

LaGrange Police Department 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

A community oriented police department committed to serving our citizens



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

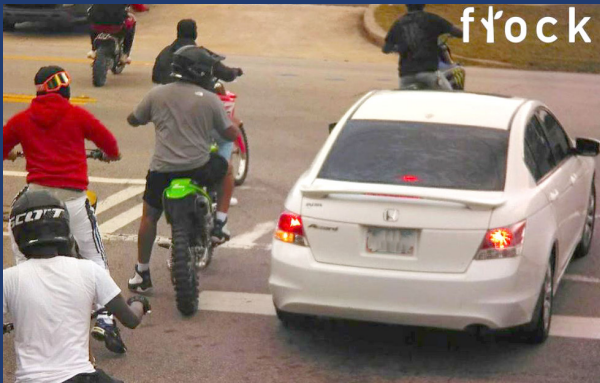


GEORGIA INTERNATIONAL

On November 8, 2022, Lieutenant Lohr and Sergeant Clower conducted training for a group of 25 delegates from Israel as a part of the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange Program through Georgia State University. Topics included Procedural Justice, Constitutional Policing, BolaWrap, and Shoot to Incapacitate.

BOLAWRAP DEVICE

Lieutenant Lohr was asked to serve on both the Wrap Technologies Customer and Training Advisory Boards, providing them with guidance and feedback on the development of the BolaWrap Device and associated training.



Dirtbike Activity

Year	2020	2021	2022
Calls for Service	521	408	204
Citations	45	48	38
Arrests	12	28	17



DRAGON BOAT RACE

'The Smokin' Pigs' which consisted of LaGrange Police Department, LaGrange Fire Department and other City of LaGrange employees participated in the 5th Annual Dragon Boat Race in July 2022. This event raises money for Harmony House, the local domestic violence shelter.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Detective Chris Montondo was selected as the Optimist Club of LaGrange Officer of the Year and the Valor Award for Public Safety Person of the year. Detective Montondo has been with the LaGrange Police Department since 2015 and is assigned to the Criminal Investigations Section as a Property Crimes Detective.



ANNUAL CHIEF'S CHALLENGE

A great emphasis is placed on both mental and physical fitness of our employees and every fall, the Chief challenges his employees to run a 5K. On November 12, 2022, we held the 18th annual Chief's Challenge and over 25 city employees participated.

The background of the entire page is a photograph of several LaGrange Police cars parked in a lot at night. The cars are white with blue and black markings, including the word "POLICE" and "LAGRANGE". Several police officers in dark uniforms and hats are standing around the cars. The scene is illuminated by streetlights and the cars' emergency lights.

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Office of Professional Standards (OPS) investigates or reviews all complaints against the LaGrange Police Department and its employees, use of force incidents, pursuits, and conducts internal investigations as assigned by the Chief of Police. OPS also conducts video reviews and performance audits.

During 2022, there were 55 Response to Aggression (RTA) incidents. The following represents the highest level of force used for each incident:

- 24 Takedowns
- 14 TASER
- 8 OC Spray
- 29 Hands/Takedowns
- 1 Firearm
- 3 K9 Engagement
- 0 BolaWrap
- 0 Restraint Device

In 2022 the LaGrange Police Department received six complaints of biased-based profiling which were investigated and all complaints were unfounded.

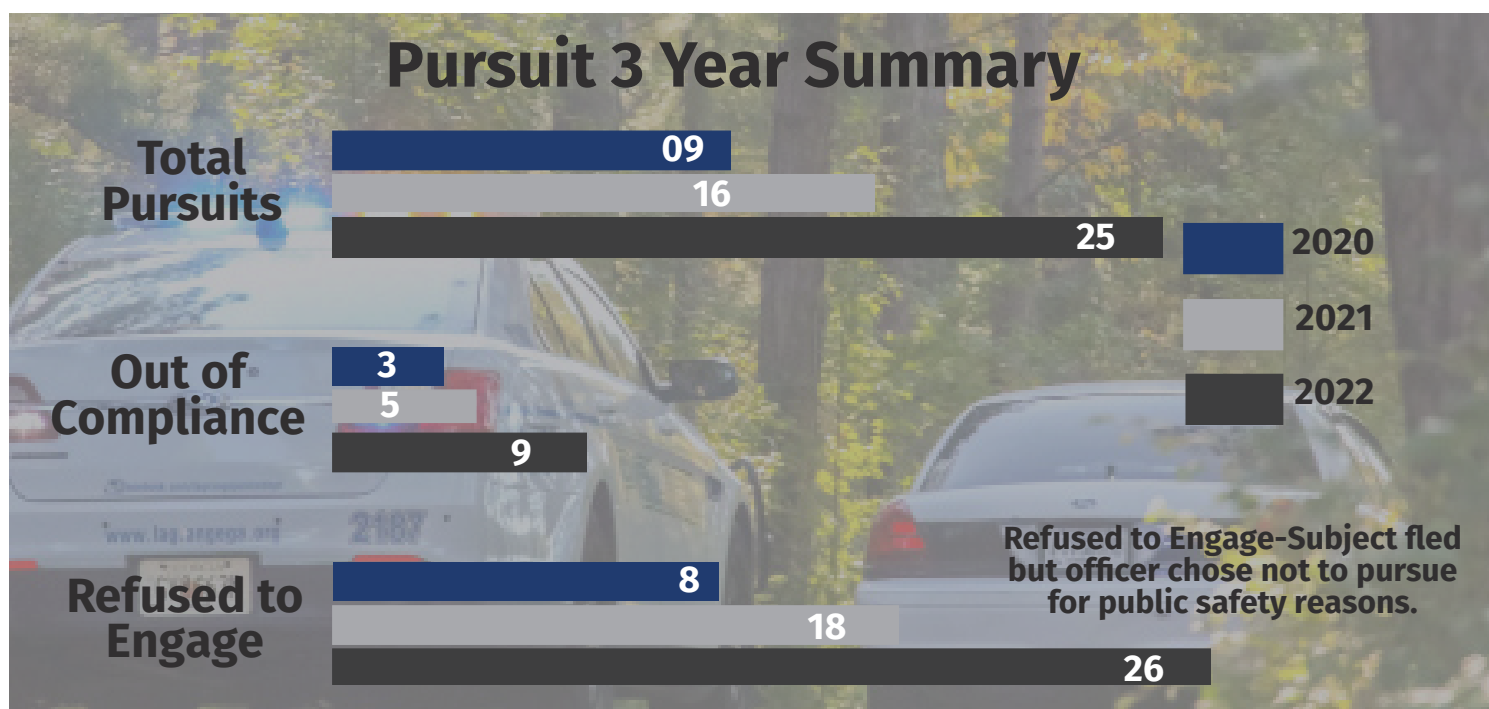
The Office of Professional Standards completed seven Internal Affairs Investigations involving departmental employees. Of these investigations, four were sustained.

RTA 3 Year Summary

Year	2020	2021	2022
Force Incidents	38	52	55
Officer Injuries	0	2	1
Suspect Injuries	1	4	4
Total Arrests	2675	2821	3878
% Per Arrest	1.42%	1.84%	1.42%

Injuries for both officers and suspects indicate injuries that required medical treatment.

Pursuit 3 Year Summary



Citizen Complaints

Year	2020	2021	2022
Complaints	63	64	110
Proper Conduct	45	54	80
Improper Conduct	18	10	30
Misconduct	0	3	2
% of Proper Conduct	71%	84%	72%

*Misconduct - The original complaints were unfounded but an unrelated policy violation was discovered during the investigation.

Uniformed Patrol Operations

Captain Mike Pheil - Division Commander

Uniformed Patrol Operations encompasses eight squads of officers for generalized patrol duties and for responding to calls for service, with certain officers being focally trained to augment patrol squads. These areas of specialty include canine, traffic enforcement, and bicycle patrol operations. The division is also supplemented with civilian employees dedicated to Municipal Code Enforcement, Animal Services, and Community Outreach. With those allocations, the division consists of nearly sixty percent of the department's total number of sworn and civilian employees. Patrol officers respond to a wide range of calls for service, conduct preliminary and follow-up criminal investigations, and process crime scenes while enforcing criminal and traffic laws as well as ordinances enacted by the City of LaGrange. Officers are also engaged in a variety of problem-solving initiatives and community education activities based upon the department's firm commitment to community partnerships.

Department Arrest Information

Year	2020	2021	2022
Traffic	434	515	880
City Ordinance	836	632	1044
Misdemeanor	658	816	1053
Felony	747	858	901
Total	2675	2821	3878

Community Outreach

Lieutenant Jeremy Butler - Unit Supervisor

The Community Outreach Unit was created to enhance working partnerships with various community groups, faith-based organizations, formal and informal neighborhood associations and concerned citizens while addressing local quality of life issues. The Community Outreach Unit is responsible for assisting in developing and maintaining Neighborhood Watch Programs and serves as the primary liaison between the police department and citizen groups that wish to participate in strategic planning for long-term solutions to quality of life and public safety issues.

The Community Outreach Unit participates in the Mental Health program and the LaGrange/Troup County Homeless Coalition. In a collaborative effort with the local Feeding the Valley food bank, this Unit maintains an availability of shelf-stable food for officers to distribute to the homeless or other members of the community.





Traffic Unit

Lieutenant Chris Pritchett -
Unit Supervisor

The goal of the Traffic Unit is to reduce the number of crashes that occur within the city while striving to gain voluntary compliance of traffic laws by those utilizing public streets and thoroughfares within the city. Members of this unit are tasked with coordinating and working special events occurring within the city, supervising school crossing guards, overseeing the Defensive Driving Course, enforcing state and local traffic laws and coordinating all other traffic-related activities for the Police Department.

Collision Trends

Year	2020	2021	2022
Total Crashes	2189	2411	2190
Fatalities	2	7	4
Crashes w/Injuries	371	377	347

Bike Team Unit

Corporal Michael Willoughby - Coordinator



The police department’s Bike Team has been in place for over two decades. This team is currently comprised of 15 officers who deploy in this capacity on a part-time basis. LPD was attracted to this deployment technique based on the ease of movement that bicycles provide in addition to the value that this team adds from a community outreach perspective. In 2022, the Bike Unit rode over 800 miles within the city. Team members made 21 arrests, issued 11 citations, 164 special details, generated 10 field interviews, and made 997 community contacts.

Canine Unit

Sergeant Josh Clower - Unit Supervisor

Canine teams are currently assigned to the Patrol Division and are tasked with patrolling high crime areas, answering calls, assisting uniformed officers in apprehending fleeing offenders, and serving arrest warrants. These teams also assist with locating children, mentally ill, or disoriented individuals who have been reported missing. All three team members completed NAPWDA certification in October 2021 and they also completed PSP certification at the Alabama Canine Law Enforcement Training Center in 2022. Canine officers responded to 5,182 calls for service and conducted 57 tracks. There were three apprehensions in the 2022 calendar year that resulted in a K9 engagement of the 170 arrests made for the year.



In June, Officer Phillips finished his training and officially went on duty with K9 Sig.



Sergeant Josh Clower took over the responsibility as the K9 Unit Supervisor in June of 2022. Clower was a former K9 handler, who served over ten years as a handler in the unit. His former K9, Andy (pictured left), retired in May of 2022 after 6 years of service to the department. Also, we were able to complete a canine handler assessment, and Officer Billingsley was selected as a new handler and began his training in December. Once Billingsley completes his certification, all four patrol shifts will have canine unit coverage.

Year	2020	2021	2022
Calls for Service	3791	4601	5182
Traffic Contacts	329	2613	408
Arrests	182	135	170
Demonstrations	8	4	10
Outside Agency Assists	36	21	17
Tracking	49	58	57
Building Searches	7	11	24
School Searches	3	7	13
Canine Training Hours	693	766	672
Handler Training Hours	1089	408	905
K9 Engagement	1	1	3



Animal Services Unit

Christopher Bussey - Supervisor

The LaGrange Animal Shelter, located at 1390 Orchard Hill Road, is designed to house domestic dogs and cats, and houses animals primarily from three sources: owner or citizen turn-ins, LaGrange Animal Service officers’ seizure and apprehension efforts, as well as those in the unincorporated areas of Troup County as conducted by the local Marshal’s Office and the Animal Control Officer in Hogansville. The Shelter is operated daily by the LaGrange Animal Services Unit which is comprised of a supervisor and two animal services officers. These officers work in concert with the local Humane Society, which is also housed at the shelter facility. They address shared concerns of ensuring a healthy and safe environment for the animals and to increase adoptions. Employees work to cultivate a mutually beneficial relationship with the shelter, the Atlanta Humane Society, Puppy Pipe Line, and Paws Humane of Columbus, Ga. In addition to operating the Shelter, Animal Services Officers patrol the city in search of stray and potentially dangerous animals running at large and respond to citizen complaints. LaGrange Animal Services recently achieved ‘no kill’ shelter status in 2020. The city must have a 90% save rate to be considered a no-kill shelter. In 2022, the City of LaGrange Animal Services achieved a 90% save rate.

Code Enforcement

Lieutenant Jeremy Butler - Unit Supervisor

Annual Summary of Issued Notices of Violation			
Year	2020	2021	2022
Inoperable Vehicle	693	446	452
Litter	608	449	343
Property Maintenance	1099	1023	843
Nuisance	79	78	142
Other Misc. Codes	1469	2208	2282
Total	3948	4204	4062
Court Cases	13	16	30

Code Enforcement Officers are responsible for identifying, investigating, and notifying citizens when they are in violation of city ordinances related to environmental issues, such as, overgrowth of grass and weeds, excessive litter, trash, refuse, abandoned and inoperable vehicles, nuisances, sewage, and general health standards. These efforts contribute to the improvement and maintenance of citizens’ quality of life. Code Enforcement officers work to ensure cleaner neighborhoods, with the primary goal being to correct the violation and to gain on-going voluntary compliance from citizens in the orderly maintenance of their property.

Court Services/Warrant Unit

Lieutenant Monica Peterson - Unit Supervisor

The LaGrange Police Department is tasked with providing courtroom security for LaGrange Municipal Court during both civil and criminal arraignments and trials. The officers assigned to this unit provide courtroom security three times a week for criminal trials, once a month during civil hearings, and weekly for arraignments. Officers assigned to this unit transport prisoners to and from the local jail for Municipal Court proceedings. They made 168 out of town trips, served 256 Municipal Court subpoenas, and also served 172 truancy letters to parents throughout the city.

Training Section

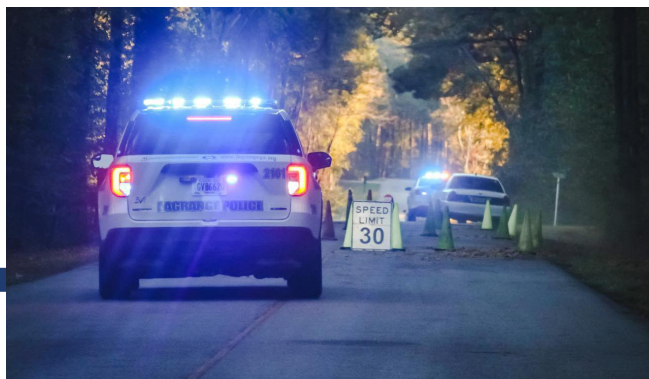
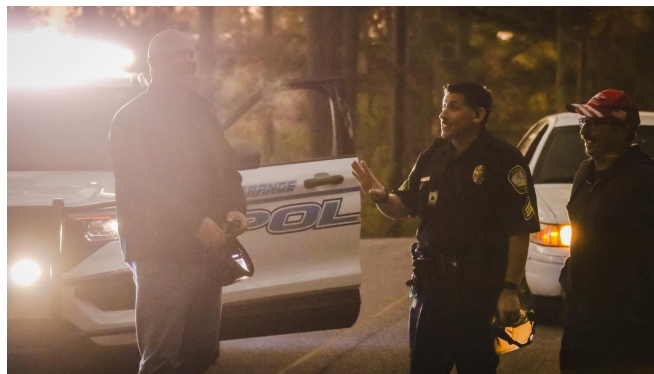
Sergeant Josh Clower - Section Supervisor

The Training Section schedules and conducts initial and on-going training for all of the department's personnel and hosts regional agencies wishing to utilize the department's facilities. While Georgia Police Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Council requires that certified officers receive 20 hours of training annually, the department has an annual goal for each sworn officer to receive a minimum of 80 hours of training. Employees received a total of 20,397 training hours in calendar year 2022, which includes Georgia P.O.S.T. approved training and agency required training.

Several members of the department received or renewed specialized instructor certifications. All of these specialized instructor certification courses and basic certification courses ensure the department's ability to provide officers with additional beneficial training at a reduced cost, as this training can continue to be held in-house, as opposed to an off-site training facility.

During the 2022 calendar year, the Training Section purchased (through a grant) a Virtual Reality Training Simulator Machine that is intended to enhance officers skill sets and decision making relevant to de-escalation techniques and use of force options. This has already proven to be a valuable tool in not only training new officers, but also veteran officers. Lieutenant Lohr, Lieutenant Kirby, Sergeant Clower and Officer Davison continue to spend time working with the Troup County School System on physical safety within the school system's facilities to include routine visits to ensure compliance with the Troup County School System Active Threat Protocol, as well as several lockdown drills. Throughout the year, the Training Section also completed multiple training sessions for local business owners on preparing and responding to an active threat event at their business.

The Training Section hosts The Citizen's Police Academy for the purpose of familiarizing our citizens with our police services. It is an opportunity for the citizens to see how our officers are trained, demonstrating our vision of being a community-orientated police department.



The Field Training Program provides recruit officers with on-the-job instruction from experienced and qualified Field Training Officers. In 2022, 10 recruit officers participated in the FTO program for a total of 4,136 training hours.



School Resource Officer/L.E.A.D

Lieutenant Robert Kirby - Section Supervisor

Specially trained officers deliver educational courses through the L.E.A.D. Program (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) in elementary schools, while other officers serve as School Resource Officers (SROs) at the two city-based high schools, HOPE Academy, THINC Academy, and Gardner Newman Middle School. Officers serving in these capacities are recognized as role models by their respective students and they serve as mentors to many. Annually, these officers attend the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) Conference to remain proficient in their school-based duties. Starting at the beginning of the school year, Officer Mosley began serving in the role of L.E.A.D. Officer and provided training in the various elementary schools.

During the summer, the SRO's, along with the Community Outreach Unit hosted the department's Youth Police Academy, a mentoring program that focused on drug awareness, hands-on law enforcement applications, fire safety tips, bullying, and community policing. These events provide a positive impact on community youth as law enforcement officers develop and maintain friendships and partnerships that support community policing. The 2022 Youth Academy graduated more than 80 children ranging in age from 7 to 16 years of age over a two week period.



Criminal Investigations Section

Captain Dale Strickland - Division Commander

The Criminal Investigations Section (CIS) conducts follow-up investigations involving felony and serious misdemeanor crimes. Members also process crime scenes, conduct surveillance, and prepare investigative case files for prosecution of criminal offenders. The Criminal Investigations Section has four state certified Crime Scene Technicians. Detectives within this section are assigned to units based on specialized training to conduct thorough investigations within their respective fields.

The Polygraph Unit assists in multiple investigations, both for members of the LaGrange Police Department and for surrounding agencies. In 2022, a total of 100 polygraphs were conducted. Polygraph examinations are utilized for criminal, background, internal investigations, and as a part of pre-employment applicant assessments.

CIS represents the LaGrange Police Department on the Troup County Children and Family Advocacy Council’s Child Death Review Committee and monthly Child Abuse Team Case Reviews; Troup County Crime Stoppers Board of Directors; and the Juvenile Court Stakeholders Association. They are also a cooperative member of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC), which was created by the Department of Justice to help state and local law enforcement agencies enhance their investigative response to offenders on the Internet that seek to sexually exploit children, or otherwise contact them for indecent purposes. A key component is education of young people on how to be safe in a digital environment.

CIS deploys resources to address crime trends based on information provided by the Crime Analyst. The Crime Analyst reviews crime reports, arrest reports, field interviews, and police calls for service to identify emerging patterns and trends. The analyst looks for all relevant factors in reports and issues bulletins, statistical information, and alerts to department personnel attempting to prevent future occurrences. The analyst also prepares statistics, data queries, charts and maps on demand to assist others in their crime prevention efforts.



Class A Crimes

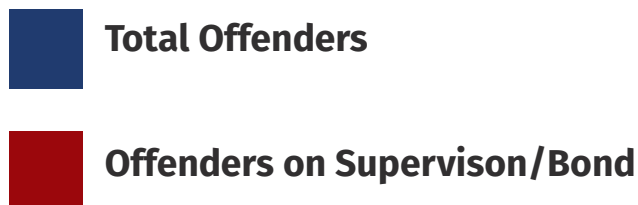
Offense	1997	2019	2020	2021	2022
Murder	7	4	7	7	6
Rape	9	5	5	3	4
Robbery	74	33	39	36	34
Aggravated Assault	89	107	79	100	108
Burglary	387	179	178	182	174
Larceny	1656	1331	1464	1106	1122
Vehicle Theft	114	112	125	91	95

2022 Class A Crimes

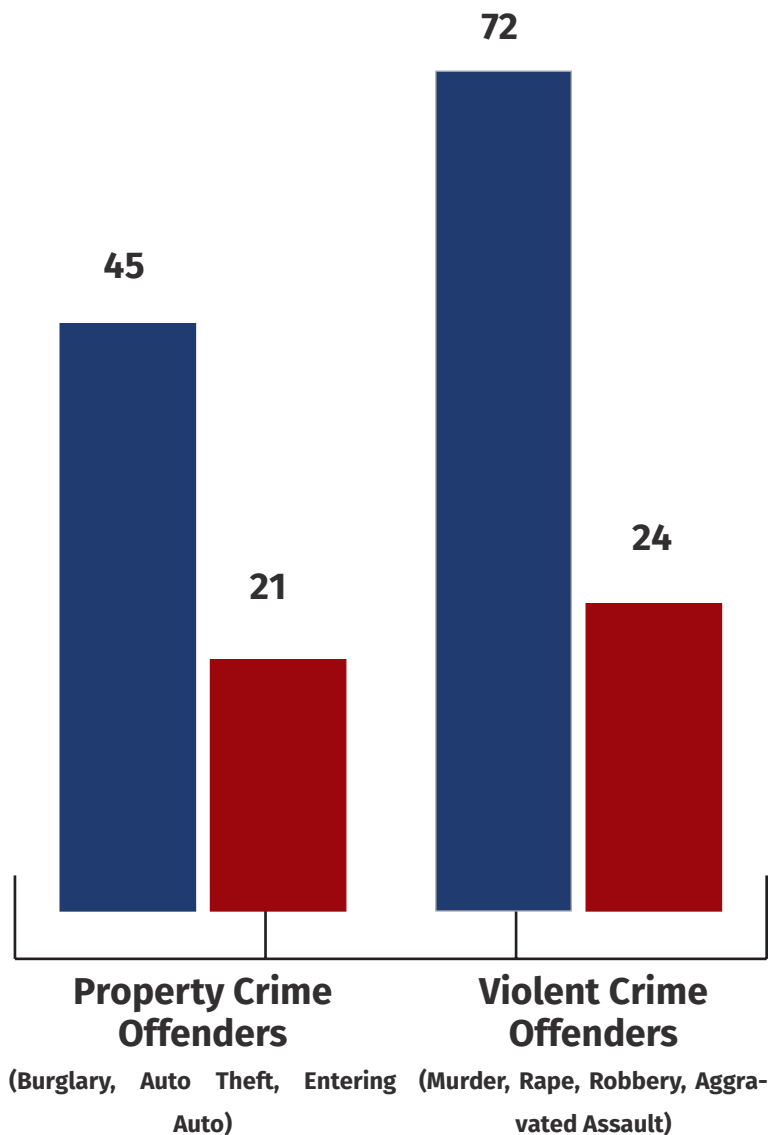
Offense	Reported	Cleared	LPD Clearance	National Clearance
Murder	6	5	83%	62%
Rape	4	0	0%	33%
Robbery	34	20	59%	30%
Aggravated Assault	108	52	48%	53%
Burglary	174	30	17%	14%
Larceny	1122	396	35%	14%
Vehicle Theft	95	34	36%	14%

*Aggravated Assaults- totals reported are per victim not per incident.

Community Impact of Recidivism



The chart on the right represents the number of offenders who committed Property Crime or Violent Crime offenses while on parole, probation, or bond. 47% of the property crime offenders were on parole, probation or bond when they committed the offenses. 33% of the violent crime offenders were on parole, probation, or bond when they committed the offenses.

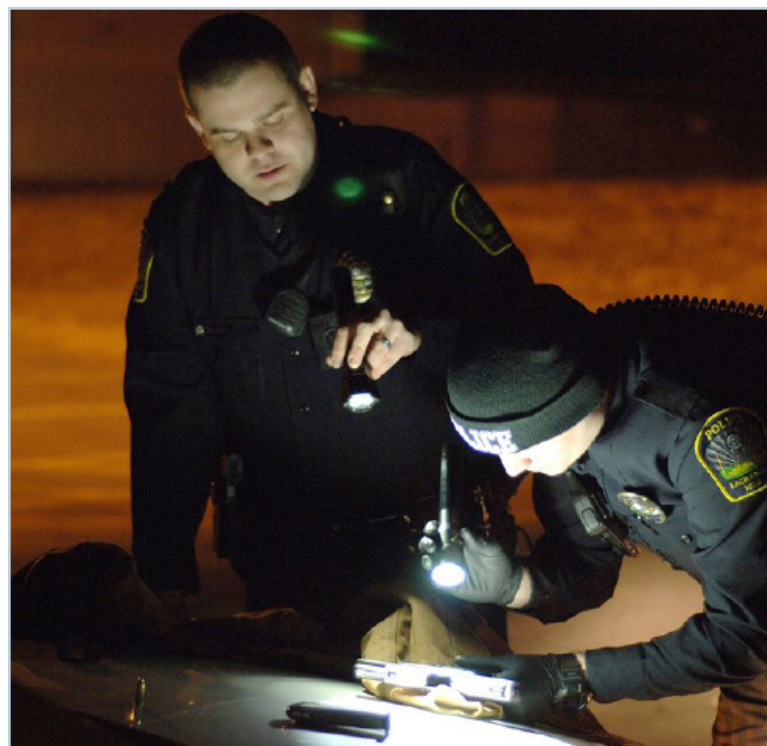


Special Victims Unit

Sergeant Brian Brown - Unit Supervisor

The Special Victims Unit maintains an active relationship with the State Court Solicitor's Office in an attempt to ensure the proper handling of all domestic violence prosecutions. In 2022, the Unit also participated in the quarterly Family Violence Task Force meetings, which consists of representatives from various agencies, including law enforcement, Solicitor's Office, State Court Judge's Office, and Advocacy Groups. Participants discuss case law updates and their application to law enforcement and court proceedings. These meetings are also used to identify new resources to assist victims of domestic violence. The Special Victims Unit works with Adult Protective Services on investigations involving allegations of at-risk adult abuse and also with the Office of Child Protection on every investigation involving alleged child abuse or neglect.

Year	2020	2021	2022
Domestic Violence	356	568	472
Elder Abuse	37	54	39
Child Abuse	190	224	213



Special Investigations

Sergeant Clint Stephens - Unit Supervisor

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) concentrates its efforts on illegal and controlled substances, vice, and alcohol violations. Property and Evidence Control, Buildings and Grounds, and the Gang Squad are also coordinated through this unit. The majority of investigations handled within this unit are self-initiated while utilizing a wide range of covert and overt techniques in order to identify and gather evidence to support arrests and prosecutions. Techniques for conducting such investigations commonly include the use of confidential informants, use of surveillance operations, covert video and audio recordings, buy-bust operations, use of undercover police officers, and execution of search warrants.

Special Investigations Unit Arrests

Felony Arrests 122

Misdemeanor Arrests 40

City Ordinance Arrests 116

Total 278

Gang Investigations 30

VGCSA Charges 151

Gang Squad

The Gang Squad is responsible for collecting intelligence, providing training to community members and police officers, and works collaboratively with officers in investigating and prosecuting gang cases. The Gang Squad attempts to refer criminal street gang cases to alternative dispositions, other than criminal prosecution. These referrals are to programs that strive to break the cycle of gang involvement by offering job training skills, high school equivalency classes, and college classes. The Gang Squad has also partnered with the Boys and Girls Club of West Georgia to develop and implement programs throughout the community aimed at gang prevention.

Emergency Services Unit

Captain Dale Strickland - Commander



The Emergency Services Unit was formed to address special high risk situations within LaGrange to include, Hostage Incidents, Barricaded Suspects, Suicidal Suspects, Woodland Searches, Civil Disorder/High Risk Demonstrations, Dignitary Protection, and High Risk Search/Arrest Warrant Service. The Unit consists of two specialized working teams, The Crisis Negotiation Team and the Tactical Team. Tactical members completed over 180 hours of tactical training during 2022 as a unit and provided training to all members of the police department on responding to active assaults at commercial venues. Tactical members also provided quarterly active assault training to all sworn police personnel as well as tactical training for recruit police officers. Members provided demonstrations for participants of the 2022 Youth Police Academy, National Night Out, and won the Gold Medal of Valor at the annual Valor Awards. In 2022, ESU was deployed four times. Two deployments were for planned high risk arrest and drug search warrants, one of which was assisting Peachtree City Police Department and two deployments were for armed barricaded suspects wanted for felony offenses. In both barricade cases, crisis negotiators worked diligently to negotiate with the suspects for a surrender without the need for tactical remedies.

Support Division

Captain Andree Robinson - Commander



The Records Section is the official recipient for any requests made of the LaGrange Police under the Georgia Open Records Act, and the Support Division Commander is the official Records Officer. The Support Division Commander processed 771 requests for video evidence for the State and Municipal Courts and 760 substantial Open Records requests. The Support Division collected \$40,460 for all LPD services rendered to date. The Records Section also processed 448 accident reports, 517 Alcohol Beverage permits in 2022, and 1,133 criminal history requests for employment.

Community Service

The intent of the Community Service program is to provide general services in the form of labor or skill to local, State, County, and Municipal government agencies, and non-profit organizations within the City of LaGrange. During 2022 there were 585 participants for a total of 3,224 hours and a cost savings of \$23,374.



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