

2022



BNPD ANNUAL REPORT

Building community support in the
suppression of criminal activity.

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Contact Information

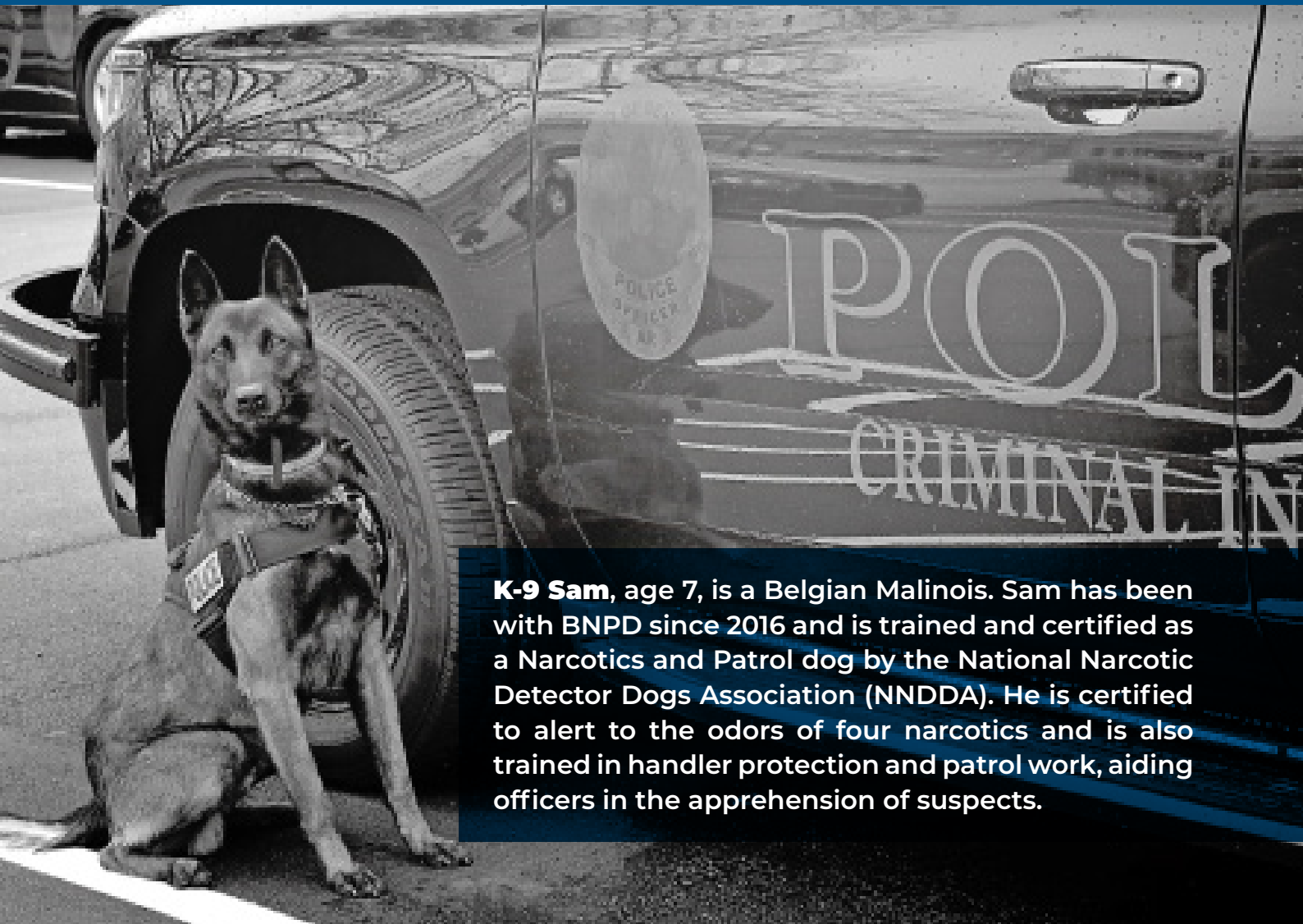
501-776-5948 (Records Office)

501-776-5983 (Chief's Office)

114 S. East St.- Ste. 100

Benton, AR 72015

www.bentonpolice.org



K-9 Sam, age 7, is a Belgian Malinois. Sam has been with BNPD since 2016 and is trained and certified as a Narcotics and Patrol dog by the National Narcotic Detector Dogs Association (NNDDA). He is certified to alert to the odors of four narcotics and is also trained in handler protection and patrol work, aiding officers in the apprehension of suspects.



*We are very transparent. The community knows we are going to do the **right thing.***

Scotty L. Hodges
Chief of Police

Chief's Welcome



Scotty L. Hodges
Chief of Police

On behalf of the men and women of the Benton Police Department, it is my honor to present our 2022 BNPD Annual Report. It should be known that this is our first "Annual Report" and I am so excited to see it come to fruition. This report gives us an opportunity to inform our citizens of the quality of work our department is producing.

Within this report, there are charts, stats and pictures that tell our story of the work and activity of the Benton Police Department throughout 2022. It provides information of the quality work the members of the BNPD do to provide our citizens with a safe place to live. While this report is a very valuable source of information, no amount of data could fully represent the dedicated service of our BNPD employees or tell the complete story of what our members do each and every day. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for making a difference in the quality of life here in Benton.

In 2022, the Benton Police Department had a budgeted workforce of 80 Certified Police Officers and 10 Civilian Employees, who serve a community of 35,014 residents. We strive hard to hire

the best and most qualified candidates, as an organization's success rides on the quality of its employees. I am encouraged and excited for the future of Benton because of the incredible and dedicated men and women of our department.

Members of the BNPD strive to provide our city with an exceptional level of service to those that call Benton home and to all those that use our services. Benton Police Officers continue to display outstanding performance in their day-to-day operations and consistently demonstrate their commitment to providing a high quality of service to the citizens of Benton. All our personnel, both sworn and civilian, work tirelessly to support the mission of the Benton Police Department.

Due to our commitment to the City, we continuously provide the tools and training to deliver the services you deserve and have come to expect. Our department provides you with highly skilled and trained personnel through adequate resources and equipment and the latest advances in technology.

2022 was a big year for our department. We expanded our training focus, which improved our defensive tactics program, and traded our questionably dangerous Tasers for a new less-lethal device, JPX Pepper Gun, to reduce the likelihood of injuries.

Over the past few years, Law Enforcement has faced significant challenges. Many of these new challenges were not unique to the City of Benton; however, our response to these challenges was unique. As witnessed in 2020, various Police Departments across the United States experienced tension within their communities, some resulting in community unrest, violence, and an erosion of public trust in Law Enforcement. Fortunately, here in Benton, we experience a positive relationship with our community, and we are constantly striving to improve that relationship. Due to that relationship, we did not witness the negative impact that many cities dealt with.

The relationship our department, our employees have with the members of our community, is so special. We truly have something special in Benton. I hope each of you know it; I hope each of you feel it, as this relationship is not realized in all communities.

It makes us want to work harder for you and we will continue to work hard for you with honor, dignity, and transparency, to continue to earn your trust and the support that you have so graciously given.

As with the challenges that we have faced, I would expect 2023 and beyond to bring many more challenges and opportunities for our department. With each challenge, our department grows stronger. Having a solid foundation of dedicated employees, being an accredited department, and the strong bond we have with our community, there are no limits to what we can accomplish.

As part of our mission, in 2021, we achieved our initial Law Enforcement Accreditation through the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police. Although it took us approximately a year to achieve, this was an extremely fast pace for a department our size. The accreditation requires departments to undergo strenuous processes of self-assessments, including internal audits and reviews of policies, procedures, and practices. To achieve this standard of excellence, a department must be committed to the best practices in policing. We were the 17th department in Arkansas to achieve this standard. Even though we received our accreditation, it is a continual process. We must live by the standards of the accreditation and maintain our compliance with the applicable standards, being reviewed by the ALEAP Committee every three years.

I am way too excited to share this next tidbit of information with you. Although there has been an uptick in the crime rate all over our great nation, in 2022, the City of Benton saw its lowest crime rates in more than a decade; more than a decade. That's crazy. This alone shows the commitment the men and women of BNPD have for our community. We are truly blessed.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve the City of Benton for the past 26 and a half years, with just over 5 years as your Chief of Police. I would like to thank Mayor Tom Farmer, our Benton Council Members, our Benton Civil Service Commission, and all the residents of the City of Benton for allowing me this great honor and for your continued support of our Police Department.

Scotty L. Hodges
Chief of Police
Benton Police Department





Our mission is to provide our community with a professional, progressive, community-oriented police department. We strive to serve our citizens with the utmost courtesy and concern for their needs with an emphasis on integrity and fairness and conduct ourselves in such a manner as to instill confidence and pride in the Benton Police Department by the community. We strive to protect the constitutional rights of everyone with the purpose of creating an atmosphere of safety and security in our community.

In accomplishing the above mission, we continually direct our efforts in the following areas:

- Recognizing the spirit of our department is one of helping people and providing assistance at every opportunity.
- Striving to gain community support in the suppression of criminal activity.
- Aggressively responding to criminal activity in a manner consistent with safeguarding the rights of all citizens.
- Realizing that the employees of our department are the most important part of the organization and constantly striving to help them in their performance and development.
- Developing leadership throughout the Department.
- Consistently demanding the highest degree of integrity, professionalism, and proactiveness from all employees.

BNPD

Demographics

SWORN	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Male	64	87.7
Female	9	12.3
White	61	83.6
Black	5	6.8
Hispanic	7	9.6
No College	21	28.8
Some College	14	19.2
Associates	5	6.8
Bachelors	32	43.8
Masters	1	1.4



Crime Statistics

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program was conceived in 1929 by the International Association of Chiefs of Police to meet a need for reliable, uniform crime statistics for the nation. In 1930, the FBI was tasked with collecting, publishing, and archiving those statistics. Today, several annual statistical publications, such as the comprehensive *Crime in the United States*, are produced from data provided by nearly 17,000 law enforcement agencies across the United States.

Violent Crime

Homicide- 1
Robbery- 16
Rape- 21
Aggravated assault- 126

Property Crime

Burglary- 161
Theft- 920
Motor vehicle theft- 111
Arson- 8

Accidents- 1,623

Calls for Service- 40,613

Arrest Stats

Warrants Served- 2,409
Felony Arrests- 1,775
Misdemeanor Arrests- 1,230

Traffic Stops- 9,007

Traffic Citations- 2,892

Warning Citations- 873

DUI Arrests- 1

DWI Arrests- 140



SWAT



The Benton Police Department established the SWAT Team in 2000 as a response to an increase in “special threat” situations in Benton. The members of the specially trained team are faced with varied, multi-faceted missions. They respond to dangerous situations that include barricaded subjects, serving high-risk warrants, and the arrest of potentially violent suspects.

Selection for the SWAT Team is a difficult process. All applicants must be sworn Benton Police Department officers. Initial tryouts are physically and mentally demanding. Applicants must be agile, physically fit and capable of accomplishing multiple tasks under extremely stressful conditions. Once every challenge is met, the applicant is interviewed before a review board consisting of SWAT Team members and the SWAT Commander. Of the numerous applicants, only a handful are selected to become members.

The training and learning process does not end upon selection as a SWAT member. As an active member of the SWAT Team, the new SWAT officers continue to train and further enhance their capabilities and expertise. To remain active on the Team, officers must qualify quarterly with higher averages than non-SWAT officers in weapons and physical proficiency.



Capt. Patrick Baker



Lt. Curtis Wood



Sgt. Seth Hopkins

Patrol Division

Patrol is the largest division of BNPD with 44 officers. Captain Patrick Baker leads the division.

Patrol Duties:

24-hour patrols of entire city

Respond to 911 calls and other calls for service

Accident investigation

Enforcement of criminal and traffic laws and city ordinances

Incident Reports:	30,827
Accident Reports:	1,623
Felony Arrests:	1,775
Misdemeanor Arrests:	1,230
Traffic Stops:	9,007



Lt. Jamar Bennett



Sgt. Mason Curtis



Lt. Ronnie Davidson



Sgt. Zach McAnally



Lt. Larry Applegarth



Sgt. Jason Moore

Criminal Investigations Division

This division is led by Captain Kevin Russell, Lt. Jeff Kling, and Sergeant Dustin Hamm.

Detectives are assigned cases first encountered by the patrol division and do follow-up investigative work for criminal offenses that occur within the Benton city limits.

Cases Assigned in 2022: 902

Cases Cleared: 931



Capt. Kevin Russell



Lt. Jeff Kling



Sgt. Dustin Hamm

K9- Criminal Interdiction

The K-9s, "Sam" (Officer French) and "Rocko" (Officer Howard), are cross-trained in patrol and narcotics detection. The department's K-9 teams play a critical role in the day-to-day operations of the police department. The support and resources these K-9s provide to patrol and narcotic operations is immeasurable. These teams have been credited with numerous drug seizures, apprehensions of violent offenders, and searches for persons while aiding the Benton Police and other local and state agencies.

Currently, the K-9 handlers and their K-9s are assigned to both the Patrol Division and Special Investigations Unit.

Officer Miles French and K9 Sam graduated from a month-long Instructor Course at Ventosa Kennels in October in Scotland Neck, North Carolina. Throughout the month-long training, Officer French learned multiple ways to help train police K9s, specifically in the areas of Tracking, Narcotics, Patrol Work, Article Searches, and Building Clearing. These skills will help BNPD as well as other agencies that the K9 officers train and interact with. Officer French is now the department's first certified K-9 Instructor/Trainer.

Plans for expansion of the BNPD K-9 program are in the works, so stay tuned for exciting updates!

K9 Sam Stats and notes from Officer French:

30 Deployments for the year 2022

- All deployments were for narcotic "sniffs."
- 2 of the deployments were for other agencies.
- Of those 30 deployments, 18 were positive alerts.
- Of the 18 positive alerts, there were 14 Felony Arrests and 6 Misdemeanor Arrests. (these arrests are specific to Sam and his alerts)

Sam was not a tracking dog for the majority of 2022 but was recently taught how to track while Officer French was at K-9 Instructor school.

K9 Rocko Stats and notes from Officer Howard:

29 deployments for the year of 2022

- 25 deployments were for narcotics sniffs.
- Of the 29 deployments, 8 of the deployments were for other agencies.
- 14 of the narcotics sniffs were positive alerts.
- 1 deployment was a building search for a burglary suspect.
- 2 deployments were tracks for suspects that fled. 1 track led to a suspect being located and apprehended.

K9 Rocko and Officer Howard assisted SWAT with 1 warrant service for the 2022 year.



K-9 Officer Sam & Ofc. Miles French



K-9 Officer Rocko & Ofc. Brandus Howard

Special Investigations Unit

The Special Investigations Unit, directed by Lt. Brian Bigelow, is responsible for conducting criminal investigations for the following, but not limited to:

- Narcotics violations (Investigations ranging from simple possession to pharmaceutical drug diversions)
- Street level narcotics distribution
- Vice crimes
- Chronic neighborhood crimes (as deemed appropriate)

The Special Investigations Unit handles investigations that are short term in nature involving little time and expenditure of resources to those involving many agencies and outside resources. The City of Benton Police Department SIU has established excellent working relationships with local, state and federal agencies.

The Special Investigations Unit operates with strict confidentiality and offers the public the ability to report suspicious activity “drug activity” etc., through an anonymous tip line, via texting 847411 with keyword BENTONPD, or by speaking directly with an investigator at (501)-776-5947.



Lt. Brian Bigelow



78,829.6 g

Total Weight of Illicit Drugs Seized by SIU



53

Criminal Charges Filed



Over \$103,000

in currency seized

School Resource

Benton Police School Resource Officers (SRO) work under the general direction of the School Resource Officer Lieutenant and Sergeant and perform law enforcement functions, teaching and counseling in and around the Benton School District and Saline County Career and Technical Campus.

This 10-officer team is made possible by a partnership between the Benton Police Department and Benton Public Schools.

The SRO program is an initiative to help keep our schools a safe environment for learning through an increased law enforcement presence that allows for a good rapport between officers, students, and staff. Officers participate in school-sponsored functions both during and after regular school hours including sporting events, dances, meetings, pep rallies, and numerous other year-round happenings. They work with school counselors on school projects and clubs and teach a variety of subjects in the classroom such as drug prevention, child safety, juvenile law, prescription drug abuse, alcohol abuse, babysitting, sex crimes, and other



Lt. Quinton Jackson



Sgt. Andrew Talbot

preventions related subjects. They also conduct preliminary investigations of violations of law that occur on school campuses and district property.

An additional School Resource Officer will be added for the 2023-2024 school year to accommodate the new elementary school within the Benton School District.

Year after year the BNPD SRO program is a model for other schools and law enforcement agencies to follow. The officers work well together to fulfill the mission of the police department and the school district. Each officer is unique and brings their own style of policing to the school they serve, but they all go above and beyond to serve their school and community.



Front row: Lt. Quinton Jackson, Officer John Spadaro, Officer Angel Oliver, Officer Joanna Sanchez, Officer Cory Mize

Back row: Officer Timothy Luper, Sgt. Andrew Talbot, Officer Nick Anderson, Officer Tierra Coffey, and Officer Josh Mungle

Training

The Training Division is tasked with ensuring the division operates efficiently and that employees receive appropriate training for their assigned division. Lt. Robertson oversees the overall operation of the division and reports to Captain Haworth, the Administrative Captain.

Sgt. Speer is the first-line supervisor for the Training Division and ensures that training for each employee is up-to-date and corresponds with all applicable laws. He schedules all training and makes necessary arrangements for the employee to attend. The Training Sergeant also instructs classes throughout the year to update employees on new technology and strategies that will assist them in their assigned duties.

Examples of training provided throughout the department in 2022 included:

- Multi-agency Active Shooter Training conducted with Bryant, Saline County and Haskell. Over 130 officers trained throughout the two weeks.
- 15,647 hours of training conducted by all members of the PD. That's an average of 237 hours per officer. State minimum is 24 hours.
- Department averaged 95% proficiency qualifications on their duty weapons, well above the state minimum standard of 80 percent.
- 768 hours of Supervision training classes taken



15,647 hours

of training conducted by all members of the PD.



237 hours

average hours of training per officer.



95%

proficiency qualifications on their duty weapons, well above the state minimum standard of 80 percent.



Sgt. Doug Speer



Capt. Eric Haworth



Lt. Don Robertson

Records

The Records Division of the Benton Police Department is a civilian support unit, which provides general record maintenance and data entry for the department. The Records Division is responsible for processing accident and incident reports, data entry of traffic and criminal offenses, and processing subpoenas and warrants.

The Records Division handles a large number of requests for reports from the public as well as requests for background checks. They are also responsible for submitting monthly statistical reports to the state and federal government concerning criminal activity and arrests information for the city.

The Records Division receives incoming phone calls for the police department as well as providing customer service to those conducting business within the police department. Hours of operation for the Records Division are 7:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. Monday thru Friday except for holidays. Records Phone Number: 501-776-5948.



Accident Reports

Processed in 2022: 1,193



Incident Reports

Processed in 2022: 13,178



Warrants Entered

3,214



Cissy Brown



Kelsey Ellis



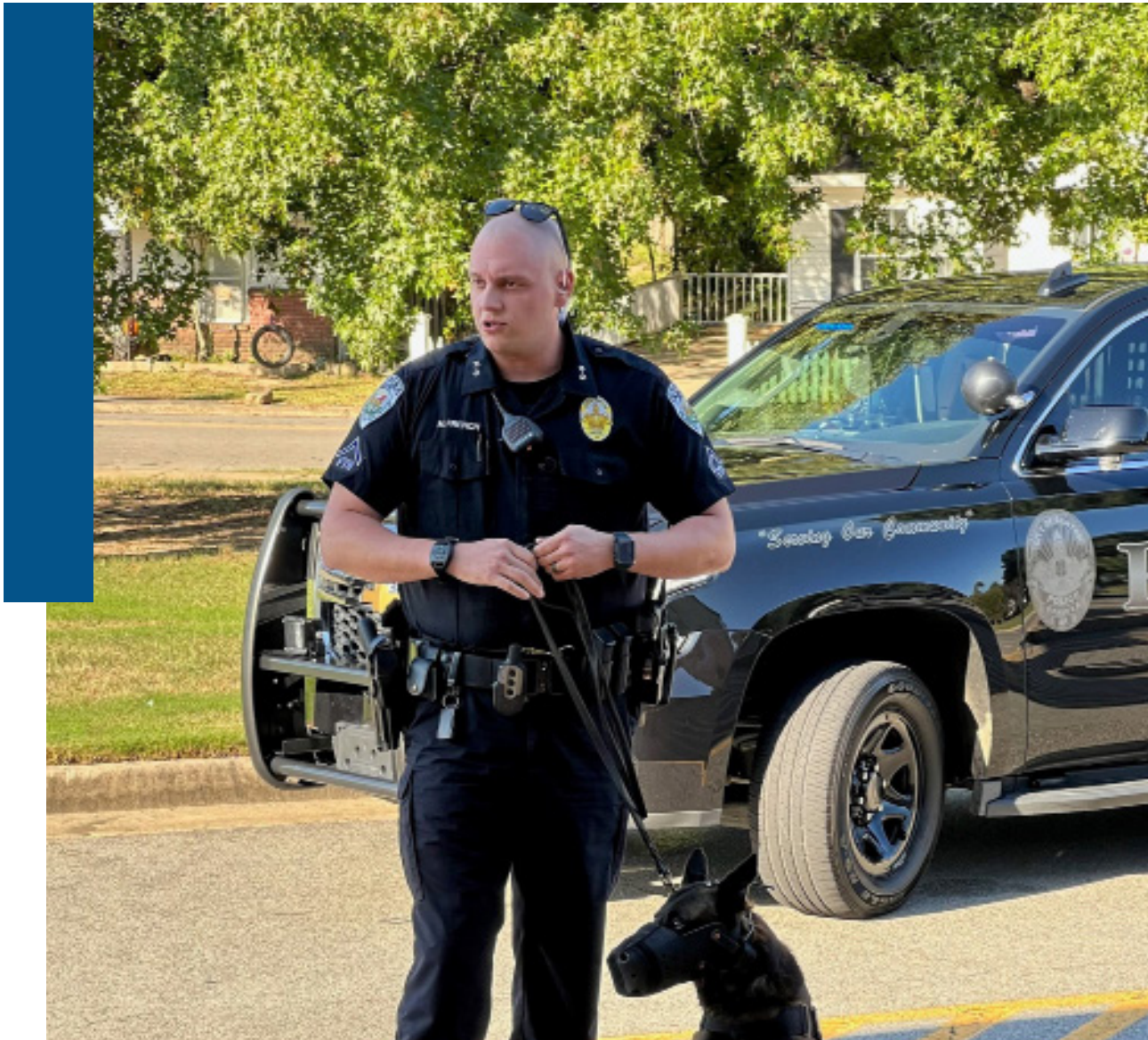
Hollie Johnson



Audena Johnson



Jennifer Picklesimer



Task Forces

BNPD participates in various task forces from time to time such as the Drug Enforcement Agency Task Force or various projects in partnership with the FBI or Marshals Service.

One BNPD officer worked with the DEA task force throughout 2022, and one worked with Homeland Security Investigations.

Community Relations and Public Information



Lt. Quinton Jackson

BNPD strives to be proactive in law enforcement as well as in building community relationships. Lt. Jackson oversees many of the events BNPD participates in, and any time a media interview is needed, he serves as Public Information Officer (Capt. Russell is back-up). The media specialist works alongside Lt. Jackson to coordinate, publicize, and document events, as well as ensure a regular presence on social media.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Nextdoor, and come say hi to us at any number of events such as Third Thursday, holiday parades, Hooked on Fishing Derby, Special Olympics Torch Run, DEA Drug Take Back Days, Car Seat Safety Days, and many more. All events hosted by BNPD are free and open to the public (some require registration).

The 2022 Fishing Derby saw an expansion of the activities offered to the community. BNPD partners with Arkansas Game and Fish and local entities to help offer a fishing tournament for kids 12 and under every year. The weather was rather hot in 2022, but we still had a decent turnout. In 2023, we plan to move the event to a cooler month and look forward to many more being able to attend. Our goal is to continue to expand this event every year and include more and more outdoor activities in addition to the fishing derby itself.

BNPD joins the DEA Take Back events twice a year. These are days set aside specifically to collect old prescription and OTC meds that would otherwise remain in the reach of young kids or those who might abuse them. These events are held in April and October. In 2022, BNPD collected 1,619.50 total pounds of meds to be properly disposed of. This includes those collected at the 24/7 drop box located in front of the department.

In continuation of BNPD's support of Special Olympics Arkansas athletes, officers participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics and oversaw security at the Polar Plunge. Officers also participated in a Tip a Cop event at Texas Roadhouse, which was the first event of its kind held locally since the pandemic started.

Additionally, BNPD provided monthly car seat clinics to ensure safety of kiddos throughout the community, assisted with multiple parades, and participated in the City of Benton events such as Small Town Christmas, Third Thursday, 4th of July celebration, and more.



Mayor Tom Farmer, Chief Scotty Hodges,
Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Director Gary Sipes

ALEAP - Accreditation

The Arkansas Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ALEAP) is a voluntary process where police agencies in Arkansas prove their compliance with Arkansas Law Enforcement's current Best Practices or Standards.

In 2020, the Department of Justice announced Standards for Certification as a result of President Trump's June 2020 Executive Order 13929, Safe Policing for Safe Communities. The Executive Order's goal is to ensure law enforcement agencies continue to provide transparent, safe, and accountable delivery of services to their communities. Independent credentialing bodies were approved nationwide to certify agencies.

The certification process is extensive and is overseen in Arkansas by the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police (AACP) within their Arkansas Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ALEAP). Within the ALEAP program, 173 standards and 436 proofs of compliance must be met by each department seeking accreditation. In addition to these standards, there are two mandatory safe policing principles in which an agency must show compliance:

The agency's use-of-force policies must adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws; and the agency must maintain use-of-force policies that prohibit the use of choke holds,

except in those situations where deadly force is allowed by law.

Lt. Don Robertson served as the Accreditation Manager over this certification process for Benton Police Department, and at a Benton City Council meeting, Chief Hodges was presented with the formal recognition of the department as the 17th in Arkansas to earn this certification.

The credentialing bodies maintain the list of certified agencies and submit them to the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. In meeting these certification requirements, BNPD and other certified agencies retain eligibility for Department of Justice discretionary grant funding and commit to maintaining the highest standards of integrity in law enforcement. For more information regarding this program/process as it pertains to Arkansas, visit arkchiefs.org.

BNPD will continue to meet and exceed the requirements of the accreditation in 2023 and beyond.

Recruitment

Minimum requirements:

- Must be 20 years of age at the time of the written exam.
- Must possess a valid Arkansas Driver's License.
- Must be a U.S. Citizen.
- Must have graduated from a standard high school or have a high school equivalency (GED).
- Must have no felony convictions.
- A complete background investigation will be conducted on every applicant.
- An applicant will be required to pass a basic physical agility test, drug test, Computer Voice Stress Analyzer, medical and psychological exam.
- Educational Incentive Pay: up to \$600.00 per year, per certificate. (up to 6 certificates for a total possible \$3,600.00)
- Associate Degree; \$600/year
- Bachelor's Degree; \$1,200/year
- Master's Degree: \$1,800/year
- Bilingual Pay: \$900/year
- Paramedic Pay: \$900/year
- Uniforms and Safety Equipment provided by the City and \$480 Cleaning Allowance for the first year.
- \$1,980 per year Clothing Allowance after the first year
- Paid Life Insurance
- Employee Assistance Program

Benefits:

- Starting salary range for non-certified officers: \$51,000 plus degree pay
- Individual Health coverage: FREE for employee
- Family Health coverage costs \$285/month
- Health coverage includes dental and vision
- Excellent LOPFI Retirement Plan
- Paid Sick Leave
- Paid Vacation Leave
- Holiday Pay
- Take Home Car Program



BENTONPOLICE.ORG FOR MORE INFO

THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOUR FUTURE.

Starting Base Pay: \$51,000 PLUS:

Holiday Pay Starting at \$2,353 (for 12 holidays)

Clothing Allowance is \$480 for first full year- \$1,980/year thereafter

Certificate Pay: \$600 Annually for Basic, General, Intermediate, Advanced, Senior, & Instructor Certificates; \$900 Annually for Paramedic & Bilingual- up to \$5,400 Annually

Degree Pay: \$600, \$1,200, \$1,800 Annually for Associate, Bachelor's, & Master's Respectively

Starting Patrol Officers Can Expect to Make At Least \$56,383.

Home Storage Unit Program, FTO Pay, Full Employee Medical, Dental, & Vision (FREE for employee only) plus Family Coverage Options (only \$285/month)

CALL 501-776-5983 TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT & SEE WHAT BNPD CAN DO FOR YOU!

Apply at www.bentonpolice.org



BNPD
BentonPolice.org



Christopher Wray
Director of FBI

Eric Haworth
BNPD Administrative Captain

FBI National Academy (Special Achievements)- Haworth and 5 grads overall for BNPD

Captain Eric Haworth, a 20-year veteran of the Benton Police Department, joined the prestigious ranks of those who have graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia in April 2022. He was among law enforcement officers from across the globe who graduated from the academy's 281st session.

Haworth was also a recipient of the Yellow Brick Road Award for completing the grueling fitness challenge consisting of a 6.1-mile run through a hilly, wooded trail built by the Marines. Participants must climb over walls, run through creeks, jump through simulated windows, scale rock faces with ropes, crawl under barbed wire in muddy water, maneuver across a cargo net, and more. Students who complete this test receive a yellow brick to commemorate their achievement.

The recent National Academy class consisted of members of law enforcement agencies from across the U.S. and multiple countries, military organization and federal civilian organizations. The ten-week program offers advanced communications, leadership and fitness training for selected officers with proven records within their agencies. The stringent selection process often results in a waiting list of three to five years. Attendees have, on average, 19 years of law enforcement experience and typically return to their agencies to serve

in executive-level positions.

Training for the program is provided by the FBI academy instructional staff, Special Agents and other staff members holding advanced degrees, many of whom are recognized internationally in their field of expertise. While in attendance, Haworth studied in such areas as Constitutional Law and Policing, Fitness in Law Enforcement, The Cyber Threat Landscape for Law Enforcement Executives, Executive Leadership, Managing the Media and Law Enforcement Image, and Contemporary Issues in Law Enforcement. Three of the courses completed were Masters level courses accredited through the University of Virginia that can be applied toward a future graduate degree.

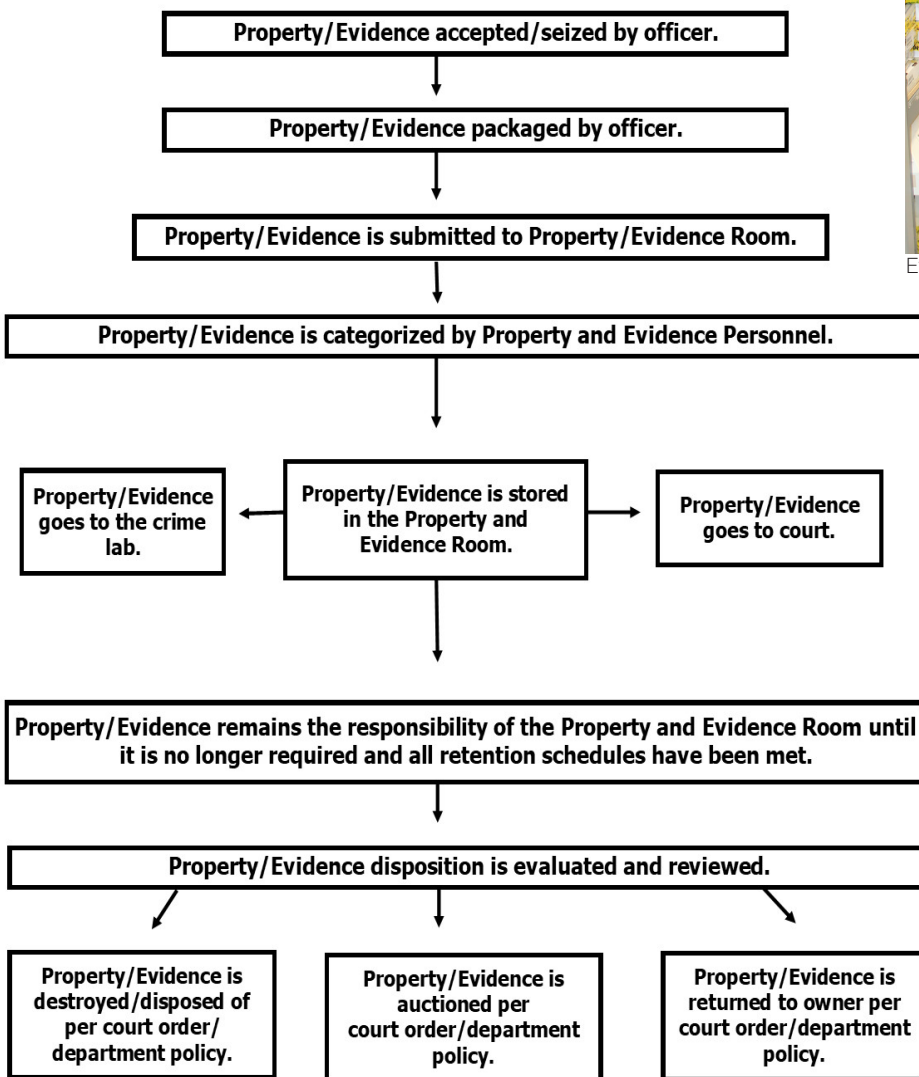
There are five current members of the Benton Police Department who are FBI National Academy graduates serving the community; Chief Scotty Hodges, Assistant Chief Jeff Besancon, Captain Kevin Russell, Captain Patrick Baker, and Captain Eric Haworth.

"It's considered an important part of the executive level training at BNPD that better equips supervisors to professionally guide the department into the future," said Chief Scotty Hodges.

"We're proud of [Captain] Haworth for this accomplishment and look forward to watching him apply what he learned for the betterment of the entire agency."

Evidence

Property/Evidence Flow Chart



Evidence Manager Andrea Cox

DRE

BNPD currently has 7 certified Drug Recognition Experts who not only serve our department but assist other nearby agencies as needed. These DRE's have completed a total of 27 evaluations during the calendar year of 2022.

A drug recognition expert or drug recognition evaluator (DRE) is a police officer trained to recognize impairment in drivers under the influence of drugs other than, or in addition to, alcohol. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) coordinates the International Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program with support from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation. In addition to officers, who are certified as DREs, the DEC Program educates prosecutors and toxicologists on the DRE process and the drug categories.

Drug recognition, a growing profession in law enforcement, has seen great promise as a means of identifying and prosecuting drug-impaired drivers. Professional interest in the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program and procedures has grown from impaired driving enforcement to workplace drug impairment evaluation, juvenile justice, corrections, and other fields.

Three determinations of a DRE
A DRE conducts a detailed, diagnostic examination of persons arrested or suspected of drug-impaired driving or similar offenses. Based on the results of the drug evaluation, the DRE forms an expert opinion on the following:

1. Is the person impaired? If so, is the person able to operate a vehicle safely? If the DRE concludes that the person is impaired...
2. Is the impairment due to an injury, illness or other medical complication, or is it drug-related? If the impairment is due to drugs...

3. Which category or combination of categories of drugs is the most likely source of the impairment?

DRE Training Process and its Prerequisites
A drug recognition expert must have successfully completed an approved course in the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFSTs) and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) before beginning the three-phase Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program, which includes the following phases:

Phase One: The 16-hour DRE Pre-school, which includes an overview of the DRE evaluation procedures, the seven drug categories, eye examinations and proficiency in conducting the SFSTs.

Phase Two: The 56-hour DRE School which includes an overview of the drug evaluation procedures, expanded sessions on each drug category, drug combinations, examination of vital signs, case preparation, courtroom testimony, and Curriculum Vitae (C.V.) preparation. At the conclusion of the 7-days of training, the officer must successfully complete a written examination before moving to the third and final phase of training.

Phase Three: During this phase the candidate DRE must complete a minimum of 12 drug evaluations under the supervision of a trained DRE instructor. Of those 12 evaluations, the officer must identify an individual under the influence of at least three of the seven drug categories and obtain a minimum 75% toxicological corroboration rate. The officer must then pass a final knowledge examination and be approved by two DRE instructors before being certified as a certified DRE.

Honor Guard

Each BNPD Honor Guard member volunteers as part of this division and is cross trained to carry out varying responsibilities such as presenting/posting Colors, flag folding, casket watch, and serving as pallbearers. The Benton Police Department Honor Guard provide these services, as a professional courtesy, to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Left to Right: Det. David Snodgrass, Sgt. Doug Speer, Officer Cory Mize, and Lt. Don Robertson



Negotiators

The Benton Crisis Negotiation Team (C.N.T.) is comprised of 6 Negotiators. These Negotiators received extensive training from various agencies including the FBI and NYPD consisting of not only Crisis Negotiation techniques but also Crisis Management. The C.N.T. responds to a multitude of different calls for service including: Hostage Situations, Barricaded Persons, Emotionally Disturbed Persons, and Suicide Attempts. During these calls for service the Negotiators use psychological techniques known as Active Listening Skills to calm the situation before negotiations can take place. Negotiators work very closely with the S.W.A.T. Team by gaining and relaying any tactical information pertaining to the situation at hand. The main goal of the C.N.T. is to resolve all situations in a peaceful manner.



CID Sergeant Dustin Hamm and Det. Chris Benham

FTO Program

Officers have just begun their training upon graduating from a certified law enforcement training academy. BNPD sends new hires to academies in Little Rock and Conway. Once they graduate and return to BNPD, a recruit's progress is monitored, mentored, and documented by a Field Training Officer. If a recruit has shown the aptitude for learning but requires additional time or experience to meet the standards of the program, then the program can be extended until a recruit can perform the general duties of a police officer safely and responsibly. If a recruit lacks the ability to perform the general task of a police officer in a reasonable amount of time, it is the responsibility of the program to document the deficiencies of the recruit to provide the administrative staff the information needed to consider the recruits suitability for police work. The work of the FTO is crucial to ensuring the safe and effective police operations which in turn ensures a safe and secure environment for the citizens of Benton. The Field Training Officer is the anchor of the thin blue line

that guards our community. In order to join that line, the FTO ensures that an officer's ability is matched to their desire to do the job and that their desire is matched with their ability.

BNPD currently has 12 certified Field Training Officers, and Lt. Ron Davidson oversees the program. Upon successful completion of 18 weeks of post-academy field training, new officers are released to regular patrol.



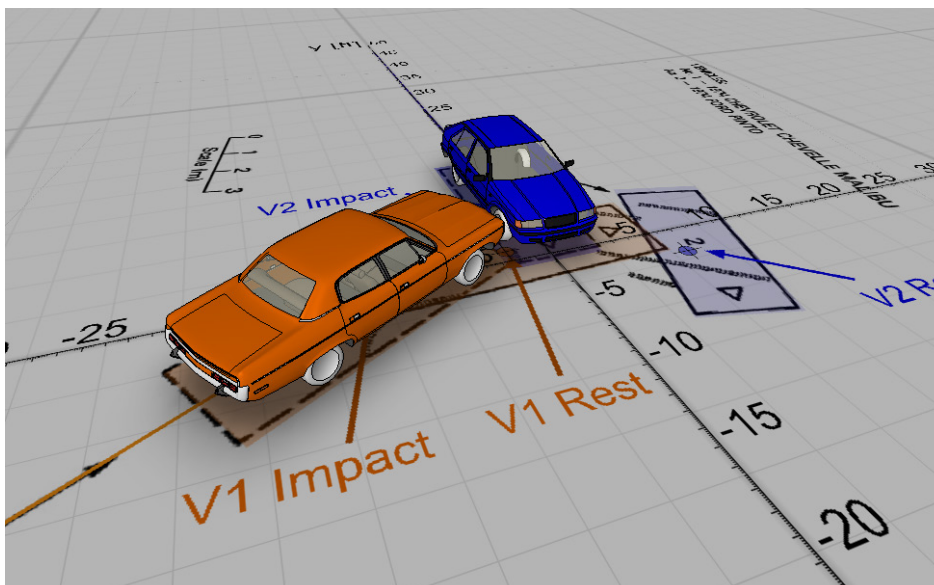
Lt. Brian Bigelow



Sgt. Zach McAnally

Accident Reconstruction

The Benton Police Department Accident Reconstruction Team is comprised of 5 highly trained officers. These officers respond to traffic crashes that result in fatalities or significant injuries that could lead to fatalities. Members of the team receive a wide variety of training in the use of mathematical formulas for crash reconstruction. Some are also trained in the use of highly specialized equipment such as laser mapping scanners and drones, which are critical in documentation and scale diagramming of a crash scene. The evidence gathered from the scene will then be used to reconstruct the crash, determine fault, aid the criminal investigation process, and provide reports so the proper charging decisions may be made. This team responds, on average, to 2 or 3 scenes per year. In 2022, they assisted with one investigation.



Chaplaincy Program

Chaplaincy provides physical and informational resources for officers and the community. For more than 35 years, law enforcement chaplaincy has partnered with the Benton Police Department to bring hope to our community, light to those in their darkest hours, and support for officers.

Our chaplains are on call 24/7, responding to assist officers when needed. The chaplains bring a calming presence and offer emotional and spiritual support to individuals and families during overwhelming situations. Services are not only for officers, but to the city and its citizens as well. Chaplains serve all employees of the law enforcement agency, not just sworn officers.

Additionally, chaplains make visits to the dispatch office to offer support and plan, assist with and execute MANY community programs such as Shop with Our Cops, Peace Officer Memorial, National Police Week, Benton PD and Arkansas Game and

Fish Fishing Derby, and others. Educational training and other activities also comprise the chaplaincy program.

In 2022, our chaplains responded to over 260 call outs, helped with disaster response, had eight invocation invitations, assisted with memorial services, held lunch and learn events with new officers, and made many department visits, logging over 3,000 hours of service.

They are an invaluable part of our agency and the agencies around the area as a whole. We truly could not do what we do without them.



Chaplain Tamra Gore, Batman, Belle



FEAR Unit

Forensic Electronic Analysis and Recovery Unit

In 2022 the Forensic Electronic Analysis and Recovery (FEAR) Unit processed over 1.45 TB of data, resulting from roughly 40 cases, assisted with approximately 100 cases, and provided assistance to local, state, and federal agencies.

Since 2015, the unit has processed over 17 TB of data on approximately 200 cases.



Dispatch

The Saline County 9-1-1 Center was established in 1987 for the benefit, health and welfare of our county residents. In 2021 Saline County 911 and Benton Police Department 911 Communications consolidated to form Saline Emergency Communications (SEC). SEC serves as the vital link between the citizens and public safety agencies of our county. The main objective of the SEC is to strive to collect and disseminate all requests for service in a prompt, courteous and efficient manner for all our citizens. Through their actions they help save lives, protect property and assist the public in their time of need.

The Saline Emergency Communications center dispatches for the Saline County Sheriff's Office, and the Police and Fire Departments for Alexander, Bauxite, Benton, Haskell, Shannon Hills, and Traskwood, as well as 12 other volunteer Fire Departments in rural Saline County. SEC also dispatches for the county Emergency Medical Service Provider, Saline County Emergency Management, Saline County Coroner's Office and Benton Animal Control.

The communications center is located in the heart of Saline County, and staff members are standing by for calls 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Saline Emergency Communications has 26 full-time and 7 part-time dispatchers. In 2022, they received a total of 106,379 calls for service (cfs). They are all EMD (emergency medical dispatch) trained, which means that when someone contacts 911 for medical assistance, they not only dispatch the ambulance service in Saline County, but they can also give pre-arrival instructions and, of course, instruct anyone how to perform CPR over the phone. Most callers are unaware that when they dial 911 for an ambulance, they will be asked multiple questions. This is done to collect as much information as possible and to provide the most appropriate pre-arrival instructions, and it will never cause the ambulance to be delayed.



Promotions & Retirements

Detective Michael Teague- January 2022 Retirement

During Detective Michael Teague's four years in the US Air Force, he rose to the rank of Senior Airman. He received numerous medals and awards during his time in the military and in August of 1997, he received an Honorable discharge for his service.

After military service, he attended two years of community college, where he took criminal justice courses to further his career in law enforcement. In February of 2000, Michael began his civilian law enforcement career as a road deputy for Hot Springs County Sheriff's Office, where he worked until he was hired by the Benton Police Department on January 2, 2001. Upon being hired with the Benton Police Department, he served as a patrolman, where he worked the streets of Benton for fifteen years.

During this time, he became a Field Training Officer, where he helped train numerous officers at the department. In June of 2016, he was transferred to the Criminal Investigations Division, serving as a Detective, until his retirement.

In 2016, Detective Teague received the Award of Excellence for dedicated service and outstanding accomplishment from the Benton-Bauxite Rotary Club.

In 2019, he attended the Arkansas Fire Training Academy, where he received a certification from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress for Fire/Arson Investigation.

He also served as a member of the State of Arkansas Child Infant Death review board and was a longtime member of the Benton Fraternal Order of Police for 20 years.

He served his country and the State of Arkansas in Law Enforcement for over 25 years and is now enjoying retirement with his wife and two daughters.



Lt. Lisa Stuart- January 2022 Retirement

Lt. Lisa Stuart was born in Pocahontas, Arkansas, and attended High School at J.A. Fair High in Little Rock. She graduated from Pulaski Technical College in 2011 with an Associate of Arts Degree. She has over 3,500 hours of continuing education training directly relating to law enforcement and holds a Senior Law Enforcement Certificate which is awarded by the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training.

Lt. Stuart began her employment with the Benton Police Department on February 5th, 1996.

In 1997, she received the VFW Ladies Auxiliary Woman of the Year award. She was named City Employee of the month as well as Officer of the Month in 2010. In 2013, she received the department's Leadership Award for her leadership and direction after taking over the School Resource program.

Lt. Stuart was a co-recipient of the 2014 Unit Achievement Award for her continued work in the School Resource Program. She also twice earned the Award of Excellence for dedicated service and outstanding accomplishments from the Benton-Bauxite Rotary Club.

When she began her employment in 1996, she served as a Patrol Officer in the Patrol Division. On Jan 1, 1998, she was transferred to the Criminal Investigation Division, where she served as a detective until becoming the Department's first

Corporal in October of 1998. This promotion moved her back to patrol where she served until she was promoted to Sergeant in May of 1999. As Sergeant, Lisa worked in CID, Patrol, Special Operations, School Resource and Training. In November 2019, she was promoted to Lieutenant where she remained on shift 3 as Patrol Lieutenant.

Some of her other accomplishments include being a CPR Instructor, Law Enforcement Instructor & Firearms Instructor. She has served as the Benton Fraternal Order of Police Secretary since 2001. She was one of the first Certified Field Training Officers for the City of Benton and served as the Benton Police Department's Public Information Officer for many years. She organized and implemented the Department's first Citizen Police Academy and served on a board of instructors for many of the following Citizens Police Academy Classes. She also wrote many grants that awarded the department night vision equipment, bullet proof vests and Segways.

Lt. Stuart and her husband Justin have been married for 13 years. She and her family attend Midtowne Church in Benton. She and her daughter, Kaitlyn, currently volunteer as firefighters for the Salem Fire Department. Lisa enjoys any outdoor activity such as cycling, hiking, overlanding, and walking with her friends. She is enjoying retirement and spending much needed down time with her family and friends.



Patrol Sgt. Mason Curtis (promoted from patrol officer)

Officer Curtis graduated from Bryant High School in 2014.

He began his law enforcement career with the Benton Police Department in December of 2017, where he was assigned to the Patrol Division.

During his tenure, he has served in the Patrol Division, as well as spending 1 year at the Benton High School, in the School Resource Division.

Within his current assignment in the Patrol Division, he serves as a Field Training Officer, training new recruits as they are hired with the department.

Officer Curtis also serves as the Armored Vehicle Operator on the SWAT Team.

He now serves BNPD as a Patrol Sergeant.



Lt. Jamar Bennett (promoted from Sergeant)

Lt. Bennett began working at the Benton Police Department in June 2006 and was assigned to the Patrol Division. In October 2010, he was transferred to the Special Investigations Unit, where he was assigned as a Task Force Officer with the IRS-Criminal Investigations and with Homeland Security Investigations.

In 2021, Jamar was reassigned to the Patrol Division as a Patrol Sergeant. During his tenure, he has also served on the Benton Interstate Criminal Enforcement Patrol (BICEP), SWAT, and Honor Guard team.

Jamar holds several degrees including:

- Two Associate's Degree from the Community College of the Air Force- one in Criminal Justice and the other in Human Resources.
- Three Degrees from Park University:
 - An Associates in Criminal Justice
 - A Baccalaureate's in Criminal Justice
 - And a Master's in Public Affairs with a concentration in Disaster and Emergency Management.
- He also holds a Professional Manager Certification from the Community College of the Air Force.

He is a veteran of the United States Air Force and the Arkansas National Guard, with multiple deployments overseas in support of the Global War on Terrorism. He began his career as a Security Forces member and went on to become the Human Resource Advisor for the 189th Airlift Wing at the Little Rock Air Force Base. He recently retired at the rank of Chief Master Sergeant (E-9) after serving 28 years.

Lt. Bennett is also an active member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated.

He now serves BNPD as a Patrol Lieutenant.



BNPD held its 2022 awards ceremony in April 2023.

Several officers were honored for their contributions to the department and community, as well as members of the community for their contribution to the department. Recipient names and awards are listed below.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

- **Matthew Kuntz**



MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

- **Zach Wisenor**



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

- **Brian Franklin**



MEDAL OF VALOR

- **Miles French**



SRO OF THE YEAR

- **John Spadaro**



- **Lt. Quinton Jackson**



LEADERSHIP AWARD & TOP GUN AWARD

- **Lt. Brian Bigelow**



LIFE SAVING AWARD

- Brett Davidson
- Abdias Valdez
- Hayden Bolding
- Jake Griffith

Not Pictured

- Jesse Valdez
- Kaitlyn Fleetwood
- Lt. Larry Applegarth

**NARCAN SAVE**

- Lt. Jamar Bennett
- Sgt. Mason Curtis
- Charles Anderson
- Abdias Valdez
- Miles French
- Sgt. Seth Hopkins
- Konrad Williams

Not Pictured

- Det. Stacy Henshaw
- Jesse Valdez
- Kaitlyn Fleetwood
- Lt. Larry Applegarth
- Tierra Coffey

**UNIT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

- Patrol Division



CITIZENS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- **Dwight and Susie Everett** – Owners and Operators of the Everett Auto Group, along with **David Hendrix Sr and David Hendrix Jr** – Owners and operators of the Big Red Fina gas stations. They are more than just local business owners. Following the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas in May of 2022, these owners felt the desire to act locally and partner with the Benton Police Department to enhance the department's School Resource Officer program. Through their donations the department received a 2022 GMC Terrain with a customized wrap, which emphasized the school's mascot and colors. This type of vehicle stands apart from the departments traditional style and helps to bridge the gap and enhance the relationship between the SROs and the students. Due to their donations, our officers are now and will continue to be some of the best equipped officers in the state of Arkansas.

CONGRATULATIONS to all recipients!!



Chief Hodges, David Hendrix Sr., David Hendrix Jr.



Susie Everett is pictured with the donated vehicle & members of the department

Benton Civil Service Commission

The Benton Civil Service Commission is responsible for examining and establishing eligibility lists for appointments and promotions within the Police and Fire Departments. Commissioners serve on a rolling term basis.

BNPD wishes to thank and honor Commission Chairman Sam Tatom who passed away August 28, 2022. He was appointed to fill an unexpired term of office in 2013 and served until his passing. Sam had a long and distinguished career in public service. He worked with the Arkansas Sheriff's Association, Arkansas Crime Commission and served in Governor Clinton's cabinet as Director of the Department of Public Safety. He served as Chairman of both the Little Rock and Benton Civil Service Commissions and had recently retired from the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery.

Sam also found success in the private sector as an extraordinary salesman and dealmaker. He owned and operated a private investigation/security firm and a packaging supply brokerage company.

We are grateful for his many years of service. Sam will be missed.



Samuel Wade Tatom Jr.



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