

ANNUAL REPORT 2020





2020 was a year of change and challenge on many fronts. A global pandemic, economic uncertainty and civil unrest marked a difficult year for many.

I was sworn in as this city's tenth Chief of Police on March 3, 2020. In June, Mayor Walt Maddox issued the city's first Covid-related emergency order, asking citizens to stay home for all but essential purposes and to wear face coverings.

Throughout the year, the men and women of the Tuscaloosa Police Department made me proud by continuing to show up and do their jobs in the face of so much uncertainty, all while getting used to a new chief.

TPD officers remained on the front lines as the pandemic made its way deeper into our community, We staffed city mask giveaways and were tasked with enforcing the state orders as businesses began to re-open. Many officers were exposed while on the job, becoming infected themselves and with no choice but to take the virus home to their families. There were several days when we struggled to meet minimum staffing requirements because of illness or forced quarantines.

We spent the entirety of 2020 headquartered out of the former Oak Hill School site on Hargrove Road while repairs and upgrades to our permanent building were underway. In September, we wished a happy retirement to our longtime assistant chief of police, Ronnie Dunn.

Chief Dunn served for 36 years, the last 17 as second-in-command. His responsibilities of reviewing recruit qualifications and

performance assessments directly contributed to the strong police force we have today.

In August, I assigned a sergeant to work full time as our department recruiter. The number of applicants interested in a job in law enforcement has unfortunately waned over the years. Recruitment and retention were two of the most important topics tackled by our new Chief's Commission on Community Policing, a major component of Mayor Maddox's Project Unity initiative.

The commission is a diverse panel of community members who made recommendations about how we can best strengthen our bonds with the people we serve. Over the year, we had candid and sometimes difficult conversations about topics that have already led to changes and new initiatives.



At the commission's recommendation, we worked with the City Council in September to formally ban choke holds and pass a measure to require fair and impartial treatment and a system that requires officers to report misconduct. In November, every police department employee participated in racial bias training by the 10-4 Corporation.

One of the most significant steps we took forward in 2020 was the appointment of a Deputy Chief of Community Policing. In just a few short months, Chief Sebo Sanders revived a way of policing that the department had never been able to prioritize in years past – not an easy assignment when your community has been ordered to stay home.

But thanks to Chief Sanders, we have revived have many initiatives in the works, including the revival of our PAL program to include baseball and adult fitness classes.

We held several events throughout the year to give officers opportunities to interact

with the public in non-emergency situations. This wasn't just for show and social media likes. We made important connections at these events, hopefully proving that we're accessible and receptive.

I know that distrust of law enforcement seems to be at an all-time high. Whether that distrust is rooted in high-profile events elsewhere or because of an past interaction with our agency, we will continue our work to establish mutual trust and proving that we take seriously our motto of treating everyone with dignity and respect.

It would be foolish to not seize this unique cultural moment as an opportunity to re-examine and re-connect. I invite the citizens of Tuscaloosa to join us in this effort. Community engagement and participation are essential to the health and safety of our city.

Brent P. Blankley





MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to serve all people within our jurisdiction with **respect, fairness and compassion**. We are devoted to the prevention of crime, the protection of life and property and the preservation of peace, order and safety. To safeguard the constitutional rights of every citizen and the quality of life they have grown to expect by insuring that federal, state and local laws are enforced in a fair, consistent and swift manner.

To work closely with the residents, businesses, civic groups and other agencies to solve the problems of crime and the fear of crime; to provide crime prevention and education programs; by incorporating the principles of **community and problem oriented policing**.

To fulfill our mission, the Tuscaloosa Police Department is dedicated to maintaining an **efficient and effective** organization for the administration of police services. We resolve to provide a quality work environment and the development of its members through effective, proactive, positive leadership and training.







Chief Bren



Assistant Chief M.E. Tubbs



Assistant Chief



Patrol - Maj. D.H. Clark



Communications -



Downtown Precinct Capt. C Davis



Training - Capt.



West Precinct - Capt. M. Green



Standards & Integ



East Precinct - Capt. K. Hart



Logistics - Lt. S.



Traffic - Capt. J. Hargrave



Academy - Cap



Juvenile - Capt. A. Smith



Violent Crimes - C



Narcotics - Capt. S. Jones



Municipal Security -



Repeat Offender Unit Capt. W. Sanders



Air Patrol - Lt. C



CID - Capt. J.B. Mason



Records Division



Cyber Crimes - Sgt. C. Burns



Code Enforcement



Mental Health Unit - Sgt. D. Parker



Garage - Mike Lane

TUSCALO

t Blankley

Chief S.J. Rice

Lt. D. Thompson

M. Powell

ity - Sgt. A Kelly

D. Langston

t. C. Gibbs

Capt. M. Sellers

Sgt. C.J. Patrick

Chris James

- Sherry Allen

- Capt. P. Simpson



Deputy Chief S.L. Sanders



PAL - Officer N. Courtland



Admin Programs - Sgt. J. Reneau



Forensic Science - Mitch Rector



Accounting - Eric Davis



Public information - S. Taylor

Chief Brent Blankley

Chief Blankley was appointed chief in March 2020 after serving as a municipal security unit commander, patrol lieutenant/shift commander and public information officer.

The 15-year department veteran has worked to increase community involvement and continue and focus on problem-oriented and modern policing methods while working to recruit a strong and skilled police force.



Assistant Chief Mitford "Mitt" Tubbs



Chief Mitt Tubbs began at the department on Oct. 5, 1987 and has worked in narcotics, traffic, criminal investigations and also served as commander of TPD's patrol division. He has served as the department's assistant chief on two occasions, most recently after former chief Steve Anderson resigned in 2019. Chief Tubbs has served as a mentor for many of our younger officers, including Chief Blankley.

Assistant Chief Steve Rice

Assistant Chief Rice supervises the communications, training, standards and integrity, logistics, police academy, Violent Crimes Unit, municipal security, air patrol, records and code enforcement divisions. Before he was named assistant chief on Sept. 26, 2020, he served as the captain over TPD's Training and Logistics division. He has worked in a variety of leadership roles since beginning his TPD career in 1997.



Deputy Chief Severn "Sebo" Sanders



Deputy Chief Severn "Sebo" Sanders coordinates and supervises the department's community policing programs, collaborating with citizens and local partners to ensure we provide the best service to all of Tuscaloosa. Before he was named deputy chief on Sept. 26, 2020, Sanders served in multiple leadership roles within the department.

342 employees

- 270 sworn and auxiliary officers
- 72 support personnel

*Authorized for 289 sworn





Patrol Major

Major D. Heath Clark
2122 Sixth St.
205-248-5770



Downtown Precinct

Capt. Clint Davis
2122 Sixth St.
205-248-4620





West Precinct

Covers areas west of
McFarland Boulevard

Capt. Melvin Green
1501 Culver Road
205-248-4636



East Precinct

Covers areas east of
McFarland Boulevard

Capt. Kip Hart
2604 University Blvd. E.
205-248-4620



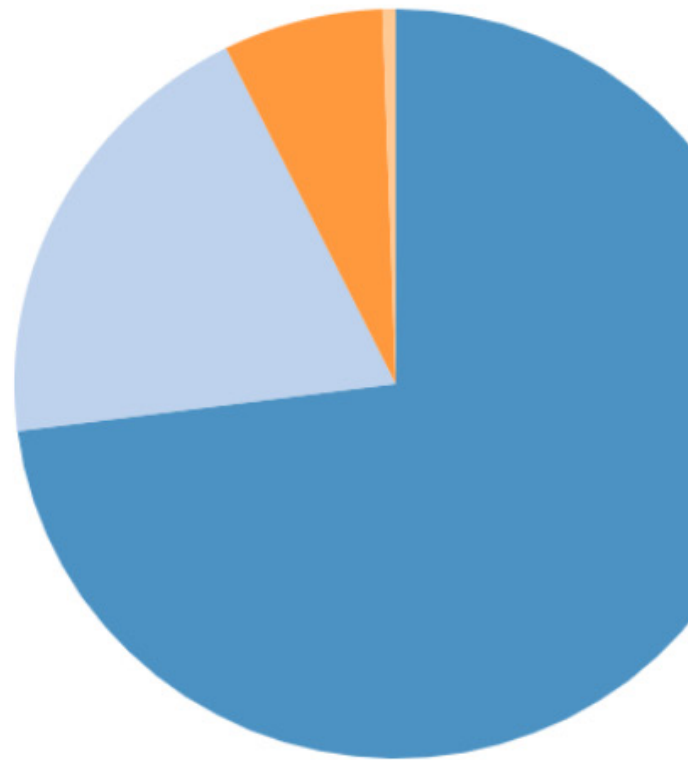
TPD's budget is funded entirely from the general fund and made up 15% of the overall 2020 expenditures

\$33.60 Million POLICE 2020 ▾

Where's it Going? How's it funded?

● POLICE broken down by Category

- PERSONNEL COST
- FRINGE BENEFITS
- OTHER OPERATING
- CAPITAL OUTLAY
- N/A



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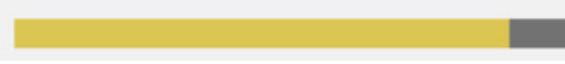


2021 Budget

15.42% of city's overall operating budget

- \$33.2 million
- \$24.17M personnel cost
- \$7M fringe benefits
- \$2.03M Other operating

\$33.20 Million P



PERSONNEL COST

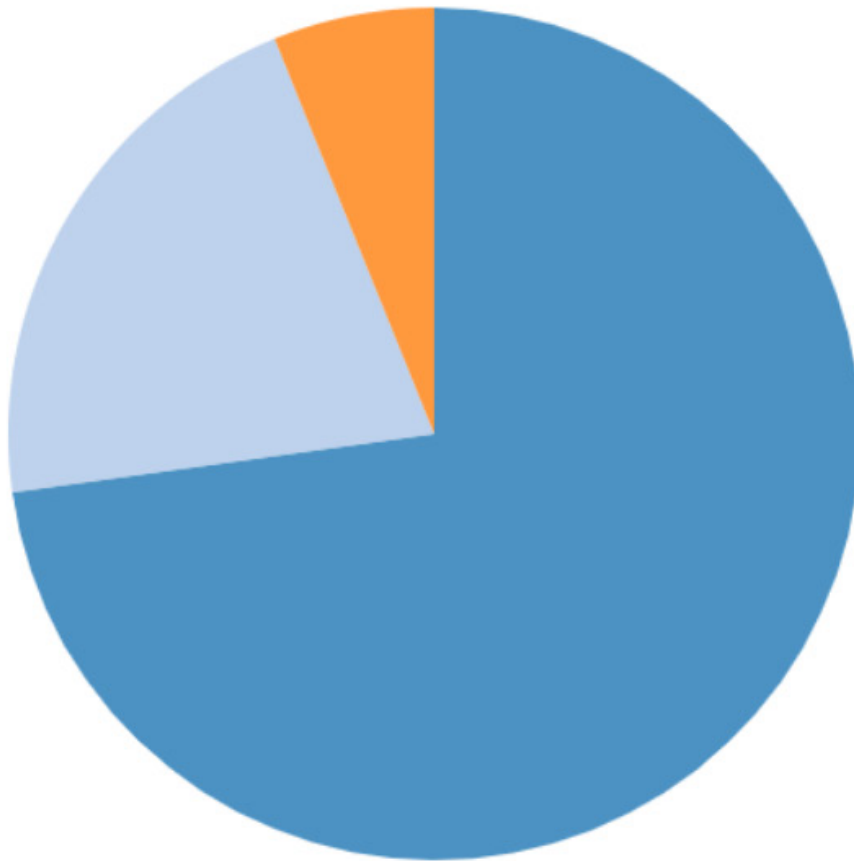
FRINGE BENEFITS

OTHER OPERATING

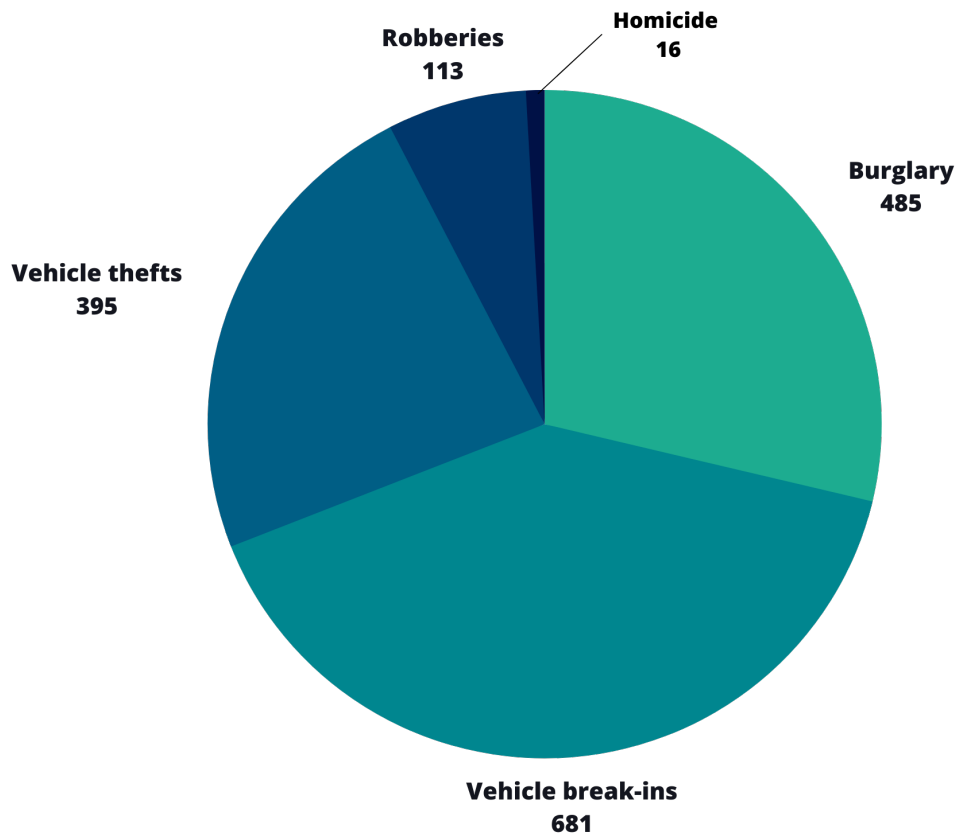
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OTH INTERGOV

CAPITAL OUTLAY



The “Big 5” 2020

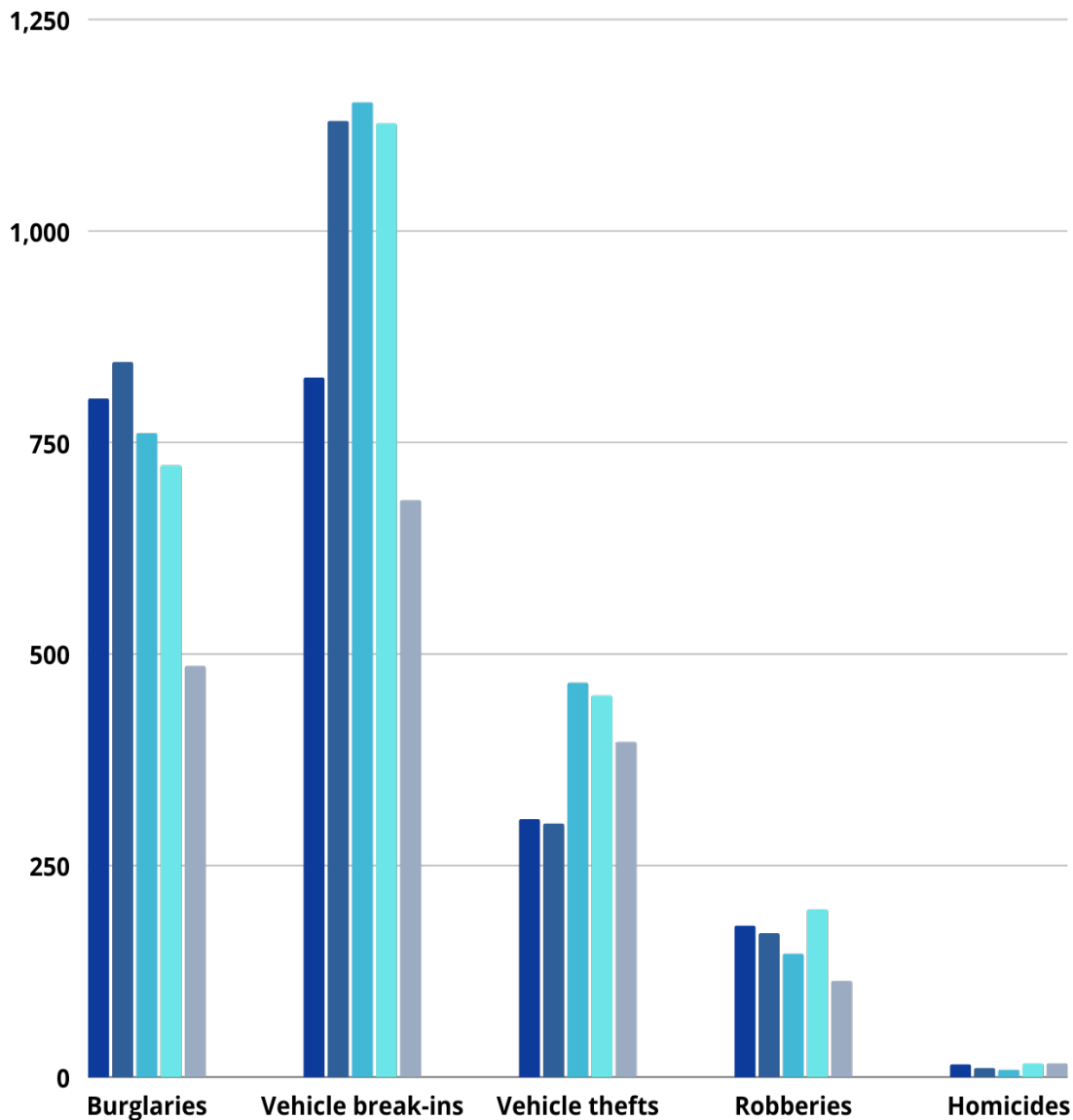


Crime declined in all of the “Big Five” categories in 2020. Most notably, vehicle break-ins dropped significantly.

After a worrying spike of vehicle thefts in 2018, we did see a drop over the last two years, which we hope will continue with targeted law enforcement efforts.

Five Year Comparison

Burglaries		Vehicle break-in		Vehicle thefts		Robberies		Homicides	
2016	801	2016	826	2016	304	2016	178	2016	14
2017	844	2017	1,129	2017	299	2017	169	2017	10
2018	760	2018	1,151	2018	465	2018	145	2018	8
2019	722	2019	1,126	2019	450	2019	197	2019	15
2020	485	2020	681	2020	395	2020	113	2020	15





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