

**TOWN OF ARNAUVILLE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 27, 2015**

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

During the past month I was approached by the Town Clerk, Ms. Delores Quebedeaux, in reference to a Capital Outlay invoice. According to Ms. Quebedeaux the amount on the invoice was more than that shown on the approved 2015-2016 Town Budget. When I investigated the discrepancy I noted that the amount shown in the Budget was not what had been approved by the Council. During the preliminary budget meeting, prior to it becoming officially approved, members of the Council had made suggestions on where we might trim excess costs. Part of the trimming was to occur in the Police Department's Capital Expenditures. Most notably four (4) items, although not completely deleted, were slashed in half. Where the Department requested six (6) and ten (10) of particular items, only three (3) and five (5) were being considered. I agreed that the Department would be able to accept the decrease of two (2) items from a requested amount of six (6) to an adjusted amount of three (3). However, the remaining items could not be adjusted from ten (10) to five (5). My reasoning and arguments were accepted by the Council and those remaining two (2) items were finally adjusted from ten (10) to seven (7) each. When the budget was compiled by the accounting firm on behalf of the Town the unit amounts were not changed to the agreed upon three (3) and seven (7) each but rather were left at the original requested unit amounts of six (6) and ten (10) each; on the other hand, the dollar amounts requested were cut in half. For two (2) of the items the cost will closely match the budgeted amount; however, the cost for the remaining two (2) will not match. For those two (2) items the budgeted amount is for five (5) of the requested items not seven (7). When I contacted the accounting firm and told them of the error it was suggested that I simply ask the Council to pass a resolution to amend the budget. I don't believe that an amendment is in order, but that a correction be made to correctly reflect the already approved expenditures. Any expenditures not approved during the original budget hearing would need an amendment to add funds; however, in this case the expenditures were approved and therefore should be put right by correction.

All of our officers are in the process of completing the required 20 hours of training in order for them to retain their POST certification. Also, Officer Barry Ard is currently in the process of completing the POST Academy that is being conducted at the St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Training Academy for his mandatory refresher courses that must be

completed prior to his obtaining his Louisiana POST certification. Officer Ard is due to take the POST exam on Monday, November 2, 2015.

Officer Ard will be out for the next six (6) weeks and possibility longer. While visiting his family in Nevada he slipped and fell while coming down the stairs of his residence. Officer Ard informed me that while at the emergency room of the hospital he was informed that he had several fractures in his foot. The extent of the damage is currently unknown and there is a possibility that surgery may be required which may prolong his absence. Despite the injury, Officer Ard plans on returning to our area to take the POST exam next Monday.

Our Dispatchers/Clerks are continuing to input our Case Reports (CR's) into our LEMIS report writing system. All reports that were generated by our Patrolmen are also being placed in the system. There has been a delay in putting in all the paperwork because all of our traffic citations must also be put in the system. Because of this, completion of all inputs will not be accomplished by the end of this month. We hope to be up and running live shortly.

As you are all aware we had an incident recently where an attempt was made to cash a fraudulent payroll check. The suspects in this crime fled the scene trying to escape. During the pursuit some citizens were helpful in pointing out which direction the suspects fled whenever we lost visual contact. Two (2) citizens in particular were extremely helpful in the apprehension of one of the suspects. I wish to offer my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Bobby Primeaux and his wife Amy for the assistance they gave. Both went out of their way to keep tabs on one of the fleeing suspects. When I finally stopped the suspect, Mr. Primeaux aided in securing him until he was handcuffed and removed to our jail. The Arnaudville police officers cannot be in all places at all times and the help of our citizens is sometimes needed in times of emergencies. All related information has been forwarded to the appropriate officials.

There will be Neighborhood Watch meeting on December 3, 2015 at the Civic Center. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 pm with anticipated speakers to include Captain Cheyne Platt, Officers of the St. Landry and St. Martin Sheriffs' Narcotics Division, and Captain Clay Higgins. Two of our citizens (Ms. Cheryl Castille and Ms. Monica Taylor) are helping to spearhead this event by distributing fliers around the area. Both ladies stated that if the Town had a website it would really help to spread the word. I informed them that to my knowledge a website for the Town of Arnaudville is being developed now, and will serve as a communication tool for events such as this.

The basketball/tennis court has been locked for the past week due to rule violations. A glass bottle was broken and the debris was not cleaned properly. Our maintenance person Miss Emily Stelly has done an outstanding job of keeping the court clean and free of trash, emptying the garbage cans when needed. I have also been told of the use of foul language on the court and this will not be tolerated. The courts will remain closed until November 1st. Our Department is in favor of having a safe place for our

children to play; however, the consequence of not following the posted rules will result in the closure of the court.

For all of you who weren't aware, Officer Zack Williams was married on October 17, 2015. His wife, the former Ms. Michelle Lalanne, is a Dispatcher Supervisor for the St. Martin Sheriff's Office.

Statistics from our Department for the month of September were: 119 Citations issued, 33 FIC's written, 86 MIC's written, 4 Arrests made, and 257 calls for service. Routine town patrols accounted for 52% of the time our Officers spent on duty.

Finally, it is my honor to name the "Employee of the Month" for the Department. For the month of September the award and gift certificate is being presented to Officer James Bell. Officer Bell continues to be a strong advocate of safety on our streets. He feels that any citations written for violations of traffic laws not only alerts the violator of the law they have broken but with that knowledge it may also serve to protect them and others in the future.

This concludes the Arnaudville Police Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddy J. LeCompte, Chief of Police