



The 2023 Annual Report of the Bath Township Police Department

2023 Department Goals

1. Increase police/dispatch staffing by filling full time police officer and dispatcher vacancies to replace retiring employees. Participate in job fairs and engage other recruitment efforts.

Results: We have been proactive in recruitment efforts this past year. Multiple job fairs have been attended at The University of Akron, Kent State University, U.S. Secret Service sponsored job fair, and we have posted openings on our webpage, indeed website, Ohio Means Jobs and National Testing Network with some success. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 grant monies awarded to Bath Police Department for retention bonuses continue to be a positive incentive for recruitment.

2. Attract and retain the highest quality employees and build a team of employees focused on the Bath Township Police Department's mission to constantly and continuously improve both as an organization and as individual employees.

Results: Sgt. Rob Griffith has been appointed to the administrative staff sergeant position and he is tasked with overseeing the dispatch department. Additionally, we have promoted Steven Tayerle to the communications supervisor position who will work with Sgt. Griffith to handle staffing issues and concerns. Captain Brown continues to oversee the communications department and equipment upgrades as needed.

3. Attend community engagement events to foster relationships with the community and increase police department outreach with the community.

Results: This is a vital effort on all staff to foster positive relationships with the Bath residents and businesses. Twice annually, we participate in the Drug Take Back initiative held at the Acme Fresh Market in Montrose. The Police Department also participates in the annual events such as Project Pride, Putting with the Police, Fall into Nature, Halloween Haunt at PD, Christmas with a Cop along with other scout troop and summer camper visits.

4. Prioritize education and training and promote professionalism in policing.

Results: The Ohio Police Officer Training Commission has mandated 24 hours of continuing professional training for all sworn officers each year. All sworn officers have completed the requirements for 2023. In addition, officers are encouraged to sign up

for classes that will enhance their skills and be of benefit to the department. The list of Department Trainings that staff have attended begin on page 3.

- Maintain currency with the Ohio Collaborative standards of accreditation. This is a process that continues throughout the year and Sgt. Griffith has been given the task of maintaining compliance for the department.

5. Plan and execute a joint training mission with the Revere Local School District and other law enforcement partners to simulate joint response to an all hazard/ active shooter event.

Results: On August 18, 2023, a very well-developed and coordinated plan was executed which involved many months of planning. Captain Brown served as the NIMS Incident Commander with the assistance of law enforcement from surrounding communities to include the National Park Service Police. The training not only of benefit to law enforcement, but also the Revere Local School teachers who participated in the drill.

Finally, our experience shows that all of the first responders of Bath Township including Dispatch, Police and Fire, work together as a team to seamlessly provide essential services to the residents and businesses of our community. We aim to maintain this level of excellence.

The first responders of the Bath Police Department often go above and beyond in their service to the community. To recognize the superb efforts of the men and women who serve in this capacity, it is important to recognize their contribution accordingly. Letters of Commendation are generated by the Chief of Police. Within the context of the letters, significant events that required the trained expertise demonstrated by the individuals confirming a team-driven effort are highlighted. Staff who received Letters of Commendation are listed below. Letters of Appreciation are generally those acknowledgments from residents or Bath business owners who have taken the initiative to recognize an officer or communication specialist for their service to the community.

Letters of Commendation [* indicates more than one letter]

- Capt. Brown*
- Sgt. Borton*
- Sgt. Griffith*
- Detective Gabel*
- Officer Campbell*
- Officer Falconer*
- Officer Knauer*
- Officer Lilly
- Officer Reilly*
- Officer South*
- Officer VanFossen
- Officer Watson*
- Officer Young
- Communication Specialist Albertson
- Communication Specialist Emerson



Letters of Recognition/Appreciation [* indicates more than one letter]

- Sgt. Griffith
- Sgt. Moats
- Officer Alexander Officer Mihalik*
- Officer Campbell Officer Watson
- Officer Chapman* Officer Young
- Communication Specialist Corona*
- Communication Specialist Winegardner



One of the important aspects of maintaining department standards is the issuance and revision of the General Orders which dictates the policies and procedures by which the staff follow accordingly. This year three new General Orders were issued:

- Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS)
- Crisis Intervention and Response
- Automated License Plate Reader Cameras (ALPR)

Two policies were revised:

- Uniforms, Equipment and Appearance
- Juvenile Operations

Staff Changes in 2023

- Dispatch – Susan Farina resigned as FT Communication Specialist 1/8/23.
- Dispatch - Steve Albertson moved from PT Communication Specialist to FT 6/11/23.
- Dispatch – Christina Gaydosh was hired as a PT Communication Specialist 7/23/23.
- Dispatch – Steven Tayerle became the Dispatch Supervisor as of 7/23/23.
- Dispatch – Eugenia Kobak resigned as FT Communication Specialist 12/14/23.
- Police – Jason Knauer joined the department FT 6/11/23.
- Police - Eric Shaffer was promoted to Sergeant as of 6/11/23.
- Police – Rob Griffith was assigned Administrative Staff Sergeant as of 6/11/23.
- Police – Morgan Lilly joined the department FT 10/1/2023.

Department training is mandated by the Ohio Peace Officers Training Commission as well as our own training requirements. Listed below are the outside training workshops and classes that staff attended in 2023.



DEPARTMENT TRAINING

Supervisory

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Chief Sinopoli | Guns & Trial Training 3/31/23
Responding to the Needs of Victims 9/29/23 |
| Captain Brown | Awareness of Cyberthreats to PD Dispatch Systems 2/7/23
Guns & Trial Training 3/31/23
Responding to the Needs of Victims 9/29/23
Open-Source Intelligence in Tactical Investigation for Domestic
Violent Extremism Training 11/28/23 |
| Sgt. Borton | Guns & Trial Training 3/31/23 |

Sgt. Griffith	Open-Source Intelligence in Tactical Investigation for Domestic Violent Extremism Training 11/28/23
Sgt. Moats	2023 PELCAA Annual Conference 2/16-17/23
Sgt. Shaffer	Introduction to Drone Operations 5/15-19/23 First Line Supervisors' Training 9/11-14/23 Supervisor Responsibility During a Pursuit Program 11/30/23
<u>Detective Bureau</u>	
Det. Gabel	Guns & Trial Training 3/31/23 OTOA Annual Training Conference 6/12-16/23 Responding to the Needs of Victims 9/29/23 Child Advocacy & Children at Risk Evaluation (CARE) Centers Virtual Training 11/16/23
Det. Lance	Guns & Trial Training 3/31/23 Conducting Employment Background Investigations 11/8/23
<u>Officers</u>	
Campbell	Gracie Survival Training Tactics 3/27-31/23
Deep	Introduction to Drone Operations July 17-21/23 Crisis Intervention Team Training 11/13-17/23
Falconer	GLOCK Armorer's Course 3/14/23 GLOCK TRAINING - MOS Instructor's Workshop 11/1-3/23
Klein	Introduction to Drone Operations 6/19-23/23
Knauer	Pursuit Operations 8/16/23
Mihalik	Property Room Management 8/1/23 First Line Supervisor's Training 9/11-14/23
Reilly	Responding to the Needs of Victims 9/29/23 Conducting Employment Background Investigations 11/8/23
Van Fossen	GLOCK Armorer's Course 3/14/23 GLOCK TRAINING - MOS Instructor's Workshop 11/1-3/23
Watson	Business E-mail Compromise webinar 4/18/23 Ransomware Investigative Principles webinar 4/20/23 Filesystem Recognition Electronic Sterilization & Hashing webinar 5/23-24/23 Investigations of Cyber-enabled Fraud webinar 6/27-28/2023
Young	Gracie Survival Training Tactics Instructor 3/27-31/23
Communication Specialist Corona	- Critical Incident Stress Management 9/13/23
Communication Specialist Winegardner	- Critical Incident Stress Management 9/13/23

In addition, all sworn officers received training in the following areas:

- LifeVac Training in July. New equipment added in each cruiser.
- Legal Updates with Craig Morgan - 9/7 or 9/14/23
- Use of Force Training 10/10 or 10/19/23
- Firearms Qualifications - May 16-18, 2023 - pistol, shotgun and December 12-14, 2023 - new Glock firearms
- TASER 7 Version 23 11/20 or 11/21/23

Mobile Field Force Training

- February 17, 2023 – Officers Mihalik and Reilly were on hand.
- May 6, 2023 – Det. Gabel, Officers Mihalik and Young participated.
- June 12-16, 2023 – Det. Gabel attended OTOA training in Sandusky.
- August 14, 2023 – Det. Gabel and Officer Falconer at the Summit County Fairgrounds.



OHIO COLLABORATIVE NEW STANDARD

The 2023 Public Report for Law Enforcement Certification was released April 12, 2023. The Bath Township Police Department remains in the top 25% of the police departments in Summit County for completion of all standards and recertification.

The most recent standard, *Developmentally Appropriate Policing & Positive Youth Interactions* was adopted by the Ohio Collaborative on March 23, 2023. Our department updated our General Orders for Juvenile Operations April 28, 2023 and submitted our documentation to the Collaborative on June 15, 2023. The next standard, Crisis Intervention and Response was submitted in September. Our provisional certificate was granted for Group 6 and was received November 8, 2023. All of the Standards are reviewed by department members on an annual basis.

GRANTS

Application to the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation Law Enforcement Body Armor Grant for 2023 was submitted January 30, 2023. This is a 75/25 match which reduces the cost of bulletproof vests for the department. We were awarded this grant February 27, 2023 for six new bulletproof vests that were scheduled for replacement. Reimbursement from the state was received August 28, 2023.



OCJS body camera grant was resubmitted with revision January 30, 2023. Getac provided a more reasonable option and this information was provided to the state funding source. We were approved for this grant March 3, 2023 in the amount of \$44,417.00 to purchase new body cameras for the sworn officers. Reimbursement from the State was received in September.

OCJS Law Enforcement Recruitment Grant was submitted for funding for 2023 and awarded on May 22, 2023 for \$3250. These funds will be used to enhance our recruitment of sworn officers and dispatch staff with brochures, visual aids, and giveaways. Reimbursement from the State was received and appreciated.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency Grant Program through the U.S. Homeland Security was submitted in April 24, 2023 for ballistic shields which would be kept in each patrol and detective car in the amount of \$25,000. The status of this grant has not yet been determined.

DONATIONS

Several very generous donations were received in 2023. An anonymous Bath resident gave \$25,000 to be used towards the purchase of the new in-car dash camera system which greatly off-set the cost to the Department.

A second donation came from a family foundation which wished to remain anonymous and due to the amount received, we were able to purchase new GLOCK guns fitted with optic vision, TASERS, and covering the remaining cost of in-car dash cameras which were among the projects that we had hoped to replace this year. Law enforcement equipment is extremely expensive and this donation is fundamentally critical to providing new equipment for the police officers.

The third donation also came from a local family foundation in the amount of \$1,000 and added to the equipment fund, for which the department is extremely appreciative.

The staff of Lowe's Home Improvement Store held a benefit BBQ and \$112.50 was raised for the department during their Safety Forces Appreciation Day, May 29, 2023.

A long-time resident, Robert Jursich Sr. passed away in September and his trust bequeathed \$3,000 to the department in his memory to be used for our equipment fund. As always, such donations are an incredible help to defray the spiraling costs to law enforcement.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Job fairs were on the horizon for the department and five were attended this year. It was very helpful to receive the recruitment grant from OCJS and our department was able to upgrade our brochures and have a number of new promotional items available for giveaways.

Captain Brown and Administrative Assistant Bartlett went to The University of Akron Job Fair on March 2, 2023 and talked to several students who were interested in dispatch.

Captain Brown and Administrative Assistant Bartlett attended the Government Positions Job Fair at Kent State University on April 14, 2023. Officer Reilly and Administrative Captain Brown went to the First Responder Career Fair sponsored by the U.S. Secret Service on May 13, 2023.

Officer Watson and Administrative Assistant Bartlett attended the Kent State University Police Academy Job Fair on November 1, 2023.



Communications Supervisor and Administrative Assistant Bartlett attended the Career Fair for Public Safety/Dispatchers at the Cuyahoga Community College in Parma on November 5, 2023. Showcasing Bath Township is important to the men and women who are graduating and looking for dispatch opportunities.

The staff at Brookdale Senior Living had a breakfast "drive-thru" for the first responders on June 9, 2023. Chief Sinopoli had the opportunity along with Capt. Brown and Det. Gabel to meet and greet some of the residents.

Putting with the Police sponsored by First Tee of Akron resumed this year July 13, 2023. Sgt. Shaffer represented the department.

Girls from IORG brought candy snacks for all the department on July 20, 2023 as part of their service project.

Detective Gabel gave an informational talk to seniors at Barberton High School, Criminal Justice Studies class on September 20, 2023. The students enjoyed his insights regarding the criminal justice process.

Faith and Blue October 7, 2023 – Officer Watson attended representing the department.

Fall into Nature October 14, 2023 Det. Gabel, Chief Sinopoli and Admin. Assistant Bartlett meeting and greeting families.

Touch a Truck at Grace Church October 21, 2023 with Officer Mihalik attending.

Safety Forces Day at Lowes Home Improvement October 21, 2023 with Officer Watson.

Halloween Haunt at PD October 29, 2023 Sgt. Griffith, Chief Sinopoli and Admin. Assistant Bartlett participating.

Girl Scout/Brownie Troop #90216 visited the Bath PD on November 5, 2023. The girls were given a tour by Sgt. Griffith.

Christmas with a Cop December 2, 2023 with Officer Mihalik, Officer Lilly, Chief Sinopoli, Communication Specialists Winegardner and Corona assisting with the annual event.

Police Department Statistics

YEAR TO DATE – January 1 through December 31, 2023

All Calls for Service – 17,865

Community Policing to include area checks, park & walk, and school checks 11,140

Traffic Stops – 719
 Traffic Accidents – 537
 Alarm Drops - 530
 Sexual Offense -2 / Robbery 0 / Burglary 0
 All other Calls for Service – 4,937

Detective Bureau Statistics

- June 21, 2023 – DB hosted the monthly meeting for the local LEA detectives.
- Eleven background investigations were conducted by either Det. Gabel or Det. Lance in 2023. Officer Reilly assisted with one background check in preparation for his promotion to the detective bureau effective 1/8/2024.
- Sixty-two cases were opened and 26 subsequently closed in 2023. The vast majority of cases were for theft (68%) followed by fraud (11%).
- In addition to the detectives following up on investigations, they also logged 118 calls for service and seven booking charges.

Bias Free Policing

The chart below shows the statistics for the self-initiated traffic stops by officers for 2023. The administrative review is always completed by the Chief and submitted to the Ohio Collaborative. The department is on track for the traffic stops and there is no bias demonstrated by race or gender.

Bath Township Police Department - Self Initiated & Radio Calls - Disposition by Race/Gender 2023					STANDARD 3 2017.6D
TRAFFIC STOPS					
Month	Advised & Warned Females [1]	Advised & Warned Males [2]	Black [3]	White [4]	Other Race or Unknown [5]
January	20	19	11	25	6
February	19	32	6	40	5
March	21	13	4	29	5
April	15	24	2	33	11
May	19	23	7	28	15
June	18	27	7	34	11
July	9	16	4	19	20
August	14	28	8	31	3
September	16	13	9	17	3
October	14	14	6	18	4
November	16	21	7	19	11
December	21	39	14	39	7
TOTAL 2023	202	269	85	332	101
2022	218	372	147	393	194
2021	247	381	163	337	200
Pandemic 2020	137	222	64	253	109

Use of Force Statistics

There were ten instances where use of force was indicated and each case was reviewed by a supervisor as well as myself. This number is slightly higher than previous years. The average age of the individual resisting or failing to comply with the officer's instructions was 22. The youngest individual was 10 years old, and the oldest was 44.

Resident Concerns

There were 13 concerns sent by email to Chief Sinopoli for his review and response. The issue of most residents revolved around speeding and noise. The turnaround time for responding to email concerns is usually within 24 hours or less depending upon when the email is received. This number is slightly less than the number of concerns received in 2022 but generally on par. We have received three email concerns for the Bath Township Police Department located in Michigan for which we immediately notify the email recipient of their error.

Goals for 2024

1. Promote Community Outreach:

Objective: Strengthen community-police relations.

Activities: Participation in events like "Coffee with a Cop" and "First Responder Days" to engage with the community.

Benefits: Enhance trust, transparency, and collaboration between the police department and the community.

2. Utilize Criminal Justice Tools to improve the Safety and Security of the Community:

Objective: Enhance crime-solving and prevention through technology.

Activities: Implement ALPR (Automatic License Plate Recognition) technology and other important public safety tools for the benefit of the township. Safeguard the privacy rights of the public through strict policies regarding use of the new technology tools.

Benefits: Enhance the efficiency of crime detection, act as a deterrent, and contribute to overall public safety.

3. Employee Professional Development:

Objective: Ensure that officers are well-trained and continuously improving professionally.

Activities: Prioritize education and training programs for officers.

Benefits: Improve the skill set of officers, enhance overall departmental performance, and adapt to evolving law enforcement challenges.

4. Workforce Planning:

Objective: Maintain an effective and sufficient workforce.

Activities: Recruit and hire new officers with the highest moral standards to replace retiring employees.

Benefits: Ensure a smooth transition, prevent understaffing, and maintain optimal departmental functionality.

5. Promoting Professionalism and Respect:

Objective: Foster a culture of professionalism and respect within the department and with the public.

Activities: Implement programs and policies that emphasize ethical conduct, courtesy, and respect.

Provide training opportunities using creative methods with an emphasis on procedural justice, implicit bias, use of force and de-escalation.

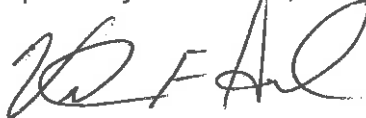
Remain accredited with the Ohio Collaborative and maintain standards of accreditation.

Continually review and update policies and procedures to reflect the consistently changing legal issues and practices of current policing.

Benefits: Improve the department's public image, strengthen internal cohesion, and enhance interactions between officers and the community.

By addressing these goals and objectives, the Bath Township Police Department can contribute to building a safer community, improving public trust, and ensuring the ongoing development of its officers. Regularly assessing the progress and adjusting strategies as needed will help in achieving long-term success.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vito F. Sinopoli', written in a cursive style.

Vito F. Sinopoli
Chief of Police

Community Engagement



Putting with a Cop
July



Coffee with
a Cop



October
Haunted
Halloween



Safety Town - June



Fall Events
October



Department Trainings



Active Shooter Training
at Revere High School –
August

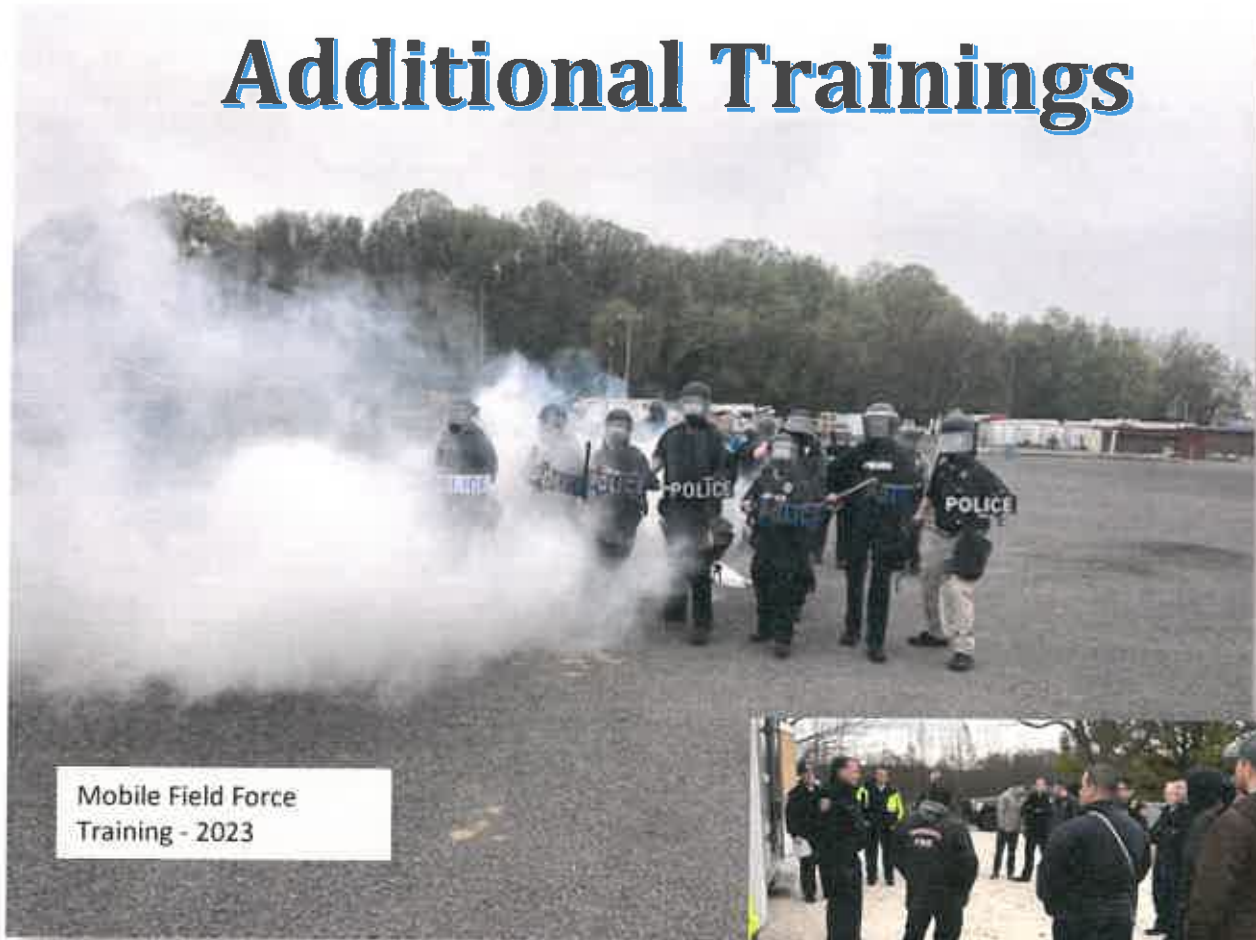


Breathalyzer Testing with Dept. of
Health – Annual Requirement for
sworn officers - 2023



Use of Force and Taser Instruction
for sworn officers – mandatory
department training.

Additional Trainings



Mobile Field Force
Training - 2023



Drone Training - October



Instruction and training on the
use of the new body cameras
and in-car dash cameras - July



Crisis Intervention Team Training - Officer Deep November