

Jonesboro Police Department

Annual Summary

2009



410 West Washington Avenue
Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401
www.joneboropolice.com

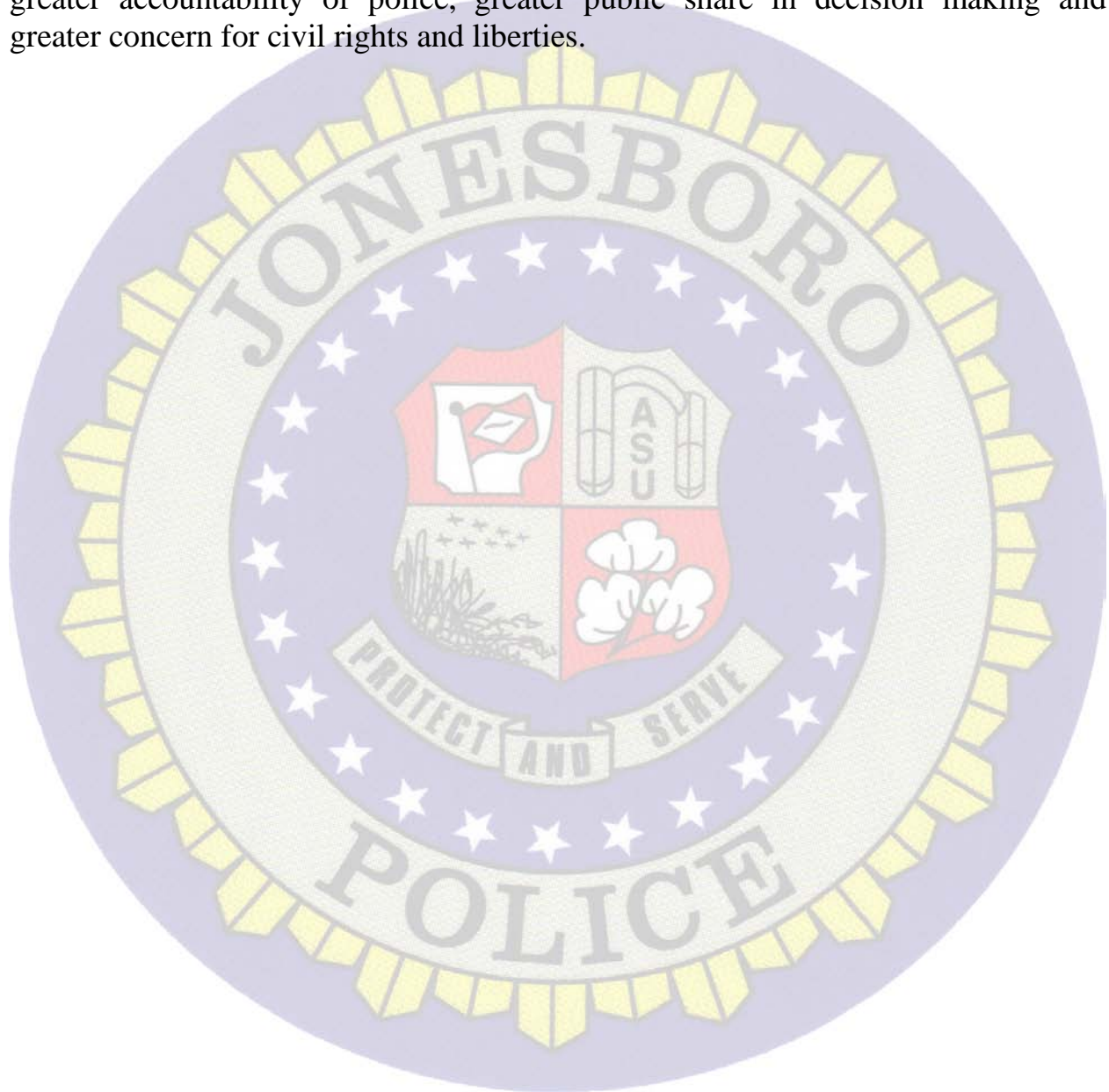


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MISSION STATEMENT

The City of Jonesboro Police Department shall strive to ensure that all of our citizens are served in a professional, ethical and equitable manner that respects individuals, protects our democratic ideals and system of government, pursues greater accountability of police, greater public share in decision making and greater concern for civil rights and liberties.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

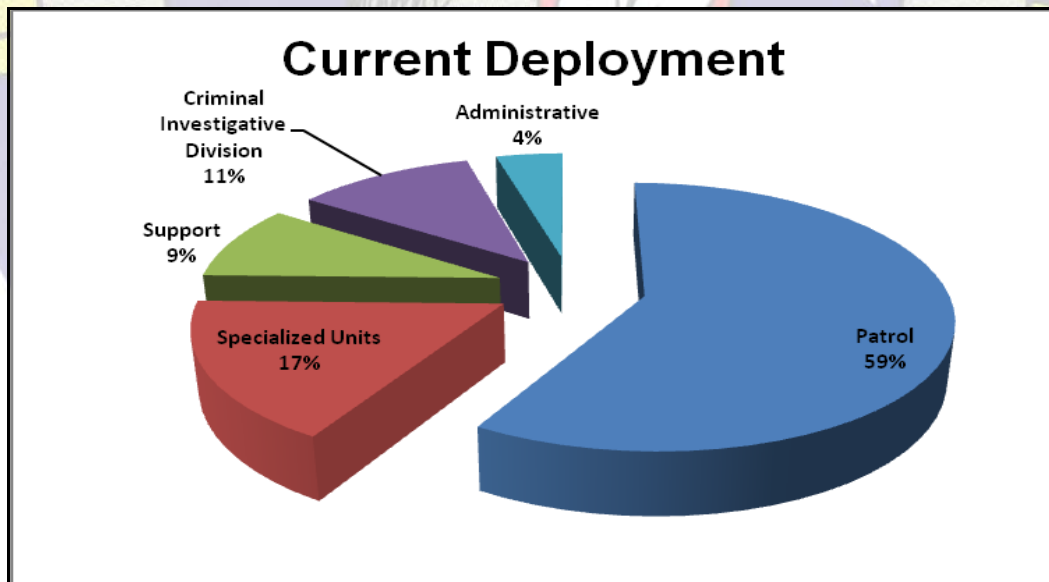
The Jonesboro Police Department remains committed to providing our citizens with dedicated, prepared, well-trained, and professional law enforcement. Organizationally, the performance of department personnel remains productive and consistent. Although many officers in the patrol division are fairly new to the department, they are motivated to be of service to the community. More specifically, the Traffic section continues an increase in activity and the units engaged in special operations have been able to successfully address some serious crime problems in our community.

Despite a continued substantial call volume and continued staffing shortages, overall crime totals for 2009 remain relatively the same as 2008, with little to no statistically significant increase. The numbers show even more significance upon examination when broken down into more identifiable categories: Crimes against Persons, Property Crimes, Officer Initiated Activity & all other. When examined in this manner, it can be seen that the categories that negatively influence the quality of life, Crimes against Persons and Property Crimes were both, again, down by over 5% and 11%, respectively.

An examination of officer activities throughout the year also show favor to the department, as indicated in the chart on the following page. While the total number of reports of criminal activity remains the same, the number of arrests is actually up. Further, although the total number of traffic citations is down, the number of violator contacts remains steady because of the increase in traffic warnings. The desired effect is achieved, however; as signified by the decrease in the number of motor vehicle accidents.

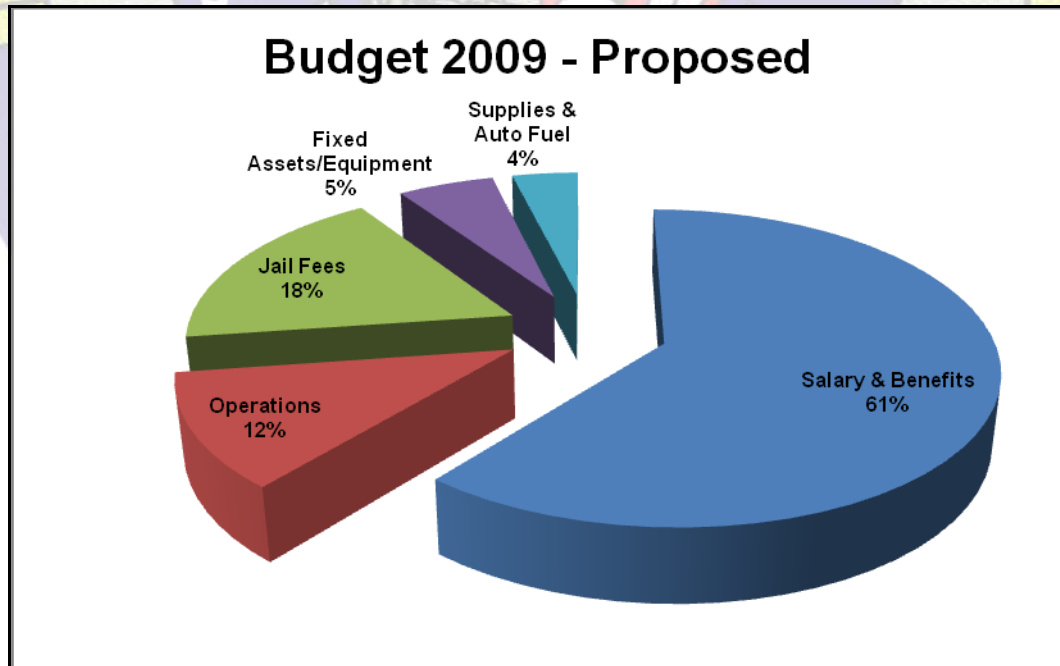
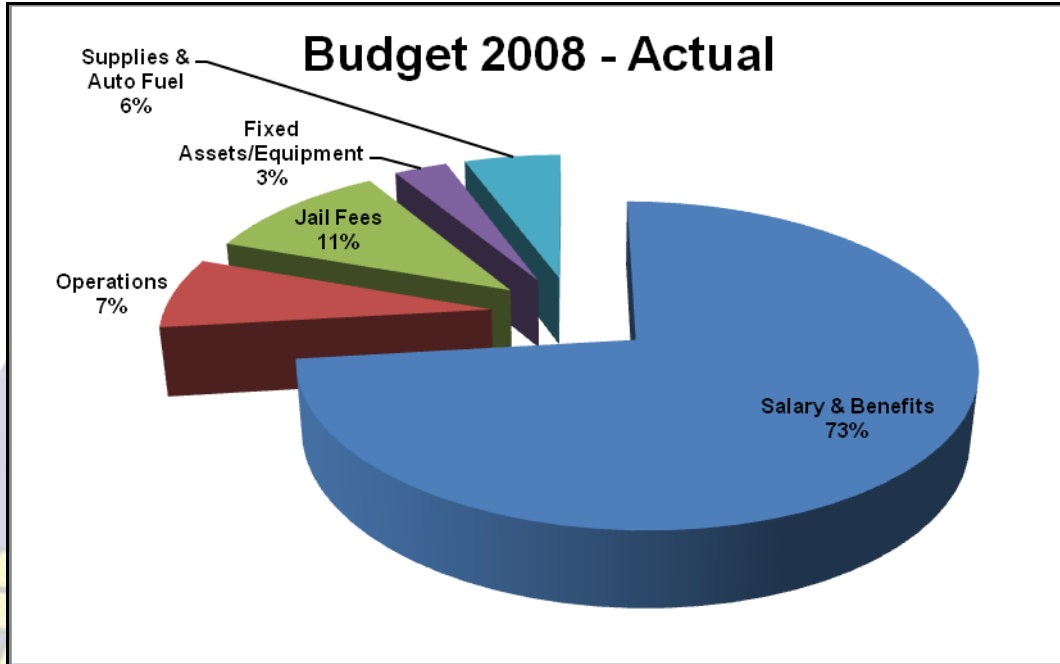
	Year to Date 2009	Year to Date 2008	Percent Change
Arrestees	8,077	7,137	13 %
Misdemeanor Offenses	19,220+	16,467+	16 %
Felony Offenses	2,130+	1,723+	23 %
Citations	10,776	13,577	- 20 %
Warnings	6,035	4,995	20 %
Accidents	3,791	4,302	- 12 %
Reports Taken	13,284	13,411	0 %

In the upcoming year of 2010, maintaining an effective level of service while reducing manpower will be a challenge, demanding a strategic decision making process. History indicates a certain level of relationship between resources and ability to provide effective services. Although budget constraints are very real, it is extremely important to maintain our crime rate below national levels. As the 2010 year progresses, a certain amount of re-deployment of officers to core functions could potentially become a necessity if staffing levels continue to decline.

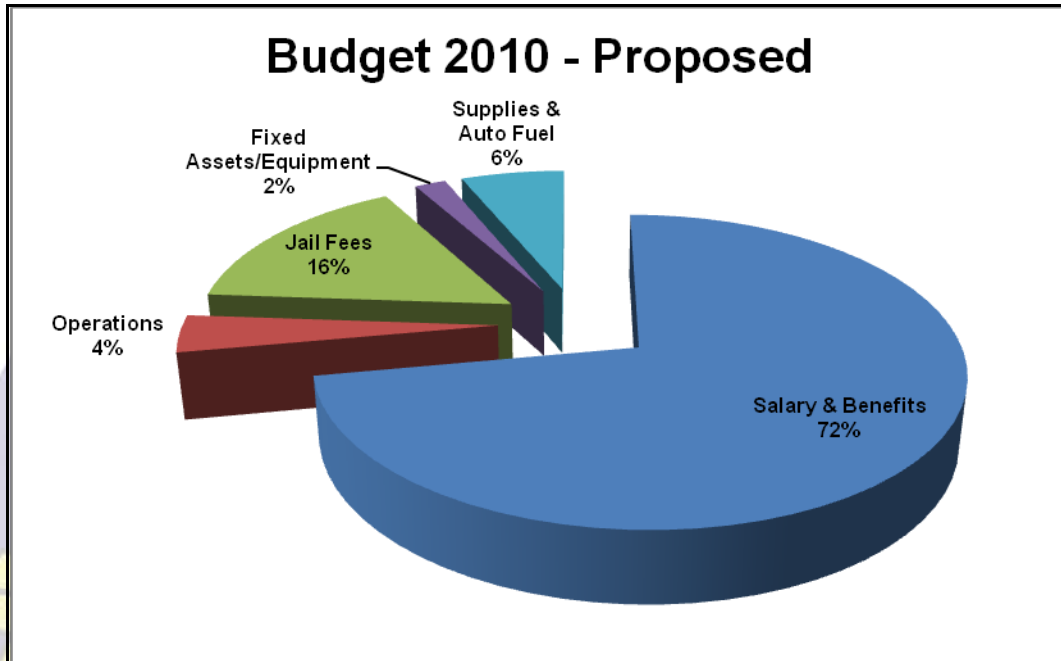


With a tough budget year ahead, it is imperative that we continue to actively pursue available grant monies, as well as continue to actively pursue the most cost effective ways of providing

services to the community. As in 2009, JPD will continue efforts to seek alternative funding for our goals, as well as, maintaining nationally recognized staffing levels for effective law enforcement and crime prevention.



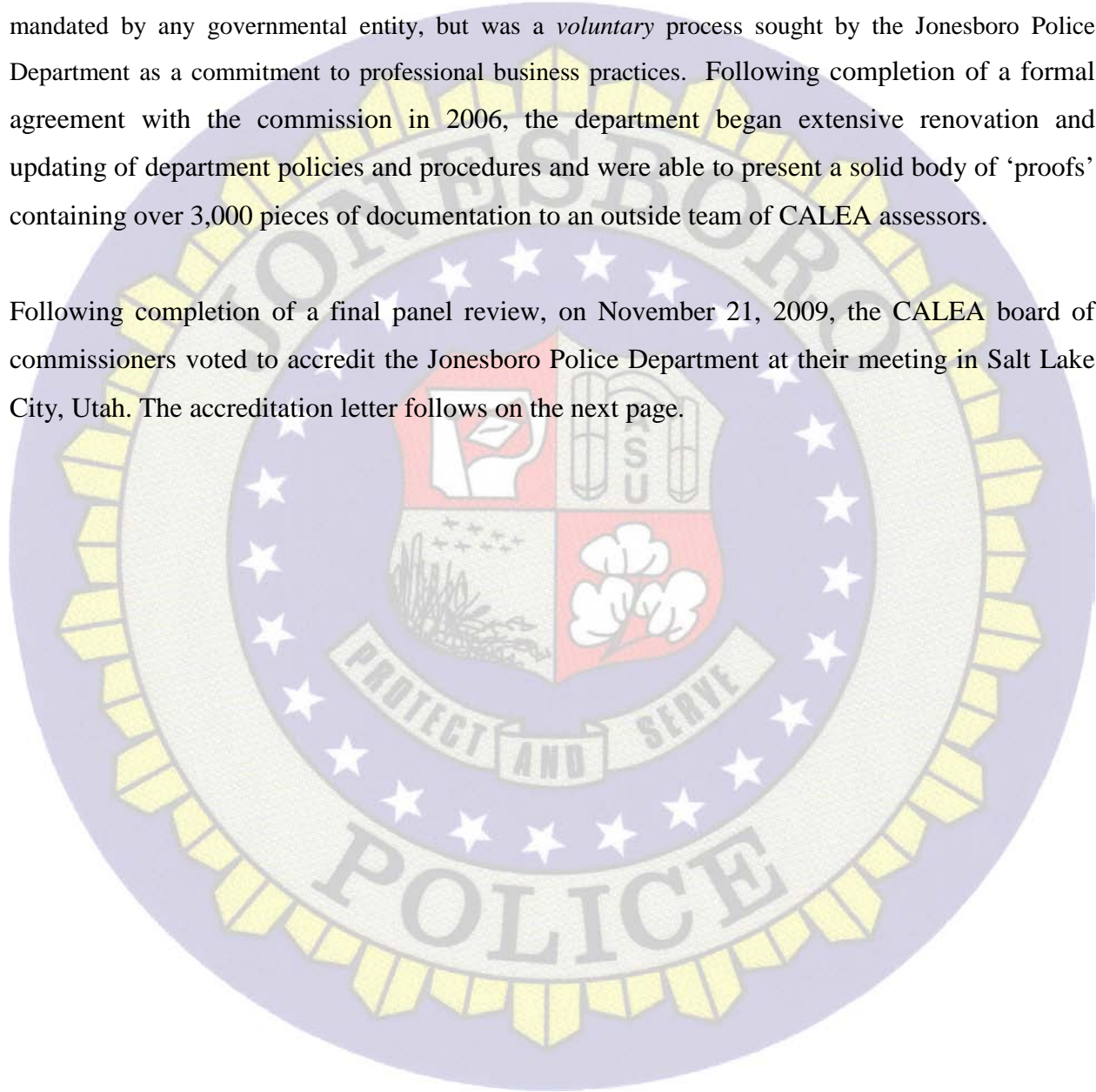
Grants, such as those providing funds for a crime analysis and criminal intelligence unit, funds for enhanced traffic law enforcement (STEP), and funds for additional equipment prove invaluable in helping maintain operations during tight budget times.



Administrative Services Division

In 2005, the department began exploring the possibility of obtaining national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The Administrative Services Division heads up the department's accreditation unit. Accreditation is not mandated by any governmental entity, but was a *voluntary* process sought by the Jonesboro Police Department as a commitment to professional business practices. Following completion of a formal agreement with the commission in 2006, the department began extensive renovation and updating of department policies and procedures and were able to present a solid body of 'proofs' containing over 3,000 pieces of documentation to an outside team of CALEA assessors.

Following completion of a final panel review, on November 21, 2009, the CALEA board of commissioners voted to accredit the Jonesboro Police Department at their meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. The accreditation letter follows on the next page.



COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES
Incorporated



10302 Eaton Place, Suite 100 • Fairfax, Virginia 22030-2215 • Local (703) 352-4225 • (800) 368-8757 • FAX (703) 591-2206 • calca@calca.org

November 21, 2009

Mr. Michael Yates
Chief of Police
Jonesboro Police Department
410 West Washington Avenue
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Dear Chief Yates:

Congratulations!

It is a privilege to advise you that your agency has met the requirements of a highly regarded and broadly recognized body of law enforcement standards, and on November 21, 2009, was accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

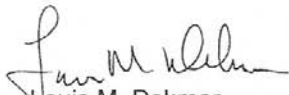
Your agency's accreditation represents the satisfactory completion of a process of thorough, agency wide self-evaluation, concluded by an exacting outside review by a team of independent assessors.

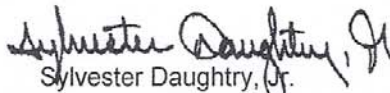
It also represents your agency's acceptance of the obligation to continue the quest for professional excellence by working toward fulfillment of any remaining applicable other-than-mandatory standards with which you chose not to comply during this accreditation activity, and any future standards promulgated by the Commission that may be applicable to your department.

Accreditation of the Jonesboro Police Department is for three years. During the period of accreditation, November 21 will serve as the anniversary date for submission of yearly reports verifying your agency's continuing compliance with standards under which you became accredited.

On behalf of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., we commend you and the Jonesboro Police Department for demonstrating commitment to professional law enforcement in policy and practice. Again, congratulations.

Sincerely,


Louis M. Dekmar
Chair


Sylvester Daughtry, Jr.
Executive Director

An important part of a successfully accredited agency is the creation and maintenance of administrative directives. While manual updates are made to our directives continuously, a concentrated examination of the manual began immediately following the completion of the first round of CALEA accreditation. It is the goal of JPD to maintain consistent professional levels of service by providing current, top of the line, directives, of which our employees follow. The comprehensive review of those guidelines is underway and should be completed and distributed by mid-year.

The CALEA accreditation process will continue to be an ongoing project in years to come, with the next onsite assessment taking place in 2012.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The success of a police department is dependent upon dedicated employees and their ability to develop and maintain a strong partnership with the community. A successful partnership begins with an understanding of the community being served. This past year, with the assistance of KAIT8 TV, we were able to survey the citizenry and obtain valuable feedback.

Questions were primarily designed to query respondents' overall feeling of safety. Responses ranged on a likert scale from 1 to 5, 5 indicating the strongest sense of safety. Results indicate that just over 60% of citizens have strong feelings of safety (scores of 4 or 5) during the day in their homes and businesses. Over 80% indicate they had some sense of safety (score of 3 or above) in these environments. Just under 70% indicate a certain sense of safety during the night (score of 3 or above).

The top service priorities that respondents list as important or very important include DWI enforcement (91.7%), responding to citizen calls for service (90.9%), patrolling as a general theft deterrent (84.3%), burglary/theft (81%), speeding enforcement (78.5%), drug activity (72.7%), and violent crime (assault/battery/shots fired)(68.6%). Also considered as somewhat to very important are public service and community service activities, such as attending community meetings, fingerprinting children, etc. (72.7%). More importantly, over 78% of the respondents feel the department is doing a good job of educating the public about the services it provides.

In an open style narrative section, survey respondents were offered an opportunity to write in comments and concerns regarding Jonesboro crime. It is apparent that citizens are concerned mostly of what seems to be “increasing apparent gang and drug related problems...” While there are also indications that people are concerned about traffic enforcement and groups gathering in public areas at night, “...a tremendous increase in drug activity” is the community’s largest safety concern, according to survey results. Obviously, law enforcement has a responsibility to combat all crime, not just drug-related crime; however, many other crimes are the result of drug-related activity. The open response section of the survey reflects that the public is also well aware of this correlation.

While it is obvious that over 70% of those surveyed feel that crime has increased to some extent, 77.8% indicate that they feel that the Jonesboro Police Department is doing a good job in our community, with one respondent stating “I feel that they are addressing the important issues very well.” Overall, the survey reflects that respondents indicate they feel police officers in the city are courteous and professional, with 38.8% scoring them as ‘excellent’.



Further, 73.5% of survey respondents give officers a rating of being fair and competent.

In 2010, JPD looks forward to continued citizen feedback, along with enhanced communication with the public through the completion of our website. The website offers a modern, convenient vehicle for the public to report crime, such as drug activity and fugitives, an opportunity for citizens to more readily access previously established online accident records, and a forum to present employment opportunities and other vital information.



In addition to open, mutual, and respectful communication with our citizens, JPD consistently seeks to strengthen our community by collaborating with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and cultivating relationships with community leaders, businesses, and charitable groups.

Among the successful partnerships the police department enjoys are those with the Hispanic Community Center, where a police officer serves on the board of directors, and the newly formed Child Advocacy Center located in the George W. Jackson facility.

Community interaction by the officers is an important cornerstone of effective police service as well and officers consistently participate in a number of community events, not just while on



duty, but more frequently in their own time. One example of this is JPD's yearly participation in the Corporate Games, which is a community fundraising event.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Internal Affairs or **Professional Standards** office is also a part of Administrative Services. This office strives to protect the public from employee misconduct and to protect employees from false allegations of misconduct. Overall, complaints against officers were up slightly; however, formal investigations continued to decrease this year by 38%. This could be an indication that our officers are self-policing and managing their behavior versus changing behaviors as a reaction to citizen formal complaints.

ANIMAL CONTROL

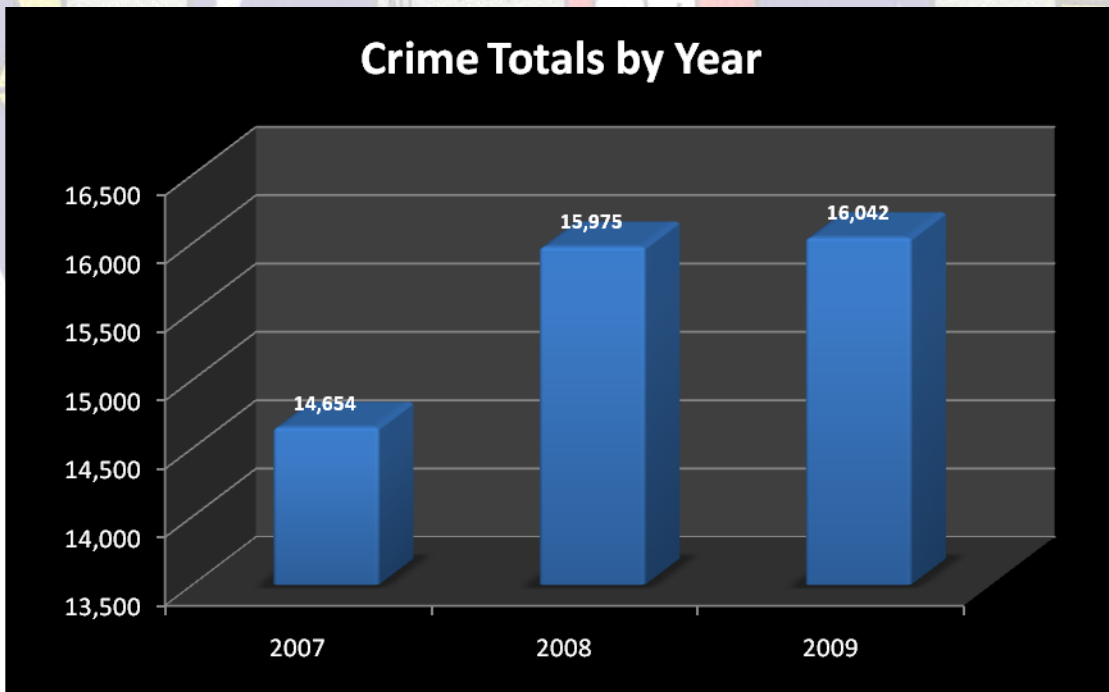
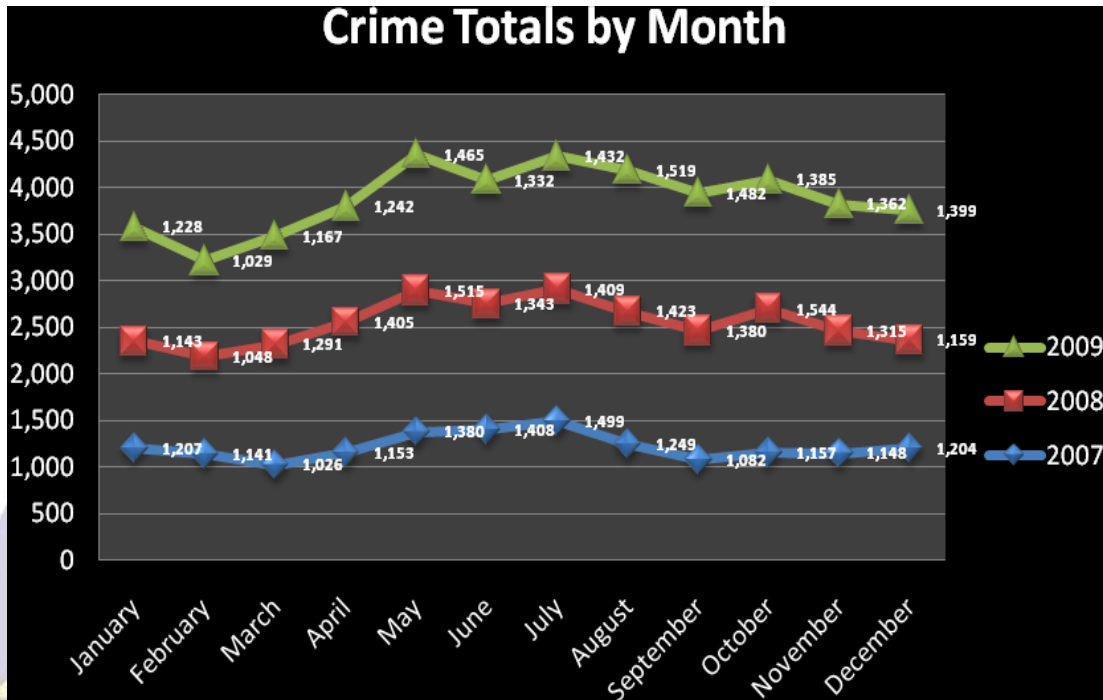
The **Animal Control** Unit officers handled over 30,000 calls for service and activities this year. The unit began a new program during 2008 to find adoptive homes for the animals that came to the unit. This year, their efforts resulted in the rescue of 427 animals by successfully uniting them with new owners through local adoption or through other rescue centers of which the unit partnerships.

RECORDS

The **Records** unit is responsible for the quality documentation of reports and retention of department records in a secure and confidential environment. Records personnel also provide information to citizens, such as motor vehicle accident and offense reports. As the number of reports and citations increase, the number of items processed by this unit also increases. In an effort to move towards a paperless system, this unit is working diligently and continues to make significant progress in scanning older documents and reports to free up additional space, despite the loss of two full time personnel that were not replaced for the upcoming year due to serious budget constraints.

CRIME ANALYSIS UNIT

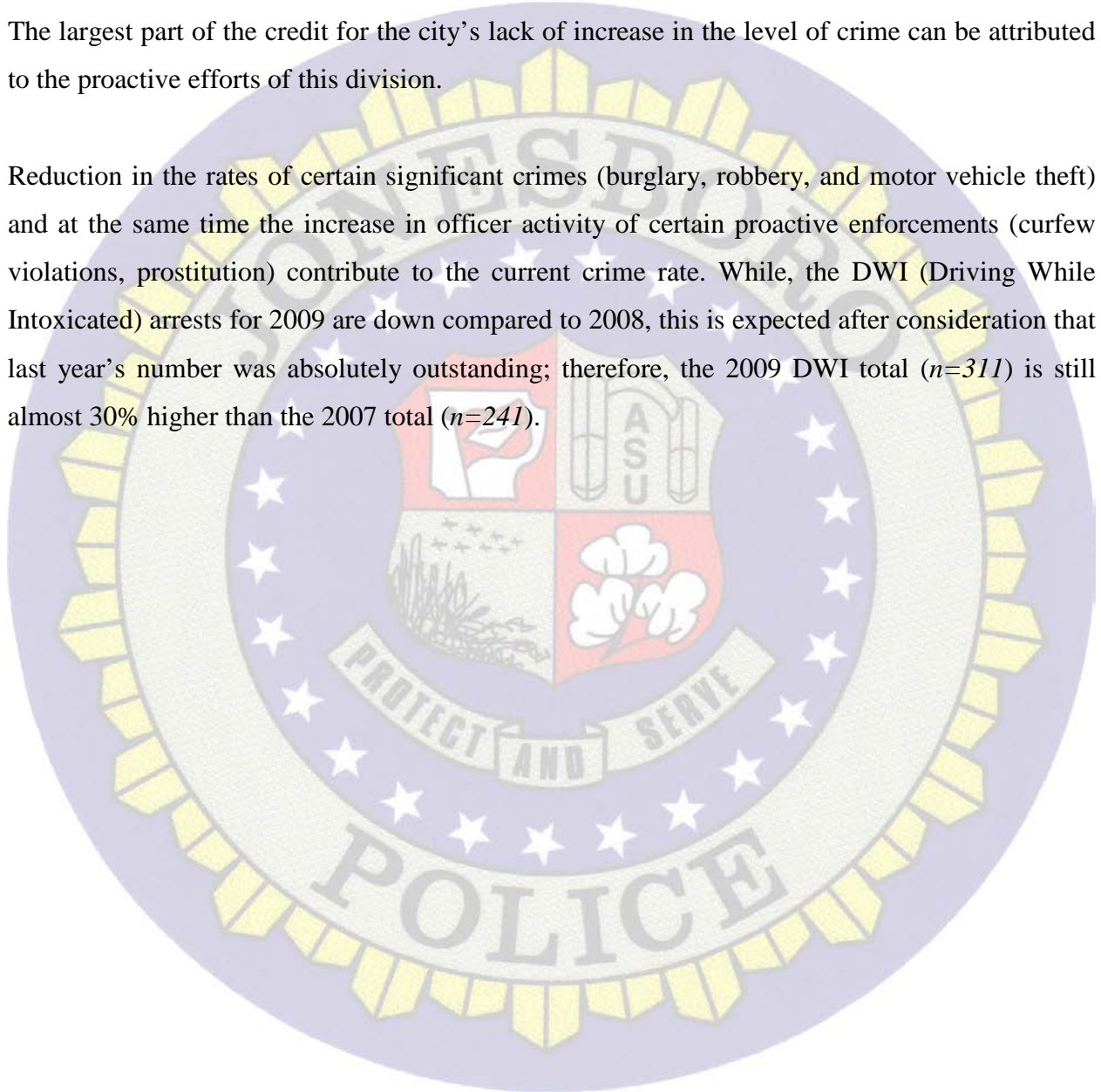
Through the use of specifically designated federal grant funds, the department is pleased to have added a **Crime Analysis Unit** this year, consisting of a full time crime analyst and an assistant. Crime analysis is the systematic, analytical process of providing crime pattern information for the purpose of supporting the proactive policing process. Due to the ever increasing size of our city, the addition of this unit is imperative. It not only supports all other department units through analysis of collected data and information to provide criminal activity reports and crime maps, but also produces other administrative and operational reports. Utilizing a variety of data maintenance and statistical package software and advanced mapping technology, this unit analyzes the people, places, and behaviors that contribute to crime in Jonesboro. The unit also conducts research in response to requests for crime statistics from citizens.



UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

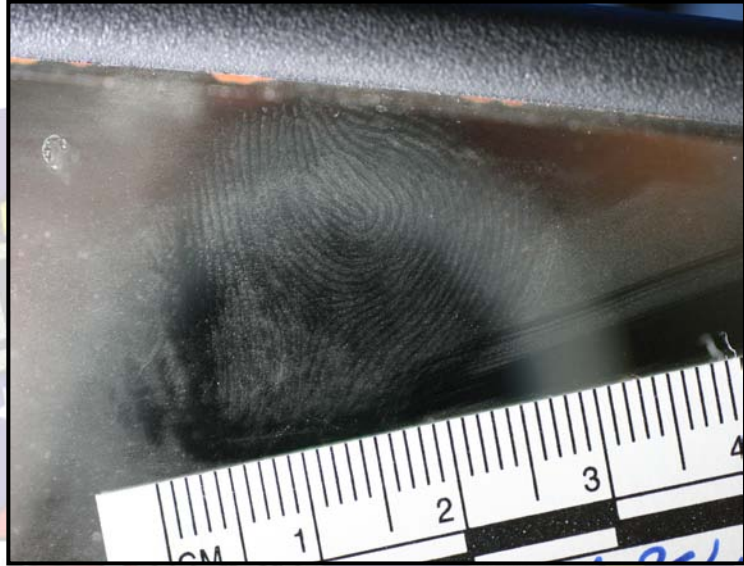
The patrol division is the largest and obviously the most visible segment of the department. Their functions include law enforcement, crime detection and suppression, traffic enforcement, accident and initial crime investigation, order maintenance, and responding to calls for service. The largest part of the credit for the city's lack of increase in the level of crime can be attributed to the proactive efforts of this division.

Reduction in the rates of certain significant crimes (burglary, robbery, and motor vehicle theft) and at the same time the increase in officer activity of certain proactive enforcements (curfew violations, prostitution) contribute to the current crime rate. While, the DWI (Driving While Intoxicated) arrests for 2009 are down compared to 2008, this is expected after consideration that last year's number was absolutely outstanding; therefore, the 2009 DWI total ($n=311$) is still almost 30% higher than the 2007 total ($n=241$).



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

The Criminal Investigation Division continues to strive to make the city a safer place by solving criminal offenses and recovering stolen property. While emphasis is obviously placed on those particularly violent crimes against person, property crimes are not neglected. Of particular concern this year is an alarming increase in residential burglaries in the west area of town during the fall of 2009. Following available leads and utilizing information compiled by the new crime analyst, detectives eventually connected a large percentage of these cases, which led to a number of arrests and the recovery of several thousand dollars worth of property.



The department continued to maintain a commitment to protect children through successful involvement in the Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC) program. During 2009, this unit was awarded two grants. The first grant was a \$20,000.00 continuation grant, which aids in the continued operation of the unit. The second grant, a Recovery Act Grant, of \$113,114.00, is to be utilized for computer forensics lab equipment. The bidding process is currently underway for that equipment and at least one detective has already received his computer forensics certification, while a second has received forensics training specific to cell phones.

SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION

The Special Services unit encompasses many responsibilities, including heading up the responsibility for planning and developing department **Response to Critical Incidents**. During 2009, the department continued to improve on our capabilities for response to emergency incidents. Department command staff members each attended at least 32 hours of specialized classes and received training through the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management in the NIMS based Advanced Incident Command and Staffing. Personnel were also assigned to work with other city departments as part of the new city wide crisis management team and attended training for the city's newly adopted Business Continuity Plan.

The Jonesboro Police Department is fortunate to be served by an outstanding **Reserve Unit** of



twenty eight officers. These officers provide much needed extra coverage during high traffic events, such as the NEA District fair and Fourth of July celebrations, in time of

weather related emergencies, as well as, periodically riding with patrol officers on routine patrol. During 2009, the reserve officers provided 4,706 man hours of service.

The officers of the **Drug Task Force** and the **Prowl Unit** are involved in daily efforts to reduce the availability of illicit drugs in our community through enforcement, intelligence gathering, case preparation, and covert/overt operations. Their cooperative efforts with other agencies, including the DEA, have resulted in some significant arrests of major level narcotics traffickers. Task Force officers saw a decrease in the amount of asset forfeitures this year, but saw an increase in over 35% in the number of cases handled by the unit and a very pleasing corresponding increase of **35%** more drug arrests.

The department saw its first successful completion of the court process to have two properties declared a public nuisance. Following the completion of countless hours of observation and collection of evidence of drug and other criminal activity, including a number of drug arrests from a certain location, the court declared these residences to be under court control. Such a declaration allows the Police Department to post signs on the property making a public declaration of the Prowl Unit's enforcement efforts and giving law enforcement the authority to enter the property and search it at any time.



Essential to the maintenance of professional and efficient police services is the utilization of an active, current, and ongoing **Training Unit**. The training unit of the JPD is constantly engaged in various aspects of officer training from the initial 8 week classroom orientation of new officers to specialized training for officers involved in many different functions.



The department **SWAT** or tactical team is often called upon to aid in the service of certain high risk warrants. They frequently make entry into structures with armed suspects and are issued additional personal protection equipment, specialized weapons, less lethal munitions, breaching tools, and surveillance equipment. Members must pass and maintain certain physical fitness standards and undergo regular training twice a month, as well as, other specialty training throughout the year. The team currently includes two doctors and four paramedics.





The **DARE Officers** and **School Resource Officers** continue to remain to be the department's most valuable intervention tool. These officers provide daily interaction, intervention, and contact for thousands of students and parents in our school systems.

The JPD utilizes a fulltime **Traffic Unit** with officers serving during both the first shift and second shift hours. The unit's primary function is to enforce state and local traffic laws and investigate traffic crashes. They wrote 2,365 citations this year, compared to 1,484 for last year, and worked a total of 1,960 vehicle accidents during 2009, 48% of the total number of accident reports completed by the department, up from only 1,236 for 2008. A very important benefit of the 50% increase in the number of accidents worked by the traffic unit is the freeing up of patrol officers devoting time to the suppression of other criminal activity.



JPD's **Warrants Unit** issued 22,380 warrants in 2009. The Court issued 25,746 and quashed 1,347 of these. The city of Jonesboro received \$205,995.77 in warrant service fees, a good revenue source for the city. Further, SWAT issued 5 search warrants and responded to 1 barricaded suspect.

Did You Know?

- The JPD answered over 87,000 calls for service from the citizens and visitors of Jonesboro this year
- Officers of the JPD regularly volunteer and give back to our community and last year were involved in numerous community and charitable events in their own time
- Members of the Jonesboro Police Department volunteer their time to honor fallen comrades and past members of the department by participating in an Honor Guard
- The Jonesboro Police Department is an equal opportunity employer and strives to mirror the demographic makeup of our community
- The Jonesboro Police Department recognized 25 officers for outstanding service, including Officer of Quarter awards, Lifesaving, and Valor this year
- Officer Owen Smith received the Officer of the Year Award
- Jonesboro Police Department is one of 4 police departments in the state of Arkansas that is CALEA accredited
- 2009 was the 5th year for the “Dare to Ride Biker Classic” fundraising collaboration between JPD DARE and NEA Charitable Foundation, raising over \$63,000 total and splitting \$26,000 after expenses
- The Animal Control adoptions are nationwide touching both coasts this year with animals being adopted into new homes in both California and North Carolina, as well as, numerous other states

Summary

As a police department, our goal is to improve the quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors. As we look to the future and plan for the needs of a growing and dynamic community, the members of the Jonesboro Police Department understand that our responsibilities are far reaching and we are committed to operational improvement and service excellence. One example of operations improvement includes the CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) accreditation in November of this year, which was completely a voluntary process the department took upon itself to accomplish.

Two other examples include the addition of the online crime mapping, which concluded the third phase of the JPD website, and the new Crime Analysis Unit that over the next year will become a growing asset to the department's ability to proactively protect this community. There are also many examples of our commitment to continued service excellence in addition to what our officers on the street and CID unit do each day. These units are the Special Services Division, the Training Unit, the Prowl Unit, the DARE Unit, and the Traffic Unit.

The Jonesboro Police Department looks forward to a successful year in 2010 with less crime, more arrests in proportion to offenses, and a growing, healthy relationship with the community.