

Regular Crime Task Force Meeting

Civic Center, 2 Park Drive South,
Commission Chambers Room 206, Great Falls, MT

CALL TO ORDER: City Manager Greg Doyon called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Great Falls Crime Task Force (CTF) Members present: Shawna Jarvey, Nicole Griffith, Sandra Guynn, Sara Sexe, Jeff Newton, Jesse Slaughter, Rick Tryon and Shane Etwiler.

Mary Lynne Billy and John Parker were absent.

TASK FORCE MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS: Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Shane Etwiler, Victim Witness Assistance Services Executive Director Nichole Griffith, Neighborhood Council #4 Chair, Council of Councils Chair and Crime Stoppers President Sandra Guynn, Benefis Health Inpatient Case Manager Shawna Jarvey, Cascade County Sheriff Jesse Slaughter, City Attorney Sara Sexe and Police Chief Jeff Newton.

Ex Officio TF Member Rick Tryon expressed appreciation to the Members with regard to becoming a part of the Crime Task Force. The diverse membership would bring expertise and experience to the TF. The general purpose of the TF is to provide focused, specific and practical recommendations for strategies to address crime that are within the scope, authority, and financial ability of the City. The TF would dissolve after providing recommendations to the City Commission.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF: City Manager Greg Doyon and Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson, Police Captain Rob Moccasin, Police Lt. Doug Mahlum, Police Social Media Manager/Volunteer Coordinator Adrienne Ehrke, and Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea.

TASK FORCE ORIENTATION

1. MEETING ETIQUETTE.

City Manager Greg Doyon explained that TF members could modify the agenda in any way that they would like to see it. TF members should follow Robert's Rules with regard to making recommendations at its meetings. Other agencies, including the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), Probation and Parole (P&P) the local Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), as well as Human Resources Training/Development Coordinator Mark Willmarth would provide valuable input to the TF meetings.

Manager Doyon encouraged the TF to focus on what the City can do with regard to strategies addressing crime. It will take the efforts of the city, and local, state and federal partners, as well as non-profit organizations.

2. CODE OF ETHICS.

Manager Doyon explained that the Code of Ethics, as well as Robert's Rules were provided to TF Members. He suggested that if members have questions about potential conflicts of interest to contact City Attorney Sexe or himself.

3. PUBLIC ACCESS.

Manager Doyon explained that TF meetings are open to the public and the City is subject to the right to know process. The meetings are recorded, and the City Clerk's Department will keep all TF records and will take minutes of all meetings. City staff will be available to the TF; however, he requested that TF members contact the Manager's office first. The City's role is to guide and support the TF so that it can make a well-informed recommendation to the Commission.

4. RESOLUTION OVERVIEW – PURPOSE, INTENT, OUTCOMES.

Manager Doyon reported that on April 6, 2021, the Great Falls City Commission adopted Resolution 10395, establishing a Crime Task Force. On May 18, 2021, the Great Falls City Commission adopted Resolution 10407, amending Resolution 10395, establishing a Crime Task Force to include language pertaining to residency and to increase the number of members from seven to nine.

Manager Doyon reiterated that the TF's purpose is to study, review, evaluate and make recommendations to the City Commission, City Manager and citizens on strategies to address crime. The TF's findings should include specific and actionable recommendations that are within the scope, authority and financial ability of the City Commission, City Manager and general public.

Manager Doyon commented that it is important that the TF have a basic knowledge of the City's budget before making recommendations to the Commission. He recommended including a public safety budget within the first few meetings.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR.

Manager Doyon recommend postponing the appointment of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson until every member is in attendance. The TF Members concurred with Manager Doyon's recommendation.

GREAT FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW.

TF Member Jeff Newton reviewed and discussed the attached PowerPoint presentation which included Great Falls Police Department (GFPD) overview, staffing update, calls for service, calls for service Cascade County total, calls for service by agency, 911 stats –

Cascade County, crime stats and trends, reported crimes, narcotics, narcotics seizures, heroin seizures, heroin versus fentanyl, use of force, assaults on officers and resisting arrest, use of force, budget, trends, fiscal year 2021 and future topics.

TF Member Newton explained that the hiring process for police officers is time intensive and an expensive process.

Ex Officio TF Member Rick Tryon received clarification that burglary includes both residential and commercial with regard to the reported crimes Power Point slide.

TF Member Sara Sexe received clarification that during COVID 19, the number of calls from mandatory reporters decreased substantially because kids were remote learning. She further received clarification that those types of calls fall under the “offense against child” category and was not included on the reported crimes Power Point slide.

Manager Doyon received clarification that legalization of marijuana could have more of an impact on Driving Under the Influence (DUI’s).

TF Member Sandra Guynn received clarification that suspects who are under the influence of narcotics or alcohol is a factor with regard to the number of assaults on officers and resisting arrest. She further received clarification that “PIT” refers to Pursuit Intervention Technique and that the majority of drug trafficking comes through the Denver, Salt Lake and Spokane areas.

TF Member Newton explained that the Mobile Response Team assists police officers with citizens with mental health issues.

TF Member Guynn inquired about the percentage of mental health related cases.

TF Member Newton responded that he would get back to her with those statistics.

TF Member Jesse Slaughter added that the statistics for mental health related cases would not be accurate because the issue of helping citizens who are in need of mental health care has not been correctly applied.

TF Member Shane Etzwiler further added that the 2017 Justice Reinvestment Act was well intended; however, it had some undesirable consequences. He commented that the TF may need to readdress the issue with local legislators.

TF Member Slaughter explained that the 2017 Justice Reinvestment Act was a legislative goal to reduce future costs to state and local taxpayers and improve outcomes for individuals in the criminal justice system while maintaining public safety in the community. The 2017 Justice Reinvestment Act created an inability for individuals who committed crimes to be held accountable, as well as a massive increase in crimes in 2017.

Ex Officio TF Member Tryon recommended that the TF work together with local legislators with regard to lobbying for legislative changes.

TF Member Slaughter commented that it is important to establish that the “Community” includes both the City and Cascade County and that crime issues affect both.

Manager Doyon suggested that local, federal and state representatives present at upcoming TF meetings, and that the TF could determine what agencies they want to be a resource. He further suggested having TF meetings bi-weekly, instead of weekly.

TF Member Sexe responded that the agenda indicates June 14, 2021 as the next scheduled meeting and would need to be changed.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM TASK FORCE.

TF Member Slaughter inquired if future presentations will have a goal or be just an overview.

Manager Doyon responded that in order to help the TF identify what they need to focus on, different agencies should present to educate the TF first, and then Human Resource Training Coordinator Willmarth will facilitate a meeting with regard to focusing on goals.

TF Member Etwiler inquired about ex parte communication.

Manager Doyon responded that if there are decisions that require action from the TF, then TF members should not have external conversation with the agency or entity that it might affect.

TF Member Sexe suggested that TF Members encourage citizens to attend TF meetings to discuss those concerns at the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

Kim Skornogoski, United Way of Cascade County, commented that the United Way of Cascade partners with more than 50 local non- profits, government entities and health care stakeholders that help address root causes of crime. The United Way of Cascade County could be a resource and provide the TF with info regarding what is already being done, and help reduce any duplication of services.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Crime Task Force, Manager Doyon adjourned the **regular meeting of June 7, 2021, at 5:38 p.m.**

Chairperson

Acting Secretary – Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea

Minutes Approved: June 14, 2021

Chief of Police - Jeff Newton

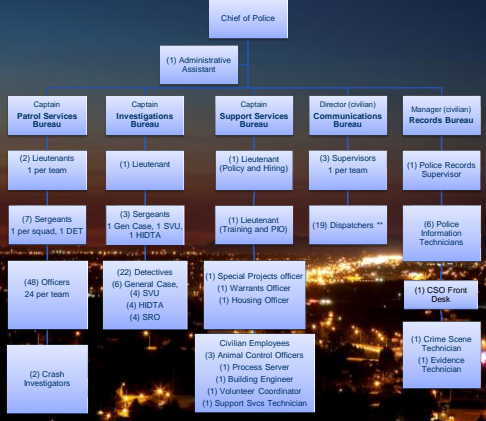


GFPD Overview



133 Employees
89 sworn officers
44 civilian support staff

Chief of Police



Staffing Update

| Position | Budget | Current | Details |
|--|--------|---------|--------------------|
| Sworn Officers patrol, command staff, detectives, HIDTA, SRO, SSB | 89 | 88 | 3 MLEA / 3 FT |
| 911 Center | 23 | 20 | 2 FT / 3 Open |
| Animal Control Officer | 3 | 3 | 1 FT |
| Crash Investigator | 2 | 2 | |
| Administrative Assistant | 2 | 2 | |
| Volunteer Coordinator | 1 | 1 | |
| Support Services Tech | 1 | 1 | |
| Process Server | 1 | 1 | |
| Building Engineer | 1 | 1 | |
| Records | 10 | 9 | 1 Evdc Tech - open |



Staffing Update

Patrol Bureau – 54 officers
 Investigations - 25 officers
 Support Services – 5 Officers
 MLEA – 3 officers

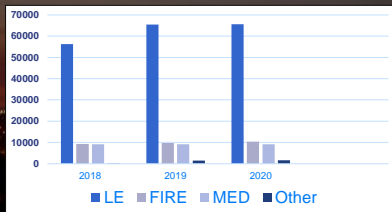
These numbers include supervisors



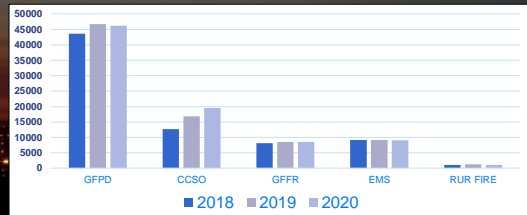
Calls for Service



Calls for Service Cascade County Total



Calls for Service By Agency



911 Stats – Cascade County

| Type | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 911 | 49,033 | 49,591 | 47,033 |
| Non-Emergency | 122,503 | 116,016 | 96,252 |
| Total | 171,506 | 165,607 | 143,285 |

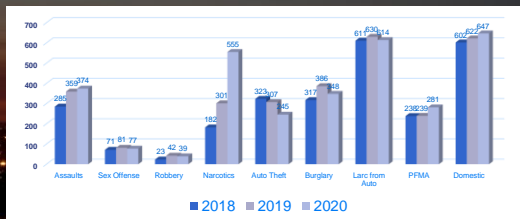
Calls to 911 Center decreased in 2020, likely due to on-line reporting and COVID



Crime Stats & Trends



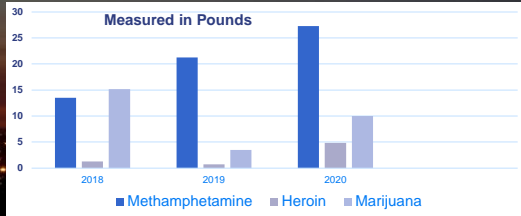
Reported Crimes



Narcotics



Narcotics Seizures

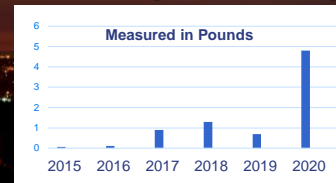


2.34 pounds of cocaine seized over the three-year period, with the majority seized in 2019 (2.28 lbs)



Heroin Seizures

2020: 4.80 pounds of Heroin was seized, preventing 21,791 doses from being consumed by our community.



"8 Ball"

- Named for 1/8oz
- Approx 3.5 grams
- 350 points/uses



10 "Points"

- 10 uses
- Value \$300 - \$500



Heroin VS Fentanyl

Lethal dose of Heroin versus Fentanyl






Use of Force




Assaults on Officers & Resisting Arrest

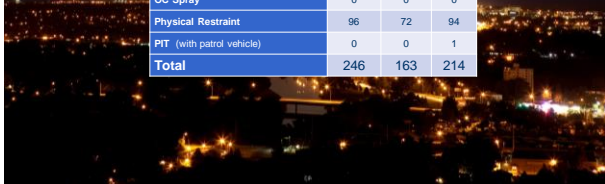


| Year | Officer Assaults | Resisting Arrest |
|------|------------------|------------------|
| 2018 | 11 | 71 |
| 2019 | 13 | 81 |
| 2020 | 30 | 77 |

Use of Force

| Type | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Firearm (threatened use) | 100 | 61 | 70 |
| Firearm Use | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Baton | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Taser Deployed | 15 | 15 | 22 |
| Taser (threatened use) | 34 | 13 | 26 |
| OC Spray | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Restraint | 96 | 72 | 94 |
| PIT (with patrol vehicle) | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 246 | 163 | 214 |




Budget





Trends

Personnel Cost Increases

- CBA (Collective Bargaining Agreement)
- MLEA (Montana Law Enforcement Academy)
- Uniforms, patrol vehicles, officer equipment

Technology Cost Increases

- Radios, software, warranties, updating unsupported equipment



Fiscal Year 2021

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Administration | \$2,572,379 |
| Patrol | \$7,106,895 |
| Investigations | \$2,864,230 |
| Support Services | \$1,539,565 |
| Records | \$714,408 |
| 911 Center | \$2,249,640 |
| Total GFPD Budget | \$17,047,117 |



Future Topics

- Crime trending in 2021 to include calls for service
- Violent crimes in Great Falls
- Investigations Bureau – what are they encountering
- HIDTA – trends with their investigations
- Federal partners

What would the Task Force like to see as we move forward?

