

# Lakewood Police Department

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



## 20 YEARS OF SERVICE





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## Our Numbers

**102**  
Sworn

**7**  
Limited Commission

**7**  
Civilian

**2**  
K9





# Letter from the Chief

The last two years serving as the Lakewood Chief of Police have been both challenging and increasingly rewarding. The police department has been continuously evolving to meet the needs, changes and challenges in our community, while staying on top of our laws and modern-day policing strategies. We have enhanced our training measures, improved overall efficiencies, implemented new technology, revised policies and procedures, while at the same time building community trust and enhanced business district enforcement. Our officers have performed exceptionally well and are ready for the challenges of today.



In 2024, the Lakewood Police Department was recognized nationally by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, when they produced a video to highlight our crime reduction strategies and implementation of new technology in our community. Our team efforts resulted in a 67% reduction in vehicles stolen and a 25% reduction in overall property crimes, when compared to our year-over-year statistics. It is our goal to drive down crime, while leveraging technology to facilitate a department that is both efficient and effective.

We are extremely grateful for the strong ties built in the Lakewood community. We know every contact isn't about enforcement. It's about serving people, often at their most difficult moments, such as after a car accident, family dispute or the loss of a loved one. We appreciate the trust the community has in us, as a department, to get the job done. This is why we create opportunities to give back, as in our Shop with an Officer Program, Community Meals give away, our Annual Food Drive and the Citizen's Police Academy. We want to be here for the community, regardless of the problem and regardless of the need.

As we move into 2025, we will stay focused on our community-first agenda. Always striving to achieve and maintain the highest standards in policing. Continuing to develop community and business partnerships that will enhance our effectiveness in crime reduction, build trust in the community and foster our overall community policing model.

I am very thankful to serve as your police chief and I am very proud of the accomplishments our team has made this year. Our talented police force is eager to serve, but please know that we cannot police the city without you and your support. Continue to be our eyes and ears to improve the City of Lakewood. One Team Against Crime in 2025.

Chief Patrick D. Smith

## CORE VALUES

INTEGRITY DEDICATION TEAMWORK COMPETENCE RESPECT

“

*Making a Difference*

”

## MISSION

The purpose of the Lakewood Police Department is to create a safer city that is conducive to thriving families, schools, and productive businesses. The Department is committed to the safety and welfare of its citizens and visitors, while staying focused on crime reduction, to minimize victimization. We proudly work cohesively with our citizenry, and community groups, to create a harmonious city for all to enjoy.



# ABOUT LPD

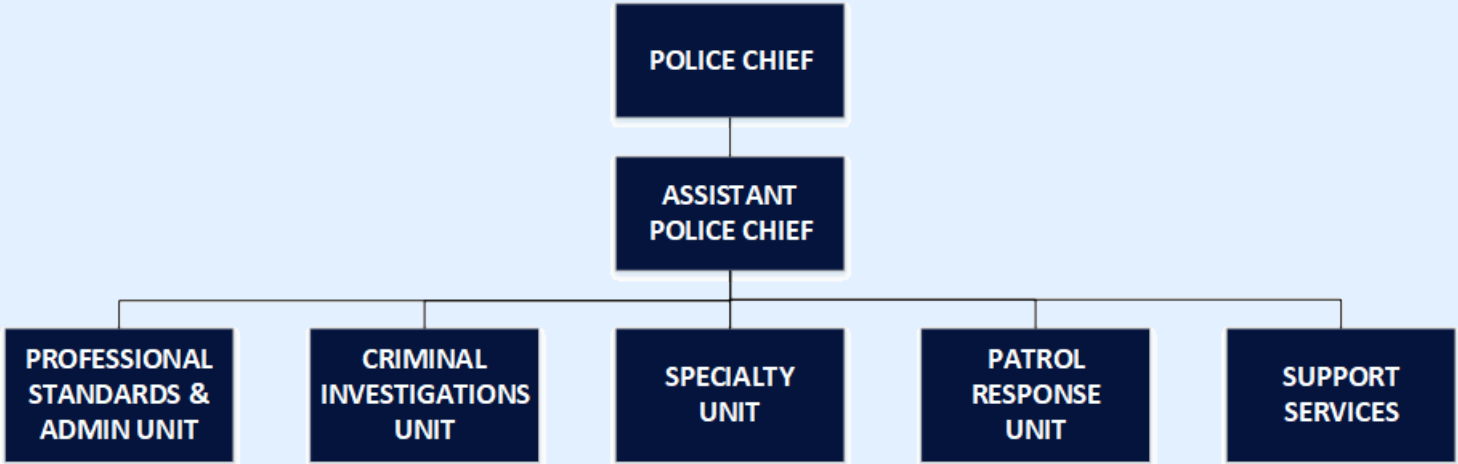


Lakewood’s 21st century department consists of 100 commissioned police officers, two Community Service Officers, two Court Compliance Officers, two Animal Control Officers, three Code Enforcement Officers, and ten civilian support staff. The Lakewood Police Department is one of the largest departments in the State of Washington, serving a population of over 60,000. To successfully counter crime challenges, the Department operates a large array of programs and employs modern technology to expand its reach and efficiency.



## Command Staff:

- Chief Patrick D. Smith
- Assistant Chief John Unfred
- Captain Jeff Alwine
- Captain Chris Westby
- Captain Andy Gildehaus
- Captain Jeremy Prater
- Captain Peter Johnson





# WELCOME



Ofc. E. Dier



Ofc. W. Crommes



Ofc. J. Porter



Ofc. J. Kennedy



CCO J. Syler

Ofc = Officer

CCO = Court Compliance Officer

## FAREWELL



Sgt. Ken Devaney



Det. Chris Bowl

## CONGRATS

P  
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Sgt. K. Czuleger

## AWARDS

**10** Police Chief  
Commendation



**3**

Lifesaving Award





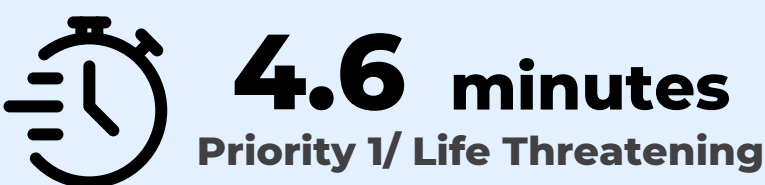
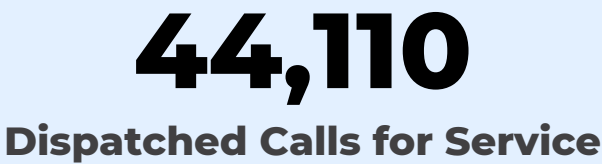
# PATROL



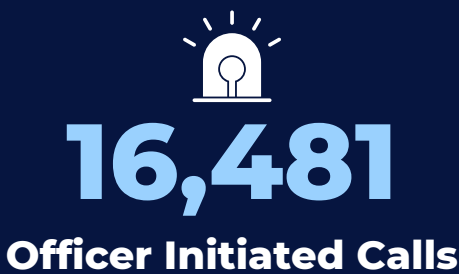
The Patrol Division is comprised of 48 sworn personnel who are responsible for responding to emergency calls, traffic enforcement, proactively fight crime and solve problems in the community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

The patrol division is commanded by the patrol Captain, along with six patrol sergeants that lead their individual squads of seven officers.

## YOU CALL. WE RESPOND.



- Top 4 Categories of  
Calls for Service
- Traffic Stop
  - Welfare Check
  - Security Check
  - Suspicious Vehicle







The Investigations Division consists of five units:

- Forensic Services
- Major Crimes
- Property Crimes/Robbery Unit
- Special Assault
- Special Operations

## YOU NEED ANSWERS. WE INVESTIGATE.



**1,643**

### **Violent Crimes**

Homicide; Forcible Rape;  
Robbery; Aggravated Assault



**828**

**Cases Assigned**



**3,324**

### **Property Crimes**

Burglary; Larceny/Theft;  
Motor Vehicle Theft; Arson



**751**

**Cases Cleared**



### **INVESTIGATIVE PARTNERSHIPS**

Innocence Lost  
Task Force

South Sound Violent  
Crimes Task Force

**PSATT/ Puget Sound  
Auto Theft Task Force**

DEA/Tahoma Narcotics  
Task Force

PCFIT/Pierce Co. Force  
Investigation Team

### **Cases Assigned/Cleared**

**290/301**- Special Assault  
**350/264**- Property Crimes/Robbery  
**173/179** - Major Crimes  
**15/7** - Special Operations

### **Special Operations**

**36 Arrests**

**44 Search  
Warrants**

**\$60,000+**  
**Assets Seized**

**51  
Guns Seized**



# SPECIALTY UNITS

## Traffic



The Lakewood Police Department's Traffic Unit consists of one sergeant, three officers and one community service officer and is focused on increasing public safety on the roadways. This goal is accomplished through enforcement, engineering and education. The unit uses a variety of selective enforcement measures along with emphasis patrols in school zones and high traffic areas to make Lakewood roads safer. The unit also conducts emphasis patrols to crack down on impaired driving.

### Animal Control Stats:



  **1,900**

 Service Requests

**203**

Animal Impounds

**512**

Infractions Issued  

**3**

Potentially Dangerous   
Dogs

### Traffic 2024 Stats:

**1,067**

Collisions

Citations/Infractions Written:

**1,510**

## Animal Control

Animal Control is staffed by two full time officers who work with the communities of Lakewood, Steilacoom, and DuPont.

They work with citizens to promote responsible pet ownership, control pet disease and public safety through education, service, and enforcement.





# Property and Evidence Room



Pieces of Evidence Collected

**5,756**

including:

**413** Firearms

**29,910.5** Grams of Narcotics

**\$42,941.90** Money

The three staff in the Property/Evidence Room hold, preserve, and document all of the evidence collected from crime scenes and provide it to courts when needed for trial. They also ensure that property recovered from solved crimes, such as burglaries and car prowls, are returned to the rightful owners.

## Police Station Front Desk:

**10,317** Phone Calls

**5,400** Walk-Ins

**257** Reports

## MSU 2024 Stats:

**306** On-Water Patrol Hours

**234** Total Citations/Warnings

**324** Total Written Vessel Inspections

**5** Search and Rescue/Recovery Cases

# Marine Services Unit (MSU)

The Marine Services Unit (MSU) provides services to the area lakes. The department maintains a large boat on American Lake, as well as a rigid inflatable boat on a trailer and two jet skis. The diversity in marine fleet allows officers to respond quickly to the variously sized lakes in the city.

Officers patrol and provide rescue/recovery services to numerous waterfront homes, businesses, beaches, marinas, and parks that are used by thousands of visitors and residents alike all year long. They are also part of the Metro Dive Team.





# SPECIALTY UNITS



Kona



## K9 Unit

The Lakewood Police Department's K9 Unit consists of two K9 teams. The Lakewood K9 unit is part of the Pierce County Metro K9 Team. Both teams are State Certified through Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, State Accredited through the Washington State Police K9 Association, and certified through the Peirce County Metro K9 Agreement. This means that they undergo an additional 500 hours of K9 specific training, in addition to the base training all officers receive, each year.

The K9 patrol teams responds to calls for service county wide to assist in safely tracking wanted subjects, pursuing fleeing subjects, and building searches.



### 2024 K9 Stats:

**36**  
Captures

**138**  
Deployments



Hawk



# Community Safety Resource Team (CSRT)

The Community Safety Resource Team (CSRT) consists of one sergeant, three Neighborhood Police Officers (NPOs), two Community Service Officers (CSOs), and three Code Enforcement Officers (CEOs).

Each member of the team is assigned to designated areas of the city where they work together to tackle not only full-blown neighborhood problems, but the root conditions that contribute to them. This includes, but is not limited to, criminal activity, nuisance properties, dangerous buildings, unlawful business practices, and homelessness issues.



## BHCT 2024 Stats:

**760**

Care Response Episodes

**236**

New Admissions to Behavioral Health Resources

**238**

Re-Admissions to Programs For Further Treatment

## CSRT 2024 Stats:

**572**

Total Code Complaints Received

**394**

Code Complaints Received Via MyLakewood311

**29**

Community Meetings

# Behavioral Health Contact Team (BHCT)



Mental Health Professionals (MHP's) Matt Landis and Kristi Flesher work with Officer Arbiol as part of the BHCT and with CSRT and Patrol to find people proper help and assistance instead of taking them to jail or sending them to overcrowded emergency rooms. Their work helps people with mental health issues get streamlined mental health and medical care, along with finding housing, and solutions to personal needs. 2024 marked our first year with two full-time MHP's on staff, for the full 12 months. In addition, the Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare incorporation with Multi-Care gave us more opportunities for referrals and a wider network of available resources for the people we serve. Both resulted in increased numbers for the year.



# UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (UAS)



Lakewood Police added unmanned aircraft systems, or drones, to its toolbox in 2018 to help with day-to-day business including traffic investigations, missing persons reports, locating fleeing suspects, conducting search warrants, assisting other agencies, and more.

As part of the program requirement the department is open and transparent about its use of the unmanned aerial devices, posting monthly usage reports to the city website and sharing information with the public about how and when the devices are used.

## Drone Usage:

**5** Training/Maintenance/Admin Flights

**1** Crime Scene Investigation Flights

**1** Search and Rescue

**9** Incident Management Flights

**3** Police Operations

**8.05** Total Flight Hours





# Retail Theft Program

The Lakewood Police Department continues to implement and expand the Retail Theft Emphasis Program, led by the Property Crimes/Robbery Unit and the Neighborhood Patrol Officer (NPO) Unit, with support from Patrol Officers and Court Compliance Officers, who assist with prisoner transport.

LPD personnel have established strong working relationships with Loss Prevention Agents from various Lakewood retailers. Surveillance and Arrest Teams collaborate in real-time with these agents to apprehend suspects and recover stolen property efficiently.

## Holiday Emphasis Program

The Holiday Emphasis Program deploys officers in high-visibility patrols within the Lakewood Towne Center, aiming to deter and respond to theft-related incidents. Since its inception in 2017, this annual effort has contributed to reductions in retail crime and strengthened community engagement.

### 2024 Program Impact

In 2024, LPD conducted four retail theft emphasis operations, resulting in:



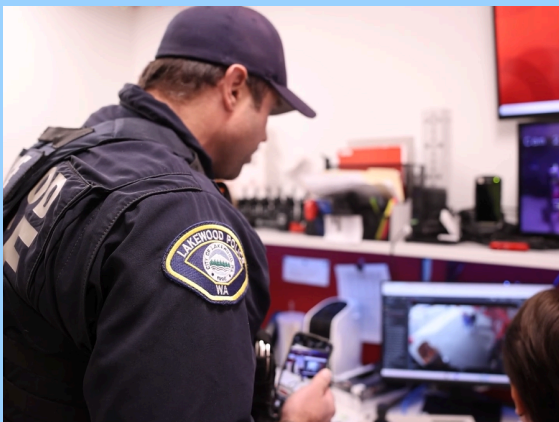
**82 Arrests**

**\$10,000+** in recovered stolen property

Since the program's relaunch in 2022, these operations have led to:

**200+ arrests**

**\$34,000+** in recovered stolen property



In 2024, the Lakewood Police Department was one of five agencies featured at the 2024 International Association of Chiefs of Police Convention in Boston. IACP-TV came out to interview and film LPD and the resulting video was debuted at the convention in October. Use the QR code to view the video.





# OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS



## Use of Force & Pursuits

*Each "I" equals 100 incidents*

**91** Pursuits

**121** Use of Force

**2,059** Arrests

**44,110** Dispatched Calls for Service

### Reasons for Pursuits

- 44** Felony Property Crime
- 16** Possible DUI
- 2** Suspicious Vehicle
- 21** Reckless Vehicles
- 5** Felony Person Crime
- 1** Misdemeanor Property Crime
- 1** Wanted Subject
- 1** Misdemeanor Person Crime

### Reasons for Use of Force

- 6** Traffic Stops
- 17** On View
- 10** Field Contact
- 88** Calls for Service

## Internal Investigations & Findings

**2** Internal Investigations

**7** - Sustained

**7** Allegations

**Exonerated** - incident occurred but the conduct or performance of the employee was found to be lawful and proper.

**Sustained** - allegation is supported by sufficient evidence to justify a reasonable conclusion that the alleged misconduct occurred.

**Not Sustained** - there is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation(s).

**Unfounded** - the investigation revealed that the incident or allegation(s) did not occur.

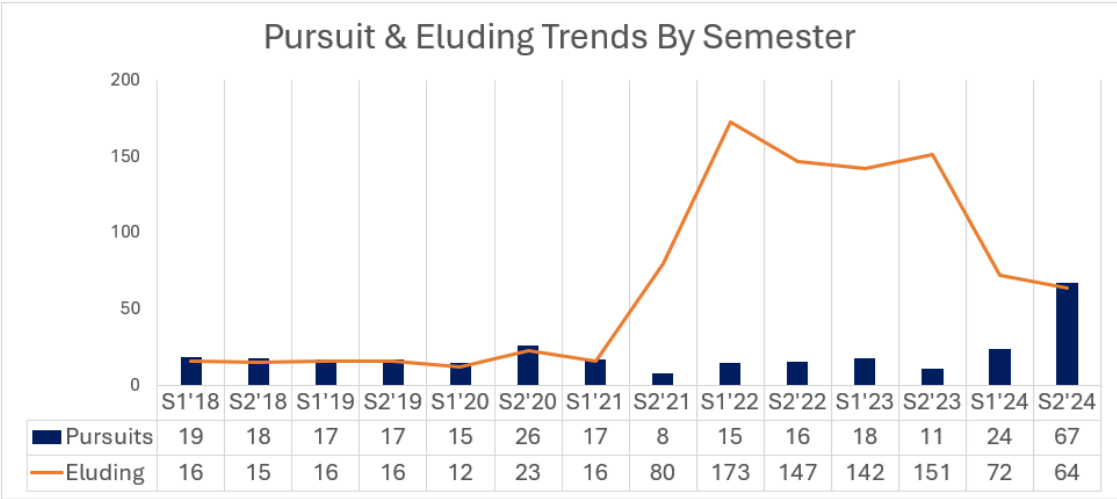
**Standards Failure** - standards were followed but had undesired results. This results in reassessing standards and modifying/expanding training.



The Professional standards section is staffed by a Captain, a sergeant, a training officer, and a police administrative technician. This division handles citizen complaints and conducts internal and background investigations. It oversees the training and department administrative functions. It also periodically evaluates the operation of the department for changes in policy, training and equipment.

## Eluding. A Constant Struggle.

Eluding = Any driver who willfully fails or refuses to immediately bring his or her vehicle to a stop after being given a visual/audible signal to stop. Class C felony. *RCW 46.61.024*

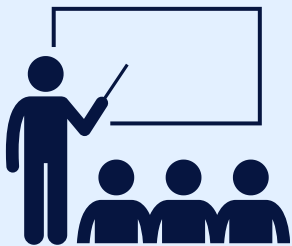


**Semester** = 6 months    **S1** = January - June    **S2** = July - December

Prior to legislative action in 2021, many cities and towns already had restrictive pursuit policies that weighed the community’s safety with the underlying reason for the pursuit. People committing crimes were not necessarily aware of an agency’s pursuit policy, and, therefore, appear to have been less likely to flee from police or use a vehicle in the commission of a crime. Unfortunately, offenders are currently using the state’s vehicular pursuit laws to their advantage by using a vehicle in the commission of their criminal activity -- an unintended consequence of a well-intentioned public safety goal.

Given the number of criminals who use stolen vehicles to facilitate other crimes, we are asking our State Legislature to make refinements to the pursuit policy to allow for the pursuit of stolen vehicles, and to allow local jurisdictions to individually continue with their current policy against all pursuits if they consider that to be the best choice for their community. Working within current pursuit laws, Lakewood Police Department has developed training on the use of tactics and updated policies to help minimize opportunities for drivers who would otherwise seek to flee in a vehicle.

### Training



**24 hours**

Ongoing Training State Mandated

**14,963 hours**

Officer In-Service and Additional Training

**146.7 hours**

Average Hours of Training Per Officer



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Every year, with the help of generous community partners, such as WalMart, and donations received from Lakewood citizens and police employees, the Lakewood Officers' Charity hosts two events for the Holiday Season; Holiday Meals and Shop with an Officer.

## SHOP WITH AN OFFICER

This year, as part of our 14th annual Shop with an Officer event, our officers had the honor of taking 21 families shopping at Walmart. Families are nominated by our officers, the Clover Park School District, and local churches. This event was coordinated and financed by the Lakewood Officers' Charity, which is funded by contributions from Lakewood Police officers.



## HOLIDAY MEALS

Through this program, our Lakewood Officer's Charity partners with WalMart to provide meals to 150 families enrolled in the Clover Park School District Headstart Program. We are grateful for the opportunity to connect with these families and give back to our community.





# CITIZENS ACADEMY



In 2024, LPD offered its 6th annual Citizens Academy, providing an opportunity for residents to learn about police work from the inside. Through this eight-week course, residents met once a week from June to July at the Lakewood police station. They had the opportunity to learn from Lakewood police officers and department leadership, received interactive training from police officers, and had direct access to police detectives and command staff to ask questions about operations.

We had 16 graduates in this class and are looking forward to hosting it again in 2025.



## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT (NNO)

Each year the Lakewood Police Department participates in this national event focused on bringing communities and neighbors together and creating a positive relationship with law enforcement.





# HERE'S TO 20 YEARS



First Department Photo 2005

“

*Of, For, About Community*

”



First LPD Station 2004



LPD Station built 2009

## LPD “Plank Owners”

Among the employees who began in 2004, helping to build LPD, **32** are still serving today.

Not pictured:

Cpt. Pete Johnson

Sgt. Jeff Carroll

Ofc. Jeremy Vahle





# SERVING LAKEWOOD



Current Department Photo

“

*Making a Difference*

”

## In Memory of Our Fallen Heroes

We respectfully honor the brave officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Their courage, dedication, and service to our community will never be forgotten. Officers who died in the line of duty:

### LAKEWOOD FOUR

EOW 11/29/2009

Sgt. Mark Renninger  
Ofc. Tina Griswold  
Ofc. Ronnie Owens  
Ofc. Greg Richards



Additionally, we remember and honor the lives of officers who, in their own struggles, left us too soon. Their service and commitment to our department and community will always be cherished. Officers who passed away:

Ofc. Arron Grant ~ EOW 4/25/2017

Ofc. David Lucchetti ~ EOW 6/3/2022





*“When there is  
teamwork and  
collaboration,  
wonderful things can  
be achieved.”*

*Mattie Stepanek*

**#IAMLAKEWOOD**



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