1) CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

Vice-Mayor Granillo called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2) Presentation and discussion regarding Chino Valley Police Department statistics.

Josh McIntire, Deputy Police Chief, presented the following:

- He would be covering a lot of statistics over the last year.

Staffing

- The department had allocated 35 sworn positions with 31 filled [this included administrative, detectives, school resource officers (SROs), and patrol]. One lateral officer would be signing a conditional offer next week. There were nine applicants that met the minimum qualifications to test for new hire testing, which would be happening Saturday and would hopefully produce a few applicants to attend the next academy starting on January 7th.
- While the Town had 22 patrol officers on paper, it wasn’t actually the case as there were two cadets at the academy, two officers were in field training and would not be solo until October 2023, two officers were on modified duty assignment and two more were waiting for surgery in October (one four month recovery, and one five to six month recovery), one officer was deployed overseas until April of 2024. This left just 12 officers for patrol (not counting SROs). Minimum staffing required three officers per shift. The officers were currently working two days on, two days off, three days on, two days off, etc. It worked out so that the officers had every other weekend off, allowing
them more time with family, which they seemed to appreciate.

- The department had two retirements in the last six months. Another was scheduled for December of 2023, and another scheduled for August of 2024. There was the potential for six more retirements by 2028, but not necessarily that they would.
- Light/modified duty had a jump of 1,784 hours between 2021 and 2022. 2023 so far was at 1,515 hours.
- On 12-hour shifts, the department required 12 officers minimum. This would allow for four squads consisting of three officers (one sergeant, one field training officer, one officer). Vacation days were often denied or employees had to shift trade. Training was difficult to schedule, so the department had supplemented with video training, which wasn’t ideal.
- In order to move to 10-hour shifts, the department would need 18 officers to comprise six squads. As this is, again, minimum staffing requirements, no days off would be approved and an officer being out for an injury would require going back to 12-hour shifts, and sick calls would require overtime.

**Use of Force (UOF) Incidents**

- The department had recently updated their UOF policy. Previously, UOF was defined as anything outside of normal handcuffing which included twisting an arm when resisting handcuffing, drawing a weapon, even at low-ready, or threat of using a taser. 2021 had five incidents, 2022 had 12 incidents (only two were hands-on), and 2023 had three incidents.
- No incidents since 2021 resulted in disciplinary action as all had been found to be justified.

**Total Reports Taken per Fiscal Year**

- The department was projected to take 13,000 reports by July 2024 which was up from 9,756 FY2020-2021 with increases every year.

**Traffic Offenses**

- Driving behaviors were getting progressively worse, increasing citation writing and traffic contacts and would continue to go up as traffic increased.
- Provided a breakdown of the numbers per year including stops, citations, speed related incidents, and warnings. The department kept a good balance between warnings and citations as they preferred to educate citizens to drive safely.

**Other Traffic Statistics**

- Provided a breakdown of the numbers per year including collision fatalities, injuries, non-injuries, hit & run, and DUI arrests.

**Other Statistics**

- Total arrests had gone up, especially in the juvenile population. Staff felt that was due to an increased police presence in the schools where they caught kids with vape pens, THC, and other minor drug offenses.
- Provided a breakdown of domestic violence calls per year which did not include calls labeled as disorderly conduct or criminal damage per domestic violence.
- Provided a breakdown on criminal damage, vandalism, and property damage calls.
- Provided a breakdown of drug arrests per year made in just the Town of Chino Valley.
- Provided a breakdown of assaults reported per year outside of domestic violence.
- Provided a breakdown of burglaries reported per year.
- These numbers were not as bad as other jurisdictions. The PD spent a lot of time
during holidays and nights driving from street to street advising residents to close their garage doors and lock their vehicles.

Randy Chapman, Lieutenant, presented the following:

- Provided a breakdown of animal control statistics including impounds, animals adopted, animals returned, animals euthanized, etc.
- Provided a breakdown of SRO statistics including calls for service at the schools.
- Provided a breakdown of investigations. Staff determined that the numbers on this subject were not accurate due to a problem in the system where it was not tracking investigation cases. Staff began tracking investigations more thoroughly and would have accurate numbers moving forward.
- Listed various events and charities that the department is involved in including Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Shop with a Cop, National Night Out, etc.
- Listed the various services the department contracts out such as dispatch services, reporting system, in-car computers, and department policies.

Chuck Wynn, Police Chief, presented the following:

- The department had long wanted to be accredited, but there were standards that the old building had been unable to meet. With the construction of the new building, the department was moving forward with the accreditation process.
  - This process would be conducted by outside agencies in a five-step process over two years. However, staff was hopeful to beat the two-year mark as they already had best practice policies in place.
  - There were 174 standards. Not all would be met as the department did not have a dispatch center, but the standards would be compared against department policy and tweaks would be made where needed.
  - This would be a continuous process to make sure the department continues to meet the current best practices and standards.
  - The cost would be $500 for the first year and $250 per year thereafter.
  - National accreditations were also available. However, those cost a few thousand dollars and would require the department to meet standards that applied to places like New York and California. The selected accreditation was designed specifically for Arizona agencies.

Josh McIntire, Deputy Police Chief, presented the following:

- The accreditation process would be lengthy and time-consuming but rewarding for the Town. Just compiling the data for this presentation took over 37 hours.

Council and staff discussed the following:

- Council inquired if the department tracked the percentage of cases that the District Attorney (DA) declined to prosecute.
  - Staff stated that they did not have a process to do that, but with the issue that staff found on the inaccuracies of tracking investigations, they would have a process for that going forward.
  - Staff stated that there were cases where the department felt it should be prosecuted, and the DA’s office decided not to, but the department’s investigators were tenacious and often pushed to persuade their judgment toward prosecuting. If the departments continued to disagree, they had meetings to discuss the issues and decide together whether to proceed. It was not a problem for the department.
- Council commended the department’s Use of Force policy and protocol.
  - Staff gave more detail on their incident reviews, which they did on all high
liability items such as pursuits and vehicle accidents involving a patrol vehicle or officer on duty.

- Council inquired as to what the department’s number one concern was for the community.
- Staff stated that patience was an issue. People seemed to be more aggressive while driving and more violent at home due to people being frustrated with what was happening locally and throughout the country.

3) ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Vice-Mayor Eric Granillo, seconded by Councilmember Tom Armstrong to adjourn the study session at 5:48 p.m.


6-0 PASSED - Unanimously

ATTEST:

Erin N. Deskins, Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Chino Valley, Arizona held on the 26th day of September, 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 14th day of November, 2023.

Erin N. Deskins, Town Clerk