

2020 Year End Report



Carthage Police Department





Carthage Police Department

Mission Statement

The mission of the Carthage Police Department is to work for and with our citizens in order to ensure safety and to improve the quality of life in our community through education, professionalism, and diligent crime prevention.

Keys To Professionalism

We will treat with respect every person that we contact.

We will apply the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics to all that we do.

We will respond to calls promptly, empathize with crime victims, and investigate all leads within our resources.

Community Response

The Carthage Police Department has an authorized strength of 26 full time officers, four part time auxiliary officers, two part time officers, one reserve officer, four full time dispatchers, one part time dispatcher, evidence technician, Team Policing Officer and one full time animal control officer. There are currently two School Resource Officers, one employed by the school the other is employed by the police department. These officers cover an area of 11.69 square miles with a population of 14,763. They handled 23,063 calls for service in 2020. The calls for service are down from the previous year of 26,517. The Carthage Police Department is separated into two divisions; Uniformed Patrol and Support division.

Uniformed Patrol Division is the officers that respond to calls for service and conduct traffic enforcement. This division has the most contact with the community. This division is commanded by Lt. James Woody.

The support division includes investigations, animal control, dispatch, auxiliary officers, and evidence. This division is commanded by Lt. Adam Blankenship.

This end of the year report is written with sincere thanks to the men and women of the Carthage Police Department, who serve with integrity and dedication every day. The year 2020 was filled with confusion, conflict, and unprecedented experiences in our nation, state, and community. You will see this reflected in our end-of-the-year summary. Calls for service numbers were down due to the COVID-19 lockdown. However, crime increased for us, as it did in most communities around the United States. Likewise, communities experienced increases in violent crime and we were no exception. Hopefully, 2021 will be a more stable and secure in many ways. My best wishes for an uplifting 2021! - Chief Dagnan



Crime Statistics

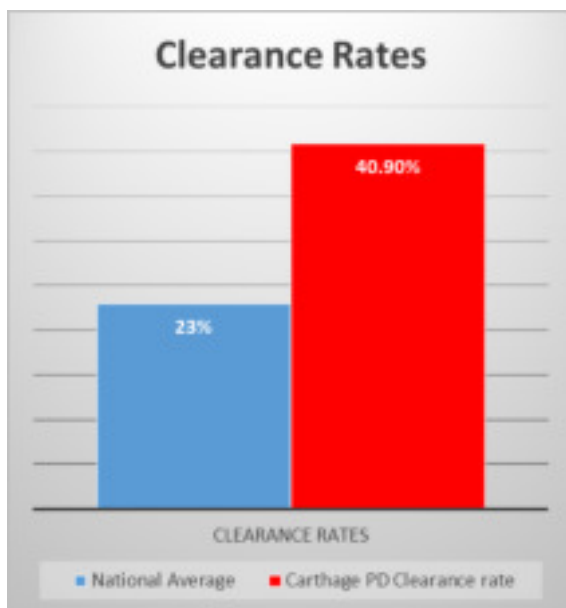
Overall, crime was up this year. Violent crimes, which include Murder, rape, serious assault, and robbery increased. The police department was able to clear 73% of those cases with arrests or charges filed. Property crimes rose by approximately 35% in 2020. Property crimes include larceny, motor vehicle theft, burglary, fraud, and arson. Stolen motor vehicles decreased from 59 in 2019 to 47 in 2020.

Violent Crimes: 107 (78 cleared)

Murder-2 (2 cleared)
Adult Felony Physical Assault-43 (32 cleared)
Adult Sexual Assault-10 (5 cleared)
Child Abuse and Sexual Assault-46 (34 cleared)
Robbery-7 (5 cleared)
Kidnapping-1 (0 cleared)

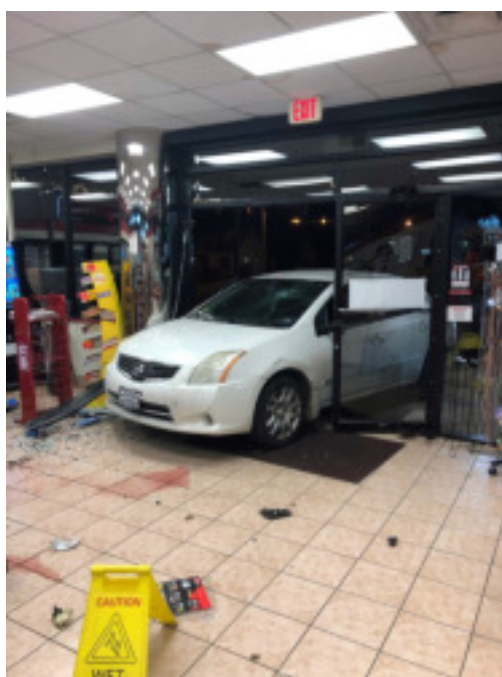
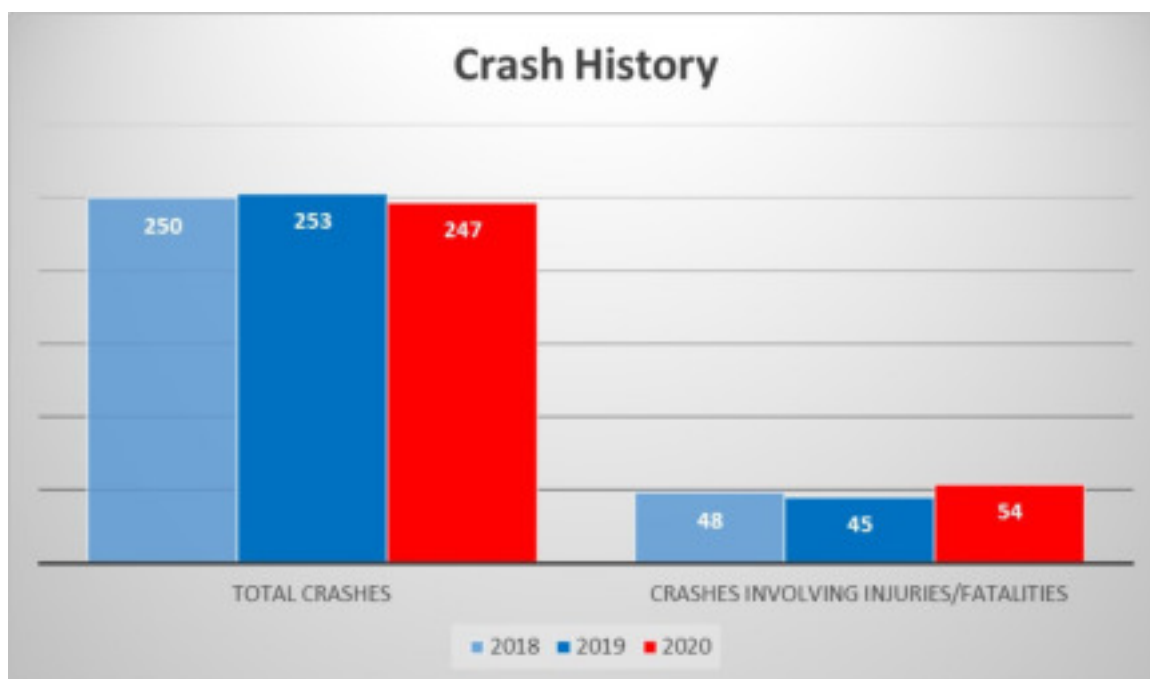
Property Crimes: 714 (258 cleared)

Burglary-84 (14 cleared)
Motor Vehicle Theft-47
Misdemeanor Stealing- 374
Felony Stealing-166 (total stealing cases cleared: 238)
Arson-3 (2 cleared)
ID Theft-19 (2 cleared)
Fraud-21 (3 cleared)



Traffic Crashes

Along with striving to prevent crime, the Carthage Police Department works to reduce the number of crashes in the City of Carthage. This year the police department responded to 247 crashes. 53 of those crashes involved injuries and one resulted in a fatality. The auxiliary officers have been a very valuable asset to the police department assisting with a majority of crash reports for the city.



2020 Team Policing

The Team Policing Officer's role within the Carthage Police Department is to team up with organizations throughout the community serve the citizens, businesses and visitors of Carthage.

During 2020 the role of the Team Policing Officer did not change. However, due to the pandemic, the service to our community did. With almost all community events being canceled and organizations not having meetings, we were not able reach out to the community in a normal fashion. Our team-policing officer was appointed the public information officer for the City of Carthage.

The Team Policing officer conducted nearly one hundred videos that was dispersed to the Carthage City Council, citizens and business of Carthage and every church organization inside the city. He directly dispersed safety information throughout the City and was the liaison to our Hispanic community. He hand delivered masks to many churches in the City and participated in a live Q&A with some local Hispanic church members. While doing those duties he was also able to virtually attend live speeches for our senior citizens organizations, coordinate and attend several drive by parades, hand out food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas at the Salvation Army and provide numerous interviews with local media. He assisted in updating valuable safety information to the City of Carthage website throughout the year.

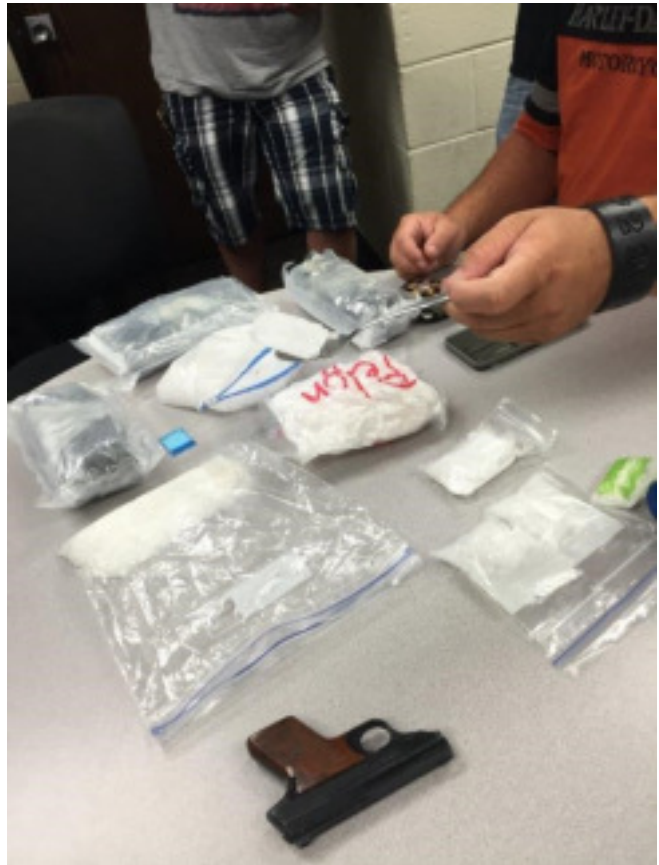


Drug Enforcement

The Carthage Police Department is partnered with the Ozarks Drug Enforcement Team. Carthage Police Sergeant Chad Allison commands the team.

ODET serves Jasper, Barton, Barry, Newton, and McDonald County. The focus of the Task Force is to dismantle large-scale drug trafficking. Detective Allison and his Investigators have served 54 Search Warrants this year arresting approximately 80 suspects for Narcotic Possession and served 50 arrest warrants. ODET Detectives served 12 search warrants in the Carthage City Limits. Those search warrants resulted in 20 arrests including one federal charge.

The Ozarks Drug Enforcement Team seized 60 Grams of Cocaine, 57.8 Grams of Heroin, 9200 Grams of Methamphetamines, and 9000 Grams of Marijuana in 2020. The above numbers are all slightly down do to COVID restrictions. Sergeant Allison and his Team had several restrictions in place which limited the amount of public contacts they had.



Carthage Police Officers

Last year Sgt. Adam Blankenship and Sgt. James Woody were promoted to Lieutenant. Detective Pinnell, Detective Hole, and Patrolman H. Swinehart were promoted to Sergeant. Ptl. Wesley Eckols was the second Auxiliary Officer to complete the police academy and promote to patrolman. The following officers were welcomed to the police department in 2020: Ptl. Adams, Ptl. Bowman, Ptl. Ransome, Ptl. Richards, Ptl. Snow, Ptl. Demasi, Ptl. Bybee, Ptl. Haddock, SRO Dickson, and ACO K. Powell.

Public Interaction

We strive set the standard for professionalism in law enforcement by having the best possible outcome with every citizen interaction. Last year we had four complaints on officers. Body worn cameras were useful to help determine the validity of those complaints.

Last year we had 11 vehicle pursuits. All of the vehicle pursuits were found to be within the parameters of the police department's policy.

Last year Carthage Police Officers made approximately 780 physical arrests, while only having to use force three times.

If you are interested in becoming a Police Officer with Carthage PD, contact Officer Chad Dininger at 417-237-7200.



Detective Division



The detective division experienced the addition of new personnel in 2020. Adam Blankenship was promoted to Support Division Lieutenant while Trevor Hole was promoted to Detective Sergeant. Trent McMain and Aaron Kmick transferred from the patrol division to become a detective in the last quarter of the year. Chad Allison continued in his role as the commander of the Ozarks Drug Enforcement Team. Additionally Ashton Burr continued in her role as the Evidence clerk with specialized training in processing crime scenes.

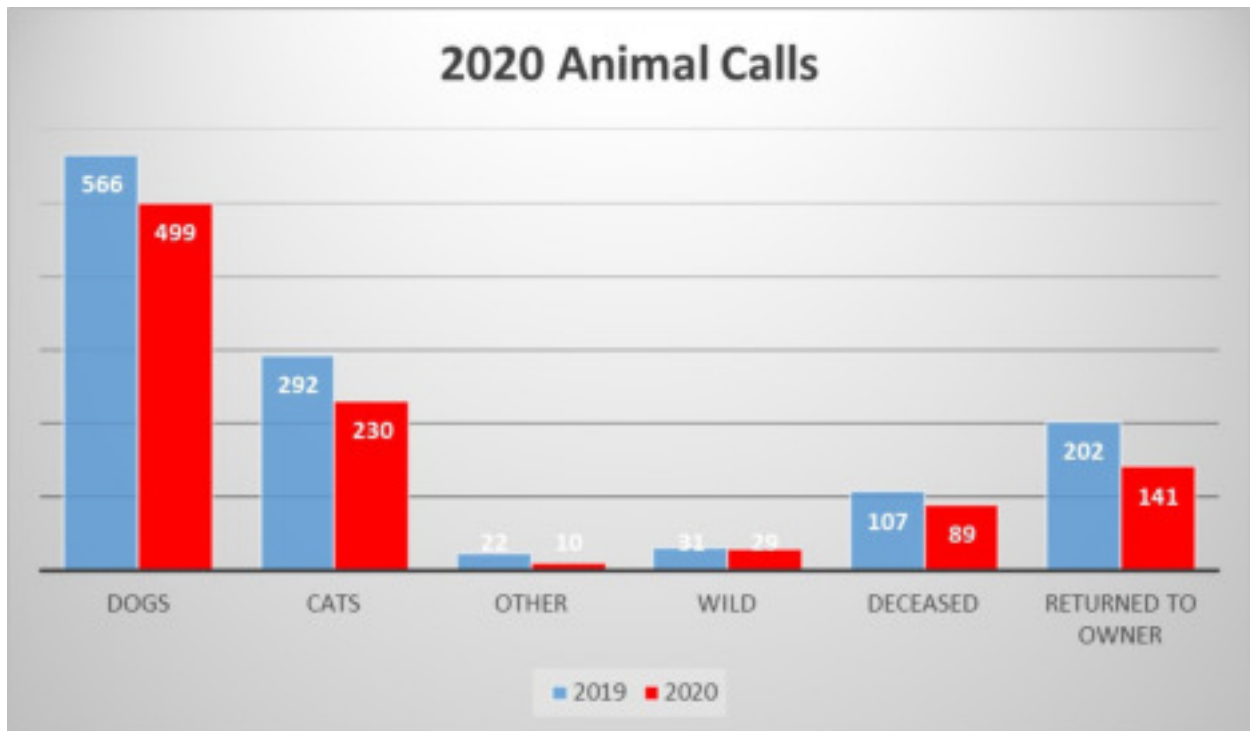
The detective division worked in cooperation with the patrol division and other area agencies in solving and submitting cases to the prosecuting attorney for consideration of criminal charges. This division worked on cases that were related to crimes against persons, sexual crimes against children and adults. In addition this division worked on cases involving burglary and threats against the school and elected officials. This work resulted in the following:

Total # cases assigned– 453
Felony cases– 361
Misdemeanor cases– 75
Felony arrests– 81
Misdemeanor arrests– 10
cases cleared– 187 (41.2%)



Animal Control

2020 brought change to our Animal Control position. We welcomed Animal Control Officer Kim Powell in July of 2020. ACO Powell has already shown that she will be a great asset to the police department. The police department saw a slight drop in the number of animals taken in for 2020.



Auxiliary Police

The Auxiliary Police program continues to be a very valuable asset to the police department. The auxiliary officers handled 2,305 calls this year. Those calls included past tense thefts, vehicle lock outs, crashes (including those that do not require a crash report) and many other calls that don't require a commissioned officer's presence. Other duties include assisting in parking control, funeral escorts, and assisting with logistics of events throughout the city. The police department welcomed Auxiliary Officer Logan Williams in March of 2020 when Kendra Tackett moved to dispatch full time. The auxiliary officers currently consist of Officer G. Tiller, A. Musche, C. Drum, and L. Williams. The Auxiliary Officers are currently assigned two of the fleet's older patrol vehicles.



2020 Employee of the Month Award

Every month the police department chooses to show appreciation to our employees who have done an exemplary job that month. There are typically multiple nominations each month which are then voted on by the command staff. Below is a list of winners for the year:

January– Ptl. Wicks
February– Ptl. Luce
March– Lt. Woody
April– Ptl. Dininger
May– Lt. Banes
June– Sgt. Pinnell
July– Ptl. Lugenbell
August– Sgt. Hole
Sept.– Ptl. Tinnin
October– Sgt. Swinehart
November– Sgt. Hole
December– Det. McMain

