

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



BLACKSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

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INTRODUCTION

Mission: The mission of the Blacksburg Police Department is to provide exceptional service and protection through leadership and partnership with the community.

Vision: The Blacksburg Police Department believes in the principals of community policing and works in partnership with citizens and local businesses to promote, encourage, and enact ways to maintain a low crime rate, increase public safety, and enhance our quality of life.

History: The Blacksburg Police Department has been providing quality law enforcement services to the citizens of the town for over 100 years. Formally established in 1871, the Blacksburg Police Department has become an agency consisting of highly dedicated sworn law enforcement officers and non-sworn civilian employees. In 1993 the Police Department earned, and has since maintained, national accreditation status from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, attesting to its commitment of professionalism and service to the community.

INTRODUCTION

CORE VALUES

Service

Provide quality police assistance and protection to all people in an efficient and competent manner, with courtesy, empathy, respect, and integrity.

Integrity

Uphold the public trust through honesty and accountability, fostering an atmosphere of mutual trust and cooperation. Moral uprightness is something we expect and hold in a higher regard than anything.

Respect

Treating all with dignity by presenting equality and fairness in upholding the constitutional rights of all persons.

CHIEF OF POLICE



Chief Brewster was promoted to Chief July 1st, 2022. A native of Tazewell, Virginia, and a graduate of Radford University, Chief Brewster has a proven track record in law enforcement and an extensive history of service to our community. Serving as a volunteer firefighter with both the Blacksburg and Christiansburg Fire Departments, Brewster began his career as a Dispatcher for the Blacksburg Police Department in 1997 and became a sworn officer in 1999. He continued to advance in his career with the department, working through the ranks of sergeant and lieutenant while supervising the Accident Reconstruction Team and serving as the DMV Grant Coordinator. Chief Brewster is also a graduate of the 282nd session of the FBI National Academy.

He was promoted to Police Services Captain in November 2020, where he has since overseen the criminal investigations unit, accreditation, community outreach, recruiting and hiring, and the training unit. Chief Brewster has distinguished himself as a community advocate and leader with every assignment.

DEPUTY CHIEF



In July of 2022, The Deputy Chief position was instituted to assist the Chief in the department's day-to-day operations and to set a clear delineation in the department's structure; at that time, Brian Roe was appointed Deputy Chief.

Originally from Yonkers, New York, he joined the Army and went to Germany in 1996 as a Military Police Officer. Upon his return, Roe moved to Virginia in 1997. He worked as a Correctional Officer at Craigsville Virginia State Prison until the Blacksburg Police Department hired him as a patrol officer in 1999.

With over twenty-five years of law enforcement experience, Roe has worked as a patrol officer, motorcycle officer, field training officer, and school resource officer. He was one of the founding members of the SWAT team and served on it for thirteen years, and he was an instructor for defensive driving and firearms. Roe graduated from Columbia Southern University with a Bachelor of Science. He also graduated from the 271st session of the FBI's National Academy. Roe was awarded the Medal of Valor from BPD and personally recognized by President G.W. Bush for his actions during the Virginia Tech shooting on April 16, 2007.

After twenty-four years of service and two combat deployments with many awards, including the Bronze Star for his leadership, Roe retired from the Army Reserves as a Master Sergeant. In 2014 Roe began his leadership track in the police department. He was promoted to Patrol Sergeant and then in 2016 to Patrol Lieutenant before becoming Captain in 2017, where he served in both the Operations and Services Divisions.

NEW BUILDING



A new era for the Blacksburg Police Department began in 2022 with the completion and opening of our new state-of-the-art building. Realizing the importance of having the building in the heart of the town, newly retired Chief Anthony Wilson, the citizens, town council, police department employees, and town admin worked tirelessly to locate the perfect spot.



That spot was located in the newly minted mid-town project. Construction began in 2020 and now retired Lieutenant John Goad was given the arduous task as the police department liaison. LT. Goad worked tirelessly with the developers and the builders throughout the project. The new building carried the name sake of William H. Brown acknowledging his countless contributions to the town and the community during his tenure as Chief.

The building officially opened for business with the ribbon cutting taking place on June 22, 2022. The event was attended by Chief Anthony Wilson, (ret) Chief Brown, Mayor Hager-Smith, Town Manager Marc Verniel, and countless more all of whom share responsibility for ensuring the success of the project.

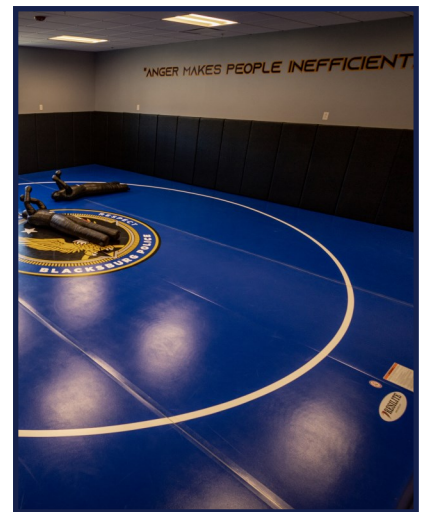
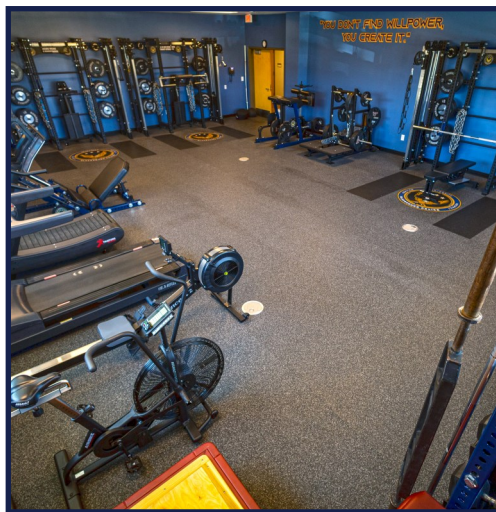
Additional features include, a modern Fusion Center, a community funded patio, a full kitchen., an Emergency Operations Center, modern locker-rooms, an evidence processing/storage facility, and so much more.



The employees of the Blacksburg Police Department would like to thank the town and community of Blacksburg for supporting the agency and making this one of the best places to work in the country.

TRAINING FACILITY

The Anthony S. Wilson Training Facility is a physical manifestation of the Blacksburg Police Department's Training Triangle. The layout places emphasis on traits that we believe to make a successful police officer; these are tactical eliteness, communication/street psychology, and the development of one's own 'why' which we consider the spiritual side of policing. The facility includes a five-screened MILO law enforcement simulation system, a defensive tactics mat room, and a state of the art Sorinex weight room. Along with a brand new facility the Blacksburg Police Department also contracts a Physical Development Specialist to build the foundational pillar of tactical eliteness.



Anthony Crosby

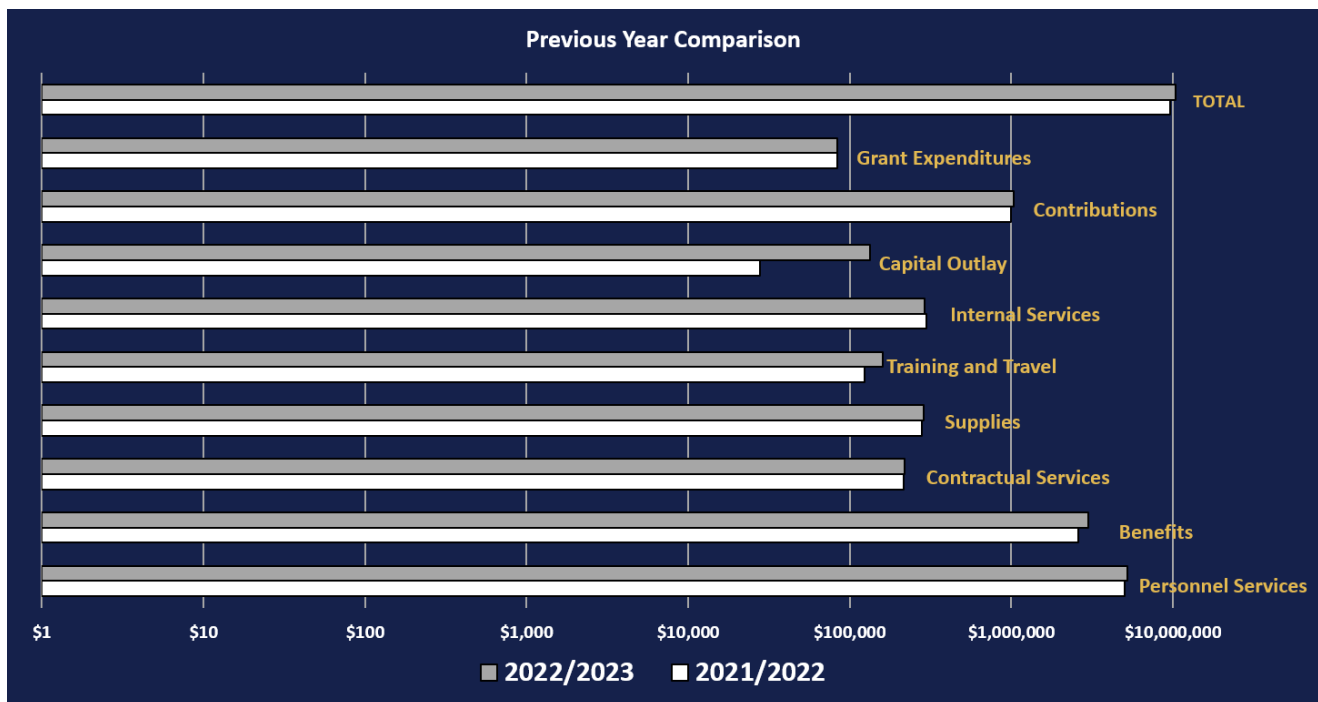
As part of the training facility, Blacksburg Police Department brought on a Physical Development Specialist in 2021 to better enhance the physical condition of officers and police personnel. The programs specifically focus on strength, power and injury resilience. Prior to joining Blacksburg Police Department, Crosby was the Senior Director of Strength and Conditioning for the Virginia Tech Football team for 6 years where he designed and implemented training programs to improve athlete's speed, strength, and power. Crosby has also worked at Ole Miss, Oxford and Boston College. A native of Lafayette, Louisiana, Crosby earned his bachelor's degree in Kinesiology from Louisiana Tech in 2008 where he played linebacker for the Bulldogs. Crosby holds certifications in CSCS, USAW, PN, RPR, and Pre-Script 1.



DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES

The Blacksburg Police Department’s approved fiscal year budget for 2023/2024 contained \$10,033,249. The chart and graph below show the funding summary of where those monies were allocated and comparison to the previous fiscal year.

Item Account	2022/2023 Council Adopted
Personnel Services	\$5,644,388
Benefits	\$2,981,836
Contractual Services	\$218,889
Supplies	\$286,179
Training and Travel	\$159,558
Internal Services	\$291,422
Capital Outlay	\$132,748
Contributions	\$1,031,002
Grant Expenditures	\$84,246
TOTAL: \$10,411,515	



INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND COMPLAINTS

The Department strives to ensure that it offers the citizens of the Town of Blacksburg the most professional police force possible. To that end, the department examines the actions of employees who are involved in complaints of misconduct. Although the delivery of some police services is not always welcomed by those associated with an event, the department expects professionalism from all employees. The table below details the internal affairs and personnel complaints against BPD Personnel over the last three years.

Item Account	2021	2022	2023	Total
Unfounded Complaint	0	0	1	1
Employee Exonerated	0	1	1	2
Complaint Not Sustained	1	0	0	1
Complaint Sustained	1	1	2	4
Policy Review	0	0	0	0
Other	1	3	0	4
TOTALS:	3	5	4	12

UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING DATA

The Uniform Crime Report (UCR) represents statistics submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The eight crimes shown in the table below are known as the Part 1 Index Crimes. These figures represent actual offenses where a report was taken and the crime can be substantiated. These figures are somewhat lower than the figures appearing on the "Calls for Service" summary produced by Blacksburg Police Department due to calls being reclassified as unfounded or as matters civil in nature, following police response.

In 2023 there were 2,505 reports completed.

Overall Offenses—2023			
Type of Offense	2021	2022	2023
Murder & Attempts	1	1	1
Rape & Attempts	16	11	18
Robbery	4	4	4
Aggravated Assaults	10	6	16
Burglary	34	24	42
Larceny-Theft	160	155	212
Motor Vehicle Theft	16	10	13
Arson	2	2	0
Welfare Checks	204	206	208
ECO/TDO Service	82	73	79

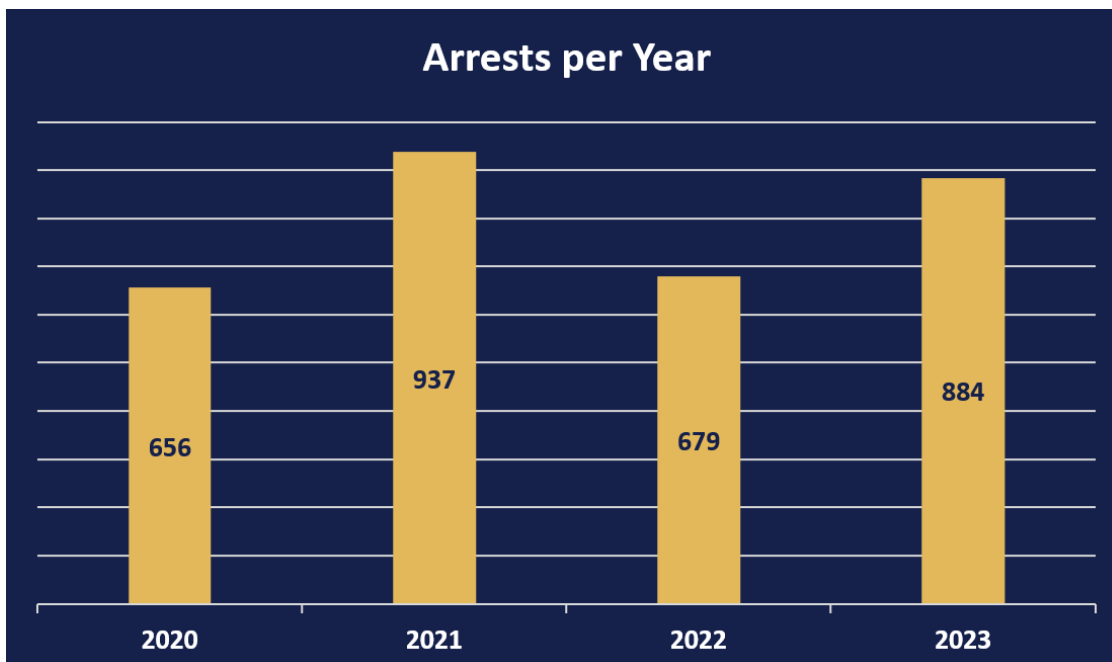
Part I Index Crimes - 2023					
Type of Offense	Cleared Arrest	Cleared Other	Active	Inactive	Grand Total
Murder & Attempts	0	1	0	0	1
Rape & Attempts	0	11	4	3	18
Robbery	2	0	2	0	4
Aggravated Assaults	6	5	4	1	16
Burglary	4	8	18	12	42
Larceny-Theft	9	24	32	147	212
Motor Vehicle Theft	2	1	5	5	13
Arson	0	0	0	0	0

Monthly Breakdown of Offenses - 2023												
Type of Offense	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Murder & Attempts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Rape & Attempts	0	2	3	0	3	3	0	2	2	3	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Aggravated Assaults	0	2	5	1	1	1	0	1	1	3	1	0
Burglary	1	3	7	4	0	2	14	3	5	0	2	1
Larceny-Theft	23	7	19	29	14	9	17	22	27	22	9	14
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	0	2	0	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	0
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Welfare Checks	14	17	17	23	19	16	13	13	18	25	17	16
ECO/TDO Service	4	4	4	10	5	6	7	11	8	6	7	7

ARRESTS

During 2023, the Blacksburg Police Department arrested 884 individuals averaging 73 arrests per month. Of the arrested individuals in 2023, 512 were male, 125 were female, and there were 42 juvenile arrests.

Type of Offense	Female	Male	Juvenile
Jan	12	39	3
Feb	16	44	5
Mar	7	70	1
Apr	21	49	0
May	2	56	1
Jun	4	21	0
Jul	6	65	0
Aug	18	62	1
Sep	13	90	1
Oct	14	105	5
Nov	31	89	1
Dec	6	44	1



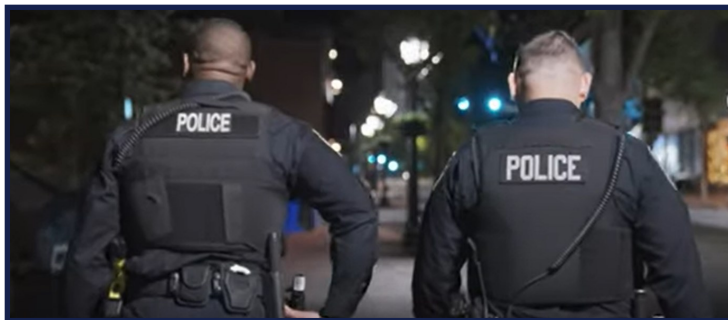
OPERATIONS DIVISION

PATROL

Uniform police patrol is the backbone of every municipal law enforcement agency and the Blacksburg Police Department is no different. Our enforcement techniques are evaluated daily and thoroughly analyzed annually so that we may better respond to the rapidly changing needs of our citizens. Our mission is accomplished through a highly adaptable approach to mobile and bicycle patrols, utilizing specialized equipment and expertly trained personnel.

Working around the clock, our uniform patrol function consists of highly visible marked vehicles, unmarked cars, motorcycles and bicycles. This division includes the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (S.W.A.T), our K9 units, crash team and overall patrol of the community we serve.

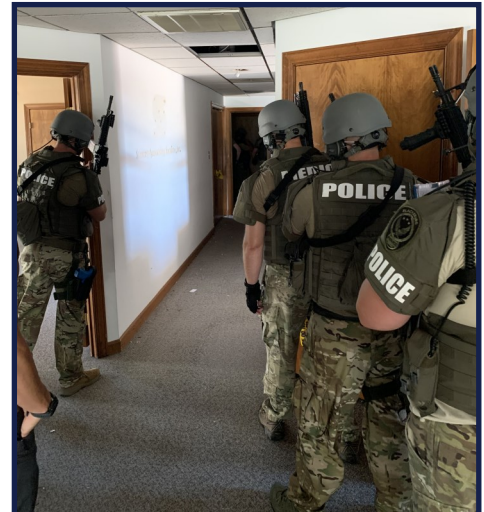
Our patrol division responded to 21,987 calls in 2023.



OPERATIONS DIVISION

S.W.A.T.

The Blacksburg Police Department's Special Weapons and Tactics Team (S.W.A.T.) is comprised of thirteen highly trained officers and two tactical medics who perform various critical functions. The officer makeup includes a division commander, a team commander, one assistant team commander, and ten police officers. They perform tasks that include high risk warrant service, barricade response, hostage rescue, VIP security, hazardous materials situations and weapons of mass destruction response.



All prospective S.W.A.T. members go through a rigorous selection process which includes interviews, advanced weapons qualifications and demanding annual physical fitness and strength training requirements. Along side team members, Tactical Medics provide medical care in situations that are often too dangerous for regular emergency medical services (EMS). Individual members are highly trained and skilled in specific disciplines including: Less Lethal/Chemical Munitions, Sniper, Forced Entry, Tactical Medic and K-9 Operations. Our S.W.A.T. members stand ready at a moments notice to respond to any emergency and are committed to proving the best possible service to our community.

In 2023, S.W.A.T. was utilized 9 times for critical incidents.

OPERATIONS DIVISION

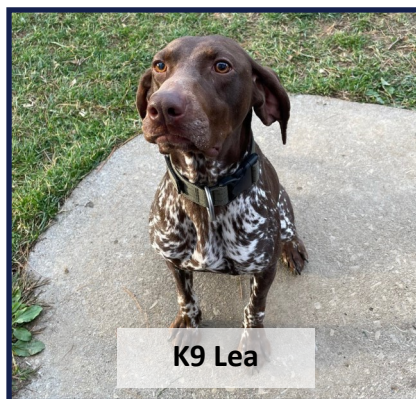
CANINE UNIT

In 2007 the Blacksburg Police Department was authorized to establish a Canine Unit, the first in the town's history. The Department currently has four Patrol Canine Handlers; three drug canines and one explosives detection canine which allows for accessibility of use and strengthens the department's enforcement activities.

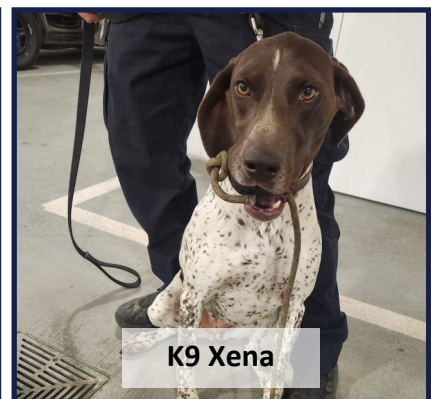
DRUG & TRACK K-9



K9 Tyr



K9 Lea



K9 Xena

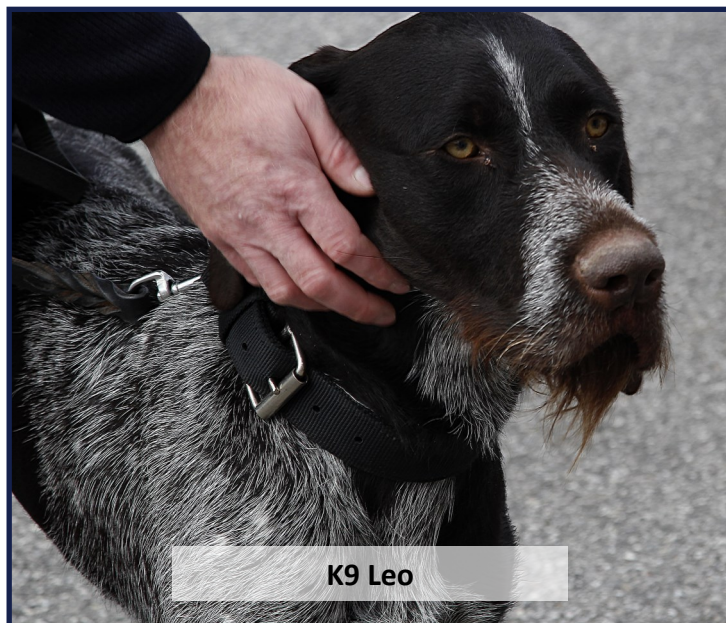
The unit's primary function is to detect and eradicate illegal narcotics in our schools, neighborhoods and on our streets by searching vehicles, buildings, packages, mail, luggage, and open areas. Each pairing of officer and drug canine have been certified in the detection of illegal narcotics to include cocaine, heroine, methamphetamine, and ecstasy. They have been instrumental in the arrest of numerous suspects involved in illegal narcotic distribution, the seizure of assets, and quantities of illegal narcotics. Through a collaborative regional agreement, the unit has been utilized by neighboring agencies in their policing efforts. The Canine Unit also conducts public demonstrations on a regular basis to civic groups, scout troops, childcare centers, church groups, and schools.

In 2022 the K9 drug & track teams conducted 102 utilizations.

OPERATIONS DIVISION

CANINE UNIT

EXPLOSIVES K-9



K9 Leo

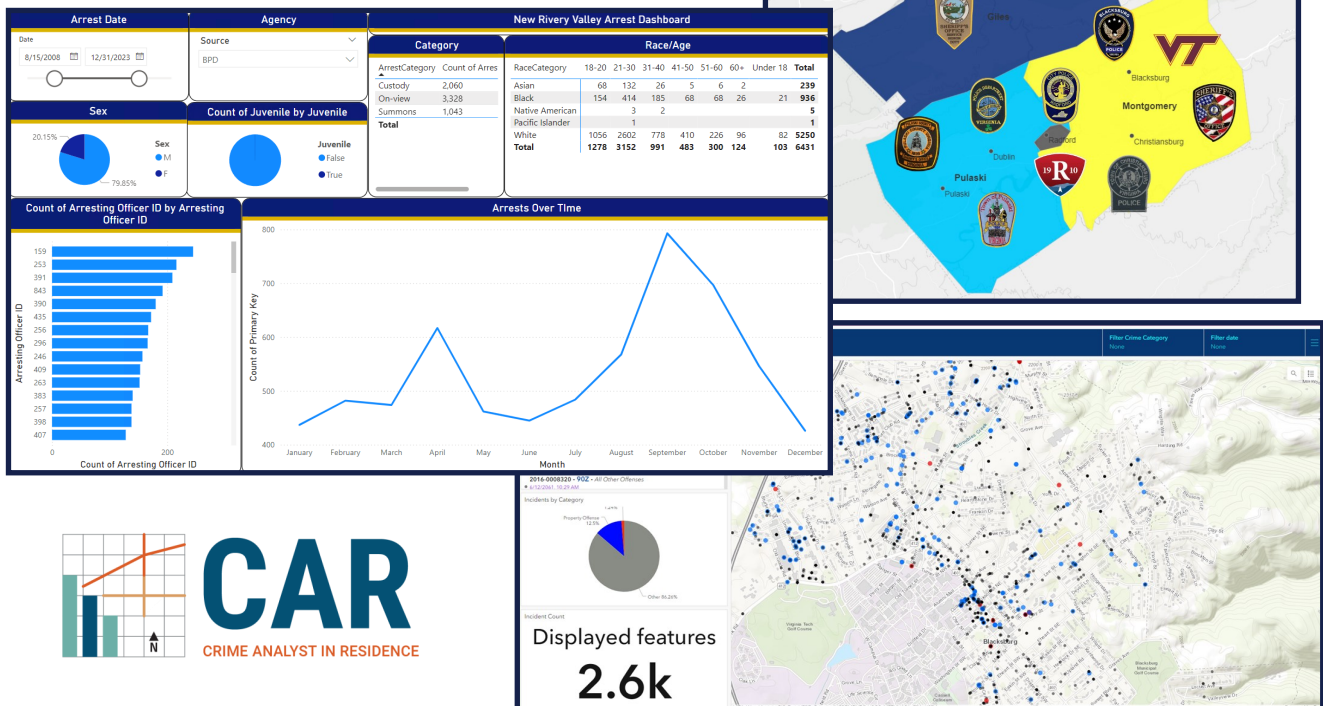
The Department has another K9 trained in the detection of multiple different explosives and responses to items recently contaminated with, or associated with, the odor of one or more of the explosive substances.

Canine Leo is a German Wirehaired Pointer born in Hungary. He joined the Blacksburg Police Department in November 2018 and can detect 29 different explosive odors. Patrol Canine handlers and their partners conduct 24 hours of maintenance training per month.

In 2022 the K9 explosives team conducted 15 utilizations.

OPERATIONS DIVISION

CRIME ANALYSIS



The crime analyst role, implemented in the Fall of 2022, upgraded the department's investigative skills and optimized information gathering and reporting. Crime analytics provides both patrol and investigative units with accurate and relevant data that streamlines the operational efficiency of the agency.

In 2023, the Blacksburg Police Department graduated from the Crime Analyst in Residence Program (CAR), a Bureau of Justice Assistance grant program, which expanded the department's abilities in data analytics to further increase operational efficiency and continue to develop partnerships with other jurisdictions. The department also received a \$20,000 grant through state ARPA funds to continue to expand the role of criminal analytics within the department.

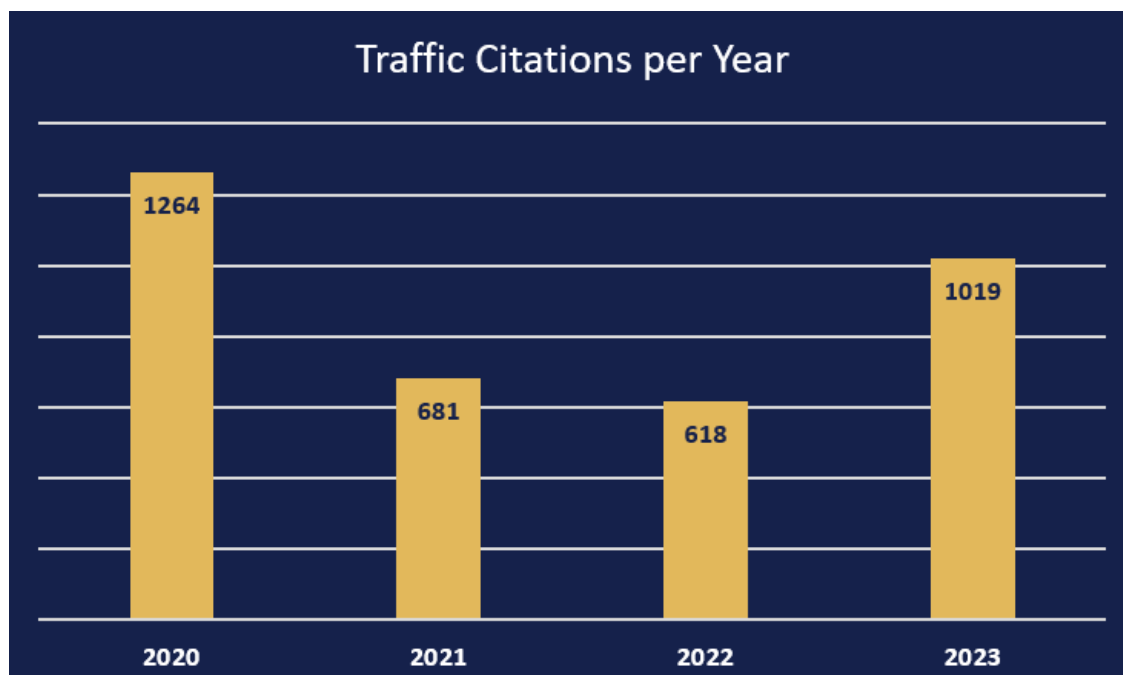
The crime analysis unit has now evolved to serving and assisting multiple neighboring jurisdictions, establishing increased information sharing and greater interdepartmental collaboration. This allows the department to combat violent crimes more efficiently and provides the region with a multi-jurisdictional data sharing initiative that establishes an information network, used to better serve the community.

OPERATIONS DIVISION

TRAFFIC & CRASH DATA

The table below lists some common infractions drivers were cited for in 2023 and the totals in each category. The list does not include all infraction types, just the top 10. In 2023 there were 1017 traffic summons issued.

Top 10 Traffic Citation Charges	Count
SPEEDING IN A 25 MPH ZONE	242
SPEEDING IN A 35 MPH ZONE	79
FAIL TO OBEY HIGHWAY SIGN	45
EXPIRED STATE TAGS	43
EXPIRED INSPECTION/REJECTION DECAL	37
NO DRIVERS LICENSE	35
VEHICLES BEFORE ENTERING CERTAIN HIGHWAYS SHALL STOP OR YIELD RIGHT-OF-WAY	35
FAIL TO OBEY A TRAFFIC LIGHT	26
RECKLESS DRIVING - EXCESSIVE SPEED	23
FAIL TO CARRY OPERATORS LICENSE OR REGISTRATION CARD	17



OPERATIONS DIVISION

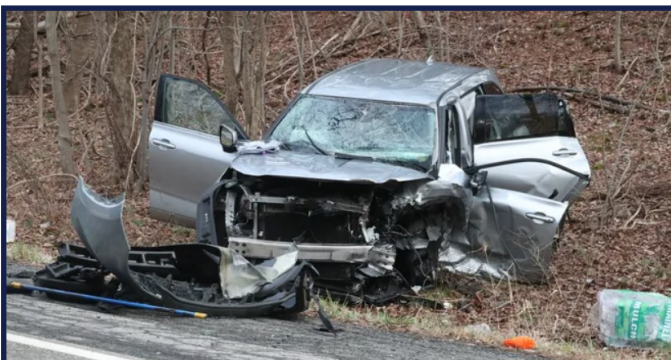
TRAFFIC & CRASH DATA

In 2023, there were 366 reportable crash reports taken. Of the crash reports, 15 involved some level of alcohol. Seatbelts were reportedly used in 95% of the crash reports. The below chart shows the top ten locations for crash reports.

Top 10 Crash Area Locations
460 Bypass/South Main St
Prices Fork Rd /West Campus Dr
Roanoke St/Church St
460 Bypass/North Main St
460 Bypass/Southgate Dr
North Main St/Prices Fork Rd
South Main St/Clay St
Prices Fork Rd /Huntington Ln
North Main St/Patrick Henry Dr
460 Bypass/Toms Creek Rd

CRASH TEAM

The Blacksburg Police Department Crash Reconstruction Team responds to crashes involving serious injuries or fatalities. The team uses advanced mapping technology to produce a precise scene diagram and reconstruction of events leading up to the crash. Traffic crash investigations include but are not limited to human factors, mechanical failures and weather conditions. Fortunately, the crash team was not called out to respond in 2023.



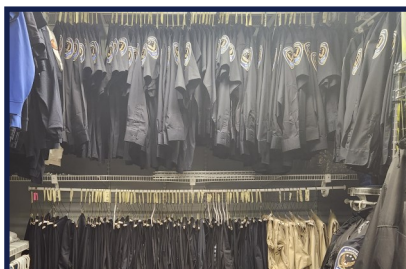
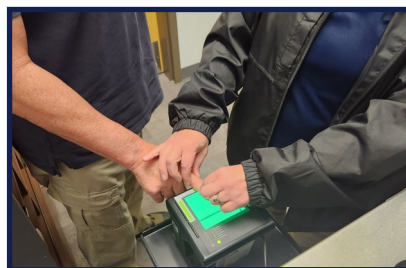
SERVICES DIVISION

The Services Division of the Blacksburg Police Department is comprised of a number of supporting functions for the agency and consists of both sworn and civilian positions. While the Operations Division is responsible for the primary response to citizen complaints, criminal activity, and emergencies, the Services Division works in the background to complete everyday tasks that keep the department functioning, including ongoing investigative follow-up for criminal complaints.

The Services Division includes the following areas:

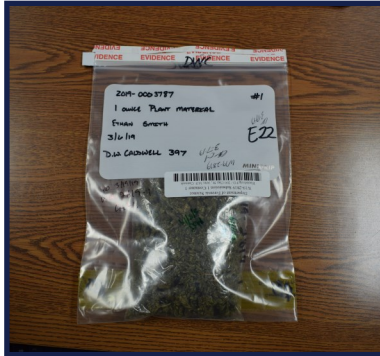
- ◆ Criminal Investigations Unit
- ◆ Training and Hiring
- ◆ Public Information
- ◆ Fusion Center and Accreditation
- ◆ School Resource Officers
- ◆ Records
- ◆ Purchasing
- ◆ Parking Services
- ◆ Facility Management
- ◆ Community Outreach

Each area consists of numerous responsibilities including but not limited to, community safety, victim and witness resources, school safety, public information and Freedom of Information Act requests, providing officers with important information, equipment supplies, and fleet purchasing and maintenance. Without the support of the Services Division, officers would be unable to complete their job in a professional manner.



SERVICES DIVISION

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION UNIT



The Criminal Investigations Unit (CIU) of the Police Department is responsible for the investigation of multiple and major crimes including homicide, rape, robbery, arson, burglary and drug violations. The plain clothes investigative unit consists of one Lieutenant, one Sergeant, five detectives, one forensic detective, one Joint Terrorism Task Force officer, and one evidence technician/property detective. The unit also includes two Street Crimes and Intelligence officers. Members of this unit are prepared to respond to crimes as needed, around the clock.

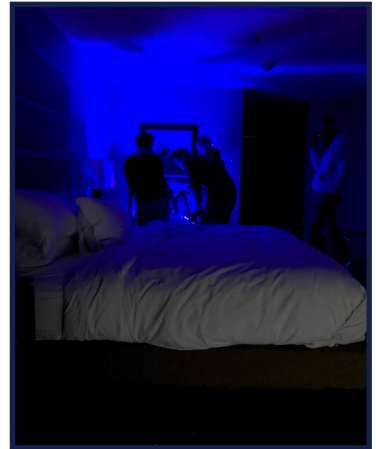
In 2023, the Criminal Investigations Unit initiated 144 investigative cases, clearing 64 cases. CIU made 241 felony charges, 57 misdemeanor charges, and the unit also completed 20 background investigations.

SERVICES DIVISION

CRIME SCENE & EVIDENCE / PROPERTY

The proper identification, collection and handling of evidence are crucial elements in any criminal investigation. Since 1975, Blacksburg Police personnel have received intensive training at the Virginia Forensic Science Academy in Richmond. The forensic technician detective utilizes modern methods and technology to ensure the integrity of property and evidence protocols, crime scene processing and related case sensitive documents.

In 2023, the forensic tech and evidence technician/property detective processed and/or handled 1,448 pieces of evidence and processed 32 crime scenes. This unit is currently housing 4,131 pieces of property.



SERVICES DIVISION

FUSION CENTER



In July 2016, The Blacksburg Police Department along with all other police departments in Montgomery County consolidated into the NRV Regional 911 Center. The 911 calls for service are processed through the new Regional Center and allocated to the police jurisdiction where the service is needed.

Due to the transition of emergency dispatch services, the Blacksburg Police Department formed the Fusion Center to act as a public liaison branch of the department. The Fusion Center is the central point of contact for our agency, staffed with 5 full time and 3 part time PLA (public liaison assistants). The Fusion Center provides 24/7 coverage and monitors radio traffic, computer aided dispatch (CAD), phones and foot traffic in and around the police department. As the first point of contact to the public, the Fusion Center is a great resource to the officers of the department.

In 2023, the Fusion Center fielded 41 online reports and dispatched 207 walk in calls.

SERVICES DIVISION

TASK FORCES

JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE



The Joint Terrorism Task Force is a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation, other federal agencies, state and local law enforcement. The Blacksburg Police Department currently has one sworn detective assigned to the task force. The Joint Terrorism Task Force detective conducts specialized investigations involving matters of National Security and terrorism, including documentation of information, determination of subject nexus to terrorism, and other related duties.

U.S. MARSHALS TASK FORCE

The U.S. Marshal Task Force assists in searching and serving felony warrants for suspects that have eluded law enforcement. The area of operations spread throughout Southwest Virginia and work in conjunction with several other jurisdictions in the New River Valley and Roanoke Valley area. They operate directly under a full time sworn U.S. Marshal within our area.



U.S. POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE



The U.S. Postal Inspection Service enforces over 200 federal statutes related to crimes that involve the postal system, its employees, and its customers. The Blacksburg Police Department currently has one sworn officer assigned to the Roanoke field office helping to eradicate postal crimes within Roanoke and the New River Valley. This includes crimes in narcotics violations, theft, fraud, child exploitation, and cybercrime.

SERVICES DIVISION

TASK FORCES

STREET CRIMES AND INTELLIGENCE

The Street Crimes and Intelligence Unit was created in 2022 to investigate serial crime, conduct surveillance of the criminal element operating within Montgomery County, and conduct street level criminal interdiction. The Street Crimes and Intelligence Unit provide these services by utilizing criminal informants and coordinating with all area law enforcement investigative units; this unit is comprised of three sworn officers. The officers and unit supervisor are dual sworn with Montgomery County Sheriff's Office to provide law enforcement services over a broad area as modern crime does not follow jurisdictional bounds.



SERVICES DIVISION

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS



The Blacksburg Police Department maintains a partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools, working closely with school administrators, teachers, and other staff to enhance the overall educational environment. A Virginia-certified law enforcement officer is assigned to each of the town's Middle and High Schools, and two other SROs rotate throughout all the elementary

schools to provide immediate access to all law enforcement services and to assist in maintaining a high level of safety, order, and discipline.

School Resource Officers (SRO) are, first and foremost, Law Enforcement Officers and are responsible for addressing any criminal complaints or incidents that arise on school property, or during school sponsored events. School Resource Officers are state certified by the Commonwealth of Virginia to function as SROs, and they are also certified to instruct the "Class Action" program. The program teaches students their rights, responsibilities, and obligations under the Law; and informs them of consequences of their actions.

School Resource Officers also provide classroom instructional programs on drug and alcohol awareness and laws, narcotics, computer crimes, personal safety, the role of the police, and provide brochures on numerous topics of concern to students and parents.



SERVICES DIVISION

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

Working at Harding Avenue, Gilbert Linkous, Kipps and Margaret Beeks Elementary Schools, our School Crossing Guards are tasked with keeping our youngest citizens safe on their way to and from school. Our crossing guards have assisted thousands of children, pedestrians, motorists and cyclists to enter and depart school property and their adjoining intersections safely.



PARKING

The Blacksburg Police Department enforces parking violations throughout the town with a primary focus on the metered spaces in Blacksburg's active downtown business district. The agency employs one full-time and one part-time parking enforcement officer.

For the calendar year of 2023, 3,275 parking tickets were issued.



SERVICES DIVISION

TRAINING/HIRING UNIT



Recognizing that training is an essential element for officer success and improving the quality of service to the community, the training unit has implemented a number of programs to ensure our officers are some of the best trained in the country. These programs include; weekly defensive tactics, new roll-call training, and the expansion of the physical training program as well as building upon our already established de-escalation of people in crisis training, defensive tactics, communication, medical training, and more.

Wanting the best possible recruits, the Blacksburg Police Department has grown its already established pre-academy program. New police officer recruits receive six weeks of training before even stepping foot into the 22-week academy. Over the six-week training period, the police recruits are interacting and learning from instructors with varying levels of experience

The physical training program continues to improve and evolve. Due to the tremendous support from the community, we were able to design and build a state-of-the-art gym. This facility is a daily reminder to the officers not only of the support from the community, but also the importance of physical health in law enforcement.

In 2023 , we were able to hire ?? for Sworn officer positions and ?? for Civilian positions.

SERVICES DIVISION

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & CRIME PREVENTION

Community outreach and community involvement continue to be a priority for the department. 2023 saw the continuation of already established traditions and community outreach programs, these included the delivery of Thanksgiving meals for families in need, car seat giveaways, school visits, and continued a partnership with Feeding America.

Crime prevention also continues to be a priority for the department. The Blacksburg Police Department increased its Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) program as well as its Threat Assessment program.

In 2023, the Blacksburg Police Department, hosted and participated in numerous training events bringing together not only the New River Valley jurisdictions but agencies nationwide. We have had the opportunity to host the FBI, HIDTA and the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security. Not only have we hosted numerous trainings, but the new Community Room has been host to a number of community events.

Social Media also played a key roll in our community engagement this past year with our Grinch campaign being a huge hit!



DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS

ADOPT-A-COP



The Adopt-a-Cop Program was initiated in the spring of 2013. The one day long academy was created to improve the relationship between the fraternities of Virginia Tech and the Blacksburg Police Department. Off-campus fraternities are the majority of the population that contributes to the social interaction and engagement in the community. This program is designed to increase positive interaction with the fraternities and educate them about the true purpose of the police department, address problems in the neighborhood, explain the local laws and ordinances to them, provide direction for social services, and many other steps to keep the fraternities and police officers safe.

The program attempts to pair one officer and one fraternity together. The officer acts as a teacher and mentor to the fraternity, educating them on how to stay safe when out with friends, drink responsibly, and how to be role models in the community. The officer attends fraternity meetings at least once a semester to give input on events and answer questions.

DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS

CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

The Blacksburg Police Department understands the necessity to create and maintain strong partnerships with the community. In 2021, the Town of Blacksburg, in coordination with the Blacksburg Police Department, created the Citizens Advisory Board to further meet the needs of the community.

This board is comprised of community leaders, residents, business owners, Virginia Tech students, and currently includes former Chief Bill Brown. The board meets monthly to discuss community and police concerns that are later brought to the attention of police administrative staff. Participation in the Citizen Advisory Panel enables a collaborative approach to problem solving.



DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS

NO HOKIE LEFT BEHIND

The No Hokie Left Behind and Be Safe Blacksburg Programs were initiated in the Fall of 2014. No Hokie Left Behind was created because of the increasing number of college students that would walk by themselves at night, which sometimes lead to them becoming victims of crimes. This initiative is designed to let students know that they should look out for each other and never travel alone. If students go out the objective, is that they will plan to go together, stay together, and leave together



BE SAFE BLACKSBURG

Be Safe Blacksburg was created for the community and public school students to increase knowledge about how to stay safe. The focus for high school students is on drugs and alcohol and how both not only harm the body, but also the lives of others. For K-12 the focus is on bullying and peer pressure. Students are influenced by how

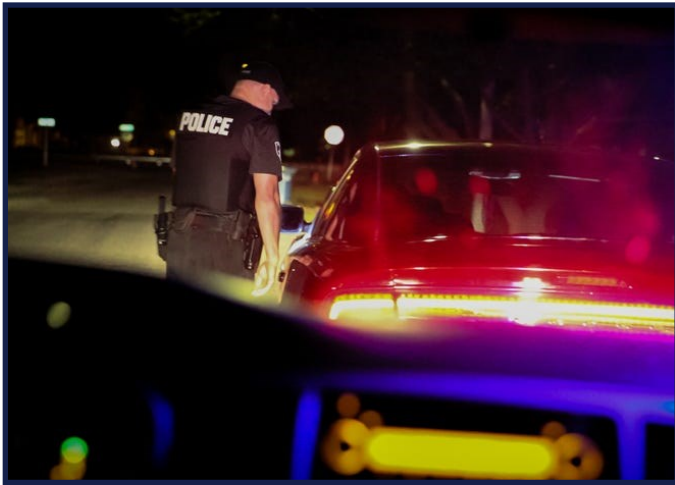
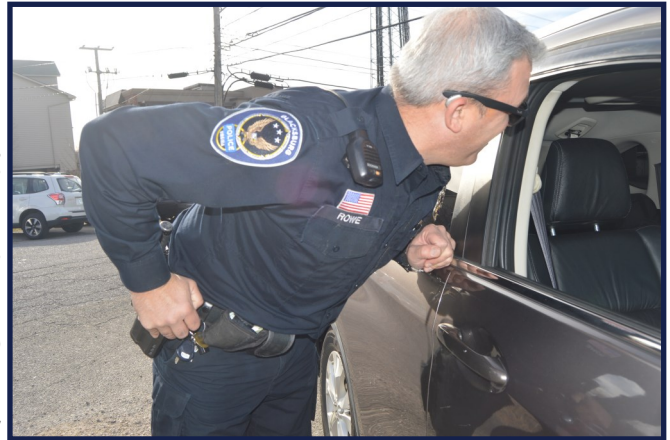
their peers treat them, so the Be Safe Blacksburg program helps educate students on how to prevent bullying and step up if they see someone being bullied. For adults, the program tries to get the community to look out for their fellow neighbors be either helping someone in need, such as walking an elderly woman across the street or calling emergency services for someone who cannot.



DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS

GRANTS

The Department continues to acquire grant funding to increase speed enforcement and engage in preventative alcohol violation programs. While enforcement is an essential component of our peace keeping efforts, it is equally important that we join with the community to serve other needs as well. Annually, the Blacksburg Police Department applies for grant monies to fund selective enforcement activities. The grants are submitted to the Virginia DMV and the Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control.



This directed patrol and enforcement activity targets specific enforcement issues in two primary fields: DUI enforcement and speed enforcement. The Blacksburg Police Department was awarded funds in fiscal year 2022/2023 of \$29,600 through the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Safety Funds through the Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles to target speed, occupancy protection, and driving under the influence

offenses. Blacksburg Police Officers worked 249 extra duty hours enforcing speed limits, occupant protection laws, and other moving violations, as well as seeking out DUI drivers. In 2023, officers issued 212 traffic citations while working grant funded directed patrol.

ACCREDITATION

CALEA

The Blacksburg Police Department has been a nationally accredited agency with The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies since 1993. CALEA is a credentialing authority reserved for use by public safety agencies that have demonstrated compliance with CALEA Standards. Blacksburg Police participates as a Class C, Tier 2 agency

and has to meet 461 standards in the Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation. This level is specifically designed for elite organizations striving to demonstrate professional excellence within a comprehensive range of

operational and administrative functional responsibilities.

The current accreditation process is a four (4) year cycle. Years one through four require web-based assessment and in year four; an onsite assessment is conducted. We have achieved advanced re-accreditation each cycle since 1993, under the Gold Standard Advanced Law Enforcement process, with Excellence. Blacksburg Police Department completed the most recent four (4) year cycle in March

2024. Blacksburg Police Department will be awarded re-accreditation in July 2024, Advanced Meritorious, at the annual CALEA conference in Winston-Salem, NC. Blacksburg Police Department has a part time accreditation assistant, since July 2021, to assist the Accreditation Manager with the accreditation process.

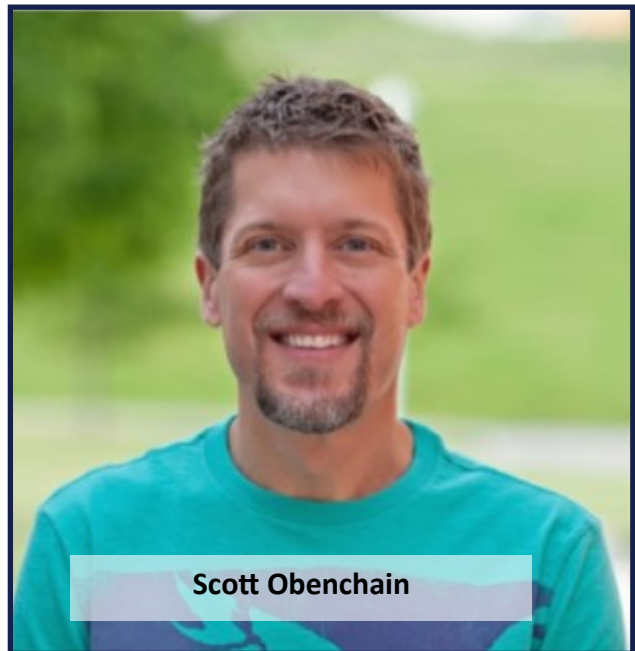


DEPARTMENT CHAPLAINS

The Blacksburg Police Department has two Police Chaplains, Dr. Thomas McDearis and Scott Obenchain. Chaplains work with Law enforcement personnel on a professional level by making themselves immediately available as trained and caring professionals who can assist in times of loss, confusion, depression, or grief to people in crisis situations. The chaplains provide this service not only to the community, but also to all department employees and their families as well. Dr. McDearis has served the department since October 2003 and Mr. Obenchain began his service in 2014.



Dr. Thomas McDearis



Scott Obenchain

WHATS TO COME?

The goals for the Blacksburg Police Department remain the same: *provide exceptional service and protection through leadership and partnership with the community.* Building upon the solid foundations that have been laid in the past, the department intends to enhance community engagement and provide the very best service to the community of Blacksburg.

Listed here are just a few of the programs that will be implemented in the upcoming year.

BICYCLE PATROL RETURNS

The Blacksburg Police Department will reintroduce its Bike Patrol Unit next year, aiming to enhance community-focused policing and accessibility. This move responds to public feedback, allowing officers to engage more closely with residents and provide quicker responses in areas difficult for patrol cars like our downtown area.



CO-RESPONDER PROGRAM

Set in motion in 2022, with the Marcus-David Peters Act going into effect, a new position within the department was created. A Behavioral Health Response Officer assigned to the Montgomery County Co-Response Team (MCCRT) works in a two person team with a mental health worker to respond to mental health calls for service to guide individuals to services and divert persons away from the Emergency Custody Order (ECO) process.



BLACKSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

SERVICE
INTEGRITY
RESPECT



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