



2020  
ANNUAL REPORT

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*Spend time, and do the right thing.*

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## *Law Enforcement Oath of Honor*

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On my honor, I will never  
betray my badge, my integrity,  
my character or the public trust.

I will always have the courage to hold  
myself and others accountable for our actions.

I will always uphold the  
constitution, my community, and the  
agency I serve.



Thank you for taking the time to read our Annual Report. I am so proud of our agency and our accomplishments this year. We are a State Certified Law Enforcement Agency and as such, we are committed to staying apprised of best practices and continually reviewing and updating our policies and procedures accordingly. We believe that transparency is the key to earning and maintaining the public's trust. Our department's motto is Spend Time and Do the Right Thing, and that is the simple essence of who we are as the department. I hope that you will enjoy perusing our 2020 Annual Report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Wayne Dennard, Jr.".

G. Wayne Dennard, Jr.  
Chief of Police

# Patrol Division

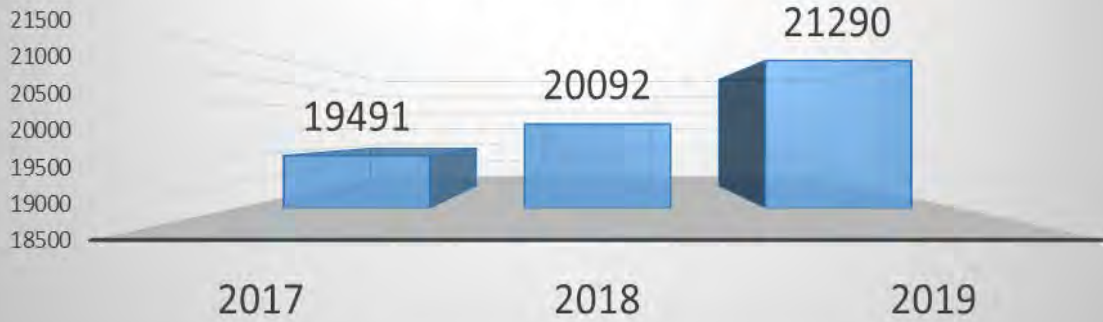
As a department we have always forged great partnerships, friendships, and built tremendous trust from our great community. The community knows that we are there for them and we know we can count on the community in a time of need as well. Our 2020 Goals and Objectives are as follows:

## Goals and Objectives for 2020

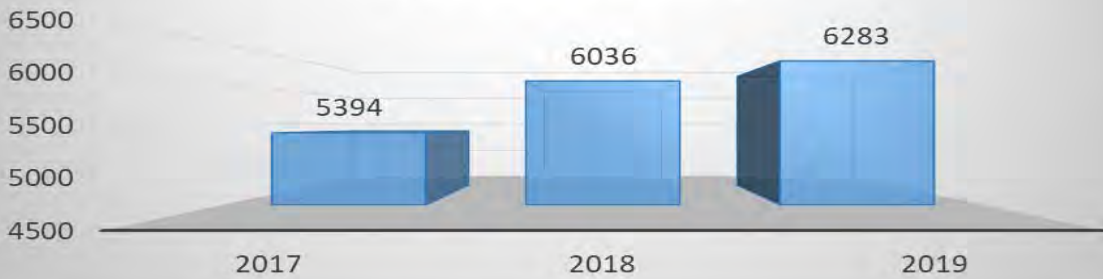
- Place a high priority on community policing.
- Continue to be safe drivers and shoot for a zero at fault crash rate for 2020
- Place a high priority on monitoring and enforcing traffic laws especially driving under the influence violations
- Conduct several traffic enforcement operations with assistance from Special Operations
- Provide top notch customer service for our citizens while handling all calls for service
- Preventive Patrol to combat crimes such as burglaries, entering autos, thefts, etc...to include businesses and residential neighborhoods
- Continue to recognize our officers for going above and beyond
- Purchase equipment on an as needed basis for replacement and or upgrade (including fleet items)

Offense	YTD 2019	YTD 2018	Count DIFF		% Change
Murder	0	1	-1	↓	-100%
Agg Assault	11	19	-8	↓	-42%
Rape	0	5	-5	↓	-100%
Robbery Bussiness	0	0	0	-	NC
Robbery Individual	3	6	-3	↓	-50%
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>-17</b>	<b>↓</b>	<b>-55%</b>
Burglary Non-Forced	11	14	-3	↓	-21%
Burglary Forced	17	17	0	-	0%
Shoplifting	300	293	7	↑	2%
Other Theft	279	286	-7	↓	-2%
Stolen Auto	15	23	-8	↓	-35%
Arson	0	0	0	-	NC
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>↓</b>	<b>-2%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>-28</b>	<b>↓</b>	<b>-4%</b>
<b>Part II Crime</b>	<b>2019 YTD</b>	<b>2018 YTD</b>	<b>Count DIFF</b>		<b>% Change</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>-53</b>	<b>↓</b>	<b>-6%</b>

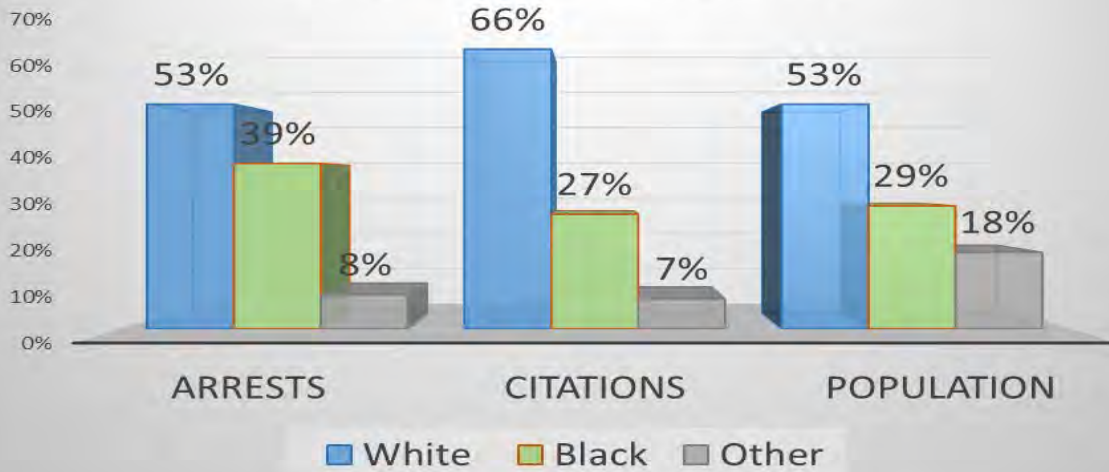
### Calls for Service



### Traffic Citations



### 2019 Racial Demographics





## Special Operations Division

- 1- Assignments in Special Ops currently consist of Parks Patrol, K9 and Code Enforcement. During the months the parks were closed and weather deterred citizens from visiting the Parks Patrol Officers were tasked with various objectives around the city. One being to address High Crime High Drug areas or better termed Areas of Interest. This resulted in several significant drug arrests, weapon seizures and wanted persons located. Along with those several DUI arrests were made throughout the down season of the parks from the added patrol of the Parks Officers.

With the upcoming alcohol related businesses and additional containment areas we believe the unit is in need of expansion now before it becomes a must. The Unit needs two additional officers to work as “Directed Patrol” Officers. These officers will be tasked with monitoring areas of interest, downtown containment zones, and responding to any suspicious complaints of illegal drug and or gang activities. This will help maintain the progress the unit has made over the winter months. If we scale back, we believe the crimes that have occurred over the summer months will again resurface in these areas. Later in the evening hours when not tasked with complaints the officers will be patrolling the borders of the containment zones and Cobb Parkway for possible DUIs.

The parks have shown that we must maintain and two officer presence throughout the season and up to the end of October. Pulling from these assignments would leave one officer trying to maintain order and compliance with the park attendees. This causes a safety issue and has shown not manageable when the parks are at high attendance.

Two years ago we had a “Traffic Enforcement” position within the unit. This officer worked primarily a day shift rotation through the week and early morning hours during school. The officer assigned to the position was able to keep speeds down in and around the school zones during the start and finish of the school day. They were also assigned traffic related complaints around the city. The officer investigated the complaints and worked the area to if the need was there. This also assisted in the lowering of traffic accident related incidents in the areas where accident occur most. With additional businesses coming to the city and the annexing of properties further north the business traffic will grow. The additional enforcement and education would assist in keeping traffic accidents lower in these areas. The Unit would like to revisit this position and place an officer out during this time frame to work as a “Traffic Enforcement and Education Officer”. The officer will also be assigned to work with GOHS and attend meetings. When obtaining updates on traffic laws or changes this officer can disseminate through the chain of Command and release to the sworn officers of the department. They will be tasked with working with state initiatives ie... seatbelts, DUI enforcement and safety equipment checks and then forwarding the progress to the state as needed. In addition, if needed the officer will be available during their working hours to assist with traffic accident related incidents to work and begin compiling data for areas that may need attention or new traffic direction signage.

We understand that at some point the Code Enforcement position will be taken back to City Hall. We would like to see that instead of losing that position within the Unit that we can rotate that back to the Traffic Enforcement and Education position. If so the only new Unit positions that would be removing officers from patrol would be the Directed Patrol Officers.

2. Last year the Parks Officers encountered several incidents with boats running gas motors on the lake. The officers had no way to contact the boat operators due to the size of the lake. This was a safety issue with kayakers and SUP borders on the water. Also, with the growing crowds on Lake Acworth the Parks Officers have no water access if there is ever a need due to an emergency. It would also be beneficial for these officers to be able to make random patrols around the lake to check on the people in the water and out of sight from the Cauble Beach area. The Parks Officers need a boat that would be able to handle the two-man crew as well as up to 2 or 3 additional individuals if they had to remove people from the water for some reason. The boat would need to be equipped with necessary life preservers, ropes and throw cushions or buoys. The boat will need to be stored at the gravel lot in a covered awning and lock boxes for the gear.

This would be beneficial for us and for Cobb Fire. If 28 does not have their jet skis readily available, the option would be there for them as well if an emergency arises on the water. The Cobb Fire boat is generally located across town to access the river closer to Atlanta. With a lot of water emergencies time is of the essence and either the Parks Officers or Cobb Fire would need a quick option.

3. During the busy Special Events' season, the additional personnel will make it easier to spread the workload and not have to utilize each assigned officer for every event. There is still a need for additional event management and security training once available. This has been discussed in the past. Both myself and Sergeant Mines need to attend and even additional Special Ops members if available.
4. There is an uncertainty on the length of time that Sergeant Larocque's canine partner will be able to continue to work. Instead of eliminating the dual narcotics service canine position, We would like to see that we look towards purchasing a dual purpose explosive detection (EDC) and patrol trained canine. With the numerous events that city has each year and the various venues the City can benefit from having an EDC on staff. The EDC will be able to make pre-sweeps of venue areas, sweeps around the events once active and even stage at entrance locations to detect passersby that may be carrying explosive materials. The EDC will be readily available to sweep local schools and businesses if needed. The EDC will be trained in tracking and apprehension as well to assist patrol with missing individuals or subjects who have fled from officers. The EDC Officer does not necessarily need to be assigned to any specific unit but will be required to assist on events and on an on-call status during off times. It would be better suited for the EDC to work a day time to afternoon position to assist with schools and businesses. The Narcotics and Patrol canine can be assigned to afternoon and nights where they are better suited to work interdiction related traffic stops.
5. We would like to keep pushing forward with the PEER Support program. We need additional personnel involved. We have had a few express interest in being part of it. We recommend that we move forward on adding additional people and seeking needed training for certification. We have a policy from the GBI that will need to be set up to coincide with or agency.



## Criminal Investigations Division

In 2019, the Criminal Investigations Division spent a great deal of time and energy building partnerships in the community. CID had a desire to better promote the Acworth Camera Connection (ACC) and maximize this resource while building trust with residents. Through a video doorbell (Nest) donation by WalMart, CID was able to have a contest that was posted on Facebook bringing attention to the ACC. This contest also brought a great deal of traffic to our department's Facebook page. CID also assisted Legacy at Acworth (formerly Wingate Apartments) in identifying troubled tenants and expediting their eviction from the complex. The headaches created by these tenants were removed from the city.

Participation in community groups and task force meetings continue to provide valuable contacts and allow for information sharing. These include the Safepath MDT, LiveSafe MDT, JEDI MDT (Justice for Elderly and Disabled Individuals), Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence MDT meetings at LiveSafe, gang meetings, and the North Georgia Elder Abuse Task Force. Detective Almon remains active with the Power of Peace Project (POPP) at North Cobb High School. CID took part in the Acworth town hall meetings, and Barber Middle School events throughout the year including Red Ribbon Week, the 9/11 memorial and the kickball event. CID was also well represented in the regular annual events at NCCS.

The ballistics program coordinated between MCS and the Cobb County Police Department remains an effortless way of providing investigative leads and building the database of recovered firearms and shell casings. Facebook has continued to be a go-to means for resolving cases, especially the numerous shoplifting cases assigned to CID. The city's social media page has helped to close out multiple cases by arrest once the suspect's photos are posted online. This includes the male attempting to take an "up skirt" photo of a female wearing a dress while inside Publix in June.

In January, CID completed the 2018 asset forfeiture report and transmitted it to the Prosecuting Attorney's Council of Georgia. Sergeant Arnold investigated a shooting incident at Legacy at Acworth Apartments that turned out to be a drug deal gone bad. Multiple suspects were identified, however the "victim" eventually did not want to be involved. One juvenile offender (Marquis Sherrer) was taken into custody after a firearm and marijuana was found in his room following a search warrant. Charges related to these items and an additional victim having a bullet come through his window were tied to Sherrer. Sherrer also had a Criminal Street Gang Act charge added taking into account his association with Piru Bloods. Also in January, a pedestrian was injured after a hit and run was reported near Target on Cobb Parkway. Detective Wallace identified the driver of the hit and run, bringing closure to the victim (case 1819120). Lt. St. Onge assisted Kennesaw PD with their promotion assessments.

In March, Detective Wallace was assigned the stolen scooter case from Gazebo Park apartments. The scooter turned up in Bartow County and had no recovery value. A new replacement was coordinated and presented to the victim who is Autistic and uses the scooter to get back and forth to work. This act of generosity gained the attention of multiple news media outlets. Also in March, Sergeant Arnold assisted patrol and took over a forgery case at Fairfield Inn. The case turned out to be a large scale identity theft operation and turned over to the US Secret Service.

In April, Detective Almon handled seven cases of damage to property involving juveniles. The juveniles damaged property as they made their way through the city on foot. Property included damage to vehicles and extensive damage to the bathrooms at the Logan Farm Park expansion/playground area. Juvenile



Complaint forms were completed and victims were made aware of court procedures. Another major case in April was an Aggravated Assault at the Baker Road Chevron on Sunday 04/28/2019. The victim was shot through the head, however did survive. All four responsible for the incident following a “drug transaction” were in custody within 48 hours of the shooting. The weapon used in the shooting was eventually found in a pond after coordinating a Cobb Dive Team once suspect statements were gathered.

Just a few days later and on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, another shooting took place and this time in the Lake Park subdivision involving juvenile Tylik Bryant (case 1906716). The shooting followed a fight at a school bus stop during afternoon drop off. After communication with the father of Bryant’s girlfriend, Bryant was located in Alabama.

In October an armed robbery was reported (case 1916429) involving the purchase of an item through Snapchat (victim said item was a pair of shoes, offender said firearm). Investigation confirmed the victim was attempting to purchase a firearm and was robbed at gun point. All three suspects involved were arrested and charged accordingly (Derrick Reynolds, Josiah Henry, and Elijah Hinson). The multiple entering autos with forced entry that took place at the community center were also closed with arrests. One of those victims had their wallet found near an apartment complex dumpster in Marietta creating a lead. The suspects were found in the same complex after the suspect vehicle was spotted. A joint effort with Cobb PD following a search warrant yielded evidence of the crime and the magnitude of their operation as members of the “Felony Lane Gang” (1915890 and 1915847).

In November, Lt. St. Onge continued an investigation after Ofc. Salazar arrested a suspect driving with a fake ID. It turns out that the suspect was also stealing the identity of the person on the fake license, creating credit accounts. Account openings occurred in Cobb County and the case forwarded to Cobb (case 1916928). Weeks later, Tallahassee PD forwarded a case where the same offender received funds from one of their victims as part of an employment scam.

### **ICAC/Cybertip Investigations**

In March, a search warrant was executed at 3256 McEver Park Cir reference to child pornography. Following a suspect interview, suspect admitted to watching CP. The computer was seized and examined by the United States Secret Service (case 1903230). No photo or video files were located and the data buried in the search did not reach prosecutorial merit.

### **Training/Career Development/Networking**

Members of CID continued a focused attention on career development and training in 2019.

#### **Detective Lt. St. Onge**

- Elder Abuse Training on 02/27/2019
- Instructor Training

#### **Detective Arnold**

- Human trafficking training coordinated by SafePath
- Child Abuse/Adult Sex Crime training held at the District Attorney’s Office

#### **Detective Guevara**

- Sexual assault training
- Search warrants and affidavits
- Gang related training hosted by Kennesaw State University

**Detective Almon**

- Elder Abuse Training on 02/27/2019

**Detective Wallace**

- Management Levels II and III
- Basic Investigator training

**Analyst Church**

- CI130 Basic Cyber Investigations: Cellular Records Analysis
- CI102 Basic Cyber Investigations: Dark Web & Open Source Intelligence
- Crime Analysis Solution: Creating Information Products
- Introduction to the Crime Analysis Solution
- Getting Started with ArcGIS Pro
- Crime Analysis Solution: Data Management
- Going Places with Spatial Analysis

**Unfounded Events/Proper Classification**

The “kidnapping/rape” case at the Quality Inn (1904465) turned out to be a false report after being investigated by Detective Almon. The female admitted she lied about being kidnapped and evidence on her phone painted a picture that it was a mutual “hook up”.

DFACS Referrals	58
APS Referrals	10
Pawn Tickets	9,490
Marijuana Exams	66
IA Investigations	1
Condemnation Fillings	2
Background Investigations	24
Items in Evidence	17,677

## Detention Division

The Acworth Detention Facility is staffed by 13 certified detention officers, 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, and overflow housing for the City of Powder Springs and the City of Marietta.

Detention operation will be vigilant to remain fine-tuned, in good balance between Officers and Supervisors. With good use of its assigned personnel and facilities. As in previous years, the interaction between Officers and Inmates must be successful. The operational elements must be kept in place by all staff, under a solid, simple structure with the following factors remaining paramount: security, safety, efficiency, and maintaining a clean and healthy jail environment.

For 2020, the overall goal is to continue the operation guided by competent and well trained officers performing duties in a responsible, dedicated manner, following approved and policy directed work practices. A strategy that has proven successful over time is to keep direct interaction as needed, 24 / 7, between the Jail Supervision team members of Detention Officers. The Detention Team must continue working under the Lieutenant and Sergeant, with effective lateral coordination to fulfill the Jail's mission.

Some of our goals for the 2020 year include the following:

Maintaining our staffing levels by continuing to offer an excellent work environment with exceptional morale.

Increasing Officer safety training and implement more use of LGRMS Risk Control

Improve the efficiency of our food storage area.

Assess cell hardware and bunks to ensure that our facility is maintained at the highest possible standard.

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# Office of Professional Standards

## 2019 Program Highlights

A total of 12 Citizen Complaints were processed through the Office of Professional Standards for 2019 with the following outcomes: 3 Exonerated, 8 Unfounded, and 1 Sustained.

The following are the Use of Force Report totals for 2019:

<b>Force Type</b>	<b>Number of Incidents</b>
Soft Hand Controls	13
Hard Hand Controls	0
TASER Discharged	9
TASER Display Only	5
O.C.	1
Handcuffs / Animal Related / Other	12
Firearms Discharges	0
<b>Total Use of Force Events</b>	<b>40</b>

All sworn personnel completed all annual training required by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council, and no full-time, sworn officer active for the entire year received less than 37 hours of training. The average number of hours among all 61 employees was 94. This includes detention officers, and is least four times the minimum State requirement of 20 hours for sworn personnel.

Active Shooter simulation training was conducted at the decommissioned Cobb/Douglas Public Health building for all sworn personnel and was received with positive results and feedback.

Taser recertification for all sworn personnel was completed as scheduled in November. In December a combined course of Defensive Tactics, OC, Baton, and Less Lethal Shotgun was conducted for all sworn officers. At other times during the year, multiple courses were combined in one day as we work towards a dedicated block-style training schedule to minimize off day interruptions.

All patrol officers and detectives received quarterly training on the Ti use of force simulator.

Hiring, and keeping staffing at a comfortable level was a priority throughout the year. A total of 12 full time personnel were processed and hired during 2019.

Quartermaster was moved upstairs to the Training Division area and was outfitted with new fixtures. The cleaning area of the armory was equipped with re-purposed cabinets to help keep the area organized. A new office space was prepared for an additional, full-time training officer.

High-visibility traffic directing gloves were provided to all patrol officers.

## 2020 Objectives and Goals

### Training Program Objective

The overall 2020 training program objective for the Acworth Police Department Office of Professional Standards is to continue to enhance and streamline our training product, for the benefit of all employees, and for the betterment of the department as a whole. To that end, we will strive for the following goals:

Finalize the on-boarding of additional training staff to better facilitate in-house programs.

Continue development of a Peer Support Team, in conjunction with Special Operations Division, and encourage enhanced mental health awareness among all employees.

Continue working towards a “40 Hour” block of essential training topics to be taught annually to every employee during a dedicated training week.

Continue working towards fulfilling the requirements of the “One Mind” campaign, with an ultimate goal of having every employee complete Georgia Crisis Intervention Team Training. Scheduling of classes continues for all personnel as they become available.

Continue to ensure that all sworn personnel mandated after January 1, 2012 complete their re-certification every 4 years as required by the Peace Officer Standards and Training Council.

Continue assisting sworn personnel with obtaining their elective certifications, and scheduling career building training courses as available.

### Equipment and Budget Objective

The overall 2020 Equipment and Budget Objective for the Acworth Police Department Training Division is to continue to maintain the best quality gear, and to fully equip our staff to face the daily challenges of law enforcement in today’s fluid environment. In so doing, we will provide unprecedented service to the citizens of the City of Acworth no matter the situation. To that end we will strive for the following goals:

Acquire funding to purchase replacement level IV ballistic plates for patrol.

Purchase of one Red-Man Training Suit for Defensive Tactics

Purchase a set of CPR Training aids to be used by the Police Department, as well as other city personnel, to help maintain a high level of emergency medical readiness for all staff members.

Purchase two Pelican pistol cases with foam inserts for our Simunition weapons.

## Records Division

In 2019, the Records Division set out to accomplish a number of goals for the division, and we are pleased to report that we have reached those goals. For example, in June, we began using the JustFOIA open records processing software. The system has enabled us to efficiently and accurately track requests, and the insight has been eye-opening. In just 6 months, the Records Division processed more than 1,500 open records requests, averaging 65 per week, and our average processing time is less than one day. In addition to completing thousands of open records requests, our staff has also provided thousands of criminal histories for our community. A large number of criminal histories we complete are provided free of charge to churches in our community, however those citizens who provided payment for criminal histories did so with much less inconvenience than in past years, since this year, we installed an ATM in the lobby of the detention center.

Last year, we began the process of streamlining our records filing system and changing to an open-system. The process is ongoing, but the change in the overall organization in the filing room is already apparent. It is much more open and has plenty of space available to provide for our department in the years to come.

One goal that we did not accomplish last year, but that we would still like to make a reality this year, is pursuing the possibility of enabling Records personnel to take minor reports at the front desk. Often, officers are called off of the road to take simple reports that could be handled by Records personnel. This added responsibility would decrease the wait-time for citizens who come to the department for minor reports and ease the burden on Patrol shifts, allowing them to spend even more time in the community.

As always, we strive to attend as much training as is possible. Last year, we had a new Records Clerk join our ranks and in addition to learning the ropes of our division she also earned her certification in Crisis Intervention and as a GCIC Terminal Agency Coordinator. In 2020, our staff will recertify in CPR. While training options for uncertified personnel are not abundant at GPSTC, we believe in the importance of continuing education and will explore training options through GMERS, KSU, and other organizations this year.

Ultimately, our division goals and objectives can be summed up with just one: to provide the best possible service to our community.

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## Information Technology

During 2019 and 2020, the IT Department first goal will be to finalize the data conversion and roll out of the new records and jail management system, Zuercher. The software will help the police department and detention center grow its ability to ingest more data into a single system allowing the police department and surround agencies a better level of intelligence of the city.

The second goal of the IT Department will be the continued implementation and tweaking of our backup and recovery plan. This plan will include both on-site and off-site backups of all physical & virtual servers that service the police department and city hall. The off-site backup would include the capability of turning on cloud servers to access data if needed during restoration of normal city operations. The backup also includes re-purposing some older machines as offline backup systems in case of a full ransomware attack.

The final goal of the IT Department is to work with the city IT Department on the replacement and new installation of a unified camera and card access system. This system will be interconnected throughout the city via our internal network and will allow easy access to all city sites and camera system thru one unified system.

