

Bell Police Department Year End Review 2025



INTRODUCTION:

2025 was a pivotal year for the Bell Police Department. With a new police chief taking office in July, the organization embarked on a renewed mission marked by "Compassionate and Professional" policing. Systems were put in place to track significant police actions related to use of force reporting and vehicle pursuits, emphasizing the Department's commitment to the principles of 21st Century Policing. In August, the Department began tracking complaint investigations and now ensures that those investigations are completed in a timely manner so that training needs and patterns of conduct can be identified and addressed.

Compassionate and Progressive policing stands at the hallmark of the Bell Police Department's mission and vision. Simply put, the Department strives to embody

modern day policing principles emphasizing legitimacy, oversight, technology, community partnership, crime reduction, training and wellness. By performing police action in a professional manner while being compassionate and

approachable, the Department builds trust with the community and emphasises a real commitment to public safety.

No discussion about modern day policing can be had without acknowledging the role of Procedural Justice. By ensuring our officers give people a voice, are neutral in their enforcement of the law, perform their duties with respect, and seek opportunities to build trust, we build confidence in our police force and demonstrate our sincere desire for a partnership with the community we serve.



Department Mission:

The mission of the Bell Police Department is to provide our community with a safe quality of life through professional service, integrity and strong community partnership.

Core Values:

Guardians: We are guardians of the community

Loyalty: We are loyal to the Department and to our community

Respect: We respect the rights of all people through reverence for the law, equitable and fair treatment, and compassion

Commitment: We are committed and honored by our role as peacemakers

Integrity: We value and expect honest and ethical behavior

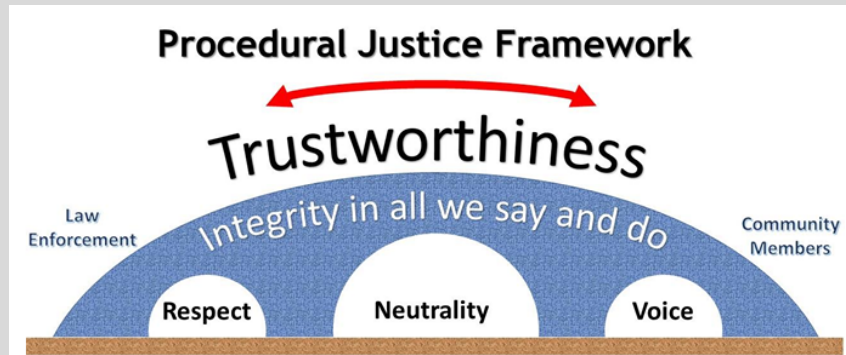
Trust: We ensure community trust through professional police work

Teamwork: We pride ourselves in our ability to work as a team to provide quality law enforcement service

21st Century Policing



Procedural Justice:



Police Department Vision and Strategic Goals for 2026:

Every organization needs a vision that gives members a sense of direction and a clear understanding of expectations. The Department's vision is to have a professional police force that is responsive to community needs by performing their law enforcement duties in a constitutional and procedurally just manner. Simply put, we strive to be proactive in our policing efforts while understanding the parameters within which we must work, and we will do our best to build trust with our community partners.

Strategic Goal No. 1: Crime Reduction

The City of Bell enjoyed a significant decrease in Part One crime during the 2025 calendar year. A decrease in staffing levels and several officer injuries resulted in a reallocation of traffic enforcement resources to patrol duties. The impact was keenly felt when an analysis of crime data revealed an increase in injury traffic collisions. Our staffing levels are, for the first time in many months, above minimum standards. As such, a full time Motor Officer position has been created and their traffic enforcement efforts will be supported by traffic safety operations throughout the year. Updated crime mapping systems are being explored and will eventually be used to identify areas experiencing a "cluster" of incidents. This will allow Department administrators to deploy officers to locations throughout the City, with the intention of addressing crime and traffic problems.

Strategic Goal No. 2: Community Partnership

Developing and maintaining a partnership with the community is important to the Department. In 2026, a Community Police Advisory Board will be established to further enhance communication and trust with those we serve. Together, we stand firm in our commitment to making Bell a better place to live and work.

Strategic Goal No. 3: Officer Wellness

Cops who are mentally and physically prepared for work provide a better service to our community. This is why Officer Wellness will remain a priority for our Department. A new work schedule was adopted on January 12, 2026 and will eliminate the mandatory patrol overtime requirements that were previously in place. Building on the success of last year's Wellness Day, the Department will host a second Wellness Day featuring Police Psychologists and guest speakers to address key issues and discuss trends in law enforcement.

Strategic Goal No. 4: Training and Education

In 2026, the Department will provide officers with new opportunities for training and development. Earlier this year, Department Range Masters attended the National Shot Show in Las Vegas, Nevada. There they met with nationwide vendors to discuss new technologies and weaponry that stand to revolutionize the law enforcement profession in years to come. Technologies adopted by the Bell Police Department will bring with them new training opportunities, and will enhance officers' ability to fight crime and provide for the safety of our community members.

Strategic Goal No. 5: Enhancing and Expanding the Threat Liaison Officer Program

With the upcoming FIFA Soccer World Cup Championship this year, and the 2028 Olympic Games rapidly approaching, the Bell Police Department understands the inherent safety concerns associated with these events, and the need to contribute to a robust, regional intelligence network. By expanding our Threat Liaison Officer program we seek to assist in the timely gathering and dissemination of intelligence so that potential threats can be mitigated and addressed before they develop.

Chief's Message



Since taking office in July of last year, I've made it known that the hallmark of my leadership is a commitment to the pillars of 21st Century Policing. I have placed an emphasis on Officer Wellness, and Training and Education. These two items will provide officers with the tools they need to be successful in their law enforcement mission, and will result in a safer environment for the community we serve.

Change in law enforcement is not only inevitable, it is essential. As times progress, police officers must adapt to updated training, innovative technologies that impact how police operations are conducted, and better methods of building relationships with our community partners. To be stagnant in law enforcement is to miss a great opportunity. That is why I have vowed to transform our organization into an even more professional police force by providing officers with additional training opportunities, and better equipment. In addition, the systems I have put in place will be evaluated and refined to fit the needs of our organization, and to better serve the community of Bell.

I would be remiss not to mention "*Reverence for Human Life*" in any discussion related to policing. Day in and day out, police officers are called to make serious, life changing decisions. Whether that be to detain or arrest suspected criminals, or

to apply an array of force options, the best service we can provide to our community is the professional application of force.

Long before I became your Chief, I designed and delivered courses in de-escalation to ensure that officers understand the importance of assessing a situation, weighing their options, and making sound decisions. Regardless of the force used, the overarching principle is always the same -***Having a Reverence for Human Life***. Every action an officer performs, whether that be rendering aid, intervening when witnessing inappropriate force being used, or deciding to apply less lethal, or lethal force options, must be undertaken with a sincere respect for human life.

The below information provides a “snapshot” of the Bell Police Department’s activity and performance during the 2025 calendar year. I must stress that statistical data is only as accurate as the information inputted. After taking office as Chief of Police, I conducted an analysis of the systems, the culture, and the policing methods employed by the Department. I found some of those systems lacking and put in place measures designed to provide me and my command staff with a better, more accurate understanding of daily activities. Watch Commander Logs were introduced early on to provide timely and accurate information to command staff members at the conclusion of each shift. This gave us a better understanding of daily activity, trends and productivity.

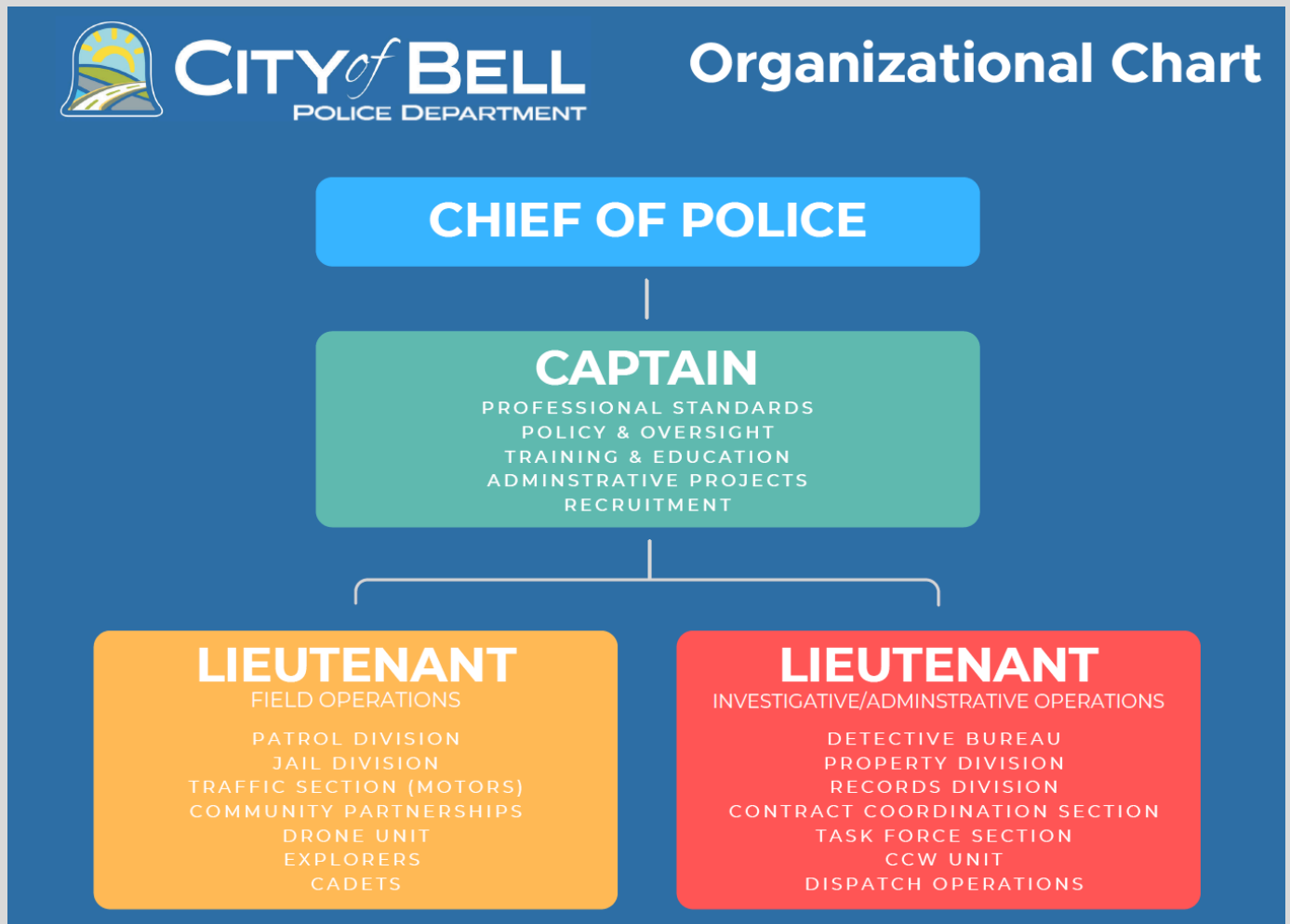
After adopting systems to accurately identify and investigate what I’ve termed the “Top Three” risk management events; namely use of force incidents, vehicle pursuits, and complaint investigations, I introduced weekly Crime Control Meetings to discuss crime trends, staffing issues, the progress of internal investigations, and response time, with my Command Staff. These weekly meetings serve to give insight into our organizational capabilities and what improvements may be needed.

The following information tells our story and demonstrates our commitment to being transparent and honest in our assessment. It is my hope that documents such as this one serve to build stronger ties with the community by helping the reader gain some insight into the reality of what our officers do each day to maintain the necessary balance between order and liberty that is the hallmark of American ideology and culture.

Chief Damian Velasco

Department Organization

In the later part of 2025, the Bell City Council authorized a significant organizational change in the Police Department's command structure. A second Police Lieutenant position was introduced to provide greater span of control over daily operations and to bifurcate management oversight of field operations and investigative / administrative operations. The introduction of another Police Lieutenant also serves to better manage and track activities throughout the Department and creates greater promotional opportunities in the organization.



Critical Incident Community Briefings



In October, the Department reported their first, and only Officer Involved Shooting of 2025. There is no greater decision that an officer can make than to discharge their weapon. The impact of that decision has resounding effects on the community, the officer involved, and the person to whom that force was directed. Realizing the significance of this event, the Department prepared and delivered a Critical Incident Video depicting the events leading up to, and including the use of deadly force. The video was featured on several social media platforms and received tens of thousands of views, reinforcing our commitment to providing accurate and timely information to the community we serve.

Statistical information at a Glance:

Part 1 Crimes and Arrest Information

CRIME	YTD-25	YTD-24	%CHANGE
<i>Homicide</i>	3	4	-25%
<i>Sex Offenses</i>	20	39	-49%
<i>Robbery</i>	22	41	-46%
<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	116	158	-27%
<i>Simple Assault</i>	129	107	21%
<i>Burglary</i>	28	35	-20%
<i>Larceny</i>	202	298	-32%
<i>Vehicle Theft</i>	63	111	-43%
<i>Arson</i>	6	5	20%
ARRESTS / CITATIONS	YTD-25	YTD-24	%CHANGE
<i>Misdemeanor</i>	603	715	-16%
<i>Felony</i>	266	250	6%
<i>Citations</i>	885	893	-1%
TRAFFIC COLLISIONS	YTD-25	YTD-24	%CHANGE
<i>Non-Injury</i>	116	132	-12%
<i>Injury</i>	132	112	18%
<i>Fatal</i>	2	2	0

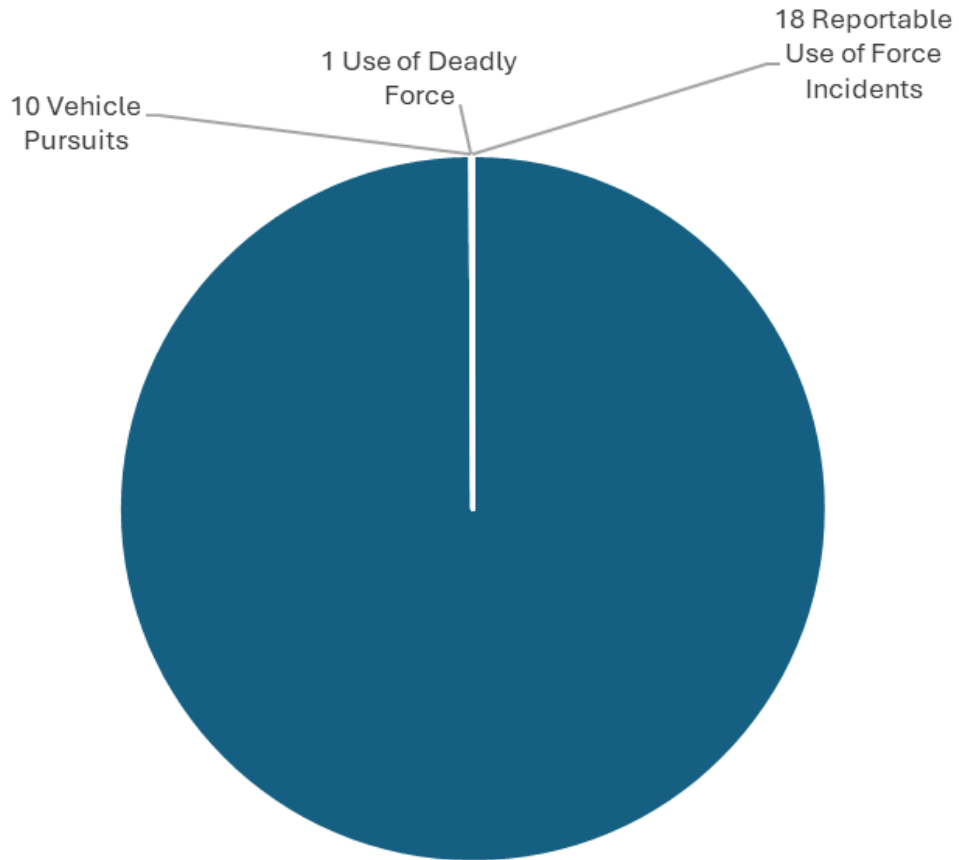
Police Officer Contacts: January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

*****Note that systems for properly tracking Use of Force Incidents and Vehicle Pursuits were put in place in August of 2025.*****



Total Incidents:	30,939	
Calls for Services:	13,364	
Officer Initiated Activities:	15,879	
Traffic Stops:	1,696	
Reported Use of Force Incidents:	18	(0.058% of all contacts)
Reported Vehicle Pursuits:	10	(0.03% of all contacts)
Use of Deadly Force:	1	(0.003% of all contacts)
Life Saving Measures	8	

Total Officer Contacts 32,635

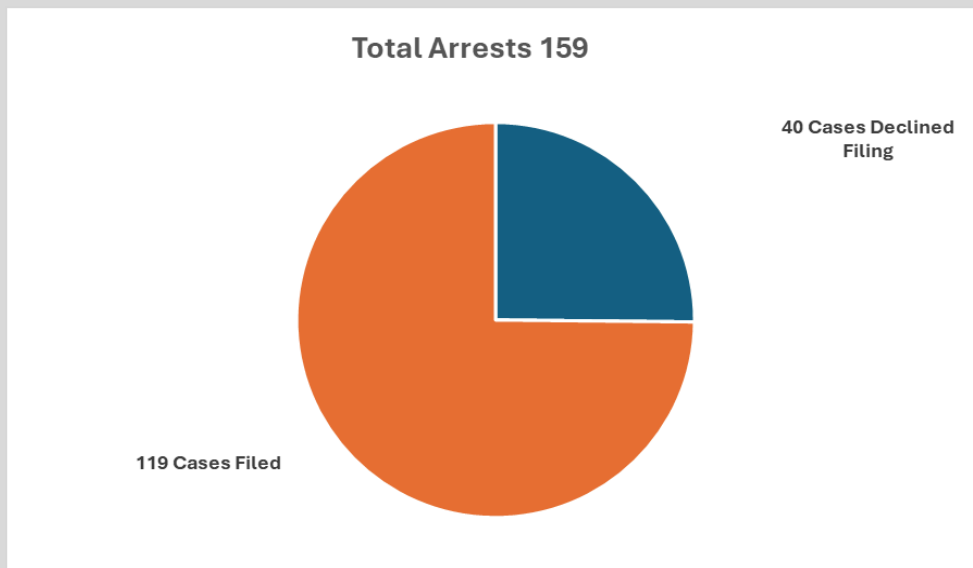


■ Number of Contacts ■ Use of Deadly Force ■ Vehicle Pursuits ■ Use of Force Incidents

<u>Parking Enforcement:</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Change</u>
Parking Citations:	13, 177	11,544	+14%
Warnings:	356	544	-34%
Impounded Vehicles:	126	59	+113%
Stolen Vehicles Recovered:	18	26	-30%
Stored Vehicles:	11	11	N/A

Detective Bureau:

Total Cases Assigned:	808		
Cases Closed:	635		
Open Investigations:	173		
Warrants Sought:	37	Warrants Filed:	14
Arrests Made:	159	Arrests Filed:	119
Arrest Filing Rate:	75%		



Accomplishments:



- **Watch Commander's Log:** The introduction of the daily Watch Commander's Log serves to provide Command Officers and supervisors with a better understanding of daily activities.
- **Vehicle Pursuit Policy Update:** A policy update requiring field supervisors to be dispatched to any initiated pursuit as the Incident Commander places greater oversight and responsibility on supervisory personnel who have an obligation to monitor and assess vehicle pursuits.
- **Tracking the "Big Three":** A system designed to accurately track and investigate Use of Force incidents, Complaint Investigations, and Vehicle Pursuits was established to ensure that these critical items are evaluated properly, and to identify patterns of behavior that necessitate training or discipline.
- **Weekly Crime Meetings:** Weekly crime meetings provide valuable insight into crime trends, and help to track items such as: Overtime usage, response time, staffing levels, crime trends, compliance with state mandates, and contracted services.
- **Department Re-Organization:** The introduction of a Police Lieutenant position serves to better manage department activities while also providing future promotional opportunities to personnel. The Lieutenant position adds an additional layer of oversight to field and investigative operations.
- **Task Force Participation:** An agreement with the US Postal Inspection Service, authorizing a Bell Police Officer to serve as a Federal Task Force member interdicting narcotics shipped via the United States mail was established and will take effect in early 2026.

- **Tactical Support Team:** The establishment of a Tactical Support Team composed of police personnel trained in advanced tactics will provide a much needed tactical element to address situations requiring police actions beyond the scope of patrol personnel. Tactical Support Team members will be sent to tactical training in 2026 and will deploy to critical incidents, as needed.
- **Participation in LA IMPACT:** By signing onto the Joint Powers Agreement with LA IMPACT, the Department paved the way to participate in joint task force operations designed to investigate major crimes, with an emphasis on dismantling major drug trafficking organizations.

Looking Ahead:



K-9 Program: In September of 2025 a formal agreement between the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Bell Police Department was established, allowing for a Bell Police Officer and K-9 to be part of a Federal Task Force designed to interdict narcotics being distributed through the United States mail service. The K-9 received training in Kentucky and will be certified in both narcotics identification and man-tracking. The K-9's dual-certification status will allow him to not only interdict narcotics, but to also track missing persons and suspected criminals when the need arises.

Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB): A Community Police Advisory Board will be established in the first half of 2026. This Board, consisting of community leaders, and local residents, will serve to build a stronger partnership between the police and the community and will help to identify and prioritize crime and quality of life issues impacting Bell.

Drone Capabilities: Drone technology has proven to be a valuable tool for many City services. The Bell Police Department is spearheading efforts to introduce Drone capabilities as part of the widely accepted Drone As A First Responder program. Drone capabilities will allow for faster response to calls for service and unfolding incidents, and will serve to assess damage to buildings, monitor activity in the wake of natural disasters, and provide early detection of crime patterns through extra-patrol of areas throughout the City.

Social Media and Technology: Social Media plays a vital role in our society and is a means to inform the public and provide valuable, factual information regarding police activity. Through the use of social media, the Bell Police Department will provide members of the community with crime alerts, significant events taking place in the City, and anticipated police activity.

City Jail Contract: For years, the Bell Police Jail Facility has been serviced by contracted employees from a private company. A proposal will be introduced in 2026 to eliminate the current contract and replace Jailers with full and part time City of Bell employees. This transition is scheduled to take place July 1, 2026.

Paid Level-One Reserve Officer Program: The Department is currently revising its policy regarding Reserve Police Officers to ensure that Level One Reserves receive basic police officer hourly pay when they are used to support minimum staffing in patrol, or perform duties related to special events. This change in policy will help recruit certified Reserve Officers to join the Bell Police Department, and will incentivize current Reserve Officers who do not have a Level One certification to obtain one.

Federal Task Force Participation: The Bell Police Department is seeking to assign an officer to the Drug Enforcement Agency's Southwest Border Task Force. This task force targets large scale narcotics distribution throughout the Southeast Los Angeles area and will work hand-in-hand with our Postal Inspection Task Force. In addition, the Department hopes to obtain asset forfeiture monies that can be used to support technological and personnel needs.

Crime Analysis Detail: The Department is currently exploring the feasibility of creating a crime analysis detail that will serve to further enhance our officers' ability to track and prevent crime, by using data driven analytics and algorithms to determine crime patterns. This information will provide officers with a better understanding of crime trends, and enhance the Department's ability to deploy personnel to areas experiencing a spike in crime.