

# Preparing for Today



## Planning for the Future

La Crosse Police Department  
2018 Annual Report

# 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.*

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# Greetings!

*Ronald Tischer, Chief of Police*

Mayor Tim Kabat, Common Council Members, and citizens of the City of La Crosse, I am pleased to present the 2018 La Crosse Police Department Annual Report.

In 2018, our training continued to be at the forefront of policing, with Diversity and Ethics as one of the cornerstones. Early in the year, we expanded on our partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater La Crosse and formed the BGC Blue Crew (front cover picture). This mentorship program pairs a BGC member with an Officer who helps our youth with everything from day-to-day challenges to preparing for a career in Law Enforcement, hopefully aiding in diversifying our Department in the future. In October, the Department hosted a Citizens' Police Academy for members of the Hmong Community as a way to learn more about each other's culture. The Academy was a great success in sharing information and forging new relationships within our community. This year we also welcomed two new Neighborhood Resource Officer positions in the Powell-Poage-Hamilton Neighborhood. The NRO program has provided resources to the neighborhoods they serve, and we will continue to look at opportunities to expand the NRO unit in other neighborhoods.

Our members continue to be leaders in the community through volunteering and community engagement. Staff participate in committees and events at the local, state, and national levels. These partnerships help shape the future of Law Enforcement, and we are committed and honored to put the La Crosse Police Department's mark on the future of policing.

The Police Department and Parking Utility continued to become more technologically advanced. We implemented Body Worn Cameras, made improvements to Pay for Parking and the Parking Ramps, and expanded our footprint on Social Media. We also created and began the process to fill a new Crime Analyst position within the department. We will continue to research, build upon, and implement technology and resources to ensure we continue to carry out our Mission – Leaders in Providing a Safe and Vibrant Community.

The year 2018 saw many of the same challenges for our Officers and Civilian Staff. Responding to mental health crises, drugs, and alcohol violations once again required the vast majority of our resources. An alarming trend is the number of "Felon with Handgun/Gun" arrests we are encountering. This trend needs to be dealt with immediately throughout the Criminal Justice System.

Another struggle was hiring Officers that lived up to the high expectations of our department. At one point we had five Officer vacancies. Some of these vacancies were held open to ensure we met our budget at the end of the year. We will never compromise our belief that we hire people for their ethics, morale, and attitude, no matter which position we're trying to fill.

It's a privilege to work alongside everyone at the Police Department and Parking Utility. Their dedication and professionalism ensure this department is the best there is now and in the future.



# Mission, Vision, and Values

## *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.

Our mission is based on core values that represent what we stand for and how we will get the job done. These values reinforce one another and ensure that we are working together to serve our citizens.

## *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

## WILEAG Accreditation



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.

The La Crosse Police Department last completed the enormous task of gathering information for the re-accreditation process in the spring of 2017. This included a comprehensive review of the department's policies and procedures, as well as a public comment period. The current re-accreditation was awarded on June 19, 2017 and expires in 2020.

The La Crosse Police Department has been accredited by the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group (WILEAG) since 1995. The goal of WILEAG is to provide a high quality, affordable alternative to national accreditation.



# Administration

*Robert Abraham, 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 all of the bureaus within the agency and coordinates Department goals and missions with the Department’s 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 2018, the Office of the Assistant Chief worked closely with the Chief and staff to manage the 11 million dollar police budget. Major projects included the full implementation of the Motorola Body Worn Camera project, Police Squad Propane project, fleet management, technology upgrades, and project management of the police secure parking structure. The Assistant Chief also worked closely with the Police Parking Utility Coordinator on resurfacing the Market Square Parking Ramp stairwell, downtown curb painting project, and several other parking initiatives to better serve the parking consumers.

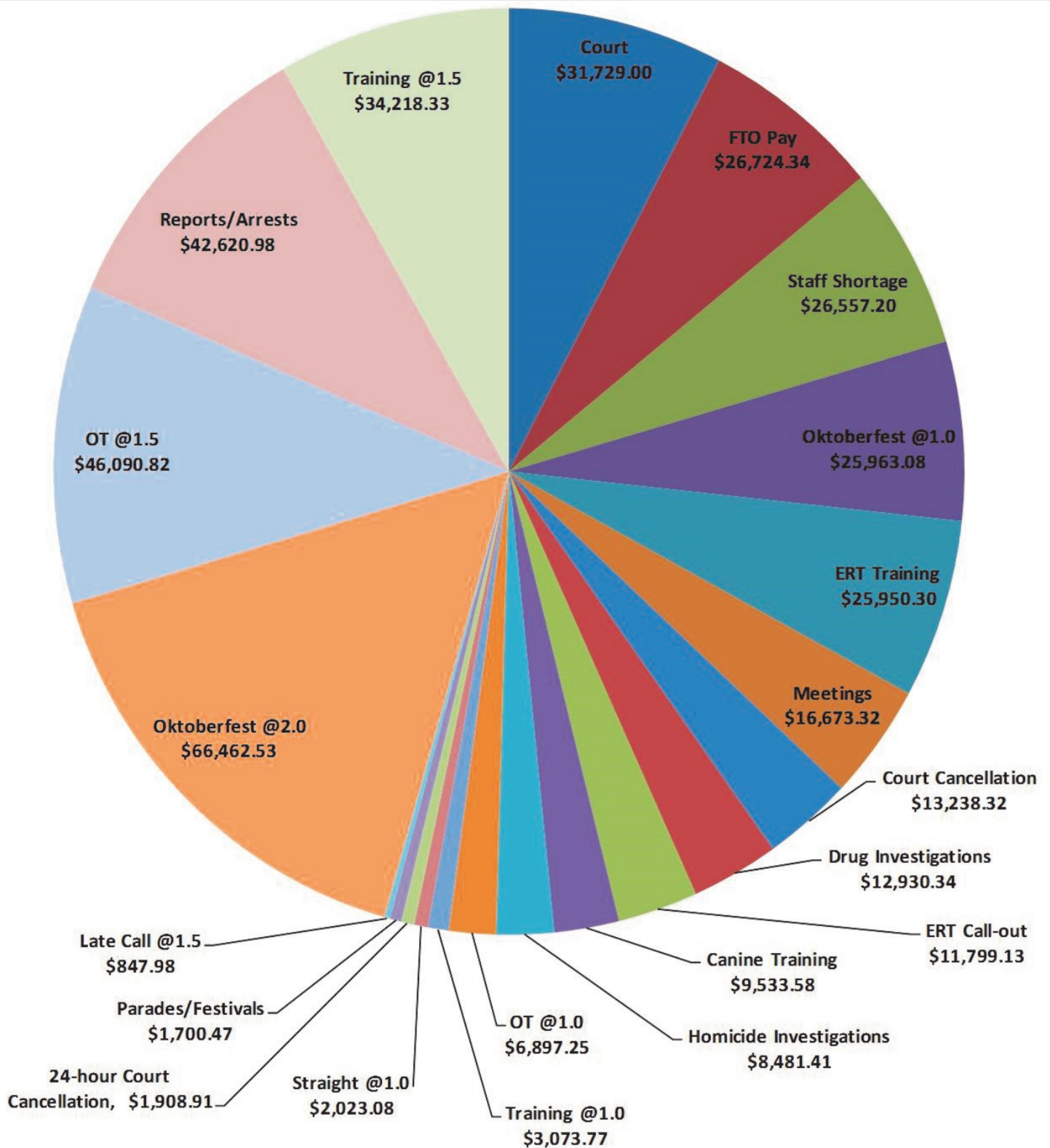
Courtesy Corporation (McDonalds) joined “Project Blue Light” which is a partnership between police and private business/homeowners designed to place cameras at locations that will allow the Police Department the ability to view live video from privately-owned cameras. This project was coordinated through the Assistant Chief’s office.

## Annual Approved Operating Budget

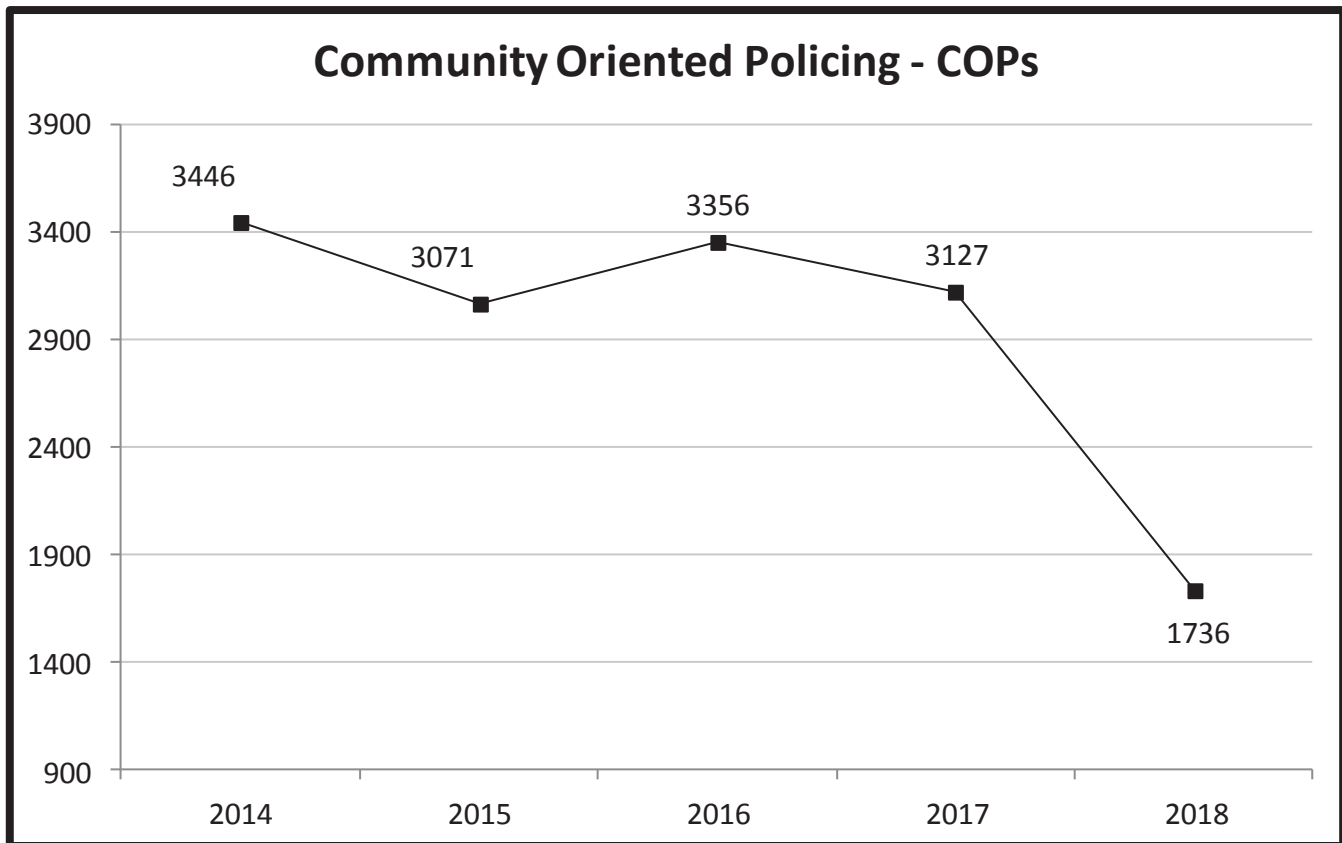
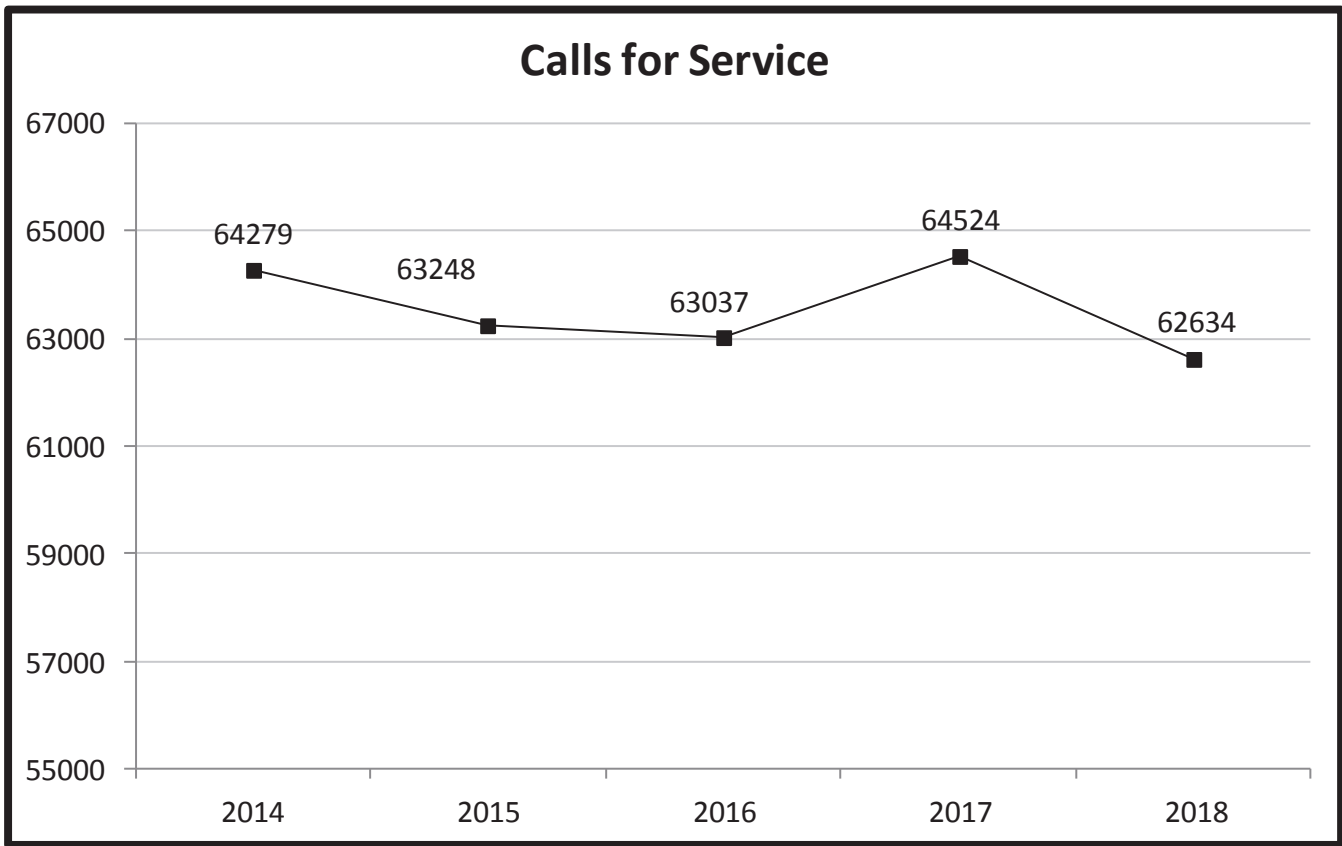
	2016	2017	2018
Salaries	\$6,412,009.00	\$6,831,672.00	\$7,007,288.00
Overtime	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
Benefits	\$2,972,789.00	\$3,063,586.00	\$3,130,927.00
Operating	\$737,512.00	\$742,712.00	\$755,546.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,372,310.00</b>	<b>\$10,887,970.00</b>	<b>\$11,143,761.00</b>

# 2018 Overtime Usage

In 2018, the La Crosse Police Department used \$415,424.14 in overtime. Officers also earned overtime pay through grant funding or security services for private events.

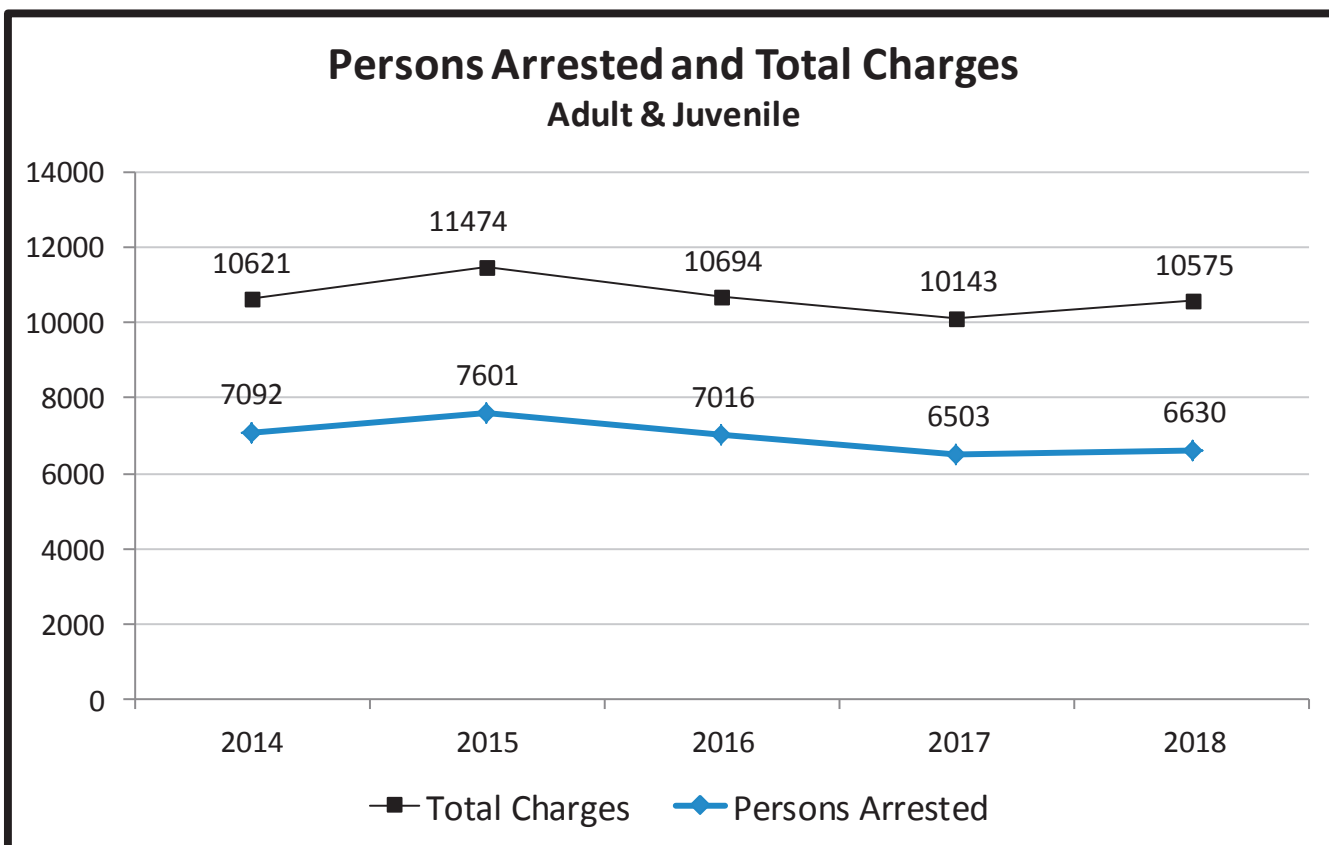
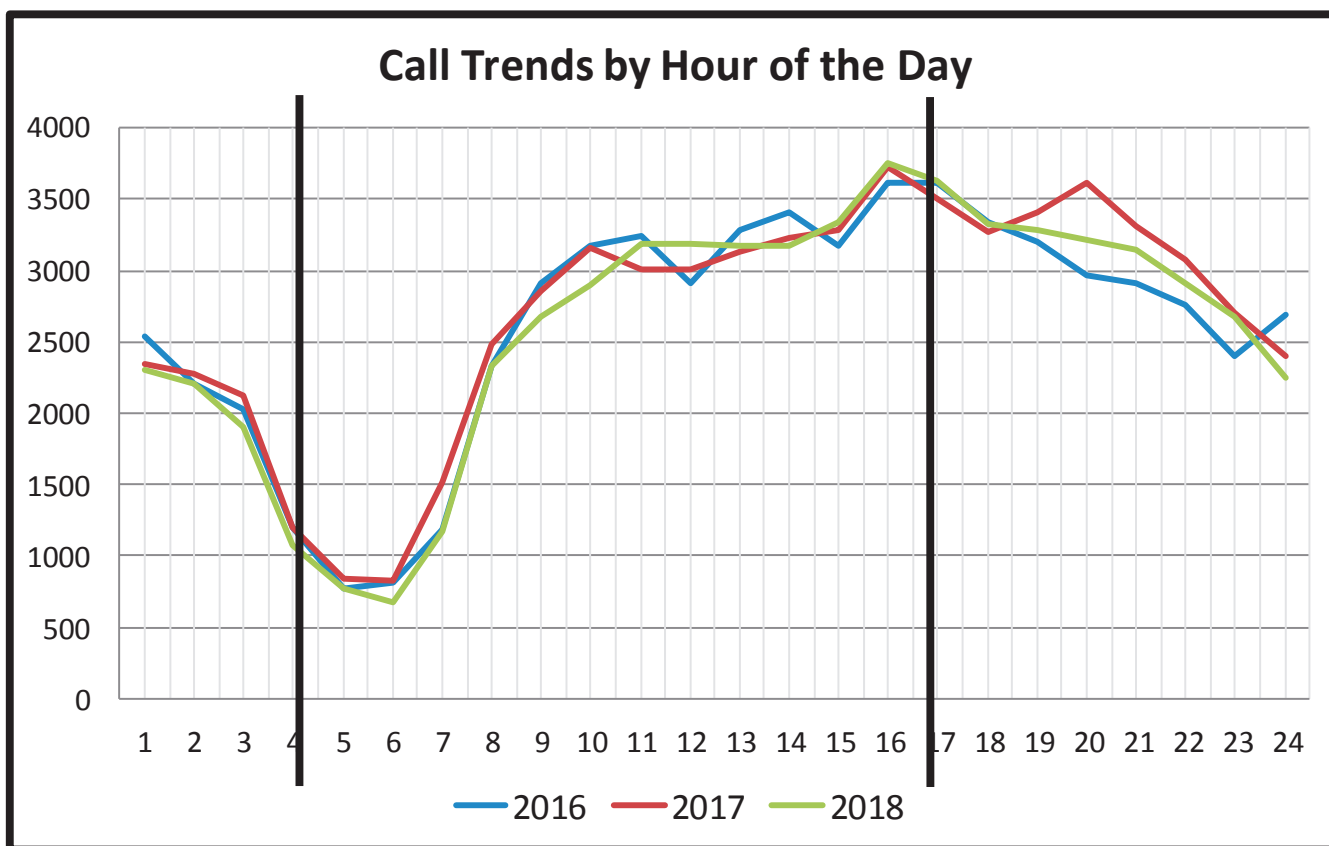


# Field Services Statistics

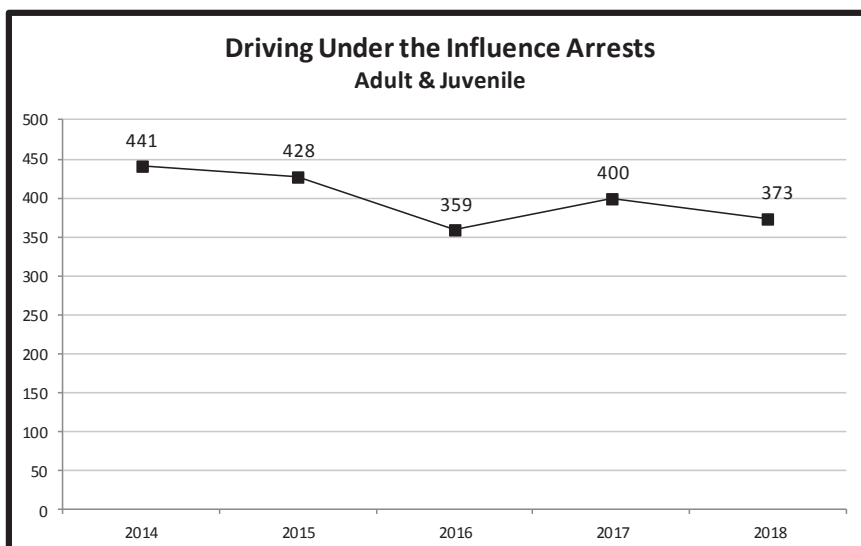
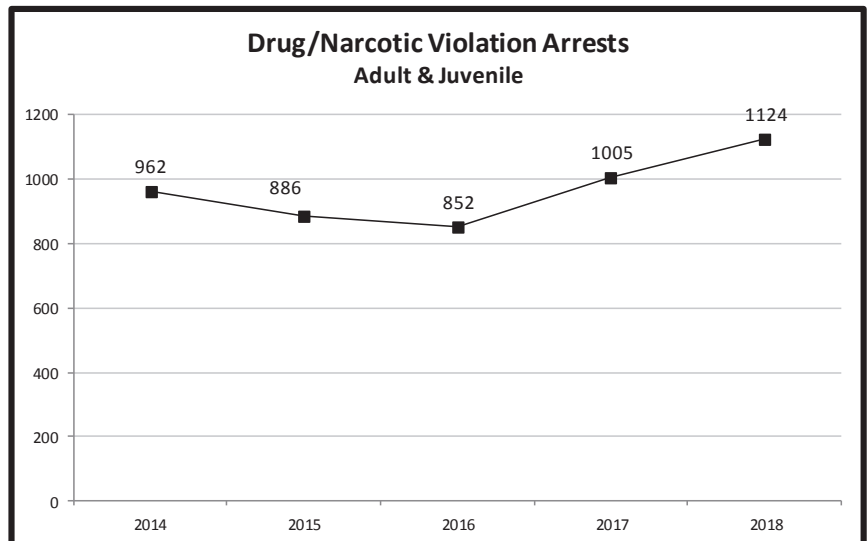
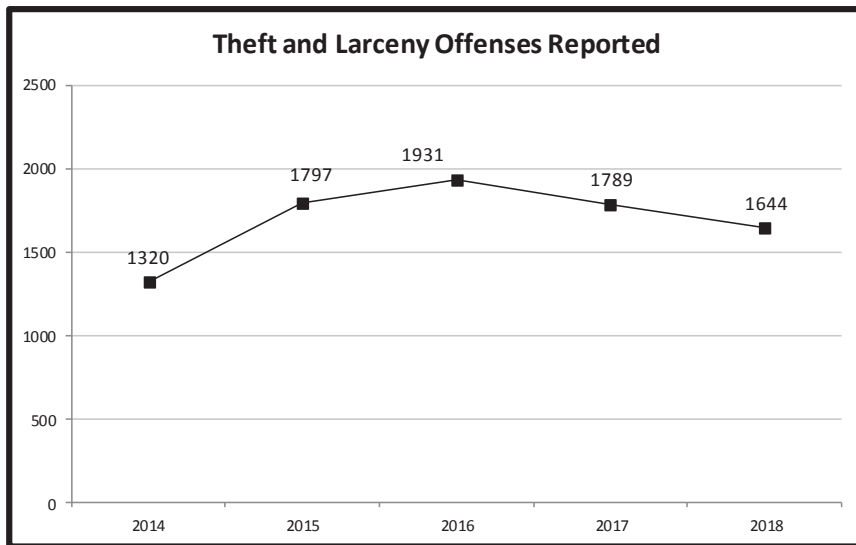




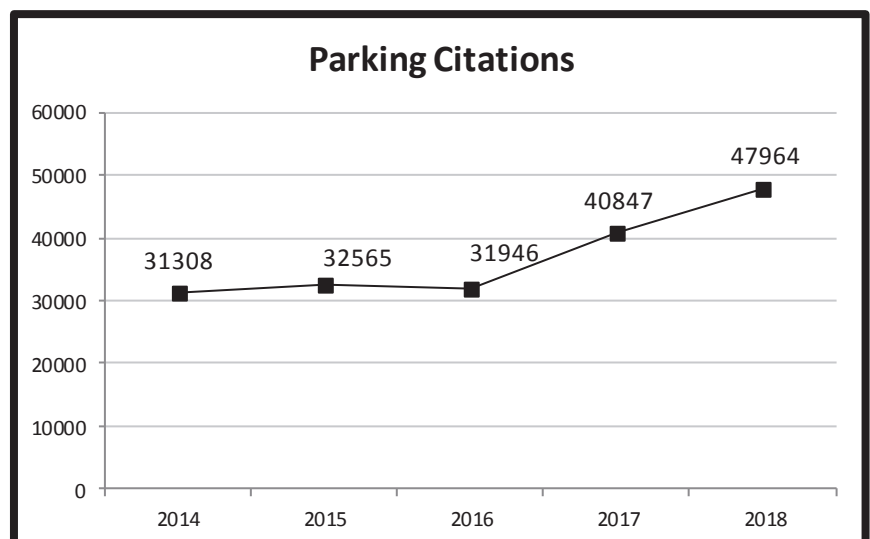
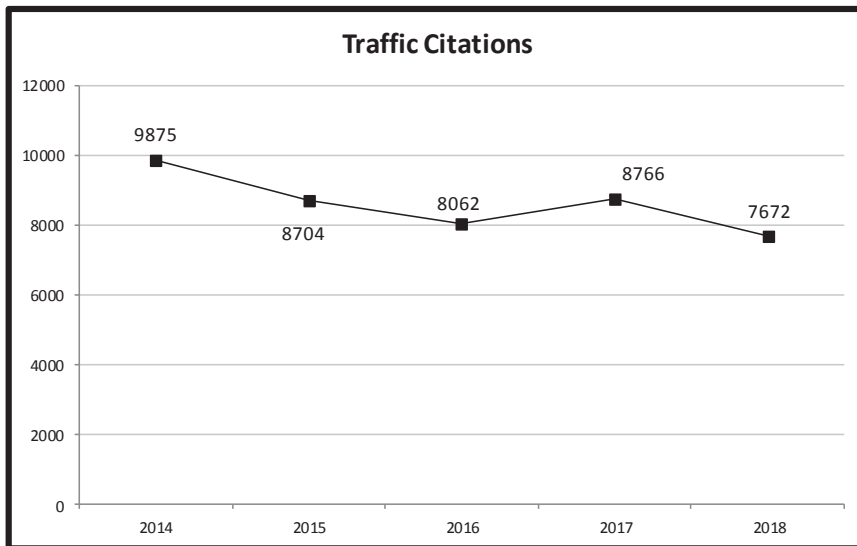
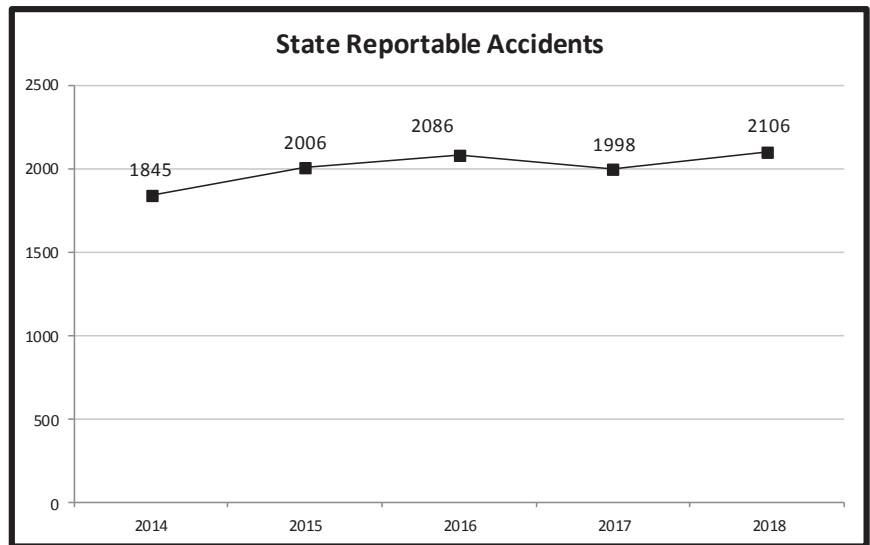
# Field Services Statistics



# Crime Statistics



# Traffic Statistics



# Parking Utility Statistics

## Payment Transactions for Parking

- ⇒ Pay Stations: 119,751
- ⇒ Passport App: 16,367
- ⇒ Online: 21,863

## License Plate Recognition (LPR) Technology

- ⇒ One additional LPR installed, bringing the total to three LPR enforcement vehicles
- ⇒ Over 2 million license plates read

## T2 Ticketing and Permitting Software

- ⇒ 1,616 parking ramp permits issued
- ⇒ 568 residential permits issued
- ⇒ 47,964 parking citations issued



Records Supervisor Steve Butterfield and Parking Utility Records Specialist April Brown accept the T2 Systems "2018 Impact Award" for the Department's use of T2 to make a positive impact on parking services and experience for our customers.

## 2018 Approved Operating Budget

Expenses	Revenues
\$2,797,911.00	\$1,867,500.00

## 2018 Parking Citations by Type

Night Parking	9,985	Boat Landing Parking Violation	248
Overtime Parking	9,888	Handicap Space	243
Unauthorized	6,590	Other	165
Night Parking (\$0.00 citation)	5,175	1 FT From Curb Parking	160
Overtime Parking (\$0.00 citation)	5,092	48 Hour Abandoned Parking	119
No Park Zone	1,768	Alley Parking	119
Crosswalk - 15 Feet	1,669	Facing Traffic Parking	108
Parking Warning	1,216	Unattached Trailer	66
Non-registered Vehicle	1,014	Loading Zone	60
Backing Into Stalls Parking	998	Front/Side Yard Parking	21
Unregistered Vehicle	980	Double Parking	19
Driveway - 4 Feet	820	Night Parking-Mobile/Motor Warn	19
Trespass Parking	440	Immobilization Violation	12
Fire Hydrant - 10 Feet	376	2 FT From Vehicle Parking	10
Snow Emergency—Warning	325	Cul De Sac Parking	2
Not Parked in Marked Stall	256	Railroad Parking	1



# Personnel Changes

In 2018, the La Crosse Police Department saw quite a bit of movement throughout the department, both for the sworn and civilian employees.

Promotions and Appointments		
Michael Goergen	Officer (previous CSE)	January 5, 2018
Graham Eddy	Officer (previous CSE)	February 23, 2018
Cody Ratkovich	Officer (previous CSE)	February 23, 2018
Cordero Gilliam	Officer (previous CSE)	May 14, 2018
Chad Maske	Officer (previous CSE)	July 27, 2018
Timothy O'Neill	Lieutenant	December 17, 2018
Casey Rossman	Sergeant	December 17, 2018
Brooke Pataska	Investigator	December 17, 2018
New Hires		
Alexis Wozney	Customer Service Specialist	February 6, 2018
Noah Grimm	Civilian Service Employee	March 16, 2018
Ryan Olson	Civilian Service Employee	April 6, 2018
Katelyn Hanson	Police Records Specialist	May 14, 2018
Brian Thomas	Officer	June 11, 2018
Kevin Lozano	Officer	June 11, 2018
Michael Abraham	Civilian Service Employee	August 15, 2018
Andrew Kyle	Civilian Service Employee	September 4, 2018
Tanner Gregory	Officer	September 10, 2018
Bradley Raasch	Civilian Service Employee	September 17, 2018
Shayn Thornton	Civilian Service Employee	November 2, 2018
K-9 Thor	Narcotics Detection K-9	December 13, 2018
K-9 Loki	Narcotics Detection K-9	December 14, 2018
Retirements		
Officer Rick Rank	29+ years of service	April 27, 2018
Civilian Service Employee Kong Xiong	25+ years of service	November 19, 2018
Detective Lieutenant Michael Blokhuis	28+ years of service	December 13, 2018

*CONGRATULATIONS!*

# Administrative Services Bureau Staff

## Bureau Director—Captain

Troy Nedegaard

## Special Operations Lieutenant

Matthew Malott

## Administrative Sergeant

Linnea Miller

## Records Supervisor

Steve Butterfield

## Special Operations Officer—Court/Fleet

Brad Stoner

## Civilian Service Employees

Diane Skifton

Kong Xiong

Michael Nagy

Kong Lor

Teng Thao

Faling Yang

Dakota Marcon

Javon Whitesell

Trey Davis

Noah Grimm

Ryan Olson

Michael Abraham

Andrew Kyle

Bradley Raasch

Shayn Thornton

## Records Division Civilian Employees

Rebecca Smith

Nicole Schneider

Kim Mitchell

Diane Nickelatti

Alexis Wozney

Katelyn Hanson

## Chief's Administrative Assistant

Stephanie Churchill

# Parking Utility Staff

## Parking Utility Coordinator

Jim Flottmeyer

## Customer Service

Mary Sumeracki

April Brown

## Maintenance

Joseph Pederson

Thomas Schran

# Field Services Bureau Staff

## Bureau Director—Captain

Daniel Kloss

## Shift Lieutenants

Joe Smith

Andrew Dittman

## Shift Sergeants

Kirk Flatten

Craig Oleson

Grant Gyllander

Jason Mahairas

Steve Pataska

Joseph Wiegrefe

Craig Teff

Phillip Martin

## Patrol Officers

Rick Rank

Gregory Fitzsimmons

Lisa Barrix

Scott Harmel

Alan Hagen

Teri Roden

Tony LeQue

Todd Fischer

Ryan Stenslien

Charles Frandsen

Brad Schomberg

Jeremy Rindfleisch

Casey Rossman

Aaron Erdmann

Christopher Oates

Jason Nesbit

Trenton Bowe

Nicholas Raddant

## Field Services Bureau Staff, cont.

### Patrol Officers

Andrew Adey  
Daniel Howe  
Dustin Darling  
Jared Reed  
Stephen Hughes  
Dakota Jelinski  
Joshua Rollins  
Whitney Hughes  
Cody Plenge  
Ethan Purkapile

Justin Eddy  
Alex Vang  
Abbie Ashbeck  
Sonja Weber  
Ryan DeFlorian  
Ryan Ledvina  
John LaBrec  
Jacob Walker  
Dominick Jacobs  
Nathan Lewis

Michael Vo  
Michael Bottcher  
Adam Lange  
Michael Goergen  
Graham Eddy  
Brian Thomas  
Kevin Lozano  
Chad Maske  
Tanner Gregory

## Investigative Services Bureau Staff

### Bureau Director—Captain

Shawn Kudron

### Detective Lieutenant

Michael Blokhuis

### Detective Sergeants

Ryan Fitzgerald

Timothy O'Neill

Jon Wenger

### Investigators

Tony DeLap  
Thomas Hansen

James Mancuso  
Cory Brandl  
Andrew Rosenow

Andrew Tolvstad  
Brooke Pataska

### Victim Services Officer

Joel Miller

### Neighborhood Resource Officers

Dale Gerbig  
Daniel Ulrich  
Stephen Curns

Tyler Pond  
Alexander Burg  
Tyler Rachwal

Daniel Mandujano  
Aaron Westpfahl

## Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau

### Bureau Director—Captain

Jason Melby

### Lieutenant

Avrie Schott

### Sergeant

Thomas Walsh

### School Resource Officers

Heath Graves  
Rick Pfennig

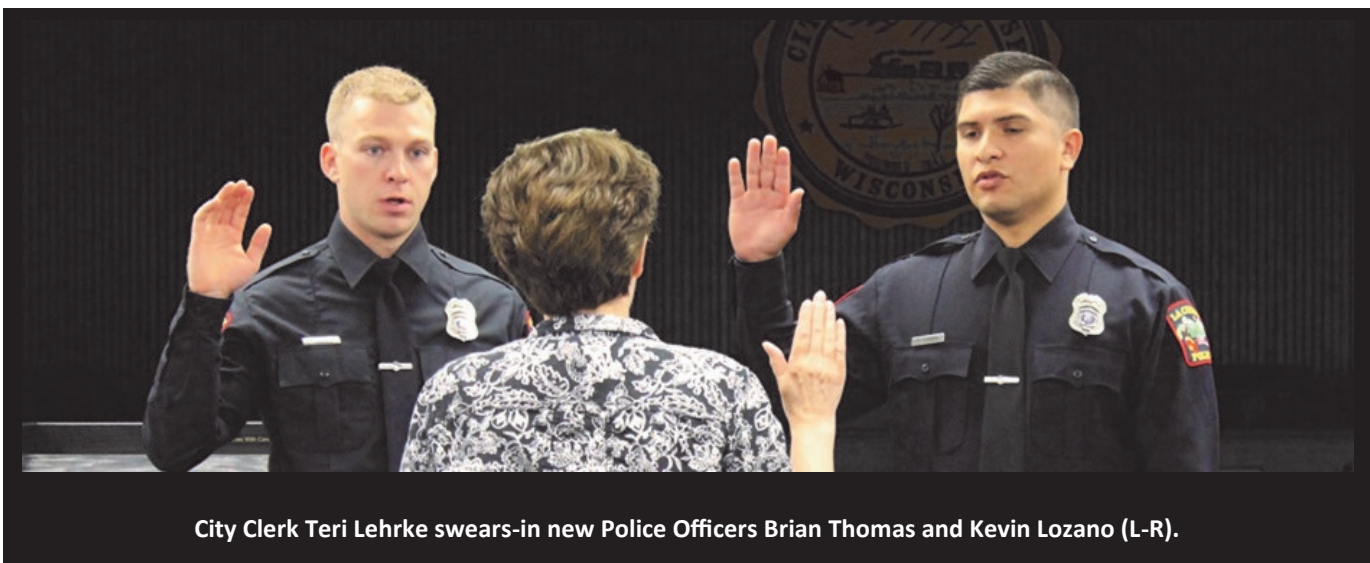
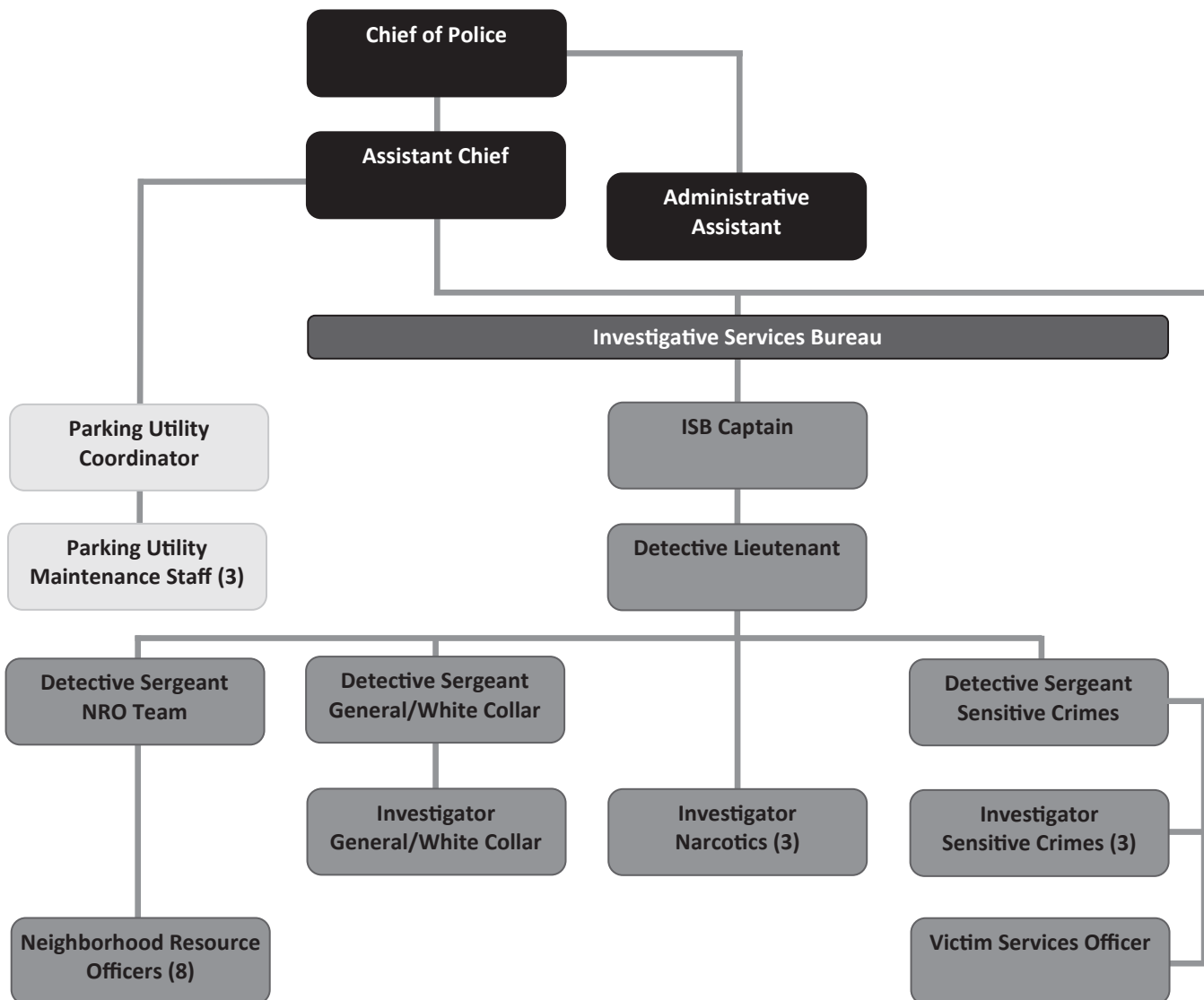
Ron Secord  
Frank Racich

Jovanna Randall

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

Kurt Weaver

# 2018 LCPD Organizational Chart



City Clerk Teri Lehrke swears-in new Police Officers Brian Thomas and Kevin Lozano (L-R).



**POLICE - SWORN**

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

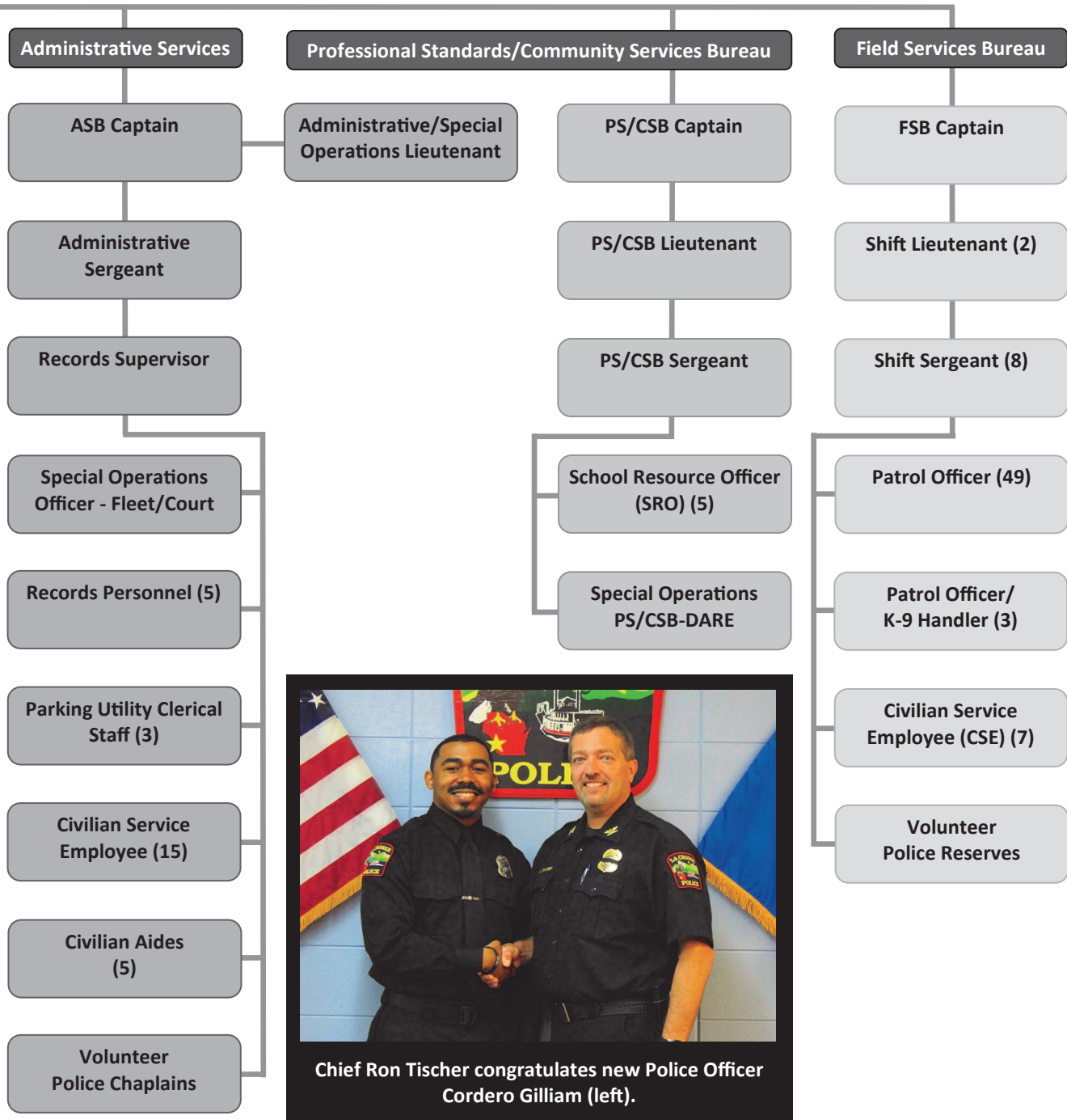
**POLICE - CIVILIAN**

Records Supervisor	1
Civilian Service Employee	7
Civilian Aide	5
Clerical	6
<b>TOTAL CIVILIAN - PD</b>	<b>19</b>

**PARKING UTILITY - CIVILIAN**

Parking Utility Coordinator	1
Civilian Service Employee	8
Parking Utility Maintenance	3
Clerical	3
<b>TOTAL CIVILIAN - PU</b>	<b>15</b>

**TOTAL PERSONNEL 133**



Chief Ron Tischer congratulates new Police Officer Cordero Gilliam (left).



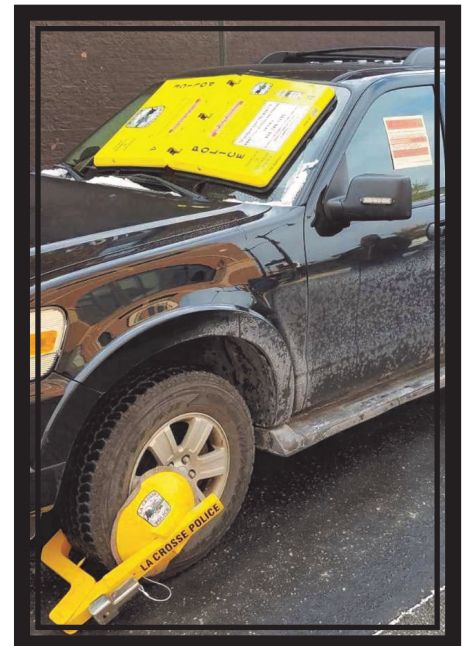
## Administrative Services Bureau

*Troy Nedegaard, 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, appropriations, inventories, and funding concerns also fall within the Bureau's purview.

The La Crosse Police Department strives to maintain transparency to benefit our members and the public. Keeping our citizens informed about crimes and police activities in our city is important. We continue to accomplish this through the use of our online crime mapping tool supplied by CrimeReports.com and GovQA. In 2018 we implemented the Motorola Body Worn Camera program. The Department is now able to provide more opportunities to the public to see and understand what transpires during law enforcement contacts. The Body Worn Camera program has also helped our partnerships with the La Crosse City and County District Attorneys. We are able to share video evidence more efficiently with less storage requirements.

We have continued to work on improving the operational abilities of our Civilian Service Employees. They are now able to utilize "boots" for habitual parking violators. The "boot" equipment immobilizes the violator's vehicle temporarily. This operation holds individuals accountable for their parking violations. Our CSEs have also become more efficient in their daily operations thanks to the expanded use of the License Plate Recognition equipment.



Members of the Administrative Services Bureau continue to work hard to support the Officers on the street. 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 La Crosse Police Department Records Division of the Administrative Services Bureau has the responsibility to maintain all of our Department records, as well as communication hardware.

In 2018, the Records Division processed 62,634 police incident reports, as well as 11,642 total citations and 2,376 crash reports which includes 2,106 reportable accidents. Parking Utility/Records personnel processed 47,964 parking citations that were issued by Civilian Service Employees. They also processed 1,012 license applications.

The Records division continued the use of GovQA, an online automated open records system, further streamlining and simplifying the process of releasing records to the public. Interested individuals can go online and request the release of police department records in a much more efficient and simple way. Records personnel processed 5,368 open records requests, which includes 2,300 accident report requests.

The Property Division entered 9,932 pieces of property and/or evidence and disposed of 5,369 pieces.

## 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 its employees and for the community.

The La Crosse Police Department completed 16,477 hours of training among all its employees in 2018. The Training Division focused on supervisory/management training, communication techniques, mental health, and diversity/ethics. Listed is an overview of some completed training hours:

- 1,821 Supervisory/management
- 892 Communication
- 550 Mental health
- 163 Diversity/ethics

Lieutenant Avrie Schott graduated from the 10-week Wisconsin Command College supervisory course. She was trained in Management Assessment (communication) and is now training all Department members on its benefits. Lieutenant Tim O'Neill is currently enrolled in the course and will graduate in June of 2019. At our annual in-service training, Department members were able to learn from members of the Hmong community to develop a better understanding of their culture. As a result of this relationship, the Department offered a Hmong Citizens' Police Academy and had 17 participants.

The Department hired 7 new Officers in 2018. 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. Five new Field Training Officers were selected



Lt. Avrie Schott with her certificate of graduation from WI Command College.

in 2018: Officers Nick Raddant, Whitney Hughes, Cody Plenge, Ethan Purkapile and Abbie Ashbeck.

We continue to try and improve our recruitment opportunities to attract quality Officer candidates. Well-qualified candidates that do not have the required State 720 Law Enforcement Academy may be sponsored by our Department, with full reimbursement from the State for the training. We have also enhanced the Civilian Service Employee position to train and evaluate CSEs as potential Police Officer candidates. One such success story is Officer Michael Goergen, who was a CSE for over 7 months, then hired as a Police Officer before being sponsored by our Department at the 720 Academy.

Certified Training Instructors		
Captain Troy Nedegaard	Sergeant Craig Teff	Officer Dale Gerbig
Captain Dan Kloss	Investigator Tony DeLap	Officer Jeremy Rindfleisch
Lieutenant Joe Smith	Investigator Andrew Rosenow	Officer Frank Racich
Sergeant Kirk Flatten	Officer Brad Stoner	Officer Aaron Erdmann
Sergeant Craig Oleson	Officer Ron Secord	Officer Chris Oates
Sergeant Grant Gyllander	Officer Kurt Weaver	Officer Steve Curns
Sergeant Jason Mahairas	Officer Ryan Stenslien	Officer Dan Howe
Sergeant Timothy O'Neill		



## Police Parking Utility

*Jim Flottmeyer, 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 2018, the La Crosse Police Parking Utility changed the language and fines for alternate side parking. The new ordinance allows for a once per year \$0.00 dollar citation, used as a warning, along with an increase to \$15.00. The same was done for the overtime citation. The new immobilization “boot” ordinance was also put into effect on November 15th.

The La Crosse Police Parking Utility was recognized by T2 Systems with the “2018 Impact Award”. The award was given to highlight LCPD’s efforts to improve the parking experience.



The La Crosse Police Parking Utility is preparing for the implementation of the new paid on street parking with mobile app zones around the UWL and WTC campuses in 2019.

## Field Services Bureau

*Daniel Kloss, 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 mission 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, building partnerships with our community, and problem solving.

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 can start at 5A or 6AM or 5PM or 6PM. In addition, a power shift is in place to provide the maximum amount of Officers working during the peak calls for service time. Officers work a 12 hour shift which provides improved patrol coverage for the community, decreased overtime, provides for more training opportunities, 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 interaction 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 K-9 Unit. Internally, these specialty groups provide ample opportunities for continued career growth and a diverse work life for all LCPD officers.

In 2018, two Officers attended K-9 school where they were paired up with their new K-9 partners. The addition of these two K-9s brings the total numbers to five for the department - four multi-purpose (drugs/apprehension/tracking) and one single purpose (explosives). In addition, the K-9 unit is often utilized outside our jurisdiction to assist other agencies who have a specific request.

Throughout 2018, members of the Field Services Bureau were involved in 62,634 calls for service, issued 7,672 traffic citations, and investigated 2,106 reportable traffic crashes. In addition, Officers

issued 3,970 municipal ordinance citations. In addition, the 2018 Oktoberfest was very successful once again due to planning, coordination with outside entities, and interaction with the public. The Oktoberfest celebration is a year-round planning event that is led by the Field Services Bureau. In 2019, the Field Services Bureau will continue its efforts in improving relationships with the public and maintaining a safe community atmosphere for our diverse population.



## Investigative Services Bureau

*Shawn Kudron, Captain*

The Investigative Services Bureau (ISB) is primarily responsible for the investigation of all criminal cases within the City of La Crosse. The Bureau has a staff of eighteen members divided into four areas of expertise: White Collar & General Investigations; Narcotics & Vice Investigations; Sensitive Crimes, which includes domestic violence, juveniles, sex crimes, and elderly victims' incidents; and the Neighborhood Resource Officer Unit.

Even though there are areas of expertise, all Investigative Services Bureau members are trained in a variety of disciplines, capable of performing a wide variety of specialized tasks. This provides greater flexibility in their work assignments when the need arises. Personnel also initiate investigations, develop sources of information, and serve as liaisons to other organizations within the community.

The Department's Domestic Abuse Reduction Team (DART) is assigned to the Investigative Bureau and plays a key role in the La Crosse community by investigating cases of domestic violence. The DART team works diligently to reduce the incidents of domestic violence and provides a variety of services to aid those in need within the community. The D.A.R.T. program is funded primarily by a federal grant. Along with the La Crosse Police Department, other organizations play a role in D.A.R.T., including members of area law enforcement, health and human services agencies, private victims services agencies, and the local hospitals.

In October of 2018, the Investigative Bureau implemented a new sworn Victim Services Officer position (VSO). Neighborhood Resource Officer Joel Miller transitioned from his NRO duties to that of the Department's very first sworn VSO. The VSO position plays a very important role in identifying victims of crime and offering them support and resources to assist them with their needs.

The Investigative staff also provides educational and instructional training presentations at UW-La Crosse, Viterbo University, Western Technical College, Winona State University, both local hospitals, a variety of neighborhood groups, Downtown Business Associations, Citizens' Police Academy, and area schools at all levels.

Members serve on a variety of local, state, and national committees including the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the Child Advocacy Center, Drug Endangered Children Task Force,



La Crosse County Drug Court, Violence Against Women Association, New Horizons, Wisconsin Association for Identification, Wisconsin Association of Homicide Investigators.

The Investigative Services Bureau draws from a wide variety of resources to respond to criminal activity in La Crosse. The Bureau is dedicated to the mission of community policing by providing expertise in all areas of criminal investigation and responding to the needs of the La Crosse community. Through community policing efforts and improvements in law enforcement technology, the Investigative Bureau will continue to actively work to keep the La Crosse community safe.

## ***Investigative Services: Major Cases***

In 2018, the Investigative Bureau investigated approximately 2,000 criminal cases. A few notable case investigations include:

### **Multi-State Burglary Investigation**

In April of 2018, a theft occurred at the Antique Center in downtown La Crosse. Detective Sergeant Ryan Fitzgerald utilized the Wisconsin Crime Alert System to disseminate information to Law Enforcement Agencies and businesses. As a result, Det. Fitzgerald learned of additional locations that the suspects frequented. After additional investigation, Det. Fitzgerald was able to determine that these suspects were responsible for similar thefts in several states. Det. Fitzgerald is currently working with the FBI out of Pennsylvania on this case.

### **Homicide Investigation**

In June of 2018, Erin Somvilai was reported missing. An investigation began, and two weeks later, Somvilai's body was found in Runge Hollow Lake in Vernon County. The homicide investigation continued with Investigators reviewing hundreds of hours of video surveillance, conducting numerous interviews, reviewing cell phone and GPS data, conducting several search warrants, and completing hundreds of reports. The diligent work of Officers and Investigators led to the arrest of Erik J. Sackett.

### **Multiple Shooting Investigations**

On July 29, 2018, Officers and Investigators responded to Hintgen Court for a shooting investigation. According to witnesses, a large party was occurring at the address when shots were fired. One male victim arrived at Gundersen with a gunshot wound to the leg. Officers did an excellent job at securing the scene and locating evidence. Investigators responded and secured a search warrant for the residence. Shell casings, blood, and a suspicious vehicle were seized. Ultimately Officers and Investigators received little to no cooperation from people at the scene including the gunshot victim.

On August 5, 2018, Officers and Investigators responded to 3rd and Main St. for a shots fired complaint. Shortly after responding, it was learned that a victim arrived at Gundersen with a gunshot wound to the left wrist. Officers secured the scene of the shooting and Investigators arrived to process the scene. Casings and blood were recovered. A short time later, Officers stopped a suspicious vehicle and arrested Isaiah Stenson, who matched the identity of the shooter. Stenson was interviewed and eventually charged. Officers and Investigators reviewed downtown surveillance cameras and observed that a second subject fired a weapon back toward Stenson. The identity of the second subject is not known. Officers and Investigators reviewed additional camera angles that showed the victim of the

shooting was involved in a physical altercation prior to the shooting. Again Officers and Investigators received little cooperation during this investigation.

On September 4, 2018, Officers and Investigators responded to 823 King Street for a shots fired complaint. Officers learned that a suspect fired a gun into the entryway of a residence shortly after the victims arrived home. One victim received a gunshot wound to the lower leg. Investigators arrived and began processing the scene. Shell casings, projectiles, and drug evidence were found at the scene. Jamaal Cox-Bey was arrested and charged due to the drug evidence. Officers and Investigators received little cooperation; however, the investigation is ongoing.



## Professional Standards/ Community Services Bureau

*Jason Melby, Captain*

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

Crime prevention programs are one of the hallmark responsibilities of the PS/CSB. The delivery of both the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program in the elementary schools and G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) curricula in our elementary and middle schools are delivered to students by La Crosse Police Officers. Along with these programs, the PS/CSB also leads the La Crosse School District Safety Patrol annual trip to Washington, D.C., and spearheads the G.R.E.A.T. Summer Programming which allows Officers to work with the Boys and Girls Club of Greater La Crosse and Camp Send-A-Kid. While the prevention programming is important, the direct interaction between our Officers and the children is invaluable.

Additionally, the PS/CSB coordinates the internship program, fingerprinting, Neighborhood Watch, National Night Out, La Crosse Area Crime Stoppers program, the School Crossing Guards, 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.

In 2019 the PS/CSB is excited for the new addition of a Crime Analyst. Significant time and effort was spent in 2018 to lay the ground work for this new addition.

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

# Community Policing and Outreach

## 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. Our SROs provide a public safety and crime prevention presence to our children and staff in all public schools. The SRO program has an Officer assigned to each public high school and middle school within the city, and they also provide services and presence in all of our elementary schools.

Our School Resource Officers have become an integral part of their schools and provide specialized classes tailored to the needs of the school or community. Some of the topics instructed include internet safety, constitutional law, driver education, over-the-counter and prescription drug abuse prevention, bullying prevention, bicycle and school safety.



New School Resource Officer Jovanna Randall was assigned to Longfellow Middle School. SRO Randall has hit the ground running, making excellent connections with the kids. Here she congratulates La Crosse Design Students on their handmade crafts.

## 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 2018, the 5th grade D.A.R.E. curriculum was taught in nine schools and reached a total of 450 students. Visits to lower grades were also completed to introduce younger students to the Police Officer in their school.



Officers Kurt Weaver and Heath Graves at the State Bank Financial Chili Cook Off.

The G.R.E.A.T. program is taught in both the 4th and 6th grades in La Crosse. Two Officers taught the 4th grade curriculum to 400 students in nine schools. Five officers taught the 6th grade curriculum in four schools to 397 students.

Along with in-school programs, D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. offer summer opportunities for area youth including P.L.A.Y. (Participating in the Lives of Area Youth), a 4-week session held at all greater La Crosse Area Boys & Girls Clubs, averaging around 20 students each day; and “Camp -Send-A-Kid”, which is held for one week at Camp Decorah



## Social Media Presence

for 75 at-risk and underprivileged youth. Public trust is one of the key factors that enable Police Departments to do their job effectively. Though communities and Police Departments across the country vary, the elements that earn the public's trust do not; a couple of those elements include communication and transparency. How agencies accomplish this has changed significantly in recent years with the implementation of different social media platforms.

Currently the La Crosse Police Department has a news blog, the La Crosse PD Newsroom, as well as very active Facebook and Twitter accounts. Each of these platforms is used for different purposes by the agency.



A "May the 4th" post featuring the Hatched Baby reached over 18,000 people on Facebook alone! Putting out off-the-wall posts helps remind people that Police are just (fun!) people too!

The La Crosse PD Newsroom is mainly used for press releases and major incidents with in-depth details. Our Facebook page is used for a variety of purposes: putting out updates to incidents released on our Newsroom; general information about the La Crosse Police Department; a feel good story; funny or interesting Police work items (photos/videos); and sometimes just random things like our #FactoidFriday. Our Twitter page is used for real time information like traffic issues, community reminders, photos of our Officers in the community, and whimsical items for general entertainment. Sometimes we will share the same information across all three of these formats to maximize the number of people we reach.

Our philosophy with our social media outlets is to engage the community we serve. The more engagement we have, the more effectively we can relay important information to our community at critical times. We also want to incorporate funny and whimsical items because everyone likes to laugh—and after all, we're just people, too.

Currently our Facebook Page has 20,388 followers and our Twitter has 6,109 followers, and they both grow each day. The engagement in these formats allows our information to reach exponentially more people through "shares" and "retweets". We look forward to continuing our community outreach through these platforms.



Facebook @lacrossepolice



www.lacrossepd.org



Twitter @lacrossepolice

## National Night Out

The 35th year of the National Night Out (NNO) campaign involved 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. In total, over 38 million people participated in the 2018 National Night Out.

The main goals of National Night Out are to:

- Generate support for, and participation 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 has proven to be an effective, inexpensive, and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and Police-community partnerships in our fight for a safer nation.

For the 21st Annual La Crosse Area National Night Out, twelve (12) La Crosse neighborhoods hosted block parties, with certainly many more localized celebrations. These neighborhoods come together to volunteer their time and efforts into organizing these block parties, and many of our community partners offered their assistance in the form of donations of supplies, money, and their time. Since the inception of National Night Out in the City of La Crosse, we have continually experienced many great Police-community relationships and look forward to many more years of NNO!

## Special Teams

### Neighborhood Resource Officer Unit

It was the year of the “New” in 2018 for the Neighborhood Resource Officers (NROs).

The unit grew by three, including the two Powell-Poage-Hamilton (PPH) neighborhood NROs: Officer Danny Mandujano and Officer Aaron Westpfahl. Officer Westpfahl was also selected to be our agency’s 5th K-9 handler and brought his K-9 partner, Loki, with him. Gundersen Health System is a large stakeholder for this new team and are calling on the Officers more frequently for community roles on their campus. Some examples are “security” for Santa during his visit, joining staff at their meetings, working Steppin’ Out in Pink, and other events. Officer Mandujano and Officer Westpfahl are also part of a collaborative including members from the La Crosse School District, Boys and Girls Club of Greater La Crosse, La Crosse Housing Authority, City of La Crosse, and La Crosse County. The group, collectively called the Hintgen-Huber Collaborative,



The NRO team attended the grand re-opening of Powell Park and met many new faces from the neighborhood.

work out of a building in Huber Court. Both Officers regularly visit and attend family meetings and monthly meals.

The Unit also welcomed Officer Steve Curns to the Downtown NRO team. He replaced Officer Joel Miller who moved into the new VSO position within the department. Officer Curns is teamed up with Officer Alex Burg. These two Officers work closely with the Downtown Neighborhood Association and cultivate new relationships to help connect our Police Department with those who live and work downtown. These two Officers also work closely with the La Crosse Collaborative to End Homelessness and meet regularly to share new information about people in need who are downtown regularly.

The Washburn NROs Dan Ulrich and Tyler Rachwal provided extra effort to ensure community members' needs were met or addressed while the La Crosse Area Family Collaborative (L AFC) sought a new social worker. Upon hiring this past fall, they have worked hard to establish a relationship with the new social worker. The Washburn NROs are active with their stakeholder, Mayo Clinic Health System, by attending workshops, meetings, and other events. They are also active on the board for the Sara Rose Hougom Foundation and regularly participate in community events, forging relationships with area youth.

The Lower North Side Depot NROs, Officer Gerbig and Officer Pond, have furthered many relationships between the public and private sector. One relationship with Courtesy Corp. (McDonald's) led to the installation of video cameras at their business as part of Project Blue Light. News of this collaboration spread quickly and other businesses and associations are interested in installing their own cameras! Both NROs attend monthly meetings with the North La Crosse Business Association and have seen exceptional growth in Uptowne North. The NROs are also active with their L AFC social worker as well as the Boys and Girls Club, school counselors, and other community members to ensure the needs of area children are being met.

The NRO unit had a great 2018 and hope the word "New" continues to be a part of 2019.

## K-9 Unit

The year 2018 was a very exciting time for the La Crosse Police Department K-9 Unit. The Department was able to expand the program by adding a K-9 in 2018, bringing the total to four dual-purpose narcotics detection/patrol dogs and one single-purpose explosives detection dog. This additional coverage means there is nearly one K-9 on the streets of La Crosse at any given time.

With the retirement of K-9 Luc, LCPD looked once again to McDonough K9 out of Anoka, MN for his replacement. Officer Dakota Jelinski was selected as his handler due to his previous K-9 handling experience with our department. K-9 Thor is a 3 year old German Shepherd, described as mature,



The four dual-purpose K-9s and handlers. Dual-purpose K-9s are trained in narcotics detection as well as patrol assistance in tracking and apprehension.



self-confident, and social. He is a passionate retriever with great obedience and very good tracking. Officer Jelinski and K-9 Thor spent 14 weeks training with McDonough K-9 where they learned obedience, narcotics detection, patrol work, as well as handler protection. Officer Jelinski and his K-9 partner received National Certifications in both patrol work and narcotics detection from the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) as well as these dual certifications from the National Police Canine Association (NPCA).

Neighborhood Resource Officer Aaron Westpfahl was selected as the handler for Loki, a two year-old German Shepherd who also came to us from McDonough K9. K-9 Loki is described as large, very strong, and a great dog in protection; he is a passionate retriever and excellent in tracking. Officer Westpfahl and his K-9 partner also attended the same 14 week training through McDonough K9. This team also received dual National Certifications in both patrol work and narcotics detection from USPCA as well as NPCA. Each of our four dual purpose K-9 teams is now certified by a nationally-recognized police canine organization in both narcotics and patrol work.

K-9 handler Steve Hughes and his partner Zeus hit the streets hard during 2018, with over 125 deployments for the year, many of which yielded illegal drugs that are no longer in our community. In May, the entire K-9 team was able to attend a 16 hour course titled Canine Liability 360, put on by Bill Lewis, one of the Nation's leading experts in the field of canine handling.

In 2018, the community of La Crosse showed its support for our K-9 program once again. The Apartment Association of the La Crosse Area held its 2nd annual meatball dinner with the proceeds going to the La Crosse Police K-9 program. Community members were able to enjoy a delicious dinner and watch a demonstration of the police K-9s in action. The 9th annual LCPD "Putt'n for Pooches" K-9 Golf Outing was a success with 33 teams competing. Participants enjoyed perfect weather on the golf course, then an afternoon with friends and plenty of food afterward.

On behalf of the entire LCPD K-9 Unit, we thank you for a successful 2018 and look forward to 2019!

## Emergency Response Team

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) is a part-time team that consists of one commander, one assistant commander, fourteen tactical members, four Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) members, and six negotiators. The members have regular duty assignments within the Department's various bureaus. In addition, the La Crosse Fire Department supplies the personnel for TEMS. The ERT is assigned to respond to hostage and barricaded persons, high risk warrants and vehicle stops, civil disturbances, natural and/or man-made disasters, and dignitary protection.



Emergency Response Team members commit themselves above and beyond that of the standard Officer. They train a minimum of 96 hours per year for ERT duties, work with multiple weapon systems, and are required to pass two physical agility tests each year. ERT members are on-call all day,

every day. ERT members fully understand that when the police need help, they request ERT to solve the complicated scenario.

In 2018, the Emergency Response Team conducted numerous trainings with key stakeholders in the community. One of the trainings took place at the Abraham Zahn building owned by Gundersen Health System where members were able to work on active shooter responses in a realistic training environment. In addition, similar exercises were held at Logan Middle School, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and the YMCA. Further, ERT took a tour of the Kwik Trip facilities to understand security protocol and specialized responses to specific situations. In addition, ERT trained with the FBI Explosives Team from Milwaukee on identifying explosive materials inside a residence. It is through these strong partnerships that ERT is able to plan, coordinate, and be fully prepared to handle complex circumstances. Furthermore, the ability to train in different environments with external partners is paramount to continued success for our team. We thank these partnering agencies for taking part in training throughout the year.

Throughout the year, ERT was involved in numerous high risk search warrants. ERT is utilized to conduct a safe entry utilizing the most optimal tactics for each scenario. ERT assisted in taking numerous felons, weapons, and drugs off the streets.

In closing, ERT had two retirements at the end of the year. First, Investigator Jim Mancuso retired after 10 years of service. Second, Investigator Andy Rosenow retired after 12 years of service. ERT is grateful for their dedication, sacrifice, and commitment to the team!

<b>2018 ERT Tactical Members</b>	
Captain Daniel Kloss - OIC	
Sergeant Grant Gyllander - Assistant OIC	
Investigator Andrew Rosenow - Team Leader	
Officer Frank Racich - Team Leader	
Investigator James Mancuso	Officer Tyler Rachwal
Investigator Andrew Tolvstad	Officer Stephen Hughes
Officer Casey Rossman	Officer Cody Plenge
Officer Daniel Ulrich	Officer Danny Mandujano
Officer Tyler Pond	TEMS Frank Garritano
Officer Nick Raddant	TEMS James Hillcoat
Officer Daniel Howe	TEMS David Duchrow
Officer Alex Burg	TEMS Cory Westpfahl
<b>2018 ERT Negotiators</b>	
Lieutenant Avrie Schott	Investigator Andrew Rosenow
Lieutenant Andrew Dittman	Investigator Cory Brandl
Sergeant Phillip Martin	Officer Daniel Ulrich

## **Bicycle Patrol Unit**

The La Crosse Police Department bicycle unit has 6 bicycles and 22 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.

## Water Patrol Unit

The Water Patrol unit consists of 18 sworn Officers specifically trained in water patrol operations who patrol over 19 miles of waterways within the City of La Crosse. In 2018, the La Crosse Police Water Patrol Unit had another successful year without any major boating-related crashes, injuries, or fatalities in our jurisdiction.

During the 2018 boating season, the Water Patrol Unit worked 323 hours on the water, conducted 127 boat stops and boat inspections, issued 44 boating citations and 154 written warnings. Citations were issued for Boating while Under the Influence, equipment violations, no-wake zone violations, and violations of waterway navigation rules.

In May of 2018, the Water Patrol unit conducted a one-day in-service training focusing on boat crash response. Officers learned about the unique dynamics of investigating a boat crash, how to recognize and preserve potential evidence, and how to conduct an investigation into what happened. The Water Patrol unit also purchased a SONAR unit for the boat in 2018 which will be instrumental in assisting with searching for and locating missing persons or drowning victims.

The Water Patrol Unit once again worked during several major boating events which included Riverfest, Aquapalooza, and the Big Blue Dragon Boat Festival. Unit members also worked with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and other local water patrol units during National Safe Boating Week and Operation Dry Water.

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 the Police Department for expenses related to the operation of the Unit. We look forward to continued development of the Unit.

## 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 2018, the Honor Guard participated in several events. During Police Week in



Honor Guard Rifle Team at the Police Week Memorial Ceremony hosted by the La Crosse County Sheriff's Office.

May, the Rifle Team attended the Memorial Ceremony which was hosted by the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department. The detail included Sergeants Jon Wenger (OIC) and Philip Martin, Officers, Kurt Weaver, Brooke Pataska, Brad Stoner, Ethan Purkapile, Will Steinborn, and Tanner Gregory. The Police Week Awards Ceremony was attended by Sergeant Philip Martin (OIC), Officers Kurt Weaver, Dale Gerbig, Ethan

Honor Guard Members	
Sergeant Kirk Flatten (OIC)	
Rifle Team Members	Colors Team Members
Sergeant Jon Wenger (OIC)	Lieutenant Avrie Schott
Captain Troy Nedegaard	Detective Sergeant Timothy O'Neill
Lieutenant Joe Smith	Sergeant Phillip Martin
Investigator Cory Brandl	Officer Brooke Privet
Officer Tony LeQue	Officer Teri Roden
Officer Brad Stoner	Officer Kurt Weaver
Officer Dale Gerbig	Officer Tanner Gregory
Officer Ethan Purkapile	

Purkapile, and Tanner Gregory. Sergeant Kirk J. Flatten and Officer Kurt Weaver attended the AFL/CIO workers memorial where they placed the names of Joseph Donndelinger, Perry Gates, and Frank Groeshner on the memorial plaque of citizens who died at work. The team was requested to post colors for the Midwest Public Safety Diver's Association at their Fourth Annual Conference held at the Radisson Hotel. The detail was led by Sergeant Jon Wenger (OIC) with Captain Troy Nedegaard, and Officers Teri Roden, Kurt Weaver, and Dale Gerbig.

It was with great pride that our Honor Guard participated in honoring the memories of fellow Officers who passed away during the year. Members of the Honor Guard attended funeral services for two City of Milwaukee Police Officers, Charles Irvine and Michael Michalski, who died in the line of duty in 2018. We were also requested to conduct a rifle volley at the funeral of retired Prairie du Chien Detective Stacy Polodna.

The Honor Guard spent several days training which included basic drill and ceremony, rifle detail, and the posting of colors. Sergeant Philip Martin was able to attend a basic Honor Guard School instructed by the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police Department Ceremonial Honor Guard. This training encompassed everything from Line of Duty Deaths to basic drill and ceremony.

The La Crosse Police Department Honor Guard stands ready to provide professional services to the community in which we serve, as well as the greater law enforcement community around us.

## Police Reserve Unit

The La Crosse Police Reserve Unit is a volunteer unit within the Police Department. In 2018, the Reserve Unit membership consisted of 26 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 law enforcement and some who wanted to give back through volunteering.

The demand for the Reserve unit within the community was high. In 2018 the unit volunteered for approximately 900 hours. Reserves participated in various family events such as Kwik Trip Family Fair, Oktoberfest, and Riverfest; conducted traffic control at the La Crosse Center and Rotary Lights; patrolled Riverside Park; provided security at crime scenes for the police department; and assisted with ERT training. 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-alongs 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. Several Reserves gained employment in law enforcement including Dan Skifton, who moved from Explorer to Reserve, and Reserve Michael Abraham was hired as a Civilian Service employee.

Police Reserve Liaisons				
Sergeant Craig Teff				
Officer Brad Stoner				
Officer Whitney Hughes				
Reserve Board Members		Reserve Officers		
Terry Konsela	Commander	Justin Daye	David Dittmer	Gabriel Kapanke
Naomi Gammeter	Field Lt.	Charles Fah	Jack Johnston	Juliana Schiecht
Tyler Christian	Administrative Lt.	Tyler Bluske	Mary Kusmitch	Shayn Thornton
Dylan Kaiser	Field/Supply Sgt.	Steven Lowe	Kaytlyn Garbers	William Larson
Tyler Perkins	Corporal	Brittany Wise	Dan Skifton	

## 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 field of their choice - law enforcement. 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 2017/2018 school year, we had an average daily attendance of 13 students. So far for the 2018/2019 school year, we are averaging 19 students per class.



In February of 2018, our Explorer group attended the State Conference in Wisconsin Dells. We had four explorers and two advisors attend the three day training. Our explorer group did very well in their

competitions, considering this was a first for all of us. We are looking forward to attending again in 2019 and hopefully improving on our performance from last year.

Explorer Post #3201 is led by advisors Sergeant Jon Wenger, Investigators Tony DeLap and Andy Rosenow, and Officers Kurt Weaver, Cody Plenge and Stephen Curns. We'd like to congratulate the members of Explorer Post #3201 for their commitment to Exploring, the La Crosse Police Department, and our greater community.



Members of the La Crosse Police Explorer Post took an in-depth tour of the Sheriff's Office, Dispatch, and jail facilities.

## 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. 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 as members of the Wisconsin State Patrol, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Department of Justice Chaplaincy Programs.

The year 2018 was a busy year for the Chaplaincy. The team of 15 active and 10 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 23 calls, attended 22 debriefings, trained 481 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 annual award ceremonies, promotion ceremonies, new officer swearing in ceremonies, serving during Oktoberfest, and hosting the 18th Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Picnic.



# Police Week Awards/Recognition Ceremony

Each year, as part of National Police Week, the La Crosse Police Department hosts the annual Awards/Recognition Ceremony as a way to “properly recognize, through tangible and public recognition, acts of heroism, outstanding service, or exemplary performances by the Officers of the La Crosse Police Department, as well as contributions by involved citizens”.

The Department Awards/Recognition Committee gathers to reflect on the Department’s interactions with our community throughout the preceding year. Exemplary cases where a citizen or Police Officer went above and beyond the typical call of duty is recommended for an award.

Police Week Award Recipients	
Officer Andrew Adey	Silver Star
Officer Stephen Hughes	Silver Star
Officer Dominick Jacobs	Superior Achievement Award
Officer Jared Reed	Life Preservation Award
Officer Todd Fischer	Life Preservation Award
Officer Tony LeQue	Life Preservation Award
Officer Brad Schomberg	Life Preservation Award
Dispatcher Jason Allen	Chief’s Achievement Award
Officer Whitney Hughes	Chief’s Achievement Award
Officer Casey Rossman	Traffic Safety Award
Joshua Leske	Citizen Award of Excellence
Margaret Meier	Citizen Award of Excellence

*Congratulations to all award recipients!*

## FBI National Academy

Chief Ronald J. Tischer	247 <sup>th</sup> Session - October 2011 to December 2011
Assistant Chief Robert M. Abraham	267 <sup>th</sup> Session - January 2017 to March 2017
Captain Shawn P. Kudron	243 <sup>rd</sup> Session - September 2010 to December 2010



## Northwestern Staff and Command School

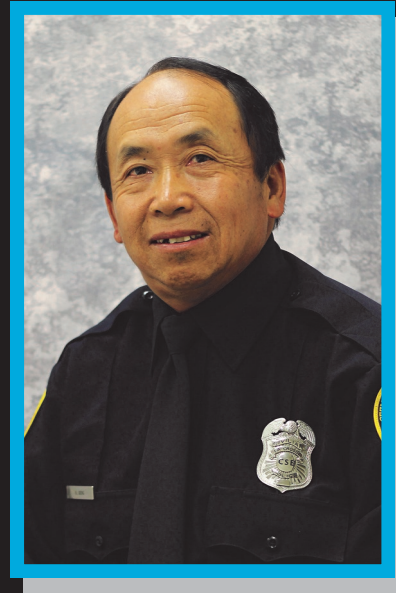
Assistant Chief Robert M. Abraham	January 2008
Captain Jason J. Melby	April 2011
Captain Daniel G. Kloss	April 2015
Lieutenant Joseph L. Smith	April 2013



# Retirements



Officer Rick Rank celebrated his retirement on April 27, 2018 after over 29 years of service.



Civilian Service Employee Kong Xiong celebrated his retirement on November 19, 2018 after over 25 years of service.



Detective Lieutenant Michael Blokhuis celebrated his retirement on December 13, 2018 after over 28 years of service.

*Congratulations!*

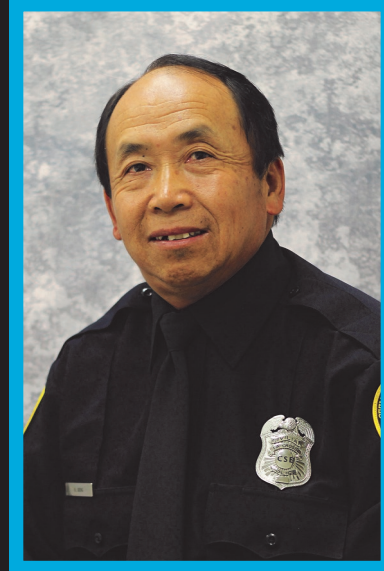
*Thank you for your dedication to the city of La Crosse.*

*We wish each of you a wonderful retirement!*

# Anniversaries



**Bradley Stoner**  
**Officer**  
March 22, 2018  
25 years of service



**Kong Xiong**  
**Civilian Service Employee**  
May 3, 2018  
25 years of service



**Faling Yang**  
**Civilian Service Employee**  
August 2, 2018  
25 years of service



**Jason Melby**  
**Captain**  
September 8, 2018  
25 years of service

*Thank you for your continued service to the La Crosse community!*





Pictured (Left to Right, Top to Bottom): Officers collected art supplies for “Color with a Cop” and spent the afternoon with Hintgen Early Learning Center students creating art; Civilian Service Employee Dakota Marcon with National Night Out hosts; School Resource Officer Jovanna Randall with La Crosse Design School students and their specially designed tees and shopping bags; Special Olympic Athlete Scott Prairie and Neighborhood Resource Officer Dale Gerbig at “Cops Gone Wild” competed once again for Hot Wing Eating Championship rights; the participants in the first ever Citizens Police Academy held in partnership with the Hmong Cultural and Community Agency.





Pictured (Left to Right, Top to Bottom): Members of LCPD Explorer Post #3201 host a brat fry fundraiser at Festival to raise money for school year training and activities; Sherry Hougom and the Sara Rose Hougom Foundation present LCPD a check for Officer Wellness Programs; the participants in the Special Olympics Torch Run; Captain Jason Melby visits a local citizens' lemonade stand for "Cops Love Lemonade"; new Powell-Poage-Hamilton Neighborhood Resource Officers Aaron Westpfahl and Danny Mandujano participate in training with community partner Gundersen Health System; the Apartment Association of the La Crosse Area donates to the LCPD K-9 Unit; Officer Aaron Erdmann visits Bethany St. Joseph residents.



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