



La Crosse Police Department



2021
Annual Report

La Crosse Police Department

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 Vision:

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

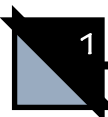
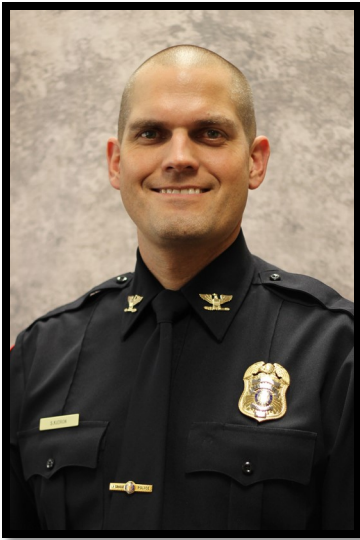


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Greetings!

Shawn Kudron, Chief of Police

Mayor Mitch Reynolds, Common Council Members, and citizens of the City of La Crosse, I am pleased to present the 2021 La Crosse Police Department Annual Report. This report consists of an overview of the La Crosse Police Department including a message from all Bureaus, policing highlights from 2021, and a statistical comparison of the activities that Officers were involved in over the past year. Community engagement, stakeholder relationships, and connecting with our community in a professional and dignified manner remain the key components in helping our Department achieve our mission of being leaders in providing a safe and vibrant community.

During the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic still impacted the La Crosse Police Department. In the first quarter of 2021, the COVID-19 vaccine became available for First Responders, and the LCPD Administration worked with the La Crosse County Health Department to facilitate appointments for those who wanted the vaccine. As the year went on, staff at the Police Department remained vigilant to health and safety protocols as we dealt with COVID-19 variants. As COVID persists, the Police Department will continue to serve our community in the most safe and healthy manner.

This past year brought significant change in our department's Administration. Jason Melby accepted a promotion to Assistant Chief of Police. Jason has served with the La Crosse Police Department for over 28 years in a wide variety of positions. Jason will be a tremendous benefit to the La Crosse Police Department and La Crosse community serving as Assistant Chief of Police. Avrie Schott was promoted to Captain of Police serving in the Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau. Avrie has served in Supervisory positions within the Administrative and PS/CSB Bureaus. Avrie is a welcome addition to the Administrative staff. Phil Martin was promoted to Captain of Police serving in the Investigative Services Bureau. Phil brings a wealth of knowledge from his previous Supervisory roles in the Field Services Bureau, Investigative Bureau and most recently, leadership of the Department's NRO Unit.

In an effort to continue to enhance our Police Department's response to those experiencing mental health crises, we formed the Community Resource Unit (CRU). The Unit consists of one Investigator and one Officer that are dedicated to responding to and following up on calls for service related to mental health. The CRU has also partnered with La Crosse County Mobile Crisis for a first-of-its-kind Co-Responder design, where La Crosse County crisis workers are responding with our Community Resource Unit to these types of calls. This partnership has been very successful in bringing the most needed resources to those in our community struggling with mental health.

The La Crosse Police Department rolled out a new philosophy in 2021 related to dealing with the youth of our community. In partnership with the School District of La Crosse and the La Crosse County Juvenile Justice, the La Crosse Police Department introduced the "lightest touch" philosophy when working with youth that have exhibited concerning behavior. It is the goal of this philosophy to steer youth toward

needed resources instead of the criminal justice system. Thus far, the lightest touch philosophy is working well, and system partners have been pleased with the results.

During the 2021 Capital Project process, the La Crosse Police Department was able to secure 2.5 million dollars for a police department remodel. The goals of the remodel will be gender equity, safety, and more working space for the Field Services Bureau. The remodel will include the construction of a female locker room within the secure confines of the police department; a first floor design that will maintain access safety for all working staff; and more dedicated space for our Field Services Bureau by moving our Records staff to the 3rd floor of City Hall. We are excited about the remodel, and work is already underway.

In 2021, the La Crosse Police Department started preparing for our next 5-year strategic plan process. The Department's strategic plan is an important document that provides a roadmap for the future of how the La Crosse Police Department will meet the needs of the La Crosse community. In preparation for the development of our next strategic plan, surveys were sent out to all members of the police department, as well as valued stakeholders that we work with on a regular basis. During 2022, we will complete four planning sessions with the result being a strategic plan to roll out in 2023.

The La Crosse Police Department continues to provide a high level of policing service to the La Crosse community through engagement and relationship building. The La Crosse Police Department is committed to being leaders in a providing a safe and vibrant community. Through transparency, professionalism, and accountability the La Crosse Police Department is poised to protect and serve the La Crosse community at the highest level.

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 2021, the La Crosse Police Department continued the task of gathering information for the re-accreditation process that will take place in 2023. This includes a continual and comprehensive review of the 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 lasts for a period of three years.



Administration

Jason Melby, Assistant Chief of Police

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.

In 2021, Assistant Chief Robert Abraham retired after holding the Office of Assistant Chief for 10 years. On July 9th, 2021 Chief Kudron appointed Jason Melby to the Office of the Assistant Chief. This led to closing out several projects from 2020 including the implementation of fleet expansion of gas/electric squads, finalizing the body worn camera program, expanding the of License plate reading technology, and enhancing the parking ramp user experience for a seamless and contactless parking.

The year 2021 presented several challenges for the agency with employee turnover and issues associated with supply chain disruption at the national level. From the employment aspect, the Office of Assistant Chief coordinated over 50 different positional changes including hiring, promotions, assignments and other movement. The deployment of our new squad cars experienced significant delays due to national supply chain issues affecting everything from the automotive manufacturing all the way through to the final step of upfitting of the squads.

As mentioned by the Chief, in 2021 the ground work was laid for an extensive remodel within the Department. This remodel will address several equity, space and security needs for the agency and will be the largest remodel project taken by the agency in decades. The Office of the Assistant Chief is the project coordinator for the agency. In preparation for the remodel, there were several meetings focused on soliciting input from our employees on design and facility needs. Additional meetings with architects, engineers, vendors, and construction staff have been occurring. The Assistant Chief is coordinating with other City staff to ensure seamless transitions and coordinated project planning.

As we look forward to 2022, we anticipate contingency planning for the daily work environment for our staff due to the remodel. Our goal during this time is to provide uninterrupted, high quality police service while having our Police Department renovated. This will require our staff to be adaptable to the changing physical work environment. Ultimately, the end result for our staff will be an improved work space in early 2023.

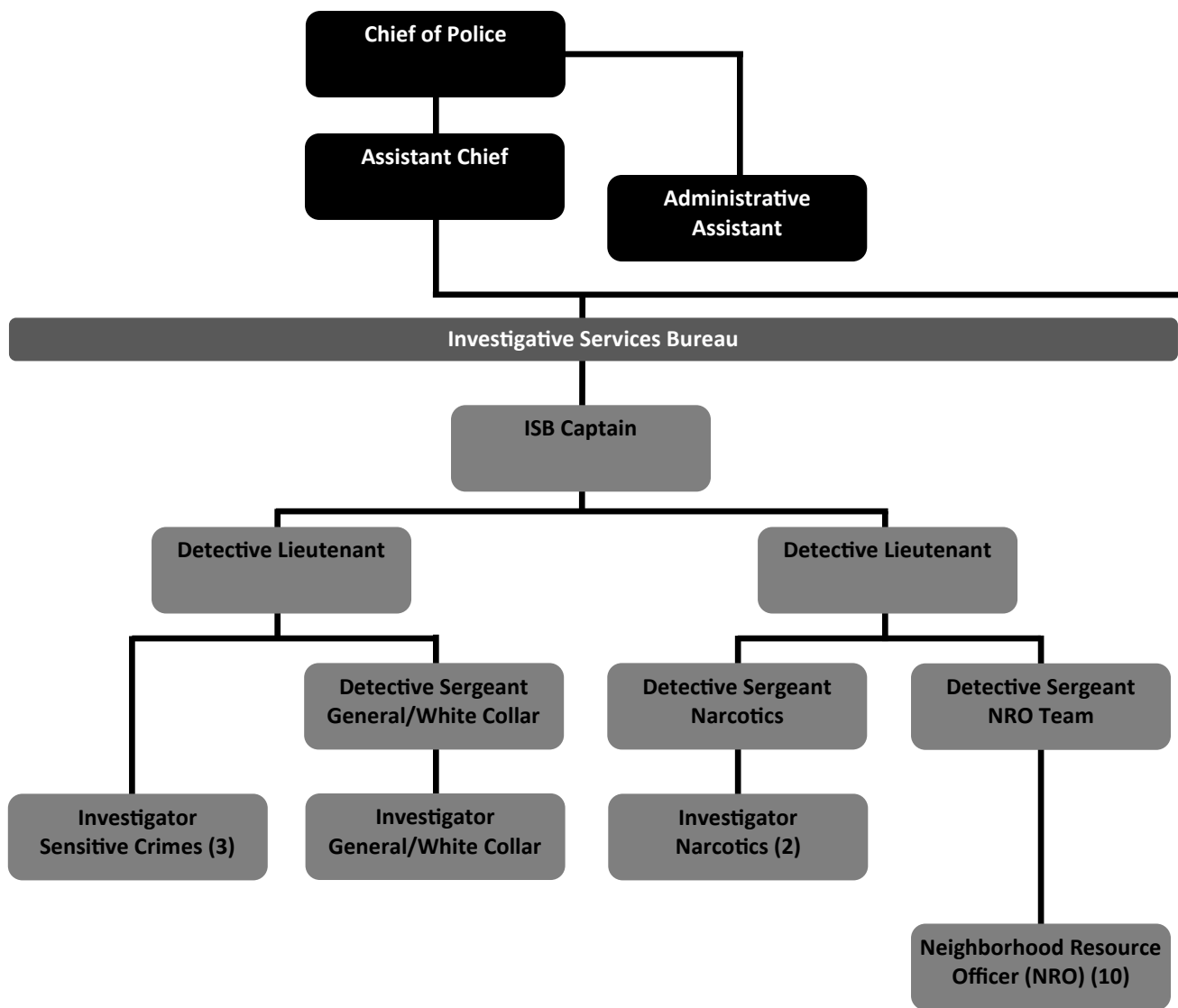
Annual Approved Operating Budget

	2021	2020	2019
Salaries	\$7,652,982.00	\$7,495,551.00	\$7,288,769.00
Overtime	\$260,000.00	\$260,000.00	\$260,000.00
Benefits	\$2,945,297.00	\$3,110,461.00	\$2,994,012.00
Operating	\$786,821.00	\$850,821.00	\$775,734.00
Total	\$11,645,100.00	\$11,716,833.00	\$11,318,515.00

2021 Overtime Usage

In 2021, the La Crosse Police Department used \$311,664.22 in overtime. Officers also earned overtime pay through grant funding or security services for private events.

Overtime Type	Cost	Overtime Type	Cost
Straight @1.0	\$130.89	FTO Pay	\$13,736.33
Late Call @1.5	\$667.29	Staff Shortage	\$14,330.85
24-hr Court Cancellation	\$1,058.33	Meetings	\$17,024.25
Training @1.0	\$1,140.71	Drug Investigations	\$17,228.02
ERT Call-out	\$1,358.36	Training @1.5	\$19,663.33
Parades/Festivals	\$2,702.48	Reports/Arrests	\$22,472.33
Homicide Investigations	\$3,293.08	Oktoberfest @1.0	\$22,753.22
Oktoberfest @1.5	\$4,932.86	Court	\$24,011.67
Court Cancellation	\$9,817.73	Oktoberfest @2.0	\$54,888.82
Canine Training	\$10,140.48	OT @1.5	\$58,301.68
ERT Training	\$12,011.51		
		Total Overtime	\$311,664.22



POLICE - SWORN

Chief of Police	1
Assistant Chief	1
Police Captains	4
Police Lieutenants	5
Police Sergeants	13
Police Investigators	7
Police Officers	68
TOTAL SWORN	99

POLICE - CIVILIAN

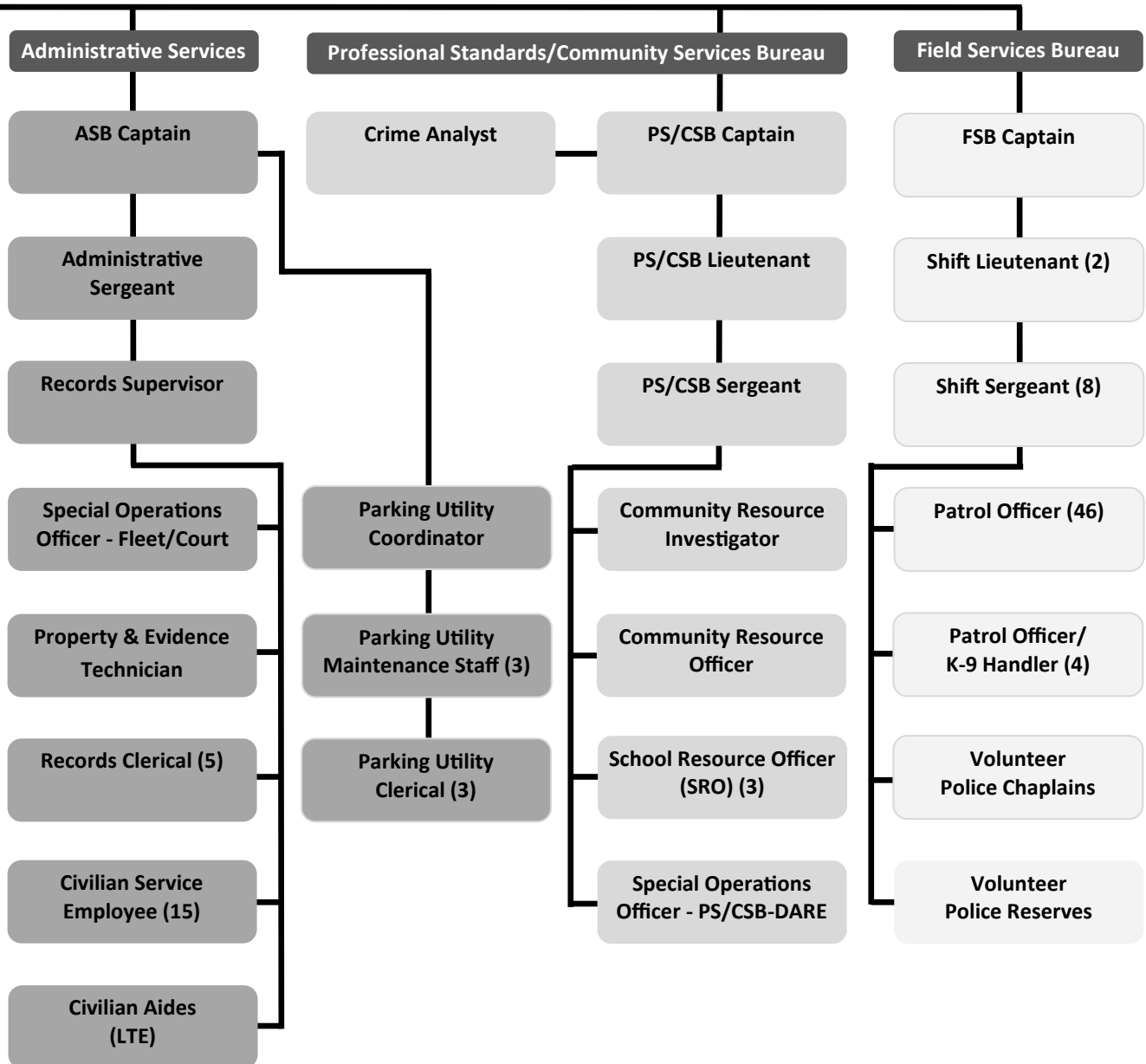
Records Supervisor	1
Crime Analyst	1
Property & Evidence Tech	1
Clerical	6
TOTAL CIVILIAN - PD	9

PARKING UTILITY - CIVILIAN

Parking Utility Coordinator	1
Parking Utility Maintenance	3
Civilian Service Employee	15
Clerical	3
TOTAL CIVILIAN - PU	22

TOTAL PERSONNEL 130

2021 La Crosse Police Department Organizational Chart



Administrative Services Bureau Staff

Bureau Director—Captain

Daniel Kloss

Administrative Sergeant

Steven Pataska

Records Supervisor

Greg Elsen

Special Operations Officer—Court/Fleet

Brad Stoner

Civilian Service Employees

Diane Skifton
Kong Lor
Teng Thao

Keng Vang
Alexander Rich
Blade Weber

Taylor Rakes
Jeremiah Boardman
Jacob Erdman

Property Technician

Stephanie Gavrilos

Records Division Civilian Employees

Rebecca Smith
Nicole Schneider

Kim Mitchell
Diane Nickelatti

Katelyn Roy
Richard Nimmo

Chief's Administrative Assistant

Stephanie Neises

Parking Utility Staff

Parking Utility Coordinator

Vacant

Customer Service

Mitchell Tofstad

Lisa Fischer

Maintenance

Joseph Pederson

Thomas Schran

Norman Oldenburg

Field Services Bureau Staff

Bureau Director—Captain

Andrew Dittman

Shift Lieutenants

Joe Smith

Jon Wenger

Shift Sergeants

Kirk Flatten
Grant Gyllander
Jason Mahairas

Joseph Wiegrefe
Craig Teff
Casey Rossman

Christopher Oates
Brooke Pataska

Patrol Officers

Heath Graves
Lisa Barrix
Scott Harmel
Alan Hagen
Teri Roden

Tony LeQue
Todd Fischer
Ryan Stenslien
Charles Frandsen
Brad Schomberg

Joel Miller
Jeremy Rindfleisch
Aaron Erdmann
Daniel Ulrich
Jason Nesbit

Field Services Bureau Staff, cont.

Patrol Officers

Andrew Adey
Daniel Howe
Stephen Hughes
Dakota Jelinski
Joshua Rollins
Justin Eddy
Alex Vang
Abbie Schroeder
Sonja Weber
Ryan DeFlorian
Ryan Ledvina
John LaBrec
Adam Lange

Michael Goergen
Graham Eddy
Brian Thomas
Kevin Lozano
Chad Maske
Dakota Marcon
Jorrey Olson
Samuel Clason
Colin Sherden
Arick Siegmann
Tanner Oleson
Conner Hjellming
Brandon Obluck

Hayden Halverson
Colt Lang
Jesse Cotto
Andrew Jarrett
Austin Lasee
Matthew Lee-Baker
Alexzandra Beesley
Daniel Skifton
Trenton Benning
Alexandra Beardmore
Gabriel Kapanke
Alexander Scray

Investigative Services Bureau Staff

Bureau Director—Captain

Phillip Martin

Detective Lieutenant

Timothy O’Neill

Cory Brandl

Detective Sergeants

Ryan Fitzgerald

Thomas Hansen

Stephen Curns

Investigators

Tony DeLap
James Mancuso

Andrew Rosenow
Andrew Tolvstad

Alexander Burg
Jared Reed

Neighborhood Resource Officers

Trenton Bowe
Nicholas Raddant
Cody Plenge

Danny Mandujano
Abbie Schroeder
Aaron Westpfahl
Jacob Walker

Dominick Jacobs
Nathan Lewis
Michael Vo

Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau

Bureau Director—Captain

Avrie Schott

Lieutenant

Linnea Miller

Sergeant

Vacant

Special Operations/D.A.R.E. Officer

Kurt Weaver

School Resource Officers

Jovanna Nedland

Ethan Purkapile

Cordero Gilliam

Community Resource Unit

Investigator Whitney Hughes

Officer Joel Miller

Crime Analyst

Nicole Popovich

Personnel Changes

In 2021, the La Crosse Police Department saw quite a bit of movement throughout the department, both for the sworn and civilian employees.

Promotions and Appointments		
Alexzandra Beesley	Officer (previous CSE)	January 5, 2021
Alexander Burg	Investigator	April 16 2021
Avrie Schott	Captain	April 30, 2021
Linnea Miller	Lieutenant	April 30, 2021
Brooke Pataska	Sergeant	April 30, 2021
Jared Reed	Investigator	April 30, 2021
Danny Skifton	Officer (previous CSE)	May 14, 2021
Trenton Benning	Officer (previous CSE)	May 14, 2021
Alexandra Beardmore	Officer (previous CSE)	May 28, 2021
Gabriel Kapanke	Officer (previous CSE)	May 28, 2021
Jason Melby	Assistant Chief	July 9, 2021
Whitney Hughes	Investigator	July 9, 2021
Phillip Martin	Captain	August 6, 2021
Alexander Scray	Officer (previously hired as CSE 7/6/2021)	October 29, 2021
Greg Elsen	Records Supervisor	November 12, 2021
Cory Brandl	Lieutenant (previously promoted to Sergeant 2/19/2021)	November 26, 2021
New Hires		
Stephanie Gavrilos	Property & Evidence Tech	April 30, 2021
Richard Nimmo	Records Specialist	June 25, 2021
Blade Weber	Civilian Service Employee	August 18, 2021
Lisa Fischer	Records Specialist	November 15, 2021
Taylor Rakes	Civilian Service Employee	November 29, 2021
Jacob Erdman	Civilian Service Employee	December 6, 2021
Jeremiah Boardman	Civilian Service Employee	December 8, 2021
Katie Killian	Civilian Service Employee	December 20, 2021

Anniversaries



Troy Nedegaard
Captain
30 years of service
March 4, 1991



Kurt Weaver
Officer
25 years of service
April 8, 1996



Heath Graves
Officer
30 years of service
June 3, 1991



Kirk Flatten
Sergeant
25 years of service
December 19, 1996

Retirements



Troy Nedegaard
Captain
30+ years of service
Retired
April 22, 2021



Robert Abraham
Assistant Chief
29+ years of service
Retired
June 17, 2021



Faling Yang
Property & Evidence
Technician
28+ years of service
Retired
August 3, 2021



Lisa Barrix
Officer
29+ years of service
Retired
October 11, 2021



Professional Standards/ Community Services Bureau

Avrie Schott, Captain

The primary responsibility of the Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau (PS/CSB) is public information and education, media relations, crime analytics for internal and external purposes, community crime prevention, school safety programming and community engagement/collaborations involving crisis and mental health concerns. Additional responsibilities include, but are not limited to: WILEAG Accreditation, recruitment and retention, policy review and development, 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, which are alternative sources of funds vital in maintaining the level of police service being provided.

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

Public Information and Social Media Presence

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. After focusing on the pandemic in 2020, the Bureau's focus in 2021 was communicating our continued dedication to engaging and educating our community with regular updates about calls for service, weekly highlights on community interactions, and general messaging on crime prevention. We are continuing to learn and grow our social media platforms with one of the key goals being to connect and inform all communities members. The more engagement we have, the more effectively we can relay important information to our community at critical times. Currently our Facebook Page has 25,466 followers, our Twitter has 6,278 followers, and Instagram has 1,803 followers.



We can be found on each social media platform @lacrossepolice.

Transparency in Policing

We continue to utilize our [Transparency in Policing](http://www.cityoflacrosse.org/police/transparency) webpage (www.cityoflacrosse.org/police/transparency) as a way to provide information for our community including our department's use of force statistics, training reports, budgetary information, and policies and procedures. This page has served as the online platform for our compliment and complaint processes.

D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. Programming

The PS/CSB oversees in-school 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.

In 2021, we saw a return to normal classes in our schools. The D.A.R.E. program was taught in 10 different schools to 425 5th grade students.

The G.R.E.A.T. program was taught in both the 4th and 6th grades in La Crosse. In 2021, one Officer taught the 4th grade curriculum to 400 students in 8 schools, and one Officer taught the 6th grade curriculum in one school to 75 students.

Our summer program was also back to normal activities. The P.L.A.Y. program with the La Crosse Boys and Girls Club saw average daily attendance of 25 students, and we had 45 students attend our one week Camp Send a Kid program at Camp Decorah.



Officer Kurt Weaver reads to some very attentive students.

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 28-year partnership with our local schools.

There are three SROs assigned to cover high school, middle school and elementary schools within the City of 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.

In 2021 La Crosse Police Administration and School District Administration revamped the SRO program at the request of the School Board; reducing the program from 5 SROs to 3 SROs. As 2022 begins, we continue to work with the School District Administration to ensure our schools are safe and that La Crosse Police continue to provide high level of service to all our schools, staff and students.

Community Resource Unit

In July 2021, the La Crosse Police Department rolled out the new Community Resource Unit (CRU.) The CRU includes an Investigator and Officer which make up this “hybrid” community policing unit that works with community members who are experiencing mental health crisis in order to better serve them. 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 in crisis. CRU works to communicate safety plans, collaborate follow-up contacts, and provide the necessary resources in developing proactive interventions. Part of this unit is the Co-Responder program which 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.



CRU members meet with area crisis resource workers.

National Night Out

In 2021, we were able to celebrate the 38th year of the National Night Out (NNO). This year allowed community members and department members the opportunity to reconnect after the pause in 2020 due to the pandemic. The La Crosse Community had 11 Neighborhood parties in 2021. Many of the block party attendees mentioned this was their first gathering since the pandemic.

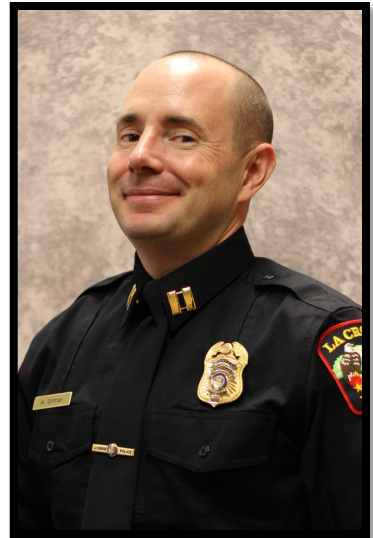
Traditionally, NNO involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations, and local officials from over 16,000 communities, from all 50 states, U.S. Territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide coming together to make communities safer and more caring places to live. NNO helps to generate support for 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!”



Officers meet with the neighbors at 21st and Weston Streets during NNO.

Field Services Bureau

Andrew Dittman, Captain



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, 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 provided 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 (6A-6P) and a night shift (6P-6A). Within those hours, Officers' work days start at 5A 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.

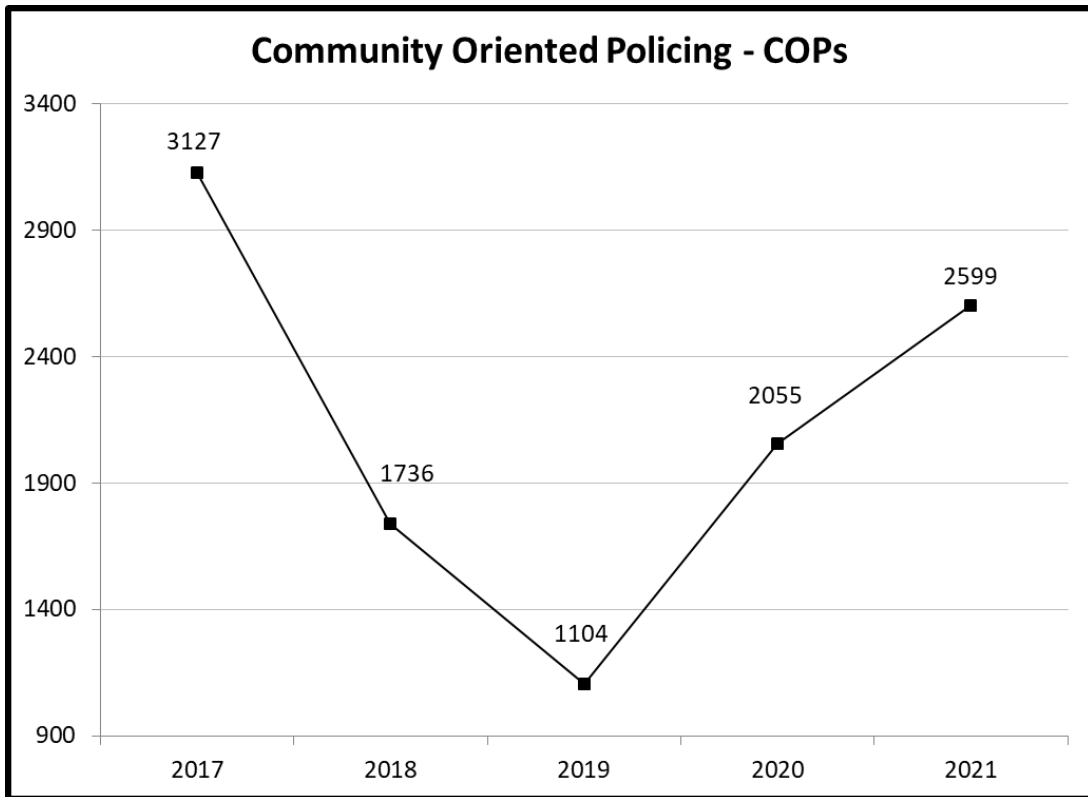
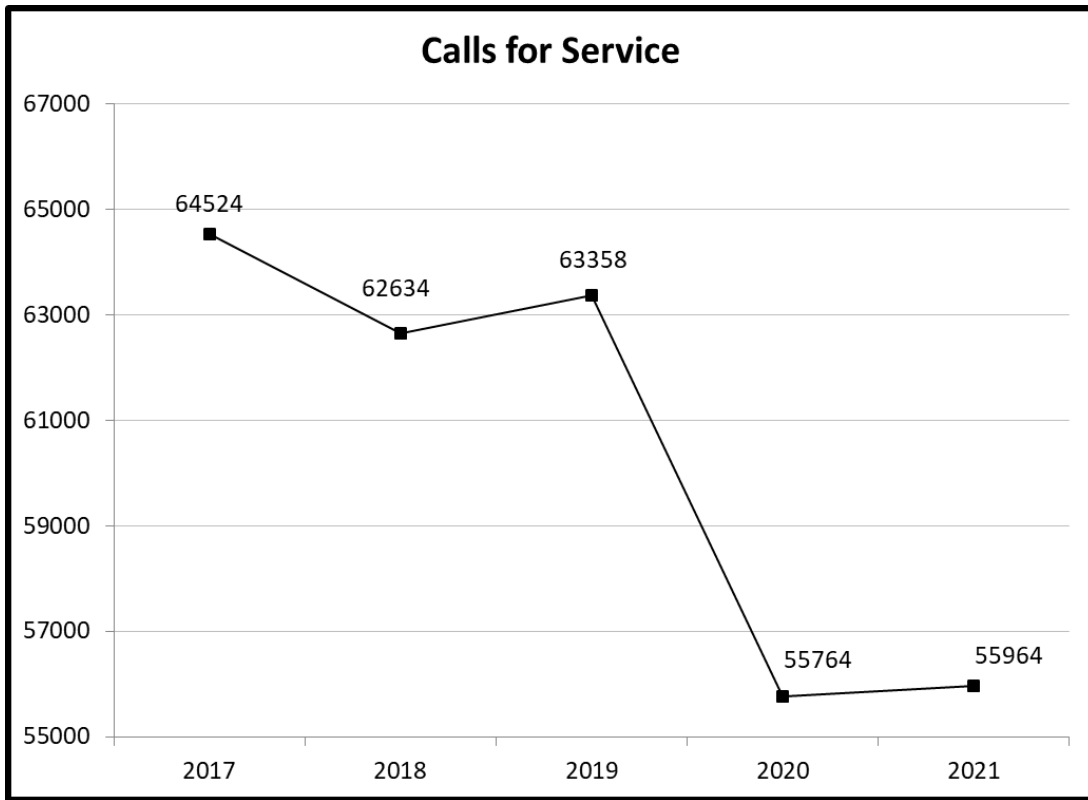
Members of the Field Services Bureau can be seen patrolling in squad cars, boat, bicycles, Segways, or on foot. These alternative patrol formats allow for increased engagement with the public which improves our effectiveness as a police agency. Further, the Field Services Bureau is comprised of specialty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

In 2021, 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.

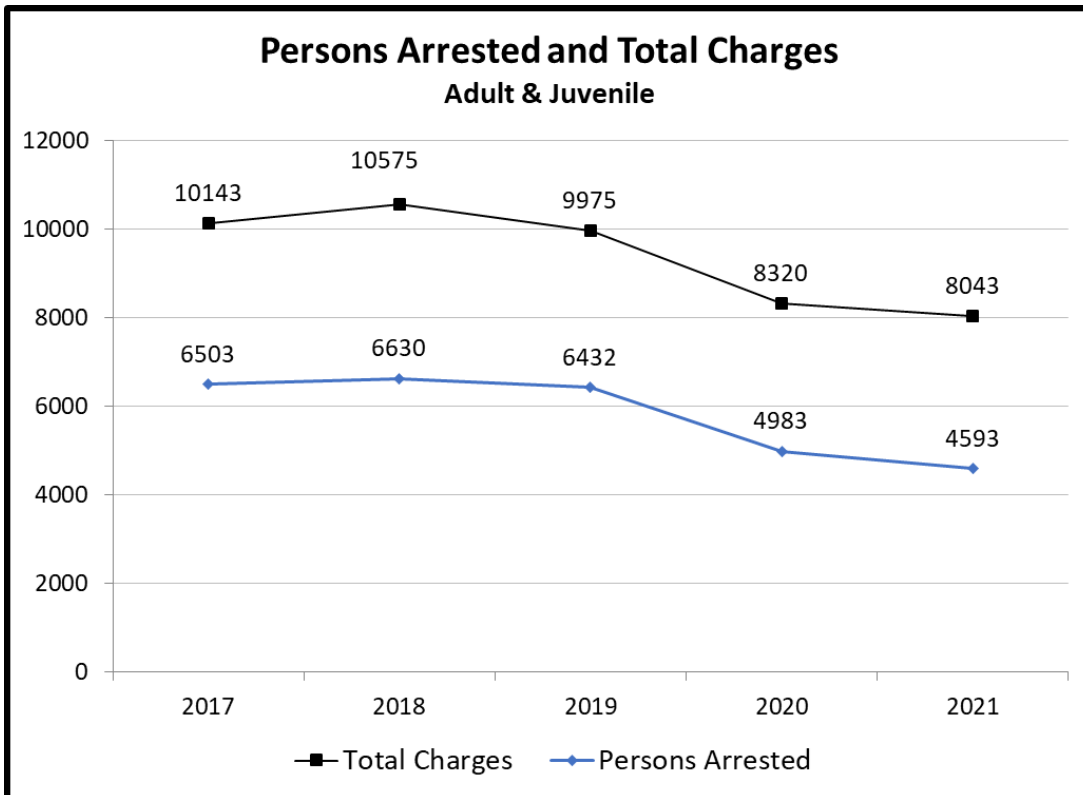
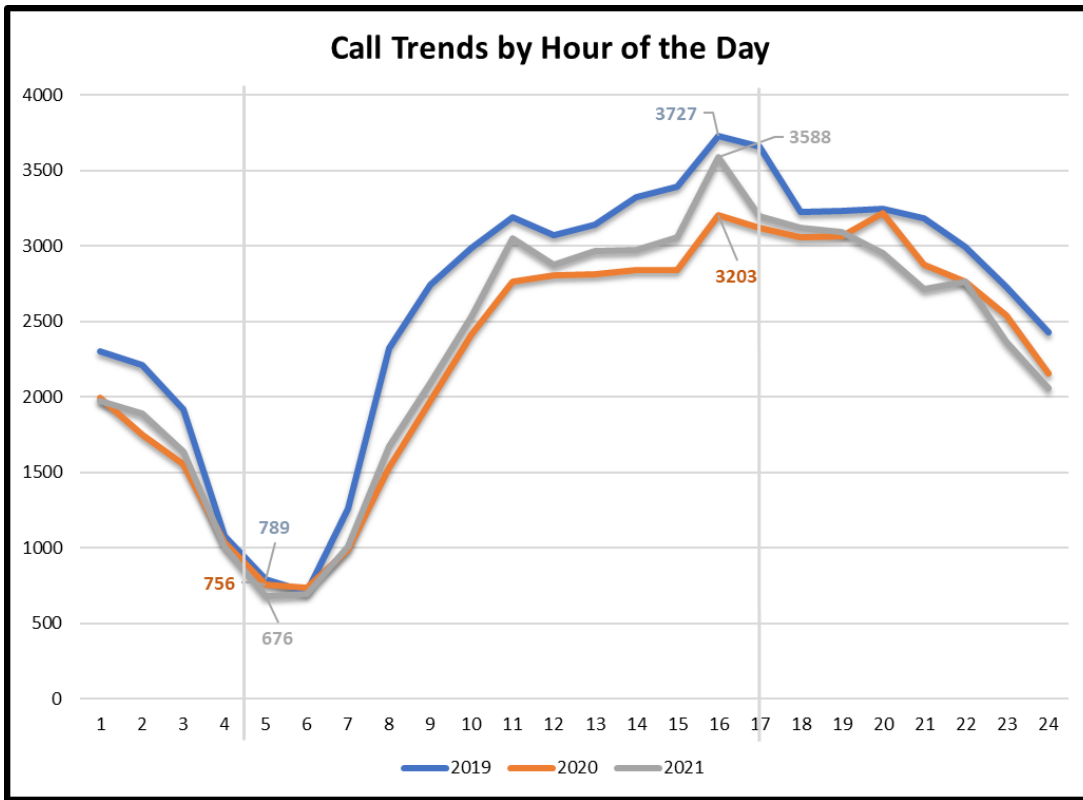
Field Services Bureau Officers also helped support public health as our community navigated the ongoing pandemic.

Throughout 2021, members of the Field Services Bureau responded to 55,964 calls for service, issued 4,144 traffic citations, and investigated 1,689 reportable traffic crashes. In addition, Officers issued 2,747 municipal ordinance citations and 3,957 warnings.

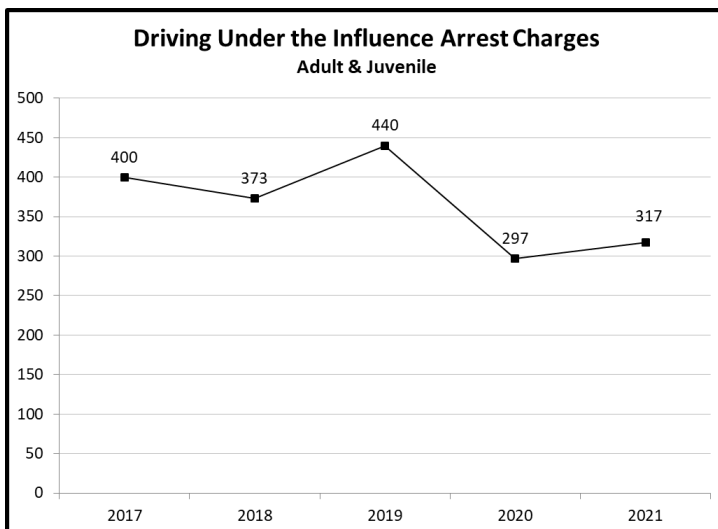
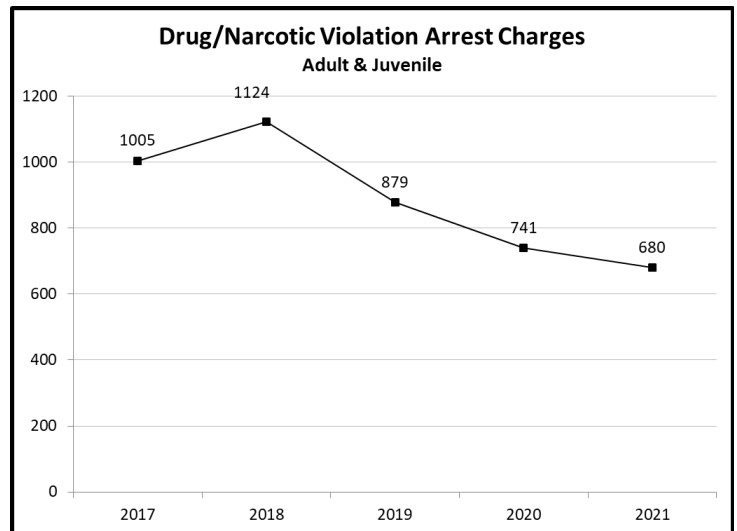
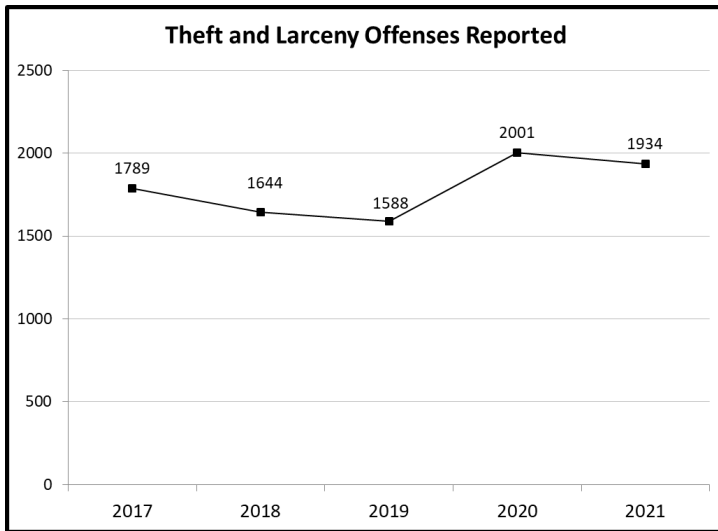
Field Services Statistics



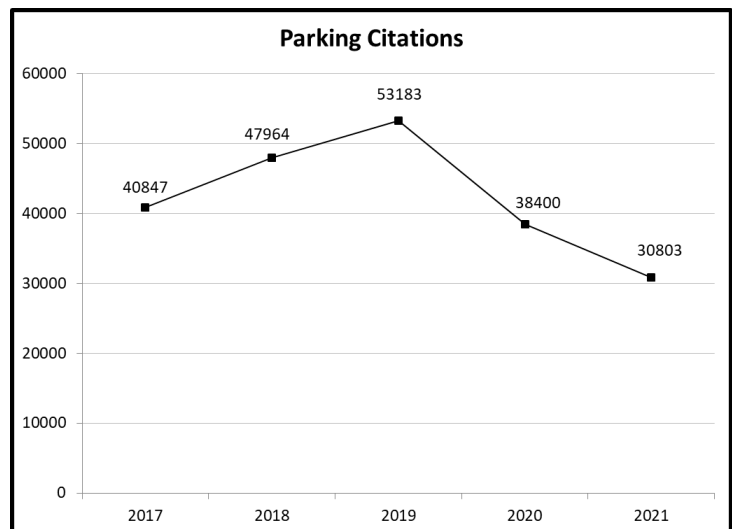
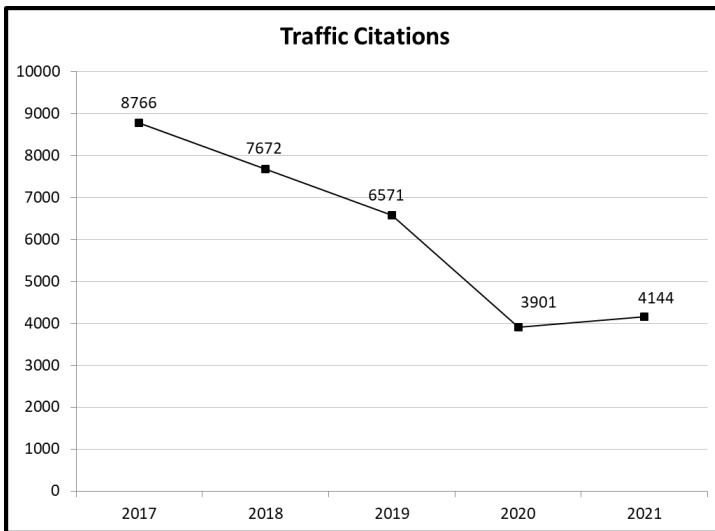
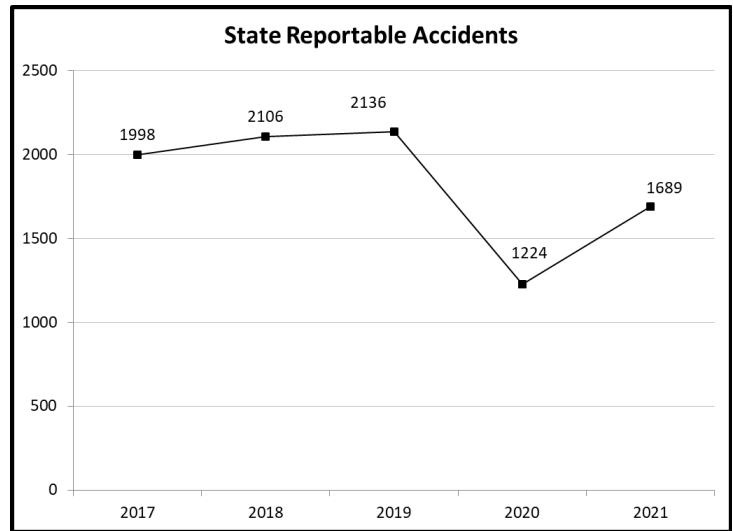
Field Services Statistics



Crime Statistics



Traffic Statistics





Administrative Services Bureau

Daniel Kloss, Captain

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.

Records and Property/Evidence Division

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.

In 2021, 55,964 calls for service were handled by the La Crosse Police Department; of those calls for service, 20,347 police reports were generated and processed by our data entry team. The records bureau processed 1,822 vehicle crash reports, including 1,689 that were reportable to the State of Wisconsin.

The records bureau processed 10,866 citations in 2021, which includes 3,957 Warnings, 2,747 Ordinance Citations, and 4,144 Traffic citations. Civilian Service Employees issued 30,803 parking tickets in 2021.

During 2021, the records bureau honored 6,013 open records requests, which included 1,132 vehicle accident report requests. The records bureau also processed 855 bartender/taxi licenses for 2021.

The La Crosse Police Department Property & Evidence Division logged in 6,072 pieces of evidence and found property in 2021 and released or disposed of 11,241 pieces of property. It also hosted two City auctions in early Summer and late Fall.

In 2021, the La Crosse Police Department underwent the process of moving to a new Records Management System (RMS) - the Central Square WebRMS reporting system. August 3, 2021 was our “go live” date for the new system. This was a county-wide initiative that was over a year in the making. The last time our reporting system was updated was with what we refer to as “classic RMS” and happened over 20 years ago. Once the importation of all historic data is completed, Officers will have a user-friendly, and more easily searchable records management system available at their fingertips.

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 management education. 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 11,556 hours of training among all its employees in 2021. The Training Division focused on diversity/ethics (851 hours), officer wellness (192 hours), and supervisory/management training (793 hours).



In 2021, officers were trained in proper risk mitigation. This training focused on the identification, analysis, assessment, control, avoidance, minimization, or elimination of unacceptable risks. An emphasis was placed on slowing scenarios down when possible in order to buy time to find the best possible solution. In addition, instructors were trained in ICAT (Integrating Communication and Tactics) and will be teaching all officers in 2022 about this discipline.

The Department hired 6 new officers in 2021. 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 training is demanding on the new Officers as well as the Field Training Program.

We continue to try and improve our recruitment opportunities to attract quality and diverse Officer candidates.



Police Parking Utility

Greg Elsen, Parking Utility Coordinator

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.

In 2021, the La Crosse Police Parking Utility continued to enforce the ordinance that allows for a once-per-year \$0.00 dollar citation, used as a warning, for alternate side night parking and overtime parking. The immobilization “boot” ordinance helped to recover \$14,649.00 in fines either paid in full or through a payment plan.

Alternate side parking was paused during the months of January through March while Council and staff discussed and developed a new ordinance. The new adopted ordinance now states: The provisions of this section shall only be in effect between 12:01 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. and commencing no sooner than November 15 through March 15. The start date for alternate side parking is contingent upon a total accumulation of two inches or more of seasonal snowfall, as tracked and reported by the National Weather Service, measured at the City of La Crosse airport. The Police Department will provide public notification announcing the start of alternate side parking upon receiving notification of the two inches of accumulated snow. Alternate side parking will then commence and run continuously through March 15.

Police Parking Utility is now processing contractor/trade vehicle parking permits. In the past, this was done by the Fire & Safety Department. By transferring this to PPU, we are now be able to sell and manage the permits from our T2 Systems parking software and enforce through our License Plate Reading (LPR) vehicles.

Police Parking Utility along with Downtown Mainstreet Inc. and ParkMobile are producing informational videos on using the parking ramps, pay stations and ParkMobile app. The first video of this series has been completed and pushed to social media as well as the City’s website. To view the video, please visit the Police Parking Utility website.

All of the parking ramps received a fresh coat of paint with colors indicating the floor level; the colors were made consistent throughout all of the ramps. Parking stalls were re-stripped and the doors in all ramps were repaired, painted or replaced. Security cameras have been wired and setup for installation in Riverside ramp this coming year.

The Police Parking Utility looks forward to continually improving the parking system in La Crosse in 2022.

Parking Utility Statistics

Payment Transactions for Parking

- ⇒ Pay Stations: 64,417
- ⇒ Passport / ParkMobile App: 31,268
- ⇒ Online: 18,563

License Plate Recognition (LPR) Technology

- ⇒ Total of six (6) LPR enforcement vehicles
- ⇒ Over 3.1 million license plates read

T2 Ticketing and Permitting Software

- ⇒ 1,710 parking ramp permits issued
- ⇒ 370 residential permits issued
- ⇒ 30,803 parking citations issued

2021 Approved Operating Budget

Expenses	Revenues
\$3,261,822.00	\$2,165,175.00

2021 Parking Citations by Type

Unauthorized	7,319	Immobilization Violation	62
Overtime Parking (\$0.00 citation)	6,411	1 FT From Curb Parking	52
Overtime Parking	5,967	Loading Zone	51
Night Parking (\$0.00 citation)	4,189	Facing Traffic Parking	49
Non-Registered Vehicle	1,979	Handicap Space	30
Night Parking	1,437	Other	25
Crosswalk - 15 Feet	739	Unattached Trailer	23
Parking Warning	681	Not Parked in Marked Stall	9
No Park Zone	417	Front/Side Yard Parking	8
Driveway - 4 Feet	295	Double Parking	4
Backing Into Stalls Parking	255	2 FT From Curb Parking	4
Boat Landing Parking Violation	206	Unregistered Vehicle	1
Fire Hydrant - 10 Feet	205	Emergency Snow	1
Trespass Parking	161		
48 Hour Abandoned Parking	152	TOTAL	30,803
Alley Parking	69		



Investigative Services Bureau

Phillip Martin, Captain

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 are trained in a variety of disciplines and work together as a team on significant cases. This allows all ISB staff to bring their own specialties to the table including advanced interviews, evidence processing, or digital evidence collection, to name a few. The Investigative Services Bureau stays current on new tools and technology that can be used to bring successful conclusions to cases.

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, Wisconsin Association for Identification, Wisconsin Narcotics Officers Association, and the Wisconsin Association of Homicide Investigators. We frequently partner with other local, state and federal agencies on significant cases, and we have seen great success in doing so. One great partnership is between the La Crosse Police Department and the United States Attorney's Office. In 2021, LCPD Investigators and US Attorneys worked together on a number of cases that were fully adjudicated. Examples of these types of cases include Tang Vue who was sentenced to 6.5 years for dealing methamphetamine; Aubrey Marshall who was sentenced for 5 years for trafficking of cocaine; and Christopher McCartney who was sentenced to 7.5 years for methamphetamine trafficking. There are also a number of cases related to drug trafficking, child pornography, and weapons related offenses where federal indictments have been made but are awaiting sentencing.

The Investigative Services Bureau also works with our local politicians. Investigator James Mancuso and Investigator Andrew Tolvstad worked in collaboration with Wisconsin Representative Jill Billings on legislation related to the manufacturing, distribution and delivery of fentanyl with the goal to bring laws more inline with how heroin cases are handled. In early 2022, this bill was signed into law by Governor Evers right here in La Crosse, with Rep. Billings and Investigators Mancuso and Tolvstad in attendance.

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 2021.

January Shootings

The Investigative Services Bureau investigated multiple shootings in the month of January. On January 15th they responded to 608 Rose Street for a residence that was shot. No one was injured and this is still an open investigation. On January 17th a shooting at 1021 4th Street South was investigated and officers received very little cooperation. Later a victim presented at an area hospital with non-life-threatening injuries but was also uncooperative with investigators. On January 20th another shooting was investigated at 1020 5th Ave South. An involved vehicle was located by responding officers and a convicted felon was taken into custody for his involvement in this incident.

Officer Involved Shooting in Onalaska

On Easter Sunday, Onalaska Police made contact with a subject at an Onalaska address. The residents had asked the subject to leave, but he refused. The subject displayed a weapon when Onalaska Police approached him and Officers retreated to safety. The La Crosse County Sheriff's Office Emergency Response Team (ERT) responded to the scene. The suspect displayed a weapon and a deputy fired back at the subject. The LCPD Investigative Services Bureau was called in to assist in the investigation. After an extensive investigation, the reports were turned over to the District Attorney's office who ruled the deputy acted in self-defense.

Homicide Investigation

On June 28th, Officers were called to a stabbing at Houska Park. The victim was found deceased at the scene. The NROs and Investigators were called in to investigate. The NROs' knowledge of the unsheltered population living in the park at the time was instrumental. Through the relationships the NROs had previously established with the unsheltered population, we were able to gain cooperation from witnesses and developed a suspect, David Pearson. An arrest was made a short time later and David Pearson is currently awaiting trial for this case.

Drug Investigation

On September 23rd, the Drug Unit brought to a close a five-month investigation into fentanyl sales in La Crosse. The Wisconsin Department of Justice—Division of Criminal Investigation, US Drug Enforcement Administration, Child Protective Services, Wisconsin State Patrol, and La Crosse County Sheriff's Office ERT assisted our Department in executing four search warrants in a very short period of time. The warrants led to four arrests and 296 grams of fentanyl being seized. This was LCPD's largest fentanyl seizure to date. Antoine Hardie was federally indicted on this case and is awaiting sentencing.

Shooting Investigation

On November 26th, Officers were sent to Dewey's Side Street Saloon for a shooting. A large fight occurred in the bar, and upon exiting the bar, one person was struck and suffered a non-life-threatening injury. Witnesses have not been forthcoming with information and this is still an open case.

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

Special Teams

Neighborhood Resource Officer Unit

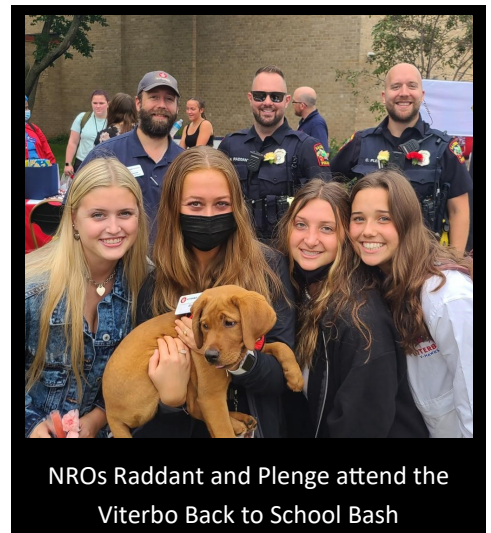
Since 2014, the Neighborhood Resource Officer (NROs) Unit has served five geographic areas within the City of La Crosse—Washburn, Lower Northside Depot, Downtown, Powell-Poage-Hamilton, and the Parking-Parks-Transit systems. These ten Neighborhood Resource Officers and two supervisors continue to work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

In 2021 the Unit welcomed a few new staff. Officers Alex Burg and Jared Reed were both promoted to Investigator positions, and their roles in the Downtown area were filled by Officers Dominick Jacobs and Abbie Schroeder. When Officer Whitney Hughes was promoted to an Investigator in the newly formed Community Resource Unit (CRU), Officer Cody Plenge stepped in to the Washburn Neighborhood with Officer Nick Raddant. Finally, Lt. Phil Martin was promoted to Captain, and the Unit welcomed newly-promoted Lt. Cory Brandl from the Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau.

2021 was the second year of working with the COVID-19 pandemic impacting our interactions. The NROs were able to get more involved during the summer months and have continued some of these new ways to engage with our community—virtual events, phone calls, texts, emails. The NROs continued to engage with the community while socially distancing. This allowed the NROs to maintain their dedicated problem-solving responses that these neighborhoods have grown to appreciate.

Washburn

NROs Nick Raddant and Whitney Hughes continued to work with the neighborhood association, schools and social workers, as well as business and residents in the area. They also maintained the long-standing relationship with Mayo Healthcare System and Viterbo University. When Officer Cody Plenge transitioning into the Washburn NRO role, they hit the ground running. Ofc. Raddant got Ofc. Plenge involved in many of the daily neighborhood interactions, including work with the Housing Authority to better increase security and defuse problems between residents. Through communication tools and individual-focused solutions, the Washburn NROs have helped diffuse and resolve sites where police assistance was regularly needed.



NROs Raddant and Plenge attend the Viterbo Back to School Bash

Downtown

Downtown NROs Dominick Jacobs and Abbie Schroeder got right to work, learning the position and community they serve. Neighborhood meetings were a combination of virtual and in-person, and they worked diligently to address the issues of both residents and businesses. They continued to utilize the cameras available, both right downtown and other outlying properties to assist in solving crimes. A great example of this was the recovery of a stolen Christmas Tree from Burns park, which the NRO unit

recovered within a matter of hours. The theme Downtown continues to be teamwork and technology to provide the best service possible.

Powell-Poage-Hamilton

NROs Aaron Westpfahl and Danny Mandujano have continued with the Hintgen-Huber project, a collaborative effort of the La Crosse School District, Housing Authority, and Boys and Girls Club. This group has spent time focusing on problem residences related to drug trafficking and quality of life issues, and continued to work on getting illegal guns and drugs off the streets. They also identified a chronic nuisance location just outside their area and worked to address the repetitive drug-related issues. They even worked with the City Attorney's office to update municipal code to more appropriately address these types of problems.

Officers Westpfahl and Mandujano coordinated with the Sara Rose Hougom Foundation to host several Sara Style Life Skill events. These outings gave kids in the community experience with everything from fishing to financial literacy.

Parking-Parks-Transit

NROs Jake Walker and Nate Lewis continued to work on issues in the parks, parking ramps and transit center this year. The NROs and community groups came together to assist those experiencing homelessness. By collaborating with Independent Living Resources and numerous other agencies, the NROs worked to connect those in need with service providers in the community. For those experiencing homelessness, some of the struggles are getting to and navigating the services available to them. Officers in the NRO Unit regularly take the extra steps to link up persons in need of assistance with community partners who can help. The Parks NROs spend a good amount of time on bikes throughout the city, which increases their accessibility and coverage.



NROs Schroeder, Raddant, Lewis, and Vo came together to find the Burns Park holiday tree after it was stolen.



NROs Bowe and Vo grill up hotdogs for the Boys & Girls Club End of Summer Bash

Lower Northside Depot

NROs Mike Vo and Trent Bowe have continued to support connections with the business district on the Northside. Their primary assignment is to the Lower Northside Depot Neighborhood but they regularly help residents all over the north side of La Crosse and assist with investigations outside of their traditional coverage area. With restrictions lifting on in-person gatherings and meetings, they were able to stop out at the Erickson and Schuh-Mullen Boys and Girls Club on a more regular basis, connecting with kids in their neighborhood.

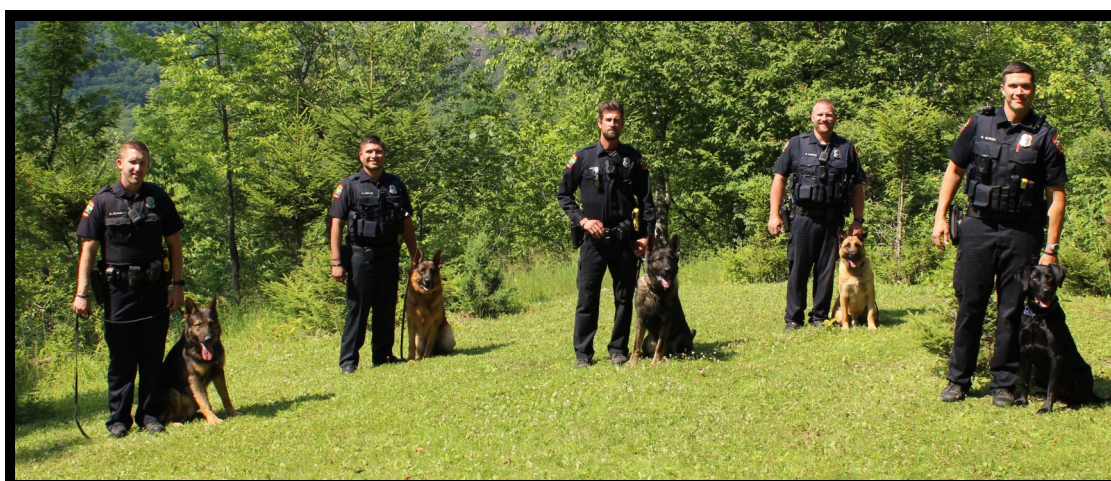
The NRO Unit continues to be a dynamic, pro-active and community-focused group. COVID-19 may continue to alter the way we engage with our residents and community members, but we will continue to find new ways to interact, respond and build connections with those we serve.

K-9 Unit

In 2021, the La Crosse Police K-9 Units worked to get back to being active in the community. With the global Covid-19 pandemic beginning to slow, several previously cancelled community events were once again available, allowing canine units to participate. Some of the community events that our police canine teams attended in 2021 included school presentations, Ashley for the Arts, Camp Send-a-kid, Planting with the Public, and Badger Football games. Our canine teams were also able to attend a 12-year-old girl's birthday party after her parents advised how much she loves police officers and police canines.

The La Crosse Police Department also hosted its 11th annual Putt'n 4 Pooches golf tournament in 2021 after having to take a year off due to the pandemic. Once again, we had a great turnout for the tournament and despite some sporadic rain, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The Apartment Association of La Crosse was also able to host its annual meatball dinner in 2021. The event had a large turnout with members of the community coming together to enjoy some amazing food, raffle prizes, and getting to meet some of the canine teams and see demonstrations of the skills that our handlers and canines possess. This year, our canine teams also began to sell plush toys that were replicas of our department's police canines, which were a big hit. The plush toys are a way for the community to show their support for the canine program, while being able to bring our canines home. These toys have also made great gifts for Officers to purchase and give to kids in our community.

In April, our four multi-purpose canine teams traveled to Stillwater, MN where they successfully tested for their USPCA narcotic detector trials. Later in June, the four teams traveled to Ashland, WI where they successfully tested for their patrol dog yearly recertifications. The departments single purpose explosive detection canine team also successfully completed their ATF bi-yearly recertification this year.



Officer Dakota Jelinski
K-9 Thor

Officer Kevin Lozano
K-9 Rock

Officer Aaron Westpfahl
K-9 Loki

Officer Steve Hughes
K-9 Zeus

Officer Dan Ulrich
K-9 Bill

The La Crosse Police Department currently has five canine teams assigned between patrol and the neighborhood resources unit, giving the department a wide range of canine coverage. Each of the canine teams are required to train for a minimum of 16 hours a month, however many of our teams go above and beyond their training requirement hours. This dedication to training allows our teams 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 and their generosity as we all grapple with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Emergency Response Team

The La Crosse Police Emergency Response Team (ERT) is a collateral duty team, comprised of members that 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, six Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) members of the La Crosse Fire Department, and six negotiators. The team is assigned to respond to hostage and barricaded persons, high-risk search warrants and vehicle stops, large scale civil disturbances, natural and/or man-made disasters, and dignitary protection.



The continuing COVID-19 pandemic challenged opportunities to train in 2021, but through safe practices and careful planning, the Team maintained a high level of proficiency in critical skills. 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, and defensive tactics. The Team worked with local partners throughout the year to train a variety of essential skills including practicing Rescue Task Force operations with members of the La Crosse Fire Department and scenario-based training with UW-La Crosse Police and negotiators. These trainings help build trust, coordination and communication with local agencies we work with.

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 less lethal instructor certification, drone pilot, SWAT Leadership school, canine integration and shield operator courses.

During 2021, ERT safely conducted several residential search warrants, with two back-to-back in one day. The Team also assisted with a dignitary protection detail when the President of the United States visited La Crosse in late June.

ERT operates with a team first approach to any problem that is presented 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 15 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 from the U.S. Coast Guard, which is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The grant reimburses expenses related to the operation of the Unit.



In 2021, the La Crosse Police Water Patrol Unit had another successful year. During the 2021 boating season, the Water Patrol Unit worked 176 hours on the water, conducted 38 boat stops and boat inspections, issued 16 boating citations and 37 written warnings. Citations were issued for boating while under the influence, 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. They also assisted with security during President Biden's visit to La Crosse in June.

One highlight from this year is that six of our officers went through Sonar Technician training. These Officers learned about sonar technology, interpreting sonar imagery, marking targets, setting up search patterns, and searching for evidence/weapons among other subject matter. There was one day of classroom instruction and one day on the water applying what was learned. In the unfortunate event that Officers get called to a boat crash with a missing person(s), or a child missing from a beach, these Officers have the life-saving tools and training needed to quickly set up a search and hopefully locate the victim(s) in a timely manner.

One noteworthy incident from the year was that on June 5th our boat patrol responded to a boat crash in front of Riverside Park. Our boat was on scene within two minutes of the call from dispatch. In this incident, an impaired boater entered the no-wake zone at a high rate of speed and struck another boat from behind. The striking boat ramped up and over the struck boat. Somehow the prop from the striking boat missed all four occupants in the struck boat and there were only minor injuries. The occupants of the striking boat were both ejected into the water but they were able to swim back to their boat. This crash could have easily turned fatal had someone been struck by the prop or knocked unconscious before being ejected. The at-fault operator was arrested for operating a motorboat while under the influence causing injury (criminal charge), and he was issued numerous citations as well.

Incidents like this highlight the importance of being on the water, promoting safe boating practices, and enforcing waterway laws. It also highlights the importance of training and being prepared for situations like this (or worse). During the offseason we 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.

It was a challenging year for everyone in our community including our bike patrol, but we were still able to deploy regular patrols throughout the year. Despite the challenges of COVID, we were able to host a training class and add eight Officers to our unit. With any luck, we will be back to riding during all of La Crosse's parades and festivals for 2022!

Honor Guard

The La Crosse Police Honor Guard is a specialized team of the La Crosse Police Department which attends special professional and/or 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 2021 the Honor Guard participated in a limited number of events due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. The team was involved in five separate events. In January the team went to assist the Eau Claire PD with a funeral conducting a rifle volley for an officer who passed away off duty. In February we were a part of Duane Stoner's funeral as a rifle team honoring his 50 years in law enforcement in a number of capacities within Trempealeau County. The team was able to do one training for Police Week and then attended Police Week in Onalaska at Dash Park in May. Also in May, La Crosse County Reserve Deputy Larry Klahn passed away suddenly off duty. The several members of the team worked with the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department as casket and door guards during his service. Lastly, the team had the honor to be casket guards for Retired LCPD Officer Greg Yehle.

A plaque was presented to Captain Troy Nedegaard for 23 years of service to the team. Thank you Troy!

Police Reserve Unit

The La Crosse Police Reserve Unit is a volunteer unit within the Police Department. In 2021, the Reserve Unit consisted of 9 to 18 members throughout the year who varied in age and came from diverse backgrounds. They included students and career-oriented individuals, with some looking for a future in law enforcement and some who wanted to give back through volunteering.



The Reserves learn about K-9 police work.

The demand for the Reserve unit within the community was somewhat back to normal after the 2020 COVID cancellations on events. The reserves worked 21 different events, some of which were several days (WIAA tournament) and up to 35 days (the Rotary lights display). Reserves also participated in training and Shift ride-a-longs.

The Reserves trained monthly on topics such as Defense and Arrest Tactics, water survival, boat patrol, vehicle contacts, traffic crash investigation, firearms, and were allowed to participate in ride-a-longs with sworn officers and work with the Water Patrol unit.

For those members of the Reserve Unit who wish to pursue a career in Law Enforcement, serving as a Reserve comes with invaluable knowledge, training and experience. Recently, Reserve members have been able to work for the Police Department as Civilian Aides, gaining even more experience. This year we had one reserve, Cody Nicholson, get accepted and start the WI State Patrol Academy. Reserve Brittany Wiese left for a job at the LaCrosse County Jail. Other reserves went on to other careers in the military and the private sector. They all advised that their experience as a Reserve was invaluable, and several may return some day to help out the La Crosse community.

Police Explorer Post

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, and much more. Ending the 2020-2021 school year, we had an average daily attendance of 10 students. So far for the 2021-2022 school year, we are averaging 18 students who attend in person classes once again.

Explorer Post #3201 is led by advisors Lieutenant Jon Wenger, Sergeant Stephen Curns, Investigators Tony DeLap and Andy Rosenow, and Officers Kurt Weaver and Cody Plenge. We'd like to congratulate the Explores 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 2021 was a busy year for the Chaplaincy. The team of 12 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 20 calls, attended 13 debriefings, trained 99.5 hours, and utilized 1,500 hours of administrative support. They also provided non-emergency services such as officiating for funeral services, providing counseling, attending promotion ceremonies, and serving during Oktoberfest. Due to Covid-19 there were no events for Law Enforcement Memorial Week, no in person swearing-in or retirement ceremonies, and the 20th Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Picnic was cancelled.

FBI National Academy



Chief Shawn P. Kudron	243 rd Session - September 2010 to December 2010
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Northwestern Staff and Command School



Assistant Chief Jason J. Melby	April 2011
Captain Daniel G. Kloss	April 2015
Lieutenant Joseph L. Smith	April 2013

Awards and Special Recognition

Throughout the year, members of the La Crosse Police Department are recognized by local, state, or national organizations and businesses for their outstanding work. These are but a few of the awards and special recognition from 2021.



Chief Kudron had the pleasure of presenting former Officer Dustin Darling with the TOP COP honorable mention award from the National Association of Police Organizations. NAPO recognized Dustin for his bravery and conduct during a dangerous encounter with an armed subject who shot Ofc. Darling.

Officers Dakota Marcon and Hayden Halverson were presented with the La Crosse Fire Department Lifesaver Award for their quick application of lifesaving tourniquets to a patient who received a severe laceration that severed an artery. This action saved the patient's life!



Representative Jill Billings presented Officer Joel Miller with the 2021 95th Assembly District—First Responder of the Year Award. Officer Miller was recognized for his dedication to community engagement and assisting citizens in times of crisis, quality of life issues, homelessness, or mental health concerns, as well as being celebrated for his career achievements.

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.*



L to R, Top to Bottom: Officer Jesse Cotto attends the Freedom Honor Flight celebration with Patti Lokken; Officers Ethan Purkapile, Jake Walker, and Dominick Jacobs attend a Loggers game with members of the LCPD and Boys and Girls Club Blue Crew; Officers Trent Bowe, Jovanna Nedland, Danny Mandujano, and Mike Vo participate in "Cooking with a Cop" with Sherry Hougom from Sara Rose Hougom Foundation, and several kids from the Boys & Girls Club; Officers Dominick Jacobs and Mike Vo were on Bike Patrol at the Deke Slayton AirFest; Civilian Service Employee Ian Brown and Officer Danny Mandujano attended Breakfast with Champions for Special Olympics Wisconsin with several Special Olympics Athletes; School Resource Officer Jovanna Nedland helps a few students in science class.



L to R, Top to Bottom: K-9 Officers Aaron Westpfahl and Steve Hughes stopped by the Kids K9 Camp at the Family Dog Center and talked about their K-9s Loki and Zeus; Blue Steel Bikes comes to the rescue when Captain Andy Dittman and Lieutenant Joe Smith got a flat tire while on Bike Patrol; Officers Teri Roden, Nick Raddant, Trent Benning, Chad Maske, and Joel Miller attend the annual Brookdale Assisted Living Luncheon; Officer Ethan Purkapile checks in on the Torch Light Parade while on Bike Patrol; Chief Shawn Kudron meets with students at Viterbo to kick off the Green Bandana Project which aims to raise awareness and provide support for students living with mental illness; Neighborhood Resource Officers Danny Mandujano, Whitney Hughes, Nate Lewis, Cody Plenge, and Dominick Jacobs volunteer on their time off to work at Rotary Lights.

