LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

2026 BUDGET PRESENTATION

KEVIN READING

INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE

POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFFING

During 2025, the police department was staffed with:

63 Full-Time Sworn Police Officers

1 Full-Time SLEO I / Mental Health Coordinator

5 Full-Time SLEO III School Resource Officers

3 Full-Time Records Clerks

1 Full-Time Secretary to the Chief of Police

1 Part-Time Secretary to the Investigation Division

1 Part-Time clerk Firearms Backgrounds

2 Part-Time Property & Evidence Clerks (Digital Evidence / Physical Evidence)

9 Full-Time Dispatchers

- The Lawrence Township Police Department's purpose to protect life and property, preserve the peace, and serve our community with integrity, professionalism, and accountability.

- Our organizational staffing structure is designed to support patrol operations, investigations, traffic safety, community engagement, and administrative oversight. Every division works together toward one common goal — delivering high-quality, responsive police services to the residents of Lawrence Township.

- In 2025 alone, our officers responded to **28,019 calls for service**.

2025 Accomplishments

1. **Successful CAD System Transition**

- The police department successfully transitioned to a new Enforsys Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system.
- The Command staff worked closely with Enforsys teams to build and configure a system tailored specifically to our department's needs.
- The Enforsys staff provided on-site, hands-on training to ensure officers and dispatchers were fully comfortable with the system.
- Our "Go-Live" week in December was very efficient with Enforsys personnel on-site working alongside each squad.
- Through Enforsys NIBRS scoring, officers now spend less time on reporting compliance.
- This was a major operational upgrade completed without disruption to service.

2. **Accreditation**

- We successfully completed departmental accreditation process — Lieutenant Michael Whitmore and Sgt Dylan McClister spent a significant about of time with accreditation demonstrating adherence to best practices, professional standards, and accountability. Accreditation reinforces public confidence and strengthens our internal operations.

3. **Community & Safety Investments**

- Increased inventory of traffic cones and barricades to enhance visibility and safety for our officers and the public at crashes and emergencies.
- Creation of the department's first full-time Mental Health Liaison Elwood Dasher.
- Establishment of a Full-Time Community Policing Officer Na'Air Campbell. (Events & Social Media)
- Successful traffic safety grants: "Put the Phone Away or Pay" and "Move Over for Law Enforcement," which we will continue pursuing in 2026.

Moving into 2026, I am proud to report: **There is a 0% increase from the 2025 budget.**

Capital Expenditure Focus for 2026

Will be on three primary areas:

- **Axon Body Worn Camera Technology & Storage**
- **Artificial Intelligence Tools for Officers**
- **Community Engagement Initiatives**

AXON BODY WORN CAMERA (DRAFT ONE)

Axon's "Draft One" technology allows officers to generate high-quality draft narratives in seconds using auto-transcribed body-worn camera audio.

- Currently:

Officers may spend several hours — sometimes an entire shift — writing reports.

Supervisors must review reports before officers leave duty.

- Draft One:

Uploads body camera audio to secure cloud storage.

Automatically transcribes the audio.

Generates a structured draft narrative within minutes.

Requires officer review, editing, and manual completion before submission.

Cannot be submitted without officer approval.

- The result:

A more standardized, clear, detailed reports that support a more efficient process.

Most importantly — it gives officers time back:

Time for patrol

Time for investigations

Time for training

Time for wellness and rest

Time for community engagement

AXON PUSH-TO-TALK TRANSLATION

- This feature allows officers to communicate instantly in over 50 languages directly through their body camera.
- Languages can be manually selected or auto-detected.
- Translations occur within seconds.
- It improves understanding when a human translator is not immediately available.
- This reduces confusion, increases safety, and builds trust across language barriers.

BLUE VOICE AI ASSISTANT

- Blue Voice is a closed-loop AI legal and policy search tool.

- New Jersey Attorney General Guidelines & Directives
- New Jersey Title 2C
- New Jersey Title 39
- New Jersey Case Law
- Mercer County Prosecutors Office Directives
- Lawrence Township Police Policies & Procedures / Rules & Regulations / Any Memos or Special Orders
- Township Ordinances

An officer in the field can ask a question and receive immediate, policy-based guidance.

- **Benefits:**

- Reduces errors
- Promotes de-escalation
- Improves legal accuracy
- Saves time
- Protects both officers and citizens
- This tool strengthens constitutional policing while improving operational efficiency.

POLICE DEPARTMENT E-BIKES

E-BIKES WILL ENHANCE PATROL OPERATIONS IN:

- TOWNSHIP PARKS
- LAWRENCE HOPEWELL TRAIL
- D&R CANAL PATH
- LARGE COMMUNITY EVENTS (FIREWORKS, MEMORIAL DAY PARADE, COMMUNITY DAY, NATIONAL NIGHT OUT)

CURRENTLY HAVE BICYCLE OFFICERS BUT THE BENEFITS TO E-BIKES ARE:

- ENHANCED PATROL EFFICIENCY AND RANGE
- RAPID RESPONSE WITH REDUCED OFFICER FATIGUE
- MANEUVERABILITY IN CROWDED ENVIRONMENTS
- INCREASED APPROACHABILITY AND COMMUNITY INTERACTION

- In closing the 2026 Police Department budget reflects:
- Fiscal responsibility with a 0% increase
- The Capital expenditures reflect a strategic investment in technology that include enhanced officer efficiency, Increased community engagement, Improved transparency and accountability
- There will be a continued dedication to progressive, responsible policing

Our overall goal for 2026 is simple:

- To provide smarter policing, safer community, and stronger relationships. We will continue to move forward thoughtfully, responsibly, and collaboratively.

Thank you for your time, your continued support, and your partnership in public safety and welcome any questions you may have