2025 Phelps County Missouri Public Safety update

Key Initiatives and Developments in 2025

- **Centralized Communications:** The Phelps County Central Communications (9-1-1 Center), housed within the Rolla Police Department, provides 24/7 dispatch services for 15 primary member agencies. This centralized system ensures faster, more efficient, and better-coordinated emergency responses across the county.
- **Technological Integration:** The Phelps County Community Foundation (PCCF), in collaboration with local law enforcement, introduced a mobile camera platform. This unit serves as a "force multiplier" by providing a virtual police presence and acting as a visible deterrent to crime, an emerging technology often seen in larger metropolitan areas.
- **Recruitment and Retention:** A significant ongoing challenge discussed in county commission meetings was the difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff for the Sheriff's Department. The county commission was addressing payroll and compensation issues to help manage this problem.
- **Domestic and Sexual Violence Support:** The Russell House offers comprehensive support services for victims of domestic and sexual violence in Phelps and surrounding counties, including emergency shelter, crisis intervention, and legal advocacy. Kids' Harbor also provides forensic interviews and advocacy services for children in the region.
- **State-Level Support:** State-level initiatives influenced local public safety, including efforts to reduce the backlog of sexual assault cases in the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Laboratory and an executive order to modify the Patrol's salary schedule to improve retention.

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Crime and Accident Overview
Specific incidents reported in late 2025 by local law enforcement included:

- Incidents of domestic disturbances and assaults were a recurring issue.
- Reports of theft were noted, with investigations ongoing.
- Drug-related arrests, such as for possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, occurred during traffic stops.
- A former Doolittle Police Chief faced state action to remove his peace officer license following multiple criminal charges related to the sexual abuse of a teenager and a drowning incident.

They reference the Phelps County Community foundation website for an updated report.

Opioid deaths in Missouri in 2022 were 2,180 and it has reduced to 1,450 in 2024. We have seen the same reduction in the year over year for Phelps County. The increased availability of Narcan is leading this decrease. (note: talk with Jamie Myers to see if there is a reporting

mechanism for the reported Narcan usage to see if there is a reduction in drug use as well or simply lifesaving mechanisms in place)

2024 11 overdose deaths

2022 41 overdose deaths

Suicide deaths year over year Phelps County – We think this is something we should add into the public safety report to ensure we have programs in place to collaborate and connect to improve this number.

2025 Crime Rates by County (Ranked by Population)

Jurisdiction	Number of Police Officers	Reserve officers	Number of actual offenses	Summary Offense rate(per 1,000)	Estimated Population
Rolla Police Department	37	11 Reserves	861	41.95	20,526
Phelps County Sherriff's Dept	29		340	16.88	20,148
St. James Police Department	11		126	32.03	3,934
Doolittle Police Department	1	5 part time			580
Newburg Police Department	1	1 part time			340
Edgar Springs Police Department					205

Missouri S&T police	10	2 cadets 5 reserves	46		7,174 1,257 freshmen 550 new graduate students 6,564 On-campus students
Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop I	67	23 uniformed civilians			

RPD has one vacancy

MS&T will hire 2 cadets in August and has one additional vacancy

According to recent FBI data, the number of law enforcement officers in Phelps County decreased slightly in 2024 to a rate of about 1.59 officers per 1,000 residents. (Beautify data)

Fire Department	Chief	Firefighters	Command staff	Paid/volunteer	Headcount total
Doolittle	Brandon Williams	29		All volunteer	29
Duke Rural Fire Dept	Ron Wyatt	7		All volunteer	7
Rolla Fire & Rescue	Jeff Breen	27	3		
Rolla Rural Fire Protection District	Roger Hayes	35	3	9 paid	38

Edgar Springs Fire Protection	Adam Klott	10		All volunteer	10
St. James Fire Protection	John Douglas 2nd	18	3	Chief paid position/remaining are volunteers	21
Is it vital to know each agency equipment					

Beautifydata.com

Countyoffice.org

https://fire.fandom.com/wiki/St._James_Fire_Protection_District_(Missouri)

MSHP
https://www.mshp.dps.missouri.gov/MSHPWeb/Publications/OtherPublications/documents/2024AnnualReport.pdf

https://www.stjamesmo.org/departments/police_department/staff_and_contacts.php

https://news.mst.edu/2025/08/first-day-enrollment-at-missouri-st-tops-7100/