

Lynden Police Department

2020 Year in Review

Chief Taylor Arrives To Take The Helm

Special points of interest:

- New Chief of Police
- LEMAP Updates
- Promotions
- New Officers
- Patrol Vehicles
- City Events

After a hiring process that began in the early fall of 2019, Steve Taylor arrived from Searcy, Arkansas to take office as Chief of Police on January 16, 2020. Chief Taylor began his law enforcement career 32 years ago in Saginaw, Michigan. In 2005, he began serving the City of Searcy, Arkansas Police Department. At Searcy PD, he rose to the rank of Assistant Chief. While in

Arkansas, Chief Taylor also obtained his Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas. Chief Taylor is also now licensed to practice law in the State of Washington.



Lynden Police Get a New Look For 2020

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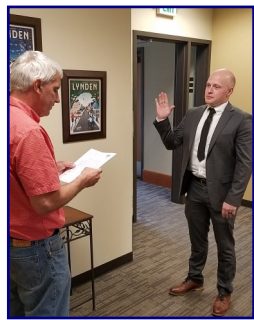
After 25 years, Lynden Police cars got a new look! Gone is the old blue and white with the city logo. The new look gives our fleet an sleek updated graphics package with a modern look that the citizens appreciate. The old cars will be phased out as new ones are purchased. Two new patrol vehicles arrived in March of 2020 and hit the streets fully equipped a few weeks later.



In December, three more vehicles arrived. Two patrol vehicles and one administrative vehicle.



Officer Brown's wife pins on his badge.



Mayor Korthuis administers the Oath of Office to Officer Holland.

“Shift Coverage Overtime alone was cut by 40% from 2019”

New Officers Hired to Fill Our Ranks

In the first week of February, Officer Mack Brown started with Lynden PD. He previously worked for the Skagit County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy. Officer Brown's hiring filled a vacancy in our roster.

On March 1, Officer Alex Pluschakov filled the 17th officer position that was approved by the City Council. He previously worked as an Officer for the City of Sumas.

At the beginning of May, Officer Tanner Holland joined our LPD family. Prior to joining our team, Officer Holland worked for the Washington State Patrol as a Trooper. Officer Holland's hiring filled a vacancy.

All three of these officers were a great addition to the force.



Officer Pluschakov taking the Oath of Office.

Total Overtime Hours Slashed by 30% in 2020

With the leadership of Chief Taylor and the addition of the 17th officer position, Lynden PD was able to cut the overall overtime hours by a whopping 30% during 2020.

In 2019, total Overtime hours were 3704 and the 2020 total Overtime hours were 2798.

The biggest difference being in the category of Shift Coverage

hours. The Shift Coverage Overtime alone was cut by 40% from 2019.

One of the biggest factors contributing to the reduction in overtime was the addition of a additional police officer. The full benefit was felt at the end of June with the conclusion of field training process.



Training Records Streamlined

During the Fall of 2019, a Loaned Executive Management Assistance Program (LEMAP) Assessment was performed on our police department. One on the recommendations of that assessment was for the police department to have a contemporary method for tracking the training for the officers and staff.

In early spring of 2020, L.P.D. purchased Frontline Public Safety Solutions **Training Tracker** software. This software will allow us to manage officer's training, mandates, expenses & range / defensive tactics in one platform. With the ever-increasing training requirements

for officers and staff, this software allows us easily monitor training hours and courses and instantly produce the state mandated annual training reports.



Two Officers Promoted to Corporal in August

On August 1, Officers Scott Myhre and Anders Fiksdal were promoted to the rank of corporal. The addition of the corporal position to our rank structure was one of the 2019 LEMAP recommendations.

In late June, six candidates from LPD participated in the Corporal Assessment and Testing Process. You will be proud to know that all of our officers performed very well during the testing.

Officer Myhre came to Lynden

from Burlington PD in November 1, 1996. Officer Fiksdal began working for Lynden PD in May 1, 2019. He previously worked for the Everson Police Department. Both officers grew up in Whatcom County.

The corporal position adds another layer of supervision and guidance to our department ensuring the best possible service from our officers to our community.



Corporal Scott Myhre



Corporal Anders Fiksdal

Freedom Rings Loudly in Lynden

The City of Lynden was not untouched by worldly events during 2020. On the heels of the Covid-19 pandemic lock downs, came the rallies and marches for people wanting to exercise their constitutional rights and have their voices heard. Lynden PD was right there to protect everyone's rights and be sure people could express themselves without acts of violence or harm.

Emotions were running high for many people and our officers performed at a very high level during very stressful situations during the marches. We had no

violence, no property damage, and no arrests. Thousands of people descended upon Lynden to appreciate the constitution working as it was designed.

“No violence, no property damage, and no arrests.”



New Video Evidence System Implemented

In April, Lynden PD took another leap forward with the installation and implementation of a state of the art digital and video evidence system, Axon Evidence. This was another recommendation of the LEMAP assessors.

This system allows LPD to seamlessly record, upload, transfer, and track all of our digital evidence. Our digital evidence includes photographs, interview room audio & video, and audio recordings.

We can instantly share evidence with the prosecutor and other law enforcement agencies. We can also receive evidence directly from citizens in the field with the touch of a button.

Officers can record audio statements from victims, witnesses, and suspects and transfer them to the case report.

Looking to the future, this system also offers the addition of body worn cameras.



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As the Chief of Police, I am very proud of our Department, and each and every member of this agency.

They are the heart and soul of this organization, and together with them, I am confident that we will continue to move the Lynden Police Department in a positive direction.

Steve Taylor

Chief of Police

Looking Toward 2021

As we begin to move through 2021, there are a few projects and programs that we are going to be working on at the police department.

- Evidence handling and processing systems.
- Replacing older patrol vehicles.
- Continue completing LEMAP recommendations.
- Evidence room upgrades.
- Bringing the best possible training to our officers.

