

**TOWN OF ARNAUDVILLE**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**JANUARY 19, 2016**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

As of Monday, January 11, 2016, Dispatcher Anna White has been attending the POST Academy at the St. Martin Police Academy Training facility. Ms. White is currently into her second week of training.

In my September 2015 report to the Council I reported that the State Department of Health and Hospitals had cited the jail at least twice for infractions. From that time to the present we have repainted the cells and floor and made necessary repairs to a bunk that was broken. Because of our obtaining labor to perform the jobs there was no man power costs associated with the repairs; our only expenses were for the cost of material. We recently had another inspection and, I am pleased to report, there were no infractions.

I wish to once again reiterate that my door is always open should anyone wish to speak to me in confidence about the Arnaudville Police Department, our policies, our employees or our performance. I value input from our citizens, but input should be constructive. I will consider any complaints that are specific, first hand, and not hearsay or gossip. In addition, we do not investigate incidents that are posted on Facebook or other Social Media. Such incidents should be reported directly to the police department. All of the employees have worked hard to create a department the town can be proud of – performing duties with integrity and professionalism, but I am always ready to make improvements where necessary.

In the past twenty-one (21) months we have only had one (1) Patrol Officer resign in order to move to a larger Police Department that paid more and offered medical benefits at no cost to himself. Although we may be faced with other Officers leaving in the future for similar reasons, we are now in the process of having two (2) current Dispatchers go through the POST Academy in order for them to become POST certified Police Officers. After graduation they will be able to step in and fill any vacancy. Due to the positive reputation we now have, we currently have approximately twelve (12) applications on file from individuals who wish to work for our Department. It has been awhile since our Department has had this amount of flexibility.

The night shift is the most dangerous time for all Officers, regardless of the size of the town. Recently, while an Officer was in route to deliver a prisoner to the St. Landry Correctional Center in Opelousas we had a burglary at one of our establishments. I

was called out and by the time I got dressed and arrived at the scene the perpetrator had already fled. According to the cameras in the store, the perpetrator departed less than five (5) minutes prior to my arrival, and due to standard operating procedure, I had to wait over thirty (30) minutes before another Officer arrived as backup to enter and secure the scene.

Finally, during the 2015 calendar year the Department answered 3,343 calls for services. Although most of the calls were non-hazardous, a few could have evolved into a serious situation. Officers are required to wait for appropriate backup before clearing a scene. During the day watch I am usually available if a backup Officer is needed; however, at night should one be needed, the responding Officer may have to wait valuable minutes before anyone shows up.

Statistics from our Department for the month of December were: 130 Citations issued, 22 FIC's written, 83 MIC's written, 6 arrests made, and 253 calls for service. I would also like to point out that during the month, 48% of time worked by the Officers was spent on routine patrol of our town.

It is now my honor to name the "Employee of the Month" for the Department. This person did an outstanding job during the past month when called to oversee a function that she had never been involved in, namely the preparation for the Neighborhood Watch meeting. Since this was the largest group of attendees, it presented her with a daunting task. It is my pleasure to give the award certificate as well as a \$25.00 gift certificate for this month's Employee of the Month, Ms. Dianna Richard.

This concludes the Arnaudville Police Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddy J. LeCompte, Chief of Police