

POLICE DEPARTMENT



Policing with Honor and Integrity



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MISSON & CORE VALUES



MISSION

We are committed to enhancing community safety, reducing fear of crime, and elevating the quality of life through partnerships and innovative policing initiatives.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dear community members and friends,



On behalf of the men and women of the Grand Junction Police Department, it is my honor to present our 2024 Annual Report. This year's report highlights the incredible efforts of our dedicated sworn and civilian personnel who serve the City of Grand Junction with integrity and professionalism and brings you the history of the GJPD.

Reflecting on the past year, I am encouraged by the growth of our department and the significant initiatives we have planned for 2025. In 2024, The Grand Junction Police Department responded to 67,710 calls for service, over 5,000 additional calls compared to the previous year, with a notable rise in retail theft-related incidents. At the heart of our approach is the belief that the "little things" matter because they ultimately lead to meaningful, big-picture change. With this mindset, we prioritized addressing retail theft, intensifying efforts to curb criminal activity in gaming establishments, combating dangerous drugs, and enhancing traffic enforcement through focused surge operations.

As our community continues to grow, so do the challenges of protecting and serving its residents. While we are still working toward ideal patrol staffing levels, I'm proud to share that our department welcomed over 20 new officers in 2024, including both new recruits and experienced lateral officers. Beyond building our sworn team, we expanded critical support divisions, including Municipal Park Rangers and the Co-Responder Unit. We know that recruitment and retention are key to sustaining exceptional service. We remain committed to providing top tier training opportunities and ensuring our pay and benefits remain competitive, reflecting the dedication of those who choose to serve.

Looking ahead, 2025 brings exciting changes for our department and community. Among the most notable is the establishment of a new Animal Control Unit, following the restructuring of Mesa County Animal Services. In just six months, we have laid the foundation for a unit dedicated to education, customer service, and reuniting lost pets with their families. Additionally, we have added two officers to our Traffic Unit and created a new patrol team to enhance community safety and proactive policing efforts.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the unwavering support of City leadership, local public safety partners, businesses, and of course, our community. Together, we are building a safer, stronger Grand Junction.

For me, Grand Junction has always been a special place, and after 25 years with the Grand Junction Police Department, I am still deeply proud to serve this incredible community. The men and women of the Grand Junction Police Department are what make this organization exceptional, and their commitment to serving this community inspires me daily.

As we move forward into 2025, I want to thank you for your continued trust and support. We remain committed to being good stewards of your trust, delivering professional service, and making Grand Junction a community where everyone feels safe.

Sincerely,

Matt Smith - Chief of Police





COMMAND STRUCTURE



Matt Smith Chief of Police



Gary Marak Deputy Chief Special Teams



William Baker Deputy Chief Services



Shawn Hasty Deputy Chief Operations



Suzette Freidenberger Special Teams Commander



Doug Norcross Patrol Commander



Robert Fisher Patrol Commander



Cory Tomps Professional Standards Commander



Sean Crocker Investigations Commander



Trent Rundquist Civilian Manager Lab/Technology



Chris Taylor Patrol Commander



Cindy Casteel Communications Center Manager

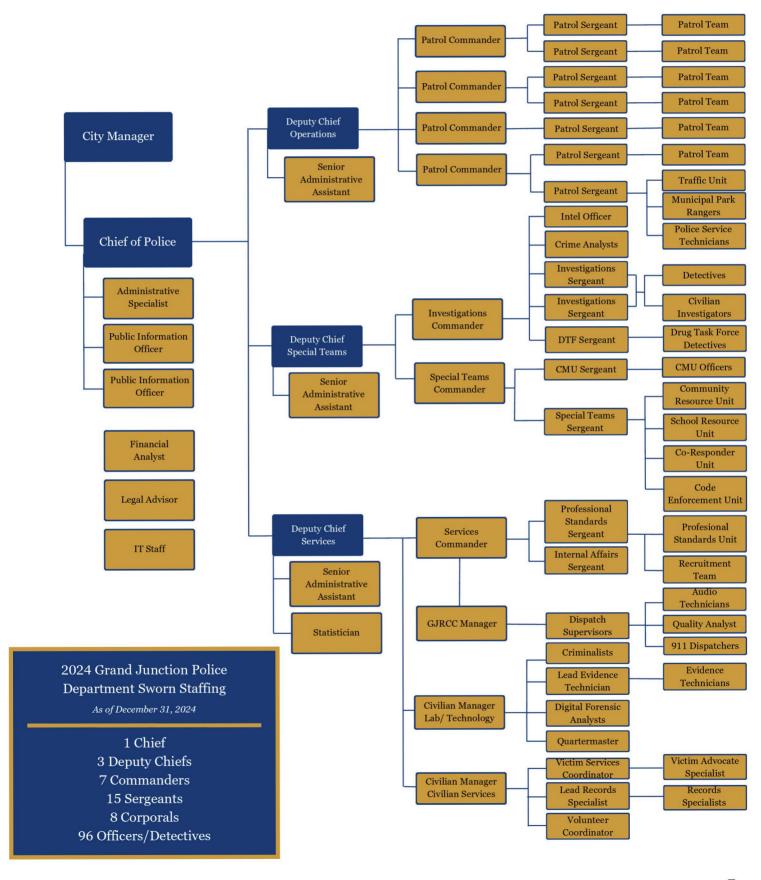


Jason Sawyer Patrol Commander



Amber Peck Civilian Manager Civilian Services

AGENCY ORGANIZATION





YEARLY SNAPSHOT

2024



67,710 Calls for Service

Calls for service are incidents sent to officers and GJPD staff by Dispatch or incidents that officers come upon while working.



3,944 Arrests

Felony 1,026Misdemeanor 2,918



6,751 Traffic Stops



1,829 Traffic Collisions

Non-Injury 1,517Injury 312

CRIME OVERVIEW



Crime rates remain a focal point for the Grand Junction Police Department, with a strong focus on curtailing retail theft — a crime that impacts businesses and consumers alike. We continue to prioritize community partnerships and innovative policing techniques to address these challenges, working together to create a safer and more secure community for all.

OFFENSES	2024
Homicide	6
Burglary	336
Robbery	51
Aggravated Assault (Includes Weapons Violations)	371
Sexual Assault (Rape & Sexual Assault)	142

Data is INCIDENT BASED, not summary (hierarchy) and cannot be compared to the data reported for the GJPD by the CBI or FBI.



MEET OUR TEAMS





POLICE OPERATIONS

The Grand Junction Police Department is organized into three vital divisions — Police Operations, Services, and Special Teams. Each play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and well-being of the City of Grand Junction.

The Police Operations Division serves as the backbone of the department's public safety efforts, focusing on law enforcement and responding to calls for service. This division is committed to maintaining community security through proactive policing and traffic management. Key components of the Police Operations Division include Patrol, Traffic Unit, Police Service Technicians, and Municipal Park Rangers.



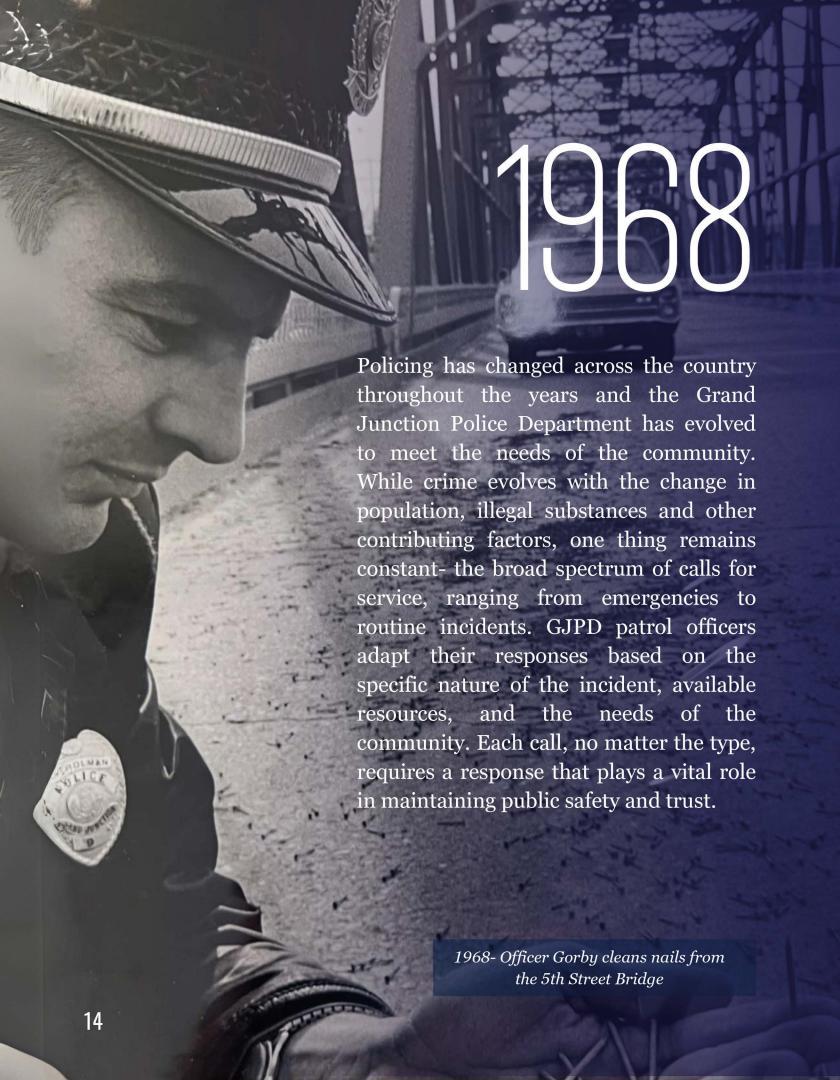
The Grand Junction Police Department was established in 1882 and consisted of one town marshal. The department has evolved significantly over time, from the use of a red call light mounted on the top of a bank which was activated for officer assistance to 911 telecommunicators dispatching calls to officers. Today, it wouldn't be big news to hire a female officer like it was in 1978 when the GJPD hired its first female officer, Officer Josephine Henson.

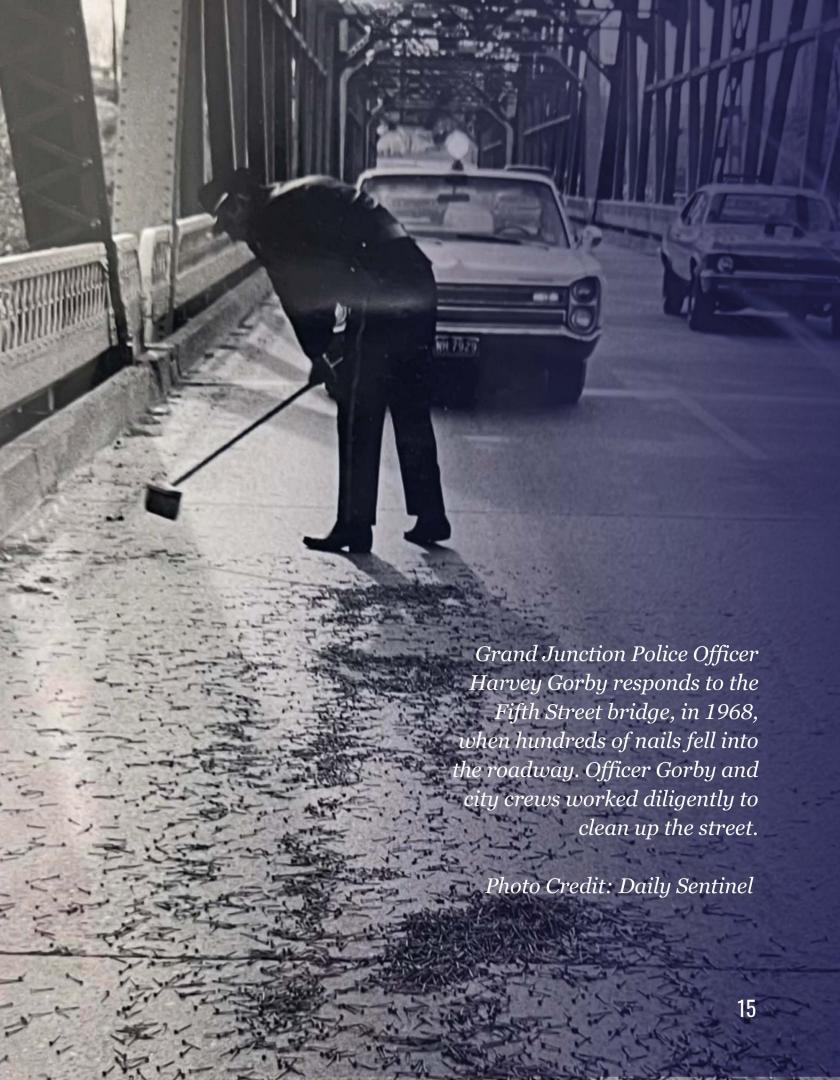
The Grand Junction Police Department has grown from the first single town marshal to over 130 budgeted sworn officers who serve our community in various roles. In 2024, the Grand Junction Police Department responded to 67,710 calls for service, which was an increase in over 5,000 calls in 2023. One of the changes the Grand Junction Police Department made at the end of 2024, was to stand up a seventh Patrol Team to better address the growing number of calls for service as our community grows.

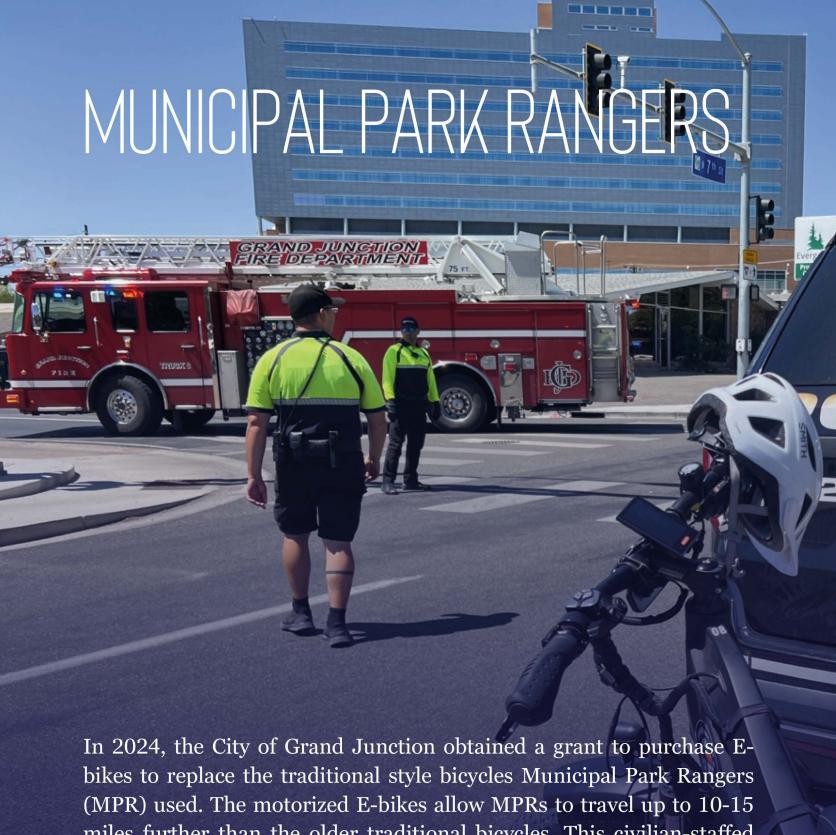


In 1930, Alfred Gram became the GJPD's first motorcycle officer, paving the way for the department's use of motorcycles in traffic enforcement. In 1998, the GJPD established its first official dedicated Traffic Unit, which included four motorcycle officers, two civilian traffic service technicians, and one sergeant. While its size has varied over the years—often influenced by economic conditions and staffing levels—the core mission of the GJPD Traffic Unit has remained steadfast: enhancing roadway safety through traffic enforcement, crash response, education, and crash investigation.

Today, this dedicated team is led by a sergeant and includes two highly skilled Level Three and Four Motor Technicians, both recognized as top crash investigators on the Western Slope. Their expertise extends beyond enforcement, as they devote countless hours to crash reconstruction, community outreach events, education, and motors training for law enforcement agencies across the region.

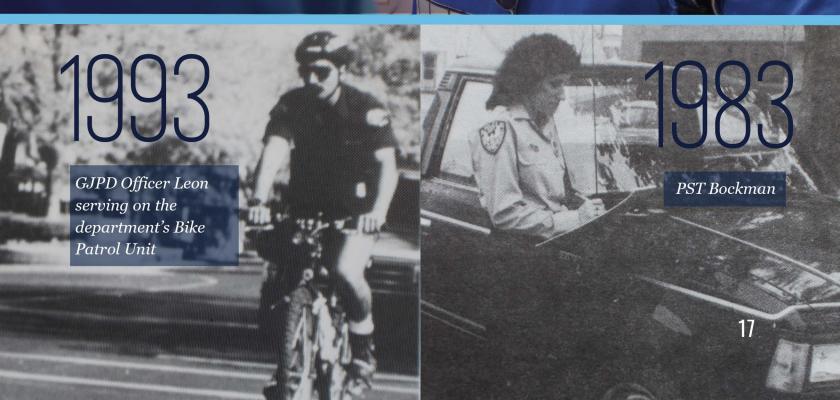






miles further than the older traditional bicycles. This civilian-staffed unit, often seen on two-wheels, handles parking violations, assists patrol units, and monitors the various recreational trails, parks, and downtown areas.





POLICE SERVICES

The Grand Junction Police Department's Services Division encompasses a wide range of essential functions carried out by both sworn and non-sworn personnel. This division extends beyond traditional patrol duties, providing specialized services and critical administrative support.

A significant portion of the GJPD's civilian workforce is part of the Services Division, delivering invaluable contributions to Patrol operations and the community.

includes The Services Division Standards, **Professional** Training, Recruiting, Internal Affairs. 911 Dispatch, Volunteer Services, Victim Services, Records, Evidence/Property, Digital Forensics, Drug Chemistry, and Quartermaster. Together, these operations form a cornerstone of the department's efficiency and service excellence.





911 Dispatcher

2024

Total Calls Handled 289,781

Total Incidents Dispatched: 159,640

<u>Law Enforcement:</u> 127,619 <u>Fire/EMS:</u> 32,021

GJPD-67,710

GJFD- 22,459

All others- 59,909

All others- 9,562

Total Text to 911: 245

Audio Request: 5,107

1080

The Grand Junction Police Department purchased its first camera for crime scene documentation in 1949, but it wasn't until the 1960s that the GJPD formed its own crime lab. Over the years, the Grand Junction Police Department's Crime Lab has grown to be one of the most well-regarded teams on the Western Slope. This team consists of a Civilian Manager/Latent Print Expert, two Digital Forensic Analysts, two Criminalists, and five Evidence/Property Technicians- all certified in various forensic disciplines.

In 1989, the GJPD handled evidence in over 1,600 cases. The amount of evidence collected and submitted has increased significantly over the years, with an average of close to 1,750 items submitted monthly, in 2024. The GJPD's Crime Lab is responsible for maintaining all physical and digital evidence and body-worn camera footage, as well as the processing of over 12,000 pieces of evidence by our chemists stationed at the Colorado Bureau of Investigations. In 2024, the Grand Junction Police Department collected 21,077 pieces of evidence.

INFORMATIO GJPD Records Specialists 1984 Arrest Control Training 911 Dispatchers 23



GJPD VICTIM SERVICES

The Grand Junction Police Department's Victim Assistance Program was established in 1991, under the direction of the Police Chaplain. A year later, volunteers were added to the program who were trained to address the needs of victims of crimes and other traumatic incidents. While the name of the program, Victim Services, has evolved over the years, the objective remains the same - assisting victims. A robust group of Victim Services volunteers are available every hour, 365 days per year, and are equipped to deal with difficulties like trauma, domestic violence, sexual assaults, and more. In 2024, Victim Services volunteers volunteered a total of 17,986.55 hours.

In 2024, Grand Junction Police Victim Services Volunteer, Laurel Walters, was recognized for her dedicated service to the Grand Junction

Police Department's Victim Services
Program and awarded the Carol Hacker
Award for Outstanding Victim Advocate
by the Colorado Organization for Victim
Assistance or COVA. This prestigious
award recognizes individuals who have
made a significant impact on the lives of
crime victims through their volunteer
efforts. Laurel is one of over 30
volunteers who has provided crucial
support to victims in need and has
volunteered over 3,000 hours since
joining this team.



Victim Services Volunteer, Laurel Walters



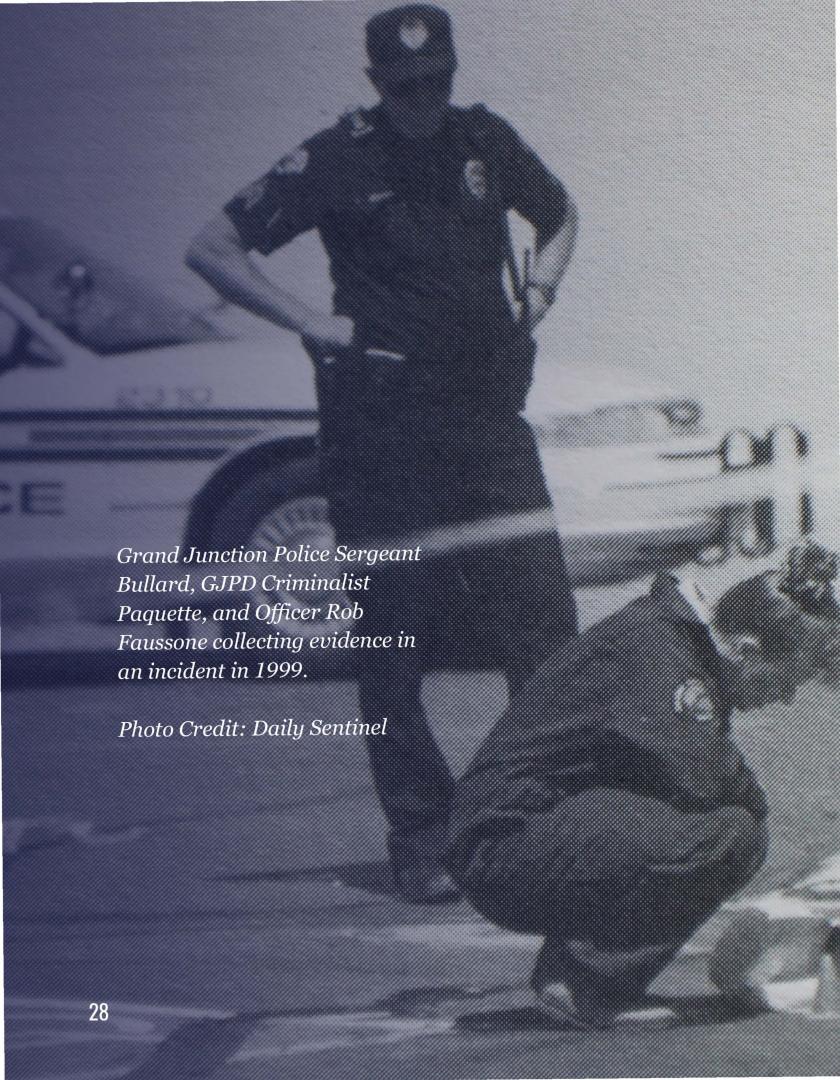


SPECIAL UNITS

The Grand Junction Police Department's Special Units play a vital role in safeguarding and enhancing the well-being of our community. Each unit is dedicated to specific responsibilities, from ensuring safety in public schools and universities to addressing complex cases, supporting the unhoused population, analyzing crime trends, and upholding city ordinances and regulations. These specialized teams are essential to maintaining order, safety, and quality of life in Grand Junction.

As the needs of our community have evolved over the years, new specialized units have been added to address emerging challenges and ensure we continue to provide effective service.

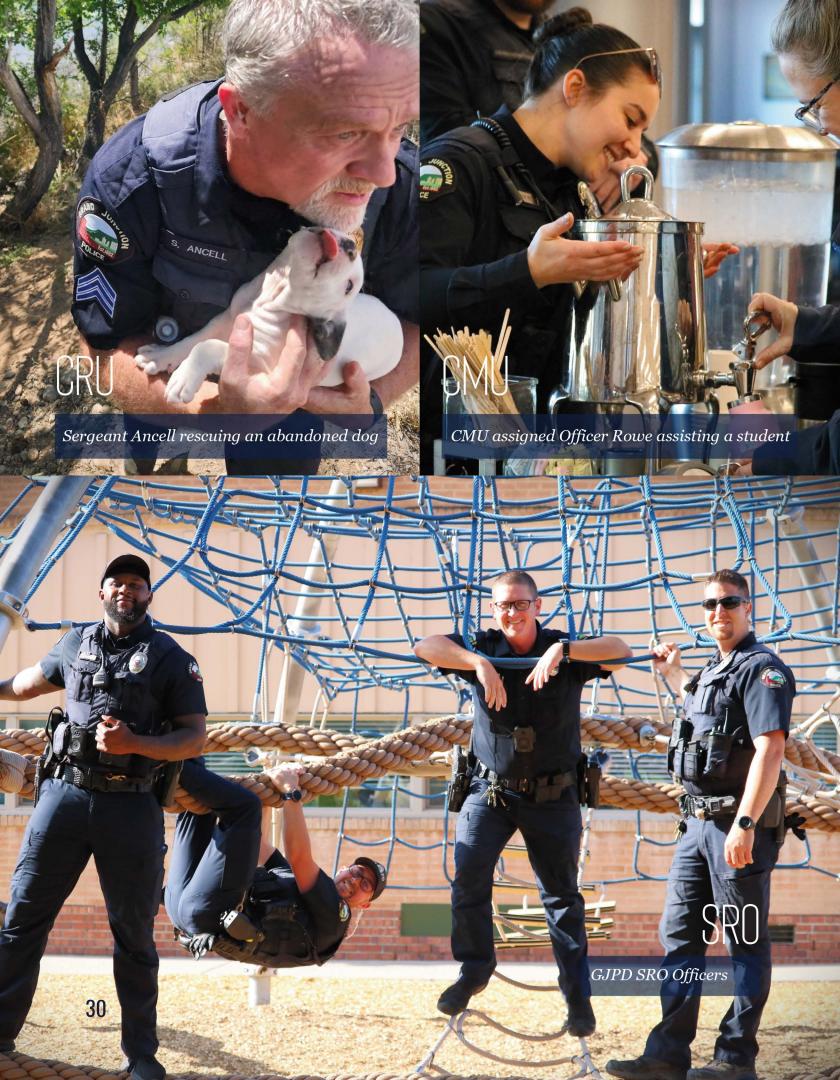
The Grand Junction Police Department's Special Units include School Resource Officers (SRO), Community Resource Unit (CRU), CMU Officers, Co-Responders Unit, Code Compliance, Investigations Unit, Marijuana Compliance, and Drug Task Force.

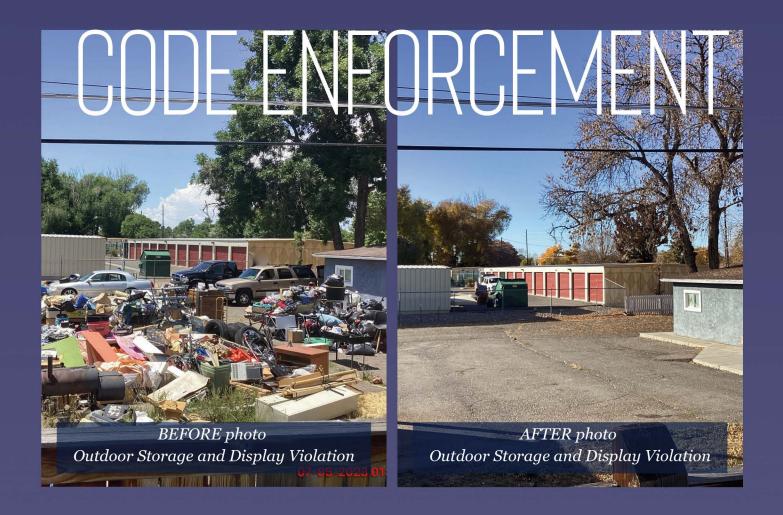


1999

The Grand Junction Police Department worked with a special investigator in the 1930s to assist in the investigation of crimes and by the 1940s, the department hired its first full-time detective. The Detective Bureau was formally established in 1970 and consisted of one commanding officer and three detectives.

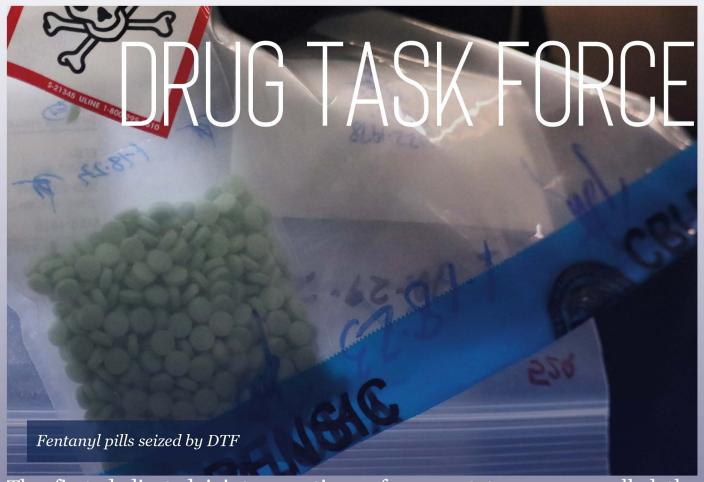
Today, the Investigations Division has evolved to meet the demands of the growing and changing community. It is organized into two primary divisions: Crimes Against Persons and Crimes Against Property. By leveraging advanced technology, specialized training, and strategic adaptability, the unit effectively addresses emerging crime trends and gathers critical information to ensure the safety and security of our community.





The Grand Junction Police Department's Code Enforcement Division is committed to enhancing the safety and appearance of neighborhoods within the city limits of Grand Junction. This team of dedicated non-sworn professionals ensures that residents comply with City ordinances and regulations designed to protect public health, safety, and overall community well-being.

Code Enforcement Officers prioritize working collaboratively with property owners, focusing on voluntary compliance before pursuing formal violation charges. Common issues investigated by the division include fences, junk and trash, overgrown weeds, improper outdoor storage, and yard sale violations. In 2024, the Code Enforcement Division had 1,270 opened cases.



The first dedicated joint narcotics enforcement team, now called the Western Colorado Drug Task Force, was established in 1982 through a partnership between the Grand Junction Police Department and the Mesa County Sheriff's Office to combine resources for investigating the illegal distribution of drugs. Over the years, this collaboration has expanded to include state and federal government partners.

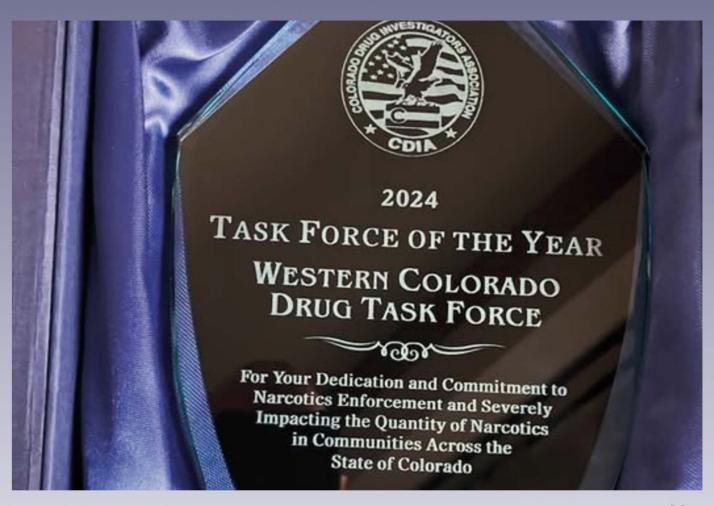
While the primary focus is on illegal drug investigations, the task force also plays a vital role in locating and apprehending dangerous fugitives, assisting with complex criminal investigations, and serving as a resource for other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

Total pounds of drugs seized in 2024 824.44 Lbs.

TASK FORCE OF THE YEAR

In 2024, the Grand Junction Police Department and Mesa County Sheriff's Office detectives with the Western Colorado Drug Task Force (WCDTF) were awarded 2024 Task Force of the Year by the Colorado Drug Investigators Association.

Through relentless dedication and collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies, the WCDTF continues to combat illicit drugs and protect the lives of countless individuals. The work isn't over. Their mission continues every day to create a safer community for all.



COLLATERAL ASSIGNMENTS

Team members at the Grand Junction Police Department frequently take on collateral assignments alongside their primary roles within the department. These additional responsibilities enable officers to develop expertise in specific areas or offer support in various operational and administrative capacities. By honing these specialized skills, they enhance the department's overall effectiveness, responsiveness, and ability to keep the community safe.

Collateral assignments include roles such as the Incident Dispatch Team, K9 Officer, Crisis Negotiation Team member, Honor Guard, SWAT Operator, Bomb Squad Technician, Field Training Officer, Firearms Instructor, Driving Instructor, Patrol and Defensive Tactics Training Officer, Drone Operator, Peer Support, and Forensic Investigator.

GJPD Honor Guard - Detective Schuman



TRAINING

The Grand Junction Police Department places a high value on comprehensive training at all levels, ensuring that both sworn officers and civilian team members are well-prepared to serve the community effectively.

Under Colorado Peace Officer Standards & Training (POST) Rule 28, every Peace Officer is required to complete 24 hours of training annually, with at least 12 of those hours focused on perishable skills such as firearms, driving, and arrest control. POST Rule 24 further mandates critical trainings, including de-escalation, community policing, and anti-bias education.

In 1993, the GJPD implemented a rigorous 40-hour annual In-Service training for all sworn officers. This training, held each January through February exceeds POST standards and is completed alongside officers' regular work schedules. Additionally, the GJPD surpasses required training hours with specialized programs such as advanced firearms training, crisis intervention, drone operations, and bi-weekly SWAT training.

Non-sworn members of the department also receive robust training throughout the year, including forensic investigations, emergency communications, Colorado Open Records compliance, and more.

By prioritizing exceptional training for all staff, the Grand Junction Police Department demonstrates its unwavering commitment to excellence in public safety and community service.



AUXILIARY STAFF

The Grand Junction Police Department's auxiliary staff plays a vital role in supporting the department's core operations, ensuring the seamless functioning of daily activities. This dedicated team performs essential tasks that contribute to the overall success of the GJPD.

The auxiliary staff includes administrative assistants, maintenance personnel, IT support specialists, a Statistician, a Public Safety Legal Advisor, a Financial Analyst, and Public Information Officers. Together, they provide critical expertise, community outreach, and behind-the-scenes support, allowing the department to focus on its mission to serve and protect the community effectively.







5,917 followers in 2024

5,578 followers in 2024

Social media is a powerful tool for the Grand Junction Police Department to build trust, share information, and engage with the community. It allows for real-time communication, highlighting our story, and promoting safety and transparency. By connecting directly with the public, social media fosters stronger relationships and helps keep our community informed and engaged.

The Grand Junction Police Department was awarded by Government Social Media as one of five finalists for Best Facebook Presence by a Government Agency in the United States. In addition, the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services Division (COPS) awarded a photograph from the Grand Junction Police Department as one of 11 winning photos in 2024 for the COPS Community Policing in Action photo contest.

Connect with us @grandjunctionpolicedepartment



By the

JURISDICTION SIZE

39.5 SQ MILES



JURISDICTION POPULATION

69,412



TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE (GJPD ONLY)

67,710



PERSONNEL

130 SWORN 107 CIVILIAN



OPEN RECORDS REQUESTS

4,136



PROPERTY & EVIDENCE ITEMS COLLECTED

21,077



2024 GJPD BUDGET

35.9 MILLION



2024 GJRCC DISPATCH BUDGET

9.2 MILLION

Numbers

TOTAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CALLS

1,504



AVERAGE TIME SPENT PER CALL

51.2 MINUTES

TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY VOLUNTEER HOURS

3,889



TOTAL VICTIM SERVICES
HOURS ON CALL

17,986.55



PARKING TICKETS
ISSUED

10,208



CODE ENFORCEMENT
CASES OPENED

1,270

GJPD INCIDENTS
DISPATCHED

67,710



TOTAL REGIONAL INCIDENTS DISPATCHED

159,640

TOTAL CALLS HANDLED BY DISPATCH

289,781

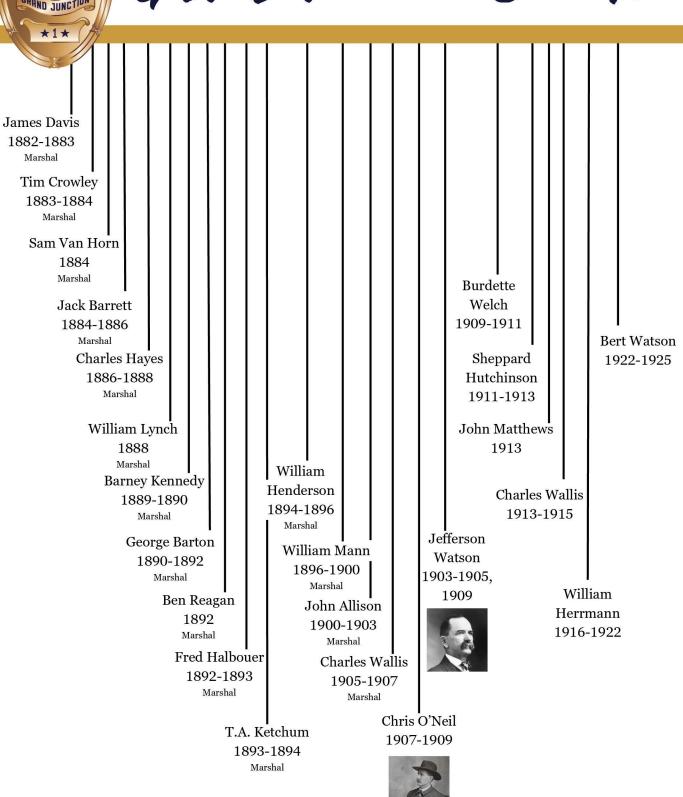


TOTAL TRAFFIC CITATIONS ISSUED

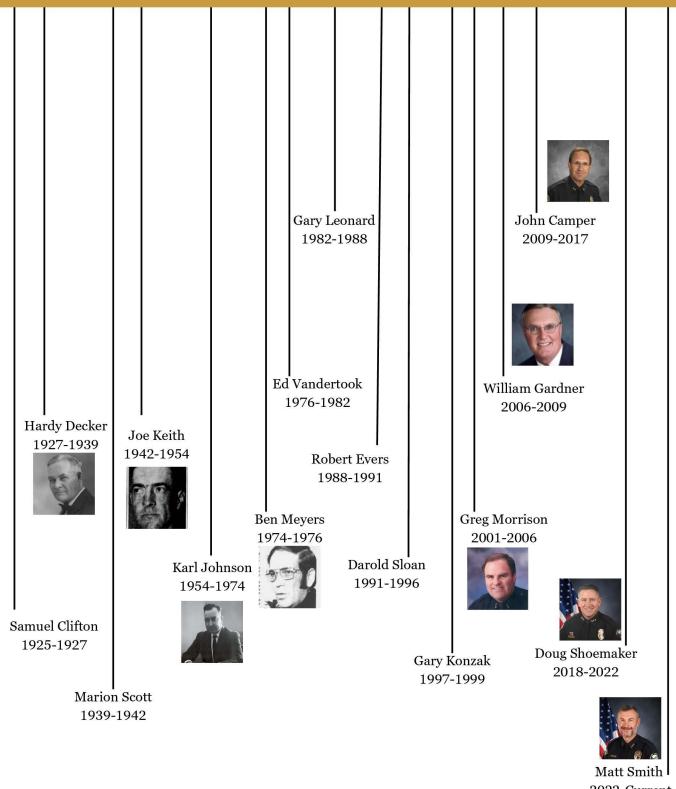
3,080



GJPD Police Chiefs



Through the Years



2022-Current



A LOOK BACK AT THE



1914 - GJPD, GJFD, City Hall, and Jail

1882- The Grand Junction Police Department is established.

1914- Police and Fire Departments move from the "Old City Hall" to the "New City Hall" at 6th Street & Colorado Avenue.

1919- A red call light was installed on the top of the Grand Valley National Bank building, which was activated for officer assistance.

1940-

Officer

Mace

Motorcycle

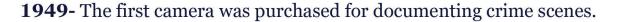
Ingraham

1923- The first traffic ordinance, #309, was enacted.

1930- The first GJPD motorcycle officer, Officer Alfred Gram, was hired.

1940- A 500 watt one-way radio was developed to improve communication.

1946- The first two-way radio and lights were installed in patrol vehicles.



1956- The GJPD purchased a Harger Drunkometer, an alcohol detection tool.

1968- The Breathalyzer replaced the old Harger Drunkometer.

1st female dispatcher, Virginia Evans



1968- The first female 911 dispatcher, Virginia Evans, was hired by the Grand Junction Police Department. She retired in 1994.

1970- The GJPD formally created the Detective Bureau.

1975- The GJPD's School Resource Program was initiated.

HISTORY OF THE GJPD





1st female officer-Officer Josephine Henson

1975- The GJPD hired the first sworn female officer, Officer Josephine Henson.

1982- First dedicated narcotics enforcement team created.

1982- Mesa County Crime Stoppers created.

1983- The Special Services Unit (SSU), now called SWAT, was created.

1988- Ucca, the first GJPD K9, joins the department.

1991- The Victim Assistance Program, now Victim Services, was established.

1992- The GJPD started the Annual Shop with a Cop program, serving seven local students. The GJPD now invites local law enforcement to participate in serving over 50 area fifth graders.



Shop with a Cop in 1992 - Officers Assenmacher & Woloszczuk

1998- The first official GJPD Traffic Unit is implemented, consisting of one sergeant, four traffic officers, and two civilian traffic service technicians.

2003- The GJPD substation opened at Mesa Mall.

2007- The Incident Dispatch Team (IDT), a mobile communications team, was created to respond to large incidents. In addition, the Everbridge Emergency Notification System was implemented.



IDT vehicle

2012- The new GJPD building opened at 555 Ute Avenue.

2018- The GJPD Co-Responder Unit was created.

2019- Body worn cameras are utilized by the GJPD.

2021- The GJPD created the Unmanned Aerial System or drone program.



LOOKING FORWARD



The Grand Junction Police Department Animal Control Unit will begin addressing animal control issues within the City of Grand Junction in January 2025, following a restructuring of Mesa County Animal Services operations. The GJPD Animal Control Unit will be committed to providing a top-tier Animal Control Unit focused on education, excellent customer service, and the reunification of lost animals with their owners.



With the number of sworn closer to personnel budgeted levels, the GJPD Traffic Control Unit will grow by two officers in 2025 to better meet the needs of the community. This team will be dedicated to traffic enforcement and response to traffic crashes, while also enhancing community safety and proactive policing efforts.

HISTORY OF THE BADGE



Long before the establishment of modern law enforcement, the concept of a badge emerged, initially serving as a symbol of loyalty to specific households during medieval times. Over time, badges evolved into markers of authority among public servants, laying the foundation for police officers to denote their rank.

The original design of the GJPD badge was very standard. In the early 2000s, a dedicated team undertook the task of redesigning the badge, incorporating personalized elements such as the city seal and the year of incorporation, adding a unique touch to our insignia. However, our badge is more than a sign of rank, or position. It symbolizes the honor and courage it takes to defend the constitution and protect the citizens of our community no matter the cost. Which is why it is so cherished by those who wear it. We are honored to pass this tradition on to our next generation of officers and leaders.





PROMOTIONS





Logan Martin Sergeant



Jordan De La Torre Corporal



Brett Boyer Sergeant



Micah Conrads Corporal





























555 Ute Avenue Grand Junction, CO 81501

911 for Emergencies
Non-Emergency Dispatch 970-242-6707
All other information 970-549-5000

www.gjcity.org