

**CITY of BENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT of ACTIVITIES
For
2008**

Honorable Mayor Rick Holland:

I present to you the Annual Report of Activities for the Benton Police Department for the year 2008, along with the 2009 Goals and Objectives for this department.

TRAINING

Police Department personnel completed 3900 hours of training for the year. Training subjects included Advanced Crime Scene Technician, CVSA, Active Shooter Course, FEMA sponsored NIMS 100 and 700 courses, earthquake preparedness and mitigation, Reid Interview and Interrogation, Crisis Negotiation, Basic and Advanced Crime Scene Investigation, Bloodstain Pattern Analysis and Documentation, School of Law Enforcement Supervision, Management of Criminal and Drug Investigations.

SUPPORT SERVICES

In the year 2008 the Benton Police Department as a whole made many notable accomplishments. The following is a brief overview of some of those accomplishments as they pertain to the Support Services Division;

- The Support Services Division held one (1) Child Passenger Safety Seat Inspection event. This even was very successful and involved members from UAMS Hospital, AR Children's Hospital and Saline County Safe kids Coalition. The Benton Police Department donated over 200 car seats to the public as a result.
- The Benton Police Department obtained a new canopy with department logos prominently displayed to be used at civic events, job fairs, the Saline County Fair and a host of many more events.
- Four (4) members of the Benton Police Department participated in the Polar Bear Plunge benefiting the Special Olympics.

- Fifteen (15) members participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run benefiting the Special Olympics. This event run covered a 3-mile stretch.
- The Benton Police Department hosted the 2nd annual Tip-A-Cop event at Colton's Restaurant that benefited the Special Olympics. Over \$4,000 was raised from this event.
- Members participated in the National Night out Program with the Pleasant Forest Neighborhood watch group.
- McGruff the crime dog program was presented to over fifteen (15) local childcare facilities and elementary programs.
- Members of the Benton Police Department assisted in the gathering and distribution of merchandise in the Toys for Tots Program.

Twelve (12) members of the Benton Police Department participated in the Shop with a cop event held this year.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

The Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division (CID) solved a number of notable cases involving a capitol murder case that had four arrests. A case involving over 500 counts of forgery involving counterfeit money orders totaling over one million dollars. Another case involving large embezzlement allegations that was proven to be over seventy thousand dollars. Twenty-nine cases were obtained from Crimes against Children that were successfully resolved. These notable cases were just a portion of the 1043 felony charges and 103 misdemeanor charges handled by CID.

The Police Department's CID also obtained two grants that allowed them to purchase one camera and an evidence storage computer for the Taser system.

PATROL DIVISION

The Police Department Patrol Division was responsible for handling 14988 calls for service and handling 1312 accidents. They made 590 felony arrests and 1692 misdemeanor arrests. They made 9639 traffic stops issuing 3902 citations to motorists. The patrol division also served 1507 arrest warrants. Driving while intoxicated (DWI) charges were enhanced by a DWI

and Seat belt task forces based out of the Patrol Division that is supported by federal overtime funding. Based upon these combined efforts, 327 arrests were made for DWI in 2008 making our city streets safer.

SCHOOL RESOURCE/SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

These divisions were responsible for making 13,275 self-initiated contacts in 2008. A self initiated contact is contact with a person that is not call related and promotes the concept of community oriented policing. These contacts also promote the police department's image and trust within the community. The majority of these contacts were made within the Benton School System and during community functions.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Code Enforcement Unit initiated 656 cases and followed up on a total of 815 cases in 2008. They also issued 670 notices for violations. Houses condemned were greatly reduces due to recent court actions putting a hold on these type services. This court action has recently been resolved and this service will be provided if needed in the future.

RECORDS DIVISION

The Police Department's Records Division was responsible for the management of 32,242 records that were derived from incident, accident, and calls for service. They also handled the process of 4351 warrants and 848 subpoenas'. The records division also collected and disbursed \$204,560.94 in bonds and fines that are required by the city and court system.

CRIME SUPPRESSION RESULTS

The Benton Police Department was able to achieve some favorable results that are depicted in the table below that shows reduction in a number of crimes that routinely suppresses the quality of life for the citizens of Benton. This was done with a shortage of manpower in the Police Department's staffing. Please note that statistics listed above are those that stood out in the overall statistical reports that are routinely compiled as a measurement tool of services provided by the Benton Police Department. The complete statistics are attached to this document.

Benton Police Department 2007- 2008 Crime Statistics

	2007	2008	Increase	Decrease		
Motor Vehicle Collisions	1524	1293	0	0%	231	15%
Robbery	32	22	0	0%	10	31%
Burglary	369	324	0	0%	45	12%
Theft from motor vehicle	218	277	59	21%	0	0%
Theft from building	84	79	0	0%	5	6.00%
Theft from coin machine	2	6	4	67.00%	0	0%
Theft of motor vehicle parts	53	43	0	0%	10	18%
Theft of motor vehicles	77	83	6	7.00%	0	0%
Shoplifting	124	112	0	0%	12	9%
Pocket-Picking	4	2	0	0%	2	50%
Purse Snatching	5	2	0	0%	3	60%
All other thefts	753	574	0	0%	179	24%
Total of All Thefts	1320	1178	0	0%	142	11%
Speed Related Citations	1084	863	0	0%	221	20%

The department reduced motor vehicle collisions by 20% in 2008 as compared to 2007. This was done even with a reduction of speed related traffic citations. This is due success in educating the public in this area.

2009 GOALS and OBJECTIVES

The Benton Police Department will seek to improve their services to the citizens of Benton in a number of ways. Internally, within the department itself, we will:

- Update and improve the Departmental Policy Manual, merging the Uniform Standards of Conduct into one cohesive book. We plan to obtain a software program to house our policy manual, which would make updates easier to manage as well as accountability to policy management and understanding department wide. This software will be a savings to the department in excessive printing costs also.
- The development of a Professional Standards Unit within the department itself to handle internal matters as they arise. This unit will be responsible for investigating, documenting, and maintaining records of complaints and other assigned incidents. This will make the Police Department more accountable and improve trust in the community. It will also instill guidelines within the department itself, by having consistent handling of complaints and disciplinary procedures. These in itself demonstrate fairness and understanding improving morale and productivity.
- To reestablish the Special Investigative Unit (SIU). This unit will have the primary mission to investigate and suppress drugs and drug crime within the city. This unit will also be tasked with special duties as crime problems arise that would need their expertise in surveillance and undercover operations. Guidelines for this unit will be in place in policy for the handling of monies, informants, evidence and other conduct and operating procedures.
- To update the current fleet of Patrol and other vehicles utilized by this department by using the current leasing program. To explore other methods of managing fleet obtainment for the future and the city's expansion in the future.

- To take a proactive stance in community policing by seeking out and solving community problems through resources provided by the city and other entities. Improving and providing drug education and awareness programs in the community and schools through our School Resource Officer programs.
- Analyzing traffic safety needs based upon accidents and other traffic data and applying those needs by directing enforcement response to solve those problems as well as informing the community of the problem to enhance their safety. To reduce accidents overall by 10 percent.
- To improve the training of our officers by utilizing training resources in our own department as well as other local departments. To seek out free or low cost training in needed field of expertise that are beneficial to this department's mission.
- To improve police community services by providing a Citizens Police Academy and retaining graduates of this academy to help in future planning and needs of the department. Taking a more proactive approach with the community outreach education (IE: attending more civic events, attend job fairs, and providing local businesses with the necessary crime prevention information). Production of our training videos that would be shown at local schools during a lecture or other community outlets.
- To initiate and complete a threat assessment of the City of Benton to justify enforcement special operation needs. To develop pre-planning and assessment of protecting certain assets within this cities infrastructure identified in the threat assessment.
- To reduce the amount of active warrants by this department by conducting several warrant sweep operations, amnesty programs, and by public information broadcasts. To restructure

the current Records Division to be able to assign one clerk to assume the duty of Records Clerk. Our goal is to reduce the amount of outstanding warrants by at least 20 percent.

- To assign SRO officers to work special assignments in Tyndall Park, Saline River Access, Sunset Lake and other youth hangouts during non school assignments. They will utilize bikes and other similar equipment of the Benton Police Department. This will reduce the number of problems related to these areas and make the parks safer for all citizens.
- To seek out grants to obtain equipment such as tasers and night vision equipment to be utilized by our department. Our goal is to be able to issue each certified officer with their own assigned taser. This would greatly reduce the daily wear and tear of the current small number of tasers. It will also allow officers working special operations and off duty assignments the protection of this item as well as the ability to apply non-lethal force if needed.

The Benton Police Department in 2008 contributed to a significant reduction in crime in the City of Benton. It is our belief in 2009, that the goals listed above along with the energy and drive of the leadership of the Benton Police Department will inspire all members of the Benton Police Department to the highest degree of integrity, professionalism, and proactiveness. In doing so, the Benton Police Department will greatly improve our services provided to the City of Benton and achieve it's mission as outlined in the Mission Statement of the Benton Police Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kirk R. Lane
Chief of Police Department
January 30, 2009