



WACO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



Alone WE CAN DO
so little;
TOGETHER
WE CAN DO
SO MUCH!



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

On behalf of all the men and women of the Waco Police Department, it gives me great pleasure to present the Waco Police Department 2020 Annual Report. 2020 was a very challenging year as our community faced the COVID-19 pandemic. As with any annual report, the pages are full of facts, details and faces, but the result is only made possible through the hard work and dedication of our exceptional employees. This report reflects that hard work, outstanding accomplishments, and professional services provided by this agency during a year that changed a lot of the personal interaction that we, as an agency, have enjoyed with our community. As we continue forward in 2021 we look forward to returning to the personal interactions that we all enjoy.

The motto of the Waco Police Department is "Committed to our Community." We are committed to building strong, effective, and mutually beneficial police/community partnerships. The dedicated men and women of this agency strive daily to take a proactive approach to community policing and respond quickly to emergency situations, affording exceptional police services to our citizens. Working with the community is not only a philosophy, but an organizational strategy that promotes partnerships between citizens and their police. It is based on the premise that both police and citizens must work together to identify, prioritize, and solve community problems.

The City of Waco is an exceptional city and the efforts of our police officers, civilian support staff, volunteers, citizens and the steadfast public safety support from City Management, Mayor Meek and the City Council have made a positive impact on the quality of life in our community. I can assure you we will continue to meet the needs of our citizens and do so with a professional and dedicated staff. I welcome you to visit our website www.wacopolice.com, and encourage you to enjoy our City, its amenities, and know that your Police Department is always ready, should you need us.

An Honor to Serve,

Frank Gentsch, Interim Chief of Police



OUR VALUES

Public Service, Integrity, Accountability, Respect, Leadership, Diversity, Partnership, Excellence, and Professionalism.

OUR MISSION

Our Mission is to provide police services to the Waco Community with integrity, professionalism, accountability and respect, to preserve life and property, to enforce the law within the framework of the Constitution, to work in partnership with the community, and to be good stewards of the public's trust and resources.

CITY OF WACO OFFICIALS



Dillon Meek
MAYOR



Andrea J. Barefield
DISTRICT ONE



Hector Sabido
DISTRICT TWO
Mayor Pro Tem



Josh Borderud
DISTRICT THREE



Kelly Palmer
DISTRICT FOUR



Jim Holmes
DISTRICT FIVE



Bradley Ford
CITY MANAGER



Jennifer Richie
CITY ATTORNEY



Christopher Taylor
MUNICIPAL JUDGE



Esmeralda Hudson
CITY SECRETARY



Deidra Emerson
DEPUTY
CITY MANAGER



Paul Cain
ASSISTANT
CITY MANAGER



Ryan Holt
ASSISTANT
CITY MANAGER



Galen Price
ASSISTANT
CITY MANAGER (Interim)



OUR TEAM



SWORN DEMOGRAPHICS

85.5%
MALE

14.5%
FEMALE

75.5%
WHITE

14.1%
HISPANIC

10%
BLACK

.4%
ASIAN



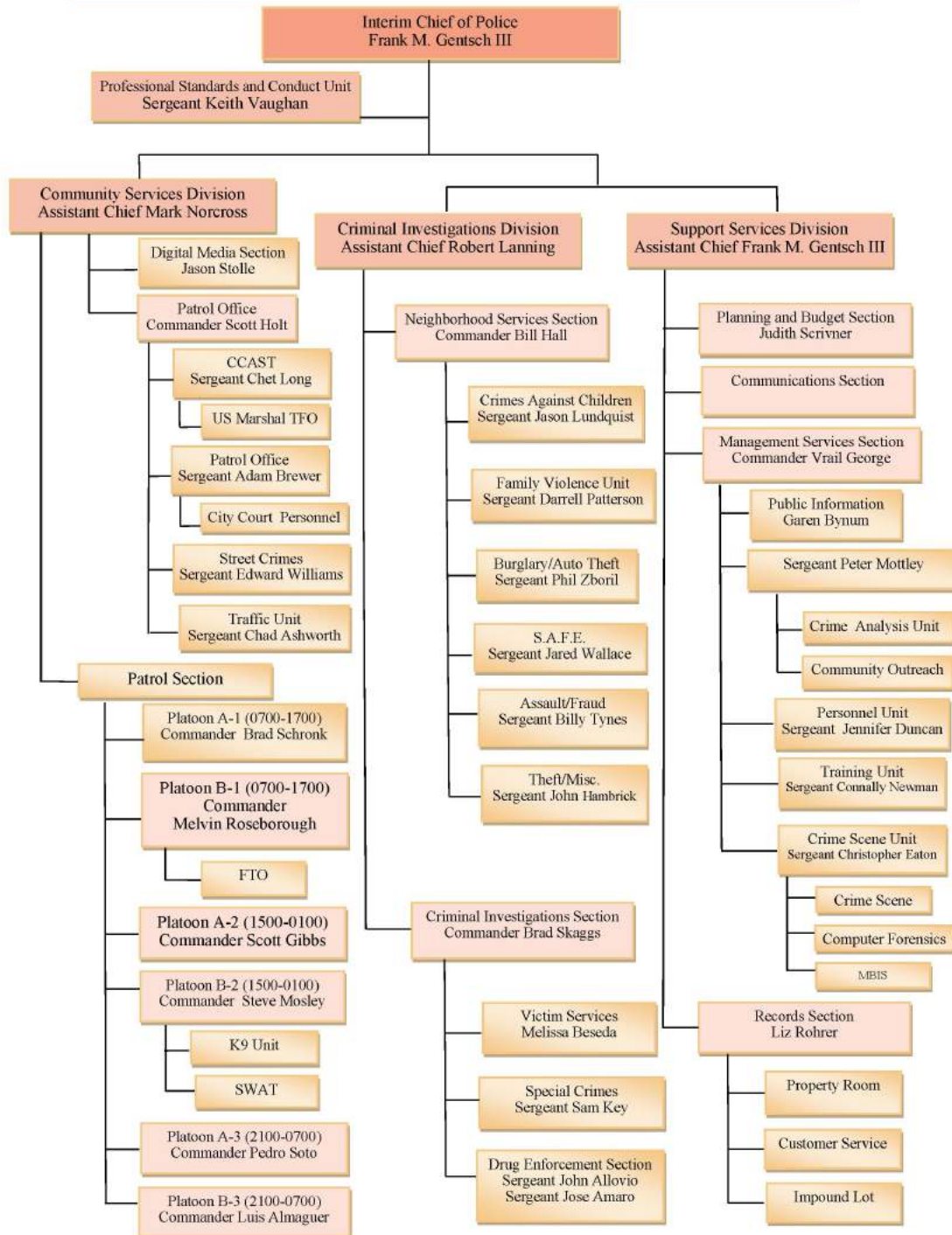
266 SWORN OFFICERS

- 1 Chief
- 3 Assistant Chiefs
- 10 Commanders
- 35 Sergeants
- 217 Police Officers
and Investigators

109 CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

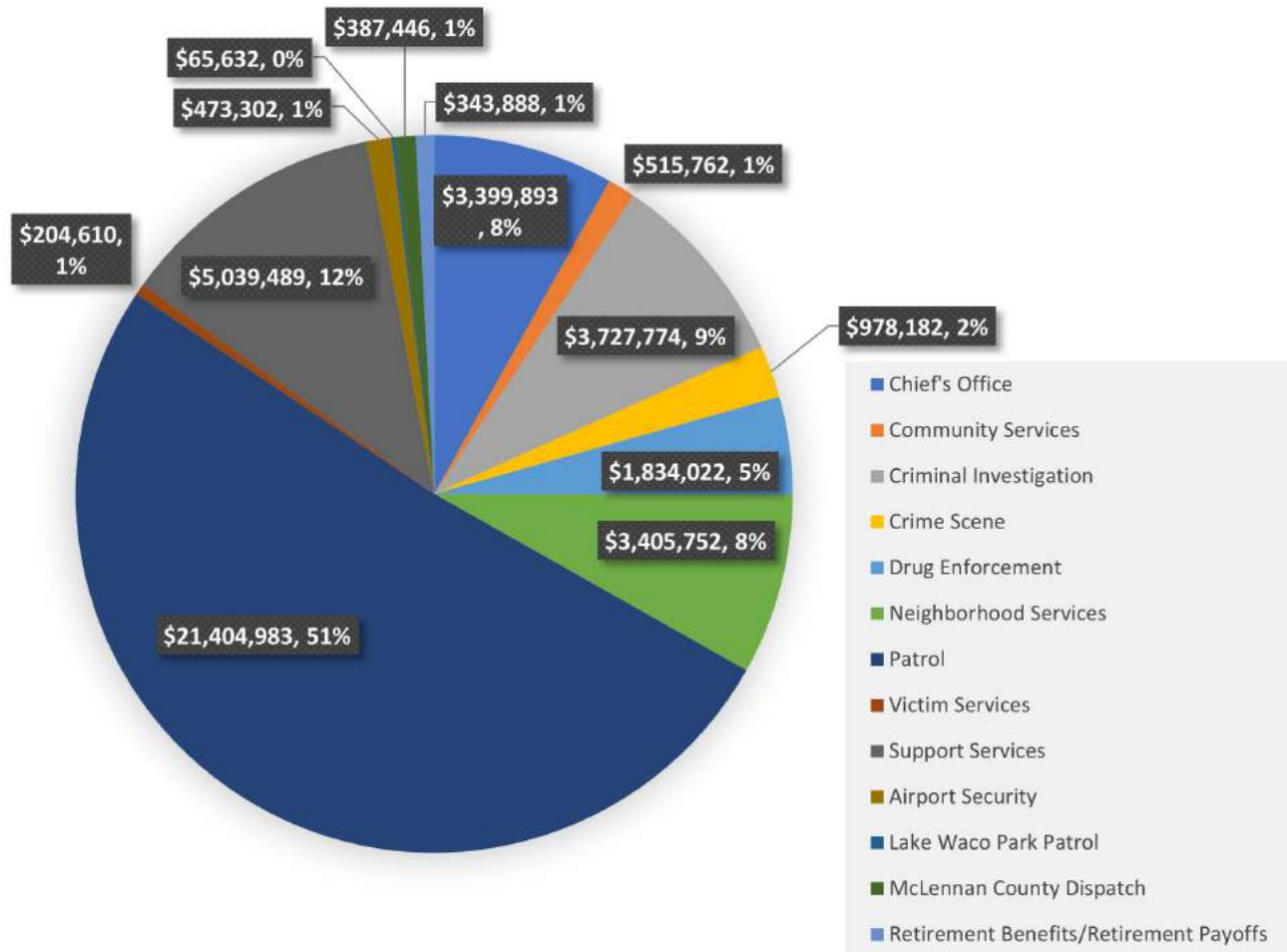
Administrative
Crime Analysis
Crime Scene
Community Outreach
Customer Service
Digital Media
Dispatch
Planning & Budget
Property & Evidence
Records
Victim Services

WACO POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2019/2020 BUDGET

\$ 41,780,736*

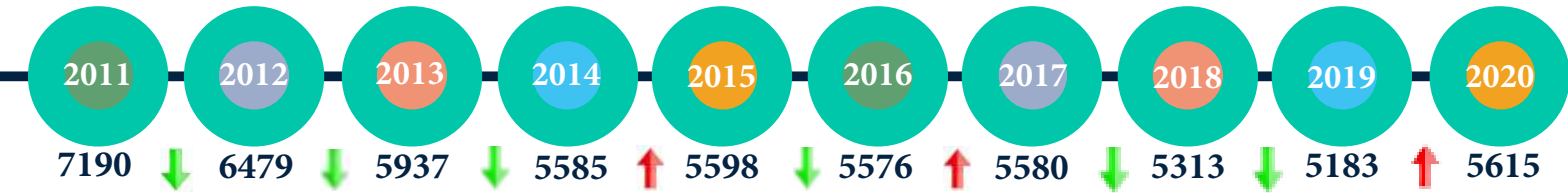


*Figure includes employee salary and benefits

PERFORMANCE METRICS

UCR Part I Crime Rate Summary

Crimes: Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Theft, and Motor Vehicle Thefts



Theft and Robbery stayed nearly even from 2019-20.



Auto Theft saw the largest increase; up 34% from 2019-20.



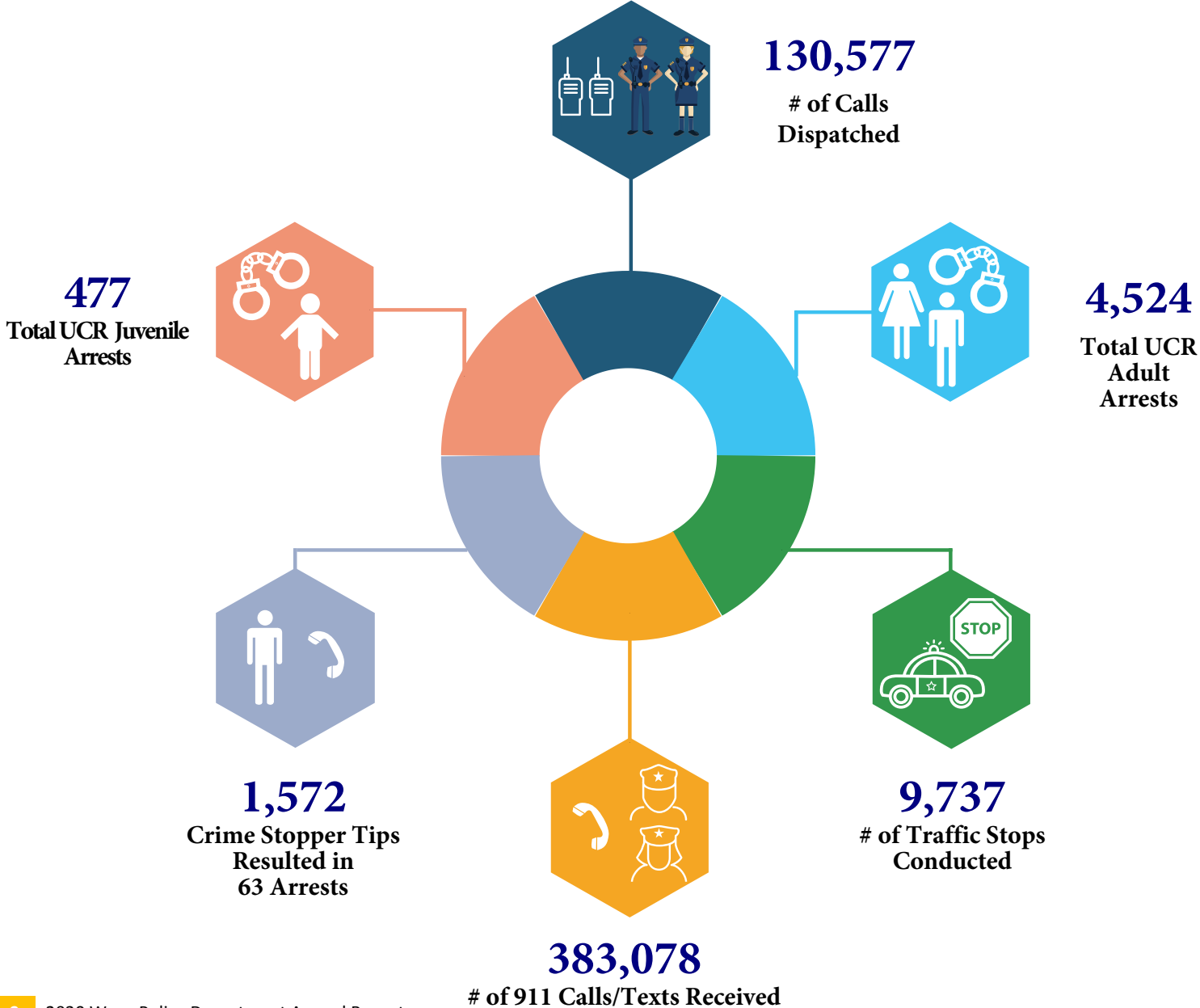
Part 1 Crimes down by 22% since 2011.

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program is a nationwide cooperative statistical effort of nearly 18,000 cities, universities/colleges, counties, states, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies voluntarily reporting data on crime brought to their attention. Part 1 Uniform Crime Report (UCR) crimes are broken into two categories: violent and property crimes.



PERFORMANCE METRICS

Activity 2020



2020 CRASH STATISTICS



139,236

City Population
(2019 Census)

3,716

Crashes
in 2020

-11.9%

Percent Decrease
from '19 - '20



16%

Personal Injury Crash
Percentage



4.2%

Alcohol/Drug
Related Crash
Percentage

2019

vs.

2020

Comparison

Number of Crashes

4,219



Number of Crashes

3,716

Crashes per 1,000 Residents

30



Crashes per 1,000 Residents

26

2020 FATAL CRASH STATISTICS

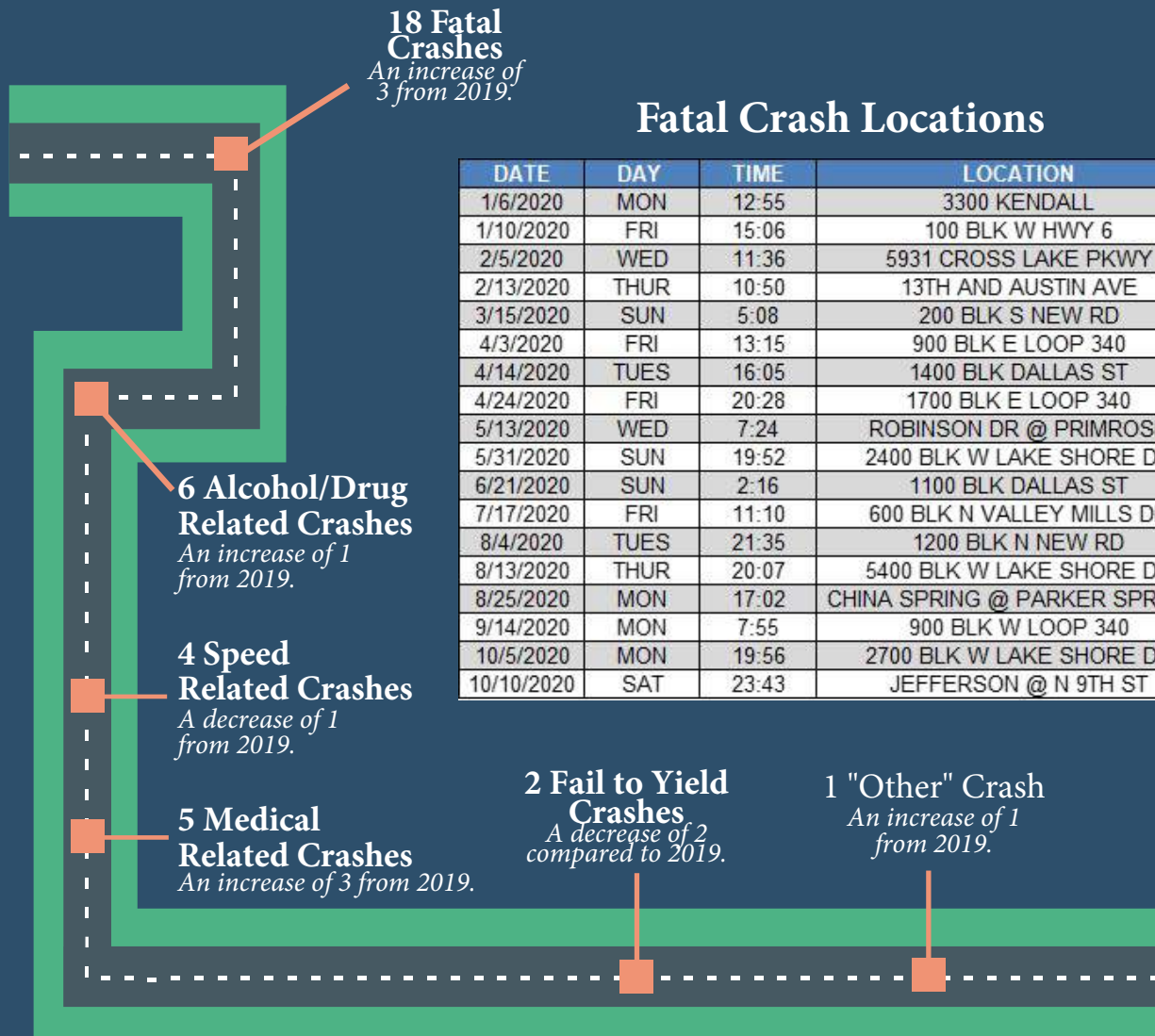




Photo Courtesy: Waco Tribune Herald,
Jerry Larson

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

The Community Services Division, led by Assistant Chief Mark Norcross, is the largest and most visible component of the department. This division provides policing services and responds to emergency calls in addition to other requests for service. The Community Services Division is comprised of specialized units: Patrol, Canine (K-9), Traffic Unit, Street Crimes Unit, City Court Personnel, Field Training Officers (FTO), Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Crisis Response Team, Career Criminal Apprehension and Supervision Team (CCAST), US Marshal Task Force Officer, and the Digital Media Section.



Photo Courtesy: Waco Tribune Herald,
Jerry Larson

K9 TEAM

The Waco Police Department Canine Unit is comprised of three K9 Officers and their handlers. Our K9s are trained and certified in narcotic detection and patrol functions. In 2020, The K-9 Unit had 155 primary arrests and 330 assist arrests.

TRAFFIC UNIT

One of the goals of the Waco Police Department is to promote the safe, expeditious flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic within the city. This is accomplished by fair and consistent enforcement of local traffic laws, traffic engineering, and educating the public. The Traffic Unit, comprised of five Officers and one Sergeant, also respond to community complaints regarding traffic concerns and dedicate enforcement efforts towards intersections identified as having high numbers of traffic collisions.

SWAT

SWAT officers are members of a highly trained unit that tackle situations beyond the capability of routine patrol. The Waco PD SWAT Team is called in when an incident presents significant risk to law enforcement officers or the public. In 2020, the SWAT Team assisted in executing 17 search warrants, led 6 trainings/presentations, 8 dignitary protections, and 9 barricaded subjects. SWAT team members contributed a total of 2,360.5 man hours in 2020.



Photo Courtesy: Waco Tribune Herald, Rod Aydelotte



1,403
TRAFFIC
CITATIONS
2,188
WARNINGS
ISSUED
(Traffic Unit)



Photo Courtesy: Waco Tribune Herald, Rod Aydelotte

CAREER CRIMINAL APPREHENSION AND SUPERVISION TEAM (CCAST)

The Waco Police Department Career Criminal Apprehension and Supervision Team (CCAST) strives to lower crime in the Waco area by focusing on repeat offenders. CCAST addresses repeat offenders in one of two ways: reintegration through rehabilitation or incapacitation through incarceration. The CCAST team supervised 40 persons in 2020, helping reduce the number of calls that patrol responded to by approximately 300 calls for service. In 2020, CCAST connected 23 individuals with MHMR services, primarily through the Reintegration Program. One individual went from no care at all to an actively managed full-time client. CCAST also enrolled 8 people into the Cenikor rehabilitation program. This endeavor has had an extremely high success rate, with only one individual returning to drug use. CCAST also established a partnership with Mission Waco and the “Hanger,” helping over 100 homeless individuals recover lost identification information.

In addition, the CCAST unit regularly collaborates with the operations of the US Marshals Service, TAG, and WPD Special Crimes to assist in operations and criminal apprehension. The CCAST unit has directly apprehended 111 persons in 2020.

U.S. MARSHAL TASK FORCE OFFICER

Waco Police Department's Marshal Task Force Officer works in conjunction with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to locate and apprehend the most dangerous fugitives and assist in high profile cases. The TFO assisted with over 250 cases throughout the year and assisted in seizing 28 firearms, 4,337 grams of methamphetamine, 114 grams of cocaine, and 12,287 grams of marijuana.



DIGITAL MEDIA SECTION

The Digital Media Section, comprised of a civilian supervisor and one civilian, is responsible for the management of the Department's digital media to include in-car videos, the Body-Worn Camera (BWC) system, and police building video surveillance cameras. The overall goal of the BWC program is to enhance community trust by documenting law enforcement encounters with the public while, at the same time, promoting accountability, transparency, and professionalism. In 2020, a total of 292,810 pieces of digital evidence was uploaded to our cloud-based digital evidence storage system. The Digital Media Section is also responsible for the redaction of videos that are requested and approved via the department's Open Records Request Policy.



Photo Courtesy: Waco Tribune Herald,
Jerry Larson

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

Under the leadership of Assistant Chief Robert Lanning, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) of the Waco Police Department is responsible for the detection and investigation of criminal offenses. Within the division are the following specialized units: Special Crimes, Drug Enforcement, Victim Services, Peer Support Group, Neighborhood Services, Crimes Against Children, Family Violence, and S.A.F.E.

SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT

The Special Crimes Unit is responsible for the investigations of violent crimes along with the screening and reopening of any "cold homicide" cases based on new evidence or credible information. The Special Crimes Unit assists the Texas Rangers in criminal investigations of any Officer Involved Use of Deadly Force that results in serious bodily injury or death of a person. In 2020, Special Crimes Unit responded to over 101 crime scenes. The unit was involved in the investigation of 17 homicides, which yielded 15 of the 17 homicides solved. The Sex Offender Registration Coordinators registered and monitored 533 sex offenders in 2020.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT SECTION

The Drug Enforcement Section enforces State and Federal laws regarding the illegal sale, distribution, possession, and manufacturing of controlled substances; illegal gambling operations and the investigation into the criminal activity of gangs. In 2020, the Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) was involved in 952 drug related cases that also included one Joint Agency Federal Title III investigation. Additionally, DEU seized \$40,693.65, 2 vehicles, and conducted 15 search warrants. The Gang Unit assisted with the investigations of numerous shootings and murders, helping to identify and apprehend suspects in those crimes.



VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

The Victim Services Unit is dedicated to positively impacting the quality of life for citizens of Waco by assisting victims and their families experiencing crime and trauma. The three Victim Services staff and numerous volunteers provide on-scene crisis intervention, death notifications, victim education, emotional support, follow-up contact, assistance with Crime Victims Compensation, referral services, and other pertinent victim needs. In 2020, the Victim Services Unit answered 500 call outs and assisted 1,734 victims. A volunteer training academy produced 5 new volunteers.

PEER SUPPORT GROUP

The Peer Support Group members, certified in Critical Incident Stress Management, conduct formal debriefings, provide one-on-one support, and give referrals after critical incidents for all Waco Police Department employees as well as employees of surrounding law enforcement agencies. The Family Peer Support Group completed its third year; held two fund-raisers and taught outreach to all incoming officers and spouses. The Peer Support team had 1,208 contacts for support and conducted 8 critical incident debriefings.

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES SECTION

The Neighborhood Services Section (NSS) consists of 3 specialized investigative sections: Burglary/Auto Theft, Assault/Fraud, and Theft/Misc.

The **Burglary/Auto Theft Unit** investigates crimes against property; specifically residential, non-residential, commercial, motor vehicle burglaries as well as thefts of motor vehicles. The Burglary/Auto Theft Unit obtained 130 warrants and made 43 arrests. The unit detectives conducted 13,524 searches using Leads Online which aided in the recovery of over \$257,484.62 in stolen property.

The **Assault/Fraud Unit** conducts follow up investigation of non-family violence related crimes such as assaults, stalkings, burglaries with intent to commit assault; terroristic threats, motor vehicle fatalities, and financial crimes. The Assault and Financial Crime Unit was assigned 2,101 cases, obtained 245 total warrants, made 66 arrests, prepared 550 DA packets, and issued 166 Class C citations (includes traffic violations).

The **Theft/Misc. Unit** investigates property crimes with the exception of auto-related thefts in addition to other criminal offenses. In 2018, the Theft/Misc Unit was assigned 4,199 cases, obtained 414 arrest warrants and recovered \$41,221.95 in stolen property.



**TOTAL NSS CASES
ASSIGNED**



CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN UNIT

The Crimes Against Children Unit is responsible for the investigation of violent crimes committed against children under the age of 17. The Crimes Against Children Unit also works in conjunction with the State of Texas Child Protective Services and The Advocacy Center to help these child victims. In 2020, a total of 863 cases were investigated by the Crimes Against Children Unit. The unit obtained 77 arrest warrants and investigated 2147 Child Protective Services Referrals.

FAMILY VIOLENCE UNIT

The Family Violence Unit conducts follow up on cases when the victim is related to the offender through marriage, girlfriends, boyfriends, intimate partners, roommates or acquaintances. In 2020, the Family Violence Unit was assigned 2,070 cases, obtained 203 warrants, and requested 88 Emergency Protective Orders for victims of domestic violence. A total of 536 cases were transferred to the McLennan County District Attorney's Office for prosecution.



2020 MULTI- HOUSING & RENTAL PROPERTY PROGRAM

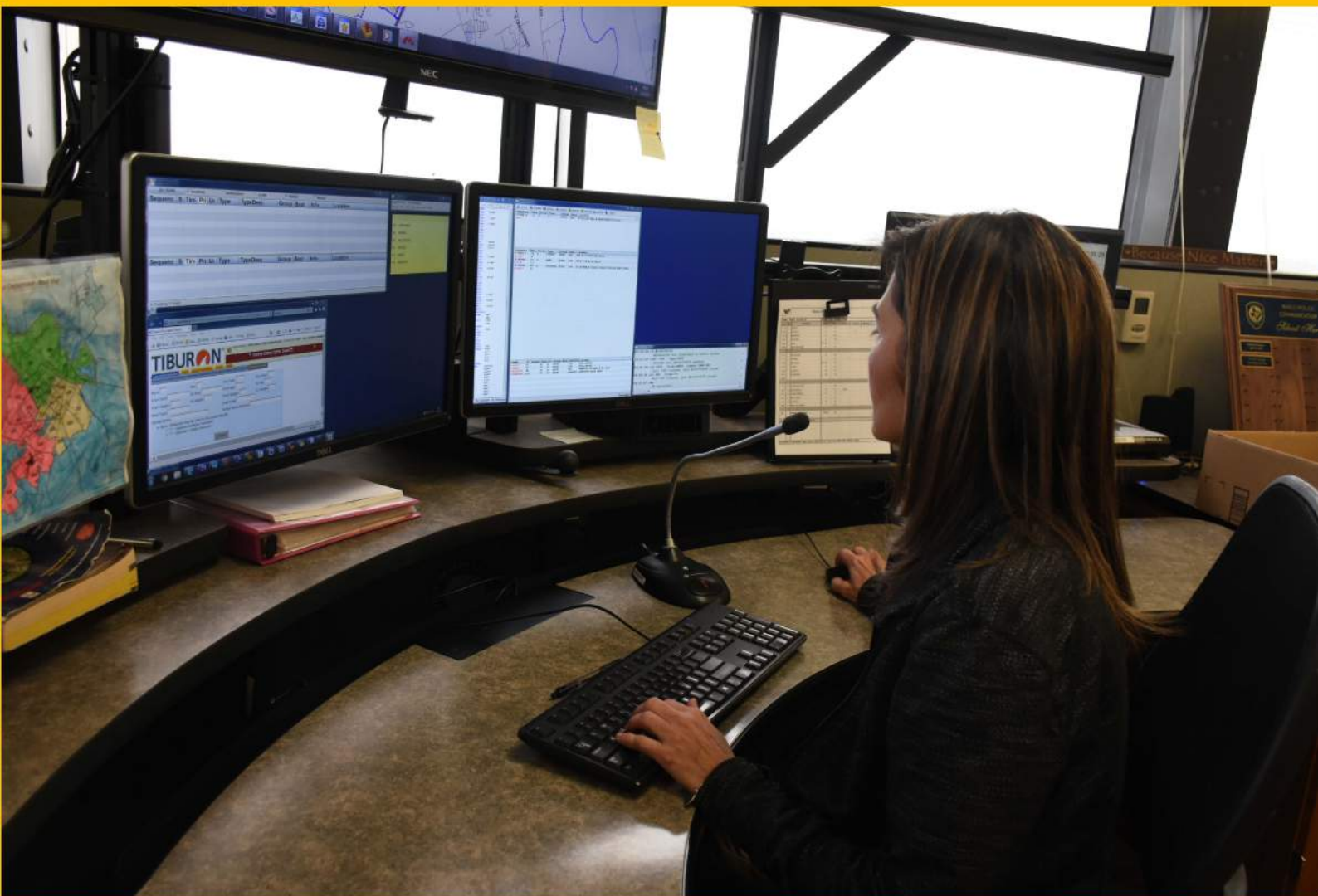
29% REDUCTION
IN CALLS FOR
POLICE SERVICE

42% REDUCTION
IN REPORTED
CRIME

75% REDUCTION
IN ARRESTS

S.A.F.E. UNIT

The Support, Abate, Forfeiture, Enforcement (S.A.F.E.) Unit handles asset forfeiture, nuisance abatement, and criminal investigations as well as business inspections of Game Rooms, Night Clubs, and Sexually Oriented businesses. The Crime Free Multi-Housing and Rental Property Program, spearheaded by this unit, builds a partnership between police and owners/managers of rental properties to keep drug and other illegal activity off their property. The S.A.F.E. Unit has 87 apartment communities and rental property management companies fully certified in the Crime Free Programs. These partnerships have resulted in a reduction of calls for police services, reported crime, and arrests at these locations.



SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

The Support Services Division is led by Assistant Chief Frank Gentsch. This division assists all other Divisions, Sections, and Units with their daily requisites. The Support Services Division is comprised of: Planning and Budget, Communications, Criminal Intelligence Unit, Public Information Officer, Personnel Unit, Training Unit, Community Outreach, Crime Scene Unit, Computer Forensics, and Records Section.



Photo Courtesy: Waco Tribune Herald,
Rod Aydelotte

CRIME SCENE UNIT

The Crime Scene Unit is comprised of seven Crime Scene/Latent Print Technicians and one Sergeant. In 2020, the Crime Scene Unit processed 4,904 crime scenes, 3,189 pieces of evidence, and took 59,142 digital photographs. Forensic Technicians examined 6,595 fingerprints for 993 cases with 164 MBIS hits. The unit also completed the installation of the NIBIN system, which provides investigative leads by correlating gun case evidence to weapons used in crimes nationwide.

COMPUTER FORENSICS

The Computer Forensics Unit performs computer forensic investigations which entail examining computers and components, digital storage media, and cell phones in an attempt to identify and seize evidence related to various crimes. In 2020, the unit examined over 100 iPhones, 98 Android phones, 5 PCs, 1 Macbook, 7 tablets, 2 external hard drives, 4 thumb drives, and 9 DVRs.

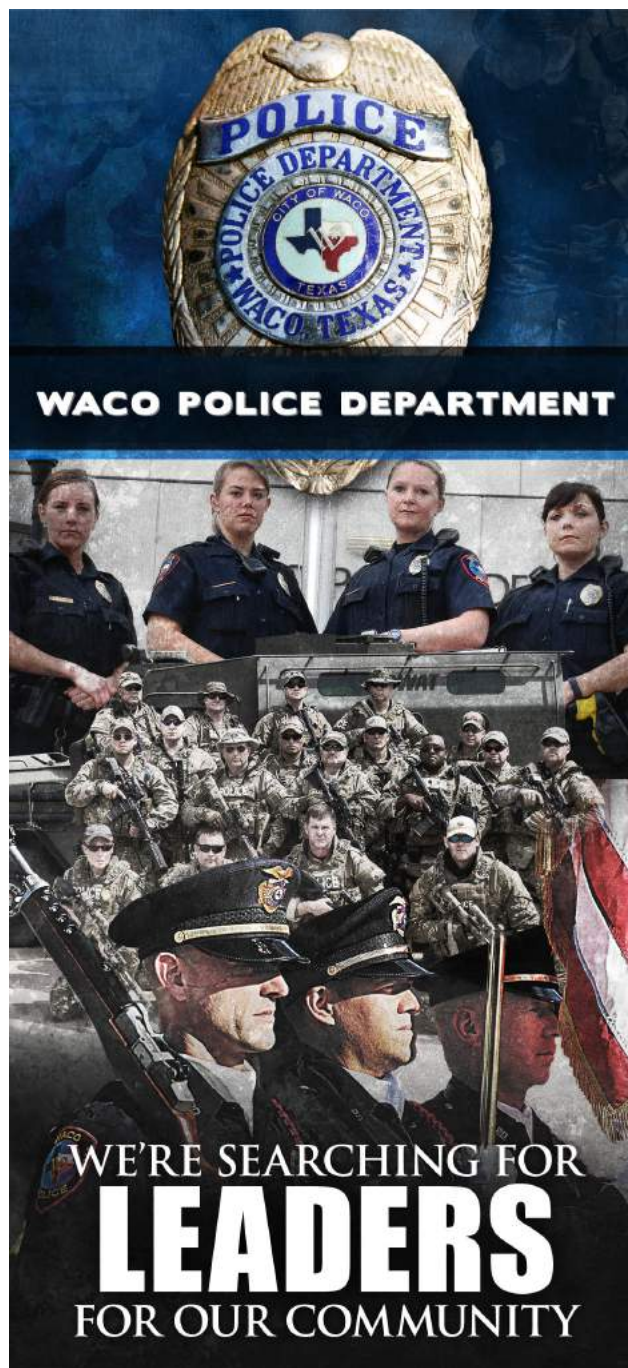
PERSONNEL UNIT

The Personnel Unit is responsible for overseeing an efficient, effective, and fair selection process; which results in the appointment of those select individuals, who possess the skills, knowledge, and abilities necessary to perform the duties of a law enforcement Officer within the City of Waco. In addition to sworn officers, the Personnel Unit is responsible for conducting background checks on our civilian employees, volunteers, and police chaplains; in conjunction with the City's Human Resources Department. In 2020, the Personnel Unit hired 25 new recruits which included 6 FAST track officers.

If you are interested in joining our team and serving the Waco community, please visit our [employment page](#) for more information or contact our Personnel Unit at 254-750-7510.

TRAINING UNIT

The Training Unit is dedicated to developing the skills, knowledge, and service delivery of sworn and civilian employees. They provide comprehensive training to ensure our citizens are provided quality public safety services while being treated with professionalism, dignity, and respect. In 2020, the Training Unit accounted for 13,556 hours of training for our officers.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

A team of both sworn and civilian members act as liaisons to various community leaders and residents by building relationships, increasing trust, and providing important information about law enforcement and the Police Department. Community Outreach presented 97 Crime Prevention/Education programs to 2,912 citizens and addressed 2,340 non-valid alarms. The Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association and Citizens on Patrol volunteers contributed 804 hours to Waco Police Department and the City of Waco.

CHAPLAINS

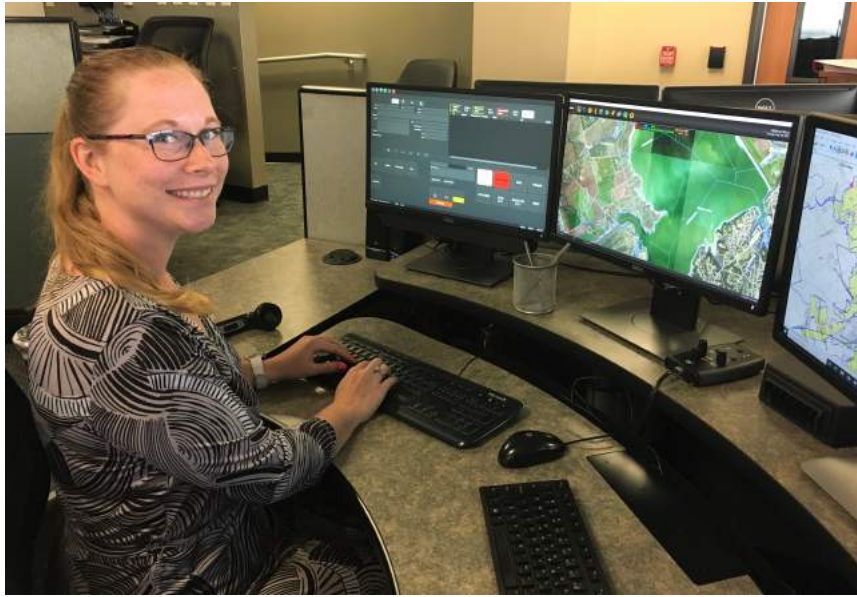
The Waco Police Department Chaplains, who are ordained ministers, participate in a variety of events during the course of the year; attend roll calls, graduations, promotions, retirement ceremonies, and conduct Officer well checks. They provide the invocations at police events and officiate at weddings. Chaplains conduct a monthly prayer session every 4th Thursday of the month. The Chaplains are available for all Department members and their families for counseling and support in times of need.

CRIME ANALYSIS UNIT

The Crime Analysis Unit provides a systematic analysis for identifying and analyzing patterns in crime. Information on patterns can assist with the deployment of resources in a more effective manner, and aid detectives in identifying and apprehending suspects. Crime analysis also plays a role in devising solutions to crime problems, and formulating crime prevention strategies. The Crime Analysts answered 413 analytical requests submitted by internal and external sources along with ad-hoc requests. In 2020, there was a 4% overall reduction of violent crime and a 1% overall reduction of non-violent crimes.

PLANNING/BUDGET

The role of Planning/Budget is to plan, coordinate, compile, administer, and monitor the department's budget and financial transactions; advise the Chief of Police on asset forfeiture functions; monitor the balance and ensure purchases are in compliance with state and federal guidelines; prepare, submit, and monitor department grants; and anticipate the department's needs to determine which methods work best for the delivery of key services.



93%



of all 383,078 calls
were answered within
30 seconds

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

The Waco Police Department Communications Center coordinates the delivery of emergency services to the City of Waco and McLennan County. The Communications Center is staffed around the clock by trained professionals who are responsible for receiving and documenting calls from citizens, dispatching resources as necessary, performing records checks, relaying information, and coordinating mutual aid requests from other agencies. The Communications Section continues to serve as the backbone of the agency, assisting citizens in their times of greatest need. Dispatchers worked extremely hard during 2020 to maintain exceptional service levels answering 383,078 calls; 130,577 were emergency related and 252,501 were non-emergency calls.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND CONDUCT UNIT

The Professional Standards and Conduct Unit, staffed by a Sergeant, is responsible for investigating all complaints of misconduct against our Department or personnel. Every investigation is conducted in a fair and thorough manner, with truth as the primary objective, recognizing that the rights of the employee and the rights of the public must be preserved. The Professional Standards and Conduct Unit's investigative statistics can be reviewed at:

[WPD Professional Standards & Conduct Statistics.](#)

IN OUR COMMUNITY 2020

POLICE EXPLORERS

Police Explorers is for young men and women who are interested in a career in the field of law enforcement. Police exploring offers fun-filled, hands-on activities that promote the growth and development of adolescent youth. Police Explorers Post 415 contributed 71 hours of community service to the department. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Explorers were not able to meet in person but were able to conference via Zoom.

JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY

The Junior Police Academy is setup for teens interested in the criminal justice field or for those who would like to learn more about law enforcement. The main objectives are to reach out to young teens, educate them in the Criminal Justice Program, and aid in decision making as they develop in to young adults contributing to our community.

CITIZENS ON PATROL

This program is designed for citizens who would like to assist the Waco Police Department in being an extra set of eyes and ears by reporting suspicious activity. Volunteers learn proper procedures in patrolling, how to determine criminal/suspicious activity, how to report information to dispatch, police radio use, and traffic direction. The Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association (CPAAA) and Citizens on Patrol volunteers contributed 4,194 hours to the Waco Police Department and the City of Waco. The Blue Santa Program, supported by the CPAAA, provided food, toys, and personal items for 100 families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Waco Citizens Police Academy is designed to give citizens a working knowledge of the Waco Police Department. Two, twelve week academy sessions are conducted once per year. The courses are held on one evening a week with class topics including: police recruiting, traffic stops, SWAT, police negotiations, crime scene investigation, crime prevention, dispatch, active shooter, drug awareness, family violence, and more.

WACO CRIME STOPPERS

Waco Crime Stoppers is an community based partnership formed by dedicated citizens, law enforcement, and the media with the common goal of crime reduction along with the arrest and conviction of criminals and fugitives. Waco Crime Stoppers received 1,552 tips resulting in 63 arrests and the clearance of 106 cases. Tipsters were rewarded a total of \$10,950.

2020 RECOGNITIONS

PROMOTIONS

Craig Morosko
Sergeant - 1/19/2020

Troy Sandifer
Sergeant - 1/19/2020

Adam Fuller
Sergeant - 5/10/2020

David Starr
Sergeant - 5/10/2020

Brandon Garrett
Sergeant - 5/10/2020

Ian Karas
Sergeant - 8/20/2020

RETIREMENTS

Ed Scarborough
Police Records - 3/5/2020

Doyle Anz
Detective - 5/29/2020

Kristina Guerra
Detective - 10/30/2020

Patrick Swanton
Sergeant - 3/27/2020

Connie Morsbach
Police Records
- 7/31/2020

Luis Almaguer
Commander - 12/31/2020

Steven Graeter
Sergeant - 3/27/2020

Terry Meals
Detective - 12/31/2020

Lonnie Underberg
Officer - 4/30/2020

Steve Borho
Officer - 7/30/2020

Pat Cheel
Police Records - 12/31/2020

Patrick Russell
Officer - 9/30/2020

2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS

OFFICER OF THE YEAR
Officer Bobby King

**ROOKIE OF THE
YEAR**
Officer John Kerschner

DETECTIVE OF THE YEAR
Detective Scott Vaughn

CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR
Keely Barber
911 Telecommunicator

**COMMISSIONED
SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR**
Commander Vrail George

**CIVILIAN SUPERVISOR
OF THE YEAR**
Tyler Duske
Dispatch Training Coordinator

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Jacqueline Warnell
Victim Services



THANK
YOU





**A publication of the
Waco Police Department
Criminal Intelligence Unit**

Created by: Angie McCallister and Bret Page

**3115 Pine Avenue
Waco, TX 76708
254-750-7500**

<http://www.wacopolice.com>

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