



MAYOR
George B McGill

**ACTING CITY
ADMINISTRATOR**
Jeff Dingman

CITY CLERK
Sherri Gard

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Ward 1 - Jarred Rego
Ward 2 - Andre' Good
Ward 3 - Lee Kemp
Ward 4 - George Catsavis
At-Large Position 5 - Christina Catsavis
At-Large Position 6 - Kevin Settle
At-Large Position 7 - Neal Martin

AGENDA

Fort Smith Board of Directors STUDY SESSION

June 9, 2026 ~ 6:00 p.m.
Blue Lion
101 North 2nd Street
Fort Smith, Arkansas

THIS MEETING IS BEING TELECAST LIVE AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:
<http://www.fortmithar.gov/watch>

CALL TO ORDER

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Presentation of 2025 Police Department Annual Report (*Police*)
2. Presentation of 2025 Fire Department Annual Report (*Fire*)
3. Update regarding RAISE/BUILD Grant for Bass Reeves Legacy Loop (*City Administrator*) ♦
4. Discussion regarding a senior citizen rate freeze or discount on regular household water utility rates ~ *G. Catsavis/Good placed initial discussion on future study session agenda at the March 3, 2026 regular meeting; C.Catsavis/G.Catsavis placed continued discussion with feasible options on future agenda at the April 14, 2026 study session ~ (City Administrator)*
5. Review preliminary agenda for the June 16, 2026 regular meeting (*City Clerk*)

ADJOURN



MEMORANDUM

TO: Jeff Dingman, Acting City Administrator
FROM: Danny Baker, Chief of Police
DATE: June 4, 2026
SUBJECT: 2025 Annual Report

SUMMARY

Please find attached to this memo the Fort Smith Police Department Annual Report, for presentation to the Mayor and Board of Directors.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [FSPD ANNUAL REPORT 2025 V8 1.pdf](#)

2025



FORT SMITH POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT *new heights*

New Heights



In 2025, the Fort Smith Police Department proudly continued its commitment to supporting Special Olympics events, highlighting the department's embrace of inclusivity and community engagement. Officers participated in events such as the Law Enforcement Torch Run and local competitions, which brought together athletes, families, and supporters.

FROM THE DESK CHIEF BAKER



Dear Mayor, City Administrator, and Members of the Board of Directors,

It is my privilege to present the Fort Smith Police Department's 2025 Annual Report. This report reflects a year of meaningful progress and highlights the professionalism, adaptability, and dedication of the men and women who serve our community every day.

The theme of this year's report, "New Heights," captures the direction of our work in 2025. The department strengthened its operational foundation while expanding its ability to meet the evolving needs of Fort Smith. Those efforts contributed to a 10.6% reduction in Group A crime from 2024 and helped drive reported crime to its lowest level in decades. Since reaching a recent high in 2021, Fort Smith has experienced a sustained decline in crime of around 30%, reflecting the impact of strategic enforcement, community partnerships, proactive policing, and the commitment of our personnel.

We also continued investing in the people, training, and partnerships that make public safety possible. In 2025, the department hired 16 police officers and additional civilian personnel, conducted two 17-week academy classes with 33 graduates from regional agencies, and maintained extensive training opportunities for sworn and civilian staff. Programs such as Food Patrol, Storytime with FSPD, Citizen's Police Academy, the Public Safety Cadet program, and S.H.I.E.L.D. Our Youth continued strengthening connections between the department and the community.

Our Criminal Investigations Division cleared 3,913 of 4,325 assigned cases for a 90.5 percent clearance rate. Those efforts included major case investigations, fugitive operations, forensic and cyber investigations, property-crime enforcement, and narcotics interdiction, reflecting our commitment to both solving and preventing crime.

The department also made significant investments in infrastructure, technology, and readiness. Improvements included upgrades to critical facilities and systems, continued implementation of the Pro Phoenix records management system, deployment of Walther handgun platforms with optics, fleet purchases, and continued accreditation through CALEA and ALEAP. We also expanded public-safety technology through the placement of fixed Condor cameras downtown, supporting crime prevention and investigative efforts while complementing ongoing work to strengthen the downtown district.

I am proud of what this department accomplished in 2025, and I am grateful to our officers, professional staff, city leadership, partner agencies, and the citizens of Fort Smith for their trust and support. Together, we will continue pursuing excellence in service, strengthening community confidence, and moving this department to even greater heights.

Respectfully,

Danny Baker
Chief of Police
Fort Smith Police Department

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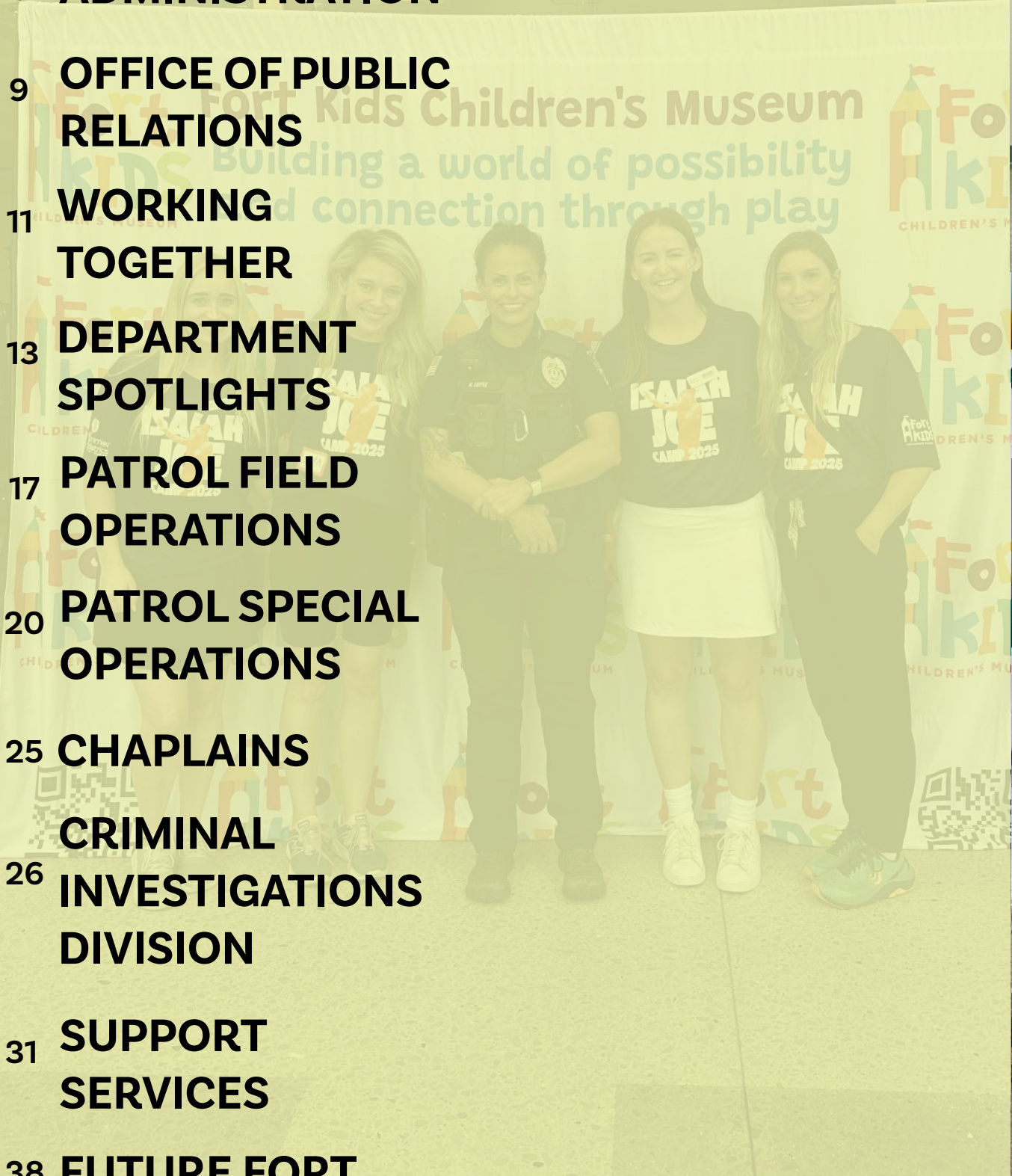
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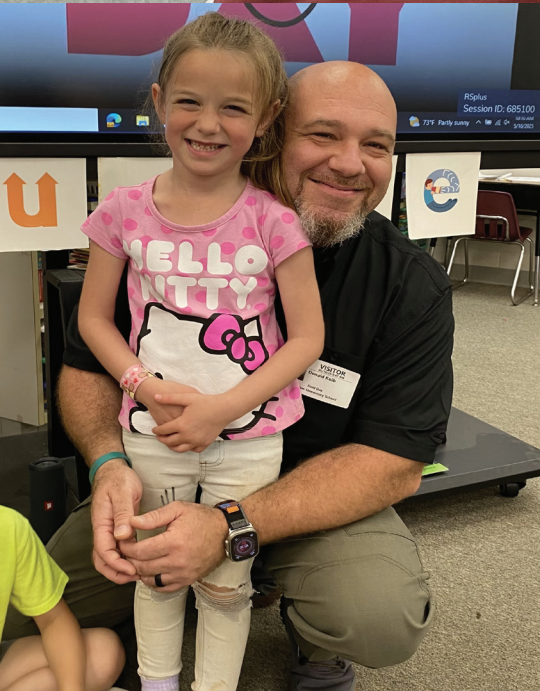
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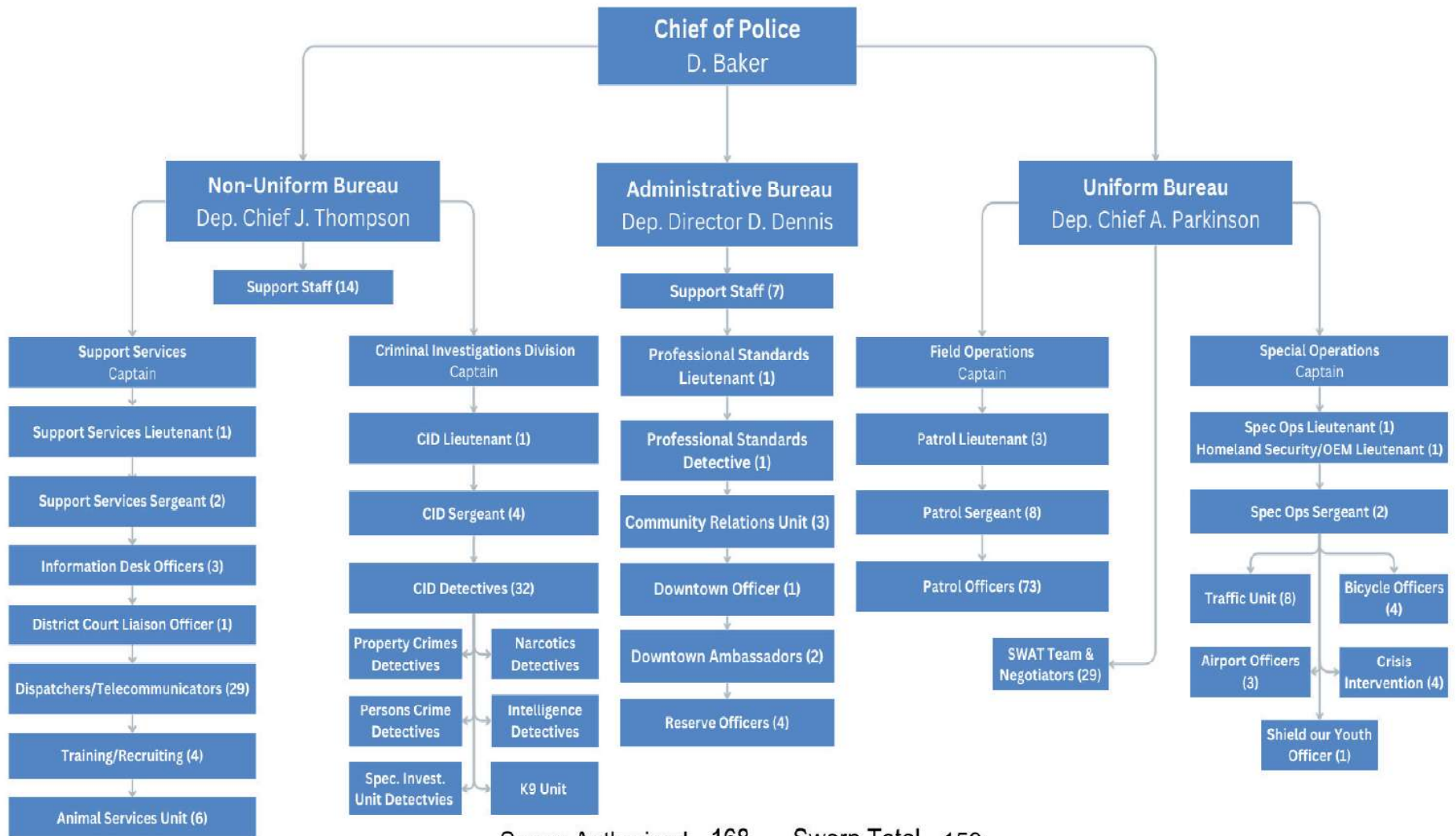
26 **CRIMINAL
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Sworn Authorized 168 Sworn Total 159
 Civilian Authorized 57 Civilian Total 49

ADMINISTRATION



**Deputy Director of
Administrative Services
Dan Dennis**



**Deputy Chief
Anthony Parkinson,
Uniformed Bureau**



**Deputy Chief
Jason Thompson,
Non-Uniformed Bureau**



**Administrative Assistant
Bonita Byers**



**Administrative Coordinator
Maranda Shaw**



**Crime Analyst
Pamela Miller**

Along with the Community Relations Unit and Office of Professional Standards, the Administrative Bureau runs smoothly due to the efforts of the Deputy Director of Administrative Services, Administrative Services Coordinator, Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police, and Accounting Tech positions. These dedicated professionals work behind the scenes to ensure the efficient functioning of the Fort Smith Police Department.

Deputy Director of Administrative Services Dan Dennis identifies and applies for grants that provide essential funding for various programs, initiatives, and equipment for the department. He also ensures compliance with grant requirements and submits progress reports as needed. Director Dennis's responsibilities include supervising non-sworn staff members, including administrative, clerical, and technical staff. Furthermore, he assists in preparing

and managing the department's budget, monitoring expenditures, and identifying cost-saving measures. His expertise in policy development and implementation has been invaluable as well. As a former Chief of Police and IT Director, he has helped as an advisor to Chief Baker, as well as a liaison with other departments and agencies.

Working with Director Dennis is Administrative Services Coordinator Maranda Shaw. Maranda manages the department's financial matters with precision and integrity. Her duties include managing grants, handling accounts payable and receivable, and assisting with budgeting and financial reporting. Maintaining accurate financial records ensures the responsible allocation of resources and the overall financial health of the department. Accounting Technician Cassandra Cleveland assists Maranda as needed and also oversees payroll

functions, ensuring that our sworn and non-sworn personnel are compensated fairly and on time for their efforts.

Bonnie Byers, the Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police, plays a crucial role in supporting the Chief's office. Her tasks involve managing correspondence, handling scheduling, and assisting with the preparation of reports and presentations. By ensuring the Chief's office runs efficiently, Bonnie helps facilitate effective communication and decision-making within the department. In summary, the Department's Administrative Bureau is a vital part of the success that we have experienced at the Fort Smith Police Department over the last year. The professionals within this Bureau demonstrate expertise and commitment to excellence that enables the department to focus on its primary vision of improving the lives of every Fort Smith citizen and everyone we encounter.

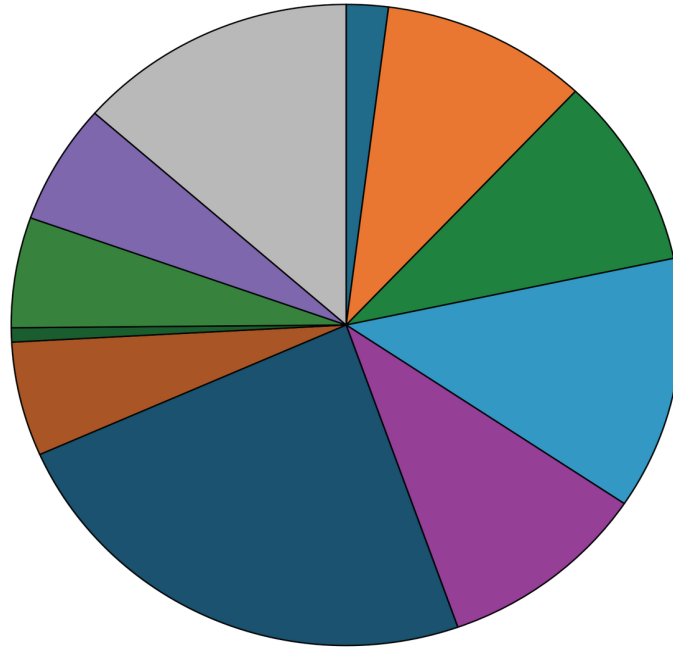
The Administrative Bureau oversees handling of the Department's annual budget. In 2025, the Department was budgeted for \$24,797,984.25. From this figure, \$17.188 million went toward Personnel costs and \$7.610 million for Operations.

The majority of funds were spent in Patrol Field Operations (27%) with Dedicated Sales Tax (15%), Support Services (14%), Criminal Investigations Division (12%), Administrative Services (11%), Patrol Special Operations and the Communications Unit (7% each), and

Animal Services close behind at 6%.

Revenues collected from the dedicated sales tax approved by Fort Smith voters totaled \$3.691 million for the year.

2025 BUDGET ACTUALS



■ 1107 ■ 4701 ■ 4703 ■ 4705 ■ 4707 ■ 4709
 ■ 1109 ■ 4702 ■ 4704 ■ 4706 ■ 4708

ACCOUNT	PERSONNEL	OPERATIONS	TOTAL ACTUAL
1107 - GRANTS & ADD'L FUNDS	—	—	\$541,757.26
1109 - RETIREMENT	\$2,674,823.97	\$0.00	\$2,674,823.97
4701 - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	\$1,355,819.12	\$1,233,917.89	\$2,589,737.01
4702 - SUPPORT SERVICES	\$1,418,415.51	\$1,996,490.86	\$3,414,906.37
4703 - CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION	\$2,496,685.15	\$232,647.13	\$2,729,332.28
4704 - PATROL FIELD OPERATIONS	\$5,212,055.73	\$1,164,849.21	\$6,376,904.94
4705 - PATROL SPECIAL OPERATIONS	\$1,379,105.88	\$165,893.98	\$1,544,999.86
4706 - AIRPORT SECURITY	\$191,567.21	\$0.00	\$191,567.21
4707 - ANIMAL SERVICES	\$315,977.35	\$1,174,486.24	\$1,490,463.59
4708 - COMMUNICATIONS UNIT	\$1,597,734.29	\$27,000.97	\$1,624,735.26
4709 - DEDICATED SALES TAX	\$2,870,923.67	\$751,447.41	\$3,622,371.08

Grants are shown as total actual receipts from the workbook's "Grants & Add'l Funds" tab. Retirement reflects the updated 2025 LOPFI actual provided separately.

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS



**Lieutenant
Darrin Phelps**



**Detective
Randy Triplett**

The purpose of the Office of Professional Standards is to safeguard the continued confidence of the community by upholding the integrity of the department. The Office of Professional Standards investigates serious complaints of misconduct or inappropriate activity and serves to protect employees and the department from unfounded or unwarranted accusations.

The Office of Professional Standards

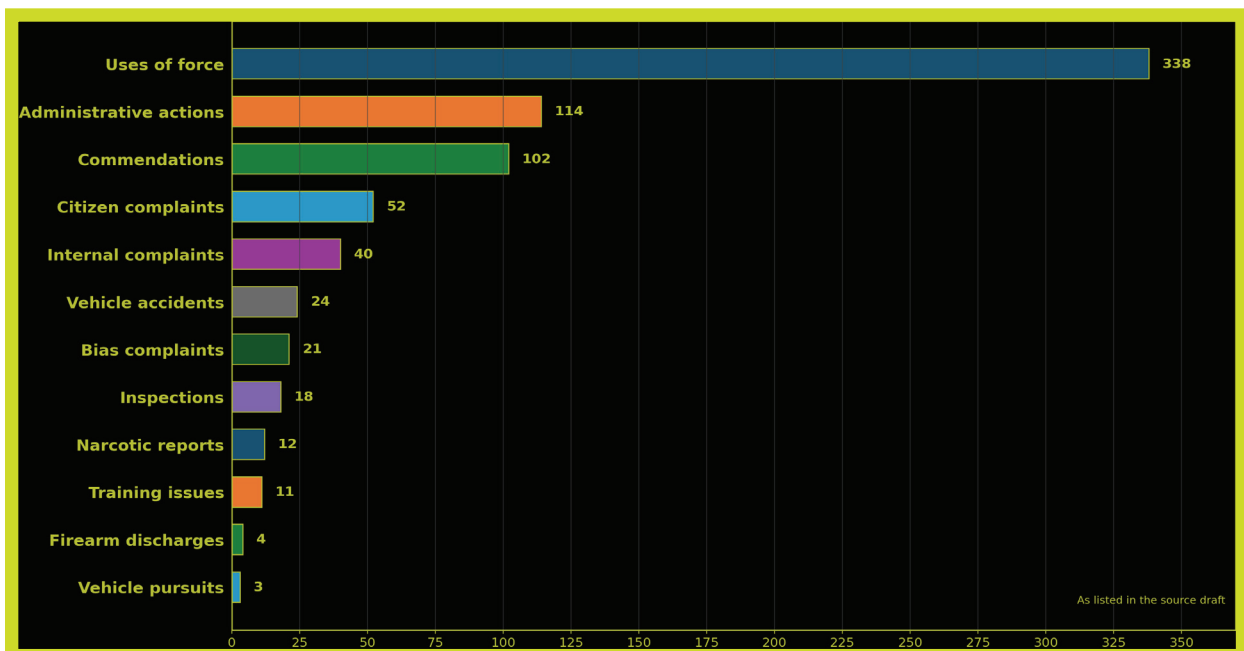
conducts investigations into a variety of instances such as:

1. Allegations of misconduct by a Fort Smith Police Department employee
2. Allegations of criminal conduct by a Fort Smith Police Department employee
3. Serious breaches of Departmental integrity
4. Complaints likely to result in criticism of the Department.
5. Unusual complaints that will likely

be closely scrutinized.

The Office also conducts a variety of audits and inspections to aid the Department in the enforcement of transparency, proper procedure, and asset management. These include but are not limited to bomb threat/disposal procedures, narcotics/buy-money counts, inspection of our early intervention effectiveness, and physical asset management.

In 2025, OPS conducted 491 investigations, as well as 40 internal complaints (30 sustained) and 52 citizen complaints (5 sustained).



OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS



**Officer
Robyn Shoptaw,
Community Relations**



**Officer
Bradley Williams,
Community Relations**



**Aric Mitchell
Public Information
Officer**



**Malorie Restine
Senior Clerk II, Support
Services**

2025

Total Number of Events: 393

Total Press Releases: 449

Requests Routed: 2,949

FOIAs Fulfilled: 909

In 2025, the Fort Smith Police Department's Community Relations efforts reached new heights by moving from high-volume outreach into more targeted, structured, and sustainable programming. The Community Relations Unit continued to serve as one of the department's most visible bridges to the public, but its work in 2025 reflected a strategic maturation in both program design and long-term impact.

The 2024-2025 biennium illustrates that progression clearly. In 2024, the Community Relations Unit produced 409 events, distributed 6,000 meals through Food Patrol, recorded 27 Pawfficer Fuzz appearances, and conducted two Citizen's Police Academy classes. That year emphasized high-volume outreach, foundational relationship building, and a strong physical presence across neighborhoods, schools, and community partners. Those efforts created a stable base of trust and familiarity that made expanded programming possible in 2025.

In 2025, the unit conducted 393 Community Relations events, distributed 6,400 meals through Food Patrol, recorded 11 Pawfficer Fuzz appearances, and again held two Citizen's Police Academy classes. While the total

number of events decreased slightly, the year marked an intentional shift toward deeper, recurring, and more scalable programs. New initiatives launched in 2025 included Storytime with FSPD and Monthly Public Crime Prevention Classes.

Storytime with FSPD was introduced as a proactive, youth-focused literacy and relationship-building initiative developed in partnership with local libraries and community partners. The program gives children an opportunity to interact with officers in a relaxed, non-enforcement setting while encouraging early childhood reading and positive emotional connections with public safety professionals. Beyond literacy, the program helps children associate officers with safety, kindness, and service, while also bringing parents and caregivers into positive contact with the department.

The Monthly Public Crime Prevention Classes were launched in response to growing demand for practical, timely safety education. These sessions provide residents with current information on fraud prevention, personal safety, situational awareness, and emerging crime trends, including technology-enabled and financial crimes. The program represents a clear shift from one-time presentations to a recurring education model that strengthens community resilience and equips residents with tools to recognize threats, report suspicious activity, and protect themselves and their families.

Food Patrol remained one of the department's most effective relationship-building programs. In 2025, meals distributed increased from 6,000 to 6,400 without an increase in staffing. Through strategic partnerships, officers continued meeting residents in neighborhoods and community spaces with direct assistance rather than enforcement, building trust and reinforcing the department's commitment to service.

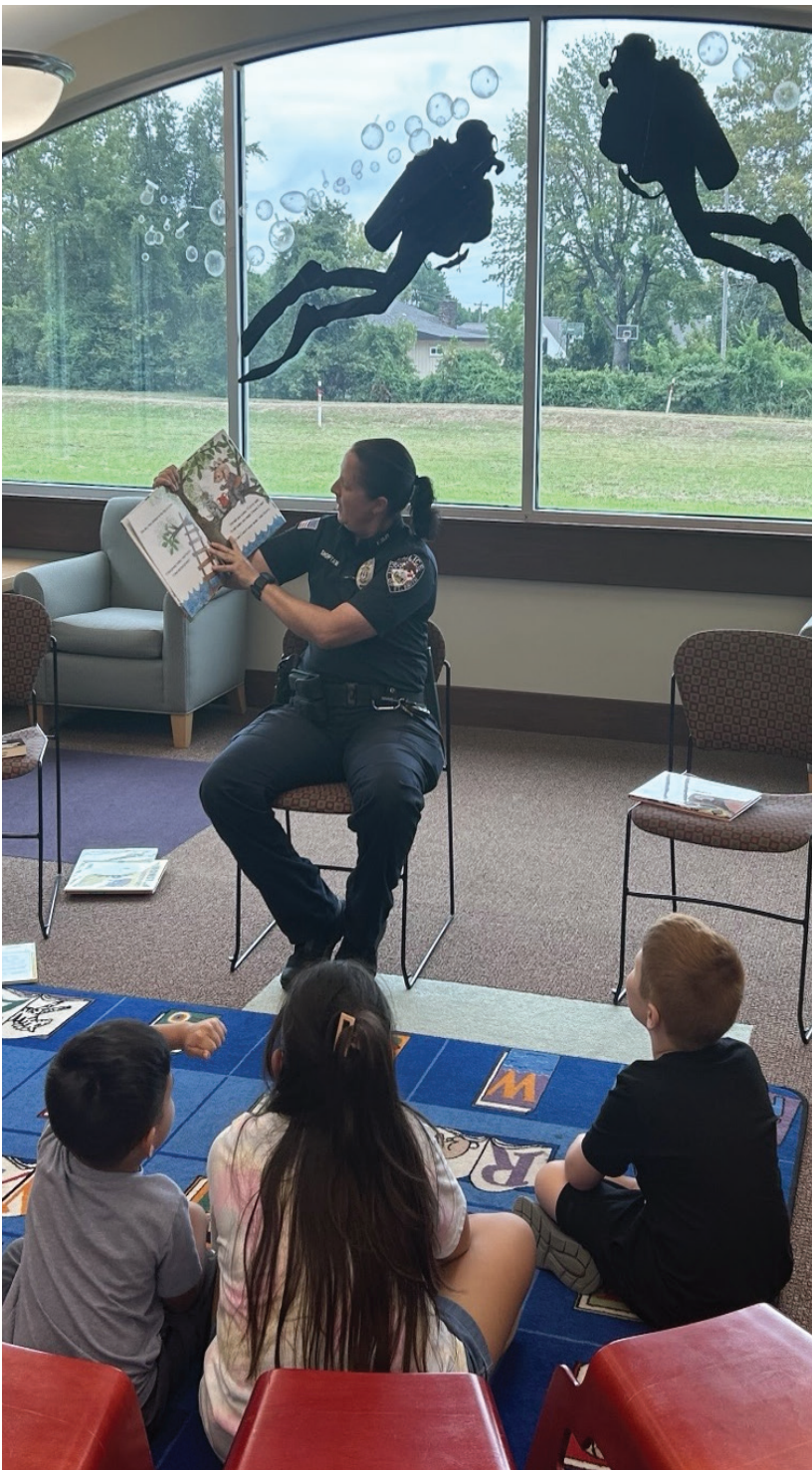
The Citizen's Police Academy remained stable across the biennium, with two classes in both 2024 and 2025. The academy continued to provide participants with hands-on exposure to police operations, policies, and decision-making processes, strengthening understanding, transparency, and trust between the department and the community. Graduates of the academy remain valuable advocates who can explain policing practices within their neighborhoods, workplaces, and civic circles.

The unit also strengthened its communications capacity in 2025 through a partnership with Christina Williams Consulting. That partnership improved the consistency and professionalism of CRU-related messaging and expanded the unit's digital reach without adding staffing. During the 2024-2025 biennium, this effort helped generate more than 10,000 new social media followers and more than 360,000 content interactions across CRU-related posts, while improving the visibility and consistency of programs and reducing internal

time required for content creation and scheduling. Another major development in 2025 was the formal planning and fundraising phase for Bridging the Reins, the Fort Smith Police Department's Mounted Community Relations Program.

During the year, the department conducted research, developed partnerships with Manes and Miracles, identified horse resources, began budget planning, and created the foundation for a sustainable operational framework. This deliberate approach positions Bridging the Reins for a responsible launch in late 2026 to early 2027, with careful attention to staffing, horse welfare, scheduling, and funding.

The biennial trend is clear. In 2024, the Community Relations Unit built the foundation of trust and presence. In 2025, it built the infrastructure for sustainability and growth. Together, those two years positioned the department to continue expanding high-impact, relationship-based outreach into 2026 and beyond.



WORKING TOGETHER

The improvements outlined in this report were not the result of any one unit working alone. They were the product of department-wide teamwork, with Patrol, CID, Special Operations, the Crime Analysis Unit, command staff, and support personnel working together throughout 2025 to identify trends early, adjust tactics, share information, and respond quickly.

Fort Smith saw meaningful improvements in Aggravated Assaults, Robberies, Burglaries, Larceny Thefts, and Motor Vehicle Thefts when compared with both the 5-year and 10-year averages. Those reductions can largely be attributed to peer review of offense reports to ensure consistency with Incident Based Reporting requirements, patrol techniques that were put in place, early recognition of possible patterns and crime trends, and the quick identification and arrest of suspects.

Fort Smith Police Command Staff also took additional steps to push those numbers down by making a number of changes in both Field Operations and Special Operations. Field Operations adjusted troop deployment, created areas of special attention, and changed patrol and response tactics based on recommendations from the Crime Analyst. Those recommendations were shared through CompStat Briefings, Officer Safety Bulletins, and Intelligence Bulletins that focused on Persons in Need of Corrective Help and highlighted hot spot areas for criminal activity within our area of responsibility.

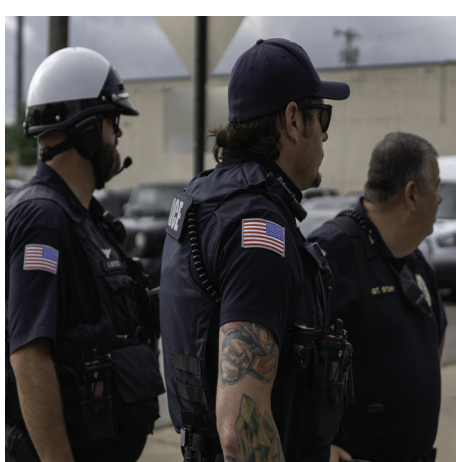
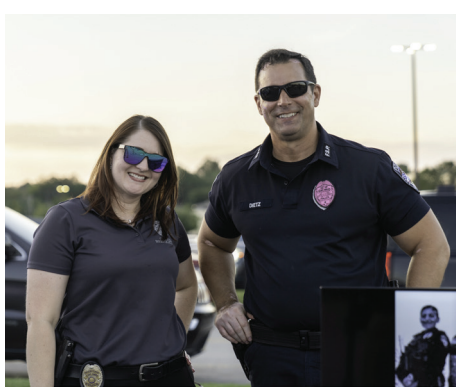
Special Operations worked alongside Field Operations and the Crime Analyst to make sure additional resources were available when needed. The Motor Unit, Bike Officers, Crisis Intervention Team, and Downtown Ambassadors all played important roles in their respective assignments and deployments. Analytical reports were also completed on citizen complaints such as noise and speeding, safety concerns such as accidents involving pedestrians, and two comprehensive analyses of accidents at intersections within the City of Fort Smith. Crime Analyst Miller also began briefing on the number of driving while impaired, or D.W.I., arrests during biweekly briefings. In 2025, there were 353 arrests for D.W.I.-related offenses, which represented a 40% increase over 2023 and a 3% increase over 2024. These reports helped identify problem areas, guide the deployment of resources, and support information shared through the Public Information Officer.

Crime Analyst Miller also reviewed theft offenses to find ways to help reduce the number reported in our area of responsibility. As part of that effort, an Organized Retail Crime working group was launched to improve communication among CID, the Crime Analysis Unit, and local retailers. That effort has generated multiple leads and improved information sharing to deconflict prolific offenders and alert law enforcement to active offenders in our area of responsibility. In addition to the working group, retailers and Fort Smith Police Department staff began using a web-based platform used by law enforcement agencies and retailers nationwide to deconflict Organized Retail Crime suspects.

A comparison of 2024 and 2025 crime data shows that the recommendations made by the Crime Analysis Unit, along with peer review of offense reports to ensure the offenses met Incident Based Reporting criteria, resulted in significant and measurable year-to-year drops in crime numbers and an overall decrease in Group A crimes. Overall, crime was down 10.60% year-to-year; 29.97% against the 5-year average; and 32.88% against the 10-year average.

Crime YTD - December 31, 2025

Offense	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	5 YR AVG	10 YR AVG	2025 vs 5 YR AVG	2025 vs 10 YR AVG
Homicide (09A-B)	4	4	6	8	4	5	9	5	6	1	7	5	5	2 34.62%	2 34.62%
Sexual Assault (11A-D)	129	117	123	119	161	149	140	143	140	145	148	143	137	5 3.21%	11 8.35%
Aggravated Assault (13A)	497	538	604	505	685	824	785	795	812	614	557	766	666	-209 -27.27%	-109 -16.34%
Robbery (120)	144	122	137	134	108	121	90	74	66	76	68	85	107	-17 -20.37%	-39 -36.57%
Group A Person Total	774	781	870	766	958	1099	1017	1017	1024	836	780	1000	915	-220 -21.98%	-135 -14.74%
Arson (200)	17	17	15	20	17	20	20	18	15	12	13	17	17	-4 -23.53%	-4 -23.98%
Burglary (220)	1021	1003	913	768	921	715	706	786	524	470	405	640	783	-235 -36.74%	-378 -48.26%
Larceny/Theft (23A-H)	4202	4326	3674	3525	4243	3981	4009	3506	3259	2779	2521	3507	3750	-986 -28.11%	-1229 -32.78%
Motor Vehicle Theft (240)	246	350	366	312	398	639	608	345	345	300	212	449	392	-237 -52.80%	-180 -45.89%
Group A Property Total	5486	5696	4968	4625	5579	5255	3743	4763	4144	3561	3151	4613	4942	-1462 -31.70%	-1791 -36.24%
Group A Total	6260	6477	5838	5391	6537	6354	6366	5780	5168	4397	3931	5613	5857	-1682 -29.97%	-1926 -32.88%



Offense	2024	2025	DIFF	2025 vs. 2024
Homicide (09A-B)	1	7	6	600.00%
Sexual Assault (11A-D)	145	148	3	2.07%
Aggravated Assault (13A)	614	557	-57	-9.28%
Robbery (120)	76	68	-8	-10.53%
Group A Person Total	836	780	-56	-6.70%
Arson (200)	12	13	1	8.33%
Burglary (220)	470	405	-65	-13.83%
Larceny/Theft (23A-H)	2779	2521	-258	-9.28%
Motor Vehicle Theft (240)	300	212	-88	-29.33%
Group A Property Total	3561	3151	-410	-11.51%
Group A Total	4397	3931	-466	-10.60%

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

GREG NAPIER
DETECTIVE CORPORAL



With 27 years of dedicated service to the Fort Smith Police Department, Det. Corporal Napier has served as a Patrol Officer, Narcotics Detective, and now leads in the Crimes Against Persons Unit. A founding member of the FSPD drone unit and expert witness in drug cases, his commitment has been key in apprehending violent offenders and mentoring fellow officers through his leadership and experience.

FORT SMITH POLICE DEPARTMENT



In April 2025, Detective Cpl. Greg Napier led a multi-month investigation involving a local medical professional accused in a systematic pattern of drug-facilitated sexual assault.

The case involved abuse over several years, multiple victims who were unaware of the crimes, a guilty plea, and a 110-year prison sentence. In a separate case, he was recognized for assisting the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) on a homicide case involving subjects located in Fort Smith. Det. Cpl. Napier helped with search warrants, calls, witness location, and ultimately served a first-degree murder warrant on the suspect. Last but not least, he investigated a Brazil Avenue home invasion that drew media attention.

The suspect kicked in the door while a mother and juvenile daughter were home; the daughter fought back to protect herself and her mother. With help from social media, the suspect was identified and quickly taken into custody. The daughter received an award from Chief Baker.

PICTURED RIGHT RECEIVING AWARD FROM CHIEF BAKER: Alivia, the courageous daughter who came to her mother's aid, fighting off a then-unknown suspect in a May home invasion, was instrumental in helping Det. Cpl. Napier bring the suspect to justice.



PICTURED LEFT: CID Capt. Dewey Young receives an award on behalf of the Narcotics Unit for its work in Operation Dirty Orange Shorts, a multi-agency investigation that led to multiple drug-related arrests.



Detectives Eric Restine, Brandon Odle, Joshua Johnson, Colby Edwards, and Jacqueline Tobias earned commendations for their collaborative efforts with Patrol Officers in July 2025 that led to multiple arrests for breaking-and-entering and vehicle thefts and a marked reduction in those crimes. Det. Restine (pictured right with Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin) would go on to be named the Sebastian County Officer of the Year for his tireless efforts in both Persons and Property Crimes.



PICTURED BELOW, SOCIAL MEDIA POST ON THE DANGERS OF DWI: While the 40% increase in DWI arrests from 2023 to 2025 (353 arrests) was eye-opening, numbers were up only 3% from last year. Social media awareness and increased proactive enforcement is sending a message and striving to keep our streets safer.



PICTURED ABOVE, STANDING: Crime Analyst Pamela Miller speaks with representatives from several of our area's leading retail stores to strengthen communication and collaboration in the Department's Organized Retail Crime Working Group. The goal is of the group is to share information, identify patterns, and stay ahead of those who target our local businesses. Strong partnerships like these are key to keeping Fort Smith a safe place to live, work, and shop.



INVESTIGATION OUTCOMES

Detectives Brad Marion (above left) and Craig Sharp (above center) investigated a homicide on South 11th Street in March of 2025 that led to the arrest of 59-year-old Marvin Davis.

With the help of Patrol Officers and other fellow Detectives, they were able to identify Davis as an acquaintance of the victim, find his location, recover the murder weapon, and arrest him without further incident.

Davis was convicted of Second-Degree Murder in connection with the death of Dorothy Edmonds in April of 2026. He received a sentence of 35 years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections.

Also in 2025, Det. Marion maintained his U.S. Marshals Task Force role. Eighteen Fort Smith cases were turned over to the task force during the year, including 14 violent felony cases and four missing-child cases. Det. Marion aided on 16 felony arrests, and 68 total cases. He also participated in an April gang operation in Fort Smith that produced 21 arrests in three days.

Last but not least, then-Det. Angus Bradford (above right) earned October's Employee of the Month recognition for his work on three separate shooting incidents within a 24-hour period. The shootings were linked together and resulted in the arrests of five suspects. Det. Bradford would promote to Patrol Sergeant in 2026.

HISTORY MADE

In September 2025, the Fort Smith Police Department established mutual aid and cross-jurisdictional cooperation between FSPD and the Choctaw Nation's Lighthorse Police Department.

The agreement is designed to enhance safety and strengthen law enforcement coverage for communities within the City of Fort Smith and areas of the Choctaw Nation's reservation and Indian Country located in Arkansas.

The agreement allows officers from both agencies to respond to observed violations of the law, assist one another with arrests, investigations, and detentions, and provide emergency support when needed. It stems from Arkansas Senate Bill 510, which authorized cross-deputization partnerships between Arkansas law enforcement agencies and federally recognized tribes.



From left to right: Zach Hendrix - Captain, Choctaw Nation Lighthorse Police, Michael Hall - Executive Director of Public Safety, Choctaw Nation, Chief Michael Woodruff - Chief of Police, Choctaw Nation Lighthorse Police, Brian McClain - Choctaw Nation Government Affairs, Sara Jane Smallwood Cocke - Choctaw Nation Government Affairs, Chief Gary Batton - Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, George B. McGill - Fort Smith Mayor, Danny Baker - Fort Smith Chief of Police, Chris Hoover - Grants and Government Relations Manager, City of Fort Smith Jennifer Petrovich - Mayor's Executive Assistant



In November 2025, the Department was recognized by the Fort Smith Round Table in recognition of service to the community and its citizens. The Fort Smith Round Table is a homegrown organization dedicated to fostering leadership, commitment, community, and teamwork in pursuit of positive cultural, intellectual, and social development. While it's always an honor to be recognized, it means even more when it comes from the people of your own community.

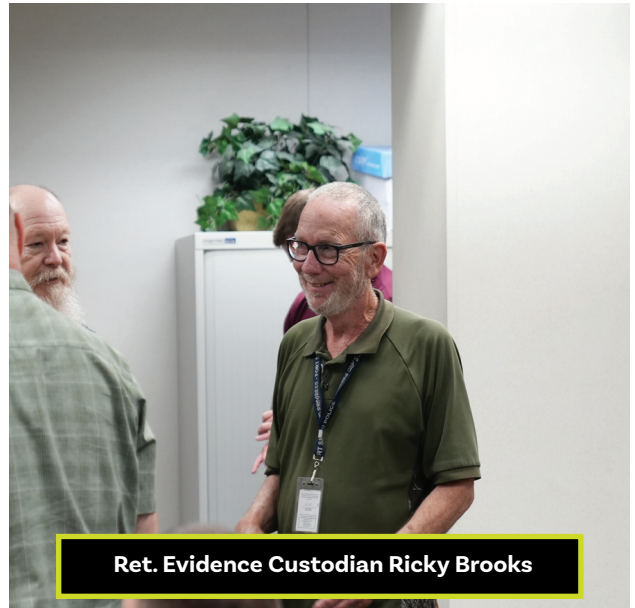


In May 2025, Cpl. Julio Solis accepted a newly created position as the Downtown Ambassador Officer. Cpl. Solis has many years of experience at FSPD as a Patrol Officer, Recruiter, and Field Training Officer, making him a natural fit for the role. He is pictured here at the Fort Smith Farmer's Market on Garrison Avenue. Since serving in the position, Cpl. Solis has made proactive community policing a priority, and, along with the Bicycle Unit, has made great strides in helping citizens feel safe and invited in the city's downtown corridor. In addition to his primary duties, he supervises two Citizen Downtown Ambassadors and frequently adjusts his schedule as the needs of the area demand.

2025 RETIREMENTS



Ret. Capt. Daniel Grubbs, Pictured Right



Ret. Evidence Custodian Ricky Brooks



Ret. Capt. Wendall Sampson, Pictured Left



Ret. Lt. Michael McCoy, Pictured Right



Ret. Capt. Wes Milam

2025 PROMOTIONS

- Capt. Dewey Young
- Capt. Rob Schibbelhut
- Capt. Dillon Harris
- Lt. Chris McCoy
- Lt. Alejandro Marin
- Lt. Joseph Underwood
- Lt. Keith Shelby
- Sgt. Derrick Dowdy
- Sgt. Justin Ritter
- Cpl. Jeffrey Mitchell
- Cpl. Julio Solis

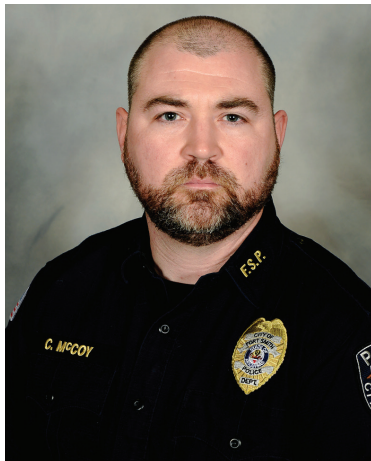
PATROL FIELD OPERATIONS



**Captain
Steven Creek**



**Lieutenant
Joseph Underwood**



**Lieutenant
Chris McCoy**



**Lieutenant
Richard Wright**

The Fort Smith Police Department's Field Operations Division remained the frontline of public safety in 2025, serving and protecting 68 square miles within the city limits of Fort Smith. At full operational strength, the division is staffed by 73 patrol officers organized into three troops working 10-hour shifts to provide seamless, 24-hour coverage for residents and visitors alike.

The division's effectiveness is rooted in structured leadership and geographic accountability. A captain serves as division commander, lieutenants provide field guidance to each troop, and eight sergeants supervise daily operations to ensure that officers deliver the professional service the public expects. The city is divided into 12 patrol beats, and officers are assigned to those beats throughout their shifts, allowing them to build familiarity with neighborhoods, business corridors, and recurring community concerns.

This beat-based approach supports more than rapid response. It reinforces the department's commitment to community policing. Officers are expected to know the people, businesses, and conditions within their assigned areas and to develop lasting partnerships that improve communication, trust, and problem-solving capacity.

In 2025, that commitment to community presence was reflected in 23,568 non-enforcement contacts with the public. These interactions—occurring in neighborhoods, schools, churches, civic settings, and everyday patrol activity—represent the kind of contact that strengthens trust before a crisis occurs. Field Operations officers continue to serve not only as first responders, but as a steady and visible presence in the daily life of Fort Smith.

PATROL SERGEANTS



**Sergeant
Angus Bradford**



**Sergeant
Scott Newton**



**Sergeant
Thomas Brashier**



**Sergeant
Robert Moudy**



**Sergeant
Jacob Landers**



**Sergeant
Joshua Brents**



**Sergeant
Justin Ritter**



**Sergeant
Derrick Dowdy**

While the citizens of Fort Smith are mostly sleeping and settling down for the overnight hours, officers in patrol are proactively performing patrols in neighborhoods and business districts by conducting residential and business security checks.

Once everything is found secure, the officer will leave a “door hanger” to let representatives of that location know officers were checking on their investments, their property, and their families. In 2025, over 5,163 door hangers were left with businesses or within residential neighborhoods.

Last but not least, officers are encouraged to take time to attend and participate in special events occurring during their shift. Such special events are, but not limited to, school events, special church services, civic events, food distribution events and crime prevention initiatives.

During the 2025 calendar year, officers in Field Operations participated in over 582 community events. Attending these types of events generates excitement and enhances communication and trust within the city.

Security Checks
In 2024, over 5,163 door hangers were left with businesses or within residential neighborhoods.

73 Patrol Officers
68 square miles
3 Troops
24/7 Coverage

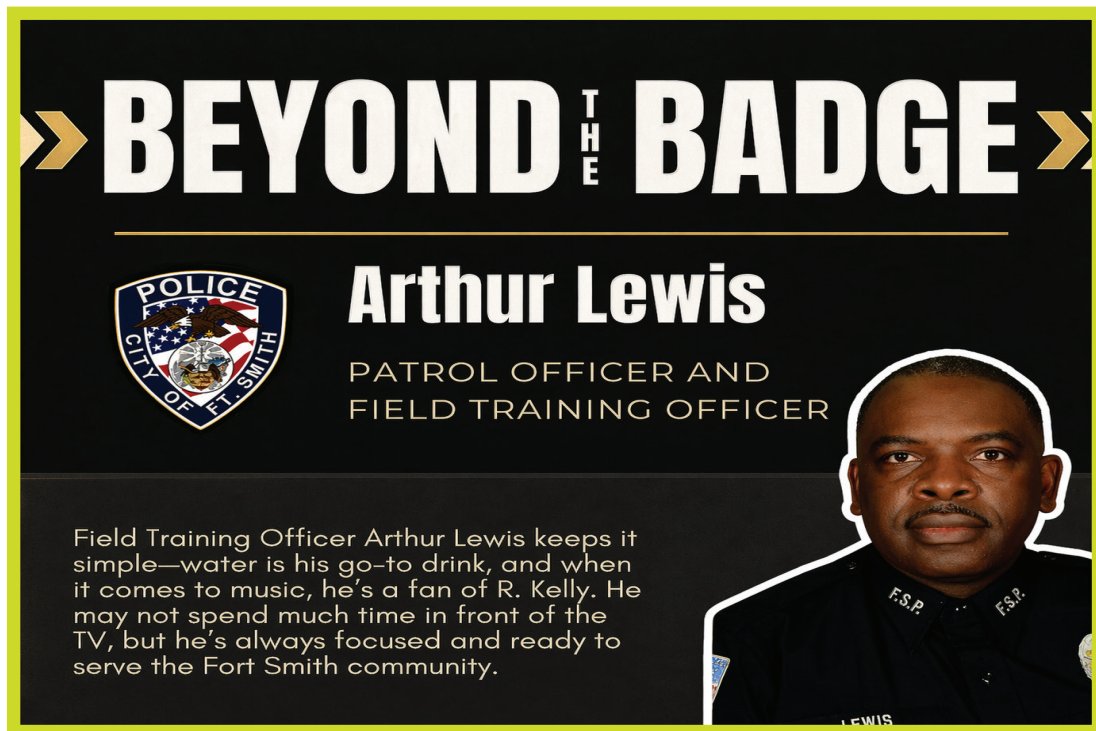
Community First
Over 23,000 non-enforcement contacts with businesses, citizens and visitors, attended 582 community events.

FIELD TRAINING PROGRAM

The Fort Smith Police Department prides itself on being a premier agency in the State of Arkansas. The department keeps up to date with the most current trends and practices in modern day policing. The Fort Smith Police Department takes pride in its robust 16-week Field Training Program coordinated by Field Training Officer Arthur Lewis.

This program immediately follows the 17-week Basic Police Academy, and it operates in conjunction with the department's Training Unit. Our agency uses highly qualified officers to assist in the training and development of newly hired officers. The officers chosen to be a Field Training Officers understand the gold standards expected with the department and are recognized as being the best in the Patrol Division. The officers go through an extensive interview process and then complete state-certified training in two areas. The officers attend a prestigious Field Training Officer Course, and an Instructor Development Course.

Upon completion of both courses, the officers received certification as a Field Training Officer and Certified Law Enforcement Instructor. The officers selected as Field Training Officers use the skills and knowledge they have learned from experience and training to help build young recruits into seasoned officers.



BEYOND THE BADGE

Arthur Lewis
PATROL OFFICER AND
FIELD TRAINING OFFICER

Field Training Officer Arthur Lewis keeps it simple—water is his go-to drink, and when it comes to music, he's a fan of R. Kelly. He may not spend much time in front of the TV, but he's always focused and ready to serve the Fort Smith community.

In 2025, 12 officers were assigned and successfully completed the Field Training Program. When officers in training are recommended for release from the program, they are ready to meet the challenges of the profession.

To be released from the program and to solo duty, recommendations must be submitted by their Field Training Officer and the Field Training Coordinator detailing the recruits have met the desired levels of knowledge in the policies and procedures of the department, as well as all local, state, and federal laws.

Once agreed upon and approved by the Chief of Police, the officers in training are released to solo duty.

In 2025, 12 Officers successfully completed the 16-week FTO Program.

PATROL SPECIAL OPERATIONS



**Captain
Rob Schibbelhut**



**Lieutenant
Alejandro Marin
CIU/Bicycle**



**Lieutenant
Lee McCabe
Airport/Emergency
Management/Honor
Guard**



**Sergeant
Dylan Jones**



**Sergeant Kyle Story
Traffic Unit**

The Patrol Special Operations Division continued to provide specialized, flexible, and highly visible public safety support throughout Fort Smith in 2025. The division is composed of five specialized units: the Bicycle Unit, Traffic Unit, Crisis Intervention Unit, Airport Unit, and S.H.I.E.L.D. Our Youth. Each unit addresses a distinct operational need, but together they provide a coordinated response to issues involving mental health, roadway safety, public events, youth intervention, airport security, and community policing.

Throughout 2025, the division played a critical role in the planning and execution of numerous large-scale community and city-sponsored events, including the Steel Horse Rally, the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade, the Mayor's Fourth of July Celebration, the Annual Christmas Parade, and additional public gatherings across the city. The division also provided security support for three dignitary escorts and successfully managed public safety operations during five protest events.

CRISIS INTERVENTION



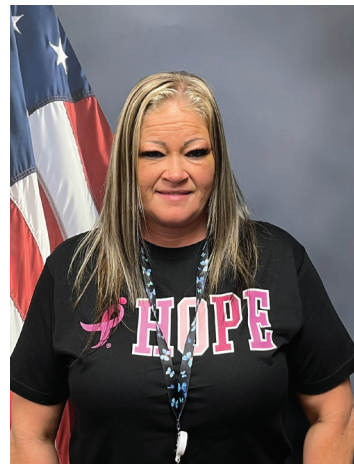
**Officer
Wesley Roe**



**Officer
Dawn Dodson**



**Noah Henry
Peer Support Specialist**



**Theressa Hook
Peer Support Specialist**

The Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU) is a 2-officer unit that currently consists of two officers paired with two Peer Recovery Support Specialists. Along with the Bicycle Unit, it is led by Lt. Alejandro Marin. The CIU is committed to addressing mental health crises, providing de-escalation services, and facilitating appropriate care for individuals in crisis.

During 2025, the Unit either handled or assisted patrol officers with 2,319 calls for service. During these contacts, 51 people were diverted from possible criminal charges to alternative treatment opportunities and a total of 72 people were referred for mental health treatment.

These officers regularly switch up their schedules to assist when needed for either mental health situations involving Fort Smith residents or participating in community-organized events.

***Answered 2,319 Calls for Service
72 Referred for Mental Health Treatment
51 Diverted from Incarceration to Alternative Treatment
Opportunities***

BICYCLE UNIT



**Officer
Luke Hartman**



**Officer
Blake Canada**



**Officer
Dustin Barentine**

The Bicycle Unit remained an important component of proactive patrol and community engagement in 2025.

The fully staffed unit consists of four officers under the supervision of one sergeant and is deployed primarily in the downtown entertainment district, park systems, trail networks, Chaffee Crossing, and other high-traffic or hard-to-access areas where mobility and visibility are

especially valuable.

During 2025, Bicycle Unit officers collectively responded to 1,320 calls for service. Their work emphasized direct contact with business owners, employees, residents, and visitors, allowing officers to quickly identify quality-of-life concerns, address recurring issues, and maintain a visible deterrent to criminal activity in both urban and recreational spaces.

The unit's specialized electric bicycles allow officers to navigate congested downtown corridors and patrol areas that are less accessible to traditional patrol vehicles, including parks and trail systems.

In addition to enforcement and patrol duties, the unit participated in 65 community events during the year.

AIRPORT



Officer Angel Aguirre



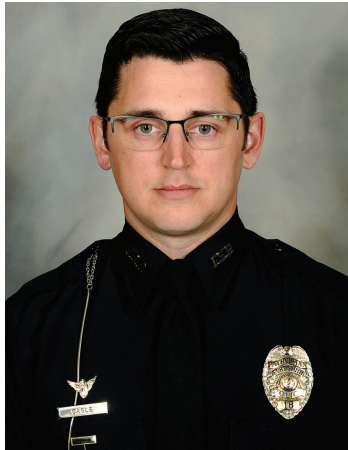
Officer Michel Miller

The Fort Smith Police Airport Unit remained a vital part of public safety and customer service at the Fort Smith Regional Airport in 2025. Staffed by three sworn officers, the unit provides a steady law enforcement presence while also serving as a welcoming and visible point of contact for travelers arriving in the city.

In 2025, Airport Unit personnel interacted with approximately 122,856 travelers, offering assistance, answering questions, and helping ensure a safe environment for passengers, staff, and airport partners. Officers support airport operations, respond to a range of calls for service, conduct patrols in and around the terminal, and coordinate with airport administration and federal partners to uphold safety standards.

Airport officers continued to receive citizen compliments regarding their professionalism and welcoming presence. Their visibility, attentiveness, and service-oriented policing style reinforce public confidence and make them an important part of the department's overall mission.

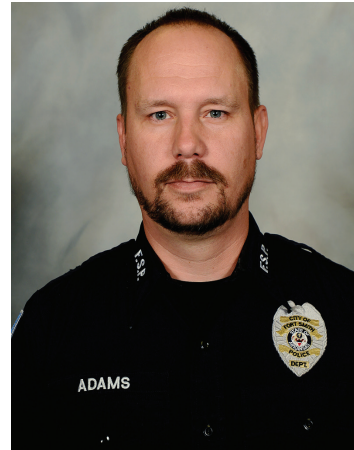
TRAFFIC UNIT



**Officer
Casey Cagle**



**Officer
Ashley Breedlove**



**Officer
Andrew Adams**



**Officer
Jens Sorensen**



**Officer
Jonathan Ritter**



**Officer
Mason Efurd**

The Traffic Unit continued to play a central role in roadway safety and traffic enforcement throughout Fort Smith in 2025. Staffed by eight officers under the supervision of one sergeant, the unit provides specialized enforcement and investigative support to patrol operations citywide.

Its responsibilities include traffic enforcement, directed patrol operations, collision response, dignitary escorts, house move escorts, and accident reconstruction for serious injury and fatality crashes.

The unit remained highly proactive throughout the year.

In 2025, Traffic Unit officers responded to 271 traffic collisions, conducted 4,509 traffic stops, and were deployed on 18 occasions to investigate serious injury or fatality crashes. Traffic personnel also routinely adjusted work schedules and days off to support major events requiring traffic control and public safety coordination, providing support at 65 community events during the

year.

Traffic Unit motorcycle officers also represented the department at a statewide motorcycle skills competition in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Their performance earned significant recognition for the Fort Smith Police Department, including the overall top award, with FSPD officers collectively capturing first-, second-, and third-place finishes.

***4,509 Traffic Stops
271 Collision Investigations
Worked 18 Serious Injury/Fatality Investigations
Attended 65 Community Events***



**Officer
Blake Scott**



The Fort Smith Police Department's S.H.I.E.L.D. Our Youth program continued to strengthen its role in juvenile crime prevention and early intervention during 2025. Operated under the Special Operations Division, the program is designed to support at-risk youth and families experiencing behavioral, mental health, and trauma-related crises, with an emphasis on early intervention, diversion, and connection to services rather than enforcement.

Officer Blake Scott continued to lead the initiative and maintained strong day-to-day partnerships with schools, families, and community providers. During 2025, those partnerships included 100 Families, Maggie House, Comprehensive Juvenile Services, the Juvenile Detention Center, local churches, the court system, the Boys and Girls Club, Future School of Fort Smith, Premier High School, Get Real, the Boys Shelter, GRO Enrichment Micro-Schools, Target, Walmart, and the Food Shelter. The program's partnership with 100 Families remained especially important, helping stabilize high-need households, address barriers such as transportation and employment, and connect parents and guardians with long-term support through the Hope Hub.

In 2025, S.H.I.E.L.D. Our Youth recorded 170 calls for service, generated 18 offense reports, completed 67 incident reports, participated in 109 community events and meetings, conducted 57 school outreach activities, and completed 140 follow-up contacts. The program also contacted 85 organizations, diverted 148 juveniles from prosecution, and addressed five suicide threats with zero completed suicides.

Now in its second year, S.H.I.E.L.D. has moved from a promising concept to an established, high-impact program that reduces repeat calls for service, improves youth outcomes, and strengthens family stability. Its work complements Community Relations outreach by addressing higher-risk juvenile cases that require specialized response and long-term follow-up.

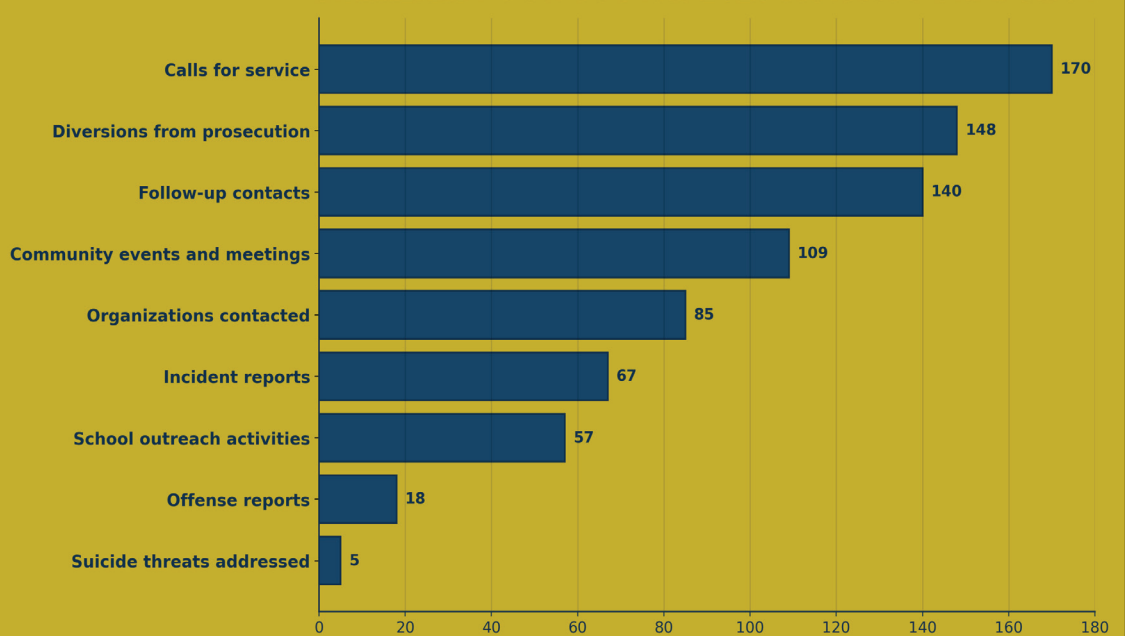


Officer Blake Scott stepped into the newly created S.H.I.E.L.D. Our Youth position in 2024 and continued to build on its successes in 2025, building connections with at-risk youth every day. He is pictured left teaching a free community class at Police Headquarters on apps, drugs, and other dangers that parents should be aware of.

S.H.I.E.L.D. OUR YOUTH'S SUCCESSES AREN'T JUST RELATIONSHIP-DRIVEN; THEY'RE DATA-DRIVEN!

The number we're proudest of? Out of 170 calls for service, the program was instrumental in 148 diversions from prosecution. In other words, we were able to keep more than 87% of at-risk youth on a better path.

S.H.I.E.L.D. OUR YOUTH: 2025 ACTIVITY SNAPSHOT



Completed suicides remained at zero in 2025.

CHAPLAINS



**Chaplain
Tim Beasley**



**Chaplain
Chris Benjamin**



**Chaplain
Tanya Taylor**



**Chaplain
Tashala Devrow**



**Chaplain
Steve Shepherd**



**Chaplain
Scott Ward**

At the Fort Smith Police Department, our Police Chaplains are more than spiritual advisors—they're trusted partners in service. These dedicated individuals volunteer their time to support not only our officers, but also their families and the community we serve. Whether it's riding along on patrol, offering comfort at the scene of a crisis, providing counsel after a traumatic event, or just being a listening ear, our Chaplains walk alongside us through the highs and lows of the job.

They are present when words are hard to find and strength is hard to muster. They offer prayer, guidance, and compassion in moments that demand all three. They help us carry invisible burdens and remind us of the deeper purpose behind the badge. Their presence is felt in quiet conversations, in moments of reflection, and in the resilience of our team.

In Fort Smith, we're proud to have a Chaplaincy program that understands the unique demands of law enforcement—and meets them with unwavering care, humility, and heart. They are an essential part of the FSPD family, and we are deeply grateful for their continued service.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS



**Captain
Dewey Young**



**Lieutenant
Keith Shelby**



**Sergeant
Brent Tobias-Arriola**



**Sergeant
Danny O'Connor
Crimes Against
Persons**



**Sergeant
Danny Stanley
Crimes Against
Property**



**Sergeant
Jeffrey Lum
Special Investigations
Unit**

In 2025, the Criminal Investigations Division operated under the leadership of Division Commander Captain Dewey Young and Assistant Division Commander Lieutenant Keith Shelby. The division encompasses four specialized investigative areas: Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property, Narcotics/Intelligence, and Special Investigations. Together, those units continued to address violent crime, property crime, crimes against children, cyber investigations, sex offender

registration, narcotics enforcement, forensic analysis, and intelligence-led public safety operations.

The division maintained an authorized strength of 41 personnel—38 sworn and three non-sworn. During the year, CID's non-sworn support included administrative clerks Sharon Pitts and Audra Joplin, along with evidence custodians Ricky Brooks and David Joplin. Ricky Brooks retired in mid-2025 after serving the city and police department for

46 years.

CID assigned 4,325 cases in 2025 and cleared 3,913 of them, resulting in a 90.5 percent clearance rate. The division also completed more than 2,952 hours of training during the year. Regular CompStat meetings, inter-unit collaboration, targeted public awareness efforts, and cooperation with outside agencies continued to support both investigative effectiveness and crime prevention.

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS

The Crimes Against Persons Unit remained focused on the investigation of violent offenses including homicides, robberies, rapes, terroristic acts, batteries, aggravated assaults, and domestic violence cases. In 2025, the unit was supervised by Sergeant Danny O'Connor.

Unit personnel during the year included Detective Corporal Greg Napier, Detective Bradley Marion, Detective Corporal Craig Sharp, and Detective Corporal Angus Bradford before Bradford's promotion and transfer to Patrol. Detective Corporal Charity Abbott transferred out of the unit early in 2025 to work with the department's CALEA Accreditation Program at the Training Center. Detective Corporal Craig Sharp then transferred from Crimes Against Property into Crimes Against Persons, and the unit ended the year with two vacancies.

The unit completed more than 600 hours of training in 2025, reinforcing its ability to respond to serious and rapidly evolving violent-crime investigations. Among notable training and professional development efforts, Sergeant Danny O'Connor and Detective Brad Marion maintained their roles with the U.S. Marshals Task Force, and Marion continued to represent the department in fugitive operations and related training.

Detective Corporal Greg Napier was

named Employee of the Month in March for his work assisting the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation in a homicide case involving multiple subjects located in Fort Smith. Napier worked alongside OSBI through search warrants, witness development, and suspect location efforts, ultimately assisting in the service of a first-degree murder warrant on a suspect found in the city. Later in the year, Sergeant Angus Bradford was named Employee of the Month in October in part for his work on three separate shooting incidents that occurred within a 24-hour period and resulted in five arrests.

Detective Brad Marion and Sergeant Danny O'Connor continued their work with the U.S. Marshals Task Force throughout the year. In 2025, 18 Fort Smith cases were turned over to the task force to assist in locating or apprehending violent subjects. Fourteen of those cases involved violent felonies and four involved missing children.

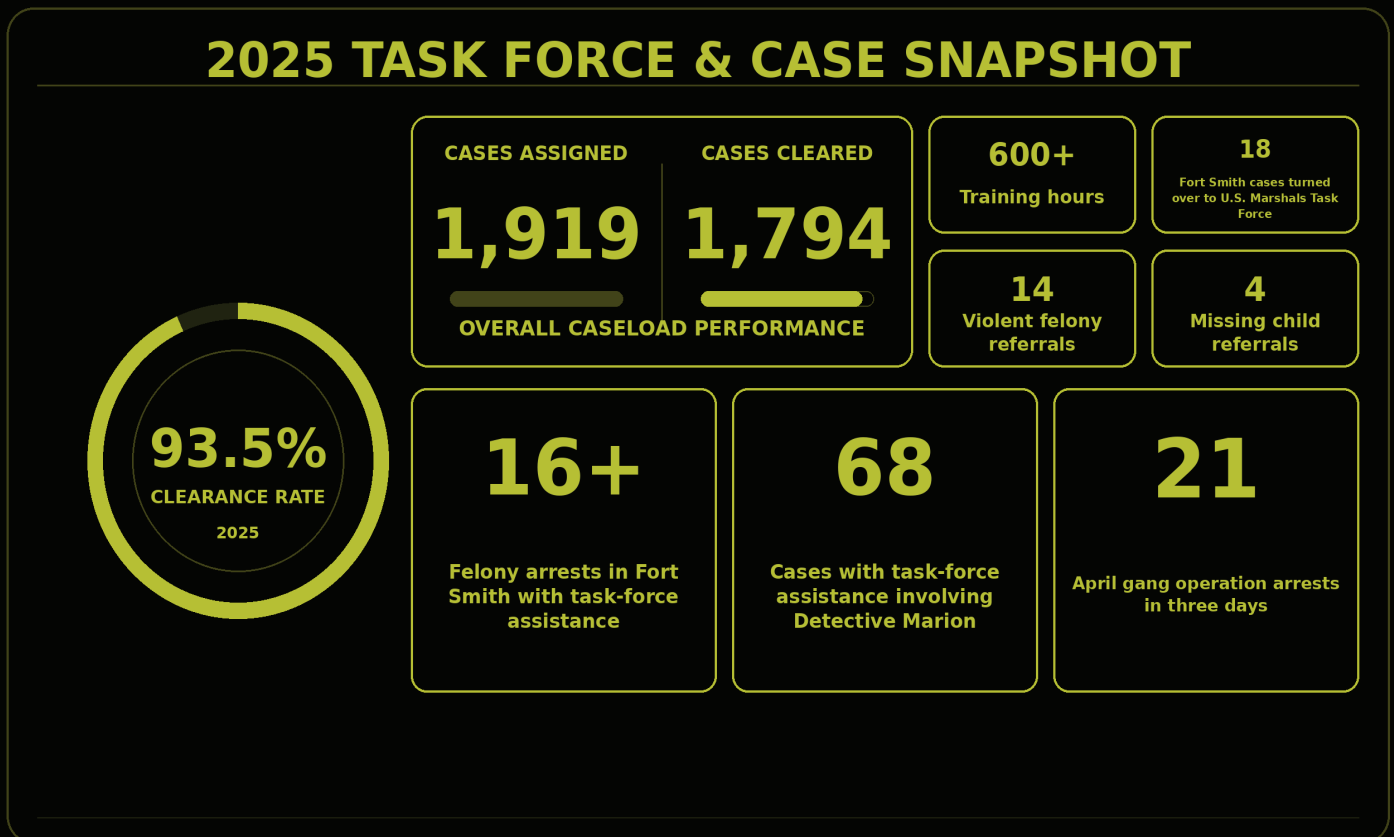
At least 16 felony arrests were made in Fort Smith with task force assistance, and Marion participated in a total of 68 cases with task-force assistance. In April, he also participated in a Gang Operation in Fort Smith that resulted in 21 arrests in three days.

The unit also handled several notable investigations in 2025. Detective Greg Napier conducted an extensive multi-

month investigation involving a local doctor who had drugged, raped, and created explicit videos of his stepdaughter and other victims over a period of years. Through exhaustive video review, victim identification, and charge development, Napier helped build the case that resulted in the defendant pleading guilty and receiving a 110-year prison sentence.

Napier also investigated a high-profile home invasion on Brazil Avenue in which a suspect kicked in the front door of a residence while a mother and her juvenile daughter were home alone. The daughter fought back to protect herself and her mother. With the assistance of social media and investigative follow-up, the suspect was quickly identified and taken into custody. Chief Baker later recognized the daughter for her bravery.

In another major case, Detective Craig Sharp and Detective Brad Marion investigated a homicide on South 11th Street. Although initial evidence suggested the victim's son may have been responsible, the detectives continued to follow the facts as the investigation evolved. Through interviews, field investigation, and evidence development, they identified the actual suspect—an acquaintance of the victim—recovered the murder weapon, and obtained a confession.



CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

The Crimes Against Property Unit investigates burglaries, criminal mischief, theft of property, vehicle thefts, breaking or entering, and financial crimes. In 2025, the unit was supervised by Sergeant Danny Stanley. Personnel assigned during the year included Detective Eric Restine, Detective Joshua Johnson, Detective Jacqueline Tobias, Detective Brandon Odle, Detective Stephen Robison, Detective Colby Edwards, Detective Evelin Salas, Detective Darroyl Sanders, and Detective David W. Williams, who transferred to the Narcotics Unit mid-year.

The unit completed approximately 635 hours of training in 2025, with most SWAT training not included in that total. Training of note included interview and interrogation techniques, NICB investigations, basic criminal investigations, and crisis intervention response.

The unit also maintained a strong focus on developing newer detectives through

training in surveillance techniques, search and seizure, and interview and interrogation, building on their foundational patrol experience and accelerating their transition into high-level investigative work.

Several unit members were recognized for outstanding work in 2025. Detective Eric Restine was selected as the Sebastian County Officer of the Year for his leadership in addressing a complex, multi-layered criminal action at a Yorkshire apartment complex.

Detective Jacqueline Tobias was named Employee of the Month for February 2025 for helping reduce breaking or entering reports through a series of key arrests. Detective Brandon Odle was named Employee of the Month for August 2025 for his work in key arrests that dismantled a significant forgery ring.

In July 2025, Detectives Eric Restine, Brandon Odle, Joshua Johnson, Colby

In 2025, the Property Crimes Unit was assigned 1,494 cases and cleared 1,192 for a clearance rate of 79.8%.

Edwards, and Jacqueline Tobias earned commendations for their work on a targeted task force focused on breaking and entering and vehicle theft.

Working alongside patrol officers, they helped drive a measurable reduction in those offenses and demonstrated the impact of coordinated, proactive enforcement.

SIU

The Special Investigations Unit operates as one of the department's most technically specialized investigative resources. In 2025, the unit was supervised by Sergeant Jeffrey Lum and staffed by Detective Corporal Vu Pham, Detective Corporal Jason Scarborough, Detective Corporal Mac McHam, Detective Corporal Tyler Lee, Detective Corporal Jeffrey Mitchell, Detective Jodie Pyle, Detective Sandivel Lopez, and former Detective Donald Kolb, who resigned in September. Civilian support included Sharon Pitts, Ricky Brooks until his retirement in June, and David Joplin, who replaced Brooks as evidence custodian. Detective Chris Henry was designated to replace Kolb in January 2026.

The unit's responsibilities include crimes against children, sex offender registration, cyber-crime investigations, computer forensics, and crime scene investigation. It also oversees evidence storage through the SIU sergeant. Within the unit, Detectives Lopez, Pyle, and Donald Kolb handled the majority of crimes against children cases during the year. These investigations often involved close collaboration with the Hamilton Center, the Department of Human Services, and the Children's Advocacy Center. Detective Corporals Pham and McHam handled cyber-crime and digital forensics work. Detective Corporals Scarborough and Lee served as the primary crime scene investigators, with McHam and Mitchell assisting. Detective Corporal Mitchell also functioned as sex offender coordinator and handled the majority

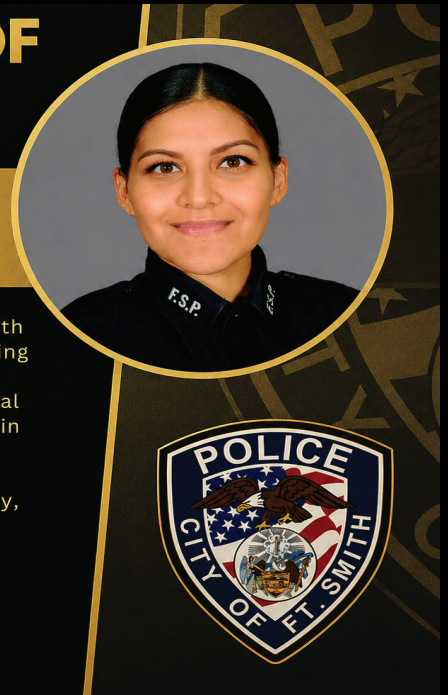
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

JACQUELINE TOBIAS PROPERTY CRIMES DETECTIVE

Jacqueline Tobias joined the Fort Smith Police Department in May 2022, starting in the Patrol Division on Troop 1. In 2024, she was selected for the Criminal Investigation Division and now works in the Property Crimes Unit, handling cases like burglary, theft, and more. Known for her teamwork and positivity, Jacqueline also assists with financial crimes and translations during interviews, making her an invaluable part of the department!

FORT SMITH POLICE DEPARTMENT

of runaway cases. Members of the unit completed 709 training hours in addition to mandatory department training. Specialized training included open-source intelligence gathering, Python forensic data analysis, introduction to phone repair, instructor development, cyber tip investigations, internet crimes against children, collecting and preserving evidence, child death investigations, sudden unexplained death in infancy, investigating suicide and self-harm,



child abduction response, interview and interrogation training, crisis negotiation, crime scene and trauma training, general SWAT training, and sniper-specific training. Individual specialized training highlights included:

- Detective Corporal Vu Pham: 40 hours of open-source intelligence gathering and continuing training support requested by the Secret Service

- Detective Corporal Mac McHam: 120 hours in Python forensic data, phone repair, and instructor development
 - Detective Donald Kolb: 40 hours of instructor development training
 - Detective Sandivel Lopez: 71 hours including cyber tip investigations, ICAC training, evidence preservation, child death investigations, sudden unexplained death in infancy, suicide and self-harm investigations, child abduction response, and Wicklander-Zulawski interview and interrogation
 - Detective Jodie Pyle: 56 hours including child death investigations, sudden unexplained death in infancy, and Wicklander-Zulawski interview and interrogation
 - Detective Corporal Jeffrey Mitchell: 48 hours of crisis negotiator training
 - Detective Corporal Jason Scarborough: 64 hours of negotiator, crime scene, and trauma training
 - Sergeant Jeffrey Lum: 270 hours of SWAT and sniper-specific training
- The unit continued to perform at a

high level despite the complexity and duration of many assigned cases. In 2025, SIU detectives were assigned 785 cases and cleared 751, producing a 95.7 percent clearance rate. Detectives Pham and McHam examined approximately 80 terabytes of data in support of the department and outside agencies, a 251.6 percent increase over 2024. Crime scene detectives worked on 205 cases, processed 80 crime scenes with 740 items of evidence, and conducted 1,985 fingerprint comparisons.

In 2025, SIU had 785 cases assigned and 751 cleared for a success rate of 95.7%

NARCOTICS AND INTELLIGENCE

In 2025, the Narcotics Unit demonstrated strong operational growth, meaningful interagency collaboration, and continued innovation in investigative strategy. The unit functioned as a coordinated enforcement and intelligence resource dedicated to dismantling illicit drug networks and enhancing regional public safety.

The year included several notable achievements. The K-9 Unit participated in the 2025 K-9 HITS Training and Conference in Dallas, Texas, where handlers and K-9s worked alongside agencies from across the country and learned new patrol-level interdiction tactics. The entire Narcotics team was also recognized internally for its participation in the “Dirty Orange Shorts” ODETF investigation, an FBI-led case that resulted in multiple indictments and significant seizures across several communities.

The appointment of a DEA Task Force Officer increased the unit’s reach and effectiveness, leading to several large-scale investigations and enhanced cooperation with the Arkansas State Police on interstate interdictions involving narcotics and drug proceeds. The unit

also benefited from the successful implementation of a vehicle tracking system. CID used the tracker while searching for a wanted felon involved in a shooting, and the Narcotics Unit used it during an interdiction involving a large quantity of narcotics entering Fort Smith from Oklahoma City—an operation that resulted in both currency and vehicle seizures.

Professional development remained a priority. Three undercover detectives, along with then-Sergeant Shelby, attended the ROCIC Gangs and Narcotics Conference. Another completed the five-week CJI-NOCP course and graduated in November.

Two Narcotics Officers attended a Homeland Security Basic Threat Evaluation and Reporting course. Collectively, the unit completed more than 1,000 hours of training, with more than 336 hours devoted to job-specific instruction.

The unit also expanded its surveillance capabilities through the deployment of two pole cameras across the city. These concealed cameras enhanced

both narcotics and CID investigations by improving surveillance without compromising officer safety or operational security. The systems were used in multiple investigations and benefited both the department and its DEA partners.

The Intelligence Unit continued to serve as a critical information hub in 2025. Comprised of three detectives, the unit worked in close coordination with the Narcotics Unit, K-9 Unit, the department’s crime analyst, and local, state, and federal task forces. Its responsibilities include investigating incidents and conditions with the potential for violence, disorder, or criminal activity, with particular attention to violent crime and gang activity.

The unit tracks all gunshot-related calls for service and overdose-related calls in the city. It also collects and disseminates intelligence to other units and divisions within the department and conducts background investigations for Alcohol Beverage Control applications and city business permits. In 2025, the unit processed 94 permits related to new liquor licenses and temporary alcohol permits.

In 2025, Narcotics and Intel conducted 127 drug-related investigations and 94 ABC permit background investigations, respectively.

K-9 UNIT



**Behr
K-9 Officer**



**Ajax
K-9 Officer**

The K-9 Unit remained an important force multiplier for the department in 2025. Comprised of two officers, the unit worked in partnership with the Narcotics and Intelligence Units to apprehend dangerous individuals, conduct searches, seize contraband, and support operational needs across the department.

K-9 personnel primarily supported narcotics investigations through arrests, searches, and the development

of new confidential informants. They also assisted other units within the department and responded in support of outside agencies when requested. Community engagement remained part of the unit's mission as well, with participation in events including National Night Out, Blessings of the Animals, Citizen's Police Academy activities, and the Food Patrol Program.

Operationally, the K-9 Unit made or assisted in more than 80 felony drug

arrests and conducted 73 free-air sniffs in 2025. The unit also experienced one personnel change during the year. The newly selected handler completed a two-week certification course in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and members of the Narcotics Unit constructed the kennel and roofing infrastructure necessary to ensure the team was fully operational when the handler returned.

2025 DRUG QUANTITIES SEIZED

DRUG TYPE	QUANTITY	ESTIMATED STREET VALUE
Methamphetamine	31,892.68 grams	\$892,995.04
Marijuana	2,349.00 grams	\$23,490.00
Fentanyl pills	489 pills	\$9,780.00
Fentanyl powder	65.68 grams	\$6,568.00
Heroin	3 grams	\$150.00
Cocaine	38.5 grams	\$3,850.00
Xanax	52 pills	\$1,040.00
LSD tabs	3 dosages	\$75.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED STREET VALUE

\$937,948.04

SUPPORT SERVICES



**Captain
Dillon Harris**



**Lieutenant
Bill Hardin**



**Sergeant
Kenneth Martin**



**Sergeant Ryan Ohm
Training**

The Support Services Division of the Fort Smith Police Department is a multifaceted and integral part of our agency. This division provides critical infrastructure and services that enable the department to function efficiently and effectively, ensuring the safety and security of our community. It is comprised of the following:

- **Animal Services Unit:** This unit ensures that animals are cared for and that interactions between pets and the community are managed responsibly
- **Training Unit:** It is tasked with the ongoing education and training of our personnel, providing both new recruits and seasoned officers with the latest in law enforcement techniques and critical incident response training.
- **Communications Unit:** Serving as the first point of contact for the community in times of need, this unit manages our dispatch operations. It is responsible for the critical task of receiving emergency calls and coordinating the rapid deployment of police, fire, and medical services. (NOTE: 2025 was the final year the Communications Unit would be under FSPD purview as it transitioned to the River Valley Communications Center on Jan. 1, 2026.)

Additionally, on the citizen-facing side, Support Services include our Information Desk, Central Records, and Warrants Office. Internally, it encompasses our Building Maintenance, Fleet Maintenance, and Equipment.

ANIMAL SERVICES



**Animal Services
Supervisor
Roger McAlister**



**Warden
Anastasia Goodwin**



**Warden
Regina Landree**



**Warden
Gerardo Mancía**

The Animal Services Unit began 2025 with five wardens and ended the year with four.

Throughout the year, the unit continued to emphasize training, certification, public service, and strong working relationships with both citizens and the local shelter. The Spay and Neuter voucher program remained active in 2025 and is set to continue into 2026.

Animal Services maintained a zero-tolerance approach to animal-related calls for service while taking a proactive enforcement posture.

In 2025, the unit responded to 6,696 calls, transported 1,485 animals to the shelter, handled 193 injured-animal transports, issued 451 citations, and reunited 170 animals with their owners.

In 2025, Animal Wardens answered 6,696 calls for service;

transported 1,485 animals to the Shelter, a 12% increase; and

reunited 170 animals with their owners.

TRAINING



**Officer
Areille Michel
Background
Investigator**



**Corporal
Damon Reeder,
Background
Investigator**



**Officer
Michael Dietz
Recruiting Coordinator**



**Catherine Waters
CALEA Assistant**



**Corporal
Charity Abbott
CALEA Accreditation
Manager**

The Training Unit experienced one of its most productive years in 2025, supporting recruitment, professional development, accreditation, equipment transition, and infrastructure improvements.

The department hired 16 police officers and additional civilian personnel, and those hires supported two 17-week academy classes with 33 graduates from regional agencies. Fort Smith officers earned 11 of the 18 possible graduation awards, reinforcing the high standards expected of department personnel.

The academies generated 21,450 training hours, with an additional 3,036 certified training hours delivered

internally. Department-wide training totals for 2025 included 21,750 in-town hours for sworn officers, 1,637 out-of-town hours for sworn officers, 2,088 in-town hours for civilian personnel, 98 out-of-town hours for civilian personnel, and 11,074 training hours provided to outside agencies.

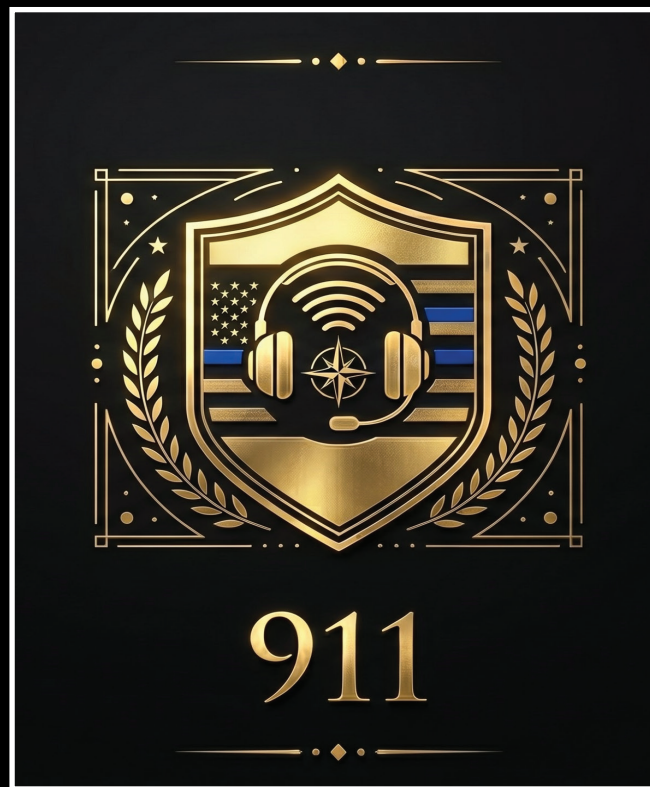
The Training Unit also oversaw the department's transition to locally manufactured Walther Arms handgun platforms equipped with optics. Sixty officers were trained and equipped before the end of the year, with additional deployments scheduled for early 2026.

Significant improvements were also completed at the firearms range,

including new concrete firing lines, improved separation materials, stadium-style lighting, and the foundation for a new range building and awning.

In 2025, the unit maintained CALEA accreditation in Law Enforcement, Communications, and Training, as well as ALEAP reaccreditation, preserving the department's Tri-Arc status.

Beyond internal operations, the Training Unit remained active in public engagement, supporting initiatives such as Citizen's Police Academy, National Night Out, Polar Plunge, Night to Shine, holiday outreach events, and parades.



***In 2025, 29 operators answered
180,434 calls, including
121,159 Non-Emergency Calls and
59,275 Emergency 911 Calls,
and routed requests totaling:
-89,357 for Patrol;
-16,000 for Fire; and
-6,696 for Animal Services***

Thank you, Dispatch!

COMMUNICATIONS



Courtney Brody
Dispatch Supervisor



Ashley Claggett
Dispatch Supervisor



Lily Clegg
Dispatch Supervisor



Kota Mullis
Dispatch Supervisor



Sierra McFerren
Dispatch Supervisor

In 2025, The Communications Unit personnel answered a total of 180,434 calls. 59,275 of those calls were to 911. In addition to fielding all incoming calls to the Police Department, Communications Unit personnel are tasked with dispatching all service requests for Patrol Officers, Animal Wardens, and Fire Fighters. At the conclusion of 2025, Communications Unit personnel had dispatched 89,357 requests for Patrol response, 6,696 requests for Animal Wardens, and 16,000 requests for Firefighter response.

The year was also the final year the 911 communications unit was under the responsibility of the Fort Smith Police Department. An interlocal agreement between the City of Fort Smith and Sebastian County created a consolidated 911 Emergency Communications Center serving all of Fort Smith and Sebastian County under one roof.

In January of 2026, the newly created River Valley Communications Center took over the Communications Unit from FSPD. We're excited for the future of 911 communications in Sebastian County and look forward to all they accomplish.

RVCC will fully consolidate in the summer of 2026 and will temporarily operate out of the Fort Smith Police Headquarters until a new facility can be constructed. The center will continue to be fully CALEA accredited and will maintain the level of service citizens expect from their 911 emergency communications staff.



BUILDING, FLEET, AND EQUIPMENT



Mike Little
Lead Building Engineer

Facilities, fleet, and quartermaster functions continued to strengthen the department's operational readiness in 2025.

Despite a vacant senior maintenance position, the Lead Building Engineer maintained full functionality of police headquarters and oversaw the installation of two new air conditioning units—one serving the Dispatch Center and one serving the Data Center.



Stephen Reed
Fleet Coordinator

Those improvements protected mission-critical operations and supported the department's ongoing energy-saving efforts.

The Quartermaster oversaw uniform and equipment issuance, inventory accountability, and annual asset audits while also temporarily assuming Fleet Coordinator duties until the position was filled mid-year. Continued improvements



Skyler Mier
Quartermaster

to tracking systems increased efficiency and accountability across these functions. The department maintained a fleet of 216 vehicles in 2025.

During the year, eight patrol units and two administrative vehicles were purchased and outfitted. Fleet coordination remained essential to officer safety, vehicle readiness, and responsible asset management.



Building improvements like these new acrylic bathroom fixtures were installed in 2025. In addition to fleet and equipment maintenance, our support staff plays a pivotal role in helping the Department to run smoothly and be a welcoming environment for employees and guests for years to come.

INFO DESK, RECORDS, AND WARRANTS



Cpl. David S. Williams
Court Liaison



Kaylee Kuykendall
Records Technician



Kim Bolin
Records Technician



Bella Dalzell
File Clerk



Cajun Kain
Senior Clerk II, Warrants

The Central Records Section continued to ensure the accuracy, compliance, and timely processing of offense, arrest, incident, and accident reports in 2025. Staffed by non-sworn personnel, the section also fulfilled public and interagency documentation requests and ensured proper reporting to the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System. During the year, Central Records played a key role in the transition to the Pro Phoenix records management system, strengthening reporting accuracy and operational efficiency.

The Warrants and District Court Liaison functions also remained important parts of the department's support structure. Through the Community Service Program, eligible individuals were able to work off fines through supervised labor assignments that contributed to downtown beautification, graffiti removal, vehicle cleaning, facility maintenance, and other court-approved projects. The program supports judicial efficiency, helps reduce incarceration costs, and returns visible value to the community.

The Information Desk remained the department's primary public access point in 2025. In order to enhance service capacity, the department added two part-time civilian employees. After completing training in October, those employees assisted citizens by completing 274 reports before the end of the year.

The Desk processes reports, conducts background checks and fingerprinting, accepts fine and bond payments, answers general inquiries, and directs visitors to the appropriate services within the department. Its work is often the first direct interaction many citizens have with the police department, making professionalism, clarity, and responsiveness especially important.

FUTURE FORT



As the Fort Smith Police Department looks to 2026, the vision is clear: we are reaching New Heights in community safety, officer retention, and operational readiness. By heavily investing in our personnel, our infrastructure, and state-of-the-art technology, the department is poised to meet the challenges of tomorrow and elevate the standard of policing in Fort Smith.

Expanding Our Footprint: The Second Precinct and Training Facility

A cornerstone of this year's vision is the strategic geographical expansion of our services to properly address the city's expected population growth. In 2026, a primary objective is advancing the development of a proposed second police precinct and regional training facility at the former Crain Kia property on Highway 71 South. This facility will not only increase police presence in the southeastern portion of the city where it is needed most, but it will also house a dedicated Basic Police Academy capable of hosting regional law enforcement training courses. Furthermore, we will see continued investments in our current infrastructure, including modernizing the downtown headquarters and improving the firing range at the Fort Smith landfill.

Mobility and Visibility: The Take-Home Vehicle Program

Reaching new heights also means keeping our officers mobile, visible, and supported. In 2026, the department is undertaking a significant fleet expansion, highlighted by the acquisition of 17 new Dodge Durango Police Pursuit SUVs for the Patrol Field Operations Division. This expansion is a critical step toward the full implementation of the Patrol Take-Home Vehicle program. This highly anticipated benefit serves as a vital tool for attracting and retaining high-quality officers, while simultaneously increasing police visibility in Fort Smith neighborhoods, reducing overall maintenance costs, and extending the operational life of the fleet. Specialized units, including the Criminal Investigations Division, Special Operations, and the K9 unit, will also see necessary fleet upgrades to ensure continuous operational readiness.

Advancing Technology and Officer Safety

Officer safety and public accountability remain paramount. The 2026 capital improvement plan includes robust technological investments through our partnership with Axon, equipping officers with body-worn cameras, in-car cameras, and tasers. To maintain

the highest standards of transparency, the department is also utilizing the My90 Citizen Feedback tool and Axon Performance systems. The department will enhance its crime prevention and investigative capabilities by upgrading Computer Forensic Lab workstations, purchasing new service animals for the K9 unit, and replacing drones to comply with state law. Furthermore, we are committing to officer safety by providing updated firearms, optical sights, and replacing body-worn ballistic armor with the help of federal grant funding.

Proactive Community Collaboration

Beyond internal upgrades, the department is actively collaborating with city partners to proactively deter crime. In 2026, the FSPD will work alongside the Public Works Department to identify high-crime areas for a pilot program focused on installing security lighting in city alleyways.

By expanding our physical footprint, empowering our officers with take-home vehicles, and investing in modern safety technology, the Fort Smith Police Department is building a safer, more resilient community. Grounded in our core values of Service, Honor, Integrity, Education, Legacy, and Dedication, we are proud to protect and serve as Fort Smith soars to New Heights in 2026.

2025 AWARDS

**Detective Sandi Lopez,
Officer of the Year**

**Officer Ryan Grayham,
Rookie of the Year**

**Officer Casey Cagle,
NAACP Guardian Award**

**Hayley Shea,
Dispatcher of the Year**

**David Joplin, Evidence Custodian,
Civilian of the Year**

**Austin Collins,
Reserve Officer of the Year**

**Chief's Special Award
*Firefighter Brian Mowrey,
Fort Smith Fire Department**



STORY TIME



FSPD COMMUNITY CLASS

Keeping Kids & Teens Safe:
Drugs, Apps, & Other Dangers



COFFEE WITH THE COPS





SIGN UP FOR
**COMMUNITY
NOTICES**

fortsmithar.gov/updates

Also, check us out on Facebook for more information on events, traffic alerts, press releases, street closures, and more!

VISION STATEMENT



Working toward a day when our profession is no longer needed, we shall relentlessly pursue perfection in all we do knowing excellence can be obtained. We will strive to improve the lives of everyone we encounter. **Service, Honor, Integrity, Education, Legacy and Dedication (S.H.I.E.L.D.)** will be our guiding principle as we work hand-in-hand with every segment of our community to seek permanent peace, justice, and security for all.

★ FORT SMITH POLICE DEPARTMENT ★



MEMORANDUM

TO: Jeff Dingman, Acting City Administrator;
CC: George McGill, Mayor; Fort Smith Board of Directors; Citizens of Fort Smith
FROM: Darrell Clark, Fire Chief
DATE: May 3, 2026
SUBJECT: 2025 Fire Department Annual Report

SUMMARY

On behalf of the 147 dedicated professionals of the Fort Smith Fire Department, it is my pleasure to present our 2025 Annual Report of the Fort Smith Fire Department.

I am honored as the Fire Chief to lead this department in providing the citizens the highest level of service. Due to the hard work and dedication of all our members, 2025 was a very successful year.

During 2025, the Fire Department was faced with multiple adversities. We worked together to find the best possible solution to each problem we faced. In late 2025, we started the arduous task of implementation of our new record management system. We expect to have the implementation process largely completed in the second quarter of 2026. This new RMS will give us more advanced tools for data analytics and data sharing. Our future plans include adding real-time data to the Fort Smith Fire Department website. This will allow citizens to view up to the minute department data in charts, graphs, tables, and heat maps. We have a long way to go, but our personnel are putting in the work under the direction of our project manager, Assistant Chief Corey Vaughn. The final product will be a valuable tool for our department.

2025 also presented the Fire Department with the difficult task of trimming a large portion of the 2026 operating budget. To achieve the desired level of budget reduction, I was told to look at staffing reductions. The FSHD had six vacant Firefighter positions at the time. However, vacant positions are staffed every day with overtime. The fire department has the same levels of minimum staffing 24/7 365. The problem is that the fire department cannot simply eliminate two or three positions. Our fire companies are staffed by three personnel on three shifts. I created priorities to guide me while developing budget reduction options.

- Minimize the possible negative impact on the citizens we serve.
- Keep all existing personnel with no reductions to pay or benefits.
- Keep all fire stations open.
- Minimize possible loss of points in future ISO audits.

I spent many days and late nights coming up with options. I relied heavily on input from my command staff, while getting a lot of additional help from the Finance Department and the City Clerk. I also talked with past FSFD Fire Chiefs about the options I was considering and to see if any had an idea I had not thought of. I finally made one of the hardest decisions of my career, and one that I am not aware of any previous Fort Smith Fire Chief having to make, I proposed closing an engine company and eliminating the Battalion Chief position that was added approximately five years ago. Effective December of 2025, we reduced the number of engine companies in the FSFD from nine to eight. I eliminated three Driver positions, three Firefighter positions, and one administrative Battalion Chief. The FSFD went from 150 uniformed personnel to 143 and retained all four non-uniformed personnel. We had 12 new hire candidates in the pipeline for conditional offers of employment, and I reduced the number of new hires to five. There was one silver lining to these cuts, I was able to keep the three Captains from Pumper 11 and add three Captain positions to Rescue 1. We have tried, unsuccessfully, for several years to add Captains to our heavy rescue company. This was our only company that was staffed with two personnel. All fire companies in the FSFD are now staffed with three personnel.

2025 was another year in which we experienced turnover. We lost seven personnel to retirement and resignation. These personnel had a combined total of 139 years of service.

- Colton Cox (Fleet Maintenance), 9 Years of Service
- Firefighter Matthew Helms, 6 Years of Service
- Driver Ben Philips, 29 Years of Service
- Captain Marcus Floyd, 12 Years of Service
- Captain Roy Smith, 24 Years of Service
- Battalion Chief Anthony 'Skip' Mathews, 33 Years of Service
- Fire Chief Boyd Waters, 26 Years of Service

With retirements come new promotions. The following personnel promoted in 2025:

- Andrew Caudle – Driver
- Jacob Sims – Driver
- Avery Short – Driver
- Joseph Baker – Driver
- Tyler Davis - Captain
- Chase Stepp – Captain
- Matthew Taylor - Captain
- Ben Noel – Battalion Chief
- Corey Vaughn – Assistant Chief of Administration
- Ethan Millard – Assistant Chief of Operations
- Darrell Clark – Fire Chief

With promotions come new hires. The following personnel joined the Fort Smith Fire Department in 2025:

- A.J. Bythrow (Fleet Maintenance)
- Trey Knight
- Mason Barcheers
- Kaleb Hamby
- Luke Voelkel

- Christian Scott
- Ezekiel Sharp
- Luke Ward
- Ryan Sides
- Kale Barcheers
- Tanner Myers
- Justin Crider
- Raleigh Hattaway
- Josiah Davis
- John Shaver
- Brandon Shelton

With a new class of 15 personnel, the Arkansas Fire Academy was unable to accommodate this many personnel from our department. We conducted our own in-house fire academy taught by our Fire TAC Instructors and Training Division. This is a large undertaking that the FSFD has only done for two previous classes during Covid 19.

Since it's advent as a professional department beginning in 1899, the Fort Smith Fire Department has been steeped in many traditions. Such traditions are based on dedication, service excellence, courage and pride. The following firefighters were honored for going above and beyond in 2025 and have been selected as our award recipients:

Company Officer of the Year

Captain Edwards serves on Ladder 3, C-Shift, and has been with our department for 13 years. He is a Fire and EMS instructor and a member of the Honor Guard and WMD Team. He is also the son of retired Battalion Chief David Edwards, continuing a proud family legacy of service.

Captain Edwards has been selected by the Fire Chief to receive the Company Officer Leadership Award for distinguished and exceptional service. His leadership, professionalism, and dedication to developing his firefighters have strengthened this department and reflect the highest traditions of the fire service.

Firefighter of the Year

Driver Caudle serves on Ladder 3, A-Shift, and has been with the department for six years. He is a Fire and Technical Rescue instructor, a member of the Honor Guard and Swift Water Team, and President of the Firefighter Foundation. He is the grandson of the late Captain Warren Caudle, continuing a proud family legacy of service. His brother, Nate, serves as Driver on Pumper 1, A-Shift.

Fire Chiefs Coin for Excellence for “Making the Grab”

On June 9, 2025, Driver Avery Short and Firefighter Jarrett Sharp were off duty at the Tyler Bend canoe launch when they saw a canoe flip over in the Buffalo River. Two juvenile girls were in the water and in trouble. The river was at flood stage.

Without hesitation, they went in. In fast-moving water and dangerous conditions, they swam to the girls and brought them safely back to shore, reuniting them with their father. Their actions saved lives.

They relied on their training, stayed calm under pressure, and did what they had been taught to do. That's one interesting thing about firemen — they're always firemen, whether on or off duty.

Meritorious Service Award- Assistant Chief Vaughn

Assistant Chief Vaughn served as Program Director for the implementation of the department's new Records Management System and Computer-Aided Dispatch system. He led this complex, department-wide transition and trained every member of the department during shifts, after hours, on weekends, and even on holidays. He also served as a liaison with River Valley Communications Center and the Fort Smith Police Department, ensuring coordination and continuity throughout the process. The successful deployment of RMS and CAD will benefit this department for years to come. His dedication reflects great credit upon himself and the Fort Smith Fire Department.

The following are Division reports that highlight our success, goals, work outputs, response statistics, and the unfortunate loss of personal property. With that, our goals for 2026 are to provide our personnel with the necessary resources to remain healthy and strong, vigilant, trained, and ready to respond to emergencies to reduce loss of life and property. I look forward to presenting our data to the Board of Directors during the next study session.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [2025 Operations Report.pdf](#)
2. [2025 Training Report.pdf](#)
3. [2025 Fire Prevention Report.pdf](#)
4. [Busiest Days.PDF](#)
5. [Day Time Matrix.PDF](#)
6. [Highest Incident Address.PDF](#)
7. [2025 Monthly Incident Count by Station.PDF](#)



FORT SMITH FIRE DEPARTMENT

200 North 5th Street
Fort Smith, AR 72901
(479) 783-4052 office (479) 783-5338 fax



Darrell Clark
Fire Chief

To: Darrell Clark, Fire Chief
From: Ethan Millard, Assistant Chief of Operations
RE: Yearly Report for the Operations Division
Date: March 2026

Chief Clark,

The following are the highlights for the Operations Division for 2025, along with goals for the future:

Total Number of Calls for Service in 2025:
16,000

This represents an average of approximately 44 calls for service per day, or roughly 1.8 calls per hour, illustrating the continued operational demand placed on our firefighters and emergency personnel. The department responded to 228 more calls than in 2024, representing approximately a 1.45% increase in call volume over the previous year.

Consistent with national fire service trends, the majority of incidents responded to by the department continue to be emergency medical related calls, which make up the largest portion of our operational workload.

Incident Breakdown for 2025:

Fires:

- **Total Fires:** 344 (2.15% of total calls)
- **Building Fires:** 141
- **Vehicle Fires:** 59
- **Other Fires:** 144

Rescue Calls:

- **Total Rescue Calls:** 11,241 (70.26% of total calls)
- **Emergency Medical Treatment (300–324):** 11,193
- **Other Rescue Calls (331–381):** 48

Other Calls:

- **Hazardous Condition Calls:** 381 (2.38% of total calls)
- **Service Calls:** 1,321 (8.26% of total calls)
- **Good Intent Calls:** 1,815 (11.34% of total calls)

False Calls:

- **Total False Calls:** 898 (5.61% of total calls)
- **Malicious Calls:** 8

- **Other False Calls:** 890

Financial Overview for Fires:

- **Total Fire Loss:** \$3,663,350.00
- **Total Property Involved:** \$48,244,565.00
- **Property Saved:** \$44,581,215.00
- **Loss Percentage:** 7.59%
- **Saved Percentage:** 92.41%

Personnel & Staffing:

Maintaining appropriate staffing levels continues to be a priority for the Operations Division. As the department continues to grow and operational demands remain high, ensuring adequate personnel coverage remains essential to maintaining effective service delivery.

Maintaining competitive compensation for firefighters continues to be a priority for the department. Recent pay increases have helped improve recruitment and retention while recognizing the demanding and hazardous nature of the profession. Competitive compensation is essential to attracting qualified candidates and retaining experienced personnel who provide critical emergency services to the citizens of Fort Smith.

One of our primary operational goals moving forward is the reestablishment of Pumper 11. Restoring this apparatus to service will improve response capabilities and help distribute workload more effectively across the city.

Facilities & Equipment:

In 2025, we began evaluating improvements to several of our facilities in order to better support firefighter safety and daily operations. One of the projects currently underway involves converting an old storage room at Station 4 into an NFPA-compliant turnout gear storage area. This improvement will allow for better separation of contaminated gear and living areas while extending the longevity of the equipment.

Additionally, we are exploring light remodeling projects at several stations. These improvements include creating outdoor areas where firefighters can spend time outside of the station environment following calls and during downtime. These areas are intended to support recovery, stress relief, and overall firefighter wellness after demanding emergency responses.

Providing spaces that allow firefighters time to decompress following stressful incidents is an important component of maintaining long-term physical and mental health within the fire service.

We also continue purchasing fitness equipment for fire stations as part of an ongoing goal to ensure every station is properly equipped. Maintaining physical fitness is critical in the fire service, as firefighters must routinely perform physically demanding tasks under stressful and hazardous conditions. Providing appropriate fitness equipment within the stations helps support firefighter health, injury prevention, and operational readiness.

Another long-term goal is the construction of covered parking at our fire stations to better protect staff vehicles and firefighters' privately owned vehicles from storm damage and environmental wear. Severe weather events in our region can cause significant damage to exposed vehicles, and providing covered parking helps reduce that risk while supporting our personnel. The department plans to pursue a phased approach by constructing covered parking at approximately three stations per year until all stations have adequate protection for vehicles.

Budget Challenges:

The cost of bunker gear and firefighting equipment continues to rise. Increasing material and manufacturing costs have driven up the price of turnout gear and related protective equipment. These rising costs place additional pressure on the department's budget as we work to maintain safe and compliant equipment for all personnel.

These projects and improvements represent our ongoing effort to maintain a high level of service while adapting to increasing operational demands and rising equipment costs.

Very respectfully,

Ethan Millard
Assistant Chief of Operations



FORT SMITH FIRE DEPARTMENT

200 North 5th Street
Fort Smith, AR 72901
(479) 783-4052 office (479) 783-5338 fax



Darrell Clark
Fire Chief

Fort Smith Fire Department Training Division Annual Report – 2025

Fire / EMS / Rescue Training

Overview

The Fort Smith Fire Department Training Division experienced one of its most productive and successful years to date. Through comprehensive in-house programs, technical rescue training, department-wide operational exercises, and professional development opportunities, the division significantly enhanced the operational readiness, safety, and effectiveness of department personnel.

These accomplishments reflect the dedication, professionalism, and instructional excellence of the Training Division staff and participating personnel.

Major Accomplishments

In-House Fire Academy

The Training Division successfully hosted and completed a full in-house Fire Academy for 15 firefighters. This comprehensive academy spanned approximately 5½ months and concluded with a 100% pass rate, demonstrating the effectiveness of the program and the commitment of both instructors and recruits.

The academy included:

- First Responder Course – 50 hours
- TAC (Teach, Assess, and Counsel) Program – 80 hours

- Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations – 40 hours
- Wildland Firefighting Course – 16 hours
- Firefighter I and II Program – 360 hours over 8 weeks
- Driver Operator Course – 80 hours
- EMT Course – 300 hours of Classroom/Lab over 8 weeks

This academy prepared firefighters for structural firefighting, emergency medical response, apparatus operation, and nationally recognized certification.

Technical Rescue Training

To enhance technical rescue capabilities, the Training Division conducted multiple rope rescue programs:

- Rope Rescue Awareness and Operations Course
 - 40 hours
 - 14 firefighters trained
- Rope Rescue Technician Course
 - 40 hours
 - 14 firefighters trained

Additionally, the department hosted **Task Force One from New York**, who conducted:

- Aerial Rope Operations Course
 - 24 hours
 - 25 firefighters trained
 - Focused on high-angle rescue from aerial apparatus

These programs significantly strengthened the department's technical rescue readiness.

Department-Wide Operational Training

Six department-wide training events were conducted, each involving approximately 140 firefighters across all three shifts, ensuring consistent operational readiness throughout the department.

Training topics included:

- Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) operations and firefighter rescue
- Hose advancement and long hand lay pumping operations
- Stop the Bleed and Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) response
- Roof ventilation operations
- Victim removal from elevated platforms
- Vent-Enter-Search (VES) techniques
- Structure fire operations in hoarding conditions

These hands-on training events strengthened core firefighting and rescue skills essential for emergency response.

Acquired Structure Training

The Training Division acquired and utilized nine structures for hands-on training, including four major acquired structure training events involving all three shifts.

Training included:

- Commercial strip mall training exercises
- Residential search operations in single- and multi-story homes
- Commercial flat roof ventilation and forcible entry training
- Residential duplex and multi-story structure training

These acquired structures provided invaluable real-world training conditions that cannot be replicated in traditional training environments.

Specialized Equipment and Disaster Response Training

The Training Division hosted an accredited:

- Chainsaw Operations Course
 - 30 hours
 - 8 firefighters trained

This training enhanced preparedness for storm response, disaster mitigation, and rescue operations.

Training Programs Conducted

Course	Hours	Students
First Responder Course	50	15
TAC Program	80	15
Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations	40	15
Wildland Firefighting Course	16	15
Firefighter I and II Academy	360	15
Driver Operator Course	80	15
EMT Course	320	15
Rope Rescue Awareness and Operations	40	14
Rope Rescue Technician	40	14
ICS 300/400	40	8
Chainsaw Operations	30	8
Aerial Rope Operations	24	25
Department-Wide Training Events	Multiple	140 per event
Acquired Structure Training Events	Multiple	All shifts

Training Division Workload Statistics – 2025

- Total Training Man-Hours: **13,000 hours**
- Total Instructional Class Hours Conducted: **1,600 hours**

These figures represent direct instructional hours only. Instructor preparation requires an estimated three hours of preparation for each hour of instruction delivered, demonstrating the significant commitment and workload of Training Division personnel.

Outside Training and Professional Development

Training Division personnel attended advanced training programs to expand departmental expertise and instructional capability.

Programs attended included:

- Fire Symposium and Conference – Wichita, Kansas ("Into the Job")
- Plans Examiner IFSAC Course – 2 Fire Marshals
- Fire Inspector IFSAC Course – 2 Fire Marshals
- Confined Space Rescue IFSAC Course – 3 Firefighters
- Structural Collapse Rescue IFSAC Course – 2 Firefighters
- Pacific Northwest Fire Conference – Search and Rescue HOT Training
- Live Fire Instructor IFSAC Course – 2 Firefighters

These professional development opportunities strengthen instructor qualifications and enhance the department's ability to respond to complex emergency incidents.

Summary

The 2025 Training Division demonstrated exceptional productivity, professionalism, and commitment to operational excellence.

Key highlights include:

- Completion of a full in-house Fire Academy with a 100% pass rate
- Over 13,000 training man-hours completed
- Extensive department-wide and acquired structure training
- Significant expansion of technical rescue capabilities
- Continued instructor development and professional training

These accomplishments directly enhance firefighter safety, operational readiness, and the Fort Smith Fire Department's ability to provide the highest level of service to the citizens of Fort Smith.

Goals For 2026

Mission

The Training Division is committed to improving firefighter safety, operational readiness, and professional development through realistic, progressive, and comprehensive training. Our goal is to ensure personnel are prepared to respond safely and effectively to fire, rescue, and EMS incidents.

Quarterly Department Training

The Training Division will conduct 5–6 quarterly training scenarios involving all shifts to maintain operational readiness and consistency.

Planned quarterly training includes:

- March – Surface Water Rescue Training
 - June – Vehicle Extrication Training
 - August – EMS Refresher Training
 - September – Fireground Operations Scenario
 - Additional scenarios such as training opportunities and acquired structures become available
-

Technical Rescue Training

The Training Division will expand technical rescue capabilities through certification and refresher courses, including:

- Rope Rescue Awareness and Operations – April
- Rope Rescue Technician – June
- Swift Water Rescue Awareness, Operations, and Technician courses

- Swift Water Rescue Refresher training
- Aerial Operations Training – November

These courses will strengthen the department’s ability to safely perform rope, water, and aerial rescue operations.

Officer and Leadership Development

The Training Division will continue developing future leaders through:

- Officer I Certification Course – August
- Officer II Certification Course – December

These programs prepare personnel for supervisory and command roles.

EMS Training and EMT Program

The Training Division will continue to strengthen EMS capabilities by conducting:

- Quarterly EMS refresher training
- EMT Certification Course for approximately 10 firefighters

This ensures continued EMS readiness and certification within the department.

Instructor and Professional Development

Personnel will attend outside training to enhance departmental capabilities, including:

- Fire Investigator Certification Course – May
- Live Fire Training Prop Construction Course – Indiana, May
- Additional specialized training opportunities as available

Personnel attending outside training will share their knowledge by conducting in-house training for department members.

Summary

The 2026 Training Division will focus on improving firefighter safety and readiness, expanding rescue and fireground capabilities, developing future officers and instructors, strengthening EMS training and certification, and providing consistent, realistic training across all shifts.

These efforts will ensure the Fort Smith Fire Department remains prepared to serve and protect the citizens of Fort Smith at the highest level.



FORT SMITH FIRE DEPARTMENT

200 North 5th Street
Fort Smith, AR 72901
(479) 783-4052 office (479) 783-5338 fax



Darrell Clark
Fire Chief

MEMO

TO: Darrell Clark, Fire Chief
FROM: Tommy Bishop, Division Chief, Fire Prevention and Investigations
RE: Fire Marshal's Office Annual Report
DATE: March 6, 2026

Office of the Fire Marshal Division, Fire Prevention and Investigations

- Facility
- Personnel
- New Equipment
- Educational Materials
- Training and Continuing Education
- Certifications
- Work Load
- Special Project

Facility A Four burner cook stove has been added to provide a flexible option of preparing meals rather than fast food restaurants.

An area of the facility has been converted to a repository for evidence storage. This area will provide for the secure storage of evidence needed to assist in the prosecution of Arson cases.

Personnel A change has been made regarding the number of Fire Marshals on staff. The Fire Marshal's office, initially four, has been reduce by one to three because of staff re-alignment.

New Equipment A new streamlined camera was purchased to be used in documenting the fire scene. This camera is much smaller and ruggedized and has picture quality that rivals the Canon EOS Rebels.

Educational Materials Purchases were made through Modern Marketing to provide fire prevention materials to schools, organizations and to the public. The purchases consisted of pamphlets, brochures and other fire prevention themed materials.

Training and Continuing Education Chief Fuller and Chief Taylor completed the Inspector II course in May 2025. They both achieved their Auxiliary Law Enforcement Training and Certification in April of 2025.

Chief Taylor completed the Plans Examiner Course in July of 2025.

Certifications All Marshals are current regarding the National Certification Board's, Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator and the Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator.

Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training (CLEST) Mandatory training: All fire Marshals completed a minimum of 24 hours of Law Enforcement training including, (2) Weapons Qualifying sessions at the Firing Range.

Work Load Break Down:

- The Fire Marshals attend monthly **Subdivision Committee Meetings** regarding various building projects to assess Fire Code Compliance.
- Upon request, the Fire Marshals attend numerous **“walk-thru” meetings** in order to assist prospective clients regarding the feasibility of securing and establishing businesses in the City of Fort Smith.
- The Fire Marshal’s Office managed (78) **School closing inspections** per 39 schools summer and winter hiatuses.

The Fire Marshal’s Office performed the following inspections:

1. **Fire Life Safety Inspections** (115)
 2. **Business License Inspections** (308)
 3. **Sprinkler System** Test/Inspection (80)
 4. **Fire Alarm Plans/Inspections** (30)
- The Fire Marshal’s Office has completed (316) **Plan Reviews**.
 - The Fire Marshal’s Office has investigated (34) **Fires**, (3) of which were in the County (Lavaca, Mulberry, Hartford). (9) **Crime Lab Submissions** were processed.
 - The Fire Marshal’s Investigated (4) **Fire Fatalities**. Fort Smith (1) and Greenwood (3)
 - The Fire Marshal’s Office has conducted (9) **Fire Extinguisher Classes**, serving (305) people.
 - The Fire Marshal’s Office has conducted (3) **Fire Drills**.
 - The Fire Marshal’s Office issued (108) **Burn Permits**.
 - The Fire Marshal’s Office issued (3) **Firework Permits**
 - The Fire Marshal’s Office Inspected (2) **Underground tanks**.
 - **Special project** The Fire Marshal’s Office has been working on updating and revising the Standard Operating Procedures in order to coincide with standardized mandates of law enforcement.

2026 Fire Marshal Goals:

- Complete and adopt the revisions of the **Fire Marshal SOG’s** that standardizes the practices of the Fire Marshals, as it relates to the alignment with our associated law enforcement agencies such as, CLEST and ALETA.

- Continue to provide for the reduction of fire incidents and the loss of lives and property. We will continue to engage the public, as well as the Business sector by conducting hands-on training using the Fire Extinguisher simulator. We will also continue to provide information and consultations regarding Fire and Building safety.
- Our goal is to research and stay abreast of various Systems, Equipment and Technologies related to the field of Fire Prevention, Inspections and Investigations. We believe that the acquisition of such items will enable us to better serve and protect our constituents.
- Identify High Risk areas of the city where disadvantaged residents are deficient of life saving equipment such as Smoke alarms and Carbon monoxide Detectors. We believe that over time, and through the budgetary process and Grant writing, we can provide every household with these lifesaving systems.
- Identify through Survey Inspections all (Red) or private hydrants for the purposes of Fire Code compliance to better ensure that the maintenance records reflect the readiness of the fire hydrants for service.
- Continue to identify and monitor abandoned structures within the City where vagrants, squatters and the homeless tend to inhabit. Continue to work with the Neighborhood Code Enforcement Division to identify property owners regarding the upkeep and security of their properties.

Long Range Goals:

- Continue Succession Training
- Establish an in-house program for aspiring Fire Marshals and continue with the indoctrination of all firefighters in the science of preserving evidence and determining Fire Cause and Origin.
- Continue to cultivate a working relationship with the local PD, along with area and regional Arson Investigators in order to facilitate bringing arsonists to justice.

City of Fort Smith Arkansas
10 Busiest Days of the Year
Alarm Date Between {01/01/2025} And {12/31/2025}

Date	Incident Count
05/19/2025	82
03/14/2025	75
07/29/2025	74
05/18/2025	66
06/27/2025	65
07/14/2025	65
06/25/2025	63
05/16/2025	62
05/02/2025	61
02/11/2025	60
05/19/2025	82
03/14/2025	75
07/29/2025	74
05/18/2025	66
06/27/2025	65
07/14/2025	65
06/25/2025	63
05/16/2025	62
05/02/2025	61
02/11/2025	60

Fort Smith Fire Department

Day/Time Matrix Report

Alarm Date Between {01/01/2025} And {12/31/2025}

Alarm Hour	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Total - Hour
00:00	71	52	59	53	47	62	74	418
01:00	56	51	51	37	50	60	64	369
02:00	53	32	40	39	46	55	58	323
03:00	48	39	29	45	32	53	47	293
04:00	45	54	49	43	43	48	59	341
05:00	44	43	34	35	41	46	59	302
06:00	55	67	67	54	46	65	71	425
07:00	44	77	64	67	82	87	71	492
08:00	52	94	93	112	98	130	74	653
09:00	67	105	112	123	131	136	127	801
10:00	68	100	109	117	145	130	135	804
11:00	95	117	107	106	138	152	120	835
12:00	87	132	118	108	151	137	152	885
13:00	79	113	115	133	139	155	122	856
14:00	93	104	147	149	138	151	130	912
15:00	88	104	137	133	141	170	172	945
16:00	110	124	126	116	136	162	143	917
17:00	99	121	125	115	145	157	146	908
18:00	92	129	121	124	158	149	137	910
19:00	99	100	111	122	131	170	146	879
20:00	95	102	108	103	102	132	133	775
21:00	84	101	96	107	105	102	126	721
22:00	57	96	55	90	90	84	96	568
23:00	50	54	55	60	67	73	78	437
Total - Day	1731	2111	2128	2191	2402	2666	2540	15769

Fort Smith Fire Department

Top 25 Incident Addresses

Alarm Date Between {01/01/2025} And {12/31/2025}

<i>Count</i>	<i>Address</i>
342	301 E ST
199	2100 31 ST
167	5501 DUNCAN RD
138	801 A ST
132	8420 PHOENIX AVE
96	5900 KINKEAD AVE
95	1500 FRESNO ST
92	5800 GRAND AVE
70	1411 ROGERS AVE
65	10301 MAYO DR
62	611 11 ST
61	5100 ZERO ST
56	ROGERS AVE
53	2301 TOWSON AVE
53	2425 ZERO ST
50	5101 TOWSON AVE
50	7114 TEXAS RD
48	2300 FIANNA OAKS DR
48	5801 KINKEAD AVE
47	415 GARRISON AVE
47	1001 TOWSON AVE
44	5715 TOWSON AVE
42	2100 62 ST
41	3400 DUKE AVE
40	3900 ARMOUR ST

City of Fort Smith Arkansas

Monthly Incident Counts By Station

Alarm Date Between {01/01/2025} And {12/31/2025}

Station #	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Percent
01	179	162	187	160	220	176	182	181	167	124	130	143	2011	12.75%
02	135	126	156	130	158	175	164	144	156	148	125	140	1757	11.14%
03	72	87	70	81	92	87	92	87	87	83	71	51	960	6.09%
04	142	107	154	120	137	124	142	131	115	105	125	115	1517	9.62%
05	120	102	149	136	139	122	116	115	123	120	110	106	1458	9.25%
06	130	133	154	127	146	143	151	125	109	146	119	121	1604	10.17%
07	166	167	184	153	195	176	179	176	160	170	166	171	2063	13.08%
08	141	134	118	153	188	149	191	141	140	134	127	125	1741	11.04%
09	130	116	135	110	109	115	111	108	100	92	94	103	1323	8.39%
10	67	72	86	69	94	68	71	79	73	68	78	65	890	5.64%
11	30	43	41	30	42	35	38	39	35	35	31	43	442	2.80%
3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.01%
FM	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.01%
MF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.01%

Total Runs by Month											
Jan	1313	Feb	1250	Mar	1434	Apr	1269	May	1520	Jun	1370
Jul	1437	Aug	1326	Sep	1265	Oct	1226	Nov	1176	Dec	1183

Grand Total Runs: 15769



MEMORANDUM



TO: Jeff Dingman, Acting City Administrator

CC: Maggie Rice, Deputy City Administrator; Chris Hoover, Grants and Government Relations Coordinator

FROM: Dr. Sara Deuster, Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: June 3, 2026

SUBJECT: Update Regarding RAISE/BUILD Grant for Bass Reeves Legacy Loop

SUMMARY

In February 2024, at the direction of the former city administrator, an application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY24 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program was submitted for the Bass Reeves Legacy Loop (BRL). While this project was not awarded funding, it was designated as a Project of Merit, making it a favorable project for the next funding cycle.

The Board of Directors unanimously passed [Resolution No. R-215-24](#) in November, 2024 authorizing the city administrator to apply for funding through the FY25 RAISE grant program for BRL in the amount of \$24,987,098.00 with a 0% local match. The USDOT announced BRL was awarded this grant in January 2025. Due to the transition to a new presidency, it was uncertain whether the RAISE program would continue and/or if the City would still be awarded the grant. Ultimately, the RAISE program was restructured as the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program, which "provides grants for surface transportation infrastructure projects with significant local or regional impact."

Following award of the grant, key staff across departments met to discuss the proposed BRL, as staff from the Engineering, Parks, Planning, and Streets Departments did not assist with the original grant application. Through discussions, it was determined there were issues regarding feasibility, constructability and the cost estimate included in the grant application. It was further determined I would become the project coordinator for the grant.

Rather than forgo acceptance of almost \$25 million in grant funds, City Staff has worked over the past several months to identify a revised project scope that achieves a comparable goal as the original BRL route, aligns with the current federal administration's priorities, and ensures fiscal responsibility. The attached proposed scope change accomplishes this.

The purpose of the discussion during the June 9th Study Session is to provide the Board with a brief update regarding the work that has occurred regarding the BUILD grant over the past several months and why a revised scope is necessary to move forward with accepting the awarded funds from the FY25 BUILD grant program. The goal of this discussion is for the Board to provide staff with a direction regarding whether to proceed with the proposed scope

change or proceed with notifying USDOT the City no longer desires to participate in the FY25 BUILD grant program.

Please contact me should you have any questions.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [6-9-26 Item ID 2794 RAISE - BUILD Timeline.pdf](#)
2. [6-9-26 Item ID 2794 BRLI Revised Scope.pdf](#)
3. [6-9-26 Item ID 2794 BRLI Route Comparison.pdf](#)

GRANT AMOUNT: \$24,987,098.00
GRANT NAME: Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)
GRANT AGENCY: U.S. Department of Transportation

Bass Reeves Legacy Loop – RAISE/BUILD Grant History

2024

February 28th

Original submittal of a RAISE grant application for Bass Reeves Legacy Loop (BRLL).

July 30th

Notification BRLL was designated as a Project of Merit.

November 19th

Board of Directors unanimously passed a resolution to resubmit the application for the FY25 RAISE program.

2025

January 10th

U.S. Department of Transportation notified the City it was awarded a RAISE grant in the amount of \$24,987,098.

July 22nd

Local FHWA office contacted the City to schedule a Kickoff Meeting for the project.

August 13th

City met with FHWA to express its concerns with the submitted project scope.

August 18th

Local FHWA provided the City with a draft grant agreement.

September 5th

City engaged with Halff Associate's Grant Division to prepare a revised scope.

October 3rd

Halff provided a revised grant package for the scope change.

December 1st

Following extensive review of the revised documents, the City submitted the proposed scope change to local FHWA.

2026

April 2nd

Local FHWA provided review comments from both FHWA Headquarters and local FHWA.

April 6th

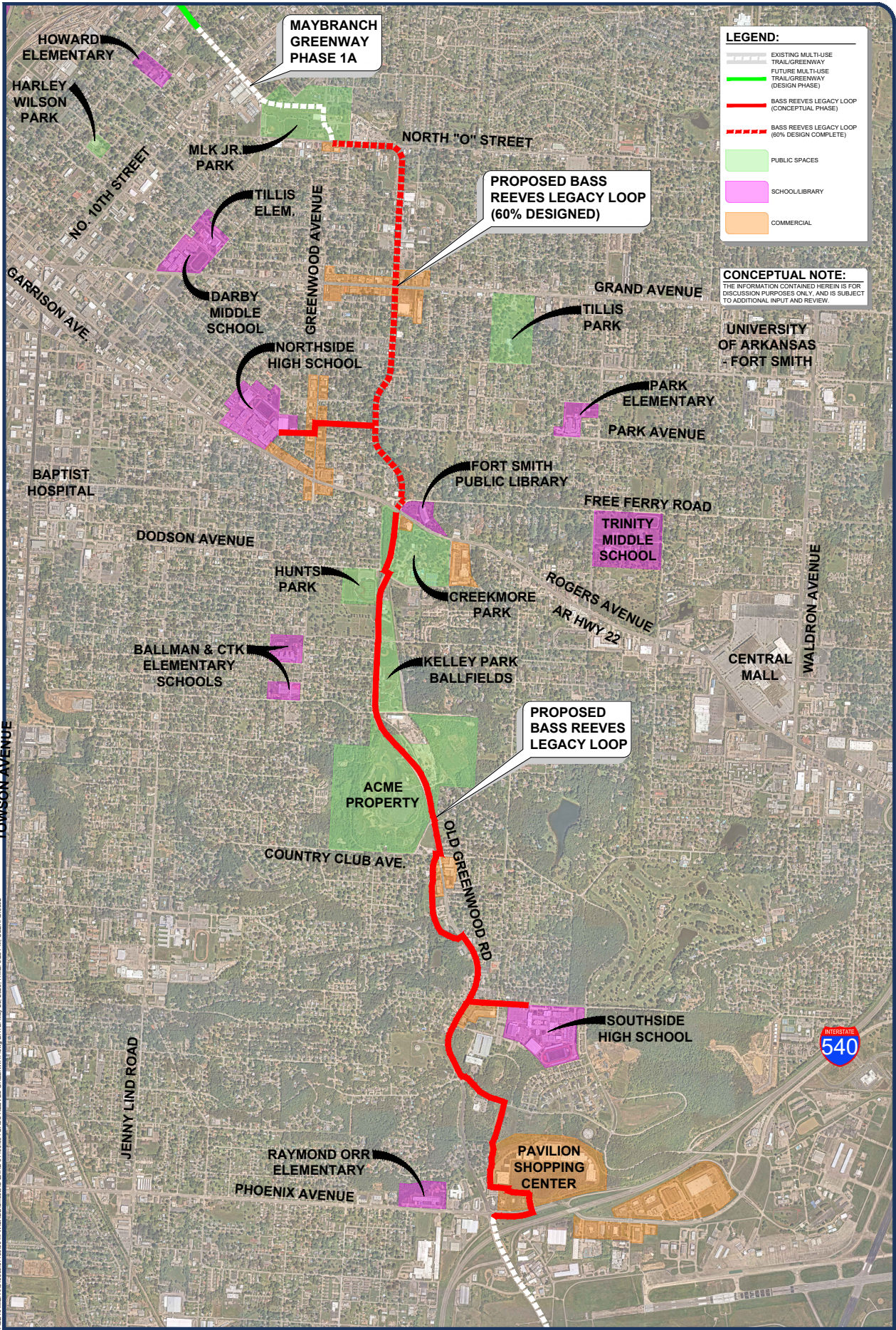
City submitted responses to the review comments to local FHWA.

May 18th

Local FHWA provided additional review comments from FHWA Headquarters.

June 2nd

City submitted responses to the additional review comments to local FHWA.

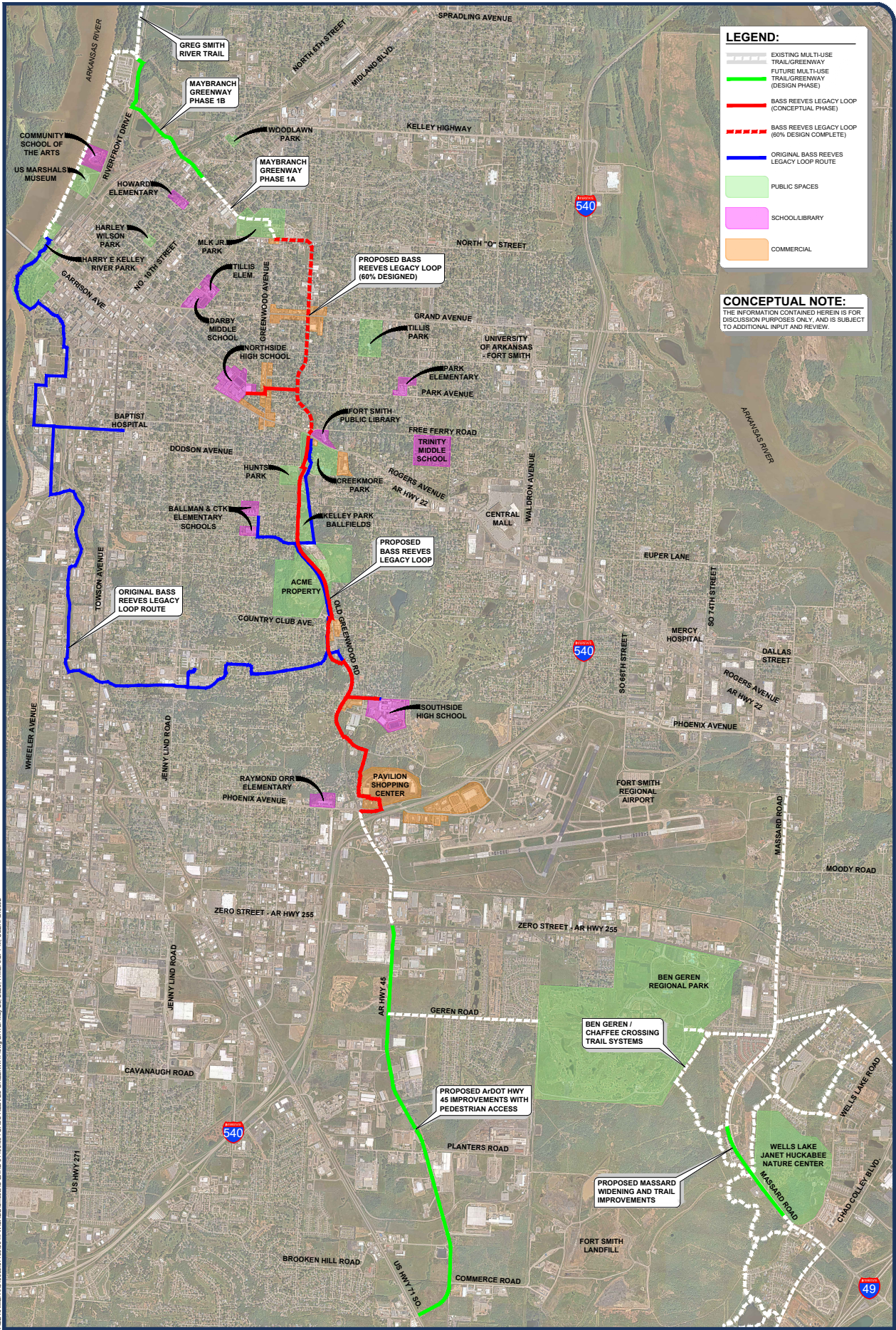


FILE NAME: A:\610000611\06064\PC\CADD\Sheet\C-EX-48-61106-004-BASS REEVES GREENWAY.dwg DATE: May 23, 2026, TIME: 3:28 PM, USER: #4592

CONCEPT: BASS REEVES LEGACY LOOP  MAY 2026  

THE DRAWINGS AND INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN ARE FOR GENERAL PRESENTATION PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE NOT INTENDED NOR SHALL THEY BE USED FOR DESIGN OR CONSTRUCTION PLANS. HALFF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY OR CHANGE ALL DRAWINGS AND INFORMATION AT ANY TIME WITHOUT NOTICE.

5704 ELLIPER LN.
SUITE 200
FORT SMITH, AR 72903
TEL: (479) 452-1933



LEGEND:

- EXISTING MULTI-USE TRAIL/GREENWAY
- FUTURE MULTI-USE TRAIL/GREENWAY (DESIGN PHASE)
- BASS REEVES LEGACY LOOP (CONCEPTUAL PHASE)
- BASS REEVES LEGACY LOOP (60% DESIGN COMPLETE)
- ORIGINAL BASS REEVES LEGACY LOOP ROUTE
- PUBLIC SPACES
- SCHOOL/LIBRARY
- COMMERCIAL

CONCEPTUAL NOTE:
 THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY, AND IS SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL INPUT AND REVIEW.

FILE NAME: A:\10000461\10000461\FW\CAD\Sheet\C-EX-105-004-BASS REEVES GREENWAY.dwg DATE: May 28, 2026, TIME: 3:27 P.M. USER: #4592

CONCEPT: BASS REEVES LEGACY LOOP



THE DRAWINGS AND INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN ARE FOR GENERAL PRESENTATION PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE NOT INTENDED NOR SHALL THEY BE USED FOR DESIGN OR CONSTRUCTION PLANS. HALFF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY OR CHANGE ALL DRAWINGS AND INFORMATION AT ANY TIME WITHOUT NOTICE.

5704 EUPER LN.
 SUITE 200
 FORT SMITH, AR 72903
 TEL: (479) 452-1833



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Board of Directors
FROM: Jeff Dingman, Acting City Administrator
DATE: June 3, 2026
SUBJECT: Discussion related to water utility rates for account holders aged 65 and above

SUMMARY

At the March 3 regular meeting, the Board asked that discussion related to freezing water/sewer rates for seniors aged 65 and above be placed on a study session agenda and such discussion was had on April 14. The Board then asked that staff identify feasible options for discussion at another study session, and that discussion is included on the June 9 study session agenda.

Some options to consider, applicable to account holders 65 & older for their primary residential meter:

1. Freeze water rates for senior citizen account holders at 2026 levels for the base rate & first usage tier (3 ccf). This would not have impact on revenues until such time as water rates are adjusted in the future, and those senior citizens who opt-in would maintain their 2026 water usage rates. People turning 65 in the future could opt-in for placement in the Senior Rate billing code, which would revert back to 2026 water usage rates unless or until the Senior Rate is specifically adjusted in the future.
2. Establish a fixed percentage (such as 10%) discount for off of the regular water usage first tier rate for senior citizen account holders as a "Senior Discount Rate".

Related to the first option, peer cities Springdale and Rogers are enacting rate freezes for customers who are 65 and 62, respectively. The rate freeze is applicable to bills associated with the primary residence and only for the first 1,000 gallons in Springdale and 1,500 gallons in Rogers. Those cities structure their regular base rate/volume rate quite differently than Fort Smith does, with more emphasis on base rate and first tier charges compared to Fort Smith's comparatively low base rate and increasing tier charges. A similar rate freeze component on the base rate and first 3 ccf of residential household use for senior citizens in Fort Smith would accomplish such an objective, but would not have an impact on revenues until such time as regular water rates are adjusted and those senior citizens who opted-in remain at 2026 rates.

A second option contemplated on April 14 was a fixed (10%) discount on primary residence household water rates for senior citizens. This would establish a "Senior Rate" that, since it is a fixed percentage discount off of the regular rate, automatically adjusts whenever water rates are adjusted. This approach could become effective as soon as is practical upon approval, as the 10% discounted rate could be applied to current rates for qualifying seniors who opt-in to the discount.

In order to keep rates consistent with revenue needs and across the increasing usage tiers, staff proposes discussion of a discounted rate for seniors instead of a rate freeze. As any rates get adjusted in the future, the discounted rate percentage would still apply. In order to quantify the financial impact of a 10% senior citizen rate discount, staff utilized Census data to estimate eligibility and financial implications. Census data indicates that 16% of the city's population is aged 65 or older. A sample ordinance establishing such a program is attached for discussion. The sample ordinance contemplates a revenue-neutral scenario, offered for Board discussion, where revenue reduction from the senior citizen discount is offset by increasing rates for industrial, commercial and wholesale customers so that the enterprise fund does not suffer a loss in anticipated revenue.

Along with the sample ordinance is a revenue scenario contemplating the impact of 16% of the city's residential accounts qualifying for and opting in on a 10% reduction in water/sewer rates. If all who qualify opt-in, it is estimated to reduce revenues by nearly \$331,000. Recovering that \$331,000 from industrial, commercial and wholesale rate customers translates to a 4-cent per ccf rate increase to those customers as shown on the attached analysis.

This draft scenario is offered for discussion purposes only, anticipating that the discussion at the study session will guide next steps or further action if the Board desires to move forward. The draft only contemplates applicability to water rates. Adjusting sewer rates could cause concerns related to the Consent Decree financial plan, which we need to avoid. The 2025 Cost of Service study for solid waste indicated that we are already operating residential trash collection at a loss, so we should not further discount residential collection rates.

Please contact me if you have questions related to this agenda item.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [20260609 Ordinance - Senior Citizen Water Rate Discounts - draft.docx](#)
2. [20260603 Scenario - 10 percent senior discount.pdf](#)

ORDINANCE NO. **DRAFT**

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A 10% SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT ON REGULAR HOUSEHOLD WATER UTILITY RATES; PROVIDING FOR WATER UTILITY RATE INCREASES ON INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND WHOLESALE ACCOUNTS TO OFFSET REDUCED REVENUE FROM SUCH ACTION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the city established rates for residential water utility service (Ord. No. 111-24) which may be duly updated from time to time by action of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the city wishes to establish a 10% discount applicable to regular household water utility rates for senior citizen residential utility account holders aged sixty-five (65) and over at the accountholder’s primary residence within the City of Fort Smith; and

WHEREAS, as the city intends that the senior citizen residential water utility discount be revenue-neutral to the Water/Sewer enterprise fund, the anticipated reduction in revenue from the senior citizen discounts shall be offset by increases to the industrial, commercial and wholesale user rates at a level sufficient to offset revenue losses attributed to the senior citizen discount.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS THAT:

SECTION 1: There is hereby established a ten-percent (10%) senior citizen discount on established base fees and volume usage rates for regular household water utility service for any residential account holder in the City of Fort Smith who is aged sixty-five (65) years or older.

SECTION 2: Any Fort Smith residential account holder who qualifies may opt-in to the senior citizen discount for his or her primary residence by providing documentation showing proof of age to the utility billing division of the city’s Citizen Services Department. Such discount shall apply to regular household service only, not to dedicated irrigation accounts.

SECTION 3: As the impact of such reduced senior citizen utility rates is intended to be revenue-neutral to the Water/Sewer enterprise fund, the anticipated reduction in revenue from the senior citizen utility discounts shall be offset by increases to the industrial, commercial and wholesale user rates at a level sufficient to offset the reduced revenue attributed to said discount.

SECTION 4. As the level of offset required by the application of Section 3 may fluctuate over time, the initial adjustment to industrial, commercial and wholesale user accounts shall be based on estimated participation, but any subsequent rate studies for establishing all rate classes shall consider historical participation trends for the senior citizen discount during any future analysis and recommendation of water utility rates.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

City Clerk

Mayor

Approved as to form:

City Attorney

Scenario 1: 10% discount to seniors only

10% Discount, 16% of Residential Accounts

Sewer	\$	206,465.46	
Water	\$	124,437.14	
Total Discount	\$	330,902.61	amount to be covered by rate increase

Proposed Rate Increase, Non-Residential

Total Discount	\$	330,902.61	
Non-Residential Billed CCFs		8,249,719	
Rate per CCF	\$	0.04	amount to increase rates to cover discount

Results of Proposed Rate Increase, Non-Res

2025 Billed Amount	\$	24,936,939.84
Billed Amt w/ Rate Increase	\$	25,267,698.95
Difference	\$	330,759.11

Category	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Rate Increase	Billed Amt Increase
Commercial/Industrial Inside City	3.50	3.54	1.15%	\$ 125,884.35
Commercial/Industrial Outside City	5.25	5.29	0.76%	\$ 7,959.10
Wholesale North	2.52	2.56	1.59%	\$ 156,292.63
Wholesale South	3.04	3.08	1.32%	\$ 40,623.03

All calculations based on 2025 billed actuals.