

Exploring the Future of Policing



**La Crosse Police Department
2016 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,
SO HELP ME GOD.**

Table of Contents

Chief’s Letter to the Common Council	2
Mission, Vision, and Values	3
WILEAG Accreditation	3
Administration	4
Operating Budget and OT Expenditures	5
Organizational Chart	6 - 7
Administrative Services Bureau	8 - 13
Bureau Overview	8
Records Division	8
Administrative Services Bureau Staff	9
Training Division	10
Parking Utility and Staff	11
Personnel Changes	12
FBI National Academy Graduates	12
Northwestern Staff and Command School Graduates	12
Anniversaries	13
Retirees	13
Investigative Services Bureau	14 - 17
Bureau Overview	14
Investigative Services Bureau Staff	15
Case Assignments	16
Neighborhood Resource Officer Team	17
Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau	18 - 23
Bureau Overview	18
Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau Staff	19
School Resource Officer Program	20
D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T.	20
Police Explorer Post	21
News Blog and Social Media	22
National Night Out	23
Police Week Awards Ceremony	23
Field Services Bureau	24 - 28
Bureau Overview	24
Field Services Bureau Staff	25
Statistics	26 - 28
Bicycle Patrol Unit	29
Water Patrol Unit	29
Emergency Response Team	30
K-9 Unit	31
Honor Guard	32
Police Reserve Unit	33
La Crosse Area Law Enforcement Chaplaincy	33



From the Chief

Common Council Members City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

The 2016 La Crosse Police Department Annual Report is herein presented for your review. This report consists of a comparison of the activities of the La Crosse Police Department for the year 2016 as compared to preceding years.

As the national negative rhetoric towards Police Officers was perpetuated by the National Media, the La Crosse Police Department continued to build relationships our community. We expanded the Neighborhood Resource Officer (NRO) program to include two Officers assigned to the downtown area. The NRO program continues to evolve and become a Community Policing Model that builds and fosters mutual respect between the citizens and the Police. All members of the Police Department continue to be committed to community policing and providing the best customer service possible. The community has continued to show overwhelming support for all employees of the Police Department.

The Parking Utility was placed under the umbrella of the Police Department. The Police Department is excited to be a part of finding solutions to the ever-increasing challenges that parking creates. In 2017 there will be several much-needed improvements to the City's parking systems which will provide increased efficiencies and ease of usage.

In the fall of 2016, the Department created a Police Explorer Post. Not only has this proved to be a great opportunity for high school aged students to learn about policing, it has also given us some very good potential Police Officers. Police recruitment and retention has been a struggle for all police departments. Programs like the Explorers create a fun environment in which students and their parents can learn about being a Police Officer and serving the community. We're excited for the overwhelming interest in this program and look to continue and expand what this program can offer in the future. The Department will always continue to recruit and hire the best qualified Officers. The Explorer Program is giving a lot of local students the tools to become exceptional Police Officers in the future.



The Police Department will continue to expand our diversity training and ensure that all of our valued employees are providing the best possible customer service to our community. The Department is committed to ensuring the safety of everyone that lives, works, studies, or plays in La Crosse.

**Ronald J. Tischer
Chief of Police**

Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

The La Crosse Police Department is committed to the delivery of excellent police service to improve the quality of life within our community, and this is achieved through the following:

- Problem Solving
- Professionalism
- Partnerships
- Ethical Practices



Vision

Our vision is to achieve excellence in policing.

Values

The following values guide how members of the La Crosse Police Department think, feel, and behave to improve the quality of life in La Crosse and, thereby, achieve our mission and vision:

- Excellence
- Loyalty
- Respect
- Integrity
- Accountability

The La Crosse Police Department believes our national recognition as a universal leader in policing has been achieved through the consistent, excellent police service provided by our members.

WILEAG Accreditation

In the fall of 2016, the La Crosse Police Department began the enormous task of gathering information for the upcoming 2017 re-accreditation process. The process includes 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 16, 2014 and expires in 2017.



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



Administration



Robert Abraham
Assistant Chief of Police

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

The Assistant Chief provides budget planning and oversight, oversees agency equipment purchasing, negotiates contracts with outside entities, works to protect the Department 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 of the Police Department's Parking Utility and works closely with the Parking Utility Coordinator to ensure the City's parking facilities are safe, clean, and operational.

In 2016, the Office of the Assistant Chief worked to implement three major projects for the Department. The "Safe-Cam" project was a partnership with the La Crosse City Vision Foundation. The project purchased and installed a network of video cameras in the downtown business district. Funded by community donations, the program was fully operational in 2016 and has been a tremendous resource in assisting the Department with enhanced public safety in our downtown area.

The Assistant Chief also worked to implement the Police Department's interests in replacing the Motorola public safety radio system. The new system from Motorola replaced the outdated system originally purchased in the early 1990's. Each police vehicle was equipped with a new radio, and every Officer was issued a radio. This multi-million dollar project encompassed many months of planning, designing, and constructing new infrastructure. The City now has a state of the art radio system that provides the Police Department superior radio coverage and enhanced capabilities for inter-operability throughout the State of Wisconsin and Minnesota.



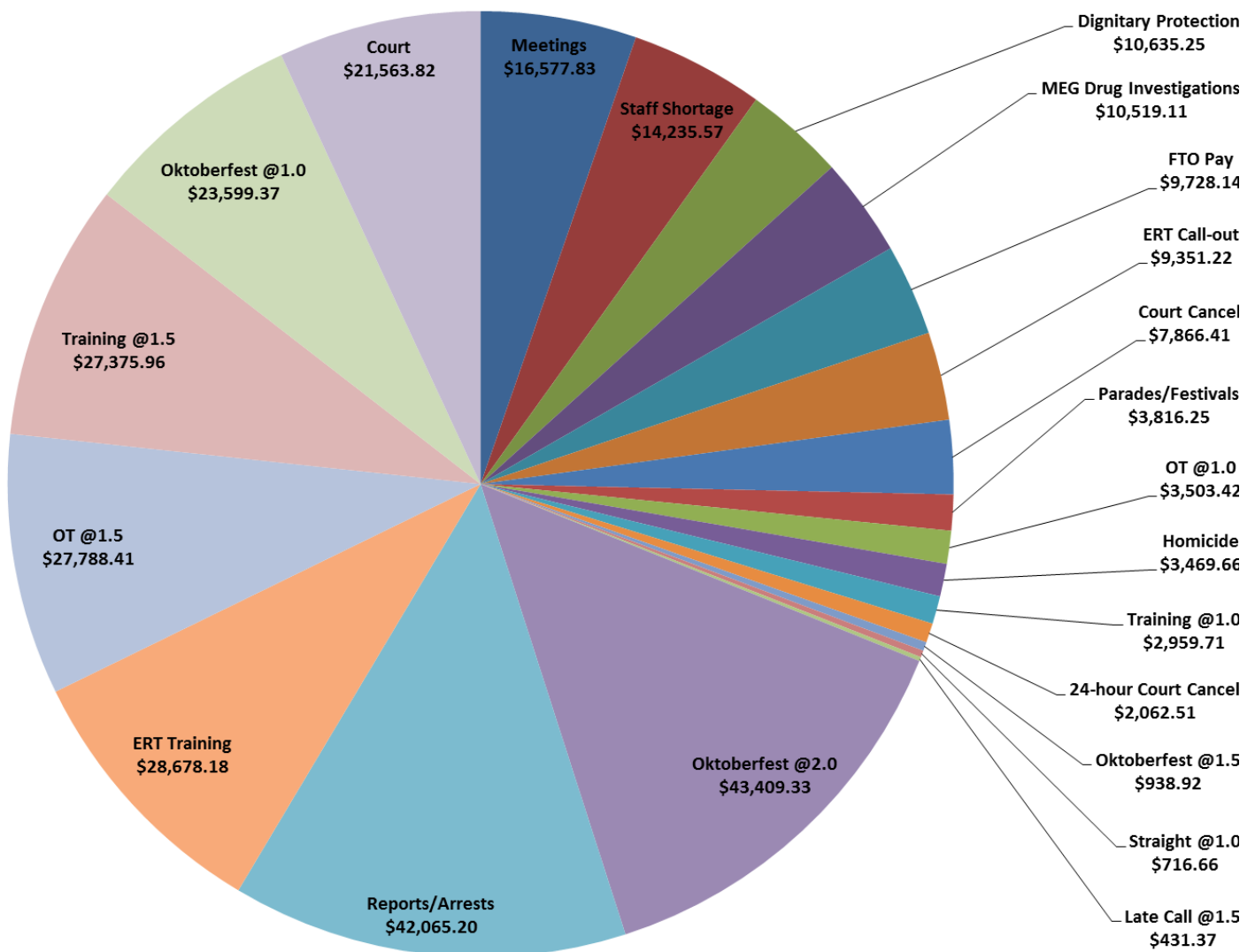
As part of the Department's goal of community transparency, the Assistant Chief worked to implement body worn cameras. Working with our current vendor for the in-squad cameras, six body worn cameras were deployed with our Neighborhood Resource Officers due to their various assignments, which puts them in non-traditional patrol situations. The Department is exploring the options of expanding the Body Worn Camera program to either replace the traditional in-squad video or to supplement the existing cameras.

Police Department Annual Approved Operating Budget

	2014	2015	2016
Salaries	\$5,963,713.00	\$6,112,617.00	\$6,412,009.00
Overtime	\$279,295.00	\$279,295.00	\$250,000.00
Benefits	\$3,109,798.00	\$2,976,346.00	\$2,972,789.00
Operating	\$695,302.00	\$693,972.00	\$737,512.00
Total	\$10,048,108.00	\$10,062,230.00	\$10,372,310.00

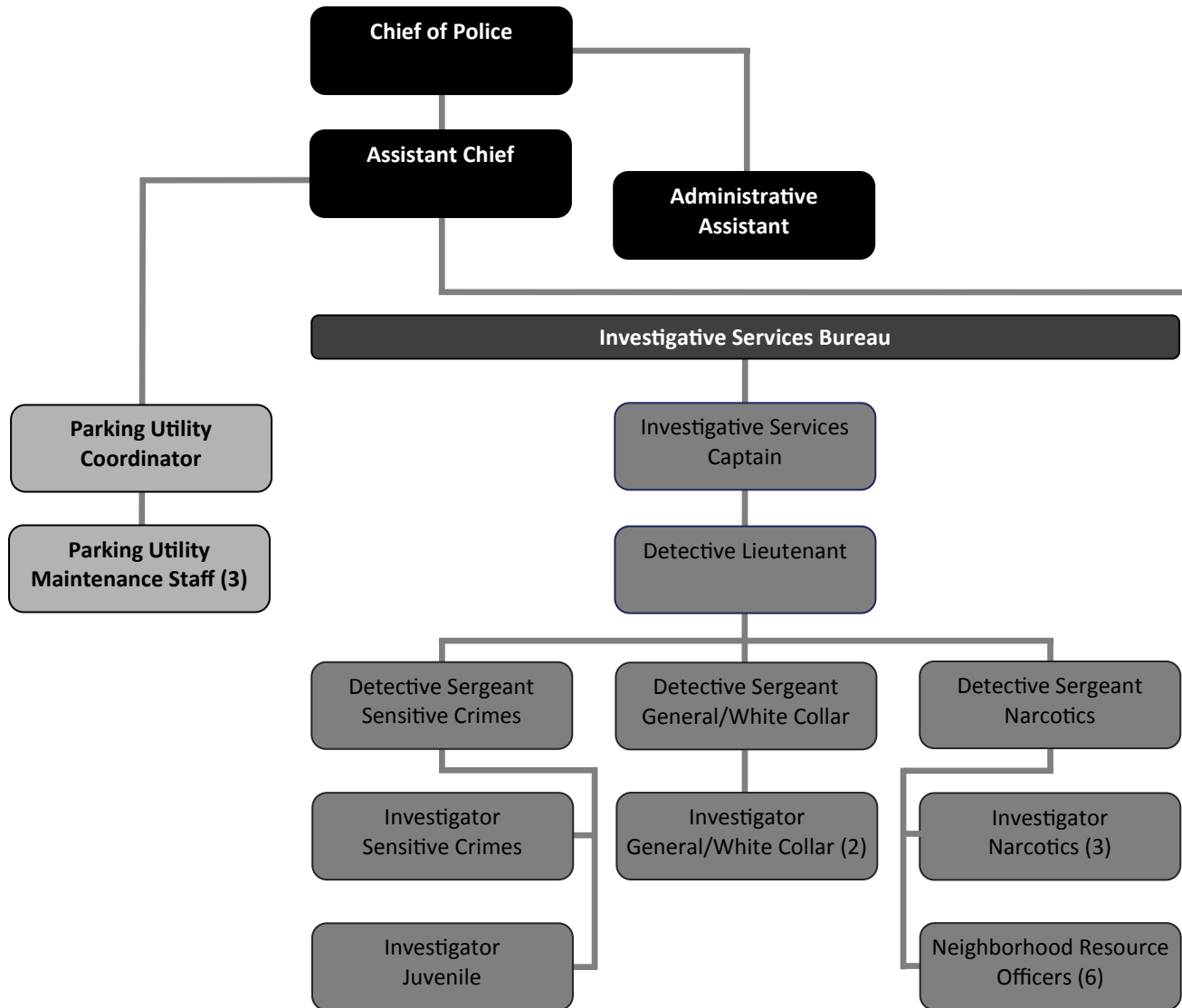
2016 OT Expenditures

In 2016, the La Crosse Police Department used \$311,292.30 in overtime. Officers also earned overtime pay through grant funding or security services for private events.





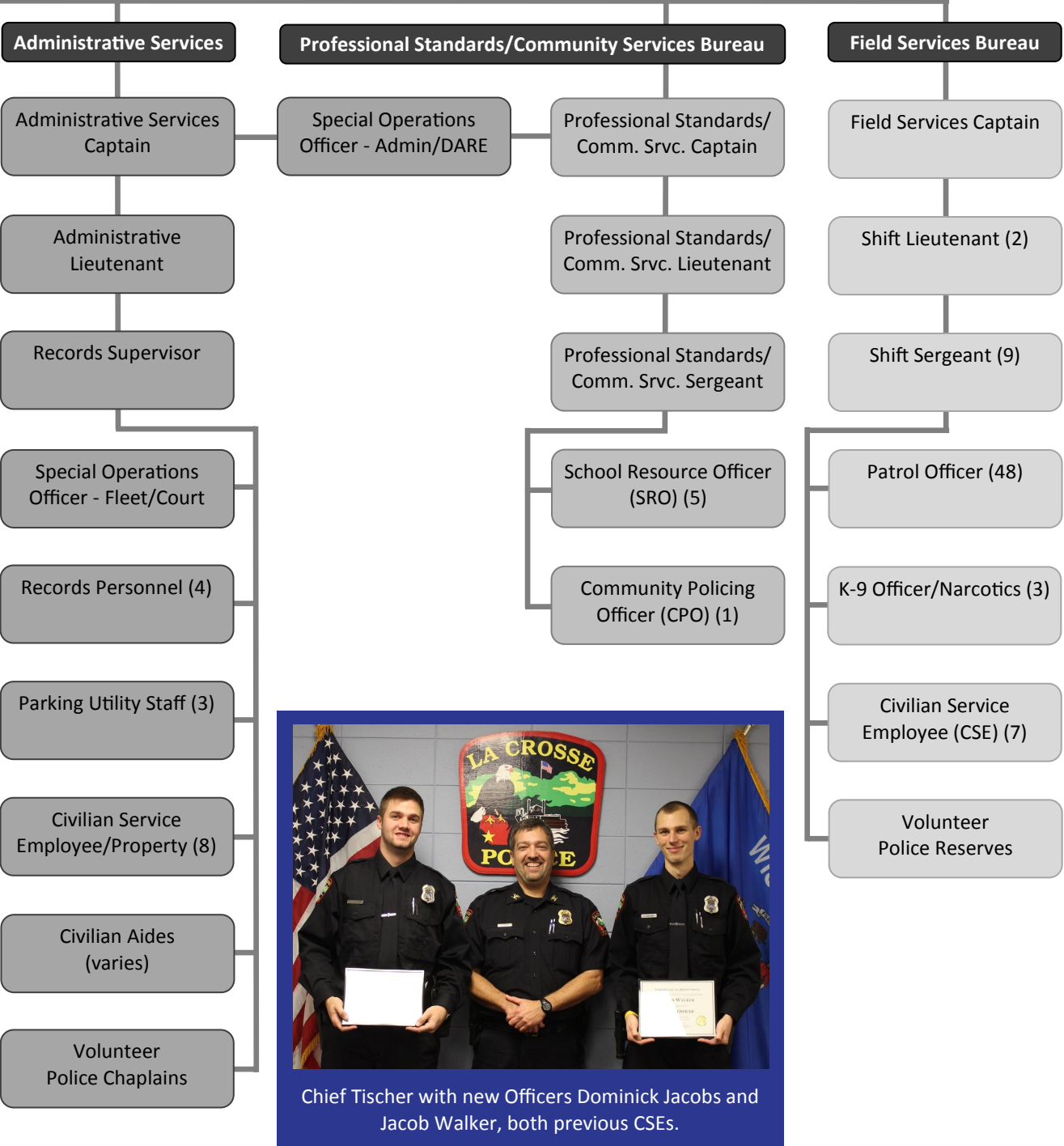
Organizational Chart



POLICE - SWORN	
Chief of Police	1
Assistant Chief	1
Police Captains	4
Police Lieutenants	5
Police Sergeants	13
Police Investigators	7
Police Officers	65
TOTAL SWORN	96

POLICE - CIVILIAN	
Civilian Service Employee	7
Records Supervisor	1
Clerical	5
TOTAL CIVILIAN - PD	13

PARKING UTILITY - CIVILIAN	
Parking Utility Coordinator	1
Civilian Service Employee	8
Parking Utility Maintenance	3
Clerical	3
TOTAL CIVILIAN - PU	14
TOTAL PERSONNEL	124



Chief Tischer with new Officers Dominick Jacobs and Jacob Walker, both previous CSEs.



Administrative Services Bureau



The Administrative Services Bureau (ASB) includes the Records Division, Property and Evidence Section, Civilian Service Employees, Civilian Aides and Parking Utility. In addition, the Administrative Services Bureau is responsible for accounting, payroll, purchasing, planning, budget development, communications, and most other tasks that involve personnel or monies, as well as storage and security of evidence and property. Hiring, research and analysis, appropriations, inventories, and funding concerns also fall within the Bureau’s purview.

Keeping our citizens informed about crimes and police activities in our city is important. One way this is accomplished is through the use of our online crime mapping tool supplied by CrimeReports.com. This crime mapping tool offers easy-to-use software tools for community members to access free information about current crime trends and up-to-date neighborhood crime data. This helps the community to make informed decisions to improve the safety of the neighborhood and community they live in.

Members of the Administrative Services Bureau continue to work hard to support the officers on the street, and we strive towards making our department better and more efficient, providing the best service for the citizens of La Crosse.

Records 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 2016, the Records Division processed 63,037 police incident reports, as well as 11,526 citations, 9,364 warnings, and 2,485 crash reports. Records personnel also processed 31,946 parking citations that were issued by Civilian Service Employees.

New in 2016 was the use of GovQA, an online open records system. The Department continues to streamline and simplify the process of releasing records to the public. Interested individuals may go online and request the release of police department records in a much more efficient and simpler way, with the partnership with GovQA. In 2016, Records Clerks handled 4,644 open record requests, which includes 1,968 accident report requests. They also processed 1,174 license applications.

The Property Division entered 8,800 pieces of property and/or evidence and disposed of 5,841 pieces. As part of open record requests, the Property Division copied approximately 2,468 DVD discs.

Administrative Services Bureau Staff

Bureau Director - Captain

Robert Lawrence

Administrative Lieutenant

Avrie Schott

Records Supervisor

Steve Butterfield

Special Operations Officer - Court/Fleet

Craig Teff

Special Operations Officer - Administration/DARE

Kurt Weaver

Chief's Administrative Assistant

Stephanie Churchill

Civilian Service Employees

Diane Skifton
Kong Xiong
Kristine Gasch
Michael Nagy
Kong Lor

Teng Thao
Benjamin Burrow
Faling Yang
Jerrad Crouch

Nathan Lewis
Dakota Marcon
Thomas Van Buren
Cody Ratkovich

Records Division Civilian Employees

Lisa Putz
Rebecca Smith
Nicole Schneider

Kim Mitchell
Katie Clements
Dana Littlejohn



Training Division

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

In 2016, the La Crosse Police Department completed 12,295 hours of training among all its employees. We also continued with an emphasis on diversity and ethics training for all department individuals, completing 572 hours of training.

A Department emphasis on supervision or management training resulted in 742 hours of training for administration and supervisors. Sergeant Andrew Dittman was presented with the opportunity to attend a 10-week supervisory course, Wisconsin Command College and will graduate from the school in June 2017. Sergeants Jon Wenger and Timothy O'Neill were both able to attend the highly regarded three week course, Leadership in Police Organizations. For 2017 the Department has set a goal of increasing its training, understanding, and use of the Incident Command System.

The Field Training Program trained 8 newly-hired officers in 2016. The training required to certify a probationary officer for solo patrol takes approximately four months. The Field Training Officers and Field Training Coordinators are very dedicated to the training process for new officers.

The Training Division continues to adjust to department and community needs, providing needed training emphasis on officer safety, supervision, legal updates, and community trends.

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

Parking Utility



Jim Flottmeyer
Parking Utility Coordinator
Administrative Services Bureau

In 2016, Mayor Tim Kabat redirected the City of La Crosse Parking Utility to be a unified entity under La Crosse Police Department, with direct oversight by the Parking Utility Coordinator.

The Parking Utility Coordinator, Jim Flottmeyer, oversees most aspects of parking within the City of La Crosse, including 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. Members of the Police Department, our Civilian Service Employees, continue to enforce parking regulations throughout the City.

Bringing all facets of the public parking system together has helped us to improve parking in the City. In the past year, the public ramps have been revamped, including newly repainted stairwells, better lighting systems in the stairwells and garage areas, and increased security features to ensure public safety.

We look forward to further streamlining parking in 2017 with an entirely new payment and enforcement system for the public parking ramps; new parking citation processing software; an updated permitting process for both the parking ramps and residential parking; as well as the ability to pay citations and permit fees online or in person directly in the Police Department. Each of these advancements will further enhance the customer usability and service we know our citizens, businesses, and visitors expect.

Parking Utility Staff

Parking Coordinator

Jim Flottmeyer

Parking Ticket Processors

Mary Sumeracki
Nathan Churchill

Parking Ramp Maintenance

Joseph Pederson

Thomas Schran

Michael Utecht



Personnel Changes

Promotions and Appointments

Troy Nedegaard	Captain	January 13, 2016
Aaron Westpfahl	Officer (prior CSE)	January 22, 2016
Ethan Shaffer	Officer (prior CSE)	January 22, 2016
Sonja Weber	Officer (prior CSE)	June 3, 2016
Ryan DeFlorian	Officer (prior CSE)	June 3, 2016
Ryan Ledvina	Officer (prior CSE)	June 3, 2016
Phillip Martin	Investigator	October 4, 2016
John LaBrec	Officer (new hire as CSE)	November 4, 2016 (CSE 5/9/2016)
Ryan Fitzgerald	Sergeant	November 16, 2016
Jacob Walker	Officer (new hire as CSE)	December 2, 2016 (CSE 7/23/2016)
Dominick Jacobs	Officer (new hire as CSE)	December 2, 2016 (CSE 9/14/2016)

New Hires

Nathan Lewis	Civilian Service Employee (CSE)	April 11, 2016
Steve Butterfield	Records Supervisor	May 2, 2016
Dakota Marcon	Civilian Service Employee	July 18, 2016
Thomas Van Buren	Civilian Service Employee	July 23, 2016
Dana Littlejohn	Clerk Typist I	November 1, 2016
Cody Ratkovich	Civilian Service Employee	December 9, 2016
Thomas Schran	Parking Utility Janitor	December 16, 2016



FBI National Academy

Chief Ronald J. Tischer	247 th Session - October 2011 to December 2011
Captain Shawn P. Kudron	243 rd Session - September 2010 to December 2010
Lieutenant Patrick J. Hogan	216 th Session - January 2004 to March 2004

Northwestern Staff and Command School



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

Anniversaries



Captain Troy Nedegaard (left) celebrated 25 years of service on March 4, 2016



Officer Heath Graves (left) celebrated 25 years of service on June 3, 2016.

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

Retirees



Sergeant Gary Hauser
retired June 13, 2016
after over
27 years of service



Officer Mark Rosenmeier
retired June 21, 2016
after over
29 years of service



Sergeant Randy Rank
retired September 1, 2016
after over
34 years of service



Officer Eric Christianson
retired December 13, 2016
after over
21 years of service

*Congratulations Gary, Mark, Randy, and Eric!
We wish you well in your retirement!*



Investigative Services Bureau



Shawn Kudron
Captain

Investigative Services Bureau

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

Even though there are areas of expertise, all Investigative Services Bureau members are trained in a variety of disciplines, and therefore, are capable of performing a wide variety of specialized tasks outside their normal assignments. This provides greater flexibility in their work assignments when the need arises. Personnel not only provide expertise in crime investigations, they also initiate investigations, develop sources of information, and serve as liaisons to other organizations within the community.

Members serve on a variety of local, state, and national committees including the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the Child Advocacy Center, Drug Endangered Children Task Force, La Crosse County Drug Court, Violence Against Women Association, New Horizons, Wisconsin Association for Identification, Wisconsin Association of Homicide Investigators, the National Association of Gang Investigators, and Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigators.

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

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

The Investigative Services Bureau draws from a wide variety of resources to respond to criminal activity in La Crosse. The Bureau strives to provide excellence in the area of criminal investigation and to respond to the needs of the La Crosse community. Through community policing efforts and improvements in law enforcement technology, the Investigative Bureau will continue to actively work to keep the La Crosse community safe.

Investigative Services Bureau Staff

Bureau Director - Captain

Shawn Kudron

Bureau Lieutenant

Matthew Malott

White Collar & General Investigations

Detective Sergeant Michael Blokhuis

Investigator Tony DeLap

Investigator Ryan Fitzgerald

Narcotics & Vice Investigations

Detective Sergeant Andrew Dittman

Investigator Thomas Hansen

Investigator James Mancuso

Investigator Phillip Martin

Sensitive Crimes Investigations

Detective Sergeant Linnea Miller

Investigator Cory Brandl

Investigator Andrew Rosenow

Neighborhood Resource Officers

Officer Daniel Ulrich—Washburn Neighborhood

Officer Andrew Tolvstad—Washburn Neighborhood

Officer Tyler Pond—Lower Northside Depot Neighborhood

Officer Dale Gerbig— Lower Northside Depot Neighborhood

Officer Joel Miller—Downtown District

Officer Alex Burg— Downtown District



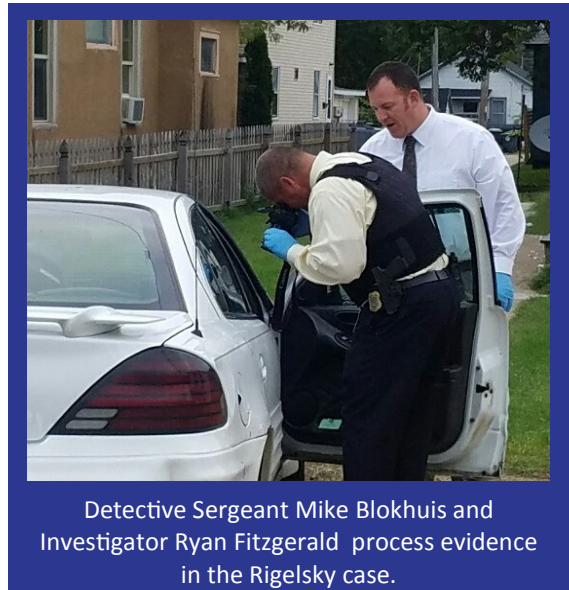
Case Assignments

In 2016, the Investigative Bureau investigated approximately 2,000 criminal cases. A few examples of these cases include:

On March 3, 2016, Officers and Investigators responded to 1320 5th Avenue for a report of a stabbing. Officers and Investigators learned that Jessica Joyner had been stabbed by her husband Haron Joyner, and she died as a result of her injuries. Patrol Officers quickly located Haron Joyner and took him into custody. Investigators conducted a thorough investigation of the crime scene and completed numerous interviews. As a result, Haron Joyner was convicted of 1st Degree Intentional Homicide.

On August 28, 2016 Officers and Investigators responded to the area of 5th and Hood for a report of a victim being shot at. Investigators quickly learned that the suspect in the shooting was Dakota Fair. Newly installed surveillance cameras in Poage Park recorded an image of Fair running through the park with the gun in his hand after the shooting. Investigators recovered this footage and quickly sought a warrant for Fair's arrest. Fair fled the La Crosse area and was eventually arrested in Milwaukee, WI.

In the early morning hours of September 7, 2016 Officers and Investigators were called to the area of 1260 Crossing Meadows Drive in Onalaska, WI for a report of a drive by shooting that occurred in La Crosse. It was learned that Jeremy Rigelsky shot into a moving vehicle on Copeland Avenue, and a bullet struck the front seat passenger in the leg. Investigators processed the vehicle for evidence and began gathering information on Rigelsky's whereabouts. Numerous interviews were conducted, and with the assistance of a citizen tip, Rigelsky was taken into custody on September 8, 2016 during a traffic stop. The gun used in the incident was located.



Detective Sergeant Mike Blokhuis and Investigator Ryan Fitzgerald process evidence in the Rigelsky case.

On September 20, 2016 Officers and Investigators responded to Wisconsin Title Loans at 1751 Rose Street for an armed robbery. Numerous Investigators began an extensive investigation recovering several surveillance video clips and quickly identifying the suspect vehicle. Investigators were able to determine that Robert Cobb was involved in the armed robbery. The follow-up investigation led Investigators to Rockford, Illinois, where a second suspect was identified as Demario Graham. Rockford Police were able to take Graham into custody and he was quickly extradited to La Crosse. This investigation is ongoing as Cobb has not yet been located.

In September of 2016, Douglas M. Owens and Juanita V. Downs Owens were arrested, removing over \$24,000 worth of drugs from La Crosse area streets. The arrest was a result of an 18-month drug conspiracy investigation conducted by La Crosse Police Drug Investigators and agents from Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) who used surveillance techniques and confidential informants to identify key players and locations of drug dealing in the La Crosse area. La Crosse Police also obtained nationwide arrest warrants for the following four individuals: Tyrone M. Johnson, Timothy J. Robinson, Larry D. Baldwin and Nicholas J. House. In addition, Antjuano Green and Deante L. House Sr. have been charged in reference to this case.

Neighborhood Resource Officer Team

The Neighborhood Resource Officer Team, formed through a Federal Grant and a unique public-private partnership, focuses efforts on community concerns within assigned neighborhoods – Washburn, Downtown, and Lower Northside Depot. The six Officers that make up the unit are the frontline of community engagement and enforcement efforts, working with the La Crosse citizens, business owners, non-profit organizations and students to address the needs of the specific neighborhoods and the greater La Crosse Community.

Along with fulfilling their regular law enforcement duties as Police Officers, the Neighborhood Resource Officers (NROs) are able to closely interact with their neighborhoods by meeting with business leaders and members of local organizations; attending community meetings and events; and visiting with the citizens living in the neighborhoods.

In 2016, the Neighborhood Resource Officers continued to make a significant impact in the La Crosse Community. The NROs made 1,641 community policing contacts.

Through concentrated enforcement effort, the NROs strived to problem solve quality of life issues in the Washburn, Downtown, and Lower Depot Neighborhoods. In response to neighborhood concerns, the neighborhood officers made several high profile arrests. These arrests highlighted the strong partnerships and community trust that these officers have worked to foster.

The NROs' efforts in community engagement and increased police legitimacy have resulted in strong continued community support.



The Washburn NROs Dan Ulrich and Andy Tolvstad attended a special Loggers game that honored the Sara Rose Hougom foundation and their mission to unite local law enforcement with area youth.



The Downtown NROs Joel Miller and Alex Burg worked with several downtown businesses to organize a spring clean-up of Cameron Park to coincide with the opening of the new playground



Northside NROs Tyler Pond and Dale Gerbig worked closely with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program to help develop relationships with area children.



Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau



Jason Melby
Captain
Professional Standards /
Community Services Bureau

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 police and the children is invaluable.

Additionally the PS/CSB coordinates the internship program, finger printing, Citizens' Police Academy, 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.

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



Administrators and teachers from the La Crosse School District give a standing ovation when the La Crosse Police Department School Resource Officers took the stage at the school year opening banquet.

Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau Staff

Bureau Director - Captain

Jason Melby

Bureau Lieutenant

Patrick Hogan

Bureau Sergeant

Randy Rank

Tom Walsh

School Resource Officers

Heath Graves

Bradley Stoner

Rick Pfennig

Ron Secord

Adam Bembnister

Community Policing Officer

Brooke Pataska





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 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 are: internet safety, constitutional law, over-the-counter and prescription drug abuse, driver education, bicycle safety, bullying prevention, and school safety.



Officer Kurt Weaver and School Resource Officer Heath Graves had helpers during the annual State Bank Financial Chili Cook-off held to raise funds for area D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. programs.

D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. School 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 public elementary and middle schools in the City of La Crosse.



School Resource Officer Heath Graves helps a young lady make bracelets at Camp-Send-A-Kid.

In 2016, 2 D.A.R.E. Officers administered the curricula to 10 schools, reaching 425 5th grade students.

For the G.R.E.A.T. program, 5 Officer instructors taught at 4 schools and reached 535 6th grade 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 25 students each day; and “Camp-Send-A-Kid”, which is held for one week at Camp Ehawee for 85 at-risk and underprivileged youth.

Police Explorer Post



New this year was the launch of the La Crosse Police Explorer Post!

As part of the nation-wide Exploring Program, our Police Explorer Post provides 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.

For our inaugural year, we had 13 high school students become members of the La Crosse Police Explorer Post #3201. These students had to complete a detailed application and interview with members of the Explorer Post Board in order to be accepted as a member. They represent all three area high schools—Central, Logan and Aquinas—and range from freshman to senior.

Besides the bi-weekly training, Explorers have the opportunity to attend the Wisconsin Police Explorer Academy or the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Conference. They may also enter into competitions where the Explorers demonstrate their ability to apply the skills they've learned in practical scenarios.

The launch of the La Crosse Police Explorer Post #3201 was a coordinated effort by the La Crosse Police Department, Learning for Life, and La Crosse Gateway Area Exploring., as well as area high school administration. Uniforms and equipment were provided by generous business and community donations.

Post #3201 is led by advisors Sgt. Jon Wenger, Investigators Tony Delap and Andy Rosenow, and Officers Kurt Weaver, Cody Plenge and Steven 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.



Back Row (L to R): Detective Sergeant Jon Wenger, Jacob Ghelfi, Michael Abraham, Nick Friedl, Will Allen, Ian Brown, Taylor Rakes, Danny Skifton, Officer Steve Curns
Front Row (L to R): Tiffany Winchester, Katerina Gerke, Michael Rice, Mia Burk, Racelynn Tolomei
Not Pictured: Kim Schmitz



News Blog and Social Media

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 ingredients that earn the public’s trust do not; a couple of those ingredients are transparency and community communication. How agencies accomplish this has changed significantly in recent years with the implementation of different social media platforms.

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

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

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

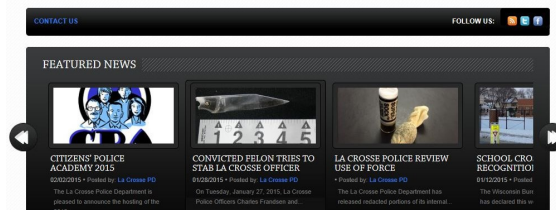
Currently our Facebook Page has 11,820 followers and our Twitter has 5,383 followers, and they both grow each day. The engagement in these formats allows our information to reach exponentially more people through “shares” and “retweets”. We look forward to continuing our community outreach through these platforms.



Facebook @lacrossepolice



La Crosse PD Newsroom



www.lacrossepd.org



Twitter @lacrossepolice

National Night Out

The 33rd 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 2016 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 that neighborhoods 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 19th Annual La Crosse Area National Night Out, twelve (12) La Crosse neighborhoods hosted block parties, with certainly many more localized celebrations. These neighborhoods come together to volunteer their time and efforts into organizing these block parties, and many of our community partners offered their assistance in the form of donations of supplies, money, and their time. Since the inception of National Night Out in the City of La Crosse, we have continually experienced many great Police-community relationships and look forward to many more years of NNO!

Police Week Awards Ceremony

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

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

Police Week Award Recipients	
Officer Cody Plenge	Traffic Safety Award
Officer Jovanna Randall	Chief’s Achievement Award
Officer Charles Frandsen	Chief’s Achievement Award
Officer Frank Racich	Life Preservation Award
Officer Trenton Bowe	Life Preservation Award
Officer Dustin Darling	Life Preservation Award
Officer Cody Plenge	Superior Achievement Award
Officer Justin Eddy	Superior Achievement Award
Officer Stephen Hughes	Departmental Citation
Mike Keil	Citizen Award of Excellence
Diana McGrath	Citizen Award of Excellence
Pastor Mark Clements	Citizen Award of Excellence

Congratulations to all award recipients!



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 serving the community with excellence. Our primary mission is the protection of life and liberty, order maintenance, and the personal security of our citizens and their property. We are committed to consistent enforcement, community policing, building partnerships with our community, and problem solving.

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

The bureau switched to 12 hour shifts on July 1, of 2016. There are now two shifts, Day shift and Night Shift. The shifts switch between the hours of 5am or 6am and 5pm or 6pm. The goal of the 12 hour shifts is to provide better patrol coverage to the community, decrease overtime, provide for more training opportunities and allow 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. Support is provided to and received from the La Crosse Police Reserve Unit, the La Crosse Area Law Enforcement Chaplaincy, and the police internship program.

Members of the Field Services Bureau can be seen patrolling in squad cars, a boat, on bicycles, Segways or on foot. These alternative patrol formats allow for more community contact and interaction with the public. We firmly believe the effectiveness as a police agency is predicated on community interaction and forging partnerships.

In 2016, eight new patrol Officers were hired to replace retiring staff. Officers are taught to be well-rounded in their activities and to use problem-solving skills to work with the community where needed.

Throughout 2016, members of the Field Services Bureau were involved in 63,037 calls for service, issued 8,062 traffic citations, 9,364 warnings, and investigated 2,086 reportable traffic crashes. Beyond the general calls for service, the Field Services Bureau was instrumental in ensuring the safe and uneventful visit from multiple presidential candidates during the election year. In addition, the 2016 Oktoberfest was very successful in its planning, coordination with outside entities for support, and interaction with the public.

The Field Services Bureau will strive to continue its efforts in 2017 with building better relationships with the public, working with specialty groups for common understanding, and maintaining a safe community atmosphere for all that live and visit La Crosse.

Field Services Bureau Staff

Bureau Director - Captain

Troy Nedegaard

Shift Lieutenants

Joe Smith
Daniel Kloss

Shift Sergeants

Gary Hauser
Kirk Flatten
Craig Oleson

Grant Gyllander
Jason Mahairas
Jon Wenger

Steve Pataska
Joseph Wiegrefe
Timothy O'Neill

Patrol Officers

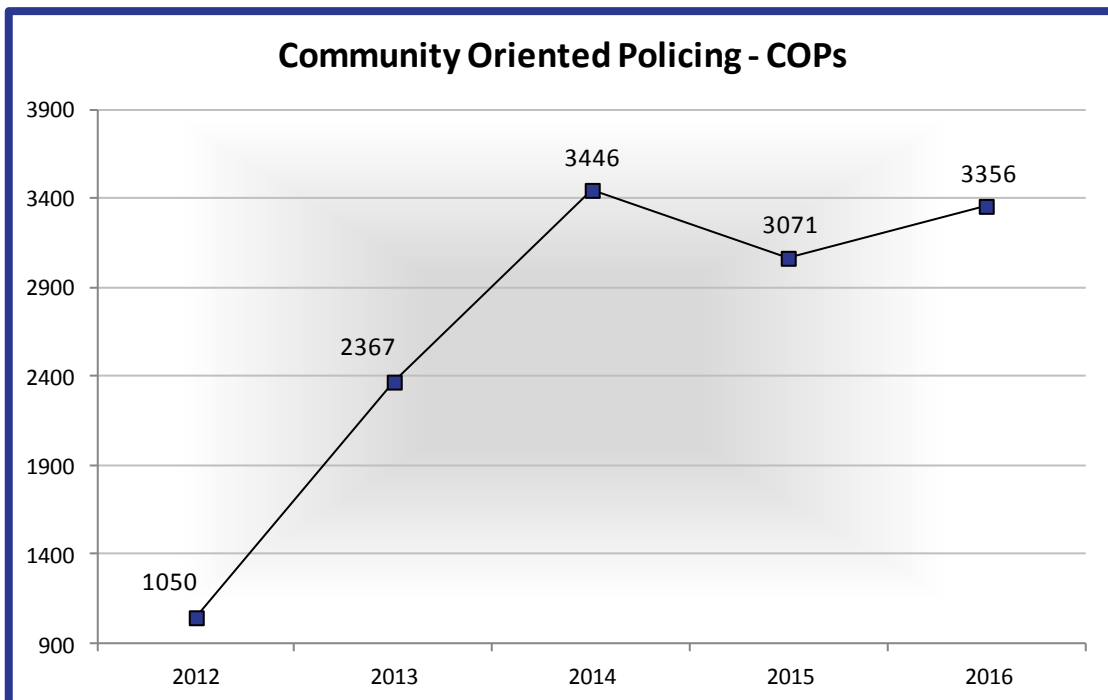
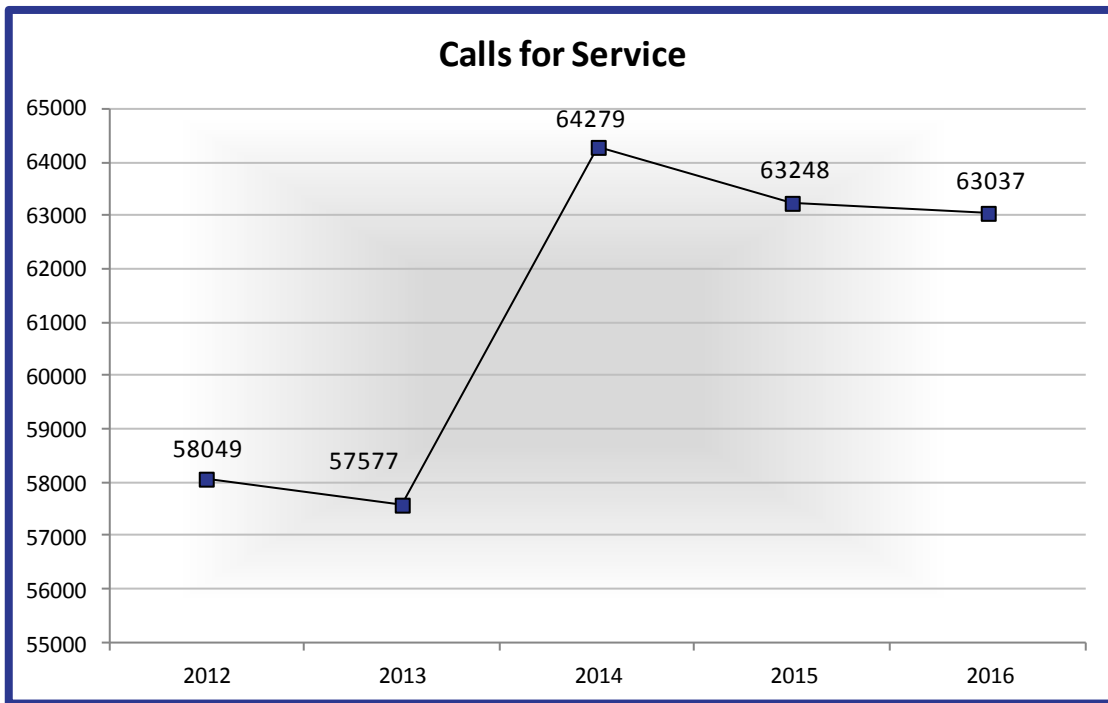
Mark Rosenmeier
Rick Rank
Gregory Fitzsimmons
Lisa Barrix
Scott Harmel
Alan Hagen
Eric Christianson
Teri Roden
Tony LeQue
Todd Fischer
Ryan Stenslien
Charles Frandsen
Brian Deyo
Jovanna Randall
Brad Schomberg
Jeremy Rindfleisch
Frank Racich

Casey Rossman
Aaron Erdmann
Christopher Oates
Jason Nesbit
Trenton Bowe
Steven Curns
Nicholas Raddant
Andrew Adey
Daniel Howe
Casey Kamps
Dustin Darling
Tyler Rachwal
Jared Reed
Stephen Hughes
Benjamin Levan
Dakota Jelinski
Joshua Rollins

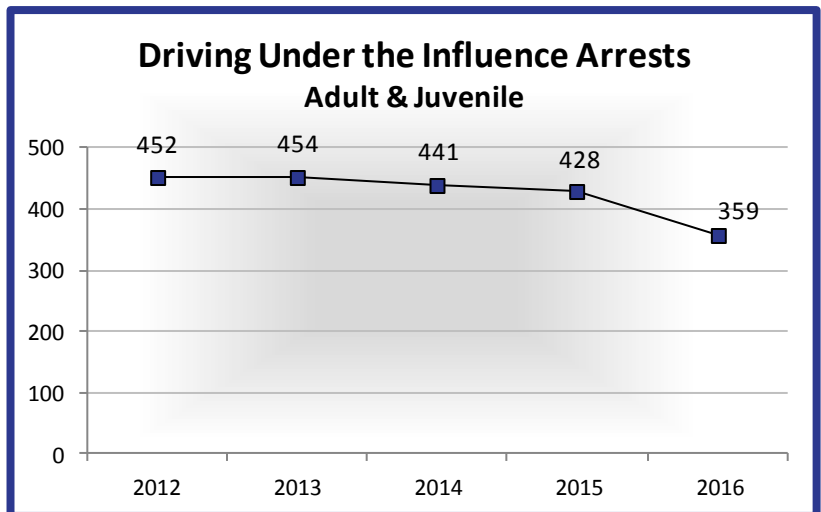
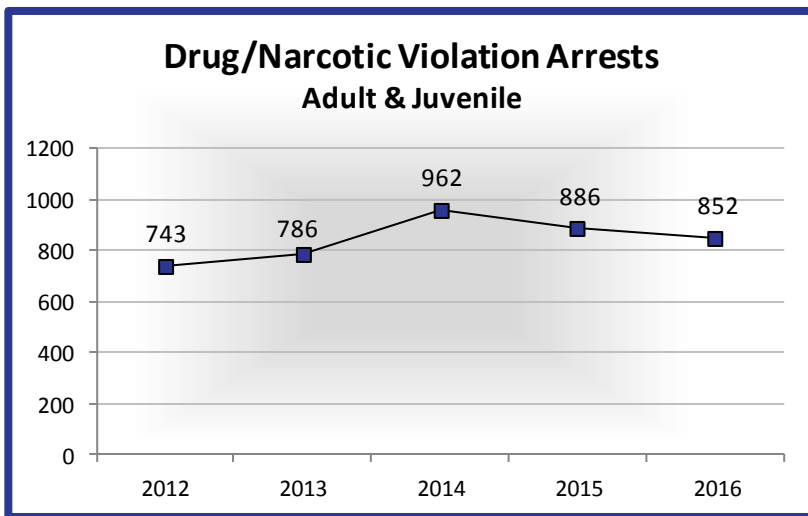
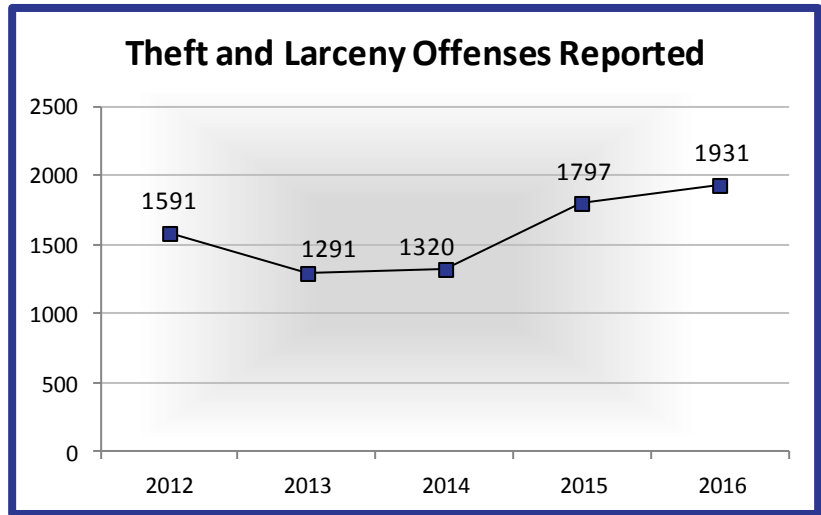
Whitney Hughes
Dennis Love
Cody Plenge
Ethan Purkapile
Justin Eddy
Daniel Mandujano
Alex Vang
Abbie Ashbeck
Tanner Gregory
Aaron Westpfahl
Ethan Shaffer
Sonja Weber
Ryan DeFlorian
Ryan Ledvina
John LaBrec
Jacob Walker
Dominick Jacobs



Statistics

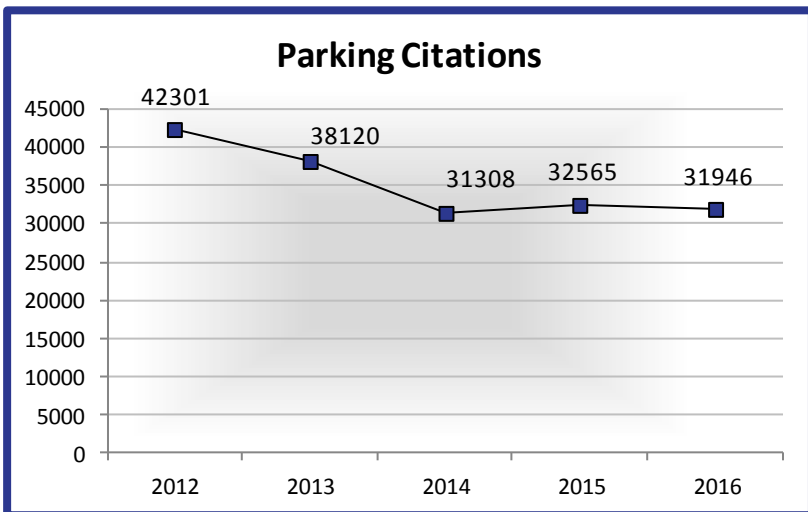
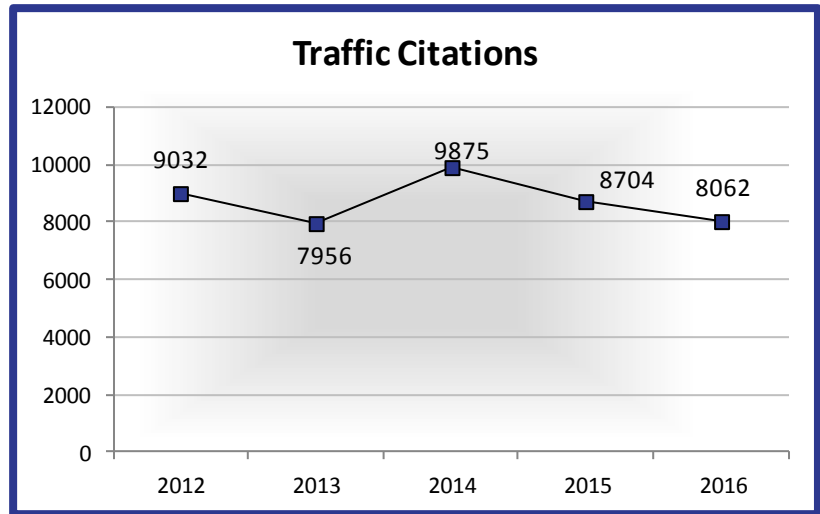
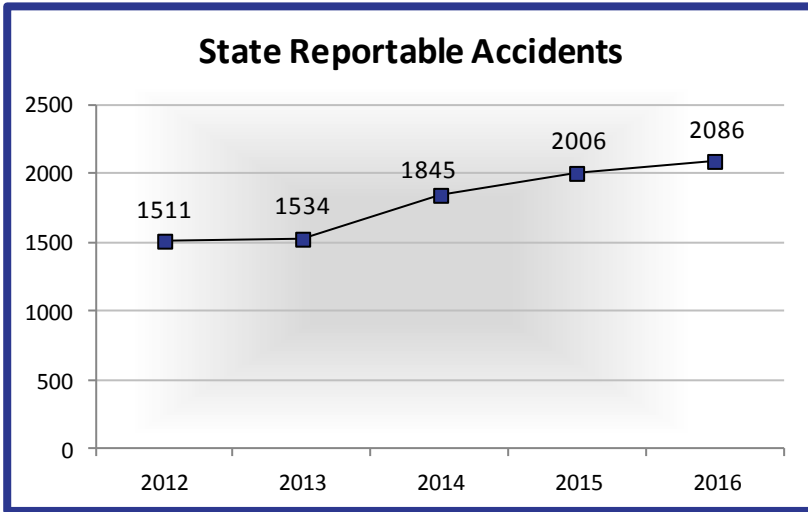


Crime Statistics

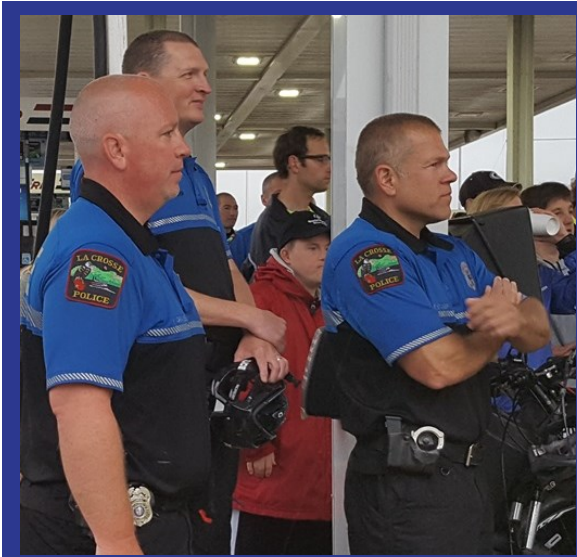




Traffic Statistics



Bicycle Patrol Unit



Several members of the Bike Patrol Unit participated with other members of LCPD during the 2016 Special Olympics Torch Run.

The La Crosse Police Department bicycle unit has 6 bicycles and 22 trained operators. Bicycle Patrol duties include patrol support, response to calls for service, parades and festival coverage, traffic enforcement, community policing, bicycle safety education, undercover surveillance, and much more.

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

The Bicycle Unit maintains a strong relationship with the business community. Patrolling the core areas of La Crosse on bicycle gives members of the Bicycle Unit a unique opportunity to interact with the community. The

contact they make with citizens is important. It allows the Department to meet with community members, and listen to their ideas and opinions. In return, it provides an easy means for citizens to personally meet their police force.

Water Patrol Unit

In 2016, the La Crosse Police Water Patrol Unit had another successful year. The Water Patrol Unit consists of 18 sworn Officers specifically trained in Water Patrol Operations who patrol over 19 miles of waterways within the City of La Crosse.

The Water Patrol Officers were involved in over 84 boating-related contacts and calls for service in 2016. During the 2016 boating season, the Water Patrol unit worked 241 hours on the water, issued 12 boating citations, and 39 written warnings. The water patrol unit also assisted several boaters who were either stranded or in distress, including one incident where Officers assisted several boaters to safety after their boat capsized in the Black River.

Members of the LCPD Water Patrol Unit participated in a one day in-service training in May. The Water Patrol Officers again worked during several major boating events which included Riverfest, the Big Blue Dragon Boat Festival, and Oktoberfest. They also worked with the WI Department of Natural Resources and other water patrol units during National Safe Boating Week and Operation Dry Water.

The Water Patrol Unit is funded largely by a grant from the U.S. Coast Guard, which is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The grant reimburses the Police Department for expenses related to the operation of the Unit. We look forward to further development of the Unit.



Emergency Response Team

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) is a part-time team that consists of one commander, one assistant commander, fourteen tactical members, six 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.

In 2016, ERT personnel conducted multiple trainings with outside agencies. The highlight was a 13-team joint tactical operation at Ft. McCoy where team members worked alongside tactical operators from around the entire state of Wisconsin to solve a complicated and dynamic scenario. In addition, the team also trained with the Monroe County tactical team on actual AMTRAK trains for hostage rescue incidents. It’s through these partnerships that ERT can learn from and depend upon outside resources in the event of a large scale incident.

Throughout the year, ERT was involved in executing numerous high risk search warrants. The campaign season brought about the opportunity to work alongside the United States Secret Service CAT (Counter Assault Team) to protect dignitaries while they were present for campaign stops and overnight stays at our local hotels. Furthermore, ERT personnel also assisted the ATF in a takedown operation of a convicted felon who was attempting to buy a handgun.

A special thanks goes to partnering agencies that have taken part in training with ERT throughout the year: Volk Field, Ft. McCoy, La Crosse School District, La Crosse MTU, FBI SWAT, and La Crosse and Monroe County Sheriff’s Departments.

2016 ERT Members	
Lieutenant Daniel Kloss - OIC	Officer Tyler Pond
Sergeant Grant Gyllander - Assistant OIC	Officer Daniel Howe
Investigator Andrew Rosenow - Team Leader	Officer Stephen Hughes
Investigator James Mancuso	Officer Tyler Rachwal
Officer Casey Rossman	Officer Alex Burg
Officer Rick Pfennig	TEMS Frank Garritano
Officer Joel Miller	TEMS James Hillcoat
Officer Daniel Ulrich	TEMS David Duchrow
Officer Frank Racich	TEMS Cory Westpfahl
Officer Andrew Tolvstad	
2015 ERT Negotiators	
Lieutenant Avrie Schott	Investigator Andrew Rosenow
Sergeant Andrew Dittman	Officer Teri Roden
Investigator Cory Brandl	Officer Phil Martin

K-9 Unit

The Police Department's canine unit was started in 2007 with Narcotic Detection K-9 Ralph. Ralph worked through 2016 until his retirement in July. Since 2007, the La Crosse Police Department expanded the unit include three patrol K-9s, as well as an explosives K-9 obtained through a collaboration with the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms).

In 2016 our Department purchased K-9 Luc to replace retiring K-9 Ralph. Officer Dakota Jelinski was selected as Luc's handler and began training over the summer. Since September, K-9 Luc and Officer Jelinski have worked the beat during their night shift assignment.

In addition to our new K-9, 2016 was a year in which the community actively participated to help the program progress. In April, a local college student, Jenna Goulet, organized and participated in an event to raise money for new vests for our K-9s. The vests we had were worn and out of date. With the assistance of Jenna, our department was able to raise over \$3600—well above our goal of \$3000! We were able to purchase new vests for all three patrol K-9s to use while they work.

Also in 2016, the K-9 unit received a donation of three medical kits to be kept in the K-9 squads. These medical kits, valued at over \$400, were needed items. During an accidental inhalation or an on the job injury, our handlers are now able to provide immediate medical assistance until they can get their K-9 to the vet.



Chief Tischer congratulates K-9 Ralph on his retirement and welcomes K-9 Luc (right) as he begins his training.



Jenna Goulet held a fundraiser to purchase vests for the K-9s—raising just over \$3,600!

In addition to mandatory annual recertification, quarterly training with specialized trainers, and monthly self-training, in 2016 the K-9 unit received additional training. Each handler was given access to the La Crosse Airport, allowing them to provide additional protections for passengers and personnel. With this training, the K-9s learned how to sniff luggage while on a truck, on the conveyor belt, or in the main terminal. Handlers also learned how to lead their K-9s in a crowded airport with passengers and obstacles.

Additional training included working with the Department of Corrections so the K-9s can be used for spontaneous visits to corrections' residences for the detection of narcotics, or paraphernalia, which would be in violation of the probation and/or parole status.



Honor Guard

The La Crosse Police Honor Guard is a specialized team of the La Crosse Police Department that 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 2016, the Honor Guard participated in several events. During Police Week in May, the Rifle Team attended the Memorial Ceremony which we hosted at Riverside Park. The detail included OIC Sergeant Kirk Flatten of the combined Colors Team and OIC Sergeant Wenger of the Firing Party including Captain Nedegaard, Lieutenants Smith and Malott, and Officers Stoner, Weaver, Roden, LeQue, Gerbig, and Pataska. The Police Week Awards Ceremony was attended by OIC Sergeant Wenger, Lieutenant Malott, and Officers Stoner, Weaver, and Pataska. The Honor Guard also posted colors at the Western Police Academy spring and fall graduations, the Salvation Army Red Kettle ceremony, the 9/11 Freedom Walk, and the Tomah Veterans Administration Hero Games.



Honor Guard Rifle Team at the Police Week Memorial Ceremony hosted by the La Crosse Police Department at Riverside park.

To ensure the highest level of professionalism, the Honor Guard also spent several days training which included basic drill and ceremony, rifle details, and the posting of colors. For several events the Honor Guard conducted a joint training with the La Crosse County Sheriff’s Department and the Fire Department Honor Guard teams. The training increased familiarity of policies and practices between the teams and will aid in joint operations.

It was with great pride that our Honor Guard worked to dignify the memories of fellow Officers who passed away during the year. Members of the Honor Guard attended services for retired LCPD Captain Gordon Rieber, retired LCPD Officer James Dunham, retired Holmen PD Officer James Kerr, and Rusk County Sheriff’s Deputy Dan Glaze, who was killed in the line of duty.

Honor Guard Members	
Sergeant Kirk Flatten (OIC)	
Rifle Team Members	Colors Team Members
Sergeant Jon Wenger (OIC)	Lieutenant Avrie Schott
Lieutenant Joe Smith	Lieutenant Matthew Malott
Lieutenant Troy Nedegaard	Investigator Timothy O’Neill
Officer Tony LeQue	Officer Brooke Privet
Officer Cory Brandl	Officer Teri Roden
Officer Brad Stoner	Officer Kurt Weaver
Officer Dale Gerbig	

We look forward to another year of professional service to the law enforcement community, as well as the greater community in which we serve.

La Crosse Police Reserve Unit

The La Crosse Police Reserve Unit is a volunteer unit within the Police Department. In 2016, the Reserve Unit grew in membership from 10 to a high of 17 members. We have recruited more professional volunteers (those who are career oriented yet volunteer their time) and have maintained steady student volunteers (those who are enrolled in a post high school educational institution).

The demand for the Reserve unit within the community was high. In 2016 the unit volunteered for over 1,600 hours. We participated in family events, conducted traffic control at the La Crosse Center for various events, managed traffic at Rotary Lights, patrolled Riverside Park, and provided security at crime scenes for the police department. The Reserves trained monthly and were allowed to participate in ride-alongs with sworn officers. In 2016, the Reserve Unit also set an example for newer and younger volunteers with the La Crosse Police Explorer Post.

The Reserve Unit also saw its membership grow into other areas of the Department, including working as Civilian Aides, a newly created position in 2016. As Civilian Aides, the Reserve members are tasked with parking enforcement, parking ramp security, and overnight parking. The availability for Reserves to move to paid positions within the Department is another great stepping-stone for their development in a career in Law Enforcement.

Police Reserve Liaisons	
Sergeant Jon Wenger	
Officer Craig Teff	
Reserve Board Members	
Anna Lee	Commander
Michael Vo	Field Lieutenant
Reserve Officers	
Tyler Christian	Tyler Perkins
Kaytlyn Garbers	Travis Tenkley
Bethany Hofer	Shayn Thornton
Terry Konsela	Robert Vian
Trevor Lopez	Brianna Winnekens
Robert Maney	Alexander Yocum

La Crosse Area Law Enforcement Chaplaincy

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

The La Crosse Area Law Enforcement Chaplaincy serves the La Crosse and Onalaska Police Departments, and the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department. Each department has appointed a Chaplain Liaison Officer to serve as an interface between the Department and the Chaplain team.

The year 2016 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 30 calls, attended 13 debriefings, trained 163 hours, and utilized 1,500 hours of administrative support. They also provided non-emergency services such as officiating for funeral services, providing counseling, and hosting the annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Picnic.



La Crosse Police Department
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