I. PURPOSE

As a senior Officer, the Corporal is expected to perform all duties required of every police officer. As the link between officers and the Sergeant, the Corporal assists with and is concerned with the achievement of the police purpose. The Corporal, having regular direct contact with the officers, performs a dual role: technical, having to do with the proper methods of performing the basic police functions, and interpersonal, having to do with the human relations involved in directing the work of others.

Good self-discipline is a character trait that causes an officer to adhere to high standards of work and behavior on a voluntary basis. Officers are expected to develop and apply good work habits and to conform their conduct to the Department’s rules, regulations and statements of policy. The senior officer establishes these work habits through the climate of supervision and personal example.

II. POLICY

It should be noted that the position description reflects illustrative examples of work performed. It is descriptive, not limiting, and is not intended to describe all the work performed. The grade of Corporal is subordinate to the Sergeant. Master Police Officers who have a minimum of two (2) years experience with the City of Bowie Police Department, and maintained a satisfactory performance rating or better will be eligible for promotion to the grade of Corporal. Refer to General Order 319 for the Promotional process.

A. Nature of Work

Assist in supervision or perform responsible administrative staff duties. Supervision may be exercised over the ranks of MPO, Police Officer First Class and Police Officer. Corporals may work independently in performing regularly assigned duties under the general orders of a Police Sergeant or other higher ranking supervisor. Corporals may be called on to assume complete charge in the absence of a higher ranking officer.
The responsibilities of the position require the use of seasoned judgment when in the command of subordinates under normal and emergency circumstances. Work is performed with considerable independence and in accordance with applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations, under the general supervision of the Sergeant. Work is reviewed through observation, discussions, and reports for results obtained.

B. Examples of Work

1. Inspects the appearance of subordinate officers and personnel; relays and explains special orders and information; conducts routine patrol and provides back-up to officers as necessary; checks employee performance in the field; gives guidance to employees when necessary.

2. Performs and assists in the apprehension and arrest of law violators; questions suspects and interviews witnesses; makes court appearances and testifies as appropriate.

3. Reviews reports of subordinates and prepares reports for the Chief and, when directed by the Chief or other officer of higher rank, for the City Council, City administration and other government agencies; responds to and takes command of major incidents or emergencies until relieved by higher authority.

4. Supervises and participates in investigations; reviews reports and makes investigative assignments as appropriate; provides guidance and assistance relative to the conduct of investigations and preparation of cases for prosecution; reviews and approves written reports and case materials.

5. Serves as a training officer; patrols with recruits and instructs officers on police procedures; evaluates officers and communications personnel during the probationary period.

6. Performs patrol and other related work as required.

C. Desirable Education and Experience

Graduation from high school and considerable experience in law enforcement work; or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the following knowledge, abilities, and skills:

1. Considerable knowledge of modern police practices and methods;

2. Considerable knowledge of department procedures, rules, and regulations;

3. Considerable knowledge of applicable federal, state, and local laws and ordinances, including laws of arrest;

4. Considerable knowledge of the street layout and geography of the City of Bowie;

5. Knowledge of the principles and methods of organization, management, and supervision;

6. Ability to assign, supervise, review, and evaluate the work of subordinates;
7. Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing;

8. Ability to analyze situations quickly and objectively and to determine proper courses of action;

9. Ability to maintain records and prepare reports;

10. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with others;

11. Ability to meet such physical requirements as may be established by competent authority;

12. Skill in the use of firearms and such other regular and special police equipment as may be assigned.

13. Knowledge of police communications and regulations