



# 2024 Blanchester Police Department Year in Review

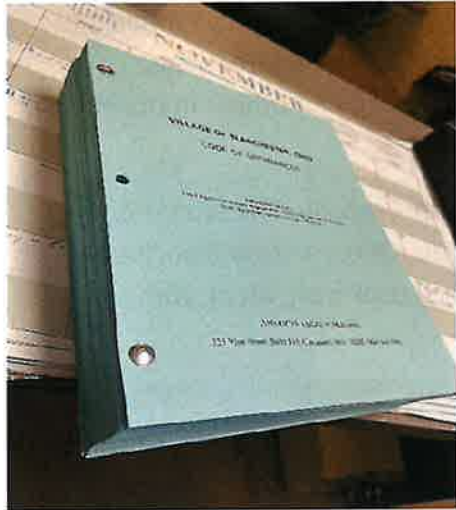
Chief Robert Houghton



The Blanchester Police Department remained busy throughout 2024 with law enforcement and community engagement activities. Throughout 2024, we have been steadily engaged in keeping our community safe and alerted. Our Social Media platform has 2.7 thousand followers with 50,351 views, and citizens have been kept informed. Information such as weather alerts, traffic alerts, upcoming events and public safety notices has been widely received by village residents. Our platforms have been Facebook and Instagram.

We have continued building our department by creating a training room to grow our department's capabilities. The continuing of education beyond what is the state minimum required amount is very important in building quality officers. Local training provided by our own staff includes CS/CN/OC spray, Baton training, Defensive tactics, and Firearms. We are building on additional training for multiple agencies to be hosted here in Blanchester. We hosted the MILO judgment shoot/don't shoot simulator with Sabina PD, Wilmington PD, Hamilton Township PD and Clinton County Sheriff's Office. The new training room has a new floor, tables and chairs along with a TV to be used for presentations. Recently Stop the Bleed training was put on for our officers in December.

As part of our ongoing effort to build professional relations with other departments, we continue to attend, and at times host, the Chief's Meeting for all Law Enforcement department heads in Clinton County. Relations have never been better as all Chief's and the new Sheriff have been work associates and friends for 30 plus years. We all agree that public safety is our common goal to be attained through mutual agreement and working together. Cooperation has been ongoing in criminal investigations and that will continue to grow.



The codification of our ordinances has been a very important step in modernizing and updating our laws. Determining the status of an ordinance is difficult unless ordinances are codified. Our code is well arranged, well edited, easy to read and up to date. The ordinances will be available to our community to view by hard copy in the Mayors Office or electronically in a PDF online on the village website.

We anticipate the ordinances will be accepted in January 2025 and officers will use our ordinances to enforce the law; more fine money is expected to come back to the village. Currently, most fine money stays at the county

level.

## 2024 End of the Year Police Stats

Officers remained busy enforcing the law and responding to calls for assistance. We handled a total of 3,441 combined calls. This is broken down into:

752- Traffic stops

56- Traffic Crashes

497- Assist/LE/EMS/Fire

23- Parking Citations

1,814- Call Logs

299- Criminal Incidents investigated

113- Criminal arrests made



Drugs remain a problem in the village and investigations are ongoing. Officers have made 113 physical arrests, and were involved in 7 Pursuits and 3 Uses of Force. One K-9 that was aggressive, running loose and threatening a child was shot and killed by an officer in the village. The officer received minor injuries from the K-9's aggression.

The Blanchester Schools were the location of an Active Aggressor Exercise. The scenario portrayed an outside active shooter in the area of the bus pick up. Officers from Blanchester Police, Sabina, Wilmington and the Clinton County Sheriff's Office took part, along with Blanchester Fire and EMS and other area Fire Departments



The training exercise was to better prepare officers and supervisors and practice the incident command and response. During the response, we were joined by other departments and utilized assets such as Wilmington Police Department's drone. The drone was a proven force multiplier and demonstrated a need in which we are actively pursuing a grant for our own drone.

Incident command was established and a lot of lessons learned about an active aggressor response and working with other departments. Emergency Management Agency was instrumental in conducting the training along with Ohio Safer Schools and Preparedness Solutions. As a result of the training, we are now better equipped with the tools necessary to

protect our children. Additional training will occur on an annual basis with EMA and our law enforcement partners.

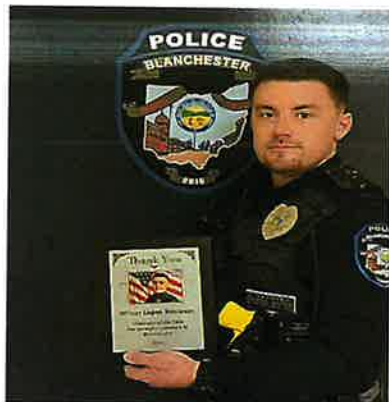


Community engagement came in the form of Cops and Bobbers, Cones with Cops, Click It for Cones, National Night Out, Shop with a Cop, Coffee with Chief, Night to Shine, Glenn Thompson Memorial Food Drive and Christmas Adopt-A-Family. Officers grew beards and donated their own monies for the food drive and also to adopt a family and purchase and wrap their Christmas. We were selected as Ohio Association of Chief's of Police Agency of the Month for Community Engagement and received a \$200.00 donation. Additionally, Lexipol gave us the Platinum Award for how well we are managing our policy.



During the course of 2024 we saw the best in Officer's interactions with the public and a lot of professionalism. We decided that we needed to select an employee of the year, but this proved to be a difficult task for management as we have so many fine officers. We took a vote and each officer got to cast a ballot for who they thought exhibited the highest qualities of steadfast

devotion to duty, integrity, honor and was a great example for all to follow. Overwhelmingly, officers selected Officer Logan Robinson for the great things he is doing here in Blanchester. Always willing to work and cover shifts, he displays the best in what we want for our officers to be. He goes the extra mile for anyone and displays great judgment. It was a pleasure to present him his awards at our annual Christmas party and again in front of council. Congratulations Officer Robinson!



Training in another direction, BPD has signed an MOU with LandSar Search and Rescue to call on in the event of emergencies within the village. This dedicated team of professionals will come at moment's notice to assist with lost persons, evidence recovery, storm damage and cleanup, amongst so many other things. LandSar came out and trained around the reservoirs and were given a number of scenarios. They worked every scenario through to resolution and truly did a great job and are a fantastic resource for our community.





In conclusion, we have had another very successful year. The passing of our Income Tax Levy will generate enough income to keep the police department as a viable public safety entity. We appreciate our residents and will always strive to be community oriented and build relations every way we can. We will continue to grow the department in 2025 and build further with the use of grants. We hope to see speed radar signs, a drone, a Community Watch Program, a Youth Police Academy, and perhaps a K-9 in our future. The Village residents deserve to have a professionally trained community police department that has their best interest in mind and we will continue to strive and earn community trust. We are also hoping that in 2025 Body Worn Cameras will be purchased by use of a grant and we will begin seeing them on the street early 2025. As the Chief, I am always open to speaking with the public to better build mutual trust.

