

Auburn Police Department

“Committed to our Community.”



2024 Annual Report



The City of Auburn, home to over 13,600 residents and covering approximately 8.08 square miles, is patrolled by the Auburn Police Department, which oversees approximately 78 miles of primary roadway. The department takes great pride in its commitment to the community, a value reflected in the city's recognition as the **#4 safest midsize city (10K-50K population) in Indiana** and **#5 in the top 10 best places to raise a family in Indiana for 2024**.

Auburn Police Department Command Structure:

- **Chief of Police:** Oversees all department operations, ensuring safety and security for Auburn residents.
- **Captain:** Assists in the overall management and coordination of department activities.
- **Lieutenant of the Patrol Division:** Directs patrol operations and ensures effective deployment of resources.
- **Lieutenant Detective Supervisor:** Leads investigative efforts and supervises detectives.
- **Additional Leadership Roles:** Sergeants and Corporals who provide supervision and support for road patrol and other key functions.

The Auburn Police Department's strong organizational structure and dedication to the community help maintain Auburn's reputation as a safe and family-friendly city.

The Auburn Police Department is composed of 28 full-time sworn personnel and additional support staff, forming a dedicated team of 34 employees. The department's structure includes:

- **Leadership:** Chief of Police, Captain, Lieutenant of the Patrol Division, and Lieutenant Detective Supervisor
- **Investigative Team:** Two (2) Detectives
- **Patrol Team:** Three (3) Road Patrol Sergeants, Two (2) Road Patrol Corporals, and Seventeen (17) First-Class Patrolmen
- **Administrative Staff:** One Executive Administrative Assistant and One Customer Service Representative (CSR)
- **Support Team:** One part-time Parking Enforcement Officer and Three (3) Volunteer Reserve Officers

The Auburn Police Department also operates several specialty units and groups, which are essential to its daily operations, ensuring the safety and security of the citizens of Auburn, Indiana. This comprehensive team structure allows the department to effectively address various community needs and challenges.



2024 Accomplishments

The Auburn Police Department welcomed two new First-Class Patrolmen, Noah Woollweever and James Fockler, during 2024.

Officer Noah Woollweever successfully graduated from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, completing the 16-week training program and subsequently finishing his field training within the department.

Officer James Fockler, a former Auburn Reserve Officer with approximately three years of experience, was hired to expand the department's team. He has completed his department field training and is scheduled to attend the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in 2025.

These additions bring valuable skills and dedication to the Auburn Police Department.

The Auburn Police Department Retired K-9 Loki in 2024 due to health reasons. Chief Heffelfinger and Capt. Miller worked to secure a credit toward obtaining a new K-9 for the department. This credit will be utilized when the next officer expresses interest in joining the K-9 unit.

K-9 Loki's years of dedicated service to the department and the community are deeply appreciated.

The Auburn Police Department is supported by thirteen (13) Indiana Law Enforcement Academy-certified instructors. These certified instructors play a vital role in assisting the department with its training programs and achieving its operational goals, ensuring that officers are well-prepared and highly skilled in serving the community.

The Auburn Police Department is dedicated to excellence through comprehensive training, ensuring its officers are among the best. With 28 full-time officers and 3 reserve officers, the department collectively completed **3,487.50 hours of law enforcement training** in 2024, approved by the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. This averages to just under **92 training hours per officer**, far exceeding the **24 hours of in-service training** required annually by the Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board.

This total does not include the time Officer Woollweever spent attending the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. The additional training hours demonstrate the Auburn Police Department's commitment to going above and beyond to serve the community with dedication, integrity, and professionalism.



In 2024, the Auburn Police Department applied for approximately \$167,250.00 in grants to support its operations and obtain necessary equipment. This proactive approach demonstrates the department's dedication to securing external funding to enhance public safety and reduce reliance on the city budget.

In 2024, the Auburn Police Department effectively utilized several grants to acquire essential equipment without relying on the city budget. These grants allowed APD to enhance its operations and better serve the community. The grants received include:

- **Body Cam Grant:** \$6,502.00
- **Drug Free Dekalb Grant:** \$4,757.00
- **Naloxone Grant:** \$2,250.00 (cost-saving benefit)

Despite these successes, the department was not awarded a \$150,000 federal grant for Encrypted Radios. This grant would have been used to update police radios throughout the City of Auburn and Dekalb County.

The grants received reflect the department's commitment to improving public safety while managing resources responsibly.

In 2024, the Auburn Police Department successfully completed quarterly and year-end audits of its evidence room. Every piece of evidence was accounted for, showcasing the department's commitment to meticulous record-keeping and integrity. An outside agency conducted the audits and provided high praise for the exceptional organization and accuracy of the evidence room, reflecting the department's professionalism and attention to detail.

Air Support Unit (ASU) / Drone Division

The Auburn Police Department Air Support Union is made up of three (3) certified FFA drone operators. During 2024, the drone was deployed on 19 occasions. Of those deployments, ASU assisted with city development and projects through the city. ASU is used to assist in lost or missing people, wanted persons, SWAT deployments, civil protests, weather damage assessment, city department requests and community outreach.



2024 Auburn PD Statistics

- Total Calls for Service: 2024 – 8,479
 - 2023 – 8,821
 - 2022 – 8,671
 - 2021 - 9,162
 - 2020 – 7,949
- Property damage accidents – 338 (455 -2023)
- Personal Injury Accidents – 40 (44– 2023)
- Fatal Accidents – 1 (0 – 2023)
- Homicides – 2 (1 -2023)
- Hit and run Accidents – 64 (73 – 2023)
- OWI Arrests– 100 (74 – 2023)
- Citations Issued – 1,187 (2597 – 2023)
 - 664 Traffic Tickets
 - 315 Operation Pull Over Tickets
 - 208 City Ordinance Violations (Excluding Parking)
- Warning tickets – 2,511 (2,653 -2023)
- Burglary Investigations– 11 (12 -2023 not all were actual burglaries)
- Drug related offenses – 146 (140 – 2023)
- Theft –206 (288 – 2023)
- Criminal cases filed: Adult – 226 (293 -2023)
- Criminal cases filed: Juvenile – 6 (3 -2023)
- Narcan deployments - 12
- City Ordinance Parking Violations – 823 (2023 – 1,034)
- Total City Ordinance Violation Fines Collected - \$20,341.91



Emergency Response Team (ERT)

The **Auburn Emergency Response Team (ERT)**, also known as SWAT, is comprised of **8 officers** who are dedicated to handling high-risk situations. The team trains once a month for **8 hours**, totaling **864 hours of training** in 2024. This training covers a range of critical areas, including **building clearing, active shooter scenarios, woodland movements, and riot control**, ensuring the team is well-prepared for any crisis.

To remain on the team, all members are required to meet higher standards of **fitness** and **marksmanship**, ensuring they are physically and professionally equipped to handle intense situations.

In 2024, the Auburn ERT had **14 callouts**, serving both the City of Auburn and surrounding areas in **Allen and Dekalb County**. These callouts included:

- **9 Search Warrant Services**
- **3 Barricade Person Situations**
- **1 Male with a Gun Barricade**
- **1 Domestic Threat**

These operations highlight the team's readiness and ability to respond to a wide range of critical incidents, protecting the community and ensuring public safety.

Detective Bureau

The **Auburn Police Department Detective Bureau** is made up of **two (2) criminal detectives** and **one (1) narcotics detective**. The detectives work on a **rotating schedule** to help manage workload and reduce overtime. To stay current with the latest trends and best practices in law enforcement, APD detectives attend **continuous training** throughout the year.

In 2024, the Detective Bureau handled various cases. Here's a list of the cases they worked on:

Total Complaints: 230 – Up from 2023

Total Cases: 129 – UP from 2023

Death Investigations: 15 – up from 2023

Sex Offenses: 15 – Up from 2023

Robbery: 0 – down from 2023

Weapons Offense: 5 – up from 2023

Child Abuse/Neglect: 7 – up from 2023

Fraud: 14 – up from 2023



Narcotics Unit

In 2024, **Detective Justin James** was tasked with narcotics investigations for the Auburn Police Department. As a **Task Force Officer (TFO)**, Det. James was assigned to the **Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) Division Fort Wayne** and the **Allen County Drug Task Force**.

Recognizing the importance of collaboration to combat the ongoing drug issues, **Chief Heffelfinger** and the **Allen County Sheriff** worked together to establish a **memorandum of understanding**. This partnership aimed to enhance efforts against drug trafficking, especially since many drugs entering Auburn and surrounding communities come from **Fort Wayne and Allen County, Indiana**. The collaboration provides the department with additional support from federal agencies and Allen County officers for narcotics and firearms operations across the four-county area.

In 2024, Detective James focused on **drug investigations** and **drug interdiction**. As a result of these investigations, the department successfully seized significant quantities of illegal substances within Auburn, Indiana.

- 74 State Cases
- 9 Federal Cases
- Allen County DTF Assists – 14
- Dekalb County Assists – 5
- Steuben County Assists – 6
- DEA Assists – 17
- FBI Assists – 2
- ATF Assists - 5
- 10 arrest warrants served.
- Fatal Drug Overdose Investigations - 2
- Dealing resulting in Death Cases – 1
- Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated - 1

Evidence Sized

- 8,454 grams (18.6 lbs.) of Methamphetamine
- 3,985 Fentanyl Pills
- 2,007 grams (4.4 lbs.) of Cocaine



- 48,575.5 grams (107 lbs.) of Marijuana
- 1005 grams (2.2 lbs.) Heroin
- 26 Guns Recovered

- 3 Stolen Guns Recovered
- 1 Stolen Car Recovered

School Resource Officer

In 2024, the Auburn Police Department proudly introduced its first-ever **School Resource Officer (SRO)**, Officer Jeremy Heffelfinger, who was assigned to **J.R. Watson** and **McKinney-Harrison** schools. This initiative was made possible after months of collaboration between **Chief Heffelfinger** and **Dekalb Central Schools Superintendent Steve Teders**. The City of Auburn and **Dekalb Central** came to an agreement where Dekalb Central would fund the SRO's salary, significantly saving the city and allowing the police department to replace **Officer Heffelfinger** back on the street.

Throughout the year, **SRO Heffelfinger** completed several educational programs at both schools, building essential relationships with young people and playing a pivotal role in the development of positive school safety. The SRO program has proven to be a valuable resource, enhancing the connection between the police department and the community's youth.

- Interaction with class, recess, or lunch – 406
- Calls for Service – 321
- Building checks – 93
- Incidents Handled – 40
- Education Lessons – 30
- Home Visits – 27
- Events Attended – 28
- Meetings Attended – 20
- Securities – 17



Auburn Police Department Goals and Priorities for 2025

In 2024, the Auburn Police Department deployed four (4) License Plate Reader (LPR) cameras within the City of Auburn through Flock. These cameras have proven instrumental in enhancing public safety by assisting officers with:

- Solving crimes
- Apprehending wanted fugitives.
- Issuing tickets to suspended drivers.
- Addressing uninsured drivers
- Enforcing vehicle registration updates

The success of this technology has led to plans for deploying two (2) additional LPR cameras in the first quarter of 2025, further strengthening the department's ability to serve and protect the community.

The Auburn Police Department remains committed to securing any available grants to save city tax dollars, especially as funding for law enforcement grants has diminished in recent years. The department will continue to actively seek out grant opportunities, ensuring that it can acquire necessary equipment, enhance operations, and support its officers without burdening the city budget. APD's dedication to finding and utilizing grants helps maintain financial efficiency while continuing to provide top-notch public safety services to the community.

Auburn Police Officers will continue their strong commitment to community policing. Each officer is assigned to a specific quadrant within the city to patrol when not responding to calls. This strategic approach allows officers to build stronger relationships with Auburn residents, fostering trust and communication. It also helps officers gain a deeper understanding of the unique needs and concerns of each area, ensuring more effective policing and a greater sense of safety within the community.

The Auburn Police Department is transitioning from Motorola to **Axon** body-worn and in-car cameras. This change is driven by the need for better camera systems and improved customer service. To support this transition, the department has successfully secured a **\$76,000.00 grant** for 2025, which will help offset the costs associated with the upgrade. This transition will enhance the department's ability to document interactions, improve accountability, and ensure a higher level of service to the community.

The Auburn Police Department plans to apply for a **\$150,000.00 grant** to assist with necessary radio upgrades. Due to recent legislative changes in the State of Indiana, the department aims to implement **encrypted radio systems**, ensuring compliance with new laws regarding what can and cannot be communicated over the radio. This proactive approach will position the department ahead of regulatory changes, enhancing communication security and maintaining public safety standards.

The Auburn Police Department will be hosting a **two-day Leadership for Front-Line Supervisors** course at its training facility. This course will be attended by the entire Auburn Police Department command staff, providing valuable training to enhance their supervisory and leadership skills. By investing in this professional development opportunity, the department aims to strengthen the abilities of its leaders to effectively guide and support officers, ensuring the highest standards of service and leadership throughout the organization.

In early 2025, the Auburn Police Department's **Training Coordinator, Lt. Martin McCoy**, successfully introduced **Lexipol** and **Police One** as new training tools for the department. **Lexipol**, a cutting-edge online training platform, provides a wide range of training topics and resources tailored to the constantly changing landscape of American policing. Chief Heffelfinger believes this is a significant advancement in the department's commitment to officer education and professional development.

In conclusion, the **Auburn Police Department** takes immense pride in upholding the values of **professionalism, integrity, ethics, trustworthiness, and courage** that define what it means to be a police officer. Each member of the department is deeply committed to serving the Auburn community and strives every day to make it a safer place to live, work, and thrive. We are honored to serve this great community and take pride in the role we play in ensuring its safety and well-being.

Respectfully submitted,

Cory D. Heffelfinger
Chief of Police
Auburn Police Department