Patrol Services Bureau

The men and women who work in our patrol bureau are dedicated to this community. Our uniformed officers are those who respond to the 911 calls you make. They are the front-line community responders for the City of Great Falls. In 2011, our patrol officers handled over 48,000 incidents. We provide service around the clock, 365 days a year.

Our patrol officers are sworn to enforce all federal, state and local laws and ordinances. They maintain peace and order, as well as protect lives and property of all persons within our community. To maintain peace and order, our officers will take appropriate police action, within the limits of legal authority, whenever and wherever required. All GFPD officers will maintain professional decorum and display a proper attitude in all dealings with citizens.

There are three traditional patrol teams, each consisting of one lieutenant, two sergeants, eleven officers, and a K-9 unit. These teams work five days on (9 hour shifts) and three days off. An addidtional Swing Shift team has one sergeant and four officers. Officers on this shift work four 10 hour shifts Wednesday through Saturday each week. Additionally, we offer a certified, community-oriented Bike Patrol, which encourages more open interaction between officers and our Great Falls citizens.

From time to time, the patrol officer may be detailed to other specialized duties as required and directed by the Chief of Police. Some patrol officers are also members of the HRU (High Risk Unit) team and can be called away from patrol if a high risk situation arises.

Furthermore, patrol officers are responsible for answering calls for service, patrolling assigned areas, investigating motor vehicle collisions, enforcing traffic laws and criminal statutes, and completing written reports and other documents as required. After completing the Montana Law Enforcement Academy in Helena, our new police officers spend their next 14 weeks with a Field Training Officer (FTO). The FTOs are on-the-job teachers and mentors for the officers.

The Patrol Shift Commander can be reached at (406) 771-1180.

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Web Links

High Risk UnitMontana Law Enforcement Academy

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