

ANNUAL REPORT 2025





OWENSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT

COMMAND STAFF



Colonel Art Ealum, Jr.

Chief of Police

Chief Art Ealum has been with the Owensboro Police Department for more than 34 years. He served the Owensboro Police Department as a patrol officer and detective before rising through the ranks of Patrol Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, Professional Standards Lieutenant, Captain, Major, Deputy Chief and Chief of Police. Ealum was appointed to serve as the Owensboro Police Chief in 2012.

Lt. Colonel JD Winkler

Deputy Chief of Police



Lieutenant Colonel J.D. Winkler began his career with the Owensboro Police Department in July, 2002 as a patrol officer. He has served in many capacities at the Owensboro Police Department including, Narcotics Detective, Patrol Supervisor, Training Unit Supervisor, Street Crimes Unit Supervisor, Emergency Response Team Member, Emergency Response Team Commander, Professional Standards Lieutenant and Field Services Major. LTC Winkler was appointed to serve the department as Deputy Chief in 2022.



Major Michael Staples

Support Services Division Commander

Major Michael Staples joined the Owensboro Police Department in July 2002 as a Patrol Officer. He has served as a General Investigations Detective, Juvenile Detective, Patrol Supervisor, General Investigations Supervisor, Criminal Investigations Division Lieutenant, and Professional Standards Lieutenant. He was promoted to Major in 2022 and currently oversees the support services division of the Owensboro Police Department

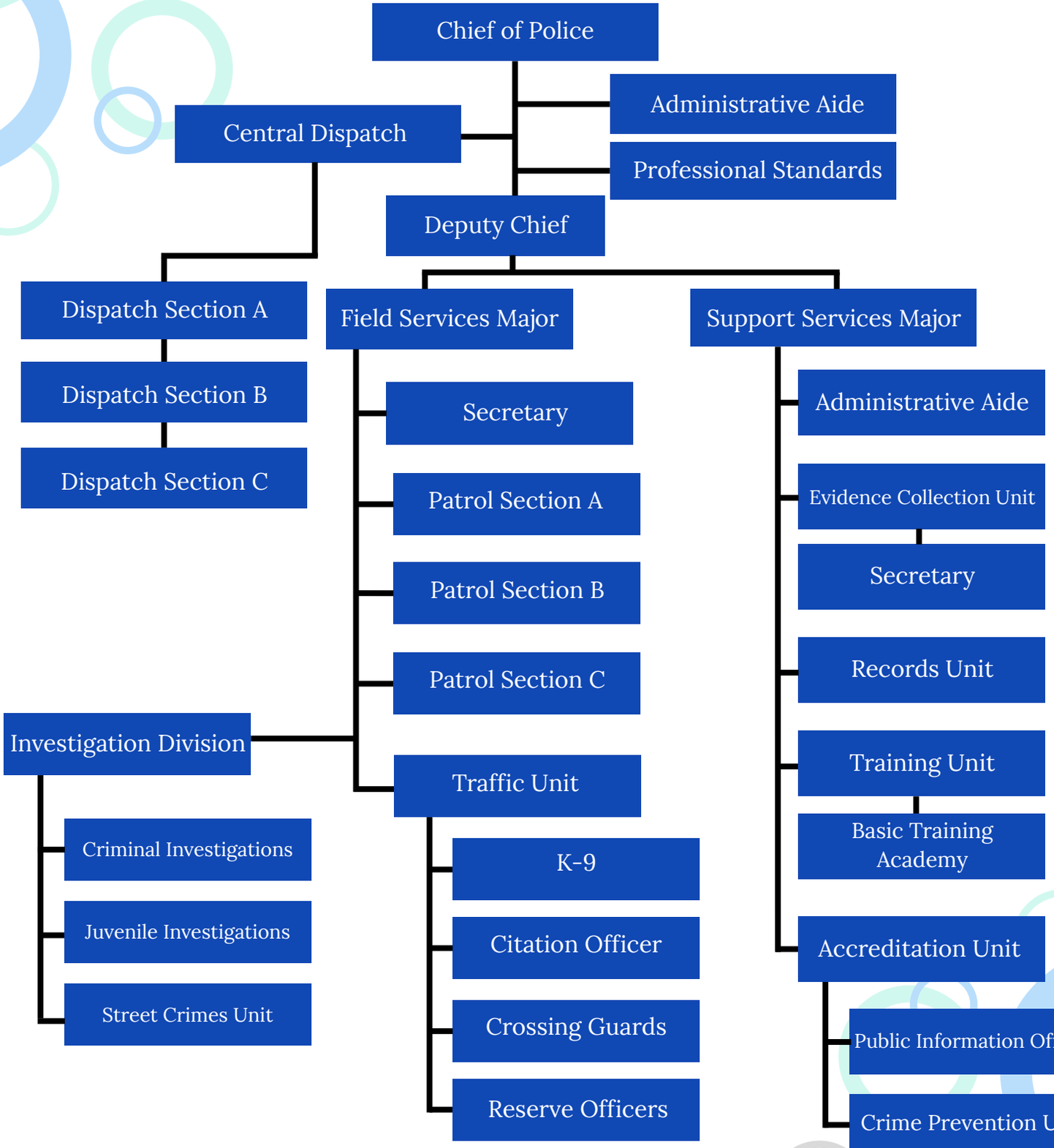
Major Tristan Russelburg

Field Services Division Commander



Major Tristan Russelburg joined the Owensboro Police Department in 2007. He has served in many capacities at the Owensboro Police Department including Street Crimes Unit Detective, Patrol Supervisor, Street Crimes Unit Supervisor, Support Services Division Lieutenant, and as the Professional Standards Lieutenant. Major Russelburg has also previously served as the supervisor of the Accident Reconstruction Unit and Crisis Negotiations Unit. He was promoted to Major in 2025 and currently oversees the Field Services Division of the Owensboro Police Department.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Owensboro Police Department is to work in a true partnership with our community, to enhance the quality of life in our city, while maintaining order and protecting the people we serve by reducing incidences of crime, doing so with professionalism, honor, and integrity.

VISION

The Owensboro Police Department will perpetuate a strong work ethic that fosters pride in ourselves and in our department. We will be a model agency integrating the newest technology while providing police services. Our values will be reflected in our decisions. We shall consider our responsibilities and obligations in every action we take. We shall be attentive to the needs of our community by being interactive, courteous and responsive. We shall endeavor to do without being asked and do more than would be asked.

CORE VALUES

- Integrity
- Public Service
- Competence
- Responsibility/Accountability
- Respect for Co-workers

BUDGET

Budget Totals by the Numbers and Division				
Administration	Investigations	Patrol	Support Services	**Total (Excluding Central Dispatch)**
$2,905,668	$2,423,513	$10,889,245	$3,482,782	**$19,701,208**
Central Dispatch			$3,953,656	





Sworn Personnel	
Chief (Colonel)	**1**
Assistant Chief (Lt. Colonel)	**1**
Major	**2**
Lieutenants	**7**
Sergeants	**10**
Detectives	**11**
Officers	**70**
Reserves	**4**
Total Sworn Personnel	**106**

Civilian Personnel	
Dispatch Director	**1**
Telecommunicators	**25**
Part -Time Telecommunicators	**4**
Administrative Aides	**2**
Part-Time Clerk	**1**
Secretaries	**2**
Records	**4**
Citation Officer	**1**
Laborer	**1**
Crossing Guards	**4**
Total Civilian Personnel	**45**

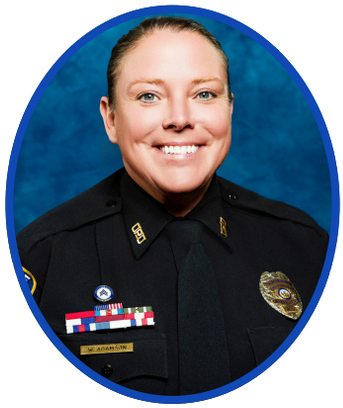
RETIREMENTS



Lieutenant Jeremy Mulligan
20 years



Sergeant Aaron Hamilton
20 years



Sergeant Whitney Adamson
20 years



Officer Ben Campbell
20 years



Officer Scott Norris
17 years



Dispatcher Sandra Payne
26 years



Dispatcher Norman Byers
15 years



Administrative Aide
Barbara Keller
23 years



Administrative Aide
Joycelin Hall
19 years

NEW OFFICERS



Officer Jeremy Mulligan



Officer Eric Lee



Officer Loren Yonts

Owensboro Police Academy Class 2



Officer Adrian Terrazas



Officer Eestan Costello



Officer Trystan Blue



Officer Gabriel Quintana Melton

Owensboro Police Academy Class 3



Recruit Megan Bryan



Recruit Jodie Crow



Recruit Zachary Farmer



Recruit Joseph Riley

PROMOTIONS

In 2025, 4 Sergeants were promoted to Lieutenant



Lieutenant
Anthony Williams



Lieutenant
Lucas Hardy



Lieutenant
Kris Collins



Lieutenant
Hunter Hinton

In 2025, 7 Officers were promoted to Sergeant



Sergeant
Shayne Bratcher



Sergeant
Ben Fleury



Sergeant
Derek Griffith



Sergeant
Joseph Jones



Sergeant
Josh Bennett



Sergeant
John Preston II



Sergeant
Kevin Lang, Jr.

OWENSBORO DAVIESS COUNTY CENTRAL DISPATCH

The Owensboro Daviess County Central Dispatch handles numerous service calls from the public and other agencies, ranging from routine or non-emergency situations to matters of life and death. The Telecommunicators in this unit play a crucial role in providing emergency responders with vital information needed to approach safely and with a clear understanding of the situation.

Additionally, Telecommunicators are required to maintain certification to operate the Law Information Network of Kentucky (KY LINK) terminal. This certification enables them to communicate, query, enter, and retrieve information from local and national agencies through the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).

Central Dispatch received 99,316 calls from the community during 2025. Of these, 97,878 generated a unit response of some type and 49,103 of those calls were for Owensboro Police to respond to an incident.



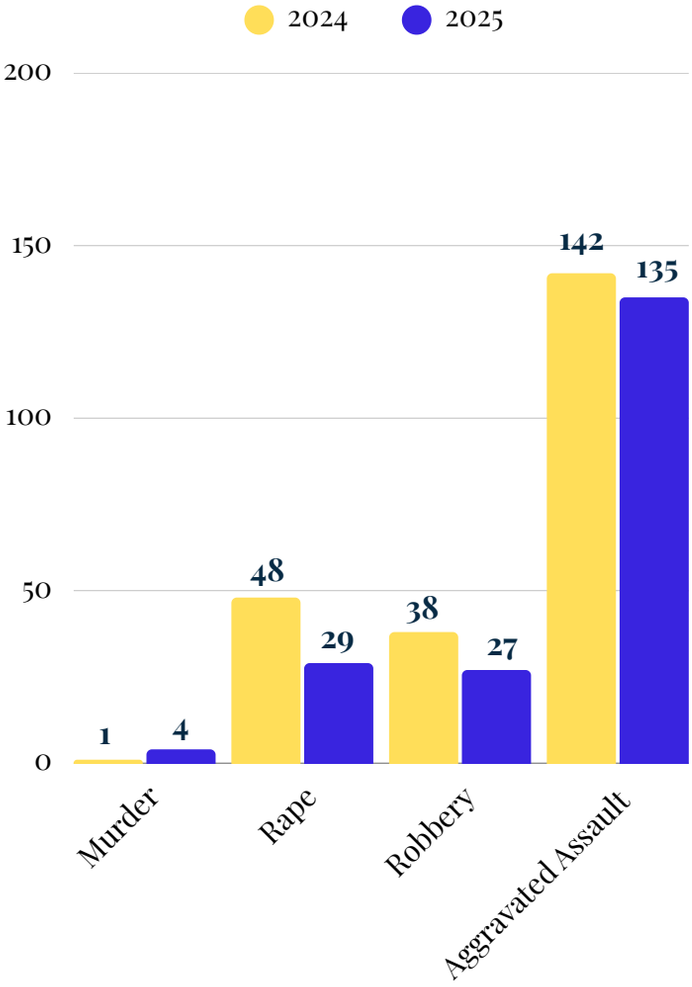


Uniform Crime Statistics

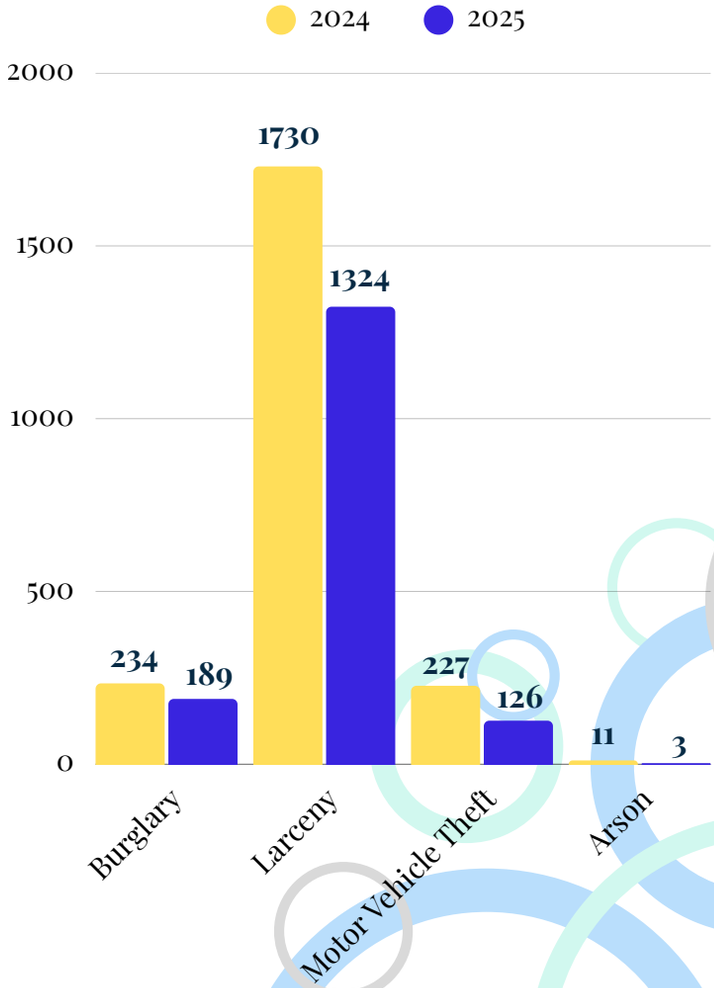
The Uniform Crime Report (UCR) contains official data on crime that is reported to law enforcement agencies across the country who then provide the data to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). Part I of the UCR focuses on index crimes which include murder, robbery, rape, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Part II crimes include crimes such as simple assault, vandalism, drug abuse violations, crimes against family and children, and other non-violent crimes. The Owensboro Police Department reported the subsequent information to the FBI for the year 2025.



Part 1 Violent Crimes (year-by-year comparison)



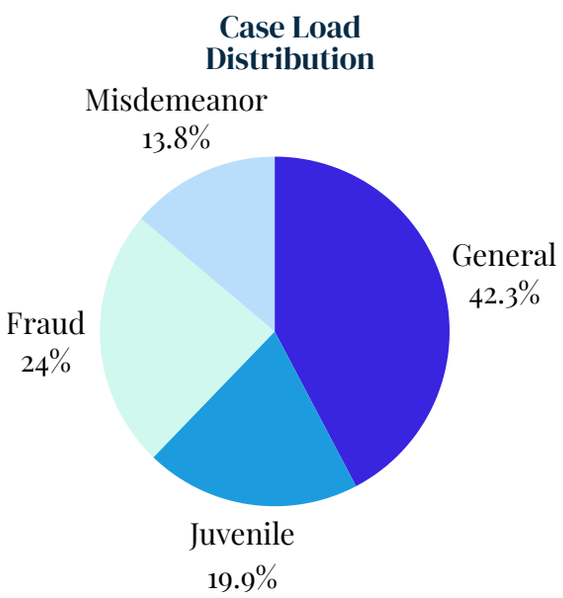
Part 1 Property Crimes (year-by-year comparison)

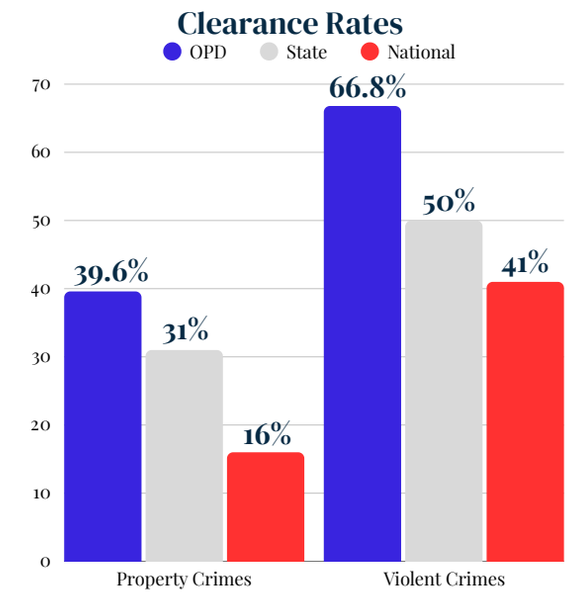


Field Services

The Patrol Division serves as the essential foundation of any police department, playing a critical role in maintaining public safety and community trust. Comprised of three patrol shifts, a Traffic Unit, K-9 Unit, and the Investigations Division, this division actively responds to calls for service from community members, engages in proactive policing, and conducts traffic enforcement as part of their regular duties. Offering 24-hour service to approximately 60,000 city residents, covering 22.10 square miles, the Patrol Division consistently goes above and beyond expectations.

In the year 2025, patrol officers responded to 35,383 calls for service and conducted 13,720 traffic stops. During 2025, the department executed a total of 131 search warrants obtained and carried out by Patrol, General Investigations, Juvenile Investigations, and Street Crimes. Additionally, through the OPD Adopt-A-School Program, officers dedicated more than 1,000 hours and conducted over 2,000 visits to Owensboro schools. The motto, “Pride, Integrity, Service,” reflects the professionalism, dedication, and spirit of all Owensboro Police Department members. Through their hard work and dedication, the men and women of the Patrol Division strive to ensure that Owensboro remains a secure place to live, work, and play for all residents and visitors.





Investigations Division

The Criminal Investigations Division consists of a division supervisor (Lieutenant) who oversees the General Investigation Unit, the Juvenile Unit and the Street Crimes Unit. The division currently has 1 Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants, 11 full-time Detectives and 2 part-time Detectives (Reserve Officers).

The General Unit of the Criminal Investigations Division is responsible for self-initiated and follow-up investigations of assigned cases. These cases are usually serious incidents such as, but not limited to, homicides, death investigations, robberies, sexual assaults, serious physical assaults, and other felony cases that demand unique investigative knowledge, additional time demands, and may require travel outside the local area.

The Juvenile Unit is a specialized unit within the Criminal Investigations Division. This unit is charged with the task of investigating all juvenile-related complaints and processing all associated juvenile documents filed for both criminal and juvenile status offenses.

Case Management includes conducting thorough criminal investigations, interviewing witnesses and suspects, identifying and arresting offenders, and aiding in the successful prosecution of defendants. Investigators also procure and execute search warrants leading to the seizure of contraband and other evidence of criminal activity. During 2025, there were 1,286 cases investigated by the Criminal Investigations Division.

Street Crimes Unit

The Street Crimes Unit functions as a tactical narcotics/vice team with a primary role in conducting undercover drug operations and offering specialized law enforcement support for targeted situations. This unit frequently collaborates with other law enforcement agencies in the region to combat illegal drug trafficking. The figures presented here represent only a portion of the drugs confiscated by the Owensboro Police Department in 2025.

In collaboration with the FBI, ATF, and DEA, the Street Crimes Unit successfully completed several major drug trafficking investigations, resulting in 7 federal indictments. These investigations were expansive in scope and led to the apprehension of individuals involved in illegal narcotics trafficking across the country. Throughout the calendar year 2025, the Street Crimes Unit secured and executed 86 search warrants. As a result of these investigations, Detectives recovered more than 73.5 pounds of marijuana, 8 pounds of methamphetamine, 1 pound of cocaine, 16.5 pounds of synthetic drugs, and 13 pounds of fentanyl. In addition, the unit seized 9 vehicles, 24 firearms, and approximately $16,685.00 in U.S. currency.

Digital Forensics

Digital Forensics is a division of science including the recovery, investigation, examination and analysis of information found in digital devices. This type of forensics is used in an array of investigations from narcotics trafficking to child pornography. The investigations unit completed various DVR, Cell Phone, Computer and Media Exams. In 2025, the Digital Forensic Investigator examined a total of 254 Cell Phones/tablets, 12 computers, and 28 other media types.

Professional Standards Unit

The main responsibility of the Professional Standards Unit is to investigate all complaints filed by citizens against police personnel and complaints that arise within the police department. In the year 2025, the PSU conducted a total of 46 administrative investigations, comprising 26 external complaints (originating from the public) and 20 internal complaints (originating from within the department). These 46 cases included 123 possible violations resulting in the following dispositions: 19 Not Sustained, 49 Exonerated, 49 Sustained, 4 Unfounded, 2 Closed (withdrawn).

Use of Force by Race / Ethnicity	
Black / African American	29.75%
Hispanic / Latino	14.88%
White / Caucasian	54.54%
Asian	.83%

Use of Force by Gender	
Male	83.47%
Female	16.53%

Support Services

The Support Services Division plays a vital role in bolstering the functions of the Field Services Division within the Owensboro Police Department. This division is comprised of six units: Accreditation, Crime Prevention, Evidence Collection, Public Information, Records, and Training.





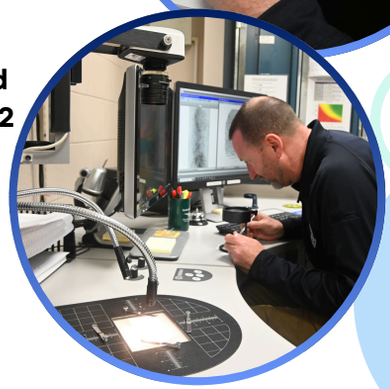
CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

The Crime Prevention Unit, offers a diverse array of educational programs, covering topics such as drug and alcohol awareness, theft and robbery prevention, vandalism and burglary prevention, and personal safety techniques. These dual purpose programs are designed to eliminate or minimize criminal opportunities and to foster a sense of shared safety and responsibility among citizens throughout our community. In 2025, officers from the Crime Prevention Unit conducted many public speaking engagements, organized the Youth Programs Golf Scramble, provided D.A.R.E. instruction to all 5th-grade classes in both the Owensboro Public Schools and Owensboro Catholic Schools, and hosted several other programs facilitated by the Owensboro Police Department.

EVIDENCE COLLECTION UNIT

The Evidence Collection Unit is responsible for providing forensic support in criminal investigations conducted by OPD. It also oversees the custody and management of evidence seized by OPD officers. ECU is comprised of three full-time and one part-time investigators who promptly respond to major crime scenes across the city. Furthermore, two members of the unit are board-certified latent print examiners operating a comprehensive latent fingerprint laboratory. A third member is currently in training to become certified.





In the year 2025, ECU was involved in 636 drug cases, responded to 6 callouts, processed 6,235 property items, and initiated 1,942 cases.

The Certified Latent Print Examiners processed 350 latent print cases. Within these print cases, latent prints were identified in 126 instances. Out of the 350 cases processed by the examiners 15 were for other agencies. They also processed video evidence needed for court proceedings.



RECORDS UNIT

In 2025, the Records Division handled a total of 14,562 documents, comprising 3,080 accident reports, 8,253 uniform citations, and 3,229 offense reports. Additionally, the Records Division successfully secured multiple grants, including $45,500 from the Ky Highway Safety grant, and $30,000 from Project Safe Neighborhoods, resulting in a cumulative grant funding of $75,500.

The Records Division is comprised of a Records manager and three Clerk/Typists. In addition to their regular responsibilities, the division processed 233 open record requests. Throughout 2025, the unit processed 168 requests for video footage from Body Worn Cameras and Cruiser Cameras. The Records Division serves as the repository for all reports stemming from activities reported to and investigated by members of the Police Department.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

The Public Information Officer (PIO) is responsible for the collection, coordination, and dissemination of true and accurate information to the public and the media. This officer serves as the primary liaison between the Owensboro Police Department and media representatives by coordinating interviews, responding to inquiries, and organizing news conferences as needed.

The PIO plays a key role in public safety messaging by promoting traffic safety and awareness campaigns such as Click It or Ticket and Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, as well as disseminating information related to department initiatives and community events such as Police in the Park, Coffee with A Cop, Operation Santa, etc.

Information that may impact public safety or is of general community interest is distributed through multiple platforms, including the OPD website, Facebook, X, and Instagram.

Through consistent communication, community-focused outreach, and proactive engagement, the PIO is committed to keeping the public informed while fostering transparency, trust, and positive relationships between the Owensboro Police Department, the community, and media outlets.



TRAINING UNIT

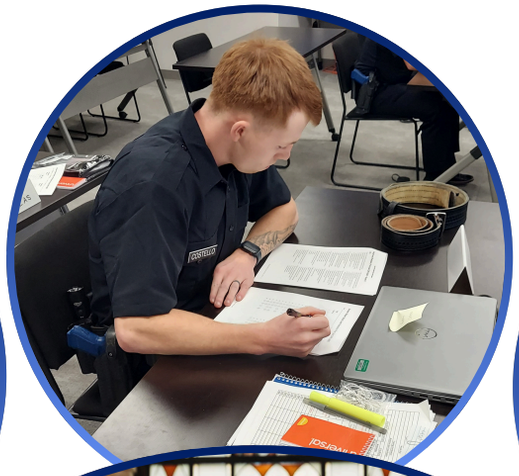
The Training Unit is responsible for coordinating and scheduling the mandated 40 hours of annual in-service training for all sworn personnel and supervisors. In addition, the Unit provides continuous training updates on a wide range of topics throughout the year. Instruction is delivered through multiple approaches, including roll call briefings, guest instructors, online coursework, video presentations, and written instructional materials.

The Training Unit also oversees the Owensboro Police Department Academy, managing the 23-week training program that guides recruits through their transition and development into sworn police officers.

Police Academy

In 2025, the Owensboro Police Department's police academy trained two academy classes. On June 27, 2025, five members of the Owensboro Police Department's second police academy class graduated after attending 23 weeks of basic training. Academy Class 3 started their basic training academy on August 3, 2025 and will graduate in January 2026. This local academy alleviates the need for recruits to attend months long training in Richmond, Kentucky. The academy has received positive feedback from police training officers who have been impressed with the new officers' knowledge of Owensboro Police Department's policy and procedures. Previously, officers were required to attend DOCJT Basic Training then return to their respective departments to learn their policy and procedures.















SPECIALTY UNITS



TRAFFIC UNIT

The Traffic Unit is responsible for traffic enforcement, school zone enforcement, school crossings, escorts, special events, parades, races, festivals, car seat inspections and installations, and calls for service. The traffic unit consists of one supervisor, uniformed police officers, parking enforcement officers, and school crossing guards.
In 2025, the Traffic Unit conducted 2,308 traffic stops, issued 1,357 citations, 321 written warnings, 630 verbal warnings, had 2,962 calls for service, performed 410 escorts, and aided in 44 city events.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Sixteen specially trained officers comprise the Emergency Response Team, which aims to address hazardous incidents safely, prioritizing the safety of the public, fellow officers, and suspects. Additionally, the team provides protection for dignitaries visiting Owensboro, including but not limited to the President of the United States and the Governor. In 2025, the Emergency Response Team responded to 9 incidents that resulted in arrests and no officer injuries.





HONOR GUARD UNIT

The Honor Guard Unit plays a crucial role in the ceremonial events within the city. Their duties include presenting the national flag during official ceremonies, adding a touch of reverence to various public and private occasions. Additionally, the Honor Guard performs funeral honors and showcases our National and State flags at community events, Academy Graduations, parades, and public and private ceremonies.

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS UNIT

The UAS (Unmanned Aircraft System) Unit is equipped to handle a broad range of critical missions. The versatility of the unit across various operations like investigative support, disaster response, and high-risk situations like active shooters and HAZMAT responses makes it an invaluable tool for public safety and emergency response teams. Its ability to gather real-time aerial video and photographs aids in quick decision-making and improving situational awareness.



SPECIALTY UNITS



POLYGRAPH UNIT

The Polygraph Unit is comprised of four licensed examiners, all of whom are graduates of the National Polygraph Academy, which is approved and certified by the American Polygraph Association. The unit also has two additional examiners currently in training at the National Polygraph Academy. In addition to their proficiency in polygraph testing, each examiner has received specialized training in interview and interrogation techniques. The unit conducts forensic polygraph examinations for OPD criminal investigations and administers pre-employment polygraph testing for both OPD and OFD applicants. In 2025, the Polygraph Unit administered a total of 112 tests.

K-9 UNITS

In 2025, the department utilized four specially trained canines who work at the patrol level with skilled handlers. The canines and their handlers complete many hours of hands-on training together and must get certified annually. The canines perform routine patrol functions which include the detection of narcotics, locating evidence and explosive devices as well as the tracking of suspects and crowd control.





HAZARDOUS DEVICES UNIT

The Hazardous Devices Unit is skilled in the secure handling and response to any potential explosive devices. The six-person team promptly responded to incidents as requested by Law Enforcement Agencies across Western Kentucky.

ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION UNIT

The Accident Reconstruction Unit investigates accidents that meet certain criteria including: fatal or life-threatening accidents, accidents involving police department vehicles where damage is substantial, accidents involving motor vehicles versus trains, accidents that are likely to result in felony criminal prosecution, and other accidents that are determined to be unusual and/or complex. In 2025, the Accident Reconstruction Unit was utilized on 20 occasions.



EVENTS

VARIOUS COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Owensboro Police Department is routinely asked or volunteers in many community engagement events. Members of the department can routinely be seen in events such as blood drives for WKRBC, 9-11 Freedom Walk, Martin Luther King Jr. March, reading to school classes, Trail of Treats, various speaking events to schools, informational talks to citizens about scams, Shop with a Cop, and Operation Santa, to name a few.



EVENTS

POLICE IN THE PARK

Police in the Park is an event created in the summer of 2023. This event involves officers going to parks around the city, cooking hotdogs, and interacting with the public. This event affords members of the department the opportunity to engage with many members of the community in a different setting. In 2025, officers visited Moreland, Dugan Best, Chautauqua, and Moneta Sleet Parks.



COFFEE WITH A COP

Coffee with a Cop is a national program in which the Owensboro Police Department takes part. The emphasis of the program is to allow the opportunity for the department to engage with the public in an informal setting. By creating a welcoming environment it welcomes interaction between the department and the community to discuss ongoing trends or issues which may concern either side. Currently, the Owensboro Police Department conducts this public event bi-monthly at various coffee shops located around the city. In 2025, the Owensboro Police Department expanded this event by visiting our local nursing/senior living homes.



EVENTS

CAMP KOPS

Camp KOPS (Kids Obtaining Positive Structure) is an event which takes place the week of Memorial Day. This year 21 - 5th graders from Owensboro got to spend 4 days with officers at Camp Schafer, located in Hawesville, Ky. This overnight camp affords officers an opportunity to demonstrate good role modeling for the youth in attendance and build bonds which will last well into the future.



YOUTH PROGRAMS GOLF SCRAMBLE

The Youth Programs Golf Scramble is an event which takes place every year at Ben Hawes Golf Course. The golf scramble raises funds to aid the D.A.R.E program, Character Counts, and other youth programs we put on throughout the year. The golf scramble continues to be a tremendous success thanks to our generous community and business sponsors.



EVENTS

CITIZENS ACADEMY

The Owensboro Police Department Citizens Academy is a 10-week program that provides an in-depth look into the different units and areas of the department. During each session, participants engage with department personnel to discuss its various operations. In 2025, a total of 18 citizens successfully graduated from the program. The academy allowed them to gain a deeper understanding of how the department functions and serves the community.



OPERATION SANTA

Operation Santa is a program which is department ran and community supported. In 2025, members of the department and their families delivered 350 meal boxes to local citizens in need during the Christmas season. This project is self-funded and aided by local stores and businesses either donating food, money or giving a discounted rate for this cause.



OUR OPD FAMILY



















OUR OPD FAMILY




















POLICE
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
PRIDE INTEGRITY SERVICE
OWENSBORO
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