

**PADUCAH POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

**2025
ANNUAL REPORT**



A message from **THE CHIEF**

I want to personally thank you for taking the time to learn more about the Paducah Police Department. Transparency is key to establishing and maintaining strong community relationships. For more than 40 years, we have been sharing information with the public by publishing our annual report. Within this year's report, you will find information about our community involvement, training, use-of-force statistics, crime / collision rates, and much more.

Paducah continues to be a much busier City than most people realize. While Paducah has around 27,000 residents, the daily population often increases to approximately 100,000 people, putting us in the category of a mid-size city. Even though we have this huge influx of people into the community, our crime rate remains low. Crime in a community is impactful. No matter how minor the offense, it still has a negative effect on someone. We are fortunate that for the past seven years, since 2019, the crime rate has gone down or remained flat.

2025 was a year of change for the Paducah Police Department. Several officers retired, including both Assistant Chiefs, taking with them more than 120 years of policing experience. Those vacancies created opportunities for several new additions to our police family and leadership advancement through the ranks of supervision.

Our new 911 radio system is nearing completion. The vendor, Communications International, made significant progress throughout 2025, and testing on the new system began in December. All user agencies should be active on the new radio network by May 2026. The work on this project should reach completion during the Summer.

Another exciting project for our community is beginning to take shape. The replacement of our police headquarters building has made significant progress. After working for several months to negotiate the purchase of land, the City Commission approved the purchase of nearly 8 acres located at 3047 Jackson Street. Now that we know where our new home will be, we are moving into the next phase: design. Our goal is to construct a modern police facility that our community can be proud of and will serve the community for decades to come. This project remains a top priority and something we hope to complete in the next few years.

In August, our department suffered a significant



loss with the unexpected death of Sergeant Ryan Hudson. I had the privilege to work with Ryan for more than a decade. He was always a constant professional with a strong desire to serve others. Recently promoted just before his death, Ryan had taken the next step in his career by becoming a supervisor. Although he is no longer with us, we will always remember his dedication to both the people he served and those he loved.

The Paducah Police Department has a long tradition of providing excellent service to our community and its visitors. I am very proud of our officers' work this past year and view it as a privilege to continue leading this agency.

There is a lot going on in our community. I want you to know we are committed to keeping our community safe while providing the highest quality of service to our citizens. Please follow our social media accounts to stay up to date on what is happening with your police department.

Thank you for taking the time to look at our annual report. Our officers and staff work hard each day, and we are proud to highlight some of their accomplishments in 2025. Please feel free to contact me at blaird@paducahky.gov with any questions, concerns, or compliments.

Brian Laird
CHIEF OF POLICE

POLICE FOUNDATION

The Paducah Police Foundation is a non-profit organization focused on helping the Paducah Police Department enhance community partnerships, improve public safety and assist with employee development.



Since its creation in 2015, the Police Foundation has been an important partner for the Paducah Police Department.

In November, the Foundation celebrated its 10-year anniversary by hosting a special event to thank its many donors and supporters and to recognize its founding and previous board members.

In alignment with its mission to improve public safety, the Foundation launched a fundraiser for a driving simulator in August, aiming to raise \$75,000. The simulator provides training opportunities for new and current officers, enhancing driving skills and promoting safety by replicating high-stress situations such as high-stress pursuits and emergency calls. Officers learn to navigate the vehicle through obstacles

while under pressure. Thanks to nearly 100 donations from businesses, groups, families, and individuals over the course of six months, the Foundation exceeded its fundraising goal and purchased the simulator in March 2026.

To show appreciation for the hard work, sacrifice, and dedication to keeping our community safe, the Foundation provided a department-wide meal during National Police Week in May. The Foundation aims to provide ongoing support to officers, dispatchers, and staff through meals and other resources.

For the tenth consecutive year, officers participated in the Cultural Leadership Academy (CLA), focused on employee development and enhancing cultural competency. CLA is a partnership with Murray State University, taught in four modules: Intercultural Leadership, Social Intelligence and Nonverbal Communication, Ethical Practices in the Community, and Community Interaction and Group Dynamics. The Foundation continues to play a key role by providing the financial support necessary to maintain the program over the past decade. Over 60 officers have graduated from this program since it began.

The past year was another exciting and productive year for the Police Foundation, as it completed a successful decade of fundraising for the Paducah Police Department, showcasing the tremendous community support for the Department.



PADUCAHPOLICEFOUNDATION.ORG



[PADUCAHPOLICEKYFOUNDATION](https://www.facebook.com/PADUCAHPOLICEKYFOUNDATION)



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COMMAND STAFF



Chief of Police
Brian Laird



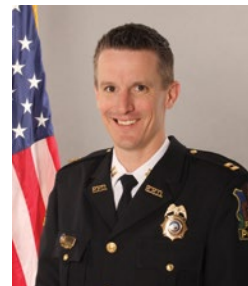
Assistant Chief
William Hodges



Assistant Chief
Jordan Murphy



Captain
Nathan Antonites



Captain
Travis Watson



Captain
Steve Thompson



Captain
Nathan Jaimet



Captain
Matthew Hopp



Sergeant
Matt Scheer



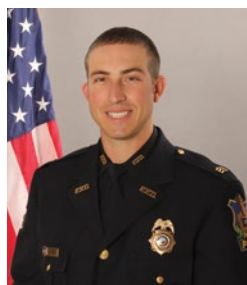
Sergeant
Jason Hicks



Sergeant
Nickolas Francescon



Sergeant
Eric Taylor



Sergeant
Cody Santel



Sergeant
Beau Green



Sergeant
William Hendrickson

OFFICERS



Travis
Counts



Corey
Willenborg



Joshua
Bryant



Christopher
Fearon



Keith
Thuline



Blake
Quinn



Chelsee
Breakfield



Lucas
Stone



Daniel
Kimball



Danny
Slack



Eric
Abbott



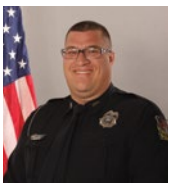
Alex
Liebenrood



Matthew
Strohmeier



Benjamin
Anthony



Tyson
Riley



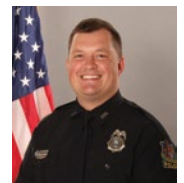
Logan
Barrow



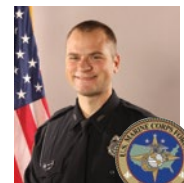
Matthew
York



Carlos
Kerley Jr.



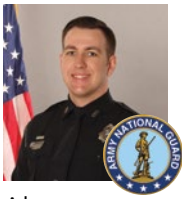
Casey
Steenbergen



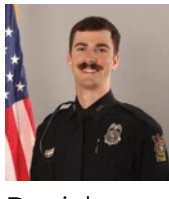
Noah
Willett



Michael
Vowell



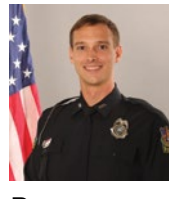
Alex
Whitworth



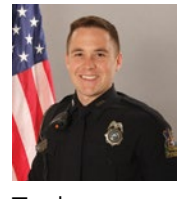
Daniel
Hunerkoch



Jennifer
Simmonds



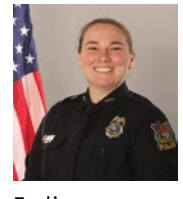
Bryan
Potts



Taylor
Cissell



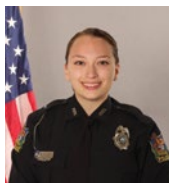
Thomas
Shiels



Julia
Cross



Fred
Harvey



Samantha
Taylor



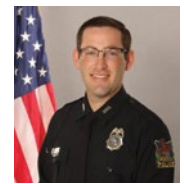
Jackson
McCormick



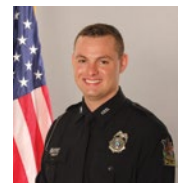
Rachel
Bertrand



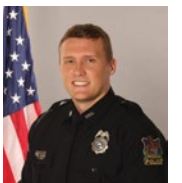
Michael
Foster



Austin
Gruner



Steven
Lang



Seth
Farthing



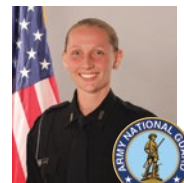
Bryce
Mansfield



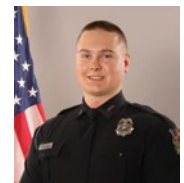
Steven
Leady Jr.



Tyree
Owens



Brooke
Adams



Coy
Dotson

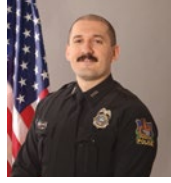


Matthew
Crisman

OFFICERS AND K9S



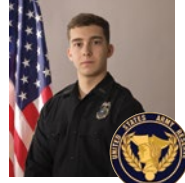
Matthew
Wentworth



Jakob
Mueller



Owen
Pulliam



Brandon
Webster



Mark
Brooks



Bryan
Holland



Chandler
Moody



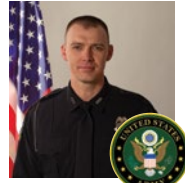
Jayveon
Dunbar



Rafael
Mendoza



Bodie
Taggett



Clayton
Baldwin



Logan
Lapatas



Jason
Montgomery



Kraig
Campbell



Davin
Perkins



Garrett
Rigg



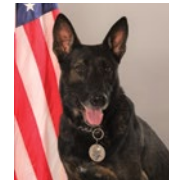
William
Siemionko



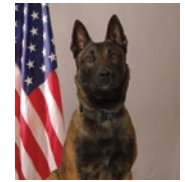
Major
Aishe



Gabriel
Cutair



Bary



Karo

CIVILIAN STAFF



Kimberly
Mathis



Jon
Boulton



Mary
Farrell



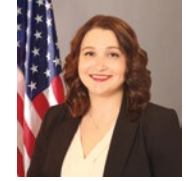
Sabrina
Miller



Jessica
Young



Sarai
Maguire-
Hernandez



Allison
Blackwell



Michael
Cubley



Mary
Stanley



Casandra
Slack



Addison
Ramsey

911 STAFF



Ariana
Kitty



Taryn
Reed



Auston
Scutt



Patrick
Bugg



Amber
Spears



Stephanie
Goins



Hillary
Fowler



McCall
Buckingham



Emilee
Jones



Ryan
Sallee



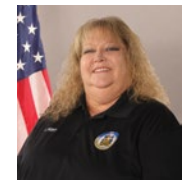
Kim
Lauderdale



Nicholas
Meeks



Sarah
Lambert

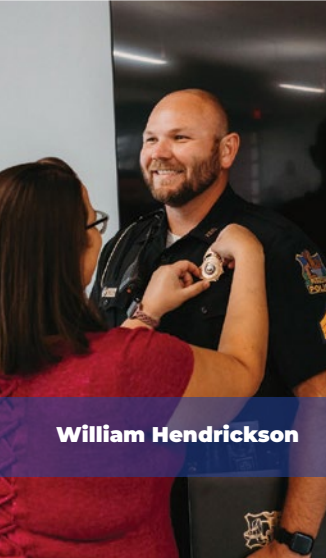


Laura
Peery

PROMOTIONS



Ryan Hudson's Family



William Hendrickson

Taryn Reed was hired by the Paducah Police Department's 911 Communication Services Division in 2015 as a Dispatcher. In April of 2025, she was promoted to Dispatch Supervisor.

William Hendrickson has been with the police department since August 2017 and in May of 2025 was promoted to Sergeant. Sergeant Hendrickson has worked as a patrol officer and previously as a K9 Handler with his now retired partner, Joker.

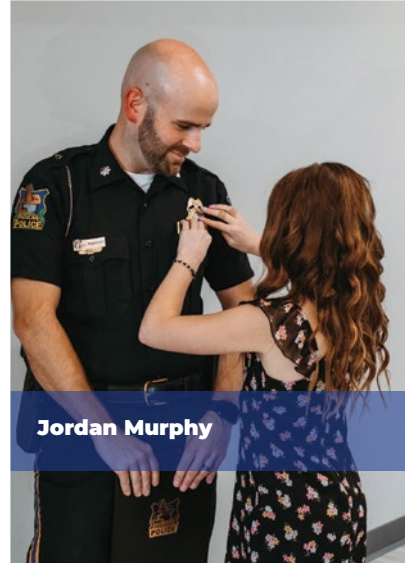
Ryan Hudson was hired by the police department in February of 2015 and in May of 2025 was promoted to Sergeant. Sergeant Hudson served as a patrol officer, police training officer, and detective. Mrs. Whitney Hudson and the family of Sgt. Ryan Hudson were in attendance to accept his certificate of promotion.

Matthew Hopp has been with the police department since February of 2014, was promoted to Sergeant in May of 2018, and was promoted to Captain in August of 2025. Captain Hopp has served as a patrol officer, a police training supervisor, and is the Bomb Squad Team Leader.

Nathan Jaimet has been with the police department since June 2008, was promoted to Sergeant in March 2023, and to Captain in May of 2025. Captain Jaimet has served as a patrol officer, detective, the department's Polygraph Operator, and as a member of the SWAT team.

Jordan Murphy has been with the police department since August 2016, was promoted to Sergeant in July 2021, Captain in May 2024, and Assistant Chief in September of 2025. Assistant Chief Murphy has served as a patrol officer, detective, and as a member of the Digital Forensics Unit.

William Hodges has been with the police department since November of 2009, was promoted to Sergeant in February 2018, Captain in January 2022, and Assistant Chief in August of 2025. He has served as a patrol officer, detective, as a member of the Digital Forensics Unit, and as a Crisis Negotiator.



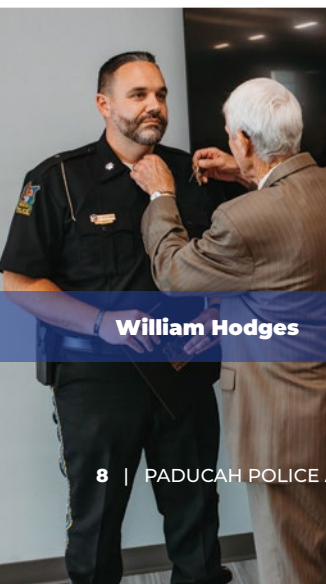
Jordan Murphy



Matthew Hopp



Nathan Jaimet



William Hodges



RETIREMENTS



Assistant Chief Anthony Copeland joined the department in December of 2006. He served as a patrol officer, detective, Bomb Squad Team Leader, Sergeant, Captain, and finally as an Assistant Chief. We wish him all the best in his new role as Chief of Police in Carbondale, Illinois.



Assistant Chief Joseph Hayes, a Marine Corps veteran, joined us in 2004. Over the years, he served in many roles: patrol officer, detective, Sergeant, Captain, SWAT Team Leader, Special Units Commander, and finally Assistant Chief of Operations. He also quietly mentored countless supervisors, leaving behind a legacy of strong leadership.



Captain Chris Baxter, a Navy veteran, joined the department in 2006. Over the years, he served in many roles: patrol officer, detective, Sergeant, SWAT Operator, Police Training Coordinator, and Captain. We wish him all the best in his retirement after 19 years of service.



Officer Travis Counts, who served in the U.S. Navy before joining the department in 2001, became known for his calm, steady presence. Whether serving on patrol, training new officers, or helping with crash investigations, his dedication and quiet professionalism earned the respect of both the community and his peers.



Officer Dana Davie began as a clerk, but in 2004 made history as the first African American woman to wear a Paducah Police uniform. She served with distinction as a patrol officer, led the department's Support Fund, and served on the FOP's executive board. She's been a mentor to every woman who followed in her footsteps and a constant source of strength and friendship to her colleagues.



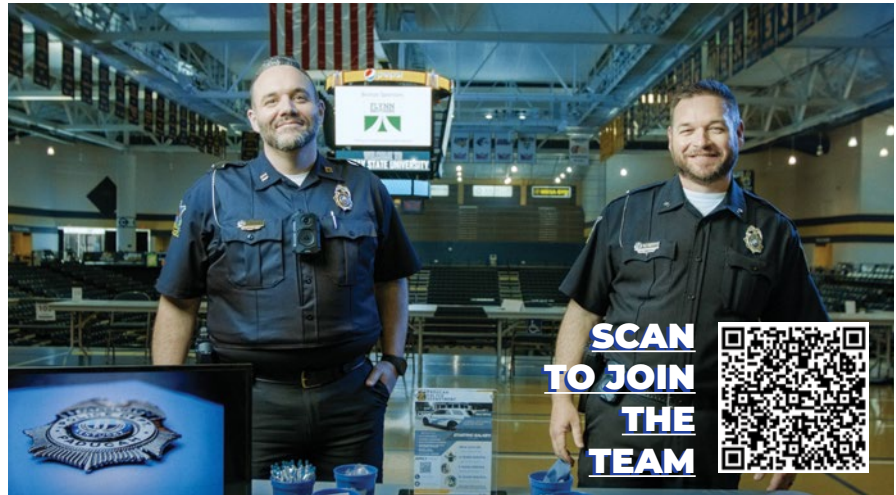
Officer James Robbins brought unmatched grit and heart to the job. Since 2004, he's been a patrolman, a field training officer, and a detective, but it's his compassion and commitment to helping others, especially through his work with the Community Kitchen, that made a tremendous impact on everyone in the community.

RECRUITING

Answer the Call

Start your journey as a Paducah Police Department officer by applying online. We run applicant testing sessions monthly. The testing session involves a physical agility test and a written test. For an overview of what to expect from the physical agility test, check out the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council's Prep information. If you pass the physical agility and written test, you will move on to a panel interview.

Based upon your testing and interview results, as well as the number of vacancies in the Department, an investigation into your background is initiated, and you will be polygraphed. Former employers, co-workers, friends, and neighbors will be asked about your character and integrity. There will also be checks of your criminal history, traffic record, and credit report. After receiving a conditional offer, applicants will undergo a drug screen, medical physical, fit-for-duty exam, and a suitability screener. The timeline for submitting your application to your hire date is typically two to three months.



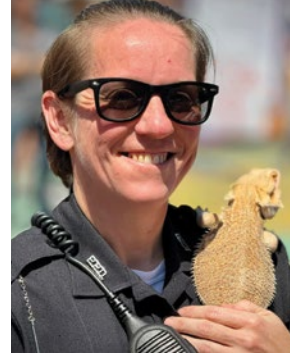
In 2025, the Paducah Police Department is proud to have hired 7 officers. Six attended the Department of Criminal Justice's Training Academy as new recruits, and one was a retired former Paducah Police Officer.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Paducah Police Department is steadfast in its commitment to building strong, lasting relationships within our community. Through a diverse range of outreach programs and events, we strive to create meaningful connections that foster trust, transparency, and collaboration. By engaging residents in positive, interactive settings, our officers work every day to strengthen partnerships and ensure the public feels informed and supported. Over the past

year, we proudly participated in numerous initiatives designed to deepen these bonds and enhance community engagement.



Battle of the Badges

The 2025 Battle of the Badges Charity Softball Game between the Paducah Police Department and the Paducah Fire Department was an unforgettable event. More importantly, every dollar raised supported the family of fallen officer Sgt. Ryan Hudson, reflecting our commitment to honoring those who serve.



Christmas Parade

Paducah Police officers, staff, and their families proudly joined the 2025 City of Paducah Christmas Parade. The Honor Guard, alongside members of the Paducah Fire Department, presented the colors during the event. Embracing the parade theme, Sounds of Christmas, our team “rocked around the Christmas tree,” sharing candy and holiday cheer with thousands of community members along the route.



Christmas In the Park

For nearly 15 years, the Paducah Police Department has volunteered at Paducah Power System's Christmas in the Park. Department Employees and their families volunteer to collect canned goods for local food pantries and community service organizations.



Citizens' Police Academy

Our Citizens' Police Academy is a multi-week educational program that offers residents an inside look at modern policing. Through classroom instruction, hands-on demonstrations, and interactive exercises, participants gain insight into departmental operations, specialized units, and decision-making in real-world scenarios. This program provides a unique opportunity to engage directly with officers, ask questions, and deepen understanding of law enforcement practices.



Christmas Cops

The Paducah Police Department has participated in the Christmas Cops program for over 35 years. The program partners each child with a police officer, sheriff deputy, or parole officer to shop for Christmas presents at Walmart, and the children and their families enjoy lunch at Walker Hall. Afterward, the parents go to shop for groceries. Christmas Cops is a 501c(3) program that fully funds the program through private donations.



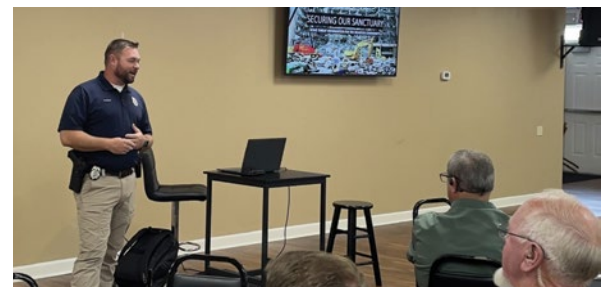
Coffee with a Cop

Continuing our tradition, we hosted Coffee with a Cop at Panera Bread—a relaxed and welcoming setting where residents can engage in open conversations with officers. These informal gatherings allow community members to voice concerns, ask questions, and build stronger relationships with those who serve them every day.



Community Education

Officer Blake Quinn visited numerous local businesses to provide safety and crime awareness training. Topics included Realtor Safety, Active Shooter Awareness, and Scam Identification. If your organization is interested in a safety presentation, please contact our Community Engagement Officer, Blake Quinn.



School Resource Officer

The Paducah Police Department currently has one School Resource Officer. Officer Eric Abbott serves in this role at Paducah Tilghman High School.

Officer Abbott is actively engaged in student education and community outreach. He participated in the Paducah Police Junior Citizens Police Academy, a program designed to provide students with insight into the role and responsibilities of law enforcement. Throughout the week-long academy, students learn about patrol operations, hear presentations from detectives, and are introduced to the department's specialized units. The program concludes with a recognition outing for participants at Venture River.



In addition to educational initiatives, Officer Abbott maintains a strong and consistent presence at school activities. He worked numerous football games during the school year, including traveling with the team to the state semifinals, and regularly supports other school events such as back-to-school nights, career fairs, school spirit weeks, and both football and basketball homecoming dances. He has also provided mentorship to students, assisting them in navigating academic and personal challenges.



West KY Crime Stoppers

In 2025, West Kentucky Crime Stoppers continued its long-standing partnership with the Paducah Police Department, a collaboration that has supported community safety since 1984. The program is guided by a board of local business and community leaders and supported by Paducah Police through dedicated employee liaisons and the Community Engagement Officer.



Throughout the year, Crime Stoppers remained active in the community by hosting the second annual Golf Scramble and participating in the 37th Annual Quilt Show, where the organization has maintained a presence every year. Crime Stoppers received 481 tips in 2025, leading to 15 arrests, the clearance of 13 cases, and the capture of 7 fugitives. More than \$2,800 in rewards were paid to tipsters, highlighting the program's continued impact on public safety.





SERGEANT RYAN HUDSON

Honor, Service, and Sacrifice

Sergeant Ryan Hudson's life and career exemplified dedication, leadership, and compassion. Though born in Illinois, Ryan moved to Paducah, Kentucky, at a young age and quickly became deeply rooted in the community he loved.



After graduating from Paducah Tilghman High School in 2010, Ryan pursued his lifelong dream of becoming a police officer. He earned a degree in Criminal Justice from Murray State University in 2014 and began his law enforcement career with the Paducah Police Department in 2015.

From the outset, Ryan demonstrated an unwavering commitment to service, quickly earning a reputation as a knowledgeable, patient, and courageous officer. His career reflected both versatility and excellence, serving as a Patrol Officer, Police Training Officer, General Investigations Detective, and Drug Unit Detective.



In 2025, Ryan was promoted to Sergeant, a role in which he continued to mentor new officers and engage with community members with the same intentional focus and respect he had shown throughout his career.



Beyond his operational duties, Ryan was deeply passionate about outreach and education. He served as a D.A.R.E. Instructor and led the Junior Citizens' Police Academy, demonstrating his strong commitment youth outreach and community engagement.





Ryan also gave his time and leadership to the profession itself. He served as President of the Paducah Police Bargaining Unit after previously holding the positions of Vice President and Treasurer. He was a member of the Paducah Police Honor Guard, the PPD Support Fund, and previously served on the department's SWAT team. His service was recognized with six Service Commendation Awards and the Chief's Award.



In August 2025, the Paducah Police Department suffered a profound loss with the line-of-duty death of Sergeant Hudson. He passed away on August 12, 2025, due to health complications, after responding to an active shooter incident.

Throughout his career, Sergeant Hudson paid tribute to fallen heroes across Kentucky. In a powerful reflection of that service, Honor Guard members from across the Common-

wealth traveled to Paducah to honor him as our fallen hero.

The funeral honors reflected long-standing law enforcement traditions and the deep respect held for Sergeant Hudson's life and service. A horse-drawn caisson carried him to his final resting place, accompanied by a 21-gun salute and an aerial fly-over-enduring symbols of gratitude and reverence for his sacrifice and unwavering commitment to duty.

Sergeant Hudson's loss has left a lasting impact on the Paducah Police Department and the community he served with honor, integrity, and distinction.



OPERATIONS

The Operations Division is the largest division within the Police Department and is commonly referred to as the Patrol Division. Officers assigned to this division operate marked patrol vehicles and are responsible for responding to calls for service, conducting traffic enforcement, engaging with the public, patrolling neighborhoods and business districts, and supporting community events.

When fully staffed, the division includes an assistant chief, four captains, seven sergeants, 45 officers, three K-9 officers, a school resource officer, a training officer, and a community engagement officer. These personnel dedicate most their time to full-time assignments.

Officers and supervisors work across three shifts, typically eight or ten hours in length. This hybrid-shift model benefits both the department and the community by providing overlapping coverage during peak activity periods while offering officers greater flexibility in their work schedules. This structure supports operational effectiveness and promotes a healthier work-life balance. Twice each year, officers select their preferred shifts and days off based on departmental seniority.



In addition to their primary assignments, many officers serve in specialized, part-time roles within the division. These assignments include Crisis Negotiation, Collision Reconstruction, Unmanned Aerial Systems



pilots, Bomb Squad, SWAT, Field Training Officers, Honor Guard, Public Information Officers, Explorer Advisors, and departmental instructor positions. Officers devote substantial time to training and maintaining proficiency in these specialized areas, ensuring a high level of readiness for any situation. This emphasis on ongoing training strengthens our professionalism and is a defining characteristic of the department.



Officer Keith Thuline won the 2025 Governor's Occupant Protection Award for his efforts to increase seat belt and child restraint usage in Kentucky. This is his fifth time winning the award.



Officer Rachel Bertrand won the 2025 Governor's Impaired Driving Enforcement Award for Region 4 (agencies with 51-100 officers). Between October 2024 and October 2025, Officer Bertrand made 90 impaired driving arrests. This is her second time winning the award.

TRAINING

Training as a Foundation for Professional Policing

The Paducah Police Department places a strong emphasis on continuous training and professional growth at every level of the organization. Comprehensive training is essential to officer safety, effective decision-making, responsible use of force, and high-quality service to the community. Through structured instruction, hands-on experience, and ongoing skill development, the department ensures officers are prepared to meet the evolving demands of modern policing.

Preparing Officers for Service from Day One

All newly hired officers attend the Department of Criminal Justice Training's (DOCJT) Basic Training Academy, located on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky. This 20-week academy provides extensive instruction in the core elements of law enforcement, including Kentucky law, constitutional policing, criminal investigations, defensive tactics, firearms training, de-escalation strategies, emergency vehicle operations, and ethics. This foundational education establishes the knowledge base and professional standards expected of every Paducah Police Officer.

Following academy graduation, officers enter the department's 14-week Field Training Officer (FTO) Program. Throughout four structured training phases, new officers are assigned to experienced Field Training Officers who provide direct supervision, coaching, and evaluation in real-world patrol environments. The FTO Program reinforces department policies, officer safety practices, and sound decision-making while allowing officers to progressively build confidence and independence. Successful completion of the program signifies readiness for solo patrol and full operational responsibilities.

Maintaining Readiness Through Ongoing Training

Professional development remains a priority throughout an officer's career. In 2025, all sworn personnel completed the required 40 hours of state-mandated in-service training, ensuring compliance with legal updates, policy standards, and essential law enforcement competencies.

Beyond these requirements, the Paducah Police

Department delivered an additional 43 hours of in-house training, exceeding minimum standards and reinforcing commitment to operational readiness. This training was conducted by certified departmental instructors and focused on practical, scenario-driven instruction relevant to daily police work, including:

- **Firearms Training and Qualification:** Live-fire exercises, weapon proficiency standards, and judgment-based shooting scenarios.
- **Defensive Tactics and Use-of-Force Training:** Hands-on instruction emphasizing control techniques, ground defense, and de-escalation.
- **Active Threat Response:** Coordinated response tactics, movement, communication, and decision-making during high-risk incidents.
- **Emergency Vehicle Operations:** Policy review, pursuit considerations, and defensive driving techniques.
- **Less-Lethal Tools and Options:** Proper application and decision-making involving conducted electrical weapons, chemical agents, and restraint systems.
- **Mobile Field Force and Crowd Management:** Training focused on managing large events and civil disturbances safely and professionally.
- **Medical Response and Lifesaving Skills:** CPR certification, bleeding control, tourniquet application, and trauma response.
- **Reality-Based Scenarios:** Stress-induced simulations requiring officers to apply tactics, communication, and judgment in realistic conditions.
- **Crisis Communication and De-escalation:** Techniques for managing encounters involving individuals experiencing emotional distress or mental health crises.

Officers were also afforded opportunities to attend specialized courses and external training programs, further enhancing their skills and exposure to best practices in law enforcement.



CRIME

The Paducah Police Department takes part in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program, a nationwide system used by more than 18,000 law enforcement agencies to track and analyze crime trends. This data helps us understand how crime is changing locally and nationally, and it guides decisions on staffing, technology, and crime-prevention programs.

PART 1 CRIMES	2024	2025	CHANGE
MURDER	2	2	→ 0
RAPE	22	20	↓ 2
ROBBERY	11	8	↓ 3
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	53	63	↑ 10
BURGLARY	67	48	↓ 19
LARCENY-THEFT	611	618	↑ 7
AUTO THEFT	89	80	↓ 9
ARSON	8	6	↓ 2

Since 2023, our dedicated crime analyst has regularly reviewed crime data to identify patterns, unusual increases or decreases, and problem areas. When trends are identified, we adjust resources to address them.

The FBI groups crimes into two categories. Part 1 crimes are more serious and include offenses such as murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Part 2 crimes are less serious and include offenses such as fraud, drug violations, simple assault, DUI, and disorderly conduct.

In 2025, Paducah saw positive results from these efforts. Part 1 crime decreased by 2.08%, and Part 2 crime dropped by 7.59%, resulting in an overall crime reduction of 6.13%. This marks the seventh consecutive year of declining crime, making Paducah a safer place to live and do business.

Throughout 2025, the Paducah Police Department focused on reducing burglaries, vandalism, and auto theft. With the installation of Flock camera systems and their integration with Axon license plate reader technology, officers gained a better understanding of how out-of-town groups were entering and moving through the area to commit these crimes.

In the past, these groups could operate in Paducah for several days before enough information was available to identify them. The new technology has significantly improved our ability to quickly recognize patterns, identify suspects, and respond more effectively.

PART 2 CRIMES	2024	2025	CHANGE
OTHER ASSAULTS	416	378	↓ 38
FORGERY/COUNTERFEITING	25	20	↓ 5
FRAUD	88	58	↓ 30
STOLEN PROPERTY(BUY/REC)	22	24	↑ 2
VANDALISM	275	249	↓ 26
WEAPON OFFENSES	20	17	↓ 3
PROSTITUTION/VICE	2	0	↓ 2
SEX OFFENSES	76	60	↓ 16
DRUG VIOLATIONS	774	688	↓ 86
DOMESTIC OFFENSES	196	208	↑ 12
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	166	168	↑ 2
OTHER OFFENSES	321	330	↑ 9
RUNAWAYS	4	4	→ 0



TRAFFIC

Officers continued to prioritize citizen concerns throughout the city. A significant portion of these concerns were traffic related. In response, officers deployed speed-monitoring trailers in areas with reported issues to collect data and educate the public.

Using the data gathered from these trailers, we adopted a data-driven approach to address traffic problems. This allowed us to deploy officers more strategically in areas with the highest number of violations. While it's impossible to observe every violation citywide, the speed trailers help us focus on the most critical locations.



In 2025, officers issued 1,809 traffic citations. Speeding remained the most reported neighborhood issue, resulting in 365 speeding citations. Officers also used traffic stops as an opportunity to educate drivers about violations, aiming to deter future infractions. During these stops, 2,980 warnings were issued.

Inattention: A Leading Cause of Collisions

Data indicated that inattention contributed to 49% of all collisions in Paducah (835 incidents, up from 818 in 2024). Inattention includes distractions such as adjusting the radio, using a cell phone, or any activity that diverts focus from driving.

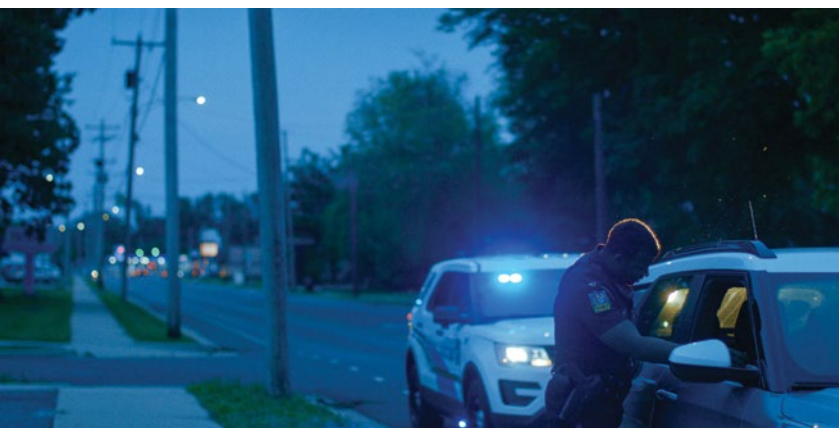
This community-oriented, data-driven approach contributed to a nine-year low in total collisions, with 1,695 collisions in 2025. 292 of those collisions resulted in injury, with only one collision resulting in a fatality.

When responding to collisions, officers gather evidence to determine the cause. The data reinforces the need to address driver inattention and other contributing factors.



TOP FIVE COLLISION LOCATIONS IN 2025

Hinkleville Road (Mall area)
Lone Oak Road / I-24
Irvin Cobb Drive/Wayne Sullivan Drive
Lone Oak Road/Jackson Street
Cairo Road / I-24



SUPPORT SERVICES

If you have been welcomed by a clerk, spoken with a 911 dispatcher, worked with a police detective, or received help from the Deflection Team, you have interacted with a dedicated member of the Paducah Police Department's Support Services Division. This division includes dedicated professionals who work behind the scenes and on the front lines to support public safety and improve the quality of life in Paducah. While their roles vary, they share a mission: to use teamwork, technology, and training to serve our community effectively.

Crime Analysis

Our Crime Analyst uses real-time and historical data to identify crime trends and problem areas. This data-driven approach helps the department and community partners take proactive steps to prevent crime.

The analyst also works with regional and statewide intelligence networks to monitor potential threats, support investigations, and help direct police resources where they're needed most.



General Investigations Unit

The General Investigations Unit investigates major cases ranging from felony theft to homicide. This Unit consists of four detectives and one sergeant. The General Investigative Unit provides 24-hour/365-day-a-year coverage for in-depth investigative attention to major crimes and incidents. They also perform pre-employment background checks on all department hires.

135 CASES
INVESTIGATED

80% CASE
CLEARANCE



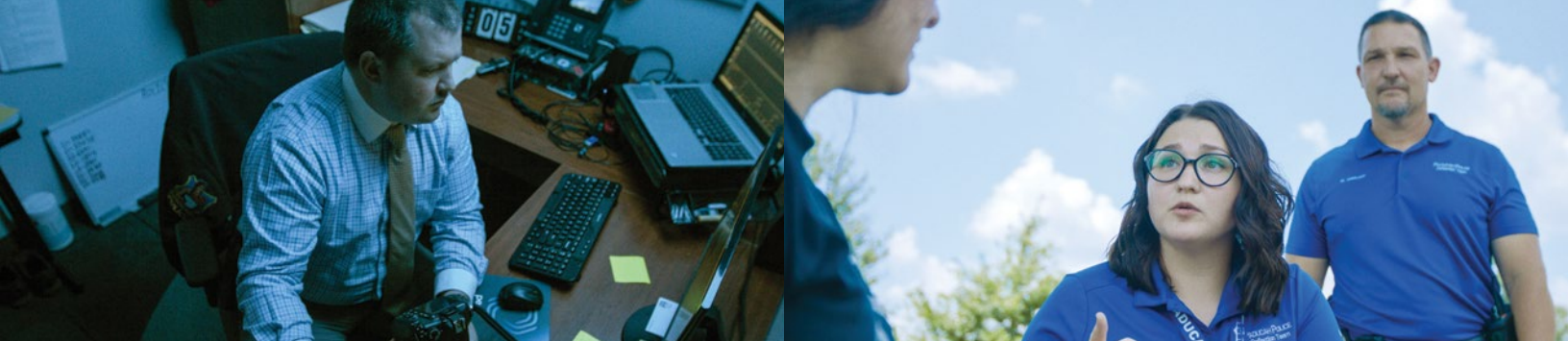
Drug Unit

The Paducah Police Department's Drug Unit focuses on complex drug investigations and investigates dangerous offenders within the City of Paducah. The Unit works closely with the community, responding to complaints of drug trafficking and crime tips, and relying heavily on the information it receives. The Unit continues to participate in the Drug Enforcement Administration's National Drug Takeback events in the spring and fall.

MORE THAN 60
INVESTIGATIONS

30+ SUSPECTS
WITH CHARGES

HELPED COLLECT
30+ POUNDS
OF PRESCRIPTION
MEDICATIONS AT
D.E.A. DRUG
TAKEBACKS EVENTS



Records and Evidence

The Records and Evidence Unit plays a critical role for the Department and the community we serve. The Records Unit is responsible for assisting all visitors to the Department, preparing case files for use in court proceedings, maintaining Police records, and fulfilling open record requests.

The Evidence Unit is responsible for securely storing every piece of physical and digital evidence that comes into Police Department custody. Maintaining the integrity of this evidence is imperative for the prosecutorial process as well as the transparency of the agency.

**COMPLETED 1,748
OPEN RECORDS
REQUESTS WITH
803 BEING VIDEO
REQUESTS, WITH
HUNDREDS OF
HOURS OF FOOTAGE**

**14,169 PHYSICAL
EVIDENCE ITEMS**
**870,000+ DIGITAL
EVIDENCE FILES**

Working Together

From investigations and drug enforcement to records management and emergency communications, the Support Services Division plays a vital role in keeping Paducah safe. Their combined expertise ensures cases are solved, evidence is protected, and the public receives professional, responsive service every day.

Deflection Team

Paducah is a caring community with many resources, but some individuals still struggle with substance use and mental health challenges. Too often, those struggles lead to repeated contact with law enforcement, where arrest alone does not solve the problem.

The Deflection Team, created in 2024, offers a different approach. Instead of focusing on incarceration, the team works to connect people in crisis with support and treatment. The goal is simple: help individuals find stability while reducing unnecessary involvement with the criminal justice system.

Who They Are

Allison Blackwell has a background in forensic psychology and experience working with police crisis response units.

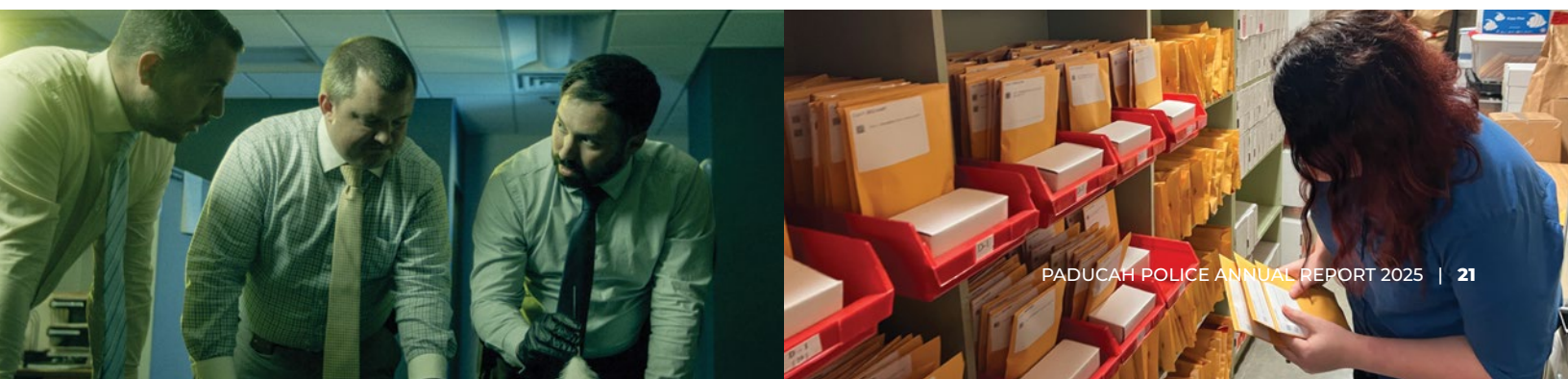
Officer Matt Wentworth (Ret.), a former patrol officer and drug detective, returned to serve in this role after working with community and faith-based programs.

The Impact

Over the last year, the Deflection Team has made a measurable difference:

- Over 1,140 service coordination calls.
- Currently supporting more than 70 individuals.
- 30+ Individuals have received help or have been transferred to another local resource, which was able to serve them better.

Many participants are showing positive progress, including fewer emergency and police contacts.



911 COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES DIVISION

The 911 Communications Services Division is the central hub for emergency services in Paducah and McCracken County. As the county's only Certified Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), this team answers every 911 call placed within McCracken County and dispatches emergency responders across the region.

Dispatch services are provided for:

- Paducah Police Department (PPD)
- McCracken County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)
- All county fire departments
- Emergency Management
- Rescue services
- Animal Control
- Other public safety support agencies

In addition to emergency dispatching, the Communications staff provides critical administrative and law enforcement support. This includes Criminal History Requests, Open Records Requests, and NCIC data entry for the county jail, attorney offices, and local courts.

To maintain PSAP certification in Kentucky, the division must meet strict standards, including reliable infrastructure, advanced mapping systems, and telecommunicators certified through the Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT).

Call Volume & Service Activity

While total calls for service decreased slightly in 2025, the number of documented incidents remained virtually unchanged, indicating that demand for law enforcement and emergency documentation remains consistently high.

	TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	TOTAL INCIDENT REPORTS
2024	100,603	108,499
2025	93,962	108,457

While total billed calls for service decreased slightly in 2025, the number of documented incidents (SRNs) remained virtually unchanged, indicating that demand for law enforcement and emergency documentation remains consistently high.

Where the Work Goes

In addition, Communications personnel handled more than 5,600 system and support-related incidents tied to 911 infrastructure and public safety coordination.

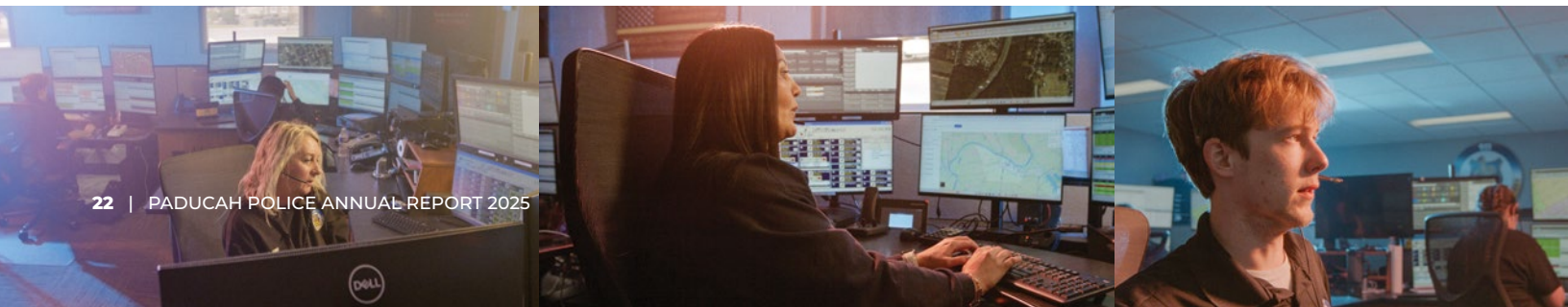
2025 DISPATCHED CALLS

Paducah Police	47,316
McCracken Co. Sheriff	38,438
Paducah Fire	4,488
Reidland Fire	1,050
Animal Control	952
Concord Fire	503
West McCracken Fire	419
Hendron Fire	325
Lone Oak Fire	236
Emergency Management	217

Performance Matters

Behind every number is a citizen needing help. Communications professionals are the first point of contact in an emergency, responsible for quickly gathering information, coordinating responders, and supporting field personnel in real time. Their work directly affects response times, officer and firefighter safety, and public outcomes.

The consistent workload across years highlights the division's essential role in keeping Paducah and McCracken County safe - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Office of Professional Standards handles many functions essential to the department's operations and accountability. These include conducting and reviewing internal affairs investigations and complaints, monitoring use-of-force incidents, managing department grants, contributing to the City's special event permitting process, overseeing department policy, representing the department in Homeland Security activities, and monitoring training to ensure compliance with state standards. The Office also manages special projects assigned by the Chief of Police.

In 2025, the Office of Professional Standards led and supported several significant initiatives for the department. One of the most impactful was participation in the Kentucky Body Armor Grant Program. Established by the Kentucky General Assembly and administered through the Office of the Attorney General's Department of Criminal Investigations, the \$15 million grant supports law enforcement and first responders in acquiring critical safety equipment, including body armor, duty weapons, ammunition, electronic control devices, and body-worn cameras.

Through this program, the Paducah Police Department was awarded body armor for the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit, eight tactical shields for designated officers on each shift, and ballistic helmets for every officer. The total award amount was \$245,322.20, significantly enhancing officer safety

and operational readiness.

Additionally, the Paducah Police Department continued its partnership with FLOCK Safety to expand the city's automated license plate reader system. In 2025, eleven more FLOCK camera locations were installed across the city. Since 2023, 32 FLOCK cameras have been deployed throughout Paducah to help identify stolen vehicles. These cameras operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, allowing dispatchers to identify stolen vehicles in real time and provide timely information to officers in the area. Strategically placed throughout the city, the system strengthens the department's ability to detect stolen vehicles entering city limits and supports proactive crime prevention.

Complaints

Receiving and addressing feedback is critical to providing high-quality service to the community. Members of the public may submit concerns by email, telephone, or in person. Each complaint is reviewed and investigated by a supervisor, then routed through the chain of command for review and quality assurance. The Chief of Police retains final review authority in all cases.

In 2025, the Paducah Police Department received 33 complaints. Thirteen were external complaints from community members, while 20 were internal complaints initi-

ated by supervisors or officers who identified potential issues. After investigation, 21 allegations were sustained, and 12 were found unfounded or the officer was exonerated.

When an allegation is sustained, the department's primary objective is corrective, not punitive. The focus is on improving performance and modifying behavior when necessary. Disciplinary decisions consider the totality of the incident, the officer's experience, prior disciplinary history, and intent. As a result, five officers received Employee Improvement Notices (EINs), fifteen received verbal counseling, and one internal complaint led to termination.

For context, the Paducah Police Department responded to more than 48,000 calls for service in 2025. This underscores the relatively low number of complaints given the department's activity and reinforces its commitment to accountability and professional service.

Response to Resistance

Response to Resistance reports document any use of force by an officer that exceeds standard handcuffing, as required by department policy. This process begins when a suspect is taken into custody. An on-duty supervisor responds to the scene to assess the circumstances and evaluate the condition of both officer and suspect. Each report undergoes a multi-level evaluation to ensure accountability and adherence to department standards. The Chief of Police makes the final determination on whether the use of force was justified and consistent with policy.

In 2025, officers responded to over 48,000 calls for service, with

117 involving use of force. This is less than 0.25 percent of all police encounters. All use-of-force incidents underwent comprehensive, objective review and were deemed appropriate and justified.

A majority of these incidents involved individuals experiencing a mental health crisis or impairment due to drugs or alcohol. Fifty-seven incidents involved individuals under the influence of substances, and fifteen involved individuals experiencing a mental health-related issue, highlighting the complex and often volatile situations officers routinely encounter.

In most cases, officers used lower-level physical control techniques, including superior strength, soft empty-hand, or hard empty-hand

tactics, accounting for 89 incidents.

Officers are equipped with less-lethal force options, including OC spray, Tasers, batons, impact munitions (bean bag), PepperBall systems, K-9 units, and BolaWrap restraint devices. In 2025, five incidents involved Taser deployment, reflecting the department's emphasis on alternatives to higher levels of force.

In 23 incidents, officers gained compliance by pointing a firearm at an individual when an enhanced threat to officer or public safety was clear. In six incidents, the suspect was armed with a firearm, and in six others, with a knife or edged weapon. In all 23 cases, the suspect was taken into custody without further incident, and no officer discharged

a firearm, underscoring the department's commitment to de-escalation and safe resolution of high-risk encounters.

The health of the suspect and officer is evaluated after force is used. Of 117 incidents, only 18 involved a suspect complaining of minor injury or discomfort. In each case, the suspect was evaluated by a medical professional or refused treatment. Two injuries were moderate: one from a bean bag round and another when a subject tackled an officer and hit his head on the ground. On eight occasions, officers were injured during use-of-force interactions. All injuries were minor, and officers were evaluated on-scene or at the hospital.

SPECIAL UNITS

Bomb

The Paducah Police Department Bomb Squad is responsible for covering 13 counties in Western Kentucky. The squad consists of four team members who have all been certified through the FBI's six-week Hazardous Devices School. Members undergo approximately 288 hours of additional in-house training throughout the course of a year, along with periodic 40-80 hours of specialized training provided by the ATF, FBI, and other bomb community organizations.

The squad was requested and activated 11 times in 2025. They



responded to various situations and potential threats, including military ordinance, homemade explosives, suspicious packages, and assisted other agencies upon request. In addition to calls and annual training, the squad regularly provides demonstrations and presentations for educational institutions, community organizations, and other government entities throughout the region.

In 2025, two team members completed a 40-hour ATF Post Blast training course. This course, both classroom and practical exercise-based, enhances knowledge and investigative tactics during post explosion situations. Other team members attended a 40-hour training conference at Quantico, VA, presented by IABTI (International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators). This course provided a hands-on experience with new equipment and energetic materials, along with presentations by leading specialists in the field of homemade explosives.



Collision Reconstruction

The Paducah Police Department's Collision Reconstruction Team responds to major collisions that result in death or serious

injury. The team consists of five members, all of whom have had extensive training in mathematics, physics, kinematics, and damage causation assessment. They utilize special equipment to document and measure major collision scenes. This documentation is used to help determine contributing factors to the collision, which in turn establishes causation. In 2025, the CRT was activated six times – only one was due to the loss of life. The remaining five instances involved serious physical injury.

In April of 2025, the Paducah Police Department took delivery of a new drone. That drone has been used multiple times to create three-dimensional renderings of severe collision scenes. In July, the Paducah Police Department received a Bosch Crash Data Retrieval tool. This tool can be used to read data from several seconds before the collision to several seconds after the collision. These tools combined help the Paducah Police Collision Reconstruction team have a more complete picture of what happened before, during, and after a collision.

Crisis Negotiation

The Crisis Negotiation Unit is comprised of four officers who possess advanced communication skills essential for de-escalating high-stress and volatile incidents. The unit responds to hostage situations, barricaded subjects, and other incidents involving individuals in crisis. Its primary mission is to achieve peaceful resolutions through effective communication. The unit also works in close coordination with other specialty units, including joint training with the bomb squad.

Digital Forensics

The Digital Forensics Unit consists of one full-time and two part-time examiners. The unit initially received training and funding from the US Secret Service and now operates with additional grants and local funding. Certification as an examiner requires extensive initial and annual training. In 2025, the unit serviced 18 agencies across Western Kentucky, including PPD, and examined 467 devices.

Honor Guard

The Paducah Police Department Honor Guard represents the highest standards of ceremonial excellence, respect, and professionalism within the Paducah community. This dedicated team of officers serves not only as an emblem of honor at formal events, but also as a powerful reminder of the values of service and sacrifice that define their work every day.

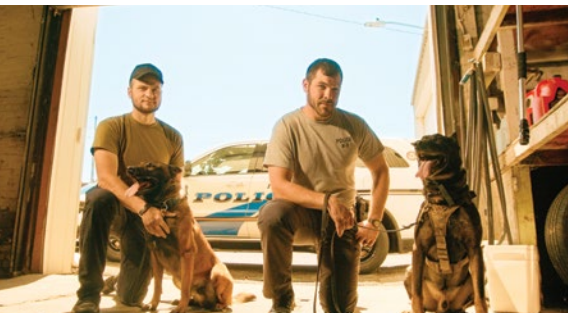
In 2025, the Honor Guard updated its uniforms - a milestone that honors both tradition and the unit's evolving role. The acquisition of new uniforms - replacing those worn for over 10 years - embodies the pride, professionalism, and attention to detail that the Honor Guard brings to every duty. These uniforms are designed to enhance the unit's presentation at formal occasions and reinforce their role as ambassadors of the Paducah Police Department.



K9

The Paducah Police Department's K-9 teams are the department's only full-time specialty units. These teams are responsible for locating fleeing suspects, recovering discarded evidence, conducting building searches, and detecting illegal narcotics. Due to the extensive time spent training, working, and engaging together, each officer and canine develops a strong, lifelong bond that is essential to effective performance.

The department currently fields two K-9 teams: Officer Ben Anthony and K-9 Bary, who have worked together since 2001, and Officer Noah Willett and K-9 Karo, who have been partnered since 2024.



Throughout 2025, the K-9 teams were actively engaged in enforcement and community outreach efforts, resulting in numerous drug seizures, participation in community events, and the delivery of K-9 demonstrations. Both teams also completed additional specialized training to maintain and enhance their operational readiness.

SWAT

The Paducah Police Department's SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) Team is composed of officers trained to provide a tactical response to high-risk situations requiring specialized tools, tactics, and capabilities beyond those of



traditional law enforcement. Even when not formally activated, the SWAT Team regularly assists the department with the planning and execution of search and arrest warrants.

In 2025, the SWAT Team added two new members, both of whom successfully graduated from the Kentucky Tactical Officers Association (KTOA) two-week Basic SWAT Course. Additionally, two team members returned from nearly year-long military deployments. The team completed more than 240 hours of specialized training during 2025, including 80 hours conducted by NORSE Tactical. In October, the SWAT Team completed the 15K Tough Mudder in Nashville, Tennessee.

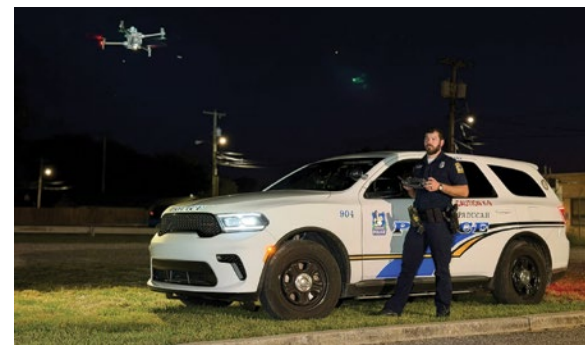
During 2025, the SWAT Team was activated four times, with each activation resulting in a successful apprehension.

Drone

The Paducah Police Department is committed to leveraging technology to support its mission of keeping the community safe. Among these advancements, Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS), commonly referred to as drones, have become one of the most valuable tools for assisting officers on the ground. The Paducah Police Department currently operates five drones of varying sizes, with plans to expand the program to support additional operational needs.

In 2025, drone pilots deployed drones on 53 operational missions, not including training flights. Department pilots possess substantial experience operating these systems, averaging more than 50 flight hours per pilot during the year.

The Paducah Police Department utilizes drones in a variety of operational roles. During patrol operations, drone pilots can rapidly deploy aircraft to assist in locating missing or lost children, tracking fleeing suspects, and providing aerial oversight of large or unruly crowds. Drones are also used at major community events, such as BBQ on the River, to enhance situational awareness and support officers working within dense crowds.



In addition, drone pilots provide support to several specialized units within the department. They assist the Collision Reconstruction Team by significantly reducing the time required to close roadways during serious collision investigations. Drone pilots also support the SWAT team by providing exterior surveillance and assisting with interior searches when appropriate.

AWARD CEREMONY

The Paducah Police Department hosted its 16th annual Awards Ceremony on Thursday, February 19 at Walker Hall. During the event, 44 officers and telecommunicators, along with nine citizens, were recognized for exceptional acts of service throughout 2025. In total, 72 awards were presented to sworn personnel, telecommunicators, and citizens for their dedicated service to the community.

Sergeant Ryan Hudson was posthumously awarded the Gary L. Reese Award for outstanding leadership and distinguished service. Before his passing in 2025, Sergeant Hudson served as a patrol officer, DARE instructor, Honor Guard member, and SWAT operator. He later served as a General Investigations Detective, Drug Unit Detective, and President of the Police Bargaining Unit before being promoted to Sergeant. He was known for his dedication, professionalism, and commitment to serving the community.

Meritorious Service Award

Officer Brooke Adams
Officer Noah Willett
Officer Daniel Hunerkoch
Officer Rachel Bertrand
Officer Matthew Crisman
Officer Jakob Mueller

The Chief's Award

Sergeant Matthew Scheer

The Lifesaving Award

Officer Seth Farthing
Officer Taylor Cissell
Officer Samantha Taylor
Officer Matthew York
Officer Bryan Potts
Officer Samantha Taylor
Officer Steven Leaday
Officer Noah Willett
Officer Tyree Owens
Officer Keith Thuline
Officer Rachel Bertrand
Officer Coy Dotson

Service Commendation

Telecommunicator Auston Scutt
Telecommunicator Hillary Fowler
Telecommunicator Stephanie Goins
Telecommunicator Amber Spears
Telecommunicator Colby Fauver
Captain Nathan Jaimet
Sergeant Matthew Scheer (2)
Sergeant Nickolas Francescon
Sergeant Ryan Hudson
Detective Corey Willenborg (2)
Detective Chelsea Breakfield
Detective Danny Slack
Detective Logan Barrow
Detective Casey Steenbergen
Detective Thomas Shiels (2)
Officer Benjamin Anthony
Officer Samantha Taylor
Officer Michael Foster (2)
Officer Steven Lang
Officer Seth Farthing (2)
Officer Tyree Owens
Sergeant Jason Hicks

Officer Keith Thuline
Officer Carlos Kerley
Officer Brooke Adams
Officer Coy Dotson

Administrative Commendation

Captain Steve Thompson

Citizen Service Award

Landon Schellhardt
Christopher Burkhart
Jenna Burkhart
Geneva Culp
Kristopher Gibson
Christopher Wooley
Abigail Neihoff
Kallie Willett
Trad York



EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

We all make decisions, but in the end, our decisions make us.
In 2025, one person stood out for their hard work and
dedication to keeping our community safe.

Officer Rachel Bertrand ranked 2nd in the department for the most criminal citations, 4th in traffic citations, and 7th in serving warrants. These results demonstrate her proactive approach, effectiveness as a patrol officer, and steady presence on the street. Still, her impact goes beyond the numbers.

She diligently served our community the past four years, and worked close to 500 hours of overtime in 2025... always stepping up when needed.

Officer Bertrand's influence reaches beyond Paducah. In 2024, she received the Governor's Award for Impaired Driving Enforcement, leading all similar-sized agencies in the state with 106 DUI arrests. She repeated this in 2025, again leading with 91 DUI arrests. These back-to-back honors show her strong commitment to road safety and saving lives.

In 2025, she set out to become a more well-rounded officer. She often volunteered for day and after-

noon shifts, even on her days off, to gain experience with different types of calls and policing challenges. Her drive to learn and improve shows maturity and professionalism beyond what is expected.

Officer Bertrand's character is just as, if not more important, than her measurable achievements. She is widely respected throughout the department for her professionalism, friendly attitude, and tireless work ethic. She always reports to work with a positive attitude and has a unique ability to boost morale among those around her. This influence extends beyond enforcement; she helps foster a positive, motivated, and cohesive working environment.

In closing, Captain Thompson said in his nomination, "Officer Rachel Bertrand's performance in 2025 represents the very best of the Paducah Police Department. Her dedication, productivity, leadership, and unwavering commitment to excellence make her the Employee of the Year."



Officer Rachel Bertrand