



COALINGA POLICE DEPARTMENT'S
SECOND QUARTER REPORT

Apr through Jun 2021

Staffing Report:

▶ Authorized Strength:	16 sworn / 18 funded FY 2019/2020
▶ # of Personnel Available:	16
▶ # of Personnel Modified Duty/Leave, Injured:	0
▶ # of Personnel in field training:	0
▶ # of Full Time Vacancies:	2

Our Successes:

Total Incidents	4728
Calls for Service	3141
Officer Initiated Incidents	1587
Traffic Stops	555
Other OIA Incidents	1032
Bus/Building checks	114
Veh/Ped Check	207
 Total Officer Reports	 373
Collision	18
Courtesy	2
Criminal Collision	6
Felony	70
Information	96
Infraction	7
Misdemeanor	164
Voided	5
Unclassified Reports	4
 Total Misdemeanor & Felony Arrests	 183
Misdemeanor Arrests	138
Felony Arrests	45
 Total Citations	 219
Admin Cites	1
Infraction	43
Misdemeanor	52
Moving Vehicle	23
Muni Code	1
Parking	78
Unclassified	21
 FIs	 3

Quarterly UCR Reports	2021	Second Quarter	2020	Second Quarter	Diff
-----------------------	------	----------------	------	----------------	------

Homicide		0		0	0%
Rape		0		0	0%
Robbery		0		1	-100%
Felony Assault		12		8	50%
Misd Assault		14		12	16.67%
Burglary		12		11	9.09%
Theft		27		33	-18.18%
Arson		0		1	-100%
Vehicle Thefts		11		7	57.14%

During the second quarter of 2021 the city has seen an increase in Felony Assaults, Misd Assaults and Burglary. This is due to 1000's of state inmates being released from prison as well as zero bail. The officers and support staff are working hard to keep crime down in the city.

DA Filing Rate: 2021 Second Quarter

Cases Submitted to DA:	101	
Charges Filed:	61	(60%)
Declined to Prosecute:	40	(40%)
Other Disposition from DA:	0	

Reasons Declined to Prosecute

Furtherance of Justice:	0	
Lack of Evidence:	4	(10%)
Mutual Combat:	0	
Pending FU:	0	
Pled to Another Charge / Case:	4	(10%)
Statue of Limitations:	1	(2%)
Victim Request:	0	
Other:	31	(78%)

Notable Second Quarter Activity:

Domestic Violence Suspect Arrested in Arizona

On June 26, 2021, at approximately 4:15 pm officers from the Coalinga Police Department responded to the 300 Block of West Polk Street on the report of a physical assault. On arrival officers located a female that had been assaulted. The 34-year-old victim stated she was involved in a verbal argument with the father of her children who she identified as 37-year-old Coalinga resident, Thomas Lambeth.

According to the victim, during the argument, Lambeth picked up a soda can and smashed it against the victim's face causing injury. The victim ran into their bedroom where she picked up Lambeth's phone and observed several text messages between Lambeth and another female. In the text messages Lambeth had allegedly written that he was going to kill the victim and steal her car.

The victim reported that Lambeth entered the bedroom and forced her to the floor where he began to tie her hands behind her back with the cord from a Kerby vacuum cleaner. As the victim began to cry, Lambeth stopped and then wrapped the cord around her neck and used enough force to where the victim could not breathe.

Lambeth then forcible removed the victim's car keys from her pants pocket and fled the area. On June 27, 2021, at approximately 8:50 a.m., the Coalinga Police Department's on-duty watch commander was contacted by an officer with the Arizona State Police. The officer in Arizona advised the watch commander that he had stopped Lambeth just outside of Flagstaff, Arizona for a traffic violation. The officer then learned that the vehicle he had stopped was stolen out of Coalinga.

The Arizona State Trooper was informed of the additional charges that were being sought against Lambeth and was advised that Coalinga police Department would be seeking an arrest warrant to extradite Lambeth back to California. On June 28, 2021, The Coalinga Police Department walked the case through the District Attorney's office for review and charges were filed against Lambeth for PC 422 - Criminal Threats, PC 273.5(f) (1) - Domestic Violence with priors, PC 235 - False Imprisonment, PC 211- Robbery, PC 245(a) (4) - Assault with a deadly weapon which caused great bodily injury. Bail was set at \$120,000.00 and a warrant was issued for Lambeth's arrest.

The Coalinga Police Department is awaiting the approval for Lambeth's extradition back to California from Arizona. Once the extradition is granted, officers from the Coalinga Police Department will travel to Flagstaff, Arizona and take custody of Lambeth. Lambeth will be brought back to Coalinga for questioning, booking and then will be taken to the Fresno County Jail.

Illegal Firework Arrest

On Tuesday, June 22, 2021, at approximately 01:09 am, a Coalinga Police Officer initiated a traffic enforcement stop on a black Toyota Celica on East Elm Avenue at Walnut Avenue for a traffic violation. During the stop, the officer contacted the vehicle's driver and identified him as 42-year-old Daniel Saiz. As the officer talked with Saiz, he saw several unopened boxes and packages of fireworks in the backseat of the vehicle. The fireworks were found to be "dangerous fireworks" within the meaning of Health and Safety Code 12505.

Saiz was taken into custody and was booked into the Coalinga City Jail. The illegal fireworks were seized and turned over to the Coalinga Fire Department for safe storage.



Vehicle Theft Suspect Arrested After Pursuit

On Friday May 14th at approximately 6:30pm officers responded to a report of a possible vehicle theft in progress at the Coalinga Motel, in the 600 block of Polk. Upon officer's arrival they observed the vehicle in the alley behind the Coalinga Motel. The vehicle fled the scene, traveling eastbound on Polk at a high rate of speed. Officer Travis Johnson attempted to pull the vehicle over, but the vehicle failed to pull over, traveling eastbound on Polk, leaving town. The suspect, later identified as Coalinga resident Richard Hernandez, continued to flee, at times reaching speeds over 90mph while traveling in oncoming traffic lanes.

As Hernandez continued to flee, he continued driving erratically, failing to stop at several "STOP" signs. Officers Ybarra, Johnson and Gonzalez continued to pursue Hernandez. When Hernandez reached the intersection of Nevada Avenue and State Route 41, he failed to stop at the "STOP" sign, lost control of his vehicle, drove off the road, coming to a stop before colliding with a fence. Officer Johnson, who was the lead patrol car in the pursuit, lost visual of Hernandez' vehicle due to a large amount of dust created when Hernandez drove off the road. Officer Johnson tried to slow down, but ended up driving into an empty canal, causing the officers vehicle to roll, coming to rest upside down. Officer Johnson was able to free himself from his seatbelt, escape the overturned vehicle and continue to chase Hernandez on foot along with Officer Gonzalez and K-9 Officer Ybarra and K-9 Eli. Hernandez was quickly apprehended by officers and K-9 Eli.

Hernandez was arrested and taken to the Coalinga Regional Medical Center where he refused to be treated for his injuries and was uncooperative with hospital staff. He was later transported to the Fresno County Jail for charges of Violation of Parole, Felony Evading, Resisting Arrest, Threatening an Officer, Battery to a Police Canine, Robbery, Vehicle Theft and DUI. Officer Johnson was treated for his injuries at Adventist Health in Hanford and later released.

Sergeant Fairbanks, K-9 Officer Ybarra, Officer Johnson, Officer Gonzalez, and Police Technician Cervantes were awarded Unit Citations for their actions with the pursuit. Sergeant Diaz and Police Technician Marquez were awarded Letters of Commendation for coming in to assist with calls for service during the pursuit. Officer Johnson was awarded a Medal of Merit for his actions during the pursuit and after his collision.



Pursuit Leads to Arrest for Firearms and Drugs

On May 3, 2021 at approximately 7:03 pm, the departments K9 unit observed a 2011 Toyota Camry in the area of Jayne and Merced and initiated a traffic stop for tinted windows. The officer activated his emergency lights at which time the vehicle failed to stop for the officer. The Camry sped up, travelling west bound on Polk Street and turned onto S. Thompson Street. The vehicle then turned into the Hanes Trailer Park. Once inside the trailer park, the Camry made an abrupt stop, and a Hispanic male exited the vehicle and ran towards the creek bed with a gun in his hand.

Officer Mann, Officer Ybarra and his K9 partner Eli pursued the subject while Sergeant Diaz stayed with the vehicle, which had three other occupants inside. After a few minutes, Officer Ybarra along with his K9 partner Eli tracked the subject to a large tree area in the creek bed. Officer Ybarra and Officer Mann advised the subject, later identified as Coalinga resident Oscar Contreras, to come out or K9 Eli would be sent in to apprehend him. After a few minutes, Oscar surrendered and was taken into custody without incident. During a search of the area, Officers located two firearms under leaves which were collected for evidence.

Once back at the Toyota, Officer Ybarra and K9 Eli conducted an outside search of the vehicle at which time K9 Eli alerted on the driver side of the vehicle. During a search of the vehicle, Officers located over a pound of methamphetamine and a large amount of cash in the vehicle. The subjects involved were identified as 22-year-old Juan Carlos Ruiz Jr., 21-year-old Oscar Contreras, 20-year-old Angel Sanchez and a 16-year-old juvenile, all of Coalinga.

All subjects were charged with Transportation for Sale, Possession of Narcotics with Firearm, Evading Police, Obstruct Officer, Concealed Weapon in Vehicle, and Violation of Probation.



Attempted Homicide Arrested

On January 17, 2021, the Coalinga Police Department investigated an Attempted Homicide where the suspect identified as 20-year-old, Rafael Vargas, was involved in a verbal argument with his girlfriend. During the argument, Vargas grabbed a steak knife and stabbed the victim in the back of her head several times. Vargas used enough force during the attack that the tip of the knife broke off and the knife blade separated from the handle. After the attack, Vargas fled the scene and has been on the run ever since.

Officers continued investigating this crime and followed up on leads as they received them. On April 8, 2021, Officers from the Coalinga Police Department received information that Vargas was possibly at a location located in 16000 block of Jersey Avenue in the city of Lemoore, California.

Officers from the Coalinga Police Department responded to this location and began a surveillance operation and after a few hours they were able to confirm Vargas was inside the home. The owner of the home identified as Ralph Martinez, was confirmed to be on felony probation out of Kings County for domestic violence with search and seizure terms. With this information, officers approached the front door and contacted a female occupant. Officers advised the person at the door that they were there to conduct a probation search and they had an arrest warrant for Rafael Vargas. Officers searched the home and located Vargas hiding inside a dryer. Vargas was taken into custody and was transported to the Coalinga Police Department on his outstanding warrant. During the search ammunition was found and was collected for evidence. Officers will forward their report to the Kings County District Attorney's Office for charges to be brought against, Martinez for felon in possession of ammunition and probation violation.

Respectfully Submitted:

Darren L. Blevins

Darren Blevins
Chief of Police