



City of Buchanan Police Department

2024 Annual Report

This report was adopted from the Berrien County Sheriff's Office Annual Report

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The **Mission** of the City of Buchanan Police Department is to provide quality services, safety and protection through professionalism, courtesy, integrity, and compassion to the citizens, visitors, residential and business stakeholders within the City of Buchanan through collaborative partnerships with our community.

The **Vision** of the City of Buchanan Police Department is to strive to be a leader in the law enforcement profession. This shall be accomplished by using community-oriented policing strategies, cutting edge technology, information systems, and collaborative efforts which provide opportunities to research, develop, and implement innovative strategies to our community that support effective and efficient proactive policing initiatives that reduce crime and protect life in accordance with local, state, and federal law. These community- and evidence-based initiatives will provide high quality, compassionate, and professional policing services to our community while at the same time championing our agency as one of the leading law enforcement agencies in Berrien County, the State of Michigan, and the entire country.

The **Motto** of the City of Buchanan Police Department is
“Professionalism, Courtesy, and Integrity.”



The City of Buchanan Police Department proudly submits the
2024 ANNUAL REPORT
to the City of Buchanan Commissioners

Their support for our mission and the staff of the City of Buchanan Police Department is greatly appreciated as we serve the citizens of the City of Buchanan.

Mark Weedon, Mayor

Patrick Swem, Mayor Pro Tem

Larry Money

Dan Vigansky

Racquel George

INTRODUCTION

It is my sincere honor to present you with the City of Buchanan Police Department's 2024 Annual Report. The information and data included in this report is intended to provide you with an overview of our crime data and the Police Department's activities in 2024.

Our success this past year was due in large part to the dedicated support the Police Department continues to receive from our elected officials, businesses, and citizens. More importantly, the Police Department continues to strive effortlessly to police through a community-oriented lens while simultaneously upholding a commitment to public safety with unwavering "Professionalism, Courtesy and Integrity." Therefore, I greatly appreciate the tireless efforts of all our Police Department personnel who continuously exhibit our motto, mission, and vision on a daily basis.

On behalf of the personnel of the Police Department, thank you for your interest in our agency as you review the 2024 Annual Report. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments you may have.



Diana Selir, Administrative Professional



Harvey J. Burnett, Jr., PhD, LP
Chief of Police



2024 RETIREES



Public Safety Director Tim Ganus
12 years

OFFICER OF THE YEAR 2024

The Officer of the Year nomination and selection process was not conducted in 2024.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Thanks to a \$48,000 MCOLES Public Safety Academy Assistance Program grant from the State of Michigan, the Buchanan Police Department was able to sponsor two police cadets through the first Lake Michigan College (LMC) summer Police Academy. Officers Cooper Christner and Dominick Klein completed 17 weeks of intensive police training between May 6 and August 28, 2024. Academy training included firearms, vehicle operations, subject control, physical fitness, constitutional and criminal law, report writing, crime scene investigation, behavioral health for law enforcement officers, health and wellness, and several other topics. Officers Christner and Klein successfully graduated from the LMC Police Academy on August 28, 2024, and are now in the final phases of completing a four-month Field Training Officer (FTO) program which includes a “shadow phase” where they will work independently but another officer will respond as well and provide guidance as needed. After completing the FTO program, the officers will be assigned to a permanent shift to work.



Officer Dominick Klein



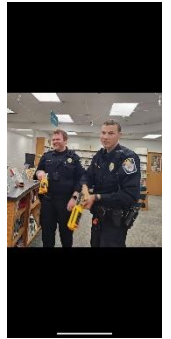
Officer Cooper Christner

COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING EVENTS

The City of Buchanan Police Department was involved with the following community oriented-policing activities in 2024.

- **Polar Plunge** (February 2024). Our team played a vital role in the Southwest Michigan Polar Plunge raising \$120,200 for Michigan Special Olympics. *Robin Williams Characters* was the team theme.
- **Buchanan High School Prom & Homecoming Dance** (April 2024/October 2024).
- **Memorial Day Parade** (May 2024).
- **Red Bud Track & Trail Motorcross** (July 2024). Traffic control was provided for the event.
- **Niles Burn Run** (July 2024). Police personnel provided traffic control for the annual Niles Burn Run as bikers traveled their route through the city.
- **Berrien County Youth Fair** (August 2024). The Department's Reserve officers volunteered patrol duties to the annual Berrien County Youth Fair.
- **National Night Out against Crime** (August 2024). Over 350 people attended this annual Department hosted event that was held at McCoy Creek Park. This event was successful from the numerous food, money, and volunteer help donations from local businesses and citizens.
- **Annual 9/11 Memorial Service** (September 2024). The Department's Police/Fire Chaplains Corp coordinated the 9/11 memorial service.
- **Faith and Blue** (October 2024). In partnership with Buchanan Area Ministerial Association and Life Action Ministries, police personnel participated in the annual Faith and Blue by visiting many local churches, hosting a blood drive, and participating in various activities.
- **Halloween Candy Checks** (October 2024). Police personnel provided Halloween candy checks to over 40 trick-or-treaters in front of the City Fire Department.
- **Thanksgiving Baskets** (November 2024). Thanksgiving baskets were provided for two families.
- **Buchanan District Library Nerf Night** (October 2024).
- **Buchanan Area Ministerial Association Carol Sing Concert** (December 2024). Chief Burnett sang a solo, *Christmas Shoes*, as part of the program.
- **Shop With A Cop Program** (December 2024). Local donations supported Department police personnel, firefighters from Buchanan City, Buchanan Township, and Bertrand Township, and city hall staff shop with 20 children at the Walmart in Niles.
- **Holiday Patrols** (December 2024). Provided by the Department Reserve Unit.

COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING EVENTS



BUDGET

The total Fiscal Year (FY) 2023/2024 operating budget for the Police Department was **\$1,235,550**. General fund budget expenditures totaled **\$1,118,814**.

The Police Department had one special fund budget in 2023, which had expenditures totaling **\$3,052.17** as follows:

Public Act 302 Training Fund - \$3,291.93 received, \$3,052.17 expended

Two distributions (spring and fall) are received each year based on the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) MCOLES certified officers employed by the Police Department. These funds are used to provide training and purchase training equipment for certified officers.

Grants Awarded - \$181,850

Awarded a \$48,000 (\$24,000 per recruit) MCOLES Public Safety Academy Assistance Program grant to sponsor two recruits through the LMC summer police academy – May 2024.

Awarded a \$6,000 grant from the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation to purchase six (6) new Body Worn Cameras (BWC) – February 2024.

Awarded a \$2,850 Small Rural Tribal BWC Microgrant Program grant (match) to purchase three (3) additional new BWCs – September 2024.

Awarded \$125,000 a three-year Department of Justice FY24 COPS Hiring Program for \$125,000 to hire a new officer – September 2024.

Buchanan Community Schools (BCS) was awarded a \$121,712 School Resource Officer (SRO) Grant Program from the MSP Grants and Community Services Division, Office of School Safety, to hire an SRO for the school district for the next three years. This is a 50% matching grant. BCS and the Police Department each pay approximately 25% of the SRO's salary to meet the conditions of the grant. The SRO position has been vacant since July 2024.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) - \$5,966.04 expended

The Police Department developed a six-year CIP2023-2028 for major capital improvement purchases. The following CIP purchases were expended in 2024.

Laptop Computers – purchased one (1) new laptop computers for a patrol vehicle for \$1,885.14.

BWCs – purchased nine (9) BWCs and a 10-bay bundle docking station totaling \$23,419.90 (\$19,339 of this total was covered by grants), thus final expenditure from the police budget line was \$4,089.90).

RECORDS CLERK

The Records Clerk provides many services to both the public and other law enforcement agencies. The Records Clerk is responsible for preparing and maintaining all police reports, traffic citations, issuance of peddler permits, and other required documents for the Police Department.

Staffing for the Records Clerk consists of one (1) full-time employee who also serves as the Police Department's Administrative Professional.

Services provided to the public include issuing licenses to purchase handguns, issuing peddlers permits and parking permits for city residents living in the downtown (C-3 area), and the release of records and reports under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) of 442 of 1976. In 2024, the Records Clerk fulfilled a total of 172 FOIA requests and processed 13 pistol purchase permits.

Crime data for the City of Buchanan Police Department is entered into the TIMS Record Management System by the reporting/investigating officers and Records Clerk. This information is sent daily electronically from our TIMS system to the State of Michigan for crime analysis, who then forwards this data to the FBI. The FBI utilizes this data for their annual crime publication.

The implementation of this modern technology has provided the Police Department with the capability to capture a variety of information on various types of crime. Additionally, this has helped our department to remain on the cutting edge of law enforcement reporting and procedures.



Diana Selir, Records Clerk

ENFORCEMENT AND CRIME STATISTICS

The City of Buchanan Police Department consists of 5 patrol officers (including a sergeant), who patrol the 4 square miles that make up the City of Buchanan. The officers are committed to fulfilling the Department’s mission and vision through professionalism, courtesy, and integrity. Their willingness to face dangerous situations and dedication towards keeping the citizens, businesses, visitors, and properties safe in the City of Buchanan is commendable.

The City of Buchanan Police Department provides 24-hour police services, primarily being responsible for the investigation and prevention of criminal activity. Officers also enforce traffic laws and respond to emergencies that occur within the city.

Throughout 2024, the Police Department patrolled approximately 26,749 miles, made 29,678 property checks, conducted 443 traffic stops, made 82 misdemeanor arrests, 22 felony arrests, and issued a total of 74 traffic citations. A total of 15 citations were issued for non-traffic offenses such as peddling without a permit, littering, breach of peace, etc. There were also 58 parking citations issued.

The City of Buchanan Police Department responded to and investigated a total of 2,847 calls for service. This total is lower than the 2023 statistics where officers responded to 3,315 calls for service and lower than the 2022 statistics where officers responded to 3,456 calls for service.

The City of Buchanan Police Department responded to and investigated a total of 2,333 non-crime reporting calls for service and are detailed in the following table. The Department also had 15 submissions resulting in 29 analyses to the Berrien County Forensic Laboratory.

Non-Crime Reporting Calls for Service Statistics	
Juvenile Issues (including Incurrigible & Truancy)	31
Property Damage Accidents	42
Private Property Accidents	42
Abandoned Vehicles	12
Alarms	143
Civil	129
Suspicious Situations	281
Lost & Found Property	63
Medical Assists	441
General Assists & General Non-Criminal Assists	647
Natural & Accidental Deaths	9
Missing Persons	6
Death by Suicide	0
Ordinance Violations (aggregated)	487

ENFORCEMENT AND CRIME STATISTICS

The City of Buchanan Police Department submits its crime data to the State of Michigan, who in turn, forwards this data on to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) which is compiled each year in the annual Crime in Michigan and Crime in the United States Reports. The FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program divides crimes into two groups, Part I and Part II. Part I offenses are the most serious crimes that occur regularly and are often reported to the police. The UCR data from Part I offenses provide a measure of the level and scope of crime occurring throughout the local community and the nation. The following table provides the Police Department statistics for serious offenses that are identified as Part I crimes according to the FBI uniform crime reporting system.

Part I Offenses	
Murder & Nonnegligent Manslaughter	0
Criminal Sexual Conduct/Forcible Rape	7
Robbery	0
Aggravated Assault	5
Burglary (Breaking & Entering)	4
Larceny (Theft)	49
Motor Vehicle Theft	14
Arson	0
TOTAL	79



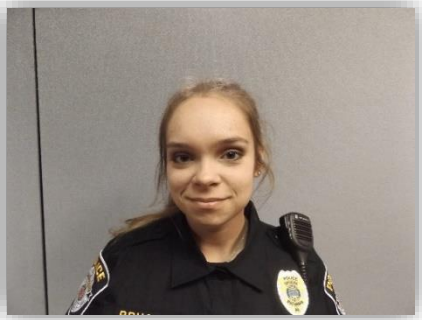
Part II Offenses	
Non-Aggravated/Simple Assault	47
Forgery & Counterfeiting	2
Fraud	18
Embezzlement	0
Stolen Property	2
Damage to Property	54
Retail Fraud	10
Violation of Controlled Substance Act	7
Sex Offense (Other)	2
Obscenity	1
Offense against the Family & Children	17
Liquor Law Violations	0
Drunkenness	0
Weapons Offense	5
Operating While Intoxicated	2
Disorderly Conduct	11
All Other (i.e., Obstructing, Public Peace, Trespass, Vagrancy, etc.)	214
TOTAL	392

TRAINING

The City of Buchanan Police Department highly values training for all personnel. The goal of training is to improve efficiency, broaden the knowledge of the officer/employees, to correct behavioral inadequacies, and to correct performance deficiencies. Subject matter can run from technical information to career advancement. Furthermore, the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) implemented a pilot in-service continuing professional education (CPE) standard for all licensed law enforcement officers for the next three years in accordance with section 11(2) of the MCOLES Act (1965 PA 203, MCL 28.611). In 2024, 12 hours of Commission Designated CPE were required. In 2024, officers from the City of Buchanan Police Department completed 338 aggregated hours of training. Listed below are the training that department personnel attended.

- CPR/AED & First Aid
- Professional Administrative Assistant Conference
- Security & Privacy Criminal Justice Information Training
- Narcan Rescue Kit Training
- Intoxilyzer 9000
- Bloodborne & Airborne Pathogens & PPE Use
- Ethics in Policing
- Legal Update – Search & Seizure
- Field Training Officer
- Harassment & Discrimination Training for Law Enforcement
- Annual Michigan Association of Hostage Negotiators Conference
- Taser X26P Training
- Policing and the Holocaust
- Implicit Bias: Recognition, Reduction, & Prevention
- Introduction to Human Trafficking
- Firearms Training & MCOLES Annual Firearms Qualifications

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER



Officer Amy Bruce, School Resource Officer

The City of Buchanan Police Department, in partnership with Buchanan Community Schools (BCS), entered a memorandum of understanding to provide a school resource officer (SRO). BCS was awarded a three-year grant from the MSP School Resource Officer Grant Program to help fund this position.

According to the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO), the SRO is a judiciously selected, specially trained, and properly equipped full-time law enforcement officer who has sworn law enforcement authority. SROs are trained in school-based policing and crisis response and are assigned by the employing law enforcement agency to work in the school using community-oriented policing concepts. In fact, school-based law enforcement is an essential component of community-oriented policing. Therefore, the purpose of the SRO is to build positive and trusting relationships between local law enforcement and students. This is within the scope of our Police Department’s mission and vision.

The SRO completed the 40-hour NASRO SRO Basic Training course and the 40-hour MSP Teaching, Educating, and Mentoring (T.E.A.M.) training curriculum.

During the academic school year from late August to early June, our SRO assists BCS with crisis prevention and school safety, is visible, provides resource support to students, parents, and teachers, investigates crimes affecting the school district, but is not involved in enforcing school discipline.

The SRO is required to provide a monthly report on their on- and off-campus activities to the Police Department and BCS Superintendent. For 2024 (January to June), the SRO logged 68.25 hours in on- and off-campus investigations and 94 hours in various student engagement and campus presence activities.



CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



Jason Cullum, Code Enforcement Officer

The City of Buchanan Police Department employs one (1) full-time code enforcement officer who is responsible for proactively conducting on-site inspections throughout the city to determine compliance with local and state codes, ordinances, and standards pertaining to health, welfare, and safety. The code enforcement officer investigates potential violations, follows established procedures for achieving abatement and compliance where warranted, maintains related records, and performs other related duties.

In line with the Police Department's mission and vision, citizens can contact the code enforcement officer to ask questions or report a property that is of concern. For 2024, the Code Enforcement Division investigated 432 ordinance violations of which 275 were tall grass violations resulting in approximately \$11,856 in non-compliance fees being collected. Five (5) citations were issued.

The City of Buchanan has adopted the 2021 *International Property Maintenance Code* which is utilized for code enforcement.



POLICE/FIRE CHAPLAINS CORP

Members of the Chaplains Corp are ordained clergy who volunteer their time to both, the City of Buchanan Police Department and City of Buchanan Fire Department. Our police/fire chaplains provide spiritual support and guidance to Police and Fire Department personnel and their families, and to the citizens of Buchanan.

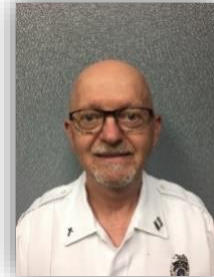
In 2024, the four chaplains who are members of the Chaplain Corps are on-call 24 hours a day. Chaplains also spend time training, participating in ride-alongs with officers, planning ceremonial events (i.e., the annual 9-11 Memorial Service), and helping with major community events. Most of the callouts that chaplains are involved with include the death of someone in the community, providing comfort and spiritual support for the families of those who have died, and partnering with officers to make death notifications. They also provide spiritual and emotional support to all members of the police and fire departments.

During ride-alongs, chaplains have an opportunity to become better acquainted with officers while observing first-hand some of the stressors that they experience daily.

All our chaplains must complete at minimum the International Conference of Police Chaplain's Basic Credential training requirements.



Chief Chaplain Dave Spurlock



Chaplain David Sedlacek



Chaplain Paul Ratsara



Chaplain Brandon Bishop

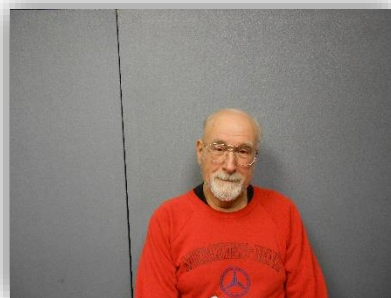
POLICE RESERVE OFFICER UNIT

The City of Buchanan Police Department’s Reserve Officer Unit is comprised of 18 members who volunteered a total of 1,504.25 hours in 2024 serving the citizens and businesses of the City of Buchanan alongside full-time sworn MCOLES certified officers. For instance, The Reserve Officer Unit volunteered 381.50 hours for the 2024 Berrien County Youth Fair.

Police Department Reserve Officers are required to complete a 72-hours basic reserve officer training academy for over 12 weeks. This training prepares the reserve recruit to work with other law enforcement agencies. The academy is a combination of lecture and hands-on training, including criminal law, defensive tactics, traffic stops, ethics, critical incident stress, and firearms which are taught by top instructors in the law enforcement community.

The activities that the Police Reserve Unit participate in support the mission and vision of the Police Department by providing dedicated, professional service in a variety of law enforcement assignments. City of Buchanan Police Department Reserve Officers can be found performing various assignments to include providing security at BCS sports and special high school events, participating in ride-alongs with patrol officers, traffic control for special events, property checks, holiday patrols, support activities for large scale incidents, participate in various community-policing events, and Berrien County Youth Faith foot patrol.

The Police Reserve Unit has an established chain-of-command that consists of a unit commander (Reserve Lieutenant), a quartermaster, a secretary/treasurer, three squad leaders (Reserve Sergeants), and three squad assistant leaders (Reserve Corporals). One full-time officer is assigned as the Officer-In-Charge of overseeing the unit.



The above pictures: Shop with A Cop 2024 (left), Reserve Lieutenant Richard Wonacott (middle), and Reserve Corporal Sweet C Robinson (right)

CROSSING GUARD PROGRAM



Crossing Guard Fran Morley

The City of Buchanan Police Department, in partnership with Buchanan Community Schools, employs four (4) full-time and three (3) substitute crossing guards. The Crossing Guard Program provides adequate child pedestrian safety and facilitates safe passage of children across dangerous street intersections while they are walking to and from school in the City of Buchanan. All crossing guards receive required annual training prior to the school year beginning. For 2024, our crossing guards worked a total of 2,209 hours.



STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT

Before June 2024, the police department had six (6) full-time police officers, which included a sergeant and SRO. The department also employed one (1) part-time officer, a police chief, a public safety director, a code enforcement officer, and an administrative professional/records clerk. Thus, there was a total of nine (9) full-time personnel.

Unfortunately, one officer was on Worker's Compensation/medical leave for an injury sustained on duty the entire year. The Department also witnessed the retirement of the public safety director and the resignation of two full-time officers (which included the SRO) to pursue employment at other law enforcement or non-law enforcement agencies. In other words, only three officers remained to provide police services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This was not sustainable, and was not fair to the Buchanan community, as well as to the remaining officers working a large amount of overtime to provide police services. As a result, the police department made a very difficult decision to change shift schedules and reduce the hours of police service provided to the community. Often, the police chief would provide patrol coverage to help cover shifts that were not covered. The Department also sought and received the gracious support of the Berrien County Sheriff's Office to help respond to calls for service during the uncovered midnight shifts.

The police department was able to sponsor two recruits to the LMC summer session Police Academy. Upon successful graduation from the police academy, they were immediately placed into the Department's FTO program. Sadly, one of the officers resigned to pursue employment with another law enforcement agency late that year.

In summary, for the end of 2024, the police department has five (5) full-time officers (including a sergeant). From this number, one officer remains in FTO but will soon move to the shadow phase of the program in 2025, and one officer remains on medical leave but is expected to return to unrestricted work status in early 2025. The SRO position has been unfilled since the start of the new school year and hopes to fill this position when staffing is adequate to do so. In 2025, the police department is actively working to replenish its staffing levels by hiring 2 to 3 additional officers. This will allow the department to return to providing 24-hour police services to the Buchanan community.

CONCLUSION

As Chief of Police, I am proud of the professionalism, hard work, and dedication of my personnel as they continue to serve the citizens and businesses of the City of Buchanan. The men and women of the City of Buchanan Police Department continue to exemplify our mission and vision as summarized in our motto, "Professionalism, Courtesy, and Integrity."

This annual report encapsulates in summation the activities of our Police Department. After reading this annual report, I hope that you are as appreciative as I am of the way our personnel serve our city. We will continue to explore ways to improve the quality of service that we provide to keep the City of Buchanan as a safe and "nicest place in American" to live, work, and visit.

In closing, I greatly appreciate all the support and appreciation we receive from our community. I will continue to strive to fulfill the mission and vision of our Police Department as I work with our community members and law enforcement partners to maintain that support and cultivate public trust.

Respectfully submitted,

