

Fort Smith Police Department

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



In It **Together**



Vision, Mission, & Statement of Values

“Working toward a day when our profession is no longer needed, we shall relentlessly pursue perfection in all we do knowing excellence can be obtained. We will strive to improve the lives of everyone we encounter. Service, Honor, Integrity, Education, Legacy and Dedication (S.H.I.E.L.D.) will be our guiding principles as we work hand-in-hand with every segment of our community to seek permanent peace, justice and security for all.”

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CHIEF OF POLICE DANNY BAKER

Dear Mayor, City Administrator, and Fort Smith Board of Directors,

As we move headlong into 2023, I appreciate the opportunity to reflect on the past year and the incredible progress the Fort Smith Police Department has made. The dedication and unwavering support from our team members, along with your continued guidance, have enabled us to grow and make a real difference in the lives of the Fort Smith community.

Our commitment to community policing, or as I prefer to call it, “just policing,” has remained strong throughout 2022. This approach is essential to fulfilling our vision of working ourselves out of a job by improving the lives of everyone we encounter. We understand that by working together with every segment of our community, we can foster mutual trust, respect, and understanding, which ultimately leads to a safer, more unified Fort Smith.



I would also like to express my profound gratitude to the voters of Fort Smith for approving the renewal of the $\frac{3}{4}$ cent sales tax and dedicating $\frac{1}{8}$ of it to the police department. This critical decision has provided our department with the necessary resources to provide our police officers with an almost 24% pay increase. As a result, we have overcome personnel shortages and retention issues, making us a highly competitive employer and enabling us to strengthen our force and better serve the community.

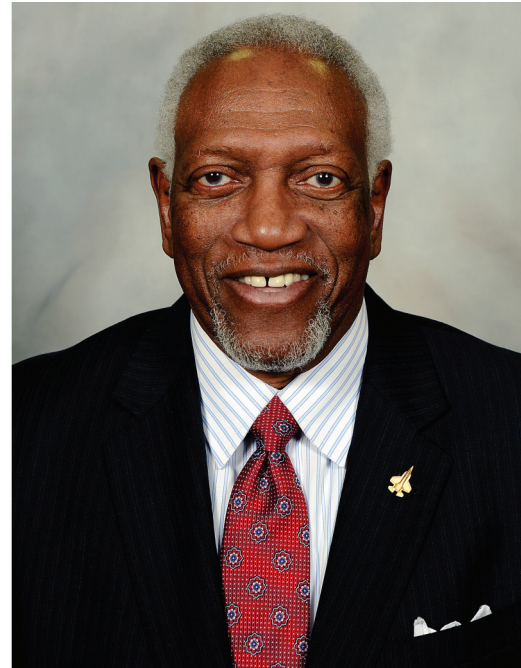
Your support has not only allowed us to invest in our officers but also to aggressively address criminal activity through the better use of data, technology along with traditional police resources. I am proud to report that, thanks to our collaborative efforts, we have seen a decrease of 10.31 percent in Group A crimes (homicides, sexual assaults, aggravated assaults, robberies, arsons, burglaries, larceny theft, and motor vehicle theft) from 2021 to 2022. This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our officers and the support of our community.

In conclusion, we remain steadfast in our commitment to work hand-in-hand with the community in seeking permanent peace, justice, and security for all. Thank you for your continued belief in and support of our vision, and for providing us with the resources necessary to make Fort Smith a better place for everyone here.

CITY ADMINISTRATION



**CITY ADMINISTRATOR
CARL GEFFKEN**



**MAYOR
GEORGE MCGILL**

FORT SMITH BOARD OF DIRECTORS
POSITION 1/WARD 1 VICE MAYOR JARRED REGO
POSITION 2/WARD 2 DIRECTOR ANDRE GOOD
POSITION 3/WARD 3 DIRECTOR LAVON MORTON
POSITION 4/WARD 4 DIRECTOR GEORGE CATSAVIS
POSITION 5/AT-LARGE DIRECTOR CHRISTINA CATSAVIS
POSITION 6/AT-LARGE DIRECTOR KEVIN SETTLE
POSITION 7/AT-LARGE DIRECTOR NEAL MARTIN

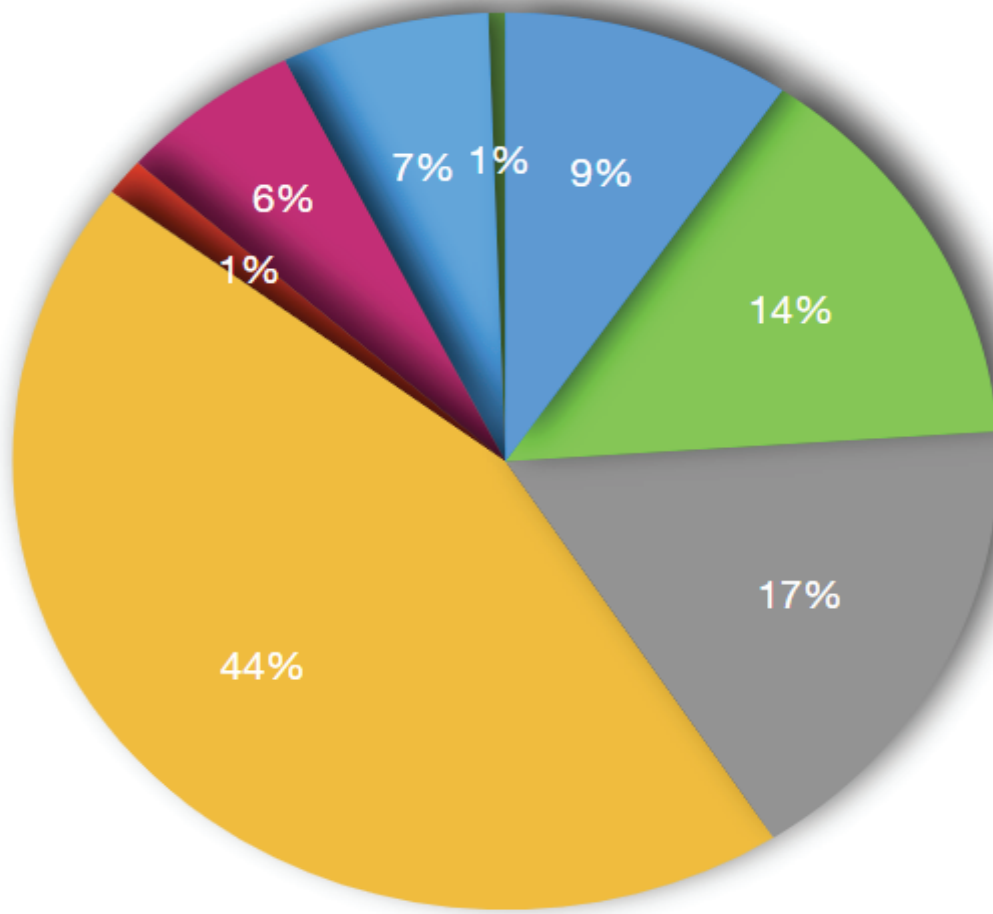
City Administrator Carl Geffken and the Fort Smith Board of Directors play a significant role in overseeing the Police Department. The City Administrator serves as the chief administrative officer of the city, responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the government. Meanwhile, the Board is the legislative body that makes policy decisions and sets the direction for the city.

Together, they work to develop and implement policies that ensure the safety and security of the community. They oversee a police budget of close to \$18 million, review the department's performance, and make decisions about personnel and equipment needs.

Likewise, Mayor George McGill plays a valuable role as the city's chief spokesperson and ambassador. The Mayor presides over Board meetings, helps set the city's agenda, and works to promote the city's interests and values to the community and the broader region. By working collaboratively with the City Administrator and Board of Directors, the Mayor helps ensure that the city's police department is effective, accountable, and responsive to the needs of the community.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

2022 BUDGET



- Police Admin
- Police Criminal Investigations
- Police Airport Svcs
- Communications
- Police Support Svc
- Patrol Operations
- Animal Control
- Parking Enforcement

\$17.922 MILLION BUDGETED
\$17.392 MILLION ACTUAL EXPENSES

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAN DENNIS

DIVISIONS

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COORDINATOR
ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF OF
POLICE**

The Administrative Bureau oversees handling of the Department's annual budget. In 2022, the Department was budgeted for \$17,922,000. Actual expenses came in at approximately \$530,000 under this figure with expenditures totaling \$17,392,620.47. The majority of funds were spent in the Patrol Operations Division (44%) with Criminal Investigations (17%) and Support Services (14%) claiming the Nos. 2 and 3 slots. Administrative expenses came in \$903,000 under budget with \$1,651,419.75 in actual expenses.

The Bureau also helped secure \$330,409.56 in grant funding. This enabled the Department to pursue initiatives, such as Child Safety Seats (\$9,000); Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP, \$90,100); Justice Assistance Grant (JAG, \$41,941.42); Bulletproof Vest Grant (BVP, \$28,959); Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF, \$29,463); Arvest Community Relations Grant (\$5,000); Department of Public Safety Public Grant Program (\$68,458.96); Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Site-Based Program (COSSUP, \$40,838.68); and a private grant in the amount of \$16,648 for camera trailers.

One vital component to the Administrative Bureau is the **COMMUNITY RELATIONS UNIT**, which is dedicated to building strong connections with the community it serves. In 2022, the unit was hard at work, participating in a total of 390 community events, averaging more than one event per day. Through these events, the unit was able to make 51,713 community contacts, reaching more than half the population of Fort Smith.

The Community Relations Unit is also

committed to educating the community about crime prevention. In 2022, the unit taught 22 Crime Prevention classes, providing valuable information and resources to those interested in keeping themselves and their communities safe.

Another critical program coordinated by the unit is the widely popular Citizens' Police Academy. The CRU is proud to coordinate this program in collaboration with other divisions of the Fort Smith Police Department. CPA has been so successful that since 2019, there have been waiting lists to participate.

The Citizens Police Academy provides community members with an opportunity to gain valuable insight into the inner workings of law enforcement by participating in a variety of classes and exercises. Participants learn about the various roles and responsibilities of police officers and get a firsthand look at how the department operates. This program has been instrumental in fostering trust and building positive relationships between the community and law enforcement.

Another of the Unit's flagship programs is FSPD Food Patrol, which addresses food insecurity in high-crime areas. Since its inception in October 2020, the program has distributed more than 11,000 meals, providing critical support to those in need.

In addition to its various outreach programs, the Community Relations Unit plays a vital role in managing the Fort Smith Police Department's online presence. Along with the Public Information Officer, the unit is responsible for overseeing the Department's social media accounts, which include Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook, and have amassed over 54,000 followers combined.

In 2022, the Department began transitioning many of its official communications with the public to the GovDelivery platform, resulting in an additional 3,300 sign-ups to date. The Community Relations Unit also spearheads several engaging initiatives, such as the Scribble Car, which invites residents of all ages to sign their name and leave positive messages on one of the Department's black Tahoes. To add a pop of color and fun to the events they attend, the unit recently introduced the Community Relations Jeep.

Moreover, the Department's beloved Police Cat, Pawfficer Fuzz, has continued to spread joy and cheer to the community through public appearances and social media shenanigans. With these diverse efforts, the Community Relations Unit has effectively strengthened the relationship between the Fort Smith Police Department and the community it serves.

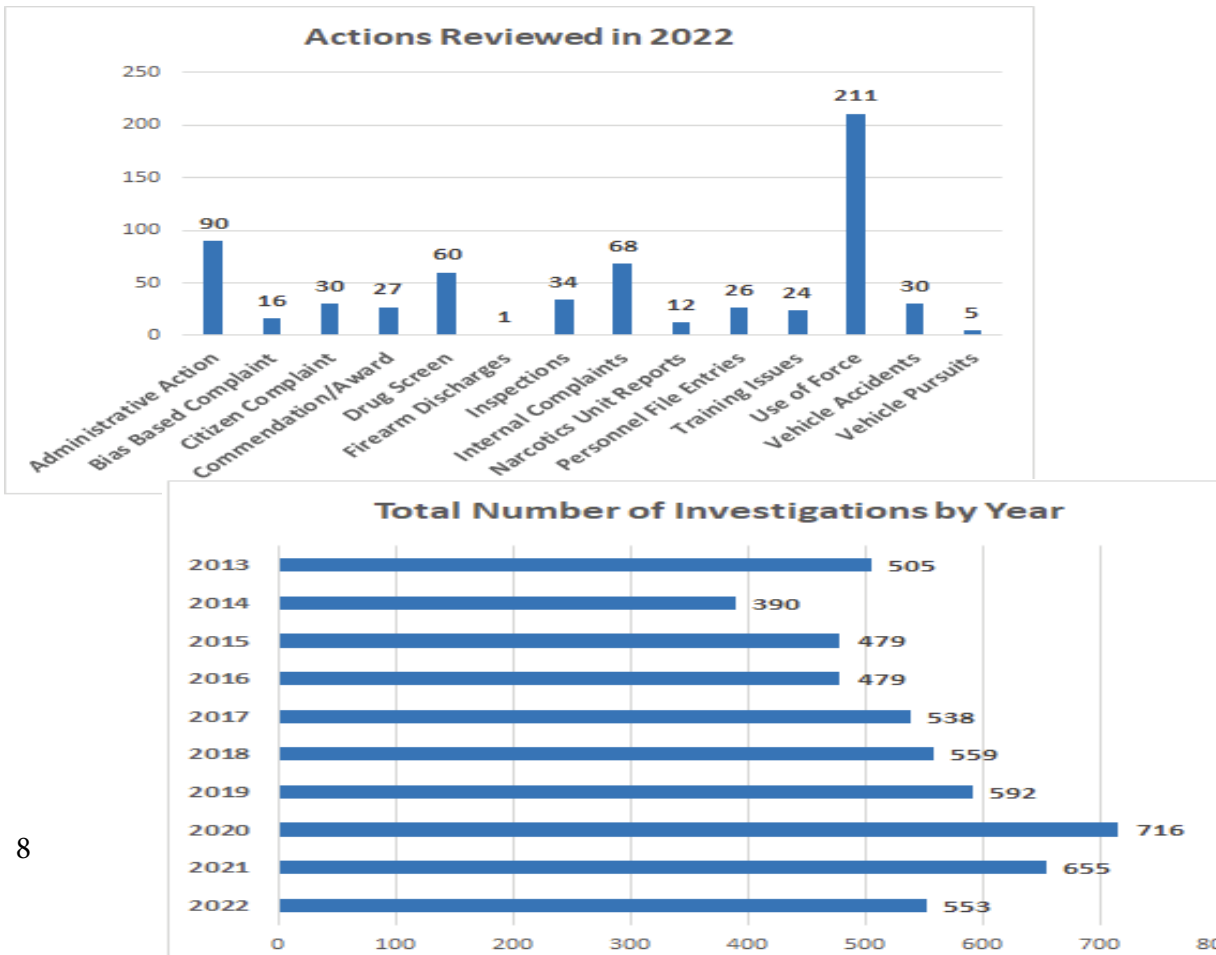
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The purpose of the Office of Professional Standards is to safeguard the continued confidence of the community by upholding the integrity of the department. The Office of Professional Standards investigates serious complaints of misconduct or inappropriate activity and serves to protect employees and the department from unfounded or unwarranted accusations.

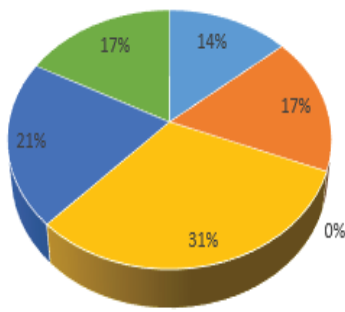
The Office of Professional Standards conducts investigations into things such as:

1. Allegations of misconduct by a Fort Smith Police Department employee
2. Allegations of criminal conduct by a Fort Smith Police Department employee
3. Serious breaches of Departmental integrity
4. Complaints likely to result in criticism of the Department.
5. Unusual complaints that will likely be closely scrutinized.

There were 59 internal complaints and 30 citizen complaints investigated in 2022. After an investigation 34 internal complaints and 4 citizen complaints were found to be sustained.

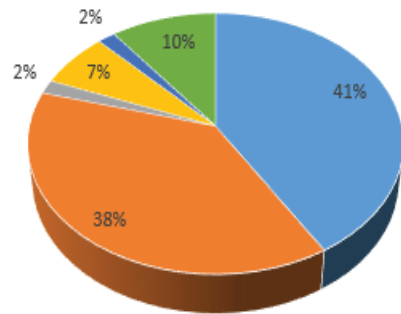


30 Citizen Complaints in 2022



■ Sustained ■ Admin Closed ■ Exonerated ■ Not Sustained ■ Withdrawn ■ Unfounded

59 Internal Complaints in 2022



■ Sustained ■ Administratively Closed ■ Exonerated
 ■ Not Sustained ■ Partially Sustained ■ Resignation

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

Along with the Community Relations Unit and Office of Professional Standards, the Administrative Bureau runs smoothly due to the efforts of the Deputy Director of Administrative Services, Administrative Services Coordinator, Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police, and Accounting Tech positions. These dedicated professionals work behind the scenes to ensure the efficient functioning of the Fort Smith Police Department.

Deputy Director of Administrative Services Dan Dennis identifies and applies for grants that provide essential funding for various programs, initiatives, and equipment for the department. He also ensures compliance with grant requirements and submits progress reports as needed.

Director Dennis's responsibilities include supervising non-sworn staff members, including administrative, clerical, and technical staff. Furthermore, he assists in preparing and managing the department's budget, monitoring expenditures, and identifying cost-saving measures.

His expertise in policy development and implementation has been invaluable as well. As a former Chief of Police and IT Director, he has helped as an advisor to Chief Baker, as well as a liaison with other departments and agencies.

Working with Director Dennis is Administrative Services Coordinator

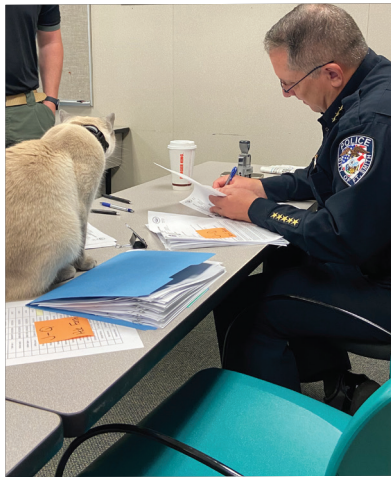
Maranda Shaw. Maranda manages the department's financial matters with precision and integrity. Her duties include managing grants, handling accounts payable and receivable, and assisting with budgeting and financial reporting. Maintaining accurate financial records ensures the responsible allocation of resources and the overall financial health of the department.

Accounting Technician Cassandra Cleveland assists Maranda as needed and also oversees payroll functions, ensuring that our sworn and non-sworn personnel are compensated fairly and on time for their efforts.

Bonnie Byers, the Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police, plays a crucial role in supporting the Chief's office. Her tasks involve managing correspondence, handling scheduling, and assisting with the preparation of reports and presentations.

By ensuring the Chief's office runs efficiently, Bonnie helps facilitate effective communication and decision-making within the department.

In summary, the Department's Administrative Bureau is a vital part of the success that we have experienced at the Fort Smith Police Department over the last year. The professionals within this Bureau demonstrate expertise and commitment to excellence that enables the department to focus on its primary vision of improving the lives of every Fort Smith citizen and everyone we encounter.



UNIFORMED BUREAU



PATROL



**DEPUTY CHIEF, UNIFORMED
JASON THOMPSON**

**DIVISIONS
PATROL FIELD OPERATIONS,
CAPTAIN WENDALL SAMPSON**

**PATROL SPECIAL OPERATIONS,
CAPTAIN DANIEL GRUBBS**





The Fort Smith Police Department's Annual Report showcases the dedicated work of the **PATROL FIELD OPERATIONS** division, which is responsible for maintaining public safety, enforcing traffic laws, responding to calls for service, conducting directed patrols, and engaging in community policing initiatives.

In 2022, the Patrol Field Operations division managed a total of 63,371 calls for service, conducted 9,305 traffic stops, and issued 5,952 warnings and 1,865 citations.

The division performed 96 directed patrols, made 4,701 arrests, and engaged in 20,800 non-enforcement contacts with community members. The door hanger campaign also continued, with officers conducting 1,419 formal after-hours checks on businesses.

The department's commitment to excellence is evident in the purchase of nine new patrol vehicles equipped with state-of-the-art technology and safety features, and the initiation of a Take Home Vehicle program for officers living in Fort Smith. Additionally, the department transitioned to a new duty uniform designed for comfort, durability, and functionality, with officers receiving training on proper wear and care.

Successful initiatives such as the Downtown Initiative, Homeless Initiative, and Door Hanger Program contributed to decreased crime rates and increased community safety. In 2022, the department hired 38 new officer candidates who underwent comprehensive training, including the Field Training Program led by Lieutenant Robert Schibbelhut and assisted by Sergeant Chris McCoy.

The Field Training Program, which partners newly graduated officers with experienced Field Training Officers for a minimum of 15 weeks, had 30 graduates in the past year. Additionally, 8 pre-certified officers participated in a modified version of the program. Of the 38 officers who participated, 27 are currently working in various capacities within the department, while the remaining 11 are completing their training.

In summary, the Patrol Field Operations division of the Fort Smith Police Department continues to excel in its duties through a combination of responsive law enforcement, proactive community engagement, and ongoing officer training and development. The 2022 statistics demonstrate the division's unwavering commitment to public safety, crime prevention, and fostering positive relationships with the citizens it serves.

The Fort Smith Police Department's **SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT** encompasses several



specialized units, each focusing on unique aspects of public safety and community engagement. The newly reintroduced Bicycle Unit, the Motor Unit, the Crisis Intervention Unit, the Airport Unit, and the Active Shooter Training program all work together to ensure the well-being of the city's residents, visitors, and businesses.

BICYCLE UNIT

The Fort Smith Police Department's Bicycle Unit has been reintroduced after an absence of more than 10 years, with the help of a pandemic-based grant of over \$29,000.00. The unit has a history of building strong relationships with community members and working closely with them to solve problems in neighborhoods, downtown areas, entertainment districts, trail systems, and other areas of the city. The grant has enabled the unit to acquire all necessary equipment, including uniforms, helmets, eye protection, gloves, other protective equipment, and electric bikes (e-bikes). The department is looking forward to the positive impact the Bicycle Unit will continue to make with community members, business owners, and visitors in the city.

MOTOR UNIT

The Motor Unit has received grant funding of \$14,700.00 through the STEP program, which will be used to equip all four motorcycles with mounted radar systems to enforce traffic violations in the city. Officer Daniel Vaught has been promoted to Sergeant, and although the unit will miss his knowledge, experience, and reliability, the department is proud that he will be providing leadership to officers in this department. In May, the Motor Unit coordinated and facilitated the second annual Cops and Cones event at the Steel Horse Rally, with participants from departments all over the state of Arkansas, including Little Rock, Van Buren, Fayetteville, Bella Vista, and Benton County.

CRISIS INTERVENTION UNIT

The Crisis Intervention Unit has welcomed Officer Sandivel "Sandy" Glover as a new member, bringing the unit to full strength. The unit is comprised of three full-time officers and one civilian peer support specialist. Officer Glover, who is fluent in Spanish, enhances the unit's ability to serve the diverse community better. In 2022, the unit conducted over 700 follow-ups, diverted 28 individuals from prosecution, and made 114 voluntary referrals and eight involuntary referrals for mental health help. The department also implemented a Vulnerable Person Database in July of 2020, which is an entirely voluntary service provided to citizens, allowing police

quick access to vital information on a vulnerable person who has gone missing or wandered off. The Crisis Intervention Unit serves as the point of contact for anyone interested in participating.

AIRPORT UNIT

The Airport Unit consists of three officers who serve as ambassadors to the police department and the city. They interact with visitors and passengers at the Fort Smith Regional Airport, ensuring their safety and security without incident. In 2022, the unit oversaw the safety and security of over 123,061 passengers with zero citizen complaints, reflecting positively on the department and the community.

63,371 CALLS FOR SERVICE
4,701 ARRESTS
20,800 NON-ENFORCEMENT CONTACTS
1,419 AFTER-HOURS SECURITY CHECKS



NON-UNIFORMED BUREAU



SUPPORT SERVICES / CID



**DEPUTY CHIEF,
NON-UNIFORMED
ANTHONY PARKINSON**

**DIVISIONS
SUPPORT SERVICES,
CAPTAIN WES MILAM**

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS,
CAPTAIN JEFF CARTER**



SUPPORT SERVICES

The Fort Smith Police Department's **COMMUNICATIONS UNIT** comprises 24 highly trained and skilled Telecommunicators, alongside five civilian Supervisors. In the year 2022, the Unit responded to 144,789 calls, 64,098 of which were emergency calls made to 911. The Communication Unit is responsible for fielding all incoming calls to the Police Department and dispatching service requests for Patrol Officers, Animal Wardens, and Fire Fighters. Throughout 2022, the Communications Unit personnel dispatched 75,813 Patrol response requests, 6,773 Animal Warden requests, and 15,227 Firefighter response requests.



Communication Unit personnel have undergone additional training courses on diverse topics such as next-generation 911 (NG911), diversity and inclusion, and response to school violence. Furthermore, they have collaborated with other agencies to establish interagency communication procedures and individual responsibilities in case of an active school violence threat.

Towards the end of 2022, the Communications Unit received a significant phone system upgrade. One of the key features of this upgrade is the ability to exchange text messages with citizens seeking emergency services, allowing for real-time location information and automatic translation of non-English messages.

Despite over half of the staff being new, the Communications Unit exceeded each benchmark in all four Quarterly Performance Measures reports. In 2023, the Communications Unit personnel will continue to exceed expectations, with a particular focus on training and retaining new team members.

TRAINING UNIT

In 2022, the Training Unit of the Fort Smith Police Department facilitated over 33,000 hours of training for its employees, including leadership training, crisis intervention training, de-escalation techniques, and active shooter/threat training. We also graduated one from the FBI National Academy and hosted FBI-LEEDA training. The department was understaffed by 22 sworn officers at the beginning of the year, but the Training Unit hired an unprecedented 58 personnel, accounting for 42 new sworn officers and 16 non-sworn hires, making the Department fully staffed. The Unit also hosted three Basic Police Training Academies, resulting in 54 graduates from agencies throughout the region.

ANIMAL SERVICES UNIT

The Animal Services Unit (ASU) in Fort Smith is comprised of a team of five animal wardens who respond to a high volume of animal-related calls for service. In the year 2022, the ASU responded to an impressive 6,463 calls. This dedicated team was able to successfully reunite 375 lost animals with their rightful owners prior to bringing them to the shelter. Additionally, the animal wardens transported 1,072 animals to the shelter, with 208 of those animals requiring medical attention due to injuries.

The ASU is also responsible for relocating wild animals to designated areas, and in 2022, 318 wild animals were relocated by the team. The Animal Services Unit takes cases of animal cruelty very seriously, and throughout the year, the team worked on a total of 31 such cases, ultimately resulting in the rescue of 95 animals. The ASU has also made significant improvements in their operations throughout the year, such as implementing bi-weekly briefing meetings, a field training program, and procedures for tracking dog packs. The unit has also established a no-adoption list for individuals who are charged with cruelty to animals, and has purchased



necessary equipment such as catch poles and folding nets.

The ASU has worked hard to improve relationships with other divisions within the department in order to improve the efficiency in how animal-related calls

are handled throughout the City. The ASU has even added two new, fully-equipped animal warden vehicles to their fleet in order to provide even better service. The team has also partnered with the Fort Smith Animal Haven Shelter to develop ways to address animal-related concerns within the City of Fort Smith while still ensuring that adequate levels of care are provided to the animals that they encounter.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE SECTION

The Building Maintenance Section plays a critical role in ensuring that the police facility runs smoothly. It is made up of two non-sworn employees, the Lead Building Engineer and Senior Maintenance, who oversee the upkeep of all systems related to the facility such as electrical, plumbing, structural, and HVAC.

In 2022, the Building Maintenance team collaborated with over 50 vendors to accomplish various tasks. They also worked closely with the street and parks department to redesign the back parking lot, which allowed for the creation of eight parking spots. Additionally, the team re-stripped both the front and back building parking lots and installed two carports in the back parking lot for the Community Relations and Motorcycle Unit vehicles.

The team was also responsible for multiple repairs throughout the building, including the Prosecutors and lobby heat pump unit, heat pump 22 and 23, a leak in the downstairs hallway, gym equipment, sally port garage door, and repairs on both the lobby and rear elevator. They cleaned out the cooling tower and closed off the sprinkler lines for the facility.

Furthermore, the Building Maintenance

144,789 CALLS
64,098 EMERGENCY CALLS
75,813 PATROL RESPONSES
6,773 ANIMAL WARDEN RESPONSES
15,227 FIRE DISPATCHES

team successfully designed and installed a gate with card reader access near the DUI room. They also played an essential role in acquiring the storage building located in the back, which is used to store large items for evidence. The Senior Maintenance position was able to successfully obtain his Boiler License.

The maintenance

team also assisted the evidence custodian in the destruction of narcotics throughout the year and the fleet coordinator in the transportation of fleet vehicles for maintenance or outfitting.

FLEET COORDINATOR SECTION

The Fort Smith Police Department's Fleet Coordinator Section is a vital part of the department responsible for ensuring the fleet of 169 vehicles is well-maintained and in good condition. The Fleet Coordinator oversees maintenance, repairs, and troubleshooting of all department vehicles, while also maintaining accurate records of all maintenance performed on the vehicles. In 2022, the Fleet Coordinator worked closely with over 50 vendors to ensure the necessary tasks were completed.

Despite challenges with the supply chain of newly purchased vehicles and parts for maintenance and repairs, the Fleet Coordinator was able to schedule outfitting with multiple vendors to get the nine new vehicles operational for patrol functions in a timely manner. Additionally, the Fleet Coordinator and Quartermaster proactively reached out to new vendors to source updated equipment such as light bars for the new fleet vehicles. Several vendors were invited to the department to present their equipment to department administration, which resulted in the new fleet vehicles being outfitted with the chosen equipment presented at these meetings.

The Fleet Coordinator and Quartermaster also took it upon themselves to streamline the maintenance and repair process with auto mechanic shops. As a result, there has been a more efficient system in place to keep track of and

schedule maintenance and repairs. The Fleet Coordinator and Quartermaster have gone above and beyond to ensure that the department's fleet is always ready for action.

QUARTERMASTER SECTION

The Quartermaster section is responsible for the management of assets and the maintenance of inventory, as well as the supply of uniforms and equipment to officers and non-sworn employees. The Quartermaster must be cross-trained to perform the duties of the Fleet Coordinator. In 2022, the Quartermaster worked with over 50 vendors to fulfill various tasks.

Throughout 2022, the Quartermaster section was instrumental in implementing new uniforms and equipment, establishing new vendors, and creating efficient systems for issuing and tracking assets. During a four-month period, the Quartermaster performed both the Quartermaster and Fleet Coordinator positions and accomplished all assigned tasks.

The Quartermaster trained the newly hired Fleet Coordinator, who started in October. The department also hired 40 officers and 3 animal wardens, creating a major challenge in getting uniforms and required equipment on time. However, the Quartermaster overcame this challenge by locating the newly selected style uniforms and vests for officers and outfitting 1/3 of Patrol with these items and attachments.

During the process, the Quartermaster discovered an error in the embroidery of the new uniforms from a vendor. To fix the issue, the Quartermaster reached out to another vendor and ensured the timely assignment of corrected uniforms to the officers.

The Quartermaster was also instrumental in getting the department operational in setting up assets for auction on GovDeals.com. In addition, the Quartermaster reorganized the quartermaster area, resulting in more storage, work space, better organization, and tracking of equipment.

INFORMATION DESK

The Fort Smith Police Department's Information Desk is the first point of contact for visitors to the department. The desk is manned by two sworn uniformed police officers, and is open to the public from Monday to Thursday (8:00 AM - 7:00 PM) and on Fridays (8:00 AM - 6:00 PM), including holidays. The desk is responsible for answering phone calls from individuals and agencies, filing new reports, retrieving

completed reports, and directing visitors to the appropriate department. Additionally, the Information Desk provides background checks, fingerprinting services, and receives fines and bond fees. In 2022 alone, the Information Desk filed 1,969 Offense Reports, 1,441 Incident Reports, performed two Arrests, and completed 347 fingerprint requests, indicating the volume and importance of its role in the department's operations.

CENTRAL RECORDS SECTION

The Central Records Section is comprised of several non-sworn positions, including the Data Entry Clerk, Records Technician, Records Specialist, Warrant Clerk, and Senior Patrol Clerk. The section is responsible for reviewing and correcting all reports, including Offense, Arrest, Incident, and Accident Reports, ensuring they are accurate and properly submitted to the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The Central Records Section is also tasked with providing documentation and reports to the public and other law enforcement agencies who require the information. In 2022, the section vetted a total of 13,601 Offense Reports, 4,732 Arrest Reports, 38,160 Incident Reports, and 3,690 Accident Reports, underscoring the importance of their role in maintaining the accuracy of department records and providing crucial information to other agencies.

Moreover, the Quartermaster redesigned the forms used for issuing uniforms and equipment, as well as for tracking equipment, making the process more efficient and accurate. During the asset location process, the Quartermaster identified additional assets not included in previous records, which are now being either utilized or set for sale at auction.



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

DIVISIONS

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS

NARCOTICS

K9

INTELLIGENCE

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

PROPERTY CRIMES

Offense	2021	2022	DIFF	2022 vs 2021
Homicide (09A-B)	8	5	-3.00	-37.50%
Sexual Assault (11A-D)	106	107	1.00	0.94%
Aggravated Assault (13A)	704	675	-29.00	-4.12%
Robbery (120)	71	67	-4.00	-5.63%
Group A Person Total	889	854	-35.00	-3.94%
Arson (200)	18	11	-7.00	-38.89%
Burglary (220)	643	724	81.00	12.60%
LarcenyTheft (23A-H)	4028	3533	-495.00	-12.29%
Motor Vehicle Theft (240)	642	457	-185.00	-28.82%
Group A Property Total	5331	4725	-606.00	-11.37%
Group A Total	6220	5579	-641.00	-10.31%

The Crimes Against Persons Unit investigates violent crimes such as homicides, robberies, rapes, terroristic acts, batteries, aggravated assaults, and domestic violence cases.

The unit includes four detectives and a supervisor, Sergeant Darrin Phelps. The unit also has two detectives dedicated to investigating domestic violence cases, and they work closely with the Crisis Intervention Center.

The unit attended various trainings in 2022, including a major crimes conference, interview and interrogation training, and a domestic violence conference. The unit received 472 hours of training during the year, and it is expected that members of the unit will receive on-going training in 2023 related to major crime investigations. In 2022, the unit was assigned 1,713 cases and cleared 1,648 cases for a clearance rate of 96.2%.

The Narcotics Unit is responsible for investigating drug-related crimes in Fort Smith. The unit is composed of four detectives who work closely with the Intelligence and K9 Units, all of whom are overseen by Sergeant Keith Shelby. These detectives are occasionally assigned to various local, state, and federal task forces to supplement their efforts.

Methamphetamine, fentanyl, and marijuana were the top three illegal narcotics seized by the unit in Fort Smith. The public can report drug-related tips through the Narcotics Hotline, which received 97 complaints last year, representing a 2.1% increase compared to the previous year.

The Narcotics Unit, along with the Intelligence and K9 Units, were commended by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for their assistance in an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation that spanned several jurisdictions and resulted in the arrest of several narcotic traffickers and drug seizures.

The K9 Unit, consisting of two officers, plays a vital role in assisting the department in a variety of tasks, including the apprehension of wanted, escaped, or dangerous individuals, search operations, and contraband seizures. They primarily assist the Narcotics Unit in narcotic investigations and participate in various community events. The K9 Unit played a significant role in completing 90 felony drug arrests, completing 103 Free Air Sniffs with 97 alerts, and seizing \$17,028 in currency, 11 firearms, and 4 vehicles.

All four units (Narcotics, Intelligence,



K9, and SIU) had a combined total of 1,600 training hours, with topics ranging from crisis intervention training to advanced narcotics and crime scene investigations, as well as K9 training. These training hours allowed our teams to remain prepared and efficient in their roles, ensuring the safety of the community they serve.

The Special Investigations Unit is comprised of eight full-time detectives, one reserve officer, two civilian employees and a supervisor, Sergeant Jeffrey Lum. The SIU handles a broad scope of investigations including crimes against children, sex offender registration, cyber-crimes, computer forensics, and crime scene investigations.

For the year, SIU detectives were assigned 882 cases and cleared 824 for a clearance rate of 93.42%. Due to the nature of the cases and the coordination required between multiple agencies, many cases assigned to SIU Detectives take a considerable amount of time to investigate. Our detectives worked on 97 cases (5.4% increase compared to 2021), examining 13TB of data, in support of our department and outside agencies. Crime Scene detectives worked on 229 cases (24.46% increase compared to 2021), processed 123 crime scenes (68.49% increase compared to 2021) with 773 items of evidence, conducted 2,720 fingerprint comparisons, and placed 894 items into evidence during the year.

The Property Crimes Unit is a team of nine detectives and a supervisor, Sergeant Bill Hardin, who investigate a variety of property crimes. These include Burglaries, Criminal Mischiefs, Theft of Property, Vehicle Thefts, Breaking/Entering, and Financial Crimes. One of the unit's accomplishments is the formation of a commercial burglary task force. They did so to address the spike in smash and grab burglaries that occurred throughout the city in late November and early December.

The task force comprised members of CID, Patrol, Special Operations, and Support Services. After using intelligence from the department's Crime Analyst, Cliff Russell, they apprehended the offender responsible for the burglaries, which resulted in the clearance of 15 commercial burglary cases.

The unit also identified and arrested a group of juveniles responsible for committing vehicle thefts and breaking and entering into vehicles. The detectives were able to clear more than 30 cases related to their activity. The Property Crimes Unit assists the Persons Crimes Unit with homicide investigations when needed.

The Property Crimes Unit had a total of 913 training hours, and they made it their goal to train newly assigned detectives in criminal investigation techniques, search and seizure, and interview and interrogation methods. In 2022, the Property Crimes Unit was assigned 1,014 cases and cleared 881 for a clearance rate of 86.88%. They also reviewed an additional 3,120 cases for potential leads and followup investigations.

Crime YTD - December 31, 2022																
Offense	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	5 YR AVG	10 YR AVG	2022 vs 5 YR AVG	2022 vs 10 YR AVG	
Homicide (09A-B)	10	7	4	4	4	8	6	3	7	8	5	6.40	6.10	-1.40	-21.88%	
Sexual Assault (11A-D)	110	102	94	99	102	98	89	113	98	106	107	100.80	101.10	6.20	6.15%	
Aggravated Assault (13A)	465	390	411	454	479	544	472	587	742	704	675	609.80	524.80	65.20	10.69%	
Robbery (120)	102	97	110	123	102	109	103	91	111	71	67	97.00	101.90	-30.00	-30.93%	
Group A Person Total	687	596	619	680	687	759	670	794	958	889	854	814.00	733.90	40.00	4.91%	
Arson (200)	10	18	19	13	15	14	19	15	20	18	11	17.20	16.10	-6.20	-36.05%	
Burglary (220)	1085	984	866	960	930	838	727	825	648	643	724	736.20	850.60	-12.20	-1.66%	
LarcenyTheft (23A-H)	3753	3733	3882	4407	4416	3650	3647	4108	3998	4028	3533	3886.20	3962.20	-353.20	-9.09%	
Motor Vehicle Theft (240)	194	211	202	252	379	381	328	385	519	642	457	451.00	349.30	6.00	1.33%	
Group A Property Total	5042	4946	4969	5632	5740	4883	4721	5333	5185	5331	4725	5090.60	5178.20	-365.60	-7.18%	
Group A Total	5729	5542	5588	6312	6427	5642	5391	6127	6143	6220	5579	5904.60	5912.10	-325.60	-5.51%	

All Data pulled on: 1/2/2023 *Offense counts are subject to change due to unfounded, miscoded, and reclassifications.

ONE PURPOSE



IMPROVING THE LIVES OF
EVERYONE WE ENCOUNTER

CRISIS RESPONSE



**ICAT DEESCALATION TRAINING REDUCES:
CITIZEN COMPLAINTS BY 26%
USE-OF-FORCE BY 28%
INJURIES BY 36%
FSPD WAS AMONG THE FIRST IN THE STATE TO
FULLY IMPLEMENT IT.**

The Fort Smith Police Department's Crisis Response efforts are a vital component of our public safety approach. Our Officers are trained to use the Integrating Communication, Assessment, and Tactics (ICAT) system to de-escalate situations and communicate with individuals who may be experiencing a crisis. This approach is often successful in resolving the situation without the need for use of force.

In cases where the Patrol Officer cannot effectively de-escalate the situation, the Department's Crisis Negotiators are called in. This mid-level response is a specialized unit within the Crisis Response Team that focuses on negotiating peaceful outcomes with individuals who are in crisis. Crisis Negotiators are specially trained in effective communication techniques to defuse high-stress situations and work to ensure the safety of all parties involved.

In the rare instances where threats are made and lives are in immediate danger, the Department turns to its most advanced level of response: SWAT. The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team is a specialized law enforcement

group of highly-trained men and women who have access to specialized tools and tactics they use to safely mitigate and save lives in high-risk situations. SWAT members undergo rigorous training and are equipped with the necessary tools to handle a variety of situations, including hostage situations, barricaded subjects, and active shooters.

Furthermore, the Department is committed to providing ongoing training to our Officers to ensure that they are equipped with the necessary skills and tools to effectively manage crisis situations. This includes training in de-escalation techniques, negotiation skills, and other crisis intervention strategies that benefit our community as a whole.

In summary, the Fort Smith Police Department's Crisis Response efforts are comprehensive and integrated, with Officers utilizing ICAT to de-escalate situations and Crisis Negotiators and SWAT providing mid-level and advanced responses when necessary. These and our ongoing training initiatives also contribute to our ability to provide effective crisis intervention services to the community.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT





COMMUNITY CARING



The Fort Smith Police Department takes pride in its commitment to the community it serves and nowhere is that commitment more evident than in the Community Caring programs and initiatives it has implemented. In 2022, the Department continued its trendsetting efforts to help vulnerable individuals and families, provide food security, and offer education and training for personal and community safety.

One of the most notable initiatives implemented by the Department in 2022 was the 988 call system for people experiencing mental health crises. This new system provides a streamlined response for individuals in need of immediate mental health support, and our Crisis Intervention Unit is trained to handle these calls.

The Department also continued its efforts to support vulnerable individuals through the use of the Vulnerable Persons Database. This database gives Patrol Officers vital information

before arriving at a call, helping them approach subjects experiencing a mental health or behavioral issues in a way that is safe and respectful.

The Pre-Arrest

Diversion program continued in 2022, giving Patrol Officers the discretion to divert individuals with substance abuse problems into rehabilitation programs instead of sending them to jail. This program helps individuals get the help they need while avoiding the stigma and long-term consequences of a criminal record.

The Department also addressed food insecurity through the FSPD Food Patrol program, distributing more than 5,400 meals to high-crime areas, and by participating in the Sack Lunch Program with St. John's Episcopal, which provides meals to the homeless population.

The Crisis

Intervention Unit continued to provide support and resources to individuals experiencing a wide range of issues, from mental and behavioral health to those just experiencing hard times and

needing assistance. Not only do they provide immediate care, but they also follow up with individuals to ensure they are receiving the resources and help they need to stay on track.

The Department also continued its commitment to education and training through its Crime Prevention Classes. Topics such as Scams and Fraud Awareness, Personal Safety, Citizen De-Escalation, Women's Safety, Senior Safety, Realtor Safety, and more were taught regularly to members of the community. In addition, a Citizen Response to Active Shooter class was offered separately from the Special Operations Active Shooter Training, giving citizens the tools and knowledge they need to stay safe in the event of an Active Shooter.

The Fort Smith Police Department remains dedicated to its mission of serving and protecting the community through innovative programs and initiatives that prioritize the well-being and safety of its citizens.



AWARDS AND ACCOLADES



2022 OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Robyn Shoptaw is a dedicated law enforcement professional who began her career in January 2018. After graduating from the Regional Law Enforcement Academy and completing Field Training, she was assigned to Troop 2, then Troop 1. Her passion for community engagement and outreach led her to be moved to the Community Relations Unit, where she began building new programs and implementing the vision for the department.

Since joining the Community Relations Unit, Officer Shoptaw has made significant contributions to the department. She has created multiple new programs such as the FSPD Food Patrol, the Pawfficer Fuzz Program, Monthly Meal Services at many non-profits, the kid's Scribble Car, the Community Relations Jeep, and enhanced the existing Citizen's Police Academy, which is now offered twice a year.

Officer Shoptaw is a certified Law Enforcement Instructor and teaches at the Regional Law Enforcement Academy and was awarded the Rookie of the Year in 2019. She also conducts numerous Crime Prevention Classes to the public, including Citizen Response to an Active Shooter, De-escalation, Situational Awareness, Women's Safety, Realtor Safety, Scam Awareness, and Senior Safety. Her dedication to educating the community has made a significant impact in making the community a safer place.

Officer Shoptaw holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology and a minor in Pre-Med from Arkansas Tech University. She is a lifelong learner, continuously striving to learn and grow in her profession. Her dedication to community engagement and education has made her a valuable member of the department, and she is committed to making a positive difference in the community.



2022 DISPATCHER OF THE YEAR

Dispatch Supervisor Sierra McFerren has worked with the department for over seven years and has served as a supervisor within the Communications Unit since January 2021. Those who interact with Ms. McFerren describe her as friendly, professional, extremely helpful, and truly passionate about her role. She consistently exhibits a calm and welcoming demeanor when answering calls at the Communication Center. During critical incidents, she has revealed her ability to stay focused and composed under pressure. Additionally, she actively engages in community initiatives and positively represents the department every chance she gets. Given all these attributes, Ms. McFerren was a fitting selection for the 2022 Dispatcher of the Year Award.



2022 ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Rookie of the Year is given to a police officer who has been with the department for less than two years and has demonstrated exceptional dedication, skill, and professionalism in their duties.

In 2022, the Award went to Officer Tucker Romesburg, who demonstrated exceptional dedication, skill, and professionalism in his duties. Officer Romesburg never faltered in showing commitment to excellence in his work and the way he interacted with our community.

2022 RECIPIENTS

2022 Officer of the Year ... Officer Robyn Shoptaw, Community Relations and Crime Prevention

2022 Dispatcher of the Year ... Supervisor Sierra McFerren, Communications Unit

2022 Civilian of the Year ... PIO Aric Mitchell, Public Affairs Office

2022 Reserve Officer of the Year ... Officer Ryan Arritt

2022 Rookie of the Year ... Officer Tucker Romesburg

2022 Guardian Award ... Officer Blake Scott



2022 GUARDIAN AWARD

The Guardian Award is presented annually to a single member of the Fort Smith Police Department who routinely exemplifies a guardian mindset. This mindset, in contrast to that of a warrior, can be demonstrated by a variety of actions and traits including regular community involvement, selflessness, service to others, and a combination of circumstances that demonstrates he or she has the heart of a Guardian.

In 2022, Officer Blake Scott went above and beyond the call of duty by regularly engaging with the community, both through and independent of the department. His selfless actions, both on and off-duty, have been an inspiration to our department and to the citizens we serve.

RETIREMENTS

Lieutenant James Hays, March 1, 2022 (30 Years of Service)

Corporal Monty McMillen, January 4, 2022 (28 Years of Service)

**Warrant Clerk Harold Haney, October 7, 2022 (39 Years of Service,
Sworn and Non-Sworn)**

**DEA Secretary Virginia Ross, December 31, 2022 (40 Years of Service,
Non-Sworn)**

**Senior Records Clerk Brenda Earnhart, February 18, 2022 (22 Years of
Service, Non-Sworn)**

PROMOTIONS

Corporal Lindsay Herring, Promoted on January 23, 2022

Corporal James Hulsey, Promoted on January 9, 2022

Sergeant Daniel Vaught, Promoted on April 18, 2022

Lieutenant Michael McCoy, Promoted on April 18, 2022

THE ADVENTURES OF PAWFFICER FUZZ

WITH OFFICER BRAD * OFFICER ROBYN



COMING IN 2023

The Adventures of Pawfficer Fuzz is an ongoing series of children's stories aimed at Ages 3-9. It is a partnership between the Fort Smith Police Department and the Fort Smith Public Schools Art Department.

Stories are completed in-house and reflect important safety messages for young children, as well as what it means to be a good citizen! The students at Southside High School have been indispensable in bringing this series to life, and we can't wait to show you more of what Pawfficer Fuzz and the rest of the FSPD have in store for our kiddos in this fun series!

FUTURE FORT SMITH

FSPD'S VISION FOR 2023

A LOOK AHEAD AT THE INITIATIVES MOVING US FORWARD

As the Fort Smith Police Department reflects on our accomplishments in 2022, we eagerly anticipate the new initiatives and developments that will shape our community in 2023. Our unwavering commitment to public safety drives our dedication to technological advancements and proactive measures that will act as a force multiplier against threats to public safety within our city.

One of our key initiatives for the year ahead is progress on dispatch consolidation. Merging 911 centers will streamline communication and optimize resource allocation for a more efficient and effective emergency response system. In conjunction with this consolidation, we are implementing a new Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System (CAD RMS). This state-of-the-art technology will enable us to enhance our ability in serving and protecting the citizens of Fort Smith.

The logo for Flock Safety, featuring the word "flock" in a lowercase, white, sans-serif font with a dot over the 'o', followed by the word "safety" in a lowercase, white, sans-serif font. The text is set against a dark green rectangular background.

flock safety

Furthermore, we are moving toward the integration of Flock Safety Cameras. Flock is an innovative technology that specializes in Automated License Plate



Recognition (ALPR) to track and identify vehicles involved in criminal activities. This system will provide valuable intelligence to our officers, expediting investigations and improving public safety.

In 2023, we will also launch the Public Safety Cadets program, an initiative aimed at fostering a strong relationship between our youth and law enforcement. This program will provide opportunities for young people to gain firsthand experience in the field and develop valuable skills that will benefit them in their future careers and lives.

Also this year, we will begin offering a driver's education course for students. This initiative aims to promote responsible driving habits and road safety among young drivers in our community. By providing comprehensive instruction on traffic rules, vehicle operation, and defensive driving techniques, we will empower our youth with the knowledge and skills necessary for responsible driving. This course not only demonstrates our commitment to

the well-being of our community members, but also fosters a safer driving environment for all residents of Fort Smith.

As part of our ongoing commitment to community outreach, we have plans to add positions within our Bicycle and Crisis Intervention Units. The Bicycle Unit will also begin teaching bicycle safety at Howard Elementary School, further emphasizing our dedication to the well-being of our youngest community members. Meanwhile, a more robust CIU will allow us to strengthen our existing support of citizens experiencing a state of mental crisis.

In addition to these initiatives, we are working to implement a sobering center designed to reduce incarceration for non-violent offenders. This center will provide an alternative to jail for individuals in need of assistance and support, emphasizing rehabilitation over punishment.

To enhance our presence in the downtown area, we are creating additional downtown



FORT SMITH POLICE

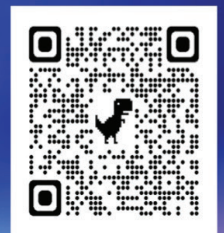
Public Safety Cadets

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *Preparing to Serve and Protect*



TEAM UP

Change your world



Contact cadets@fortsmithpd.org to get started or scan the QR Code

ambassador positions. These non-sworn roles will serve as a visible deterrent to crime and a liaison with downtown businesses, further solidifying our partnership with the community.

Lastly, we recognize the importance of planning for the future. In 2023, the U.S. Air Force selected Fort Smith to be the new home of the Foreign Military Sales Pilot Training Center, bringing F-16 and F-35 fighter jets to the Ebbing Air National Guard base. The mission will result in approximately 900 military members and their families to our area and adding about 230 personnel to the base. In 2021, Fort Smith was selected as the new home for the 425th Fighter Squadron, a Republic of Singapore F-16 Fighting Falcon training unit that's currently based at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona. This is expected

to result in the Republic of Singapore sending 300 military personnel with 300 dependent families to the region. In anticipation of this growth and the continued growth of Chaffee Crossing, 2023 will see us taking significant steps toward a second precinct. This will allow us to maintain the high standard of public safety that all of our citizens - those here now, and those to come - should rightfully expect from their police department.

In conclusion, the Fort Smith Police Department is excited to continue embracing advances in technology and strengthening our community programs and partnerships in 2023. But more importantly, we're excited about this city's future and are honored to be a part of it. Together, we can all make Fort Smith an even safer and more vibrant place to live, work, and play.



*Thank you
Fort Smith!*





FORT SMITH POLICE DEPARTMENT

2022