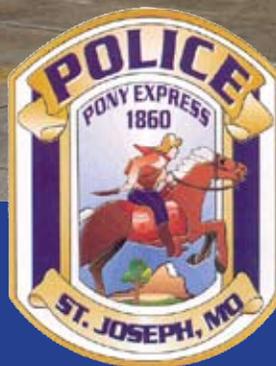


St. Joseph, Missouri Police Department

Annual Report 2006



“Provide the best possible police services to the citizens of St. Joseph.”

Thank you for taking time to review the St. Joseph Police Department Annual Report. 2006 was a year filled with opportunity. With phase I of the Law Enforcement Expansion completed we were presented with new resources that gave our personnel the tools they needed to get the job done. Other significant projects include implementation of the 800 Megahertz Digital Radio System, providing interoperability between Fire, Police, and Medical Services throughout Buchanan County. With an improved work environment also came improved performance throughout the St. Joseph Police Department.

I would like to recognize those who retired in 2006, as they are part of the foundation of our future: Captain John Funk, Sergeant Harlan Wood, Detective James Hitchcock, Officer John Edmondson, and Sherman Wilkerson. As we honor the retirements we celebrate the promotions of Captain Jeff Wilson, Sergeant Becky Caton, and Sergeant Fritz Adams. We also welcomed new employees, Officer Dan Dekraai, Officer Brendan McGinnis, Officer Chase Cotter, Brad Moad, Zackary Craft, Kelly Rhodes, Amber Walker, Dana Callaway and Nancy Davis.

The following report is primarily an anthology of information provided by each division documenting completed work and accomplishments during calendar year 2006. You will see both the progress of our police department, hard work and dedication of our employees, and some of our goals for the coming year.

In the coming months we will launch a long term strategic planning process. We will seek input from our personnel, other government agencies, businesses, and citizens in our community, as we set the direction for the coming years. We will maintain emphasis on improving systems for measuring success, and will continue evaluating our efforts towards achieving the goals established by our agency. This will be accomplished by promoting initiative, building on the successes of the past, and the professionalism of our employees. We will continue to increase positive contacts in the community, and improve customer service. As we prepare to implement Mobile Data with Mobile Field Reporting we will have an opportunity to shift our operational philosophy to a more data driven environment, improving our response to crime trends.

As a department the men and women of the St. Joseph Police Department have overcome many challenges coupled with increased demands. Throughout 2006 both sworn and civilian personnel have remained committed to providing the highest quality of public safety services to the citizens of St. Joseph. Our performance as an organization is reflected in the increase in proactive police activities, and decreases in many major crime categories, traffic accidents, and accident fatalities. We look forward to providing the citizens of St. Joseph with the level of public safety they deserve in 2007.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Chris E. Connally".

Christopher E. Connally
Chief of Police
St. Joseph, Missouri Police Department

Administrative Assistant



Rita Ketchem began her job on October 16, 1995 as Administrative Aid for the Police Department. In 1999 her position was changed from Administrative Aid to Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police. Her duties with the Police Department include, Office Manager, budget preparation, making travel arrangements, purchasing, processing training requests, keeping track of the many meetings and appointments for the Chief, supervises the Secretary in Administration, and many other duties that come her way. She currently serves on the Red Cross Human Resource Committee and the City of St. Joseph's Employee Advisory Committee. She is very involved in Missouri Special Olympics and is a member of the International Association of Administrative Professionals. Her organizational skills and attention to detail make her a critical asset to the Police department.

Secretary



Delores Helwig was hired as the Secretary on November 17, 2003. Prior to this she was a part-time employee in the Records Division of the police department. Her duties with the Police Department include, answering the phones in Administration and directing the caller to the appropriate place, she orders office supplies and equipment for the department, and keeps track of all vacation time, holidays, and sick leave for the all police employees. She performs payroll functions for the department and also keeps track of false alarms for the City. She is a member of the International Association of Administrative Professionals. Her secretarial skills and record keeping abilities make her a very valuable part of the organization.

Accreditation



Sgt. Rick Wall

The purpose of the accreditation process is to ensure a consistently high level of performance and professionalism is maintained throughout the department. Accreditation is part of the Administrative Division, and the accreditation manager reports directly to the Chief of Police. The department received its' initial accreditation award in November of 2002.

The accreditation manager is responsible for the maintenance of the written directive system and the annual review and update of all applicable accreditation standard files. Each standard dictates a certain level of performance required by the accrediting organization. The written directive system, primarily in the form of the department operations manual, describes and directs the manner in which the department has elected to meet applicable standards.

The Police Department experienced our first CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) reaccreditation assessment December 3rd-8th of 2005. While the first reaccreditation assessment is generally considered the most difficult, the St. Joseph Police Department performed exceptionally well. Of the 446 total standards, there were no instances

in which the department was found in noncompliance. The department elected to opt out of only 8% of the available 20% non-mandatory standards.

In its' executive summary recommendation, the assessment team reported, " The St. Joseph (MO) Police Department is a respected and progressive law enforcement agency. Its members are obviously connected to their community and committed to providing quality service. There are no concerns regarding the agency's compliance with standards applicable to its size and function". At the March, 2006 Jacksonville, Fl. Calea conference, the St. Joseph Police Department received it award of accreditation, and was congratulated by the hearing committee on the notable performance during our on-site.

Captain Kevin Castle served as the accreditation manager from 2001 to 2006. Sergeant Richard Wall replaced Captain Castle in September of 2006 to present. On November 15th, 2006, Sgt. Wall attended the fall CALEA conference in Reno, NV. This conference helped by providing the necessary training for new managers to the CALEA process. Since Sgt. Wall has taken over, he has continued to work on the transfer from the 4th edition to the 5th edition. He expects to have that process completed by June of 2007. For questions regarding the accreditation process, please contact Sergeant Wall at 271-4709.

2007 Accreditation Goals:

Implementation of a new system of file maintenance to locate proofs of compliance which are higher in quality and more effectively obtained, to include:

- Train personnel in designated positions to recognize and keep high-quality examples of department efforts which meet accreditation standards
- Meet with designated personnel to review, collect and evaluate the material collected
- Incorporation of the material into the regular file-maintenance schedule

Facilitate the staff inspection function, to include:

- Designation of key personnel including a team leader to complete an annual review of orders and practices following outlined staff inspection procedures

Successfully "cross over" to the CALEA 5th Edition Standards Manual by June of 2007. Mandatory change over is required by October of 2007. Completion to include:

- All file covers and standards pages completed
- All written directives changed to be consistent with 5th edition language and numbering
- Alteration of existing file-maintenance systems to 5th edition format
- Review the opt out (8%) area and attempt to comply with some of them, if possible.

Professional Standards



Sgt. Janice Rothganger

Sergeant Janice Rothganger manages the Professional Standards Office. The department routinely receives calls from the community. In some instances these calls involve a complaint. To more efficiently address complaints, the on-duty supervisor is typically the point of contact for citizens. Most complaints can be resolved by either the on-duty supervisor or the Watch Commander. The Chief of Police may also direct the Professional Standards Office to investigate complaints.

A complaint may be filed at any time by calling the Communications Center at (816)-271-4777 and asking for the on-duty supervisor. Sgt. Rothganger may be contacted at (816)-271-4780 or jlrothganger@ci.st-joseph.mo.us.

In 2006 our department investigated 139 documented complaints, 327 uses of force, and 28 pursuits. The Professional Standards Office compiles statistical data regarding these topics. For a copy of the most recent Professional Standards Review and Analysis, contact Sgt. Rothganger.

In addition to her Professional Standards duties, Sgt. Rothganger is a team leader for the Department's newly-formed HAZMAT team. The team also consists of Sgt. Jonathan Beaver (co-team leader) and Officers Shawn Henderson, Matt Kneib, James Langston, Craig Smith, and Detective Matt Waller. They will train and work with the Fire Department to respond to various hazardous events that may occur within the City or in the Northwest Missouri region.

Sgt. Rothganger is a strong supporter of the local Special Olympics and serves as a Board Member to the Girl Scouts of the Midland Empire. She is also a member of Missouri/Kansas Women in Criminal Justice and the Downtown SERTOMA club and serves on the Crime Victim's Rights Week Committee.

2007 Professional Standards Office

Enhance the relationship between Police and citizens by:

- Providing information to citizens regarding Department policies and procedures
- Providing a venue for citizens to express their concerns or complaints against Department members
- Responding promptly to inappropriate or unprofessional behavior

Ensure consistent compliance with Department policies and procedures by:

- Reviewing all reports of defense/control
- Reviewing all pursuit reports
- Reviewing all officer-involved accidents
- Responding to every citizen complaint of officer misconduct

Respond to allegations of serious misconduct by:

- Conducting thorough investigations into such matters
- Providing fair and impartial treatment of the officer during investigations
- Working with the officer's chain of command to ensure that, when needed, corrective actions are taken
- Providing closure to the officer and citizen upon complete review of internal investigations

Decrease the Department's liability due to lawsuits against officers by:

- Collecting evidence, statements, data, etc. to prepare a defense against lawsuits brought against the Department
- Promptly identifying inappropriate behavior in order for the chain of command to take corrective actions
- Identifying training needs of officers so that they may improve their skills and professionally conduct their duties

Professional Standards Review/Analysis

2006

Complaints

The department received 139 documented complaints, an increase of 59 from the previous year. This does not account for minor complaints handled by Supervisors and not documented. The increase may be due to more avenues for citizens to report their complaints, such as via the City website. The largest category of documented complaints was related to officer demeanor. Of the 51 complaints in this category, 14 were sustained. Ten officers received verbal counseling, one received a written counseling, and one was issued a written warning. Corrective action on the two remaining incidents was not provided to this office. Six demeanor complaints were combined with complaints of another nature. It is important to note that this category accounted for 36% of all complaints in 2006 compared to 43% in 2005.

Use of Force complaints decreased from 20 to 17% of the overall total while Failure to Act (FTA) issues increased from 16 to 23% of total complaints over the last reporting period. Of the 25 Use of Force complaints, one was sustained, two are currently being reviewed by the chain of command, and one is still under investigation by the Professional Standards Office. All others were cleared with findings of Not Sustained, Unfounded, or Exonerated. Seven of the 33 FTA complaints were founded. One was handled as a training issue, one officer received a verbal counseling, another received a written counseling, two written warnings were issued, one member resigned voluntarily, and no corrective action was reported to this office in the seventh case.

Thirty two complaints/incidents were investigated by the Professional Standards Office and six were sustained. The nature of the sustained complaints included demeanor, lost property, failure to act, improper reporting of overtime, and an off-duty assault. Three are still open or being reviewed. Corrective actions for substantiated IA complaints included no action, training, counseling, a written warning, and suspension.

First line supervisors handled 93 less serious complaints against Department members and sustained seventeen. Those incidents resulted in no action in one incident, and verbal counseling or a written warning in all other cases. This indicates a consistent pattern of discipline when complaints against members are validated. There does not seem to be any disparity with regards to who investigates the problem, suggesting supervisors have a uniform understanding of the complaint process and disciplinary procedures.

The remaining fourteen cases were not investigated by a supervisor or Professional Standards due to the complaint being withdrawn or lack of a specific policy violation.

Two complaints were received based on racial or ethnic discrimination. Neither was sustained. Seven allegations of police harassment were reviewed and none were sustained. Data from the Personnel Early Warning System (P.E.W.S) is reviewed periodically to detect trends of potential profiling or discriminatory practices. No trends were found that indicate a problem with any particular member. Shift Commanders were provided mid-year with an analysis of P.E.W.S. statistics for their respective shifts.

One area of the complaint process was identified that required change. Citizen complaint forms were not always returned to the Professional Standards Office upon completion. Therefore the PSO now submits complaints to the Shift Commanders for delegation.

Professional Standards Review/Analysis

Pursuits

A total of 28 pursuits were reported to the PS office. This is a decrease of five from the previous year. There were no Pursuit Review Boards. Roll call training was conducted following one pursuit that involved too many police vehicles.

Fifteen cases met all criteria for initiating a pursuit. They were initiated for nine felony violations, four misdemeanor violations, and two traffic offenses. Thirteen of these pursuits ended in less than five minutes. The longest pursuit endured for 43 minutes. Four ended in arrest, three in vehicle crashes, officers lost sight of the vehicle in two cases, and the others were terminated by the officer or supervisor.

Of the thirteen incidents that did not meet the pursuit criteria, nine were initiated for traffic-related offenses. Eleven pursuits not meeting the criteria lasted two minutes or less. The remaining lasted five and six minutes, respectively. Five were terminated by the initiating officer, five by the patrol supervisor, and three ended in arrest.

Speeds exceeded the speed limit 0-15 mph in fifteen cases. Twenty six pursuits involved residential streets. Traffic volume was listed as "none" or "light" 26 times. Pedestrian volume was non-existent in every case except one. Road conditions were dry in 25 instances. No roadblocks were used.

Grievances

Human Resources reports no formal grievances filed by department members.

Use of Force

A total of 327 Defense and Control Reports were filed by department members, an increase of 79 over last year. Each officer involved in a D/C incident is required to complete a report. Prior to review and filing by the PS office, each Defense and Control report is reviewed by the shift supervisor to insure compliance with Department policies.

Support Services Division



Commander Jim Connors

2006 has been a very eventful year for the Support Services Division of the Police Department. New members have been added and new challenges have been presented and met.

Projects that have been on the drawing board for years have been completed or are on the verge of completion. The 800 megahertz radio system reached the final stages of completion and is being used by our officers and all the partner agencies. The completion of the radio system moved the emphasis to further improving our communications ability with the awarding of contracts to implement mobile data and an improved records management system, to enable our officers to file their reports from their squad cars. This project should be completed by mid 2007

The crowning achievement during this year was the completion of the addition of new quarters for the Police Department at the Law Enforcement Center. This project will allow the support services division to operate in the same structure as the rest of the police department for the first time in nearly 10 years.

During 2006 the Support Services Division has been very involved with the Weed and Seed project. This involvement included securing additional funding and overseeing the Police Department's role in the project that is designed to lower levels of crime and makes the community more livable.

These projects have taken many hours of dedicated effort on part of the Support Services staff. Who were often called on to perform their normal day to day assignments while taking care of special duties associated with the myriad of special projects.

The Support Services Division is comprised of the members of the Communication Center, the Records Division, Police Booking Officers, Police Main Control Officers, Police Department Garage, Police Training, Crime Prevention Unit, Police Armorer, Police Crime Analyst, Police Evidence, Police Teleserve, Police Warrants Officers and Police Public Information. It is the intention of the members of the Support Services Division to continue the high level of service the community has come to expect.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with such a fine group of men and women.

Commander Jim Connors
Police Support Services Division

Special Events



Sgt Greg Gilpin

Neighborhood Watch

We were able to increase the number of neighborhood watch groups that we met with and to begin getting the patrol officers more involved in the process. Some meetings were attended solely by the officer that works that district. That is how neighborhood watch groups are supposed to work. While talking to the officers I think they enjoyed the meetings and saw the importance of getting to know the residents. I, alone, attended 15 meetings to conduct different training and to keep people informed about the department. The attendees had many questions about our new building, our new radio system and our new chief. I think we have built some strong and lasting relationships that should benefit them and the department.

Each of the existing watch groups and homeowners associations were contacted and encouraged to have meeting on a regular basis and to call me when they meet. Some groups do meet often while others only a couple times a year. We will continue to encourage more meetings.

Special Events

The year started with the 4th annual Mardi Gras Parade. It was a cold event that kept the crowd down from previous years. Throughout the year, the department coordinated 21 events. By working closer with Sgt. McCammon we were able to keep costs down somewhat from previous years. The one big event that did expend some revenue was the Air Show in July. This event had not been held for 10 years and required months of meetings and the efforts of numerous agencies. We also did not have some events this year that we had last year i.e. tractor ride, STARS motorcycle ride. At the end of the year, special events will be transferred to Sgt. McCammon. We would still like to see the adoption of the special event ordinance that has been sitting at City Hall this past year.

Various Programs

Throughout the year the department conducted approximately 23 programs of different types. Many were done in the school where we can into contact with many children. This gave us the opportunity to give some positive interaction. We talked about personal safety/stranger danger issues, bike safety, and 911 abuse. In April officer were at the Youth Alliance Children's Fair at the Civic Fair were we estimated we handed out COP cards to approximately 600 kids. We worked in the schools as much as possible and taught at the Safety Council bicycle programs.

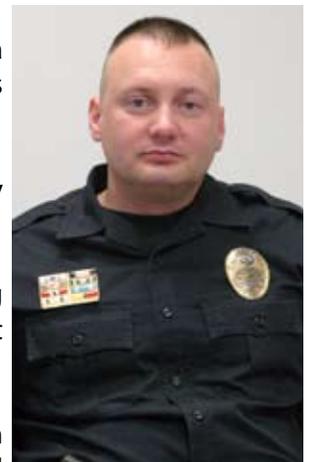
In May we were able to get a donation for over \$3,400 to purchase fingerprint cards that includes a swab to collect and preserve a DNA sample. These are designed to be done by the parents at home and are very popular.

Senior citizens were also taught home safety and security as well as personal safety. This is a group that thieves and scam artist like to prey upon. We spoke at retirement homes as well as civic clubs

We continue to send a letter to burglary victims and offer a free home or business security survey.

Also throughout the year, 28 citizens learned more about their police department by participating in our "Citizen Ride-Along Program". We received very favorable comments from them about how we do our job. This can only improve our community relationships.

There were 7 college students who did their practicums with us during the year. One of them liked the police department so much that when a booking desk position opened up he applied for it and was hired.



Cpl Richard Eaton

Special Events



Command Post

The command post was called out approximately 23 times for different events and crimes. It continues to prove its worth. Throughout the year it was driven 641 miles. It was twice taken out of town to assist other agencies with homicides. It remains an economical vehicle only consuming 218 gallons of fuel. Most of the fuel is used when the generator is running and the majority of that is during special events.

With the new radio system we hope to begin making upgrades to the command post so as to increase its capabilities.



Trail Watch

This year saw the second year of the Trail Watch Program. We had hopes to expand the number of hours the volunteers patrolled the trails from last years 1300 hours. But this year there was a different philosophy at Missouri Western. We did not get the participation from students wanting to do summer practicums. We had heard that some of the teachers at the school did not feel this program met their requirements. But this year we had citizens who really believed in the program and wanted to volunteer. They were not driven by the number of hours that practicum programs require. Several of the volunteers were on the trails 3-4 days a week. Approximately 14 people donated their time. They patrolled over 900 hours and two of them kept patrolling well into November when it got too cold even for them.

We were fortunate that one of the volunteers is an avid "4 wheeler" on his own time and has a good knowledge of this kind of vehicle vehicles. We "picked" his brain often and plan to do so in the future. We also hope to purchase a golf cart that will require less maintenance.

In 2007, the trail system is scheduled to expand and with it our responsibility to provide a safe environment for walkers and bike riders. We regularly get calls from citizens who appreciate the program. We still hope to work with the Parks Department to get a trail marking system in place. We remain excited about this program and think it can become something that other cities might want to copy.

Recruiting



Sgt Maria Wilson

The St. Joseph Police Department is dedicated to recruiting the most qualified and talented new recruits to the department as possible. Sergeant Marla Wilson, department recruiter, attends several career fairs annually in an attempt to achieve this goal. In 2006, Sgt. Wilson attended 9 career fairs at various locations including colleges, universities, sports facilities and civic centers. Some of those included Missouri Western State University, Northwest Missouri State University, University of Central Missouri (formerly Central Missouri State University), Whiteman Air Force Base, Arrowhead Stadium and the St. Joseph Civic Arena.

Recruiting brochures are also delivered to various organizations around town to have on-hand for display, including the YMCA, YWCA and various educational facilities. For advertising, Sgt. Wilson continued to advertise at the local movie theater, which is North Village Cinema in the New Village Shoppes area. With the current budget, only half of the facility's 10 theaters were represented.

Recruiting is a very significant part in increasing the Police Department's workforce. Although 2006 was a successful recruiting year, even more needs to be done in the pursuit of obtaining as many qualified candidates as possible. Hopefully in the coming year, even more fairs can be attended--including those farther away--in an attempt to attain a more diverse workforce.

Crime Analysis



Sgt Ron Gordon

Sergeant Ron Gordon is the department Crime Analyst. However, in 2006, Sgt. Gordon's assignment as co-manager of the Mobile Data Project for Fire and Police has directed much of his attention to hardware and software set up that will carry over into 2007. For the Police Department, mobile data should streamline the reporting process, allowing for more immediate access to crime information. Data processed by the Records Unit is used by the Crime Analyst to generate useful information that can be used by patrol and detectives to form tactical plans to address crime problems. The administration also uses call and crime reports to determine workloads and manpower needs. The Crime Analyst supports the Patrol, Detective and Administration Divisions and other government agencies as well as providing information to individuals and businesses in the community. The unit provided information for over 150 requests in 2006. To request crime information, call (816)271-4755 or email Sgt. Gordon at rgordon@ci.st-joseph.mo.us. Requests for information can be for certain crimes or crime in general. Requests may also range from a specific address to citywide.

Training



Officer Mike George

The goal for the St. Joseph Police Department's Training Division is to provide the best training available with a limited budget and still meet all of the Department, City, CALEA and POST standards. The police department currently operates on an 8-hour day/5-day workweek. We have complete department training sessions at least 3 to 4 times a year when every officer (and civilians in some cases) must go through the training. To achieve this, we have to take 8 full days, minus any make-up training, to get this accomplished. Department training for 2006 included: Racial Profiling, Defensive Tactics, Shotgun/Less Lethal/Stress course, Customer Service, Survival Spanish, Handgun, Supplemental Firearms, Professional Police Driving course, NIMS IS-100 and NIMS IS-700, Rapid Deployment Refresher and Police Rifle Course.

Besides the mandatory training listed above (which varies slightly each year), officers were able to take advantage of numerous other training opportunities in the field(s) of their choice. Officers are sent to training and conferences all over the country, which not only expands their knowledge in particular areas but enhances the department's overall status as well. We are also able to use some of our own specially trained officers as instructors, not only for just our officers but for other departments' officers as well.

Although roll call training is not a new concept, the St. Joseph Police Department began conducting roll call training weekly in 2006. Topics included information on subjects like officer safety, statute or ordinance updates and changes in department/city policies and procedures. Any "hot topics" that arose were also included.

The training division did experience a change in September 2006. Training Officer Mike George, who had done a fantastic job in this position, was replaced with Sergeant Marla Wilson, simply because this position needed to be of a supervisory status.

The St. Joseph Police Department's Training Division is constantly growing and expanding, to include a state-of-the-art training room, which will begin hosting training classes in early 2007. We hope to continue to offer our officers and civilians the best training available as often as possible. Improving our employees' training and knowledge makes them better at their individual jobs, which in turn makes them better at serving our community as well.



Patrol Division



Commander Charles Robinson

The personnel of the Patrol Division had another banner year. In addition to handling 57,757 calls for service they also aggressively worked up another 49,934 self-initiated calls. Calls for service are calls initiated by citizen complaints of activity of a criminal nature or something that the caller finds suspicious or otherwise requiring closer inspection by authorities. Self-initiated calls are circumstances observed or discovered by the initiative of the individual officer during the course of his/her duties. Self-initiated activity is usually defined by the experience level, work ethic and quality of the individual officer.

Preliminary indications are that these efforts bore fruit in that Part 1 crimes appear to be down in several categories. Although police work alone does not account for this falling off, it can be legitimately argued that good police work does have a contributory effect on reducing crime.

During the six month period beginning July 1, 2006, and ending December 31, 2006, personnel of the Patrol Division made approximately 566 investigation arrests, 947 misdemeanor arrests, 143 domestic violence arrests, 164 DWI/DUI arrests and served approximately 175 felony warrants and 673 misdemeanor warrants. They also processed approximately 240 crime scenes.

Goals and objectives for 2006 consisted of the following:

- Improve traffic enforcement efforts division-wide in order to increase traffic safety and reduce property damage.
- Reduce street level violent crime.
- Improve overall efficiency and effectiveness of Patrol Division.

We note the following improvement:

- Traffic enforcement index is up over 2005 by 1,462 summonses.
- Traffic enforcement index is at its highest level since 1999.
- Traffic fatalities are down by greater than 50%.
- Property damage collisions are down by 200 over 2005.
- Aggravated assault, homicide, burglary, auto theft, and larceny also appear to be down.
- Patrol supervisors and officers used a variety of tools to improve reporting of work performance and track equipment use for accountability and replacement purposes.

The goals for 2007 are:

1. Continue to enhance/improve traffic enforcement efforts of Patrol Division.
 - a) Continue to increase enforcement efforts in the area of moving violations
 - b) Target high traffic collision areas for additional enforcement.
 - c) Continue to improve public education in the area of defensive driving.
2. Focus efforts, in conjunction with the Detective Division, to reduce violent crime.
 - a) Utilize computerized reporting system to identify patterns, locales days/dates and times that these activities are occurring.
 - b) Formalize team efforts with Detectives/Street Crimes to address violent crime problems.
 - c) Work with Support Services to focus efforts in public education to reduce some of the contributing factors involved in violent crime, i.e., drug and alcohol use.
3. Address property crime concerns in the areas of burglaries, larcenies and auto thefts.
 - a) Public education through neighborhood meetings and media coverage to increase crime prevention efforts that will assist in enhancing home/business security.
 - b) Work more closely with investigators to reduce the incidence of auto thefts.
 - c) Use public education efforts to reduce the incidence of auto thefts that occur due to actions of vehicle owners, i.e., keys left in vehicles and vehicles left running and unattended.

Patrol Division

In June the Patrol Division moved into the new facility. The ample space this move provided to the Division did much to improve morale. The commander and each captain now have adequate office space. Ten sergeants now share five offices, two to an office. This allows supervisors to conduct business and counseling in appropriate privacy. The Traffic unit also has its own separate office space which provides storage space for traffic related investigative equipment as well as desks and a drafting board.

Patrol officers now have a separate report writing room with six computer work stations. All related forms are also housed in this space. The new Roll Call area is large and equipped with state of the art video equipment for training and planning for operations. This equipment is computerized and set up for convenience of use. The offices of the commander, captains, and sergeants all open out into the roll call area, providing ease of communication.

On the first floor of the facility are the women's and men's locker rooms. Immediately adjacent to the locker rooms and showers is the new work out room equipped with a variety of treadmills and other cardiovascular and weight training equipment. The convenience provided by this proximity is greatly appreciated by all and is probably responsible for the apparent increased usage of the work out facilities.

Also located on the ground floor is the evidence packaging and booking area where Patrol officers prepare evidence for storage. Once again, the close proximity to other operations and functions is appreciated by police officers. The members of the uniform Patrol Division wish to express their gratitude to the City Council and citizens for answering the space needs of the Department. After having to function under the cramped circumstances formerly provided it is a relief to have ample work space. Thank you, one and all!

PATROL DIVISION STAFFING

The Patrol Division consists of patrol officers who function as district officers, K-9 officers, traffic officers, school resource officers, and as special response (tactical) officers and hostage negotiators. The make up of the three shifts (Midnights, Days, and Evenings) is as follows: The officer in charge of the Division is a Police Commander.

Midnight Shift:

One Captain
Three Sergeants
Seventeen Patrol Officers

Day Shift:

One Captain
Four Sergeants
Fifteen Patrol Officers
One K-9 Officer
Three Traffic Officers
Four School Resource Officers
One Court Marshal

Evening Shift:

One Captain
Four Sergeants
Eighteen Patrol Officers
One K-9 Officer
Three Traffic Officers

Street Crimes Unit:

One Sergeant
Two Investigators

Personnel of the Patrol Division worked with Street Crimes and Buchanan County's Drug Strike Force on drug interdiction work. Officers also worked with the Buchanan Co. Juvenile Office to work out procedures that would enhance cooperation between the two agencies. Officers from the evening shift met with neighborhood groups to assist with handling crime and other neighborhood concerns.

Officers from the midnight shift continued to develop strategies to handle crowd control issues that occur at bar closing times. Officers from all shifts and traffic continued to perform directed patrol activities to provide solutions to a wide assortment of identified problems and neighborhood and traffic issues. In short, Patrol was very proactive in their work function as can be ascertained by the high level of officer initiated activity.



Street Crimes Unit

The Street Crimes Unit was developed to answer the problems that are an outgrowth of street level activity involving drugs, larcenies, auto theft, violent crime associated with drug dealing, and other criminal activity. There is 1 Sergeant and 2 Investigators assigned to the unit. While the unit does work several drug related cases, it is not the only function although most other criminal activity revolves around the use of illegal drugs. The basic purpose of this unit is to inhibit, as much as possible, the contributing effects that drug dealing has on crime in this community.

The Street Crimes Unit deals primarily with short term investigations into these types of illegal activity. They work in conjunction with members of the Buchanan County Drug Strike Force, which primarily deals with long term drug investigations, and the Detectives of the St Joseph Police Department.

Members of the Street Crimes Unit conduct covert surveillance to apprehend those individuals that are conducting criminal activity, including burglaries, vandalism, and thefts from motor vehicles. Surveillance is done in plain clothes by trained members, which allows more flexibility in the detection of these types of perpetrators. These types of operations take a more directed focus, for which Detectives usually don't have the time due to their case loads.

In the past year members of the unit recovered numerous items that had been taken in burglaries, or larcenies and also assisted with major investigations involving assaults and subjects wanted for homicides. Members also tracked down individuals that were wanted for warrants or active investigations, and successfully apprehended many of the individuals.

Members of the unit were able to obtain grants to purchase new surveillance equipment, which will allow members the ability to enhance investigations and covert surveillance operations.

Special Response Team



The St. Joseph Police Department Special Response Team consists of 16 police officers from various units within the department. The team is considered a “part time” unit, made up of volunteer personnel who perform regular police duties in addition to their SRT duties. Officers who wish to be part of the team must go through a selection process that tests their physical ability, mental ability and shooting skills.

Mission

The mission of the Special Response Team is to provide the department with the capability to safely resolve high-risk situations. Some examples of these types of situations are:

- Barricaded suspects
- Suicidal subjects
- Hostage situations
- Search warrants/raids
- High risk arrests
- VIP protection details
- Riot/crowd control
- Other situations where the likelihood of armed resistance appears great

The St. Joseph Police Department’s Special Response Team is committed to serving our community and carrying out our mission with dedication and professionalism to achieve our goal of saving lives. The Special Response Team maintains a close working relationship with many other public service agencies in and around the St. Joseph area and is available to provide assistance that requires special skills.

Incidents

The Special Response Team was called out 15 times in 2006. SRT handled such incidents as:

- High-risk arrest warrants
- High-risk search warrants for drugs and/or property
- Methamphetamine labs
- Murderers
- Barricaded subjects
- Crowd control

SRT responded to a request for assistance from an area agency for a barricaded subject. The incident was resolved without injury to the suspect or team members.

Community Service

SRT officers have given speeches and demonstrations for other organizations and civic groups. Every year the team participates in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. The St. Joseph Police Department’s Special Response Team is dedicated to the concept of public service.

Special Response Team

Equipment

Weapons assigned to the team include light mounted MP 5 submachine guns, shotguns, AR 15 rifles, scoped .308 rifles, light mounted pistols, 37 mm multi projectile launcher, 12 gauge and 37 mm less lethal weapon system, high power scoped rifles and various chemical agents (tear gas).

In addition to equipment carried by team members, the team has a large van that carries larger pieces of equipment such as ballistic shields, breaching tools, ladders, lighting, and a variety of surveillance equipment.

APC: In mid 2006 the department received a used Peacekeeper Armored Personnel Carrier. The vehicle had been in use by the Kansas City Missouri Police Department and was transferred to the St. Joseph Police by the Missouri Department of Public Safety. Once the St. Joseph Police Department received the vehicle, it was repainted, new decals were applied, the interior was stripped and rhino lining was applied and minor mechanical repairs were made.

Vehicle Specs

Crew:	(2 front, 6 back)
Configuration:	4X4
Weight:	10,000
Length:	15.4ft
Width:	6.6ft
Height:	6.4ft
Ground Clearance:	7.9"
Max Road Speed:	69.4 mph
Fuel Capacity	31.9 gal.
Engine:	Dodge 360 CID V-8
Electrical System:	12V



Crisis Negotiation Team

The Crisis Negotiation Team is separate from, but works hand-in-hand with SRT coordinating food delivery, release of hostages, placement of surveillance cameras and microphones, and determination of suitability on tactical responses. The Crisis Negotiation Team has been very successful in enabling tense situations to be resolved without violence. SRT takes over in tactical situations. Chemical irritants and entry with distraction devices may be used when an impasse has been declared. The average SRT/Negotiator call-out lasts two hours (though a few last much longer than that). Currently there are five negotiators. Each team member has received formal training and participates in joint training exercises with SRT.

Special Projects

This year members of the team, with the help of donations of materials and money from various individuals and businesses, were able to construct a 50' X 40' concrete training structure. The structure features a concrete foundation and outer walls with openings for doors and windows. Portable stud walls were constructed that allow officers to create different floor plans for training scenarios or for training to execute a warrant or rescue operation at a location where the floor plan is known. The structure has a steel I-beam catwalk that spans the top of the structure giving trainers the ability to see every detail of the training. SRT members also enclosed an existing shelter that is now used for classroom training and weapons cleaning. Other improvements to the range by members were landscaping and pouring of sidewalks on the firing line alleviating the problem of muddy and slippery surfaces. Sidewalks were poured at various distances on the range.

School Resources Officers



School Resource Officers

During the course of the past year the School Resources Officers and the Youth Safety Officer report that there were no major incidents at any of the schools which they cover. The officers as a group report that the efforts of the last several years are starting to pay off in that parents and students are coming forward with information about activity in the schools as well as the community. This has resulted in fewer incidents at the schools and in the community.

Youth Safety Officer T. Smith trained over 500 Safety Patrols at the 35 different schools. He also located donations and prizes for a party he organized at the end of the year for the kids participating in the program. During the year he was active in the Community Drug Council and Drug Free Coalition whose goal is to reduce the incidence of juvenile/adult drug and alcohol use through education and community involvement. Approximately 38 presentations were made in the community, which ranged from daycares to Safety Town and Bicycle Safety Day.

SRO Sexton and the administrations at his assigned schools identified various problems and concerns that they felt needed to be addressed. Ideas on how to address these issues were collected through various methods. One of the strategies that was implemented at Spring Garden was the "gold card" system. A student that continuously demonstrates good behavior, and does well academically is given a gold card that allows for special benefits, such as exiting class a few minutes early for passing time. This program allows for students to be held accountable for their actions, and in theory should reduce some disruptive behavior that could lead to criminal behavior. Another strategy that was implemented at Benton, in the 2006 school year, was increased presence in the hallways by faculty and staff during passing times and class times. School officials and SRO Sexton have increased their visibility, and routinely ask students "roaming" the hallways where they are supposed to be, and escort them there. School personnel as well as SRO Sexton have also increased their monitoring of the schools restrooms, in an effort to combat smoking in the building. Also, Benton High School has adopted a closed cafeteria policy. During the 2005-2006 school years, students were allowed to leave the cafeteria to go to certain areas of the building, sometimes disrupting other classes, or leaving the building. The closed cafeteria policy requires students to have permission from a teacher or administrator to leave, and is the current policy for the 2006-2007 school year. Benton also instituted a rule that requires all exterior entrance/exits to be locked except for the main front and back doors. These doors can be used for exiting the building, but re-entry cannot be made. This has helped cut down the amount of truancies substantially.

In SRO Sexton's opinion, these policy changes have had an impact on the amount of school rule and law violations within his buildings.

SRO's Lanning and Ogdahl are active with their school administrations and conduct more of a one on one type interaction with the students and parents. SRO Ogdahl conducted over 65 hours of advising or having meetings with students and parents.

Officer Shawn Henderson continued his work in the Juvenile Diversion Program sponsored through Learning for Life. He visited a number of schools presenting programs dealing with both law enforcement and education/decision making.

Of special mention is YSO T. Smith for his efforts in presenting the idea of providing a modified version of the police department's active shooter program to the school administration and principals. Once he was given the go ahead for this project, he solicited the SRO's and Sgt. Miller to assist. The first program was presented to not only public school officials but also private and parochial school officials. There has been a positive response from this program in that school officials now wish to present the program to their teachers and other school employees so that everyone will have some idea of what the police response to that type of incident would be.

During the past year there were 3 bomb threats phoned in. In the past, usually no one would come forward with information. However, information did come in that resulted in charges being filed on two persons in reference to two of the bomb threats.

To summarize, officers have seen an increase of cooperation by students and parents in ways that can't be measured in numbers, but in a sense of being safe while at school. The school administrators have expressed their appreciation for our presence in the schools and go out of their way to accommodate the officers on improving school safety.

Year End Traffic Report

Accidents Reported 2006

Total Accidents: 2608
Property Damage: 1303
Injury: 594 with 968 Injuries

Fatals: 4 with 4 Fatalities

Hit & Runs: 707
207 Cleared Hit & Runs
Private Property: 167

Accidents Reported 2005

Total Accidents: 2764
Property Damage: 1503
Injury: 581 with 939 Injuries

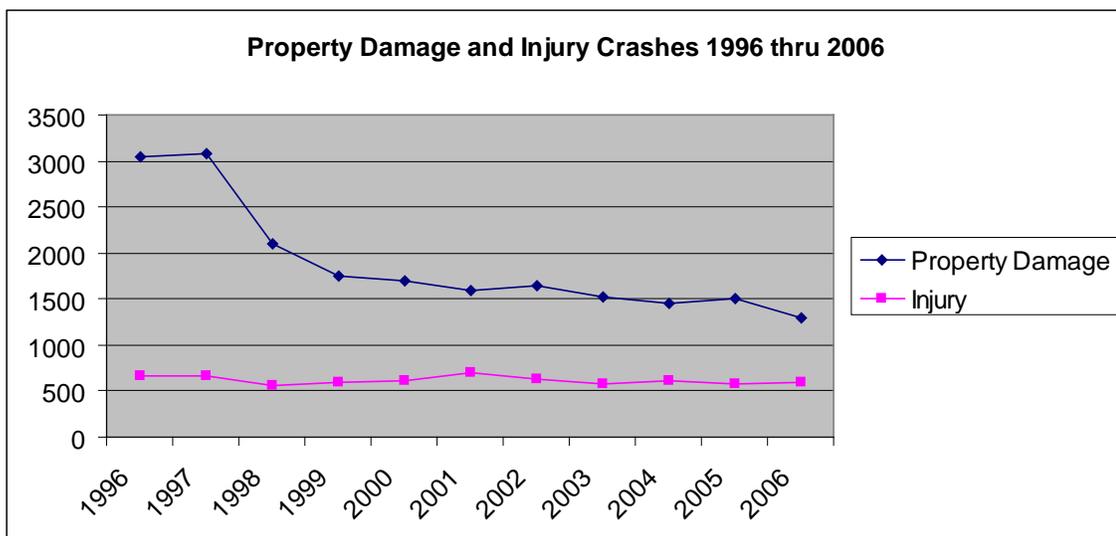
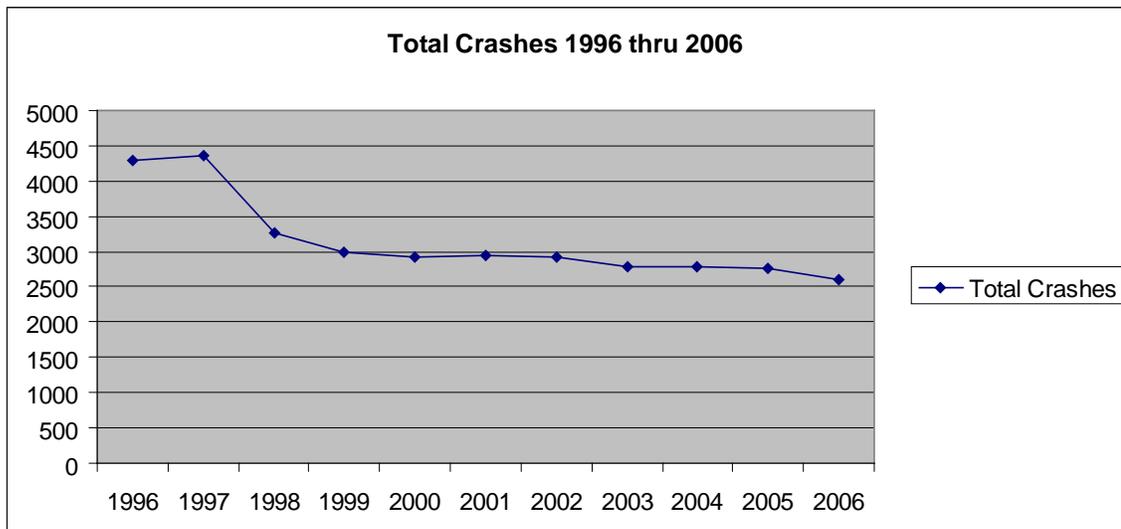
Fatals: 10 with 11 Fatalities

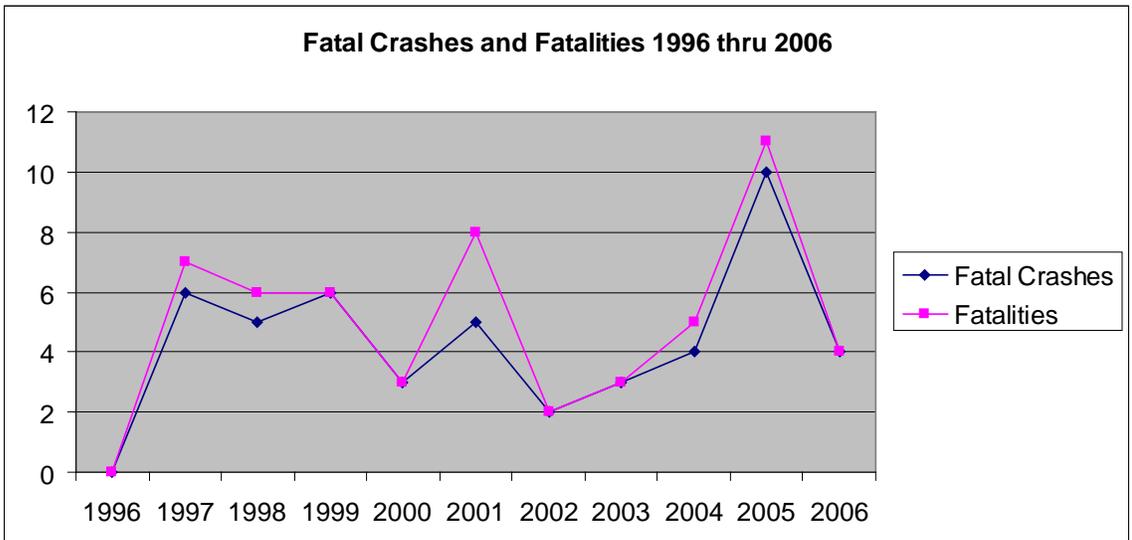
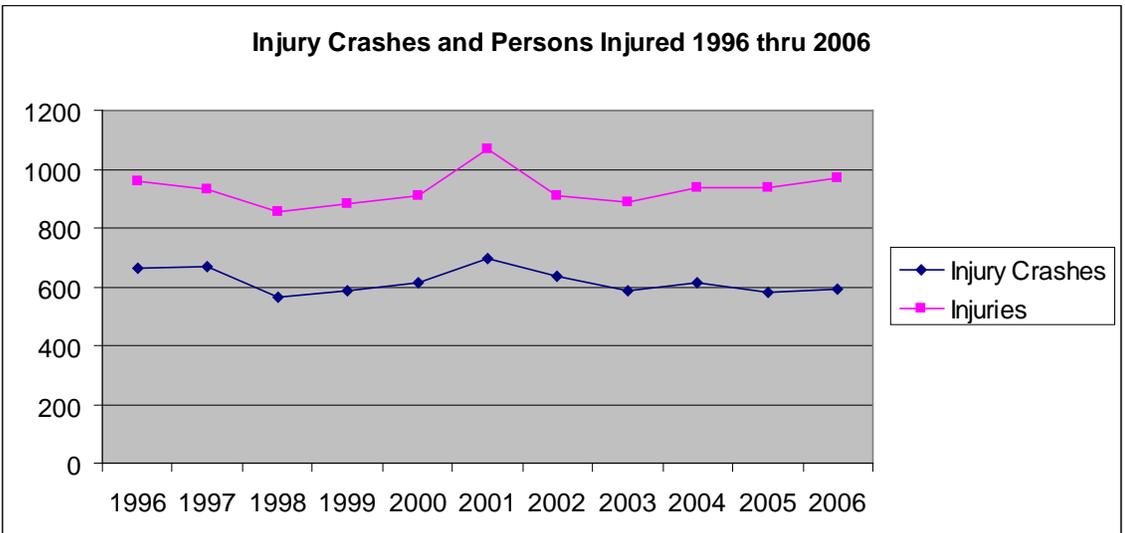
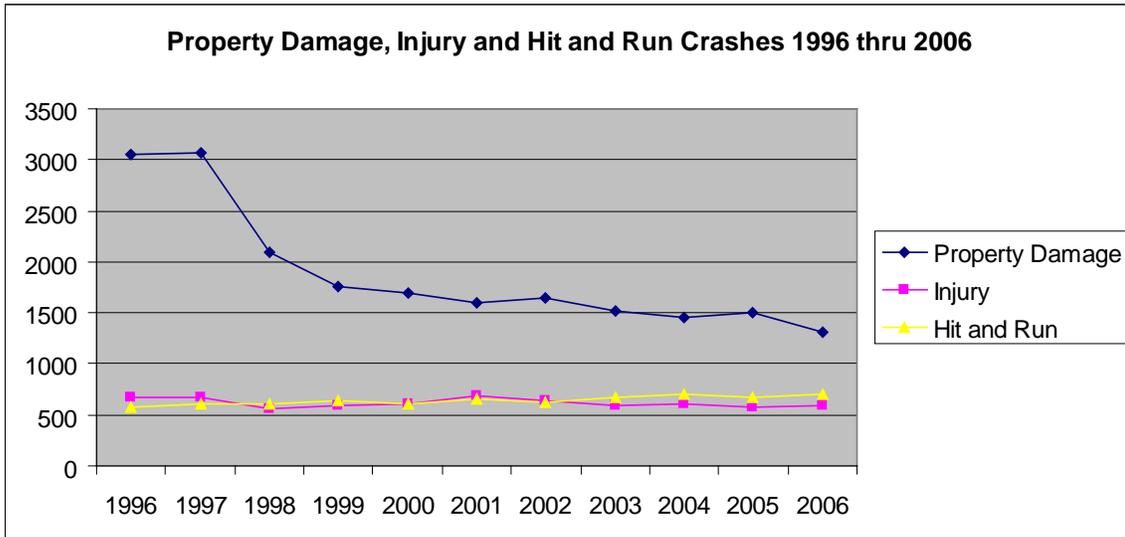
Hit & Runs: 670
170 Cleared Hit & Runs
Private Property: 140



Yearly Ticket Totals 1999-2006

YEAR	TICKET TOTAL
2006	21370
2005	19908
2004	20713
2003	17997
2002	19201
2001	19551
2000	19284
1999	23666





August 20, 2003. After a selection process, the City Manager signed a contract with GeoComm to be the Consultant for the Project, as approved by the City Council.

In February 2004, GeoComm Engineer Rey Freeman delivered the Phase One Report that explained the history of the Public Safety Communications in St. Joseph and Buchanan County and inventoried the equipment and resources to that time. .

May 2004. GeoComm Engineer Rey Freeman delivered the Phase Two Report with advice on a direction to take in building a new system, taking into consideration the parameters that the Project Partners had specified and the advances in technology that would allow for interoperability of communications in the future to mitigate the effects of and respond to natural disasters and homeland security threats.

November 5, 2004. The RFP was issued for building the radio system..

December 2004. Motorola responded to the RFP for the Radio System Infrastructure and added a supplemental proposal for a Turnkey System. Motorola included \$1.6M of incentives for the group to accept this proposal by 12-20-04. The contract was approved by the City Council and signed on that date. Amount of Proposal was \$8,442,135.19. The projected completion date set in April 2006. The supplemental proposal is now titled Change Order # 1.

February 2005. Buchanan County began negotiating leases for radio tower locations. Leases signed for locations at Frazier, Rushville, Lewis School Rd near DeKalb, and Smith site on Seymour Rd.

March 7 and 8, 2005. Detailed Design Review completed with Motorola, GeoComm and local project partnership representation.

March 21, 2005. Zoning Requests for the tower sites approved by the County Zoning Board.

April 21, 2005. Final approval from FAA received on the Smith Tower on condition that it be reduced from 450 to 380 feet.

June 2005. Buchanan County has completed access road construction, surveys, easements and obtained utility power to the tower sites in the County. Work at the sites began the week of June 20, 2005.

June 27, 2005 Foundation work has begun at the Rushville tower site. Crews then moved to Lewis School site, Frazier site, and then Smith site.

8-1-05 Most of the construction in the county on the 4 new towers is complete.

August 4, 2005. We traveled to Schaumburg, IL to the Motorola CCSI facility. The radio system was mounted on racks and wired together and ready for testing. We performed 48 system tests and all performed to specifications. This was the first testing phase for the system. The system having passed that test was disassembled and packed for shipping to St. Joseph.

8-17-05. Some equipment for the system arrived on Friday 8-12-05.

Yesterday and today, 8-16 and 17, we received the equipment from Schaumburg, IL that we went there to test on August 4. Some of the racks of equipment weighed several hundred pounds. Equipment was delivered to all seven of the tower sites and stored in the buildings that were installed at the tower sites last week. The emergency generators have not yet arrived but the pads are finished and the fuel tanks for some of them have been delivered and installed.

9-19-05 Midwest Mobile started installing equipment on the towers.

9-21-05 Signed milestone documents agreeing that the shelters at the 4 county sites had been delivered and installed as promised.

11-3-05 Site visits at the towers in the county were done this week. A majority of the work had been completed at every site except at the 42nd street tower. However, at that location the majority of the installation had been done except for the equipment on the tower. The microwave dishes and antennas cannot be installed until a tower upgrade is completed to make it sturdy enough to hold all the equipment.. The work is to begin soon.

12-6-05 Most of the upgrade work on the 42nd street tower is completed but the installation of the microwave dishes is now delayed to the cold and snow. Mobile and portable units were delivered to Midwest Mobile this week and have been inventoried. This equipment must be programmed with the talk groups and other information before it will be usable. the service of the radio system. We are still below the number of subscriber units per licensed frequency the FCC recommends meaning that more units could be added without adverse effect.

12-20-05 Ernie Miller of Midwest Mobile notified me that the tower upgrade work at 42nd Street has been completed. The next step is for Pyramid to return and install the microwave dishes on that tower. Motorola came to town to meet with us on Tuesday. They have made a Corporate decision to consolidate their line of systems. Motorola is asking to amend the original proposal. Due to our budget constraints, Motorola designed what they are calling the LE to serve our needs and fit our budget. Motorola has now made a corporate decision that it is inefficient to offer 3 similar but different lines of systems. They had an SE system and a complete system also. Motorola is therefore asking to amend our contract with a change order (of \$0 (zero) impact to us.) They propose to add a zone controller and some other equipment and to change some controller cards in the routers. This is a considerable amount of hardware and software for them to add to the system. As this is their corporate decision to consolidate their line for their convenience, hence no charge. They state that this will add some flexibility in the use and possible future expansion of the system. It would also allow for improved interoperability as the State of Missouri plans to utilize the 800 Mhz spectrum in the future. Our consultant, Rey Freeman of GeoComm is looking over Motorola's plan to ensure that the plan is reasonable and complete. He did advise that if that is the case, it would likely be best for us to accept the amendment.

1-5-06 The subcontractors are in town this week installing the microwave dishes on 42nd St. tower. They will also be doing some work at all 8 locations, tuning equipment and checking alignments. Testing is supposed to start on the microwave system late next week, after the present work is completed. Motorola will be here Jan 10 for the monthly face-to-face meeting. We'll have some questions for them about the new proposal at that time.

1-10-06 Motorola was in town today for the face to face meeting. The project manager, Sandip Patel, advised us that the system change that they advised us about earlier is still going through an internal review for final approval. He will advise us further when that has taken place. Motorola advised us of the timeline for re-banding of the Public Safety and cell phone frequencies. We will have to select someone to guide us through the process. Mr. Patel said that Motorola is still committed to finishing the project by the end of April. He suggested that because of the re-banding and because the dispatch work stations will eventually have to be re-located into the LEC expansion, that we might want to consider a short delay in launching the new system. Some investigation of the time lines for re-banding and the completion of the Communications Center in the expansion would be beneficial. If the time-lines can be coordinated correctly to ensure a minimum delay, we might save some headaches by installing the new work stations in the new space and tuning to the new frequencies before launching the system rather than after it is up and running. If already on the air before re-banding, the change would require us to temporarily shut down half the system for re-tuning, migrating to that part of the system for a short while and then re-tuning the rest before bringing the whole system back on-line. Avoiding the task of installing the work stations in the present comm center and then moving them would also be a benefit. We are working on getting time line estimates on this.

- 1-19-06 Motorola sub-contractors are now visiting all the sites to check alignment of the microwave dishes and to test the microwave system. This is the system that will transport signals between the tower sites, eliminating the need for the leased telephone lines and eliminating the long-time problems we have had with those telephone lines.
- 1-25-06 Capt. Richard Wolfe, Bill Brinton, county emergency management director Paramedic Steve Groshong with Heartland visited the tower sites to inspect. We have been advised by Motorola that all the installation is complete at the sites and that the microwave testing was successful. A milestone has been reached by this completion and another payment will be due when the invoice is received.
- 2-2-06 As part of the planning process, I made another inquiry with Joe Swearingen, the Motorola Rebanding Strategist, about the advisability of waiting until rebanding has taken place to put our system on the air. He said that the timeline has not been going as expected that that he was sure that we should plan to go on the air rather than wait for this to occur. This will necessitate re-tuning the system to new frequencies later as required by the FCC.
- 2-7-06 Motorola management recently signed off on their proposal to add additional hardware to our system. This will consist of a zone controller that will make our system more versatile and more capable of interoperability. Chief Connally signed off on the no cost to us change order as both the City and County agreed to accept the change. Motorola Project Manager Sandip Patel advised that the equipment would be ordered on receipt of the change order. The project completion date is still the end of April 2006.
- 2-10-06 We are still investigating the possibility of installing the work stations in the new communications center space in the LEC expansion before we go on the air with the system. We are still gathering information on this, no decision has been made at this time.
- 6-29-06 We had lightning damage to a tower top amplifier. It is being repaired at Motorola's expense, since they still own the system. This is for the tower at S 16th. Most of the workstation equipment at LEC is installed but not yet powered up, pending locating and connecting to a proper ground in the LEC expansion. Motorola is in town working on the system to tune and optimize. Most equipment at all the towers is turned on. We're finalizing talk groups so that Motorola can develop the subscriber unit programming templates. We're getting closer to completion, but much work remains. We will also have training sessions for the dispatch staff and users. Dates have not been finalized.
- 7-27-06 The CommCenter equipment grounding issue has been resolved and the work on it completed. Therefore, the equipment in the Comm Center has been turned on. Last week, we had several pairs of people out testing the coverage for the whole county. Most of the time this consisted of a local person paired with someone from Motorola. Once we got the routine and to free up the engineer for other work, a pair of our POC went out without Motorola people. The local people doing this were Richard Wolfe, city, Bill Brinton, county emergency management director, and Steve Groshong, Heartland. The testing went well. We don't have the final figures yet, as that part of the testing was just finished yesterday afternoon, but we discussed it among ourselves and our experience was that the majority of the grids tested had the guaranteed coverage. Of the grids that failed the test, it may be that they were near the passing threshold but failed. We will be analyzing the data in the coming days.
- The Motorola engineer has been programming the equipment at the dispatch workstations and it is progressing well at this time. Tabby McClanahan, Capt. Richard Wolfe and Sgt. Ron Gordon received System Administrator training on Weds 7-26-06. My dispatch staff and some of the Heartland dispatch staff are being trained on the equipment today and tomorrow, 7-27-28-06. The trainer is doing a great job, in my opinion, and the training is progressing.

7-31-06 We received printouts from Motorola on the coverage testing. The city coverage was 99% and the county coverage 98%. The coverage that Motorola had guaranteed was 95%. Of the small percentage of grids that failed, we will be doing some further testing which will be done by actually talking on the subscriber units from the failed grids to see how communications work from there. A failed grid does not mean that there is no communications possible from the grid, only that the test showed less than the test specified. Some of the grids were very near passing. A couple of grids that had a poor test score have already been checked and it was found that communications were satisfactory. These two were on a road in Bluff Woods at the bottom of a pair of steep hills. Bill Brinton and Steve Groshong tested these by voice and found that they were able to communicate.

Much of the hardware for the System Upgrade has been delivered to the prime site and has been installed in racks. The crew is working on installing the necessary electrical service for the upgrade. The software for the upgrade has not yet arrived and the hardware has not yet been connected.

Work is being done to program the system and as part of that arrangements are being made to allow simulcasting on some of the frequencies. This will allow us to broadcast on the old and new system at the same time. The benefit of this is to allow us time to install mobile radios in the vehicles as time permits. Someone who has a new or old radio will be able to communicate with the others and respond to the same call together and have equal communication abilities on that channel.

9-8-06 Heartland Paramedics went live on the new radio system.

9-26-06 The Communications Center moved to the new location in the LEC expansion. We began using the new consoles but were still using the old radio system.

10-26-06 A replacement for a transformer that failed at 3rd & Hamburg has arrived and is being installed. That will restore our redundancy of that equipment and ensure that if this recurs, half the system will still be usable. The current plan is for the Heartland Ambulances to start using the system the first week of November. They will still have alternate communications to use if a problem occurs.

Programming templates for the mobile and portable radios are being finalized by Motorola and when complete, will be forwarded to Midwest Mobile Radio, so that the information can be loaded into the radios during the installation process. Motorola has not yet provided this, so installation is not currently taking place.

They are still proposing that after Heartland, the Sheriff's dept, Fire Dept, Police Dept, County Highway, and other associated department radios be installed and go on the system in that order. Motorola has not given me a final date for all to be on the system.

As of 3:30 PM 12-19-06 departments using the new radio system a Heartland Paramedics, Shuttle and Security, Buchanan County Sheriff including Drug Strike Force and Court Marshals, Buchanan County Juvenile Office, St. Joseph Fire, Buchanan County Highway Dept. and now the St. Joseph Police. There are still a few mobile units for police that need to be installed and completion is expected by the end of the day today.



Detective Division



Cmdr Larry Smith

The Detective Division is the investigative branch of the Police Department and as such is responsible for all secondary investigation of crimes that occur within the boundaries of the City of St. Joseph.

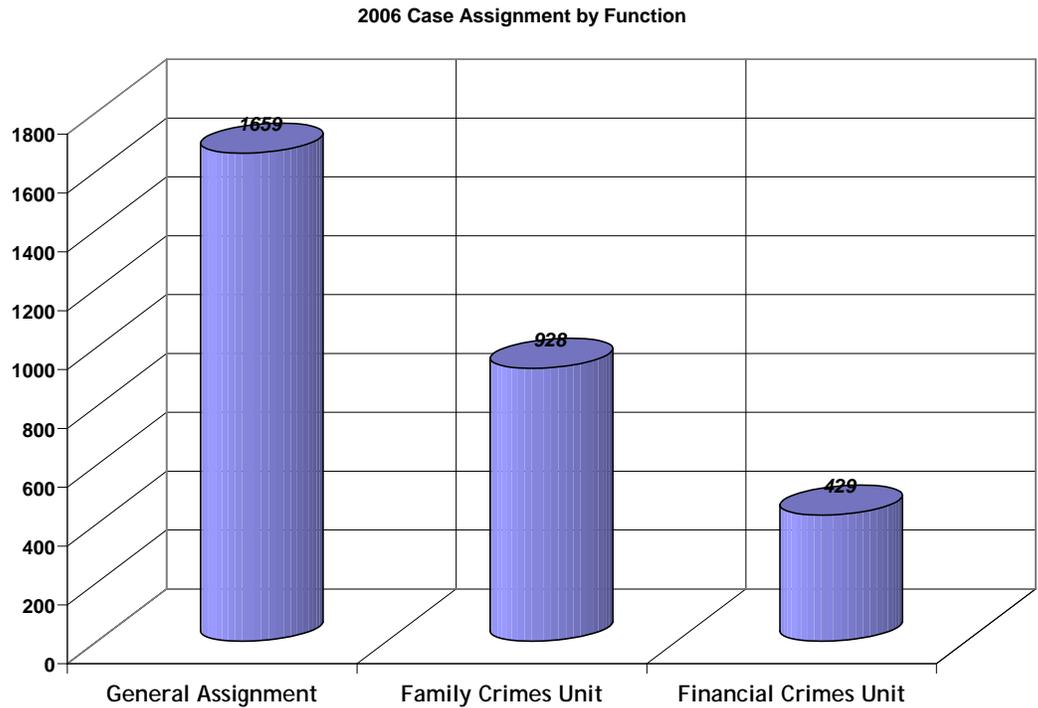
As anticipated, case management statistics compiled for the calendar year 2006, were consistent with those of the previous year. The division's supervisors reviewed a total of 13,086 Offense/ Incident reports of which 3,016 met the criteria for assignment to a detective for further investigation.

2006 has been a year of continued progress for the division. In keeping with one of our established annual goals to continue to expand and develop new partnerships with other law enforcement agencies, the division became a voting member of the National White Collar Crime Center. The division also increased activity with the Mid-states Organized Crime Information Center including Detective Lynn Garland being elected to a position on the Missouri State Review Board. The division's Crime Scene Unit continued to build its reputation of excellence as it responded to process death investigation scenes throughout the area as part of the Initial Response Team of the Northwest Missouri Major Case Squad.

In June 2006, the division moved from a single squad room to the new offices in the Law Enforcement Center Expansion. This event in my opinion had the most significant impact on division operations of any single occurrence in at least the past 25 years. Detectives have been assigned office space paired by function and supervisors occupy private offices. Interview rooms including a soft interview and polygraph examination room each are equipped with individual recording systems. A multi-media audio/video system in the division conference room has established that area as the hub of division activities including the morning briefings established to stimulate communication within the division. The Crime Scene Unit's evidence processing lab located on the lower level is more than twice the square footage of the previous space and has already proven to be a very valuable addition. Perhaps one of the most important results of the move has been that the divisions Electronic Crimes Unit now has an actual lab to call home. This area also located on the lower level has adequate space to allow permanent set up of the unit's equipment.

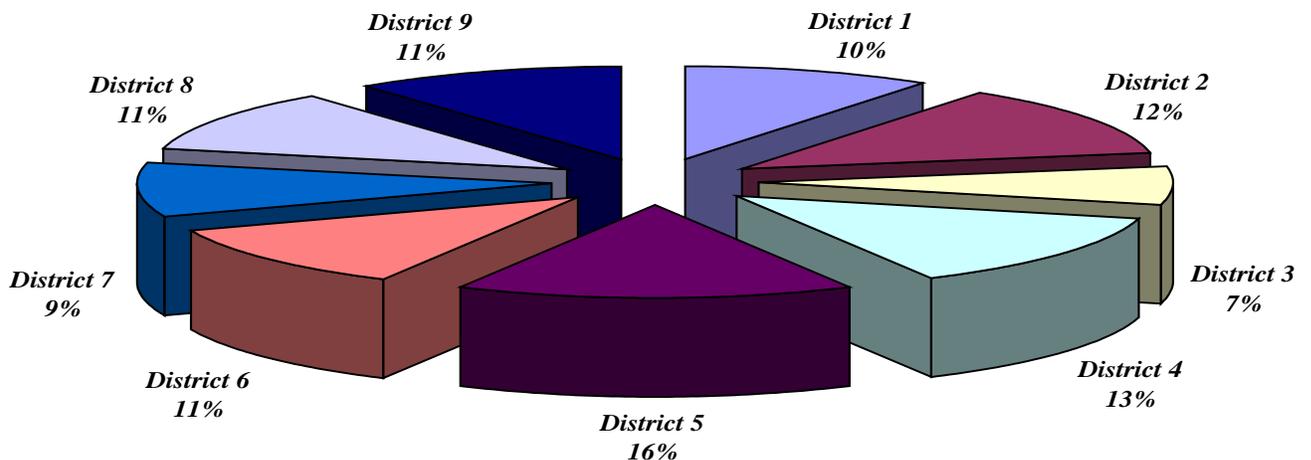
Even with all of the advancements in technology and the much improved working conditions, the most valuable asset of the Detective Division remains the men and women who actually handle the caseload and remain dedicated to providing high quality investigative services for the citizens of St. Joseph in an efficient and professional manner.

General assignment detectives are assigned to districts using the same geographic configuration as the patrol division and are responsible for the follow-up investigation of crimes occurring in their respective areas. The intent of this arrangement is two-fold. The patrol officers are assigned to districts on a somewhat permanent basis allowing the district detective to develop a working relationship with the officers handling calls for services in their area. Also, by being assigned to a specific area the detective becomes familiar with the residents and businesses with whom they will be working. This arrangement is a proven and effective strategy that the division has utilized for several years and is in keeping with the community policing philosophy of the department.



The district detectives are responsible for the greatest volume of assigned cases. In 2006 there were 1,659 cases assigned to general assignment detectives accounting for 55% of all assigned cases for the year. The nature of these cases can range from minor property damage to homicide. Obviously investigators in these assignments must possess a wide variety of skills to be successful. Each of the general assignment detectives has additional responsibilities such as crime scene investigation, auto theft, or arson investigation beyond their assigned caseloads.

In 2006 there was higher than average personnel movement within the division due to promotions, transfers, and retirement. The result was new investigators entering the division who must undergo a training period prior to being assigned a caseload of their own. This did factor into the number of cases handled by general assignment this year. At the end of 2006 all district detective assignments were fully staffed with trained investigators.



The Family Crimes Unit was established in 2000 to address the volume of incoming cases involving victims and suspects that were related or acquaintances, and the scene of the occurrence was often the family home. The effectiveness of the unit was immediately apparent and this group of investigators has become an integral part of the division. The unit consists of four detectives and is supervised by a detective sergeant. Each member of the unit has received specialized training exclusive to their assignment. Two detectives are the primary investigators of domestic violence cases while the other two are responsible for investigating reports of child abuse and sex crimes involving children. In 2006, this small unit has been responsible for 31% of all assigned cases in the division. This represents a 3% increase over the previous year.

Among the significant events that members of the Family Crimes Unit were involved in during the year included the investigation into a series of what appeared to be related reports of gang rape in the mid-town area. Through expert interview and interrogation skills and quick and reliable interpretation of DNA evidence, the cases were all brought to successful conclusion. The cases had been highly publicized and the clearances restored a sense of security among area residents. Also during 2006, the unit's supervisor Sgt. Voltmer attended a number of seminars and group meetings leading to the development of an AMBER alert policy for the department that is compatible with other programs on the state and national level.

Members of the unit are very proactive and have presented numerous programs to schools and community groups on a variety of topics related to their area of expertise.



**Family Crimes Unit (L to R)
Sgt. J. Voltmer, Det. T. Wilson, Det. E. Wilson, Det. B. Fueston, Det. D. Hart**

The Financial Crimes Unit is responsible for the investigation of forgery, fraud, embezzlement and other crimes related to personal or commercial finances. They are also responsible for the enforcement of business license violations. The members of the unit have developed a very good working relationship with local banks, financial institutions, and businesses in general within the city. They also have established contacts with other investigators involved in the investigation of white collar crime on the state and federal level. The unit is staffed by two detectives and a detective sergeant, all with a high level of expertise in their assigned field.

In 2006 the Financial Crimes Unit investigated 429 cases most of which require lengthy investigations, analyzing financial records and following paper trails to conclude what actually occurred and who was responsible. It is not unusual for these types of investigations to take months to complete, for example, in 2006 members of the unit partnered with investigators of the Missouri Division of Health and Senior Services in their long term investigation into allegations of misappropriated funds by the Buchanan County Public Administrator's office. The case has involved service of two search warrants resulting in seizure of computers and numerous boxes of records. After four months, the year has ended with the investigation ongoing. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has assumed the lead in the case. The Financial Crimes Unit continues to assist.

In addition to investigating white collar crime, the unit takes a proactive approach by providing programs to local businesses and community groups to educate and promote awareness of the constantly evolving methods that criminals utilize to access their victims assets. Also, significant progress has been made toward achieving an established goal of developing identity theft victim packets, designed to be completed by the victim with all relevant information to speed the investigative process, and also provide the victim instruction on how to protect their assets from further harm.



Det. Terry Adams

Det. Richard Shelton

As expected, 2006 has been another busy year for the Electronic Crimes Unit. The unit moved into the new Law Enforcement Center expansion, providing a much needed relief for space needs. New equipment and updated software was quickly put to use and provides for a professional working environment.

The number of computer cases increased slightly to 31 for the year. This number can be deceiving in the fact that the size and complexity of each case continues to increase year after year. The number of man-hours required to comb through the vast amounts of digital data has increased proportionally.

Digital and analog video processing continues to be a role provided by the unit. A nationwide movement from analog (tape) to digital (hard drive DVD) as a means of video storage continues to be yet another obstacle that must be overcome through new or updated software, as well as learning curves. The unit processed over 25 tapes and/or DVDs this year.

Along with video and computers, the Electronic Crimes Unit has seen an increase in the amount of cell phones submitted for analysis. The popularity of cell phones has pushed the need for safe forensic extraction of data from mobile devices. The unit has processed over 32 cell phones during 2006 retrieving photographs, call history, and text. The extracted data has proven valuable to case investigations.

It is easy to see that our nation's appetite for electronic mobility, computing power and video has caused the Electronic Crimes Unit to react accordingly. Currently the members of the unit are assigned to other duties and called upon when needed to perform Electronic Crime functions. The necessary time and resources required is out pacing the viability of part-time staffing. Among the goals for the Electronic Crimes Unit for 2007 are to become active members of the Missouri ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children) Task Force which will increase the demand for services even further, making the need for staffing the unit full time even more crucial.



Computer Forensic Examination Stations

Video and Cell Phone Examining Stations



The St. Joseph Police Department's Crime Scene Unit is responsible for the evidentiary investigation of all major crime scenes. It is comprised of a group of investigators under the supervision of a detective sergeant, all of whom have received specialized training in the field of crime scene forensics. Members of the unit serve on a rotating schedule for call-out to ensure 24 hour availability of services.

In addition to handling crime scene needs within the City of St. Joseph, the unit is a member of the Initial Response Team of the Northwest Missouri Major Case Squad. In this role the crime scene unit responds at the request of other law enforcement agencies in the area to evaluate and process scenes in complex death investigations. It is in this capacity that the unit has developed an excellent reputation for their expertise and professionalism. At the Northwest Missouri Law Enforcement Awards Banquet the Crime Scene Unit was awarded a bronze award for their work with the Initial Response Team. This was the second consecutive year that the unit has received this award.

Among the most significant events for the unit in 2006 was the move into the new evidence processing lab in the Law Enforcement Center Expansion. The new lab not only provides additional space for equipment and work areas, it is located on the lower level directly beneath the offices of the detective division making it much more convenient than the previous location. One wall of the room contains pass through lockers where an item can be secured after processing, then removed by the evidence officer on the other side of the wall to be logged in.

All members of the unit continue to improve their performance through advanced training and researching new procedures and equipment in the field of forensic science.



(L to R) Sgt. M. Wilson, Det. G. Murphy, Det. R. Shelton, Det. P. Gatewood, Det. M. Waller, Det. D. Hart, Sgt. C. Howard, Det. B. Weed, Det. T. Derr, Det. G. Lewis



New Evidence Processing Lab

Polygraph



Det Scott Coates

Detective Scott Coates, the department's certified polygraph examiner performed 24 examinations related to a wide variety of criminal cases during 2006. Det. Coates also performs pre-employment examinations for all prospective police applicants, and upon request has assisted outside agencies that otherwise would not have access to this valuable interview/interrogation tool. The new detective division offices include a polygraph room that is equipped with secure audio/video monitoring equipment and includes the ability to record selected examinations. Det. Coates is a graduate of The National Training Center of Polygraph Science, and continues to maintain his certification through that organization.

2006 Detective Division Personnel

Supervisors

Cmdr. Larry Smith
 Det. Sgt. Jill Voltmer
 Det. Sgt. Mike Wilson
 Det. Sgt. Curtis Howard

General Assignment

District 1 Det. James Hitchcock (retired)
 Det. Todd Derr
 District 2 Det. Gary Murphy
 District 3 Det. Byron Weed
 District 4 Det. Gregg Lewis
 District 5 Det. Paul Gatewood
 District 6 Det. Scott Coates
 District 7 Det. Fritz Adams (promoted)
 Det. Dan Sweiger
 District 8 Det. Matt Waller

Family Crimes Unit

Det. Betty Fueston
 Det. Ed Wilson
 Det. Trenny Wilson
 Det. David Hart

Financial Crimes Unit

Det. Richard Shelton
 Det. Terry Adams

Division Administrative Assistant

Melody Noah