

## **Chapter 9**

### **Police, Fire and Community Safety**

The Pikeville Fire and Police Departments have both expanded and met almost all of the goals outlined in the 2005 Comprehensive Plan. In addition, the new Federal Courthouse has been completed in Downtown Pikeville housing the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

#### ***Police Department and Safety:***

Since the 2005 Comprehensive Plan a number of improvements have occurred in the City of Pikeville Police Department. Police Chief Phillip Reed was installed in 2012 following the retirement of former Chief James Adkins, with a smooth transition. The goal to increase the number of officers to 28 has not been possible due to budget cuts, but changes in monitoring and safety have also indicated that the current number of officers (21) is appropriate to meet the safety needs of the city. The complete replacement of the fleet of cruisers was achieved, and all 18 vehicles have new equipment. Increased integration of police and community has also occurred with the development of Neighborhood Watch programs, distribution of door tags to educate and increase safety awareness among citizens, and the development of a Neighborhood Walk & Ride Program.

Community safety in Pikeville is generally thought to be high, and analysis by city.com placed the crime rate at 288.3, lower than the national average of 293.5. More importantly, the violent crime rate in Pikeville is much lower than the national average: in 2011 the violent crime rate was reported at 57.0 while the national violent crime rate was 213.6, and for seven of eight years from 2004 through 2011, the Pikeville violent crime rate was well below half of the national violent crime rate. Unfortunately, property crimes in Pikeville are higher than the national average, and were for the entire eight years from 2004 to 2011. This may be a result of rising unemployment in the

region as coal mining is reduced and related industries experience high rates of lay offs, as well as increases in the use of prescription drugs fostering criminal behavior.

The breakdown of types of crime and crime rates since 2005 are seen in Table 1:

<b>TABLE 1                      CRIME RATE BY TYPE OF CRIME                      CITY OF PIKEVILLE, 2005-2011</b>							
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Murders</b> <i>(per 100,000)</i>	0 (0.0)	3 (47.2)	2 (31.6)	2 (31.9)	2 (31.2)	1 (15.6)	0 (0.0)
<b>Rapes</b> <i>(per 100,000)</i>	6 (94.5)	3 (47.2)	3 (47.4)	5 (79.7)	1 (15.6)	4 (62.4)	2 (28.8)
<b>Robberies</b> <i>(per 100,000)</i>	10 (157.6)	12 (188.6)	6 (94.8)	6 (95.6)	8 (124.9)	6 (93.6)	2 (28.8)
<b>Assaults</b> <i>(per 100,000)</i>	62 (977.0)	44 (691.7)	32 (505.4)	41 (653.2)	28 (437.1)	28 (437.0)	3 (43.2)
<b>Burglaries</b> <i>(per 100,000)</i>	386 (6,082.6)	403 (6,335.5)	334 (5,275.6)	373 (5,942.3)	396 (6,181.7)	352 (5,494.0)	58 (834.4)
<b>Thefts</b> <i>(per 100,000)</i>	41 (646.1)	40 (628.8)	15 (236.9)	7 (111.5)	9 (140.5)	9 (140.5)	367 (5,279.8)
<b>Auto thefts</b> <i>(per 100,000)</i>	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	N/A	1 (15.6)	1 (15.6)	15 (215.8)
<b>Arson</b> <i>(per 100,000)</i>	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	N/A	1 (15.6)	1 (15.6)	3 (43.2)
<b>Average Crime Rate*</b>	373.0	389.2	285.3	318.0	302.9	274.5	288.3

At the time of the last Comprehensive Plan there were concerns about the number of domestic violence calls received by City Police and efforts to address this were suggested including increased training of officers and staff. Since then Domestic Violence training classes are a part of the regular continuing education and all officers participate. For FY2012 the department recorded 133 domestic violence reports, Enhanced training and community outreach in the area of substance abuse has also occurred: one officer is now trained in the new DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program and presents the program every semester to four grade levels of elementary and middle school students. Other substance abuse training has occurred through the UNITE program, and the Appalachia HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas). To date, one officer has been trained and is certified through Appalachia HIDTA as an expert in drug recognition and participates in ongoing training updates. The availability of the WestCare, Inc. Hal Rogers Appalachian Recovery

Center in Ashcamp has also benefitted Pikeville by making it easier for citizens to access treatment without having to go so far from home. WestCare has also provided critical assistance to the City and promoted community safety by assuming management of the City's Homeless and Community Involvement Shelter. Through this collaboration WestCare participants are now engaged in community service and tourism support; the police department recognizes this as beneficial to both the participants and the City.

Provisions for local polygraph services were completed with the purchase of the polygraph machine and related equipment, and polygraphs were provided until the retirement of the polygraph examiner in 2012. Since then, polygraph services are provided by the Commonwealth of Kentucky; should it be economically feasible to train an additional examiner in the future this will be considered. Plans for an addition to the Police Station outlined in the last Comprehensive Plan have not been completed as a result of funding limitations, but remodeling enabled the building to accommodate changing needs. This remodeling created two additional offices for detectives and a secure interview room which allows interviews to be conducted in a confidential and secure environment rather than the hallway.

***Future Needs:***

The Pikeville Police Department would like to improve their services and functioning by providing a computer in every patrol car. This would facilitate real time response, enable background checks to be completed efficiently and at any time, and ensure that outstanding warrants are served quickly and suspects apprehended.

The Pikeville Police Department also would like to complete the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police (KACP) Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. This program provides an independent measure of assessment and accountability to local police departments to enhance overall effectiveness and professionalism. The KACP accreditation sets a baseline standard of excellence, requires departments to operationalize all policies and procedures in writing, promotes uniformity and consistency of enforcement, supports the highest quality of service delivery and training, and increases both individual officer and agency accountability. The process involves a comprehensive audit and evaluation of the department and all facilities, and provides a mechanism for regular thorough self-review. KACP may even lower insurance costs for the department. KACP Accreditation provides a stamp of approval and enhances the reputation of law enforcement agencies within and beyond the local community. At this time there are no other law enforcement departments within the Big Sandy region with KACP accreditation.

The Pikeville Police Department also has ongoing work in the area of substance abuse prevention, intervention and recovery, particularly among children, adolescents and young adults. The department is committed to the continuation of the DARE program

in city schools and the community. It also plans to continue the Citizen's Academy, an annual community education event which promotes public awareness and knowledge about drug abuse. Some concern about the safety at Bob Amos Park after dark was articulated in the youth focus group and should also be addressed.

***Fire Department and Fire Safety:***

The Pikeville Fire Department has also seen positive changes over the last eight years. All of the facilities improvements recommended in the 2005 have been completed or are in progress: The bays and classroom facilities at the Chloe Station have been expanded and now accommodate the larger equipment and apparatus as well as provide ample space for regional training. The department has a Technical Rescue Trailer and related equipment, and has access to the state's Confine Space Rescue Simulator to enable ongoing training in and practice of specialized rescue activities. The Thompson Road station will be moved to Cedar Creek and US 23 within the next year: the preliminary land work and site preparation is complete and funds are allocated within the FY2014 budget for this construction to enable this department to be located closer to its residential service area and avoid any railroad crossings to get out of the station.

Equipment upgrades have also been numerous: Ladder 1 was replaced with a state-of-the-art 71 foot reach Quint Truck and Rescue 7 was replaced with a larger vehicle to adequately meet the needs of the community. A Fire Suppression Utility Vehicle has also been added to the fleet which ensures services can be provided throughout the city even during times of high congestion and limited motor vehicle access such as Hillbilly Days. All ambulances have been upgraded since 2005 and an additional four wheel drive ambulance has also been added to the fleet to allow safe emergency services to all areas within the City and under any weather conditions. In addition, the department now owns a rescue litter to facilitate off-road rescue and emergency response, as well as a state-of-the-art air boat for water rescues. State-of-the-art emergency medical service carts are now available for special events such as athletic games, special events, community activities and events at the East Kentucky Exposition Center.

Fire department communication has benefitted from the purchase and installation of the InterAct Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. This system integrates data, updates it immediately, and allows for the most efficient and accurate emergency response without fear of confusion or loss of data. This system ensures the closest service unit is dispatched, guarantees that emergency personnel go to the correct location, and identifies pertinent safety information for emergency responders and victims in each situation. This software is state-of-the-art and Pikeville is the first in the Commonwealth to have this type of advanced CAD 911 response system. At the present time the Interact CAD is housed in the police station, but is accessed and utilized by the fire department and emergency medical rescue units.

Efforts to improve the enhanced 911 communication system succeeded in making many improvements to ensure addresses are present and visible. A new addressing system will be implemented over the next year which will require changes to all addresses in the system.

Currently, the Pikeville Fire Department has 30 fulltime firefighters, 33 trained emergency medical technicians, and one administrative staffperson, with an additional ten certified volunteers. The Department is currently looking to train several EMTs in an Advanced EMT program. The Pikeville Fire Department is proud to have established a fully trained Swift Water Dive Rescue Team and ongoing training and skill maintenance will continue. The group paging system recommended for the Fire Department in the 2005 plan was tested but found to be unnecessary in light of more recent technology and the availability of the Community Safety Band. Finally, the City has established residential housing inspection program for rental properties which is conducted by the Fire Marshall and is a critical element of community fire safety and prevention.

#### ***Future Needs:***

There continues to be a need for additional office space at the main Fire Station, but this will be addressed only as funding allows. Ongoing concerns about the location of the Island Creek Station remain, and solutions to move it will be explored. Ongoing and enhanced drug testing of all Fire Department Employees will also be implemented to ensure a drug free and safe working environment and emergency response system.

#### ***Other Community Safety Measures***

There have been additional improvements in the area of community safety as well: The City of Pikeville collaborated with Pike County to establish a community safety band accessible to all first responders and community safety organizations and personnel within Pike County and the City of Pikeville. This has enhanced communication between all first responders from the City and County, as well as between different branches of emergency management and response within the County and City. This type of communication is essential in the event of natural or man-made disaster, serious accident, severe weather, or other ongoing community threat. Other community safety improvements recommended in the 2005 Comprehensive Plan have also been completed: A perimeter fence has been installed around Hatcher Field, improving its safety for potential air carriers as well as the community. Aeration devices were installed in Pikeville Lake as part of the fountains, providing not only aesthetic improvements but also increasing water flow to minimize the potential for standing water and related vulnerabilities.

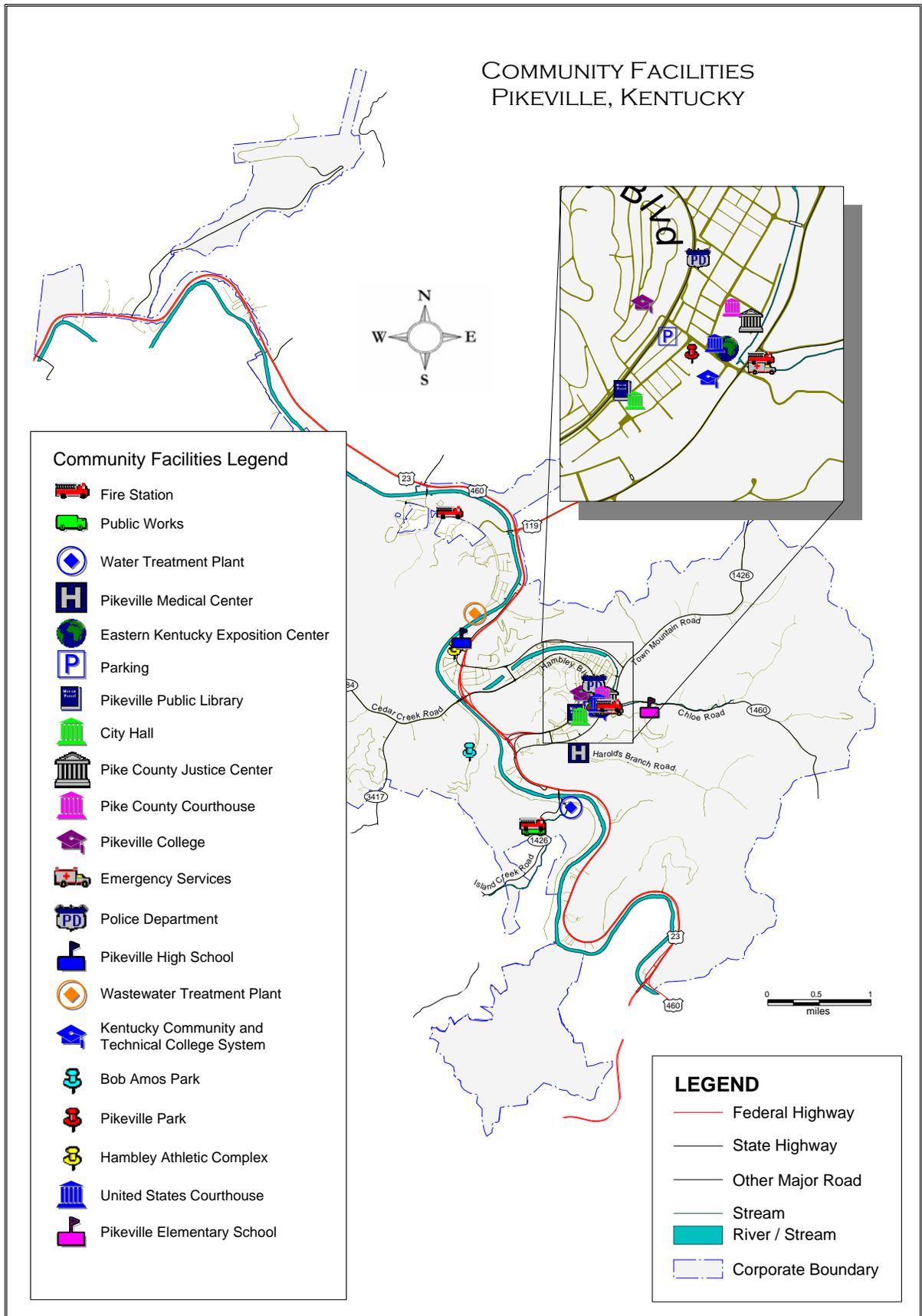
***Police, Fire and Community Safety Goals and Objectives:***

*Goal: The City of Pikeville will be a safe community with comprehensive and current equipment and services available to all residents and visitors at all times.*

- Equipment:
  - As funding is available, the police department will secure a computer for every police vehicle
  - Maintain the InterAct Computer Aided Dispatch system
  - Maintain and support the community safety emergency radio band
  
- Physical Plant:
  - Complete move of Thompson Road Fire Station to Cedar Creek
  - As funding is available, consider relocation of Island Creek Fire Station
  - Increase office space at Fire Station 1 as funding is available
  
- Training & Accreditation:
  - Continue DARE training and participation by Police Officers
  - Continue Domestic Violence training for Police Officers
  - Continue specialized Substance Abuse training through UNITE and Appalachian HIDTA of Police Officers
  - Train EMTs in the Fire Department in Advanced Emergency Medicine Training
  - Police Department will participate in the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Accreditation Program
  
- Community Programs and Awareness:
  - Continue DARE Education Programs by Police Department
  - Continue Citizens Academy for substance abuse awareness by Police Department
  - Continue Neighborhood Watch and Neighborhood Ride programs through the Police Department
  - Maintain Housing Inspection Program through the Fire Department
  
- Community Safety:
  - Monitor and maintain aeration pumps at Pikeville City Lake
  - Monitor and maintain perimeter fence at Hatcher Field
  - Monitor safety at Bob Amos Park during low use hours



## COMMUNITY FACILITIES PIKEVILLE, KENTUCKY



### Community Facilities Legend

- Fire Station
- Public Works
- Water Treatment Plant
- Pikeville Medical Center
- Eastern Kentucky Exposition Center
- Parking
- Pikeville Public Library
- City Hall
- Pike County Justice Center
- Pike County Courthouse
- Pikeville College
- Emergency Services
- Police Department
- Pikeville High School
- Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Kentucky Community and Technical College System
- Bob Amos Park
- Pikeville Park
- Hambley Athletic Complex
- United States Courthouse
- Pikeville Elementary School

### LEGEND

- Federal Highway
- State Highway
- Other Major Road
- Stream
- River / Stream
- Corporate Boundary