



# Appleton Police Department

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

## 2015 EVENTS

- Chief Todd Thomas appointed on January 5, 2015
- Eleven new officers, two civilians and six part-time Community Service Officers hired
- Five Pillar Approach Introduced
- New Summer of Service Program
- Two new K9's acquired, one via a Green Bay Packers' grant

Calls for service in 2015:

48,809



The Appleton Police Department has a reputation of being one of the most progressive and professional departments in the State. I knew I was blessed to be able to join this department as Chief of Police a little over a year ago. When an outside person comes in as Chief I know there are concerns and unknowns. The community and employees wonder what changes may occur. My goal has been to listen, learn and observe – providing leadership while focusing on identifying areas needing improvement, strengthening our community and police partnerships, fighting crime effectively and problem solving.

## Excellence in Police Service

## Impacting the Future

After meeting with each employee individually, it solidified why the Appleton Police Department has always had a special place in my heart. The heart of this organization is its people, and I can say firsthand these are compassionate, courageous employees with great integrity and an incredible desire to serve. Their passion for what they do and for the citizens they serve is profound, deeply inspiring and readily evident.

This year dozens of opportunities presented themselves for me to take part in community conversations and listening sessions, meeting hundreds, if not thousands, of people. It has been enlightening to hear from people of various races, ethnicities, religions and political beliefs within the Fox Valley. These conversations carry significant weight as we make deci-

sions on how we provide police services to the community.

In the past year, we've created new collaborative partnerships, embraced diversity, looked at new ways to address emotional survival for officers, and continued to take a strong stand against crime. Ideas have turned into actions and it's been a successful year of growth for all of us. A five pillar initiative has been developed which is described in greater detail within this report. This initiative will focus our resources in areas that will make a positive impact across the community.

Our pursuit of excellence has no finish line. This is our commitment to you.

Todd L. Thomas  
Chief of Police



# Operations

**Crisis Intervention Team (CIT):** The Appleton Police Department's goal is to have all officers CIT trained. This training has proven to be extremely beneficial and has provided an enhanced understanding to officers when working with individuals and families affected by mental illness.

Operations consists of three Districts. The Captains, Lieutenants and Officers assigned within patrol have a top priority to address criminal activity and recurring problems within their assigned areas.

Officers focus on fighting crime and solving problems, while building relationships within the community. In addition to calls for service, time is invested based on trends, crimes occurring and other unique needs within each District. These focus areas include assignments such as extra patrol or visibility in parks,

ramps or around schools, added patrol in areas where burglaries, thefts or other crimes have become a pattern, and walk-throughs of areas where damage or crimes have occurred. This laser-focused approach has yielded outstanding results. Officers are sending a strong message that criminal activity is not welcome in the City of Appleton by tirelessly tracking down criminals, drugs and other illegal behaviors. Their fine efforts in patrol exemplify our mission to provide excellence in police service..



Winter Storm Ashley dropped 12.2" of snow on the City in late December. Appleton Police Officers worked creatively to respond to calls for service in the deep snows.

**Special Teams within the APD:**

- Bike Patrol
- Community Resource Unit
- Accident Investigation Team
- Crisis Intervention Team
- Gang Suppression Team
- K9 Unit
- Special Weapons & Tactics Team
- Peer Support

The City of Appleton's Citizens' Public Safety Academy is an excellent way for several citizens to learn more about the Police and Fire Departments. If you are interested in participating in the 2016 Academy, which will start in fall, please email Sergeant Dave Lund at 832-5509 or david.lund@appleton.org.



**Use of Force Incidents**

In 2015, all use of force incidents were determined to be within policy guidelines.

Technique Used	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Passive Countermeasures	49	61	67	53	44
Focused Strikes	17	10	21	20	9
ECD Activations	8	16	18	22	14
Vertical Stun	4	4	10	4	3
OC Spray	0	0	2	0	0
Baton	0	0	0	0	0
Deadly Force	0	1	0	1	0

## Collaborative Efforts to Fight Street Crimes

In 2015, the Appleton Police Department's Community Resources Unit (CRU) continued the partnership with Outagamie County Sheriff's Department, combining forces to better fight crime and solve problems throughout the County. To say this collaborative effort was a success would be an understatement. In 2015, the Community Resources Unit's statistics are as follows:

- Led or assisted in 57 criminal search warrants
- Conducted 63 administrative search warrants on items such as phones, computers, vehicles, Facebook accounts
- Worked 45 felony cases, 41 misdemeanor cases and 6 ordinance cases, including investigations involving: drive by shooting; armed robbers; homicide (assisting Investigative Services); Human Trafficking/Prostitution Stings; Drug Related Deaths; Large Scale Marijuana Manufacturing; Methamphetamine Manufacturing; Drug Traffick-Possession Arrests (Heroin, Meth, MDMA, Marijuana, Psilocybin).
- 30+ of public presentations to heighten public awareness

- Increased collaborations with Investigative Services Unit, the MEG unit and Department of Criminal Investigations
- Worked with community stakeholders to provide support for victims, awareness training for johns and aggressive prosecution of traffickers
- Managed the activity of the Gang Suppression Team and mitigating gang activity and recruitment in the Fox Valley
- The partnership with Outagamie County Deputies has had far reaching successful effects in investigations

# High Standards

**Ride Alongs:** 170 people went on a police ride-along during 2015. If you'd like further information, please contact Sara at 832- 5527.



Above: The APD Honor Guard participated in 21 events in 2015, including parades, ceremonies & funerals.

The Appleton Police Department holds the highest standards for hiring, training, and retraining its personnel. We are grateful for in-house expertise and for a facility that accommodates training. The Department actively

seeks to recruit quality candidates to maintain authorized staffing levels of 110 sworn officers and 27 civilians.

All policies are reviewed routinely, addressing evolving technology and legislative changes.

Audits are conducted annually to ensure proper compliance, including audits of the TIME system, Identification

Unit, procurement cards, and periodic reviews of pursuits, use of force and internal affairs.

In 2015, training included:

- Defense & Arrest Tactics
- Emergency Vehicle Operation
- Bi-annual firearms proficiency
- Monthly open gun range time
- Mandatory State of Wisconsin handgun qualification course
- SWAT training
- Cities, Villages and Municipalities Insurance Company training
- Legal update
- Unified tactics
- Vehicle contacts
- Rescue Task Force Training
- Report Writing
- Peer Support
- Crisis Intervention Team Training
- Tactical Emergency Combat Care
- Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT)
- ALICE Training (Alert, lockdown, inform, counter, evacuate)
- Simunition/scenario training
- Less lethal training
- Active shooter training

## PARTNERING WITH OUR LANDLORDS

Over the past 19 years, several hundred landlords have been trained through the Appleton Police Department's **Landlord Training Program**, bringing landlords, police and housing partners together. The topics included Crime –Free Multi-Family Housing Program, Warning Signs of Drug Activity, Preparing Rental Agreements, Drug and Gang Abatement, among other topics.

38 people attended in 2015. If you're interested in attending, please contact: [gregory.ryan@appleton.org](mailto:gregory.ryan@appleton.org)

2015: Dedicated Appleton Police Department volunteers invested a record 3,595 hours.

24 children participated in the 2015 "Take Your Child to Work" Day!

## 2015 Major Incidents

- Francis Lewi arrested for armed robbery of Northland Citgo. He was also involved with other armed robberies.
- Robbery at First National Bank on Northland Avenue resulted in an arrest.
- Calvin Wilson arrested for attempted 1st degree homicide for stabbing on Windfield Place.
- Lengthy fraud investigation resulted in numerous felony arrests (Elston Howard and Christopher Trotter).
- Investigation of sexual assault/battery led to the arrest of Robert Hinzman.
- Patrol apprehended an attempted burglar which led to arrest of Adam Demerath in burglary and sexual assault from 2012.

## Community Engagement

**Vehicle Pursuits:** In 2015, officers were involved in two pursuits.

The Appleton Police Department has 45 incredibly giving, active volunteers. 13 of them were new in 2015. As a whole, our volunteers step up to the plate whenever and wherever there's a need.

In 2015, the APD volunteers accomplished more than ever, including: 18 Speed Watch Deployments, resulting in 120 courtesies letters, 5 Handicapped Parking Program deployments, 38 tours bringing over 950 guests into the station, many McGruff appearances at numerous family events, numerous Drug Drop Box assignments, thousands of tickets and narratives filed, hundreds of overtime slips entered into a database, many documents and spreadsheets created and maintained, and ongoing archiving of the Department's history.



# Support Services

The Support Services Unit encompasses the Investigative Services Unit, Property and Evidence, the School Resource Officers' Unit, the Communications Unit, Support Services Coordination and Records.

The School Resource Officers' Unit is possible through a cooperative agreement with the schools. Thirteen officers are assigned to provide services to 15,000 students, utilizing a wide spectrum of intervention options while addressing issues.

An approach called the Threat Assessment Team, implemented in 2013, brings all interested parties (schools, law enforcement, etc.) together to discuss concerning behaviors of particular students. It has been working well. The schools have added security access to all officers' fobs to make entry possible in case of an emergency.

## Special Events in the City:

Operations Coordination coordinated well over 100 special events in 2015, costing the department \$51,372. They also assisted with all of the Farmers' Markets, the ADI Summer Concert Series and major events at the Performing Arts Center—all of which require Community Service Officers to provide traffic control.

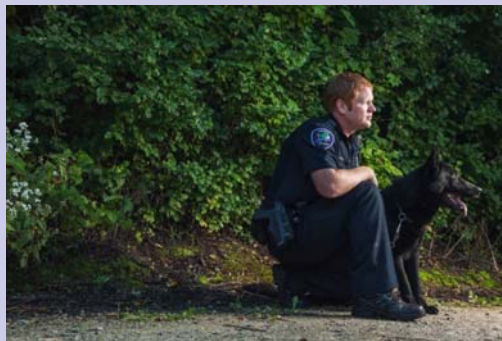


### APD's K9 Unit

In 2015, K9 Handlers Haney, Rohm and Schneider along with their dogs Jico, Waskos and Eon, were deployed on 287 narcotics incidents, 39 patrol incidents, 24 tracking incidents, along with other searches. They had many successful finds, including:

- 118 marijuana
- 75 drug paraphernalia
- 15 cocaine
- 14 methamphetamine
- 13 heroin
- 3 people
- 8 ecstasy
- 6 money
- 1 other evidence
- 3 crystal meth

K9 Handler Officer Jeremy Haney received the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Canine Handlers Association (WLECHA) 2015 Handler of the Year Award for his work with K9 Jico. Officer Haney and Jico are pictured below. On the right is K9 Eon. Eon is our newest K9, assigned to K9 Handler Dave Schneider. Eon was obtained through funding from the Green Bay Packers. Above: K9 Handler Officer Craig Rohm and K9 Waskos. The Department was fortunate to add two new K9's in 2015.



# Best Badge Awards

*Suspicious activity is worth reporting...please call 24/7.*

*Emergencies: 9-1-1 ; Non Emergencies: 920-832-5500*

### Outagamie County District Attorney's Award Recipients:

Teamwork Award: Kaukauna Police Department, Fox Valley Metro Police Department, Appleton Police Department, WI DOJ/DC and the Michigan State Police work on James Anderson Case

Career Service Awards: Sgt. Cary Meyer and Sgt. John Wallschlaeger

Community Service Award: Trevor Frank – Overseeing K9 Fundraising/Appleton and Kaukauna Police Departments

Community Service/Education Award: Sgt. Aaron Pynenberg, Appleton Police Department

Community Service/Education Award: Sgt. Alex Vang and Sgt. Chue Thao and Sgt. Wang Lee (of Outagamie County Sheriff's)

Teamwork Award: Sgt. Neal Rabas, Sgt. Cary Meyer, Sgt. John Schira and Sgt. Leitzinger – James Erdmann case

Investigative Teamwork Award: Sgt. Alex Vang and Sgt. Dan Tauber – Kirk Chapman case



# Crime Statistics

	2014	2015	Increase/ Decrease
Group A Crimes	4,289	4,128	-3.8%
Group B Crimes	6,027	5,666	-6.0%
Forcible Rape	10	26	160%
Robbery	23	14	-39.1%
Aggravated Assault	140	133	-5.0%
Burglary / Breaking and Entering	176	174	-1.1%
All Other Larceny	342	258	-24.6%
Destructive/ Damage/ Vandalism to Property	542	519	-4.2%
Disorderly Conduct	1,104	967	-12.4%
Driving Under the Influence	311	333	7.1%
Liquor Law Violations	213	207	-2.8%

## S.W.A.T.

The highly trained APD SWAT Team was deployed in its entirety on four occasions in 2015. The observer portion of the SWAT team was deployed 13 times.

## The Police & Fire

Commission members are:

Dale Schumaker, Pres.

(1976)

Harvey Samson, Sec'y.

(1983)

Barbara Luedtke

(1993)

Ron Dunlap

(2010)

Pamela DeLeest

(2013)

## APD Honor Assembly—Awards

Officer of the Year: Ryan Condon

Police Star: Brandon Edwards, Greg Pieper

Life Saving Medals: Charlie Klauck, Dan Weiske, Rob Wills, Tom Wassink, Jay Steinke

Distinguished Service Award: Chue Thao

Meritorious Service Awards: Jeremy Haney, Mark Moderson, Matt Kuether

Team Awards: Jay Steinke, Todd Peters, Chris Biese, Jackie Gleiss, Tony Iversen, Neal Rabas (2), Chue Thao, Adam Nagel, Cary Meyer, Brian Leitzinger, John Schira

Career Achievement Award: Cary Meyer, John Wallschlaeger

Civilian Employee of the Year: Beth Jasiak

Volunteers of the Year: Ben Johnson, Clayton Jones

Civilian Medal of Gallantry: Ethan Jeffers; Civilian Community Service: Sam Langenfeld



## Comings & Goings

Robert Kavanaugh, Cary Meyer, Kevin Thompson, Rob Wills, Mike Gostisha and John Wallschlaeger retired from the Appleton Police Department in 2015.

Chief Todd Thomas hired in 2015.

Officers hired in 2015: Kong Lee, Stephanie Wiener, Karl Riechers, Michael Renkas, Erick Aguilar, Brandon Schnese, John Kowalski, Alyssa Blankenship, Emily Blanton, Ben Wassink, Timothy Hayes.

Community Service Officers hired in 2015: Landon Gammons, Jordan Woelfel, Peter Schneider, Lindsay Armstrong, Jordan Behm.

Police Communications Technician (PCT) hired in 2015: Ge Lee.

Administrative Services Manager hired in 2015: Catherine Allcox.



# Investigative Services

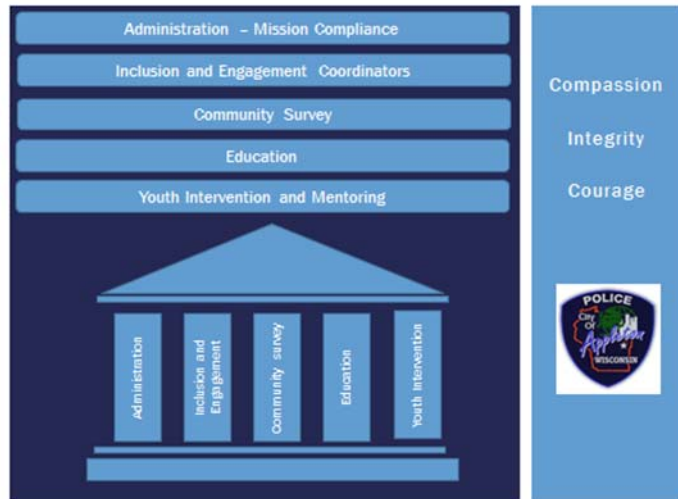
The Investigative Services Unit is comprised of investigators with specialized training and years of experience working complex cases. They investigate major felonies, such as homicides, sexual assaults, burglaries and robberies. Investigators work closely with patrol officers to identify witnesses, preserve crime scenes, gather critical information and develop leads.

Rapidly changing technology has increased the burden to provide and maintain certain types of evidence. Some investigators specialize in computer forensics, pulling evidence from computers and cell phones. We also work jointly with Grand Chute Police doing major crime scene investigations.



# Five Pillar Approach

After several months of gathering information, meeting with citizens and examining policies, procedures and records, Chief Thomas and the Command Staff developed an action plan with five pillars to help us build and improve our relationships with members of the community. Resources will be focused in areas to make a positive impact across the community. We will talk and work locally, from a positive frame of mind to build on what is working, while understanding the impact national stories have on our citizens and officers. This graphic gives a concise visual of the initiative. As part of these efforts, every officer in the Department went through Fair and Impartial Policing training in 2015. New collaborations within the community are being made to assist us in succeeding in this approach.



# Help Needed on Cases

Investigators remain determined to make arrests in these cold cases:

On **November 14, 2006**, Connie Boelter was found murdered in her home in the City of Appleton. Officers continue to follow up on tips received in this case. Connie's homicide was featured on America's Most Wanted. A reward is available for any tip leading to the arrest of the person responsible. Contact Sergeant Dan Tauber with any information.

In **October, 2013**, a hit and run in the 500 block of E. College Avenue caused significant injuries to a Lawrence student walking through the marked crosswalk. The driver, likely in a silver/gray Chevrolet Impala, left the area without stopping. Contact Sergeant Brian Leitzinger with any information.

**Fiscal Resources** oversees the \$16.5 million budget for the Department. It was necessary to formulate a plan to mitigate the impacts and burdens of unanticipated expenses. New grants were sought to offset costs and current grants were maintained.

## IN-HOUSE EXPERTISE:

The Appleton Police Department places a high priority on training. State certified, in-house experts teach Firearms, DAAT, Simunitions, Rifle, Taser, Less Lethal, Vehicle Contacts, EVOC, Bike Patrol, Cultural Competence, Tactical Response, Report Writing, AED Recertification, Policing Strategies, Professional Communications and numerous technologies.



The Hmong American Partnership presented an Appreciation Award to Sergeant Chue Thao and members of the APD.



## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The APD Records Unit processes thousands of police field reports, such as incident reports, traffic citations, ordinance tickets, citizens contacts (warnings), accident reports, parking tickets and warrants. They also field numerous inquiries from the public. In 2015, Cathy Allcox was hired as the Administrative Services Manager. The unit began efforts to identify efficiencies and streamline the records' process.

## New in 2015, Summer of Service

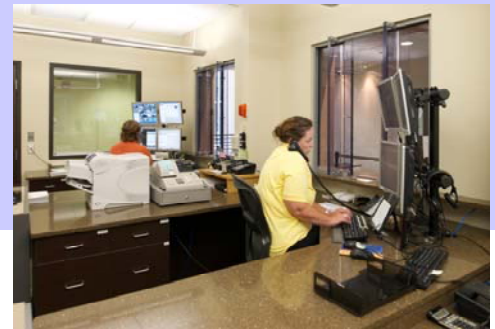
In August, we partnered with the Boys & Girls Club on an initiative to provide a group of 30 students an opportunity to contribute in meaningful ways to the community through volunteer service at non-profit agencies. This team-based service instilled positive attitudes towards education while empowering youth to acquire valuable life skills. AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps supervised the students at the job sites.



The APD's App is available for iPhones and Droids.

## The Appleton Police Department Front Desk:

In 2015, the eight **Police Communications Technicians** fielded over 100,000 incoming phone calls, completed more than 6,000 cash transactions, issued 4,149 animal licenses, entered 11,941 warnings, documented 22,384 overnight parking requests, and wrote an average of 80 offense reports per month in addition to their many additional work duties. The position is staffed 24-hours per day year round.



## Social Media

2015 was a year that helped further the Department's philosophy of transparency and inclusion of the community through use of technology:

- 66 official media releases disseminated to all known media outlets
- 427 media contacts (phone calls, texts, emails, interviews), including contacts from WPR, USA Today and TMZ
- Appleton Police Department's Facebook account had 7,000 followers at the beginning of the year and by year's end was well over 14,065
- 462 Facebook posts (86 with a potential audience of over 20,000) resulting in at least 29 cases of identification or information for charges
- 588 Tweets to over 3,400 viewers (up 53% in 2015)
- Appleton Police Department's web page had over 21,000 hits (October 2014 to October 2015)
- TipSoft had 227 subscribers, with 60 notifications being sent via this platform
- Appleton Police Department created a YouTube channel that has six videos posted.

# Appleton Police Department

Appleton Police Department

### Mission

Excellence in Police Service

### Core Values

- Compassion
- Integrity
- Courage

### Core Competencies

- Encourage Independent and Creative Thinking
- Promote Collaborative Problem Solving Efforts
- Identify, Develop and Utilize Diverse Skill Sets

### Vision

Impacting the Future for a Safer Tomorrow



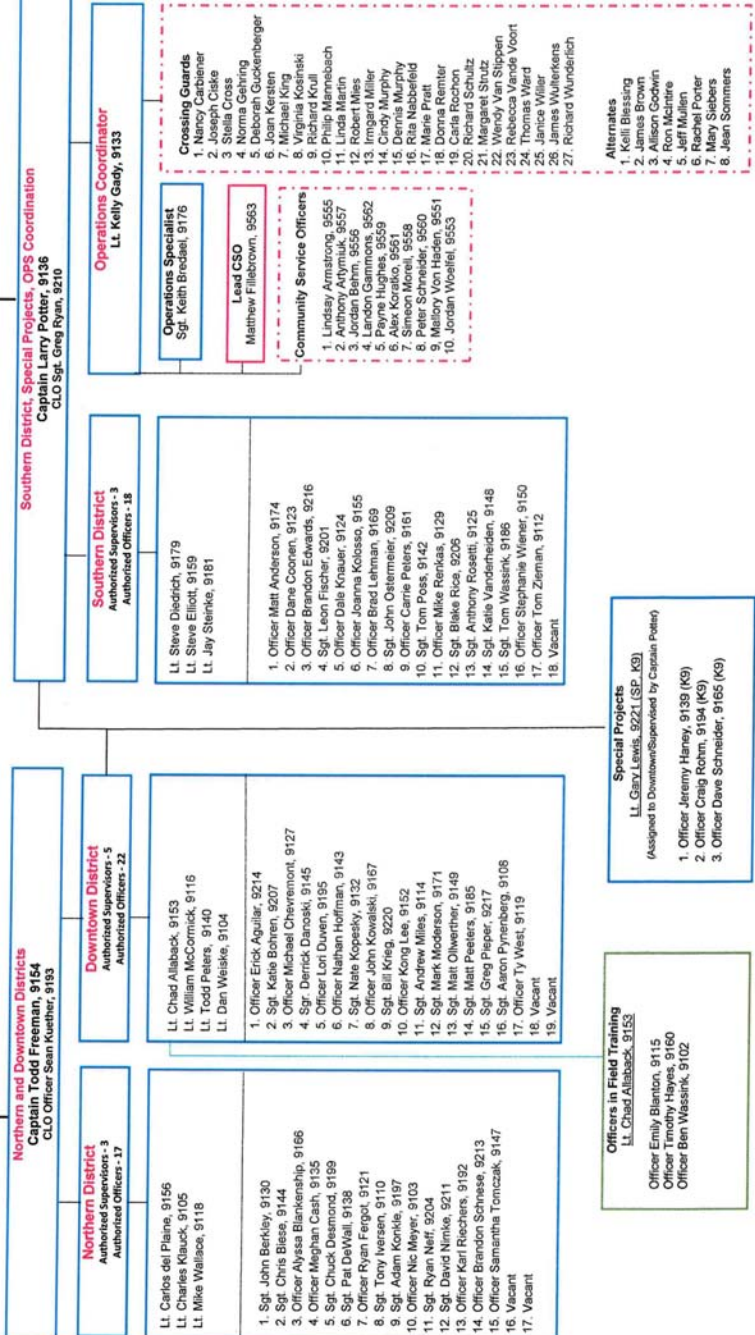
Promotions in 2015:

- Captain Larry Potter
- Lieutenant Bill McCormick
- Lieutenant Mike Wallace



**Chief of Police**  
Todd Thomas, 9100

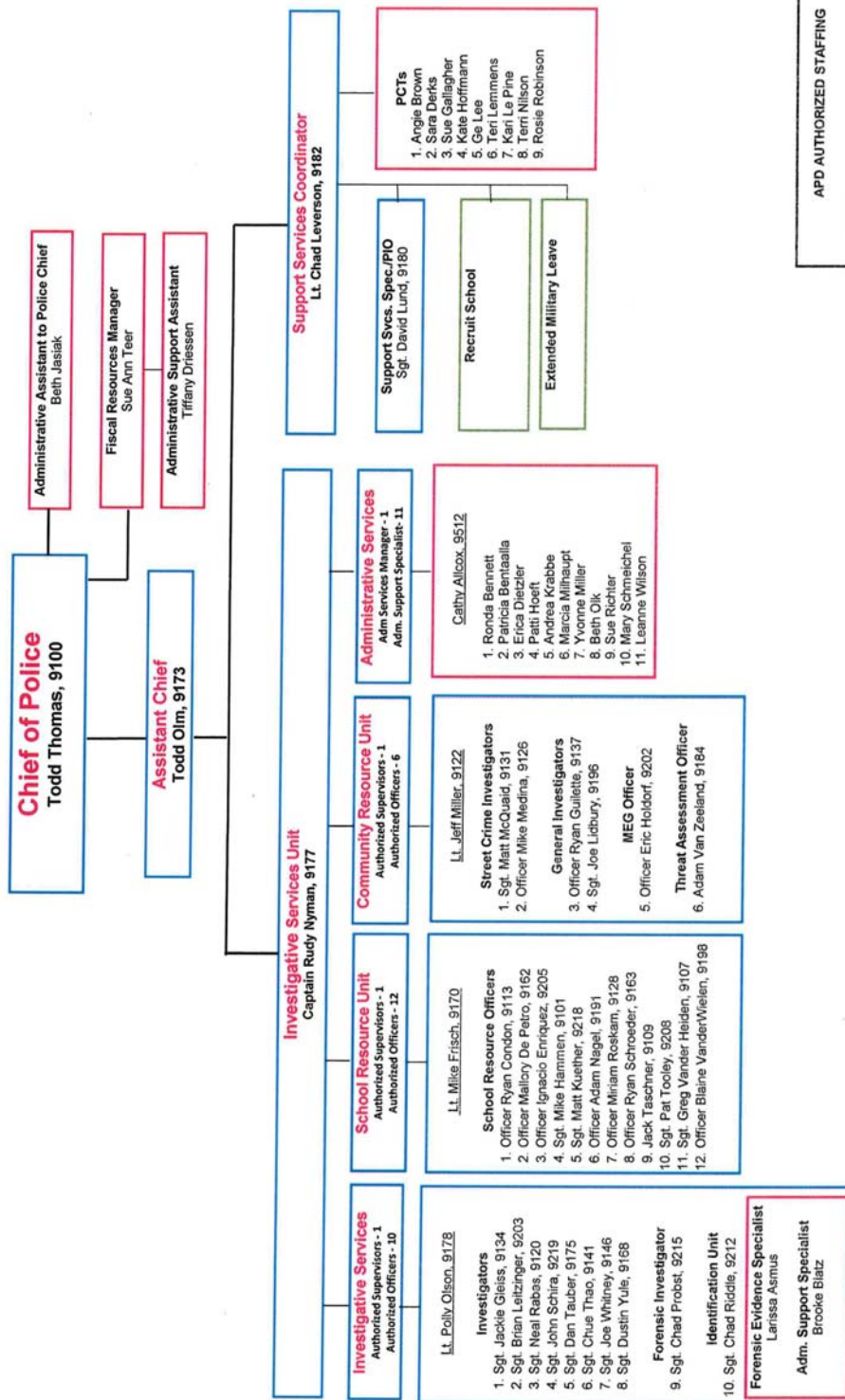
**Assistant Chief**  
Todd Olim, 9173





# Table of Organization

APPLETON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
2016 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



APD AUTHORIZED STAFFING	
Sworn Staffing Levels	Authorized = 110
Authorized Overhires	= 0
Actual Sworn Officers	= 87
Actual Sworn Administration	= 21
Sworn Vacancies	= 2
Civilian Staffing	= 27
PT Civilian Staff	= 37



# Appleton Police Department



Kwik Trip, Inc. gave the Appleton Police Department a grant to purchase a 2015 Polaris Ranger ETX. This will be a great resource to Appleton Police Officers during major special events.



### Text-A-Tip:

Text your anonymous tip to **CRIMES** (274-637) with the keyword **APDTIPS** at the start of your message.



The APD  
"Year In Review"  
Report  
was created by  
Beth Jasiak, Assistant  
to  
Chief Todd Thomas.

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