



City of Cooper City

Police Chief's Monthly Report

Submitted to the City Commission

April 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From January to April 2025, Cooper City saw a major drop in crime – down 77% compared to the same time last year. This includes fewer thefts, break-ins, and auto thefts. While overall crime is down, calls for service have gone up, showing that residents are more engaged and relying on deputies for support in a variety of ways.

Code Enforcement stayed active, addressing over 800 violations – mostly related to property upkeep and parking complaints – with many resolved through cooperation and education. A citywide code sweep is coming soon to help keep the city clean and safe.

Traffic enforcement also ramped up, especially around schools and busy roads, with nearly 600 tickets issued in April. A traffic safety effort, Operation TICKET, will soon focus on speeding and aggressive driving.

BSO was proud to be part of several community events, including the *Eat to the Beat*, *EGG-Stravaganza*, and *Autism Awareness* events, all aimed at building trust, offering safety tips, and engaging with residents.

New initiatives are underway, like assigning deputies to handle animal-related concerns with care and launching tools to better support residents with special needs, such as autism or dementia. Plans are moving forward to install new cameras in key public areas to help keep the city safe.

Overall, Cooper City continues to be a safe, connected, and engaged community – and BSO is proud to serve alongside you.



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CRIMES – Year-to-Date (YTD)

A YTD comparison was conducted to analyze violent and property crimes – historically referred to as *Part 1 Crimes* – from January to April in 2024 vs. 2025. As of April 2025, Cooper City has experienced a significant decline in reported crimes, from 321 in 2024 to 73 in 2025, representing a 77% decrease.

CALLS FOR SERVICE – Year-over-Year (YoY) and Month-over-Month (MoM)

Analyzing calls for service – not just reported crimes – is essential because it gives a fuller picture of community needs, safety concerns, and workload. Two methods were used to analyze calls for service: year-over-year (YoY) and month-over-month (MoM). A YoY analysis compares data from one period to the same period in the previous year, accounting for seasonal and long-term trends; whereas a MoM analysis compares data from one month to the immediately preceding month, which is useful in spotting immediate changes.

In April 2025, BSO responded to 2,196 calls for service, reflecting a 9% decrease from March 2025 (2,387) and an 18% increase compared to April 2024 (1,858). Although service demands declined in the MoM, the YoY rise points to broader activity and potential long-term increases in public safety needs.

Key Observations:

- **Mental Health:** In April, mental health-related calls (12) increased 20% in both MoM and YoY analyses. While not a significant increase, suicide attempts increased from last April, indicating a potential growing concern. These issues may be linked to a range of social, economic, and personal factors.
- **Domestic-Related Incidents:** Verbal domestic disturbances have increased significantly in both the MoM and YoY analyses, possibly linked to better awareness and reporting.
- **Criminal Activity:** While not a substantial increase, stolen vehicles increased in the MoM analysis (5 vs. 3) and in the YoY analysis (5 vs. 2). Coupled with increased trespassing occurrences, this could suggest property-related concerns. Trespassing may serve as a precursor to opportunistic crimes, as can be seen in activities like car-hopping.
- **Traffic Accidents:** Accidents involving injuries saw a 10% rise from March (22 vs. 20) and a 120% increase compared to last year (22 vs. 10). One of these recent accidents resulted in a fatality. Potential reasons for the increase in accidents could include higher traffic volume, distracted driving, reckless driving, or substance use.

The significant YoY increase in calls for service (18%) points to a rising demand on police resources and the need for continued focus on preventative outreach and community engagement. As such, the Community Involvement Team will implement targeted education initiatives that engage residents and encourage prevention in the key concerns identified.



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VACANCY REPORT

The district currently has three deputy vacancies. While three deputies will be transferred to the district on May 17th – which would essentially fill those vacancies – we are anticipating the retirement of another deputy on May 17th. As such, we are projected to have one deputy vacancy. There is also one CSA vacancy that – while officially vacant on the PCN report – the duties are currently being performed by an employee who has not yet been reclassified. There is one sergeant vacancy.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Between January and April 2025, Code Enforcement processed 831 total violations, 105 of which occurred in April. The data reveals a pattern of non-compliance with the parking of RVs and commercial vehicles as well as properties requiring repair and maintenance.

Despite strong enforcement, there continues to be a need for ongoing monitoring and compliance initiatives. As such, Code Enforcement will be conducting an upcoming proactive and coordinated code sweep in the city. This sweep will provide increased visibility, opportunities for direct resident engagement, and faster resolution to reoccurring issues.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

From January to March 2025, Cooper City experienced a strong increase in total traffic related actions, both citations and warnings, driven by heightened traffic enforcement. In April alone, deputies issued 463 citations, 107 of which for speeding. Additionally, a total of 121 city ordinance parking citations were issued, 96 of which were issued for violations of posted signage around schools – signage which is intended to encourage parents to utilize designated car lanes.

Despite strong enforcement, the increase in traffic crashes requires additional enforcement initiatives. Therefore, the Traffic Unit, PSU, and patrol deputies will participate in an upcoming enforcement initiative, Operation TICKET, which will target aggressive driving and speeding in the major corridors and interior arterial roadways within the city.

EVENTS

Training Video Role Players. On April 6th, Citizens on Patrol (COP) members participated as role players to create countywide training videos. These videos will create consistency and safety protocols for all COP members.

Eat to the Beat. On April 11th, BSO provided event security at *Eat to the Beat* at Suellen Fardelmann Sports Complex, which featured a live band, numerous food trucks, and community vendors. During the event, deputies conducted roving patrols in Polaris UTVs. The Community Involvement Team, COPs, Explorers, and their deputy advisors staffed booths, providing giveaways, crime prevention flyers, and fundraising through concessions.



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EGG-Stravaganza. On April 17th, BSO deputies and COP members attended Cooper City's *EGG-Stravaganza* event at Flamingo West Park, which featured egg hunts, games, and activities. During the event, COP members operated a tent with giveaways and crime prevention flyers. Deputies – including a horse-mounted unit – and COP assisted with traffic control to manage the influx of arriving attendees.

Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention. On April 23rd, BSO hosted the South Florida Crime Prevention Association's monthly meeting where Sgt. Neves discussed BSO's *Catalytic Converter Etching and Spray-Painting* initiative. Theft-detering spray and etching on catalytic converters discourages theft due to increased risk.

Take your Child to Work Day. On April 24th, BSO hosted a *Take Your Child to Work Day* event at the police station. During the event, attendees were tasked with solving "*The Case of the Missing Donuts*" by investigating clues around the station, which included surveillance footage, witness interviews, and evidence.

Career Day – Griffin Elementary. On April 25th, BSO's Motor and Drone Units participated in Career Day at Griffin Elementary to speak about their positions. This not only introduced students to a potential career path, but the event also served as an opportunity to provide safety tips.

Autism Awareness Event. On April 26th, BSO attended the annual Autism Awareness Event at the fire station. The event featured public safety demonstrations, sensory-friendly activities, community resources, a petting zoo, and Davie PD's Mounted Unit. At the event, Cynthia Rudy and her family donated 28 Sensory Kits to be kept in deputies' vehicles. Each kit contains noise-canceling headphones and communication cards to help create a calmer, safer environment during interactions with individuals on the autism spectrum.

Law Enforcement Torch Run. April 30th, BSO participated – as runners, traffic controllers, and event supporters – in the Law Enforcement Torch Run, an annual event which raises awareness and funds for the Special Olympics. After the run, Cooper City's Community Involvement Team provided frozen treats from the *Get the Scoop* ice cream bicycle to the run's dedicated athletes and supporters.

INITIATIVES AND SPECIAL PROJECTS:

Animal Advocates. To strengthen our community's response to animal-related crimes, BSO has launched a new initiative: the designation of an Animal Advocate deputy on each patrol shift. These selected deputies will undergo specialized training from recognized experts in animal care and cruelty investigations. Animal crimes are often early indicators of broader societal issues, including domestic violence and child abuse. By taking a proactive stance, we aim to improve outcomes for animals, strengthen community trust, and support broader crime prevention goals. The Animal Advocate program reflects our commitment to not only uphold the law, but to do so with compassion and precision.



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At-Risk Resident Initiatives. We are also implementing two digital platforms – BSO Cares and the Frontline At-Risk Resident Portal – to improve interactions with at-risk populations, including individuals with autism and other cognitive and behavioral conditions. These portals are critical tools to better equip deputies responding to calls involving vulnerable residents. BSO Cares is a special needs registry that allows residents to voluntarily register vital information – like behavioral triggers and communication preferences – to be tied to a registered address. When dispatched to that address, deputies will be able to tailor their approach based on the information. The Frontline At-Risk Resident platform supplements BSO Cares by offering a portal where critical data can be accessed but is not specifically tied to the registered address. This dual-layered approach closes critical gaps in response and care for vulnerable populations.

Project Update: Camera Installation. BSO is actively collaborating with the city to enhance public safety by installing surveillance cameras at two critical locations: the Utilities Department and Bill Lips Sports Complex. On April 15th, BSO and Utilities staff met with a vendor to obtain a detailed quote for the installation of cameras. These cameras will be integrated with the Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC), enabling real-time monitoring and faster law enforcement response when needed. The Utilities Department is a vital part of the city's infrastructure, and Bill Lips Sports Complex is a heavily trafficked public space. Real-time camera feeds will increase situational awareness, deter criminal activity, and ensure a safer environment in the city.

EMPLOYEE COMMENDATIONS

Deputy Ryan Zimmer demonstrated thoroughness and compassion in handling a complex fraud case involving an elderly resident who was deceived in to purchasing a counterfeit air conditioning unit. Despite the limited initial evidence, Deputy Zimmer pursued the case diligently, ultimately identifying the suspect in the case.

Deputy Charles Dunn responded swiftly and decisively to a burglary where the victim was slashed with a machete, sustaining significant lacerations before the suspect fled the scene. Deputy Dunn quickly located and apprehended the suspect, ensuring the safety of nearby civilians while removing a violent offender from the streets.

Deputy Matthew Houck demonstrated care and sharp observational skills when he located an elderly woman with dementia near a busy road. Drawing on previous experience, he ensured her safe return home, coordinated with her family, and took proactive steps to ensure she received follow-up care and support.

Detective Jorge Miro – only days into his new assignment – acted quickly on a tip about a burglar breaking into vehicles in Countryside Shops. Without delay, he was able to locate and detain the suspect. Deputy Miro conducted an investigation and was able to tie the suspect to multiple attempted burglaries.

Deputy Joshua Willis, Detective Jimmy Santiago, and Detective Jerry Martinez led a complex and proactive narcotics investigation that resulted in two felony arrests, multiple trafficking charges, and the seizure of significant quantities of methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, MDMA, and other controlled substances. Nearly \$7,000 was also confiscated and submitted for forfeiture.