

# MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**Rick Grillo, Chief**  
**5151 Marsh Road**  
**Okemos, MI 48864**  
**517-853-4800**  
**[Meridian.mi.us/police](http://Meridian.mi.us/police)**



**The Meridian Township Police Department is committed to establishing and maintaining partnerships in our community; and with understanding, cooperation and equality; we strive to enhance the quality of life and protect the rights of our community.**

**MISSION  
AND  
VALUE STATEMENTS**

***COMPASSION***

We care for and empathize with our fellow human beings.

***COURAGE***

We face danger to ensure the safety of others. We will stand up for what is right. We will be brave when others may not. We strive to eliminate fear through our actions.

***EXCELLENCE***

We employ those who strive to achieve a higher standard. We listen to our employees and the members of our community to continually improve our effectiveness and reliability. We strive to exceed community and professional expectations.

***FAIRNESS***

We will treat all individuals impartially. We will act in a just manner. We appreciate different points of view. We exercise discretion appropriately.

***INTEGRITY***

We will fulfill our mission in its entirety using sound principles, honesty and sincerity.

***RESOURCEFULNESS***

We can be relied upon for help and support. We have the ability to deal with situations effectively. We build on our mutual experiences to effectively resolve problems.

***RESPECT***

We value the rights and beliefs of others. We are courteous. We treat others as we expect to be treated. We appreciate diversity.

***WORK ETHIC***

We are self-motivated and self-directed. We do what is asked and strive to achieve expectations. We hold ourselves to a higher standard.

## MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY FROM CHIEF GRILLO

On behalf of the men and women who protect the citizens and visitors of Meridian Township, it is my privilege to share the 2025 Meridian Township Police Department Annual Report. This document is more than just a summary of statistics; it is a reflection of our enduring commitment to the people we serve.

We strive to lead the way in mid-Michigan law enforcement by blending high-level professionalism with genuine human connection. We hold ourselves to the highest standards and ensure that our policies and procedures are in line with the best practices in law enforcement today. In 2025, we focused on strengthening the core of our department so we could better protect our community.

In 2025, MTPD focused on several key areas:

1. The health and wellness of our employees
2. Hiring officers that met our high standards as well as represented our diverse community
3. Working with the community to provide proactive enforcement in areas of most need

I am proud to say we made many strides in accomplishing these goals. The old, broken workout equipment in our gym was replaced with modern and functional equipment that will last many years. All of our employees were sent to one-on-one training sessions with certified counselors. By the end of 2025 we increased our sworn staffing numbers to forty officers with an additional recruit scheduled to complete their academy training in early 2026.

We addressed the community's concern regarding traffic safety in a number of ways. We purchased traffic data collection devices which allow us to passively conduct traffic studies to determine which roadways need enforcement and when. We also assigned an officer to dedicated traffic enforcement. This officer's primary duty is to conduct traffic enforcement in school zones during drop off and pick up time as well as respond to areas that have been identified as needing attention. These measures have resulted in an uptick of 12% in traffic enforcement as we work to make our roadways as safe as possible.

In 2026, our focus is transparency and engagement. We want our 45,000 residents to feel more connected to their police department than ever before. Through expanded communication and a focus on customer-service oriented policing, we will continue to foster the trust that makes Meridian Township a wonderful place to live.

I am incredibly proud of the progress we've made over the last twelve months, and we look forward to serving you in the year ahead.

-Rick Grillo, Chief of Police



## PERSONNEL

### Promotions

Captain Bart Crane was promoted to Assistant Chief  
Sergeant Ed Besonen was promoted to Lieutenant  
Officer Doug Strouse was promoted to Sergeant



### Retirements

There were no retirements from the Police Department in 2025.

### New Police Officers



*Officer Jordan Tuttle*



*Officer Brandon Nevills*

**Department Roster - Sworn Employees**

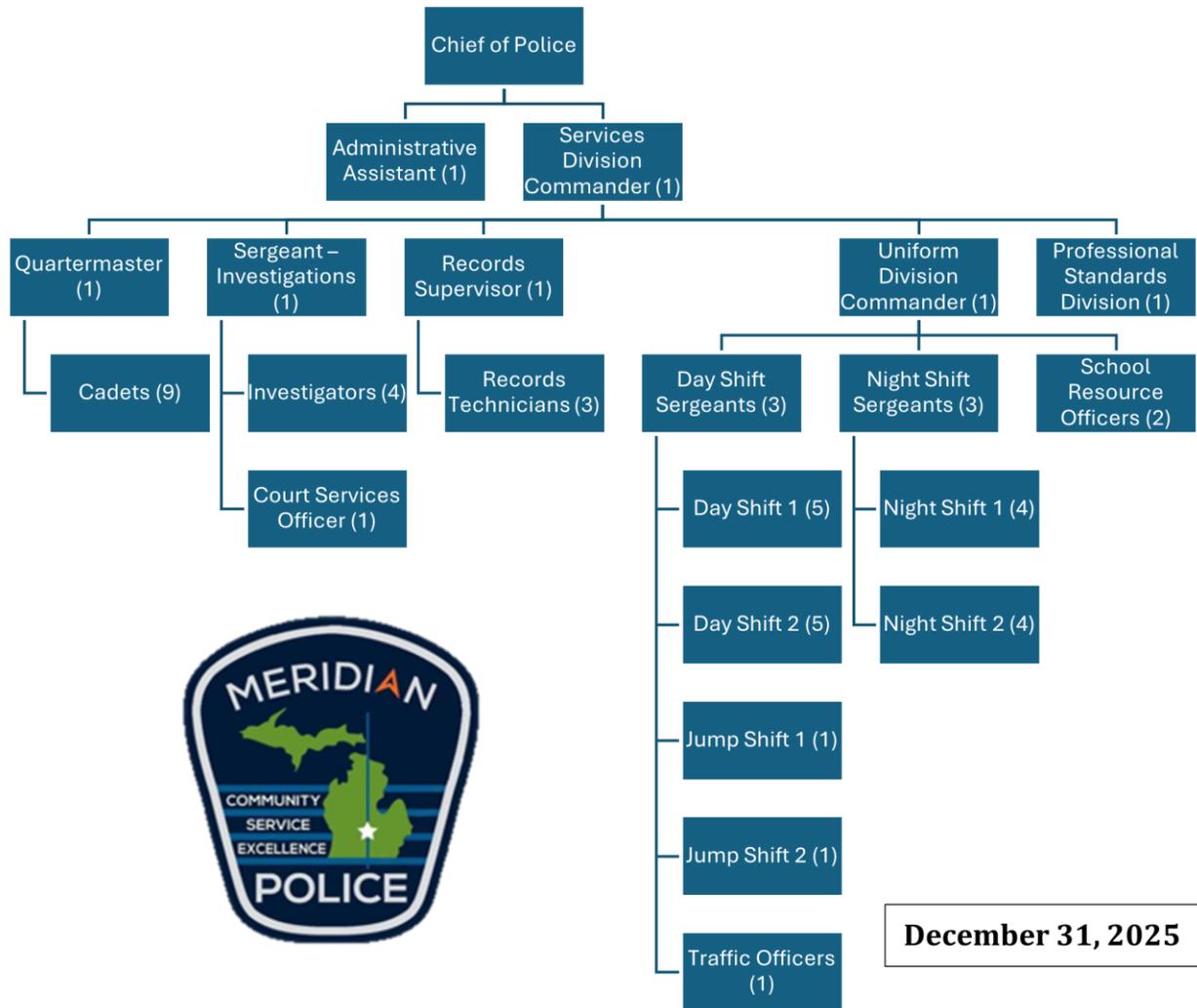
Grillo, Richard	Chief
Crane, Bart	Assistant Chief
Squires, Curt	Lieutenant
Besonen, Edward	Lieutenant
Lofton, Christopher	Sergeant
Clements, Jason	Sergeant
Canen, Brian	Sergeant
King, Dan	Sergeant
Velasquez, Lorenzo	Sergeant
Slavick, Adam	Sergeant
Strouse, Doug	Sergeant
Royston, Kyle	Master Patrol Officer
Payne, Rebecca	Master Patrol Officer
LeRoy, Bryan	Officer
Mandernack, Ian	Officer
Casaday, Kolby	Officer
Klein, Megan	Officer
Anderson, Blaine	Officer
Trevino, Antonio	Officer
Reinke, David	Officer
Heinemann, Megan	Officer
Cole, Meghan	Officer
Cole, Maggie	Officer
Martin, Bryant	Officer
Acker, Isabela	Officer
Akers, Jack	Officer
Bazan, Stacey	Officer
Tyndall, Natalie	Officer
Vandermolen, Larry	Officer
Wicks, Nathan	Officer
Hagbom, Michael	Officer
Scarvey, Jacob	Officer
Short, Dustin	Officer
LaFlair, Kendall	Officer
Olgine, Elisha	Officer
Burroughs, Gabriel	Officer
Hanson, Sara	Officer
Berman, Taylor	Officer
Nevills, Brandon	Officer
Tuttle, Jordan	Officer

### Civilian Personnel

Administrative Assistant - Vacant  
Heidi LaFargue, Records Unit Supervisor  
Margaret Eggleston, Records Technician  
Lori Hagan, Part-Time Records  
Chrissy Scaccia, Part-Time Case Analyst

### Cadets

Alex Short  
Cassidy Allen                      Seth Pebley  
Isabella Taylor                    Jacob Ottke  
Charlie Nolan                      Mariss Jacquez



**December 31, 2025**

## ADMINISTRATION

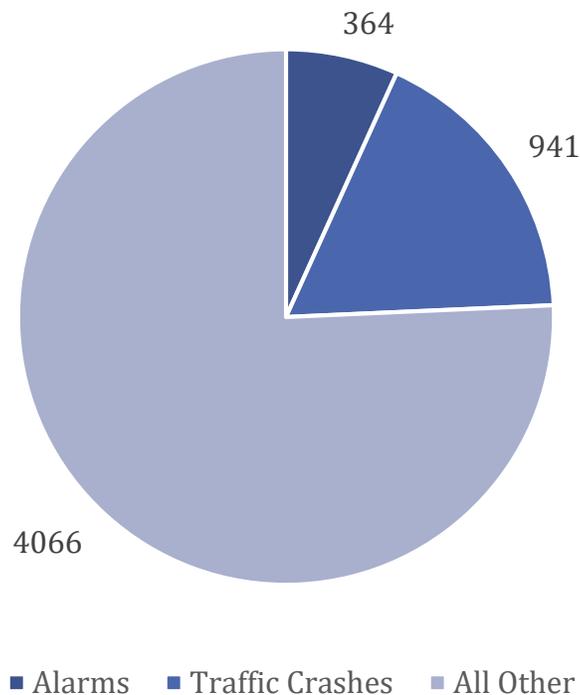
The Chief of Police is the head of the Department. The three distinct divisions under the Chief of Police are the Services Division, the Uniform Division, and the Office of Professional Standards.

## UNIFORM DIVISION

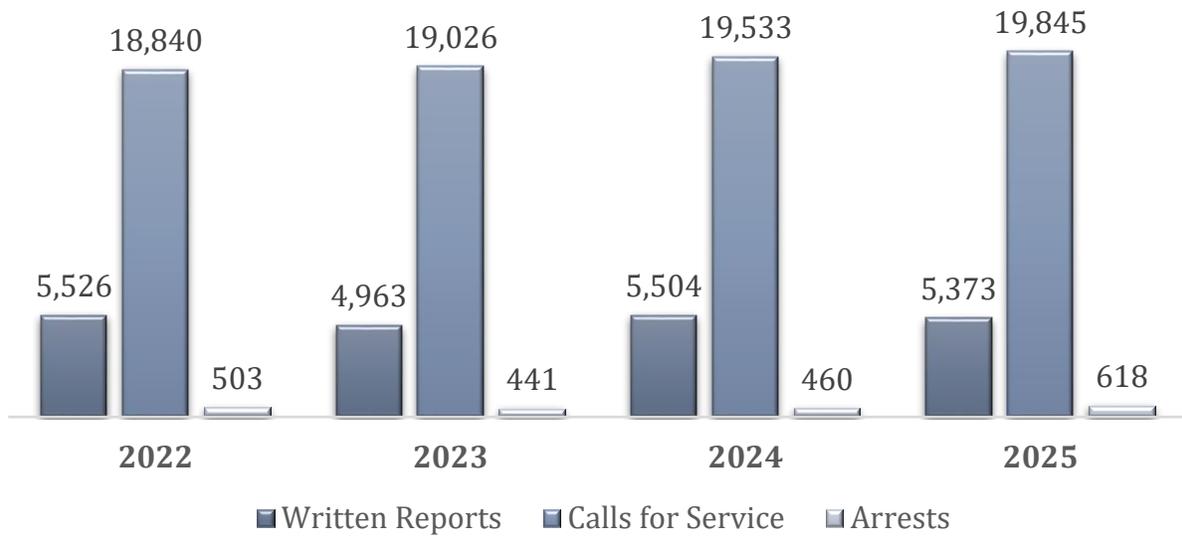
The Uniform Division personnel include a Lieutenant, 6 Sergeants, and 23 Officers. This is the largest and most visible division in agency. Within the division, there is the Road Patrol, Canine Unit, School and Community Resource Unit, and, new in 2025, a dedicated Traffic Unit. The road patrol provides 24-hour patrol services to Meridian Township and Williamstown Township. Patrol officers are assigned to four platoons that work twelve-hour shifts with a sergeant on duty at all times.

In 2025, there were 19,845 calls for service (excluding 5,708 traffic stops).

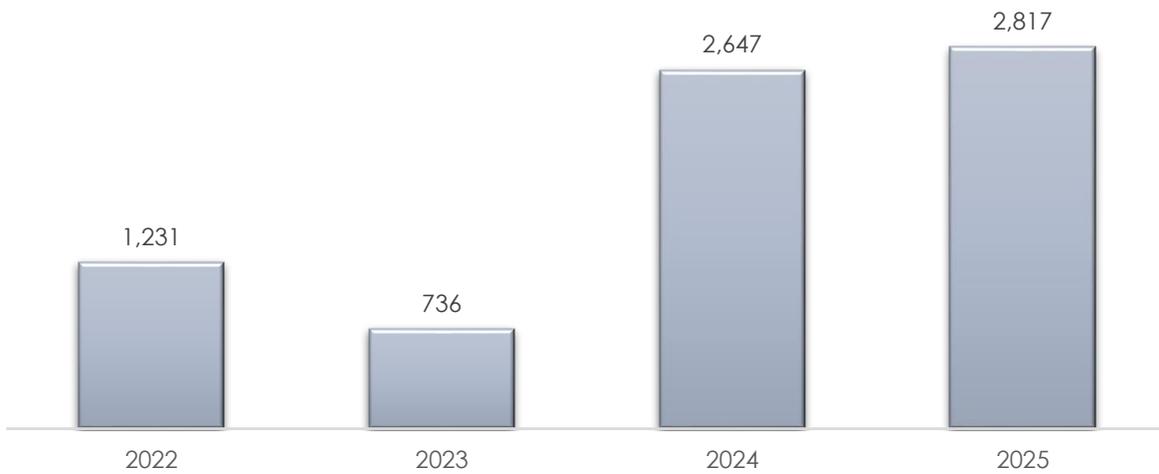
### 2025 Written Reports



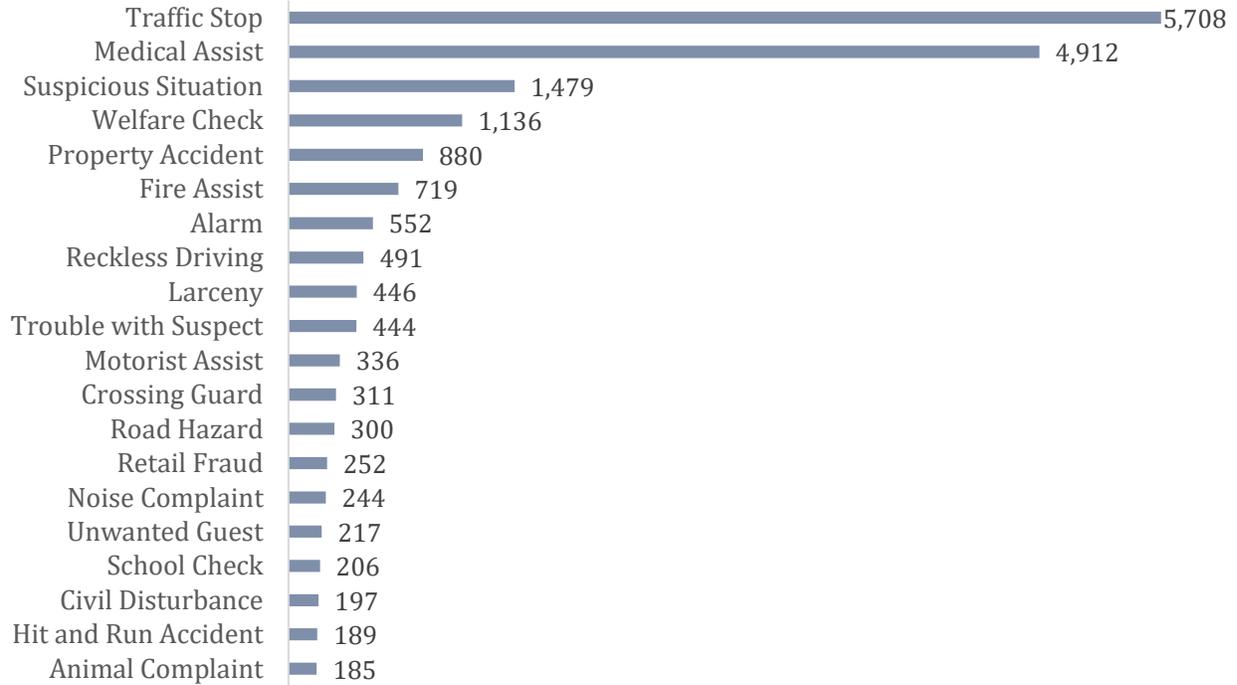
### Yearly Comparison



### Citations

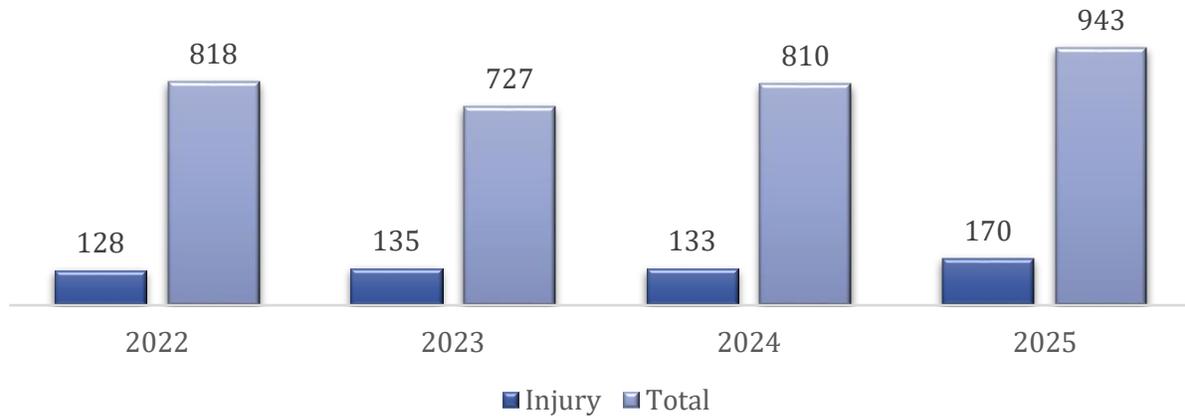


### Top 20 Calls for Service (as received from Dispatch)



Crash investigations in Meridian Township totaled 943 in 2025. This was an increase of 133 from the previous year. Crashes are classified as personal injury, property damage (no injuries) and hit and run crashes. There were 170 crashes with injured occupants, 773 crashes with no injuries and no fatal accidents.

### Traffic Crash Total to Injury Comparison



**TRAFFIC SAFETY**

The Meridian Township Police Department continues to focus on traffic safety. This year there have been two initiatives to continue to proactively address community concerns.

The department recently purchased two speed-measurement devices capable of conducting comprehensive traffic surveys. These devices record vehicle speeds and help identify areas where motorists are frequently traveling above the posted limit. To date, the units have been deployed fourteen times, with each deployment lasting an average of five to twelve days.

The department has also assigned an officer to serve as a full-time traffic unit. This officer’s primary responsibilities include enforcing traffic laws and responding to traffic-related incidents such as motor-vehicle crashes, reckless-driving complaints, and reports of motorists disregarding school-bus stop signs. The officer leverages data from the department’s traffic surveys to identify problem areas and address them proactively.



*Traffic Officer VanderMolen*

The Meridian Township Police Department continues to utilize speed signs to warn motorists of the speed limit in areas of concern.

In 2025 there was a 204 percent increase in car collisions with deer. This is believed to be due in part because of the closure of the Grand River Ave and Meridian Rd intersection, and the change in traffic pattern associated with this.

<b>Meridian Township Deer Involved Collision Data</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Injury Involved</b>	<b>No Injury Involved</b>	<b>Total</b>
2021	4	125	129
2022	2	99	101
2023	0	88	88
2024	4	78	82
<b>2025</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>168</b>

**TRAFFIC CRASH INVESTIGATION TEAM**

Traffic crashes involving fatal or potentially fatal injuries require investigators with specialized training and equipment. The Ingham Regional Crash Investigation Team (IRCIT) was created for that purpose. Area law enforcement agencies commit personnel to the IRCIT and on-duty members are called to assist participating agencies with those types of serious crash investigations. Using on-duty

personnel provides a more rapid response to the scene of a major accident, while the sharing of resources provides investigators with increased experience and reduces the financial burden on any one-member agency. Currently, the Department has three investigators on the team. The IRCIT was activated 27 times in 2025, with Meridian Township Police requesting it twice. Additionally, Meridian Township Police accident investigators assisted in a total of ten IRCIT activations outside of the township in 2025. The Department had three serious injury crashes in 2025, all involving a pedestrian.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are essential to so many community-based events that Meridian Township hosts or participates in throughout the year. The Police Department had the help of volunteers at the Celebrate Meridian event in June. They were instrumental in setting up National Night Out events in August, assisted at our annual Halloween open house in October, and wrapped gifts for underprivileged kids during our annual Shop with a Cop event in December. Our volunteer parking enforcement program was tested in 2025 and there is a lot of interest in being part of this program in 2026

### **COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICERS**

Community Policing is the foundation of all our actions and interactions. Officers are assigned specific neighborhoods to serve as a familiar point of contact for those neighborhoods and their leaders. Through this contact, relationships are formed, trust is built, and problem solving is shared. Officers communicate directly with their citizens, participate in community activities, and spend uncommitted time in their neighborhoods so our community trusts and understands our Department. Neighborhood leader meetings are held quarterly at the Township Hall and are well attended, both by residents and officers.



*National Night Out*



*Officer Tyndall - Cops and Bobbers*

Annually on the first Tuesday of August the Department engages the community through a nationwide event known as National Night Out (NNO). The event is intended to strengthen relationships between the community and law enforcement to take a stand against crime. In 2024, 15 individual NNO events were attended by members of both the police and fire departments. Officers had the opportunity to interact with residents, play games with children, and enjoy food and casual conversations.

National Faith & Blue Weekend is based on the premise that strong communities are built on mutual respect, trust and understanding. Law Enforcement entities and faith-based groups are key pillars of

a local community, and when they work together, communities thrive. The Department attended several events hosted by local churches in October.

**ADULT CROSSING GUARDS**

The Department hires, trains, and manages six (6) adult school crossing guards for schools in the township. The guards are supervised by the School Resource Officers, and the Department is always actively accepting applications for more.

**CANINE SUMMARY**

In 2025, the Department maintained the two K9 teams for a total of 73 deployments. The K9 Unit consists of Ofc. Anderson with K9 Ares and Ofc. Trevino with K9 Reno. Both teams are trained in article searches, area searches, building searches, narcotics detection, apprehension/protection and tracking. Surrounding Departments request or provide mutual aid from K9 Teams when they either do not have one on-duty or do not have one readily available.



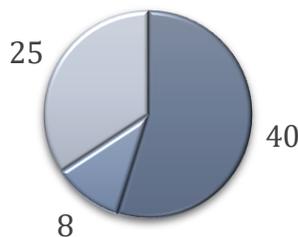
*Officer Anderson and K9 Ares*



*K9 Reno*

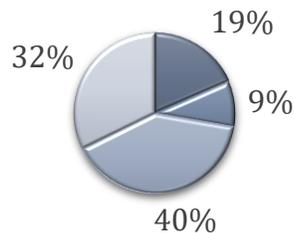
Ofc. Anderson and K9 Ares completed 178 hours of monthly maintenance training as well as certifying nationally through the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers (NAPCH). Ofc. Anderson and K9 Ares remained on the Ingham Regional Special Response Team (IRSRT) in 2025. Ofc. Trevino and K9 Reno completed 103 hours of monthly maintenance training. Ofc. Trevino and K9 Reno successfully certified nationally through the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers (NAPCH) seminar.

**2025 Canine Team Activity**



- Calls Handled by Meridian Canine Team
- Calls Handled by Other Departments
- Call Outs to other Departments

**Activity Type**



- Ingham Regional SRT
- Article Search
- Narcotics Search
- Tracking

\*A canine call may include more than one activity type.

### **SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM**

The Ingham Regional Special Response Team (IRSRT) is comprised of personnel from the Ingham County Sheriff's Office, Meridian Township Police Department, MSU Police Department, and East Lansing Police Department. The team is called upon by agencies when a tactical team is needed to respond. IRSRT's primary jurisdiction is all of Ingham County, with the exception of the city of Lansing.



*IRSRT Training Day*

Meridian Township commits four operators to the team, currently one lieutenant, two sergeants, and one officer. Meridian Township operators received 528 hours of regular monthly training and 100 hours of annual training in 2025. This totals 628 hours of yearly training. IRSRT had 22 activations in 2025.

### **SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE UNIT**



*School Resource Officer Casaday*

The School and Community Resource Unit is comprised of two School Resource Officers (SROs) who work with the Haslett and Okemos Public Schools. Officer Casaday continued his role as the Haslett SRO while Officer Short was assigned to the Okemos Public School District in the fall of 2025. The SROs provide several services to the schools to ensure a safe environment for children to learn. They also assist with several community events throughout the year.

Our SROs hosted the Touch-A-Truck event this past year, where surrounding police and fire departments brought out their best vehicles and equipment for the ultimate show and tell session. The Meridian Mall volunteered their space for this event.

The SROs participated in "No Senior with Christmas" event. This is a Tri-County TRIAD program which led to about 400 holiday baskets distributed to tri-county elderly residents. Meridian Township residents received 32 of the baskets that were delivered by our SROs and fire department.



*School Resource Officer Short*

The Department held its annual "Shop with a Cop" event in December. The SROs worked with school

counselors and nine area students participated. The officers worked in conjunction with Walmart, Buddies Pizza, and Dunkin Donuts to fund the event. Numerous private donors also provided funds to support this event.

## SERVICES DIVISION

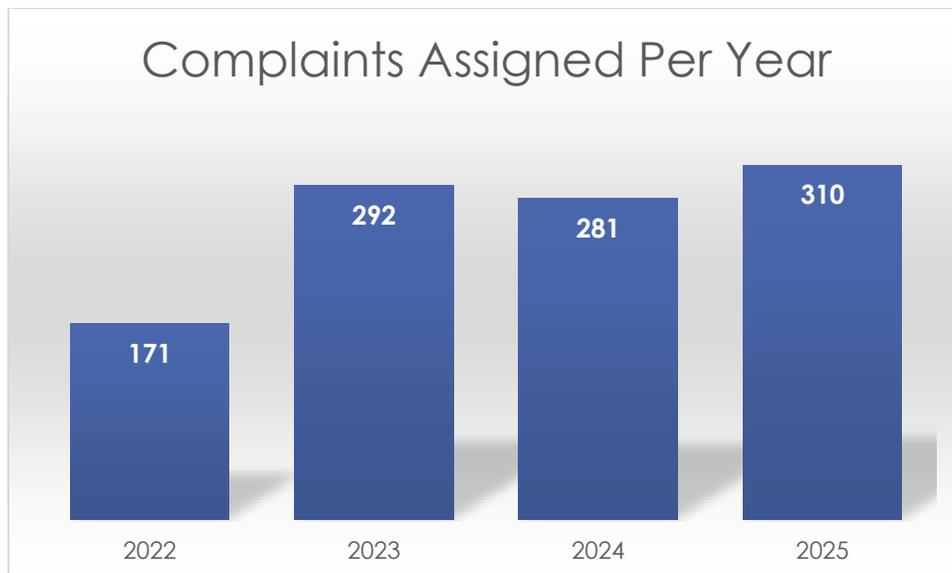
The Services Division Commander, Assistant Chief Crane, oversees the administrative functions of the Department. The Services Division includes the Police Records Unit, Court Services, the Investigations Unit, the Evidence and Property Room, the Cadet Program, and the Recruiting Team. The Services Division is responsible for hiring and recruiting new officers, property and evidence management, police services at the front desk, and all aspects of police investigations.

### INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

Sergeant Brian Canen handles the day-to-day operations of the unit and ensures each investigation is handled efficiently and with great care. In 2025, one sergeant and four officers were assigned to the unit.

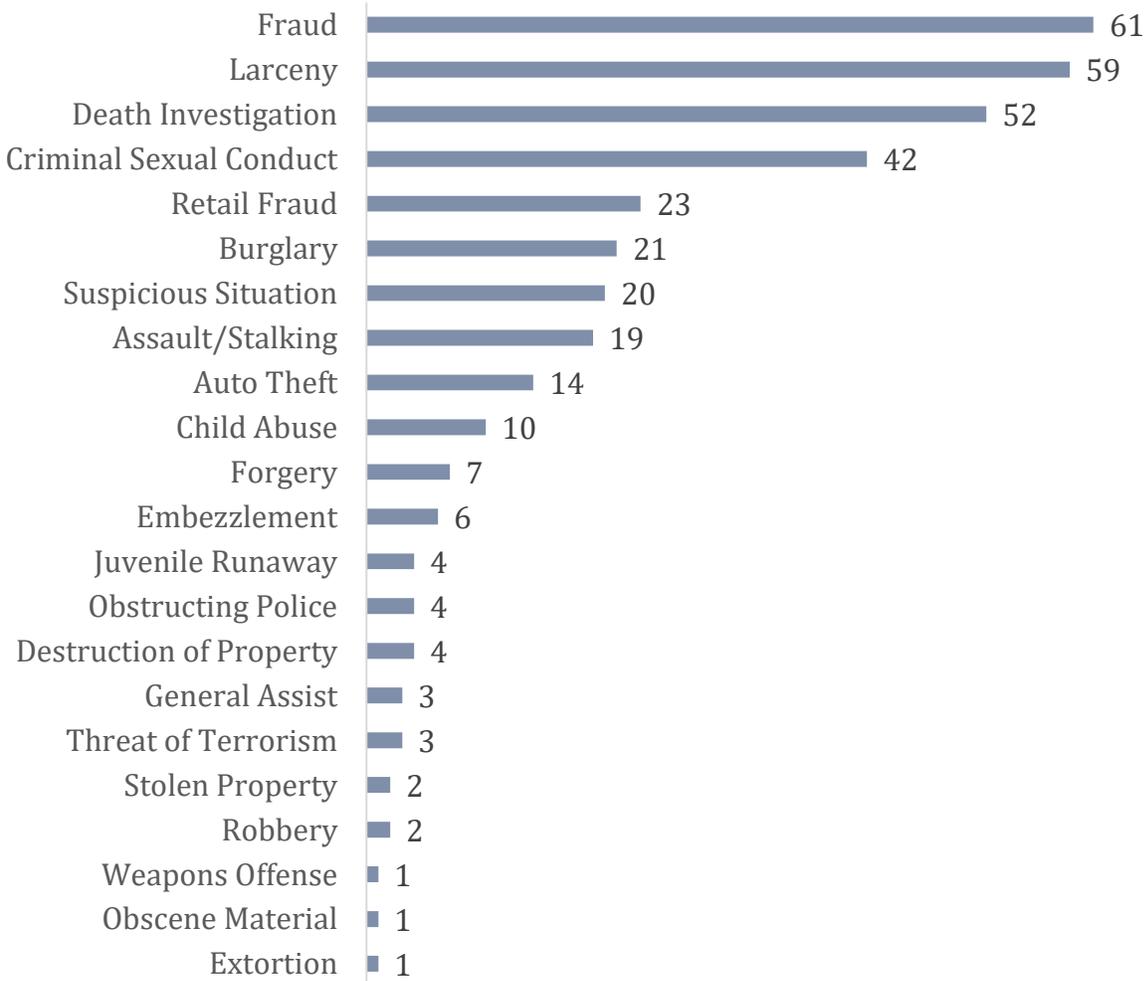
Criminal complaints begin at the road patrol level but sometimes require additional attention from a specialized investigator. Our Investigations Unit may take over an investigation if it is determined the crime is complex or will require a more time-consuming and thorough investigation. Investigators work closely with victims, officers, other law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and the Township Attorney to ensure a thorough and fair investigation is complete.

The investigations unit assigned a total of 310 complaints in 2025.



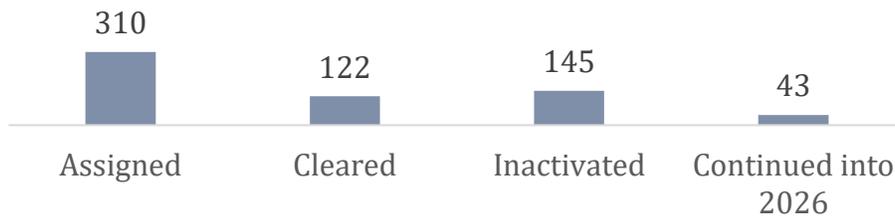
The table below lists the types of offenses investigated. The number of complaints is lower than the number of “offenses” because a single complaint may include more than one crime or offense.

### Cases Investigated 2025



In 2025, the Investigations Unit continued to investigate 32 offenses from 2024, 310 offenses were assigned, 122 were cleared, 145 were inactivated, and 43 will continue to be investigated in 2026.

### 2025 Report Dispositions



When an investigation is completed and reviewed for charges, the Investigator is responsible for forwarding the warrant request to the Ingham County Prosecutor’s Office (ICPO). In 2025, the Investigators submitted 102 requests for warrants and petitions to the ICPO.

<b>Investigations, Warrant Requests &amp; Petitions for 2025</b>			
	<b>Felony</b>	<b>Misdemeanor</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Requested	80	22	<b>102</b>
Issued	32	6	<b>38</b>
Denied	17	12	<b>29</b>
Diversion	0	1	<b>1</b>
Status Pending	22	10	<b>32</b>

In 2025, the Department recovered more than \$210,000 in stolen property, the majority of which was linked to larceny from construction site investigations. As much of the recovered property as possible was returned to the rightful owners. Items for which owners could not be identified—including numerous gift cards and various stolen goods—have been secured in the Department’s evidence storage.

Noteworthy investigations for 2025 include:

- Several areas within Meridian Township experienced larcenies from construction sites throughout the year. Through extensive investigative efforts and the execution of multiple search warrants, investigators recovered a significant number of stolen tools, along with stolen vehicles and trailers. These operations also led to the identification and arrest of several suspects connected to the thefts.
- During an investigation into a subject who had been sending inappropriate communications to several underage girls, an investigator arranged a controlled meeting with the individual. The suspect was taken into custody at the scene and is currently awaiting trial. It was later determined that the suspect was already out on bond for similar charges in a nearby county.
- The Department responded to a shooting incident at the Meridian Mall in which two subjects exchanged multiple gunshots. Through thorough investigative work, detectives identified the individuals involved. Both subjects were subsequently charged by the Ingham County Prosecutor’s Office.
- A criminal sexual conduct report was filed after it was learned that an adult suspect had engaged in unlawful contact with a minor. Investigators conducted multiple interviews and executed several search warrants to obtain supporting evidence. A comprehensive case was submitted to the Ingham County Prosecutor’s Office, which issued numerous charges against the suspect.
- Following the issuance of charges, the suspect fled the United States and returned to his home country. The Meridian Township Police Department is actively working with the FBI to facilitate the suspect’s return to Michigan so he can face the charges.

**COURT SERVICES**

Our Court Services Officer (CSO) acts as a liaison between the Department, the Ingham County Prosecutors Office, the Township Attorney, and the court system. The CSO tracks and processes criminal complaints and submits them to the appropriate attorney’s office for review of warrant request and juvenile petitions. The CSO is also responsible for the registration and address verification of sex offenders in Meridian Township.

COURT SERVICES	2022	2023	2024	2025
Subpoenas Served	461	422	502	331*
Personal Protection Orders	40	44	40	47
Warrant Requests	809	873	646	626**
Warrants Signed by CSO	339	398	326	434
Twp. Attorney Requests	122	112	100	127
Total Petition Requests	107	102	85	78
Retail Fraud Requests	145	111	199	127
OWI Requests	55	36	30	49
Assault Requests	73	175	70	66
Assault Requests-Domestic	142	90	123	164
Larceny/Fraud Requests	63	110	139	124
Narcotics Requests	19	20	15	22
*Electronic subpoena service began in 2025 reducing the number of subpoenas served				
** Warrant requests for some charges were changed to citations, which reduced paperwork for law enforcement, prosecutor’s office, and the courts.				

**RECORDS UNIT**

The Records Unit consists of a supervisor, two full-time technicians, and a part-time technician. They provide support to the Uniform Division as well as the Investigations Unit by preparing criminal reports for prosecution and reporting crime statistics to state agencies. They also maintain databases for statistical reports which are provided to department staff, the Township Manager, the Township Board, and are made available to the public.



*MTPD Records Unit*

Records personnel also process all police reports, crash reports, traffic citations, and other related documents. Customer service is an emphasis of our Records Unit. Records personnel assist the public

by responding to FOIA requests, processing insurance requests for reports, processing pistol purchase licenses, and answering incoming phone calls.

Annual Crime Reporting Summary	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 2024-2025
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	1	0	0	0	0%
Rape and Attempted Rape	36	60	49	43	-12%
Robbery	17	6	10	12	20%
Aggravated Assault	35	51	47	58	23%
<b>Total Part 1 Violent Crime</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>7%</b>
Burglary	69	66	76	65	-14%
Larceny	467	478	395	560	42%
Vehicle Theft	75	74	95	40	-58%
Arson	0	3	1	1	0%
<b>Total Part 1 Property Crime</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Total Part 1 Offenses</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>6%</b>
OWI Arrests (Liquor or Drugs)	48	35	37	60	62%
Traffic Accident – Roadway	818	711	810	943	16%

**MID-MICHIGAN POLICE ACADEMY**

The Services Division Commander represents the Department and acts as a coordinator for the Mid-Michigan Police Academy which is hosted by the Lansing Community College (LCC). Coordinators work closely with recruits during the 17-week academy, giving our coordinator an opportunity to identify possible candidates for employment. This also allows the coordinator to monitor each recruit’s progress and assist in career development. Because of our involvement in the police academy, the Department can have an active role in shaping the future of law enforcement locally, regionally and across the state of Michigan. Four Department members also teach various classes at the academy. The Department earns LCC credit hours for the time spent coordinating and teaching at the police academy. These credit hours can be used to send officers to train at LCC.

In 2025, the Department did not sponsor any recruits through the police academy.

**PROPERTY ROOM**

The Quartermaster maintains the property room. Activity involving the property room in 2025 included:

- 1,217 items entered as evidence
- 323 abandoned vehicles were processed

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DIVISION

In January 2025, the Department established the Professional Standards Division to oversee the accreditation process, manage the training program, and ensure the continued adherence to organizational standards within the Meridian Township Police Department. Sgt. Ed Besonen was promoted to **Lieutenant** and appointed to lead this newly created division.

One of the primary goals of the Professional Standards Division is the ongoing maintenance and advancement of the Department's accreditation status. The accreditation process is extensive and requires the Department to meet and document numerous standards throughout the year. Compliance is demonstrated through various forms of proof, including police reports, body-worn camera footage, and documentation of both physical and administrative practices.

The second major responsibility of the Professional Standards Division is administering and coordinating the Department's training programs. This includes scheduling, planning, and, in some cases, delivering both in-service and external training opportunities for all sworn personnel. Many members of the Department hold specialized certifications or instructor credentials, enabling a wide range of training disciplines to be offered internally.

### **ACCREDITATION**

Accreditation is an on-going program that encourages law enforcement agencies to improve performance and service to the community. Accreditation status acknowledges the implementation of conceptually sound written directives, policies, procedures, and training. It is the voluntary adoption of the best practices in law enforcement and requires constant evaluation of the professional objectives set forth by an independent body of professionals in the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (MLEAC).

In February 2020, the Department became the first police agency in mid-Michigan to gain full accreditation status from the MLEAC and the 19th overall in the state of Michigan. Today, there are 87 accredited agencies in the state, and many more agencies are in the process.

The Department regularly assists other agencies throughout the state with their efforts to receive certification. Members of the Department act as on-site assessors for both mock and full accreditation events.

### **TRAINING**

Under the direction of the Chief of Police, the Professional Standards Lieutenant oversees all training for the Department. The Department provided employees with 5,029 hours of training in 2025. It included some of the following:

- In-Service: 2,064 hours (Legal update, active violence response, Autism, Use of Force, etc.)
- External: 2,663 hours
- Firearms: 302 hours

Our commitment to excellence in policing rests on the foundation of continuous training. We prioritize equipping our officers with the most up-to-date knowledge, skills, and tools to effectively serve our community.

In 2025, our training program encompassed a wide range of critical topics, autism awareness for law enforcement, responding to hoax bomb threats, implicit bias awareness, crisis intervention training, interview and interrogation, and advanced defensive tactics.

We employ a diverse training methodology, incorporating classroom instruction, hands-on simulations, rigorous firearm training at our range and using advanced simulators, and leveraging cutting-edge computer software. Our dedicated team of in-house trainers, supplemented by expert external instructors, ensures the highest quality of instruction across all areas.

Furthermore, we were fortunate to receive funding from the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) to support mandatory training in key areas such as ethics, interpersonal skills, and legal updates. This valuable support has enabled us to invest in new software and equipment, further enhancing our already robust and progressive training curriculum.

Our training team is committed to enhancing safety and security within Meridian Township. We offer a range of valuable training programs designed to equip individuals and organizations with the knowledge and skills to navigate challenging situations. In 2025, our services included:

- Security Assessments: Proactive risk assessments for schools, houses of worship, and businesses.
- De-escalation Training: Empowering customer service teams to handle conflicts with professionalism and composure.
- Run-Hide-Fight Active Shooter Training: Providing critical life-saving strategies for schools, places of worship, and businesses.

To inquire about our training services and schedule a consultation, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY

A total of 900 citizen satisfaction surveys were mailed to victims and complainants involved in traffic accidents and other calls for service in Meridian and Williamstown Township. Surveys are used as an instrument to monitor customer satisfaction with the Department’s services. In 2025, a total of 157 surveys were returned.

#### Citizen Satisfaction Survey for Sworn Personnel

Category	Rating of Excellent/Good
Helpfulness	93%
Friendliness	97%
Knowledge	93%
Quality of Service	94%
Professional Conduct	97%
Response Time	94%

*\*Not all questions generated a response.*

In 2024, the Department looked to technology to supplement, or possibly replace, the mailed satisfaction survey using an automated system to send text messages to individuals that have called the police.

The process is started by sending a text message to the phone number for limited types of calls. If the subject responds, there are a total of three questions asked. If the individual does not respond to the first text, no additional texts are sent. The questions are a combination of ratings and free text responses. The text messages are sent between the hours of 8 am and 8 pm, but only after a six-hour delay from the time of the call.

Approximately 32% of the 1,244 messages sent received responses with an 88% approval rating. The Department will continue to evaluate the information received to make necessary changes to the survey questions.

### **CITIZEN SERVICE COMPLAINT SUMMARY**

The Department investigated two formal citizen service complaints during 2025. The following is a summary of the findings (some complaints had multiple officers involved and findings).

- 0 Sustained – Sufficient evidence exists to support the allegation, and further action will be taken.
- 0 Not Sustained – Insufficient evidence exists to either support or disproves the allegation.
- 0 Partially Exonerated - The incident occurred but was lawful or proper.
- 2 Exonerated – The incident occurred but was lawful or proper.
- 0 Unfounded – The alleged actions or events did not in fact occur.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

The Department is committed to having an online presence using Facebook and Twitter. The Department has solved crimes that would most likely have remained unresolved without the teamwork of the Department and residents made possible through social media. Numerous retail fraud suspects have been identified by posting security footage. The Department also uses its Facebook platform to engage the community in discussions.

Facebook offers the greatest return on time invested. The 13,729 people who “Like” our page is an increase from 2024 (30% men and 70% women). Facebook has been helpful in many areas including the identification of suspects, distributing traffic alerts and the posting of wanted people. There are also 3,191 individuals who follow the Department’s X (Twitter) page.

### **RAVE Smart 911 ALERTS**

The Department partners with RAVE Smart 911 alerts, to keep residents safe and informed with quick and reliable emergency notifications and public service announcements. To better serve the residents of Ingham County, police, fire and EMS agencies have joined together to utilize one platform for community messaging. Residents are encouraged to register to receive the alerts:  
<https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=ingham>



## **POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025 GOAL BASED ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

In conjunction with the Township Board and Township Manager, the Department establishes goals to help in the delivery of law enforcement services. Many of our goal accomplishments and other activities are listed as follows.

- **Focus on providing resources and programs to improve the physical and mental health and wellness of all police department employees.**

Improving employee health and wellness was a top goal of the Meridian Township Police Department in 2025. We began the year by replacing the old workout equipment in our gym. The old equipment was handed down to the department by the Okemos High School approximately 20 years ago and needed to be replaced. In January, we purchased new Rogue workout equipment to ensure our gym was a safe place for our employees to maintain and improve their physical fitness.

We also partnered with a local mental health provider to offer our employees one on one training sessions with a certified therapist. Through this program, employees had confidential meetings to better understand all aspects of therapy.

- **Continue our efforts to fill all vacant police officer positions with candidates that fit our standards while simultaneously working toward creating a diverse and inclusive workforce that matches the demographics of our community.**

Recruiting and retaining officers who meet our high standards is a challenge in modern law enforcement. We began 2025 with 38 officers. Throughout the year, three officers resigned and a total of five officers were hired. We ended 2025 with 40 officers and currently have one recruit in a police academy.

- **Establish structured succession plans to better prepare personnel for special assignments and promotions through training and mentoring.**

We began 2025 with the implementation of a new division called the Division of Professional Standards. Ed Besonen was promoted to Lieutenant and chosen to lead this important division. We also promoted two sergeants during 2025 and a promotional process was held to ensure we had qualified candidates for future promotions.

Lt. Curt Squires and Sgt. Jason Clements attended and graduated from the Michigan State University School of Staff and Command, a Masters level course for police executives. Multiple officers received leadership training to prepare them for future promotions.

- **Improve transparency through open communication with the public as well as our employees.**

Three Township listening sessions were held in 2025 in which the police department participated. Citizens had direct access to ask Chief Grillo questions.

Internally, a message board was hung in our briefing room to improve communication with personnel. Approximately 900 citizen surveys were mailed to the public soliciting feedback on interactions with the police department. We also sent over 1,200 text message surveys to the public for the same purpose.

- **Improve public safety by continuing to engage in targeted proactive policing services while working with community partners to address quality of life issues in Meridian Township.**

The most prevalent concern shared by the public in Meridian Township is traffic safety. In 2025, MTPD purchased two passive traffic data collectors. The data collectors allow us to conduct traffic studies at specific locations where speed is a concern. The data collectors document the time and speed of all vehicles passing by a specific location which allows us to determine if there is a problem with speeding vehicles and what time of the day should we dedicate resources to that location.

We also dedicated one officer to traffic enforcement full-time. This officer's primary duty is to identify locations where traffic safety is a concern and take enforcement action. Because of this, MTPD increased traffic enforcement by 12% in 2025.

- **Prepare for the second successful on-site assessment for the MLEAC accreditation program.**

In 2020, MTPD became the 19<sup>th</sup> agency in the state of Michigan and the first agency in mid-Michigan to be recognized as an accredited police agency. Since then, we have had to show compliance with the standards set forth by the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (MLEAC). MLEAC sends assessors to accredited agencies once every three years to ensure agencies are in compliance. In December 2025, MLEAC assessors completed their on-site assessment of our agency and found we are fully in compliance.

**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP  
POLICE**

**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP  
POLICE SERVICES**



**2025  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**Williamstown Township  
Police Services  
2025 Annual Report**

The Meridian Township Police Department provides law enforcement services to Williamstown Township. The 2025-2027 contract arranges for Williamstown Township to compensate Meridian Township \$169,994.65 for calendar year 2025 and \$81.10 per hour outside of the 40 hours of weekly patrol for emergency and non-emergency responses.

<b>Williamstown Township Statistics</b>				
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Written Reports	251	232	224	261
Calls for Service	1,279	1,222	1,328	1,446
Calls for Service (excluding traffic stops)	1,063	1,035	1,090	1,138
Arrests	15	15	15	19
Citations Issued	46	10	10	117
Total Number of Charges	56	14	14	173

<b>Written Reports</b>				
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Alarms	23	19	16	8
Traffic Crashes	101	72	90	111
All Other	127	141	118	142
<b>Total</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>261</b>

<b>Williamstown Township Deer Involved Collision Data</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Injury Involved</b>	<b>No Injury Involved</b>	<b>Total</b>
2022	0	54	54
2023	2	51	53
2024	1	58	59
<b>2025</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>87</b>

Top 20 Calls for Service as received from Dispatch for 2025			
Traffic Stop	308	Motorist Assist	27
Medical Assist	274	Utility Complaint	26
Property Damage Accident	109	Suspicious Situation	20
Road Hazard	62	Injury Accident	17
Check Welfare	62	Fraud	17
Animal Complaint	56	Trouble With Subject	15
Reckless Driving	48	Larceny	14
Fire Assist	48	Suspicious Person	13
Alarm	33	Threats	10
Suspicious Vehicle	32	Civil Disturbance	10
<b>TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE: 1,446 *</b>			

\*Call-for-service numbers include any agency who took action within the Township borders. Ingham 911 dispatch was unable to filter out other agencies.

**Williamstown Township - 2025 Annual Crime Reporting Summary  
Part 1 Offenses and OUIL/OUID Arrests & Traffic Accidents**

<i>Part 1 Offenses:</i>	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 2024-2025
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0%
Rape and Attempted Rape	1	1	3	1	-67%
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0%
Aggravated Assault	1	5	1	1	0%
<b>Total Part 1 Violent Crime</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-50%</b>
Burglary	2	1	2	2	0%
Larceny	7	7	10	13	-30%
Vehicle Theft	0	0	0	1	100%
Arson	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>Total Part 1 Property Crime</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Total Part 1 Offenses</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13%</b>
OUIL / OUID	2	1	6	4	-33%
Traffic Accidents	100	72	90	111	23%

A total of 111 traffic crashes were investigated in 2025. Of those, 19 crashes involved personal injury to people, 92 crashes resulted in property damage without any injuries and there were no fatal accidents.

**Investigations Unit**

During 2025, 6 cases were continued from the previous year, 20 reports were assigned, 8 reports were cleared, 10 reports were inactivated, and 2 reports will continue to be investigated in 2026. The victims of crimes that lack any investigative leads are notified by letter that the case is not being investigated; however, the case may be reopened if new information develops.

2025 Report Dispositions	
Assigned	20
Cleared	8
Inactivated	10
Continued in 2025	2

The following chart shows the types and individual number of offenses that occurred in Williamstown Township and were investigated by Meridian Township Investigators.

Offenses	2025
Fraud	7
Embezzlement	2
Criminal Sexual Conduct	2
Assault	1
Burglary	1
Identity Theft	2
Larceny - From Automobile	3
Death Investigation	2
<b>Total Offenses Investigated</b>	<b>20</b>