

Annual Report of Law Enforcement Professional Standards

Report Required by KRS 235:312



Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

October 21, 2022

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' mission is to conserve, protect and enhance Kentucky's fish and wildlife resources and provide outstanding opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, shooting sports, wildlife viewing, and related activities.

In the 2014 Regular Legislative Session, the Kentucky General Assembly passed legislation that included a provision in law that the department shall provide to the Legislative Research Commission a report detailing the continued training measures that the department has undertaken during the past year for law enforcement officers. The report shall cover areas of enforcement policy and professionalism training to enhance the public's experience in interacting with the department's officers and in enjoying outdoor activities while maintaining a safe and lawful environment. Lastly, the report shall also include any changes that the department implemented during the past year regarding its law enforcement practices and interactions with the public.

In compliance with KRS 235:312 the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' Law Enforcement Division is pleased to report the following:

- All taser and body camera equipment have been updated to allow cameras to activate when an officer draws their taser from the duty belt. This allows for video of the scene to be captured from start to finish without the officer pressing a button. The result is an increased level of safety for our officers as they can focus on the situation and have the body camera activate without having to specifically activate it to record interaction.

- The Law Enforcement Division policy manual continues to be updated to match our ever-changing climate and best practices for law enforcement. Quarterly meetings are scheduled with a policy working group to keep the manual up to date with current issues facing law enforcement.
- The Law Enforcement Division recently contracted the legal services of an attorney to provide legal updates, civil defense, and guidance to officers on criminal investigations when needed. Having the services of an attorney that regularly work on police litigation keeps our department informed on the most current laws enacted in state and federal legislative bodies along with the most recent ruling handed down by courts that affect the actions of policing.
- The Law Enforcement Division is currently vetting applicants for a recruit class that will begin in January. Recruits will report to training on January 16th and go through the departments 12-week training academy in addition to 20 weeks at the Department of Criminal Justice. Upon completion of both academy's, they will be placed with field training officers for another 12 weeks before patrolling alone. Hiring officers and properly training them is an ongoing focus for our department.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Division strives to provide a professional, well trained, and competent officer to serve the sportsmen and sportswomen that enjoy the resources of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Our officers are often recognized for their efforts across the state by citizens that we have impacted in some way. Our officers have a passion for conservation law enforcement and the mission of the department.



Rich Storm
Commissioner