

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



BELTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
P R E V E N T I O N F O C U S E D

Policing remains a noble profession, but like any profession we must constantly strive for excellence. Rather than commenting on national events to a social media audience, an effective leader must engage those they have direct influence over to reinforce the culture and values of ethical policing. The Servant Guardians of Belton PD will intervene with their peers, challenge assumptions, avoid allowing silence to be viewed as consent, and hold each other to the high standards BPD is known for. This will be done with a foundation based in Servant Leadership and Procedural Justice.

-Chief Gene Ellis



OUR MISSION

The Belton Police Department is dedicated to providing excellent service through partnerships that build trust, reduce crime, create a safe environment, and enhance the quality of life in our community.

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FROM THE CHIEF

It is an honor to represent the dynamic team of professionals who make up the Belton Police Department. The 2022 Annual Report for the Belton Police Department is a snapshot of police activities during the most recent calendar year, and includes highlights of community outreach efforts, BPD staff and volunteers, crime statistics, and a racial profiling report.

The staff of BPD continues to maintain its commitment to keep Belton safe and protect the outstanding quality of life here. We see ourselves as servant guardians of this great community. Servant Leadership and Procedural Justice are the foundation of our prevention focused model of community policing. The BPD Team is challenged to be problem finders who help identify and prevent issues that could negatively impact the great quality of life we enjoy in Belton. We strongly believe we are successful when we have a strong community partnership built on trust, fairness, transparency, and communication.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to any member of the BPD team if you are ever in need any assistance. We are here to serve you. I appreciate the Belton City Council, City Manager Sam Listi, City staff, BPD staff, CHIPS volunteers, and all members of this great community for their efforts to help us maintain an outstanding quality of life in Belton. We are committed to excellence in police services. I look forward to seeing you in 2023 at one of our community events.

GENE ELLIS

CHIEF OF POLICE/ACM





CITY OF BELTON

This 2022 Annual Report reflects the hard work and dedication of the men and women of the Belton Police Department. The pictures, words and statistics contained in this report show the power of a compassionate and service-oriented approach to policing—an approach that intentionally supports the quality of life that Belton residents know and expect. Officers are trained to be proactive in their approach to police work and when possible to seek to prevent crime before it occurs. To be successful with such an effort requires a community-centered approach of building trust through relationships and showing professionalism at all times, including when on patrol, taking reports, assisting victims, and enforcing traffic laws.

BPD works to make Belton a city where residents, business owners, and visitors feel safe and secure. Many partnerships support this effort, but among the most critical are those with the elected officials on the Belton City Council and the City Manager's office. Public safety works best in a collaborative environment where stakeholders and the community are aligned together and look out for each another. Belton is fortunate to operate under such conditions.

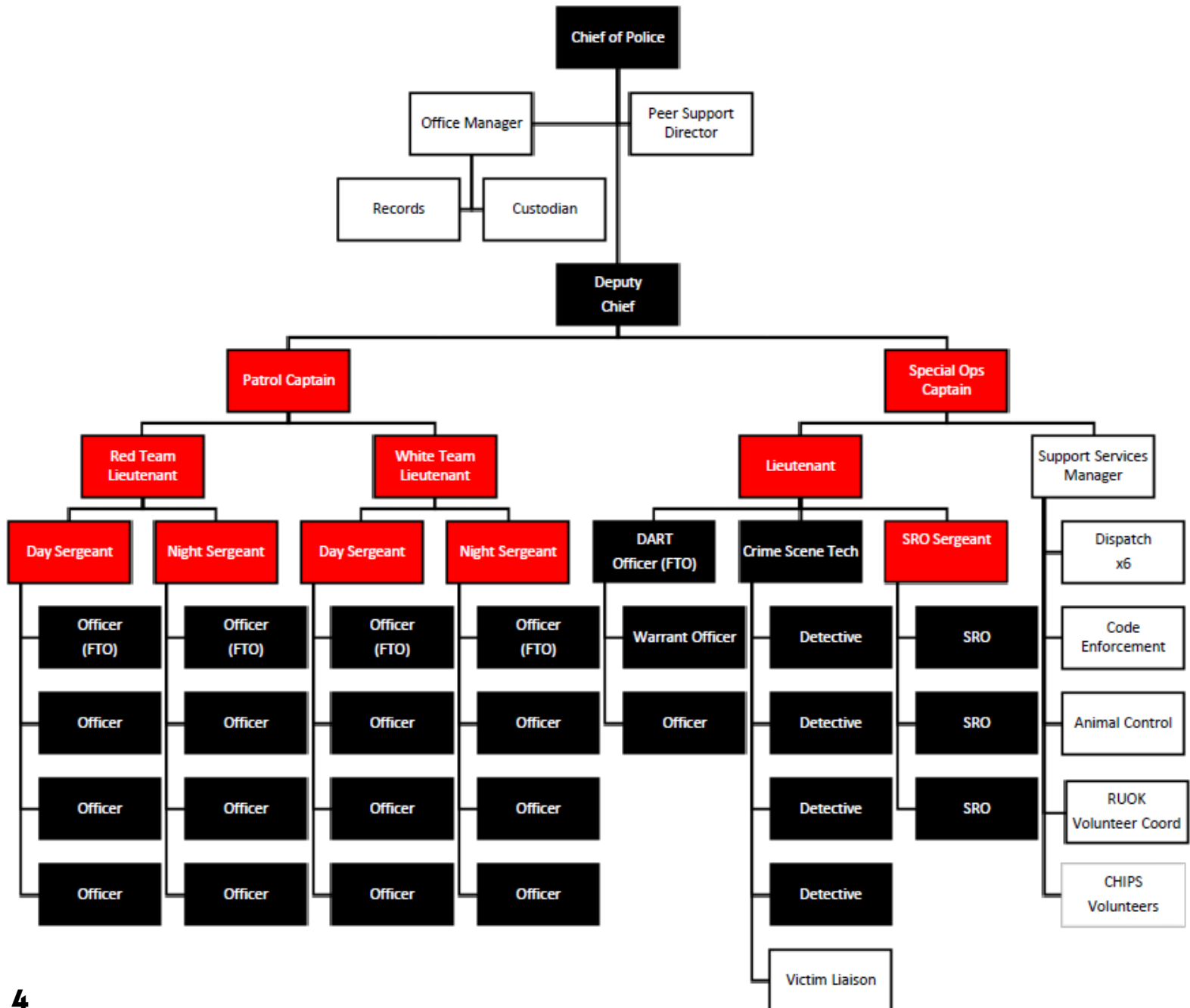
Please take time to consider the investment that was necessary to make these accomplishments possible. BPD expresses gratitude to those who have supported the Department over the past year. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you need assistance in any way.

SAM A. LISTI
CITY MANAGER





ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2023-2027

PROTECTING A GREAT QUALITY
OF LIFE FOR THOSE WE SERVE.

GUIDING PRINCIPALS

- Prevention Focused through proactive community policing.
- Dedicated to keeping the community and roadways safe.
- Maintains strong relationships with stakeholders, built on trust and transparency.
- Values all members of the team.
- Committed to creating an environment so our community can enjoy an excellent quality of life.

STRATEGIC PLAN

CULTIVATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT
FOR THE COMMUNITY TO THRIVE.

STRATEGIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Enhanced patrol of parks and trail system.
- Developed a traffic safety team.
- Expanded use of CHIPS program for vacation watch and park patrols.
- Implemented staff recruitment and retention strategies.
- Continued community outreach (RU OK?, NNO, CPA, Youth Camp, Coffee with a Cop).
- Developed electronic sector newsletters.
- Expanded E-Watch and Video Partnership programs.
- Focused on staff wellness and resiliency which included a police family orientation.
- Maintained accreditation status from Texas Best Practices Accreditation Program.
- Worked to enhance Belton's quality of life through a Prevention Focused model of community policing.



WE WILL REMAIN PREVENTION
FOCUSED TO KEEP BELTON SAFE.





PATROL OPERATIONS

Deputy Chief Larry Berg, a 26-year veteran of the Belton Police Department oversees two Captains. The Patrol Operations Division is under the command of Captain Daniel Aguirre. He is assisted by two Lieutenants and four Sergeants. Patrol Operations is the main function and workhorse of BPD. Patrol responds to calls for police service, conducts preventive patrol, enforces traffic laws, conducts preliminary investigations into criminal activity, arrests criminal offenders, and seeks proactive interactions with citizens and groups. Patrol is divided into two teams, Red and White, which are made up of two 12-hour shifts each. Patrol is normally the first line of contact the public has with the police department. Officers responded to approximately 35,000 events in 2022.





SPECIAL OPERATIONS

The Special Operations Division is under the command of Captain Allen Fields. He is assisted by a Lieutenant, Support Services Manager, and a Sergeant. This division is comprised of services that support the delivery of law enforcement response to citizens of Belton including: Criminal Investigations; School Resource Officers; Direct Action Response Team; Evidence Management; Police Records; Code Compliance; Communications; Personnel and Training; Reserve Officer Program; Professional Standards; RU OK? Program; CHIPS Volunteers; Community Outreach; and Accreditation. BPD prides itself in having strong relationships with the community.



TRAFFIC SAFETY



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS



The School Resource Officer (SRO) Unit is a partnership between BPD and Belton Independent School District (BISD). Five BPD Officers are assigned to 11 BISD campuses in the City of Belton. This collaboration is funded both by BISD and the City of Belton. The goal of the SRO program is to promote a safe learning environment and deter distractions that jeopardize school safety. This is accomplished by proactive interaction with faculty and students, quick responses to disruptions, investigation of criminal activity on campuses, and presentations of prevention programs. SRO's gave an oath to protect students at the beginning of the semester.



2022 TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

8,960 TRAFFIC STOPS
2,790 CITATIONS
6,133 WARNINGS

2022 TRAFFIC CRASHES

1,787 RESPONSES*
453 NON-INJURY
141 INJURY
9 FATALITIES

*INCLUDES NON-REPORTABLE OR
ASSISTED BY ANOTHER AGENCY

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Criminal Investigations Division is staffed with four Detectives, a Crime Scene Technician, Crime Victim Liaison, and one Lieutenant. Detectives are responsible for solving crimes through follow-up investigations of criminal offenses that occur in the City of Belton. The Detectives also represent Belton in multi-jurisdictional partnerships.



Total Cases Assigned to Detectives	889
Cases Cleared (arrest, exception, unfounded)	459
Clearance Rate	52%
Value of Stolen Property	\$1,161,869
Recovered Stolen Property Value	\$269,668
Evidence Handled (number of items)	41,504

CODE COMPLIANCE

The Code Compliance Unit handles animal calls and code enforcement for the City of Belton. Two full-time staff members, who are cross-trained in these specialties, form the unit.

Total Animal Calls	2,821
Total Code Enforcement	8,705
Animals Handled	1,158
High Grass	1,441
Trash & Open Storage	3,612
Junk Vehicles	853
Voluntary Compliance	98%



POLICE BUDGET

Administration	\$547,170
Patrol	\$3,719,600
Special Operations	\$2,008,540
Code Compliance	\$192,580
Total Budget	\$6,467,890



2022 GRANTS & REIMBURSEMENTS

Department of Justice Bulletproof Vests	\$4,000
Rifle Resistant Body Armor	\$6,500
Area Agency on Aging (RU OK Program)	\$21,000
Criminal Justice Division Bullet Resistant Shield Grant	\$36,000
Victims of Crimes Act Crime Victim Liaison	\$92,873
Belton Independent School District School Resource Officers & Security	\$279,200
Community Project Funding	\$374,000
Total Received	\$813,573



2022 POLICE ACTIVITY

Instances when an officer responds to a request for service from a citizen or initiates contact with a citizen.
(As recorded through Bell County Communications Center)

TOP 10 CALLS FOR SERVICE

1. 911 Calls
2. Traffic Accidents
3. Suspicious Circumstances
4. Citizen Contacts
5. Reckless Drivers
6. Welfare Concerns
7. Disabled Vehicles
8. Alarm Calls
9. Assaults
10. Disturbances

CALLS BY YEAR

2019

35,322

2020

32,929

2021

33,450

2022

34,676

0 10,000 20,000 30,000 40,000

RESPONSE TIME IN MINUTES

4.2

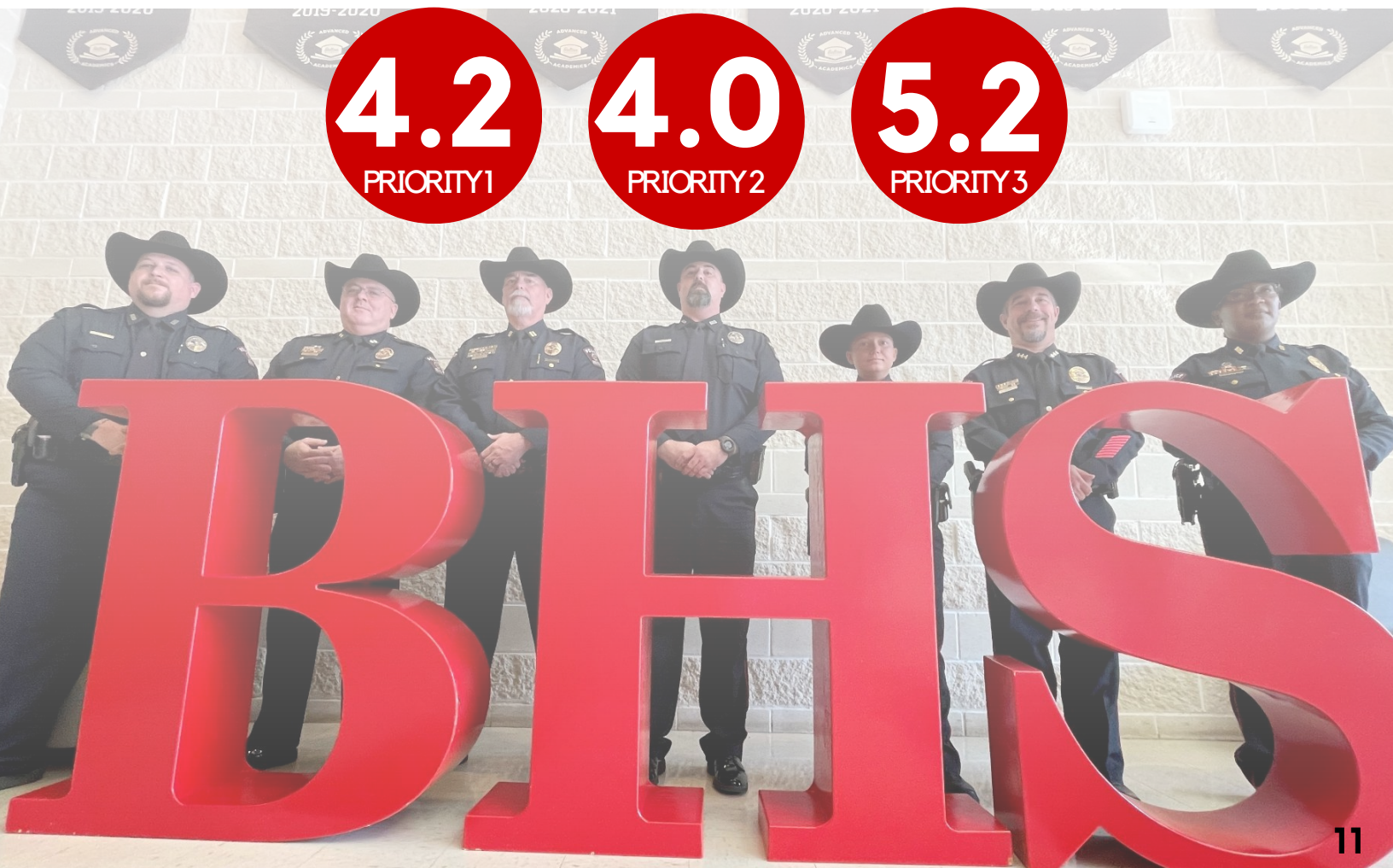
PRIORITY 1

4.0

PRIORITY 2

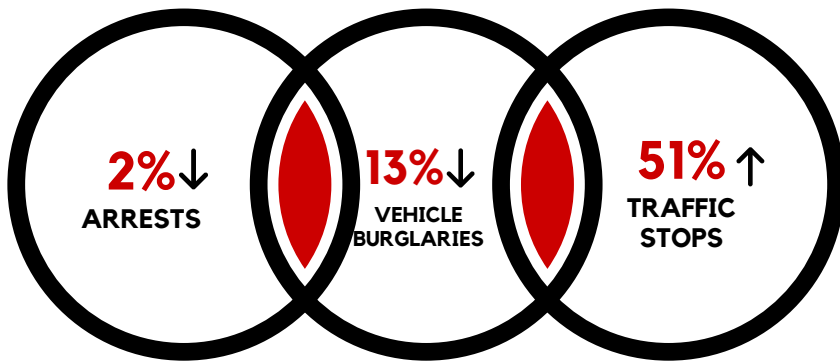
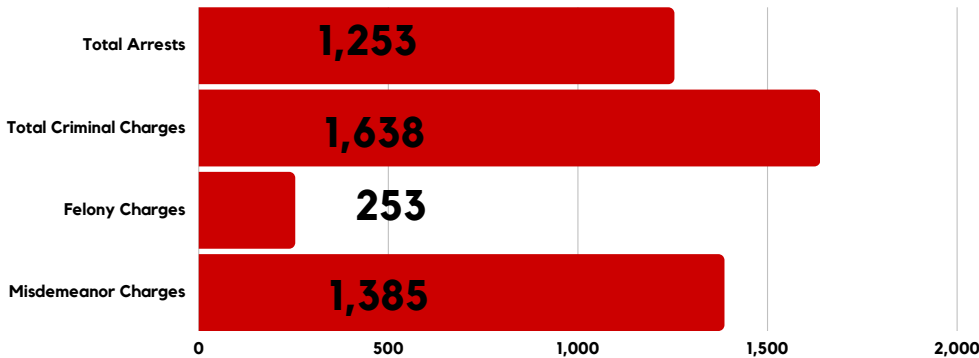
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PRIORITY 3



CRIMINAL INCIDENTS

2022 ARRESTS



MAJOR CRIME REPORT



Crime	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Murder	0	0	2	2	3
Sexual Assault	16	21	15	21	25
Robbery	14	9	7	4	6
Aggravated Assault	15	13	17	14	10
Burglary/Residence	34	31	29	20	24
Burglary/Building	44	26	26	34	18
Theft/Larceny	412	366	455	391	453
Auto Theft/UUMV	18	12	41	29	13
Total	553	481	596	516	552

RACIAL PROFILING

The following information on traffic stops has been reported to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement; pursuant to Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 2.121 - 2.138.

TOTAL STOPS : 8,960

Gender

Female: 3,713

Male: 5,247

RACE OR ETHNICITY:

Alaskan/American Indian: 25

Asian/Pacific Islander: 113

Black: 1,333

Hispanic/Latino: 1,946

White: 5,543

RACE OR ETHNICITY KNOWN PRIOR TO STOP:

No: 8,650

Yes: 310

REASON FOR STOP:

Moving traffic violation: 5,438

Pre-existing knowledge: 110

Vehicle traffic violation: 3,328

Violation of law: 84

LOCATION OF STOP:

City street: 8,302

County road: 15

Private property or other: 86

State highway: 284

US highway: 273

WAS A SEARCH CONDUCTED:

No: 8,428

Yes: 532

REASON FOR SEARCH:

Consent: 143

Contraband: 25

Incident to arrest: 28

Inventory: 84

No search: 8,428

Probable cause: 252

WAS CONTRABAND DISCOVERED:

No: 210

Yes: 322

DESCRIPTION OF CONTRABAND:

Alcohol: 44

Currency: 2

Drugs: 197

Other: 114

Stolen Property: 7

Weapons: 8

RESULT OF STOP:

Arrest: 14

Citation: 2,728

Citation & Arrest: 62

Verbal Warning: 23

Written Warning: 6,076

Written Warning & Arrest: 57

ARREST BASED ON:

Outstanding warrant: 33

Violation of penal code: 79

Violation of traffic law: 21

PHYSICAL FORCE USED:

No: 5,944

Yes: 2

INCIDENTS WITH INJURY: 0

WAS ARREST DUE TO CONTRABAND FOUND:

No: 86

Yes: 47



CHIPS, RU OK? & BELTÓN POLICE FOUNDATION

The Belton Citizens Helping in Police Services (**CHIPS**) program was formed in 2011 to expand police resources through the use of volunteers. A benefit of the program is that it deters crime through visible presence. CHIPS supplement department resources by being extra eyes and ears while patrolling parks, shopping centers, and other areas where large groups gather. Belton Police Department's volunteers collectively served **6,344** hours in 2022.

CHIPS members are graduates of the Citizens Police Academy (**CPA**) Program. Graduates of CPA formed a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, the **Belton Police Foundation**, committed to supporting BPD initiatives and staff. The Belton Police Foundation funds essential equipment and programs for the Belton Police Department which are not included in the City budget.

CHIPS members staff the phones for the highly successful **RU OK? Program**, which works to ensure safety and provide help to the elderly of Belton. RU OK? is credited with saving 13 lives to date. The **Silver Santa** initiative brings Christmas joy to all of the RU OK? participants by providing wrapped gifts to each of them. Silver Santa bags were delivered to **97** RU OK? Clients in 2022.



POLICE EXPLORERS & YOUTH CAMP



A Law Enforcement Explorer Post was established in Belton in 2012. The program is intended for youth (age 14-20) who have expressed an interest in the criminal justice field as a career. Our commitment is to improve relations between the Belton Police Department and the youth in Belton. Explorers learn police work through specialized training and community service. The program allows young people to serve the community, develop leadership skills, and provides support from peers and adults during the maturing process. BPD Explorers can be seen working alongside officers at parades, community events, and Belton Tiger football games.

Belton School Resource Officers have held 11 Youth Police Camps for middle school students. The goal of Youth Camp is to build rapport between police officers and youth in our community.



2022 AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

OFFICERS OF THE QUARTER



Officer
Megan Adkins



Officer
Jacob Schmille



Sergeant
Matt Schwindt

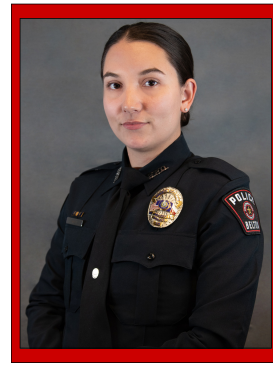


Officer
Jason Wimbish

LIFESAVING AWARDS



Captain
Daniel Aguirre



Officer
Traci Blanco



Officer
Dalton Menix



Officer
Jonathan Pratt



Sergeant ★
Richard Spurgeon
AWARD WAS EARNED TWICE

CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD

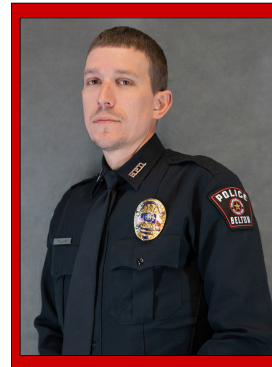


Community
Service Specialist
Scott Rickert

RETIREMENT



Detective
Robert Prestin
15 Years



Detective
Joshua Tulloch



Officer
Carlyn Yarborough

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



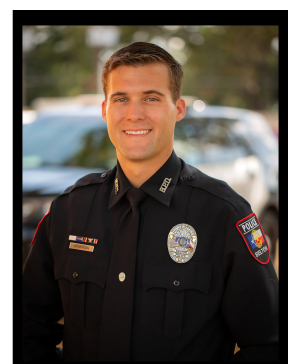
16 Foundation Treasurer
Don Wyatt

CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR



Code Compliance
Josh Soileau

OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Sergeant
Richard Spurgeon

BELTON POLICE • NEW RECRUITS



Officer
Chris Cano



Officer
Noah Smith

CLERGY • POLICE PARTNERSHIP

The Belton Clergy-Police Partnership (BCPP) is a team of local pastors serving as a liaison between the police department and the community. BCPP members minister to officers and victims of crime; pray for the police department and the community; communicate community concerns directly to the Chief of Police; and provide calm during a crisis. The BPD Police Chaplain, Alton McCallum, leads the BCPP team.



Chaplain
Scott Cox



Chaplain
June Etchison



Chaplain
Alton McCallum



Chaplain
Jeff Miller

ACCREDITED TEXAS AGENCY

The Belton Police Department became the first Bell County law enforcement agency to be recognized as an Accredited Law Enforcement Agency by the Texas Police Chiefs Association Law Enforcement Agency Best Practices Accreditation Program. The accreditation program evaluates compliance with 170 Texas best practice standards. These standards were developed by Texas law enforcement professionals to assist agencies to efficiently and effectively serve the public and protect individual rights. They cover all aspects of law enforcement operations including use of force, protection of citizen rights, vehicle pursuits, property and evidence management, and patrol and investigative operations. BPD was awarded re-accreditation status in 2014, 2018, and 2022, putting it among the elite 7% of Texas law enforcement agencies.



