

State of the Department

Covington Police Department

September 2020





Table of Contents

Letter from the Chief of Police	3
Organizational Chart	4
Statistical Data	5
Technology Upgrades	6
Field Training Officer (FTO) Training	8
Policies Updates	9
Recently Awarded Grants	10
Welcome Canine Officer Arko	11

From the Chief



On behalf of the Covington Police Department, it is my pleasure to submit to you this State of the Department for your review. This report contains a summary of what we have accomplished thus far and gives a glimpse into the progress that will continue as we grow and improve. It is important to note that the many changes and improvements that have been made were done within the budget that was in place when I became Chief.

August 27, 2020 marked one year since I was hired as Chief of the Covington Police Department. This past year has brought with it many changes which have not only moved our department forward in many areas, but also has greatly improved the overall morale of the officers. I have heard from so many of our men and women within the department how technology upgrades have made their jobs more effective and efficient. They are receiving training that is consistent throughout the department so that everyone is trained the same way. The tools that we have put in place for each and every officer to use makes their jobs easier, quicker, and provides more opportunity for them to be better officers.

Throughout the country, we are seeing tensions grow between citizens and police. I have always seen the need for community policing, but I feel that it is extremely important to take steps now to improve the bond created by interacting with the community we serve. We were recently awarded the C.O.P.S. (Community Oriented Policing Services) Grant in the amount of \$375,000. This grant allows us to hire three (3) additional officers for the purpose of community policing. We are looking forward to getting this program started and continuing to build a strong relationship with the citizens of Covington.

None of the accomplishments outlined in this report would be possible if not for the dedication of the great men and women of the Covington Police Department. Their commitment to this department and to the citizens of this community is unprecedented. Please review this report and feel free to come to me with any questions you have. I appreciate the continued support from our Mayor, Board of Alderman, and you! As Chief of Covington Police Department, I am excited about what we have already accomplished but equally look forward to greater things to come!

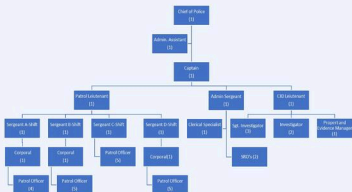
Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Lindsey".

Chief Larry Lindsey

Organizational Chart

Covington Police Department Flow Chart





Statistical Data

Reviewing crime statistics during my first year as Chief, I'm happy to report an overall 5.3% decrease in crime. Included in that is a 13.2% decrease in Part 1 crimes such as Robbery, Burglary, Motor Vehicle Theft, Sex Offenses, Aggravated Assault, Arson, and Homicide. Larceny, Embezzlement, and Counterfeiting/Forgery are crimes that mostly affect retail business. We are showing an increase in those types of crimes by 18.8%. This is an area I intend to make a strong impact on as we move forward. I'm committed to bringing these numbers down as well. Below, you will see a breakdown of crimes by category. Those highlighted in green have decreased in the past twelve months while those highlighted in red indicate an increase.

Offense Category	0918 to 0919	0919 to 0920	% Change
Stolen Property	3	1	-67%
Fraud	76	36	-53%
Robbery	8	5	-38%
Burglary	65	44	-32%
Motor Vehicle Theft	41	29	-29%
Drug/Narcotic	115	84	-27%
Kidnapping/Abduction	5	4	-20%
Vandalism	101	82	-19%
Sex Offenses, Forcible	23	21	-9%
Domestic Offenses	113	107	-5%
Assault	60	47	-3%
Arson	1	1	0%
Aggravated Assault	74	83	12%
Larceny/Theft	347	418	21%
Embezzlement	4	6	50%
Counterfeiting/Forgery	20	33	65%
Homicide	0	1	100%
Total Crimes Reported	1056	1002	-5%



Technology Upgrades

Mobile Data Terminals (MDT)

The MDT was the centerpiece of the necessary upgrade in technology for the Department. They allow us to advance our capabilities and reduce time on calls for service, leaving more time on patrol. With the MDT, the officers have multiple platforms and databases that are available to them from local, state, and federal partners. These databases and platforms now provide reliable, real-time information in their vehicle.

Before the MDT's, officers relied on the 9-1-1 Dispatchers to provide a wide range of information to them so that they could perform the necessary tasks throughout the day. Depending on the call volume and other radio traffic, an officer may have to wait 15 to 20 minutes to get the needed information. Now the officer radios in his/her location and the nature of the call to the dispatcher. Then, he/she has what he needs to obtain, driver's license, vehicle registration, most warrants without having to rely on the dispatcher.

Mobile Phones for Each Officer

As with the MDT, the mobile phone offers similar access to vital information, but on a smaller scale. Not all upgraded software and programs are compatible with mobile platforms. Still, the most important and most often used are compatible, and these phones allow the office to take this technology with them while conducting daily duties.

Mobile Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)

Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) is the primary platform used by most emergency service agencies to manage their daily activity and calls for service. Once a call is received, the information is entered into the CAD by a call taker or dispatcher. Besides necessary information such as name, address, and phone number, additional information such as suspect description, what the call taker can hear on the line, and anything else of importance is entered into the CAD.

Technology Upgrades Continued

Through Mobile CAD, information is displayed on the MDT's of the responding officers, along with GPS Map location and other important information that may be needed by the responding officers. Additionally, each MDT knows and displays the location of other MDT's or police units, which are logged into the Mobile CAD system. The Mobile CAD system provides additional technology that improves the overall safety of the officer and officer awareness while in the field.

Watsons Report Management System

Watsons Report Management System (RMS) is a highly effective and widely used program that is owned by Data Driven out of Bartlett, Tennessee. Watsons is installed on the MDT's and the app is also on the officers' phones. With Watsons, officers are capable of filing Offense, Crash, and Memo Reports and can also issue Regular, Warning and Parking E-Citations, Misdemeanor Citations, and can write Affidavits of Complaint from their police car.

Additionally, the officers have the same capabilities using the app on their department issued phone, but the phone has some draw backs regarding typing a narrative. The officers usually starts the report on their phones and the completes it from their laptop.

With the citation capability on the phone, the officer can complete the citation on the phone and have the person being issued the citation sign it from the officer's phone. After the citation is signed, the officer has a printer in his/her car that prints the citation for the offender.

The most unique and useful function of Watsons is the accessibility to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). The NCIC database is where registrations, drivers license, active warrants from across the country, missing persons, stolen vehicles, and a wide range of other information is stored and can be accessed. Additionally, when an officer is writing an Offense report, citation, or other report in Watsons and enters a person's name or driver's license number, Watsons is programmed to auto populate this information into the report from NCIC and check for local and NCIC wants and warrants on that person. The same can be said when entering a VIN number or tag.

The NCIC data base can also be accessed independent of the reporting system. This allows officers to request vehicle registration information, driver's licenses information, and warrants from their vehicle.

These technological improvements and additions are designed to assist the officers in their daily patrol activities while improving accuracy, minimizing time on calls, and increasing safety and performance. According to Data Driven, most officers who have the Watson RMS reduce their time on call by as much as 30%. This equates to 3.6 additional hours an officer can spend patrolling during a 12-hour shift.



Field Training Officer and Evaluation Program

The purpose of the Field Training and Evaluation Program is to train new officers so that each is prepared to function as a solo beat officer after their training cycle.

The training cycle consists of 14 - 16 weeks of intensive on-the-job training and daily performance evaluations. Training is conducted and staffed by field training officers (FTOs) who have the dual responsibility of providing police service in their assigned beats, as well as conducting training and evaluations for new officers.

Corporal Sarah Maclin manages the Field Training and Evaluation Program. She ensures that the program maintains the national standards of training and evaluates the FTO and the Officer in Training (OIT) to ensure quality training by the FTO and acceptable forward progress by the OIT. She also performs the final evaluation of the OIT to determine whether or not he/she has met the requirements and is prepared to operate as a solo officer.

Officers are required to meet specific performance standards in 30 performance categories before being certified for solo patrol duty. After completion of the FTO program, each officer is assigned to a patrol shift. During this time, the officer is evaluated bi-weekly by their patrol sergeant before fully being released as a solo officer.



Policy Updates

Department Policies were another area that I found needed to be updated, with the last revision taking place in 2007. Department policies are the procedural foundation and guideline for which a police department operates. These policies typically are based on common sense and practical reasoning. Still, they are often the result of a court ruling or events that have brought to light the need for guidance in a particular area or procedure. In addition, implementing these policies is the first step in our goal of becoming accredited within the next two (2) years.

For example, Governor Bill Lee—due to recent events that have occurred across the country—formed a Use of Force Policy Committee made up of multiple law enforcement organizations and the Tennessee Peace Officers Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Commission. Its purpose was to review and make recommendations to Tennessee law enforcement agencies on updating their Use of Force and the adoption of a Duty to Intervene policy. We have followed their recommendation by updating our Use of Force policy and added a Duty to Intervene policy.

With prior experience in policy and accreditation, I have an understanding of the importance of implementing and managing effective policies and having an efficient document management system (DMS) to ensure these policies are reviewed and updated annually. These policies are the result of a partnership between The Tennessee Chiefs Association and a top law firm to assist agencies like ours who do not have the resources to take on such an enormous task. With these policies, each agency must review and adjust the policies to align with their departments.

To assist in this, I have purchased a well established DMS that is widely used by law enforcement agencies across the country. As of September 1, 2020, the first of ten (10) chapters of our new policies were published department-wide.



Recently Award Grants

Department of Justice FY 20 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program - \$35,126.00

This grant provides funding to purchase equipment and supplies to be used to support efforts in the fight to eliminate the COVID-19 virus.

**Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office)
COPS Hiring Program (CHP) - \$375,000.00**

COPS Hiring Program (CHP) provides funding to hire three (3) officers to support the Community Policing efforts of the Department. Once the officers have been hired and trained, the police department will implement a new community police unit. Projected start date is January 2021.

Tennessee Highway Safety Office Grant - \$20,000.00

This grant provides overtime dollars to support the police department's efforts to reduce traffic crashes in the city of Covington. The Covington Police Department has partnered with the THSO for many years and will continue to do so.



Welcome Canine Officer Arko

In early 2020, Canine Officer Bella was retired after ten years of service with the Department. Bella served the department well and was responsible for multiple narcotics interdictions and arrests in our city. We here at the police department want to think Bella and her partner Cpl. Lightsey for a job well done. Bella is now living the remainder of her life with Cpl. Lightsey and his family where she can play, lounge, and enjoy retirement.

Upon Bella's retirement, the reins were handed over to Arko, our departments' new canine officer and his handler Officer James Perry. Arko comes to us from the Houston K-9 Academy and is a two (2) year old German Shepherd. Arko and Officer Perry received 15 weeks of intense Patrol and Narcotics training by the Desoto County Sheriff's Office thanks to the kindness of Sheriff Bill Rasco. As a result of Sheriff Rasco's generosity, the department saved approximately \$25,000.00 in training cost. Thank you Sheriff Rasco!! Arko, along with his partner Officer Perry, have been patrolling the street of Covington for a few months now and are a great addition to the Covington Police Department and will be for many years to come.

