



STOW POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

A Message from Chief Jeff Film

Mayor John Pribonic,

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. It is my privilege to present to you and City Council the 2019 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.

We have begun the formulation and implementation of the Lexipol policy manual and training program for our police department. With legally defensible, continuously updated policies from Lexipol, it enables our officers and staff to face our challenges with the confidence that our officers are following best practice guidelines. This system is used by over 160 police departments across Ohio and complies with the State of Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board. We anticipate having it fully implemented in the spring of 2020.

We continue to see declining numbers in our drug related reports. In 2019, we saw a 14% drop in calls for service in the City of Stow, but we still have reasons to be concerned. According to the Summit County Public Health Department, overdose deaths rose sharply from 2013 to 2016, and then began a rapid decline. In Summit County; however, that decline has leveled off the past two years. Opiates such as heroin, fentanyl, and carfentanil drove the sharp increases over the past 3 years. However, the mix of drugs driving overdoses today appears to be changing. Methamphetamine has made a comeback and was mentioned on 43% of all drug poisoning-related death certificates in 2019 in the county.

The officers came to administration in the summer of 2019 and asked to research new graphics for our police cruisers. I stipulated that I wanted something original and meaningful to our police department at the City of Stow. They did not let me down. The results were outstanding and they are proudly displayed and explained in this report.

In 2019 we had our largest Citizen's Police Academy to date which I attribute to the strong relationship that we have built over the years with our community. The academy is a means to educate our citizens on police topics such as use of force, criminal law, prosecution and arrest, our K-9 program and a firearms simulator that allows the students to experience a call in progress.

I am very proud of the men and women of the Stow Police Department and their dedication to provide the best possible service to our community. It is our goal to continue building our police department's relationship with the public through training, prompt service, community involvement and feedback so we can provide the finest services to our community.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chief Jeffery E. Film

Stow Police Department



3800 Darrow Road, Stow, OH 44224
Phone: (330) 689-5700 Fax: (330) 689-5799



<https://stowohio.org/departments/police/>



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Mission, Vision Statements, and Core Values



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.

Core Values

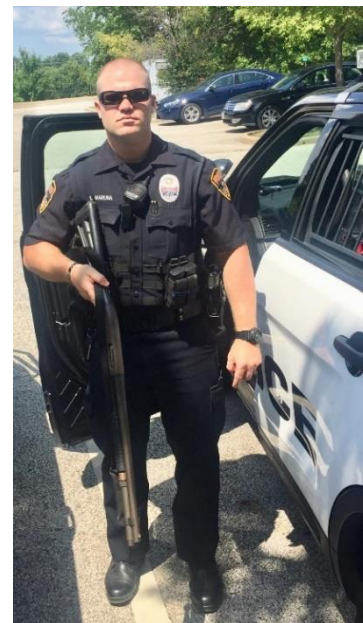
- Integrity:*** We adhere to a code of honesty and ethical principles in all that we do.
- Service:*** We faithfully and selflessly serve those who have entrusted us to perform the duties of a Stow Police Officer.
- Commitment:*** We are dedicated to performance reflective of the highest standard of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

Uniformed Patrol



The Uniformed Patrol Division is the largest division in the police department with thirty-four (34) members, all of whom are full-time sworn peace officers. These officers are dedicated to patrol duties and are first responders to all emergencies and calls for service from the community.

In 2019, patrol was awarded the Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$25,368, which allowed us to purchase 6 Motorola APX6000 Portable radios. The grant covered 75% of the purchase amount.



New Cruiser Graphics

In November 2019, the Stow Police Department rolled out its new graphic design for the police cruiser fleet. The new design was developed by a committee made up of our own Police Officers and Community Service Officer. Our former black and white cruiser design had been in service for over a decade.



The blue line originated in the 1950's to represent law enforcement officers protecting citizens from chaos and harm, enforcing law and order, and restoring peace. Today's law enforcement is made up of every race, sex and religion, but we identify ourselves as the blue line that separates the public from anarchy.

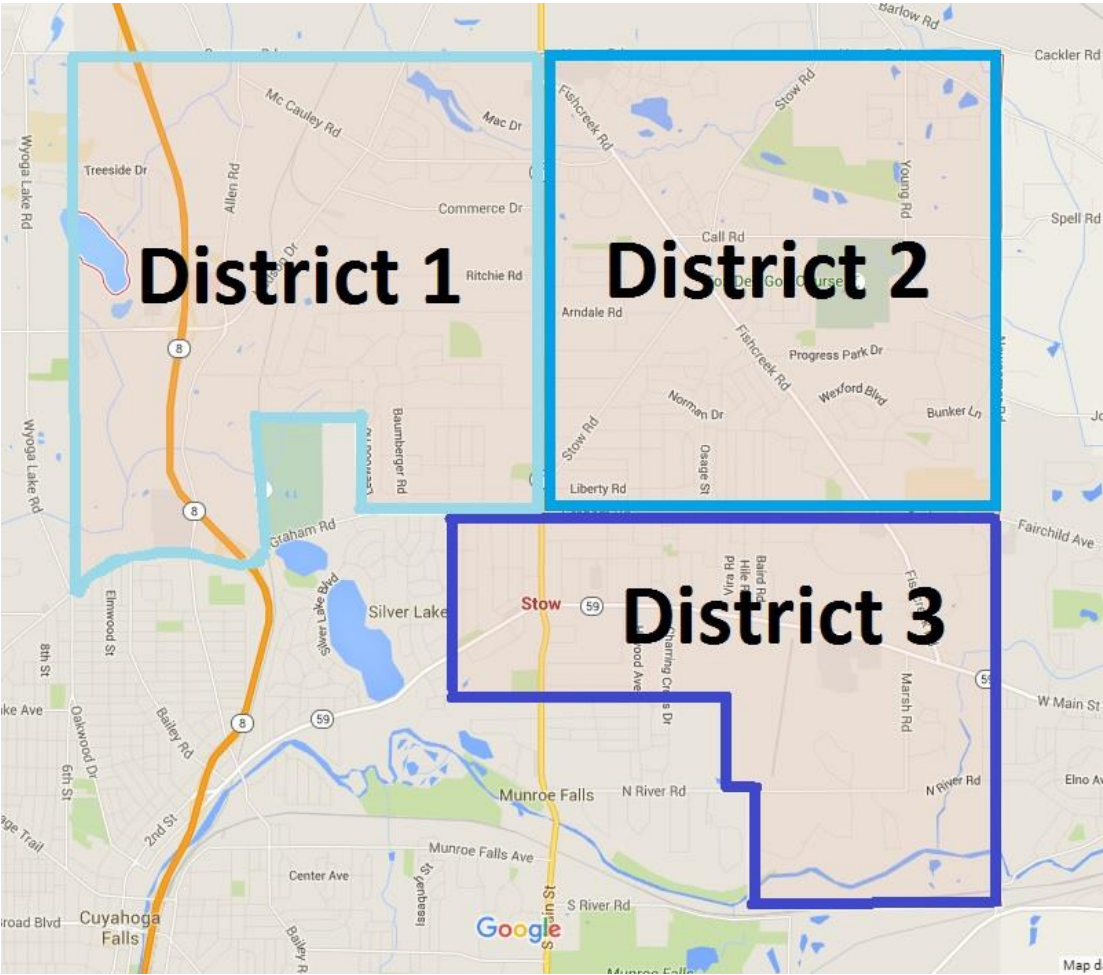
The United States Flag on the cruiser represents our patriotism in that we have taken a sworn oath to protect and serve our community.

The challenge coin on the fender displays our core values of Integrity, Commitment and Service.



Patrol Districts

The city is divided into 3 separate districts for police coverage. Each officer is assigned a district at the beginning of their 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.

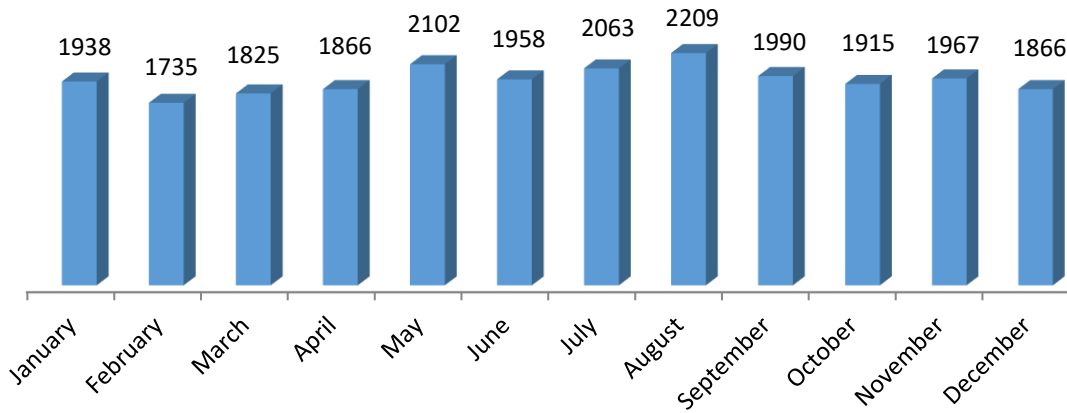
While the police department is responsible for law enforcement duties in the city, other law enforcement agencies also have shared jurisdiction in Stow. These agencies include the Summit County Sheriff’s Department, the Ohio State Patrol, as well as other state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Statistical Information

In 2019, Stow Police handled 23,434 calls for service. This was an increase of 4% in total calls from 2018.

The below charts and graphs will help give you an idea of when our calls for service occurred.

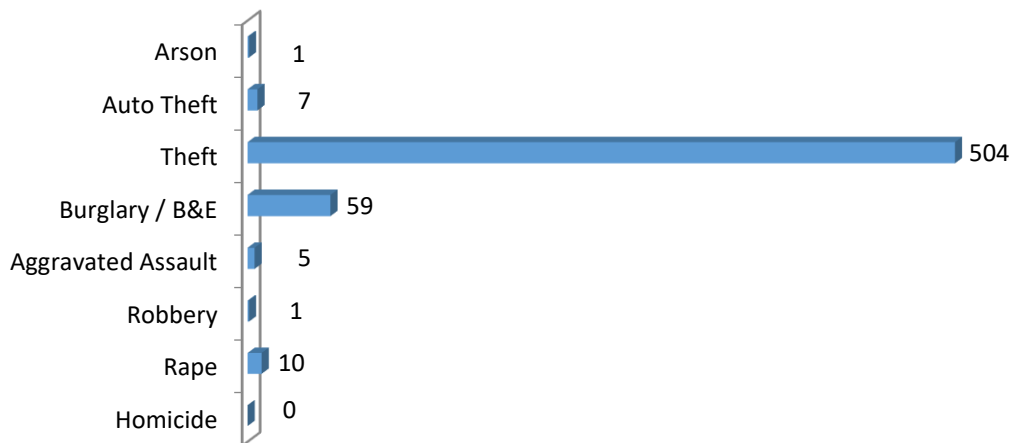
Calls for Service Monthly Breakdown



Crime Statistics

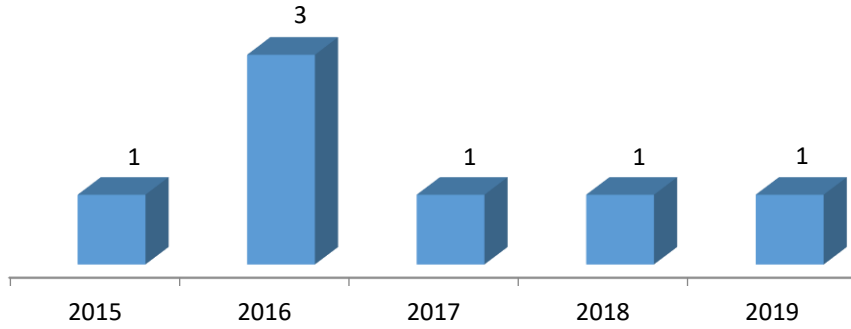
Calls are classified using FBI Uniform Crime Reporting standards. This method of reporting breaks down calls into Part I and Part II offenses. Part I crimes consist of Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary/Breaking & Entering (B&E), Theft, Auto Theft, and Arson. Part II crimes cover all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

Part 1 Crimes

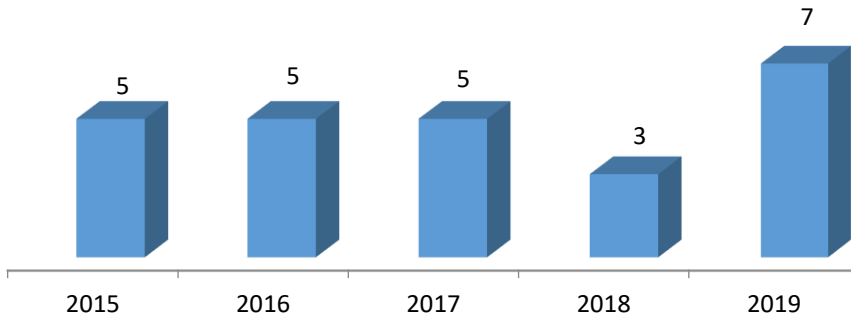


Part 1 Crimes – 5 Year Look Back

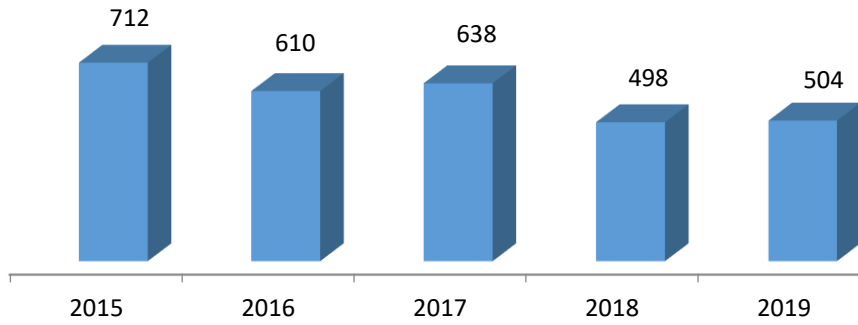
Arson



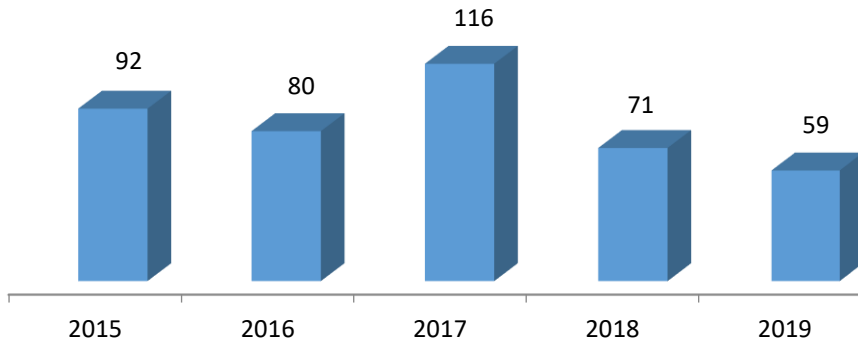
Auto Theft



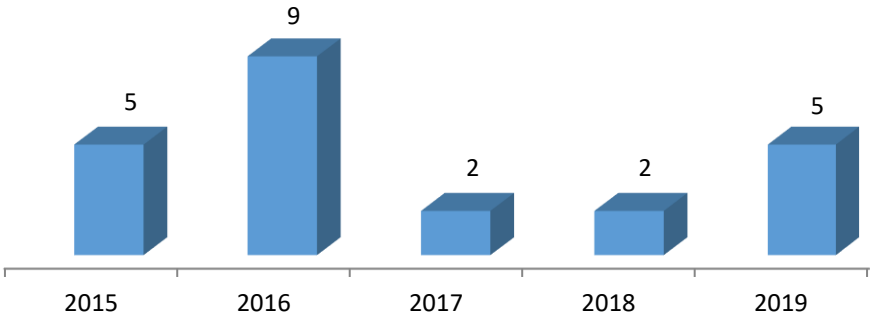
Theft



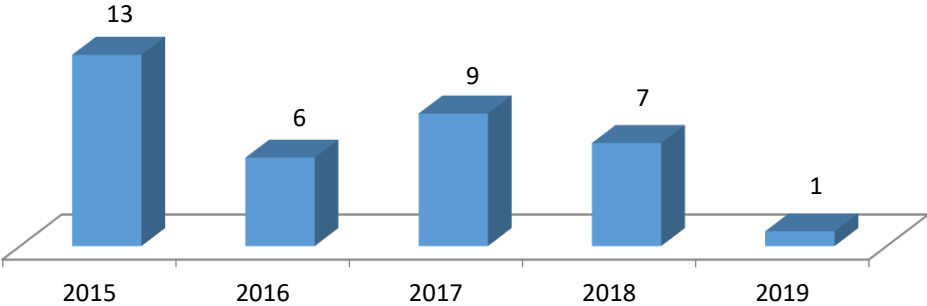
Burglary & B&E



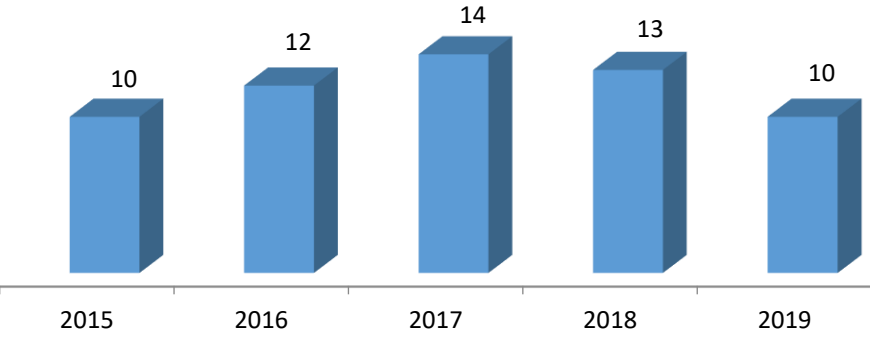
Aggravated Assault



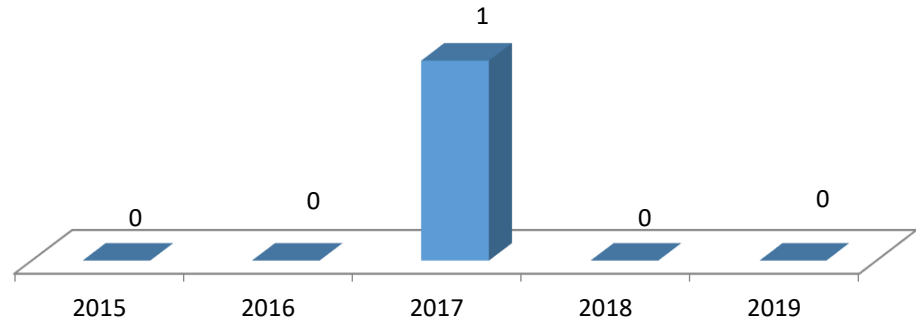
Robbery



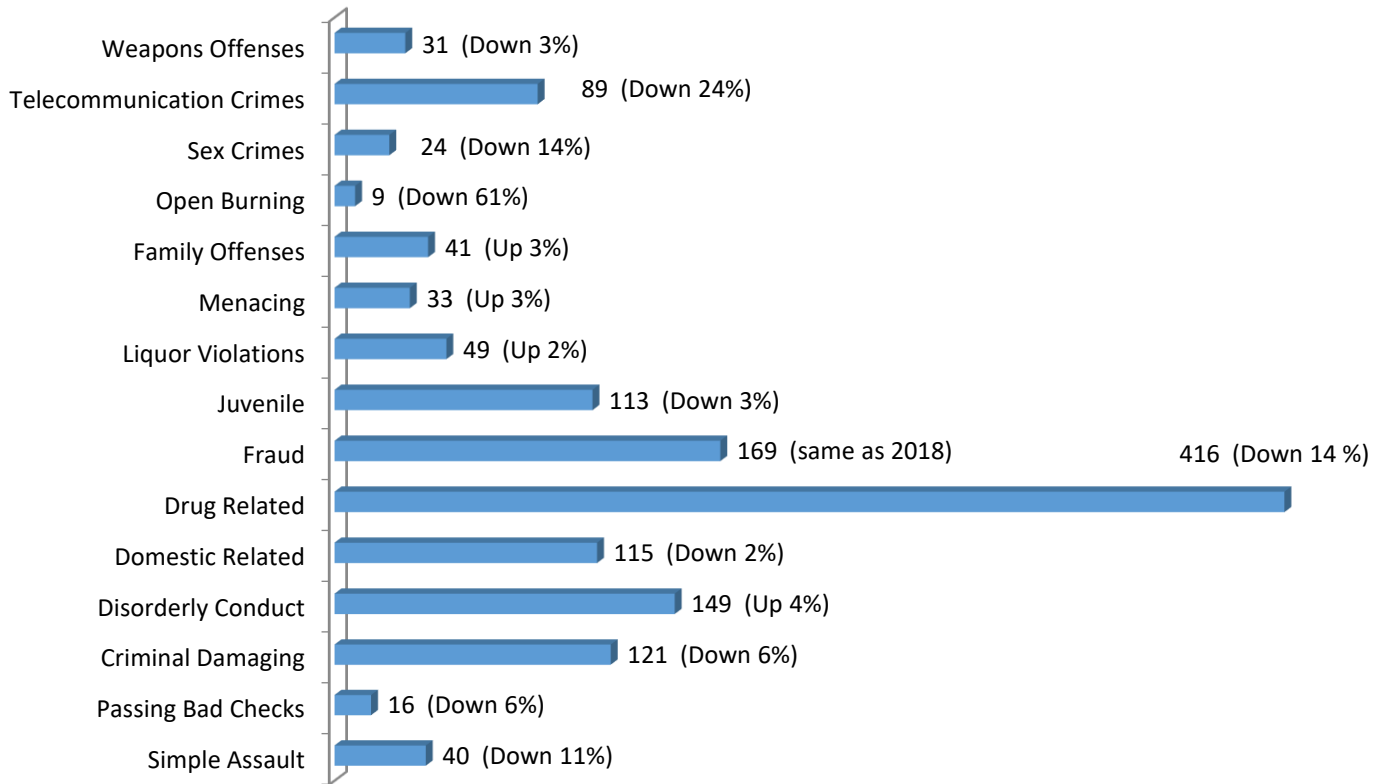
Rape



Homicide

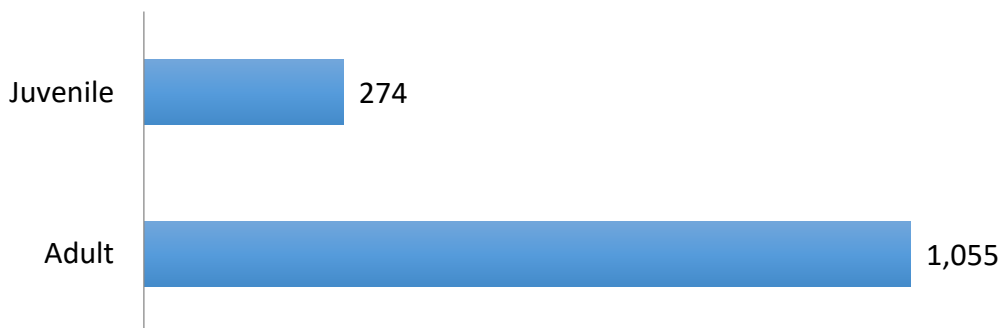


Other Reports & Part II Crimes

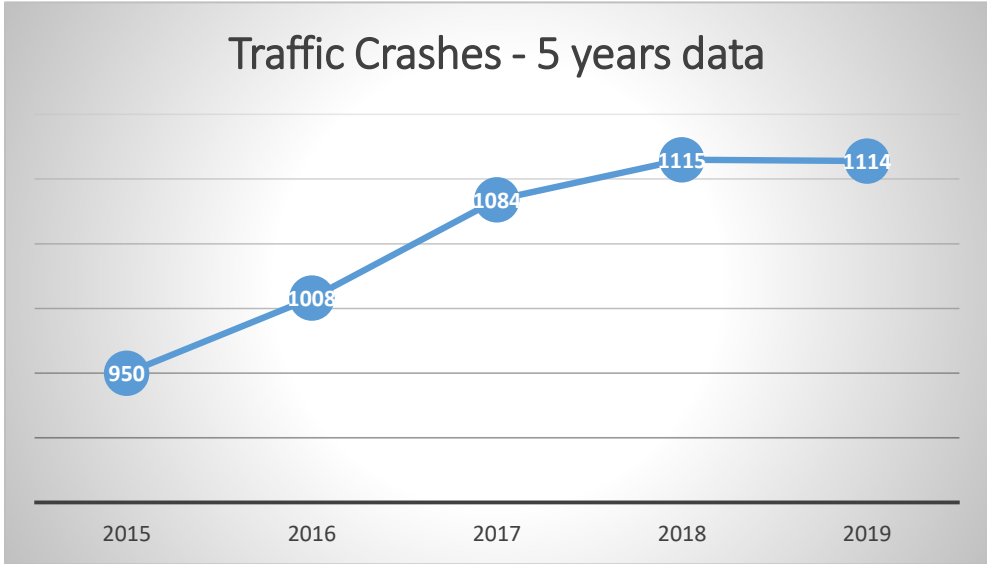
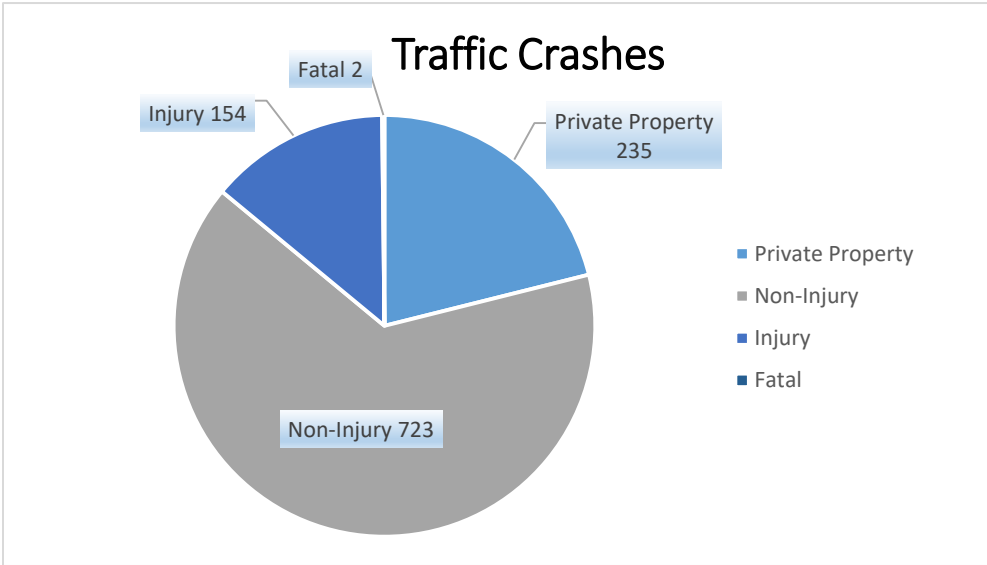
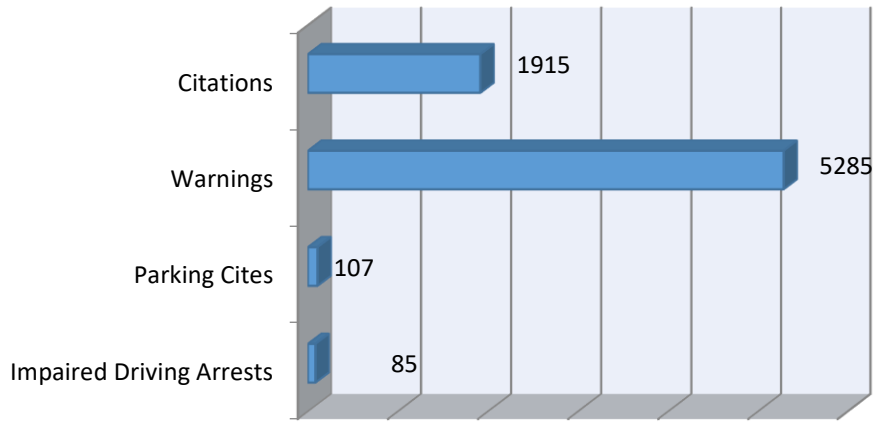


Arrests

In 2019, Stow Officers made 1,329 arrests. This averages out to nearly 4 arrests per day.



Traffic Enforcement



Retirements and New Hires

Retirements

Captain Anne Stirm retired on January 20, 2019. Captain Stirm was tasked with overseeing many areas, including the Detective Bureau, Support Services, recruiting, hiring, public information, and departmental training. Captain Stirm was the first female officer hired by the Stow Police Department on January 22, 1986. She started out as a patrol officer and transitioned into the detective bureau in April of 1992. Captain Stirm was promoted 4 years later to Sergeant in April of 1996. In December 1999, Stirm was promoted to Lieutenant, where she became the Patrol Commander. Additionally, Captain Stirm served as a crisis negotiator for the Metro SWAT team for 10 years. Captain Stirm was a graduate of the 257th session of the FBI Academy in 2014.



Officer Kevin Green retired on July 7, 2019. Officer Green started his law enforcement career with the Kent State University Police Department on July 2, 1984, and was hired by the Stow Police Department on August 1, 1998. Officer Green was the Police Chaplain Liaison Officer for the department. Over the course of his career he also served as the Seniors Services Officer, Firearms Instructor and Armorer, Field Training Officer, and was on the

department's Bicycle Patrol Unit. Kevin is still serving in law enforcement, working as an officer and trainer for the Mercy Health Police Department and Munroe Falls Police Department.

New Hires

On June 24, 2019, two (2) new officers were sworn in to the police department.



Pictured: Chief Jeff Film, Officer Taylor Paxton, Officer Christopher Weibel, Mayor John Pribonic



Taylor Paxton graduated from The Kent State University Police Academy in May, 2018. She began showing interest in a career as a Stow Police Officer at age 18 by requesting to “ride-a-long” with officers. Taylor is a graduate of Stow-Munroe Falls High School (2015). She played on the varsity golf team during her 4 years of high school. Prior to becoming an officer, Taylor worked as a pharmacy technician at the Acme in Stow. She then started out as a volunteer Reserve Officer for Munroe Falls. After that, she held two (2) part-time officer positions at NEOMED and Peninsula PD. During her free time, Taylor enjoys exploring the National Parks and working out.

Christopher Weibel did not complete his training at Stow PD and resigned his position on September 30, 2019.

Farewell

Theodore Wilson served as a military chaplain, university chaplain, and hospice chaplain before his arrival at the Stow Police Department in the autumn of 2016. It was Captain Snavelly, who at the time was a Lieutenant, who encouraged Wilson to consider serving with the SPD. Officer Kevin Green briefed him on the needs of the department and Chief Film approved him for the position.

“Chaps” as he was called, provided availability to the police, firefighters, and dispatchers of Stow. His primary duty was to provide a listening ear to all who needed help de-stressing from their daily duties. Off duty, he would often share his experiences as a police chaplain with young people. He would inform them of the dos and don’ts when interacting with the police, to ensure that no escalations would be warranted.



For our officers who were hospitalized like Hepler or Bell, he visited with them and their families. Chaps participated in the 8th Annual Jonathan Bastock Luminary Night and provided a supporting presence at the 9th annual event. He received the Akron PD “Combating Mental Health” training to better fulfill his responsibilities for the department. Chaps rotated amongst shifts to ride along with officers. He was known for deep theological conversations and for being unashamed of the Gospel.

His last official act for the department was on the 26th of June, 2019 when he and his daughter ran for our team in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Ohio Special Olympics Fundraiser. Now that Theodore and Crystal, his bride of 27 years, are empty-nesters, they have migrated to Texas. His son is a missionary overseas and his daughter is completing her junior year of university in Tennessee. Chaps is currently concluding his certification as a Professional Christian Life Coach and doing some writing.

On the Mend

Return to Full-Duty

On October 26, 2017, Officer Joe Hepler was cleaning out the gutters of his two-story Tallmadge, OH home, when he fell off the roof.

Joe suffered a broken arm, fractured ankle, and a superficial head wound. A plate was put in his elbow and an external fixator on his ankle. While recovering from surgery, Joe developed an infection in his ankle.



Joe underwent several more procedures and surgeries in an attempt to eradicate the infection. After several failed attempts, in the spring of 2018, Joe and his family were faced with the reality amputating his leg might be his best option for recovery.



Joe proceeded with the hour-and-a-half amputation surgery on his left leg on May 18, 2018. He returned to the police department in a “light duty” status in September of 2018. After intense physical therapy, along with hard work and dedication, Joe decided it was time to go back out on patrol.

Miraculously, on June 1, 2019, Joe returned to the police department for full-duty.

Welcome back Joe, we are proud of you!



Injured in the Line of Duty

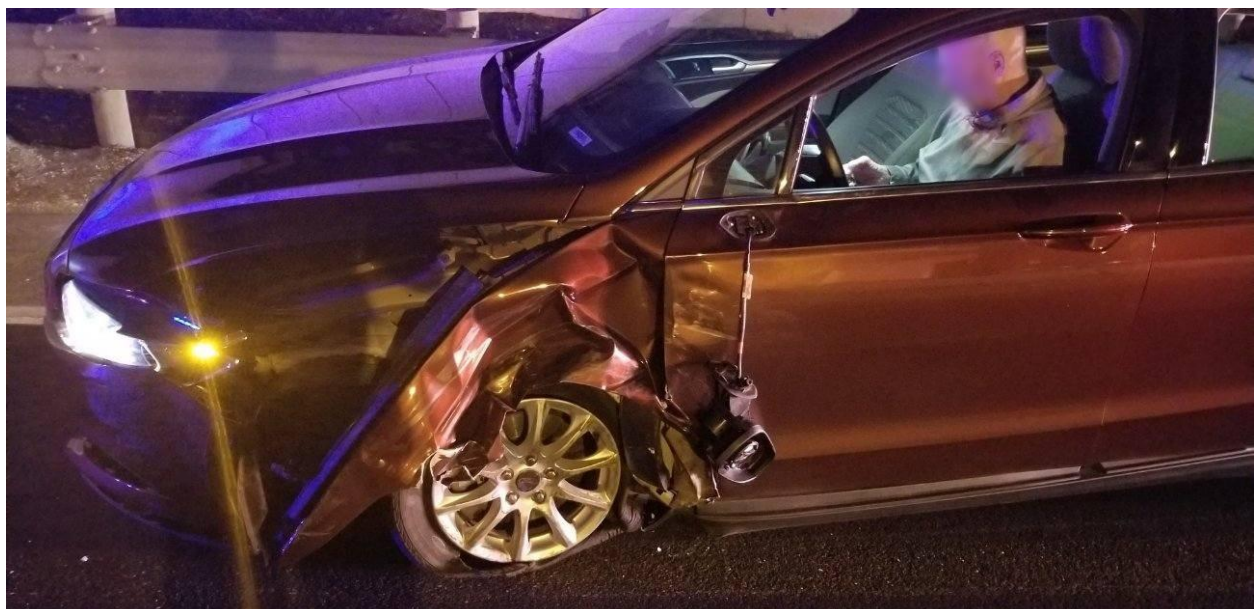
On May 6, 2019 at 10:27 p.m., Sergeant Theodore Bell was struck while in the driver's seat of his marked cruiser. Sgt. Bell was working a construction detail on State Route 8 Northbound near the 9.0 milepost, when he was hit from behind.

Despite arrow signs indicating an upcoming lane closure, and Sgt. Bell's activated emergency lights, the driver of a 2016 red Ford Fusion did not divert from the closed lane in time.

Ohio State Patrol (OSP) investigated the crash. Both Sgt. Bell and the at-fault male driver were taken to area hospitals for treatment. The male driver, a Massillon resident, was suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol. He refused to provide a urine sample, which is required by law. OSP obtained a warrant for the suspect's blood alcohol content, which was .216, more than double the legal limit. The suspect had four (4) prior OVI (operating a vehicle impaired) convictions.

The 57 year-old male was charged with OVI, as well as F3 Aggravated Vehicular Assault. He was convicted and is serving 2.5 years in prison.

Sgt. Bell suffered a concussion, as well as herniated discs in his neck. He recovered quickly and returned to full duty five (5) weeks later.



On October 16, 2019 at 7:16 a.m., School Resource Officer (SRO) Barry Smith was struck by a vehicle while directing traffic at a crash near Stow Munroe Falls High School (SMFHS) during the morning rush-hour.

Officer Smith sustained a fracture to his left tibia, near his knee, as well as a shoulder injury. He underwent surgery and physical therapy as a result.

Officer Smith received an overwhelming amount of support and encouragement from his students and other community members.



SMFHS Principal Jeffrey Hartmann stated, “We came to a very clear understanding of just how much Officer Smith did when he was away”, in reference to the beloved SRO’s absence.



Awards

Life Saving Award

On August 7, 2019, Sgt. Steve Miller and K-9 Kado responded to a mutual aid request in Richfield, OH for a missing female. Richfield Police Department was following up on a welfare check called in from a family member. The victim had been missing for three days. It was believed she had wandered into the woods and may be lost or injured.

Using her last known cell phone location, the search began in a treacherous wooded area. Richfield officers and an Ohio State Patrol aircraft joined the search. Sgt. Miller and Kado were successful in quickly locating the female. She was found on top of an embankment, in heavy brush, partially clothed, and severely dehydrated.



On November 4, 2019, Sgt. Miller received the Life Saving Award and ribbon.

On November 21, 2019 at a City Council meeting, the K-9 duo received a proclamation from Councilman Matt Riehl for their actions. Congratulations to them both, we are very proud!



Blue Coats Award

The Father Maruskin Knights of Columbus Council #10936 serves the cities of Stow and Hudson. On June 11, 2019 they honored Officer Kevin Smith with the Blue Coat of the Year Award at their officer installation dinner.



Several incidents were submitted to the Council for review and they chose to recognize and honor Officer Smith. The award stems from an incident in 2018 when his life saving performance rescued a suicidal subject. Congratulations Officer Smith!

Volunteer of the Month



In July of 2019, SYS employee, Toni Carter was recognized as the Summit County Community Partnership (SCCP), Volunteer of the Month. The SCCP manages the Detera Project. This program provides free at-home drug-deactivation pouches to community residents promoting safe medicine usage, storage and disposal. The user-friendly pouch deactivates prescription drugs and renders contents safe for landfills.

Toni coordinated with their agency and utilized juvenile participants in the SYS program to help with preparation of the bags. Every single bag sent out gets a survey card taped to it, along with a sticker about the organization. Overall, Toni and the SYS program were able to help SCCP tag and package more than 2,000 bags in 2019.

Critical Save Award



On June 6, 2019 the Stow Dispatch Center received an incoming emergency call from a private residence in Mogadore, OH. The male caller stated his father was not breathing. Dispatcher Lindsey Huston received the 911 call. Dispatchers Sue Novak and Bobbi Smyth were instrumental in correctly inputting the call information and immediately dispatching emergency personnel.

Mogadore Police Officers responded and provided CPR. When EMS arrived, they were able to use a cutting edge medical device called a “Zoll AutoPulse Resuscitation System” to provide CPR to the male in distress. The combined efforts of all involved saved the man’s life!



Pictured: (left to right) Lindsey Huston, Sue Novak, Bobbi Smyth

Training

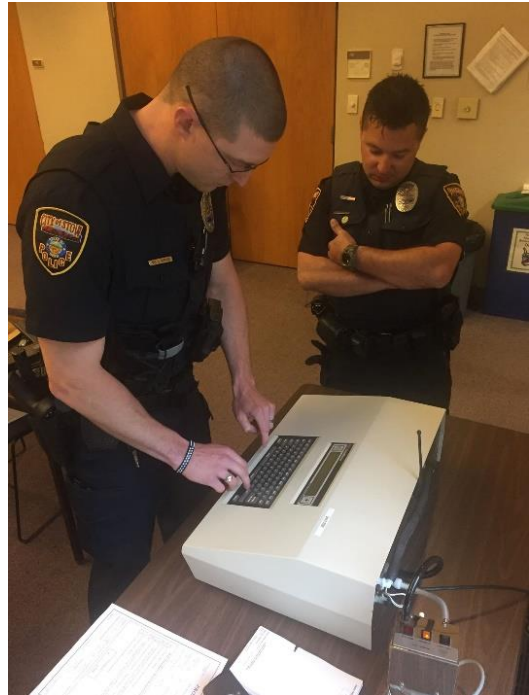
Members of the Stow Police Department train several times a year in various disciplines in order to stay proficient in their skillset. SPD has several certified OPOTA training instructors within the department. These officers provide practical training in the areas of Defensive Tactics, Less Lethal defensive weapons, Firearms, Rapid Deployment (Active Shooter Response), De-Escalation, Tactical Medical, and other various topics throughout the year. In 2019, Stow PD conducted thirty-five (35) hours of continuing education in-house.

BAC Recertification

Stow PD hosts a recertification course for the BAC Datamaster (breathalyzer) several times a year. This course is attended by members of this department, as well as other area departments.

Department wide, officers recertify annually to hold an operator permit that is valid for one year from the date of issue.

Officer Justin Smith is the Senior Operator in charge of the Datamaster. He performs weekly function checks and maintains subject test records. In addition, Officer J. Smith is responsible for overseeing operator certificates. He files related records and prepares documents for court when requested.



Stop Stick Training

Officers are provided in-service training annually in the use of “Stop Sticks”, which are a tire deflation device for use in high speed pursuits.





Officers are given a classroom refresher, which includes a video from the manufacturer, a review of our agency's policy, and a written examination. Officers then perform two practical applications each to ensure their understanding of safe deployment considerations.

Outside Training

The City of Stow regularly invests in advanced training for members of the police department. This allows members to stay up to date on current case law, tactics, and law enforcement trends. In 2019, outside training included 96 classes ranging from one day training to 3 week courses of study.



Recently promoted Sergeants Kasey Lasko and Theodore Bell, of the Stow PD graduated from the Law Enforcement Foundation’s Supervisor Training and Education Program (STEP) on May 15, 2019. Lasko and Bell were 2 of 35 students attending the twenty-first session of the program.

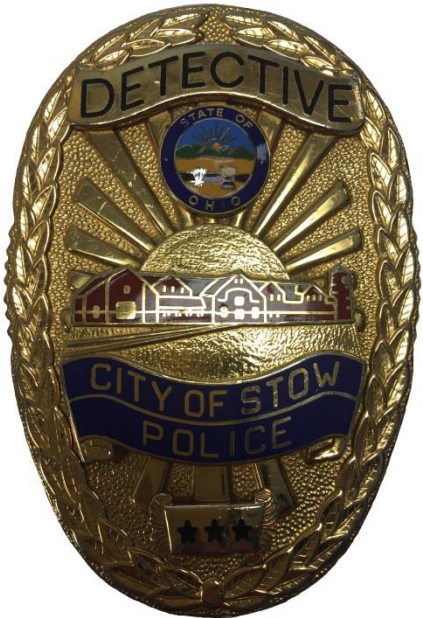
STEP is designed to develop newly promoted officers, or soon to be promoted officers, into highly effective first-line supervisors with the competency skills necessary to lead and supervise in a high performance organization. Over 600 Ohio law enforcement first-line supervisors have attended STEP since its beginning in 2004.



Investigative Division

The Detective Bureau is comprised of one supervisor and four detectives. Overseen by Captain Bryan Snavelly, these detectives investigate crimes of a more serious nature within our community.

Detectives also assist officers with more detailed follow-up and help manage crime scene processing. They are trained in advanced interview and interrogation techniques and have access to investigative tools that provide comprehensive data critical to case development.



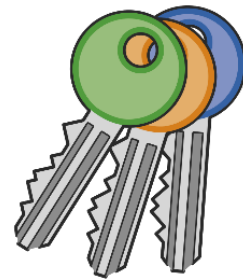
Notable Cases



Detective Swanson investigated numerous car break-ins in Stow. Wallets, laptops and a firearm were stolen over the course of 21 car break-ins. A cigarette butt was left in a mulch bed where the male suspect was seen on a “Ring Video Doorbell”. The cigarette butt was sent to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and returned with a hit in the Combined DNA Index System. The 23 year old male and his pregnant 22 year old girlfriend were subsequently arrested.

They were also charged by two other cities for related crimes. One city did a search warrant on the female’s apartment. A wallet from one of our victims was found. Her finger prints were also recovered from the glove box where the gun was stolen (excellent job on lifting the prints by Evidence Technician, Officer Reedy!). Our charges were rolled into the other cities’ charges and they both took a plea deal.

Jimmy John’s sandwich shop reported a Breaking and Entering on June 13, 2019. An individual covering their face with a black hoodie gained entry into Jimmy John’s. He stole approximately \$430 from the registers, shortly after the business closed that evening. After reviewing surveillance and speaking with employees, a former employee was listed as a person of interest. Investigation revealed communication between the male suspect and his then girlfriend regarding the incident. After obtaining his social media records via subpoenas and search warrants, the male was questioned about the incident. The suspect confessed to entering the business with a key he had copied when he worked there. He was arrested and plead guilty to Breaking and Entering (F-5).



Beginning in 2017, Detective Swanson investigated a 49 year old male who sexually assaulted 7 females. The victims ranged in age from 10 to 15. The girls were members of two families who are friends with each other. The male suspect was dating the mother of one set of girls. The male initially wanted a trial, but then took a plea before the trial was to start.

At sentencing, the male alleged he was forced by his two attorneys to take the plea. The judge overturned the male’s request for a new trial. He was sentenced to 24 years in prison on one rape and five gross sexual imposition convictions. The case took over two years to complete, concluding in 2019.

Specialized Units

Metro SWAT

Metro SWAT is comprised of 19 area police departments from Summit and Portage Counties including Stow, as well as fire personnel from those jurisdictions. The SWAT team is comprised of tactical operators, negotiators, technical support staff, medics and doctors. Metro SWAT has five vehicles including an Armored Lenco Bear Cat, Command Post, Negotiator truck, Utility box truck and Entry van.



SWAT stands for Special Weapons and Tactics and the team is called out for situations including criminal barricades, hostage rescues, high risk warrant services, dignitary security details, and land navigation searches for criminals or missing persons. The team trains monthly on all these topics and more. The Stow Police Department has five (5) members on Metro SWAT serving in the tactical operator and negotiator roles.



Detective Nick Dolezal retired from the team in 2019. He shared a few words to best describe his experiences:

The past 11 years on Metro Swat were very memorable. It wasn't just the training experiences, or the call outs that I remember the most...it was the camaraderie I shared with everyone on the team. We worked as a unit to accomplish the mission, and if we didn't, the mission would fail... and that was unacceptable. I had to trust the other team members with my life, and they had to do the same with me. New training techniques and ideas would evolve, and we would adjust our tactics to work with them.

There were memorable call-outs that I was involved in, impossible to describe, unless you experienced them firsthand. It always seemed that the longer call-outs, the ones that lasted 9 + hours, happened to be either on bone-chilling nights, or 100 degree days. Go figure.

There were several training experiences I fondly remember. Many of them involved our physical training endurance day(s) during our October's training week. The SWAT trainers would push our physical stamina to the limits, with various physically challenging obstacles to accomplish. No matter how rigorous the fitness objective was, we continuously challenged, and encouraged each other to give 110%.

Other training experiences I can't forget were the ones that involved the testing of our gas masks. Members would enter a room filled with C.S. gas to test our equipment. It was always comical to observe (but never experience) someone who didn't have a good seal on their mask, causing them to become exposed to the gas. The look on their tear filled eyes, mucus covered nose and mouth, and the gagging sounds they made were priceless. I guess it's one of those things you have to see to appreciate.

My memories with Metro Swat will never be forgotten, and I am grateful for the experience.



Honor Guard

The purpose of the Honor Guard is to represent the department at ceremonial events. They train quarterly in order to maintain a high level of precision. Annually, they carry the colors in the City's Fourth of July Parade. The unit, which is comprised of ten members, participated in six ceremonial events in 2019.





In 2019, Honor Guard led the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at Stow City Hall. Honor Guard also participated in the Greater Cleveland Peace Officer Memorial Society Parade and Grave Marker Placement Ceremony. Officers stood guard at the memorial service.



Summit Metro Crash Response Team (SMCRT)

The Summit Metro Crash Response Team (SMCRT) is a multi-jurisdictional crash response team founded in 2002. Stow was a founding member of this team and continues to participate in this unit which has expanded to include twenty-one (21) different police departments. In November of this year, Stow PD Officer Maruna was added to the team. 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 crash. In 2019, the team was called to assist at eighteen (18) crash scenes, two of which were in Stow. SMCRT responded to a multi-vehicle pile-up crash, involving at least 100 vehicles and injuring 19 people on State Route 8 in Hudson, OH on March 5, 2019.



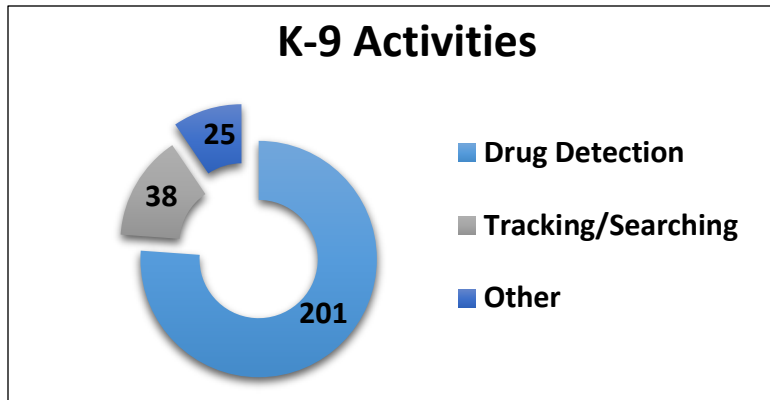
K-9 Unit

In 2019, The Stow Police Department had 3 K-9 units. Each of the three (3) shifts had a working K-9 officer. K-9s are a valuable resource and a huge asset to the department and community.

All of Stow's K-9s are full-service dogs, which means they are used for drug detection, tracking, and suspect apprehension. The three (3) dogs are certified by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission as well as the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers.

These K-9s, guided by their 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.

Stow Police K-9s were deployed 263 times in 2019.



Crisis Intervention Team

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) at Stow PD is a group of twenty-one (21) sworn officers who have attended forty (40) hours of specialized training 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. In 2019, Sergeant Erik Dirker completed this training and was added to the CIT team.

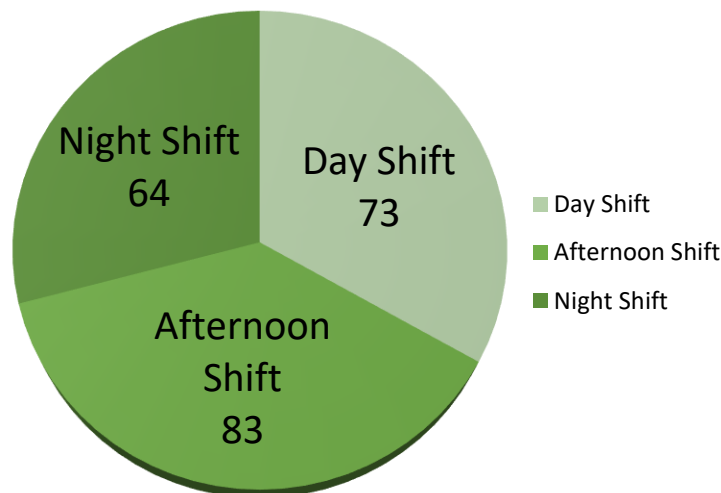


Officers documented 220 calls involving a mental health crisis this year, up from 158 in 2018. Only 1 of the calls resulted in arrest, while 165 calls were resolved with immediate mental health treatment, or referred to a crisis resource.

There were 42 days in the year where officers were called to handle multiple (two or more) calls for mental health crises throughout the day, even ranging up to five calls in one day.

Although there were 220 crisis calls, this did not involve 220 people, as many encounters were repeat subjects. Nearly half of the time (108 times) the subject was known to the officer from previous encounters.

CIT Calls Per Shift



In 2018, Afternoon shift handled almost 50% of CIT calls. In 2019, crisis calls were much more evenly distributed amongst all three shifts.

Stow Police Reserve Unit



Reserve Officers provide a number of valuable support services for the City of Stow Police Department. They are non-sworn volunteers, although they do receive worker’s compensation benefits and a small monthly stipend to cover expenses.

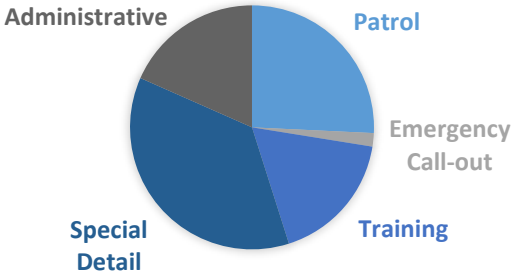
Reserve Officers regular patrol duties include: checking the homes of residents on vacation, vehicle lockouts, checking disabled vehicles, and assisting with traffic control at accidents. They also assist with weather emergencies and at special events such as traffic at high school football games, 5-K runs, and the July 4th parade.

In 2019, Alisha Greenawalt-Johnson received her 10 years of service award, which represents 2,409 hours Alisha has volunteered to help keep Stow safe!

Overall, the Reserve Unit volunteered 1,235 hours in 2019.



RESERVE OFFICER VOLUNTEER HOURS



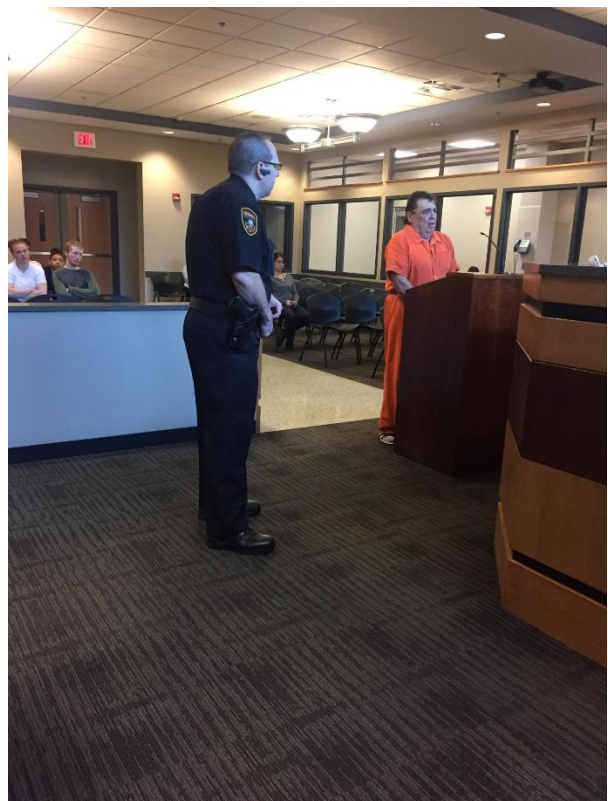
Support Services

Stow Municipal Court

The Stow Municipal Court serves sixteen (16) communities in northeast Summit County. In 2019, Stow Municipal Court processed over 20,000 cases filed by Summit County agencies, which reside in the court's jurisdiction.



The City of Stow Police Department assigns one officer to work full-time at the courthouse in conjunction with the security force there. This position is currently held by 27 year veteran, 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.





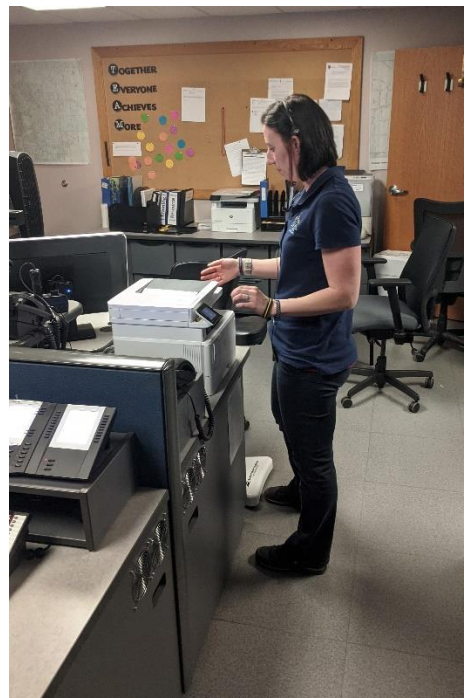
Pictured: Police and Fire personnel respond to a medical call in the lobby of the courthouse



Pictured: Stow Police Officers prepare to testify

Communications Division

The Stow Regional Communications Center is staffed by 14 full-time Communication Specialists (CS) and five part-time CS, plus a supervisor. Each member is certified by the National Academy of Emergency Medical Dispatch. All 9-1-1 calls, all non-emergency calls, and most administrative calls are received through the Communications Center. The Stow Communications Center dispatches calls not only for the City of Stow safety forces, but also for the cities of Tallmadge and Mogadore, as well as Randolph Township.



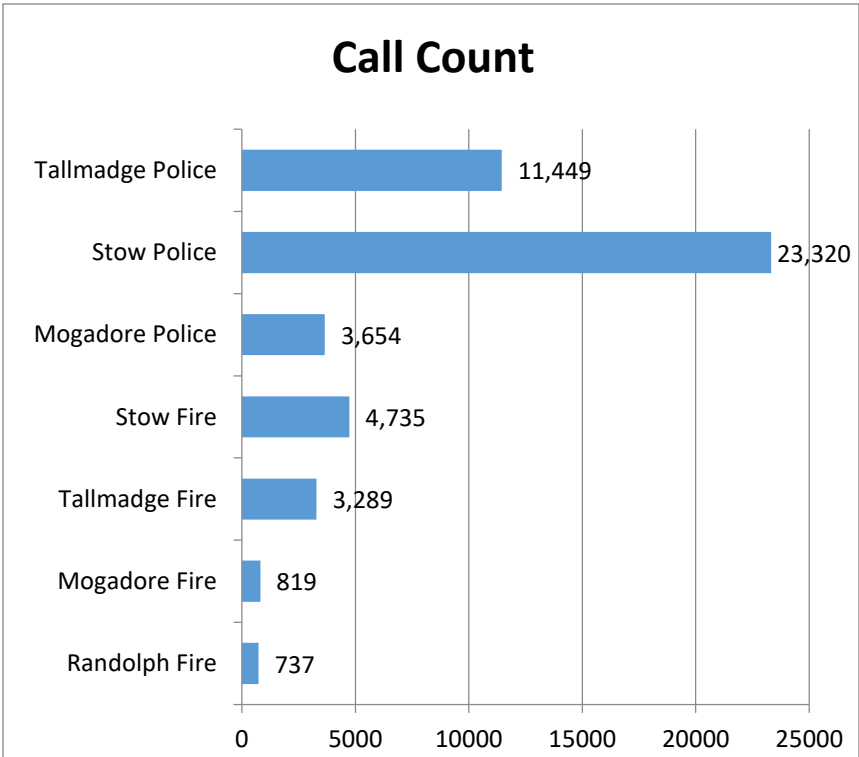
CS are responsible for receiving incoming emergency calls, prioritizing calls based on the nature of an emergency, providing instructions on life-saving emergency medical interventions, and dispatching the proper emergency personnel. CS monitor numerous radio frequencies and use the CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) system to log calls while answering both emergency and non-emergency lines.

Each CS goes through an initial 16 weeks of on the job training before being released to work on their own. They continue to receive training throughout their career in order to stay up to date on the latest skills and information.

2019 brought an upgraded CAD system through Tyler’s Enterprise Dispatch. The new system aids CS in tracking and recording multiple calls involving numerous units. Mapping is provided through both the CAD system and the phone system to help locate callers.



In 2019, Stow Regional Communications logged 48,003 incidents in our CAD system, that’s about 131 incidents every day. The Communications Center averages 55 emergency calls and 254 non-emergency calls per day. Below is a breakdown of the Stow Regional Communications call volume by agency.



Records Division



Stow Records Division is responsible for maintaining all records produced by the Stow Police Department. The division is staffed by a supervisor, three full-time records clerks, and a part-time intern. They process criminal, incident, and crash reports, among several other various police documents. Staff is also in charge of data entry, preparing criminal and traffic charges, as well as video evidence for court. All members of the Records Division attend training to stay up to date on public records laws. They also manage and distribute all public records requests.

Records staff is also tasked with control over all property taken in by the department. This includes all evidence seized, as well as any lost or recovered property. The division supervisor, Cheryl Black, has been overseeing property since 1989! In 2019, the department took in 1,427 pieces of evidence.



In 2019, body worn cameras and cruiser cameras were activated a total of 33,916 times. Records staff is responsible for managing this enormous amount of video evidence. They receive and process requests for video recordings from the courts, prosecutors, officers, and the public.

Internship

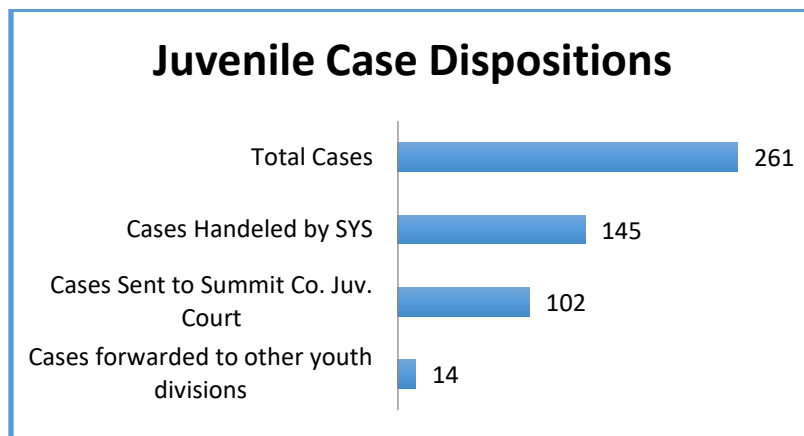
Reid Gibson joined the department in November, 2019 as an administrative intern for the Chief's Office and Records Division. Reid was part of the Tallmadge High School cross country and track teams. He currently maintains a GPA of 3.28, while taking multiple honors classes.

Reid has been interested in law enforcement since a young age and is involved in the Police Explorer program. He plans on enlisting in the U.S. Army right out of high school. Following enlistment, he would like to attend the police academy and hopes to become a SWAT team member.



Stow Youth Services

Stow Youth Services (SYS) is a program provided by the Stow Police Department. The program offers juveniles charged with a misdemeanor offense the opportunity to accept responsibility and work with SYS rather than have their case prosecuted through Summit County Juvenile Court. If they successfully complete the program, the juvenile's record is erased and is not charged on their record. The department accepts case referrals from the Police Department, as well as walk-ins by parents. The juvenile must be a resident of Stow to participate in the program. Some of the programs juveniles are required to attend include: Restitution, Community Service, Counseling, Drug/Alcohol Education, and Anger Management. These requirements are in addition to meeting(s) with Youth Services Staff.



This year, SYS was able to present The NOPE (Narcotics Overdose Prevention Education) Task Force presentation to over 4,400 students in Stow and surrounding communities. SYS also educated students on Tobacco and Vape use. While tobacco use is greatly reduced, the City of Stow has seen a significant increase in the use of vaping products.

Safety Town

In June of 2019, SYS had a total of 160 kids come through the four (4) Safety Town sessions. Topics covered over the five (5) days ranged from playground safety to dog bite prevention, for a total of fourteen (14) important lessons. SYS partners with other agencies, such as Akron Children's Hospital and the Stow-Munroe Falls School bus garage to provide comprehensive, current instruction.

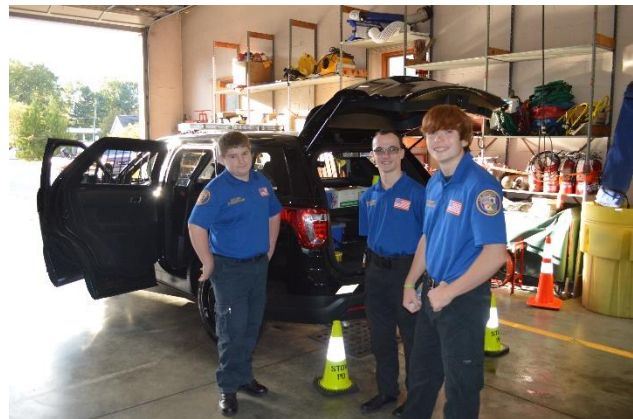


We had 64 total volunteers ranging from 8th to 12th grade working to make the four classes possible. Our amazing volunteers are such an important part of Safety Town! They help the students by being a role model for the kids to look up to and by guiding them through their daily activities. They also lead them on tours of the Police Department, Fire Department, Dispatch, and our field trip to the Safety Village.



Police Explorers

The cities of Stow, Tallmadge, Cuyahoga Falls 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.



School Crossing Guards

Stow PD employs nine (9) crossing guards. These dedicated individuals are managed by the Stow Youth Services Supervisor, and are assigned to help children cross the road at seven (7) school locations throughout the city.



These folks are trusted with the safety of the city’s schoolchildren. They can be seen out stopping traffic and keeping things running smooth in the sunshine, rain, sleet, or snow!

Community Events

Citizens Police Academy



In conjunction with Cuyahoga Falls, Tallmadge, Munroe Falls, and Silver Lake, Stow Police Department hosted the 6th Annual Citizens Police Academy. Lt. Michael Titus was in charge of coordinating the 2019 class, which was the largest in attendance since the inception of the academy. This program, which is open to citizens in the five 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. The 2019 academy was generously sponsored by Western Reserve Hospital.



Stow PD v. FD Swim Competition

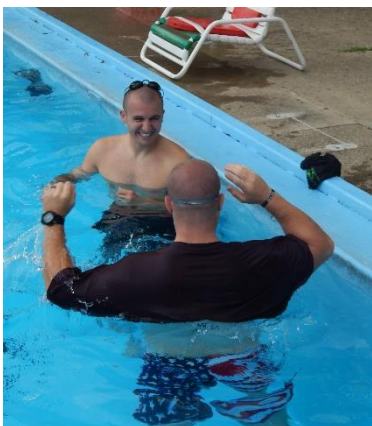
On August 17, 2019 the Stow Police Department competed against the Stow Fire Department in a series of water activity events at Maplewood Pool. The competitions included swim relays, a water balloon toss, and cornhole. Each team had four members competing in each event.

The Police won a relay where competitors were required to thaw a frozen t-shirt under water, put the shirt on, and then swim 25 meters before passing the shirt to a teammate to swim it back.



The Fire Department won a swim event where each team was required to carry a member of the opposing team on a chair 50 meters through the pool.

The Police Department won bragging rights for the year after beating the Fire Department 4-1.



There was a great showing of support from both sides that included friends, family and the community. This was a competition that allowed officers and the public to interact, while supporting the Maplewood Pool.



Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics



Each year, the Special Olympics torch passes through the City of Stow as it makes its way across the State of Ohio, proudly carried by law enforcement officers to raise funds for the Special Olympics. Hudson officers pass off the torch to Stow officers at the northern border. Stow PD then runs the torch three and a half miles to the southern edge of the city where it is transferred to Munroe Falls officers so that it can continue on its journey. In 2019, Stow had 10 runners participate including the Mayor, Police Chief, and two Police Chaplains!



Touch - A - Truck

Stow PD participated in the 2019 Stow Munroe Falls Public Library Touch-A-Truck held in September. Families were given an opportunity to check out some unique emergency vehicles and interact with the people who operate them.



Pictured: Officer Corfman, K-9 Ruger, Maci and Autumn Meidlinger of Stow



Pictured: Sergeant Lasko, Lyla and Lincoln Sure of Stow

Stow “Yes” Softball

On Saturday, June 1, 2019, Stow Yes Softball hosted a benefit game at the Stow Munroe Falls High School softball fields.



The organization donated all profits from concession sales for the event to Stow PD “Shop with a Cop”.



National Night Out

In conjunction with Target stores, National Night Out (NNO) 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. 2019 brought lots of rain to NNO. Thanks to help from the Boy Scouts and volunteers, we were still able to serve plenty of free food to visitors under tent cover!



Safety Forces Open House

The Police and Fire Departments hosted a Safety Forces Open House on October 10, 2019. The open house featured guided tours of the Safety Center and emergency vehicles. The event also included informational booths, as well as K-9, CPR, rappelling and vehicle extraction demonstrations.

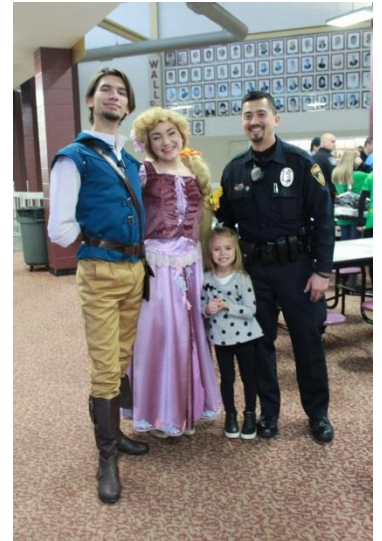


Pictured: 5 year old Stow resident, Owen Dutkiewicz

Shop with a Cop

The Stow Police Department continues to be host agency for the annual Shop with a Cop (SWAC) event. SWAC gives the police an opportunity to connect and build strong, trusting relationships with children in our community. The program also helps families have a brighter holiday season by shopping for kids who otherwise may not have anything to open Christmas morning.

In 2019, the event started at Stow High School where the children were provided breakfast, which was donated by many local businesses. Also, Santa Clause, Disney Princesses and Superheroes were on site for photo ops and meet and greets. The kids were then transported via all types of police and SWAT vehicles to the Stow Target. Due to generous donations, this year children were given \$150 gift cards to buy toys and gifts. In previous years, children were given \$100 gift cards.



16 Summit County police agencies participated in this large scale event. Thanks to our awesome donors, Stow PD was able to take 24 children shopping!

Stow Police Department was also able to use some of the SWAC funds to sponsor an Akron family with 6 children and provide them with a full Christmas. This was organized by Silver Lake Police Department, Twinsburg Police Department, Hudson Police Department and Stow Police Department after Shop with a Cop was completed.



2019 Personnel

Sworn Officers

Chief Jeffrey E. Film	Captain Anne M. Stirm	Captain Bryan J. Snavely
Lieutenant Michael A. Titus	Lieutenant Kenneth A. Mifflin	Lietuenant Heather M. Prusha
Sergeant Daniel N. Drummond Sergeant Erik N. Dirker	Sergeant Jeffrey A. Breznak Sergeant Kasey L. Lasko	Sergeant Stephen W. Miller Sergeant Theodore L. Bell
Detective Edith F. Gaffney Detective Nicholas F. Dolezal	Detective Jeffrey D. Swanson	Detective Stephen J. Heim
Officer Timothy J. Reiheld Officer James J. Barker Officer John L. Ginther Officer Brian R. Haddix Officer Justin C. Smith Officer Edward J. Wonner Officer Jacob D. Corfman Officer Kevin R. Smith Officer Kristopher J. Maruna Officer Taylor N. Paxton	Officer David M. Semonin Officer Barry C. Smith Officer Robert S. Molody Officer Jesse J. Reedy Officer Robert D. Frisina Officer Bethany M. Childers Officer Brett M. Balog Officer Justin Burgess Officer Christopher J. Musarra	Officer Joseph J. Hepler Officer Kevin M. Green Officer Ryan M. Schulz Officer Michael B. Murphy Officer Jason L. Bailey Officer Patrick R. Myers Officer Samuel J. Williams Officer Jacob M. Pajestka Officer Christopher J. Weibel

Reserve Unit

Captain Tom Sedor	Advisory Captain Ron King
Lieutenant Donovan Kelley	
Sergeant Alisha Greenawalt-Johnson Sergeant Fred Massingill	Sergeant Michael Dolbow Sergeant Johnathan Agler
Officer Gregory Hunter Officer Troy Lewandowski Officer Joseph Hunter	Officer Anthony York Officer Shannon Myers Officer Adam Penny

Civilian Staff

Chief's Office

Supervisor: Marguerite Amonett

Reid Gibson

Communication Specialists

Supervisor: Danielle Morgan

Tammy Molody

Jessica Dolezal

Sara Worley

Tara Wilson

Adrianna Vaughn

Norma Stewart

Stephanie Despot-Cook

Kara Farkas

Bobbi Smyth

LoAnn Groghan

Angie Mack

Francesca Thurston

Jamie McShane

Sheryl Dunn

Susan Novak

Amy Ashton

Lindsey Huston

Adrienne Henterly

Ronnell Massengill

Community Service Officer

Edward Young

Records Division

Supervisor: Cheryl Black

Michelle Badgley

Jami Lord-Smith

April Dirker

Stow Youth Services

Supervisor: Kathy Christ

Toni Carter

Ron Clum

