

Message from the Chief of Police

For the previous four years I have presented an annual report on the activities of the Morgantown Police Department. Each year, I look back and review the accomplishments as well as the areas which call for improvements. The most significant challenge this past year has been the lack of manpower. For the majority of the year the Department was short (9) sworn officer positions. Although we moved quickly to fill the vacancies, nearly an entire year is required for the hiring and training process. By utilizing officers from other units, the Department was able to ensure that basic patrol services were provided.

The areas that dictate improvement have been recognized by the Department and significant alterations are being made in several areas. Increasing high visibility patrols, citizen contact, improved communication and networking with residents are the primary 2009 Department goals.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the officers for their outstanding performance in 2008. During a time of manpower shortages, they continued the mission of keeping the City safe. The employees are committed professionals who work hard to provide the highest quality services and demonstrate their commitment to protect Morgantown citizens.



Department Resources and Data

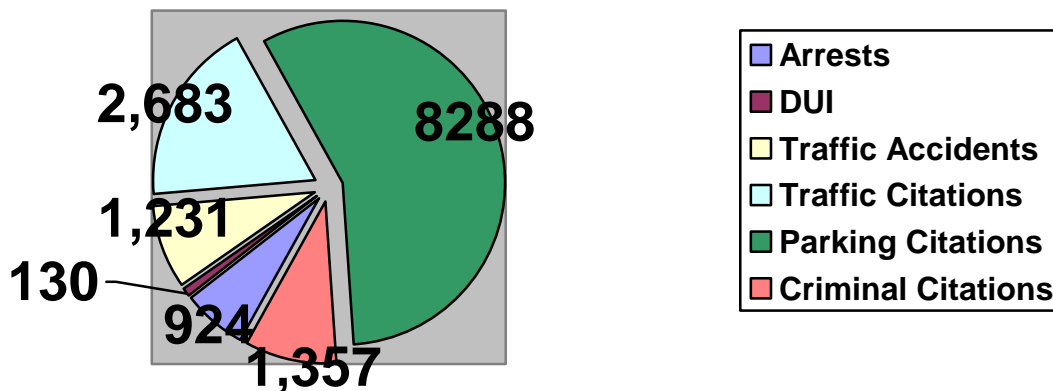
The Morgantown Police Department has an authorized strength of sixty sworn law enforcement officers and eleven civilian support staff. The operating budget is over \$5,000,000. In addition, the Department continually seeks outside sources of funding to enhance the services provided. This year exceeded all others as the Department secured in excess of \$600,000 in grant funding.

COPS Technology Program..... (Mobile Computers)	\$280,590
Drug Task Force Grant.....	\$112,000
RDVIC Domestic Violence Grant.....	\$12,000
Governors Highway Safety Grant..... (DUI/Underage Enforcement) (Training/Equipment)	\$89,000
Department of Justice Law Enforcement Assistance Grant..... (Live scan fingerprinting and fitness equip)	\$57,213
Homeland Security/ Transportation Security Administration..... (Airport security)	\$47,000
WV Public Safety Interoperable Communication..... (Digital mobile and portable radios)	\$25,000
Wal-Mart Public Safety Grant.....	\$5,000

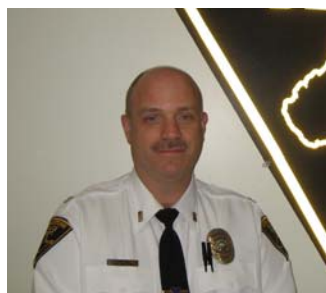
Statistics

Calls for Service (911) 45,425

Arrests.....924
DUI.....130
Traffic Accidents.....1,213
Traffic Citations..... 2,683
Parking Citations.....8,288
Criminal Citations.....1,357



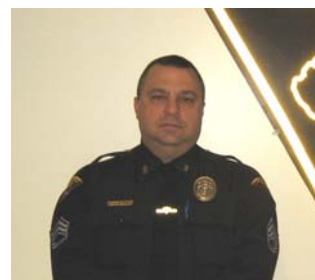
The Police Department continues to operate with two divisions. Administration/Staff Services and the Operations/Patrol Division. Supervision is the responsibility of the command / senior staff.



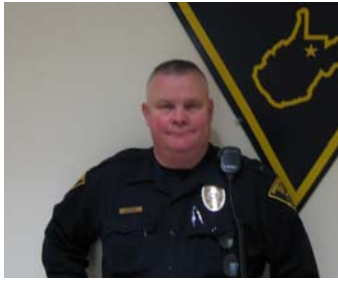
Cpt. Brett Watson



Lt. Michael Lantz
Training Coordinator



F/Sgt. Harold Sperringer
Operations Supervisor



Lt. George Cress
Day Shift Supervisor



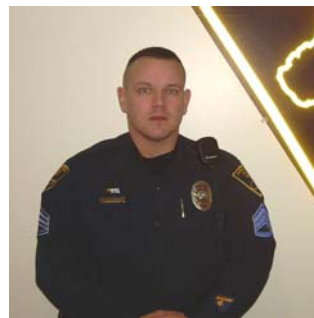
Lt. Kevin Clark
Afternoon Shift Supervisor



Lt. Deborah Mogus
Midnight Shift Supervisor



F/Sgt. Stephen Ford
Detective Supervisor



F/Sgt. Matthew Solomon
Street Crimes Supervisor

Administrative/Staff Services
Captain Brett Watson

The Administrative Division is responsible for the unobserved support function such as purchasing, fleet and facility management, equipment inventory, grants and budgets. Additionally other units such as Training and Records operate under the direction of administrative/staff services

The Police administration has worked closely with the City information technology technician to stay on the forefront of best practices as it relates to Police technology. Mobile computers have been purchased and installed with grant funding.

Traffic Unit

Although the traffic unit has been responsible for a multitude of functions, many not traffic related, the unit will be disbanded, re-organized and renamed to better define the services the unit provides. Under the direction of a Sergeant and renamed the Special Services Unit, Officers will be responsible for an array of responsibilities to include special traffic issues, Downtown beat, solid waste enforcement, special events, and neighborhood issues.

Street Crimes Unit

The Street Crimes Unit was activated in 2005 to reduce the threat of violent crimes City wide. Due to manpower shortages this year, officers assigned to this unit were reassigned to the patrol division for most of 2008. It is anticipated that the unit will be reactivated in early 2009.

Detective/Criminal Investigations Unit

The unit currently consists of a Supervisor and six Detectives, with the ultimate responsibility being to investigate felony crimes committed within the City. Four Detectives work general criminal assignments and two work drug/violent crimes as part of a multi-agency task force.

Many hours are spent processing crime scenes, conducting interviews, testifying in court, conducting surveillance, serving search/arrest warrants and assisting other agencies with investigations. During 2008, the Detective Division opened 153 cases and made 91 arrests.

The two Detectives assigned to the drug task force are also assigned to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration as special task force agents, giving them Federal jurisdiction. Two additional Detectives from the Monongalia County Sheriff's Department work cooperatively conducting drug investigations. Many of the cases are prosecuted in United States Federal Court. During 2008, the drug task force opened 68 cases, made 45 arrests, and seized in excess of \$100,000.00 in U.S. currency. Additionally, vehicles, firearms, and a ski boat were seized from convicted area drug dealers.

Operations/Patrol Division

The vitality of any law enforcement agency, the Patrol Division is the largest division within the Department. The primary responsibility of the Patrol Division is answering emergency and non-emergency calls for service including the initial preliminary reporting and investigation of crimes. Additionally, Patrol Officers enforce State law and City ordinances, investigate traffic crashes and conduct preventative patrols. Many Officers assigned to the Uniformed Patrol Division also have added co-lateral responsibilities that contribute to the Department operations including: Special Response Team (SRT), Dive Team (USRT), Field Training Officer (FTO), and Law Enforcement Certified Training Instructors.

The Patrol Division is currently split into three shifts: A (day) B (afternoon) and C (midnight).



Current Services

Upon the submission of this report, the Morgantown Police Department is currently at the authorized strength of 60 sworn Police Officers. Due to retirements, medical disabilities, and resignations the Department was severely limited in manpower for the majority of the year. To compensate for the shortage, Street Crimes Unit was temporarily disbanded and re-assigned to the patrol shifts. Utilizing the Officers assigned to other units, the Department was able to ensure that basic patrol services were provided and the Officers answered in excess of 45,000 calls for service.

Training continues to be one of the main focuses within the Department. The Morgantown Police Department is mandated to meet both State and Federal training requirements. Recognizing the importance of a well trained organization, the Agency has formulated an on-going training program that utilizes the expertise of Morgantown Police Officers who are State certified instructors to enhance the capability of the individual Officer while minimizing the liability of the Department by training and preparing Officers for the many adversities faced during patrol.

During 2008, significant training accomplishments included: Emergency Vehicle Operations Course was completed on a Department wide basis. The 16 hours of class room and tactical operations course was conducted by internal instructors. Response to Resistance/Aggression Training was conducted Department wide updating officers on less than lethal techniques and legal liability. Twenty Patrol Officers completed a nationally recognized Active Shooter Training class.

Several Officers were selected for outside specialized training in the following areas: First Line Supervision, Interview and Interrogation, Investigating Crimes against Children, Civil Disturbance and Crowd Control, Death and Homicide Investigation, Gang Culture Awareness, and the Police Motorcycle Operator Training.

While each program requires significant effort and is a commitment to maintain, the Special Response Team (SRT) typically involves the most extensive ongoing training and preparation. Assigned Officers continually train together in anticipation of high-risk incidents occurring within the City of Morgantown.