

2024

# ANNUAL REPORT

St. Thomas Police Service



# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that the land on which we inhabit is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinabek, Lunaapeewak and Attiwonderonk peoples, connected through Treaty 2 and the McKee Purchase Treaty of 1790.

We recognize that this land is now home to the Munsee-Delaware Nation, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation and Oneida Nation of the Thames, as well as many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. With this, we respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers.





# OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

**Marc Roskamp, Chief of Police**

As Chief of Police, it is both my duty and privilege to present the STPS Annual Report on the status of public safety in our city. This past year has been one of significant progress, continued challenges, and deep reflection as we strive to build a safer, stronger, and more connected community.

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to the residents of our city for your continued support, engagement, and trust. Public safety is not the responsibility of law enforcement alone — it is a shared mission that requires partnership, communication, and mutual respect. Together, we have worked to address the concerns that matter most to you: reducing crime, improving transparency, and enhancing the overall quality of life for all.

Over the past year, we have seen a 13.5% reduction in overall crime, including a notable 20.09% reduction in property crimes. These reductions are due in large part to enhanced patrol strategies, stronger multi-sectoral partnerships, and targeted crime prevention efforts. While we celebrate this progress, we remain vigilant and committed to driving these numbers even lower.

Our police service has made substantial strides in areas of community policing, officer training, and mental health responses. We expanded our Community Resource Unit that has been implemented to better support individuals experiencing mental health crises, addictions and homelessness. We continue to strengthen partnerships with local organizations to provide resources and alternatives that offer a right-care-right people approach. Complaints involving illicit drug use behaviors in our downtown core have decreased by 67%. Our community collaborative approaches are connecting prolific offenders to a consortium of resources which is seeing a 30% reduction in recidivism.

This past year, we implemented new data analytics technology which plays a crucial role in modern policing by helping us make informed decisions, allocate resources effectively, and improve public safety outcomes. We are pleased to be able to provide the community with our reporting documents that transform raw data into actionable insights.

Despite our collaborative successes, we recognize that challenges remain. Unfortunately, we've seen an increase in violent crime in recent years. Substance use continues to have an impact on communities throughout Ontario, including in St. Thomas. We are committed to investing in evidence-based strategies, ensuring that our public safety resources are aligned with the needs of our community.

We remain committed and steadfast in promoting the overall wellness of our officers and civilian staff alike, ensuring they are equipped to serve our community effectively.

I would like to thank the dedicated men and women of our police service. Their service, courage, and compassion are the foundation of our efforts to serve and protect, while offering a caring and understanding presence in the community. I also thank you — the community — for your partnership, your patience, and your commitment to a safer city for all.

In 2025, we will move forward together — with resolve, with hope, and with a shared vision of safety, equity, and opportunity for everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Roskamp'.

Marc Roskamp  
Chief of Police

# POLICE SERVICES BOARD



**Dan Reith, Chair**

Provincial Appointee

On behalf of the Police Services Board, I am pleased to share our annual communication. It serves as a reflection of the past year and insight into the road ahead. We can mark 2024 as a year of continued collaboration, progress, and commitment to the principles of accountability, transparency, and community safety.

As the civilian oversight body for our police service, the Board is tasked with ensuring policing in our community is conducted efficiently, effectively, equitably, and in alignment with the values of the people we serve. We have continued to support strategic priorities focused on crime prevention, community engagement, and officer wellness—all while navigating the evolving challenges that impact public safety.

A key role is to ensure the police service has the resources, training, and leadership necessary to meet the diverse needs of our growing community. We remain committed to responsible governance and oversight, working alongside the Chief of Police to ensure that policies reflect best practices and that operational decisions are made with both safety and fairness in mind.

We also recognize that public trust is essential to effective policing. Over the past year, we have strengthened our focus on transparency, equity, and meaningful community engagement. Through open dialogue, public meetings, and data-sharing initiatives, we continue to listen and respond to the concerns and expectations of the residents we represent.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to the members of our police service for their dedication and professionalism, as well as to the community members and partner organizations, who play a vital role in shaping public safety outcomes. Your voices, input, and cooperation are crucial in building a police service that reflects the essence of respect and accountability.

Looking ahead, the Board will remain steadfast in its mission to provide strong, independent oversight and ensure that our police service evolves to meet the dynamic needs of our community. Together, we will continue working toward a safer, healthier, and more connected community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan'.

Dan Reith BA(Hons) CAIB



**Joe Preston**

Vice Chair  
Mayor, Council Member  
Appointee



**Lynn Coates**

Provincial Appointee



**Tara McCaulley**

Council Member  
Appointee



**Jason Jackson**

Community Representative  
Appointee

# Executive Leadership TEAM



**Marc Roskamp**

CHIEF OF POLICE

**Scott Barnes**

DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE



**Steve Bogart**

STAFF INSPECTOR OF OPERATIONS



**Kim Manuel**

INSPECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION



**Tiffany Terpstra**

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

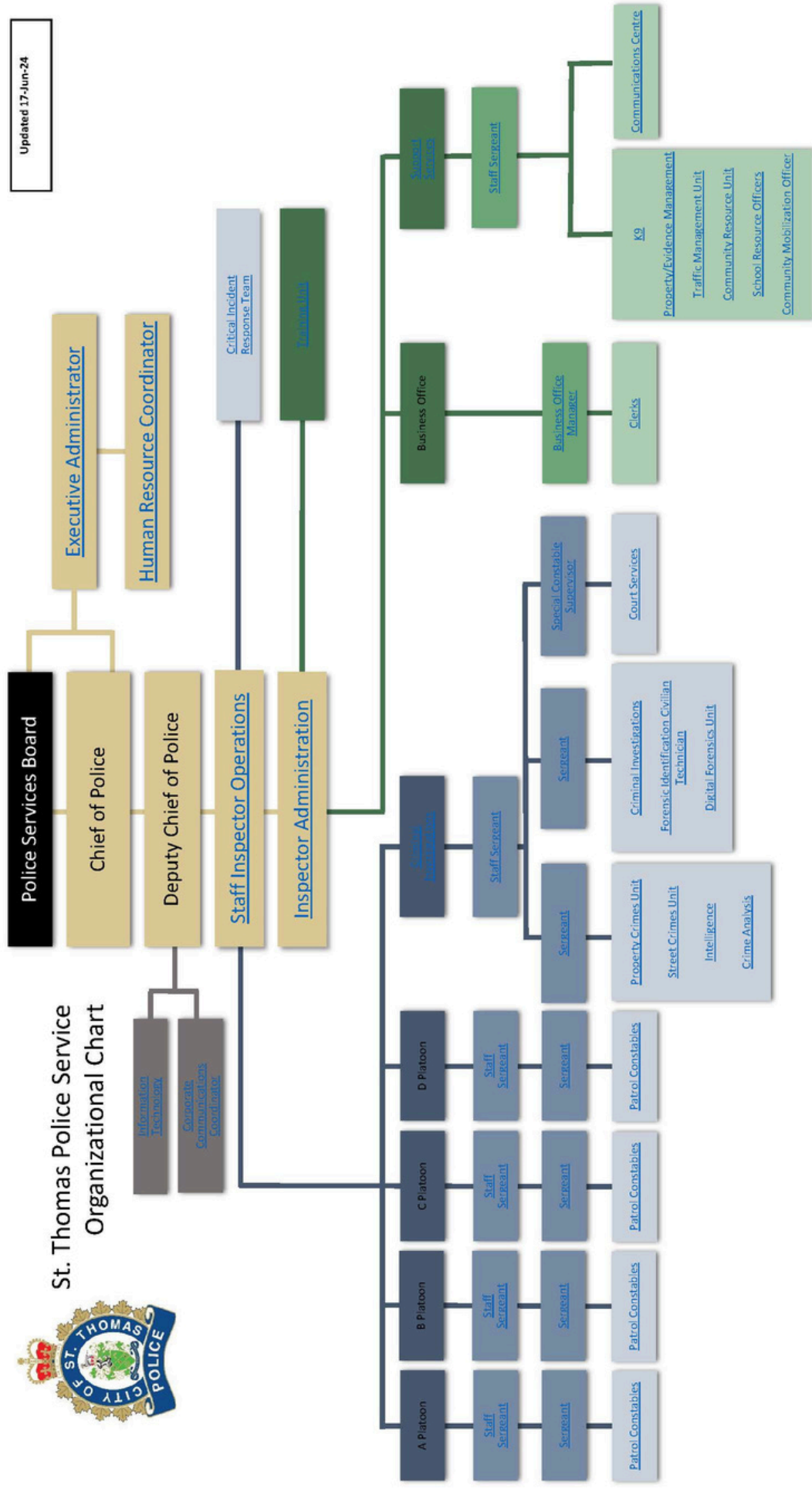


**Alison Lyle**

HUMAN RESOURCES COORDINATOR



## Updated 17-Jun-24



# OUR TEAM MEMBERS

81 Sworn  
Members

49 Civilian  
Members

15 Special  
Constables

4  
Cadets



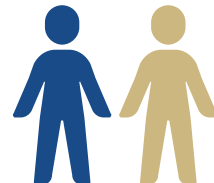
PSD Axle



Annual Incident  
Total 23,214



195 online  
reporting



62% Sworn  
38% Civilian



Est. Population 50,000  
Area 35.61 km<sup>2</sup>

St. Thomas

## NEW MEMBERS

Business Office

Jamie Noseworthy  
Pamela Pepping

Cadets

Justin McCarthy  
Colin Spence  
Rohan Hiadan  
Noah Bae  
Kaitlyn Johnson  
Joshua Reda

Communications

Victoria Dalal

Digital Forensic Unit

Todd DeSilva

Special Constable

Chris Gallant  
Junior Phillips  
Josee Morgado  
Ryan McGlynn  
Sarah Chrysler  
Sara Kloosterman

Uniform Officers

Ella Orlic  
Michelle Ethier  
Natalie Hynd  
Hannah Blackburn  
Jordan Steuer

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow along!  
@stpsmedia



21,660



5,816



2,101



1,024



## YEARS OF SERVICE

### 25 Years

Inspector Kim Manuel  
Constable James Fast  
Robin Ough, Clerk

### 20 Years

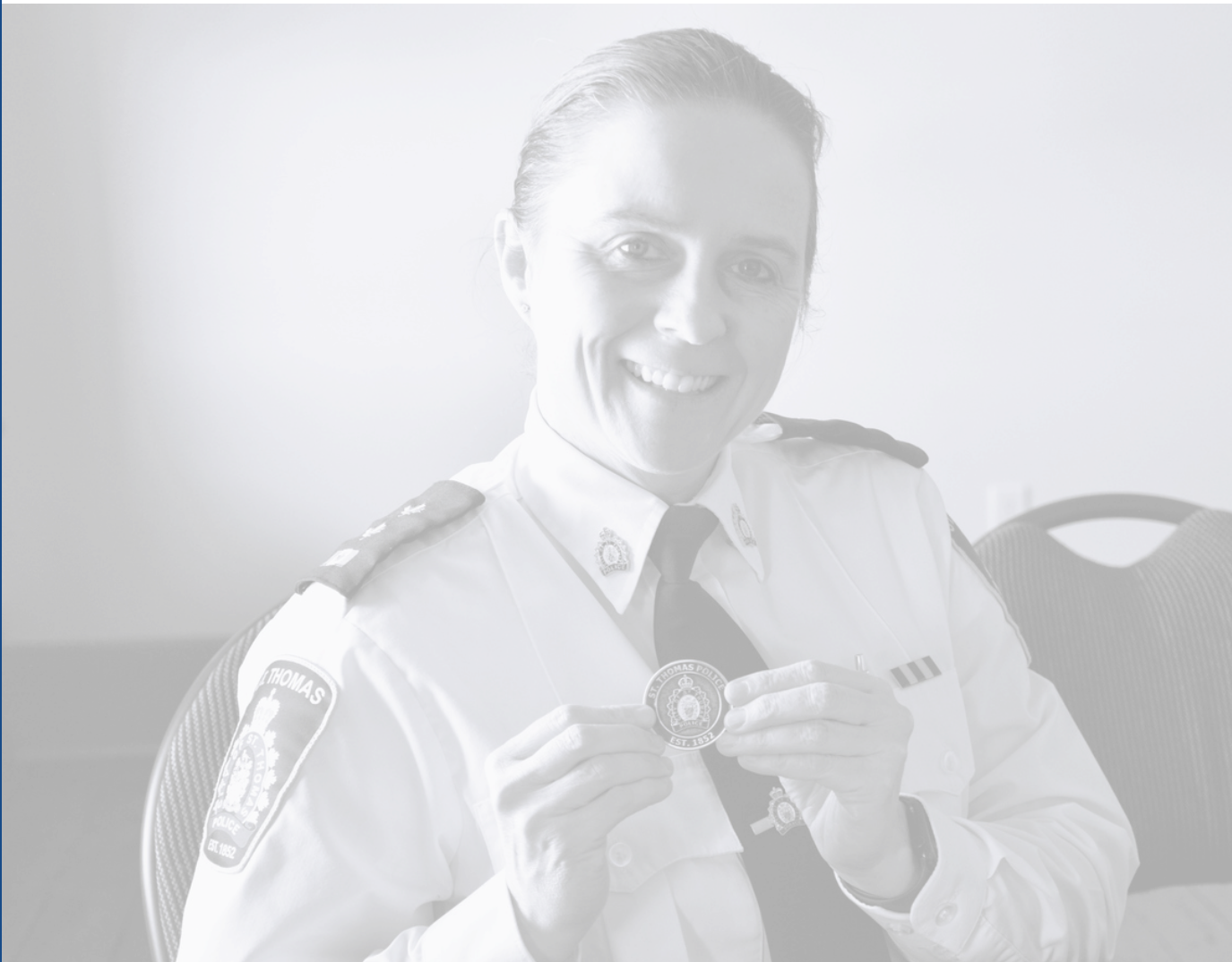
Constable Justin Benwell

### 10 Years

Constable Paul Tunks  
Special Constable Scott Haayema  
Special Constable Kelly Macintyre  
Special Constable Keshia Vanderweyst  
Special Constable Colleen Kelly

### 5 Years

Tiffany Terpstra, Executive Administrator  
Staff Sergeant Jackie VanWycken  
Sergeant Mike Lupson  
Constable Rebecca Corcoran  
Constable Greg Davis  
Constable Jen Sawatzky  
Special Constable Jeff Chandelier



## 911 & NON EMERGENCY CALLS

Current 911 systems are supported by landline phones. If you call 911 from a cell phone, dispatchers have limited resources to locate the origin of the call. **Location matters in an emergency.**



[www.what3words.com](http://www.what3words.com)

If you need help and don't know where you are, use the **what3words** app to help dispatchers pinpoint your location. Download the app for free today.

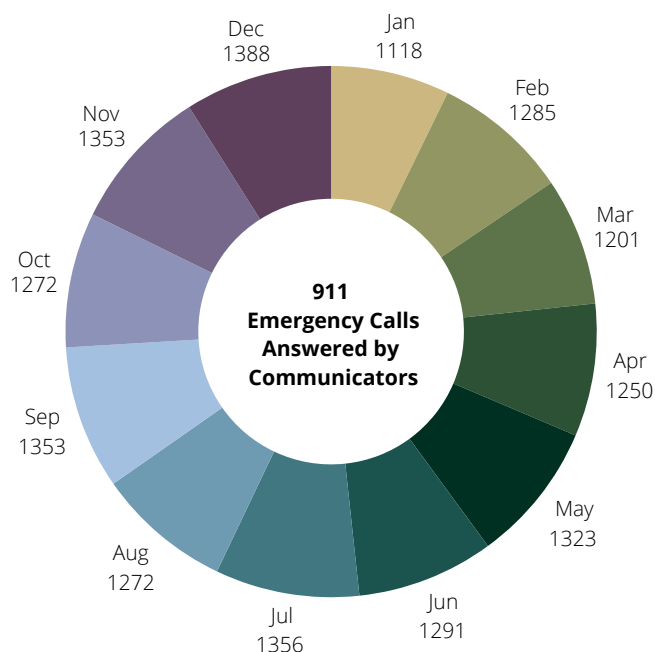
STPS is preparing to enhance emergency response with the use of Next Generation 911 - a service that will support voice and text. More info at: [www.crtc.gc.ca](http://www.crtc.gc.ca).

Expanded services are coming. NG911 will give residents improved emergency services using telecommunication networks. This will be completed by Summer 2025.

### YEARLY 911 CALL TOTALS

**2023: 16,718 | 2024: 15,260**

AGENCY	2023	2024	%
Police	7268	6137	-15.5%
Fire	433	484	+11.7%
Ambulance	5784	6260	+8.2%



The STPS Communications Centre answered in excess of 60,000 calls and inquiries in 2024.

23,214 resulted in STPS response.

## SUSPECT APPREHENSION PURSUITS

The need to apprehend or identify a person or the motor vehicle must outweigh the risk to public safety. That is the test that is continually applied by all staff involved. STPS Officers will never attempt to stop a motor vehicle if there is a risk to public safety.

Suspect Apprehension Pursuits	6
Fail to Remain Reports	15
Incidents concluded with arrest and charge	5
Criminal Code Charges	13
Highway Traffic Act Charges	14
Known Stolen Vehicles Involved	4

## CRIME STATISTICS

INCIDENTS	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Variance 2023-2024
TOTAL	22,173	21,924	20,685	22,628	23,214	+2.6%

ARRESTS	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Variance 2023-2024
TOTAL	1,553	1,758	1,988	2,143	2,180	+1.7%

CRIMINAL CHARGES	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Variance 2023-2024
TOTAL	1,878	1,853	2,175	1,748	1,803	+3.14%

BAIL VIOLATIONS	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Variance 2023-2024
Bail Violation Charges	243	253	259	*196	216	+10.2%

\*Bill C-75 (2019) consequently modernized bail practices and procedures by providing that any bail decision must give primary consideration to releasing the accused at the earliest opportunity and on the least onerous conditions possible.

\* Bill C-48 introduced in December 2023 and attempts to adjust issues identified in the previous Bill C-75.

## DIGITAL FORENSICS EXAMINATION

	2023	2024	Variance
Total Intake	133	201	+ 51%
Total Examined Devices	95	130	+ 36.8%
Devices bumped to 2024	38	71	+ 86.8%
Total Successfully Extracted Devices	73	105	+ 43.8%
Total Size of Examined Data in GB (1 Gigabyte = 1024 Gigabytes)	3,768.32	10,410.2	+ 176.3%
Incidents Involved	34	104	+ 70.6%
Total Charges	186	256	+ 37.6%

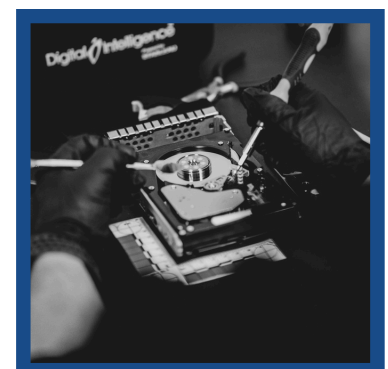
## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Drugs 271	Guns Real/Imitation 63	DVD/Docs 64	Bikes 38
Alcohol 21	Weapons 28	General Submissions 476	Investigative Property 55

## FORENSIC IDENTIFICATION SERVICES

607	Criminal Fingerprints Collected
40	DNA Orders Executed
35	DNA Endorsements Executed
82	Crime Scenes Processed
20	Sudden Death Investigations
4	Arson Investigations
3	Firearm Related Offences
9	Warrants Attended
31	Investigations with Centre of Forensic Science
4	Post Mortem Examinations Attended
1	Photo Lineups

**75** Registered Sex Offenders are currently being monitored by Forensic Identification Services as per the Ontario Sex Offender Registry and the National Sex Offender Registry.





## COMMUNITY RESOURCE UNIT



In recent years, our police service consulted with the community and determined a new approach was necessary to address the growing social and health related disorders in our downtown region. These issues are predominantly believed to be non-core functions and therefore do not require the presence of police officers in all cases. A carefully selected team of Special Constables was established pursuant to the provisions of the new Community Safety and Policing Act. This Community Resource Team (CRU) has a primary focus to engage with vulnerable individuals impacted by mental illness, substance use disorders, and those struggling with being unhoused.

Our CRU Team supports these individuals in finding healthy pathways and connects them to the complex consortium of social and health related supports within our community. Our team works very closely with key local partners such as; CMHA, CCHC, STEGH, St. Thomas-Elgin Social Services, St. Thomas Bylaw Services, and Indwell. Our aim is to deploy our CRU Team in collaboration with other partner agencies to prevent these social and health disorders from becoming public safety concerns, and therefore directly becoming core obligations for police officer response.

Our CRU Team is based out of the STPS Satellite Office located at 584 Talbot Street. Our team of Special Constables are also responsive to the needs of the many business/restaurant owners and shoppers in our downtown core. All citizens of St. Thomas and guests to our city have the right to be safe and feel safe. We have heard from our community on this Program and our shared vision is proving to have a positive impact in our downtown.

## COURT SERVICES - ELGIN COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Prisoner Appearances	3,418
Prisoner Escorts	441

### **STAFF**

#### **Full Time**

- 1 - Special Constable Supervisor
- 1 - Uniform Constable
- 2 - Special Constable Case Managers, Criminal and POA
- 1 - Special Constable Court Security

#### **Part Time**

- 5 - Special Constables (STPS)
- 1 - Uniformed Constable (STPS)
- 1 - Special Constable (Aylmer)
- 1 - Uniformed Constable (OPP)



## **BUSINESS OFFICE**



Criminal Background Checks	3,477
Provincial Offence Notices	2,913
Criminal Charge Packages for Court	1,383
Freedom of Information / Court Orders	155

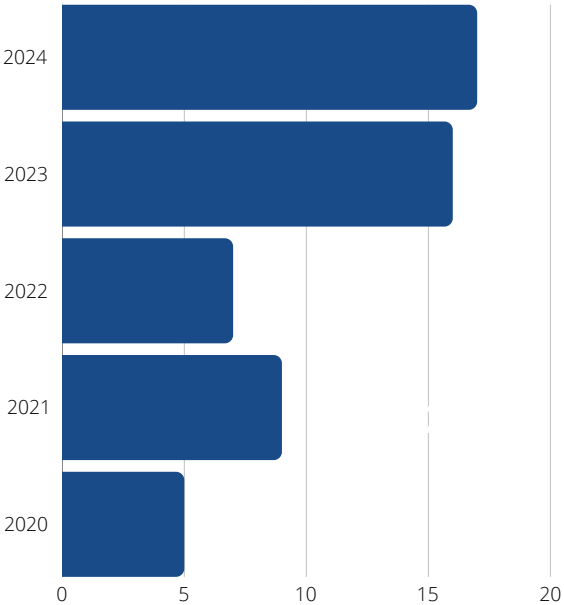
The Business Office is staffed by seven full time clerks and one part time clerk and one Manager. They are a team of professionals dedicated to supporting all aspects of policing and the administration of justice. The Business Office is responsible for the Records Management System, Canadian Police Information Centre System, Data Quality Control, Privacy and Access to Information, Criminal Record Checks, Records and Information Management.

## **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS BRANCH**

OFFENCES	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Variance 2023-2024
Homicides	0	0	0	1	<b>2</b>	+100%
Robbery	3	7	12	10	<b>15</b>	+50%
Assaults (non-sexual)	236	253	239	240	<b>310</b>	+29%
CDSA Offences (drugs)	79	117	144	109	<b>87</b>	+20%

# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

## Public Complaints Yearly Comparison



### OIPRD

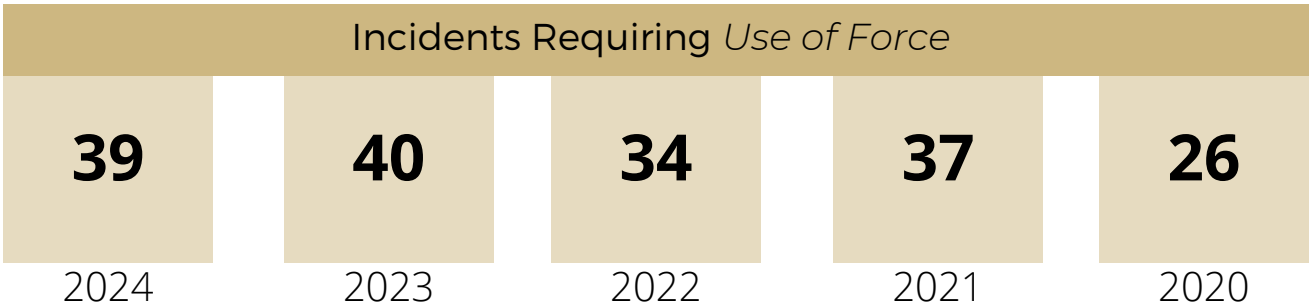
In 2024, **17** public complaints (16 in 2023) were received regarding separate incidents. **17** public complaints were about the conduct of police officers. There were **0** public complaints about the policies and/or services of the St Thomas Police Service. The Law Enforcement Complaint Agency Director (LECA) opted to screen out **11** public complaint's and screened in **6** matters for investigation.

### Special Investigations Unit

In 2024, zero (0) matters prompted the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) to invoke their investigative mandate:

# USE OF FORCE

A requirement of Ministry of the Solicitor General reporting is on perceived subject race. Of the **39** incidents where Use of Force was applied. **12** subject identified as Black, East/Southeast Asian, Indigenous, Latino, Middle Eastern, or South Asian.



# USE OF FORCE OPTIONS

### FIREARM

Officers drew their firearms in **30** operational incidents. Of those, **6** involved dispatching an injured animal

### CONDUCTED ENERGY WEAPON

Officers fired their Conducted Energy Weapons **4** times. The CEW was used in display mode for de-escalation on **22** occasions

### EMPTY HAND

Empty Hand Techniques were used in **1** operational incident

### K9

Police Service Dog Axle administered **1** bite and was used to de-escalate several incidents

\*Asp Baton and/or Pepper Spray were not used in 2024

# PROPERTY CRIME UNIT

Property Crime	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Break & Enter	222	238	271	347	164
Theft/ Possession	761	842	1061	1095	960
Fraud	172	140	178	141	239
Arson	19	10	15	*36	22
Mischief	245	340	335	353	273

\*Majority of arson's were dumpster fires

137 Criminal Charges

2180 Arrests

**Total Recovered Property \$305,000**  
**Total Recovered in Stolen Vehicles \$275,000**

The STPS Property Crime Unit is a group of skilled plain clothes officers brought together to focus on the trending property crimes affecting our community. Recidivist behaviours are directly related to the increasing property crimes statistics and social determinants of health (poverty, substance use, mental health, unhoused).

# STREET CRIME UNIT

A team of highly trained plain clothes specialty officers tasked to investigate crimes of high risk involving violence and drugs.

18 Drug and Gun Project Investigations  
Seized Firearms: 13  
Total Charges: 160  
Total Arrests: 50

Recovered Stolen Property: \$5,000.00  
Seized Currency:\$221,970.00  
Illicit Drugs Seized: Street Value \$986,317.00

# TRAINING UNIT

Policing is a career of daily professional development

- Firearms
- C8
- Defensive Tactics
- CEW (Taser)
- Scenario Based Learning
- Immediate Rapid Deployment
- De-escalation
- Safe Warrant Execution
- Police Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Mental Health Crisis Calls for Service
- Body Worn Camera
- Critical Incident Response
- Breath Technician Requalification

In 2024, the STPS had one full time Training Officer assigned to ensure qualifications and training standards are maintained continuously.

A well trained and highly skilled police service is the strategic priority.



## **BODY WORN CAMERAS**

Our Body Worn Camera Program has supported effective service delivery since its inception with the St Thomas Police Service.

BWC evidence is considered an impartial witness which can shorten criminal or civil court proceedings and reduce legal expenses.

BWC's help increase trust between police and communities they serve. These modern tools enhance professionalism and quality of service that is delivered each and every day by the STPS.

Videos  
**25,669**

Images  
**8,954**

Statements  
**1,728**

Citizen Submissions  
**4,075**

## **CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION VIDEO**

The City of St. Thomas currently has 11 CCTV cameras installed throughout the downtown area and in the industrial park.

These modern technological tools are cost effective and offer a contemporary response to crime and social disorder. These cameras reassure the public and enhance community safety and well-being.

The STPS continues to increase this program with the support of community donations and Provincial Grant Programs.

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES**

Information Technologies provide an economical, efficient support service

- 24/7 Help Desk support to staff
- Manage Data Centre and multi location network including in a mobile environment
- 911 network support and radio systems

STPS has two Systems Administrators and one IT Helpdesk Technician that provide a reliable IT work environment for the organization - from server and network performance to security and all other areas that keep an organization's IT system running smoothly.

## MOBILE OUTREACH SUPPORT TEAM

The MOST team operates under a co-response model designed to help police and health partners to collaborate with service providers in the community.

The aim is to improve outcomes for individuals experiencing a mental health, addictions, neurodevelopmental and/or other crisis.

The STPS maintains a partnership with the CMHA in efforts to support those in the community that need assistance in finding pathways to resources to live healthier in society.

In 2024, our MOST team was comprised of 3 CMHA clinicians embedded into the STPS public safety delivery model.

Apprehensions <b>329</b>	Post Incident Follow-Up <b>169</b>	Police Incidents Categorized as Mental Health <b>2,282</b>
Hours Spent at Hospital <b>493.6</b>	Referrals to Community Supports <b>793</b>	Number of Adults Supports by MOST <b>600</b>
		Incidents that MOST Available to Attend <b>498</b>

## ANNUAL BUDGET

**Budget**  
**\$15,789,777**

### STPS Operational Budget

(highlights only)

Item	Budget Amount
Salaries & Benefits	\$16,638,786
Vehicle Purchases (emergency & IT equipment)	\$160,000
Fuel & Maintenance	\$230,000
Building Maintenance	\$306,000
Information Technology	\$175,000
Police services Board	\$14,742
Training	\$130,000
Revenue (Grants, FOI Requests, Police Checks, etc. )	\$3,907,886

### Elgin County Courthouse

(highlights only)

Item	Budget Amount
Salaries & Benefits	\$800,415
Fuel & Maintenance	\$8,000
Information Technology	\$5,000
Provincial Court Grants	\$669,315



# Traffic & Road Safety

## TRAFFIC UNIT

COLLISIONS	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Without Injuries	284	196	258	209	414
With Injuries	35	34	64	46	66
TICKETS ISSUED	3805	3490	3591	3223	2338
Impaired - Alcohol	43	30	40	47	44
Impaired - Drug	1	3	3	0	1
Impaired Alcohol & Drug	35	29	31	37	34
Refusal	0	0	1	0	0
RIDE Checkpoints	59	31	78	36	75
Roadside Screening	32	47	46	31	57
Field Sobriety Test	0.	15	7	10	12



## INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Incidents / Offences	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Intimate Partner Violence Incidents	812	684	683	748	761
IPV Related Charges (substantive)	115	132	169	221	308

## SEXUAL OFFENCES

Incidents / Offences	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Variance 2023-2024
Sexual Assault Incidents (reported)	36	32	58	64	52	-18.7%
Sexual Assault Incidents (unfounded)	0	0	0	0	0	-
Sexual Assault Incidents (w/charges)	7	6	20	24	21	-12.5%
Invitation to Sex. Touching	2	2	5	1	5	+400%
Sexual Interference	5	6	6	10	9	-10%
Aggravated Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	1	0	-
Sexual Assaults w/weapon	1	0	0	0	0	-

## INCIDENT CLEARANCE ANALYSIS

A comprehensive review was conducted regarding the clearances of all sexual-related offenses, and the following was noted:

- Out of 55 investigations analyzed, 29 resulted in the laying of criminal charges, accounting for 52.73% of all sexual-related offense investigations.
- Additionally, 17 investigations concluded with the victim/complaint declining to proceed, constituting 30.90% of sexual-related offenses.
- Furthermore, in 8 investigations, insufficient evidence was found to support criminal charges, representing 14.55% of sexual-related offenses.
- Lastly, one investigation initially categorized as a sexual assault was reclassified as a regular assault. This singular instance represents 1.82% of reported sexual-related offenses.

# **ONLINE SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTING**

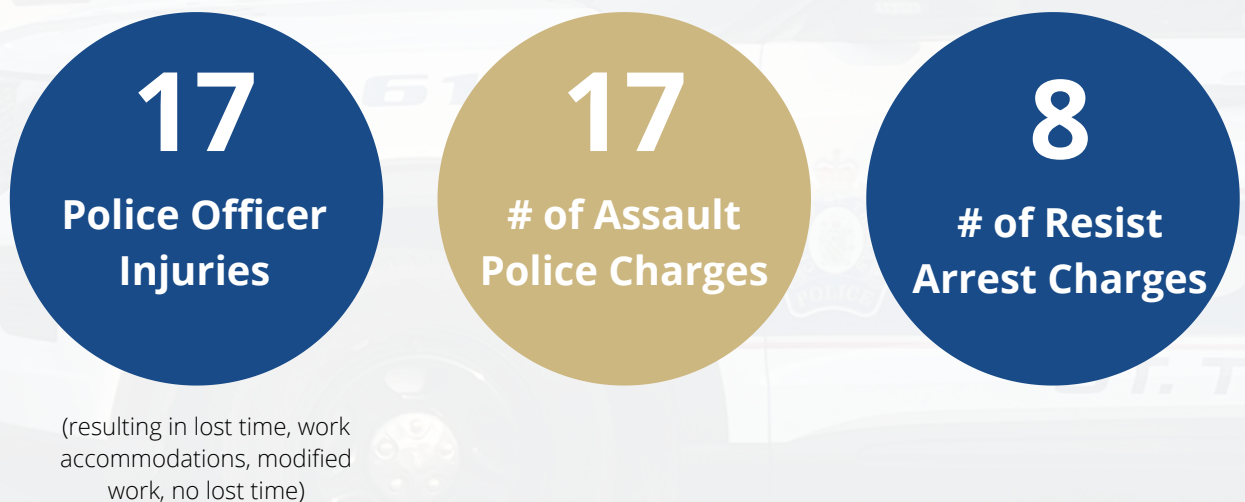
We understand that often times victims of intimate partner crime have a difficult time reporting and that these crimes often cause long-lasting trauma. Our response, knowing that victims may have difficulty speaking about these incidents with friends, family and police officers, is to offer this on-line reporting tool.

By completing an on-line form, your submission will be read by a member of the Criminal Investigations Unit and followed up in a timely manner.

Our goal is to bring these cases to a resolution by conducting a professional and thorough investigation. Along with investigating your matter, we will provide you with assistance and the resources for on-going support during your period of recovery.

**6 out of 55 victims felt more comfortable using our online reporting service in 2024.**

## **CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST POLICE**



The Chief of Police and the St. Thomas Police Services Board believe it is important to inform the community on matters of violence in all regards. There is a concerning trend occurring with assaults against police officers throughout Ontario.

Locally, the severity of police officer injuries sustained in the line of duty adds significant pressures on service delivery. The physical and psychological well-being of our police officers is a top priority. If we are healthy on the inside – we will be healthy to deliver services on the outside.































