

# **Valley Falls Police Department**

Marcus F. Koch – Chief of Police

## **City Council Meeting – 03.17.2021**

I started the distribution of the QR symbol reporting flier. We will continue to work on that until all homes and businesses have received one.

During discussion with Jim regarding his resignation, I asked him and he agreed to remain on the department's demographic as the Animal Control Officer and respond to emergency situations, when available. I sent a status change to KSCPOST indicating a change from full to part time. I will have him switch out vehicles as soon as possible.

I have posted the open full-time officer position on the Kansas Peace Officers Association job listing and had it published in the Vindicator and the Independent this week and last. I have already received two applications. One looks promising. I plan to post the job opening on a number of additional sites.

I am still working on putting together information for our insurance agent regarding the estimated value of the contents of the patrol vehicles. It's quite a bit of work but I hope to have that done tomorrow.

### ***Body camera and in-car camera audio/video recordings:***

- Recordings are not public records in Kansas.
- Other states may have other laws/rules governing the dissemination of recordings.
- Recordings are typically "investigative" in nature and are considered a form of evidence.
- Investigation and evidentiary information is not disseminated but accompanies a criminal investigation report that is forwarded to a prosecutor and can then become a part of discovery in a criminal proceeding in court and made available to a defense attorney and the defendant.
- Recordings can be made available by the power of subpoena for legal proceedings.
- The contents of recordings/forms of evidence (or portions of them) can be discussed with or shown to a suspect and/or a witness as a part of an investigation but copies of recordings or photographic documentations of evidence are not to be made or disseminated.
- If it is determined that a recording can be shared with the governing body, the body must be in session and then it then becomes public record.

- I am actively researching additional information regarding this topic and considering additional language and protocol to incorporate the dissemination of recordings into department policy.