



2025

Annual Report

Board of Mayor and Aldermen



The City of Kingsport's government is based upon the Council-Manager form of government. This form of government was established in 1917 when the city was re-incorporated into what is now known as the modern city of Kingsport.

The city is governed by a seven-member Board of Mayor and Aldermen, elected at-large and on a non-partisan basis for four-year staggered terms. The exception to this rule is that the Mayor is elected at-large for a two-year term. Elections are held in August during even numbered years. The new Board of Mayor and Aldermen is seated in September of each election year.

The current Board of Mayor and Aldermen is comprised of the following individuals: Mayor Paul W. Montgomery, Vice Mayor Darrell Duncan, Alderman Colette George, Alderman Betsy Cooper, Alderman James Phillips, Alderman Morris Baker and Alderman Gary Mayes.

To contact the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, please call 423-229-9412.



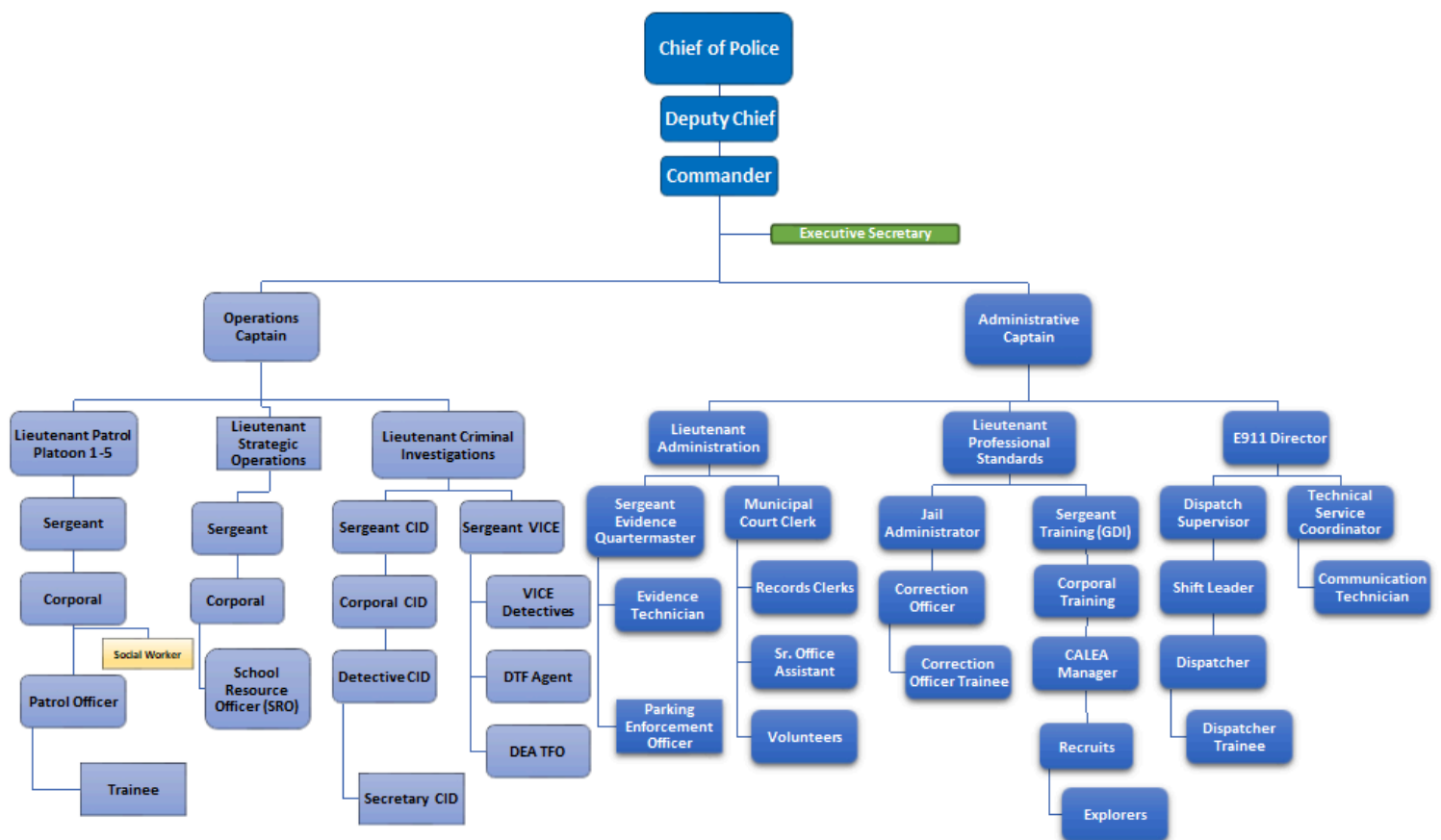
Disclaimer

The Kingsport Police Department is committed to reporting and disseminating accurate and timely data. This report presents a snapshot of that data for the calendar year 2025. Year-to-year variations in totals can be attributed to several factors, including evolving reporting practices and fluctuations in the availability of personnel for proactive engagement. Additionally, the types of calls for service the police department responds to are regularly reviewed to improve service for our citizens.





Kingsport Police Department 2025 Organizational Chart





HISTORY

In 1822 the town of Christianville and the town of Rossville combined to form the incorporated town of Kingsport. The second oldest town in Sullivan County, Kingsport was considered the largest and most influential city in the county. Almost 100 years elapsed before Kingsport officially became a city in March 1917. Until that time, all law enforcement was performed by constables and the Sheriff of Sullivan County.

Upon being notified that the city had been chartered, the new governing body appointed George Barger as Chief of Police and three additional officers, W.P. Flora, A.R. Hagy, and Sam Barger, to serve and protect the City of Kingsport. Sullivan County Deputies W.W. Leedy and S.P. Devault were also still assigned to patrol the city.

The City of Kingsport has had 16 Police Chiefs since its charter, with the current being Chief Jason Bellamy. Chief Bellamy heads the department of 126 sworn officers, when fully staffed, who are supplemented by additional non-sworn professional staff members, for a total of approximately 180 employees.

These officers patrol a city that is roughly 50 square miles in size and encompasses land in both Sullivan and Hawkins counties. The city has a population of approximately 57,000 and has over 500 miles of roadway, including approximately 25 miles of interstate highways.

The Kingsport Police Department also operates the city's 911 Communications Center. K.P.D. is unique in that it is one of the few remaining municipal police departments in the state that operate an in-house city jail.

The Kingsport Police Department moved into the current Justice Center in 1989. Shortly after this move, the department was able to achieve a significant goal by obtaining national accreditation. K.P.D. was the first law enforcement agency in the East Tennessee region, as well as being only the third agency in the entire State of Tennessee, to achieve this honor.



From Your Chief



On behalf of the dedicated men and women who comprise the Kingsport Police Department, I am honored to present our 2025 Annual Report. This report serves as a comprehensive overview of the department and also represents the diligence, perseverance, and passion that our employees demonstrate while maintaining a safe and welcoming community for the residents and visitors of the Model City.

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as the 16th Chief of Police for the city of Kingsport. This century old department is rich in tradition and home to some of the finest professionals that law enforcement has to offer. We offer a high quality array of professional police services and our staff is committed to making Kingsport the best place to live, work, play, and raise a family.

Throughout 2025, our department continued to meet the daily needs of our citizens while looking for opportunities to increase efficiency and effectiveness. We regularly analyze our current data and compare it to past data to ensure the efficacy of our methodologies. We also review and compare local, regional, and national data to ensure we are exceeding standards and maintaining a progressive approach. We believe that being informed and willing to change, when necessary, are critical elements in providing our citizens the level of police service that they deserve. We strive to educate and equip our officers with the skills and characteristics they need to engage our citizens in a way that constantly reflects the overall values of the Kingsport Police Department and the City of Kingsport.

As with many other years, 2025 brought its own challenges including recruitment and retention, population growth, substantial commercial and residential build outs, and many of the same societal issues that are observed throughout the country. We continue to utilize both traditional and contemporary policing strategies to meet community needs. Additionally, we frequently partner with local, state and federal agencies to address specific trouble areas and crime trends. Through these efforts we were able to see reductions over the previous year in several major crime categories. Burglaries decreased by 25.6%, Motor Vehicle Thefts were down by 29.2%, Larcenies were reduced by 22.8%, and Counterfeiting/Forgery cases were down by approximately 28.6%. Of equal importance, ongoing efforts on vehicle and pedestrian safety resulted in zero reported fatalities in the 2025 calendar year. These positive changes are also attributable to city staff, Board of Mayor and Alderman, and the department working diligently to bring staffing shortfalls back into a manageable range.

In conclusion, the loyalty, determination, and hard work of the men and women who comprise the Kingsport Police Department has been noteworthy. Their diligence in providing an exceptional police service to engaged citizens and community stakeholders, along with our local, state, and federal law enforcement partners, has continued to produce results that are confirmed through data collection and review. It is truly an honor to serve alongside such dedicated professionals who have committed their lives to the service and betterment of this great city. Furthermore, I want to express my appreciation for the city staff, members of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, and to our wonderful citizens. Our success would not be possible without their ongoing support.

Sincerely,
Jason Bellamy, Chief of Police

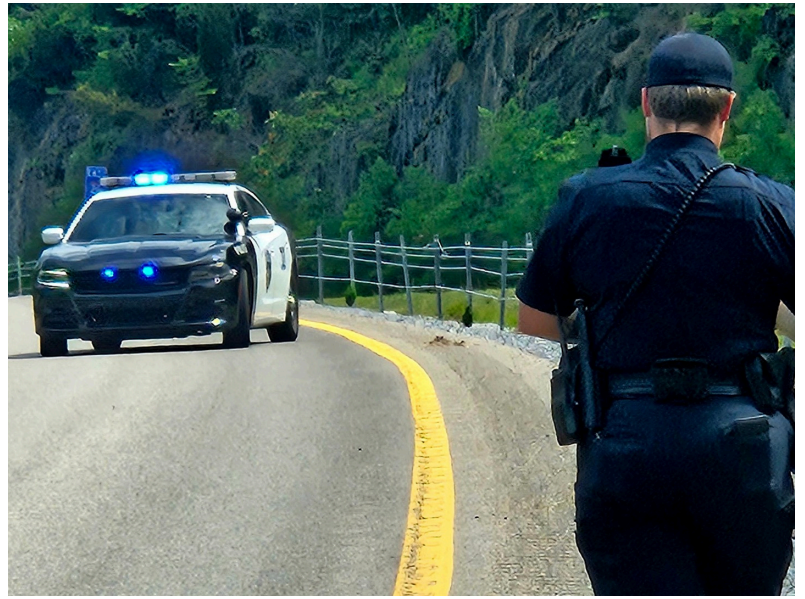
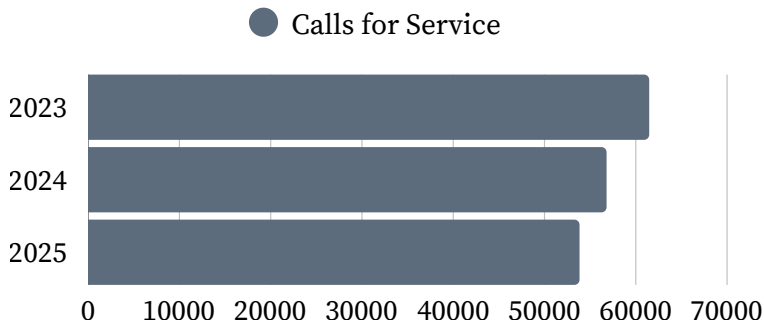
A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Jason Bellamy".

OPERATIONS

Patrol

The Patrol Division is the backbone of the police department. It has five platoons: 4 work rotating 12-hour shifts, and one platoon works 8-hour shifts. The 8-hour platoon focuses on traffic enforcement and helps the on-duty platoons during busy times. Together, these five platoons respond to citizen complaints, handle service calls, conduct investigations, and enforce traffic laws. In addition, specialized units also support the Patrol Division.

In 2025, the Kingsport Police Department responded to 53,837 calls for service, down from 56,800 in 2024. These calls and investigations led to 4,834 adults and juveniles being arrested or issued misdemeanor citations in lieu of being physically arrested.



In 2025, the Kingsport Police Department reported a decline in incidents across several major categories compared to the previous year.

- Reported Burglaries decreased by 25.6%
- Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts decreased by 29.2%
- Reported Vandalism decreased by 3%
- Reported Larceny decreased by 22.8%
- Reported Tresspassings decreased by 14.4%



OPERATIONS

Criminal Investigations



The Criminal Investigation Division (CID) investigates serious crimes, including both property and personal offenses. Each Detective usually handles a specific type of crime, whether it be persons, property, or cybercrime. The department also has 2 detectives who are assigned to handle internet crimes against children.

In 2025, detectives investigated 2,602 cases and cleared 81 percent of them. Detectives also manage the registration and compliance of individuals on the Tennessee Sex Offender Registry.



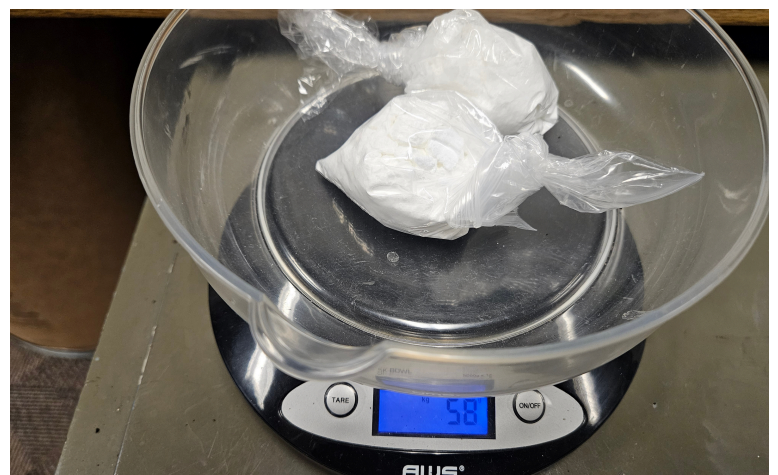
OPERATIONS

Vice/Narcotics



The Vice unit investigates crimes such as narcotics fraud, illegal drug sales, prostitution, and underage alcohol sales. The Vice unit collaborates with several local, state, and federal agencies, as many investigations are not contained to just the city of Kingsport.

In 2025, the unit seized illegal drugs from our area valued at approximately \$1,400,000. They made 176 arrests, served 13 search warrants, seized \$55,547 in currency, and assisted other agencies 166 times. They also seized two vehicles valued at \$25,000.



OPERATIONS

Traffic



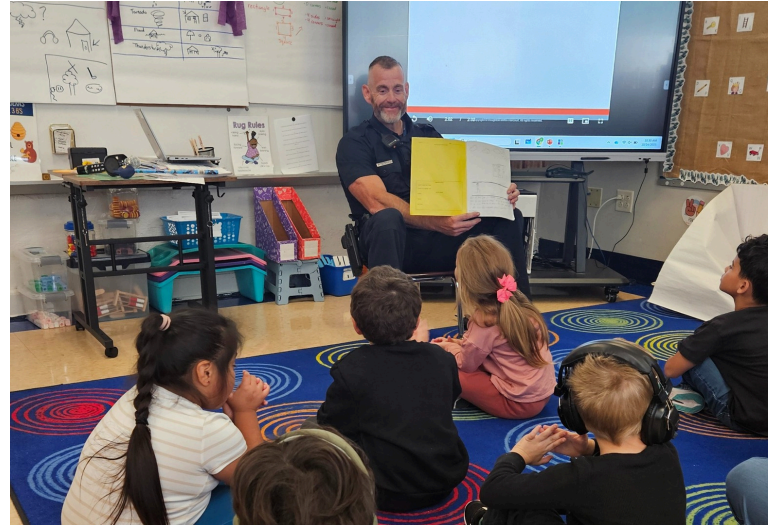
In 2025, the Kingsport Police Department responded to 2125 collisions. This number is virtually identical to the number of collisions during 2024.

The Kingsport Police Department works to reduce traffic collisions by actively enforcing traffic laws. In 2025, officers issued 11,381 citations for both local and state violations. There were no fatal crashes reported, and officers made 217 arrests for driving under the influence.



OPERATIONS

School Resource Officers



The Kingsport Police Department employs 12 full-time officers, 2 retired officers serving in limited-service roles, and 3 supervisors dedicated to school safety. These officers work closely with the school administration and faculty. Together, they create a secure environment for all students.

School Resource Officers (SROs) provide security during school hours and also participate in after-hours events at each school. In 2025, KPD SROs worked 985.5 overtime hours covering extracurricular events. In 2025, SROs documented 1046 reports. Their investigations led to 96 arrests.



OPERATIONS

Special Events



Kingsport Police Officers provide public safety at many major events in Kingsport each year. These include Fun Fest, Red White & Boom, parades, and road races. Each event requires careful planning and significant hours of dedication from the department to ensure everyone's safety.



In 2025, Kingsport Police Officers worked 1,850 hours during Fun Fest week alone. They also provided security at 16 other city-sponsored events during the year. In addition, officers worked 22 third-party events, totaling 2,651 hours for those assignments.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Kingsport Police Department strives to maintain an excellent relationship with the citizens of the city we serve. Throughout the year, members of the department attend various community events in order to foster these relationships. A few of the events that KPD officers attended in 2025 were Public Safety Day, National Night Out, Touch-A-Truck, Trunk or Treat, and Christmas at the Carousel.





SPECIALIZED TEAMS

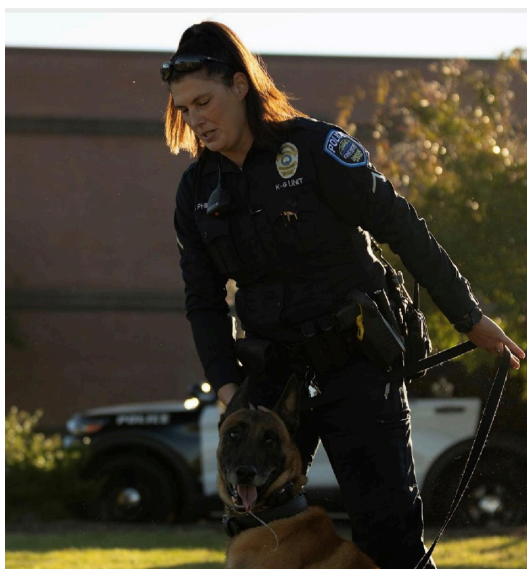
K-9

Trained police canines are a valuable law enforcement tool, primarily for their deterrent effect. Canines may only be used to assist in apprehension or arrests when legally justified. Handlers must always consider the appropriate amount of force and all relevant circumstances. Each patrol shift is assigned a dual-purpose canine, trained for patrol tasks like tracking, building searches, apprehensions, and evidence recovery. They also perform scent work, such as detecting narcotics and explosives.

The Kingsport Police Department has used K-9s since 1968 and has the second-oldest continuous K-9 force in Tennessee, after Memphis. KPD primarily uses the Malinois breed, typically imported from Holland, chosen for their longer service lives, fewer health problems, and high energy. Malinois usually serve until age 11.



Dogs and handlers are thoroughly screened before training. Basic canine training takes 16 weeks. Each dog-handler team then completes a 2- to 8-week course together, depending on the handler's experience. KPD canines are not assigned ranks. Current K-9 teams are: Officer Travis Bates with Jimi; Officer Billy Boyd with Mavrik; Officer Peyton Estep with Ghost; Officer Carrie Phillips with Havoc; and Officer Caleb Jeffers with Rokko.



On July 28th, 2025, KPD said goodbye to K9 Whiskee after a brief illness. K9 Whiskee was deployed a total of 72 times, was responsible for 13 narcotics seizures, and located 4 persons while on patrol. He also had 5 arrests. Whiskee will be missed.

SPECIALIZED TEAMS

SWAT



The Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T.) team consists of 14 specially trained officers. The team is also supported by two expert hostage negotiators who are available around the clock and serve as a valuable resource during critical incidents.

The S.W.A.T. team is utilized during high-risk situations such as serving search warrants, conducting hostage rescues, serving arrest warrants, and resolving incidents involving barricaded subjects. In 2025, the team was activated 8 times. 3 of these were for search warrant service, 3 were for barricaded suspects, and 2 were for arrest warrant service.



SPECIALIZED TEAMS

Bomb Squad



The police department's bomb squad is a 5-person team responsible for investigating, rendering safe or safely removing, transporting, and storing suspicious/suspected devices. They conduct bomb scene investigations, collect and preserve evidence, and provide technical support for special operations. During 2025, they were called to remove unexploded devices on two occasions. The team is always available during large city events like FunFest or Red, White, and Boom. As one of only five teams east of Knoxville, they are called to assist local, state, and federal agencies at large-scale events such as NASCAR races and the MLB Speedway Classic. Members of the team train monthly and completed 945 hours of training in 2025. They also participated in the two citizens academies, teaching a class in each.

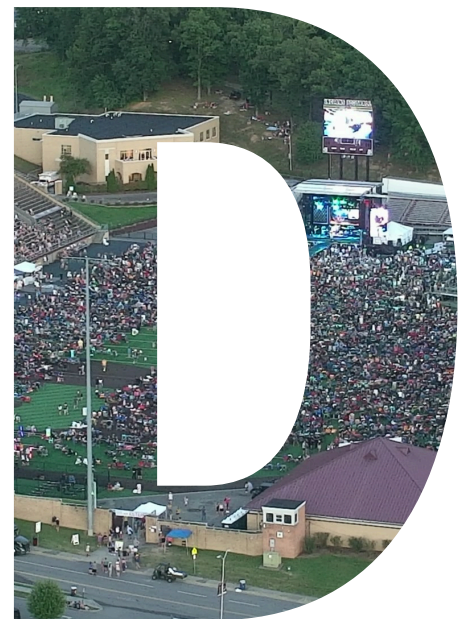


SPECIALIZED TEAMS

Drone Team



The department's Drone Team is used for large-scale events, criminal investigations, crash scene photography, and locating both missing and wanted persons. In 2025, the drone was deployed several times, including 16 flights during FunFest. The drone is used to assist with officer deployment should issues arise during concert events. During the Red, White, and Boom event, KPD partnered with KFD to jointly deploy their drone teams to enhance event presence. The drone was also used to search for three missing persons and one fleeing suspect.



ADMINISTRATION

Professional Standards

The Professional Standards unit of the Kingsport Police Department is dedicated to upholding the agency's commitment to professionalism. This unit is responsible for a range of important functions, including conducting internal affairs investigations, managing officer training, handling public relations and recruitment, and ensuring accreditation standards are met.

Complaints that are filed with the department are investigated by the Internal Affairs unit. The Professional Standards Lieutenant or the Training Sergeant performs these investigations unless directed otherwise. In 2025, thirteen incidents were investigated. Of those thirteen, two were exonerated, one substantiated, one partially substantiated, one policy failure, and eight were unfounded or unsubstantiated.

Training is also a key component of the Professional Standards unit. During 2025, 12 new officers graduated from the department's field training program. In addition, nine in-services were conducted. In total, officers completed 22,533 hours of training. Also in 2025, the training unit conducted two citizen academies, with 28 students attending bi-weekly training for 6 weeks.

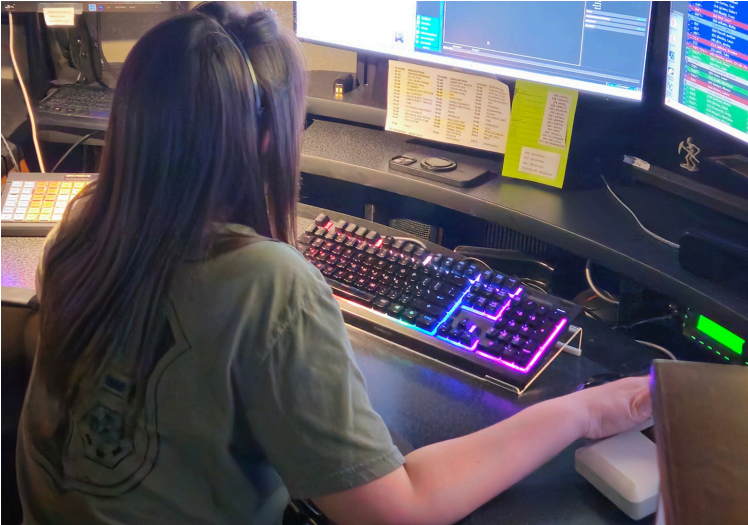
Since 1992, the Kingsport Police Department has maintained accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (C.A.L.E.A.). This nationally recognized commission requires KPD to maintain the highest standards. In March of 2025, the police department was once again awarded certification of advanced accreditation.

The Public Information Officers (P.I.O.s) serve as the primary representatives of the police department. They communicate key information to the media and the community through press releases, social media channels such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and blog posts on the department's website. Additionally, they play a major role in recruitment efforts. In 2025, P.I.O.s participated in 15 community events, held four recruiting events, and were responsible for 83 press releases. The Kingsport Police Department had over 3,000,000 views across all its social media platforms in 2025.



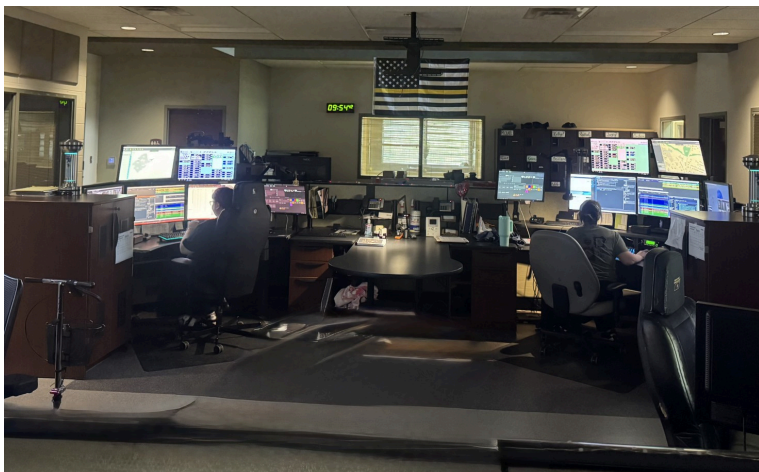
ADMINISTRATION

Dispatch



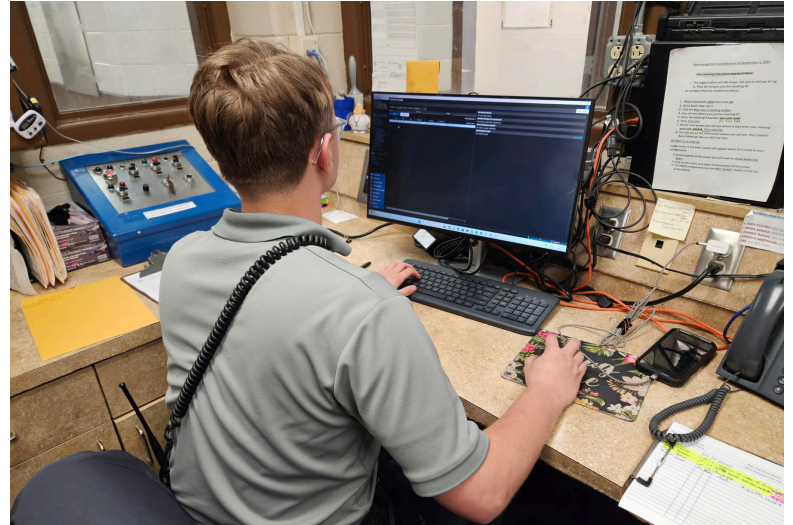
Central Dispatch is often the first point of contact that citizens have when first responder assistance is needed. Central Dispatch also provides a point of contact for other emergency services, including the fire department and EMS.

Dispatchers handle numerous calls from citizens throughout their shift. In 2025, Kingsport Central Dispatch received 202,322 calls. This averages out to 554 calls per day; of these calls, 62,721 were 911 calls. While not all calls require a Computer-Aided Dispatch (C.A.D.) entry, dispatchers averaged 230 C.A.D. entries a day.



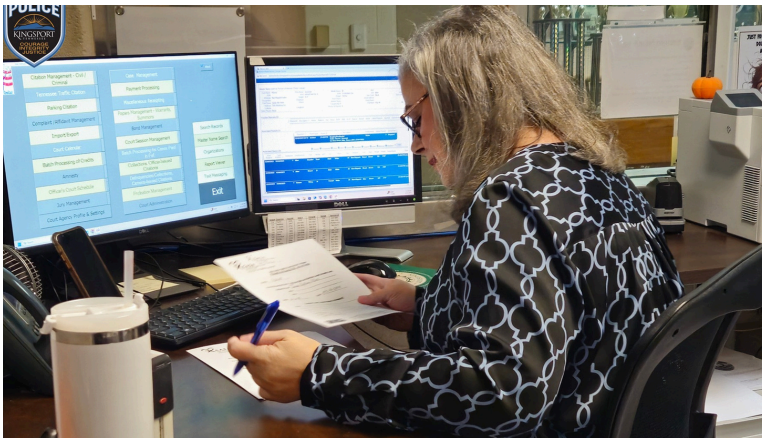
ADMINISTRATION

Jail



The Kingsport City Jail is comprised of 8 full-time jailers; two jailers are assigned to work alongside each of the four 12-hour patrol platoons. The Kingsport City Jail is a 72-hour holding facility; each jailer is responsible for conducting fingerprinting, booking in any individual who has been arrested, maintaining TCI guidelines, and ensuring the safety and security of all individuals in custody. The Kingsport City Jail has maintained a TCI certification through 2025. The Jail completed the booking of 2,294, of whom 1,592 were male and 702 were female.





ADMINISTRATION Records/Evidence/Parking



The Administrative Division of the police department encompasses records, city court, parking enforcement, and evidence.

The Records Division serves as the central repository for nearly all police department records and is often the first point of contact for citizens at the Justice Center. Records has 4 full-time clerks and 1 administrative assistant who maintain records, help with public information requests, process fine payments, and assist citizens in person. The City Court Clerk operates city court, coordinates court records, handles financial deposits, and communicates with state agencies to ensure citations are properly documented.

Proper documentation of both criminal and non- criminal matters is of utmost importance. A supervisor checks each report submitted by an officer for errors, and either approves it or sends it back for correction. The state of Tennessee requires certain reports to be uploaded to its database. The State of Tennessee rechecks the uploaded data to ensure proper reporting.

In 2025, officers issued 234 parking citations. Of that number, 22 were for illegal parking in a handicapped space.

The Evidence Division manages the intake, storage, and disposition of all items collected by officers. While many items are stored as evidence for ongoing investigations or court cases. The division also oversees found property and items kept for safekeeping until owners are identified. Officers may also collect property reported as found by the public. In 2025, the division processed 5,005 items into the evidence system. Additionally, the Evidence Division handles the secure storage and proper disposal of items collected from the department's drug drop box and during drug take-back events. Last year, the department destroyed 6,833 pounds of evidence, unclaimed property, and surrendered drugs.



Promotions



Chief Jason Bellamy



Deputy Chief Sean Chambers



Commander Chris Tincher



Captain Micah Johnston



Lt. Dustin Jackson



Lt. Ray Mailoux



Lt. Craig Dunworth



Sgt. Matt McGuire

Promotions cont.



Sgt. Breven Addington



Sgt. Brandon Johnson



Cpl. Ben Degreen



Cpl. Jesse Altman



Cpl. Brandon Arnold



Jail Administrator John Fry



Cpl. Bill Clare



Retirements



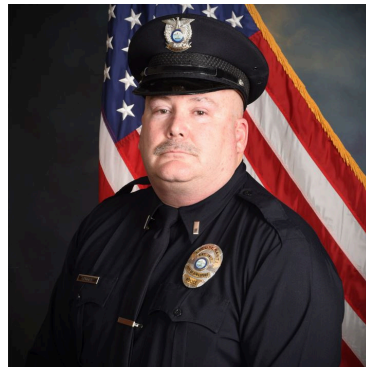
Chief Dale Phipps

Retired in June of 2025 after serving as Chief of Police for nearly 5 years. He served the citizens of Kingsport for 37 years.



Kevin Hite

Retired as Lieutenant over Dispatch. He leaves after 30 years of service.



Steve Summey

Retired as Lieutenant over 5th Platoon with 28 years of service.



Jill Clark

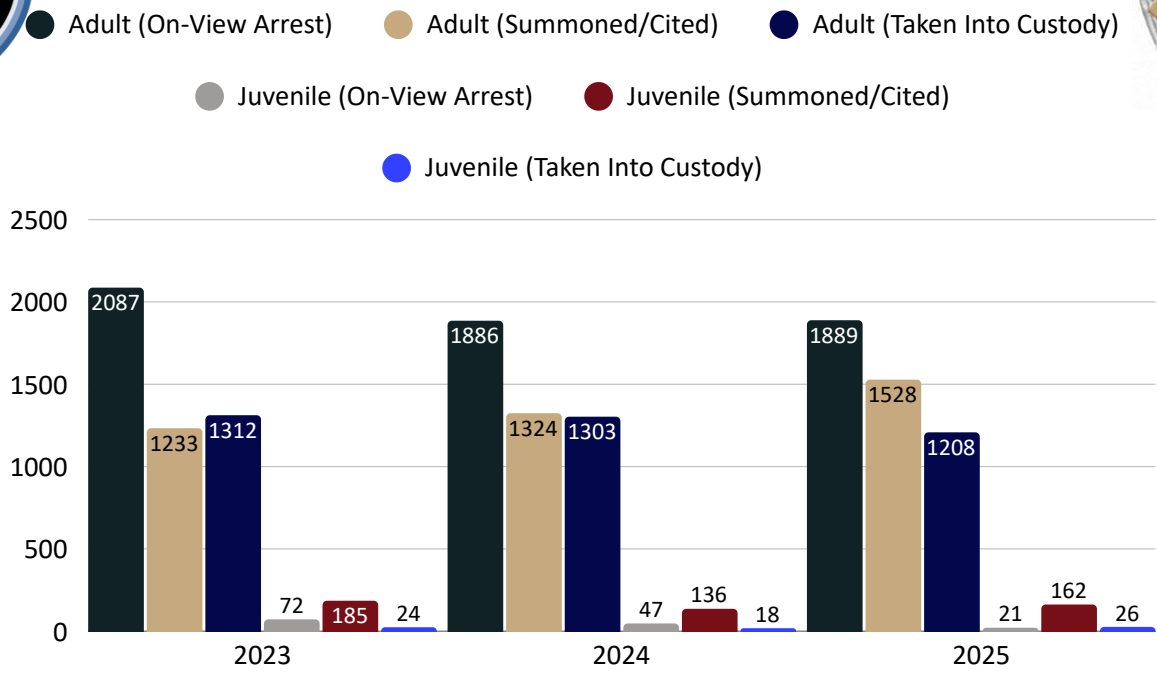
Retired as Jail Administrator. She retires after 29 years of service.



Kingsport Police Department Statistics



Arrests by Type



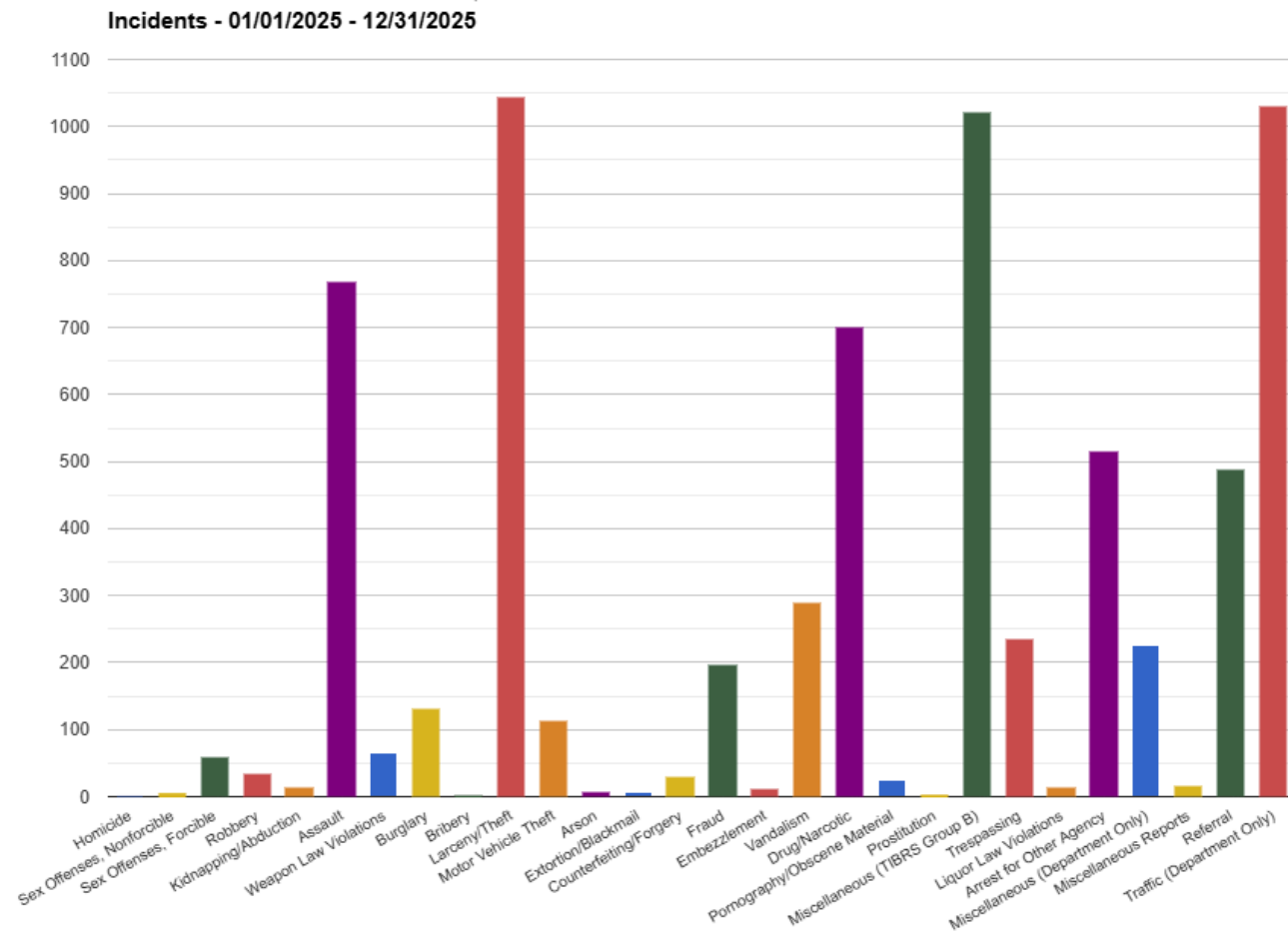
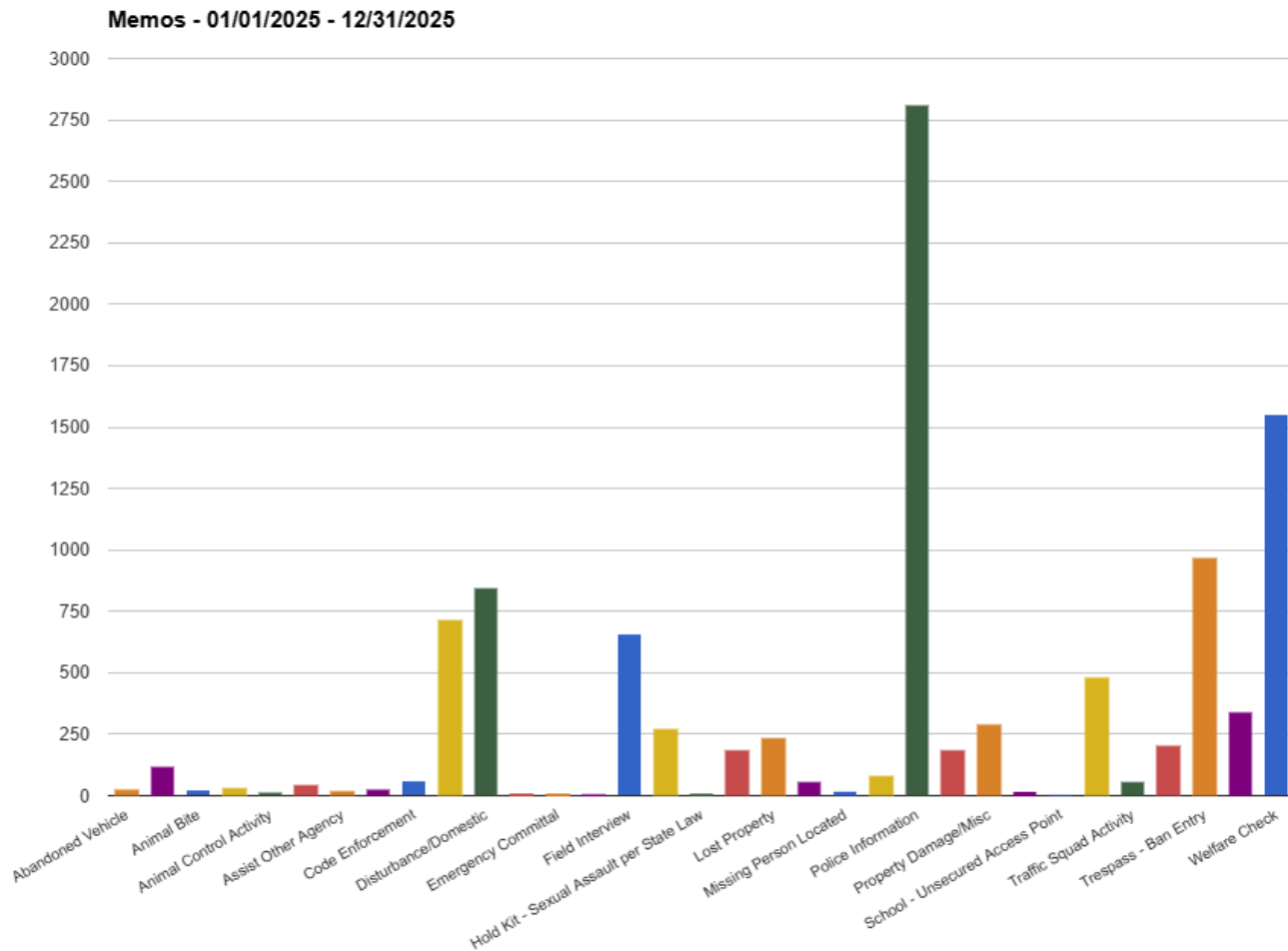
Traffic Collisions

<u>Crashes</u>	<u>Count</u>
Fatal	0
Injury (incapacitating)	44
Injury (non-incapacitating)	28
Injury possible	266
Property damage (over \$400)	1297
Property damage (under \$400)	490
Total	2125

<u>Tickets</u>	<u>Count</u>
Ordinance	157
Parking	234
Redflex	19168
Summons	6202
Tow	1510
Warning	3311
Total	30582

<u>Non-Investigatory Crashes</u>	<u>Count</u>
Injury possible	2
Property damage (over \$400)	15
Property damage (under \$400)	4
Total	21

Reports taken in 2025 by type





BUDGET

The Kingsport Police Department has an operating budget of \$14,655,100 for the fiscal year of 2024- 2025. These monies were divided among eight divisions.



	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
Police Administration	\$2,199,400	\$2,336,600	\$2,349,300
Jail Operations	\$588,800	\$577,600	\$579,000
Training	\$459,000	\$480,000	\$452,200
Criminal Investigations	\$1,841,400	\$1,991,800	\$1,913,200
Patrol	\$7,331,000	\$7,936,600	\$7,247,800
Central Dispatch	\$1,632,500	\$1,710,500	\$1,795,300
Communications	\$315,800	\$286,000	\$294,000
Traffic School	\$23,900	\$23,900	\$23,900
Totals	\$14,361,800	\$15,343,600	\$14,655,100

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING BUDGET ISSUES PLEASE REFER TO THE CITY'S BUDGETARY WEBSITE AT [HTTPS://WWW.KINGSPORTTN.GOV/GOVERNMENT/CITY-BUDGET](https://www.kingsporttn.gov/government/city-budget)

Contact Information



www.kingsportpolice.com



facebook.com/KingsportPoliceDepartment



[@kingsportpd](https://youtube.com/kingsportpd)



[@kingsportpd](https://instagram.com/kingsportpd)



Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency Dispatch: (423) 246-9111

Administrative Line: (423) 229-9300

Kingsport Police Department

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/Careers/Kingsport>



The City of Kingsport is an Equal Opportunity Employer



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