



Locust Police Department  
186 Ray Kennedy Drive  
Locust, NC 28097

Chief F.L. Hartsell

## **2017 DEPARTMENT AND OFFICER ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **TRAINING**

- Locust officers completed 971 hours of training including both mandated training and specialized training.
- Locust Officer Trent Middlebrook finished all requirements to be certified as a DRE (Drug Recognition Expert) and awaits final testing for certification. This certification identifies an officer essentially as a premier DWI investigator and as an expert witness in court. Upon completion, he will be just the second certified DRE in Stanly County and the only municipal or county officer with that distinction.
- Locust Officer Middlebrook after also becoming certified as an instructor in roadside Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) in 2016, coordinated and instructed multiple week-long SFST training classes in 2017.
- Locust Officer Kevin O'Connor and Detective Jeff Shew completed certification as general instructors through the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission allowing instruction of most law enforcement training and education blocks. Detective Shew began instructing some mandated in-service training blocks for the Locust Police Department and both officers began instructing training blocks in Stanly Community College's Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program. O'Connor and Shew join Chief Frank Hartsell as certified general instructors in the Locust Police Department with Chief Hartsell also holding a specialized firearms instructor certification.



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### EDUCATION

- Detective Jeff Shew completed his Bachelor of Science in criminal justice degree from Western Carolina University. Detective Shew finished his degree with a 3.971 grade point average earning summa cum laude honors and inclusion into the Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society for Adult Learners. With completion of his degree, Detective Shew is now eligible for his Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate through the NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission in 2018.
- Detective Shew was also a graduate of the 2017 Leadership Stanly program.

### AWARDS

- Locust Officer Trent Middlebrook was named Stanly County Officer of the Year for the second straight year by the Officer Jeff Shelton Foundation. Locust Officer Dwayne Dietz was also nominated for the award.
- Locust Officer Dustin Wells was awarded the officer-nominated "Got Your Six" award by the Officer Jeff Shelton Foundation.
- Locust Officers Middlebrook, Kevin O'Connor, Brittany Tucker, and Detective Jeff Shew were all finalist nominees for the community-nominated "Everyday Hero" award by the Officer Jeff Shelton Foundation.



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### COMMUNITY SERVICE

- For the third straight year the Locust Police Department, and specifically Locust Officers Brittany Tucker and Kevin O'Connor coordinated and hosted the "Shop with a Cop" program for underprivileged children. Multiple Locust officers also participated in the event.
- The Locust Police Department participated in the donation of boxes for Operation Christmas Child.
- Locust officers participated in the "Big Serve" community service project week which included an extensive landscaping and beautification project at the Officer Jeff Shelton Memorial Park. Locust officers also served meals throughout the year at the Community Inn homeless shelter in Albemarle.
- The Locust Police Department coordinated with, and supported a West Stanly High School student in establishing a safe "Online Exchange Zone" at the Locust Government Center.
- The Locust Police Department pledged their support to area leaders in the establishment of the "Project First-Step" program for drug users looking for help with addiction.
- Locust officers participated in "Mustachember" growing mustaches and collecting donations to support a Mt. Pleasant four-year-old known as "Warrior Jace" who is battling a rare brain tumor.