

Standard Department Narrative Form

Department Name: **Police**

Department Number 211

Purpose of Department/Mission

Our Mission is to Protect and Serve this Community as well as to promote, preserve, and deliver quality services to the residents of Montague and to ensure the safety of all members of our community. Community policing is practiced daily by our agency. Our goal is to work as a team with our community to solve our community issues. This TEAM approach allows us to make this a much safer community to live in and visit and it instills a sense of pride in all those that get involved.

This mission is accomplished by being vigilant, listening to citizens, providing programs and emergency services, enforcement of laws, and keeping abreast of available resources. The unique village structure and diversity of Montague requires flexibility and sensitivity in our approach to the needs of the community.

The Montague Police Department provides a 24 hour 7 day a week service to the five villages of Montague. The Police Department is located in the Montague Public Safety Complex located at 180 Turnpike Road in Turners Falls, MA

Check us out on Facebook for more information about the police department.

Department Staffing

Full-time staff of 16 Officers and 1 Office Administrator includes:

- One Chief of Police
- One Staff Sergeant
- Three Sergeants
- Three Detectives (1 K9 Detective)
- Seven Patrol Officers (1 K9 Patrol Officer)
- One School Resource Officer assigned to the Franklin County Technical School
- One Confidential Office Administrator

Part-time staff includes up to ten Permanent Intermittent Reserve Officers

Mandated Services & Other Programs/Services Provided

- The public's safety and their sense of feeling safe on the streets and in their homes and businesses is our number one concern.
- Daily an officer's role is expanded through case law, passed legislation, and community needs.

- Frequently the police are first responders with medical emergencies and need to keep certifications up to date, thus providing medical treatment that may and very often does save a life.
- With the increased terrorist threat nationwide, we have been mandated through FEMA and MEMA to be trained and compliant with the (ICS), Incident Command System. We as a department have to be vigilant to the numerous sensitive areas located in town, by providing security to these areas. We have joined forces with all of our surrounding police departments by signing onto a Mutual Aid Agreement with them to be able to legally help each other. Officers are continuously receiving training in, “Active Shooter Incidents”. This training will allow an immediate response by the police to effectively deal with such an incident.
- These increased responsibilities are in addition to the daily police functions of law enforcement, patrol, investigations, traffic, and identification of any potential safety and community hazards.
- The officers must also maintain a relationship with the citizens and an intimate knowledge on the town’s makeup and needs. With the number of housing units in town, the last responsibility quoted is very important. Add this to an Officer’s required documentation that goes with any accident, incident, arrest, or investigation, testifying in court and maintaining their mandated skills in firearms, first aid and knowledge of changing local, state and federal laws it becomes clear that there is a tremendous amount of effort that must be concentrated within the Department.
- The department’s investigative requirements are also expanding. Detectives are conducting detailed investigations into serious crimes and narcotics violations. Internet crime, identity theft and scams against our large elderly population. These types of incidents require a significant dedication of resources. The investigations are time consuming, expensive, and often are joint investigation, with other agencies. We must work closely with the District Attorney’s Office, along with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. Training and interdepartmental cooperation are key elements for these type of incidents to be successful. A thorough knowledge of the court system is a must for the officers.
- The two school systems, in our jurisdiction, Gill/Montague and Franklin County Tech, are reliant on the police department to meet issues that disrupt the learning process. The Franklin County Technical School has hired on a fulltime School Resource Officer (SRO) who is assigned to their school on a full time basis. This SRO officer is responsible for

assisting the school in setting up proper safety procedures, juvenile investigations, prosecutions and diversions where necessary. It is our hope that we can one day assign another fulltime SRO back into the Turners Falls Middle/High School system again.

- Community Policing initiatives have been very successful in Montague. Programs such as the K-9 programs, the Community Policing Officers, the School Community Partnership, the Franklin County Immigration Coalition group, the Police Department Facebook Page and The Code Red Emergency Broadcast System have all been very successful.

Revenues Generated

- Copies (Accident Reports)
- Outside Duty, (traffic details), Administration Fee (10% of wages billed)
- Firearm licenses (25% of total fees)
- Parking tickets
- Traffic enforcement fines
- Criminal prosecution fines & penalties
- Police gift donations
- K-9 Fund donations – used to pay for care of K-9
- Law Enforcement Trust Fund – drug forfeiture monies received by department may be spent at discretion of Police Chief
- Grants