



## **FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT GETS PURSUIT TERMINATION DEVICES**

One of the most dangerous issues that law enforcement must deal with is that of the vehicle pursuit. According to safer-america.com, the data we have available shows that between 1979 and 2017 some 13,100 people were killed in police pursuits. This number includes suspects, innocent bystanders (pedestrians and other drivers), as well as police officers. Per year, that number averages out to 336 deaths per year. According to the National Highway and Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA), during that timeframe, innocent bystander deaths totaled more than 2,700.

At the Lake Tansi Police Department, we have adopted a very restrictive pursuit policy in an effort to keep the community safe. This means that we will only engage in an extended police pursuit of a fleeing vehicle in the case of a violent felony. But under a mutual aid agreement with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department, we have been called on to assist them when they have engaged in a pursuit that comes into Tansi. We here at the Lake Tansi Police Department are always actively trying to be prepared to keep the people of our community safe. To this end, through funds raised by the Lake Tansi Security Committee we are acquiring devices for each patrol vehicle used to safely end a vehicle pursuit. The devices are called stop sticks. They consist of sections of plastic devices that contain spikes that deflate the tires of the fleeing vehicle in a controlled manner. This significantly lowers the speed and length of the pursuit making the situation a lot less dangerous for everyone involved.

When the devices are delivered, each officer will be trained in the use and deployment of the equipment, and they will be in each patrol vehicle. These devices add to our ability to perform our duties as law enforcement in a safer way which enables us to better serve our community.

Anthony Brown, Chief of Police