



BNPD
BentonPolice.org

ANNUAL REPORT



114 S. East St.
Benton, AR 72015



501-776-5948
www.bentonpolice.org



2024

PROFESSIONAL,
COMMUNITY-ORIENTED



TABLE OF CONTENTS

01 ABOUT BNPD

02 CHIEF'S MESSAGE

03 DEMOGRAPHICS

04 CRIME STATISTICS

05 PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS

10 DIVISION SPOTLIGHTS

13 COMMUNITY OUTREACH





ABOUT BNPD

Our mission is to provide our community with a professional, progressive, community-oriented police department. We strive to serve our citizens with the utmost courtesy and concern for their needs with an emphasis on integrity and fairness and conduct ourselves in such a manner as to instill confidence and pride in the Benton Police Department by the community. We strive to protect the constitutional rights of everyone with the purpose of creating an atmosphere of safety and security in our community.

MAIN NUMBER

501-776-5948

CHIEF'S OFFICE

501-776-5983

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

501-776-5947

NON-EMERGENCY DISPATCH

501-778-1171

WWW.BENTONPOLICE.ORG



CHIEF'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Benton Police Department, I am honored to present our 2024 BNPD Annual Report. The purpose of this report is to share with our citizens the status of our department and the quality of work the men and women of the BNPD are producing.

Within this annual report, we will share charts, stats and pictures of our city and our department. As with any report, it cannot by itself adequately portray everything that our department and its employees do for our city, but it can give you a glimpse of the efforts being made and the quality of work our members produce to make Benton a better and safer place to live.

In 2024, the Benton Police Department had a budgeted workforce of 83 Certified Police Officers and 12 Civilian Employees, who serve a community of 35,014 residents. We pride ourselves in hiring the best and most qualified candidates, because we understand that our employees are what makes BNPD a top-notch Police Department.

Members of the BNPD strive to provide our city with an exceptional level of service to those that call Benton home, and to all those that use our services. Benton Police Officers continue to display outstanding performance in their day-to-day operations and consistently demonstrate their commitment to providing a high quality of service to the citizens of Benton. All our personnel, both sworn and civilian, work tirelessly to support the mission of the Benton Police Department.

In 2024, the City of Benton saw its lowest crime rates in the last 14 years. In fact, 2024 marks the 6th year in a row that the City of Benton has had a reduction in its overall crime rate. That's six years in a row. What an accomplishment for our city and the hard-working members of the Benton Police Department. This achievement could never happen without our dedicated employees, and for that, I want to thank each of you for everything you do to make a difference in the lives of our citizens and to make BNPD stand out as a department that cares about our community.

The amount of success the Benton Police Department achieves is only made possible with the support of Mayor Tom Farmer and the members of the Benton City Council. Thank you for your trust and encouragement. Thank you for taking the time to look through our BNPD 2024 Annual Report, as we look forward to another great year in 2025.

Scotty L. Hodges
Chief of Police
Benton Police Department

DEMOGRAPHICS

Sworn	Number	Percentage
Male	75	92.6
Female	6	7.4
White	69	85.2
Black	7	8.6
Hispanic	5	6.2
No College	15	18.5
Some College	24	29.6
Associates	7	8.6
Bachelors	33	40.7
Masters	2	2.5

CRIME STATISTICS

Accidents- 1,599

Calls for Service- 25,810

Incident Reports Processed- 19,004

Violent Crimes

Homicide- 0 (-100%)

Robbery- 12 (-7.7%)

Rape- 10 (-28.6%)

Aggravated assault- 112 (-4.3%)

Property Crimes

Burglary- 84 (-25%)

Theft- 745 (+2.2%)

Motor vehicle theft- 51 (-25%)

Arson- 0 (-100%)

Arrest Stats

Warrants Served- 1,972

Felony Arrests- 1,854

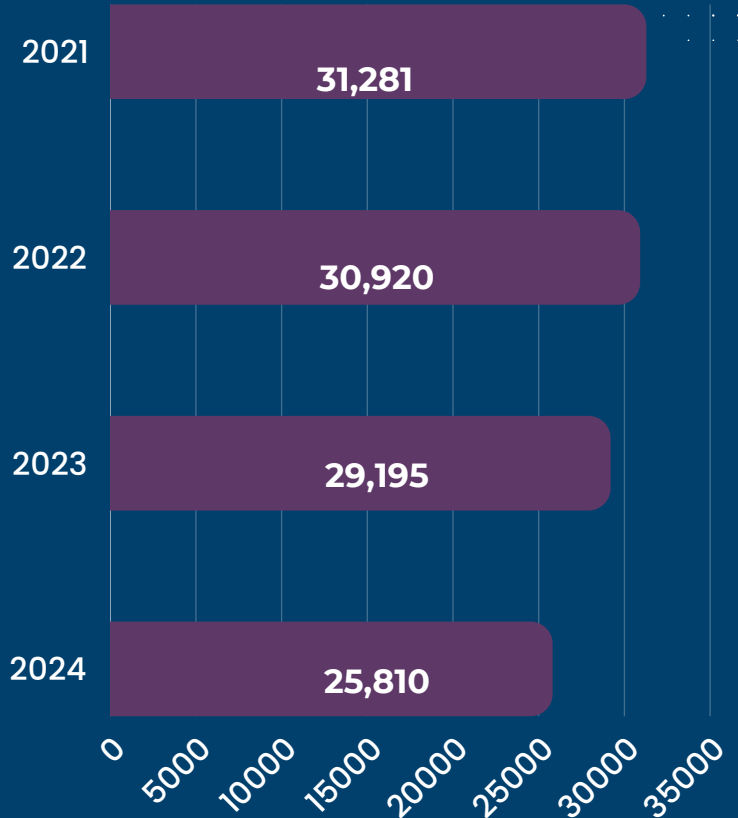
Misdemeanor Arrests- 1,832

Traffic Stops- 13,424

Traffic Citations- 3,962

DUI Arrests- 1

DWI Arrests- 168



CALLS FOR SERVICE COMPARISON

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program was conceived in 1929 by the International Association of Chiefs of Police to meet a need for reliable, uniform crime statistics for the nation. In 1930, the FBI was tasked with collecting, publishing, and archiving those statistics. Today, several annual statistical publications, such as the comprehensive Crime in the United States, are produced from data provided by nearly 17,000 law enforcement agencies across the United States.

PROMOTIONS

Benton PD held a promotion and retirement ceremony May 23, 2024, where we celebrated the promotion of four officers and the retirement of K-9 Officer Rocko.

Sgt. Michael Payton was promoted to Lieutenant, Officer John Spadaro was promoted to Sergeant, Detective Jarred McCauley was promoted to Sergeant, and one of our undercover/task force officers was promoted to Sergeant. We are very proud of each of these officers on their accomplishments and know they will have many more to come.

K-9 Rocko, who is now 9 years old and who served BNPD very well for 7.5 years, now enjoys his retirement days with his handler Officer Brandus Howard.

Thank you all for your outstanding service to BNPD and the citizens of Benton and beyond!



Lt. Michael Payton (right) with Asst. Chief Besancon (left) and Chief Hodges (center)



Sgt. Jarred McCauley (center) with Chief Hodges (left) and Capt. Russell (right)



Sgt. John Spadaro (center) with Chief Hodges (left) and Capt. Baker (right)



K9-Rocko and Handler Officer Howard look on as Chief Hodges commends them for their years of dedicated service.

AWARDS

BNPD held its annual awards ceremony for 2024 on February 6, 2025, at the Enclave at White Furniture.

Numerous honors were awarded at this ceremony. The following is a list of award recipients for 2024 and their honor(s) received.

Photos will follow.

Officer of the Year: Officer Brian Franklin

Rookie of the Year: Officer Cameron Tipton

Detective of the Year: Detective Dustin Derrick

Unit Achievement Award: BNPD Evidence Unit

Chief's Award: Lt. Dustin Hamm & Lt. Michael Payton

Medal of Valor: Officer Jacob Griffith & Officer Cameron Tipton

Leadership Award: Captain Patrick Baker

Meritorious Service Award: Sergeant Andrew Talbot

SRO of the Year: Officer Joanna Sanchez

Citizen of the Year: Nikolas Boshers

Life-Saving Award: Sgt. Mason Curtis; Sgt. Jarred McCauley, Sgt. Miles French, Officer Brandon Brangaccio, Officer Konrad Williams, Officer Josh Mungle, Officer Brian Wilfong, Sgt. Jason Moore, and Lt. Jamar Bennett

Narcan Save Award: Officer Charles Anderson, Officer Katie Parker, and Sgt. Brett Davidson

Congratulations to all on your accomplishments!



Officer of the Year: Officer Brian Franklin is pictured with Chief Scotty Hodges (L) and Assistant Chief Jeff Besancon (R).

AWARDS CONT.



Rookie of the Year: Officer Cameron Tipton (second from left) is pictured with Capt. Kevin Russell, Chief Scotty Hodges, and Asst. Chief Jeff Besancon.



Detective of the Year: Det. Dustin Derrick (middle) is pictured with Asst. Chief Jeff Besancon and Chief Scotty Hodges.



Unit Achievement Award: Lt. Brian Bigelow (second from left) and Diana Smart (second from right) are pictured with Asst. Chief Jeff Besancon and Chief Scotty Hodges. Not pictured: Evidence & Property Manager Andrea Cox



Leadership Award: Capt. Patrick Baker (middle) is pictured with Chief Scotty Hodges and Asst. Chief Jeff Besancon.

AWARDS CONT.



Meritorious Service Award and Chief's Award: Sgt. Andrew Talbot (second from left) and Lt. Michael Payton (second from right) receive Meritorious Service and Chief's Award (respectively).



School Resource Officer of the Year: Officer Joanna Sanchez is pictured with Capt. Patrick Baker, Chief Hodges, and Asst. Chief Besancon.



Medal of Valor and Citizen of the Year: Officer Cameron Tipton (second from left) is pictured with Citizen of the Year Nik Boshers (second from right) as well as Chief Hodges and Asst. Chief Besancon.



Chief's Award: Lt. Dustin Hamm (center) is pictured with Chief Scotty Hodges and Asst. Chief Jeff Besancon.

AWARDS CONT.



Life-Saving Award: L to R: Chief Hodges, Sgt. Mason Curtis, Sgt. Jarred McCauley, Sgt. Miles French, Officer Brandon Brangaccio, Officer Konrad Williams, Officer Josh Mungle, Officer Brian Wilfong, Sgt. Jason Moore, Lt. Jamar Bennett, Asst. Chief Besancon, and Capt. Ronnie Davidson.



Medal of Valor: Chief Hodges awards Officer Jacob Griffith with the Medal of Valor award with Asst. Chief Besancon looking on.



Narcan Save Award: L to R: Capt. Kevin Russell, Officer Charles Anderson, Sgt. Brett Davidson, Chief Hodges, and Asst. Chief Besancon. Not pictured is Officer Katie Parker.

DIVISION SPOTLIGHT

TRAINING

Lt. Michael Payton and Sgt. Andrew Talbot oversee the BNPD Training Division. In 2024, they were both newly transferred to the division and began implementing a new system to track and manage officer training, certifications, and records while also updating previous training records.

Additionally, they revamped inventory management and made sure officers were equipped with needed resources.

They facilitated critical training exercises throughout the year such as active shooter exercises, which prepared over 400 first responders for real-world situations. Firearm training and combat courses were also among the many trainings organized and conducted by this division to ensure realistic scenarios and stress-inducing conditions were encountered.

In 2024, BNPD exceeded 29,000 hours of training!



DIVISION SPOTLIGHT

K-9

K-9s Ryno (Sgt. French), Nino (Officer Collins), and Havoc (Officer Howard) are cross-trained in patrol and narcotics detection. The department's K-9 teams play a critical role in the day-to-day operations of the police department, providing immeasurable support and resources to patrol and narcotics operations.

These teams have been credited with numerous drug seizures, apprehensions of violent offenders, and searches for people while aiding the Benton Police and other state agencies. Currently, the K-9 handlers and their K-9s are assigned to the Patrol Division. In addition to their duties as K-9 handlers, the K-9 Teams are also a vital part of the Benton Interstate Criminal Enforcement Patrol, or BICEP Team. These officers are specially trained to conduct high volume, professional traffic stops to seek out and arrest felony suspects traveling on Interstate 30, which runs through the heart of the City of Benton.

Two-year old Ryno and Sgt. French's partnership began in January 2024 after they graduated from Ventosa Kennel in North Carolina. K-9 Ryno is certified through the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association (NNDDA) and Ventosa Kennel. Ryno is trained to detect the odors of Cocaine, Heroin, Methamphetamine, MDMA, and Fentanyl. Sgt. French is also a certified K-9 Instructor and Trainer through Ventosa Kennel, Inc. Ryno had 27 vehicle deployments in 2024, and of those, there were seven arrests and seven narcotic seizures. He was also deployed for two tracks of suspects from pursuits.

Three year old Nino and his handler Officer Collins also trained at Ventosa Kennel, Inc. in the beginning of 2023. Following their graduation, they certified through the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association (NNDDA) in narcotics detection, tracking and apprehension of individuals. K-9 Nino and Officer Collins are currently assigned to the Patrol Division where they assist their shift with traffic stops, vehicle searches, tracking, and apprehension of violent offenders. They also assist other agencies and specialized divisions such as the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and BICEP Team. During the 2024 year, K-9 Nino and Ofc. Collins had 15 deployments that resulted in several narcotic seizures and arrests.

Officer Howard and K-9 Havoc (age 2) became partners in June 2024 and are certified through the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association. K-9 Havoc is a Belgian Malinois trained to detect a variety of narcotic odors. He is also trained in personal handler protection and tracking. K-9 Havoc and Officer Howard are assigned to the Patrol Division, and over the last seven months, they have had 22 deployments, some of which resulted in arrests and the confiscation of multiple narcotics.



Ofc. Collins and K9 Nino



Ofc. Howard and retired K9 Rocko



K9 Havoc



Sgt. French and K9 Ryno

DIVISION SPOTLIGHT

PEER RECOVERY/ OVERDOSE RESPONSE TEAM

Since May 2023, Benton Police Department has been the grateful recipient of funding through the Arkansas Opioid Recovery Partnership, enabling our agency to have an Overdose Response Team.

Overdose Response Teams enable law enforcement agencies to have a Peer Recovery Specialist and Overdose Investigator on staff.

Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Misty Evans provides peer services to those battling substance abuse disorder. She assists members of the community in accessing needed resources for recovery and organizes community events to promote these services.

In 2024, the Overdose Response Team assisted at least nine individuals in getting treatment. In addition, Misty hosts classes for inmates and training and events that are open to the public.



Peer Recovery Specialist Misty Evans



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The year 2024 brought multiple opportunities for community events. We always enjoy participating in all of them: whether the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Tip-A-Cop for Special Olympics, downtown Benton Third Thursday festivals, parades, or holiday events.

We look forward to every interaction. We also continued the monthly car seat clinics and the annual softball tournament with other Saline County first responders to raise funds for Shop with our Cops.

Enjoy this look back with some of our favorite photos, and we look forward to seeing you at many more upcoming events!



RECRUITMENT



BENTONPOLICE.ORG FOR MORE INFO

THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOUR FUTURE.

Starting Base Pay: \$51,000 PLUS:

Holiday Pay Starting at \$2,353 (for 12 holidays)

Clothing Allowance is \$480 for first full year- \$1,980/year thereafter

Certificate Pay: \$600 Annually for Basic, General, Intermediate, Advanced, Senior, & Instructor Certificates; \$900 Annually for Paramedic & Bilingual- up to \$5,400 Annually

Degree Pay: \$600, \$1,200, \$1,800 Annually for Associate, Bachelor's, & Master's Respectively

Starting Patrol Officers Can Expect to Make At Least \$56,383.

Home Storage Unit Program, FTO Pay, Full Employee Medical, Dental, & Vision (FREE for employee only) plus Family Coverage Options (only \$276/month)

CALL 501-776-5983 TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT & SEE WHAT BNPD CAN DO FOR YOU!



Apply at www.bentonpolice.org



BNPD
BentonPolice.org

THANK YOU

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2024

PROACTIVE, COMMUNITY-
ORIENTED, HERE FOR YOU