



# Sparta Township Police Department 2024 Annual Report



Chief Jeffrey McCarrick  
65 Main Street  
Sparta NJ, 07871

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## Message from the Chief



As I have completed the second year during my tenure as Chief, I am thankful for being able to have the opportunity to learn so much. Every day there are changes within our department, our community, throughout our state, and our nation, but the mission stays the same.

*"The Sparta Police Department will always strive to provide its' citizens and guests prompt and courteous police services, whether emergency or routine, in a timely and efficient manner. We will proactively seek new and innovative ways to reduce crime and work with the members of our community to provide public safety!"*

Our department continues to dedicate our services to all stakeholders amongst our community and within our organization.

With developing and publishing the first ever annual report for the year 2023 we were able to evaluate ourselves in every aspect. Our intentions are always to improve where we need to and where we can. Having the ability to compare the breakdown of our department from year to year will give us the ability to understand the needs of our community.

What has stood out to me the most this past year was the notable commitment and dedication that the men and women who make up our police department put forth every day. Demands are always high, especially when it comes to an expected level of service in the police profession. What I have specifically witnessed is the consistent high level of exceptional service our team has provided. As an agency we attribute this to our highly educated and trained professionals and will continue to promote and foster the professional development environment to provide the best services we can.

As I have stated prior, it's recognized there is a variety of talent amongst our team, which consists of Police Officers, Dispatchers, Animal Control Officer, Records Clerks, Administrative Assistants, and Support Service. Our Command Staff understands that everyone's input is important and plays a vital role in our daily activities. I am thankful and proud of you all for your continued efforts in making Sparta Township a better place to live in and raise a family. Your sacrifices in keeping our community safe do not go unnoticed. I am truly proud to be your Chief and witness the many hats you all wear to meet the needs of this great community.

As your Chief it is my mission to continue to lead our agency with positive change, forward thinking, being open-minded, accountability, transparency, professionalism and leading by example and with your support I will do just that. I am honored to present you with the Sparta Township Police Department's 2024 annual report.

Sincerely,

***Chief Jeffrey L. McCarrick***

Chief Jeffrey McCarrick

## 2024 Department Demographics



In 2024 the Sparta Police Department Team consisted of a blend of 57 full-time and part-time employees. Below are the year-end numbers for personnel.

Department Breakdown	34
Chief	1
Captain	1
Lieutenant	1
Patrol Sergeants	4
Detective Sergeant	1
Traffic/Dispatch Sergeant	1
Detectives	2
School Resource Officer	1
Traffic Officers	2
Patrol Officers	20
Academy Recruits	1
Class II Specials	2
Full Time Dispatchers	10
Part Time Dispatchers	3
Full Time Records	1
Part Time Records	2
Full Time Administrative Assistant	1
Full Time IT/Support	2
Full Time Animal Control Officer	1
Officers Retired in 2024	4



## Sussex County Police Chiefs Association (NJSACOP)

New Jersey State Association of Chief of Police is a professional membership organization serving law enforcement leaders in Sussex County with purpose to:



1. Promote and enhance the highest ethical and professional standards in law enforcement at all levels throughout Sussex County.
2. Secure closer official and personal relationships among law enforcement officers throughout Sussex County and the State of New Jersey.
3. Secure unity of action in police matters.
4. Strive for advancements in methods for the prevention and detection of crime and the promotion of police efficiency in general.
5. Eliminate political influence from police affairs and provide assistance to members in such ways as are or may hereafter be provided in the By-Laws.

**Chief Jeffrey McCarrick is a current active member with the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police and was throughout 2024.**

Chief McCarrick attended 10 New Jersey State Chief of Police Association Meetings for 2024. These meetings are very important to attend for our agency. Up-to-date information is provided by Chiefs across the State of NJ, members from the Attorney General's Office, Police Training Commission, and additional local state and federal agencies.

Additionally, Chief McCarrick attended the 2024 New Jersey State Chiefs of Police Association Training and Conference Seminar in June of 2024.

The New Jersey State Chiefs of Police Association offers several training courses throughout the year on many aspects within law enforcement.

In 2024 Chief McCarrick enrolled in the online Police Chief In-Service series. The New Jersey Police Chiefs In-Service Series is designed to offer Police Chiefs and other Police Executives insights on a variety of important topics and issues critical to the success of a contemporary law enforcement leader. National and International Police Executives share their knowledge from their experiences as an executive.

In 2024 Chief McCarrick received a certification as an Accredited Command Executive-Chief of Police through the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police.

## Sussex County Chiefs Association



**Chief McCarrick is a current active member of the Sussex County Police Chief Association and was throughout 2024.**

Chief McCarrick attended 10 Sussex County Chiefs of Police Association Meetings for 2024

Chief McCarrick understands the importance of continued education and training to promote professionalism and advanced knowledge in skilled areas of law enforcement; With this forethought Chief McCarrick conducted 10 Supervisory Staff meetings and trainings during 2024.

Chief McCarrick is also an active member with the following organizations:

- Sussex County Youth Commission
- Sparta Township Municipal Alliance Co-Chair
- Sussex County Public Safety Training Academy Advisory Board member
- Sussex County Opioid Settlement Funds Committee Member
- Sparta 2026 World Conference Committee Member
- FBI National Academy Graduate Class 284
  - Active member with the NJ FBI National Academy Chapter
    - Attended (2) NJ FBINA Quarterly Meetings
    - Attended the NJ FBINA Conference and Training Seminar
- Sussex County Office of Emergency Management
  - Sparta Township OEM Coordinator
- Sparta FOP Lodge #26

Chief McCarrick made a commitment in 2023 to be involved with as many community organizations as possible, such as attending Sparta Township Council Meetings, attending Sussex County Commissioner Meetings, meeting with Lake Mohawk Country Club management and Advisory Board meetings, NJ State Association of Chief of Police monthly meetings, Sussex County Chief Association monthly meetings, FBI National Academy Quarterly meetings, Sparta Municipal Alliance meetings, Sussex County Office of Emergency Management meetings, School security meetings, Sussex County PFLAG meetings, Sussex County Opioid Settlement Funds Committee meetings, Sparta 2026 World Conference Committee meetings, and several more community organizational events throughout the year.





# Office of Emergency Management

The Division of Emergency Management is a county-level emergency service required by statute that coordinates all available resources to serve the needs of Sussex County.

## Chief McCarrick is Sparta Township's OEM Coordinator

- Attended several virtual and in-person County and State OEM Meetings throughout 2024
- Attended the 2024 OEM Conference in Atlantic City for training and updates
- Met OEM Officials from Vernon Twp., Jefferson Twp, Andover Twp, Sussex County, Hamburg Borough, Franklin Borough, NJSP
  - Attending Trainings
  - OEM Conference
  - Tornado Awareness
  - ICS 200
  - ICS 300
  - EMMIT Software
  - EMMIT Practice Drills
  - FEMMA Workshop
  - Reunification Training
  - ASIM-Active Shooter Incident Management
- Practice Drill with Sussex County OEM
  - LMCC Fireworks
- Active Shooter Response Trainings



## Thomas McIntyre is Sparta Township's Deputy OEM Coordinator

- Attended Several Virtual and In Person County and State OEM Meetings throughout 2023
- Attended the 2023 OEM Conference in Atlantic City for Training and Updates
- Practice Drill with Sussex County OEM
  - LMCC Fireworks
- Attended Trainings
  - Hazmat for Fire Inspectors- flammable and combustible liquids
  - Cause and origin- systematic and comprehensive investigation
  - Fire service concerns for tv/film production
  - Understanding fire protection systems- warehouse and big box stores
  - Fire pumps
  - Excellence in customer service
  - Mental Health First Aid
  - NJIAAI motor vehicle fire investigation

In 2023, the Sparta Township Emergency Operations Plan was completely updated. It was sent to the County and State of New Jersey for approval. The updated plan was approved in November of 2023 with a renewal date of November 2025. This was completed with efforts from our township professionals, public safety experts and public-school administration. Throughout 2024 the plan was updated with any necessary changes. Additionally in 2024 the Sparta Township Hazardous mitigation plan was updated and submitted to the County OEM.

**Richard Bartlett is a valuable Liaison to our Township's OEM Team** - Richard assists with planning and drills and also provides training to our staff in the OEM field. In 2024 Richard training Sparta and Hopatcong Police Officers in several levels of the Incident Command System.

## Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. When emergencies happen, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the community. CERT is a nationwide initiative.



Here in Sparta Township, we are lucky enough to have several volunteers who make up the Sparta Township CERT Team chaired by David Smith. In 2024 members from the police department met with the CERT Team to discuss areas where their team could assist us in emergencies. Additionally, Officer Steve Guido was able to demonstrate how our department's drone would assist in specific emergencies and in natural disasters.

## Accreditation



Our agency began the process of becoming accredited in August of 2023. Lieutenant Adam Carbery was assigned as our Department's Accreditation Manager. Captain Thomas Snyder and Sergeant Steve Guido served as the Department's assistant Accreditation Managers. In 2024 with the retirement of Lieutenant Carbery, Captain Snyder was able to seamlessly transition and move forward with the accreditation process. Additionally, we were able to transition Officer Christopher Schanstra into a role on the Accreditation Team. This Team of Accreditation managers was chosen for their diligent work and attention to detail. Their years of service vary which also play a role in strategically continuing with accreditation standards for the future of our agency.

This team has been working consistently with team members from Lexipol. Together they have begun a collaboration of intensive and specifics steps to streamline the process for our agency to become accredited. During this time, Captain Snyder attended training in reviewing the standards of our department.

Throughout the process, our Accreditation Team has focused on the reviewing and revision of all our agency's policies, to ensure that they meet our departmental standards, while aligning with directives from our County Prosecutor's office and Attorney General's office. The review, revision and ultimate implementation of the policies has been extremely time consuming, however this will ultimately assist in our mission to properly maintain public safety, protect our citizens' rights through transparency and professionalism, while adhering to established standards, fostering accountability, and developing and maintaining the trust of the community.

Early in 2025, our Command Staff met with leadership from the New Jersey Association of Chief's of Police Accreditation who visited our department, reviewed our policies and proofs, and conducted an on-site inspection at our agency. The department leadership team is scheduled to appear in front of the New Jersey Chief's Association State Accreditation Board in March of 2025.

# Annual Review of Use of Force & Vehicle Pursuit Incidents

This submission is made in accordance with Sections 7.6 and 7.7 of the Attorney General's Use of Force Policy (April 2022) ("Use of Force Policy"), and Sections 12.2 and 12.3 of Addendum B to the Attorney General's Use of Force Policy (April 2022) ("Vehicular Pursuit Policy").

**County\***

Sussex

**Law Enforcement Agency \***

Sparta Township

**Date of Report \***

1/19/2025

**Year of Data Covered in this Report\***

2024

**Check the box below to confirm\***

☒ Report has been reviewed by and endorsed by the agency's law enforcement executive.

## Contact Information

**Your Name and Title\***

Jeffrey L. McCarrick Chief of Police

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Currently, our agency employs 34 full time officers, 2 SLEO II officers, 1 police officer academy recruit expected to graduate in April of 2025. I serve as the Chief of Police and have done so since January of 2023. Our additional command staff consists of 1 Captain and 1 Lieutenant. There are 6 Sergeants, 4 Sergeants in the patrol division, 1 Sergeant in the Traffic Division, and 1 Sergeant in the investigative division. We currently have 3 detectives (One being the Detective Sergeant). Additionally, under the Detective Bureau's command there is 1 School Resource

Officer. There are currently 24 Officers dedicated to the Patrol Division (4 of which are Sergeants) There are currently 3 Officers dedicated to the Traffic Bureau (One being a Sergeant).

The Sparta Township Police Department ended the 2024 calendar year with approximately 36,986 calls for service. In 2024, the Sparta Township Police Department completed 36,986 total incidents and only used force on a total of 25 individual incidents with 46 Use of Force reports completed. This equates to our officers utilizing force options on .000675% of the total incidents handled.

## Use of Force Annual Review: Written Report

### **Section One: BWC/Video Audit**

Your review must include a brief description of your agency's random and risk-based audit process (e.g., how videos are selected, who reviews the videos, etc.). If your agency did not conduct a risk-based and/or random BWC/video audit in 2023, please indicate how you plan to remedy that in 2024.

### **Section One: BWC/Video Audit\***

During my annual review, it was determined that this police department conducted an approximate total of 1,116 random body worn camera reviews for the year 2024. These body worn camera reviews are conducted monthly by department supervisors. Each Sergeant must conduct no less than 3 random body worn camera reviews each month for each subordinate that falls under their direct supervision. Additionally, the Captain and Lieutenant also conduct monthly random BWC reviews for each of the (6) Sergeants. The Supervisors complete a detailed narrative for each one of these reviews. If there are any training issues, policy violations, or other infractions that need to be addressed, they are immediately addressed by the Sergeant, the next level of command, or through the Internal Affairs function. Additionally, there are several incidents where the officer's actions were recognized as going above and beyond. Officers are made aware of their actions by their Sergeants and their level of command. Body worn camera footage is often used for training techniques amongst the department.

In addition to random reviews of body worn cameras during an officer's normal course of actions and duties, supervisors conduct reviews on all officer involved UOF incidents. All body worn cameras by each officer were reviewed by the officer's direct supervisor. Additionally, all UOF body worn camera recordings were reviewed by 2 members of the command staff (Captain and Lieutenant).

Officers Alyse Brown, Erick Finley, and Michael Poon completed the most Use of Force reports of any member in the agency, in total of 4 each. It was determined that these Officers' incidents would be utilized as the sample required for a risk-based audit. The risk-based audit included a review of all the original dispatch audio recordings, the CAD reports, all Incident and Supplemental reports, as well as all the body worn camera footage and MVR footage associated with all incidents in which these Officers used force. (All UOF incidents are reviewed this way)



In 2025 I plan on continuing to have my Captain and Lieutenant conduct formalized reviews of body worn cameras for the respected Sergeants who fall directly under their command. They now currently review BWC footage of Officers during normal day-to-day reviewing. They will continue to be required one random body worn camera review per week for each sergeant to be completed by the Captain or Lieutenant.

### **Section Two: Internal Affairs Complaints**

Your analysis must include a review of internal affairs complaints related to use of force incidents and must include the following: 1. number of IA complaints filed; 2. number filed by civilians; 3. number initiated by the agency; 4. numbers sustained; and 5. number still pending.

### **Section Two: Internal Affairs Complaints \***

All incidents where any level of force was utilized were reviewed at the operational level and administratively for compliance with policy and procedure. Additionally, each incident was reviewed for training and/or equipment deficiencies, policy, and procedure amendments, or for additional training. 0 incidents were deemed to be out of compliance, 0 were referred to internal affairs, and 0 were addressed as a performance deficiency.

A review of 2024 Use of Force reports identified one Internal Affairs complaint that was received from a citizen who alleged excessive force was used during their encounter with officers of the Sparta Township Police Department. During this one encounter, one officer used force. The citizen complaint alleged that the officer involved with this incident had used excessive force against him. All incidents have preliminary executive-level review conducted and those reviews did not reveal any discernable pattern, practice, or trend regarding the use of force with respect to a subject's race, ethnicity, gender, or any other protected characteristic. The level and type of force used was warranted and appropriate. This Internal Affairs investigation is closed and had a finding of exonerated.

### **Summary for 2024:**

Total Number of IA Complaints Filed	1
Number of IA Complaints Filed by Civilians	1
Number of IA Complaints Filed by our Agency	0
Number of IA Complaints Sustained	0
Number of IA Complaints Still Pending	0

### **Section Three: Meaningful Review of Individual Uses of Force**

Section 7.5 of the Attorney General's Use of Force Policy requires that every use of force must undergo a meaningful command level review. Your annual review should include a brief description of your agency's meaningful review policy. If your agency was not able to conduct a meaningful review of each use of force incident, please explain why you were unable to do so and please indicate how you plan to do so going forward.

### **Section Three: Meaningful Review of Individual Uses of Force \***

The Sparta Township Police Department conducts a thorough detailed meaningful review of every Use of Force incident our Officers/Agency was involved in. These reviews are completed initially by an officer's direct supervisor. They are then reviewed on a Command level by a

Lieutenant and Captain. The final review is completed by me as the Chief of Police. During the initial meaningful review, the supervisors and command staff review all reports associated with the incident. Additionally, every recording from all radios, all telephone recordings, all BWC recordings, all MVR recordings, and any other public or private video/audio recordings associated with the incident is reviewed. Also, all statements involved with the incident are reviewed.

Once all pertinent information from the incident is reviewed, the supervisors and command staff will compare all aspects with our policy and the AG Guidelines to see if there is any need for additional training or retraining, policy change, equipment needed, or disciplinary action within the IA process. Our Captain will create a detailed analysis and breakdown of the incident with their recommendation(s) of the above-mentioned and provide me for my review. If I disagree with the recommendation, I will provide my written directions on how to proceed to the appropriate supervisors. A final command level review summaries are uploaded into our Guardian Tracking software system under "Meaningful Review".

#### **Section Four: Non-Discriminatory Application of Force**

Your review must include an explanation of how you concluded whether force was applied in a non-discriminatory manner based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic. Your analysis should include a review of your community's demographics and demographic data from the Use of Force portal. If you conclude that any use of force was applied in a discriminatory manner, please explain what steps you have taken and will take to address this conclusion.

#### **Section Four: Non-Discriminatory Application of Force\***

All incidents where use of force was utilized are reviewed at several levels including a command level review. All reviews consist of many factors but some of the most notable areas during the review are the following.

- Was the officer dispatched to the incident or was it a self-generated activity?
- Were there de-escalation techniques utilized?
- What was the number of officers to the number of subjects that force was used against?
- Did any of the individuals have any kind of special needs or certain impairment issues?
- What type of force was used?
- Was it the appropriate level of force?
- Was anyone injured?
- Was there a crime associated prior to using force?
- Are there any trends with the specific officer(s) using force?
- Are there any trends with the specific officer(s) using force against a specific protected class?
- What video can we review (BWC, MVR, CCTV, Private Cell phone, Private residential cameras)?
- Reviewing of witness statements
- Were there any complaints about the force (Internally and externally)?
- Was it according to policy and procedure?
- Was the officer properly trained?

Again, our agency understands there are so many factors when reviewing incidents involving force and these are some of the most notable factors during the initial review. In 2024 the Sparta Police Department used force during a total of 25 incidents for the year. During these incidents the following demographics of the subjects who forced was used upon were the following

**RACE**

- 21 Subjects White
- 1 Subjects Asian
- 3 Subjects were of other race.

**Gender**

- 20 Subjects Male
- 5 Subjects Female

**Ethnicity**

- 21 Subject are non-Hispanic or Latino
- 4 Subjects are Hispanic or Latino

Injuries to Subject (7 of the 25 subjects were reported as injured and 18 of the 25 subjects were reported as not injured) Listed below of the 7 injured subjects, a subject could have fell into one of more categories with the listed conditions.

- 6 Subjects with abrasions, laceration, or puncture
- 2 Subjects with complaint of pain
- 1 Subject with a contusion/bruise
- 18 Subjects with no injury

Injuries to Officers (6 officers injured in 2024) Listed below of the 6 injured officers an officer could have fell into one of more categories with the listed conditions.

- 3 Officers suffered with abrasions, laceration, or puncture
- 2 Officers suffered with contusion or bruise
- 3 Officers with complaint of pain

**Subjects Reported Arrested**

- 7 Subjects were arrested.
- 18 Subjects were not arrested.
- Of the subjects not arrested
  - 15 were not arrested because of a medical or mental health incident.
  - 2 was not arrested for insufficient probable cause or continued investigation.
  - 1 was not arrested due to no probable cause.

**Community Demographics (Information from 2022 Census)**

**Population** 20,085

### Race and Hispanic Origin

White alone, percent	88.6%
Black or African American alone, percent(a)	0.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent(a)	0.0%
Asian alone, percent(a)	3.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent(a)	0.0%
Two or More Races, percent	4.7%
Hispanic or Latino, percent(b)	7.7%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	84.4%

### Age and Sex

Persons under 5 years, percent	5.6%
Persons under 18 years, percent	24.0%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	14.2%
Female persons, percent	51.4%

In comparing the demographics of our community and the breakdown of subjects who had force used against them in 2024 I have concluded that force was used in a non-discriminatory manner. This information was concluded from our layers of reviews for each Use of Force incident.

Time period	January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024									
Agency	Sparta Township Police Department									
County	Sussex									
No.	Officer Demographics				Current Year Promotion					
	Year of Bir	Age	Race	Hispanic Origin?	Gender	Eligible for Promotion	Applied for Promotion	Promoted	Old Rank	New Rank
1	1959	62	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	No	No	No	Lieutenant	
2	1982	39	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	No	No	No	Chief	
3	1982	39	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	Yes	Yes	Yes	Lieutenant	Captain
4	1977	44	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	Yes	Yes	No	Patrolman	
5	1989	32	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	Yes	Yes	Yes	Detective	Sergeant
6	1987	34	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	No	No	No	Detective	
7	1979	42	White	Hispanic or Latino	Male	Yes	No	No	Lieutenant	
8	1976	45	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	Yes	Yes	Yes	Sergeant	Lieutenant
9	1983	38	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	Yes	Yes	Yes	Sergeant	Lieutenant
10	1972	49	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	Yes	No	No	Sergeant	
11	1971	50	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	Yes	Yes	No	Patrolman	
12	1978	43	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	Yes	Yes	No	Patrolman	
13	1968	53	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	Yes	Yes	No	Patrolman	
14	1976	45	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	Yes	Yes	No	Patrolman	
15	1973	48	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	No	No	No	Sergeant	
16	1977	44	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	No	No	No	Detective Sergeant	
17	1980	41	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	Yes	Yes	Yes	Patrolman	Sergeant
18	1980	41	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	No	No	No	Sergeant	
19	1982	39	White	Not Hispanic or La	Female	Yes	Yes	No	Patrolman	
20	1988	33	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	Yes	Yes	Yes	Patrolman	Sergeant
21	1991	30	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	Yes	Yes	No	Detective	
22	1984	37	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	Yes	Yes	No	Patrolman	
23	1983	38	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	Yes	Yes	No	Patrolman	
24	1991	30	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	Yes	Yes	No	Patrolman	
25	1994	27	Asian	Not Hispanic or La	Male	Yes	Yes	No	Patrolman	
26	1995	26	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	No	No	No	Patrolman	
27	1981	40	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	Yes	Yes	No	Patrolman	
28	1991	30	Asian	Not Hispanic or La	Male	Yes	Yes	No	Patrolman	
29	1998	23	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	No	No	No	Patrolman	
30	1990	31	White	Hispanic or Latino	Male	No	No	No	Patrolman	
31	1992	29	White	Not Hispanic or La	Female	No	No	No	Patrolman	
32	1995	29	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	No	No	No	Patrolman	
33	1984	40	Black or African American	Not Hispanic or La	Female	No	No	No	Patrolman	
34	1990	34	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	No	No	No	Patrolman	
35	1990	34	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	No	No	No	Patrolman	
36	1999	25	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	No	No	No	Patrolman	
37	2000	24	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	No	No	No	Patrolman	
38	1999	25	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	No	No	No	Patrolman	
39	1993	31	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	No	No	No	Patrolman	
40	1993	31	White	Not Hispanic or La	Male	No	No	No	Officer	

### Section Five: Overall Review of Use of Force

Please utilize as much space as needed to conduct a thorough review of your agency's use of force during the preceding calendar year. Your review should evaluate whether force was used in compliance with the Attorney General's Use of Force Policy and your agency's policy. Even if the use of force itself was compliant with those policies, your review should include any recommendations for training, equipment, or room for improvement (e.g., additional de-escalation efforts could have been made).

### Section Five: Overall Review of Use of Force\*

In review of the Use of Force during 2024 it is apparent that the majority of force used by our officers was physical force, compared to mechanical force. On only 1 occasion did our officers use a show of force. This weaponless pattern of force has been consistent with our agency for

the past 3 years. Our officers are trained in de-escalation techniques and exhaust every means prior to resulting in the use of force, which again is primarily minimal physical force.

### Incidents and Reports Filed

- **2021**
  - o UOF Reports 7
  - o UOF Incidents 4
- **2022**
  - o UOF Reports 17
  - o UOF Incidents 14
- **2023**
  - o UOF Reports 47
  - o UOF Incidents 29
- **2024**
  - o UOF Reports 46
  - o UOF Incidents 25

As you can see from 2021 to 2023 there has been an increase in incidents and reports. In 2024 we saw a small decrease in incidents (-4) and Reports (-1) compared to 2023. While reviewing this data it was determined that force was used consistently when interacting with individuals with potential mental health issues and also with individuals who were under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or both. Many of our use of force incidents have resulted in calls for service to behavioral schools. These locations are schools for individuals with disabilities who often are violent and physical with staff members. Our officers are often dispatched to these locations for service due to a physical altercation which has already occurred between the staff members and the subject(s). Our officers often arrive at these locations while force is being used against these subjects to control or prevent them from self-harm. Our officers are taking over force to relieve staff members who may be physically exhausted. During these times, de-escalation techniques have already failed by clinical professional staff members. Our officers will still attempt de-escalation techniques according to their training but are often unsuccessful. These subjects are always transported to mental health in accordance with the facilities policies.

Our Command Staff has strengthened the relationship between our department and administrators from these locations. In an attempt to provide more solutions to not having to use force, we have met often in order to understand their protocols and help them understand what our response will be like. Our officers have and will continue to train with professionals on de-escalation techniques geared toward interaction with individuals who have these types of disabilities. In 2024 officers have trained directly with the staff at these facilities. In 2024 officers increased walk throughs to these facilities so the clients can become more familiar with our faces and uniforms. Additionally, officers will engage in any special activities that are offered with these facilities in order to partake in positive experiences with staff and clients.

### Officer Force Applied

When reviewing the data, the type of force applied over the past 4 years has been consistent to the number of uses of force incidents. We continue to discuss physical force techniques which



can be utilized in a manner which would prevent injury to both officers and subjects. Our officers do train in a variety of force techniques over the course of the year. Our department has developed a more detailed training program with a specific officer who is certified to teach these techniques. This training is now being handled as in-service training throughout the entire year to comply with Attorney General Guidelines. We will continue to encourage more training in this area within our department.

### Injuries

- **2021**
  - o Officer Injuries 0
  - o Subject Injuries 0
- **2022**
  - o Officer Injuries 1
  - o Subject Injuries 2
- **2023**
  - o Officer Injuries 7
  - o Subject Injuries 7
- **2024**
  - o Officer Injuries 6
  - o Subject Injuries 7

While reviewing the injuries to both Officers and Subjects for 2023 and 2024, I noticed there were a consistent amount of injuries with the number of use of force incidents. All the injuries reported by both the officer and subject consisted of either a complaint of plain or a minor abrasion/laceration or bruising. There were no serious injuries as a result of use of force incidents over the past 4 years.

Training is key to injury prevention for both officers and subjects. We will continue to train our officers on the proper techniques to prevent injury. This training again includes de-escalation. In 2024 we had two officers become certified as train-the-trainers for verbal judo. These officers will provide instruction to our officers consistently throughout the year to ensure best practices are learned and understood. Additionally, from our standpoint of health and wellness, within our department, we also recognize the importance of this subject and how it can prevent injuries to our officers. Our township has a health and wellness program that offers a variety of healthy lifestyle information, and actual physical examinations. We will continue to promote positive physical and mental health in our department and assist where needed.

### Subjects' Demographics

- **2021**
  - o Race
    - 3 Subjects White
    - 1 Subjects Black or African American
  - o Sex
    - 2 Male Subjects
    - 2 Female Subjects

- **2022**
  - Race
    - 12 Subjects White
    - 2 Subjects Black or African American
    - 1 Subject listed as of other race.
  - Sex
    - 7 Male Subjects
    - 7 Female Subjects
- **2023**
  - Race
    - 20 Subjects White
    - 7 Subjects Black or African American
    - 1 Subjects Asian
    - 2 Subjects listed as of other race.
  - Sex
    - 21 Male Subjects
    - 8 Female Subjects
- **2024**
  - Race
    - 21 Subjects White
    - 1 Subject Asian
    - 3 Subjects listed as of other race.
  - Sex
    - 20 Male Subjects
    - 5 Female Subjects

In reviewing the subject demographics over the past 4 years I have concluded that much of the data is consistent. You will notice from 2022 to 2024 a higher percentage of male subjects than female subjects. In reviewing this data most of our use of force incidents resulted in our officers being dispatched to an incident by a third party. In these instances, the complainant(s) provided our agency information as to who they were concerned about which more were males then females. Additionally, several of the subjects that were males had multiple incidents with our department that resulted in force being used.

### Reports of Subject Condition

- **2021**
  - 1 Subject with no unusual condition noted.
  - 1 Subject with potential Mental Health Incident
  - 2 Subjects Under influence of alcohol/drugs/both
- **2022**
  - 3 Subjects with no unusual condition noted.
  - 6 Subjects with potential Mental Health Incident
  - 7 Subjects under influence of alcohol/drugs/both
- **2023**
  - 5 Subjects with no unusual condition noted.

- 15 Subjects with potential Mental Health Incident
- 11 Subjects under influence of alcohol/drugs/both
- 2 Subjects with other unusual condition noted.
- **2024**
  - 3 Subjects with no unusual condition noted.
  - 15 Subjects with potential Mental Health Incident
  - 13 Subjects under influence of alcohol/drugs/both
  - 2 Subjects with other unusual condition noted.

In reviewing this data, it is appearing that when our officers must use force there is a higher likelihood that the subject is suffering from a medical/mental health condition or under the influence of alcohol/drugs/or both. Most incidents where force was used are incidents that our officers were dispatched to due to individuals suffering from mental illness or highly intoxicated from liquor and/or drugs. As I mentioned already, it is imperative that our officers continue to train with mental health professionals. This continued training does provide officers with the most up-to-date strategies and techniques to utilize in an attempt to de-escalate the situation prior to force being used as a last resort.

Additionally, our agency is an agency that participates in the arrive together program with our county prosecutor's office. The participation in this program is through the "arrive after" method. Our officers also understand their abilities of contacting mental health professionals for response, or suggestions of specific de-escalation techniques, while on scene. These measures are often utilized by our officers prior to any force being used.

Use of Force - Location Type	Report Total Count
Business	12
Hospital	2
Other	3
Police Station	1
Residence	20
Restaurant	1
School	2
Street	10

#### Reasons for Interaction

Reason for Incident	2021	2022	2023	2024
Assault	3	0	2	0
Potential Mental Health Incident	3	5	19	26
Domestic	2	3	12	10
Other	2	0	0	0
Possession of CDS	2	0	0	0

Reason for Incident	2021	2022	2023	2024
Subject with a gun	2	0	0	0
Medical Emergency	0	1	2	7
MV/Traffic Stop	0	5	2	1
Welfare Check	0	3	9	4
Burglary	0	0	1	0
Disturbance (drinking, fighting, disorderly)	0	0	6	3
Subject with other weapon	0	0	3	0
Suspicious person	0	0	4	3
Terroristic Threats	0	0	1	0
Assisting another officer	0	0	0	1
Eluding	0	0	0	1
MV Accident/Aid	0	0	0	2
Theft/Shoplifting	0	0	0	1

As you can see in the data listed above there is primarily an increase in use of force incidents when officers are being dispatched to mental health or medical incidents, domestic violence incidents, and disturbance incidents. These increased trends can be addressed by continued training with the right partners. For instance, our department has a great working relationship with the Sussex County Center for prevention and counseling. Our officers have worked with their staff to understand further information on possible “triggers” when dealing with individuals under the influence of alcohol and or drugs. We are also in partnership with the arrive together program with the “arrive after” portion encompassing our county and state resources. We will also continue to work with our mental health clinicians in respect to recognizing specific “triggers” when dealing with subjects experiencing medical or mental health episodes. Also, information that we have gained from interaction with these subjects is now flagged in our CAD system to make officers aware of past involved incidents. This information could become helpful with strategies on how to de-escalate while officers are responding to the incident.

#### Subject’s Actions Leading to Force over time

Subject Actions	2021	2022	2023	2024
Resisted arrest/police officer control	3	6	25	32
Attack with Hands,fists,legs	2	0	0	0
Prevent harm to another	2	4	15	5
Attempt to commit crime	0	2	3	3
Attempt to escape from Custody	0	2	2	4
Attempt to self-harm	0	4	8	10
Push or shove	0	1	5	8
Strike with open hand, fist, or elbow	0	2	7	2

Subject Actions	2021	2022	2023	2024
Threat to Push or shove	0	2	1	4
Threat with Edge Weapon	0	2	3	0
Threat with Other Weapon	0	1	0	0
Verbal/Fighting stance Threat	0	4	9	11
Attack with Bodily fluids	0	0	3	1
Biting	0	0	7	0
Kick	0	0	6	8
Spitting	0	0	4	3
Threat to Kick	0	0	2	1
Threat to Strike with open hand, fist, or elbow	0	0	6	2
Threat with Bodily Fluids	0	0	3	2
Attack with Other Weapon	0	0	0	2

In reviewing the Subjections actions, which led to force, over the past 4 years you can see an increase in actions by the subject in almost every area. The large increase from 2022-2024 in the area of resisting arrest led me in the direction of seeing the amount of experience the officers had in these specific incidents. Of the 22 Officers that used force in 2024 only 6 of the officers had less than 5 years of experience. Again, as I mentioned in other areas, it is important for our officers to continue with updated de-escalation training techniques at all levels of experience. I will ensure our officers continue with this type of training.

Additionally, observing this data I also noticed a decrease from 2023-2024 in the area of preventing harm to others. While reviewing this area it should be noted that the majority of these incidents occurred where force was used to prevent individuals with special needs issues from harming staff members at behavioral schools. When meeting with staff in early 2024 we had mentioned the fact that when their de-escalation techniques have failed and they are applying force while awaiting officer arrival, other staff members should separate bystanders prior to our arrival. This discussion and the implemented method seems to have worked due to the decrease in numbers in this area.

I do see an increase of resisting arrest numbers where force was used from 2023-2024. While reviewing these incidents I did not find anything out of the ordinary which would change our policy and procedures. Officers attempted de-escalation techniques but were unfortunately unsuccessful.

#### Trends in Force Applied over Time

Force Applied	2021	2022	2023	2024
Used arms	5	0	0	0
Other	2	0	0	0
Pointing Firearm	0	5	3	1

Force Applied	2021	2022	2023	2024
Used arm bar on	0	3	5	2
Used arms/hands	0	5	31	36
Used pressure points on	0	2	4	3
Used take down on	0	2	10	10
Discharged Chemical at	0	0	1	0
Used legs/kicks	0	0	2	0
Used fists/punch	0	0	0	1

From reviewing the data above and comparing it to the reports it is apparent that officers who used more than one type of force at an incident did this because it was the proper way to gain control and minimize injury(s) to the officers and the subjects. Some officers may have utilized a take down from an individual who was non-compliant or attempting to flee the area. Once the take down was completed the same officer would utilize some other type of force such as arm/hand control or pressure points to control the subject.

I do believe with increased training on a regular basis in defensive tactics, our officers will continue to recognize the best methods in which to apply force and gain control over a subject. Having this proper training and knowledge will also minimize injuries as I mentioned above.

### **Subject's Arrest Status**

#### **Subjects Reported Arrested**

- 7 Subjects were arrested.
- 18 Subjects were not arrested.
- Of the subjects not arrested
  - 15 were not arrested because of a medical or mental health incident.
  - 2 was not arrested for insufficient probable cause or continued investigation.
  - 1 was not arrested due to no probable cause.

Again, as noted several times, Officers are using force when dealing with a subject experiencing a medical or mental health incident. This has increased from 2021-2024 due to the fact that there have been more calls for officers to respond to these types of incidents. De-escalation tactics are always attempted, and, in many cases, they do work.

Our Police Department conducts many community outreach programs. Our officers team up with our County Center for Prevention and Counseling, in a public setting, to inform the public of resources. We also host many community service/engagement events throughout the year. We teach L.E.A.D. to approximately 1,000 5th and 6th grade students. We host agency tours of our department to youth organizations. We recognize the importance of community engagement and how positive engagement could lead to a future positive interaction.



### Time/Day of the Week

2 AM	4
1 AM	2
9 AM	3
10 AM	5
3 PM	1
4 PM	7
5 PM	1
6 PM	8
7 PM	3
8 PM	3
9 PM	5
10 PM	2
11 PM	2
Monday	7
Tuesday	1
Wednesday	7
Thursday	5
Friday	8
Saturday	9
Sunday	9

In reviewing the data with the number of uses of force incidents compared to the day of the week and time frame when they are occurring, this data seems to be mostly consistent. I do see some higher numbers of force being used towards the weekend.

### Section Six: Further Action

Please explain what further action your agency has taken, or will take, to implement any changes in departmental structure, policy, training, or equipment you have deemed appropriate. These actions can include department-wide changes, or changes applicable to specific officers or divisions.

### Section Six: Further Action \*

The Sparta Township Police Department will continue to uphold the most professional standards of policing at all levels. We strive for the continued training and education of our officers at all levels in a variety of areas. Having a well-versed officer can lead to more positive experience with members of the public.

The Sparta Township Police Department has several officers who have advanced specialized training in many areas and can continue to teach and train officers throughout the year. We plan

to expand our Use of Force training on a practical level with role playing by utilizing de-escalation techniques and defensive tactics. Training and experience will allow our officers to make the most appropriate decisions when it comes to using force as a last result.

Our department is always reviewing our policies to ensure they are of the most professional standard and reflect the policies of the Attorney General's office. Additionally, our department is currently in the final stages of seeking accreditation as set forth by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police.

Our officers are very involved in the community on many levels. Our officers host several community outreach programs for all ages of youth and adults throughout the year. These events and interactions provide the community with an opportunity to know who our officers are, ask questions, and understand our jobs better.

## Vehicle Pursuit Annual Review: Written Report

### **Section One: BWC/Video Audit**

Your review must include a brief description of your agency's random and risk-based audit process (e.g., how videos are selected, who reviews the videos, etc.). If your agency did not conduct a risk-based and/or random BWC/video audit in 2023, please indicate how you plan to remedy that in 2024.

### **Section One: BWC/Video Audit \***

During my annual review, it was determined that this police department conducted an approximate total of 1,116 random body worn camera reviews for the year 2024. These body worn camera reviews are conducted monthly by department supervisors. Each Sergeant must conduct no less than 3 random body worn camera reviews each month for each subordinate that falls under their direct supervision. The Sergeants complete a detailed narrative for each one of these reviews. Additionally, the Captain and Lieutenant also conduct monthly random BWC reviews for each of the (6) Sergeants. If there are any training issues, policy violations, or other infractions that need to be addressed, they are immediately addressed by the Sergeant, next level of command, or through the Internal Affairs function. Additionally, there are several incidents where the officer's actions were recognized as going above and beyond. Officers are made aware of their actions by their Sergeants and level of command. Body-worn camera footage is often used for training techniques in the department.

In addition to random reviews of body worn cameras during an officer's normal course of actions and duties, supervisors conduct reviews on all officers involved in Vehicle Pursuit incidents. All body worn cameras by each officer were reviewed by the officer's direct supervisor. Additionally, all Pursuit body worn camera recordings and MVR recordings were reviewed by 2 members of the command staff (Captain and Lieutenant).

The risk-based audit included a review of all the original dispatch audio recordings, the CAD reports, all Incident and Supplemental reports, as well as all the body worn camera footage and MVR footage associated with all incidents in which vehicles were pursued. Looking at the

reporting officers for the (3) total incidents for 2024, there were (4) different officers who were involved with the vehicle pursuits and completed reports.

It should be noted that in the Benchmark Pursuit analytical reporting it reports there were (4) Pursuit incidents and (4) Officers. While reviewing I determined that Officer mark Mastandrea did not input the proper case number for his pursuit incident. The case number he entered was "ST202-001470" The case number he should have entered was ST2024-001470, which is the same incident from the report entry of Officer Harry Chewning. In conclusion, this should have been the same incident which would indicate a total of (3) pursuit incidents for 2024. I will stress to my supervisors the importance of putting in the proper case number to reflect the same style that should be entered.

In 2025 I plan to have supervisors continue to complete thorough meaningful reviews and all pursuits.

## Section Two: Internal Affairs Complaints

Your analysis must include a review of internal affairs complaints related to vehicle pursuit incidents and must include the following: 1. number of IA complaints filed; 2. number filed by civilians; 3. number initiated by the agency; 4. numbers sustained; and 5. number still pending.

## Section Two: Internal Affairs Complaints\*

All incidents where there was a vehicle pursuit, were reviewed at the operational level and administratively for compliance with policy and procedure. Additionally, each incident was reviewed for training and/or equipment deficiencies, policy, and procedure amendments, or for additional training. 0 incidents were deemed to be out of compliance, 0 were referred to internal affairs, and 4 were addressed as a performance deficiency.

A review of 2024 Vehicle Pursuit reports identified 0 Internal Affairs complaints. All incidents have a preliminary executive-level review conducted and those reviews did not reveal any discernable pattern, practice, or trend regarding the use of force with respect to a subject's race, ethnicity, gender, or any other protected characteristic.

## Summary for 2024:

Total Number of IA Complaints Filed	0
Number of IA Complaints Filed by Civilians	0
Number of IA Complaints Filed by our Agency	0
Number of IA Complaints Sustained	0
Number of IA Complaints Still Pending	0

## Section Three: Meaningful Review of Individual Pursuits

Section 12.1 of the Attorney General's Vehicular Pursuit Policy requires that every vehicle pursuit must undergo a meaningful command level review. Your annual review should include a brief description of your agency's meaningful review policy. If your agency was not able to conduct a meaningful review of each use of force incident, please explain why you were unable to do so and please indicate how you plan to do so going forward.

### **Section Three: Meaningful Review of Individual Pursuits\***

The Sparta Township Police Department conducts a thorough detailed meaningful review of every Vehicle Pursuit incident our Officers/Agency was involved in. This review is initially completed by the officer's immediate supervisor and further reviewed by a Lieutenant and Captain prior to the final review being completed by me as the Chief of Police. During the initial meaningful review, the Lieutenants review all reports associated with the incident. Additionally, the Lieutenants review every recording from all radios, all telephone recordings, all BWC recordings, all MVR recordings, and any other public or private video/audio recordings associated with the incident. Lieutenants will also review all statements involved with the incident.

Once all pertinent information from the incident is reviewed, the Captain and Lieutenant will compare all aspects with our policy and the AG Guidelines to see if there is any need for additional training or retraining, policy change, needed equipment, or disciplinary action within the IA process. Our Captain will create a detailed analysis and breakdown of the incident with their recommendation(s), of the above-mentioned, and provide for my review. If I disagree with the recommendation, I will provide my written direction on how to proceed to the appropriate supervisors. All final command level review summaries are uploaded into our Guardian Tracking software system under "Meaningful Review".

### **Section Four: Analysis of Non-Compliant Reports**

Your review must include an analysis of all pursuits determined to not be in compliance with the Attorney General's Vehicular Pursuit Policy, or agency policy, and the steps taken to address the non-compliance. Please indicate whether all non-compliant pursuits were referred to the Office of Public Integrity and Accountability or the County Prosecutor in compliance with Section 12.1(e) of the Attorney General's Vehicular Pursuit Policy.

### **Section Four: Analysis of Non-Compliant Reports \***

As previously noted, an individual administrative review was conducted for each of the pursuits that occurred during 2024. As a result of these administrative reviews, all of the 3 total pursuits were found to be in accordance with the Attorney General Guidelines on vehicle pursuits. There was no need for any policy changes or internal affairs investigations. There were a few instances where command staff addressed performance deficiencies with aspects related to the pursuit such as better communication, driving techniques, and pre planned operations.

### **Section Five: Non-Discriminatory Pursuits**

Your review must include an explanation of how you concluded whether vehicular pursuits were conducted in a non-discriminatory manner based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic. Your analysis should include a review of your community's demographics and demographic data from the Use of Force portal. If you conclude that any pursuit was conducted in a discriminatory manner, please explain what steps you have taken and will take to address this conclusion.

### **Section Five: Non-Discriminatory Pursuits\***

Of the three pursuits the Sparta Township Police Department engaged in during the year 2024, (1) pursuit was initiated due to the vehicle eluding multiple times on the same day and also on

prior days to the actual pursuit driving in a manner which posed an imminent threat to the public. A separate pursuit was initiated due to a vehicle operator committing an aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer during a DWI investigation and further due to the driver's operation actions being a threat and danger to the public prior to a pursuit being initiated. The third pursuit was initiated due to the driver's operation being reckless prior to pursuit initiation. In comparing the demographics of our community and the breakdown of subjects who were the subject of a pursuit in 2024 I have concluded that the pursuits were initiated in a non-discriminatory manner. This information was concluded from our layers of reviews for each vehicle pursuit. See below information for further details.

### Community Demographics (Information from 2022 Census)

<b>Population</b>	20,085
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#### Race and Hispanic Origin

White alone, percent	88.6%
Black or African American alone, percent(a)	0.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent(a)	0.0%
Asian alone, percent(a)	3.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent(a)	0.0%
Two or More Races, percent	4.7%
Hispanic or Latino, percent(b)	7.7%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	84.4%

#### Age and Sex

Persons under 5 years, percent	5.6%
Persons under 18 years, percent	24.0%
Persons 65 years and over, percentage	14.2%
Female persons, percent	51.4%

### Subjects Involved in Pursuits

#### RACE 2024

- 3 Subjects White

#### Driver Ethnicity in 2024

- 0 Subjects Hispanic

#### Gender 2023

- 2 Subjects Male
- 1 Subject Female

As mentioned above, It should be noted that in the Benchmark Pursuit analytical reporting it reports there were (4) Pursuit incidents and (4) Officers. While reviewing I determined that Officer mark Mastandrea did not input the proper case number for his pursuit incident. The case number he entered was "ST202-001470" The case number he should have entered was ST2024-

001470, which is the same incident from the report entry of Officer Harry Chewning. In conclusion, this should have been the same incident which would indicate a total of (3) pursuit incidents for 2024. I will stress to my supervisors the importance of putting in the proper case number to reflect the same style that should be entered.

With this double incident reporting it shows in the analytical report that it was unknown the race, gender, or ethnicity of one subject due to Officer Chewning writing “unknown” in these areas. In this specific incident the driver was later identified and arrested in another jurisdiction which in turn lead to charges in our jurisdiction and the proper demographics for the subject was entered into Cpl. Mastandrea’s report.

### **Section Six: Overall Review of Vehicle Pursuit Analysis**

Please utilize as much space as needed to conduct a thorough review of your agency’s vehicle pursuit incidents during the preceding calendar year. Your review should include but is not limited to: the reason the pursuit was initiated; the number of officers who engaged in pursuits; whether supervisors approved or terminated pursuits; role of any outside agencies; length of pursuits by time and distance; top speeds reached; nature of any injuries, crashes, or property damage; reason for termination (if terminated), and the outcome of pursuits. Your review should evaluate whether pursuits were compliant with the Attorney General’s Vehicular Pursuit Policy and your agency’s policy. Even if pursuits were compliant with those policies, your review should include any recommendations for training, equipment, or room for improvement.

### **Section Six: Overall Review of Vehicle Pursuit Analysis\***

In review of the Vehicle Pursuits in 2023 it is apparent that our officers only pursued motor vehicles in compliance with the Attorney General’s Guideline and directives. On only 3 occasions did our officers pursue vehicles. I do not see any pattern of increase with vehicle pursuits.

#### **Incidents and Reports Filed**

- **2021**
  - Vehicle Pursuit Reports 0
  - Vehicle Pursuit Incidents 0
- **2022**
  - Vehicle Pursuit Reports 3
  - Vehicle Pursuit Incidents 3
- **2023**
  - Vehicle Pursuit Reports 5
  - Vehicle Pursuit Incidents 3
- **2024**
  - Vehicle Pursuit Reports 4
  - Vehicle Pursuit Incidents 3

#### **Reasons for Pursuit**

As noted above, in 2024 officers pursued vehicles for the following reasons.

- (1) Initiated for prior eluding on multiple occasions and driving in a manner which posed an imminent threat to the public.



- (1) Initiated due to a vehicle operator committing an aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer during a DWI investigation and further due to the driver's operation actions being a threat and danger to the public prior to a pursuit being initiated.
- (1) Initiated pursuit was due to the driver's operation being reckless prior to pursuit initiation.

## Results of Pursuits

### Vehicle Pursuits with Crashes Over Time

#### 2022

- No Crashes 2
- Crashes 1
- Pursuit Terminated 2 out of 3 incidents.
- Pursuit Not Terminated 1 (vehicle crashed)
- Injuries
  - Officers 0
  - Subjects 1

#### 2023

- No Crashes 2
- Crashes 1
- Pursuit Terminated 3 out of 3 incidents.
- Pursuit Not Terminated 0
- Injuries
  - Officers 0
  - Subjects 0

#### 2024

- No Crashes 2
- Crashes 1
- Pursuit Terminated 3 out of 3 incidents.
- Pursuit Not Terminated 0
- Injuries
  - Officers 0
  - Subjects 0

After reviewing the data and incident reports, it was determined from 2022-2024 that the majority of pursuits are terminated due to a supervisor terminating the pursuit for various reasons. These factors could be due to weather conditions, speed, vehicular traffic or pedestrian traffic, etc.

### Distance, Duration, Speed

#### Pursuit Distance 2022

- Less than .5 mile 1
- .5 mile to .99 mile 0

• 1 mile to 4.99 miles	2
• 5miles to 9.99 miles	0
<b>Pursuit Distance 2023</b>	
• Less than .5 mile	0
• .5 mile to .99 mile	1
• 1 mile to 4.99 miles	1
• 5miles to 9.99 miles	3 (3 officers in separate vehicles but only 1 incident)
<b>Pursuit Distance 2024</b>	
• Less than .5 mile	1
• .5 mile to .99 mile	0
• 1 mile to 4.99 miles	1
• 5miles to 9.99 miles	0
<b>Pursuit Duration 2022</b>	
• Less than 1 minute	1
• 1 to 4:59 minutes	1
• 5 to 9:59 minutes	0
<b>Pursuit Duration 2023</b>	
• Less than 1 minute	0
• 1 to 4:59 minutes	2
• 5 to 9:59 minutes	3 (3 officers in separate vehicles but only 1 incident)
<b>Pursuit Duration 2024</b>	
• Less than 1 minute	1
• 1 to 4:59 minutes	3 (1 incident was 2 officers in separate vehicles but only 1 Incident)
• 5 to 9:59 minutes	0
<b>Max Pursuit Speed 2022</b>	
• 50-59mph	1
• 80-89mph	2
• 90-99mph	0
• 100+mph	0
<b>Max Pursuit Speed 2023</b>	
• 50-59mph	1
• 80-89mph	1
• 90-99mph	2
• 100+mph	1
<b>Max Pursuit Speed 2024</b>	
• 60-69mph	1
• 70-79mph	2
• 80-89mph	1
• 90-99mph	0
• 100+mph	0

While reviewing the above data and comparing it to the incident reports I noticed that the pursuits with the longer duration and higher max speeds took place on highway Route 15 in our Township. This pursuit was terminated by a supervisor when speeds became increasingly higher by the pursuing units. The pursuing officers informed the supervisor of the speeds, traffic conditions, and driving actions of the pursued vehicle. This information allowed for the supervisor to make a decision to terminate the pursuit.

### **Time of Day/Day of Week**

As you can see from the information listed below (1) pursuit with (2) Officers in separate vehicles occurred in the AM hours and during a Wednesday. (1) pursuit occurred in the early afternoon hours on a Friday. (1) pursuit occurred in the early evening hours on a Thursday. As mentioned, there were only three pursuit incidents in the Township of Sparta for 2024. I do not believe any of this data is concerning due to the low number of pursuits. Our agency will continue to monitor any pursuits trends, concerning the time of day or day of the week, in the future.

- (1) Pursuit Occurred at approximately 0830hrs
- (1) Pursuit Occurred at approximately 1307hrs
- (1) Pursuit Occurred at approximately 1640hrs
- (2) Pursuit Occurred on Wednesday
- (1) Pursuit Occurred on Thursday
- (2) Pursuit Occurred on Friday

### **Subjects' Demographics**

#### **2022 Pursued Subjects Race**

- (1) Black
- (1) White

#### **2023 Pursued Subjects Race**

- (1) White
- (1) Unknown
- (1) Other

#### **2024 Pursued Subjects Race**

- (3) White

#### **2022 Pursued Subjects Ethnicity**

- (2) Not Hispanic
- (0) Hispanic

#### **2023 Pursued Subjects Ethnicity**

- (2) Hispanic or Latino
- (1) Unknown

#### **2024 Pursued Subjects Ethnicity**

- (0) Hispanic or Latino
- (0) Unknown

As mentioned above, It should be noted that in the Benchmark Pursuit analytical reporting it reports there were (4) Pursuit incidents and (4) Officers. While reviewing I determined that Officer mark Mastandrea did not input the proper case number for his pursuit incident. The case

number he entered was “ST202-001470” The case number he should have entered was ST2024-001470, which is the same incident from the report entry of Officer Harry Chewning. In conclusion, this should have been the same incident which would indicate a total of (3) pursuit incidents for 2024. I will stress to my supervisors the importance of putting in the proper case number to reflect the same style that should be entered.

With this double incident reporting it shows in the analytical report that it was unknown the race, gender, or ethnicity of one subject due to Officer Chewning writing “unknown” in these areas. In this specific incident the driver was later identified and arrested in another jurisdiction which in turn lead to charges in our jurisdiction and the proper demographics for the subject was entered into Cpl. Mastandrea’s report.

**2022 Pursued Subjects Gender**

- (2) Male
- (0) Female

**2023 Pursued Subjects Gender**

- (2) Male
- (3) Unknown

**2024 Pursued Subjects Gender**

- (2) Male
- (1) Female

I do not see a pattern when it comes to race or ethnicity. I do see that for 2022 and 2023 it appears that most of the pursued subjects were males, but in 2023 (3) of the subjects were unable to be identified as males or females due to not apprehending the individuals and officers not being able to make the determination during the actual pursuit. Also, in 2024 more male subjects were pursued. Again, although I do not see a trend, our department prides itself on training and being invested in our communities. We will continue to train, and to specifically note, continue to train our officers in cultural and diversity.

**Crashes, Injuries/Death, Property Damage**

**2022 Pursuit Incidents with Injuries**

- (1) Injury
- (2) No Injury

**2023 Pursuit Incidents with Injuries**

- (3) No Injury

**2024 Pursuit Incidents with Injuries**

- (3) No Injury
- (1) Injury

**2022 Pursuit Incidents with Crashes**

- (1) Crash
- (2) No Crash

**2023 Pursuit Incidents with Crashes**

- (1) Crash
- (2) No Crash

## 2024 Pursuit Incidents with Crashes

- (1) Crash
- (3) No Crash

There were no deaths that occurred from Vehicle Pursuits in 2022 through 2024.

In 2022 the (1) reported crash was from a vehicle that was originally pursued in a neighboring agency, by that agency, and crashed in the jurisdiction outside of Sparta Township. The vehicle that crashed was originally traveling with a second vehicle that was pursued in Sparta Township by Sparta Officers and did not crash. The vehicle and subject(s) were not apprehended, and the vehicle pursuit was terminated by a Sparta Police Supervising Unit. There were no injuries associated with this incident.

Additionally in 2022 on a separate incident involving a vehicle pursuit the subject vehicle crashed in a neighboring jurisdiction and the driver fled from the vehicle upon crashing. The driver injured himself while fleeing on foot in the wood/swamp area he fled to. The driver was the only individual who was injured.

In 2023 the (1) vehicle that crashed had crashed after the vehicle pursuit was already terminated by the supervisor and there was no injury associated with this crash.

In 2024 the (1) vehicle that crashed drove on active railroad tracks and eventually became disabled. This crash occurred after the pursuit was terminated by the initial pursuing officer. The driver of the vehicle later complained of pain in her chest claiming it was caused by the motor vehicle crash she was involved in.

## Tire Deflation Devices

The Sparta Township Police department does not have tire deflation devices and has not used any tire deflation devices in 2022 through 2024.

Vehicle Pursuit Reason	2022	2023	2024
Other	2	1	1
Aggravated Assault, N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1(b)	1	0	1
Imminent Threat to Public or Other Officers	0	1	2
Receiving Stolen Property (MV Only), N.J.S.A. 2C:20-7; N.J.S.A. 2C:20-(b)(2)(b)	0	1	0
Theft of a Motor Vehicle, N.J.S.A. 2C:20-3; N.J.S.A. 2C:20-2(b)(2)(b)	0	1	0

In 2022 (1) Subject was arrested resulting from a Vehicle Pursuit.

In 2023 (2) Subjects were arrested resulting from a Vehicle Pursuit.

In 2024 (3) Subjects were arrested resulting from a Vehicle Pursuit.

The Sparta Township Police Department ended the 2024 calendar year with approximately 36,986 calls for service. In 2024, the Sparta Township Police Department completed 36,986 total incidents and only pursued a total of (3) vehicles. This equates to our officers' pursuing vehicles on .000081% of the total incidents handled.

In 2024 the Sparta Township Police Department engaged in a total of (3) vehicle pursuits. After a meaningful review of every incident and every report involved with the incidents it was determined all incidents followed the Attorney General's Vehicular Pursuit Guidelines and the Sparta Township Police Department's policy concerning vehicle pursuits. As a department we are always looking to improve our knowledge, skills, and service to our community. As I have mentioned several times in this year-end review, I believe this comes from consistent training, which is training that is respected and vetted to adhere to the top standards which are required for law enforcement in the State of New Jersey.

#### **Section Seven: Further Action**

Please explain what further action your agency has taken, or will take, to implement any changes in departmental structure, policy, training, or equipment you have deemed appropriate. These actions can include department-wide changes, or changes applicable to specific officers.

#### **Section Seven: Further Action\***

As mentioned above, the Sparta Township Police Department prides itself on training our officers to best serve our community in the upmost professional manner. I currently do not see a need for any departmental structural changes, policy changes, or equipment changes or additional equipment. As an agency leader, I will continue to monitor and evaluate the possible need for any changes in these specific areas throughout the year.

## Department Highlights



The recognition of personal excellence is an important aspect of a law enforcement agency's activities. Presenting departmental awards for meritorious service provides that recognition, thereby enhancing departmental morale, reinforcing the department's commitment to the maintenance of a high standard of performance by its members, and motivating personnel to perform their duties at the highest possible level.

### Promotions

2024 Promotions	
Captain Thomas Snyder	Sergeant Scott Elig
Lieutenant Joseph Antonello	Sergeant Timothy Lynott
Lieutenant Frank Schomp	Sergeant Steven Guido





## 2024 Awards and Recognitions

### Chief's Commendation Awards

The Chief's commendation award denotes exemplary service and dedication according to the highest levels of police standards.

2024 Officers Presented with the Chief's Commendation Award
Sergeant Richard Smith
Sergeant Steven Guido
Officer Taylor May
Dispatcher Scot Sorensen
Dispatcher Dan Koteras

**The following summary shows how these officers have gone above and beyond with their service and commitment towards building the ever-so-important relationships with the youth within our community.**

Many years ago, the idea of bringing a Junior Police Academy to our community was a thought. At that time the thought was orchestrated by Officer Smith. Officer Smith knew that our department was lacking a police and youth engagement, and having children of his own, proposed the idea to have a positive experience amongst children within our community and our officers. The idea was to have the first every Junior Police Academy. This idea, more so a call to action, took off and running with several officers heading the project. Sgt. Smith's dedication to bring positive experiences amongst our officers and our youth came to life and sparked a major change within our department.

As a few years went by with this academy, there was a consensus for a change on the structure. Officer Taylor May came in and took lead of this program. Officer May took it to the next level and expanded the program, bringing that structure and provided days filled with very unique experiences for the recruits.

As Officer May began to start a family of his own, he had to step back just a bit from the intense planning of the program, but remained involved as much as he positively could. In 2024, Sgt. Guido transitioned to the role as organizer from Officer May and again took the academy to the next level.

Sgt. Guido brought Officers together to be more involved with the planning and execution to again provide an amazing experience to the recruits. Sgt. Guido focused on the avenue of teamwork and gave the voice for officers' input and skills to come up with our best academy class yet.

I would be absolutely be remised if I did not mention the efforts and dedication from all the officers who put so much into this program. As we know it takes a team, and we have the best of the best.

I know that some out there may say that this is just a junior police academy, it's not a big deal, but it's certainly much more than that. It's about having a voice, thinking about ideas and taking initiative. It's about coming together and focusing on a positive outreach and providing a one-of-a-kind experience to our community. It's about the willingness to take pride in your work and see the results in your product from lifelong relationships built with the recruits. It's about all the time and dedication put forth while still serving our community as you would every other day.

This does not go unnoticed.

Officers Smith, Guido, and May are well deserving for their commitment to the community and our department with the department's first ever Chief's commendation award.



**Congratulations to Officers Richard Smith, Steven Guido, and Taylor May**

**The following summary shows the dedication to excellence from Dispatchers Scot Sorensen and Dan Koteras during a unique incident that was experienced here in North New Jersey on April 5, 2024.**

On April 5, 2024 NJ was literally rocked by a 4.8 magnitude earthquake. As you can imagine, as many of us experienced, chaos hit. No one knew what really happened and therefore the public turns to their line of information and problem solvers by calling 9-1-1. When you call 9-1-1 the first line of information, the first line of interaction, the first person you are going to speak with is a dispatcher.

The Sparta Township Communications Center is unique to the fact that we provide dispatching services to Franklin Borough, Ogdensburg Borough, Hamburg Borough, and Stanhope in addition to Sparta Township. All dispatching for police fire and EMS.

So, as you can imagine on this day our communications center was flooded with call, both from 9-11 and non-emergent line calls. Dispatchers Scot Sorensen and Dan Koteras were working this day.

With still being in the beginning stages of investigation, prior to this being confirmed and earthquake, these dispatchers were answering phones and providing a professional service as quickly as possible. Dispatchers Sorensen and Koteras serviced over 100 calls in 15 minutes speaking to everyone in a courteous and professional manner giving honest information.

One may think that dispatchers just answer phones, but this is simply not the case. Dispatchers are trained to investigate during conversations. They know what vital information is needed first to provide the proper resources. They know our community members and our officers, and most importantly they have the ability to know when something is wrong.

Our dispatchers are a warm, comforting, and compassionate voice when help is needed. And so yes, they do answer phones, but the way they interact during that conversation can very well save a life.

On this particular day of answering phone call after phone call, Dispatchers Sorensen and Koteras treated everyone as if they were providing lifesaving information.

I would like to thank all of our dispatchers for your dedication and professionalism.

Dispatcher Scot Sorensen and Dispatcher Daniel Koteras are very well deserving for their commitment to the community and our department during this exceptional time of need, with the Chief's commendation award.

The exemplary skills shined that day, and we thank Dispatcher Sorensen and Dispatcher Koteras for their commitment to being the first line of defense in gathering valuable information in order to keep everyone safe.



**Congratulations to Dispatchers Scot Sorensen and Daniel Koteras**



## 2024 "TOP COP"

"TOP COP" is a recognition of an Officer's outstanding commitment, in all aspects to service solely by their peers. Any Officer without rank can anonymously nominate an officer for this recognition.

Some Examples of Criteria which may be considered for this recognition
Communication Skills
Integrity and Transparency
Ability to take a Leadership stance
Willing to Learn and Grow
How Specific Incidents were handled
Community Service Involvement
How the officer conducts themselves off duty
Mentorship Skills

The 2024 "TOP COP" Recipient is Officer Paul Wenzel

## Congratulations to Officer Paul Wenzel

Officer Wenzel was described by his peers as the following:

- Good Communication skills
- Always ready to step up and help younger officers
- Self-motivated
- Hard working
- Knowledgeable
- Always looking to better himself
- Always ready and willing to help
- A pleasure to work with
- Has all the signs of a future leader within the department
- He exemplifies what an officer is all about
- Comes to work with a positive attitude
- Exemplifies what it means to wear the uniform
- Takes pride in his work
- Receptive to training
- Courteous and professional
- One of the department's finest officers



## 2024 “TOP PROPS”

“TOP PROPS” is a recognition of a Civilian Employee for their outstanding commitment, in all aspects to our department both professionally and personally. Any civilian employee (Dispatchers, Records Clerks, Administrative Assistants, Animal Control Officers, IT and Support Staff) are eligible for this recognition. Any employee, sworn or civilian, with the exception of Command Staff Members can anonymously nominate an employee for this recognition.

Some Examples of Criteria which may be considered for this recognition
Communication Skills
Integrity and Transparency
Ability to take a Leadership stance
Willing to Learn and Grow
How Specific Incidents were handled
Community Service Involvement
How a civilian conducts themselves off duty
Mentorship Skills

The 2024 “TOP PROPS” Recipients, “Team IT” David Drew and Joseph Kalyoussef

## Congratulations to David Drew and Joseph Kalyoussef

- They go above and beyond everyday
- Great communication skills
- Very efficient workers
- Daily functions for patrol would be much harder without them
- They keep the department operating efficiently
- They never hesitate to resolve issues
- They treat all the employees as their friends with dignity, respect, and kindness
- They should be a Marvel Comic Superhero story
- Great teamwork
- Professionalism
- Outstanding commitment to the department
- Integral members of the department



Many of the employees commented on the rebuilding of the radio network. In 2024 David and Joe spearheaded an infrastructure rebuild for our township’s radio network. They were able to incorporate this rebuild to benefit Police, Fire, EMS, and DPW.

## Congressman Tom Kean's Law Enforcement Hometown Hero Officer Alyse Brown

### Congratulations to Officer Alyse Brown



Officer Brown is a dedicated member of STPD and the Sparta Community. In 2023 Officer Brown resigned from the East Orange Police Department after 13 years of service, with the rank of Sergeant, to join the Sparta Police Department. Knowing she would be losing her rank and restarting as a patrolman, Officer Brown took this opportunity to serve the community where she raises her family.

Officer Brown started her first year with the STPD by offering her years of experience to mentor younger officers within the department. She further took the opportunity to meet more of the Spartan Community with her direct community outreach while on duty. You can often see Officer Brown, or “Officer B” as the children call her, in the parks or amongst the schools directly engaging with a positive atmosphere to continue the mission of building trust between our youth and law enforcement.

Officer Brown has taken the initiative to engage with youth by holding “Painting in the Park” on Saturday mornings with children and their parents. She also took a direct approach to sit with students during their lunch period at school and engage in meaningful conversations. Officer Brown also carries a unique tool during her tour of duty. This tool, or equipment is called “Alyse’s Treasure Chest”. Officer Brown put together a box loaded with items she purchased that could be handed out to a child who may have witnessed or been directly involved in an adverse experience. She wears, and encourages her squad members to wear, an extraordinary pen on her vest which may stand out and become a focal point for a child to ask a question about it.

She has been an active member on all the community engagement programs our department hosts, such as “Hanging with Heroes”, The STPD Junior Police Academy, LEAD Day, Bring your child to work day, and Sussex County Day. Officer Brown is in the process of planning and executing a “Summer Series in the Park”. This initiative involves police officers from STPD teaching some of their personal interests to youth in our community. Officer Brown is planning a bake sale to raise money for this initiative.

As Chief, what stands out the most about Officer Brown to me is her ability to motivate other officers and follow her lead with these initiatives. Officer Brown encourages her fellow officers to get involved and spread the positive atmosphere amongst everyone they can. Without even knowing it, Officer Brown is providing that very important aspect of resiliency amongst our team.



Outside of being a police officer, Officer Brown is a wife and mother to 5 children. She is active in her personal life by coordinating community Easter Egg Hunts, Block parties, and volunteering with school events.

It is truly a pleasure to work with such a motivated and motivating Officer. I will continue to support Officer Brown's innovative community oriented public engagements, and I look forward to seeing what's next to come from her.



## **MADD 2024 Award winner Mike Poon**

The MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) award is presented to police officers in recognition of their outstanding efforts in combating impaired driving. This award honors officers who demonstrate a strong commitment to enforcing DUI laws and promoting road safety within their communities. By recognizing these individuals, MADD aims to highlight the importance of preventing drunk driving and to encourage continued dedication to protecting lives. The award serves as a public acknowledgment of an officer's hard work, professionalism, and positive impact in reducing alcohol-related crashes and fatalities

The 2023 MADD Award is presented in 2024. The Department's Recipient of this award was Officer Michael Poon. (his third year in a row)

## **Congratulations to Officer Michael Poon**

**The 2024 Nominees are:  
Officers Michael Poon, Paul Wenzel and Matthew Cannanrozzi**



## VHF Radio System Upgrade

The Sparta Police Department has successfully upgraded its VHF radio system backhaul to enhance communication reliability across multiple sites and headquarters, a project made possible through grant funding. This initiative involved the installation of new radio equipment, strategic frequency planning, and the development of a structured backhaul network to ensure seamless connectivity.

Key milestones in the project included the deployment of base stations and supporting infrastructure at each site, along with the establishment of a microwave backhaul network to improve radio communication. Additionally, a secure IP network was integrated to support system operations, and the project was rigorously validated through the Acceptance Test Plan (ATP).

While the upgrade presented challenges, they were carefully managed. Interference concerns were addressed through optimized antenna placement and frequency coordination, while power reliability was strengthened with DC plant solutions and battery backups. To maintain consistent coverage, multicouplers and combiners were implemented to optimize signal distribution.

This enhancement significantly improves emergency response capabilities by ensuring clearer and more reliable communication among first responders. With a modernized radio infrastructure, officers can coordinate more effectively across different locations, reducing response times and enhancing situational awareness. The improved system also minimizes communication disruptions, enabling seamless information sharing during critical incidents. By investing in this upgrade, the department has taken a meaningful step toward reinforcing public safety and operational efficiency.

The total project cost for Sparta Township was \$889,855.72, with \$632,000.00 covered by the Communications Systems Improvements Project Grant and \$257,771.33 funded by the ARP Grant.

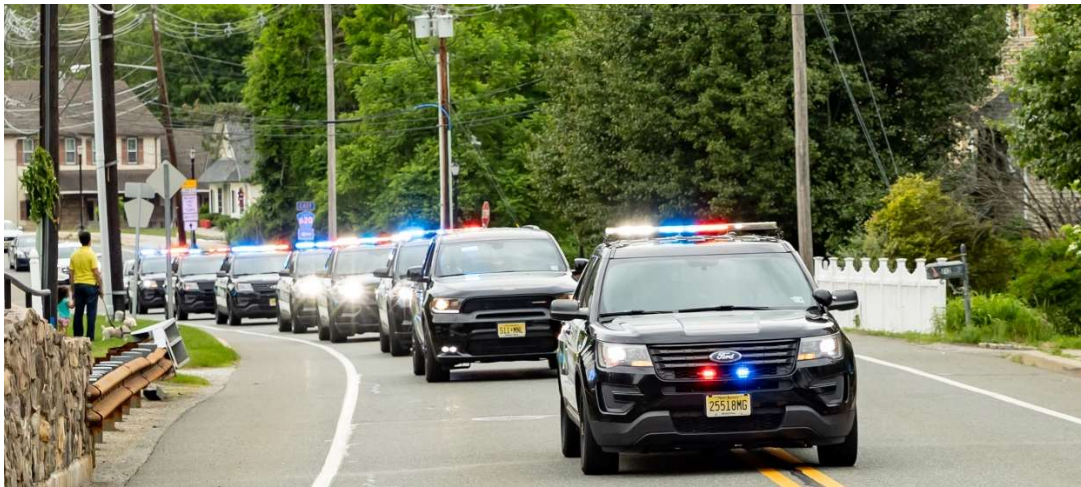
Description	Amount
Project Total	\$ 889,855.72
CFP Grant	\$ 632,000.00
ARP Grant	\$ 257,771.33
Vendor Adjustment	- \$ 84.39



## Notable Achievements

Safewise, an online resource for safety information and tools, recently came out with its 2024 rankings of the safest municipalities in the Garden State. For several years in a row, Sparta Township has ranked in the top ten safest municipalities in New Jersey. Although I am reporting this to you on behalf of the Police Department, we all know it takes a team to conquer this. That team is built from the efforts of all the departments within our township, our volunteers such as our fire department, EMS, CERT Team, and other volunteer organizations, along with our management and council, and of course our community consisting of our business owners, our schools, and our residents. Team Sparta should be very proud.

As a police department we are proud of this accomplishment and look forward to providing exceptional safety and security for our community for years to come. I commend the efforts of the men and women who make up the police department. From our Officers, Dispatchers, IT Support Staff, Animal Control, Records Clerks, and Administrative Assistant we are one TEAM here for Sparta. I am very proud of this team, and I am humbled by the effort everyone contributes to keeping our township safe. Thank you!



## Training and Certifications

Our department prides itself on the development of our officers. We understand that the basic mandatory training is not enough and we must continue to train as a department to provide the upmost professional services to our community. Below is a list of training that was completed in 2024 alone.

### Training and Professional Development for 2024

Accreditation Update Training
Miranda Training
Center for Prevention – Substance Abuse Training
Juvenile Justice Update Training
Semi-Annual Firearms Training
Resiliency Training
SFST/DWI Refresher
Northern Red Training
LASER Training – Law Enforcement Active Shooter Response
LASER Instructor Training
MEL Risk Management
NJ Learn Bloodborne Pathogens
Hazmat
Verbal Judo Train the Trainer
Basic Crash Investigation
Alcotest Certification
Ivory Tower Training
ICS 200 & ICS 300
CPS – National Child Safety Passenger Training
CPR Training
CPR Instructor
SFST – Standard Filed Sobriety Testing
FTO - Field Training Officer
ARIDE - Advanced Roadside Impairment Training
Front Line Supervising Training
MOI – Methods of Instruction
National De-escalation Training
DIAP – Drug Interdiction Assistance Program Training

OPRA – Open Public Records Act Training
Police Patrol Bicycle Class Training
Drug Impaired Driving Course Training
Pedestrian Safety Enforcement Training
Firearms Instructor Course
Gun and Community Violence Prevention Training
Harassment in the Workplace Training
Transcaer Training
Cell Phone Investigation Techniques
Crime Scene Processing
Preparing for First Amendment Training
ATV Training
Ginnie’s House Training
Rescue Task Force Exercise Training
Open-Source Intelligence Training
L.E.A.D. Instructor Training
Street Gang Investigations
Dark Web Investigations

## Firearms Training

Ammunition Utilized
9mm target ammunition – approximately 3500 rounds for day/night qualifications
12 Gauge Shotgun 2 ¾ 00 buckshot – approximately 350 rounds day/night qualifications
12 Gauge slug for Bear Gun – approximately 150 rounds for day night qualifications
Cost considerations: 300 comp hours vs 150 OT hours at officer’s discretion
FN303 Less Lethal Bear Conditioning Weapon - approximately 150 rounds for day and night qual

## Mandatory Firearms Training/Licensing Requirements

Description
Firearm qualifications – Semi Annual Training
Familiarization Training with Patrol Rifle – Semi Annual Training
Vehicle Pursuit – In Conjunction with Firearm Training
Domestic Violence Training – One per year
Title 2C and Case Law Updates
Search and Seizure Updates

Description
Miranda Rights Training
Active Shooter Training
O.C. Training
Active Shooter Training (Simunitions)

## Recruit Updates

Recruit	Hired	Status
Matthew Cannarozzi	March 1, 2024	Currently Active Patrolman STPD
Michael Lania	September 10, 2024	Currently in Passaic County Police Academy. Expected to graduate March of 2025.

## Certifications

Below are some of the training and certifications our Officers hold:

Training Certifications	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4:20 Passenger Vehicle Interdiction</li> <li>ABLE</li> <li>Accident Investigation 1</li> <li>Accident Investigation 2</li> <li>Active Shooter Response Instructor</li> <li>Advanced K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management</li> <li>Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE)</li> <li>Alcotest Operator</li> <li>ALERRT Active Shooter Training</li> <li>Alzheimer's Disease for Law Enforcement /Safe Return</li> <li>AR15/MA Armorer Course</li> <li>ARIDE</li> <li>Arson Investigation</li> <li>ATV operator Certified</li> <li>Background Investigations for Police Applicants</li> <li>Backtrace</li> <li>Basic Course for School Resource Officers</li> <li>Basic Crime Scene Investigations for Detectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICAT</li> <li>ICS 100</li> <li>ICS 200</li> <li>ICS 300</li> <li>ICS 700</li> <li>ICS 800</li> <li>Incident Command Systems</li> <li>Interview and Interrogation</li> <li>Intoxilyzer S-D5</li> <li>Intro to NIMS</li> <li>Ivory Tower</li> <li>JCP&amp;L Electric Safety</li> <li>Juvenile Law; Statues, Policies and Procedures</li> <li>L.E.A.D. Instructor Certification</li> <li>Law Enforcement Active Shooter Training Emergency Response (LASER)</li> <li>Law Enforcement Handling of Black Bear Complaints</li> <li>Law of Interrogations and Video Recording</li> <li>LE Radar Traffic StarNEXT</li> </ul>



### Training Certifications

- Basic Drug Recognition for Police, Fire and EMS
- Basic FTO
- Basic K-12 behavioral Threat Assessment and Management
- Basic Police Training Certification
- Basic Report Writing
- Basic Tactics for Warrants
- Basic Water Rescue
- Becoming a Street-Smart Cop
- Below 100
- Bicycle Patrol
- Bloodborne Pathogens Training
- Breach Point
- Building Clearing
- Case Law Search & Seizure
- Cell block management-Suicide awareness
- Chemical Hazard Communication
- Child Passenger Safety Certification
- CLEAR Law Enforcement and the LGBTQ+ Community
- Clearing Buildings
- Codis Compliance Training
- Commercial Truck Enforcement
- Communication Analysis - The Art of Detecting Deception
- Computer Crimes for the First Responder
- Conducted Energy Device Basic User Course
- Counterfeit Document
- Courtroom Testimony for Police Officers
- CPR Instructor
- CPR Trained
- Crash Data Retrieval Tech
- Crash Reconstruction (Vehicle, Motorcycle, Bicycle, Pedestrian)
- Crime Scene Processing
- Criminal Gypsy Investigation
- Maintaining Mental Health in Law Enforcement
- Major Crimes Investigation
- Methods of Instruction
- Missing and Abducted Children
- Monadnock
- Motorcycle Safety & Enforcement
- N.E.O. Not Even Once Instructor
- Narcan Administration Atlantic Health
- NJ Advanced Crash Investigation
- NJ First Responder Bleeding Control
- NJ Standard Field Sobriety Testing (HGN)
- NJSACOP Front Line Supervision
- NJSP LE & LGBTQIA Community Engagement
- NJTR-1
- Northern Red Training
- Not Even Once Instructor
- ODARA
- Officer Down/Officer Survival
- Oleoresin Capsicum Spray
- Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Conference
- Pharmageddon
- Physical Conditioning Instructor
- Police Bicycle Patrol
- De-escalation Techniques to Individuals with Special Needs/Mental Health Issues
- Police Service Rifle Instructor Program
- Police Traffic Engineer
- Pro-Active Patrol
- Radar Operator Certification
- Remington Model 870 Shotgun Armorer Course
- Report writing
- Resiliency Program Officer (RPO)
- Responding to Hazardous Material Transportation Incident

### Training Certifications

- Crisis Intervention Team Training (CIT) Certification
- Crisis Leadership & Decision Making
- Crisis Negotiation
- Critical Incident Response
- Cyber Security
- Dark Web Investigations
- Dealing with First Amendment Auditors
- Deceptive Behavior on Traffic Stops
- De-escalation Techniques
- Defensive Tactics Instructor
- Developmental Disabilities Awareness Training for First Responder
- Document Fraud for Law Enforcement
- Domestic and Sex Violence interviewing Techniques
- DRE
- Driver Simulator Training
- Driving While Intoxicated/Standardized Field Sobriety Testing
- Drug Impaired Driving
- Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI) Drug Recognition Course
- Drug Recognition/Under the Influence
- Engineering and Traffic Studies
- Eyewitness Identification & Lineups & Out of Court Identifications
- FBI Advanced Interview and Interrogation Techniques
- FEMA NIMS I-700 & I-100
- Field Intelligence Officer
- Field Training Officer
- Fingerprinting
- Firearms Instructor Course
- First Responder Course, Atlantic Training Center
- Forensic Experiential Trauma Interviewing
- Roadway and Traffic Safety Improvement
- Rx Prescription Abuse
- S.R.O. School Resource Officer Certification-
- Safe Patient Lifting for Emergency Responders
- Safety Emergency Responder Vehicle Education (S.E.R.V.E)
- SFST
- Sig Sauer P320 Armorer Certification
- Simunition Scenario Instructor and Safety Certification Course
- Smart Customer Service: Courtesies, Attitude, and Ethics
- Smart Customer Service: Effective Verbal and Non-Verbal Communication
- Smart Customer Service: Listening for Understanding
- Smart phone Forensics and Cellular Technology
- Sovereign Citizen Extremist Training
- Spanish for Law Enforcement
- Standard Field Sobriety Testing
- State of NJ Division of Criminal Justice CODIS Compliance Training
- Stop the Bleed
- Street Gang Investigations
- Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Program
- Survival Driving Emergencies and Natural Disasters
- Survival Driving Urban Driving
- Surviving an Active Threat
- Tactical Emergency Casualty Care
- Tactical Interviewing
- Taser
- Technology in Criminal Investigations
- Terrorism Training for LE
- The Reid Technique of Interviewing and Advanced Technology
- Title 2C Update

### Training Certifications

- Forensic Mapping
- Gang Recognition
- Gracie Survival Tactics I
- Grant Writing
- Hazardous Materials Awareness Training
- Heroin-Opiate Investigation & Prosecution
- HGN
- High Level Interdiction & Concealed Compartments
- Highway Stops and The Drug Trafficker
- Homegrown Violent Extremist
- Homemade Explosives
- Hostile Environment awareness training
- Human Factors in Traffic Crash reconstruction
- Top Gun
- Traffic Calming
- Traffic Safety Specialist
- Training on Immigration
- Transcaer
- Trauma Informed Investigation
- Trauma Informed Investigations and Specialized Populations
- Undercover Narcotics Investigative Training #43
- Vehicle Dynamics
- Verbal Judo
- Weapons Mass Destruction
- Work Zone Safety

# New Equipment Purchases and Functions

DESCRIPTION	
Speed Boxes for Traffic Bureau -- Speed Display with Data Download *	
Simunition Equipment for Force-on-Force Training	\$9,974
3 Chevy Tahoe Patrol Vehicles **	\$162,874.44
6 Mossberg 12-gauge Shotguns	
4 Sig Patrol Rifles	
4 Sig 320 Handguns	
Shotguns, handguns and Rifles	\$15,066.42
We received a credit of for the trade-in of old shotguns	\$2,806
Making the total amount paid for shotguns, handguns, and rifles	\$12,260.42
See below for use details	
Ballistic Vests purchased using Body Armor Replacement Grant Award and Bulletproof Vest Partnership Federal Grant Award	\$13,105.98
8 Entry Kits	
8 Ballistic Shields	
8 Ballistic Helmets	
Total for Shields, entry kits, and helmets (Items were purchased with ARP Grant Funds)	\$47,099.68
See below for use details	

\* See page 87 for details

\*\* See page 110 for details

The Sparta Police Department is committed to protecting its community through preparedness, effective response, and officer safety. The following equipment is essential to ensure the department can meet the demands of modern policing and respond effectively to a range of critical incidents:

## 1. Simunition Equipment

This training tool allows officers to engage in realistic, scenario-based exercises using non-lethal training rounds. It enhances decision-making, improves tactical skills, and prepares officers for high-stress situations while minimizing risk during training.

## 2. Mossberg 12-Gauge Shotguns

These versatile firearms provide officers with a reliable tool for a variety of situations, including breaching, close-quarters defense and destroying large game animals. Their presence strengthens the department's ability to respond to threats effectively.

## 3. Patrol Rifles

Patrol rifles offer improved accuracy, range, and stopping power compared to standard sidearms. In active shooter or high-risk incidents, they provide officers with the tools necessary to protect civilians and themselves, especially in rural or expansive environments like Sparta. The purchase of these weapons ensures replacement of aging rifles and ensures each patrol car is properly equipped with the appropriate firepower.

4. **Ballistic Shields**

Ballistic shields are critical during high-risk entries, hostage situations, and when facing armed suspects. They provide mobile cover, increasing officer safety and the likelihood of peaceful resolutions during dangerous encounters.

5. **Ballistic Helmets**

Helmets protect officers from head injuries caused by gunfire, blunt force, or falling debris during tactical operations or critical incidents. This equipment is vital in active shooter scenarios, warrant service, and rescue missions.

6. **Tactical Entry Kits**

These kits include specialized tools for safe and effective forced entry when necessary, such as during the execution of high-risk warrants or hostage rescues. They allow officers to gain access without unnecessary delays, improving response times and outcomes.

7. **Ballistic Vests**

Essential for officer safety, ballistic vests provide life-saving protection against firearms and other ballistic threats. These vests are standard in modern policing and vital for both routine and high-risk situations. The purchase of these vests occurs when new officers are hired or the replacement of vests in circulation occurs, which is approximately every 5 years.

## Administration



In ending the 2024 the Sparta Township Police Department's Administration consisted of (1) Chief, (1) Captain, (1) Lieutenant, and (1) Administrative Assistant. The Administrative Bureau purpose is to foster a motivating and professional environment for staff to grow and excel in their specific areas of expertise. This is accomplished by providing confidence in our department's employees by empowering them to make intelligent decisions.

The Chief of Police is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the daily operations of the Police Department. The Chief is responsible for the implementation and accountability of all policies, regulations, and emergency directives. The Chief delegates duties to appropriate personnel in a chain of command structure. The Chief will meet with community, civic, and religious groups to better understand the needs of our entire community. Additionally, the Chief is responsible for preparing

and managing the department's budget. The Chief reports at least monthly to our Township Manager. Our Chief is also our Township's Office of Emergency Management Coordinator.

Our department's makeup is uniquely structured to meet the needs of our community. Below is a list of our Command Staff's duties.

### Patrol Lieutenant (Lt. Antonello)

- Managing Patrol Officers consisting of (4) Sergeants and approximately (20) patrol officers
- Training—managing and scheduling of all mandatory training and advanced training for all employees.
- Oversee Firearms Drills and Active Shooter Training
- Workers Comp
- Scheduling of all personnel
- Managing any patrol grants
- Equipment compliance and maintenance
- Product and Equipment Inventories
- Resiliency and Employee Assistance Program Management
- Incident and Report Reviews
- Awards and Recognitions manager
- Building (PD) Maintenance Liaison
- New Recruits and Academy Management
- Uniform Compliance and Orders
- Staff Inspections

## Captain Snyder

### Traffic Bureau/Detective Bureau/Records

- Managing Traffic Bureau consisting of (1) Sergeant and (2) Traffic Officers
- Managing of Communications Center (Dispatch) consisting of (10) full-time dispatchers—3 part-time dispatchers
  - Dispatch Services
    - Fire
    - EMS
    - Police
      - Sparta Township
      - Franklin Borough
      - Ogdensburg Borough
      - Stanhope Borough
      - Hamburg Borough
- Managing of (3) Class II Special Officers
- Managing of Support/IT Staff consisting of (2) full-time civilian employees
- Managing all vehicle fleet
  - Operation
  - Maintenance Scheduling
  - Purchases
  - Equipment Installation
- Managing Extra-Duty work for Road Jobs
- Managing Animal Control Officer consisting of (1) full-time civilian employee
  - Sparta Township
  - Andover Township
  - Covering additional Sussex County Towns when needed
- Managing traffic studies throughout the township
- Reviewing of plans related to traffic and public safety regarding proposed planning and zoning board applications.
- Community Policing/ Community Relations Liaison
- Managing Traffic Grants
- Managing Drunk Driving Enforcement Funds
- Managing Detective Bureau consisting of (1) Detective Sergeant, (2) Detectives, and (1) School Resource Officer
- Managing of employees on Modified duty
- Internal Affairs
- Lengthy review process for Use of Force
- Public Information Officer Liaison

- Management of Guardian Tracking Software
- Managing Record's Bureau consisting of (1) full-time records clerk and (2) part-time discovery clerks
- OPRA Liaison for Police
- All Mandatory reporting for the Prosecutor's Office and the Attorney General's Office
- Policy Compliance Review
- Random Urine Testing
- Random Evidence Audits
- Managing Automated License Plate Reader Grant
- School Safety and Security Liaison
- Accreditation
  - SOP's
  - Policies
  - Procedures
  - Rules and Regulations
  - Proofs
  - Liaison for Lexipol and State Chief Inspections and Compliance

## Mandatory License Requirements

In New Jersey, the Police Training Commission (PTC) establishes mandatory requirements for law enforcement officers to obtain and maintain licensure. Key requirements include:

- **Licensure:** All law enforcement officers must hold a valid, active license issued by the PTC to be employed in New Jersey. Licenses are valid for three years and must be renewed accordingly.
- **Training:** Officers are required to complete basic training courses certified by the PTC, which cover various aspects of law enforcement. Additionally, ongoing professional training is mandated to ensure officers remain updated on current laws, policies, and best practices.
- **Firearms Requalification and Policy Training:** Officers must undergo semi-annual requalification with all agency-authorized firearms. They are also required to receive semi-annual training on the laws and policies governing the use of force and vehicular pursuits.
- **Domestic Violence Training:** An annual in-service training course of at least four hours on domestic violence is mandatory. Officers transferring to a new agency must receive this training within 90 days of transfer.
- **Psychological Examination:** Officers are required to pass a psychological examination as part of the licensure process.



- Conduct Standards: Officers must adhere to conduct standards, including prohibitions against engaging in activities or affiliations that advocate for the violent overthrow of the government or discrimination based on protected classes.
- Employing agencies are responsible for notifying the PTC of any separation from employment of a licensed officer. The PTC has the authority to suspend, revoke, place conditions upon, or deny licenses after a hearing if an officer fails to meet these standards.
- These requirements aim to ensure that all law enforcement officers in New Jersey maintain a high standard of professionalism and are equipped to serve their communities effectively.

## Opioid Settlement Information

### Opioid Settlement Funds

Beginning in 2022, the State of New Jersey and qualifying counties and municipalities (subdivisions) began receiving settlement payments from major nationwide litigation and settlements that involve the opioid industry. These settlements hold opioid manufacturers, distributors, and retailers accountable for their roles in creating and fueling the opioid epidemic and for aggressively marketing prescription opioids while also downplaying their risks to healthcare providers and the public.

To date, New Jersey stands to receive more than \$1 billion in settlement funds to be paid in different allotments through 2038. According to an agreement made by the State of New Jersey and its qualifying subdivisions (“the State Subdivision Agreement”), almost all of the funds will be divided evenly—with 50 percent distributed to the State and 50 percent distributed to eligible subdivisions. The settlement funds will be used to make critical investments in harm reduction and data-driven strategies and will bolster our critical opioid use disorder resources and programs. These investments will strengthen our ability to save lives by preventing overdose deaths and connecting New Jersey families to supports and treatment when and where they need it most.

Thus far money has been spent in the following areas.

- Community Engagement Events (Sparta Day, SC Day, Hanging with Heroes)
- Police Youth Programs (JPA, LEAD Day)
- Municipal Alliance Programs
- Sparta Food Pantry
- L.E.A.D. Program
- Training (De-escalation, First Aid, CPR, AED, Naloxone Deployment, Crisis Intervention, Operational Readiness for Police Officers: Effective Strategies & Practical Techniques for Addressing Opioid Use Disorder and Co-occurring Conditions)
- First Aid/Medical Equipment
- Sponsorship to Center for Prevention and Counseling for Anti-drug Ads

Other ways we have already helped the fight against addiction and assisted with recovery/ Also some future planning

### Prevention

- Community outreach programs
- Municipal Alliance Support for school-based programs
- Police Bicycle Patrol - handing out pamphlets with resources in the busy areas of town while on bicycle patrol
- Teaching L.E.A.D. in schools
- Junior Police Academy

## Harm Reduction

- The 2021 Amendment to Senate Bill 3491 authorizes first responders to offer naloxone and provide recovery resources to individuals that RMA after an overdose. Attorney General Directive mandates that our officers provide individuals or family members with naloxone prior to our departure from a scene of a suspected or confirmed overdose, when someone asks for it, or where there may not be an overdose but there may be indication of drug use.
- Supplying Fentanyl test strips. We are researching them right now for purchase and distribution.
- All vehicles at the police department are equipped with Naloxone and we will be placing a purchase soon for more. We also will hand out naloxone at our community service events for people that ask for it.
- We have a partnership with the County's Center for Prevention and Counseling and their C.L.E.A.R (Community Law Enforcement Addiction Recovery) which is a countywide program that launched in 2016 as the first police-assisted recovery program in NJ with a self-referral/walk-in model. Our department has several liaisons to the C.L.E.A.R. program to assist with these types of referrals. We will continue to support this program.
- Additionally, if someone needed to get to another state for treatment where there would be a cost for the travel, we could possibly assist them in partnership with the C.L.E.A.R. program.
- Also, purchasing more AED's and medical supplies which aid in harm reduction.
- Operation Takeback—Our Department has been involved for many years in Operation Takeback with the DEA. This program is designed for the safe disposal of medications for our residents. We advertise this quite often and make individuals aware when we have our community engagement events. We will bring a mobile drop box to these events for medication disposal. Our plans are to have more locations that we could have drop boxes around the community, possibly right at the senior center.

## Treatment

- Operation helping hands is another program that is supported by the Center for Prevention and Counseling where there is an outreach to individuals who may have been arrested and are suspected of needed treatment/recovery. Our partnership is a boots on the ground approach by knocking on doors or having the law enforcement and counselors from the Center at our Community Engagement events.
- As we mentioned above, we have a partnership with the County's Center for Prevention and Counseling and their C.L.E.A.R (Community Law Enforcement Addiction Recovery)
- There are more areas that we would like to investigate in this area.

## Recovery

- Part of our recovery efforts is donating to the food pantry. There are often times, where individuals who are affected by addiction, and are in a recovery period find themselves at a loss for essentials, such as jobs, food, and clothing. As you know, this may aid the individual back into a harmful state of addiction. Our local food pantries could assist with these essentials and aid with the recovery process.
- We support the annual recovery/addiction walk

We have been consulting with the Center for Prevention and Counseling to specifically discuss responsible ways that we could utilize this litigation money for the ones who need it.

One area we specifically spoke about was to purchase harm reduction equipment such as vending machines that stock items such as Narcan, fentanyl test strips and xylazine (zy-la-zeen) test strips. These items would be free to the public and put into an area in town that would be easily accessible. (We are in the process of working with a vendor to build the machine)

Additionally, we discussed the thought of assistance to those who were impacted by addiction and/or recovery through fine forgiveness. This was a very fresh idea and we will be further discussing in the future.

Great source is <https://www.nj.gov/opioidfunds/>

## Bringing Community Out

Why do we do this? Most often people don't want to talk to police about addiction and recovery issues. This helps bridge the gap between police and the public. This allows individuals to speak with professionals in the field to gather more information for their specific needs. **The community asks us questions about everything - Domestic Violence, Addiction, Weapons, bullying---leads to abuse, etc;**

Our Community Engagement events are not just a children's event. We often invite and have the presence of our community partners such as:

- Center for Prevention and Counseling
- CLEAR Community Law Enforcement Addiction Recovery
- Operation Helping Hands
- Fire
- EMS
- Local Veterans
- Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America (Be SMART)
- Project Child Safe
- Sparta Municipal Alliance (SMART Team)

**In 2024 the township was awarded a total of:**

**\$112,772.31**

The following was spent using Opioid Settlement Funds in 2024

Category	Amount \$
Junior Police Academy	\$ 2,279.91
L.E.A.D (Law enforcement against drugs)—L.E.A.D. Day	\$ 4,306.45
Training	\$ 1,530
Medical (Harm Reduction Equipment/Supplies)	\$ 2,713
Sponsorship to the Center for Prevention and Counseling Anti-Drug Ads	\$ 250
Sparta Food Pantry(Municipal Alliance)	\$ 3,000
Community Engagement Events	\$ 4,265.08
Total	\$ 18,415.44

Category	Amount \$	Notes
<b>Total Received</b>	\$ 112,772	This is our total funding to date
<b>Total Spent</b>	\$ 18,414	Funds allocated to various programs and initiatives
<b>Expenses Breakdown</b>		
AEDs	\$ 2,712	Purchased life-saving Automated External Defibrillators
Community Food Pantry	\$ 3,000	Supporting local families in need
Center for Prevention Programs	\$ 250	Contributed to prevention and outreach efforts
Police Academy Trainings	\$ 1,530	Helping to enhance officer training
<b>Community Programming</b>	\$ 10,922	Investing in community engagement
LEAD	-	Leadership, development and drug prevention programs
Junior Police Academy	-	Leadership, development and drug prevention
Hanging with Heroes	-	Community-building events

## Admin Reporting

### Employee Leave Hours Taken

Leave Type	Hours Taken
Bereavement	166.5
Comp Time	911.75
Family Leave	932.5
Floating Holiday	36
Personal	1,183.5
Sick	6,927.5
Vacation	9,692.75

### On Duty Injury

Category	Count/Days
Total Reported Cases	4
Cases with Days Away from Work	3
Total Number of Days Away	176

### Total Hours Worked

Category	Hours
Department Total	93,486
Sworn Officers	64,676.75
Civilian Personnel	28,809.25

### Overtime Hours (Sworn Officers)

Category	Hours
ACO Overtime	151.5
Community Events	224.5
Courses/Trainings	141
Court	139
DWI Patrol	19
Firearms Qualifications	306
Fireworks/Parades	140
Funeral	4
Grant Funded	296
Junior Police Academy	95
Late Calls	222.5



Category	Hours
LEAD Day	73
Promotions	84
Shift Coverage	1,074.25
Staff Meetings	88
Town Hall IT Support	10
Township Paving	167

#### Expense Summary

Budget Category	Amount
Starting Operating Budget	\$225,000
Total Spent	\$221,089.42

#### Expense Breakdown

Category	
Hardware	\$270
Emergency Safety	\$280.02
Electrical Communications	\$640
Hospital and Lab Supplies	\$4,809.37
Postage	\$563.80
Vehicle Registrations	\$664.13
Other Equipment Maintenance	\$103,729.56
Cleaning Supplies and Car Washes	\$2,561.59
Printing Services	\$798.82
Professional Services	\$15,667.69
Travel	\$645.69
Dues	\$2,395
Training	\$43,472.03
Drug testing/Other	\$7,015.27
General Equipment	\$7,056.75
Computer Equipment	\$9,661.89
Office Materials	\$940.48
Uniforms	\$15,027.28
Miscellaneous	\$4,890.05

#### Vehicle Budget

Budget Category	Amount
Starting Budget	\$210,000
Total Spent	\$209,334

#### Reimbursement Grant Funding

Grant Program	Reimbursement Balance
Body Armor Replacement	\$6,072.74
Bulletproof Vest Partnership Federal	\$11,318
Body Worn Camera Grant Program	\$8,884

#### Full Grant Awards

Grant Program	Expense Total	Purpose
Drunk Driving Enforcement	\$57,695.71	New Alcotest Machine, DWI Overtime, Reflective Gear
NJ Highway Traffic Safety	\$14,000	Overtime for patrols to enforce motor vehicle violations specific to the grant
American Rescue Plan Communications	\$418,644.69	Radio Backhaul System, OEM Protective Equipment

BWC and Mobile Cameras (LENS LOCK)	\$36,205.60 (Yearly)
5-year total for the contract	\$181,028.00



The Sparta Police Department was the first agency in the County and one of the first agencies in the state to equip our officers with body worn cameras (BWC). Body worn cameras are used to build public trust by capturing police interactions with the public. At the beginning of 2023 our BWC equipment and software was evaluated. It was determined that our BWC's were at the end of life, and we would soon have to purchase new equipment and upgrade software and a serve which we be costly. Additionally, our cost to comply with record retention, OPRA and discovery requests were increasing with the outdated equipment.

Exploring our options we were able to solidify a leasing contract with LensLock BWC and Dashcam services. This avenue allowed us to have all brand-new body worn cameras for every officer and (9) new dash cameras for our patrol vehicles. Additionally with this lease comes a no extra cost maintenance contract for all equipment and included redaction software. All videos are stored on a cloud-based server which eliminated the need for us to purchase a costly new server.

A previously awarded state grant of \$81,520 for the purchase of Body worn cameras was utilized towards this 5- year lease.



**This grant continued to fund our lease of Body Worn Cameras for 2024**

## Patrol Division

The Patrol Division is the largest and most visible organizational unit within the department and provides the bulk of policing services to the public. The Patrol Division provides a staff of highly trained and qualified officers that work 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year.

The primary mission of the Patrol Division is emergency response, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, and proactive patrol.



## Internal Affairs



The Internal Affairs Bureau is dedicated to creating a safe police environment and providing responsive service through an innovative problem-solving partnership with the community. Citizen involvement is vital to managing any public agency, particularly a law enforcement organization. Police service is often evaluated through commendations, suggestions, and internal/external complaints. The Internal Affairs Bureau ensures that all complaints are investigated thoroughly and impartially, while maintaining the integrity of the investigations and rigidly adhering to the Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights.

## IA Breakdown

Internal Affairs investigations conducted in 2024	13
Generated by Civilian	10
Generated by Agency	3

## Annual Reporting

Our department has mandatory reporting requirements that are sent to the Attorney General's Office and the Sussex County Prosecutor's Office. Some reports are quarterly and some are annually. Below lists our mandatory reporting.

Annual Reporting to SCPO and AG 2024
Mandatory Training
Early Warning System
Random Drug testing requirements
Pursuit annual report
Use of Force annual report
Immigrant Trust Report
Internal Affairs
Internal Affairs Major Discipline
Annual summary of Law Enforcement Diversity Recruiting Hiring Promotions
Animal Cruelty
Automated License Plate Reader Audit
CLEAR (community law enforcement affirmative relations continuing education) reporting
Bias Crimes
Forfeiture

Annual Reporting to SCPO and AG 2024	
SAFE/DFSA Kit inventory and tracking reporting	
Suspicious Activity Reporting	
Underage Warmings	
Curbside Warning and Station House Adjustment reporting	
Use of Force	
25	
Show of Force	
1	
Pointing Firearm (incidents where officers displayed a firearm)	
1	
Pursuit	
3	
Internal Affairs	
13	
Investigations involving 16 officers	
16	
Appendix K summary was uploaded to our website	
Major Reporting: 1 - Appendix L was uploaded to our website	



## Detective Bureau



The Sparta police detective bureau is a specialized division within our law enforcement agency tasked with investigating and solving crimes. Detectives in this bureau work on cases that require additional investigative skills beyond the initial response of patrol officers. They gather evidence, interview witnesses and suspects, analyze information, and build cases to bring criminals to justice. Additionally, they specialize in particular types of crimes such as homicide, robbery, arson, narcotics, cybercrime, and crimes against children. The Detective Bureau often collaborates with other law enforcement agencies, forensic experts, and prosecutors to solve cases and ensure the safety of the community. Our detectives have worked with many other municipal, county, state, and federal agencies.

The Detective Bureau also conducts all employee employment background investigations and there were **10** background investigations completed in 2024. In addition, the Detective Bureau conducts all firearm application backgrounds and permits to carry backgrounds. The unit completed a total of **619** firearms background investigations in 2024. The Detective Bureau is also responsible for all property, whether lost/recovered or evidence.

The Detective Bureau consists of (1) Detective Sergeant, (2) Detectives, and (1) School Resource Officer. This Bureau is overseen by a Lieutenant.

### Notable Cases Investigated by the Sparta Township Detective Bureau

Date: 05/14/2024

Multi-State ATV Theft Ring

ST2024-012417

Detective Pletcher led a complex investigation into the burglaries of two homes and the theft of two ATVs in Sparta. His diligent efforts, which included issuing multiple subpoenas and other legal processes, uncovered a broader multi-state theft ring spanning Upstate New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. Working in coordination with several law enforcement agencies, Detective Pletcher helped identify numerous suspects involved in the organized theft operation. His work culminated in the successful closure of the case, resulting in multiple arrests and criminal charges against those involved.



Date: 07/03/2024

Package Theft Investigation

ST2024-018009

Detective Pletcher also completed a separate investigation into the theft of packages from a residence on Whitlins Way. The items, purchased from AT&T and delivered by FedEx, were stolen by an individual later identified as Walin Rodriguez-Tejada. Surveillance footage from a Ring camera, combined with information gathered through interagency collaboration, subpoenas, and digital evidence warrants, helped identify both the suspect and a vehicle linked to multiple package thefts. An arrest warrant with tri-state extradition authority was issued for Rodriguez-Tejada.

The below information indicates the number of cases, and case breakdown, that were turned over to our Detective Bureau to investigate on a further level. Often time complaints are reported to our Patrol Division, which are investigated and closed out on a Patrol level.

## Reports Summary

Detective Bureau Total Number of Cases Investigated for 2024	102
Open Cases (Still under investigation)	17
Closed Cases	85
Cases with Arrests	18
Cases without Arrests	84

Investigation Type	93
Child Abuse	2
Fire	16
Assault	3
Burglary	9
Shoplifting	11
Fraud	7
Death	3
Sex Crime	5
Theft	13
Bias	5
Missing Persons	1
CDS	1
Threats	7

## Task Force Involvement

On a case-by-case basis Officers and Detective's from our agency will assist the Sussex County Guns, Gangs, and Narcotics Task force with investigations.

## Evidence

Total Evidence taken into vault	513 items
Evidence Lab Runs	10 runs for 16 total items

Recovered Property	22 items
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Megan's Law
All Megan's Law Offenders are strictly monitored with the assistance of our county and state agencies. All offenders within our jurisdiction are currently in compliance

Firearms Applications	
FID CARD/Pistol permit	519
Concealed Carry permit	99
Denials	1

Narcan Deployments	9
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Naloxone (Narcan®), for example, is a medicine that can help people who are overdosing on an opioid. Opioids include prescription medications, heroin, and fentanyl. Sometimes other drugs, including cocaine and methamphetamine, are mixed, or laced with fentanyl. All our officers are trained in the deployment of Narcan. The Detective Bureau is responsible for ensuring every vehicle is equipped with Narcan and all reporting requirements, upon deployment, are completed. Our officers deployed Narcan to a total of 5 individuals in 2024, which simply saved their lives.

## RX Take Back Summary

Our prescription take-back initiative aims to provide safe and convenient disposal options for unused or expired medications. We have a designated drop-off location at the Sparta Police Department where individuals



can return their unused medications, preventing them from being misused, abused, or improperly disposed of. The initiative helps reduce the risk of medication-related harm to individuals and the environment while promoting public health and safety. There were 487 pounds of unused prescriptions collected by the Sparta Police Department in 2024. The above prescriptions were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Agency for proper disposal.

RX Takeback		487 lbs
Quarter 1		108 lbs
Quarter 2		144 lbs
Quarter 3		128 lbs
Quarter 4		107 lbs

## Security Threat Evaluations School/Business

The Sparta Detective Bureau routinely conducts security threat evaluations at our local schools and businesses. These evaluations aim to assess potential security risks and vulnerabilities, ensuring the safety of students and employees. The bureau's proactive approach highlights their commitment to community safety and collaboration with local stakeholders to address security concerns effectively.

School/Business Security Threat Evaluations for 2024	
Northern Hills Academy	
Sussex County Food Pantry	
Sussex County Charter School	

## Juvenile Involvement

### School Resource Officers

The Sparta Police Department has and will continue to have a strong commitment to the youth within our community. We understand how important it is to have a positive impact on a child's life. We also understand that one single interaction, whether negative or positive, can influence a child's outlook on law enforcement. This is why our goals are structured around a positive engagement on every level. We are always striving to be innovative on what, as officers, we can put back into our community involving our youth.

Sparta Township has 23 schools within the township. These schools range from pre-k through High School and special need schools. The Sparta Township Police Department has an extraordinary relationship with all these schools and the students. We participate in many activities in the school from safety drills to participating in school activities, such as their annual field days.

### Schools within Sparta Township Schools

Sparta Township Schools	
Sparta High School	
Sparta Middle School	
Sparta Helen Morgan School	
Sparta Alpine School	
Sparta Mohawk Ave School	

Sparta Township Schools
Pope John High School
Pope John Middle School
Reverend Brown School
Sussex County Vocational High School
Sussex County Charter School
Veritas Christian Academy
Hilltop Country Day School
Broad Step Academy
Alpine Montessori
Oak Tree Pre-School
The Goddard School
Blessed Beginning's Preschool
Circle of Friends Preschool
Garden Grove Preschool
Little Genius Planet Preschool
Tiny Town Preschool
Kiddie Academy Child Learning Center
Northern Hills Academy

### Station House Adjustments (SHA)

Juvenile station house adjustments involve specific arrangements within the Sparta Police Department to address the unique needs and challenges associated with juvenile offenders. These adjustments include specialized training for officers dealing with juveniles, and collaboration with social services and youth support organizations. For the Sparta Police, such adjustments are vital for ensuring that juvenile offenders receive appropriate intervention, rehabilitation, and support services while also protecting their rights and fostering positive outcomes for their future. By tailoring station house arrangements to the needs of juvenile cases, we can effectively address youth crime and contribute to the overall well-being of the community.

### Common items for a Juvenile to complete for a Station House Adjustment Agreement

- Apology Letter
- Restitution
- Research Paper
- Community Service
- TAG
- No negative interaction with school or L for 6 months
- Obey all household rules

In 2024 there were **11** Station House Adjustments in Sparta Township, and **10** juveniles successfully completed the program.

With a successful result of fulfilling the terms of the Station House Adjustment Agreement, criminal charges were not filed against these 10 juveniles.

Juvenile Investigations	
SROs Handled cases	140

Most notable Investigation Types	46
Welfare Check	12
Bias	5
Assault	1
Shoplifting	1
Motor Vehicle Invest.	2
Threats	16
CDS/ Alcohol	1
Harassment	2
Suicidal	1
Sex Crime	4
Theft	2

Station House Adjustments	11
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Juvenile Complaints Via Court	0
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Curbside Warnings	0
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Marijuana/Alcohol Warnings	0
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### Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials (MOA)

In 1988, the New Jersey Departments of Law & Public Safety and Education issued a memorandum for use by local law enforcement and education officials. These agreements were signed in communities across the state and documented the commitment of both entities to work together as equal partners to address the State's alcohol and other drug problems as they relate to school-age children. Regulations promulgated by the State Board of Education and codified at *N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2(b)*13 through 14 establish uniform statewide policies and procedures for ensuring cooperation between education officials and law enforcement agencies; these policies and procedures are consistent with and complementary to the Uniform State

Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials (MOA) approved by the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Education.

The MOA has been designed to ensure cooperation between law enforcement and education officials and ultimately to protect the educational environment. Recent events in New Jersey and throughout the nation have made clear that while schools are generally safe places for students and staff members, a wide range of offenses are committed on school grounds.

Police and School Memorandum of Understanding
Sparta School District
Catholic Academy
Sussex County Technical School
Sussex County Charter School

## Social Media Presentation Summary

The Sparta Police Detective Bureau collaborates with School Resource Officers and school officials to deliver social media presentations to students and parents at our local schools. These presentations aim to educate juveniles and their parents about safe and responsible online behavior, including the potential dangers of social media. By leveraging the expertise of law enforcement, the initiative seeks to empower both students and parents with the knowledge they need to navigate the digital world effectively and mitigate risks associated with social media use and cyber bullying.

## Records Bureau

The Sparta Police record's bureau is responsible for maintaining and organizing records of criminal activities, arrests, and incidents within our jurisdiction. This includes processing requests for criminal background checks, providing information to law enforcement agencies, and



ensuring the accuracy and confidentiality of records. Additionally, they manage databases, analyze trends in criminal activity, and complete and send out documents related to discovery and open public records requests. In 2024 the records bureau processed 376 discovery requests, 85 OPRA requests, and 306 alarm permits for the township.

**Sparta Police Officers handled to a total of 36,344 incidents within our jurisdiction in 2024**

**Motor vehicle stops made up 9,077 of those incidents, which resulted in the officers distributing 3707 motor vehicle summonses.**

Below is a breakdown of all the different categorized areas that our staff was involved in for 2024. Also is an approximate timeframe as these calls were handled.

**The Hours column does not reflect the extended time that staff was committed to these specific areas.**

Incident Type	Count	Hours
911 Abandoned/Hang up	104	25.33
911 Misdial	90	12.14
911 Transfer	2	0.00
Administrative Detail	2850	1985.69
Ambulance/Medical	1152	688.84
Animal Bite	3	0.67
Animal Complaint	1197	156.83
Animal Complaint (Bear)	35	18.53
Assault	27	67.61
Background Investigation	16	18.02
Bias Incident	12	13.18
Burglar Alarm	605	102.30
Burglary	11	94.13
Burglary from MV	1	1.53
Car Seat Inspection	6	6.81



Incident Type	Count	Hours
DCCP Referral	3	0.24
CDS Incident	2	0.80
Child Abuse/Neglect	1	22.95
Child Custody Matter	59	44.32
Civil Matter	37	32.74
Community Engagement	9	32.34
Community Policing	46	110.97
Court Detail	23	60.54
Criminal Mischief	17	12.65
Death Attended	7	46.00
Death Unattended	6	44.15
Disorderly Conduct	11	18.62
Dispute	75	142.23
Dispute Domestic	82	565.35
Dispute Landlord/Tenant	4	3.49
Dispute Neighbor	35	20.50
Disturbance	25	44.27
Drowning/Possible	1	10.10
Dumping	18	6.48
DWI	52	534.22
Employee Injury	20	23.88
Equipment Maintenance	209	140.59
Erratic Driver	336	73.23
Escort	92	56.74
Fingerprint	27	9.43
Fire Alarm	291	82.45
Fire Response	176	225.90
Firearms Application	609	160.98
Firearms Violation	1	26.52
Fireworks	8	1.30
Found Property	73	42.25
Fraud	124	110.75
FRO Violation	1	0.50
General Complaint	19	10.86
Harassment	68	90.56

Incident Type	Count	Hours
Hazardous Condition	590	250.53
Juvenile Offense	91	106.76
Leave Request	227	18.61
Lewdness	1	3.90
Local Ordinance Violation	13	3.77
Lockout	40	16.11
Lost Property Report	35	14.68
Matter of Record	146	91.39
Megan's Law Registration	9	12.56
Mental Health	42	127.36
Missing Person	25	97.11
MV Disabled	401	195.27
MV Incident	114	2264.54
MV Parking Problem	111	25.53
MV (Taken w/o Owners Consent)	1	0.84
MV Accident	773	844.47
MV Accident w/ Injury	21	69.23
MV Accident (Late Report)	31	7.69
MV Stop	9077	1193.89
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	0.00
Mutual Aid	123	95.99
Noise Complaint	87	41.79
Notification	103	15.89
Parking Overnight	4	1.35
Personnel Complaint	10	14.73
Police Information	128	99.00
Prisoner Transport	4	39.17
Property Check	7181	883.57
Property Check Business	1935	325.79
Property Check Residential	1687	201.47
Property Check School	1338	373.73
Property Damage	49	22.65
Public Assist	311	166.12
Recovered Motor Vehicle	1	8.68
Repossession	11	0.02

Incident Type	Count	Hours
Robbery	1	95.39
Roll Call	735	2116.20
School Detail	30	29.70
School Lockdown	5	3.27
Sex Crime/Offense	9	20.73
Shoplifting	53	124.69
Stalking	1	0.97
Subpoena Service	3	0.35
Suicide/Attempted	8	16.63
Suspicious Condition	360	221.05
Suspicious Person	137	129.80
Suspicious Vehicle	274	82.11
Theft	80	144.29
Threats	52	119.23
Traffic Complaint	155	73.96
Traffic Control/Radar	421	283.80
Trespassing	35	83.47
TRO Request	19	107.15
TRO Service	52	49.58
TRO Violation	32	95.21
Unwanted Guest	13	43.85
Warrant Served (Local)	32	96.31
Warrant Served (Other Agency)	34	88.19
Welfare Check	394	260.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,334</b>	<b>17,921.25</b>

**Sparta Police officers totaled 251 arrests for the year. Patrolman Paul Wenzel led the department with a total of 32 arrests for the year.**

Arrests	
Adult	250
Juvenile	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>251</b>

Summons Issued	3,707
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Revenue	
Firearms	\$46,634.70
Discovery	\$551.35
Alarm Registration	\$7,800.00
Total	\$54,986.05

OPRA Requests	
Approved	79
Denied	6
Total	85

## Traffic Bureau



The Sparta Traffic Bureau is made up of traffic officers that are certified as Traffic Engineers, Crash Reconstructionist Officers, Traffic Safety Specialists, Crash Data Retrieval Technicians and Certifications in Roadway and Traffic Safety Improvements, to name a few. The Traffic Bureau is tasked with conducting traffic studies on the roadways in Sparta to make recommendations on speed and volumes of traffic. This specialized division is also responsible for the investigation of all major traffic crashes that include serious injury or fatalities. These Officers monitor and respond to all traffic complaints received from the Citizens of Sparta Township. The Traffic Bureau is also responsible for the management of fleet

vehicles. Along with ensuring the proper maintenance of all vehicles in the Police Department, the Traffic Bureau oversees, purchases and upfits all new Police Vehicles.

## Radar Speed box Sign Purchase

The Sparta Police Department purchased two radar speed box signs, which were acquired early in 2024 to enhance traffic safety and improve speed control in our town. The device's serve as a visible reminder to drivers of the speed limits, while also providing real-time feedback on their current speed.

The radar speed box sign has been strategically placed in various locations where speeding has been a concern. Since its installation, the signs have been effective in encouraging motorists to adjust their speed accordingly, which we hope will contribute to safer road conditions and reduce the likelihood of accidents.

Here are some key points regarding the sign's functionality:

- Real-time Speed Display
  - Displays the speed of approaching vehicles, alerting drivers who are exceeding the speed limit.
- Data Collection
  - The sign collects valuable data, which can be analyzed to understand traffic patterns and trends.
- Safety Impact
  - By providing visual feedback, the sign aims to reduce speeding in the area and promote overall safety.

We will continue to monitor its effectiveness and gather feedback to determine any further actions needed.

The signs were deployed in the following locations in 2024:

- West Mountain Road (200 Block)
- West Shore Trail near Rainbow Trail
- Prosper Place
- East Shore Trail near Wallkill Road
- East Mountain Road
- Andover Road
- Stanhope Road
- Sussex Mills Road

## Crosswalk Assessment and Evaluation

As part of our ongoing commitment to community safety, a thorough evaluation was conducted to identify and assess all crosswalks within the town. Each crosswalk was inspected to ensure it meets current safety standards and visibility requirements. After a detailed review, we worked directly with our municipal, county and state agencies to assist with any improvements needed. This proactive approach ensures that our infrastructure continues to serve the community effectively and efficiently. We will continue to inspect and work with our partners for any needed improvements.

### Why We Decided to Add Crosswalk Signage to North Village Boulevard

- In response to growing concerns about pedestrian safety and traffic flow along North Village Boulevard, we have decided to implement additional crosswalk signage. This area, frequented by both residents and visitors, has seen an increase in foot traffic, particularly near key destinations such as local shops, parks, and public spaces. With a rise in pedestrian activity, it became clear that clearer, more visible crosswalk markings and signage were needed to ensure both pedestrians and drivers can safely navigate the area.
- By adding these signs, we aim to raise awareness, improve visibility, and enhance overall safety for everyone using the road. This addition is part of our ongoing efforts to foster a more pedestrian-friendly environment while balancing the needs of vehicle traffic
- The following are all the crosswalks identified within Sparta Township. They are divided into Mid block crosswalks and Intersection crosswalks.

## Crosswalks

Mid-block	Intersections
Main St/Church	Main St/Town Center
Main St/By HQ	Main St/CR 620
Town Center/Stop n Shop	Station Rd/620
Town Center/Lakeland Bank	SH 181/Main St (Pooles Crnr)

Mid-block	Intersections
West Shore/LMCC	SH 181/Sparta Ave (Pooles Crnr)
West Mnt/Cassels Field	SH 181/Sparta Ave (Jughandle)
SH 181/Lewis Ln	SH 181/Pine Cone (NB edge)
CR 613/Kroghs	CR 517/SH 181 (Sparta Junction)
CR 613/St. Moritz	CR 517/Knoll Rd
CR 613/Winona Pkwy	CR 517/Station Rd
CR 613/Beach 2 (Bridle Path)	CR 517/CR 620
CR 613/Beach 3 (Marina Bridal Path)	SH 15/Wilson Dr/White Lake Rd
CR 613/Beach 4 (Bridal Path)	CR 613/Seminary
CR 613/Beach 5 (Bridal Path)	Columbus/Sunset Tr
CR 517/Pope John	North Village/Cypress
	North Village/Prosper
	North Village/Trafalgar

## Pedestrian Safety Campaign

- On Sunday, October 13, 2024, Cpl. Mastandrea, Cpl. Grauerholz, and PO Wenzel conducted a Pedestrian Safety Enforcement campaign on West Shore Trail near the Lake Mohawk Country Club and the LMCC parking lot. The operation lasted for approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes. This location was selected because it provided clear visibility for drivers and ensured the safety of the officers involved in the detail.
- Given the 25-mph speed limit on the roadway, the officers calculated a safe stopping distance of 162 feet, based on the formula for stopping a vehicle when it is traveling at 10 mph over the posted limit and allowing for a 2-second reaction time. This calculation ensured that drivers would have ample time to see a pedestrian and come to a complete stop well before reaching the crosswalk.
- The focus of the operation was on eastbound traffic approaching the White Deer Plaza area along West Shore Trail. A traffic cone was positioned 162 feet west of the crosswalk to mark the stopping distance. Cpl. Mastandrea served as the decoy officer in plain clothes, while Cpl. Grauerholz acted as the spotter, also in plain clothes. PO Wenzel, in uniform and using a marked patrol car, was stationed in the circle parking area near the LMCC. Cpl. Grauerholz and PO Wenzel communicated via radio on police channel 2.
- During the enforcement, one vehicle stop was made, resulting in a warning. This approach emphasizes education alongside enforcement, as the goal is to raise awareness and encourage safer driving behavior.



- One challenge observed during the campaign was the high number of pedestrians who ignored sidewalks and crosswalks, choosing instead to cross the street at random points. This disregard for pedestrian laws, particularly in this location, was discussed during the debrief and will be a key consideration in future campaigns along West Shore Trail.
- Our Department will continue to have these campaigns throughout 2025.

## Crash Study Results

### PHASE I

As an agency we recognize the importance of being in a safe environment. The Sparta Police Department understands the right for everyone to feel safe in their home, in public, and while traveling on the roadways. Recently, I have been made aware of public concern specifically about motor vehicle crashes in Sparta Township. Taking these concerns seriously, we took the opportunity to research our motor vehicle crash statistics for several reasons.

The first phase of this study was to evaluate our motor vehicle crash reports and pinpoint where motor vehicle crashes have occurred in our township. The report shows how many crashes in total occurred year by year, how many crashes occurred at specific intersections, and how many crashes occurred on specific roadways. The results from the study are based upon our departmental motor vehicle crash reports from January 1, 2021, to June 15, 2024. Every motor vehicle crash reported to our department is accounted for in this report.

Why did we do this study?

- We understand public is concerned about roadway safety
- To see where can focus on as a department
  - Public awareness
  - Enforcement efforts
- To pinpoint areas that may need improvement
  - Roadway conditions
  - Signage
  - Sightline views
  - Anything else
- Work with appropriate agencies to assist with improvement
  - Sparta DPW
  - County
  - State

What's next?

In the second phase of this study, we will be examining our departmental motor vehicle crash reports (from the same time frame) for the cause or causes of each motor vehicle crash. One motor vehicle crash can have one or several factors as to why the crash had occurred. Evaluating this data will be a timely process, but I will ensure that it is completed accurately and made available for all our stakeholders to review.

**1/1/21 - 06/15/2024 SPARTA TOWNSHIP CRASH STUDY  
BREAKDOWN BY LOCATION OF COLLISIONS  
STATE / COUNTY / MUNICIPAL / PRIVATE ROADWAY COLLISIONS MVA'S**

Street Name	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
ABIGAIL WAY	0	0	0	1	1
ALPINE TRAIL	2	1	1	1	5
ANDOVER ROAD (CR-517)	17	16	9	12	54
ARAPAHO TRAIL	2	2	0	0	4
BALSAM PARKWAY	0	0	1	0	1
BLUE HERON ROAD	4	1	1	1	7
BRANDY RIDGE ROAD	0	1	0	0	1
BROOKFIELD DRIVE	0	1	0	0	1
BURNBRAE LANE	0	0	1	0	1
BYRON PLACE	1	0	0	0	1
CANTERBURY DRIVE	0	0	1	0	1
CARRIAGE HOUSE ROAD	0	1	0	0	1
CASTLEWOOD TRAIL	0	0	0	1	1
CEDAR CREST DRIVE	1	0	0	0	1
CENTRE STREET	13	5	7	1	26
CHEROKEE COURT	2	0	0	0	2
CHRISTY LANE	0	0	1	0	1
CONESTOGA TRAIL	0	2	2	0	4
CRESTWOOD TRAIL	1	0	0	0	1
CROWNVIEW COURT	1	0	0	0	1
CYPRESS LANE	0	2	1	0	1
DANDELION ROAD	0	0	1	0	1
DAVIS ROAD	0	0	2	0	2
DEIRE DRIVE	0	1	0	0	1
DEMAREST ROAD	0	5	1	2	8
DOE RUN	1	0	1	0	2
DOGWOOD TERRACE	0	1	0	0	1
DOUGLAS DRIVE	0	0	1	0	1
EAST MOUNTAIN ROAD	5	3	3	3	14

Street Name	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
EAST SHORE TRAIL (CR-613)	8	16	11	9	44
EDISON ROAD	0	3	1	1	5
EVERGREEN PLACE	0	0	1	0	1
FARMBROOK ROAD	0	1	0	0	1
FOX RIDGE ROAD	0	0	0	1	1
GLENSIDE TRAIL	0	0	3	0	3
GLEN LAKE ROAD	0	1	0	0	1
GLEN ROAD (CR-620)	18	31	27	10	86
GRANDVIEW TERRACE	1	0	0	0	1
GREEN APPLE ROAD	0	0	2	0	2
GREENFIELD HILL	0	0	1	0	1
GREEN ROAD	7	8	4	0	19
HAWTHORNE LAKE ROAD	1	0	0	0	1
HEIGHWOOD TRAIL	1	0	0	1	2
HICKORY TREE LANE	1	0	0	0	1
HIDEAWAY LANE	1	0	0	0	1
HILLSIDE ROAD	0	1	0	0	1
HILLTOP TRAIL	2	2	2	0	6
HOPKINS CORNER ROAD	1	1	2	0	4
HOUSES CORNER ROAD	0	8	7	1	16
HOUSES CORNER ROAD (CR-669)	8	2	4	4	18
HUNTERS LANE	0	1	0	0	1
HYDE PARK PLACE	0	1	0	0	1
ISLAND TRAIL	0	1	2	0	3
KNOLL ROAD	0	1	0	0	1
KROGHS LANE	1	0	1	0	2
LAFAYETTE ROAD (STATE ROUTE 15)	79	89	106	41	315
LAFAYETTE ROAD (STATE ROUTE 181)	14	7	15	5	41
LAKE TERRACE	0	0	1	0	1
LAKEVIEW ROAD	1	0	0	0	1
LAMBERT DRIVE	0	0	1	0	1
LAUREL TERRACE	1	0	0	0	1

Street Name	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
LAYTON LANE	1	1	0	0	2
LONGVIEW ROAD	1	1	0	0	2
MAIN STREET (CR-517)	16	17	15	8	56
MAIN STREET (CR-620)	2	2	6	3	13
MAIN STREET - TOWNSHIP PORTION	6	13	8	3	30
MANOR SQUARE	0	1	0	0	1
MAPLE TREE LANE	1	0	0	0	1
MARA BOULEVARD	0	0	1	1	2
MARKET STREET	0	0	1	0	1
MILDRED DRIVE	0	1	0	0	1
MILTON ROAD	0	1	2	0	3
MOHAWK AVENUE	1	1	1	1	4
MORRIS LAKE ROAD	0	1	0	0	1
MOUNTAIN SPRING DRIVE	0	0	1	0	1
NATALE DRIVE	0	0	1	0	1
NEALLEY DRIVE	0	0	1	0	1
NORTH CHURCH ROAD (SR-94)	18	16	25	10	69
NORTH ORCHARD TERRACE	0	0	1	0	1
NORTH VILLAGE BOULEVARD	8	6	3	1	18
NORTH VILLAGE BOULEVARD PARKING LOTS	14	17	19	17	67
OLD PROSPECT SCHOOL ROAD	0	2	5	1	8
PARK LAKE ROAD	0	0	1	1	2
PARK ROAD	1	0	2	0	3
PARTRIDGE LANE	0	0	1	0	1
PERONA ROAD	1	0	0	0	1
PINE CONE LANE	0	1	3	1	5
PINKNEYVILLE ROAD	1	0	1	0	2
POPLAR TREE LANE	0	1	0	0	1
PRICES LANE	1	0	0	1	2
PROFESSIONAL QUADRANGLE	0	0	0	1	1
PROSPER PLACE	1	0	1	2	4
QUARTERS HORSE CROSSING	0	1	0	0	1

Street Name	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
RADCLIFFE DRIVE	0	1	0	0	1
RANDAZZO ROAD	0	1	0	0	1
RICHMOND HILL DRIVE	0	1	0	0	1
RIDGE ROAD	1	0	0	0	1
ROCK VIEW DRIVE	0	0	1	0	1
ROGERS LANE	0	0	1	0	1
ROSE LANE	0	1	1	0	2
ROUTE 15 - JEFFERSON TOWN LINE TO THE END OF THE HIGHWAY	62	77	56	23	218
SADDLEBACK COURT	0	1	0	0	1
SAWMILL ROAD	3	3	3	3	12
SCUDDERS ROAD	0	0	1	0	1
SENECA LAKE ROAD	0	1	1	0	2
SHADY LANE	0	0	0	1	1
SHARON DRIVE	0	0	1	0	1
SHAWNEE TRAIL	0	0	1	0	1
SIGNAL HILL TRAIL	0	0	2	0	2
SKYLINE DRIVE	1	0	1	0	2
SKYVIEW DRIVE	0	1	1	0	2
SLEEPY HOLLOW ROAD	0	0	0	1	1
SOUTH SHORE TRAIL	1	0	0	1	2
SPARTA AVENUE (SR-181)	14	16	18	5	53
SPARTA AVENUE (CR-517)	38	24	33	23	118
SPARTA AVENUE (CR-616)	20	17	20	11	68
SPARTA JUNCTION (CR-517)	13	23	16	11	63
SPEAR TERRACE	0	0	1	0	1
SPRINGBROOK TRAIL	1	1	1	0	3
STANHOPE ROAD (CR-605)	17	19	20	8	64
STATION ROAD	4	5	3	2	14
STERLING HILL ROAD	0	1	2	1	4
SUMMIT ROAD	1	0	0	0	1
SUMMIT TRAIL	0	2	1	0	3
SUSSEX MILLS ROAD	2	3	3	1	9

Street Name	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
TOMAHAWK TRAIL	2	2	0	0	4
TOWN CENTER DRIVE	14	14	6	12	46
TRAFALGAR COURT	0	4	0	1	5
TRAPASSO DRIVE	0	1	1	0	2
TRIPLE CROWN DRIVE	0	1	0	0	1
UNDER ROCK ROAD	0	0	1	0	1
VALLEY VIEW TRAIL	2	2	0	1	5
WARREN COURT	0	0	1	0	1
WEST CHERRY TREE LANE	0	0	1	0	1
WEST MOUNTAIN ROAD	13	17	13	10	53
WEST SHORE TRAIL	10	12	9	2	33
WEST WINDY BUSH	0	1	0	0	1
WESTGATE DRIVE	1	1	5	1	8
WHITE DEER PLAZA (CR-613)	9	9	6	1	25
WHITE LAKE ROAD	11	14	14	6	45
WILDCAT ROAD	0	0	1	1	2
WILSON DRIVE	1	0	0	1	2
WINDEMERE WAY	0	0	1	0	1
WINONA PARKWAY	2	2	0	1	5
WOODBINE TERRACE	1	0	0	0	1
WOODPORT ROAD (SR-181)	36	51	34	11	132
70 WEST MOUNTAIN ROAD - SPARTA HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT	12	22	8	9	51
105 NORTH CHURCH ROAD - SUSSEX COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL PARKING LOT	3	5	2	4	14
ANDOVER ROAD / WESTGATE DRIVE	1	0	0	0	1
GLEN ROAD (CR-620) / EAST MOUNTAIN ROAD	2	2	1	0	5
HOUSES CORNER ROAD (CR-669) / DEMAREST ROAD	1	1	0	0	2
HOUSES CORNER ROAD / WEST MOUNTAIN ROAD	1	0	0	0	1
HUNTERS LANE / CONESTOGA TRAIL	0	1	0	0	1
LAFAYETTE ROAD (SR-15) / BROOKFIELD DRIVE	2	2	0	1	5
LAFAYETTE ROAD (SR-15) / DEMAREST ROAD	2	0	2	0	4
LAFAYETTE ROAD (SR-15) / FATHER JOHNS LANE	1	1	1	1	4

Street Name	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
LAFAYETTE ROAD (SR-15) / HOUSES CORNER ROAD	4	2	5	0	11
LAFAYETTE ROAD (SR-15) / LAFAYETTE ROAD (SR-181)	5	1	1	0	7
LAFAYETTE ROAD (SR-15) / LAYTON LANE	0	1	1	0	2
LAFAYETTE ROAD (SR-15) / NORTH VILLAGE BLVD.	4	9	8	2	23
LAFAYETTE ROAD (SR-15) / PRIMROSE LANE	1	2	0	1	4
LAFAYETTE ROAD (SR-15) / WHITE LAKE ROAD	2	1	0	2	5
LAFAYETTE ROAD (SR-181) / SPARTA JUNCTION (CR-517)	9	3	6	1	19
MAIN STREET / TOWN CENTER DRIVE	4	5	4	1	14
MAIN STREET (CR-517) / STATION ROAD	0	2	0	0	2
MAIN STREET / STATION ROAD	0	3	0	0	3
MAIN STREET / GLEN ROAD (CR-620)	0	0	1	2	3
MAIN STREET (CR-517) / WEST MOUNTAIN ROAD	4	8	1	1	14
NORTH CHURCH ROAD (SR-94) / HOPKINS CORNER ROAD	1	1	0	0	2
NORTH CHURCH ROAD (SR-94) / OLD PROSPECT SCHOOL ROAD	2	5	2	1	10
NORTH CHURCH ROAD (SR-94) / SADDLE RIDGE ROAD	0	5	0	0	5
NORTH CHURCH ROAD (SR-94) / WEST MOUNTAIN ROAD	1	1	1	1	4
NORTH CHURCH ROAD (SR-94) / WHITE LAKE ROAD	4	2	1	4	11
PROSPER PLACE / NORTH VILLAGE BOULEVARD	1	0	0	0	1
SAWMILL ROAD / GREEN ROAD	3	0	0	0	3
SPARTA AVENUE (SR-181) / MAIN STREET - POOLES CORNER	4	2	3	1	10
SPARTA AVENUE (CR-616) / ANDOVER ROAD (CR-517)	1	3	1	0	5
SPARTA AVENUE (CR-616) / PINKNEYVILLE ROAD	2	4	2	0	8
SPARTA AVENUE (CR-616) / SUSSEX MILLS ROAD	4	1	3	2	10
SPARTA JUNCTION (CR-517) / TOWN CENTER DRIVE	2	3	1	1	7
WOODPORT ROAD (SR-181) / BLUE HERON ROAD	3	3	3	1	10
WOODPORT ROAD (SR-181) / EAST MOUNTAIN ROAD	4	1	2	2	9
WOODPORT ROAD (SR-181) / WINONA PARKWAY	2	5	3	2	12
<b>TOTAL ACCIDENTS</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>2366</b>



Sparta Township Motor Vehicle Crash Report (January 1, 2021, to June 15, 2024)

**2366** Total Motor Vehicle Crashes Occurred during this timeframe

Each year the most crashes occurred on the Lafayette Road section of State Route 15 (A total of 315 or 13.31% of crashes occurred here)

**2021** 79 out of the total 640 or 12.34% of the crashes occurred on the Lafayette Road Section of State Route 15)

**2022** 89 out of the total 735 or 12.10% of the crashes occurred on the Lafayette Road Section of State Route 15)

**2023** 106 out of the total 668 or 15.86% of the crashes occurred on the Lafayette Road Section of State Route 15)

**2024** (January 1, 2024- June 15, 2024)—41 out of the total 325 or 12.61% of the crashes occurred on the Lafayette Road Section of State Route 15)

- Most crashes occurred on Friday during this timeframe.
  - 427 Crashes or 18.04% occurred on a Friday
- Most crashes occurred between 3:00pm and 4:00pm during the studied timeframe
  - 239 Crashes or 10.10% Occurred between 3pm and 4pm

**Intersection Crashes**

**2021** The intersection of Sparta Junction (County Route 517) and Sparta Avenue (State Route 181/Lafayette Road) had the most crashes with a total of 9

**2022** The intersection of Lafayette Road (State Route 15) and North Village Boulevard had the most crashes with a total of 9

**2023** The intersection of Lafayette Road (State Route 15) and North Village Boulevard had the most crashes with a total of 8

**2024** (January 1, 2024- June 15, 2024)—North Church Road (State Route 94) and White Lake Road had the most crashes with a total of 4

## PHASE II

For this portion of the study, our department extracted data for the NJTR-1 Crash Reports to provide an analysis in the areas of

- Cause of the crash
- Location of the crash
- Date of the crash
- Age of the operator
- Road Condition
- Crash Type
- Number of passengers in the vehicle

The difference in the two studies:

### **Phase I**

Accounts for our officer's response to every reported motor vehicle crash during the study period.

### **Phase II**

Accounts for what was an actual reported motor vehicle crash through an NJTR-1 report.

The overall difference in numbers for the two phases of this study is that in Phase I you will see a total of 2366 motor vehicle crashes that were reported and investigated by our department. In Phase II you will see a total of 2150 crashes that are listed and reported through an NJTR-1 Crash Report. There are several reasons for this difference.

There are times our officers respond to a call where someone has reported a motor vehicle crash, and upon officer arrival, all parties have left the scene. While there is a follow-up investigation from our officers, oftentimes the individuals involved have decided not to make a report because of minor or no damage to their vehicles, or there simply was no motor vehicle crash as reported.

- There are times when officers respond to a call for a motor vehicle crash, and upon officer arrival, it was discovered the crash occurred out of our jurisdiction. As we border many municipalities, this happens often. Our officers will assist with the crash, but the report is completed by the jurisdiction where it occurred.
- There are times when individuals report a motor vehicle crash to our department that have occurred in the past. In these cases, parties are informed of the right to fill out a "late accident report form" to submit to their insurance company.

- There are times when our officers respond to a reported motor vehicle crash, and upon officer arrival and through investigation, it would be considered a motor vehicle incident rather than a reportable motor vehicle crash. The difference between the two is damage to property. If there is damage, it is reported as a motor vehicle crash. If there is no damage, it is reported as a motor vehicle incident.

Additionally, in Phase II of the study, we accounted for the exact location of the crash. Many crashes happen on private property as opposed to a public roadway. All crashes that occurred on private property are listed in the study as the exact location rather than just the road name of the location as it was in Phase I of the study.

Street Name	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
ABIGAIL WAY				1	1
ALPINE TRAIL	1		1	1	3
ANDOVER ROAD (CR-517)	11	9	6	4	30
ARAPAHO TRAIL	1				1
BALSAM PARKWAY			1		1
BLUE HERON ROAD	1	2	1	1	5
BURNBRAE LANE			1		1
BYRON PLACE	1				1
CANTERBURY DRIVE			1		1
CENTRE STREET	2				2
CHEROKEE COURT	1				1
CHRISTY LANE			1		1
CONESTOGA TRAIL		2	1		3
CROWNVIEW COURT	1				1
CYPRESS LANE		2			2
DAVIS ROAD			2		2
DEIRE DRIVE		1			1
DEMAREST ROAD		2	1	1	4
DOUGLAS DRIVE			1		1
EAST MOUNTAIN ROAD	5	3	3	2	13
EAST SHORE TRAIL (CR-613)	9	15	12	9	45

Street Name	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
EDISON ROAD		2	2	1	5
FARMBROOK ROAD		1			1
GLEN ROAD (CR-620)	17	22	22	10	71
GLENSIDE TRAIL			2		2
GREEN APPLE ROAD			1		1
GREEN ROAD	7	2	2		11
HEIGHWOOD TRAIL	1			1	2
HICKORY TREE LANE	1				1
HIDEAWAY LANE	1				1
HILLTOP TRAIL	2	1	1		4
HOPKINS CORNER ROAD	1	2	2		5
HOUSES CORNER ROAD	6	2	7	1	16
HOUSES CORNER ROAD (CR-669)	4	5	3	2	14
HUNTERS LANE		1			1
ISLAND TRAIL		1	1		2
KNOLL ROAD		1			1
KROGHS LANE			1		1
LAFAYETTE ROAD (SR-181) / SPARTA JUNCTION (CR-517)	1				1
LAFAYETTE ROAD (STATE ROUTE 15)	85	91	112	39	327
LAFAYETTE ROAD (STATE ROUTE 181)	6	12	12	6	36
LAKE TERRACE			1		1
LAKEVIEW ROAD	1				1
LAUREL TERRACE	1				1
LAYTON LANE		1			1
LINCOLN DRIVE		1			1
LONGVIEW ROAD	1	1			2
MAIN STREET - TOWNSHIP PORTION	3	11	10	2	26
MAIN STREET (CR-517)	17	18	19	8	62
MAIN STREET (CR-620)	1	2	3	1	7

Street Name	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
MANOR SQUARE		1			1
MARA BOULEVARD			1	1	2
MARKET STREET			1		1
MILTON ROAD		1	3		4
MOHAWK AVENUE (CR-613)			1		1
MORGAN DRIVE	1				1
MORRIS LAKE ROAD		1			1
NEALLEY DRIVE			1		1
NORTH CHURCH ROAD (SR-94)	24	28	26	16	94
NORTH ORCHARD TERRACE			1		1
NORTH SHORE TRAIL		1			1
NORTH VILLAGE BOULEVARD	2	2	3	1	8
OLD PROSPECT SCHOOL ROAD			3	1	4
PARK ROAD	2	1	2		5
PARTRIDGE LANE		1	1		2
PINE CONE LANE			2	1	3
PINKNEYVILLE ROAD			1		1
POPLAR TREE LANE		1			1
PRIVATE PROPERTY	112	142	104	78	436
PROFESSIONAL QUADRANGLE				1	1
PROSPER PLACE	2			1	3
QUARTERS HORSE CROSSING		1			1
RADCLIFFE DRIVE		1			1
RANDAZZO ROAD		2			2
RICHMOND HILL DRIVE		1			1
ROSE LANE		1			1
SAWMILL ROAD	3	1	2	2	8
SCUDDERS ROAD			1		1
SENECA LAKE ROAD		1	2		3

Street Name	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
SHADY LANE				1	1
SHARON DRIVE			1		1
SHAWNEE TRAIL			1		1
SIGNAL HILL TRAIL			1		1
SKYLINE DRIVE	1				1
SKYVIEW DRIVE			1		1
SLEEPY HOLLOW ROAD				1	1
SOUTH SHORE TRAIL	1	1			2
SPARTA AVENUE (CR-517)	34	17	20	17	88
SPARTA AVENUE (CR-616)	16	10	18	10	54
SPARTA AVENUE (SR-181)	22	18	18	7	65
SPARTA JUNCTION (CR-517)	8	22	13	12	55
SPEAR TERRACE			1		1
SPRING STREET		1			1
SPRINGBROOK TRAIL	1	1	1		3
STANHOPE ROAD (CR-605)	15	13	19	7	54
STATE ROUTE 15	60	72	54	29	215
STATION ROAD	1	1		1	3
STERLING HILL ROAD			2	1	3
SUMMIT ROAD	1	3			4
SUSSEX MILLS ROAD	3	4	3	1	11
TOMAHAWK TRAIL	2	2			4
TOWN CENTER DRIVE	6	4	1	3	14
TRAFALGAR COURT		1		1	2
TRAPASSO DRIVE			1		1
TRIPLE CROWN DRIVE		1			1
VALLEY VIEW TRAIL		1		1	2
WEST CHERRY TREE LANE			1		1
WEST MOUNTAIN ROAD	12	17	14	11	54

Street Name	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
WEST SHORE TRAIL	8	4	9	1	22
WESTGATE DRIVE	1		4	1	6
WHITE LAKE ROAD	10	12	11	6	39
WILDCAT ROAD			1		1
WILSON DRIVE	1			1	2
WINDEMERE WAY			1		1
WINONA PARKWAY	1	1		1	3
WOODBINE TERRACE	1				1
WOODPORT ROAD (SR-181)	32	43	30	9	114
WOODY LANE		1			1
Total	572	650	614	314	2150

### Sparta Township Motor Vehicle Crash Report

January 1, 2021, to June 15, 2024

2150 Total Motor Vehicle Crashes Occurred during this timeframe

### Top 10 Causes of Crashes

CAUSE	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total & (%)
Following Too Closely	137	129	134	65	465 (24.58%)
Animals in Roadway	98	94	117	37	346 (18.29%)
Fail to Yield Right of Way	65	90	70	38	263 (13.90%)
Backing Unsafely	69	72	60	39	240 (12.68%)
Unsafe Speed	43	64	32	21	160 (08.46%)
Driver Inattention	24	39	62	25	150 (07.93%)
Failure to Keep Right	20	37	29	12	98 (05.18%)
Improper Parking	18	16	15	17	66 (03.49%)
Improper Turning	24	16	11	11	62 (03.28%)
Unknown	10	9	13	10	42 (02.22%)
Total	508	566	543	275	1892 (100.00%)

### All Causes of Crashes

Cause	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Following Too Closely	137	129	134	65	465
Animals in Roadway	98	94	117	37	346



Cause	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Fail to Yield Right of Way	65	90	70	38	263
Backing Unsafely	69	72	60	39	240
Unsafe Speed	43	64	32	21	160
Driver Inattention	24	39	62	25	150
Failure to Keep Right	20	37	29	12	98
Improper Parking	18	16	15	17	66
Improper Turning	24	16	11	11	62
Unknown	10	9	13	10	42
Improper Lane Change	9	15	11	5	40
Improper Passing	8	12	10	4	34
Obstruction Debris in Roadway	6	11	6	4	27
Failed to Obey Traffic Signal	9	1	7	4	21
Failed to Obey Stop Sign	5	6	5	5	21
Road Surface Condition	2	6	3	9	20
Other Vehicle Factors	6	10	1	2	19
Other Drive/ Pedalcyclist Action	4	2	3	1	10
Brakes	2	6	1		9
Hit & Run		3	4	1	8
Sunglare	2	2	3		7
Other Distraction Inside Vehicle			4	1	5
Separated Load/ Spill	1	2			3
Traffic Congestion		1	2		3
Other Pedestrian Factors	1	2			3
Other			3		3
Distracted- Hand Held Electronic Dev		1		2	3
Ruts, Holes, Bumps	2				2
Tires			2		2
Failed to use Turn Signal	1	1			2
Distracted by Passenger		1		1	2
Other Roadway Factors		1	1		2
Unknown (Medical)			1		1
(blank)			1		1

Cause	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Vehicle Coupling/Hitch/Safety Chains			1		1
Medical	1				1
Defective Lights	1				1
Steering			1		1
Distracted	1				1
Other Driver	1				1
Wrong Way		1			1
Mirrors			1		1
Other Medical Emergency	1				1
Parked Vehicle	1				1
<b>Total</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>2150</b>

### Top 10 Crashes by Roadway

Roadways	Total
PRIVATE PROPERTY	436
LAFAYETTE ROAD (STATE ROUTE 15)	327
STATE ROUTE 15	215
WOODPORT ROAD (SR-181)	114
NORTH CHURCH ROAD (SR-94)	94
SPARTA AVENUE (CR-517)	88
GLEN ROAD (CR-620)	71
SPARTA AVENUE (SR-181)	65
MAIN STREET (CR-517)	62
SPARTA JUNCTION (CR-517)	55
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1527</b>

### Days Crashes Occurred

Day of Week	Total
Tuesday	366
Thursday	365
Friday	353
Wednesday	348
Monday	296

Day of Week	Total
Saturday	227
Sunday	195
Grand Total	2150

### Age of Vehicle Operator

Each year most crashes occurred by operators between the age of 25-34 (335 of the 2150 or 15.58%)

### Road Conditions

Each year most crashes occurred on a 'Dry' road condition (1743 of the 2150 or 81.07%)

### Crash Type

Crash Type	Total
Same Direction Rear End	550
Animal	324
Fixed Object	222
Right Angle	180
Struck Parked Vehicle	159
Grand Total	1435

### Number of passengers in the vehicle

- Crashes that occurred with no passengers (1708 of the 2150 or 79.44%)
- Crashes that occurred with a single passengers (318 of the 2150 or 14.79%)
- Crashes that occurred with 2 or more passengers (124 of the 2150 or 5.77%)

### Crash Data Related to DWI Arrests

This study includes data on crashes that resulted in DWI arrests; however, it is important to note that a DWI arrest does not necessarily indicate the DWI caused the crash. The data breakdown is as follows:

Year	Count
2021	9
2022	15
2023	16
2024 (up to 6/15/24)	9

## 2024 Speed Studies Annual Report

Location	Time Period	# of Vehicles	Speed Limit	Average Speed	Highest Speed	Lowest Speed	Enforcement Rating
Green Road	02/28/24 – 03/05/24	4,298	30	31	50	8	Low
West Shore Trail	03/07/24 – 03/16/24	6,747	25	27	46	7	Low
Andover Road	03/29/24 – 04/05/24	35,003	40	37	78	8	Low
Main Street	04/25/24 – 05/01/24	71,094	30	32	62	7	Low
Sparta Ave	06/05/24 – 06/14/24	170,188	45	42	73	8	Low
Sawmill Road	06/20/24 – 06/27/24	13,615	35	38	70	8	Low
Edison Road	07/05/24 – 07/13/24	8,648	25	32	58	7	Low
North Church Road	08/15/24 – 08/23/24	72,749	45	44	75	8	Low
West Mountain Rd	10/22/24 – 10/31/24	23,022	30	40	80	8	High
North Church Road	12/05/24 – 12/13/24	73,394	45	42	70	8	Low
Stanhope Road	12/19/24 – 12/28/24	49,802	35	34	72	7	Low

## Speed Box Results

Location	Date	# of Days	Speed Limit	# of Vehicles	Average Speed	Highest Speed
Prosper Place	09/24/24	7	25	6275	20	41
West Mountain Road	10/01/24	7	30	7364	37	77
West Shore Trail	10/15/24	7	25	8968	24	60
East Shore Trail	10/16/24	7	30	2128	26	44
East Mountain Road	10/29/24	6	40	10247	40	95
Andover Road	10/30/24	7	40	17662	34	95
Stanhope Road	11/27/24	7	35	18759	29	86
Sussex Mills Road	11/26/24	7	35	6348	36	86

## Reporting

Traffic Complaints- The majority of traffic complaints are related to speeding, while the remaining concerns include issues such as parking violations, stop sign violations, overweight vehicles, and noisy mufflers.

	Count
Traffic complaints received	121
Traffic crash reports reviewed	792
Directed traffic enforcement	421
Vacant property checks entered	18

## Vehicle Report

### Fuel Breakdown

Quarter	Transactions	Gallons
Qtr 1	812 transactions	7591.94
Qtr 2	949 transactions	10,294.91
Qtr 3	1020 transactions	11,211.73
Qtr 4	976 transactions	10,578.40
Total	3757 transactions	39,676.98

### Fuel Usage Breakdown

To explain the fuel usage for the Sparta Township Police Department, we need to break down the various vehicles in use and their possible fuel consumption. Given the diversity of vehicles and their functions, the total fuel consumption will depend on several factors, such as distance traveled, fuel efficiency, and operational time.

### Breakdown of Daily Fuel Usage

- Patrol Vehicles (6 vehicles)
  - These vehicles run 24 hours a day. Assuming each patrol vehicle runs in shifts, and they are always active during their assigned hours.
  - Each patrol vehicle uses approximately 10.5 gallons per day.
  - Total: 63 gallons per day for all 6 vehicles.
  - Patrol vehicles average approximately 200 miles per day
- Extra Line Patrol Vehicles (2 vehicles)
  - These vehicles are used on an as-needed basis for backup patrol or special operations.
  - Each extra vehicle uses approximately 1.5 gallons per day.

- Total: 3 gallons per day for both vehicles.
- Detective Take-Home Vehicles (3 vehicles)
  - Each detective vehicle uses approximately 1.5 gallons per day.
  - Total: 4.5 gallons per day for all 3 vehicles.
- Administration Take-Home Vehicles (3 vehicles)
  - Each administration vehicle uses approximately 5 gallons per day.
  - Total: 15 gallons per day for all 3 vehicles.
- Special Detail Vehicles (2 vehicles)
  - These vehicles are likely used for specific assignments like events, crowd control, or emergencies.
  - Each special detail vehicle uses approximately 1.5 gallons per day.
  - Total: 3 gallons per day for both vehicles.
- Pickup Truck (1 vehicle)
  - This vehicle is used for hauling trailers and emergency equipment, likely driving 50 miles per day.
  - The pickup truck uses approximately 3.33 gallons per day.
- All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV, 1 vehicle)
  - The ATV is used for emergency extractions in wooded areas, so we'll estimate it is used for 10 miles per day in rugged terrain, which could be more fuel-consuming.
  - The ATV uses approximately 1.25 gallons per day.
- Boat (1 vehicle)
  - The boat uses approximately 2 gallons per day.

### **Total Daily Fuel Usage**

Summing up the approximate daily fuel usage for all vehicles:

**$63 + 3 + 4.5 + 15 + 3 + 3.33 + 1.25 + 2 = 95.08$  gallons per day**

### **Estimated Annual Fuel Usage**

Multiplying the approximate total daily fuel usage by 365 days gives an estimated annual fuel usage:

**$95.08 \text{ gallons/day} \times 365 \text{ days} = 34,694.2$  gallons per year**

However, the actual annual fuel usage was 39,676.98 gallons, which is higher than the estimated 34,694.2 gallons.

### **Possible Reasons for the discrepancy**

1. Increased Operational Demands: The department may have faced periods of higher activity than expected. This could include longer shifts, more patrol time, or increased emergency response needs.

2. **Fuel Efficiency Changes:** The vehicles may have used more fuel than anticipated due to factors like older vehicles, inefficient fuel usage, or changes in driving conditions (e.g., stop-and-go traffic, rough roads).
3. **More Frequent Use of Vehicles:** The department might have used more vehicles for longer periods than originally estimated, including increased usage of extra vehicles for special operations or events.
4. **Weather or Special Events:** Weather conditions, such as snowstorms or flooding, may have required additional vehicle use or longer hours for patrols and emergency responses. Special events or training exercises could also have increased fuel consumption.
5. **Route Optimization and Deployment Changes:** While routes may have been optimized to reduce fuel usage, the actual deployment or shifts of officers may have led to more vehicle use, contributing to higher-than-expected fuel consumption.

### **Conclusion**

While the estimated annual fuel usage was 34,694.2 gallons, the actual fuel usage was 39,676.98 gallons, suggesting that the department used more fuel than anticipated. This could have been due to increased operational demands, higher-than-expected vehicle usage, or changes in the efficiency of the fleet. The difference highlights the importance of regularly assessing actual fuel consumption for better forecasting and budget planning in the future.

### **Maintenance of Vehicle Fleet**

Quarter	Transactions
Qtr 1	36
Qtr2	50
Qtr3	37
Qtr4	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>

Quarter	Transactions
Non warranty	56
Regular Maintenance	92
Warranty	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>

Vehicles	
4100	4119 Explorer 2020



Vehicles	
4101 Patrol Tahoe 2023	4120 Traffic Tahoe 2023
4102 Patrol Tahoe 2023	4122 Patrol Ford Pickup 2018
4103 Patrol Tahoe 2024	4123 Admin Durango 2020
4104 Patrol Tahoe 2024	4124 Admin Tahoe 2024
4105 Patrol Explorer 2021	4125 Admin Durango 2022
4106 Patrol Explorer 2022	4126 Unmarked Explorer 2015
4107 Patrol Explorer 2021	Old 4112 Explorer (Auctioned)
4108 Patrol Explorer 2022	Old 4115 Explorer (Auctioned)
4109 SRO Explorer 2020 Hybrid	Old 4117 Explorer (Auctioned)
4110 Detail Explorer 2021	Old 4121 Explorer (Auctioned)
4113 DB Explorer 2014	Old 4103 Explorer (Totaled)
4117 Detail Explorer 2020 Hybrid	4128 Light Trailer
4118 DB Explorer 2014	4129 Kawasaki 4X4 Utility
	4131 Firearms Trailer 2008
VMB01 2015 Solar tech message board	4132 Enclosed Mule Trailer 2010
VMB02 2017 Solar tech message board	4135 Inmar Pontoon Raft 2015
VMB03 2020 Solar tech message board	4136 Venture Boat Trailer 2016

### **Auctioned Vehicles**

Vehicle	Mileage
4112 - 2014 Ford Explorer	156,786
4115 - 2013 Ford Explorer	167,708
4117 - 2015 Ford Explorer	126,226
4121 - 2016 Ford Explorer	155,602
Total	167

4103 - 2022 Ford Explorer totaled 9/3/24

### **Purchased vehicles Savings**

4103, 4104, 4124 (2023 Chevy Tahoe's)

2024 Base Vehicle Price \$54,943.07

2023 Base Vehicle Price \$42,617.84

In 2024 we had the opportunity to purchase leftover 2023 Chevy Tahoe's rather than 2024 models. The savings by purchasing 2023 vehicles \$12,325.23 each (3 Vehicles purchased combined savings \$36,975.69)

### **Damaged Vehicles**

Vehicle	Damage
4106	Dent & scratch Unknown how in December 24, under investigation
4103	totaled by DWI driver 9/3/24
4120	Scratches backed into by Ambulance July 2024

### **DOT Involvement**

Traffic light at CR517 and State Road 181 Turn lane request  
Installed Speed limit signs on Lafayette Road(State Road 15)

### **Court Breakdown**

Description	Hours
Special Officer Compensation	\$12,330.00
Full Time Officer Compensation	\$1,939.29
Total Hours worked	454

**Court Total Cost \$14,269.29**

### **Class II Special Officer Involvement**

A Class II Special Police Officer in Sparta, NJ, operates under similar guidelines to those established across New Jersey but is specifically tasked with enforcing law and order within the jurisdiction of Sparta. This could include various public or private properties within the town, such as schools, municipal buildings, parks, or other designated areas that require a law enforcement presence.

Special Officer	Court Hours	Special Detail, Training, Community Events
SO Dutkus	208 Hours	34 Hours
SO Takacs	194 Hours	171 Hours
SO Coccio	4 Hours	9 Hours

## Special Details

Special details refer to off-duty assignments where Sparta Police Department officers are contracted by outside entities—such as utility companies, construction contractors, or event organizers—to provide police services beyond their regular duties. These assignments are coordinated and approved through the department to ensure accountability and coverage.

A common example of special detail work involves officers assisting contractors with roadway projects. Officers are hired to provide traffic control, ensure the safety of workers, and maintain public order in and around construction zones. Their presence helps prevent accidents, facilitates the smooth flow of traffic, and reinforces compliance with temporary traffic patterns and detours.

Though these details are funded by the contracting party, officers are held to the same professional standards as during regular duty. Special details not only enhance public safety during infrastructure projects and local events but also reflect the department’s ongoing partnership with the community and private sector.

Company	Job Count	Hours
Lambert Cable	11	82
Penn Bower	83	659
Parkside Utilities	1	5
Sparta HS Jazz Band	1	5
Sussex Vo Tech	32	211
Planet Networks	11	71
Girls on the Run	3	12
Henkels & McCoy	2	4
Sparta BOE	26	84
Skoda	56	407
Pass it Along Triathlon	9	32
Perona Farms	1	4
Pope John High School	10	40
Holo Space Productions	1	4
Sussex Tech Homecoming	1	4
Askin & Hooker 5K	3	8
Montana Construction	2	17
Sussex Charter School	3	8
Parkside Utilities	29	210

Company	Job Count	Hours
Camp Sacajawea	12	96
Sparta Education Foundation Turkey Trot	4	20
Jersey Central Power & Light	2	10
High Point Utilities	3	25
Dance Xplosions	5	26
Verizon	4	13
Pope John	4	16
Extra Duty Solutions	2	17
Lake Mohawk Country Club	1	4
Epic Property Services	2	8
Whitestone Associates	2	8
New York, Susquehanna Railway	1	6
Sparta HS Marching Band	1	5
KSM Underground	1	6
JCPL	1	4
Sussex Tech Football	1	4
JMK Events	1	8
Total	332	2143

## Animal Control

In Sparta Township, NJ, the Animal Control Officer (ACO) is responsible for overseeing the well-being of animals within the community and ensuring compliance with local laws regarding animals. Some of the duties typically performed by an ACO include:

1. **Responding to Animal Complaints:** The ACO investigates reports related to animal welfare, including complaints about stray animals, nuisance animals, and animal cruelty.
2. **Enforcing Animal Laws:** This includes enforcing ordinances related to pet licensing, leash laws, noise complaints (e.g., barking dogs), and other regulations that aim to control the domestic animal population and promote responsible pet ownership.
3. **Handling Stray or Lost Animals:** The ACO captures, shelters, and reunites lost animals with their owners or facilitates the adoption process for unclaimed animals.
4. **Animal Rescue and Welfare:** If an animal is in distress, the ACO might step in to provide necessary rescue and care. This may involve working with local veterinarians or shelters to address health and safety concerns.
5. **Public Education and Outreach:** Educating the public on responsible pet ownership, spaying/neutering, and other topics related to animal welfare.
6. **Rabies Control and Quarantine:** The ACO is involved in enforcing rabies vaccination laws and may assist in quarantining animals that have bitten someone or exhibit signs of rabies.
7. **Dealing with Wildlife:** While the ACO primarily handles domestic animals, they may also respond to situations involving wildlife, particularly if an animal is in danger, injured, or poses a threat to public safety.



In Sparta Township, as in many communities, the Animal Control Officer (ACO) plays a vital role in safeguarding both public safety and animal welfare. Working closely with local law enforcement, animal shelters, and various organizations, the ACO helps deliver comprehensive animal control services.

Our dedicated Animal Control Officer, Don Critchlaw, has an impressive 34 years of experience in the field. In addition to his responsibilities in Sparta Township, ACO Critchlaw is contracted to provide services to Andover Township. Any unclaimed or lost animals are brought to the Hopatcong Boro Animal Pound under his care. Furthermore, ACO Critchlaw serves as a valuable backup for neighboring municipalities, stepping in when other ACOs are unavailable.

In 2024, Sparta Township's Animal Control Officer, Don Critchlaw, was honored for his 23 years of service to the community during National Animal Control Officers Week.

Additionally, in July 2024, Sparta's Health Services reported conducting sixteen rabies investigations, leading to fifteen residents receiving Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) for potential rabies exposure. These efforts underscore the township's commitment to public health and safety.

### Breakdown by Type and Month

	Dead Cat	Cat Bite	Vet Visit	Shelter	Loose Animal	Complaint	Misc	Dog bite	Bat Call	Quarantine	Andover	Wild Animal	Admission
Jan	0	0	1	1	13	16	31	3	2	3	23	10	16
Feb	0	0	1	3	7	11	33	0	0	0	19	2	7
Mar	2	1	1	0	10	19	35	3	0	4	18	6	15
Apr	0	2	1	0	17	27	31	10	0	9	27	5	29
May	1	3	8	3	7	71	40	15	7	24	27	29	70
Jun	1	4	1	0	31	69	31	9	6	18	22	23	76
Jul	0	4	10	5	27	58	33	12	3	25	16	27	67
Aug	1	4	11	3	18	66	49	19	18	25	18	30	73
Sep	0	4	8	1	18	62	50	12	14	19	15	24	67
Oct	1	6	2	5	15	63	61	8	0	14	31	11	62
Nov	1	6	0	1	12	45	46	14	1	20	13	11	48
Dec	2	6	3	0	9	32	26	7	2	13	23	4	37
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>567</b>

The shelter services are contracted on an annual basis, with the Hopatcong Police Department making quarterly payments of \$1,500 for the use of the Hopatcong shelter. These payments made every three months helps ensure the shelter remains available and accessible to those in need throughout the year.

In addition to the contract, there are boarding payments amounting to \$875 for each boarding service. Furthermore, payments related to transfer fees, totaling \$1,250, are also made,

## Dispatch

The Communications/Dispatch team has shown exceptional dedication in 2024, ensuring the safety and efficiency of our coverage areas. With the addition of new employees and extensive training initiatives, we have built a strong and capable team, ready to face any challenges in the upcoming year.

### Municipalities Covered

The Communications/Dispatch team provides critical dispatch services for Fire, Police, and EMS in the following towns:

- Sparta Township
- Ogdensburg Boro
- Franklin Boro
- Hamburg Boro
- Stanhope Boro

In these municipalities, our dispatchers ensure timely and efficient coordination of emergency services, supporting first responders and enhancing public safety operations.

### Certifications and Trainings Completed

Our dispatchers continued to strengthen their skills and preparedness by completing a variety of specialized training courses throughout the year. These certifications ensure that our team is ready to handle any emergency with professionalism and expertise.

- Emergency Medical Dispatch
- Basic Telecommunicator
- CPR
- Hostage Negotiation
- Suicide Prevention Call Taking
- Resiliency
- Fire Dispatch
- ICS 100, 200, 300, 700, 800
- Verbal Judo
- Stress Identification and Management
- Mental Illness
- Cyber Security
- Swatting
- Active Shooter
- Bomb Threats
- Hazmat
- Chemical Safety/HAZCOM
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Crisis Intervention



## Employee Overview

In 2024, the Communications/Dispatch team experienced growth with the addition of a new full-time employee on January 1, 2024, bringing the total number of full-time employees to 10. The team also continued to be supported by several dedicated part-time employees.

## Part-Time Shifts and Overtime Summary

In 2024, our Communications/Dispatch team showed exceptional dedication, contributing a combined total of 412.5 hours through part-time shifts and 725 overtime hours. This flexibility was crucial in maintaining coverage and ensuring that all emergency services were effectively coordinated for the communities we serve.

The following table outlines the details of the part-time shifts worked and overtime hours:

Category	Shifts/Entries	Hours Worked
Part-Time Shifts Worked	51	412.50
Overtime Entries	98	725
Sick Call Outs	131	
Ordered-in Shifts (Mandatory)	23	

## Support Bureau

Over the past year, the Sparta Police Department has made significant strides in enhancing communication, security, and emergency response capabilities. These improvements reflect a strong commitment to efficiency, reliability, and public safety.

One major achievement was the successful upgrade of the VHF radio system, ensuring clearer and more reliable communication for officers in the field. This critical enhancement, made possible through grant funding, strengthens coordination and emergency response. Similarly, important equipment updates—including new radios, a records scanner, and a dispatch monitor—help streamline daily operations.

Looking ahead, the department plans to continue monitoring and optimizing the system while preparing for its integration with NextGen911 to enhance emergency response capabilities. Regular maintenance and software updates will also be a priority to keep the system running at peak performance.

By building on these achievements and addressing ongoing challenges, the department is well-positioned for another year of progress, ensuring even greater safety and service for the community.

## New, Replaced, and Damaged Equipment

To keep operations running smoothly and ensure efficiency, several important equipment updates and replacements were made throughout the year. A new records replacement scanner was installed, enhancing data processing capabilities, while additional radios and accessories were added to improve communication reliability. One radio required repairs to restore full functionality, and a dispatch monitor was replaced to ensure clear and uninterrupted monitoring of critical information.

To maintain seamless functionality, several e-Ticket components that had been damaged over the year were replaced under contract, as they are leased. Additionally, five brand-new ICOM portable VHF radios were ordered to further strengthen communication efforts.

Sparta Police also remains committed to safety, equipping each patrol vehicle with a 5-lb ABC Dry Chemical fire extinguisher. In 2024, officers deployed these extinguishers 19 times in response to various incidents. Every unit was refilled, recertified, and put back into service, ensuring they are always ready when needed. One brand-new extinguisher was also added to the fleet.

These updates reflect an ongoing commitment to maintaining reliable equipment, enhancing communication, and prioritizing safety for both officers and the community they serve.

## AED Usage

In 2024, AEDs were deployed nine times. Of those, three patients received shocks, but only one survived. The other six cases did not require shocks, and only one patient recovered. \*

\*The final outcome of some patients remains uncertain. In some cases, ALS may have taken over after patrol reported no spontaneous circulation, potentially leading to later revival. Conversely, patients who initially regained circulation after CPR and defibrillation could have later passed away.

Date	Shock Deployed	Outcome
1/10/24	No	Patient expired
1/29/24	Yes	Patient expired
3/18/24	No	Patient expired
8/19/24	Yes	Patient expired
8/25/24	No	Patient expired
9/5/24	No	Patient expired
10/26/24	No	Patient expired
12/05/24	No	Patient recovered
12/19/24	No	Patient expired

## Narcan Deployments

The data presents five non-fatal overdose incidents that occurred in 2024, where naloxone was administered to reverse the effects. In most cases, multiple doses of naloxone were required, suggesting severe overdoses. The primary substances involved were heroin and prescription drugs, affecting both male and female individuals across a broad age range (21 to 63 years). The data highlights the ongoing risk of opioid-related overdoses and the critical role of naloxone in emergency interventions.

Date	Incident Type	Primary Suspected Drug	Gender	Age
12/13/2024	Non-Fatal Multiple Doses	Prescription Drugs	Female	52
11/23/2024	Non-Fatal Multiple Doses	Heroin	Female	32
9/13/2024	Non-Fatal Multiple Doses	Prescription Drugs	Male	63
9/4/2024	Non-Fatal Naloxone Administration	Heroin	Female	21
6/15/2024	Non-Fatal Single Dose	Other	Male	35

## BWC (Body-Worn Camera)

The BWC (Body-Worn Camera) project, utilizing Lenslock body-worn cameras, has successfully completed its final adjustments. A significant technical issue was identified involving a specific serial number range of cameras that were prone to failure due to static electricity. These faulty units have been proactively replaced, and any remaining affected units will be swapped out as needed to ensure continued reliability.

Additionally, a procedural change was made to improve the efficiency of the docking and uploading process. Kiosks are now kept logged in at all times, which has significantly streamlined operations and reduced time spent on routine uploads.

This project was funded in 2024 through the New Jersey Body-Worn Camera Grant Program, enabling the deployment and optimization of this vital technology to enhance transparency and accountability in law enforcement operations.

## **Network Security**

The network security upgrade involved transitioning from an older firewall model to a more advanced one. This upgrade enhances overall performance, improves threat detection capabilities, and provides better support for modern security protocols. The new firewall offers increased processing power and improved network traffic management, ensuring a more robust and efficient security infrastructure.

By implementing this upgrade, the system is better equipped to prevent cyber-attacks by identifying and blocking malicious threats in real-time. Enhanced security measures help safeguard sensitive data, reducing the risk of breaches that could compromise personal identities within the community. With stronger defenses against phishing, malware, and unauthorized access, residents and organizations can trust that their information remains protected.

This critical security enhancement was made possible through funding from the ARP (American Rescue Plan) grant, which provided the necessary resources to strengthen the community's cybersecurity infrastructure. By leveraging these funds, the upgrade ensures long-term digital safety, reinforcing resilience against evolving cyber threats while protecting both public and private data.

## **NextGen911**

NextGen 911 is a modern emergency communication system that enhances call routing, improves location accuracy, and supports features like text, images, and video. This upgrade is aimed at making emergency responses more efficient and effective.

The Sparta Township Police Department has been working closely with state, county, and local partners to ensure a smooth 2025 deployment. Continued collaboration with stakeholders remains essential to achieving a seamless transition and providing enhanced tools for faster, more accurate responses to emergency calls.

## Specialized Units

### Crash Team

The Sparta Township Police Department utilizes a police crash team that is a specialized unit within our department that focuses on investigating serious traffic accidents that involve serious injuries or fatal crashes. Our team consists of trained officers who have expertise in accident reconstruction and investigation. The crash team officers receive specialized training in areas such as traffic engineering, physics, and accident dynamics to effectively investigate crashes. Sparta Township's specialized unit is responsible for investigating the cause of the crash, including gathering evidence. This involves taking measurements, analyzing skid marks, vehicle damage, and other factors. In addition to the investigation, the crash team manages the accident scene, including securing the area, rerouting traffic if necessary, and ensuring the safety of all involved. Our officers, and especially those assigned to the Detective and Traffic Bureaus, are trained, and certified in Data Collection. The officers collect data such as witness statements, photographs, videos, and other evidence from the scene to create a comprehensive report. The officers assigned to this unit are called upon to conduct an accident reconstruction which consists of using the evidence collected. They then are able to reconstruct the accident to understand how it occurred. This can involve the use of specialized software and technology. Each member of our department who specializes in crash investigations may be called upon to provide expert testimony in court cases related to the crash. The officers assigned to investigate serious motor vehicle crashes may work with other agencies such as emergency services and transportation departments, to ensure a thorough investigation.

Their expertise is crucial in providing accurate and thorough investigations, which can support legal proceedings, improve traffic safety, and help prevent future crashes. The team works closely with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure a comprehensive understanding of each incident and to uphold public safety within the community.

The Team currently consists of the following Officers

- Chief McCarrick
- LT Antonello
- Sgt. Smith
- Det/Sgt Hassloch
- Cpl. Mastandrea
- Cpl. Morris
- Cpl. Grauerholz

## Resiliency Team

The Sparta Police Department's Resiliency Program is a proactive initiative designed to support the mental and emotional well-being of our officers and staff. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by law enforcement professionals, this program provides resources, training, and counseling services aimed at promoting resilience, reducing stress, and ensuring the long-term health of those who serve our community.

The program includes wellness workshops, peer support networks, stress management techniques, and access to professional mental health services. By fostering a supportive environment, the Resiliency Program ensures that officers are equipped to handle the demands of their profession while maintaining their personal well-being.

At its core, the Resiliency Program reflects the Sparta Police Department's commitment to the health and effectiveness of its team, ultimately enhancing their ability to serve and protect the community with focus, compassion, and strength.

- Sgt. Smith
- Cpl. Rubino
- PO May
- PO Spitzer
- Dispatcher Cernek

## Field Training Officer Unit (FTO)

**Sparta Township Police Department Field Training Officer (FTO) program** is a comprehensive training initiative designed to facilitate the transition of newly graduated officers from the academy to operational policing. Here's a detailed breakdown our program:

1. **\*\*Selection of FTOs\*\***: Experienced officers with a solid record of performance, professionalism, and interpersonal skills are selected to become FTOs. They undergo additional training to prepare them for their mentoring and evaluative roles. We currently have **nine officers** trained as Field Training Officers.
2. **\*\*Duration\*\***: The FTO program typically lasts 10 weeks, during which new recruits are closely supervised and mentored by FTOs. The duration can vary depending on the department's needs and the complexity of the training curriculum.
3. **\*\*Curriculum Development\*\***: A detailed curriculum is developed by the department's Administration as well as the Field Training Officers in collaboration with experienced officers and subject matter experts. This curriculum covers a wide range of topics, including department policies and procedures, legal issues, community policing strategies, tactical skills, use of force protocols, report writing, and ethical considerations.
4. **\*\*Structured Phases\*\***: The FTO program is divided into several phases, each focusing on specific aspects of policing. These phases may include orientation, observation, hands-on training, and gradually increasing levels of independence for the recruit.

5. **\*\*Daily Evaluations\*\***: FTOs provide daily evaluations and feedback to recruits based on their performance during various scenarios and real-world policing situations. These evaluations focus on areas such as decision-making, communication skills, officer safety, and adherence to our departmental policies.
6. **\*\*Documentation\*\***: Detailed documentation of the recruit's progress is maintained throughout the program. This documentation includes daily observation reports, performance evaluations, and any corrective actions or recommendations for improvement.
7. **\*\*Role-playing and Scenario-based Training\*\***: Recruits participate in role-playing exercises and scenario-based training to simulate realistic policing situations. These exercises help them apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations and develop critical thinking skills under pressure.
8. **\*\*Supervisory Oversight\*\***: FTOs work closely with their supervisory officers to ensure that recruits receive consistent guidance and support throughout the program. Supervisors will conduct periodic reviews of the recruit's progress and provide additional feedback as needed.
9. **\*\*Final Evaluation\*\***: At the end of the FTO program, recruits undergo a final evaluation to assess their readiness for solo patrol duty. This evaluation will include practical assessments scenario-based training of critical incidents. This will also include final evaluations of the officer during the duration of the FTO program.
10. **\*\*Continued Professional Development\*\***: Even after completing the FTO program, new officers continue to receive ongoing training and support to further develop their skills and knowledge throughout their careers. This is accomplished by in-depth roll call training, various agencies and outside training and education. As well as practical "hands on" training.

Our agency is very proud of our Field Training Program. It is very a well-structured FTO program, which is essential for ensuring that our new officers receive the training and support they need to become effective and responsible members of the police force, capable of serving and protecting our community with professionalism and integrity.

The Field Training Unit Consists of the Following Officers:

- Captain Thomas Snyder (Unit Coordinator)
- DSG Brian Hassloch
- Sgt. Dan Elig
- Sgt. Scott Elig
- Cpl. Marc Rubino
- Cpl. Kurt Morris
- Cpl. Arlene Lippencott
- PO Taylor May
- PO Christopher Favaro
- PO Erick Finley
- PO Michael Poon



## Firearms Unit

The Firearms and Tactics Unit within the police department is responsible for providing comprehensive training to officers in the safe and effective use of firearms. The members of this unit accomplish this goal by incorporating firearms proficiency, safety protocols, legal and ethical considerations, scenario base training, equipment maintenance, and risk assessment and mitigation into their training model. This unit has advanced knowledge and expertise to assist officers with decision-making skills, judgment in high-pressure situations, use of force and vehicle pursuit guidelines.

The unit is currently comprised of Lieutenants, Sergeants, and Patrolman. Collectively, this unit plays a crucial role in equipping police officers with the skills, knowledge, and mindset necessary to carry out their duties safely and effectively while minimizing risks to themselves and the public.

The Firearms Unit Consists of the Following Officers:

- Lt. Joseph Antonello (Firearms Instruction Coordinator)
- PO Michael Poon (Lead Firearms Instructor)
- DSG Brian Hassloch
- PO Jon Poon

## Law Enforcement Against Drugs (L.E.A.D)



The Law Enforcement Against Drugs (L.E.A.D) program is a comprehensive strategy aimed at combating illicit drug activities within communities. It involves coordinated efforts between law enforcement agencies, educators, community organizations, and other community stakeholders. The L.E.A.D. organization helps us succeed by providing proven and effective programs to deter youth and adults from drug use, drug-related crimes, bullying and violence. We here at the Sparta Police Department are committed to reinforcing the mutual respect, goodwill and relations between law enforcement and our community.

The Sparta police department has **17** trained L.E.A.D. instructors and we teach an average of **620** students every year. We teach the L.E.A.D. program to 5th and 6th grade students at our local schools. Every year we host a fun filled educational L.E.A.D. Day where the 5th grade students who participated in the program get to spend time with our officers who create a day filled with multiple different activities such as, K9 demonstrations, medivac helicopter landing, Kickball, Obstacle Courses, Dunk Tank, Tug of War and an up close look at vehicles such as firetrucks, ambulances, police cars and trucks and tractors from our DPW.



#### LEAD Classes 5th (Sparta/PJMS) and 6th Grade (Sparta)

Certified LEAD instructors	17
Sparta 5th Grade students taught	246
Pope John 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade students taught	73
Pope John 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade students taught	68
Sparta 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade students taught	239

## Community Outreach

The Sparta Police Department is committed to fostering strong relationships with the community through a variety of outreach programs and initiatives. These efforts enhance public safety, promote awareness, and encourage positive interactions between officers and residents of all ages.

Our community outreach includes:

- **Public Safety and Awareness Initiatives**
  - CLEAR (Community Law Enforcement Addiction Recovery)
  - Internet Safety Presentations for parents and students
  - Safety Village at Methodist Church
  - Various community presentations
- **Youth Engagement and Education**
  - Junior Police Academy
  - LEAD Day (Law Enforcement Against Drugs)
  - Career Day within schools
  - Read Across America
  - Driver's Education and school-based safety programs

### Community Outreach Events and Community Engagement Events

- Coffee with a Cop
- Council Connect Talks
- LE Special Olympics Torch Run
- Operation Helping Hands
- Trunk or Treat
- Sussex County Day
- Sparta Day
- Touch a Truck (NJ State Fair)
- Winter Carnival
- Sparta PD Summer Series in the Park
- Hanging with Heroes
- Craft Fair (Sussex County PFlag)
- Special Needs Registry



- **Seasonal and Charitable Efforts:**

- No Shave November/December

These programs allow the department to actively engage with the community, build trust, and provide valuable resources to residents. By prioritizing outreach, the Sparta Police Department continues to strengthen its connection with the people it serves, ensuring a safer and more informed community.

### No Shave November

In 2024, Sparta Township Police Department FOP Lodge 26 members participated in No Shave November. During the month of November, officers forego shaving and grooming their facial hair to raise money and bring awareness to cancer research. As we know, most patients of cancer lose their hair during treatment. Foregoing the grooming standard for this month brings further awareness to cancer prevention, saves lives, and helps those fighting against cancer. FOP Lodge 26 was proud to participate in such an important event. The department's participation not only raised funds for a worthy cause but also showcased their willingness to engage with the community in unconventional ways. The donation made by each officer to participate in this yearly event is \$100 for a beard and \$50 for a goatee.

\$3,000.00 was raised and it was donated directly to local family.

## Special Needs Registry



The Sparta Township Special Needs Registry is a voluntary service open to all citizens who reside in Sparta Township. The registry was created to help police officers, and other emergency personnel, better assist residents with special needs in the event of an emergency by providing those first responders with vital information regarding a registrant's disability, contact information, and physical description.

Registration can be completed here:

<https://forms.office.com/g/Wz5UKuDYvY>

## Community Law Enforcement Addiction Recovery (C.L.E.A.R.) & Operation Helping Hand.

C.L.E.A.R. and Operation Helping Hand utilize the Sparta Township Police Department as a resource to link individuals affected by substance use to the Center for Prevention & Counseling for help.

Community Law Enforcement Addiction Recovery C.L.E.A.R. programs partnered with the Sparta Police Department represent a collaborative effort to address addiction issues within the community. This collaborative effort involves law enforcement officers working alongside addiction recovery specialists to provide support, resources, and intervention strategies for individuals struggling with substance abuse. The partnership with the Sparta Police Department signifies a proactive approach to tackling addiction by leveraging law enforcement resources and community outreach efforts to promote recovery and reduce substance-related harm.

## Sparta Police Summer Series

Summer Series in the Park is a family-friendly community outreach event hosted by the Sparta Police Department, designed to build positive relationships between police officers and children. Held throughout the summer in local parks, the series features fun engaging activities such as games, sports, safety demonstrations and interactive displays with police vehicles and equipment and ending with a final BBQ.

This initiative was brought forward by Officer Alyse Brown and first implemented in the Summer of 2024







## Sparta Police Department Junior Police Academy

The Sparta Township Police Department's Junior Police Academy offers a unique opportunity for young individuals to engage with law enforcement and learn about various aspects of policing. Through interactive sessions, physical fitness and hands-on activities, participants gain insights into teamwork, leadership, and the responsibilities of being a police officer. Some of the highlights of the academy include the landing of a helicopter, K9 and bomb squad presentations. The program aims to foster positive relationships between the community and law enforcement while providing valuable life skills to its participants.









## Help Bag for Hunger with Sparta Shop Rite



## Sussex County Day

Lieutenant Schomp, Sergeant D. Elig, Detective Pletcher and I attended Sussex County Day which was held at the Sussex County Fairgrounds on 09/15/2024. After the Sparta Jail, tents and tables were set up we handed out hats for children and informational pamphlets on some of the services that Sparta Township offers as well as highlighting partnerships with other agencies

## Coffee with a Cop



## Cram the Cruiser





## Hanging with Heroes

Several years ago, our Police Department hosted, what we called at the time, an “Ice Cream Social”. It was an opportunity for the community to come out and meet our officers while enjoying some ice cream. And good conversations. Over the years we were able to expand this Community Outreach by inviting our first responder partners such as the Sparta Fire Department, Sparta Ambulance Squad, Sparta Department of Public Works, Sussex County Center for Prevention and Counseling, The Sparta Women’s Club, Be Smart Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and project child safe lock, Sparta C.E.R.T. Team, The Sparta Municipal Alliance, and of course our local hometown Veterans.

Most often people don’t want to talk to police in a professional setting about certain issues they may be experiencing. This evening helped bridge the gap between police and the public. The atmosphere allows individuals to speak with professionals in the field to gather more information for their specific needs. The community asks us questions about everything –Domestic Violence, Addiction, Weapons, bullying---leads to abuse, financial assistance, job opportunities, and so much more. It also gives the community the opportunity to offer their input, which we always welcome.

There was plenty of food, activities, and great conversation throughout the evening. This community engagement was funded through the opioid settlement funds along with donations from our local businesses. We are looking forward to doing it again in 2025!



## Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics New Jersey

This annual event is the kickoff to the New Jersey Special Olympics games and is a fundraiser for athletes' training, competition, and leadership opportunities according to New Jersey Torch Run. Funds also go to health screenings for the athletes and Unified Partners. These services and the games are provided to the athletes for free using the funds raised at various events like the torch run as well as other local efforts. Sparta Police Department members participate in this event every year and we encourage our community to come out and run with us!



## Sparta Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #26



The National Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) is a fraternal organization consisting of sworn law enforcement officers in the United States. It consists of chapters throughout the State and goes nationwide. Our Chapter, Spartan Lodge 26, consists of all active and retired officers. We also have retired officers from other states that are members. Lodge 26 is an extension of the police department and supports all officers and civilians of Sparta.

From time to time the Union will hold fundraising events that will assist in purchases for the officers and equipment. The Union is also a bargaining unit that is split up between the SOA and NONSOA. These two entities will participate in negotiations with the town for each other's specific contracts.

In conclusion, the relationship between the police chief and the police union is one that is built on mutual respect, collaboration, and communication. It is essential for both parties to work together to address the needs and concerns of the officers and the community. Having a strong working relationship will only benefit everyone involved.

**President Christopher Schanstra**