

La Crosse Police Department



Leaders in providing a safe and vibrant community.

2019 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!

Shawn Kudron, Chief of Police

Mayor Tim Kabat, Common Council Members, and citizens of the City of La Crosse, I am pleased to present the 2019 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 2019, and a statistical comparison of the activities that Officers were involved in over the past year. Community engagement and stakeholder relationships remain key components in helping our Department achieve our mission of being leaders in providing a safe and vibrant community.

As Policing has evolved, the need for continuing mental health education has become paramount. In 2019 the La Crosse Police Department not only recognized the importance of mental health education, but also went further by accomplishing the International Association for Chiefs of Police (IACP) One Mind Campaign. The Campaign consisted of training all sworn members of the department in Mental Health First Aid, continuing to have at least 20% of the department certified in Crisis Intervention Training, maintaining an established relationship with La Crosse County Mobile Crisis and Better Together, and retaining a policy for responding to citizens that are experiencing a mental health crisis. The La Crosse Police Department is one of only three police departments in Wisconsin that has taken and achieved the IACP One Mind Campaign pledge.

In 2019, the Police Department's secure parking facility was completed. This improvement to the Police Department's parking area brought much needed security with the installation of perimeter fencing and the addition of several parking spaces. This project also included a roof structure that provides our marked squad cars some protection from the elements. To commemorate the completion of the parking facility, the east entrance was adorned with a plaque honoring La Crosse Police Officers killed in the line of duty—Officer Frank Groeshner, Officer T. P. Gates, and Officer Joseph Donndelinger.

This past year also brought national recognition to the Police Department's Domestic Abuse Reduction Team (DART). The Police Department was contacted by the Virginia Center for Policing Innovation (VCPI) and learned that the DART program was recognized as one of twelve innovative community policing programs across the nation. The DART program was further highlighted as a program whose philosophies would be used to help in developing a new community policing training program. In the fall of 2019, members of VCPI came to La Crosse to interview several members of the Police Department as they began to develop the new training program.

Additionally, 2019 saw the reoccurrence of gun violence in La Crosse. The very unfortunate reality of this was experienced on August 3rd when Officer Dustin Darling, while responding to a call for service, was shot by Allen Kruk. Fortunately, Officer Darling's ballistic vest stopped the bullet, and Officer Darling's courageous response stopped the threat posed by Kruk, who was ultimately arrested and charged. This incident highlighted the dangerous situations encountered by our Officers.

Lastly, 2019 was a year of transition. On September 30, I was sworn-in as the La Crosse Police Department's Chief of Police. I am truly humbled to be bestowed the responsibility of leading the La Crosse Police Department. It is an absolute honor and privilege to work alongside the men and women of this agency. Under my leadership, the La Crosse Police Department will be committed to meeting the needs of the La Crosse community through engagement, relationship building, and professional policing.

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.

Values: The following Values guide our attempt to achieve our Mission and Vision:

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



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 has completed the enormous task of gathering information for the re-accreditation process that will take place in 2020. This will include 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 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 2019, the Office of the Assistant Chief worked closely with the Chief and staff to manage the 11 million-dollar police budget. Significant projects included the finalization of the secure police parking facility; research and procurement of the Police Department’s first gas/electric hybrid patrol vehicle; expansion of the Police Department’s Automated License Plate Reader technology (ALPR); and research and testing of external load-bearing body armor to enhance Officer wellness. The Assistant Chief also worked to secure the Domestic Abuse Reduction Team (DART) grant through the US Department of Justice Office of Violence against Women. Also in 2019, the Police Department’s “Project Blue Light” added a new partner. Elliot Arms Apartments joined Project Blue Light, which is a partnership between police and private businesses/homeowners designed to place cameras at locations that allow the Police Department the ability to view live video from privately-owned cameras.

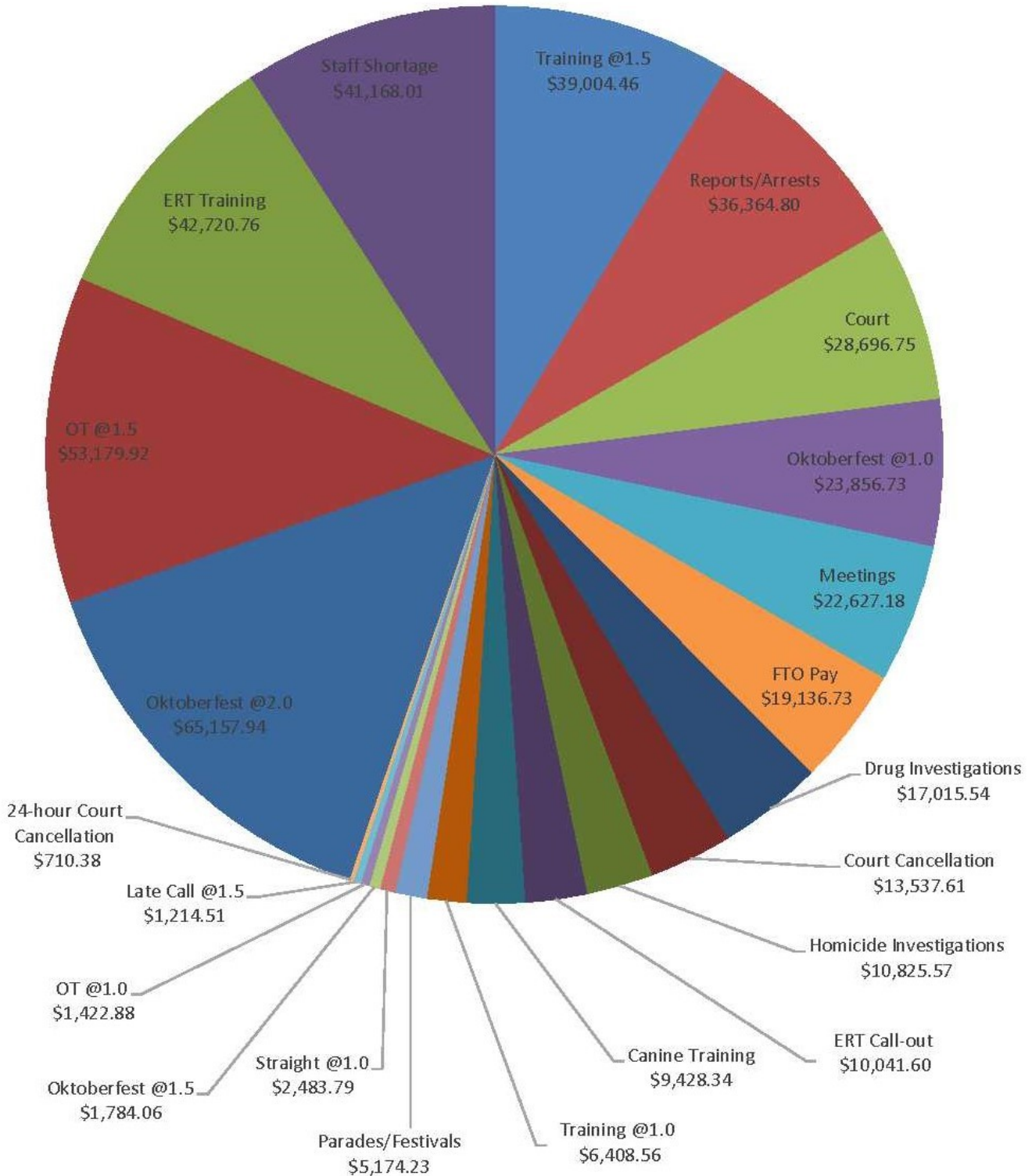
Looking ahead into 2020, the Office of the Assistant Chief will be implementing a fleet expansion of gas/ electric squads to save tax dollars on fuel-related expenses as well as helping the environment.

Annual Approved Operating Budget

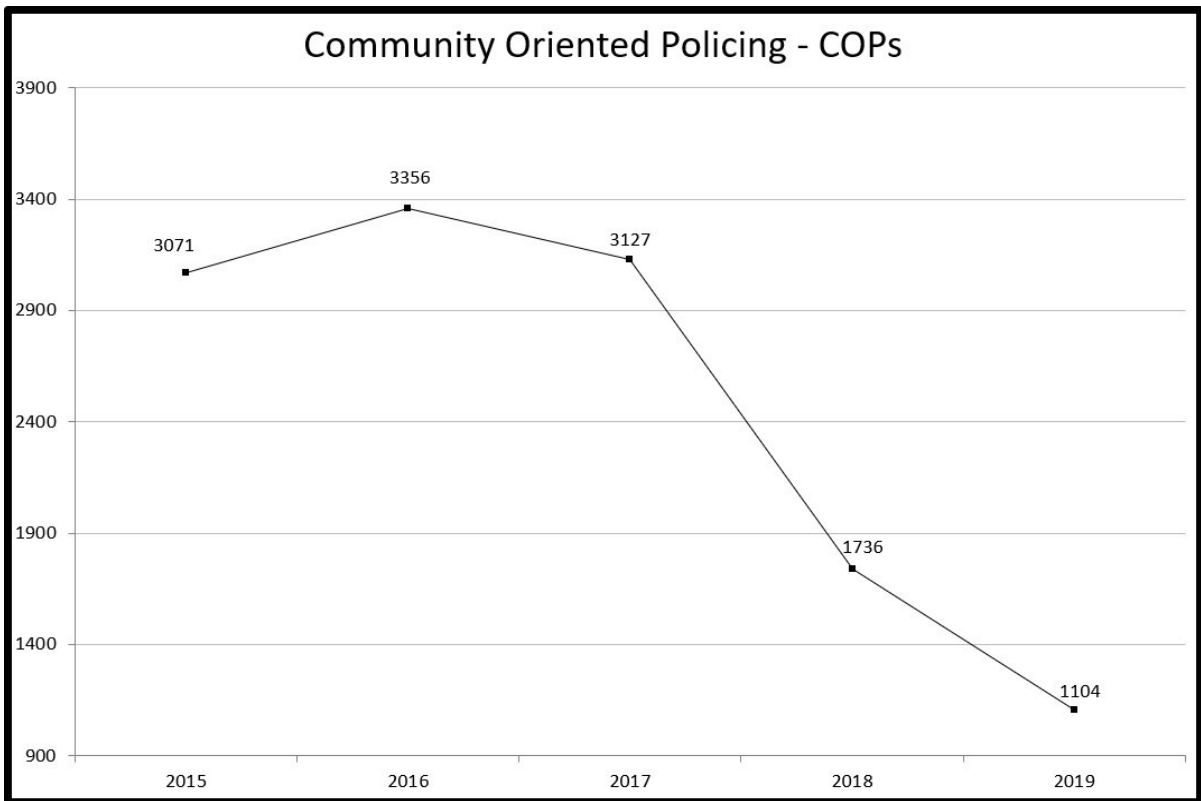
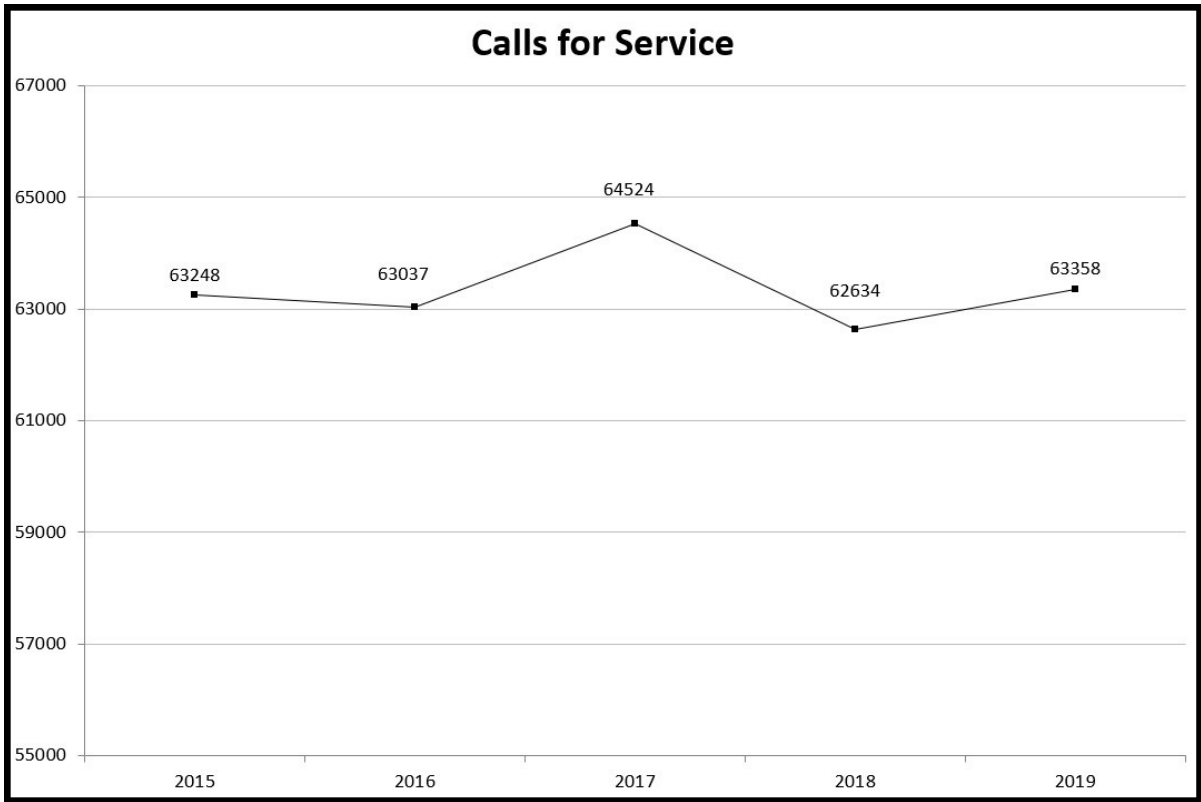
	2017	2018	2019
Salaries	\$6,831,672.00	\$7,007,288.00	\$7,288,769.00
Overtime	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$260,000.00
Benefits	\$3,063,586.00	\$3,130,927.00	\$2,994,012.00
Operating	\$742,712.00	\$755,546.00	\$775,734.00
Total	\$10,887,970.00	\$11,143,761.00	\$11,318,515.00

2019 Overtime Usage

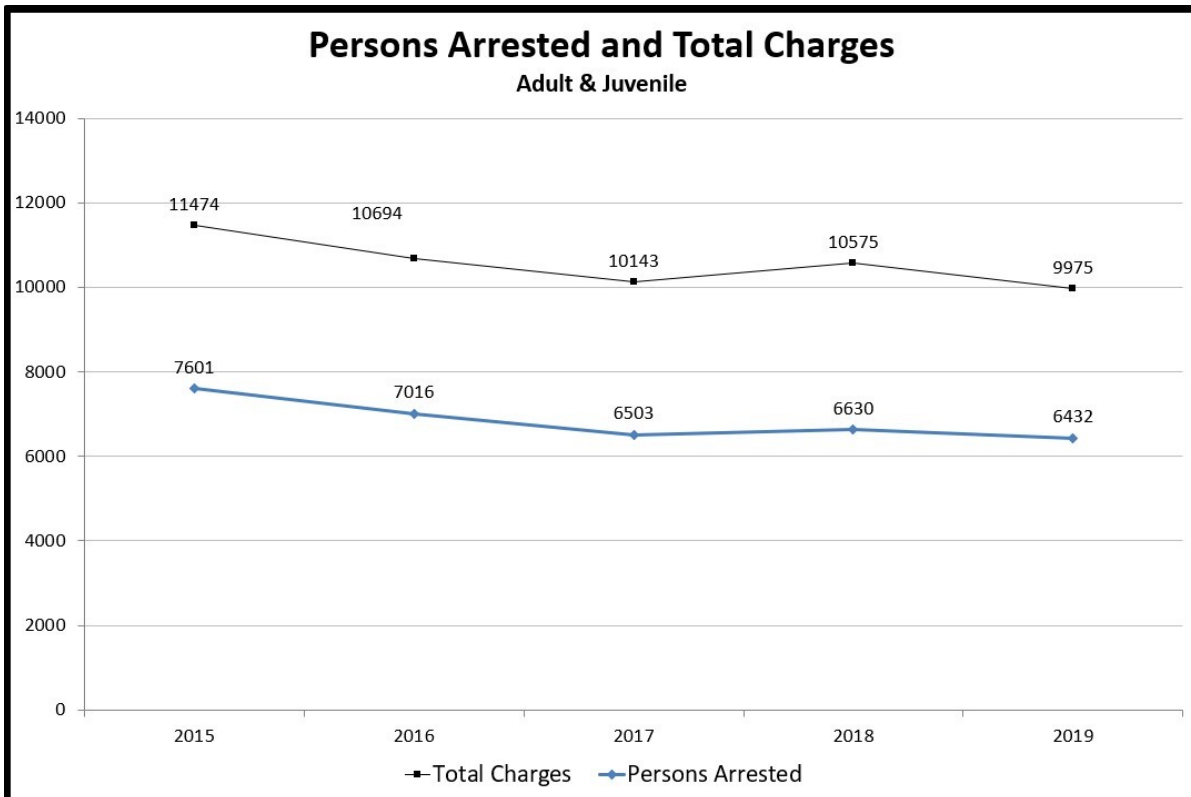
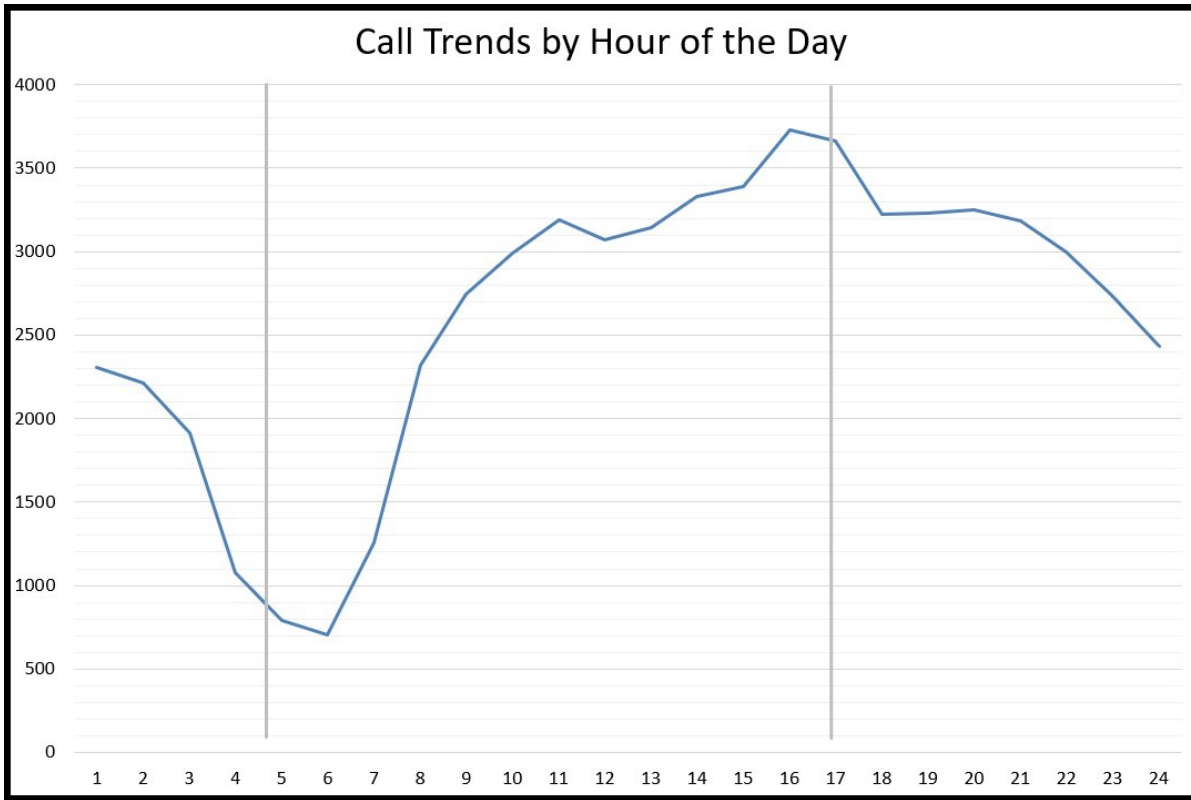
In 2019, the La Crosse Police Department used \$451,960.35 in overtime. Officers also earned overtime pay through grant funding or security services for private events.



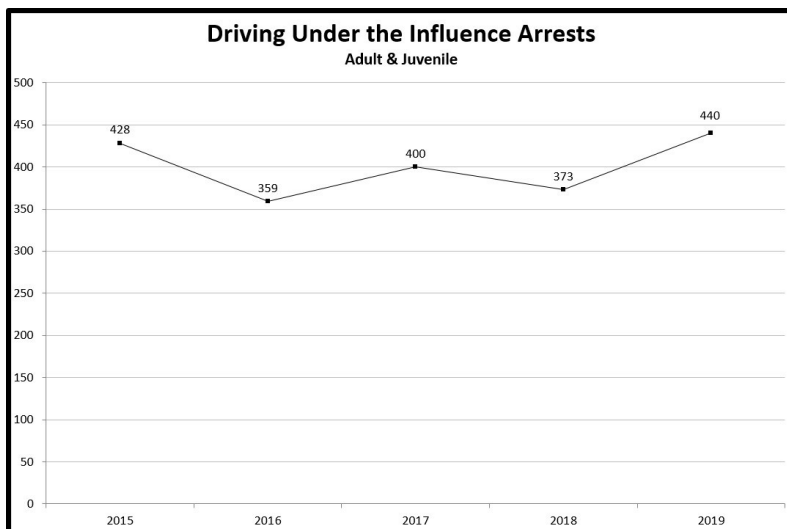
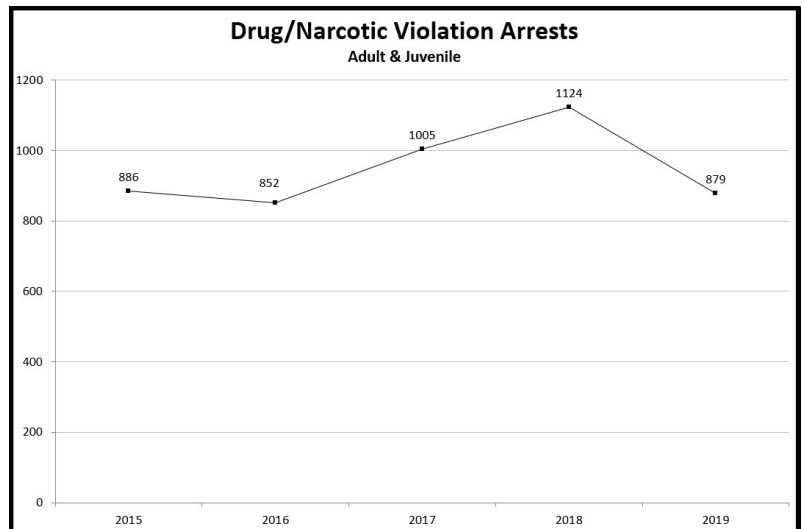
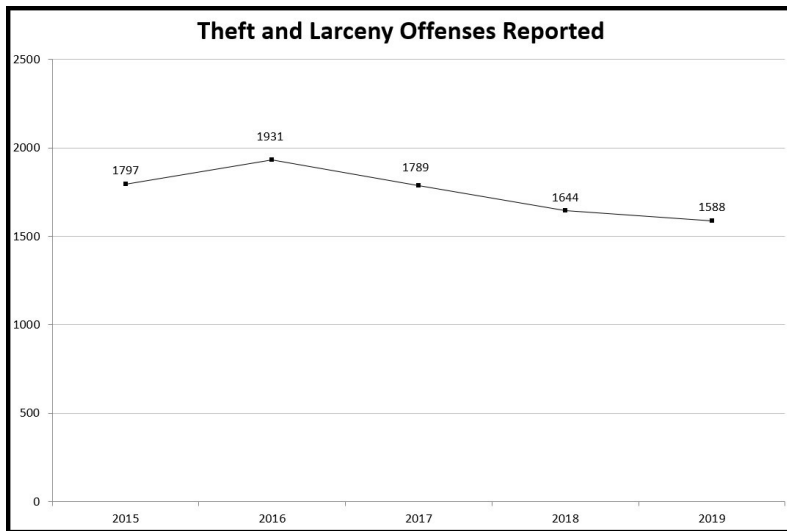
Field Services Statistics



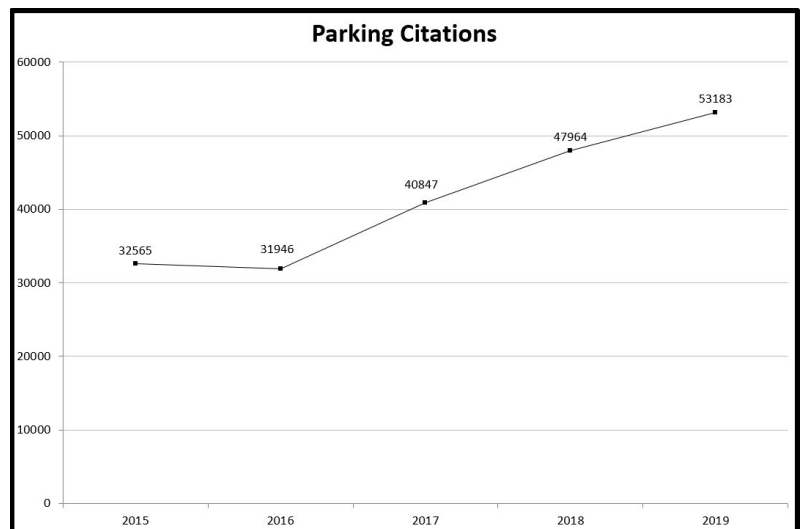
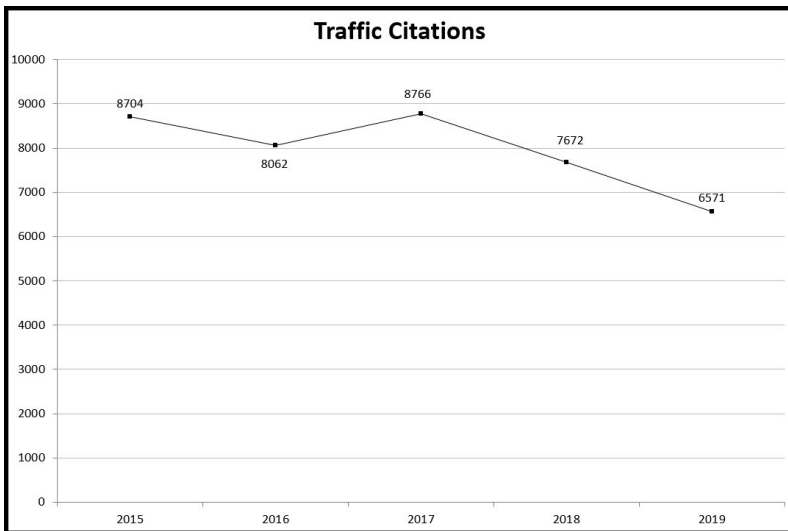
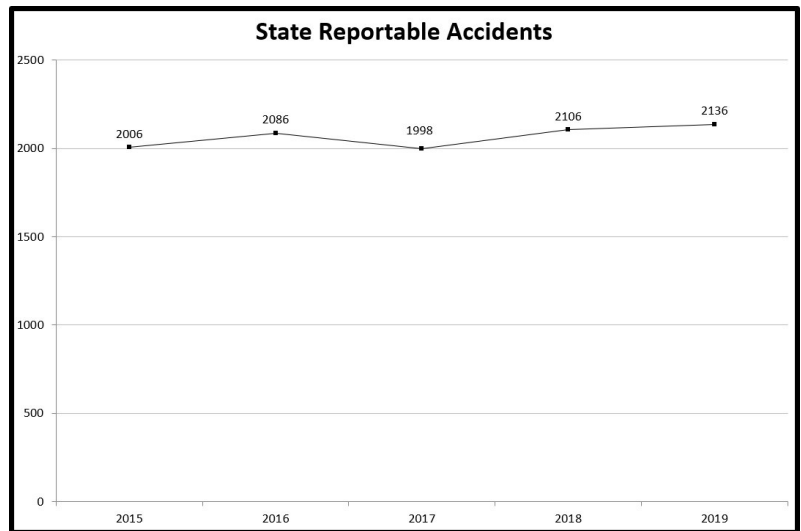
Field Services Statistics



Crime Statistics



Traffic Statistics



Parking Utility Statistics

Payment Transactions for Parking

- ⇒ Pay Stations: 89,338
- ⇒ Passport App: 51,090
- ⇒ Online: 17,029

License Plate Recognition (LPR) Technology

- ⇒ One additional LPR installed, bringing the total to five LPR enforcement vehicles
- ⇒ Over 4.5 million license plates read

T2 Ticketing and Permitting Software

- ⇒ 1,530 parking ramp permits issued
- ⇒ 513 residential permits issued
- ⇒ 53,183 parking citations issued

2019 Approved Operating Budget	
Expenses	Revenues
\$2,874,119.00	\$1,905,500.00

2019 Parking Citations by Type			
Unauthorized	10,850	Not Parked in Marked Stall	233
Night Parking (\$0.00 citation)	10,197	1 FT From Curb Parking	227
Overtime Parking (\$0.00 citation)	7,907	Other	212
Overtime Parking	7,426	Handicap Space	173
Night Parking	5,040	Facing Traffic Parking	154
Non-Registered Vehicle	2,852	48 Hour Abandoned Parking	142
Crosswalk - 15 Feet	1,740	Unattached Trailer	123
Parking Warning	1,450	Alley Parking	106
No Park Zone	1,242	Loading Zone	76
Backing Into Stalls Parking	942	Front/Side Yard Parking	15
Driveway - 4 Feet	601	2 FT From Curb Parking	11
Fire Hydrant - 10 Feet	541	Cul du Sac Parking	7
Trespass Parking	366	Night Parking-Mobile/Motor Warn	1
Boat Landing Parking Violation	280	Double Parking	1
Immobilization Violation	268	TOTAL	53,183

Personnel Changes

In 2019, the La Crosse Police Department saw quite a bit of movement throughout the department, both for the sworn and civilian employees.

Promotions and Appointments		
Dakota Marcon	Officer (previous CSE)	January 2, 2019
Phillip Martin	Lieutenant	June 27, 2019
Thomas Hansen	Sergeant	June 27, 2019
Stephen Curns	Sergeant	June 27, 2019
Shawn Kudron	Chief	September 30, 2019
Andrew Dittman	Captain	November 15, 2019
Noah Grimm	Officer (previous CSE)	November 15, 2019
Hayden Halverson	Officer (hired as CSE 6/12/2019)	November 15, 2019
Colt Lang	Officer (hired as CSE 10/8/2019)	December 27, 2019
New Hires		
Jorrey Olson	Officer	January 2, 2019
Samuel Clason	Officer	February 22, 2019
Colin Sherden	Officer	May 15, 2019
Arick Siegmann	Officer	May 15, 2019
Tanner Oleson	Officer	May 17, 2019
Conner Hjellming	Officer	May 17, 2019
Brandon Obluck	Officer	May 17, 2019
Alexzandra Beesley	Civilian Service Employee	May 28, 2019
Trenton Benning	Civilian Service Employee	June 4, 2019
Tyler Christian	Civilian Service Employee	August 6, 2019
Keng Vang	Civilian Service Employee	August 6, 2019
Alexander Rich	Civilian Service Employee	August 29, 2019
Gabriel Kapanke	Civilian Service Employee	December 4, 2019
Charles Fah	Civilian Service Employee	December 16, 2019
Retirements		
Sergeant Craig Oleson	17+ years of service	March 23, 2019
Mary Sumeracki	19+ years of service	June 24, 2019
K-9 Zaback	6+ years of service	August 21, 2019
Chief Ronald Tischer	6+ years of service	August 30, 2019

Administrative Services Bureau Staff

Bureau Director—Captain
Troy Nedegaard

Administrative Sergeant
Linnea Miller

Records Supervisor
Steve Butterfield

Special Operations Officer—Court/Fleet
Brad Stoner

Civilian Service Employees

Diane Skifton
Kong Lor
Teng Thao
Ryan Olson
Michael Abraham

Andrew Kyle
Alexandra Beesley
Trenton Benning
Tyler Christian
Keng Vang

Alexander Rich
Colt Lang
Gabriel Kapanke
Charles Fah

Property Technician
Faling Yang

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
Greg Elsen

Customer Service
April Brown
Donna Overson

Maintenance
Joseph Pederson
Thomas Schran

Field Services Bureau Staff

Bureau Director—Captain
Daniel Kloss

Shift Lieutenants

Joe Smith

Phillip Martin

Shift Sergeants

Kirk Flatten
Grant Gyllander
Jason Mahairas

Steve Pataska
Joseph Wiegrefe
Craig Teff

Thomas Hansen
Stephen Curns

Patrol Officers

Lisa Barrix
Scott Harmel
Alan Hagen
Teri Roden
Tony LeQue

Todd Fischer
Ryan Stenslien
Charles Frandsen
Matthew Malott
Brad Schomberg

Joel Miller
Jeremy Rindfleisch
Aaron Erdmann
Christopher Oates
Jason Nesbit

Field Services Bureau Staff, cont.

Patrol Officers

Trenton Bowe
Nicholas Raddant
Andrew Adey
Daniel Howe
Jared Reed
Stephen Hughes
Dakota Jelinski
Joshua Rollins
Whitney Hughes
Cody Plenge
Justin Eddy
Alex Vang
Abbie Schroeder

Sonja Weber
Ryan DeFlorian
Ryan Ledvina
John LaBrec
Jacob Walker
Dominick Jacobs
Nathan Lewis
Michael Vo
Adam Lange
Michael Goergen
Graham Eddy
Cordero Gilliam
Brian Thomas

Kevin Lozano
Chad Maske
Dakota Marcon
Jorrey Olson
Samuel Clason
Colin Sherden
Arick Siegmann
Tanner Oleson
Conner Hjellming
Brandon Obluck
Noah Grimm
Hayden Halverson

Investigative Services Bureau Staff

Bureau Director—Captain

Andrew Dittman

Detective Lieutenant

Timothy O’Neill

Detective Sergeants

Jon Wenger

Ryan Fitzgerald

Casey Rossman

Investigators

Tony DeLap
James Mancuso

Cory Brandl
Andrew Rosenow

Andrew Tolvstad
Brooke Pataska

Neighborhood Resource Officers

Dale Gerbig
Daniel Ulrich

Tyler Pond
Alexander Burg

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
Ronald Secord

Rick Pfennig
Jovanna Randall

Ethan Purkapile

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

Kurt Weaver

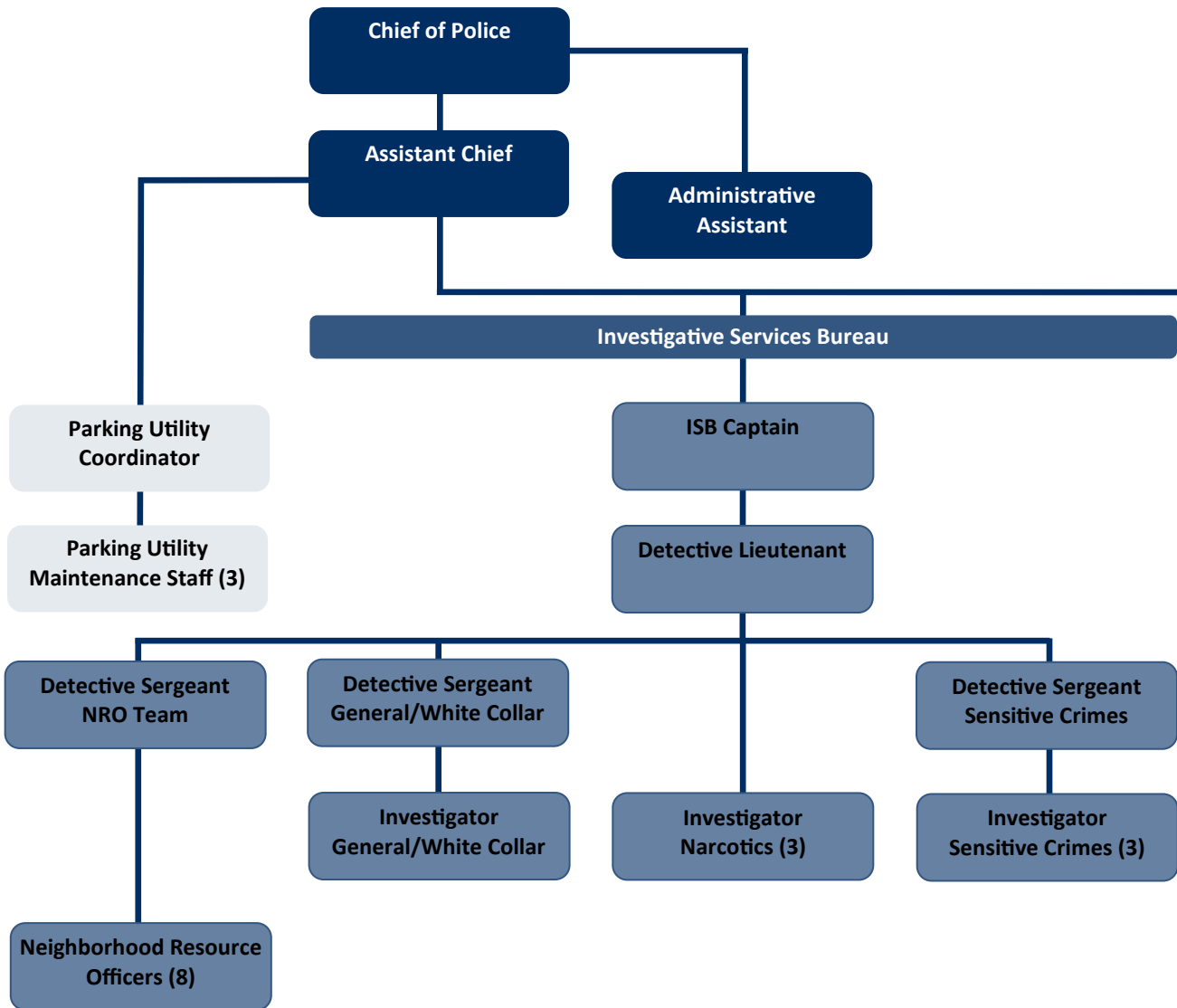
Community Policing Officer

Dustin Darling

Crime Analyst

Nicole Popovich

2019 LCPD Organizational Chart



The La Crosse Police Honor Guard and Administrative staff attended the Chippewa Valley Technical College Law Enforcement Academy Graduation for new officers Hjellming, Obluck, and Oleson, as well as their classmates.

Pictured (L-R): Inv. Cory Brandl, Sgt. Jon Wenger, Assistant Chief Abraham, Ofc. Hjellming, Ofc. Obluck, Ofc. Oleson, Captain Kloss, Sgt. Flatten, Ofc. Stoner, and Ofc. Roden.

POLICE - SWORN

Chief of Police	1
Assistant Chief	1
Police Captains	4
Police Lieutenants	5
Police Sergeants	13
Police Investigators	7
Police Officers	67
TOTAL SWORN	98

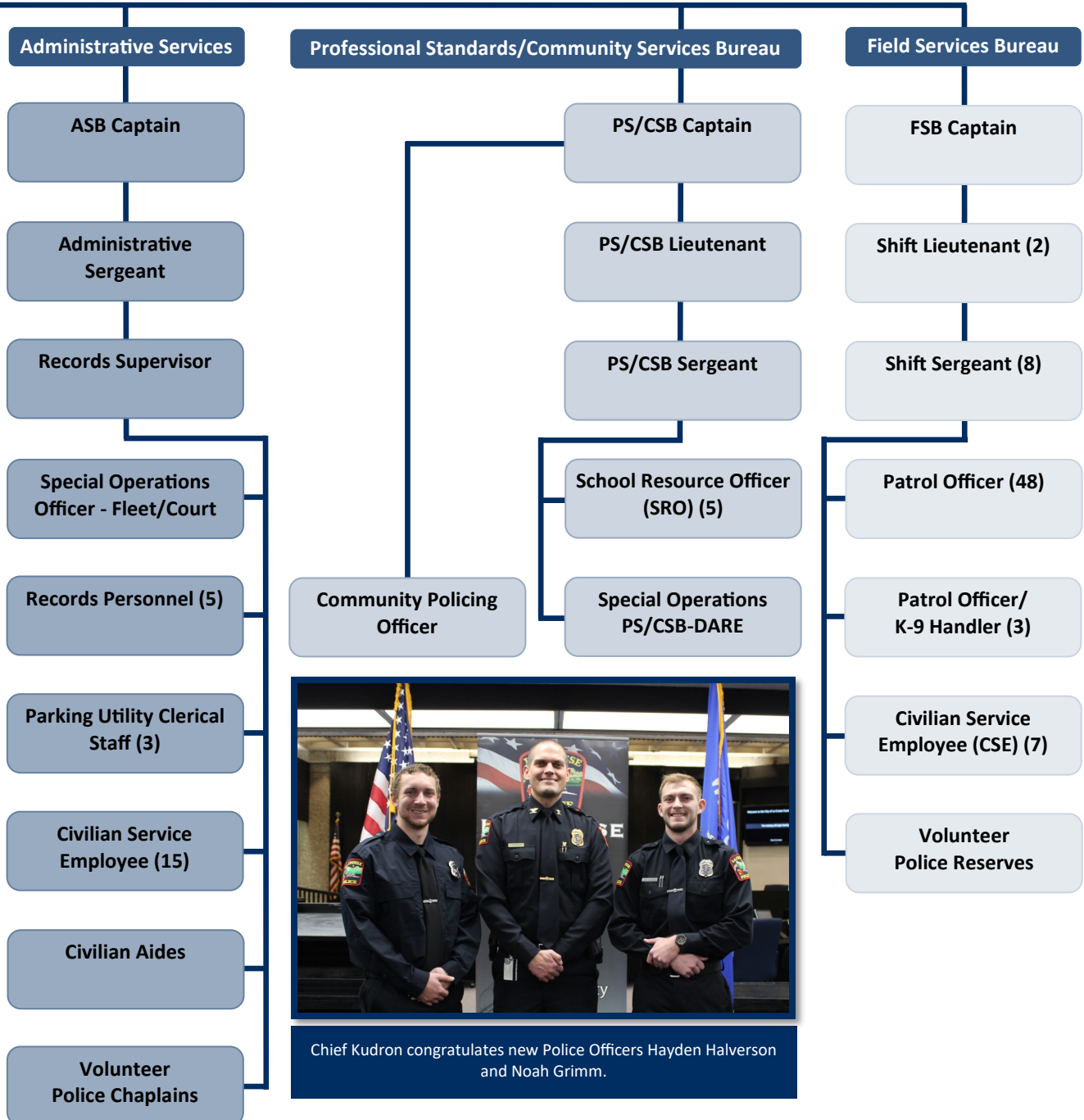
POLICE - CIVILIAN

Records Supervisor	1
Civilian Service Employee	7
Clerical	6
TOTAL CIVILIAN - PD	14

PARKING UTILITY - CIVILIAN

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

TOTAL PERSONNEL 127





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, 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 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 bases you are able to interact with our staff, who provide polite and friendly customer service for all.

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 2019, the Records Division processed 63,358 police incident reports, as well as 10,304 total citations and 2,411 crash reports which includes 2,136 reportable accidents. Parking Utility/Records personnel processed 53,183 parking citations that were issued by Civilian Service Employees. They also processed 1,042 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 5,485 open records requests, which includes 2,433 accident report requests.

In 2019 the Property Division employee was changed to a civilian position. Previous CSE Faling Yang accepted this appointment and continues to maintain all property that comes into the department, which consists of evidence and found property. He processed 8,530 pieces of property and/or evidence and disposed of 8,263 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 employees and for the community.

The La Crosse Police Department completed 21,476 hours of training among all its employees in 2019. The Training Division focused on Active Threat, mental health, officer wellness, diversity/ethics, and supervisory/management training. Listed is an overview of some completed training hours:

- ⇒ 481 Active Threat
- ⇒ 785 Mental health
- ⇒ 366 Officer wellness
- ⇒ 339 Diversity/ethics
- ⇒ 686 Supervisory/Management

Lieutenant Tim O’Neill graduated from the 10-week Wisconsin Command College supervisory course in June of 2019. He has been able to apply his managerial skills to both the Department’s Patrol and Investigative Bureaus. At our annual in-service training, Department members were able to learn from members of Aptiv Inc. to develop a better understanding of how to work with their clients on behavioral safety. We were also able to expand our partnerships with our local school systems on Active Threat preparedness and utilized their facilities throughout the summer for training. We are proud that we completed training for all of our sworn officers in Mental Health First Aid.

The Department hired 11 new officers in 2019. 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. Four new Field Training Officers were selected in 2019: Officers Jacob Walker, Nate Lewis, Dominick Jacobs and Jorrey Olson.

2020 Certified Training Instructors

Captain Troy Nedegaard	Sergeant Craig Teff	Officer Dale Gerbig
Captain Daniel Kloss	Sergeant Kirk Flatten	Officer Jeremy Rindfleisch
Lieutenant Joe Smith	Investigator Tony DeLap	Officer Bradley Stoner
Lieutenant Timothy O’Neill	Investigator Andrew Rosenow	Officer Aaron Erdmann
Sergeant Stephen Curns	Investigator Cory Brandl	Officer Nicholas Raddant
Sergeant Grant Gyllander	Officer Ronald Secord	Officer John LaBrec
Sergeant Jason Mahairas	Officer Kurt Weaver	Officer Daniel Howe
Sergeant Christopher Oates	Officer Ryan Stenslien	Officer Jacob Walker

We continue to try and improve our recruitment opportunities to attract quality Officer candidates. We continue to enhance the Civilian Service Employee position to train and evaluate CSEs as potential Police Officer candidates. Success stories for 2019 include former CSEs who are now sworn Officers - Dakota Marcon, Noah Grimm, Hayden Halverson, and Colt Lang.



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 2019, 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. Implementation of the paid on-street parking with the mobile app occurred in the fall.

In December, the La Crosse Police Parking Utility offered a 'Food for Fines' program which allowed those with a parking citation to "pay" with non-perishable food items and/or winter clothing. The value of the item(s) donated had to be equal to the fine owed. Upon completion of the program, several loads of items were donated to area food and warming shelters.

The new immobilization "boot" ordinance helped to recover \$86,134.21 in fines either paid in full or through a payment plan.

As of December, invoicing for parking permits is now done through the T2 software, which also processes payments for citations. Patrons are able to view and pay their bill online, as well as purchase permits. An option for paperless billing is now available.



NROs Pond and Gerbig, as well as Community Policing Officer Darling, deliver "Food for Fines" items at the Northside Community Pantry.

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, 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 can start at 5A or 6AM or 5PM or 6PM. In addition, a power shift 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 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.

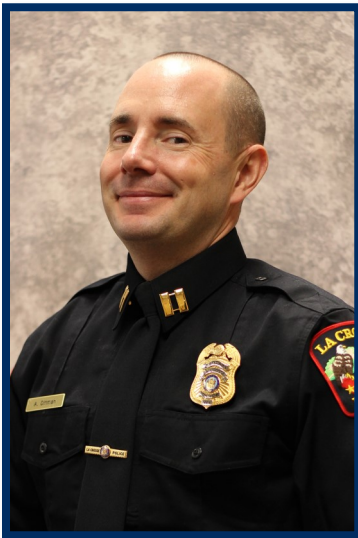
Members of the Field Services Bureau can be seen patrolling in squad cars, boat, bicycles, Segways, or on foot. These alternative patrol formats allow for increased interaction with the public which improves our effectiveness as a police agency. Further, the Field Services Bureau is comprised of specialty 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.



Officer Dustin Darling is presented with Hero of the Year award from Representative Jill Billings.

In 2019, Officers responded to a wide variety of calls but none were more taxing than when an armed suspect attempted to take Officer Dustin Darling's life while he investigated a domestic incident. Officer Darling suffered a gunshot to the chest but was wearing his duty-issued body armor that saved his life. He was able to return fire striking the suspect multiple times and protected innocent bystanders from the assailant.

Throughout 2019, members of the Field Services Bureau were involved in 63,358 calls for service, issued 6,571 traffic citations, and investigated 2,136 reportable traffic crashes. In addition, Officers issued 3,675 municipal ordinance citations. The 2019 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

Andrew Dittman, Captain

The Investigative Services Bureau (ISB) is primarily responsible for all criminal cases within the City of La Crosse. The Investigative Services Bureau has a staff of 20 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.

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 need arises. Personnel also initiate investigations, develop sources of criminal intelligence, and serve as liaisons to other organizations within the community.

The Investigative Bureau staff also provide educational and instructional training presentations at University of Wisconsin – La Crosse, Viterbo University, Western Technical College, Winona State University, local healthcare systems, a variety of neighborhood groups, and public/private schools within the City of La Crosse.

Investigative Services Bureau members serve on a variety of local, state, and national committees, including the 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.

The Investigative Services Bureau draws from a wide variety of resources to respond to criminal activity in the City of La Crosse. The Investigative Services Bureau is dedicated to the mission of being leaders and providing a safe environment opportunity. We also pursue our agency’s mission of eliminating crime through community engagement. Our members provide expertise in all areas of criminal investigation and respond to the needs of the La Crosse Community. Through community engagement and

improvements in law enforcement technology, the Investigative Services Bureau will continue to actively work to keep the La Crosse Community safe.

Investigative Services: Major Cases

In 2019, the Investigative Services Bureau investigated approximately 2600 criminal cases. A few notable case investigations include:

Homicide Investigation

On January 2, 2019, Virgil Stewart was found to be deceased after having been stabbed in the chest during an altercation on the south side of the City of La Crosse. A homicide investigation ensued. Investigators interviewed a large amount of witnesses, reviewed a large amount of criminal evidence and intelligence, conducted several search warrants, and eventually arrested Anquin St. Junious for the homicide of Virgil Stewart.

Death Investigation

On October 6, 2019, City of La Crosse Police responded to an address on the south side of the City of La Crosse for the report of a person in need of medical assistance. Upon arrival, officers found a woman, who was later identified as Dawn Kinard, to be deceased. A death investigation ensued. Investigative bureau staff, working in partnership with field services bureau staff, began a lengthy investigation into the cause of Dawn Kinard's death. This case remains open and is ongoing.

Homicide Investigation

On November 2, 2019, City of La Crosse Police responded to reports of shots fired near an address on the north side of the City of La Crosse. As a result of that investigation and upon their arrival on scene, officers found a man, who was later identified as Javier Ayers, to be deceased at that location as a result of gunshot wounds. A lengthy criminal investigation ensued. Hundreds of hours of video, as well as numerous interviews and the collection of technological evidence, as well as other criminal evidence, resulted in the arrest of Shavonte Thompson for the homicide of Javier Ayers.

Partnership with Federal Prosecutors

In 2019, we saw an expanded partnership with federal prosecutors in the western district for the State of Wisconsin. Investigative bureau staff made numerous referrals to the United States Attorney's Office regarding multiple gun-related and drug-related crimes that had occurred in the City of La Crosse. The strong partnership with the US Attorney's Office has allowed us to prosecute several of these crimes at the federal level. Our agency has continued to receive positive feedback from staff at the United States Attorney's Office regarding the hard work of members of the City of La Crosse Police Department.

Stalking Case

In February of 2019, City of La Crosse Police Department began the investigation of a significant stalking and domestic violence case that took place on the north side of the City of La Crosse. As a result of cooperative efforts between Investigative Services Bureau staff and Field Services Bureau staff, as well as our agency's Domestic Abuse Reduction Team, James Draeving was eventually taken into custody in the

State of Tennessee and transported back to La Crosse, Wisconsin to face numerous felony stalking charges. This case provided a good example of diligent work by Domestic Abuse Reduction Team members to provide safety and a thorough investigation for a victim of domestic violence. The DART program is funded primarily by federal grant. Along with the La Crosse Police Department, other organizations play a role in DART, including members of law enforcement, health and human services agencies, private victim advocacy agencies, and local hospitals.



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.

This was the first year for the newly created Crime Analyst position. This is a position intended to assist our front-line staff from Feld Services or the Investigative Services Bureaus. The value of this position was notable in this first year. Assisting in information analysis for homicides, creating informational bulletins for our street officers, and crime mapping are just a couple of the work products provided in 2019.

The Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau, will continue to engage our community 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.



SRO Heath Graves leads the State Road Elementary Walking School Bus during Walk to School Week.

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 2019, the 5th grade D.A.R.E. curriculum was taught in 9 schools and reached a total of 425 students. Visits to lower grades were also completed to introduce younger students to the School Resource Officer assigned to their school.



Northside Elementary School students graduate from D.A.R.E.

The G.R.E.A.T. program was taught in both the 4th and 6th grades in La Crosse. In 2019, 2 Officers taught the 4th grade curriculum to 375 students in 9 schools, and 5 officers taught the 6th grade curriculum in 4 schools to 450 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 1 week at Camp Decorah for 75 at-risk and underprivileged youth.

Social Media Presence

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; two of those being transparency and communication. How agencies accomplish this has changed significantly in recent years with the implementation of different social media platforms.

Currently the Police Department has a news blog hosted on our City website, as well as very active Facebook and Twitter accounts. In 2019 we expanded our social media "foot print" into Instagram and YouTube in hopes of reaching others within our community that are not on our other platforms.



This Facebook post reached over 35,000 people in just a few hours.
Everyone loves a funny "animal on the loose" call.

Each of these platforms is used for different purposes by the agency. The news blog 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). 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 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 22,209 followers and our Twitter has 6,337 followers, and they both grow each day.



Facebook



Instagram



YouTube



Twitter

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

National Night Out

The 36th 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 2019 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 22nd Annual La Crosse Area National Night Out, 12 La Crosse neighborhoods hosted block parties, with several 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

The La Crosse Police Neighborhood Resource Officers (NROs) have become an instrumental unit over the past six years, creating demand for their neighborhood specific services and professional problem-solving.

Officers Danny Mandujano and Aaron Westpfahl have built great working relationships with the Hintgen-Huber Court Project participants which include the School District of La Crosse, Boys and Girls Club, La Crosse Area Family Collaborative, Housing Authority, and many others. Visits to the Boys and Girls Club on Huber Court are regular. Family Fun nights are held once a month where food is served and games are played. Due to this Project, residents have built a trust never seen in the neighborhood before.



PPH NROs Westpfahl and Mandujano regularly attend the Boys & Girls Club Family Dinner night events.

As a result of the NROs' activity in the Powell-Poage-Hamilton neighborhood, calls for service have declined, cases from CPS have declined, arrests have declined, and COPs have increased. This example was used recently during a La Crosse County Board meeting and was presented to officers who attended WACOP (Wisconsin Association of Community Oriented Police) training, which was held in La Crosse in January 2020.

Downtown NROs have been heavily invested in their community. Officer Burg has been working hard to build and maintain relationships. His success, and that of his previous partners, has furthered our agency's commitment to Community Engagement. Officer Bug regularly attends meetings with Downtown Mainstreet Inc., Downtown Neighborhood Association, La Crosse Collaborative to End Homelessness, the de-Criminalization of Homelessness, and many others. He also works with area medical groups and has provided ride-alongs for resident doctors and/or social workers. This past year, the Point in Time count (a collaborative group effort to count homeless people not in shelters) hit an all time low. The last "count" only found four homeless people. Officer Burg works closely with the United Way Hub, matching outreach coordinators with homeless people needing services. Officer Bug is looking forward to a new partner in 2020, and taking his downtown responsibilities further!

Lower Northside Depot NROs, Officer Gerbig and Officer Pond, participated in a neighborhood block party, which had its highest attendance in 2019 since it began 4 years ago. The block party was held at Trinity Lutheran Church on Sill Street. New this year was a shoe drive, where participants received a free new pair of shoes. Additionally, both of the NROs have done networking and developed close ties with community members. Through their networking, they received hundreds of dollars of gift cards for Kwik Trip. These gift cards were given out to people in the community that needed assistance.



The NRO Unit attended the annual "Day at the Lake" event held by the Sara Rose Hougom Foundation. It's a great way for our officers to make connections with the youth in our community.

Officer Ulrich continued working with families in the Washburn Neighborhood. Many complaints were coming in about the 600 block of 5th Avenue South regarding frequent traffic. Officer Ulrich worked closely with neighbors, landlords, La Crosse Police VICE unit, and eventually the City Inspections department. As a result of his coordinating with these different groups, the home was finally condemned and went up for sale. Officer Ulrich has also been active with Emerson Elementary, Spence Elementary, and Hamilton Elementary. He has made a point to stop by these schools and meet with children who live in his neighborhood. He will be a guest reader in their classes and is looking forward to being a consistent presence in the schools in this neighborhood.

After an successful and rewarding 2019, the NRO Unit is looking forward to an exciting 2020!

K-9 Unit

In 2019, The La Crosse Police K-9 Unit worked extremely hard at increasing its level of community engagement through events such as “Party in the Parks”, where members of the K-9 unit collaborated with Mayo Clinic Health System and Coulee Parenting Connection to put on public demonstrations at five various parks throughout the City of La Crosse. This enabled members of our community to witness firsthand the hard work and dedication these K-9 teams put into the program. The K-9 handlers were on site to answer questions, show the community the tools they use to train their police K-9s, as well as conduct demonstrations in narcotic detection and obedience.



The dual-purpose K-9s and their handlers work closely with Kenny McDonough of McDonough K-9 in Anoka, MN for continual training.

In addition to narcotics detection on traffic stops, the K-9s were deployed for building searches, evidence recovery, handler protection and tracking of suspects. The K-9 teams have been asked to conduct presentations at local schools and community events. They complete monthly trainings, as well as yearly certifications for narcotics and patrol work. Each of the teams are certified through the United States Police Canine Association in narcotics and PD1.

In 2019, dual-purpose K-9 Zaback sustained an injury to his back during a public demonstration; as a result, the department made the difficult decision to retire him from service. A Go Fund Me page was started and Zaback had his necessary surgery. He has since made a full recovery and is enjoying retired life with his handler, Trent Bowe.



K-9s Zeus, Bill and Thor visited 95.7 The Rock after they held a fundraiser for our K-9 Unit. They raised over \$15,000! WOW! We can't thank 95.7 The Rock enough for their support!

Shortly after, local radio station, 95.7 The Rock, learned of Zaback's retirement and partnered with the La Crosse Police Department to raise funds for a new dual-purpose K-9. The community's support was overwhelming, and 95.7 The Rock was able to raise the entire cost associated with purchasing a new police K-9 and the associated training. Officer Kevin Lozano was selected as the next La Crosse Police Department K-9 handler.

In 2019, the La Crosse Police Department K-9 unit worked closely with the La Crosse School District. Random sniffs were conducted at the schools and in their parking lots to ensure our schools remained

drug-free zones. In addition to the numerous open air sniffs conducted on traffic stops, K-9 sniffs were also conducted at the La Crosse Municipal Airport, as well as Department of Corrections buildings.

The La Crosse Police Department also hosted its 10th Annual Putt'n for Pooches K-9 Golf Outing and Fundraiser. Despite the on and off rain throughout the day, the community really came together to show their support for the K-9 program. In addition, the La Crosse Area Apartment Association held its annual meatball dinner which was extremely successful. Members of the community were able to enjoy a nice dinner, take part in various raffles, and most importantly, meet the Police K-9s, all while supporting a great cause!

Currently, the La Crosse Police Department has 3 dual-purpose narcotic detection/patrol K-9s and 1 single-purpose explosives detection K-9. A 4th dual-purpose K-9 will be added in 2020, once Officer Lozano completes his initial 12 weeks of training.

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.

ERT 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 2019, the Emergency Response Team conducted numerous trainings with key stakeholders in the community. One of the trainings took place at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse where members worked alongside UW-L officers in responding to high level threats at Roger Haring Stadium and various student dormitories. In addition, ERT trained with our partners at the Pepsi Cola Bottling Company, Kwik Trip, Valley View Mall, Gundersen, BensonProperties, and La Crosse School District.

The ability to work with diverse stakeholders in the community not only makes the team better, but also improves our communication and relationship in the event of an emergency.



Also in 2019, the La Crosse Police Department put into service a new Bearcat. The Bearcat is a fully armored, multi-terrain, bullet-resistant vehicle that is utilized to rescue officers and citizens. ERT conducted multiple trainings with this new piece of equipment which is designed to save lives. This vehicle was utilized in all high-risk warrant call-outs and suspect barricade incidents. In addition, all sworn officers were instructed on how to use the vehicle during annual in-service training. As a result, the vehicle is housed on the back ramp of the Police Department where it is ready for rapid deployment.

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. ERT operates with a team first approach to any problem that is presented. ERT is driven by the motto, "Failure is not an option."

In closing, ERT had three retirements at the end of the year. First, Captain Andy Dittman retired as a negotiator after 12 years service. Second, Sergeant Grant Gyllander retired as the Assistant Officer in Charge (OID) after 20 years of service. Last, Captain Dan Kloss retired as the Officer in Charge after 13 years of service. The La Crosse Police Department and Emergency Response Team are grateful for their dedication, sacrifice, and commitment to the team!

Water Patrol Unit

The Water Patrol unit consists of 20 sworn Officers specifically trained in water patrol operations who patrol over 19 miles of waterways within the City of La Crosse. In 2019, the La Crosse Police Water Patrol Unit had another successful year.

In May, the Water Patrol added seven new Officers. These Officers went through a 4-day Water Patrol "Academy". During this training, Officers spent two days in the classroom learning about waterway laws

2019 ERT Tactical Members	
Captain Daniel Kloss - OIC	
Sergeant Gran Gyllander - OIC	
Sergeant Casey Rossman - Team Leader	
Sergeant Steve Curns	Officer Nathan Lewis
Investigator Andrew Tolvstad	Officer Ethan Purkapile
Officer Daniel Ulrich	Officer Dominick Jacobs
Officer Tyler Pond	Officer Aaron Westpfahl
Officer Daniel Howe	TEMS Frank Garritano
Officer Stephen Hughes	TEMS James Hilcoat
Officer Alex Burg	TEMS David Duchrow
Officer Cody Plenge	TEMS Cory Westpfahl
Officer Daniel Mandujano	TEMS Clayton Anderson
Officer Nick Raddant	TEMS Brandon Scharmer
2019 ERT Negotiators	
Captain Andrew Dittman	Investigator Andrew Rosenow
Lieutenant Avrie Schott	Investigator Cory Brandl
Sergeant Phillip Martin	Officer Daniel Ulrich

and regulations, boating under the influence enforcement, boat crash investigations, search and rescue, and many other topics. They also spent one day on the river learning basic boat operating skills, and one day in the pool for Basic Water Survival training. Some Officers also completed Seated Battery Field Sobriety Test training.



During the 2019 boating season, the Water Patrol Unit worked 330 hours on the water, conducted 113 boat stops and boat inspections, issued 34 boating citations and 122 written warnings. Citations were issued for Boating while Under the Influence, equipment violations, and violations of waterway navigation rules.

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.

Although it was a good year for the boat patrol, it was also a challenging year. The river stage was above 10 feet for almost half the summer which created issues including numerous concerns about shore-line erosion and no-wake violations. Unfortunately there was one fatal boat crash in our jurisdiction in 2019. These types of unfortunate incidents remind us why it is important for the Water Patrol Unit to educate boaters and enforce the navigation rules.

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 the continued development of the Water Patrol Unit.

Bicycle Patrol Unit

The La Crosse Police Department bicycle unit has 8 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.

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 2019 the Honor Guard participated in several events. During Police Week in May, the Rifle Team attended the Memorial Ceremony which was hosted

by Chief Alo and the Bangor Police Department. The detail included Sergeant Jon Wenger (OIC), Lieutenant Phillip Martin, Investigator Cory Brandl, and Officers Kurt Weaver, Brooke Pataska, Brad Stoner, Ethan Purkapile, Teri Roden. Officer Dale Gerbig worked with the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department to post colors during the ceremony. Captain Troy Nedegaard and Lieutenant Joe Smith were able to attend the memorial service.

Our team was asked to post colors with a joint La Crosse Fire Department team during the 7Rivers Safety Conference. Members present included Sergeant Jon Wenger, Investigator Cory Brandl, and Officers Teri Roden, Ethan Purkapile, Brad Stoner, and Kurt Weaver.

2019 Honor Guard	
Sergeant Kirk Flatten - OIC	
Rifle Team Members	Colors Team Members
Sergeant Jon Wenger - OIC	Lieutenant Avrie Schott
Captain Troy Nedegaard	Lieutenant Timothy O'Neill
Lieutenant Joe Smith	Lieutenant Phillip Martin
Investigator Cory Brandl	Investigator Brooke Pataska
Officer Tony LeQue	Officer Teri Roden
Officer Bradley Stoner	Officer Kurt Weaver
Officer Dale Gerbig	Officer Ethan Purkapile



It was with great pride that our Honor Guard participated in honoring the memories of fellow Officers who passed away during the year. Lieutenant Timothy O'Neill, Sergeant Kirk Flatten, and Officer Dale Gerbig attended funeral services for City of Milwaukee Police Officer

Mathew Rittner who died in the line of duty in 2019. Investigator Cory Brandl and Officers Dale Gerbig and Kurt Weaver attended the funeral services for Racine Police Officer John Hetland.

The Honor Guard spent several days training which included basic drill and ceremony, rifle detail, and the posting of colors. One of the trainings was a joint training with the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department keeping up to date with our partners in the county.

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.

Police Reserve Unit

The La Crosse Police Reserve Unit is a volunteer unit within the Police Department. In 2019, the Reserve Unit consisted of 21 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 demand for the Reserve unit within the community was high. In 2019 the unit volunteered for 866.75 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. From this experience, four Reserves moved into Civilian Service Employee positions at the La Crosse Police Department including Tyler Christian, Gabriel Kapanke, Charles Fah, and Danny Skifton. Hayden Halverson and Tanner Oleson were hired as La Crosse Police Officers, and Ziehli, Garbers, Thornton, and Bluske were hired at other area police departments. Serving as a Reserve has proven invaluable in furthering a career in law enforcement.

The Reserve Unit stands ready to assist the La Crosse Police Department and members of our community.



The Police Reserve Unit learns CPR from Officer Mandujano.

Police Reserve Liaisons			
Sergeant Craig Teff			
Officer Brad Stoner		Officer Whitney Hughes	
Reserve Board Members			
Terry Konsella - Commander		Brittany Wiese - Field Lieutenant	
Reserve Officers			
Evan Wenberg	Danny Skifton	Hunter Elsen	Jack Johnston
Andrew Jarrett	Caitlyn Roberts	Queto Weber	Racelynn Tolomei
Jessica Gardiner	Mitchell Leckie	Cody Nicholson	Mary Kusmitch
Brian Allen	Luke Nitz	Ellie Beckman	Reece Meier
Charles Fah	Shelbe Ziehli	Austin Lasee	

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 2018-2019 school year, we had an average daily attendance of 19 students. So far for the 2019-2020 school year, we are averaging 15 students per class.

In January of 2019, our Explorer group attended the State Conference in Wisconsin Dells. We had six explorers and two advisors attend the three-day training. We had two separate teams compete this year and our best showing was in the dispatch scenario. Our group took second place in the legal exam competition! Great job explorers!

Explorer Post #3201 is led by advisors Lieutenant Jon Wenger, Investigators Tony DeLap and Andy Rosenow, and Officers Kurt Weaver, Cody Plenge and Sergeant 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 Police Explorer Post #3201 took 2nd place in the State Conference Legal Exam.

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 2019 was a busy year for the Chaplaincy. The team of 14 active and 7 reserve Chaplains provided on-call coverage 24 hours each day, 7 days each week, all 52 weeks of the year. They provided 8,760 hours of coverage, responded to 13 calls, attended 28 debriefings, trained 371 hours, and utilized 1,500 hours of administrative support. They also provided non-emergency services such as officiating for funeral services, providing counseling, serving during Law Enforcement Memorial Week, attending promotion ceremonies, new officer swearing in ceremonies and retirement ceremonies, serving during Oktoberfest, and hosting the 19th Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Picnic.

FBI National Academy

Chief Shawn P. Kudron	243 rd Session - September 2010 to December 2010
Assistant Chief Robert M. Abraham	267 th Session - January 2017 to March 2017



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



Anniversaries



Diane Skifton
Civilian Service Employee
30 years of service
April 10, 2019



Robert Abraham
Assistant Chief of Police
25 years of service
September 26, 2019

Retirements



Craig Oleson
Sergeant
17+ years of service
March 23, 2019



Mary Sumeracki
Parking Ticket Processor
19+ years of service
June 24, 2019



Zaback
Police Canine
6+ years of service
August 21, 2019



Ronald Tischer
Chief of Police
6+ years of service
August 30, 2019

Thank you for your service to the La Crosse community!



Pictured (from Left to Right, Top to Bottom): 1) The Annual Athletes and Officers softball game held to raise funds for Special Olympics Wisconsin was another great success. 2) Officer Arick Siegmann works to keep the turtle population safe. 3) Sergeant Tom Walsh visits with some residents during the annual Coffee with a Cop event—this one at the southside McDonalds. 4) AC Abraham and Sgt. Gyllander hand out gift cards that were supplied by a generous, anonymous donor. 5) The Sara Rose Hougom Foundation and BGC Blue Crew put together “Sara Packs” that officers can hand out to children during times of trauma. 6) Downtown Neighborhood Resource Officer Alex Burg celebrates BGC Student Omar Cox-Bey receiving the “Terry Erickson—Boy of the Year Award”.



Pictured (from Left to Right, Top to Bottom): 1) Captain Dan Kloss visits the Woodbridge Court National Night Out party. 2) School Resource Officer Ethan Purkapile learns how to skateboard from some neighborhood kids. 3) PPH NRO Danny Mandujano gets a lesson on riding two wheels. 4) Chief Shawn Kudron and NRO Danny Mandujano visit Coffee with a Cop held at Gundersen Health System. 5) Officer Dakota Jelinski and K-9 Thor accept a large donation for the K-9 Unit from the Apartment Association of La Crosse. 6) LCPD received the "2019 Best of La Crosse" award for Best Employer.

