

The logo for Acworth Police is set against a background of the American flag. The words "ACWORTH" and "POLICE" are displayed in a bold, sans-serif font. "ACWORTH" is in white with a grey drop shadow, while "POLICE" is in blue with a white drop shadow. The logo is enclosed in a blue, rounded rectangular border that tapers to the right.

ACWORTH
POLICE

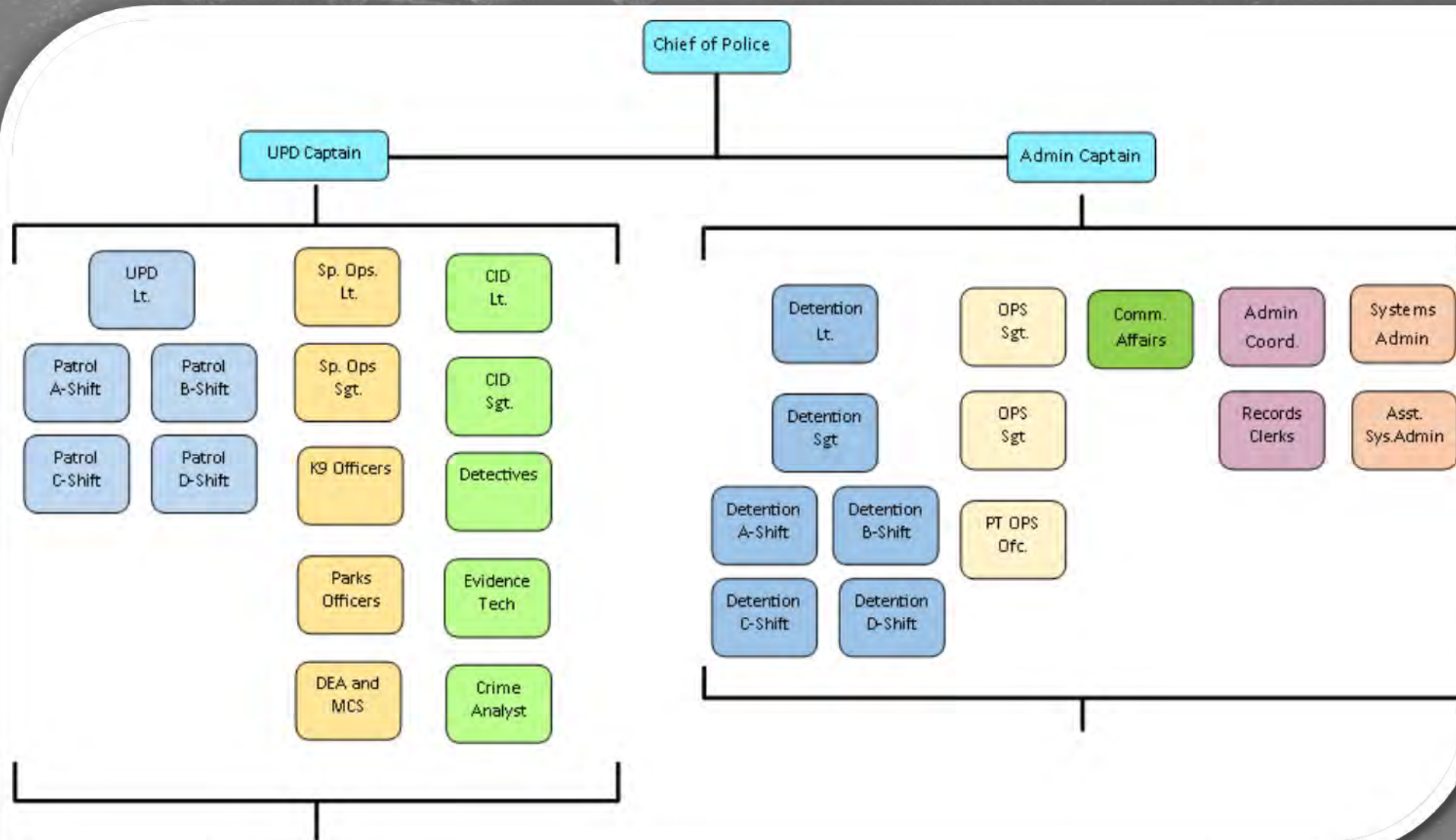
2022 Annual Report



Mission Statement

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.

Departmental Organization



Retirements, Promotions, and Additions



This year, we were pleased to promote the following individuals into new leadership positions:

Lieutenant Brian Hunt
Corporal Jeanette Vetter
Sergeant Jimmy Kirkley
Detective Sergeant Evan Wallace
Corporal Eric Mistretta
Sergeant Youlanda McIntosh
Lieutenant Russell Mines
Captain Michael Taylor
Major Mark Cheatham

Congratulations to all!



Captain Melton joined the Acworth Police Department in 2012, after serving more than 30 years with the Cobb County Police Department. This year, he retired from the Acworth Police Department after providing the citizens of Acworth with 10 years of dedicated service. Captain Melton was a vital member of our team, and we are so grateful to him for the many years of leadership, mentorship, and guidance that he provided to our agency.



Lt. Ball served the Acworth Police Department as an officer, corporal, sergeant, and finally as a lieutenant, and retired in 2022 after 20 years of service. Lt. Ball helped to guide and lead our agency through the years. He served as the commander of both the Uniformed Patrol Division and the Office of Professional Standards and made his mark on our department in innumerable ways. We are grateful to him for his service.



Captain Kish is one of the newest members of our department. He joined APD after 25 years of service at Marietta Police Department. We are looking forward to learning from his vast experience as he helps to lead us in the years to come. Captain Kish has already proven himself to be an invaluable member of our agency, and we are looking forward to growing together in the years to come.



Acworth PD Chaplains

Our police chaplains are certified through the Georgia Association of Law Enforcement Chaplains. They serve an important role in our department by providing spiritual guidance for victims and their families as well as for members of our agency.



Chaplain Mike Lindeman is the Connections Pastor at Northstar Church, and in 2021 he joined the Acworth Police Department as a Chaplain. Chaplain Lindeman is passionate about the community and was already a familiar face around the department even before he became an official chaplain. Chaplain Lindeman provides guidance and support to our staff and members of the community, and is a vital member of our team.



Chaplain Lee Gambrell joined the Acworth Police Department in 2012, and announced his retirement in 2022 after 10 years of dedicated service. Chaplain Gambrell has worked alongside our officers providing support to victims of crimes, and providing comfort and guidance wherever needed. In addition, he has also supported our departmental staff through the years during both times of sadness and joy. Many in our department have been blessed to have Chaplain Gambrell officiate at their weddings. We are grateful to Chaplain Gambrell for his years of service and wish him well in his retirement.

Command Staff Departmental Goals and Objectives



Stewardship

Incorporate a plan to reduce liability and improve stewardship by ceasing the operation of the municipal jail

Develop a Public Safety Liaison Division to provide prisoner transports to the appropriate detention facilities and to assist and augment the Patrol and Special Operations divisions community service efforts

Technology Enhancements

Acquisition of additional stationary License Plate Readers to be strategically placed along state managed highways within the city limits

Staffing

Incorporate competitive retention and hiring incentives

Assessments and promotions for several mid level supervision positions, division leaders, and command staff

Addition of the rank of Major to fill the need for a second in command over all operations of the police department

Recruitment and assimilation of a new Chief of Police to complete the succession plan for the current retiring chief

Professional Standards and Training

Restructure and incorporate strategic personnel allocations to improve the efficiency of the Office of Professional Standards



In January, Chief Dennard announced his retirement which will be in 2023. Jesse Evans, who served as served as Assistant District Attorney for both Cobb and Paulding Counties was named as Chief Dennard's successor. Jesse Evans is well-known in the law enforcement community, and we are grateful to know that Chief Dennard's legacy of outstanding leadership will be in good hands with Jesse Evans at the helm.

Officer of the Year

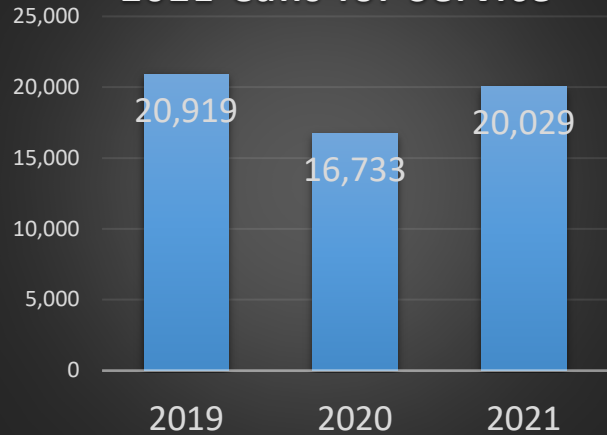


On January 30, 2021, Acworth Dispatch received a 911 call in reference to a person down in the parking lot of Ingles, located at 5055 Cherokee Street, Acworth, GA. While patrol officers responded to the call, first on scene and while off duty was Detention Officer Michael Ayers. D/O Ayers without hesitation took immediate action when he saw the victim, who was collapsed and unresponsive. D/O Ayers quickly approached the area and began CPR. D/O Ayers continued doing CPR as the responding patrol officers arrived on scene. The responding officers administered Narcan, and the victim was revived. Without D/O Ayers quick thinking and willingness to take immediate action, the victim would have been unlikely to survive.

We are so grateful to D/O Ayers and his dedication to the community. He is an outstanding representative of our department both on-duty and off-duty.

Uniform Patrol Division

2021 Calls for Service



2022 Goals and Objectives

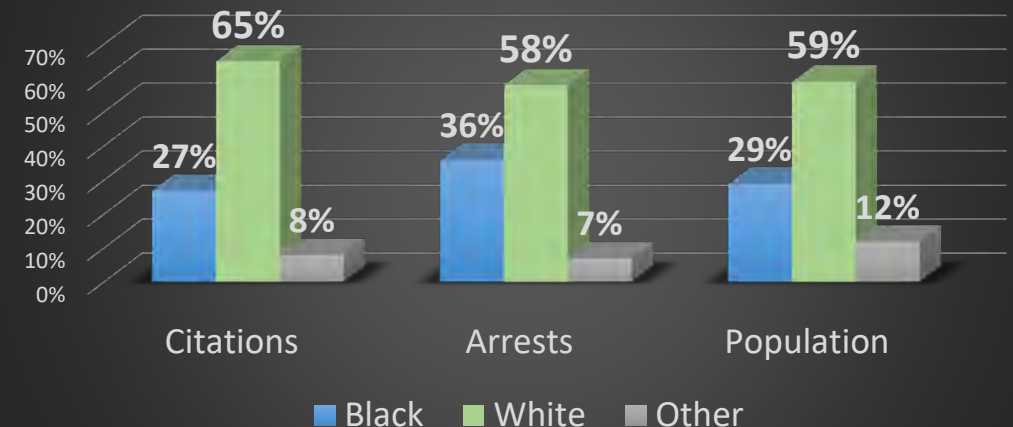
- Continue to provide zone patrols regularly to deter criminal activity – stay in the neighborhoods and routinely check businesses
- Continue to place a very high priority on our Community Policing efforts
- Conduct Preventive Patrols to deter crimes such as burglaries, entering autos, thefts, etc....
- Conduct Directed Patrols to deter traffic complaints, automobile crashes, and public nuisances
- Continue to provide top notch customer service for our citizens
- Continue to take care of our officer's needs and ensure a safe working environment for them each day

Part I

Acworth City

| Offense | This Month MTD | Last Month | Count DIFF | % Change | This Month MTD LY | Count DIFF | % Change | YTD 2021 | YTD 2020 | Count DIFF | % Change |
|--------------------|----------------|------------|------------|----------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| Murder | 0 | 0 | 0 | NC | 0 | 0 | NC | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0% |
| Agg Assault | 0 | 1 | -1 | ↓ -100% | 2 | -2 | ↓ -100% | 19 | 27 | -8 | ↓ -30% |
| Rape | 0 | 0 | 0 | NC | 0 | 0 | NC | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0% |
| Robbery Bussiness | 0 | 0 | 0 | NC | 0 | 0 | NC | 1 | 0 | 1 | NC |
| Robbery Individual | 0 | 0 | 0 | NC | 0 | 0 | NC | 1 | 4 | -3 | ↓ -75% |
| Sub-Total | 0 | 1 | -1 | ↓ -100% | 2 | -2 | ↓ -100% | 25 | 35 | -10 | ↓ -29% |
| Burglary | 1 | 0 | 1 | NC | 7 | -6 | ↓ -86% | 26 | 27 | -1 | ↓ -4% |
| Shoplifting | 6 | 10 | -4 | ↓ -40% | 21 | -15 | ↓ -71% | 166 | 162 | 4 | ↑ 2% |
| Other Theft | 33 | 31 | 2 | ↑ 6% | 13 | 20 | ↑ 154% | 281 | 246 | 35 | ↑ 14% |
| Stolen Auto | 1 | 2 | -1 | ↓ -50% | 1 | 0 | 0% | 18 | 14 | 4 | ↑ 29% |
| Arson | 0 | 0 | 0 | NC | 0 | 0 | NC | 0 | 0 | 0 | NC |
| Sub-Total | 42 | 43 | -1 | ↓ -2% | 42 | 0 | 0% | 498 | 456 | 42 | ↑ 9% |
| Total | 42 | 44 | -2 | ↓ -5% | 44 | -2 | ↓ -5% | 523 | 491 | 32 | ↑ 7% |

2021 Racial Demographics



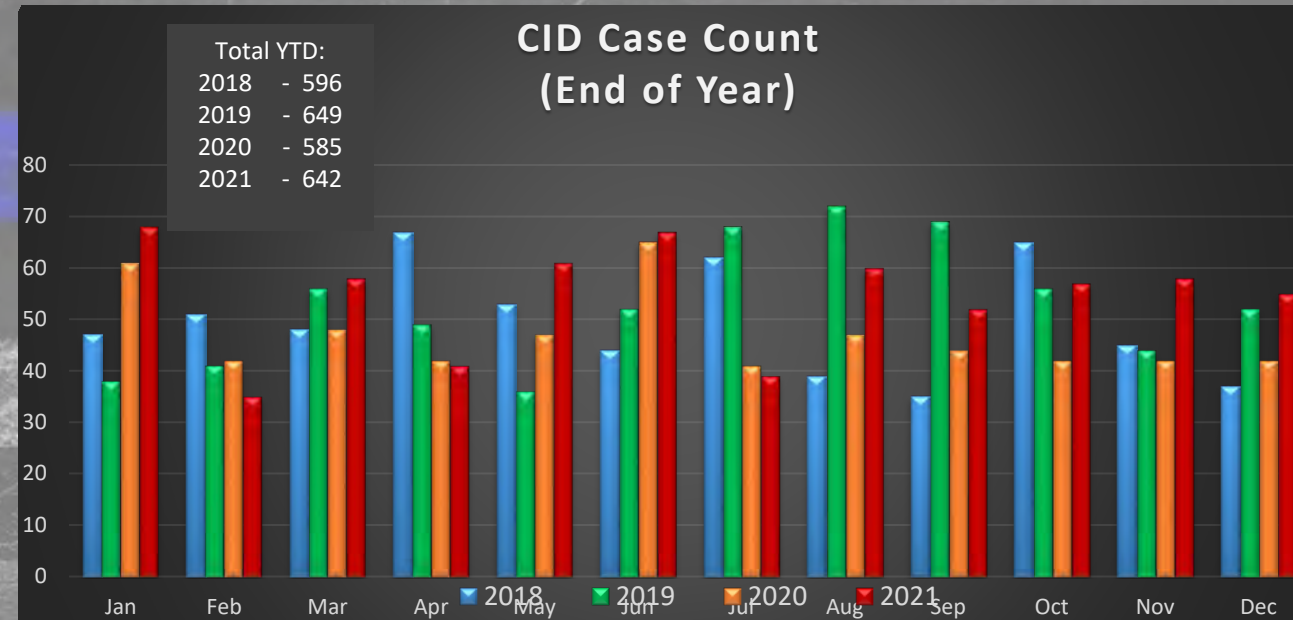
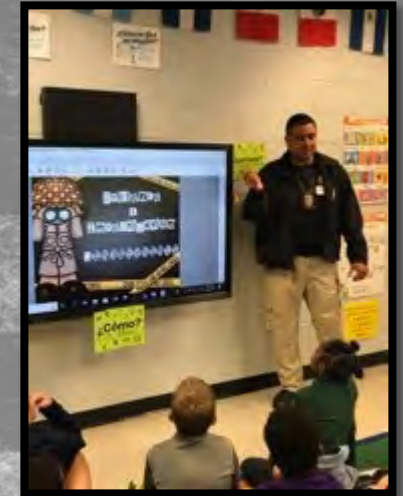
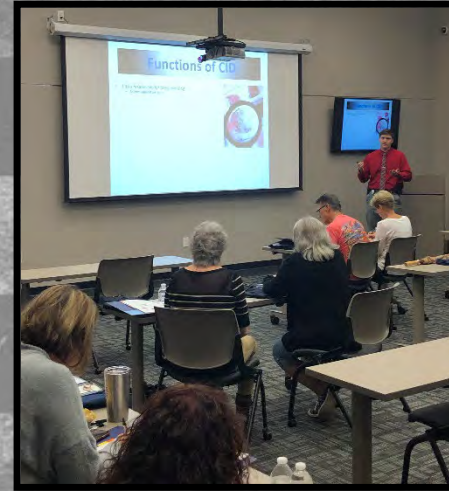
Criminal Investigations Division

The number one goal of the division is to fill the detective position vacated by a resignation on October 8, 2021. In addition to filling that position, I see the immediate need to increase the size of the unit by *adding* a sworn position. Personnel demands from task force/MDT assignments are handled by CID and case severity and case load is trending upward. The division would also benefit by appointing a supervisor that would assist in day to day operations, second to the division commander. Future growth may also include the need for a Crime Victim Advocate (civilian position).

Due to COVID-19, scheduled training has diminished and my fear is a decline in proficiency in current skills and lack of development for new ones.

Evidence Technician Tiffany Ellsworth completed two goals for 2021. The first goal was disposing of almost 2,000 items of aging evidence. The second goal was a firearms auction that created much needed space and returned \$47,864 being split between the drug fund (seized firearms) and general fund (found/abandoned). In 2022, the division's next goal is to identify 1,000 items for disposal and complete the necessary affidavits and court processing for another purge of evidence.

Lastly, and acquisition through a budget request of an enclosed 6x12 trailer would accomplish both everyday storage needs and mobility when responding to major incidents. The trailer would otherwise house critical materials such as our unit's equipment and evidence processing supplies for quick deployment.



Special Operations Division

2021 Highlights

- The department was able to obtain a boat to aid in water safety issues on both lake bodies in the city
- All unit members received Boater's Certifications
- Officer Trapani was transitioned to K9 handler and attended a six week training course in Hall County
- The unit managed over 100 special events and details throughout the year
- The stats for 2021 are as follows:
 - Over 2500 traffic stops
 - Over 1500 citations and 200 warnings
 - Approximately 380 arrest
 - 42 DUI cases with 45 drug cases
 - Organized and ran operational plans for over 100 events

2021 began as 2020 ended; with a challenge due to COVID 19. However, the Special Operations Division continued to push forward and lead the Acworth Police Department. The officers assigned to the Division continued to be proactive in making arrest for drug violations, license status and warrant issues.

The parks unit was consistently challenged with providing coverage for all parks at all times of the day, along with assisting patrol and trying to make valuable traffic stops for DUI, Drugs and wanted individuals. Some of the biggest challenges were: alcohol in the parks, a new smoking ordinance was enacted, getting the parks cleared and people in the parks past assigned hours.



Office of Professional Standards

The Office of Professional Standards is responsible for many vital departmental functions including administrating our State Certification Program, tracking Use of Force and Pursuit Reports, tracking complaint investigations, maintaining and ordering uniform supplies, and new-hire onboarding, and assigning and tracking monthly in-service training.

This year, our department received our re-certification through the State of Georgia Law Enforcement Association.

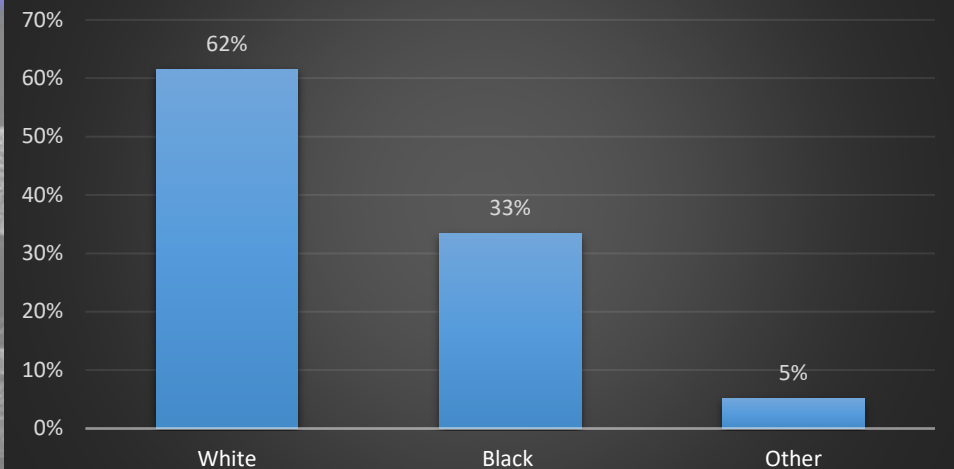
In 2021, there were 39 documented Use of Force incidents. Only 4 of these incidents resulted in any injury, and all injuries were minor. Most Use of Force incidents involved an officer displaying his/her firearm or taser in order to gain compliance.

The Office of Professional Standards processed 9 citizen complaints in 2021. Each complaint was determined to have been unfounded.

We believe that excellent and continuous training are essential in order to provide the best possible service to the citizens that we serve. As a result, Acworth Police Department employees participated in 5,547 hours of training in 2021. This is an average of 77 hours of training for each employee.



Use of Force Demographics



Training Division

Division Goals and Objectives for 2022:

- Identify officers that need to complete ICS 100-700
 - Identify officers that should complete classes for Intermediate and Advanced certificate.
 - Identify training needs through videos and pass along.
 - Involve departmental instructors in more training.
 - Put together leadership and supervision training.
 - Update FTO manual.
-
- The Training Division had a successful 2021. 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.



Community Outreach

Our departmental motto is, “Spend Time and Do the Right Thing,” and our priority is to ensure that we are living that motto every day.

Over the years, we have coordinated and participated in hundreds of community outreach activities, including Covering the Bases, Safe-0-Ween, Shop with a Hero, Shoot for the Horizon, the Power of Peace Project, Polar Plunge, Miracle Tree, and our Christmas Shoppe, and the Citizens’ Police Academy just to name a few.

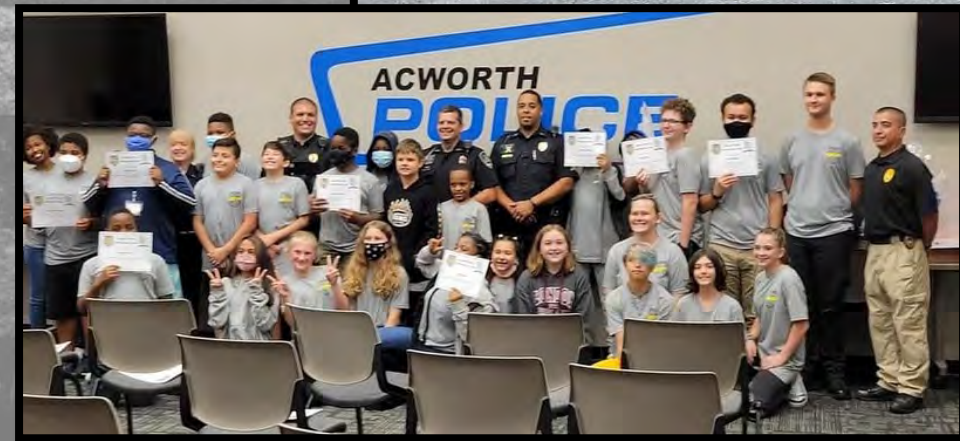
This year, we accomplished a goal that was years in the making and helped to establish the Acworth Police Community Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit organization that provides support both to the community and to our public safety heroes. More information about the Acworth Police Community Foundation can be found at acworthpolicecommunityfoundation.org



Police Ambassador Camp

This year, we held our first annual Police Ambassador Camp (PAC). The PAC is a free, 1-week day camp for middle school students. During Cobb County Schools' Fall Break, we welcomed 24 students to share the week with us and learn about the law enforcement profession. PAC participants learned about policing through hands-on experiences such as fingerprinting, using the Use-of-Force Simulator, Driving while Impaired with the use of "drunk goggles", and much more.

Both the campers and our officers enjoyed spending time, learning, and growing together. This year's PAC was funded through a grant from CSX. Led by Corporal Eric Mistretta, the 2021 PAC was a huge success, and we are all looking forward to many more PACs in the years to come.



Law Enforcement Cadets

The Acworth Police Department's Law Enforcement Cadets program exists to further the Cadet's academic education, encourage the Cadet's participation in productive community service activities, and enhance the Cadet's preparation for their future roles as citizens, community members, leaders and future law enforcement officers. The Cadet 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.

Our Cadets are lead by Corporal Eric Mistretta and a team of officers and departmental staff who work together to ensure that our Cadets enjoy a well-rounded program and are able to make a measurable contribution to the Acworth Community.

OUR VALUES

QUALITY - Providing excellent quality service to the community

COURAGE - Demonstrating courage by confronting and overcoming challenges and adversity

RESPECT - Respecting all the rights and privileges guaranteed to the citizens of the community by the US Constitution

CHARACTER - Protecting my character by always speaking the truth

INTEGRITY - Upholding my integrity by maintaining the highest moral and ethical standards,

PROFESSIONALISM - Acting professional by committing myself to proficiency, competency, reliability, and excellence in all aspects of my performance

TEAMWORK - Fostering teamwork for the achievement of shared goals



Information Technology

Goals and Objectives for 2022

- Internal organization of documentation and standardizing procedures. This will help ensure that the Police IT department and the City IT department are giving consistent support to end users no matter who is helping.
- Replacement of all 800 MHz radio equipment for officers and their vehicles. The current SPLOST cycle has allowed the police department to purchase the newest version of Motorola portable and mobile radios. This transition should be done before the annual report is published.
- Transition to new cloud-based version of our current RMS vendor. Our current vendor has completed their transition to a cloud-based reporting system, and we will be transitioning to it from our self-hosted system over the next year.
- Continue adding on new buildings to our card access / camera system to help unify the city. The city started investing in a centralized system to help manage the city cameras and card access. This system will be added to at least 2 new buildings and reconfigured in 2 additional locations.
- Begin the process of replacing outdated networking and virtualization equipment. Our current system is getting to 'End of Life' and will need to be replaced soon to ensure all systems stay functioning in the fashion a 24/7 police department expects.



Systems Administrator, Matthew Sender, at our annual Halloween Safe-0-Ween event. Mr. Sender has organized this annual event for our community since 2017.

Records Division

The Records Division is responsible for a number of key police department functions. Our primary responsibility is to provide outstanding customer service to our citizens. Often, people are unfamiliar with the process of obtaining reports, background checks, fingerprinting, and other services. Our staff always takes the time to patiently explain and help citizens navigate through all processes.

Every day, citizens come to records for a number of reasons; sometimes, they are in distress and even a little nervous. It is our goal to provide the public with the best possible customer service and to treat them as we would want our family members to be treated. In the past year, the Record's Division has processed more than one thousand criminal histories for businesses in the community, and countless others for Parks and Recreation and various churches.

This year, our agency was audited by the GBI for compliance with GCIC and CJIS. The Records Division is responsible for maintaining agency compliance, and we are proud to report that we successfully passed our audit.



Our Team

Top Row: Jaime Mullinax, Administrative Coordinator and Dori Askew, Records Technician
Bottom Row: Chancie Brown and Carol Turcotte, Records Technicians



This year, Records Tech, Dori Askew celebrated her 5th year of service with the City of Acworth. We are all grateful for Ms. Askew's outstanding service to our citizens!