



**LA CROSSE**  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
LEAD. PARTNER. PROTECT.

# 2023 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.

**P**rofessionalism

**R**espect

**A**ccountability

**C**ommunity Policing

**T**ransparency

**I**ntegrity

**C**ommunication

**E**mployee Safety & Wellness

**D**edication



# CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Mayor Mitch Reynolds, Common Council Members, and citizens of La Crosse, I am pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report. This was a year of transformation for the La Crosse Police Department, with many goals met. During the first two quarters of 2023, significant effort was put into a branding initiative for the Police Department. We worked with local marketing agency, Metre, to develop an all-encompassing brand enhancement that included the development of our icon designed to include important geographic structures that are specific to La Crosse: the Mississippi River, the scenic bluffs, and the American Flag. Along with this icon, our logo includes emphasizes our community of La Crosse and incorporates the Police Department slogan, "Lead. Partner. Protect." Finally, a new color palette was designed to complete our brand, and all of these are proudly represented in our letterhead, published materials, presentations and social media, and our Department décor. We are very excited with our new brand and the comradery and esprit de corps that branding has produced.

In conjunction with our brand launch, we introduced our next 5-year Strategic Plan. We are incredibly proud of our Strategic Plan! Over 30 members of the La Crosse Police department came together in planning sessions to develop the "road map" for our future. Additionally, we surveyed the department, others within local government, our community, and our stakeholders to assist us in developing our mission, vision, and values. New to this strategic plan process was the addition of the four pillars of L.C.P.D.:

- L**eadership
- C**ommunity Engagement
- P**rofessionalism
- D**evelopment

The La Crosse Police Department is built on the foundation of these four essential pillars. With a focus on service, we created very achievable objectives for the department to accomplish. Our Strategic Plan will serve as a guide to our decision making and policy development over the next five years.



**Shawn P. Kudron**  
Chief of Police



# CHIEF'S MESSAGE

In addition to these two great accomplishments, the following occurred in 2023:

- La Crosse Police Department Animal Control - after being tasked with taking over animal control for the city of La Crosse, LCPD developed this new program from the ground up. Policies and procedures were put in place, an Animal Control Technician was sought after and hired, equipment was obtained and a new Animal Control vehicle was upfitted. Throughout the year, this has grown into a highly successful program and one of the many varying services that our Department provides to our community.
- EAP Wellness Check-in Program - In the same way we all go to the dentist and doctor each year, our Administration wanted to ensure our staff had easy access to an annual wellness check-in with a certified wellness consultant. Our Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau worked closely with Gundersen Health System's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to offer this service to all LCPD staff.
- Expansion of CRU - midway through the year, our newest Community Resource Unit co-responder team hit the streets. We now have at least one Officer/Crisis Worker team taking crisis calls for service between the hours of 8AM through 10:24PM, Monday through Friday.
- Hmong Citizen Academy - Members of our Department worked with the Hmong Cultural and Community Agency to host our second Hmong Citizen Academy. Participants in the Academy learned about crash investigations, domestic and death investigations, defense and arrest tactics, traffic stops, firearms, and OWIs. They participated in some hands-on training and had a lot of fun learning about our Department and police functions in general.
- Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) - In 2023, Captain Dan Kloss attended a "train the trainer" session regarding ABLE, a program which provides tools and resources in areas of active bystandership and peer intervention to prevent misconduct and harm to the community and Officers; avoid police mistakes; and promote Officer health and wellness. This program will be taught to all sworn LCPD members in 2024 and will continue annually.
- 2023 95th Assembly District First Responder of the Year Award— Officer Colt Lang was recognized by Representative Jill Billings for his dedication to thorough investigations resulting in removing numerous illegal firearms and drugs from our streets.
- K-9 Unit—After the untimely passing of K-9 Thor, Officer Jelinski was once again chosen as a K-9 Handler. He was paired with K-9 Maverick and attended 14 weeks of training this summer and fall and returned to patrol in December.

We thank our community for their continued support of the men and women of the La Crosse Police Department.





# 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 and missions with the four bureau directors.

The Assistant Chief provides budget planning and oversight, oversees agency equipment purchasing, negotiates contracts with outside entities, works to protect the Department's and City's interests in claims and liabilities, coordinates the hiring process, and oversees the disciplinary system to ensure agency integrity. The Assistant Chief also provides oversight and direction of the Police Parking Utility and works closely with the Parking Utility Coordinator to ensure the City's parking facilities are safe, clean, and operational.

The year 2023 continued with unprecedented employee turnover. In 2023 we had 17 staff either retire or move on from the agency, hired 16 to fill vacancies, and coordinated 7 promotions or moves within the Department. The Assistant Chief coordinates closely with our Human Resources Department to arrange hiring processes, recruitment efforts, employee on-boarding, and vacancy requisitions.

This whole year was an exciting time as the agency completed the full remodel of the Department's first floor and reorganization of space in the Department's basement. This remodel significantly expanded the workspace for our front-line staff, improved the general security of the agency, created a new locker room within the police department for our female staff, and almost doubled the size of the department exercise room. Once completed, it was discovered that due to budgeting and project bidding, there were leftover funds available to complete additional work on the second floor of the Department. This phase of the project is slated to begin in early 2024.



**Jason Melby**  
Assistant Chief



# ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW

Another significant project that began and flourished in 2023 was spearheaded by the Assistant Chief's office – Animal Control Services. At the end of 2022, the Department was in the process of taking over animal control functions from the Coulee Region Humane Society. This process was completed and launched in 2023. With addition of Ava Giminski as our new Animal Control Officer, the first full year was very successful. The Department acquired the needed equipment and completed additional training to effectively perform this function, ultimately resulting in a significant savings of taxpayer funds while providing a high level of service.

# ANNUAL APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET

|              | 2023                   | 2022                   | 2021                   |
|--------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Salaries     | \$7,968,757.00         | \$7,990,461.00         | \$7,652,982.00         |
| Overtime     | \$260,000.00           | \$260,000.00           | \$260,000.00           |
| Benefits     | \$3,282,468.00         | \$3,095,095.00         | \$2,945,297.00         |
| Operating    | \$839,603.00           | \$963,813.00           | \$786,821.00           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$12,350,828.00</b> | <b>\$12,309,369.00</b> | <b>\$11,645,100.00</b> |

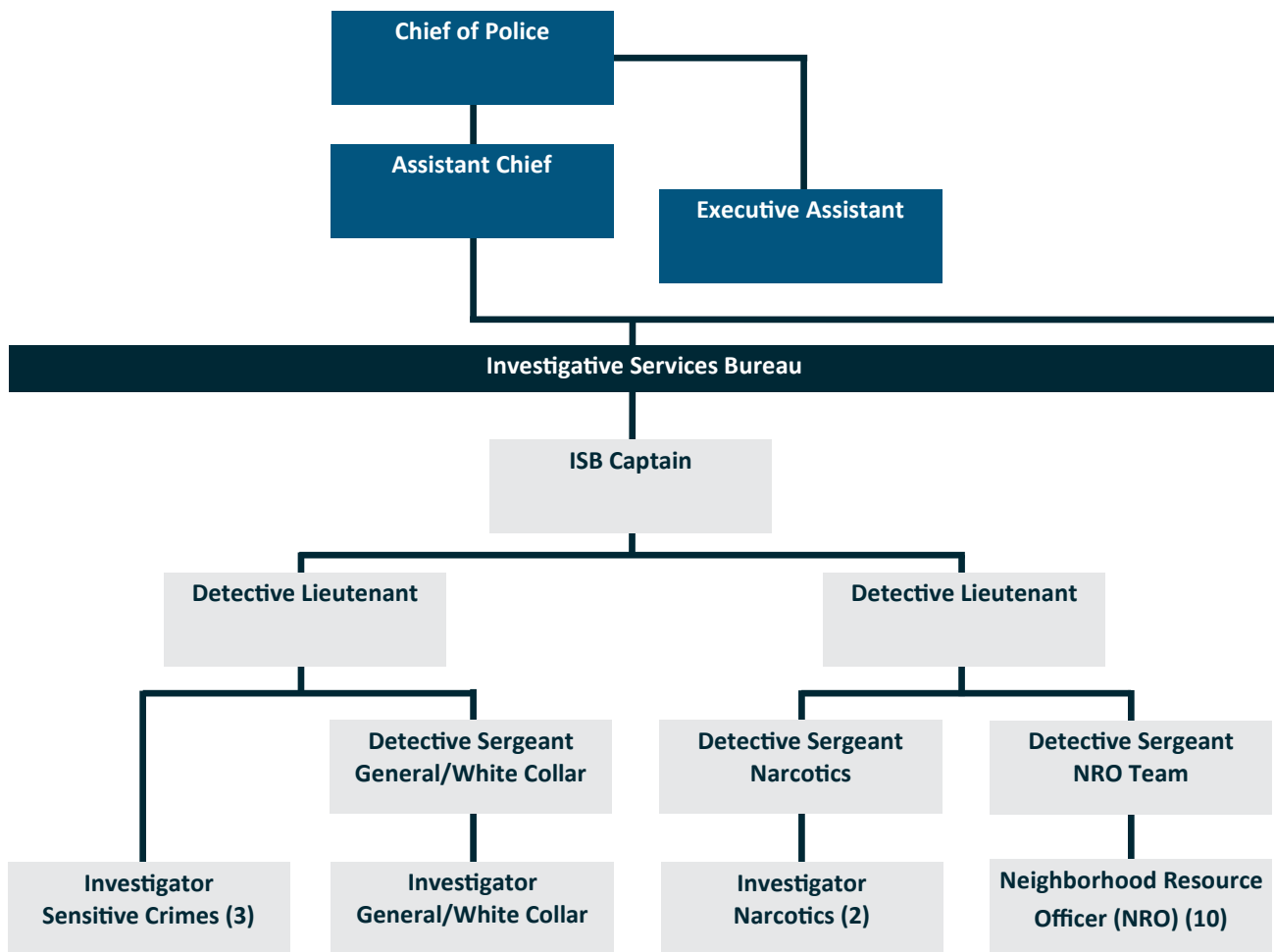


# 2023 OVERTIME USAGE

In 2023, the La Crosse Police Department used \$489,416.75 in overtime. Officers also earned overtime pay through grant funding or security services for private events.

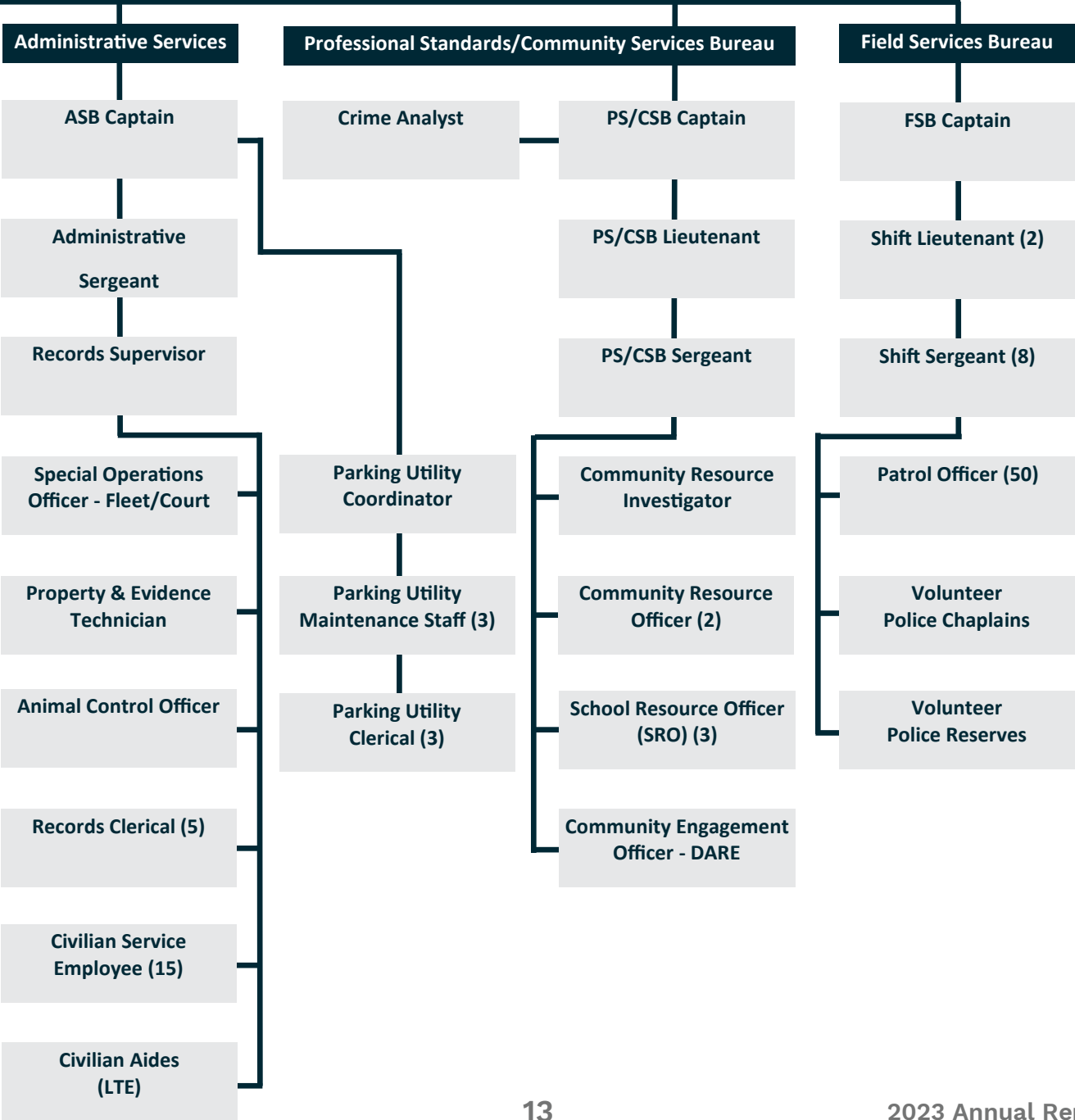
| Type of OT                 | Total \$            |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| OT @1.0                    | \$53.30             |
| Straight @1.0              | \$574.98            |
| SRO OT                     | \$1,146.55          |
| 24-hour Court Cancellation | \$1,744.95          |
| Training @1.0              | \$4,355.54          |
| Late Call @1.5             | \$4,576.97          |
| Parades/Festivals          | \$5,324.50          |
| ERT Call-out               | \$5,597.19          |
| Oktoberfest @1.5           | \$5,607.89          |
| Court Cancellation         | \$16,821.35         |
| Drug Investigations        | \$16,984.84         |
| Homicide Investigations    | \$20,600.08         |
| Meetings                   | \$21,311.80         |
| FTO Pay                    | \$22,390.76         |
| ERT Training               | \$24,800.77         |
| Court                      | \$24,827.69         |
| Staff Shortage             | \$29,133.43         |
| Oktoberfest @1.0           | \$29,982.68         |
| Training @1.5              | \$30,629.93         |
| Reports/Arrests            | \$37,660.34         |
| OT @1.5                    | \$52,542.55         |
| Canine Training            | \$56,285.78         |
| Oktoberfest @2.0           | \$76,462.88         |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>\$489,416.75</b> |

# 2023 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         |
| <b>Total Civilian—PD</b>        | <b>10</b> | Police Investigators   | 7          |
|                                 |           | Police Officers        | 69         |
|                                 |           | <b>Total Sworn</b>     | <b>100</b> |
| <b>Civilian—Parking Utility</b> |           | <b>Total Civilians</b> | <b>32</b>  |
| Parking Utility Coordinator     | 1         |                        |            |
| Parking Utility Maintenance     | 3         | <b>Total Staff</b>     | <b>132</b> |
| Community Service Officer       | 15        |                        |            |
| Clerical                        | 3         |                        |            |
| <b>Total Civilian—PU</b>        | <b>22</b> |                        |            |

# 2023 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





# PERSONNEL CHANGES

In 2023, the La Crosse Police Department experienced quite a bit of movement throughout the department, for both sworn and civilian employees.

| <b>Promotions and Appointments</b> |                           |                    |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Cody Wagner                        | Officer (previous CSO)    | January 30, 2023   |
| Garrett Withers                    | Officer (previous CSO)    | January 30, 2023   |
| Matthew Burnett                    | Officer (previous CSO)    | March 6, 2023      |
| <b>New Hires</b>                   |                           |                    |
| Ava Giminski                       | Animal Control Officer    | January 9, 2023    |
| Kaleb Peterson                     | Officer                   | January 30, 2023   |
| Nicholas Gardner                   | Officer                   | January 30, 2023   |
| Paul Schroeder                     | Community Service Officer | February 7, 2023   |
| Cassidy Bittle                     | Officer                   | March 6, 2023      |
| Nathan Wiste                       | Officer                   | March 6, 2023      |
| Hunter McClone                     | Officer                   | March 6, 2023      |
| Isabelle Dutton                    | Police Records Specialist | March 29, 2023     |
| Daniel Godding                     | Officer                   | May 24, 2023       |
| Max Grode                          | Officer                   | May 24, 2023       |
| Ryan Schumacher                    | Officer                   | May 24, 2023       |
| Isaiah Schlagel                    | Officer                   | May 30, 2023       |
| Beth Stone                         | Police Records Specialist | June 1, 2023       |
| Jack McDonough                     | Community Service Officer | July 5, 2023       |
| Brent Handtke                      | Community Service Officer | August 28, 2023    |
| Daniel Skifton                     | Officer                   | September 21, 2023 |

# ANNIVERSARIES



**Assistant Chief Jason Melby**  
30 Years of Service  
September 8, 2023



**Lieutenant Joe Smith**  
25 Years of Service  
November 16, 2023

# RETIREMENTS



**Officer Charles Frandsen**  
23+ Years of Service  
March 16, 2023

# AWARDS



**Officer Colt Lang** was presented with the 2023 95th Assembly District—First Responder of the Year Award by Representative Jill Billings for his persistence in taking illegal guns and criminals off the street.

**Investigator Andrew Rosenow** was recognized by the Coulee Region Child Abuse Prevention Task Force. The group presented Andy with the “Great Kids Start With You” award which acknowledges his hard work to prevent child abuse and neglect.



**NRO Nicholas Raddant** was recognized by the La Crosse County District Attorney’s Office as “Top Cop” for 2023. DA Tim Gruenke acknowledged that Nick goes above and beyond during investigations and holds offenders accountable.

**Officers Kevin Lozano and Colt Lang** were recognized by MADD for demonstrating outstanding impaired-driving enforcement, helping to fight drunk and drugged driving in the La Crosse community.





# AWARDS



On December 14, 2023, the Federal Security Director of Wisconsin, Mark Lendvay, recognized La Crosse Police Department members and La Crosse Regional Airport staff for their actions when an individual drove through a locked airport gate and attempted to hi-jack a private jet. Together, LCPD and airport staff quickly evacuated plane staff, disabled the plane from moving, and eventually arrested the suspect without injury. Their actions prevented further damage to property, maintained a safe environment, and possibly saved lives. The staff recognized were **Sergeant Grant Gyllander, Investigator Nathan Lewis, Officers Alex Vang, John LaBrec, Adam Lange, Ryan DeFlorian, and Airport Operations Coordinator Mitch Douglas.**

# SPECIAL RECOGNITION



On March 16, 2023, **Captain Daniel Kloss** graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. This internationally known, ten-week advanced law enforcement related program focuses on communication, fitness, and leadership. Participants must have proven records as top level professionals within their agencies. Cpt. Kloss's graduating class had 247 participants.



## IN MEMORY OF K-9 THOR

July 2023 brought a devastating loss to the La Crosse Police Department. Sadly, K-9 Thor succumbed to an untreatable tumor. Everyone at the department rallied behind Officer Dakota Jelinski in memory of K-9 Thor and showed their support by attending a memorial service organized by Sergeant Ethan Purkapile and the LCPD Honor Guard. With kind words spoken by many, including our Chaplain, Diana McGrath, we were able to show our love and respect for K-9 Thor as we said goodbye. As a testament to the quality policing that Officer Jelinski and K-9 Thor provided to our community, they received an Excellence Award from the United States Police Canine Association for their dedication to interdiction stops.

Thank you for your service, Thor.



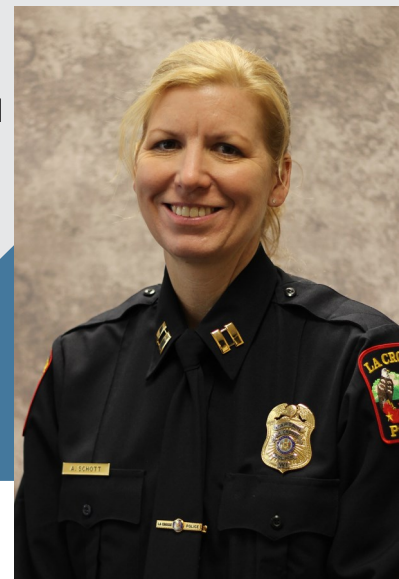
# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS / COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU

The primary responsibility of the Professional Standards / Community Services Bureau (PS/CSB) is public information and education, media relations, crime analytics, 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, the PS/CSB coordinates the internship program, Neighborhood Watch, National Night Out, La Crosse Area Crime Stoppers program, and the administration of the Police Department's grants. These grants are alternative sources of funds, which are vital in maintaining the level of police service being provided, despite diminishing budgets.

This is our fifth year having a Crime Analyst position. This position has proven to be an asset for the department and the community. The goal of this position is to assist the department by analyzing data for investigations, creating informational bulletins, crime mapping and providing weekly and monthly updates. In 2023, our Crime Analyst received training in Cellebrite, a program that assists with phone extractions and analyses. These are just a few of the projects the Crime Analyst provided in 2023.

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 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 28,397 followers, Twitter has 6,297 followers, and Instagram has 2,303 followers. They continue to grow each day. We can be found on each social media platform with the handle @lacrossepolice.

In 2023, the Bureau's focus on messaging to the community continued to be engagement, education, and how we can be stronger together. We also began to utilize our new branding on our social media sites. The Police Department's social media platforms are the best way to disseminate information to our large following. Regular updates on calls for services, weekly highlights on engagement and interactions with the community, along with general messaging on prevention were provided to the community.





# D.A.R.E. AND G.R.E.A.T. PROGRAMMING

The PS/CSB oversees in-school preventative programming for Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) and Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) for La Crosse elementary and middle schools. The 5th grade D.A.R.E. curriculum was taught by Officer Jovanna Nedland in 9 schools and reached over 384 students. The G.R.E.A.T. program was taught in both the 4th and 6th grades in La Crosse. In 2023, Officer Nedland also taught the 6th grade G.R.E.A.T. curriculum. These programs are self-funded, and through generous donations, these were able to be sustained. Along with curricula materials, t-shirts, books, pencils, and other items were able to be purchased for students.

Throughout the summer months, PS/CSB staff interacted with youth in the community through a variety of summer programs at the Y.M.C.A., City of La Crosse Parks and Recreation, The Good Fight Club, and P.L.A.Y. (Participating in the Lives of Area Youth) through the Boys and Girls Club. Another summer program staff have partnered with over the years is Camp Send-A-Kid. This is a highlight for many youth in the community. It gives youth an opportunity to experience camp life while participating in a variety of activities to include archery, canoeing, swimming, fishing, hiking, team building exercises, safety classes, and arts and crafts. In 2023, C.S.A.K. hosted 51 children at Camp Decorah.



A photograph of three men in suits standing outdoors in front of a large tree. The man on the left is wearing a grey suit and a patterned tie. The man in the middle is wearing a dark blue suit and a dark tie. The man on the right is wearing a light grey suit and a patterned tie. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a grassy area, a building, and a street with a car.

# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

The La Crosse Police Department School Resource Officer (SRO) program has been a 30-year partnership with our local schools. There are three SROs assigned to cover high school, middle school and elementary schools within the City of La Crosse. Our SROs also administer public safety and crime prevention lessons to 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. As 2024 begins, we continue to work closely with the School District to ensure the safety of our schools, staff, and student.





# COMMUNITY RESOURCE UNIT

In 2023, 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, and develop 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.

In 2023, the unit was awarded the “Connect and Protect Grant” and was able to expand the Co-Response Unit, adding an additional CRU Officer and Co-responder team which began riding together mid-year. With this expansion of two Co-Response units, it has allowed the hours of the Co-Response to expand to better serve the community.



# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

This past year marked the 40th year of La Crosse celebrating National Night Out (NNO). The La Crosse Community had 12 Neighborhood parties in 2023. Once again, one of the highlights was the kids' parade. One location included a band and lot of parties included kid-orientated games. Many department members were able to connect with community members throughout the city during the NNO event at the 12 different locations.

Traditionally, NNO involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations, and local officials from over 16,000 communities, from all 50 states, U.S. Territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide coming together to make communities safer and more caring places to live. 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 to let them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. NNO allows for 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 2024.





# K-9 THERAPY PROGRAM

The La Crosse Police Department continues to look for new and innovative programs and services to improve and serve the La Crosse Community, which includes our K-9 Therapy dog, Cheddar!

Cheddar joined the La Crosse Police Department from the generous donation of Blueberry Cottage Labradoodles located in Western Wisconsin. Cheddar's vet needs are graciously donated by Thompson Animal Medical Center and his training by Family Dog Center.

While Cheddar is assigned with School Resource Officer Ryan Ledvina and lives with him off-duty, the La Crosse Police Department's K-9 Therapy Program models a team approach. This concept has one handler for a "home base" but other identified department members are a part of the K-9 team being able to partner with Cheddar on a daily basis to make connections in the community.

Cheddar continues to provide security, companionship, happiness, and love to all those he contacts. He has been able to assist as an icebreaker, enabling people to feel more comfortable interacting with law enforcement. He has met many students, community members and made "Cheddar Visits" to area organizations as well. He is well known on social media for his "Check in with Cheddar" (#CheckinwithCheddar) posts. Being able to provide a K-9 Therapy program to our community provides another layer of support and service.



# 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. We are committed to consistent enforcement, community policing, problem solving, restorative justice and continuing to build partnerships with our community.

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

The Bureau operates with a day shift (6AM-6PM) and a night shift (6PM-6AM). 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.

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



**Andrew Dittman**  
Captain





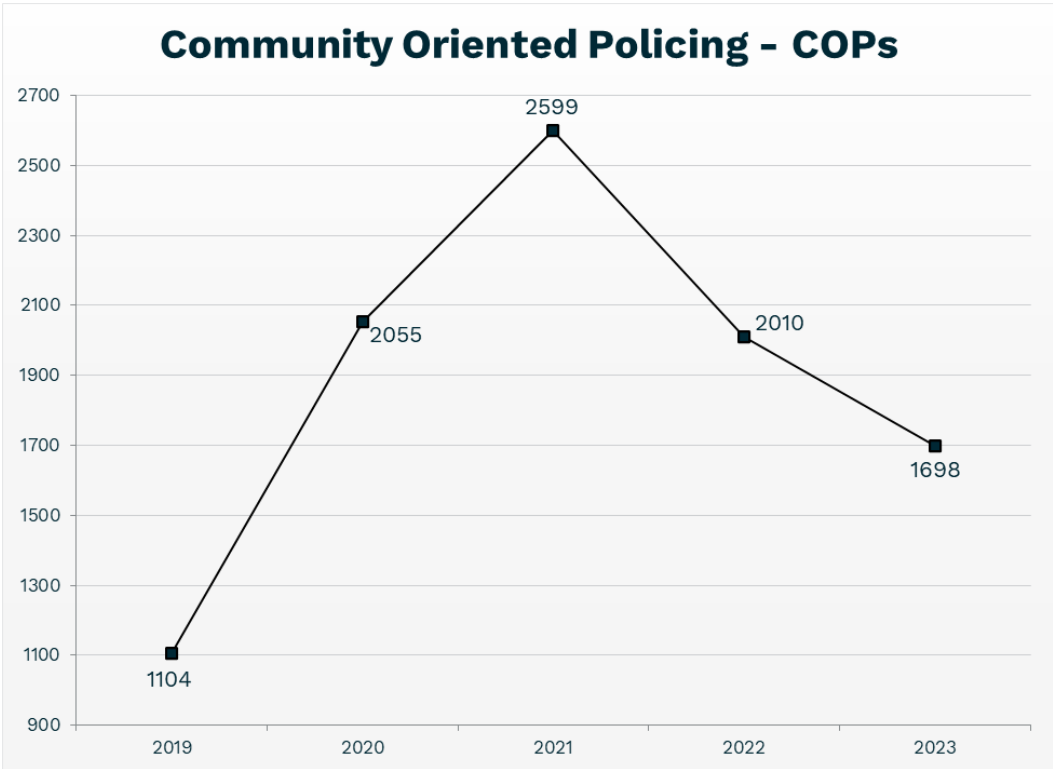
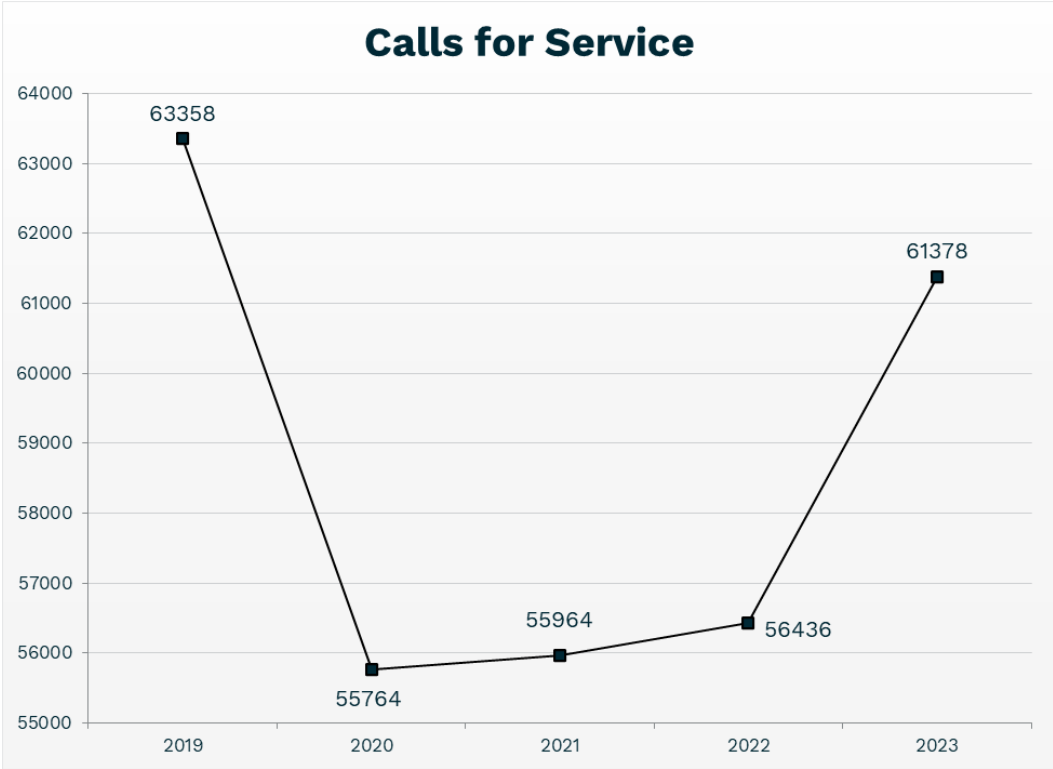
## FIELD SERVICES BUREAU

Further, the Field Services Bureau is comprised of specialty groups such as ERT (Emergency Response Team), Water Patrol, Bike Patrol, and the K-9 Unit. Officers also work within their assigned sector to form relationships with community organizations and formal neighborhood groups. Internally, these specialty groups provide ample opportunities for continued career growth and a diverse work life for all LCPD Officers.

In 2023, Officers responded to a wide variety of calls for service. Officers in the Field Services Bureau supported citizens as they participated in several large community celebrations throughout the year.

Throughout 2023, members of the Field Services Bureau responded to 61,378 calls for service, issued 4,696 traffic citations, and investigated 1,831 reportable traffic crashes. In addition, Officers issued 2,708 municipal ordinance citations and 5,917 warnings.

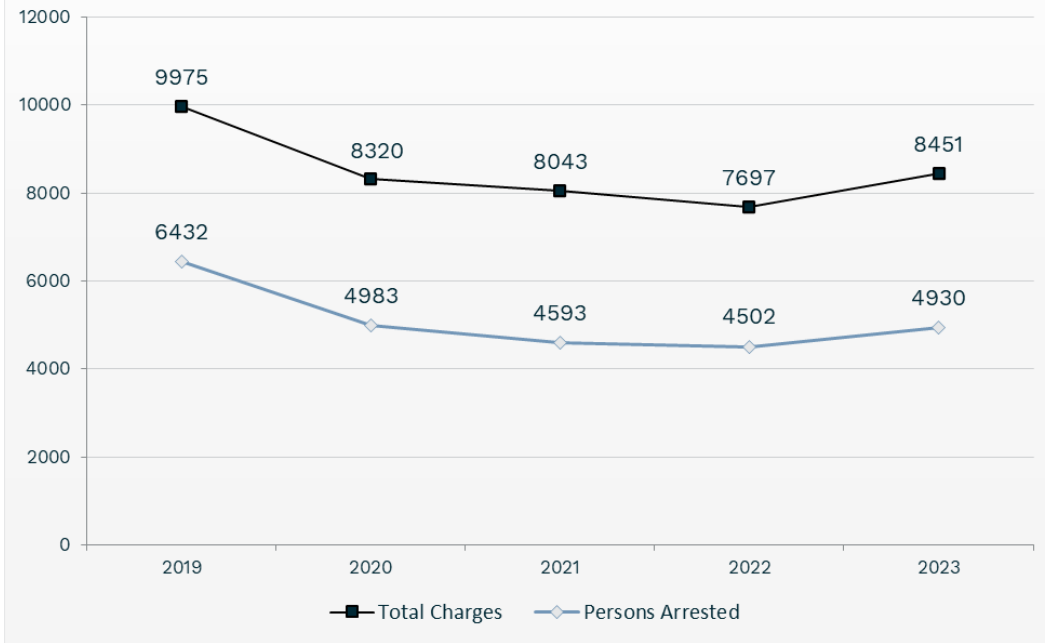
# FIELD SERVICES STATS



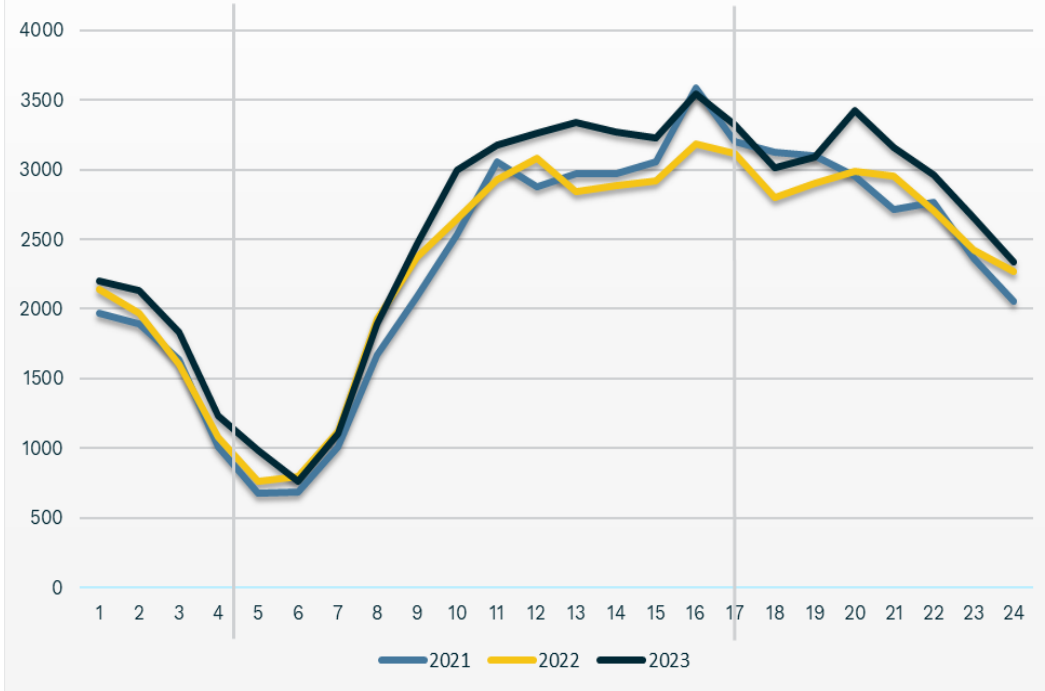


# FIELD SERVICES STATS

## Persons Arrested and Total Charges Adult & Juvenile

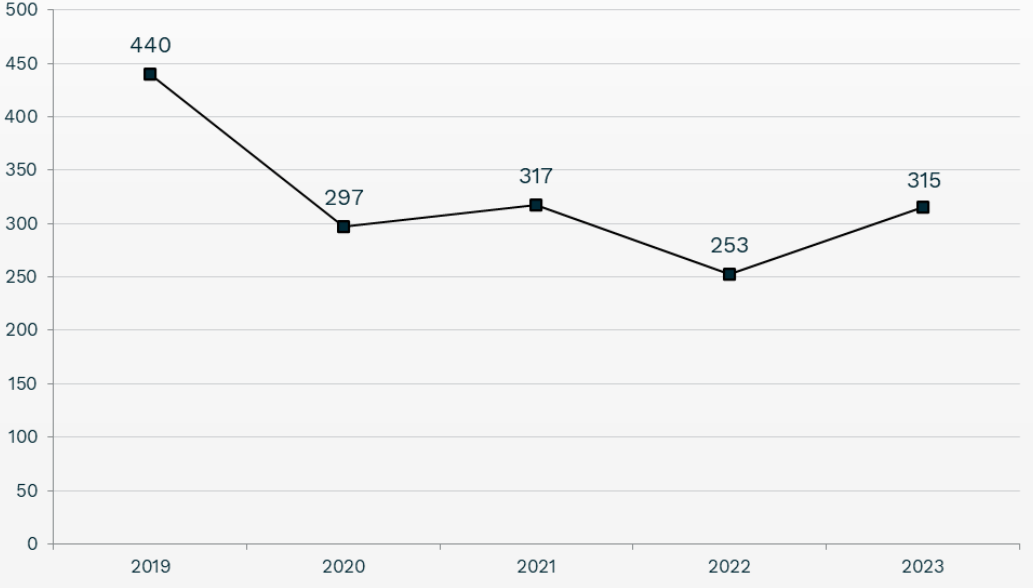


## Call Trends by Hour of the Day

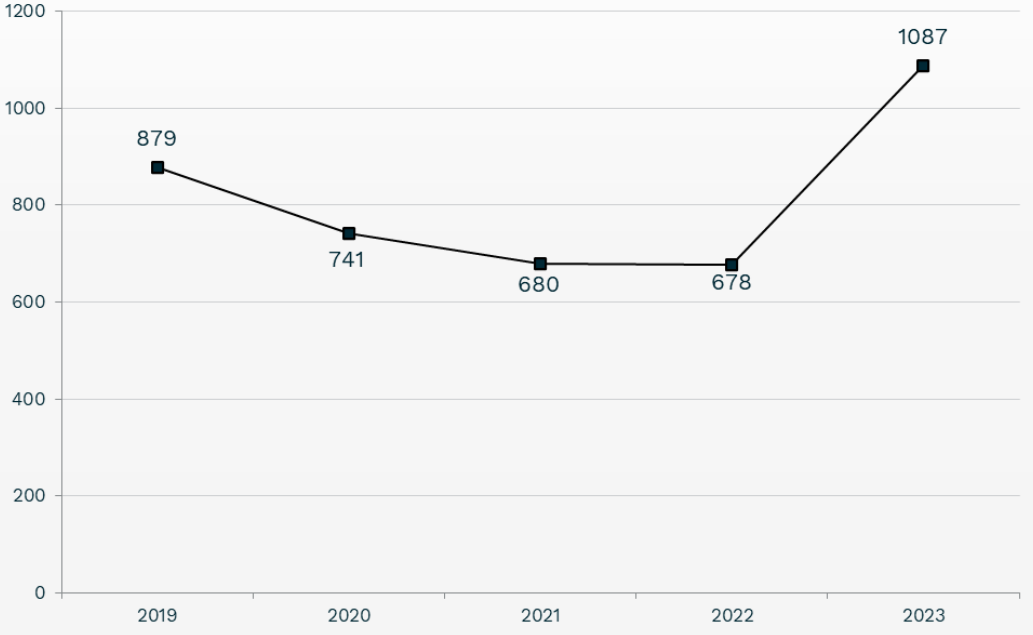


# CRIME STATS

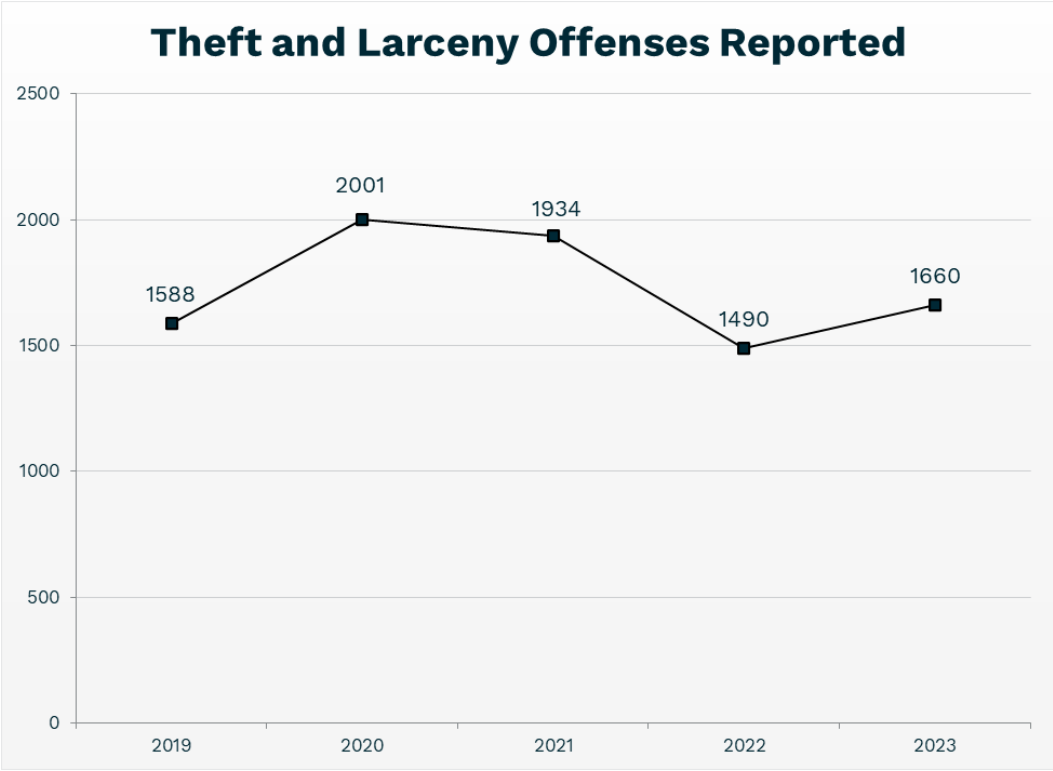
## Driving Under the Influence Arrest Charges Adult & Juvenile



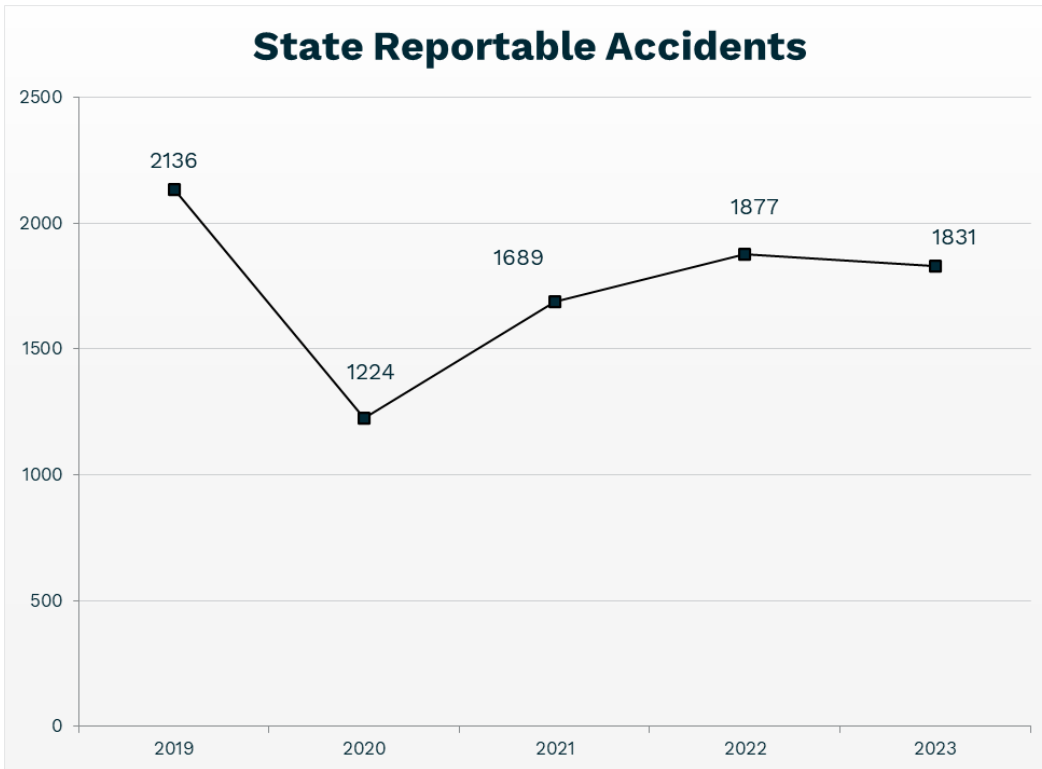
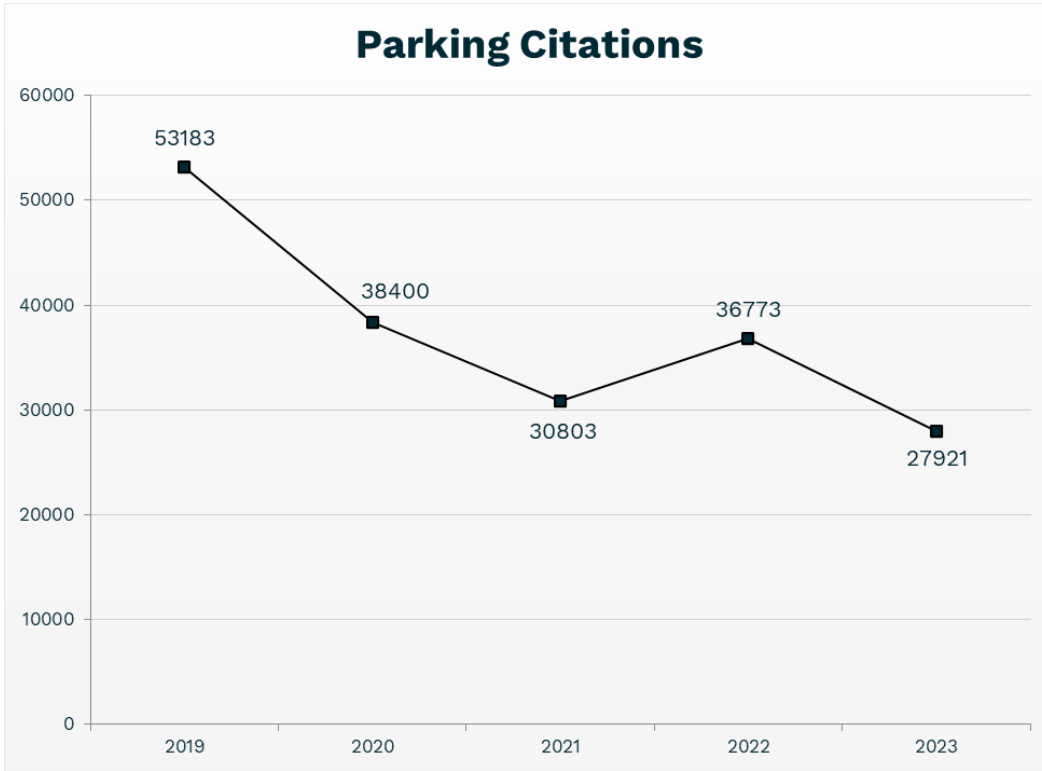
## Drug/Narcotic Violation Arrest Charges Adult & Juvenile



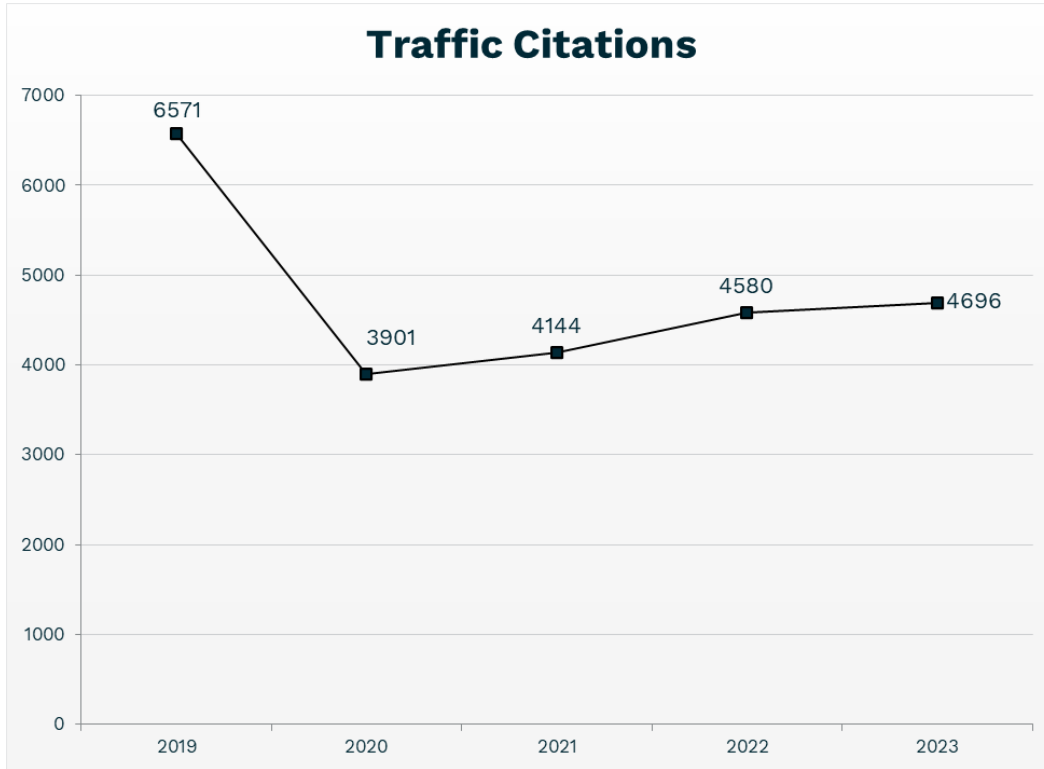
# CRIME STATS



# TRAFFIC STATS



# TRAFFIC STATS



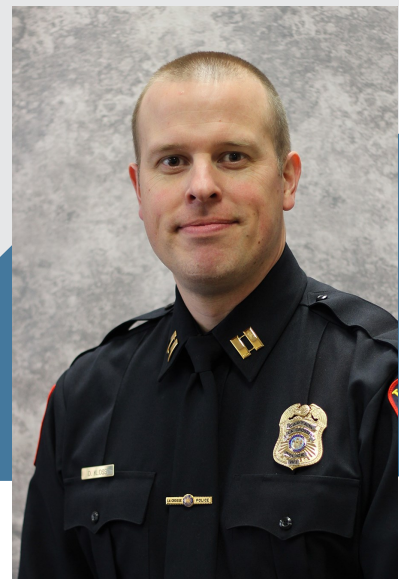


# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

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

Records staff members spend much of their time focusing on data entry to assist department sworn personnel, as well as ensuring compliance when reporting to the State and Federal governments. Honoring the public needs with open record requests and parking concerns take up a large portion of their day as well. On a daily basis our community 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.



**Daniel Kloss**  
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 the WebRMS database program.

With a complete remodel of the entire 1st floor and additional Police Department square footage added to the 3rd floor of City Hall, we were able to implement a hybrid work environment for most records staff. This hybrid opportunity enables 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. The Division welcomed several new members which brought about a great new energy amongst the group.

In 2023, 61,378 calls for service were handled by the La Crosse Police Department; of those calls for service, 37,919 police files were generated and processed by our data entry team. The records bureau processed 1,947 vehicle crash reports, including 1,831 that were reportable to the State of Wisconsin. Further, the records bureau processed 13,335 citations in 2023, which includes 5,917 Warnings, 2,708 Ordinance Citations, 4,696 Traffic citations, and 14 non-traffic citations. Civilian Service Officers issued 27,921 parking tickets in 2023.

During 2023, the Records Bureau honored 6,486 open records requests, which included 1,243 vehicle accident report requests. The records bureau also processed 811 bartender/taxi licenses for 2023. In addition, the La Crosse Police Department Property & Evidence Section logged in 5,177 pieces of found property, safekeeping and/or evidence in 2023. Approximately 8,250 items were either disposed of or released. Two City auctions were also held, one in the Spring and one in the Fall.

# 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 16,841 hours of training among all its employees in 2023. The Training Division focused on diversity (113 hrs), Officer wellness (415 hrs), mental health and crisis training (430 hrs), and supervisory/management training (632 hrs).

In 2023, Officers focused on a variety of areas to improve our level of service to the community. Several Officers were trained to be instructors in ABLE (Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement). The primary goal of ABLE is to prevent harm to officers, citizens, and the community. This training program was developed by Georgetown University and was based upon New Orleans Police Department's "Ethical Policing is Courageous" (EPIC) peer intervention program. Moreover, this program was launched in 2021 by Georgetown's "Innovative Policing Program." 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. This training will be provided to all Officers in 2024 and will be refreshed every year after. In addition, all new Officers will be trained in ABLE moving forward. Last, we are only the third department in the State of Wisconsin to commit to the ABLE standards.

In addition, the Department hired 13 new Officers in 2023. 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 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.

It was a busy year within the Utility. The Board of Public Works approved a Fee Structure change in four Downtown parking ramps. Monday through Friday from 6am-6pm, parking fees were set to \$1 per hour, retaining a \$8 daily max. Weeknights as well as weekends continued to be free of charge. The rates went into effect April 3, 2023. This simple, across the board fee structure has made the processes of parking and enforcement easier.

On May 17, the Police Department held the 24th Annual Awards Ceremony at Black River Beach Neighborhood Center. Thomas Schran, our Building Maintenance Engineer, was awarded the Employee Award of Excellence for his actions saving the life of an unresponsive man in the ramp stairwell on January 31, 2023. This award highlights Tom's persistent concern for everyone's well being that he encounters on duty.

Several environmental changes were completed throughout the ramps to promote increased customer usage and satisfaction. The entire South stairwell of the Market Square ramp was completely degreased and resurfaced with a high durability epoxy and the walls were painted with a similar product. This has made cleaning much easier and more efficient. A large majority of public access doors were removed from the ramps as well as steel fabricated enclosures installed in "void" areas to prevent the blocking of egress and ingress. All these changes have increased air flow and ultimately have made our ramps safer to use for the public.



**Joseph Pederson**  
Parking Utility Coordinator



# POLICE PARKING UTILITY

In early 2023, the Riverside Ramp was officially live with 36 security cameras added to the City's network. By the end of 2023 we completed setting up infrastructure in the entire La Crosse Center Ramp for around 40 new cameras to be installed in 2024. This will be the third downtown parking ramp to be fully outfitted with security cameras. Security and safety continue to be a high priority with hopes of adding cameras to the Main Street Ramp and Pine Street Ramp in the future.

In August, the City's Common Council approved the ownership transfer of the Riverside Parking Ramp to the City of La Crosse. On November 1, the ramp joined the fee structure of the other 4 ramps. Six new pay station kiosks were installed; updated and new signage displaying directions for ramp usage were hung; and our mobile App vendor, ParkMobile, is available in the ramp as well for quick and simple parking sessions from a smartphone. Monthly and quarterly permits are available for purchase. Overall, there are close to 1300 permit holders in the Downtown District.

The Parking Utility continues to explore improvements into the new year. With collaboration of other Departments we hope to add potential plans for EV Charging Stations and new and improved storage lockers for bicycles.



# POLICE PARKING UTILITY STATS

## Payment Transactions for Parking

- Pay Stations: 54,315
- ParkMobile App: 72,478

## License Plate Recognition (LPR) Technology

- Total of six (6) LPR enforcement vehicles
- 4,531,553 license plates read

## T2 Ticketing and Permitting Software

- 1,235 parking ramp permits issued
- 468 residential permits issued
- 27,921 parking citations issued





# INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The Investigative Services Bureau is primarily responsible for all criminal cases within the City of La Crosse. The Investigative Services Bureau has a staff of 22 members, divided into 4 areas of expertise: White Collar and General Investigations; Narcotics and VICE Investigations; Sensitive Crimes which includes domestic violence, juveniles, sex crimes, and elderly victim incidents; and the Neighborhood Resource Officer Unit.

Staff in the Investigative Services Bureau receive a significant amount of general investigative training as well as training specific to their assignments allowing staff to handle any case that comes their way. ISB works together as a team on significant cases allowing each person to bring their own specialties to the table whether that is advanced interviews, evidence processing, or digital evidence collection to name a few. Great investigations start with a great response from our Patrol Officers in the Field Services Bureau. We continue to see a high-quality initial response from patrol that contributes to the success of our follow-up investigations.

In 2023, Investigative Staff were able to attend some specialized trainings including Death Investigation School, Child Death Investigations, Child Abduction Response Team training, State Wide Child Maltreatment Conference, as well as many webinars and in-house trainings to increase their knowledge in a variety of areas. Our Department also hosted a training on arson and opioid death related investigations for most of our Investigators and neighboring agency Investigators.

The Investigative Services Bureau not only completes case follow-up, but staff also develop their own investigations through partnering with other agencies. Members are involved in a number of different organizations including Coordinated Community Response Team, Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce, Stepping Stones Child Advocacy Center, The Parenting Place Family Advocacy Center, La Crosse County Drug Endangered Children's Taskforce, La Crosse County Drug Court, Violence Against Women Association, New Horizons Shelter, and Wisconsin Narcotics Officers Association.



**Phillip Martin**  
Captain



# INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

ISB frequently partners with other local, state and federal agencies in significant cases and has seen great success in doing so. For many violent cases or cases involving firearms, significant amounts of drugs, or crimes against children, ISB staff works with our federal partners to assist. When suspects flee this jurisdiction, staff can get assistance to track down subjects anywhere in the United States. We have worked significantly with our federal prosecutors, and due to our partnership with them, our agency is one of the leaders in the number of cases federally prosecuted in Wisconsin's Western District.

Detective Sergeant Tom Hansen attended the Violent Crime Reduction Summit in December in Indianapolis. Our agency has developed a great working relationship with the US Attorney's Office and was one of three agencies in Wisconsin to be invited to this conference. We have received significant funding from Project Safe Neighborhood Grants over the last few years to help us directly address gun-related crimes in our community which has led to federal convictions. This conference invite was due to the great work LCPD has been doing on firearms investigations.

While ISB's main duty is the investigation of crimes, staff spends time in the community at different events, educating the public on crime trends and discussing ways to prevent crimes from happening. Numerous presentations from our drug investigators have been presented for high schools and college students and staff. We also present on scams targeting our senior citizens, domestic abuse, and child abuse to name a few. The Investigative Bureau is committed to lead, partner and protect, and has found great success in working with the community to keep and maintain safety for all in the City of La Crosse.

# INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU - MAJOR CASES

The Investigative Service Bureau investigated a number of major incidents throughout 2023.

## **Fugitive Taken into Custody:**

On February 16, 2023, Agents from the US Marshals Service and ATF received assistance from several local agencies to apprehend a wanted fugitive. The fugitive's vehicle was located in a parking area behind 801 Cass Street. Once it was confirmed he was in the area and walking towards the vehicle, Federal Agents approached, blocking all exits for vehicle escape. He attempted to crash his way through the agents' vehicles striking two vehicles, a dumpster, and a building. He was taken into custody without injury to any Officer and was immediately transported to Dane County Jail to be arraigned on existing federal charges. Two firearms were located in the vehicle which he is prohibited from possessing. The subject was convicted in federal court for gun crimes and sentenced to seven years in prison.

## **Large Scale Drug Arrest:**

On June 13, 2023, the Narcotics Office, in conjunction with numerous neighboring agencies, arrested two suspects for dealing drugs. During the search warrants 2,481 grams of methamphetamine and 31 grams of fentanyl were located. Both suspects were significant drug dealers in the area and were federally indicted.

## **Child Homicide:**

June 14, 2023, numerous members of our Department responded to the death of a four-year-old. It was immediately recognized to be suspicious in nature. The Wisconsin Crime Scene Response Unit, as well as State Patrol, responded to help with scene reconstruction and processing the crime scene. This proved to be incredibly beneficial being able to identify blood evidence immediately. Officers on scene did a great job of separating people and getting initial statements. These initial statements were very beneficial in helping us develop a suspect and providing us with provable lies that later led to the arrest of a sixteen-year-old. This was a tragic event, but the response from our staff and their hard work on this incident led to the arrest of the suspect within a few days.

# INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU - MAJOR CASES

## **Downtown Shooting**

On June 17, 2023, shift responded to a drive-by shooting downtown where numerous victims were injured. Shift was on scene immediately and did a great job securing the scene and tending to victims' injuries. The investigation moved quickly, and the suspect was identified and taken into custody. Our downtown cameras and license plate readers played a significant role in providing timely information in this case. Our department was also able to utilize a drone to assist in locating evidence in this case. Many of the cameras and LPRs our department utilizes are from Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) grants in the recent years.

## **Body in the Marsh**

On July 29, 2023, Officers responded to a deceased call off the Bud Hendrickson trail. The deceased person was eventually identified as Julia Hedum, and it was believed her body was disposed of at this location after she died elsewhere. A person of interest was identified. Investigators were able to take him into custody for unrelated charges including being a felon in possession of a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking, after he fled on a motorized scooter. He was federally indicted for gun and drug crimes. Investigator Mancuso continues to investigate the death and disposal of Julia Hedum and is working with our District Attorney's office to bring additional charges against the suspect.

## **Airport Incident**

On November 11, 2023, dispatch received a trouble with party call which quickly morphed into a suspicious person boarding a private jet at Colgan Air. The suspect was able to get on the tarmac and board the plane after he drove his pickup truck through an airport gate. Officers responded quickly, secured the area and utilized the Bearcat to block the plane from being able to leave. Quick thinking and action by responding LCPD staff allowed for a safe conclusion of this event and the suspect was taken into custody. La Crosse FBI agents and La Crosse Police investigators responded, and the investigation is still ongoing.

## **Homicide at Stokke Tower**

On December 5, 2023, Officers and Investigators responded to Stokke Tower for a deceased call. The suspect had stabbed the victim multiple times in an apartment. The suspect was on scene and contact was made with him. He was taken into custody and the investigation continued. State Patrol responded for 3D imaging of the apartment. Significant follow up was completed by the Investigative Bureau and the suspect was charged with 1st Degree Intentional Homicide.





# NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE OFFICER UNIT

The NRO unit stayed active throughout the year focusing on training and development, community engagement, and mitigating calls for service. One main challenge the NROs approached this year was the unsheltered population. The NROs focused on breaking down barriers and improving communication with our unsheltered community members. They routinely walked through different encampments providing welfare checks, addressing concerns, and providing resources to assist our unsheltered community members. They also assisted the La Crosse Parks Department on several occasions, cleaning up different parks throughout the city and helping to move our unsheltered community members to safer locations.

The NRO Unit was also able to focus on community members concerns regarding crime and crime prevention. Members of the NRO Unit put in place several extra-attention requests, met with community members, and assisted members of the Investigative Bureau to address concerns of community members.

In addition to crime mitigation, the NRO Unit was able to attend a wide variety of community-based events throughout the year. These events provide an opportunity for our staff to interact positively and show our support for members of the community. These events included the following:

- Erickson Blue Crew event
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman’s Day of Awareness- 5k
- Mathy South Blue Crew event
- Salvation Army “Party in the Park”
- Cop on a Rooftop
- Torch Run for Special Olympics
- Staff training at Dick’s Sporting Goods
- Touch a Truck
- Sara Hougom Loggers Night at Logger Field
- Steppin’ Out in Pink
- Cooking with a Cop
- BGC Summer Showdown
- BGC Bike Safety Classes
- BGC Emergency Response Day (Sara Hougom Life Skills)
- BGC Woodworking (Sara Hougom Life Skills)
- Kicking Bear
- Stilettos on Steel
- JC Penny back to school event
- Cops and Bobbers (Sara Hougom Life Skills)
- JF Brennen- Family Appreciation Day
- Custom Select Solutions employee appreciation day
- Day at the Lake with Sherry Hougom
- Viterbo Move in Day
- Viterbo Welcome Back Day
- WTC Block Party
- UWL Eagle Fest
- Kiwanis- Bike Patrol Presentation
- Festival of Life
- Trunk-of-Treat
- Salvation Army Bell Ringing/Golden Kettle
- Salvation Army- Angel Giving Tree
- BGC Cookie Decorating

In addition to participating in these important community events, the NROs were able to complete all required yearly training, have members attend the NTOA Mid-Winter conference, WACOP, Bike Patrol Training, and CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) training. The NRO Unit was also able to complete its goal of getting all members CPTED certified. Additional training included sending Officer Aaron Westpfahl to a K-9 Legal Update and having Officer Nick Raddant attend TTI Training which was aimed at improving our partnership with Viterbo University.



# SPECIAL TEAMS

## K-9 Unit

The La Crosse Police Department K-9 Unit currently has six canine teams assigned between patrol, the Neighborhood Resource Officer Unit, and the Community Services/Professional Standards Bureau, giving the department a wide range and variety of canine coverage. The Unit stayed busy throughout the year with their regular patrol duties and by assisting some of our law enforcement partners, including completing a school sniff in West Salem and performing several K-9 sniffs at Ophelia's House at their request. Some notable moments for the year were when Officer Dan Ulrich and K-9 Bill assisted in locating a firearm on top of a building during an attempted homicide investigation. Also, K-9 Handler Officer Kevin Lozano was recognized by M.A.D.D. with the 2023 M.A.D.D. Award for his excellence in interdiction stops and OWI enforcement.

Besides the required patrol duties and training for the K-9 Unit, 2023 provided several opportunities for community related engagement and events. Members of the K-9 Unit participated in Ashley for the Arts, Camp Send-A-Kid, and a family day at Select Custom Solutions, just to name a few. The K-9 Unit also hosted it's annual Putt'n 4 Pooches golf tournament at Fox Hollow Golf Course, which had a full showing. This year, members of the K-9 Unit focused on community engagement at the event with the sole objective of strengthening our relationship with the members of the community who give us so much support. The event went very well and generated a big crowd at Brother's Bar and Grill for the after party and raffle prizes. Between the golf tournament and sales from our stuffed canines, the K-9 Unit is meeting our expectations for fundraising, which will help to secure the future of the program.





The success that our K-9 Unit has had does not come without a dedication to training and improving. Our K-9 unit members have official training twice a month, however many train daily. This training also allows our K-9 Unit members to excel at their required yearly certifications. In April, our multi-purpose K-9 members traveled to Rice Lake, WI where they completed their yearly Narcotic Detector certifications. Our multi-purpose K-9 members then traveled to Stillwater, MN in June and completed their Patrol Dog 1 certifications. Officer Ulrich and K-9 Bill completed their certifications for ATF/NORT in May and their USPCA certifications in the fall of 2023. All our department's K-9 teams continue to perform at a high level and earn high scores at their certification processes.

After the passing of K-9 Thor, the Department received an unexpected gift from McDonough K-9, who wanted to show their support by gifting the department a new canine. Officer Dakota Jelinski was once again selected to be a department representative of the K-9 unit, and in August, he traveled to Anoka, MN and met his new canine partner, Maverick. Officer Jelinski and K-9 Maverick quickly bonded and excelled in their training, earning Officer Jelinski the spot of class president for their training class. On November 30th, Officer Jelinski and K-9 Maverick successfully completed the required NCPA trials and began their patrol duties with the department shortly after.

The continued dedication to training that our canine teams display allows them to maintain their professionalism and to continue to be successful in their mission to serve our community. The La Crosse Police Department K-9 Unit would like to thank the community for their continued support of 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 full-time roles throughout the agency. The team is comprised of a team commander, assistant commander, two team leaders, twelve tactical operators, five Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) members of the La Crosse Fire Department, and six negotiators. The team responds to hostage and barricaded persons, high-risk calls, large-scale disturbances, natural / man-made disasters, and dignitary protection.

The Emergency Response Team trains in a variety of venues throughout the city to prepare for potential incidents to maintain a high level of proficiency in new or unknown environments. In addition, trainings regularly include partner agencies that may be involved in large scale or critical incident response, including the La Crosse County Sheriff's Office and UWL Police Department, as well as several security and support staff throughout the city.

Our focus on implementing Incident Command Structure and effective, timely response helps integrate resources including Fire and Ambulance in an efficient manner to preserve life and increase 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 is prepared to provide the highest level of safety and service to the community.

## **Water Patrol Unit**

The Water Patrol unit consists of 15 sworn Officers that are specially trained in water patrol operations which includes navigation and equipment laws, boating under the influence enforcement, boat crash investigations, and search and rescue operations. They patrol over 19 miles of waterways within the City of La Crosse. The Water Patrol Unit is funded largely by a grant which is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The grant reimburses the La Crosse Police Department for expenses related to the operation of the Unit.

In 2023, the La Crosse Police Water Patrol Unit had another successful year. During the boating season, the Water Patrol Unit worked 125 hours on the water, handled 35 boating complaints, and issued 38 boating citations and written warnings. Citations were issued for equipment and registration violations, and violations of waterway navigation rules. Unit members worked with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and other local water patrol units to increase enforcement during National Safe Boating Week.

This spring, Officer Andrew Jarrett successfully completed a comprehensive boat crash investigation course which covered topics including investigative procedures; crash dynamics, damage, and evidence assessment; navigational light examination; collision analysis and diagramming; vessel stability concepts and issues; electrical system analysis; fires and explosions; electrical shock drowning (ESD); and carbon Monoxide Incidents.

The Department currently has five Water Patrol members that trained as boat crash investigators. If you see us on the water or have a question, stop and hi. We would love to hear from you. Stay safe, have fun, and enjoy this great resource that we have.





## **Bicycle Patrol Unit**

The La Crosse Police Department bicycle unit has 8 bicycles, 2 ebikes, and 33 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.

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 Officers.

The Bicycle Unit maintains a strong relationship with our business community as well. In 2023 Bike Patrol operator, Officer Trent Bowe, worked with 95.7 The Rock and Z-Cares to secure two fully equipped eBikes! These bikes will make it easier for our Bike Patrol units to assist during parades or festivals and allow them to patrol throughout the city, including the bike paths. We appreciate their generosity and continued partnership!



## 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 2023, the team returned to conducting quarterly trainings. The context of the training material included: preparation for Police Week, changes in how the team posts colors, the creation of a K-9 death policy, and a range day in Honor Guard uniform. Additionally, in August, three Honor Guard members attended the State Patrol Basic Honor Guard course.

Honor Guard participated in five events, three of which were officer line of duty death funerals. In February, team members attended Milwaukee Police Officer Peter Jerving's funeral. In April, Honor Guard posted the colors for the AFLCIO memorial ceremony for workers that have died while working in La Crosse County. Also in April, the team honored the passing of Chetek Police Officer Emily Breidenbach and Cameron Police Officer Hunter Scheel by participating in the joint funeral color guard detail. In May, team members participated in the La Crosse County Police Week ceremony hosted by the Holmen Police Department. The team conducted the rifle volley. Two Honor Guard members attended St. Croix Deputy Katie Leising's funeral. Also, in May, members commenced the LCPD Police Week Awards/Recognition Banquet by presenting the colors for the event. July brought the passing of LCPD K-9 Thor. This was the first time an active duty LCPD K9 has passed away. K-9 Thor and his handler, Officer Dakota Jelinski, were honored in a department-wide memorial service hosted by Honor Guard.





The La Crosse Police Reserve Unit had a very successful 2023. The Reserve Unit was very active, and members had the opportunity to be involved in training, scenarios with ERT and Crisis Intervention Training, ride-alongs, and various community events. The unit started new on-boarding procedures that involves a more in-depth background process.

In 2023, the Reserve Unit assisted with 44 events that consisted of 61 different shifts, often staffed with 2-3 members. Rotary Lights at Riverside Park was the largest event and had a total of 17 shifts that were staffed by Reserve Unit members. The primary role of the Reserves during the event was traffic control. There were very few issues involving traffic surrounding the event which speaks to the professionalism and effectiveness of the unit.

Over the last year, the department hired three Officers who previously served as Reserves. The development of the Officers from the Reserve level to Officer level is consistent with the Four Essential Pillars of our department Strategic Plan and exhibits the success of the program as an effective recruitment tool.

Currently, the Reserve Unit has eight members. We have seven members going through our interview process and are excited to hopefully have all seven join our team. We would like to continue to expand the unit, with the goal to have 24 members by the end of 2024. We are looking forward to a year of growth, training, and community engagement.



# POLICE EXPLORER POST

As part of the nation-wide Exploring Program, our Police Explorer Post provides La Crosse area high school students with the opportunity for hands-on career exploration and real-life experience in the law enforcement field. Police Explorers attend bi-weekly meetings and gain practical experience in patrol procedures, First Aid, Defense and Arrest Tactics, report writing, crime prevention techniques, crime scene investigation and much more. Ending the 2022-2023 school year, we had an average daily attendance of 8 students. So far for the 2023-2024 school year, we are averaging 16 students.

Explorer Post #3201 is led by advisor Officer Jovanna Nedland who is assisted by Lieutenant Jon Wenger, Sergeant Cody Plenge, Investigator Andy Rosenow, Officer Arick Siegmann, Officer Tanner Oleson, Officer Chad Maske, 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.

The La Crosse Area Law Enforcement Chaplaincy serves the La Crosse and Onalaska Police Departments and the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department. Each Department has appointed a Chaplain Liaison Officer to serve as an interface between the Department and the Chaplain Team. Through mutual aid agreements, the Chaplains also serve all Law Enforcement agencies in La Crosse County as well as the Medical Examiner's Office. La Crosse Area Law Enforcement Chaplains also serve members of the Wisconsin State Patrol, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Wisconsin Department of Justice Chaplaincy Programs.

The year 2023 was a busy year for the Chaplaincy. The team of 11 active and 9 reserve Chaplains provided on-call coverage 24 hours each day, 7 days each week, all 52 weeks of the year. They provided 8,760 hours of coverage, responded to 21 calls, attended 10 debriefings, went on 33 ride-alongs, trained 161.75 hours, and utilized 1,750 hours of administrative support. They also provided non-emergency services such as officiating for funeral services, providing counseling, serving during Law Enforcement Memorial Week, serving during Oktoberfest, hosting the 22nd Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Picnic, and attending ceremonies for promotions, new officer swearing-in, and retirements.

# WILEAG ACCREDITATION

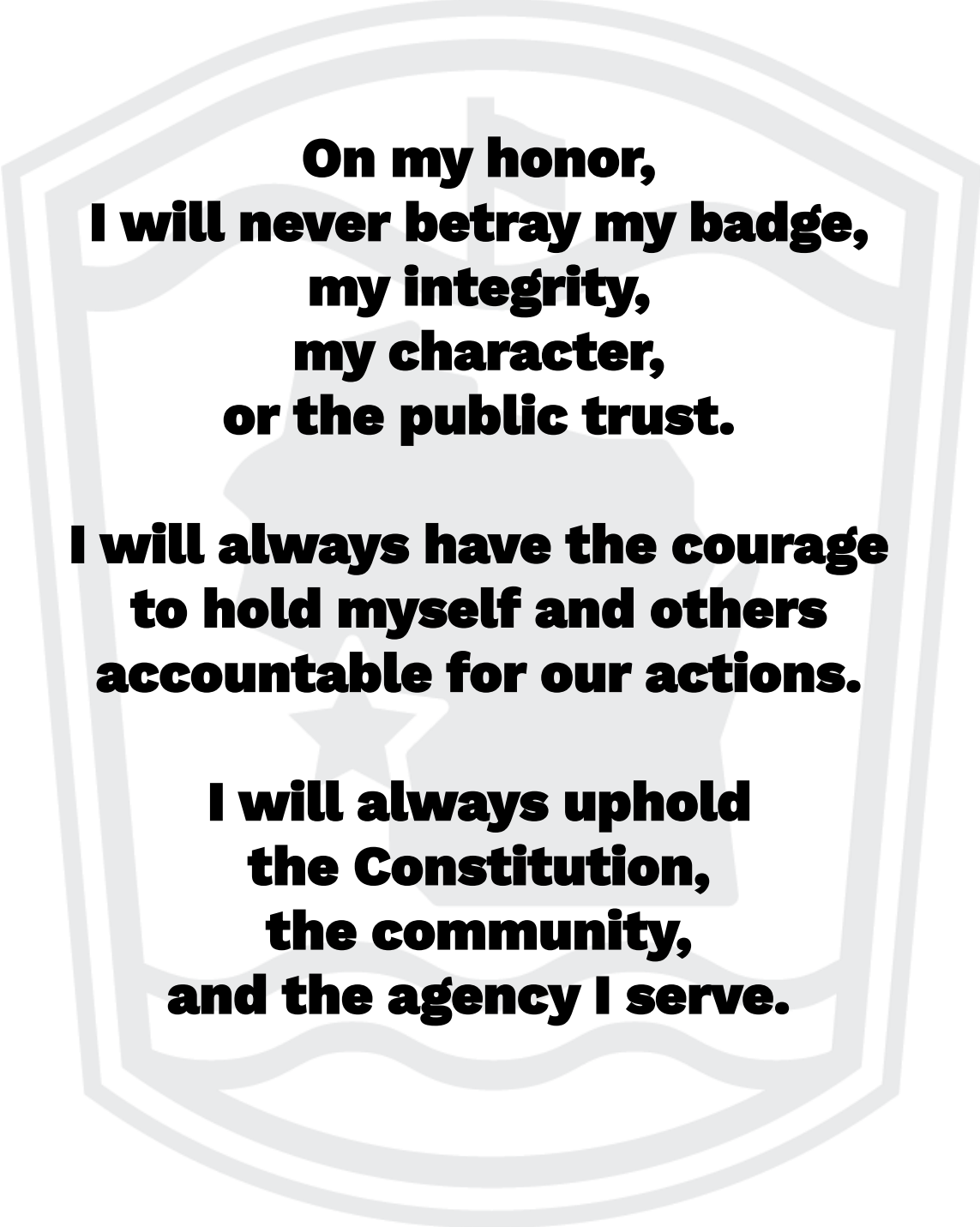
The La Crosse Police Department has been accredited by the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group (WILEAG) since 1995. Law Enforcement accreditation provides the basis for an enhanced sense of professionalism and pride; the security in knowing that agencies are well-managed; and the assurance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

In 2023, the La Crosse Police Department Accreditation Team, comprised of various members of the department representing all shifts, divisions, and sworn ranks, continued the monumental task of gathering all the information for our current re-accreditation process. As we moved throughout 2023 and prepared for re-accreditation in 2024, this team gathered and comprehensively reviewed our Department's policies and procedures. Re-accreditation will occur in April of 2024.

WILEAG most recently recognized the La Crosse Police Department as a Wisconsin accredited law enforcement agency on December 14, 2020, 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.**



**LA CROSSE**  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**LEAD. PARTNER. PROTECT.**