

Blackman-Leoni Township Department of Public Safety



2020 Annual Report

Mission Statement

"The mission of the Blackman-Leoni Township Department of Public Safety is to provide for the safety and welfare of all their citizens, by preserving, protecting, and defending people and property, while respecting the rights and dignity of all persons.

Code of Ethics

As a sworn Public Safety Officer of the Blackman-Leoni Township Department of Public Safety, my fundamental duty is to serve all citizens, to safeguard lives and property, to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence and disorder, and to respect the Constitutional rights of all persons to liberty, equality, and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all, maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule, develop self-restraint, and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature, or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duties.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities, or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice, or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence, and never accepting gratuities.

Personnel/Hire Date

Director Michael Jester	8/30/94
Deputy Director Scott Grajewski	11/8/95
Deputy Director Christopher Boulter	8/23/03
Sergeant Steven Stowe	5/14/96
Sergeant Richard Gillespie	8/2/00
Sergeant Darin McIntosh	5/23/09
Sergeant Jan Ganzel	2/28/06
Sergeant James Prus	5/24/05
D/Sergeant Robert Shrock	2/19/01
Detective Joseph Merritt	9/28/03
Detective Sam Philipp	2/21/01
Detective Shayne Allen	11/1/10
Detective Mike Villarreal	11/1/10
S/PSO Paul Long	2/28/92
S/PSO Thomas Brower	8/1/96
S/PSO Christopher Jacobson	Retired
S/PSO Bryan French	7/16/01
S/PSO Patrick Boulter	4/15/02
PSO Christopher Pohl	8/1/06

PSO Martin Jordon	10/6/06
PSO Brandon Casler	10/16/06
PSO Kory Torbet	2/8/07
PSO Thomas Bertram	11/1/10
PSO Justin Davis	11/1/10
PSO Rachel Doxtader	8/12/13
PSO Chad Burdette	2/17/16
PSO Isaac Clelland	2/17/16
PSO Jeremiah Wheeler	2/17/16
PSO Alexander Norris	2/17/16
PSO Chad Root	2/17/16
PSO Ryan Martin	8/5/16
PSO Chandler Fryt	5/15/17
PSO Britanee Owen	7/30/18
PSO Kyle Wilson	8/6/18
PSO Bill Regnier	6/2/19
PSO David Grumhaus	6/2/19
Officer Justin King	9/22/20
Officer Jason Jahn	11/30/20
Officer Jonathan King	12/28/20

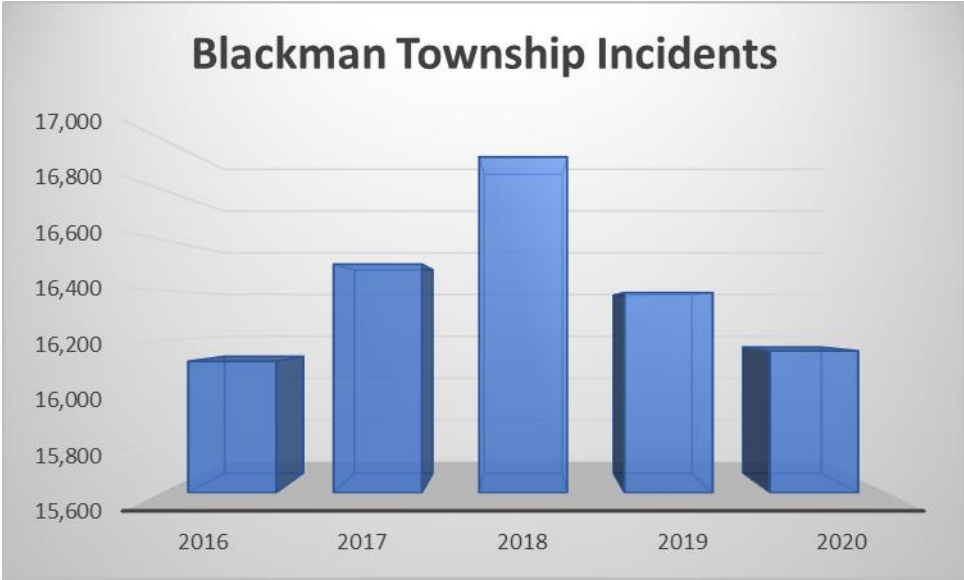
Administration

The Director of Public Safety is Michael L. Jester. Deputy Director Scott J. Grajewski is in-charge of the Operations/Patrol Division and Deputy Director Christopher R. Boulter is in-charge of the Support Services Division.

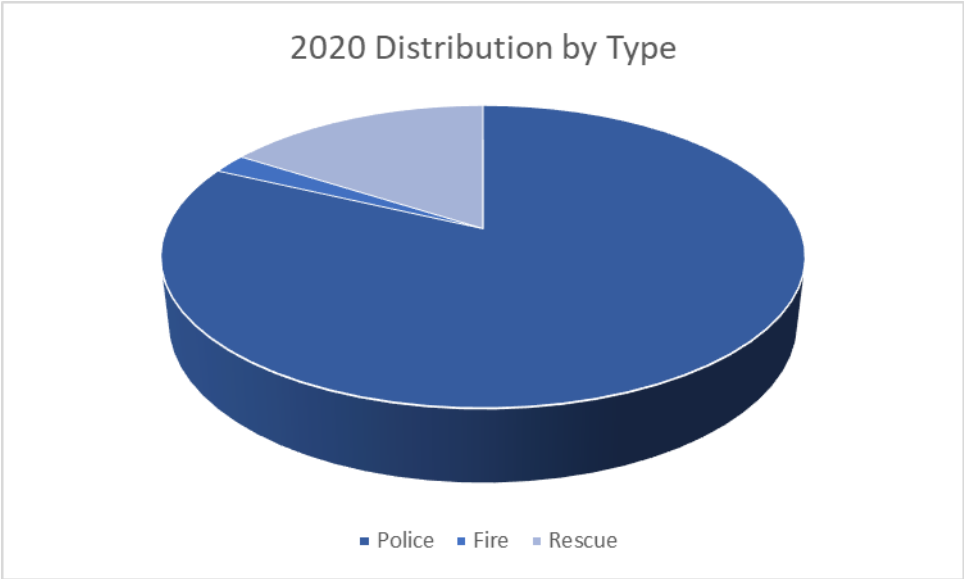
Operations/Patrol Division

The Operations/Patrol Division consists of public safety officers, K-9 officers, and shift supervisors, who provide 24/7 public safety services to the 39,039 residents of Blackman and Leoni Townships, utilizing 26-Public Safety Officers and 4-Sergeants. The headquarters building on West Parnall Road in Blackman Township and the 5th Street Station in Leoni Township are staffed 24-hours per day, to provide an immediate response to medical emergencies and fire suppression/extrication incidents. In 2020, there were 25,733 incidents handled by the Department of Public Safety. The operations division issued 1,838 traffic citations in 2020. There was a significant decrease in traffic citations in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Blackman Township - Incidents by Year					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Police	13,250	13,620	13,968	13,136	13,157
Fire	352	298	329	413	295
Rescue	2,517	2,584	2,628	2,841	2,708
Total	16,119	16,502	16,925	16,390	16,160



Leoni Township -Incidents by Year					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Police	6,140	6,699	6,919	7,034	6,691
Fire	161	202	215	189	209
Rescue	923	917	977	1,108	1,141
Total	7,224	7,818	8,111	8,331	8,041



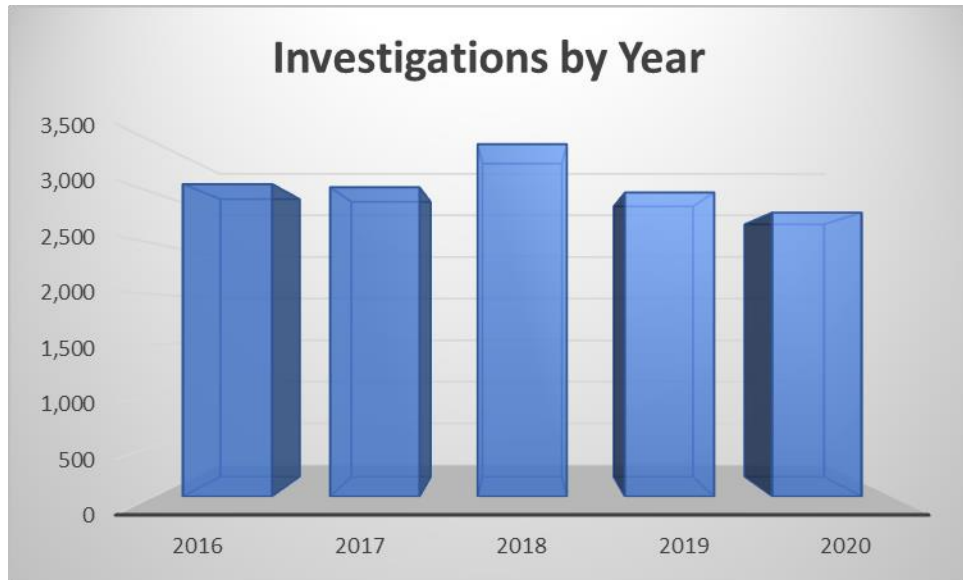
Service Calls-As Received Through Central Dispatch			
Type	Number	Type	Number
Abandoned Vehicle	157	Accidents-No Injuries	965
Accidents-With Injuries	202	Accidents-Private Prop.	158
Alarms	936	Animal Complaints	221
Arson	2	Assault	163
Bomb Threats	0	Breaking and Entering	132
Concealed Weapon	31	Child Abuse/Neglect	24
Citizen Assist	25	Civil Dispute	166
Conservation	94	Criminal Sexual Conduct	52
Disorderly	1,895	Domestic	1,870
Embezzlement	10	Field Contact	168
Fire	504	Forgery/Counterfeiting	20
Found Property	140	Fraud	187
Assist-Other Agency	537	Health and Safety	10
Hit and Run Accidents	194	Indecent Exposure	3
Homicide	4	Inspections-Vehicles	106
Inspections-Property	548	Kidnapping	0
Larceny	1,084	Liquor Violations	11
Loitering	0	Loud Music	214
MDOP	170	Minors/Juveniles	4
Missing Person	30	Motorist Assist	274
Natural Death	63	Obstructing Police	26
Operating While Intoxicated	88	Ordinance Violation	292
Overdose	65	Parking Complaints	82
Peace Officer	424	Personal Welfare Check	1,492
Rescue	3,849	Robbery	9
Runaway	92	Sex Offense	0
Shooting	9	Shots Fired	152
Stolen Property	33	Suicide and Attempts	117
Suspicious Situation	1,291	Threats	80
Traffic Offenses	3,253	Traffic Hazard	492
Trespassing	35	Stolen Vehicle	79
Controlled Substance	99	Walk-Away	11
Warrant Arrest	233	Weapons	26

Investigative Division

The investigative division is staffed by 4-Detectives and 1-Detective Sergeant. This division investigates major crimes and completes follow-up on any open case. The investigative division reviewed and/or investigated a total of 2,805 cases in 2020. The investigative division is also a member of the Jackson County Major Crime’s Task Force and the Sexual Assault Task Force. The Jackson County Major Crime’s Task Force is a cooperative team with members from the Blackman-Leoni Township Department of Public Safety, the Jackson County Sheriff’s Department, the Jackson Police Department, and the Michigan State Police, who investigate high-profile criminal complaints in Jackson County. The Sexual Assault Task Force is a cooperative team in coordination with the Michigan Attorney General’s Office and the Ingham County Sheriff’s Department. This task force is a regional team that investigates cold-case sexual assaults.

Members of the investigative division participate in the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, the Child Death Review Team, the Child Advocacy Center, and the Recovery Court. The investigative division also puts on presentations to local businesses and financial institutions on personal safety, robbery response and how to assist investigators, as a witness, during criminal incidents.

Investigations - Comparison by Year				
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
3,086	3,055	3,480	3,003	2,805



K-9 Division

The K-9 division is comprised of two K-9 handlers, Officer Chandler Fryt and Officer Patrick Boulter, along with K-9 Hooch and K-9 Pyro. The two K-9 Teams are assigned to opposite nightshifts, so that a K-9 Team is on duty every evening from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Officer Fryt and Officer Boulter spend an enormous amount of time training, above and beyond what is required by the Department or required standards. Both K-9 Teams also assist other departments, conduct school searches, and provide training demonstrations to the public, upon request. The K-9 division logged over 400 hours of training in 2020 and over 250 deployments. Officer Chandler Fryt replaced Officer Chris Jacobson as a K-9 Officer in 2020, upon Officer Jacobson's retirement. Officer Jacobson was a Certified Master Trainer and was instrumental in the success of our K-9 program. Officer Jacobson will be missed, but we are confident that Officer Fryt and Officer Boulter will continue making this division just as successful.

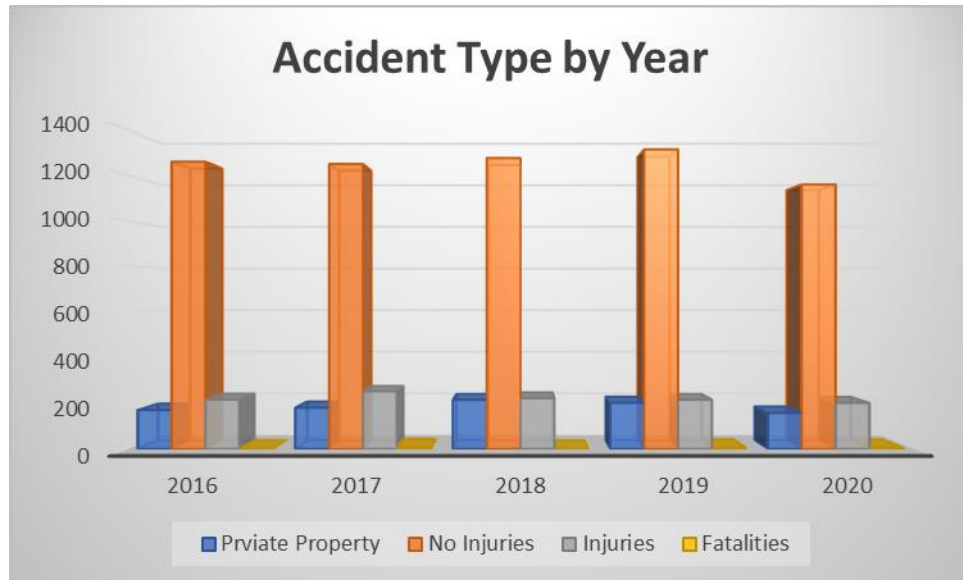
Traffic Crash Reconstruction Team

The Blackman-Leoni Township Department of Public Safety Traffic Crash Reconstruction Team is comprised of several officers, with varied levels of training. The department currently has three trained investigators who have been trained in Accident Reconstruction and has investigators assigned to the Jackson County Accident Investigation Team, which investigates serious or fatal accidents within Jackson County. This team consists of members from the Blackman-Leoni Township Department of Public Safety, the Jackson County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police.

Of the 1,519 traffic crashes handled in 2020, (5) fatalities were reported. Team members investigated numerous traffic crashes that resulted in serious injuries, which had the possibility of resulting in a fatality.

Traffic Crashes by Type-2020			
Private Property	No Injuries	Injuries	Fatalities
158	1,159	202	5

Accident Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Private Property	171	181	216	203	158
No Injuries	1,259	1,249	1,275	1,313	1,159
Injuries	217	253	223	216	202
Fatalities	2	8	1	6	5



Fire Inspections/Investigation Division

The Blackman-Leoni Township Department of Public Safety has two state certified fire inspectors and three fire investigators, who have either received their training through the Michigan State Police or the National Fire Academy. This division is headed by the Deputy Director of Public Safety-Operations and is responsible for the enforcement of the National Fire Code, Building Plan Review, Commercial and Industrial Fire Inspections and the determination of cause and origin at all structure fires. This division completes numerous continuing educational training classes on a yearly basis.

Records Division

The records division consists of one full-time clerk. The records division maintained criminal records databases, conducted local background checks, handled requests for information from the public, by telephone and at the service counter and answered the overflow telephone calls to the Department.

School Resource Officers

The Blackman Township Board of Trustees and the Leoni Township Board of Trustees both made significant investments in trying to provide a safer environment at the three school districts in our two townships. Officer Bryan French is assigned full-time to the Northwest School District in Blackman Township and Officer Chris Pohl is assigned full-time to the East Jackson and Michigan Center School Districts in Leoni Township. School safety is important to both communities and we are fortunate to be afforded these two positions to accomplish that goal.

Medical Marijuana Compliance Unit

The Medical Marijuana Compliance Unit is comprised of Sergeant Steve Stowe and Officer Kory Torbet. Their responsibilities include enforcing Leoni Township's Medical Marijuana Ordinance, conducting background checks on applicants and employees, processing application paperwork, following-up on complaints regarding medical marijuana facilities, providing visible patrol in and around these facilities and anything else related to the Medical Marijuana Ordinance or the facilities covered by this ordinance. This unit works closely with the Michigan State Police and the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. The goal of these positions is to seek a balance between providing a safe environment for those patients receiving their medical marijuana and protecting the quality-of-life aspects of the residents and visitors of/to Leoni Township.

Jackson County Violent Crime Unit

Officer Alec Norris is assigned to the Jackson County Violent Crime Unit. This unit is made up of officers from the Blackman-Leoni Department of Public Safety, the Jackson County Sheriff's Department, the Jackson Police Department and the Michigan State Police. The mission of this unit is to reduce violent crime in Jackson County,

specifically targeting gang and gun violence and making the streets of Jackson County a safer place to live, work and visit.

Regional Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Task Force

Detective Joe Merritt is assigned to the Ingham County/Jackson County Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Task Force. This unit investigates sexual assault cases where a sexual assault kit was obtained, but the case has not been solved and/or needs further investigation. This unit has and will make Blackman Township, Leoni Township, Jackson County, and the Mid-Michigan Region a safer place to live, work and visit.

Training

The Blackman-Leoni Township Department of Public Safety Officers have all been certified by the State of Michigan, as a police officer, Firefighter II and to a minimum level of Medical First Responder, but additional training is fundamental in providing the best public safety services to the residents of Blackman and Leoni Townships. The department completed **2,105** hours of additional training in 2020. Training hours were less in 2020, than they have been in previous years, due to COVID-19 restrictions in place.

Awards

The 2020 Officer of the Year was Officer Jeramiah Wheeler. Officer Wheeler graduated from Chesaning High School in Chesaning, Michigan. He is a 2014 graduate of Saginaw Valley State University and a 2015 graduate of Delta College Police Academy. He was hired as a public safety officer in 2016. Officer Wheeler was nominated by his co-workers, who recognized that he is an extremely hard worker, and he

puts the safety of the community and his fellow officers as his number one priority. Officer Wheeler demonstrates a strong work ethic and strives to bring his cases to successful closure. We are proud to have Officer Wheeler as our 2020 Officer of the Year.



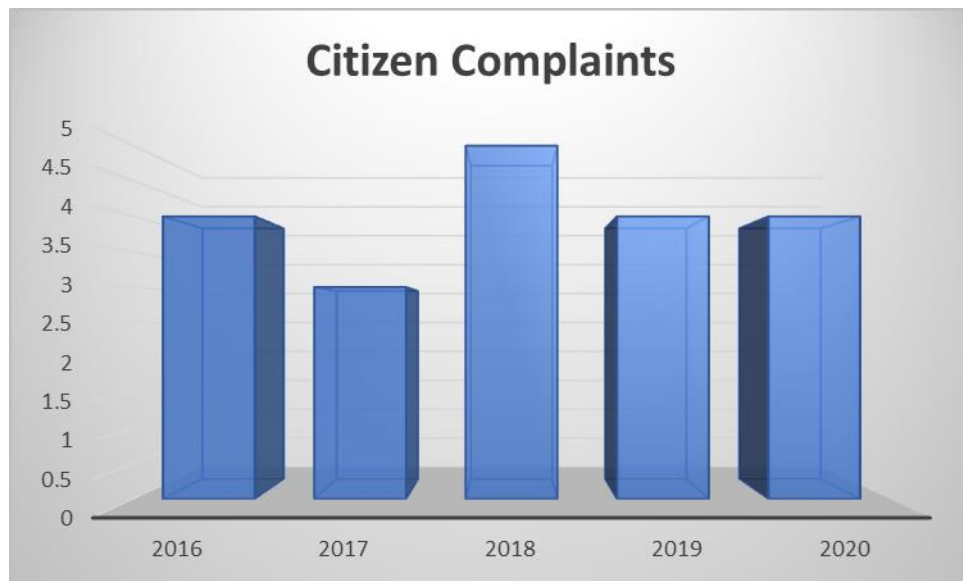
Citizen Complaints

The department takes citizen complaints seriously and does a thorough investigation into the complaints. Assisting the department in these investigations is the use of in-car video cameras and body worn cameras. In 2020, the department received four (4) citizen complaints, which included the following:

- A citizen made a complaint of an officer stealing his dog. After investigating the complaint, it was determined that the officer was executing a court order to obtain the dog, which was signed by a judge. This complaint was determined to be unfounded.
- A citizen made a complaint that an officer stopped him for no reason, other than that he was black. A review of the incident determined that the complainant was stopped for having a cracked windshield, which he admits was true. The complaint was determined to be unfounded.
- A citizen made a complaint that an officer asked her to step from the vehicle she was driving and detained her for over 45-minutes. The complaint was investigated and after reviewing the video and audio recordings of the incident, the complaint was determined to be unfounded. The traffic stop lasted 7-minutes and 13-seconds and an officer can legally ask someone to step from their vehicle for investigative purposes.
- A citizen made a complaint that an officer was rude and unprofessional. The complaint was investigated and after reviewing the video and audio recordings of the incident, the complaint was determined to be unfounded.

Citizen Complaint Comparison by Year					
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	4	3	5	4	4
Sustained	2	1	1	1	0
Not Sustained	0	0	1	0	4
Exonerated	0	0	0	0	0
Unfounded	6	2	3	3	0

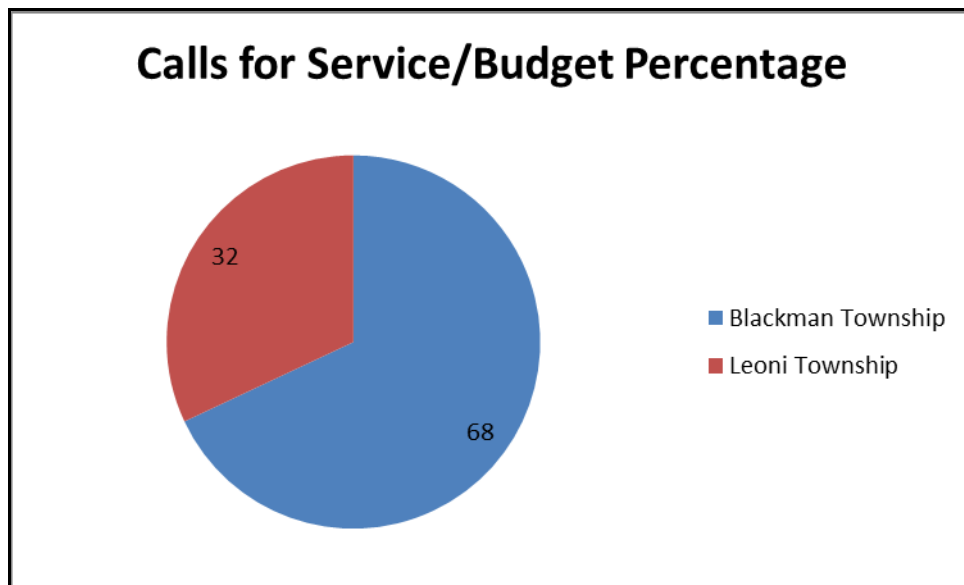
In 2020, the Department received, on average, one citizen's complaint for every 6,433 contacts that officers made with the public.



Funding

The Department of Public Safety is funded through numerous revenue sources, including a Public Safety Millage from Blackman Township residents, a Public Safety Millage from Leoni Township residents and the General Funds of both Blackman Township and Leoni Township. The public safety budget for 2020 was \$6,933,603. The adopted 2021 public safety budget is \$6,126,019, which is a 12% decrease from 2020. The budget fluctuates on a yearly basis, depending on personnel costs and scheduled equipment replacement. The 12% decrease is attributed to a budgeted equipment purchase in 2020.

The percentage of the public safety budget that is paid for by each Township has a direct relationship to the historical percentage of service calls in each Township. The current percentage breakdown is 68% of the budget is paid for by Blackman Township and 32% of the budget is paid for by Leoni Township.



Social Media

The Blackman-Leoni Township Department of Public Safety, to partner with the community to accomplish its mission, utilizes social media and direct correspondence with citizens daily. The Public Safety Facebook Page currently has 10,228 followers and a daily activity report is sent to approximately 750 people and is posted on both the Facebook page and the Township's website

Community Involvement

The Blackman-Leoni Township Department of Public Safety is very active in community events, and is proud to be involved in the following:

- Shop with a Hero Event-100+ Students
- Jackson Christmas Parade
- Blackman Township Halloween Open House
- Leoni Township Halloween Open House
- Toys for Tots
- Homecoming Parades-Northwest, East Jackson, Michigan Center
- Michigan Center Christmas Parade

Vehicle Fleet

The current fire apparatus fleet is as follows:

- 2003 Pierce 100 ft. Tower (Ladder 1)
- 1990 Pierce 65 ft. Tele-Squirt (Ladder 2)
- 2017 Rosenbauer Pumper/Tanker (Engine 1)

- 2017 Rosenbauer Pumper/Tanker (Engine 2)
- 2018 Chevy Suburban 4x4 (Rescue 1)
- 2018 Chevy Suburban 4x4 (Rescue 2)
- 2017 Chevy 1-Ton-4x4-Brush Truck (Truck 1)
- 2017 Chevy 1-Ton-4x4-Brush Truck (Truck 2)

The current vehicle fleet is as follows:

- 5-Dodge Durango Police Pursuit Vehicles
- 19-Dodge Charger Police Pursuit Vehicles

Insurance Services Office Fire Classification

In 2020, both Blackman Township and Leoni Township have an ISO classification of 5/5Y. A split classification indicates the difference between parts of the community that have municipal water, versus those that do not. This directly relates to the department’s firefighting capabilities, as areas serviced by fire hydrants provide an uninterrupted supply of water for fire suppression, where non-hydrant areas do not.

Recent investments by both the Blackman Township Board and the Leoni Township Board for new, updated equipment and additional staffing has and continues to have a positive effect on our ISO classification.

	<u>Current Classification</u>	<u>Prior to 2019</u>
Blackman Township	5/5Y	7/9
Leoni Township	5/5Y	6/9

ISO Public Protection Classifications

National ISO Fire Rating Distribution

