

LAGRANGE POLICE
DEPARTMENT



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

2020 HIGHLIGHTS



During 2020, as the Covid-19 threat emerged, we were confronted with many internal and external challenges to our ability to serve the community. Our goal was to maintain our essential services, while adhering to current social distancing and recommended safety protocol. Our officers and staff continued to attend to their duties at personal risk under very difficult circumstances and worked tirelessly to maintain order and provide safety for a community that was also dealing with the threat of a potentially deadly virus.

On July 20th, 2020, the LaGrange Police Department and Chief Dekmar received first runner-up for the 2020 Dr. Curtis E. McClung/Motorola Award for Excellence for its Community Outreach/Trust Building program. This award honors achievements in innovative programs that: Have an impact on a department's mission, goals and objectives, Have widespread implications on community/department and the law enforcement profession, Utilize or deploy resources to accomplish a stated goal effectively, Affect quality of life issues of the community, Impact professionalism in law enforcement, Promote community and media relations, Enhance the spirit of cooperation among agencies of multiple jurisdictions, and Address an operational challenge. The Curtis E. McClung Award, which is co-sponsored by the Motorola Corporation, is given annually to an agency in recognition of an innovative program initiated by the department that fosters law enforcement excellence.





BOLAWRAP DEMONSTRATION

Corporal Hall was recognized by Wrap Technologies for his actions on a domestic violence/mental health incident in September where he successfully deployed a BolaWrap. The BolaWrap® is a restraint device that discharges an 8-foot tether to wrap a subject's legs or arms. It does not rely on pain compliance and is designed to be deployed early in an encounter to decrease the potential for injury. While Inflicting pain often escalates encounters, BolaWrap's non-threatening form allows time to de-escalate and provide needed support for the person in crisis. Lt. Lohr and Corporal Hall were able to demonstrate this device in action for the City Council.

NATIONAL FAITH AND BLUE EVENT

Local faith leaders and law enforcement gathered Sunday, October 11th, 2020 for the National Faith & Blue event at First Baptist on the Square. The purpose of the National Faith & Blue event is to create safer, more inclusive communities by connecting law enforcement officers and residents they protect & serve through houses of worship.



ANNUAL CHIEF'S CHALLENGE 5K

A great emphasis is placed on both mental and physical fitness of our employees and every fall, the Chief challenges his employees to run a 5K. On November 21, 2020, we held the 16th annual Chief's Challenge and over 25 city employees participated.



LAGRANGE POLICE



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Office of Professional Standards (OPS) investigates or reviews all complaints against the LaGrange Police Department and its employees, use of force incidents, pursuits, and conducts internal investigations as assigned by the Chief of Police. OPS also conducts video reviews and performance audits.

During 2020 there were 38 Response to Aggression (RTA) incidents. The following represents the highest level of force used for each incident:

- 16 Takedowns
- 8 TASER
- 5 OC Spray
- 5 Hands/Arms
- 1 Firearm
- 1 K9 Bite
- 1 BolaWrap
- 1 Restraint Device

In 2020 the LaGrange Police Department received three complaints of biased based profiling which was investigated by line level supervisors and reviewed by OPS and the involved officers were exonerated.

The Office of Professional Standards completed six Internal Affairs Investigations involving departmental employees. Of these investigations two were sustained which resulted in the termination and resignation of the officers.

RTA 3 Year Summary

Year	2018	2019	2020
Force Incidents	48	27	38
Officer Injuries	0	0	0
Suspect Injuries	6	2	1
Total Arrests	3803	3329	2675
% Per Arrest	1.26%	.81%	1.42%

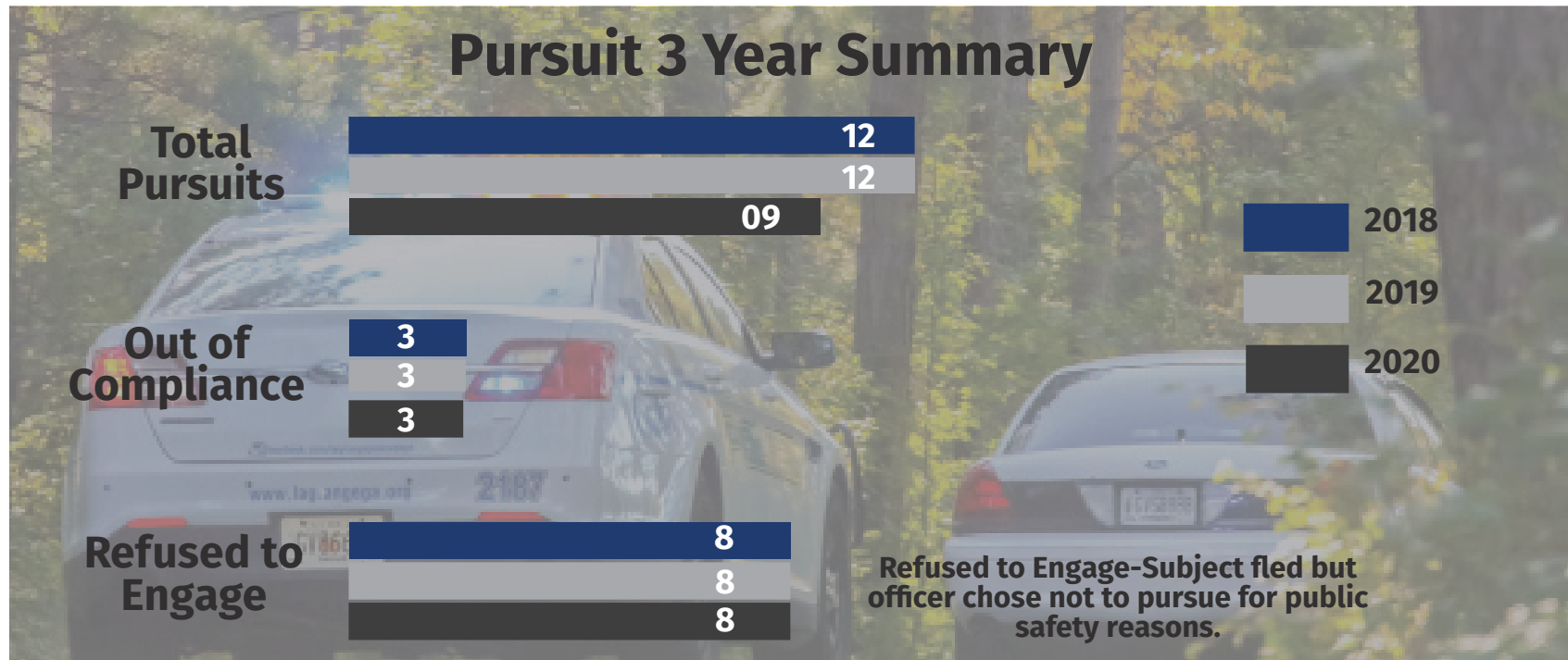
Injuries for both officers and suspects indicate injuries that required medical treatment.

Citizen Complaints

Year	2018	2019	2020
Complaints	77	57	63
Proper Conduct	52	44	45
Improper Conduct	17	11	18
Misconduct	8	2	0

*Misconduct - The original complaints were unfounded but an unrelated policy violation was discovered during the investigation.

Pursuit 3 Year Summary



Uniformed Patrol Operations

Captain Mike Pheil - Division Commander

Uniformed Patrol Operations encompasses four squads of officers for generalized patrol duties and for responding to calls for service, with certain officers being focally trained to augment patrol squads. These areas of specialty include canine, traffic enforcement, crime suppression and bicycle patrol operations. The division is also supplemented with civilian employees dedicated to Municipal Code Enforcement and Animal Services. With those allocations, the division consists of nearly sixty percent of the department's total number of sworn and civilian employees. Patrol officers respond to a wide range of calls for service, conduct preliminary and follow-up criminal investigations, and process crime scenes while enforcing criminal and traffic laws as well as ordinances enacted by the City of LaGrange. Officers are also engaged in a variety of problem-solving initiatives and community education activities based upon the department's firm commitment to community partnerships.

Department Arrest Information

Year	2018	2019	2020
Traffic	699	514	434
City Ordinance	1368	1052	836
Misdemeanor	811	863	658
Felony	925	752	747
Total	3803	3181	2675

Community Outreach

Sergeant Marshall McCoy - Unit Supervisor

The Community Outreach Unit was created to enhance working partnerships with various community groups, faith-based organizations, formal and informal neighborhood associations and concerned citizens while addressing local quality of life issues. The Community Outreach Unit is responsible for assisting in developing and maintaining Neighborhood Watch Programs and serves as the primary liaison between the police department and citizen groups that wish to participate in strategic planning for long-term solutions to quality of life and public safety issues.

The Community Outreach Unit participates in the Mental Health program and the LaGrange/Troup County Homeless Coalition. In a collaborative effort with the local Feeding the Valley food bank, this Unit maintains an availability of shelf-stable food for officers to distribute to the homeless or other members of the community.



Traffic Unit

Sergeant Marshall McCoy- Unit Supervisor

The goal of the Traffic Unit is to reduce the number of crashes that occur within the city while striving to gain voluntary compliance of traffic laws by those utilizing public streets and thoroughfares within the city. Members of this unit are tasked with coordinating and working special events occurring within the city, supervising school crossing guards, overseeing the Defensive Driving Course, enforcing state and local traffic laws and coordinating all other traffic-related activities for the Police Department.

Collision Trends

Year	2018	2019	2020
Total Crashes	2290	2259	2189
Fatalities	2	0	2
Crashes w/Injuries	376	417	371



Bike Team Unit

Sergeant Clayton Bryant - Coordinator



The police department's Bike Team has been in place for over two decades. This team is currently comprised of 15 officers who deploy in this capacity on a part-time basis. LPD was attracted to this deployment technique based on the ease of movement that bicycles provide in addition to the value that this team adds from a community outreach perspective. In 2020, the Bike Unit rode upwards of 300 hours within the city. Team members made five arrests, issued 86 traffic contacts, generated 8 field interviews, and made over 460 community contacts.

Canine Unit

Sergeant Jeremy Butler - Unit Supervisor

Canine teams are currently assigned to the Patrol Division and are tasked with patrolling high crime areas, answering calls for service, assisting uniformed officers in apprehending fleeing offenders, and serving arrest warrants. These teams also assist with locating children, mentally ill, or disoriented individuals who have been reported missing. During 2020, former handler Josh Clower was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and transferred to the Training Section. During this move Corporal Michael Willoughby and Officer Josh Noles were both appointed as handlers in the canine unit and both recently completed the 480 handler training course in Alabama. Canine officers responded to 3,791 calls for service and conducted 49 tracks. There was one apprehension in the 2020 calendar year that resulted in a bite of the 182 arrests made for the year.



Year	2018	2019	2020
Calls for Service	3140	3386	3791
Traffic Contacts	538	357	329
Arrests	147	183	182
Demonstrations	12	20	8
Outside Agency Assists	38	31	36
Tracking	60	48	49
Building Searches	10	8	7
School Searches	26	13	3
Canine Training	1246	1215	693
Handler Training	823	621	1089
Injuries/Bites	5	1	1

Code Enforcement

Sergeant Marshall McCoy- Unit Supervisor

Annual Summary of Issued Notices of Violation			
Year	2018	2019	2020
Inoperable Vehicle	248	682	693
Litter	629	835	608
Property Maintenance	432	790	1099
Nuisance	39	30	79
Other Misc. Codes	1364	1621	1469
Total	2712	3958	3948
Court Cases	18	36	13

Code Enforcement Officers are responsible for identifying, investigating, and notifying citizens when they are in violation of city ordinances related to environmental issues, such as, overgrowth of grass and weeds, excessive litter, trash, refuse, abandoned and inoperable vehicles, nuisances, sewage, and general health standards. These efforts contribute to the improvement and maintenance of citizens' quality of life. Code Enforcement officers work to ensure cleaner neighborhoods, with the primary goal being to correct the violation and to gain on-going voluntary compliance from citizens in the orderly maintenance of their property.

Court Services/Warrant Unit

Sergeant Clayton Bryant - Unit Supervisor

The LaGrange Police Department is tasked with providing courtroom security for LaGrange Municipal Court during both civil and criminal arraignments and trials. The officers assigned to this unit provide courtroom security three times a week for criminal trials, once a month during civil hearings, and weekly for arraignments. Officers assigned to this unit transport prisoners to and from the local jail for Municipal Court proceedings. They made 92 out of town trips, served 217 Municipal Court subpoenas, and also served 82 truancy letters to parents throughout the city.



Animal Services Unit

Christopher Bussey - Supervisor

The LaGrange Animal Shelter, located at 1390 Orchard Hill Road, is designed to house domestic dogs and cats, and houses animals primarily from three sources: owner or citizen turn-ins, LaGrange Animal Service officers' seizure and apprehension efforts, as well as those in the unincorporated areas of Troup County as conducted by the local Marshal's Office and the Animal Control Officer in Hogansville. The Shelter is operated daily by the LaGrange Animal Services Unit which is comprised of a supervisor and three animal services officers. These officers work in concert with the local Humane Society, which is also housed at the shelter facility. They address shared concerns of ensuring a healthy and safe environment for the animals and to increase adoptions. Employees work to cultivate a mutually beneficial relationship with the shelter and the Atlanta Humane Society, Puppy Pipe Line, and Paws Humane of Columbus, Ga. In addition to operating the Shelter, Animal Services Officers patrol the city in search of stray and potentially dangerous animals running at large and respond to citizen complaints. LaGrange Animal Services recently achieved 'no kill' shelter status for 2020. The city must have a 90% save rate to be considered a no-kill shelter. In 2020, the City of LaGrange Animal Services achieved a 91% save rate.

Training Section

Sergeant Josh Clower - Section Supervisor

The Training Section schedules and conducts initial and on-going training for all of the department's personnel and hosts regional agencies wishing to utilize the department's facilities. While Georgia Police Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Council requires that certified officers receive 20 hours of training annually, the department has an annual goal for each sworn officer to receive a minimum of 80 hours of training. Employees received a total of 16,067 training hours in calendar year 2020, which includes Georgia P.O.S.T. approved training and agency required training.

Several members of the department received or renewed specialized instructor certifications. All of these specialized instructor certification courses and basic certification courses ensure the department's ability to provide officers with additional beneficial training at a reduced cost as this training can continue to be held in-house as opposed to an off-site training facility. Of note, Lieutenant Lohr completed his re-certification training as a Bola Wrap Instructor and Senior Officer Davison completed his initial training as a Bola Wrap Instructor.

Additionally, Sergeant Clower assumed responsibility as the Training Coordinator for the department. Lieutenant Lohr, who served as the Training Coordinator for 11 years, assumed responsibility as the Operational Lieutenant for the Patrol Division. We would like to thank Lieutenant Lohr for all of the advancements to the Training Section that he brought to the agency to include but not limited to Civilian Response to active Shooter Events, Procedural Justice and Constitutional Policing, Fostering Community Relations, Bola Wrap Training, Multiple Officer Control Tactics, Mental Health training for Officer and their families. Additionally, Lieutenant Lohr was instrumental in getting the agency 100% certified in Crisis Intervention Training and in compliance with the IACP's One Mind Campaign.

Training hosted one Citizen's Police Academy for the purpose of familiarizing our citizens with our police services. It is an opportunity for the citizens to see how our officers are trained, demonstrating our vision of being a community-orientated police department.



The Field Training Program provides recruit officers with on-the-job instruction from experienced and qualified Field Training Officers. In 2020, 13 recruit officers participated in the FTO program for a total of 5,989 training hours.



On September 14th Hollie Winner presented Officer Horne with the 2020 Red Cross Humanitarian Award for the recognition of his work in the community and SRO work at Gardner Newman Middle School.



School Resource Officer/L.E.A.D

Lieutenant Eric Lohr - Section Supervisor

Specially trained officers deliver educational courses through the L.E.A.D. Program (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) in elementary schools, while other officers serve as School Resource Officers (SROs) at the two city-based high schools, HOPE Academy, and the middle school. Officers serving in these capacities are recognized as role models by their respective students and they serve as mentors to many. Annually, these officers attend the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) Conference to remain proficient in their school-based duties.

At the start of the 2020 school year Officer Erik Vaughn took over the L.E.A.D. program. The program has continued to use the Mendez Foundation's Too Good for Drugs and Too Good for Violence programs. During the summer, these officers hosted the department's Youth Police Academy, a week-long mentoring program that focused on drug awareness, hands-on law enforcement applications, fire safety tips, bullying, and community policing. This event provides a positive impact on youth as officers develop and maintain partnerships that support community policing. During 2020, we were not able to conduct L.E.A.D. classes, or host the Youth Camp, due to Covid19 restrictions but spent a significant amount of time working with the school system on safety, to include, routine site visits to ensure compliance with the Active Threat Protocol, as well as several lock down drills.



Criminal Investigations Section

Lieutenant Dale Strickland - Division Commander

The Criminal Investigations Section (CIS) conducts follow-up investigations involving felony and serious misdemeanor crimes. Members also process crime scenes, conduct surveillance, and prepare investigative case files for prosecution of criminal offenders. The Criminal Investigations Section has four state certified Crime Scene Technicians. Detectives within this section are assigned to units based on specialized training to conduct thorough investigations within their respective fields.

The Polygraph Unit assists in multiple investigations, both for members of the LaGrange Police Department and for surrounding agencies. In 2020, a total of 191 polygraphs were conducted. Polygraph examinations are utilized for criminal, background, internal investigations, and as a part of pre-employment applicant assessments.

CIS represents the LaGrange Police Department on the Troup County Children and Family Advocacy Council's Child Death Review Committee and monthly Child Abuse Team Case Reviews; Troup County Crime Stoppers Board of Directors; and the Juvenile Court Stakeholders Association. They are also a cooperative member of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) which was created by the Department of Justice to help state and local law enforcement agencies enhance their investigative response to offenders on the Internet that seek to sexually exploit children or otherwise contact them for indecent purposes. A key component is education of young people on how to be safe in a digital environment.

CIS deploys resources to address crime trends based on information provided by the Crime Analyst. The Crime Analyst reviews crime reports, arrest reports, field interviews, and police calls for service to identify emerging patterns and trends. The analyst looks for all relevant factors in reports and issues bulletins, statistical information, and alerts to department personnel attempting to prevent future occurrences. The analyst also prepares statistics, data queries, charts and maps on demand to assist others in their crime prevention efforts.

Part I Crimes

Offense	1997	2017	2018	2019	2020
Murder	7	1	5	4	7
Rape	9	4	4	5	5
Robbery	74	61	41	33	39
Aggravated Assault	89	54	88	107	79
Burglary	387	270	162	179	178
Larceny	1656	1260	1263	1331	1464
Vehicle	114	77	70	112	125

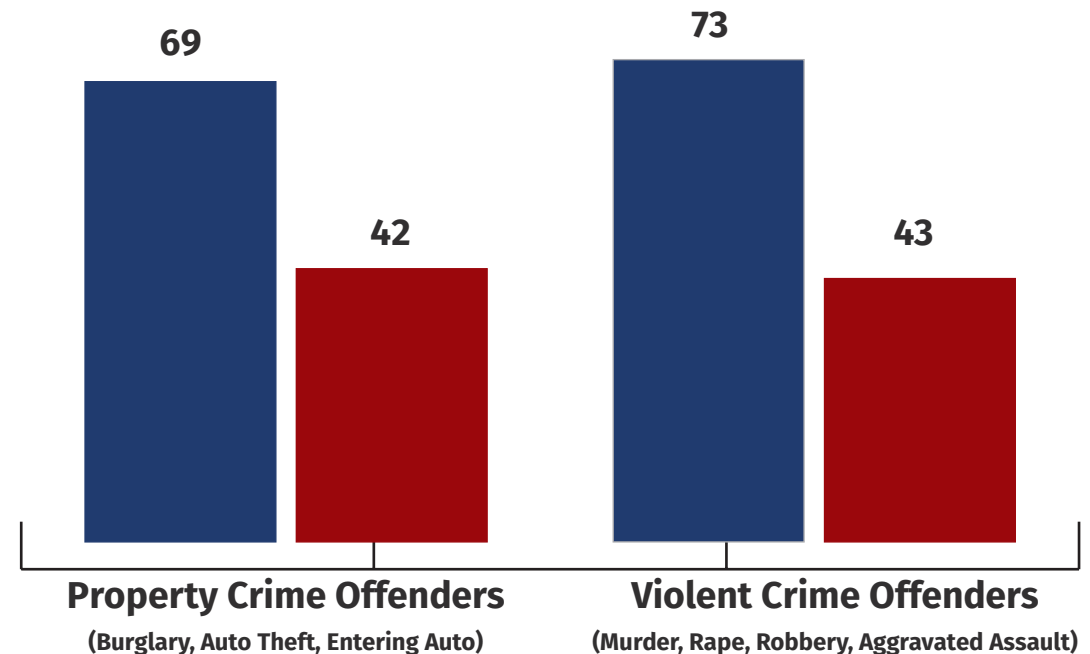
2020 Part I Crimes

Offense	Reported	Cleared	LPD Clearance	National Clearance
Murder	7	5	71%	62%
Rape	5	3	60%	35%
Robbery	39	25	64%	30%
Aggravated Assault	79	47	60%	53%
Burglary	178	36	20%	14%
Larceny	1464	493	34%	19%
Vehicle	125	34	27%	14%

Community Impact of Recidivism



The chart on the right represents the number of offenders who committed Property Crime or Violent Crime offenses while on parole, probation, or bond. 61% of the Property Crime Offenders were on Parole, probation or bond when they committed the offense. 59% of the Violent Crime Offenders were on parole, probation, or bond, when they committed the offense.



Special Victims Unit

Sergeant Robert Kirby - Unit Supervisor

The Special Victims Unit maintains an active relationship with the State Court Solicitor's Office in an attempt to ensure the proper handling of all domestic violence prosecutions. In 2019, the Unit also participated in the quarterly Family Violence Task Force meetings, which consists of representatives from various agencies, including law enforcement, Solicitor's Office, State Court Judge's Office, and Advocacy Groups. Participants discuss case law updates and their application to law enforcement and court proceedings. These meetings are also used to identify new resources to assist victims of domestic violence. The Special Victims Unit works with Adult Protective Services on investigations involving allegations of at-risk adult abuse and also with the Office of Child Protection on every investigation involving alleged child abuse or neglect.

Year	2018	2019	2020
Domestic Violence	293	439	356
Elder Abuse	72	70	37
Child Abuse	299	312	190

Special Investigations

Sergeant Christopher Pritchett - Unit Supervisor

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) concentrates its efforts on illegal and controlled substances, vice, and alcohol violations. Property and Evidence Control, Buildings and Grounds and the Gang Squad are also coordinated through this unit. The majority of investigations handled within this unit are self-initiated while utilizing a wide range of covert and overt techniques in order to identify and gather evidence to support arrests and prosecutions.

Techniques for conducting such investigations commonly include the use of confidential informants, use of surveillance operations, covert video and audio recordings, buy-bust operations, use of undercover police officers, and execution of search warrants. During 2020, the Special Investigations Unit served 28 search warrants, initiated 33 alcohol investigations and seized over \$471,000 in illegal drugs, property and cash.

Gang Squad

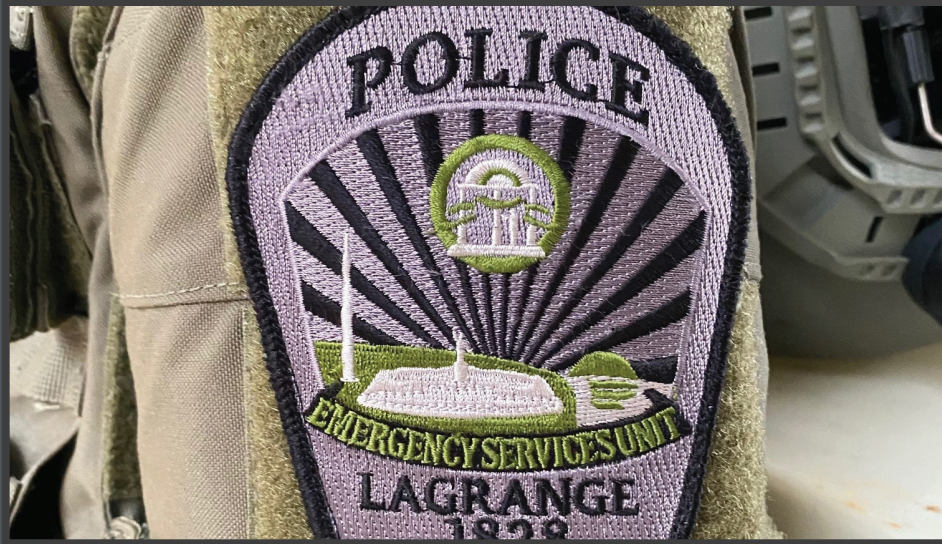
The Gang Squad is responsible for collecting intelligence, providing training to community members and police officers, and works collaboratively with officers in investigating and prosecuting gang cases. During 2020, the Gang Squad referred two criminal street gang cases to alternative dispositions, other than criminal prosecution. These referrals are to programs, that strive to break the cycle of gang involvement by offering job training skills, High School equivalency classes and college classes. The Gang Squad has also partnered with the Boys and Girls Club of West Georgia to develop and implement programs throughout the community aimed at gang prevention.

Year	2018	2019	2020
Gang Related Shootings	7	4	2
Violent Crimes	10	8	7
Property Crimes	4	4	2
VGCSA	20	8	4
Weapons Charges	4	13	5
Other	13	5	5
Total	58	42	25
Gun Shots	303	286	455
People Shot	13	26	32
Guns Recovered	107	146	144



Emergency Services Unit

Lieutenant Dale Strickland - Coordinator



The Emergency Services Unit was formed to address special high risk situations within LaGrange to include, Hostage Incidents, Barricaded Suspects, Suicidal Suspects, Woodland Searches, Civil Disorder/High Risk Demonstrations, Dignitary Protection, and High Risk Search/Arrest Warrant Service. The Unit consists of two specialized working teams. The Crisis Negotiation Team is comprised of five trained Crisis Negotiators and the Tactical Team, which contains the specialized positions of Team Commander, Tactical Leader, Element Leaders, Marksman, and Medics. In 2020, ESU was deployed two times. The deployments were for planned demonstrations held in the downtown area of LaGrange protesting police brutality and racism during May and June. Both protests were conducted peacefully and required no enforcement action. Tactical members completed over 150 hours of tactical training during 2020 as a unit and provided training to all members of the police department on responding to active assaults at outdoor entertainment venues.

Records Section

Captain Andree Robinson - Division Commander



The Records Section is the official recipient for any requests made of the LaGrange Police under the Georgia Open Records Act, and the Support Division Commander is the official Records Officer. There were 277 substantial Open Records Requests in 2020 processed by the Records Section, as well as 415 requests from various court systems for videos and photographs for criminal prosecution. The Records Section also processed 361 Alcohol Beverage permits and 657 accident reports in 2020 and 1,834 criminal history requests for employment.



Community Service

The intent of the Community Service program is to provide general services in the form of labor or skill to local, State, County, and Municipal government agencies, and non-profit organizations within the City of LaGrange. During 2020 there were 1,261 participants for a total of 7,560 hours and a cost savings of \$54,804.

2020 Annual Report

LaGrange Police Department

A community oriented police department committed to serving our citizens