



Annual Report

2024

Lady Lake Police Department



Prepared by
Deputy Chief Jason Brough

Presented by
Chief Steven W. Hunt



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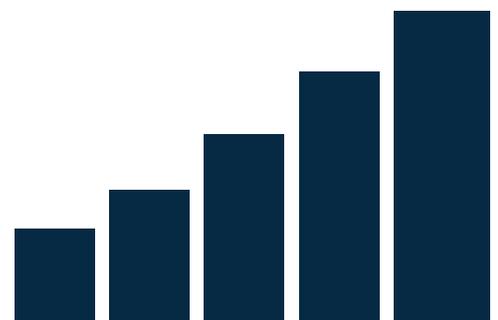
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Mission and About

Mission

- The mission of the Lady Lake Police Department is to enhance the quality of life in the Town by protecting and serving the community, developing and sustaining partnerships with the community and the other entities of government in a manner that promotes preservation of life, property and the environment.

About

The Town of Lady Lake is an incorporated municipality in Central Florida, about an hour from Orlando. Lady Lake has the distinction of being the birthplace of The Villages retirement community, and sits in the northwest corner of Lake County, Florida. About 17,000 (4.4%) of the 384,000 people in the county reside within the town limits. Lady Lake is bordered by the law enforcement jurisdictions of The Lake County Sheriff, Sumter County Sheriff, and The Fruitland Park Police Department.

- AREA: 9.3 square miles
- POPULATION: 17,000 (Daytime population change due to commuting: +3,800)
- DEMOGRAPHICS:
 - Median Age: 65
 - Males: 46%
 - Females: 54%
 - White: 79%
 - Black: 6.5%
 - Hispanic: 6.5%
 - Asian: 1.5%
 - Other: 4.4%



Command Staff



STEVEN W. HUNT
CHIEF

Chief Hunt has over 35 years of law enforcement experience and 20 years as a police supervisor. He began his career at 18 in Veazie, Maine and later joined the Bangor Police Department, where he spent a majority of his career, retiring in 2016 as a Lieutenant. During his tenure, he was assigned to the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency for ten years. He served as a Detective for the State of Florida Department of Financial Services, Division of Investigative and Forensic Services, Bureau of Insurance. He is an FBI National Academy, Maine Criminal Justice Academy and IACP Leadership in Police Organizations graduate and holds several certifications and affiliations. Chief Hunt joined the department as interim in May 2023 and was sworn in as chief in August 2023.



JASON BROUGH
DEPUTY CHIEF

Deputy Chief Jason Brough came to the Lady Lake Police Department with 20 years of law enforcement experience in Hernando County, Florida. Deputy Chief Brough holds a Bachelor's Degree from Hodges University and is a 2012 graduate of the FBI National Academy.

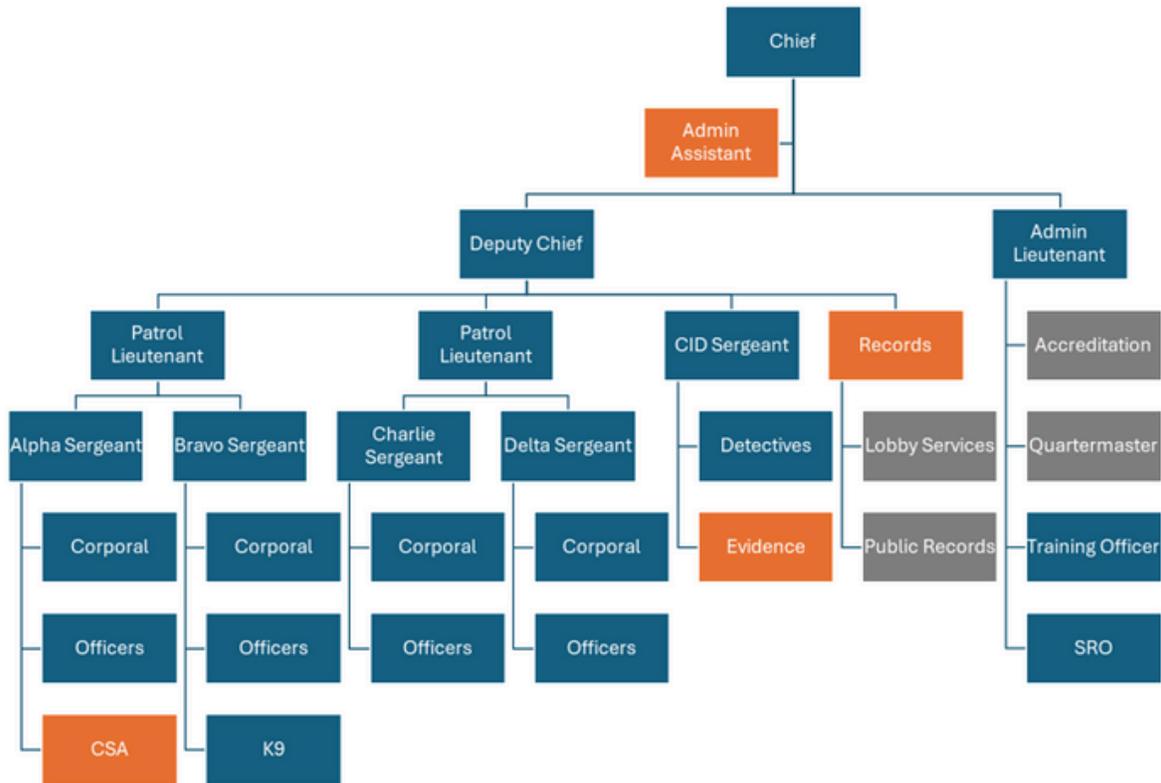


ROBERT TEMPESTA
ADMINISTRATIVE LIEUTENANT

Lieutenant Robert Tempesta began his law enforcement career with the New York City Police Department before relocating to Lady Lake. Lieutenant Tempesta holds a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Columbia College, South Carolina, and a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from the State University of New York Old Westbury. Lieutenant Tempesta is a graduate of the University of Louisville Southern Police Institute Command Officer's Development Course. He also attended the 17th session of the Florida Executive Development Seminar (FEDS) course. He served the Town of Lady Lake for four years as Police Chief.

Organizational Chart and Staffing

Legend



TOTAL FULL TIME STAFFING: 36

- Sworn Officers: 32
- Civilian Personnel: 4
- Part time employees: 2

EMPLOYEES HIRED IN 2024

- Kyle Lawrence, Officer
- James Dunagan, Detective
- Amanda Hayes, Officer
- Brian Campbell, Officer
- Hashaam Choudri, Officer
- Jeffrey Burns, Officer
- Gustavo Eloy, Officer
- Ronnie Williams, Officer

EMPLOYEES RETIRED/RESIGNED/DISCHARGED - 3

POLICE / POPULATION RATIO: 1.8 Per 1,000 Residents

2024 Annual Statistics

Total Calls for Service: 12,536

- Citizen Calls for Assistance
- Officer Initiated Calls

These are calls for service and/or incidents requiring the assignment of a police officer. This is a summary of calls for service to be used for comparison purposes and does not represent every call assigned during the year.

Total Arrests: 346
Total Traffic Stops: 3,374
Total Traffic Crashes: 690

A *Call for Service* is when a caller reports activity requiring the involvement of a police officer or when an officer is assigned to an incident. Calls for Service do not represent lists of crimes or crime reports. Calls are coded as they are received and assigned to an officer for investigation. The included data represents, in part, a list of officer assignments, incidents and observed offenses for the calendar year noted above.

The Lady Lake Police Department makes every effort to produce and publish current and accurate information. The data is provided for comparison and informational purposes only and should not be relied on for any type of legal action.

For additional information please contact the Records Division at (352) 751-1565.

Alarm	585
Animal Complaint	235
Assault	142
Attempt to Locate	45
Bomb Threat	10
Burglary	101
Child Abuse/Neglect	1
Civil Matter	271
Fraud	104
Drug Offense	29
Criminal Mischief	37
Deceased	52
Disorderly Conduct	43
Emotionally Disturbed Person	77
Reckless Driver	286
Drunk Driver	52
Fireworks	13
Harassment	34
Homicide	0
Juvenile Runaway/Problem	69
Lost or Found Property	139
Missing Persons	23
Noise Complaint	94
Parking Problem	87
Wanted Person	65
Property Check	2723
Robbery	5
Sex Offense	17
Suicide/Attempt/Threat	77
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	1124
Theft Property	238
Theft Vehicle	26
Traffic Crash	69
Traffic Hazard	56
Trespass	230
Disabled Vehicle	188

2024 Accomplishments

- Transparency Project completed to include the installation, training, and implementation of new body worn cameras and dash cameras for the patrol fleet to include connectivity upgrades.
- Firearms Transition Project which included research, purchase, training, and implementation for new firearms for the entire department. The new weapon system included new optics and attached lighting.
- Patrol Lieutenant Watch Commander Project was funded, and the selection process was initiated.
- In connection with the camera upgrades, the department received updated Taser units. With this purchase we received an opportunity to send an officer to become an Advanced Taser Instructor along with Certification.
- The School Resource Officer program was reinstated after a ten-year hiatus.
- Drone Unit created and unit was purchased.
- Two sergeants began Commanding Officer Development training.
- Load Bearing Vests were ordered after receiving a grant for their purchase.
- Voice Stress Analyzer Project was funded and unit purchased.
- Upgraded software records management programs for the Field Training and Accreditation programs.
- K-9 program enhancements were made by contracting with a professional police K-9 training facility.
- Facilitated the transition of Animal Control services to the Lake County Sheriff's Office.
- Increased firearms safety by purchasing and installing a bullet trap system.
- Updated the usefulness and efficiency of the police station with the purchase of a new evidence shed, sally port gate replacement, repairs to shower room plumbing along with thorough deep clean.
- Initiated an improved customer service strategy.
- Participated in numerous community engagement events
- One Corporal promotion.
- Hired eight Patrol Officers and one Executive Assistant.



Department Initiatives

The Lady Lake Police Department is committed to active engagement with the community it serves and works to ensure every interaction is a positive one. The department hosts and participates in a number of community events and continually strives to build and maintain the public's trust.

The Lady Lake Police Department also used several strategies and tactics to recruit new officers.

Social media platforms such as Facebook were leveraged to promote the job openings and showcase the work done by police officers. Dynamic video, graphics and storytelling were multipurposed across multiple channels including LinkedIn, YouTube and both the Town and Police Department websites.

The Department also utilized Police App, a nationwide online application and recruitment system designed for police departments to appeal to a broader audience of applicants.



Significant Cases

Case 1: Counterfeit Currency and Organized Crime

Officers responded to a report at a local restaurant regarding individuals attempting to use counterfeit U.S. currency. By the time authorities arrived, the suspects had left the scene. However, a description of the suspect vehicle was quickly disseminated, prompting officers to remain on alert. A retired police officer, currently serving as our Civilian Service Aide, located the suspect vehicle and one of the individuals in a nearby shopping plaza. He immediately notified law enforcement, who converged on the location.

The suspects attempted to evade capture by maneuvering erratically through the parking lot but ultimately came to a stop. A subsequent investigation led to the arrest of four individuals on charges including Conspiracy to Commit Forgery, Possession of Counterfeit Currency, Felony Drug Possession, and various outstanding warrants. Recovered from the scene were several thousand dollars in counterfeit bills, fentanyl, a handgun, and drug paraphernalia.

Further investigation revealed that the group had traveled from Orange County, targeting local restaurants and retail stores to use counterfeit money in small transactions, ultimately attempting to obtain legitimate currency as change. The suspects were operating in concert as a coordinated group, engaging in organized criminal activity. This case serves as another example of crime syndicates targeting the 441 corridor. The counterfeit money was subsequently turned over to the U.S. Secret Service for further investigation.

Case 2: Vehicle Burglaries and Juvenile Offenders

Officers from the Lady Lake Police Department responded to a call reporting two suspicious individuals seen in the carport of a residence within the Water Oak community. The caller provided video footage of the suspects, which proved crucial to the investigation. In response to a recent uptick in motor vehicle burglaries, a late-hour detail team was actively patrolling the area and was able to locate the suspects.

The suspects, two 15-year-old males, matched the descriptions provided by the footage. Upon their apprehension, officers discovered evidence linking the juveniles to a series of vehicle burglaries. Several vehicles in the area had been rummaged through, and some stolen items were recovered during the arrest.

Both juveniles were charged with multiple counts of Burglary to a Conveyance, Possession of Burglary Tools, Resisting Arrest Without Violence, and three counts of Grand Theft Auto tied to prior incidents. The timely intervention and the use of surveillance footage played a key role in identifying and apprehending the suspects, preventing further criminal activity in the area.

Accreditation



The Lady Lake Police Department began the pursuit of excellence through The Florida Commission for Law Enforcement Accreditation in October 2013. The Lady Lake Police Department received initial accreditation on October 26, 2016. We completed our 3 year reaccreditation cycle in October 2019 and again in 2022. We are scheduled to be reassessed in 2025.

What is Accreditation?

Accreditation is the acknowledgment from governing bodies of continued compliance and practice of established standards.

Who is Accredited?

- Schools
- Colleges/Universities
- Hospitals
- Medical Labs
- Law Enforcement
- Corrections Facilities

What does Accreditation Mean for the Department?

- Accreditation helps the Department to establish standards designed to increase law enforcement capabilities, prevent and control crime, and reduce liability.

What is the Significance?

- Accreditation is a desirable award that symbolizes professionalism, excellence, and competence.
- The Department is recognized as one that performs its duties and responsibilities in accordance with professional standards of good law enforcement practices and management.



Contact Us



352-751-1560



records@ladylake.org



www.ladylakefl.gov/157/Police



The Lady Lake Police Department is a fully accredited professional law enforcement agency. We are certified by the Florida Commission for Law Enforcement Accreditation. We strive to provide the best possible service to our residents and to those who work, travel, and visit here.

