LONGWOOD UNIVERITY





Police and Public Safety: 2024 Annual Report

Angela Comer

Assistant VP for Public Safety and Chief of Police

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Message from the Chief

Angela Comer – Assistant VP for Public Safety and Chief of Police

I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report for the Longwood University Police Department. This is an exciting time for the agency as we have welcomed new faces, both experienced and inexperienced, and formed new and solidified historical partnerships with the Virginia Secretary of Public Safety, Virginia Campus Police Chiefs, professional organizations, community groups, and our regional emergency response partners.

Longwood University continues to enjoy a low crime rate, largely due to our community education and outreach efforts, and continues to welcome all requests for crime prevention, preparedness, and other training and presentations from our campus and surrounding community. This year, we focused on finding effective and innovative ways to be present, approachable, visible, and relentlessly engaged with students, faculty, and staff and intentional, proactive, and positive in our service delivery. With every interaction, call for service, intervention, and conversation., the agency endeavors to move the needle of trust in a positive direction.

As I end my first year as the Assistant VP for Public Safety/Chief of Police, I am proud of the advancements we have made in funding key infrastructure needs through grant funding, enhancing our regional partnerships through campus familiarization tours and regional training protocols, and increasing academic and crime prevention educational opportunities throughout campus. Internally, the LUPD strives to enhance and obtain specialized training in areas that will serve the campus community, support employee development and growth through leadership training, and identify wellness needs to better serve and elevate our employees.

I am honored to lead the Longwood University Police Department as we continue to work toward making this campus a safe, enjoyable and thriving learning community.

Mission Statement

The Longwood University Police Department commits to delivering fair, impartial, and elevated police services, employing integrative community engagement strategies, and cultivating unity through collaboration to protect life, property, and rights and ensure Longwood University remains a safe place to live, learn, work, grow, and visit.

Vision

The administration and operation of the Longwood Police Department will provide essential law enforcement, public safety, and related services to the campus community, utilizing the most efficient and effective methods available, maintaining established professional standards, and optimizing community and professional partnerships.

Our Values

The LUPD Way

State, local, and federal laws, industry professional standards, and internal rules and regulations govern much of what we do as law enforcement professionals. However, how we carry out our duties, who we are as an agency, how we show up in our work, and what sets us apart are tied to and reflected in the behaviors we strive to display daily.

Integrity: The agency and its employees strive daily to adhere to the highest professional and personal moral and ethical standards.

Respect: The agency and its employees will deliver policing and public safety services that reduce harm and honor the humanity and rights of all.

Trust, Transparency, and Accountability: The agency, employees, and volunteers uphold the public trust through adherence to professional standards, transparency, and accountability.

Community Partnership and Engagement: The agency understands that public safety, crime prevention, emergency preparedness, and crime reduction are shared responsibilities. The agency will deploy an inclusive engagement strategy, deliver educational resources, and identify and maintain community partnerships toward our collective public safety goals.

Professional Collaboration: The agency and its employees will seek to connect, work, and share information with our regional partners toward public safety goals, unified response protocols, critical incident response and management, and training and performance interoperability.

Professionalism, Competence, and Excellence: The agency employs equitable, public service-focused hiring standards, a global approach to employee support, and rigorous training and skill development regimens to hire, retain, and advance a diverse and quality workforce.

Operational Efficiency Through Innovation: The agency and its employees will seek, acquire, and employ innovative strategies

Our Mottos:

Integrity in Action

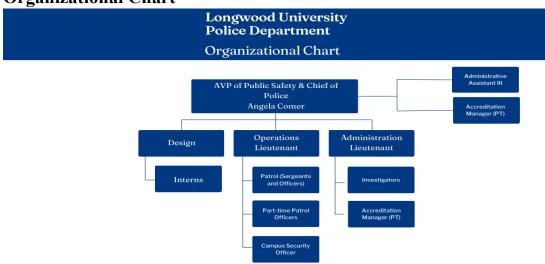
Habitual Excellence

Organization and Structure

The Longwood University Police Department is part of the Longwood University Office of Student Affairs. The Campus Police and the Office of Emergency Management are housed within the Longwood University Police Department and commanded by Assistant Vice President of Public Safety and Chief of Police Angela Comer. The Longwood University Police Department's leadership team includes the Chief of Police, Administrative Lieutenant, Operations Lieutenant, Accreditation Manager, and the Office of Emergency Management Director.

The Campus Police have an authorized strength of 15 full-time law enforcement officers, four part-time law enforcement officers/investigators, one security officer, and one administrative assistant. All sworn personnel are Virginia DCJS Certified Law Enforcement Officers and must obtain additional training hours biannually to maintain their certification. Many agency officers maintain specialized, advanced certifications including crime scene forensics, police bicycle patrol, and instructor certifications. Campus Police Officers are on duty twenty-four hours a day, work 12-hour shifts, and are supervised by a patrol sergeant. Campus Police investigators are subject to call-out as the need arises. The Office of Emergency Management is staffed by the director and agency interns. Longwood Police Department personnel also staff special, athletic, and community events in addition to their assigned shift or position duties.

Organizational Chart





Dr. Tracie Giles - Director of Emergency Management

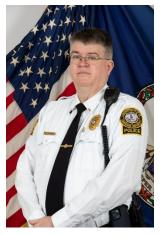
Dr. Giles is the Director of the Longwood University Office of Emergency Management. The mission of the Office is to provide guidance, direction, and training to the campus community in disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. Additionally, the Office coordinates with local, state, and federal partners to ensure public assistance is available to the university as needed. The Office of Emergency Management oversees the internship program at the Longwood Police Department and plays a pivotal role in supporting all preparedness functions on campus and throughout the surrounding community. Dr. Giles is Secretary of the

Virginia Emergency Management Association (VEMA) Institutions of Higher Ed Caucus Board and is a VDEM Region 3 board representative for VEMA.



Lt Robert Lenhart, Jr.

Lieutenant Lenhart is the department's Deputy Chief of Operations. He is the second-in-command and serves as the Acting Chief of Police in the absence of the Chief of Police. He supervises four patrol shifts, each consisting of a sergeant with subordinate officers, acts as the agency's training manager, and oversees special event staffing and coverage.



Lt R. Stuart Raybold

Lt Raybold is the department's Deputy Chief of Administration. He oversees most administrative and business functions of the agency, including, but not limited to, supervising the part-time investigators, managing Clery compliance, acting as the custodian of all property (evidence, non-evidentiary property, equipment, and quartermaster supplies), overseeing the records management system, and hiring processes.

Annual Highlights:

Call for service numbers

Туре	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
911 hang up	11	18	29	22
Accident	33	37	29	29
Animal Calls	30	17	19	20
Medical	27	22	34	14
Assaults	6	5	8	4
LE assists	2	7	5	8
Burglar Alarm	54	62	44	68
Bank Runs	212	230	233	233
Disorderly Conduct	7	3	10	5
Door Alarms	153	160	140	245
Door Locks	80	109	115	164
Door Unlocks	665	770	939	806
Elevator Alarms	119	65	73	149
Escorts	9	10	17	9
Fire Alarms	39	27	30	23
Harassment	14	14	19	17
Maintenance	171	253	190	191
Mental	8	13	7	5
Motorist Assist	31	66	77	107
Overdose	9	4	6	3
Public Assist	67	78	86	116
Special Events	28	20	4	17
Suspicious Activity	55	49	61	26
Suspicious person	29	53	72	45
Traffic Stops	384	374	551	358
Trouble Alarms	572	678	666	841
Vehicle Unlocks	66	105	87	95
Total	3562	3951	4449	4523

The above data is from the Farmville Emergency Communications dispatch log. Not all types of documented calls are listed.

2024 ASR Crime and Disciplinary Statistics

Main Campus	On-Campus		On-Campus Student Housing ¹		Noncampus Property		Public Property			Totals			Unfounded Crimes					
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Murder/Nonnegligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape (Sexual Assault)	2	5	3	2	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	3	2	0	1
Fondling - (Sexual Assault)	2	5	2	2	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	2	0	1	1
Statutory Rape - (Sexual Assault)	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Incest (Sexual Assault)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VAWA Incidents														_		-		
Domestic Violence	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dating Violence	2	6	5	2	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	5	0	0	0
Stalking	2	3	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	0	0	0
Arrests and referrals																		
Liquor Law Arrests	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	0
Liquor Law Referrals	16	32	20	16	29	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	32	20	0	0	0
Drug Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
Drug Referrals	3	6	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	0	0	0	0
Weapons Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Weapons Referrals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hate Crimes	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Notes:																		

Notes:

Effective July 1st of 2020 Virginia made simple possession of marijuana a civil and not criminal infraction and as such marijuana offenses no longer meet the criteria of a criminal offense to be included under arrests and disciplinary referrals.

All motor vehicle thefts have involved joyriding of university golf carts.

One Title IX report noted a dating relationship with consensual intercourse where one party was under the age of consent. This is the statutory rape listed.

As required by the Clery Act we reached out to the primary law enforcement agencies for locations where we had students travel under the auspices of the University, these agencies are not required to respond back to our information requests but the vast majority do. Farmville PD reported two drug law arrests on roads adjacent to campus. Clinton, SC, PD reported two drug law arrests at a hotel used by our students while our students were staying there, our students were not involved.

Security Cameras

The department's administrative office specialist, Mrs. Beverly Redman, manages the University security and surveillance camera systems. While not monitored 24/7, it is a significant tool in securing the campus and has led to the identification of multiple individuals engaged in illegal and prohibited conduct and has been instrumental with both conduct and criminal prosecutions.

Emergency Phones

As we end 2024 there are around 186 emergency phones on and around campus. The number in service varied throughout the year due to construction projects and the removal of phones from Longwood Village as it transitions to non-campus housing. This includes exterior blue light phones, area of rescue phones, and other emergency phones. They all dial 911 when activated and show a location on the 911 screen. We test all monthly, via officers activating them, to ensure they function properly. This does not include emergency phones located in all campus elevators which are periodically tested by the Universities elevator contractor.

Educational Programs Provided

University golf cart policy: Campus police staff are responsible for conducting training on the proper use, and routes of travel, of golf carts to anyone prior to their operating a cart on campus.

Code Red: 7 code red programs were held on campus in 2024. Code red is the department's program on how to react to an active threat as well as weather emergencies. It is generally conducted in work areas so the participants can go over specific concerns in their area of campus.

Other programs conducted:

Program on emergency planning by Dr Giles and Lt. Lenhart to the CRIM-330 class.

VDEM and Longwood Emergency Management spoke at the Virginia Association of Physical Plant Administrators (VAPPA) Conference in March. We presented on Partnering Before an Emergency. This presentation was about working together with campus partners from facilities management, University Events & Ceremonies, fleet management, landscape and grounds, and others to ensure efficient and effective emergency response and continuity of operations.

Safety Briefings:

Virginia Social Studies Conference Staff by Chief Comer, Dr. Giles and interns Nina Malley and Hunter Beale.

Leadership Retreat of the Cormier Honors College by Chief Comer, Dr. Giles, Sgt Pugh, D. Cooper and Ofc Nichols.

Cookies With Comer: Opportunity for students and staff to meet with Chief Comer for an informal question and answer session.

LUPD staff also assisted with multiple classes in both Law Enforcement Basic Schools at the Central Virginia Criminal Justice Academy. These programs included Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training, Field Force Operations, firearms and officer survival portions. We also had Sergeant Hines sent to obtain the FEMA train the trainer certification in Public Order and Public Safety.

Other significant activities this year

Hiring Processes

Makayla Davis completed the law enforcement basic school in mid-December of 2023 and completed her required field training in early 2024 to become fully certified as an officer.

We had Officers Burchett, Gibson and Smith all complete the law enforcement basic school and completed their field training for full certification this year.

Tyler Morris is scheduled to graduate the law enforcement basic school on December 18th of 2024 and will then return to us to complete his field training.

We have conducted three hiring processes in order to fill two sergeant positions. One vacant due to retirement and one due to Sgt Lenhart being promoted to Operations Lieutenant. We selected Harrison Turnbull, a prior Farmville PD corporal, to fill one position and he started with us in February. Justin Civitano was selected to fill the second position. Sgt. Civitano has extensive experience as a Military Police Officer, most recently at Fort Belvoir, VA. Sgt Civitano will have to cross train to be certified in Virginia and will either attend the basic school in Lynchburg or a transition academy hosted by Farfax County PD.

We end 2024 with one existing vacant officer position and have an ongoing hiring process to fill it.

Grants and related activities

2024 saw us finalize and close out a \$54K grant awarded in 2023 which allowed us to fund new radio equipment, and a laptop for our emergency manager.

Were awarded a \$45K grant to assist in our transitioning records management programs. This program will allow us to be on the same records management system as the Farmville Emergency Communications Center, Farmville PD, Prince Edward Sheriff's Office, Hampden Sydney College PD. We transition to utilizing this system for dispatching and reports in mid-December of 2024 but our existing records database will be merged in 2025.

\$12,500 was awarded to us through the Virginia State Police's Help Eliminate Auto Theft funding. We were able to obtain two electric bikes and bike uniforms with this funding.

We were awarded a \$500 grant to assist us in transitioning to a computer based accreditation management system.

We were able to obtain the donation of two Ford Taurus police cars from the Northern Virginia Community College Police Department. This has greatly assisted the department by allowing us to have vehicles for staff to utilize for travel to training, and as back-up when shift patrol vehicles have been out of service for maintenance and repair.

We also obtained three X2 tasers, holsters and cartridges free of charge from Passaic County, NJ when they transitioned to a differed model. This saved the department over \$5k if were had to purchase them.

Body Cameras are an ongoing item of concern. Our current BWC system manufacturer was purchased by a rival company who ended support. Efforts have been made to obtain grant assistance to upgrade to a newer system with no success as of yet. We had like units donated to us by Spotsylvania County as they converted to a newer system. These units have enhanced our ability to keep our existing system operational via utilizing them for spares and parts, but the system will need to be replace in 2025 due to necessary computer upgrades likely making our system inoperative.

Significant Training, Conference and related activities

Chief Comer attended the NOBLE Conference (National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives) and the Virginia Chief of Police Winter Conference.

Dr. Giles assisted Virginia Tech with their Emergency Operations Center and Incident Management Team functional exercise in late May.

Longwood PD and Emergency Management coordinated with Farmville ECC to set up an Emergency Operations Center with remote 911 at Longwood for the 4th of July fireworks.

Collaborated with Farmville for the Heart of Virginia Festival and Family Weekend.

Lt Lenhart attended the 2024 Crimes Against Women Conference in Texas under a grant, leavening only travel costs for the department to cover.

Sydney Nichols is actively working on obtaining the DCJS required courses in order to become a Certified Crime Prevention Officer. This is a required step for the University to become a crime prevention campus.

Investigator Auxier and Sgt Turnbull have completed Simunitions Instructor Program. This will allow them to assist with additional use of force training both within the department and at the academy.

Dr. Giles and Lt. Lenhart assisted with Christopher Newport Universities active shooter exercise in Fall of 2024. Dr. Giles was evaluator and Lt. Lenhart an observer.

Dr. Giles and Lt. Lenhart attended the Public Safety Managers and Supervisors Leadership Development Program