

*Moses Lake Police Department*

# **Annual Report**

# 2020



*Professionalism – Integrity – Compassion – Service*

# Department Photo



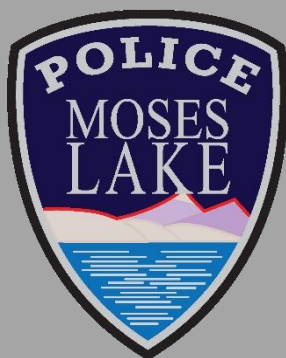
MOSES LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2019

*Professionalism* - with Character and Pride

*Integrity* - with Honesty and Truthfulness

*Compassion* - with Valor and Dedication

*Service* - with Competency and Teamwork



## *Message from the Chief*



As everyone knows, 2020 did not turn out the way that we all expected it to go. Despite the challenges that we faced due to the Coronavirus outbreak, we were able to accomplish many of the goals that we had set for the year. The only way that we accomplished those goals is through the hard work and dedication of the fantastic employees that work for the Moses Lake Police Department.

This past year, on a national level, the law enforcement profession took a hit due to incidents of police misconduct and uses of force. Calls for police reform and defunding were in the news daily, yet in Moses Lake, the outpouring support was ever present. We received encouraging emails, thoughtful letters, and tasty treats from our citizens in appreciation for the great work that our staff gives each and every day. I was humbled to see people coming up to me throughout the city thanking me for my service. Never once did I have anyone make comments about defunding our department.

I am truly honored and blessed to be working in such a caring and compassionate city. I have the fortune of working with the most professional team of men and women, whose only goal is to keep our community a great place to live, work and play. I want to thank all of our caring and compassionate citizens and am looking forward to the great things that will happen in 2021.

*Kevin J. Fuhr*

Moses Lake Police Department





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## Administrative Section

The Moses Lake Police Department is a values based organization which is dedicated to providing professional police services to our community. Our employees live by our Core Values: Professionalism, Integrity, Compassion, and Service. To that end, members of the department will strive to serve the public with honor, dignity and respect.

Despite the challenges of 2020, we were able to accomplish many of the goals that we had set the previous year.

- We were able to retain all of our employees.
- Awarded a Department of Justice COPS Grant to fund two new Street Crimes Detectives and added a third Major Crimes Detective.
- Created two patrol districts in the city to help with response times, better city-wide coverage and to be more proactive with neighborhood patrols.
- Increased our Tactical Response needs by adding two new members and purchasing a new equipment van and Bearcat armored vehicle.
- We also made some equipment and uniform changes for patrol officers and clerical staff.

This coming year we will continue to look for ways to better serve our community, whether it be through personnel, equipment, or technology. We are working towards becoming State Accredited, we need to renew our Moses Lake Police Officer Guild contract and our Moses Lake School District School Resource Officer contract. We will also be creating a new Special Services Sergeant and through the MLPD Guild contract will hopefully be bringing back corporals, which means that we may have up to 8 promotions in 2021.

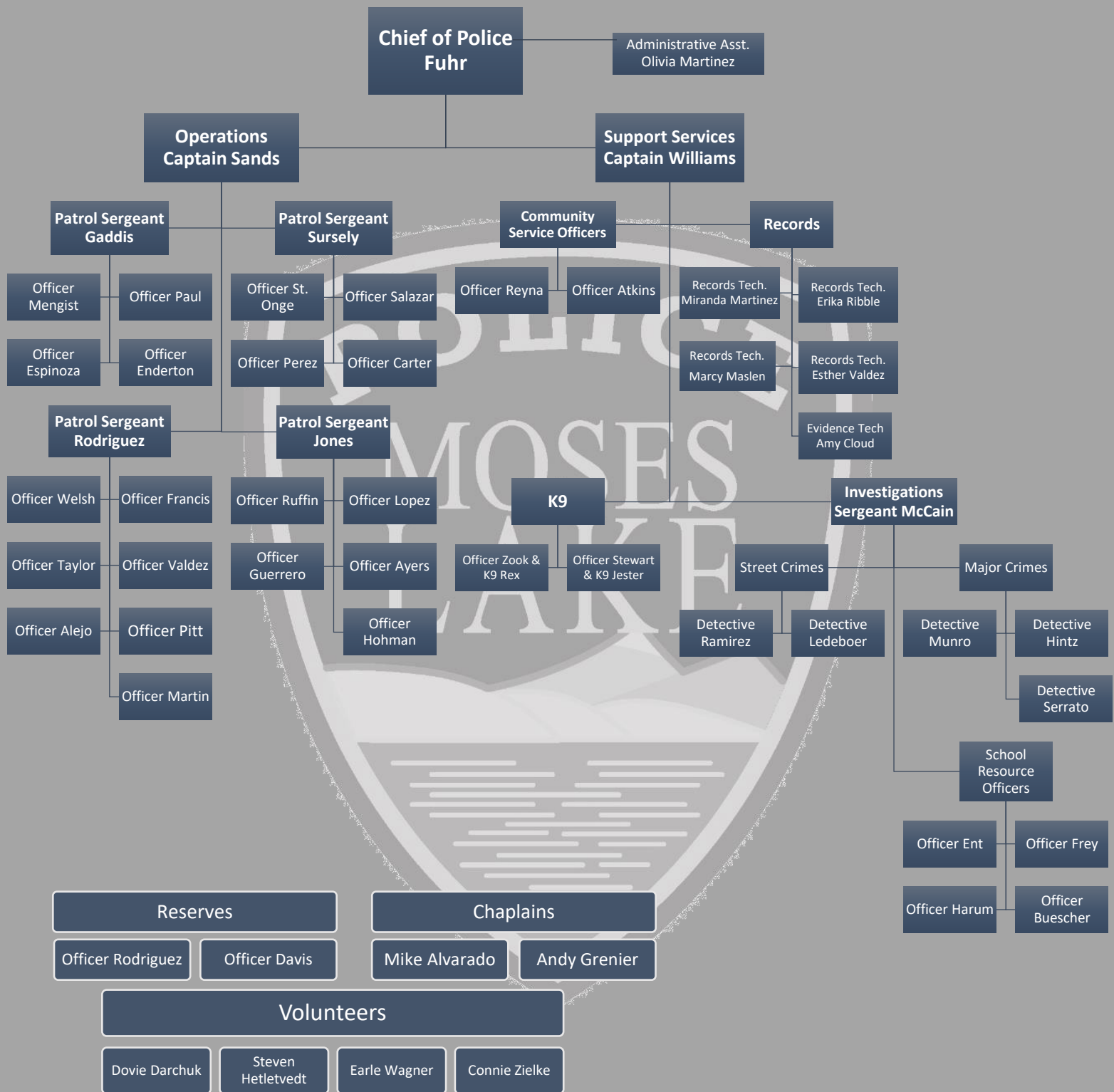
2020 Pursuits, Complaints, & Use of Force	
Pursuits	13
Complaints	11
Use of Force	31



*Olivia Martinez*

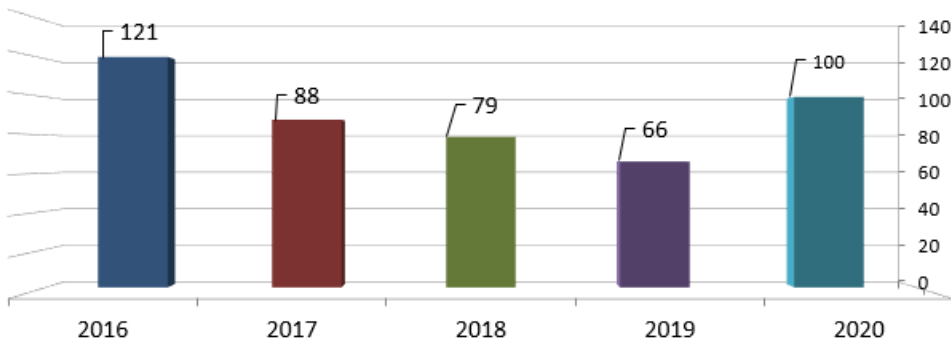
Administrative Assistant

# Organizational Chart



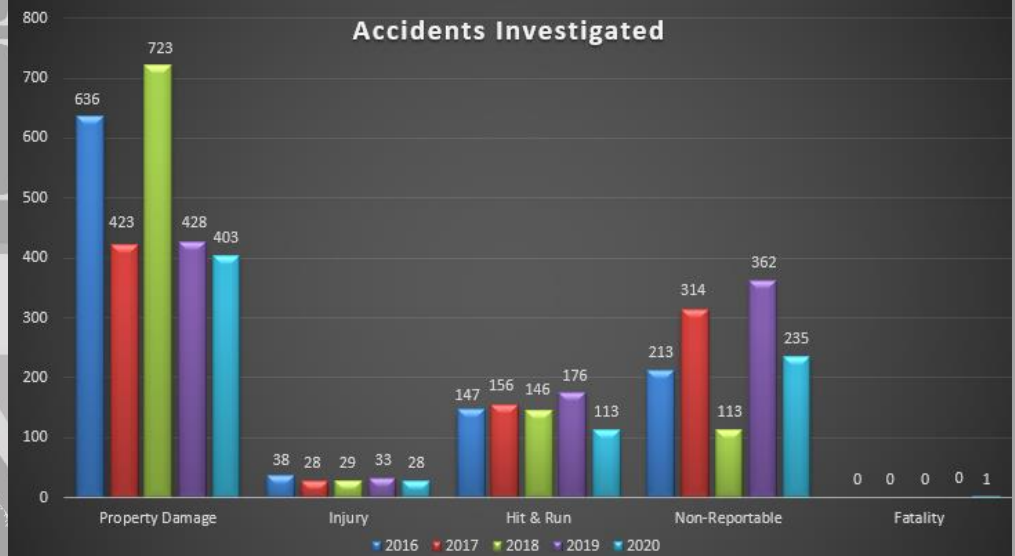
# Department Data and Statistics

## DUI ARREST COMPARISON

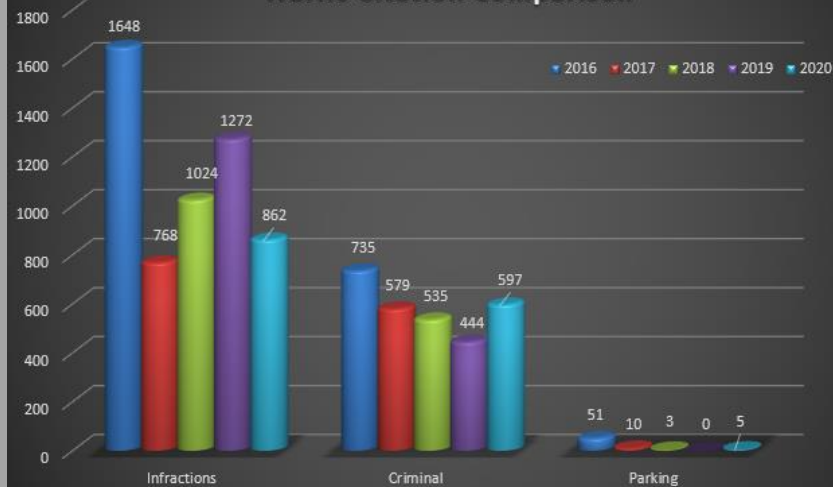


\*Includes both Alcohol & Drugs

## Accidents Investigated



## Traffic Citation Comparison



# Department Data and Statistics

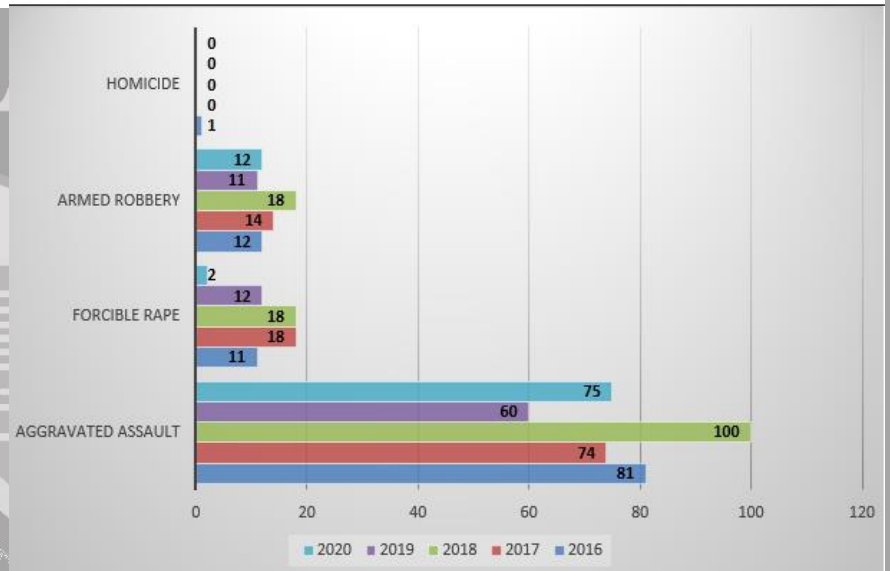
## Major Crimes Comparison

Crime Rate	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Arson	4	2	3	3	5
Aggravated Assault	88	100	60	64	75
Burglary	262	165	178	244	135
Larceny	1010	843	817	1177	689
Mal Mis	513*	388*	492*	487*	460*
Murder	1	0	0	0	0
Rape	11	18	12	12	2
Robbery	12	19	11	10	17
Vehicle Theft	107	90	77	89	85

\*This includes reportable and non-reportable Mal Mis calls.

For 2020 there were 213 reportable Mal Mis and 247 non-reportable calls

## Violent Crime Comparison

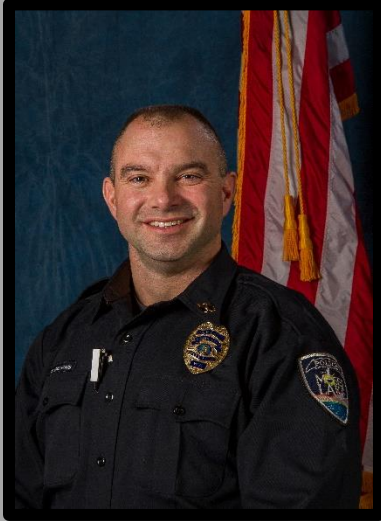


## 2020 Traffic Camera Citations Report

Location	Stratford At Valley		Pioneer Way School Zone		Broadway At Alder	Stratford Rd At Mart Rd		Pioneer Way At Hill St	
Direction	North-bound	South-bound	North-bound	South-bound	East-bound	North-bound	South-bound	North-bound	South-bound
Citations	1587	902	752	1197	234	1289	792	817	1419
Accidents	16		0		17	16		3	



# Support Services Division



*Mike Williams*  
Administrative Captain

The Support Services Division, which is comprised of Investigations and the Records section, provides both specialized and administrative support to the primary police function of the Moses Lake Police Department. While the Operations Division is the most visible division providing our primary service, Support Services generally works behind the scenes assisting officers.

## School Resource Officers

The Moses Lake School District has partnered with the police department to provide four School Resource Officers to provide service to the 8,700 students in the district. While school safety is the paramount concern for these officers, the program promotes diversion and mentorship over enforcement, and counts on the officers to be positive role models for the students.

This school year has been particularly challenging for the SROs, with school schedules drastically altered by the COVID pandemic, but the officers have adapted and strive to provide excellent service to the community and the schools.

Our SROs for this year were Ofc. Joe Frey, Ofc. Joshua Buescher, Ofc. Scott Ent and Ofc. Matt Harum. Ofc. Frey will rotate back to patrol at the conclusion of this school year, and Ofc. Ray Lopez will take his place.

# Support Services Division



*Officer Stewart and  
K9 Chief*

## K9

2020 was a very challenging year for Moses Lake's K9 program. On February 28<sup>th</sup>, K9 Chief and his handler Ofc. Nick Stewart were pursuing a violent robbery suspect when the suspect turned to shoot Ofc. Stewart, instead striking K9 Chief in the eye. Ofc. Stewart returned fire and killed the suspect.

Due to the incredible actions of fellow K9 Handler Brad Zook and local veterinarian Jesyka Morrison, K9 Chief was airlifted to the WSU vet school where he received life-saving treatment. K9 Chief lost his left eye and suffered a fractured jaw, forcing him to retire.



*Officer Zook and  
K9 Rex*

The support our agency received from this incident was nothing short of amazing, as donations poured in for K9 Chief, and an impromptu parade/rally was held when he and Ofc. Stewart returned home, with city residents lining the road from the freeway all the way to the police department.

K9 Chief was sponsored by the national organization Project K9 Hero, which will cover all of his medical and living expenses for the rest of his life. He will live out his retirement with Ofc. Stewart. Fortunately, K9 Chief was insured, so his replacement was covered. In April, Ofc. Stewart obtained K9 Jester, and together they passed certifications, and Jester hit the road in May.

Although the world of COVID has slowed down the number of K9 deployments and community events, both K9 Jester and Ofc. Zook's dog K9 Rex are on the road every day, keeping our community safe.



# *Support Services Division*

## **Investigations**

The Investigations section of the Moses Lake Police Department is separated into two groups, Major Crimes Detectives and Street Crimes Detectives. While there are times the two groups work side by side on cases and are supervised by the same sergeant, in general they have very different duties.

### **Major Crimes**

We currently have one detective sergeant and three detectives assigned to major crimes. These detectives investigate the most serious crimes, including sex crimes, assault and robberies.

This unit is extremely busy investigating 42 sexual assaults, 18 shootings, 7 robberies, 5 suspicious deaths and 14 child porn cases in 2020, in addition to arsons, non-sexual assaults, missing people and major thefts.

Among the significant cases handled this year was a string of violent kidnapping/robberies. Some of these were particularly gruesome, with the suspects using super glue to glue body parts of the victim together, and super gluing their lips together to keep them from crying. After identifying the suspects, detectives attempted to arrest one of the suspects, who fired on officers, striking K9 Chief in the eye. The suspect was killed by return fire.

Additionally, our detectives are members of the Central Basin Investigation Team which investigates officer involved shootings and other major uses of force by law enforcement officers. During 2020, the team assisted several CBIT investigations, including officer involved shootings in Ritzville, Othello and Ephrata. Our detectives did not participate in the MLPD shooting since it involved one of our own officers.

### **Street Crimes**

Street Crimes is currently a two-detective unit that takes a pro-active approach to criminal activity. Their focus is on narcotic trafficking as well as other perpetual crimes. While the below numbers are impressive, in 2020 we received a grant to double the Street Crimes Unit to four, so they will be even more effective moving forward. In 2020, Street Crimes arrested 61 felons and filed charges on a total of 177 suspects, including 11 federal indictments. On top of large quantities of drugs, the detectives also took 21 illegally possessed firearms off the street and seized assets worth nearly \$130,000.



# Support Services Division

## Records

The smiling faces of our records staff are normally the first thing you see when you walk into our office. While the smiles were still there, COVID made 2020 a year of shutting down public buildings and a lack of interaction with the public. Our four records personnel (Marcy Maslen, Miranda Martinez, Erika Ribble and Esther Valdez) are responsible for organizing and moving along the huge number of legal records that are created in the day to day operations of the police department. These employees are responsible for routing cases to the prosecutor's office, processing concealed pistol licenses, firearms transfers, businesses licensing, civil orders, public records requests, animal licenses and a multitude of other data entry tasks. In normal years, the records staff is also very involved in community outreach programs, such as National Night Out.

### Records Section Statistics

Public Records Requests	1244
Concealed Pistol License	276
Pistol Transfers Completed	927
Transcriptions Completed	84
Civil Orders Processed	127
Animal Licenses issued	230
City Licenses Processed / Background checks (Taxi and required business)	53

## Community Service Officers

MLPD has two CSOs, Jim Reyna and Lucky Atkins. These officers work with code enforcement, and quality of life issues. The majority of their time is spent on animal control and abandoned vehicle/parking complaints, as well as RedFlex.

The CSOs stay busy, handling over 1,000 calls between them for the year and issuing 8989 RedFlex tickets. Both these numbers were down for this year due to a number of factors, but primarily because of Covid.



*Officer Atkins and Officer Reyna*



# *Support Services Division*

## **Evidence Tech**

Our Evidence Tech runs and maintains our evidence room. This task involves the organization and storage of thousands of pieces of evidence and property that is taken in by officers. We currently have over 12,767 items of evidence and property that we are storing and tracking. Additionally, the evidence tech is responsible for the drug take back bin in the front lobby of the police department, which takes in an amazing amount of expired drugs and these drugs are destroyed in the incinerator. Our Evidence Tech, Amy Cloud, left the police department at the end of 2020 to work in a family business and raise her baby boy. We have tested for her replacement, and hope to have a replacement soon. One of the first tasks when the position is filled will be to conduct a full audit of the property room, putting hands on every piece of evidence that we currently have, and making sure the records are current.

## **Reserves**

Our reserve program consists of volunteer officers who donate their time to supplement our patrol officers. This has been a wildly successful program over the years, with reserve officers providing tens of thousands of hours to supplement our fulltime staff. Additionally, five of our current officers served as reserves before being hired full-time. This supplemental manpower has been crucial with large community events like Spring Fest and National Night Out.

We have an authorized staffing level of 15 officers, but currently only have two active reserves. This has been partly because the Grant County Reserve Academy has not been run in the last couple of years. We are exploring alternate possibilities including hosting the Academy ourselves moving forward.

Our current officers are Rick Rodriguez and Matt Davis. Rick works for the city as a full-time code enforcement officer and has been a reserve with us for over 20 years. Matt is head of security at Samaritan Hospital when not working as a reserve.

# *Support Services Division*

## **Volunteers**

### **Records Volunteers**

We have been lucky to have a robust volunteer program over the years. These volunteers put in many hours and help us stay on top of the paperwork we have to deal with. In 2020, due to COVID, we had much less for the volunteers to do than in previous years, but they still donated nearly 400 hours.

We currently have four volunteers, two that help with filing records and two that help with fingerprints. Connie Zielke and Dovie Darchuck have been instrumental in helping the records staff with filing and organization in the office.

Steven Heltetvedt and Earle Wagner have helped immeasurably with the backlog of concealed pistol licenses and businesses licenses that accumulated during the worst of the COVID pandemic when we were shut down. This is a vital service to the public and we would have struggled to meet the needs without their help.



### **Chaplains**

Chaplains are a vital part of our department. Not only do our Chaplains respond to assist with members of our community who are experiencing crisis, they are available at all hours for our own officers who need them. We are trying to expand and grow our program, our current two Chaplains are Mike Alvarado and Andy Grenier.



# Operations Division



*Dave Sands*  
Operations Captain

In 2020, the Operations section was comprised of all patrol officers and our Moses Lake Regional Tactical Response Team.

## **Patrol**

In 2020 patrol had 22 officers initially assigned into four shifts, not so creatively named, A, B, C, and D crews, working four 12-hour shifts. However, like everything else, COVID had an affect on patrol as well, only in this case it was positive. Beginning in April, we assigned our four School Resource Officers to the patrol shifts to bolster their number and put more officers out patrolling the streets of Moses Lake.

With the additional personnel assigned to patrol, it was a perfect opportunity to implement patrol districts. It has not been lost on us that the city is built around a lake, which can make responses to calls interesting at times. With that in mind, we split the city into two districts, North and South, and asked our sergeants to note what was working and what was not. In the end the information indicated we needed at least five officers on the road to be able to effectively work these districts. This allows for two in each district and a rover in case one of the district officers gets tied up on an arrest or investigation. At times, this can break down depending on call volume and case type making at least six officers on patrol the optimum number for districting, but we will still work districts with five officers scheduled.

## **Moses Lake Regional Tactical Response Team**

The Moses Lake Regional Tactical Response Team (TRT) is currently comprised of officers and deputies from the Moses Lake Police Department, Grant County Sheriff's Office, Adams County Sheriff's Office, and the Quincy Police Department. This team responds to high-risk incidents that require special equipment or tactics not available to a regular patrol officer or deputy. This equipment, such as armored vehicles, allows the team to mitigate some of the risks to officers and others during these incidents.

The team saw significant growth, both in personnel and equipment in 2020. Member agencies added a total of six officers to the team bringing the total number to 18. Two of the additional officers are also K-9 handlers, which added some four-legged capabilities to the team. Moses Lake added two vehicles to the team this year, an armored Bearcat and a reliable equipment van. With the armor from the Grant County Sheriff's Office, the team now has three vehicles that can be used to move the team or conduct rescues much more safely than in an unarmored car.

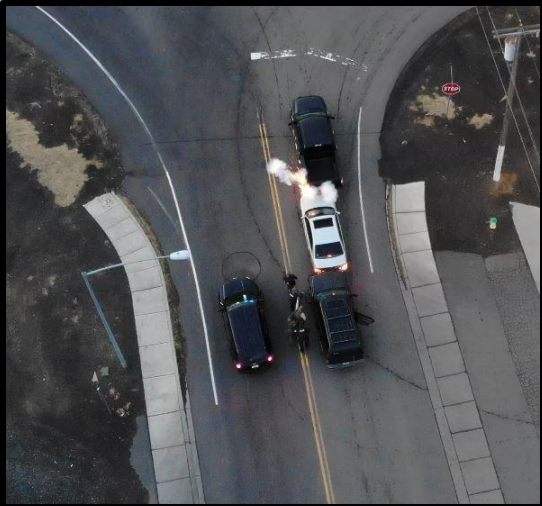
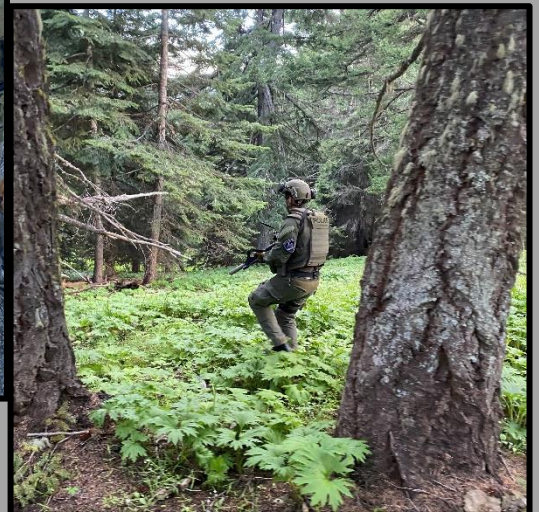
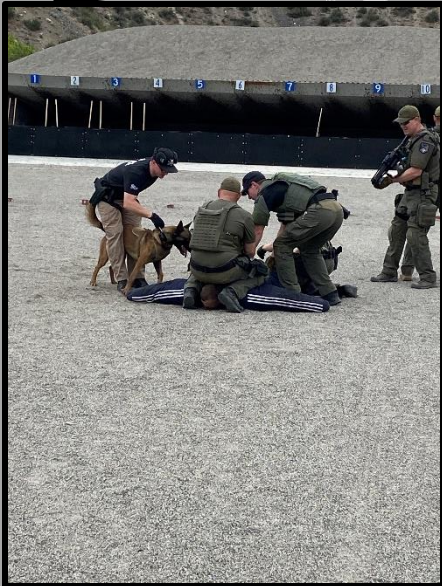
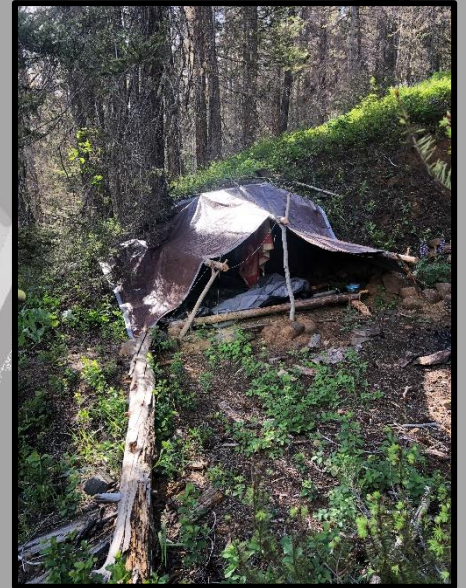
In 2020, the TRT activated and responded to 14 different incidents. There were two others the team activated for, but fortunately were resolved before the team deployed. Two notable callouts included:

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, Kittitas County requested the team assist with their manhunt for a homicide suspect in the Blewett Pass area. TRT conducted a K-9 track up and down the sides of mountains, where even their ATVs struggled to go. TRT did locate one of the suspect's campsites, and while the track was unsuccessful, it was discovered later they had been very close. Operating in the mountains was a unique experience for the team and pointed out some training needs. This callout would lead to other missions working with the Kittitas County tactical team. The suspect was arrested two weeks later.

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, TRT was requested to assist the Interagency Narcotics Enforcement Team to apprehend a suspected armed drug dealer in the Royal City area. The suspect had been threatening clients over drug debts and had been recently using his own product. This deployment had a lot of working parts including the use of Grant County Sheriff's Office UAS (drones) and some new tactics. There was some concern about trying to arrest the suspect at his residence, so TRT waited for the suspect to leave, tracked the car with drones, and used several unmarked cars to box the suspect in to keep him from fleeing. The tactics worked exactly as planned and the suspect was taken into custody before he knew what happened and without any injury to anyone involved.



# Moses Lake Regional Tactical Response Team





# Awards



*Tyler St. Onge*  
Life Saving Award



*Matt Harum, Omar Ramirez, Adam Munro, Kyle McCain, Josh Buescher & Curt Ledebor*  
Unit Citation Award



*Edmund Guerrero*  
Life Saving Award



*Travis Ruffin*  
Life Saving Award



*Ray Lopez, Mitch Hohman, Colton Ayers & Travis Ruffin*  
Meritorious Service & Exceptional Service Awards



*Jeff Sursely*  
Life Saving and Unit Citation Awards

# Awards



*Jose Perez & Tyler St. Onge*  
Unit Citation Award



*Joe Frey, Matt Harum &  
Josh Buescher*  
Unit Citation, Meritorious  
Service and Exceptional Service



*Juan Serrato*  
Unit Citation Award



*Erika Ribble*  
Exceptional Service Award



*Scott Ent*  
Unit Citation Award

*Juan Rodriguez* Unit Citation

**Not Pictured:**  
*Edgar Salazar:* Life Saving & Unit Citation Awards



# Years of Service

## 25+ Years of Service

Jimmy Reyna, <i>CSO</i>	34 years
Dean Gaddis, <i>Sergeant</i>	33 years
Kevin Fuhr, <i>Chief</i>	28 years
Dave Sands, <i>Captain</i>	28 years
Joe Frey, <i>Officer</i>	25 years
Mike Williams, <i>Captain</i>	25 years

## 20+ Years of Service

Jeff Sursely, <i>Sergeant</i>	23 years
Marcy Maslen, <i>Records Tech.</i>	23 years
Brian Jones, <i>Sergeant</i>	22 years

## 15+ Years of Service

Ray Lopez, <i>Officer</i>	19 years
Juan Rodriguez, <i>Sergeant</i>	18 years
Kyle McCain, <i>Sergeant</i>	14 years

## 10+ Years of Service

Aaron Hintz, <i>Detective</i>	14 years
Chuck Paul, <i>Officer</i>	13 years
Scott Ent, <i>Officer</i>	12 years
Juan Serrato, <i>Officer</i>	12 years
Lucky Atkins, <i>CSO</i>	12 years
Matt Harum, <i>Officer</i>	11 years
Adam Munro, <i>Detective</i>	10 years
Curt Ledeboer, <i>Detective</i>	10 years
Josh Buescher, <i>Officer</i>	10 years

## 5+ Years of Service

Nick Stewart, <i>K9 Officer</i>	8 years
Joaquin Espinoza, <i>Officer</i>	8 years
Bradley Zook, <i>K9 Officer</i>	8 years
Olivia Martinez, <i>Admin. Asst.</i>	7 years
Caleb Welsh, <i>Officer</i>	7 years
Travis Ruffin, <i>Officer</i>	6 years
Erika Ribble, <i>Records Tech</i>	6 years
Tyler St. Onge, <i>Officer</i>	5 years
Edgar Salazar, <i>Officer</i>	5 years
Omar Ramirez, <i>Detective</i>	5 years

## Under 5 Years of Service

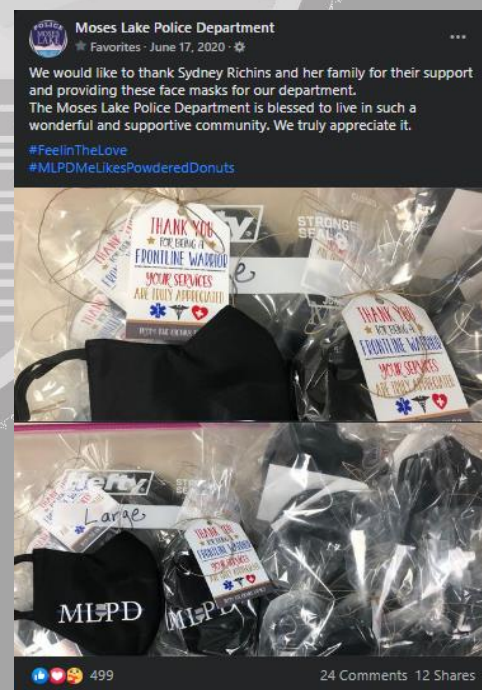
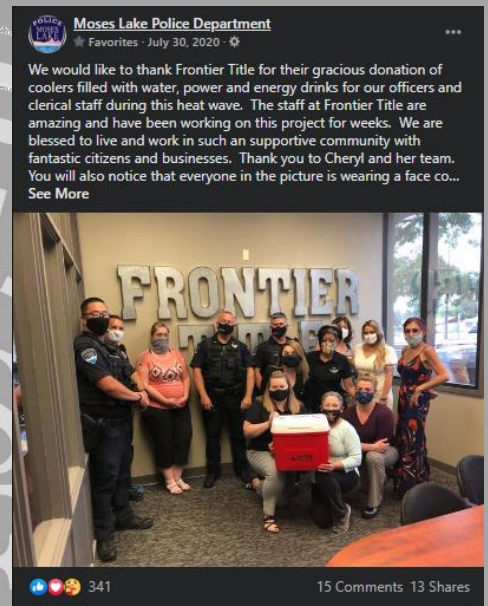
Amy Cloud, <i>Evidence Tech.</i>	4 years
Miranda Martinez, <i>Records Tech.</i>	4 years
Rudy Valdez, <i>Officer</i>	3 years
Yonatan Mengist, <i>Officer</i>	3 years
Colton Ayers, <i>Officer</i>	3 years
Edmund Guerrero, <i>Officer</i>	2 years
Todd Taylor, <i>Officer</i>	2 years
Mitch Hohman, <i>Officer</i>	2 years
Joseph Enderton, <i>Officer</i>	2 years
Caitlin Carter, <i>Officer</i>	1 year
Jose Perez, <i>Officer</i>	1 year
Esther Valdez, <i>Records Tech.</i>	1 year
Chase Pitt, <i>Officer</i>	1 year
Roland Alejo, <i>Officer</i>	1 year
Caleb Martin, <i>Officer</i>	New hire

*\*Years of Service as of  
December 31, 2020*



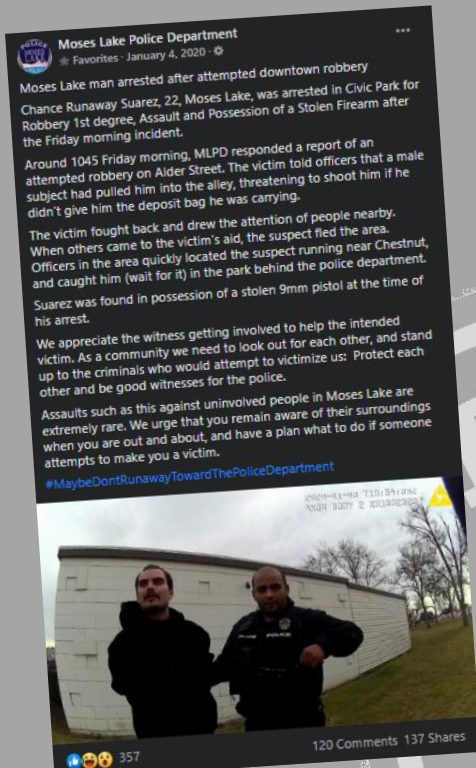
# Community Support

As we all know 2020 was quite the year. We appreciate all the support we received from our community during this challenging time.





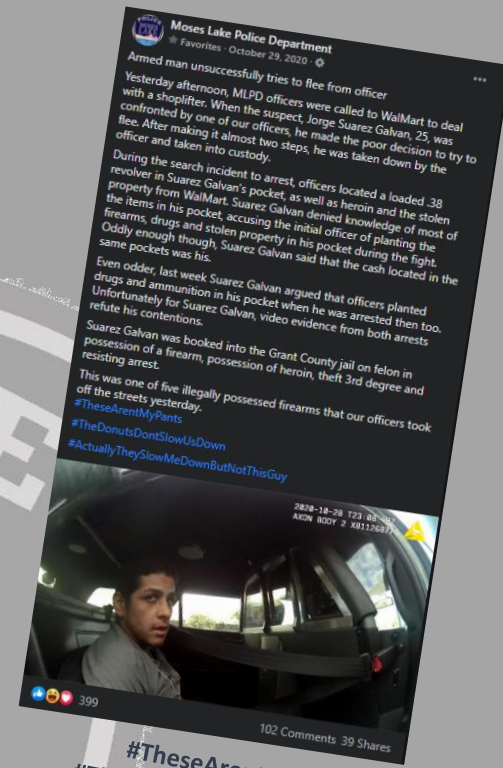
# Social Media



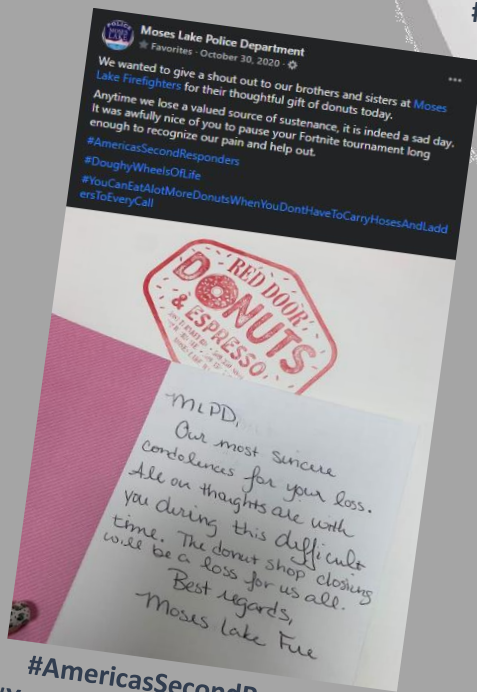
#MaybeDontRunaway  
TowardThePoliceDepartment



#MaybeHeWasJustSociallyDistancingHimselfFromTheCops  
#ItsLikeDukesOfHazzardBlindfolded



#TheseArentMyPants  
#TheDonutsDontSlowUsDown  
#ActuallyTheySlowMeDownButNotThisGuy



#AmericasSecondResponders  
#YouCanEatAlotMoreDonutsWhen  
YouDontHaveToCarryHosesAndLaddersToEveryCall



#CoffeelsLegalMeth

## *Contact Information*

**Our Department is located at:**

**411 South Balsam St.**

**P.O. Box #1579**

**Moses Lake, WA 98837**

**Phone: (509) 764-3887**

**Fax: (509) 764-3919**

**City of Moses Lake Website**

**[www.cityofml.com](http://www.cityofml.com)**

**Crime Reports Website**

**[www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com)**

**Emergency 911**

**Non- Emergency MACC Dispatch (509) 762-1160**