

Pikeville fire, police departments issue annual reports

By Gary Slone
Staff Writer

Annual reports for 2025 released by the Pikeville Fire and Police departments that were presented to the Pikeville City Commission on Feb. 9 indicated growth in both departments.

The PPD yearly activity indicated that 17,036 incidents were reported, with 3,669 traffic stops, 799 total collisions with 111 collisions involving injuries, and officers worked a total of 454 cases.

Pikeville police made a total of 1,622 arrests, issuing 3,170 total citations with 6,723 total charges, and 1,726 traffic citations, with 4,427 traffic charges and 184 total indictments.

Drug seizures made by PPD indicated increases from 2024:

- Methamphetamine – 3,849 grams (337 percent increase);
- Fentanyl/Heroin – 1,018 grams (346 percent increase);
- Cocaine – 54 grams (440 percent increase); and

• Marijuana – 2,641 grams (52 percent increase).

Other seizures made included 15 guns seized, \$7,728 seized and 13 cell phones seized with search warrants obtained for cell phones and downloaded using Graykey by Digital Forensics Examiner Zach Hall.

One of the larger operations by PPD was Operation Initiis Novis.

This operation began on Nov. 14, when Pikeville Police conducted a coordinated enforcement effort serving sealed indictments deriving from meth and fentanyl drug trafficking cases.

During the operation deemed Initiis Novis (New Beginnings), 22 individuals were charged with trafficking in controlled substances.

The operation led not only to the arrest of the indicted persons, but also to four unrelated warrants served, five seized illegal firearms and the recovery of three stolen vehicles.

The report also provided

information on the annual Shop with a First Responder.

The report indicated \$59,045.03 in overall funds were raised, with \$44,775 given back to the community, which reflected \$34,275 for Christmas with a First Responder and \$10,500 donated to 21 schools throughout the county.

The project allowed 112 students to buy gifts and included 33 Pikeville Independent students, 44 Pike County students, 34 Head Start students and one homeschooled student.

“I’m very proud and honored to lead this department of highly dedicated and trained officers,” Pikeville Police Chief Philip Reed said. “These officers have gone above and beyond in their training in so many specialized areas in addition to their mandatory training hours.”

In the Pikeville Fire Department report, growth and expansion topped the annual report.

In 2025, the PFD imple-

mented a new special response medical team (SWAT Medic). These medics accompany police officers in tactical situations.

The soon-to-be-launched paramedic program began training in 2025. This program, with great cooperation with Pikeville Medical Center, will allow advanced medical treatment to begin in the field and on the scene before a patient gets to the Emergency Department.

PFD received several grants in 2025 including:

- Gary Sinese Foundation – \$25,000;
- CSX – \$5,000;
- Kentucky Fire Commission – \$8,000;
- Walmart – \$1,000 for classroom materials;
- KBEMS – \$5,000; and
- KLC Safety Grant – \$6,000 (\$3,000 city, \$3,000 KLC matching).

The PFD responded to 4,415 calls for service, including both fire and EMS.

The report also indicated the various services conducted

in 2025, including fire inspections and pond management, housing and safety inspections, CPR classes, motorist assists and lockouts, and hydrant inspections.

The department’s 18-member wildland fire team responded to the Northgate wildland fire March 19, 2025.

The report also showed the amount of training hours performed by the department’s members.

The Pikeville Fire Department reported a total of 9620.5 cumulative training hours across all shifts/assignments.

“This past year was one of continued growth, resilience and commitment to the community we serve,” said Pikeville Fire Chief Johnny Cole. “Our firefighters, EMTs and upcoming paramedics and staff have worked tirelessly to uphold the highest standards of service, responding with professionalism, compassion and dedication in every situation and I’m blessed to lead this department.”

CELEBRATES

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understand the importance of roots.

“We come from a people who work the land; they raise families; they

lean on their faith; and they look out for one another when times are hard,” she continued. “These mountains have taught us how to endure and how to pass our val-

ues down from one generation to the next. Tonight, the Tree of Life represents that. Every light on this tree reminds us that every single life matters.”

She said God creates

each life with a purpose and those lives are worthy of love.

“The future of Appalachia happens because people choose to invest,” Hammond said. “This is

where you — our donors and supporters — come in. You are the roots beneath this tree. You may not have seen it but you have made an impact in every family that we support.”

Hammond told the News-Express that the scope and services of the Appalachian Pregnancy Care Center have changed over the years.

“We began in 2007

as a pregnancy center for girls experiencing unplanned pregnancies,” she said. “Then we started realizing that guys were involved as well. Now, we are realizing that moms and dads of the parents, grandparents and even great-grandparents are involved in unplanned pregnancies. Now, we have opened our services up to everyone.”

“We started just in Pike County,” she continued. “So many people have heard about our services and what we are doing. We now serve 12 counties. It is just amazing what we are able to do.”

Hammond said the center strives to meet the individual needs of each client they serve.

“A 13-year-old girl is going to have different needs than a 42-year-old,” she said. “They each have different needs. We are in contact with so many resources that can help these families. When you are going through an unplanned pregnancy, it is just like everything else in life. If a tree falls through your roof, that is unplanned.”

“Someone going through an unplanned pregnancy is filled with fear; they worry about what they are going to do; how their family is going to feel; where they will find resources,” she continued. “There are lots of questions. We do not solve every problem, but we help.”

For more information on APPC, visit, appalachianpregnancy.com.

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Something To Think About

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Breaking News to a Child

It is important that a young-ster be informed immediately of the death of a loved one. If possible, he should be told by a parent or someone close to him, in a familiar setting such as the home. A delay in informing the child only increases the likelihood that he or she will learn of the death under less than ideal circumstances.

One experienced professional suggests that the adult begin with a discussion of nature, of the flowering and fruiting of plants, of their fading away in the fall and winter. Emphasis should be on the beauty of life rather than on the morbidity of death.

Even honest explanations should be free of terrible and terrifying details. A child can identify too closely with a story of accident or illness and may begin to fear for his own life.

The need to break the sad news expeditiously does not mean that it should be done with any less gentleness or sensitivity.

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