

Coalinga Police Department 2025

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.....	10
Traffic Accident Statistics	11
Animal Control Officer.....	11
Gimme Love's Animal Shelter 2025 Intake Statistics.....	12
Canine Program	12
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 utmost 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. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you and lead the men and women of the Coalinga Police Department. I'm so proud of the men and women of the Coalinga Police Department who work hard each day to keep you and your family safe, along with your partnership in helping us build a safe community. As your Police Chief, I have seen a positive trend in crime reduction and in building your trust. However, it wasn't always that way when I first started as your Chief four years ago on January 28, 2022.

I remember the challenges we had to overcome in my first year in 2022, when the Department experienced staffing shortages and an increase in violent crimes, specifically gang violence. We ended my first year in 2022 with a 17% increase in crime and a total of 325 victims. Having 325 of our residents victimized was unacceptable, so in the following years, we implemented and built specific problem-solving strategies. Strategies such as the implementation of a Community Video Policing Program in the City of Coalinga to help reduce and deter crime, which involved the installation of 56 surveillance cameras with 99 camera views. The 56 cameras included 25 license plate captures. In addition, the hiring of more officers who have made significant arrests of gang members and thieves, along with enhancing community trust and partnerships through positive engagement.

These problem-solving strategies had a positive impact on shifting the momentum in reducing crime each year. The following year, in 2023, we saw a reduction of crime by 15%, with 276 of our residents victimized, and in 2024, we had an unprecedented reduction of crime by 27%, which meant we had only 201 of our residents victimized, compared to my first year in 2022, of 325 victims. The goal for 2025 was to reduce victimization to fewer than 200 in the City of Coalinga. I'm proud to say we met our 2025 goal, ending the year with a 3% reduction in crime, with 195 of our residents victimized.

These significant reductions in victimization have made the City of Coalinga one of the safest communities in the Central Valley. These specific problem-solving strategies and your partnership are working, so we need your continued support in several ways. For example, report the crime when it occurs, provide any camera footage of the suspect(s) committing the crime, and be a credible 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 that, by working together as a community, we can continue to reduce the number of residents victimized, build a Police Department you can trust and be proud of, and remain one of the safest communities in the Central Valley. Thank you for your continued guidance, support, and for allowing me to serve you and lead the men and women of the Coalinga Police Department.

Respectfully,



Jose V. Garza
Chief of Police

STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT

In 2025, the Department had great successes in having fewer than 200 victims, compared to 2022, in which we had 325 victims. Although we had great success in reducing victimization, the department continued facing challenges in filling our sworn officer vacancies. In November 2024, to maintain staffing levels and provide effective service to the community, we temporarily reassigned our two detectives and the Coalinga college officer back to patrol to assist with handling calls for service. These officers returned to their original assignments in Fall 2025, leaving the year with four sworn officer vacancies. In addition, several vacancies in our Dispatch Center led the Department to contact the Fresno County Sheriff's Department on two occasions for assistance with handling 911 emergency calls for service. Thanks to the City Manager's strong advocacy and the support of the Coalinga City Council, dispatcher positions were reclassified by updating the salary scale and job structure to better reflect current duties, create career growth opportunities, and support recruitment and retention efforts. By the end of the year, the Department was able to fill all the full-time Dispatcher vacancies.

In 2022, I implemented the following three goals: Goal 1: Lead and Build the Department, Goal 2: Reduce Crime, and Goal 3: Build Community Trust which 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. This year, under Goal 2, Reduce Crime, we included the Traffic Accidents category due to a significant 2025 increase of 69.4%. In 2025, we recorded 83 traffic accidents, up from 49 in 2024. We will continue to work on these goals and expand and enhance our work to accomplish the following 2026 subgoals with your continued 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- Administration Support and Operations. Administration Division consists of the 911 dispatch center, records, and Property & Evidence. The Operations Division consists of training, holding facility, fleet services, patrol, investigations, field training, reserves, auditing cannabis facilities, and animal control. 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) 2025/2026 is \$5,411,600, which funds 24 full-time sworn officers, one part-time paid reserve officer, and 11 non-sworn civilians. However, in 2025, we were challenged in filling the allocated sworn officer positions and ended the year with four sworn officer vacancies. In addition, we ended the year with one vacant part-time dispatcher position. However, we have a large applicant pool for the part-time position, so we are optimistic about filling

it in early 2026. The Coalinga Police Department, like other law enforcement agencies nationwide, faced challenges in recruiting and hiring sworn officers and non-sworn personnel.

Accomplishments

Thanks to the support of the City Manager and Council, the Department has filled all full-time Dispatcher vacancies, leaving one part-time dispatcher position to fill. In addition, we met our goal in 2025 by promoting three officers to the rank of Corporal, which will enhance the Department's effectiveness in patrol.

Goal 1 Subgoals the Department will strive to achieve in 2026:

Subgoal 1a: To fill the allocated sworn officers' vacancies, the Police Department recruiting team will continue to reach out to local police academies in the central valley, along with our sworn officers reaching out to lateral officers from other agencies.

Goal 2: Reduce Crime and Traffic Accidents

In 2025, we had a significant increase in traffic accidents of approximately 69.4%. In 2024, we recorded 49 traffic accidents, compared with 83 in 2025. Injury-related traffic accidents were a major contributor to this increase. In 2025, the Department handled 19 injury traffic accidents, up from 8 in 2024, representing a 138% increase. In addition, we also had an increase in domestic violence, which we plan to address in 2026.

Accomplishments:

Thanks to multiple local and state grants, we have completed Phase 6 of our Community Video Policing Program, except for installing a camera tower. The camera tower is scheduled for completion in early 2026 and will be located outside the city limits to improve camera connectivity. The City of Coalinga now has 56 surveillance cameras with 99 camera views. The 56 cameras include 25 license plate captures.

Goal 2 Subgoals the Department will strive to achieve in 2026:

Subgoal 2a: Implement Year 3 of the BSCC-ORT grant by purchasing a mobile camera trailer with license plate readers, purchasing a drone to enhance public safety, and developing an agreement with the State Cal-Trans Department to install city cameras at two of their traffic signal intersections on Highway 198.

Subgoal 2b: Reduce traffic accidents by certifying officers to use radar equipment in areas with a high volume of traffic accidents and address areas of the city where the department receives citizens' complaints of vehicles speeding in their neighborhood.

Subgoal 2c: Reduce domestic violence by focusing on repeat offenders, apprehending suspects at large, providing victims with appropriate assistance, and working with victims and the District Attorney's office to ensure cases are prosecutable.

Goal 3: Build Community Trust

In building community trust, I have the Police Department fully engaged in developing community-police partnerships. The Police Department strives each day to develop community-police partnerships by contacting residents and businesses in person and through the Department's Facebook page, where you will find many photos. In addition, we completed our quarterly meetings with the Police Chief's Advisory Board, and the next quarterly meeting will be in February 2026.

The Coalinga Police Department also welcomes constructive criticism and valid complaints about its members and procedures. We encourage our residents to address their concerns and complaints through our online complaint process or pick up a complaint form at the PD lobby. Residents may remain anonymous or leave their names and phone numbers so a supervisor can contact them.

Accomplishments:

In 2025, our building community trust goals were to have sergeants and patrol officers 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. I'm proud to announce that sergeants and officers contacted a total of 1,858 residents and business owners/managers, resulting in a positive impact on the city.

In addition, we continued to 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, Wings Over the Westside Airshow, Reindeer Rounds 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 4th of July event, Coalinga Fire Department Open House, 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.

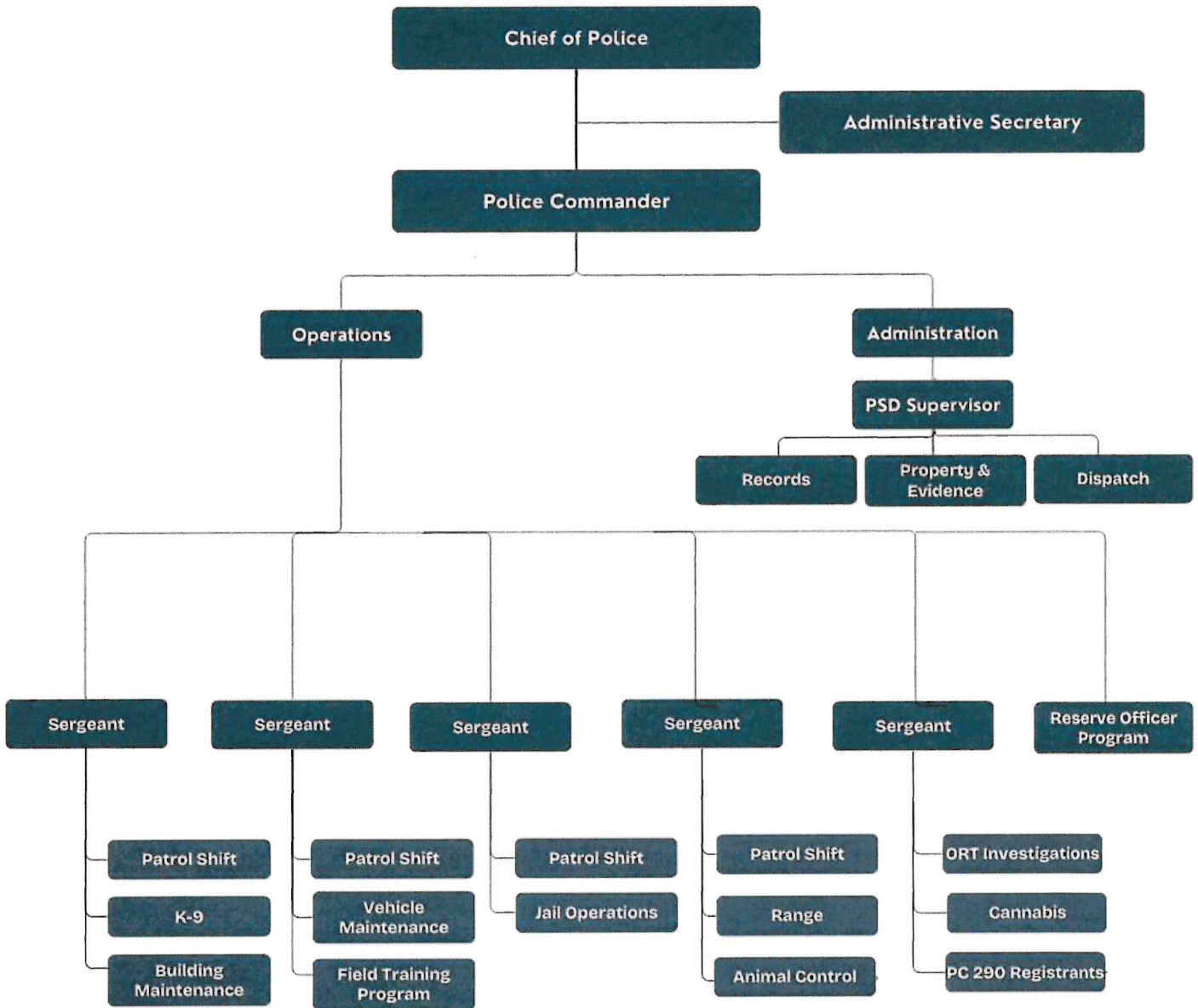
Goal 3 Subgoals the Department will strive to achieve in 2026:

Subgoal 3a: Sergeants and patrol officers will continue to contact a minimum of two business owners/managers and two residents per work week to build community trust and resolve business/neighborhood issues. Also, to further enhance safety in the Downtown business district, Day Shift Patrol will begin a walking beat in the Downtown area.

Subgoal 3b: The Department will implement a Police Explorer program.

Subgoal 3c: The Department will work closely with the City's Public Outreach Coordinator to promote the Department's positive engagement in the community and strengthen its crime prevention efforts.

COALINGA POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2025 Budgeted Staffing Levels – Total 36

Department currently has a total of 25 Full Time Sworn Officers, which includes 1 Part-Time paid Reserve Police Officer and 4 Sworn Officers Vacancies

1	Chief of Police
1	Police Commander
4	Patrol Sergeants
4	Patrol Corporal
6	Patrol Officers
1	Detective Sergeant
2	Detectives
1	Coalinga College Officer
1	Paid Reserve Police Officer
4	Police Officer Vacancies
25	Total Sworn Officers

Department currently has a total of 9 Full Time Non-Sworn Staff, 2 Part Time Non-Sworn Dispatchers which includes 1 Part-Time Dispatcher vacancy

1	Public Safety Dispatch Supervisor
1	Chief's Administrative Secretary
6	4 – Dispatchers 1 – Records Clerk 1 – Evidence Technician
1	Full Time Animal Control Officer
1	Part Time Dispatcher
1	Part Time Dispatcher Vacant
11	Total Non-Sworn

Uniform Crime Report Statistics

The Uniform Crime Report (UCR) is the oldest crime-reporting system 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 that are captured (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. In the Chart below, Law Enforcement agencies use month-to-month and year-to-year analysis to help predict crime trends.

According to the chart below, by the end of 2025, the Uniform Crime Report Part 1 Crimes decreased by 3%, with 195 of our residents victimized, resulting in 6 fewer persons victimized in the City of Coalinga, than in 2024. In 2024, we saw an unprecedented 27% decrease in crime with 201 of our residents victimized. The chart below shows the Year to Date (YTD) with no homicides, a decrease in Rapes, Burglary, and Larceny. However, we did have an increase in Robbery, Assaults and Auto theft in 2025.

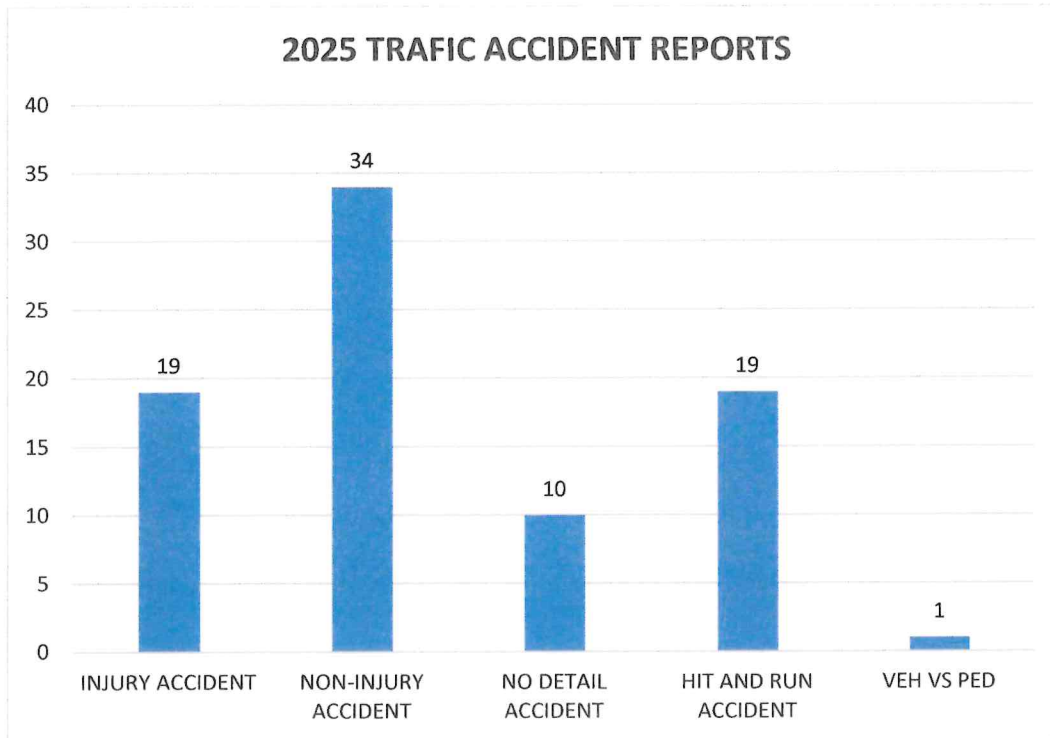
PART 1 CRIMES						
	Last DEC	This DEC	% CHANGE	YTD 2024	YTD 2025	% CHANGE
HOMICIDE	0	0	0%	1	0	-100%
RAPE	0	0	0%	3	2	-33%
ROBBERY	0	0	0%	2	3	50%
ASSAULT	2	9	350%	125	129	3%
BURGLARY	1	3	200%	17	14	-18%
LARCENY	2	0	-100%	45	36	-20%
AUTO THEFT	0	0	-100%	8	11	27%
TOTAL PART ONE	5	12	140%	201	195	-3%

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 2025, the Police Department handled 17,141 Calls for Service (CFS), compared with 14,759 in 2024, representing a 16.14% increase in calls for service.

Traffic Accident Statistics:

The Coalinga Police Department is responsible for traffic enforcement for the City of Coalinga. In 2025, the Department responded to 83 traffic accidents that occurred in the city, compared to 49 in 2024, an increase of 69.4%. Injury-related traffic accidents were a major contributor to this increase. In 2025, the Department handled 19 injury traffic accidents, up from 8 in 2024, representing a 138% increase.



Department's Animal Control Officers 2024 Statistics:

The Department's Animal Control Officer (ACO), Johnathan Bell, and patrol officers handled a total of 493 animal complaints in 2025. ACO is assigned full-time, works Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm, and is available to handle emergency calls after hours and on weekends. In 2025, ACO Bell handled approximately 288 animal complaint calls, wrote 19 reports, and issued 15 citations. Of the 288 animal complaint calls, ACO Bell gave 16 verbal warnings and completed 2 dog bite reports. In addition, 24 strays were handed over to Gimme Love's Animal Shelter.

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, specifically on weekends, the Department dispatches patrol officers to handle animal complaints. In 2025, patrol officers handled 205 animal complaints and wrote 13 reports.

Gimme Love's Animal Shelter 2025 Intake Statistics:

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

Total Dogs Intake 837

Owner surrender 189

Stray 644

Impound 4

Rescue 430

Adopt 70

Deceased dogs 2

Euthanize 4

Returned to owner 336

28 Dogs in shelter Dec 31, 2025

Total Cats Intake 193

Stray 167

Owner surrender 10

Impound 16

Adoption 57

Rescue 82

Died in Care 23

Deceased cats 3

Euthanize 4

Returned to owner 3

21 Cats in shelter/foster Jan 1, 2026

Total Intake 6

1 Owl. Rescue

1 Coyote Rescue

2 Pigs Adopted

2 Roosters, 1 died, 1 adopted

Total intake for 2025 is 1036 animals

Canine Program

The City of Coalinga has one K9 Handler, Sergeant Damian Sparks, and his K9 Boss. K9 Boss had 18 deployments resulting in 2 bites, 4 non-bites, 2 building searches, 2 officer assists, and 8 narcotic searches. Of the 8 narcotic searches, K9 Boss alerted on 5 positive narcotics seizures, such as crystal meth, cocaine, fentanyl, and LSD.

Press Releases

In 2025, the Coalinga Police Department sent out 21 Press Releases. The following are three Notable Cases:

38 Gang Members and Associates Charged in Federal Complaint as a Result of “Operation Shock Collar”

On June 26, 2025, upwards of 550 federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel executed 54 search warrants in the Fresno County city of Huron, Coalinga, and surrounding communities. Throughout the investigation, law enforcement seized firearms, ammunition, methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine. Eighty-nine criminal street gang members and associates were arrested and charged with crimes in federal and state court.

The complaint, unsealed today, charges 38 members and associates of the Huron Dog Life, Coalinga Dog Life, and San Joaquin Ruthless Perro cliques of the Bulldog street gang with various drug and firearms trafficking offenses. “The charges reflect the brazen violence and drug trafficking that have threatened the safety and stability of the greater Fresno area, particularly in rural communities like Huron and Coalinga,” said Special Agent in Charge Sid Patel of the FBI Sacramento Field Office. “Yesterday’s operation was the culmination of months of collaborative work to disrupt gang-driven violence and the flow of drugs and firearms into Central Valley neighborhoods. This case highlights the power of strong partnerships at every level of law enforcement, all united in the mission to dismantle violent gangs and protect the communities we serve.”

K9 alert leads to three arrests for narcotics possession

On October 7th, 2025, at about 10:32pm, officers conducted a vehicle enforcement stop near the intersection of N. Third Street and E. Elm Avenue, on a silver Jaguar for both speed and mechanical violations. Upon contacting the three occupants of the vehicle, who were from Santa Cruz, officers noticed several inconsistencies in the statements made by the driver. The vehicle was also unregistered and uninsured. The behavior of the occupants led officers to believe they were involved in narcotic criminal activity. Officers requested assistance from the on-duty canine officer, K9 "Boss" to conduct an open free air exterior sniff of the vehicle while the officer wrote the driver a citation for the vehicle code violations he observed.

K9 "Boss" arrived on scene, all three occupants were removed from the vehicle, and an open free air exterior sniff of the vehicle was conducted. K9 "Boss" alerted to the odor of illegal narcotics, giving officers the probable cause needed to search of the vehicle. Officers located over half an ounce of illegal narcotics inside of the vehicle and found two of the occupants to be in possession of illegal narcotics on their person.

The illegal narcotics found and recovered were crystal methamphetamine, fentanyl, and LSD tabs.

All three subjects were arrested for narcotics possession, and the vehicle was towed.

Gang Member on Parole Arrested for Firearms Charge

On April 29th, 2025, officers with the Coalinga Police Department served a search warrant at a residence located in the 400 block of East Polk Street. The search warrant was the result of an ongoing investigation that began on April 22nd, 2025, following a report from an anonymous caller who observed a male subject running across Polk Street towards the C-Town Smoke Shop pointing a firearm at another subject.

Through the course of the investigation, officers identified the suspect as Juan Carlos Mendoza Jr. who is currently on parole for a prior conviction under Penal Code 245(a)(2) – Assault with a Firearm. Juan Carlos Mendoza Jr. is also an active member of the Sureno Criminal Street Gang. During the investigation, it was found that Juan Carlos Mendoza Jr. was chasing after rival Bulldog Criminal Street Gang Members who were hanging out at the smoke shop.

In conjunction with the search warrant, officers obtained a felony arrest warrant for Juan Carlos Mendoza Jr. for violation of Penal Code Section 29800(a)(1) – Felon in Possession of a Firearm. Juan Carlos Mendoza Jr. was located, taken into custody without incident, and transported to the Fresno County Jail where he was booked on the warrant and a violation of parole.