

# Amarillo Police Department ANNUAL REPORT 2021



# *Table of* CONTENTS

3	Message from the Chief
4	Mission Statement and Values
5	<b>Administration Division</b>
6	Budgeting and Staffing
6	Police Fleet
7	Organizational Chart
8	Internal Affairs Office
9	Project Safe Neighborhoods
9	Public Safety Partnership
10	<b>Public Information Officer</b>
11	<b>Amarillo Crime Stoppers</b>
12	Amarillo Crime Stoppers Statistics
13	Intelligence and Analysis Unit
14	City of Amarillo Crime Statistics
18	<b>Patrol Division</b>
19	Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO Unit)
20	Crisis Intervention
22	<b>Honor Guard</b>
23	Patrol Division Statistics
25	Amarillo Emergency Communications Center
26	Amarillo Emergency Communications Center's Statistics
27	<b>Specialized Operations Division</b>
28	Bomb Squad
28	Narcotics Unit
29	Swat Team
30	Tactical Flight Officer
30	Crisis Negotiator Team
30	Directed Operations
30	Pace
31	Motorcycle Squad
32	Parking Enforcement
32	School Liaison Officer
33	Dive Team
34	<b>Criminal Investigation Division</b>
35	Domestic Violence Unit
35	Special Victims Unit
36	Homicide Unit
37	National Integrated Information Network (NIBIN) Program
37	Violent Crimes Unit
38	General Investigations Unit
41	<b>Training and Personnel Division</b>
42	Police Staffing and Attrition
46	Field Training Officer Program
46	Physical Fitness Test
46	Shooting Complex
47	In-service Training
47	Recruiting Activities
49	Texas Police Chiefs Association Foundation (TPCAF) Best Practices
50	<b>Specialized Operations Division</b>
52	<b>Police Exploring Program</b>
53	<b>Amarillo South Rotary - Officers of the Quarter</b>
56	In Memoriam

# Message from the Chief

To the Honorable Mayor Ginger Nelson and the City Council of Amarillo,

It is my pleasure to present the 2021 Amarillo Police Department Annual Report. I hope that you find this information a useful summary of the department's operations, resources, and strategy.

The department provides police service to an estimated 201,411 citizens, covering over 104 square miles. The police department maintains best practice recognition from the Texas Police Chiefs Association Foundation recognition program which outlines over 170 standards the department must continuously meet.

2021 presented unique challenges from a continuing pandemic to a nationwide surge in homicides. Senate Bill (SB) 22 (87th Legislature, effective June 14, 2021), created a statutory presumption for COVID-19 claims involving most first responders. Sadly, three Amarillo Police officers succumbed to this illness in 2021 and the department held three line of duty death services.

The overall Part 1 index crimes continued to trend downward, including violent crimes. However, the category of homicide increased, with 21 murders in Amarillo. There were an additional 6 persons killed in legally justified incidents. Both numbers contributed to community concerns regarding the number of people killed.

The department facilitated more community meetings this year. Police officers attended and hosted events at Bones Hooks Park, Hamlet Park, Hillside Christian Church – North campus, and more than a dozen other community-based events.

Enclosed is a summary of activities and crime information in Amarillo for 2021. It is our honor to serve the residents of our great city. We appreciate the support of City Council and the citizens of Amarillo in keeping our city a safe place to live, work, and play.



Martin Birkenfeld  
Chief of Police



## OUR

### *Mission*

The mission of the Amarillo Police Department is to provide excellent public service and law enforcement to the community, with the goal of keeping Amarillo a safe place to live, work, and play. The Department shall provide this service by utilizing best practices in law enforcement, continuous improvement in leadership and professionalism, and partnership with the community.

## OUR

### *Values*

Members of the Amarillo Police Department, through leadership and a professional culture, are guided by the highest ethical standards. We embrace the values of Honor, Truth, Integrity, Service, Courage, and Leadership. It is our commitment to maintain the trust of the community through a cultural dedication to these values. We have the utmost respect for the rights of the individual, the needs of the community, and the values outlined by laws and the Constitution of the State of Texas and the United States of America. It is our goal to consistently take actions that increase the safety of the community while communicating our actions in a manner that reduces the fear of crime.

## CORE *Values*

**Honor** – We recognize the value of honor in our profession and our personal lives. We commit to fulfilling our duties in a manner that reflects professional and personal pride, with respect to the dignity of the individual, the sanctity of community, and the consideration of fairness to all.

**Truth** – The truth is of the highest importance to maintain the trust of the community and the respect for the individual. We commit to being truthful in all matters and transparent in our manner of conducting business.

**Integrity** – Strong moral and ethical values are the backbone of the Amarillo Police Department. We conduct ourselves in a manner that is consistent with the highest standards of the community. Our integrity guides our conduct while on duty as well as in our personal lives.

**Service** – Our service to the community is guided by a strong sense of fairness and righteousness. We serve in such a manner that promotes the wellbeing of all, with the understanding that each person's success contributes to the overall health of the community.

**Courage** – We hold that courage is the mental, moral, and physical strength to overcome fear, and to do what is right. The ability to make tough decisions under stress, pressure, and danger are essential to mission success.

**Leadership** – Leadership is a responsibility of public servants. Each member of the police department displays leadership within the department to mentor others and foster a culture that supports these values. We act as leaders within our community by setting a good example and taking initiative to solve problems and improve the quality of life in Amarillo.

# Administration Division

The Administration Division is responsible for planning, budgeting, and the overall direction of staffing, and operating the Amarillo Police Department. The division includes the chief, two assistant chiefs, public information office, internal affairs investigations, and fleet management.



Asst. Chief Ken Funtek

Asst. Chief Ken Funtek is responsible for the Operations Bureau. The Operations Bureau consists of the Patrol Division and the Specialized Operations Division. The Patrol Division provides first responder services using marked vehicles and proactive patrol in every city neighborhood. The Specialized Operations Division provides focused problem solving and police services, covert field investigations, and special emergency response teams. The newly created Intelligence and Analysis Unit is also the responsibility of the Operations Chief.



Asst. Chief Jimmy Johnson

Assistant Chief Jimmy Johnson is responsible for the Investigation and Staff Services Bureau. This bureau consists of the Criminal Investigation Division, the Training and Personnel Division, and the Records Services Division. The Criminal Investigation Division provides investigative services for almost all crime reports. This division also contains the Property and Evidence Unit, the Crime Scene Investigation Unit, and the Crime Analysis Unit. The Training and Personnel Division operates the Amarillo Police Academy and provides recurring training to all police officers and civilian employees. The Records Services Division maintains the departments records management system and public information requests.

# Budgeting and Staffing

The Amarillo Police Department had an operating budget of \$50,396,085 for fiscal year 2020-2021. The department applies for several grants each year to supplement operations and equipment. The department is authorized for 372 police officer positions, and 63 full time civilian positions.

Sworn police officer staffing at the end of 2021:

Chief of Police	1
Asst. Chief of Police	2
Captains	4
Lieutenants	16
Sergeants	73
Corporals	80
Officers	166
Recruit Officers	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>365</b>

Males	319	87.4%
Females	46	12.6%

American Indian	1	0.3%
Black	8	2.2%
Hispanic	66	18.1%
White	290	79.5%

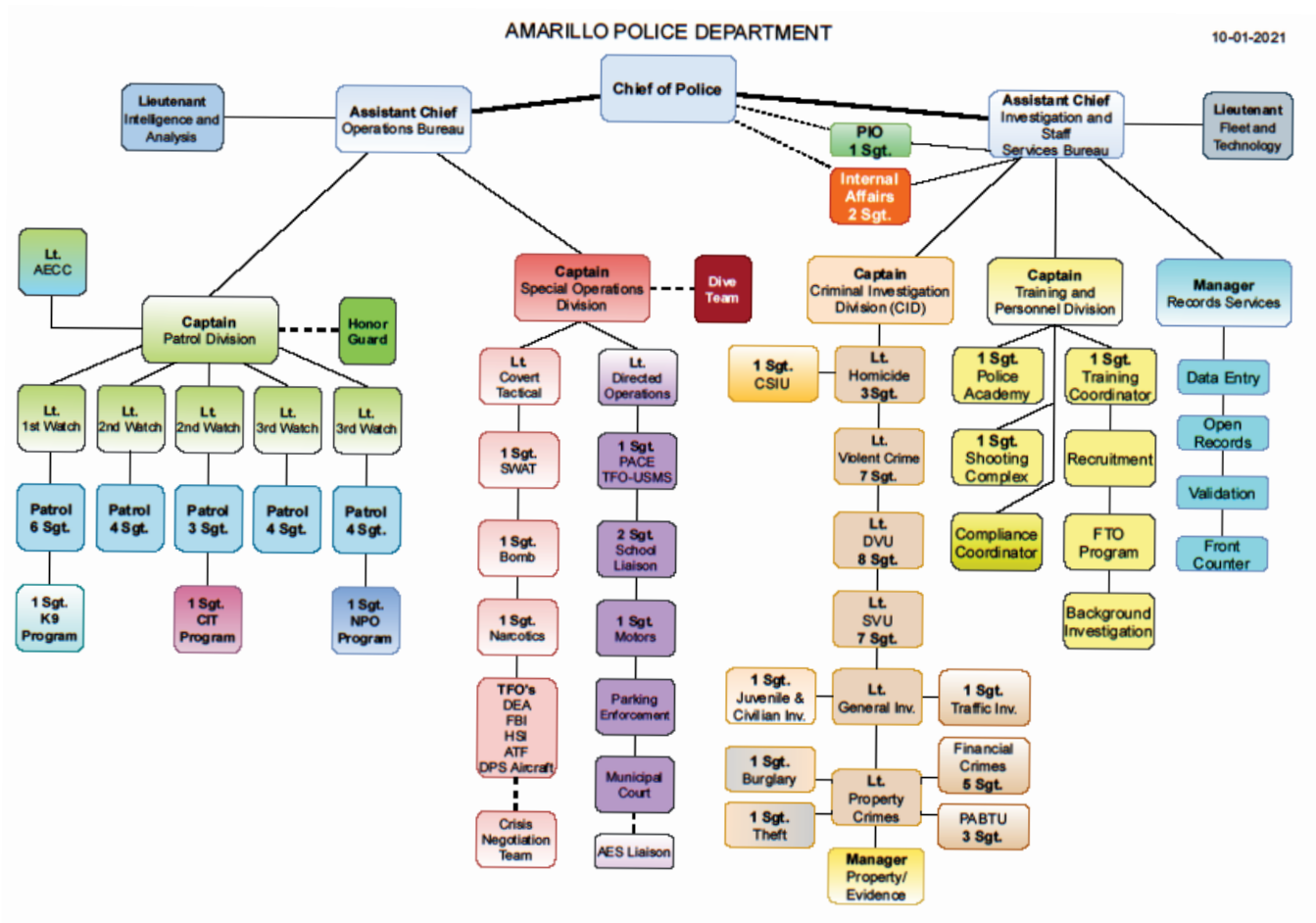
# Police Fleet

The Police Department operates a fleet of vehicles designed to provide optimum service usage. The largest number of vehicles are dedicated to patrol and are primarily marked black and white patrol cars. Most of the cars are the Ford Police Interceptor SUV. These vehicles are purpose-built for police work and have been the preferred patrol car since 2014.

Other cars are used for administrative and investigative transportation and call out responses. These vehicles are primarily unmarked cars, although most are equipped with emergency lights. A portion of the fleet is refreshed each year with new vehicles, based on mileage or years of service. Most cars are purchased and maintained by the City of Amarillo Fleet Services. A few specialty vehicles are purchased separately by the department. The Amarillo Independent School District and Canyon Independent School District purchases and maintain a majority portion of the patrol cars assigned to schools.

Types of Vehicle	Assignment	Number of Vehicles
Marked Patrol Cars	Patrol Division	104
Marked Patrols Cars	School Liaison Unit	17
Marked Police Cars	Motorcycle Unit	13
Unmarked Vehicles (mixed)	Administration and CID	61
Special Purpose Vehicles	Specialized Operations Divisions	54

# Organizational Chart



# Internal Affairs Office

The Amarillo Police Department investigates every complaint received. The goal of this program is to maintain public trust and transparency. The Internal Affairs (IA) office reports directly to the Chief's office. The IA investigators receive complaints and investigate allegations of misconduct, excessive force, or other criminal violations. The IA office tracks all investigations and disciplinary records and compiles yearly reports on the dispositions.

Many investigations are generated internally when supervisors discover misconduct or policy violations. All patrol officers are equipped with body

cameras and there are stationary cameras in all patrol vehicles. Supervisors regularly review reports and video of incidents to ensure that officers are providing quality service and complying with policy and laws.

Complaint dispositions include sustained, not sustained, exonerated, unfounded, or pending. A sustained complaint results in corrective action such as remedial training, written warning or reprimand, or suspension, demotion, or separation from employment.

Types of Complaint	Sustained	Not Sustained	Exonerated/ Unfounded	Total
Excessive Force	1	7	11	19
Unlawful Arrest	0	0	2	2
Neglect of Duty	53	6	38	97
Conduct Unbecoming	24	4	27	55
Criminal Offense	0	0	3	3
Unlawful Search	0	1	5	6
Falsify/Release Records	0	0	0	0
Racial Profiling	0	0	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>187</b>

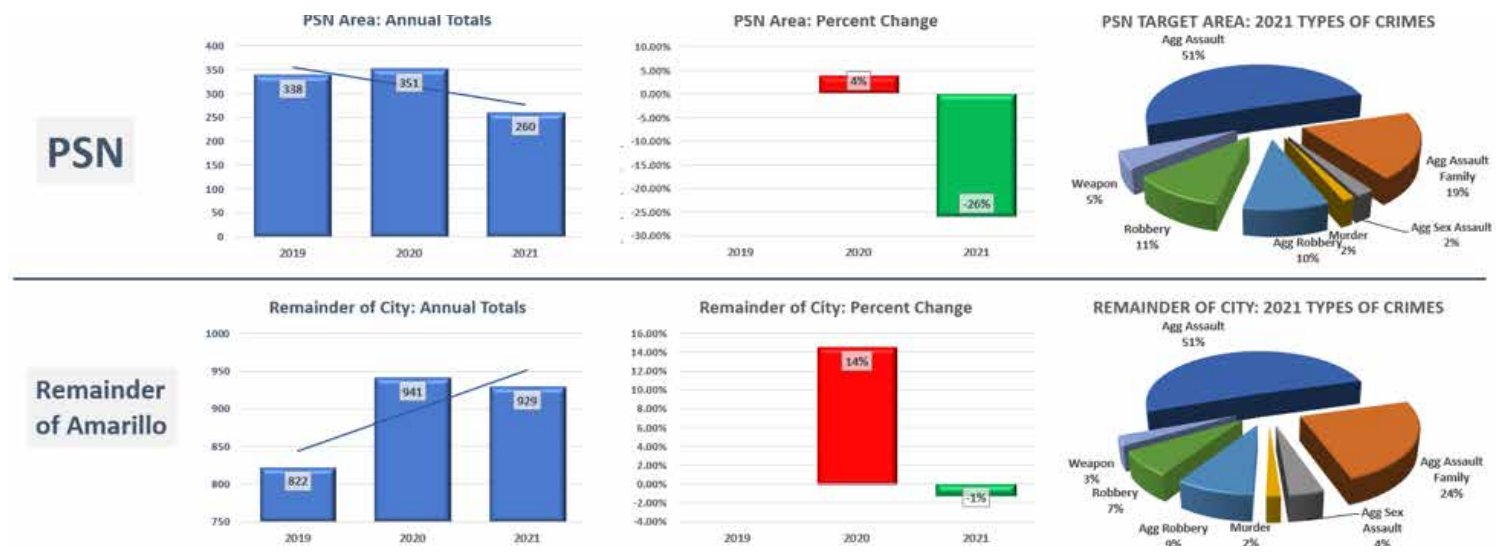
The IA office also investigates all cases where a police officer discharges their firearm. These incidents are also reviewed by command staff for training and policy recommendations.

Types of Incident	Justified (Exonerated)	Not Justified	Negligence
Animal Attack	4	0	0
Animal Severely Injured	0	0	0
Deadly Force Encounter	2	0	0
Accidental/Negligent	0	0	0



# Project Safe Neighborhoods

In January 2019, the Amarillo Police Department entered a partnership with surrounding law enforcement agencies to reduce violent crime in Amarillo. Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is driven by the Assistant United States Attorney’s (AUSA) office in Amarillo and is based on statistical analysis and mapping of areas where violent crime are concentrated. This area of violence is labeled as the PSN Zone. Working with the AUSA and other agencies, violent crime in the PSN Zone has been addressed through community outreach, targeted operations, and vigorous prosecution of convicted felons in possession of firearms. From 2020 to 2021, the PSN zone saw a reduction of violent index crimes by more than 26%. The department will continue to make violent crime reduction a priority in the PSN area and other problem areas identified by data.



# Public Safety Partnership

In June of 2019, the city of Amarillo was selected as one of ten cities in the nation to participate in the Public Safety Partnership (PSP) to combat violent crimes. This partnership is provided through the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) and provides additional support to Amarillo by collaborating on violent crime reduction strategies. DOJ experts engage with the department to identify and prioritize resources and strategies to address violent crimes in the city. PSP support has provided assessments of the investigative and crime analysis functions of the department. PSP also provides training and technical assistance, and experienced consulting to better understand grant opportunities to enhance violent crime reduction initiatives. The PSP program is provided at no cost to the department and will continue through June of 2022.

<sup>1</sup>Research conducted by Michael Bachman, PH.D., PSN Research Partner, Magnus Research Group

# Public Information Officer



The Public Information Office (PIO) is staffed with one sergeant, two corporals, and an administrative assistant. The PIO provides public education in crime prevention ranging from traffic safety to sexual assault awareness. The PIO also creates presentations using nationally accepted crime prevention strategies and adding information based on local crime trends and police experience. This helps make programs that are original and that can be tailored to people in specific jobs or businesses.

Some organizations schedule PIO presentations on a recurring basis as employee safety or prevention education. Programs are provided upon request to anyone interested in safety, prevention, or APD operations. In 2018, both Sgt. Burr and Cpl. Hilton became Certified Crime Prevention Specialists. This designation gives the PIO credentials and access to networking that can provide the latest information and trends in all areas Crime Prevention related.

The PIO has provided job-specific crime prevention and safety training for realtors, social workers, bank employees, and utility service employees. Public concern about violence in the workplace, including active threat events, continues to generate requests for site visits and presentations. Cpl. Hilton is a certified instructor for CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events) and offers presentations to any type of group in the community.

The PIO educates the public in both prevention and the department's efforts to reduce crime. The PIO provided 283 formal presentations reaching 7,362 people in 2021. This was up from 2020, where the PIO provided 276 presentations with 7,171 people attending. The COVID-19 pandemic was the cause of the low numbers in 2020.

The PIO provides classroom training in media interaction for new sergeants and hostage negotiators and provided roll call training to make officers aware of APD social media outreach. The PIO also provides police department training to new dispatchers at AECC.

The PIO provides information about APD operations and activity through media releases. Sgt. Burr and Cpl. Hilton are certified as professional Public Information Officers. Written press releases allow the PIO to provide detailed information to the public and the media. In 2021, the PIO created, reviewed, or published 286 formal releases, and posted updates to many of those releases. In addition, the PIO provides information directly to the media through daily contact. Most often, the media requests information about routine incidents they are made aware of through scanner traffic, social media, or other sources. They also contact the PIO for additional information and interviews to complete reports of their own or to obtain interviews and follow up on releases.

Releases are distributed through multiple venues which include the departments Nixle account, Twitter, Facebook, and Nextdoor. The PIO has grown subscriptions on all these platforms significantly. The Amarillo PD Facebook page currently has over 48,000 followers, @AmarilloPD Twitter has 6,176 followers. The APD Nextdoor reach is over 41,000 households citywide. The PIO uses Nixle for information releases and important notices to the public. Nixle subscriptions are at 15,630. The PIO is working to expand the department's YouTube presence. The PIO is also launching a podcast in 2022 on the YouTube channel.

# *Amarillo Crime Stoppers*

Amarillo Crime Stoppers operates as part of the Public Information Office, playing an important role in coordinating with the media and investigators to publicize information about wanted suspects and unsolved crimes. In 2021 Amarillo Crime Stoppers received 1,512 tips. In addition to tips being assigned to specific units within the department, this information is published in weekly crime bulletins for patrol officers.

## *Amarillo Crime Stoppers Statistics*

Total Tips Received	1,512
Rewards Approved	39 (\$9,100)
Rewards Claimed	94
Arrests as a Result of Tips	240
Cases Cleared from Tips	9
Weapons Recovered	16
Stolen Property Recovered	\$184,000
Narcotics seized (Est. Value)	\$143,325

The annual Crime Stoppers Car Show was held at the Amarillo Civic Center in September with over 140 vehicles registered. Amarillo Crime Stoppers attended several events in 2021, providing Kids ID's to the public throughout the year. Over 3,500 ID cards were made for children which aid law enforcement should a child become missing.



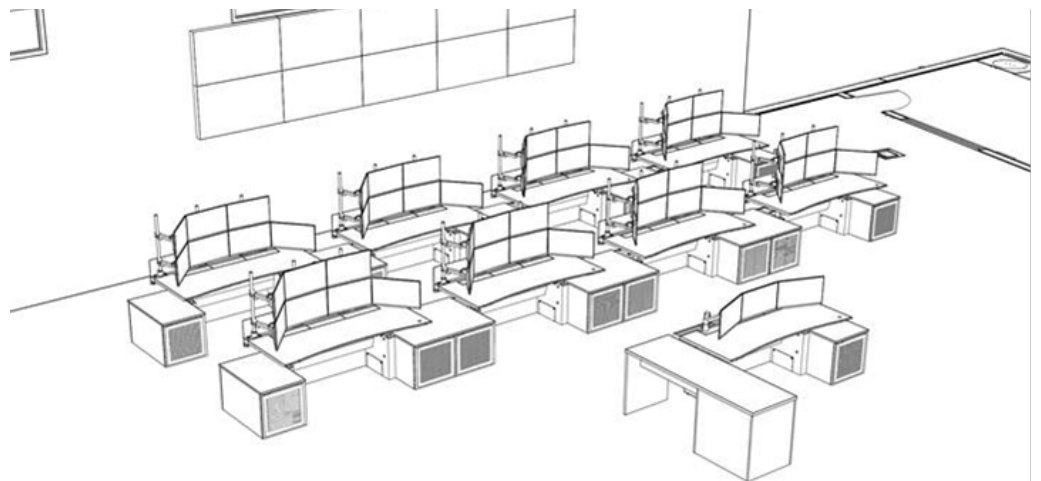
# *Intelligence and Analysis Unit*

In 2021, the department established the Intelligence and Analysis Unit. Lt. Shane Chadwick is assigned to supervise and build the infrastructure and develop the processes to make the unit self-sufficient and able to support the needs of the Amarillo community with a focus on reducing violent crime. This initiative is intended to create a real-time crime center in conjunction with the crime analysis function to provide actionable intelligence that police officers can use to locate evidence, identify suspects, and solve crimes faster.

The crime analysis function has been in place for many years but has recently grown to include three civilian crime analysts. They provide services to Amarillo police officers and surrounding law enforcement agencies. Some of these services include crime bulletins, suspect information, social media research, statistical crime analysis, and administrative analysis.

The real time crime center is intended to be a regional resource called the Amarillo Regional Crime Center (ARCC). The ARCC will include technologies that can bring in live or recorded video feeds from potentially hundreds of sources throughout the region. The ARCC will use license plate reader (LPR) technology to help identify violent crime suspects, stolen vehicles, and missing children among other things. LPR technology was deployed in late 2021 with early successes in capturing stolen vehicles.

The ARCC funding has been sourced from various grant funding through PSN, PSP, and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Construction is planned for the 5th floor of the police building to locate the ARCC and supporting infrastructure. Future expansion of the ARCC could include gunshot detection technology and aerial surveillance equipment.



Conceptual Drawing of ARCC

## CITY OF AMARILLO PART 1 CRIME STATISTICS<sup>2</sup>

Comparison from 2020 to 2021. Amarillo saw 8.6% fewer Part 1 Crimes in 2021.

Offense	2020	2021	Change
Homicide	15	21	40.0%
Rape	147	145	-1.4%
Robbery	239	188	-21.3%
Aggravated Assault	1,279	1,144	-10.6%
Burglary	1,419	1,307	-7.9%
Larceny Theft	4,887	4,590	-6.1%
Stolen Vehicles	1,063	859	-19.2%
Arson	32	47	46.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,081</b>	<b>8,301</b>	<b>-8.6%</b>

The overall Part 1 crime rate in Amarillo dropped in 2021. However, murders and arsons increased in 2021.

Offense	2020 Rate per 100,000 <sup>3</sup>	2021 Rate per 100,000 <sup>4</sup>	2020 US Rate per 100,000 <sup>5</sup>
Homicide	7.3	10.4	6.5
Rape	71.8	72.0	38.4
Robbery	1,16.7	93.3	73.9
Aggravated Assault	624.4	568.0	279.7
<b>Violent Crime Rate</b>	<b>801.6</b>	<b>743.7</b>	<b>398.5</b>
Burglary	692.8	649.9	314.2
Larceny Theft	2,385.9	2,278.9	1,398.0
Stolen Vehicles	519.0	426.5	146.0
Arson	15.6	23.3	13.2
<b>Property Crime Rate</b>	<b>3,542.1</b>	<b>3,378.6</b>	<b>1,958.2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,433.5</b>	<b>4,121.4</b>	<b>2356.7</b>

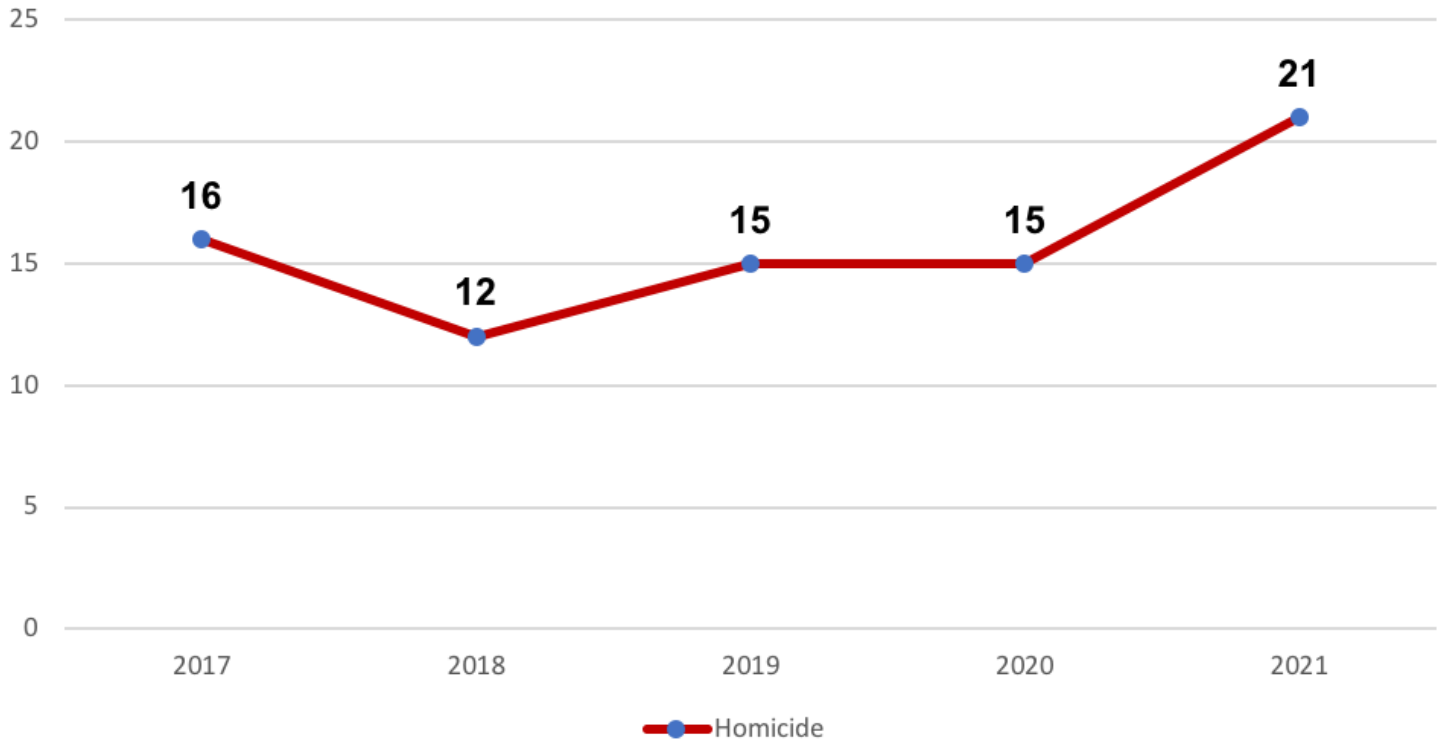
<sup>2</sup>For detailed definitions of Part 1 crimes see <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/offense-definitions>

<sup>3</sup>2020 population estimate from City of Amarillo Planning Department = 204,828

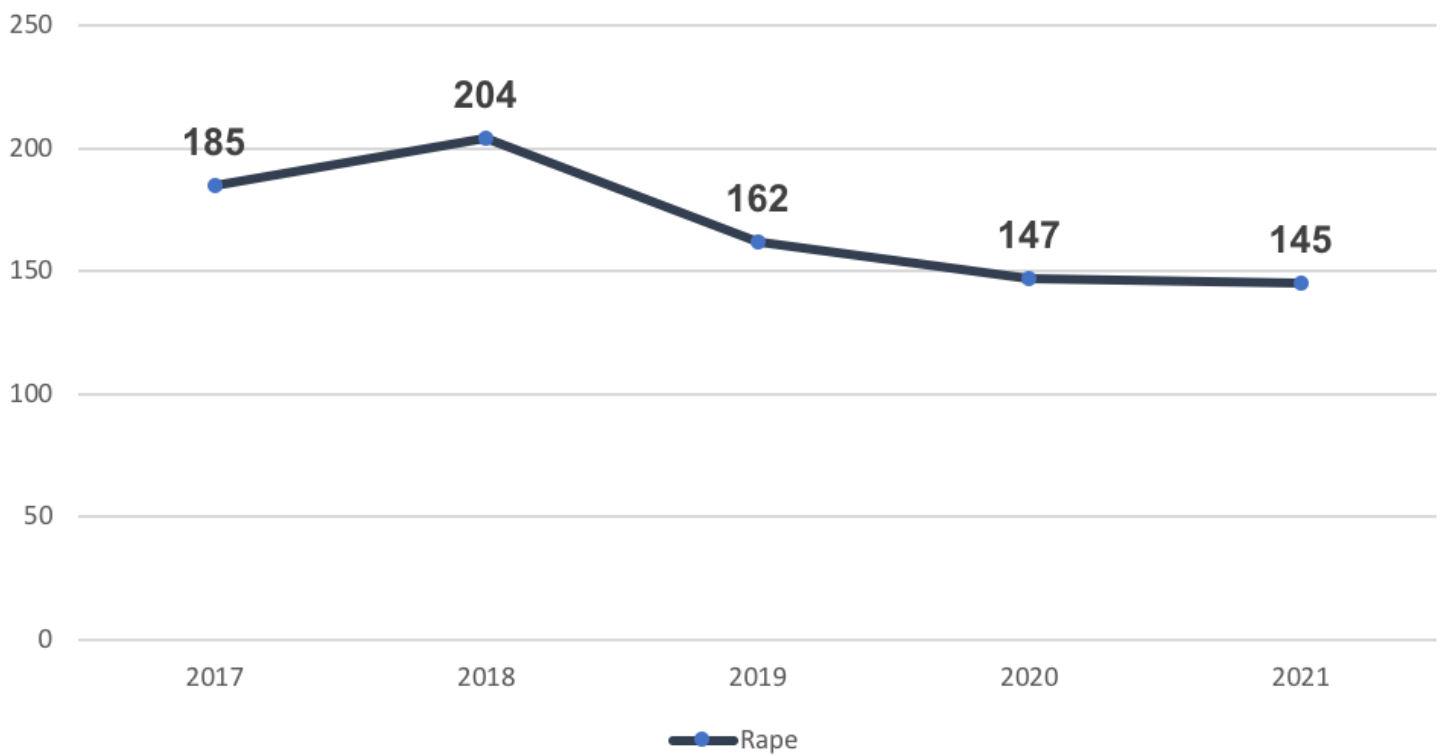
<sup>4</sup>2021 population estimate from City of Amarillo Planning Department = 201,412

<sup>5</sup>Total US data from <https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend>

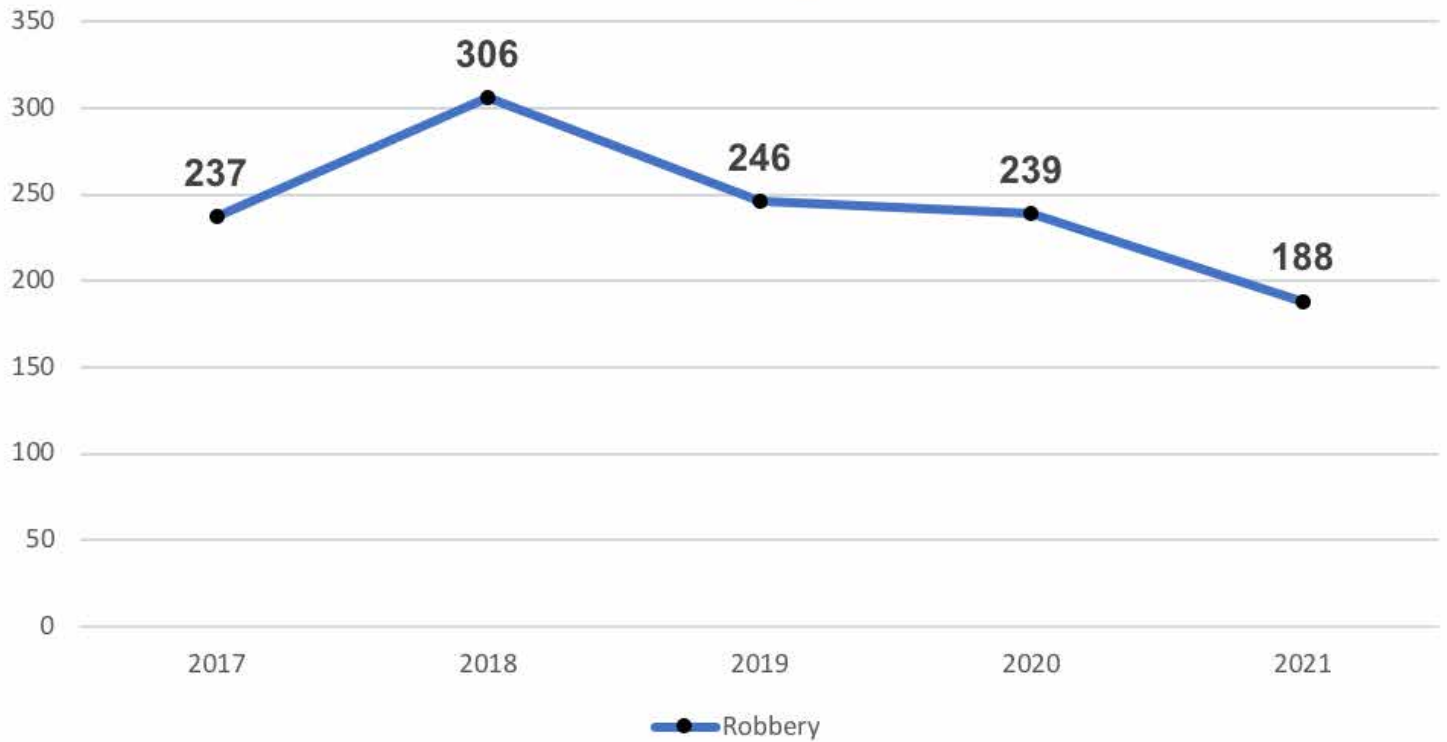
## Homicide



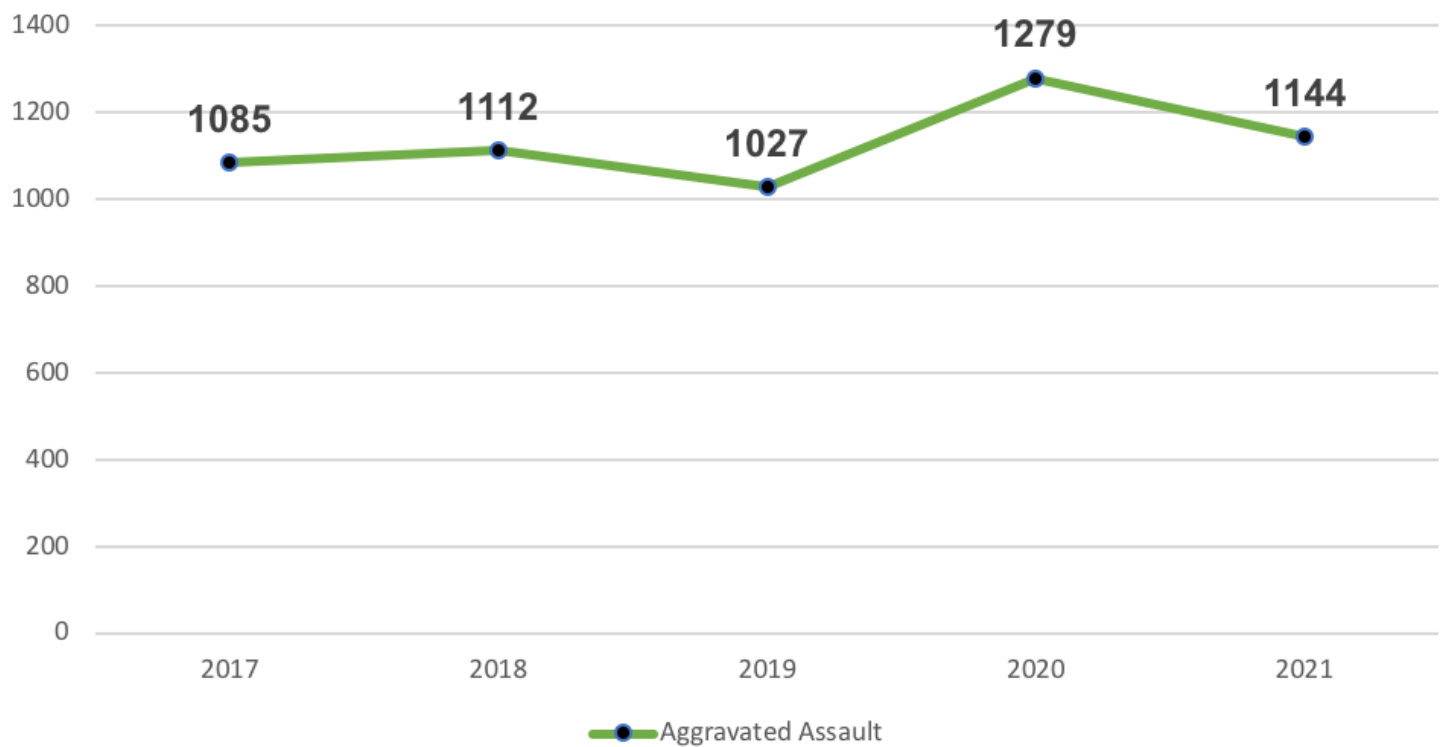
## Rape



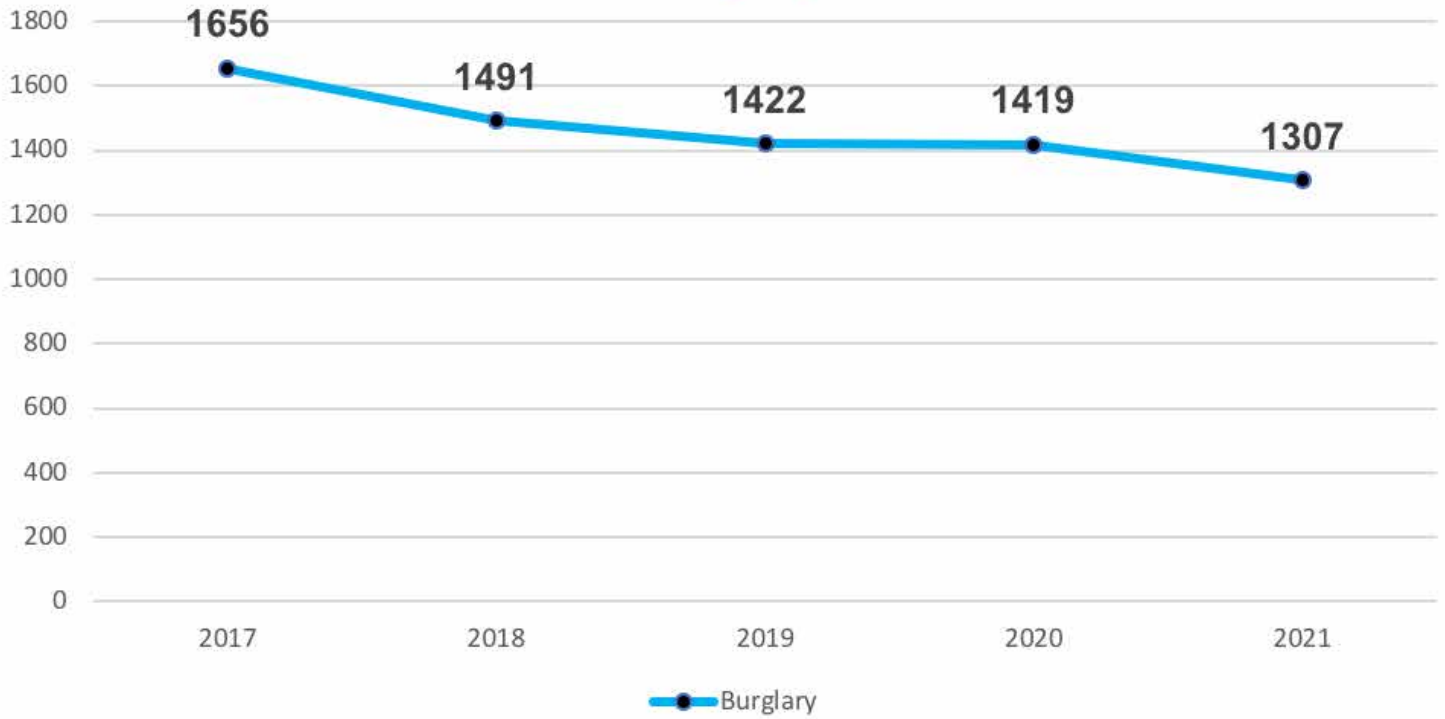
## Robbery



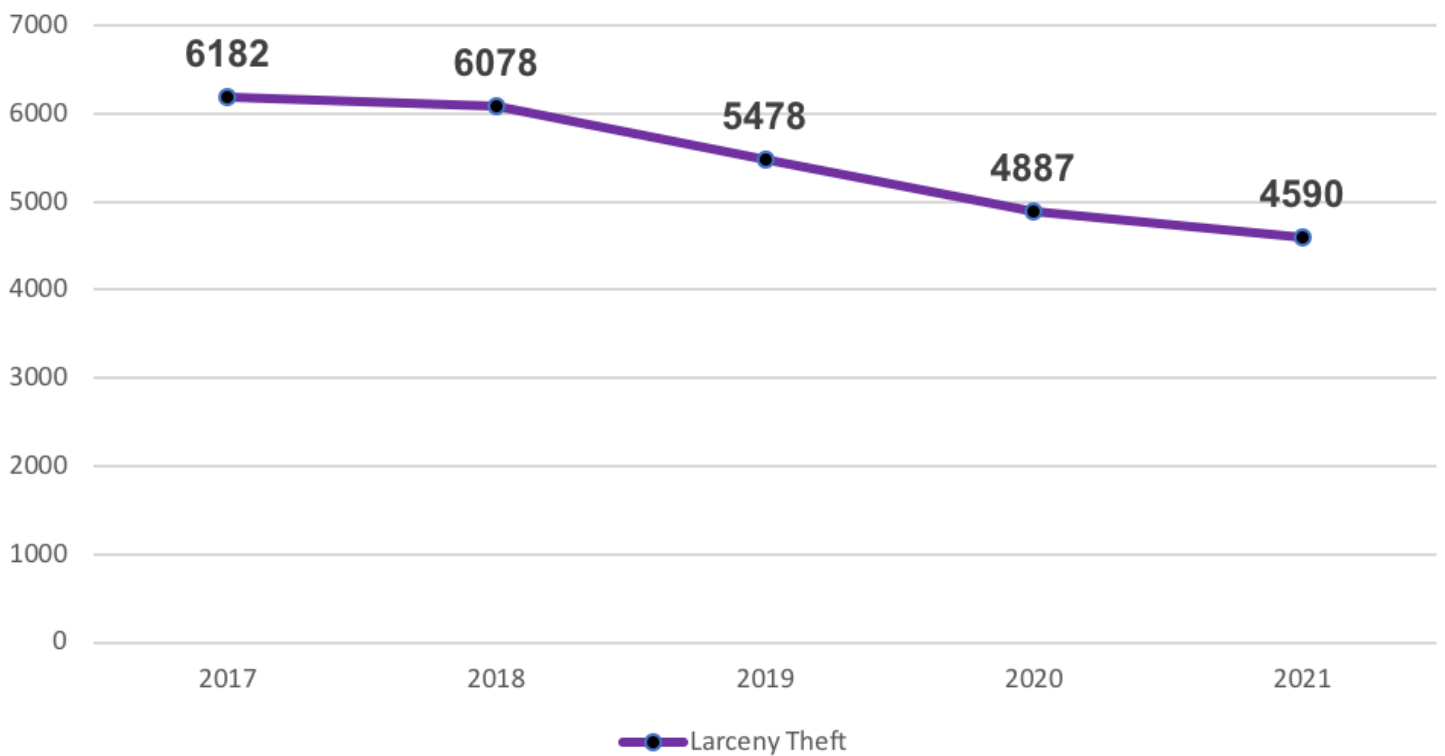
## Aggravated Assault



## Burglary

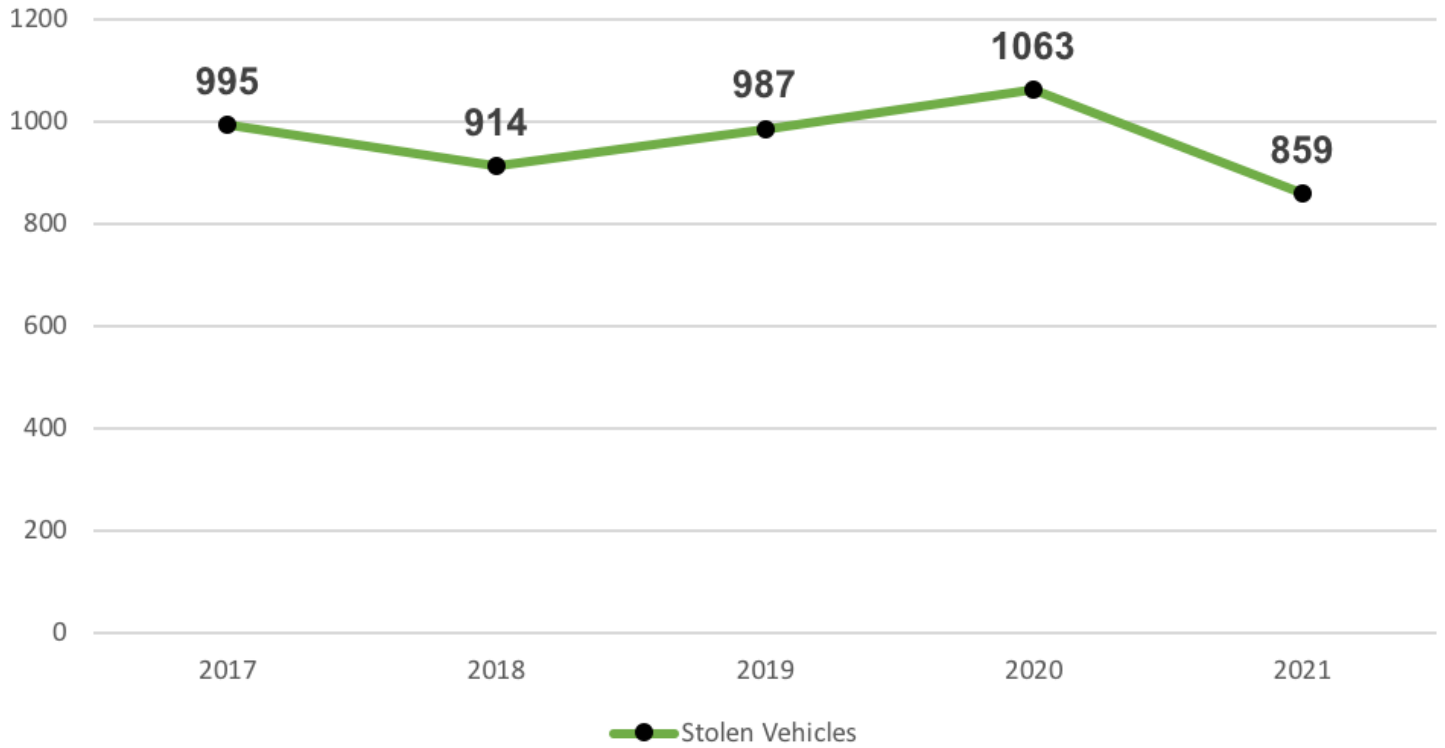


## Larceny Theft

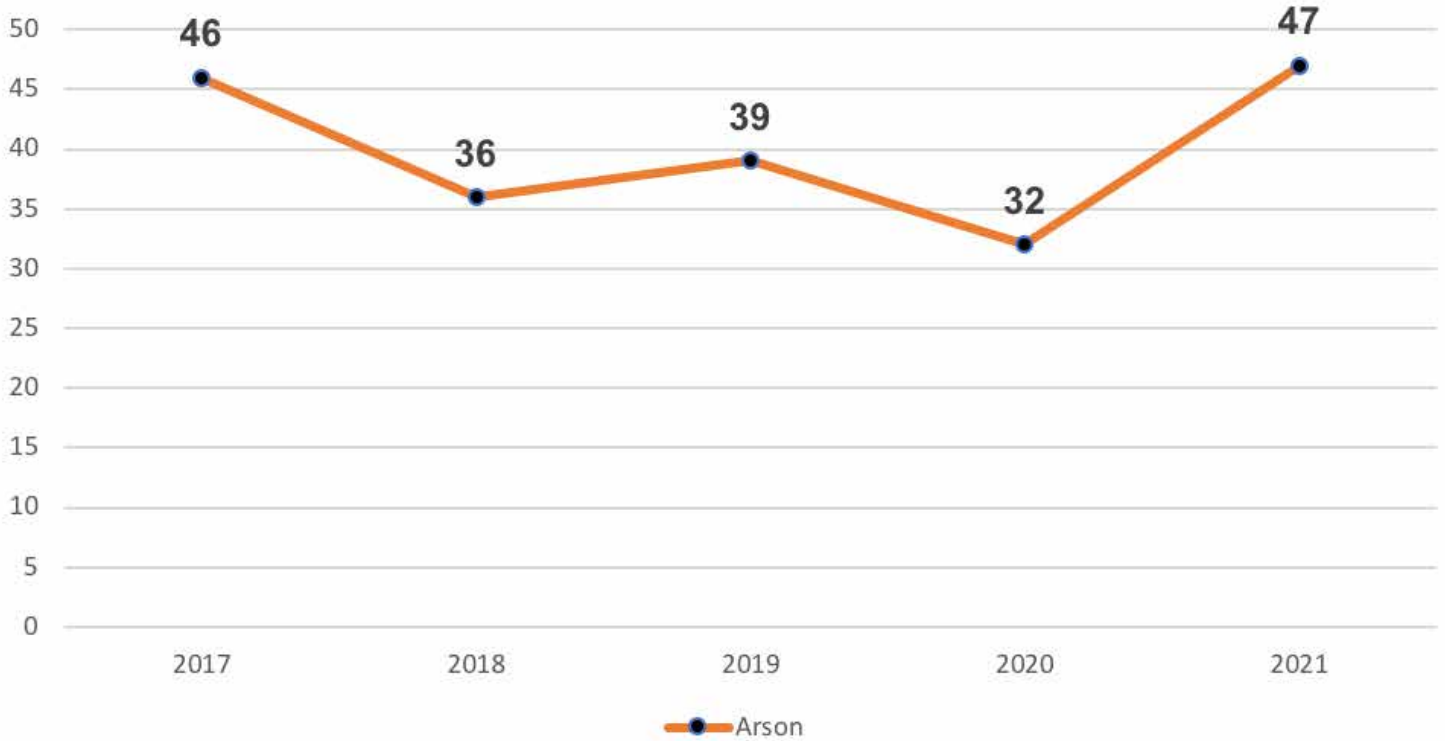




## Stolen Vehicles



## Arson



# *Patrol Divison*



**Captain Louis Sanchez**

The Patrol Division provides excellence in protecting and serving the Amarillo Community. The Division is responsible for providing traditional law enforcement services as well as innovative approaches to community problems. The Patrol Division is also in partnership with the Amarillo Emergency Communications Center (AECC), which provides dispatch services to many public safety entities within the city of Amarillo.

Officers in the Patrol Division provide police services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Patrol officers are assigned to three overlapping 10-hour watches and are staffed accordingly during the busiest times to better serve the citizens of Amarillo with a timely response. Day shift (2nd Watch) is led by two lieutenant watch commanders, six sergeant patrol supervisors, and patrol officers. Evening shift (3rd Watch) is led by two lieutenant watch commanders, seven sergeant patrol supervisors and is staffed with the highest number of patrol officers. Midnight shift (1st Watch) is led by one lieutenant watch commander, six sergeant patrol supervisors, and patrol officers. The overlap between evening shift and midnight shift is the longest due to call volume being the largest during this time of day.

A police lieutenant works in conjunction with the Amarillo Fire Department to lead the AECC operation.

In 2021, the Amarillo Police Department had 97,427 calls for service, up from 95,271 calls for service in 2020. APD Priority Call response time in 2021 increased 16 percent from 2020, and APD Non-Priority Call response time was increased 18 percent from 2020. This increase in response times can be attributed to more calls for service during a time where there was a significant increase in officer illnesses and quarantines due to the pandemic.



Officers made 6,619 arrests during 2021. This is a 10 percent increase in arrests from 2020.

In addition to the Patrol function, the Patrol Division is supported by several specialized units. These include the Neighborhood Policing Unit (NPO Unit), the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT Unit), and the K9 Unit. The Patrol Division also oversees the Mobile Field Force Unit, which responds to Civil Disturbance events. Many officers in the Patrol Division hold part-time assignments in these other

specialized assignments: SWAT, Hostage Negotiators, Bomb Squad, Honor Guard, Dive Team, Field Training Officers, Instructors, and other assignments.

## Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO Unit)

The mission of The NPO Unit is to promote positive police relationships with the community, reduce crime, and improve the overall quality of life. This philosophy creates a partnership used to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and the fear of crime. The unit encourages the community to determine its own needs through the exchange of ideas and problem-solving techniques. In essence, customer service and developing trust is one of the NPO Unit's top priorities. The NPO Unit is currently assigned to six small neighborhood zones and one downtown zone. These small zones create an area of responsibility for the officers to learn about the problems that are important to the residents and business owners who live there. The officers are asked to take calls for service in their zones which helps the officers understand problems and contributes to reducing response times to calls for service. The officers are highly pro-active in police work and community engagement.



The NPO Unit is comprised of 13 officers and one Sergeant. The current strength of the unit is 10 Officers, two Corporals and one Sergeant. The Unit is currently led by Sgt. Wesley Brown. Every NPO neighborhood has two officers assigned to it, except for the Southlawn and East (Barrio) neighborhoods, which currently operate with one officer each.



In 2021, the NPO Unit attended events in the community and put on a July 4th event at Hamlet Park. This was done with tremendous teamwork and partnership with the community. The event was successful and over 500 T-shirts were given out. The NPO Unit also attended events including but not limited to: Juneteenth Celebration in Bones Hooks Park, the Northside Toy Drive at Palo Duro High School, Cops for CASA, the Sun Adventure bike ride to the Amarillo Children's Home, assisting with the Explorer's Program, Snack Pack 4 Kids, and many others. While the pandemic hit hard locally, the NPO Unit continues to be involved in each of their neighborhoods.

## NPO Offices

- North Heights Office – Inside the Charles Warford Activity Center, 1330 NW 18th Ave.
- San Jacinto Office – Inside the Heal the City facility, 609 S. Carolina St.
- Southlawn Office – Inside the Maverick Boys and Girls Club, 1920 S. Lincoln St.
- East (Barrio) Office – Inside the Wesley Community Center, 1615 S. Roberts St.
- Downtown Office – Inside Happy State Bank garage, 200 SE 8th Ave.
- Eastridge Office – Two locations
  - Inside Eastridge Baptist Church, 1300 Evergreen St., &
  - Inside Bethesda Outreach Ministries, 1101 Fritch Hwy
- Hamlet Office – Inside New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church, 3100 Angelus Dr.



# *Crisis Intervention*

APD CIT is partnered with numerous agencies and organizations, including Texas Panhandle Centers and the Panhandle Behavioral Health Alliance, to help improve the quality of mental healthcare available to those in need of mental health resources. APD CIT officers provide most of the mental health training for the department. CIT is directly involved in training recruits in the academy and providing in-house training to police officers during in-service and periodic muster training to the Patrol Division. APD is well known throughout the region as an authority on police crisis intervention, and outside agencies frequently consult the team to provide advice and training. The department is also partnered with the State Association of Crisis Intervention Teams, which affords resources and training opportunities in crisis intervention.

The partnership between CIT and Family Support Services LOSS (Local Outreach for Survivors of Suicide)

Team continues to progress and expand. This group of volunteers seeks to contact family and/or friends connected to a completed suicide in our community and provide them aftercare and resources following these traumatic events. Patrol supervisors have been instructed on how to contact LOSS in the event of a completed suicide.

CIT continues its partnership in the Intercept program. Intercept is a collaborative effort between APD and Texas Panhandle Centers (TPC), working through a grant from HB 13, that places a mental health professional in the field alongside a CIT officer. Through Intercept, persons in need of mental health resources have real time access to follow-up appointments with TPC as well as access to prescription medication, telehealth, and counseling. This program expanded this year to three full-time TPC professionals.

CIT officers are responsible to work crisis cases from initial report to the closing of the case. This, along with follow-up investigations, help prevent and mitigate future crises and ensure opportunity for further treatment. In 2021, the five full-time CIT officers answered over 30 percent of the calls for service directly related to a mental health crisis or suicide attempt and conducted follow-up on a majority of the over 1,500 cases generated. The team was bolstered by the addition of CIT alternate team members who volunteer and assist with CIT incidents.



# *Honor Guard*

The Amarillo Police Department Honor Guard serves as the ceremonial unit for the department at any official function designated by the Chief of Police. The Honor Guard also represents the Amarillo Police Department at funerals for officers of other agencies who die in the line of duty, as directed by the Chief of Police.

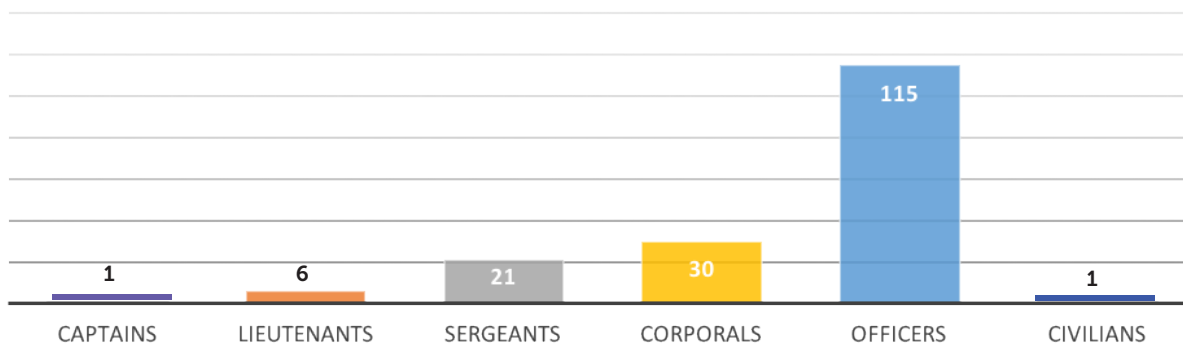
The mission of Amarillo Police Department's Honor Guard is to bring honor and dignity to the Amarillo Police Department, its members, and to the members of the larger law enforcement community. There are nineteen current members of the APD Honor Guard.

In 2021 the APD Honor Guard participated in three Memorial Services, eight funerals in the top 26 counties, two presentation of colors at special events, and two Amarillo Police Academy Graduations.

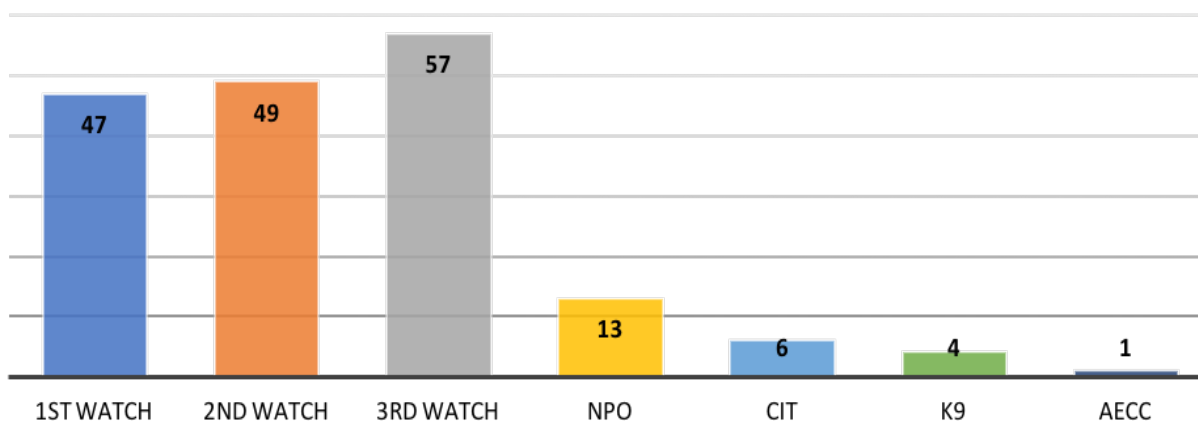


## PATROL DIVISION STATISTICS

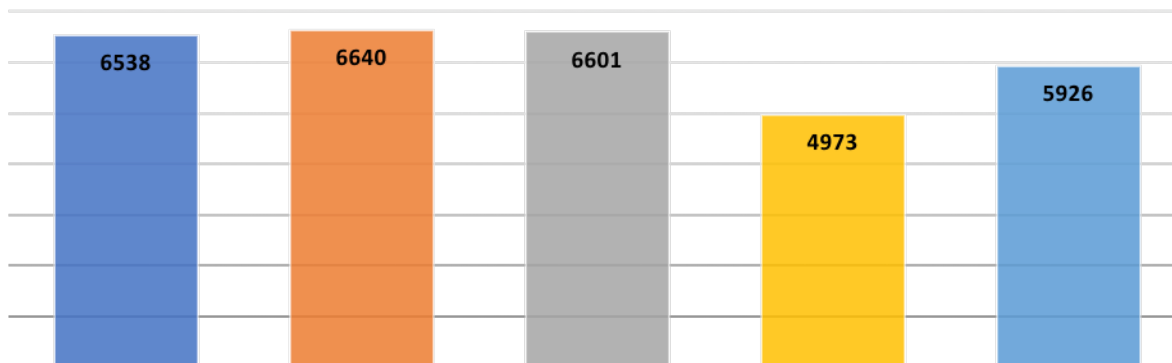
### Patrol Division Personnel Allocation 2021



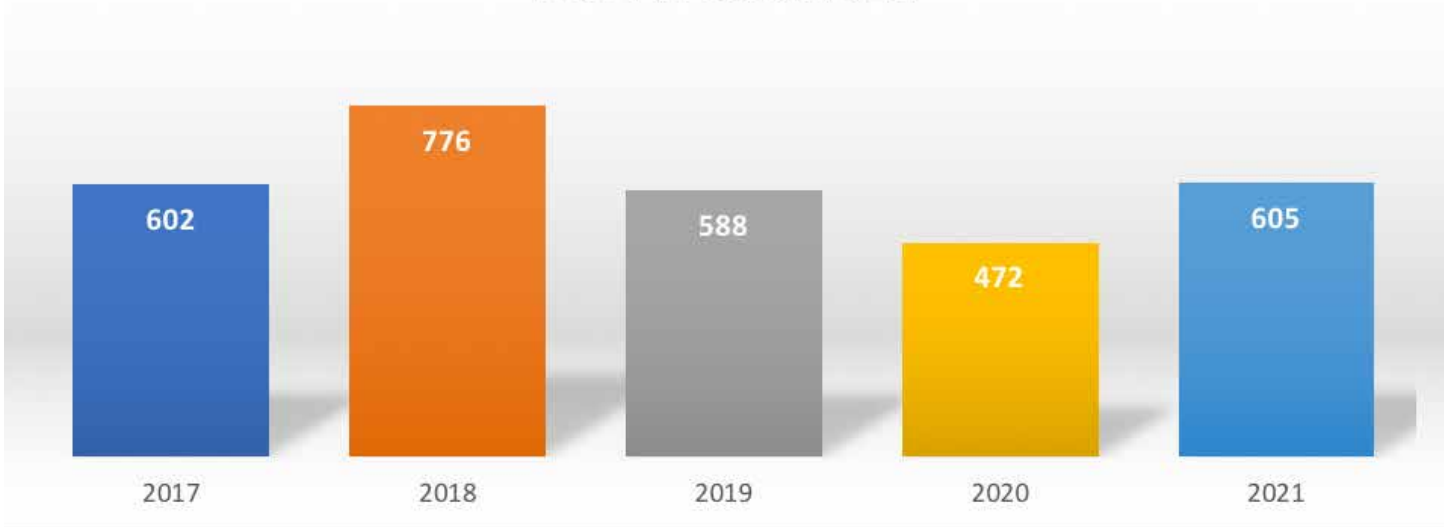
### Patrol Division Personnel Assignment 2021



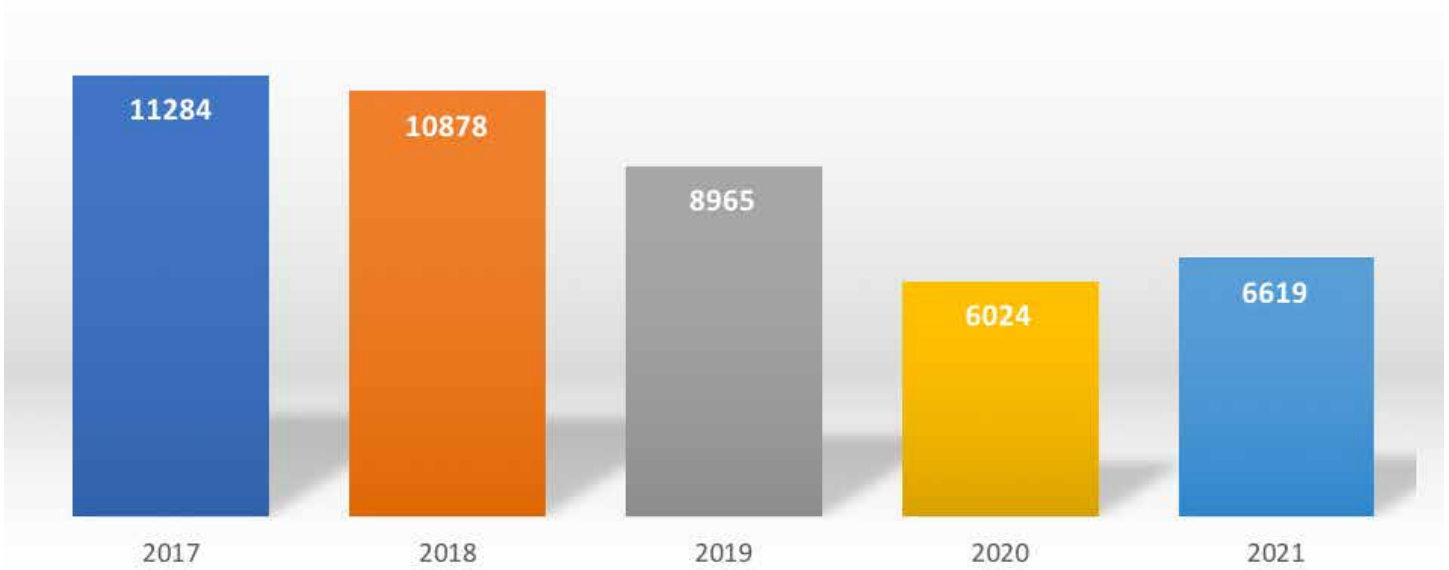
### Traffic Accidents Investigated 2021



## DUI Arrests 2021



## Adult Arrests 2021





## Amarillo Emergency Communications Center

The primary mission of the Amarillo Emergency Communications Center (AECC) is to provide a vital link for police, fire, and emergency medical services to the citizens of Amarillo. The AECC answers emergency and administrative phone calls for the Amarillo Police Department, Amarillo Fire Department, Animal Management and Welfare, Amarillo Medical Services, and Baptist St. Anthony's ambulances; and dispatches each of these entities to calls for service.

In August 2021, AECC added Police Priority Dispatch System (PPDS) to its call take protocols. This uses Emergency Police Dispatch (EPD) to identify a response based on the nature of the crime or incident, time of occurrence, presence and location of suspects/weapons, and officer and scene safety issues. Previously, call takers would free-lance questions and call types getting a varied response and information gathered for police calls for service. EPD unifies questions asked during calls to get consistent information and the right police response to a call for service.

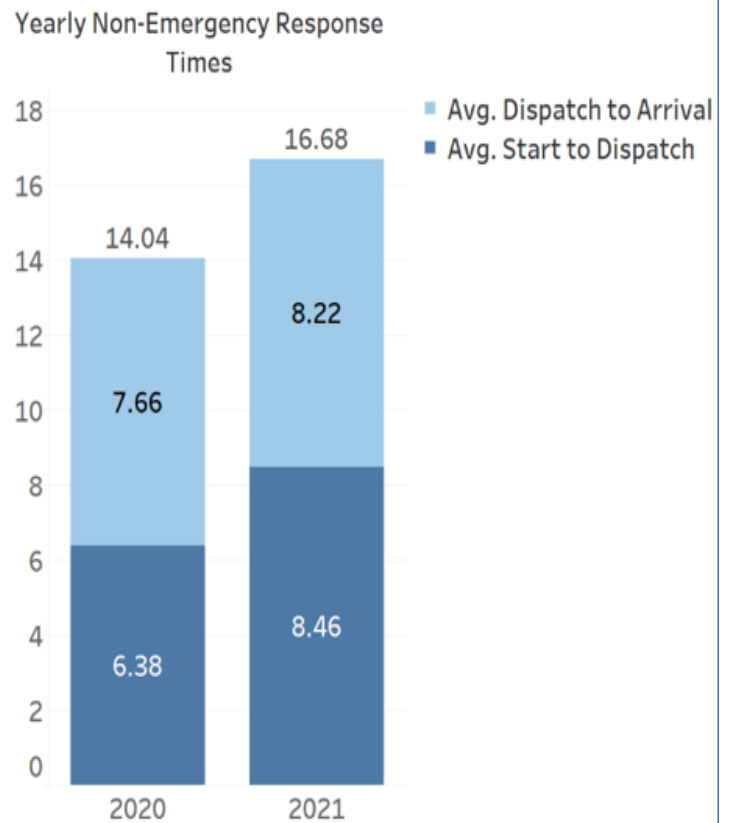
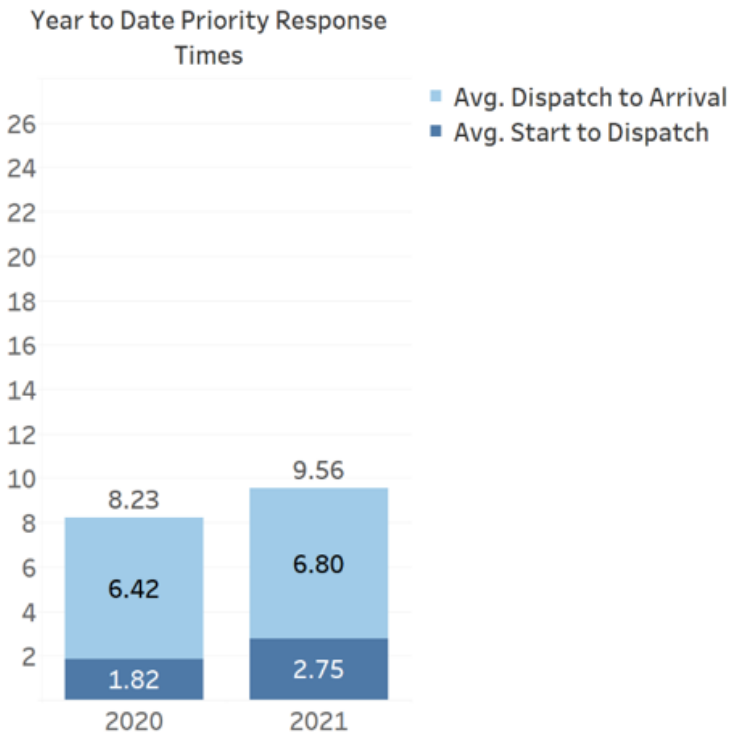
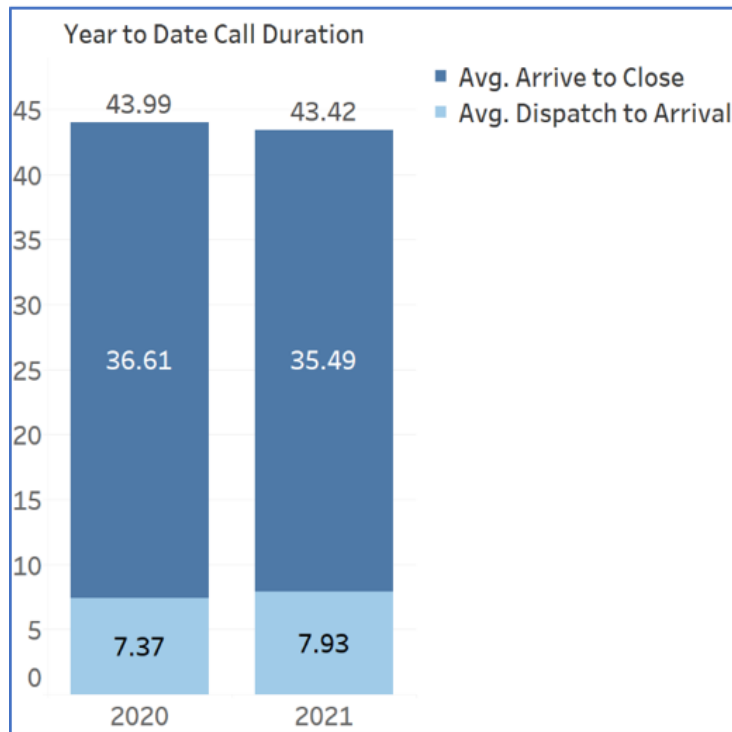
Performance measurement provides timely, accurate, and useful information regarding the quality and efficiency of service. Information gathered is evaluated and reviewed in a continuous effort to improve customer service and operations. Operational performance measurement is essential for maintaining effectiveness. Call processing and incident handling are the focus of operational performance measurement.

The Amarillo Emergency Communications Center collects and reports statistics reflecting the various ways calls are received (911 or administrative). Call reception performance is measured in two ways. The first is the overall average compliance score with a goal of 90% of 911 calls answered within 10 seconds and call duration averages for all agencies on 911. Call ring time and call duration are indicators of how quickly emergency calls are being answered and how efficiently they are being processed. AECC handled 491,310 phone calls in 2021, up 26,913 from 2020. 142,936 calls were 911 calls including 911 hang ups which contribute to 10.2% of the 911 calls. 88.6% of the 911 calls were answered in less than 10 seconds. The average call duration for 911 calls was 153 seconds, down from 170 in 2020.

The second performance measure is an overall average of one minute or less from the "Time Received" to "Time Dispatched" on priority calls. The police department's calls were dispatched in two minutes and 13 seconds on average. This is about a 30 second increase over last year. Dispatch times are affected by availability of officers and staffing at AECC. All of these are indicators of the level of service being provided from call initiation to dispatch. The rise in "Time Received" to "Time Dispatched" may be attributed to the introduction of EPD. This software decides when the call has enough information to be sent to the dispatcher to send officers with critical information needed to safely respond to a call for service. There is also a learning curve in using the new software for call takers. Compared to the same time in 2020, after implementation, "Time Received" to "Accepted" (given to dispatcher) increased 66 seconds.

AECC is committed to the missions and goals of the city agencies it serves, to continue to assist in making Amarillo a safe place to live, work, and play.

## AMARILLO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER'S STATISTICS



# *Specialized Operations Division*



Captain Elizabeth Brown

The mission of the Specialized Operations Division is to support the Patrol and Criminal Investigation Divisions by providing covert and directed operations.

The Specialized Operations Division is comprised of two Lieutenants, 7 Sergeants, 28 Corporals, 27 Officers, and five civilian employees. There are two operational segments of this Division: Covert/Tactical Operations and Directed Operations. The officers in this division work a variety of different hours to accommodate the unique operational needs of their work.

## **Covert / Tactical Operations**

The Covert / Tactical Operations segment consists of the Bomb Squad, Narcotics Unit, Swat Team, Tactical Flight Officer, and Crisis Negotiation Team.

## Bomb Squad

The Amarillo Police Department Bomb Squad is accredited by the U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation Hazardous Devices School. The team consists of seven APD officers who are FBI-HDS certified Bomb Technicians, and one explosive detection K9. The Bomb Squad's primary response area is in the top 26 counties of the Texas panhandle.

The Bomb Squad responds to all explosive or incendiary related incidents which can include improvised explosive or incendiary devices, suspicious packages, commercial or military explosives. The Bomb Squad operates equipment and provides technical assistance to the department's Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) and operates and maintains the mobile command vehicle. The Bomb Squad responded to the above type of incidents 63 times in 2021. The Bomb Squad also provided explosive related training to other first responders nine times and conducted three public presentations in 2021. Of the 75 incidents listed above 21 of them were provided to assist an outside agency.



## Narcotics Unit

The Narcotics Unit is tasked with conducting investigations of narcotics sales and related crimes in Amarillo. The narcotic agents work in various investigative capacities including undercover, visual surveillance, and remote surveillance. In addition to other local and state agencies, the Narcotics Unit works closely with federal partners such as the DEA and the Assistant United States Attorney's (AUSA) office to make sure drug traffickers are held accountable at the highest possible level.

The department assigns agents to serve as task force officers (TFO) in several federal agencies including the FBI, HSI, ATF, and the DEA. These agents receive federal credentials which allow them to investigate cases that have ties outside the jurisdictional boundary of Amarillo. This is a critical component of the unit because interstate 40 and interstate 27 are well known routes of drug and human trafficking. Of these 179 cases investigated, 56 were adopted and prosecuted at the federal level including the Directed Operations TFO from the U.S Marshal.

The narcotics agents receive significant training in topics such as surveillance, undercover agent rescue, vehicle containment and assaults, search warrant execution and entry training, and scenario training. The agents routinely assist other departmental units with time intensive investigations that require unique technical expertise.

## Drugs Seized in 2021 (not including Federal Investigations)

Substance	Amount
Cocaine	1,312.63 gg
Crack Cocaine	29.58 gg
Heroin	162.6 gg
Prescription Pills	1,056 Dosage units
Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD)	4 abuse units
Fentanyl	1,000 gg
Marijuana	187,769.3 gg
Methamphetamine	48,020.27 gg
Psilocybin (Mushrooms)	9,270.79 gg
THC Products	100,793.05 gg
Unknown Substances	438.5 gg

## SWAT Team

The SWAT Team has 20 operators and responded to 18 critical incident callouts in 2020. Two of these callouts were to assist other agencies in the Texas Panhandle. The majority of this year's incidents involved barricaded persons with high-risk arrest warrants or armed suicidal individuals. The average time spent on each incident was just over three hours per call. All these incidents were resolved without death or serious injury to anyone involved.

The SWAT officers provide instruction to both the Amarillo Police Academy and other commissioned officers. In 2021, the team provided 1,720 hours of instruction in the areas of firearms, defensive tactics, patrol procedures and tactical entry schools.

SWAT officers made 111 arrests in 2021 including 90 felonies and 21 misdemeanor offenses. Several of these arrests were directly related to homicide suspect or violent offenders. SWAT seized 26 firearms throughout the year.

The SWAT team assisted multiple partner agencies including DPS, DEA, U.S. Marshals, Deaf Smith County, and Randall County.

The team connected with the community through the Lisa Cherry Summer Camp, Touch-a-Truck at SW Library, the 100 Club Truck-or-Treat, Coffee Memorial's Boots and Badges Blood Drive, CASA Toy Drive, and Special Olympics at Hodgetown.



## Tactical Flight Officer

One tactical flight officer (a police corporal) is assigned to the Texas Department of Public Safety aircraft in Amarillo. The purpose is to enhance public safety and assist in the apprehension of criminals during searches, surveillance, investigations, and rescues. The tactical flight officer logged over 121 hours of flight time. Of this, 62% was directly assisting the Amarillo Police Department with 246 calls for service.

## Crisis Negotiator Team

The Crisis Negotiator Team consists of members of the department who are specially trained in communications during critical incidents. The officers on the team are assigned throughout the department but are on call to respond whenever needed. Negotiators gather intelligence for these incidents and pass this information along to command staff and tactical units to aid in the decision-making process. The team responded to 10 critical incidents this year and assisted in diffusing numerous other incidents before the necessitated a full call-out.

The Crisis Negotiator Team put on a 40-hour Hostage Negotiator School with the help of Amarillo College. This training was provided for more than 30 professionals from various jurisdictions and backgrounds. Students were taught basic negotiation concepts and equipped with more knowledge to help de-escalate situations in the field. The training concluded with scenario-based application.

## *Directed Operations*

The Directed Operations segment encompasses the Pro-Active Criminal Enforcement (PACE) Unit, Motorcycle Squad, and School Liaison Officers.

### PACE

The Pro-Active Criminal Enforcement (PACE) team focuses on the apprehension of known fugitives and criminals responsible for crime trends. PACE works various hours and utilizes covert and uniform tactics to accomplish goals. The U.S. Marshal's Service has partnered with PACE and the police department provides one TFO to the North Texas Fugitive Task Force. This partnership allows the department to coordinate the tracking and arrest of dangerous felons who have fled the city or state.



## PACE Activities for 2021

Major Complaints Investigated	26
Search Warrants	24
Arrests	269
Arrest Warrants Served	464
Proactive Investigations	25
Stolen Vehicles Recovered	25
Firearms Recovered	39



### Motorcycle Squad

The primary goal of the Motorcycle Squad is to reduce traffic crashes and increase compliance with traffic laws. The Motorcycle squad is tasked with high visibility enforcement of traffic laws in the areas where crashes most occur. Additionally, the squad deploys according to community complaints, school zones and other high-risk

thoroughfares. The Motorcycle Squad regularly works DWI patrol during peak holidays.

The squad includes one Sergeant Supervisor, eight officers, and two parking enforcement civilians. One parking enforcement civilian works downtown and the other handles violations of city ordinance city-wide.

### Motorcycle Squad Activities for 2021

Traffic Stops	17,108
Citations and Warnings	23,379
Arrests	259
DWI Arrests	25

## Parking Enforcement

The department has two parking enforcement officers. These officers are assigned to take calls and conduct enforcement of parking and violations of city ordinance (VCO) related to vehicles illegally parked on public roadways within the city. One of the officers is assigned to the downtown area and the other handles the rest of the city.

### Parking Enforcement Activities for 2021

Parking Citations and Warnings	6,384
Impounded Vehicles	160
VCO's Investigated	739
Dispatched calls	727
Follow up from Patrol	348

## School Liaison Officers

The School Liaison unit places officers in the school environment to provide safety for students and promote public relations. The officers work with youth to deter delinquent behavior and provide education. There are two supervisors and 17 officers assigned to both AISD and CISD. The school districts fund approximately 75% of the salaries and vehicles for this program.



### Parking Enforcement Activities for 2021

Complaints Investigated	10,981
School Presentations	101
Firearms Seized	3
Other Weapons Seized	84
Narcotics Cases	72
Marijuana Cases	22
Narcotics Paraphernalia	111
Felony Arrests	56
Misdemeanor Arrests	60
Misdemeanor Citations	101



## Dive Team

The Amarillo Dive Team recovers drowning victims and responds to related investigations such as underwater crime scene investigation, evidence recovery, water-related accidents, and underwater hazards.

The Dive Team has divers and a maintenance officer. These officers hold various positions in the department and respond to callouts as needed. The team averages five callouts per year and trains monthly.



# *Criminal Investigation Division*



**Captain Erick Bohannon**

The mission of the Criminal Investigation Division is to conduct follow-up investigations of cases originated by the Patrol Division and to process crime scenes and process any evidence collected from those crime scenes. Follow-up investigations include, but are not limited to, interviewing suspects, victims, and witnesses of crimes; recovering stolen property; testifying in court; identifying suspects for apprehension; and presenting criminal cases to the appropriate prosecutor's office.

## CID Organizational Chart

CID Captain	Administrative Supervisor	Administrative Assistants
	Homicide Unit	Crime Scene Investigation Unit Media Lab
	Special Victims Unit	Sex Offender Registration
	Property Crimes	Burglary Squad Theft Squad Financial Crime Squad PABTU
	Property and Evidence	
	General Investigations	Juvenile Offender Squad Traffic Squad Civilian Squad
	Domestic Violence Unit	

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT

Lt. Dustin Ponder supervises the Domestic Violence This unit is an active participant in the Amarillo-Potter-Randall Domestic Violence Coalition and Lt. Ponder sits on the Executive Board for the Coalition.

The Domestic Violence Unit investigates incidents involving most issues related to familial and dating relationships, which include physical assaults, threats, thefts, vandalisms, violations of protective orders, harassments, and other incidents as needed. The unit investigated 3,668 incident reports during the 2021 reporting period, resulting in numerous arrest warrants being issued and 676 in-custody and warrant arrests.

### SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

Lt. Jim Clements supervises the Special Victims Unit (SVU). SVU investigates cases alleging sex offenses, indecency cases involving adults and children, child abuse cases, child endangerment, missing and endangered persons, and internet crimes against children. SVU also investigates Interference with child custody and Criminal Non-support cases. Lt. Clements is the Amber Alert program coordinator for Amarillo and the surrounding areas.

SVU works closely with The Bridge - Children's Advocacy Center, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (often referred to as Child Protective Services).

In 2021, the SVU investigated over 1,700 cases. This includes approximately 427 cases involving Crimes against Children, 146 adult sexual assault cases, 116 Sex Offender/ Fail to Register cases, 122 Missing Endangered Persons cases, and 422 Interference w/ Child Custody cases. SVU also received and investigated over 194 Internet Possession of Child Pornography Cyber-tips from the Dallas Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC).

A Civilian Investigator handles all sex offender registration duties for Amarillo. Every year, the Special Victims Unit conducts an annual Sex Offender Registration Compliance check in Amarillo. Working with the local office of United States Marshals Service, the compliance check was conducted from August 2nd through August 6th, 2021. All 665 Registered Sex Offenders in Amarillo were checked for compliance. Additionally, SVU also coordinated with Texas DPS investigators and conducted a proactive online solicitation sting resulting in several arrests for online solicitation of a minor. This coordinated operation will continue in 2022.

## HOMICIDE UNIT

Lt. Brenda Hadley supervises the Homicide Unit. The Crime Scene Investigation Unit and the Media Lab are part of the Homicide Unit. The Homicide Unit consistently maintains a clearance rate much higher than the state average. In 2020, the state clearance rate for homicides in the State of Texas was 53.1%. The clearance rate for the APD Homicide Unit in 2021 was 85% and, with few exceptions, the unit typically maintains a clearance rate of 90% or greater each year.

The Homicide Unit investigates all death cases including homicides, suicides, sudden deaths, and child deaths. The Homicide Unit also investigates officer-involved-shootings. Homicide Investigators were assigned 668 cases in 2021. The unit investigated 21 non-justifiable murders in 2021.

The CSIU responded to 134 callouts that occurred after normal business hours. The unit specializes in documentation and collection of evidence on major crime scenes. This includes photographs, sketches, scans, and lifting fingerprints. The unit also processes evidence booked by officers for fingerprints when requested by an investigator. They also compare prints and enter them into the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). If a fingerprint match is made, the CSIU will notify the investigator of the lead.

The duties of the Media Lab include retrieving video evidence obtained from business security systems and converting the video to a usable format for investigators and prosecutors. They also download phones and perform computer forensics.

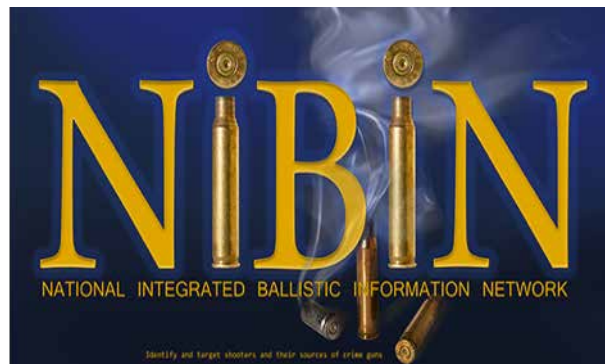


<sup>6</sup><https://www.dps.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/crimereports/20/2020cit.pdf>

## National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) Program

In 2019, the Amarillo Police Department acquired the technology to process shell casings to be entered into the NIBIN system. The NIBIN program has been very successful, resulting in dozens of connections being made on different cases. The program was instrumental in the clearance of an unsolved homicide and has made connections to shootings in Lubbock and Abilene.

The NIBIN Technician enters digital images (acquisitions) of fired cartridge casings into NIBIN for comparison to cartridge casings from other gun crimes to develop investigative leads. The NIBIN technician entered a total of 992 acquisitions in 2021. He test-fired 502 weapons booked as evidence and his work led to 255 leads for detectives to investigate.



## VIOLENT CRIMES UNIT

Lt. Warren Gross supervises the Violent Crimes Unit (VCU). The Violent Crimes Unit investigates robberies, discharging firearms, evading arrests, false or fail to ID, aggravated assaults, and assaults with bodily injury that are not domestic violence related. The VCU also investigates cases of unlawfully carrying a weapon, carrying a prohibited weapon, and felons unlawfully in possession of firearms.

In August of 2020, the Amarillo Police Department created a Violent Crime Response Team (VCRT), which is composed of members of the VCU and officers from other units within the department who are willing to assist in cases where violent crimes are committed and the VCU needs additional help. The reason for the creation of the VCRT was to address the issue of continuing gun crimes occurring in Amarillo. In 2021 the VCRT responded to 89 call outs. The vast majority of these were shootings. The VCRT assisted with 10 homicide investigations. The VCU was tasked to solve a series of seemingly unrelated-random shootings in North Amarillo to include a murder. VCU detectives were able to solve these crimes that led to a suspect being indicted for five Aggravated Assaults and one Murder.

The VCU works with other units within the department and outside the department to help locate those responsible for the gun crimes perpetrated in Amarillo. These units include the Proactive Criminal Enforcement Unit (PACE), SWAT, Neighborhood Police Officers (NPO), APD Homicide Unit, the United States Marshals Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the APD Crime Analysis Unit (CAU). This collaborative effort is further enhanced by the department's participation in Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN) and the Public Safety Partnership (PSP). PSN and PSP allows the Amarillo Police Department to invoke the assistance of federal partners, including the United States Attorney's Office, to investigate and prosecute gun crimes in Amarillo.

One of the key components to the reduction of gun crimes in Amarillo is NIBIN (as described in the Homicide Unit section). NIBIN generated 193 leads that led to evidence for 23 arrests by the VCU. During 2021, the VCU was assigned 2,800 cases with 654 cleared by arrest. The number of cleared by arrest cases does not include cases sent to Municipal Court.

<sup>7</sup>Image Source: <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/national-integrated-ballistic-information-network-nibin>

## GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

Lt. Shannon Kuster supervises the General Investigations Unit. General Investigations consists of the Juvenile Offender Squad, Traffic Investigation Squad, and three Civilian Investigators.

### Juvenile Offender Squad

The Juvenile Offender Squad is responsible for investigating runaway cases and all other cases with suspects that are under the age of 17 years and older than 10 years. Additionally, the Juvenile Offender Squad, working with the School Liaison Officers, investigates violations of the Social Host Ordinance passed by the Amarillo City Council in 2020. Investigators in the Juvenile Offender Squad investigated 1,973 cases in 2021. This is an 18% increase from 2020 (1,611 cases).

The juvenile offender squad worked on reducing underage drinking in Amarillo. Investigators use Student Crimestoppers tips, social media, and school liaison officer information to identify locations where juveniles are purchasing or drinking alcohol. Officers educate minors on the dangers of alcohol, and take enforcement action when minors are identified to be drinking or in possession of alcohol.

Investigators also enforce the social host liability ordinance, which holds property owners, managers, and party hosts civilly liable for the costs associated with police and fire response to underage drinking incidents. The goal of this project is to reduce underage drinking in Amarillo and prevent the associated tragedies that can occur as a result.

### Civilian Investigators

There are three Civilian Investigators assigned to the General Investigations Unit. These investigators follow up on misdemeanor cases in which there are no leads or suspects identified in the original report. However, there are many cases in which the Civilian Investigators develop suspects, and the case will either be reassigned to a detective, or the Civilian Investigators will file the cases themselves, typically in Municipal Court. The investigators were assigned 5,582 cases in 2021, which is an increase from 2020 (5,273 cases) of 6%.

### Traffic Investigation Unit

The Traffic Investigation Unit is responsible for investigating fatal/near-fatal crashes, DWIs, hit-and-run accidents with leads or suspects, and evading in a motor vehicle. The unit also assists the Homicide Unit with specialized equipment that creates computerized 3D imagery of homicide scenes. The Traffic Investigation Unit investigated 2,757 cases in 2021, 627 of which were DWIs and 30 fatalities. This is a 30% increase in cases from 2020 (1,942 cases) and a 15% increase in DWIs from 2020 (536).

## PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE UNIT

In its continued effort to civilianize key positions within the Amarillo Police Department, a Property and Evidence Manager position was created to replace the position formerly held by a police sergeant. Mercedes Bruneau is the Property and Evidence Manager for the department. The Property and Evidence Unit is where all evidence collected by the Amarillo Police Department is stored pending the outcome of a criminal investigation. Certain types of evidence are kept in separate areas away from general evidence. This includes DNA evidence, guns, drugs, jewelry, and money. Each of these types of evidence have their own specialty storage areas. Evidence collected by the Homicide Unit is also stored in a separate wing of the Property and Evidence building.

Evidence Technicians receive evidence collected by officers to ensure the evidence is correctly packaged before it is given its assigned place within the evidence storage area. Assigning each piece of evidence a specific location in the evidence storage area maintains a proper chain of custody. Evidence Technicians received, relocated, and transferred 31,692 property and evidence items in 2021.

## PROPERTY CRIMES UNIT

During 2021 CID continued its reorganizing of units within the division. The Property Crimes Unit and the Financial Crimes Unit joined together to create the new Property Crimes Unit.

Lt. Stan Rickwartz supervises the Property Crimes Unit. The unit consists of the Burglary Squad, Theft Squad, Financial Crimes Squad, and three (3) Sergeants who are assigned to the Panhandle Auto Burglary and Theft Unit (PABTU).

### Burglary Squad

The Burglary Squad investigates burglary of a habitation, burglary of a building, and criminal trespass. At the beginning of 2021, this squad was made up of sergeants. Beginning in February and continuing into March, the squad was restaffed with corporals and officers to resemble the makeup of the Theft Squad. The Burglary Squad investigated 1,579 cases in 2021.

During 2021, Amarillo saw a rise in storage and business burglaries. During the year, the Burglary Squad, with the help of members of the uniform division, was able to identify an organized group responsible for these burglaries resulting in 13 suspects being identified.

## Theft Squad

The Theft Squad investigates larceny theft, burglary of coin operated machines, criminal mischief (vandalism), and burglary of a motor vehicle. The Theft Squad investigated 2,459 cases in 2021.

The theft of catalytic converters has continued to be an issue with 686 cases. However, there have been numerous cases where multiple vehicles have been hit simultaneously and are under the same case number. This is not just a problem within Amarillo, but throughout the State.

## Financial Crimes Squad

The Financial Crimes Squad investigates a myriad of money related crimes. The investigations into these crimes by FCU are often long and complicated. These crimes include forgeries involving U.S. currency, business checks, personal checks, structured embezzlements that include employee theft over an extended period, scam/confidence games, identity theft, and frauds. The unit investigated 1,929 cases.

Crimes of this type are often perpetrated after the identity of the victim is compromised and furthered using the internet. The unit has seen a rise in unemployment fraud cases since the COVID-19 epidemic began. Based on information from the FBI, this activity originated out of Nigeria and began in Washington state before spreading nationwide. Monetary losses observed locally were minimal. However, state unemployment programs across the nation have lost over \$30 billion. These cases are referred to the Texas Workforce Commission for investigation. These cases continued throughout 2021.

The unit also investigates some mail theft incidents and many of these cases are referred to the United States Postal Service, Office of the Inspector General.

## Panhandle Auto Burglary Theft Unit (PABTU)

PABTU investigates unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, all thefts involving trailers, farm and construction equipment, ATV and other types of recreational vehicles, title, insurance, and registration fraud, hindering secured creditors, and auto salvage, parts, and recycler fraud. The Unit also conducts inspections on all businesses involved in the sale of automobiles, parts, and recycled products. PABTU conducts educational outreach for the community and law enforcement. The Panhandle Auto Burglary and Theft Unit investigated 1,255 cases in 2021.



# *Training and Personnel Division*



**Captain Joseph Loftus**

The Training and Personnel Division is responsible for providing personnel services and in-service training for the department, as well as operation of the Amarillo Police Academy. The division's primary areas of responsibility include:

- Basic Peace Officer Academy for newly hired officers
- Coordinate the Field Training Officer (FTO) program
- Host In-Service training
- Manage the Amarillo Shooting Complex
- Implement all TCOLE mandated training and standards
- Coordinate recruiting and hiring for the Amarillo Police Department
- Conduct background investigations for sworn and civilian staff
- Maintain all personnel records
- Coordinates the Citizens Police Academy
- Ensures compliance in the Texas Police Chief's Association Best Practices

The 2021 Training and Personnel sworn staff consists of one Captain, one Training Sergeant, one Academy Sergeant, one Range master Sergeant, one Training Cadre member, and two Background Investigators. The civilian staff includes the Compliance Coordinator, four administrative assistants, two part time civilian background investigators, one full time range officer, and nine part time range officers, and one part time Grants Manager. All Academy recruits are also assigned to Training and Personnel.

## Police Staffing and Attrition

As of January 1, 2022, the total authorized strength was 372 police officers. This includes 1 Chief, 2 Assistant Chiefs, 4 Captains, 16 Lieutenants, 74 Sergeants, 80 Corporals, and 195 Officers. At the end of 2021 there were a total of 361 officers assigned to the Amarillo Police Department, 11 below authorized strength. The 20 recruits currently in the Academy is included in the total strength of 361 officers.

In 2021, 7 officers retired, 9 officers resigned, 13 recruits resigned, and 3 officers passed away due to COVID-19.

## 96th Amarillo Police Academy

The 96th Amarillo Police Academy began on October 15th, 2020 with 22 recruits. This academy was originally scheduled to begin in July, it was postponed due to the pandemic. Shortly after the Academy started several recruits tested positive for COVID. The academy prepared for this possibility by giving all the recruits a laptop computer at the start of the Academy. The academy obtained permission from TCOLE to do cognitive learning using remote learning and conducted multiple classes via the Zoom platform throughout November 2020. When the recruits returned to class in person, they utilized the bomb building classroom for the remainder of the Academy. The bomb building classroom is the largest classroom available to maintain appropriate social distancing. 14 Recruits graduated on May 21, 2021.

The department conducted two separate entrance exams and physical readiness tests in the in the Spring of 2021 for the 97th entrance exam.



## 97th Amarillo Police Academy

The 97th Amarillo Police Academy began on April 15th, 2021, with 22 recruits.

14 Recruits graduated on December 3rd, 2021.

<b>97<sup>th</sup> Testing Cycle "A"</b>	<b>Tested</b>	<b>Passed Written</b>	<b>Passed Physical Readiness</b>		<b>97<sup>th</sup> Testing Cycle "B"</b>	<b>Tested</b>	<b>Passed Written</b>	<b>Passed Physical Readiness</b>
<b>Total</b>	114	85	62		<b>Total</b>	64	57	34
Female	25	18	9		Female	11	10	3
Male	89	67	53		Male	53	47	31
<b>White</b>	52	47	31		<b>White</b>	40	37	25
Female	9	7	4		Female	6	6	2
Male	43	40	27		Male	34	31	23
<b>Black</b>	10	6	4		<b>Black</b>	5	5	3
Female	5	2	N/A		Female	2	2	N/A
Male	5	4	4		Male	3	3	3
<b>Hispanic</b>	48	30	26		<b>Hispanic</b>	19	15	6
Female	10	8	5		Female	3	2	1
Male	38	22	21		Male	16	13	5
<b>A/PI</b>	2	N/A	N/A		<b>A/PI</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Female	N/A	N/A	N/A		Female	N/A	N/A	N/A
Male	2	N/A	N/A		Male	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>AI/AN</b>	1	1	1		<b>AI/AN</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Female	N/A	N/A	N/A		Female	N/A	N/A	N/A
Male	1	1	1		Male	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Other</b>	1	1	N/A		<b>Other</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Female	1	1	N/A		Female	N/A	N/A	N/A
Male	N/A	N/A	N/A		Male	N/A	N/A	N/A

## 98th Amarillo Police Academy

The department conducted two separate entrance exams during the summer and fall of 2021 for the 98th Academy.

98 <sup>th</sup> Testing Cycle "A"	Tested	Passed Written	Passed Physical Readiness		98 <sup>th</sup> Testing Cycle "B"	Tested	Passed Written	Passed Physical Readiness
<b>Total</b>	66	58	46		<b>Total</b>	49	41	30
Female	15	12	6		Female	12	9	6
Male	51	46	40		Male	37	32	24
<b>White</b>	37	34	26		<b>White</b>	30	27	17
Female	6	5	2		Female	7	5	2
Male	31	29	24		Male	23	22	15
<b>Black</b>	6	6	5		<b>Black</b>	2	2	2
Female	1	1	N/A		Female	N/A	N/A	N/A
Male	5	5	5		Male	2	2	2
<b>Hispanic</b>	20	16	13		<b>Hispanic</b>	15	11	10
Female	8	6	4		Female	5	4	4
Male	12	10	9		Male	10	7	6
<b>Asian</b>	1	N/A	N/A		<b>Asian</b>	1	N/A	N/A
Female	N/A	N/A	N/A		Female	N/A	N/A	N/A
Male	1	N/A	N/A		Male	1	N/A	N/A
<b>AI/AN</b>	1	1	1		<b>AI/AN</b>	1	1	1
Female	N/A	N/A	N/A		Female	N/A	N/A	N/A
Male	1	1	1		Male	1	1	1
<b>Other</b>	1	1	1		<b>Other</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Female	N/A	N/A	N/A		Female	N/A	N/A	N/A
Male	1	1	1		Male	N/A	N/A	N/A

## 98th Entrance Exam

The 98th Amarillo Police Academy began on December 9th, 2021 with 26 recruits. As with the two previous academies all recruits were issued a laptop computer at the start of the Academy in case of an illness outbreak. This academy is historic in that the Amarillo Police Department has returned to training some county peace officers. Randall County and Potter County each have one recruit in the academy. These recruits wear the same uniform as APD recruits and must complete the same training as APD personnel. This academy is scheduled to graduate on July 15th, 2022.



## Field Training Officer Program

The Amarillo Police Department takes great pride in its Field Training Officer (FTO) program and places significant importance on training in general. In 2021, there were 50 active FTO's in the program. These FTO's were selected by their supervisors and endorsed by command staff as being highly competent trainers. The program puts officers from the police academy into patrol cars to train one on one with the FTO. This training period generally lasts four months, and the new officer rotates between the three shifts to get a variety of training experience.

In June of 2021, the 96th Amarillo Police Academy entered the FTO program. Of the 13 officers who entered the program, 11 completed the 14-16 weeks of training and are assigned to patrol throughout the city. The 14 graduates of the 97th APA began Field Training on December 9th with an anticipated completion of March 2022.

## Physical Fitness Test

In 2017, the Amarillo Police Department implemented a physical readiness test (PFT). The PFT consists of a 2,000m row for time. A percentage is created based on the individual's time, standardized age, weight, and gender norms. In 2020 the department incorporated the 500m row and four minute row test as options for the PFT. An officer may choose any one of the three options. An officer must score a minimum of 50% on the row test to be considered passing. The fitness program is an incentive-based program and over 90% of the Department voluntarily participated in the test. The annual PFT is performed by all officers during In-service training.

## Shooting Complex

The Amarillo shooting Complex is open seven days a week. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday the complex is reserved for Law Enforcement only. The complex is open to the public Thursday through Sunday. During 2021, 270 APD Officers attended In-Service Qualification and Training. There were two APD 40-hour firearms schools for the APD Academy training, and a 40-hour APD rifle school training course. The APD SWAT team utilizes the range every Monday for eight officers for four hours of training. SWAT also utilizes the range two additional days every month for 16 hours of SWAT training for 16 officers. The SWAT team also hosts a 40-hour SWAT school each year for 16 officers. Sgt. Woodard taught two 48-hour firearms courses for Amarillo college last year with 20 students in one class and 21 students in the second class. The complex also hosted a three day AR-15 armorer school for 10 officers from the region.

The shooting complex is utilized by the surrounding Law Enforcement agencies for training in live fire, video simulation, and simunition . Those agencies include RCSO, PCSO, DPS, Fire Marshall service, Department of defense, Lubbock County SO, Lubbock SWAT, Bell helicopter security force, Potter County DA office, Game Wardens, Department of Energy, WTAMU Police, and other agencies. Approximately 500 officers a year train and attend schools from the above agencies. Approximately 80 retired officers from the Amarillo Police Department complete their annual qualification.

The public side of the complex had 2,841 customers in 2021. There were about five LTC courses at the range with about 50 citizens taking the course. These courses are given by several different LTC Instructors throughout the year, and most of the courses utilize the range only and not the classroom.

<sup>7</sup>"Simunition" is a term for simulated ammunition or plastic bullets with dye markers that create a more realistic training environment.

The range was closed to the public for two months and all law enforcement training, including in-service training, was reduced due to the pandemic. Ammunition availability also had a large impact on the number of people utilizing the range throughout the year.

## In-Service Training

In February the department hosted Force-on-Force training. This is a one-day class for all members of the Amarillo Police Department that teaches force and de-escalation options in a scenario-based environment.

The department hosted two defensive tactics instructor courses in 2021. The first course was a PPCT Instructor course that consisted of 40-hours of instruction. The second was a Blue Shield Tactical Instructor course that consisted of 24-hours of instruction.

Spring firearms training was canceled due to an ammunition shortage affecting the entire country. Beginning in August of 2021, the department hosted a week-long block of training incorporating multiple courses to maintain compliance with the Texas Police Chief's Association Foundation Recognition Program. This year's training included Legislative Updates, Risk and Safety Management, Emergency Medical Assistance, Procedural Justice, ATIRC-Reunification, Death Investigation for Patrol Officers, Defensive Tactics, Baton and Shield training, Mobile Field Force Operations, and Firearms. Due to the pandemic all officers who were scheduled to attend in-service during the months of September and October were rescheduled to attend in January and February of 2022. Those officers who were rescheduled took part in a Firearms Qualification to ensure compliance with TCOLE standards. In-person class resumed in November and December of 2021.

## Recruiting Activities

Throughout 2021 the department advertised in multiple mediums including social media, television, and radio commercials in Amarillo and surrounding areas.

The Recruiting Team is made up of patrol officers and exhibits a diverse a population of the workforce. Nine volunteer officers from diverse backgrounds and experience make up this team. Team members range from two years to five years of experience, no college education to possessing a master's degree, and both military veterans and officers with no military experience. Their police experience includes patrol, field training officers, academy instructors, Dive Team members, and SWAT Team members.

This season saw a return to in-person recruiting at job fairs. In looking at the efficacy of the recruiting program the department went back to the map and examined where recruiting could be effective. Prior to the pandemic the recruiting efforts stretched as far as Houston with no success. With a continued focus on the Amarillo community, the decision was made to keep travel to four hours in each direction. With that new map recruiters started looking at Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, and Colorado as a source of applicants for the Amarillo Police Department.

The fall recruiting season took the recruiting team to:

Sam Houston State University (Herr & Coleman): 9-28-21

Oklahoma Central University (Ogden & Bowman): 9-29-21

Amarillo Civic Center (Lovato & Galvan): 10-5-21

Texas Tech (Brown & Guerrero): 10-7-21

WTAMU (Whitfield & Harrison): 10-14-21

Midwestern State University Wichita Falls (Ogden & Brown): 10-20-21

Clarendon College (Ogden & Brown): 10-20-21

Tascosa High School (Bowman & Herr): 10-28-21

Amarillo Veterans (Brown & Boyd): 11-4-21

Northwestern Oklahoma State University (Young & Brown): 11-8-21

Epic Career Fair Amarillo (Whitfield & Galvan): 11-10-21

The department has established a strong social media presence with an APD recruiting Facebook page. Linked to that is an Instagram recruiting account. The most recent post running simultaneously on both platforms reached 18,552 people all over Texas and Oklahoma for the 4-week run time. Cpl. Joe Brown is the driving force behind the advertising on social media sites and has done a phenomenal job.

The civil service test is posted on employment sites and on college job boards. Those include TCOLE, Indeed, Glassdoor, Minority Update, and at 141 colleges and universities across the U.S.

Cpl. Brown and Sgt. Ogden joined David Lovejoy on KGNC radio on 11-19-21 and 11-29-21. He graciously gave them 15 minutes on-air each visit to talk about the upcoming civil service test. Both of those interviews were televised in some way.

The recruiting team has mostly taken over pre-interviews. This allows applicants to talk to current patrol officers and get excited about this career. The recruiting team is: Casey Ogden, Sheldon West, Joe Brown, David Young, Cecily Herr, Michael Whitfield, Janae Coleman, Samantha Bowman, Danisse Lovato, Tre Galvan, Juan Guerrero, Christina Harrison, & Conner Boyd.





## Texas Police Chiefs Association Foundation (TPCAF) Best Practices Recognition

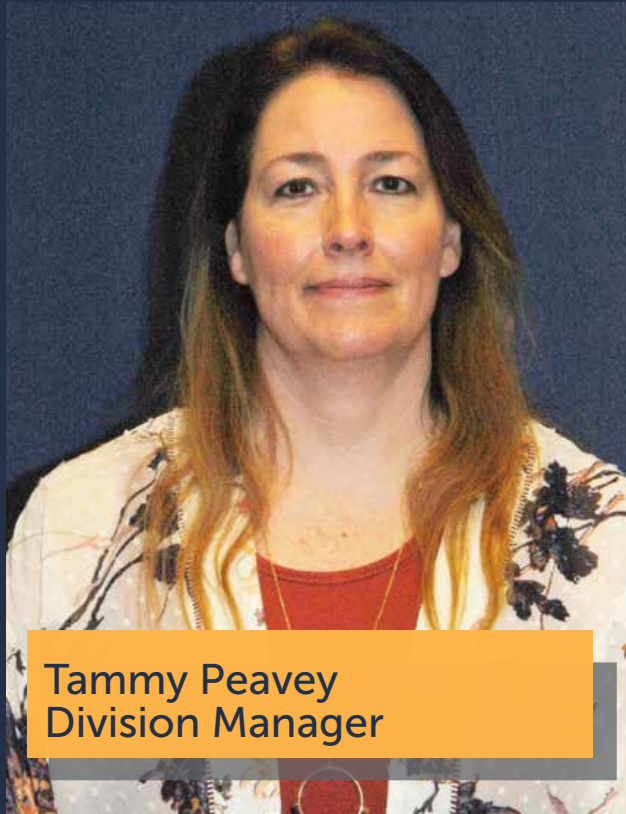
The office of the Compliance Coordinator administers the TPCAF Best Practices Recognition Program. This program provides recognition/accreditation for police departments in Texas. The program requires compliance with 170 best practices standards. The office had a very busy year in 2021, preparing for an on-site inspection. The inspection occurred in August 2021 and the department was re-accredited without any major issues noted.

Jack Hildebrand is the Compliance Coordinator and serves in a research capacity to identify programs and policies that keep the department aware of contemporary issues. Research from this office in 2021 contributed to improvements in use of force policy and newly legislated reporting requirements. Mr. Hildebrand also serves on the YPCAF standards committee.

Much of the in-service training of officers ensured compliance with the recognition program. This training ensures officers are current and well trained in such areas as emergency vehicle operations, de-escalation, and defensive tactics. Training is a major component of accreditation within the recognition program.



# *Records Division*



**Tammy Peavey**  
**Division Manager**

The Records Division is responsible for providing essential support to the everyday operation of the Department, as well as providing a variety of services to the public. Records is comprised of four units; Front Counter, Data Entry, Open Records, and Validation Units, with a total of 23 full time civilian employees and 2 part-time civilian employees.

The Records Division serves as the official repository for all criminal records and documents of the Department. Responsibilities include data entry, maintaining all police reports, arrest records, online reports, phone reports, and crime statistics, as well as the point of contact for all requests for copies of records under the Texas Public Information Act.

## Front Counter

The Front Counter Unit is staffed by seven full time civilians and one supervisor, five Report Writers and two administrative assistants. The report writers are responsible for contacting citizens that are requesting to make a report that does not require an officer. They also verify and validate all reports made by the citizen through our online reporting system. In 2021, the report writers made a total of 7,467 reports, 24.8% of the reports made with the department. The primary responsibility of the administrative assistants is customer service, to include answering phones, scanning paperwork, issuing solicitor permits, and assisting citizens, officers, and other entities.

## Data Entry

The Data Entry unit is staffed by four full time civilians and one supervisor. The unit is responsible for customer service, criminal history/background checks, verifying arrest data, and publishing the public release information on the Police Department website. The unit verified arrest data for 6,309 arrests in 2021.



## Validation

The Validation unit is staffed by three full time civilians and one supervisor. The unit is responsible for validating NCIC/TCIC entries, entering and clearing items from NCIC/TCIC for the Criminal Investigation Division, documenting all data entry with supplements, and entry of protective orders and pawn transactions. The unit validated 7,880 items in 2021.



## Open Records

The Open Records Unit is staffed by three full time civilians and one supervisor. The unit is responsible for all requests received for documents under the Texas Public Information Act, as well as processing court subpoenas received for documents. The unit received 4,159 record requests for 2021. The Open Records Unit is also responsible for ensuring compliance for the City's alarm ordinance, to include requesting the City Accounting department to issue billing invoices for alarm violations; 4,876 alarms were processed in 2021.

# Police Exploring Program

The Amarillo Police Department hosts a law enforcement exploring program known as Amarillo Police Exploring Post 5507. The mission of the post is to develop life skills for youths in Amarillo, with a focus on leadership and public service in law enforcement. This program is guided by the principles of the Exploring organization. Exploring is a career education program for young men and women who are 14 through 20 years old.

The post is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

A team of dedicated volunteer officers work together to organize events, host learning experiences for the youth, and participate in community service opportunities throughout the year. The post raise funds to facilitate out of town trips for the Explorers.

The post is a continuous program where members can progressively learn and become leaders and mentors to newer members. One of the stated goals of law enforcement career exploring is: "The program promotes personal growth through character development, respect for the rule of law, physical fitness, good citizenship and patriotism." This is not only good for law enforcement, but also good for the

community as these young people are developed into potential community leaders. The objective is to develop future police officers and give young people the inspiration and guidance they need to come to work in the law enforcement profession.



# *Amarillo South Rotary- Officers of the Quarter*

1st Quarter – Cpl. Bob West



2nd Quarter – Officer Cody Adams



3rd Quarter – Sgt. Michael Hancock



4th Quarter – Officer Aaron Fulcher



## *Officer of the Year*

Officer Adams was recognized for outstanding work he did during 2021 catching stolen cars, recovering stolen property and firearms, and arresting felons.



*Congratulations Officer Cody Adams*

# *In Memoriam*

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic that first hit Amarillo in 2020 continued through 2021. Dozens of Amarillo police employees became ill, and tragically, three Amarillo police officers died because of complications of the illness.

From the Officer Down Memorial Page:

“Beginning in early 2020, thousands of law enforcement officers and other first responders throughout the country began to contract COVID-19 during the worldwide pandemic. Due to the nature of their job, law enforcement officers were required to work and interact with the community even as the majority of the country was self-quarantined. As a result, hundreds of officers died from COVID-related illnesses and other complications.”

“Originally signed into law in August 2020, United States Public Law 116-157 set a presumption that law enforcement officers who became ill with COVID contracted it in the line of duty unless proven otherwise. The law, which was extended in November 2021 by Public Law 117-61, also allocates financial benefits for the survivors of law enforcement officers who die as the result of a confirmed or presumed exposure while on duty.”

In the State of Texas, Senate Bill (SB) 22 added Texas Government Code Section 607.0545 to create a rebuttable presumption that coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) injury or death is work-related for certain first responders, including police officers.

Sgt. Raquel Saunders, Sgt. Michael Dunn, and Cpl. Mike Sanchez lost their lives in 2021. Their honorable and faithful service will always be remembered.



*Sergeant Raquel Virginia Saunders*



End of watch: October 13th, 2021

*Sergeant Michael David Dunn*



End of watch: October 22nd, 2021

*Corporal Miguel Eladio "Mike" Sanchez*



End of watch: December 27th, 2021

