

# Bowie City Police Department - General Orders



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## I. PURPOSE

This order establishes a procedure by which to commend and recognize Police Officers, civilian employees and citizens who have performed in an outstanding manner and through their actions have distinguished themselves, the Department, and the City of Bowie.

## II. POLICY

The Bowie Police Department shall ensure appropriate recognition of service excellence by Police Officers, civilian employees and citizens through the issuance of commendations and awards as set forth herein.

## III. TYPES OF COMMENDATIONS

### A. Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor is the Department's highest award and is issued to officers who, while attempting to save a life or perform some other gravely important police service, perform heroically under unusually difficult and dangerous conditions. Those Officers who are awarded the Medal of Honor must have done at least one of the following to qualify:

- Perform a courageous act far above and beyond the call of duty;
- No other readily apparent recourse exists for the successful performance of the police task or service;
- Knowingly and voluntarily exposes oneself to danger that is considered so extreme such that the Officer's death or serious injury is a predictable and reasonably expected result;
- Are willing to sacrifice their lives knowing the objective is of sufficient importance to justify the risk.

The Medal of Honor is designated by a Blue and White award bar and medal.

### B. The Distinguished Service Medal

The Distinguished Service Medal is the Department's second highest award and is issued to officers who distinguish themselves while attempting to save a life or perform some other difficult and dangerous task. The Distinguished Service Medal is awarded to those officers who:

- Perform a courageous act far above and beyond the call of duty;
- Find no other readily apparent recourse exists for the successful performance of the police task or service;
- Knowingly and voluntarily exposes oneself to danger that is considered so extreme that the officer's death or serious injury while not expected is still a very high possibility;
- Are willing to sacrifice their lives knowing the objective is of sufficient importance to justify the risk.

The Distinguished Service award is designated by a White and Blue award bar and medal.

**C. Meritorious Service Award**

The Meritorious Service Award is awarded to those sworn members who demonstrate an unusually high level of expertise, resourcefulness, or dedication in the solution of a crime, apprehension of an offender, attempt to save a human life, or other important police service. The member's performance must go beyond what is normally required by the rules and procedures and shall relate to a specific, identifiable case or situation. This award is designated by an White and Green award bar and medal

**D. Police Officer of the Year**

The Chief of Police selects the Police Officer of the Year from among that year's recipients of valor medals. In any year that no valor medal is awarded, the selection may be made from among sworn officers who received other awards or the Chief may elect not to issue the award to preserve the integrity of the awards programs.

The Police Officer of the Year is designated by a Navy Blue and Gold award bar.

**E. Chief's Award**

The Chief's Award is given by the Chief of Police to sworn officers, civilian employees or a private citizen for actions outside of their normal duties that reflect positively on the department and the community. Civilian employees and private citizens will receive a certificate denoting their achievement.

This award is designated by a Red White and Blue award bar.

**F. Injury Citation**

The Injury Citation award is given to sworn members who sustain serious injury or death in the line of duty as a result of:

- A conflict with a dangerous suspect;
- An accident occurring during the direct performance of non-routine duty and not resulting from the officer's negligence;
- Non-fatal serious injury or communicable disease or other serious ailment clearly resulting from the

direct performance of their duties. The seriousness of the injury or illness must be verified and the appropriate medical documentation attached to the nomination form.

The Injury Citation award is designated by a Purple and White award bar and medal;

#### **G. Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice**

The Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice is awarded to the family of any sworn member who dies while in the lawful performance of police duties. This award is intended to recognize the family for their sacrifices over the years in support of their loved ones' chosen profession. The member shall be eligible posthumously for any other awards that may be appropriate.

#### **H. Life Saving Award**

This award is for Officer's who in the course of their duties take direct actions that save a person or persons life. Such action may include:

- Rescuing a victim from drowning or a fire;
- Performing CPR;
- Through direct action preventing a person from committing suicide.

This list is not all inclusive.

The award shall be designated by a Red and White award bar.

#### **I. Service Ribbon**

The Service Ribbon is awarded in five year increments beginning with the completion of five years of continuous service from the date of hire.

### **IV. Nominations.**

A police officer, civilian employee or the City Manager may nominate any employee for a Departmental Award. Employees may be nominated for multiple awards on one nomination form. The nominating individual must attach a detailed description of the incident for which the nominee was involved. This may include incident reports, witness statements or other forms of written documentation. The completed Nomination Form shall be submitted through the chain of command to the Chief of Police.

### **V. Review Process**

The Chief of Police shall make a final decision based on submitted documentation, reports or statements. The final decision to award a commendation is at the full and total discretion of the Chief of Police.

## **VI. Order of Distinction.**

The Departmental awards described in this order to be worn or displayed by officers shall be assigned the following order of importance or distinction:

- (1) Medal of Honor
- (2) Distinguished Service Medal
- (3) Meritorious Service Award
- (4) Police Officer of the Year
- (5) Injury Citation
- (6) Chief's Award
- (7) Life Saving Award
- (8) Service Ribbon