

# Coalinga Police Department 2024

## ANNUAL REPORT



By Police Chief Jose V. Garza

## Table of Contents

Department's Mission and Value Statement.....	3
Chief's Message .....	4
State of the Department .....	5-7
Organizational Chart.....	8
Staffing levels.....	9
Uniform Crime Report.....	10
Calls for Service Statistics.....	11
Traffic Accident Statistics.....	11
Animal Control Officer/Animal Shelter Statistics .....	12
Canine Program .....	13
Press Releases.....	13-14

# 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. We also acknowledge and value the positive interactions and relationships we have with our community.

## 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, Community Leaders, and Business Owners,

I can't believe the time has gone by so fast since I was sworn in as your Police Chief on February 28, 2022, approximately three years ago. It has been such an honor and privilege serving the citizens of Coalinga and leading the men and women of the Coalinga Police Department. I remember my first year in 2022, we had several challenges to overcome, such as staffing shortages, and an increase in violent crimes, specifically gang violence. We ended 2022, with an increase of 17% of crime, a total of 325 victims.

The increase of crime and having 325 residents of our community victimized was unacceptable so in 2023, we implemented specific problem-solving strategies. Strategies such as Community Video Policing Program, which involved the installation of surveillance cameras and license plate captures to help reduce crime, officers making significant arrests of gang members and thieves, along with enhancing community trust and partnerships by positive engagement. These problem-solving strategies began to shift the momentum in reducing crime. By the end 2023, we reduced crime by 15%, which meant we had 49 less people victimized in our city, a total of 277 victims, compared to 325 victims in 2022.

I am proud to announce we went beyond our expectations in meeting the goals we set for 2024 in reducing crime. For example, we completed Phase 6 of our Community Video Policing Program by installing a total of 52 cameras with 93 camera views. And we converted the Department's Dispatch center into a Real Time Crime Center, which allows dispatchers to be proactive in monitoring the cameras. In addition, the ten officers we hired in 2022 are now more experienced and have become excellent investigators who have initiated investigations, and search warrants that led to the arrests of gang members and thieves.

This camera technology and experienced officers have contributed to an unprecedented reduction of crime by 29% in 2024, which meant we had only 198 victims, compared to my first year of 325 victims. However, if we are to maintain the momentum of reducing crime in 2025, we need to work together to make our community safer for our families. We continue to 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. In addition, don't make it easy for thieves to steal your valuables from your car, hide or remove your valuables, lock your car, and take your keys. I have no doubt; by working together as a community, we can continue to reduce the number of our residents from being victimized, along with having a Police Department you can trust and be proud of. Thank you for your continued guidance and support.

Respectfully,



Jose V. Garza  
Chief of Police

## STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT

In 2024, the Department had great successes in fighting crime, which contributed to the unprecedented reduction of crime by 29%. However, the department also faced challenges in maintaining staffing levels in 2024, due to officers out on injuries and Administrative Investigations. In November 2024, to maintain staffing levels to provide effective service to the community, we had to temporarily reassign our two detectives and Coalinga college officer back to patrol to assist with handling calls for services. Although we had this temporary setback, these officers will return soon to their original assignments, and we will once again have a strong department.

In the 2022 Annual Report, the following three goals: Goal 1: Lead and Build the Department, Goal 2: Reduce Crime, and Goal 3: Build Community Trust were used as the foundation for the annual report to update the community in the Department's direction, problem solving strategies used to reduce crime, accomplishments, strategies to enhance community trust, and subgoals that the Department will strive to achieve throughout next year. We will continue to work on these three goals and expand and enhance our work to accomplish the following 2025 subgoals with your continued guidance and support.

### **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; however, it's my goal as the community grows in population to add another commander so we can enhance each division's efficiency and effectiveness.

The adopted annual budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/2025 is \$5,062,889, which funds 24 sworn officers and 11 non-sworn civilians. However, in 2024, we were challenged in filling the allocated sworn officers' positions and non-sworn civilian positions. The Coalinga Police Department, like other law enforcement agencies throughout the country, faced the challenges of recruiting and hiring sworn officers and non-sworn civilians. In addition, three of the Corporal positions remain vacant.

### **Accomplishments:**

Due to the strong advocacy of the City Manager and support of the Coalinga City Council, we are currently sponsoring 2 police cadets in the basic police academy in Fresno. This will help fill two of the four sworn officer vacancies.

### **Fiscal Year (FY) 2025:**

**Subgoal 1a:** Return two detectives and Coalinga college officer to their original assignments.

**Subgoal 1b:** Fill the allocated positions by hiring two additional sworn officers and three non-sworn civilians.

**Subgoal 1c:** Fill the Corporal vacancies by promoting three officers to the rank of Corporal.

## **Goal 2: Reduce Crime**

We ended 2024 with a safer community but to keep the momentum of reducing crime in 2025, 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 a Community Video Policing Program to enhance the safety of our residents and businesses, which had a significant impact on the reduction of crimes in the City. Another contributing factor in reducing crime was the hiring of 10 new officers in 2022. These officers are now experienced and are excellent investigators who have initiated investigations that led to the arrests of gang members and thieves. Therefore, modern technology and experienced officers have reduced and deterred crime. In fighting crime, we have become more proactive in addressing crime instead of reactive after a crime has occurred.

### **Accomplishments:**

Thanks to the funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative grant, California Intergovernmental Risk Authority, State funds from Senator Anna Caballero, and the Board of State and Community Corrections Organized Retail Theft (BSCC-ORT), we have completed Phase 6 of our Community Video Policing Program, with the exception of installing a camera tower.

The City of Coalinga now has 52 total cameras with 93 camera views and 22 of the 93 camera views are license plate captures. In 2024, the cameras and license plate captures aided the department in 17 cases. For example, the Department's Real Time Crime Center alerted the officers that a vehicle that was inputted into the license plate captures system was traveling within the city and the owner had outstanding arrest warrants. The driver, Coalinga resident was located by the officers and arrested for outstanding arrest warrants for false imprisonment/domestic violence.

The department implemented Year 1 of the BSCC-ORT grant, which included developing and implementing an evaluation plan of process and outcome measures, specific to the goals of the grant for the next three years. In addition, the two detectives assigned to BSCC-ORT grant, have met with 10 retailers for the purpose of forming a coalition of retailers and they also installed nine Hide/Lock/Take vehicle theft prevention signs in the retailers parking lots.

As mentioned above, the new officers have become more experienced and excellent investigators. For example, one of the officers, Daniel Saucedo, received a Chief's commendation on November 7, 2024, for initiating six investigations, which resulted in authoring several search warrants for drugs and guns and through teamwork, arrested 10 individuals, and the majority were gang members. In 2024, Officer Saucedo made 130 arrests and wrote over 230 reports. For his dedication in protecting and serving the community, he was awarded Coalinga Police Department's "First Responder of the Year" for 2024.

**Fiscal Year (FY) 2025:**

**Subgoal 2a:** Installing a camera tower, which will be located outside city limits, to enhance the cameras' connectivity.

**Subgoal 2b:** Develop an agreement with State Cal-Trans Department to relocate city cameras to two of their traffic signal intersections on Highway 198.

**Subgoal 2c:** Implement Year 2 of the BSCC-ORT grant, which will consist of forming a coalition of Retailers and completing the installation Hide/Lock/Take vehicle theft prevention signs in Retailers parking lots.

**Goal 3: Build Community Trust**

In building community trust, I have the Police Department fully immersed in the development of community-police partnerships. The Police Department strive each day to develop community-police partnerships by adhering to the following Policy 346.3, which reads:

**346.3 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Officers should, as time and circumstances reasonably permit:

- a. Make casual and consensual contacts with community members to promote positive community relationships.
- b. Become reasonably familiar with the schools, businesses and community groups in their assigned jurisdictional areas.
- c. Work with community members and the [Police Chief] community relations coordinator to identify issues and solve problems related to community relations and public safety.
- d. Conduct periodic foot patrols of their assigned areas to facilitate interaction with community members. Officers carrying out foot patrols should notify an appropriate supervisor and Dispatch of their status (i.e., on foot patrol) and location before beginning and upon completion of the foot patrol. They should also periodically inform Dispatch of their location and status during the foot patrol.

As the Police Chief, I have taken on the responsibilities of the Department's Community Relations Coordinator (Policy 346 3 c) to ensure Department members build community trust and resolve business/neighborhood issues. The Police Department further promotes our community's engagement efforts through the Department's Facebook page, which you will find plenty of photos. In addition, the Coalinga Police Department welcomes constructive criticism of the department and valid complaints about its members and procedures. We encourage our residents to address their concerns and complaints through an on-line complaint process or pick up a complaint form at the PD lobby. Residents may remain anonymous or leave their names and phone number so they can be contacted by a supervisor.

The officers and non-sworn civilians have done a great job at annual events and in the field when serving the community. However, to enhance community trust in 2025, the department will start tracking the officers self-initiated contacts with businesses and residents of Coalinga. In addition, once fully staffed, we will strive to initiate and work with personnel to develop community/youth activities such as Citizens Academy, Neighborhood Watch, Police Explorer, and Volunteer programs.

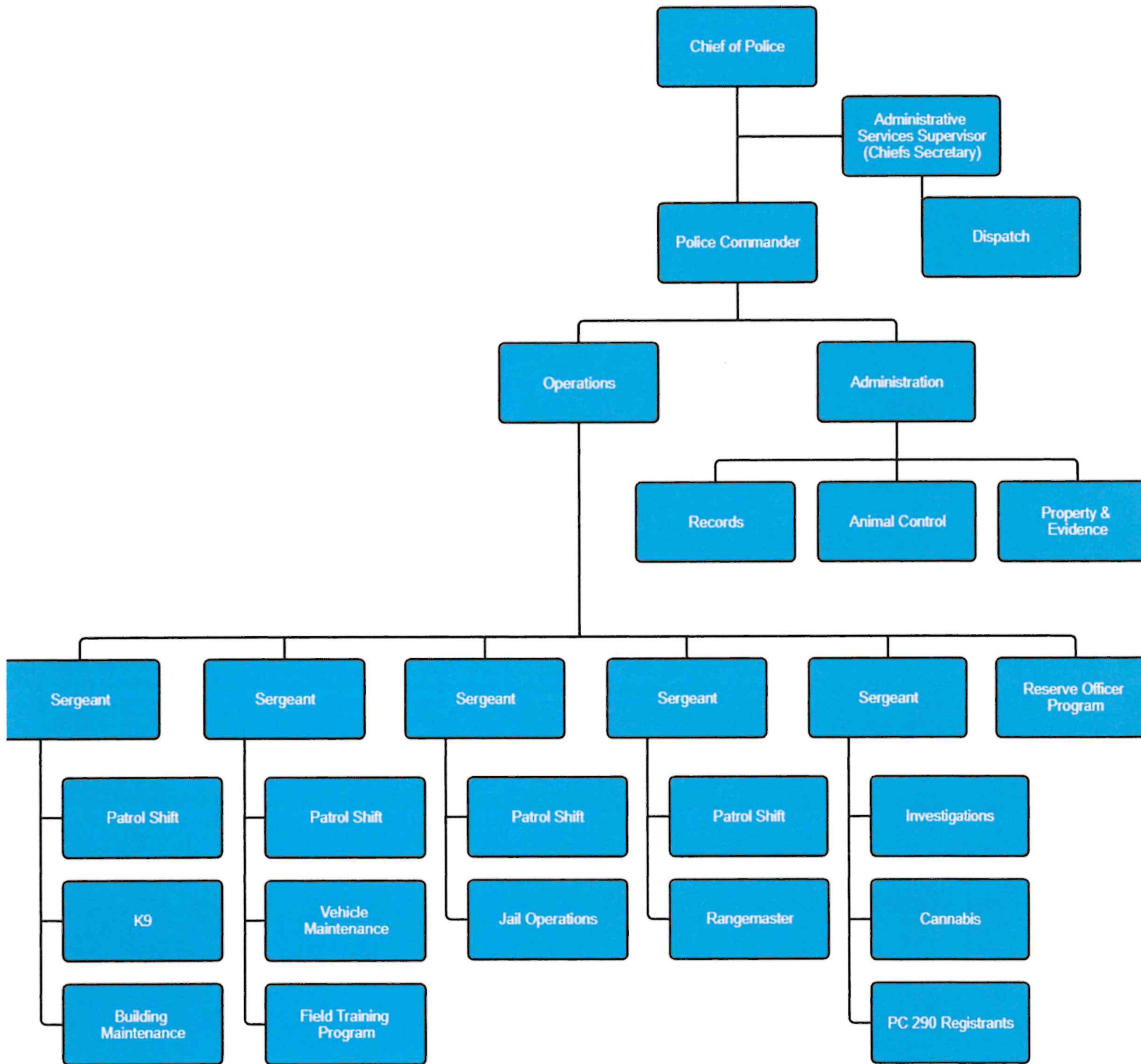
**Accomplishments:**

In 2024, 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, Airport Day, Christmas Gifts Give Away, Coffee with a Cop, Veterans Day Flag Raising / Lowering, Coalinga Women's Club First Responder Appreciation Dinner, Multiple Coalinga-Huron School District Career Days, Let Freedom Ring 4<sup>th</sup> of July event, Coalinga Fire Department Open House, West Hills College First Annual State of the College Dinner, and Annual Coalinga Chamber of Commerce Dinner. In addition, who can forget dunking officers in the water tank at National Night Out. These events have enhanced community trust between CPD employees and the community. In addition, we completed our quarterly meetings with the Police Chief's Advisory Board and the next quarterly meeting will be in February 2025.

**Subgoal 3a:** Sergeants and patrol officers will contact a minimum of two business owners/managers and two residents per work week for the purpose of building community trust and resolving business/neighborhood issues. The contacts will be tracked by staff, sergeants, and officers by putting themselves out on a Community Contact (CC) call.

**Subgoal 3b:** Develop community/youth programs such as Citizens Academy, Neighborhood Watch, Police Explorer, and Volunteer programs.

# COALINGA POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



**2024 Budgeted Staffing Levels – Total 35**  
**1 Part Time Sworn “Nonpaid” Reserve Police Officer**

**25 Sworn Staff, including a Reserve Police Officer: Total 22 Full Time Filled, 2 Vacancies**

1	Chief of Police
1	Police Commander
5	Police Sergeants
1	Police Corporal
2	Detectives Vacancies
10	Police Officers
2	Police Cadets in the Academy
1	Nonpaid Reserve Police Officer
2	Police Officer Vacancies
25	Total

**11 Professional Non-Sworn Staff: Total 8 Filled, 3 Vacancies**

1	Chief’s Administrative Secretary
6	Police Technicians 4 – Dispatchers 1 – Records Clerk 1 – Evidence Technician
1	Full Time Animal Control Officer
1	Full Time Police Dispatcher vacant
2	Part Time Police Dispatcher vacant
11	Total

## 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 2024, Part 1 Crimes decreased by 29%, which meant we had 79 less people victimized in the City of Coalinga, compared to 2023. In 2023, we had a 15% decrease in crime, compared to 2022, which had an increase of 17%. Unfortunately, we did have one gang homicide in April of 2024, and the Fresno County Sheriff's Office arrested two Bulldog gang members for the homicide. According to the Month to Month and Year to Year Table of Part 1 Crimes below, there was a significant decrease in Rapes, Robbery, Larceny, and Auto theft in 2024.

PART 1 CRIMES						
	Last Dec	This Dec	% CHANGE	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	% CHANGE
HOMICIDE	0	0	0%	0	1	100%
RAPE	1	0	-100%	7	3	-57%
ROBBERY	0	0	0%	3	2	-33%
ASSAULT	10	2	-80%	141	122	-13%
BURGLARY	0	1	100%	18	17	-6%
LARCENY	5	2	-60%	90	45	-50%
AUTO THEFT	1	0	-100%	18	8	-56%
<b>TOTAL PART ONE</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-71%</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>-29%</b>

## Calls for Service Statistics:

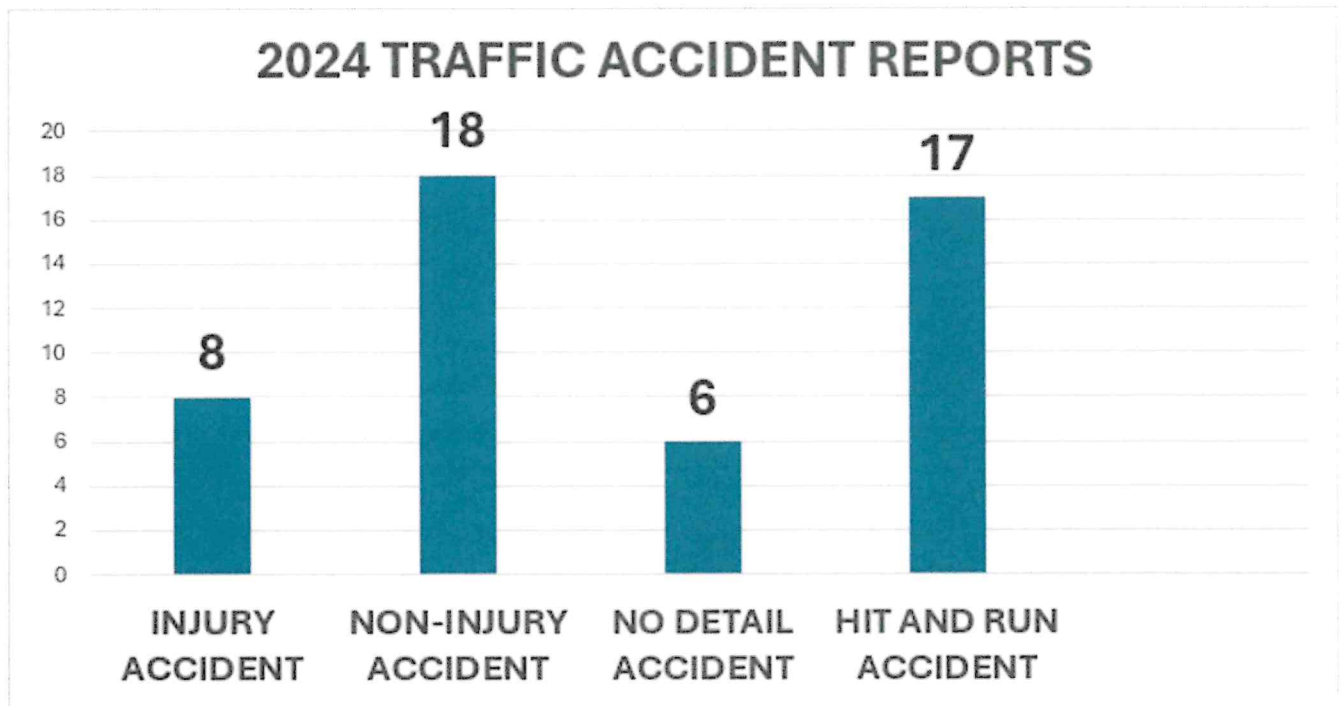
The best way to analyze the activity of the Police Department is using raw calls for service data. These data show both activities generated by the public and by patrol. In 2024, the Police Department handled 14,759 Calls for Service (CFS) compared to 2023, the Police Department handled 15,564 CFS, which is a -5.2 % decrease in calls for service in 2024.

## High Priority 1 Average Response Times:

Average Created call to Dispatch= 1.5 minutes  
Average Enroute Call to Officer Arrival= 3.5  
Total= 5 minutes Average response time

## Traffic Accident Statistics:

The Coalinga Police Department is responsible for traffic enforcement for the City of Coalinga. In 2024, the Department responded to 49 traffic accidents that occurred in the city.



## Department's Animal Control Officers 2024 Statistics:

The Department's Animal Control Officer (ACO) Johnathan Bell is assigned full-time and works Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm and is available to handle emergency calls after hours and on weekends. In 2024, ACO Bell handled approximately 335 animal complaint calls, wrote 15 reports, and issued 7 citations. Of the 335 animal complaint calls, ACO Bell gave 100 verbal warnings and 4 written warnings. The following are the type of animal complaint calls handled by ACO Bell: aggressive dog, stray animals, deceased animals, cat calls, abandoned animals, and wildlife animals. When ACO Bell is unavailable to handle animal complaint calls, the Department dispatches patrol officers to handle animal complaints. In 2024, patrol officers handled 176 animal complaints and wrote 6 reports.

## Gimme Love's Animal Shelter 2024 Intake Statistics:

Gimme Love, a non-profit organization, is responsible for the care and welfare of the animal shelter in the City of Coalinga.

### **Total Dogs 565**

Owner surrender 115  
Stray 450  
Impound 0  
Rescue 344  
Adopt 36  
Died in Care 2 (parvo)  
Deceased dogs 14  
Euthanize 1  
Returned to owner 117

### **Total Cats 209**

Stray 172  
Owner surrender 37  
Impound 0  
Adoption 21  
Rescue 110  
Died in Care 23  
Deceased cats 8  
Euthanize 3  
Returned to owner 1

1 Rabbit  
1 Chinchilla  
2 Pigs

**Total intake of animals: 778**

## **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. Unfortunately, K9 Nitro died in June of 2024, and due to a criminal investigation, the memorial service for K9 Nitro was held on January 6, 2025.

K9 Boss had 9 deployments -resulting in 2 bites, 4 non-bites, 2 building searches and 1 patrol assist. K9 Boss also had 7 narcotic searches resulting in the seizure of narcotics and paraphernalia.

## **Press Releases**

**In 2024, the Coalinga Police Department sent out 24 Press Releases. The following are two Notable Cases:**

### **Suspects Arrested After Theft and Pursuit**

On April 7, 2024, around 11:30 am, officers were dispatched to Rite-Aid, 145 W. Polk Street, regarding a theft that had just occurred. Officers arrived on scene and were informed that two Black male adults entered the store wearing ski-masks, walked behind the front counter and began stealing various alcohol and nicotine products without saying anything. The total estimated value of stolen property was over \$2,000.00. The two suspects then fled the store and got into a blue Toyota Solara, then fled the scene eastbound on Polk Street.

An officer decided to check the area of Jayne Avenue and I-5 and located the blue Toyota Solara parked at the gas pumps at the Valero Gas Station. The officer saw two suspects who matched the description of the suspects from the theft at Rite-Aid walking from the vehicle and approaching the front door of the Valero. Both suspects were wearing ski-masks which led the officer to suspect that they were about to commit a robbery or a theft at the Valero.

The officer activated his emergency lights, got out of his patrol vehicle, and confronted both suspects at gunpoint. The officer ordered the suspects to put their hands up and surrender, however both suspects ignored the officer's commands and retreated to the blue Toyota Solara. The suspects pulled away from the fuel pump of the Valero and got onto I-5, heading southbound. The officer initiated a vehicle pursuit and began to pursue the suspects. The suspects showed a complete disregard for public safety by fleeing and reaching speeds of more than 120 miles per-hour.

The officer pursued the suspects for approximately eight miles until the suspect vehicle lost control and rolled over several times, coming to rest in the northbound median of I-5. The two suspects, including an additional Black female adult, were thrown from the vehicle upon crashing. All three were taken into custody when assisting officers arrived.

The driver, identified as Armani Tyree Smith, is out of San Francisco. He was later sentenced to two years in prison for his involvement in this case. His accomplice, Harold Armstrong, is from San Pablo, he was sentenced to two-years of felony probation in Fresno County and is now on felony probation out of Alameda, Fresno, and San Francisco Counties.

### **Fentanyl Recovered During Search Warrant**

On Thursday, October 24, 2024, officers served a search warrant in the 300 block of West Pleasant Street. During the search warrant, officers came across about 1000 suspected Fentanyl pills, with an estimated street value of \$20,000 - \$25,000. The resident, 53-year-old Coalinga resident Cheryl Bailow, was arrested and later transferred to the Fresno County Jail on charges related to possession of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance for sale. During the search warrant, the apartment manager, Maria Luisa Rodriguez, was arrested for interfering / obstructing due to her actions trying to impede officers during the investigation.