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Police release audits on Detention Unit, workers' comp, specialty pay

The Internal Audit Unit released three audits this week focusing on the operations of the Detention Unit, the annual worker's compensation review and whether specialty pay is properly administered.

The Board of Police Commissioners' Audit Committee reviewed the audits' findings Sept. 24. The full audits are available on KCPD's web site (http://www.kcmo.org/police/AboutUs/Audit/index.htm).

Internal auditors found that total bookings in the Detention Unit have decreased from a high of 36,403 in 2006 to 20,750 in 2012. Despite this, overtime usage increased. The Detention Unit commander said this was because of reduced staffing levels. The audit also found that having a nurse at the jail decreased the need for inmates to be transported to hospitals. Auditors studied two 90-day periods – one with a nurse on staff, and one without. With no nurse, 145 people were taken to hospitals. With the nurse, only 36 were transported. This has resulted in substantial savings to the City and police department.

An audit of KCPD's workers' compensation data found expenses decreased from fiscal year 2012 to 2013 by more than $215,000. The greatest number of injuries occurred during arrests, followed by vehicle crashes. As in previous years, hands were the body parts most often injured during arrest, but knee injuries comprised the greatest number of workers' compensation claims overall.

The Specialty Pay Audit examined processes related to shift differentials, skill pay (for employees who are bilingual, field training officers and/or officers who are assigned to some specialty units) and college incentive pay. The audit found the processes are efficient and well documented in policy.

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