



LA CROSSE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
LEAD. PARTNER. PROTECT.

ANNUAL REPORT



2022



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission, Vision, Values	5
Chief's Message	6
Administrative Overview	8
Operating Budget	10
Overtime Usage	11
Organizational Chart	12
Personnel Changes	14
Anniversaries	15
Retirements	16
Awards	17
Special Recognition	18

Professional Standards/ Community Services Bureau	19
Public Information and Social Media	20
D.A.R.E and G.R.E.A.T Programming	21
School Resource Officer Program	22
Community Resource Unit	23
National Night Out	24
K-9 Therapy Program	25
Field Services Bureau	26
Field Services Statistics	28
Crime Statistics	30
Traffic Statistics	32
Administrative Services Bureau	34
Records / Property and Evidence Division	35
Training Division	36
Police Parking Utility	38

Investigative Services Bureau	41
Major Cases	43
Special Teams	45
Neighborhood Resource Unit	45
K-9 Unit	49
Emergency Response Team	51
Water Patrol	52
Bicycle Patrol	53
Honor Guard	53
Police Reserve Unit	54
Police Explorer Post	55
La Crosse Area Law Enforcement Chaplaincy	56
WILEAG	57
Law Enforcement Oath of Honor	58

MISSION

The **La Crosse Police Department** is committed to being leaders in providing a **safe and vibrant** community.

VISION

Our vision is to **eliminate crime** through community engagement.

VALUES

The following values guide our attempt to achieve our mission and values.

- Employee Safety & Wellness
- Integrity
- Accountability
- Communication
- Respect
- Transparency
- Dedication
- Professionalism
- Community Policing

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Mayor Mitch Reynolds, Common Council Members, and citizens of the City of La Crosse, I am pleased to present the 2022 La Crosse Police Department Annual Report. As we look back on 2022, it was a year of accomplishment for the La Crosse Police Department. We strengthened our commitment to engaging our community and building relationships with those we serve, helping our Department achieve our mission of being leaders in providing a safe and vibrant community. I am grateful for our community support and pleased to present the following accomplishments over the past year:

- Connect and Protect Grant Awarded - The Community Resource Unit (CRU) expands by adding another Co-Responder Unit in partnership with La Crosse County Crisis. Side by side, an Officer and a crisis staff will respond to consumers in crisis, conduct follow-ups and help fill the gaps for people in need. CRU has connected over 1800 times with consumers in need since its inception in July 2021.
- Police Department Remodel - The Police Department is committed to providing a better police department to serve the community along with the men and women of the department. The construction includes a female locker room being relocated within the police department, an updated training room, police lobby and wellness area for Officers.
- Domestic Abuse Reduction Team (DART) Grant Renewed - In partnership with New Horizons, this renewed grant will continue our partnership to support and assist community members who may be experiencing domestic abuse.
- Addition of K-9 Cheddar - K-9 Cheddar, a therapy dog, is working side by side with School Resource Officer Ryan Ledvina, and other Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau staff, assisting community members in need.
- Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Awarded - This grant is in partnership with the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Wisconsin and is aimed at helping to remove guns from the community and to hold offenders responsible. These cases will be charged in the Federal Criminal Justice System.



Shawn P. Kudron
Chief of Police

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

- Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Awarded - This grant supports the purchase of Tasers to support staff and replace outdated tasers.
- Crisis Intervention Partners (CIP) - For the first time, this training was conducted in partnership with La Crosse County Crisis and La Crosse County Sheriff's Department. This training allowed partners in the community to collaborate, train and enhance their skills to assist consumers in crisis. With the success of this first training, plans for another CIP training are taking place for 2023.
- LCPD Staff Changes - LCPD hired 7 Officers, 14 professional staff, promoted 6 sworn staff, and wished 9 staff congratulations on retirement in 2022. We continue to recruit and offer an application process quarterly. LCPD is committed to hiring the best men and women to serve and work with the La Crosse Community.
- 2022 Top Cop - The La Crosse County District Attorney's Office honored Neighborhood Resource Officer Nathan Lewis with the 2022 Top Cop Award. This was presented to Officer Lewis for his dedication and hard work when assisting members of the community and holding offenders accountable.
- Wisconsin Narcotics Officers' Association (WNOA) Award - WNOA honored the La Crosse Police Department with an award for 2022 Investigation of the Year. This award was presented to Detective Sergeant Tom Hanson and Investigators Andy Tolvstad and Jim Mancuso in recognition of dedicated service to the citizens of Wisconsin by coordinating successful high-level narcotics investigations.

We want to thank the community for their support, partnerships, and collaborations along with the men and women within the Police Department, both professional and sworn staff. As we look to 2023, we will continue to work together for opportunities to serve our community. We are stronger together.

ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW

The Office of the Assistant Chief assists the Chief of Police in the administration of daily Department operations. The Assistant Chief provides oversight for the four bureaus within the agency and coordinates Department goals and missions with the four bureau directors.

The Assistant Chief provides budget planning and oversight, oversees agency equipment purchasing, negotiates contracts with outside entities, works to protect the Department's and City's interests in claims and liabilities, coordinates the hiring process, and oversees the disciplinary system to ensure agency integrity. The Assistant Chief also provides oversight and direction of the Police Parking Utility and works closely with the Parking Utility Coordinator to ensure the City's parking facilities are safe, clean, and operational.

The year 2022 carried over some of the same challenges of 2021; one of which was employee turnover. In 2022 we had 21 staff either retire or move on from the agency, hired 21 to fill in those vacancies, and coordinated 18 promotions or moves within the Department. The Assistant Chief coordinates closely with our Human Resources Department to arrange hiring processes, recruitment efforts, employee on-boarding and vacancy requisitions.

In November of 2022, the demolition began for the complete remodel of the Department's first floor. Once complete, the remodel will continue with the addition of a locker room and reorganization of space in the Department's basement. This remodel will address several equity, space, and security needs for the agency and will be the largest remodel project taken on by the agency in decades. The Office of the Assistant Chief is the project coordinator for the agency. The Assistant Chief is coordinating with other City staff to ensure seamless transitions and coordinated project planning.



Jason Melby
Assistant Chief

ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW

Additionally, 2022 threw the Police Department a “curve ball” with the unexpected development of an animal control program to be housed with the Police Department. Midway through 2022, the Police Department was approached by the Mayor’s Office to discuss the elevated costs of using the Coulee Region Humane Society for animal control within the City. As we proceeded through the year, it was determined that it would be much more cost effective to have the Police Department take over animal control rather than engaging in another contract with the Humane Society. Ultimately, the Office of the Assistant Chief spearheaded the research, planning, and development of an internally-run animal control program. By December of 2022 the Police Department had recruited an animal control technician, acquired all needed equipment, developed procedures, and trained staff for a January 2023 launch. The move to an internally run animal control program is slated to save City tax payers significantly over the years to come.

As we look forward to 2023, we welcome the completion of our remodel, anticipate welcoming new employees, and embrace the challenge of deploying our animal control program.

ANNUAL APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET

	2022	2021	2020
Salaries	\$7,990,461.00	\$7,652,982.00	\$7,495,551.00
Overtime	\$260,000.00	\$260,000.00	\$260,000.00
Benefits	\$3,095,095.00	\$2,945,297.00	\$3,110,461.00
Operating	\$963,813.00	\$786,821.00	\$850,821.00
Total	\$12,309,369.00	\$11,645,100.00	\$11,716,833.00

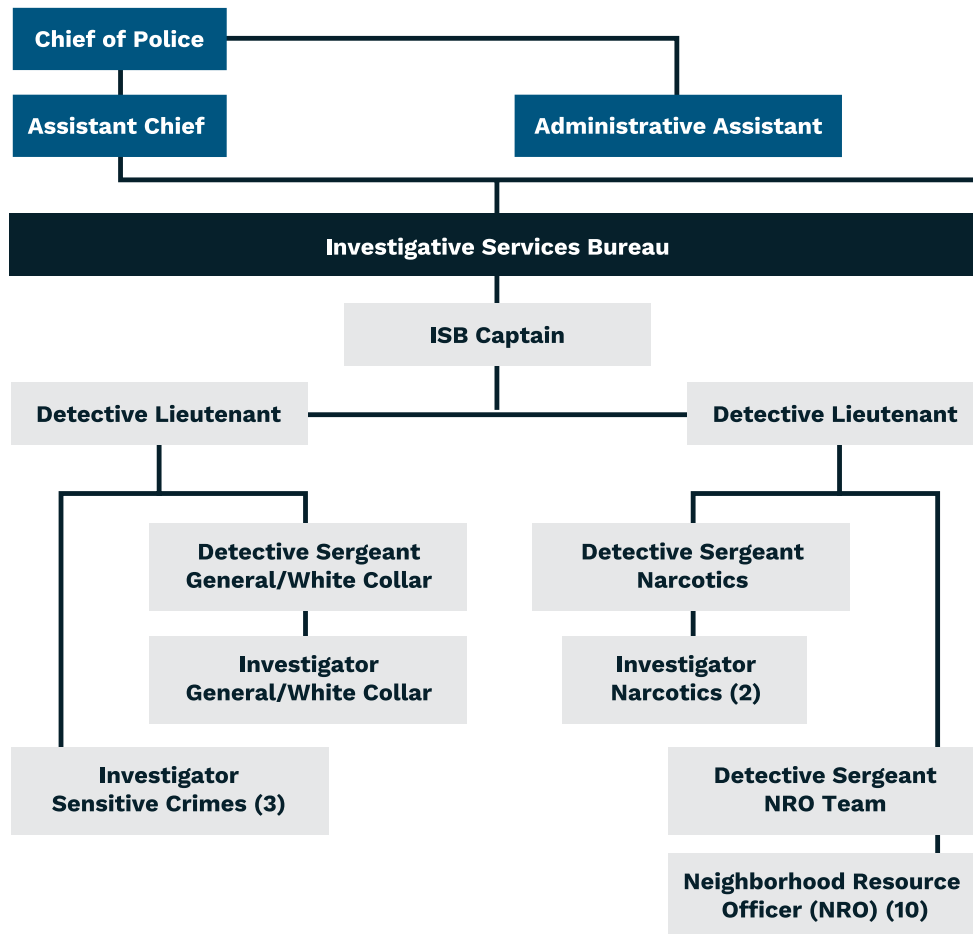
2022 OVERTIME USAGE

In 2022, the La Crosse Police Department used \$359,609.66 in overtime. Officers also earned overtime pay through grant funding or security services for private events.

Type of Overtime	2022 Total \$
SRO OT @1.5	\$1,008.85
Late Call @1.5	\$1,012.26
24-hour Court Cancellation	\$1,416.04
Straight @1.0	\$1,591.94
Training @1.0	\$3,218.81
ERT Call-out	\$4,031.99
Oktoberfest @1.5	\$4,946.12
Parades/Festivals	\$6,204.39
FTO Pay	\$11,070.21
Court Cancellation	\$13,141.89
ERT Training	\$13,696.27
Canine Training	\$14,050.30
Training @1.5	\$15,425.06
Homicide Investigations	\$15,512.30
Staff Shortage	\$19,746.15
Court	\$20,131.83
Drug Investigations	\$22,039.68
Meetings	\$23,858.44
Reports/Arrests	\$23,865.65
Oktoberfest @1.0	\$29,050.23
OT @1.5	\$42,113.28
Octoberfest @2.0	\$72,477.97
Total	\$359,609.66

2022

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Civilian - Police

Records Supervisor	1
Crime Analyst	1
Property & Evidence Technician	1
Animal Control Technician	1
Clerical	6

Total Civilian - PD 10

Civilian - Parking Utility

Parking Utility Coordinator	1
Parking Utility Maintenance	3
Civilian Service Employee	15
Clerical	3

Total Civilian - PU 22

Sworn Personnel

Chief of Police	1
Assistant Chief	1
Police Captains	4
Police Lieutenants	5
Police Sergeants	13
Police Investigators	7
Police Officers	69

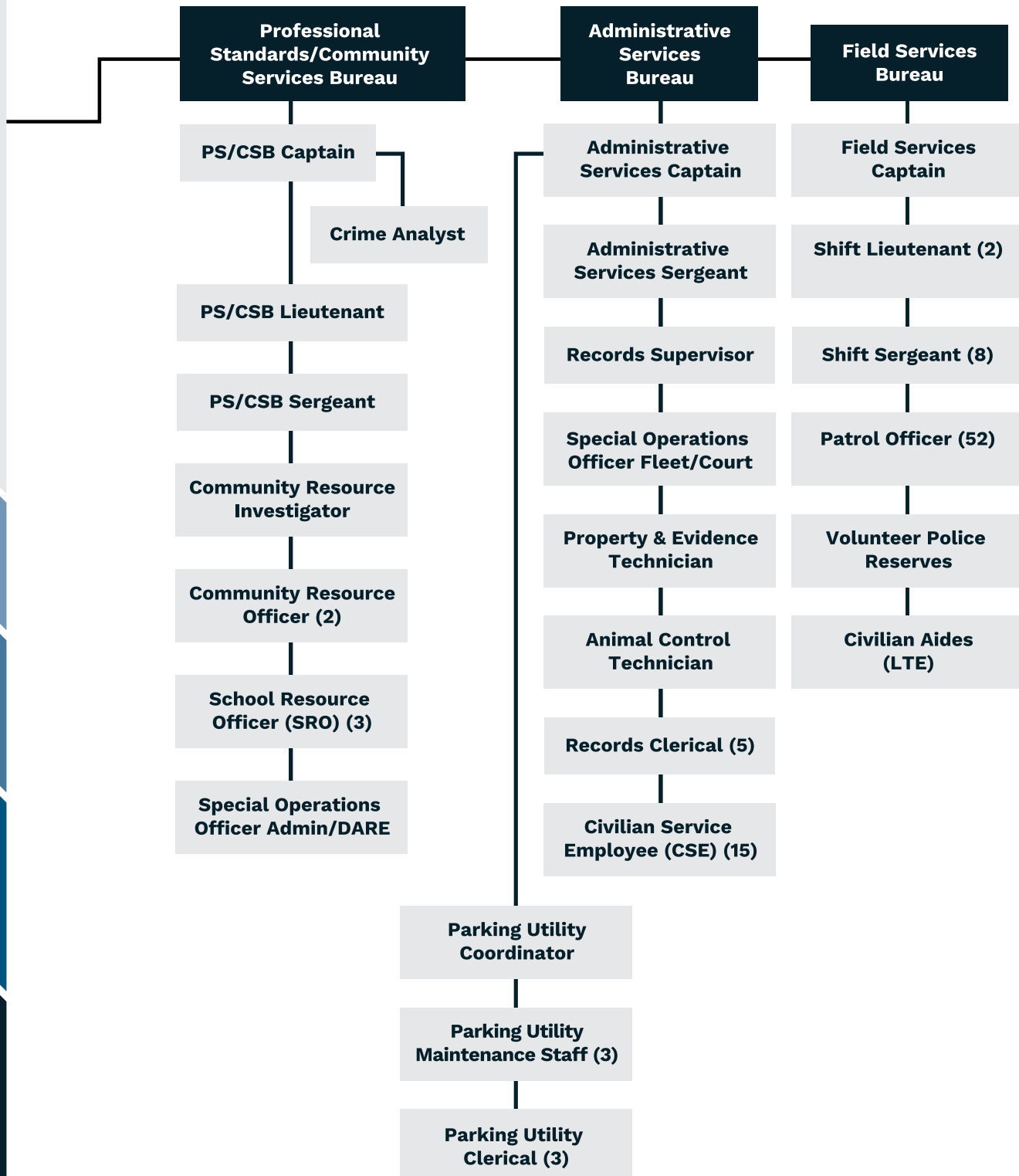
Total Sworn 100

Total Civilians 32

Total Staff 132

2022

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



PERSONNEL CHANGES

In 2022, the La Crosse Police Department saw quite a bit of movement throughout the department, both for the sworn and civilian employees.

Promotions and Appointments

Cody Plenge	Sergeant	January 21, 2022
Danny Mandujano	Sergeant	January 21, 2022
Joe Pederson	Parking Utility Coordinator	January 21, 2022
Thomas Schran	Parking Utility Building Maintenance Engineer	January 21, 2022
Ethan Purkapile	Sergeant	August 19, 2022
Dominick Jacobs	Investigator	October 28, 2022
Whitney Hughes	Sergeant	October 28, 2022
Stephen Curns	Lieutenant	October 28, 2022

New Hires

Ian Brown	Civilian Service Employee	January 4, 2022
Alexander Peterson	Police Officer	January 31, 2022
Riley Carroll	Police Officer	January 31, 2022
Abee Yasiin	Civilian Service Employee	March 14, 2022
Kevin Johnson	Parking Utility Maintenance	April 25, 2022
Tracy Rudi	Civilian Service Employee	May 16, 2022
Aidan Hutfless	Civilian Service Employee	May 17, 2022
Michael Abraham	Police Officer	June 2, 2022
Jeremiah Boardman	Police Officer	June 2, 2022
Jace Morris	Police Officer	June 2, 2022
Mitch Komay	Police Officer	June 2, 2022
Ethan Heiman	Civilian Service Employee	July 11, 2022
Nikolaus Bahr	Records Specialist	July 11, 2022
Janet Gyllander	Clerk Typist	July 22, 2022
Matthew Burnett	Civilian Service Employee	August 15, 2022
Guerra Peterson	Records Specialist	September 19, 2022
Garrett Withers	Civilian Service Employee	September 21, 2022
Evan Armour	Police Officer	October 10, 2022
Cody Wagner	Civilian Service Employee	October 12, 2022

ANNIVERSARIES



Scott Harmel
30 Years of Service
February 10, 2022



Todd Fischer
30 Years of Service
March 25, 2022



Alan Hagen
30 Years of Service
May 7, 2022



Grant Gyllander
25 Years of Service
November 19, 2022

RETIREMENTS



Alan Hagen
Officer
30 Years of Service
Retired May 7, 2022



Bradley Stoner
Officer
31+ Years of Service
Retired September 1, 2022



Diane Nickelatti
Clerk Typist
5+ years of service
Retired June 1, 2022



Heath Graves
Officer
31+ Years of Service
Retired June 29, 2022



Jason Mahairas
Sergeant
31+ Years of Service
Retired January 7, 2022



Kim Mitchell
Records Specialist
8+ Years of Service
Retired July 1, 2022



Kirk Flatten
Sergeant
25+ Years of Service
Retired August 3, 2022



Kurt Weaver
Officer
26+ Years of Service
Retired August 5, 2022



Scott Harmel
Officer
30+ Years of Service
Retired October 31, 2022

AWARDS



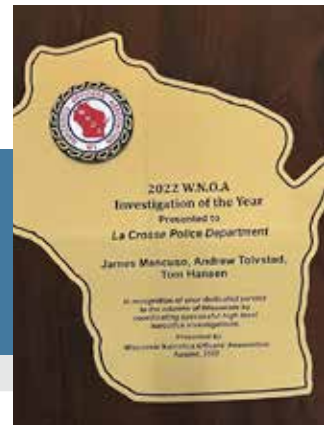
Sergeant Whitney Hughes was presented with the Wisconsin State Patrol Academy Instructor Recognition for the 67th Recruit Class.

Officer Trenton Bowe received the North La Crosse Business Association (NLBA) "Certificate of Appreciation."



Officer Nathan Lewis received the La Crosse County District Attorney's "Top Cop" Award.

Sergeant Thomas Hanson, Investigator James Mancuso, and Investigator Andrew Tolvstad were presented with the Wisconsin Narcotics Officers' Association (WNOA) "Investigation of the Year" award.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Captain Phillip Martin graduated from the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Command College.

Lieutenant Jon Wenger graduated from the Northwestern School of Police Staff & Command.



Officer Jovanna Nedland graduated from the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Officer Training course.

Sergeants Cody Plenge, Whitney Hughes, Danny Mandujano, and Ethan Purkapile graduated from the Leadership in Police Organizations program.



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS/ COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU

The primary responsibility of the Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau (PS/CSB) is public information and education, media relations, crime analytics, community crime prevention, school safety programming, community engagement and collaborations involving crisis and mental health concerns. Additional responsibilities include, but are not limited to: WILEAG Accreditation, recruitment and retention, policy review and development, nuisance property abatement, and internal investigations.

Additionally, the PS/CSB coordinates the internship program, Neighborhood Watch, National Night Out, La Crosse Area Crime Stoppers program and the administration of the Police Department's grants. These grants are alternative sources of funds, which are vital in maintaining the level of police service being provided, despite diminishing budgets.

This is our 4th year of having a Crime Analyst position. This is a position that has proven to be an asset for the department and the community. The goal of this position is to assist the department by analyzing data for investigations, creating informational bulletins, crime mapping and providing weekly/monthly updates. These are just a few of the projects the Crime Analyst provided in 2022.

The Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau will continue to engage with the community to provide quality, community-based prevention programming designed to prevent crime.



Avrie Schott
Captain



PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently LCPD has a presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube, as well as a News function on our website. Each of these platforms is used for different purposes: the News is mainly used for news releases of major incidents with in-depth details; Facebook is used for sharing News posts, general information about LCPD, and funny or interesting Police work; Twitter and Instagram are used for real time information like traffic issues, community reminders, photos of our Officers in the community, and other engagements.

Often, we will share the same information across all of these formats to maximize the number of people we reach. Currently our Facebook Page has 27,249 followers, Twitter has 6,297 followers, and Instagram has 2,124 followers. They all continue to grow each day. We can be found on each social media platform with the handle @lacrossepolice.

In 2022, the Bureau's focus on messaging to the community continued to be engagement, education, and how we can be stronger together. The Police Department's social media platforms are the best way to disseminate information to our large following. Regular updates on calls for services, weekly highlights on engagement and interactions with the community, along with general messaging on prevention were provided to the community.



D.A.R.E. AND G.R.E.A.T. PROGRAMMING

The PS/CSB oversees in-school preventative programming for Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) and Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) for La Crosse elementary and middle schools. The 5th grade D.A.R.E. curriculum was taught in 9 schools and reached over 400 students. The G.R.E.A.T. program was taught in both the 4th and 6th grades in La Crosse. In 2022, Officer Weaver taught the 4th grade curriculum in 9 schools, and Officer Nedland taught the 6th grade curriculum. These programs are self-funded through generous community donations, and besides curricula materials, t-shirts, books, pencils, and other items were able to be purchased for students.

Staff from PS/CSB interact with various summer programs during the summer months. In 2022, staff collaborated with various programs including P.L.A.Y. (Participating in the Lives of Area Youth) through the Boys and Girls Club, connect with students at the Y.M.C.A., Parks and Rec Summer Programs, The Good Fight Club, and other programs in the La Crosse Area. Another summer program staff have connected with youth over the years is Camp Send A Kid. This is a highlight for many youth. In 2022, C.S.A.K. hosted 54 children at Camp Decorah.



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

The La Crosse Police Department School Resource Officer (SRO) program is a significant program under the direction of the PS/SCB. The SRO Program has been a 29-year partnership with our local schools. In 2021, La Crosse Police Administration and School District Administration revamped the SRO program, at the request of the School Board, by reducing the program from 5 SROs to 3 SROs. Currently, the three SROs are assigned to cover all schools within the City of La Crosse and are assigned by the geographic regions – North, Middle, and South La Crosse. Our SROs also administer public safety and crime prevention lessons to our children and staff in all schools, often tailoring instruction to meet the needs of the specific school and students.

As 2023 begins, we continue to work closely with the School District to ensure the safety of our schools, staff, and students.



COMMUNITY RESOURCE UNIT

In 2022, the La Crosse Police Department Community Resource Unit (CRU) continued work within our community. The CRU includes an Investigator and Officer and is a “hybrid” community policing unit that works with community members who are experiencing mental health crisis to better serve those in need. The unit works closely with Field Services, Investigative Services, County Health and Human Services, schools, as well as our other community partners to address the unique needs of individuals experiencing mental health crisis. They work to communicate safety plans, collaborate follow-up contacts to serve individuals and provide the necessary resources developing proactive interventions. Part of this unit is the Co-Responder program.

The Co-Responder program is a partnership with La Crosse County and allows for the CRU Officer and a County Crisis Responder to ride together and “Co-Respond” to calls and follow-ups involving community members experiencing a mental health crisis. In late 2022, we were awarded the Connect and Protect Grant which will allow us to expand our Co-Response Unit adding an additional CRU Officer and Co-responder team. We look forward to rolling this out in 2023.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

In 2022, we were able to celebrate the 39th year of National Night Out (NNO) with 12 Neighborhood parties. This year, one highlight was a parade for neighborhood kids.

Traditionally, NNO involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations, and local officials from over 16,000 communities, from all 50 states, U.S. Territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide coming together to make communities safer and more caring places to live. NNO helps to generate support for, and participate in, local anti-crime partnerships; heighten crime and drug-prevention awareness; strengthen neighborhood spirit and Police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals to let them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. NNO allows for the community to send the message we are stronger together.



K-9 THERAPY PROGRAM

The La Crosse Police Department continues to look for new and innovative programs and services to improve and serve the La Crosse Community. In November 2022, we welcomed a new K-9 Therapy dog, Cheddar!

We began by researching K-9 Therapy programs, and through our connections with law enforcement agencies who already had a therapy K-9, we were introduced to Blueberry Cottage Labradoodles located in Western Wisconsin. They work with many police departments to place therapy dogs with law enforcement for the purpose of serving the community. Through the course of conversations, they offered to donate Cheddar to the department, and we are so grateful for their partnership! Cheddar's vet needs are graciously donated by Thompson Animal Medical Center and his training by Family Dog Center.

While Cheddar is assigned with School Resource Officer Ryan Ledvina and lives with him off-duty, the La Crosse Police Department's K-9 Therapy Program models a "team" approach. This concept has one handler for a "home base" but other identified department members are a part of the K-9 team being able to partner with Cheddar on a daily basis to make connections in the community.

We learned quickly how Cheddar was able to provide security, companionship, happiness, and love. He has been able to assist as an icebreaker, enabling people to feel more comfortable interacting with law enforcement. Cheddar has met many students, community members and made "Cheddar Visits" to area organizations as well. He is well known on social media for his "Check in with Cheddar" (#CheckinwithCheddar). Being able to provide a K-9 Therapy program to our community provides another layer of support and service to the community.

FIELD SERVICES BUREAU

The Field Services Bureau (FSB) of the La Crosse Police Department is comprised of uniformed Police Officers and supervisors who are dedicated to providing a safe and vibrant community. Our primary purpose is the protection of life and liberty, order maintenance, and the personal security of our citizens and their property. We are committed to consistent enforcement, community policing, problem solving, restorative justice and continuing to build partnerships with our community.

Officers within the Field Services Bureau conduct day-to-day, street-level operations in uniform and respond to emergencies, alarms, reports of criminal activity, calls for service, traffic crashes, and conduct traffic enforcement. The services can range from preliminary investigations and documentation of crimes, to problem solving complex quality of life issues. The Bureau also provides command and control for emergency response situations, dignitary escort and protection, community-oriented problem solving, and event coverage.

The Bureau operates with a day shift (6AM-6PM) and a night shift (6PM-6AM). Within those hours, Officers' work days start at 5AM or 6AM for day shift, and 5PM or 6PM for night shift. In addition, a power shift (3PM to 3AM) is in place to provide the maximum number of Officers working during the peak calls for service time. Officers work a 12-hour shift which provides ongoing patrol coverage for the community, more opportunities for training, decreases overtime, and allows patrol Officers to have every other weekend off. Each shift is commanded by a Shift Lieutenant supported by Sergeants (four on each shift) who directly supervise all activities while Officers are on patrol.



Andrew Dittman
Captain



FIELD SERVICES BUREAU

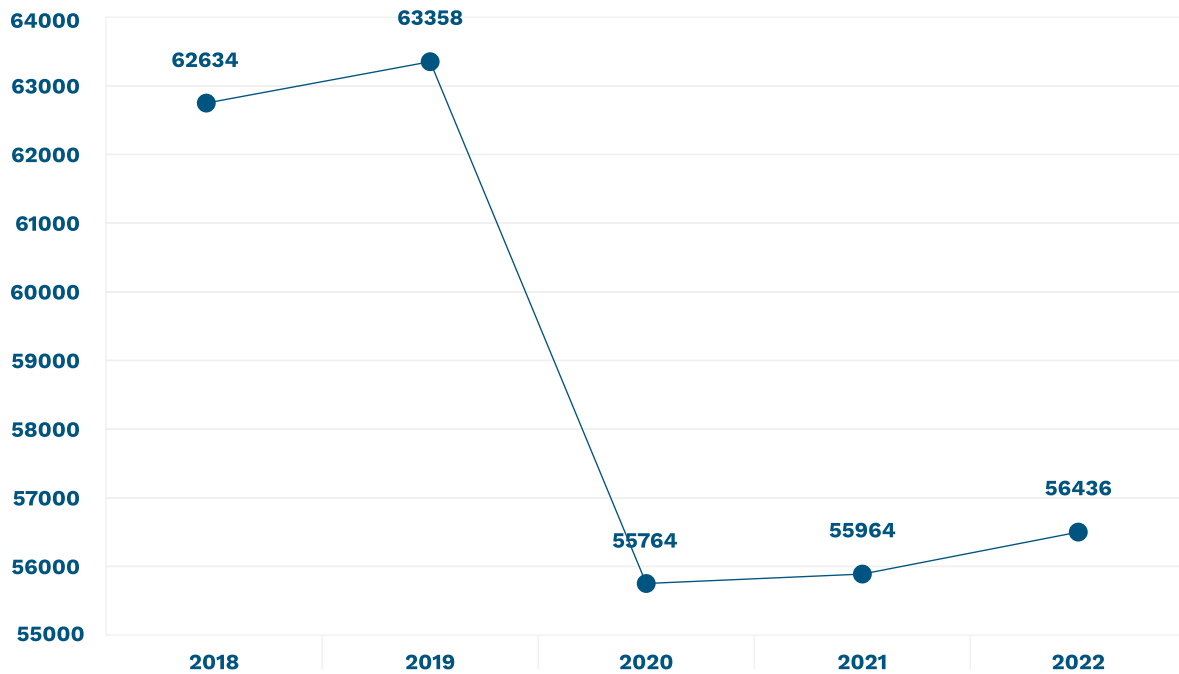
Members of the Field Services Bureau can be seen patrolling in squad cars, boat, bicycles, Segways, or on foot. These alternative patrol formats allow for increased engagement with the public which improves our effectiveness as a police agency. Further, the Field Services Bureau is comprised of specialty groups such as ERT (Emergency Response Team), Water Patrol, Bike Patrol, and the K-9 Unit. Officers also work within their assigned sector to form relationships with community organizations and formalized neighborhood groups. Internally, these specialty groups provide ample opportunities for continued career growth and a diverse work life for all LCPD Officers.

In 2022, Officers responded to a wide variety of calls for service. Officers in the Field Services Bureau supported citizens as they participated in several large community celebrations throughout the year. Field Services Bureau Officers also helped support public health as our community navigated the ongoing pandemic.

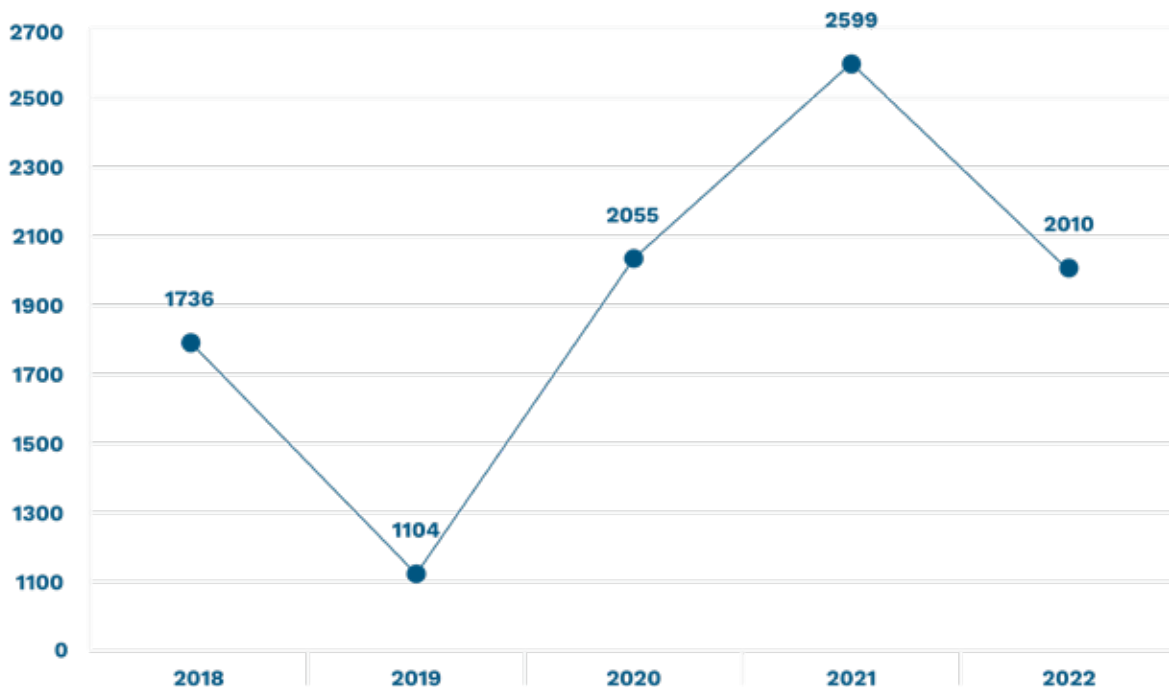
Throughout 2022, members of the Field Services Bureau responded to 56,436 calls for service, issued 4,580 traffic citations, and investigated 1,877 reportable traffic crashes. In addition, Officers issued 2,288 municipal ordinance citations and 6,422 warnings.

FIELD SERVICES STATISTICS

Calls for Service



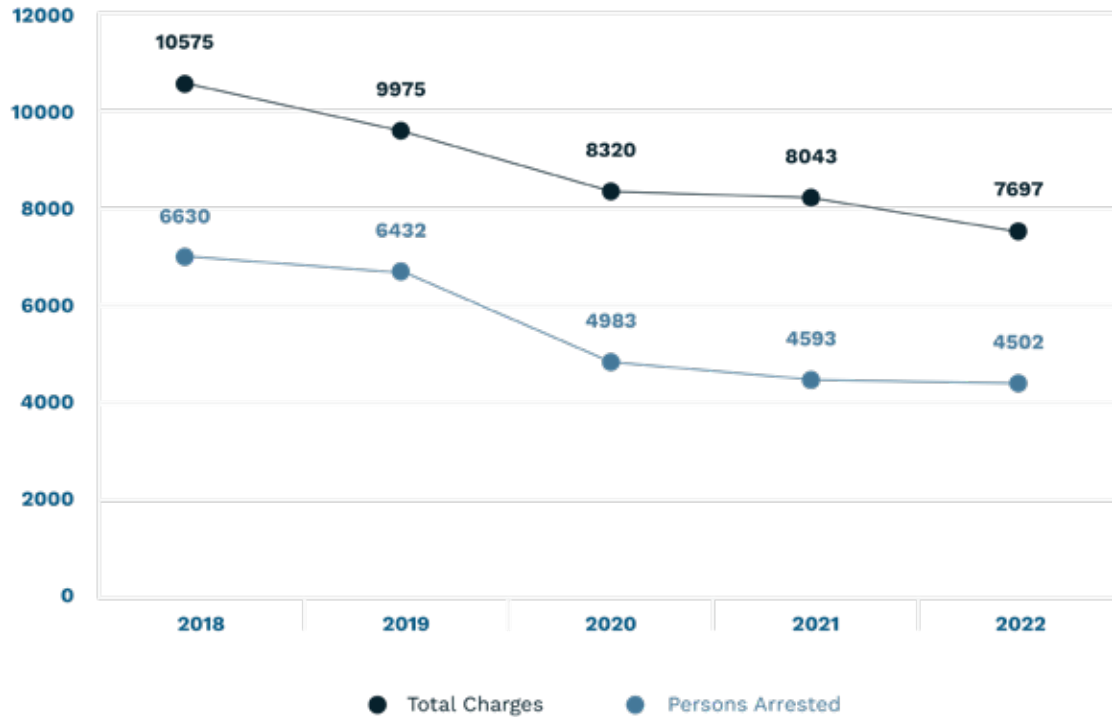
Community Oriented Policing – COPS



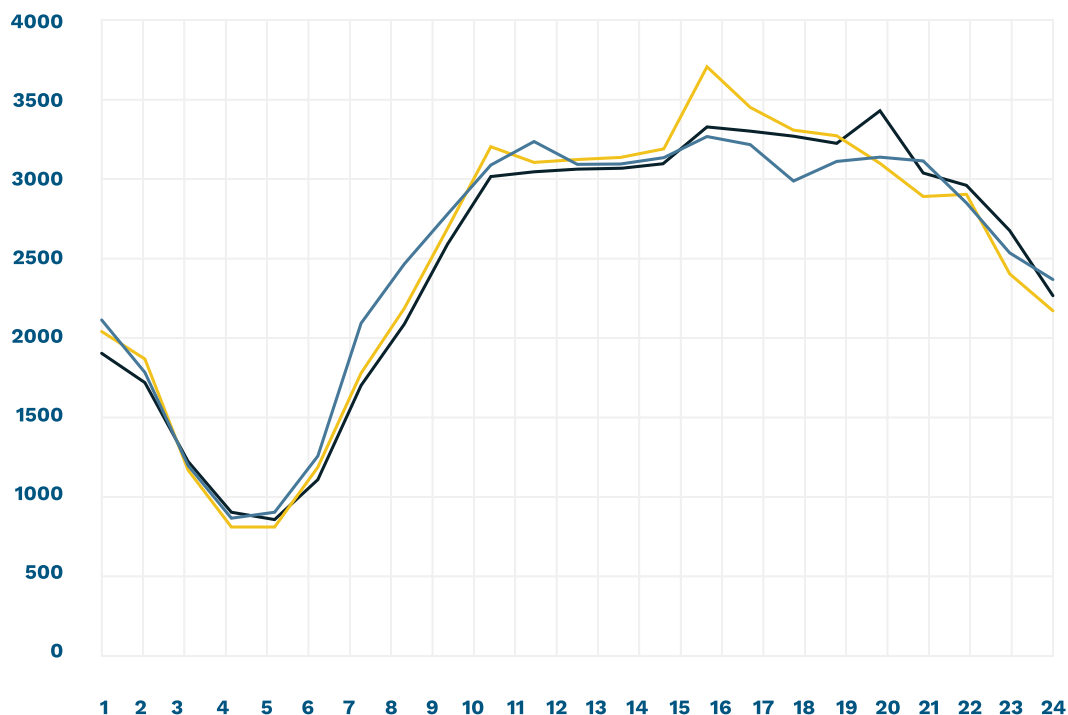
FIELD SERVICES STATISTICS

Persons Arrested and Total Charges

Adult & Juvenile



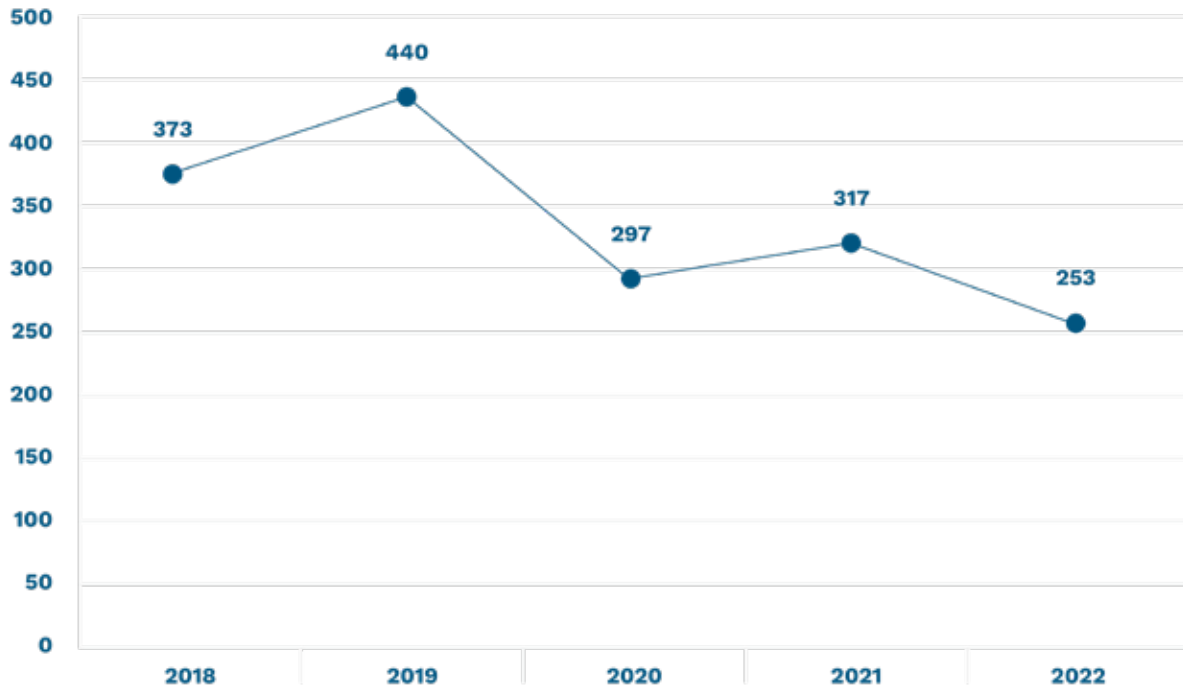
Call Trends by Hour of the Day



CRIME STATISTICS

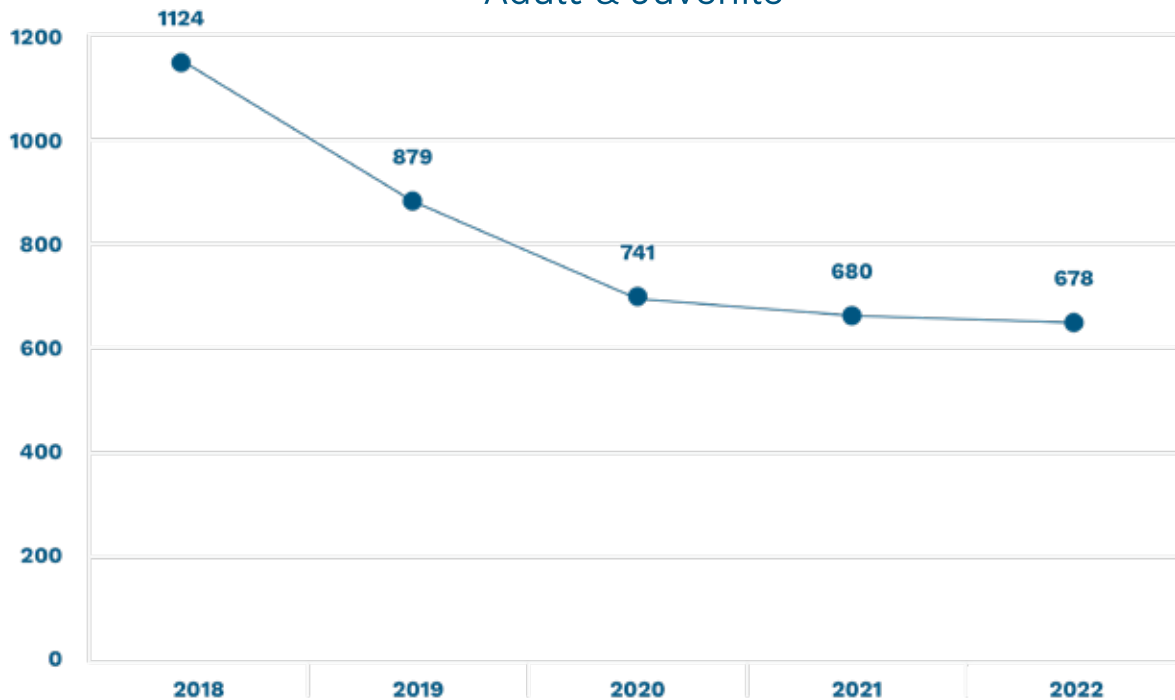
Driving Under the Influence Arrest Charges

Adult & Juvenile



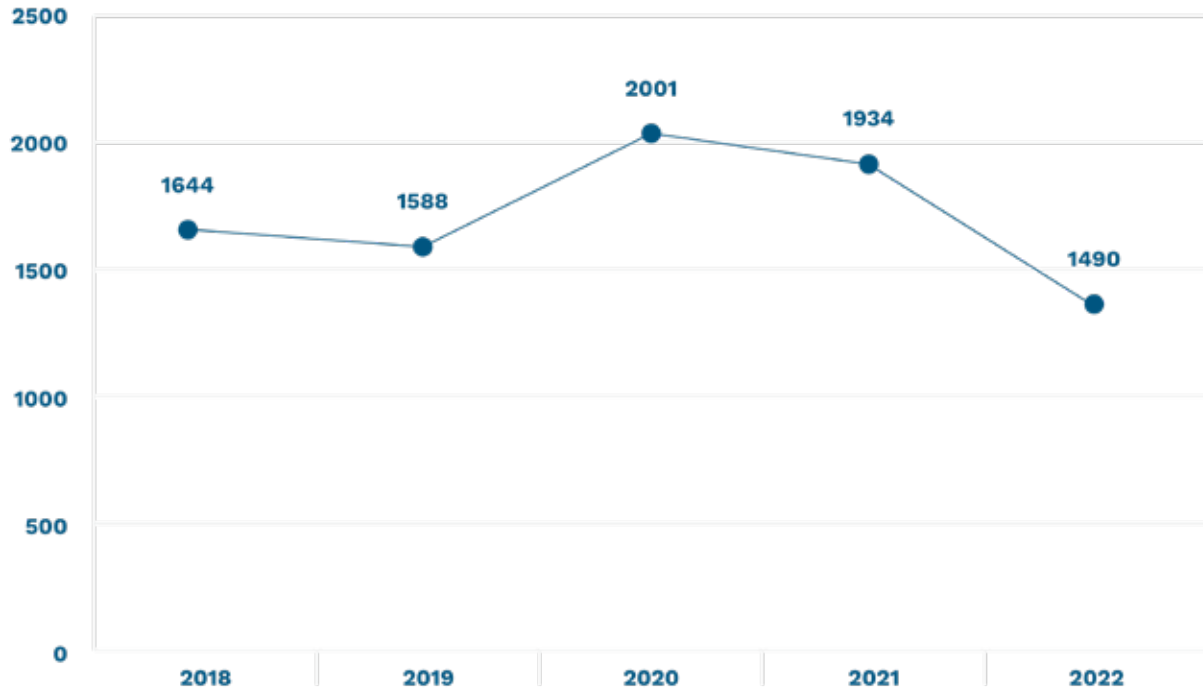
Drug/Narcotic Violation Arrest Charges

Adult & Juvenile



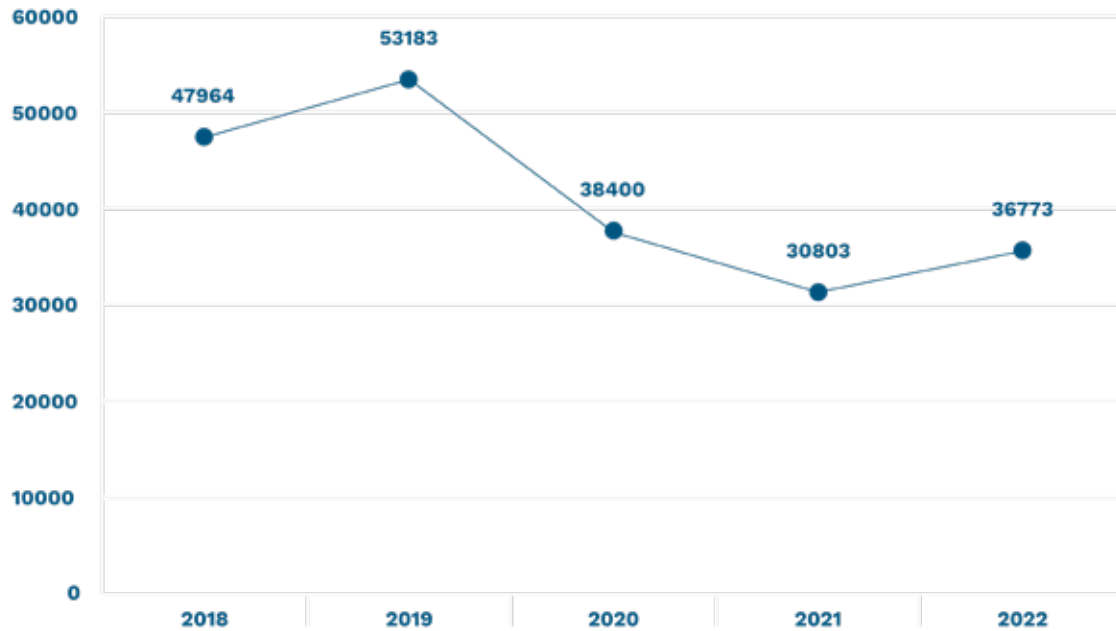
CRIME STATISTICS

Theft and Larceny Offenses Reported

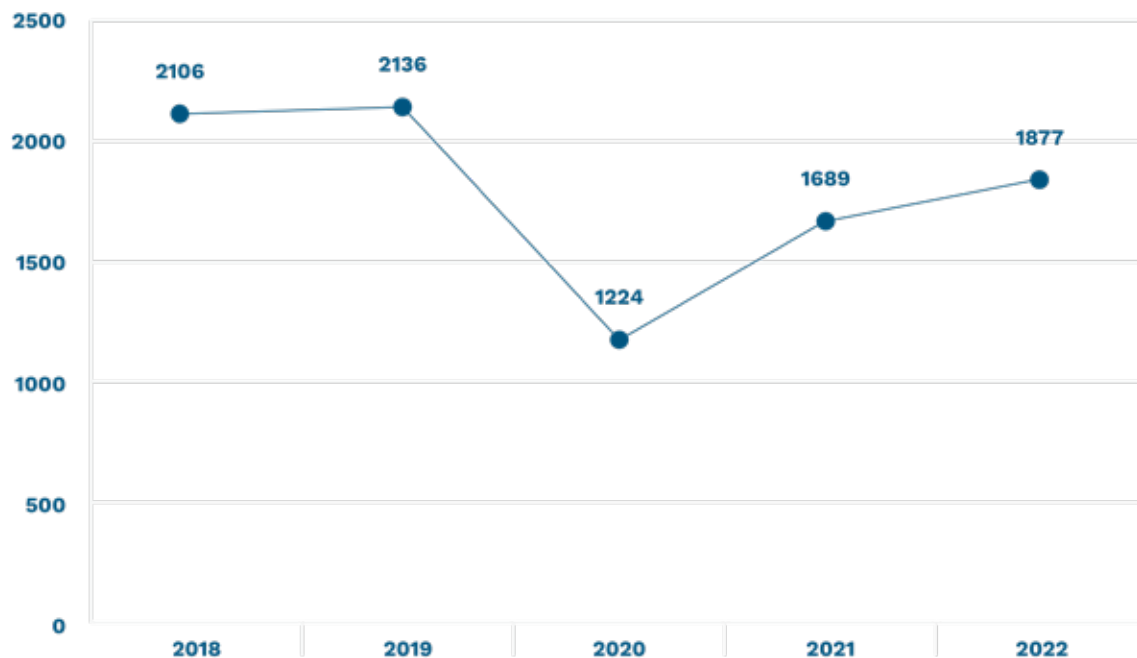


TRAFFIC STATISTICS

Parking Citations

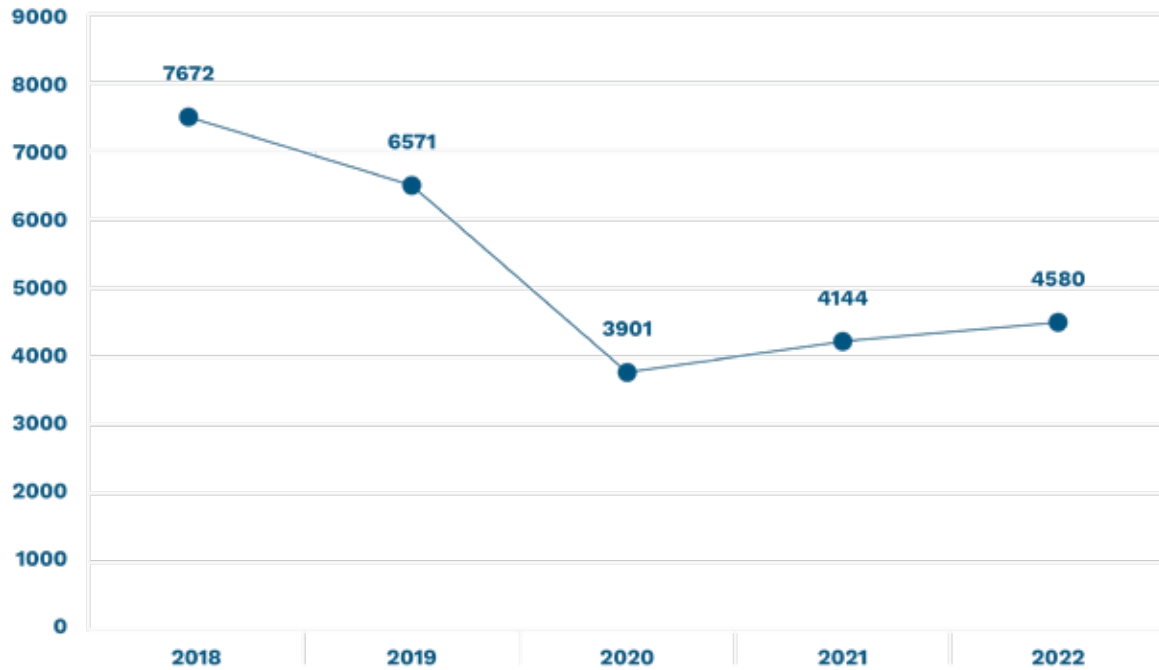


State Reportable Accidents



TRAFFIC STATISTICS

Traffic Citations



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The Administrative Services Bureau (ASB) includes the Training Division, Records Division, Property and Evidence Section, Civilian Service Employees, Civilian Aides and Parking Utility. The Administrative Services Bureau is responsible for managing budgets for training, equipment procurement, and other line item needs. The Bureau also manages the storage and security of evidence and property. Hiring, training, research and analysis, inventories, appropriations, and funding concerns also fall within the Bureau's purview.

Records staff members spend much of their time focusing on data entry to assist department sworn personnel, as well as ensuring compliance when reporting to the State and Federal governments. Honoring the public needs with open record requests and parking concerns take up a large portion of their day as well. On a daily basis our community is able to interact with our staff, who provide exemplary customer service to all.

Members of the Administrative Services Bureau work hard to support staff throughout the entire department. We strive towards making our department better and more efficient, providing the best service for the citizens of La Crosse.



Daniel Kloss
Captain

RECORDS / PROPERTY & EVIDENCE DIVISIONS

The Police Department Records Bureau oversees all aspects of the records maintained by the City of La Crosse Police Department. Duties include, but are not limited to, fulfilling open record requests, processing parking tickets, and inputting reports into the WebRMS database program.

This year proved to be busy for the La Crosse Police Department Records Bureau. In February, the Records Bureau moved into a newly remodeled office on the 3rd floor of City Hall. This move allowed expansion of other bureaus within the police department. During the move from the 1st floor, Records took it as an opportunity to convert any remaining hard copy documents into stored digital format. The Records Bureau works on a hybrid platform in which most staff works from the 3rd floor; however, we are still able to provide the highest level of customer service by rotating staff at the 1st floor front lobby.

In 2022, 56,436 calls for service were handled by the La Crosse Police Department; of those calls for service, 32,432 police files were generated and processed by our data entry team. The records bureau processed 2,011 vehicle crash reports, including 1,877 that were reportable to the State of Wisconsin.

The records bureau processed 13,284 citations in 2022, which includes 6,422 Warnings, 2,288 Ordinance Citations, and 4,580 Traffic citations. Civilian Service Employees issued 36,773 parking tickets in 2022.

During 2022, the Records Bureau honored 6,363 open records requests, which included 1,336 vehicle accident report requests. The records bureau also processed 868 bartender/taxi licenses for 2022.

The La Crosse Police Department Property & Evidence Division logged in 5,178 pieces of found, safekeeping and/or evidence in 2022. Approximately 6,381 items were either disposed of or released. Two City auctions were also held, one in the Spring and one in the Fall.

TRAINING DIVISION

The Training Division is part of the Administrative Services Bureau and has several main functions including training newly hired Police Officers; supervising the Field Training Program; educating members on new equipment and policing techniques; and providing in-service, legal updates, and instructor updates. The Training Division also focuses on career enhancement and leadership training for all officers. Overall, the Training Division strives to create a more professional department that can provide an effective and safe environment for all employees and for the community.

The La Crosse Police Department completed 12,346 hours of training among all its employees in 2022. The Training Division focused on diversity (114 hours), de-escalation (416 hours), mental health and crisis training (794 hours), and supervisory/management training (1,371 hours).

In 2022, Officers were trained in ICAT (Integrating Communications Assessment and Tactics). ICAT is a training program that provides first responding law enforcement Officers with the tools, skills, and options they need to successfully and safely defuse a range of critical incidents. ICAT takes the essential building blocks of critical thinking, crisis intervention, communications, and tactics, and puts them together in an integrated approach to training. Moreover, ICAT is designed especially for situations involving persons who are unarmed or are armed with weapons other than firearms, and who may be experiencing a mental health or other crisis. The training program is anchored by the LCPD Critical Decision-Making Model that helps Officers assess situations, make safe and effective decisions, and document and learn from their actions. Last, ICAT incorporates different skill sets into a unified training approach that emphasizes scenario-based exercises, as well as lecture and case study opportunities.

TRAINING DIVISION



In addition, the Department hired 7 new officers in 2022. The Field Training Program trained each new Officer for approximately three and half months, at which time the probationary Officer was certified for solo patrol. The Officers are evaluated on a daily basis by a Field Training Officer who provides consistent feedback on their performance. The training is intensive for our new Officers, but the outcome is a well-prepared Officer who is ready to serve our community.

POLICE PARKING UTILITY

The La Crosse Police Parking Utility oversees all aspects of parking within the City of La Crosse. Duties include, but are not limited to, permitting and maintenance of all public parking ramps and lots; residential parking permitting; and the processing of all parking citations resulting from parking violations throughout the City. Our Civilian Service Employees enforce parking regulations throughout over 225 miles of streets in the City of La Crosse.

The year 2022 started off with a few staff changes within the Department. Greg Elsen moved to the Records Division as Records Supervisor. Police Parking Utility member, Joseph Pederson, was promoted to Parking Utility Coordinator, and Thomas Schran moved into Joe's vacant position as Parking Utility Building Maintenance Engineer. In April, Kevin Johnson was hired on as part of the Maintenance and Grounds division. His efforts have helped significantly with maintaining the Parking Ramps in the downtown area. From new landscaping, fresh coats of paint, and repairing/replacing public access doors, staff have worked diligently on improving our customer's experience in the ramps. The Parking Utility worked with the Parks and Recreation Department and La Crosse Arts Board to create a mural on the south facing entrance wall to the Main Street Ramp. Viroqua artist, Natalie Hinahara, spent a week creating the 8' x 50' piece for all of our residents and visitors of the Downtown District to enjoy.

Mid-year, the Riverside Ramp was outfitted with security cameras in the elevator lobbies and stairwells. This enhanced security feature has helped promote safety and reduce vandalism.

In an effort to maintain viability and livability in the downtown, Police Parking Utility completed our biggest project of 2022. Heat trace and insulation were added to the entire Fire sprinkler system in the Market Square Ramp. Once Spring of 2023 begins, the entire south side will be completely degreased and resealed with a high solids epoxy.



Joseph Pederson
Parking Utility Coordinator

POLICE PARKING UTILITY

In August, the Common Council adopted a new Ordinance Sec. 44-111 Emergency or Maintenance Alternate Side Parking on Streets. When an emergency is declared, there will be a continuous 48-hour clock in which alternate side parking shall be in effect. The provisions shall only be in effect from 12:00AM until 6:00PM, leaving a 6-hour evening reprieve to give citizens time to move their car to the appropriate side for the next day.

The department continues to work the La Crosse Center during Special Events to provide parking and traffic control. The ParkMobile App continues to gain popularity for easy vehicle registration in downtown as well as areas around UWL and WTC. There are now over 15,300 Users on the system. At the end of 2022, the Board of Public Works approved a change in Fee structure for the parking ramps, with implementation beginning early 2023. Next year, 2023, will be busy as we continue to look at ways to improve our overall parking system. Some additional projects to be looked at will include improved bike lockers/ rentals, seating/lunch areas, and the addition of more EV Charge stations.



POLICE PARKING UTILITY STATISTICS

Payment transactions for parking

- Pay Stations: 58,874
- ParkMobile App: 85,726

License Plate Recognition (LPR) Technology

- Total of six (6) LPR enforcement vehicles
- Over 4.5 million license plates read

T2 Ticketing and Permitting Software

- 1,573 parking ramp permits issued
- 408 residential permits issued
- 36,773 parking citations issued

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The Investigative Services Bureau is primarily responsible for all criminal cases within the City of La Crosse. The Investigative Services Bureau has a staff of 22 members, divided into 4 areas of expertise: White Collar and General Investigations; Narcotics and VICE Investigations; Sensitive Crimes which includes domestic violence, juveniles, sex crimes, and elderly victim incidents; and the Neighborhood Resource Officer Unit.

Staff in the Investigative Services Bureau receive a significant amount of general investigative training as well as specific training to their assignments allowing staff to handle any case that comes their way. ISB works together as a team on significant cases allowing each person to bring their own specialties to the table whether that is advanced interviews, evidence processing, or digital evidence collection to name a few.

Due to COVID, many in-person trainings had been cancelled, but staff still found ways to stay current on trends, resources and important trainings. In 2022 the Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center came to La Crosse to share various resources to assist in gathering additional leads on cases. Detective Sergeant Tom Hansen and Captain Phil Martin attended Officer Involved Critical Incident training geared towards proper response if called upon by another agency to investigate an incident where someone dies during a police contact. Investigators attended many webinars and in-house trainings to increase their knowledge in a variety of areas.



Phillip Martin
Captain

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The Investigative Services Bureau not only completes case follow-up, but staff also develop their own investigations through partnering with other agencies. Members are involved in a number of different organizations including Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce, Stepping Stones Child Advocacy Center, The Parenting Place Family Advocacy Center, La Crosse County Drug Endangered Children's Taskforce, La Crosse County Drug Court, Violence Against Women Association, New Horizons Shelter, and Wisconsin Narcotics Officers Association.

We recently partnered with Viterbo University for a Community Collaborative Response Team to address dating violence, sexual assault and stalking on campus. ISB frequently partners with other local, state and federal agencies in significant cases and has seen great success in doing so. For many violent cases or cases involving firearms or significant amounts of drugs, ISB staff calls upon federal partners to assist. When suspects flee this jurisdiction, staff is able to get assistance to track down subjects anywhere in the United States.

While ISB's main duty is the investigation of crimes, staff spends time in the community at different events, educating the public on crime trends, presenting at conferences and schools, and discussing ways to prevent crimes from happening. The Investigative Bureau is committed to providing a safe and vibrant community and has found great success in working with the community to keep and maintain safety for all in the City of La Crosse.

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

Major Cases

The Investigative Service Bureau investigated a number of major incidents this last year. Below are some of the major cases the La Crosse Police Department investigated in 2022.

Citgo Gas Station Armed Robbery

On January 16th, Officers responded to the Citgo Gas Station on State Road for an armed Robbery. Shift was able to obtain valuable video during their response. Investigator Andy Rosenow had been exploring many leads and numerous Crime Stoppers tips when on February 15th, he was contacted by Madison Police who advised they believe they had information on one of the three robbery suspects in this case. Evidence they located in their case helped identify the suspect in our case. Investigator Rosenow worked with Madison and Fitchburg Police, as well as our local District Attorney's Office, and the suspect has been charged with the robbery. Connections we have established and communications we have with other agencies throughout the state proved very effective in this case.

Homicide Investigation

On May 22nd, Officers and Investigators responded to a shooting that took the life of a 15 year-old and injured another. Numerous interviews and other evidence helped us develop probable cause to charge the suspect with 1st degree intentional homicide. The suspect turned himself into police on June 2nd. The other person who was injured was also charged in this incident.

Northside Shooting

On June 8th, shift was dispatched to a shooting behind the George Street Pub. Through the investigation, it was found that multiple people fired guns. Investigator Jared Reed identified one of the shooters. Officer Dakota Jelinski located him downtown a couple of nights later, and he was taken into custody. This suspect had served previous prison time for crimes involving firearms. He was recently sentenced to four years in prison followed by 3 years of extended supervision.

Vandalism

We saw a string of damages in August and September resulting in 63 calls. Suspects were throwing rocks at vehicle and house windows and then progressed to slashing tires and other damage. Officer Adam Lange and Officer Alexandra Beardmore located juveniles one night damaging a window. This information led to interviews by Detective Lieutenant Cory Brandl of three suspects who admitted to a significant amount of damages. Crime Analyst Nicole Popovich helped put together intelligence on the case identifying and linking cases to each other.

Arrest Made In 2007 Sexual Assault

We had an interesting case get solved this year. In 2007, then Detective Sergeant Shawn Kudron investigated a sexual assault where DNA was located belonging to the suspect. The suspect was unknown to the victim and identification of the suspect was not able to be determined through the investigation. In 2022 a DNA match was made when the suspect had to provide his DNA after a domestic arrest. Investigator Alex Burg was able to follow up with the victim who was incredibly appreciative that we were still concerned about her case after 15 years. The suspect was located and charged with this incident.

ISB reminds everyone that all suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



SPECIAL TEAMS

Neighborhood Resource Officer Unit

Since 2014, the Neighborhood Resource Officer (NROs) Unit has served five geographic areas within the City of La Crosse—Washburn, Lower Northside Depot, Downtown, Powell-Poage-Hamilton, and the Parking-Parks-Transit systems. These ten Neighborhood Resource Officers and two supervisors continue to work to find creative solutions to complex issues in our community.

The year 2022 was very productive for the NRO unit. The Unit said goodbye to Lieutenant Cory Brandl, Lieutenant Steve Curns, Sergeant Danny Mandujano, Sergeant Cody Plenge, Investigator Dominick Jacobs, Officer Jacob Walker, and Officer Michael Vo. Lieutenant Joe Smith, Officer Joshua Rollins and Officer Colin Sherden joined the team throughout the year, with Sergeant Chris Oates and Officer Jorrey Olson joining the team in 2023.

This year was filled with activities that the NROs are known for such as Cops and Bobbers, Cop on a Rooftop, National Night Out, Day at the Lake, Planting with Police, Rotary Lights and many others. The NROs have been working more closely with shift officers trying to coordinate events that all staff can take part in. The Unit looks forward to expanding on this philosophy and attending these events and more in 2023!

Along with these events, the NROs have been busy working with the Investigative Services Narcotics unit. Several felony arrests, guns and drugs were taken off the street during the year. The Unit, as well as the City as a whole, saw the evolution of Houska Park being turned into a temporary campground for our unsheltered population. The process of dealing with the unsheltered brought about a lot of challenges. The NROs are continuously working through these challenges and are eager to continue collaborating with other local entities to try to seek out more permanent solutions to help our unsheltered.

Throughout 2022, the NRO Unit experienced staffing shortages and the challenges of an ever-increasing need for police service, and found it necessary to step outside of the normal work routine. Together, the La Crosse Police Department found a way to collaborate on different issues and work together to have a successful year.

Powell-Poage-Hamilton

Throughout the year of 2022, Officer Aaron Westpfahl participated in a variety of community engagement activities within the Poage-Powell-Hamilton area. Those activities included monthly Huber/Hintgen project meetings for the purposes of continuing the successful implementation of city/county assistance resources specific to the Huber Ct/Hintgen area, as well as welcoming the new community social worker to the team. Along with the monthly meetings at Huber, Officer Westpfahl also attended the monthly family night gatherings to engage directly with the citizens living in the neighborhood.

Additionally, monthly PPH community meetings were attended by Officer Westpfahl to maintain the continued professional relationship with the neighborhood and gauge specific needs or concerns presented by citizens and plan for long term solutions.

Officer Westpfahl also worked closely with Sherry Hougom of the Sara Rose Hougom foundation which included summer programming for Boys and Girls Club children titled, “Life Skills”. The purpose of the “Life Skills” program was to teach children from an early start, life skills which included financial wellness, cooking (taught by Officer Westpfahl), First Aid/CPR, and much more. Officer Westpfahl was also able to attend the “Pony Up with the Police” event which was hosted by the Sara Rose Hougom Foundation at a Horse Ranch in Mauston, WI and included children from BGC.



Lower Northside Depot

In September Officer Colin Sherden joined NRO the team on the Northside with NRO Trenton Bowe. They were able to make frequent stops out at the Boys and Girls Club to spend time with the kids, and they even played them in Dodgeball. NROs Bowe and Sherden also participated in Trunk or Treat in the Northside Schuh homes.

Throughout the last year, NRO Sherden and NRO Bowe were working on a drug abatement property. As of now, progress is being made with an eviction being finalized.

In December, NRO Sherden went to Lights Over North La Crosse and was able to speak with stakeholders. NRO Bowe and NRO Sherden were able to speak with our Assistant City Attorney about the issue of larger occupied campers staying on the streets for an extended period. Thanks to teamwork from all parts of our agency, an Ordinance was found to address that issue. Over the last year, numerous arrests and drug-related traffic stops were conducted.

Parks-Parking-Transit and Downtown

At the beginning of the year, PPT NRO Nathan Lewis was involved in many planning meetings for the sanctioning of Houska as a campground. There were many ideas put forward on how to serve those in the community experiencing homelessness. The NROs met with Brian Sampson and numerous other community resources to share the Police Department's thoughts on the campground. Summer months were spent on bike patrol, making contacts at unsheltered encampments outside of Houska Park, and attending Park and Rec Summer Camps.

Officer Josh Rollins joined the PPT NRO team in the beginning of October. Towards the end of the year, the PPT NRO's attention switched to the Parking Ramps and working on solutions to the frequent calls for service and the community health concern from those trying to shelter in the ramps.

Throughout the year, Parks NROs often helped the Investigative Bureau with numerous investigations, and Officer Nathan Lewis was awarded "Top Cop" award from the La Crosse County District Attorney's Office.

Washburn

NRO Nick Raddant attended monthly neighborhood meetings with updates for the Neighborhood Association regarding what's happening in the Washburn Neighborhood. NRO Raddant worked alongside NRO Westpfahl and attended events put on by the Sara Rose Hougom Foundation, pertaining to life skills for young teens at the local Boys and Girls Clubs.

NRO Raddant worked with Lincoln Middle school staff, the School District of La Crosse Staff, Mayo Health System's Community Engagement staff, and the City of La Crosse Parks Department to refurbish the Lincoln Middle School's basketball court by installing new basketball hoops. He collaborated with the Mathy Boys and Girls Club and the La Crosse County Health Department to host a bike rodeo. NRO Raddant then worked with Smith's Bike Shop and Mayo Health System to purchase bike headlights so that each child received one for their personal bike. Each child was also properly fitted and given a bike helmet by Health Department staff.



K-9 Unit

In 2022, the La Crosse Police Department expanded its K-9 Unit to six canine teams with the addition of Cheddar, the department's first certified therapy canine. Officer Ryan Ledvina was selected to be partnered with Cheddar, and they have been busy engaging with members of our community. Cheddar's role as a therapy canine is to aid in de-escalation, assist members of our community who are suffering from a mental health crisis, and to build relationships. The addition of Cheddar demonstrates the La Crosse Police Department's commitment to community-oriented policing and evolving to the way we respond to assist members of our community.

Throughout the year, the other five La Crosse Police Department canine teams have been busy with work-related duties, including several large seizures of narcotic drugs, many of which resulted in federal prosecution. The team has also been busy building relationships within our community. During the year, our canine teams were able to give presentations to the Providence Academy, a Boy Scout Troop, and to the Police Explorers program, just to name a few. Our canine teams also attended Ashley for the Arts, Badger Football games, and a live radio meet and greet with 95.7 The Rock, who were instrumental with bringing K-9 Rock to the department. Members of the K-9 Unit were also invited to Kwik Trip's grand opening of their newest store located on the south-side of La Crosse. During the grand opening, Kwik Trip generously presented the K-9 Unit with a large donation, which will assist the program moving forward.

The La Crosse Police Department K-9 Unit and the La Crosse Professional Police Non-Supervisors Association also hosted the 12th Annual Putt'n 4 Pooches golf tournament at a new location, Fox Hollow Golf Course. Once again, the tournament was full of members of our community showing their support for our program. The event was a great day for everyone involved and this year allowed for golfers to meet our canine teams out on the course. The day finished at Brother's Bar and Grill, where they generously hosted and supplied food and refreshments for all who participated. The Apartment Association of La Crosse again hosted its annual meatball dinner in 2022. The event had a large turnout with amazing food and allowed our canine teams to interact with members of the community.

In April, our four multi-purpose canine teams traveled to Stillwater, MN where they successfully tested for their USPCA Narcotic Detector Certifications. Later in June, the four teams traveled to Rochester, MN where they successfully tested for their Patrol Dog 1 yearly recertifications. During the PD1 trials, Officer Aaron Westpfahl and K-9 Loki took first place in agility and Officer Steve Hughes and K-9 Zeus took third place in the agility portion of the tests. With approximately 80 teams at the trials, the first place and third place finishes of members of our K-9 Unit demonstrate their dedication to training and professionalism. The department's single-purpose explosive detection canine team also successfully completed their ATF bi-yearly recertification again this year.

The La Crosse Police Department currently has six canine teams assigned between patrol, the neighborhood resources unit, and the community services bureau, giving the department a wide range and variety of uses for police canines. Each of the canine teams have training requirements that they must meet to continue to serve within our department. The continued dedication to training that our canine teams display allow them to maintain their professionalism and to continue to be successful in their mission to serve our community. The La Crosse Police Department K-9 Unit would like to thank the community for their continued support of our program.

Emergency Response Team

The La Crosse Police Emergency Response Team (ERT) is a collateral duty team, comprised of members who serve in various full-time roles throughout the agency. The team is comprised of one commander, one assistant commander, two team leaders, twelve tactical operators, five Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) members of the La Crosse Fire Department, and six negotiators. The team is assigned as a primary response to hostage and barricaded persons, high-risk search warrants and vehicle stops, large-scale disturbances, natural / man-made disasters, and dignitary protection.

Annual training included tactical team movement, diversionary devices, less lethal force options, de-escalation training, TEMS and self/buddy first aid, armored rescue vehicle training, weapon systems, defensive tactics and many other sub-topics.

The team worked with numerous local partners throughout the year to train skills at a number of locations including the newly renovated La Crosse Center to familiarize team members with the layout and new operation areas; in a local school to keep familiar with building layouts and procedures in place with our local district; and with UW-La Crosse Police and negotiators on potential scenarios that may impact the UW-L campus. ERT partnered with local businesses to train in buildings throughout the city to challenge the team to perform in an unknown environment. These trainings build trust, coordination, and communication with local agencies.

In addition to in-house training, members attended a number of specialty courses to increase the knowledge of the team and safety of the community. Topics included SWAT Command School, Low/No-Light operations, Team Leader Development and the FBI Hostage Negotiator School.

During 2022, ERT safely conducted several residential search warrants, including one related to a homicide. Another resulted in federal prosecution of a large-scale drug dealer with numerous weapons charges. ERT responded to a criminal-barricaded subject and safely took him into custody. Members of the team also utilized specialty equipment, including an unmanned aerial vehicle, to assist the patrol division in locating a burglar who had barricaded himself on a rooftop, as well as locating missing children and an elderly person who had become lost on the bluff.

ERT operates with a team first approach to all challenges, and is driven by the motto, "Failure is not an option." The Emergency Response Team is prepared to provide the highest level of safety and service to the community.



Water Patrol Unit

The Water Patrol unit consists of 16 sworn Officers that are specially trained in water patrol operations which includes navigation and equipment laws, boating under the influence enforcement, boat crash investigations, and search and rescue operations. They patrol over 19 miles of waterways within the City of La Crosse. The Water Patrol Unit is funded largely by a grant which is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The grant reimburses the La Crosse Police Department for expenses related to the operation of the Unit.

In 2022, the La Crosse Police Water Patrol Unit had another successful year. During the 2022 boating season, the Water Patrol Unit worked 156 hours on the water, conducted 50 boat stops and boat inspections, issued 35 boating citations and written warnings. Citations were issued for equipment and registration violations, and violations of waterway navigation rules. Unit members worked with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and other local water patrol units to increase enforcement during National Safe Boating Week and Operation Dry Water.

One highlight from this year is that five Officers were added to the water patrol team. These Officers completed several days of training and learned about waterway laws and ordinances, boating under the influence detection, boat crash investigations, search and rescue operations, waterway hazards, and basic boat handling among other skills. They also attended a day of basic water survival training.

Unfortunately, there was one fatal boat crash in our jurisdiction early in the summer. Incidents like this highlight the importance of training, being on the water, promoting safe boating practices, and enforcing waterway laws. During the offseason, the Unit will be working to identify any additional needs for equipment, staffing, or training, and preparing for another great boating season next year!

Bicycle Patrol Unit

The La Crosse Police Department bicycle unit has 8 bicycles and 30 trained operators. Bicycle Patrol duties include patrol support, response to calls for service, parades and festival coverage, traffic enforcement, community policing, bicycle safety education, undercover surveillance, and much more.

Bicycle Patrol provides greater visibility in high crime areas that are more difficult to patrol by motor vehicle, including public housing, retail centers, and walking trails. Officers have easier access to congested areas than Officers in motor vehicles and cover a larger area than Officers on foot. Bicycles also offer an effective approach to crime surveillance.

The Bicycle Unit maintains a strong relationship with the business community. Patrolling the core areas of La Crosse on bicycle gives members of the Bicycle Unit a unique opportunity to interact with the community. The contact they make with citizens is important. It allows the Department to meet with community members and listen to their ideas and opinions. In return, it provides an easy means for citizens to personally meet their police force.

In 2022, we did not host a training class, but we still maintained the same number of operators. In 2023, we hope to host a class, led by our 2 newest Bicycle Instructors, Officer Josh Rollins and Officer Trenton Bowe.

Honor Guard

The La Crosse Police Honor Guard is a specialized team of the La Crosse Police Department which attends special professional and law enforcement events, as well as funeral services for law enforcement members. The Honor Guard is always ready to represent our department under the most difficult of circumstances.

In 2022, the team was involved in three separate events. In April, the team conducted training in preparation for police week. In May, the team participated in the La Crosse County Police Week ceremony hosted by the UW-La Crosse Police Department. The team posted colors for the event as well as conducted the rifle volley. Also, in May, the team commenced the LCPD Police Week Awards Banquet by presenting the colors for the event. In October, the team posted the colors for the Western Technical College academy graduation ceremony. Our department sponsored three of the academy graduates.

Retirement plaques were presented to three longstanding Honor Guard members. Sergeant Kirk Flatten served on Honor Guard for twenty-four years, Officer Kurt Weaver for twenty years, and Officer Bradley Stoner for nine years. Their leadership on the team will be missed. In August, the team welcomed the two newest members of our team, Officers Sonja Weber and Brian Thomas.

POLICE RESERVE UNIT

The La Crosse Police Reserve Unit has experienced change throughout 2022. The unit has historically been solely volunteer, but recently was switched to a hybrid position, consisting of volunteer and compensation opportunities. The goal of making this evolution to the program was to continue to recruit good candidates to assist our department in a variety of ways, from traffic control to maintaining outer perimeters for major incidents.

In 2022, we had an increase in use from 2021. The Reserves assisted with 32 events. The largest event was Rotary Lights, with fifteen different shifts including a shift on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve, which were all filled by members of our Reserve Unit. On average, each of these assignments had three officers assigned.

Throughout 2022, Reserves participated in a variety of trainings including Defense and Arrest Tactics, Finger Printing, Radar Detection, and Fire Suppression Familiarization. Reserves also had the opportunity to participate in the ride-along program with sworn Officers and work with Officers on the Water Patrol Unit.

Currently, the Reserve unit has nine members. Two of our members were just recently promoted to our Reserve Board. Looking forward to 2023, our goal is to increase membership through more recruiting. The Reserve Unit is very unique because the members come from various backgrounds and join the unit for a variety of reasons, some want a career in law enforcement, others have a career and joined the Reserves as a fun way to serve the community. Recruitment efforts will be through social media campaigns and in-person recruitment sessions at colleges in the La Crosse area.



As part of the nation-wide Exploring Program, our Police Explorer Post provides La Crosse area high school students with the opportunity for hands-on career exploration and real-life experience in the law enforcement field. Police Explorers attend bi-weekly meetings and gain practical experience in patrol procedures, First Aid, Defense and Arrest Tactics, report writing, crime prevention techniques, crime scene investigation and much more. Ending the 2021-2022 school year, we had an average daily attendance of 10 students. So far for the 2022-2023 school year, we are averaging 14 students who attend in-person classes once again.

Explorer Post #3201 is led by advisors Investigator Tony DeLap and Officer Jovanna Nedland. Also assisting with the La Crosse Police Explorer program are Lieutenant Jon Wenger, Sergeant Cody Plenge, Investigator Andy Rosenow, Officer Arick Siegmann, Officer Tanner Oleson, Officer Chad Maske, Officer Andrew Jarrett and Officer Alexandra Beardmore. We'd like to congratulate the Explorers for their commitment to Exploring, the La Crosse PD, and our greater community.

LA CROSSE AREA LAW ENFORCEMENT CHAPLAINCY

The La Crosse Area Law Enforcement Chaplaincy provides a ministry of presence, supplying a source of strength to Law Enforcement Officers and their families, Department personnel, and members of the community. Additionally, the Chaplains are trained to serve the needs of others without religious, racial, social, or gender bias, providing care and compassion for those impacted by traumatic incidents.

The La Crosse Area Law Enforcement Chaplaincy serves the La Crosse and Onalaska Police Departments and the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department. Each Department has appointed a Chaplain Liaison Officer to serve as an interface between the Department and the Chaplain Team. Through mutual aid agreements, the Chaplains also serve all Law Enforcement agencies in La Crosse County as well as the Medical Examiner's Office. La Crosse Area Law Enforcement Chaplains also serve members of the Wisconsin State Patrol, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Wisconsin Department of Justice Chaplaincy Programs.

The year 2022 was a busy year for the Chaplaincy. The team of 10 active and 9 reserve Chaplains provided on-call coverage 24 hours each day, 7 days each week, all 52 weeks of the year. They provided 8,760 hours of coverage, responded to 13 calls, attended 21 debriefings, trained 137.5 hours, and utilized 1,500 hours of administrative support. They also provided non-emergency services such as officiating for funeral services, providing counseling, serving during Law Enforcement Memorial Week, attending promotion, new officer swearing, and retirement ceremonies, serving during Oktoberfest, and hosting the 22nd Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Picnic.

WILEAG ACCREDITATION

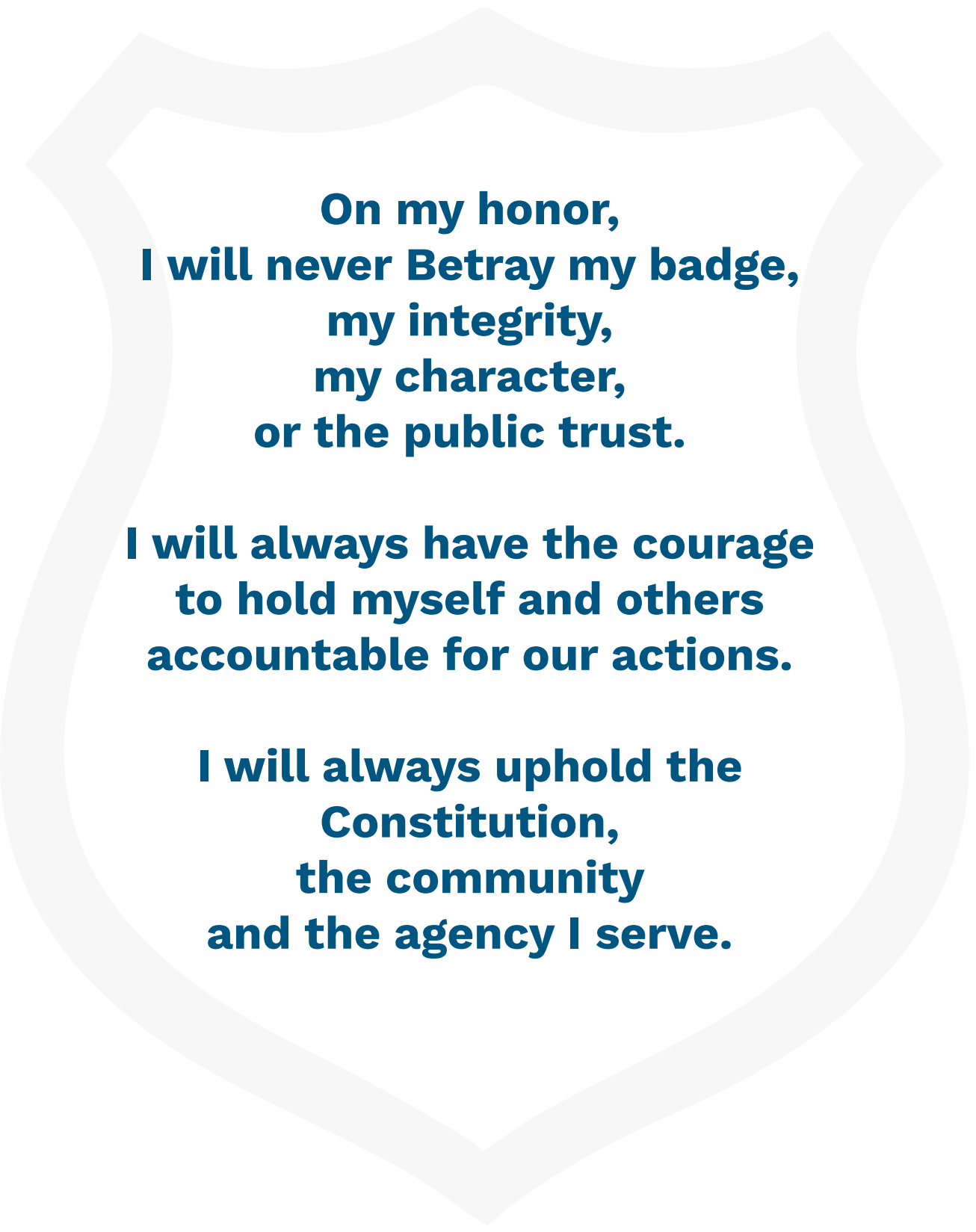
The La Crosse Police Department has been accredited by the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group (WILEAG) since 1995. Law Enforcement accreditation provides the basis for an enhanced sense of professionalism and pride; the security in knowing that agencies are well-managed; and the assurance that enforcement operations and personnel are consistent and well-directed.

In 2022, the La Crosse Police Department created an Accreditation Team comprised of various members of the department representing all shifts, divisions, and sworn ranks. The goal of creating this team was twofold. First, the enormous task of gathering all the information for our current re-accreditation process was shifted from a few individuals to many. Each member of this team was tasked with gathering specific information relative to their typical work duties and expertise. Second, by having more department members involved, the importance of Accreditation has become more widely known throughout the Department. As we move throughout 2023 and prepare for re-accreditation in 2024, this team will continually gather and comprehensively review our Department's policies and procedures.

WILEAG most recently recognized the La Crosse Police Department as a Wisconsin accredited law enforcement agency on December 14, 2020, a designation which typically lasts for a period of three years.



LAW ENFORCEMENT OATH OF HONOR



**On my honor,
I will never Betray my badge,
my integrity,
my character,
or the public trust.**

**I will always have the courage
to hold myself and others
accountable for our actions.**

**I will always uphold the
Constitution,
the community
and the agency I serve.**



LA CROSSE

POLICE DEPARTMENT

LEAD. PARTNER. PROTECT.