

Coalinga Police Department 2023

ANNUAL REPORT



By Police Chief Jose V. Garza

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Coalinga Police Department

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to maintain peace and order through the provision of police services that are of the highest quality and responsive to the needs of the community. We will contribute to the safety and security of the community by apprehending those who commit criminal acts, by developing partnerships to prevent, reduce, or eliminate neighborhood problems by providing police services that are fair, unbiased, judicious, and respectful of the dignity of all individuals.

VALUES STATEMENT

Dedication to timely, excellent, and efficient service to the community.

Honest and ethical behavior by the members of this agency.

Having the upmost integrity and professionalism for the position in which we hold.

Using innovative, creative, and proactive approaches in meeting the demands of crime prevention and law enforcement responsibilities.

Engaging in strategic and future planning and to keep abreast of the latest in law enforcement technology and techniques.

Sensitivity is the key quality that we should bring to our interaction with the public and other agencies in the criminal justice system with whom we interact with.

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Greetings Coalinga Citizens, Leaders, and Business Owners,

It has been such an honor and privilege serving the citizens of Coalinga and leading the men and women of the Coalinga Police Department (CPD). I am proud to announce that we ended 2023 with a reduction of crime by 15%, compared to an increase of 17% of crime at the end of 2022. The 15% decrease equates to 49 less people victimized in our City. It is the goal of this Department to further reduce the number of people victimized in 2024. In addition, we went beyond our expectations in meeting the goals we set for 2023. We completed Phases 2 through 5 of our Community Video Policing Program (CVPP), which involved the installation of surveillance cameras and license plate captures at 10 specific locations in the City. This was made possible by funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative grant, California Intergovernmental Risk Authority, and State funds from Senator Anna Caballero.

In addition, on October 1, 2023, we were awarded a grant from the Board of State and Community Corrections Organized Retail Theft (BSCC-ORT), which will fund additional two officers through 2027, and help complete Phase 6 of our Community Video Policing Program by adding an additional 36 cameras and license plate captures at specific locations in the City. This financial support from these organizations totaled approximately 2 million dollars towards public safety. The reduction of crime could not be possible without the hard work of the men and women of the Coalinga Police Department and the support of the community, and local leaders. Please refer to the State of the Department statement on the next page, which will clarify the Department's direction, problem solving strategies used to reduce crime, accomplishments, and the subgoals for year 2024.

We ended 2023 with a safer community. However, to keep the momentum going, we need to continue to work together to make our community safer for our families. We need your help, and you can help in several ways. For example, report crime when it occurs, provide any camera footage that captures the suspect (s) committing the crime, and be a good witness. The majority of the criminals arrested are residents of our community. These criminals have countless free programs to help them change their behavior if they choose to. We can only hope the message below posted in the holding facility of the Police Department is read and taken to heart by our resident criminals. Thank you for your continued guidance and support.

Chief's Message to the Criminals in our Community

To the violent gang members, drug dealers, pedophiles, and career thieves preying on our citizens. You are not welcome in our City if you continue to victimize our citizens. The Police Department, in partnership with the citizens of Coalinga, will hold you accountable for your actions. We will do everything under the law to stop and arrest you and displace you if we could from our city limits. It is up to "YOU"-you have a choice, stop victimizing our citizens and become a productive citizen of our community, leave our City, or go to jail, no exceptions.

Respectfully,

Jose V. Garza
Chief of Police

STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT

The State of the Department is heading in the right direction, which will further enhance police services and public safety in the City of Coalinga. This past year 2023, we received approximately 2 million dollars from grants, which will fund two additional officers through 2027, and help complete Phase 6 of our Community Video Policing Program by adding an additional 36 cameras and license plate captures at specific locations in the City. The two additional sworn officer positions will allow the Department to have 24 sworn officers, a staffing level of sworn officers never seen in the City of Coalinga. The ratio of 24 officers is approximately 1.7 officers per 1000 population, which is where we need to remain for the population we serve. It has been my experience that 1.7 to 2.0 sworn officers per 1000 population is a goal that law enforcement agencies strive to achieve, to optimize police services, increase proactivity, and enhance community-police partnerships.

In the 2022 Annual Report, three overarching goals were created through an assessment process to identify how the Department can serve the citizens of Coalinga and reduce crime. These overarching goals will be used as the foundation for the annual report to update the Department's direction, problem solving strategies used to reduce crime, strategies to enhance community trust, and accomplishments for each of the overarching goals. I end the State of the Department with year 2024 subgoals that the Department will strive to achieve each day throughout the next year.

Goal 1: Lead and Build the Department

The Coalinga Police Department is a full-service law enforcement agency conducting operations 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Police Department provides primary 911 Police Dispatch responsibilities for the City of Coalinga. The Police Department is divided into two Divisions- Support Services and Operations. Support Services Division consists of 911 dispatch center, records, training, holding facility, fleet services, and scheduling. The Operations Division consists of patrol, investigations, field training, reserves, auditing cannabis facilities, animal control, and property and evidence. Commander Sean Young currently oversees both divisions. My goal as the community grows is to add another commander so we can increase each division's efficiency and effectiveness.

The adopted annual budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023/2024 was \$4,233,871, which funded 22 sworn officers and 10 non-sworn civilians. However, we were challenged in filling the allocated sworn officers' positions due to two sergeants retiring. The Department promoted two corporals to the rank of sergeant, but we were then left with two corporal vacancies. At the end of 2023, we had 19 sworn officer positions filled. We currently have candidates in the background so we are optimistic that the positions will be filled in the year 2024.

Accomplishments:

The strong advocacy of the City Manager Marissa Trejo, support of the Coalinga City Council, and the funds from the BSCC-ORT will increase sworn officer's levels never seen in the City of Coalinga. The added staffing will allow the Department to have a minimum of 16 patrol officers assigned to patrol and create a Detective Unit. In addition, the funding will add two plain vehicles to our fleet, along with additional computers and large TV monitors for dispatch, officers, and detectives to monitor.

Goal 2: Reduce Crime

We ended 2023 with a safer community but to keep the momentum, we need to continue to work together and hold these criminals accountable for their actions. Prior to implementing the Community Video Policing Program in the City of Coalinga, the Department was solely dependent on camera footage from businesses or residents to help investigate crime after it occurred. We implemented Community Video Policing Program to enhance the safety of our residents and businesses, which had a significant impact on reduction of crimes in the City.

We understand Coalinga residents might have privacy concerns in the Department's use of surveillance cameras and license plate captures in the City. The grants we received required our agency to have a policy in place on the uses of a surveillance system, which we have under Policy 338-Public Safety Video Surveillance System (refer to City of Coalinga website, Police Departments policies for further details on policy 338). The following Policy 338.2 reads:

The Coalinga Police Department operates a public safety video surveillance system to complement its anti-crime strategy, to effectively allocate and deploy personnel, and to enhance public safety and security in public areas. Cameras may be placed in strategic locations throughout the City to detect and deter crime, to help safeguard against potential threats to the public, to help manage emergency response situations during natural and man-made disasters and to assist City officials in providing services to the community.

Video surveillance in public areas will be conducted in a legal and ethical manner while recognizing and protecting constitutional standards of privacy.

Accomplishments:

In January 2023, funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative allowed the department to complete Phases 2 to 5 of our Community Video Policing Program (CVPP), which added additional cameras and license plate captures at 6 locations. The cameras and license plate captures installed at 10 locations in the City have already had a positive impact in aiding the department in investigations to reduce crime. On October 1, 2023, we were awarded a grant from the Board of State and Community Corrections Organized Retail Theft, which will fund additional two officers through 2027, and help complete Phase 6 of our Community Video Policing Program, which will add an additional 36 cameras and license plate captures at specific locations in the City.

Unfortunately, we did not meet one goal for 2023. Goal 4 was to create a new "homeowner" ordinance, which holds owners accountable to stop criminal activity occurring in their homes by family members who may be involved in illegal activity (e.g., gangs, drugs), or face a stiff fine. The goal was not completed due to state restrictions implemented by the Governor of California.

Goal 3: Build Community Trust

On August 30, 2023, the Department hosted the first Police Chief's Advisory Board (CAB) meeting, which is comprised of Council District representatives, school officials, managers, business owners, and community members. The purpose of the Board is to provide feedback on proposed police programs and priorities, along with being a sounding board for the Department on how we can

address issues of concern and improve our services. In addition, the Council's committees on Animal Control and Beautification were added under the umbrella of the Chief's Advisory Board. At our last meeting in December 2023, members made recommendations on what they would like the Department to address in the year 2024, which were added to 2024 subgoals.

Accomplishments: In building community trust, The Police Department continues to be fully immersed in the development of community-police partnerships. In 2023, we positively engaged the community at numerous events, such as Mardi Gras, Autism Awareness Walk, Annual Horn Toad Parade/Carnival, Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk for Treats, Christmas Parade, and Christmas Gifts Give Away. In addition, in the month of October, we launched Cop-tober every Saturday and who can forget dunking Commander Sean Young and officers in the water tank at National Night Out. These events have enhanced community trust with Coalinga Police Department employees.

We will continue to work on these three overarching goals and expand our work to accomplish the following 2024 subgoals with your continued guidance and support.

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2024

Below are the subgoals that fall under the respective overarching goals that will be accomplished in 2024.

Goal 1: Lead and Build the Department

Subgoal 1a: Hire additional officers and create a Detective Unit.

Goal 2: Reduce Crime

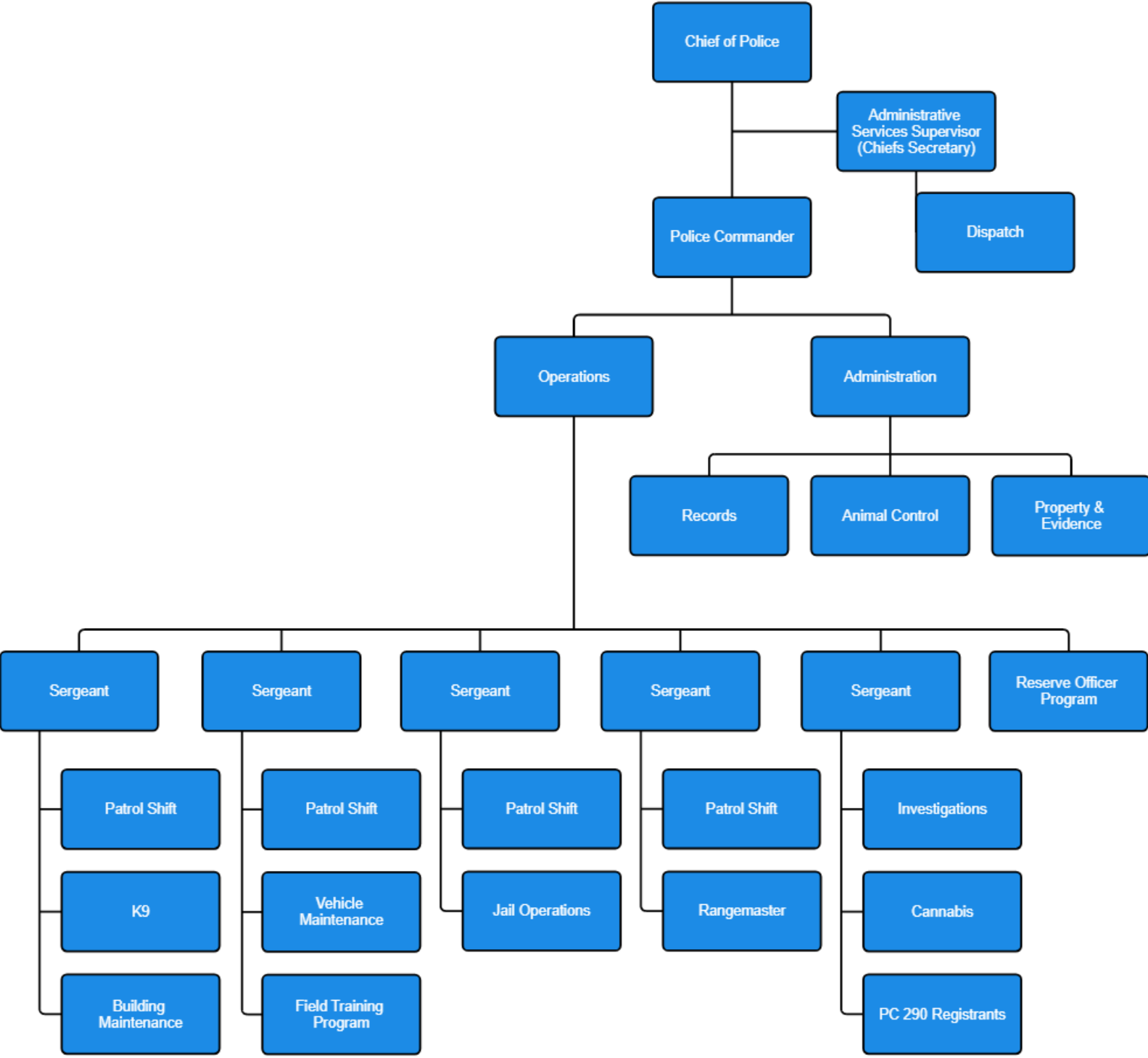
Subgoal 2a: Complete Phase 6 of the Community Video Policing Program by installing 36 new video surveillance cameras and monitoring equipment.

Subgoal 2b: Implement Year 1 of the BSCC-ORT grant, which includes developing and implementing an evaluation plan of process and outcome measures, specific to the goals of the grant for the next three years, and forming a coalition of Retailers and installing 50 Hide/Lock/Take vehicle theft prevention signs in Retailers parking lots. (refer to city website on adoption of the Agreement on October 5, 2023).

Goal 3: Build Community Trust

Subgoal 3a: Address the Police Chief's Advisory Board members' recommendations, such as increase traffic safety around the schools, especially in the morning, decrease the number of vehicles, and off-road vehicles speeding on city streets, decrease homeless trespassing on private property, and increase proactive patrolling of city streets.

COALINGA POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2023 Staffing Levels – 31 Positions

**Sworn Staff: 19 Full Time
1 Part Time Sworn**

1	Chief of Police
1	Police Commander
5	Police Sergeants
2	Police Corporals
10	Police Officers
1	Vacant Reserve Police Officer

**Professional Staff: 8 Full Time
3 Part-Time**

1	Administrative Services Supervisor
7	Police Technicians 5 – Dispatchers 1 – Records Clerk 1 – Evidence Technician
1	Part Time Animal Control Officer
1	Part Time Police Technician
1	Vacant Part Time Police Technician

Uniform Crime Report Statistics

The Uniform Crime Report (UCR) is the oldest measure of crime reporting in the United States. Developed in the 1920s by the FBI, the report receives its data from victims' reports of crime to law enforcement. There are 7 Part 1 Crimes in the Uniform Crime Report (Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Assault, Burglary, Larceny and Auto Theft), which are mandated reporting to the Department of Justice each month by all Law Enforcement agencies. Law Enforcement agencies use month to month and year to year analysis to predict crime trends.

By the end of 2023, Part 1 Crimes decreased by 15%, which meant we had 49 less people victimized in the City of Coalinga, compared to an increase of 17% of crime at the end of 2022. According to the Month to Month and Year to Year Table of Part 1 Crimes below, there was an increase in Rapes and Auto Thefts, and a decrease in Robbery and Burglary in 2023.

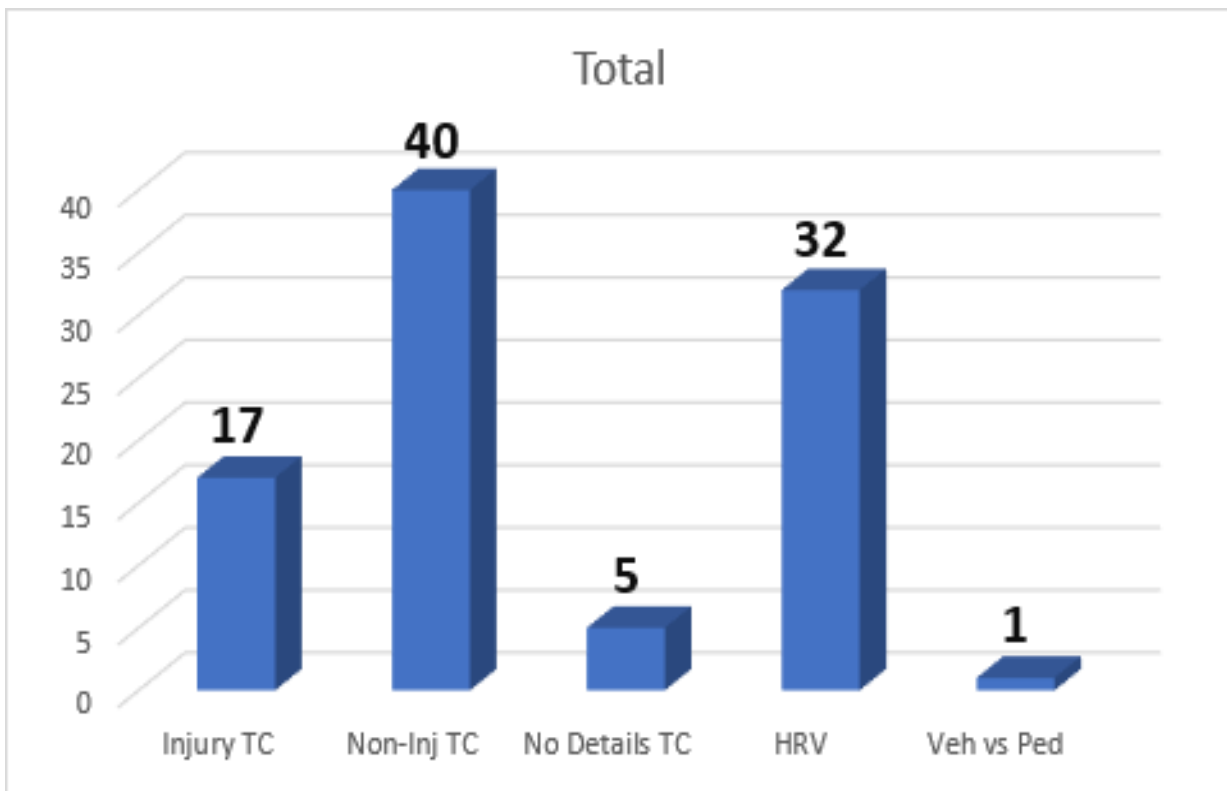
PART 1 CRIMES						
	Last DEC	This DEC	% CHANGE	YTD 2022	YTD 2023	% CHANGE
HOMICIDE	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
RAPE	0	1	100%	4	7	75%
ROBBERY	1	0	-100%	6	3	-50%
ASSAULT	9	10	11%	165	141	-15%
BURGLARY	3	0	-100%	55	18	-67%
LARCENY	7	5	-29%	85	90	6%
AUTO THEFT	3	1	-100%	10	18	80%
TOTAL PART ONE	23	17	-26%	325	277	-15%

Calls for Service Statistics:

The best way to analyze the activity of the Police Department is using raw calls for service data. This data shows both activities generated by the public and by patrol. In 2023, the Police Department handled 15,564 Calls for Service (CFS) compared to 2022, the Police Department handled 13,704 CFS, which is a 13.6 % increase in calls for service in 2023.

Traffic Accident Statistics:

The Coalinga Police Department is responsible for traffic enforcement for the City of Coalinga. In 2023, the Department responded to 95 traffic accidents that occurred in the city.



Animal Control Statistics

Gimme Love, a non-profit organization, is responsible for the care and welfare of the animal shelter in the City of Coalinga. The Police Department uniform patrol officers responded to 208 animal complaints and wrote 20 reports in 2023.

Gimme Love's 2023 Intake Statistics:

Total Dogs 610

Owner surrender 184
Stray 414
Impound 12
Return to owner 114
Rescue 452
Adopt 44
Deceased 5

Total Cats 300

Stray 300
Owner surrender 26
Impound 16
Adopt 20
Return to owner 3
Rescue 253
Deceased 65

1 Rabbit adopted
1 Chinchilla adopted
1 Pig returned to owner
Total intake: 955

Canine Program

The City of Coalinga has two K9 Handlers, Sergeant Damian Sparks and his K9 Boss and Corporal David Cano and his K9 Nitro.

K9 Boss went in service in late June of 2023 and had 8- Apprehension Deployments, 6-surrenders, 0-contacts (bites), and 2-searches with no finds.

In addition, K9 Boss had 20 -Narcotics Detection Deployments, 15 finds, and 5 alerts with no finds (odor is there even if narcotics are not). Over ½ pound of illegal narcotics such as crystal methamphetamine, cocaine, fentanyl and or narcotic paraphernalia seized 288.2 grams of illegal

narcotics and due to K9 Boss' positive alerts for narcotics, two firearms were located and seized.

K9 Nitro had 9-Narcotics Detection Deployments, - 9 alerts and approximately 16 grams of methamphetamine seized.

Press Releases

In 2023, the Coalinga Police Department sent out 20 Press Releases. The following are two Notable Cases:

Firearm and Narcotics Recovered in Search Warrant

On March 28, 2023, officers of the Coalinga Police Department, with the assistance of the Crisis Response Team from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Avenal Police Department and Huron Police Department served a search warrant at 6 different locations within the City of Coalinga. The search warrant was related to the shooting that took place on the evening of February 14th, 2023, at Keck Park. The locations include residences and apartments in the 100 block of South Princeton, 300 block of Adams, 300 block of East Polk, 400 block of East Polk, 700 block of North Coalinga, and the 100 block of East Cherry.

As a result of the search warrant, a pistol, with the serial numbers scratched off and a high-capacity magazine, ammunition, narcotics, narcotics paraphernalia, and gang indicia were recovered. Coalinga residents Daniel Solorio, Kevin Hernandez and Julian Perez-Reynosa were all arrested for charges including Attempted Murder, Conspiracy to Commit Murder, Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Accessory and Criminal Street Gang Members in Possession of Firearms.

Off-Road Vehicle Concerns

The Police Department has been receiving several calls and complaints regarding off-road vehicles driving on the city streets, and many times driving in a reckless manner. The Police Department would like to remind community members taking part in such activity, that it is illegal to operate off-road vehicles on city streets. Any vehicle operated on a city street / highway / freeway must comply with the California Vehicle Code, specifically equipment, registration, insurance, and licensing sections. Parents need to understand that they are just as liable as their children are when allowing them to ride their off-road vehicles on the roadway and can be cited for allowing such actions.

The Police Department will continue to try to enforce the various vehicle code violations when it comes to off-road vehicles. Unfortunately, this will, at times, result in vehicles being towed for those riding them without a valid driver's license, and citations being issued to those not properly equipped to be on city streets and those not properly registered or insured. The Police Department is asking you to ride safely, responsibly, and within the laws of the California Vehicle Code.