This past year, the Fort Walton Beach Police Department reaffirmed its "Commitment to our Community." Throughout 2019, Fort Walton Beach experienced a substantial reduction in crime. The professionalism of our department, combined with great teamwork, played an important role in reducing crime. Partnerships with the community, along with crime prevention efforts and efficient use of resources have been key components to the success in making Fort Walton Beach a great place to live, work and visit.

Core Responsibilities:

- Ensure a highly visible police presence by utilizing innovative strategies, technology, equipment and community involvement to provide a safer community for residents, businesses and visitors.
- Provide professional and courteous customer service to all members of the community.
- Reduce the fear of crime and improve the quality of life in the City of Fort Walton Beach through proactive crime prevention and investigative initiatives.
- Utilize intelligence-based policing through timely statistical analysis and crime trends to customize our crime reducing strategies based on specific problems and geographic locations.
- Improve the safety and welfare of citizens and businesses through partnerships.

FY19 Major Accomplishments:

- Engaged the community through several key events such as Construction Junction, High Five Fridays, Coffee with a Cop, Halloween Night, Take a Kid Fishing, after school tutoring at Gregg Chapel, Police and Science Program, community bike rides and a Citizen Police Academy.
- Increased department staffing by three sworn officers for the implantation of a fourth policing zone to better serve the community, and hired ten new officers to fill vacancies from previous resignations.
- Part One Crimes were reduced by 24% to the lowest number on record and robberies decreased by 86% from 2018. In addition, the department had a 100% clearance rate for all homicides in 2019 and decreased use of force incidents by 69%. Clearance rates were also improved by 45%.
- Enhanced interaction with the community by increasing social media following.
- Hosted two Fair and Impartial Policing training courses. All sworn staff attended.
- Hosted a DUI Checkpoint and assisted in the establishment of the Okaloosa Unified DUI Taskforce.
- Obtained a new radio frequency from the FCC, made improvements to the existing infrastructure, and updated the communications software to improve clarity and reliability of transmissions and for compliance with changes to State regulations for interoperability.
- Received grant funding for evidence recovery equipment and Naloxone (for opioid overdoses) and sales tax funding for light towers, message boards and a MILO (use of force simulator trainer).
- Resumed the accreditation process with the Florida Commission for Accreditation (CFA).
- Re-established a Canine Unit with a fully trained Canine and Handler.
- Purchased a shooting tank for the collection of shell casings for entry into ATF's NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network) to help solve violent gun crimes.
- Expanded the property room to accommodate the increase of impounded evidence and the efficient and effective storage of evidence.
- Completed the digital tracking of cases to reduce the amount of paper used.
- Trained personnel and implemented a drone program for mapping, locating missing people or fleeing subjects, and for other important or emergency uses.

FY20 Major Projects and Initiatives:

- Continue commitment to the betterment of the City by partnering with local stakeholders, educating the public and mentoring youth.
- Enhance the daily operations for sworn and civilian personnel by providing state-of-the-art technology and practical training.
- Develop crime tracking and prevention initiatives to reduce crime and the fear of crime.
- Recruit, hire, train, mentor and retain the most qualified workforce.
- Focus on professionalism and respect throughout daily activities within the community and within the Police Department.
- Implement a License Plate Recognition (LPR) program to identify stolen or wanted vehicles and a Rapid ID Fingerprint program for quicker verification of identities.
- Complete the accreditation process.
- Expand partnerships with law enforcement agencies for collaborative initiatives and operations.
- Identify and apply for grants from public and private sources to expand capacity and resource with a minimal impact on fiscal resources.
- Staffing and deployment analysis for efficient and effective policing across the City with an emphasis on reducing the fear of crime, traffic enforcement, and improved response times.

Quantitative Performance Measures	FY 2018	FY 2019
Part One Crimes	724	553
Use of Force Incidents	72	22
Officers Hired	6	10
Traffic Crashes	1,117	1,118
Traffic Tickets	1,727	1,313
Adult Arrests	657	677
Juvenile Arrests	78	55
DUI	71	89
Public Requests for Calls for Service	21,496	22,524
Officer Initiated Calls for Service	18,515	15,334
Response Time to Priority Calls	2:38	3:07
Clearance Rate for Part One Crimes	20%	29%