In 2011 the Joplin Police Department's five school resource officers continued serving the staff and more than 7,000 students of the Joplin R-VIII School District. The school resource officers are integrated into the school environment, offering them the ability to be attentive to needs in a timely manner. In addition, officers have built partnerships with staff and students aiding them in the ability to be more proactive.

This year brought with it a challenge after the May 22nd tornado. Due to damage sustained to Joplin High School, the student body was relocated to two alternate locations. Officer Victor Sly served at the Joplin High School 11/12 campus at the North Park Mall while Officer Jason Barchack, a new addition to the team, served the 9/10 campus at the old Memorial building. Officers Rick Hirshey, James Kelly, and Jared Delzell continued dual roles as resource officers at the three middle schools, one of which was also relocated after the tornado, and Rise Above instructors at the elementary level.