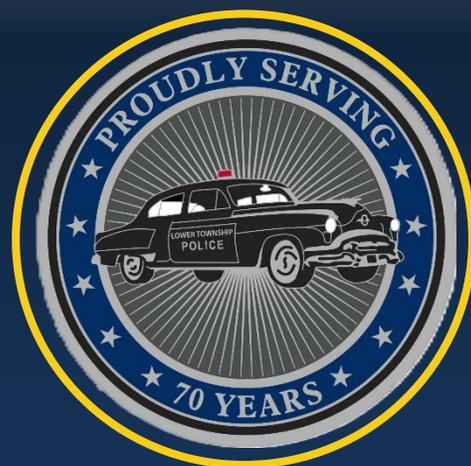


LOWER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT



2025





Report Managed and Directed by:

Chief Donald Vanaman

Deputy Chief Michael Majane

Captain John Armbruster

December 31, 2025



Table of Contents

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| LETTER FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE | 5 |
| MISSION STATEMENT | 6 |
| NJSACOP ACCREDITATION PROGRAM | 7 |
| ORGANIZATION & PERSONNEL | 8 |
| ADMINISTRATION | 8 |
| DETECTIVE BUREAU | 8 |
| SUPPORT OPERATIONS | 8 |
| RECRUITS..... | 8 |
| PATROL DIVISION | 8 |
| 2025 RETIREMENTS..... | 11 |
| CALLS FOR SERVICE & CRIMINAL ACTIVITY | 13 |
| NIBRS (NATIONAL INCIDENT BASED REPORTING SYSTEM)..... | 14 |
| PROPERTY STOLEN AND RECOVERED | 16 |
| DOMESTIC VIOLENCE | 17 |
| VEHICLE-RELATED INCIDENTS | 17 |
| DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED BY ALCOHOL OR DRUGS (DWI) ARRESTS..... | 19 |
| AGENCY STATISTICS | 20 |
| USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS AND REPORTING..... | 20 |
| POLICE PURSUITS | 20 |
| POLICE DEPARTMENT INJURIES AND ACCIDENTS | 20 |
| INTERNAL AFFAIRS | 21 |
| OPERATIONAL INITIATIVES | 22 |
| NARCAN | 22 |
| PROJECT MEDICINE DROP | 23 |
| NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAYS | 23 |
| CAPE ADDICTION RECOVERY SERVICES (CARES) PROGRAM..... | 23 |
| REDUCTION OF IMPAIRED & DISTRACTED DRIVING INITIATIVES | 24 |
| PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVES | 25 |
| CAPE MAY COUNTY BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM INITIATIVE..... | 25 |
| ARRIVE TOGETHER MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS INITIATIVE | 26 |
| RAVE MOBILE SAFETY..... | 27 |
| SOCIAL MEDIA..... | 27 |
| ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS IN POLICING | 28 |
| BWC VIDEOS FOR INVESTIGATIONS | 28 |
| EXPUNGEMENTS..... | 28 |
| RESIDENTIAL ALARMS | 29 |
| OPRA REQUESTS..... | 29 |
| ADMINISTRATION | 30 |
| PATROL DIVISION | 34 |
| PATROL BUREAU NOTABLE CASES FOR 2025 | 37 |
| SLEO CLASS II PROGRAM | 38 |
| DETECTIVE DIVISION | 38 |
| DETECTIVE DIVISION NOTABLE CASES FOR 2025..... | 41 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| SENIOR DETECTIVE KAITLIN BLACK AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS FBI CERTIFICATE | 43 |
| SUPPORT OPERATIONS UNIT | 44 |
| SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM..... | 45 |
| L.E.A.D. DAY – MAY 2025..... | 49 |
| RECORDS DIVISION | 50 |
| LOWER TOWNSHIP POLICE CHAPLAINS..... | 52 |
| UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS (UAS) UNIT | 53 |
| HONOR GUARD | 54 |
| CRASH TEAM | 54 |
| SWAT TEAM (SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS)..... | 56 |
| TRAINING AND EDUCATION..... | 58 |
| NOTABLE TRAINING COURSES ATTENDED | 58 |
| 2025 COMPUTER BASED TRAINING..... | 59 |
| FIELD TRAINING OFFICERS (FTO) | 60 |
| POLICE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTORS | 60 |
| COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS | 64 |
| POLICE UNITY TOUR – MAY 2025 | 65 |
| TORCH RUN – JUNE 2025 | 65 |
| NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – AUGUST 2025 | 66 |
| NATIONAL FAITH & BLUE COMMUNITY EVENTS – OCTOBER 2025 | 67 |
| TRUNK OR TREAT – OCTOBER 2025..... | 68 |
| HOMETOWN HERO FLAG CEREMONY – PTLM. DAVID C. DOUGLASS..... | 68 |
| NO SHAVE NOVEMBER 2025 | 69 |
| NO SHAVE DECEMBER..... | 70 |
| SHOP WITH A COP - DECEMBER 2025..... | 71 |
| SUMMER YOUTH CAMP | 72 |
| RECOVERY SOFTBALL | 74 |
| 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS | 75 |
| GOALS FOR 2026..... | 77 |

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

As the new Chief of Police, it is my honor and privilege to present the Lower Township Police Department's 2025 Annual Report.

The Lower Township Police Department is comprised of forty-eight full-time dedicated sworn men and women, and two academy recruits, and six civilian employees who provide administrative/logistical support.

The Township of Lower maintains a modern, well-equipped police department. In essence, our agency exists to both protect and serve all members of the community. We continuously seek community partnerships. The police department views the citizens of our community as partners who deserve our concern, care, and attention. Officer safety and their well-being remains a top priority for this department.



In 2025, the police department achieved nine significant professional milestones:

- 1) Glock G45 MOS 9mm Handguns (65) with Aimpoint ACRO P2 direct mounted red dot sights and Streamlight TLR-7X Flex Flashlights
- 2) 16 Panasonic Toughbook CF-33 Fully Rugged Mobile Data Terminal (MDTs) Tablets
- 3) StarWitness Interviewer High Definition (HD SDI) System Upgrade (Detective Bureau)
- 4) Cordico Wellness App (Lexipol) for all employees, retirees, and their families
- 5) 15 Dell Desktop Computers & 4 Hard Drives for Digital Video Recording (DVR)
- 6) 12 Motorola APX 8000 Band Portable Model 3.5 Radios (Command Staff & Supervisors)
- 7) Blue Voice Closed-Loop Artificial Intelligence Assistant App and Software fielded
- 8) Finalization of a high-tech Mobile Command Vehicle (MCV) to be fielded in 2026
- 9) Certified an additional 12 All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Operators
(for more details on department milestones, please see page 77)

Over the last twelve months, our primary focus remained on bolstering public safety, strengthening community ties, and staying agile in response to the Township's changing landscape. As we look ahead, we are committed to maintaining an active dialogue with our residents, business leaders, visitors, and local representatives. I am confident that by working in unison, we can successfully navigate any future obstacles as a resilient community.

It is my genuine hope that the clarity provided in this report fosters deeper trust and a stronger partnership between the department and the public. Thank you for your interest and for reviewing our progress.

Chief Donald Vanaman, Jr.

Chief Donald Vanaman, Jr.



LOWER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lower Township Police Department is to enhance the quality of life in the Township of Lower by working cooperatively with the public and within the framework of the Constitution. Our officers will work to enforce the laws, preserve the peace, reduce fear and provide for a safe environment. We will provide service with understanding, response with compassion, performance with integrity and law enforcement with vision.



Lower Township Police - 2023 Sworn Officers Photo



Chief Kevin Lewis's last call December 31, 2025

NJSACOP ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

(New Jersey State Association of Chief of Police)



The Lower Township Police Department is a five-time accredited/reaccredited agency that participates in a New Jersey Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. The New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police’s (NJSACOP) accreditation mission is to promote and enhance the highest ethical and professional standards in law enforcement at all levels throughout New Jersey. This is a voluntary state program developed by the NJSACOP. Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven method of assisting agencies to calculate and improve their overall performance. The accreditation program requires compliance with a series of over 100 evolving professional standards designed and specifically tailored for New Jersey law enforcement agencies. The program promotes the best policies, practices and professional standards in law enforcement. The Department was initially accredited in 2009 and 2013 and reaccredited in 2017, 2021 and 2024. Our agency completed our fifth formal agency assessment in December of 2023. This took place only after a full policy review and a thorough self-analysis. Accredited status represents a significant professional achievement.

On October 28, 2022, the NJSACOP Law Enforcement Accreditation Program was designated an “Independent Credentialing Body” by the U.S. Department of Justice. The designation complies with the Presidential Executive Order 13929 Safe Policing for Safe Communities, issued June of 2022. Non-Credentialed agencies in New Jersey will be ineligible for certain federal grants.



ORGANIZATION & PERSONNEL

Current Sworn Employees - The following list reflects the Department Personnel as of December 31, 2025.

ADMINISTRATION

Chief of Police Kevin Lewis
Deputy Chief Donald Vanaman
Captain Michael Majane
Lieutenant John Armbruster
Lieutenant Brian McEwing
Lieutenant Charles Ryan
Lieutenant Anthony Greto
Sergeant First Class Michael Perry

DETECTIVE BUREAU

Detective Sergeant Corey Scheid
Detective First Class Michael James
Senior Detective Kaitlin Black
Detective James Mathis
Detective Thomas Shough
Detective Kevin O'Brien

SUPPORT OPERATIONS

SRO Corporal Dallas Bohn
SRO Louis Bartleson
Patrolman First Class Michael Nuscis
Patrolman First Class Kyle Boyle

RECRUITS

Recruit Ryan O'Neal
Recruit Talen Terinoni

PATROL DIVISION

Sergeant Jason Felsing
Sergeant James McNulty
Sergeant William Barcas
Sergeant Jennifer Elwell
Corporal Matthew Gamble
Corporal Eric Danze
Corporal Jonathan Scheck
Patrolman First Class Kevin Boyle, Jr.
Patrolman First Class Jordan Saini
Patrolman First Class Kenneth Walker
Patrol Officer Anthony Micciche
Patrol Officer Adam Hegarty
Patrol Officer William Kocis
Patrol Officer William Omrod
Patrol Officer William Porch
Patrol Officer Michael Harkin
Patrol Officer Austin Parker
Patrol Officer Christopher Vassar
Patrol Officer Patrick Dunn
Patrol Officer Antonio Marroquin
Patrol Officer Samuel Gellura
Patrol Officer Anthony Prats, Jr.
Patrol Officer Matthew Reilly
Patrol Officer Simba Elam-Hampton
Patrol Officer Robert White
Patrol Officer Thomas Girard
Patrol Officer Nicholas Romantino
Patrol Officer Catherine DelGuidice
Patrol Officer Austin Cushman
Patrol Officer James Gestwicki
Patrol Officer Zane Forestire
Patrol Officer Miguel Valencia

Promotions

Lieutenant Anthony Greto – 11/2025

Sergeant Jennifer Elwell – 11/2025

New Full-Time Officers

Austin Cushman – 2/2025

James Gestwicki – 7/2025

Zane Forestire – 7/2025

Miguel Valencia – 11/2025

Retirements – dates from Edmunds

Stephen Flitcroft – 2/2025

Corporal Robert Fessler – 7/2025

Chief Kevin Lewis – 12/31/2025



*Lieutenant Anthony Greto & Sergeant Jennifer Elwell Promotions
and Miguel Valencia's Swearing-In Ceremony*





Officer Austin Cushman – Swearing-In Ceremony



Officer James Gestwicki – Swearing-In Ceremony



Officer Zane Forestire – Swearing-In Ceremony

2025 RETIREMENTS

Chief Kevin Lewis

Chief Kevin Lewis retired from the Lower Township Police Department on December 31, 2025, concluding more than 20 years of dedicated service to the Township and nearly 33 years of distinguished service to the United States Military.

Chief Lewis began his law enforcement career with the Lower Township Police Department in 2006 after graduating from the Camden County Police Academy. Over the course of his career, he progressed through the ranks, serving as Patrol Officer, Sergeant (2017), Sergeant First Class (2018), Lieutenant (2019), Captain (2020), and Chief of Police in 2022. He also served more than 11 years on the Cape May County Regional SWAT Team and eight years as a Field Training Officer.



A strong advocate for professional standards and accreditation, Chief Lewis is a graduate of the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) Command & Leadership Program and the Police Executive Institute (19th Session). His extensive professional training includes Police Chiefs Orientation, Internal Affairs Investigations, Command Level Resiliency, Front Line Supervision, OPRA and Records Management, Risk Management, ICS 100–400, 700, and 800, and advanced tactical and instructional programs through NTOA, Blackwater, FBI-NA, IACP, and NJSACOP.

Chief Lewis is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police. He served on the Executive Board of the Cape May County Association of Chiefs of Police, as Treasurer for two years.

During his tenure as Chief, he led numerous initiatives to modernize operations, enhance officer wellness, and strengthen public safety. These initiatives included restructuring the department's administrative staff, establishing the Deputy Chief position, implementing advanced body-worn and in-car camera systems, expanding Automatic License Plate Reader coverage, upgrading the police vehicle fleet, launching a fully funded Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) program, instituting an agency-wide wellness program and on-site fitness center, transitioning to an upgraded emergency notification system, revitalizing the Police Chaplaincy Program, completing a full review and revision of agency policies, and expanding employee and citizen recognition programs.

Chief Lewis is the recipient of the Lower Township Police Department Distinguished Service Award (two awards) and the Buddy Lewis VFW Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. In addition to his law enforcement career, Chief Lewis served nearly 33 years in the United States Army, retiring at the rank of Command Sergeant Major. His service included multiple senior leadership roles and a combat deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, two Meritorious Service Medals, seven Army Commendation Medals, fifteen Army Achievement Medals, and numerous additional awards and badges.

Chief Lewis is married to his wife, Christina, and is the proud father of four children, Ashlyn, Ryan, Brooklyn, and Kody.

Cpl. Robert Fessler

Hired 8/25/2003 – Retired 8/13/2025

Corporal Robert Fessler is a lifelong resident of Lower Township and graduated from Lower Cape May Regional High School in 2000. Corporal Fessler is the proud father of two sons, Robert and Asher. He graduated the Basic Course for Police Officers at the Cape May County Police Academy in January 2004. He was promoted to Patrolman First Class in January of 2023 and was assigned as a Patrol Corporal in September of 2023. He served as a Field Training Officer since 2011. Cpl Fessler completed the following courses: Officer Survival, DWI Standardized Field Sobriety, Verbal Judo, Accident Investigations, Street Gang Awareness, Edged Weapons, Active Shooter Response, HazMat, CBRNE, Alcotest Breathalyzer, Field Training Officer (FTO) Program, Conducted Energy Device (CED), Drugs for Patrol, Crime Scene Management, Document Fraud, Frontline Supervision, Resiliency, ICAT/ABLE, and Crisis Intervention. During Cpl Fessler's career, he was awarded the 2009 VFW Gold Medal. In 2021, he was recognized for his crucial part in saving a 2-year-old child from drowning and received the Lower Township Police Department Distinguished Service Life Saving Award. Additionally, he received numerous commendations over his 20-year career.



Ptl. Stephen Flitcroft

Hired 8/27/2012 – Retired 2/28/2025

Patrolman Stephen Flitcroft graduated from Wildwood Catholic High School in 2002. He is married to Celiese, and is the proud father of Emma. He is the son of retired Detective Albert Flitcroft. Ptl. Flitcroft started his career with the Township of Lower working for the Department of Public Works and in 2012 switched to a career in Law Enforcement. He graduated the Basic Course for Police Officers at the Cape May County Police Academy in 2013. Ptl. Flitcroft was a LEAD Instructor with certifications in Digital Threat Assessment, "On the Street" Officer Training, "On the Street" Educator Training and Teen Suicide Prevention. Ptl. Flitcroft was also a Field Training Officer (FTO), a member of the Fatal Crash Investigation Team, and a Certified Humane Law Enforcement Officer (HELO).



The Lower Township Police Department extends its sincere appreciation and gratitude to our retired officers for their dedicated service, steadfast leadership, and lasting contributions to the safety and well-being of the community.

CALLS FOR SERVICE & CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total # of Calls for Service | 48,559 | 51,412 | 47,647 | 49,472 | 50,036 |
| Officer Initiated (MDT) Calls | 8,029 | 28,086 | 29,103 | 29,686 | 32,842 |

Investigations

Investigation Reports completed by officers totaled: **570**
 Supplemental Investigations or follow up reports completed: **302**

Arrests

The figures listed below reflect the number of “individuals” arrested in 2025. It should be noted that most times, multiple charges are filed against a single “individual.” The arrests figures listed below reflect the number of persons (Adults / Juveniles) physically arrested by Lower Township Police Officers. The numbers below do not reflect a tabulation of multiple charges filed against an individual.

Total # of Adult Arrests: **480**
 Total # of Juvenile Arrests: **15**

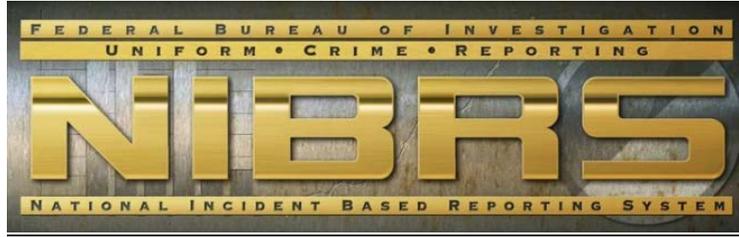
Indictable Complaints sent by the Lower Township Police Department to the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office for 2025 – **226**.

Calls for Service Types

The following list shows the classification of some of the other type of **calls for service** handled by the Police Department that are not reported in NIBRS. *(see the following pages for NIBRS)*

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Medical Calls | 1,805 | 2,282 | 1,884 | 2,136 | 2,610 |
| Fire Calls | 101 | 141 | 111 | 113 | 113 |
| Animal Complaints | 366 | 445 | 358 | 389 | 386 |
| Burglar, Fire or Medical Alarms | 656 | 643 | 586 | 675 | 645 |
| Death Investigations | 43 | 36 | 39 | 37 | 48 |
| Disorderly Conduct Incidents | 593 | 642 | 520 | 467 | 510 |
| Missing Persons and Runaways | 59 | 68 | 27 | 45 | 60 |
| Assisting Other Agency Incidents | 153 | 185 | 205 | 237 | 230 |
| Residential & Commercial Property Checks | 29,676 | 32,274 | 29,717 | 30,080 | 30,350 |
| Community Policing | 113 | 81 | 116 | 96 | 142 |

NIBRS (NATIONAL INCIDENT BASED REPORTING SYSTEM)



From the FBI website:

Implemented to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement, NIBRS captures details on each single crime incident—as well as on separate offenses within the same incident—including information on victims, known offenders, relationships between victims and offenders, arrestees and property involved in crimes. Unlike data reported through the UCR Program’s traditional Summary Reporting System (SRS)—an aggregate monthly tally of crimes—NIBRS goes much deeper because of its ability to provide circumstances and context for crimes like location, time of day and whether the incident was cleared. As recommended by professional law enforcement organizations, the FBI has made nationwide implementation of NIBRS a top priority because NIBRS can provide more useful statistics to promote constructive discussion, measured planning and informed policing. *The Lower Township Police Dept. is NIBRS certified.*

NIBRS Reporting

2025 NIBRS data below.

LOWER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT ***NIBRS – Group A Offense Report (2024-2025 Comparison)***

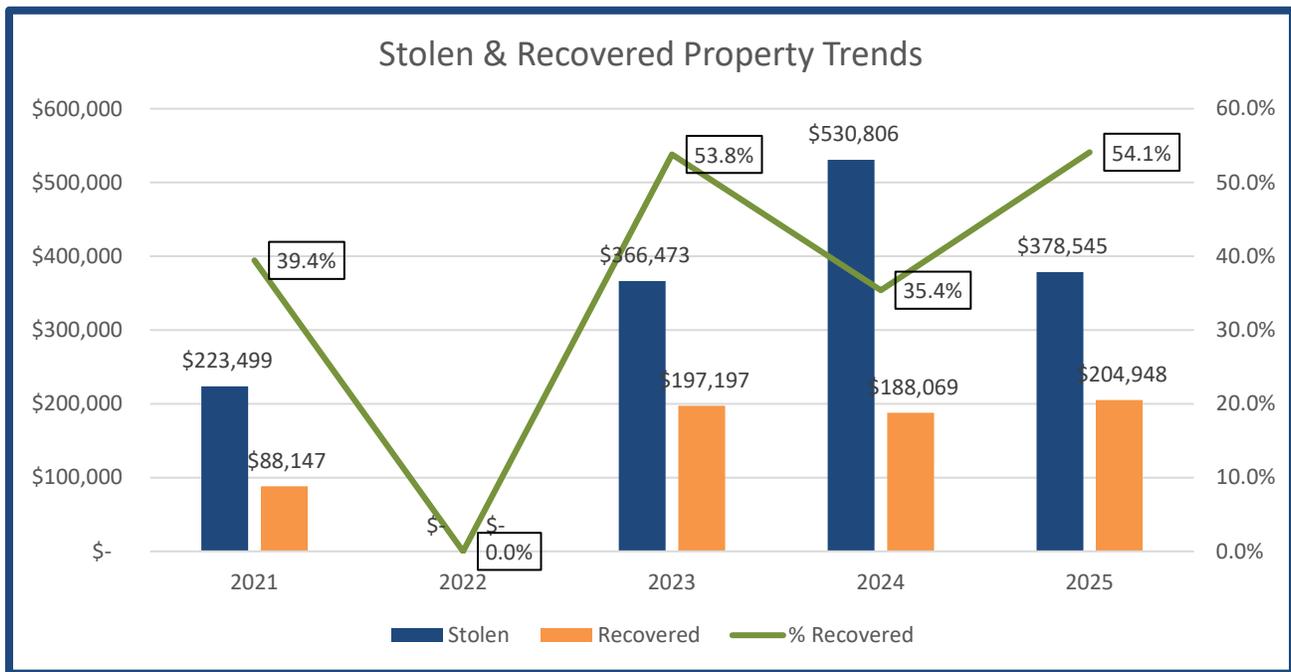
| Offense | Reported in 2025 | Reported in 2024 | Percent Change | Percent Of Category |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Kidnapping/Abduction | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Murder & Non-negligent Manslaughter | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Negligent Manslaughter | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Aggravated Assault | 19 | 12 | 58.33% | 6.35% |
| Simple Assault | 45 | 30 | 50.00% | 15.05% |
| Intimidation | 224 | 263 | -14.83% | 74.92% |
| Sex Assault | 3 | 8 | -62.50% | 1.00% |
| Sexual Assault With An Object | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Fondling | 8 | 5 | 60.00% | 2.68% |
| Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Crimes Against Persons Total | 299 | 318 | -5.97% | 49.34% |
| Bribery | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Robbery | 0 | 1 | -100.00% | 0.00% |
| Arson | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.35% |
| Extortion/Blackmail | 4 | 6 | -33.33% | 1.42% |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| Burglary/Breaking & Entering | 17 | 32 | -46.88% | 6.03% |
| Pocket-picking | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Purse-snatching | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Shoplifting | 20 | 2 | 900.00% | 7.09% |
| Theft From Building | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Theft From Coin-Operated Machine or Device | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Theft From Motor Vehicle | 1 | 2 | -50.00% | 0.35% |
| Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| All Other Larceny | 75 | 108 | -30.56% | 26.60% |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 10 | 12 | -16.67% | 3.55% |
| Counterfeiting/Forgery | 3 | 1 | 200.00% | 1.06% |
| False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game | 5 | 54 | -90.74% | 1.77% |
| Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud | 5 | 6 | -16.67% | 1.77% |
| Impersonation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Welfare Fraud | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Wire Fraud | 70 | 24 | 191.67% | 24.82% |
| Identity Theft | 0 | 1 | -100.00% | 0.00% |
| Hacking / Computer Invasion | 3 | 2 | 50.00% | 1.06% |
| Embezzlement | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Stolen Offenses | 4 | 4 | 0.00% | 1.42% |
| Destruction / Damage / Vandalism of Property | 64 | 64 | 0.00% | 22.70% |
| Crimes Against Property Total | 282 | 319 | -11.60% | 46.53% |
| Drug/Narcotic Violations | 18 | 9 | 100.00% | 72.00% |
| Drug Equipment Violations | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4.00% |
| Weapon Law Violations | 6 | 3 | 100.00% | 24.00% |
| Animal Cruelty | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Pornography/Obscene Material | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Betting/Wagering | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Gambling Equipment Violation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Sports Tampering | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Prostitution | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Assisting or Promoting Prostitution | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Purchasing Prostitution | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Crimes Against Society Total | 25 | 12 | 108.33% | 4.13% |
| Total Group "A" Offense | 606 | 649 | -6.63% | 100% |

PROPERTY STOLEN AND RECOVERED

Property offenses include burglary, theft, criminal mischief and shoplifting. The exact amount of value in theft-related offenses is hard to determine, as officers and victims usually estimate the value of property stolen and recovered. Below reflects the estimated value of property stolen and recovered.

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|----------------|-----------|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Stolen | \$223,499 | n/a | \$366,473 | \$530,806 | \$378,545 |
| Recovered (\$) | \$88,147 | n/a | \$197,197 | \$188,069 | \$204,948 |
| Recovered (%) | 39.4% | n/a | 53.8% | 35.4% | 54.1% |



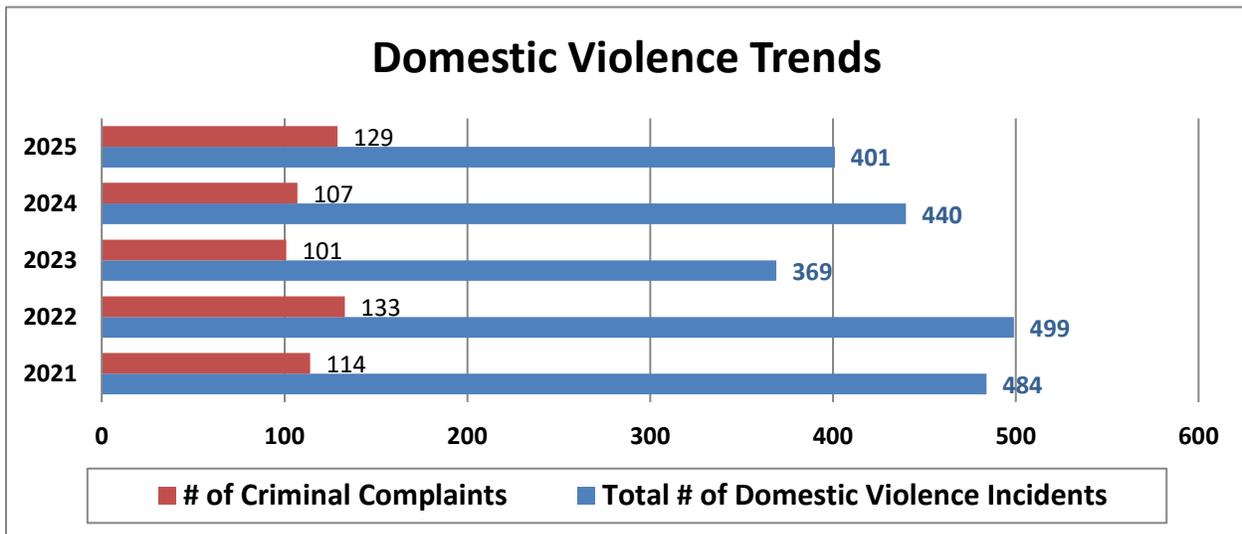
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence in New Jersey is viewed as a serious crime and carries with it penalties such as fines and prison time. Victims have the right to request temporary restraining orders; if granted a final restraining order hearing is automatically scheduled. Police officers must follow guidelines under the NJ Protection of Domestic Violence Act when arresting suspected abusers. Neglecting the elderly or handicapped can also be considered domestic violence in New Jersey.

The Prevention of Domestic Violence Act was passed in New Jersey in 1991. The Act provides two forms of relief in the event of domestic violence. The first is civil relief, which allows victims of domestic violence to request a restraining order against their assaulter. The second is criminal relief, which allows the victim or police to sign criminal complaints against the aggressor.

Through a cooperative effort between the Lower Township Police, Coalition Against Rape and Abuse (CARA) and community volunteers, a domestic violence victim response team (DVRT) has been established. This team offers the domestic violence victim information and services to help them through the experience. There is a room at the department that is designated just for domestic violence victims and families, so they have a more comfortable and peaceful space during a challenging time. Listed below are Lower Township’s statistics related to domestic violence:

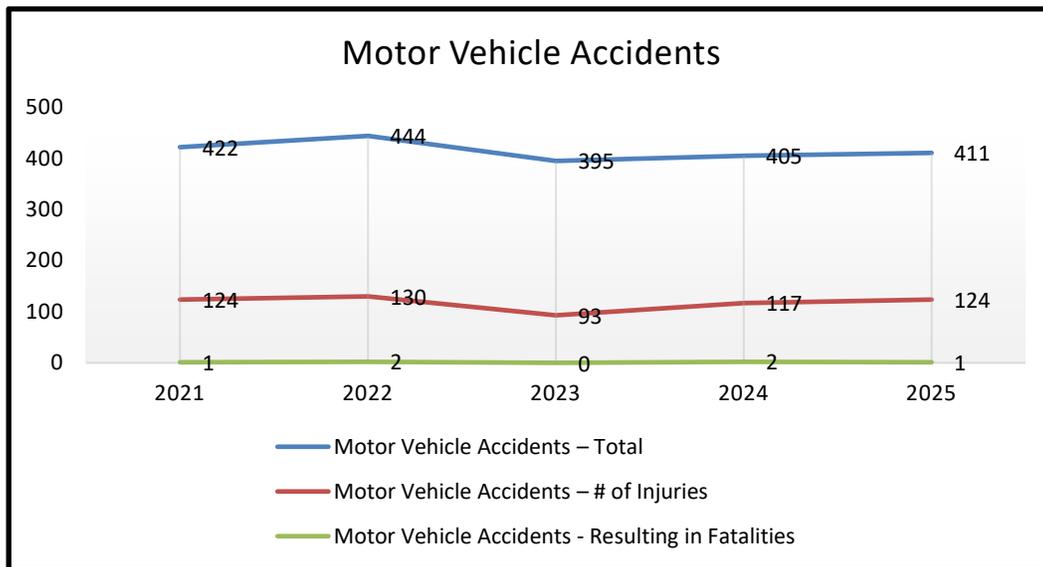
| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-----------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total # of Domestic Violence Incidents | 484 | 499 | 369 | 440 | 401 |
| Temporary Restraining Orders Granted | 96 | 101 | 74 | 87 | 66 |
| Temporary Restraining Orders Violated | 42 | 37 | 22 | 34 | 33 |
| Total Criminal Complaints | 114 | 133 | 101 | 107 | 129 |



VEHICLE-RELATED INCIDENTS

The Lower Township Police Department investigated **411** motor vehicle accidents and conducted **4,834** motor vehicle stops during the year of 2025. In an effort to reduce traffic incidents, the Department participates in National and State enforcement and social media campaigns to encourage citizens to use more caution on the roads, as well as providing safety tips and suggestions.

| Traffic Summary | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Motor Vehicle Accidents – Total | 422 | 444 | 395 | 405 | 411 |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents – # of Injuries | 124 | 130 | 93 | 117 | 124 |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents – With Fatalities | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Motor Vehicle Stops – Total | 4,645 | 4,404 | 4,359 | 5,075 | 4,834 |
| Motor Vehicle Stops – Summonses Issued | 1,230 | 1,090 | 1,112 | 1,444 | 1,761 |
| Motor Vehicle Stops – Written Warnings Issued | 25 | 155 | 171 | 113 | 115 |

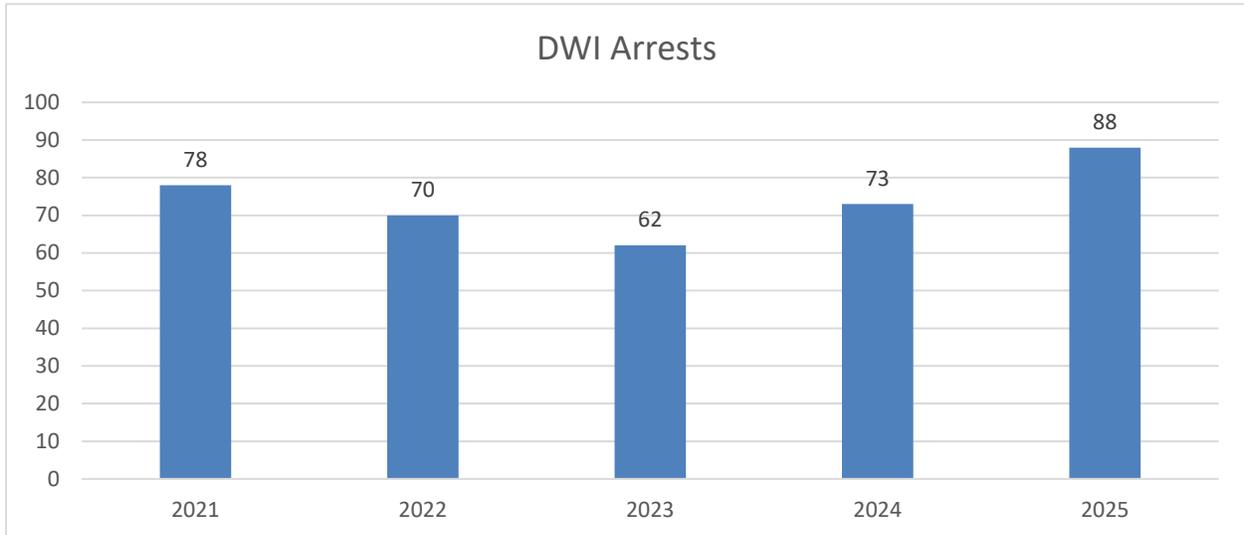


Example of Enforcement & Social Media Campaigns posted in 2025



DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED BY ALCOHOL OR DRUGS (DWI) ARRESTS

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| DWI Arrests | 78 | 70 | 62 | 73 | 88 |



Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) recognizes Law Enforcement efforts to cut down on drunk driving and hosts a New Jersey Annual Statewide Law Enforcement Recognition Event for Officers that are top DWI Arresting Officers for the year. Our top officers for 2024 were Ptlm. Thomas Girard and PFC Kenneth Walker. Our top officer for 2025 was Ptlm. Robert White with 16 DWI arrests.



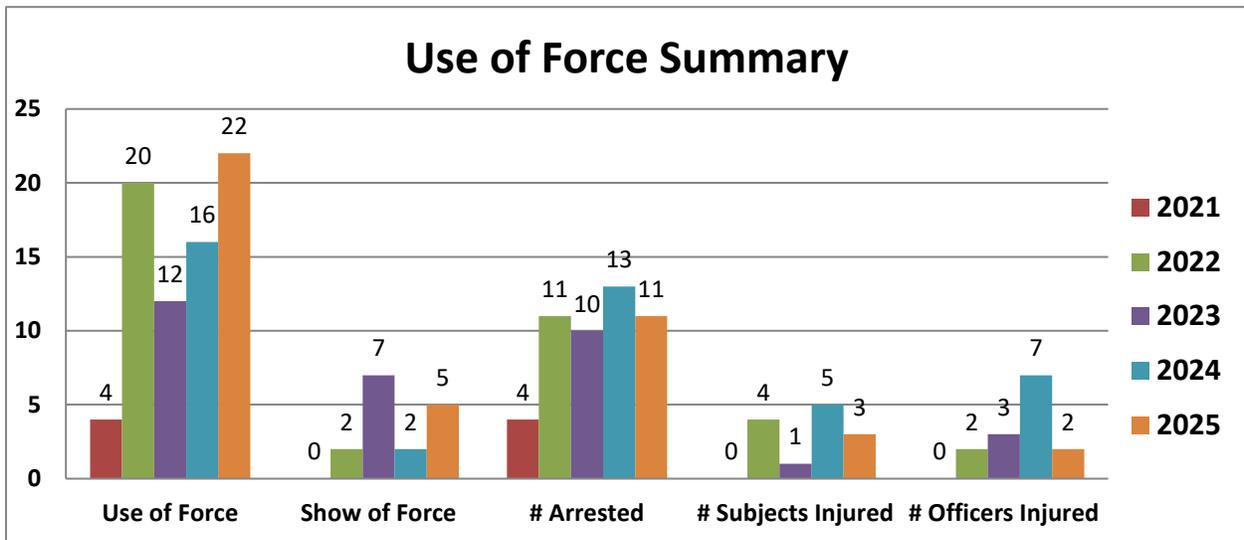
**Ptl. Girard (pictured), PFC Walker (not in attendance)
Top Cops in Lower Twp. – 2024 (Awarded in 2025)**

AGENCY STATISTICS

USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS AND REPORTING

There has been sweeping changes and reform across the county in recent years in regards to Use of Force. One change that New Jersey implemented was an online portal (vs. prior paper system) for agencies to submit Use of Force forms for any incidents involving Use of Force. The overall goals are to reduce Use of Force incidents and increase transparency. For more information on the changes implemented in New Jersey, visit <https://www.njoag.gov/force/>.

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Use of Force Incidents | 4 | 20 | 12 | 16 | 22 |
| Show of Force Incidents | n/a | 2 | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| # Subjects Arrested | 4 | 11 | 10 | 13 | 11 |
| # Subjects Injured | 0 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| # Officers Injured | 0 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 2 |



POLICE PURSUITS

Lower Township Police Officers were involved in 1 pursuit during 2025.

POLICE DEPARTMENT INJURIES AND ACCIDENTS

The Department is insured under the Atlantic County Joint Insurance Fund for workers compensation claims. In order to ensure the proper level of police services for the citizens of Lower Township, there has been a concerted effort by all police officers to reduce incidents of work place injury. Unfortunately, due to the inherently dangerous nature of the law enforcement profession, it often exposes police officers to hazardous situations that are beyond their control, therefore making the potential for injury extremely high. In 2025, there were **9** cases of work related injuries. There were **122** work days/shifts missed due to these injuries. Throughout 2025, our Police Officers were assaulted in the line of duty on **2** separate occasions.

The Lower Township Police Department logged many miles in department vehicles in 2025 and although every precaution and extreme care was taken, there were **4** traffic accidents involving department vehicles.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Lower Township Police Department is committed to providing law enforcement services that are fair, effective and impartially applied. Officers are held to the highest standards of official conduct and are expected to respect the rights of all citizens. Officer's adherence to these standards, motivated by a moral and professional obligation to perform their job to the best of their ability, is the ultimate objective of this agency.

The effectiveness of a law enforcement agency is dependent upon approval and acceptance of police authority. The department must be responsive to the community by providing formal procedures for the processing of complaints from the public, regarding officer performance.

The purpose of the department's Internal Affairs Policy is to improve the quality of law enforcement services. Citizen confidence in the integrity of the police department increases through the establishment of meaningful and effective complaint procedures. The confidence engenders community support for the police department. Improving the relationship between police and the citizens they serve facilitates cooperation vital to the department's ability to achieve its goals. An effective disciplinary framework also permits police officials to monitor officer's compliance with department policies and procedures. Adherence to established policies and procedures assist officers in meeting department objectives while a monitoring system permits managers to identify problem areas requiring increased training or direction. Finally, the Internal Affairs Policy ensures fairness and due process protection to citizens and officers alike.

The internal affairs process is also used to identify and correct unclear or inappropriate agency procedures. In addition, it will highlight organizational conditions that may contribute to any misconduct, such as poor recruitment and selection procedures or inadequate training and supervision of officers.

The Lower Township Police Department works closely with the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and many of the internal affairs investigations are worked jointly between both departments. This is to ensure that the highest quality of investigation is conducted.

In 2025, the Lower Township Police Dept. conducted **10** internal affairs investigations. The complaints involved on and off duty actions and/or conduct of Lower Township Police Dept. employees. Of the **10** investigations handled in 2025, **5** resulted in disciplinary action. In 2025, there was **1** Police Officer was suspended for more than **5** days with **1** pending. There were **0** officers terminated and **1** pending termination. Below is a list of the type of cases and their dispositions received in 2025:

Types of Internal Investigations and Dispositions:

- 1. Other Rule Violations (6): 3 Sustained, 2 Pending, 1 Unfounded**
- 2. Motor Vehicle Accidents On-Duty (4): 4 Sustained**

The Internal Affairs Division was managed by Captain Michael Majane in 2025.

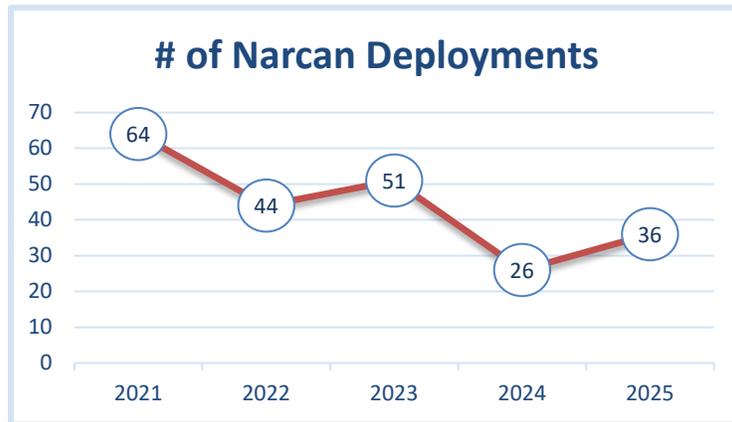
OPERATIONAL INITIATIVES

DRUG CRISIS INITIATIVES

NARCAN

Our Department is continually investing in helping with the drug problems faced by our town, county and nation. One of the immediate impacts is through using the life-saving drug Narcan (naloxone) for drug overdoses. All of our officers are trained in the life-saving deployment of Narcan. In 2025, our officers deployed Narcan **36** times, saving many of those lives. The decrease in number may be attributed to the now wide availability of Narcan (naloxone) to the public. In the event of an overdose and the individual does not go to the hospital for treatment, Lower Township Police officers offer to leave Narcan and a CARES program pamphlet. We refer to this as the “leave behind” program and each is documented, in accordance with the Overdose Protection Act of 2021, N.J.S.A. subsection 24:6J-5.1. We are fortunate to receive some of our Narcan through donations from the CARES program at Cooper University Hospital Cape Regional.

It has been proven if Narcan is administered within the first few minutes of an opioid overdose, a life can be saved. Narcan does not have adverse effects and is not addictive; it is simply a life-saving drug when given properly.



PROJECT MEDICINE DROP

Project Medicine Drop is an initiative involving the installation of "prescription drug drop boxes" at participating New Jersey police departments.

The Lower Township Police Department has a drop-box in the lobby. For safety reasons, the Project Medicine Drop boxes can **only** accept solid medications such as pills, patches, inhalers, and similar objects. The boxes **cannot** accept liquids, medical waste, or syringes. Consumers wishing to dispose of these objects should speak with their doctors or pharmacists to find the safest and best ways to dispose of them. It should also be noted that consumers may only dispose of **legal** prescription or over-the-counter medications.

During 2025, the Lower Township Police Department collected and disposed of **392.6** pounds of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications through Project Medicine Drop.

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAYS

The Lower Township Police Department participates in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Days, held in the Spring and Fall each year. During these days, residents can turn in any unwanted or expired prescription medicines or drugs to Police Officers at a specified location. The program is anonymous and individuals disposing of medications are not required to show identification.

For more information visit: <https://takebackday.dea.gov/>.



CAPE ADDICTION RECOVERY SERVICES (CARES) PROGRAM

Lower Township Police Department is an active participant of the CARES program. When an officer responds to a call that is an overdose, he/she will refer the call to the CARES Mobile Response Team (*provided by Cooper University Hospital Cape Regional*). The team will travel to the scene of the overdose and provide non-clinical assistance, recovery support and information to individuals who are struggling with substance abuse-related disorders and who have suffered an overdose in Lower Township. Excerpts from the CARES report below show the trends of reported overdoses. To review the entire CARES report, [click here](#).



REDUCTION OF IMPAIRED & DISTRACTED DRIVING INITIATIVES

The Lower Township Police Department participates in National and State Campaigns to reduce accidents and fatalities due to impaired and distracted driving. We are proactive in addressing traffic safety through these campaigns throughout the year:

- Click It or Ticket
- Impaired Driving Enforcement
- Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving
- Distracted Driving
- Driver Sober or Get Pulled Over
- Summer Shore Pedestrian Awareness

We also rely on grant funding to help offset and supplement patrol operations in some of these campaigns and the traffic grants we received last year include:

- 🚗 The Lower Township Police Department received grants in the amount of \$10,850 to pay for overtime patrols to enforce and combat DWI offenses from alcohol and/or drugs. (*Drive Sober, Get Pulled Over Campaigns*)



- 🚗 The “Put the Phone Away or Pay” campaign is a statewide high-visibility enforcement and public awareness effort aimed at reducing distracted driving throughout New Jersey. Running from April 1 through April 30, the campaign supports law enforcement agencies in enforcing laws against texting and other distracted driving behaviors while educating drivers about the serious risks and consequences. As part of this initiative, we received a \$3,500 grant to support enhanced enforcement and safety efforts during the campaign.



- 🚗 The 2025 “Click It or Ticket” campaign led to a significant increase in seat belt use across New Jersey, with nearly 95% of front-seat occupants observed wearing seat belts—well above the national average. The campaign combined enforcement and public education efforts to reinforce the life-saving importance of buckling up, contributing to one of the strongest post-campaign compliance gains in recent years. In support of these efforts, we also received a \$5,600 grant to help enhance enforcement and outreach activities related to the campaign.



- 🚗 The NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety’s Summer Shore Pedestrian Awareness education & enforcement campaign runs from early July through mid-August. New Jersey experiences a disproportionate number of pedestrian injury crashes and fatalities compared to the nation as a whole. The enforcement component involves targeted police patrols at high-risk crash locations and \$7,000 was received in grant money for this initiative.



PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVES

CAPE MAY COUNTY BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM INITIATIVE

(LTPD began to participate in November 2025)

From the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office website:

The Blue Envelope Program was created to facilitate safer and helpful communication between police officers and individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) during traffic stops, providing those drivers with a blue envelope containing essential information and instructions for law enforcement during a traffic stop. The overall scope of the plan will be to reduce stress and anxiety for autistic individuals during traffic stops by improving communication and understanding between drivers and law enforcement.

Officers may also learn more about a driver's disability, emergency contacts, and other vital information if that person has registered with the Public Safety Alliance for Individuals with Disabilities (A.I.D.) program. The A.I.D. program is a national, voluntary service open to all citizens. It aims to ensure that all residents who have disabilities or special needs can get the help and support they need in a time of emergency or during interaction with law enforcement, fire, or EMS personnel. For more information regarding the Cape May County Chapter of the "Public Safety Alliance for Individuals with Disabilities" A.I.D. Program- [National Public Safety Alliance for Individuals with Disabilities \(Special Needs Registry\)](#)

HOW IT WORKS

When a police officer conducts a motor vehicle stop and the driver identifies himself/herself with ASD, the driver may hand the officer a Blue Envelope.

The following items may be placed inside the Blue Envelope:

- Driver's License
- Vehicle Registration
- Current Insurance Card
- Emergency Contact Information

Receiving the Blue Envelope will allow the police officer to become aware of possible behaviors that a driver with ASD may display.

WHERE CAN I GET A BLUE ENVELOPE?

- ✓ All participating law enforcement agencies
- ✓ Cooper Health Facilities

The Blue Envelope Program does not have a registry component, therefore, the program is voluntary and self-implemented.

Scan the QR Code below to learn about Cape May County's Chapter of the Public Safety Alliance for Individuals with Disabilities (Public Safety A.I.D) and to register for the program.

HOW TO BECOME A BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM PARTNER

If you or your agency would like to receive more information about how to become a partner of the Blue Envelope Program, contact the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office Community Outreach Unit at:

- ✉ CommunityOutreach@cmcpros.net
- ☎ (609) 465-1135
- 🌐 cmcpros.net

ARRIVE TOGETHER MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS INITIATIVE

The Lower Township Police Department has participated in the ARRIVE Together Pilot Program since its introduction to Cape May County in 2023, alongside the Middle Township Police Department. Following demonstrated success in both municipalities, the program expanded in 2025 to include an additional Mental Health Screener and the Cape May City Police Department. The initiative continues to grow, with additional law enforcement agencies throughout Cape May County working toward participation in this collaborative partnership.

Overview of the ARRIVE Together Program

ARRIVE Together (Alternative Responses to Reduce Instances of Violence and Escalation) is a crisis response model developed in New Jersey that pairs law enforcement officers with trained mental health professionals to respond to 9-1-1 calls involving behavioral or mental health crises. This co-response model ensures that individuals in crisis receive specialized care and support in addition to public safety services.

Implementation in Cape May County

In Cape May County, the ARRIVE Together program operates through a partnership between the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office, participating local police departments, and Acenda, Inc., a behavioral health services provider.

When a 9-1-1 call involves a suspected mental health crisis, a trained Mental Health Screener is dispatched to the scene alongside a responding police officer. The screener typically arrives in a separate vehicle and works collaboratively with law enforcement to assess the situation, de-escalate potential conflicts, and determine appropriate next steps for care and intervention.

Program Goals

The ARRIVE Together program is designed to:

1. Reduce the use of force and unnecessary arrests in situations involving individuals experiencing psychological distress.
2. Provide on-scene mental health evaluations and connect individuals to appropriate treatment and community-based services.
3. Improve long-term outcomes through follow-up care and referral to ongoing support resources.
4. Strengthen community trust by demonstrating a compassionate, service-oriented approach to crisis response.

Local Development and Expansion

Cape May County's participation began through state-supported pilot funding and collaborative local planning efforts. Initially launched with the Lower and Middle Township Police Departments, the program was designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the co-response model prior to broader countywide implementation.

The initiative builds upon prior efforts to integrate law enforcement with mental health and substance use resources. With proven results and continued state support, ARRIVE Together is positioned for further expansion, reinforcing the County's commitment to innovative, community-focused public safety strategies.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IfvUQPNVRd4&feature=youtu.be>

RAVE MOBILE SAFETY

In 2022, Lower Township switched to Rave Mobile Safety for its emergency and community notifications. Rave Alerts are sent via phone, text, email, mobile app and/or social media, depending on the type of message sent. The new system has all of the same features as the prior system, including anonymous tipping, yet provides our community public safety messages/alerts at a lesser cost. If you have not already registered for your choice of alerts, please do so [here](#).

Citizens are encouraged to [register here](#) and see all of the notification options.



**Sign up NOW
to receive
LT Alerts**

POWERED BY **RAVE**

**Emergency Alerts, Traffic & Weather
Advisories, Local News and Events via:**
Phone Call, Text, Email and Mobile App.
Set your messaging preferences when you register.
Download the Smart911 app after registering.



Sign Up at Police, Township or MUA websites

PLAN AHEAD FOR ANY EMERGENCY



DOWNLOAD THE SMART911® APP TODAY

SOCIAL MEDIA

Rave, like most alerting systems, has the capability to send alerts via several different modes, including social media. With social media's ability to share posts, it is also a tool the department engages in to get information out to our community. The department currently uses Facebook (Meta), Instagram and Twitter (X). **Please follow the Department by clicking on the icons below:**



Facebook



Instagram

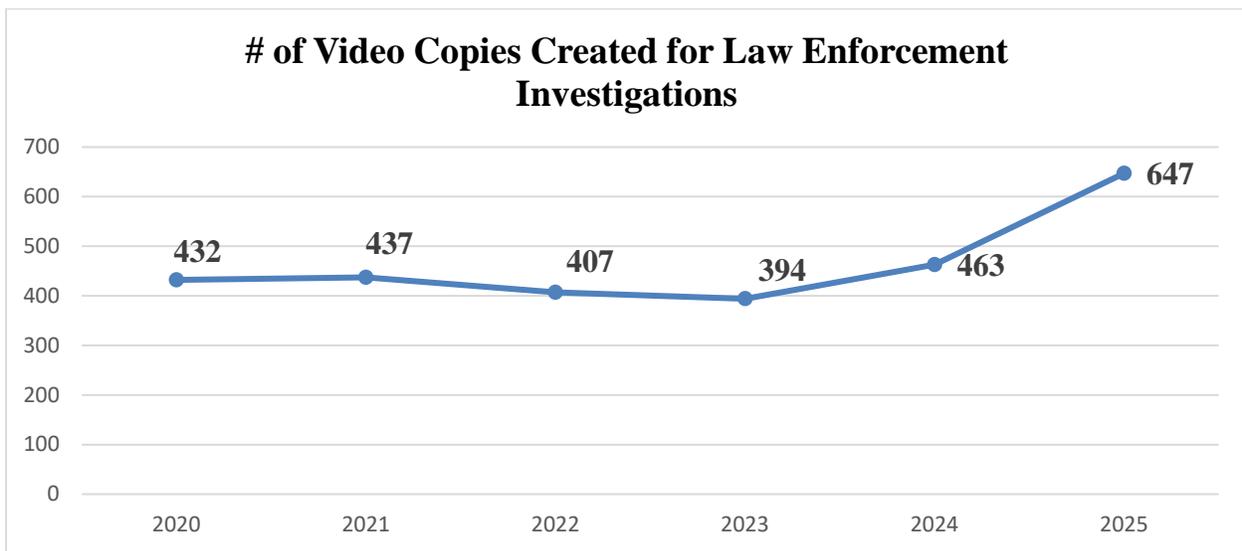


X (Twitter)

ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS IN POLICING

BWC VIDEOS FOR INVESTIGATIONS

With changes to policing and legislation in recent years, there have been some shifting changes in work and tasks at the police department. One significant advancement and change was the implementation of body worn cameras, which the department began using in 2017. Not only did the officers need to learn new policies and procedures, the Records Division took on the responsibility of downloading/uploading videos, making video copies (including necessary redaction,), troubleshooting cameras and associated equipment, tracking video requests, etc. Our Administration and Supervisors have taken on the additional task of reviewing videos for various purposes. The graph below shows the trend in videos requests for law enforcement investigations.



EXPUNGEMENTS

In recent years, New Jersey has changed expungement laws, most notably marijuana reform in 2022. In January 2024, Governor Murphy signed a bill that made changes that are more significant to expungement law. The changes included increased flexibility in filing locations, expansion of existing exceptions to general expungement requirements and an amendment to the clean slate expungement provisions, permitting the expungement of more than one municipal court violation. While these changes have created a backlog for municipalities throughout the state, the LTPD Records Bureau has implemented a system and designated personnel to prioritize the increased workload. From the expungement inception to 2017, the department had processed approximately 220 expungements in total. From 2018 through 2022, that number increased to an additional 778 total expungements processed by the Records Division and reviewed by Administration. In 2025, **300** expungement requests were received and **250** were processed.

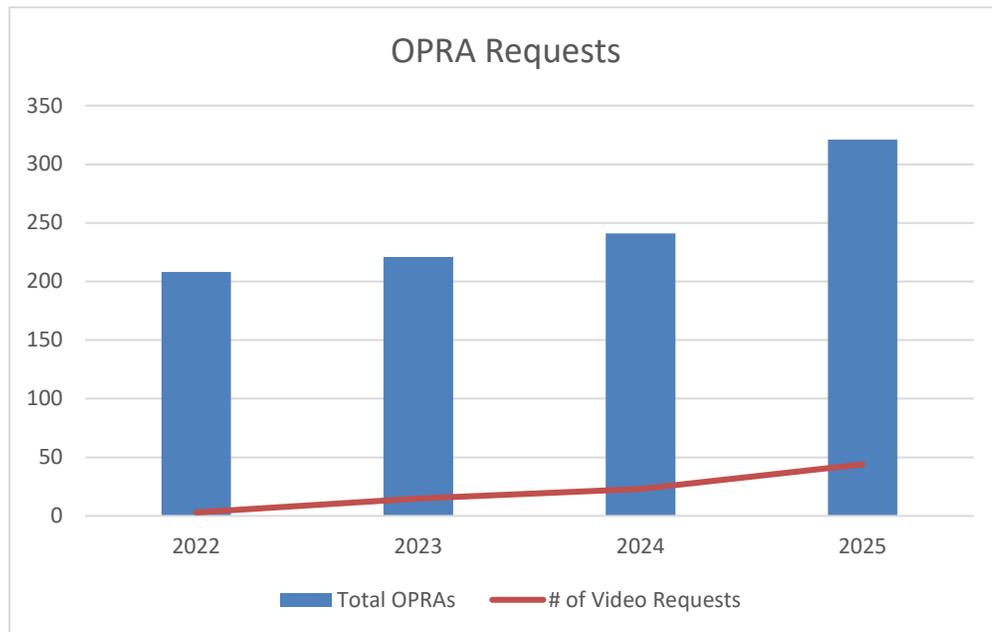
RESIDENTIAL ALARMS

Lower Township Ordinance 153-4 requires the registration of residential alarms with the police department. The Records Division has taken on this continuing, ever increasing, process. The total number of registered alarms in 2018 was 33, which rose to 206 in 2024. In 2025, 181 alarm registrations were processed. If a citizen needs to register an alarm, they can [download the form with instructions here](#).

OPRA REQUESTS

New Jersey Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests continue to increase in volume and complexity each year. This year LTPD Records Personnel fulfilled **321** OPRA requests, the highest number of requests since 2016, which was 298.

In June 2024, Governor Murphy signed a new bill into law resulting in significant amendments to the NJ Open Public Records Act. Despite these additional statutory requirements, the department increased total records requests processed from 241 in 2024 to 321 in 2025, a 33 percent increase, demonstrating continued and expanded public access.



ADMINISTRATION



The Lower Township Police Administration consists of seven Administrators: Chief Kevin Lewis, Deputy Chief Donald Vanaman, Captain Michael Majane, Lieutenant John Armbruster, Lieutenant Charles Ryan, Lieutenant Brian McEwing, and Sergeant First Class Michael Perry. *Anthony Greto was promoted to Lieutenant November 2025 and is transitioning to the role of Patrol Commander.

Chief Kevin Lewis was responsible for the following:

- The efficiency of the day-to-day operations of the Police Department
- Administer and enforce rules and regulations and special emergency directives for the disposition and discipline of the department and its officers and personnel
- Have, exercise and discharge the functions, powers and duties of the department personnel
- Prescribe duties and assignments of all subordinates and other personnel
- Delegate such of his authority as he may deem necessary for the efficient operation of the department; to be exercised under his direction and supervision
- Report at least monthly, to the appropriate authority, on the operation of the department during the preceding month, and make such other reports as may be requested
- Issue policies/directives
- Meet with community, civic and religious groups
- Liaison with Cape May County Chiefs monthly
- Attend State meetings and conferences, as needed
- Prepare and manage the Police Department's budget
- SOPs/Rules & Regulations (manage/update)
- Oversee Hiring and Promotion Process
- Oversee Firearms Approvals/Denials
- Oversee Police Licensing

Deputy Chief Donald Vanaman served as the Executive Officer and was responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Patrol and Support Operations
- Public Information Officer (Primary)

- General Orders/SOPs/Rules & Regulations
- On-Call Administrator
- Administrative Employee Evaluations (Annually)
- Weekly Command Meetings
- Military & Veteran Affairs (Primary)
- Advanced Licensed Plate Reader (ALPR) Administrator (Secondary)
- Internal Affairs Investigator
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief

Captain Michael Majane served as the Administrative Services Commander and was responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Internal Affairs
- Early Warning / Guardian Tracking
- Administrative Employee Evaluations (Annually)
- Manage Open Source Recording (Orec X) in-house phone recording system
- On-Call Administrator
- Internal Affairs Investigator
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief

Administrative Lieutenant John Armbruster was responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Detective Bureau
- Records Division
- Records & Detective Bureau Employee Evaluations (Annually)
- Accreditation Manager
- Payroll
- On-Call Administrator
- Alcotest Machine
- Building Maintenance
- Fleet Manager
- Axon Equipment Coordinator
- Liaison to County Dispatch
- Liaison to AtlanticCare Emergency Medical Services
- ODMAP Administrator (Secondary)
- Radio System Administrator
- Manage Network & Computers at Headquarters with approval from Wes Barber and the Chief
- Order/Replace Uniforms and Equipment
- Supervision & Management of NCIC Records & Audits
- Weekly Command Meetings
- Power DMS Paperless System
- Live Scan Fingerprint System
- Manage Accident/Injury Reports (Workers Compensation)
- Internal Affairs Investigator
- Key Control & Physical Security
- JIF Coordinator/Safety Officer
- Save My Life Program Liaison
- Maintain Infoshare module/log system

- Station duties at the discretion of Chief, Deputy Chief and Captain

Administrative Lieutenant Charles Ryan was responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Oversee the Support Operations Unit
- Open Public Record Act (OPRA) coordinator
- Training
- On-Call Administrator
- Public Information Officer (Secondary)
- Employee Evaluations/Manage PowerReady
- Press Releases
- Internal Affairs Investigator
- Military & Veteran Affairs (Secondary)
- Staff Inspections of Overall Operations
- Expungements
- Field Training Program
- Homeless Trust Fund
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief, Deputy Chief and Captain

Patrol Lieutenant Brian McEwing was responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Patrol Operations
- Patrol Division Employee Evaluations (Annually)
- Traffic Coordinator
- Bail Reform Coordinator
- State Mandated Jail Cell Inspections
- Manage UAS Program
- Crash Team
- Internal Affairs Investigator
- Use of Force, Pursuit & Bias Incidents
- Domestic Violence Working Group Liaison
- Grant Coordinator/Monitor Traffic Grants
- On-call Administrator
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief, Deputy Chief and Captain

Administrative Sergeant Michael Perry was responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Oversee Support Operations Unit
- Oversee the School Resource Officers
- Special Events within the Township
- Outside Contracts (Traffic Detail/3rd Party Contracts)
- Court Liaison Officer
- Court Discovery Information and Requests
- Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator
- Honor Guard Liaison (Nuscis, Scheid, SWAT Members))
- Fire Department Liaison
- Manage School Security Plans (Perry/Nuscis)
- Manage Neighborhood Watch & Other Programs (Bohn, Bartleson, Nuscis & Aiken)

- Manage Radar Units/Tuning Forks
- Community Policing Liaison/Recruiting
- Code Enforcement Liaison
- Internal Affairs Investigator
- Infectious Disease Coordinator
- Wellness Coordinator
- Police Chaplain Liaison
- Faith & Blue Coordinator
- On-Call Administrator
- Manage Retirement Events
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief and Deputy Chief, Captain & Lieutenants

Detective Sergeant Corey Scheid was responsible for overseeing the following functions:

Oversee the Investigative/Detective Bureau

- Review and Approve Investigative Reports
- Coordinate Periodic Narcotic Operations
- Manage, Approve and Audit Use of CI/Buy Funds
- Monitor Detective's caseload and assign cases
- Evidence Custodian
- B.E.A.S.T. evidence system (DSG Scheid/DFC James)
- Background Investigation of New Employees (Sworn and Non- Sworn)
- Manage Agency Licensing background investigations
- ACADIS Administrator
- Internal Affairs Investigator
- Manage Firearms Background Investigations
- Maintain Gang File
- Manage and Prepare Forfeiture Funds Reports
- Manage Interview/Booking/Building Videos for Evidence
- Manage Stationhouse Adjustments
- Maintain Necessary Operational Supplies for Detectives
- Conduct Annual Evaluations
- Prepare Monthly and Annual Report of Unit Statistics
- Oversee and conduct Agency Drug Testing Program at the discretion of the Chief
- Bias Crime Officer
- Megan's Law
- OPS Lens Administrator
- Crime Analysis Officer
- Press Releases
- Monitor schedule for Detectives
- Ensure adequate coverage for on-duty and on-call periods
- Training
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief and Deputy Chief, Captain & Lieutenants

PATROL DIVISION



Squad 1



Squad 2



Squad 3



Squad 4

The Patrol Division of the Lower Township Police Department is the largest of all the divisions within the agency with 32 full-time Patrol Officers, 2 Class II Special Officers, 4 Sergeants, 3 Corporals, 3 Patrol Officers First Class (PFC), and the Patrol Lieutenant/Commander.

The Patrol Division is responsible for responding to all calls for service within the community. This includes, but is not limited to, all 911 calls, motor vehicle crashes, emergency medical calls, fabricated and natural disasters, fires, reports of crime and disorderly person's offenses. The uniformed patrol division is also expected to provide proactive police services such as traffic enforcement, crime detection and suppression, conducting commercial and residential property checks, as well as daily well-being checks of our residents. All officers are highly encouraged to initiate contact with community members to incorporate a spirit of cooperation with both our local businesses and citizens alike. Officers are bi-annually trained in the use of firearms, pursuit driving and use of force.

Patrol Officers are responsible for initial response, preliminary investigation and scene preservation of all crimes that occur within the Township. Investigations that are sustained or require ongoing efforts are often turned over to the Detective Division.

The Patrol Division utilizes mostly marked patrol vehicles, equipped with emergency lights and sirens, as their primary vehicles. Also utilized are bicycles, ATVs and plain-clothes patrols to complete specific initiatives or to address particular concerns of the community.

Officers assigned to the Patrol Division are divided into 4 squads. These squads are responsible for 24-hour street coverage, seven days a week. Patrol shifts are 12 hours, rotating night and day shifts every 28 days. A Sergeant, Corporal and PFC supervises each squad of 6 to 7 additional full-time patrol officers assigned. They handle in excess of 50,000 calls for service annually.



The Bike Helmet Ticket Book Program is a community-policing initiative focused on promoting safe riding for youth. Officers are encouraged to reward kids 17 and under who are wearing helmets on bikes, e-bikes, scooters, etc., by issuing a positive ticket from the book. Each book contains 10 tickets, sponsored by local businesses. The program is supported by local businesses, town leadership and Cape Assist. It is intended to be a positive engagement tool.

PATROL BUREAU NOTABLE CASES FOR 2025

Weapon Recovery

On 01/26/2025 at 2121 hours, officers of squad 4 were dispatched to the parking lot of breakwater plaza for a reported gunshot victim. The original caller and his wife were able to get out of the vehicle, but the subject with the gun was still inside. Officers arrived on scene, observed a broken rear windshield, and gave commands to extract the gunman from the vehicle and place him into handcuffs quickly and without incident along with securing the firearm in question that was used. Further investigation revealed the gunman was also the victim and he had shot himself in the foot along with shooting multiple rounds through the vehicles roof. Officers rendered aid until rescue and medics arrived on scene and transported the subject, who flown to Cooper hospital along with Patrolman Porch as the suspect was still in custody.

Life Saving Recognition

In March of 2025, Officers responded to a man that had collapsed in a driveway, who was unconscious and unresponsive. Officers immediately assessed the situation, prepared an AED, and started multiple rounds of CPR, because the subject did not have a pulse and was not breathing. The subject eventually regained a pulse, and was later transported for further medical attention, and later survived.

Assist Neighboring Towns

Throughout the summer of 2025, Officers from multiple squads assisted the City of Wildwood on multiple shifts due to scheduled large-scale events (Barefoot Country Music Festival and Wildwood Air Show – Thunder Over the Waves).

Search Warrant on Suspicious Vehicle

On 10/24/2025 at 2308 hours, Ptlm. Gellura of Squad 1 observed a vehicle parked in the Township Hall parking lot not in a parking space and seemingly out of place. He made contact with two individuals while other officers of the squad arrived on scene. It was later determined the owner of the truck had a warrant out for his arrest. Further investigation led to a large amount of illegal CDS inside the truck. With the assistance of LTPD detectives, a search warrant for the vehicle was prepared and executed which allowed the seizure of multiple different types of illegal CDS. The suspect was lodged in Cape May County Corrections for his crimes.

Weapons Offense

In November of 2025, Officers were dispatched to a call for service, which eventually led to an intruder lurking in a rear yard. Upon arrival, Officers were met with a suspect who was carrying multiple sharp-edged weapons. The subject was eventually taken into custody with no issues and no injuries.

SLEO CLASS II PROGRAM

Currently the Lower Township Police Department has two Special Law Enforcement Class II Officer and two Class II Recruits currently attending the 60th Basic Course for Police Officers (BCPO) at the Cape May County Police Academy. Upon graduating, these officers can be appointed either as Special Law Enforcement Officers or as full-time Police Training Commission Certified Officers. This is a statewide shift from the traditional method where Class II Officers were required to attend an additional academy to transition to a full-time role. Since the 60th BCPO training course is significantly longer, officers that are not initially appointed as full-time Officers are trained to a much higher standard than those that attend an academy class designated only for Class II's. This results in all of the department's officers, Class II and full-time officers receiving the highest training standard set by the Police Training Commission. This training includes courses in professionalism, ethics, history of law enforcement, the criminal justice system, NJ criminal and motor vehicle laws, laws of arrest, search and seizure, use of force, interviews, confessions and Miranda laws of evidence, criminal investigation, narcotics, juvenile law, domestic violence, traffic enforcement, vehicle operations, stress management, first aid, community relations, physical fitness, defensive tactics, police baton, firearms and chemical agents. Officers are trained using practical exercises and in using marking firearm cartridges (real life decision-making, under simulated live fire). Additionally, officers receive a Community Water and CPR certification through the American Red Cross.

Class II Officers are assigned to the Patrol Squads upon graduating the academy and work in overlapping shifts during peak call for service hours. During the summer months, these officers are assigned to work in the Diamond Beach area of the Township to provide an expedited response.

Officers can apply for sixteen college credits through Atlantic Cape Community College, once they graduate. You may contact the Lower Township Police Department (609) 886-1619, ext. 252, for information about applying as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II.

Special Law Enforcement Officers as of December 31, 2025 (Class II Officers):

Recruit Ryan O'Neal and Recruit Talen Terinoni



DETECTIVE DIVISION



The Lower Township Detective Division is composed of highly skilled and dedicated officers, each trained in the investigative techniques essential for resolving complex criminal cases and successful investigations.

The primary responsibility of the Detective Division is to thoroughly investigate and conduct detailed investigations on most reported crimes within the Township. These detectives are on-call twenty-four hours a day to address serious offenses including, but not limited to, aggravated assault, robbery, arson, fraud, child endangerment, narcotics offenses and sex-related crimes. In addition to general investigative duties, detectives within the division specialize in specific areas, including narcotics investigations, special victim crimes (juvenile, domestic violence crimes, and crimes against seniors), firearm applications, liquor sales licensing, precious metals licensing and internal affairs.

During 2025, the Detective Division was assigned to **185** investigations and conducted an additional **98** follow-up investigations. Types of Investigations conducted include:

- 13** Burglaries
- 29** Deaths
- 5** Juvenile Welfare Offenses
- 9** Missing Persons
- 13** Sexual Assaults

The Detective Division conducts all police recruit, police employment and volunteer police chaplain background investigations. The Division assists the Lower Township Manager and his staff in conducting any internal township-wide investigations.

Additionally, the Detective Division conducts all firearms background investigations, while the Records Division handles all the administrative tasks for firearms applications. All PTC applications are now processed online. Below are Lower Township Police Department statistics for both Permit to Carry Applications (PTC) and the Firearms Application Registration System (FARS):

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| TOTAL # of Applications Completed / Investigations (PTC & FARS) | 588 | 472 | 391 | 377 | 369 |
| # of Permit to Carry Applications Approved | *1 | *46 | 82 | 73 | 92 |
| # of Permit to Carry Applications Denied | n/a | n/a | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| # of Permit to Carry Applications Withdrawn | n/a | n/a | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| # of FARS Applications Approved | n/a | 419 | 306 | 290 | 242 |
| # of FARS Application Denials | 13 | 6 | 3 | 11 | 8 |
| # of FARS Applications Withdrawn | 99 | 54 | 37 | 48 | 25 |
| TOTAL # of Handgun Permits Executed | n/a | 325 | 301 | 227 | 252 |

**Approved & Issued by the Superior Court of Cape May County*

The Detective Division is also tasked with handling Megan’s Law registrants within the township. Detective Thomas Shough primarily oversees the registrants with the assistance of Detective Kevin O’Brien. Registrants are required to re-register anytime they move to a new address within the township, even as minimal as a change to a different apartment or motel room. Registrants must also register upon moving into Lower Township from another area as well as notify our agency when they are moving out of Lower Township to another jurisdiction. During 2025, the Detective Division conducted **76** Megan’s Law investigations.

The Lower Township Police Department received a grant in the amount of **\$2,880.00** for the Cops in Shops Program. Cops in Shops strives to tackle underage drinking through partnerships with local liquor stores and by staying on the lookout for adults who buy alcohol for people who are underage. The program places undercover cops, posing as employees or customers, in stores to stop alcohol purchases from those under 21, or using a fake ID. The campaign also uses posters and newspaper ads to warn against the repercussion of underage drinking. In places like Lower Township, the program is an aid to law enforcement during the hectic summer season.

Detective Sergeant Corey Scheid, reporting to Lieutenant John Armbruster, was the Detective Bureau Commander and was responsible for the supervision of personnel assigned to the bureau.

The members of the Detective Division are:

Detective Sergeant Corey Scheid

Detective First Class Michael Iames

Senior Detective Kaitlin Black

Detective James Mathis

Detective Thomas Shough

Detective Kevin O'Brien

The Detective Division oversees and maintains all evidence within the police department. Presently, **8,414** items are logged into the evidence system, with **462** items added in 2025.

Primary Evidence Custodian: DSG Corey Scheid

Secondary Evidence Custodian: DFC Michael Iames

Secondary Evidence Custodian: Det. Kevin O'Brien

DNA/Fingerprint cases: - 7/8 for 2025

DETECTIVE DIVISION NOTABLE CASES FOR 2025

“Tag, You’re It”

In February, Detectives began investigating a series of graffiti incidents that occurred in Lower Township and Cape May City. The graffiti was extensive, causing a significant amount of damage. During the course of the investigation, Detectives learned of a group of juveniles that were potentially involved. As the investigation continued, Detectives further identified an 18-year-old that was also with the group of juveniles. The 18-year-old suspect was later questioned and admitted to the incident. As a result, multiple individuals were charged with criminal mischief and conspiracy to commit criminal mischief.

“I Spy”

In February, Detectives investigated a lewdness report called in from a local elementary school. It was reported by students aboard a school bus that a male individual was standing in his front door, nude. An extensive investigation ensued, in conjunction with the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office. As a result, a search warrant was executed at the suspected residence, where multiple items of evidence were seized. The suspect was taken into police custody and lodged at the Cape May County Correctional Center.

“Luck Ran Out”

In May, Detectives were notified of a burglary to a residence and motor vehicle theft that occurred in an area of the town. Suspects entered the victim’s residence and stole a significant amount of cash and the keys to the victim’s vehicle. The suspects returned later that night and stole the victim’s vehicle from the driveway. During the course of the ensuing investigation, Detectives learned of a motor vehicle theft ring from Pennsylvania. Detectives coordinated with agents from the Pennsylvania auto theft task force and a suspect was developed. Continued investigation revealed that the suspect acted with a group of individuals to commit the burglary and theft. The suspect was charged with multiple crimes, including burglary, theft and theft of a motor vehicle.

“Wild Ride”

In July, the Lower Township Police Department conducted an investigation into a reported theft of two dirt bikes, stolen from the bed of a pickup truck in a local campground. Detectives

continued the investigation and learned from a source that the dirt bikes had been discovered abandoned in a wooded area in the township. During the ensuing investigation, three juveniles and one adult were developed as suspects. During suspect interviews, Detectives obtained confessions and as a result, criminal charges were prepared for the responsible individuals for burglary, theft of a motor vehicle. The adult was additionally charged with utilizing a juvenile to commit motor vehicle thefts.

“Brave Heart”

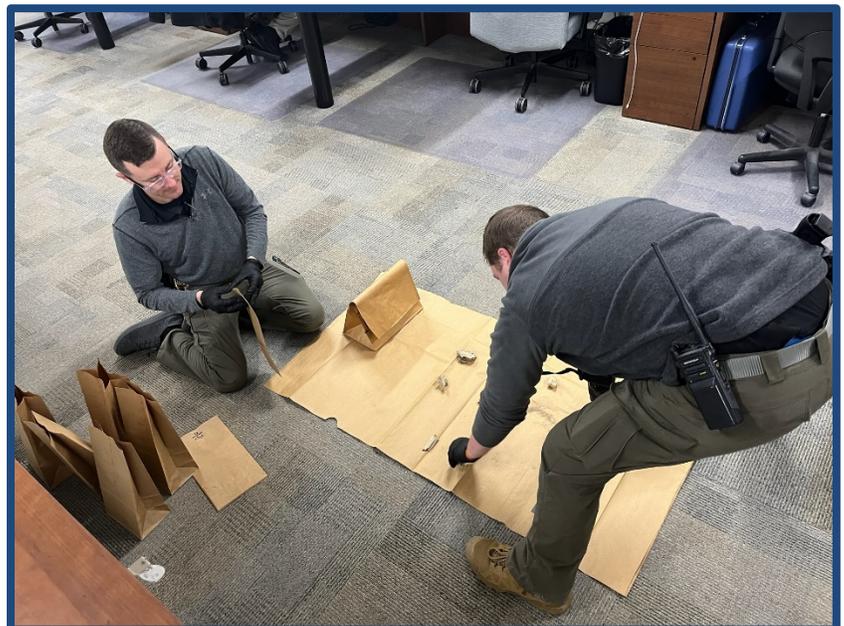
In August, Detectives conducted an investigation into the death of an individual who succumbed to a drug overdose. Detectives obtained information that the victim obtained the suspected narcotics from his father. Detectives from the Lower Township Police Department and the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office conducted the execution of a search warrant at the residence of the suspect, where evidence of the crime was discovered. The suspect was ultimately taken into police custody and charged accordingly.

“Lewd Beach”

During the month of August, the Lower Township Police Department received multiple calls reporting a nude male individual at Higbee Beach committing lewd acts. Detectives conducted victim interviews and obtained a detailed description of the individual. During the period of these acts, officers again responded to the area for a similar report. A subject was located on scene who matched the description provided by the victims. A continued investigation led to the individual being criminal charged for multiple counts of lewdness.



Detective Thomas Shough at National Night Out



Detective First Class Michael James and Detective James Mathis conducting crime scene photography

SENIOR DETECTIVE KAITLIN BLACK AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS FBI CERTIFICATE

A highlight of our Faith & Blue Fraud Presentation on Wednesday was our own Senior Detective Kaitlin Black receiving an award from the FBI! The award was presented by FBI Special Agent Derek Altieri from the Newark Division/Atlantic City Resident Agency. The FBI Director's Certificate was presented for Outstanding Collaboration and Expertise during an Investigation and was signed by FBI Director Kashyap "Kash" Patel. In October of 2023, Detectives began an investigation into a reported fraud, where the victim was scammed out of a large sum of money. During the ensuing investigation by Senior Detective Black, the suspect in the investigation was located and taken into police custody. Senior Detective Black did not stop there. She continued the investigation, which led to the discovery of a large-scale criminal enterprise sprawling the entire east coast, with over 50 victims identified and over 18 million dollars stolen. Special Agent Altieri recognized Senior Detective Black for going above and beyond the scope of a typical investigation, culminating in being awarded the prestigious FBI Director's Certificate.



SUPPORT OPERATIONS UNIT



In May of 2021, the Lower Township Police Department established a Support Operations Unit consisting of two dedicated full-time year-round officers, PFC Michael Nuscis and PFC. Kyle Boyle, with assistance from the two School Resource Officers (SROs) during the summer months. Sergeant First Class Michael Perry, who is under the command of Lieutenant Charles Ryan, leads the Support Operations Unit. Support Operations conducts and documents training of the department, plans and executes all special events, handles specific traffic needs, acts as court liaisons, provides school security, instructs L.E.A.D., weapons armorers, firearm's qualifications. The unit also conducts community policing, the Cop Stops program, recruitment, third party contract management, National Night Out, the Lower Township Police Youth Summer Camp, and Faith and Blue events.



Officer Nuscis is an active member of the Cape May County Regional SWAT Team/Sniper Team and instructs at the Cape May County Police Academy. Officer Nuscis is instructor-qualified in Basic Tactical Medical, American Heart Association, L.E.A.D., Rifle and Pistol Marksmanship, Field Training Officer (FTO), Field Force Operations, De-Escalation, Physical Conditioning, Radar (Speed Enforcement), as well as a Glock Armorer and a Colt Armorer. He has also been trained in Gracie Survival Tactics, Tactical Emergency Casualty Care, SWAT M-4 Operator's Course, Methods of Instruction (MOI), Taser (CED), Physical Security, Instructor Development, Street Survival, Drug Recognition Expert (DRE), Honor Guard Drill & Ceremony, Resiliency, Axon Taser Instructor's Course, Less Lethal & Impact Munition Instructor, Basic Tactical Medical Instructor Program, Hostage Rescue, High-Risk Warrant Course, Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Instructor train-the-trainer course, Drill Instructor School, Special Event Management Training, FBI Sniper School, Expandable and Straight Baton Instructor Course and OC Spray Instructor Course. He also holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Health and Physical Education from East Stroudsburg University.

Pfc. Kyle Boyle is also an active member of the Cape May County Regional SWAT Team and an instructor at the Cape May County Police Academy. Pfc. Boyle is instructor-qualified as a Range Instructor, Pistol Mounted Optics Instructor, Basic Tactical Medical Instructor, Expandable and Straight Baton Instructor, OC Spray Instructor, HIATT Handcuffing Instructor, and Physical Conditioning Instructor. He has also been trained in Methods of Instruction (MOI), Glock Armorer, Sig Sauer MPX Armorer, SIG SAUER M400-M16-M4-AR15 Armorer.



PFC. Michael Nuscis assisting during the SWAT demonstration for LTPD Summer Youth Camp



SRO Louis Bartleson at National Night Out

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM



Cpl. Dallas Bohn



Louis Bartleson

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program has been in place for the past **30 years** and continues today as a collaborative effort with the Lower Cape May Regional School District. Although the School Resource Officer's main concern is safety and security, SRO's are integrated into the fabric of the school. A big part of their job is getting to know the students and staff. SRO's are expected to keep the entire campus safe and look for weaknesses in the security. SRO's also attend homecoming dances, prom, athletic events, plays and they are a part of the holiday events. They provide information on back to school night and teach classes such as DWI Prevention and Graduated Driver's License Rules.

The stationhouse adjustment has become an intricate part of the SRO's job. A stationhouse adjustment is an alternative method that law enforcement agencies may use to handle first-time juvenile offenders who have committed minor juvenile delinquency offenses within their jurisdiction. The intent of the stationhouse adjustment program is to provide for immediate consequences, such as community service or restitution and a prompt and convenient resolution for the victim, while at the same time benefitting the juvenile by avoiding the stigma of a formal juvenile delinquency record.

Corporal Dallas Bohn is assigned to the Lower Cape May Regional High School and School Resource Officer Louis Bartleson is assigned to the Richard M. Teitelman School. The SROs report to Sergeant First Class Michael Perry.

Goals and Duties of the School Resource Officer:

1. Provide law enforcement and police services to the schools, school grounds and areas adjacent to the schools. Investigate allegations of criminal incidents per police department policies and procedures. Enforce state and local laws, as well as local ordinances. Make appropriate referrals to juvenile authorities or other governmental agencies.
2. Work to prevent juvenile delinquency through close contact and positive relationships with students. In addition, the SRO shall develop crime prevention programs and conduct security inspections to deter criminal or delinquent activities. The SRO should monitor crime statistics and work with local patrol officers and students together to design crime prevention strategies.

3. Establish and maintain a close partnership with school administrators in order to provide for a safe school environment. Assist school officials with their efforts to enforce Board of Education policies and procedures. Ensure school administrator safety by being present during searches of school premises, including K-9 searches, which may involve weapons or controlled dangerous substances, or in such cases that, the student's emotional state may present a risk to the administrator. Assist school administrators in emergency crisis planning and building security matters. Provide a course of training for school personnel in handling crises, which may arise at the school.
4. Be visible within the school community. Attend and participate in school functions. Build working relationships with the school's staff as well as with student and parent groups.
5. Develop and implement classes in law-related education to support the educational efforts of the faculty. Work closely with teachers in designing and presenting law-related topics and the role of police in our society.
6. Work with guidance counselors and other student support staff to assist students and to provide services to students involved in situations where referrals to service agencies are necessary. Assist in conflict resolution efforts.
7. Initiate interaction with students in the classroom and general areas of the school building. Promote the profession of police officer and be a positive role model. Increase the visibility and accessibility of police to the school community.
8. Reports to Superintendent of School District and Lower Township Chief of Police, or designee, when assigned to the Police Department.
9. The Statewide Handle with Care Program is an early assessment and intervention for children with may have experienced adverse childhood events. The program opens up the line of communication between law enforcement and schools. It provides the student with assistance rather than compounding the trauma from adverse experiences with discipline in school.



The Law Enforcement Against Drugs Program, (L.E.A.D.), teaches the Too Good for Drugs curriculum and provides substance abuse awareness sessions for all *sixth grade students*.

The Too Good for Drugs (TGFD) program is a school-based drug prevention program designed to reduce students' intention to use alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs, while promoting pro-social attitudes, skills and behaviors: such as goal setting and how to combat negative peer pressure. The program seeks to build the self-confidence of students so they are better able to make healthy choices and achieve success. Although there are different objectives across grade levels, promoting positive, pro-social attitudes and fostering healthy relationships is a running theme throughout the program's curriculum. Overall, TGFD seeks to develop positive peer norms; appropriate attitudes toward alcohol, tobacco and illegal drug use; personal and interpersonal skills relating to alcohol, tobacco and illegal drug use; knowledge of the negative consequences of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drug use; and finally the knowledge of the benefits of living a drug-free lifestyle.

It uses the social influence model and the cognitive-behavioral model as its framework for the prevention program. In developing the program, the Mendez Foundation sought to develop the skills of students so that they are better able to resist peer pressure and make responsible, healthy decisions.

TGFD uses a developmentally appropriate curriculum that specifically concentrates on five social and emotional learning skills, (listed below), that have been shown to promote healthy development and academic success:

1. Goal setting
2. Decision making
3. Bonding with pro-social others
4. Identifying and managing emotions
5. Communicating effectively with others

As a long-term prevention program, the TGFD curriculum builds on the curriculum in the previous grade level, requiring students to develop skills and use these skills year after year. At each grade level, the TGFD program consists of:

1. 10 core curriculum lessons, including an interactive workbook delivered by trained teachers/TGFD instructors
2. A “Looking for More” component at the end of each lesson that includes suggestions for additional readings, videotapes and activities to further reinforce the skills learned
3. Parental involvement, including newsletters and homework assignments for families
4. Community inclusion
5. A Staff Development Curriculum that is provided to educators

As part of the elementary school curriculum, the program introduces and fosters social and emotional skills to assist students in making healthy choices, developing positive friendships, communicating effectively and resisting peer pressure. These lessons seek to teach the fundamental elements of a healthy lifestyle that can be further developed during adolescence.

The Lower Township Police Department has conducted this type of program in the Lower Township Schools since 1993. To date, over **7,301** Lower Township students have gone through the program, which is now taught at the Sandman Consolidated School sixth grade. This program is 10 to 12 weeks long and trained officers visit their assigned class once a week and teach a prescribed curriculum. In 2025, **165** students were taught the L.E.A.D. Program across 8 classes.

At the commencement of the class, the students are invited to participate in L.E.A.D. Day. L.E.A.D. day consists of activities pertaining to the curriculum of the course mixed with fun activities such as pedal go-cart courses. The graduates of the program are awarded a certificate and given t-shirts for actively participating in the course and finishing. The celebration also includes many prizes, games, food and ice cream. Officers stop by to meet the students and enjoy spending time with them in a fun atmosphere.

In the coming years, our aim is to further develop and nurture relationships with juvenile programs around the county to include, the Lower Township Healthy Youth Coalition, Cape Assist and School Based Youth Services. These programs can assist the SRO with students who need counseling or as part of a Station House Adjustment as part of the terms and conditions.

L.E.A.D. DAY – MAY 2025



RECORDS DIVISION



The Records Division of the Police Department supports the operational efforts of the Patrol and Investigative functions, as well as supporting Administration and performing a variety of other services. Areas of support include and is not limited to:

- Records/Reports – Manage Case Files which include Investigation, Supplemental Investigation, Sudden Death, Special Reports and file uploads, etc.
- Firearms Application Administration – NJ Firearms ID Cards, Permits to Purchase, Permits to Carry & Voluntary Registrations (utilizing NJSP online Firearms Application & Registration System (FARS) and the EPTC System
- Open Public Records Act (OPRA) Requests
- Processing of Fingerprints (Criminal & Non-Criminal Prints)
- Maintain FBI/SBI File Index
- Motor Vehicle Accident Reports & Violations (Tickets)
- Residential Alarm, Property Check & Senior Call Program Registrations
- Correspondence Liaison
- Departmental Purchasing
- Payroll Preparation & Processing
- Human Resources Functions
- Budget Planning and Preparation Assistance
- Third Party Contract Assistance
- Grant Management Assistance
- Assist with Vehicle/Fleet Management
- Collect and Prepare Data & Reports for Administration as needed/requested
- Process Mail and Delivery
- Staff the Customer Window & Records Telephone/Email Inquires
- Receives, logs & deposits monies from applications & other processing requests
- Issuing Licenses for Coin Drop, Dumpsters, Moving Modular Homes, etc.
- Copy reports for Civilians, Attorneys, and Law Enforcement Agencies & Insurance Cos.

- Process Expungement Orders
- Prepare Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly and Annual Statistics as needed
- Prepare and finalize NIBRS Reports
- Records Retention/Destruction for all Sections of the PD within State guidelines
- Sending/Posting of Press Releases
- Rave Mobile Safety Emergency Notification Administration
- IPAWS (Integrated Public Alerting & Warning System) FEMA Certified Coordinator
- Assist with Social Media Management
- Website Content Management
- Compile and Organize and Produce the departmental Annual Report
- Process Mobile Video Recorder (MVR) & Body Worn Camera (BWC) Requests
- Assist with Troubleshooting of Computer Equipment, Camera Equipment, etc.
- Assist with Accreditation
- Assist with Community Events and Youth Camp
- TAC Officer Tasks & Responsibilities
 - Complete entries into NCIC programs as well as ACS/ATS, hit confirmation and CJIS look-ups and research
 - Maintain the police active files
 - Check the entries of all the trained and certified terminal operators for the complete and correct information
 - Correct any incomplete information and obtain the correct information when necessary
 - Complete monthly validations
 - Conduct and complete CCH, firearms and employee background checks
 - TAC officer training of terminal operators and certifications
 - Audit and Record Retention
 - Requests from Municipal Court

The Records Division staff consists of the following employees:

Karen Wolf
 Joanne Budd
 Jania Bailey
 Suzanne Scheid
 Aaren Larkin



Mrs. Scheid & Mrs. Budd helping at our Youth Camp

LOWER TOWNSHIP POLICE CHAPLAINS

The Chaplain Program began as an innovative approach to meeting several needs in our community and the program was revamped and formalized in 2021 to meet the ever-changing needs of today. On May 3, 2021, the Lower Township Mayor and Council approved/adopted the formal establishment of the Lower Township Police Chaplain Program by Ordinance #2021-09, which went into effect May 23, 2021. Our Chaplains have met the rigorous requirements of a formal application, full background check, completed a six-prong training & orientation process, swore an oath of office and completed a 10-tier basic training certification.

The Chief of Police will appoint chaplains to a one-year term pending re-appointment or termination, at the end of each year. The Lower Township Mayor is the appointing authority in accordance with the ordinance and consent of Township Council. Each year, one of the chaplains will serve as the Senior Chaplain, which currently has been assigned to Chaplain Shelton Marsden.

The duties of Police Chaplain shall include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting the Police Dept. in death notifications
- Critical Incident Response
- Other duties that may be assigned by the Chief
- Station House Adjustments
- Bias Incidents

Effective July 22, 2021 by General Order, the Lower Township Police Chaplains Corps Program was formally established and identifies other possible use of the Chaplains:

- Counsel employees at the employee's request
- Attend funerals of officers, retirees & their families
- Assist in managing stress, suicide awareness and domestic violence assistance
- Officiate weddings
- Participate in ride alongs
- Attend & officiate at city events as appropriate

The faith-based leaders will perform tasks of a more emotional, social or spiritual nature. Chaplains are here to provide appropriate assistance, advice, comfort, counsel and referrals to those in need who may request support. The Department is pleased to collaborate with the Chaplains in this formalized program, to bring needed support to our entire community.

Seashore Community Church of the Nazarene
Pastor Shelton Marsden

First Assembly of God
Reverend Leo Dodd

Cape Fellowship of Middle Township
Pastor Scott Durbin



*Chaplains Bill Laky (not in the program) Scott Durbin,
Leo Dodd & Shelton Marsden*

SPECIALIZED UNITS

UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS (UAS) UNIT



The Lower Township Police Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Program, referred to as the Air Support Unit, provides air support for police operations. The primary mission of the LTPD Air Support Unit is to assist in missing persons and search & rescue situations. The Air Support Unit can now supplement police operations, which previously sought the support of outside agencies, such as helicopters from the State Police or Coast Guard and K-9 assistance from the Sheriff's Office. While certain situations still require support from those agencies, we can now deploy our own air support with the capability to provide an inexpensive alternative to a helicopter, direct communication between pilots and officers and rapid deployment to minimize loss of the most critical factor – time. In addition to the primary mission, the Air Support Unit can be utilized in many other ways, such as special event crowd safety and over-watch, patrol-led deployment, barricaded or hostage situations, SWAT operations, traffic crash reconstruction, traffic pattern review and interior drone operations.

Building off its first successful year, the UAS program continued to grow in 2024. Two additional officers completed training and obtained their FAA Part 107 licenses, bringing the total number of UAS pilots to 7. The unit also acquired 2 more drones in 2024 bringing the total to 3. The Air Support Unit continues to train with neighboring agencies with an emphasis on joint operations. Members of the unit have responded to assist other agencies on multiple occasions relying on this training and the abundance of technology in these systems. In 2024, the LTPD Air Support Unit obtained Axon Air, a software program that provides secure wireless livestreaming, evidence and program management, and critical situational awareness. When working with neighboring agencies that have the same software, such as Cape May PD, Middle Township PD and Wildwood Crest PD, our drones become visible on each other's controllers and provide airspace de-confliction on joint operations.

Members of the Air Support Unit:

Lieutenant Charles Ryan
Lieutenant Brian McEwing
DSG Corey Scheid
DFC Michael James
SRO Louis Bartleson
Ptl. William Omrod
Ptl. Austin Parker



HONOR GUARD



The Lower Township Police Department maintains a formal Police Honor Guard. The purpose of the Honor Guard is to formally represent the Lower Township Police Department at official functions. The Honor Guard performs its task with a military regimine and the members wear a formal uniform blouse.

Members of the Honor Guard include:

SFC Michael Perry
DSG Corey Scheid
Sgt. James McNulty
Senior Det. Kaitlin Black
Cpl. Eric Danze
PFC Kevin Boyle

PFC Michael Nuscis
PFC Jordan Saini
Ptl. William Kocis
Ptl. Michael Harkin
PFC Kenneth Walker
PFC Kyle Boyle



Members of the Honor Guard at 911 Remembrance Ceremony

CRASH TEAM

Members of the Lower Township Crash Investigation Team have specialized training to investigate serious motor vehicle crashes. Their training is through Northwestern University and Institute of Police Technology and Management. The courses are Crash I, Crash II, Pedestrian Crash, Motorcycle Crash, Heavy Vehicle Crash and Traffic Crash Reconstruction.

These training courses allow the unit to complete the following at a crash scene (if necessary):

- Scaled computer diagramming
- Mathematical analysis
- Damage evaluations
- Seatbelt, headlamp and tire examination
- Scene measurements
- Documentation of road type and tire friction
- High and low speed collision
- Bicycle collisions
- Motorcycle collisions
- Semi-truck/commercial vehicle accidents

The Lower Township Crash Team uses the following equipment, if necessary, to assist with crash investigations: FARO, DJI Matrice 30T Drone, Event Data Recorder, Drag Sled, Power and Lighting Equipment, laptop with Crash Zone, measuring tapes, marking paint, chalk and other miscellaneous equipment.

The Crash Team meets periodically during the year for training updates and familiarization with the equipment. Some Lower Township Police Crash Team members respond with the Cape May County Fatal Unit to assist with other serious crashes throughout the county. Senior Detective Kaitlin Black leads the Crash Team.

Members include:

Sergeant Jason Felsing
Senior Detective Kaitlin Black
Patrol Officer William Porch
Patrol Officer Nicholas Romantino
Patrol Officer Austin Parker



SWAT TEAM (SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS)



Cape May County Regional SWAT Team

Lower Township Police maintained and operated its own SWAT Team for approximately 25 years. In 2006, the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office, with the cooperation of the Cape May County Chiefs of Police Association, formed a Regional Countywide SWAT Team. The County Team is now divided into two geographical regions; Mainland and Island Divisions. Every police department in the county has representation on the team.

Team members undergo very rigorous training, tactically, mentally and physically. These members work with their respective agencies as officers and when necessary are called upon to conduct SWAT operations. The position of a SWAT member is voluntary and they are on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Upon vacancies on the team, tryouts are posted by the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and individual Police Departments nominate officers to represent their departments. The tryouts are coordinated and conducted by current members of the SWAT team and consist of a physical fitness assessment, firearms qualifications as well as a timed combat course. Following the tryouts, each candidate is interviewed by the SWAT Team leadership. The SWAT team will then make selections to fill their needs. Those selected must then attend a rigorous two-week SWAT course. Team operators are required to train at least 12 hours per month, for a total of 144 hours a year. Training sessions are held two times per month, with an additional 6 hours training per month, for the sniper element.

The Cape May County Regional SWAT Team was utilized a total of 51 times consisting of 34 Search Warrants with one (1) search warrant involving a vehicle assault, two (2) Barricaded Subjects with one of the Barricade calls being re-called prior to arrival. Eight (9) of these Search Warrants were for Out-of-County assists. There were four (4) Security Details for the Barefoot Country Music Festival, one (1) Security Detail for the Police Unity Tour, one (1) Security Detail for the Philadelphia Eagles Charity Event in Sea Isle City, one (1) Security Detail for the Jack Ciattarelli Rally in North Wildwood, and 11 Demos for multiple agencies throughout Cape May County.



*Members of the Lower Township Police Department assigned to the Regional SWAT Team.
From left to right: PFC Jordan Saini, Ptlm Michael Harkin, PFC Michael Nuscis, PFC Kyle Boyle,
PFC Kenneth Walker, Ptlm William Kocis and Cpl Eric Danze*



TRAINING AND EDUCATION

One of the most important responsibilities of a law enforcement agency is the training and education of all its personnel. The Department has in place a comprehensive policy that addresses the organization and administration of the entire training process, including recruit training, in service training, roll call training and specialized training. Lieutenant Charles Ryan is the Department Training Coordinator and his duties are to review, schedule, distribute and track of all the mandatory department training, as well as any additional in-service training officers receive and to maintain all training records for each officer in the agency. Patrol Commanders and Support Operations assist with training and education as well. Our 50 officers collectively participated in **599 training enrollments**, with **289** in external programs and **310** in internal in-person or specialized trainings.” Additionally, there were 21 total in-house/computer based training courses completed by members of the department, mostly sworn members and some for all members, including civilian personnel.

NOTABLE TRAINING COURSES ATTENDED

- ◆ Compliance with state issued training courses:
 - AG Use of Force – Addendum C – Barricaded Individuals and
 - CLEAR – Miranda Training (Community-Law Enforcement Affirmative Relations)
 - Training was released via the new state training portal ACADIS
 - All officers required by the PTC (Police Training Commission) to complete the issued courses for police licensing renewal
 - All Sworn Officers completed PTC required Defensive Tactics / Unarmed Defense training
- ◆ **10** Officers received ATV training (All-Terrain Vehicle) by a certified LTPD instructor
- ◆ **4** Officers completed FLETC Tactical Medical Instructor Training (Federal Law Enforcement Training Center)
- ◆ **3** Officers completed ARIDE- Advanced Roadside Impairment Driving Enforcement by NJSP
- ◆ **36** Officers attended Breach Point Officer Wellness Seminar by Kent Williams
- ◆ Det. O’Brien completed Methods of Instruction
- ◆ Det. O’Brien and Pfc. Kyle Boyle completed PT Instructor training
- ◆ Ptl. Girard completed HLEO – Humane Law Enforcement Waiver training
 - PTC Certified 4 day course
- ◆ Ptl. Reilly completed FBI Hostage Negotiation training and certification
 - 40 hour course in Newark New Jersey, instructed by FBI
- ◆ Sergeant Barcas Graduated NJSACOP Command & Leadership Academy
- ◆ Sr Det. Black completed Event Data Recorder training for Crash Reconstruction
- ◆ Pfc. Kyle Boyle completed Firearms Instructor Training
- ◆ Ptl. White and Ptl. Girard competed Crisis Intervention Training bringing total of C.I.T. certified officers to **24**.
- ◆ Pfc. Walker completed SWAT Team Leader Development training (4 day course by NTOA – National Tactical Officers Association)
- ◆ Cpl. Gamble completed VRT – Veteran’s Response Team training

- ◆ Capt. Majane and Sgt. Greto completed FBI-LEEDA Command Leadership Institute. (Law Enforcement Executive Development Association)

2025 COMPUTER BASED TRAINING

First Quarter: January, February, March

1. NCIC Security Awareness - (annual)
2. Handling EDPs (Triennial)
3. JIF Cyber Security Awareness Part 1&2 (annual)
4. AG Use of Force – Addendum C – (One time)
5. Ethics – Conflict of Interest (Triennial)
6. 2025 CJIS & MDT Compliance (Biennial)
- 7.

Second Quarter: April, May, June

8. Use of Force – Spring (semi-annual)
9. Vehicular Pursuit – Spring (semi-annual)
10. Bloodborne Pathogens 2025 (annual)
11. CLEAR- Miranda Update – (One time)
12. Courtroom Testimony (periodic)
- 13.

Third Quarter: July, August September

14. Legal Updates 2025 (annual)
15. Domestic Violence 2025 (annual)
16. Officer Well Being (periodic)
- 17.

Fourth Quarter: October, November, December

18. Use of Force – Fall (semi-annual)
19. Vehicular Pursuit – Fall (semi-annual)
20. JIF Cyber Security Awareness Part 1 (2026) (annual)
21. PREA / Temporary Detention- (annual)
22. Strip Searches (periodic)
23. HazMat Refresher (annual)

FIELD TRAINING OFFICERS (FTO)

All Police Officers hired by the department must attend and successfully complete a New Jersey State Certified Police Academy. This department predominantly uses the Cape May County Police Academy. Upon graduation from the academy, all officers return to the department and are required to successfully complete a Field Training Program. This FTO program is an additional 4 months of intensive training and evaluation in which the probationary officer is paired up with an experienced officer. This FTO officer has been carefully selected and trained as a Field Training Officer. It is the goal of the FTO program to prepare and develop probationary officers to act efficiently, effectively and safely in a solo patrol capacity. Three officers attended FTO refresher school to continue their education and certification as a Field Training Officers in 2025.

Field Training Officers

Ptl. Louis Bartleson
Senior Det. Kaitlin Black
PFC Kevin Boyle, Jr.
PFC Kyle Boyle
Cpl. Eric Danze
Sgt. Jennifer Elwell
Cpl. Matthew Gamble
Ptl. Samuel Gellura

Ptl. Michael Harkin
Ptl. Adam Hegarty
DFC Michael James
Ptl. William Kocis
Ptl. Antonio Marroquin
Ptl. Anthony Micciche
PFC Michael Nuscis
Det. Kevin O'Brien

Ptl. William Omrod
Ptl. Austin Parker
Ptl. William Porch
Ptl. Matthew Reilly
PFC Jordan Saini
Det. Thomas Shough
PFC. Kenneth Walker



One of the many Cops vs. Kids dodgeball games featuring R.M.T. students and Lower Township Officers

POLICE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTORS

In addition to their normal work duties, several Lower Township Police Officers have attained the position of being an instructor in a specific field or multiple fields. These officers conduct interdepartmental in-service training to department members. Many of them are also instructors at the Cape May County Police Academy. Officers who are instructors are as follows:

Administration

Captain Michael Majane

- Expandable Baton Instructor
- Police Service Rifle (M4) Instructor
- Human Trafficking
- Vehicle Operations Instructor
- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Physical Fitness Instructor
- Defensive Tactics
- Firearms Instructor
- Survival Training/MILO Instructor

Lt. John Armbruster

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Physical Fitness Instructor
- Defensive Tactics/Expandable Baton Instructor
- Blood borne Pathogens, Train The Trainer/Toolbox Essentials
- Gracie Survival Tactics (GST) Level 1 & 2

Lt. Charles Ryan

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Firearms Instructor
- A.L.E.R.R.T. Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response

Lt. Brian McEwing

- Nark II Field Test Instructor
- Human Trafficking

SFC Michael Perry

- Active Shooter
- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Cultural Diversity, De-Escalation & Bias Crime Reporting
- Fair And Impartial Policing
- Physical Fitness Instructor
- Nark II Field Test Instructor
- CTS Less Lethal Instructor

Detective Division

DSG Corey Scheid

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)

DFC Michael James

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Vehicle Operations Instructor
- Radar Instructor

Sr. Detective Kaitlin Black

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Law Enforcement Response To Individuals With Special Needs, Train The Trainer

Detective James Mathis

- Resiliency
- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- L.E.A.D. Instructor

Detective Thomas Shough

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Defensive Tactics Instructor
- Gracie Survival Tactics (GST) Level 1

Detective Kevin O'Brien

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Physical Fitness Instructor

Patrol Division:

Sgt. William Barcas

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)

Sgt. James McNulty

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Master Resiliency

Cpl. Matthew Gamble

- Road Wise, Train The Trainer

Cpl./SRO Dallas Bohn

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Defensive Tactics Instructor
- Gracie Survival Tactics (GST) Level 1

Cpl. Jennifer Elwell

- ATIRC – Active Threat Integrated Response
- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Resiliency
- L.E.A.D. Instructor

Cpl. Eric Danze

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Firearms Instructor
- Rifle Instructor
- Taser (CED) Instructor
- CTS Less Lethal Instructor
- Basic Tactical Medical Instructor
- ATIRC – Active Threat Integrated Response
- Physical Fitness Instructor

PFC Kevin Boyle, Jr.

- Firearms Instructor
- Rifle Instructor

PFC Kyle Boyle

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Physical Fitness Instructor
- Firearms Instructor

PFC Michael Nuscis

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Rifle Instructor
- Firearms Instructor
- Physical Fitness Instructor
- Modified Radar Instructor
- Train The Trainer Work Zone Safety Awareness
- Train The Trainer De-Escalation
- Mobile Field Force Operations
- Cultural Diversity, De-Escalation & Bias Crime Reporting
- Basic Tactical Medical Instructor
- AXON TASER Instructor
- Gracie Survival Tactics (GST) Level 1 & 2
- CTS Less Lethal Instructor
- L.E.A.D. Instructor

PFC Jordan Saini

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Rifle Instructor
- Firearms Instructor
- Taser (CED) Instructor
- Survival Training Instructor
- Tactical Medical Instructor
- Active Shooter Instructor
- L.E.A.D. Instructor
- AXON TASER Instructor
- ATIRC – Active Threat Integrated Response

PFC Kenneth Walker

- Firearms Instructor
- Rifle Instructor
- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)

Officer Adam Hegarty

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Physical Fitness Instructor

Officer William Kocis

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Resiliency
- Physical Fitness Instructor
-

Officer Anthony Micciche

- Advanced Bicycle Operations Instructor
- L.E.A.D. Instructor

Officer Michael Harkin

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Defensive Tactics Instructor
- Gracie Survival Tactics (GST) Level 1

Officer Nicholas Romantino

- ATIRC- Active Threat Integrated Response



COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

- David C. Douglass 31 Year Anniversary Tribute
- Hometown Hero Flag Ceremony
- Day of Remembrance
- Easter Egg Hunt/ Spring Fling @ Freeman Douglass Park
- Law Enforcement United/Police Unity Tour
- Escape the Cape Triathlon
- Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics
- Lower Township Bike Rodeo
- L.E.A.D. Day
- School Graduations and Activities
- Lower Township Fireworks and Independence Day Festival
- LTPD Summer Youth Camp
- Cops Stops
- National Night Out Event
- Recovery Softball with Cape Assist
- Douglass/Coombs Run
- Save a Life Day Event
- Recruiting Events
- Provide Patrol and Traffic Assistance for Multiple “Runs & Races” during the year
 - Run the Vineyard
 - Beach to Brewery Run 10k
 - Bike & Beers
 - Down the Shore – 5k
 - Behr – 5k
 - NJ Run for the Fallen
 - Run the Crest – Half Marathon
 - Cape May Hallowed Half Marathon
 - Military Appreciation Game
- Run for the Fallen
- National Faith and Blue Week – 3 Events in 5 Days
- Halloween Costume Parade at Cold Spring Village
- Haunted Trails & Trunk or Treat
- No Shave November & December
- Veteran’s Day Parade
- Lower Township Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Lower Township Annual Rotary Christmas Parade
- West Cape May Christmas Parade
- St. John Neumann Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession
- Shop with a Cop Program
- Ferry Merry Christmas
- Greater Cape May Elks Youth Basketball
- New Year’s Eve Family Celebration
- Fraud Prevention and Fall Prevention – Senior Citizen Programs
- Read Across America
- Girl Scout & Cub Scout Events

POLICE UNITY TOUR – MAY 2025



Police Unity Tour
WE RIDE FOR THOSE WHO DIED



TORCH RUN – JUNE 2025



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – AUGUST 2025



NATIONAL FAITH & BLUE COMMUNITY EVENTS – OCTOBER 2025

2025 NATIONAL FAITH & BLUE WEEKEND

Our third Annual National Faith & Blue Week/Weekend Events from October 8 - 11, 2025. Our three events are listed below with some of our social media posts about each event.

1. **Presentation & Discussion on Fraud Prevention at Lower Cape Senior Center (10/8)**
2. **Hope & Harvest Event at Seashore Community Church (10/10)**
3. **Meet & Greet at Tabernacle United Methodist Church (10/11)**

National Faith & Blue Weekend (www.faithandblue.org) is a collaborative initiative that builds bridges and reduces biases by facilitating engagement between law enforcement professionals and the communities they serve. Research has shown that non-enforcement engagement of officers and residents is transformative to safety and inclusion. Over a four-day weekend each year, Faith & Blue consists of thousands of locally organized events in all 50 states. These activities include community forums, service projects and hundreds of other initiatives that bring the community together in the spirit of reconciliation. Faith & Blue organizers represent every major national law enforcement group and faith tradition in the United States. The effort is co-convened by MovementForward, Inc.'s One Congregation One Precinct (OneCOP) initiative, and the USDOJ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office).



The events offer an opportunity for community-officer engagement and are part of the nation's largest annual collaborative policing initiative. Strong communities are built on mutual respect and understanding. Law enforcement and faith institutions are key pillars of each community, and when they work together, neighborhoods thrive.

TRUNK OR TREAT – OCTOBER 2025



HOMETOWN HERO FLAG CEREMONY – PTLM. DAVID C. DOUGLASS



NO SHAVE NOVEMBER 2025

Every year the Lower Township Police Department, along with many other departments nationwide, participate in “No-Shave November.”

One of the goals of “No-Shave November” is to raise cancer awareness by embracing our hair (which many cancer patients lose), and letting it grow wild and free. Another goal is to use the money you typically would spend on shaving and grooming, to educate about cancer prevention, save lives and aid those fighting the battle. Our officers and staff contribute a minimum of \$50.00 per month to participate.

This November, we supported a young man named Mavrix, from Wildwood Crest. Mavrix has been diagnosed with Grade 3 Ependymoma, a rare aggressive brain tumor. Mavrix is a spunky, silly and energetic little boy who loves to laugh, play and live his life to the fullest. He is currently receiving treatment for this cancer and we hope our support will bring comfort to him and his family and help relieve some of the burden that a cancer journey brings.



LTPD & other County Agencies presented checks to Mavrix's Mother for No Shave November

NO SHAVE DECEMBER

For the month of December, we supported Kaitlin McBride and family.

Kaitlin McBride, 39, is a dedicated mother and an inspiring community figure. She was born and raised in Lower Township. She and her husband, Patrick, are the proud parents of three wonderful children. Kaitlin is deeply committed to our community. She and Patrick volunteer tirelessly with Lower Township Little League and Street Hockey programs. They also manage the Southern Cape Stingrays, a traveling baseball team. Her involvement in these programs highlights her passion for supporting and nurturing young talent in the community.

Kaitlin's life took an unexpected turn in October 2025 when she was diagnosed with stage 2 triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC), an aggressive form of breast cancer lacking estrogen receptors (ER) progesterone receptors (PR), and HER2 protein. Due to the lack of these three proteins, hormone therapy is ineffective. This leaves the following treatment options: chemotherapy, immunotherapy, targeted therapy, surgery & radiation.



LTPD presented check to Kaitlin McBride & her family for No Shave December

For more information about the program, please visit their website at <https://no-shave.org/>

SHOP WITH A COP - DECEMBER 2025

Shop with a Cop is a collaborative community program in which uniformed law enforcement officers and volunteers assist at-risk children with holiday shopping at no cost to the children or their families. Through referrals from school districts and established family partnerships, the Police Athletic League across three counties identified children with the greatest need, ultimately exceeding the goal of serving more than 600 participants region-wide. The program is designed to promote social justice and strengthen positive relationships between law enforcement and families by fostering meaningful interaction, conversation, and trust. In December 2025, local police departments, community organizations, volunteers, and business partners successfully hosted events that combined recreational activities, escorted shopping experiences, and direct engagement between officers and children. These efforts provided tangible holiday support while reinforcing positive perceptions of law enforcement and contributing to long-term community connection and wellbeing.



SUMMER YOUTH CAMP

The Lower Township Police Department offers a free, weeklong police youth camp for Lower Township 6th- and 7th-grade students. Each year, approximately 60 children attend the camp, which is designed to foster positive, healthy relationships between police officers and the youth in our community. Throughout the week, campers focus on building self-esteem, teamwork, sound decision-making, communication skills, and other essential life skills. As the week progresses, strong bonds form between campers and counselors. This connection is evident each morning as campers eagerly arrive to join their squads, and it continues long after camp ends—whether through shared laughter on rides and activities, or when a camper recognizes an officer in the community as a trusted friend and feels safe.



Day 1 of camp takes place at the Cape May County Police Academy. Campers begin the day at the Lower Township Recreation Center, then travel to the academy, where they are introduced to the many facets of first responder professions. They experience SWAT, K-9, and TASER demonstrations and rotate through interactive stations, including a Sheriff's K-9 meet-and-greet, a SWAT vehicle tour, a fire station visit, and BB long-gun shooting. The day also includes laser tag in the academy's physical training center, making for an exciting and educational start to the week.



Day 2 brings campers to the Aqua Park in Margate, where they enjoy a whole morning of water-based fun and teamwork. In the afternoon, the group travels to Wildwood for mini golf and ice cream, giving campers another opportunity to bond with their peers and counselors in a relaxed, fun environment.



On Day 3, campers travel to attend a Trenton Thunder baseball game. For many campers, this is their first experience at a professional baseball stadium. The trip offers an unforgettable opportunity to enjoy America's pastime together while creating lasting memories outside the classroom.



Day 4 is spent in Wildwood at the water park, followed by boardwalk rides on the pier. Campers then enjoy a classic Wildwood experience with a tram car ride to Dairy Queen for ice cream before returning to the recreation center for the day.



The final day of camp is held at Sun Retreats Seashore Campground. Campers enjoy swimming and a variety of activities throughout the campground before families arrive in the afternoon for the presentation of certificates, coins, and awards for camper and counselor of the week. The week concludes with water ice and a celebration of the friendships and connections built during camp.



The success of the Lower Township Police Youth Camp would not be possible without the generous support of local restaurants, businesses, and community partners who donate food and resources each year. We are incredibly grateful for their continued support in helping make this program a meaningful and memorable experience for our youth. In addition, the \$10,000 Police Expansion Grant also played an important role in supporting the camp and enhancing the overall program for participating youth.

RECOVERY SOFTBALL

In early October, the Lower Township Police Department participated in a meaningful community softball game at Mulligan Field alongside the Recovery Softball Team, made up of individuals in recovery from substance use disorders. Organized in partnership with Cooper Cape Recovery Center and Cooperative Care, the event went far beyond friendly competition and served as a powerful opportunity to break down stigma, build understanding, and strengthen relationships between law enforcement and those on the recovery journey. Officers, participants, families, and community members came together for a day filled with teamwork, encouragement, and connection, highlighting the importance of hope, resilience, and second chances. The event demonstrated the department's ongoing commitment to community engagement and support, both on and off the field, and concluded with ice cream for attendees, bringing neighbors together in celebration and shared positivity.



2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Police Administration:

- ✓ Modernized department firearms to Glock G45 MOS 9mm handguns with direct-mounted red dot sights and Streamlight TLR-7X Flex Flashlights
- ✓ Upgraded StarWitness Interviewer HD System
- ✓ Launched the Cordico Wellness App for all personnel, retirees, and their families
- ✓ Updated field operations with Panasonic CF-33 Fully Rugged Tablets, replacing legacy MDTs
- ✓ Refreshed office infrastructure with 15 Dell Desktops to replace current computers and upgraded the DVR system with 4 new 4TB hard drives
- ✓ Purchased 12 Motorola APX 8000 dual-band portable model 3.5 radios
- ✓ Procured Mobile Command Vehicle and fielded three full outfitted police vehicle
- ✓ Fielded additional Stationary Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) throughout the Township
- ✓ Launched Blue Voice Closed-Loop Artificial Intelligence (AI) Assistant App and Software
- ✓ Certified an additional 12 All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Operators

Patrol Division:

- ✓ **Successful Recruitment:** Met 2025 hiring benchmarks by transitioning four Class II Officers to full-time status, effectively backfilling vacancies created by attrition.
- ✓ **Uninterrupted Service:** Maintained 24/7/365 emergency protection and service levels for the entire community.
- ✓ **Residential and Commercial Security:** Successfully managed the Residential and Commercial Property Check program, providing peace of mind and proactive deterrents for participating business and homeowners, with 30,350 checks conducted.
- ✓ **Special Operations:** Dedicated hundreds of supplemental work-hours to 30+ special events, ensuring superior crowd management and traffic safety for township-wide gatherings.

Support Operations:

- ✓ Issued and qualified the entire department with new departmentally issued handguns with Red-Dot Optics.
- ✓ Executed all firearms training for the department
- ✓ Provided all in-service departmental training
- ✓ Conducted Roll-call Training
- ✓ Planned and conducted Lower Township Police Youth Camp and National Night Out
- ✓ Provided School Security
- ✓ Conducted Stop the Bleed training with Teachers at Lower Cape May Regional High School
- ✓ Conducted FTO/Departmental In-service Training for all New Hires
- ✓ Provided Senior Citizens with a Fraud Prevention Seminar
- ✓ Managed all Lower Township Special Events, planning, and execution
- ✓ Participated in the Lower Township Healthy Youth Coalition
- ✓ Instructed L.E.A.D. program to all Sandman Elementary 6th graders
- ✓ Instructed Drug and Alcohol Education to Maud Abrams Elementary 4th Graders
- ✓ Instructed First Responder Training for the Lower Cape May Regional High School

- ✓ Participated in Lower Township Elementary Field Day and Reading Bowl
- ✓ Provided E-Bike Safety Presentation at the back-to-school nights
- ✓ Held the 3rd Annual Lower Township Bike Rodeo

Detective Bureau:

- ✓ Upgraded stationhouse interview systems in both interview rooms. Both systems were upgraded to High Definition, allowing for better visual fidelity in the interview rooms. Additionally, the systems provide new storage medium, allowing for multiple years of video storage. The interview cameras were additionally repositioned to improve the observation of subjects in the interview.
- ✓ Successfully completed licensing background investigations in accordance with the Police Training Commission police licensing. Fourteen backgrounds were completed on existing Officers, who had a 1-year license issued by the PTC, all of which were reviewed by the PTC and reissued.
- ✓ Implemented new procedures for distribution of firearms application background investigations, which allows for a more streamlined and efficient process.
- ✓ Investigated all major crimes with the township. Continued partnerships with regional law enforcement partners.

UAS Unit:

Training:

- ✓ LTPD drone training included search and rescue scenarios, rapid deployment, heavy wooded area, aerial grid searches and familiarity with flight controls, flight programs, sensor operation and various UAS platforms.
- ✓ Externally members attended “UAS Training for Law Enforcement” hosted at Cape May Technical High School, and “DART- Drone Assessment and Response Training” hosted by NJ Office of Homeland Security
- ✓ Joint Training was conducted at the county level, including integrated training with CART – Child Abduction Response Team.

Event Support:

- ✓ The UAS unit has become a regular part of special event planning and security. In 2025 the LTPD UAS platforms were integrated in emergency response plans and provided over watch for numerous special events to include:
 - Escape the Cape Triathlon
 - Lower Township Veteran’s Parade
 - Rotary Christmas Parade
 - Barefoot Country Music Fest - Wildwood
 - Thunder over the Waves Airshow - Wildwood

Equipment:

- ✓ In 2025, the LTPD accepted delivery of a multipurpose vehicle. The vehicle was sent to a third party vendor for outfitting of requested internal equipment convert it into a command vehicle for the UAS unit. Finished delivery is expected in the first quarter on 2026 and the command vehicle will immediately be utilized in training and real world deployments.
- ✓ UAS upgrades in 2025 included exterior mounted lights to certain platforms and continuous software upgrades as required.

- ✓ Procured drone simulator training software (Zephyr) to train current and new pilots prior to physically flying drones.

GOALS FOR 2026

Police Administration:

- Successfully field the new Mobile Command Vehicle
- Field New Ballistic Helmets
- Procure Generac Generator
- Upgrade in-station NVR Camera System
- Increase E-Ticket Driver's License Readers by 6
- Field additional fully outfitted Fleet vehicles
- Field Polaris Ranger XP Side by Side ATV
- Obtain a StarWitness Audio & Video Field Interviewer System
- Procure 7 Dell Desktop Computers and 1 Laptop
- Field Axon Draft 1, Transcribe, and AI Assistant Software
- Update UAS (Drone) Batteries and add DJI Matrice 30 UAV Speaker and Spotlight
- Improve Department Fitness Center
- Upgrade Digital Motorola Radios
- Prepare and pass Triennial On-Site NJSACOP Accreditation Assessment
- Fully integrate the Cordico Wellness App
- Implement Annual Mental Health Support for Officer Wellness and Resiliency
- Conduct 1st Annual Employee Awards Banquet

Patrol Division:

Workforce Development & Retention:

- **Personnel Expansion:** Execute a strategic hiring plan to increase total available officers.
- **Internal Pipeline:** Prioritize the transition of current Class II Officers to full-time status to maintain departmental continuity.
- **Recruitment & Culture:** Maintain a primary focus on attracting high-quality candidates and improving long-term retention through professional support.
- **FTO Integration:** Successfully complete the Field Training Officer (FTO) program for the two newly, on boarded, Class II hires. The same for two current Academy recruits upon their graduation.

Specialized Units & Operations:

- **Traffic Enforcement Unit (TEU):** Launch a dedicated unit to improve road safety through a three-pronged approach: **Education, Engineering recommendations, and Targeted enforcement.**
 - *Objectives:* Reduce motor vehicle crashes, facilitate efficient traffic flow, and deter hazardous driving behaviors.
- **Enhanced Bike Patrol:** Increase officer visibility and community accessibility via bicycle patrols in high-traffic areas (Delaware Bay Front, residential zones, and parks).
 - *Scaling:* Deploy additional bicycle units during large-scale events and data-driven "hot spots."

Juvenile Outreach & Community Resiliency:

- **L.E.A.D. Program:** Expand the Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence curriculum at Sandman Middle School to combat drug use, bullying, and violence.

- **Proactive Engagement:** Increase "walk-through" details at the Township Recreation Center, local parks, and all district schools.
- **Relationship Building:** Formalize positive field contacts during routine shifts and expand officer participation in the annual Police Youth Camp.
- **Stakeholder Partnerships:** Collaborate with parents, educators, and elected officials to address juvenile-related quality-of-life issues.

Professional Growth:

- **Officer-in-Charge (OIC) Training:** Develop and implement an in-house "Senior Officer" training program to prepare personnel for leadership and OIC responsibilities.
- **Continuous Education:** Prioritize career development tracks to ensure all officers remain current on modern policing standards.

Support Operations Unit:

- Quarterly Defensive Tactics Training – Implementing quarterly defensive tactics training will improve officer and public safety. It teaches officers how to safely control situations, reduce injuries, make better decisions under stress, and use force appropriately. This training also supports de-escalation, reduces legal issues, and helps build community trust.
- “Real-World” Scenario Based Training - Continue to provide a high level of training to all members of the Lower Township Police Department while putting the trainees through “real-world” scenarios so that the trainees can use the learned skills in a culminating event. The “real-world” scenarios will include various instruments to stimulate all of the trainees’ senses. This, in turn, will continue to be an effective strategy to give the most optimal training experience. To further improve proficiency, the support operations unit will be looking to add one additional officer so we can expand our training.
- Community Policing – Our goal is to enhance community relations through positive interactions with the citizens of Lower Township. Also, continue to encourage our citizens to ask questions or voice their concerns about the state of the community. Specific examples of these community interactions would be utilizing our "Cop Stop" program more frequently. Another example could be safety outreaches, such as firearms safety seminars, drug recognition seminars, CPR classes and how to "harden" resident properties and vehicles. This will promote a positive atmosphere and relationship between officers and citizens.

Detective Bureau:

- In 2026, the Detective Bureau will be implementing a new background software to ensure the highest quality background investigation is conducted. The new software will integrate with existing applications already in use within the agency. The new software will allow supervisors to track the status of the background and allow seamless communication with the applicant.
- Continue to attend regional intelligence meetings hosted by the New Jersey State Police, Real Time Crime Center South.
- Implement new server and software for the in-station building cameras. This new software will allow detectives to easily access this footage and to preserve it for investigative purposes.

- Continue to successfully investigate criminal activity in Lower Township, utilizing various means of investigative resources and capabilities.

UAS Unit:

- In 2026, our goal is expand our unit with new pilots and budget for more UAS.
- Full use of new command vehicle for training, special events and real world emergencies.
- Prioritize rapid deployment with all individual officers who hold pilot certification and practice rapid deployment with command vehicle.

