



City of Buchanan Police Department

2025 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
2025 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 2025 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 2025.

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 2025 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



2025 RETIREES

There were no retirements in 2025

OFFICER OF THE YEAR 2025

The Officer of the Year nomination and selection process was not conducted in 2025.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Thanks to a \$20,000 MCOLES Public Safety Academy Assistance Program grant from the State of Michigan and a \$125,000 three-year Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) grant from the Department of Justice, the Buchanan Police Department was able to sponsor one police cadet through the second Lake Michigan College (LMC) summer Police Academy. Officer Katelyn Cooke completed 17 weeks of intensive police training between May 5 and August 27, 2025. 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. Officer Katelyn Cooke successfully graduated from the LMC Police Academy on August 27, 2025. She has completed a four-month Field Training Officer (FTO) program which included a “shadow phase” where she worked independently but another officer responded as well and provided guidance as needed. She has now been assigned to a permanent shift.



Officer Katelyn Cooke

NEW OFFICERS HIRED

In 2025, the Buchanan Police Department was able to hire two new officers based on their prior police experience, with one replacing Officer Cooper Christner, who left for another law enforcement agency.



Officer Christopher Pothoff



Officer Philip Huang

Officer Pothoff is a Michigan native, who served honorable in the US Coast Guard. He has three years of prior law enforcement experience with the Dewitt County Sheriff's Office in Dewitt, Texas.

Officer Huang is an Illinois native, who has prior law enforcement experience with the Benton Charter Township Police Department in Benton Charter Township, Michigan.

COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING EVENTS

The City of Buchanan Police Department was involved with the following community oriented-policing activities in 2025.

- **Buchanan High School Prom & Homecoming Dance** (April 2025/October 2025).
- **Memorial Day Parade** (May 2025).
- **Red Bud Track & Trail Motorcross** (July 2025). Traffic control was provided for the event.
- **Niles Burn Run** (July 2025). Police personnel provided traffic control for the annual Niles Burn Run as bikers traveled their route through the city.
- **Berrien County Youth Fair** (August 2025). The Department's Reserve officers volunteered patrol duties to the annual Berrien County Youth Fair. The Department also provided a safety information booth during Law Enforcement Day at the fair.
- **National Night Out against Crime** (August 2025). 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.
- **Faith and Family Day** (August 2025). The Department provided a safety information booth during the event.
- **Annual 9/11 Memorial Service** (September 2025). The Department's Police/Fire Chaplains Corp coordinated the 9/11 memorial service.
- **Faith and Blue** (October 2025). In partnership with Buchanan Area Ministerial Association, police personnel participated in the annual Faith and Blue by visiting many local churches and participating in various activities.
- **Halloween Candy Checks** (October 2025). Police personnel provided Halloween candy checks to over 40 trick-or-treaters in front of the City Fire Department.
- **Thanksgiving Baskets** (November 2025). Thanksgiving baskets were provided for two families.
- **Shop With A Cop Program** (December 2025). Local donations supported Department police personnel, firefighters from Buchanan Township and Bertrand Township, and city hall staff and a City Commissioner shop with 18 children at the Walmart in Niles.
- **Holiday Patrols** (December 2025). Provided by the Department Reserve Unit.
- **Rape Aggression Defense System (R.A.D.)(2025)**. R.A.D. is a realistic self-defense program that teaches women effective tactics and techniques against various types of assaults. Three Basic R.A.D. classes were taught to a total of 45 students.
- **Coffee Chat with the Chief** (November & December 2025). It was held at The Buchanan Area Senior Center (November) and Bucktown Nutrition (December).
- **Monthly Chief's Corner**. A monthly web-based publication dedicated to providing you, our citizens and community partners, with brief informational messages from the Chief of Police regarding various law enforcement and community-policing related topics and activities.

COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING EVENTS



BUDGET

The City budget cycle runs from July 1 to June 30. The total Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/2025 operating budget for the Police Department was **\$1,262,600**. General fund budget expenditures totaled **\$1,055,227**.

The Police Department had one special fund budget in 2025, which had expenditures totaling **\$3,052.17** as follows:

Public Act 302 Training Fund - \$2,300.10 received, \$1,681.91 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 - \$145,000

Awarded a \$20,000 MCOLES Public Safety Academy Assistance Program grant to sponsor one recruit through the LMC summer police academy – May 2025.

Awarded \$125,000 a three-year Department of Justice FY24 COPS Hiring Program for \$125,000 to hire a new officer – September 2024. Officer Cooke was hired under this grant which began September 2025.

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 was filled in August 2025.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) - \$15,797.20 expended

The Police Department developed a six-year CIP2023-2028 for major capital improvement purchases. The following CIP purchases were expended in 2025.

Patrol Vehicles – purchased two primary (2) patrol vehicles through Enterprise Fleet Management on a five-year lease totaling \$78, 936, thus for the FY24/25 the first-year amount was \$15,797.20.

eCitation Printers – purchased two (2) Printek printers printing electronic citations for two primary patrol vehicles totaling \$1,998. Note that this purchase was not a CIP expenditure but rather expended from the police budget line.

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 2025, the Records Clerk fulfilled a total of 237 FOIA requests and processed 22 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 8 patrol officers (including a sergeant and a School Resources Officer), 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 2025, the Police Department patrolled approximately 32,163 miles, made 6,573 property checks, conducted 1,013 traffic stops, made 104 misdemeanor arrests, 26 felony arrests, 19 drunk driving arrests, and issued a total of 151 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 166 parking citations issued.

The City of Buchanan Police Department responded to and investigated a total of 3,452 calls for service in 2025. This total is higher than the 2024 statistics where officers responded to 2,847 calls for service and higher than the 2024 statistics where officers responded to 3,311 calls for service.

The City of Buchanan Police Department responded to and investigated a total of 2,885 non-crime reporting calls for service and are detailed in the following table. The Department also had 5 submissions resulting in 5 analyses to the Berrien County Forensic Laboratory.

Non-Crime Reporting Calls for Service Statistics	
Juvenile Issues (including Incurrigible & Truancy)	77
Property Damage Accidents	86
Private Property Accidents	30
Abandoned Vehicles	15
Alarms	151
Civil	102
Suspicious Situations	323
Lost & Found Property	53
Medical Assists	417
General Assists & General Non-Criminal Assists	816
Natural & Accidental Deaths	8
Missing Persons	5
Death by Suicide	1
Ordinance Violations (aggregated)	780

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	1
Criminal Sexual Conduct/Forcible Rape	11
Robbery	0
Aggravated Assault	6
Burglary (Breaking & Entering)	2
Larceny (Theft)	45
Motor Vehicle Theft	3
Arson	2
TOTAL	70



Part II Offenses	
Non-Aggravated/Simple Assault	55
Forgery & Counterfeiting	0
Fraud	25
Embezzlement	2
Stolen Property	1
Damage to Property	26
Retail Fraud	4
Violation of Controlled Substance Act	0
Sex Offense (Other)	4
Obscenity	3
Offense against the Family & Children	14
Liquor Law Violations	3
Drunkenness	1
Weapons Offense	5
Operating While Intoxicated	19
Disorderly Conduct	37
All Other (i.e., Obstructing, Public Peace, Trespass, Vagrancy, etc.)	136
TOTAL	335

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 2025, 24 hours of Commission Designated CPE were required, 8 of which were on MCOLES recognized mental health training. In 2025, officers from the City of Buchanan Police Department completed 285.5 aggregated hours of training. Listed below are the training that department personnel attended.

- 2025 Autism Response for Law Enforcement
- Assistance Animal Training
- Autism Spectrum Disorder & Carter Kits
- Security & Privacy Criminal Justice Information Training
- Narcan Rescue Kit Training
- Intoxilyzer 9000 Biennial Refresher Training
- Bloodborne & Airborne Pathogens & PPE Use
- Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety
- Behavioral Health Emergency Partnership Refresher
- Stress Management for Trauma Provider
- Peer Support: Bringing Your Team to the Next Level
- Legal Update
- Harassment & Discrimination Training for Law Enforcement
- Annual Michigan Association of Hostage Negotiators Conference
- R.A.D. System International Training
- Policing and the Holocaust
- The Foundation of Reasonable Force A Primer
- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)
- Interview & Interrogation
- Street Survival II
- Railroad Investigation and Safety Course
- The Leader's Role in Developing Agency Culture
- The Leadership Role in Public Services
- Reading People
- Firearms Instructor Recertification
- Red Dot Optic System Instructor - Handgun
- Firearms Training & MCOLES Annual Firearms Qualifications

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER



Officer Philip Huang, 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.

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 2025 (August to December), the SRO logged 146 hours in on- and off-campus investigations and over 100 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 2025, the Code Enforcement Division investigated 780 ordinance violations of which 380 were tall grass violations resulting in approximately \$20,862 in non-compliance fees being collected. Six (6) 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 2025, the three 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 Paul Ratsara



Chaplain Brandon Bishop

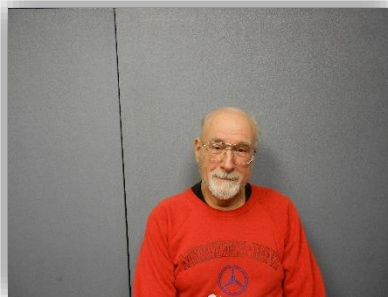
POLICE RESERVE OFFICER UNIT

The City of Buchanan Police Department's Reserve Officer Unit is comprised of 16 members who volunteered a total of 1,715.5 hours in 2025 serving the citizens and businesses of the City of Buchanan alongside full-time sworn MCOLES certified officers. For instance, The Reserve Officer Unit volunteered 503 hours for the 2025 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 2025 (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 two (2) 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 2025, our crossing guards worked a total of 2,095 hours.



STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT

For 2025, the department was able to return to full strength with employing eight (8) full-time officers. The department also employed two (2) part-time officers, a police chief, a code enforcement officer, and an administrative professional/records clerk. Thus, there was a total of nine (11) full-time personnel.

The department was able to fill the SRO position that had been vacated in late 2024, thus providing specialized law enforcement support to Buchanan Community Schools.

The police department was able to sponsor one recruit to the LMC summer session Police Academy. Upon successful graduation from the police academy, she was able to complete the Department's FTO program and has been assigned to a permanent shift.

Of particular interest in the annual report is the increase in enforcement activities compared to 2024. This is more likely associated with the increase in the number of full-time officers and the ability to return to providing 24-hour police coverage.

The report also indicates one murder and/or negligent manslaughter Part I offense for the City of Buchanan. This incident in question involved a suspicious death due to a drug overdose. The investigation of this incident is ongoing and has been turned over to the Southwest Enforcement Team.

More importantly, the department has been able to remain engaged in providing community-based policing services through such programs as R.A.D. courses, Shop with A Cop, Faith and Blue, Coffee Chats with the Chief, and National Night Out.

In summary, by the end of 2025, the police department was able to gain eight (8) full-time officers, refill the vacant SRO position, and has returned 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,

