

DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Jay Mason, Acting Chief of Police



ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Tumwater Police Department (TPD) is dedicated to being a professional law enforcement agency. We actively engage with our community to provide a safe environment to live, work and raise a family.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed the Police Strategic Growth Plan (the Plan), TPD's strategic and operational guide for the next five years. The Plan outlines how TPD needs to grow as the City grows, the level of service that TPD will provide to the community, and the resources needed to do so. The Plan is researched-based, built upon current social science methods, community engagement, and professional law enforcement best practices.
- Significantly closed the staffing gap in 2024, ending the year with only one open officer position. Streamlined our hiring process, including monthly entry-level oral boards.
- Responded to 19,270 calls, on average 53 per day. Wrote 2,058 incident reports, made 787 arrests or referrals for prosecution, fulfilled 1,567 public disclosure requests and processed 1,032 warrants and protection orders.

BY THE NUMBERS





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GOALS FOR 2025-2026

- Unfortunately, the goals for 2025-2026 outlined in the Police Strategic Growth Plan must be modified due to lack of resources. For 2025, the Plan calls for adding a retail corridor patrol, participating in a regional investigation team, and implementing a volunteer program. In 2026, the Plan includes adding a business liaison officer, expanding the School Resource Officer program to include the elementary schools, and a growing the volunteer program. These programs will not be implemented or expanded due to the lack of additional staffing and facility space. Instead, we will provide the quality public safety services we always have, but in a more reactive, rather than proactive, manner.
- With the retirement of Chief Jon Weiks in 2025, TPD will be transitioning to a new Chief and possibly new command staff members.
- TPD will be continuously hiring through 2025-2026. We need to fill three positions that are needed to implement body cameras and staffing vacancies due to impending retirements.
- TPD has two large technology projects that are moving forward in the next two years:
 - Records Management System (RMS) - TPD is the lead agency for the implementation of a new regional RMS and the project has been underway for two years. The RMS is the primary software for law enforcement reports and records.
 - Body-Worn Cameras - We will also launch the body-worn camera project and replacement of our existing in-vehicle cameras in the first half of 2025.

Both projects will require significant commissioned and administrative staff time, in addition to regular workloads.

- TPD has also developed a Communications program that will expand social media and website content during 2025-2026. Our community ranked these methods of communication as high priorities for maintaining the strong relationship between TPD and the public.
- In 2025, we will expand our secure facility by remodeling part of the basement space in City Hall currently occupied by the Parks Department. This is necessary to accommodate staffing increases related to body-worn cameras that are planned for 2025-26. We also anticipate being involved in citywide planning to meet current and future space needs throughout the next several years.