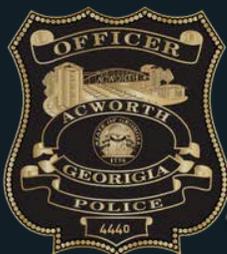


ACWORTH POLICE

4440

# ANNUAL REPORT

2025

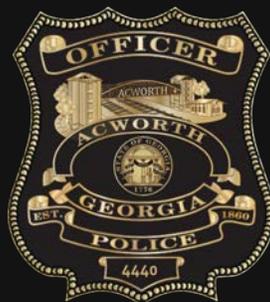


**ACWORTH  
POLICE**

# Departmental Leadership



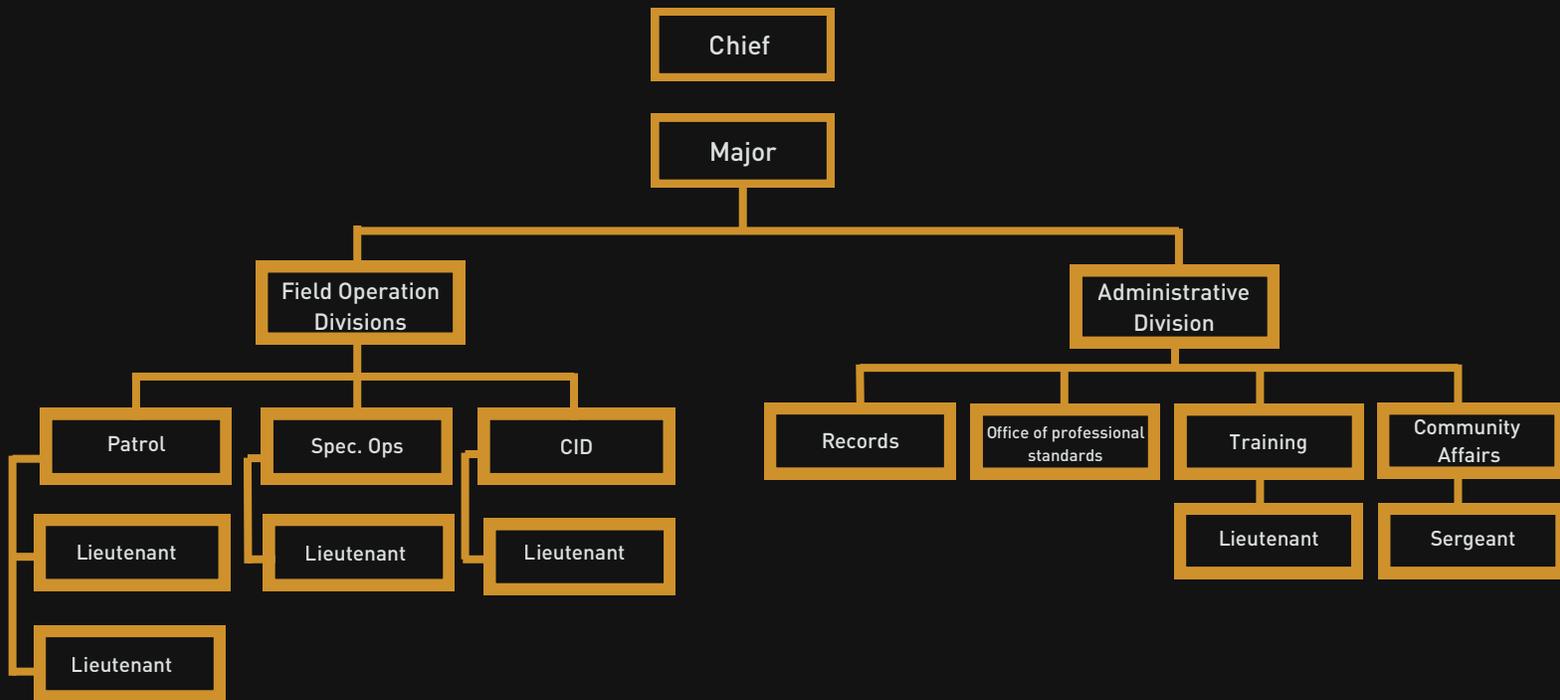
Pictured from left to right: Captain Tom Elledge, Chief Mark H. Cheatham, Major Michael Taylor



# Organizational Composition

The Acworth Police Department is comprised of two primary divisions: the Administration Division and the Field Operations Division. The Administration Division oversees the Training Unit, Community Affairs, Office of Professional Standards, and the Records Division. The Field Operations Division is comprised of Uniform Patrol, Special Operations Unit, and the Criminal Investigations Division (CID).

The Department currently has 61 budgeted positions including 47 sworn and 14 civilian.



# 2025 Accomplishments

In 2025, members of the Acworth Police Department were recognized for their outstanding work in the community. The Cobb County Law Enforcement Association honored CID Detective Corporal Hardy and Victim Advocate Hall for their outstanding work on a complex child molestation investigation involving a 10-year-old victim. This case required Det. Cpl. Hardy to devote countless hours to meticulously review photographic and video evidence, executing multiple search warrants, and coordinating with multiple law enforcement agencies. Due to their dedication across several complex and challenging cases, all of which were handled with the utmost professionalism, dedication, and attention to detail, Corporal Hardy was awarded 2025 Officer of the Year and Emily Hall was awarded 2025 Civilian of the Year.



Victim Advocate Emily Hall plays a critical role by providing resources and support to victims, working closely with detectives, assisting in complex investigations, and ensuring that victims receive the highest level of care and compassion. This position was created in 2023 and since its inception, we have seen more than a 50% increase in the number of cases. Advocate Hall averages 52 cases per month. The Acworth Police Department remains the only agency within Cobb County to have a dedicated victim advocate.





In 2025, Senior Crime Analyst Macey Williams graduated from the statewide Criminal Intelligence Program, a 170+ hour specialty certification designed to identify and address the professional development needs of intelligence analysts across the state. Additionally, Crime Analyst Williams received her Part 107 Unmanned Aircraft Pilot license, which will directly support public safety initiatives and the department's Drone as First Responder (DFR) program.

Lt. Brian Hunt was recognized at the Cobb Chamber's Public Safety Appreciation event after being nominated for his dedication to public safety and service to the community for the past 25 years.



Cpl. Tamara Severtson received the Life Saving Award after successfully using a LifeVac device to save a man who was choking in June. This incident marked Corporal Severtson's second LifeVac save.





The department's Cadet Program, led by Sergeant Mistretta, continued to play a vital role in mentoring and developing future law enforcement professionals. In 2025, cadet participation increased by 75 percent, growing from 12 to 21 students. Cadets competed in multiple competitions at both the state and national levels, earning a total of 13 trophies. In 2025, the cadets completed more than 2,900 volunteer hours.





In 2025, fallen Officer Leonard Byrd "Pete" Rainey was officially included on the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, D.C. and recognized on the Officer Down Memorial Page. Officer Rainey succumbed to complications from gunshot wounds sustained on March 27, 1952, while confronting two car theft suspects. In addition to serving as a police officer, Officer Rainey was also served the City of Acworth as a firefighter.



# Community Engagement & Partnerships

2025 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Citizen's Police Academy (CPA), totaling over 600 graduates since its founding. Over a 12-week period, participants dedicate their time to learning more about law enforcement operations while building stronger relationships with department personnel. The department remains grateful for the continued community support and looks forward to CPA 2026.



The partnerships shared by Acworth Police Department and the community are nothing short of extraordinary. Throughout 2025, these collaborative relationships resulted in extensive engagement—from hosting training for our faith-based leaders to the generous provision of meals by local businesses and organizations, and annual fundraising and outreach events. Because of the overwhelming generosity of our community during the holiday season, the 2025 annual Toy Drive served over 300 children and more than 100 families. These partnerships reaffirm that we are truly stronger together.



# Growth & Recruitment

In 2025, we promoted five individuals across various divisions within the department: Major Taylor, Lt. Greene, Cpl. Towe, Chief of Staff Andrews, and Certification Administrator Jow. Civilian staff continued to play a critical role in supporting department operations. In 2025, the Recruiting, Marketing & Community Outreach Assistant position was created to directly support recruitment efforts through administrative coordination and social media engagement.



Major Taylor



Lt. Greene



Cpl. Towe



Chief of Staff Andrews



Certification  
Administrator Jow



# Growth & Recruitment



Recruitment efforts increased this year with agency representation at job and careers fairs around the state. Sgt. Mistretta coordinates and schedules recruitment initiatives and candidate interviews. In 2025, the department conducted 113 interviews, completed 54 background investigations, and hired 11 new team members.



# Equipment Upgrades

In 2025, the Department upgraded backup firearms to the Glock 48, replacing weapons that were more than 10 years old. Officers experienced improvement in both handling of the weapon (smoother trigger, better grip and barrel extension) which increased officer proficiency.



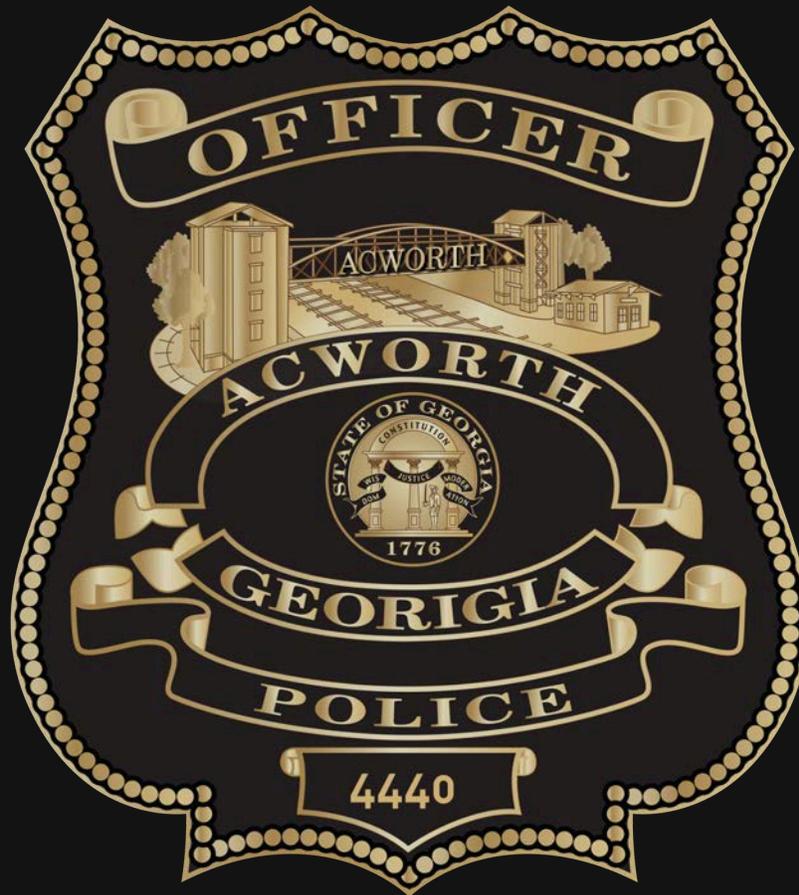
The department purchased 12 simunition training firearms using seized funds through its partnership with the DEA. These paint-round-equipped weapons replicate the department's primary duty firearm and are used throughout the year for critical incident and scenario-based training.

Following the mass casualty terrorist attack that occurred on January 1, 2025, in New Orleans resulting in 14 casualties and at least 57 injuries, the department proactively researched barricade solutions for city events. Using seized funds through the department's partnership with the DEA, a Meridian Archer trailer package was purchased, including 16 barricades and 2 gates, allowing up to 48 feet of roadway to be barricaded. These barricades have been successfully utilized by the Special Operations Division at 7 events to date and are a phenomenal asset for the City.



# Equipment Upgrades

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Thanks to the incredible support of the Acworth Police Community Foundation, our officers proudly wear our newly designed badges that represent Acworth – our City, our community, and our commitment to service.

# BJJ Program



In 2025, we partnered with Tier 1 Jiu Jitsu to reinstate the BJJ (Brazilian Jiu Jitsu) training program. This quarterly training equips officers and public safety liaisons with techniques to safely and effectively take suspects into custody while minimizing the use of force.



# 2026 and Beyond

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As we enter 2026, the Acworth Police Department remains committed to policing excellence through our core values of courage, honor, service, and dedication. Our department continues to evolve, integrating cutting-edge technology and data-driven strategies to enhance public safety while strengthening the trust and relationships we have built within our community. The agency's goals and objectives include:



# Goal 1: Expand Agency De-Escalation Options

In reviewing last year's use of force incidents, the police department identified the need to enhance additional de-escalation options for officers. In adding two additional use of force options and associated training, the agency aims to increase officer confidence, reduce use of force incidents, and strengthen community trust and safety.



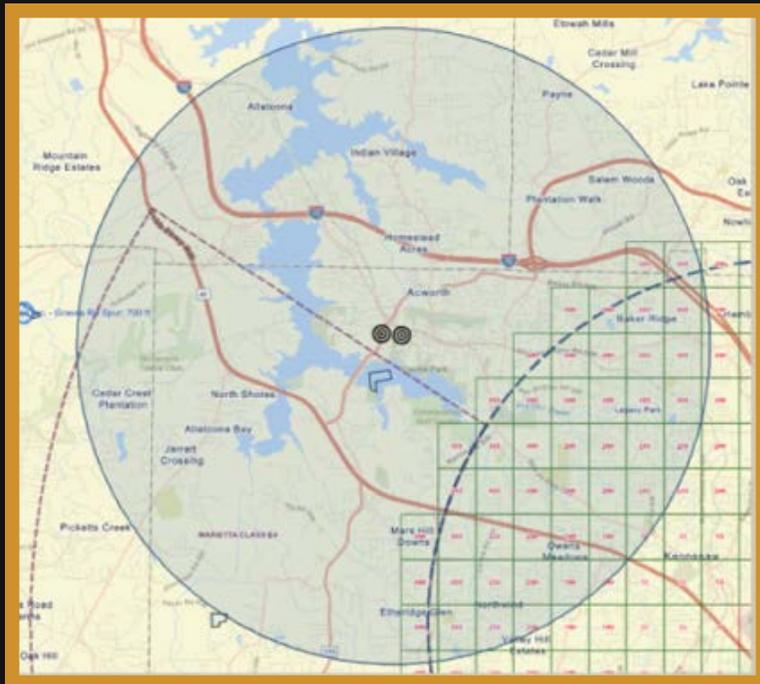
## Objectives:

- Implement 24 hours of introductory BJJ training for all newly hired sworn and PSL personnel.
- Schedule and conduct quarterly BJJ training sessions for all sworn and PSL personnel.
- Incorporate PepperBall launchers into the agency's use of force options, revising agency SOP 5.21 (Use of Force) and providing initial and ongoing certification training to sworn personnel.
- Purchase PepperBall launchers and projectiles, ensuring each shift has immediate access to this less-lethal de-escalation tool.



# Goal 2: Advance Proactive Technology Initiatives

As technology continues to evolve, the Acworth Police Department recognizes the importance of leveraging innovative solutions to enhance public safety. To achieve this, the department will formalize a partnership with Flock Safety in a comprehensive technology suite for detection, response, and investigation of public safety incidents within city limits.



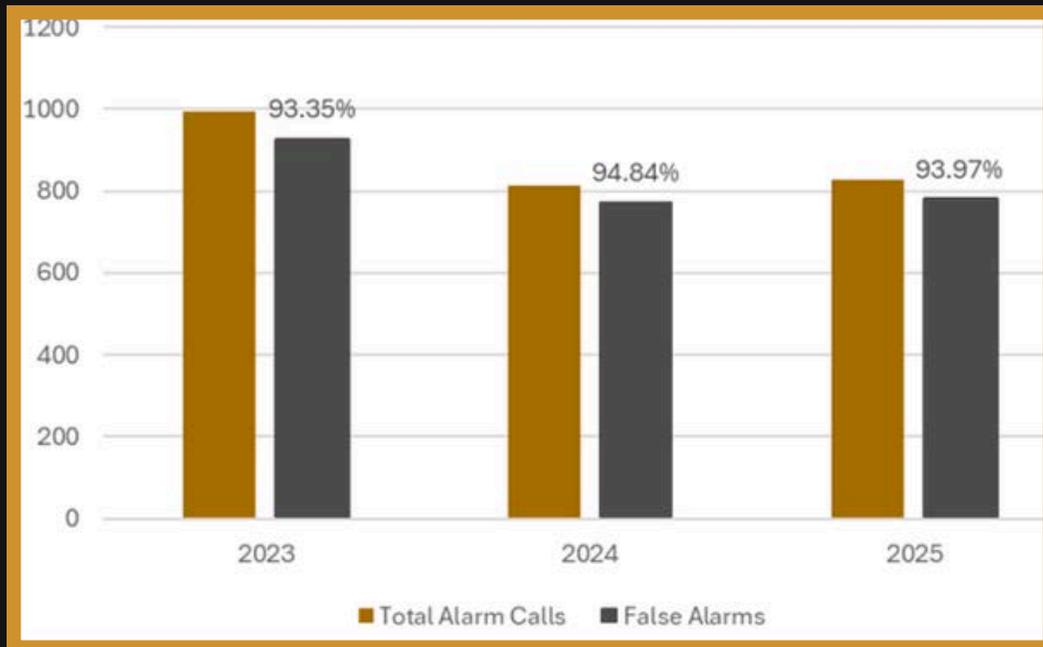
## Objectives:

- Transition to Flock OS. The department will transition operations away from FUSUS and integrate operations to Flock OS beginning first quarter 2026.
- Implement a Drone as First Responder Program (DFR) to provide rapid aerial response, improve scene assessment and enhance officer and community safety during critical incidents.
- Adoption of Flock 911 in which officers can hear 911 calls and receive real-time transcripts, significantly enhancing situational awareness and response accuracy.



# Goal 3: Propose an Alarm Ordinance

The Acworth Police Department continues to devote an excessive amount of time and resources responding to alarm calls which are later determined to be false. Officers are routinely dispatched to alarm activations where no emergency exists, and the cumulative effect of these calls is a significant strain on patrol availability and overall public safety efficiency.



## Objectives:

- Develop and propose a comprehensive city ordinance designed to effectively reduce false alarm activations.
- Incorporate the ordinance to include a requirement for alarm users to register their systems with the city, a clear definition of what constitutes a false alarm, a progressive penalty schedule, and provisions that allow the police department to suspend response to properties with repeated violations.



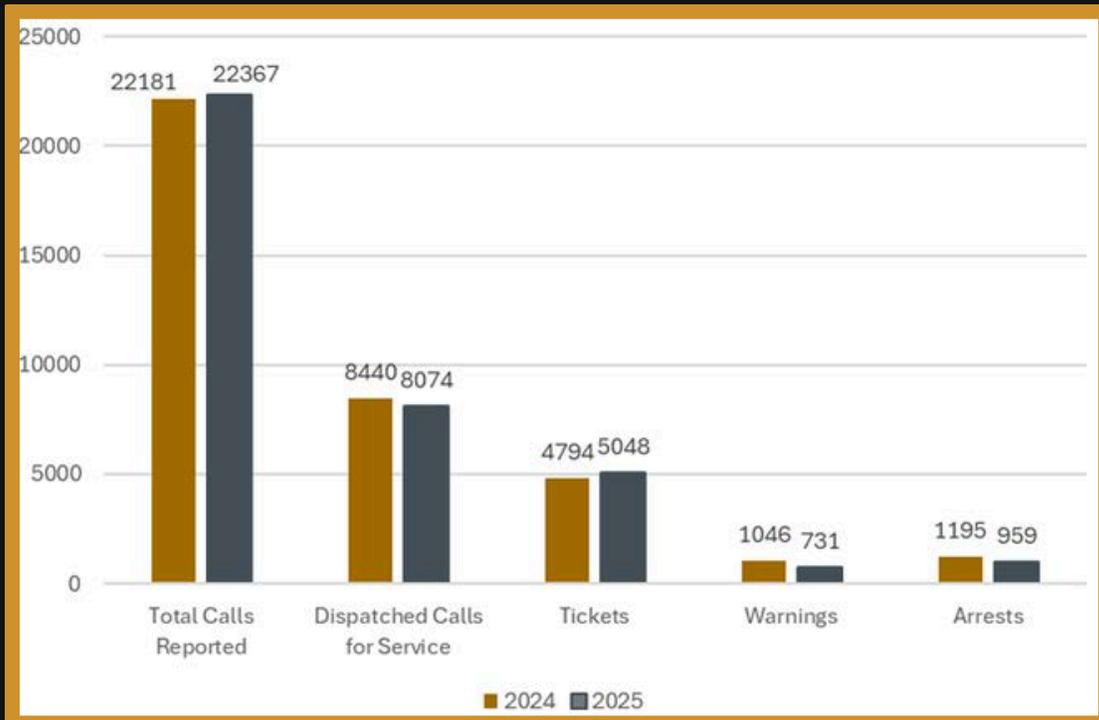
# Uniform Patrol Division



Lt. B. Hunt

The Uniform Patrol Division is divided into two rotations which provide twenty-four (24) hours of continuous coverage for the City of Acworth. Patrol shifts are responsible for the preservation of life, property, order, initial investigation of crimes, suppression of criminal activity, and enforcement of state law and city Ordinances. The Uniform Patrol Division was commanded by Lieutenant Brain Hunt.

In 2025, there were 22,367 incidents. 8,074 of those were calls for service. Officers issued 5,048 tickets, and 731 warnings, representing a 1.05% decrease from 2024. 2025 reflects a 38% reduction in use of force (UOF) incidents compared to 2024; this decrease is less pronounced when considering arrests also declined by 13%. Officers made 959 arrests in 2025, and use of force was used in 3.44% of those cases.



# 2026 Uniform Patrol Division Goals and Objectives

## Goal 1: Improve Officer Performance and Knowledge

Supervisors should focus on assisting officers to locate and obtain fundamental courses to build a stronger foundation of knowledge.

### Objectives:

- Identify each officer's preferred career path and create opportunities
- Identify good candidates to become Field Training Officers
- Seek out roll call training by bringing experts in to enhance the training for the officers.

## Goal 2: Foster Stronger Partnerships and Collaboration with other City Agencies to Improve Service Delivery and Community Trust

### Objective:

- Discuss and implement collaborative problem-solving strategies to achieve shared community goals.

## Goal 3: Educate Citizens through Traffic Enforcement

### Objectives:

- Collaborate with other division to conduct traffic blitzes once a quarter.
- The patrol division will participate in programs set forth by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. These programs include: "Click it or Ticket;" Hands Free;" and "Aggressive Driving" campaigns.



# Criminal Investigations Division (CID)

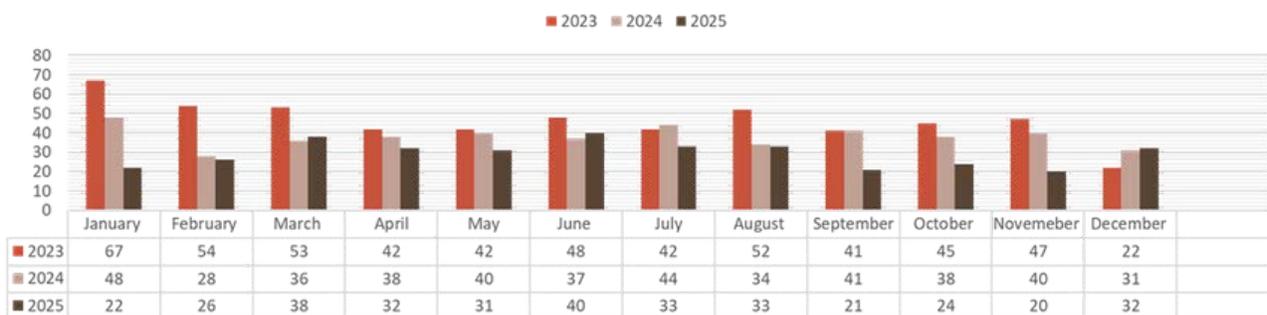


Lt. Greene

The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) is responsible for investigating all criminal activity assigned for investigation. CID is responsible for identifying and apprehending offenders, recovering property, gathering, documenting, and evaluating facts regarding criminal activity, and assisting in the prosecution of those charged with criminal offenses. The Criminal Investigations Divisions was commanded by Lieutenant Brandon Greene.

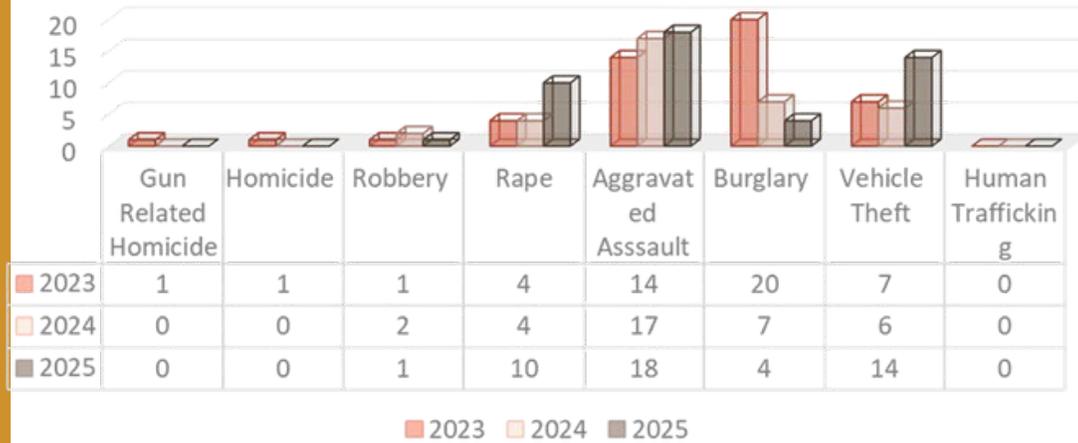


CID Case Count

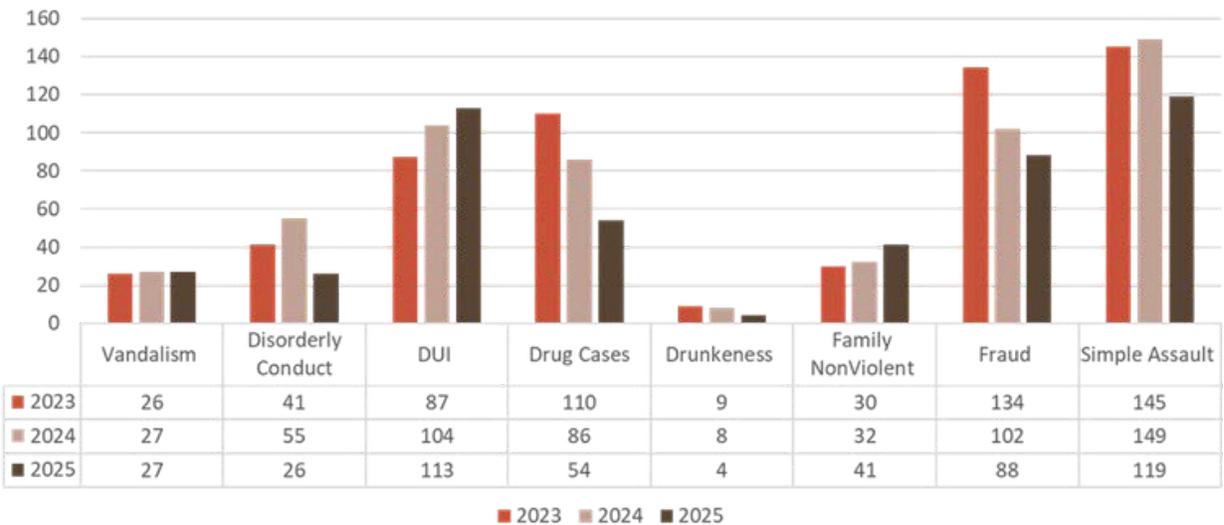


# Criminal Investigations Division (CID)

## Part 1 Offenses 2023-2025



## Part 2 Offenses 2023-2025



# 2026 Goals and Objectives for CID

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**Goal 1: Enhance collaboration and intelligence sharing with partner agencies to improve investigative effectiveness, case clearance rates, and proactive crime prevention efforts.**

## Objectives:

- Establish Formal Information-Sharing Systems
- Increase Multi-Agency Communication
- Measure and Evaluate Collaboration Outcomes

**Goal 2: Enhance detective development within the Criminal Investigation Division to improve investigative proficiency, case quality, and professional growth, achieving skill proficiency across all detectives within 12 months.**

## Objectives:

- Training & Certification
- Mentorship & Peer Learning
- Morale & Professional Engagement

**Goal 3: Enhance investigative capacity and community awareness in “Internet Crimes Against Children” and sextortion cases.**

## Objectives:

- Investigation Efficiency
- Community Outreach & Prevention
- Performance Evaluation



# Special Operations Division



Lt. Russell Mines

The Special Operations Division provides specialized law enforcement capabilities to enhance the department's overall effectiveness. The Special Operations Unit serves to augment the Uniform Patrol Division by supporting patrol operations, conducting targeted enforcement, managing critical incidents, providing canine services, and developing proactive strategies to address emerging threats to public safety. The Special Operations Division was commanded by Lt. Russell Mines.

## In 2025 The Special Operations Division Conducted:

28

K9 Deployment Request

30

Special Operations Details

21

Drug Investigations

858

Issued Citations

All 6 new officers completed training rotations with the Special Operations Division.



# 2026 Goals and Objectives of Special Operations

## Goal 1: Enhance Public Safety and Security

### Objectives:

- Conduct quarterly scenario-based training exercises simulating high-risk incidents such as hostage situations, active shooter events, and hazardous material threats.
- Provide directed enforcement in high incident areas once a month (increase traffic enforcement, fyi cards, etc).
- Collaborate with detectives to develop threat profiles and tactical plans for priority cases – biweekly.

## Goal 2: Strengthen Community Safety Through Proactive Operations

### Objectives:

- Community engagement - Participate in local events (e.g., school visits, town hall meetings) to promote transparency, approachability, and education four times a year.
- Partner with local schools and civic organizations to deliver public safety workshops or presentations to students on safety awareness and emergency preparedness 4 times a year.
- Utilize technology proactively to predict problem areas, at least twice a quarter, such as violent crime, narcotics, illegal firearms, and traffic safety to improve quality of life within the community (Road safety checks).



# 2026 Goals and Objectives of Special Operations

## Goal 3: Enhance Leadership Capabilities and Decision-Making Skills

### Objectives:

- Conduct scenario-based training exercises that focus on strategic thinking, ethical decision-making that influence across teams – twice a year.
- Officers will conduct and lead team meetings and training sessions – three times a year.
- Each officer will begin learning the process of completing an IAP for city events, with each of them completing one on their own.
- Ensure that each officer completes Crisis Intervention, Specialized Patrol Techniques, Advanced Report Writing, Interviews and Interrogations, and Advanced Traffic Law trainings.
- Ensure all team members complete annual certifications in firearms, defensive tactics, K9 certifications and emergency medical response.



# Training Division

The Training Division is responsible for providing high quality training and professional development opportunities for members of the Acworth Police Department. From new-hire onboarding and field training to advanced certifications and leadership development, the division plays a critical role in officer readiness, safety, and professionalism. The division oversees all aspects of required and specialized training, including firearms instruction, defensive tactics, emergency vehicle operations, annual in-service courses, and leadership development programs. It also ensures departmental compliance with Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) requirements and certification standards, helping the agency remain aligned with evolving best practices in policing. The Training Unit was commanded by Lt. Jason Larocque.



Lt. J. Larocque

Sworn officers are required to complete 20 hours of training annually to maintain peace officer certification. In 2025, the department earned 8,986 hours of training, averaging 142 hours per officer.



# 2026 Goals and Objectives of the Training Division

## Goal 1: Develop a Health and Fitness Program

An employee Health and Fitness Program would help staff gauge their personal health, help improve staff members overall health and reduce injuries while working in the field.

### Objectives:

- Create a monthly, voluntary on-site/off-site activity (1-2 hour), centered around promoting physical health and wellness for staff.
- Would hope participation would show the need and desire to be healthier to expand to twice monthly as the program progresses.

## Goal 2: Host an FBI-LEEDA Session

This would expand our focus on Law Enforcement Leadership, seeing that we have successfully hosted Guardian Leadership for 4 years this would allow us to expand our Leadership Training opportunities.

### Objectives:

- Training Staff should establish a relationship with FBI-LEEDA personnel and offer to host a session in house, which would be open to outside agencies.
- Allow members of our department partake in some of the best Leadership training available, while showcasing our Agency, City and community.



# 2026 Goals and Objectives of the Training Division

## Goal 3: Standardize FTO Training Groups

Standardized FTO Training Groups would create cohesive development through the FTO Program and would create an easier scheduling system.

### Objectives:

- Identify and place FTO's on designated rotations, with emphasis on strengths and weaknesses.
- Start FTO rotation to accommodate shifts with new recruits working opposite to prevent bleed over during training.
- Create an easier way to assign recruits, dependent on a rotation system to prevent burn out for FTO's.



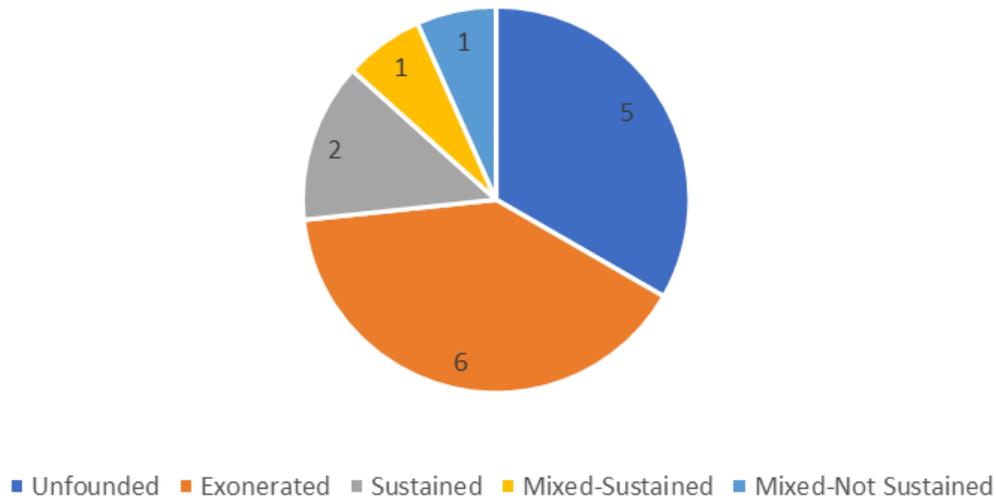
# Office of Professional Standards (OPS)



E. Andrews

The Office of Professional Standards (OPS) is dedicated to upholding professional excellence by ensuring compliance with departmental policies, state certification standards, and performance expectations. OPS also maintains personnel, citizen complaint, and internal affairs files. The Office of Professional Standards is led by Chief of Staff E. Andrews.

2025 Citizen Complaints



The Acworth Police Department investigated 15 citizen complaints in 2025. Of those, corrective measures for sustained complaints were addressed through counseling and performance improvement plans. While most complaints were found to be unfounded or resulted in exoneration, the department recognizes the ongoing importance of refining communication, training, and public outreach.



# 2026 Goals and Objectives of OPS

## Goal 1: Enhance Training and Professional Development

OPS recognizes the value of continued education and engagement within the certification community to strengthen operational knowledge and performance.

### Objectives:

- Attend at least one (1) professional development workshop, GACP conference, or certification related training.
- Facilitate one internal training session to share best practices and lessons learned with departmental personnel.

## Goal 2: Strengthen Inter-Divisional Collaboration and Communication

OPS will continue fostering transparency and cooperation among divisions to ensure consistent policy adherence and department wide engagement.

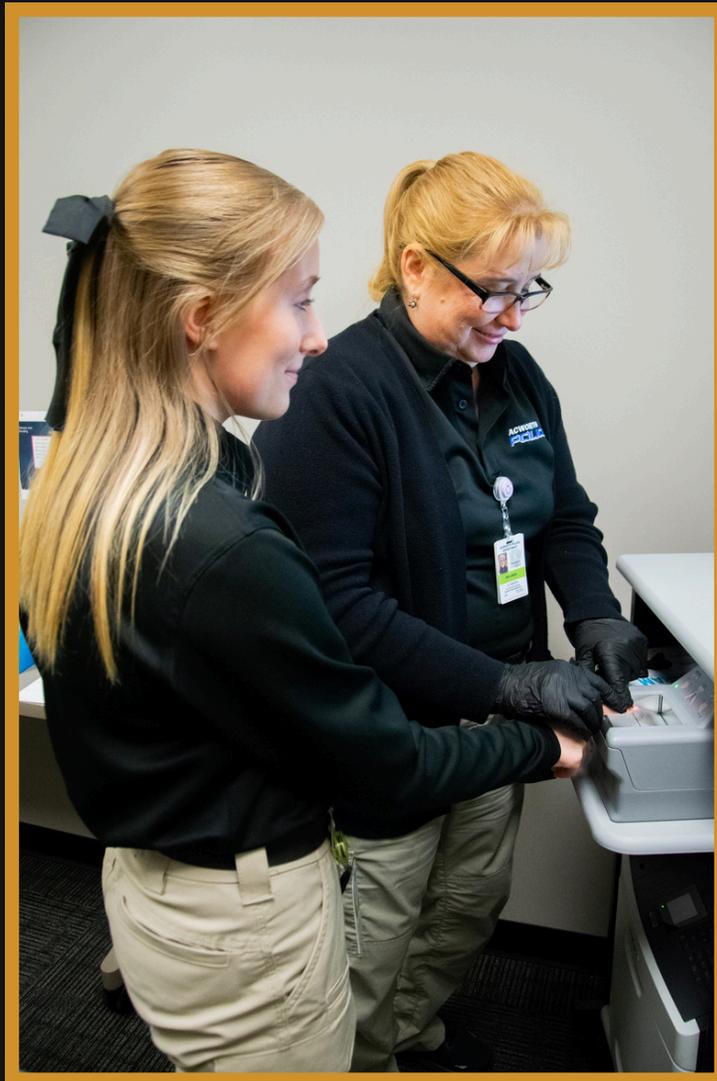
### Objectives:

- Establish standing quarterly meetings with division supervisors to review ongoing projects, policy revisions and audit outcomes.
- Solicit feedback from divisions on policy implementation challenges or improvement opportunities.
- Develop a brief quarterly update to share OPS progress and upcoming initiatives with staff.

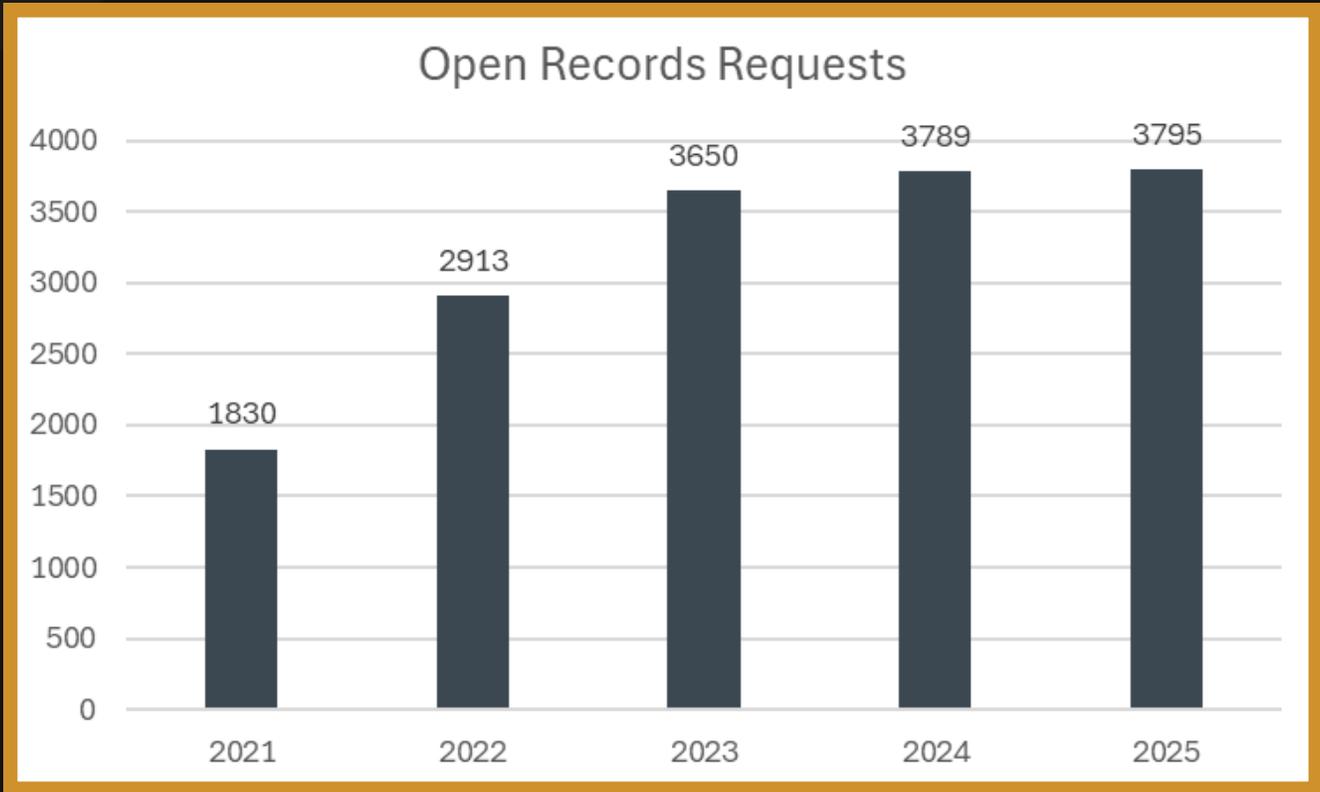


# Records Division

The Records Division supports the police department, the judicial system, other law enforcement agencies, and the public. This support is provided by the maintenance of all files, records, and document (electronic and conventional) submitted for processing, retention, and storage. The Records Division is responsible for disseminating accident and incident reports, running criminal histories for the purposes of employment, permitting, and civil applications.



# Records Division



In 2025, the Records Division processed over 3,700 requests, averaging 14 requests daily.



# 2026 Goals and Objectives of the Records Division

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## Goal 1: Improve Customer Service Efficiency & Transaction Security

Implement a customer-facing credit card payment terminal at the Records Division lobby window to align with established City payment practices.

This will allow customers to self-process payments securely, eliminating the handling of credit/debit cards by team members.

### Objectives:

- Coordinate with City departments, including Finance and IT, to select and integrate a secure payment terminal that aligns with citywide financial systems and policies.
- Purchase and install the customer-facing payment terminal at the Records Division guest window, ensuring accessibility and ease of use for customers.
- Develop and implement updated payment procedures and staff training to ensure consistent, accurate, and secure transaction processing.
- Conduct a system testing and evaluation period to verify functionality, reliability, and compliance with city finance and audit requirements.



# 2026 Goals and Objectives of the Records Division

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## Goal 2: Enhance Workspace Functionality & Organization

Install additional countertop surface areas to provide Records team members with additional space when working with documents and files. This improvement will promote efficiency, reduce clutter, and create a more organized and productive work environment.

### Objectives:

- Collaborate with internal stakeholders and contracted vendors to design and install durable countertop surfaces that meet safety and ergonomic standards.
- Develop a project timeline and cost estimate to ensure installation is completed efficiently and within budget.
- Coordinate installation scheduling to minimize disruption to Records operations and maintain service continuity.
- Evaluate post-installation workspace functionality through staff feedback to confirm the improvements enhance efficiency and organization.



# 2026 Goals and Objectives of the Records Division

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## Goal 3: Improve Organization & Accessibility of Archived Records

Complete a detailed reorganization of the back records storage room to properly categorize, purge, and securely store personnel files, training records, and other archived documents. This project will enhance record retrieval efficiency, ensure compliance with retention schedules, and maintain file integrity.

### Objectives:

- Identify, list, and assess all archived materials in the back records storage room within 30 days to determine quantity, type, and condition of files.
- Create and implement a standardized filing system (e.g., by record type, year, or retention period) to ensure consistent organization and ease of retrieval.
- Review and purge records in accordance with the state and department's retention schedule.
- Create internal reference guides that describe the new filing structure, labeling standards, and retrieval protocols for staff use.



# Thank You!



Thank you for your support of the Acworth Police Department and the unparalleled relationships with the citizens we serve!

