

GRAND JUNCTION POLICE DEPARTMENT



Quarterly Report
July-September 2025



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF MATT SMITH

Hello Community Members and Friends,

As we move into fall, I've been reflecting on recent changes within the department and in my role as Chief of Police. This summer, I was assigned to serve as the Interim Public Safety Chief for both the Grand Junction Police and Fire Departments while the City searches for a permanent Fire Chief.

Over the past couple of months, I've had the privilege of working closely with Deputy Fire Chiefs Gus Hendricks and Johan Olson, along with the Command Staff at the Grand Junction Fire Department. I'll admit—the experience has been, pun intended, like drinking from a firehose! From learning the intricacies of fire operations and budgets to understanding the full scope of services, the learning curve has been steep but rewarding.

What has stood out most is the strength of the partnership between the GJPD and our friends in bunker gear. Officers and firefighters often respond to the same calls, share jokes, a little friendly ribbing, and most importantly, the responsibility of keeping our community safe. Many of these professional connections grow into genuine friendships, making this transition even more meaningful. I also want to recognize the extraordinary efforts of my Deputy Chiefs, Command Staff, and our sworn and civilian team at GJPD, whose dedication has been invaluable throughout this process.

I've made it a point to visit fire crews, listen, and strengthen relationships. What I've learned—and it comes as no surprise—is that the dedication and compassion our firefighters and EMTs bring mirrors the commitment of our officers and support staff at the GJPD.

Together, with more than 62,000 calls for service handled by the GJPD and 17,000 calls managed by the GJFD year-to-date, the impact of these two departments on public safety is undeniable. Our partnerships extend even further—from traffic enforcement collaborations with the Colorado State Patrol to task forces with the Mesa County Sheriff's Office. These relationships are essential to keeping Grand Junction safe, and I firmly believe our public safety teams are among the best.

As I assist during this transition, I can say with confidence that the next permanent Fire Chief will be stepping into a truly outstanding department—one filled with talented, compassionate professionals committed to this community.

Above all, our commitment to protecting and serving this community remains our top priority. Whether connecting with residents at Coffee with a Cop or National Night Out, or responding to calls, every interaction strengthens the trust and understanding that keeps us all safer and stronger.

Sincerely,

Chief Matt Smith





By the Numbers

GJPD CALLS FOR SERVICE



Calls for service are incidents sent to officers by the Grand Junction Regional Communication Center or incidents that officers come upon while working.

22,005



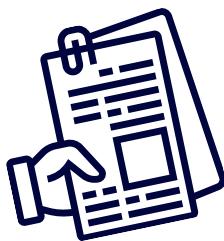
1,055 ARRESTS

Felony	247
Misdemeanor	808



536 TRAFFIC CRASHES

Non-injury	421
Injury	115



OPEN RECORDS REQUESTS

1,386



PROPERTY & EVIDENCE ITEMS COLLECTED

5,441



TRAFFIC STOPS

2,470

TOTAL TRAFFIC CITATIONS ISSUED (COUNTY & MUNICIPAL)

1,404



GJPD HIGHLIGHT

At the Grand Junction Police Department, excellence isn't just a goal, it's a culture we live in every day, defined by the values our employees share in serving the community, the department, and one another.

Like many agencies, GJPD faced recruiting challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, compounded by national events and changing laws. While nationwide sentiment toward law enforcement declined, our community's support remained strong. To attract and retain the right people, we formed a dedicated Recruiting Team in 2022.

Led by Community Outreach Specialist-turned-Recruiting Coordinator Heidi Davidson and supported by sworn and civilian staff, the team has worked tirelessly to find individuals who embody our culture and values. Experienced officers stepping into Civilian Investigator roles, the Professional Standards Unit, City staff, and our Public Information Officers all expanded outreach efforts. Every GJPD member contributed, sharing our story and encouraging future officers at training, community events, and daily interactions.

Partnerships have also been key. Collaborating with regional law enforcement and the Grand Junction Fire Department builds trust, expands our reach, and strengthens our shared mission of keeping the community safe.

The results speak for themselves. In the past four years, officer hiring has grown significantly. In recent years, we've hired many Western Colorado Peace Officers Association graduates, and more than a dozen lateral recruits, who cited our culture, seamless hiring process, and competitive benefits as reasons for choosing GJPD. While our goal is to surpass 165 officers, our current team of 130+ sworn officers allows us to continue providing excellent service to our community.

And behind it all is YOU...our community. Your support, alongside our law enforcement partners, inspires us and strengthens the culture of excellence we are proud to uphold.



**555 Ute Avenue
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911 for Emergencies

Non-Emergency Dispatch 970-242-6707