

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Rick Grillo, Chief
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Okemos, MI 48864
Phone: 517-853-4800

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, I am proud to present to you the 2024 Meridian Township Police Department Annual Report. Over many decades, our focus has been on establishing and maintaining partnerships in our community and earning the trust of all in our township.

As the premier law enforcement agency in mid-Michigan, we strive to provide excellent service to Meridian Township with compassion, courage, excellence, fairness, integrity, resourcefulness, and respect. 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.

Many changes came to the Meridian Township Police Department in 2024, most notably, our staffing levels. At the end of 2023, our number of sworn officers had decreased from a high of 42 down to 31. Through the decisive action of the Meridian Township Board to implement the Public Safety Recruiting and Retention Program, we were able to increase the number of sworn officers to 39 by the end of 2024. The men and women we have hired have received outstanding training through the police academy and by our field training officers and are ready to serve you!

During the Township listening sessions, it became abundantly clear the residents desired an increase in traffic enforcement. Due to staffing limitations, our proactive enforcement activities had taken a back seat to our response to calls for service in 2023. Because of the increase in staffing and a focus on traffic enforcement the number of warnings given increased by five times and we issued three times as many citations as we did the previous year. Our increased focus on traffic enforcement has made our roadways safer and will continue for years to come.

In 2025, we will continue to focus on providing the top-notch service our community deserves. We will emphasize expanding our communications with the public to keep our 45,000 residents well-informed. We will protect Meridian Township and work together to proactively prevent crime, enforce the law, keep our roadways safe, and provide outstanding customer service. We will continue to foster our valued relationship with all whom we serve.

I am proud of the progress we have made throughout the past twelve months, and we look forward to serving the Meridian Township community in 2025!

-Rick Grillo, Chief of Police

PERSONNEL

Promotions

Officer Adam Slavick was promoted to Sergeant



Retirements

Sergeant Andrew McCready – 26 years of service
Officer Chrissy Scaccia – 25 years of service



New Police Officers

Officer Kevin Schultz
Officer Jacob Scarvey
Officer Gabriel Burroughs
Officer Kendall LaFlair
Officer Elisha Olgine
Officer James Spencer
Officer Sara Hanson
Officer Taylor Berman



Department Roster - December 31, 2024

Grillo, Richard	Chief
Crane, Bart	Captain
Squires, Curt	Lieutenant
Besonen, Edward	Sergeant
Lofton, Christopher	Sergeant
Clements, Jason	Sergeant
Canen, Brian	Sergeant
King, Dan	Sergeant
Velasquez, Lorenzo	Sergeant
Slavick, Adam	Sergeant
Royston, Kyle	Officer
Payne, Rebecca	Officer
LeRoy, Bryan	Officer
Strouse, Doug	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, Gabe	Officer
Spencer, James	Officer
Hanson, Sara	Officer
Berman, Taylor	Officer

Civilian Personnel

Kristi Schaeding, Administrative Assistant

Heidi LaFargue, Records Supervisor

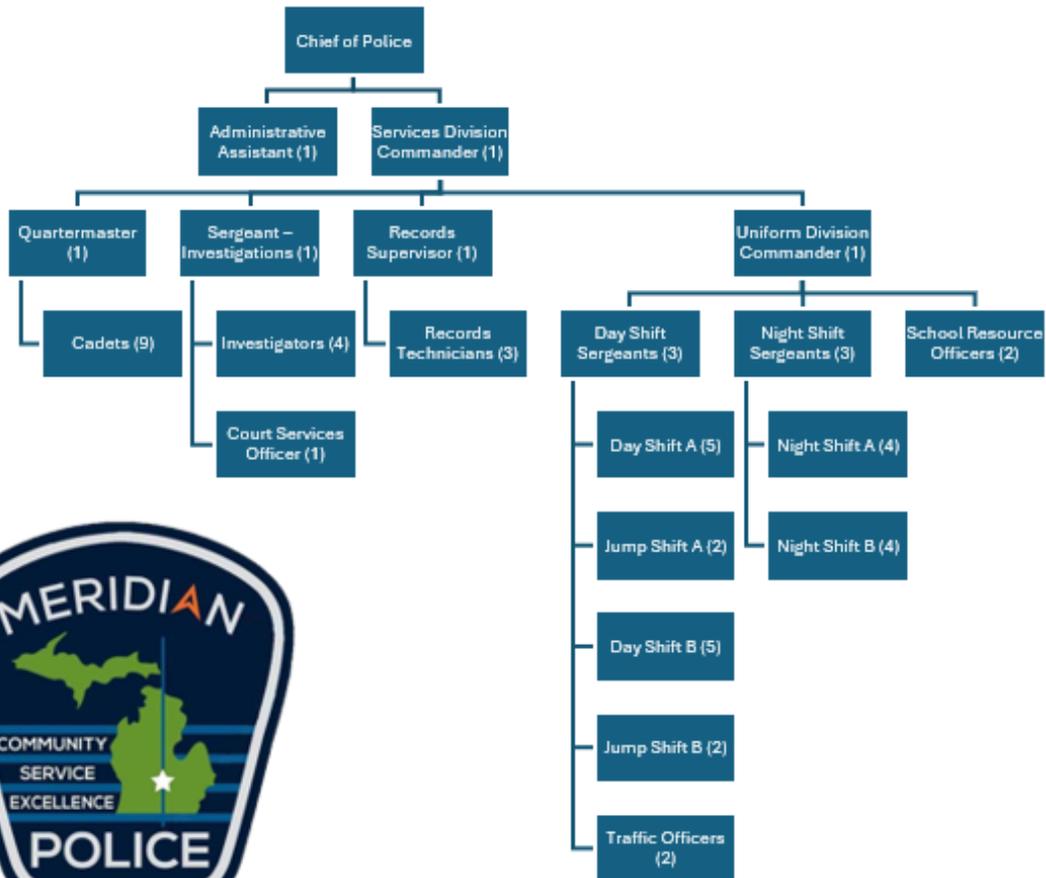
Cadets

Maggie Eggleston
Carrigan McGraw

Shane Helps
Alex Short

Cassidy Allen
Amanda Thiele

Meridian Township Police Department Organizational Chart



December 31, 2024

ADMINISTRATION

The Chief of Police is the head of the Department. The two distinct divisions under the Chief of Police are the Services Division and the Uniform Division.

UNIFORM DIVISION

The Uniform Division personnel includes a Lieutenant, 6 Sergeants, and 24 Officers. Within the division, there is the Road Patrol, Canine Unit and the School and Community Resource Unit. Road patrol personnel provide 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 2024, there were 19,533 calls for service (excluding traffic stops 5,083).

2024 Written Reports	
Alarms	440
Traffic Crashes	810
All Other	3804
Total	5,054

Yearly Comparisons

Written Reports

2021	2022	2023	2024
5,008	5,526	4,963	5,054

Calls for Service

2021	2022	2023	2024
17,211	18,540	19,026	19,533

Arrests

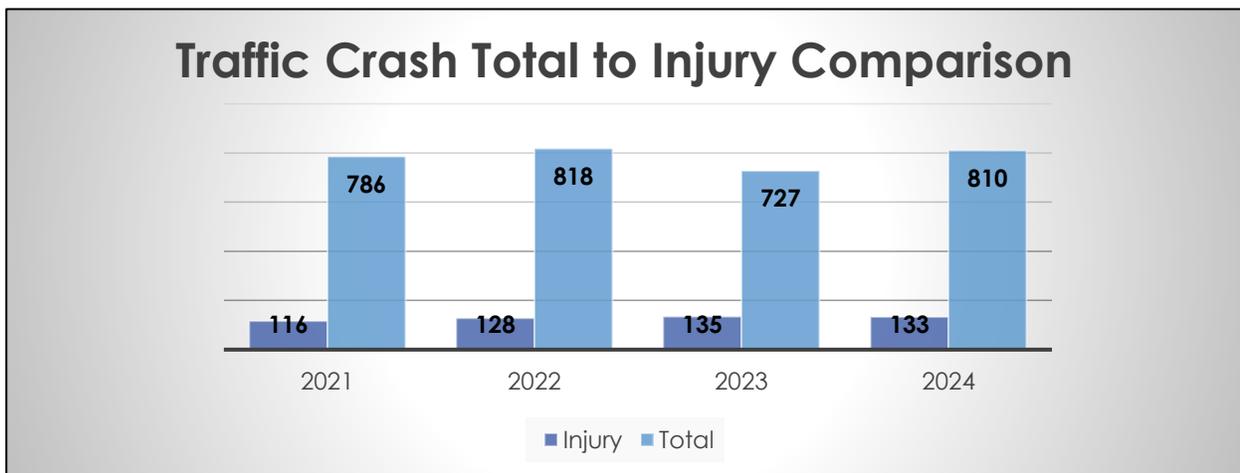
2021	2022	2023	2024
554	503	441	460

Citations

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Citations Issued	1,711	1,231	736	2,647
Total # of Charges	2,279	1,590	1,055	3,664

Top 20 Calls for Service as received from Dispatch for 2024			
Traffic Stop	5,083	School Check	391
Medical Assist	4,798	Fraud	380
Suspicious Situation/Person/Vehicle	1,259	Road Hazard	363
Welfare Check	1,144	Motorist Assist	305
Property Damage Accident	840	Retail Fraud	264
Fire Assist	678	Noise Complaint	227
Alarm	636	Unwanted Guest	209
Larceny	494	Animal Complaint	204
Reckless Driving	485	Dog Complaint	178
Trouble With Subject	449	Police Assist	169
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE: 24,616 with traffic stops. 19,533 excluding traffic stops *			
*Call-for-service numbers include any agency who took action within the Township borders. Ingham 911 dispatch was unable to filter out other agencies.			

Crash investigations in Meridian Township totaled 810 in 2024. This was an increase of 83 from the previous year. Crashes are classified as personal injury, property damage (no injuries) and hit and run crashes. There were 133 crashes with injured occupants, 676 crashes with no injuries and 1 fatal accident.



TRAFFIC SAFETY

The Meridian Township Police Department views traffic safety as a primary focus of keeping the community safe. The Department works in conjunction with the Ingham County Road Department and the State Highway Department to address concerns related to road design. The Department takes enforcement action in areas designated as directed patrols based on review of traffic crash data, citizen complaints, and traffic problems that are created as a result of road closures. Speed monitoring instruments including a speed trailer and speed signs are utilized to complete traffic studies regarding speed-related safety concerns and traffic counts. The equipment is used to educate the motorists and can be deployed easily in areas identified internally or through citizen reporting. This year we completed thirteen directed patrols and seven traffic surveys.

Our officers provide free car seat inspections for the community. During 2024, fourteen car seat inspections took place throughout the year.

Meridian Township Deer Involved Collision Data

Year	Injury Involved	No Injury Involved	Total
2021	4	125	129
2022	2	99	101
2023	0	88	88
2024	4	78	82

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 type 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 anyone member agency. Currently, the Department has three investigators on the team. The IRCIT was activated 30 times in 2024, with Meridian Township Police requesting it twice. Additionally, Meridian Township Police accident investigators assisted in a total of eleven IRCIT activations outside of the township in 2024. The Department had one fatal crash, one serious injury crash involving a pedestrian in 2024.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers continued to be instrumental this year during several events hosted by the Department. Volunteers assisted at our annual Halloween open house in October, greeting guests and helping to hand out treats and gift bags. Volunteers also came to assist the Department to help wrap presents for our Shop with a Cop event. A revival of our volunteer parking enforcement program was researched in 2024 and is still in the works. This would consist of a group of volunteers targeting handicap parking violations during the daytime hours.

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.





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 2024, the Department maintained the two K9 teams for a total of 69 deployments. It consisted 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. Ofc. Anderson and K9 Ares completed 207 hours of monthly maintenance training as well as certifying nationally through the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers (NAPCH). Ofc.

Anderson and K9 Ares were also added on to the Ingahm Regional Special Response Team (IRSRT) in early August of 2024. Ofc. Trevino and K9 Reno completed 350 hours of monthly maintenance training. Ofc. Trevino and K9 Reno successfully certified nationally through the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers (NAPCH) seminar.



2024 Canine Team Activity Numbers	
Calls Handled By Meridian’s Canine Team	29
Calls Handled By Other Departments	4
Call Outs To Other Departments	40
Total Calls For Service	73
Activity Type	
Ingham Regional SRT	1
Article Search	7
Area Search	2
Building Search	3
Narcotics Search	26
School Sweeps (OHS/HHS/ELHS)	0
Tracking	36
Demonstrations	2
Other Use	0
Total	77

*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. 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 2024. This totals 628 hours of yearly training. IRSRT had 19 activations in 2024.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE UNIT

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 2024. 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.



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, Captain 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, the MLEAC Accreditation Team, and the Recruiting Team. The Services Division is responsible for hiring and recruiting new officers, the MLEAC Accreditation process, property and evidence management, police services at the front desk, all aspects of MLEAC accreditation and 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 2024, 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 281 complaints in 2024.

Complaints Assigned Per Year	
2021	279
2022	171
2023	292
2024	281

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.

Crime	2021	2022	2023	2024
Criminal Sexual Conduct	50	55	63	39
Robbery	6	12	4	3
Assault/Stalking	17	5	8	18
Extortion	2	2	3	2
Burglary	39	30	12	12
Larceny	47	28	103	59
Unlawful Driving Away Auto	10	7	13	14
Forgery	1	18	6	5
Fraud	52	53	111	49
Embezzlement	1	2	2	2
Stolen Property	1	3	4	2
Malicious Destruction of Property	3	25	2	2
Retail Fraud	4	1	7	6
Sex Offenses	2	0	7	5
Obscene Material	5	7	3	6
Threat of Terrorism	0	0	2	2
Child Abuse	10	16	13	20
Obstructing Police	0	0	0	4
Weapons Offense	3	7	2	2
Juvenile Runaway	4	5	3	6
Civil Custody	0	0	0	2
Suspicious Situations	26	22	24	20
General Assist	1	0	3	3
Death Investigations	43	56	49	62

In 2024, the Investigations Unit continued to investigate 65 offenses from 2023, 277 offenses were assigned, 159 were cleared, 64 were inactivated, and 65 will continue to be investigated in 2025.

2024 Report Dispositions	
Assigned	277
Cleared	159
Inactivated	64
Continued in 2025	65

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 2024, the Investigators submitted 190 requests for warrants and petitions to the ICPO.

Investigations, Warrant Requests & Petitions for 2024			
	Felony	Misdemeanor	Totals
Requested	164	26	190
Issued	52	6	58
Denied	17	10	27
Diversion	0	0	0
Status Pending	86	10	96

Over \$37,000 worth of stolen property was recovered in 2024 with most of that being from larceny from automobile complaints. As much of the recovered stolen property was returned to the victims as possible. The rest has been retained in the Department’s secure evidence storage as we have been unable to locate owners of many of the gift cards and stolen items.

Noteworthy investigations for 2024 include:

- Several areas within Meridian Township were victimized by larcenies from vehicles. In many of these cases credit cards were stolen and then used to purchase gift cards. Through investigative efforts and search warrants many of the gift cards were recovered and several suspects were identified and arrested.
- While investigating a criminal sexual conduct complaint that occurred in January of 2023 our road patrol was able to identify and arrest a suspect. After the assistance of our Investigations Unit and a trial, the suspect was convicted and will subsequently be serving a long prison sentence.
- The Department responded to multiple indecent exposure complaints in the parking lot of a local store. Through investigative efforts this subject was identified as the suspect in several incidents and subsequently charged through the Ingham County Prosecutor’s Office.
- In another criminal sexual conduct complaint, it was learned that an adult had been having sexual contact with his own minor child. Through interviews and search warrants to obtain evidence a case was built and a suspect arrested. He is currently awaiting trial.

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	2021	2022	2023	2024
Subpoenas Served	328	461	422	502
Personal Protection Orders	40	40	44	40
Warrant Requests	787	809	873	646
Warrants Signed by CSO	251	339	398	326
Twp. Attorney Requests	93	122	112	100
Total Petition Requests	50	107	102	85

Retail Fraud Requests	145	145	111	199
OWI Requests	69	55	36	30
Assault Requests	127	73	175	70
Assault Requests-Domestic	138	142	90	123
Larceny/Fraud Requests	48	63	110	139
Narcotics Requests	16	19	20	15

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.

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	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change 2023-2024
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	1	0	0	0%
Rape and Attempted Rape	62	36	60	49	-18%
Robbery	10	17	6	10	67%
Aggravated Assault	35	35	51	47	-8%
Total Part 1 Violent Crime	107	89	117	106	-9%
Burglary	64	69	66	76	15%
Larceny	611	467	478	395	-17%
Vehicle Theft	56	75	74	95	28%
Arson	6	0	3	1	-67%
Total Part 1 Property Crime	737	611	621	567	-9%
Total Part 1 Offenses	844	700	738	673	-9%
OWI Arrests (Liquor or Drugs)	69	48	35	37	6%
Traffic Accident – Roadway	785	818	711	810	14%

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.

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 2024, the Department sponsored one recruit through the Mid-Michigan Police Academy during the winter session, and two additional recruits through the fall session. Three other recruits were sponsored through the Washtenaw Community College Police Academy, two through the Law Enforcement Regional Training Academy at Mott Community College, and one through the Delta Community College Police Academy. Four of the officers have completed training and are working on their own, while three remain in field training entering 2025.

TRAINING

Under the direction of the Chief of Police, the Training Sergeant oversees all training for the Department. The Department provided employees with 3,373.5 hours of training in 2024. It included some of the following:

- In-Service: 1,395 hours (Legal update, active violence response, mental health/PRT training)
- External: 1,602 hours
- Firearms: 376.5 hours

Our commitment to excellence in policing rests on a 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 2024, our training program encompassed a wide range of critical topics, including de-escalation techniques, ethical considerations in law enforcement, implicit bias awareness, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), emergency vehicle operations, 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 (MCLEA) 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 2024, 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.

PROPERTY ROOM

The Quartermaster maintains the property room. Activity involving the property room in 2024 included:

- 1,060 items entered as evidence
- 252 abandoned vehicles were processed

CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY

A total of 1,200 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 2024, a total of 241 surveys were returned. The 20% response rate was increased as compared to 2023.

Citizen Satisfaction Survey for Sworn Personnel

Category	Rating of Excellent/Good
Helpfulness	93%
Friendliness	98%
Knowledge	95%
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 reporting 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.

35% of the 1,187 messages sent received responses with a 90% approval rating. In 2025, the Department will be using the data collected from 2024 to increase the types of calls that initiate a survey request.

CITIZEN SERVICE COMPLAINT SUMMARY

The Department investigated one formal citizen service complaint during 2024. The following is a summary of the findings (some complaints had multiple officers involved and findings).

- 1 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.
- 0 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 12,321 people who “Like” our page is an increase from 2023 (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 persons. There are also 2,452 individuals who follow the Department’s 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 2024 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.

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

After starting the year with only 31 officers, we finished the year with 39 sworn. We hired several lateral transfers from other agencies and sponsored 8 recruits through the police academy using a state-funded grant. Though we were not able to retain 3 of our new hires, we made great progress in our efforts toward full staffing.

Due to our hiring practices, we were able to identify four female recruits who met and exceeded our standards. Through sponsorship, we were able to hire these recruits. At this time, over 30% of our sworn workforce is female.

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

Social media posts have been increased to communicate with the public. A new message board was installed in our lobby to communicate important events and safety tips with our visitors. Quarterly meetings with our neighborhood leaders were held.

A big part of communication is also in soliciting feedback. In 2024, we sent out 1,200 paper surveys to victims and utilize text message surveys to ensure we are providing the best service possible.

Internally, Chief Grillo sends out newsletters to the Department employees via email every 2-3 weeks. A departmental meeting was held in February for all employees. A scrolling message board was installed in the briefing room which is used to communicate important events.

- **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 of the public is traffic safety. As staffing has increased, our ability to conduct proactive policing tactics has also increased. The Department issued three times as many citations in 2024 as we did in 2023 and issued five times as many warnings as the previous year. This has led to safer roadways throughout Meridian Township.

We also helped the Ingham County Dispatch Center usher in a new community notification system to improve mass communications to the public.

A state funded traffic grant was obtained at the end of 2023 that is being used throughout 2024 for targeted enforcement of traffic laws in areas where crashes are most frequent.

Directed patrols are communicated more clearly to our officers through the use of Microsoft.

- **Provide the sworn employees with enhanced pistol optics that improve public and officer safety through increased accuracy and situational awareness during high stress encounters.**

New handguns, holsters, and optics were ordered and received at the end of 2024. All the handguns and accessories have been issued to our officers. The optics, Trijicon RCR reflex sights, increase public safety and officer safety through increased accuracy and improve our officer's situational awareness.

- **Provide each officer with additional mobile technology to more efficiently collect evidence and share information with partner agencies while also allowing more time for proactive duties.**

All officers were issued iPads in March which are used for evidence collection, note taking, quick access to email and calls for service, instant access to our Telehealth Program, and many other functions. The program has been well-received and has enabled officers to document and enter evidence more efficiently, saving time for proactive policing.

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

Officers who were interested in promotions were sent through leadership training. Several officers have been sent to Field Training Officer training, generally regarded as the first step in introducing an officer to supervision.

- **Assist the Parks Department with deer management efforts to reduce property damage and traffic crashes.**

The deer management program was again safe and successful. As we worked with the DNR to determine the best ways to cull the herd, we were issued 300 licenses. The Parks Department harvested approximately 150 and the Department harvested approximately 150. Since 2020, the number of traffic crashes involving deer has decreased from over 160 to just over 80 in 2024. The deer cull will continue in 2025.

**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP
POLICE**

**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP
POLICE SERVICES**



**2024
ANNUAL REPORT**

**Williamstown Township
Police Services
2024 Annual Report**

The Meridian Township Police Department provides law enforcement services to Williamstown Township. The 2022-2024 contract arranges for Williamstown Township to compensate Meridian Township \$150,437.74 for calendar year 2024 and \$71.77 per hour outside of the 40 hours of weekly patrol for emergency and non-emergency responses.

Williamstown Township Statistics				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Written Reports	280	251	232	224
Calls for Service	1,506	1,279	1,222	1,328
Calls for Service (excluding traffic stops)	1,143	1,063	1,035	1,090
Arrests	12	15	15	15
Citations Issued	95	46	10	10
Total Number of Charges	111	56	14	14

Written Reports				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alarms	29	23	19	16
Traffic Crashes	105	101	72	90
All Other	146	127	141	118
Total	280	251	232	224

Williamstown Township Deer Involved Collision Data			
Year	Injury Involved	No Injury Involved	Total
2021	1	70	71
2022	0	54	54
2023	2	51	53
2024	1	58	59

Top 20 Calls for Service as received from Dispatch for 2024			
Medical Assist	253	Suspicious Situation	26
Traffic Stop	238	Motorist Assist	25
Property Damage Accident	93	Suspicious Vehicle	23
Check Welfare	73	Injury Accident	19
Fire Assist	56	Unknown Trouble/Injury/Accident	18
Road Hazard	51	Larceny	12
Reckless Driving	41	Trouble with Subject	12
Alarm	40	Runaway	11
Animal Complaint	38	Utility Complaint	11
Fraud	31	Civil Disturbance	10
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE: 1,328 *			

*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 - 2024 Annual Crime Reporting Summary
Part 1 Offenses and OUIL/OUID Arrests & Traffic Accidents**

<i>Part 1 Offenses:</i>	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change 2023-2024
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0%
Rape and Attempted Rape	1	1	1	3	200%
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0%
Aggravated Assault	1	1	5	1	-80%
Total Part 1 Violent Crime	2	2	6	4	-33%
Burglary	6	2	1	2	100%
Larceny	17	7	7	10	43%
Vehicle Theft	0	0	0	0	0%
Arson	0	0	0	0	0%
Total Part 1 Property Crime	23	9	8	12	50%
Total Part 1 Offenses	25	11	14	16	14%
OUIL / OUID	5	2	1	6	500%
Traffic Accidents	105	100	72	90	25%

A total of 90 traffic crashes were investigated in 2024. Of those, 19 crashes involved personal injury to people, 71 crashes resulted in property damage without any injuries and there were no fatal accidents.

Investigations Unit

During 2024, 4 cases were continued from the previous year, 12 reports were assigned, 4 reports were cleared, 8 reports were inactivated, and 20 reports will continue to be investigated in 2025. 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.

2024 Report Dispositions	
Assigned	12
Cleared	4
Inactivated	8
Continued in 2025	20

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

Offenses	2024
Fraud	2
Obscene Material	2
Criminal Sexual Conduct	3
Assault	1
Burglary	1
Identity Theft	0
Larceny - From Automobile	2
Death Investigation	1
Total Offenses Investigated	12