

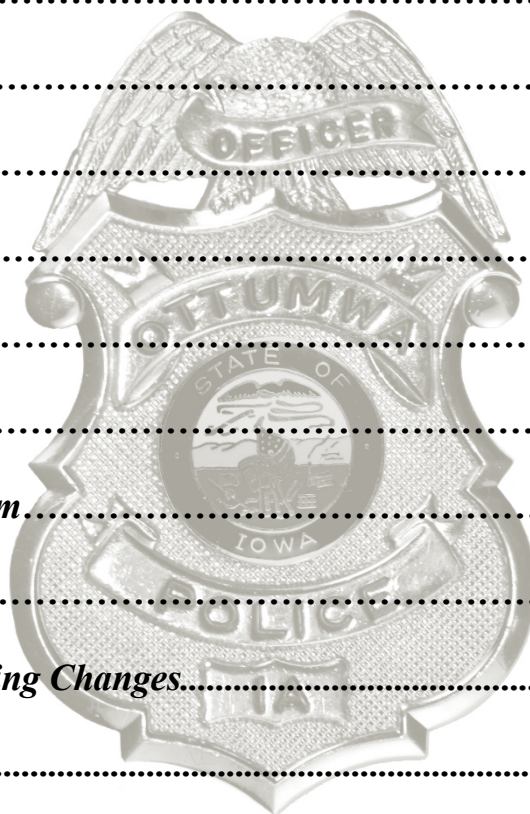


OTTUMWA POLICE DEPARTMENT
2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Chad Farrington
Chief of Police



Welcome to the 2024 Ottumwa Police Department Annual Report which highlights the activities and accomplishments of the dedicated men and women who serve the citizens of Ottumwa.

The following are some end of the year statistics on the activities of our department. Our officers conducted 30,390 activities, responded to 24,153 calls for service, documenting 4,345 incident reports and arresting 4,226 suspects. Additionally, our officers conducted 171 OWI investigations and responded to 394 traffic accidents with 89 of those reported as personal injury accidents and 2 fatalities.

The 12th Annual Citizen's Police Academy, sponsored by South Ottumwa Savings Bank, was held in February and March. Twenty-five community members attended the 8 week program which provides an educational opportunity for citizens to learn first-hand about local police operations and to gain a deeper understanding of today's law enforcement functions. We began taking applications in December of this year for the 2025 class.

In an effort to combat Human Trafficking within our community and state, the Ottumwa Police Department entered into an agreement with the State of Iowa Department of Public Safety. This agreement was for participation in a Human Trafficking Task Force created in 2024. This task force is comprised of over a dozen law enforcement agencies and has already seen success in detecting and investigating these types of cases.

During this year, our department also entered into an agreement with the United States Marshals Service to participate in a Regional Fugitive Task Force that is comprised of federal, state and local law enforcement. Members of the Ottumwa Police Department were deputized as a Special U.S. Marshal and are now members of the Southern Iowa Fugitive Task Force. Since then, our officers have participated in the apprehension of fugitives in our state.

Ottumwa was a host city for RAGBRAI LI in 2024 and riders came to our community on July 25th to spend the night. The police department provided traffic control, emergency response services and security during this event that saw an injection of thousands of participants coming into our city. The riders left Ottumwa on July 26th to travel to their next stop. These types of events are always a strain on personnel, logistics and services, but our officers did an excellent job to ensure this event was a success.

The Ottumwa Police Department conducted recruitment testing in 2024 and ended the year with three vacant positions to fill. We are budgeted for 40 personnel and are committed to hiring the best applicants. We were able to hire two new officers (see below), but still have three vacant positions. We will continue our efforts in early 2025 to fill these positions.

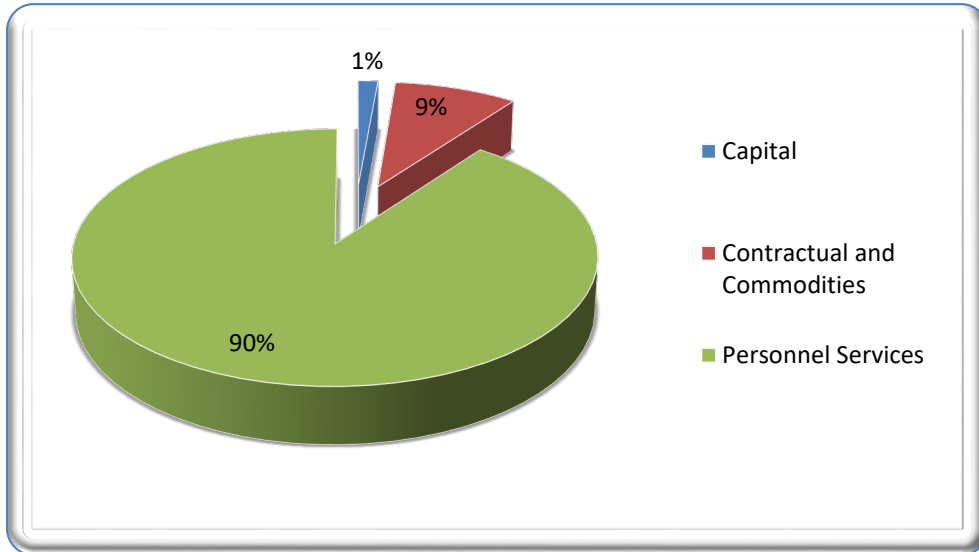
The following pages will give more insight to the work conducted by your police department during 2024. My staff and I would like to thank the citizens, city leaders and elected officials of Ottumwa for the continued support and the opportunity to serve our community.

Sincerely,

Chad Farrington

Chad Farrington
Chief of Police

FY BUDGET 2024-2025



The total budget for the Ottumwa Police Department is **\$6,727,313.25**. These funds are divided into the following three categories:

Personnel Services

This category is comprised of line items for officer and civilian wages, overtime (including extra duty), and employee benefits, including health insurance, life insurance, retirement, holiday pay, sick leave pay, Medicare and worker’s compensation. The total amount budgeted for Personnel Services is **\$5,857,811.04**.

Capital

This category includes line items for protective vests, vehicles, etc. Total amount budgeted for Capital is **\$169,341.97**.

Contractual & Commodities

This category is the remainder of the budget which includes line items for employee physicals, dues, books, training, travel, vehicle maintenance, fuel, equipment repair, utilities, sanitation services, telephone, advertising, printing, rents & leases, recruitment, towing, copying, photos, professional services, janitorial services, tools & small equipment, office supplies, postage & shipping, sustenance supplies, and miscellaneous. The total amount budgeted for Contractual and Commodities is **\$700,160.24**.

STAFF FUNDING & GENERATED REVENUE FY2025



The Ottumwa Police Department’s authorized strength was forty (40) sworn officers and they were funded in the following manner:

Current Officers and Funding Sources (Includes salary and benefits)

1 School Resource Officer (Evans)	-	180 days at Evans middle school per contract
1 School Resource Officer (OHS)	-	180 days at OHS per contract
1 School Resource Officer (OHS)	-	180 days at OHS per contract
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of SRO costs reimbursed to PD 		
2 Drug Task Force Investigators	-	27% from Byrne grant / 73% from general fund
<u>35 Officers</u>	-	100% from general fund
40 Officers		

From January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, the Police Department generated the following revenue:

Reports, Alarms & Fingerprints (4552)	-	\$	14,664.61
Extra Duty Administrative Fees (4551)	-		7,073.79
Arrest Warrant Service Fee (4770)	-		8,575.58
Traffic & Criminal Fines (collected - 4765)	-		81,729.35
Municipal Infractions (4772)	-		14,926.00
<u>Grants & Alternative Funding</u>	-		<u>348,167.50</u>
 Total			 \$475,136.83



ALTERNATIVE FUNDING RESOURCES

In **2024**, the Department received over **\$348,667.50** from various local, state, and federal sources for the purpose of enhancing law enforcement in Ottumwa. These funds assisted the Department with a variety of policing functions, including increased traffic and alcohol enforcement; continuing our substance abuse education program; purchasing equipment; and operation of the Southeast Iowa Inter-Agency Drug Task Force.

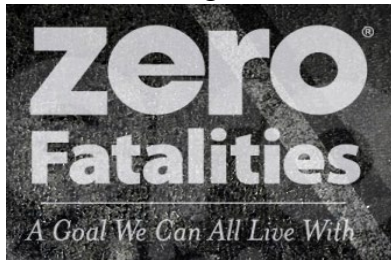
Local Grants/Funding

The Department received **\$500** from the Rosenman's Trust for general law enforcement purposes.

The Department received over **\$190,526.50** from local funding sources to place officers at the Ottumwa High School and Evans Middle School. Part of the funds were also used to help support the *DARE* Program.

Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau

The Department received **\$30,000** from the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau to fund our traffic enforcement program. The objective of the program was to increase compliance with OWI, seat belt, and other traffic laws in order to reduce the frequency and severity of personal injury accidents in Ottumwa. The grant funds were used to pay overtime costs for enforcement activities. The GTSB also funds new in-car video systems.



Tobacco Grant



The Department received **\$2,475** from the Alcoholic Beverages Division of the Iowa Department of Commerce. These funds were used to conduct compliance checks of Iowa's tobacco laws. The goals of the program are for voluntary compliance with the state's tobacco, alternative nicotine and vapor product laws through education, training and enforcement.



Byrne / JAG Grant

The Southeast Iowa Inter-Agency Drug Task Force received **\$86,700** in federal grant funds from the Bureau of Justice Assistance through the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program. These funds were used primarily for the salary of Ottumwa Police Department personnel who were assigned to the Task Force.

Bullet Proof Vest Program

The Bullet Proof Vest Partnership (BVP), created by the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998 is a unique U.S. Department of Justice initiative designed to provide funding for the purchase of bullet proof vests for local and state law enforcement. Through this program the Ottumwa Police Department receives a 50% reimbursement for the purchase of bulletproof vests



for our uniformed officers. Bulletproof vests are replaced every five years. We purchased ten (10) soft body armor vests in 2023 reimbursed by BVP **\$14,676**. Since 1999, over 13,000 jurisdictions have participated in the BVP Program, with a total of \$573 million in federal funds for the purchase of over 1.5 million body armor vests.

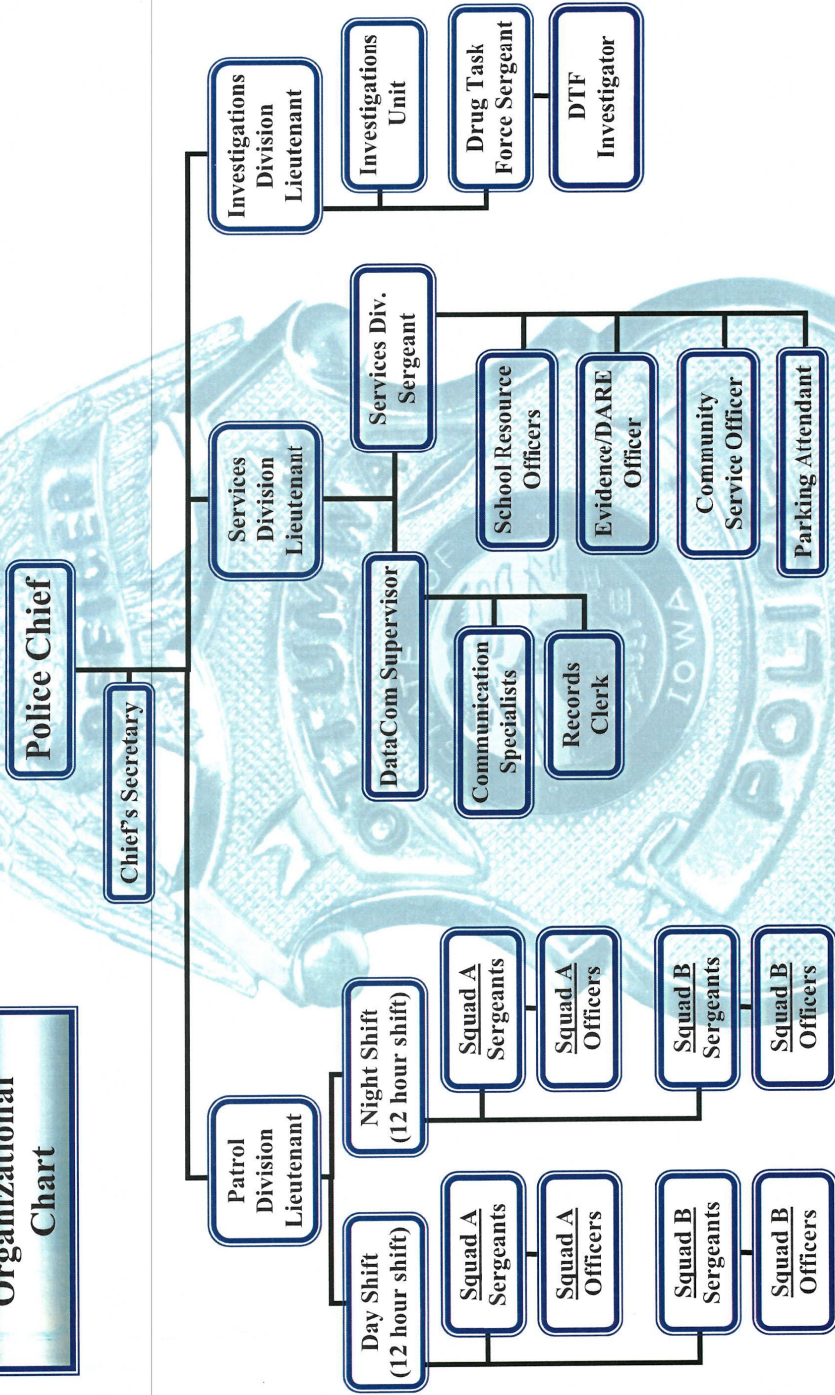
JAG Grant

The Department received **\$23,790** in federal funds from the Justice Assistance Grant Program. The funds are shared with the WCSO. The Ottumwa Police Department received **\$20,221** of the funds.

These funds will be used to purchase equipment to be utilized by the department personnel. The following equipment will be purchased with the grant money:

- Ammunition for non-lethal training
- Ammunition for training and duty (Lethal)

Organizational Chart





DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP

The Department is organized into three major components: Investigations Division, Patrol Division and Services Division. Each Division operates under the command of a Lieutenant, also referred to as a Division Commander. Each Lieutenant reports to the Chief of Police.

Lt. Mickey Hucks **Services Division Commander**

The Services Division is divided into three groups; DataCom, Community Policing and Administrative Services.

The Services Division is responsible for Budget/Fiscal Management, Grant Administration, Policy Formulation, Internal Affairs, Training, Entry Level Testing, Department Equipment, Property/Evidence, D.A.R.E. /G.R.E.A.T. Program, School Resource Officers, Traffic Safety, and Community Service Officers assigned to Parking and Animal Control Enforcement. Additionally, the Services Division is responsible for the Records and Communications functions within the Department.

Lt. Hucks has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Mt. Mercy College in Cedar Rapids. He was hired in 1996 and promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2004. In 2011, he was promoted to Lieutenant. Lt. Hucks has served as an Investigator, Housing Authority Officer, Investigations Unit Supervisor, Department Training Officer, as well as Commander of the department's Emergency Response Team.



Lt. Jason Parmenter
Patrol Division Commander

The Patrol Division is made up of eight sergeants and 19 patrol officers divided into two patrol shifts.

Activities include answering calls for service, responding to emergencies, traffic law enforcement, preliminary criminal and follow-up investigations, detection of violations of the law, and apprehension of violators of the law.

Lt. Parmenter has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminology from Upper Iowa University in Fayette, Iowa. He was hired in 2000 and promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2007. In 2020 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Lt. Parmenter has served as a Patrol Training Officer, Drug Task Force Investigator, Patrol Field Supervisor, Patrol Watch Commander, and Drug Task Force Supervisor.



Lt. Jason Bell
Investigations Division Commander

The Investigations Division is divided into two units, Investigations and the Drug Task Force.

The Investigations Unit is responsible for major case investigations, special investigations and intelligence gathering and dissemination. The Drug Task Force is responsible for investigating, apprehending, and prosecuting drug and drug-related criminal offenders in a four county area in Southeast Iowa

Lt. Bell attended Indian Hills Community College. He was hired in 1996 and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2005. In 2013, he was promoted to Lieutenant. Lt. Bell has served as a Patrol Training Officer, Drug Task Force Investigator, Emergency Response Team member and Drug Task Force Supervisor.





INVESTIGATION DIVISION



Investigations Unit

The Investigations Unit is a component of the Investigations Division. Under the Supervision of the Investigations Commander, an Investigator has the responsibility to investigate a variety of criminal and non-criminal incidents involving crimes against persons, crimes against property, and general investigations; recover stolen property; apprehend offenders; and perform crime scene processing. Investigators are experienced officers that receive specialized training to assist in serious crimes.

In 2024, Investigators conducted a total of 105 criminal investigations including, 31 Sex Abuses, 3 Homicide, 3 attempted murder, 3 Sex Offender Registry Violations, 5 Death Investigations, 4 Sexual Exploitations, 10 Assaults, 5 Missing Persons, 1 cases of Human Trafficking, 4 Theft Offenses, 2 burglaries, 5 intimidation with a dangerous weapon, 2 stalking and 50 other various charges.



Investigator Jordan Staton



Investigator Caleb Mitchell



Investigator Jeremy Tosh



SOUTHEAST IOWA INTER-AGENCY DRUG TASK FORCE

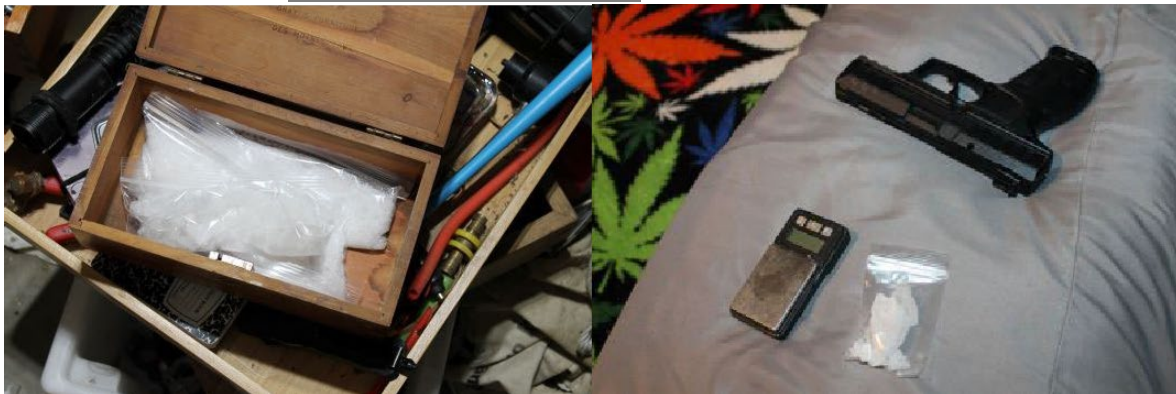
In an effort to facilitate multi-jurisdictional drug investigations, area cities and counties banded together to form the Southeast Iowa Inter-Agency Drug Task Force in 1990. The overall mission of the Task Force is to identify, investigate, apprehend and prosecute drug and drug related criminal offenders in its four county area. The Task Force targets drug manufacturers and traffickers through shared investigatory and prosecutorial resources. Our expected outcome is to reduce the availability and demand for controlled substances through the use of the multi-jurisdictional task force in conjunction with its member agencies.

Key activities of the Drug Task Force include the purchase of drugs utilizing confidential informants and undercover officers; investigation of methamphetamine manufacturers through surveillance, informants and information supplied by local businesses who sell precursors; case preparation and court testimony; prosecution of drug cases by the DTF Prosecutor; intelligence gathering and dissemination and coordination of drug investigations with member agencies.

In 2024, the Southeast Iowa Inter-Agency Drug Task Force participated in the execution of 67 search warrants. The Task Force initiated 76 new cases; including 70 distribution cases, 1 manufacture investigations, and 5 possession cases. Investigators made 7 case referrals involving an individual to the Iowa Dept. of Human Services. Investigators filed a total of 200 charges against 80 individuals.

The following is a list of controlled substances and firearms the Task Force confiscated in 2024 as the result of search warrants, undercover purchases, and controlled purchases.

Methamphetamine	7,827.11 grams
THC Oil/Concentrate	3,825.76 grams
Marijuana	33.08 pounds
Pharmaceuticals	391 dosages
Heroin	179.10 grams
Cocaine	420.78 grams
Psilocybin mushrooms	149.39 grams
Firearms	19





SERVICES DIVISION

School Resource Officer Program

The Police Department partners with the Ottumwa Community School District through the School Resource Officer Program. An officer has been assigned full-time at the Ottumwa High School since 1994 while an officer has been assigned full-time at Evans Middle School since 1996. In 2008, a second officer was assigned full-time at the High School. The presence of the officers reduces the potential for crime-related problems and

helps to provide a safer environment at each school. An additional benefit is the increased interaction between students and police officers due to the officers' accessibility. The Ottumwa Community School District pays actual costs for 180 days (8 hour day) of the salary and benefits of the SRO assigned to the Evans Middle School, and two SROs at the Ottumwa High School per the contract.



Officer Brandon Gravett



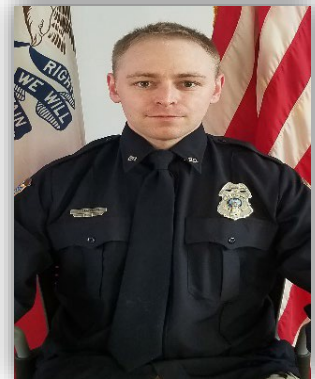
Officer Mike Murphy

DARE Program

The Ottumwa Police Department has partnered with the Ottumwa Community School District to instruct the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program, commonly referred to as **DARE**, in the elementary schools. The **DARE** Program is an integral part of the Department's community policing initiative as well as the School District's substance abuse prevention curriculum. The curriculum consists of ten weeks of instruction that focuses on a variety of substance abuse prevention and self-esteem topics, including drugs and their effects, violence, decision making, consequences, social pressures and their sources, and respect. The Ottumwa Community School District contributes \$10,000 annually towards the cost of the elementary program.



Officer Katlyn Overturf



Officer Cody Craycraft



Community Service Officer

The Community Service Officer (CSO) is responsible for the enforcement of animal control ordinances within the city, parking ordinances, and other police-related tasks. Along with animal duties, the CSO handles complaints of health code violations in partnership with the Ottumwa Code Enforcement Department. In 2024, the Ottumwa Police Department impounded 341 animals and issued 346 charges for violations of Ottumwa Animal Ordinances. In total, there were 221 animal cases with 422 offenses.



Officer Jeff Williams

Parking Enforcement

The Parking Enforcement Officer is a civilian position employed by the City to enforce any parking violations within Ottumwa City Limits. The Parking Enforcement Officer operates within the Services Division and reports directly to the Services Division Sergeant. Along with enforcing parking ordinances, he is also responsible for monitoring limited-time parking areas. The areas include all city streets and public parking areas. In 2024, 945 parking citations were issued amongst all officers.

The most common parking violations were Ordinance 23-207 24 Hour Parking Limits on Streets, Ordinance 23-266 Parking Permits in Designated Lots, Ordinance 23-214 2 Hour Parking Violation, and 23-198.1 Parking Without Registration.

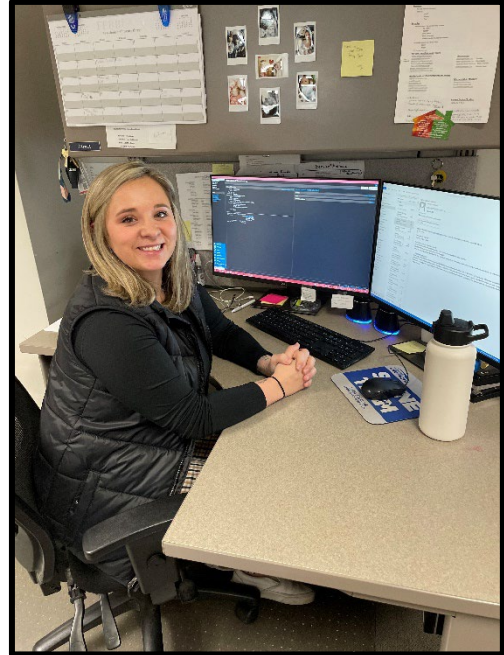


RECORDS UNIT

The Records Unit is a component of the Services Division and maintains records of all incident reports, traffic citations, arrests, personal injury and property damage accidents, tow sheets, and other documents generated by the Department.

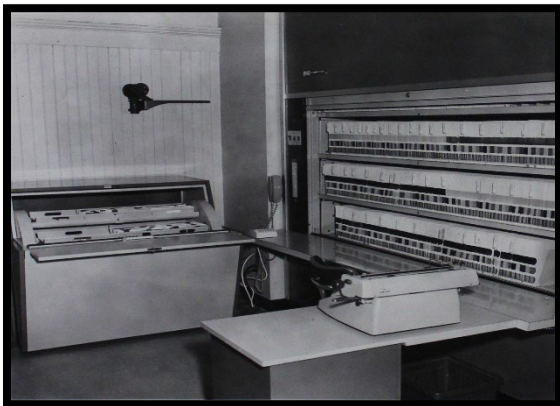
The Records Unit utilizes a computerized records system, which interfaces with the computer aided dispatch system used in the Communications Center. The Records Clerk is responsible for managing data from each report in the computer system so that personnel can prepare required statistical and analytical reports. The Records Unit is also responsible for submitting crime reports to the State of Iowa's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program for use in the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

In 2024, the Records Department processed 4,345 incident reports, 4,226 arrest reports, 1,114 traffic citations, 945 parking citations, 171 OWI reports, 393 accidents and 341 animal impounds.



Summer Street

The Records Clerk also provides copies of reports to the City and County Attorney, the court system, officers, insurance companies, media, and other persons or entities that need or request copies of Department reports. Criminal History checks of Department arrest records are also frequently conducted for military recruiters and employers. Release of Department records is governed by various local, state, and federal laws and guidelines. The Records Unit is staffed by one full-time Communications Specialist, who is supervised by the Datacom Supervisor.

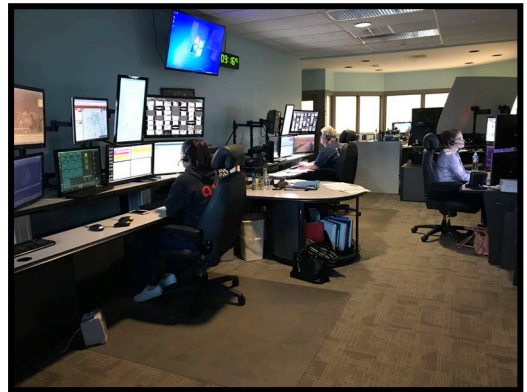


Ottumwa Police Records Department, Date unknown

COMMUNICATIONS UNIT



The Communications Unit is a component of the Services Division and is responsible for meeting the informational and communication needs of the Department in the course of its normal daily activities and during emergency situations. A Communication Specialist has a long list of job duties. They receive reports from the public of crimes, disturbances, fires, and medical or police emergencies and relay information to law enforcement, fire departments and emergency medical personnel. A Communication Specialist questions callers to determine their locations and the nature of their problems to determine the type of response needed. They must give full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times. A Communication Specialist must be able to talk to others to convey information effectively. They also must be able to adjust actions in relation to others' actions. They must be capable of using sound logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems. They also must actively look for ways to help people.



A Communication Specialist receives incoming telephone or alarm system calls regarding emergency and non-emergency police and fire service, emergency ambulance service, information and after hour's calls for departments within a city. They also record details of calls, dispatches, and messages into a Computer Aided Dispatch system. A Communication Specialist enters, updates, and retrieves information from teletype networks and computerized data systems regarding such things as wanted persons, stolen property, vehicle registration, and stolen vehicles. The Communication Specialist maintains access to, and security of, highly sensitive materials.

Dispatch Stats



The Communications Unit documented 37,812 activities in 2024 which included 31,879 calls-for-service. The Unit also received 14,440 emergency 911 telephone calls and 403 emergency 911 texts, averaging 40.6 emergency calls per day. These calls included police, fire and medical emergencies. The Communications Unit also answered 53,825 administrative calls. The Unit has five 911 emergency lines (2 wireless and 3 landline), and 6 administrative lines. Our Communications Unit is budgeted for eight full-time Communications Specialists (dispatchers), who report to the Datacom Supervisor.

COMMUNICATIONS UNIT



The Ottumwa Police Department is utilizing a free tool called RapidSOS. RapidSOS is a public safety company that has continually been partnering with innovative companies such as devices, apps, and sensors, to provide location and intelligent data to emergency services. For example, if location settings are enabled on your smartphone, your handset's device location will be delivered to the 911 center when you place a 911 call. This data is far more accurate than the location data provided by cell towers when a 911 call is placed. This helps first responders find your exact location and phone number to help reach you quickly during an emergency.



CALL 911 IF YOU CAN, TEXT IF YOU CAN'T

Did you know that in Wapello County, you can send a text to 911 if you have an emergency?

It's always preferred that you call 911, but in Iowa if you can't call, then text! Currently, six mobile phone service providers have taken the necessary steps to allow you to text 911 on your mobile phone in Iowa: AT&T, i-Wireless, Sprint, T-Mobile, U.S. Cellular, and Verizon.



National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

Every year during the second week of April, the Ottumwa Police Department recognizes and honors the hard work done by our telecommunications personnel. It is a time to celebrate and thank those who dedicate their lives to serving the public. Our 911 dispatchers put in hard work 24/7/365 helping serve our community. Every year the Wapello Co Sheriff's Dept and Ottumwa Police Dept partner together and have an outdoor cookout to celebrate Telecommunications Week.



OTTUMWA ANIMAL CONTROL

Community Service Officer Jeff Williams partnered with the Heartland Humane Society to administer the Facebook page of the **Ottumwa Animal Control Ottumwa Police Dept.** to assist community members in



finding their lost pets. When the Ottumwa Police Department finds a stray animal, they catch it and transport it to Heartland Humane Society in Ottumwa. Heartland Humane staff posts a photograph and description of the animal on the Facebook page along with instructions on how to claim the animal. This effort has proven very effective in reuniting owners with their pets as well as sparking interest in the adoption of unclaimed pets.

Heartland Humane boards found animals for five days unless we know who the owner is, then it is seven days per city code. If the animal does not get adopted, it may be euthanized; however, most of the animals that have not been claimed after five days go to Heartland Humane or a state licensed rescue to be placed for adoption.

The Ottumwa Police Department encourages all pet owners to be responsible stewards of the animals they keep. Dog licensing is the best insurance for getting your dog returned to you in case he or she becomes lost. It also lets our officers know if the dog is currently vaccinated against rabies. We encourage spaying and neutering as the best solution to controlling the pet over-population. Dog licenses can be purchased at the Ottumwa Police Department, City Hall or at most local veterinarian offices for \$10 in January if spayed or neutered, \$20 if not spayed or neutered. Starting February 1st, a \$5 late fee is applied. A dog license will then be \$15 for spayed or neutered animals and \$25 if not. \$5 of the dog license fees will be given to Heartland Humane Society to assist with funding. A city dog license must be renewed in January of every year.



In 2024, a total of 341 animals were impounded by the Ottumwa Police Department.

Chickens & Rabbits



In June of 2015 the Ottumwa City Council adopted changes to the Municipal Code to allow residents to legally keep rabbits and chickens within the city limits of Ottumwa under a permit to be issued by the Ottumwa Police Department.

Persons wishing to keep chickens and rabbits must meet certain requirements in order to receive a permit. A maximum of six chickens and/or rabbits may be kept per premise. No roosters are allowed. The animals must be kept in a coop or pen, and are not allowed to run at large. Coops or pens must be in a rear yard area and at least ten feet away from the property line. They must be at least fifty feet away from any adjacent residential dwelling, building, church, school or place of business. Coops and pens are subject to inspection to ensure adequate space for each animal and proper sanitation of the enclosure. The initial permit fee is \$60 and is valid for three years.

Persons who would like to keep chickens or rabbits within the city limits must contact Officer Jeff Williams at the Ottumwa Police Department at 641-683-0648 to begin the permit application process.



The City's Urban Chicken and Rabbit Policy can be reviewed online at cityofottumwa.com





PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Unit is a component of the Patrol Division, under the direction of the Patrol Division Commander. A Patrolman's function to the community cannot be overestimated. Patrol is the mainstay of police work whether measured in terms of police patrol personnel, the portion of the budget allocated to patrol operations, or the fact that the uniformed police officer is the most visible component of the Department. Patrol Officers work 12 hour shifts comprised of a Day Squad from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and a Night Squad from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. The manner in which patrol officers discharge their responsibilities affects not only the quality of justice, but also citizens' perceptions of the Department and law enforcement in general.

The functions and major responsibilities of the Patrol Unit include, but are not limited to:

- Responding to routine and emergency calls-for-service 24 hours per day, every day of the year
- Arresting criminal offenders
- The investigation of incidents, offenses, and criminal acts
- Traffic enforcement
- Traffic direction and control
- Accident investigation
- Crime prevention
- Preventative patrol directed towards the prevention of criminal acts and traffic violations, the maintenance of public order, and the discovery of hazardous situations
- Parking enforcement
- Animal enforcement
- Inspectional services to determine compliance with various statutes including liquor and gambling laws
- Community relations
- The sharing of information with other divisions of the Department and with outside agencies

The Patrol Division consists of the Patrol Division Commander, 8 Patrol Supervisors and 19 Patrol Officers.



An old fleet of Ottumwa Police Department patrol cars vs new

BELOW 100

The goal of the Below 100 Initiative is to reduce police line-of-duty deaths (LODDs) to fewer than 100 per year.

The last time LODDs were below 100 was 1944. For the last 50 years, the average has been well over 150 and the last decade over 160. 2020 had 443 AND 2021 HAD 674 line-of-duty deaths nationwide. For 2020 and 2021, over 70% of those were medical related. The first complete year after Below 100 began was 2012 and we saw a 50 year low in line-of-duty deaths with 120. According to the Officer Down Memorial Page, in 2024, there were 144 Line of Duty Deaths.



The Five Tenants of Below 100 are:

1. Wear Your Belt

It might sound simple to you, even unnecessary, but the truth is too many agencies don't mandate belt wear. And even among those that do, many officers ignore policy because the culture doesn't value it. *The truth:* Seatbelts save lives.

2. Wear Your Vest

We know vests save lives. We know that bullets can fly when we least expect it. Add to that the fact that body armor can improve your likelihood of surviving a car accident or other traumatic event and you quickly see why you must wear it. Always. Period.

3. Watch Your Speed

Why do cops drive fast? Because they can, right? Well, driving faster than what conditions warrant is a sure way to get in trouble. Of course there are times when getting on scene quickly is critical. But these times are rare. Too often, officers are speeding—just because they can. In the process, they are putting themselves and the public at perilous risk *for no good reason*.

4. WIN—What's Important Now?

It's a simple question that can elicit profound results. It's a question that will lead to deliberate action, not reaction. If you are constantly prioritizing what's most important, you won't have time for the distractions that can get you in trouble, hurt or killed.

5. Remember: Complacency Kills!

Chief Jeff Chudwin perhaps said it best: "Complacency is among the most dangerous and insidious threats we face because it lays us open to all others." Complacency is why police officers think they can go without vest and seatbelts. It's why they think they can speed and allow themselves to be distracted. To quote Chief Chudwin again: "Complacency will kill you."

PROFESSIONALISM THROUGH TRAINING



The Police Department has an obligation to provide a professional standard of law enforcement service to the community. In fulfilling that responsibility, it is essential to properly train all employees. The Iowa Legislature also recognizes the need to properly train law enforcement personnel and, as a result, has mandated specific training for both sworn and civilian employees.

Academy Training

Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) Chapter 501-3.1(1) requires that any person hired as a police officer must become certified through the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy within one year from the date of hire. The Iowa Law Enforcement Academy is located at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa. Currently, the police academy is fourteen (15) weeks in duration and its curriculum includes training in patrol techniques, traffic law and enforcement, officer survival skills, investigation of specific crimes, criminal and constitutional law, court procedures, and human behavior.



FTO Training

Following academy certification and a return to the Department, a recruit officer is placed in the Field Training Officer Program (FTO). The FTO Program is a minimum of fourteen (14) weeks in duration and is the process by which an individual recruit officer receives formal job instruction. Each recruit is placed with a Patrol Training Officer and receives consistent, systematic, and documented training while in the program. The recruit is evaluated weekly by his FTO and the shift supervisor. Additionally, each recruit is evaluated midway through the training with a comprehensive evaluation at the end of the training period. Following successful completion of the program, each recruit officer functions as a single-officer unit and is evaluated by his supervisor on a monthly basis through the remainder of the probationary period. Although state law does not require implementing a FTO Program, agencies that fail to do so have been found to be negligent by federal courts in civil lawsuits.

Dispatcher Training

IAC Chapter 501-13.2(1) requires that any person hired as a police dispatcher must successfully complete a 40-hour basic telecommunicator training course within one year from the date of hire. Currently, only the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy offers the course. Its curriculum includes human relations and communications skills, basic dispatch/broadcast techniques, multiple tasking and prioritization, liability and legal issues, and stress management and awareness. The Iowa Administrative Code also requires each dispatcher to receive a minimum of 8 hours of in-service training annually. In addition to training requirements, dispatchers must be certified every two years to operate the NCIC/state computer system. This is the system that is used to query motor vehicle registrations, driver licenses, wanted or missing persons, and stolen property.

Training Administration

The Sergeant assigned to the Services Division is responsible for the training function. This person spends approximately half his time performing training duties while the other half is spent supervising Services Division personnel and performing administrative duties.

Emergency Response Team



The Emergency Response Team (ERT) was formed in 1991 to handle high-risk calls and warrant services. Since then, the Ottumwa Police Department and the Wapello County Sheriff's Office joined together to form a joint Emergency Response Team. The ERT trains monthly in the use of special weapons and tactics, and trains to respond to a wide variety of emergency situations in the city and county.

The team consists of fifteen members, all of whom are sworn law enforcement officers with either the Police or Sheriff's Department. Each team member is assigned to other areas of their respective Department on a full-time basis and participation on the team is in addition to their regular duties. Members volunteer to serve on the team and all officers are eligible to apply for positions as they become available. Upon appointment to the team, personnel are required to maintain satisfactory performance during both regular duty assignments and ERT activities.



Emergency Response Team

The Emergency Response Team can be deployed for any situation that requires a police response that likely could result in serious injury and/or death to citizens, officers, or suspects. The ERT team was deployed a total of five times in 2024.

Lt. Jason Bell is the Emergency Response Team Commander. Under the direction of the Chief, the Team Commander is responsible for the overall operation, direction, and administration of the Emergency Response Team. When the ERT is deployed, he is the liaison between the Chief of Police and the Team, and carries out all orders of the Chief. Sergeant Derek Shaw is the Team Leader. Under the direction of the Team Commander, he is responsible for the training and immediate supervision of the team, and for its deployment at the scene of a critical incident.

While we can never be completely prepared for all eventualities, we must constantly strive to expand our resources and capabilities to ensure the highest likelihood for success while ensuring the highest possible degree of safety in all of our enforcement activities.





ANNUAL STATISTICS

Year	Annual Budget	Alternate Funding	Activities	Calls for Service	Incidents	Offenses	Arrests	Traffic Citations	OWI's	Personal Injury Accidents	Property Damage Accidents	Fatalities	Animals Impounded
2011	\$3,953,135.00	\$817,277.08	58,825	27,329	2,737	3,980	3,987	4,042	146	121	227	1	400
2012	\$4,336,770.00	\$483,794.31	63,505	29,111	2,800	3,893	3,775	4,554	120	119	190	0	337
2013	\$4,520,419.00	\$437,685.00	63,503	29,614	3,052	4,164	3,899	3,041	118	110	255	0	343
2014	\$4,548,624.00	\$377,620.00	63,163	31,199	3,000	3,944	3,599	3,010	95	118	257	0	365
2015	\$4,771,665.00	\$407,581.00	60,727	29,234	3,006	3,589	3,414	3,057	102	96	233	2	257
2016	\$4,691,056.00	\$401,292.00	62,800	25,542	3,129	3,731	3,554	2,772	113	111	223	1	246
2017	\$4,978,393.00	\$330,547.55	65,777	28,136	3,677	4,807	4,662	2,105	125	115	213	1	204
2018	\$5,507,426.00	\$340,927.65	64,338	29,362	3,795	4,511	4,648	2,251	165	128	230	1	219
2019	\$5,897,036.00	\$343,918.80	55,422	29,378	3,679	5,172	4,846	2,391	212	123	264	2	345
2020	\$6,113,365.00	\$363,454.70	41,929	29,543	3,488	4,574	4,685	1,941	191	115	238	2	147
2021	\$5,884,784.00	\$285,197.57	42,725	32,132	3,482	5,012	5,010	1,679	235	103	266	0	250
2022	\$6,341,195.00	\$383,024.00	36,805	28,956	3,492	5,055	4,479	1,450	194	67	287	2	269
2023	\$6,524,518.00	\$366,261.00	30,559	24,292	3,733	4,829	4,234	1,110	214	92	238	1	311
2024	\$6,727,313.25	\$348,667.50	30,390	24,153	4,345	4,957	4,226	1,114	171	89	303	2	341



PART I INDEX CRIMES

Part 1 Index Crimes are divided into two categories – property crime and violent crime. Property crimes are burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Violent crimes consist of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

PART 1 Index Crimes by Year *LOCAL

	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
2024	2	50	9	262	199	610	59	4
2023	1	37	4	238	225	636	75	6
2022	1	77	10	401	270	580	58	8
2021	4	68	10	312	188	476	68	2
2020	0	44	13	311	221	567	68	10
2019	1	55	13	295	217	697	69	8
2018	3	55	14	266	270	748	82	7
2017	0	55	14	260	288	811	82	19
2016	1	41	8	181	221	628	71	4
2015	1	45	6	212	223	638	65	8
2014	1	48	8	233	177	966	53	13
2013	0	54	5	208	288	991	63	5

**UCR

	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
2023	1	24	6	77	141	518	105	6
***2022	1	44	8	147	146	728	86	8
2021	3	59	11	155	133	592	87	3
2020	0	41	12	202	179	701	98	14
2019	2	17	5	110	185	770	78	11
2018	1	20	8	72	230	753	91	9
2017	0	23	13	107	287	918	89	n/a
2016	1	20	8	79	241	767	91	n/a
2015	1	15	8	52	237	633	76	n/a
2014	1	14	6	51	190	821	64	n/a
2013	0	19	5	50	284	835	69	n/a

*Part 1 Index Crime Statistics that meet local and state law definitions.

** Part 1 Index Crime Statistics that meet Uniform Crime Report definitions.

***2024 Uniform Crime Report statistics will not be available until September of 2025.

Ottumwa Police Department Reported Crimes vs. FBI Uniform Crime Reported Crimes

Why don't they match?

The definition of specific crimes often times vary from state to state. For example, the definition of aggravated assault in Iowa may not be the same as the definition for aggravated assault in California or Kentucky. With this in mind the FBI attempts to ensure data is uniformly reported to the FBI by providing reporting agencies a guideline handbook that explains how to classify and score offenses, and provides uniform crime definitions. The FBI cautions reporting agencies to report offenses (crimes) not according to local or state law but according to those guidelines provided by the FBI. Aggravated Assaults reported account for the largest discrepancy between local and federal (UCR) crime reporting.

The FBI Uniform Crime Report (UCR) defines an aggravated assault in part as: An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon and/or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm (broken bones, internal injuries, stitches). All assaults upon a person with the intent to kill, maim, or inflict severe bodily injury with the use of any dangerous weapon are classified as aggravated assault.

The Code of Iowa states in part: A person who commits an assault with the intent to inflict a serious injury upon another, is guilty of an aggravated misdemeanor. A person who commits an assault and uses or displays a dangerous weapon in connection with the assault, is guilty of an aggravated misdemeanor.

The State of Iowa definition has a lower threshold (intent to inflict serious injury) than the Uniform Crime Report threshold (broken bones, internal injuries, stitches). Therefore the number of aggravated assault reports documented by the Ottumwa Police Department is much greater than aggravated assault incidents reported by the Uniform Crime Report. Those assaults reported to the Ottumwa Police Department that do not meet the UCR definition of aggravated assault are classified by the UCR as simple assaults which are not Part 1 Index Crimes.

In 2024, the Ottumwa Police Department reported 238 aggravated assaults meeting the State of Iowa code definition of aggravated assault. However, only 77 of those assaults met the UCR definition of aggravated assault. There are numerous other crimes reported that are documented in this same manner.

Should comparisons be made between cities using the Uniform Crime Report?

Figures used in the UCR are submitted “in good faith” by more than 18,000 agencies. However, because of computer problems, changes in records management systems, personnel shortages, or a number of other reasons, some agencies do not provide any/or accurate data to the FBI. For these reasons the FBI cautions against drawing conclusions by making direct comparisons between cities. Comparisons lead to simplistic and/or incomplete analyses that often create misleading perceptions adversely affecting communities and their residents.



OPERATING WHILE INTOXICATED

In 2024, the Ottumwa Police Department arrested 165 persons for drunk driving. The following is a summary of the drivers arrested for OWI (Operating While Intoxicated) in 2024:



- The average age of the drivers was 34.
- 78.8% (130) of the drivers were male.
- 21.2% (35) of the drivers were female.
- The average blood alcohol content of the drivers was .156. (As of July 2003, a person with blood alcohol content of .08 or above is considered legally intoxicated in Iowa).
- 66 persons refused to provide a breath sample in order to determine the level of alcohol in their system. (Failure to provide a sample for testing results in a person having their driver's license revoked for a minimum of one year).
- 6.39% of accidents are alcohol related in Ottumwa.
- 23.6% of Ottumwa's accidents resulted in personal injury or death.
- 12 of those OWI arrests were impaired by drugs.
- 75 of those didn't have a valid license.



GTSB Year End Report

The Ottumwa Police Department received a total of \$30,000 from the GTSB which was used for directed overtime enforcement and equipment. In partnership with GTSB, the Department set a goal of using 398 hours of overtime for high-visibility traffic enforcement in Ottumwa from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. The department partnered with the Wapello County Sheriff office and Department of Public Safety to conduct multi-jurisdictional enforcement projects throughout the year. The department conducted public service announcements via the media aimed at improving driver safety behaviors. We also conduct 2 occupant protection surveys (seatbelts – driver/passenger) to see the average seatbelt usage in the city.



ARREST AND TRAFFIC CITATIONS BY RACE AND GENDER

Ottumwa enjoys a very diverse population. In an effort to support our diversity, the Police Department has implemented a program to collect statistical data on the race and gender of each person arrested or issued a traffic citation. The data is then reviewed in order to ensure that officers are not engaged in racial profiling and that laws are enforced without regard to race, gender, or ethnicity.

Arrests

	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Total
Total	3064	1221	3116	355	350	464	4285
Percentage	71.5%	28.5%	72.7%	8.3%	8.2%	10.8%	

Citations

	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Total
Total	740	457	684	132	214	167	1197
Percentage	61.8%	38.2%	57.1%	11.0%	17.9%	14.0%	





2024 CALLS FOR SERVICE

911 Hang UP	633	Disturbance by Auto	61	Property Damage Accident	603
Fight	99	Domestic Disturbance	273	Personal Injury Accident	125
Armed Weapon	39	Extra Patrol	179	Fingerprints	117
Building Check	56	Fireworks	99	Found Property	335
Assist Motorist	341	Fire Assist	98	Robbery	3
OWI	60	Harassment	709	Reckless Driving	125
Intoxicated person	156	Hit and Run	202	Shooting/stabbing	14
Mental	369	Illegally Parked Car	1322	Shoplifting	73
Assault	287	Juvenile	701	Suspicious Person	1474
Alarm	451	Keep the Peace	204	See Subject	1397
Animal Complaint	1731	Loud music	265	Suspicious Vehicle	656
Assist Other Agency	397	Medical	277	Theft	1186
Burglary	186	Missing Person	245	Traffic Problem	239
Criminal Mischief	350	Open Building	43	Trespass	470
Disturbance	1299	Other	578	Violation Restraining Order	200
Dead Animal	29	Phone call	2663	Welfare Check	730
Citizen Assist	110	Flagged Down	82	Noise Complaint	63
Crime Tip	6	Garbage	7	Utilities Hazard	74
Suspicious Activity	212				

Total: 22,703

OFFICER INITIATED ACTIVITIES

Building Check	56	Investigation	1317
Park and Walk	162	Serve warrant	872
Drive Through	1	Traffic Stop	3208
Walk Through	100	Follow Up	1668

Total: 7,384

*Listed above are officer initiated activities.

*This is not an all inclusive-list.





USE OF FORCE

The Ottumwa Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual requires officers who take any action which results in (or is alleged to have resulted in) the injury or death of another person and/or applies force through the use of chemical agents, empty hand hard techniques, empty hand soft techniques, striking weapons, less-lethal weapons, or employs deadly force to complete a Use of Force Report.

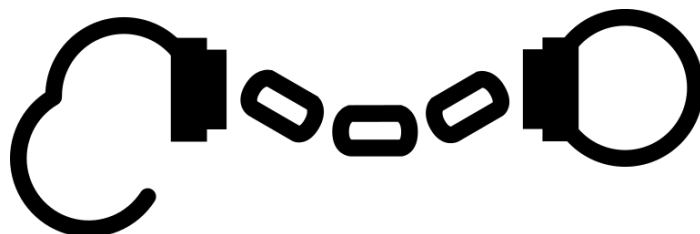
The on duty supervisor investigates the circumstances surrounding the incident and submits a report to the Division Commander who then reviews the incident. The Division Commander forwards his findings to the Chief of Police.

In 2024, the Ottumwa Police Department documented twenty (20) Use of Force Reports. Of those twenty (20) reports, all were required in order to comply with OPD policy.

Those incidents that by policy required a Use of Force Report included the following:

Empty Hand Hard Techniques – 4
Taser Deployment – 6
Chemical Agents – OC Pepper Spray – 2
Chemical Agents – PepperBall --0
Deadly Force – Firearm 0
Empty Hand Soft Techniques Result in Injury-11

The remaining Use of Force reports did not meet the criteria requiring a Use of Force Report; however, Use of Force Reports were completed as a matter of practice. These reports included incidents such as empty hand soft techniques with no injuries, incidents where persons were handcuffed for short amounts of time but not arrested and incidents involving officers physically restraining persons in the hospital emergency room while medical staff administered sedatives to patients. It should also be noted that some Use of Force Reports may contain more than one type of force.



NEW EMPLOYEES



Quincy Collier

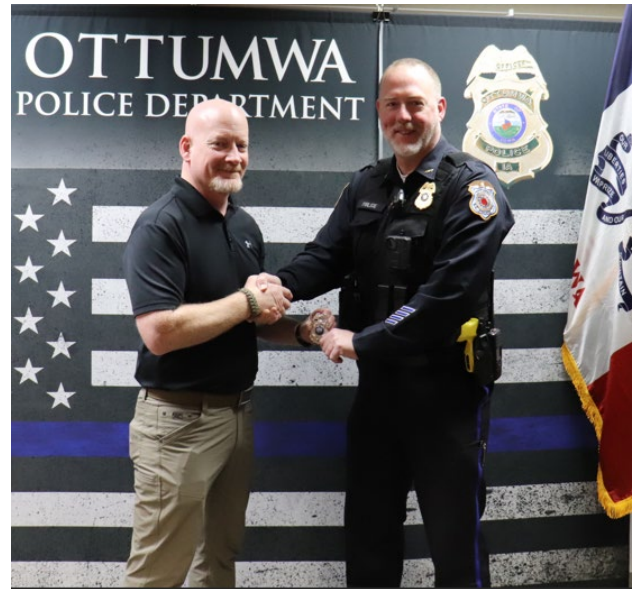
Patrol Division

Officer Collier was sworn in as an Ottumwa Police Officer on February 20th, 2024. Officer Collier graduated from Davis County High School in Bloomfield in 2013, and later graduated from William Penn University in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in Social/Behavioral Sciences. Officer Dizon completed the 304th Basic Law Enforcement Academy August 18, 2023. Officer Dizon successfully completed the PTO training course and has been assigned to the Patrol Division.

Dan Lentsch

Patrol Division

Officer Lentsch was sworn in as an Ottumwa Police Officer on March 27, 2024. He graduated from Ottumwa High School in 1992 and later from the Criminal Justice Program at Indian Hills in 1994. He was initially sworn in with the Ottumwa Police Department on December 5, 1994. He resigned in September 2012 to further his law enforcement career. We are happy to have him back with us.



NEW EMPLOYEES AND STAFFING CHANGES

Natalee Podman

Dispatch

Natalee Podman started with the dispatch department on October 21, 2024. She is working through the Police Department's 911 Dispatch Training Program. Natalee has been assigned to the Services Division.

Josh Kobes

Patrol Division

Officer Kobes retired from the Ottumwa Police Department on April 26, 2024 after 23 years of service.

The Police Department is staffed with 40 sworn officers, 11 full time and 1 part time civilians. All positions within the Police Department are civil service positions and subject to Chapter 400 of the Iowa Code. Officers and Communications Specialists are represented by the Ottumwa Police Union, Teamster's Local # 238.

AWARDS



Officer Jeremy Tosh was presented with the Law Enforcement Victim Service Award.

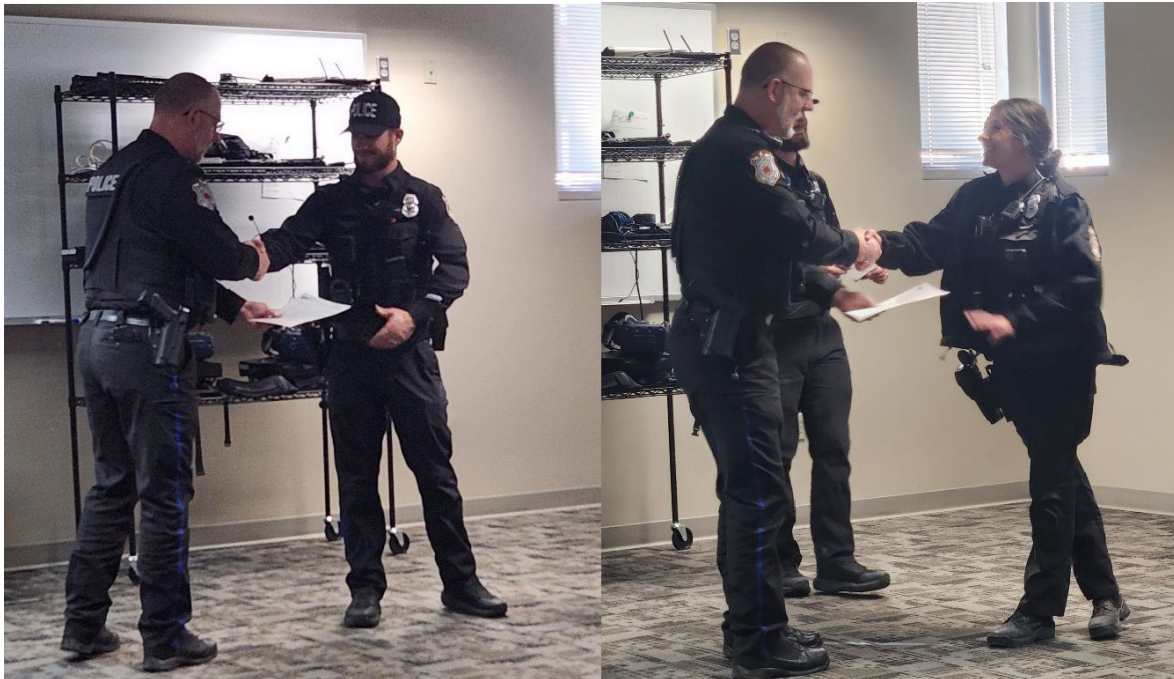


Officer Bolin and K9 Ricco took first place in the Dogs for Law Enforcement Sniff off.

AWARDS



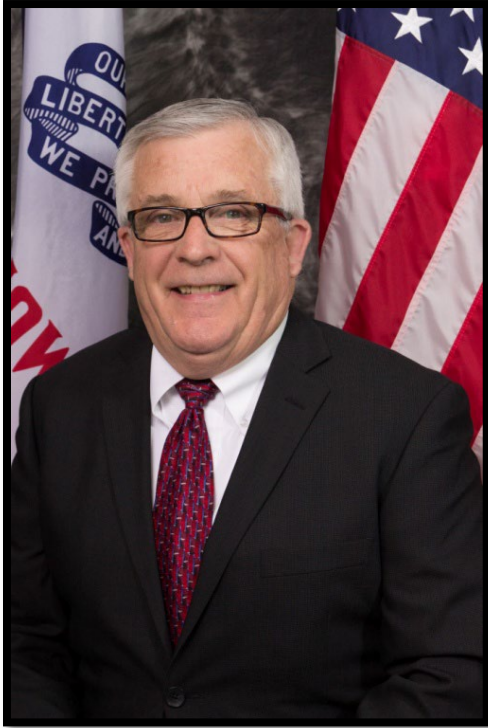
Dispatcher Chris Munley was presented with a certificate for her 25th Anniversary at the Police Department.



Police Chief Chad Farrington presents Officer Randy Daniels and Officer Mandy Martell with letters of recognition.



Police Chaplain



Rick Bick is the Pastor of NewLife Center in Ottumwa. Next year he will celebrate 47 years in ministry. He and his wife came to Ottumwa ten years ago with a vision to work with other area churches serving the community. He was drawn to Ottumwa by the city's slogan, City of Bridges, River of Opportunity. He sees the Chaplain program as an opportunity to partner with local law enforcement in making a difference in Ottumwa.

The Police Chaplain provides personal services to officers and their families in times of stress and difficulty, provides services to the community in times of personal or city-wide crisis, assists officers in addressing community issues and promotes community policing ideals.

The Chaplain acts as a volunteer and supports official functions of the Department. The Chaplain attends regular training sessions and meetings and rides along with patrol officers on a regular basis.

Visitation with sick or injured officers and their family members is a part of the Chaplain's responsibility. The Chaplain engages in confidential discussions, provides guidance as appropriate and may be directed to act as the special representative of the Chief of Police under whatever circumstances might indicate or require extensive counseling. The Chaplain is also responsible for carrying out the following duties:

- Assist in funeral arrangements as requested for current and former Department members.
- Provide invocations and benedictions at ceremonies and other official Department functions.
- Provide moral and emotional support to police officers and the community as may be needed following a major incident.
- Assist officers with death notifications and provide emotional support for family member(s) until their clergy person or other assisting person can arrive on scene.
- Act as liaison between family members and the Department as requested, helping the victims of a criminal act understand the role of law enforcement.
- Provide assistance and direction to victims seeking counseling and advice.



COMMUNITY POLICING

Ride-Along Program

The Police Department believes a Ride-Along Program promotes a better understanding of the challenges, risks, and rewards of the police officer's role in the community. Therefore, the Department allows citizen police academy attendees and students considering a career in law enforcement to ride as passenger observers with patrol officers. All participants in the Ride-Along Program must be at least 18 years of age and must sign a liability waiver.

Ottumwa Police Department Internship Program

The Ottumwa Police Department Internship Program is a cooperative effort between the Police Department and participating area colleges and universities with Criminal Justice Programs. Students interested in law enforcement related careers gain valuable experience and knowledge by working with officers while they perform their law enforcement duties. Upon successful completion, an intern receives academic credit for participating in the program. Interns may be assigned to the Patrol Unit, Records Unit, Communications Center, Investigations Unit, or School Resource Officer Program.





12TH ANNUAL CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY

In 2011, the Ottumwa Police Department implemented a new program called the Citizens Police Academy. As part of our community policing effort, the purpose of the Academy is to provide an educational opportunity for citizens to learn first-hand about local police operations and to gain a deeper understanding of today's law enforcement functions. It is our belief that a clearer understanding of a police officer's duties, how the officer carries out those duties, and the end result of the officer's actions will help develop a better relationship between the police department and the community.

The Citizens Police Academy is an eight-week program, with each session lasting three hours. Sessions were held from 6:00 – 9:00 PM on each Monday in February and March. The course curriculum included: Department Overview & Orientation, Administration, Operations Division, Patrol, K9, Services Division, Drug Task Force, Investigations, Emergency Response Team, Animal Control, Parking Enforcement, Communications (Dispatch), and Records.

Participants also had the option of going to the Department's firearms range during the summer and shooting a variety of weapons.



The Police Department would like to thank *South Ottumwa Savings Bank* for their ongoing sponsorship of the Citizens Police Academy



No Shave November

The Ottumwa Police Association partnered with the Wapello County Sheriff’s Department for our 10th annual No Shave November Event. Each year we raise funds for someone local who is going through a cancer related illness. In 2024, the Ottumwa Police Department partnered with local businesses to raise money for 3 year old Tryce.

Tryce is the son of Zach and Madelyn Hugen. He has a newborn sister- Tatum. Tryce was a normal toddler until his mother noticed that he was constantly tilting his head to the right and he was unable to smile in pictures at Easter. His parents took him to urgent care thinking he had an ear infection, but his ears showed to be normal. His symptoms continued, so they contacted his pediatrician and he was seen that day. His pediatrician thought he may have had Torticollis due to an infection, so she sent Tryce and his family to the hospital for some blood work and X-Rays. When Tryce’s pediatrician received the results of the blood work and X-rays, she saw something that didn’t quite sit right with her, and she sent them to the University of Iowa for a CT scan.

On April 4th, 2024, Tryce had the CT scan which showed him to have a tumor on the left side of his brain that was touching his brain stem and covering part of the brain that the spinal fluid goes through. It was recommended that Tryce have surgery to remove as much of the tumor as they could. His family was told that due to the location of the tumor, he would likely have to re-learn how to swallow, talk, and walk after surgery. Tryce had the surgery on April 11th. He was able to talk following the surgery, but had to re-learn how to swallow and walk which took some time.

Tryce returned in the fall for a CT scan following the surgery which showed that a spot remained. It was discovered that the tumor was growing, and Tryce’s family was tasked with the difficult decision to either start Chemo-Therapy treatments or start an experimental drug trial. It was decided that Tryce start chemo-therapy. He underwent surgery to have a port paced for the treatments on December 5th and he had his first round December 11th.

Through the No Shave November Event, \$13,100 was raised for the Hugen Family.





COMMUNITY EVENTS

Throughout the year the Ottumwa Police Department gets the opportunity to visit area schools, businesses, etc. and interact with members of the community. Below are a few snapshots of our department members.



Kindergarten Field Day and high fives on the first day of the new school year





Special Olympics, directing traffic during RAGBRAI, and Shop With a Cop.





COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Breakfast with Badges at River Valley Place.



Donations from Fareway and Joe's Italian Restaurant and Pizza.



HISTORICAL ARCHIVE PHOTOS





HISTORICAL ARCHIVE PHOTOS





HISTORICAL ARCHIVE PHOTOS

