

# JOPLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HONOR • COURAGE • COMMITMENT • SERVICE**

**CHIEF OF POLICE**  **MATT STEWART**

[www.joplinpolice.org](http://www.joplinpolice.org)

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## 2018 Annual Report



Released February 8, 2019

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**303 EAST 3RD • JOPLIN, MISSOURI • 417.623.3131**

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## Message from Chief Stewart



I would like to take this time to personally thank all of the citizens of Joplin for the amount of support that you showed our police department in 2018. I would like to take a moment to remember all of the officers that gave the ultimate sacrifice in 2018. There were 150 officers that were killed in the line of duty last year. One statistic that jumps out is the increase in the number of officers that were killed by gunfire during 2018 as compared to 2017. There were 52 officers killed by gunfire in 2018 which is a 13% increase from 2017. Many times, these officers are targeted just because of the uniform that they choose to put on each day.

Although these statistics are hard to comprehend, the amount of public support for the Joplin Police Department was shown through many calls and many cards being sent to our department. We are very fortunate to be able to work in Southwest Missouri and more importantly in Joplin. We are reminded daily of the public's support of our work in keeping the citizens and visitors of Joplin safe and secure.

We continue to do our best to make sure that we are providing the best possible services that we can to our community. We strive to keep our community informed about what is going on at your police department through social media as well as the many public outreach programs that we offer. I encourage everyone to be engaged in your community and to be proactive in learning about our agency. One of the best ways to accomplish this is to enroll in the Citizens Police Academy that we offer. This is a free program that we offer to all of the citizens that live and work in Joplin. We offer this class every Spring. It is a great opportunity to truly learn what all goes on behind the scenes at JPD. Another great way to keep engaged with our agency is to follow us on our social media accounts. You can follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

I am excited about what 2019 will bring for our agency. I would like to thank the City Council and City Manager for the work that was completed this previous year in addressing our staffing issues. We continue to work on recruiting and retention and I believe that we will see great improvements to both of these during 2019. We will have several new officers beginning their training with our agency in 2019. I look forward to getting them trained and out taking care of our community.

On behalf of the professional men and women of the Joplin Police Department, I want to thank the citizens of Joplin for your continued support. I am looking forward to see what 2019 has in store for our community and I look forward to continue serving you in the coming years. We take great pride in our community and in being your public servants as evidenced in the following report.

Sincerely,



Chief Matt Stewart

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## Assistant Chief's Office

The Assistant Chief is responsible for the day to day operations of the Joplin Police Department.

Major Sloan Rowland oversees Uniform Services, Investigations, Support Services, and Professional Standards through the bureau captains. The department consists of more than 163 sworn and non-sworn employees from the four bureaus as well as the Joplin City Jail and the Joplin Emergency Communications Center.

The Joplin Police Department is responsible for providing rapid response to emergencies, comprehensive investigations on all criminal matters, traffic safety, community service, and assistance to the general public. Our goal as a department is to respond to the community's needs in a professional manner with a customer service mentality guiding us. We are committed to working in a collaborative effort with the community to identify, address, and resolve quality of life issues with our focus directed toward long-term resolutions.

While overall numbers of police applicants are down nationally, the Joplin Police Department continues to strive to recruit and retain qualified police officers. In 2018 the department began to see an increase in applicants and was able to hire a number of qualified officers which has led to a reduction of open positions.

The employees of the Joplin Police Department take pride in providing our community with superior law enforcement services. The past year's accomplishments of the very fine men and women of the Joplin Police Department are evidenced in the following pages.



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## 2018 By the Numbers

Calls for Service **72,415**

Reports Taken **10,312**

Traffic Stops Conducted **10,759**

Traffic Crashes **1,750 (11 fatal)**

2017 - 2018 CRIME STATISTICS			
	2017	2018	% Change
ASSAULT	449	434	-3%
DOMESTIC ASSAULT	716	743	4%
UNLAWFUL USE/WEAPON	75	50	-33%
HOMICIDE	3	3	0%
SEX CRIMES	101	133	24%
ROBBERY	62	53	-15%
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME	1,406	1,416	1%
ARSON	7	29	76%
BURGLARY	485	547	11%
LARCENY	2,307	1,960	-15%
THEFT FROM VEHICLE	692	632	-9%
VANDALISM	765	659	-14%
VEHICLE THEFT	396	440	10%
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME	4,652	4,267	-8%
TOTAL CRIME	6,058	5,683	-6%

\*Above table updated 11/17/2020 due to errors discovered in table calculation

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## Uniform Operations

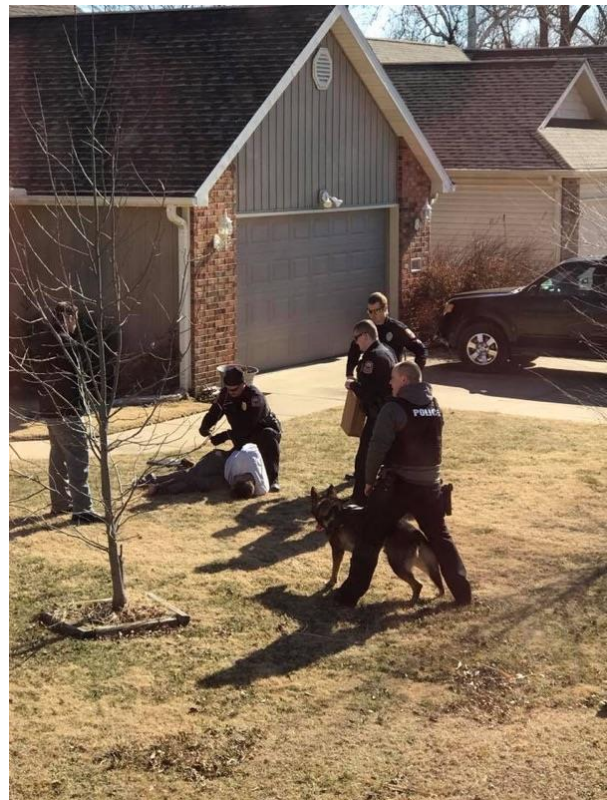


The Uniform Operations Bureau is the largest bureau within the Joplin Police Department. When fully staffed the Patrol Division consists of five patrol teams, providing 24-hour police service to the citizens, businesses, and visitors within the City of Joplin. Weekly shift coverage is made up of five shifts: Days, 2 Days/2 Evenings, Evenings, 1 Evening/3 Midnights, and Midnights.

### K-9 Unit

The K-9 program was established to supplement police operations by locating and apprehending criminal offenders, illegal narcotics and explosives. Because of a superior sense of smell, hearing, and potential aggressiveness, the trained law enforcement canine is a valuable supplement to law enforcement manpower.

Utilization of canines requires adherence to procedures that properly control their use of force potential and channel their specialized capabilities into legally acceptable crime prevention and control.



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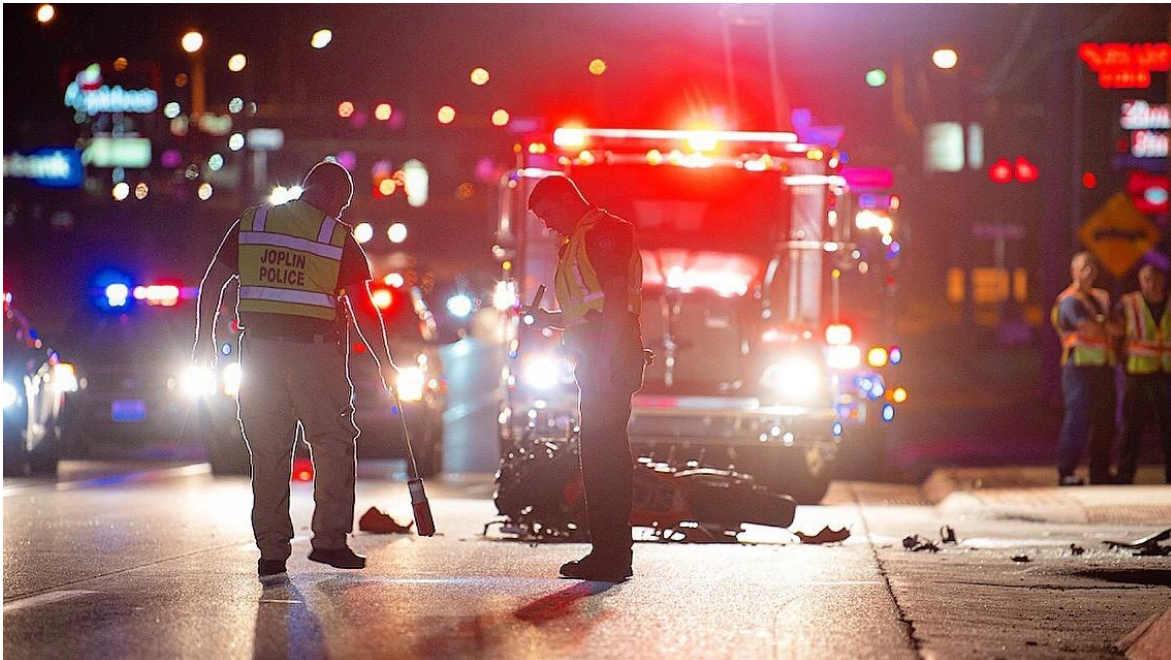
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## Traffic Division

Another extremely important segment of Uniform Operations is the Traffic Division. The authorized strength of the Traffic Unit is 10 members, including a sergeant, a corporal, two full time DWI officers, and two motorcycle officers, the officers of the traffic team are constantly working toward crash reduction and making the streets safer in Joplin. The unit uses a data driven approach to allocate its resources in an effort to pinpoint the areas that need the most enforcement. The Traffic supervisor and members of the Traffic Team continue to develop innovative ways to enforce the traffic laws such as zero tolerance traffic details, in addition to the use of speed display trailers to measure speed in the area and increased Hazardous Moving Violation and DWI enforcement details.

## Crash Team

The Joplin Police Department Crash Team is made up of Certified Crash Reconstructionist' s who have advanced training in documenting a crash using GPS points, measurements, and forensic evidence. This process helps to give closure to grieving families who have lost a loved one, secure evidence for criminal prosecution if warranted, and provide a complete and accurate record of the crash. This is a very complex and difficult certification to obtain and the training lasts for several months.



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## SWAT Team

The Joplin Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team has 27 members, who are highly trained and capable of handling high risk calls. The use of SWAT often brings a peaceful resolution to a very tense and dangerous situation.



The Joplin SWAT team was activated 29 times in 2018. The team was activated 26 times to serve high risk search warrants. The team was also called out 3 times for people that were barricaded in a residence for a variety of reasons. The team assisted other agencies and served several warrants for the Ozarks Drug Enforcement Team.



In 2018 Joplin SWAT hosted a Basic SWAT school and Basic Sniper school. This training is conducted by Joplin SWAT Officers. Both schools are a week long and were attended by officers from across our region.

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## Investigations Bureau

The Joplin Police Department Investigations Bureau is made up of a Captain, two Sergeants, three Corporals, and is authorized 20 Investigators, a civilian Investigative Assistant, and a civilian Evidence Technician. For the year 2018, the Investigations Bureau maintained an average of 13 full time Investigators. The Investigations Bureau is primarily responsible for the investigation of major felony crimes such as homicide, aggravated assault, sexual assault, burglary, robbery, forgery, and fraud. Investigators in this bureau also investigate child abuse and neglect hotline calls, vehicle thefts, thefts from vehicles, larcenies, domestic violence, and drug violations.

Joplin Police Detectives are members of the Tri-State Major Case Squad (TSMCS), with most carrying Jasper or Newton County Commissions. The TSMCS is comprised of numerous law enforcement investigators from agencies within Missouri, Oklahoma, and Kansas. With the unique demographics of the tri state area, the TSMCS, when activated allows Joplin/and or the surrounding agencies, access to a large number of highly skilled investigators who combine their efforts to solve major cases (typically homicides).

For the year 2018, one investigator was assigned to the Ozark's Drug Enforcement Team. Additionally, two investigators are attached to the Southwest Missouri Cyber Crimes Task Force. Investigating complex major crimes requires the dedication, cooperation, and assistance of a variety of individuals and units. Investigators work closely with patrol officers to identify witnesses, preserve major crime scenes, gather critical information, and develop leads. They also work closely with officials from other agencies to solve crimes that cross jurisdictional lines.

There were 9155 cases assigned to the Investigations Bureau during 2018. This amounted to 762 cases per month for the entire bureau and 58 cases per month per investigator.

Over the year 2018, the Joplin Police Department Investigations Bureau worked 4 homicide investigations. The Bureau submitted 1047 felony probable cause statements, interviewed 493 suspects, and obtained 255 confessions. The Investigations Bureau



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responded to 181 child abuse hotline calls and were called in afterhours 432 times.

## Evidence

2018 Evidence Facility Annual Report

Received items (JPD, Cyber Crimes, ODET) 8,078

Removed items (JPD, Cyber Crimes, ODET) 6,737

## Federal Partners

The Joplin Police Department Investigations Bureau continues to work closely with its Federal partners in crime fighting, specifically addressing crimes that occur within the City limits of Joplin that have federal implications. Currently the Department has two detectives attached to the FBI Taskforce in Joplin, one detective commissioned through the U.S. Marshalls, one detective with the Department of Homeland Security (Customs) and one detective with an ATF commission. Due to the shortage of manpower, the officers assigned to task forces have had to work JPD cases as well as cases from their respective task force.

## CYBER

The Joplin Police Department has 2 investigators assigned to the Southwest Missouri Cyber Crimes Task Force. During 2018 the local office of the task force was assigned 294 cases. The cases deal with possession of child pornography and child enticement (both state and federal cases) as well as cell phone examinations for other felony cases.



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## Support Services

The Joplin Police Department Support Services Bureau consist of Emergency Communications, the Jail Division, School Resource Officer Program, Crime Free Multi-Housing and Crime Free Business Programs. The Bureau has several special programs, including National Night Out, Rise Above, Citizens Police Academy, Crossing Guards, Police Explorers, and The Sentinel Program.

When fully staffed, Support Services is comprised of one Captain, one Sergeant, a Corporal, and eight police officers, as well as the Jail and Communications staff.

### Joplin City Jail

The Joplin City Jail has a total of 19 full and part-time employees to manage the 64-bed facility. The Joplin City Jail continues to operate the electronic monitoring program which allows inmates to serve their jail time while on house arrest. To participate in the program, the inmate must pay a daily monitoring fee. The jail uses GPS monitoring which allows for more participants and helps reduce the average daily population in the jail resulting in reduced cost for housing inmates. The jail also utilizes the Huber Work Release program, which allows inmates sentenced to serve jail days to make application to receive a furlough to go out and search for a job, as well as maintain employment while serving jail time.

The City of Joplin was awarded a Federal Grant to establish a Mental Health Court. The Mental Health Court program is 100% grant funded, and allows inmates suffering from mental illness to receive treatment free of charge. The program provides inmates the opportunity for treatment in lieu of incarceration, saving taxpayer funds by reducing inmate population. Currently the Joplin Mental Health Court has 21 participants and has screened over 400 inmates to determine whether they qualify for the program.

### Emergency Communications

The Joplin Emergency Communications Center handles Police and Fire Services for the City of Joplin, and Police services for the City of Duquesne. In addition, they assist the Health Department (Animal Control) with call taking/dispatching services on nights and weekends, along with MSSU Campus Police on nights and weekends. When fully staffed the center employs 20 full-time tele-communicators: one manager, three supervisors and sixteen dispatchers.

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Over the course of 2018, the Joplin Emergency Communications Center answered, and entered, 97,782 calls for service. Of the total calls, 72,415 were for the Joplin Police Department and 8,898 were for the Joplin Fire Department. They also took 3,780 calls for Duquesne Police Department. The remaining were for Animal Control, EMS, and MSSU Police.

We are proud to assist the public safety responders, and our citizens. As our emblem proudly states. "Every minute, every day, always there."



## Professional Standards Bureau

The Professional Standards Bureau is comprised of 1 Captain, 1 Sergeant, 1 officer, 4 civilian clerks and 1 crime analyst. The Sergeant and Officer stay busy at the Joplin Public Safety Training Center hosting training for officers and holding in-house training for new recruits.

In 2018 the Public Safety Training Facility hosted 35 classes and provided 612 hours of training to outside agencies. They also provided 5,176 hours of training to Joplin Police Officers.

The crime analyst works side by side with the detective division gathering and disseminating information department wide for intelligence led policing efforts to combat crime.



The four records clerks work together to answer phones, enter lobby calls, answer general questions, data entry, filing and fulfilling other requests for information.

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