

2024

Pursuit Analysis

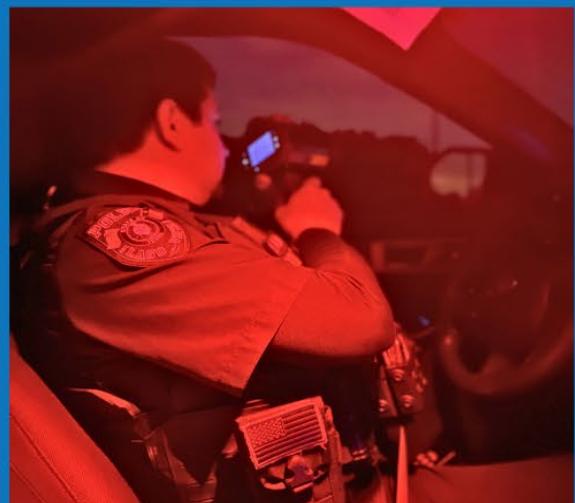


**Lago Vista
Police Department**



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This analysis of the 2024 Lago Vista Police Department's Vehicle Pursuits was conducted in compliance with the Texas Police Chief's Association Best Practices Accreditation Program Best Practice 7.14. This review analyzes data from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.

Vehicle pursuits are inherently dangerous for both the officers involved and the public. The Lago Vista Police Department is committed to providing effective and efficient police services while minimizing adverse impacts on our citizens. We prioritize the protection of our community and strive to ensure that our methods do not put the public at greater risk. To achieve this, we continuously evaluate the risks and benefits of our actions. Each year, we conduct a thorough analysis to comply with Texas Law Enforcement Best Practice 7.14 and to identify ways to reduce the number of vehicle pursuits and the associated risks.

There were no reported pursuits in 2024. The department provides officers with training on pursuit tactics and emergency driving. We found no need for additional training or minor updates to the existing pursuit policy. Our accreditation and review process offers multiple opportunities for assessing and updating policies and procedures when necessary.

The Lago Vista Police Department is committed to protecting citizens while carefully considering the potential risks associated with our actions and decisions, including the choice not to take action. This balance requires ongoing risk-benefit analysis, both during incidents and when reviewing situations in which a vehicle has evaded police, regardless of whether our officers were involved in a pursuit.

As part of our department's commitment to excellence and transparency, we have added the Lago Vista Police Department's Pursuit Policy manual to our website.

VEHICLE PURSUIT POLICY

In November 2022, the Department revised its pursuit policy to align with established law enforcement best practices.

According to the Texas Law Enforcement Best Practice 7.13 and the Lago Vista Police Department's General Policies 7.13, 7.14, 7.18, and 7.19, a written report must be completed whenever an officer engages in a vehicle pursuit.

When an officer initiates a pursuit, department policy mandates that the dispatch center must immediately notify a supervisor. The supervisor is responsible for monitoring the pursuit and acting as an impartial decision-maker regarding its safety. Both the officer and the supervisor must continuously assess the pursuit as it unfolds and have the authority to terminate it if they determine that the risks to the officer or the public outweigh the necessity of quickly apprehending the suspect.

Each Pursuit Report is reviewed immediately by the officer's supervisor and through the chain of command up to the Chief of Police. During the review of the incident, the appropriateness of the pursuit is evaluated to ensure it aligns with Department Policy. If an officer initiates a pursuit inappropriately, a departmental investigation will be conducted. Depending on the findings, the officer may receive additional training or face disciplinary action, which could include termination of employment.

The purpose of this annual analysis is not to determine whether an officer acted inappropriately but to identify department-wide trends that may indicate a need for changes in policy, training, equipment, or supervision.

CONCLUSION

Vehicle pursuits are rare but high-liability incidents that require careful examination to minimize future legal exposure. In 2024, the Lago Vista Police Department responded to 19,195 citizen-initiated calls for service and conducted 5,065 traffic stops. Notably, none of these encounters resulted in vehicle pursuits. Furthermore, no situations were identified where officers would have engaged in a pursuit if our policy had permitted it.

After completing the 2023 Vehicle Pursuit Analysis, a recommendation was made to maintain the vehicle pursuit policy established in 2022.



Gary A. Boshears, M. P. A., LCC
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