

Annual Police Report 2025

SERVING THE CITIZENS OF TAYLORVILLE

CHIEF OF POLICE: DWAYNE WHEELER



Taylorville Police 2025

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Thank you for your support



OUR CHIEF'S STATEMENT

To the Mayor, City Council, Residents and guests,

- I am pleased to submit the 2025 Taylorville Police Departments Annual Report to the City Administration, the citizens of Taylorville, and our guests. The report includes statistical crime data, traffic enforcement statistics, crash information, and general service details. It also includes our accomplishments for 2025 and goals for 2026.
- In compiling the data from 2025, I was very pleased with our overall statistics and the services provided to our residents and guests. Having been in this position for over 5 years, I acknowledge there is still work to be accomplished, though I am ecstatic about our progress and the direction the department is advancing. I see positive changes in our statistics, as well as our relationship with the community we serve.
- I am very proud of our department as I feel each officer has vast knowledge of police work. We have a diverse group of officers with the seasoned veterans bringing experience and knowledge while adding youth to bring fresh ideas and energy. The Administrative Assistant Kirsten Nelson, is valuable as she maintains the day-to-day operations of the office while answering countless phone calls of requests, concerns, and questions.
- I trust that you will find this report both intriguing and informative. I would like to thank all of you for the continued support of the Police Department and myself. I truly feel honored to serve our city as the Chief of Police and take this position with much humility. I am hopeful to reflect the ethics, morals, and values of our city's leaders and residents and look forward to many good years ahead. If you have inquiries about the data or information presented here, I will be pleased to answer any questions. I also welcome concerns and suggestions as to how we can better serve our city's residents, businesses, and guests.



Chief of Police

Dispatch

Admin Asst.

Deputy Chief

Lieutenant

Investigations

School Resource

SGT. 5a-5p

SGT. 5p-5a

SGT. 5a-5p

SGT. 5p-5a

Officers

Officers

Officers

Officers

U.S. Marshal Task Force

MISSION & VALUES OF THE TAYLORVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Taylorville Police Department is to protect life & property and enhance the quality of life for all citizens, while enforcing the laws of the State of Illinois and ordinances of the City of Taylorville, in accordance with Constitutional Rights. The men and women of the Police Department, working under the motto "Proud to Serve ", take pride in providing professional police service to the community they have sworn to protect. The Taylorville Police Department is committed to serving all citizens equally, in a manner which is both procedurally just and transparent.

While always striving to improve our performance, we ask for your input to make the police department strive to be the best. It takes a community to work together to make this great city a better place to live and raise our families. Our commitment to community relations

remains at the forefront of everything we do.



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STAFFING

The Taylorville Police Department is committed to providing the best service possible with prudent spending. To achieve this goal an annual resource allocation study by division is completed. This allocation study helps to identify proper staffing levels per shift. For 2025 the City population is estimated at 10,231 people. Our authorized sworn personnel strength is 23 Police Officers, which includes a Deputy Chief and Chief. We have one records clerk and five full time dispatchers and one part time dispatcher.

Police Personnel

Lt. Michael (Ben) Toberman	SRO Jody Grove	Josh Niles
Sgt. Wes Withrow	SRO Chaz Dees	Ryan Tapp
Sgt. Christian Nelson	K9 Rachel Priddy	Lindsey Clark
Sgt. Christopher Adams	K9 Troy Kissel	David Peddycoart
Sgt. Jeff Wood	Shane Ponzel	Alex Kater
Det. Chase Dickey	Kirsten Beaman	Tyler Mahan
Det. Nickolas Todd	Matthew Nichols	Michael Lavin



The coordination of training for the Taylorville Police Department is the responsibility of the Chief and Lt. Toberman. Training programs are presented through classroom instruction, printed materials, videos, online instruction, seminars, and departmental communications. Training topics have included: policy and procedure review, criminal law, local ordinances, and traffic law updates.

EVERY YEAR:

1. Firearm Qualification
2. Law Updates 3. Use of Force 4. Hazmat 5. Sheriffs/ Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs (Training by assignment) 6. K-9 Narcotic Detection (Training by assignment) 7. Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) (Federal Law)

EVERY 2 YEARS:

1. CPR/AED
 - a. While there is no requirement for refresher courses on Narcan, agencies may attach a refresher to CPR/AED recertification courses.
2. SRO recertification

EVERY 3 YEARS:

1. Constitutional and Proper Use of Authority 2. Procedural Justice 3. Civil Rights 4. Human Rights 5. Cultural Competency 6. Mental Health Awareness and Response 7. Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect 8. Officer Wellness 9. Trauma Informed Response and Investigation of Sexual Assault/Abuse

EVERY 4 YEARS:

1. Lead Homicide Investigator (Training by assignment) 2. Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (Training by assignment)

INTERNAL AFFAIR REPORTS

In order to ensure that the integrity of the Police Department is preserved, all complaints and accusations made against the department or its members are investigated completely and thoroughly, including anonymous complaints. The findings of each rule violation are included below:

The Taylorville Police Department investigated 4 alleged misconduct complaints from citizens.

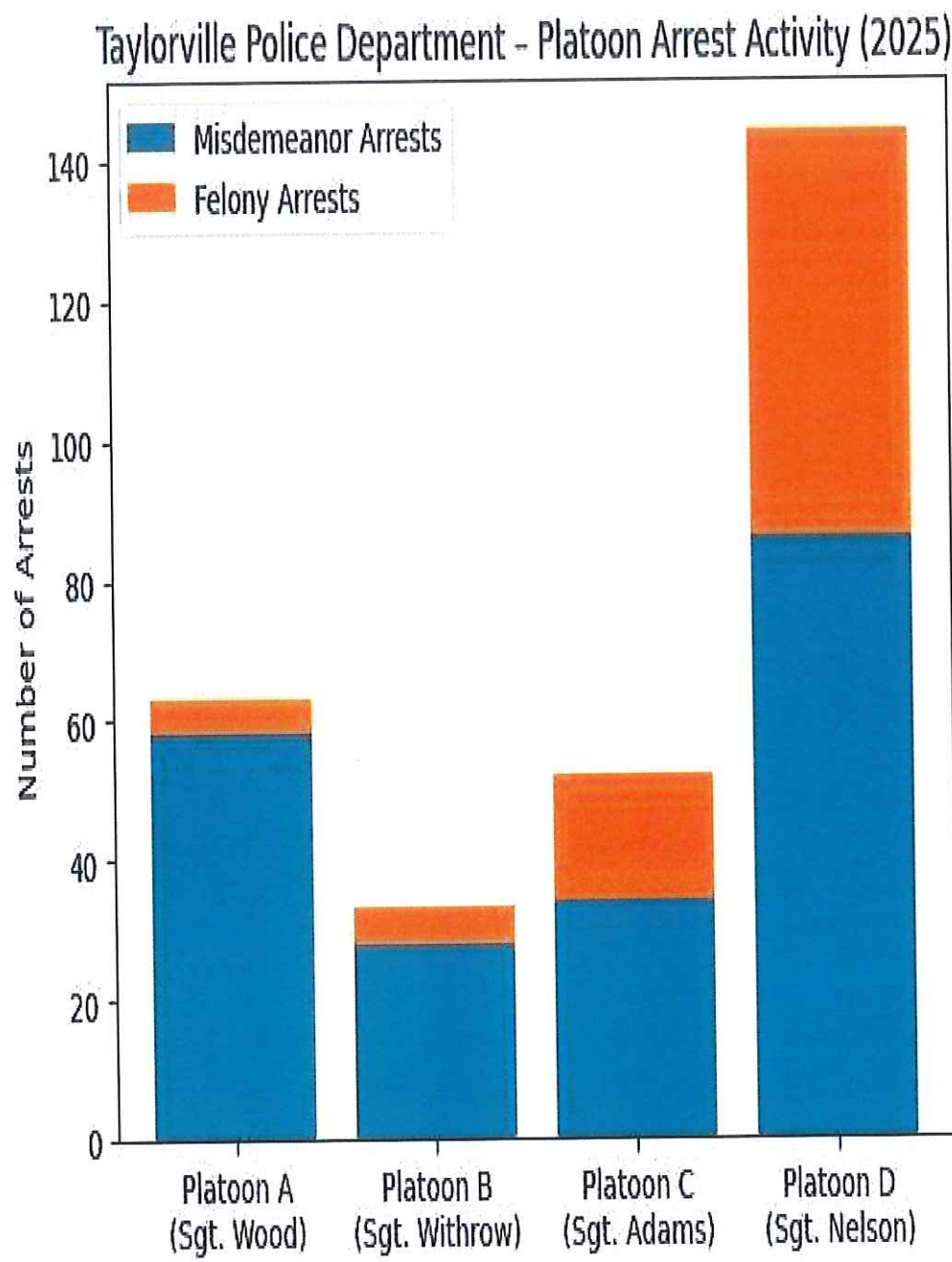
The following complaints were verbal complaints and were unfounded.

The Taylorville Police Department Investigated 4 officers involved in complaints in accordance of our police procedures and policy. The outcome as follows:

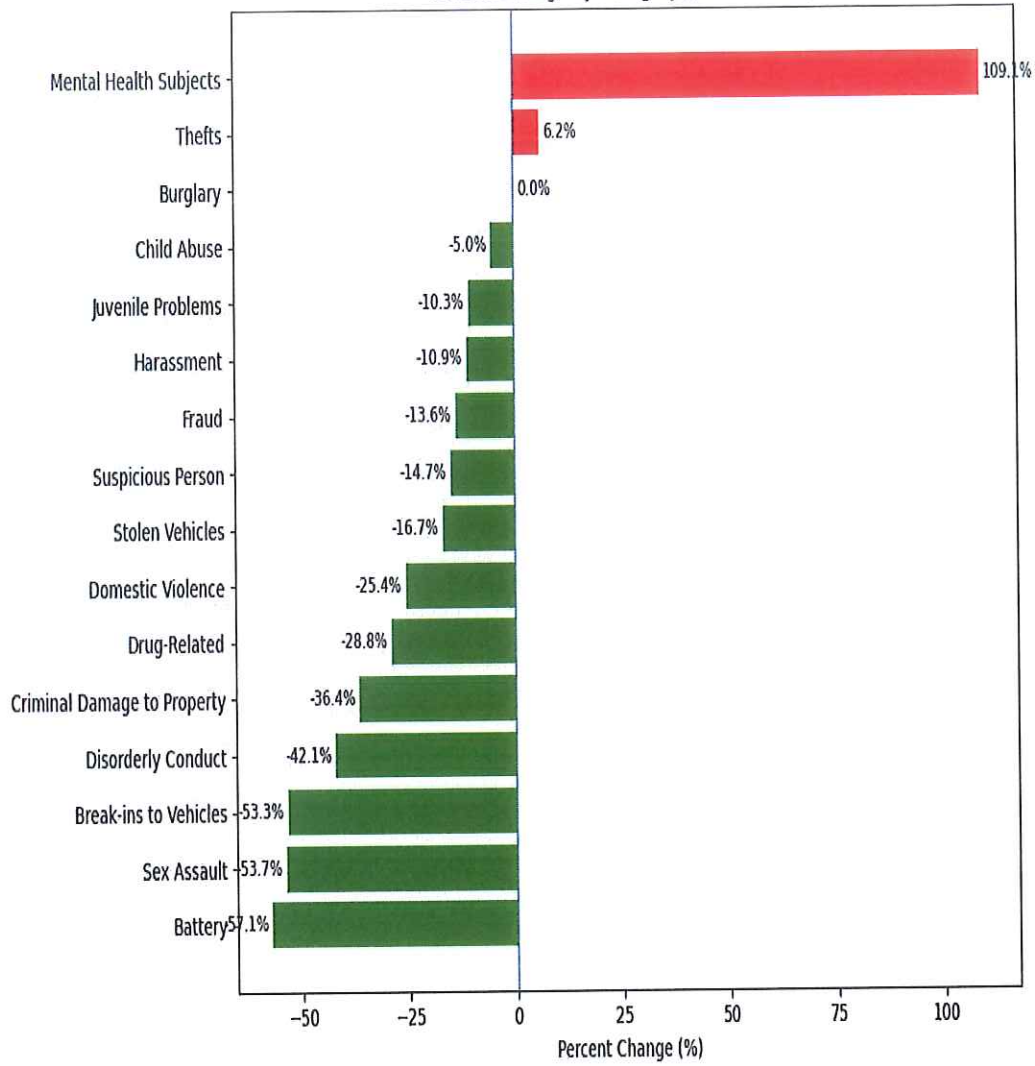
Officer 1:	Written Warning
Officer 2:	Two- day Suspension
Officer 3:	Written Warning
Officer 4:	Oral Warning

Field Operations: Patrol Division

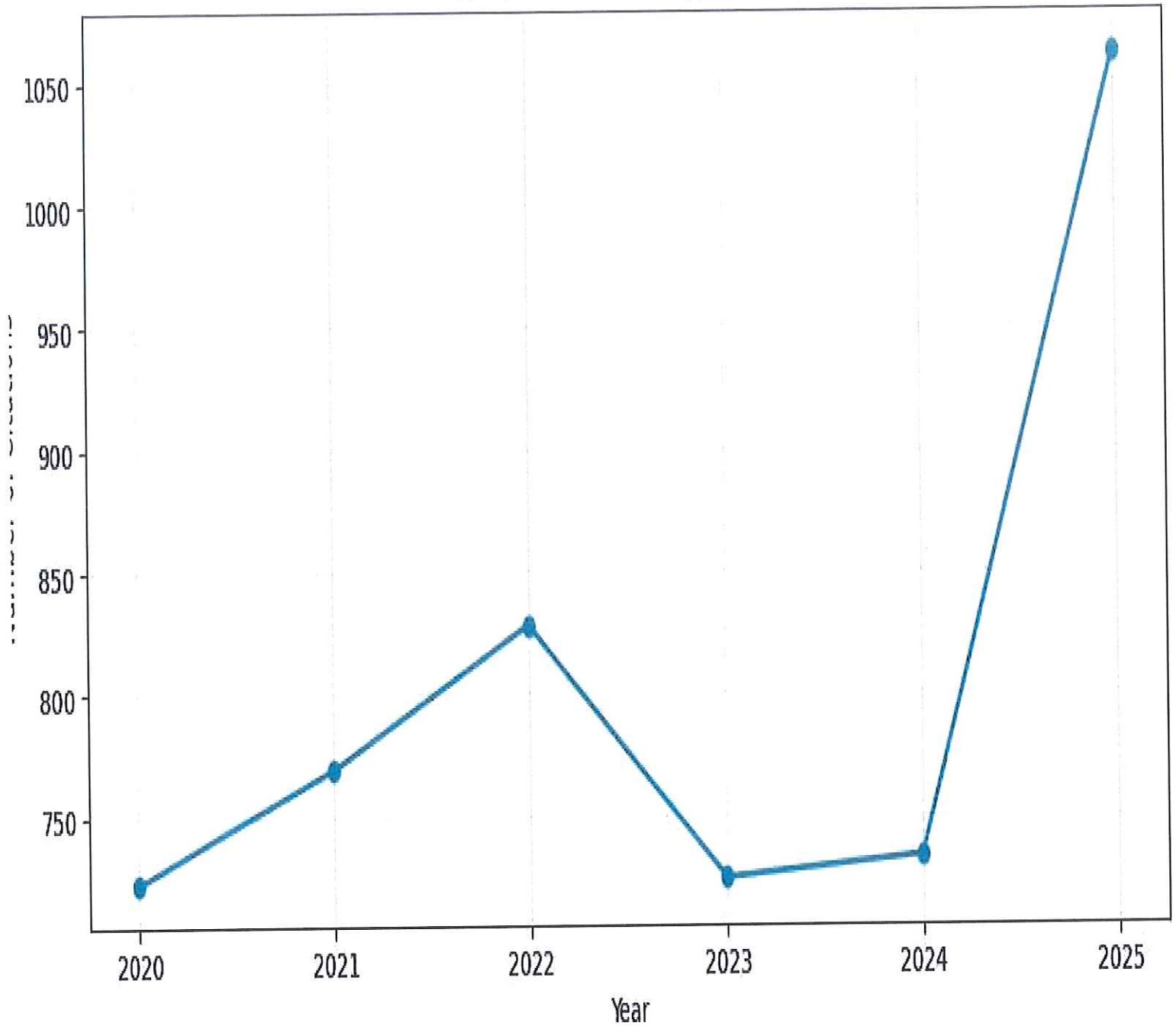
The Patrol Division is the largest and most highly visible component of the Taylorville Police Department. Employing 4 sergeants and 12 patrol officers, the primary responsibility of the Patrol Division is the protection of life and property. Patrol officers maintain peace and order, conduct preliminary investigations, and enforce traffic and criminal laws, as well as City ordinances. Patrol officers provide initial response to emergency and non-emergency calls for service. They handle special assignments, proactively address community concerns, and perform ancillary functions.



Taylorville Police Department
Percent Change by Category (2023 → 2025)



Taylorville Police Department Traffic Citations Issued (2020-2025)



INVESTIGATION UNIT: DET. DICKEY & DET. TODD

The Criminal Investigations Division provides the City of Taylorville with professional and skilled investigators who are available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Not only does this division handle all criminal investigations and interrogations, personnel background checks, The Criminal Investigations Division is responsible for all follow up investigations and reviewing details of crimes occurring in the City

Death investigations

Sex Crimes

Drugs

Vehicle Burglaries

Thefts

Burglaries

Forgery/Fraud

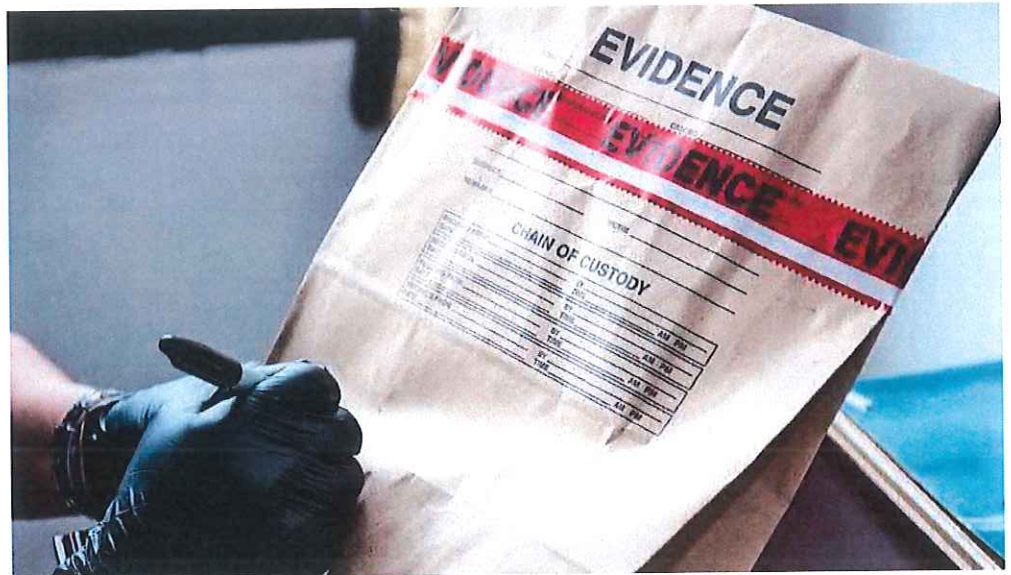
Home Invasions

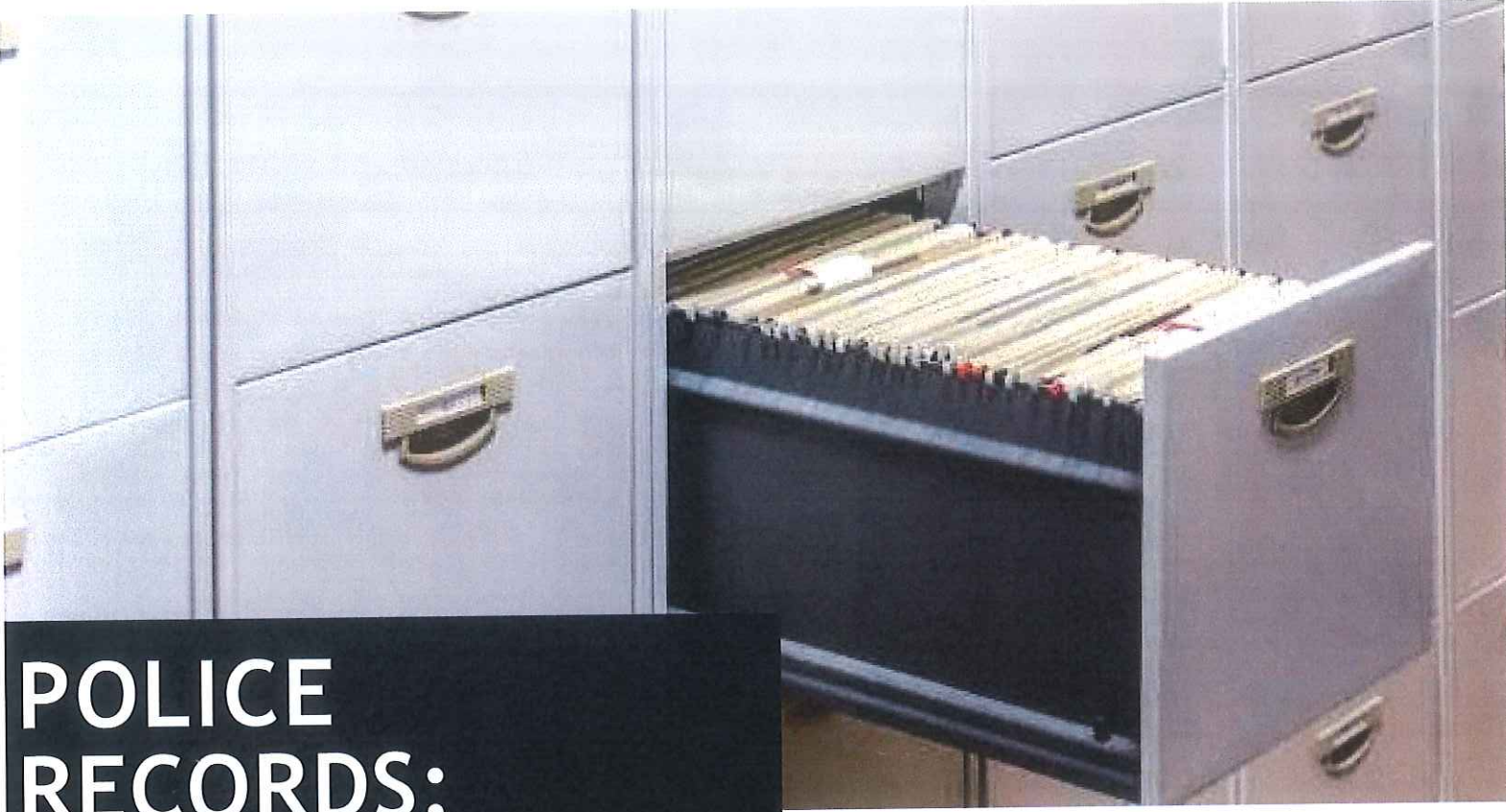
Assaults

EVIDENCE

Officer Jody Grove handles all evidence. Officer Grove's duties are to ensure that narcotics are sent to the Illinois State Police Crime Lab. Her duties are also to pick up the narcotics and make sure the chain of command is in compliance.

Officer Grove also handles several other types of evidence to electronically post and store for evidence services.





POLICE RECORDS: KIRSTEN NELSON

FOIA REQUESTS: APPROXIMATELY 425 IN 2025.

The Records Section is responsible for managing all of the records for the Police Department as well as monthly reporting for the Uniform Crime Report. The City of Taylorville records clerk handles all police reports to be turned into the States Attorney. Kirsten goes above and beyond to keep our department running efficiently with the States Attorney's Office. Kirsten must make sure all bills are paid and accounted for. Kirsten, along with the Chief, watch our budget monthly to make sure we are on track of our allocation amount.

Other responsibilities include:

- FOIA requests
- Annual Records Disposal Accuracy of Arrest Jackets
- Compiling Monthly Reports
- IL Debt Recovery Records Expungements
- Sex Offender Registration filing





The Communications Section is responsible for receiving all emergency and non-emergency calls for police, this section handles the dispatching of all calls for service for police through the use of the department’s radio system.

We are currently staffed with five full time dispatchers and one part time dispatcher. Dispatch plays a vital role for the City Police Department. Besides handling calls for service they must run subjects for warrants, driver licenses check, monitor the FLOCK LPR system, and properly log all aspects of each call and encounter that the police officer has with a citizen.

We have a great team and our team leader is Andrew Borders.

The anticipated CAD system came into effect in June of 2022, combining systems with Christian County Sheriff’s Office and other agencies within the county making it easier for departments to share information and help officer investigations.

<u>Resignations:</u>	<u>New Hires:</u>	<u>Retained:</u>
Jack Greene	Christina Frisch	Andrew Borders
	Jaime Chrispen	Kaci Devore
		Caitlyn Klein
		Kendra Fisher

NEW HIRES

In 2025 the Taylorville Police Department was fortunate to adopt Lateral Hires from other agencies. By doing this it saves money and time to have the Officer trained and put on the City Streets of Taylorville solo. The following Officers were hired:

Officer Tyler Mahan



Officer Michael Lavin



RETIREMENTS

RETIREMENTS: Sgt. Gary "Alan" Mills



AWARDS

AWARDS:

FFICER OF THE 1ST QUARTER: OFFICER DEES

FFICER OF THE 2ND QUARTER: OFFICER KATER

FFICER OF THE 3RD QUARTER: SGT WITHROW

ISPATCHER 4TH QUARTER: JAIME CHRISPEN

FFICER OF THE YEAR 2025:

FFICER DAVIS PEDDYCOART



PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY EVENTS



The Bunny Hop

In April, TPD in conjunction with several local businesses hosted The Bunny Hop. Kids were able to go to different businesses and collect eggs, with the goal being to win one of two grand prize eggs. They also got to take pictures with the Easter Bunny, photos courtesy of Bonnie McKinney Photography.

Cops, Coffee, Cold Scoops

In May, LETR Liaison Officer Beaman hosted Cops, Coffee, Cold Scoops at LP Coffee & Creamery. The event was created to promote Special Olympics Illinois and engage more with our community.



Fishing with Offishers

TPD, IDNR, and Stonington PD held our annual Fishing with Offishers event in June. Thanks to PowderKeg Outfitters and Whitetails Unlimited, as well as some citizens donations, we were able to provide fishing poles to every kid who didn't own one. Kids learned how to measure their catch and the importance of conservation and responsible fishing.

National Night Out

In August we held our 7th National Night Out at the Christian County Fairgrounds. We opened the event up to the entire county in an effort to boost morale. We had 600+ people who attended. We had free food, raffles, giveaways, inflatable games, potato sack races, a DJ, and more! We could not have done it without all of the donations we received from our local businesses and our volunteers!



PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY EVENTS CONTINUED



Monster Bash

TPD and TFD once again teamed up to host the Monster Bash for the community. There was a great turn out, with kids getting candy and getting to play some fun games!

Kids, Cops, Christmas

In December, Officer Beaman, Dispatcher Devore, and Kirsten Nelson coordinated the Kids, Cops, Christmas event. Handling cash donations from all over the community and helping families all over Christian County be able to celebrate Christmas. Officers from TPD, EPD, SPD, and MPD shopped with families, smiles were all around!



Bicycles for Kids

This program was started to provide free bicycles to kids whose families were unable to buy one for them. Since the inception of this program, we continue to receive bicycle donations, which allows this program to continue. This program will continue into 2026, thanks to the generous persons and their bicycle/monetary donations.

K9 Demos

This year both of our K9 teams did several demonstrations, showcasing the skills of both the dogs and their handlers. Thank you to Officer Priddy/K9 Alan and Officer Kissel/K9 Kane for their dedication and continual commitment to training and excellence.



PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY EVENTS CONTINUED



Explorers Program

Officer Jody Grove works hard to advise a great group of local kids. These kids get to learn inside and hands on information about the Law Enforcement career, they complete trainings and community service hours multiple times a month. The Explorers are actively looking for new members, as the majority have left for college.

Drug Takeback



WHERE
Taylorville WALGREENS
315 N. Webster St.



WHEN
OCTOBER 4TH, 2025
10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m



Drug Take Back Program

In October our department participated in a drug take back, where we collected unused or expired prescription medications to dispose of. Those who dropped off medicine were entered into a raffle to win a \$250 gift card to Taylorville Food Center. We had two winners, thanks to the Christian County State's Attorney's Office for sponsoring it.

Donation Coordination

We were able to continue to assist in getting donations to help multiple individuals and families who were struggling this year. Thanks to donations from the community, we were able to provide window air conditioner units, beds, clothes, baby items, and more!



Give Thanks, Give Food Thanksgiving Food Drive

In November in partnership with the Taylorville Food Pantry, Officer Beaman and Dispatcher Devore collected donations to help the need within our community. All donations were given to the food pantry, to ensure they were distributed to those most in need.

PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY EVENTS CONTINUED

Officer Beaman, our Operation Juice Box liaison, has continued her work with the non-profit. Thanks to the community and Kroger, we have been able to gather hundreds of juice boxes to continue handing them out to kids in our community.

Operation Juice B



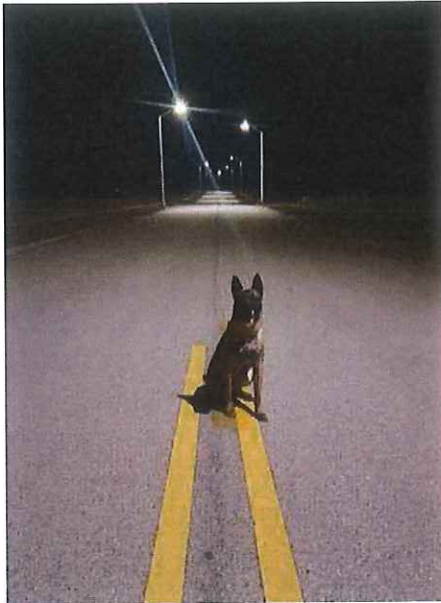
COMMUNITY ACTION/EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS

- TPD is extremely happy to partner with Assumption Police, Stonington Police, Morrisonville Police, Kincaid Police and Edinburg Police to fight the war on drugs. Since the inception of this team, we have all seen a decrease in crime and more narcotic investigations. The ERT team consists of members of the majority of the departments. The team members are swat trained and also train monthly. We are extremely lucky to have this team in our county. The team helps our CAT team conduct search warrants and assist on ground searches if needed.
- The Community Action Team has conducted several narcotic investigations throughout the year in Taylorville, Kincaid, Assumption and Stonington. This had led to several arrests along with search warrants. The partnership has grown in 2025 and we expect 2026 to be even a better year. The CAT team thanks all the citizens that have helped us in 2025.



CANINE (K9) DIVISION

The K9 Division is comprised of two working pairs, Officer Rachel Priddy with K9 Alan and Troy Kissel with K9 Kane



A K9s keen sense of smell helps them to detect items that a human officer might miss, especially drugs and bombs. With training, K9s can even sniff out drugs that are sealed in plastic.

K9s can also be used to search for flammables and explosives. And a positive indication from a K9 is legal grounds to establish probable cause for a search.

K9s are frequently used to track missing people in search-and-rescue missions. Once a dog is given a piece of an item with the scent of a specific person, they can lead the police down the path that person took. This is also useful when tracking down suspects or escaped convicts. K9s can quickly lead teams down the right way. During a pursuit or search and rescue mission, every minute counts, so having this extra knowledge is invaluable.



OUR GOALS FOR 2026

Looking forward into 2026 we are excited about our community engagements and continued efforts to keep the community safe from drugs and crime.

The year 2025 was a year of great change and momentum for the Taylorville Police Department. As we move into 2026, the staff at the police department is excited about the boundless new opportunities that we have been presented to continue to recognize the Taylorville Police Department as a premier police department using innovative and progressive policing strategies resulting in a safe community.

In 2026 the citizens of Taylorville will also be hearing about the possibility of a new justice center. This is an extensive, exciting project that involves the cooperation of many city departments. The current public safety building was built in the 1960s and our needs have far outgrown what the current building is able to provide. We are excited to bring to you a plan for what the future of public safety will look like with a new building.

Our outreach will continue in the new year with many community events planned. We hope that you continue to get to know your police department and we look forward to meeting you in 2026.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Taylorville Police Department would like to thank you for taking the time to read our annual 2025 report. TPD strives each year to make this report more transparent.

TO THE PEACEKEEPERS

The city sleeps a peaceful night, Because of those in blue. So many,
completely unaware, Of most of what they do.

Not knowing what may come, But willing to take on the day. Like modern
knights with armor and weapon, Leading into the fray.

To battle the foes each day and night, These modern warriors go.
Confronting the bad and helping the good, putting down society's woes.
The life they lead is often hard, They are a breed apart. A tougher job no
one will find, or one that takes such heart.

When any fall, whatever the case, a deepening pall descends. The specter
they battle rears its head, They know they depend on friends.
This universal family of those who wear the badge, Have deep-running ties
that do not fade, To those who fought in the past.

We owe a debt to these that take To this battle every day, So we can sleep
in peace each night, While for us, they head to the fray.

In memory of the fallen brothers and sisters

*We thank you for your continued support
in our efforts keep Taylorville safe*

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