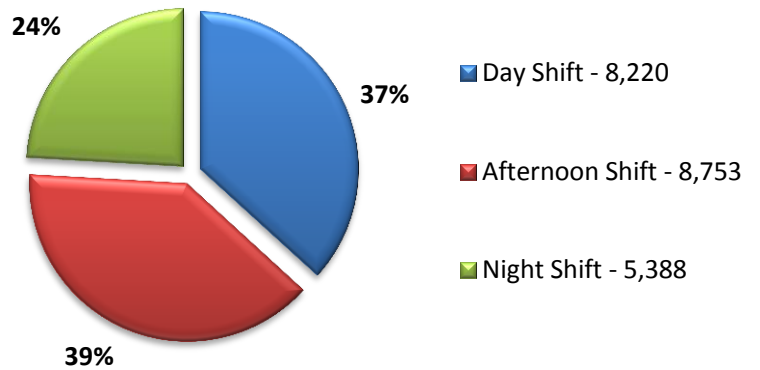
Statistical Information

In 2015, Stow Police Officers handled 22,361 calls for service. This was a 12.9% increase over 2014. The below charts and graphs will help give you an idea of when these calls for service occurred.

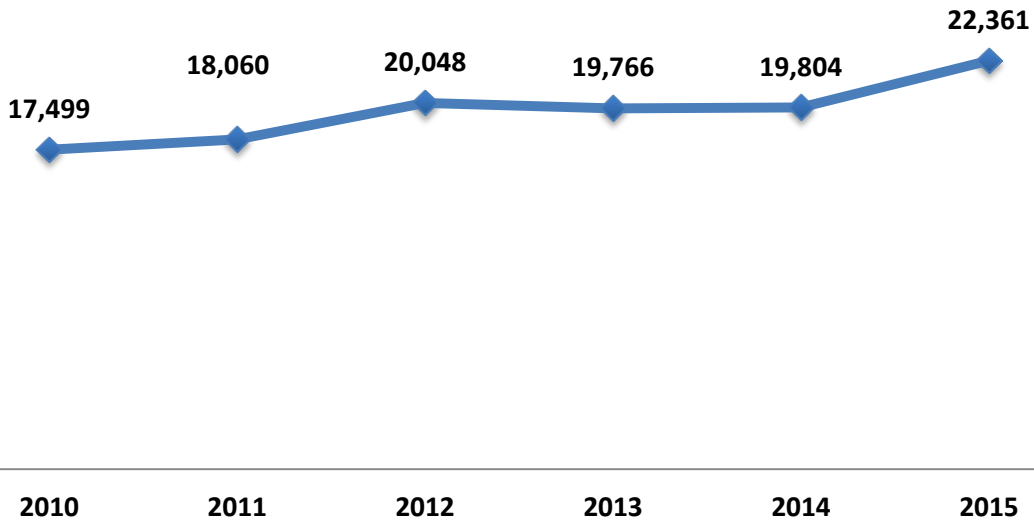
Calls For Service



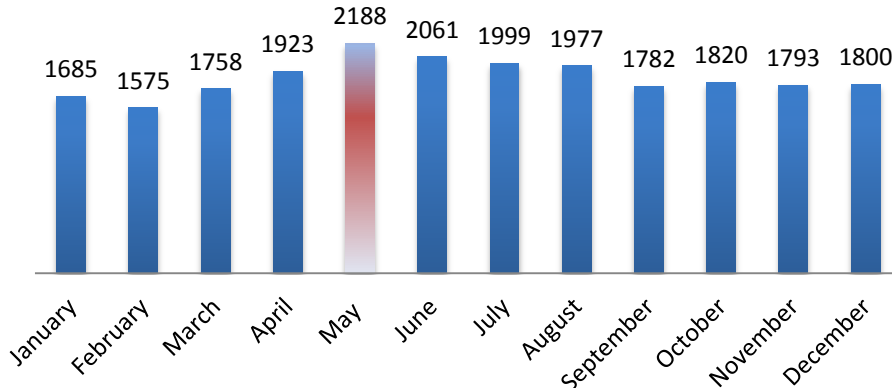
Calls for Service by Shift



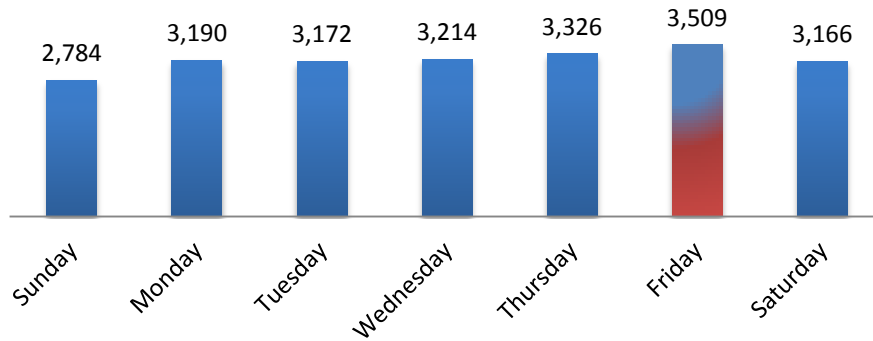
Total Calls for Service - Historical



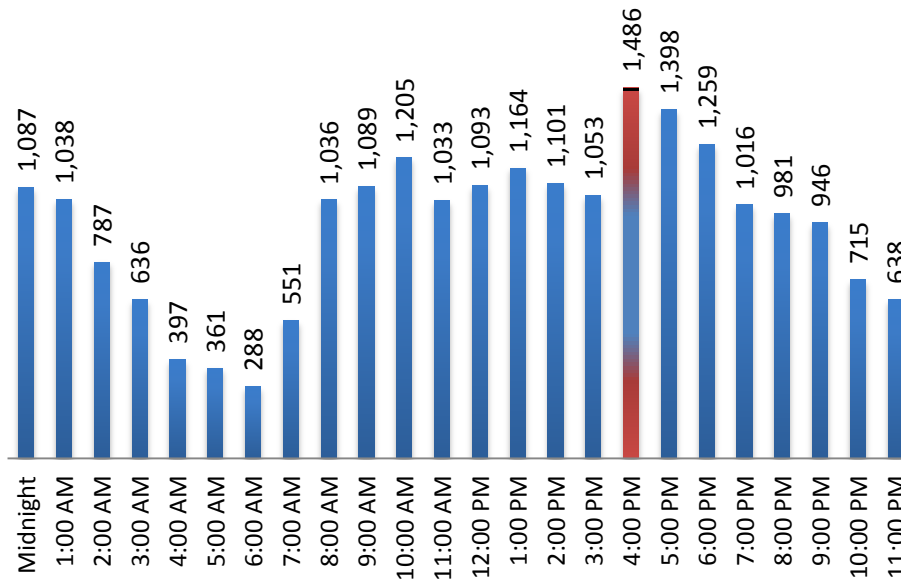
Calls for Service - By Month



Calls for Service - By Day of the Week



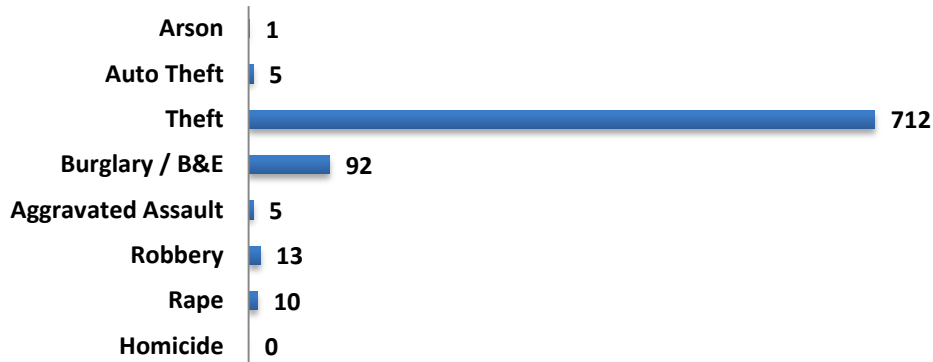
Calls for Service Hourly Breakdown



Crime Statistics

Calls for service are classified using FBI Uniform Crime Reporting standards. This method of reporting breaks down calls into Part I and Part II offenses. Part I crimes consist of Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary / B&E, Theft, Auto Theft, and Arson. Part II crimes cover all other offenses.

Part 1 Crimes

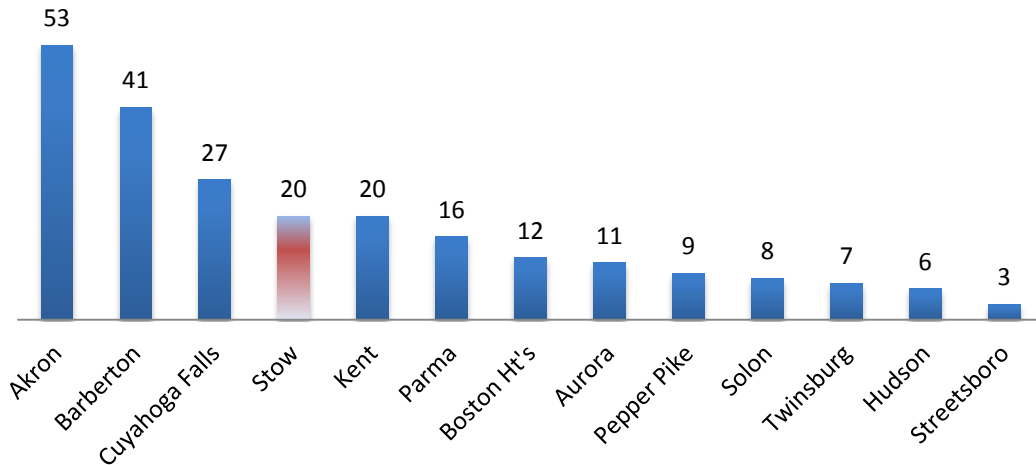


Stow’s 2015 Part 1 crime saw a 12.6% increase over 2014. Auto Thefts, Thefts, Burglary/B&E’s, and Robberies all saw an increase, while Arson, Rape and Murder saw a decline. Aggravated assaults stayed the same.

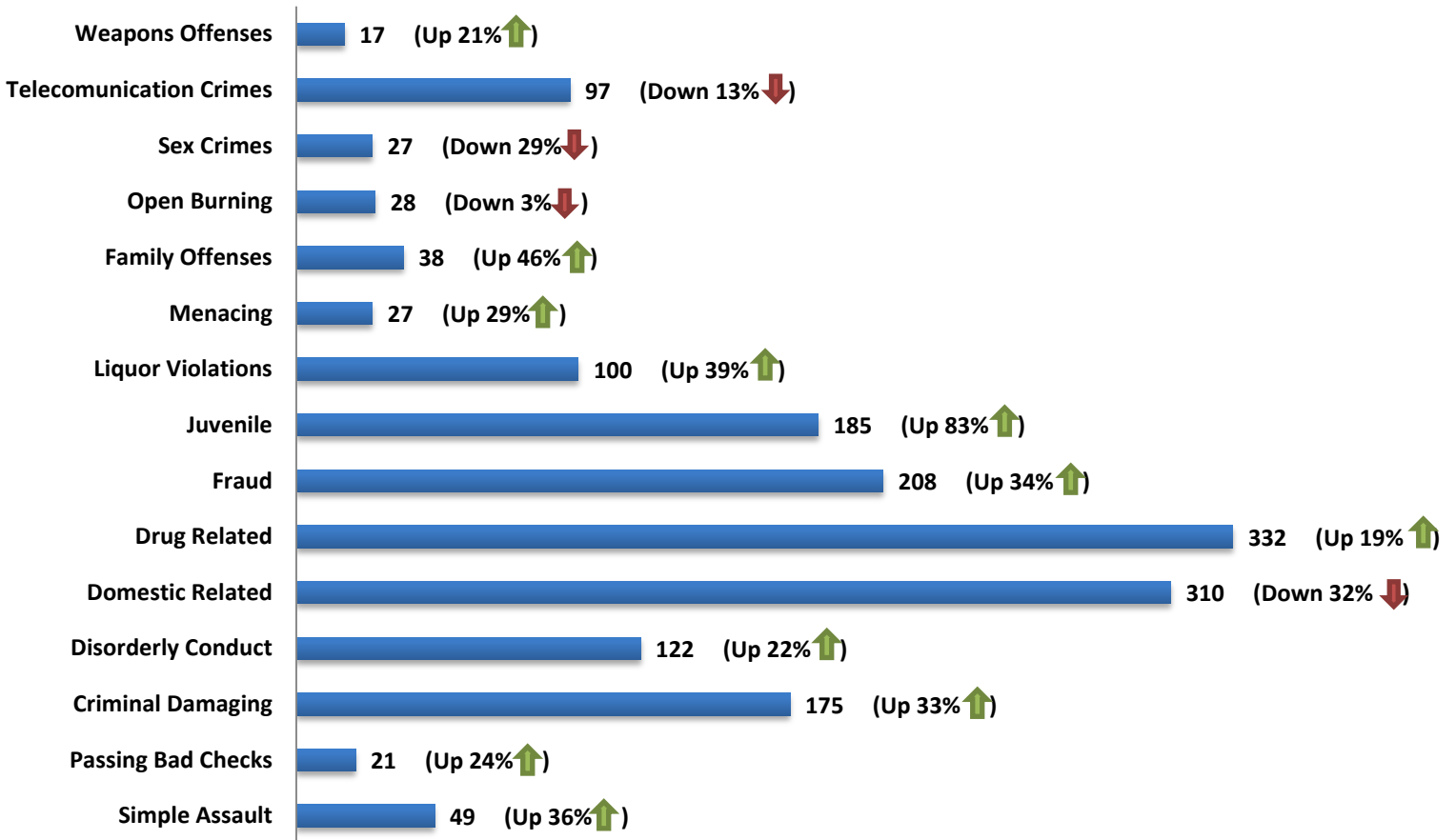
The graph below depicts how Stow’s occurrence of Part I crimes compares to that of nearby cities who report their crime statistics to the FBI. The stats shown here are from 2014, as they are the most current available. Stow’s actual per capita rate for 2015 is 24.

Part I Crimes Per Capita - 2014

Per 1,000 Residents

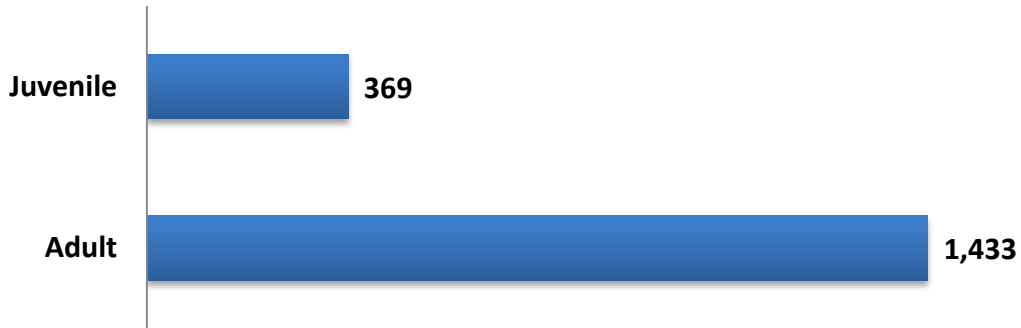


Other Reports & Part II Crimes



Arrests

In 2015, Stow Officers made 1,802 arrests. This averages out to nearly 5 arrests per day, and is a 31.7% increase from 2014. ↑



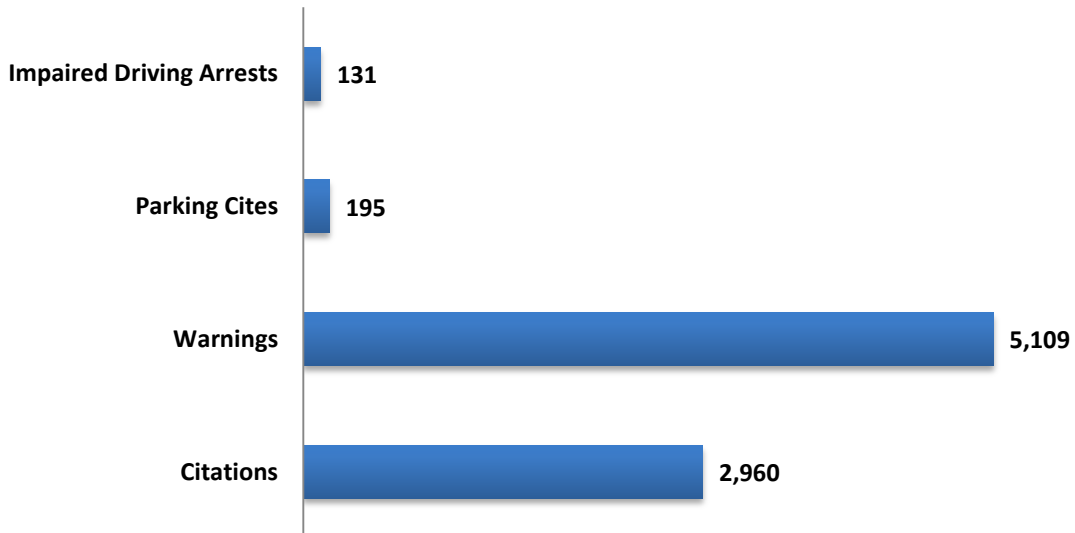
Traffic Enforcement



Traffic enforcement is an important part of law enforcement and is handled by all officers in the uniformed division throughout their shifts. Conducting traffic enforcement not only keeps the roads safe, but has also been proven to reduce crime by being a visual deterrent to criminals in the area. Officers routinely focus on detecting and arresting impaired and suspended drivers while also monitoring neighborhood streets and known problem areas.

In 2015, officers worked 56 traffic alerts. These traffic alerts are areas in which local residents or businesses are concerned with traffic issues (i.e. cars speeding on my street or cars not stopping at a stop sign). These alerts are worked by the district officers when they have time between calls for service.

Traffic Enforcement



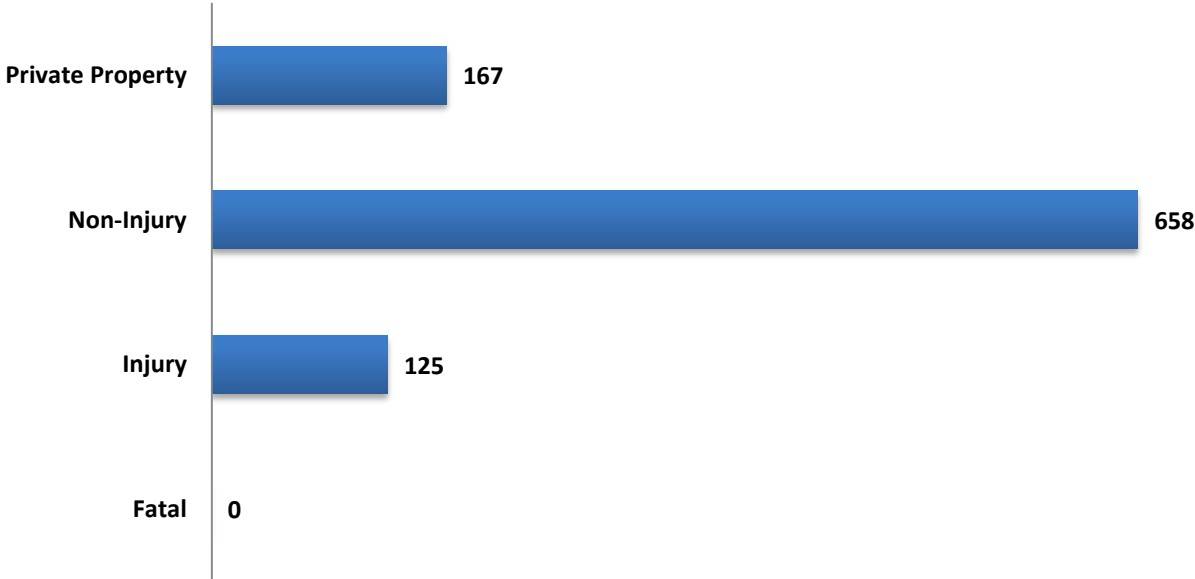
Traffic Crashes

In 2015, the Stow Police Department handled 950 traffic crashes. This is a 17% increase from 2014. 



Injury Crash on SR-8 n/b – Sept. 2015

Traffic Crashes



Training

Members of the Stow Police Department are constantly training in order to stay proficient and current in our profession. Training takes many different forms.



After graduating from a state certified police academy, new officers are put through a minimum of 560 hours in the field training program (3.5 months). They ride along with experienced Field Training Officers (FTOs) on each of our three shifts, and learn what it takes to become a Stow Police Officer. They are then on probationary status and will be closely mentored and monitored for their first year of employment.

Veteran officers are also in a constant state of training. Each shift conducts monthly “rollcall” training on various topics throughout the year. We also routinely utilize online self-study courses, to keep us current on trends and case law.

Department wide training is held multiple times a year. These blocks of training are taught by our in-house instructors. They include topics such as firearms, defensive tactics, taser, etc...

We also train yearly in rapid deployment, which is the immediate response to such threats as an active shooter or in-progress violent/critical incident.

Over the years, rapid deployment training has been conducted in schools, city buildings, and private businesses. For 2015 we focused on training in numerous churches throughout the city.



In addition to rollcall training and departmental training, officers also regularly attend outside training hosted by other departments, the state academy, or other training groups. In 2015 officers attended 2,232 hours of training in a myriad of topics including but not limited to: Homicide Investigations; Handling Critical Incidents; Violent Extremism; Bombing Response; Leadership; Crisis Intervention; Crisis Negotiations; Advanced Roadside Testing for Impaired Driving Investigations; Less Lethal Munitions;

Interview & Interrogation; Narcotics Investigation; Bike Patrol; Field Training Officer; Civil Liability; Firearms, Arrest & Self Defense Tactics; Advanced Patrol Car Drivers Training; Human Trafficking; etc...

OVI Task Force

The Stow Police Department is a member of the Summit County OVI Task Force (OVI = Operating a Vehicle Intoxicated). The task force is funded by a grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety and is made up of 9 different agencies. The goal of the task force is to reduce the number of alcohol-related crashes in Summit County. This is accomplished through three primary activities: OVI Checkpoints, Saturation Patrol, and Corridor Enforcement. Officers from the departments who are trained in OVI detection receive a special commission from the Summit County Sheriff to work enforcement details anywhere in the county.



In 2015, Stow officers worked 230 hours of OVI saturation patrol. During this time, officers' conduct traffic enforcement in Stow with the purpose of detecting and arresting drivers who are under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. These patrols occur during times which have been identified as high OVI crash times, typically evening hours and designated holidays or special blitz days such as St. Patrick's Day and Super Bowl Sunday. Stow officers working saturation patrol conducted 314 stops which led to 28 arrests.



Stow officers also assisted with numerous OVI checkpoints throughout Summit County (including 1 in Stow). These checkpoints are set up in areas where alcohol-related crashes are historically high. The primary purpose of a checkpoint is to deter impaired driving; therefore checkpoint times and locations are released to the media. The use of OVI Checkpoints has been upheld by appellate courts

in Ohio, and has proven to be an effective deterrent to impaired drivers. In 2015 the task force checked 6,468 vehicles at OVI checkpoints and made multiple arrests.

In addition to saturation hours and checkpoints, officers commissioned on the OVI task force can participate in corridor enforcement. This is focused group traffic enforcement which is done on the main corridors (primary expressways) throughout the county (i.e. I-77, I-76, SR-8, SR-224, etc...).

Investigative Division

Lt. Anne Stirm took over the Detective Bureau in 2015. She has four detectives assigned to her.

Detectives work primarily during daytime hours but are on call 24 hours a day. The bureau typically investigates crimes of a more serious nature, or crimes which need detailed or further follow-up. Detectives are assigned cases and work them until completion.

Some notable accomplishments for the division include:

In April 2015, Det. Jeff Swanson received the Lt. Ed Duval Jr. Detective of the Year award from Summit County's Children Services. He was honored for his outstanding work over the years with sexual assault cases in Summit County.



In August 2015, Det. Eddie Gaffney was awarded "Top Cop" by Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh for her thorough investigation into a child abuse case in which the suspect was convicted and sent to prison.

In November 2015, a jury found Scott D. Purk guilty of murder and tampering with evidence in the death of his wife in 1985 in the city of Akron. He was subsequently sentenced to life in prison.

This cold case was brought to the attention of the Stow Police Department when Purk was being investigated for attempted murder and arson which he committed in Stow. Purk's wife's death had previously been ruled a suicide in 1985. Tireless investigation by Det. Sgt. Mifflin led to the case being re-opened. It was determined that Purk had strangled his wife and staged the scene to look like a suicide by hanging. After a lengthy trial, the case was handed over to the jury. It only took them 4 ½ hours of deliberation to find Purk guilty of the murder.



In addition to their Stow duties, detectives from the bureau work in conjunction with multiple specialized units including:

Summit County Drug Unit



Stow has one detective assigned full time to the Summit County Drug Unit. This is a multi-jurisdictional task force comprised of officers from twelve (12) local agencies in Summit County, as well as federal agents from the DEA, ATF, and FBI. They investigate major organized groups involved in the illegal distribution of drugs throughout the county. This unit not only focuses on large-scale violators, but also conducts undercover drug purchases and responds to mitigate all methamphetamine labs discovered in the county. Additionally, they provide training and educational classes to both officers and

citizens of the community. The Summit County Drug Unit has joined with the Akron Police Department Task Force to form the Akron/Summit County HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) Initiative. Northern Ohio has been designated a high intensity drug trafficking area by the federal government. The staff at HIDTA provides training, intelligence, de-confliction and financial support to participants. The Ohio HIDTA coordinates intelligence information with over 20 other HIDTA areas throughout the United States. The Akron/Summit County HIDTA Initiative is the largest in Ohio.

Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force

Stow Detective Bureau also has one member assigned to assist the US Marshals Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force. This unit, which operates across the northern district of Ohio, is comprised of local and federal officers and is dedicated to the pursuit, apprehension, and successful prosecution of violent adult fugitives with outstanding state and federal felony warrants.



Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force



Stow detectives also participate in Ohio's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC). This task force is also comprised of local and federal officers whose mission is to identify, arrest and prosecute individuals who: (1) use the Internet to lure minors into illicit sexual relationships; or (2) use the Internet to produce, distribute or solicit child pornography.

Specialized Units

Metro SWAT

Stow has five members assigned to the Metro SWAT team. This team consists of officers from eighteen (18) different jurisdictions who train together regularly and respond to high-risk incidents where special weapons or tactics are needed. In 2015, the team was activated or placed on standby sixteen (16) times. In April 2015, Ofc. Schulz, who has been on the SWAT team for seven years, was promoted to team leader.



Honor Guard



The purpose of the honor guard is to represent the department at ceremonial events. They routinely train and drill in order to maintain a high level of precision. They have stood guard at officers' funerals and carry the colors in the city's annual Fourth of July parade. The unit was started with a gracious donation from Stow's Acker Moore VFW post and is comprised of ten members. In 2015, the honor guard participated in seven ceremonial events.



Summit Metro Crash Response Team (SMCRT)

The Summit Metro Crash Response Team (SMCRT) is a multi-jurisdictional crash response team. Stow participates in this unit, along with thirteen (13) other nearby police departments. The team consists of highly trained crash investigators and reconstructionists who respond to assist with crash investigations. Situations where the unit might be activated include: crashes resulting in serious injury or fatality; crashes involving pedestrians; crashes involving motorcycles or commercial vehicles; or any other complex or confusing crashes. In 2015, the team was called to assist at twelve (12) crash scenes.



Evidence Technicians



The department has numerous officers who are specially trained to process crime scenes. These patrol officers work in conjunction with the Detective Bureau and respond to scenes in which there is potential forensic evidence to be collected. Any evidence discovered by these officers is sent to Ohio's Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) crime lab for processing.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is a group of nineteen (19) sworn officers who have been specially trained to recognize and effectively respond to someone experiencing a mental health crisis. Officers routinely use techniques they have learned in order to de-escalate crises with the goal of helping to direct persons with mental illness into treatment.



Court Officer



The Stow Municipal Court serves sixteen (16) communities in northeast Summit County. The City of Stow Police Department assigns one full-time officer to work at the courthouse in conjunction with the security force there. This position is currently held by Officer David Semonin. He is responsible for ensuring the security of the building and overseeing prisoner transports. Additionally, he is tasked with ensuring the safety of the judges, magistrates, and court staff, as well as all visitors to the building.

In 2015, Stow Municipal Court processed nearly 19,000 new cases filed by the different communities which reside in the court's jurisdiction. Out of those communities, the city of Stow filed the largest number of cases (3,854), accounting for over 20% of the court's total caseload.



K-9 Unit

The Stow Police Department currently has a K-9 assigned to each patrol shift. K-9's are a valuable resource and a huge asset to the department and community. All of Stow's K-9's are full-service dogs, which means they are used for drug detection, tracking, and suspect apprehension. The three dogs are certified by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission as well as the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers. These K-9's, guided by their veteran handlers, have been instrumental in tracking and apprehending numerous criminal suspects, and have seized thousands of dollars' worth of illegal narcotics that pass through the city.



K-9 Colt

K-9 Colt is a seven-year-old German Shepherd handled by Sergeant Steve Miller.



K-9 Mingo

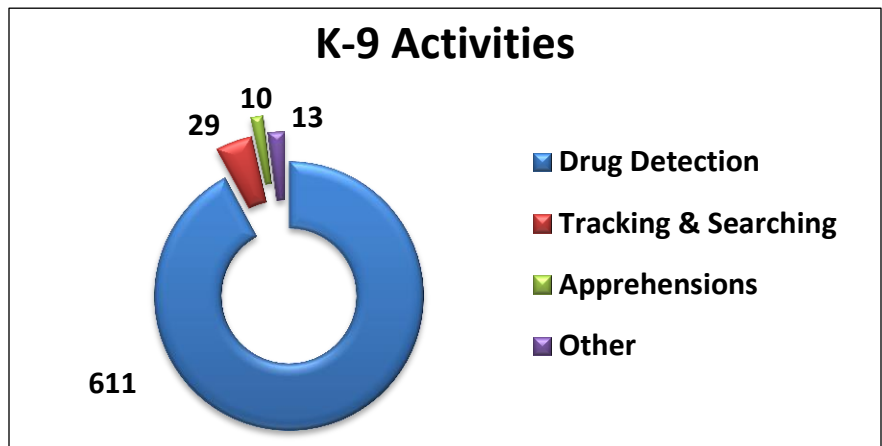
K-9 Mingo is a three-year-old Belgian Malinois handled by Officer Ted Bell.



K-9 Spectrum

K-9 Spectrum is a five-year-old German Shepherd handled by Erik Dirker. Dirker was promoted to Sergeant in May of 2015.

Stow Police K-9's were deployed 663 times and involved in 70 arrests in 2015.



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INTEGRITY COMMITMENT SERVICE

In addition to their patrol duties, in 2015 the K-9 teams conducted numerous educational demonstrations throughout the community, and participated in a K-9 challenge in Akron. Stow's K-9 teams took home 3 trophies in that competition.





Partnerships with Stow City Schools

D.A.R.E.



The Stow Police Department provides DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) to the sixth grade class at Stow-Munroe Falls Schools. DARE consists of police officer-led lessons that teach children how to resist peer pressure and live productive lives, free from drugs and violence. Officer Jim Barker, the lead instructor since 2003, educates approximately 430 students yearly. The program is partially funded through a grant from the Ohio Attorney General's Office.



S.R.O.

Since 1996, the Stow Police Department has had a full-time SRO (School Resource Officer) assigned to the high school. Officer Barry Smith has held this assignment since 2004. SRO Smith is a uniformed presence in the school and is responsible for providing for the safety and security of both the staff and the 1,800 students who attend the school. In addition to providing security, he provides instruction in law-enforcement related matters and answers calls for service within the school and its immediate vicinity. The SRO program is partially funded through both a grant from the Ohio Attorney General's Office as well as funds from the school district.



Adopt-A-Cop



Adopt-A-Cop is a program where on-duty day shift officers stop into the schools within their patrol districts in order to interact with the students and staff. This initiative helps to foster a positive relationship between officers and the school community.

School Security



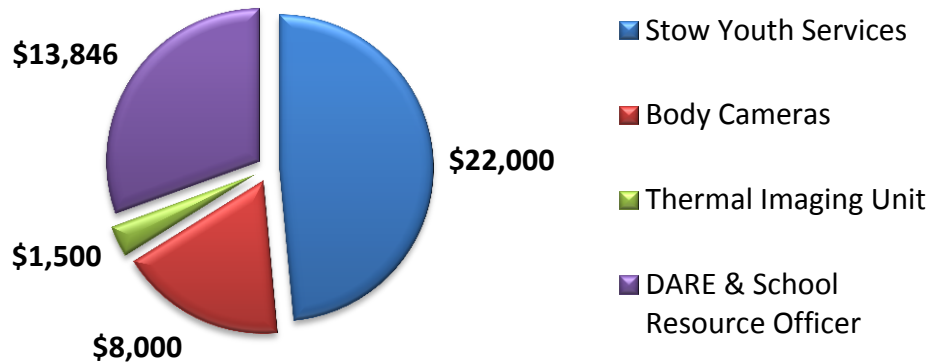
Since 2012, the department has partnered with the school district to provide an additional security presence at the intermediate school and the five elementary schools within the city. This is accomplished by having off-duty Stow police officers work a

security detail in which they alternate between schools. Since its inception, this program, which is fully funded by the school district, has proven to be beneficial to both the schools and the department. It has allowed officers to become familiar with the operations and layout of the schools and it gives students, staff, and parents the ability to interact with officers in a non-enforcement setting.

Grants

The department received grant awards totaling \$45,346 in 2015.

Grant Funds Received



Department Initiatives and Services

Neighborhood Watch

Community Wide Neighborhood Watch meetings are held monthly at the police department. These meetings provide a forum for the community to connect with officers and discuss neighborhood issues. Additionally, officers provide education on crime prevention or other law enforcement-related topics.



Child Abduction Response Team (CART)



Stow Police Department participates in Summit County's Child Abduction Response Team (CART). This unit is a division of Ohio CART. The team consists of specially trained police officers, dispatchers, and other key individuals from various agencies and jurisdictions who are prepared to respond 24/7 to the abduction of a child or an 'at risk' missing child situation. The goal of CART is to rapidly flood an area with trained personnel and resources to search for and rescue these missing children.

Chaplaincy Program

The police department has two chaplains within the department. These pastors volunteer their time and are available to both the staff of the department, as well as the public in times of crisis.



Pastor James Case

Stow Community United Church of Christ



Pastor Michael Lovett

Graham Road Baptist Church

Polygraph Examiner

Stow Police Department is one of the few local departments that have a polygraph examiner in house. Sergeant Kenneth Mifflin is certified through the American Polygraph Association and conducts numerous examinations throughout the year. These examinations are done for pre-employment screening for new police officers, firefighters, dispatchers and reserve officer candidates. Additionally, numerous evidentiary examinations are conducted on people suspected of committing crimes. These criminal examinations are often at the request of the Stow Detective Bureau, but also come from other law enforcement agencies who partner with Stow PD.



In 2015, Sgt. Mifflin conducted 29 polygraph examinations.

Internships



The Stow Police Department hosts criminal justice students from area universities as interns. These internships consist primarily of observation to help the students add real-world experience to their academic knowledge. Interns spend most of their time riding along with officers on all three shifts; in addition they observe detectives, dispatch, and youth services. They also attend K9 and SWAT training, sometimes assisting as role players for SWAT training scenarios. Some interns have assisted the department with clerical functions and community activities when the need arises.

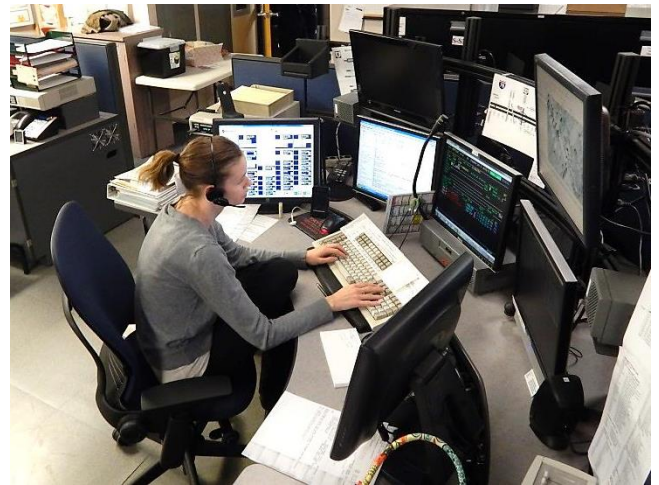
In 2015 Stow PD had two interns during the summer. One was from Akron University and one was from Kent State University. In addition to their ride alongs and observations they assisted with Safety Town and Summer Sunset Blast.

Support Services


While sworn police personnel are the most visible aspects of a police department, there are many more divisions that are vital to the agency. Without the assistance of these support services, the Stow police department would not be able to provide its current high level of service.

Communications Division

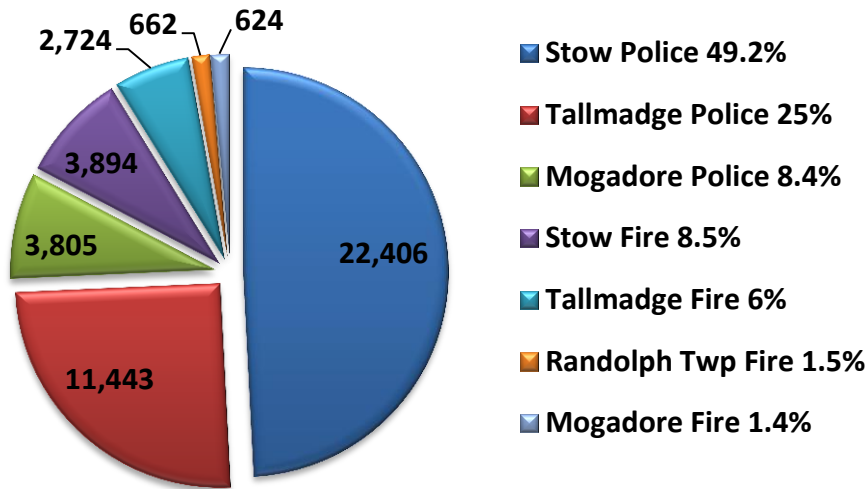
The Stow Communications Center is staffed by a supervisor, fourteen (14) full-time, and six part-time dispatchers. Each member is certified by the National Academy of Emergency Medical Dispatch. All 9-1-1 emergency calls, all non-emergency calls, and most administrative calls are received through the Communications Center. The Stow Communication Center dispatches calls not only for the City of Stow safety forces, but also for Tallmadge Police and Fire/EMS, Mogadore Police and Fire/EMS, and Randolph Township Fire/EMS. Members of the Communications Center must function effectively in some of the most chaotic aspects of an emergency, and are a vital link between the citizens of Stow and the safety forces.



The Communications Center averages 500 phone calls per day, which is over 15,000 calls per month. Of the many calls handled in 2015 by the Stow dispatchers, an average of 110 per day were emergency 9-1-1 calls.

Incoming calls that result in a request for service are entered into the Computer Automated Data System (CAD). In 2015, dispatchers entered 45,558 incidents into CAD, which averages out to 125 incidents per day. This is a seven percent increase over 2014.  The graph below shows the breakdown of incidents by each agency the Communications Center dispatches for.

CAD Incidents by Agency



Stow Communication Center has six dispatch consoles as pictured to the left. Four are used routinely and the other two are in place as backups should they be needed during a large scale emergency or special event.



In 2015, the City of Stow and the City of Cuyahoga Falls began talks of potentially merging their dispatch centers. Cuyahoga Falls currently dispatches for five emergency service agencies (Cuyahoga Falls Police/Fire, Munroe Falls Police/Fire, and Silver Lake Police Department) as well as their other city services. The merging of the two centers would be a large project for both cities. Should the collaboration take place, the dispatch center would be one of the largest in the area, and would serve an extremely large segment of the population in Summit County.

A project such as this is sure to have many challenges and technical considerations due to the complexities of the technology and the critical nature of emergency services.

Community Service Officer (CSO)

The department has one full-time Community Service Officer to be of assistance within the department and the city. CSO Edward Young handles all animal control issues and is certified by the National Animal Control Association. He also assists the community with service calls that do not require a sworn officer, such as when citizens lock their keys in their vehicle. In addition to handling animal control and service calls, CSO Young is responsible for maintaining the department's fleet of vehicles, and is often tasked with other miscellaneous jobs and special projects.

In 2015, Stow PD handled 1,312 animal calls.



Records Division



Stow Records Division is responsible for maintaining all records produced and evidence collected by the Stow Police Department. They routinely process and file the many different types of reports generated by officers, perform data entry, and prepare complaints and video evidence for court. Additionally, they maintain and control all property taken in by the department. This includes all evidence seized, as well as any lost or recovered property. All members of the Records Division are well versed in public records laws, and are responsible for handling all public records

requests the department receives. In 2015, the Records Division added a part-time employee to assist with daily operations. This bolstered the unit after their staff had been previously reduced by a full time employee in 2014. Records is currently staffed by a supervisor, two full-time records clerks, and a part-time clerk. 2015 was the first full year of the Direct Incitement Program (DIP). This program, which was developed in conjunction with the Stow Law Department, allows all felony arrests to be processed and presented directly to a Grand Jury without the need for a preliminary hearing in municipal court. The Records Division is tasked with ensuring the timely processing of all felony level paperwork and evidence to the Summit County Prosecutor's Office for presentation to the Grand Jury.




Stow Youth Services

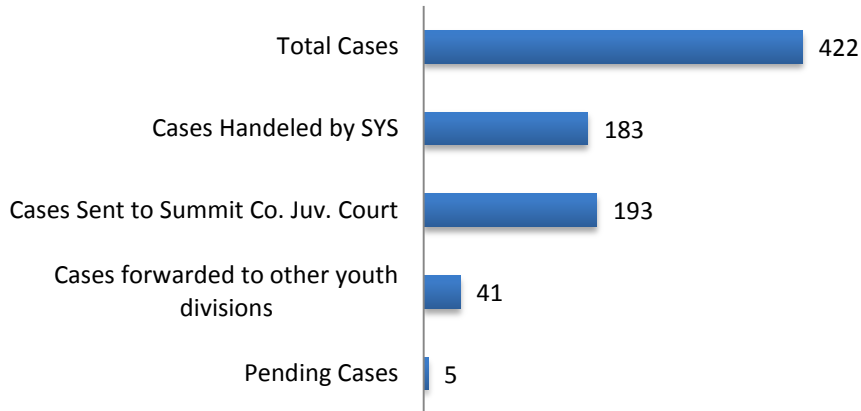


Stow Youth Services (SYS) is a program provided by the Stow Police Department which offers alternative rehabilitation for juveniles who have been arrested by local police. This program diverts teens from the Juvenile Court System and provides accountability and assistance to the teens and their parents. Any juvenile who lives in the City of Stow who becomes involved with the police is eligible by referral. Walk-ins are also considered when parents need help handling their child. SYS is staffed with a supervisor

and two additional case workers. Each staff member has extensive schooling and training to aid them in managing juvenile cases. SYS provides programs such as a six-hour Mandatory Parent Student Educational Group, Mediation services, Tobacco Education Classes and Safety Town.

In 2015, SYS managed 422 juvenile cases, which is a 40% increase  over 2014.

Juvenile Case Dispositions



SYS gave 45 different educational presentations to over 2,900 individuals during the course of the year. Additionally, they worked over 800 hours on different community service projects.

In 2015, SYS used a portion of the grant money they received to purchase drug testing kits. They have the ability to test juveniles for drug use via urine screening and now via hair testing.

SYS mentored two college interns in 2015. These students completed 450 hours with the SYS team and were able to receive training and practical experience in dealing with the juvenile justice system and a successful diversion program.

Reserve Unit

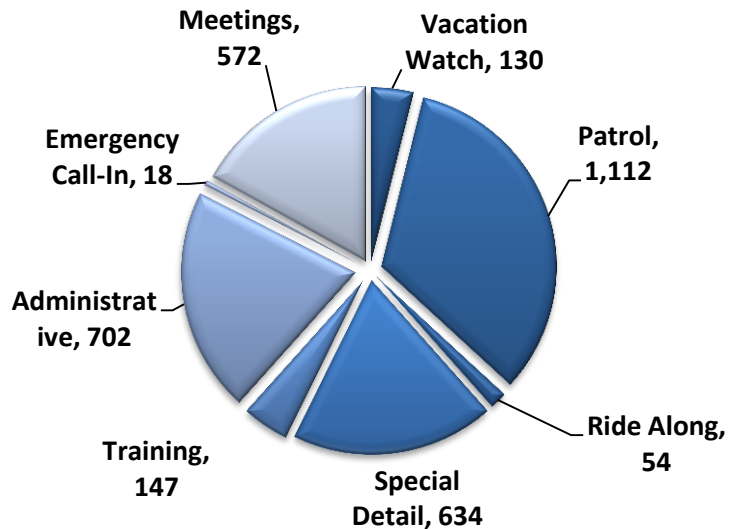


The Stow Police Department Reserve Unit is comprised of a group of dedicated individuals who volunteer their time and services to the police department. Overseen by a sworn police sergeant, the unit consists of sixteen (16) reserve officers. These members meet and train regularly to assist the department wherever they can. They can often be spotted at community events, providing security and



directing traffic. Additionally, they ride along with officers, and they can patrol together in teams to supplement sworn officers. During these patrols, they are often tasked with assisting disabled motorists, directing traffic, towing vehicles, and assisting citizens when they lock their keys in their vehicles. Another responsibility of the reserve officers is to conduct vacation watches. This is a service that allows members of the community to have the perimeter of their home checked by the reserves when they are on vacation or away. In 2015, reserves logged a total of 3,369 volunteer hours.

Volunteer Reserve Officer Hours



Police Explorers

The cities of Stow, Tallmadge, and Munroe Falls collaborate and have a multi-jurisdiction police explorer post. This program, which is an offshoot of the Boy Scouts of America, allows young men and women from the communities, aged 14-20, to explore the possibility of law enforcement as a career. The youths meet regularly and learn what it is like to be an officer. Their training includes classroom instruction as well as hands on experience. Explorers often volunteer at community events and ride along with officers on duty. In 2015, police explorers assisted both Stow PD and Tallmadge PD as role players in our active shooter/rapid deployment training.



Community Outreach

The Stow Police Department strives to be in touch with the community. Some of the ways the officers and staff connected with the public in 2015 can be seen below.

National Night Out

In conjunction with Target stores, National Night Out is one of the police department's best opportunities to interact with the community. A large outdoor festival, which is open to the public, is held in front of the safety center. The event features large inflatables for kids, free food, and many police-related activities for families to enjoy.



Relay for Life



Relay for Life is the signature event of the American Cancer Society. Each year, the Stow Police & Fire Departments come together to form a team to help raise funds and awareness for cancer research. The 24-hour event is held at Akron General Hospital's Stow campus. The safety forces booth allows visitors at the event to interact with officers, to celebrate recovery, to remember those lost to cancer, and to inspire others to "fight back" against the disease.



Special Olympics Torch Run



Each year, the Special Olympics torch passes through the city of Stow as it makes its way across the country, proudly carried by law enforcement officers to raise funds for the Special Olympics. Hudson officers pass off the torch to Stow officers who then run it the three and a half miles to the southern edge of the city where it is then transferred to Munroe Falls officers so that it can continue on its journey. In 2015, Stow had thirteen runners participate, including Ofc. John Ginther who ran the entire Stow leg in his full duty uniform.



Touch a Truck



The Stow-Munroe Falls Library routinely hosts Touch a Truck events. The police department always brings vehicles to the event which allows the community to interact with officers and gives kids the opportunity to climb inside and check out the “cool” police cruisers and SWAT vehicles.



Departmental Open House



In 2015, we collaborated with Stow FD to hold a combined open house. This event allowed the safety forces to connect with the public and included building tours, K-9 and fire department demonstrations, free food, and educational information. We enjoyed interacting with the citizens and giving people an inside look at the inner workings of the police and fire department.



March for Meals



In March, Stow employees teamed up with Mobile Meals, an Akron based food bank which services many cities throughout Northeast Ohio including Stow. Our food drive was a success, and we were able to donate food and supplies to help those in need.



Meal and Nutrition Services for All

Citizens Police Academy



In conjunction with Cuyahoga Falls, Tallmadge, and Munroe Falls Police Departments, Stow PD held our second annual Citizens Police Academy. This program, which is open to citizens in the four communities, allows participants to learn more



about their respective police departments and to get a behind the scenes look at local law enforcement. The academy consists of classroom instruction, educational demonstrations, and hands on practical experiences. Some topics the participants learned about include: history of the police departments, K-9

information and demonstrations, how to be a good witness, 911 dispatching, Summit Co. medical examiner, use of force, criminal law and laws of arrest, speed and OVI traffic enforcement, crash investigation, narcotic trends, and exercises in a firearms simulator. The 2015 academy had twenty one participants, and was generously sponsored by Western Reserve Hospital.



Operation Chill

Officers partnered up with 7-Eleven to enact Operation Chill. This community outreach program is designed to reduce crime and enhance relations between police and youth. Operation Chill allows law enforcement officers to “ticket” kids they observe doing good deeds or exhibiting positive behavior. The ticket is actually a coupon good for a free Slurpee from 7-Eleven.



In addition to encouraging positive behaviors like wearing bicycle helmets, doing good deeds, participating in community activities and organizations, picking up trash, deterring crime or observing street crossing rules, the Operation Chill Program offers opportunities for officers to establish a rapport with kids in a neighborhood.

Though the reasons for being “ticketed” may vary, the end result is the same for every youngster: A free Slurpee drink and a smile for a good deed.

Handel’s Ice Cream Rewards

Similar to Operation Chill, Handel’s Ice Cream provides officers with coupons for a free ice cream cone which we also use for community outreach. These coupons are given out to kids who we “catch” doing positive things, or kids who need an ice cream cone to cheer them up due to their circumstances.



PD Tours and Community Presentations



Stow officers routinely provide tours of our building and give educational presentations to various groups throughout the community. This is just another way in which we can connect with the community we serve.



Easter Baskets for CSB



In April, Stow Youth Services coordinated an Easter basket drive to give to children in the custody of Summit County Children’s Services. The generous donations allowed us to fill and deliver thirty eight (38) Easter baskets for kids in need!

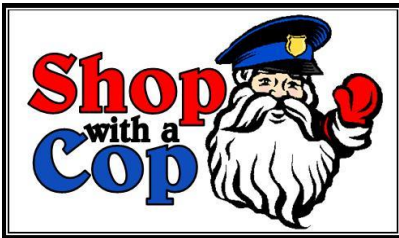


Fill the Cruiser

In December, Stow PD teamed up with Walgreen’s Pharmacy, and Toys for Tots to host a Fill the Cruiser toy drive. The event was a success and we were able to donate many toys to children who may not have gotten presents over the Christmas season.



Shop with a Cop



The Stow Police Department continues to be a regular participant in the annual Shop with a Cop Program. This program gives children of families that are struggling financially an opportunity to shop for toys and gifts to help make the season more bright. In 2015, Stow PD raised enough funds to take twenty-nine (29) kids shopping! These children got to spend a morning with Stow officers who volunteered their time, and were then taken in a processional of cruisers (running lights and sirens) to the local Walmart where they were given \$100 to spend on purchases. This event, while held in Stow, is attended by twenty-three (23) local police agencies. A total of 250 kids participated and were given an experience they will not soon forget.



Retirements, Promotions, and New Hires

Retirements

Sergeant Matthew A. Reed retired in May after serving twenty seven (27) years in law enforcement, twenty three (23) of which were with the City of Stow.



Promotions

In May, Officer Erik N. Dirker was promoted to Sergeant to fill Matt Reed's position.



New Hires



In January, Officer Samuel J. Williams was sworn in. He was hired to replace an officer who resigned in December of 2014.



Officer Kevin R. Smith was hired in August. He replaced Sgt. Matthew Reed who retired.



In December, Officer William R. Clark was sworn in. He was preemptively hired to replace an officer set to retire in early 2016.

Accomplishments, Challenges, and What Lies Ahead

Accomplishments

- **Use of Social Media.** Stow PD continues to utilize our Facebook page as a tool to interact with the public. We often post educational items, informational bulletins, community event reminders, photos, road closure notices, as well as other items of interest. With the help of the public, Facebook has also been used successfully to identify surveillance photos of unknown suspects and to return lost K-9's to their owners. We will continue to use this valuable tool, so if you haven't already, please like our page at [Stow Police Department, Stow, OH](#). Stow PD also utilizes Nextdoor which is a smaller neighborhood based social media platform.



- **Implementation of Body Cams.** The department purchased and implemented our first batch of body cameras in late 2015. These cameras were partially funded by an Edward Byrne JAG grant. A second grant was also awarded to the police department which will allow us to purchase additional cameras and upgrade our video server in 2016.

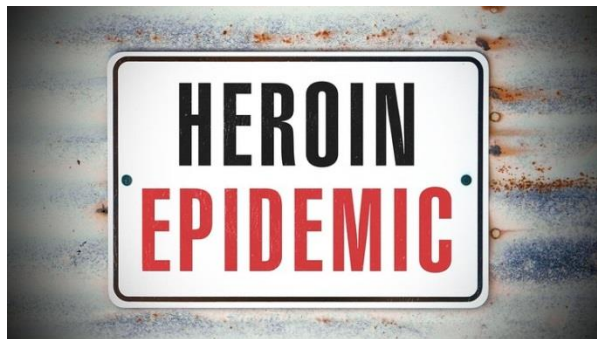


- **Prescription Drug Take Back Events.** Stow PD held three prescription drug take back events in 2015. This gives the public an opportunity to turn in their unused or unwanted medication for safe and proper disposal.



Challenges

- **The Continuing Heroin Epidemic.** As noted in last year's annual report, the influx of heroin, and more recently the drug fentanyl, into the area has been a major concern. In 2015, there were fifty-five (55) total reported drug overdoses, seven of which were fatal. Many of these were heroin/fentanyl related. To combat this growing trend, we have attempted to attack the problem



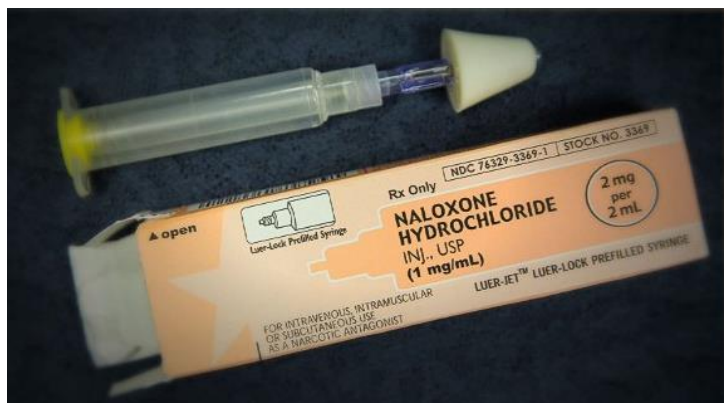
from multiple angles. We continue to work in conjunction with the Summit County Opiate Task Force. This group consists of law enforcement working in conjunction with the courts, area doctors, social workers and lawmakers. We have also instituted educational programs and group discussion panels at the Stow Munroe Falls High School to raise awareness of the problem to the youth. Other steps we have taken to respond to the epidemic in 2015 include the tactic of investigating the source of the problem. We have created a policy in which the detective bureau responds to overdoses and investigates the crime with the goal of locating



Loaded Heroin Syringe Seized by Stow PD - Oct. 2015

and prosecuting drug dealers and those who play a part in supplying the drugs.

Additionally, at the end of November, the patrol division received training on Narcan (Naloxone), and now carry it daily as part of our equipment. Narcan is a drug that counteracts the effects of opiates and can save the life of someone who is overdosing. It is administered via a nasal spray (see photo below). In just the last month and a half of 2015, officers administered Narcan on three occasions to save the lives of persons who were overdosing. Once healthy and out of the hospital, person(s) who survive their heroin overdoses are charged with drug use,





with the hopes of getting them court mandated treatment to break their cycle of addiction.

While the epidemic continues, we hope that some of these changes we have implemented have a positive effect on the community we serve.

What lies ahead?

Below is a list of goals and projects which the Stow Police Department will be working on as we head into 2016.

- **Technology Upgrades.** In 2015, we entered into an agreement with Kent State University Police Department to join their  Computer Automated Data System (CAD). This upgrade to our computer system was long overdue. Joining this newer and established CAD system will help automate much of what we do as a police department. This software which is designed by Aegis New World, will be used by officers, records staff, and dispatch personnel on each and every call we handle. We have begun laying the groundwork for this upgrade, but this large scale project will continue into 2016. Once complete, we will have the added benefit of sharing data with multiple other police departments who also use Kent State’s CAD system. In addition to the CAD project, we are in talks of potentially combining our dispatch services with the City of Cuyahoga Falls (for additional info, see Support Services – Communications Division on page 25).

- **Twitter.** We are looking into the possibility of using Twitter as an additional social media platform to help us effectively communicate with the public. 

- **Staffing Levels.** The department has a goal to return our staffing level back up to its authorized strength of forty four (44) officers. The last time we were at that staffing level was in 2007. We currently have forty (40) sworn officers. As previously noted, we restructured the department in 2015 in an attempt to maximize the efficiency of our current staff. With the increased call volume and the added responsibilities of law enforcement in general, we hope to increase our staffing levels in order to continue to provide the best possible services possible to the community. We hope to hire two additional officers in 2016 to bolster our department.



- **Stow City Jail.** When the safety center was built in 1995, it included a twelve (12) day jail facility. This facility has never been opened due to lack of adequate staffing and equipment maintenance issues. We use the jail facility daily to book and process prisoners, but currently contract with four area jails to hold those prisoners for us. A goal of the police department would be to open this facility so that we can house our prisoners locally.

2015 Sworn Personnel

Supervisors

Chief Jeffrey E. Film

Lieutenant Anne M. Stirm

Sergeant Daniel N. Drummond

Sergeant Matthew A. Reed

Sergeant Jeffrey A. Breznak

Lieutenant Michael A. Titus

Sergeant Heather M. Prusha

Sergeant Kenneth A. Mifflin

Sergeant Stephen W. Miller

Lieutenant Bryan J. Snavely

Sergeant Erik N. Dirker

Police Officers

David J. Hall

Timothy J. Reiheld

Thomas J. Gottas

David M. Semonin

Edith F. Gaffney

Joseph J. Hepler

James J. Barker

Jeffrey D. Swanson

Barry C. Smith

Kevin M. Green

Theodore L. Bell

John L. Ginther

Stephen J. Heim

Nicholas F. Dolezal

Robert S. Molody

Ryan M. Schulz

Brian R. Haddix

Jesse J. Reedy

Michael B. Murphy

Justin C. Smith

Robert D. Frisina

Jason L. Bailey

Kasey L. Lasko

Edward J. Wonner

Bethany M. Allanson

Patrick R. Myers

Jacob D. Corfman

Brett M. Balog

Samuel J. Williams

Kevin R. Smith

William R. Clark

2015 Civilian Personnel

Administrative Assistant

Marguerite Amonett

Dispatch

Ginger Hatfield, Supervisor

Tammy Molody

Stephanie Despot-Cook

Jamie McShane

Jessica Dolezal

Kara Farkas

Sheryl Dunn

Nancy Linzey

Tina Alarcon

Sara Worley

Bobbi Smyth

Steven Tayerle

Susan Novak

Tara Wilson

Angela Krendick

Patricia McCoy

Jason Hurd

LoAnn Groghan

Liane Makrinos

Crystal McGinnis

Amy Ashton

Community Service Officer

Edward Young

Records

Cheryl Black, Supervisor

Michelle Badgley

Jami Lord-Smith

Breann Lamboy

Stow Youth Services

Kathy Christ, Supervisor

Teresa Bozzo

Toni Carter

2015 Reserve Unit Personnel

Supervisors

Colonel Charlie Howard

Captain Ronald King

Lieutenant Traci Dunbar

Sergeant Kevin Mayer

Sergeant Donovan Kelley

Captain Christopher Gatti

Sergeant Joseph Kutinsky

Sergeant Thomas Sedor

Reserve Officers

Angela Kutinsky

Gregory Hunter

Michael Dolbow

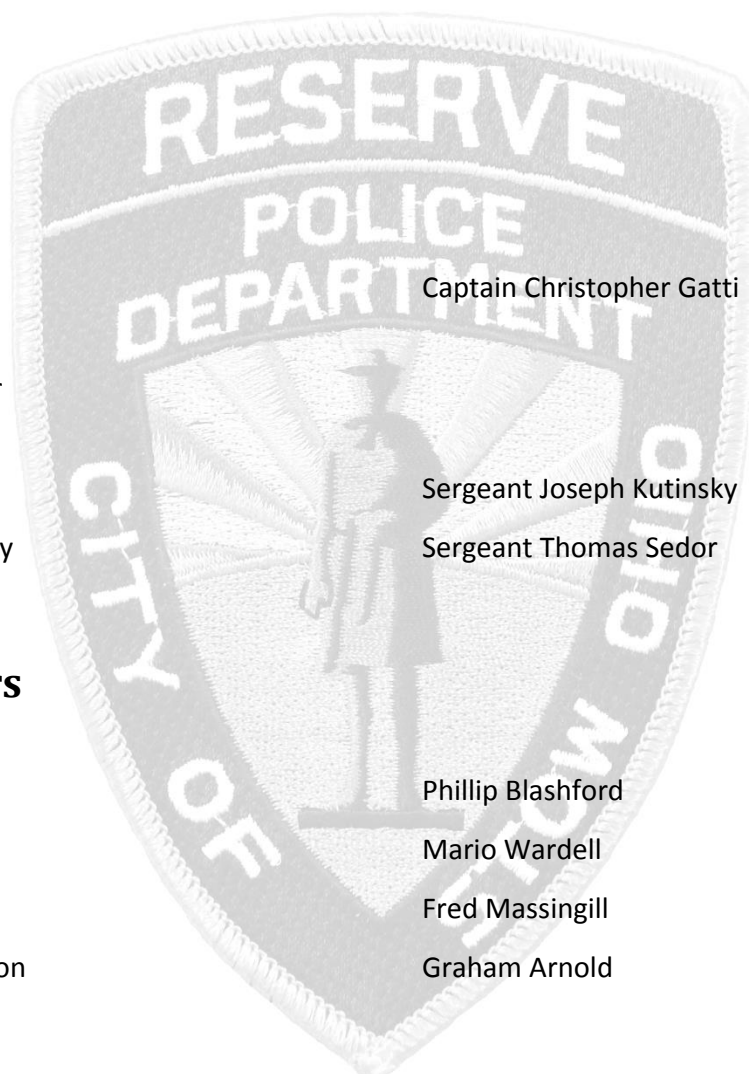
Alisha Greenwalt-Johnson

Phillip Blashford

Mario Wardell

Fred Massingill

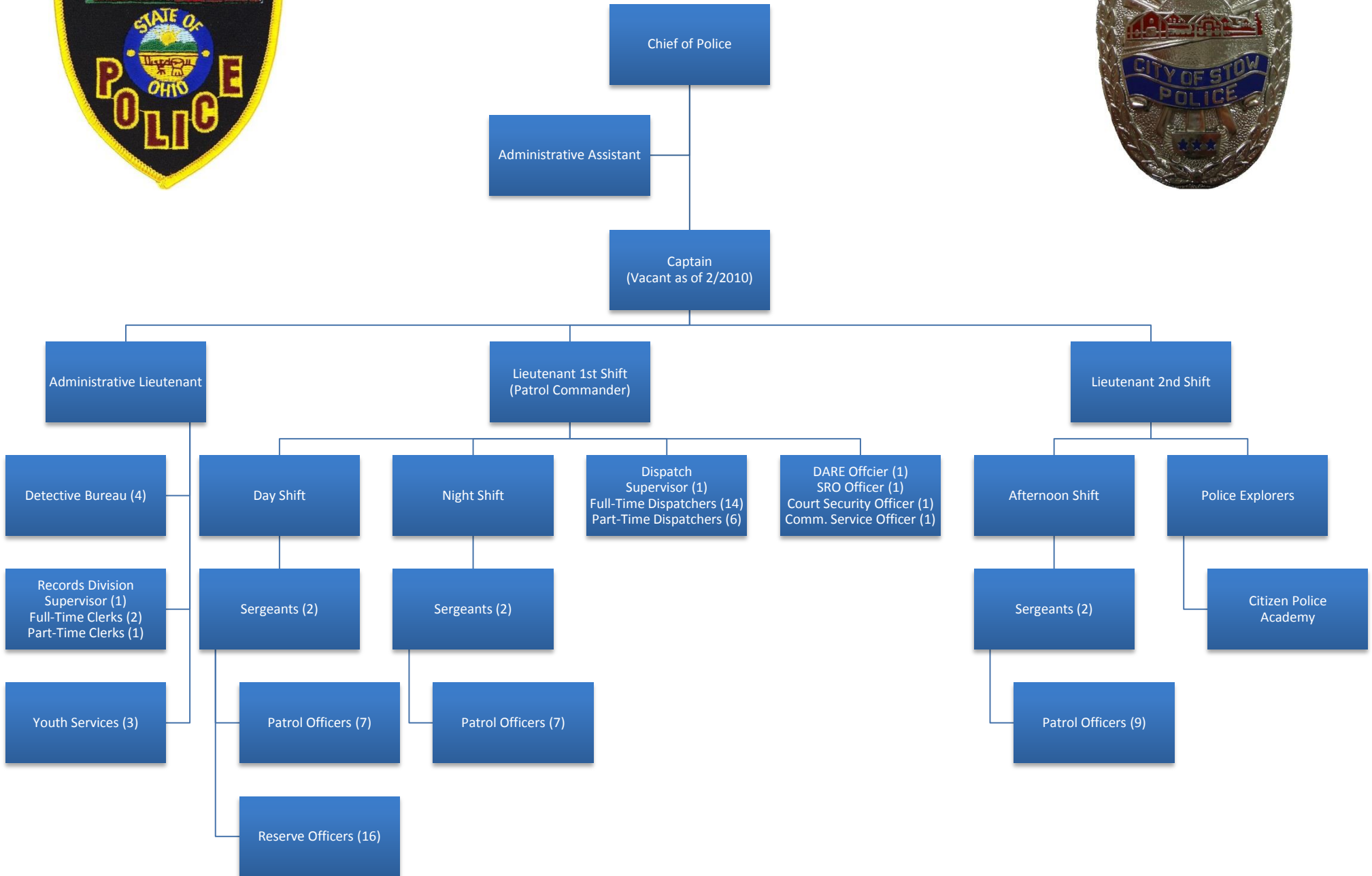
Graham Arnold





City of Stow Police Department

Organizational Chart





Stow Police Department

INTEGRITY COMMITMENT SERVICE

3800 Darrow Rd. Stow, OH 44224

www.stowohio.org/departments/police



Find us on

Facebook [Stow Police Department, Stow, OH](https://www.facebook.com/StowPoliceDepartment)