The traffic team is overseen by the Special Enforcement Bureau lieutenant and sergeant, and directly supervised by a corporal. For most of 2011, the traffic team operated less two officers due to military obligations when these two officers were deployed by the United States Army.

In 2011, the Joplin Police Department responded to and investigated 1,977 crashes, which is an 11% reduction from 2010. Of those 1,977 crashes, the traffic team investigated 72% of these. This is the first time in over 25 years that the annual crash total has been below 2,000. Additionally, we saw a 41% reduction in injury crashes. Unfortunately, the City of Joplin had three fatality crashes during 2011, two of which occurred on Interstate 44 and one on North Main, between Zora and Murphy Blvd.

The horrific tornado that devastated the city on May 22nd destroyed numerous traffic control devices and also caused a huge influx of vehicles in the City of Joplin, necessitating even greater attention to traffic enforcement than under ordinary circumstances.

The traffic team was also mostly responsible for the majority of law enforcement presence at the Joplin Regional Airport for the commercial flights in and out of the City of Joplin, a task now shared with patrol. The team also dedicates time and resources to investigating all leaving the scene crashes, developing crash reduction plans, addressing traffic complaints, and patrolling and providing traffic control for events such as Boomtown Days, the Boomtown Days Half Marathon, the Mother Road Marathon, and other parades. The traffic team is also an active participant with Missouri Department of Transportation Coalition for Roadway Safety, which is a statewide committee to reduce the number of fatal crashes on Missouri roadways.