

# MORGANTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2006 ANNUAL REPORT



## ***MESSAGE FROM CHIEF SCOTT***

The staff, officers and employees of the Morgantown Police Department continue to work diligently to provide the highest quality and professional law enforcement services to the City of Morgantown. The police department will constantly strive to solve problems and be responsive to community needs and concerns through cooperation. This will be achieved through continued growth of the Police Department, enhanced training and education for Police Officers and maintaining cooperation and interaction with the citizens the Department serves.

As the City continues to expand, the Department will continue to develop a wide range of operational, realistic and innovative strategies to enable the Department to meet the needs of a growing City. In 2006, the Department continued efforts to solve problems and be aware of community needs and concerns through partnerships with all City Departments, our residents, business owners and the administration of West Virginia University. Although the Department must remain flexible in its overall direction and ability to react to specific problems, the Department's core values remain unchanged: *To Protect Life and Property; Preserve Law and Order; Enforce Criminal, Traffic and Regulatory Ordinances; and Provide Essential Public Safety Services To the Community.*

*Chief Philip Scott*



### **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 crime.
- ❖ 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 which are primarily agencies that are part of the justice system.
- ❖ Arrange for the delivery of 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.

### **Department Resources, Data and Organization**

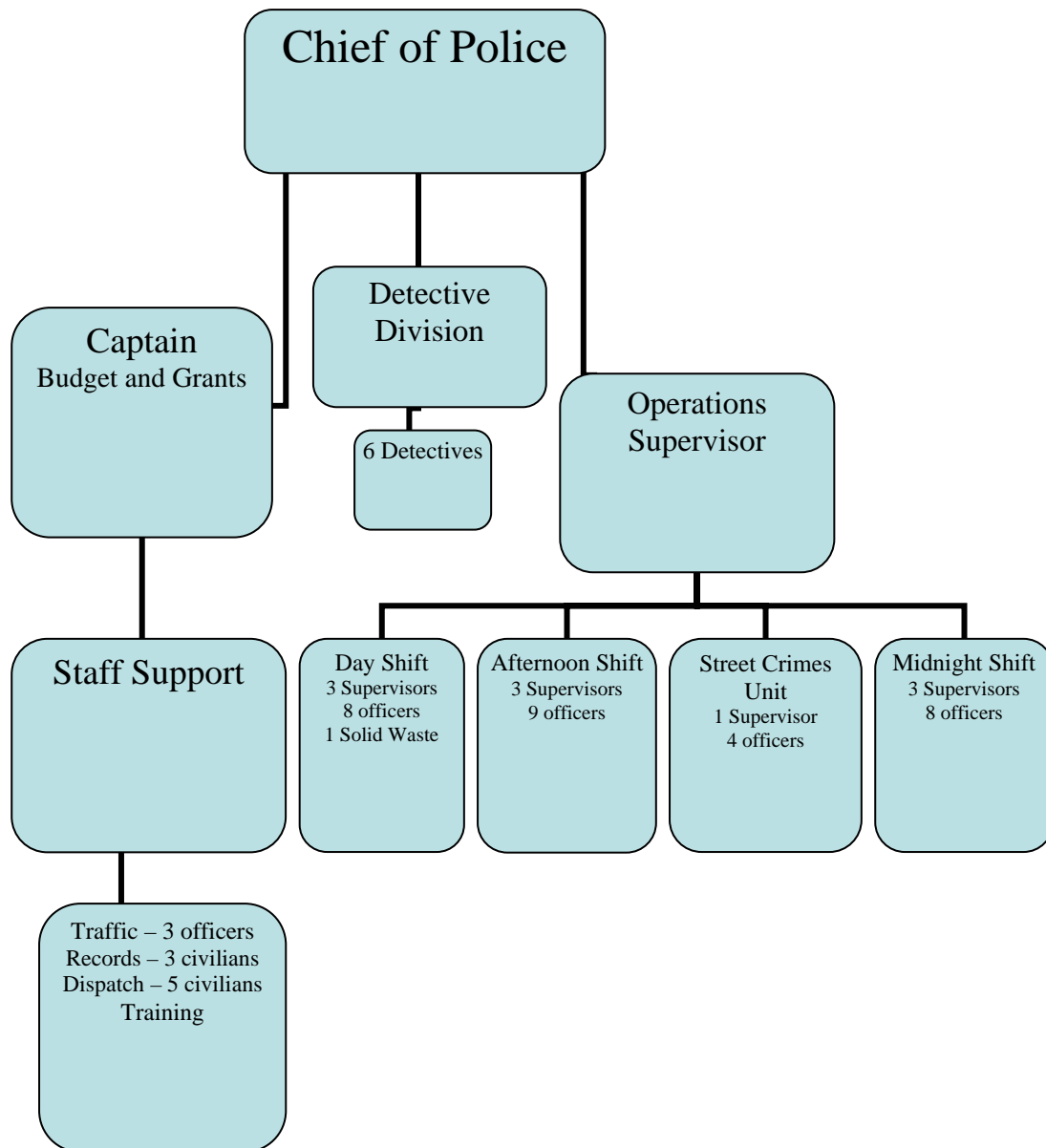
The Police Department operating budget for fiscal year 2006-2007 is 4.6 million dollars. The budget encompasses all operational costs associated with the Police Department. The current staffing level consists of 59 sworn police officers, 2 secretaries, 3 records personnel and 5 clerk/dispatchers. In addition, the Police Department seeks funding sources to augment services, equipment, and technology. Several grants were obtained this year to enhance public safety.

WV Criminal Justice Services Drug and Violent Crimes Control Grant:	\$68,687.00
WV S.T.O.P. Violence Grant:	12,000.00
WV Commission on Drunk Driving:	9,984.00
WV Highway Safety Program Grant:	1,500.00
U.S. Drug Enforcement Grant:	31,145.00
U.S. Transportation Security Administration (Airport Security):	84,461.00
U.S. Department of Justice (Bullet Proof Vest Grant):	8,708.00
State Farm Insurance Safe Communities Grant:	3,000.00
Wal-Mart Foundation Grant:	5,000.00

### Statistics

	2004	2005	2006**
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>731</b>
<b>Juvenile Arrests</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>181</b>
<b>Accidents</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>1,274</b>
<b>Criminal Citations</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>1,705</b>	<b>1,704</b>
<b>Parking Citations</b>	<b>15,130</b>	<b>15,471</b>	<b>13,142</b>
<b>Moving Citations</b>	<b>4,719</b>	<b>5,514</b>	<b>5,312</b>
<b>Incidents</b>	<b>43,082</b>	<b>42,657</b>	<b>44,138</b>
<b>DUI</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>165</b>

\*\*2006 data is from January 01 to November 20, 2006.



## **Current Programs and Services**

### **Administrative/Staff Services**

After restructuring in August of 2005 into more distinct functions, the Chief and command Staff are tasked with providing strategic planning for the future of the organization. The administrative division is commanded by the Captain and a Lieutenant, who oversees the Records Division, Communications, Traffic Division, budgeting, purchasing, equipment, and grant management. With the continued growth of the City the Department will continue to identify, prioritize and solve contemporary problems such as crime, drugs, alcohol, and traffic related problems with the goal of improving the overall quality of life.

### **Patrol Division**

The Patrol Division remains the largest and most visible unit of the Department. Patrol operates on a 24/7 basis, with officers assigned to three shifts: day, afternoon and midnight. The Patrol Division is under the direction of the Operations Supervisor. Each individual shift is commanded by a Lieutenant and two patrol supervisors. The Patrol Division is responsible for answering calls for service, traffic and parking enforcement, accident investigation, and initial reporting of all crimes occurring within the city. The Police Department reorganized the patrol zones in October 2006. The addition of another patrol zone and realignment of the current zones addresses growth and considers impact of future development within the City.

### **Traffic Division**

The Traffic Division consists of three officers who are primarily responsible for targeted traffic enforcement, downtown walking beat and all traffic related special events. The Traffic Division provides a full range of traffic related services utilizing both motorcycles and police vehicles. The Traffic Division works closely with the state highway safety office concerning traffic safety initiatives such as DUI awareness/prevention, seatbelt awareness, and child safety. Traffic officers serve as the liaisons to the community service volunteers and have the responsibility of training new members.

### **Criminal Investigations**

#### **Detective Division**

The Detective Division consists of a supervisor and six detectives. The Division's primary responsibility is to thoroughly investigate, identify and arrest those who commit crimes within the City jurisdiction. Detectives work cooperatively with Patrol Officers and other local, state and federal agencies to accomplish this mission. Additionally, the Detective Division is responsible for the collection, documentation, and preservation of evidence collected at crime scenes.

## Street Crimes Unit

A relatively new addition to the Police Department, the Street Crimes unit was activated in April of 2005, with a mission to reduce the threat of violent crime within the City by aggressive targeted enforcement of drug and alcohol violations. The unit is comprised of a Supervisor, three Patrol Officers and a K-9 officer. Designed to be a proactive policing unit, Officers address continuing or chronic traffic, alcohol, and drug related problems within the City.

## Special Response Team

The Police Special Response Team (SRT) is comprised of ten specially trained Officers who in addition to regular duty, respond to emergency situations that require specialized Police response. Serving on the special response team is a voluntary assignment and members must pass a rigorous assessment to be considered for selection. The Special Response Team is activated on incidents that require extra resources, equipment and tactical training that cannot be handled through a traditional Police response. Some of these situations include high risk search and arrest warrants, apprehension of wanted suspects, hostage/crisis incidents, and civil disturbances.

## Underwater Search/Recovery Team

Much like the Special Response Team, specially trained Officers are certified divers in addition to their regular Police duties. The Underwater Search/Recovery unit responds to water related emergencies, evidence and body recovery. With the rapid growth of the City and the waterfront, the Department has realized that its duties and responsibilities are ever changing. The procurement of a police boat through Homeland Security will enable the Police Department to meet the increasing demands to address safety and enforcement water related issues on the Monongahela River.

## Significant Accomplishments

Through continued support and funding by City Council, the Police Department continues to expand both in personnel and equipment to meet the needs of a growing community. The most significant accomplishment has been the addition of two additional Police Officers during fiscal year 2006-2007 bringing the total strength of the agency to (59) sworn Officers. The Department has been able to continue a vehicle replacement program which assists in keeping maintenance costs steady. Outdated audio/visual equipment utilized by the Detective Division was also replaced with the latest digital system.

A continued effort to address alcohol related problems within the City has carried over this year. Working cooperatively with West Virginia University, West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control, and local businesses, the Department has realized a vast improvement in the overall effects of violent and aggressive alcohol related incidents. The Police Department has continued a strategy of enlisting support for addressing problems by getting cooperation from local bar and property owners. The majority of the downtown establishments have agreed to “good practices” and have followed by establishing rules for patrons and employees.

The Police Department will continue its “ZERO TOLERANCE” policy as it relates to underage alcohol violations as well as disorderly/aggressive behavior. Fair, firm, and consistent enforcement has had a positive impact and will equate to a safer community.

By working with City officials and emergency service providers in Monongalia County, the Police Department will be able to completely replace current radios with a state of the art interoperable communication system. It is anticipated the system will be fully functional in late December 2006. The new communications system replaces one that is over twenty years old and will allow instant and direct contact with law enforcement and other first responders in a three County area.

A program that was started last year and activated in 2006, is the police volunteer Community Service Officer program (CSO). The volunteers supplement and support our Officers by performing non-enforcement related activities. Again, with continued support of City Council, the CSO’s have greatly enhanced public safety by assisting lost/stranded motorists, working with neighborhood watch, security of the rail trail, and assisting with special events.

Through Department of Justice funding, the Police Department was able to replace outdated security equipment in the Public Safety building with digital surveillance recording equipment and keyless entry. The Department will also transition to an automated inkless fingerprinting system in early 2007.

During 2006 Morgantown Police Officers completed all annual State and Federal mandated training requirements. In addition, the Special Response Team, the Underwater Search and Recovery team and K-9 Officers participated in monthly training sessions. Officers Greg Knight and Aaron Dull were awarded the City Medal of Merit and the West Virginia Chiefs of Police Lifesaving Award for the response to a house fire on Union Avenue. Sergeant Matthew Solomon attended the F.B.I. National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. This was a ten week professional course of study for U. S. and international law enforcement officers with specialized training.

Specialized and advanced training continues to be a focus, especially in areas of high risk and liability such as firearms, emergency vehicle operation, search and seizure and crisis intervention. All Patrol Officers completed sixteen hours of training in responding to resistance and aggression. Two supervisors were trained and certified in emergency vehicle operation and will conduct Department-wide training in 2007. Two officers completed hostage negotiation certification. Police supervisors completed training in supervisory skills management, conducting internal investigations, risk management, and preparing and responding to terrorist incidents. The Department also participated in two large scale mock training exercises that were monitored and evaluated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Recent tragedies in the nation’s schools have caused Police Departments and community leaders to take notice of potential dangers within the City. In a continuing effort to address current law enforcement issues, the Department has started to develop and implement new training and procedures to prepare Officers to respond to incidents of school violence.

## Community Involvement

Community involvement continues to be one the most effective tools. In addition to the traditional police/community relationship, Department Officers have enhanced our community relations by direct involvement on several levels. In 2006, specific efforts have been made to work cooperatively with as many groups as possible. Officers serve on several boards and committees such as the 911 Policy Board, Youth Services, Bartlett House, Teen Court, and the Truancy Task Force. Additionally, the Department is regularly interacting with neighborhood associations, schools, and local service organizations.

### Goals for 2007

The Morgantown Police Department is committed to being a progressive, proactive Police agency. The majority of its 2006 goals have been achieved or surpassed. With that in mind, the Department must continually prepare for changes as the City continues to grow and strive to accomplish the following goals for 2007:

- Continue to utilize proactive policing methods to address both neighborhood and business district issues by implementing a Juvenile Diversion Program to address truancy.
- Continue with the enhanced education and training program for employees, which is essential to the Department's continued growth and problem solving capabilities.
- Continue partnerships with community members and be responsive to them.
- Continue partnership with West Virginia University with ongoing and innovative ways to address issues that directly impact both the City and University.
- Identify funding sources and begin the first phase of mobile data technology.
- Enhance overall Police services by hiring and training of civilian personnel to complete non-enforcement assignments.
- Establish a proactive approach in recruitment and hiring of additional Officers to meet the demands of an expanding City.
- Continue the Department's efforts to effectively deal with repeat offender businesses by adopting a nuisance ordinance.