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Major Andrew Watts

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# MARCH 2025 MONTHLY SUPPORT SERVICES REPORT

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CHIEF OF POLICE  
&  
BROWNSBURG POLICE COMMISSION



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# Brownsburg Police Department

## SUPPORT DIVISION REPORT

The following information contained within this report summarizes information deemed pertinent for dissemination from Major Andrew Watts.

- Investigations
- Administrative Services
- Community Relations
- Public Information
- Purchasing/Budget
- Information & Technology
- Human Resources
- Training
- Vehicle Fleet

### Investigations

The Investigations Unit received (13) new cases, screened (25) outside agency reports, closed and/or suspended (10) cases, and closed (7) cases with (7) arrests. The crime trend for this month was *Crimes against persons*. The Unit served (13) search warrants and/or subpoenas, conducted (32) interviews, completed (1) background investigation and attended (3) Child Forensic Interviews this month.

*Captain Barrett* led the unit on the homicide/shooting investigation that resulted in the death of two Indianapolis men. This investigation was complex, had many moving parts, multiple individuals, and involved every team member within the Investigations Unit and their respective skills. A plethora of evidence was collected and processed, numerous interviews conducted, and several forms of legal service were executed during this investigation. In the end, charges have been presented to the Hendricks County Prosecutor's Office for (4) individuals for various crimes. An update for the community and media release will be provided once the Prosecutor's Office determines what charges are filed. Barrett attended a State Child Fatality Review board meeting, attended (1) Executive Staff meetings, conducted an Investigations Unit meeting, and completed a civilian job description revision for the new addition of former Admin Services employee to now Property Room Manager. Barrett had (23) media inquiries from Fox 59, WISH TV, WRTV, WTHR, and Indy Star, completed (2) on-air interviews and completed (1) media release regarding the Homicide investigation.

*Detective Sgt. Bass* made (0) arrests this month, but closed (3) cases. He is actively investigating fraud involving a stolen Apple watch that was sold to the victim. Victim discovered the watch was stolen when they attempted to activate it for service. Bass attended Defensive Tactics training. Bass was called out (1) time and was consulted (1) time this month by road personnel. He conducted (0) background investigations.

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*Detective Sgt. Stanford* made (1) arrest this month and closed (2) cases. The arrest was a Level 5 Burglary that was committed in December 2023 at a local business. Stanford and CSI Knowles processed the scene in 2023, and recovered DNA and fingerprints of the suspect. Due to the subject being a juvenile at the time of the crime, their prints were not on file. However, Stanford received a DNA and fingerprint match for this case as the juvenile's information became available as an adult. The suspect was charged as a juvenile in this case. Stanford was not called out but was consulted (2) times this month by road personnel.

*Detective Sgt. Wells* made (4) arrests this month and closed (4) cases. Wells was the primary Detective on the Homicide/Shooting investigation that resulted in the death of two Indianapolis men. Charges have been presented to the Prosecutor for (4) individuals. Once the Prosecutor reviews and accepts the charges, information pertaining to the subjects and respective charges will be publically released. Wells attended CVSA recertification and IDACS recertification. Wells was called out (1) time and was consulted (4) times this month by road personnel. He conducted (0) background investigations but completed (1) CVSA Examinations.

*Detective Sgt. O'Brien* made no arrests this month and closed (1) case. O'Brien investigated a report of a male exposing himself in public. Upon further investigation, the complainant refused to cooperate with LE any further. O'Brien attended Defensive Tactics training and IDACS recertification this month. Detective O'Brien was called out (1) time and was consulted (1) time this month by road personnel. In addition, he completed (1) background investigation.

*Detective Sgt. Cronin* made (1) arrest this month and closed (3) cases. Cronin charged a local man with Level 3 Fraud stemming from a case that originated out of Michigan, but had North Carolina ties. The suspect was advertising vehicles for sale, and victims would send him the funds for the vehicles, but never receive the vehicles. The suspect was converting all the US currency he would receive to crypto currency. After Cronin reviewed evidence he received through legal service, he discovered that the suspect had numerous victims, which led to an active warrant for the suspect out of North Carolina. Cronin attended Defensive Tactics training and IDACS recertification. Cronin was not called out and was not consulted this month by road personnel.

*Detective Cpl. Jeremiah Jones* made (1) arrest this month and closed (1) case. Jones charged a man with (4) counts of Level 3 Rape for the sexual assault of his four stepsiblings. The suspect is currently out of state in the military and will be apprehended by military authorities. Jones attended CVSA certification training. Jones was called out (1) time and was consulted (12) times this month by road personnel. He completed no background investigations and attended ERT training.

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*Crime Scene Investigator and Property Room Manager Todd Knowles* reported the following work product: Called out (4) times on duty, (5) times off duty, Collected/processed (130) items of evidence from (6) crime scenes this month. Checked in (225) items of evidence, signed out (26) items of evidence to Officers, returned (10) items of property to owners and transferred (0) items to other agencies. Knowles completed (36) Prosecutor Discovery Requests that resulted in the following work product: uploaded (66) pieces of Body Camera footage, (52) Dash/In-Car Camera Footage, and (0) Photos. He made (6) trips to the ISP Lab and completed (6) lab submissions, and (1) trip to the Prosecutor's Office. No trips were made to the hospital. Knowles processed (0) firearms, obtained/lifted (6) sets of fingerprints, collected (6) evidence swabs, uploaded (2) CAC (Vidanyx) interviews, and emptied the lobby Rx box for a total of (32) lbs. Knowles completed a drug destruction of 500 lbs. Knowles served (3) search warrants. Knowles attended Defensive Tactics training, and Drug Test Kit recertification this month.

*Forensics Analyst Anthony Merckel* examined (8) cell phones, (1) tablet and (10) storage devices in March involving child sex crimes, homicide, suicide, and battery. He was called out (0) times. Merckel completed (0) consultations. Merckel Installed new storage drives into a forensic computer, purchased trainings for 2025, met with prosecutors and BPD team regarding the double homicide and data extractions, trained new officer J. Umbanhowar regarding forensics section of the training binder, trained new property manager Kristi Braziel regarding forensics section of the training binder, and repaired broken phone from double homicide in Brownsburg for the investigation.

*Investigations Assistant and Victim Advocate Kim Shupert* was called out (0) times on duty, and (1) time off duty this month. March was a relatively active month for Shupert in terms of victim contacts. She was involved with (17) new victims. Shupert made (12) victim contacts via telephone, (27) victim contacts via text/email, and (11) victim contacts in person. She completed (0) Public Access requests, (0) redactions needed, assisted the Investigations Unit in (47) IDACS/NCIC queries, uploaded (26) 310's, transferred (3) cases to other agencies, and sent (0) search warrants. Shupert continued with the IACP Law Enforcement Victim's Advocate on-line training to include (2) additional hours covering Strategic Program Planning, and completed her IDACS/NCIC Operator recertification.

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*Intelligence Analyst/Ancillary Property Room Custodian Michael Langeman* was called out (1) time, consulted (8) times, reviewed (35) crime tips or bulletins, disseminated (5) intelligence or safety communications, conducted surveillance (0) time and conducted (3) inter-agency collaborations. Langeman completed several intelligence packages for the homicide/shooting investigation, and he completed recertification for IDACS.

During his Property Room duties, Langeman collected/processed (18) items of evidence this month. He checked in (140) items of evidence, signed out (1) item of evidence to Officers and returned (1) item of property to owners. He transferred (0) items of evidence to another agency. Langeman completed (0) Prosecutor Discovery Requests for physical evidence. He made (0) trips to the ISP Lab, completed (0) lab submissions, and (0) trips were made to the hospital. Assisted CSI Knowles in processing/collecting evidence from original double homicide scene, execution of search warrant on subject vehicle, processing of firearms, phones and spent shell casings. In addition, assisted CSI Knowles with the location and recovery of spent shell casings at a secondary location in Indianapolis related to the main subjects.

### **Administrative Services**

March has been a busy month for the Administrative Service Unit. Staff changes were conducted as Kristi Braziel went upstairs to a newly developed position under the Investigations Unit. Heidi Shepherd and Debbie Umbanhowar have split the job functions that were previously assigned to Kristi. Heidi and Debbie finished the organization of both the Quartermaster area and Records Storage. In addition, the scanning in of personnel files is now 100% complete.

Heidi conducted (3) car seat installations in the month of March. This no charge program continues to gain popularity as the community places increased focus on keeping the children of our citizens as safe as possible while traveling.

In the month of March, the Administrative Services Unit processed (35) public access requests, (22) criminal history requests, (6) gun permits, (7) sets of fingerprints, (5) rider requests, (18) vehicle releases and (63) alarm permit transactions. Fees generated totaled \$2039.50 below is a breakdown of the collected fees:

➤ Accident Reports	\$	50.00
➤ Incident Reports	\$	35.00
➤ Vehicle Release	\$	360.00
➤ Criminal Histories	\$	5.00
➤ Alarm Transactions	\$	1480.00
➤ Vin Check	\$	0.00
➤ Notary Fees	\$	2.00
➤ Fingerprints	\$	20.00
➤ Pictures/CD	\$	5.00
➤ Off Duty Mgmt.	\$	82.50




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## **Public Information**

The agency received several media contacts/inquires throughout the month of March. The majority of the media inquiries (television and written) revolved around the double homicide investigation and updates on significant incidents from throughout the last several weeks/months including vehicle pursuit(s)/crash and several ongoing investigations. In addition, BPD received inquiries reference pending Hendricks County Sheriff's cases that occurred adjacent to Brownsburg jurisdiction.

The department also released (15) Facebook posts, (0) Facebook Crime Tips post, (15) Posts from X /Twitter, (13) Instagram Posts

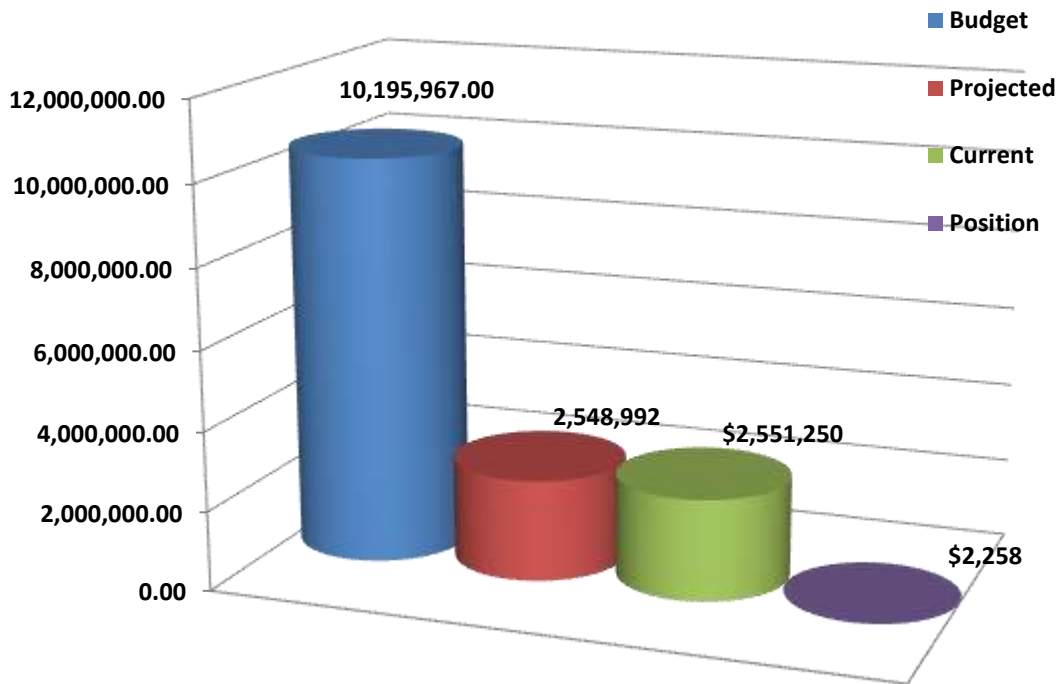
Current subscriber lists report the following number of members:

Media Resource	Subscribers/Contacts
<b>Facebook</b> 	<b>14,962</b>
<b>Facebook Crime Tips</b> 	<b>8,000</b>
<b>Twitter/ X</b> 	<b>3,285</b>
<b>Instagram</b>	<b>1,531</b>

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## Budget

As of March 31, 2025, the department expended 25.02% of its budget. As is typical of March, we are slightly over budget due to contracts and memberships that are typically paid at the beginning of each year. Encumbered funds from 2024 totaled \$15,067 and are reflected in the total budget amount.



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## **Information Technology**

*Lt. John Depinet Information Technology* reported that the focus this month was on improving digital workflows and enhancing interdepartmental coordination. Depinet implemented backend updates to streamline data accuracy across multiple forms and systems, and he assisted in aligning documentation standards with external agency requirements, ensuring smoother handoffs and fewer delays in processing. Depinet provided technical support for administrative staff, addressing minor system issues and optimizing access to shared resources.

Lt. Depinet has assisted Capt. Bullock to ensure that Town Court proceedings are adequately staffed as it relates to security throughout March.

## **Human Resources**

In March, BPD operated with (5) current vacancies in the sworn officer category. BPD currently has no officers on light duty.

Officer Joseph Medjeski, Lucio Argueta, Jason Umbanhowar are completing or have completed their Field Training under the supervision of an assigned training officer and will be assigned to shifts as solo patrol units in the coming weeks.

At the February Police Commissioner meeting, the following candidates were presented with Conditional Offers of Employment: Morgan Ettenberger, Donna Davenport, Nathaniel Giblin and Austin Hyde. Each of the listed candidates have completed their medical and psychological evaluation(s) as deemed necessary to move forward in the process. The agency has successfully reserved seats to have 3 of the 4 candidates in the upcoming May Indiana Law Enforcement Academy #236 training session. Morgan Ettenberger has already obtained the ILEA certification and can move forward without additional academy training. The three officers who require the academy are scheduled to report to BPD for their first day of employment on April 21<sup>st</sup> and will be sworn in on that date by the Clerk Treasurer.

In addition, BPD has “screened out” several potential Lateral/Certified candidates based upon their backgrounds and will be presenting a recruitment plan for a new *Lateral/Certified Process* at the April PC meeting. The hopes are to obtain (2) candidates from this process and establish a list of eligible candidates for utilization in any 2025 vacancies.

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Civilian Kristi Braziel was reassigned from Admin Services to Property Manager within investigations. Concerns had been identified over the past year that a need for additional tracking/monitoring of property and evidence was necessary to maintain accurate records and property retrieval. Kristi had previously expressed an interest and agreed to make the move upstairs. At this time, Admin Services will continue daily operations with Debbie Umbanhowar and Heidi Shepherd.

## **Training**

### **Training Requested/Submitted to the Training Board in March**

- Shepherd, Heidi *Management & Leadership Skills for New Managers and Supervisors (2-Day)*
- Umbanhowar, Debbie *Management & Leadership Skills for New Managers and Supervisors*
- Barrett, Jennifer *National Internal Affairs Conference*
- Bass, Jacque *National Internal Affairs Conference*
- Plichta, Bryce *Tactical Patrol Officer 1*
- Stanford, Daniel *National Internal Affairs Conference*
- Knowles, Todd *Forensic Science 101*

### **Hosted Training Courses for March**

- Retiree Qualifications
- CILETC Meeting
- Defensive Tactics Q1/2
- HCSD K9 Training
- ERT Monthly Training

**Training Facility utilization by outside agencies for the month of March**

<b>Outside Agency Facility Usage</b>					
<b><u>Agency</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Range</u></b>	<b><u>Shoot House</u></b>	<b><u>Mats</u></b>	<b><u>Classroom</u></b>
ICE	March 4, 5, 19	X			
FBI	March 7, 24, 31	X			
Avon PD	March 3, 13	X	X		
IRS CI	March 14	X			
Whitestown PD	March 10	X			
HSI	March 21	X			

**Training Invoices sent out for March**

- ICE – 3 days of Range
- IRS CI – 1 day of Range
- HSI Invest – 1 day of Range

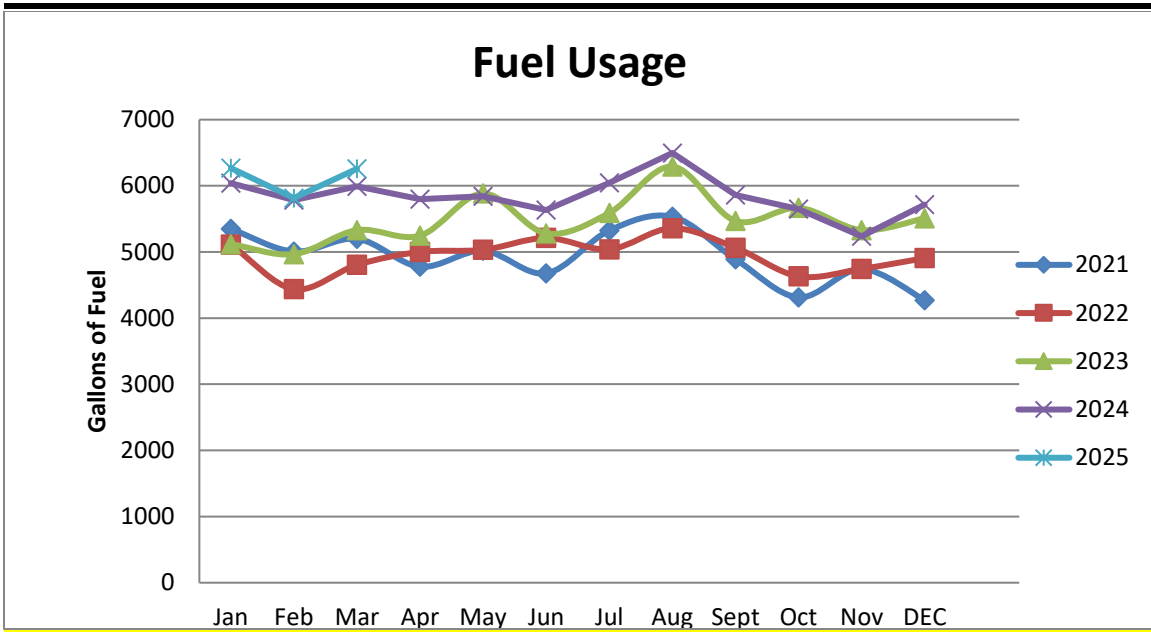
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### **Training Coordinator Business**

- March was yet another busy month at the Training Facility.
- Every day but two were booked for training during the month.
- IPS was a no call no show for 3 days of range.
- Defensive Tactics had a large showing for Q1/2 first session.
- All personnel on Department have completed ISP's IDACS requirement.

### **Vehicle Fleet**

The town garage continues to prep and rollout the newest 2025 patrol vehicles. The vehicles being replaced (which are 2018 and 2019) are being rolled into the pool fleet and some are being reassigned to new officers who have been recently hired. We currently have received the additional (6) vehicles from the second installment of the 2024 CCD. Five (5) older units (2013s) have been rotated out and sent to auction. The first installment of vehicles are being prepared to order and will include (2) K9 replacement vehicles and several patrol vehicles. The (2) K9 vehicles are being researched to merge toward the Ford product and away from the Chevrolet product. At this time, the Ford Expedition Police Package is the vehicle base being considered to replace the older Chevy Tahoe units. In the meantime, garage staff continue to perform routine and preventative maintenance to ensure the safety and life of the vehicle fleet is maintained. The fuel number for March was 6,258 gallons used by Police units. This amount is up from last month total numbers and slightly increased from the March 2024 usage amounts. For all intents and purposes, usage continue to remain very consistent with previous months and years considering the number of sworn, reserves and civilian staff utilizing department vehicles (see below chart). Our officers and staff continue to be mindful and conservative of the fuel utilized both on and off duty.



*Respectfully Submitted,  
Major Andrew Watts*