



PATTON TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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TO: Amy Farkas, Township Manager
FROM: Tyler S. Jolley, Chief of Police
DATE: January 29, 2025
SUBJ: 2024 Year End Police Report

The Patton Township Police Department (PTPD) ended 2024 with a complement of 20 officers and two police secretaries. Staff consisted of the Chief of Police, three Sergeants, thirteen Patrol Officers, and three Detectives. The department also employed a part-time Ordinance Enforcement Officer and two part-time Crossing Guards.

One of the three detectives' primary duties is to handle and investigate drug related incidents within Patton Township. He acts as a liaison with the Office of Attorney General, Bureau of Narcotics Investigations and assists with the Centre County Drug Task Force. In addition, he assists other Centre Region Narcotics Detectives with drug investigations as a multi-agency led team. This assignment commenced in May 2010.

During 2024, the Narcotics Detective made arrests for multiple counts of delivery of a controlled substance and conspiracy to deliver controlled substances. The substances included heroin/fentanyl, cocaine, crystal methamphetamine, and prescription drugs. He was involved in multiple large scale drug investigations. Some of these cases are still in investigative process but will result in the arrest of approximately 10 individuals who were distributing heroin/fentanyl, cocaine, and other illicit drugs in the Centre Region.

24 drug delivery cases were opened against individuals trafficking controlled substances in the Centre Region. The Drug Task Force seized multiple pounds of crystal methamphetamine, multiple grams of heroin/fentanyl, and other drugs. The task force seized approx. \$4,000 in US currency directly related to the sale and distribution of narcotics in our area.

Patton Township Police Detectives also attended monthly meetings such as the Centre County Child Abuse Task Force, Centre County Detectives, Centre County Drug Investigators, and Behavioral Threat Management Team.

A major change to the police department in 2024 was the addition of K9 Graf. Graf is a single purpose German Shorthaired Pointer trained to detect illegal drugs, and he is also capable of helping track individuals. In 2024, Graf was deployed 18 times for narcotics detection. 8 individuals were arrested for possessing narcotics during those deployments. Graf was deployed 6 times to assist with tracking. One individual was arrested as a result of a track Graf assisted with. Graf also made 15 public appearances which often included demonstrations of his abilities.

A great deal of emphasis continues to be placed on training members of the department. On a yearly basis, the Municipal Police Officers' Training Commission (MPOETC) mandates specific training (see attached) for officers to maintain their Pennsylvania police officer certification (Act 120). Officers within the department who have training in a specific field provide 'in-house' training to other members of the department in areas such as first aid, CPR, AEDs, firearms, taser and use of the police expandable baton. Some of the additional 'outside' courses that officers attended in 2024 included:

Firearms Training	DUI Enforcement Training	Drug Recognition Expert Training
Less Lethal Instructor	Crisis Negotiator Training	PA Justice Network (JNET) Training
Criminal Investigation	Tactical Response Training	Traffic Patrol/Drug Interdiction Training
Active Shooter Training	Tactical Police Driving Training	Intelligence Liaison Officer Training
School Resource Officer	Collision Reconstruction Training	PA Law Enforcement Accreditation Training
De-escalation Strategies	Crisis Intervention Team	Blood Borne Pathogens/Infectious Disease

Regional activities PTPD officers participated in included the Centre County Alcohol Task Force (DUI patrol), Centre County Drug Task Force, Penn State Football, and Tactical Response Team. Patton Township also spear-headed the development of the Centre Region Accident Reconstruction Team which started in 2022.

In 2024 the regional Accident Reconstruction Team was utilized for 6 crashes. PTPD requested the team for 1 serious crash in the township.

The Department once again received Buckle Up Pennsylvania and Smooth Operator / Aggressive Driving grant funding. The programs were used to increase seat belt use and awareness and to decrease aggressive driving. In 2024, 15 seat belt / aggressive driving details were conducted. The department also participated in 12 Driving Under the Influence details. During these details, officers made 227 contacts, wrote 23 citations, arrested 5 individuals for DUI, made 1 drug arrest, and served 2 warrants.

In 2024, officers were trained in the use of Naloxone. Naloxone is a medication that when administered via nasal spray can reverse the effects of an opioid drug overdose. Once department training was completed, the department began to carry Naloxone as part of their first aid medical kits. In 2024, Naloxone was administered one time by our officers.

The Department provided numerous child passenger safety seat inspections in 2024. The Department currently has three officers certified as child passenger safety seat technicians.

In 2024, officers were recertified in the use of the Taser by the Department's certified instructor. There was one Taser deployment in 2024.

The Department has one officer who has received extensive training as a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE). Our DRE conducted 8 evaluations of impaired drivers in 2024. 1 evaluation was also completed for training purposes. Our DRE received his instructor certification in 2022.

The Centre County Public Safety Training Center continues to be used for department tactical driving training. The Department has two instructors certified in tactical police driving.

The Department endeavors to be visible in the local schools and interact with students, staff, and visitors. Numerous school walk-throughs are conducted by the School Resource Officer (SRO). The Department heavily patrols the AM/PM school zones to ensure pedestrian and vehicular safety. The Department relies on two part-time crossing guards to assist with safe student crossing at our schools. The Department has one officer assigned as a part-time (4 hours/day) SRO for Patton Township's three schools.

The Department has one officer assigned half-time to Crime Prevention/Community Relations (CP/CR). The CP/CR officer provides Run/Hide/Fight training for any interested businesses or citizens. Many businesses, schools, and a few churches have received this training.

The 22nd annual Patton Township Police Department Safety Fair was a huge success. The Happy Valley Business Association helps with planning, advertising, and volunteering at this event every year.

PTPD officers participated in a few community events, such as the Centre County Law Enforcement Memorial and the Torch Run for Special Olympics. PTPD officers also worked with the Centre County Youth Services Bureau and Target to put on a "Hero's and Helpers" event.

The Patton Township Municipal Building is home to a Drug Take Back Box. In 2024 Patton Township collected 324 lbs. of unused and unwanted medications. This was up from the 285 lbs. collected in 2023.

The Patton Township Police Department welcomed two new officers in 2024. Ofc. Hunter Brooks was hired in April and Ofc. Michael Friend was hired in June.

The Department hired a part-time Ordinance Enforcement Officer (OEO) in 2019. This officer continues to aggressively enforce ordinances in Patton Township. The OEO also assists patrol with animal calls and school crossing guard duties when needed.

2024 was the sixth full year for PTPD officers to wear Body Worn Cameras. The program continues to be a success. BWC footage has proved to be valuable to officers in writing accurate reports and as evidence assisting in prosecuting criminal cases.

The 2024 vehicle fleet consisted of 14 patrol vehicles, which included two marked sedans, six marked SUVs (one specifically for K-9), two unmarked detective units, two staff vehicles, a vehicle for the Ordinance Enforcement Officer, and the chief's vehicle.

Our calls for service (CFS) increased from 5,677 in 2023 to 5,780 in 2024. The largest component of CFS was School Checks done by officers. These incidents amounted to 870 calls for service. The second most common type of call for service was assisting EMS, which accounted for 673 calls.

Accident data for 2024 shows that 390 accidents occurred, including collisions on private property, and that 83 of those were more serious in nature (injuries or extensive damage). This is an increase from total accidents in 2023 (352). Serious accidents increased from 74 in 2023. 28 of the serious crashes were in the N. Atherton Corridor (Valley Vista and south to the Township line) and 9 occurred on Waddle Road. There were no fatal crashes in 2024.

Bike Patrol

Year	Total Miles	Business Checks	Parking Tickets	Incidents	Criminal Arrests	Vacation Home Checks
2023	202	371	3	7	0	9
2024	158	288	4	12	0	7

The Department has 8 members who are certified as bike patrol officers. We utilize bike patrol as a great community engagement tool.

Chief Jolley continues to be an active member of Community & Campus in Unity, Centre County Chiefs', Children's Advocacy Center Steering Committee, Big Brothers/Big Sisters Advisory Committee, and the Happy Valley Business Association.

The Patton Township Police Department officers and support staff are to be commended for their diligent service to our community. The department continues to provide services in a courteous, professional, and respectful manner.

The Patton Township Police Department, in partnership with our community, provides impartial, ethical, and professional law enforcement service and protection. We strive to maintain the trust and confidence of our citizens while working to improve the quality of life.

