

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

Lake Worth Police Department

A year of successes, unforeseen challenges, and resiliency.



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



Over the past twelve months, the men and women of the Lake Worth Police Department have demonstrated an awe-inspiring resiliency that should make any Lake Worth citizen or visitor proud. From an aircraft disaster to becoming an accredited law enforcement agency, your Lake Worth Police Department has faced every challenge with the highest level of professionalism imaginable.

It is because of you, our citizens and supporters, that we are able to perform at such a high level. Although we have a wonderful complement of talent within our department, it is your trust and support that sustains us. From the Mayor and City Council down, the men and women of this department know where they stand in the eyes of the community. We consider it an honor to have the community's trust and support and we do not take it for granted.

In addition to your support, the diversity of our department members contributes significantly to our success. Like you, our members come from all walks of life. We take great pride in leveraging the unique skills and perspectives of our members to benefit the people we serve. As a department, we listen intently to feedback and cherish the opportunity to grow in our understanding of our community's needs.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the community alongside the best in the law enforcement profession. While I am incredibly proud of our accomplishments, we will not rest on our laurels. Excellence in service and protection requires a constant renewal of our commitment to you – our community. Rest assured, we will continue our pursuit of excellence daily with the hope that Lake Worth remains a safe place where life and commerce thrive!

In your service,

J.T. Manoushagian
J.T. Manoushagian



TPCA ACCREDITATION

On September 25, 2021, the Lake Worth Police Department became the 183rd accredited law enforcement agency in the State of Texas through the Texas Law Enforcement Best Practices Accreditation Program. The Lake Worth Police Department is one of the premier law enforcement agencies in the state, and this achievement is one of many that affirms the department's commitment its guiding principle of *excellence in service and protection*.



Accreditation provides an independent review of the department's internal operations and assures the citizens and visitors of Lake Worth that the Lake Worth Police Department adheres to the highest law enforcement standards. A description of the program may be viewed on the Texas Police Chiefs Association website at <http://www.texaspolicechiefs.org>.

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER



The Lake Worth Police Department's Communications Center saw an across-the-board increase in service demand in 2021 while simultaneously increasing the quality of service delivery. In 2021, the center completed the Association of Public-Safety Communications Professionals (APCO) Agency Training Program Certification, positioning itself to become one of only a handful of APCO certified centers in the State of Texas.

The center received a total of 29,810 calls, an 8.4% increase from 2020.

Emergency (911) calls increased significantly (12.8%) and accounted for one third of all calls received. Non-emergency calls and abandoned calls (hang-ups) also increased, accounting for the remaining two-thirds of calls received.

In addition to an increase in call volume, the center also handled several significant incidents, including a military plane crash, an officer involved shooting, and a multi-day winter weather event. Lessons learned from these experiences were shared with agencies across the region, including federal, state, and regional partners.



COMMUNITY POLICING & OUTREACH

The effectiveness of a law enforcement agency and its officers depends on the relationship forged with the community it serves. Community-police relationships, like all relationships, must be based on mutual trust and respect to thrive. With the pandemic subsiding, the Lake Worth Police Department was able to engage the community in many new and creative ways in 2021.



Throughout the year, the department held four workout meet-up events designed to bring the community and police together through physical fitness. Two “Community Conversation” events were held in the spring of 2021 to receive feedback directly from community members through panel discussions. The City of Lake Worth also had its largest National Night Out event ever in 2021, hosting more than 6,000 citizens and visitors at Lake Worth Park.

The resident and visitor [survey](#) was distributed in early 2021 in both English and Spanish. This year’s survey focused on professionalism, bias, diversity, transparency, and social media. The vast majority of respondents indicated a very positive view of the Lake Worth Police Department across all metrics.

FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH



While fully committed to protecting life and property, a response to calls involving a person in crisis requires a special kind of compassion and additional training. ***More than 90% of Lake Worth Police Department’s patrol officers are certified mental health peace officers (MHPOs).*** This advanced certification includes 40-hours of specialized training dedicated to helping officers become more proficient in understanding, communicating, and de-escalating situations involving someone in crisis. Becoming a mental health peace officer is completely voluntary and is just one of the many ways your Lake Worth Police Department pursues excellence in service and protection.



ALL NEW K-9 UNIT



In 2021, LWPd created an all new K-9 Unit that specializes in narcotics detection, tracking, and apprehension. These incredible Belgian Malinois were imported from Holland, and hand-selected to serve the Lake Worth community.

LWPd's K-9 units are on duty 7 days per week, and typically respond to all in-progress calls for service. The unit works under the direct supervision of the Special Operations Sergeant and is assigned to the Field Operations Division.

Both K-9 Harley and K-9 Riggs are certified by the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association (NNDDA) in patrol and narcotics detection, and the National Police Canine Association (NPCA) in narcotics detection.

DATA DRIVEN CRIME ANALYSIS

Data drives law enforcement. Whether developing information within the department or sharing information with area partners, our crime analyst Rachael Santillan makes it all happen. Using the Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) model, Rachael ensures that all department stakeholders remain aware of crime and traffic safety trends and have the information they need to address it.

In 2021, the Lake Worth Police Department filed 570 cases with the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office, a 12% increase from 2020 (282 felonies, 257 misdemeanors). With each case, LWPd extracts vital data to help our staff understand and respond to crime and traffic safety trends in near real time.

Rachael is a member of our Criminal Investigative Division (CID) and reports directly to the Commander of Support Services.



2021 CRIME REPORT



As the community emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lake Worth Police Department saw significant increases in motor vehicle traffic, daily population, and overall calls for police service. Despite being busier than ever, the overall crime index in the City of Lake Worth dropped slightly from 2019 (-0.55%). Over the same period of time, robberies dropped by 88%, burglaries

dropped by 70%, and thefts dropped by 4.4%. These reductions indicate that the overall policing strategies used by the Lake Worth Police Department have been effective.

Since 2019, property crime in Lake Worth has fallen by 11%. Burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft make up the property crime category. Theft, specifically retail theft (shoplifting), is the most frequent crime committed in Lake Worth. With multiple major retailers in our community, Lake Worth is prone to higher instances of shoplifting. Most theft involves property with a value of less than \$100, which is a class C misdemeanor. In these cases, a citation is typically issued. If the value of the property stolen is over \$100 or if the person accused of theft has 2 or more previous convictions, an arrest is made.



Over the last two years, burglaries represent the most significant reduction in property crime. In 2019, the Lake Worth Police Department investigated 53 burglaries. In contrast, the department investigated 16 in 2021. **In just two years, the Lake Worth Police Department has reduced burglaries by 70%!**

No matter how effective a police department's policing strategy may be, there are certain crimes that the police have difficulty seeing or preventing. For example, intimate partner violence occurring inside a residence is a crime that is not easily seen during routine police patrols. In fact, crimes like sexual assault (rape), murder, and arson typically occur in constitutionally protected places like homes where the police cannot enter without a lawful reason or a warrant. Because of that, police response to these crimes is normally reactive rather than proactive. In these cases, we focus on the solve rate of the crime as a measure of police effectiveness.



In 2021, assaults increased by 11%. In Texas, assaultive offenses vary widely, ranging from simple assault (class C misdemeanor) to aggravated assault with a deadly weapon (first degree felony). To better understand this increase, it is important to examine the exact types of assaults that have taken place.

Out of the 39 assaults that occurred in 2021, 18 (45%) involved family violence. Of those, 13 (72%) occurred inside a residence outside the view of the public. More than a third of all assaults in 2021 were felonies, including 11 classified as aggravated assaults. *(Note: One murder was reported in 2021, however, the actual offense was intoxication manslaughter. By UCR definition, this offense fell into the murder category.)*

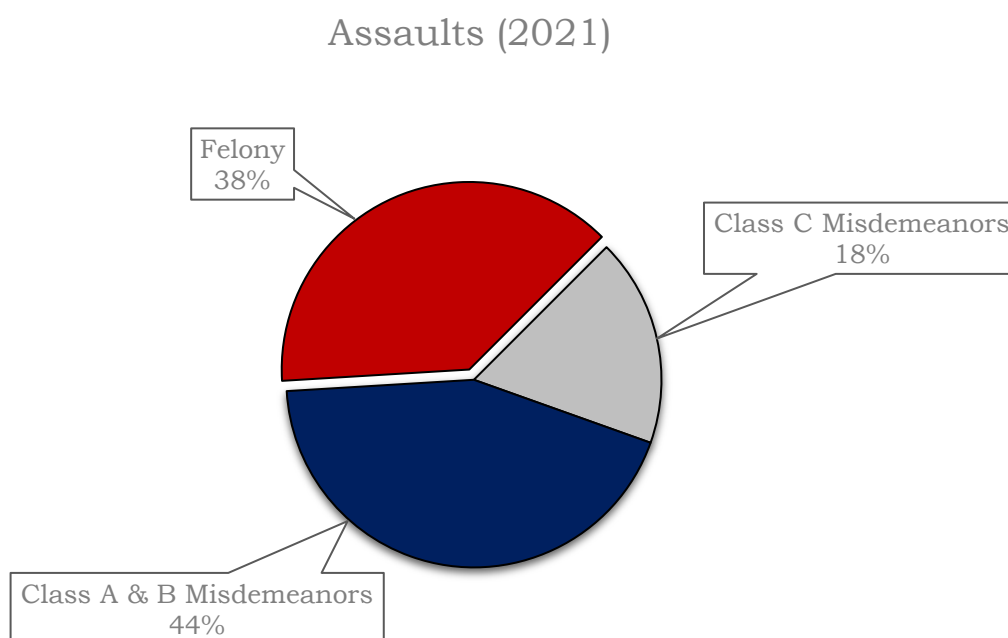


Figure 1 - 2021 Assaults

Although the report refers to sexual assaults as “rape”, this category is much broader than the title indicates. In 2021, eight sexual assaults were reported to the Lake Worth Police Department - four more than in 2020. After investigation, four (50%) of the eight sexual assaults reported in 2021 were unfounded – meaning there was not sufficient evidence to support the allegations. As with other assaultive offenses, sexual assaults are also difficult for the police to prevent. In these cases, our focus shifts to gathering as much evidence as possible, connecting the victim with support services, and pursuing justice on the victim’s behalf through prosecution.



2021 CRIME DATA SUMMARY



Figure 2 - 2021 Crime Data Summary

1) Intoxication manslaughter listed as murder, by rule

Source: TX DPS YTD Analysis of offenses against person, property, and society: 2019-2021



2021 TRAFFIC SAFETY REPORT

As Northwest Tarrant County's busiest thoroughfare, we understand the importance of traffic safety. In 2020, Texas experienced 3,896 traffic-related deaths compared to 1,931 homicides. Reducing these unnecessary deaths is the primary reason police engage in traffic enforcement. However, traffic enforcement is not just about enforcing traffic laws.

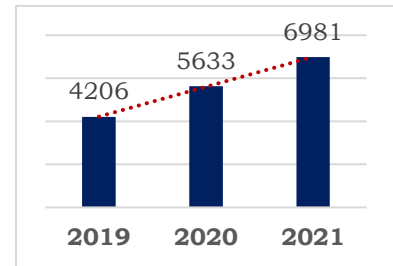


Figure 3 - 2021 Traffic Stops

The effective enforcement of traffic laws allows officers to investigate and intercede in other criminal activities. ***During 2021, Lake Worth Police Officers made a total of 6,981 motor vehicle stops - a 66% increase from 2019.*** Active traffic enforcement is one of the reasons Lake Worth remains one of the safest cities in Tarrant County.

Although all LWPD officers are expected to conduct traffic enforcement throughout their shifts, LWPD has two teams dedicated to traffic enforcement duties. The first team is our full-time traffic unit, which is made up of two senior officers. One officer is dedicated to daytime traffic enforcement during peak traffic and crash times. The other is dedicated to evening/ nighttime traffic enforcement and focuses on DWI (impaired driving) enforcement. Together in 2021, these two officers account for 48% of all traffic stops and 34% of all DWI arrests.

The second team of officers are those officers who participate in our Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) TxDOT grant. Officers who participate in the STEP grant do so on a voluntary overtime basis and are paid using funding provided by the grant. LWPD's participation in the STEP grant supports the greater Texas Traffic Safety Program, which aims to identify traffic safety problem areas in order to implement programs to reduce the number and severity of vehicular crashes in Texas.

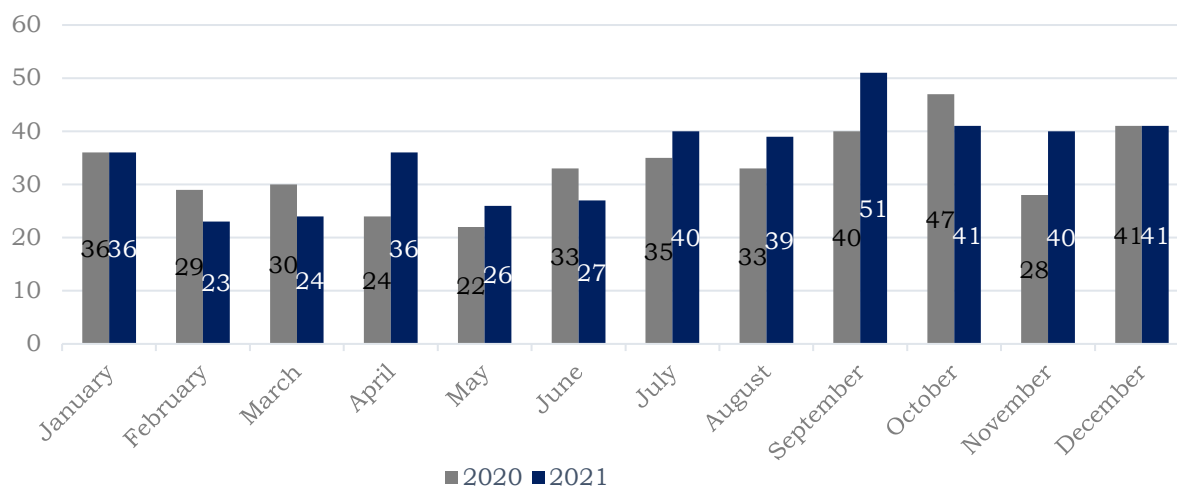
In 2021, Lake Worth police officers worked a total of 312.5 hours in support of the STEP grant and made an average of 2.75 traffic stops per hour. Officers working the STEP grant focus on enforcement in four main areas known to contribute to the severity of crashes: 1) seat belts, 2) child safety seats, 3) speed, and 4) intersection control. A total of 612 warnings and 457 citations were issued by officers working the STEP grant and several arrests were made, including five arrests for driving while intoxicated.



Additional arrests were made for narcotics violations and outstanding warrants. One stolen trailer was also recovered. The Lake Worth Police Department used 99% of its STEP grant funding for FY21, totaling \$11,848.34.

With more than 250,000 people passing through per day, traffic crashes are inevitable. However, through proactive enforcement and education, ***our team has reduced reportable traffic crashes by 40% over the last five years***, and more than 14% since 2019 (see Figure 4 below).

2020-2021 Crashes by Month



5 Year Crash Comparison

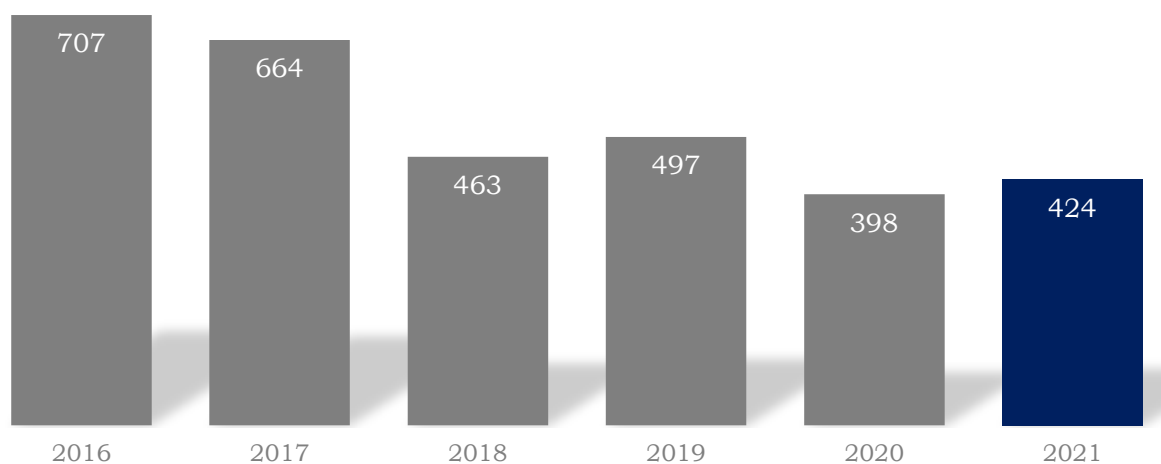
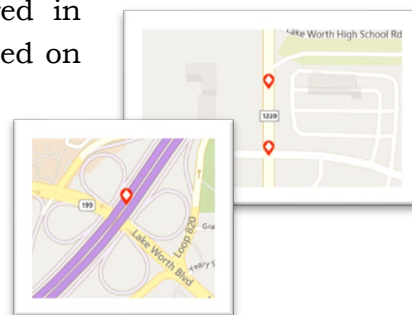


Figure 4 - 2020 - 2021 Crash Comparison, 2016 - 2021 Crash Comparison



Of the 424 reported traffic crashes that occurred in 2021, three (0.7%) involved fatalities. One fatality occurred on the I-820 Eastbound cloverleaf from SH 199, and two occurred at the intersection of Boat Club Road (FM 1220) at Rocky Point Trail. These three fatality crashes represent an increase from 2020, which had one reported fatality. **Two of the three fatal crashes in 2021 were directly attributable to impaired driving.**



Impaired driving enforcement remains a significant focus for the Lake Worth Police Department. Overall, DWI arrests dropped slightly in 2021, from 137 in 2020 to 130 in 2021 (-5%). DWI crashes also rose in 2021, accounting for 14% of all crashes in the City of Lake Worth.

DWI Arrest

Misdemeanor	108	83%
Felony	16	12%
DUI Minor	6	5%

DWI Factors

Alcohol - Only	78	88%
Drugs - Only	4	4%
Poly Drug - Combination	7	9%
Pending Analysis	34	26%

How Factors Obtained

Consent Given	80	65%
Warrant Obtained	44	35%

Evidence Obtained

Breath	34	27%
Blood	90	73%

Average BAC

Average BAC	0.17
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DWI Crash

DWI Crashes	18	14%
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Figure 5 - 2021 DWI Statistics

Instances of drug-impaired driving more than doubled in 2021 (120% increase from 2020). This alarming trend is not specific to Lake Worth. In fact, law enforcement agencies across the United States are seeing an increase in drugged driving cases. To address this significant upturn, LWPd is incorporating additional training into its annual in-service program and increasing the number of officers who are trained in advanced roadside impaired driving enforcement (ARIDE). The department also plans to continue to participate in the TxDOT STEP grant, which currently is approved through 2023.



2021 USE OF FORCE REPORT

There were approximately 10,019 interactions between Lake Worth police officers and members of the public in 2021. Of those interactions, only 34 (0.34%) resulted in an officer using force. There are several force options available to Lake Worth police officers to choose from, and officers are expected to choose the most appropriate force option based on the facts and circumstances encountered. If necessary and justified, Officers are expected to apply only the minimum amount of force necessary.

Use of Force (2021)

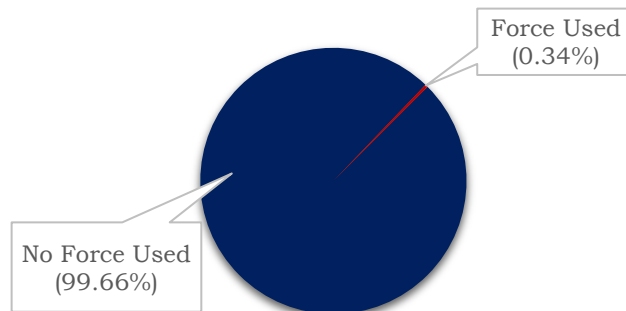


Figure 6 - 2021 Use of Force

In the 34 use of force cases in 2021, verbal direction was used in every case. The most common type of force used was the pointing (not discharge) of a firearm, taser or OC spray. Together, the display of these force options accounted for 82% of all force used. The second most common use of force was the use of soft weaponless control, which accounted for 44% of all force used (15 instances). Soft weaponless control is defined as grabbing, holding, using joint locks, or takedowns to restrain a suspect. On two occasions a taser was discharged and in one case, a firearm was discharged resulting in the death of the suspect.

Force Options Used - Percentage (2021)

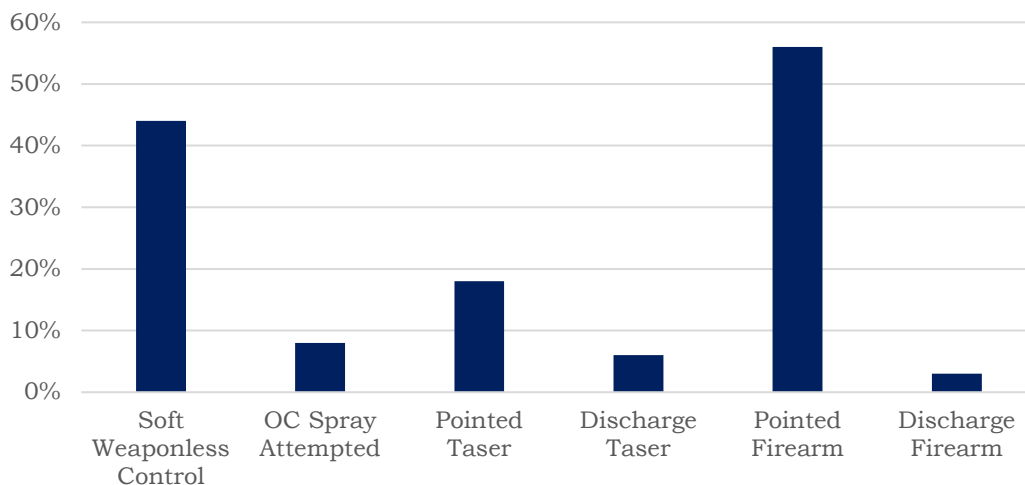


Figure 7 - 2021 Use of Force Options Used



Each time force is used, it is thoroughly reviewed by the officer's supervisor, divisional commander, and the Chief of Police. Each review examines the reasonableness of the force used and ensures compliance with department policy and law. In the 34 cases reviewed in 2021, 32 were in compliance. One was found to be non-compliant (0.00998%), and one is still pending investigation. The non-compliant use of force involved the use of a taser and did not result in injury to the suspect beyond that normally caused by a taser. The officer involved was given remedial training and formally counseled. The pending investigation involved the discharge of an officer's firearm. That case is currently being reviewed by the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office, which is standard protocol for all officer involved shootings.

The areas of race, gender and age were also examined. Of the 34 individuals on whom force was used, 19 were Caucasian (56%), 10 were Hispanic (29%) and 5 were African American (15%). Males accounted for 94% (32) of all uses of force, while females accounted for 6% (2).

Use Of Force - By Race (2021)

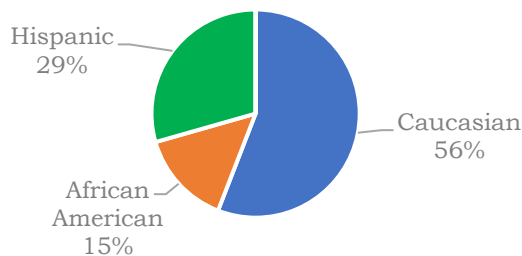


Figure 8 - 2021 Use of Force by Race

Furthermore, of the 34 individuals on whom force was used, 6 (18%) were age 17-21, 4 (12%) were age 22-25, 10 (29%) were age 26-30, 11 (32%) were age 31-40, 1 (3%) was age 41-50, and 2 (6%) were over 50. There was no force used against anyone below the age of 17 in 2021.

Use of Force - By Age (2021)

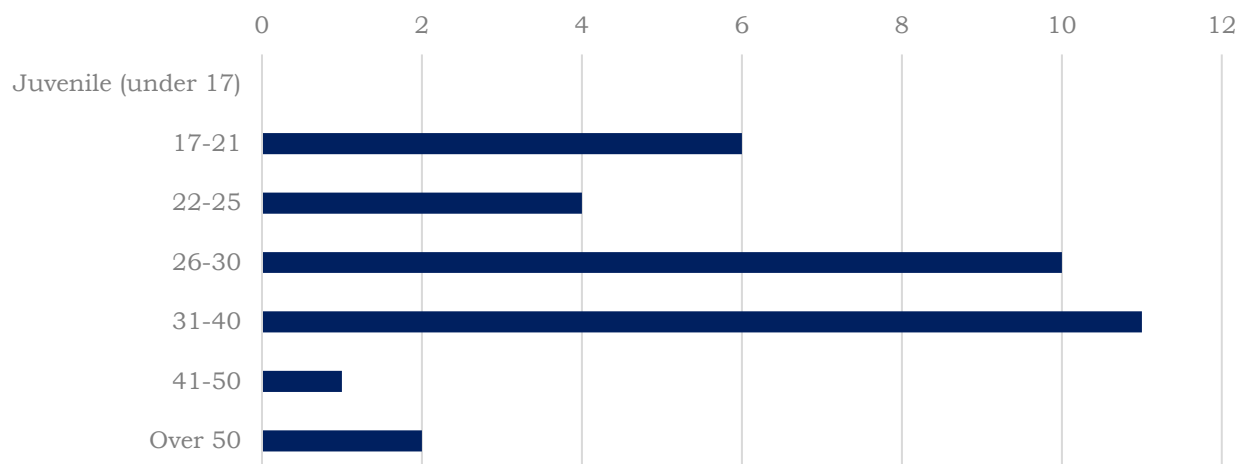


Figure 9 - 2021 Use of Force by Age



When assigned to a call for service, Officers are typically assigned one of two roles: 1) primary officer (responsible for the initial investigation and report), and 2) assist officer (supportive role, assists the primary officer). In 2021, Officers assigned to the primary officer role used force 28 times, compared to 8 uses of force by assist officers. On three occasions, officers used force while assisting another law enforcement agency.

Use of Force - By Month (2021)

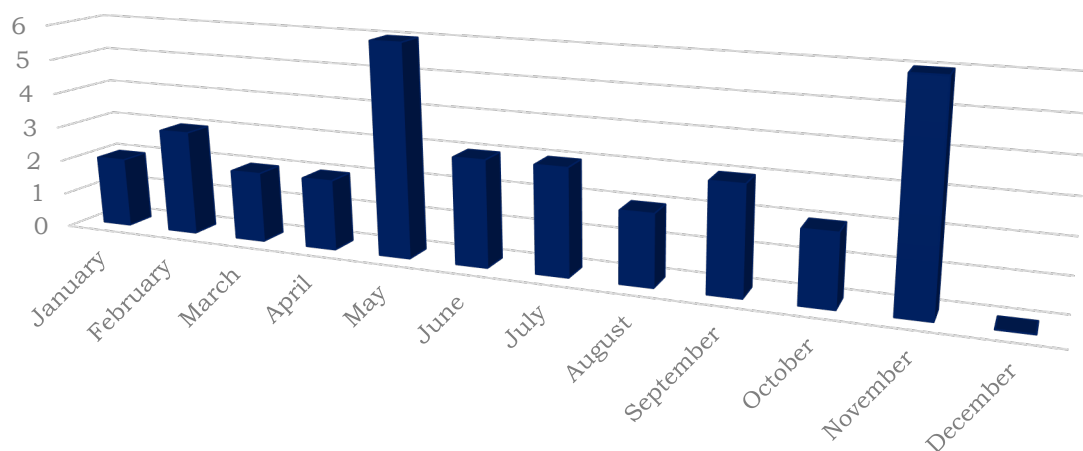


Figure 10 - 2021 Use of Force by Month

January and November of 2021 were tied for the highest number of use of force incidents per month with 6 each. Nearly three quarters of all use of force incidents took place between 12pm and 12am. Conversely, all days of the week were similar in the number of force incidents, except for Wednesday and Sunday which both only had 1 incident over the entire year.

Use of Force - By Day (2021)

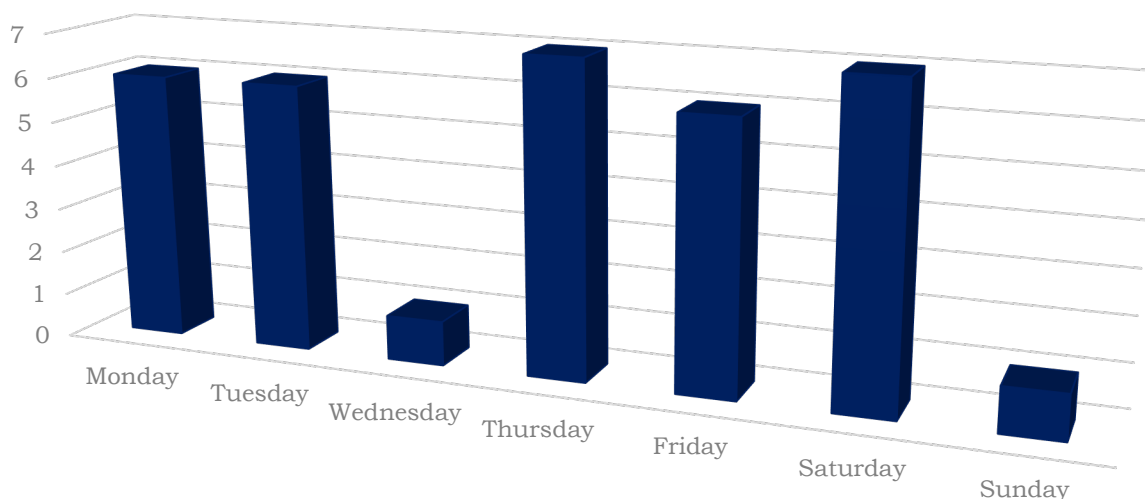


Figure 11 - 2021 Use of Force by Day



2021 PURSUIT REPORT

In 2021, the Lake Worth Police Department engaged in seven vehicle pursuits, none of which resulted in injury as a result of the pursuit. As an accredited law enforcement agency, the Lake Worth Police Department is required to have a policy that includes: 1) the criteria for initiating a pursuit, 2) the method for conducting a pursuit, 3) the supervision of a pursuit, and 4) the criteria for terminating vehicle pursuits. These requirements are fulfilled in [LWPD Policy 7.15 – Vehicle Pursuits](#).

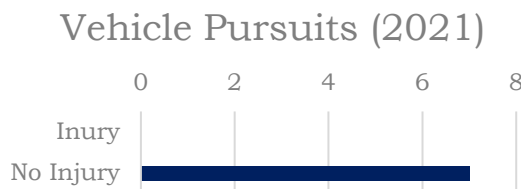


Figure 12 - 2021 Pursuits Resulting in Injury

The department is also required to have a policy requiring that a pursuit report is completed after each pursuit. Each report must contain the following information at a minimum: 1) the reason for the pursuit, 2) the personnel involved, 3) the result of the pursuit, 4) any injury or damage, and 5) any other significant events that occurred. Each pursuit report must be thoroughly reviewed by the officer's supervisor, divisional commander, and ultimately the Chief of Police. Each review examines the reasonableness of the pursuit and ensures compliance with department policy. These requirements are also fulfilled in [LWPD Policy 7.15 – Vehicle Pursuits](#).

Vehicle Pursuits (2021)

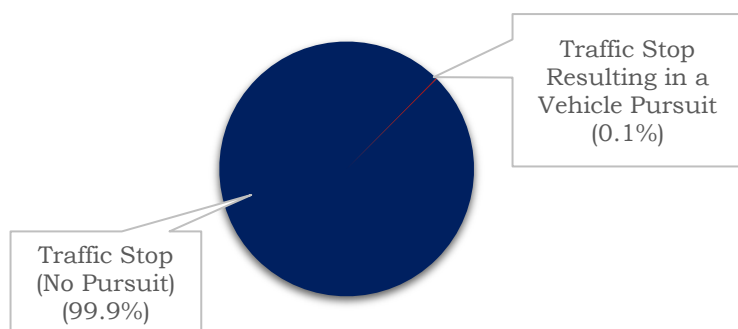


Figure 13 - 2021 Traffic Stops Resulting in Vehicle Pursuit

Out of 6,981 traffic stops conducted by Lake Worth officers in 2021, vehicle pursuits occurred in just 0.1% of the stops. The months of June and September each had two pursuits per month, while February, March, and May each had one. There were no pursuits in the remaining seven months of 2021. All seven vehicle pursuits occurred between the hours of



12pm and 7am. The average pursuit lasted 9 minutes and traveled an average of 9 miles.

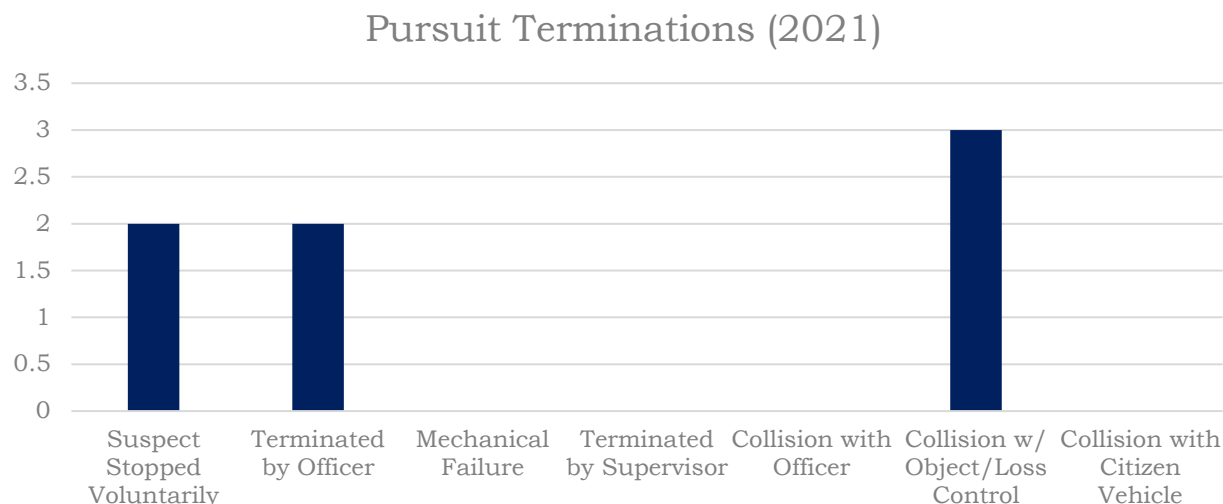


Figure 14 - 2021 Pursuit Terminations

Two pursuits were terminated by the pursuing officer, three were terminated after the suspect collided with an object or lost control, and in two cases, the suspect voluntarily stopped and surrendered. Four of the seven suspects who were pursued were successfully apprehended, while the remaining three were not. The majority of pursuits did not result in property damage, and no injuries occurred in any case. Furthermore, LWPD did not participate in any outside agency pursuits. All pursuits initiated by the Lake Worth Police Department were in compliance with department policy.

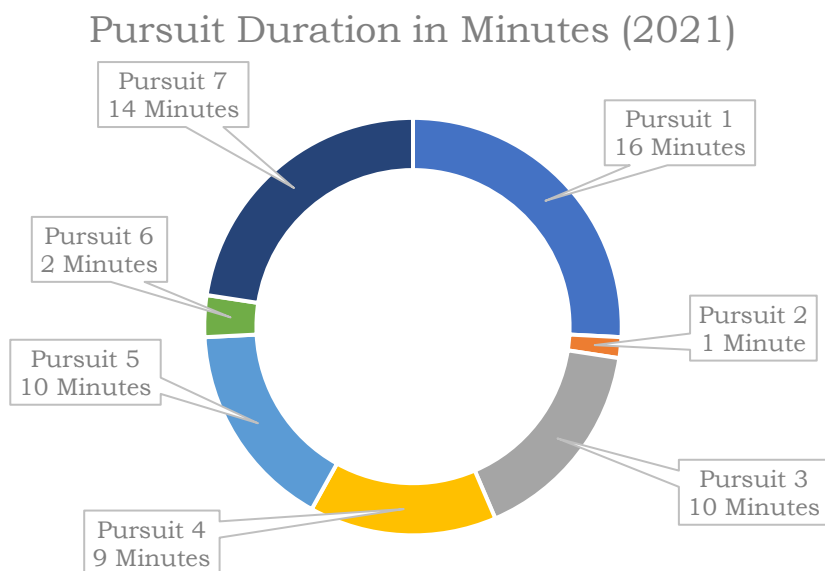


Figure 15 - 2021 Pursuit Duration



FY2021 BUDGET REPORT

FY 2021 General Fund (GF):

Total GF Budget: \$2,692,627

Total GF Expenditures: \$2,620,321 (~97%)

Total Under Budget (GF): \$72,306 (3%)

In FY21, the General Fund represented **68%** of the Police Department's total budget.

FY 2021 Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD):

Total CCPD Budget: \$1,280,089

Total CCPD Expenditures: \$1,222,052 (~95%)

Total Under Budget (CCPD): \$58,037 (5%)

In FY21, the Crime Control and Prevention District represented **32%** of the Police Department's total budget.

FY 2021 Combined Budget Totals:

Total Budget (GF + CCPD) = \$3,972,716

Total Expenditures (GF + CCPD) = \$3,842,373

Total Under Budget (GF + CCPD) = \$130,343

In FY21, the Lake Worth Police Department was **3.3% under budget.**

The Lake Worth Police Department finished FY 2021 3.3% under budget. The majority of savings in the general fund came in the form of salary and benefit savings throughout the year. Savings in the CCPD are largely attributable to conservative spending. The economic outlook and revenue projections for FY22 and beyond are promising. Department leaders remain committed to providing a high level of service to our citizens and visitors while seeking the most appropriate and sustainable levels of spending.



NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Partnered with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), providing one Task Force Officer to DEA-Fort Worth

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*Became a participating agency in the Tarrant County MHMR Law Liaison Program*

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Completed the Association of Public-Safety Communications Professionals (APCO) Agency Training Program Certification

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*Partnered with Tarrant County Courts to become one of a select group of police departments to serve as a regional host for remote video magistration*

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Hosted the first-ever student life skills program at Lake Worth High School

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*Participated in Governor Abbott's border security summit in Del Rio, Texas*

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Improved hiring and retention through the implementation of a 10-step pay program

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*Hosted the largest National Night Out Event to date, with more than 6,000 people in attendance*

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Significantly increased community engagement through social media

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*Became certified as a "Safe Policing for Safe Communities" agency through the United States Department of Justice*

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Successfully handled the crash of a US Navy T-45 Goshawk in a residential Lake Worth Neighborhood

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*Created the Senior Officer Program, which recognizes those officers who have achieved certain professional milestones and have made significant contributions to the Lake Worth Police Department*

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Became the 183rd Accredited Law Enforcement Agency in Texas by the Texas Police Chiefs Association Best Practice Accreditation Program



CONCLUSION

Tarrant County, Texas is home to an estimated 2.1 million people. Over the last ten years, Tarrant County's population has increased by more than 16% making it the second fastest growing county in Texas and the fifth fastest growing county in the United States. The City of Fort Worth's population has also increased exponentially, and in 2020 it became the second fastest growing major city and the 12th largest city in the United States.

Each day, an estimated 250,000 people pass through the City of Lake Worth. This significant movement of people represents about 12% of Tarrant County's total population. Most people passing through do so for work, school, and entertainment. In many ways, the City of Lake Worth is the gateway of commerce for west Tarrant County. That is why it is the mission of the Lake Worth Police Department to create a safe environment where life and commerce thrive.

At the Lake Worth Police Department, our standard is excellence. Over the last three years, the crime and crash prevention strategies used by the Lake Worth Police Department reduced crime despite being surrounded by significant growth, development, and skyrocketing crime. Although proud, we remain committed to our mission and are taking additional steps to ensure crime does not gain a foothold in our community.

In 2021, LWPD added two canine units to combat the flow of illegal narcotics through our community. We partnered with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and assigned a detective to the DEA Task Force in Fort Worth to target drug dealers, distributors, and international suppliers. We also increased youth-focused outreach efforts, especially those involving juveniles and young adults. These are just a few examples of why Lake Worth remains one of the safest cities in Tarrant County.

The Lake Worth Police Department also continues to focus on and implement the recommendations found in the [President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing](#). Just as the Task Force suggests, our focus remains on the following pillars: 1) building trust and legitimacy, 2) policy and oversight, 3) technology and social media, 4) community policing and crime reduction, 5) training and education, and 6) officer wellness and safety.

In the coming year, the Lake Worth Police Department will build upon the successes of 2021 and continue to provide our community with the excellent service and protection it deserves.



