

Shelby Police Department 2024 Annual Report



*Photo Courtesy of Mansfield Police Department
Aux Ofc Rick Kendall stands with Cruiser 509 at the Richland Mall for an police vehicle display. Unknown Date
Aux Ofc Kendall passed November 11, 2021 at the age of 71*

M. Lance Combs, Chief of Police

CALLS FOR SERVICE

Calls for Service are the number of calls or “details” that our officers responded to throughout the year. In some cases, the call turns out not to be what was reported. In others, they led us to other crimes or problems, or issues that may require reclassification. Not every call for service generates an arrest, enforcement action or even a criminal complaint. Not included here are “follow up” calls – periods of time spent by officers working on cases by way of phone calls, interviews, research or notes, and does not include times that the officer is “temporarily out”, where an officer stopped to pick up a drink, food or piece of equipment. It also does not include “departmental details” where an officer might have come on station to fill overtime or complete other administrative duties. All jail calls in our Records Management System are listed as jail calls. We are required to keep a separate log that breaks down individual jail events. The jail calls include everything from booking prisoners, to serving meals, giving medications, cleaning the jail, and hour checks and daily prisoner counts. Aside from all those exceptions, the following represent the number of calls for service that we responded to in 2024.

Offenses Against Persons	365	Property Offenses	405
Assault	25	Theft	137
Domestic	62	Bad Checks	2
Sexual Assault	32	Fraud/Forgery	74
Child Abuse	16	Breaking and Entering	11
Fights	25	Burglary	16
Man w/ Gun	6	Auto Theft/Unauth Use	9
Man w/Knife	4	Counterfeiting	1
Suicide	0	Damage to Property	26
Stalking	1	Criminal Damaging	4
Menacing	65	Criminal Mischief	20
Telephone Harassment	98	Vandalism	27
Bomb Threats	0	Littering	10
Carrying Concealed Weapon	0	Trespassing	67
Robbery	0	Arson	1
Violation of Protection Order	29		
Shooting	2		
Drug Offenses	66	School Resource Officer	592
		Pioneer	138
		Shelby	454

Disturbances	800	Traffic Calls	1,444
General Disturbance	214	Traffic Stops	1,047
Disorderly Person	94	Traffic Control	15
Fireworks	21	Reckless Operation	97
Trouble with Neighbor	67	Drunk Driver	20
Suspicious Person	228	Driving Under Susp	1
Suspicious Vehicle	176	Non Injury Accident	114
Loitering	0	Injury Accident	22
Prowler	0	Hit Skip Accident	25
Liquor Violation	0	Private Property Acc	45
		Road Hazard	31
		Railroad Crossing	27
Service/Assistance	3,098	Juvenile	243
Lockout/Assist Person	758	Juvenile Complaints	182
Open Building	17	Unruly	38
Civil Matters	199	Runaway/Missing	17
Assist Other Agencies	136	Tobacco Violation	6
Assist Fire	115	Curfew	0
Open Burning	12		
Residential/Business Alarms	219	Utility Matters	140
911 Hang Up	172		
Vehicle Complaint	343	Warrant Service Attempts	184
Animal Complaints	250		
Attempted/Threaten Suicide	38		
Funeral/ Business Escorts	323		
House Checks	27		
Welfare Checks	231		
Lost/Found Property	153		
Repossessed Vehicle	40		
Business Complaints	2		
Health Dept Complaints	0		
Solicitor Permits	2		
Mental Health Issues	32		
Missing Adult	12		
Alzheimer Notification	16		
Exterior Property Complaint	1		
Patrol Calls for Service Total	7,337 (-829)		
Jail Calls for Service Total	6,433 (+642)		
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE 2024	13,770 (-187)		

OFFENSES

Offenses differ greatly from Calls for Service. While a Call for Service indicates a time that an officer was alerted to, or dispatched to a possible crime, the officer must determine whether or not a crime was actually committed. Once that determination is made, the officer puts the call for service into a reportable format and creates an "Offense Report". Offense reports are used as the basis for investigations and court proceedings, as well as statistical analysis. Basic offense reports and accident reports generated by the Shelby Police Department are available online via the City of Shelby website at <http://shelbycity.oh.gov/visitors/police/9-uncategorised/214-shelby-police-reports-online>.

Offenses Against Persons	280	Property Offenses	228
Assault	65	Theft	106
Domestic Violence	56	Bad Checks	0
Sexual Assault	13	Fraud/Forgery	5
Child Abuse/Endangering	22	Breaking and Entering	9
Robbery	0	Burglary	14
Resisting Arrest	11	Unauthorized Use MV	3
Vehicular Homicide	0	Unauth Use Property	0
Menacing	53	Counterfeiting	1
Unlawful Restraint	1	Criminal Damaging	13
Kidnapping/Abduction	1	Criminal Simulation	0
Voyeurism	0	Criminal Mischief	42
Importuning	1	Vandalism	2
Violation of Protection Order	17	Criminal Trespass	25
Disseminating Matt Harmful Juveniles	3	Misuse of Credit Card	3
Pandering Obscenity Involv Minor	13	Receiving Stolen Prop	2
Contributing to Delinquency of Minor	3	Possession of Crim Tools	0
Intimidation	2	Safecracking	0
Extortion	1	Tampering w/Evidence	2
Dissemination of Image of Person	4	Property Damage	0
Murder	0	Arson	1
Reckless Homicide	0		
Strangulation	12		
Making Terroristic Threat	1		
Bribery	1		
Juvenile Offenses	29		
Tobacco	10		
Unruly	18		
Curfew	0		
Runaway	1		
Drug Offenses	100	Other Offenses	94
Possession of Drugs	28	Disorderly Conduct	34
Possession of Drug Instruments	9	Falsification	3
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	45	Complicity	0
Permitting Drug Abuse	0	Impersonating Peace Officer	0
Trafficking in Drugs	1	Open Container	10

Deception to Obtain Drugs	1	Underage Consumption	7
Illegal Processing of Drugs Doc	0	Obstructing Official Business	9
Illegal Conveyance	1	Telecommunication Harassment	9
Overdose	12	Junk Vehicle	0
Distributing/Delivering Drugs	0	Failure to Comply	6
Corrupting Another w/ Drugs	2	Escape	0
Selling/Purchasing/Distribute Drugs	0	Engaging in Corrupt Activity	0
Placing Harmful Substance in Food	0	Littering	0
Illegal Manufacture of Drugs	0	Tobacco Use in City Building	0
Contraband	1	Inducing Panic	3
Weapon Offenses	5	Making False Alarms	1
Illegal Conveyance	0	Missing Person	3
Weapons Under Disability	3	Civil Matter	2
Improper Handling MV	0	Urinating in Public	1
Carrying Concealed Weapon	1	Public Indecency	1
Throwing or Shooting Missiles	0	Suicide/Threatening Suicide	1
Pointing/Discharging Firearm	0	Check Welfare	0
Using Weapons While Intox	0	Dead Body	0
Unlawful Possession	1	Failure to Report Death	0
Traffic Offenses	177	Suspicious Circumstances	1
Driving Under the Influence	75	Found/Lost Property	0
Driving Under Suspension	25	Open Burning	0
Other Traffic	77	Misconduct at Emergency	1
Animal Offenses	18	Disturbance	0
Barking or Howling Dog	3	Mental	1
Dog Tags Required	2	Loud/Unnecessary Noise	0
Confining/Restraining Dog	8	Misuse of 911	0
Location of Barns/Coops	0	Notice of Residence Change	0
Cruelty to Animals	3	Failure to Disperse	1
Abandoning Animals	1	Arrest on Warrants	138
Animal at Large	0	No Charge Code	16
Dead Animal	1		
TOTAL OFFENSE REPORTS GENERATED 2024	1,085 (-67)		

CITATIONS/ARRESTS

Calls for service and offenses may result in citations, summons, felony charges, or any combination of the three. In 2023 we issued the following charges. For purposes of our statistics, each category is counted as an arrest.

Traffic Citations	421
Misdemeanor Summons	252
Felony Charges	40
TOTAL	713 (+65)

OIBRS

The Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS) is a voluntary program for Ohio law enforcement agencies to submit crime statistics and use of force data directly to the state and federal government in an automated format. As Ohio's version of the FBI National Incident Based Reporting System, the OIBRS standard is suited to meet planning, resource allocation, and use for state and local agencies. It also allows Ohio law enforcement agencies and policymakers to speak the same language when discussing and analyzing crime. The Shelby Police Department is one of 373 Ohio agencies using OIBRS for crime data reporting. In order to see how the City of Shelby compares to other like-sized communities, I included 21 agencies with populations +/- 1,000 of Shelby's population and categorized the data. OIBRS differs from our CFS and Offense statistics because it is parsed out and validated using specific reporting standards by the Office of Criminal Justice Services. OIBRS data is available for online viewing at <http://ocjs.ohio.gov/oibrs/>.

	Agency Name	Population	Violent Crime Total	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Agg Assault	Property Crime Total	Burglary/B&E	Larceny-Theft	MV Theft
1	Eaton	8,280	10	0	5	1	4	115	8	97	10
2	Orrville	8,417	7	0	1	0	6	28	2	23	3
3	Cheviot	8,510	29	0	5	2	22	190	12	132	46
4	Highland Heights	8,529	0	0	0	0	0	38	0	36	2
5	Bryan	8,574	8	0	0	0	8	70	3	67	0
6	Olmsted Falls	8,616	0	0	0	0	0	29	1	27	1
7	Ross Township	8,835	14	0	1	0	13	41	3	31	7
8	Grandview Heights	8,837	1	0	1	0	0	209	27	173	9
9	Sheffield Lake	8,929	19	0	0	0	19	45	10	33	2
10	Shelby	9,274	25	0	7	0	18	115	17	97	1
11	Champion Township	9,303	7	0	2	0	5	74	9	58	7
12	Madeira	9,375	0	0	0	0	0	38	1	36	1
13	North College Hill	9,402	88	1	7	17	63	303	19	235	49
14	Girard	9,457	25	0	1	1	23	135	22	108	5
15	Louisville	9,519	9	0	0	0	9	83	19	59	5
16	Sugarcreek Township	9,657	8	0	3	0	5	233	8	210	15
17	East Liverpool	9,683	25	0	5	2	18	92	17	73	2
18	Wapakoneta	9,689	13	0	1	1	11	118	7	108	3
19	Struthers	9,873	28	0	5	3	20	119	25	75	19
20	Bath Township (Summit)	9,902	7	0	1	0	6	157	6	151	0
21	Vinton County Sheriff's Office	10,063	12	0	2	0	10	46	21	25	0
22	Ironton	10,161	29	0	3	3	23	52	14	34	4
23	Franklin Township	10,383	12	0	3	5	4	91	14	50	27

PLYMOUTH POLICE DISPATCHING - 2024

Through an agreement with the Plymouth Police Department, the Shelby Police Department dispatches all calls for service received for the Plymouth Police Department at no cost, as well as any transferred calls to them from Richland County. They share our radio talkgroup on Ohio's Multi Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS) and they also are connected to us via our Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Record Management System (RMS) through Sundance. Here is a list of Calls for Service handled by the Plymouth Police Department. Some of these calls, like our own, are self-initiated, but phone calls reporting to Plymouth are dispatched through Shelby dispatch.

Offenses Against Persons	58	Property Offenses	68
Assault	2	Theft	19
Domestic	9	Fraud/Forgery	9
Sexual Assault	2	Breaking and Entering	2
Child Abuse	3	Burglary	2
Fights	2	Auto Theft/Unauth Use	5
Man w/ Gun	1	Damage to Property	8
Stalking	2	Criminal Damaging	2
Menacing	12	Criminal Mischief	3
Telephone Harassment	25	Vandalism	5
		Trespassing	13
Disturbances	163	Traffic Calls	142
General Disturbance	50	Traffic Stops	36
Disorderly Person	19	Traffic Control	7
Fireworks	14	Reckless Operation	36
Trouble with Neighbor	13	Drunk Driver	4
Suspicious Person	42	Non Injury Accident	19
Suspicious Vehicle	24	Hit Skip Accident	5
Accidental Discharge	1	Private Property Acc	7
		Road Hazard	24
		Railroad Crossing	4
Service/Assistance	978	Juvenile	49
Lockout/Assist Person	357	Juvenile Complaints	29
Open Building	3	Unruly	16
Civil Matters	69	Runaway/Missing	4
Assist Other Agencies	65		
Assist Fire	43	Utility Matters	19
Open Burning	5		
Residential/Business Alarms	44	Court	2
911 Hang Up	32		
Vehicle Complaint	84	Warrant Service Attempts	4
Animal Complaints	91		
Attempted/Threaten Suicide	12	Drug Offenses	3
Funeral/ Business Escorts	11		
House Checks	12	Plymouth School Detail	775
Welfare Checks	46		

Lost/Found Property	26	
Repossessed Vehicle	8	
Mental Health Issues	3	
Missing Adult	3	
Exterior Property Complaint	64	
PLYMOUTH TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE 2024		2,261
SHELBY TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE 2024		13,770
GRAND TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE 2024		16,031

SHELBY CITY JAIL

The Shelby City Jail is a 12-Day holding facility with the capacity to hold eleven inmates. The Jail is regulated by the Ohio Bureau of Adult Detention and undergoes an annual inspection of approximately one-hundred and twenty standards set forth by the Ohio Jail Advisory Board. The 2024 inspection found the Shelby City Jail compliant with all but two standards. After implementing policy change, the jail meets all “essential” standards. Replacement of the video visitation system is necessary to meet the final “important” standard. Capt. Eric Rath is the Jail Administrator who also represents the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police on the Ohio Jail Advisory Board. Sgt. Aaron Bushey is the Assistant Jail Administrator who is responsible for security and maintenance inspections. Both the Captain Rath and Sgt Bushey have completed the 40-hour Ohio Jail Administrator Course.

There were a total of (89) eighty-nine inmates (62 males and 27 females) booked into the jail in 2024. Overall inmate numbers remain consistent with previous years, but in 2024, our female inmate population almost doubled. Dr. Ajay Chawla continues to serve as the Jail Physician and oversees all medical policies and procedures. Ohio Health and Avita Hospitals serves all emergency medical care needs, while the Third Street Clinic provides non-emergency medical and dental care.

Inmate linens, towels, and personal garments are laundered by Colonial Coin Laundry. Crestwood Care Center provides all meals, a service which includes a Licensed Nutritionist to review and approve menu cycles.

Low-risk inmates serving sentences longer than (12) twelve days may be permitted to serve their time in increments, reducing outside housing costs. Inmates not qualifying for segmented sentences are transferred and housed at a full-service facility. The City of Shelby has jail housing contracts with Crawford, Huron, Knox, Morrow, and Richand County Jails.

The Shelby Police Department continues its commitment to providing a safe, secure, and efficiently run jail facility.

DEPARTMENT ARMORER

In 2024, the department invested in training an officer to be the departmental firearms armorer. This position provides a skilled gunsmith specializing in the maintenance, repair, and customization of firearms, and includes tasks like deep cleaning, part replacement, trigger adjustments, sight installations, and addressing potential malfunctions to ensure proper functionality and safety. Currently, our armorer is trained on pistols, but we hope to expand that knowledge base to additional firearms platforms. In 2024, the armorer inspected 15 Sig Sauer P320 pistols and:

- Completely disassembled and inspected each of their components.
- Checked for wear and tear on all pistols and observed zero deficiencies.
- Cleaned and lubricated every magazine and internal component.
- Updated accurate round count for barrel life considerations.

CHAPLAIN

The Shelby Police Department's Chaplain is Dan Gates who has been with the department since August of 2015 after serving in several capacities within a local church and within the world of addiction treatment. He still serves in the addiction capacity as a member of the county Opiate Response Board and Opiate Response Team.

The Shelby Police Chaplain serves as a living witness to the love and power of God's gift of reconciling love.

The Chaplain is available and ready to serve those in need always seeking to provide a source of strength in time of need – to those in need.

Including but not limited to the following:

- Police officers and their families.
- Employees and staff and their families, and.
- Citizens at large in time of crisis.

The Chaplain is from time to time called upon to:

- Officiate weddings and funerals for personnel and their families.
- Assist with death notifications.
- Provide assistance to victims of tragedy.
- Respond to critical "on scene" calls.
- Assist at suicide and death incidents.
- Serve as a contact point with other clergy in the community.
- Provide for the spiritual needs of jail inmates.
- Visit sick and injured department personnel in home and hospital.
- Offer prayers at special occasions.
- Serve as the department's primary representative on the Richland County Opiate Board.
- Act as Opiate Response Team advocate.

Chaplain Gates and his wife Susan have taken responsibility for coordinating, vetting and providing assistance for needy families through our annual Christmas Tree gift program. That program allows residents to donate new, packaged, and wrapped gifts under the Christmas Tree at the Justice Center. Chaplain Gates and his wife not only vet the applicants for assistance, but separate the donated gifts as well as purchase additional needs through donated monies. Frequently, the Gates' also provide a fair share of their own funds to supplement needs. For Christmas 2024, this program provided Christmas to 14 families, representing 35 children.

DETECTIVE BUREAU

Detective Turner was moved into his current position as sole Detective in April of 2021 to handle both misdemeanor and felony investigations as well as background investigations for new hires after decades of the police department being without a Detective Bureau. In 2024, the following classifications of cases/events occurred and were investigated or continue to be investigated.

- Felony Theft
- Fraud
- Rape
- Elder Abuse
- Protection Order Violation
- Possession of Child Pornography
- Physical Abuse of a Child
- Review of natural death case
- Drug Trafficking
- Possession and Distribution of Child Pornography – referred to the Richland County Sheriff's Office
- Importuning
- Missing Person
- Telecommunications Harassment

As a result of an exhumation of a Jane Doe in Preble County in 2019 possible tied to the disappearance of Mary Jane VanGilder in 1945, DNA extraction and examination paid for by crowd sourcing provided the identity of the Doe, as Albert A. Frost. A press conference was held in Eaton Ohio detailing the investigation and announcing the identity in October of 2023.

Detective Turner also conducted (4) background investigations for new hires.

In addition, Det Turner is a member of the FBI Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, represents the department's investigations with Richland County Children's Services, and assists other agencies on a multitude of cases.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

The 2024 CPT guidelines, which are set by The Ohio Attorney General's Office and the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, outlined a mandatory 24-hour training requirement for all Certified Peace Officers in the State of Ohio. Our Agency commissioned 20 officers which consisted of Auxiliary, Part-time and Full time Police Officers. Each officer completed a minimum of 24 hours of CPT in 2024 which covered a broad array of topics, such as: Crisis Mitigation, Legal Updates, NIBIN Overview, Responding to Mental Health, Victims' Rights-Marsy's Law, Crime Gun Evidence, Dementia and Related Disorders, OHLEG LIMS Training, Public Records Requests and Veterans in Crisis.

Our agency also purchased Four (4) Virtual Reality Headsets which will be utilized to complete CPT Training in 2025. To conduct this training, all four Sergeants will attend a VR Instructor course and will be certified to administer the training.

DRUG INVESTIGATIONS

In 2024 officers of the Shelby Police Department investigated numerous Drug and Alcohol related offenses which resulted in 158 Arrests. These investigations led to the seizure of illegal narcotics, stolen property and illegally possessing firearms. Criminal charges on these arrests were filed through Shelby Municipal Court (Misdemeanor) and the Richland County Prosecutors Office (Felony) which resulted in the prosecution and conviction of numerous suspects for OVI, Possession of Drug Abuse Instruments, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Heroin/Fentanyl, Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Prescription Drugs, Corrupting Another with Drugs, Deception to Obtain Dangerous Drugs, Illegal Conveyance of Drugs and Trafficking in Drugs.

As part of the ongoing fight against drugs in our community, officers received numerous drug complaints from citizens which were documented, investigated and ultimately forwarded to the METRICH Enforcement Unit. With the help of our citizens, Shelby Police Department was able to forward 13 Drug Intelligence forms to MEU. These complaints from members of our community are what provide this department with knowledge of illegal activity that may have otherwise gone unknown. We continue to encourage individuals to report suspicious activities in their neighborhoods.

Shelby Police also responded to 14 Drug related Overdoses in 2024 with 1 being a fatality. Of the 14 Overdoses, Shelby Police and Shelby Fire/EMS were able to quickly administer Naloxone on 6 occasions, ultimately aiding in the revival of the subject.

OPIATE RESPONSE TEAM

A product of the Richland County Opiate Board, these teams were piloted by sending officers to training in Colerain Twp Ohio. The Opiate Response Team (ORT) exists in every jurisdiction within Richland County and began conducting at least weekly responses in 2017. The Shelby Police Department's ORT consists of Chaplain Dan Gates and Sergeant Aaron Bushey. The purpose of the ORT is to intervene within a few days following an opiate overdose to offer immediate services to any person willing to take advantage of the opportunity. These teams are separate from any investigation and enforcement action; they respond to provide an avenue for those addicted to drugs that are willing to seek help. The teams are made up of an officer, an advocate and a treatment provider. All overdose reports within the county are funneled to a single collection point where data is pulled and notifications are made to each team. In addition, and at his request, Chaplain Gates is immediately notified of all active overdoses and responds immediately to either the scene or the hospital. He believes that family are often involved immediately following an overdose and that is the best opportunity for treatment. In 2024, in conjunction with all providers, the Shelby ORT responded to 7 events post-overdose to attempt to steer them toward treatment and recovery.

From 2017 to present, Shelby ORT has conducted 61 callouts, with 33 contacts (54%), and 25 of those (76%) entered drug treatment.

In 2024, we had 14 overdoses, resulting in 1 overdose death.

In 2023, we had 21 overdoses, resulting in 0 overdose deaths.

In 2022, we had 20 overdoses, resulting in 2 overdose deaths.

USE OF FORCE/FIREARMS TRAINING

The Shelby Police Department conducts Firearms training 4 times per year. Our Firearms proficiency standards are set with the Handgun, Shotgun and Patrol Rifle. All officers completed the State Required Qualification Course as well as 3 additional firearms courses which consisted of “realistic” patrol scenarios. As part of our firearms standards, we also incorporated tourniquet application into our fundamentals.

In addition to firearms training, our officers and dispatchers qualified on Tasers. At the end of 2024, our agency purchased new Taser 10 devices which replaced our outdated Taser X26p’s. Taser 10’s were issued to each officer at the beginning of 2025 and are now a part of the daily uniform. Our Taser training consisted of PowerPoint, hands on table-top demonstration, testing, line drills, live fires and scenario based live fire drills.

USE OF FORCE TRACKING

The Shelby Police Department continues to operate with the goal of using only the appropriate force to make custodial arrests, reducing overall use of force incidents and striving to eliminate improper or inappropriate uses of force. We continue to develop policy and continue to ensure that we are following “Best Practices” standards.

All use of force incidents are reviewed beginning at the Officer-In-Charge level and then through the entire chain of command, and reviewed by the Law Director and Mayor/Safety Service Director. When necessary, corrective action, policy adjustments, training and even discipline are used when employees use excessive or inappropriate force during arrests. At times, force may be employed to stop or prevent individuals from harming themselves.

In 2024, officers had a total of 11 incidents that we classified as involving a use of force by our officers. These may include times that force was simply presented, for example drawing a TASER or firearm, but the presence of a tool was enough to gain compliance without additional force. These incidents included the following types of force, moving up the continuum:

- Verbal commands/Officer Presence - 11
- Assistance from other officers - 8
- Escort Position - 4
- Joint Manipulation/Pressure Points - 5
- Balance Displacement/Takedowns/Grounding Techniques - 4
- Striking/Punching/Kicking - 0
- Aerosols or Electrical Device - 1
- Presentation of Deadly Force – 1
- Deadly Force – 1

The incident involving the use of deadly force is currently under investigation by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation. A final determination on the internal analysis of the force will take place when that investigation is complete.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

In 2023, the City of Shelby moved toward a new, outsourced, managed IT arrangement. After an exhaustive selection process, SENTEC was awarded this contract for all managed IT services for the City of Shelby, including the Police Department. Due to the sensitive nature of the IT world, portions of this report were presented by SENTEC for inclusion in this report.

Overview of IT Management in 2024:

- **Service Tickets:** Sentec Systems has handled 491 support tickets for the City of Shelby since January 1st, 2024. These tickets encompass a broad spectrum of issues ranging from basic computer troubleshooting to maintenance infrastructure.
- **Server Environment Management:** Sentec Systems has continued supporting and overseeing the following critical components of the Shelby Police Department's IT infrastructure:
 - 2 Security Servers
 - 1 App Server
 - Video server
 - 3 legacy virtual machines
 - Interview recording room server
 - 12 desktop computers
 - 3 Laptops
 - 8 New in-car MDTs
 - 3 Old in-car MDTs
 - County-wide Sundance CAD
 - Exchange email & Office 365 Hybrid
 - NAS file backup system
 - Digital fingerprint system
 - Alchemy document archive server
 - Intoxylizer Machine
 - CCTV System
 - pfSense firewalls
 - Internet services from Spectrum and Everstream
 - City-wide fiber and WiFi System
- **Achievements in 2024:** Noteworthy accomplishments in the previous year include:
 - Cable cleanup and redesign of network backbone at light plant
 - In-park camera system and networking across the city
 - Replacement of all Windows 10 Machines in the Police Department
 - Installation of new MDTs
 - Centrally managed Anti-Virus
 - Integration of MFA
 - Hybrid Cloud & On-premises email migration

2. IT Needs in 2025:

- **Integration with Sundance:** Continue to work with Sundance to integrate the new MDT's with Sundance GPS and migrate Sundance to Sundance cloud services.
- **Infrastructure Enhancement:** Continued efforts are underway to systematically replace outdated switch equipment, fostering improved interdepartmental communication and

operational efficiency. The Wi-Fi access points used across the city are now at the end of life and should be considered for replacement.

- **Hybrid Telephone System:** We have successfully migrated the email system to a hybrid cloud/on-premises setup. However, the phone system migration is still pending. This initiative is designed to enhance system redundancy, ensuring continuous service availability even in the face of unforeseen disruptions. Additionally, Sentec Systems has evaluated Call Recording software that can integrate into the new system, as the current software is failing and the
- **Jail Visitation Software:** We are in the process of determining the most viable and cost-effective approach to updating jail visitation software. Most software is designed for large facilities that passes the cost on to a large pool of inmates, which is making it difficult to find something robust that is in our price range.
- **Virtual Environment Host Replacement:** The ProxMox virtual environment in the PD data closet is a shared resource utilized citywide. It currently comprises four physical servers hosting 40 virtual machines. In 2023, two host machines were retired which has increased the load on the remaining 4. Given the age of equipment, and the necessity of these resources, a phased, multi-year replacement of these servers should be a priority.
- **Offsite Backup:** The city currently lacks a true off-site backup. It is recommended that an off-site backup solution be implemented utilizing out-of-state resources. This will ensure data remains accessible in the event of a natural disaster or city-wide emergency, enhancing resilience and continuity of operations.
- **Conclusion:**

The City of Shelby's partnership with Sentec Systems continues to provide essential IT support, ensuring the stability, security, and efficiency of critical infrastructure. In 2024, significant progress was made in modernizing systems, improving cybersecurity, and enhancing network reliability. Moving into 2025, the focus will be on further integrating technology solutions, particularly with Sundance and telecommunications, to streamline operations and support the evolving needs of the city. Continued investment in IT infrastructure will be crucial to maintaining a resilient and efficient technological environment for city services.

Technology Acquisitions in 2024:

- Park Surveillance Cameras were installed and operational, hosted and recorded at the department. Live monitoring is still a work in progress.
- 4 Meta Quest VR headsets including to allow us to connect training materials by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy and will allow us to provide additional realistic training in-house and reducing additional costs for advanced training.

Conclusion:

The IT infrastructure at the Shelby Police Department remains a pivotal asset, underpinned by the support of Sentec Systems. With the proposed enhancements and strategic initiatives for 2025, we are poised to further elevate the department's technological capabilities, ensuring the safety and efficiency of operations for the community of Shelby.

BULLETPROOF VEST PARTERSHIP (BVP) GRANT

On January 5, 2024, The Shelby Police Department applied for new Bullet Proof Vests (BVP) through The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). This Federal Grant assists with reimbursement of up to 50% of the costs of bulletproof vests for full-time officers. In April 2024, The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) awarded the Shelby Police Department funds under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) solicitation.

The Shelby Police Department was eligible for \$695.00 for Bullet Proof Vests through the BJA partnership. The BVP program reimbursed the city of Shelby for \$347.50 or 50% of the total cost.

(2) New or replacement vests were provided to Officers through the BVP Partnership.

The Shelby Police Department has utilized this grant since it was first offered in 2000. To date we have been reimbursed a total of \$19,073.897 to provide bulletproof vests to all of our full-time officers, which is not only required by labor contract, but allows us to have the most up to date ballistic protection for our officers.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The Neighborhood Watch Program has been in existence for many years in the City of Shelby. Several areas in the city have worked with the police department and have started their own neighborhood watch. Park Village, Meadow Estates, Myer Meadows and West Park Drive have current programs. Informational meetings and training sessions have been attended by residents to teach them skills and enhance their ability to detect and report crime in their neighborhoods. Our goal for the Neighborhood Watch Program in 2025 is to continue to make programs available for any interested neighborhood and be as involved as the neighborhood would like us to be.

DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT (DRE)

The Drug Evaluation and Classification Program is a traffic safety program that focuses on the detection, apprehension, and adjudication of drug-impaired drivers. A Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) is a law enforcement officer that is highly trained to recognize impairment of drivers under the influence of drugs other than or in addition to alcohol. The DRE program is a federally funded program through the Ohio Traffic Safety Office. The training and the expenses associated with the DRE Program will be paid for completely and there is no cost to the agency/department. Training is accomplished in multiple phases:

Phase I: Drug Recognition Expert Pre-School (16 Hours)

Candidates are selected to attend a 2-day intensive course designed to evaluate their ability to become a highly trained professional in drug impaired-driving detection. The candidate will be required to demonstrate SFST proficiency with strict compliance and pass a written exam with an 80% or better before continuing to Phase II.

Phase II: Drug Recognition Expert DRE School (56 Hours)

Candidates will receive detailed instruction in the techniques of drug influence evaluation examinations as well as in physiology, the effect of drugs, and legal considerations. Upon completion of this phase of training, the candidate must pass a written exam with an 80% or better before proceeding to phase III.

Phase III: Drug Recognition Expert Field Certification (40-60 Hours)

During phase III (field certifications) the candidate must conduct twelve (12) evaluations. Each candidate, whether serving as an evaluator, observer, or recorder, shall independently identify the categories of drugs affecting the subject to a DRE Instructor. The candidate must maintain a 75% toxicological confirmation rate and complete a comprehensive final knowledge examination. Currently the Shelby Police Department has two DREs conducting evaluations for this department and surrounding agencies that request assistance in the case of a suspected drugged driver.

In 2024, Sgt. Bushey and Sgt. Nolen both attended DRE Recertification Class, now allowing for another two years of service to the program. Sgt. Bushey and Sgt. Nolen were both required to complete eight (8) hours of additional training in the field of drug impairment, perform a supervised evaluation by a certified DRE Instructor, and pass with 100% on their written recertification test.

Also in 2024, Sgt. Bushey and Sgt. Nolen conducted 10 evaluations of impaired drivers. Upon receiving toxicology results from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Crime Lab, the following drugs were found in the blood and urine of subjects that provided samples: Fentanyl, Methamphetamine, Cannabis, Suboxone, Alprazolam Oxycodone, Imidazopyridine, and Gabapentin.

The department is actively searching internally for two additional DRE candidates to bring our numbers up to 4. This specialized training will be imperative in the coming years as it relates to traffic safety and the detection of drivers impaired not only with alcohol, but from use or abuse of both legal and illegal substances.

D.A.R.E.

The D.A.R.E. program was re-implemented into the Shelby School district in late fall of 2017. Officer Swisher retired from the position in the spring of 2024 after serving as the program instructor since it was re-introduced. Officer Hall completed the D.A.R.E. Instructors course in the fall of 2024 and began teaching the fifth-grade students shortly thereafter. The fifth-grade class began in the early fall of 2024, completed D.A.R.E. and will graduate in May 2025.

D.A.R.E. was also taught at St. Mary's School in the Spring of 2024. The 5th/6th grade class will graduate in May of 2025.

D.A.R.E is currently funded by a combination of private donations, and monies received by the City of Shelby from the opioid lawsuit settlement. Each student is presented with a D.A.R.E. T-Shirt, and a Graduation Certificate. Every student must complete a D.A.R.E. Essay. Each class has a winner, who is then presented with a medal. The overall essay winner is then presented with an Essay Winner's Pin. The students are also treated to a party after graduation, featuring pizza and dessert.

D.A.R.E. was selected as the prevention program of choice for the Elementary Level with the assistance of former City Council Member Garland Gates. D.A.R.E. is an evidence-based program, certified by the Ohio Attorney General's Office. D.A.R.E. returned to Shelby Schools with the interest, assistance, and support of the Shelby City Council, Mayor Steven Schag, and Shelby City Schools.

PIONEER SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Officer John Reed was the Pioneer School Resource Officer from 2024 through 2025. He is a certified School Resource Officer and current member of the Ohio School Resource Officer Association.

The assigned duties of the Pioneer SRO are:

Traffic Enforcement/Safety

- Monitor student parking during arrival and dismissal.
- Monitor staff parking areas and school grounds for compliance and safety issues.
- Parking enforcement, verifying student parking passes.

Crime Prevention

- Presence in hallways, cafeteria, parking lots, classroom and labs
- Formal and informal interaction with students, staff and visitors.
- Participate, advise and train, if necessary, on the PCTC School Safety Plan.
- Participate in the PCTC Health and Safety Committee.
- Participate on the PCTC Safety and Security Committee.

Law Enforcement

- Issue citations, summons, warnings or other alternative enforcement as needed.
- Issue detentions and reminders on a daily basis.
- Attend truancy meetings and formal and informal disciplinary hearings.
- Assist patrol officers and other law enforcement agencies with issues concerning PCTC Students.
- Investigate all law enforcement related issues concerning the school or students.

Education

- Presence in the school, parking lots, classrooms, labs, assemblies and special events.
- When requested discuss issues in classrooms related to law enforcement topics.
- Assist in safety drills including lockdown (ALICE), tornado and fire evacuation.
- Open door policy for students/staff involving issues and questions.
- Positive interaction with students and staff on a daily basis.

The role of the SRO is to provide security in the schools, assist school personnel in enforcing rules and engaging in positive interactions with students and staff. Since the implementation of the SRO program at Pioneer, calls for service have decreased, as well as a decrease in vandalism issues with PCTC property. This is a true mutual partnership with the school system.

Pioneer CTC is Ohio's 5th largest vocational school serving 14 school districts across portions of several counties. This means that cooperation and communication between the PCTC SRO and law enforcement partners and court systems in each of those home counties.

SHELBY CITY SCHOOLS - SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Officer Hannah Hall is the current SRO for Shelby Senior High, and Shelby PK – 8 Buildings. The assigned duties of the SRO are as follows:

- Traffic Enforcement / Safety
- Presence in the area on the roadways / parking lots enforcing traffic laws, and watching the overall safety of students / staff while walking on foot
- Ensuring that proper vehicle, pedestrian, bus routes are being followed, and parking enforcement
- Crime Prevention
- Presence both in and outside the buildings during arrival / dismissal times, parking lots, hallways, cafeteria, classrooms, and special events
- Formal and informal interaction with the students, staff, and visitors
- Participate, advise, train, as needed on the Schools Safety Plan Law Enforcement
- Issue citations / warnings or other alternative enforcement
- Handle habitual truancy complaints within the district / home visits as needed, also conduct informal / formal meetings
- Assist other SPD Officers in conducting follow up investigations
- Assist other Law Enforcement agencies concerning Shelby District students
- Investigate all Law Enforcement related matters
- Presence in the hallways, cafeteria, parking lots, classrooms, assemblies, or special events
- When called upon discuss topics in the classroom as the topic relates to Law Enforcement
- Assist in Safety Drills including lock-down (A.L.I.C.E.) tornado, and fire evacuation
- Serve as the district Safety Officer - ensure that the Emergency Operation Procedure manual is updated annually and report all annual Safety Drills to the OH/ID portal.
- Serve as a member of the school Comprehensive School Threat Assessment (CSTAG) Team.
- Community relations with staff and students.

Officer Hall is in her first year serving in this position. Officer Hall's responsibilities include evaluating and assessing school violence threats, investigating all complaints filed through the school / State of Ohio Tip-Line, threats to persons or property, domestic violence, child abuse / neglect, self-harm, menacing, falsification, assaults, disorderly conduct, theft, drug, tobacco, sex crimes, vandalism, truancy, and traffic cases.

AUXILIARY UNIT

Sgt. Bushey is currently assigned as the Commander of the Shelby Police Department's Auxiliary Unit. In 2024 Aux. Ofc Dominic Ewing transitioned from the auxiliary unit to full-time status. This takes the total of active auxiliary members to one, retired Captain David Mack. The Auxiliary Unit is given continual training, and they are required to complete the equivalent of a full-time officers' complete field training, as well as maintain the same training and certification as their full-time counterparts. Auxiliary officers are used to both assist full-time officers in their duties and to be called upon in times of emergency. If their training is up to date, they may work in place of a full-time officer if a vacancy cannot be filled. It is anticipated that the Auxiliary Unit will continue to grow in 2025, including auxiliary officers that may be sponsored to complete the police academy

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

As always, our goal is to be integral partners with our community; to be open, transparent and honest with our actions. Our entire team is tasked daily with being positively engaged. Officers know that they must be approachable, reliable, trustworthy, kind, compassionate and respectful. We must hold ourselves to a higher standard. However, officers are also fallible human beings who from time to time will make mistakes. When those mistakes are made, consequences do follow, and we move on to better ourselves, our operations, our agency and our community.

We maintain a presence on social media, using Facebook and Twitter, with Facebook having our largest following, and post messages as well using Richland County's WENS system for text notifications.

We conduct an active ride along program, providing ride along experiences to at least twelve individuals in 2024. We also conducted two departmental tours, approved several parade and march permits, and attended three events where officers gave talks to groups about our agency or recruiting drives.

We held two blood drives in cooperation with the American Red Cross.

In cooperation with the METRICH Enforcement Unit and US DEA, we participated in two drug takeback events, resulting in hundreds of pounds of medications being properly disposed of.

As mentioned in the Chaplain's section of this report, we continued our Christmas toy drive and this year served 14 families, representing 35 children, and provided many excess items to Shelby Helpline.

We will continue to look for ways and opportunities to partner with our community and make it a better community for all.

DEPARTMENT HIRING

The Shelby Police Department continues to remain dedicated in our efforts to provide the best possible service to our community. In doing so the department continues to work towards filling open positions. Currently the Shelby Police Department has two vacant officer positions and one vacant dispatcher position.

Over the years the Shelby Police Department has made several strides towards being competitive with surrounding agencies. In 2022 Civil Service removed the requirement for candidates to have possess an Ohio Peace Officer Training Certification. This allows the department to locate suitable candidates and pay for their training thus widening the pool of potential candidates.

In 2023 The successfully negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement Showed provided an increase in wages to continue to remain competitive with other agencies in our recruitment efforts.

The initial step requires applicants to take the Front-Line National test through NTN. This test consists of three parts including reading, writing, and a video portion involving law enforcement related material.

Next, the applicants are certified by the Civil Service Commission; the second step is the Oral Board Interview. The interview consists of a variety of interpersonal skills, past experiences, and scenarios. This process is lengthy, but it is imperative to ensure an impartial and unbiased recruitment process. Each applicant is then assigned a rubric score. The results are averaged with the initial NTN score to produce an individual score. The top ten scores are presented to the chief. The Chief selects several candidates based on the vacancies.

At the third step in the process, the candidate takes an online PRADCO Psychological examination. Results of this test provide insight on the candidate regarding areas such as work ethic, integrity, drive, and decision making. The results are provided to both a psychologist and the background investigator for their portions of the process.

The fourth step is a rigorous pre-employment background investigation. This phase is assigned solely to the Detective Bureau where Detective Turner, who is a state-certified background investigator, conducts the investigation. The background is intensive and comprehensive to ensure a thorough evaluation of each individual candidate. While it is officially the fourth step in the process, background investigations start as soon as a candidate passes the initial NTN testing. Because the process is so involved, Detective Turner and Sgt. Kocher are engaged and speaking with the candidates even pre-testing. Both officers walk the candidate through the process, often providing ride-a longs, departmental tours and in-depth discussions as to the hiring process. The background investigation begins early in the process to expedite the process while allowing adequate time to ensure each candidate is thoroughly evaluated.

Once the background is complete, it is reviewed and presented to the mayor. Based on consultation with the chief and the review of the applicant, an in-person interview with both the Mayor and the Chief of Police is scheduled, and the candidate may be given a conditional offer of employment, contingent upon successful completion of additional testing.

If the conditional offer is accepted, the candidate is then scheduled to take a full Ohio Police and Fire physical examination, a psychological examination, and a polygraph examination. If successful in all these steps, the individual is then offered employment with the City of Shelby Police Department.

In 2024, The Shelby Police Department hired one full-time officer, Officer Dominic Ewing. Officer Ewing was previously an Auxiliary Officer with the department. The department also saw the retirement of Officer Swisher. Prior to his retirement Officer Swisher was the SRO for Shelby City Schools.

Several notable movements to further the department's recruitment efforts were made in 2024. To help accomplish recruiting goals, Sergeant Kocher spoke with cadets at the Erie Huron Ottawa Vocational Education (EHOVE) Police Academy. Sergeant Kocher also attended the graduation ceremony for North Central State Police Academy which proved helpful as the department saw several applications from graduates. In September Officer Rose and Sergeant Kocher also attended the Law Enforcement Job and Career Fair at Kalahari. This event gave the department the opportunity to reach out to several candidates that we otherwise may not have been able to.

In 2024 The Shelby Police Department received many applications for the position of Officer. In total six Officer Candidates and two Dispatcher Candidates were interviewed. These candidates continue to be moving through the hiring process.

The Shelby Police Department will continue to cooperate and work closely with the mayor's office, City Council, The Civil Service Commission, and all our academy partners in attempts to hire qualified candidates that will have long, fruitful careers with the Shelby Police Department and successfully serve the citizens and our community.