

VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT



2017 Annual Report

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergency Assistance
9-1-1

Non-Emergency Assistance
(559) 734-8116 or (559) 734-8117

Duty Officer
(559) 713-4257

Records Unit
(559) 713-4222

Online Reporting
<http://www.visalia.city/vpd>



About the Cover



The Visalia Emergency Communications Center (VECC) is a secured essential services building that consists of a new 18,872 square-foot facility and sits on 4.2 acres. It houses the Visalia Police Department's Communications Unit which operates 24 hours a day, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), the Visalia Fire Department Administration, and Information Services. Plans are currently underway to equip the Traffic Management Center (TMC) inside the facility. The VECC is the first of several buildings planned as Visalia's Civic Center Complex.



Acknowledgements

2017 VISALIA CITY COUNCIL



Steve Nelsen
Council Member

Phil Cox
Council Member

Warren Gubler
Mayor

Bob Link
Vice Mayor

Greg Collins
Council Member



Mike Olmos
City Manager



CITY OF VISALIA

Serving as the cultural, economic, and commercial hub of Tulare County, the City of Visalia continues to grow - in population, diversity, and sophistication. Once a creekside settlement, Visalia has become a thriving community that takes pride in the small town feel and high quality of life that accompanies its big city amenities.



Editor

*Carina Mello, Senior Administrative Assistant
Office of the Chief of Police*

Message from the Chief



We are honored to serve our community by providing professional police services and through our commitment of positive police-community relationships that are essential to Visalia's public safety. I hope this report will give you an informative look at our ongoing policing efforts and community partnerships that make Visalia a great place to live, work, and play.

We are very grateful for the support of our community. A great example of this support is the passage of Measure N in November 2016. Measure N is a local sales tax increase for the purpose of providing for Visalia's essential services (Police, Fire, roads, and Parks & Recreation). As a result of Measure N, 30 new Visalia Police Officers and 12 additional Professional Staff will be hired over the next 10 years - 13 of those Police Officers to be hired in FY17/18. This additional staffing is essential to our ability to continue meeting the public safety needs of a vibrant and growing community. Thank you, Visalia!

Visalia, like many cities across California, has experienced a significant increase in homelessness in recent years. Homelessness is a complex social issue that impacts our entire community and the resources of our Police Department. In May 2017, the Visalia Police Department established the Homeless Outreach & Proactive Enforcement (HOPE) Team to provide a focused response to homelessness and public safety issues in Visalia.

" I hope this report will give you an informative look at our ongoing policing efforts and community partnerships that make Visalia a great place to live, work, and play."

The HOPE Team works both proactively and in response to calls for service to enforce laws related to illegal activity associated with homelessness. The HOPE Team also works closely with other community stakeholders to provide resources and comprehensive problem solving efforts towards longer term solutions to help reduce homelessness in Visalia.

Perhaps the highlight of 2017 is the opening of the Visalia Emergency Communications Center (VECC). Construction of the VECC was completed in September 2017. It became a fully operational 9-1-1 Communications Center on December 6, 2017. The Visalia Police Department Communications Center was relocated from the Headquarters basement into this new 18,872 square-foot, state-of-the-art communications center that will serve Visalia's communications needs well into the future. This facility houses the Visalia Fire Administration, Police & Fire Communications Center, the City's Emergency Operations Center, Traffic Management Center, and Information Services. In addition to providing a new facility that will enhance our communications operations, this project also involved the implementation of a new Computer Automated Dispatching (CAD) system, emergency radio systems upgrade, and a 9-1-1 upgrade that will allow the Department to receive Text to 9-1-1 by mid-2018.



Most importantly, I am proud of the continued professionalism, dedication, and hard work of the Visalia Police Department staff. I am also very grateful for our City of Visalia partners, allied law enforcement partners, and our community. It is truly an honor to serve you and to be part of this great community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Strain".

About Us

MISSION STATEMENT

The City of Visalia Police Department has been established to preserve the public peace, prevent crime, detect and arrest violators of the law, protect life and property, and enforce criminal laws of the State of California and Ordinances of the City of Visalia.

The Visalia Police Department has a recognized set of values that operate within the organization. We see these not as the dictate of one individual group, but as a set of shared common beliefs; these shared values provide a common cause for all employees in the organization. We value Integrity, Service, Fiscal Responsibility, and our Employees.

ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

Service

Integrity

Fiscal Responsibility

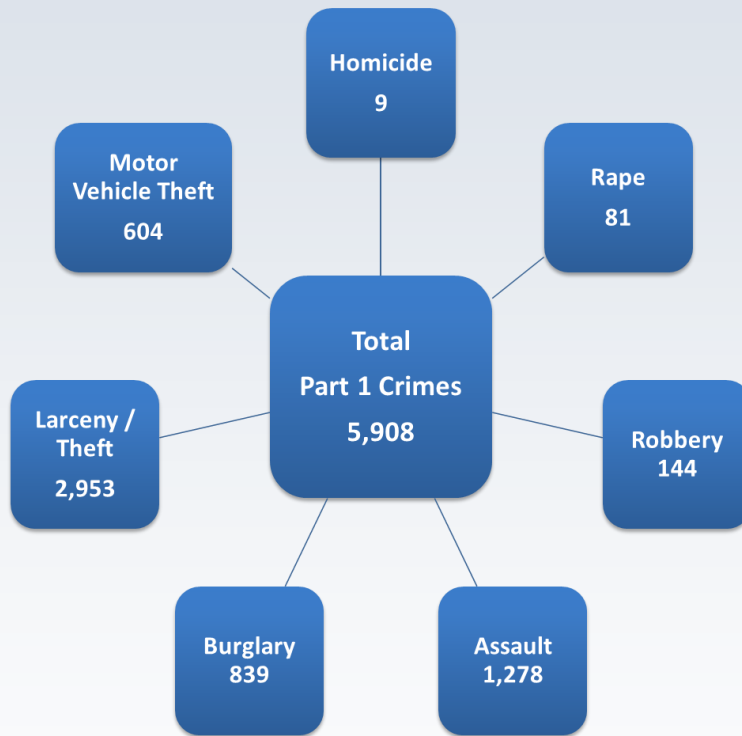
Our People





Overview

Below is a brief overview of statistics for the year. For more detailed statistics, see page 42.



Measure N



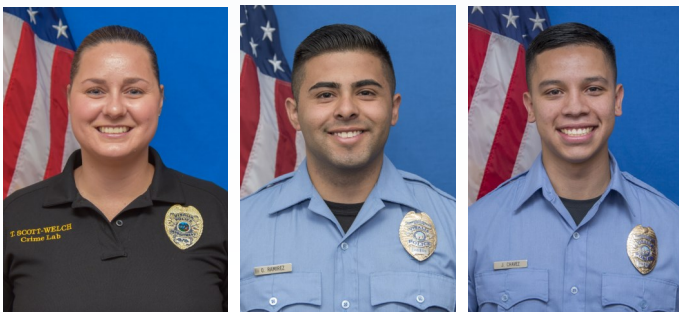
Thanks to You It's Working

This past year, Chief Jason Salazar swore in the first of 13 officers to be hired in fiscal year 2017-2018 as a result of the passage of Measure N. Measure N is a half-cent sales tax increase approved by voters in November 2016 and provides an additional 30 police officers to be hired in the City of Visalia over the next 10 years. THANK YOU to the citizens of Visalia for supporting Measure N and public safety!



L-R: Officers Russell Ortiz, Thomas Murrell, Chief Jason Salazar, Officers Nathan Berry, and Octavio Hernandez pose for a photo during their swearing-in ceremony. Officers Ortiz, Murrell, Berry, & Hernandez were the first four officers hired as a result of the passage of Measure N.

In addition to Police Officers, Measure N funding will also provide for an additional 12 Professional Staff positions over the next 10 years. These Professional Staff positions will work in assignments as Community Service Officers to handle non-emergency calls for service, Identification Technicians to help process evidence through the Crime Lab, as Body Worn Camera Technicians, and Records and Communications personnel. The positions are essential to the operations of the Visalia Police Department through the support they provide in their various capacities.



Pictured left: Identification Technician Tai Scott-Welch and Community Service Officers Osvaldo Ramirez and Jose Chavez. Pictured above, left to right: Recruits Alberto Montejo, Trevor Studinger, and Jorge Sanchez. All were hired in 2017 as a result of Measure N.

Command Staff



Captain Brian Winter
Operations



Captain Steve Phillips
Operations Support

The Visalia Police Department's Command Staff is comprised of the Chief of Police, two Captains, seven Lieutenants, one Support Services Manager, and one Financial Analyst. The Department has two main Divisions: Operations and Operations Support, each led by a Captain. The Financial Analyst reports directly to the Chief of Police.

Command Staff is responsible for the overall management and leadership of the organization, working with staff, the City organization, and the community to develop both short and long term public safety strategies and partnerships that ensure for efficient and effective operations.



Lieutenant Brent Abbott
District 1 Commander



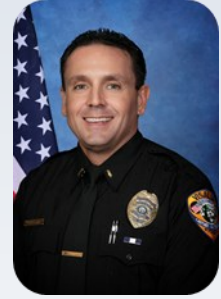
Lieutenant Osvaldo Dominguez
District 2 Commander



Lieutenant Amy Watkins
Special Enforcement Bureau



Lieutenant Luma Fahoum
Night Watch Commander



Lieutenant James Andrews
Night Watch Commander



Lieutenant Ron Epp
Investigations Bureau



**Support Services Manager
Veronica McDermott**
Support Services Bureau



Lieutenant Candido Alvarez
Professional Standards Bureau

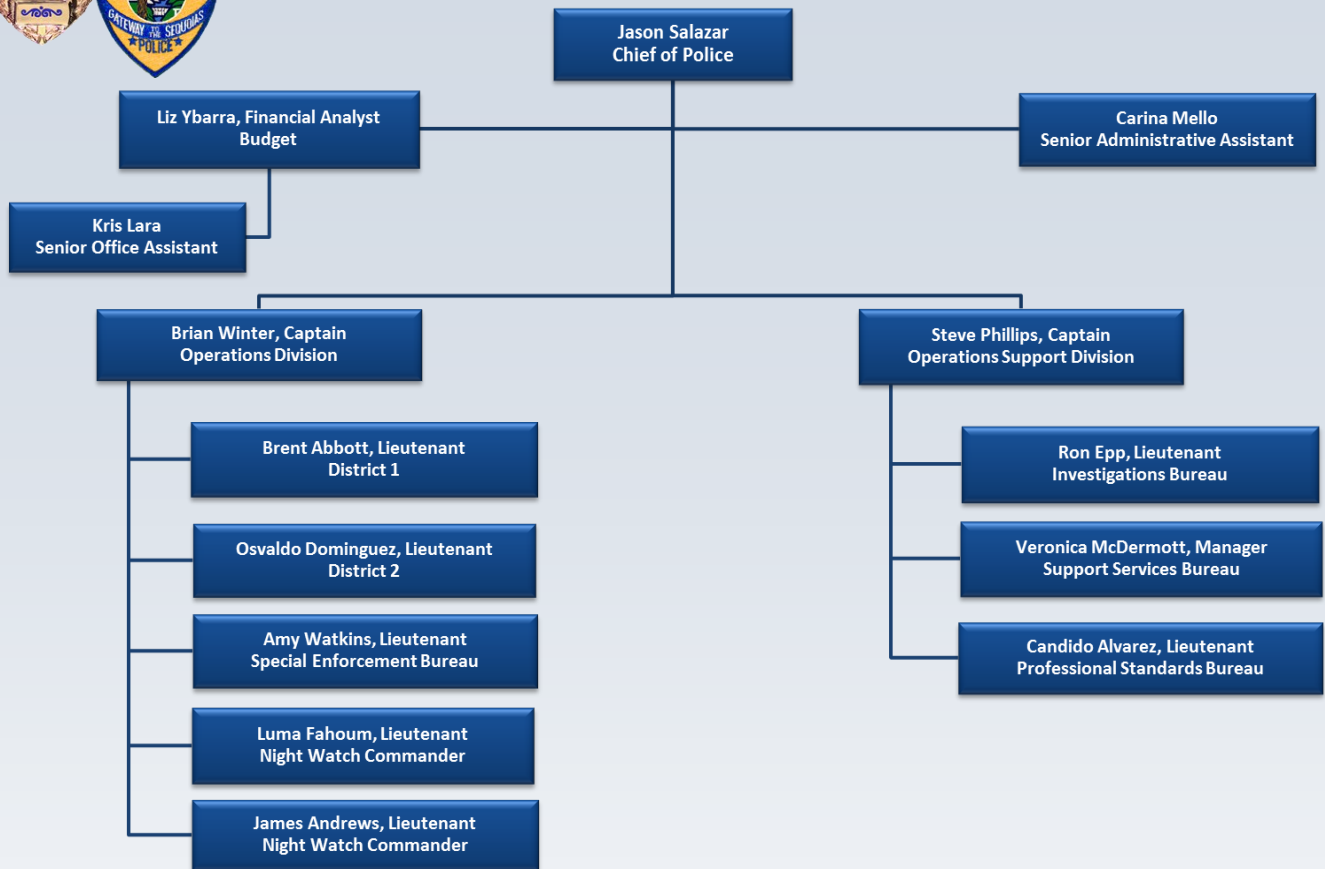


**Financial Analyst
Liz Ybarra**
Budget

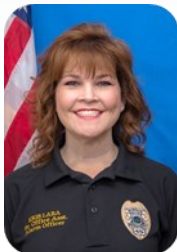




Organizational Structure



Chief Jason Salazar and members of Command Staff meet regularly to discuss items that are pertinent to the ongoing operations of the Department. In addition to meeting regularly with Command Staff, Chief Salazar also meets weekly with Captains Brian Winter and Steve Phillips, as well as Senior Administrative Assistant Carina Mello.



Senior Administrative Assistant Carina Mello (left) and Senior Office Assistant Kris Lara (right) both provide administrative assistance to members of Command Staff and Supervisory Staff.



The Operations Division is led by Captain Brian Winter and consists of the Patrol Bureau and Special Enforcement Bureau.



OPERATIONS DIVISION



“The Operations Division consists of uniformed personnel of the Visalia Police Department who respond to emergency and non-emergency calls for service and have regular contact with the public. The many partnerships created with community members, businesses, and other government agencies is ultimately the key to our success.”

Brian Winter, Operations Captain

Operations Division

PATROL BUREAU

The Visalia Police Department's Patrol Bureau is divided into two Districts: District 1 and District 2. Within the Patrol Bureau are units such as the Traffic Unit, Field Training Unit, K9 Unit, S.W.A.T., Commercial Policing Unit, Honor Guard Unit, Homeless Outreach & Proactive Enforcement (HOPE) Team, and Volunteers In Police Services (VIPS), to name a few.



District Substations



The District Substations have been established to assist the community with any policing concerns. The substations are open to the public Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Lieutenant Brent Abbott (right) is the District 1 Area Commander, and Lieutenant Osvaldo Dominguez (left) is the District 2 Area Commander. District 1 encompasses the area of the City north of Highway 198, and District 2 encompasses the area south of Highway 198.

Field Training Unit

The Field Training Unit is comprised of 12 Field Training Officers who are responsible for transitioning cadets who graduated the police academy to working at the level of a solo police officer. The Field Training Unit also conducts training for laterals and Community Service Officers.



In 2017, the Field Training Unit trained seven academy graduates, five lateral officers, and three community service officers, which totaled over 8,200 hours of training for the year.

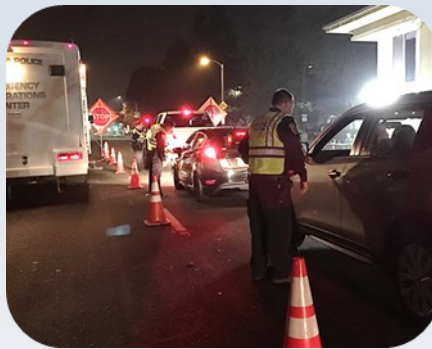


Operations Division

Traffic Unit

The Visalia Police Department's Traffic Unit includes one sergeant, eight motorcycle officers, and three parking enforcement officers. The Unit is dedicated to the safety of the motoring and pedestrian public. Its mission is to enforce the Vehicle Code and educate the public in an effort to reduce collisions and avoid fatalities.

The Traffic Unit partners with the Office of Traffic Safety on a number of grant funded details aimed at fulfilling the mission of enforcement and education. These details are supported by officers from the Operations and Operations Support Divisions. The Unit also relies heavily on the assistance provided by the Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) for details such as DUI Checkpoints. These details have proven to be effective in reducing the number of traffic-related injuries and bringing awareness to traffic safety issues.



FATALITIES	INJURY COLLISIONS	PROPERTY DAMAGE COLLISIONS	TOTAL COLLISIONS
14	484	724	1,208

In 2017, a total of 9,060 citations were issued by the Visalia Department. Some of the frequent citations issued include speeding, signs/signals, right of way, DUI, seatbelt, and cell phone usage. As it relates to parking enforcement, a total of 4,716 parking citations were issued.

SPEEDING	SIGNS/SIGNALS	RIGHT OF WAY	DUI	SEATBELT	CELL PHONE	PARKING
2,546	519	247	395	437	939	4,716

The Traffic Unit conducted several details throughout the year as a result of its partnership with the Office of Traffic Safety and a number of traffic safety grants awarded.

STEP DUI CHECKPOINTS	DUI SATURATION PATROLS	COURT STING OPERATIONS	WARRANT SERVICE OPERATIONS	STAKEOUT OPERATIONS	TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT DETAILS
8	23	2	1	1	26
MOTORCYCLE SAFETY OPERATIONS	CLICK IT OR TICKET OPERATIONS	BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN DETAILS	DISTRACTED DRIVER ENFORCEMENT DETAILS		
23	5	4	10		

Homeless Outreach & Proactive Enforcement Team

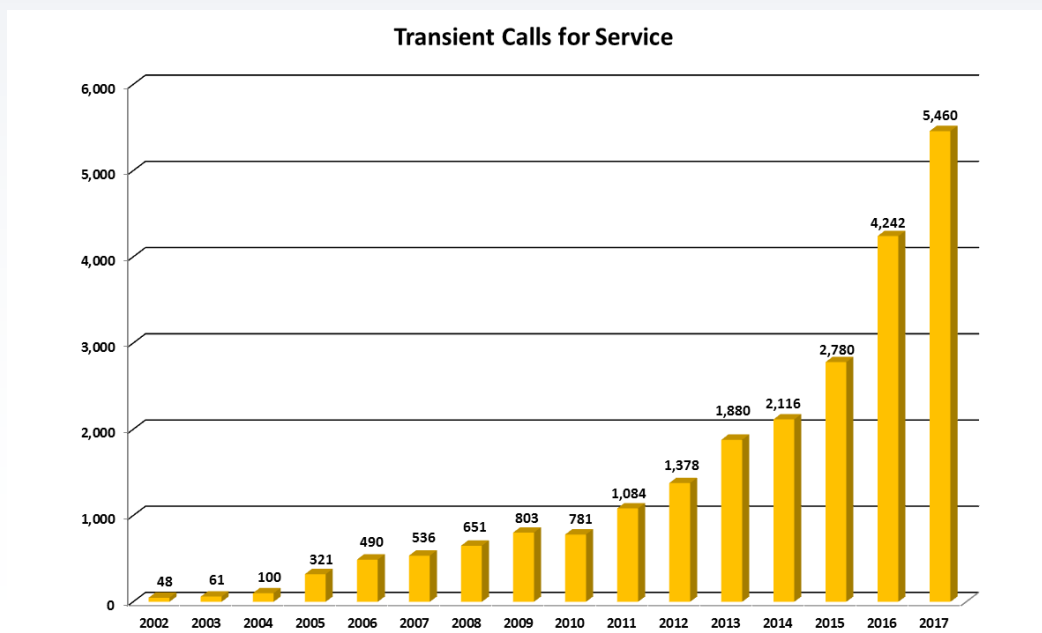


The Homeless Outreach & Proactive Enforcement (HOPE) Team consists of two full-time officers and a supervising agent. The HOPE Team began as a pilot project in 2016 to provide a more focused response to the homeless issue in the City of Visalia and became a permanent team in May 2017.

Since the inception of the HOPE Team, officers assigned to HOPE have handled 54% of the transient related calls for service, greatly reducing the burden on officers in the Patrol Unit. Through enforcement activities, they have also been able to expand the Trespassing Enforcement Program (TEP). Currently, there are 260 local businesses enrolled in TEP.

The HOPE Team has also entered into partnerships with City of Visalia Code Enforcement, Kings/Tulare Homeless Alliance, Community Services Employment Training (CSET), Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), Tulare County Mental Health, Visalia Rescue Mission, Kings United Way, Westcare, and Citizens Assisting Local Veterans In Need (CALVIN). The collaboration with citizens and outreach groups has helped establish long term solutions for the homeless population and community members. The HOPE Team's outreach has resulted in 10 homeless members of the community being placed in permanent housing in 2017. The knowledge gained regarding the local homeless population's needs has resulted in countless referrals to mental health services, medical services, and substance abuse treatment facilities. Pictured above, left to right: Officer Leroy Hickey, Agent Mike Short, and Officer Nate Henry.

The chart below depicts the increase in transient related calls for service the Department has experienced over the last few years.



Operations Division

K9 Unit



Pictured left to right: Officer Ryan Park & Flic, Officer Daniel Roberts & Xero, Sergeant Chris Jennings, Officer Mike Carsten & Bronson, and Officer Rick Johnson & Deuce.

The Visalia Police Department's K9 Unit is currently overseen by Lieutenant James Andrews and led by Sergeant Chris Jennings. The Unit is comprised of five officers and their canine partners. Four of the officers are assigned to the Patrol Bureau, and one officer is assigned to the Narcotics Unit.



The Friends of Visalia Police K9 is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that assists in raising funds utilized to support the Visalia Police Department's K9 Unit through donations from its community partners and citizens. The money raised is used to supplement the purchase of new police canines.

Volunteers in Police Services

The Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) Unit is overseen by Lieutenant Luma Fahoum and led by Sergeant Brent Miller. The VIPS Unit provides the Police Department with a trained and motivated group of volunteer workers who provide essential, but non-hazardous police services. Some of the assignments volunteers assist with include traffic control, DUI Checkpoints, Police Activities League functions, Crime Prevention details, public awareness events, Citizens on Patrol, as well as providing administrative support to the Department. There are currently 45 members in the VIPS program. In 2017, the VIPS contributed more than 11,000 hours.

During 2017, nine citizens attended the 10-week Citizens Academy which takes place annually and is available to citizens who pass a background check and are interested in adding value to the community. Upon the conclusion of the academy, the citizens graduated and became official VIPS.



SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

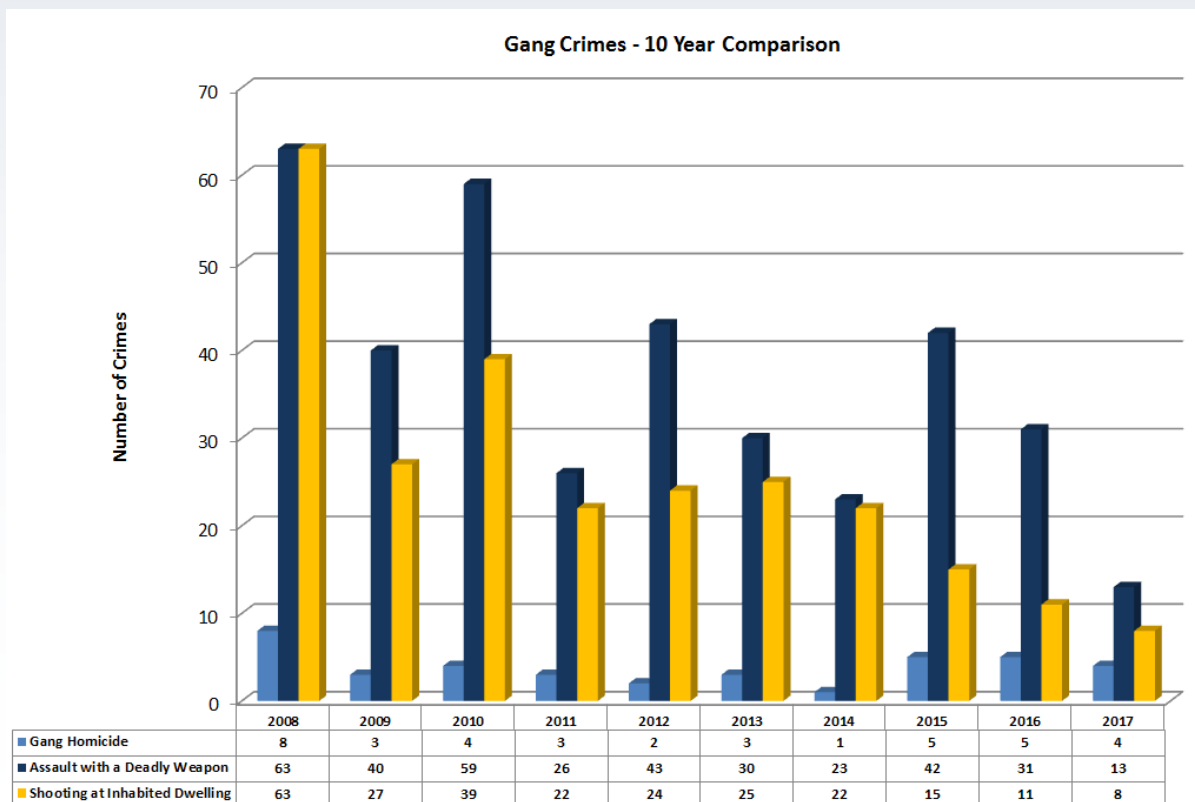
The Special Enforcement Bureau is comprised of the Special Enforcement Unit, Narcotics Unit, and the Tulare County Agencies Regional Gang Enforcement Team (T.A.R.G.E.T) Task Force. The Mobile Field Force Unit is also an extension of the Bureau, which is overseen by Captain Brian Winter and led by Lieutenant Amy Watkins.



Special Enforcement Unit

The Visalia Police Department's Special Enforcement Unit is comprised of seven officers, one sergeant, and one probation officer. The Unit is currently led by Sergeant Randy Lentzner. The Special Enforcement Unit is responsible for monitoring and suppressing gang activity, fugitive apprehension, and human trafficking investigations in the City of Visalia. The Unit is also home to a joint partnership with the Tulare County Probation Department, which is responsible for the supervision of many high-risk gang members being released on AB109 probation. Additionally, the Unit also partners with federal agencies to conduct large scale human trafficking operations.

In 2017, the Unit made 226 arrests, conducted 15 search warrants, 160 probation searches, 266 field interviews, and seized a total of 90 firearms.



Operations Division

Narcotics Unit

The Visalia Police Department's Narcotics Unit consists of five detectives and one supervisor. The Unit also has a Narcotics Canine. The Unit is led by Sergeant Steve Scofield.

The Narcotics Unit is responsible for investigating various narcotics related crimes. The Unit also participates in many joint operations with the Drug Enforcement Administration.

In 2017, the Unit made 118 arrests, conducted 91 search warrants, seized 1,903.25 pounds of marijuana and 60 pounds of (other) narcotics, 65 firearms, and \$440,253 in currency.

Pictured upper right is Ami, a narcotics trained Belgian Malinois assigned to the Narcotics Unit, and (left) evidence seized during a narcotics arrest.



Mobile Field Force Unit



The Visalia Police Department maintains a specially trained and equipped Mobile Field Force Unit to effectively manage large crowds and/or civil disorder. The primary objectives when deploying the MFF Unit is to preserve life, protect property, allow safe ingress and egress throughout the City, and restore normal operations. These objectives are met with proper and frequent planning, training, and intelligence gathering. The Unit trains throughout the year along with other Tulare County law enforcement agencies. The Department's MFF Unit is comprised of 30 team members. The Unit is supervised by Sergeant Randy Lentzner and led by Lieutenant Amy Watkins.

T.A.R.G.E.T. Task Force

The Tulare County Agencies Regional Gang Enforcement Team (T.A.R.G.E.T.) Task Force was created in 2012 by then Attorney General Kamala Harris. In addition to the Visalia Police Department, members of the Task Force include representatives from the United States Department of Homeland Security, California Department of Justice's Bureau of Investigation, Tulare County Sheriff's Office, Tulare Police Department, and the California Highway Patrol.

In 2017, T.A.R.G.E.T. made 56 arrests, conducted 60 probation searches, 26 parole searches, served 34 search warrants, and seized a total of 20 firearms and approximately 12 ounces of narcotics. Additionally, T.A.R.G.E.T. assisted other agencies with investigations that led to an additional service of 16 search warrants and the seizure of over 45 pounds of methamphetamine in the County of Tulare.



The Operations Support Division is led by Captain Steve Phillips and consists of the Professional Standards Bureau, Investigations Bureau, and the Support Services Bureau.



OPERATIONS SUPPORT DIVISION



“The Operations Support Division is an integral part of the Visalia Police Department that encompasses the areas of emergency dispatch, administration, and investigations. ”

Steve Phillips, Operations Support Captain

Operations Support Division

INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

The Investigations Bureau is overseen by Lieutenant Ron Epp. The Bureau is comprised of the Youth Services Unit, Violent Crimes Unit, Property Crimes Unit, Property & Evidence Unit, and the Crime Lab.



Youth Services Unit

The Youth Services Unit is led by Sergeant Chris McLain. The Unit provides guidance and police services to the students and staff of the Visalia Unified School District, as well as all youth of Visalia, through instruction, mentoring, counseling, and enforcement. Youth Services Officers are currently assigned to each of the District's five high schools and five middle schools. Youth Services Officers also provide service to the 23 elementary feeder schools in Visalia.

In partnership with the Visalia Unified School District's Career Pathways program, the Visalia Police Department continues to be involved with the First Responders Academy hosted by Golden West High School. The Academy provides students, interested in careers in public safety, an opportunity to interact with professionals in their respective fields. This interaction between youth and officers is significant in the formation of future career decisions.



Police Activities League (P.A.L.)



Art Villarreal
P.A.L. Officer

The Visalia Police Activities League (P.A.L.) is a program led by Officer Art Villarreal that allows police officers to provide a positive influence to youth in the community. Visalia P.A.L. offers youth a chance to participate in a mixture of education and athletic-based programs such as Science Club, Robotics, P.A.L. Boxing, Leadership, and the P.A.L. Honor Camp. In 2017, 1,674 youth were served through P.A.L. sponsored events.

This past year, P.A.L. has focused efforts on developing its Leadership program. Youth attended the California P.A.L. Leadership Academy in Valencia and continue to build upon skills they learned to be used throughout their lives.



Operations Support Division

Violent Crimes Unit

The primary goal of the Violent Crimes Unit is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Visalia by arresting violent offenders and working closely with the Tulare County District Attorney's Office to obtain convictions on the violent felons responsible for these crimes.

The Violent Crimes Unit consists of one sergeant, seven detectives, and two civilian investigators. The Unit is led by Sergeant Kevin Kroeze. The Unit investigates "Crimes Against Persons" such as homicide, robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, kidnapping, suspicious death, rape, child abuse, child molestation, physical elder abuse, and other felony assaults. The Unit also tracks 290 PC Sex Registrants to ensure they are in compliance.

In 2017, the Violent Crimes Unit investigated 1,174 cases and made 111 arrests.



The City of Visalia depends on its citizens to report crime & support the crime prevention efforts of the Visalia Police Department. Anonymous tips can be submitted via online at <http://www.visalia.city/vpd>.



Property Crimes Unit

The Visalia Police Department's Property Crimes Unit is comprised of one sergeant and seven detectives. The Unit is led by Sergeant Russ Gauger.

The Property Crimes Unit investigates burglaries, grand and petty thefts, check and credit card frauds, embezzlements, identity thefts, and financial elder abuse.

The Unit also investigates auto theft in cooperation with the Tulare County Reduce Auto Theft Task Force (TRATT). TRATT is a multi-agency unit which includes the Visalia Police Department, California Highway Patrol, Porterville Police Department, Tulare County Sheriff's Office, and the Tulare County District Attorney's Office.

In 2017, the Property Crimes Unit investigated 623 cases, made 246 arrests, conducted 64 search warrants, and recovered a total of \$572,763 in property and currency. The Tulare County Reduce Auto Theft Task Force (TRATT) made 174 arrests and recovered 236 of 604 stolen vehicles. The most commonly stolen vehicles in Tulare County were Honda Accords, Honda Civics, and Chevrolet Silverados.

Operations Support Division

Property & Evidence Unit

The Property and Evidence Unit consists of one supervisor, one Senior Police Technician, and two Police Technicians. The Unit receives, catalogs, organizes, safely stores, researches, purges, and maintains the integrity of evidence, found property, and property for safekeeping. The Unit is led by Supervising Identification Technician Bob Douglas.

In 2017, the Property & Evidence Unit logged 11,253 of incoming (seized) items and 8,927 of outgoing items.

Pictured left to right: Police Technician Sandy Tunnel, Senior Police Technician Ross Ruiz, and Police Technician Gordon Grantham.



Crime Lab

The Crime Lab is currently staffed by one Supervising Identification Technician, one Senior Identification Technician, two Identification Technicians, and five hourly positions. Supervising Identification Technician Bob Douglas leads the Crime Lab.

Crime Lab Technicians provide analysis and expert courtroom testimony for a variety of forensic disciplines such as crime scene processing and reconstructions, crime scene mapping, crime scene and evidence photography, and latent print processing and comparisons.

In 2017, the Crime Lab had a total of 459 assignments which include field call-outs, cell phone forensic analyses, and lab requests. The Crime Lab also attended a total of 16 autopsies.



Members of the Crime Lab pose for a photo.

Operations Support Division

SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU

The Support Services Bureau is overseen by Support Services Manager Veronica McDermott. The Bureau consists of the Crime Analysis Unit and the Communications Unit.

Crime Analysis Unit



The Visalia Police Department's Crime Analysis Unit assists Department personnel by collecting, analyzing, and disseminating crime related data in an effort to recognize crime patterns, identify criminal suspects, and reduce crime.

The Crime Analysis Unit is comprised of one full-time Police Systems Analyst, one full-time Crime Analysis Technician, and one hourly employee who assists with providing statistics and entering data.

Pictured left to right: Police Systems Analyst Robin Meyst, Hourly Crime Analysis Technician Ruth Day, and Crime Analysis Technician Jessica Yunt.



Communications Unit

In 2017, the Communications Unit handled 153,701 calls for service. Of those, 130,931 were Police calls for service, 15,650 were Fire calls for service, and 7,120 were Animal Control related calls. Additionally, a total of 79,662 9-1-1 calls were received.

The Communications Unit proudly serves the City of Visalia with the highest degree of professionalism. The Unit is responsible for the receipt, disposition, and the documentation of telephone/radio calls in both routine and emergency matters for the Police and Fire Departments. The Unit is also responsible for handling all 9-1-1 and Animal Control calls generated within the City.

The Communications Unit is led by Communications Supervisor Darlene Friend. The Unit consists of one Communications Supervisor, 27 full-time Communications Operators, and one hourly Call Taker who answer and process seven emergency (9-1-1) lines, 15 non-emergency lines, and several radio frequencies. The Communications Unit operates 24 hours each day, 365 days each year.



Visalia Emergency Communications Center

A long-term goal for the City was to build a state-of-the art, essential services 9-1-1 communications facility. After years of planning, the project broke ground on April 18, 2016. The Visalia Emergency Communications Center (VECC) is a two-story, 18,872 square-foot facility housing Fire Administration, an Emergency Operations Center (EOC), training room, Information Services, and the 9-1-1 Communications Center. The facility is equipped with new 9-1-1 technology, a digital radio system and supporting radio infrastructure, including a 180 foot radio tower. The facility is also equipped for a Traffic Management Center (TMC).



On September 20, 2017, the City of Visalia, and Visalia Police & Fire, held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new Visalia Emergency Communications Center (VECC) located at 420 North Burke. The facility houses the Visalia Fire Department Administration, Police & Fire Communications Center, Traffic Management Center, Information Services, and the City's Emergency Operations Center.

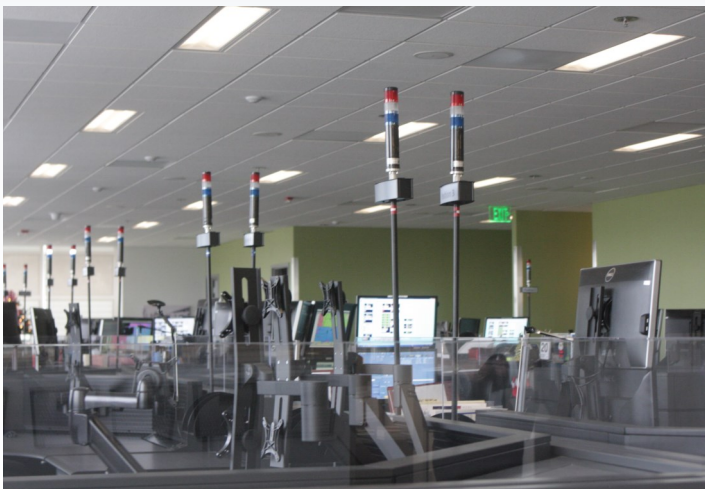


Visalia Emergency Communications Center

On December 6, 2017, the Visalia Police Department officially transitioned its 9-1-1 system, radio system, and Communications Unit personnel from the basement of its Headquarters facility to the VECC. The Department secured funding from the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to purchase the 9-1-1 system and dispatch equipment. The new mixed-mode radio system and radio infrastructure supports interoperable communications with other public safety agencies.



VECC



Operations Support Division

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BUREAU

The Professional Standards Bureau is overseen by Captain Steve Phillips and led by Lieutenant Candido Alvarez. The Bureau oversees the Public Information Officer - Media Relations, Internal Affairs, Community Outreach, Recruitment, Personnel/Training, Records Unit, and Fleet Services. The Bureau is responsible for the administrative operations of the Visalia Police Department, which has a total of 154 allocated Police Officer positions, 70 Professional Staff positions, and 20 hourly positions.



Pictured left to right: Sergeant Damon Maurice, Administrative Technician Shawna Kneeland, Community Outreach Coordinator Rebekah Jones, Lieutenant Candido Alvarez, and Police Specialist Dexter Valencia. Members of the Professional Standards Bureau also include Sergeant Jon Pree & Records Supervisor Lisa Davis (not pictured).



Recruitment

With the passage of Measure "N" which provides for personnel increases, and traditional attrition rates, recruitment efforts have been a priority in 2017. In a very competitive hiring environment, the Recruitment Team has been busy seeking the best applicants available by attending job fairs, community events, and through social media announcements. Recruitment efforts include thorough backgrounds on all candidates to ensure the Visalia Police Department hires quality applicants.

In 2017, the Visalia Police Department hired 33 full-time employees.

Pictured right: Officer Carol Cortez and Sergeant Damon Maurice at one of several recruitment fairs attended this past year.



Operations Support Division

Community Outreach



65%
Increase in
Followers



72%
Increase in
Followers

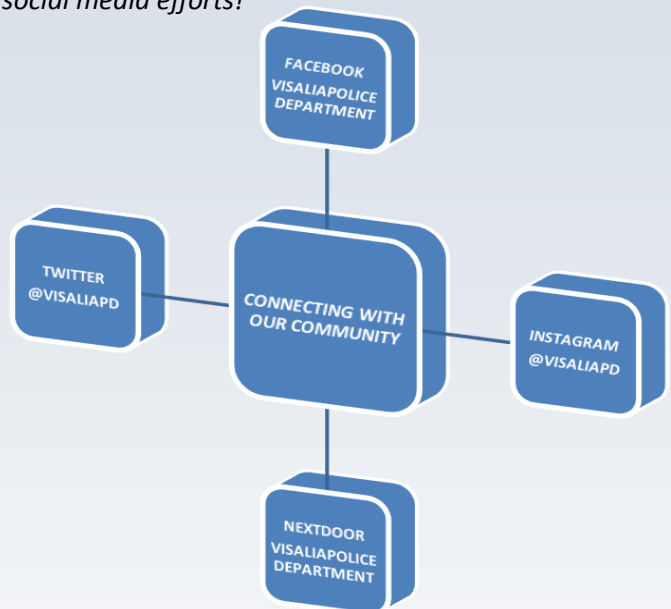


29%
Increase in
Followers



42%
Increase in
Followers

The Visalia Police Department enjoys a significant following through its various social media platforms. A dedicated Social Media Team works daily on providing relevant and up-to-date information that impacts the community. We thank you for the ongoing support in our social media efforts!

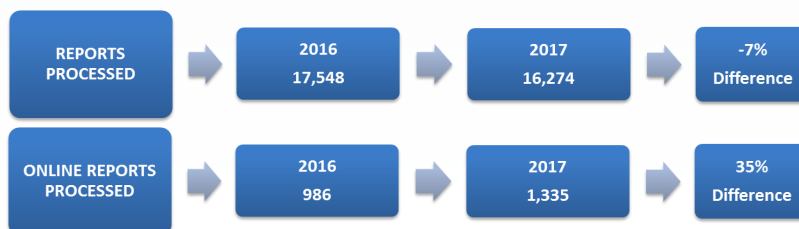


Records Unit

The Visalia Police Department's Records Unit serves the public and the Police Department in maintaining and distributing all police files. Thousands of reports are received, processed, maintained, and distributed by the Records Unit each year. The Unit consists of 14 full-time and eight hourly employees. Records Supervisor Lisa Davis also oversees the Court & Subpoena Services Unit, which consists of two full-time employees.



Members of the Records Unit pose for a photo.



Achievements

RETIREMENTS



Lieutenant Ed Lynn retired from the Visalia Police Department on August 25th after 38 years of law enforcement service.

Lieutenant Lynn began his law enforcement career in 1979 as a Reserve Police Officer with the Tulare Police Department. In 1981, Lieutenant Lynn was hired as a Reserve Police Officer with the Visalia Police Department. In 1985, he was hired as a full-time Police Officer and was assigned to the Patrol Bureau. As a Police Officer, Lieutenant Lynn was assigned as a Field Training Officer and was also a member of the Patrol Planning Council.

In 1986, Lieutenant Lynn was assigned to the Narcotics Unit until his reassignment to the Patrol Bureau in 1992. In 1994, he was promoted to the rank of Agent. As an Agent, Lieutenant Lynn assisted with overseeing the Patrol Division, the Field Training Unit, and the Volunteers In Patrol (VIPS) Unit. Additionally, he was also the President of the Visalia Police Officers Association.

In 1998, Lieutenant Lynn was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. As a Sergeant, he was assigned to the Patrol Bureau where he continued to oversee the Field Training Unit. In 1999, Lieutenant Lynn was reassigned to the Special Enforcement Unit and, in 2000, he was assigned to the Property Crimes Unit. In 2004, Lieutenant Lynn was assigned to the Narcotics Unit. During this time, he was also the President of the Managers and Supervisors Association. In 2007, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. As a Lieutenant, he was assigned to the Investigations Bureau, the Patrol Bureau as the District 2 Area Commander, and the Professional Standards Bureau.

In January of 2015, Lieutenant Lynn was appointed Interim Chief of Police by the City Council until the appointment of Chief Jason Salazar in February of that same year.



James Potts
Supervising ID Technician
30 Years of Service



Gene Ferrero
Reserve Police Officer
21 Years of Service



Steve Howerton
Police Officer
16 Years of Service



Robin Meyst
Police Systems Analyst
33 Years of Service

Achievements

PROMOTIONS



Gerrit De Jong
Promoted to Sergeant
January 7th



Mike Verissimo
Promoted to Sergeant
January 7th



Bob Douglas
Promoted to
Supervising ID Technician
April 15th



James Andrews
Promoted to Lieutenant
September 2nd



Andrew Swarhout
Promoted to Agent
January 21st
Promoted to Sergeant
September 16th



Mike Short
Promoted to Agent
November 25th

Achievements

EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



Jason DeWitt
Officer of the Year

Chief Jason Salazar (right) presented the Officer of the Year Award to Officer Jason DeWitt (left) at the Knights of Columbus Public Safety Banquet on January 14th.

Officer DeWitt has been a member of the Police Department for 10 years and is assigned as a Commercial Policing Officer in Downtown Visalia.



Sandy Tunnel
Professional Staff Employee of the Year



Victoria Nadler
Records Specialist of the Year

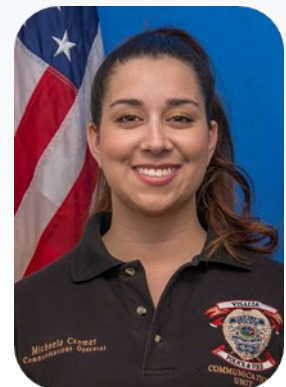


Jim McCoy
Volunteer of the Year



Support Services Manager Veronica McDermott (left), Communications Operator Michaela Cromer (center), and Captain Steve Phillips (right) pose for a photo during the Dispatch Appreciation Banquet held in Fresno.

Michaela was honored for being selected as the Department's Communications Operator of the Year, as well as for her efforts and dedication to the agency.



Michaela Cromer
Communications Operator of the Year

Recognition

EXPLORER POST



The Visalia Police Department honored members of the Explorer Post on February 22nd at the Lamp Liter Inn. Officer Carol Cortez (left) was recognized as Advisor of the Year, and Explorer Jose Chavez (right) was named Explorer of the Year. Also pictured is Chief Jason Salazar (center).

Explorers Jenessa Sanchez (bottom left), David Gray (bottom center) and Jose Chavez (bottom right) all received promotions and were pinned by family members.



The Visalia Police Department Explorers represented the City of Visalia at the Tulare County Explorer Competition held April 7th - 9th, and the Riverside Police Explorer Competition held October 7th - 8th. The Explorers compete yearly against other posts from throughout the state.



Recognition

SHERMAN BLOCK SUPERVISORY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE GRADUATION



Lieutenant Luma Fahoum (left center) and Sergeant Kevin Kroeze (bottom center) both graduated from the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute this past year. The program is designed to stimulate personal growth, leadership, and ethical decision-making in California law enforcement front-line supervisors.

Pictured with Lieutenant Fahoum are Captain Brian Winter (left) and Lieutenant Candido Alvarez (right). Pictured with Sergeant Kevin Kroeze are Lieutenant Ron Epp (left) and Captain Steve Phillips (right).



CENTRAL VALLEY CHAPTER OF NATIONAL LATINO PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



Detective Celestina Sanchez (center) was honored by the Central Valley Chapter of the National Latino Peace Officers Association during the First Annual Women in Law Enforcement History Dinner held on March 28th.

Detective Sanchez was recognized for her efforts and dedication as a Violent Crimes Detective.

Detective Sanchez is pictured with Captain Steve Phillips (left) and Susana Aguilera-Moreno (right).

Recognition

K9 UNIT TRIALS

The Visalia Police Department's K9 Unit competed in both the Sierra K9 Trials and the Bakersfield Police Department K9 Trials this past year.

During the Sierra K9 Trials held on April 29th, the Visalia Police Department competed against 20 police K9 teams from throughout the state and placed as follows: Officer Mike Carsten & Bronson - Top Dog, Top Team, 5th Place Obedience, 2nd Place Agility, and 5th Place Area Search; Officer Daniel Roberts & Xero - 3rd Place Building Search, 2nd Place Obedience, 5th Place Agility, 2nd Place Protection, and 2nd Place Open Category; and Officer Ryan Park & Flic - 4th Place Protection.



Pictured left to right: Officer Daniel Roberts, Officer Mike Carsten, and Officer Ryan Park.

During the Bakersfield Police Department's K9 Trials which consisted of 30 K9 teams from throughout the state, the Visalia Police Department K9 Unit placed as follows: Officer Carsten & Bronson - 4th place Overall; and Officer Roberts & Xero - 1st in Obedience, 1st in Protection, and 2nd in the Building Search.



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LEADERSHIP VISALIA GRADUATION

On May 19th, Chief Jason Salazar (right) and Captain Steve Phillips (left) attended the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Visalia Graduation. Detective Kevin Grant (center) was one of 18 graduates in the class.

Leadership Visalia is a program of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce to develop knowledge, experience, and skills for effective and visionary leadership that will benefit each participant, their workplace, and the community of Visalia.



HOUSING HEROES RECOGNITION LUNCHEON



Officer Nate Henry (center) was honored by the Kings/Tulare Homeless Alliance during the Housing Heroes Recognition Luncheon held on May 25th. Officer Henry received the Unsung Hero award for his ongoing efforts addressing homelessness in Visalia. Also in attendance were Sergeant Andrew Swarthout (left) and Lieutenant Candido Alvarez (right).

Recognition

COMMAND COLLEGE GRADUATION



A graduation ceremony was held on July 28th for Lieutenant Candido Alvarez (right) and other members of Class 61 of the California P.O.S.T. Command College program. Command College consists of seven, week-long intensive academic sessions over a 16-month period investing in the development of law enforcement leaders, professional development, and the future of law enforcement. Lieutenant Alvarez is pictured with Chief Jason Salazar (left).



LAPD LEADERSHIP GRADUATION



Sergeant Jon Pree (left center) and Records Supervisor Lisa Davis (right) both graduated from the Los Angeles Police Department's Leadership program. The program is a 136 hour, four week course, approved by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.). The program focuses on 27 behavioral science and adult education theories compiled from top universities in the nation. Captain Steve Phillips attended both events.

Recognition

CALIFORNIA CRIME & INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS ASSOCIATION



Police Systems Analyst Robin Meyst (left) and Crime Analysis Technician Jessica Yunt (right) both received “Crime Analysts of the Year” awards at the annual California Crime Intelligence Analysts Association Conference held in Riverside on September 29th.

Robin and Jessica were chosen among many nominees for the award for their role in developing a Visalia Police Intranet Crime and Intelligence Webpage to assist the City of Visalia with solving crime, providing intelligence information to officers to assist in the apprehension of criminals, and public safety. This was the first time two analysts were recognized simultaneously, as the board felt they were both deserving of the award.



EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

The City of Visalia's Employee Service Awards event was held on December 13th. The event recognized employees for their years of service to the City of Visalia. A total of 21 members of the Visalia Police Department were recognized for a combined total of 275 years of service.

Recognized for 25 years of service were: Captain Brian Winter and Officer Ruben Cabatic. Lead Records Specialist Judy Morgan-Ronding (not pictured) was recognized for 35 years of service.



Special Events

VISALIA RELAY FOR LIFE



On September 9th, members of the Visalia Police Department had the honor of presenting Survivor Medals to participants of the American Cancer Society's Visalia Relay for Life.

Pictured above left to right: Lieutenant Ron Epp, Lieutenant Amy Watkins, Chief Jason Salazar, Sergeant Chris McLain, Officer Samantha Valenzuela, and Officer Max Navo. Right: Chief Jason Salazar presents a Survivor Medal to a participant.



VUSD CAREER & COLLEGE READINESS LEADERS OF TOMORROW CONFERENCE

On October 9th, the Visalia Police Department participated in the Visalia Unified School District's Career & College Readiness - Leaders of Tomorrow Conference held at the Visalia Convention Center. Chief Jason Salazar and staff had the pleasure of interacting with youth who attend the First Responders Academy at Golden West High School and the Law and Justice Academy at Redwood High School.



Special Events

RED RIBBON WEEK



On October 18th, Officer Joel Arjona and members of the Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) participated in the Tulare County Office of Education's Red Ribbon Week celebration held at the Visalia Convention Center. Hundreds of youth from throughout the County attended the event.



MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION "LOCK-UP"



Sergeant Jon Pree was voluntarily "locked-up" on October 19th during the annual Muscular Dystrophy Association Lock-Up event. The event raised funds to send youth to the MDA's Central California Summer Camp in Tuolumne Meadows. Sergeant Pree raised enough money to supply a full week of medical supplies for one of the campers. Pictured left with Sergeant Pree is Lieutenant Brent Abbott. Pictured right is Lieutenant Brent Abbott, Officer Daniel Gonzalez, Sergeant Jon Pree, and Officer Jason DeWitt.

Special Events

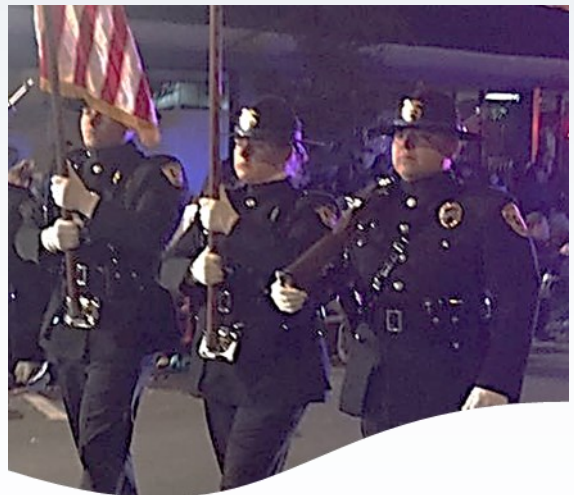
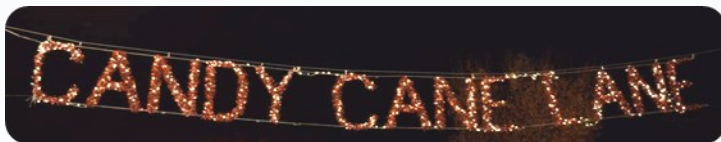
BATTLE OF THE BADGES

The Visalia Police Department participated in the annual Battle of the Badges. The Department competes annually against several law enforcement agencies throughout the south valley. The event kicked off on October 30th with a luncheon and ended on November 12th. Captain Steve Phillips and Chief Jason Salazar (pictured below) were two of several members of the Department who donated blood during the kickoff event.



CANDY CANE LANE PARADE

The annual Candy Cane Lane Parade was held on November 27th in downtown Visalia. Visalia Police Department staff and volunteers assisted with coordinating the event, which is sponsored by the Downtown Visalians and draws thousands of spectators each year. A long time Visalia tradition, the Department enjoys welcoming the holiday season by participating in the parade, while also keeping everyone safe. As with previous years, the Visalia Police Department led the parade.



Community Outreach

CHIEF'S YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In February, the Visalia Police Department launched its first Chief's Youth Advisory Committee meeting. The meetings allow high school and college youth (ages 16-20) to share ideas, concerns, and discuss social and community issues with Visalia Police Department staff members.



COFFEE WITH A COP

Coffee With A Cop is a simple community policing concept that helps improve trust and build relationships with police officers and citizens in the community they serve, one cup of coffee at a time. Officers gather at a local coffee shop or restaurant and simply chat with citizens. There is no set agenda; just informal conversations about what matters to community residents.

The Visalia Police Department hosts Coffee With A Cop events several times each year at various locations within the City of Visalia to interact with citizens throughout the community. In 2017, a total of six events were held, with over 600 contacts made.





Community Outreach

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out was held on August 1st. In addition to the Visalia Police Department, the Fire Department, National Resources Conservation Department, Code Enforcement, as well as the City Manager and members of City Council, also participate in this nationwide event. Staff attended over 21 gatherings during this year's event.

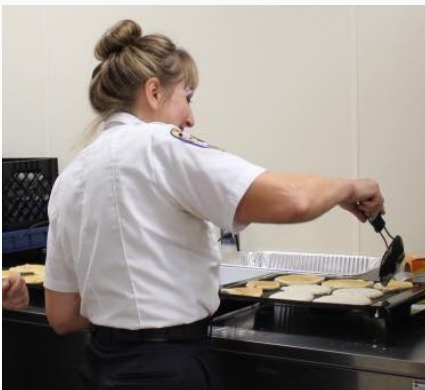




Community Outreach

POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE

The Visalia Police Activities League (P.A.L.) hosts several community events throughout the year such as the P.A.L. Resolution Run, Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Tree Lighting, Breakfast with Santa, and Coat Giveaway.



Memorials

TULARE COUNTY PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL



On May 3rd, members of the Visalia Police Department attended the Tulare County Peace Officer Memorial Ceremony. The ceremony is hosted by the Tulare County Sheriff's Office and honors the fallen officers from throughout the County of Tulare who paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving their communities.

Chief Jason Salazar (left) was one of several Visalia Police Department officers who stood at attention during a 24-hour period honoring local fallen officers.



CALIFORNIA PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL



Members of the Visalia Police Department were honored to visit Sacramento on May 7th & 8th for the California Peace Officers' Vigil and Memorial Ceremony to honor fallen officers from 2016 and years past.

Chief Jason Salazar and Officers (pictured left) accompanied survivors of Visalia Police Officer James Rapozo to this year's memorial.



In Memoriam

CALIFORNIA OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY 2017

Officer Keith Boyer
Whittier Police Department
EOW: February 20, 2017

Officer Lucas F. Chellew
California Highway Patrol - South Sacramento
EOW: February 22, 2017

Deputy Jason Garner
Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office
EOW: May 13, 2017

Deputy Sheriff Robert Rumfelt
Lake County Sheriff's Office
EOW: August 22, 2017

Deputy Sheriff Robert French
Sacramento County Sheriff's Office
EOW: August 30, 2017

Officer Andrew Camilleri
California Highway Patrol
EOW: December 24, 2017



To learn more about these fallen officers, visit the "California Peace Officers' Memorial" website at camemorial.org or the "Officer Down Memorial Page" website at www.odmp.org.

NEVER FORGET



Sergeant Charles Garrison
EOW: November 6, 1948

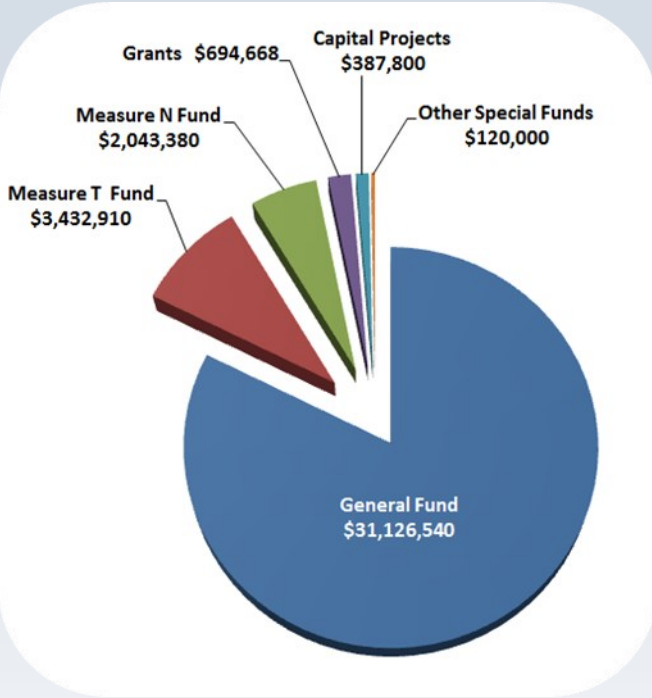


Officer James Rapozo
EOW: January 9, 1998



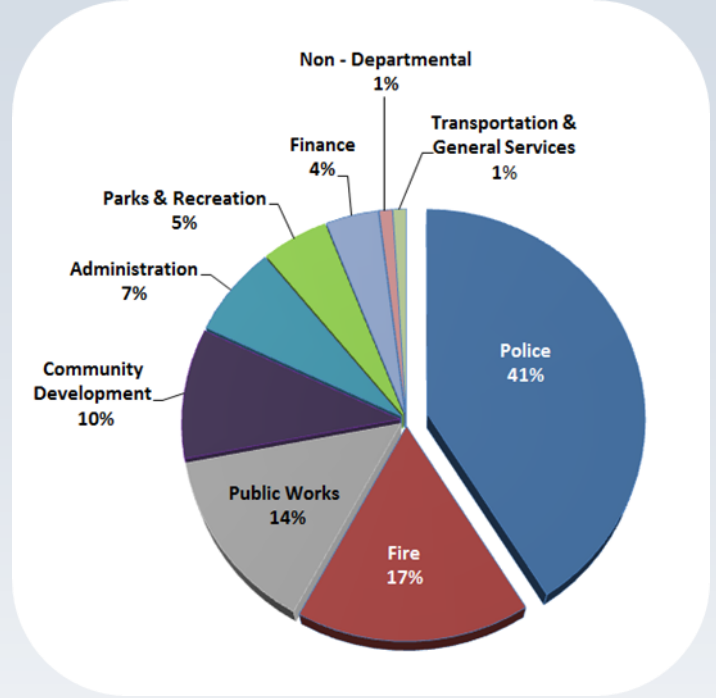
Budget

VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET



FY 2017-2018 Resources

CITY OF VISALIA BUDGET



FY 2017-2018 General Fund Operating Expenditures by Department

The financial operations of the Visalia Police Department are managed by Financial Analyst Liz Ybarra with assistance from Senior Office Assistant Kris Lara. Liz reports directly to the Chief of Police and is responsible for managing the Department's operating budget, capital projects, and grants. Kris Lara provides staff support and assists with administrative responsibilities of day-to-day financial operations.

The Police Department's budget is \$37.8 million dollars that consists of \$31.0 million from the City's General Fund. The additional budget is attributed to \$6.6 million from other funds, which includes \$3.4 million from Measure T, \$2.0 million from Measure N, \$694,000 from grants, \$387,000 from capital projects, and \$120,000 from special revenues.

City Council and staff continue to solicit community input on the types of essential City services citizens value. Maintaining public safety services, addressing homelessness, ground water conservation, and attracting local businesses and jobs are some of the priorities our citizens value.

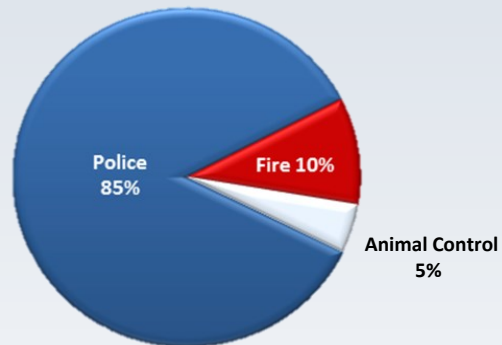
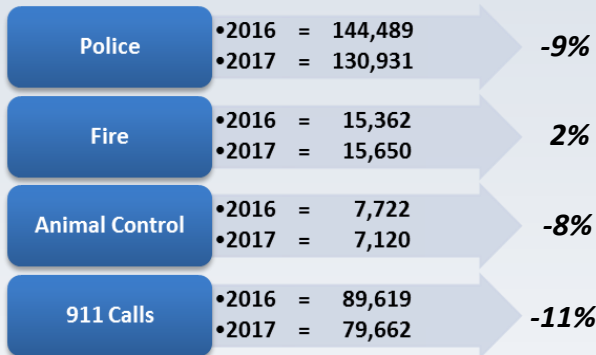


Statistics

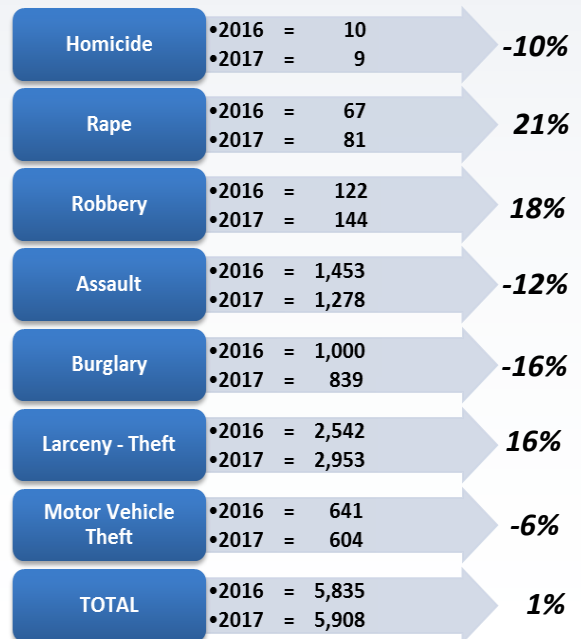
DEMOGRAPHICS



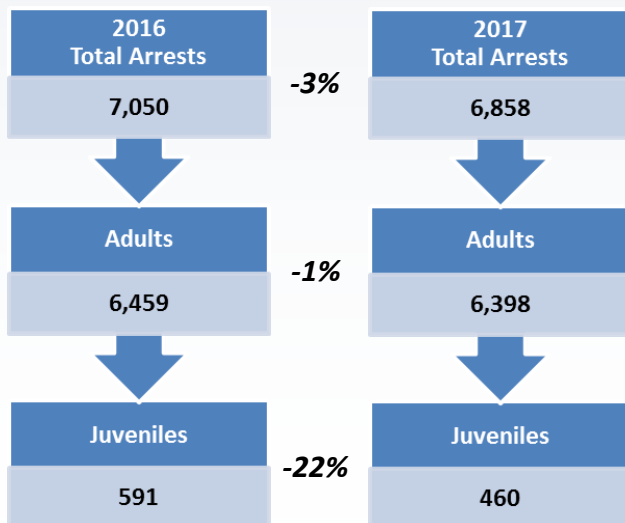
CALLS FOR SERVICE



PART 1 CRIMES



ARRESTS





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