ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Fort Smith Police Department

Nathaniel Clark
Chief of Police
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Mission Statement

In partnership with ALL segments of our community, the Fort Smith Police Department will provide for the general protection, safety and well being of all residents, businesses and visitors of the City of Fort Smith, Arkansas. This will be accomplished through a proactive approach in the prevention, detection and investigation of criminal activity.

The Fort Smith Police Department will seek to contribute to the highest quality of life for the entire City through the assistance, involvement and interaction of the citizens we have pledged to serve. All activities of the Fort Smith Police Department will be conducted lawfully in accordance with the laws of the City of Fort Smith, the State of Arkansas, and the United States of America.

Statement of Values

We hold as our sacred duty the preservation of life. It is this belief that defines our priorities.

We accept nothing less than truth, honesty and integrity in our profession.

We recognize that our basic responsibility is to enforce the law. Our role is to resolve problems, through the law, not to judge or punish.

We view the residents of our community as partners who deserve our concern, care and attention. We are committed to reducing the fear of crime in our community, and we endeavor to do this by creating partnerships in our neighborhoods.

We understand that our police powers are derived from the community members we serve. We do not tolerate the abuse of our police authority.

We recognize that our personal conduct, both on and off duty, is inseparable from the professional reputation of both our officers and the Department.
**Experience Fort Smith!**

This is where the New South meets the Old West! In Fort Smith, visitors are able to relive 200 years of history, explore a diverse natural landscape, and discover modern attractions and amenities inside of America’s original gateway to The Wild West. Recognized as a “Top Ten True Western Town,” by *True West* magazine, Fort Smith has played a significant role throughout our Nation’s history – especially during its frontier days – and provided inspiration to literature and film classics like “True Grit,” and many others. In Arkansas’ second-largest city, the past has always ensured the future, enabling Fort Smith to become a destination offering experiences that are as diverse as its history is colorful.

With an economy based on manufacturing, agriculture and service industries, Fort Smith is an excellent place to work. With a cost of living and mean home prices that are below the national average, as well as a highly-rated public education system, Fort Smith is a great place to live and raise a family. With over twenty-five parks and community centers, a myriad of restaurants, entertainment venues, shopping and historical sites, Fort Smith is also an excellent place to visit and play.
To the Honorable Mayor, Board of Directors, City Administration and Citizens of Fort Smith:

I am pleased to present to you the Fort Smith Police Department’s 2018 Annual Report.

Throughout the year of 2018, the men and women of the Fort Smith Police Department were, and remain committed to, providing exceptional services for the citizens of Fort Smith, as well as serving as a valuable resource to other law enforcement agencies throughout the state. We take seriously our mission of providing excellence in leadership, service, and support for our community.

The Department continues to stand at the forefront of the fight against criminal activity. The men and women distinguished themselves in the performance of their duties despite the many obstacles faced; we take pride in our quest to be guided by our moral compass and not by the clock. In reviewing the Department’s activities throughout the year, it is without question that significant accomplishments were achieved. Among those, the Department continued to build positive relationships with the community; implemented and/or enhanced outreach initiatives i.e. Operation Inside - Out, Community First (the goal was to make contact with at least 10% of the 88,037 residents of Fort Smith and officers surpassed that goal, reaching approximately 16%), Ballin with 5-O, Coffee with the Chief, Chief for a Day, Community - Unity Day and an array of others. The Department successfully secured in excess of $1.8 million for the purpose of enhanced training, technology (i.e., body cameras, radios) and equipment, employee wage increases, additional vehicles, building security and gated/security fencing, an additional motorcycle and we also secured Board of Directors’ approval of a 7-Year Action Plan which addressed funding for a state-of-the-art firing range, training facility, additional vehicles, east and/or south police precinct, CAD/Records Management System, and a Critical Incident/Mobile Response Vehicle.

I would be remiss if I didn’t expound on the Department’s efforts referencing apprehending those who chose to lurk our streets committing criminal activities. We attained a marked decrease in overall Part-1 Crimes (lower than the preceding 8 years) which is attributed to empowering officers to think out of the box, information sharing, enhanced training, equipment and technology, and improved relations with citizens, businesses, educational, and religious institutions.

In many respects, the initiatives, programs and plans implemented in 2018 represented the Department’s deep conviction that public safety is critical to a strong community, that the work we do matters, and that our passion to excel in our public safety efforts requires us to have a clear vision for the future and to take concrete and innovative steps to attain it.

The measure of the outstanding achievements recorded in 2018, and documented in this annual report, is based on the dedication and expertise of the Department’s Staff working daily to provide justice to victims of crime. The leadership they exhibited in their pursuit of excellence in suppressing crime and promoting safety in the city has contributed to building strong and lasting relationships with the citizens. It is with tremendous honor that the employees of the Fort Smith Police Department are afforded the opportunity to serve the citizens of this community with the goals of enhancing justice and improving the quality of life.

*Pride and Progress
Our strategies for 2019 include, but are not limited to, the following:

◊ Continue to form strong partnerships with other law enforcement agencies, clergy, probation and parole, prosecutors, jails and courts, civic organizations, neighborhood associations, and the community as a whole.

◊ Reduce crime through intelligence-led policing (i.e., develop collaborations and partnerships, promote capacity building through planning and encourage innovation).

◊ Conduct prompt and diligent investigations that exceed prosecutorial standards, thus ensuring that we are providing the best services possible to our citizens.

◊ Maximize the use of all available technological resources and traditional investigative methods to solve crime, track down and apprehend suspects, accomplices, and fugitives, as well as locate missing persons and recover stolen property.

◊ Enhance training, technology and equipment to aid in our delivery of services and to minimize liability.

◊ Fill vacant positions, enhance recruitment and retention, and continue to make daily deposits in our “Community’s Bank.”

It should be noted that the men and women of the Fort Smith Police Department remain committed to providing exceptional services for the citizens of Fort Smith. We take seriously our mission of providing excellence in leadership, service and support for our community and continuing the journey to become one of the finest law enforcement agencies in the nation.

I would be remiss if I didn’t express that it is an honor to serve as Chief of Police of the Fort Smith Police Department and to work with talented and dedicated members.

This document represents their vision (they are the Department).

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathaniel Clark
Chief of Police
Chief Nathaniel Clark assumed command of the Fort Smith, Arkansas Police Department on January 9, 2017. Chief Clark has over 33 years of law enforcement experience. During his career, Chief Clark has a history of enhancing relationships between law enforcement and the community.

Chief Clark continued his relationship building with initiatives such as his Community First initiative which exceeded the department’s expectations. This was just one of many initiatives that aided in producing a reported reduction in Part-1 crimes, the lowest in 8 years.

Chief Clark continues to attend numerous community events and develop/implement community relations initiatives to include the following: Operation Inside - Out, Community First, Ballin with 5-O, Coffee with the Chief, Chief for a Day, Community - Unity Day and an array of others.

Chief Clark has been successful in securing over $1.8 million referencing enhanced training, technology (i.e., body cameras, radios) and equipment, employee wage increases, additional vehicles, building security and gated/security fencing and more. Chief Clark also secured Board of Directors’ approval of a 7-Year Action Plan which addressed funding for a state-of-the-art firing range, training facility, additional vehicles, east and/or south police precinct, CAD/Records Management System, and a Critical Incident/Mobile Response Vehicle.

Chief Clark possesses a Master of Arts Degree in Public Administration, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice and a Certificate in Para-Legal Studies from Blackstone School of Law. Chief Clark is a graduate of the FBI National Academy (Session 182), Senior Management Institute of Police (SMIP), Chief Executive Leadership (SPI), 21st Century Police Executive Leadership, Driving Government Performance (Harvard Kennedy School), School of Law Enforcement Supervision, National Law Enforcement Leadership Institute on Violence Against Women, Dougherty Leadership Development Institute, Arkansas Leader Session VI and an array of other executive training. Chief Clark also possesses Levels 1 and 2 Chief certifications along with numerous other awards and certifications.

Chief Nathaniel Clark was recognized in 2018 by the American City and County as Exemplary Public Servant of the Year, First Runner Up and as a Top 3 Finalist for Chief of the Year by the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police.

Chief Clark believes that the citizens are law enforcement’s biggest asset and that we should strive daily to ensure "Daily Deposits in Our Community’s Bank."
Administration Overview

The Administration Division consists primarily of the Chief of Police and his professional staff, both sworn officers and civilian employees. The Administrative Division oversees and coordinates all divisions and units with the police department. The Administrative Division underwent a structural change in 2017 which brought together functions of similar tasks under one division to better address the needs of the department and the community.

The Deputy Director of Administrative Services was created as a civilian position to supervise many of the administrative duties such as payroll, budgeting, policy review, CALEA Accreditation, and the oversight of Professional Standards. An Administrative Sergeant was assigned to this unit to help coordinate these efforts.

The Homeland Security/Emergency Management Coordinator position was created to ensure adherence to FEMA Incident Command policies and to develop a critical infrastructure map of the City in a digital format. This map is designed to be a valuable resource in the event of a large scale disaster involving multiple City departments and other agencies.

Finally, the Crime Prevention Officer, Public Information Officer, and Beat Health Officers were reassigned to an all-encompassing Community Relations Unit under the direction of the Community Relations Sergeant. This brought all of the community outreach functions under one division to better facilitate the implementation of community outreach programs and improve the overall image of the department through social media campaigns, brand recognition, and improved transparency. Some of the outreach done in 2017 consisted of Active Shooter Training, Anti-Bullying, Neighborhood Watch, Domestic Violence Awareness, Diversity in Policing, and Church Safety.

Thus far, the impact has been extremely positive. The increase of positive interactions on the department’s social media pages as well as community outreach programs has positively influenced the perception of law enforcement in Fort Smith.

Finally, it is the responsibility of the Administration Division to ensure quality, professional public safety services to the citizens of Fort Smith through the reduction of reported crime through efficient allocation of all police resources. The reported crime in 2017 was significantly lower than 2016 and 2015, an accomplishment all officers of the Fort Smith Police Department should be proud of.
The Fort Smith Police Department is authorized 2016 officers and professional staff whose primary duty is to protect the life and property of the citizens of Fort Smith. The department seeks to improve the quality of life through its approach to the prevention, detection, and investigation of criminal activity.

When fully staffed, the department has 164 sworn officers who are assisted by 52 professional staff. Our department takes pride in serving our community. Our motto is, “Pride and Progress”.

In 2018, the Fort Smith Police Department had an operational budget of $17,002,058. The chart to the right shows distribution; 67% went to Personnel, 19% to Operating, and 14% to Capital Outlay expenditures.
2018 NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

FORT SMITH POLICE DEPARTMENT

⇒ **UCR Part 1 Reported crimes down 5.6% from 2017**
  Reported crimes also lower than the previous 8 years.

⇒ **Enhanced Hiring**
  Focused on diversity as well as expanded reach for applicants

⇒ **Funding approval for departmental needs**
  - Patrol Vehicles
  - Body Worn Cameras
  - Vehicle Ballistic Vehicle Door Panels
  - 5 Forward-looking Infrared Cameras for Patrol Vehicles
  - Security Fencing
  - Salary increases
  - Leadership training for supervisors

⇒ **Enhanced Community Outreach Initiatives**
  - Operation Inside Out
  - Operation Community First
  - Chief for a Day
  - Coffee with the Chief
  - Community Unity Day

⇒ **Approval for increases in sworn staffing levels**
  - 13 officer positions

⇒ **Over 15,000 Community Contacts**
  - Greater than 10% of the population of FS

⇒ **Increased Social Media presence**
  - Greater access for citizens to the police department

⇒ **Approval of 7-year action plan that focuses on the future of FSPD**
  - Placing a police precinct on the south or east side of FS
  - State of the art firing range
  - Technologically advanced police training center
  - CAD/Records Management System upgrades
  - Continue to replace aging vehicle fleet
  - Purchase Critical Incident/Mobile Response Vehicle
The UCR is the current, accepted standard for measuring criminal activity within a given area. Across the nation, agencies report UCR offenses to the Federal Bureau of Investigation which, in turn, publishes crime reports. The eight crimes that make up Part I Offenses are listed below along with their definitions. The following page shows the number of these crimes reported in Fort Smith in 2018.

**Murder**
The willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another.

**Rape**
The carnal knowledge of a person through the use or threat of force. Assaults or attempts to commit forcible rape are also included.

**Aggravated Assault**
An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe bodily injury, usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or other means likely to produce death or serious bodily harm.

**Robbery**
The taking or attempting to take, anything of value under confrontational circumstances from a person by use of force, threat of force, or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm.

**Burglary**
The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft.

**Motor Vehicle Theft**
The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

**Theft**
The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another.

**Arson**
Any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another.
What Is CompStat? CompStat is a performance management system that is used to reduce crime and achieve other police department goals. CompStat emphasizes information-sharing, responsibility and accountability, and improving effectiveness. It includes four generally recognized core components:

(1) Timely and accurate information or intelligence;
(2) Rapid deployment of resources;
(3) Effective tactics; and
(4) Relentless follow-up.

Upon his arrival in 2017, Chief Nathaniel Clark implemented CompStat within the Fort Smith Police Department. Since then, the U.C.R. Part 1 Crimes have been on the decline each year and are at its lowest in 7 years.

This reduction can be linked to several outstanding community initiatives implemented by Chief Clark. One such was Operation Community First. The objective of Operation Community First was for officers to make a concerted effort to interact with citizens in a non-enforcement setting, thereby building better relationships with citizens, businesses, educational and religious institutions.

The goal was to make contact with at least 10% of the 88,037 residents of Fort Smith. Our officers surpassed that goal, reaching approximately 16% of the population.
The department’s Community Relations Unit promotes a positive relationship between the department and the community we serve. This is achieved through interaction with the public at numerous events and via our ever-growing social media presence. 2018 was a breakout year for the Fort Smith Police Department Community Relations Unit. Department personnel attended over 150 community events, which reflected almost a dozen ongoing departmental initiatives and a multitude of programs hosted by our community stakeholders.
In 2018, the department brought the community in-house, hiring its first civilian Public Information Officer (PIO) and, on Oct. 13, opening headquarters to the public for Community Unity Day. The event welcomed over 500 guests for free food, building tours, and one-on-one time with Officers, Detectives, Administrative, and Command Staff. The department’s administrative staff cooked more than 500 hamburgers and 450 hot dogs for residents and their families. The event would not have been possible without several community partnerships, including the Antioch Food Pantry, Arvest Bank, Coca-Cola Bottling Company, and the Boy Scouts of America. Ward 2 City Director Andre’ Good called the officers “personal and engaging” with visitors and added, “The open house event allowed citizens to meet those who protect and serve. As taxpayers we got the opportunity to see our tax dollars at work. The comment I want to share, although there were many quotable moments, is hearing a small group ask, ‘what can we do to help?’”

Operation Community First was launched in October 2018 with the goal of increasing non-enforcement contacts and reducing the number of major crimes throughout Fort Smith. The initiative was implemented by Fort Smith Police Chief Nathaniel Clark and conducted by all FSPD staff. Through department-wide efforts, our officers reached 13,718 citizens, or approximately 16% of Fort Smith residents. This initiative was just one of many that aided in a reported reduction of Major Crimes, lower than the preceding eight years.

“The feedback from the community has been extremely positive; citizens and businesses spoke highly of it, referencing the greater visibility. The initiative clearly produced some outstanding results,” said Chief Clark. “It is without question: working together, we can and will make a difference in the quality of life in Fort Smith, and we cannot thank this community enough for its support and for allowing us to serve them.”

Additionally, video views for the year finished at just over 5.4 million. Noteworthy efforts were a viral Lip Sync video involving many of our officers and a new crime prevention series we will continue in 2019.

2018 was also a breakout year for the department’s online presence. Under management of the Community Relations Unit, the department became exponentially more active on social media, with an online presence on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, and YouTube by year’s end. Total views in 2018 were up 157% from 2017 at over 6.1 million. Engagement – the number who liked, shared, or commented on our posts – rose 320% to over 1 million personal interactions.
The above list represents just some of the events the department organized or attended. We expect 2019 to be an even more exiting year for the department and the citizens of Fort Smith. The Community Relations Unit wants to share in your efforts to improve our community. If you would like us to be part of your event, just reach out and we would be happy to participate. Together, let’s make Community First in our city.
COMMUNITY FOCUSED INITIATIVES

FORT SMITH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Operation Community First

This initiative encourages officers to make non-law enforcement contacts with citizens and businesses within the community to introduce themselves and inquire as to whether or not there are any issues or concerns in which the police department, or other city departments, could be of assistance. The Uniform Bureau alone made 11,533 community contacts during the operation; department-wide, over 15,000 community contacts were made.

Operation Inside Out

This initiative focused on reducing criminal activity, specifically property crimes, by assigning additional personnel to major commercial centers during the holiday shopping season. As a result of Operation Inside Out, there was a 10.7% reduction in property crime city-wide compared to this same time period in 2016 between October 1st and December 24th. Excluding shoplifting, that reduction became 18.1%. Within the six locations specifically targeted, there was a 25.5% increase in property crimes during this period compared to 2016. However, this changes to an 18.2% decrease after removing shoplifting incidents. The six locations specifically targeted during the operation were: Central Mall (5111 Rogers Ave), Garrison Ave, Fort Smith Pavilion Shopping Center (4000 block of Phoenix Ave), and the three Wal-Mart locations (2100 N 62 St / 2425 Zero St / 8301 Rogers Ave).

In addition to the primary task of providing exceptional police services, here are a few other things the department was able to accomplish in 2018:

- The department was able secure funding to purchase much needed new equipment including police vehicles, animal control vehicles, body-worn cameras, and police radios. This equipment will help patrol officers continue to provide world-class police services to the community.
- Funding was secured to add one additional police motorcycle to the department’s Motor Unit. This will increase the unit to four motorcycles, thus allowing better coverage and delivery of service.
- Community partnerships were gained and community relations strengthened.
- A Public Safety Announcement was conceived, produced, and released through social media concerning prevention tips to avoid being the victim of a car break-in during the holiday season.
Professional Standards

The primary role of the Office of Professional Standards is to ensure the maintenance of professional police conduct and the overall integrity of the department. The Professional Standards office investigates alleged serious misconduct by Fort Smith Police Department employees and complaints against departmental policies.

2018 ended with a total of one hundred two (102) complaints. There were forty-three (43) citizen complaints, seventeen (17) administrative inquiries, thirty-nine (39) internal complaints, and three (3) bias-based complaints. There were also sixty (60) administrative actions.

There were a variety of citizen complaints to include: conduct unbecoming, dereliction of duty, courtesy violations, failure to act, etc. Profane/Rude language was the most common allegation in citizen complaints. It was alleged in eleven (11) of the forty-three (43) citizen complaints and was sustained five (5) times.

Overall, officers are displaying a professional and courteous attitude toward the citizens and visitors of Fort Smith. There did not appear to be any identifiable patterns or trends that needed to be addressed.

Finally, it should be noted Fort Smith Police Department personnel had fifty-nine (59) incidents resulting in commendations. These fifty-nine (59) incidents resulted in eighty-six (86) commendations to officers and non-uniformed personnel by the public and other agencies. A few of these commendations included several officers receiving Life Saving Awards in 2018.
Deputy Chief Larry Ranells serves as the Non-Uniformed Bureau Commander. As Bureau Commander, Deputy Chief Ranells oversees all functions that are not uniformed, including the support services division and the criminal investigations division.

The Support Services Division Commander, Captain Wes Milam, reports directly to the Non-Uniformed Bureau Commander. Captain Milam supervises three specific units (Training, Communications, and the Support Services Unit), the Crime/Intel Analyst, and the CALEA Communications Manager.

Lieutenant James Hays is the Training Unit Coordinator. He supervises three officers within the Training Unit, including the Recruiting Coordinator, the Background Investigator, and the Training Support Officer.

Sergeant Robert Schibbelhut is the 911 Communications Unit supervisor and supervises 24 Telecommunicators.

Sergeant Michael McCoy is the Support Services Supervisor. He supervises 13 sworn and professional staff, including: Central Records, Information Desk, Evidence Vault, Quartermaster, and Facility Maintenance.
The Fort Smith 911 - Emergency Communications Unit is secured and housed inside the Fort Smith Police Department. It is a state-of-the-art facility, manned by at least 24 full-time operators serving the citizens of Fort Smith 24 hours a day, while also providing support to the many emergency service providers working in the field.

The Communications Unit of the City of Fort Smith is the only 911 - Emergency Communications Unit in the state of Arkansas that is fully accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). CALEA is a nationally accredited agency that ensures that law enforcement agencies, public safety communications, and law enforcement training academies are following standards that are set by the agency to provide the best services possible for the communities they serve. The Fort Smith Police Department’s Communications Center has been CALEA recognized since 2007 and in 2016 it was recognized with one of the highest honors of being considered a Gold Standard agency.

Information Desk
The Information Desk consists of two sworn officers and three part-time, non-sworn employees. The Information Desk serves as a primary point of contact for all visitors with the police department, and is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00AM to 7:00PM and Friday from 8:00AM to 6:00PM.

Information Desk personnel perform a myriad of functions from answering phone calls and fielding information requests to filing reports and performing fingerprinting. All this makes the “The Desk” an extremely busy location. In 2018, Information Desk staff filed 1,955 Offense reports, 1,755 Incident reports and 39 collision reports.

Quartermaster Section
The Quartermaster Section has one non-sworn position and one part-time, non-sworn position. The Quartermaster Section services and maintains the entire Fort Smith Police Department fleet consisting of 139 vehicles. While keeping the vehicles of the department in good working order is a large task by itself, the Quartermaster is also responsible for all clothing and duty equipment for every officer, as well as receiving and processing all physical inventory for the department.
The **Training Unit** is responsible for recruiting, hiring, and training all police department employees. The Training Unit is located at the Fort Smith Police Training Center at 8400 Zero Street. In addition to training departmental employees, the Training Center also acts as a regional training center, presenting and hosting basic and advanced training which is open to all law enforcement agencies.

Another goal of 2018 is to increase our recruiting efforts to reach more eligible applicants to fill vacant positions. 2018 saw the FSPD hire 25 officers and 17 civilians which also was the most diverse group of new hires in the history of the Fort Smith Police Department. The Training Unit also facilitated two Basic Police Academies during 2018.

The Board of Directors approved a request by Chief Clark to purchase a driving simulator as well as to make improvements to the department’s firing range. The driving simulator is a significant purchase as no other police agency in the region has this technology. This driving simulator will allow for remedial, basic, and advanced training of basic driving skills through emergency driving techniques. The simulator allows this training to be practiced in a controlled setting before officers perform these tasks in real vehicles on city streets, increasing skills, knowledge, and safety while decreasing expenses in vehicle damage, injury, and wear and tear on the patrol vehicles. The improvements to the firing range will allow for expanded firearms training and qualification without the need to leave the city to accomplish this mandatory task.

FSPD Officers received **29,354 total hours of training during 2018.**
As part of the vision of excellence, obtaining a more diverse workforce has been a top priority of Chief Clark. 2018 was monumental as our department’s hiring class was the most diverse class in the history of the Fort Smith Police Department.

The **crime analyst** supports the Fort Smith Police Department through conducting all strategic, tactical, and administrative crime analysis. This includes detecting emerging patterns in criminal activity, thoroughly reading through offense reports to identify related incidents, and mapping incidents and calls for service in order to determine specific areas of the city experiencing short term or long-term issues.

The analyst also supports patrol through running spatial and temporal analyses that assist with effective and efficient deployment of officers. Additionally, the analyst works to maintain open lines of communication within the Fort Smith Police Department, as well as with other law enforcement and government agencies.

The analyst creates a variety of products and reports including bulletins detailing emerging trends or patterns, weekly and monthly summaries of crime, calls for service, and traffic accidents. The analyst is also responsible for creating and presenting the biweekly **CompStat** report, which summarizes recent crime statistics and highlights specific trends or issues of importance. A vital aspect of this position is an extensive understanding of data. The analyst must have expert knowledge of the department’s Records Management System and how to extract, clean, filter, and interpret the data within. Goals for the coming year include focused efforts on further increasing data quality and mapping capabilities.
Fort Smith Police Department’s Volunteer Chaplain program serves many functions at the Fort Smith Police Department. They offer several avenues of support for department personnel as well as the citizens of Fort Smith. In 2018, our Chaplains assisted in grief counseling with officers who handled a variety of horrific calls that included an officer-involved shooting, death of children, and other traumatic events officers respond to all too often.

They also provide assistance in making notifications to members of our community in the event of the death of a loved one or other emergency notification.

In addition to grief counseling and emergency notifications, our Chaplains have provided a monogrammed Bible to every officer who has graduated from our basic academy. This includes officers from several other law enforcement agencies in our region.

The FSPD Chaplains also attend community events, ride with officers on a regular basis, and provide snacks for all personnel at the Fort Smith Police Department. When asked why they provide snacks, Bob Lever stated that our officers often work without taking a lunch break and they want to provide them with snacks in these cases. They also want officers to know that they are appreciated for the outstanding service they provide our community day in and day out.
The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) is under new leadership in 2018. Captain Jason Thompson started his career with the Fort Smith Police Department on May 8th, 2006. Captain Thompson was assigned to the Patrol Division after completing the academy. During his time in the Patrol Division, he was awarded a Life Saving Award in 2009. He became a Field Training Officer in 2011, and was named the Fort Smith Police Department’s Officer of the Year in 2012. Captain Thompson has served in Patrol, the Office of Professional Standards, and CID. He was promoted to the rank of Captain in October 2018 and assigned to CID.

Another change to the Criminal Investigations Division is a new Lieutenant, Jeff Carter. Lieutenant Carter began his law enforcement career with the Pocola, Oklahoma Police Department in 1997. He was hired by the Fort Smith Police Department in September 1999 and served in the Patrol Division until 2007. He was assigned to the Street Crimes Unit in 2007 and transferred to CID to be a member of the Crimes Against Property Unit in 2008. In 2010, he was assigned to the Crimes Against Persons Unit. In January 2016, Lt. Carter was selected to serve in the Office of Professional Standards and did so until promoted to sergeant in October 2017. Upon promotion to Sergeant, he was assigned to Patrol as a Troop 1 Sergeant. In November 2018, Lt. Carter was transferred to CID to supervise the Crimes Against Persons Unit. In December 2018, he was promoted to his current rank of Lieutenant and assigned to CID to oversee all sections of the division. Lt. Carter holds an Associate’s Degree in Secondary Education from Carl Albert State College, Poteau, Oklahoma.
Information, Goals, and Objectives

The Criminal Investigations Division currently has thirty-one (31) sworn positions and two (2) non-sworn positions. Of those positions, twenty-four (24) of the sworn positions are filled and both non-sworn positions are filled. There are investigators available at the police department Monday – Friday from 7am to 8pm, and on Saturday from 8am to 4pm. Investigators are still on-call 24 hours a day, and are available at all times to provide services to citizens during a critical incident. The unit experienced several retirements in 2018 and welcomed seven (7) newly-assigned investigators. The unit continues to provide premier services to the citizens we serve.

Major Case Clearance Rates

The Fort Smith Police Department’s Investigations Unit has a much higher clearance rate than the UCR National Average.

The FSPD Criminal Investigations Division is divided into several units. Included in these units are the Crimes Against Persons Unit and the Crimes Against Property Unit. Of the cases that were assigned to Crimes against Persons investigators in 2018, 94.7% of those cases were cleared.
The Crimes Against Property Unit successfully cleared 78% of the cases that were assigned to investigators in 2018. As illustrated by the graph, of the 1,272 property crime cases assigned to investigators; 989 were cleared.

Vice / Narcotics Unit

During 2018, the Vice/Narcotics Unit generated 401 illegal drug cases. Of these, 261 were controlled buys of narcotics utilizing confidential informants. The unit made 398 arrests during the year on various illegal narcotics charges.

Drug seizures consisted of 2,094.3 grams of methamphetamine with an approximate street value of $209,430; 75 pounds of marijuana with a street value of approximately $75,100; 1,609 opioid pills with a street value of approximately $32,190; 570 dosage units of ecstasy with an approximate street value of $11,400; and 96 grams of heroin with a street value of $30,720. The unit also seized $50,847 in U.S. currency, 23 vehicles, and 33 firearms.

The three main illegal narcotics in Fort Smith continue to be methamphetamine, prescription opioids (oxycodone, morphine, dilaudid, etc.), and marijuana. The unit continues to get intelligence on heroin, cocaine, and fentanyl.

The unit organized and conducted two seizure auctions during the year. The auctions generated $117,741. The Fort Smith Police Department received a combined $26,850 from both auctions.
Deputy Chief Danny Baker serves as the Uniformed Bureau Commander. As the Uniformed Bureau Commander, he oversees all of the department’s uniformed officer functions which include three Patrol Troops (shifts) and a special Power Shift that can be utilized to address priority crime problems as they arise.

**Patrol Field Operations**

**Field Operations** is comprised of 75 uniformed police officers under the command of Captain Waymon Parker II. The Field Operations Division is comprised of 3 Troops that provide 24/7 coverage for the city. Each Troop is led by a lieutenant and two sergeants. Additionally, Field Operations has a Power Shift, a small unit providing additional staffing during peak hours and to address directed enforcement and special assignments related to crime trends that are developed via CompStat.

**Patrol Special Operations**

**Special Operations** is a smaller section of the department’s Uniform Division. It is under the command of Captain Daniel Grubbs and is directly supervised by Sergeant Steven Dooly. Special Operations is responsible for coordinating and planning the department’s response to unusual occurrences and special events within the city, such as the Fort Smith Marathon, MLK Day Parade, the Christmas Parade, and the Steel Horse Rally. Special Operations is made up of several units: Canine Unit (K9), Motorcycle Unit, School Resource Officers, Airport Officers, Meter and Parking Enforcement, Animal Control Unit, FSPD Reserve Program, Warrant Office, and the Honor Guard.
The Fort Smith Police Department Uniform Bureau Field Operations Division is staffed by uniformed officers that patrol the city twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The Field Operations Division is the largest division within the department and is tasked with providing prompt, professional, and efficient police services to our community. Officers within the Field Operations Division are typically the first officers to respond to calls for service from the public.

The Field Operations Division is comprised of 3 Troops that provide 24/7 coverage for the city. Included in the three Troops is the Power Shift. Each Troop is led by a lieutenant and two sergeants. The Patrol Division also encompasses the Field Training Program for the department. Specially-trained officers, known as Field Training Officers or FTOs, train new officers who have completed the department’s Basic Police Academy. FTOs guide new officers through an extensive 16-week Field Training Program. This training is essential, real-world training that ensures highly trained and capable officers are serving our city. The men and women of the Patrol Division constantly strive to engage the community they serve and to practice Community Policing principles.

The Field Operations Division responded to 61,301 calls for police service in 2018. Troop 2 was the busiest shift handling 23,702 calls for service. Troop 1 handled 18,972 calls for service and Troop 3 handled 18,627 calls for service. Officers of the Field Operations Division conducted 16,214 traffic stops and investigated 2,531 traffic accidents during the year.
Life-saving tourniquets were obtained for all field officers in 2018. Our officers are regularly receiving the appropriate training to use these devices as a first response to bleeding trauma they encounter. In addition to providing the officer with personal life-saving equipment and training in the event of a serious line-of-duty injury, such as a gunshot or stab wound, officers have used these tourniquets to save the lives of at least five (5) citizens in 2018 alone. These incidents, ranging from gunshot victims to suicide attempts, have proven the effectiveness of these devices and the desire of our officers to protect life.

In February 2018, the Five West Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) opened in Fort Smith to provide voluntary, short-term assistance to persons experiencing a mental health emergency. The CSU gives our officer an opportunity to place persons in crisis with trained professionals. During the year, our officers assisted 130 persons with receiving mental health treatment. One person, who had never been able to obtain treatment before, said, “If it hadn’t been for the police, I never would have gotten the help I needed.”

In late 2018 the department was granted funding for the purchase of body-worn cameras for our officers. The use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) has been a goal of the department to be more in line with the ideals of 21st Century Policing and the use of technology. The use of BWCs provide for greater transparency of police operations to the public by acting as an unbiased third-party observer. They can also be helpful in documenting valuable evidence in criminal cases. 80 BWCs and 15 In-Car Cameras were purchased and will be implemented in early 2019.
Special Operations is a smaller section of the department’s Uniform Bureau. It is under the command of Captain Daniel Grubbs and is directly supervised by Sergeant Steven Dooly. Special Operations is responsible for coordinating and planning the department’s response to unusual occurrences and special events within the city, such as the Fort Smith Marathon, the MLK Day Parade, the Christmas Parade, and the Steel Horse Rally. Special Operations is made up of several units: Canine Unit (K9), Motorcycle Unit, School Resource Officers, Airport Officers, Meter and Parking Enforcement, Animal Control Unit, FSPD Reserve Program, Warrant Office, and the Honor Guard.

The Special Operations Division coordinated the FSPD’s response to several large scale events and parades in 2018. Ensuring public safety and adherence to applicable city ordinances and state law is one of our primary concerns when coordinating special events. Some of the major events Special Operations coordinated were:

- The Martin Luther King Jr. Parade
- The St. Patrick’s Day Parade
- The Rodeo Parade
- The Christmas Parade
- The Steel Horse Rally
- The Mayor’s 4th of July Celebration
- Blake Shelton Pop-up Concert
- New Year’s Eve Ball Drop
- Survivor’s Challenge Over the Edge Event
- World Record Street Dance Attempt
- New Year’s Eve Ball Drop
The Fort Smith Police Department’s Motor Unit is used for all aspects of traffic control including routine patrol and specialized traffic details.

This unit is comprised of three Harley-Davidson Electra Glide motorcycles operated by officers that have been trained in the unique operation of the motorcycles, accident reconstruction, advanced collision investigations, and interview techniques used when investigating serious collision cases.

The unit can be used for routine patrol purposes, advanced collision investigations, accident reconstruction, congested traffic situations, special area patrols, V.I.P. details, parades, funeral escorts, school zone traffic enforcement, and charitable events.

The Motor Unit also supports other divisions within the department, and other city departments, to better serve the community. The unit supports patrol by responding to citizen traffic-related complaints and extra patrols requested by the community.

In 2018, the Fort Smith Police Department investigated over 2,850 traffic collisions which occurred on the streets and highways throughout the city. Of those accidents, 8 were fatalities. 56 of the collisions involved serious injury, 279 with minor injury, 376 with possible injuries and approximately 2,130 collisions with no injuries reported.

The Motor Unit also supports the City of Fort Smith Street Department, and is often requested to observe problematic areas regarding certain traffic control devices, signs, crosswalks, and other devices when requested by the community. The unit then reports back to the Street Department with their findings and professional opinions on the placement or removal of these devices regarding the safety of the community.

The top 5 accident locations are:

- Phoenix Ave / Old Greenwood Rd
- Rogers Ave / 540 INT
- Rogers Ave / S 74 St
- Rogers Ave / S Waldron Rd
- Rogers Ave / Massard Rd

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- FATAL
- SUSPECTED SERIOUS
- SUSPECTED MINOR
- POSSIBLE INJURY
- NO INJURY
The Fort Smith Animal Control Unit consists of five Specialized Officers who enforce city ordinances and applicable state statutes governing animals. In 2018, the men and women of the unit responded to 7,605 animal-related calls for service.

The Fort Smith Police Department Honor Guard is made up of officers who serve in the unit in addition to their regular duties. This unit is routinely called upon to represent the Department at ceremonial events and strives to reflect our growing diversity. These officers regularly practice drill and ceremony to insure they are the sharpest of the sharp at high profile events.

In 2018, the Honor Guard participated in numerous events that ranged from tributes to fallen officers to welcoming new officers to the FSPD ranks. Some of these events included: Local Fallen Officer Memorial, Funeral Services, Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast, Promotional Ceremonies, Retirement Ceremonies, Fort Smith Police Academy Graduations, Fort Smith Police Annual Awards Ceremony, and Fort Smith Police New Officer Pinning Ceremony.
In 2018, the Fort Smith Police Department’s K9 Unit consisted of three highly-trained K9s and officers that are used for narcotics detection and for the tracking and apprehension of criminal offenders.

Not only can the K9 Unit be utilized in the detection of narcotics and the tracking and apprehension of criminal offenders in our community, but it is also requested for their expertise by surrounding federal, state and local agencies. This unit is also called upon by local schools to detect narcotics and other dangerous items and substances within our schools.

Over the past year, the Fort Smith Police Department’s K9 Unit made 202 self-initiated felony drug arrests. The unit seized approximately $59,188, 15 vehicles, and removed 14 firearms from the streets. The K9 Unit was requested and deployed 77 times for vehicle sniffs and tracks by Fort Smith police officers. These numbers do not include arrests and seizures made by assisting the Arkansas Drug Task Force and other surrounding federal, state, and local agencies that requested the K9 Unit’s assistance.

In an effort to further develop and maintain our partnership with the community, the K9 Unit attended numerous community events throughout the year where they demonstrated the K9’s abilities. During these events, the K9 Unit also educates children and parents on the dangers of drug usage in an effort to ensure a safer future for our community.

The unit’s own Officer Keith Shelby was nominated for the 2018 Fort Smith Police Department’s Officer of the Year and awarded the Sebastian County Officer of the Year presented by Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge.

In 2018, K9 Vigo and K9 Chico retired after several years of loyal service to the members of this community and the surrounding area. K9 Vigo and K9 Chico were responsible for over $650,000 in seized money, over 115 seized firearms, 150 seized vehicles and over 2,000 arrests during their careers.
NEW PERSONNEL

UNIFORMED PERSONNEL

Basic Law Enforcement Academy Graduates

- Diana Abrajan
- Andre Arnoldi
- Ashley Austin
- Joshua Brents
- Michael Coder
- Dawn Dodson
- Giselle Elmore
- Dakota Elmore
- Garrett Ford
- Michael Harris
- Areille James
- Joshua Johnson
- Michael Malone
- Bradley Marion
- Austin Marion
- Joshua McCleod
- Alejandro Meza
- Richard Proctor
- Daron Robertson
- Darroyl Sanders
- Robyn Shoptaw
- Jens Sorensen
- Cheri Taylor
- Joseph Underwood
- Bradley Williams

NON-UNIFORMED PERSONNEL

Deputy Director of Administrative Services
- Michael Varner

Public Information Officer
- Aric Mitchell

911 Communications
- Nicole Medina
- James Melson
- Bridget Morse
- Anna Murillo
- Donna Peloquin
- Austin Sanders
- Krista Stewart
- Amber Thornton
- Ashlee Volk

Public Safety Customer Service Assistant
- Cajun Kain
- Kaylee Sheppard

Animal Control Officer
- Daniel Miller

Administrative Assistant
- Bonita Byers
- Cadet
- George Cobb

Meter Technician
- Jon Raspberry

Central Records
- Madison Fouts

Retirements

- Corporal James Melson
- Captain Gerald Schaefer
- Captain Brian Rice
- Lieutenant Richard Brooks
- K9 Vigo

- Corporal Cletis Whitson
- Jerry Harris
- Corporal Brian Beaver
- Sergeant Adam Creek
- K9 Chico

All are thanked for their service to the citizens of Fort Smith
Chief’s Special Award
The Chief’s Special Award may be presented to any person, whether or not that person is a member of the Fort Smith Police Department, whom the Chief considers to have rendered special service to the department.

Director Tracy Pennartz
Chaplain Tashala Devrow
Chaplain Bob Lever
Ted Cserna and Jennifer Hendricks
Gabe Roberts
Colby Roe
Pastor Brad Lewter

Special Recognition
A Special Recognition Award for services rendered to the department.

Sgt. Kelley Colton

Civilian Employee of the Year
Recommendations for the Civilian of the Year Award may be made by any member of the Fort Smith Police Department. Nominations for the Civilian Employee of the Year Award will be reviewed by the Awards Screening Committee.

Sharon Pitts

Officer of the Year
Recommendations for the Officer of the Year Award may be made by any member of the Fort Smith Police Department. Nominations for the Officer of the Year Award will be reviewed by the Awards Screening Committee.

Officer Wes Sawyer

Rookie of the Year
Recommendations for the Rookie of the Year Award may be made by any member of the Fort Smith Police Department. The Rookie of the Year Award is presented to an officer who has less than two (2) years of service as an officer with the department and does not have previous law enforcement experience.

Officer Daniel Vaught

Dispatcher of the Year
Recommendations for the Dispatcher of the Year Award may be made by any member of the Fort Smith Police Department. Nominations for the Dispatcher of the Year Award will be reviewed by the Awards Screening Committee.

CTO Joanie Best