

## **Criminal Investigations Unit**

The Criminal Investigations Unit is responsible for the investigation of cases involving a special subject matter and cases that are more complicated and often of a more time consuming nature. The Criminal Investigations Unit is assigned a case when the nature of the crime involves serious criminal activity, such as suspected homicides, suicides, felony thefts, forgeries, felonious assaults, fraud, or when the criminal activity appears to be part of a pattern.

The Criminal Investigations Unit was established in February 1993 and is commanded by the Police Lieutenant. The Criminal Investigations Unit is staffed with one (1) full-time Investigator and one (1) full-time Juvenile Services Officer.

The Criminal Investigations Unit deals with a variety of cases, most commonly burglaries, thefts, suicides, sexual assaults, fraud, and forgery cases. In addition, the Criminal Investigations Unit works on identifying suspects in various new and older crimes using DNA technology and testing. The Criminal Investigations Unit also assists the road patrol officers in investigating cases which will require a significant investment in time and resources. In addition to these duties, the Criminal Investigations Unit investigates cases with regard to Internet Crimes against Children. These cases involve possession of child pornography, online enticement of a child, and any other cyber crime involving a child. Other investigations performed by the Criminal Investigations Unit include installing covert surveillance cameras in Beatrice businesses at their request in order to identify internal theft issues.

The Criminal Investigations Unit conducts background investigations for department personnel, background investigations for handgun permit applications, and background investigations for liquor license applications within the City of Beatrice. The Criminal Investigations Unit is also assigned to the state-mandated, county-wide, Child Abuse/Neglect Investigative and Treatment Teams. The Juvenile Services Officer is assigned to the Criminal Investigations Unit and coordinates with the many various agencies on child abuse/neglect cases. This would include working with all of the Beatrice Public Schools, the School Resource Officer, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Child Advocacy Center in investigating cases of possible child abuse or neglect occurring within the City of Beatrice.

The Criminal Investigations Unit also serves as liaison officers to Crimestoppers of Gage County. This assignment requires the investigators to attend meetings of the Crimestoppers Board and to assist the organization in meeting its goals.

The goal of the Criminal Investigations Unit is to stay abreast of what appears to be an ever increasing case load, to assist the patrol officers with investigative techniques, and to provide a point of contact with outside agencies and information sources.