

POLICE DEPARTMENT



Message from Chief Scott:

On behalf of the Morgantown Police Department, it is with great pleasure that I am able to present this annual report. Since my appointment as Chief of Police on August 03, 2004, the Department has expanded on its previous accomplishments and undertaken a number of new initiatives. The achievement of goals would not have been possible without the financial commitment and support of the members of City Council. The officers and civilian personnel of the Morgantown Police Department are exceptionally committed individuals, and without their hard work and dedication, few, if any of the Department's accomplishments would have been achieved. I am extremely honored to serve with them.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Purpose and Goals:

- , Create and maintain a feeling of respect for and confidence in the Morgantown Police Department. This will result in citizens' security so that they support and assist the Department in its efforts.
- , Maximize the development and job satisfaction of Department employees. This will enable the Department to attract, retain, and secure the commitment of qualified personnel, which are necessary to accomplish the Department's missions and goals.
- , Ensure that the governing body of the City of Morgantown receives the greatest benefit for the dollars expended for police services.
- , Minimize the occurrence of crime.
- , Safeguard the lives, property, and public peace that the citizens and visitors of Morgantown are entitled to receive.
- , Identify, arrest, and assist in the prosecution of persons who commit crimes.
- , Recover lost and stolen property; identify rightful owners; and ensure the prompt return or safekeeping of such property until it is disposed of in a manner according to policy.
- , Record and analyze crimes, accidents, and incident statistics on a continual basis for the purposes of legal records, improved planning, and crime control.
- , Create and maintain confidence in and support for the Morgantown Police Department on the part of other organizations with which it comes in contact, which are primarily agencies that are part of the criminal justice system.
- , Arrange for the delivery of emergency services that Police are particularly equipped to provide.
- , Assist citizens and visitors who cannot care for themselves or arrange for assistance.
- , Facilitate the safe and orderly movement of people, traffic, and vehicle parking.

STAFF SERVICES

The Staff Services Division is the administrative unit of the Morgantown Police Department. Functions of Staff Services are overall management, training, records management, grants, budget, and purchasing of equipment and uniforms. Staff Services is comprised of a Lieutenant, Sergeant, and Corporal who oversee these functions. The Police Department is finalizing its third generation records management and report system, which was implemented on November 08, 2004. This system enables the Department to better track crimes and incidents, while also allowing the Department to become more efficient at reporting crimes as mandated at the State and Federal level.

A continued training program enhancement has been implemented to further develop the skill and knowledge level and the overall delivery of service to the public. The ultimate goal is to provide continuous training and career enhancement to all police employees.



Captain J.E. Nabors Sergeant B.L. Watson



CURRENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is the largest unit in the Morgantown Police Department, consisting of uniformed officers and a fleet of highly visible police cars. The officers provide response to emergency calls, routine and targeted patrol, traffic and parking enforcement, accident investigation, and initial reporting and investigation of all crimes occurring within the City. The Department maintains two K-9 units which work primarily in patrol and narcotic detection.

The Patrol Division, which has twenty six vehicles, operates on a twenty four hour basis, with shifts beginning at 7:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m.. With the increased work load, shifts sometimes coincide during peak periods. Officers are assigned to a geographic zone in which they are responsible for calls and patrol. The Crime Prevention Program was merged with the Patrol Division in August 2004. All officers are expected to work with community members and expand upon the existing programs. Effective November 01, 2004, the duties of Solid Waste Enforcement were merged into the Patrol Division. Litter and garbage continue to be critical areas that impact the quality of life in Morgantown.

Several new procedures have been implemented to address this issue. The ultimate goal is to gain voluntary compliance from the public. The Department continues to use community service workers sentenced by the local courts to collect trash within the City.



TRAFFIC DIVISION

Three officers are currently assigned to the Traffic Division. The officers utilize regular police vehicles, bicycles, and an all terrain vehicle. One officer is assigned to the Downtown and rail trail area, “walking the beat.” The remaining two officers are assigned primarily to traffic enforcement, special events (parades, football), funeral escorts, and Highway Safety issues. The Traffic Department maintains two digital speed displays that focus drivers’ attention to posted speed limits.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

The Morgantown Police Department currently has one full time officer assigned to University High School. The program consists of formulation and implementation of crime prevention and education programs. This position enables the students to develop a positive rapport with law enforcement officers. The future of this program is unknown at this time, as financial funding has been cut in half.

D.A.R.E.

At the beginning of the 2004-2005 school year, the D.A.R.E. program was reorganized by adding an additional officer. In years past, one officer was teaching full time. With the addition of another officer, two officers now share teaching responsibilities of teaching youth to resist drugs and alcohol, allowing both officers to continue their work in the Patrol Division.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DETECTIVE DIVISION



Sergeant G.W. Cress,
Detective Supervisor Morgantown Detectives

The Detective Division is an integral part of the Morgantown Police Department and is comprised of six detectives, four of which are assigned to general criminal investigations and two detectives with the primary responsibility of narcotics investigations. The Detective Unit is supervised by the Detective Sergeant.

The Morgantown Police Department has joined forces with the Monongalia County Sheriff's Department, United States Drug Enforcement Administration, and the United States Attorney's office to combat and prosecute drug dealers.

The Detective Division has a number of responsibilities including investigation of all violent and major property crimes and evidence processing. All have advanced training in areas such as death investigation, sex crimes, domestic violence, and fraud. Detectives utilize and coordinate resources in their investigative efforts and work closely with other police agencies and the Prosecuting Attorney's office. The detectives work rotating shifts that begin at 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.. A detective is "on call" after 12:00 a.m. and during weekends and holidays.

SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM

The Special Response Team, also known as S.R.T., is an essential part of the overall police operations. The S.R.T. is utilized for high risk arrests, apprehension of armed or potentially armed suspects, and all other critical incidents which may require specialized manpower needs. The ten team members have undergone more intensive, specialized training, which prepares them for tactical situations.

NEW PROGRAMS

A planned program for Spring 2005, is the Street Crimes Unit. The premise is the Police Department will launch an additional patrol team consisting of a supervisor and several patrol officers. The Street Crimes Unit will be charged with conducting proactive policing as well as assisting the Patrol Division in areas that experience unusual crime trends. The ultimate goal will be to reduce violent crimes through aggressive enforcement of local ordinances and State law pertaining to alcohol and drug violations.

The Department has formed an Underwater Search and Recovery Team, consisting of five police officers who are certified divers. Currently there are five officers on the team, and their duties are to respond to water related emergencies and evidence and body recovery.

The Department has implemented a Homeland Defense Program. With the Events of September 11, 2001, law enforcement agencies have been obligated to self evaluate their response to acts of terrorism. The Morgantown Police Department is participating in the Homeland Defense Initiative through the training of all officers to recognize potential threats to society. The Department has formed a partnership with other agencies on issues of awareness and understanding terrorism.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the past several months, the Department has undertaken a wide range of programs and changes while continuing with initiatives that were in progress.

- , The focus has been on areas of administration to include a complete review of the Department's Policy and Procedure.
- , A new policing strategy is dealing with alcohol related crimes and violence in the Downtown area.
- , A specific effort has been made and will continue to be to strengthen policing and visibility in both the Downtown business district and surrounding neighborhoods.
- , A "stepped up" enforcement of specific violations that impact quality of life issues, i.e. garbage and litter, drug and alcohol related enforcement, and parking.
- , The Department has implemented a new program that encourages officers to reside within the City jurisdictional boundaries of Morgantown. Officers with three or more years of service can participate in a program where they take their assigned patrol vehicle home. This has numerous benefits including a sense of ownership resulting in better care and less maintenance of vehicles and an increased police presence in residential neighborhoods. The first cars were assigned to the Norwood and South Park neighborhoods with positive response from residents.
- , The Department has made significant strides in critical areas and has gained a voluntary twenty-one years and over policy at seven Downtown bars. The Department has strived to interact with bar owners to address specific problems and continues to work with other City Departments and outside agencies on innovative ways to address problems.

Upon taking command of the Police Department, the Chief pro-actively took part in several meetings with various members of the community as well as organized groups, all with the intent to revitalize the agency on how it relates to and reaches out to the public. One example is a community meeting in the Wiles Hill district. Residents desired to increase citizen and police interaction, and the Department agreed to place a Police substation in the old Wiles Hill School. The vision is to expand on this program in the future by having officers report directly to the substation. Officers who work this area of the City have been enthusiastic and have volunteered their labor. Thus far, there has been no cost to the Department to implement this program.

FUNDING RESOURCES

The Morgantown Police Department currently has an operating budget of \$4.1 million for fiscal year 2004-2005. The operating budget is used for all operational costs associated with the Police Department, including personnel consisting of 57 sworn officers, 2 secretaries, 3 records clerks, and 7 receptionists/clerks.

GRANTS

The Department has obtained several Federal and State grants. They are as follows:

• Drug and Violent Crime Grant	\$112,000
• School Resource Officer Grant	\$ 54,187
• S.T.O.P. (Violence Against Women) Grant	\$ 10,999
• U.S. Bureau of Justice Bullet Proof Vest Grant	\$ 10,340
• West Virginia Highway Safety Grant	\$ 6,300
• Homeland Security Grant	\$150,000

GOALS

- Continue to provide the citizens with reasonable and efficient police services.
- Improve and provide a higher police visibility.
- Continue to be innovative and flexible to meet the changing needs and growth of the City.
- Implement additional technology such as mobile data, thereby enabling officers to complete reports in the field.

- Provide additional training at all levels, ensuring quality, professional, competent police services and improving the public confidence in the Police Department.
- Continue to seek alternative funding sources for equipment and training.
- Begin a facility upgrade of security equipment, furnishings, and general maintenance.

