



LA CROSSE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
LEAD. PARTNER. PROTECT.

2025 ANNUAL REPORT





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MISSION

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

VISION

Our vision is to enhance our community through **engagement** and **professional service**.

VALUES

The La Crosse Police Department values are **P.R.A.C.T.I.C.E.D.** daily by all members of the department and guide how we serve the La Crosse community.

Professionalism

Respect

Accountability

Community Policing

Transparency

Integrity

Communication

Employee Safety & Wellness

Dedication



CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Mayor Shaundel Washington-Spivey, Common Council Members, and citizens of La Crosse, I am pleased to present the 2025 Annual Report. The year 2025 was a year of transition for the La Crosse Police Department and saw many positional changes due to succession. With these changes our department strived each day to accomplish our mission of being leaders in providing a safe and vibrant community. 2025 was a year of growth, and we are proud of our accomplishments over the past year.

In the fall of 2019 when I became the Chief of Police, I knew then that 2025 was going to be a significant year for the La Crosse Police Department. It was a year of transition and one that had been planned for years in advance. Leading up to this year, I met with staff, the Police and Fire Commission and then Mayor Reynolds, to put together a succession plan that would account for a seamless transition as we prepared for the retirement of the Assistant Chief of Police, two Lieutenants, a Sergeant, and two officers.

Through 2025 we had six retirements and fifteen new hires. We experienced seventeen promotions which included Community Service Officers that were sworn as Police Officers. Additionally, we had fifteen positional moves and twenty shift patrol moves. We also celebrated the 30-year anniversary for Teri Roden and the 25-year anniversaries for Linnea Miller, Ryan Fitzgerald, Tony Delap, and me.

On May 15, 2025 the La Crosse Police Department had the opportunity to host the La Crosse County Police Officers Memorial Service at Riverside Park. We gathered to pay tribute to all Law Enforcement Officers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the protection of their communities. We specially honored the three La Crosse Police Officers that gave their life protecting the La Crosse Community.

Officer T.P. "Perry" Gates
EOW September 7, 1900

Officer Frank Groeschner
EOW November 8, 1916

Officer Joseph Donndelinger
EOW December 10, 1937



Shawn P. Kudron
Chief of Police



CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Members of La Crosse County area Law Enforcement attended the event along with numerous staff from the La Crosse Police Department. Our Police Reserves led us in the pledge of allegiance; our Honor Guard provided a rifle volley; and Viterbo University President Rick Trietley provided an inspiring keynote speech. It was a wonderful and touching service honoring the Law Enforcement Profession.

It has been an unprecedented year for the La Crosse Police Department. Watching the growth and maturity of so many Officers stepping into new responsibilities has been gratifying. It continues to be an honor to lead the La Crosse Police Department as Chief of Police.



ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW

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

This year, a significant amount of movement occurred within the department. Due to the retirement of six ranking members, four of which were command-level positions, we experienced promotions and movement throughout the ranks all the way up to Assistant Chief. The administrative team spent an extensive amount of time planning for these retirements through active succession planning that occurred well before the employee left the department. Through this succession planning, the department ensured its continued success for decades to come.

The department was highly active in recruitment throughout 2025. In continued coordination with the Human Resources Department, the Police Department conducted three hiring processes during the year. These processes generated 79 applicants, resulting in the hiring of 12 candidates. Additionally, eleven of the newly hired Officers were required to complete the 720-hour law enforcement academy.



Daniel Kloss
Assistant Chief



ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW

As a result, by the time a candidate is hired, graduates from the law enforcement academy, and completes a rigorous 14-week training program, they have been with the department for nearly nine months. The hiring process is robust and must meet several State standards and includes the following steps: application validation, administrative interview, written test, physical agility test, Police & Fire Commission interview, Chief's Interview, pre-employment background investigation, medical exam, psychological exam, drug screening and final job offer.

In addition to hiring twelve Police Officers, we also hired eight Community Service Officers (CSOs). A CSO position is highly sought after due to its nexus to becoming a La Crosse Police Officer. The position allows the employee to be integrated into the culture of the department and community and helps facilitate a smooth transition when a sworn position becomes available.

Last, the department instituted new protocols to serve citizens who were dealing with MBE's (medical behavioral emergencies). What we have seen in our community over the years is citizens who are experiencing a medical issue (often drug-induced or drug-enhanced) that presents to us a behavioral issue. This can be perceived as a person displaying willful, non-compliant behavior rather than the person being in potential medical distress. In working with the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), the department follows the fifteen guiding principles for reducing the risk of restraint-related death.

Further, in line with our core values of community policing and professionalism, we partnered with La Crosse hospitals, La Crosse County Dispatch Center, Tri-State ambulance, and the La Crosse Fire Department to provide MBE training to their staff to serve this population. Through in-house training and collaboration with community partners, the department provided multiple courses focused on proper protocols and procedures, strengthening safety for both the community and department staff.

ANNUAL APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET

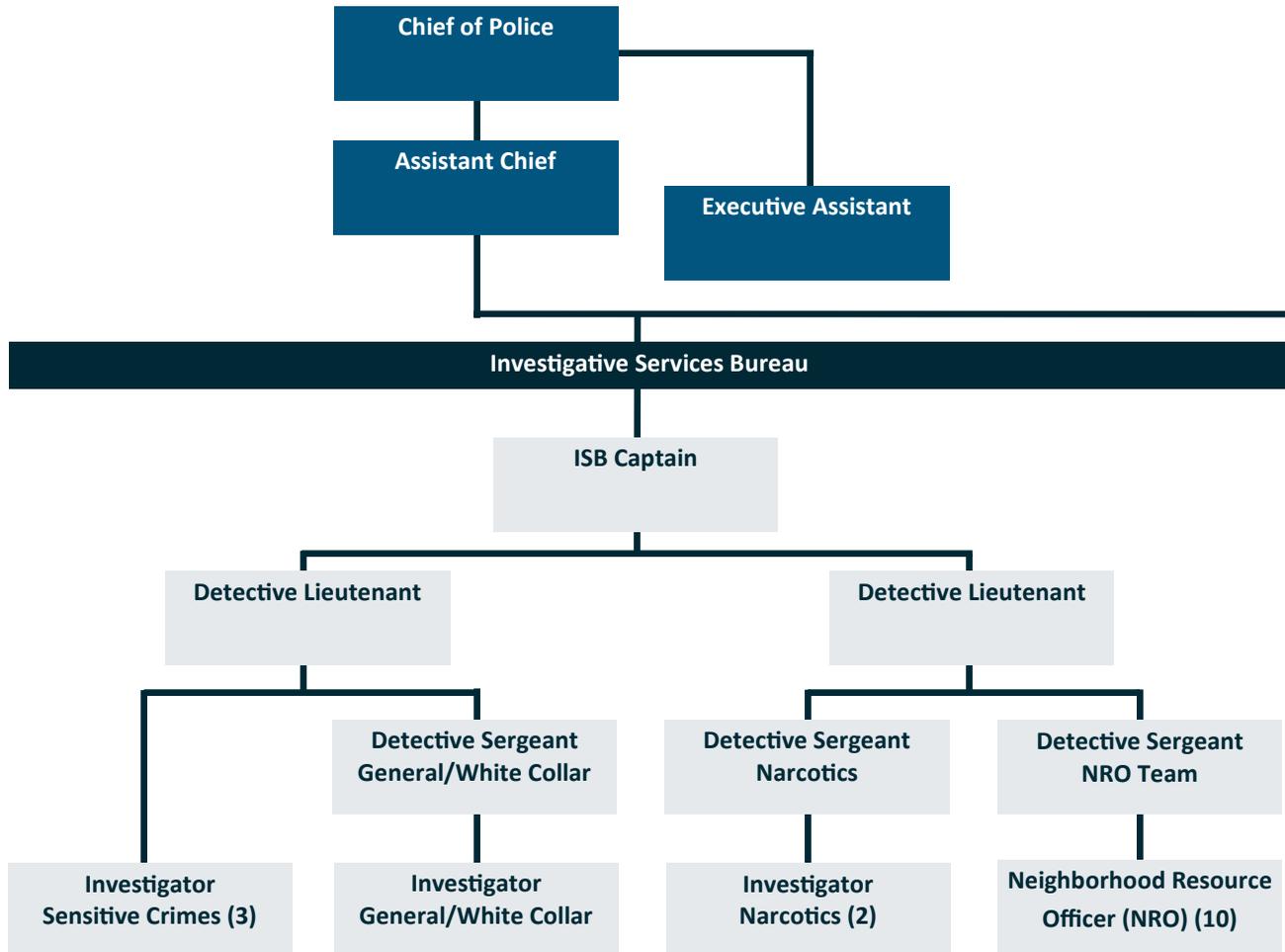
	2025	2024	2023
Personnel	\$13,089,301.00	\$12,534,585.00	\$11,511,225.00
Contractual Services	\$532,794.00	\$569,965.00	\$548,103.00
Commodities	\$196,500.00	\$196,500.00	\$216,500.00
Capital Outlay	\$113,400.00	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
Total	\$13,931,995.00	\$13,376,050.00	\$12,350,828.00

2025 OVERTIME USAGE

In 2024, the La Crosse Police Department used \$521,404.86 in overtime. Officers also earned overtime pay through grant funding or security services for private events.

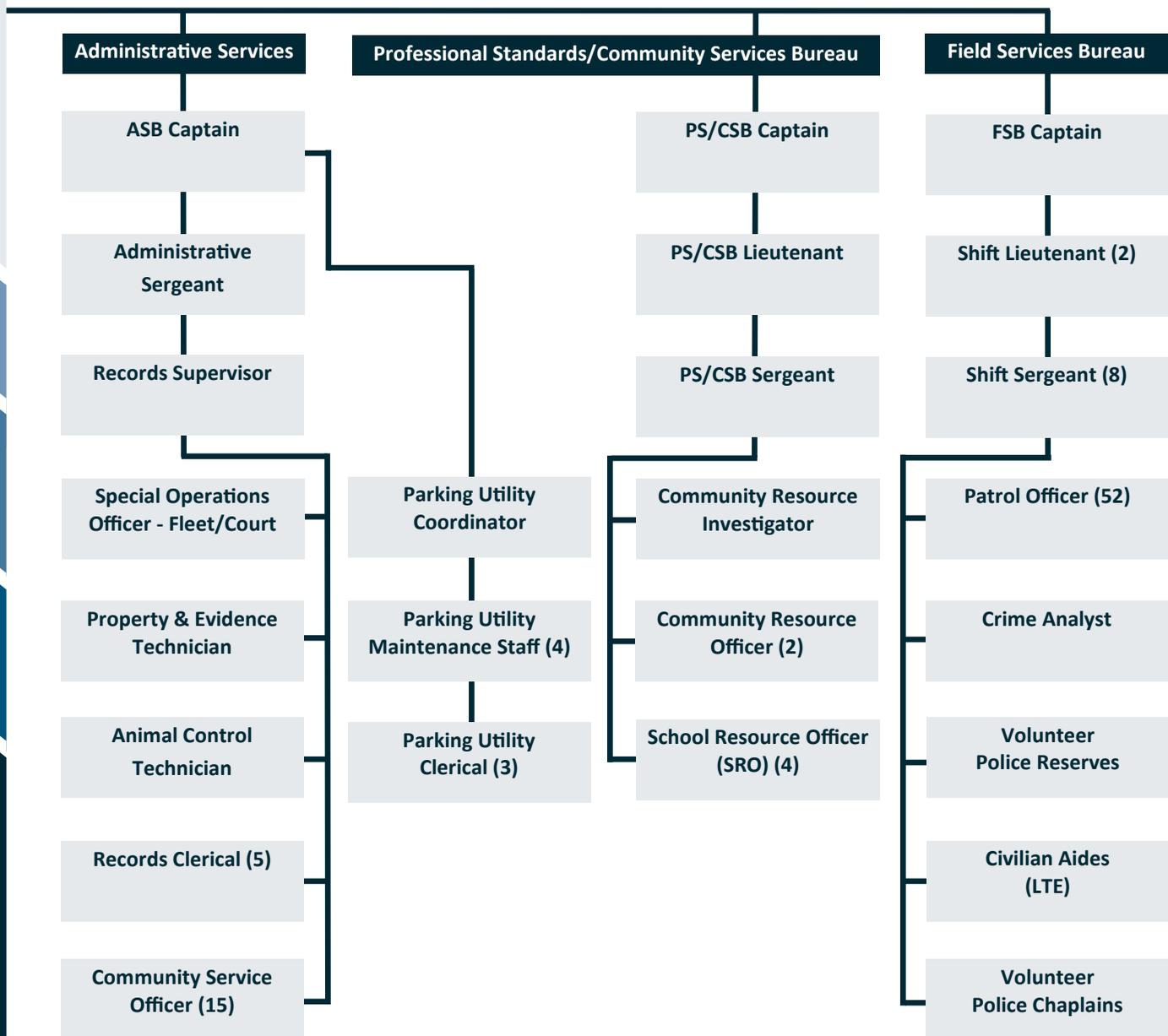
Type of OT	Total \$
OT @2.0	\$514.11
24-hour Court Cancellation	\$999.07
SRO OT	\$1,002.28
Straight @1.0	\$2,359.21
Training @1.0 (VOL)	\$2,584.39
Late Call @1.5	\$4,724.65
Drug Investigations	\$4,871.14
ERT Call-out	\$5,789.02
Parades/Festivals	\$6,620.96
Dignitary Protection	\$7,367.65
Oktoberfest @1.5	\$7,573.99
Training @1.0	\$12,525.63
Homicide Investigations	\$19,118.92
Court Cancellation	\$19,557.02
Court	\$25,844.23
FTO Pay	\$27,205.78
Meetings	\$28,396.09
ERT Training	\$31,485.97
Oktoberfest @1.0	\$31,501.97
Training @1.5	\$34,133.89
Reports/Arrests	\$37,425.90
Staff Shortage	\$39,385.72
Oktoberfest @2.0	\$84,056.75
OT @1.5	\$86,360.52
Total	\$521,404.86

2025 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Civilian—Police		Sworn Personnel	
Records Supervisor	1	Chief of Police	1
Crime Analyst	1	Assistant Chief	1
Property & Evidence Technician	1	Police Captains	4
Animal Control Technician	1	Police Lieutenants	5
Clerical	6	Police Sergeants	13
Total Civilian—PD	10	Police Investigators	7
Civilian—Parking Utility		Police Officers	69
Parking Utility Coordinator	1	Total Sworn	100
Parking Utility Maintenance	4	Total Civilians	33
Community Service Officer	15	Total Staff	133
Clerical	3		
Total Civilian—PU	23		

2025 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



PERSONNEL CHANGES

In 2025, the La Crosse Police Department experienced a dramatic shift in personnel with six retirements from Assistant Chief to Officer. This created many opportunities for promotions, movement within assignments, and plenty of new hires.

Promotions and Appointments

Mathias Horvath	Officer (prior CSO)	1/31/2025
Benjamin Zahn	Officer (prior CSO)	1/31/2025
Colin Sherden	Sergeant	2/20/2025
Daniel Kloss	Assistant Chief	4/2/2025
Jon Wenger	Captain	4/2/2025
Craig Teff	Lieutenant	4/2/2025
Chris Oates	Lieutenant	4/2/2025
Alex Burg	Sergeant	4/2/2025
Aaron Westpfahl	Investigator	4/2/2025
Tyler Underwood	Officer (prior CSO)	5/23/2025
Alicia Stuber	Officer (prior CSO)	5/23/2025
Elizabeth Shafer	Officer (prior CSO)	5/23/2025
Zachary DeGroot	Officer (prior CSO)	5/23/2025
Steven Pataska	Lieutenant	7/8/2025
Colt Lang	Sergeant	8/15/2025
Andrew Tolvstad	Sergeant	10/10/2025
Nicholas Raddant	Investigator	10/10/2025



Photo courtesy of Michelle Poedel Photography

PERSONNEL CHANGES

New Hires

Jace Morris	Officer	1/6/2025
Darryn Miner	Community Service Officer	1/31/2025
Matthew Brewster	Officer	2/3/2025
Dylan Pogreba	Officer	2/3/2025
Rafe Watkins	Officer	5/22/2025
Colton Wharton	Community Service Officer	5/27/2025
Nathan Selck	Community Service Officer	5/29/2025
Donivan Tighe	Officer	6/2/2025
Blake Fogelson	Officer	6/2/2025
Ty Patterson	Community Service Officer	7/14/2025
Abygale Dupont	Community Service Officer	7/14/2025
Anthony Reza	Community Service Officer	9/8/2025
Montana Lepsch	Parking Utility Custodian	9/16/2025
Edward Paton	Community Service Officer	10/29/2025
Mitchell Crawford	Community Service Officer	11/18/2025



ANNIVERSARIES



Teri Roden
Officer
30 Years of Service
January 23, 2025



Linnea Miller
Lieutenant
25 Years of Service
January 25, 2025



Ryan Fitzgerald
Sergeant
25 Years of Service
February 7, 2025



Shawn Kudron
Chief of Police
25 Years of Service
February 14, 2025



Tony DeLap
Officer
25 Years of Service
September 20, 2025

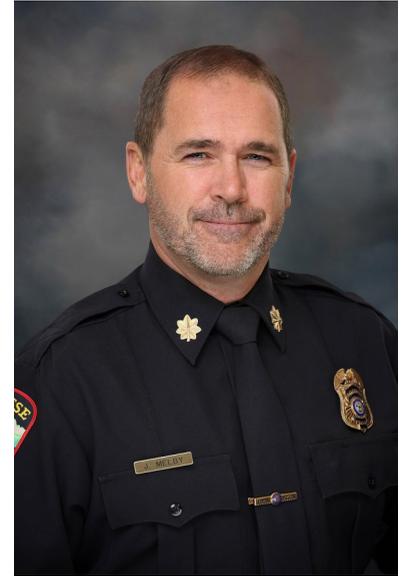
RETIREMENTS



Teri Roden
Officer
30 Years of Service
January 24, 2025



Joe Smith
Lieutenant
26 Years of Service
February 5, 2024



Jason Melby
Assistant Chief of Police
31 Years of Service
March 31, 2025



Linnea Miller
Lieutenant
25 Years of Service
July 7, 2025



Ryan Fitzgerald
Sergeant
25 Years of Service
October 13, 2025



Todd Fischer
Officer
28 Years of Service
December 16, 2025

AWARDS



Sergeant Whitney Hughes and Officer Steve Hughes were presented with the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) for Special Olympics 2025 **Volunteer of the Year Award**. The Hughes have been involved in Special Olympics since 2017

and sit on the regional LETR committee and the state Executive Committee. They have led Department participation in Special Olympics events such as Law Enforcement Torch Run, Cop on a Rooftop, Polar Plunge, and Cops Gone Wild, helping to raise funds and awareness.

Neighborhood Resource Officer Josh Rollins was presented with the 95th Assembly District - **First Responder of the Year Award** by Representative Jill Billings. Josh was recognized for his innovative ways of engaging with community members, breaking down barriers and improving communication and outreach.



Officer Kevin Lozano was presented with the La Crosse District Attorney's **Top Cop Award** in recognition of his exceptional service to the community and for going above and beyond in the pursuit of justice for crime victims.





PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS / COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU

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

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

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



Avrie Schott
Captain



PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

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

Often, we will share the same information across all these formats to maximize the number of people we reach. Currently our Facebook Page has 34,000 followers, Twitter has 6,152 followers, and Instagram has reached 3,655 followers. We can be found on each social media platform with the handle @lacrossepolice.



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

The La Crosse Police Department School Resource Officer (SRO) program has been a 32-year partnership with our local schools. The program operates with four SROs who are assigned to cover high school, middle school and elementary schools within the City of La Crosse. Our SROs also administer public safety and crime prevention lessons to students and staff in all schools, often tailoring instruction to meet the needs of the specific school and students.

The SROs continue to provide a high level of service to all our schools, staff, and students. SRO's are also working with the K-9 therapy program to involve K-9 Cheddar in a variety of school and community events. We continue to work closely with the School District to ensure the safety of our schools, staff, and students in a variety of ways.



COMMUNITY RESOURCE UNIT

In 2025, the La Crosse Police Department Community Resource Unit (CRU) continued work within our community. The CRU includes one Investigator and two Officers. This unit is a “hybrid” community policing unit that works with community members who are experiencing mental health crisis, to better serve those in need. The unit works closely with Field Services, Investigative Services, County Health and Human Services, schools, as well as our other community partners, to address the unique needs of individuals experiencing mental health crisis. They work to communicate safety plans, collaborate follow-up contacts to serve individuals and provide the necessary resources at the right time, including developing proactive interventions.

Part of this unit is the Co-Responder program. The Co-Responder program is a partnership with La Crosse County and allows for the CRU Officers and County Crisis Responders to ride together and “Co-Respond” to calls and follow-ups involving community members experiencing a mental health crisis. The goal of CRU is to create a better outcome for those experiencing a mental health crisis, including reducing hospitalization and entry into the criminal justice system. By having a specialized unit, we can slow the call down while connecting with those in crisis, providing follow-ups and working to find the gap and fill it with the right resources.

With the assistance of the Connect and Protect Grant, CRU operated with two co-response teams, one during the daytime hours and the other in the evening hours during 2025.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

This past year marked the 42nd year of La Crosse celebrating National Night Out (NNO). The La Crosse Community had 14 Neighborhood parties in 2025. Department members from all bureaus were able to connect with community members throughout the city during the NNO event at the different locations. 2025 really showed how much the individual party planners made the parties their own with a variety of entertainment, foods, and games. The participants were excited to have officers attend and said they were grateful to speak with law enforcement in a celebratory environment.

Traditionally, NNO involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations, and local officials from over 17,000 communities, from all 50 states, U.S. Territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide coming together to make communities safer and more caring places to live. National Night Out helps to generate support for, and participate in, local anti-crime partnerships; heighten crime and drug-prevention awareness; strengthen neighborhood spirit and Police-Community partnerships; and send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. NNO allows the community to send the message we are stronger together.

Professional Standards/Community Services looks forward to collaborating and partnering with community members, stakeholders, and neighbors in a variety of ways in 2026.



K-9 THERAPY PROGRAM

In 2025, The La Crosse Police Department's K-9 Therapy program included support, security, and compassion from both Cheddar and Hank. Hank's primary role has been to support department members. The profession of law enforcement can be demanding, both mentally and physically for those serving. Therapy dogs have a calming effect in the way of wellness. Hank continues to grow but is embracing the task of giving support for the men and woman of the La Crosse Police Department. In 2025, Hank completed the American Kennel Club (AKC) Good Citizen Certification.

Cheddar continues to embrace anyone who has contact with him. His primary role is community-based and this allows him to interact, make connections, and spend time with the La Crosse Community. He has been able to assist as an icebreaker, enabling people to feel more comfortable interacting with law enforcement. He has been available to be present during more critical calls where his mere presence can allow for a community member to work through a crisis. He is well known on social media for his "Check in with Cheddar" (#CheckinwithCheddar) posts. In 2025, Cheddar completed American Kennel Club (AKC) Community Canine Certification.

The La Crosse Police Department's K-9 Therapy Program models a team approach for both Cheddar and Hank. This concept has one handler for a "home base" but includes a team of department members as part of each of their K-9 teams. Cheddar is assigned with School Resource Officer Ryan Ledvina and lives with him off-duty, while Hank, is assigned with Executive Assistant Stephanie Neises, and lives with her off-duty. Both Cheddar and Hank have provided security, companionship, happiness, and love to all those they contact. Being able to provide a K-9 Therapy program to our community and department members provides another layer of support and service.



In 2025 there were 22 department members assigned to the recruitment team. This team's objective is to meet a diverse group of individuals from all backgrounds that are interested in learning more about a career in law enforcement and provide them with information about the department, its members, and the La Crosse Community.

In 2025, the recruitment team attended 33 different events including career fairs, job fairs, law enforcement academy visits, classroom visits, high school job fairs, resource fairs, as well as welcome-back events. The department also utilizes several social media platforms, informational brochures, and our community partnerships in an effort to recruit talent whose values align with the department's mission, vision and values. Recruitment continues to be a part of our department's development and a key foundation for growth. As we look forward, 2026 will be another year of many recruitment efforts in a variety of ways.



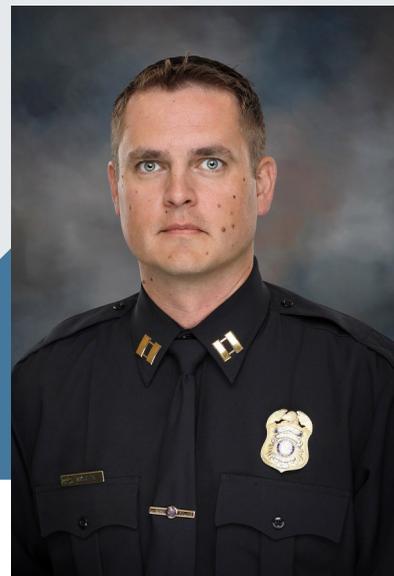
FIELD SERVICES BUREAU

The Field Services Bureau (FSB) of the La Crosse Police Department is comprised of uniformed Police Officers and supervisors who are dedicated to providing a safe and vibrant community. Our primary purpose is the protection of life and liberty, order maintenance, and the personal security of our citizens and their property. Officers rely on the Department's Critical Decision-Making Model (CDM) focused on ethics, values, proportionality, and sanctity of human life when making decisions that affect the community. 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 consisting of traffic enforcement, responding to emergencies, alarms, reports of criminal activity, traffic crashes, and various other calls for service. The Patrol Officers are the first ones on scene from minor calls to major incidents. They stabilize scenes, tend to those needing assistance, begin investigations, and work with other bureaus in the department and outside agencies to provide service for the community.

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

Further, the Field Services Bureau is comprised of specialty assignments such as ERT (Emergency Response Team), Water Patrol, Bike Patrol, the K-9 Unit, and the most recent addition of our Drone Unit. These specialty assignments are in addition to the Officers' normal duties.



Phillip Martin
Captain



FIELD SERVICES BUREAU

Our Drone Unit is continuing to grow. Drones have become a great tool for our department as they can be deployed quickly in situations to gather information on a dangerous scene, monitor someone who is fleeing, provide video evidence of a scene, and help find missing or lost people. We have had many success stories with our drones over the last couple years.

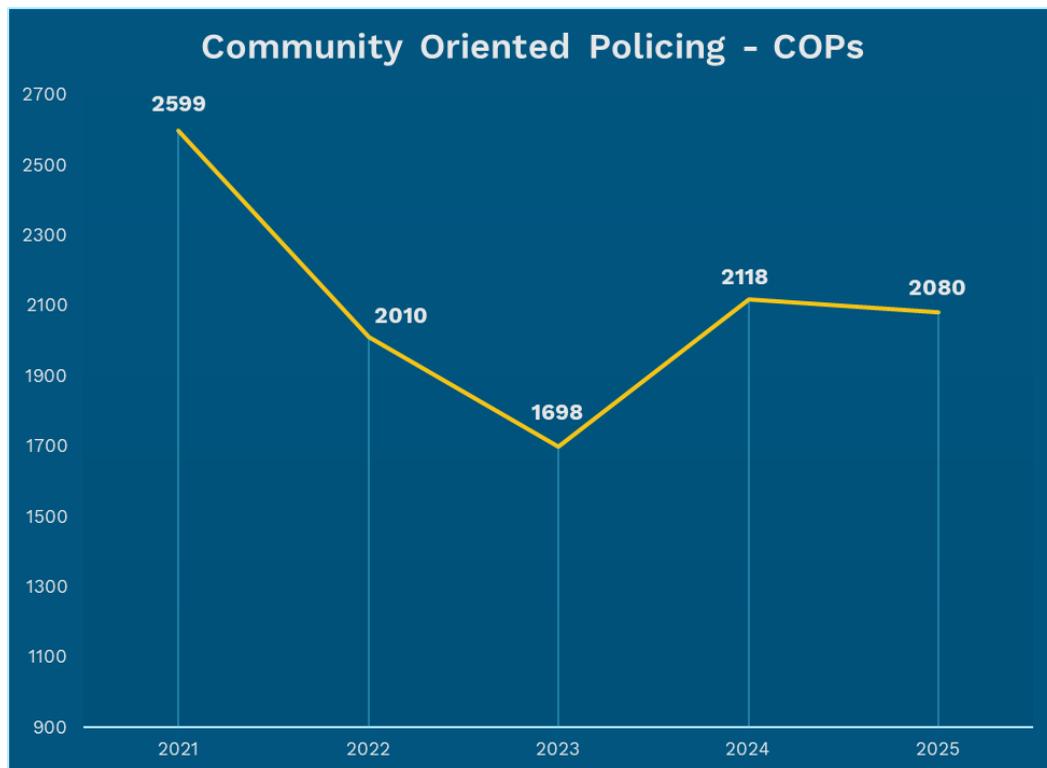
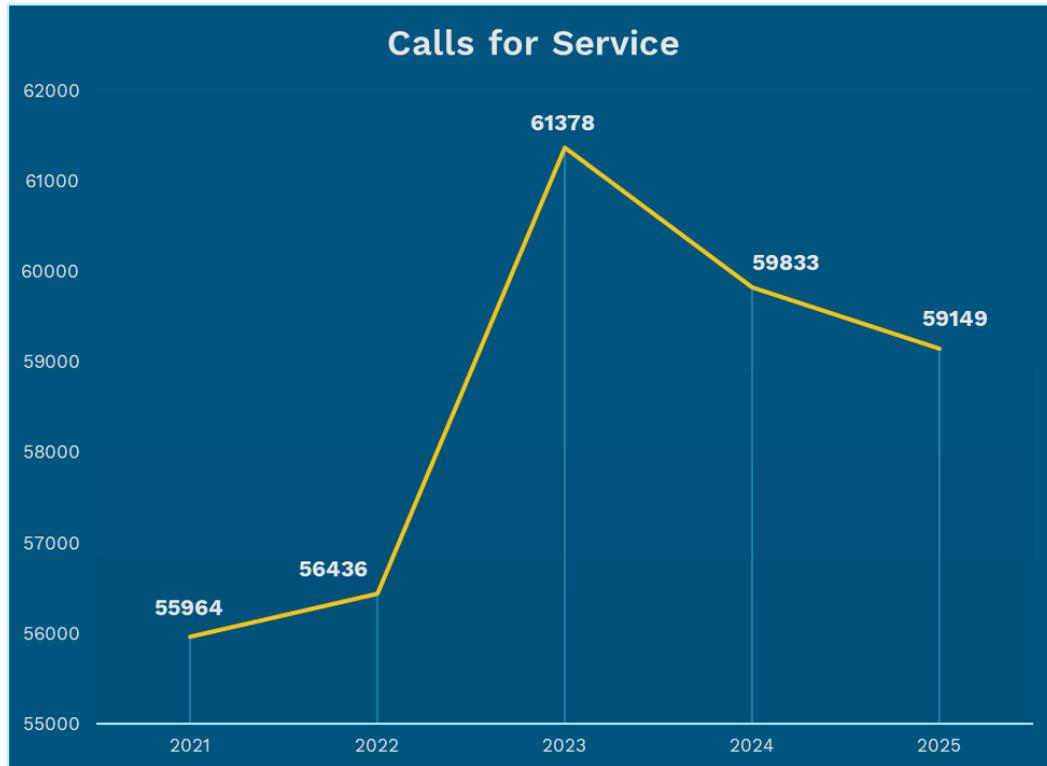
In 2025, the Department formalized a Special Events Team (SET). Members of SET attended additional training related to demonstrations and civil disturbances. SET is critical to protect individual rights related to assembly and free speech, effectively manage crowds to prevent loss of life, injury, or property damage and minimize disruptions to people who are uninvolved.

Community Policing is a cornerstone of the Field Services Bureau. You most often see the Field Services Bureau patrolling in squad cars, but you will also find them on bikes, in a boat or on foot patrol. Utilizing different approaches allows us to connect more closely with the community which improves our effectiveness as a police agency and understanding of the community's expectations. Officers work within their assigned sector to build relationships with community organizations and neighborhood groups to address specific needs.

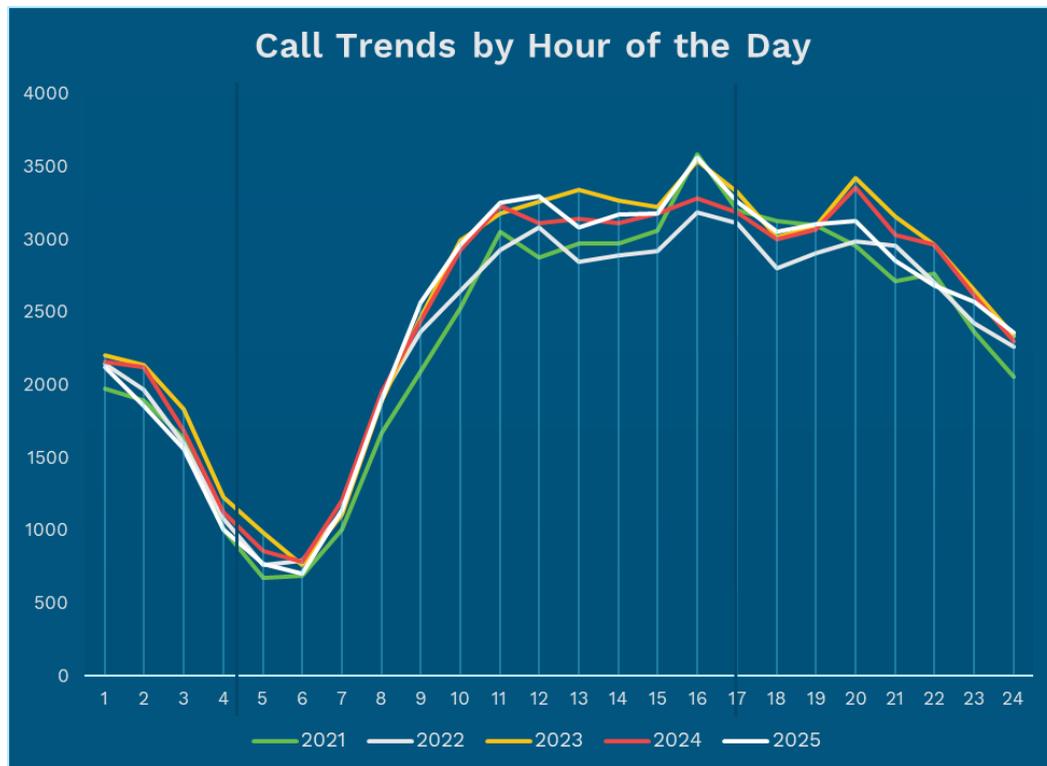
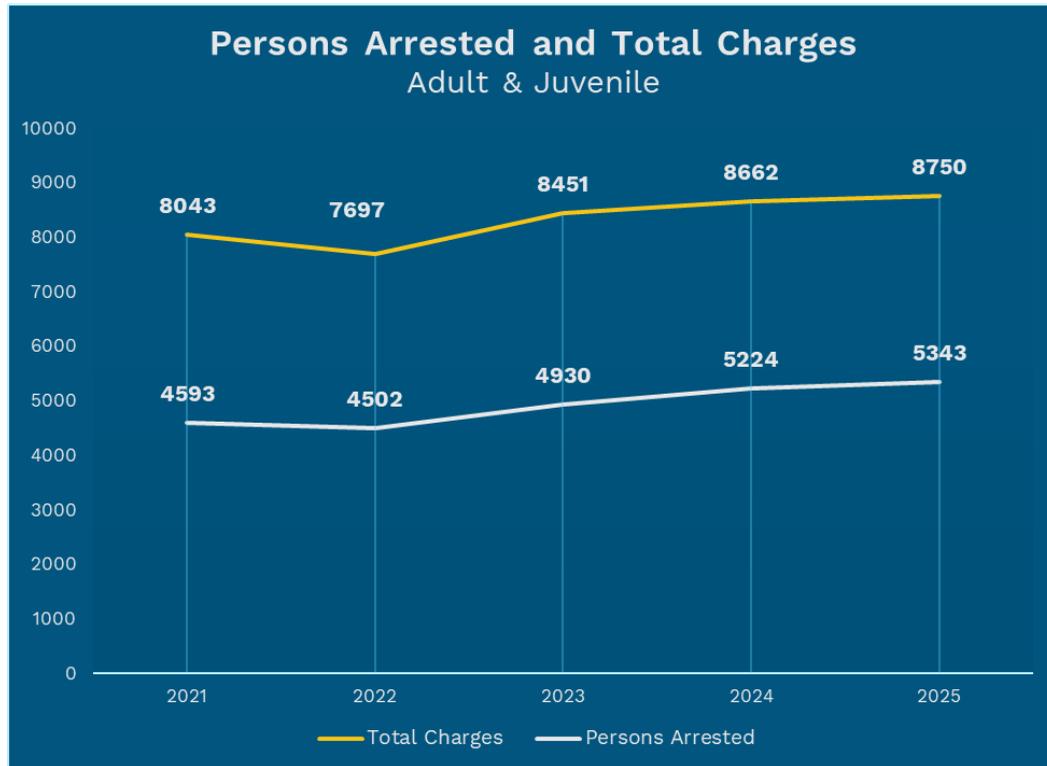
In addition to responding to calls, Officers can be found working community celebrations from small run/walks to large festivals like Oktoberfest, and everything in-between.

Throughout 2025, members of the Field Services Bureau responded to 59,149 calls for service, issued 4,999 traffic citations, and investigated 1,935 reportable traffic crashes. In addition, Officers issued 3,195 municipal ordinance citations and 7,480 warnings.

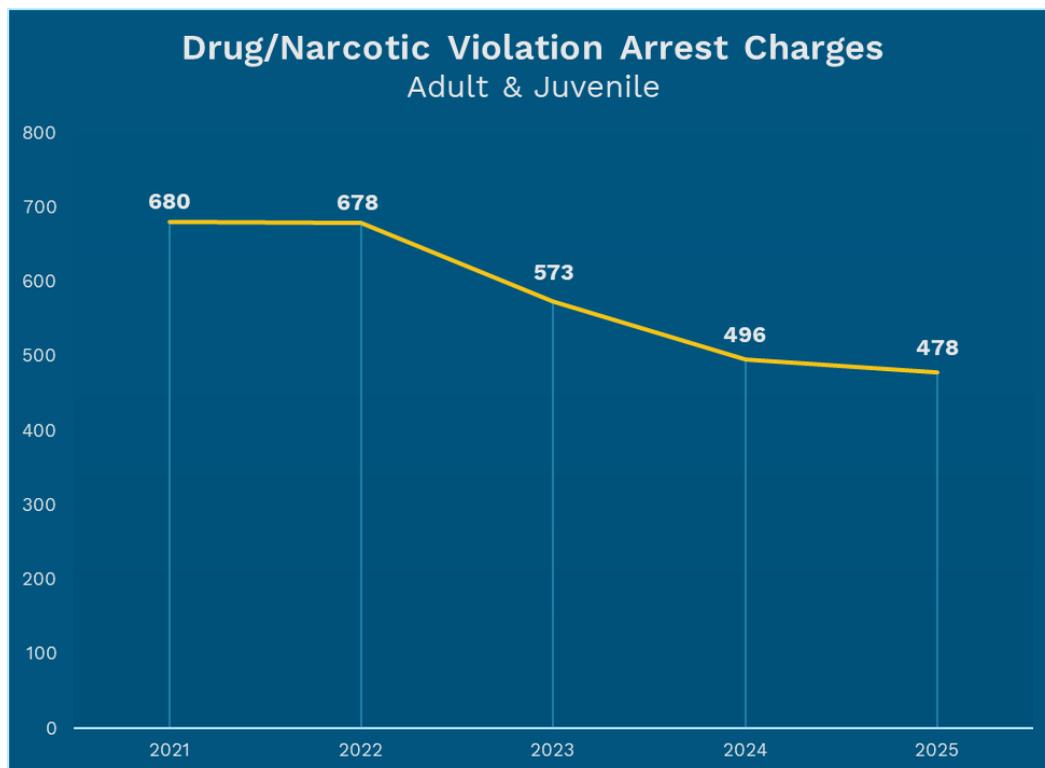
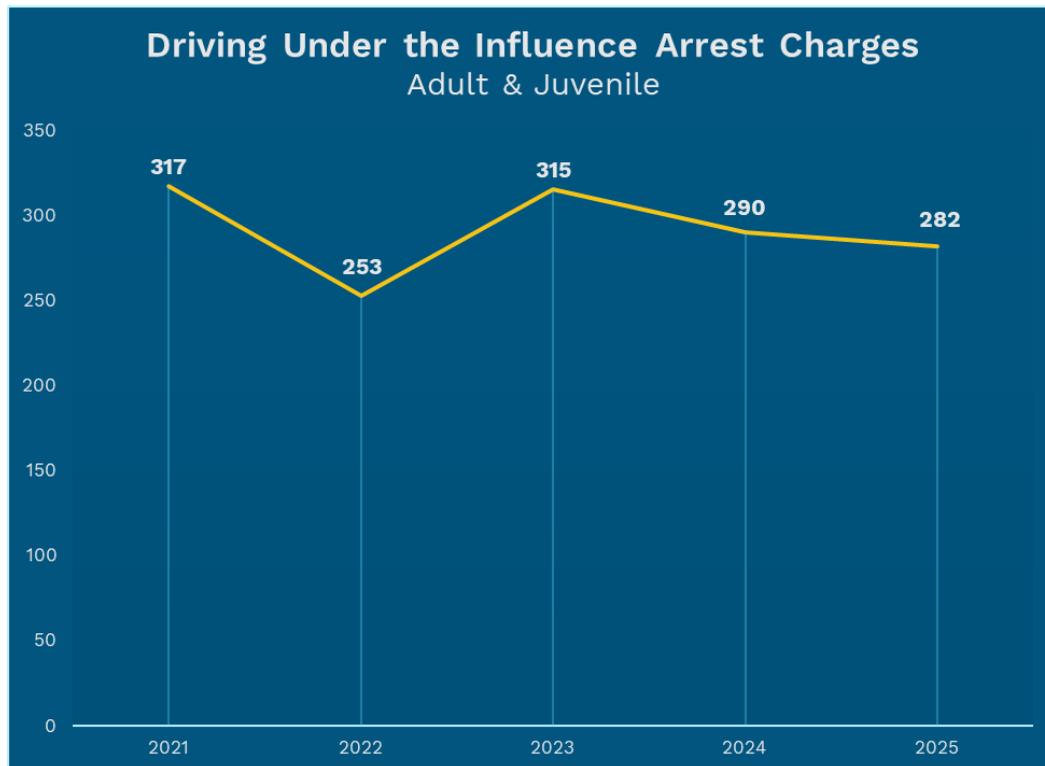
FIELD SERVICES STATS



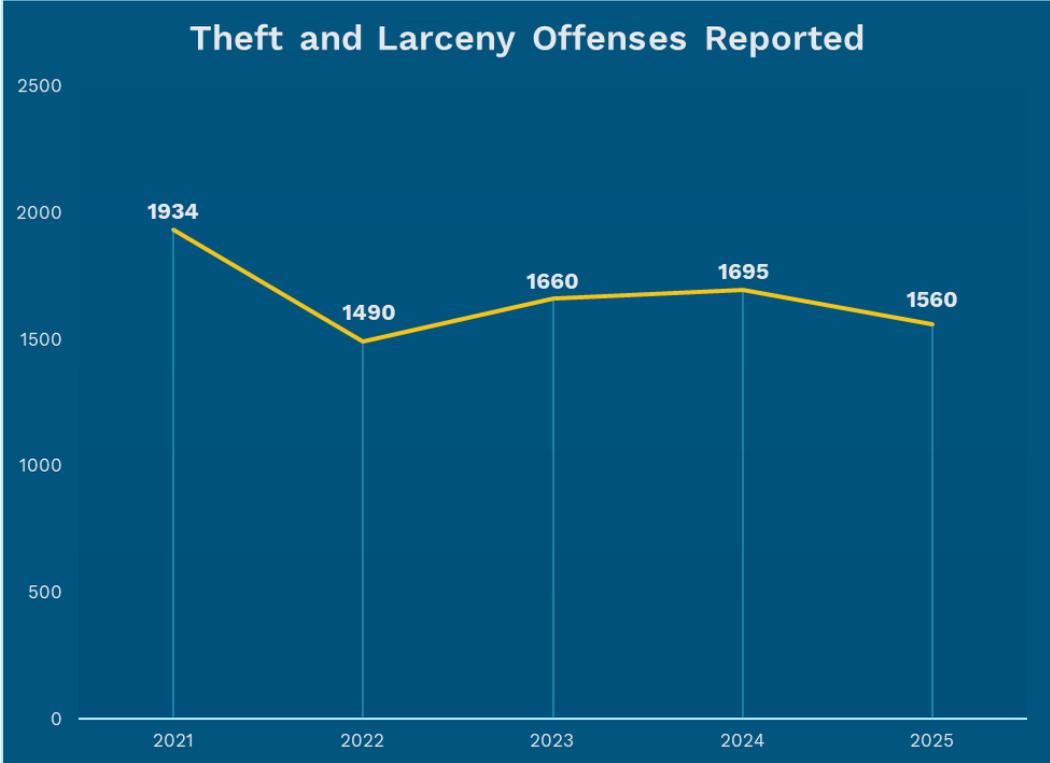
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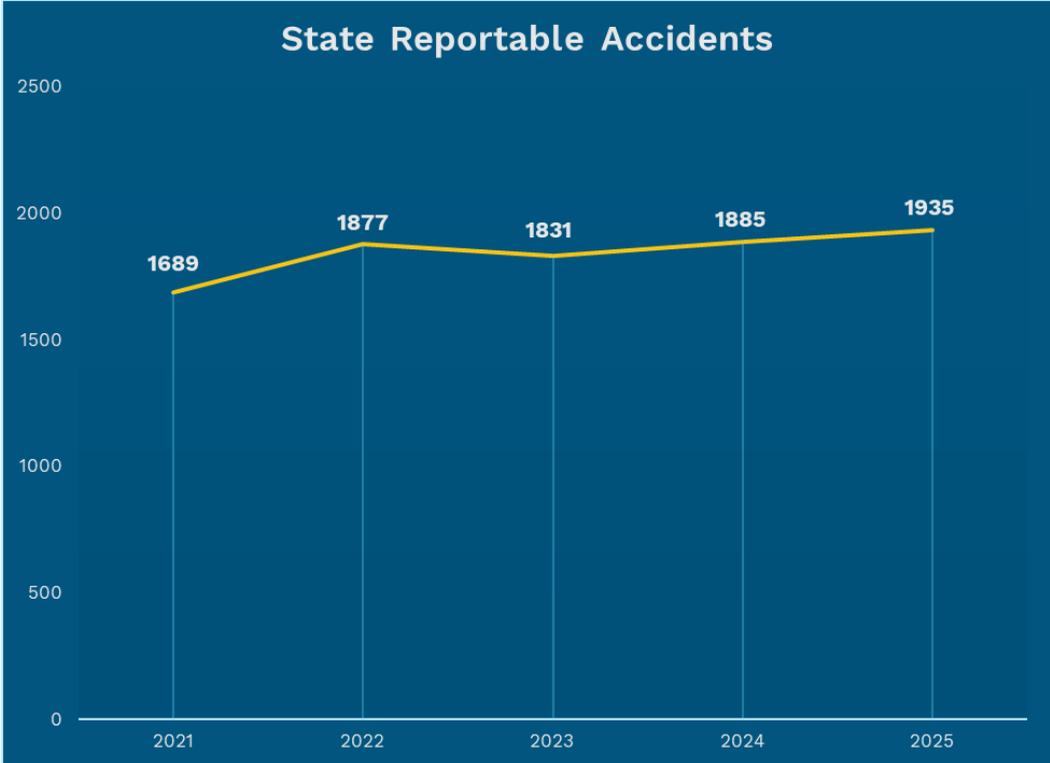
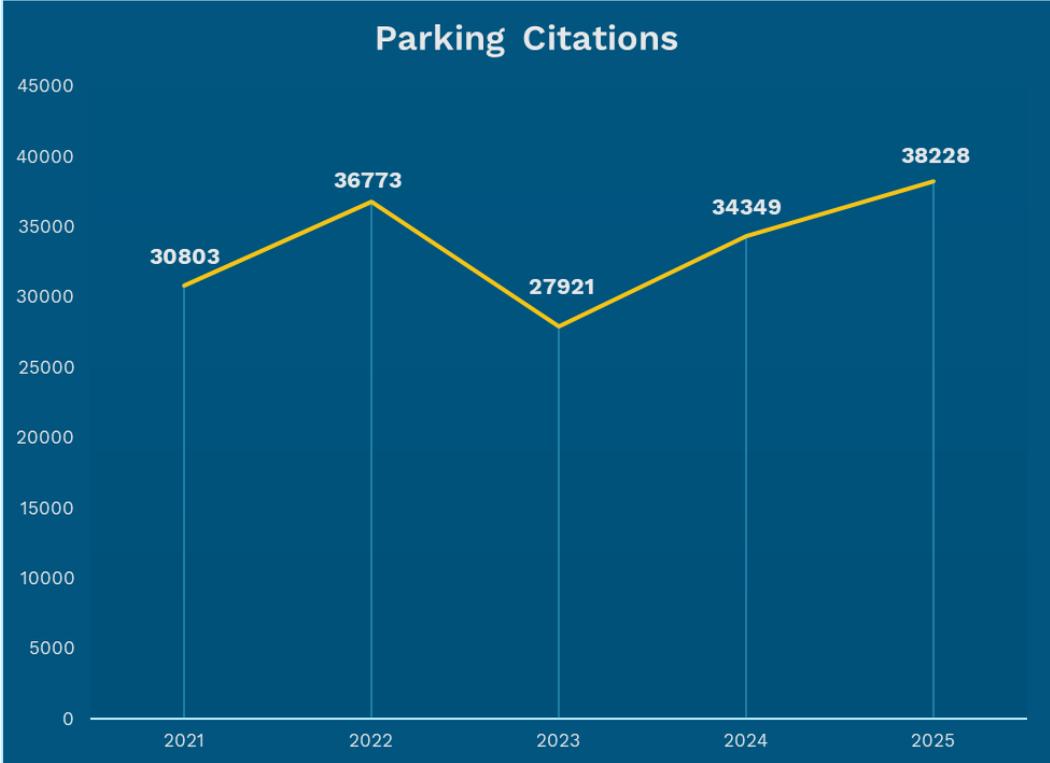
CRIME STATS



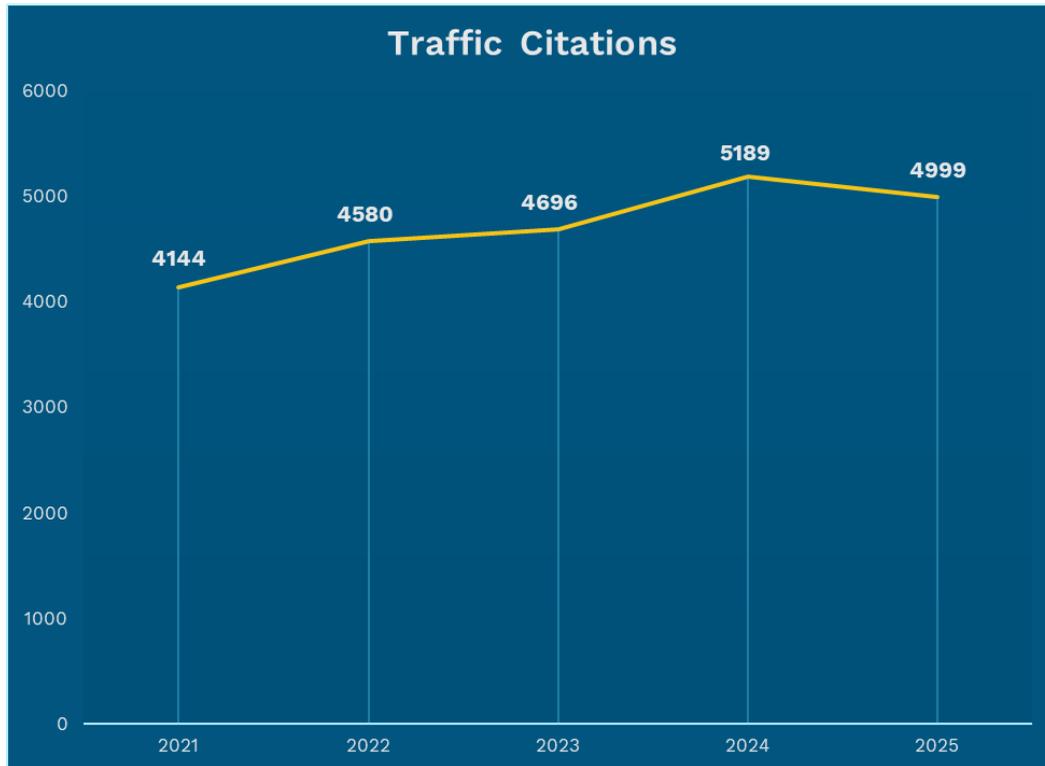
CRIME STATS



TRAFFIC STATS



TRAFFIC STATS



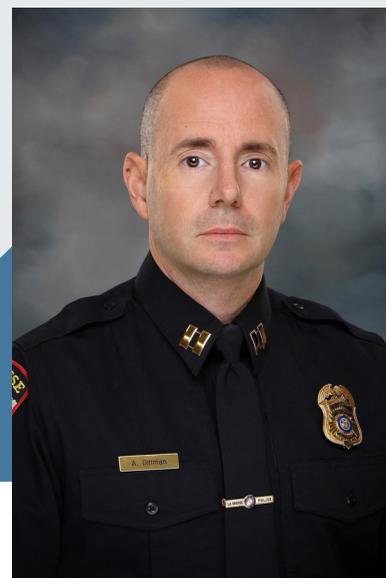


ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

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

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

Members of the Administrative Services Bureau work hard to support staff throughout the entire department. We strive towards improving our department daily and providing the best service for the citizens of La Crosse.



Andrew Dittman
Captain

RECORDS DIVISION - PROPERTY & EVIDENCE SECTION

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

The records staff operate in a hybrid work environment that allows us to maintain the highest level of customer service by rotating staff on a weekly or as needed basis between the 1st floor police lobby window and the 3rd floor office environment. This ultimately enables our staff the opportunity to have community engagement on certain days and a productive, yet quiet office environment on other days.

In 2025, 59,149 calls for service were handled by the La Crosse Police Department. Of those calls for service, 37,980 police files were generated and processed by our data entry team. The Records Division processed 2,038 vehicle crash reports, including 1,935 that were reportable to the State of Wisconsin. Further, the Records Division processed 15,699 citations in 2025, which includes 7,480 warnings, 3,195 ordinance citations, 4,999 traffic citations, and 25 non-traffic citations. Community Service Officers issued 38,228 parking tickets/warnings in 2025.

During 2025, the Records Division honored 6,874 open records requests, which included 1,123 vehicle accident report requests. The Records Division also processed 863 bartender/taxi licenses for 2025. In addition, the La Crosse Police Department Property & Evidence Section logged in 4,988 pieces of found property, safekeeping and/or evidence in 2025. Approximately 1,230 items were either disposed of or released. The Property & Evidence Section hosted a Spring City Auction.

TRAINING DIVISION

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

The La Crosse Police Department completed 21,391 hours of training among all its employees in 2025. The Training Division focused on supervisory/management training (327 hrs), Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) (260 hrs), Mental Health and Crisis training (1061 hrs), Unmanned Aircraft Systems (364 hrs), and De-Escalation Training (821.25 hrs).

In 2025, Officers continued to focus on a variety of areas to improve our level of service to the community. All department members continued their training in ABLE. The primary goal of ABLE is to prevent harm to Officers, citizens, and the community. This program provides instruction to Officers on how and when to step in when service does not meet the standards of our agency. The ABLE program has been shown to reduce citizen complaints, disciplinary action, job loss, risk of lawsuits, and unnecessary harm to all involved. Further, ABLE training is focused on values such as accountability and respect.

In 2025 the La Crosse Police Department continued our partnership with the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). All staff completed a minimum of eight hours of Integrated Communication and Tactics (ICAT) training. The core of this training program is anchored by the Critical Decision-Making Model (CDM) that helps officers assess situations, make safe and effective decisions, and document and learn from their actions. We are very proud of the fact that PERF utilizes the La Crosse Police Department Critical Decision-Making Model at their national trainings.

In addition, the Department hired 11 new Officers in 2025. The Field Training Program trained each new Officer for approximately three and half months, at which time the probationary Officer was certified for solo patrol. The Officers are evaluated daily by a Field Training Officer who provides consistent feedback on their performance. The training is intensive for our new Officers, but the outcome is a well-prepared Officer who is ready to serve our community.



POLICE PARKING UTILITY

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

A multitude of projects, updates, and changes occurred throughout the year 2025. In the first quarter, we wrapped up our security camera project in the Main Street Ramp. Upon completion of the electrical infrastructure and camera installation, the cameras were connected to the City IT System. This added 18 new cameras throughout the ramp's stairwells, elevator lobbies, and main entrance and exits, adding essential safety and security measures for the ramp. Later in the year we installed four 360-degree cameras on the very top levels of the La Crosse Center Ramp and Riverside Ramp. These cameras provide much needed visibility to the downtown camera fleet and have quickly proven effective in deterring large gathering and/or vandalism occurrences in the ramps. 2026 plans are in place to add 16-18 new cameras to the Pine Street Ramp as the fifth and final downtown public parking ramp to be outfitted with security cameras.

Additional projects included the replacement of five stairwell/elevator lobby roofs on the La Crosse Center Ramp and Main Street Ramp. Brand new rubber membranes and aluminum flashing were installed to increase the longevity of these structures and assist with various leaks throughout the facility. At the Market Square Ramp, all deteriorating doors and frames were either repaired or fully replaced to maintain compliance with Fire Code Standards. The ramps were professionally power washed in the Spring, and every parking stall line was repainted.



Joseph Pederson
Parking Utility Coordinator



POLICE PARKING UTILITY

Industrial tread tape was installed on the stairwells at the Main St. Ramp to provide better traction and mitigate possible slippery conditions due to rain, snow and ice. Our last parking study indicated that updating our wayfinding signs was an area where we could improve. All old and outdated signage was identified and replaced as necessary to promote visibility and accessibility when maneuvering through the ramps.

The Board of Public Works approved a fee structure change in December of 2024, and those new rates went into effect April 1, 2025. The new rates for every downtown ramp include paid parking Monday-Saturday 6:00am – 10:00pm. Weekday evenings and Sundays continue to be Free. All signage, pay station kiosks, digital signs, and our mobile parking app, ParkMobile, were updated to reflect the new fee structure. With the increase in revenue, we were able to complete the necessary infrastructure projects mentioned above as well as create plans for future projects and updates.

In September, we hired a Full-Time employee to our Ramp Maintenance Staff. With this addition, we now have coverage seven days a week, helping to maintain the overall cleanliness and user experience in the ramps.



POLICE PARKING UTILITY STATS

Payment Transactions for Parking

- Pay Stations: 114,742
- ParkMobile App: 104,515
 - ParkMobile Users: Over 50,000

License Plate Recognition (LPR) Technology

- Total of six (6) LPR enforcement vehicles
- 4,606,119 license plates read

T2 Ticketing and Permitting Software

- 1,245 parking ramp permits issued
- 502 residential permits issued
- 38,228 parking citations issued



INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The Investigative Services Bureau (ISB) continued its goal throughout 2025 to deliver high-quality investigative support. Over the past year, the Bureau continued its efforts in case resolution, technology integration, interagency collaboration, and victim-centered services. These accomplishments reflect the dedication of the Bureau's staff.

The ISB oversees a range of specialized investigative functions, including the Neighborhood Resource Officer Unit, Sensitive Crimes Unit, Vice/Drugs Unit, and White Collar/General Crimes Unit. Under the leadership of the Bureau Captain and supervisors, these units work collaboratively to conduct follow-up investigations, support patrol operations, and provide critical services to victims and the community.

Training and professional development remained a priority, with Investigators completing multiple schools and recertifications. This includes Wisconsin's Department of Criminal Investigation (DCI) Death Investigation School, DCI Fire Investigation School, Narcotics Training, Cellebrite certification, Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), Financial Crimes, and Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center (MOCIC) Training.

Community engagement continued to strengthen public trust. The Bureau's personnel participated in over two dozen community events, including School Safety, Technology in Law Enforcement, Frauds, Mental Health, and Evidence Processing at Emplify.

Throughout 2025, each unit made progress in its assigned responsibilities. The bureau has a professional working relationship with the United States Attorney General's Office, where criminal cases are reviewed for possible federal indictments. Our Sensitive Crimes Unit has been active in ICAC investigations, developing more cases as more technology becomes available to our investigators. Our White Collar/General Crimes Unit has been active with the fraud and scams complaints coming in, growing in a skillset that is still fairly new while still helping victims.



Jon Wenger
Captain



INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The Vice unit continues to work their narcotics cases, seizing drug money, weapons, and drugs to get them out of our community.

The accomplishments of 2025 demonstrate the bureau's resilience and commitment to excellence, and the Investigative Services Bureau remains focused on innovation, collaboration, and delivering the highest standard of service to the community.

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU - MAJOR CASES

The Investigative Service Bureau investigated a number of major incidents throughout 2025.

Officers responded to a bar on the 1800 block of Geroge Street following multiple 911 calls reporting a shooting. Upon arrival, Officers located a male with a gunshot wound to his upper torso. He was transported to a local hospital where he was later pronounced deceased. Video surveillance captured the incident, allowing for identification of the suspect. The suspect was arrested and charged with 1st Degree Intentional Homicide.

Officers were dispatched to the 1200 block of Logan Street for a reported shooting. A 17-year-old victim sustained a single gunshot wound to the arm during an altercation involving a group of individuals. Three suspects, including two juveniles, were identified. All three were charged with Attempted 1st Degree Intentional Homicide.

A shooting occurred in the 900 block of 5th Avenue South after a male forcibly entered a residence searching for a female. An argument ensued over property the female refused to return. The male brandished a firearm, threatened to shoot her, and during a struggle, the firearm discharged one round, striking the female in the face. She was transported to the hospital and survived. The suspect was later located and arrested. Charges include 2nd Degree Reckless Injury – Use of a Dangerous Weapon, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, and Battery.

An employee of a downtown restaurant became involved in an argument with a customer. After leaving work, the employee retrieved a shotgun from his residence and returned downtown. He located the customer, pointed the firearm at him, and discharged one round. The shot struck the sidewalk, causing shrapnel injuries to the victim. The suspect was identified, located, and charged with 1st Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety – Use of a Dangerous Weapon, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, and Intentionally Pointing a Firearm at a Person.

A local park had been identified as a problem area after hours due to large gatherings and associated criminal activity. Surveillance cameras were installed. During this incident, an argument between two groups escalated when one male fired multiple shots. A male from the opposing group returned fire. No injuries were reported. Video footage was instrumental in identifying those involved. Rifle and handgun casings were recovered. Both shooters were charged with 1st Degree Reckless Injury – Use of a Dangerous

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU - MAJOR CASES

Weapon, and one was additionally charged with Felon in Possession of a Firearm.

A female was reported missing after not returning home from a night out in downtown La Crosse. Officers immediately began searching the area and reviewing camera footage. Investigators joined the search, and video evidence showed the female walking alone up the Cass Street Bridge. Digital data from her watch indicated movement westward, ending near the middle of the bridge. She was later located in the Mississippi River near Brownsville, MN. The cause of death was determined to be an accidental drowning.

An argument between two brothers occurred in the 1500 block of 10th Street South. During the dispute, one brother shot the other multiple times with a rifle. Officers transported the victim to the hospital, where he was treated and released. The suspect turned himself in at the hospital shortly thereafter. He was arrested and charged with 1st Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety – Use of a Dangerous Weapon and two counts of 2nd Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety – Use of a Dangerous Weapon.

The fire department responded to a structure fire in the 1700 block of Taylor Street. During a search of the residence, firefighters discovered human remains. Once the fire was extinguished, the scene was turned over to law enforcement, and the case was determined to be a homicide. The victim was pregnant, and a pet dog was also found deceased. Following an intensive investigation, a suspect was identified and arrested. Charges include 1st Degree Intentional Homicide, 1st Degree Intentional Homicide – Unborn Child, Arson of a Building, and Mistreatment of Animals.

Officers responded to reports of shots fired near the 400 block of 3rd Street South. Evidence indicated multiple rounds had been discharged, and social media footage captured the incident. The suspect was identified and arrested shortly thereafter. He was charged with 1st Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety – Use of a Dangerous Weapon.



The NRO Unit, like the rest of the department, experienced significant staffing transitions in 2025. We expanded our community engagement and continued our focus on community and problem-oriented policing, particularly related to neighborhood issues and quality-of-life concerns.

The unit saw multiple role changes and additions. Lieutenant Steve Curns returned to the unit in April after Lieutenant Joe Smith retired. Sergeant Chris Oates was promoted to Lieutenant and moved to night shift, while Officers Nick Raddant and Aaron Westpfahl moved into Investigator roles. Officer Trent Bowe moved to the post of School Resource Officer, and Officer Andrew Jarrett joined the NRO unit with Officer Adam Lange and Nathan Wiste. These new NROs immediately began training and were quick to support field services staff when needed, as well as use their various backgrounds from prior assignments to serve their new neighborhoods. NROs regularly worked with staff on patrol to ensure coverage during high-demand periods and events.

NROs maintained a strong presence at community events throughout 2025, including concerts, neighborhood gatherings, and large events like Moon Tunes, Riverfest, Oktoberfest and more. We continue to utilize more personal patrol styles, especially bike patrol to increase accessibility and visibility. Part of that accessibility was youth engagement, which included bicycle rodeos and bike registration initiatives through Project 529 Garage. Officers also

worked directly with neighborhood associations and business groups to share public safety information and address emerging concerns. This two-way communication is a core foundational concept of the unit and provides a feedback loop to both the community and department on issues large and small. The unit actively worked to distribute information on community events to encourage department-wide participation and strengthen community partnerships.

A major focus area for the unit was unsheltered individuals and chronic repeat calls for service. Unit members participated in Pathways Home meetings to support the city/county strategy aimed at reducing homelessness duration and frequency. Feedback from Officers informed grant-funded solutions, including case management roles focused on individuals frequently involved in low-level offenses linked to housing instability or substance use. In the fourth quarter, collaboration expanded with the introduction of a Deflection Initiative Social Worker hired through La Crosse County Health and Human Services and funded through a WI Department of Justice grant. This partnership supports diversion from the criminal justice system for minor or drug-related offenses, emphasizing long-term stabilization, and reduction of repetitive arrest cycles. Our work reflects a balanced focus on immediate public safety needs and long-term reduction of repeat calls for service.

Traffic concerns, particularly residential speeding, were addressed through data-driven deployment of speed signs and high visibility enforcement in high-complaint corridors. Participation in events like the Mayor's bike ride gave perspective to the unit on where the community would like to see additional enforcement, as well as potential conflict spots where bicycle corridors and traffic interchanges have room for improvement.

The NRO Unit continues to forge a balanced relationship-based policing strategy through structured problem-solving, integrated enforcement, community presence and interagency collaboration.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K-9 Unit

The La Crosse Police Department K-9 Unit is a specialized unit of the department that serves two distinct functions - patrol support and therapy support. The patrol K-9 teams are charged with narcotics detection, suspect apprehension, tracking, handler protection, as well as community engagement. The therapy K-9s also serve distinct roles - one K-9 provides therapy services within in our schools and offers community support at events, while the other K-9 serves the men and women, sworn and civilian, who make up the Police Department.

The patrol teams include: Officer Stephen Hughes and K-9 Zeus, Officer Dakota Jelinski and K-9 Maverick, and Officer Kevin Lozano and K-9 Rock. The therapy teams include Officer Ryan Ledvina and K-9 Cheddar (in the schools and community) and Executive Assistant Stephanie Neises and K-9 Hank (in the Department).

The patrol K-9s stayed busy throughout the year with their regular patrol duties and by assisting some of our law enforcement partners. Members of the canine unit also focused on community engagement and relationship building throughout the year. K-9 members attended several community events including Camp-Send-a-Kid, Police Explorer meetings, the Pet Expo of La Crosse, Washburn on the Park ice-cream social, Good Fight, Children of the Lord Daycare, just to name a few. The therapy K-9s focused on serving the schools, community and our Department members.



The K-9 unit also once again hosted its annual Putt'n 4 Pooches Golf Outing

and Fundraiser at Fox Hollow Golf Course. The tournament continues to be a successful fundraiser and community engagement event, not just for our K-9 officers but for all our department members.

The success that our patrol K-9s experience continues to rely upon the high standards of training that our members perform. Our patrol K-9-Unit members have official training twice a month. This training also allows our patrol K-9s to excel at their required yearly certifications. In April, our multi-purpose K-9 teams traveled to Superior, WI where they completed their yearly Narcotic Detector certifications. Our multi-purpose K-9 members then traveled to Winona, MN in June and completed their Patrol Dog 1 certifications. K-9 Maverick and Officer Jelinski completed their certification in November in Blaine, MN. Our therapy K-9s were able to advance in their training and certification within the AKC training program with K-9 Cheddar achieving the Community Canine certification and K-9 Hank achieving the Canine Good Citizen certification.

The La Crosse Police Department K-9 Unit's five teams provide a wide range of coverage for our department and our community. We would like to thank our community for their ongoing support for our program.

Emergency Response Team

The La Crosse Police Emergency Response Team (ERT) is a collateral duty team comprised of members who serve in various roles throughout the agency. The team is made up of one team commander, an assistant commander, two team leaders, twelve tactical operators, and seven negotiators. ERT trains for and responds to assist with hostage and barricaded persons, high-risk calls, large-scale disturbances, natural disasters, and dignitary protection.

In 2025, La Crosse Police ERT safely served several high-risk search warrants related to shootings and homicide investigations, a consistent effort from our agency to address gun violence and hold offenders accountable. The team also provided dignitary protection for two political visits, including one from the Vice President of the United States. Finally, Crisis Negotiators and Tactical Operators worked together to secure the safe resolution of a barricaded suspect through effective deployment of both communication and technology.

The Emergency Response Team continues to train at a variety of venues throughout the city to prepare for pre-planned events or spontaneous incidents. We maintain a high level of adaptability in new or challenging environments. Both training and operations have foundation in the La Crosse Police Critical Decision-Making Model (CDM) and focused on our primary

mission – preservation of life and safety.

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

Water Patrol Unit

The La Crosse Police Water Patrol Unit consists of eighteen (18) sworn members. Officers assigned to the Water Patrol Unit have received specific training related to water survival, patrol boat operations, marine electronics, boat crash investigation, boating under the influence, and search and rescue operations. The Water Patrol Unit is funded through a U.S. Coast Guard grant that is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The grant reimburses the La Crosse Police Department for wages, equipment, and costs related to the operation of the patrol boat.

In 2025, the Water Patrol Unit worked a total of 257 hours, and of those, 184 hours were spent patrolling. The remaining hours were a combination of training, boat crash investigation, and report writing.

Officers issued 46 citations and warnings this year. Violations included navigation rule violations, PFD (life jacket) violations, lighting equipment violations, and operating under the influence.

Three of the five boat patrol assistants were trained as patrol boat operators this year.

We are looking forward to the 2026 boating season. It will be here soon! We hope to see you on the water enjoying our great resource.





Bicycle Patrol Unit

The La Crosse Police Department bicycle unit is made up of 36 trained operators and 10 bicycles. Two of these are e-bikes which allow Officers to cover greater distances with less fatigue while still having most of the capabilities of the other 8 mountain bikes. 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.

Patrolling the core areas of La Crosse by bicycle gives members of the bicycle unit a unique opportunity to interact with the community, meeting with them and listening to their ideas and opinions. In return, it provides an easy means for citizens to personally meet Officers. 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. Bicycles also offer an effective approach to crime surveillance.

In 2025, Officers took part in a variety of events. Bikes are heavily used during Oktoberfest weekend for both parades and the campus area and are fantastic for supplementing our Officers on foot patrol. Bike Patrol also participated in the “Ride with the Mayor” along with citizens of La Crosse. Bike Rodeos have also been a focus of our Bike Patrol Officers, where they teach youth about bike safety and help register bikes. Our Bike Patrol was very active on the trails around La Crosse to provide a safe environment for all to enjoy.

Honor Guard

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

In 2025, the team conducted quarterly trainings. The context of the training material covered included: preparation for hosting Police Week, LCPD Awards Ceremony, rifle volleys, posting colors and color guard.

In January, Officer Teri Roden retired after 30 years of service to the Department which included 12 years of service to the Honor Guard. Teri's experience and dedication to the team was certainly missed throughout the year. Officers Alexandra Beardmore, Hayden Halverson and Daniel Godding joined the team at the beginning of the year.

Honor Guard participated in five events throughout the year. In January, team members posted the colors during the opening ceremony for the Wisconsin Association of Community Oriented Police Conference hosted in La Crosse. In May, the La Crosse Police Department hosted the La Crosse County Peace Officer Memorial ceremony at Riverside Park. The team conducted the rifle volley, with the La Crosse Sheriff's Department posting the colors. Also, in May, members commenced the LCPD Award/Recognition Ceremony by presenting the colors for the event. In July, Officers attended the line of duty death funeral for Milwaukee Officer Kendall Corder. In October, team members posted the colors at the Western Technical College Recruit Academy Graduation. LCPD had six officers graduating from the class.





POLICE RESERVE UNIT

The La Crosse Police Reserve Unit currently has 11 members, and we will welcome 4 new members through orientation in early 2026. Throughout 2025, the Reserve Unit was very busy assisting with 59 events. The events included special events, dignitary visits, Police Week, Rotary Lights, and Oktoberfest. The Reserves volunteered as role players for Crisis Intervention Training and Emergency Response Team scenario training. A majority of events and trainings required multiple Reserves to fulfill the assignment.

A new responsibility for the Reserve Unit is to provide additional presence in the Market Square parking ramp. Reserves who were interested in assisting with this assignment attended additional training in de-escalation and in providing information about resources for our unsheltered community members. The extra presence in the ramp has been a great way for us to continue to encourage people to connect with resources. Reserves also played a pivotal role in providing life-saving measures to a community member experiencing a medical emergency in the stairwell of the ramp.

Development is a pillar of our agency and a major component of the Reserve Program. Reserve Officers were role players at various trainings, they participated in ride-alongs with Officers, and participated in our monthly Reserve training meetings featuring topics such as defensive tactics, boat patrol, standard field sobriety tests, the District Attorney's Office, and many more law enforcement related topics.

The Reserve Unit is constantly evolving, and Reserve Officers are eager to continue to help provide services to the community. 2026 will be a year of growth and new projects for the program.

POLICE EXPLORER POST

As part of the nation-wide Exploring Program, our Police Explorer Post provides La Crosse area high school students with the opportunity for hands-on career exploration and real-life experience in the law enforcement field. Police Explorers attend bi-weekly meetings and gain practical experience in patrol procedures, traffic stops, Defense and Arrest Tactics, report writing, crime scene investigation and much more. They are also given a jail tour, dispatch tour, demonstrations from the Emergency Response Team and K-9 Unit, and are shown other aspects of Law Enforcement. For the 2025-2026 school year, an averaging 10 students participate in trainings.

Explorer Post #3201 is led by advisor Officer Jovanna Nedland who is assisted by Captain Jon Wenger, Sergeant Cody Plenge, Investigator Andy Rosenow, Officer Arick Siegmann, Officer Andrew Jarrett and Officer Alexandra Beardmore. We'd like to congratulate the Explorers for their commitment to Exploring, the La Crosse PD, and our greater community.



LA CROSSE AREA LAW ENFORCEMENT CHAPLAINCY

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

Chaplains Bryan and Diana McGrath, who are assigned to the La Crosse Police Department, serve all staff in many ways. Together, they provided 2 Chaplain briefings for new officers, attended 9 Department trainings, staffed 24 Chaplains Hours, completed 22 ride-alongs, and participated in several ceremonies and events totaling 446 service hours for the year.

Bryan and Diana are a great support team for our staff and their families, and we thank them very much!



WILEAG ACCREDITATION

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

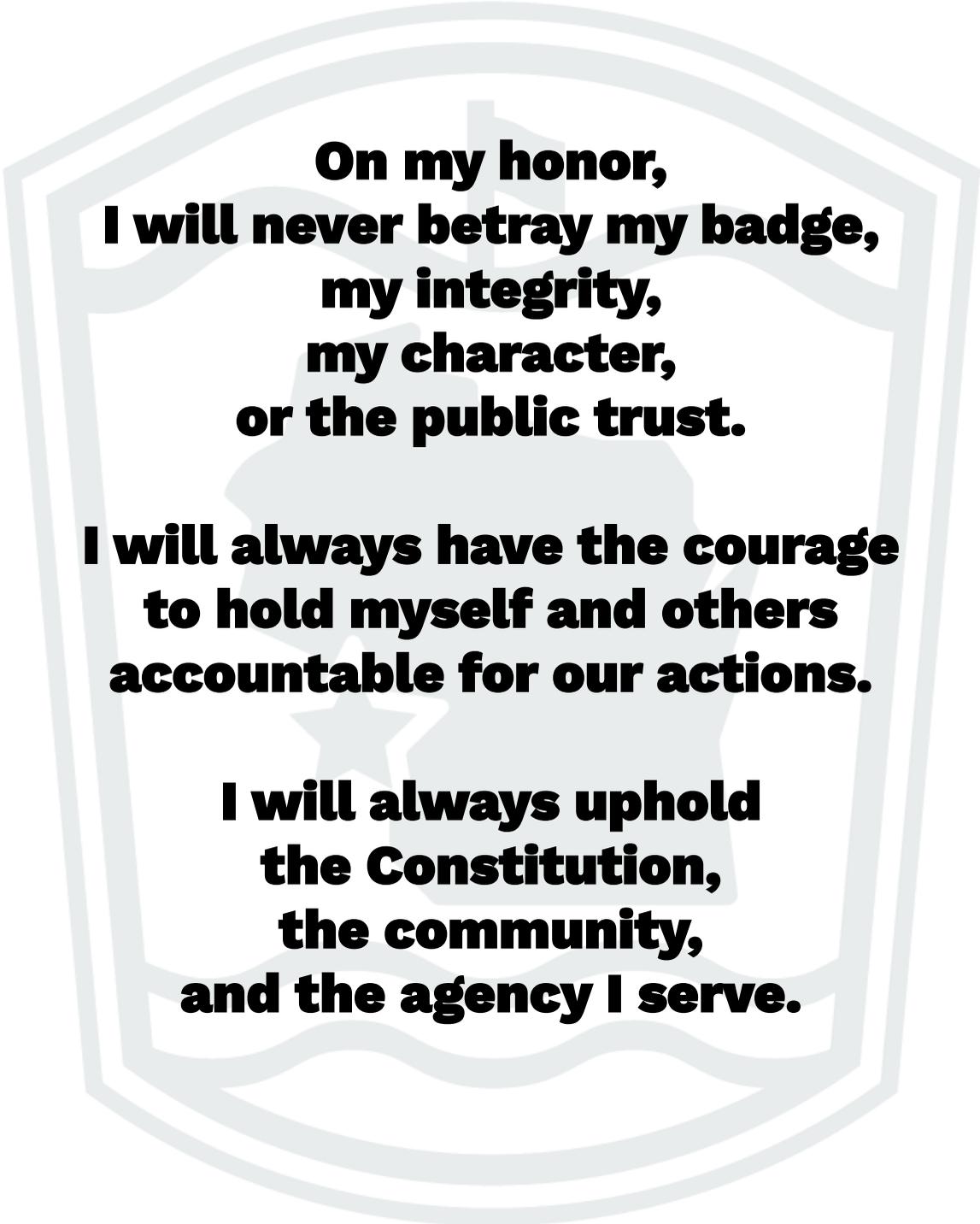
In 2025, the La Crosse Police Department Accreditation Team, comprised of various members of the department continued the enormous task of gathering information for our upcoming re-accreditation process that reviews policies and procedures over 2024-2025-2026.

In March 2027, the Department will be welcoming 3 WILEAG Assessors into our Department. The Assessors will review our policies, procedures, and informational proofs that demonstrate how our staff follows these WILEAG guidelines.

WILEAG most recently recognized the La Crosse Police Department as a Wisconsin accredited law enforcement agency on May 10, 2024, a designation which typically lasts for a period of three years.



LAW ENFORCEMENT OATH OF HONOR



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

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

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

Front cover, page 50 and page 51 pictures are courtesy of Michelle Poedel Photography.



LA CROSSE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
LEAD. PARTNER. PROTECT.