



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

Annual Report 2025

## Connect with PFPD

Use the QR code to Download our app from the Apple or Play Store



Follow us on Facebook



## MISSION AND VALUE STATEMENTS

The men and women of the Pigeon Forge Police Department are committed to the protection of life and property among the citizens and visitors within its jurisdiction, and are committed to providing law enforcement services through a partnership with the community that builds trust, reduces crime, creates a safe environment, and enhances the quality of life.

### ***INTEGRITY***

The men and women of the Pigeon Forge Police Department foster the highest performance standards, ethical conduct, and truthfulness.

### ***SERVICE***

The men and women of the Pigeon Forge Police Department are committed to quality service and are responsive to the needs of the citizens and visitors to our community through problem solving partnerships.

### ***RESPECT***

The men and women of the Pigeon Forge Police Department value the dignity of every individual who lives in and visits our community, and promise to uphold the principles found in the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of Tennessee.

# Table of Contents

---

|  | Page  |
|--|-------|
| Message from the Chief                       | 4     |
| Organizational Chart                         | 5     |
| Patrol Division                              | 6     |
| Motor Division                               | 7     |
| Criminal Investigation Division              | 7     |
| Tactical Rescue Unit                         | 8     |
| Crisis Negotiations Unit                     | 8     |
| Canines                                      | 9     |
| Administration Division / Records            | 10    |
| Communication Division /Accreditation Update | 10    |
| Overview of Crime Statistics                 | 11    |
| Accident Statistics                          | 12-13 |
| Use of Force                                 | 14    |
| Special Events and Community Outreach        | 15    |
| Special Recognition                          | 16-19 |
| Promotions                                   | 20    |
| New Hires                                    | 21    |
| In Memoriam                                  | 22-23 |

Dear Citizens,

The year 2025 was another busy and productive year for the Pigeon Forge Police Department. Our officers and staff performed exceptionally well while continuing to provide professional, dedicated service to our community and visitors.

In April, the department proudly received its second accreditation award from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. Accreditation reflects our ongoing commitment to professionalism, accountability, and excellence in law enforcement, and it recognizes our responsibility to serve our citizens and guests with the highest standards.

Significant progress continues on our new police facility, and we are hopeful to move in by late summer or early fall. We are extremely excited about this new facility and grateful for what it will provide for our officers, staff, and the community we serve.

This year also marked a changing of the guard within city leadership. We welcomed our new City Manager, David Wear, and extend our sincere appreciation to retiring City Manager Earlene Teaster for her many years of dedicated service to the City of Pigeon Forge. We would also like to thank Assistant City Manager Eric Brackins, Mayor Kevin McClure, Vice Mayor Jay Ogle, and Commissioners Dennis Adams, Tony Watts, and Keith Whaley for their continued support of the Pigeon Forge Police Department.

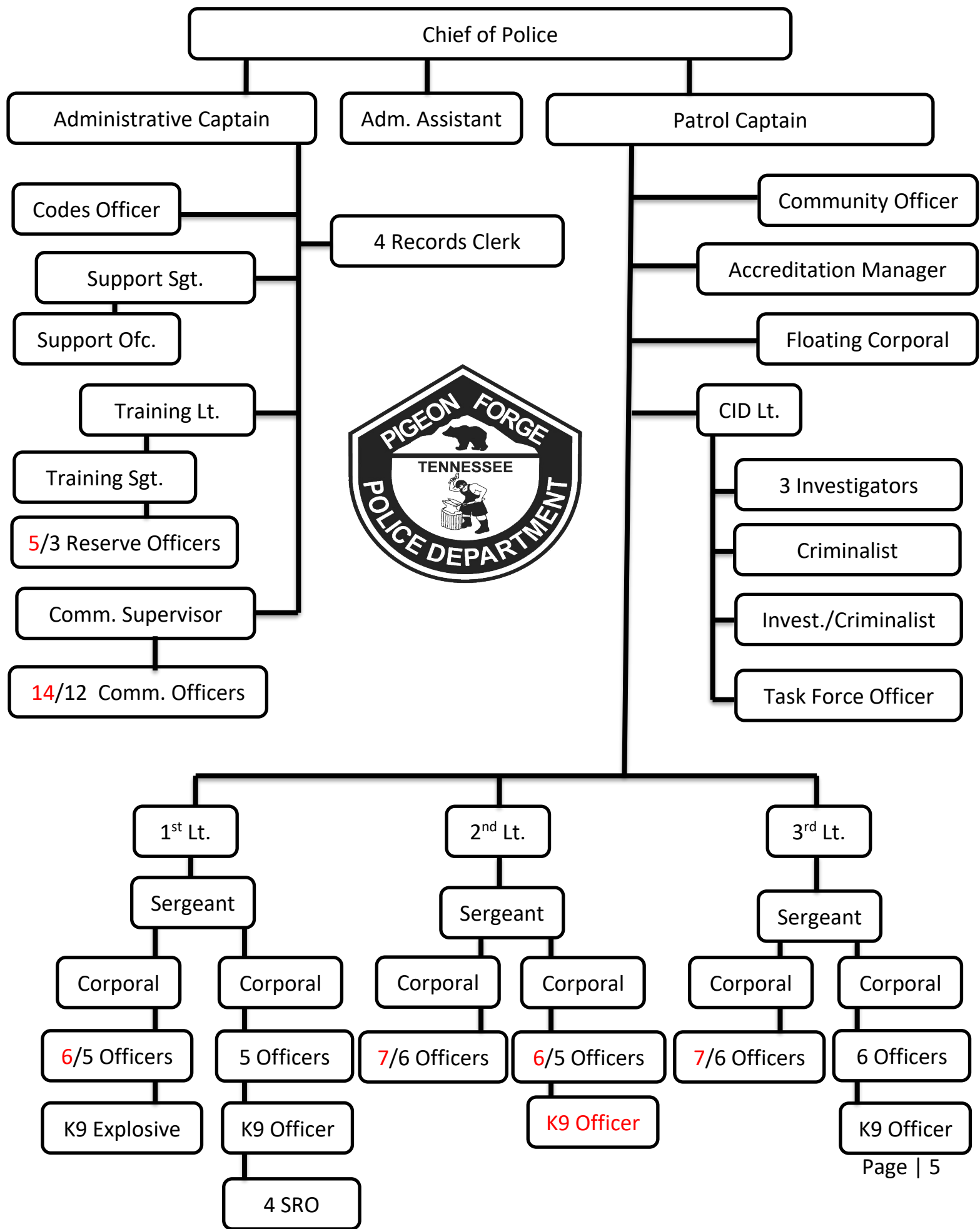
In closing, we encourage you to review the 2025 Annual Report. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Richard Catlett  
Chief of Police  
Pigeon Forge Police Department



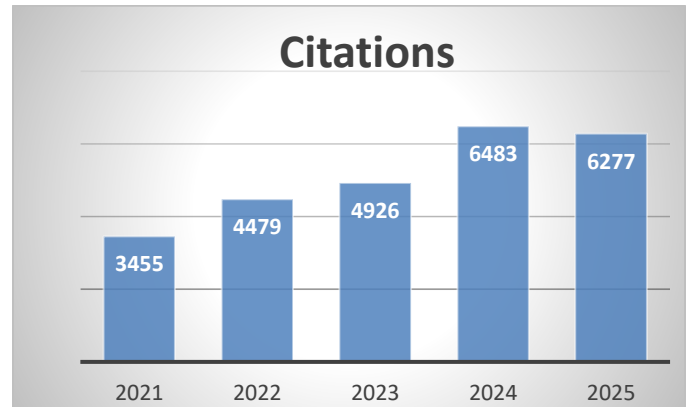
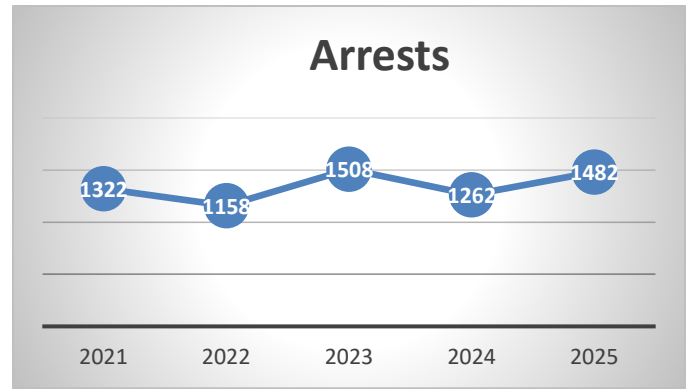


## Patrol Division Overview

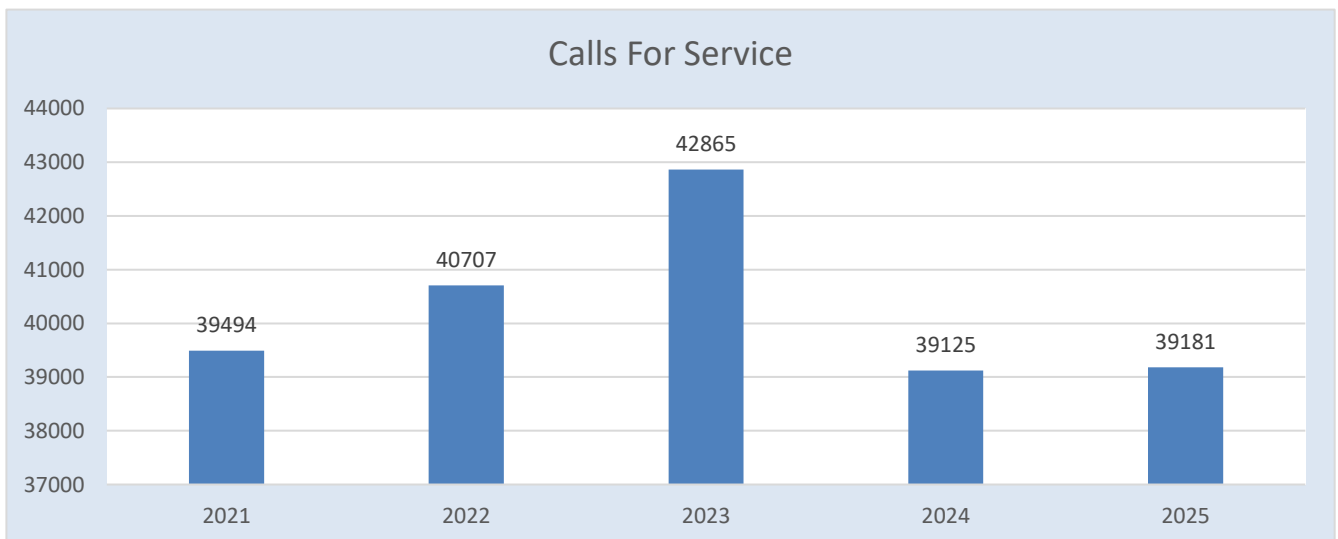
The Patrol Division is divided into three shifts, each of which is further divided into two platoons. These platoons work eight 10-hour days, rotating the schedule to allow every other weekend off. Each shift is supervised by a Lieutenant. Additionally, the Pigeon Forge Police Department employs four (4) School Resource Officers who serve the city's schools.

Patrol is the department's most visible division. Some of its functions include enforcing criminal laws, traffic law enforcement, answering calls for service, conducting preliminary investigations, and following up on investigations.

The department operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. The Patrol Division is supervised by Captain Ralph Carr. For inquiries, Captain Carr can be reached at [ralphcar@cityofpigeonforgetn.gov](mailto:ralphcar@cityofpigeonforgetn.gov).



# Operations Patrol



## Operations Motor Unit



### Motor Unit Overview

Our Motor Unit is composed of eight officers who are primarily responsible for traffic enforcement and crash investigations. These officers are also actively engaged in fostering positive community relations. The unit is assigned to focus on high-risk areas, such as locations with frequent crashes or ongoing citizen complaints. Additionally, the Motor Unit participates in funeral processions and provides escorts for dignitaries visiting the area.

### Criminal Investigations Division (CID) Overview

The Criminal Investigations Division is responsible for investigating crimes reported within the City of Pigeon Forge. Specialized investigators are assigned to cases that are complex in nature or particularly serious in severity. Our department is staffed with highly trained professionals, including graduates of the National Forensic Academy, the FBI National Academy, and those with an attachment to the DEA.

## Operations Criminal Investigation Division



“Murder, Though it have no tongue, will speak.”  
*Shakespeare*

## Special Operations Tactical Rescue Unit (TRU)



The Tactical Rescue Unit (TRU) handles high-risk situations such as hostage incidents, snipers, barricaded gunmen, and dangerous arrests. The unit, made up of Pigeon Forge Police officers, includes assault and sniper teams. Membership requires significant experience, proficiency in firearms, discipline, and the ability to respond safely and efficiently. Teamwork is essential for enhancing the unit's effectiveness. Members must complete the department's SWAT training and undergo a thorough interview process. TRU is deployed for situations deemed hazardous by the watch commander or shift supervisor.

## Special Operations Crisis Negotiation Unit (CNU)

The Crisis Negotiation Unit (CNU) is made up of experienced Pigeon Forge Police Department sworn officers and civilian employees trained in crisis negotiations and intervention. The team handles situations involving hostages, barricaded individuals, and persons in crisis. Members are proficient in recognizing mental health concerns and applying de-escalation techniques. CNU members are on call for activation at any time and respond fully equipped to manage and resolve critical incidents safely and effectively.



# Special Operations

## Canine Unit

The Pigeon Forge Police Department's K-9 Unit is a vital asset to public safety. Highly trained canine teams support patrol operations through suspect apprehension, detection of narcotics and other evidence, tracking, and search-and-rescue missions. A K-9's speed, agility, and keen senses greatly enhance officer safety and investigative effectiveness, making the unit an essential component of modern policing and community protection.



# Administration



The Administrative Division provides essential support services that enable the police department to operate efficiently each day. The division is supervised by Captain Gary Ott and oversees key functions including Communications, Training, and Support Services. Through coordination, planning, and resource management, the Administrative Division ensures officers and staff have the tools and support necessary to serve the community effectively. Captain Ott can be contacted at [gott@cityofpigeonforgetn.gov](mailto:gott@cityofpigeonforgetn.gov)

The Records Division, staffed by civilian employees, maintains essential police records including crash, arrest, incident reports, and city citations. Pigeon Forge Municipal Court is held at the Police Department and handles city ordinance violations. Court-related questions can be directed to 865-429-7411 during business hours. Arrest cases are scheduled through Sevier County General Sessions Court. Driver's license questions should be directed to the Tennessee Department of Safety.

# Administration Records

# Administration Communications

24,835 incoming calls  
12,689 outgoing calls  
39,883 CFS calls entered  
NCIC-Over 80,000 messages  
sent and received through NCIC

The Communications Division is staffed by civilian communication officers who are nationally certified in emergency communications and crime information systems. Serving as the Public Safety Answering Point for the City of Pigeon Forge, they handle 911 calls and provide backup support for agencies throughout Sevier County. In addition, they dispatch officers, conduct records and status checks, manage phone lines, and monitor traffic cameras to support daily operations.

# Pigeon Forge Police Department Statistics

| Part 1 Offenses             | 2025       | 2024       | 2023       | 2022       | 2021       |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Murder(9A)                  | 0          | 1          | 1          | 0          | 1          |
| Rape(11A)                   | 5          | 11         | 11         | 12         | 8          |
| Robbery(120)                | 3          | 1          | 2          | 6          | 3          |
| Agg.<br>Assault(13A)        | 34         | 35         | 42         | 36         | 40         |
| Burglary(220)               | 23         | 20         | 44         | 36         | 46         |
| Theft(23C-23H)              | 132        | 187        | 196        | 202        | 252        |
| Motor Vehicle<br>Theft(240) | 23         | 17         | 23         | 33         | 45         |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>220</b> | <b>272</b> | <b>319</b> | <b>325</b> | <b>395</b> |

| Crimes against Society           | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 |
|----------------------------------|------|------|------|
| DUI(90D)                         | 147  | 130  | 153  |
| Public Intoxication(90E)         | 141  | 118  | 205  |
| Drug/Narcotic<br>Violations(35A) | 180  | 145  | 171  |

# Accidents

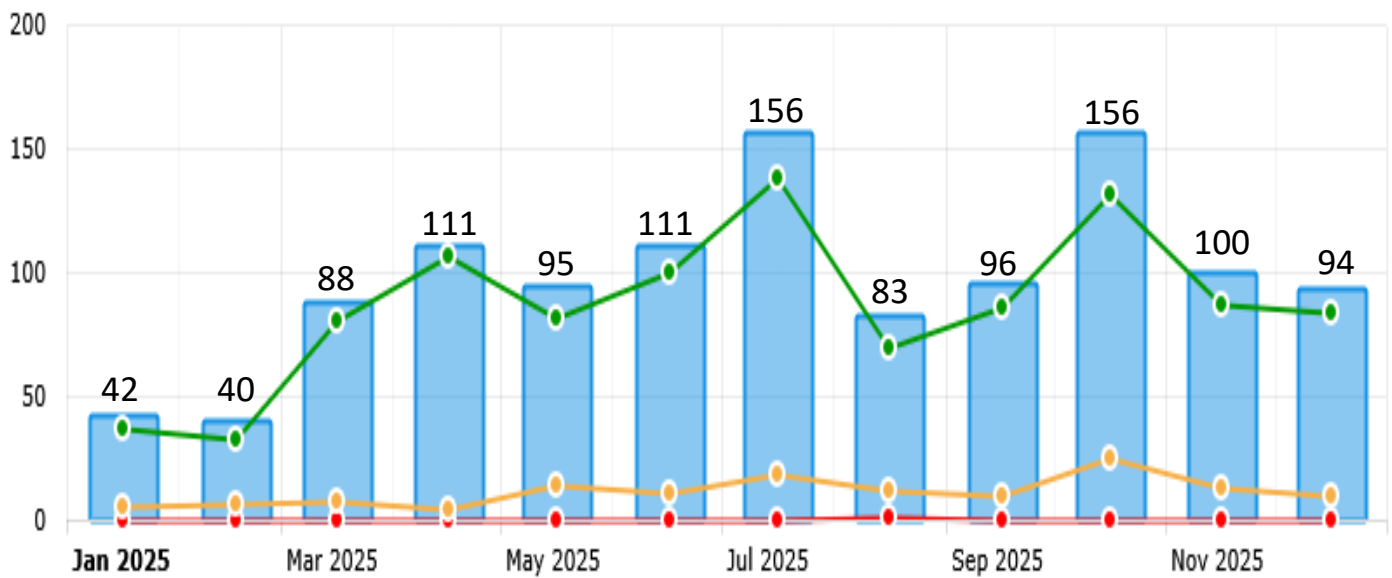
| Accidents by Type                | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 |
|----------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Property Damage<br>(Over \$1500) | 1034 | 1069 | 924  |
| Injury                           | 137  | 148  | 158  |
| Fatal                            | 1    | 3    | 0    |
| Total                            | 1172 | 1220 | 1079 |

| Accidents by Location                   | # of Accidents |
|---|----------------|
| Traffic way                             | 815            |
| Parking Lot or Private Property         | 351            |
| Property Damage not reportable to State | 52 (RMS)       |

| 2025 Manner of Collision (Top 5) | # of Accidents |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Angle                            | 341            |
| Front to Rear                    | 223            |
| Sideswipe, Same direction        | 119            |
| Non-collision                    | 118            |
| Sideswipe, Opp. direction        | 27             |

# Accidents

Pigeon Forge Accidents by Month



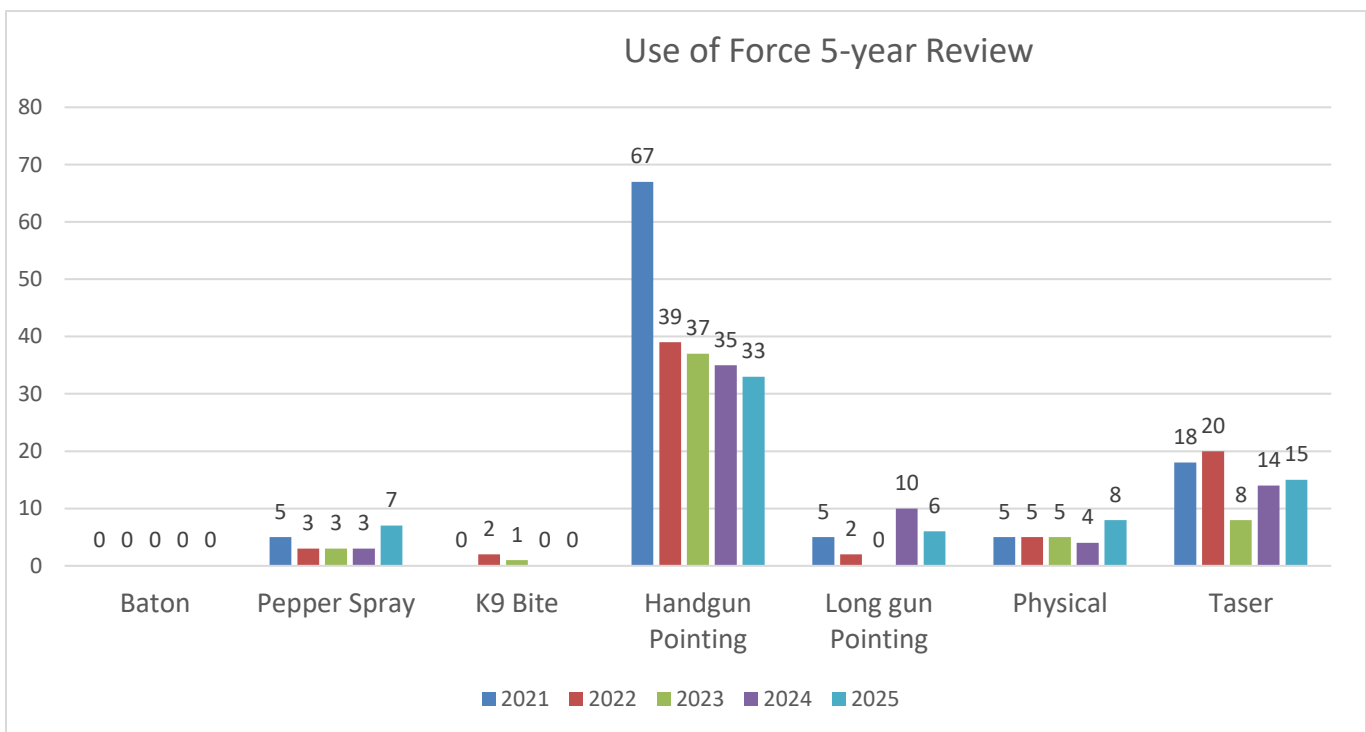
88% of crashes in Pigeon Forge are property damage accidents

Red line is Fatal Accidents - 1  
Green Line is Property Damage Accidents  
Yellow Line is Injury Accidents

## 2025 Use of Force Statistics

In 2025, the Pigeon Forge Police Department had seventy-three (73) Use of Force reports over the course of forty-six (46) incidents. The types of force used by the Pigeon Forge Police Department in 2025 are as follows:

- Handgun (pointing) 33
- Long gun (pointing) 6
- Long gun (fired-dispatch of critically injured animal) 2
- Pepper Spray 7
- Physical(open empty hand) 6
- Physical (strike) 2
- Taser(Turned On) 4
- Taser(Painted) 4
- Taser(Deployed) 6
- Taser (*reenergized*) 1
- K-9 Bites 0
- Baton 0



In 2025 the Pigeon Forge Police Department responded to 39181 calls for service. Based on these numbers we had to use force in approximately 0.12% of our total incidents. Force was use against 37 male suspects and 4 female suspects. The average age of the suspect was 31 years old and the range was from 16 to 58. Four suspects reported minor injuries. Two (2) suspects were armed: one gun and one knife.



**Community Police Officer Robert Dietz**  
Contact: [robert.dietz@cityofpigeonforgetn.gov](mailto:robert.dietz@cityofpigeonforgetn.gov)

## Community Policing

The Pigeon Forge Police department is focused on building trust with residents, businesses, and visitors while maintaining a safe, and welcoming environment. By partnering with residents and local organizations, we are able to provide our community with different events and services that cater to all walks of life. Our Officers are dedicated to serving the community by problem solving. Officer Robert Dietz is our community resource officer and he specializes in event coordination and helping the community. Some of our community policing programs we offer are:



## **CRASE - Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events**

Officer of the Year  
Officer Erich Wilson



Rookie of the Year  
Officer Jacob Deal



Civilian Employee of the Year  
Communication Officer Leah Ogle





Employee of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter  
Officer Logan Starritt



Employee of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter  
Reserve Officer Jacob Mattern



Employee of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter  
Officer Jay Bufkin

## Employees of the Quarter



Employee of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter  
Officer Zohaib Raja



Employee of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter  
Officer Amelia Wagner

# Achievements

Corporal Clabo graduated from the Southeastern Leadership Academy (SELA)! SELA is a prestigious 5-week leadership program presented by the University of Tennessee's Law Enforcement Innovation Center, Institute for Public Service.



Sgt. Trentham, Sgt. Maples and Lt. Atchley completed their final step in the esteemed FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Leadership Series: Supervisor Leadership Institute, Command Leadership Institute and Executive Leadership Institute



Sgt. Jeff Trentham



Lt. Lucas Atchley



Sgt. Bryson Maples

## Southeastern Shrine Association Provost Guard Officer of the Year

Congratulations to Officer T. Maples! He was recognized by the Southeastern Shrine Association Provost Guard as Officer of the Year for 2025. Each year, they honor an officer for their hard work and dedication to the community. Officer Maples has exemplified these qualities and truly enjoys serving his community.



# Promotions



Promoted to Lieutenant  
Lucas Atchley



Promoted to Training  
Lieutenant  
Gary Campbell



Promoted to Captain  
Gary Ott



Promoted to Corporal  
Robert Roskowski



Promoted to Sergeant  
Bryson Maples

# New Hires



Officer Kameron Crawford



Officer Mickael Moquin



Officer Braxton Gray

In Memoriam

KPD Lieutenant Gordon Gwathney.



**Sammy Clay Ownby**  
**October 29, 1956 – July 20, 2025**

