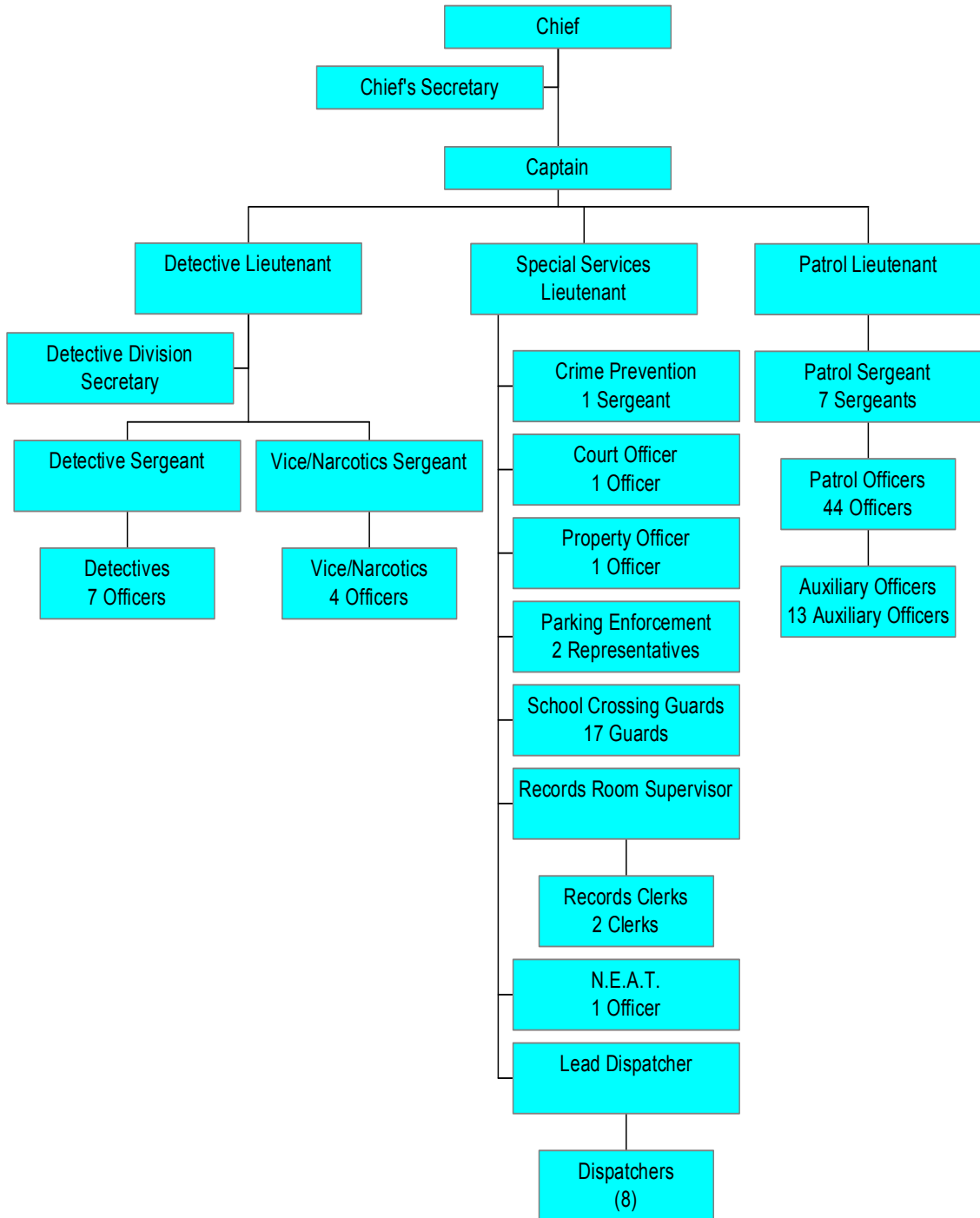


**FINDLAY
POLICE
DEPARTMENT
2004
ANNUAL REPORT**

2004 - Staffing Levels





PATROL DIVISION

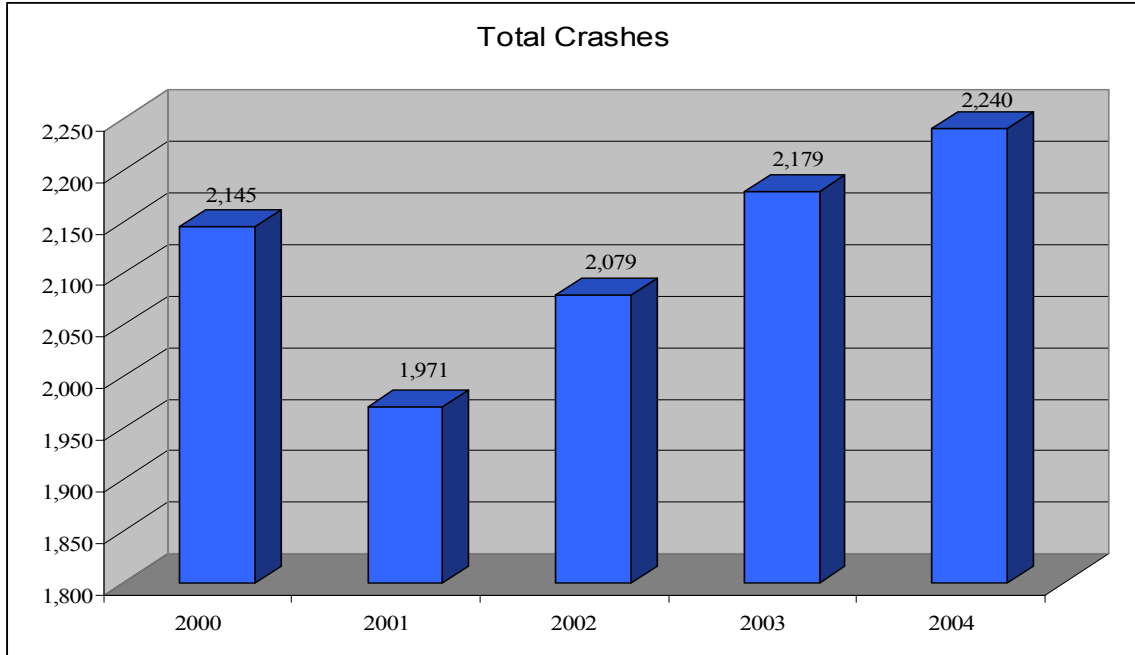
The Patrol Division is the largest division within the Police Department. It consists of 44 officers, 6 sergeants, 1 lieutenant and 1 vehicle maintenance person. It is responsible for patrolling the streets of Findlay suppressing criminal activity, enforcing traffic laws and investigating complaints. In addition it provides security for Riverside Park, parades and other special events, such as the two presidential visits prior to the 2004 election, Cruise Night, the Halloween Parade and Gus Macker 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament.

The Patrol division experienced some change in 2004. The division began the year with a complement of 7 sergeants; however one sergeant was transferred to the detective division to assist with supervision. Two new officers were added to fill vacancies and a new 15 week field training program was initiated for newly hired officers with great success. Two officers were activated in the armed services and sent overseas to Iraq. The division also added a civilian employee to take care of vehicle maintenance. This freed up a patrol officer who was then transferred to N.E.A.T.

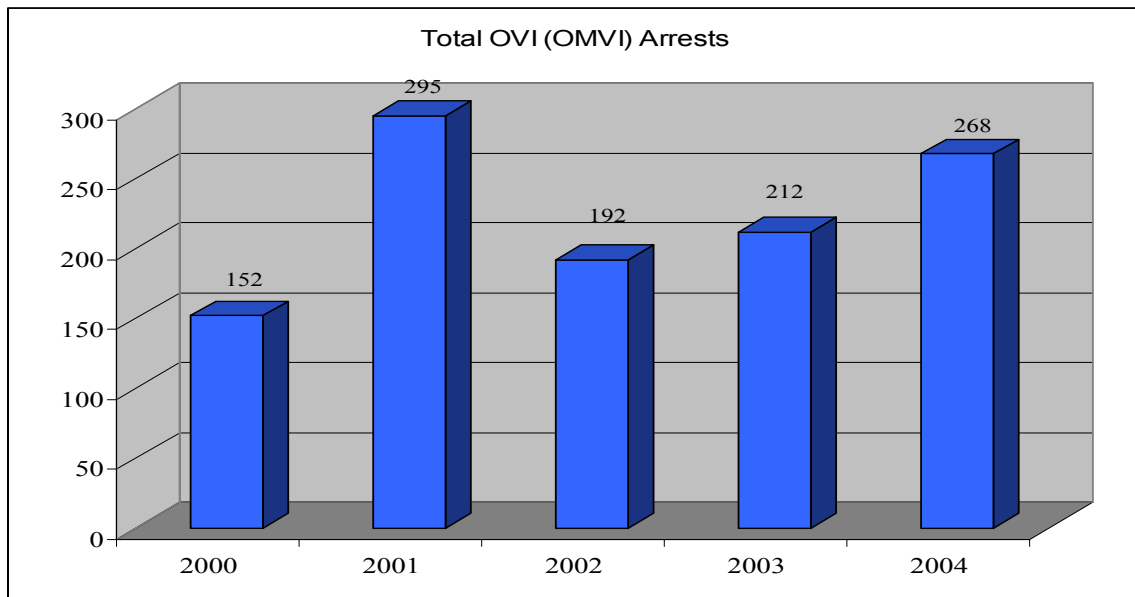
One of the most notable changes in 2004 was the uniform of patrol officers. The light blue or French blue uniform that had been the standard for decades was replaced by an all navy blue uniform. The new look was met with rave reviews from both the officers and the public and has added a professional modern appearance.

A total of 30,978 calls for service were received by the department in 2004 resulting in 13,935 reports being generated. Both of these numbers are down from last year when 31,895 calls for service were received and 15,074 reports were generated.

The division investigated a total of 2,240 vehicle crashes during the year with 1,370 property damage crashes, 259 injury crashes and 342 crashes occurred on private property. There was one fatal crash and 268 crash waivers. Again this year the Tiffin Avenue area from the 1200 block to CR 236 saw the highest incidence of traffic crashes. Due to retail expansion in this area Meijer Drive at Tiffin Avenue and the Wal-Mart entrance on Tiffin Avenue intersection saw another increase in crashes. Speed, Failure to Yield and Disobeying a Traffic Control Device were the primary causes. These areas have been targeted for enforcement in an attempt to reduce those numbers.



There were 3,303 traffic stops which generated 4,885 citations and 1,240 warnings. Operating a Vehicle while Intoxicated (OVI) arrests were up for the third straight year at 268. In 2002 192 arrests were made and 212 were made in 2003. Officers have adjusted to the new law without much difficulty. A new longer “look back period” of 20 years on OVI should result in more offenders being charged as felonies.



The patrol division stepped up its enforcement of liquor law violations by targeting under aged drinkers, large disruptive parties, and liquor permit holding establishments. Officers investigated a total of 165 violations, up from 111 last year. A proactive approach by patrol has sent the message to persons who sell and consume alcoholic beverages in violation of the law that they will be caught and prosecuted.

The Findlay Village Mall Enforcement Program was changed this year in order to address a larger retail area all along Tiffin Avenue. Traditionally, during the period from the day after Thanksgiving to the week after Christmas, plain clothed officers were assigned to the Findlay Village Mall, primarily targeting shoplifters and disruptive juveniles. This year, in order to combat problems all along Tiffin Avenue from the 1800 block to the 2200 block, officers were assigned directed patrol. They targeted the mall parking lots, Tiffin Avenue traffic flow as well as being available for rapid response to any calls for service. This appeared to work better than the former program which limited the officers to just the mall and did not address concerns other retailers had along this strip.

The patrol division provided security at the Riverside Park and Fort Findlay Playground during the summer months. In addition, they provided security for the Shuffle on Main, the Arts Festival, the Halloween Parade, the Findlay High School Homecoming Parade, the Balloon Festival, the Rib Off on Broadway and the Gus Macker 3 on 3 basketball tournament. The division was also called on to provide security for two visits to Findlay by President George W. Bush. The division performed admirably well and drew thanks and praise from the U.S. Secret Service. These events continue to grow and as the city grows, more events will come to Findlay presenting further challenges for patrol.

The K-9 program was a success this year as Officer Bryon Deeter and his partner Flip had approximately 82 calls for service. This number was up from 40 last year. The calls for service break down as follows: eight calls for searches by the Ohio State Patrol, eight calls for service for the Hancock County Sheriff's Office, one call from the Hancock- Metrich Drug Task Force, one call from Leipsic Police Department and sixty-three calls from service from the patrol division.

Flip seems to be progressing well. His tracking continued to prove accurate throughout the year. His known street accuracy for drug searches in 2004 was 82.6 percent. Overall his known street accuracy stands at 82.85 percent. He was called for drug searches a total of 36 times for the year. Often times officers reported that they had called for the dog to conduct a drug sniff and that upon hearing this, suspects freely gave up their drugs. A testimony to the effectiveness of Flip.

Bicycle officers were again used in the warmer months of the year providing security at the parades and other special events. Although its patrol hours were not high it still continues to be an asset to the department.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Effectively train officers to perform their duties
- Increase proactive patrols and become more responsive to the needs of the community
- Maintain high professional standards
- Adjust to the changing diversity of the community



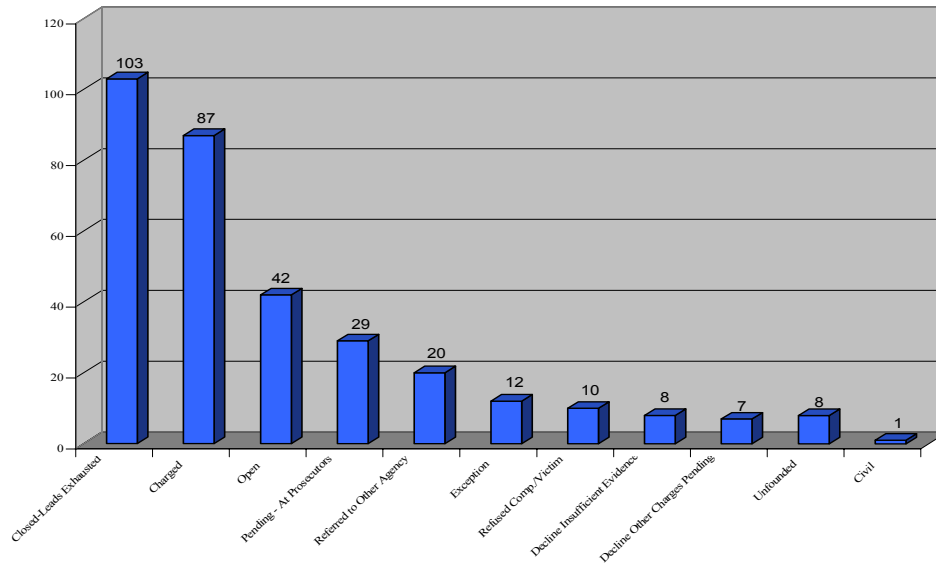
DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Detective Division serves in a support capacity for the Patrol Division. The Detective Lieutenant reviews incident reports generated in the Patrol Division and assigns cases to Detectives for further investigation based upon solvability factors. Investigations may be initiated from other sources as well, such as outside agencies, social service agencies, courts, attorneys, prosecutors, or tips from informants. The Detective Division also conducts background investigations for potential new employees of the Findlay Police Department and supplies a Juvenile Court officer on a weekly basis.

The Detective Division currently consists of one Lieutenant, one Sergeant, seven Investigators, and one civilian secretary. The Hancock Metrich Enforcement Unit Sergeant reports to the Detective Division Lieutenant. Assignment to the Detective Division is at the discretion of the Chief of Police.

There were 327 cases assigned to Investigators within the Detective Division during 2004. This is an average of 47 cases per Investigator for the year. That number is down from 65 cases per Investigator for 2003. Of those 327 cases, 42 are still open and under investigation at the time of this report. The remaining 285 cases received closure codes, as depicted in the accompanying chart titled: "Detective Division Case Dispositions – 2004." Based upon those closure codes, the rate at which sufficient evidence was obtained to prosecute was 44%. This is an increase from the 38% in 2003.

Detective Division Case Dispositions 2004



There were many high profile cases that the Detective Division investigated during 2004:

- Murder case - 2 suspects charged and convicted
- Internet importuning case – 1 suspect charged and convicted
- 2 Child kidnapping and rape cases – 2 suspects charged
- Residential and business burglaries – several different suspects charged with multiple counts each

The goals and objectives for the Detective Division in 2004 were:

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

Detectives were able to enhance their abilities through formalized training during the year. Some of the specialized areas of training included crime scene processing, child sexual abuse investigations, crisis negotiations, and homicide investigations.

The solvability factor did improve from 38% in 2003 to 44 % in 2004. A significant factor in this increase is the decrease in case assignments per Investigator. This allowed the Investigators to devote more time to each particular case.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continue to provide advanced training to Investigators in specialized areas of investigation.
- Reinstigate a program of rotating assignment to the Detective Division to allow Patrol Officers the opportunity to gain valuable experience in investigative procedures.
- Maintain a manageable caseload per Investigator
- Maintain a solvability factor of 40% or greater on all assigned cases



HANCOCK METRICH ENFORCEMENT UNIT

The Vice Narcotics Unit is a sub unit of the Findlay Police Department Detective Division. The unit currently has four investigators assigned to it along with a Sergeant as the supervisor. The entire unit is assigned to the Hancock METRICH Enforcement Unit. Hancock METRICH is responsible for the investigation of all drug crimes within Hancock County.

The Unit investigated 185 drug cases in 2004. This is a 27% increase from 2003 (146). Of those 185 cases, 5 of them were search warrants on drug houses, and 2 were possession cases where investigators made contact with suspects and recovered narcotics. During those 185 cases, 353 grams of crack cocaine, which is a 22% increase from 2003, 165.7 grams of cocaine which is an 80% increase from 2003, and 502.84 grams of marijuana, were seized. The marijuana seized is lower than 2003 due to a large shipment being seized in 2003. Also seized during 2004 were 84 unit doses of prescription medication and 100 unit doses of LSD.

In fall of 2003 the Metrich Unit began to see an upward swing in the amount of crack cocaine that was available within Hancock County. Upon further investigation it was discovered that a group of drug traffickers from Detroit, Michigan that had established themselves in the community. Through intensive drug buying and investigative work, the unit was able to identify and indict each of them on multiple counts of drug trafficking. These individuals were arrested and sent to prison through the Hancock County Justice System. For a short time after those arrests, there was a noticeable decline in the availability of crack cocaine in this community.

The unit continues to struggle with “transient drug dealers” coming into the community selling crack cocaine. Through a cooperative effort with adjoining drug task forces the unit will continue to address the problem.

The Unit participated with the Ohio HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) commercial vehicle initiative. This program takes place in truck stops along I-75 in Hancock, Allen, Wood, and Lucas Counties where investigators make contact with commercial vehicle drivers to investigate the transport of illegal drugs and any Homeland Security issues.

Starting in June the Unit began tracking intelligence previously gathered by incorporating it into the current records management system. This enabled investigators to organize and obtain intelligence more efficiently.

The Unit assisted other agencies with drug investigations on six different occasions. These assists comprised of providing manpower to other drug task forces when needed. A majority of those assists were in Fostoria Ohio, assisting Seneca METRICH with investigations.

The goals for the Unit for 2005 are to continue to make Findlay and Hancock County an unattractive location for drug traffickers wishing to settle in this community. This is to be accomplished through aggressive investigations and the arrest of these individuals.

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
- Dispatch Center
- NEAT
- 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 to be an active unit within the Police Department. Two officers began the year in this unit but were later reassigned to the Uniform Division. They have since been replaced by a sergeant. 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 systems educating school age children about Crime Prevention issues. Some of the topics covered were Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco Prevention, Bike 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, 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 the Crime Prevention Officer
- Develop programs for all ages of children
- Research new policing techniques and up to date community policing objectives

N.E.A.T.

The Neighborhood Enhancement & Abatement Team (N.E.A.T.) was established in June of 2004. It was created to handle complaints of junk on premises, junk vehicles, weeds, overgrowth, dilapidated structures, trash, etc.

It was initially staffed by two police officers and a clerk. The Crime Prevention Officer assisted during summer months when time permitted. At year's end the unit is being staffed by one police officer and a clerk.

Neat received 949 complaints requiring action with resolution rate of nearly 86%. The following is a breakdown of complaints:

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:

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 two (2) Clerks. The Records management system software allows officers to make direct entries into the computer and 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 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.

- 2,458 Traffic Citations
- 1,240 Warning Tickets
- 344 Private Property Crashes
- 268 Crash Waivers
- 66 Gun Registrations
- 51 Bicycle Licenses

The total amount of money brought into the Records Room amounted to \$99,798.53. A breakdown of those amounts is as follows:

• Fingerprint Fees	13,122.00
• Solicitor Fees	63.00
• Taxi Fees	119.00
• Report Copies	914.90
• Bicycle Licenses	51.00
• Witness Fees	42.00
• Miscellaneous Fees	21.00
• Impound/Tow Fees	160.00
• State Reimbursement	35.00
• Pager Reimbursement	778.95
• Cone Rental Fees	815.00
• Parking Bad Check Fees	322.68
• Parking Lot Meter Fees	15,727.00
• Parking Lot Rental	12,144.00
• Parking Violations	63,937.00
• False Alarm Fees	3,700.00

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 9,748 of which 8,657 were written by Parking Meter Violations Representative(s) for 89% 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, or recovered bicycles are the responsibility of the Property Officer. The Property Officer is also responsible for the administration of the annual "Police" auction. The total proceeds from this year's auction amounted to \$33,504.25.

The Police Departments' contribution to the total is as follows:

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
Unclaimed Items	\$ 3,627.00	3,961.25
Impounded Vehicles	\$ 0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Items	\$ 25.75	0.00

Twenty-five percent of the total funds obtained from the unclaimed items is 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.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continue to manage property in an efficient and effective manner

TRAINING

Only two officers were hired in 2004, one of which needed to take a refresher course to maintain certification. Additional officers received CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) training. This training instructs officers in how to intervene in situations in which they are dealing with persons in crisis who have been diagnosed with a mental illness. In house training on CPR was conducted department wide. The ERT (Emergency Response Team) attended monthly training sessions on various topics.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

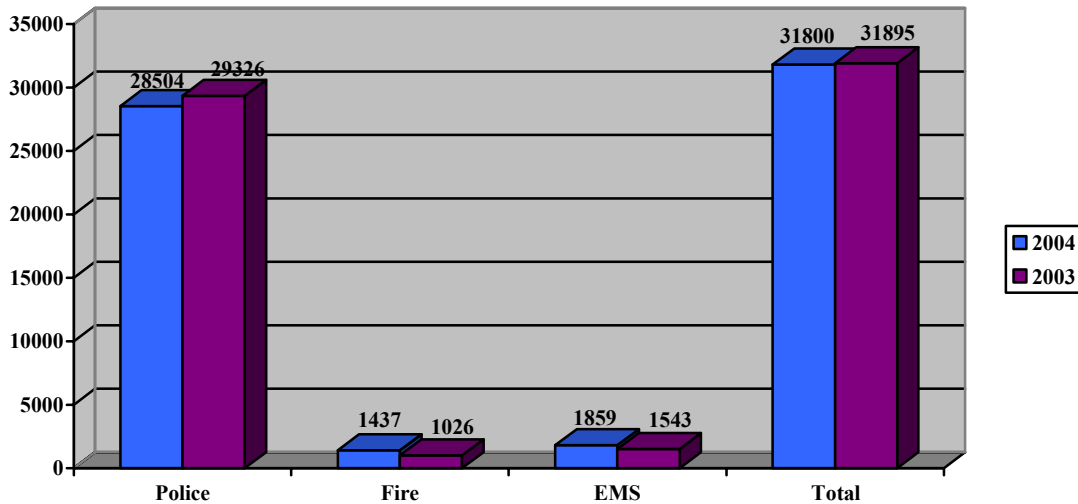
- To improve the amount of training given to officers
- To produce sharp, intelligent, and efficient methods of training new officers

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 2004, the center processed 30,978 requests for service. This was a decrease from the 31,895 calls generated in 2003.

Annual Calls for Service



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 overhaul on the National Law Enforcement Information System has been completed and its Windows based program has lead to a smooth transition.

The training goal set for 2004 was met when all of the Communications Officers were certified in CPR and First Aid. The Communications Officers also participated in continuing education addressing a variety of subjects including suicidal callers, domestic violence and hazardous weather conditions.

In an effort to meet federal guidelines for Domestic Preparedness and Homeland Security, all of the Communications Officers have been certified in FEMA's National Incident Management System (NIMS). Several have also gone on to receive federal certification in Household Hazardous Materials, Multi-hazard Emergency Planning, Radiological Emergency Management and Basic Incident Command.

In addition to the above mentioned training, the Lead Communications Officer attended training to become an Instructor for Emergency Medical Dispatching and the Department has been in the process of getting medical approval on the system they will be using.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Have all Communications Officers certified in Emergency Medical Dispatching.
- Train a group of Communications Officers in Tactical Dispatching.
- Restructure the Fire Dispatch techniques.
- Establish the Lead Communications Officer as a position separate from the Communications Officer.
- Hire additional Communications Officers to accommodate three per shift.
- Upgrade equipment.