

JONESBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Todd O. Coyt – Chief of Police



To: City Manager
From: Chief Todd Coyt
Ref: Jonesboro Police Department
Date: January 15, 2025

I would like to discuss some of the challenges (recruitment/retention, pay, benefits, trust, reputation) that the Jonesboro Police Department (JPD) is facing. Currently we are severely understaffed, we presently have three (3) Officers, one (1) Corporal, three (3) Sergeants. The week of January 06, 2025, we lost four officers. One officer was dismissed for disciplinary reasons, but he was allowed to resign. Three officers turned in their resignation letters (one of those officers was under investigation). We have a corporal that is out on medical leave and will not be available for duty for approximately four (4) months. I have discussed staff shortages on a couple of occasions, and I have stated plans of action. For several reasons I have been unable to carry out most of the plans. Staffing of the department is a major issue it presents a safety and a morale problem. For this reason, we always focus on retention and recruitment.

I have spoken with Chief Roberts of the Clayton County Police Department (CCPD) and advised him that JPD was understaffed. I asked Chief Roberts if CCPD would be able to support JPD on any day that we are understaffed. Chief Roberts agreed to have CCPD assist JPD. This assures that 911 calls that arise in the city of Jonesboro will be responded to appropriately.

Assistant Chief Dunlap and I have been attempting to recruit at every opportunity that is presented to us. Initially individuals are interested in coming to Jonesboro until they find out about the compensation and benefits. We attempt to sell the small-town atmosphere and the low crime as positives, but people are stuck on the compensation factor. On several occasions individuals have done their due diligence and spoken with others and watched council meetings and then come back to us and state no thank you. When I asked what changed their minds, I have been told there is too much confusion going on in Jonesboro.

The common theme that I am hearing from my officers is that they feel unappreciated by the city. The mayor gave the staff a raise in 2024, that raise made their salaries comparable to some of the other agencies in the metro area. When this was done the other municipalities were in the process of having pay studies completed and once those studies were completed the municipalities raised the salaries of their departments. (I have provided some of the salaries to the mayor and city

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manager upon request.) I have consistently spoken with the officers and attempted to motivate them and console them on pay issues and work environment. My motivation and consoling have fallen on deaf ears. My officers can leave for other jobs for more money, benefits, and incentives.

The staff feel under-appreciated not only because of the salaries but the equipment that they have been forced to use. The officers had bullet proof vests that were expired and ill-fitting, uniforms that did not fit. This coupled with the pay and cars sends a message that they are not valued. The vests and uniforms have been ordered but it may be too little too late.

We recently purchased vehicles but the officer's paid attention to the discussion and process that this was completed in. JPD had been attempting to purchase the vehicles for several months, we even had an agreement with the outfitters. The outfitters were going to take the vehicles after we purchased them and begin outfitting them with the equipment. This would have been a win-win situation for JPD and the outfitters because we would have gotten the outfitters the vehicles during their down time (larger agencies have a different budget cycle and the outfitters weren't busy), now the outfitters are telling us that they will have to work us in behind the larger agencies. This means that instead of waiting three months for a vehicle to be completed we may have to wait six months or more. This means that the vehicles will not be used for that time.

My staff listen/watch (they have paid special attention to the tone and body mannerisms of council members) the council meetings, and they take notes on what is happening. The officers have heard the discussion concerning the budget, insurance, the cost of living raises and the changing of the pay dates. All these conversations have been concerning them but when taken in totality the staff have lost faith in the city. I have attempted to discuss all the issues and initially it seemed as if the staff were listening to me but when each item continued to come one after the other, I was tuned out. Just this week I was advised that the staff has "no faith in the direction the city is going."

Assistant Chief Dunlap, Major Cato and I work on making the Jonesboro Police Department a better environment. There is a lot of work that has been put in and more that needs to be put in. We are understaffed and all of us are doing the jobs of several individuals. If we are going to be successful, we must be allowed to work on JPD issues.

I will continue to work and talk to the staff on a daily basis, I bring this to you as a notification not a declaration. I have communicated verbally about most of these topics, but it does not seem as if I am being heard so I needed to put it in writing.



Jonesboro Police Department

ROSTER

#	NAME	RANK	D.O.B	START DATE	CELL #	EXT.	JTPCK #	RADIO #	VHCL#
1.	Coyt, Todd O.	Chief	18-Jul	51212024	404-558-3242	1605		1601	007
2.	Dunlap, Audrey	Asst. Chief	6-Nov	811912024	470-493-6716	1627			
3.	Christopher Cato	Major	2-Sep	41812013	404-772-6513	1608	470-446-1597	1604	010
4.	Thomas, Tavisa	Assistant	22-Jan	1/312023	678-616.:5065	1623	404-904-5075	NA	NA
5.	Upole, John	Sergeant	9-Mar	11/512012	678-584-3001	1621	470-599-7392	1605	015
6.	Williams, Jasmine	Sergeant	7-Jul	511212014	229-364-3902	1620	404-576-3480	1607	014
7.	Holmes, William	Sergeant	4-May	912212014	404-809-5257	1631	404-567-0086	1608	013
8.	Cash, Jackeline	Corporal	3-Feb	4/1912020	770-355-1563	1622	404-904-4898	1612	044
9.	Oliver, Carrie	Officer	24-Feb	10/1012022	510-809-5858	NA	678-972-4916	1616	040
10.	Watts, Devante	Officer	25-Jul	112312023	470-525-6499	NA	770-558-5878	SCRT4	047
11.	Williams, Quantez	Officer	16-May	6/1912023	314-587-0769	NA	470-446-1325	1622	042
12.	Burch, Tiannah	PT Officer	10-Sep	311412024	678-308-1110	NA	770-710-9639	1628	033
13.	Williams, Jumaane	PT Officer	28-Oct	511/2014	917-577-8962	NA	678-860-4343	1640	028
14.	Turner, Furdge	PT Officer	7-Jul	121912024	404-645-9032	NA	NA	NA	NA
15.	Brumfield, Rosalyn	PT Officer	4-Nov	1211012024	404-784-5435	NA	NA	NA	NA
16.	Anthony, Tremata	Reserve Officer	13-Jun	912212011	678-230-2509	NA	NA	6142	NIA
17.	Jones, Richard	Reserve Officer	27-Dec	1/31/2007	678-967-9831	NA	NA	1641	NIA
18.	Wilson, Kinley	Probation Dir.	3-Sep	212812022	770-827-7854	1612	NA	NA	NA
19.	Camp, Tiffany	Evidence Tech.	13-Jul	812912022	404-401-9834	1611	NA	NA	NA
20.	Collins, ,Vickie	Clerk	26-May	5/1/2006	770-362-7510	1614	NA	NA	NA
21.	Levigne, Annonciata	Clerk	8-Mar	911212022	404-308-6216	1628	NA	NA	NA
22.	Riggins, DeAnna	Clerk	5-Mar	411012023	NA	1615	NA	NA	NA

Updated 1/14/2025

Rank / Title	#
Chief	1
Asst. Chief	1
Major	1
Assistant	1
Sergeants	3
Corporal	1
Officers	3

Rank / Title	#
PT Officers	4
Reserve Officers	2
Probation Director	1
Evidence Tach	1
Clerks	3
Total	22

JONESBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Todd O. Coyt – Chief of Police



To: Mayor Sartor

From: Chief T. Coyt

Ref: Salaries of Metro Law Enforcement Agencies

Date: January 10, 2025

AGENCY	SALARY
Capitol Police Department	\$63,216
Clayton County Police Department	\$57,845
Cowetta County Sheriff's Department	\$51,240
Fayette County Sheriff's Department	\$56,382
*Fayetteville Police Department	\$55,000
**Forest Park Police Department	\$50,960-\$63,440
Hampton Police Department	\$59,766
Hapeville Police Department	\$51,000
Lake City Police Department	\$47,791
Lovejoy Police Department	\$45,874
Locust Grove Police Department	\$53,542
Morrow Police Department	\$50,000
Riverdale Police Department	\$50,118
***Stockbridge Police Department	\$50,021-\$66,375
Atlanta Police Department	\$60,987 (Laterals: \$66,395)
Jonesboro Police Department	\$50,162-\$61,147

*Fayetteville PD offers incentive pay for officers with certain certificates (ie: intermediate, adv. Etc.)

** Forest Park offers \$18 per wk insurance coverage for employee's family members, gives incentive pay for officers w/ certain certificates (ie: intermediate, adv. Etc.)

***Stockbridge offers incentive pay for officers, very few officers come in at the base salary

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