

# STRATFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT



**COURAGE**

**INTEGRITY**

**DEDICATION**

**2024**

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## PRESENTED TO

### Mayor

Linda Hall

### Council Members

Stephen Gandy  
James Kelly  
Tina Lomanno  
Michael Tolomeo  
Dawn Martin

### Municipal Administrator

John D. Keenan Jr.

### Presented by

Chief Police Ronald Morello

**STRATFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**MISSION STATEMENT**

It is the mission of the Stratford Police Department to provide professional, high quality and effective police service in partnership with the community. We, the members of the Stratford Police Department, believe that our work has a vital impact on the quality of life in our community. To demonstrate our commitment to our profession, on and off duty, we subscribe to the following values:

**Integrity**

Integrity is defined as being honest, moral, upright and sincere. Public trust can only exist with our integrity and respect for one another. The foundation of the Stratford Police Department is the high level of integrity of its employees.

**Commitment to Employees**

The Stratford Police Department recognizes that its employees are the vital component to the successful delivery of police service. We believe we can achieve our highest potential by actively involving our employees in problem solving and improving police services. We support an organizational climate of mutual trust and respect.

**Community Partnership**

Recognizing the fact that police agencies were established as a result of society's voluntary limitation of personal freedoms, we encourage and expect the participation of the community in facilitating solutions to problems of mutual concern. We therefore solicit and support contributions from all members of this community regardless of race, sex, national origin or social status.

**Community Sensitive Policing**

Department members shall uphold laws in an ethical, impartial, courteous, and professional manner while respecting the rights and dignity of all persons. We shall strive to achieve a balance between enforcement and community needs which reflects both the spirit and the letter of the law.

**Professionalism**

Recognizing the changing and diverse needs of the community, the Stratford Police Department promotes and encourages a policy of professional and individual excellence which is delivered and enhanced by continuing education and training.

We realize fully that the expression of ideas is meaningless unless actively practiced. The integrity and professionalism demanded of members of the Stratford Police Department shall ensure the proper, lawful and unbiased application of police powers.

# **EXECUTIVE STATEMENT**

*By: Chief of Police Ronald Morello*

On behalf of the Stratford Police Department, it is my distinct pleasure to present the 2024 Annual Report for the Borough of Stratford Police Department.

The Stratford Police Department is responsible for enforcing state statutes and municipal ordinances, investigating crimes, and providing a multitude of services while maintaining a safe community for our residents to live and work in. As you review this report, you will find that the Stratford Police Department is meeting and or exceeding its mission, statement, while effectively handling all responsibilities delegated to our agency. I am confident you will agree that the officers of our department have done an exceptional job keeping our community safe while providing our residents with the best services possible.

As government evolves, in 2024 the Stratford Police Department joined every other bona fide law enforcement agency in New Jersey, whereas all of our police officer became licensed by the New Jersey Police Training Commission (PTC). As such, the police department has instituted additional mandatory training and employment standards. Although there are fees additional costs associated with licensing and implementing new professional standards, these are all welcomed advances to department so we may better serve the citizens of Stratford.

# ORGANIZATION & PERSONNEL

## Personnel

In 2024, Sergeant Frank Gagliardi was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant; Corporal Caleb Speer was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Officer Ethan McBride was promoted to the position of a full time police officer. In 2024, two police officers left the agency to pursue their careers at a larger police department. Two Special Officers attended the police academy to be training as SLEO 1 & II.

## 2024 STAFFING ROSTER

### Chief of Police

Ronald M. Morello

### LIEUTENANT

John Beasley

Frank Gagliardi

### SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Stephen McBride

Scott Beasley

### SERGEANT

Caleb Speer

Vincent Jess

Steve Schmidt

### CLERICAL / ADMINISTRATIVE

Tina Rauer

Trish Riebel

### CORPORAL

### PATROLMEN

Tim Butler

Dominic Romeo

Patrick Brunett

Patrick Deitz

Ronald Morello Jr.

Zachary Collins

Ethan McBride

James Kelly (SLEO 2)

Timothy Eddis (SLEO 1)

### DETECTIVE

Thomas Farrell

Frank Gagliardi

Robert Kelly (SLEO 2)

# CROSSING GUARDS



Our crossing guards play a critical role to the Borough's public safety function. Each school day, crossing guards hit the streets to perform the paramount task of ensuring our children have a safe passage to, and from school. These guards perform especially dangerous tasks under some of the worst atmospheric and driver created conditions. These men and women are serious about their work and are deserving of recognition.

## Crossing Guards

1. Jessica Farrell (Captain)
2. Christine Larsen
3. Lorraine Morello
4. Jessica Farrell
5. Nicole Trusko
6. Mark Tentarelli
7. Mike Wiseman
8. Christopher Mote
9. Keith Hartley
10. Barbara Jess
11. Trish Riebel
12. Tina Wiseman
13. John Laino
14. John Crawford
15. Nick Morello
16. Bill Stains
17. Rose O'Hara

Each year, the Stratford Police Department conducts an ongoing review to determine the feasibility of staffing each crossing post. During the summer of 2024, it was determined the staffed crossing location of Laurel & Atlantic should be re-commissioned. The following crossing locations are staffed daily:

1. Laurel & Warwick
2. Warwick & Yellin
3. Warwick & Vassar
4. Vassar & Atlantic
5. Laurel & Atlantic
6. Parkview & Parkview School
7. Longwood & Overhill
8. Longwood & Homestead
9. Vassar & Yellin

## **Retirees and other Previous Employee**

Below are the most contemporary sworn officers we wish to remember, who all dedicated many years of their lives to Stratford. Their good work still has positive ramifications on the department and our town today.

### **Retired Personnel**

Detective Frank Rizzo	D/Chief Nick DiEttore	Sergeant Edward Kane
Chief James McBride	Chief James Fuller	Sergeant Paul Stoffel
Clerk Marie Gahagan	Captain John Brown	Patrolman Fred “Rick” Casario
Chief Jack Joyce	Sergeant Scott Beasley	Captain Stephen McBride
Detective Michael Williams	Captain Robert Kelly	Sergeant Bret Johnson
Sergeant Mike Meyers	Detective Andrew Rebecca	

### **Injuries and Accidents**

Stratford Borough is self-insured for workers compensation claims. In order to ensure the proper level of police services for the citizens of Stratford, there has been a concerted effort by all police officers to reduce incidents of work place injury. Unfortunately, due to the inherently dangerous nature of the law enforcement profession, it often exposes police officers to hazardous situations that are beyond their control, therefore making the potential for injury extremely high. In 2024, there was one case of a work related injury where an officer was injured by an arrestee and expose to pathogens. In a separate case, an officer somehow escaped injury, after being kicked off the train platform, while assisting a DRPA Police Officer with a combative suspect. Throughout 2024, our Police Officers were assaulted on six (6) occasions. These felonious assaults on Law Enforcement Officers occurred while police were investigating the following types of incidents: *domestic disturbances, other disturbances, assisting hospital staff & traffic stops*. The Stratford Police Department logged over 89,000 miles driven in department vehicles, resulting in (1) traffic accident. vehicles. In the one case, a patrol car was struck by another motorist, at the scene of a car accident.

# CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

## Reported Crimes

As can be seen by the figures below, the total police reports have increased from 2022 through 2024. The figures below include all reported criminal activity, and instances where officers filed a police report, excluding traffic crashes and summonses.

	2022	2023	2024
Total Criminal Offenses	1266	1206	<b>1044</b>



## Arrests

The figures listed below reflect the number of “individuals” arrested for the previous three years. It should be noted that most times, multiple charges are filed against a single “individual.” The arrests figures listed below reflect the number of persons (Adults / Juveniles) physically arrested by Stratford Police Officers. In approximately 95 additional cases, criminal charges have been filed against suspects, but they have not been yet arrested or were arrested by other law enforcement agencies at the request of the Stratford Police Department.

	2022	2023	2024
Arrests	283	321	<b>318</b>

## Drug Offenses

Because drug related crimes remain a high priority to law enforcement, the Stratford Police Department is continuing in its proactive enforcement efforts concerning drug use and distribution. Since the Overdose Prevention Act was enacted, many more drug offenses have been recorded. But according to the Overdose Prevention Act, police officers are powerless to arrest or charge certain drug offenders under some circumstances. In 2021, changes in legislation resulted in the legalization of cannabis (marijuana) and for the most part, it is not illegal to possess, or use cannabis.

Year	Drug Offenses
2009	70
2010	68
2011	75
2012	94
2013	101
2014	98
2015	75
2016	98
2017	113
2018	98
2019	109
2020	79
2021	73
2022	44
2023	76
2024	<b>101</b>

**Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)**

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 17,000 Cities, County and State law enforcement agencies reporting data on crimes brought to their attention. It was established in 1930 to gauge the state of crime in the nation. There are eight (8) main offense classifications, known as Part I Crimes, used as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program. The eight (8) crime classifications are divided into two categories; Violent Crimes and Property Crimes. The offenses, which constitute the Violent Crime category, include Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter; Forcible Rape; Robbery; and Aggravated Assault. The offenses, which constitute the Property Crime category, include Burglary; Theft; Motor Vehicle Theft; and Arson. Below is a chart highlighting the (7) identified crime classifications and the respective number of offenses for Stratford Borough for the last seven (7) years.

<b>CRIME</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>HOMICIDE</b>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>RAPE / SEX CRIME</b>	2	8	2	1	1	2	2	0
<b>ROBBERY</b>	2	4	7	2	0	1	2	1
<b>AGG ASSAULT</b>	11	12	12	11	13	11	12	11
<b>BURGLARY</b>	15	4	5	3	7	8	3	9
<b>MV THEFT</b>	4	7	1	6	1	5	11	7
<b>THEFT</b>	131	112	117	147	128	119	101	137

There are a number of law enforcement calls for police services that are time consuming. Below are the most frequent calls for municipal police services / activity for the patrol division:

Activity	% of Activity 2024
Suspicious Incidents	15%
Other Complaints	33%
Medical Assist	5%
Ordinance Violations	2%
Follow Up Investigations & Reports	23%
Patrol / Traffic Enforcement / MVA's	22%

### **Domestic Violence**

Acts of Domestic Violence are crimes the entire world must face and Stratford Borough is no way exempt. Domestic Violence consists of a host of crimes committed by family members, which is extended to any two people who have ever resided together. Domestic violence also governs those who have engaged in a dating relationship. Across the country, a large percentage of law enforcement officers who have been killed in the line of duty have resulted from responses to domestic violence incidents. By standard operating procedure, at least two police officers must respond to domestic disturbance calls. This is particularly challenging to the Stratford Police Department because there are hours which only one police officer is on duty. It is during these times that we must rely on mutual aid from neighboring police departments. In order to effectively deploy manpower resources when they are most needed, the administration of the Stratford Police Department has identified below, when most acts of Domestic Violence occur within our jurisdiction. It comes as no surprise that reported acts of Domestic Violence still mirror those days when most drunk drivers are arrested. Once again, over 50% of Domestic Violence acts during 2024 involved alcohol consumption or drug use on behalf of the actor, victim or both. These statistics are basically static from prior years. In 2024, over 190 hours were spent resolving these disputes by either arrest, emergency restraining orders, court appearances or mutual separations. Cyber crimes have increased greatly in recent years. Cyber harassment, stalking and intimidation offenses have become very common forms of domestic violence.

# CRIMINAL FILINGS

Between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024, 956 Criminal charges were filed in the Borough of Stratford. On average, 2.61 criminal charges per day were investigated, prepared or signed by the Stratford Police Department, and passed onto to the Records Division and Municipal Court staff for processing. Once filed, criminal charges may be sent to State Court or may be returned to the municipal court for disposition. For this same time period, a total of 6196 court cases were filed by the Stratford Police Department, a decrease of 7% over the 2023-2024 court filings.

## TRAFFIC

### Accidents

#### Traffic Accident 12 Year Comparison

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Injury Accidents	77	73	56	77	73	65	77	71	58	44	68	<b>89</b>
Fatal Accidents	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	<b>0</b>
# of Accidents	291	296	255	321	341	365	369	342	242	226	286	<b>280</b>

#### Traffic Summonses issued by Category (2017 – 2024)

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Moving & Non	5275	5047	7847	4011	5382	5163	4437	<b>4517</b>	<b>+80</b>
DWI	142	98	107	68	62	78	59	<b>66</b>	<b>+7</b>
Ordinance Summonses	133	136	84	60	77	95	97	<b>110</b>	<b>+13</b>

# PATROL



Patrol is the largest Division and core law enforcement function of the Stratford Police Department. Its primary responsibility is responding to calls for service from the community. These calls can range from neighborhood disputes, domestic violence incidents, traffic accidents, burglaries in progress, robberies and sudden death investigations.

As the first responder to criminal complaints, patrol officers are responsible for seeing to the medical needs of anyone involved, interviewing witnesses, recognizing and preserving evidence, determining whether, in fact, a crime has occurred, and identifying and ultimately arresting those responsible.

Officers in the Patrol Division are also expected to provide proactive services such as traffic enforcement, crime detection and suppression, and initiating contacts with community members to our commitment to Community Oriented Policing. We are even called upon to unclog toilets, discipline children, unlock car doors, and change flat tires. While these tasks are not usual police functions, these represent some of the needs of our vulnerable population and our officers our proud to serve the needs of our residents.

Officers assigned to the Patrol Division are divided into two (2) Teams. Both teams are responsible for 24-hour patrol coverage, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Sergeant Vincent Jess and Corporal Caleb Speer supervise the A-Team. Sergeant Steven Schmidt supervises the B-Team. Lieutenant Frank Gagliardi is assigned to the Detective Bureau; Lieutenant John Beasley is the Day Watch Commander. The officers assigned in the patrol division work 10 hour workdays.

## **Community Oriented Policing Programs & Strategies**

In the mid 1990's under the leadership of Chief James McBride, the Stratford Borough Police Department identified a need to implement community-oriented / problem solving strategies to assist in more effectively addressing citizen concerns about crime, safety and quality of life issues. While still embracing traditional policing practices such as random patrol and rapid response to calls for service, the department recognizes that there must be a collaborative problem solving approach between the police and the community in problem identification, prioritization and resolution of community concerns. More recently, these strategies have been greatly enhanced by our current police department leadership. Our more recent goals are to reduce crime and increase the quality of life by seeking citizen involvement, cooperation and support. One of the most important aspects of this philosophy is to identify and solve community problems rather than simply treating the symptoms. Operationally, we seek to implement our strategy and accomplish our goals through various programs including but not limited to:

- Attendance at Community Meetings
- Child Seat installation & Safety

- School Safety Programs
- Drunk and Drugged Driving Education
- Pre-K thru 12 Educational Programs
- PTA / PTO Participation
- Youth Sports Participation
- Child Identification Programs
- Officer Phil Program
- Red Ribbon Program
- Drunk Driving Enforcement
- Drug Enforcement Operations
- Code Enforcement
- Targeted Traffic Enforcement
- Volunteer Fingerprint Programs
- Crime Prevention Programs
- Town Watch Program (as needed)
- Bicycle Patrol
- Traffic Studies

### **Field Training**

All police officers hired by the Stratford Borough Police Department must attend a state certified police academy. Upon graduation from the academy, all officers return to the department and are required to successfully complete a Field Training Program (FTO). The FTO Program is an additional 2 months of supervised, intense training and evaluation in which the probationary officer is partnered with an experienced officer who has been carefully selected and trained as a Field Training Officer. It is the goal of the FTO Program to prepare and develop Probationary Officers to act efficiently, effectively and safely in a solo patrol capacity, which is an absolute essential function of the Stratford Police Department. Because there are many instances where an officer is unassisted during a patrol function, each and every member of the police department must have the knowledge, skills and abilities to properly handle any situation that may arise. To fill those voids, supervisors and detectives are on call to respond to or communicate with the duty police officer handling an incident or crisis. These detectives and supervisors perform this function without additional compensation 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. Patrolman Tim Butler, Corporal Caleb Speer and Sergeant Steven Schmidt, are designated as Field Training Officers.

## **DETECTIVE BUREAU**



The Detective Bureau is charged with the responsibility to review all Police Investigation Reports and intelligence sources in order to prioritize and investigate criminal activity. The Detective Bureau also serves as the Stratford Police Department’s Counter-Terrorism, Narcotics, Megan’s, Firearms and Intelligence Liaisons’ and they meet regularly with other local, state and federal authorities in these regards. They Investigate Firearms Applicants, Investigate Business Licenses Applicants, secure and process all department evidence, and other property. The Detective Bureau is also responsible for providing for 24 hour a day, 365 days per year “on call” coverage. Detectives frequently are called during off hours to investigate serious active or recent crimes. The Detective Bureau works closely with the Camden County Prosecutors Office, and is reportable to that agency regarding all indictable crimes and investigations.

The Detective Bureau is currently staffed by three police officers who have undergone weeks of specialized training in their function.

Detective Frank Gagliardi	25 years experience
Detective Thomas Farrell	22 years experience
Detective Robert Kelly (SLEO 2)	30 years experience

**Property Stolen and Recovered**

Property offenses include Burglary, Theft, Criminal Mischief and Shoplifting. The exact amount of value in theft related offenses is difficult to determine as officers and victims usually estimate the value of property stolen and recovered. The chart below reflects the estimated value of property stolen and recovered for the previous eleven (11) years. With the Borough of Stratford hosting three financial institutions and one check-cashing agency, the dollars lost to theft and fraud can be significant.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Stolen Property</b>	<b>Stolen Property Recovered</b>
2011	\$245,106.00	\$77,267.00
2012	\$109,480.00	\$15,877.00
2013	\$227,793.00	\$382,79.00
2014	\$140,250.00	\$38,159.00
2015	\$138,610.00	\$77,672.00
2016	\$74,145.00	\$46,195.00
2017	\$102,972.00	\$52,730.00
2018	\$66,934.00	\$58,902.00
2019	\$118,655.00	\$50,751.00
<b>2021</b>	\$100,433.00	\$46,049.00
<b>2022</b>	\$104,289.00	\$78,677.00
<b>2023</b>	\$1,195,187.00	\$1,089,850.
<b>2024</b>	<b>\$193,657.00</b>	<b>\$142,280.00</b>

## **Criminal Investigations**

From 11/01/2023 to 12/01/2024, the Detective Bureau was assigned **217** cases.

Burglaries (vehicles, home, commercial)	23
Thefts	34
Identity Theft / Frauds	16
Robberies	4
Assaults, Threats	20
Narcotics	3
Sex Crimes	2
Stolen Motor Vehicles	10
Non- Classified	49
Missing Persons	7
Sudden Death / Overdose	7 / 1
Fires / Arson	0
Criminal Mischief	7
Homicide	0
Shoplifting	3
School Investigations	23
Applicant Investigations	7

## **Arrests**

**24** suspects were arrested or charged by the Detective Bureau.

## **Non-Criminal Investigations**

In addition to the criminal investigations, Stratford Police Detectives also handled **480** Non-criminal Investigations and the below regulatory investigations.

Firearms Licenses / Backgrounds	125
Handgun Permits	132
Identification Cards	46
Applications Received	125
Denial	4
Mercantile License	11
Vendor	18
Backgrounds, Vendors, Festivals	3

## Megan's Law

Detectives registered 13 Megan's Law offenders from 11/1/23 to 10/31/24.  
We currently have 7 registered Megan's Law offenders living in Stratford.  
Detective's delivered 35 Megan's Law notices this year.

## Evidence

Detectives processed 368 Property Reports that were turned in and logged. This resulted in 1,370 items logged in. 3 property reports for Field notes were also logged and secured.

## Notable Cases

### 2023-2024 Notable Cases

1. From November of 2023 through October of 2024, Stratford Police Detectives investigated 7 Sudden Death Cases. There have been over 6 other cases of drug overdoses.
2. In December of 2023, Stratford Police Detectives received a report of numerous prescription medication thefts that occurred at the Laurel Manor Nursing Home. Investigation revealed that an employee had unlawfully taken prescription drug medications from three different residents. Further investigation yielded that the employee was also suspected in unlawfully taking prescription medications at two other rehabilitation centers. The suspect in this incident was charged accordingly.
3. In December of 2023, Stratford Police Officers responded to the Wells Fargo Bank for a vandalism report. Initial investigation yielded that an unknown subject damaged wall tiles and a sign in the banks vestibule in excess of \$3,000.00. Stratford Police Detectives were able to obtain surveillance footage of the suspect, which was distributed to the patrol division. Days later, contact was made with the suspect who was positively identified. The suspect was charged accordingly.
4. In January of 2024, Stratford Police Detectives responded to the Laurel Manor Home for a Theft investigation. Initial investigation revealed that an unknown subject entered into the Nursing Home where he gained access to an unsecured office and unlawfully removed a worker's wallet. The suspect then flees the Nursing Home and proceeds to the Jefferson Hospital. Upon his arrival to the hospital, the suspect proceeds to enter into numerous offices where he commits further thefts. The suspect was identified and charged accordingly.
5. In January of 2024, Stratford Police Detectives along with members of the Camden County Prosecutor's Office Hi Tech Crimes Unit executed a Search Warrant at a residence in town regarding the Distribution of Child Pornography. A search of the defendant's residence yielded numerous electronics where were seized for further analysis. The suspect was charged accordingly and remanded to the Camden County Correctional Facility.
6. In February of 2024, Stratford Police Detectives assisted Patrol Officers with an attempted Burglary to a business. Initial investigation revealed that a male suspect attempted to gain entry into a vacant business by breaking the front door's window pane and attempting to pry open the side door. Video surveillance footage was obtained from an adjacent business, which shows the suspect arriving on location via a

bicycle. The suspect is then observed approaching the business while carrying a small axe. The suspect attempts to enter the vacant business but is unsuccessful. The suspect is observed leaving the vacant business where he proceeds to the Wine Nova Liquor Store. Video surveillance footage was obtained from the liquor store and the suspect was positively identified. The suspect was ultimately apprehended, questioned regarding the incident and gave a full confession. The suspect was charged accordingly and remanded to the Camden County Correctional Facility.

7. In April of 2024, Stratford Police Detectives investigated a Domestic Dispute where a female victim was strangled. Initial investigation revealed that a female resident was involved in a verbal altercation with her step-father. During the altercation, the step-father forcefully grabbed the victim by the throat causing a hindrance to her breathing. The victim was then thrown over a table causing injuries to her extremities. The suspect was ultimately apprehended, charged accordingly and remanded to the Camden County Correctional Facility.
8. In April of 2024, Stratford Police Detectives assisted Patrol Officers with a report of a residential burglary. Initial investigation revealed that an unknown subject forcefully entered a residence through the rear entry door. The suspect then unlawfully removed numerous pieces of jewelry, and a commemorative knife collection. Officers and Detectives canvassed the area and located surveillance footage of the suspect at a nearby business. The suspect was positively identified and charged accordingly.
9. In May of 2024, Stratford Police Detectives assisted Patrol Officers with a report of a residential burglary. Initial investigation revealed that two suspects were observed running through the backyard of the property and a screen was pulled away from the window. Officers arrived and found a rear door to the property was damaged, a window screen was cut open and another window was broken leaving glass inside and outside of the residence. Blood evidence was also located on the interior wall just under the broken window. A search of the residence found that numerous bedrooms were ransacked. Detectives were able to gather numerous articles of evidence from the scene. The victim in this case reported thousands of dollars in jewelry was stolen from the residence. In July of 2024, Detectives caught a break in the case when the victim observed a photograph of her Sterling High School Class Ring on the high school's alumni Facebook page. The photograph was posted by a Detective from a Ohio Police Department. Contact was made with the Ohio agency who advised that three subjects form a South American Theft Group were apprehended in their jurisdiction for a residential burglary. The suspects were in possession of all of the victim's jewelry in this matter. Cellular telephone data was retrieved which placed all three suspects in Stratford at the time of the burglary. The suspects were identified and charged accordingly.
10. In June of 2024, Stratford Police Detectives received a report of two juvenile males that were robbed at gunpoint by another group of juvenile males. Initial investigation revealed that both males were riding their bikes when they were approached by a group of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. One of the juvenile males then brandished a toy gel gun and demanded the victim's cell phones and their bikes. At one point, one of the suspects placed the gun against one of the victim's back and shot one of the victim's in the face. After the suspects removed money from one of the victim's pockets, both victims fled the scene. Detective immediately canvassed the area and located both suspects and the weapon. Both suspects were transported to police headquarters, interviewed and gave full confessions to their involvement in the Robbery. Both juvenile males were charged accordingly and remanded to the Juvenile Detention Center.

11. In July of 2024, Stratford Police Detectives assisted Patrol Officers with a Motor Vehicle Theft. Initial investigation revealed that five suspects arrived at the victim's residence in a stolen motor vehicle. The suspects then entered into the victim's unlocked motor vehicle and fled the scene. The victim observed the theft occur thus prompting the victim to chase the suspects in his parent's vehicle. After pursuing the suspects, the victim intentionally crashed his vehicle into his stolen vehicle causing it to crash in a neighboring jurisdiction. All five suspects fled the crash scene but were quickly apprehended. Detectives interviewed two juvenile female suspects who gave a full confession to their involvement in the motor vehicle theft. The other three suspects, all juveniles, were also identified in this matter. A search of the vehicle yielded numerous items of evidentiary value and a loaded stolen 9mm firearm. Further investigation yielded that all five juvenile suspects have been involved in a multi-jurisdictional vehicle theft ring netting over a hundred stolen vehicles. All juvenile suspects were charged accordingly with one suspect being remanded to the Juvenile Detention Center.
12. In July of 2024, Stratford Police Detectives assisted Patrol Officers with a found Burglary at the Bruce Reality. Initial investigation revealed that an unknown subject(s) utilized a cinder block to break the rear window of the business. The unknown subject(s) dumped a large amount of antifreeze on a box of t-shirts located inside of the business. In an unrelated call, Detective's responded to the Under the Sun Learning Center for another found Burglary. Video Surveillance footage was obtained which revealed that four juvenile males unlawfully entered into the rear pool area of the learning center and damaged the property. Two of the males were observed wearing white t-shirts that were observed by Detectives at the Bruce Reality Burglary. All juveniles were identified and placed into the Station House Adjustment Program.
13. In November of 2024, Stratford Police Officers and Detectives were dispatched to the intersection of US Rt. 30 and Laurel Road for a motor vehicle accident. As officers responded to the scene, a Somerdale Police Officer advised that one of the driver's fled on foot east bound on Rt. 30. Furthermore, the fleeing female driver was observed to be armed with two large knives. Upon locating the fleeing driver, they observed that she was attempting to enter an occupied BMW that was stopped in traffic. As the BMW fled from this female, officers approached the female who proceeded to run, while armed, east bound on US Rt. 30. Officers attempted to stop the female and de-escalate the situation, but to no avail, she continued to be non-compliant. The female, who appeared to be in a manic state, continuously yelled, screamed and threatened the officers while still armed with the knives. Officers drew their service weapons and ordered the female to drop her weapons but she continued to ignore their commands. A Somerdale Police Officer deployed his Taser which incapacitated the female thus causing her to fall to the ground. Officers quickly apprehended the female where she was secured in hand restraints. Both weapons were recovered on scene and secured into evidence. The female was transported to a local hospital where she was medically and psychologically cleared for incarceration. The female was charged accordingly and remanded to the Camden County Correctional Facility.
14. In November of 2024, Stratford Police Detectives assisted Patrol Officers with a found Burglary at the True Line Tattoo Studio. Initial investigation revealed at a male suspect utilized a landscape rock to break the side window to the business. The male suspect entered the business via the window where he stole three gaming systems and US Currency. The suspect, who stayed inside of the business for over an hour, took it upon himself to make and consume numerous hotdogs. Physical and video evidence was collected from the scene and secured into evidence. On the following day, Stratford Police Detectives assisted Patrol Officers with a another found Burglary which occurred at a vacant doctor's office. Initial investigation revealed that an unknown suspect was "squatting" inside of the building. Detectives located a receipt from a nearby store and video surveillance footage was obtained of the suspect. The suspect in this video was the same suspect in the video footage that was obtained from the True Line Tattoo Studio Burglary. Later that evening, the suspect was apprehended after he was found back inside of the vacant

doctor's office. Upon his arrest, the suspect had in his possession a "pawn" receipt revealing that he sold the stolen gaming systems at a local Game Stop. The suspect was charged accordingly with both Burglaries and remanded to the Camden County Correctional Facility. The gaming systems were recovered and returned to the owner of True Line Tattoo.

## MEGAN'S LAW UNIT

# Megan's Law

Although not "officially" a unit, the task of handling Megan's Law registrants within the borough is vested with the Detective Bureau. Detective Thomas Farrell primarily oversees the registrants. Registrants are required to re-register anytime they move to a new address within the borough, even as minimal as a change to a different apartment. Registrants must also register upon moving into the Borough of Stratford from another area as well as notify our agency when they are moving to another jurisdiction.

We have registered a total of 13 sex offenders as of December 31, 2024, we have 7 sex offenders living in Stratford.

We currently have 7 new registrant in 2024.

We have 1 offenders that has been relieved of an obligation to register.

We have 7 offenders register annually and no offenders required to register every 90 days.

We have 5 Tier I offenders and 2 Tier II offenders, and zero Tier 3 Offenders (highest threat)

Detective Farrell delivered 35 Megan's Law notices to schools, daycares, civic groups and alike.

# DARE / LEAD PROGRAM



The Stratford Police Department has conducted the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance and Education) Program in the Stratford School district since **1990**. To date, over 4100 Stratford students have gone through the DARE Program. The program is taught to 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Yellin and John Paul II Schools. This program is 12 weeks long and trained officers visit their assigned class once a week and teach a prescribed curriculum. In 2024, approximately 120 students were taught in the DARE Program.

Officers who taught the DARE Program in 2024 were:

Sgt Caleb Speer (Program Coordinator)  
Ptlm Ethan McBride

Ptlm Zack Collins

Ptlm Patrick Deitz

To celebrate the students accomplishments, the Stratford Police Department and JP II School hosted the annual DARE Graduation Party and in cooperation with the JP-Carnival.

# RECORDS DIVISION



The Records Division of the Stratford Police Department supports the operational efforts of the detective bureau, patrol division and administrative sections. Along with performing a variety of other services, including but not limited to

- Data Entry & filing
- Prosecutors Office Case Preparation
- Processing of Automated Red Light Enforcement Offenses and Discovery
- Report Maintenance/Filing/Retrieval
- Issuing Licenses, permits
- Copy reports for Civilians/ Insurance Companies/Attorneys
- Isolating Expunged Files
- Issue Handicap Placards
- Process Firearms Applications
- Coordinate Background Investigations
- Process Fingerprint Cards
- Process Juvenile Complaints
- Receiving incoming emergency and non-emergency calls
- Screening walk-in complaints
- Compile monthly statistics
- Municipal Court case preparation

The chart below highlights a small percentage of the work processed by the Records personnel in 2024. The records division is responsible for creating and maintaining over 20,000, records annually. The records clerks process each and every case, accident, summonses and documents which are ultimately passed on to the municipal court office that is staffed by two full time and one part time employee. In accordance with Stratford's paperwork reduction philosophy, during the month of October 2012, our records room began making motor vehicle crash reports available online. This initiative has found to be convenient for the public and efficient for the police department. There are no associated costs to the borough for this service. In late 2014, the Stratford Police Department entered into a shared service agreement with Bellmawr Borough where as Stratford purchased a State of the Art Records Management System (RMS) Effective January 1, 2015 Stratford and all other law enforcement agencies in Camden County will have the benefit of instantly sharing crime data, including arrests and investigation. Much of costs associated with the purchase of the RMS system was paid for with grants, forfeiture funds and sources.

2024	Activity
2600	Cases/ Reports copied
303	Firearms Application / Permits CCW
15	Juvenile Court Complaints / Stationhouse
20	Handicapped Parking Permits
1405	Discovery / Court / OPRA

## **POLICE / DISPATCH COMMUNICATIONS**

The Stratford Borough Police Department does not directly employ police dispatchers or communications officers. Our primary communications function is provided to Stratford by the Camden County Police Communications Center, which is located in Lindenwold NJ. The Communications Center is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Despite all appearances, when calling 911, the process of dispatching a police officer is nearly immediately underway. Officers of the Stratford Police Department respond to most emergency and non-emergency calls within 120 seconds of receipt from the Communications Center. All but two Camden County municipalities utilize the County Communications Center.

However, during business hours, our Records Clerks will receive, screen and dispatch 10 to 50 emergency and non-emergency calls for service per week. These calls are received by the Stratford Police Department when a reporting person dials the police administration building directly instead of the non-emergency line or 911. Because the police offices are closed 16 hours a day, and all weekend long, the Stratford Police Department greatly discourages the public from calling the administrative offices to report crimes in progress.

### **Calls for Service**

Calls for service are operational incidents that the police department can track and monitor. These include 911 calls, emergency and non-emergency requests for service, and “on-sight” criminal/public service activity by officers. The chart directly below reflects the number of calls for service handled by the Stratford Police Department for the previous five (5) years. As previously stated the vast majority of calls for police service are channeled through the Camden County Communications Center.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	change
<b>Calls</b>	5674	7925	8399	8110	<b>8427</b>	<b>+317</b>

## **STRATFORD OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (OEM)**



The Stratford Office of Emergency Management (OEM) was first enacted in the 1950's during World War II and the Korean Conflict as what was commonly called Civil Defense Department. It progressed through the war eras until the late 70's early 80's when the name changed to the Office of Emergency Management and came under the direction of the New Jersey State Police.

Over the decades, the department has gone from a single filing cabinet in the basement of the Borough Hall, later to a shared desk, and now in 2022 to a 24/7 fully functional Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located in the Stratford Public Safety Facility at 315 Union Avenue. The recent move from the basement of Borough Hall was made due to the need for technology access, and the convenience of directly coordinating our efforts with the Stratford Police Department. In addition, an emergency generator energizes the Public Safety Facility during times of power outages. The Stratford Office of Emergency Management is a volunteer department of the Stratford Municipal Government, staffed by the below volunteers.

In 2024, the Stratford Office of Emergency Management participated in 6 drills, 6 practical exercises and attended 8 county meetings. In 2024, the Office of Emergency Management conducted 62,911 validations.

### **Emergency Management Coordinator**

Ronald Morello

### **Deputy Coordinator(s)**

Thomas Farrell

Tim Hall

Stephen McBride

Robert Kelly

## CERT Team – First Aid

Thomas Farrell, EMT

# OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FIRST AID CERT TEAM

During 2023, the Stratford Office of Emergency Management created a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to make first aid services available to citizens at special town events. A decommissioned police vehicle was transformed to a First Aid vehicle, designed to match the appearance of the Stratford Ambulance.

In 2024 our volunteers staffed the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Halloween Parade, and the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. The 2024 National Night Out was cancelled by order of the Office of Emergency Management due to weather concerns.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### Overtime

For the calendar year of 2024, officers of the Stratford Police Department worked approximately 700 hours of locally budgeted hours of overtime and or compensatory time. The Police Department budgeted overtime is utilized and necessary for the patrol division and detective bureau for purposes such as attendance in court, the replacement of personnel out sick, injured or on other approved leave such as attendance at mandatory or other training, completion of assignments, the investigation of serious offenses, or to work a special assignments such as parades, and other public events. In years past, severe weather events have seriously taxed the overtime budget; however, the police administration remains committed to ensuring police personnel are deployed where and when our citizens need them. For accountability purposes, overtime must be approved by a supervisor or department head.. Categories for overtime are as follows:

**Extended Tour** - time worked in addition to and consecutive with one's regular 10 hour work day (examples include time at the end of a tour of duty to complete an arrest, assignment or reports).

**Extra Tour** - time worked in addition to one's regular workday (examples include replacing an officer on sick leave or a Detective called in to work on a serious case).

**Court** - To provide testimony in municipal, state or federal court (examples include mandatory court appearance, which does not coincide with an officer's regularly scheduled workday).

**Training** - attendance at in-service training courses not available during workdays or contractual uncompensated days (examples include CPR / AED Training, Alcotest Certification, Search & Seizure Updates and Criminal Law Refresher). Very limited overtime for training has been expended in the past 4 years.

**Crash Investigation Team** - assistance provided to the Camden County Prosecutors Office investigating fatal accidents county wide. The Camden County Prosecutors Office reimburses the Stratford Police Department when our trained officer is used out of Stratford Borough on assignment.

**DDEF - Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund:** a state funded grant utilized to place additional police officers on the road to target drunk drivers (examples include extra patrols on holidays, weekends and nights when instances of drunk driving are inherently increased).

**Other Grant Overtime** – Overtime used for extra patrols for seatbelt and speed reduction campaigns. Overtime in this category is generally reimbursed through state and federal grants.

**Other Overtime** – Overtime expended through the Borough paid for by private vendors (traffic construction) Other overtime is spent on school events, carnivals, public events, other traffic control, security posts, and security details as required.

**Compensatory Time-Hours:** Compensatory hours are actually overtime hours worked in which the police officers elects to bank hours which can be later used as time off. Compensatory hours per Federal Law can be accrued up to 480 hours.

The chart below reflects the Stratford Police Department's estimated overtime, by category for 2024:

**Overtime by Category:**

	Hours				
Extended Tour	190				
Extra Tour	310				
Court	135				
Training	40				
Records Coverage	8				
County Reimbursement	60				
DDEF & Task Force	290				
Other & Grants	200				

## Training and Education



One of the most important responsibilities of a law enforcement agency is the training and education of all personnel. It is well settled that training increases safety and reduces civil liability. The Stratford Police Department has in place a comprehensive police-training program, which provides for the annual training of all officers on topics determined to be critical to police officers of this agency. The men and women of the Stratford Borough Police Department attended a wide variety of in-service training courses throughout 2024 including:

Blood-Borne Pathogens	High Risk Traffic Stops
Property & Evidence	Advanced Crash Investigation
Firearms Qualifications	Field Training Officer
Evidence Technician Training	Child Abduction Response Training
SRT Team Training	DNA Gathering
Patrol Rifle Training	Criminal Law & Procedure
Basic SWAT	Cell Block Updates
Active Shooter Response	Domestic Violence
Report Writing	Attorney General Guidelines
EMT Recertification	DWI Detection & Prosecution
Arrest Search & Seizure	Alcotest Training
Right to Know	PBT Training
Use of Force	NCIC Training
Handle With Care	Officer Resiliency
Vehicle Pursuit	Radar Operator Training
Interview & Interrogation	Missing Child Investigation
HAZMAT	Work Zone Safety

NIMS	OC Spray Training
School Drills	NCIC Updates
RMS Operators Course	Narcan Training
CED (Taser) Training	Below 100 Training
Criminal Justice Reform Updates	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Policing Training
AED/CPR Training	De-Escalation Training
ODARA (risk assessment)	CJ Reform Risk Assessment
DNA Gathering	ERPO Training
COVID 19 Training	Handle with Care
Body Word Cameras	Use of Force
ABLE	Culture Diversity
CAT	Dealing with Drug Dependents
CLEAR Training	DWI Field Sobriety Training
Alcotest Refresher	Autism Awareness
Executive Leadership FBI LEADS	Contemporary Leadership
Leadership Virtual Series	

### **Internal Affairs & Professional Standards**

The Stratford Borough Police Department is committed to providing law enforcement services that are fair, effective, and impartially applied. Toward that end, officers are held to the highest standards of official conduct and are expected to respect the rights of all citizens. Officers' adherence to these standards, motivated by a moral and professional obligation to perform their job to the best of their ability, is the ultimate objective of this agency. The effectiveness of a law enforcement agency is dependent upon public approval and acceptance of police authority. The department must be responsive to the community by providing formal procedures for the processing of complaints from the public regarding individual officer performance.

The purpose of the Department's Internal Affairs Policy is to improve the quality of law enforcement services. Citizen confidence in the integrity of the police department increases through the establishment of meaningful and effective complaint procedures. This confidence engenders community support for the police department. Improving the relationship between the police and the citizens they serve facilitates cooperation vital to the department's ability to achieve its goals. An effective disciplinary framework also permits police officials to monitor compliance with department policies and procedures. Adherence to established policies and procedures assists officers in meeting department objectives while a monitoring system permits managers to identify problem areas requiring increased training or direction. Finally, the Internal Affairs Policy ensures fairness and due process protection to citizens and officers alike. The internal affairs process is also used to identify and correct unclear or inappropriate agency procedures. In addition, it will highlight organizational conditions that may contribute to any misconduct, such as poor recruitment and selection procedures or inadequate training and supervision of police officers. In 2023, there were 6 Internal Affairs Investigations. The categories of these investigations included rule violations and demeanor. There were zero use of Use of Force investigations. As per the protocol established by the Camden County Prosecutors Office, the Internal Affairs function conducted random drug testing of 20% of the police department. All random drug tests of police officers were negative.

# ADMINISTRATION

## Police Policy Manual

By law and Attorney General Guidelines, every police department shall adopt certain policies, which govern how law enforcement operations are carried out. Although the mandatory policies are few, the Chief of Police believes that policies are a critical element of an effective law enforcement agency. Since 2002, the Chief of Police has developed a comprehensive policy manual, which consists of, the below chapters:

Read & Initial Board	Organizational Structure	Written Orders
Court Appearances	Uniforms	Command
Police Chief Notifications	Detective Notifications	Secondary Employment
Use of Police Vehicles	Discipline	Accident Reporting
Mission Statement	Ethics	Property & Evidence
Body Armor	Authorized Leave	Training
Harassment in the Workplace	Police Reporting	Juvenile Holding
Criminal Complaints	Alternate Care for Dependents	Domestic Violence
Amber Alert	Response to Bank Alarms	Strip Search
DWI Processing	Vehicle Impound	Detective Affairs
Death Notifications	Ordinance / Parking	Internal Affairs
Juvenile Processing	Vehicle Pursuit	Fingerprints
Bias Incidents	Officer of the Year	DYFS Matters
OC Spray	Anti-Discrimination	Special Events
Fatal MVA	Use of Force	AED & CPR
Missing Persons	MDT	Transportation
Release of Impounds	Mutual Aid	Hostage Situations
Bomb Threats in School	Holding Room Policy	NCIC Entry
Family Crisis Matters	Haz-Mat Incidents	Traumatic Events
Telephone Warrants	Home Firearm Security	Station House Juveniles
NCIC Computer Security	Blood Borne Pathogens	Sexual Harassment
SWAT Team	Rapid Response Team	School Lockdowns
School Evacuations	Portable Breath Testing	Drug Testing of Police
Computer Email Policy	Immigration Notification	Emergency School Operations
Emergency Driving	ViCAP Policy	Domestic Violence (LEO)
Patricia's Law (Missing Persons)	Dealing with the Mentally Ill	Social Media
Field Note Retention	Eyewitness Identification	Fire Investigations
Medical Marijuana Investigations	School Critical Incidents	Blood Evidence
Overdose Prevention Act	DWI Telephonic Warrants	CED Policy
Naloxone (Narcan)	Injured on Duty Policy (IOD)	De-Confliction
DNA Gathering	Surreptitious Recordings	Immigration Trust
Extreme Risk Protection Order	Interactions with Transgender	Handle with Care
COVID Practices	Body Worn Cameras	Judicial Protection
Safe Kits	Special Needs Registry	ALPR Policy
Initial Report to Sexual Assault Investigations		

In 2008, the Stratford Police Department stopped issuing paper policies. Each officer has been issued a password protected thumb drive and all departmental policies and directives have been converted to PDF format. This initiative has resulted in a cost savings while making the comprehensive patrol guides available to the officer while in the field / patrol vehicles. During the year 2024, the police department issued 12 Special Order or Personnel Orders.

## **Law Enforcement Grants**

Because of local fiscal restraints, the Stratford Police Department relies heavily upon State and Federal Grants to continue to function at a high level. In addition, because the effective delivery of law enforcement services depends greatly upon training, equipment and effective use of manpower, the Stratford Police Departments literally operates on a shoestring budget supplemented by grant funds. The following is a partial list of grants applied for, and received by the Stratford Police Department during the year of 2023:

1. DWI Enforcement Patrols	reserved
2. State Bullet Proof Vests	\$1400.00
3. NJ Safe & Secure Manpower	\$16,000.00
4. DWI Check Point	\$2000.00
5. County DWI Task Force	\$39,900.00
6. Other Traffic Enforcement Grants	\$14,000.00

Since 2002, the Stratford Police Department estimates having received well over one million dollars in grant awards, which include manpower hours, law enforcement training and equipment.

## **Staffing & Patrol Analysis**

In these days of rising costs, and a shrinking tax base, staffing of all municipal departments legitimately comes into question. Without question, every municipal employee inclusive of elected officials have a duty to ensure that our taxpayers receive the most effective and efficient delivery of municipal services.

To achieve this mission, the administration of the Stratford Police Department strives to deploy our police officers when and where they are needed most by our citizens. To ensure public safety, the department has elected to employ Temporary & Special Police Officers. These officers currently are not fully trained police officers however they are trained as Special Class Two Police Officers. These officers are hourly employees who are called upon to assist our regular police officers. Special Police Officers are a “special class” of law enforcement officers who are restricted in a variety of ways. However, they clearly serve the needs of our community while defraying overtime costs. Currently the Stratford Police Department employee’s fifteen (15) full time regular police officers and (3) part time officers. 2 retired officers are assigned to Parkview and Yellin School where they service as Resource Officers.

Statically, the Borough of Stratford enjoys the protection of 2.1 Police Officers, per one thousand residents. The County average in this regard is 2.5 Police Officers, per one thousand residents and the New Jersey State average is 2.3 Police Officers per one thousand residents. Although we may be significantly below the state and county averages regarding the number of police officers we employ, the administration of the Stratford Police Department is confident that our manpower is deployed in an effective and efficient manner, which is continuously analyzed. Should crime or population meaningfully increase, the need for additional police officers may become necessary. However as stated, our manpower and workload is carefully monitored to ensure the safety of our citizens. Consequently, the administration of the police department remains confident that the borough’s public safety obligations are met, and yet fairly balanced against the financial or tax implications to our citizens.

**Patrol Vehicle Replacement Program**



As a matter of business, the Borough of Stratford strives to replace one patrol car on off years and two on even years. In doing so, administrators and the designated motor pool officer carefully evaluate the use, mileage, condition of each police vehicle. Generally, the Stratford Police Department will de-commission a patrol car after approximately 10 years of service. Although these decade old cars give a nice appearance, wear, tear, mileage and hard driving clearly takes its toll on these cars. For the safety of the police officers and the public, generally police cars are decommissioned after a decade. Given the inherent nature of their use, the mileage, and existence of 50 speed bumps, it is remarkable that the patrol cars receive 10 years of longevity. Currently our patrol fleet consists of the following patrol vehicles:

<b>Unit #</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Make / Model</b>	<b>Mileage</b>
32-1	2012	Ford Expedition	Decommissioned to OEM/EMS
32-2	2023	Chevy Tahoe	8365
32-3	2022	Ford Explorer	18160
32-4	2007	Ford Expedition	Decommissioned to DPW
32-5	2017	Ford Explorer	70,760
32-6	2023	Chevy Tahoe	7975
32-7	2015	Ford Taurus	Decommissioned for SRO
32-8	2014	Ford Explorer	126,823

<b>32-9</b>	<b>2017</b>		<b>Ford Explorer</b>	<b>62,797</b>
<b>32-10</b>	<b>2022</b>		<b>Ford Explorer</b>	<b>21526</b>
<b>32-11</b>	<b>2020</b>		<b>Ford Explorer</b>	<b>51,119</b>
<b>32-12</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>Ford Expedition</b>	<b>116,673</b>
<b>32-13</b>	<b>2017</b>		<b>Ford Explorer</b>	<b>53,080</b>
<b>32-14</b>	<b>2015</b>		<b>Ford Taurus</b>	<b>117,435</b>
<b>32-15</b>	<b>2016</b>		<b>Ford Explorer</b>	<b>71,260</b>
<b>32-16</b>	<b>2016</b>		<b>Ford Explorer</b>	<b>85,540</b>
<b>32-17</b>	<b>2020</b>		<b>Ford Explorer</b>	<b>41,896</b>
<b>32-18</b>	<b>2009</b>		<b>Ford Crown Victoria</b>	<b>Decommissioned to Stratford Fire</b>

Over the past year or so, the governing body transferred three older cruisers to the fire department, emergency management and to the department of public works. Although these patrol cars may not be serviceable for law enforcement use, we hope they will continue to serve the citizens of Stratford for years to come.

**\$55,000.00 IN NEW JERSEY GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED TO OUTFIT AND IMPLEMENT A BODY WORN CAMERA PROGRAM FOR ALL POLICE OFFICERS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
THE STRATFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT TO BEGIN USING BODY WORN CAMERAS (BWC'S)**



Using Grant funds from the State of New Jersey, supplemented by the Borough of Stratford, the Stratford Police Department will begin implementing the use of Axon Body Worn Cameras (BWC's) around June 2021. The police department and borough officials believe that the use of body worn cameras will provide an additional level of safety and security for the public and to our police officers.

The use of Body Worn Cameras will also result in the following benefits:

- Document objective evidence of what took place during a police-citizen encounter.
- Discourage all parties from engaging in inappropriate conduct.
- Discourage anyone from offering false information.
- Clearly document the discovery and recovery of all forms of evidence.
- Capturing the physical appearance, language and acts of suspects.
- Documenting witness and suspect statements on scene, as events unfold.
- Use of Body Worn Cameras will supplement traditional police reports.

The use of Body Worn Cameras is regulated by guidelines of the New Jersey Attorney General, State Statute and Stratford Police Department Policies

## Miscellaneous Year 15 Special Initiative Camden County Regional DWI Task Force



During the summer of 2009, the Stratford Police Department made application to the New Jersey Office of Highway Traffic Safety to receive federal funding for drunk driving enforcement. Consequently, five municipal police departments along the White Horse Pike corridor joined forces to develop the Camden County Drunk Driving Task Force. As of December 31, 2024, our Task Force has removed over **3065 drunk drivers** from our neighborhoods. Remarkably, the Officers of the Stratford Police Department consistently ranked as one of the top 50 police departments in the state of New Jersey in regards to Drunk Driving Enforcement.

## **Handgun Replacement**

In 2023, the governing body funded a request to replace the ageing Sig Sauer P-220, 45 caliber handguns carried by all Stratford Police Officer from 2005 -2023. In April 2023, the department's older and larger weapons were replaced with the Sig Sauer P320, 9mm handgun. The new weapon and ammunition caliber is in line with neighboring police departments, which is advantageous in the event of an emergency.



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## **Conducted Energy Devices (Taser)**



In early 2014, the Stratford Police Department received authorization from the State of New Jersey to carry Conducted Electronic Energy Devices. Utilizing money confiscated from narcotics seizures, the department purchased three devices. These devices are not carried to replace handguns; however, our supervisors and some patrol officers carry these devices so that we have a less than lethal force alternative. Each activation is recorded by a video camera, or body worn camera. In July of 2022, the Stratford Police Department added two additional CED devices to our officers array. Currently three quarters of our officers are trained and equipped with a less than lethal option.

## Nalaxone Program (Narcan)



During the month of May 2014, the Stratford Police Department joined many other police departments in the country, when we trained and equipped our police officers with nasal mist dosages of Naloxone hydrochloride also known as Narcan. Sadly, there remains a need for Stratford Officers to carry this anti-opiate antidote to save lives. In 2024, Naloxone was used on **12** occasions, and since the program's inception, officers utilized the antidote on **158** occasions, thus saving the lives of **114** different individuals (some were saved more than once) who had overdosed on illegal drugs. The Stratford Police Department recognizes that the Narcan Program is not a cure to the opiate epidemic, but rather simply an additional lifesaving tool, which furthers the department's core mission of protecting and preserving lives. Under a recent law change, Officers are now required to provide a "Narcan Dose to Go" for overdose / Narcan recipients who refuse transportation to a hospital after being saved by law enforcement or EMS.

## Automated External Defibrillator (AED)



In furtherance of our core function of preserving life, each Stratford Patrol Vehicle is outfitted with an AED. All officers are certified bi-annually on their use. Proudly your Stratford Police officers saved or preserved the lives of **one** resident's during 2024 and used the device on three other occasions. In July 2023, the Municipal Budget supported the purchase of two new AED units for the patrol division. One AED was transferred to the Stratford Community Center where it is housed in an AED Cabinet for emergency use.

## 2024 Uniform Change



After approximately 75 years, the Stratford Police Department authorized a standard uniform change, transitioning from our traditional French blue button shirt, necktie and cross strap to an outer vest carrier and navy blue underlayer shirt. The change was authorized after weighing an officer wellness study performed by the University of Wisconsin, detailing the benefits of removing weight and gear from the hips and waist. <https://www.wisconsin.edu/all-in-wisconsin/story/uw-eau-claire-research-aims-to-improve-police-officers-health-quality-of-life/>

Also considered was the community response of the departure from our long-time uniform. After a trial period, the community concerns were determined to be unfounded. No adverse interactions or concerns of police militarization were encountered.

The traditional French blue uniform remains our dress Class A uniform, donned on occasions when a formal uniform is most appropriate..

## **2024 Year End Police Activity Report**

**318** Adults Arrests

**18** Juvenile Arrests

**0** Homicide

**6** Assaults to Police

**58** Simple Assaults

**78** Criminal Mischief Complaints

**160** Harassment Complaints

**7837** Other Investigations & Complaints

**9** Burglaries, (residential or commercial)

**1** Robberies by Weapons or Force

**137** Thefts valued at **\$193,657.**

**\$142,280** Stolen Property was Recovered or cleared by arrest or otherwise

**7** Motor Vehicle Thefts

**66** Drunk Driving Arrests

**101** Narcotics Arrests

**4517** Traffic Tickets issued

**280** Motor Vehicle Accidents

**89** Injuries from Car Accidents **5** Pedestrian or Bike Accidents

**0** Fatal Motor Vehicle Accidents

**296** Alarm Activations

**1044** Total Crime Reports taken

**8427** Total Calls for Police Service

**119** Properties Inspected

**99** Warning Letters Issued

**110** Code Summonses Issued

