

FINDLAY POLICE DEPARTMENT



2003 ANNUAL REPORT

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CHIEF**

PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is the largest division within the Police Department consisting of (1) Lieutenant, (7) Sergeants, (43) officers and (1) administrative officer. It is responsible for patrolling the streets of the city suppressing criminal activity, enforcing traffic law and investigating complaints. In addition they provide security for parades, special events and provide security for the city parks.

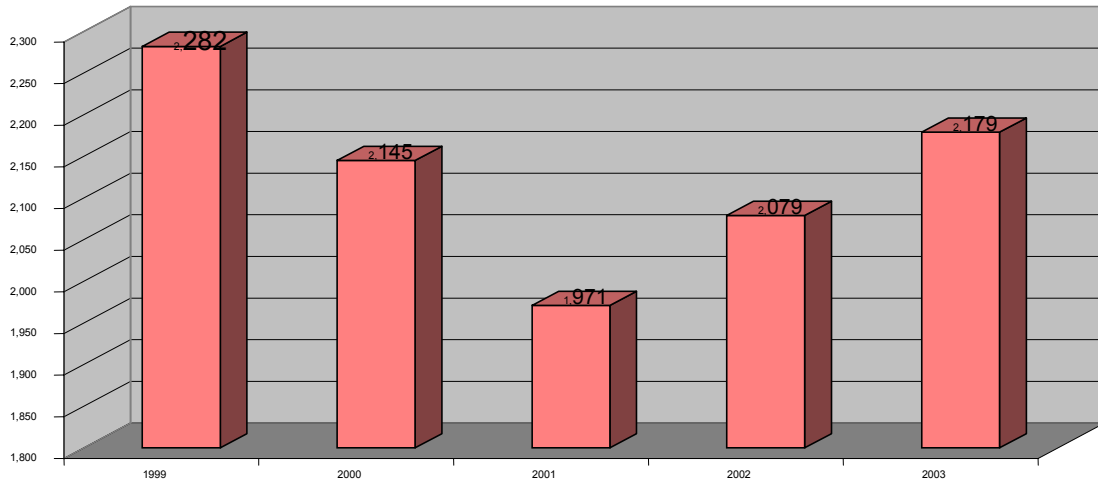
Again this year the division underwent change from the previous year. Officer Bryon Deeter was selected as the new K-9 officer and with his partner Flip replaced Officer Mike Swope and his dog Beaux on patrol. Swope and Beaux were transferred to the Vice Narcotics Unit. Officer Brad Doolittle was also transferred to the unit with Swope bringing that unit to (1) Sergeant and (4) Detectives. Also, two officers from patrol were activated and sent overseas to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The greatest change occurred when dispatch, which had been under the patrol division for many years, was made a separate unit and Dispatcher Nancy Clifford-Sherman was appointed Lead Communications Officer. She will be responsible for all dispatch activities and will free patrol sergeants to attend to their officers on the street.

A total of 31,895 calls for service were received by the department in 2003 resulting in 15,074 events being generated. These numbers are up 1% from last year when 29,324 calls for service were received and 14,386 events generated. These numbers are certain to climb over the next few years as the city continues to grow and the makeup of the community changes.

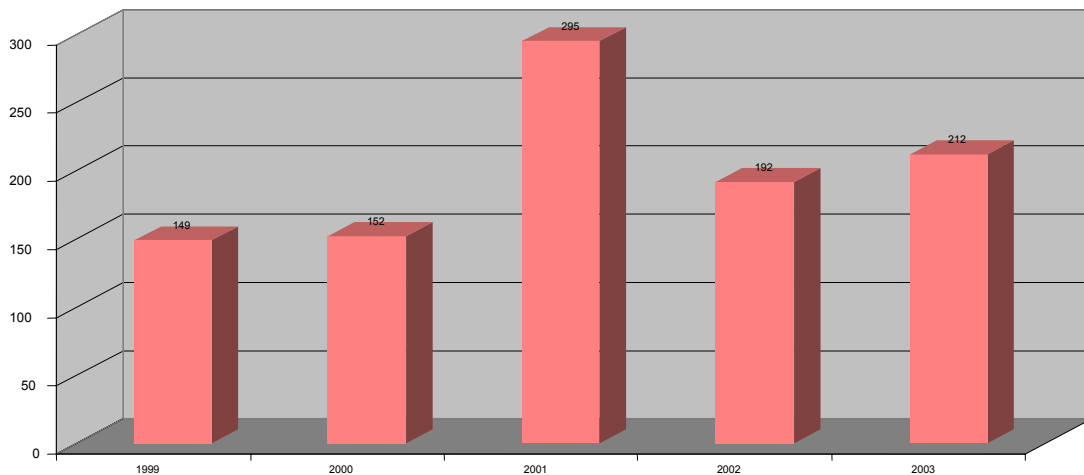
The division investigated a total of 2,179 vehicle crashes during the year with 1,333 being property damage accidents (up 5%), 229 being injury accidents (up 3%), 378 occurred on private property (up 17%) and 239 waivers were made (down 8%). The northeast portion of the city saw the greatest number of accidents again in 2003. The area on Tiffin Ave. from the 1200 block to the 2400 block experienced the most accidents. Other areas such as Bright Rd. near Tiffin Ave. and E. Melrose Ave. were also areas of concern. These areas are frequently targeted for directed patrol however as the city continues to expand in this area and becomes a regional shopping hub in Northwestern Ohio the area will continue to be a problem.

Total Crashes



For the year 3,985 traffic stops were initiated generating 5,112 citations and 1,572 warnings. Drunken driving arrests were up from 192 in 2002 to 212 in 2003. In 2004 the current law will be replaced by H.B. 123 which creates the offense of OVI, Operating a Vehicle while Intoxicated, as well as creating the offense of being in “Physical Control of a vehicle while intoxicated.” The bill also revamps the suspensions for driving offenses as well as implements new penalties for offenses. This will present a challenge for patrol to learn and then enforce the new laws.

Total OMVI Arrests



The patrol division stepped up its enforcement of liquor law violations in the city targeting underage drinkers, large disruptive parties, and liquor permit holding establishments. Officers investigated a total of 111 violations resulting in charges being filed. A proactive approach by patrol in combating this problem resulted in a 38% drop in the number of complaints received. The department feels that we have let it be known to persons who sell and consume alcohol in violation of the law will be caught and prosecuted

With the reallocation of enforcement responsibilities the Police Department has been able put forth a concentrated effort to enforce junk/motor vehicle ordinances. The Patrol Division also enforces ordinances that require the towing of motor vehicles. The majority of tows were traffic related, such as OMVI and Driving Under Suspension. Overtime Parking accounted for the largest number of tows in a single category. The Police Department is also responsible for enforcing ordinances related to junk/abandoned motor vehicles. to other departments within the City, this has been running very smoothly. Below is a highlight of main reasons for towing for 2003.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
OTP	15	27	16	11	7	11	13	14	11	7	4	8	144
Block Driveway	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	1	15
OMVI	1	2	7	2	3	3	1	0	4	3	3	1	30
Abandoned	1	0	3	1	0	0	2	2	3	3	1	1	17
Expired Plates	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	2	4	5	0	1	17
Flee & Elude	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
DUS	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	3	13
Unpaid parking	0	0	0	2	1	1	5	2	1	2	2	0	16
Hydrant	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	4	0	8
Hit Skip	1	1	2	1	1	3	2	4	1	2	0	3	21
Wrongful Entrustment	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	11
FRA	4	4	2	3	4	2	8	5	2	1	2	4	41
Fictitious Registration	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	4
Signs Prohibit	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	7
No Plates	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	2	0	3	1	11
Stolen Vehicle	0	1	2	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	11
Junk Vehicle	0	5	0	2	3	3	0	2	8	0	0	0	23
Drugs	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	4
Stolen Recovered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	4

The Findlay Village Mall Enforcement Program was continued beginning the day after Thanksgiving and running through the Christmas shopping season. In its seventh year plainclothes officers were available for immediate response to any situation that arose in or around the mall, providing a safe shopping experience for mall visitors. Patrol officers also provided security at Riverside Park and the Fort Findlay Playground during the summer months.

A number of parades and special events came to Findlay in 2003 such as the Gus Macker, Boogie on Broadway, the Arts Partnership Festival, Halloween Parade and both University of Findlay and Findlay High homecoming parades. The patrol division was drawn upon to provide security for these events and its numbers strained as a result. As the city continues to grow and diversify more and more events will come to the city presenting a challenge for patrol.

In May Officer Bryon Deeter assumed the new role as K-9 officer replacing Officer Swope and his dog BeauX. Officer Deeter and his dog Flip handled forty (40) calls for service. Twenty (20) were for drug sniffs, two (2) for the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), four (4) for the Ohio State Patrol, three (3) for the Vice Narcotics Unit (VNU) and eleven (11) for patrol officers. Flip amassed a known street accuracy of 83%. On one sniff alone Flip indicated on a vehicle resulting in the recovery of forty (40) pounds of cocaine. Flip was also used by the patrol for building searches, tracks of suspects and numerous anti-drug demonstrations. An excellent first seven months.

The bicycle patrol was also used in warmer months of the year. Officers helped provide security at parades and other special events as well as helping patrol Riverside Park. Although its patrol hours were down from previous years it continues to be an asset to the department.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

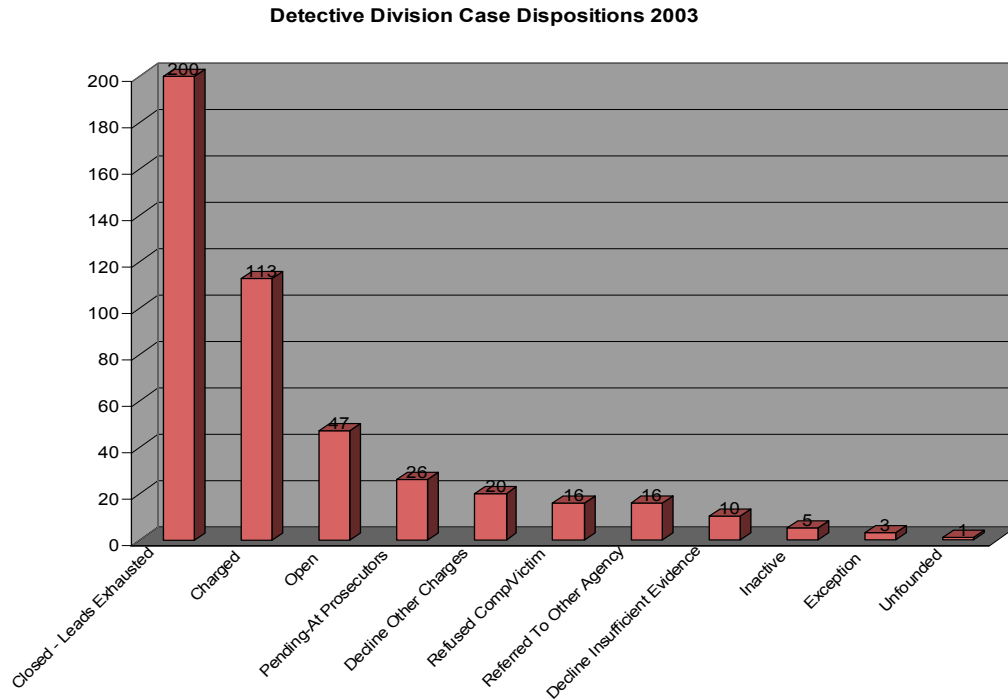
- Effectively train new officers to perform their duties
- Increase proactive patrols to repress crime and traffic accidents
- Adjust to the changing diversity of the community
- Continue to maintain high professional standards

DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Detective Division consists of one Lieutenant, one Sergeant, and seven investigators. The Sergeant's position was added in 2003, and is being used as a rotation assignment for Patrol Sergeants to gain investigative experience. One investigator also serves in a yearlong rotation assignment from the Patrol Division, for the same purpose.

Case assignments made to the investigators are based upon solvability factors. While many investigations were conducted by Patrol Officers, there were 457 cases assigned to investigators serving within the Detective Division during 2003. This averages approximately 67 cases per investigator for the year. This is a slight increase over recent years, but still within manageable limits. The dispositions of these assigned cases are reflected in the accompanying chart titled "Detective Division Case Dispositions – 2003." Based upon these closure codes, the rate at which

sufficient evidence was obtained to prosecute a case was 38%. This is a slight decrease from last year, but still within acceptable limits.



There were numerous success stories during the year worthy of mention. With the assistance of investigators from the Hancock County Sheriff's Office, numerous burglaries were solved both within the city and county. Large embezzlement cases were investigated and successfully prosecuted. For the first time, DNA was successfully used to solve several local burglaries and thefts. Several robberies of local businesses were solved. One particular area that has seen improvement in both investigation and prosecution is that of child sexual abuse. This can be attributed to the team concept adapted for such investigations.

Goals for the Detective Division for 2003, as outlined in last year's report, included training newly appointed investigators, train two investigators in the area of child sexual abuse investigations, and maintain a solvability rate above 40%. While the first two goals were met, the solvability rate did drop below the 40% level. Two investigators received extensive training in the area of child sexual abuse investigations, and have been working in a team environment with Hancock County Children Services and the Hancock County Prosecutor's Office on these cases. As part of this approach, bi-weekly case reviews are conducted to review each reported case of child sexual abuse. Other training received by investigators during the year included identity theft investigations, and crime scene investigation.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continue formalized training opportunities in specialized areas
- Maintain a solvability factor near 40% or higher

NARCOTICS UNIT

The Findlay Police Department Narcotics Unit is comprised of one sergeant, and four investigators. The unit is assigned to the Hancock County Drug Task Force, METRICH Enforcement Unit. The Hancock County Sheriffs Office has two investigators assigned to the task force. The mission of the Task Force is to conduct narcotics investigations ranging from street level dealers to mid level suppliers. These investigations have been carried out with the use of confidential informants, undercover surveillance and responding to tips from the public. The task force is also tasked with enforcement of pharmaceutical drug crimes.

The unit did not obtain its current staffing until July 2003 when the fourth investigator was assigned. This is the first time the unit has been up to full strength since July 2000.

In 2003 the Task Force participated in Operation "Weigh-In". This is a program through the Ohio High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (O-HIDTA). This program involved investigators from the task force, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Allen County Sheriffs Office, US Customs, and US Marshals. This program increases the law enforcement presence on the highway system with an emphasis on drug trafficking and homeland security issues.

The task force maintains an intense networking system with other narcotic task forces that are adjacent to Hancock County. Through this networking the task force is able to obtain and provide information reference drug trafficking operations.

In 2003 the task force had 147 drug cases, which was an increase of 46% over 2002 and a total of 160 events, which was a 45% increase. On 10 occasions the task force assisted another agency with an investigation. A majority of those assists were with Seneca County METRICH Unit. Those involved buy bust operations within the City of Fostoria and Tiffin, working in conjunction with Seneca County METRICH, DEA, and BCI&I.

During marijuana eradication in August the unit recovered 157 plants with only about one-half of Hancock County searched. Inclement weather prevented further operations.

The unit recovered, seized, or purchased the following amount of drugs during investigations; Crack Cocaine – 288.6 grams, Cocaine – 91.6 grams, Marijuana – 11,814.3 grams (which is approximately 24 pounds), Ecstasy – 52 unit doses, Methamphetamine – 75.7 grams.

The unit conducted a total of 8 search warrants, which was an increase over 2002 when 3 search warrants were conducted. During the search warrants of drug houses in 2003 a total of two weapons were seized.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continue working with neighboring agencies and maintaining that free flow of information back and forth.
- Diversify our thought process and techniques, in conducting narcotics investigations.
- Increase the amount of search warrants that are conducted in order to create an uncomfortable environment for the transient drug dealer whose only purpose in being in this community is to sell drugs.

SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION

The Special Services Division is comprised of several smaller but vital and important units that contribute to the Police Department as a whole. These units include:

- Crime Prevention
- Fingerprinting
- Court Officer-Findlay Municipal Court
- Record Room Division
- Parking Division
- Property Officer
- Special Projects/Public Relations
- Training
- Crossing Guards

CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

The Crime Prevention Unit continued as a busy unit with the Police Department. Officer Tonya Miller continues to do a very efficient and effective job. Officer Brian Young has been a welcome addition to this unit. This unit continues to be a dynamic and essential part of this Department and the Community.

The Unit remains very active in the public and private school system, educating school age children about Crime Prevention issues. Some of the topics covered were Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco Prevention, Bike/Care Safety, Seatbelt Safety, Anger Management, Shoplifting/Theft, The Law, Criminal Consequences, and Stranger Safety.

The Crime Prevention Unit is also involved in numerous programs and committees, such as: Triad, File of Life, Red Ribbon Campaign, CODA, CUD, Findlay/Hancock County Crime Prevention Association, OCPA, Hancock County Community Partnership, Just Say No Club, Safety Town, Safe Kids, Pre-School and Adult Education, Health and Safety Fairs, Block Watch, Hancock County Fair, Face Up at the University of Findlay, Family Month Task Force, Millstream Employer Advisory Team, and Independent Living through Findlay High School.

Fingerprinting individuals for criminal record checks on Friday afternoons is another well-known function of the Crime Prevention Unit. The computerized system called "WebCheck" continues to be utilized. Criminal record checks are processed for taxi licensing, solicitor's licenses, and for employers.

The Crime Prevention Unit is an essential component of the Special Services Division and the Police Department as a whole. Many important relationships within the community are established through this office. Presenting a positive and helpful image, the Crime Prevention Officer can instill trust and responsibility within our school age children and provide education for the adults of our community.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continued training for Crime Prevention Officers
- Develop programs for all ages of children

- Research new policing techniques and up to date community policing objectives
- Get Business Block Watch back up and running and revitalize the existing Block Watch program.

COURT OFFICER

A court officer is supplied to the Findlay Municipal Court by the Findlay Police Department. Duties include courtroom security, court paper service (summonses, subpoenas, eviction notices), prisoner escort, and copying reports for Officers and Law Directors Office. Listed below is some of the activity generated by the court officer:

ACTIVITY

Total Papers Served	3,282
Paper Service Hours	925.75
Court Security Hours	885
Prisoners to Court	657
Copies to Prosecutor	611
Copies to Officers	25
Total Miles Driven	8,129

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continue good relations between the Court and the Police Department

RECORDS DIVISION

The Records Room is comprised of one (1) Supervisor and four (2) Clerks. Records management system software allows officers to make direct entries into the computer has decreased the record room workload to a manageable level. With the current system, reports are essentially ready

when the officer completes them but it also eliminates one more step of handling and that extra step that could create errors.

Even though the new records management system software allows direct entries, there are still some records that require the Clerks entry into that system.

- 3,949 Traffic Citations
- 1,572 Warning Tickets
- 377 Private Property Accidents
- 239 Accident Waivers
- 118 Gun Registrations
- 122 Bicycle Licenses

The total amount of money brought into the Records Room amounted to \$123,527.35. A breakdown of those amounts is as follows:

Fingerprint Fees	\$9,714.00	Impound/Tow Fees	240.00
Solicitor Fees	42.00	State Reimbursement	1,301.00
Taxi Fees	189.00	Pager Reimbursement	1,137.00
Report Copies	498.00	Cone Rental Fees	1,155.00
Bicycle Licenses	122.00	Parking Bad Check Fees	221.52
Witness Fees	54.00	Parking Lot Meter Fees	19,110.77
Misc. Bad Checks	45.00	Parking Lot Rental	14,145.00
Misc. Fees	5.50	Parking Violations	69,613.56
Credit Check Fees	84.00	False Alarm Fees	5,850.00

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continue to provide service in a professional and timely manner

PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The total number of parking tickets issued by the Department in 2003 was 11,099 of which 10,113 were written by Parking Meter Violations Representative(s) for 91% of all tickets issued.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continue to work with downtown businesses in alleviating parking problems

PROPERTY OFFICER

All property such as impounded vehicles, evidence from crime scenes, or recovered bicycles is the responsibility of the Property Officer. Another of the Property Officer's responsibilities is the annual "Police" auction. The total proceeds from the one (1) auction this year amounted to \$31,745.00.

The breakdown of the Police Department's contribution to the total are as follows:

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Unclaimed Items	\$ 6,612.25	3,627.00
Impounded Vehicles	\$14,010.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Items	\$ 100.00	25.75

Twenty-five percent of the total funds obtained from the unclaimed items are donated to the Crime Stoppers Program.

Management of impounded vehicles has been streamlined through the use of an outside contractor to store and/or dispose of these vehicles if need be.

The bar-coding system for property inventory is also operating well. It has streamlined the handling of property for the Police Department.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continue to manage property in an efficient and effective manner

SPECIAL PROJECTS/PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Special Services Division continues to develop and establish partnerships with our community. By doing so, we feel that Findlay will always be an excellent community to live, work, and raise a family in. The Division will strive to continue to develop other programs where we can work with the community in establishing strong partnerships.

TRAINING

The year 2003 involved many changes within the Department. As in the past, new officers came on board and were involved with either being sent to a Police Academy within the state and/or being assigned to a FTO (Field Training Officer) for 14 weeks. This was a constant process throughout 2003. Officers also attended group programs, which included CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) training. This training teaches officers techniques to intervene in situations in which they are dealing with a person afflicted with a mental illness. The ERT (Emergency Response Team) also attended monthly training sessions on various topics along with various officers attending schools throughout the year covering a wide range of law enforcement topics.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

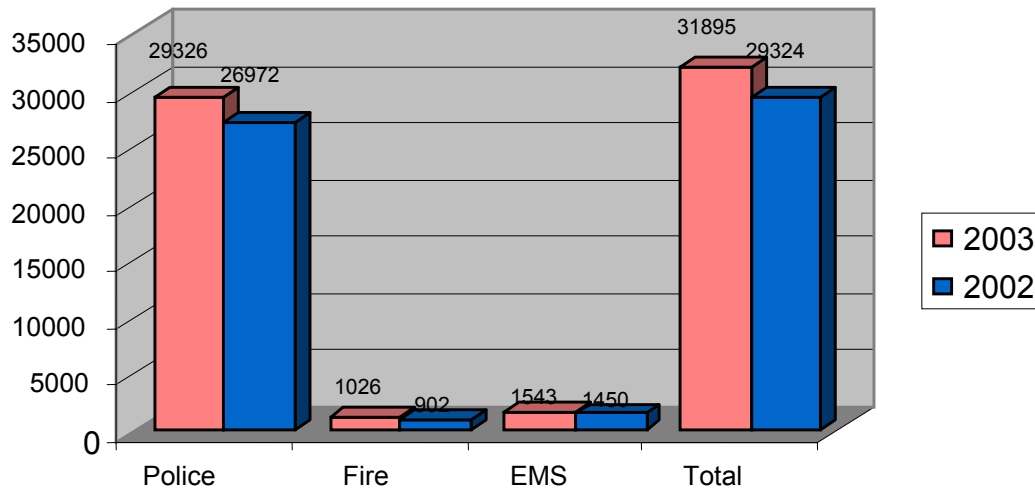
- To improve the amount of training given to officers
- To produce sharp, intelligent, and efficient methods of training new officers

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

The Findlay Police Communications Center is the central answering point for public safety agencies within the City. The center receives requests for emergency services from the public through an Enhanced 911 telephone system. In addition, non-emergency calls for police, fire and other departments are handled by the center. In 2003 the center processed 31,895

calls for service. This was an increase from the 29,324 calls generated in 2002.

Annual Calls for Service



The Communications Center underwent an organizational change in October 2003, with the creation of a Lead Communications Officer position. This position was negotiated as part of the current bargaining agreement and is filled by fiduciary appointment. The Lead Communications Officer oversees a workforce of ten Communications Officers.

Communications Officers use a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system to assist in call taking and dispatching operations. This system provides a quick and accurate way to document location and other incident information provided by the caller. It also helps track available and dispatched officers and fire/rescue units. The CAD system was updated in November. The updates have provided the Communications Officers with new search tools that enable them to assist officers to operate more efficiently in the field.

In addition to the CAD system updates, the state and national law enforcement information systems are in the midst of a complete overhaul. The new system is a Windows based program which allows for easier navigation. The new system offers a more comprehensive record of driving histories and vehicle ownerships. It also has an additional feature which allows the Communications Officer to access photo I.D.s, leading to enhanced officer safety while conducting investigations and warrant services.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Have all Communications Officers certified in C.P.R.
- Hire additional Communications Officers to accommodate three per shift.
- Upgrade equipment.