

Audit Services
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September 15, 2020

The Honorable Richard W. West and
Members of the City Council
City of Chesapeake
City Hall – 6th Floor
Chesapeake, Virginia 23328

Dear Mayor West and Members of the City Council:

We have completed our review of the Chesapeake Police Department for the period of September 3, 2019 – March 31, 2020. Our review was conducted for the purpose of determining whether the Department was providing services in an economical, efficient, and effective manner, whether its goals and objectives were being achieved, and whether it was complying with applicable City and departmental policies and procedures. We also reviewed and evaluated procedures, practices, and controls of the various divisions of the CPD on a selective basis. All divisions of CPD, including Operations, Administrative, Emergency Communication Center, and Public Safety Training were subject to evaluation.

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusion based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

CPD provided both emergency and non-emergency services for the City and its residents. CPD's primary services included enforcement of existing laws, testifying in court, responding to citizen concerns, transportation of apprehended individuals, animal services, and the promotion of crime prevention techniques and behaviors.

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, the Department had an operating budget of just over \$62.2 million. The budget was allocated over seven program areas with the Operations Bureau receiving almost \$34 million, Investigations Bureau just over \$12.3 million, and E911 Operations just over \$7.3 million. Other program areas included Administration (approximately \$3.2 million), Public Safety Training (approximately \$2.1 million), and Animal Services (almost \$2.7 million). CPD had an authorized complement of 401 sworn positions and approximately 182 civilian positions.

These complement numbers have remained relatively unchanged over the last three budgets despite the City's increase in population of over 16,000 citizens since 2015.

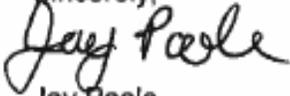
With the assistance of CPD, we identified performance information that was relevant to the department's operations. We also identified and addressed any additional problem areas as requested by the CPD or determined from the audit itself. These areas included a review of staffing and retention issues, aging of the CPD vehicle fleet, and the condition of the Training Academy and other relevant facility needs.

To conduct this audit, we reviewed and evaluated City and Department policies, procedures, operations documents, and reports, both internal and external. We also conducted extensive site visits to obtain a general understanding of various departmental processes. We discussed these audit areas and conducted interviews with departmental management and various other personnel.

Based on our review, we determined CPD had accomplished its overall mission of providing a variety of services that were critical to the operations of the City. However, we did identify several areas of concern that needed to be addressed. Those areas included timely access issues to obtaining professional mental healthcare specific to the needs of Public Safety first responders, maintaining adequate staffing levels to address staff challenges caused by retention issues, the aging and continued maintenance of the police fleet, and the deteriorating condition of training academy and other CPD facilities.

This report, in draft, was provided to Department officials for review and response and their comments have been considered in the preparation of this report. These comments have been included in the Managerial Summary, the Audit Report, and Appendix A. The Department concurred with most of the report's recommendations and has either implemented or begun the process of implementing many of them. The Department's management, supervisors, and staff were very helpful throughout the course of this audit. We appreciated their courtesy and cooperation on this assignment.

Sincerely,



Jay Poole

City Auditor

City of Chesapeake, Virginia

C: Christopher Price, City Manager
Robert Geis, Deputy City Manager
Chief Kelvin Wright, Police Chief