

## **Student Perspective: Auburn Police Department**

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### **Part 1: Background**

#### Police in Auburn

The Auburn, Alabama Police Department in Lee County is well known among their community for their enforcement of the laws and their commitment to keeping the Auburn Tigers safe. Auburn is home of Auburn University and the Auburn Football Team, better known as the Auburn Tigers. As a member of the SEC, Southeastern Conference, Auburn is a well-traveled city and brings in much tourism and fans during the fall season. Auburn is also home to 64,054 people, many of which are students, athletes, families, and business owners. Because of the larger population and attraction, Auburn is a city that requires a lot of protection.

Since Auburn does need a lot of policing and protection, especially on campus, there is also a need for money to pay for the AUPD's service. For police department in the city of Auburn, the city's budget has risen in last decade by over \$2 million to continue funding. In 2010, the Auburn police department spent \$10,987,000 on their equipment, salaries, bills, etc. for the year. In 2019, the Auburn police department spent \$12,844,000 on the same expenses.

Here is a graph from the U.S. Census Bureau. More data can be found [here](#).

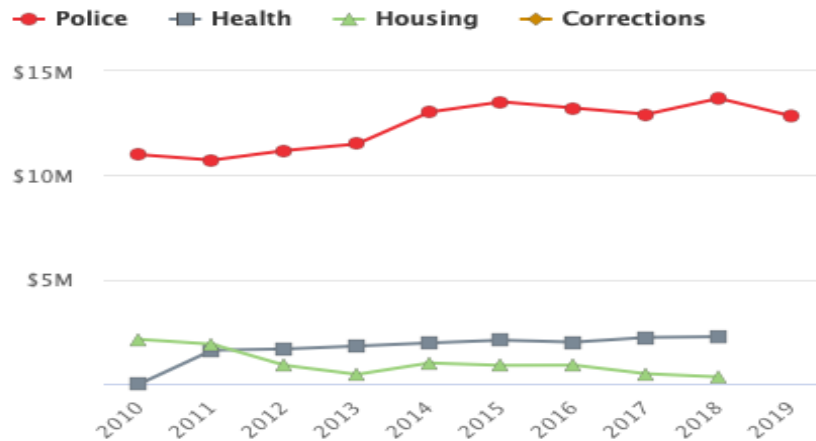
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### POLICE FUNDING BY YEAR

\$12.84M | \$195 per Resident

More Police Funding per Capita than 19% of Depts



Source: US Census Bureau

The Auburn police department has two different offices, with one in downtown Auburn and one on the Auburn University campus.

#### City of Auburn, Public Safety Department

(334) 501-3110

141 N Ross St

Auburn, AL 36830

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. M-F

#### Auburn University Department of Campus Safety & Security

(334) 844-8888

543 W Magnolia Ave

Auburn, AL 36832

Open 24/7

Auburn P.D. has a location on campus, located next to the village dorms and Raymond J. Harbert College of Business. Their location is not easily accessible walking from every part of campus but is by the Auburn University faculty ran security shuttle. The office is open all day, every day and the sub-station has alliances with student ran programs to promote good behavior. The AUPD also has staffed the building with 39 sworn law enforcement officers, as well as investigative, narcotics, and Community Services Sections of the Police Division

## Part 2: Local Organizations and Contacts

### **Auburn Chamber of Commerce**

[www.auburnchamber.net](http://www.auburnchamber.net)

(334) 501-3292

714 E Glenn Ave

Auburn, AL 36830

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. M-F

The Auburn Chamber of Commerce is partnered with the Auburn P.D. to help with event planning, security, business management and community engagement. The Auburn P.D. is a part of the Auburn and Opelika Chambers and is active in their membership. The Auburn Police officers also participate in the Opelika chamber's Young Leaders Program. Through the program they can speak with high school students and teach them about their duty as an officer. Each chamber has done both business and pleasure with the department through events, crisis, emergencies, and city news. The chamber also reports information from the Auburn P.D. to their members in the area to keep the community aware and involved. The chamber is not only a partner to the police, but a large part of the department's engagement with the community.

### **Safe Harbor AU Victim/Survivor Advocacy**

<http://health.auburn.edu/safe-harbor/>

(334) 844-7233

255 Heisman Dr Unit 1206

Auburn, AL 36849

24/7 Crisis Phone Number: 334-844-SAFE(7233)

Located in the Auburn University Student Center, Safe Harbor is a safe place for those who have experienced power-based personal violence including dating/domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or harassment. This organization provides help with crisis response, support, advocacy, information, and referrals for victims but is not a shelter. Safe place works hand-in-hand with the Auburn police on and off campus to ensure the safety of students. Safe Harbor is different from usual safe places by offering the resources needed to help victims in their recovery instead of supplying a safe place for victims to stay the night.

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**Auburn University Student Counseling & Psychological Services**

<http://wp.auburn.edu/scs/>

(334) 844-5123

400 Lem Morrison Dr #2086

Auburn, AL 36849

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. M-F

Student Counseling & Psychological Services, better known as SCPS to those on campus, is fully accredited by the International Accreditation of Counseling Services. The purpose of SCPS is to provide comprehensive preventative and clinical mental health services to students. The counseling and therapy session are to support academic, retention, and student development in Auburn University students. This Auburn University medical clinic is in direct contact with the Auburn P.D. and they exchange information to better aide students in need of support. Their interactions are limited, but beneficial to those trying to help students that have been involved in a crime. Counselors and Therapists strive to get students involved on campus to improve their personal health and create a more balanced student body.

**Auburn University's Student Government Association (SGA)**

<http://sga.auburn.edu>

3130 Student Center

255 Heisman Drive

Auburn, AL 36849

(334)844-4788

**Brad Smith**

Director of Student Involvement

334.844.3277

[smithbk@auburn.edu](mailto:smithbk@auburn.edu)

The Auburn Student Government Association (SGA) is Auburn University's official governing organization of the student body. The SGA represents students and hears their voice. They also support the university faculty, staff, administration, Auburn City Council and Alabama State Legislature. The SGA is responsible for informing and uniting students together in a proactive and safe environment, and this is why they work closely with the AUPD to present student conflicts to the student body. AUPD is required to inform the university of any student crime involvement for further discussion academically speaking. Their main contribution is the

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release of campus incidents, such as sexual assault, robbery, and other crimes to the student body in a respectable and professional manner.

**Auburn City Court/ Municipal**

<https://www.auburnalabama.org/court/>

(334) 501-3180

141 N Ross St, Auburn, AL 36830

[webjudicial@auburnalabama.org](mailto:webjudicial@auburnalabama.org)

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. M-F

**Jim McLaughlin**

Judge

(334) 501-3180

[jmclaughlin@auburnalabama.org](mailto:jmclaughlin@auburnalabama.org)

The Auburn Court and Judicial Department’s mission is to “provide a constitutional and statutory medium for the enforcement of traffic offenses, municipal ordinance violations, and State misdemeanors adopted by municipal ordinance as offenses against the City of Auburn.” The Auburn Municipal Court sorts out and go to trial for all cases filed by the Auburn police department. Their purpose is to handle all disputes and offences committed by those within the Auburn community. They uphold the laws and protect the integrity and safety of the community in the city of Auburn.

## Part 3: Events

### Auburn Game Days

The Auburn Tigers Football Team is an Auburn tradition and treasure. The day consists of multiple events that take place before and after the game, as well as the Tiger Walk for student athletes’ arrival to the stadium. Depending on the competitor and time of the game there could be constant events all day, or only one or two. Weekends such as Homecoming and Parents Weekend tend to bring more traffic to the area, but also more popular games will bring more fans and gameday traffic to the city of Auburn. Here is the schedule for the upcoming game, for more info click [here](#).

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Saturday Oct. 2		<b>at LSU Tigers</b> Tiger Stadium, Baton Rouge, LA
Saturday Oct. 9		<b>2 Georgia Bulldogs</b> Jordan-Hare Stadium, Auburn, AL
Saturday Oct. 16		<b>at 13 Arkansas Razorbacks</b> D.W.R. Razorback Stadium, Fayetteville, AR
Saturday Oct. 23		<b>OFF</b>
Saturday Oct. 30		<b>17 Ole Miss Rebels</b> Jordan-Hare Stadium, Auburn, AL
Saturday Nov. 6		<b>at Texas A&amp;M Aggies</b> Kyle Field, College Station, TX
Saturday Nov. 13		<b>Mississippi State Bulldogs</b> Jordan-Hare Stadium, Auburn, AL
Saturday Nov. 20		<b>at South Carolina Gamecocks</b> Williams-Brice Stadium, Columbia, SC
Saturday Nov. 27		<b>1 Alabama Crimson Tide</b> Jordan-Hare Stadium, Auburn, AL
Saturday Dec. 4		<b>SEC Championship</b> Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta, GA

### Homecoming/ Fall Family Weekend

Parents and students are invited to attend Homecoming during Fall Family Weekend at Auburn University. “Fall Family Weekend will be held Sep. 24 – Sep. 26, 2021. Fall Family Weekend is held in conjunction with Homecoming. We are in contact with our campus health and community health professionals as we work to provide an event that is safe and fun for attendees. Many campus departments and local businesses work together to make Fall Family Weekend a great event for you and your family. In addition to a tailgate hosted by Parent & Family programs, there will be many other ways for families to explore Auburn’s campus and community.”

Date: Sept. 25, 2021

Auburn University and Downtown Auburn

Auburn, AL

### Auburn Tipoff

An annual tradition and gathering of Auburn fans in Downtown Auburn where the city closes Magnolia Avenue and College Street to hold a basketball match and free-throw competition. There are also merchants, local business, and bars open during the event. The event is free and open to the public

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### Coffee with a Cop

“This campaign was started as a local initiative in 2011 by a small police department in California as a public outreach program. Now, the first Wednesday of every October is recognized across the country as "Coffee with a Cop" day. This is another opportunity for the public to talk with officers in a casual setting about our community and relationships.” For more information, click [here](#). For a personal interview with an Opelika cop from 2019 on Coffee with a Cop Day, click [here](#).

Date: Oct. 6, 2021

Location: Ross House Coffee – Across the street from the APD

150 N Ross St

Auburn, AL 36830

Time: 8 a.m.– 10 a.m.





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### **Auburn Rodeo**

This event is not new to Auburn but is traditionally done during the spring for only Auburn students. This event is open to all schools, students, and fans to attend. The event features performances from Morgan Wallen, Parker McCollum, Jon Langston, and Trey Lewis. Tickets are currently sold out but ranged from \$300-\$500. For more information, click [here](#).

Date: October 23, 2021  
Location: Sistrunk Farms  
15400 US HWY 80  
Opelika, AL 36804

## **Part 4: Story Ideas**

### **Story 1)**

The Auburn Police Department in Auburn, Alabama has a job to protect and serve their community, but what if their community is filled with college athletes playing on an SEC team? That must be a difficult task for anyone to perform, but for Auburn P.D., it just means they need more money. I could do a story on the amount of money given to the A.P.D. annually and better understand how they use their funds to protect and serve. This could result back to a conversation about sexual assault victims in Auburn or their employee's pension, both are interesting topics of concern. I have two sources, one that worked with the A.P.D. and another that works with Opelika's police that could guide me through their mindsets at the stations. I could also interview their chief of police and see how their funds are used and if there is ever a surplus. I can also discuss their new building and how long that plan was in the works. This could also call for a discussion about healthcare and housing issues in the city of Auburn, leading to other interviews with new sources.

### **Story 2)**

Sexual assault is a problem on any college campus, but at any campus, four reports in less than two weeks calls for immediate action. At Auburn University, there were four separate reports



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over the course of two weeks of sexual assault on and off campus. Some of the allegations were more severe than others, but never less important. Auburn PD has not put out any warrants, done any further questioning, or contacted two of the four victims. I could interview those two victims and create a story based around Auburn's compliance with sexual assault allegations. This would point me to the police department and the university, so interviewing a professor, counselor, or dean would be great for the story. This has been an issue for students for years but has now come to a head and called for full action and consequences from the authorities and the university itself. Interviewing students would also give me more insight into how female students' safety in Auburn and on campus.