

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW & VISION

AUGUST 30, 2023

Department: Police



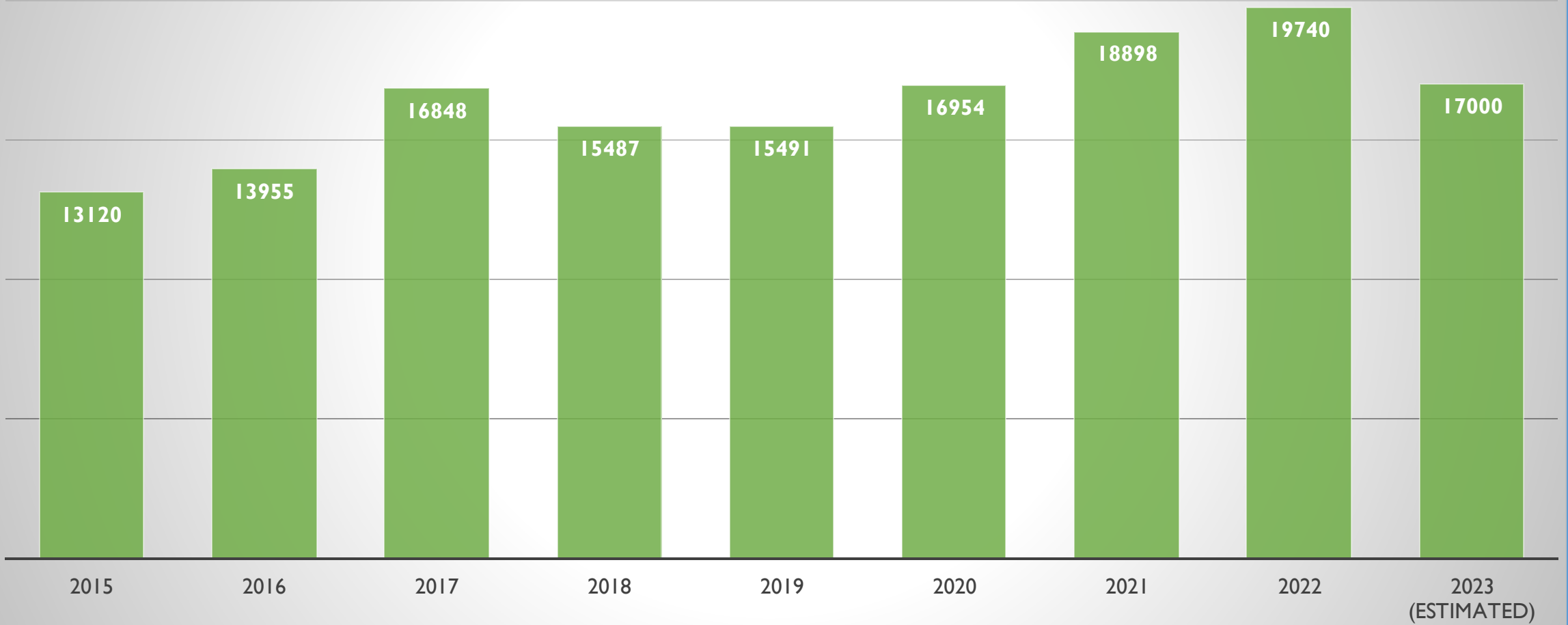
Police Dept Mission Statement:

To serve all people with respect, fairness and compassion; we are committed to working with our community in the protection of life, property and the preservation of peace and order.

POLICE – 2023 OVERVIEW

- Some “higher” profile calls that we handled in 2023:
 - “Swatting” call in Walden – multiple agencies responded to assist, and the situation was resolved in the best possible manner. Our officers handled the situation in the best possible method, but we still held an After Action Debrief to improve for the future.
 - Assisted PA School Board with creating PennSSI (School Safety Institute) for Active Shooting training. This will be instrumental in us maintaining a well-trained and prepared Department.
- We have hired three (3) new officers in 2023, one to replace Sgt Huff’s resignation and two to increase the Department allocation to 24 total officers. This includes the first hire that we sent to the Police Academy, a 6-month commitment.
 - This increase in staffing has permitted us to create a Traffic Safety Unit which, while helping on all Calls for Service, will focus on traffic-centric issues (truck weight violations, speeding, red light/stop sign violations, accidents, etc.).
- In March we were notified of receiving \$125,999 in applied for grant money to be used toward MVR’s (dash cameras), ALPR’s (automated license plate readers), and a State sponsored “Hero Pay” retention/hiring bonus program.
 - In conjunction with our local car dealerships, we were able to raise an additional \$92,000 which means the purchase of all items will come at NO cost to the Township and its taxpayers. Scheduled to be operational by the end of 2023.

Total Calls for Service



POLICE - EXPENSE SUMMARY FOR 2024 BUDGET

- NEEDS:

1. Vehicle – With the Board’s support over the past years we have been able to keep our fleet in very good shape. The transition from the Ford SUVs to the Dodge Durango's has gone smoothly and we look to continue it as they are cheaper, more fuel efficient, and (so far) have proven to be more reliable. For the 2024 budget we are asking to purchase one (1) Durango to replace an existing Patrol Ford SUV. This will keep the rotation on schedule and help us keep our vehicle maintenance costs down. The to-be replaced Ford SUV will replace a much older SUV as a Court/Training vehicle that currently has over 130,000 miles and several dash warning lights illuminated.
2. Personnel – I am asking to increase PT Admin Asst [REDACTED] pay from \$18/hr to \$20/hr and to increase her allotted numbers of hours from 20 hours per week to 25 hours per week. Both changes result in an increase of less than \$7500 total in salary. [REDACTED] has shouldered a much larger workload after [REDACTED] departure and continues to thrive within the Department. Our Right to Know requests, which [REDACTED] handles, have increased from 89 total in 2022 to 140 through August for an estimated total of over 200 total for 2023; these requests are time extensive. [REDACTED] also heads the documentation/paperwork end of the Accreditation process and has the Department well ahead in the process than we have ever been before. She will continue to be a Part-Time employee who does not receive insurance/benefits, nor does she accrue any paid time off/Holidays.

POLICE - EXPENSE SUMMARY FOR 2024 BUDGET

- REQUESTS:

- I. Vehicle - One (1) civilian vehicle that gets high gas mileage. This purchase will permit us to provide a SUV back to Building & Codes with under 70,000 miles (instead of the typical 100,000+) as well as a savings of approx. \$2,000 per year in fuel costs for the more efficient vehicle based on its average mileage. I believe Chris G. will go into more detail, but this will free up the old sedan and one old police SUV from our fleet (both vehicles with well over 125,000 miles each for sale on Municibid. While this likely will not be a large amount of money it will be a few thousand dollars to go back toward these costs.

POLICE - EXPENSE SUMMARY FOR 2024 BUDGET

- REQUESTS (cont.):

- 2. Equipment –

- We would like to upgrade the station camera system by replacing nine (9) existing cameras with new Hi-Def ones and adding two (2) new cameras to areas that need them for an approx. total of \$20,000. (These were requested in the grant but did not make the final cut.)
 - An enclosed trailer to be used for training purposes, especially firearms training days at the Range, as well as during Shop with a Cop and other Cops Care for Kids events, approx. \$10,000 max.



Covered Wagon 7 x 14 Enclosed V-Nose Cargo Trailer – Barn Doors

ITEM #: 31144

All trailers are subject to availability

\$8,699

All prices are subject to change

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POLICE - VISION FOR 2024

- Full implementation of the Traffic Safety Unit – with Officer Hajdarevic wrapping up his Field Training in November/December; 2024 will start with the Department fully staffed and ready to go. This will allow a 2nd officer to be shifted to the Traffic Safety Unit. A full TSU permits us to have a three-officer staffing minimum as well as an extra officer working each day of the week during our statistically busiest hours.
- I am excited for 2024 as we implement the TSU along with an influx of younger officers to continue to increase the enthusiasm and energy levels of the Department. The extra officer on each shift during the busiest times will help keep from over-taxing officers and allow the “extra” to get done – whether that extra is with the citizens directly in taking a few additional minutes with them or in having the added time to run more traffic details to help with safety issues.