



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| • Foreword | 1 |
| • Mission Statement | 2 |
| • Introduction | 3 |
| • Distinguished Awards | 3 |
| • Historian | 4 |
| • Victim Assistance Program | 4 |

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| • Introduction | 6 |
| • Court Services | 6 |
| • Community Service Unit | 7 |
| • Personnel and Training | 10 |
| • Range and Defensive Tactics | 11 |
| • Field Training Officer Program | 12 |

OPERATIONS DIVISION

| | |
|---|----|
| • Introduction | 12 |
| • Patrol Bureau | 13 |
| ○ Special Events | 14 |
| ○ Traffic Services | 14 |
| • Criminal Investigations Bureau | 15 |
| ○ Computer/Cell Phone Forensics Unit | 16 |
| ○ Video Forensics Unit | 16 |
| ○ Narcotics Unit | 16 |
| ○ Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) | 17 |
| ○ Cryptocurrency Task Force | 17 |
| ○ Evidence Technicians | 17 |
| ○ School Resource Officers | 18 |

| | |
|---|----|
| ○ Arson Investigations | 19 |
| ○ U.S. Marshals Northern Ohio Fugitive Task Force | 19 |
| ○ Case Load | 19 |
| ○ Volunteer Police Chaplain Program | 19 |
| ● Specialty Units | |
| ○ Accident Investigation Unit (AIU) | 20 |
| ○ Lake County Bomb Squad | 20 |
| ○ Bike / ATV Unit | 21 |
| ○ Drone Unit | 22 |
| ○ Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) | 23 |
| ○ K-9 Unit | 24 |
| ○ Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT) | 25 |
| Support Services | |
| ● Introduction | 25 |
| ● Communications Division | 27 |
| ● Records Department | 29 |
| ● Property and Evidence | 30 |
| ● Corrections Unit | 32 |
| Organizational Chart | 34 |

Foreword

As Chief of Police, I am proud to present the 2025 Annual Report for the City of Mentor Police Department. This report details the activities and progress made by the department in 2025.

The format is a compilation of individual section reports brought together into a single document. This allows for a unique overview of department operations as viewed by the personnel who are responsible for program implementation. The Mentor Police Department continues to receive much support from the City Manager, his staff, other city departments, and City Council. It is vitally important to also acknowledge the support offered by the citizens of this community. Our community continues to reach out a hand to law enforcement, and we are proud to join with you to make this city a safe place to live, work, and play.



Our department cannot accomplish anything without its greatest resource, its people. As you will read, there have been numerous accomplishments made in 2025 by the men and women of the Mentor Police Department as they served the citizens of Mentor.

Ken Gunsch
Chief of Police

Mission Statement

We, the members of the Mentor Police Department, vow to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the State of Ohio, to maintain order, and to protect life and property. We pledge to promptly deliver the highest quality service and wisely use available resources. We shall strive to improve the quality of life for the community and endeavor to be role models.

We will accomplish our mission through innovation, problem-solving and community involvement.

In accepting this challenge, we will genuinely pursue our core values of *Integrity, Caring, Fairness* and *Professionalism*.

INTEGRITY

We are dedicated to individually upholding the public trust and being held accountable for performing our duties ethically, morally, and honestly.

CARING

We are dedicated to showing concern, courtesy and sensitivity to ourselves, fellow employees, and those we serve. We will be compassionate and treat everyone as we wish to be treated.

FAIRNESS

We are dedicated to treating all persons with respect, understanding and dignity. We will consistently use common sense in a non-discriminatory fashion to promote harmony and equality.

PROFESSIONALISM

We are dedicated to providing the community with a competent, responsive and supportive department. We will provide quality service through effective communication, cooperation, and personal involvement. Our commitment to excellence in all we do will present a professional image.

The **Mentor Police Department** consists of three major divisions, each responsible for separate duties and functions, but designed to offer support to each other. Currently the Police Department consists of the Administrative Division, Operations Division, and Support Services Division. The Command Staff of the Police Department is made up of the Chief of Police, who oversees the entire Department, and three Captains each of whom command one of the three Divisions. The Command Staff works at coordinating all the efforts of the Police Department to achieve the Department's goals and objectives. The Chief and the Captains are assisted by two full-time Administrative Assistants. The Victim's Assistance program is directed through the office of the Chief of Police.

Distinguished Awards

To recognize outstanding work and achievement, the Mentor Police Department has adopted the Lake County Association of Chiefs of Police (LCACP) Award Program. The awards consist of a citation bar to be worn on the officer's uniform and a written account of the award to be placed in the officer's personnel file.

Some awards are issued internally through the department. The Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service, Combat Cross, Injured on Duty, and Life Saving Award are normally awarded by the LCACP awards committee. Occasionally an officer is recognized for his or her achievements by outside agencies and businesses.

Officer of the Year (for 2024)

Ptl. Jon Miller

Civilian of the Year (for 2024)

Sandy Formick

VFW Public Servant of the Year

Det. Chris Lawrence

Knights of Columbus Blue Coat of the Year

Captain Michael Majernik

Lake County Chiefs of Police Lifesaving Award

Ptl. Anthony Haddad

Ptl. Jacob Hendrickson

Ptl. Ryan Heramb

Ptl. Jacob Jones

Ptl. Gavin McLean

Ptl. Zachary Skoczen

Historian

In late 2010, it was decided that the police department needed to make a special effort to preserve its history. The volunteer position of a Police Historian was created to document, record, and honor past officers and the history of the department. Sergeant Steve Ondercin has volunteered to be the Historian. In the spring of 2011 display cases crafted by the city road department woodshop were installed in the patrol hallway where officers passing them are reminded of the rich history of their department and the citizens that are served.

Donations were received from retired officers and others to preserve the past and honor those officers with some treasured photographs, memorabilia, and old equipment. Both display cases are filled, but their content is frequently updated. Since today is tomorrow's history, the department is constantly collecting items, especially photographs, of officers and current equipment.



Mentor Police Victim Assistance Program

The Mentor Police Victim Assistance Program addresses the needs of crime victims in the cities of Mentor and Mentor on the Lake. Our program has served over 7,000 victims since its inception in 1997. The program currently employs one full time Victim Advocate who works in cooperation with the police department, municipal court, probation department, and prosecutor's office in assisting victims through the criminal justice process. A volunteer also provides clerical assistance to the program.

The goal of the program is to provide prompt, personalized services to citizens victimized by crime. Victims are provided with written notifications regarding hearings and made aware of their rights as a victim. Victims are welcome to meet individually with the Advocate concerning their individual needs and concerns. Services may begin from the moment a victim makes a police report and continue through sentencing and probation. The Advocate is available to provide victims with court accompaniment, crisis intervention, complete explanation of the criminal court process, referrals to counselors and social service agencies, notification of court hearings, assistance in obtaining protection orders, notification and awareness of VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday), obtaining restitution, and assistance in completing Victim Impact Statements and Victims of Crime Compensation applications. Victims receiving services in 2025 ranged from age 4 to 85 years old. The Victim Advocate assists residents with safety concerns regardless of whether a police report is made, or crime is prosecuted. The Victim Advocate is also responsible for ensuring the department is following mandates of Marsy's Law, ensuring that victim's rights are protected throughout the criminal justice process.

The Mentor Victim Assistance Program served 210 Victims in 2025. This is consistent with previous years. Over 30% of all cases served involved Domestic Violence. Given the complexity of domestic violence, these cases typically are provided the most extensive services including crisis intervention, safety planning, referrals, and no contact orders. It is not uncommon for the advocate to work with the same victim over a prolonged period to provide ongoing support and advocacy to enable the victim to leave the abusive relationship.

In addition to domestic violence, other crimes such as assault, menacing, burglary, robbery, and theft are major areas of focus for the program. Of victims served, 20% are assault victims and another 20% are victims of some type of harassment (i.e., stalking, protection order violations, aggravated menacing). Services were provided to 55 felony crime victims who were provided with advocacy and information during arraignment and preliminary hearings. Additionally, the Victim Advocate contacts victims prior to arraignment for their input and to assess the need for No Contact Orders as bond and/or probation conditions then presents those recommendations to the court. In 2025, 127 No Contact Orders were initiated and processed by the Victim Advocate.

The program works in concert with the Mentor Municipal Court Judge, Mentor Prosecutor, Probation Officers, Lake County Victim Assistance Office, Lake County Job and Family Services and other law enforcement and community agencies such as Forbes House, Signature Health, and the ADAMHS Board in the best interests of all crime victims to provide quality services.

The Mentor Police Victim Assistance Office receives funding through a grant from the Victims of Crime Act. The program is conveniently located within the Mentor Police Department building and can be reached at 440-205-2438.

Administration Division

The Administrative Division is responsible for the Community Services Unit, Court Services Unit, grant procurement and management, labor contract management, personnel, training, research and project management, and working with Public Works to manage the Department's fleet of vehicles.

Due to several recent retirements the department offered a police officer entrance exam in March 2025. The hiring process is a very detail oriented and involved endeavor and continues through the end of the year. As a result of the hiring process, three officers were offered and accepted positions as police officers. They were sworn into the position in August 2025. Two started the Cuyahoga Community College police academy and are due to graduate in February 2026. The other new officer started in-house and field training.



A promotional exam was offered in 2024 for the rank of sergeant. Two patrolmen were promoted to Sergeant in 2024 and two more from this promotional process were sworn in during 2025. Each new sergeant is assigned a mentor, another supervisor, to assist with the new challenges that accompany promotion. Additionally, each new sergeant is sent to a two-week first line supervision school to give them the foundation to be a supervisor.

Court Services

The Court Liaison Officer, a sworn Mentor Police Officer, is responsible for the security and safety of the Mentor Municipal Court. The position is filled with one full-time and two part-time sworn Mentor police officers. This format allows complete coverage throughout the year. There are also two additional part-time officers (unarmed) that manage the front door of the Court and Police Department entrance. They make sure all people entering have business with these areas and are scanned for weapons, contraband, etc.

The Court Officer performed daily security checks of the courtrooms, all offices, hallways, stairwells, and outer perimeters. Panic alarms were tested monthly, and the results documented. The Court Officer discussed and reviewed safety and security issues with the bailiffs and the front door officers.

The Court Officer ensured timely delivery of any official documents to and from the Courts including criminal complaints, arrest reports, traffic citations, warrants, jail commits, and subpoenas. An additional duty included transporting prisoners between the Mentor Court and Lake County jail. This takes place at least once daily.

Community Service Unit

At the Mentor Police Department community engagement is a shared responsibility. Every officer fulfills the role of a community service officer through their daily duties and interactions with the public. The dedicated Community Service Unit (CSU) enhances this mission by fostering positive relationships and promoting safety through educational programs and ongoing outreach.

The CSU is an active member of the county-wide Safe Communities Coalition, collaborating with officers from various police and fire departments across Lake County. This coalition, which includes representatives from organizations such as the Lake County General Health District, Ohio Traffic Safety Office, ODOT, the Council on Aging, the ADAMHS Board, Crossroads, and MADD, meets regularly to plan events and improve community safety.



The CSU actively engages in a variety of safety and community-building events. These include long-standing programs like the third-grade seatbelt program and poster contest, educating students at Mentor's nine elementary schools about the importance of seatbelt safety. Other initiatives include the "Buckle Down" campaign, Safety Town, National Night Out, Homecoming and Prom Blitzes, the Protect and Serve Tavern, and the Department Open House, all aimed at fostering safety awareness and community connections.

The "Hide the Treasure" program was designed to unite the community and promote engagement during the summer months. Each week, a "treasure" was hidden in a public park or space, with a photo hint shared on Facebook and Instagram to guide participants. Residents joined the fun by searching for the treasure and submitting a photo of themselves with their find, along with its location. The CSU shared these photos on social media, highlighting the park or area in Mentor where the treasure was discovered. This creative initiative not only encouraged community interaction but also showcased the city's scenic spaces while inspiring excitement and exploration among residents.

In March, the CSU partnered with the Mentor High School Fine Arts Department to create an immersive and educational "art heist" experience for students. The Class of 2025 transformed their artwork into a museum-style exhibit, complete with a staged heist scene. Our officers worked alongside students to set up and process the mock crime scene, giving them a hands-on look at investigative techniques while celebrating their creativity and talent.



This collaboration blended art, education, and real-world problem-solving, offering students a unique opportunity to explore how law enforcement approaches crime scenes and work in a fun and engaging way.



The CSU is proud to have partnered with the Mentor Senior Center to host quarterly Coffee with a Cop events. This ongoing collaboration creates a relaxed, welcoming space where seniors can meet with officers, ask questions, share concerns, and build meaningful connections. By bringing officers and community members together over a cup of coffee, the program strengthens trust, encourages open conversation, and supports the department's commitment to community-oriented policing. Both the Mentor Police Department and the Mentor Senior Center look forward to continuing this partnership and expanding opportunities for engagement throughout the year.

In addition, the CSU participated in a program sponsored by iHeart Radio to launch a fun and safety-focused initiative at Lake Catholic High School and Mentor High School. Officers visited both campuses and handed out "Golden Tickets" to students who were spotted wearing their seatbelts as they arrived for school. The goal of the program was to promote safe driving habits and reinforce the importance of seatbelt use among young drivers. Students who received a Golden Ticket were entered into prize drawings sponsored by iHeart Radio, adding an exciting incentive to a lifesaving habit. This collaborative effort helped strengthen positive relationships between officers and students while encouraging responsible choices behind the wheel.



The CSU also co-hosted the INSPIRE program at Spire Institute in Geneva. Over 1,200 students from schools across eastern Lake County, Ashtabula County, and Trumbull County joined for a large-scale safety event. INSPIRE gives students the opportunity to see and hear the real consequences of unsafe decisions often made during prom and graduation season. Although this is the first year for the program, it is modeled after long-standing and highly successful initiatives that have been running for more than a decade. This collaborative event was coordinated by the Ohio State Highway Patrol, the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office, the Mentor Police Department, the Geneva Police Department, University Hospitals, the Ashtabula County Commissioners Office, and Lake and Ashtabula County Safe Communities. The program provided an honest, emotional, and impactful look at the dangers of distracted and impaired driving. Its purpose is to help teens make



safer choices—not only during this celebratory time of year, but throughout their lives. Students experienced several powerful components, including a simulated funeral and gravesite, as well as a Walk of Remembrance honoring local families who have lost loved ones in traffic crashes. They also heard firsthand accounts from guest speakers ranging from family members who lost someone in a crash, to individuals who drove intoxicated, caused a fatal collision, and served time in prison. INSPIRE is designed to leave a lasting impression, encouraging students to think critically about their decisions and understand the profound impact those decisions can have on themselves, their families, and their communities.

The CSU had the opportunity to participate in University Hospitals' annual Holiday Mocktail Party and Safe Kids Benefit, a festive kickoff to the holiday season. The event focused on promoting safe and responsible partying and party hosting, and the CSU helped share that message by serving delicious non-alcoholic mocktails. This collaboration offered a fun and engaging way to encourage responsible choices while celebrating the season.



The CSU launched the second annual Junior Police Academy, welcoming 40 recruits for an intensive, week-long program. The program expanded to two, one-week sessions. Participants gained foundational knowledge of law enforcement while enhancing their teamwork and social skills. Academy activities included defensive tactics, mock crime scene investigations, K9 demonstrations, physical training, evidence processing, CPR and First Aid, fingerprinting,

SWAT demonstrations, and traffic stop scenarios.

The CSU invited the Junior Police Academy attendees back for a Cops-N-Bobbers Day of fishing at Veteran's Park. The day consisted of officers building positive relationships with the recruits, teaching them life skills like patience, and connecting with the kids during a fun, relaxed day of fishing.

In 2025, the CSU held its first Citizens Police Academy. This was a community program where residents and local business owners had the opportunity to learn about the Mentor Police Department through hands-on training, classroom sessions, and officer interaction, covering topics like investigations, use of force, K-9 units, and dispatch, drone, SWAT and bomb units, traffic, hostage negotiation and tours of the Mentor Police Department and Lake County Crime Laboratory. It was the goal of this program to build trust, transparency, and better police-community partnerships. Participants also had the opportunity to do a ride along with officers, to gain a better understanding of the day-to-day operations of the police department.

Child safety is another cornerstone of the CSU's efforts. Officer Radigan and CPS Tracey Woodward conducted child seat inspections and installations. In 2025, the unit checked 88 car seats, with over 90% initially installed incorrectly.



The department also promotes helmet safety through an affordable bicycle helmet program, fitting and selling 38 helmets in 2025. Additionally, the Helmet Safety Citation program rewarded children for wearing helmets and practicing safe riding. Officers issued 109 citations.

The CSU oversees the department's school crossing guard program, ensuring the safety of students in high-traffic areas. This year, three guards and a newly trained substitute ensured a flawless safety record across four elementary schools.

Beyond these initiatives, the CSU participated in parades, Shop with a Kop, the Kops and Kids Christmas Party, National Walk to School Day, and safety talks at daycares, nursing homes, and the Mentor Chamber of Commerce.

In 2025, the Community Service Unit remained committed to enhancing safety, building trust, and fostering meaningful relationships throughout Mentor and Lake County.

Personnel and Training Unit

During 2025, the Mentor Police Department swore in three new patrol officers. One officer came with prior police experience and moved right into the Field Training Program. The other two officers started their basic police academy at Cuyahoga Community College (TRI-C) and are due to graduate in March 2026. The department also swore in two new School Resource Officers for an elementary school and middle school within the Mentor School District. The department had three retirements in 2025. One Lieutenant with 22 years of service, one patrolman with 25 years of service, and one administrative assistant with 13 years of service.

As the largest municipal police department in Lake County, the Mentor Police Department strives to provide all officers with the tools they need to set the department above all others in the area. Our commitment to training keeps our police department on the cutting edge of police professionalism. Training is required for basic police functions, as well as all specialized units, for the officer to safely meet every aspect of the job.

During 2025, the department scheduled sworn officers and civilian employees to attend in-house and off-site training. The Chief attended the International Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Training Conference. Our Captains each attended trainings specific to their specialties such as Bomb Squad and Drone. Two patrolmen were promoted to sergeant, and both attended the Northwestern University Supervision of Police Personnel two-week training. The department attended a total of 4,704 hours of training in 2025.

These hours consisted of 1,250 hours of free training, 1,702 hours of paid training, and 1,752 hours of CPT training.

Officers from the Patrol Division completed various trainings such as: Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), Street Survival, Peer Support Training through Crossroads Health, Basic and Advanced at Scene Accident Training, and REID Interrogation Training. The department hosted in-house Evidence Technician Training. The department also hosted and had officers from other agencies attending Evidence Technician Refresher Training.

The department added one Hostage Negotiator (HNT) who attended the required initial training courses for their specialty, including the annual conference with another HNT member. Four SWAT team members attended the annual Ohio Tactical Officers Association conference. Our school resource officer (SRO) attended the annual SRO conference. A new K-9 was added to the department and attended, with his handler, the required six-week training course in March. The drone team added an officer bringing our team to six members. The Detectives continued to receive training in several areas specifically suited to their specialized areas such as cell phone investigations and hidden vehicle compartment searches. Two detectives also attended the OIOA Annual Conference.

Each year, the Ohio Peace Officers Training Council (OPOTC) requires statewide Continuing Professional Training (CPT). For 2025, OPOTC required 24 hours of specific topics of training. The Mentor Police Department hosted two sessions for their officers and officers from outside agencies. We also sent officers to other host agencies to complete their CPT training requirements.

The dispatch supervisor attended several training courses pertaining to updates for the 911 system used. The dispatch staff attend various trainings including Ohio Amber Alert Training. The Record's Department completed Basic and Advanced Public Records training with legal updates. The victim advocate attended the annual Ohio Victims Advocate Conference as well as Marsy's Law training.

Range and Defensive Tactics

The Police Department continued its very active range program in 2025. This program is traditionally run twice a month in conjunction with the Defensive Tactics program. There were several range courses designed to not only simulate real world scenarios, but to also keep officers proficient with their duty weapons. Range exercises included work on tactical shooting, precision shooting, room clearing, as well as all required firearm qualification.

There are currently seven Range Officers in the department. Having this number of qualified Range Officers allows for more flexibility in scheduling and training options. Each brings a unique element to the Range Program, though all are committed to improving the firearm capabilities of our officers.

Field Training Officer (FTO) Program



The Mentor Police Department Field Training program consists of three weeks (120 hours) of “in house” training, and fourteen weeks of “on the road” training. During this training, the new officer will have three different training officers, and work both day shift and night shifts. Once a new officer completes the program they are cleared to begin working on their own.

We currently have fourteen training officers in the Patrol Division who are responsible for training the new officers in everything from departmental forms, laws of arrest, building searches and everything in between. The FTOs document everything the new hires do and test them regularly. They really are the backbone of the department.

Once a month, the training officer and trainee meet with Sgt. Ondercin and Lt. Molnar to make sure training is progressing and everything is “on track”.

We had a total of six new officers go through the FTO program in 2025. Officers Mullholand, Schaefer, Adzema, Kernc, Bailey, and Randazzo all successfully completed the program. Two officers are scheduled to graduate from the Police Academy in February 2026 and will start the FTO program in early March.

Operations Division

The Operations Division is comprised of the Patrol Bureau and the Detective Bureau. The patrol officers are responsible for handling all calls for service, taking initial reports of crime, completing investigations, enforcing traffic violations, and providing a safe environment for our residents and businesses. The Detective Bureau is responsible for investigating more serious crimes, crimes that are more complex or require investigation outside of the city. The Detective Bureau provides valuable support to the patrol division with various investigative tools. Each unit has its own objectives and responsibilities to provide effective and efficient delivery of police services, which is the overall goal of the Operations Division. The main goals of our patrol division are to provide exceptional service and to ensure the safety of our residents and businesses. Our officers strive to provide excellent service to our residents and keep them safe on the roads, at our businesses, and in their homes.

Our patrol officers engage with the community while providing security at city events such as the Mentor Rocks concert series, Tunes at the Lagoons, City Fest, and other smaller city sponsored events. We are happy to report that we were able to provide a safe environment for all these events. Our officers enjoy meeting the community at these events and we appreciate the strong support the residents show for the police department.

Patrol Bureau

Officers assigned to the patrol bureau work 12-hour shifts and are assigned daily to various parts of the city. Their daily duties include traffic enforcement, responding to calls for service and criminal patrol. The Mentor Police Department had two retirements, and three officers resign during 2025. The department hired three officers in 2025. One had prior police experience and successfully completed our Field Training Program and is working as a solo officer. Two of them are currently in the Basic Police Academy at Cuyahoga Community College and will graduate in March 2026. We hired nine officers in 2024 who finished their training in 2025 and have greatly contributed to our road coverage. Hiring officers remains a priority and the department puts a strong focus on recruitment.

Policing continues to evolve with advancements in technology. We continue to use these advancements to help investigate and solve crime. Our FLOCK license plate reader cameras, stationed throughout the city, help locate suspects and wanted people on a regular basis. With the help of FLOCK cameras we made 99 arrests, recovered nine stolen autos, and located three missing people. Citizens help us tremendously by identifying suspected criminals on Facebook and providing us with other valuable tips.

Our patrol officers will at times conduct special details including warrant service, targeted traffic enforcement, and aggressive criminal enforcement in higher crime areas. This past year officers conducted "Move over Mondays" focusing on vehicles that were not abiding by Ohio's Move Over Law. Officers also focused attention on SR 2 as well as directing patrol on side streets where we receive complaints. We continue to work closely with Mentor Public Schools to combat passing school bus violations.

This past year our officers were able to ensure peaceful demonstrations at two large "No Kings Rallies" and smaller weekly protests along Mentor Avenue. Officers were professional in dealing with small issues that arose that allowed people to exercise their right to protest while making sure it was done in a safe manner.

The Mentor Police Department has a good working relationship with the other Lake County Police Agencies. Several of our officers participated in County-wide Mass Casualty Incident Training during the summer. This training is critical to ensure Lake County Safety Services have a coordinated response to mass casualty incidents, whether it is an active shooter, industrial accident, or natural disaster.

Reported crimes in the city remain relatively consistent year to year. Adult arrests dropped 7% this year. Our reported thefts dropped 25% this past year and our arrests for theft dropped by 41%. Most other crimes remained relatively consistent from the previous year. In 2025 there was a 26% increase in drug arrests. Motor Vehicle thefts decreased from 26 in 2024 to 25 in 2026. Violent crime remains very low in the city with only 76 reported assaults and no homicides. Our patrol division investigated a wide assortment of calls including sex offenses, aggravated robbery, felonious assault, burglary, as well as numerous other crimes and calls for service.

The call activity in the department was down 4% compared to 2024. Due to the citywide cyber incident that took place in October 2025, our calls for service are not exact. Although there was a slight decrease in traffic citations, written warnings rose by 45% as compared to 2024. Thefts and drug offenses were again the leading arrest categories.

Traffic enforcement is a major function of the patrol division with goal of reducing accidents. Accidents were down by 10% in 2025. This has been a trend for the last couple of years. The Mentor Police Department actively participated in three State of Ohio Department of Public Safety sponsored traffic enforcement programs: “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over”, “What’s Holding You Back,” and “Click it or Ticket.” OVI arrests have been on the decline as it seems more people are utilizing ride share services after drinking.

| | 2024 | 2025 | Difference | Change |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------|------------|--------|
| Calls for Service | 20,244 | 19,448* | -796 | -4% |
| Criminal Offenses | 1,408 | 1,244 | -164 | -12% |
| Adult Arrests | 663 | 618 | -45 | -7% |
| OVI | 113 | 92 | -21 | -20% |
| Total On-Street Accidents | 1,125 | 1,020 | -105 | -10% |
| Total Injury Accidents | 267 | 223 | -44 | -18% |
| Traffic Citations | 4,868 | 4,634 | -234 | -5% |
| Written Warnings | 1,627 | 2,563 | 936 | 45% |

*Due to the cyber incident that occurred in OCT, some data may have been lost. This is an estimated number.

Special Events



The Mentor Police Department provided security at over 25 events during the summer of 2025. This included 16 concerts at the Amphitheater, including three national acts. We also provided security at Tunes at the Lagoons, City Fest, 4th of July Fireworks, Mentor Cruise-In, as well as making checks at over 10 other City sponsored recreational events. We utilized a variety of tools including drones, a surveillance trailer camera, bikes, K9 and ATVs to enhance our security at these large gatherings. Our officers enjoyed interacting with the community during these family events. Most importantly we are proud to report we had no major incidents at any of these community celebrations and were able to provide a safe environment for all those that attended the events.

Traffic Services

One of the many responsibilities of the Mentor Police Department is enforcing traffic laws. Patrol officers are expected to address traffic violations in order to promote good driving habits and lower the number of accidents that occur in the city. Ultimately, the goal is

public safety. There are times when specific traffic complaints are reported and forwarded to the dayshift Lieutenant.



There were seventy-two specific complaints received through various channels in 2025. Most came directly from citizens. The most common complaint was speeding vehicles. Fifteen of those complaints were assigned selective enforcement. Selective enforcement is a program where officers are assigned specific areas of the city during their shift. The others were handled by deployment of the speed trailers or passed on to patrol officers during roll call.

The traffic calming program ran from March 31st through December 7th, 2025. Select locations were designated in residential areas based on complaints. The City Public Works Department assisted in the traffic calming program by posting signs at targeted locations. The program was divided into six-week segments with each ward having a designated street. Patrol officers conducted traffic enforcement activities at each location throughout the year.

The department was awarded \$18,626.30 in federal traffic safety funding in April 2025. This was part of a grant through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. It was used to supplement overtime for officers to aggressively enforce traffic laws with an emphasis on OVI, speed, distracted driving, and seatbelt violations. The goal of the grant is to promote safe streets and to reduce fatalities. The grant continued through the end of September 2025.



Traffic law enforcement will continue to be a priority with the Mentor Police Department patrol division to promote safe driving habits and reduce accidents.

Criminal Investigations Bureau

The Mentor Police Department Detective Bureau is made up of a Detective Lieutenant, a Detective Sergeant, six general duty detectives, two narcotics investigators, one juvenile detective, and an administrative assistant. The juvenile detective position is currently not filled. The Detective Lieutenant and Detective Sergeant are responsible for the administration of the Detective Bureau, management of the Narcotics Unit, Internal Affairs investigations, the Evidence Technician program, the Video Forensic program, the Computer Forensic program, the detective assigned to the U.S. Marshals Task Force, the detective assigned to the FBI Midwestern Cryptocurrency Task Force, the Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the School Resource Officer program, and the overall management of all investigations assigned to the Detective Bureau. Two School Resource Officers were added this year for additional security at the Mentor Schools.

Training for detectives and evidence technicians is a priority for the Mentor Police Department. Detectives continued to participate in the annual Ohio Identification Officers Association training. The three-day conference covered training in multiple investigative disciplines. The narcotics detectives completed training in drug interdiction and vehicle searches. One detective completed a training course in using social media for investigations. The Detective Bureau utilizes social media to keep citizens informed of important information and as an aid in their investigations. Several cases have been solved by citizen tips received after a video or photograph has been posted to Facebook asking for assistance in identifying a person.

Detectives were responsible for follow-up on all assigned cases until the case can be cleared or satisfactorily closed. Detectives are responsible for assisting and supporting the patrol division with investigations when the need arises. One additional responsibility of the detective bureau is conducting background investigations for new police candidates, corrections officers, and dispatchers.

Computer / Cell Phone Forensics Unit

This unit forensically processes phones, computers, and other electronic devices to obtain evidence of crimes. The crimes typically include child pornography, soliciting minors for sex, drug trafficking, and other situations where electronic images, communication, or data provide evidence of a crime. The department has a detective assigned to work with the United States Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force for training and assistance with examinations. In 2025, this detective conducted 57 electronic device examinations. Mentor cases accounted for 29 of those examinations, and the remaining cases were for other Lake County agencies

Video Forensic Unit

This Unit consists of two detectives who process and enhance video recordings and images from various sources. The unit uses a Video Forensic Computer system utilizing Avid and Input Ace software. Video and image enhancements are used in identifying suspects and assisting in prosecution. This system allows for enhanced still photos captured from videos to be distributed to media outlets and other law enforcement agencies. The suspects identified through social media tips in 2025 were through still images captured with this software. In 2025, the unit processed 63 forensic video requests.

Narcotics Unit

The Mentor Police Department Narcotics Unit investigated criminal drug offenses in Mentor and around Lake County. These investigations were initiated as the result of drug transactions that were directly observed by detectives, tips called in to police, information gathered from the use of confidential informants, and reports of drug thefts made to police. Detectives worked throughout the year on drug cases with agents from the Lake County Narcotics Agency. The detectives also trained new patrol officers in basic drug investigations and search and seizure law as it related to drug offenses.

As part of their duties, the detectives were responsible for handling seizures and forfeitures that resulted from drug arrests and OVI cases. A total of five vehicles were seized in 2025. In June 2025, MPD seized over \$92,000 in cash following the arrest of a vehicle driver on another agency's warrant.

Detectives were also tasked with investigating drug overdose deaths. In summer 2025, two defendants were sentenced to a combined 38 years in prison for trafficking narcotics that killed two Mentor residents in 2024.

Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force



The Detective Bureau has one investigator assigned to receive complaints generated by the Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. This task force supports the prosecution of offenders disseminating or receiving prohibited child sexual abuse materials.

This detective investigated 14 complaints from ICAC in 2025. These cyber tips all contained information about IP addresses located in Mentor where child pornography was being saved or shared over the internet. The investigations led to the execution of two search warrants on homes in Mentor, and 34 search warrants for accounts and devices. ICAC provides the funding for our department to use software to assist with searching electronics for evidence of child sexual abuse material.

Cryptocurrency Task Force

The Detective Bureau assigned one detective on a part-time basis to the Midwestern Cryptocurrency Task Force. The task force is run by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and targets financial fraud which utilizes cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin. This detective investigated a total of 26 cases involving the illicit use of cryptocurrency. Nineteen of these cases were from Mentor. Seven of these case assignments were to assist surrounding law enforcement agencies. In most of these cryptocurrency scams, the victims were conned into sending US funds through various cryptocurrency retailers. These funds are difficult to track as they get moved to other digital wallets and accounts, mixed with other funds, and moved multiple more times to mask the destination of the funds.

Evidence Technicians

The Mentor Police Department Evidence Technician (E.T.) Program consists of 26 patrol officers, one School Resource Officer, and all eight of the detectives in the Detective Bureau. E.T.s are responsible for digital photography and processing of physical and electronic evidence. Digital photographs are taken at crime scenes and of victims' injuries. Physical evidence that is collected includes fingerprints, tool marks and

impressions, shoe and tire prints, DNA, and trace evidence, such as hairs and fibers. Evidence Technicians processed 328 cases and took 6,890 digital photographs in 2025.

In March 2025, MPD hosted a Basic Evidence Technician course. The 40-hour class was instructed by investigators and forensic professionals from MPD, Ohio BCI&I, the Lake County Crime Laboratory, and the Lake County Coroner. The course was open to Lake County agencies and surrounding communities. This latest class trained 17 new E.Ts.

In November 2025, our Citizen Police Academy Cadets received a crash course in evidence collection from Detective Bureau investigators.



School Resource Officer (SRO)

The Mentor Police Department now has three School Resource Officers assigned to Mentor Schools. There is one SRO assigned to Mentor High School. We have added two more SRO's, one in an elementary school and the other in a middle school. They provide a law enforcement resource that students can approach for information, guidance, or help. The High School SRO is responsible for investigating crimes and complaints that are committed on school property and making arrests when appropriate. The High School SRO handled seven investigations that resulted in two arrests. This SRO attended the three-day School Resource Officer conference. He also assisted with the Junior Police Academy in June. The SRO's assigned to the middle and grade schools offer added security to each building. Those SRO's utilize patrol officers to take any criminal reports and investigate any criminal complaints.



Arson Investigation

The Mentor Police Department Detective Bureau has one detective assigned and trained to assist the Mentor Fire Department with arson investigations. This detective works with investigators from the fire department to collect evidence at the fire scene. There was one house fire where the arson investigator assisted the Mentor Fire Department with an investigation in 2025. That fire was later determined not to be arson related.

U.S. Marshals Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force

The Detective Bureau continued to have one detective assigned to the U.S. Marshals Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force in 2025. The Mentor detective assigned to the Task Force assists with tracking down violent felons who are wanted from Mentor and the surrounding counties. This detective trains regularly with other USMS Task Force officers. During the detective's service with the task force this year, 67 people were taken into custody for warrants. This number included 13 warrants that originated in Mentor.

Case Load

In 2025, the Detective Bureau investigated a total of 284 cases. Detectives cleared 49 cases by arresting and/or indicting suspects on charges of theft, identity fraud, drug trafficking, breaking and entering, and more. They closed an additional 156 cases as pending, and 38 cases remain open and are still being actively investigated. There were 19 cases exceptionally cleared, meaning the victims in these cases no longer wanted to pursue criminal charges, and 22 cases are inactive while awaiting prosecutor or grand jury review. The investigations involved a variety of cases including aggravated assault, felonious assault, financial crimes, theft offenses, sexual assault, narcotics trafficking, overdose deaths, weapons offenses, child pornography, and missing persons.

Detectives often collect evidence by executing search warrants and/or serving subpoenas. They must first draft the affidavit and warrant/subpoena documents, which are then reviewed by the court. If the warrants are granted by the court, detectives serve the search warrants and collect evidence relating to their investigations. This may include a physical search of a location, a search of an electronic device, or the retrieval of electronic records from a service provider. Subpoenas are typically sent to compel the production of business documents or surveillance video. A sizeable part of a detective's job is compiling the legal paperwork for these processes. In 2025, detectives drafted and executed a total of 79 search warrants and 139 subpoenas.

Volunteer Police Chaplain Program

The program was formally instituted in February of 2009. The current members are Rev. Stoney Drain, Fr. Timothy Plavac, and Rev. Scott Kennedy.

This program has played a crucial role this past year in providing emotional support and spiritual support via in-house and community engagements. The Chaplains continued to make their services available by way of counseling, assisting with death notifications, callouts to community members as requested by the police department, funeral services,

ride-alongs, Kops-N-Kids events, hospital visits, retirement events and other department gatherings. The Chaplains, combined, volunteered over 228.5 hours in 2025. The Chaplains program continues to thrive as most of their volunteer time goes to individual time with officers and their families. Over the past year the chaplains have made a significant impact of the well-being of the Mentor Police Officers and our community. Their dedication has helped foster promotion of mental health and positive relationships between our department and the public. In addition, the Chaplains donated approximately \$369.79 to the men and women of the police department for food and candy, \$15.21 for flowers, 126.00 for meals for the officers.

Specialty Units

Accident Investigation Unit



The Mentor Police Department's Accident Investigation Unit (AIU) consists of four members who have advanced training in crash investigation. Two members are Crash Reconstructionist, and all four are Evidence Technicians. The members of the Mentor Police AIU also serve on the Lake Regional Crash Reconstruction Unit (CRU).

2025 saw the addition of a dedicated AIU vehicle. The retired Lake County Bomb Squad pickup offered a convenient place to store the equipment needed to manage a serious traffic crash scene. By housing all the gear in a ready-to-deploy vehicle, AIU response times were reduced.

In 2025, Mentor's AIU assisted in the investigation of 14 cases, including mutual aid to the Lake CRU. Among these cases were seven fatalities, one Aggravated Vehicular Assault, and one Aggravated Vehicular Homicide. Four cases were alcohol/drug related.

Bomb Squad

The Lake County Bomb Squad continued its tradition of providing excellent response to and coverage of incidents involving hazardous materials and devices in Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula counties. The squad was formed in 1992. Since that time, we have trained and gotten equipment to be able to respond to a wide array of hazardous incidents. The squad is recognized as an Accredited Public Safety Bomb Squad by the FBI and the National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board.

The team consists of five bomb technicians, one explosive detecting K9 team, and one paramedic. We also had one officer join the team to become a certified bomb technician. He is awaiting a date for his initial training. The team members were from five area agencies: Mentor Police Department, Concord Township Fire Department, Eastlake

Police Department, Painesville Police Department, and the Geauga County Sheriff's Department. We continued our partnership with University Hospitals. UH will send a squad and paramedics on all bomb squad responses. This will allow for on-scene rescue squad and medical personnel who are familiar with our gear and processes should the need arise.

The team trains twice each month to ensure continued familiarity with equipment and methods introduced by the FBI and ATF. The FBI coordinated several advanced courses in the Cleveland area for local bomb squads. This afforded our bomb squad members the opportunity to learn new techniques and discuss trends with other squads from the area. Two team members are on a task force with the FBI to respond to radiological or nuclear hazardous incidents across northern Ohio.



The bomb squad is required to submit incident reports to the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This system tracks all bomb squad activities and incidents to allow for trends to be identified and communication between squads to be simplified. During the year our bomb squad was utilized 42 times. Incidents included suspicious items, bomb threats, improvised explosive devices, recovery of military ordnance, and others. Each incident presented a unique challenge for the squad. Additionally, the team disposed of about 50 pounds of old ammunition and about 1,500 homemade fireworks recovered in Geauga County. Fortunately, there were no injuries to team members or accidents

related to the calls.

In conclusion, the Lake County Bomb Squad has provided a necessary, important service to the residents of Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula Counties for over 30 years. In light of the ever-present risk of attacks by foreign and domestic terrorists, the Squad has proven to be a valuable asset to our community and to the various cities within the three-county region. Continued operation and support is essential to the safety and well-being of the citizens of the City of Mentor and the region.

Bike/ATV Unit

The MPD Bike Unit is comprised of one supervisor and eight officers. The ATV Unit is comprised of one supervisor and seven officers. Both Units were assigned to events in 2025. These events included the 4th of July celebration, the Torch Run, Mentor Rocks Concert Series, Tunes at the Lagoons, and Mentor City Fest. The side-by-side was used for these special events and continues to be a great high visibility public relations tool. The ATV Unit was utilized by the City of Mentor's Wildlife Management Team as well. Both the Bike Unit and the ATV Unit continue to have a positive impact on community.

Drone Unit

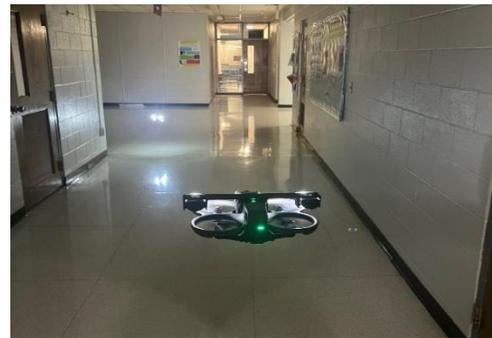
The Mentor Police Drone Team supports the Police Department's Operations Division. Its mission is to provide officers and firefighters with real-time aerial perspectives that enhance situational awareness and deliver actionable intelligence during critical incidents and investigations, while prioritizing the safety of first responders and the public. Drone technology has proven highly effective for search and rescue missions, high-risk suspect apprehensions, interior structure threat assessment, hazardous materials and explosives identification, crime scene mapping, accident reconstruction, fire investigations, large event security, and nighttime operations.



The Mentor Police Department has utilized drone technology since 2018 through its partnership with the Lake County Public Safety UAS Team. As the demand for drones in public safety continued to grow, and the technology became more accessible, the department established its own drone team in 2023. Having licensed pilots and mission-ready drones readily available allows for faster response times during a wide range of emergency situations. The Mentor Drone Team continues to work closely with the Lake County UAS Team to support public safety efforts throughout Lake County.



The Mentor Police Drone Team is made up of six trained pilots, each holding an FAA "Small UAS" certification. The department's drones are equipped with advanced capabilities, including high-definition zoom cameras, thermal imaging, search lights, droppable payloads, and image recording technology. Drone pilots complete extensive training covering FAA laws and regulations, flight operations across multiple drone platforms, indoor search techniques, search and rescue operations, and geo-spatial imagery. In 2025, the team expanded from five to six pilots when Patrolman Childs joined the drone team in mid-2025 and earned his FAA small UAS certification.



Team training for 2025 included a joint session with the Fairport Harbor Coast Guard station, multiple training days with the Lake County Public Safety UAS team, and indoor tactical flying at Mentor High School and other facilities.

In 2025, the Mentor Drone Team was deployed to support twenty-three incidents. These responses included, but were not limited to, missing persons, fleeing suspects, barricaded individuals, and the Mentor Rocks concert series. By providing an aerial view during incidents and community events, drones enhance patrol operations by helping identify and address potential issues as they develop.

The Mentor Drone Team enjoys engaging and educating the community about the use of drone technology in public safety. In 2025, these outreach efforts included presentations to students of Shore Middle School's *Flight and Space* class, the Mentor Senior Center, the Mentor Police Department's Junior Police Academy and Citizens Police Academy, as well as the MPD Open House.



The Mentor Drone Team respects citizens' rights and operates in full compliance with all privacy laws and regulations.

Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)

The SWAT team is responsible for resolving high-risk situations that are encountered by patrol units. In 2025, the Mentor Police Department SWAT team continued to provide tactical law enforcement support for the City of Mentor and Lake County.

Training was conducted monthly and consisted of individual and team skills development. This included areas such as building searches, serving high-risk warrants, dealing with armed barricaded subjects, and active threat response. In May, the team conducted joint training with the Lake County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team, becoming more proficient at breaching various types of doors in order to quickly gain access to enclosed structures.



In June, four team members attended the annual Ohio Tactical Officers Association Conference in Sandusky, Ohio. During the week-long conference, team members received comprehensive training and instruction on numerous legal and tactical subjects. This training was then brought back and taught to the entire SWAT team to enhance its capabilities.

During June and July, the SWAT team held an assessment and selection process to fill vacant positions on the team. As a result, five new officers were added to the team. The team is currently full staff, comprised of 19 officers from the Mentor, Mentor-on-the-Lake, and Kirtland Hills police departments.

K-9 Unit

The Mentor Police K-9 Unit continued to be an essential asset to the Mentor Police Department in 2025. Our two teams consist of Ptl. Mackey with K-9 Bak and Ptl. Wurgler with K-9 Ares. The K-9 teams perform a wide array of duties throughout the year not only in Mentor but also assist surrounding law enforcement agencies. The primary responsibilities of the K-9 teams are criminal enforcement and community relations. The K-9 duties specifically entail patrol, apprehension, drug detection and interdiction, tracking, and article and building searches. The teams attend special events as well. In 2025 the K9's participated in City Fest, Mentor Rocks, Cops and Bobbers fishing event, Safety Town, Fill A Cruiser Food Drive, MPAA's Lake County Captains game and the Kops and Kids Christmas party. They also routinely visit local schools and businesses. In 2025, the teams performed 68 K-9 deployments for the Mentor Police Department and 29 assists to other law enforcement agencies. These included thirteen suspect controls and apprehensions, 26 assists to officers, four article or area searches, one subject track, and 49 narcotics searches. The teams were directly responsible for or assisted with seven misdemeanor arrests and 15 felony arrests.



The K-9 handlers trained twice a month in 2025 with other K-9 Teams in the region and attended a class called “Advanced Canine Procedures, Tactics and First Aid Training”. Both teams recertified with the State of Ohio in April. The support for the K-9 Unit from the Mentor community continued in 2025 with several businesses and residents offering support in the form of services, supplies, food, and monetary donations. PetSmart continued to donate food for the teams, and the Lakeshore Animal Hospital continued to donate health care.

With the passing of K-9 Achilles in September of 2024 the department was down to only one K-9. Ptl. Wurgler was once again chosen to be our K-9 Officer, bringing 12 years of experience as a K-9 handler. In early February 2025, Ptl. Wurgler went to Shallow Creek Kennels Inc. in Sharpsville PA. where he was paired with his new K-9 partner, Ares. K-9 Ares is a 2-year-old German Shepherd born in Poland. Ptl. Wurgler attended training in Pennsylvania for six weeks before returning to Mentor and hitting the road on April 27, 2025. Ares is a dual-purpose K-9 certified through the state of Ohio in patrol and special purpose. He's trained in the detection of narcotics (cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine), suspect apprehension, tracking, area searches, article searches, building searches and most importantly obedience.

In 2025, the Mentor Police K-9 unit updated its record keeping system. In July of 2025 Officers started using an online record keeping program called “Packtrack”. This system is used to keep K-9 training logs, Deployment Tracking and Detailed Reports. This system is used by K-9 teams across the country and by most police agencies in Lake County. This upgrade will help officers keep detailed records digitally and eliminate the need for paper reports. Officers will be attending a Canine Legal update training and

attending a weeklong training conference put on by the North American Police Work Dog Association. We look forward to continued success with our K-9 program in 2026.

Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT)

The Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT) is a unit within the Mentor Police Department that has been trained to handle communications in crisis and hostage situations. The primary goal of the HNT in any crisis situation is the preservation of life and the peaceful resolution of the crisis through open communication and negotiation, thereby minimizing the need for the use of force. All six (6) of the team members are trained as Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers.

During crisis situations, the HNT is under the control of the scene commander and works alongside patrol officers, SWAT team members, bomb disposal officers, and/or other specialized units. The HNT is called upon to communicate primarily with suicidal, armed, and/or barricaded subjects.

The team meets in-house four times throughout the year for training. We continued to familiarize ourselves with our newer equipment. This year we sent three team members to the yearly Midwest Crisis Negotiator Conference in Columbus. The Conference is an amazing opportunity for negotiators to learn from fellow negotiators from around the US and sometimes from other countries. There are multiple days of case study presentations where negotiators present their case and discuss approaches and techniques used.

We were excited to announce the addition of a new team member. The applicant went through a panel interview composed of a current team member, a member of the department administration, and a negotiator from an outside agency. The new member this year attended the required basic negotiator training through the FBI Cleveland Office.

The team also responded to a seminar presented by the Cleveland FBI Crisis Negotiation Team and met with the new Team Leader. The Cleveland Team strives to develop and strengthen relationships with area teams. Also, in 2025 two team members went to a case study presented by the Cleveland FBI office in conjunction with the Lake County SWAT and Negotiator Teams in Painesville Township.

In 2026 one of our goals is to enroll four of our team members in the Advanced Negotiator Training Seminar.

Support Services Division

The Support Services Division of the Mentor Police Department manages the Safety Forces Communications Unit (Dispatch), Corrections Unit (Jail), Records Unit, and Property & Evidence Unit. These units provide critical services to the community and support the Operations Division. The high level of service provided by these units reflects the mission of the Mentor Police Department. Staff in each of these units are required to

complete annual training which allows them to meet or exceed strict state and federal guidelines, or ‘Best Practices’ related to their responsibilities.

The Support Services Division is responsible for the preparation and management of the police department’s annual budget and expenditures. Each year the Support Services Commander must evaluate the needs of the various bureaus and units of the department and then prepare a budget package for the upcoming year. Line items in the budget package include necessary staffing adjustments, police gear and equipment, vehicles, software, maintenance agreements, services, and training. The budget package requires approval from the Chief of Police, City Manager, and Council, before going into effect each January 1st. Throughout the budget year, the Support Services Commander approves or denies purchases to ensure fiscal responsibility through the end of the budget cycle.



Support Services is the liaison to the city’s Public Works Department to ensure the maintenance of all police department facilities. Due to an aging police station, built in 1982, annual upgrades and renovations have been necessary to maintain a functional, professional, and modern work environment. In 2025, renovations were completed on the second floor of the Administration, Detective Bureau, and Reception areas. These renovations included the removal of peeling wallpaper, new

paint, lighting and ceiling tiles. We continue to consider cost-effective upgrades to our aging police facility.

The Support Services Division manages the department’s Narcan and AED (Automated External Defibrillator) Programs. We ensure that each officer has a supply of Narcan on

| MENTOR POLICE - NALOXONE PROGRAM | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Program Year | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| MPD Responses using Naloxone for Overdose | 36 | 16 | 16 | 13 | 7 | 3 |
| Total Doses of Naloxone Administered | 59 | 43 | 30 | 20 | 12 | 7 |
| Average Naloxone Doses per Overdose | 1.6 | 2.7 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 2.3 |

hand, and training, to respond to opioid overdoses, as well as an AED to respond to cardiac incidents. MPD implemented the Narcan Program in 2015 as a response to the number of opioid-related deaths. Since that time, a documented 197 lives have been saved by Mentor Officers using naloxone (name brand Narcan) to reverse the effects of opioid overdoses. While opioid overdoses continue to be a serious concern, the trend shows a considerable decrease in opioid overdoses over the last six years, with Mentor officers administering naloxone to only three victims in 2025. Through our partnership with the Lake County Health District, we can keep an ample supply of naloxone on-hand.

For 2025, the police department acquired 13 new Physio Control LifePak CR2 AEDs, to replace our 10-year-old units. Seven were purchased by MPD, while six others were donated to MPD by the Mentor Rotary Club. These 13 AEDs allow each working patrol officer to carry one in their patrol cars. This allows officers to respond to cardiac arrest emergencies quickly, greatly enhancing the patient's chances of survival. Two AEDs were placed strategically in the police department to better respond to cardiac emergencies occurring at the police station.



Communications Division

The Mentor Safety Forces Communications Unit is committed to providing efficient, attentive, quality service to the residents and safety forces we serve. We promote TEAMWORK in our center; RESPECT to those who have given us their trust; are ACCOUNTABLE to those we serve; maintain INTEGRITY in the performance of our duties; and DEDICATE ourselves to the profession we have chosen.



The Communications Unit is a critical step in the emergency response process. Dispatchers answer emergency and non-emergency calls and dispatch the appropriate police and/or fire resources as needed. Unbeknownst to many, the dispatcher's role is much more significant. Dispatchers support callers by answering questions, providing life-saving instructions, diffusing hostile situations, and preparing the caller for emergency responders' arrival. In addition, dispatchers gather as much intelligence

on each situation, promptly relaying that to first responders. They continue to provide further intelligence information as incidents evolve.

A total of 95,817 phone calls were processed by Emergency Dispatch in 2025, down from just over 100,061 in 2024. A total of 13,182 were 911 Emergency calls. The most notable decrease from 2024 was with 911 land line calls. This is down 1,796 from the year prior. There is a natural decrease in landline calls as people look toward cell phone use over the standard home phone as their primary communication device. We continue to track this trend as we prepare for Next Generation 911 and the impact it will have on our dispatch center.

Total calls for service saw an increase in 2025, with a total of 47,729, compared to 46,064 in 2024. This was broken down by police and fire calls. The total police calls for service entered into the computer aided dispatch (CAD) system was 37,639, while the total for fire calls entered was 10,090.

The implementation of Priority Dispatch's ProQA was well on its way in 2025 but did not get completed. ProQA is a software application that directly integrates with dispatch CAD software. ProQA enhances our Emergency Medical Dispatching (EMD) by improving how we assess callers' medical needs and provide life-saving pre-paramedic arrival instructions, including CPR, bleeding control, and safety guidance. Information on the medical emergency is provided to responding paramedics to better prepare them to meet a victim's medical needs. These measures have been shown to significantly improve patient outcomes and scene safety.

Another notable upgrade to the Communications Unit was the transition from copper phone lines to a secure and dedicated VoIP phone system to manage non-emergency calls. This system works on a circuit that allows us the capability to transfer these lines to Lake County's Central Communications Unit if the need arose to evacuate the dispatch center. We continue to consider upgrades that will allow the Communications Unit to operate no matter the circumstance.

In December, we welcomed new dispatcher Brandon Barnard to the team, armed with a positive outlook, curiosity to learn, and a genuine desire to serve. We are very excited to have him on board. As his training progresses, Brandon has demonstrated that he will serve the community and first responders well and have a long career with the City of Mentor.



Red E. Fox is back! 2025 was exciting for the Communications Unit's public relations staff, starting with the return of the "911 for Kids" program. Dispatcher Sistek, in conjunction with the Mentor School District, oversaw the reintroduction of this wonderful educational program. Red E. Fox and Dispatcher Sistek traveled to the local schools to teach all 2nd graders the importance of 911, and how to use it correctly. A fun time was had by both students and teachers.

Dispatchers were thrilled to be asked to participate in the Junior Police Academy in 2025. Dispatchers Soeder, Holzheimer, and Lewis developed an informative presentation covering the duties and career of an emergency dispatcher. Due to the success of their presentation, Dispatchers Soeder and Hendricks were invited to present for the Mentor Police Citizens Police Academy.

Records Unit

The Records Unit is the central repository for all records produced and/or received by the Police Department, with the responsibility to intake, organize, securely store, and produce



these records as required by our judicial partners or through public record requests. To manage the vast number of records produced by the police department, we utilize both a paper filing system and records management software. This software provides us the ability to serve our citizens and law enforcement partners by quickly locating and accessing various records. Records management software aids in limiting the amount of paper filing to only those paper documents required by our records retention schedule. The police department makes an effort to

minimize paper copies when able by producing and distributing records in digital format.

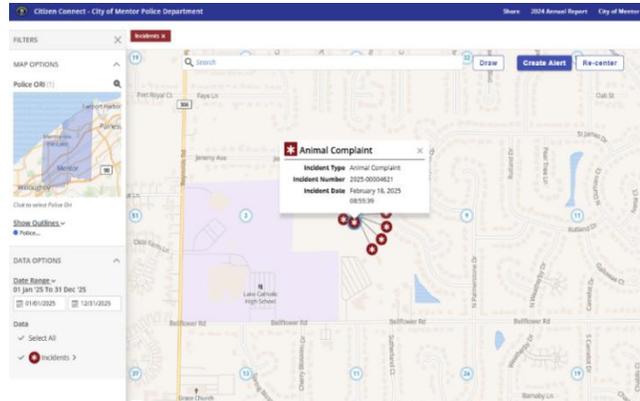
Visitors to the Mentor Police Department are welcomed by our Records Unit staff. Our staff assists the public with filing crime, accident, and civil reports, public records requests, solicitor permit applications, towed-vehicle releases, as well as answering many police-related questions. Daily Records duties include merging case reports, accident reports, traffic citations and warnings into the records management system, preparing criminal cases for both Mentor and the Lake County Common Pleas courts, updating criminal and traffic case dispositions, filing ATF Gun Trace requests, reporting crime statistics to the state, and managing subpoenas. The Records staff enjoys giving out prizes to local children who received a "Safety Citation" for wearing bicycle helmets.



One complex and time-consuming responsibility of our clerks is managing public record requests. The Records Unit fulfills hundreds of requests each year, including

requests for cases and accident reports, body and dash cam footage, 9-1-1 recordings, and inter-departmental records. Prior to producing requested records, clerks must ensure they can release records in full, or if the law requires redaction of certain data from the record. Records require redaction for various reasons to include uncharged suspects and certain victim identification, as well as open criminal investigations. To ensure that public records are released promptly and properly, all Records staff complete annual refresher training on public records laws, also known as Ohio's Sunshine Laws.

‘Citizen Connect’ was introduced to Mentor residents in April of 2025, providing more transparency to residents. ‘Citizen Connect’ is a website utilizing a map interface that allows the public to view police incident types on a map during a user-defined time frame. Users can zoom into areas of the city to see more details. Through daily updates, ‘Citizen Connect’ provides police incident information in a timely manner.



Each month the Records Unit publishes statistical reports by querying data from the records management system, which provide details regarding crimes, arrests, citations, and accidents. These reports benefit the police department by showing trends in crimes and traffic issues. The Operations Division uses these statistics to aid them in effectively planning directed patrol activities or special details.

CRASH DATA – SEPTEMBER 2025

SUMMARY OF MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES

| | SEP 2025 | YTD 2025 | SEP 2024 | YTD 2024 | PERCENT DIFF |
|------------------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Crashes Involving Injury* | 17 | 169 | 23 | 179 | -6% |
| Crashes Involving Death | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Crashes Involving Property Damage* | 58 | 625 | 56 | 581 | 8% |
| Private Property Crashes | 35 | 345 | 38 | 317 | 9% |
| TOTAL: | 110 | 1,141 | 117 | 1,077 | 6% |
| Persons Injured* | 25 | 226 | 33 | 242 | -7% |
| Persons Killed | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0% |

*Does not include private property crashes.

These reports also provide information to other city departments, the City Manager and City Council. Specific statistical reports are provided to external requestors, including the media, local businesses, homeowners’ associations, and citizens.

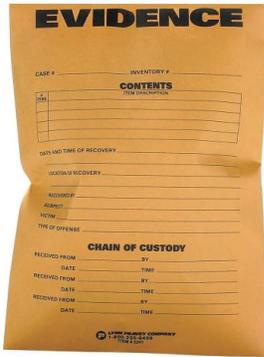
Property and Evidence

The Property and Evidence Unit falls under the Support Services Division of the Police Department. The primary function of the Property and Evidence Unit is to provide a safe and secure location for all items collected by officers as evidence or recovered as found property, and to follow a strict chain of custody for each item. This unit is tasked with making sure all property and/or evidence is prepared for court, or, in case of found property, the property is returned promptly to the rightful owner. We strive to provide quick and efficient service to the Police Department, courts, and public at large.



In 2025, the Property and Evidence Unit handled over 2,750 pieces of property and evidence, compared to last year when the unit processed over 3,100 pieces. While the

city maintains a consistent number of calls for services, property numbers have decreased since 2019 when the unit processed 4,891 property items. One reason for the lower number of property items is the implementation of more efficient packaging and documentation procedures.



All property and evidence items were logged into the property management system, to include the submitting officer, date and time of submission, and the storage location. Any transfer of an item from one person to another, or one location to another, is documented, also known as the 'chain of custody'. This includes evidence transferred from our facility to laboratory staff for analysis, prosecutors, officers of the court, or other law enforcement agencies. The return of these items to the Mentor Police Department Property Room facility, or release to a rightful owner is also tracked.

Property and Evidence manage all dash cam, body cam, and department CCTV video footage. These video recordings are stored on secure servers programmed to ensure videos are held for proper retention periods. The Property and Evidence Unit is tasked with distributing these videos as evidence for court or for public records release. All public records requests for video are forwarded to this unit. The staff must closely review the request to determine if the video can legally be released. If so, staff must then review these videos to determine if any redactions are necessary. Redactions are commonly made for purposes of protecting the identity of a victim or uncharged suspect. In 2025, 656 hours were spent processing more than 2,625 videos. This is compared to 2024 when we spent 570 hours processing more than 2,400 videos.

Illegal narcotics and drug paraphernalia must be properly disposed of once adjudicated from local and county criminal cases. In February of 2025, officers escorted property room staff who transported 21 boxes of narcotics and drug paraphernalia to a disposal point designated by the Lake County Narcotics Agency. All items are accounted for by an agent of the Lake County Narcotics Unit whose agency arranges the destruction of this contraband.

Another successful police auction was held in August of 2025. Generally, MPD auctions are held every other year to make space for new property and evidence. All found property or evidence, where an owner was not located or failed to claim their possessions, as well as property or equipment no longer needed from other city departments, is auctioned. This year's auction included numerous bicycles, clothing, tools, and electronics. All proceeds go directly to the city's general fund.



Property and Evidence maintain much of the equipment used by the Patrol Division. This includes radar and laser devices, fire extinguishers, AEDs, and radiological instruments used in the event of a radiation leak at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. These devices require maintenance and certification to ensure they are working properly. In 2025, Property and Evidence arranged to have all cruiser-mounted radar units certified for proper calibration. This is necessary when traffic violators contest speed citations in court. In addition to maintaining equipment, Property and Evidence ensures that patrol officers and detectives have all necessary evidence packaging materials and critical personal protective equipment.



Property and Evidence continued to manage the Lake County Prescription Drug Drop Box located in the MPD lobby. Each day Property staff empty the disposal bin. In 2025 nearly one ton of discarded prescriptions and OTC drugs were collected. The Lake County Narcotics Agency handles the collection and safe disposal for all collected prescription and OTC drugs.

Corrections Division

The Mentor City Jail is classified as a twelve (12) day facility with ten individual cells, two court holding cells, specialty cells, and administrative offices. The Jail Facility is staffed twenty-four hours a day with seven (7) full-time Corrections Officers and one (1) part-time Corrections Officer. The primary responsibilities of the Mentor Corrections Unit are the processing of arrested people and to safely house arrested individuals unable to make bond, or if committed to a jail sentence by the municipal court.

The processing of arrestees, also known as booking, includes intake data collection using the corrections records management software, fingerprinting, mugshot, property management, and bond management. Other more specific responsibilities of the corrections staff include the securing, feeding, and general caring for inmates, preparing inmates for court hearings, operating the jail's 'Intoxilyzer 8000' for breath alcohol testing, in-house jail inspections, and the overall security, safety and cleanliness of the facility. All corrections activities follow strict adherence to jail standards mandated by the Ohio Department of Corrections. For 2025, the Mentor Correctional facility was found to be in full compliance, as determined by the Bureau of Adult Detention's annual Inspection.



In 2025 a total of 936 adults were processed through the Mentor City Jail, compared to 1,068 in 2024. In 2025 there were 353 adults temporarily held for court appearances in the Mentor Municipal Court, compared to 367 in 2024. In 2025 six adults were sentenced by the Mentor Municipal Court to serve time in the Mentor City Jail, compared to five in 2024. Corrections Officers were responsible for collecting bonds and fines for the Mentor

Municipal Court when the court was closed. In 2025 a total of \$96,813.00 in bonds and fines were collected by corrections personnel.

| Jail Statistic | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Adult Arrestees Processed | 1415 | 1311 | 1068 | 936 |
| Persons Sentenced to Jail | 6 | 8 | 5 | 6 |
| Persons Temporarily Held | 406 | 352 | 367 | 353 |
| Juvenile Arrestees Processed | 36 | 24 | 23 | 21 |

In 2025, 21 juvenile offenders were processed in our jail, compared to 23 in 2024. State law limits juveniles entering the jail facility, except under certain safety conditions, and for specific purposes, for example, booking,

photographing and fingerprinting of juvenile offenders charged with violent crimes or felony offenses. In compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, quarterly reports were completed and forwarded to the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

The Mentor City Jail efficiently manages per-day housing costs of inmates through proper food service management. A total of 1,258 meals were served in 2025 at a cost of under \$6.00 per meal. Meals served in the Mentor City Jail are approved by the State Dietician and reviewed by the Lake County General Health District annually.

In 2025, the Support Services Division secured a grant from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation to replace the jail's livescan fingerprint system. The current livescan operating system is end of life. The new livescan unit will provide a secure operating system and alleviate the city of a \$20,000 expense in purchasing a new unit.



Corrections officers continue to receive regular training to ensure compliance with all aspects of corrections. All Corrections Officers received at least 29 hours of training in 2025. Training included review of policies and procedures, suicide prevention, fire emergency/extinguisher training, stress, the "Corrections Officer's Silent Killer", "Survival Tips If You Are Taken Hostage", Fentanyl Exposure: "5 Safety Tips for Corrections Officers" and the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).



Mentor Police Department Organizational Chart

