


<p style="text-align: center;">STRATFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT</p> 	Type of Directive: Policy and Procedure	Updated: 10/13/2021
	Title: Performance Awards	No. 2.10
	Issuing Authority: Chief Joseph McNeil	Issued: 10-09-2018
	Reference:	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for the formal recognition of outstanding performance by any member of the Stratford Police Department or the public. Any of the awards may be issued to a civilian at the discretion of the Chief of Police or his/her designee.

POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the Stratford Police Department to annually review award nominations and issue those awards to Officers or Civilians who meet the criteria set forth below.

DEFINITIONS:

Medal for Valor- This is the Department’s highest award for bravery or heroism above and beyond the highest demands for police service. The Medal for Valor is bestowed upon any member of the Department who performs an act of extreme courage while consciously facing imminent self peril.

The Medal for Valor shall be a gold star centered on a red ribbon.

Purple Heart – The Purple Heart will be awarded to an Officer who sustains physical injury while engaged in personal physical combat with an adversary. The Chief of Police in the name of the department shall present this award at the Awards Ceremony. The award consists of a medal, ribbon, and a citation.

The Purple Heart shall be a tri color ribbon, Purple, White and Purple and a citation.

Combat Cross- Police Combat Cross may be awarded for the successful performance of an act or extraordinary heroism while engaged in personal combat with an armed adversary at imminent personal hazard of life in the performance of duty. The Chief of Police in the name of the department shall present this award at the Awards Ceremony. The award consists of a medal, ribbon, and a citation.

The Combat Cross shall be a silver star centered on a white and blue ribbon.

Lifesaving Medal- This award is bestowed upon any member of the Department who successfully performs an act which directly impacts another human being in a life or death situation. The event should

occur when the member's own life is not at risk. Some examples include, but are not limited to administering CPR, saving a choking victim, or delivering a newborn child.

The Lifesaving Medal shall be a yellow ribbon with a gold cross in the center.

Medal for Excellent Arrest- This is bestowed upon a member for an exceptional arrest of a felon endangering the community at large. Some examples include but are not limited to robbery and burglary suspects, and those suspected of dealing narcotics. The arrest(s) shall have been achieved by extreme diligence and professionalism, and shall have happened outside the scope of routine response to a crime or incident.

The Medal for Excellent Arrest shall be a white over red service ribbon.

Distinguished Service Medal- This is bestowed upon a member who distinguishes him/herself by performing exceptionally a duty of great responsibility or critical importance to law enforcement.

The Distinguished Service Medal shall be a blue and red ribbon.

Unit Citation- This is awarded to a division or specialized unit for a cumulative effort toward the Department's mission over a period of time.

The Unit Citation shall consist of a framed certificate to be displayed in the appropriate division as well as a Distinguished Service Medal for each member of the unit.

Certificate of Recognition- Official recognition by the Department for active participation in the successful resolution of a serious incident or unusual occurrence or to any citizen or organization that has assisted a member, the Department, or the community through their actions.

The Certificate of Recognition is a citation suitable for framing. Civilian recipients may also receive a Chief's Challenge Coin.

Honorable Career Citation- This may be awarded to any officer who has served in the Department for twenty or more years and retires/resigns in good standing. The citation may be awarded to officers who have served for less than 20 years at the discretion of the Chief of Police.

The Honorable Career Citation shall be a framed certificate and green service ribbon.

Chief's Recognition Award- This award is given at the discretion of the Chief of Police and can be based on a variety of factors that do not necessarily fit into the other award categories. Some examples include but are not limited to a member's years of service, initiative, attendance history, or exceptional service to the community over an extended period of time, either on or off duty.

The Chief's Recognition Award shall be a plaque.

Award Criteria

The Stratford Police Department will issue the appropriate awards (as defined in this policy) to members who perform services or acts deserving of official recognition. An award may be given posthumously. All awards will become part of the member's personnel file.

All Medals and the Certificate of Recognition shall be in recognition of a single action performed by a member. Several incidents deemed worthy of a Medal or Certificate by a member will be judged on their own merits and do not qualify the member for a higher award.

PROCEDURE:

Awards Committee

The Chief of Police shall appoint an Awards Committee to receive and evaluate recommendations for awards. The Committee shall consist of a number of members determined to be appropriate by the Chief and every effort should be made to ensure the committee represents a cross-section of departmental ranks and duty assignments.

- The Committee shall elect a chairperson at their first meeting and the name of the chairperson shall be submitted to the Chief of Police for record.
- The Committee shall meet as often as necessary to review requests and make the appropriate award recommendations.
- The Committee shall also work with the necessary Town agencies, internal and/or outside entities to handle the logistics for the annual Departmental Awards Ceremony, including but not limited to a suitable location, program, and ensuring a sufficient supply of appropriate medals and certificates for the ceremony.

Awards Nomination Procedure

Any member of the Department, sworn or civilian, or any citizen may initiate an award nomination. More than one person may make a nomination jointly.

- Sworn members who nominate a member for an award must complete an Award Nomination Form and submit a copy of the original incident report and any other available documentation to support the nomination.
- Civilian members and citizens who nominate a member for an award may substitute a Citizens Complaint / Officer Recognition Form in place of the Award Nomination Form.
- All completed Nomination and/or Officer Recognition forms shall be submitted to the Chief's Office, who will then stamp the date the nomination was received and then forward to the Awards Committee.
- The Awards Committee shall review all requests for departmental awards. By simple majority vote, the Committee shall determine whether or not to recommend the nominee for official recognition and the specific award classification.
- If a member of the Awards Committee is under consideration for an award, that member shall be excused from deliberations and is excluded from voting on his/her nomination. If necessary, the Chief of Police may appoint an alternate member to the Committee to serve while the regular member is being considered for an award.
- Every effort should be made to submit the nomination within 30 days of the date of the incident for which the member is being nominated.

- After reviewing all nominations, the Awards Committee shall forward their recommendations to the Chief of Police for final disposition.
- All nominees will be notified in writing by the Awards Committee chairperson on whether or not their nomination has been approved. A copy of the letter will be placed in the nominee's personnel file, regardless of whether or not the nomination has been approved.

Review Period and Awards Ceremony

- Awards will be reviewed throughout the year as recommendations are received. If possible an awards ceremony will be held on a yearly basis but will remain at the Chief's discretion.
- The annual Departmental Awards Ceremony shall take place at the Chief's discretion.

Requests from Outside Agencies

Requests from outside agencies or organizations for nominations such as "Officer of the Year" or similar recognitions shall be made through the Chief's Office with assistance from the Awards Committee.



Medal of Valor



Purple Heart



Combat Cross



Life Saving



Excellent Arrest



Distinguished Service



Honorable Career