**The Office of the Chief of Police**

**Vicky Steffanic**

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**YEAR IN REVIEW 2024**

**Message from the Chief**

   

It is imperative that we promote the organizing principle of accountability within our organization. This standard must be incorporated into our mission and vision statements and integrated into our daily culture of expectations. To make certain we are maintaining and continuing to strengthen the public’s trust in the City of Bastrop Police Department, we must adhere to and follow a progressive discipline model. The importance of this is to promote that accountability and provide an employee the opportunity to reflect, learn and grow in this profession.

This report strives to ensure we provide transparency to our community, by communicating our activities. In addition, we are able to examine our own data respective to customer service, training, and enhancing our professionalism.

City of Bastrop Police Department

Professional Standards Division

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City of Bastrop Police Department

**MISSION Statement**

The Mission of the City of Bastrop Police Department is to effectively and efficiently provide for the protection of lives and property, preserve the public peace, and provide needed community services with the highest level of professionalism and ethical standards.

**VISION Statement**

As a professional, trusted, and respected Department, in collaboration with our community, we strive to provide Bastrop with the utmost in public safety while serving with honor.

**Guiding Principles**

Integrity: The Bastrop Police Department is built upon a foundation of ethical and professional conduct. We are committed to the highest level of moral principles and ethics. All members of the Department will adhere to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics which is a part of this manual.

Honesty: We will be truthful and trustworthy at all times.

Fairness: We are committed to equal application of the law to offenders and members of the public as well as the equal application of rules and regulations to all members of the Department.

Courage: We are dedicated to meeting all challenges with the courage needed to accomplish our mission.

Compassion: We understand our role as community caretakers and temper our application of the law with compassion and empathy.

**SUMMARY**

As we continue to strive to uphold the delivery of our services in conjunction with operational practices this report is intended to showcase to stakeholders some of the activities our department engaged in over the past year. This report is not an analysis but a way to present quantitative data to our community.

**AGENCY INFORMATION**

\* This information is as of 01.27.2025 and may have been slightly different during the past year due to hiring.



**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DIVISION**

Our department knows the need for implementation of a professional standards division. Due to budgeting and personnel restraints, it is something that we have been hesitant to jump into. However, earlier in the year, despite challenges, we created the division with current resources because the need for this position is so vital to many areas of our department and community. The individual currently assigned to this division simultaneously assists the Criminal Investigations Division, for the moment.

**What is this division?**

The Professional Standards Division is responsible for maintaining a high level of professional conduct within the department. This division typically consists of an Internal Affairs department, which handles complaints of all types, Response to Resistances, progressive officer discipline, mentorship and training, and accreditation. The Officer in charge of this division typically reports to or works closely with the Chief of Police.

This division handles the intake of our compliments and complaints. There are different types of complaints and the procedures for handling each which vary on the extent of seriousness.

If the complaint on an officer exhibits significant variance from behavioral expectations established prior through formal training, rules, regulations policies or procedures that regulate an officer’s conduct then an Internal Affairs investigation is recommended to the Chief of Police. These types of complaints are highly regulated and documented.

A general complaint is one that is just that, a complaint. Typically, these types of complaints consist of minor variances from rules and regulation violations to policy violations. Once the complaint is received and an initial investigation into the matter is conducted the complaint will either be escalated or sent to the individual’s supervisor for training, discipline or another appropriate measure.

In 2024 the listed Compliments / Complaints were received by our department.



Above are the numbers of what was received and the outcome by one of four designated categories.



Of the four outcome designated categories, the above shows the outcome of each complaint.

**RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE**

A response to resistance is an incident in which a police officer uses force during an interaction. These interactions require an officer to exhibit a sense of prudent judgement from acquired training and experience, skill and application ability for any level of force. The officers know it is imperative that they can only use the required level of force during an interaction in accordance with policy and ensure a safe accomplishment of the police objective. All Response to Resistance encounters are reviewed by not only a patrol supervisor but also the individual assigned to the Professional Standards Division.

**In 2024 our department had in excess of 28,476 interactions with the public.**



**ACCIDENTS / INJURIES**

There are a variety of accidents that can occur in our work environment. Whether it is a personnel injury, vehicle accident, or injury while at work. Below is a summary analysis of injuries and accidents at the police department for 2024.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Amount | # who missed hours | total hours missed | total cost for repairs |
| Injuries on Duty | 10 | 6 | 281 (4 employees) | na |
| Vehicle Crashes | 4 | 0 | 0 | 23,832.82 |

**YEARLY STATISTICAL DATA**

**Patrol**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Calls for Service | 28,476 |
| Incident Reports | 1840 |
| Traffic Stops | 3667 |
| Traffic Citations | 1471 |
| Arrests | 698 |
| Warrant Arrests | 236 |

**Criminal Investigations**



**Records**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Phone Calls | 5185 |
| Walk In Calls | 2533 |
| Requests for Info | 4553 |
| Case Prep | 1645 |
| In queue cases | 2438 |

In addition to our Internal Investigations, the Best Practices division is diligently working towards achieving accreditation. What is accreditation?

Best Practices accreditation in law enforcement is a voluntary process where police agencies adopt and maintain standardized policies and procedures. This process is designed to ensure that agencies operate within a set of recognized standards, promoting efficient, effective, and fair policing. The program includes 170 standards developed by Texas law enforcement professionals. These standards are designed to ensure efficient and effective service delivery, risk reduction, and the protection of individual rights.

Accreditation helps agencies improve service delivery, reduce risk, and protect individual rights. A committee of professional police chiefs from across Texas reviews and approves the standards. They also conduct the final review of an agency’s efforts and award “Accredited” status. Agencies must comply with the established standards and undergo regular reviews to maintain their accredited status. This includes periodic updates and reviews of agency policies and procedures.

Agencies can enhance their operational efficiency and effectiveness by adopting the best practices. By adhering to recognized standards, agencies can minimize risks associated with legal liabilities and improve officer safety. Ensuring that policies and procedures align with constitutional and statutory requirements helps protect the rights of individuals. Accreditation fosters a culture of accountability within the agency and promotes transparency, which can build public trust and confidence.

For any further information please feel free to contact me anytime!

Respectfully Submitted:

**VS**

Chief of Police

Vicky Steffanic

City of Bastrop Police Department