

The Hamilton Township Police Department



2025 Annual Report



“Guardian Heart, Warrior Spirit.”

The Hamilton Township Police Department

Table of Contents

Message from the Chief.....	01
About the Department.....	02
Calls for Service.....	03
Promotions.....	04
Traffic Report.....	05
Criminal Investigations.....	07
Drug Task Force.....	09
School Resource Officers.....	10
K9 Division.....	11
Training.....	12
Citizen's Police Academy.....	13
JR Police Academy.....	14
Community Events.....	15
Retirement.....	17
Rememberance.....	18

Message from the Chief

It is my honor to present the Hamilton Township Police Department's 2025 Annual Report. This report provides a snapshot of the work performed each day by the dedicated men and women committed to serving and protecting our community.

In 2025, the department achieved State of Ohio Law Enforcement Accreditation — an important milestone that reflects our continued commitment to professionalism, accountability, and high operational standards. While accreditation represents a significant accomplishment, it is the daily work of our personnel that truly defines our organization.

Over the past year, we have continued investing in training, officer wellness, and the equipment our officers rely on every day. We remain focused on adopting modern technology and practical tools to improve officer safety, strengthen our response capabilities, and better serve the residents of Hamilton Township.

The success of our department is built on strong partnerships with our residents, township leadership, schools, and community stakeholders. Public safety works best when it is a shared effort, and we are grateful for the continued trust and support of the community we serve.

I am proud of the professionalism, integrity, and dedication demonstrated by every member of this department. Their commitment helps ensure Hamilton Township remains a safe and thriving community today and into the future.

Respectfully,
Chief Scott Hughes
Hamilton Township Police Department



01



About the Department

In 2025, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) managed a diverse and complex caseload, as reflected in this year's reporting data. The distribution of cases demonstrates both the volume and seriousness of offenses impacting Hamilton Township. The continued rise in investigative activity reflects both evolving criminal trends and the department's proactive enforcement strategy. Increased community reporting, stronger partnerships, and early intervention efforts have contributed to a higher volume of documented investigations—ensuring suspicious or criminal behavior is addressed promptly and thoroughly.

The School Resource Officer program remains a cornerstone of our prevention and community engagement efforts. Our SROs serve as mentors, educators, and law enforcement professionals within the school environment, ensuring a safe and supportive learning atmosphere for students and staff.

In 2025, I had the privilege of participating in the Police Executive Fellowship Program through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This experience provided valuable exposure to national public safety strategies, intelligence-led policing models, executive leadership principles, and interagency coordination at the federal level.

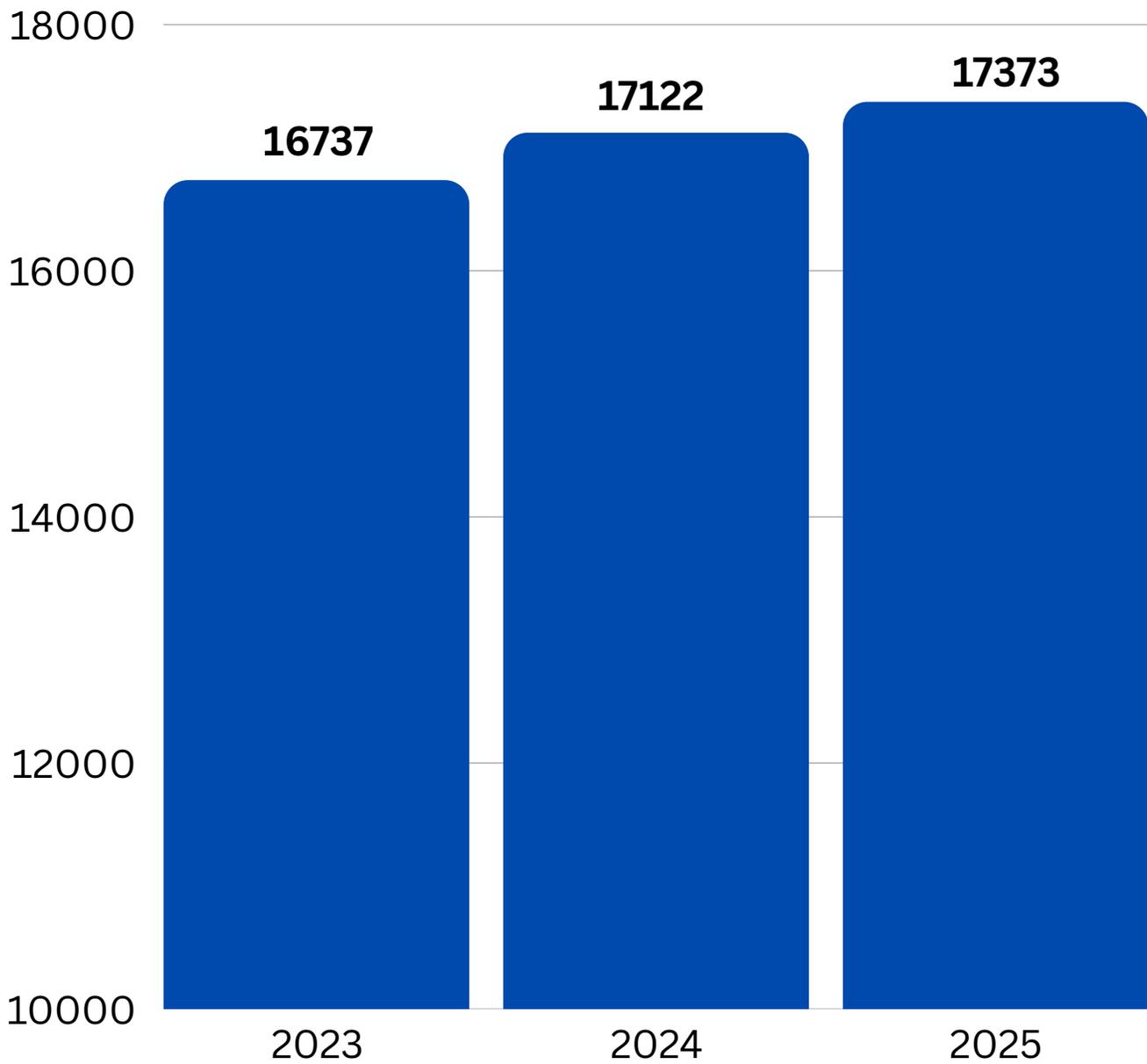
The fellowship reinforced the importance of data-driven decision-making, strategic planning, and organizational adaptability in modern law enforcement. It also provided insight into emerging crime trends and best practices being implemented across the country. The knowledge and professional relationships developed through this program have directly influenced our local strategic initiatives—particularly in strengthening investigative collaboration, enhancing information-sharing processes, and preparing our agency for emerging public safety challenges.

As we move forward, our commitment remains clear: proactive policing, strong community partnerships, professional growth, and an unwavering dedication to protecting the residents we serve.

Respectfully,
Assistant Chief Quillan Short
Hamilton Township Police Department



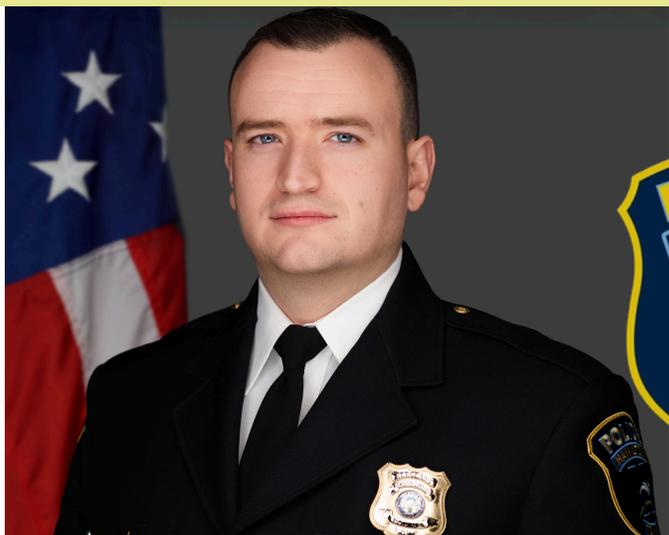
Total Calls For Service



WARREN COUNTY
Emergency Dispatch

2025 Patrol Division & Promotions

Through proactive police work in 2025, our patrol officers demonstrated exceptional diligence and dedication to keeping our community safe. As a direct result of these efforts, we experienced a 42% increase in weapon seizures this year. The Hamilton Township Police Department remains committed to vigilance and continually raising the bar when it comes to community safety. The dedication of the men and women who serve all stakeholders within Hamilton Township is paramount to making our township a great place to live, work, and visit. As the operational needs of both the agency and the community continue to evolve, we proudly promoted two sergeants in 2025.



Sergeant Eli Kibbee was promoted from his previous assignment in the Criminal Investigations Division. Sgt. Kibbee began his law enforcement career with the Blanchester Police Department before joining the Hamilton Township Police Department in 2019. During his tenure, he has served in patrol operations, as a Field Training Officer, and as a detective. His diverse experience and commitment to professional excellence make him a valuable asset to the department's leadership team.

Sergeant Jordan Elzey was also promoted from the Patrol Division in 2025. Sgt. Elzey began his career with the City of Obetz before joining the Hamilton Township Police Department in 2017. Throughout his service in Hamilton Township, he has served as a patrol officer, School Resource Officer, and Field Training Officer. Additionally, Sgt. Elzey served on the Warren County Tactical Response Unit (WCTRU), further demonstrating his dedication to specialized service and operational readiness.

Both Sgt. Kibbee and Sgt. Elzey possesses extensive job knowledge and strong leadership abilities that will help guide the department forward. Their mentorship, professionalism, and commitment to both the department and the community will further strengthen our collaborative efforts and enhance the safety and well-being of Hamilton Township.

2025 Traffic Report



783 dispatches for auto accidents in 2025.

this is a **27% increase from 2024.**

15% increase in crash reports taken in 2025.



Criminal Investigation Division



Det. Shawn Parks



Det. Eli Kibbee



Det. Chris Kaufholz

The Criminal Investigations Section continued to play a critical role in safeguarding our community throughout 2026. The unit managed a diverse and complex caseload, addressing serious offenses with professionalism, and diligence.

Detectives investigated numerous cases across multiple crime categories. These cases ranged from violent offenses to property crimes and sensitive crimes involving vulnerable victims.

In 2025, the Hamilton Township Police Department proudly promoted Officer Chris Kaufholz to the rank of Detective. Since joining the department in 2008, Detective Kaufholz has demonstrated professionalism, sound judgment, and a strong commitment to public safety. Throughout his career, he has served as a valued member of the Warren County Tactical Response Team, where he contributed to high-risk operations requiring teamwork, and tactical expertise. In addition to his operational assignments, Detective Kaufholz has played a critical role in officer development as a certified Field Training Officer as well as an instructor in firearms, Taser, BolaWrap, and other less-lethal systems. His experience, and dedication to training and preparedness make him well suited for his new role within the Criminal Investigations Division.

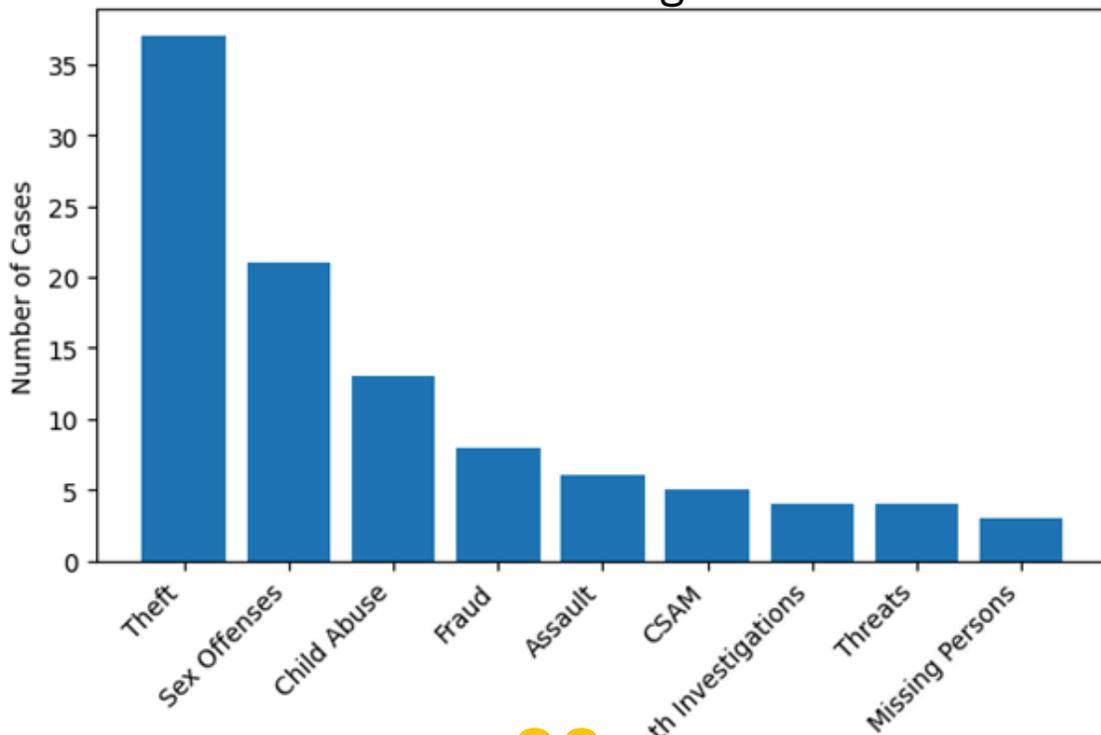
Criminal Investigation Division

In 2025, Property crimes, particularly theft-related incidents, represented the highest volume of cases handled by the unit. However, the significant number of sex offenses and child-related investigations underscores the sensitive and complex nature of the work performed by detectives. These cases often require extensive follow-up, forensic coordination, victim advocacy, and collaboration with prosecutors and partner agencies.

Each detective managed a demanding caseload while maintaining a victim-centered approach and a strong commitment to case resolution. Particularly noteworthy is the investigative effort required in sex offenses and child-related cases. These investigations often involve digital evidence review, search warrant preparation, forensic interviews, and long-term follow-up—demonstrating the high level of expertise and perseverance within the unit.

The Criminal Investigations Section remains committed to pursuing justice for victims, holding offenders accountable, and enhancing public safety. While many cases are successfully closed within the reporting year, others remain active due to their complexity and ongoing evidentiary development. Detectives continue to work diligently on open investigations to ensure thorough and complete case preparation.

2025 Criminal Investigation Caseload



Warren County Drug Task Force

The Hamilton Township Police Department remains firmly committed to combating drug-related crime through its ongoing partnership with the Greater Warren County Drug Task Force. This specialized, multi-jurisdictional team is dedicated to investigating drug trafficking, prescription drug diversion, money laundering, and a broad spectrum of other narcotics-related offenses.

The Greater Warren County Drug Task Force brings together personnel from local, state, and federal agencies, including the Warren County Sheriff's Office, Warren County Prosecutor's Office, Franklin Police Department, Hamilton Township Police Department, Lebanon Police Department, Monroe Police Department, Springboro Police Department, Wilmington Police Department, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio National Guard Counter Drug Unit, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Through strong collaboration and a shared commitment to public safety, the task force continues to play a critical role in disrupting illegal drug activity in Warren County and surrounding communities.

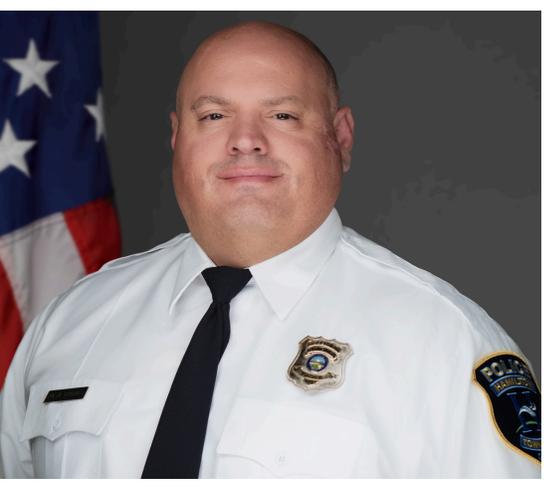


WARREN COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE
DRUG TIP HOTLINE 513-695-0070

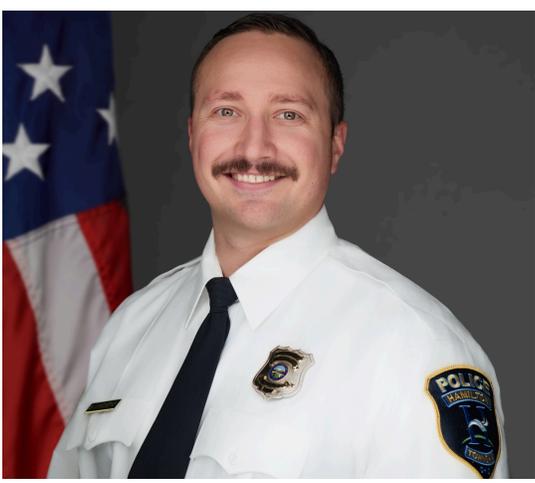
Little Miami School Resource Officers

With approximately 1,500 students assigned to one School Resource Officer, it is not feasible to document every individual interaction with staff, visitors, and students throughout the building. Many of these interactions are categorized as “Administrative or Community-Related” contacts. These are typically brief encounters with individuals or groups.

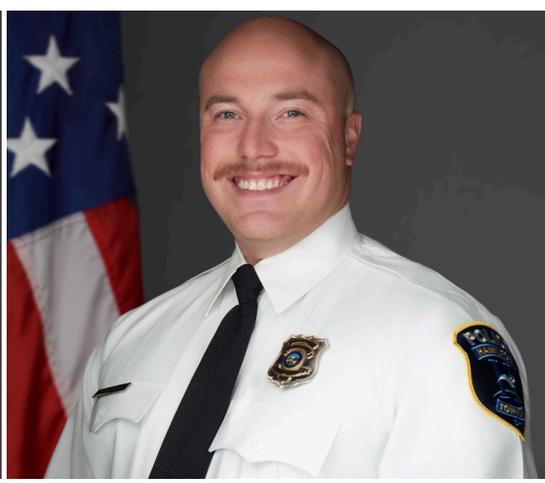
They can range from speaking with a parent who enters the building to pick up a child, to walking the hallways to maintain a visible presence and greeting students. That visible presence is essential for building and maintaining relationships. It encourages students to approach the officer—sometimes to share concerns, other times simply to say hello—helping to break down unseen barriers. Most importantly, maintaining an officer presence serves as a deterrent, with the goal of preventing issues before they arise



High School
SRO Brandenburg

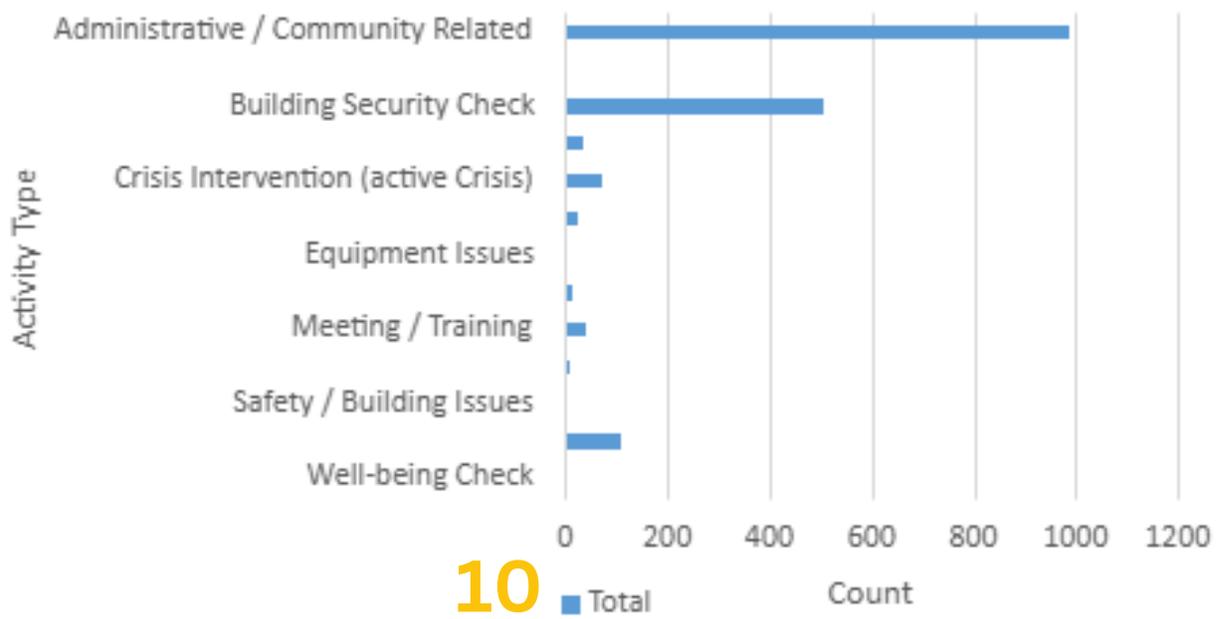


JR High School
SRO Rosenberg

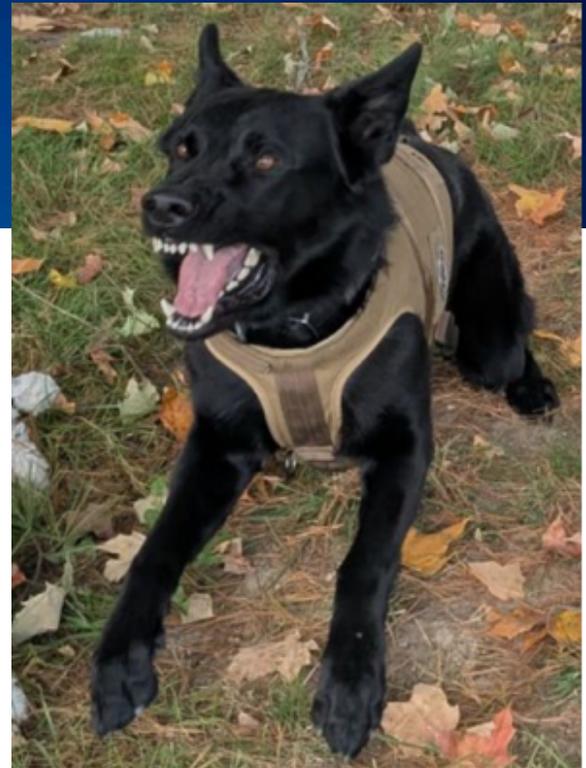


Primary School
SRO A. Hayslip

Activity / Incident Type

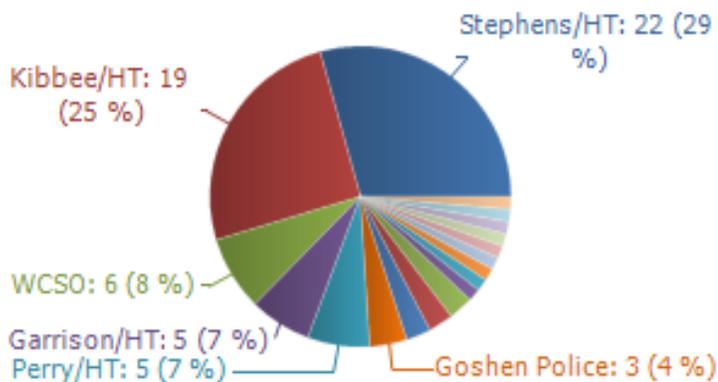


K9 Division



Kahn is a dual-purpose police K9 trained in narcotics detection, tracking, building searches, evidence recovery, and suspect apprehension. In 2025, Kahn and Officer Stephens completed 153 hours of training and attended advanced K9 training in Mackinaw City, Indiana, focusing on tracking and apprehension skills.

Top 25 Requesting Agencies



Stephens/HT: 22 (29 %)	Huelsman/HT: 1 (1 %)
Kibbee/HT: 19 (25 %)	Burkitt/HT: 1 (1 %)
WCSO: 6 (8 %)	Monroe PD: 1 (1 %)
Garrison/HT: 5 (7 %)	MHayslip/HT: 1 (1 %)
Perry/HT: 5 (7 %)	Chase/HT: 1 (1 %)
Goshen Police: 3 (4 %)	
Miami Township: 2 (3 %)	
Loveland Police...: 2 (3 %)	
CHounshell/HT: 2 (3 %)	
Springboro: 1 (1 %)	
HTPD: 1 (1 %)	
Lebanon PD: 1 (1 %)	
HCSO: 1 (1 %)	

Kahn was deployed 77 times, leading to six arrests and numerous seizures of illegal drugs and related paraphernalia. During one traffic stop, Kahn helped recover 60 grams of methamphetamine. He also supported multiple article searches that resulted in the retrieval of evidence and lost property.

A police K9 is an invaluable asset to any department, serving as a force multiplier and helping to defuse potentially volatile situations that might otherwise require the use of force. Kahn played a key role in apprehending several individuals with felony warrants, contributing to successful arrests without any use-of-force incidents.

Training Report

The Hamilton Township Police Department is deeply committed to ensuring its officers are fully trained and well-prepared for their responsibilities. In addition to completing all state-mandated training requirements, our officers pursue additional training opportunities to continuously expand their knowledge and enhance their skills.

Overall

- 1707.75 total hours of training
- Monthly roll-call trainings including case law updates and crime scene investigations.

Supervisors & Detectives

- Supervisors completed 369 hours of training
- Detectives completed 313 hours of training

Warren County Tactical Response Unit

- Deployed 24 times.

Achievements

- Officer Garrison completed Gracie Level 1 instructor which is a de-escalatory defensive tactics system.
- Officer Stephens was certified and is now a firearms instructor
- Assistant Chief Short completed FBI Fellowship.
- Sgt. Huelsman completed STEP.

K9 & School Resource Officers

- K9 Officer Stephens & K9 Kahn completed 152 hours of training
- SRO's completed 278 hours of training.



Citizen's Police Academy



We hosted our seventh annual Citizen's Police Academy in 2025. Eighteen residents participated in an 11-week course of hands-on law enforcement training, learning various aspects of the job.



Junior Police Academy



2025 was the fifth year of the Junior Police Academy, which involves a week-long camp for children between the ages of 9 and 12, during which they learn about all the different aspects of law enforcement.



2025 Community Events



Officer's waiting to pass out free fishing poles at annual Fishing w/ the 5-0 event.



Officer Vibbard posing with a child from the Special Needs Fishing Tournament at Camp Cozy Dale.



Officer's playing water balloon toss with children at National Night Out.

Officer's decorated police cruiser and passed out candy at Annual Hamilton Township Trunk or Treat.



2025 Community Events



Sgt Wall talking to local childcare about Police topics.



Scam presentation but on by officers at local retirement community.



Sgt. Perry showing support at police fundraiser.

Officer Graham sporting her Grand Marshall status at The Freedom Day Parade.



Officers at Annual Cones with the Cops Event



Officer's at Christmas tree Lightening Ceremony.



Officer Rosenberg's family started a blood drive at the Police Department.



Sgt Rich Smith Retirement



Sergeant Rich Smith began his career with the Hamilton Township Police Department in April 2005 and has dedicated more than two decades to serving the community with professionalism and integrity. Over the course of his career, Sgt. Smith has held a variety of key assignments, including Field Training Officer, Detective, and Patrol Sergeant.

As a Field Training Officer, he played a critical role in shaping the next generation of officers, ensuring new personnel were well-prepared to uphold the department's standards of service and accountability. During his time as a Detective, Sgt. Smith demonstrated his investigative skill, attention to detail, and commitment to delivering justice for victims.

While serving as a Patrol Sergeant, Sgt. Smith continued to lead from the front, providing guidance, mentorship, and steady leadership to his team. His dedication to professional development and organizational improvement helped shape the future direction of the department. Sgt. Smith has made a lasting and meaningful impact on Hamilton Township and the officers he served alongside.

Remembering Officer Megan Graham



Capturing the full breadth of Megan Thomas Graham’s remarkable life in just a few paragraphs is an impossible task.

Megan graduated from Springboro High School and earned her degree in Criminal Justice from Eastern Kentucky University. She began her law enforcement career with the Springboro Police Department, where she served for six years. During that time, she was an active member of the Tactical Crime Suppression Unit and Crash Reconstruction Team and received multiple commendations for her service.

Megan joined our department in October 2022 and quickly left a lasting impression. Shortly after arriving, she played a key role in the arrest of an individual attempting to solicit a minor, reflecting her vigilance and unwavering commitment to protecting the community. She was a gifted and devoted officer, a true public servant, and a young professional with an exceptionally bright future. In every responsibility she accepted, she demonstrated professionalism, compassion, and bravery.

She had a strong passion for police work, particularly crash investigation and investigative assignments, where her attention to detail and determination truly stood out. Recently married, she was building a life filled with love, hope, and exciting plans for the future.

Beyond the badge, Megan embraced life with enthusiasm and joy. She loved building Legos, reading—especially the Harry Potter series—and watching her favorite show, *The Office*. She cherished time with her horses and her dogs, and she found peace and adventure outdoors through traveling and hiking.

Above all, we will remember Megan for her courage. The strength, grace, and unwavering optimism she displayed throughout her battle deeply inspired our officers, staff, and the many members of the community who stood beside her with support and encouragement.