

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

2025 BUDGET



KEVIN READING
CHIEF OF POLICE

PRESENTATION



POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFFING

During 2024, the police department was staffed with:

- 60 Full-Time Sworn Police Officers
- 1 Full-Time SLEO I / Code Enforcement Officer
- 5 Full-Time SLEO III School Officers
- 2 Full-Time Records Clerks
- 1 Full-Time Confidential Assistant to the Chief of Police
- 2 Part-Time Records Clerks
- 1 Part-Time Property & Evidence Clerk

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- TIMELY REPLACEMENT OF RETIRED OFFICERS
 - POLICE DEPARTMENT REPUTATION DRASTICALLY IMPROVED IN THE COUNTY
 - PARTICIPATING IN COUNTY INITIATIVES (TRT, HTF, CCU, MCRRT)
- IMPROVED TRAFFIC COMMUNICATION WITH OUR COMMUNITY
 - Traffic@lawrencetwp.com
- INCREASED SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE (6,092 FOLLOWERS)
 - OFFICER SPOTLIGHT
 - SAFETY MESSAGES
 - INCREASED COMMUNITY EVENTS
- SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED MANAGEMENT/LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR COMMAND STAFF AND SUPERVISORS

2024 COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Annual Egg Hunt
- Trunk or Treat
- National Night Out
- Coffee With a Cop (Café du Pain / Starbucks)
- Car Show & Holiday Food Drive (Co-Sponsored with FOP)
- Toy Drive (Joey's Little Angels Nonprofit)
- Community Meetings (Senior Center, School Faculty Events, etc.)
- Pinewood Derby Competition
- Citizen's Police Academy
- St. Ann's Flag Raising
- Red Cross Blood Drive (August & December)
- Police Department Open House
- Township Community Day and Many Other Community Events

MENTAL HEALTH

ARRIVE TOGETHER PROGRAM

- NJ Attorney General Platkin piloted an initiative called “Arrived Together”
 - The initiative pairs law enforcement officers with mental health workers to respond to mental health related calls for service and “Arrive Together”.
 - Requires law enforcement officers assigned to the program to be trained and certified as a CIT (Critical Intervention Training) officer. (40-Hour Training Class.
LTPD has 4 CIT Certified Officers / 1 CIT Instructor
- A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed by the Mercer County Prosecutors Office, Capital Health System Crisis and the Lawrence Township Police Department for our participation in the Arrive Together Program. We are currently a follow up agency.

ARRIVE TOGETHER PROGRAM

Purpose

Arrive Together creates an alternative response for law enforcement to mental health calls

Quoted by the Attorney General

“In modern times, we ask law enforcement officers to undertake roles they never expected when choosing to serve – marriage counselor, addiction specialist, social worker. And increasingly, police are asked to act like doctors or psychiatrists, determining what drug a person may have taken, or what mental health condition they may be experiencing.”

“.....when our system is structured so that the same armed officer responding to a robbery is also the government’s answer to the emergency call of a person in behavioral health crisis, it should come as no surprise that negative outcomes are possible, even likely.”

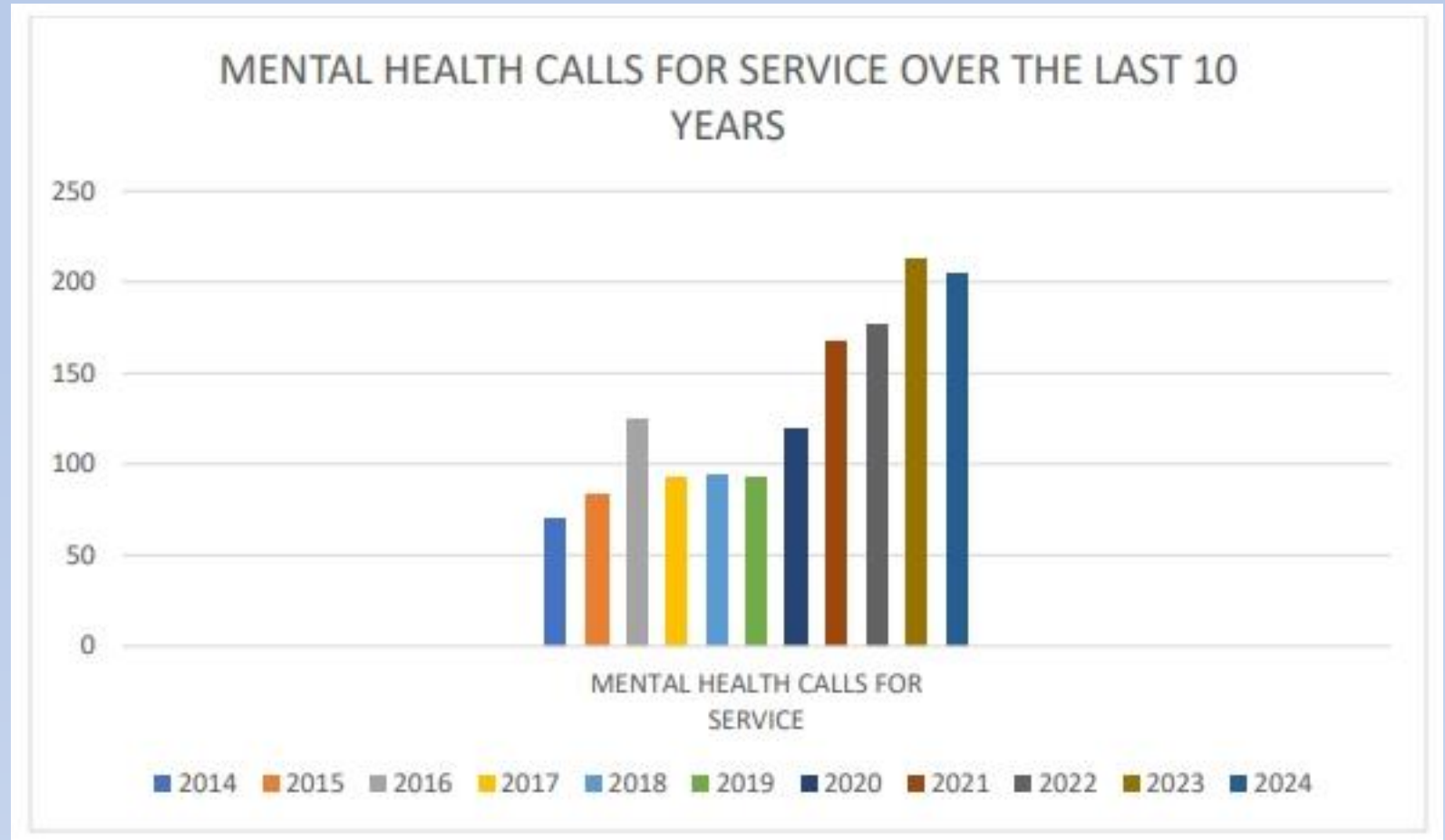
ARRIVE TOGETHER PROGRAM

- Until training, manpower and overtime costs (for both police & mental health workers) can be improved, Mercer County has adopted an Arrive Together model that acts as a referral system.
- Officers refer any contact made with someone who suffers from mental illness to the Capital Health Crisis Unit. Capital Health Crisis workers will follow up with the individual within 24-hours.
- In the event that immediate assistance is required, Capital Health Crisis Mobile Response will be requested to the scene

Response times for Capital Health Crisis Mobile Response can be 30 minutes to several hours
Not including time necessary for on-scene evaluation / transport

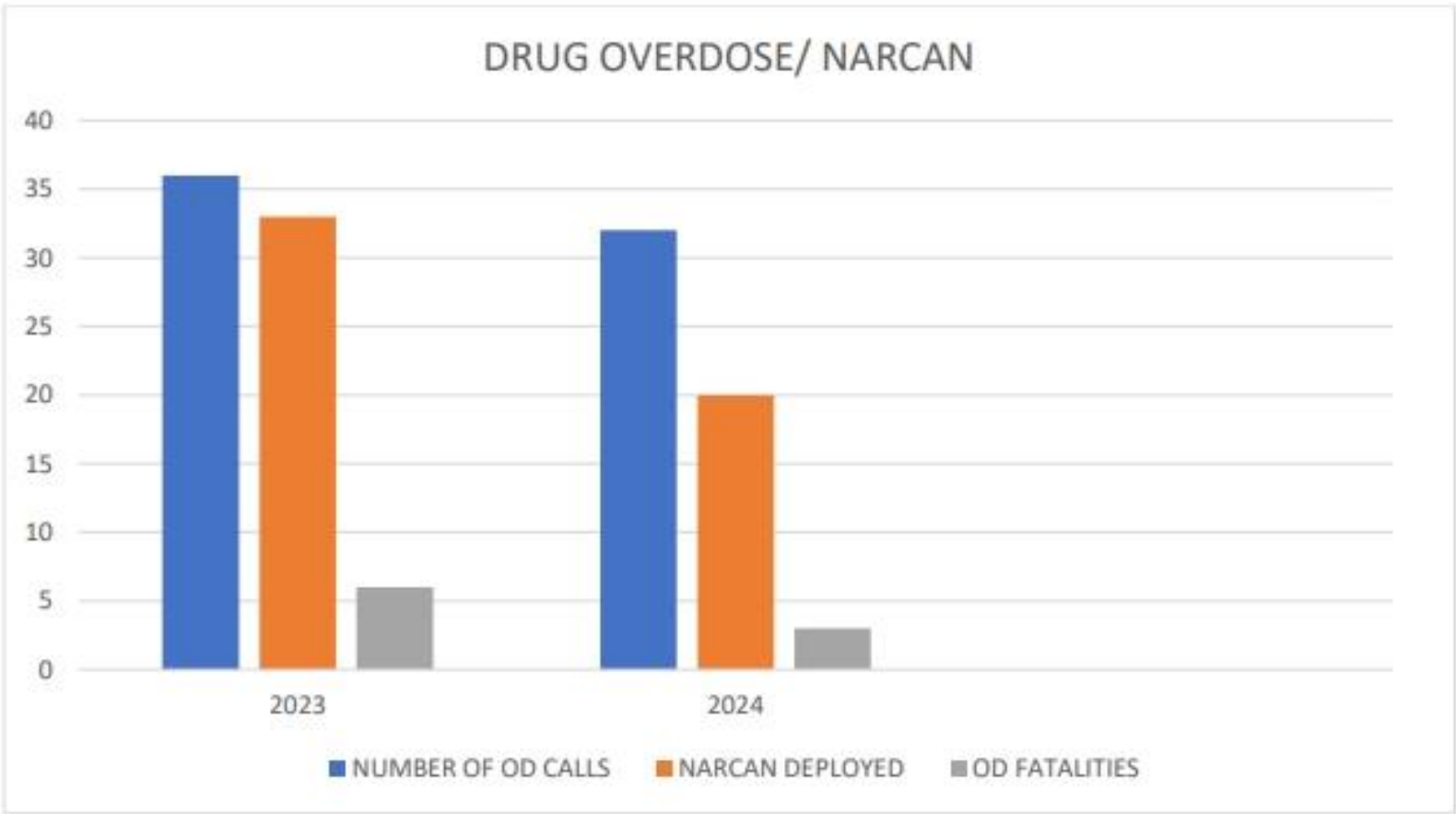
Mental Health Related Calls for Service

Mental Health Calls	
YEAR	TOTAL #
2014	70
2015	83
2016	124
2017	93
2018	94
2019	92
2020	119
2021	167
2022	177
2023	213
2024	205



OPIOID ADDICTION / NARCAN DEPLOYMENT

- All Lawrence Township Police vehicles are equipped with Naloxone (NARCAN) and all officers are trained in the use of Narcan. NARCAN reverses the effects of an opioid overdose and saves lives.
- **In 2024, Lawrence Township Police Officers responded to 32 incidents of drug overdoses.**



YEAR	NUMBER OF OD CALLS	NARCAN DEPLOYED	OD FATALITIES
2023	36	33	6
2024	32	20	3

Class I Officer Training

Elwood Dasher

- Autism 101
- Mental Health First Aid
- Sexual Harassment
- Workplace Diversity
- Trauma Response Team Training
- Innovative Harm Reduction Strategies
- Motivational Interviewing
- The Neuroscience of Addiction
- Advocacy 101 for Black Communities
- Basic Course for Class One SLEO
- Crisis Intervention Training
- Depression and Anxiety in the Perinatal Population
- Elevating Leadership: A Boundaried Up Heart
- Heroes for Hope: Suicide Prevention
- Knock Out Opioid Abuse
- Mindfulness for Recovery Support Professionals
- Mindfulness Training for Addiction Prof
- NIP Attention and Distraction
- Peer Ethics
- PTSD and Substance Use Disorders
- Talking with Voices- Novel Treatment Strategy
- Transforming Addiction
- Trauma Response Team

TRAFFIC

The goal is always to keep Lawrence Township roadways safe.

2023

2024

Total Crash Reports	1194	1239
Injuries	205	246
Pedestrian	18	14
Bicyclist	4	7
Fatalities	2	1
Assist Outside Agency	77	115
Disabled Vehicles	376	417

2025 FLEET & BODY WORN CAMERAS

All uniformed patrol officers while acting in the performance of official duties, as required by N.J.S.A. 40A:14-118.3. This shall include uniformed officers assigned as SLEO's.

60 MONTH PROGRAM (Axon)

Year 3 of 5

\$151,500.00

2025 REQUESTED EXPENSES

- 3 Additional Police Officers
- Fleet & Body Worn Cameras
- Class 1 Officer to assist full-time with follow-up mental health services and act as a secondary responder supporting our Officers and community members with expertise in social work. Immediately starting on support services.
- \$5,500 Police Barricades & Cones. Allows for increase visibility during traffic safety / events / motor vehicles crashes / Natural Disasters and Emergencies.