



July 2024 - June 2025

ANNUAL REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE.UFL.EDU

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

Dear University of Florida Community,

As we close out another academic year, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all members of our campus community—students, faculty, staff, and partners—for your continued support and collaboration with the University of Florida Police Department (UFPD).

Our shared commitment to safety, care, and community engagement remains the foundation of a strong and secure university environment.

This past year, our department has benefited immensely from the partnerships we've built across campus and the unwavering dedication of our officers, professional staff, and volunteers. Your trust and cooperation make our mission possible, and for that, I thank you.

We take great pride in the initiatives and innovations we've undertaken—from enhancing community outreach and mental health response efforts to refining our data-driven policing practices. These accomplishments reflect a unified vision: to create a safe and welcoming place for everyone at the University of Florida.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on continuous improvement, transparency, and proactive engagement. We will continue working closely with our campus partners and the greater Gainesville community to address emerging challenges and to foster a culture of safety and respect.

Thank you again for your contributions to making the University of Florida a safe place to live, learn, and grow. Together, we look forward to another year of collaboration and shared responsibility in keeping our campus safe.

In service,



Chief Bart Knowles, UFPD



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- GatorPerks Discounts
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 - every other weekend off!

**RETENTION
BONUSES!**

NEW

STARTING PAY

PCO I - \$49,883

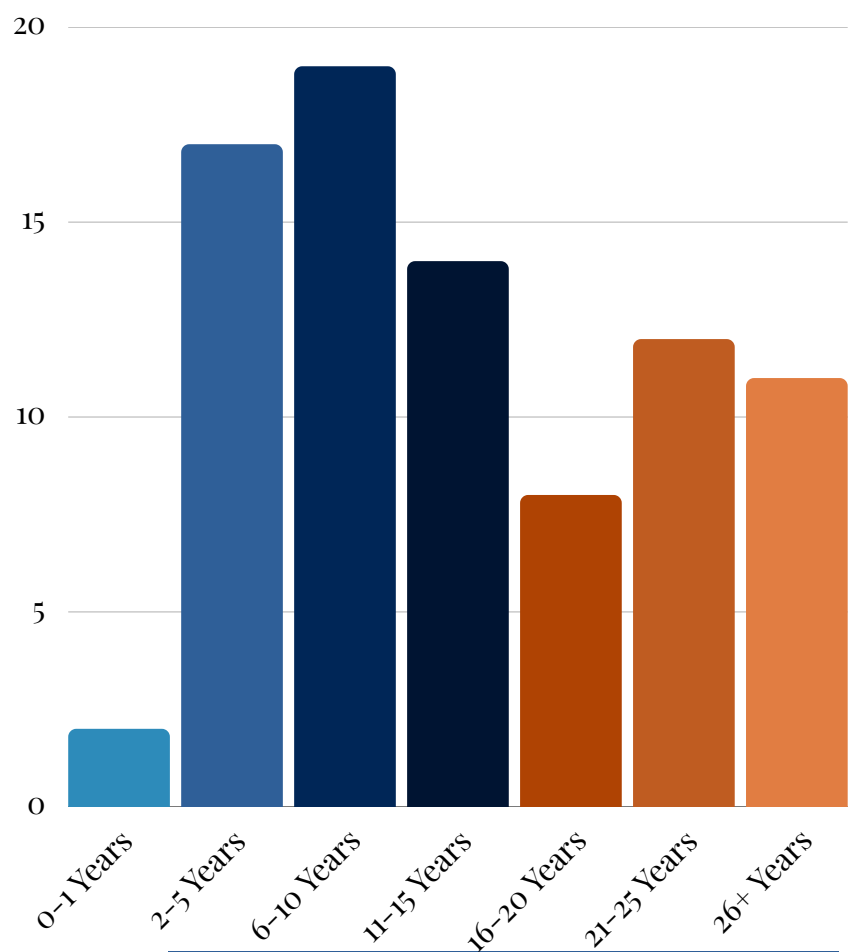
PCO II* - \$52,826

*Automatic advancement to PCOII after 1 year

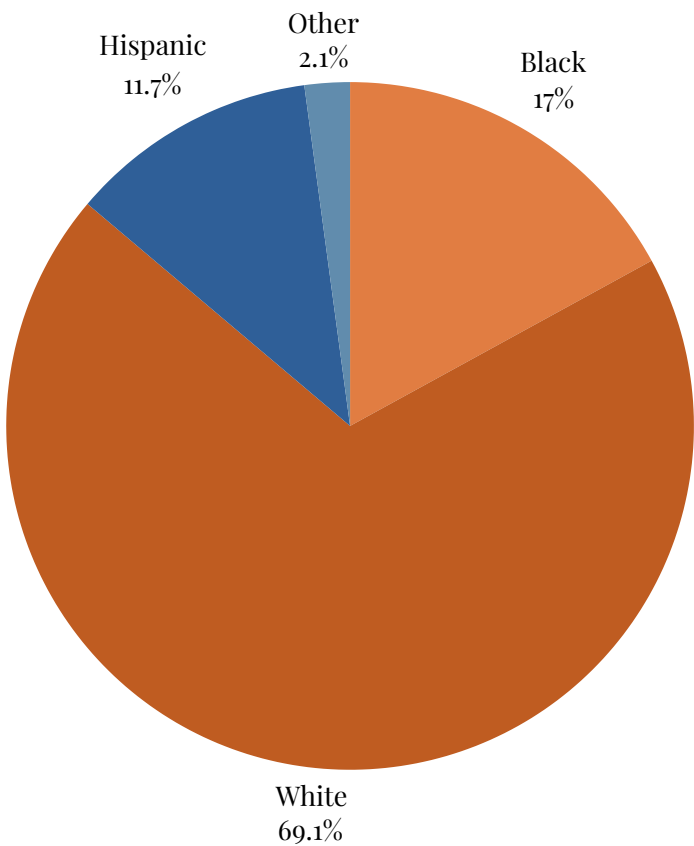


SWORN DEMOGRAPHICS

Years of Experience



Ethnicity



GENDER

Male

61

(73.5%)

Female

22

(26.5%)

EDUCATION

12

High School

9

Associates

52

Bachelors

9

Masters

1

PhD

TOTAL SWORN STAFF: 83 TOTAL CIVILIAN STAFF: 68

HIRING

TOTAL APPLICATIONS PROCESSED: 94

Background packets completed: 30

Withdrew from process before final offer: 7

Disqualified before final offer: 11

Individuals hired: 12

Other not hired (pre-background): 64

PROMOTIONS

Bart Knowles

Chief of Police - 02/10/2025

Paul Pardue

Sergeant - 02/28/2025

Emily Young

Admin Support Assistant -

05/09/2025

Kayla Johns

Admin Support Assistant II -

05/09/2025

Latrell Simmons

Major - 01/03/2025

Scott Summers

Captain - 08/30/2024

Khristopher Sheffield

Lieutenant - 08/30/2024

Hank Spurlin

Lieutenant - 08/30/2024

Michelle Mueth

Sergeant - 08/30/2024

Corey Gordon

Sergeant - 07/19/2024

Trever Henderson

Captain - 01/03/2025

Jeffrey Lamb

Lieutenant - 01/03/2025

Nicolle Rawson

PCO III - 01/03/2025

Katherine De Armas

PCO III - 01/03/2025

Jacob Pruitt

Captain - 08/30/2024

RETIREMENTS

Susan Sanders - 2/13/2025



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHTS



William Howell

Will is a Facilities Operations Specialist, and he came to UFPD in October 2024 from UF Facilities. Will is the go-to “building guy” and literally keeps the lights on.

About

Favorite Color: Red

Favorite Car: 92 Ford F-150

Hometown: Keystone Heights, FL

Favorite Music: Classic Country, Don Williams

Dogs or Cats?: *“Dogs all the way, I have an English Bulldog named Argus and a Texas Heeler named Bella.”*

Coke or Pepsi?: Coke

How do you spend your spare time?: *“I spend time with my wife, Amber, and our kids, Emma and Liam.”*

Matthew Bertotto-Cook

Matt is an Asset Specialist II who came to UFPD in March of 2024.

He worked as a mechanic at Tacachale before joining the UFPD team. He is the “go to” fleet guy and manages all things related to fleet. We are happy to have him.

About

Favorite Color: Purple

Favorite Car: Toyota Land Cruiser FJ45

Hometown: Keystone Heights, FL

Favorite Music: Sleep Token and Ghost

Dogs or Cats?: Cats

Coke or Pepsi?: Coke *“Cherry is preferred.”*

How do you spend your spare time?: *“I like to play video games in my spare time, I’m also into 3-D printing.”*



AGENCY AWARDS & RE-ACCREDITATION

CALEA Reaccreditation March 2025



CALEA CONFERENCE
Garden Grove, California ~ March 22, 2025

UFPD received the 10th Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) award in March of 2025 with the Meritorious designation for agencies that have been continually re-accredited for at least 15 continuous years.

The International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) reaccreditation was awarded on the heels of that in June 2025.

The agency was also honored with the prestigious Jessica Luedtke Memorial Award in recognition of its efforts to create a safe campus learning and living environment, as well as its commitment to upholding the professional standards of the IACLEA Accreditation Program.



IACLEA Reaccreditation June 2025



GEMRU received seven awards/recognitions at the National Collegiate EMS Foundation conference, including: *CPR Save* (recognizing CPR/AED saves), becoming gold accredited, and being recognized as the Collegiate EMS Community Engagement Program of the Year.

For the second time, UFPD has been awarded the annual *Outstanding Crime Prevention Program for a Small Law Enforcement Agency* by the Florida Crime Prevention Association.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



Police Communications Operator (PCO) Kelsey Rowe was recognized as the Rookie of the Year by UF Business Affairs.



While on assignment at UF's baseball stadium, Sergeant Faroni responded to a report of an unresponsive man who appeared not to be breathing. Sergeant Faroni immediately initiated CPR, and Officers Jablanski and Lewis, along with Sergeant Motes, quickly arrived to assist. An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) was deployed prior to the arrival of paramedics and fire rescue. By the time the patient was transported to the hospital, he was breathing and had a pulse.

For their composure, professionalism, and life saving response, UFPD and 97.3 The SKY proudly saluted Sgt. Justin Faroni, Sgt. Kenneth Motes, Ofc. Joshua Jablanski, and Ofc. Colton Lewis as SKY Valor honorees.

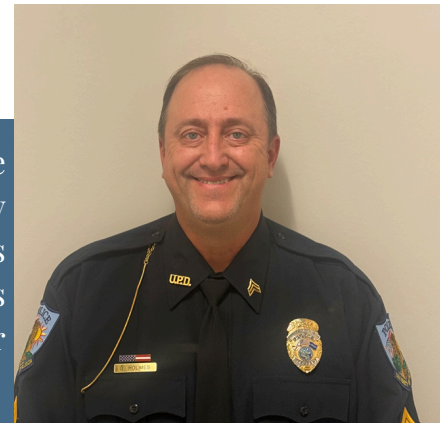


Jason Fraser-Nash, Coordinator of the Behavioral Consultation Team (BCT), was honored by UF Business Affairs as the Superior Accomplishment Award recipient for Division 7.



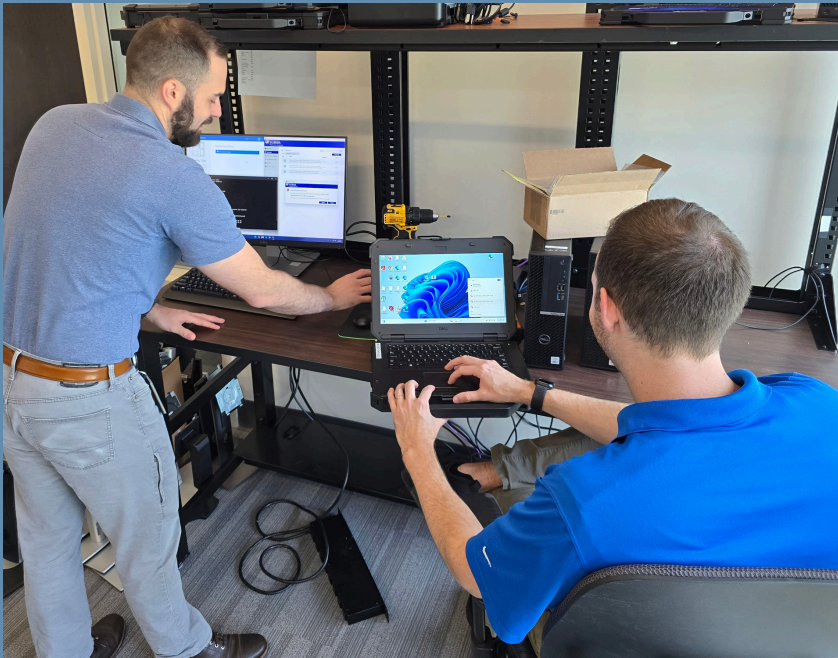
Kristina Ash, Assistant Communications Manager, successfully completed the Center Manager Certification Program (CMCP). This intensive 40-hour program combines lectures and lab-based training to equip managers with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively lead and manage their agencies.

Detective Sergeant Dale Holmes was recognized for his exemplary use of the Genetec camera system to advance criminal investigations, identify suspects, and recover personal property for return to rightful owners. His accomplishments were featured in the "In the Know", Business Affairs Newsletter, and acknowledged by a law enforcement database resource for his effective use of the system in solving cases.



BUSINESS SERVICES

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & SUPPORT SERVICES



John O'Ferrell serves as the Information Technology Systems Coordinator. He is supplemented with two employees from UFIT Technology Support Services (TSS), Tyler Hardin and Chris Allen, who are assigned, full-time, at UFPD.

The mission of all three technology support personnel is to ensure continuity of technology services for police operations, 24-hours per day, 365-days per year. Operational activity includes coordinating with other technology specialists within UFIT, external vendor support services, and with other local, state, and federal government technology support personnel.

ANNUAL BUDGET

The Business Services Office is responsible for overseeing the fiscal management, policy compliance, and internal controls for all UFPD funds. The office prepares the department's annual budget for review by the Vice President of Business Affairs and the University of Florida Budget Office. Additional responsibilities include managing accounts payable and receivable, overseeing purchasing, processing bi-weekly payroll, and preparing financial reports for auxiliary operations and grant funding.

UFPD's annual budget is funded through state appropriations allocated by the University of Florida's Budget Office. For FY25, the department's budget totaled \$14,372,076, with 83.03% dedicated to personnel salaries and benefits for all sworn and non-sworn staff, and 16.97% allocated to operating expenses, including vehicles, software, fuel, and maintenance. In addition to state appropriations, the Police Department generates revenue through auxiliary funds, primarily from billable security services provided for special events throughout the year. These funds are used to cover billable overtime salaries and other departmental expenses.

ACTIVITY & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Replaced all UFID CJIS server hardware infrastructure
- Updated Central Square servers from MS Server 2016 to MS Server 2022
- Updated technology at Corry and Newell substations
- Purchased, installed, configured new HigherGround server and provided training on the new web-based application

BEHAVIORAL SERVICES DIVISION

OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

The Office of Victim Services (OVS) is pleased to welcome Jayla Hostick as its newest Victim Advocate. Currently pursuing her bachelor's degree at UF, Ms. Hostick has quickly made a strong start in her role at OVS.



In March 2022, the University of Florida Police Department established the Behavioral Services Division (BSD) to provide a dedicated and comprehensive response to behavioral health concerns affecting students, staff, and non-affiliated individuals. The division integrates key support services, including the Co-Responder program, the Office of Victim Services, and oversight of the University's Behavioral Consultation Team (BCT). The BSD also plays a vital role in coordinating behavioral health initiatives among UFPD personnel and campus partners to ensure a proactive, compassionate, and collaborative approach to community well-being.

CO-RESPONDER PROGRAM

UFPD's co-responder team was featured in The "Chronicle of Higher Education" (*Police-Clinician Co-Response Calms Campus Mental-Health Crises*) and "About Campus". Additionally, the program was the subject of a peer-reviewed article published in "Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice", further underscoring its growing impact in the field. Demonstrating the program's leadership in behavioral health and law enforcement collaboration, Dr. Meggen Sixbey and Major Kristy Sasser were invited to present at the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) annual conference, where they highlighted evidence-based approaches to program development and sustainability.

With support from grant funding, UFPD was able to sponsor the attendance of two co-responder officers and two clinicians at the International Co-Responder Alliance Conference. Lead clinician Tiffany Bellesi and Officer Claudia Espinosa contributed to the national discussion by presenting "Practical How To: Assessing for Threat to Others/Homicidal Ideation as a Co-Responder Team in the Field."



BEHAVIORAL CONSULTATION TEAM

The Behavioral Consultation Team (BCT) is UF's centralized threat assessment and management team. Comprised of representatives from UFPD and key campus departments, the multidisciplinary team collaborates to identify, assess, and manage potential safety concerns.

- 164 cases accepted for threat assessment and management by BCT
 - 60% male
 - 48% students
 - 11% trespassed
 - 3% mental health evaluation
- 1680 actions taken on BCT referrals



EMPLOYEE WELLNESS & APPRECIATION



The winners for the UFPD 2nd Annual Chili Cook Off Contest were:

- 1st Place: Jeff Norris
- 2nd Place: Darin Gentry
- 3rd Place: Kristina Ash



UFPD's wellness initiative is a comprehensive program that integrates in-person, virtual, and self-guided offerings aligned with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Eight Dimensions of Wellness: emotional, physical, spiritual, social, intellectual, occupational, environmental, and financial. In November 2024, a departmental wellness interest survey was conducted, with 50 members participating. Results indicated continued high interest in financial and physical wellness.

In response, a financial wellness workshop was provided to all sworn personnel during the Spring in-service training. Additionally, the department maintains a strong focus on physical wellness through the support of a full-time Exercise Science intern during the spring semester, the provision of routine fitness classes, and access to an on-site gym facility.



UFPD formalized a Peer Support Program in both policy and practice, incorporating key principles from Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). The Peer Support Team includes five trained members (two sworn and three non-sworn) who participate in quarterly joint trainings with the Gainesville Police Department and the Alachua County Sheriff's Office. These team members are actively engaged in multi-agency response efforts to provide peer support following critical incidents.



OPERATIONS

BY THE NUMBERS

13,415

calls for service



30,543

self-initiated calls for service



18

average response time in
seconds for an emergency
call for services

8:05

average response time in
minutes for a non-
emergency call for services

19

recovered bicycles that
were stolen, and of those,
18 were registered with
UFPD

18

recovered E-Scooters that
were stolen, of which 12 were
registered with UFPD

1,676

written reports completed



842

bicycles and E-Scooters
registered by Front Desk of
the 2,104 total registered

254

staff and student fingerprinting
service completed by Front Desk

100

E-scooter thefts



87

Bike thefts



13

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

UFPD staffed **838** special events this fiscal year. This included an NCAA Basketball National Championship celebration, UF Presidential Search meetings, football games, guest speakers, and the University-wide commencement ceremony. UFPD worked **17,104.72** billable hours.

CID Highlights

An investigation into missing computers from a University of Florida building led to the arrest of an employee on 34 counts of grand theft and 23 counts of dealing in stolen property, with the total loss estimated at \$50,000. The assigned detective utilized a combination of open-source and law enforcement databases to trace the stolen property to the employee, resulting in the successful resolution of the case.

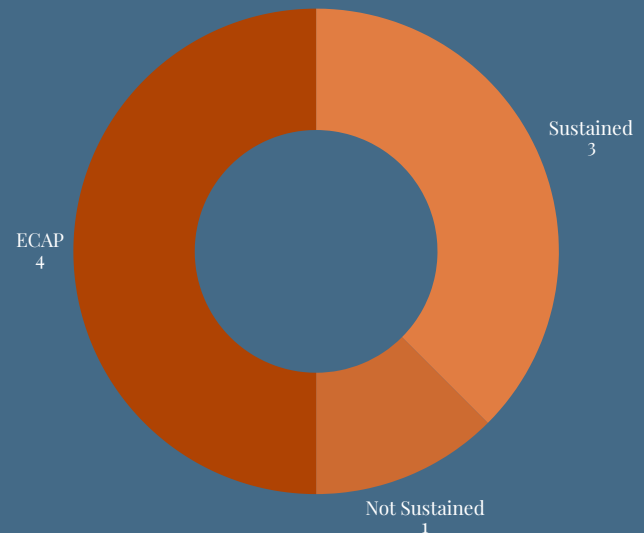
While investigating the theft of televisions from a University of Florida building, a UFPD detective obtained a suspect image from a nearby security camera. An Attempt to Identify (ATI) Law Enforcement Bulletin was distributed to local agencies, leading a Gainesville Police Department officer—who recognized the suspect from a similar theft case—to share that information with UFPD. The detective subsequently secured an arrest warrant, and the suspect was apprehended months later after initially fleeing from UFPD.

While investigating the theft of a \$3,000 bicycle, a UFPD detective identified a suspect through nearby security camera footage and the License Plate Recognition (LPR) system. The investigation led to a residence in Adel, Georgia, where the Adel Police Department located and recovered the stolen bicycle. Further LPR data placed the suspect near Florida State University in Tallahassee, where FSUPD confirmed involvement in a separate theft case. The suspect was subsequently charged in connection with the bicycle theft.

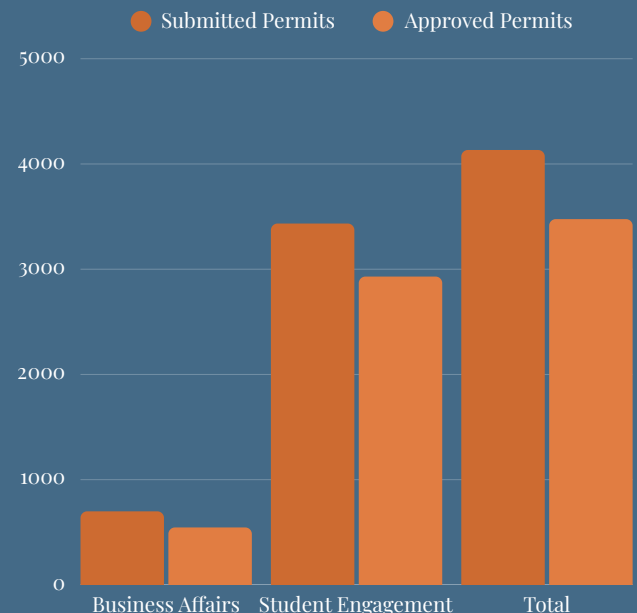
FY 24-25 CID Case Closures (275 total cases)

- **76** closed by criminal charges
- **10** deemed unfounded
- **126** closed all leads exhausted
- **34** closed non-criminal
- **6** Turned over to other agencies
- **5** closed Exceptional
- **18** Open/Active

Internal Affairs Cases

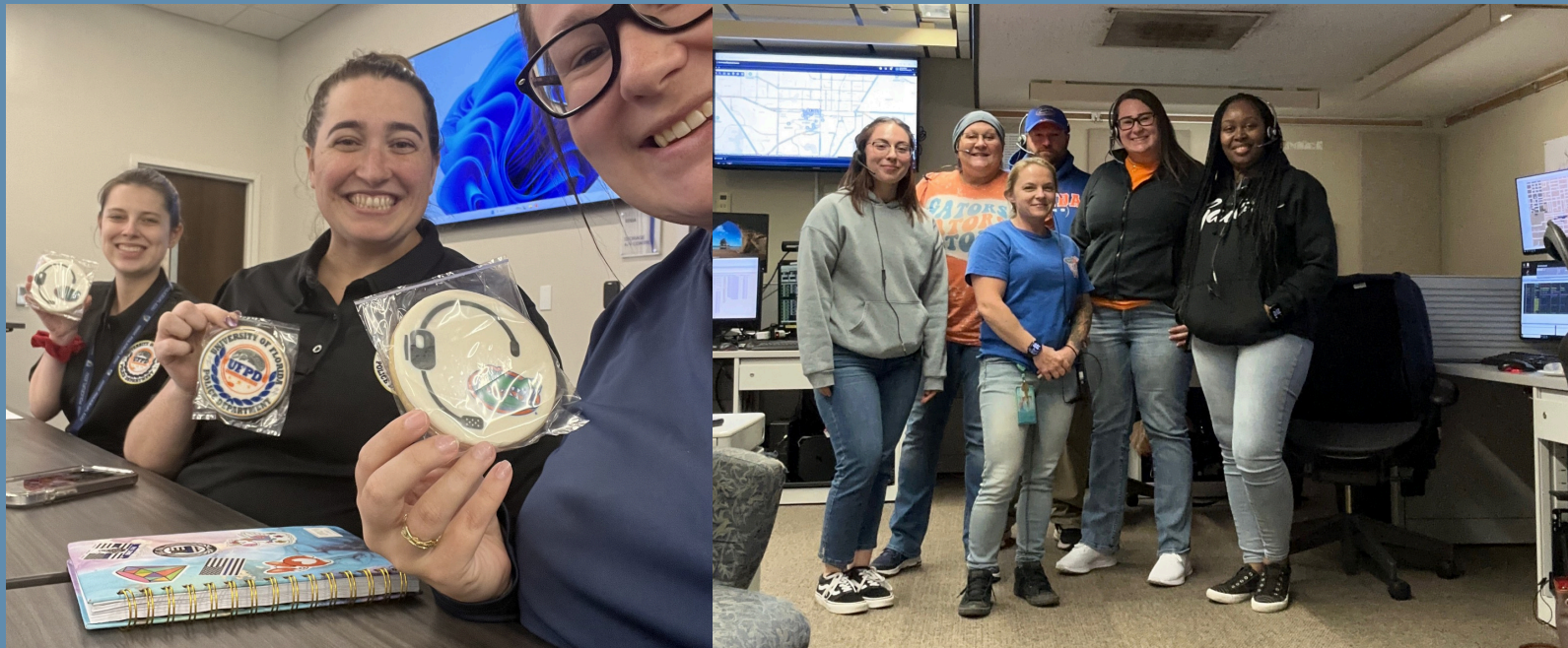


Special Event Permits



COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Division plays a critical role in supporting campus safety by managing routine, non-emergency services that enhance overall security. In the past year, their efforts included documenting 23,008 security checks, 7,773 increased patrols, 195 blue light phone checks, and 5,333 calls for locking buildings— each contributing significantly to maintaining a safe and secure campus environment.



In Florida, the 911 Public Safety Telecommunicator (PST) Certification is an intensive program that prepares dispatchers to effectively manage emergency calls. The process requires a minimum of 232 hours of approved training, followed by successful completion of the state PST examination. This certification ensures dispatchers meet the proficiency standards established by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Criminal Justice Information Security Policy.

Dispatchers and relief officers are subject to additional training requirements to ensure the integrity and security of criminal justice information. They must complete the F/NCIC Full Access Certification course, which provides instruction on conducting queries, making entries, managing records, and performing validations, with annual recertification required. In addition, they are mandated to complete FDLE DAVID training to access driver and vehicle license information.



Although relatively new to UFPD, Kelsey Rowe has already made a significant impact. In addition to multiple nominations from colleagues for the Communications Division Quarterly Award, she was recognized by the Office of Business Affairs for her outstanding contributions to the agency. Her keen attention to detail and proactive approach led to the early detection and resolution of several security threats, helping ensure the safety of the campus community.

TRAINING

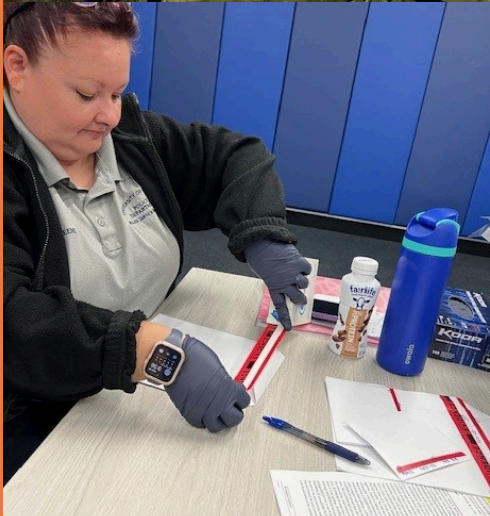


Training Classes Expenditures per Division

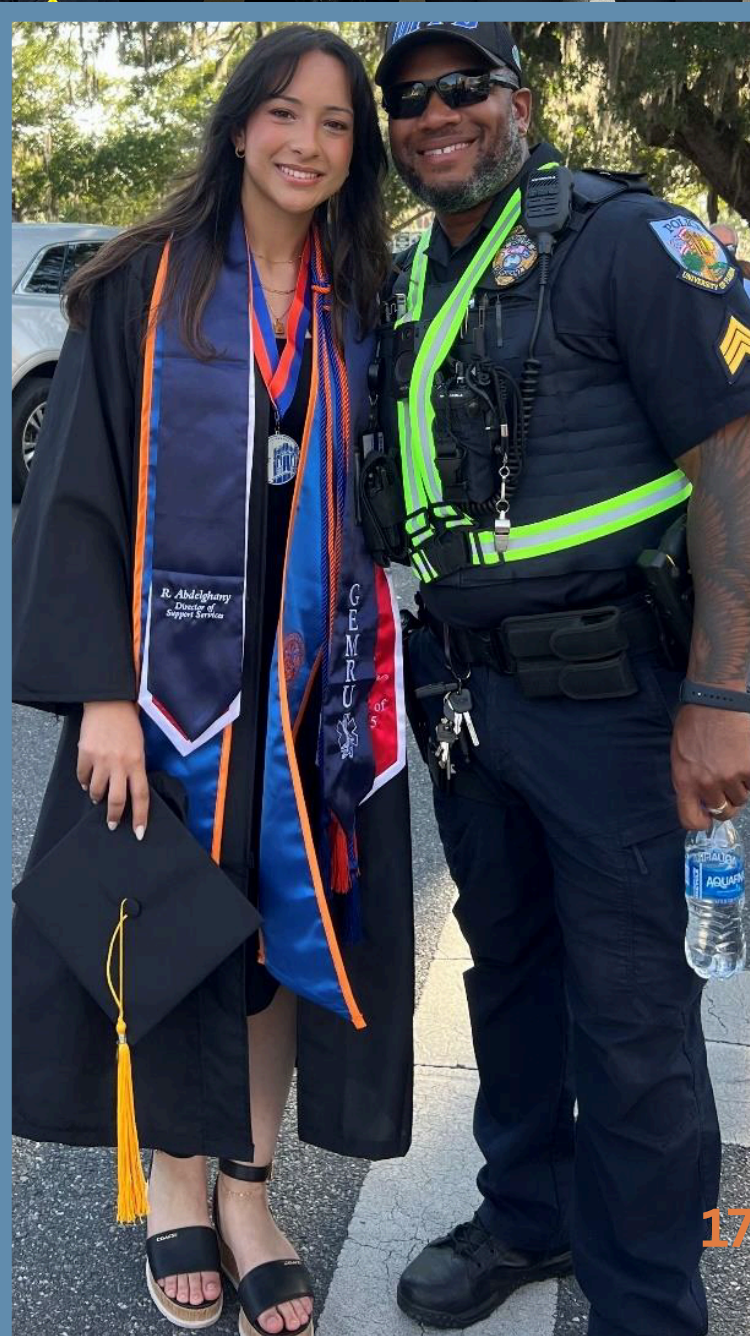
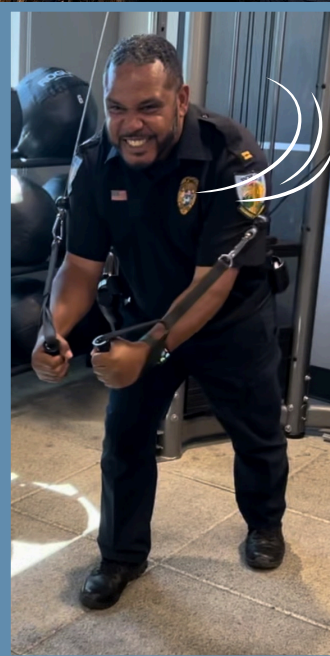
- Admin (Captains & Above) \$8,257.11
- Patrol \$0.00
- Special Events \$0.00
- Training \$3,967.63
- Community Services \$740.73
- Investigations \$3,383.14
- Communications \$7051.59
- K-9: \$4,320.87
- Non-Sworn \$9295.44
- Leadership Training \$9,924.64
- Total: \$46,941.15

Equipment Expenditures

- Uniforms/Equipment: \$103,410.70
- Ammunition: \$34,743.59
- Weapons: \$74,147.91
- Weapon Accessories: \$4,105.03



COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION



COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION



UFPD maintains a strong online presence with students, employees, and family members of the UF community through official university social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter). With more than 10,000 followers on Facebook alone, these channels serve as valuable tools for sharing public safety information, promoting self-defense training, and highlighting educational programs and crime prevention initiatives.

- **44** Active Shooter trainings, presentations, and safety walkthroughs
- **279** Social media posts
- **221** Bicycle registrations
- **15** SAFE classes (*Self-Defense Awareness and Familiarization Exchange*)
- **31** New/transfer student orientations (preview)
- **12** New employee orientations



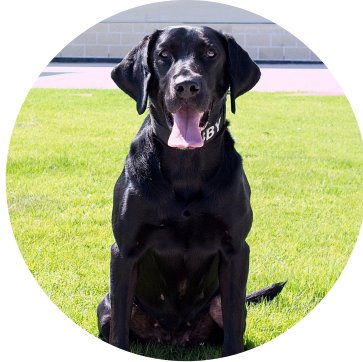
S.C.O.P.E.



K-9 CREW



Beto



Libby



Ruff



Bailey



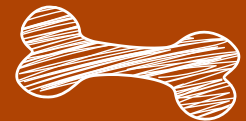
Beto: At three years old, this Yellow Labrador Retriever has been winning hearts at UFPD for a year and a half. When he's not on the job, Beto's favorite assignment is undercover comfort duty—snuggled up in his human sister's bed with a trusty toy by his side.

Libby: This five-year-old Black Labrador Retriever has been with UFPD for three years and brings a mix of athleticism and charm to the team. She's always ready for a game of fetch, but fair warning—she's also a couch-hogging champion.

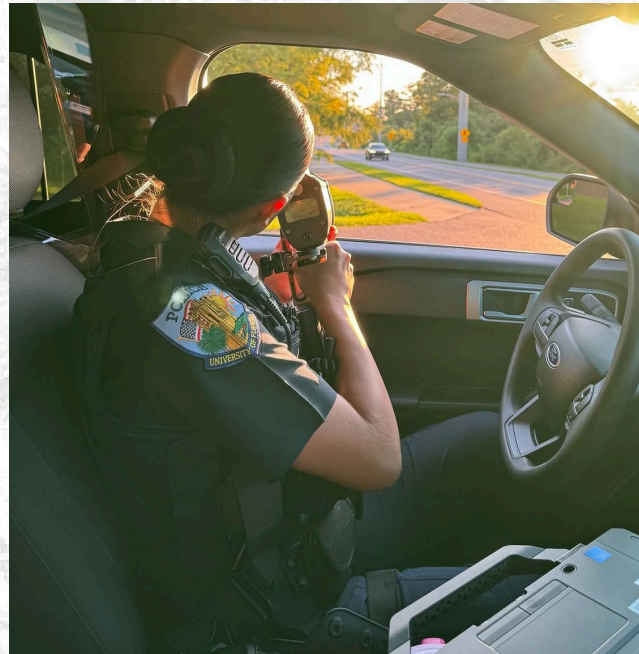
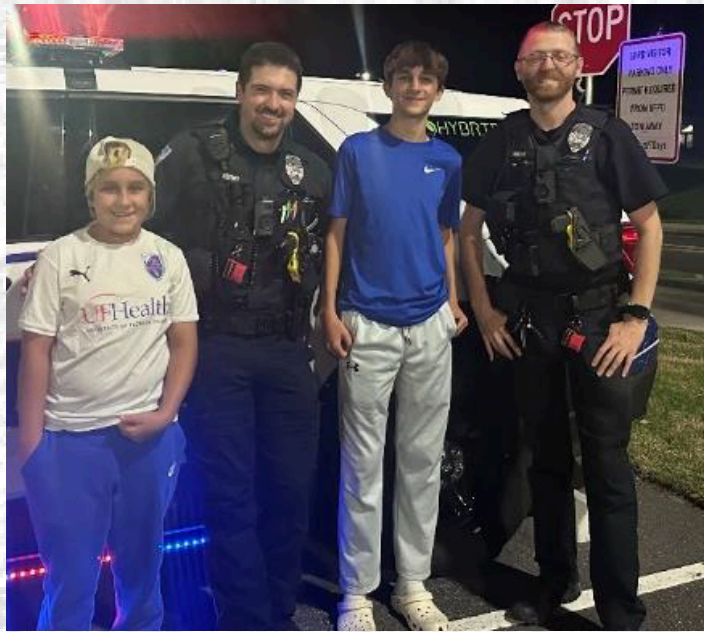


Ruff: At nine years old, Ruff is the senior statesman of the UFPD K-9 unit, with six years of dedicated service under his collar. His happy place? Chasing down a tennis ball like it's his life's mission.

Bailey: The rookie of the squad, Bailey is a two-year-old Black Labrador Retriever who joined UFPD in May. Right now, she's all about training, tackling each new skill with boundless enthusiasm (and maybe a few tail wags).



In Spring 2025, the University of Florida Police Department (UFPD) received a \$36,000 gift from the UF Provost's Office to support the purchase of two canines for the department's K-9 Program. Each canine, valued at \$18,000, comes fully trained in explosives detection and includes handler training. The K-9 Program is a vital component of the department's Special Events Division, conducting 70-80 bomb sweeps annually in preparation for campus events. UFPD K-9 teams also partner with the Gainesville Police Department and the Alachua County Sheriff's Office to assist with sweeps and respond to local bomb threats. Beyond their operational duties, our K-9s play a vital role in fostering community connections. Whether joining the fun at Baby Gator's trick-or-treat festivities, engaging students during Career Day, or greeting fans at Gator games, they happily represent our department with professionalism and charm.





COMMAND SELF-ASSESSMENT PLATFORM



The COMMAND® Self-Assessment Platform is now available FREE to all UFPD personnel and family members



100% anonymous

Not required to provide, Name, email, or phone number.
Data is NEVER shared with UFPD staff

IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING STARTS HERE!

SELF-ASSESSMENTS

USE THE COMMAND® PLATFORM TO SCREEN YOURSELF FOR:

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Anger
- Work-life stressors
- Occupational burnout
- Resilience
- Substance use
- Financial stress
- Relationship satisfaction and more
- And 20 additional areas

Before jumping into therapy, counseling, or peer support, do your own self-assessment to find out what challenges you have, and what approach is best for you

TAKE COMMAND OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AT:

<https://UFPD.CommandWellbeing.com>