

# TIMBERVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



# CONTENTS



---

**01**

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

---

**02**

OUR POLICE OFFICERS

---

**04**

PATROL

---

**08**

K - 9

---

**10**

TRAINING &  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

---

**12**

EQUIPMENT &  
TECHNOLOGY

---

**14**

COMMUNITY

---

**16**

REMODEL





# CHIEF'S MESSAGE

## THE FINAL TOUCHES

It is sometimes easy to forget where our agency was 10 years ago. At that time, we had only four officers, meager equipment, no focus, and a town that was primed for major change. In the last decade, we have effectively added two officer positions, developed some of the best equipment and training in the Valley, and operated with laser-like focus.

This transformation required a lot of effort, dedication, and financial support. With a succession of dedicated officers and a clear sense of purpose, we have increased proactive policing efficiency and driven the crime rate down. We have improved training and equipment, providing top-tier professional services from a very small agency. The last major improvement to bring our agency into the 21st century was the remodeling of the police department facilities. This was much more than a facelift, repurposing the unused garage to a conference room, secure storage, and additional officer workspace in a modern and professional environment.

With so much accomplished in a decade, the Timberville Police Department promises not to rest on these successes, but instead, to strive for higher levels of performance and improved service to our community. To that end, we have drafted and adopted a new 5-year plan that will provide a roadmap to further success.

While the building renovation may be the final touch on the past decade, it is just the beginning of a dynamic future.



# OUR POLICE OFFICERS

LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS - DEDICATED TO OUR COMMUNITY



**SGT. JEREMY HOOKE**



**OFFICER MIKE THOMPSON**



**OFFICER C.K. RAY**

Sergeant Hooke is the longest serving member of the Timberville Police Department, starting in 2009. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2020, and has filled that role with enthusiasm. He is a dedicated member of the department, and is trusted and respected by both the community and the TPD officers.

Sergeant Hooke's dedication goes beyond daily patrol work. He was recently certified as an instructor, and has been working on his college degree. The annual report contains financial information including grants and fundraisers. Sgt. Hooke is responsible for applying for and managing these grants, and therefore is responsible for helping bring significant financial assistance to the Town.

**Officer Thompson has a long law enforcement career that reaches back to New Jersey, before moving to Virginia and working for the Prince William County Police Department. Officer Thompson started with TPD in the fall of 2016 and has been with the agency through many major changes over the years.**

**During his career, Officer Thompson has had opportunities to serve as a SWAT team member, a sniper, a diver, a traffic unit and other specialties. Since coming to TPD, he continues to serve as a firearms instructor.**

Officer Ray grew up in and around Timberville and graduated from Broadway High School. After serving in the Army as a Military Police Officer, he returned home and started his civilian police career with the Harrisonburg Police Department before starting with TPD in the summer of 2020.

Officer Ray is an excellent criminal interdiction officer, making many felony arrests each year. He is also a certified firearms instructor, and was recently certified to teach officer response to active shooter events. He is currently working on certification to teach active shooter response for civilians in our community.



**K-9 “Koda” is the first police dog to serve the TPD. After arriving from Europe (he has a Slovakia passport), Koda was trained in North Carolina before finishing his training with Officer Paczewski in fall 2022. K-9 “Koda” is certified in drug detection, tracking and apprehension.**

**So far, In a very young career, the K-9 team has made a significant impact on the community. In time, they will have many more opportunities to locate contraband, find persons and apprehend suspects.**

**K-9 “KODA”**



**OFFICER SHANE TURNER**

After his service in the Army, Officer Turner further served his community as a paid firefighter. After a few years, he turned his attention to law enforcement and became a certified law enforcement officer with the Shenandoah County Sheriff’s Office.

After working at a few agencies, Officer Turner started with TPD in late 2022 and immediately showed his value as an exemplary team player. Among other specialties, Officer Turner is a certified instructor, the TPD evidence clerk and a certified EMT.

**K-9 OFFICER LUKE PACZEWSKI**

Officer Paczewski moved to the area to attend Bridgewater College, where he had a successful baseball career. During his time there, he began volunteering with the Bridgewater Rescue Squad, where he served as Chief.

After getting started with Harrisonburg Police Department, Officer Paczewski came to TPD in the fall of 2021. Since then, he helped develop the first K-9 program in the history of the police department. His dedication as an officer and tireless efforts as a dog handler have produced a great team with his partner, K-9 “Koda”.



**Part-time Officers**

The Timberville Police Department supplements the 6 full-time officers with a roster of 6 part-time officers. There have been several changes since the beginning of 2023. The current roster is: \*Officer Jeremiah Nugent (JMUPD) \*Officer Chris Burns (BPD) \*Officer Steve Knight (GPD) \*Officer Jeremy Hevener (Dayton PD) \*Officer Grant Elmore (RCSO) \*Officer Justin Baker (RCSO)



HONOR - INTEGRITY - SERVICE

# PATROL OPERATIONS



The Timberville Police Department mission is to provide a safe community and work with our partners to identify and resolve problems in our community. The TPD officers all have multiple responsibilities, but their priority will always be patrolling the town, looking to intercept criminal and traffic violations, and looking for ways to help our community members.

Our officers are actively seeking problems in the community, so you will most often find them “on the street” and not in the office. It is common to see them along the street, running RADAR, watching over a park, monitoring school traffic, or looking for suspicious activity at one of our numerous businesses.

LEFT: TPD officers spend the majority of their shift in their police vehicle. The MDC (Mobile Data Computer) is their secondary source of information, next to the dispatch center. Almost all paperwork, including reports and traffic summons are completed on the MDC.

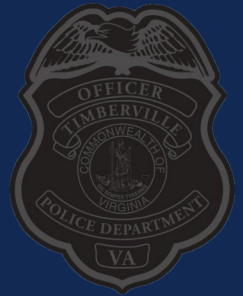


**LEFT: This vehicle was reported driving recklessly in Shenandoah County and subsequently fled from New Market PD. After driving recklessly on Timber Way, the vehicle attempted to flee and lost control in Broadway. The driver was charged with driving offenses and a drug violation. TPD proactively enforces the traffic code of Virginia, but our primary goal is to maintain quality of life and safety in our community, including through traffic enforcement.**



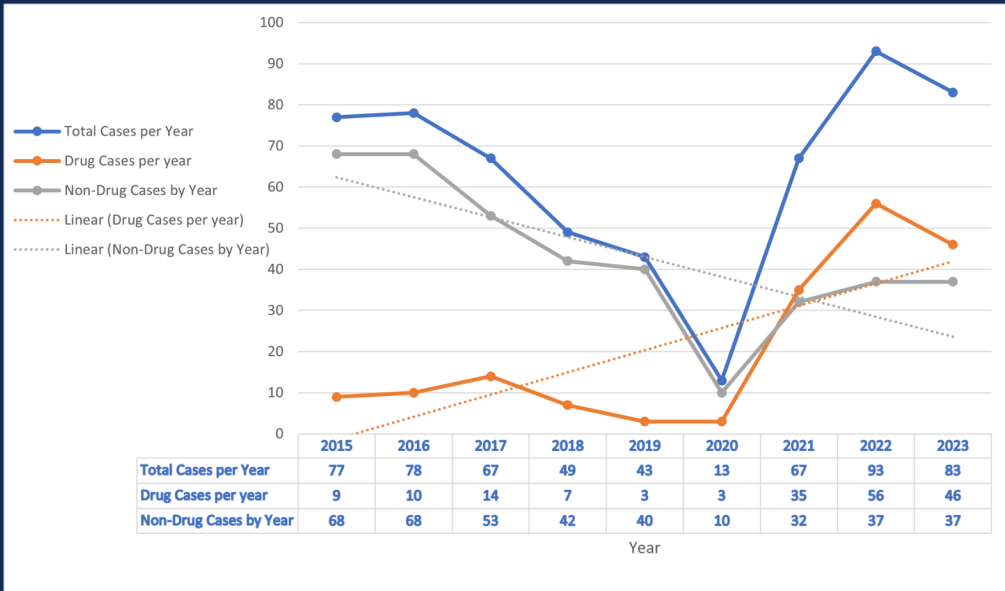
LEFT: TPD operates on the same radio system as the Sheriff's Office and the other town PD's. This vehicle was stopped due to a “Be on the Lookout” relayed from Shenandoah County Sheriff's Office.



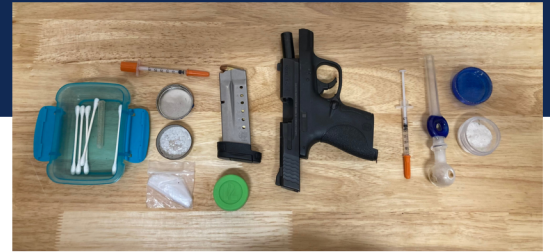


# CRIME STATS

Chief Dodd started in January 2015, and added an officer each of the next two years, going from 4 to 6 full time officers. As the number of officers increased, so did the number of hours covered each day. Increased coverage with an increased emphasis on proactive drug interdiction has increased officer initiated cases, and decreased crimes reported by citizens. The K-9 team started in the last quarter of 2022, further adding to proactive drug arrests.



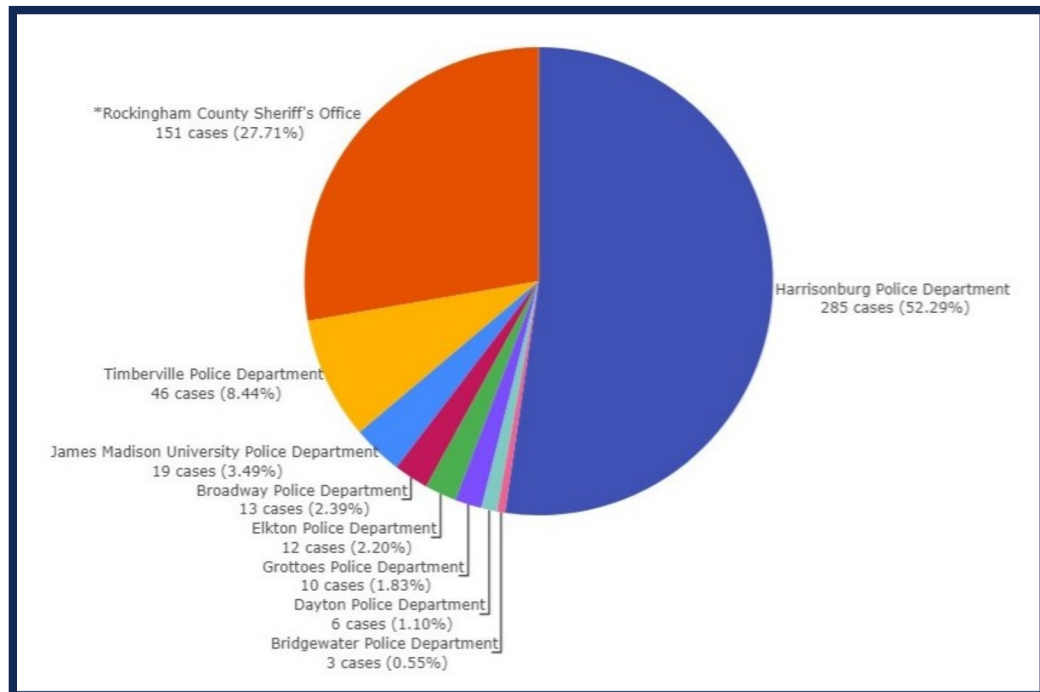
ABOVE: This graph shows total cases by year, drug cases by year, and non-drug cases (total case <minus> drug cases). The dotted trend lines show that as the number of drug cases have gone up, the number of non-drug cases have gone down.



## DRUG CASES BY AGENCY - 2023

# DRUG STATS

In the old days, small town PDs operated much like volunteer fire departments, they were available when someone needed them. In the modern world, this is not enough. TPD is a very proactive police department, actively addressing known traffic problems, seeking out ordinance violations, and most importantly, interdicting major crimes such as DUIs and weapon and drug violations. The chart to the right shows that (with 6 officers), TPD generated 8.44% of all drug cases in the area.

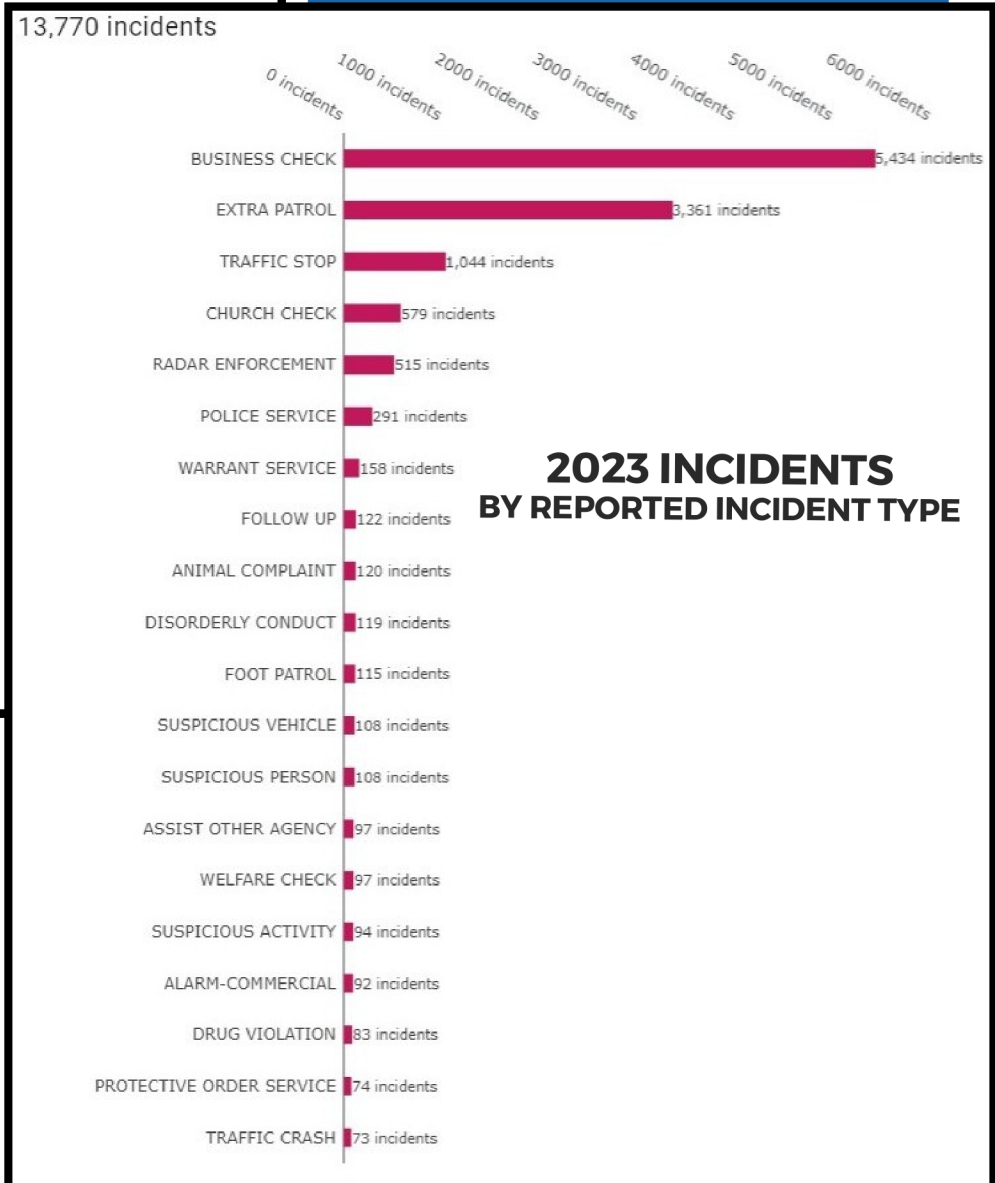


The graph *to the left* shows all 98 criminal reports written by Timberville PD in 2023.

Many of these crimes are reported by citizens, however it is important to note that 50 out of 98 reported calls are officer initiated: Drug Violations and DUIs.

**THE  
PERCENTAGE  
OF CRIMES  
DISCOVERED  
THROUGH  
PROACTIVE  
POLICING**

**51%**



The graph *to the right* shows the TOP 20 incident types that were reported by the Timberville PD in 2023. Most of these were responses by TPD in Timberville, however the numbers also include TPD response in other jurisdictions such as Broadway or Rockingham County. The numbers also include incidents by outside law enforcement agencies in Timberville, such as RCSO attempting to serve a warrant in town. Important to note, the top 5 incident types are proactive patrol activities by Timberville officers.

## 2023 TRAFFIC SUMMONS TOP 20 CHARGES

455 violations



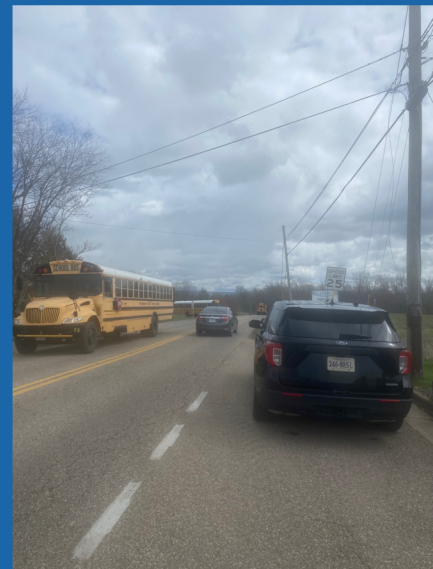
# TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Traffic safety and the enforcement of the traffic code is an important role of the Timberville Police Department.

Patrol officers routinely enforce speed limits throughout the town, especially on streets where we frequently hear citizen concerns about speed. Many speeders are charged with a lesser offense of failing to obey a road sign. TPD enforces the traffic code to maintain safety on our streets, not as a means to generate money. Our priority is using traffic enforcement to locate criminal activity such as drug, alcohol and weapon violations.

**2023 TRAFFIC STOPS: 1044**

**2023 TRAFFIC TICKETS: 455**



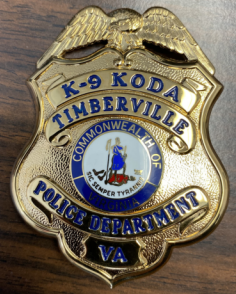
## ORDINANCES

The TPD enforces three primary town ordinances, commonly referred to as: Inoperable Vehicle Ordinance, Grass Ordinance, and Junk/Trash Ordinance. Each officer is assigned a section of town and proactively enforces these ordinances. While ordinances are a lower priority than felony crime and traffic safety, it is still a responsibility that the Council has asked the PD to take on. There are always a few violations scattered across town, but the officers prioritize the obvious violations and get to the rest as they can.



# 51

**NUMBER OF  
ORDINANCE  
VIOLATIONS  
ADDRESSED  
DURING 2023**



# FORCE MULTIPLIER



The Timberville Police Department Vision statement declares that we will always seek self-improvement and strive to provide progressive service to the community. To that end, we added a new team member in the fall of 2022.

During 2023, K-9 "Koda" hit his stride as a major player in our relentless efforts against illegal drugs in our community. Along with his handler, Officer Paczewski, Koda continues to train relentlessly, improving with every new deployment.

**RIGHT:** Koda's primary mission is to detect illegal drugs in proactive criminal enforcement. Here he practices searching for the odor of illegal drugs in a series of cars, as the team may find in a parking lot.



**LEFT:** Koda is a dual purpose dog, meaning he is certified to detect odors and track people, AND conduct patrol operations. Patrol work includes apprehension and bite work. Here, the team works with an HPD handler to ensure a proper bite and hold for suspect apprehension.



**LEFT:** The team trains tracking across various terrain and in varied conditions. Tracking long distance across hard services is a tough task, and one the team trains on regularly.

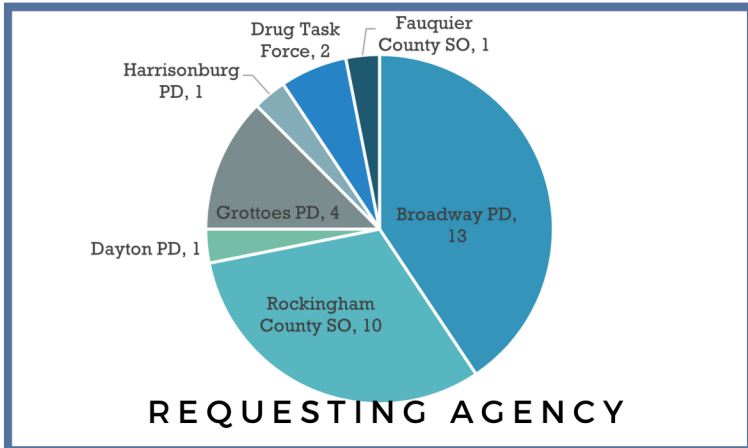
Deployment Type		
Detection	Deployments	88
	Indications (Alerts)	38
	Seizure Incidents	38
	Arrests	22
Patrol	Deployments	11
	Arrests (or ECO)	3
	Evidence	1

LEFT & RIGHT: The K-9 team's primary target is illegal drugs, with methamphetamine being the most common. But they also conduct other operations, including tracking and article/evidence searches. In one instance, Koda located a diamond ring which had been lost in a parking lot during an incident.



LEFT & RIGHT: Koda is trained to alert on various types of illegal drugs, including the five listed in the table at right. However, he may also alert on objects which have been contaminated by illegal drugs, including money. Some of this money may be seized, but in the absence of other evidence, is often released.

Indications (Alerts)			
Type	Sub-type	# incidents	Amount
Currency		3	\$29,162
Drug Paraphenalia		18	32 items
Drugs		15	
	Methamphetamine	9	2.023 kg
	Fentanyl	2	0.5 g & 1 pill
	Cocaine	2	5.2 grams
	Heroin	1	1 gram
	Ecstasy	1	25 pills
Firearms		2	2 guns



LEFT & RIGHT: Part of being a good police department is being a good collaborative partner. The K-9 team assisted on 32 deployments in 2023. While training in Fauquier County, they assisted with a jail search with a positive alert. They also assisted Broadway 13 times, as BPD and TPD K-9 teams routinely help each other's agencies.



RIGHT: Axon body-worn and in-car cameras record the majority of TPD's calls for service, including those for K-9. This image is a still shot of a video recording a "free air sniff" during a traffic stop just outside of town. The team works a lot of evenings and nights, but don't be surprised to see them pop up in the middle of the day.



2023-11-01 21:41:33 -0400  
AXON FLEET 3 F X684425LD

# TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

It seems that everything in the world changes fast, and that includes the world of law enforcement. Nearly constant change affects laws, tactics and technology, and a professional agency is obligated to keep pace with these changes. The Timberville Police Department stays active in regional meetings and training to keep abreast of current trends and best practices. The individual officers attend training to improve their knowledge, improve their skills, and broaden their horizons.

The TPD trains annually with Harrisonburg PD and the other towns in Rockingham County. Training is also provided by the regional Academy in Weyers Cave. Occasionally, officers will travel out of the area for big training opportunities such as conferences.

**FBI-LEEDA** is a nationally recognized organization and training program with a mission that states they shall “advance the science and art of law enforcement leadership and promote the exchange of information to improve law enforcement management practices through training, education, and networking among police professionals across the United States and beyond.

It is a true honor to attend any of the three classes. An officer who completes all three classes receives the Trilogy Award. Officer Ray, Sgt. Hooke and Chief Dodd all attended their first class during 2023.

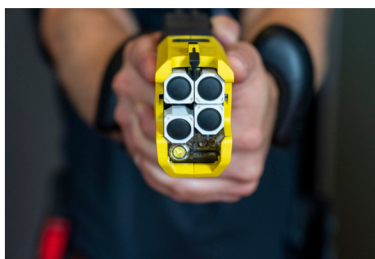
Officer Paczewski attended the Advanced DUI training Program in Williamsburg with our primary Assistant Commonwealth Attorney, Mandie Strecky. TPD actively targets DUI, drug and weapon violations, and collaborating with the prosecutor’s office ensures that everyone is working with the most up to date enforcement and prosecution tools.



LEFT: Officers Ray and Turner attended the **Street Cop Training Conference** this year. SCT brings a variety of instructors and speakers to promote proactive policing in an ever-changing world. Major speakers included former Navy SEAL Rob O’Neill, seen here with Officer Ray.



ABOVE: All officers also participate in life-saving training, such as **Crisis Intervention, First Aid/CPR/AED, and traumatic injury care**. All officers are CIT certified, training which helps the officers effectively communicate with people in crisis, suffering from mental illness or displaying suicidal tendencies.



**RIGHT: Use of Force decisions are among the most critical and high-stakes decisions officers are faced with. Officers must know when to use force, from basic handcuffing, up to deadly force. TPD officers receive routine UoF training, and most are certified instructors for some use of force, including handgun, rifle, ASP baton and Taser.**

## ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

Every year, the Harrisonburg Police Department hosts active shooter training, and invites all local law enforcement agencies to participate. TPD has not only participated for a decade, we help plan and teach the annual training events. The material is presented on multiple days to ensure the majority of officers have opportunity to attend. Topics include breaching doors, responding solo or with a team, basic trauma medicine, and working with fire/rescue to save lives.



## RPTG

### ROCKINGHAM POLICE TRAINING GROUP

The town police agencies in Rockingham County work cooperatively every year to provide top level training to their officers. Annual training topics include:

- Firearms Qualification
- Advanced Pistol Training
- Defensive Tactics (hands-on)
- Virtual Reality scenario based training
- Patrol Rifle Training
- Emergency Vehicle Driving
- Shooting in low-light conditions
- Role-playing scenario based training
- De-escalation/Crisis Intervention

Others topics covered regularly as a group or by individual agencies include:

- TASER recertification
- First Aid/CPR
- RADAR recertification



# EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

The best equipment is getting what you need, and having someone else pay for it. In 2023, TPD received **\$153,000** in funding through the Department of Criminal Justice Services ARPA grant (American Rescue Plan Act). These funds were allocated to local jurisdictions “to purchase equipment that improves or enhances the delivery of daily law enforcement services to the community...” To that end, TPD purchased two vehicles, improved rifle optics, night vision and ballistic helmets.

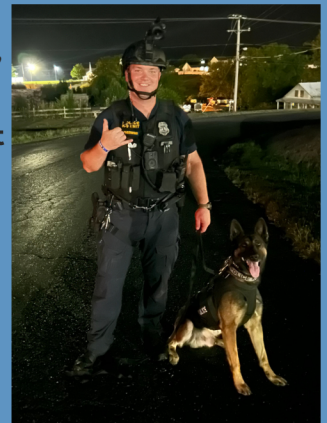
RIGHT: Vehicles are one of the largest expenses for a police department. ARPA funds were used to purchase two cruisers, replacing the two oldest vehicles in the fleet. The first one is a Ford Police Interceptor SUV, and the second one is a Dodge Durango Pursuit set up for the K-9 team.



RIGHT: A wise police department plans for the unlikely as if it is the inevitable. TPD participates in numerous trainings throughout the year, including firearms and active attack response. ARPA money was used to upgrade the issued patrol rifle from a standard red dot sight to a magnified optic. The Nightforce scope functions as a red dot sight at close range, but also allows the officer the option for magnification. This option gives the officer several tactical advantages, including the ability to identify a threat at longer distances. The school shooting in Uvalde, Texas could have been stopped sooner by an appropriately equipped and trained officer.



LEFT: With an emphasis on criminal interdiction, TPD officers routinely conduct surveillance, especially at night. ARPA funds purchased night vision equipment to aid in night time surveillance and movement. RIGHT: The K-9 team practices moving in darkness with night vision to avoid detection. Using flashlights only when necessary can make movement and tracking safer for the team.





RIGHT: Not all grants are six figures, but every one counts. Because the Philips AEDs were no longer supported by the manufacturer, TPD was forced to replace all six. Fortunately, a small DCJS grant was used over the last two years to replace two units with new **Zoll AEDs** which are compatible with current RCFD Fire/Rescue equipment.



Year Grant Awarded	Grant Subject	Grant Source	Grant Title	
2022	Motorola Portable Radio	DCJS	BJAG-Byrne Justice Assistance Grant	\$18,750.00
2022	Personal Protective Equipment	DCJS	CESF-Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding	\$2,138.00
2021	Body Worn Camera Grant Solicitation FY21	DCJS	BWCP-Body Worn Camera Grant Program	\$16,202.00
2021	Emergency Lighting	DCJS	LOLE-Local L.E. Block Grant	\$838.00
2022	Motorola Equipment	DCJS	LOLE-Local L.E. Block Grant	\$832.00
2022	Emergency Lighting	VRSA	VRSA Safety Grant	\$2,000.00
2022	AED (Zoll brand)	DCJS	LOLE-Local L.E. Block Grant	\$1,619.00
2021	DMV Speed Enforcement Overtime	DMV	DMV Speed Enforcement Overtime	\$3,500.00
2022	DMV Speed Enforcement Overtime	DMV	DMV Speed Enforcement Overtime	\$4,300.00
2023	AED (Zoll brand)	DCJS	LOLE-Local L.E. Block Grant	\$2,076.00
2023	Law Enforcement Equipment Grant	DCJS	LE ARPA	\$153,000.00
2022	Panasonic Docks	DCJS	LOLE FY-20	\$1,152.00
2024	Overtime	DCJS	LOLE FY-23	\$2,256.00
				<b>\$208,663.00</b>

**LEFT: The Timberville Police Department understands that every dollar in the annual budget belongs to the residents of Timberville. Because of this, the Department spends budgetary allowances with due regard and respect. Furthermore, TPD constantly searches for outside financial sources, especially through grant funding. The table below shows grants awarded to TPD since 2021, to the total of \$208,663.00.**

# COMMUNITY POLICING = COMMUNITY MEMBERS

BELOW: TPD offers a nationally recognized class for civilians to help them prepare for an active shooter event.



LEFT: The Plains Elementary School holds numerous events through the year, and TPD is fortunate enough to participate in some of them. Here, officers answer questions during the semi-annual **Community Helpers Day**.



RIGHT: Officers routinely interact with the kids in town, sometimes on the street and sometimes at school. Special events like the **Easter egg hunt** are always fun for the officers and the families.

BELOW: Chief Dodd helps the **Jakes on Track** after school program at John C. Meyers Elementary. Although they attend school in Broadway, these kids are still part of our community.



ABOVE & LEFT: TPD is so fortunate to belong to a proud, supportive community. Every year during Police Week, citizens and businesses make special effort to let the police officers know they are appreciated.



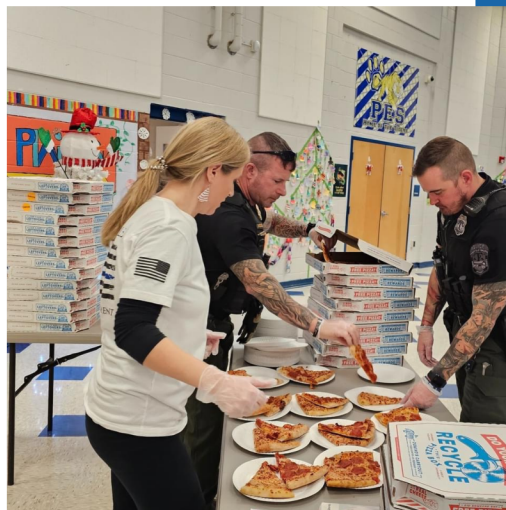
RIGHT: UVA Hospital medical helicopter, Pegasus was a big attraction at NNO.



RIGHT & BELOW: **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT** has become an annual tradition in Timberville. NNO is a nationwide initiative to increase positive interaction between law enforcement and the communities they serve. From the beginning, TPD and the Timberville Fire Department have collaborated to create a carnival-like event for our community members. With immense help from other Timberville employees, TFD volunteers and other civic-minded groups, this was a fun and successful event.



RIGHT: While the PES students were winding down for winter break, the Police Department worked with the school and the Timberville front office staff to throw a **PIZZA PARTY** for the kids. It is not uncommon for kids in the community to approach officers and tell them thank you for the pizza party. This event is special, because it gives the officers the opportunity to meet every student in the school, face to face.



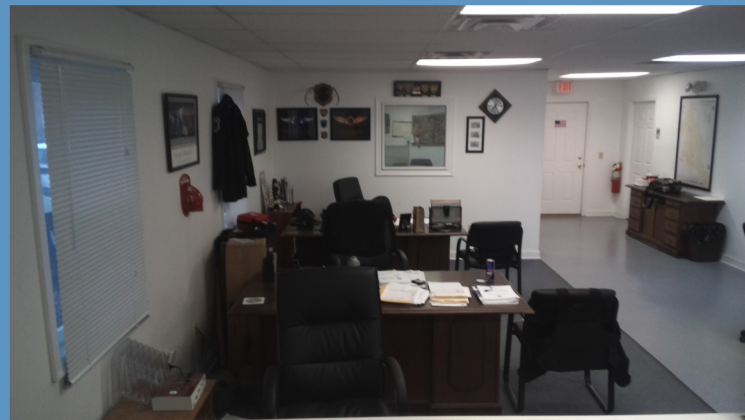


# OUT WITH THE OLD

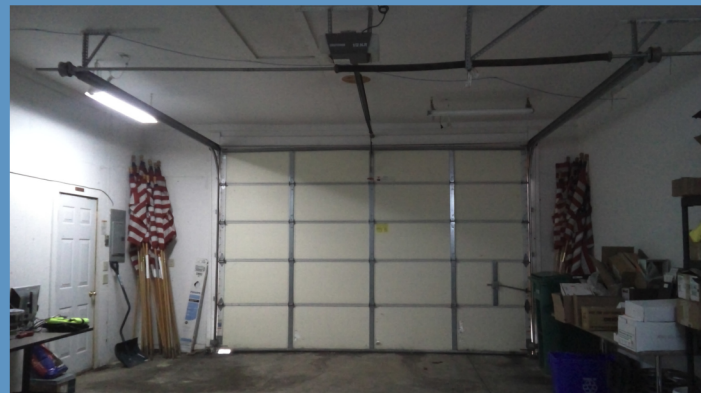


The Timberville Police Department has made many improvements over the last 10 years, including added personnel, improved equipment and a decreasing crime rate. However, the home of the agency left something to be desired. The structure had housed the town museum years prior, but in the meantime, was beginning to have maintenance issues, and looked more like a construction trailer than a professional police department. A large portion of the project was completed during 2022, but the finishing touches came during 2023.

**LEFT: The outside of the building was an eyesore and suffered numerous structural issues including a bad roof, three leaking doors, rotting framing and an ineffective gutter which contributed to both the rot and the leaking problem under the doors.**



**LEFT: The patrol room had stained tile flooring, unraveling carpet, dingy white walls and mismatched desks donated years ago by the bank.**



**LEFT: A significant portion of the building was wasted due to a large garage with no HVAC that flooded every time it rained.**

**RIGHT: The property room was in the basement of Town Hall and had poor environmental controls and moisture problems.**





HONOR - INTEGRITY - SERVICE

# IN WITH THE NEW



Turning the Police Department building into a modern professional facility started with planning and a budget. After putting the project out for bid, it quickly became apparent that this was an expensive undertaking. With that in consideration, the Town took a different approach. Using individual contractors, Public Works and volunteers, the renovation was completed for less than half of the lowest bid. This provided the PD with a modern, more usable space, and saved the residents a serious amount of money.

**RIGHT:** It took teamwork and planning to manage the remodel at a reasonable cost. Public works replaced the tired shingle roof with a new metal roof like they had done on town owned buildings before, saving the cost of outside contract work

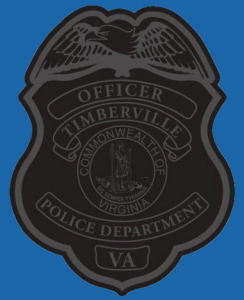


**LEFT:** New energy efficient lighting now brightens the patrol office, and low-maintenance vinyl replaced the frayed carpet and outdated tile.

**RIGHT:** The basement property room has been replaced with a new addition that was part of the copier room and garage before. The cabinets were donated by Lowe's of Woodstock.



**LEFT:** A large portion of the garage is now a meeting room. Public Works framed and hung drywall for the entire renovation.



# GLAD TO BE HOME

Every officer has a different story and a different relationship with the Town of Timberville, but we all have one thing in common. Whether we were raised here, or moved here later in life, we have all adopted Timberville as our community. Every officer lives close to town, sends their kids to the same schools, shops at the same stores and considers Timberville home.

The officers strive to fulfill the Department Mission and Vision every day, and live their lives by the core values. Thank you for allowing us to serve this community in such an important and humbling way. And thank you to all of the Town employees. We wouldn't be able to do our jobs without you.





# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



TIMBERVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
392 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
TIMBERVILLE, VA 22853