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Acworth Police Department Annual Report

Our Mission and Values

It is the mission of the Acworth Police Department to provide fair, impartial, and excellent law enforcement service to our community. To that end, we pledge to pursue the highest levels of training and education available, and to offer our community the highest levels of professionalism to the best of our ability.

Courage - to overcome opposition, fear, and prejudice

Obligation - to serve the community with respect and dignity

Dedication - to the highest levels of professionalism, leadership, and honor

Enforcement - to exercise integrity in the use of power and authority

Command Staff



Chief G. Wayne
Dennard, Jr.

Captain Mark
Cheatham

Captain Stan
Melton

The Acworth Police Department is commanded by a chief of police and two captains.

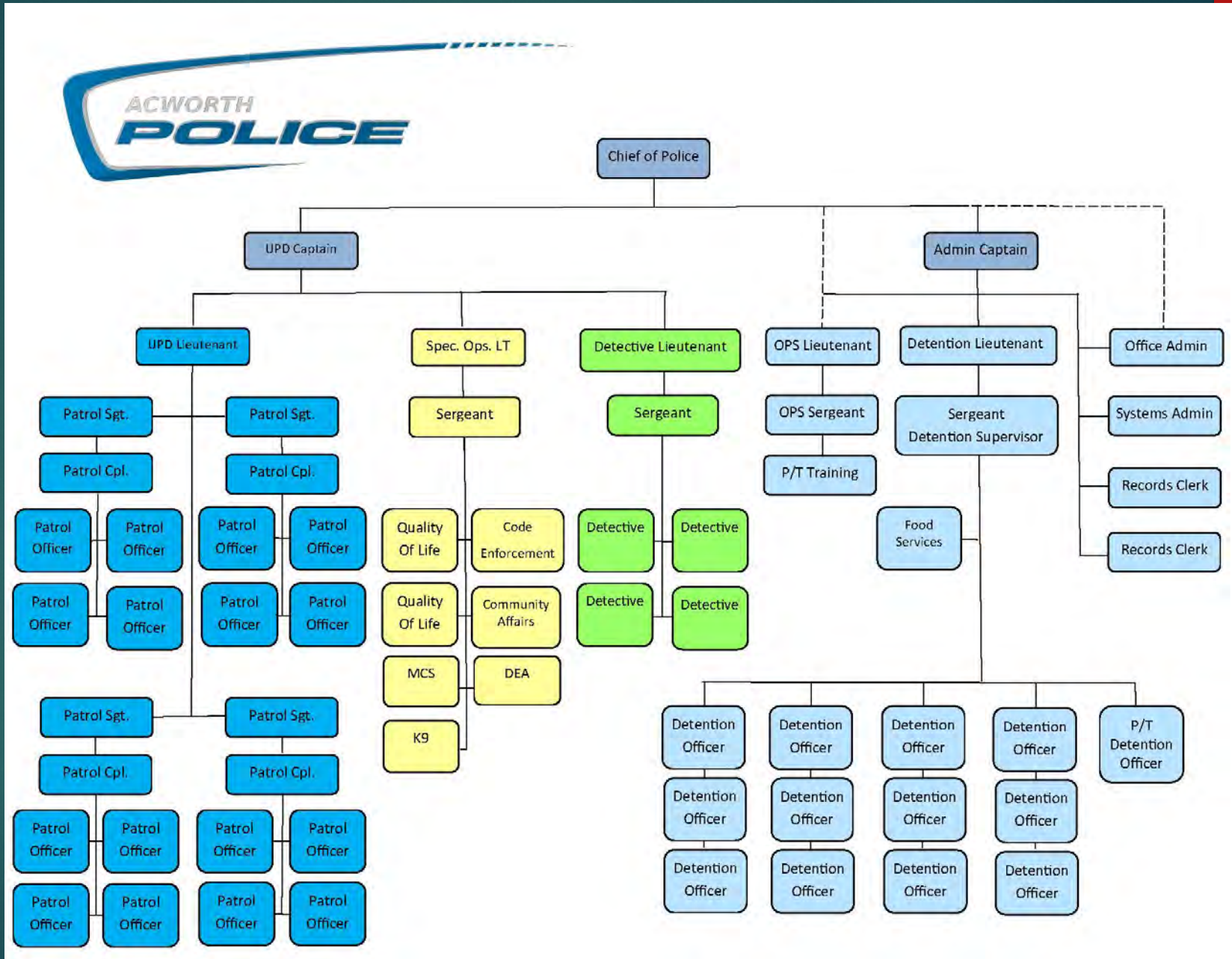
Chief Dennard has been with the City of Acworth since 2003 and has served as Chief since 2012. This year, he was recognized by the West Cobb Chamber of Commerce and the North Cobb Civitan's Club as Citizen of the Year for his dedication to community outreach.

Captain Cheatham has been with the City of Acworth since 2001, and is currently serving as the Administrative Services Captain. He oversees the Detention Division as well as the Office of Professional Standards, the Police IT Department, and the Records Division.

Captain Melton has been with the City of Acworth since 2012. He joined the Acworth Police Department after serving with the Cobb County Police Department for more than 30 years. He is currently serving as the Uniform Patrol Captain and oversees the Uniformed Patrol Division as well as the Special Operations Division and the Criminal Investigations Division.

The vision of the command staff is to provide support to all members of the department in order to enable them to provide the best possible service to the citizens of Acworth.

Departmental Organization



Departmental Goals and Objectives for 2018

The theme of 2018 is "How Can I Help You?" All personnel of the Acworth Police Department should approach every situation, whether internally (within the agency) or externally (in the community or other departments within the city) with these basic queries:

1. How can I leverage what I have to help you do what you need to do?
2. How can I leverage who I am to help you do what you need to do?
3. How can I leverage my success to make you successful?

In 2018, the Acworth Police Department will evaluate and consider the following additions to our employee roster:

1. Social Media Management, Public Information, and Marketing Director.
2. Evidence Tech
3. Data Analyst
4. Custodial/maintenance personnel
5. Recruiting officer

In addition, we will evaluate mid-level compensation and identify/discern compression issues between the ranks. We will also continue to evaluate, discern, and grow our future leaders in the department through effective training and mentorship.



Uniform Patrol



Lieutenant M. Taylor

The Uniform Patrol Division consists of four shifts of officers. Each shift is supervised by a Corporal and a Sergeant, and the entire division is commanded by a Lieutenant.



Patrol Sergeants



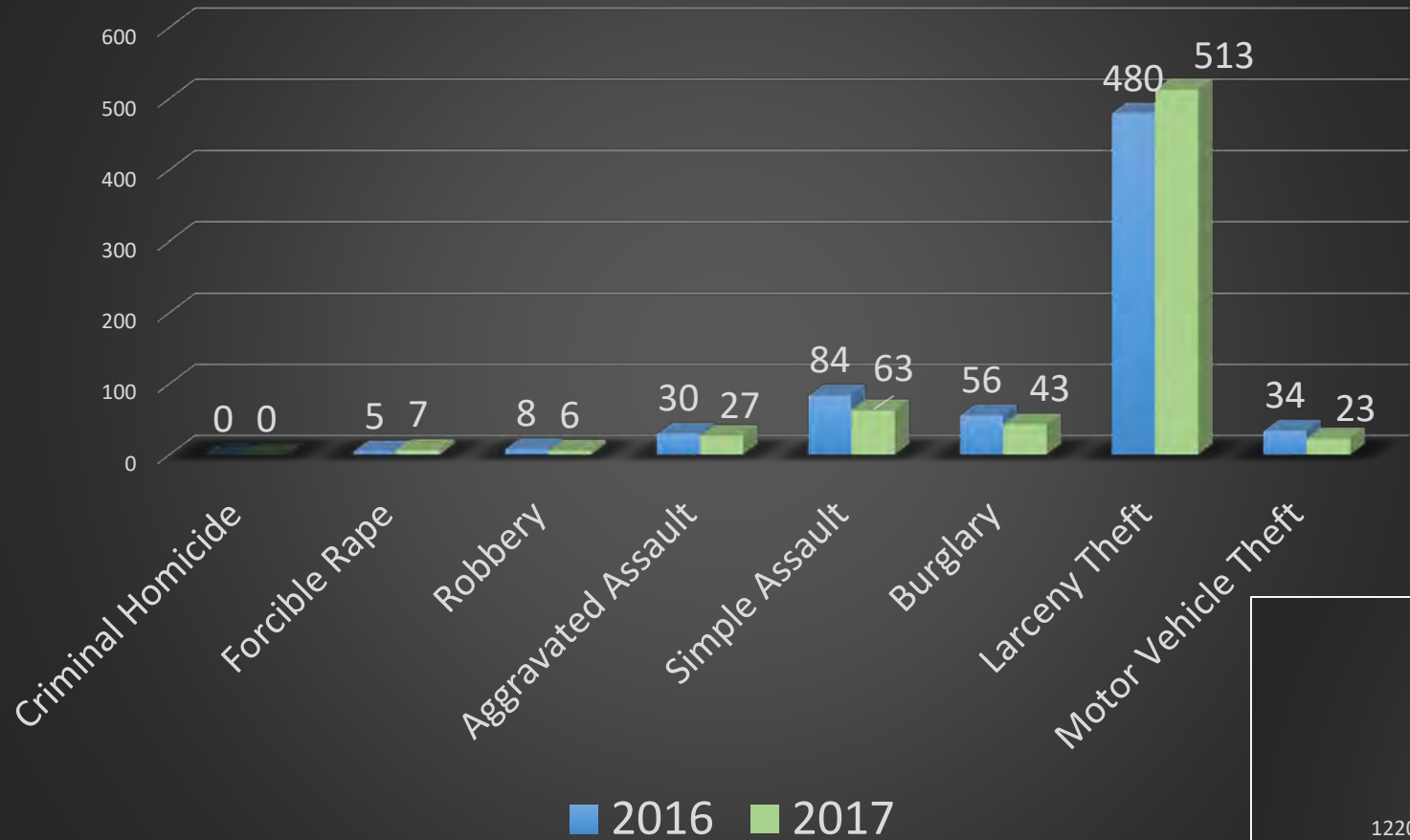
Patrol Corporals

The Uniform Patrol Division is the largest division of the Police Department who are first responders to 911 calls and complaints from citizens to insure public safety. Patrol Division is tasked in enforcing criminal laws, traffic laws, city ordinances, and maintaining public peace and safety. The Uniform Patrol Division operates four 12 hour shifts and is considered to be the "backbone" of the police department.

The Uniform Patrol Division's goal is to be recognized as a fair, friendly, community oriented department dedicated to preserving peace, maintaining order, and protecting the life and property of the citizens of Acworth.

All of our officers and supervisors are dedicated to serving the community and helping those in need whenever possible. We also recognize that sometimes, the best way to help someone is to take them to jail. Even when that is the case, we treat all people with respect and dignity. We are true to the golden rule we treat others how we would want to be treated.

Uniform Crime Reporting

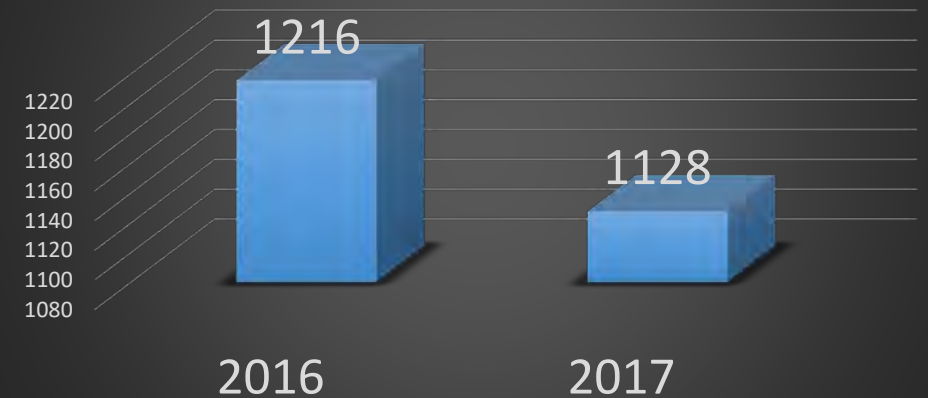


Patrol Statistics

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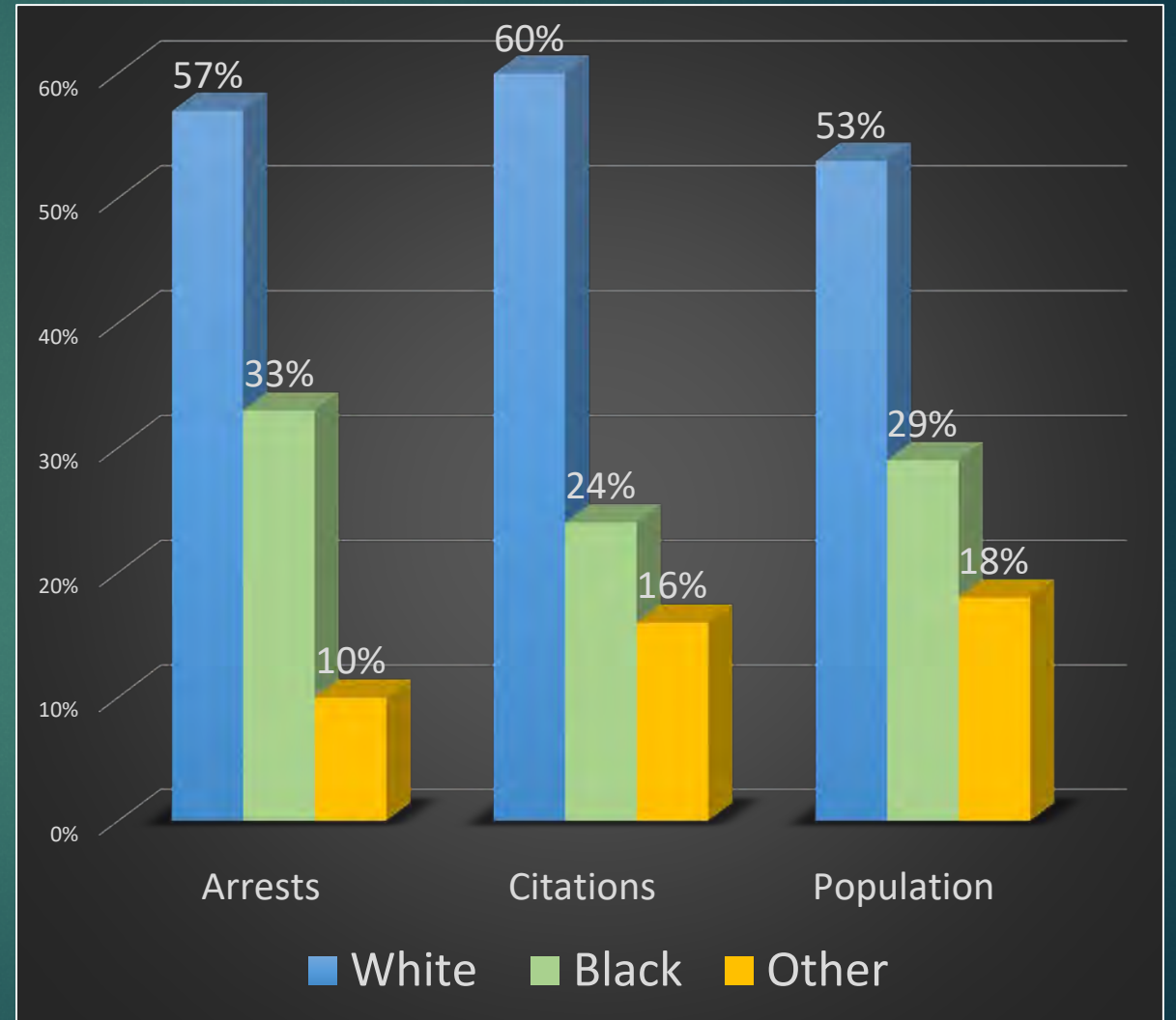
Overall, the Acworth Police Department has seen a decrease in crime over the past year. The biggest decreases have been in the area of property crimes with a 25% decrease in Robbery, a 23% decrease in Burglary, and a 32% decrease in Motor Vehicle Theft. In addition, we have seen a significant reduction in Vehicle Accidents throughout the City of Acworth.

Accident Reports



No Racial Disparity

Each year, the Acworth Police Department tracks our arrest and citation statistics in an effort to continuously evaluate our practices and to ensure that there is no racial disparity in our policing. As in other years, the racial demographic of Acworth is almost identically mirrored in both the number of arrests and citations issued by our officers. This is a good indication that implicit bias is not an issue for our officers. We have a diverse group of highly trained officers who are dedicated to ensuring safety and security for all of our citizens. Acworth is a great place for everyone to live, work, and play.





Departmental Recognition



Lieutenant Endicott received the Distinguished Achievement award from the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce in October.



Chief Dennard received the award for Citizen of the Year from the Northwest Cobb Chamber of Commerce in December.

The Acworth Police Department is very proud of the outstanding work our officers do throughout the year. For many years, our city has enjoyed a low crime rate and a record of integrity in policing. We are especially proud of the lack of racial disparity in our policing, which has been nationally recognized. Most of the hard work our officers do happens out of the spotlight, but every once in a while, the community takes notice and asks everyone else to take notice as well.

This year, the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce took notice of Lieutenant Endicott's decades of faithful service as well as the many lives that he has saved through the years. Lieutenant Endicott was honored to receive the Distinguished Service award from the Chamber and we are grateful to have him on our team.

Chief Dennard was honored to be named the Citizen of the Year by the Northwest Cobb Chamber of Commerce. He was recognized for his ongoing dedication to the community and especially for his leadership which has enabled the success of programs like Covering the Bases, the Chief's Young Adult Advisory Board and more!

2017 Officers of the Year



Officer Tamara Irvin

Officer Daniel Robinette

ACWORTH
POLICE

Officers Irvin and Robinette were selected by a panel of their peers as the Acworth Police Department's Officers of the Year for 2017. Both officers were faced with handling a stressful and highly charged situation, and they rose to the occasion with grace and expertise under great pressure. The following is their nomination from their Supervisor, Sergeant K. Hutson.

On 04/16/2017 at approximately 0406 hours officers were dispatched to 3934 Abernathy Farm Way in reference to a stabbing. Officers arrived on scene at 0409 hours to find a Hispanic male laying in the upstairs hallway of the residence bleeding heavily. Officer Robinette quickly recognized that a tourniquet must be placed on the subject's arm to stop the bleeding or the male subject would bleed out. Robinette radioed for Officer Irvin (who was entering the front door) to grab a tourniquet. Officer Irvin obtained the tourniquet from her patrol car and assisted Robinette in holding the subject's arm while the tourniquet was positioned.

When the call went out, Officer Hennessee with the Kennesaw Police Department was scanning our channel. His residence is next door to the stabbing incident. Officer Hennessee was on his way home to check on the welfare of his wife. Hennessee heard the call for the tourniquet and responded to our location first to assist with the injured person. Officer Irvin held the arm of the victim in place while Officer Robinette positioned the tourniquet on the subject's arm. Officer Hennessee turned the tourniquet and strapped it in place to stop the bleeding.

I was approached by EMT Chelsea Ashley who stated that the ER doctor told her if the officers had not applied the tourniquet, the subject would have died. All three of these officers worked together to save a life in the early morning of April 16, 2017. The director of Metro, Matt Dessez also wanted the names of the officers so they could be recognized. I recommend Officer Irvin and Officer Robinette for officer of the quarter for their life savings actions!

Dr. Curtis McClung/Motorola Award of Excellence presented by the Georgia Association of Chief's of Police

On Monday, July 24th, the Acworth Police Department was awarded the prestigious Dr. Curtis McClung/ Motorola Award of Excellence at the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police summer conference in Savannah.

This annual award honors achievements in a number of areas, including: innovative programs with widespread implications on community/department and the law enforcement profession; programs that affect quality of life issues of the community; and programs that promote community relations.

We were nominated for our efforts to reach out and make connections with young people in the Acworth community through innovative programs like the Chief's Young Adult Advisory Board and the Youth Citizens Police Academy as well as by simply spending time with them.

The Chief's Young Adult Advisory board meets monthly, and has a mission to increase diversity, awareness, and insight into what young adults are experiencing, saying, and expecting from law enforcement by opening lines of

communication between students and the chief of police, and to promote community confidence in the police department through relationships, education, partnerships, and transparency. The Chief's Young Adult Advisory Board helps to give a voice to the students and gives the police chief insight into the needs and desires of the youth of our community.

The Youth Citizens Police Academy, also known as S.T.A.R.S (Smart Teens Are Responsible and Safe) is taught on a quarterly basis and gives the students an opportunity to speak to police officers and ask questions that they might not otherwise have the opportunity to ask. They also have the opportunity to tour the city jail and experience some police training with the use of force simulator. The students benefit from the program, but in many ways, the police department benefits even more. By speaking directly with teens in their own community, our police officers are able to learn the students' perspectives and have a better understanding of how they can serve this vital group in the community.



Cobb County Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Employee of the Year – 3 Consecutive Years!



In 2014, 2015, and 2016, an officer of the Acworth Police Department was selected as Cobb County Chamber of Commerce's Public Safety Employee of the Year. Sergeant Hunt, Sergeant Jordan, and Corporal Arnold were each nominated for their outstanding actions which resulted in saving the lives of others.

In 2017, Lieutenant Endicott was received the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Chamber for his decades of outstanding service and numerous lifesaving actions.

Officers from throughout the county are nominated by their agencies for recognition, and very few are selected as award winners. We are humbled by the selection of our officers, and we are grateful to work with some of the best public safety employees in Cobb County.

Criminal Investigations 14 Division



Lieutenant D. St. Onge



Corporal K. Arnold



Detective S. Almon

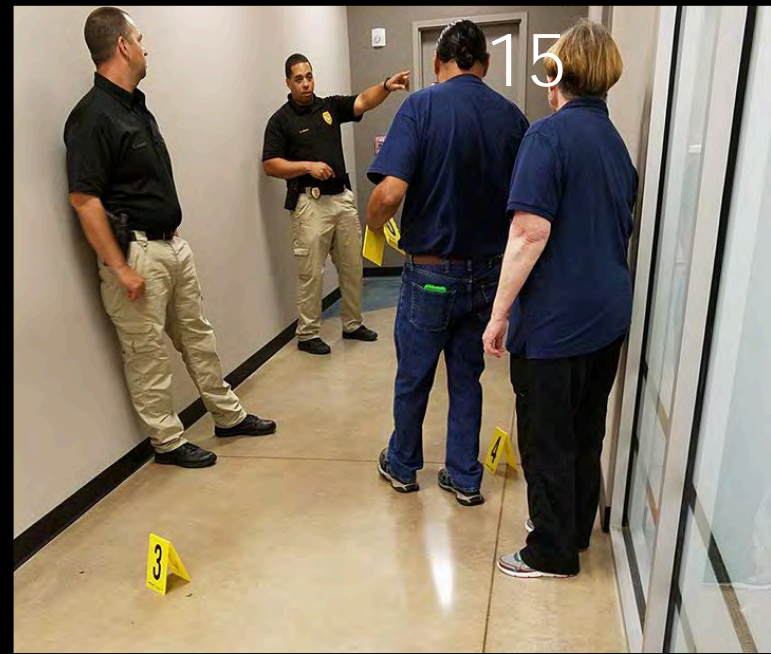


Detective V. Guevara

The Criminal Investigations Division had a busy year in 2017 with another increase in assigned cases. CID made full use of available resources including online tools such as CLEAR, Leads Online, and received excellent returns from BOLOs placed on the city's Facebook page. CID continued its networking with nearby jurisdictions to clear our own incidents and assist with information to resolve others outside of Acworth. Many strings of entering autos and burglaries were resolved.

In addition to solving cases, CID also performs a number of supportive duties for the department. This year, CID produced twenty-five employment background investigations. Following the appropriate inventory, court paperwork, photographs, and auction preparation on GovDeals, the 2017 firearms purge earned \$5,535. Ten condemnation filings were completed in 2017. Below are some additional statistics that CID was able to manage in 2017.

DFACS Referrals	146
APS Referrals	11
Pawn tickets processed	10,237
Marijuana Reports	97
Internal Investigations	1



Lieutenant
C. Endicott



Corporal
Y. Leverette

Corporal
J. LaRocque



Officer
N. Effler

Officer C.
Heflin



Officer J.
Legere

Officer
J. Hall



Special Operations Division

The Special Operations Unit was formed in 2012 to combine all specialized units within the department. The mission of the Special Operations Unit is to support Uniform Patrol and the Criminal Investigations Unit.

The Unit is comprised of the following divisions: K-9, Traffic Enforcement and Education, Narcotics Investigations, Quality of Life, and the Office of Community Affairs. All law enforcement officers in our Special Operations Unit receive specific training for their areas of expertise in order to better serve our community.

Spending time in our Schools

As a department, we believe that spending time with our youth is one of the best ways to foster positive relationships with them. If young people feel that the police are their allies, they may be less prone to getting in trouble with the law, and more prone to come to the police for help if they are in need.

We spend hundreds of hours a year in our local schools while participating in a number of events and activities. Officers spend time teaching drug awareness classes in the middle schools, greeting students at the school door in the mornings, eating lunch with students, reading to the elementary schools, and enjoying special activities throughout the year.

This year, Sergeant Montcalm took the initiative to organize a very successful book drive for McCall Primary School. Over the summer, Sgt. Montcalm coordinated the collection of hundreds of brand new books, and at the start of the school year, each student was able to pick out a new book to take home. The event was so successful that after every student was given a book there were extra books left over, and those were donated to teachers to supplement their classroom libraries.



Covering the Bases

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This year, the Acworth Police Department held our 10th annual Covering the Bases fundraiser to benefit the Special Needs Development Group and Horizon Field. Covering the Bases is an award winning program that raises awareness and funds to support the Horizon Field. The field is a synthetic surface which allows children with physical and cognitive disabilities to play organized sports. Covering the Bases is the result of a partnership between the citizens of the community and the police department. Thus far, the police department has raised more than \$350,000, and 100% of all proceeds go directly to the field.

Each year, hundreds of athletes with special needs participate in team sports on the field. The Horizon League uses a system of volunteer buddies to help players while they are on the field, which enables parents of the players to watch their children as spectators. This is an opportunity that parents of children with special needs do not often have. We are immensely proud of this outstanding program, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to be of service to these amazing families.

Citizens' Police Academy

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The Citizens' Police Academy (CPA) is our premier community outreach activity. 2017 was the 17th year that we have had the academy, and as usual, it was a huge success! The Academy is a twelve week program designed to give the public a working knowledge of the day to day operations of the Police Department. It enables participants to gain a better understanding of procedures, guidelines, responsibilities, demands, equipment, policies and laws that guide the Police Department's decision making process. Citizens are informed as to the actual role of police and in return, police benefit from the exchange of knowledge the citizens provide about the community.

Graduates from the CPA become members of our departmental family, and act as ambassadors for us in the community. Over the course of the past 17 years, we have had more than 500 students participate in the course, and the relationships that we have forged with them have stood the test of time.



Holiday Outreach

Each year during the holiday season, the Acworth Police Department coordinates and participates in multiple outreach activities to benefit those in our community who are facing financial hardship. One of our largest events is our annual Christmas Shoppe. Toys are collected from the community, with a large portion coming from Cobblestone Golf Course tournaments. Parents of children from struggling families, who are identified by Cobb County School District are then invited to “shop” for toys for their children. From those families, the one that is in the most dire need is selected to receive gifts from our Cop Tree. Ornament cards are placed on the tree in our lobby with gift requests for the family, and in addition to filling their freezer with food, the family receives gifts to fill their home during this season.

The holiday season can be especially difficult for those who are struggling financially, and we feel blessed to have the opportunity to have the resources to help those who are in the greatest need during this time.



Cop-a-Treat

In October, we held our first annual Cop-a-Treat event at the police department. This event was spear-headed by our civilian staff including our Records Division, Office Administrator, Systems Administrator, our Detention Personnel, as well as Court Services – all of whom have a love for both Halloween and the Acworth community.

For this event, we opened our doors to the public and invited tiny trick-or-treaters to roam our spookily decorated facility. The Parks and Recreation Department also joined in on the fun and brought in a petting zoo, games, and tons of treats.

Over 2000 children and families joined in for this festive occasion, making Cop-a-Treat one of our most successful events of the year!



Shoot for the Horizon

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Shoot for the Horizon is a yearly pistol shooting competition for Law Enforcement personnel. All proceeds are donated to the Special Needs Development Group, which benefits Horizon Field and the Horizon League. The mission of the Horizon League is to provide children and young adults with developmental and physical disabilities the opportunity to participate in athletic, social and cultural events; develop lasting relationships among their peers, coaches and parents; and show them that they are an important part of their community by creating an environment of inclusion for both the kids and their parents.

2017 was the 8th annual competition, and we were able to raise over \$3000 and 100% of that funding was donated to athletes with special needs in the Acworth community.

The event is the result of a partnership with the Paulding County Sheriff's office which allows us the free use of their shooting range, as well as the dedication of our staff who volunteer their time for this very worthy cause.

Polar Plunge

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In February, the Police Department participated in a fundraiser to benefit the Special Olympics. On a frigid day, with water temperatures frightfully low, approximately 20 members of the department as well as family, friends, and community partners ran headstrong into the waters of Lake Acworth, and raised thousands of dollars for athletes with special needs in Georgia. In addition to a day of fun with old friends, we even made a new one – Shaquille O’Neil.

It was a day of fun and we are grateful to have been able to raise a substantial amount of money for an excellent cause!





Office of Professional Standards



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Lieutenant C. R. Ball Sergeant L. Montcalm Officer M. Payne

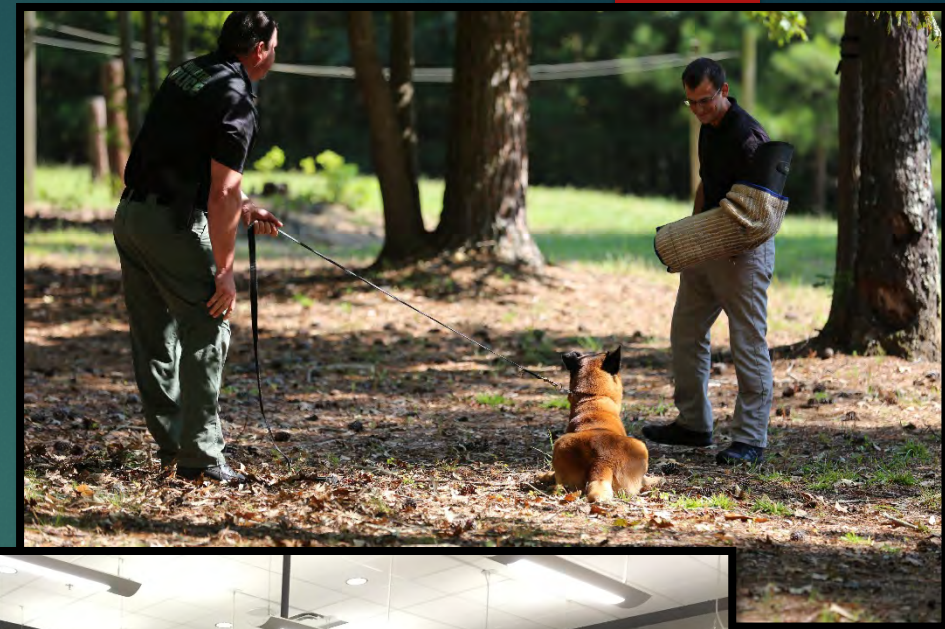
In 2017 The Office of Professional Standards and Training gained a full time position which was filled by Sergeant Lisa Montcalm. Her primary duty was to take over the State of Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program. In doing so she also took over the newly acquired PowerDMS program and became the program's lead administrator. Keeping our boat afloat on the massive body of water that is the State Certification Program is no easy feat. Sergeant Lisa Montcalm has excelled in her new role. She quickly learned the new computer program, transferred all paper files into the program, and set up our files for the mock assessment which was brought in under the deadline. The "mock" occurred in October and everything is looking fantastic. We are certainly on track for our recertification assessment which is due to take place on February 27 - 28, 2018. Sergeant Montcalm has been a valuable asset to the team and has begun the process of cross training on many of the duties that I already do on a daily basis.

During 2017 the unit still deployed just one part time officer to coordinate and plan all training for the Department. However, the Unit still hit all of its mandatory training goals that were set for the year. Officer Michael Payne is that part time employee. He has been placed in charge of getting all officers through the Training Simulator during quarterly training. He also routinely coordinates outside agencies who want to send their employees through the simulator training. Officer Payne in conjunction with Sergeant Montcalm has been tasked with providing up to date relevant training for all of our field training officers and recently held a class that encompassed more than field training officer material. This leadership and supervision style class was recently given to all command staff and more than twenty other employees at the department. current Acworth employees have amassed over 5,000 total hours of training for the 2017 calendar year and everyone has all their mandatory items completed.

OPS Goals and Objectives

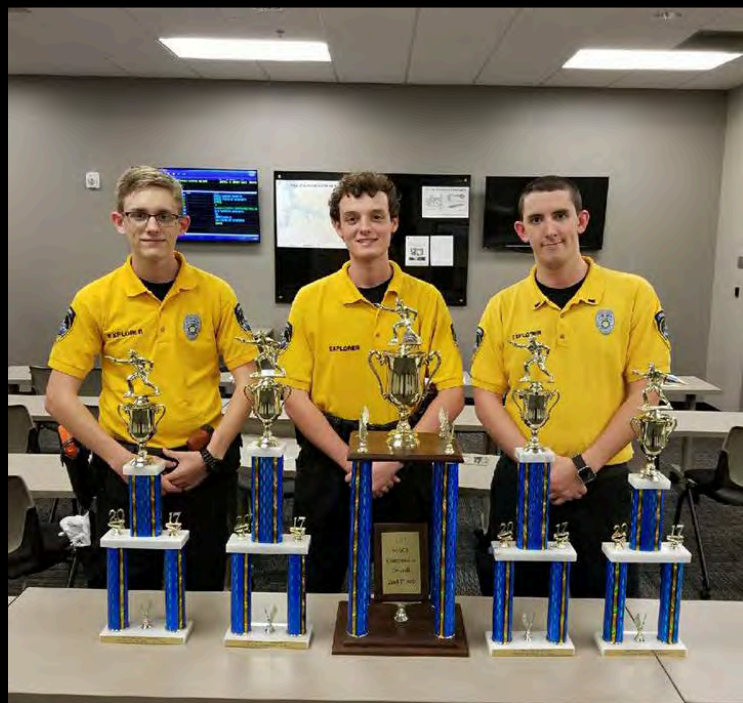
In 2017, the Office of Professional Standards and Training had a successful 2017. During the year, all of our sworn personnel completed their mandatory 20 hours of POST certification training including firearms, use of force/de-escalation, and community policing requirements. Overall, our officers averaged 95 hours of training each. Included in that training, were 10 employees who attended Supervision level classes; four of those officers completed all three levels of Supervision.

In 2018, we will accomplish our State Certification re-assessment and we hope to create a part-time employment position that is solely dedicated to state certification. While we are already well above the required number of training hours, we are dedicated to ensuring that we have the best training available, and to that end, we would like to create a full-time training position within the Office of Professional Standards. In addition, we will work toward hosting Civilian Response to Active Shooter classes and scheduling these for the community. In order to achieve this, we will work to secure classes for new ALERRT Active Shooter instructors.



Law Enforcement Explorers

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The Acworth Police Department Law Enforcement Explorers program is one of our many successful community outreach endeavors. The program is under the supervision of Officer Daniel Robinette, who began his career with the Acworth Police Department as an Explorer. After graduating from North Cobb High School, Officer Robinette joined our ranks as a detention officer, and was later promoted to Patrol. Throughout all of this time, he has continued to help build the Explorer program, and we are so proud of everything they have accomplished this year. The Explorer program is supported by a partnership between the Acworth Police Department, North Cobb High School, and the Boy Scouts of America.

In addition to providing a connection between high school students and the police department, it has been a gateway into the criminal justice profession for many students. In addition to Officer Robinette, Officer Kyle Bayfield, and Detention Officer Taniesha Palarche also got their start in our Explorer program, and both are still actively serving as assistant leaders. The Explorers competed in three competitions and won the following awards:

- Unknown trouble (1st place)
- Accident Investigation (1st place)
- Felony traffic stop (3rd place)
- Suspicious activity (3rd place)
- 2nd place Overall.

The Acworth Police Department's Law Enforcement Explorer program exists to further an Explorer's academic education, encourage an Explorer's participation in productive community service activities, and enhance an Explorer's preparation for their future roles as citizens, community members, leaders and future law enforcement officers. The Explorer program also seeks to provide young men and women with a realistic introduction to the law enforcement career field and prepare them for a future in the field.

ACWORTH DETENTION FACILITY



Detention Division

The Acworth Detention Facility is staffed by 12 certified detention officers, one food services coordinator, one detention sergeant, and one lieutenant. The Detention Center has the capability to house 41 male and female inmates. In addition to Acworth inmates, we also house inmates for the City of Kennesaw, the City of Dallas, the City of Powder Springs, and the City of Marietta.

In 2017, the Detention Division received 2,976 inmates from all 5 jurisdictions. Our officers are tasked with the massive responsibility of ensuring the safety and security of our facility as well as that of the inmates who are housed within, and they participate in hundreds of hours of training to enable them to be the best of the best.

While inmates and their families may be experiencing difficult times, our staff is committed to helping them navigate through the experience of being in jail in the most compassionate and empathetic way possible.

Records Division

This year has been an eventful one for the Records Division. This year, our most senior employee retired unexpectedly, and after a months-long search for a replacement, we hired and trained our first new employee in 3 years. The division was able to work through the changes and have not missed a beat in providing the best possible customer service to the citizens of Acworth.

The staff of the Records Division is dedicated to the police department as well as the community as a whole. Throughout the year, they have been integral to a number of community outreach efforts including, the Christmas Shoppe, Petal it Forward, and the Halloween Cop-a-Treat, just to name a few. As a result of their continued efforts, division staff were recognized by VFW Post 5408.

During 2017, the Records Division ran a total of 3,139 criminal histories (including checks for the public, Parks and Rec, City Hall, and local churches) and fingerprinted 161 people. As a result, the division collected \$4,025 in fingerprinting fees and \$14,370 in fees for criminal histories.

In an effort to streamline the Open Records Request process, in 2018 the division will be working to purchase JustFOIA records management software in coordination with the Office of the Records Clerk at City Hall. We feel that this system is vital to ensure the proper organization and completion of open records requests.

All of our division staff are absolutely dedicated to providing the best possible service to our community as well as members of our department. We look forward to another successful year, and continued professional progress.



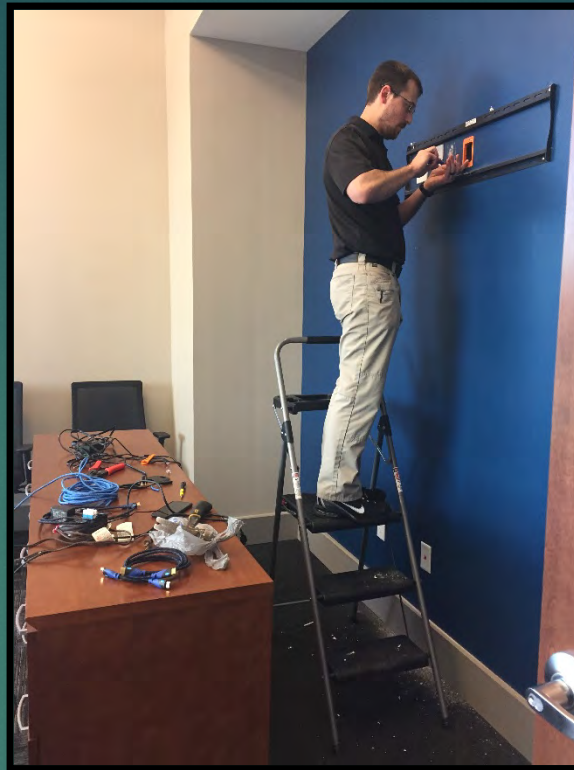
Systems Administration

During 2017, the IT departments had three main goals: Finish the WatchGuard Body Camera transition, install our own firewall, and install our own fiber internet connection.

The body cameras transition has been completed and is in full use at this time with minimal issues. While the hope was to get rid of the mic packs and only rely on the body cameras for audio, we are still evaluating if that will be a good decision.

During the second part of 2017, our goal was to transition to a dedicated PD fiber internet connection and firewall at the police department to ensure more reliable 24x7 operations for not only the PD & Jail but also Court, Power & Public Works. This was completed in September and was a fairly smooth transition over. The goal for the beginning of 2018 will be to start pricing out the server virtualization project that was originally planned for only the police department. The project has since grown to the entire city and will require a bit more planning. The hope is to have the new servers installed and functioning by the end of the 2018 fiscal year.

Once the virtualization project starts to come to a competition, the IT department will be look at alternate ways to backup not only the data that it housed at the city but also offsite disaster recovery options for the servers themselves. This will help ensure that all of the city data as well as city servers will be able to continue to function offsite if a large scale issue was to occur. A side goal of the PD IT Department will be to help with the successful construction of the new parks & rec. community center network & security systems. These systems will be laying the groundwork for the entire city to transition to an all-in-one card access & security camera solution. This system will help unify the city in their operations thus allowing better control of the city's security and an overall more fluid ability to expand the infrastructure when needed.



Systems Administrator, Matthew Sender is plugged into our department as well as the Acworth Community. He is a valued member of our department.