

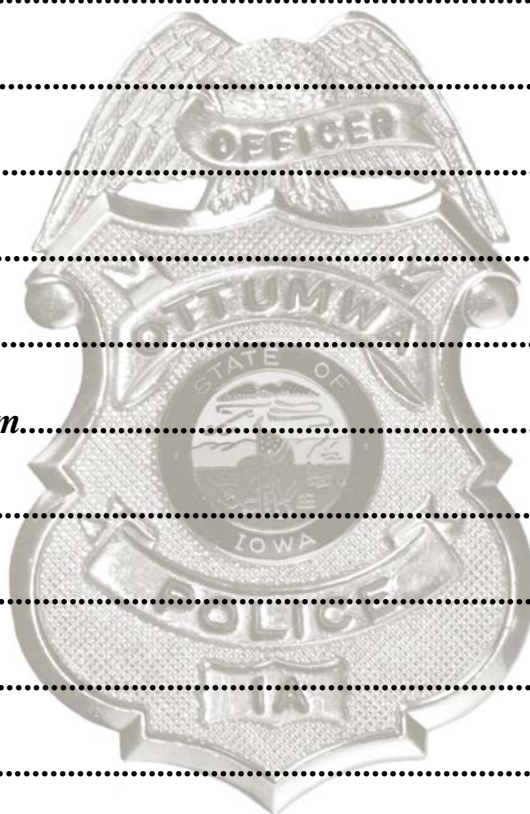


# OTTUMWA POLICE DEPARTMENT 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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## ***CHIEF'S MESSAGE***

Chad Farrington  
Chief of Police



Welcome to the 2020 Ottumwa Police Department Annual Report which highlights the activities and accomplishments of the dedicated men and women who serve the citizens of Ottumwa. This was an especially challenging year for the Police Department and all members of our community. The COVID-19 pandemic proved to be a large disruption to The Department's operations, health practices, and service to the community. The Department was able to develop a fine balance between maintaining safety precautions for the public and officers, while also being sure to not diminish the capabilities and services provided to the public.

The pandemic indeed had an effect on the level of activity within the department. Although activities appeared to slow while dealing with COVID-19 it was still a busy year with our officers responding to over 29,543 calls for service, documenting 4,574 incident reports, and arresting 4,685 suspects. Additionally, our officers issued 1,941 traffic citations, conducted 199 OWI investigations and responded to 353 traffic accidents.

COVID also caused a hardship for our Annual Citizen's Police Academy, which is sponsored by South Ottumwa Savings Bank. Unfortunately the academy had to be cancelled prior to completing the full schedule. The police department will remain diligent in providing the insight and education of our department to the participating citizens of Ottumwa. We will continue to monitor the pandemic in the hope to continue with this program in the upcoming year.

The police department command staff and I continue to implement the new policy and procedure manuals. This has been a daunting task, but will ultimately provide our officers with the most up to date policies and procedures available. Also it should be noted that all members of the police department have now been certified in the Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), which was a goal in 2020. The department has already seen great successes when responding to persons in crisis since the programs implementation.

The Ottumwa Police Department ended 2020 with a staff of 39 officers. We are budgeted for 40 personnel and are continuing to seek qualified applicants to fill this opening. Under the current conditions across our country it is a difficult task to entice citizens to service as a peace officer. We are committed to selecting and hiring the best applicants to fill our open positions. Due to retirements the department also had several promotions that occurred this year.

Officer Mike Sieren was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in September of 2020 and has worked for the department since April of 2009. Sergeant Sieren currently works in the Patrol Division.

Sergeant Jason Parmenter was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in September of 2020 and has worked for the department since August of 2000. Lieutenant Parmenter is currently serving as the Patrol Division Commander and is responsible for the supervision of all division personnel.

Officer Becky Bolin was hired in June of 2020. Officer Bolin originally worked for the Ottumwa Police Department from 2003 until 2016 when she left for a position with the Department of Corrections. We are proud to have Officer Bolin back and she is currently working in the Patrol Division.

Officer Karina Cordova was hired in December of 2020. Officer Cordova is currently attending the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy and is scheduled to graduate in April of 2021. Then she will begin the fifteen week Patrol Officer Training Program at the police department. Officer Cordova will be assigned to the Patrol Division upon the completion of her training.

Communication Specialist (Dispatcher) TJ Millikin was promoted to the position of Datacom Supervisor in August of 2020 and has worked for the department since July of 2017. Supervisor Millikin will be responsible for supervising the Communication Specialists and our Records Department.

Communication Specialist Haley Rose was hired in January of 2020 and successfully completed the required training for her position. She is currently working full time in the communications center.

Communication Specialist Summer Street was hired in August of 2020 and was already certified from a previous employer as a dispatcher. She is currently working full time in the communications center.

Communication Specialist Brittney Bachman was hired in October of 2020 and successfully completed the required training for her position. She is currently working full time in the communications center.

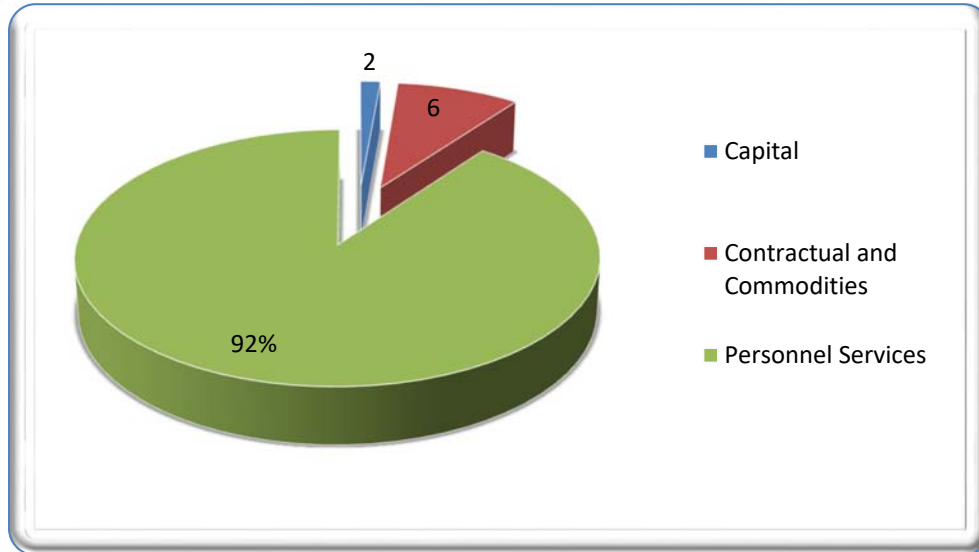
The year 2020 brought many difficulties for law enforcement across our nation and the world. Our community showed support and confidence in this police department. The following pages will give more insight to the work conducted by your police department during 2020. On behalf of my staff and I, thank you citizens, city leaders, and elected officials of Ottumwa for your continued support. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

*Chad Farrington*

Chad Farrington  
Chief of Police

## FY BUDGET 2020-2021



The total budget for the Ottumwa Police Department is **\$5,946,566**. 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 **\$5,431,499**.

### **Capital**

This category includes line items for protective vests, vehicles, etc. Total amount budgeted for Capital is **\$66,991**.

### **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 **\$448,076**.



## STAFF FUNDING & GENERATED REVENUE

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)	-	66% from OCSD / 34% from general fund
1 School Resource Officer (OHS)	-	66% from OCSD / 34% from general fund
1 School Resource Officer (OHS)	-	66% from OCSD / 34% from general fund
2 Drug Task Force Investigators	-	27% from Byrne grant / 73% from general fund
<u>35 Officers</u>	-	100% from general fund
<b>40 Officers</b>		

From January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, the Police Department generated the following revenue:

Reports, Alarms & Fingerprints (4552)	-	\$ 7,110.40
Animal Pickup Fees (4553)	-	9,411.14
Extra Duty Administrative Fees (4551)	-	5,898.90
Arrest Warrant Service Fee (4770)	-	6,168.51
Parking Fines (collected - 4775)	-	18,875.50
Traffic & Criminal Fines (collected - 4765)	-	126,283.27
Municipal Infractions (4772)	-	21,663.87
<u>Grants &amp; Alternative Funding</u>	-	<u>363,454.70</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$537,202.42</b>





## ALTERNATIVE FUNDING RESOURCES

In 2020, the Department received over **\$363,454.70** 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.

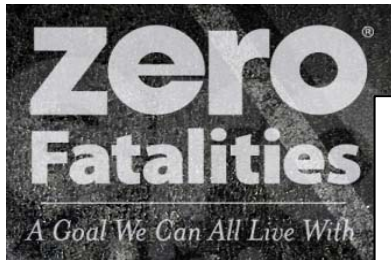
### Local Grants/Funding

The Department received a **\$1,500** donation from South Ottumwa Savings Bank for sponsorship of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Citizens Police Academy.

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

The Department received over **\$197,444.80** 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 **\$21,000** 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.

### Tobacco Grant



The Department received **\$2,625** 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 **\$100,000** 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 soft



body armor vests in 2020. Over one million vests (1,395,976) have been purchased for local and state law enforcement officers from 1999-2020 through this program.

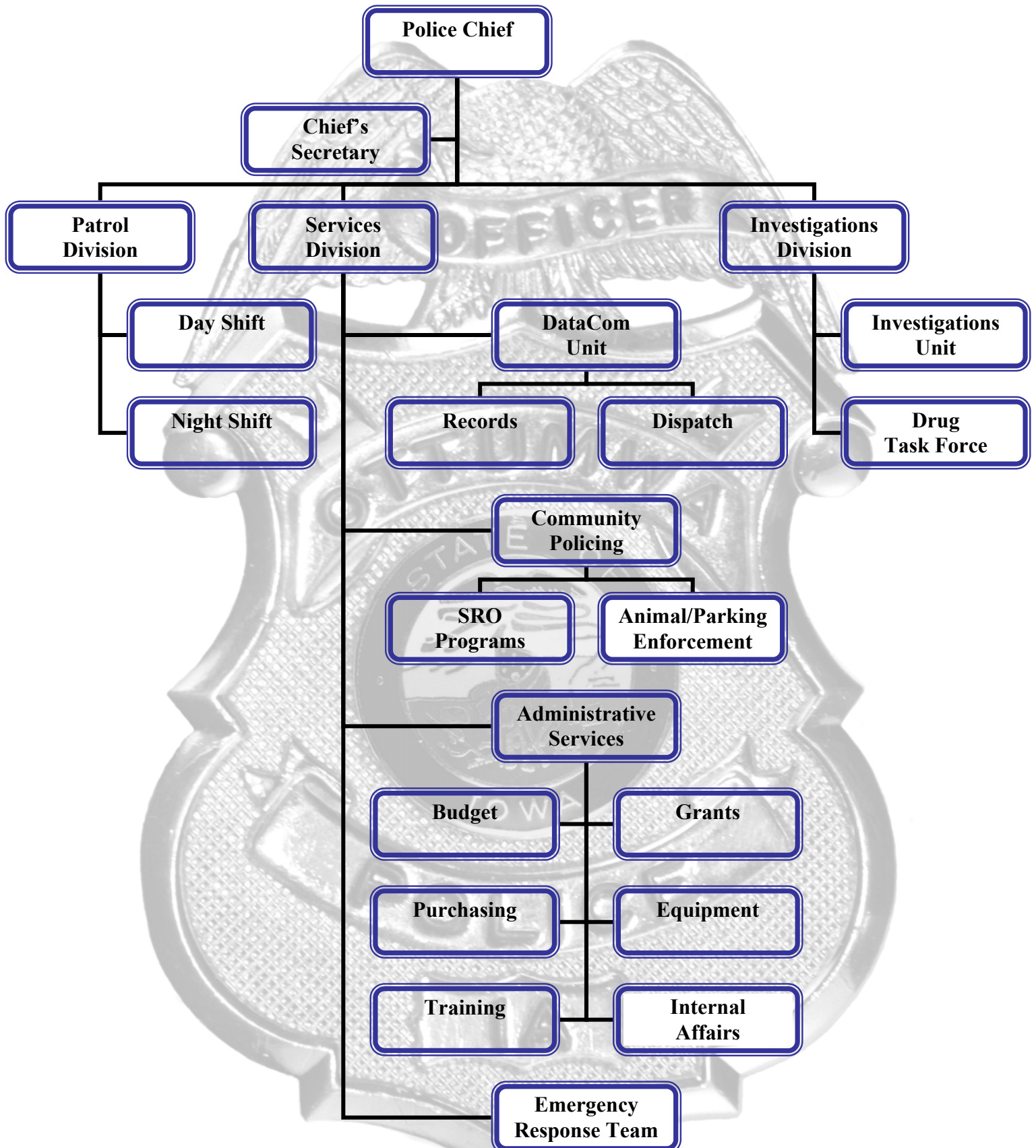
### **JAG Grant**

The Department received **\$13,143.00** in federal funds from the Justice Assistance Grant Program. These funds were be used to purchase the L-TRON OSCR360 High Resolution Camera Image Kit and desktop presentation package. The kit will allow officers to capture and view 360-degree spherical images, associated GPS coordinates and compass information instantly. This information may be used for crime scene investigations, emergency planning and training and will provide officers with an efficient and effective way to capture and preserve digital evidence.





# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE





## 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 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 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 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. In 2020, Investigators conducted a total of 66 criminal investigations including, 9 Sex Abuses, 1 Assault, 3 Burglaries, 1 Child Endangerment, 2 Dissemination of Obscene Material, 3 Prohibited Acts-Narcotics, 2 Felon in Possession of a Firearm, 5 Death Investigations, 10 Thefts, 2 Failure to Comply with Sex Offender Registry, 3 Domestics, 4 Dependent Adult Abuses, 3 Depiction of a Minor in a Sex Act, 3 Criminal Mischiefs, 1 Forgery, 1 Indecent Exposure, 2 Intimidation with a Dangerous Weapon, 3 Lascivious Acts, 1 Ongoing Criminal Conduct, 2 Illegal Possession of Pornography, 1 OWI, 1 Interference With Official Acts, 1 Harassment, 1 Credit Card Fraud, and 1 Missing Person.

Job specifications for Police Officer/Investigator includes;

- Knowledge of the fundamentals of police work;
- Knowledge of investigative techniques;
- Knowledge of the rules of evidence, laws of arrest, search and seizures and court procedures;
- Ability to gather, analyze and evaluate facts and evidence and to draw sound conclusions;
- Ability to prepare clear and concise reports;
- Possess interview and interrogations skills;
- Knowledge of photography techniques and equipment;



*Investigator Michael Sieren*



*Investigator Scott Adams*



*Investigator Jeremy Tosh*





The picture to the left shows Investigators using a metal detector to search an open field for evidence in a case.

The picture to the right shows officers surrounding a house with a barricaded subject inside during less than ideal temperatures and weather conditions. The subject eventually surrendered after several hours.





## 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 2020, the Southeast Iowa Inter-Agency Drug Task Force participated in the execution of 75 search warrants and seized 1 clandestine methamphetamine labs.

The following is a list of controlled substances and firearms the Task Force confiscated in 2020 as the result of search warrants, undercover purchases and controlled purchases.

<b>Methamphetamine</b>	3,778.96 grams
<b>THC Oil/Concentrate</b>	317.75 grams
<b>Marijuana</b>	29.7 pounds
<b>Marijuana plants</b>	167 plants
<b>Pharmaceuticals</b>	383 dosages
<b>Ecstasy</b>	28 dosages
<b>Heroin</b>	3.7 grams
<b>Cocaine</b>	248.4 grams
<b>Firearms</b>	31



The Task Force initiated 42 distribution cases, 3 manufacture investigations, and 25 possession cases. Investigators made 2 case referrals involving an individual to the U. S. Attorney's Office for federal prosecution. Investigators filed a total of 84 charges against 41 individuals.



## 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 66% of the salary and benefits of the SRO assigned to the Evans Middle School, and two SROs at the Ottumwa High School.



*Officer Brandon Gravett*



*Officer Scott Carlson*

### 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 Chase Johnson*



## Walmart Sponsors D.A.R.E. Bicycle Awards

The Ottumwa Police Department is involved in teaching the D.A.R.E. program to the fifth graders in the Ottumwa Community School District. After the students complete the ten week D.A.R.E. program the police department has a pizza party and graduation ceremony for the kids. As part of this graduation awards are given out and there are drawings for bicycles for a boy and girl from the D.A.R.E. classes at each school.

Walmart has been a regular sponsor of the Ottumwa Police Department's D.A.R.E. program and has done so again. The students don't just win a bicycle, but go to Walmart with D.A.R.E. Officer Katlyn Overturf to pick out the bicycle they want. The Ottumwa Police Department is very appreciative in Walmart assisting us in making a special D.A.R.E. memory in these children's lives.

A typical school year would involve our D.A.R.E. teaching face-to-face class school. However, this year due to COVID-19 teachers were able to facilitate a virtual style of learning with all the students.



*Officer Katlyn Overturf helped pick out a new bicycle for the 2020 D.A.R.E. Program Winner.*



*Officer Katlyn Overturf can be seen during her virtual D.A.R.E. lessons with students.*

## 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. In 2020, the Ottumwa Police Department impounded 150 animals and issued 136 animal citations for violation of city ordinance.

*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 2020, 1,785 parking citations were issued amongst all officers. The most common parking violations were Ordinance 23-451 Parking In Violation of Snow Emergency Routes, Ordinance 23-207 24 Hour Parking Limits on Streets, Ordinance 23-266 Parking Permits in Designated Lots, and Ordinance 23-214 2 Hour Parking Violation.





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 into the computer system so that personnel can prepare required statistical and analytical reports.

In 2020, the Records Department processed 4,574 incident reports, 4,685 arrest reports, 1,941 traffic citations, 1,785 parking citations, 199 OWI reports, 353 accidents and 150 animal impounds.



*Lynn Diveley*

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.

## 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.



The Communications Unit documented 41,929 activities in 2020 which included 29,543 calls-for-service. The Unit also received 13,231 emergency 911 telephone calls and 24 emergency 911 texts, averaging 36.3 emergency calls per day. These calls included police, fire and medical emergencies. The Communications Unit also answered 60,652 administrative calls. The Unit has five 911 emergency lines (2 wireless and 3 landline), and 4 administrative lines. Our Communications Unit is budgeted for eight full-time Communications Specialists (dispatchers), who report to the Datacom Supervisor.

# 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 2020, a total of 150 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](http://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.

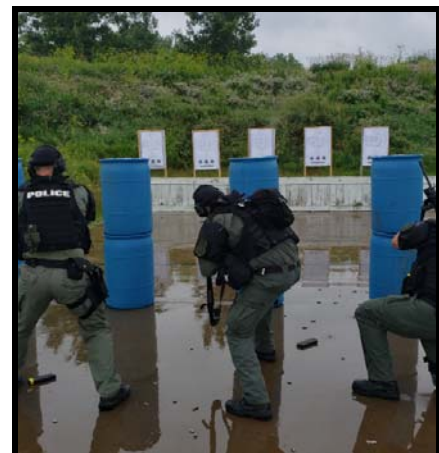
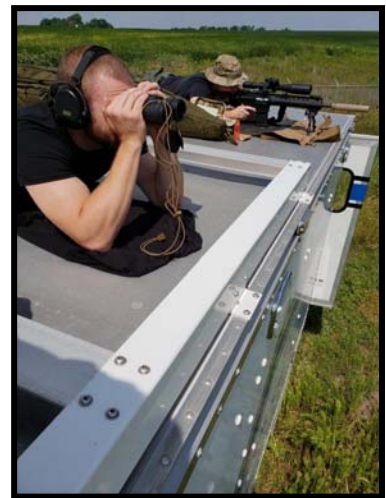




## Emergency Response Team

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 thirteen 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.



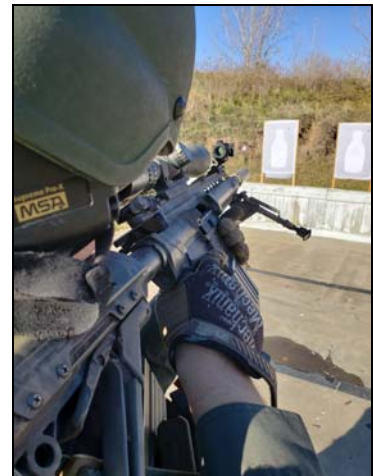


The Emergency Response Team can be deployed for any situation that requires a police response that likely could result in serious injury and/or death to citizens, officers, or suspects. The ERT team was deployed a total of one time in 2020.

Lt. Mickey Hucks 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 Noah Aljets 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.

2020 brought a challenge to Law Enforcement due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Training was limited during 2020 to limit exposure that may affect the department.



# 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
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
2012	1	36	31	162	241	874	37	20

### \*\*UCR

	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
***2020								
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
2012	1	7	17	45	263	662	35	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.

\*\*\*2020 Uniform Crime Report statistics will not be available until September of 2021.

## **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 2018, the Ottumwa Police Department reported 266 aggravated assaults meeting the State of Iowa code definition of aggravated assault. However, only 72 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.



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# ANNUAL STATISTICS



Year	Annual Budget	Alternative Funding	Activities	Calls for Service	Incidents	Arrests	Traffic Citations	OWI's	Personal Injury Accidents	Property Damage Accidents	Fatalities	Animals Impounded
2009	\$3,462,270.00	\$530,404.94	58,038	29,298	4,098	3,780	5,179	162	156	265	1	430
2010	\$3,628,290.00	\$675,091.41	57,691	29,197	4,084	3,925	4,168	180	130	274	2	355
2011	\$3,953,135.00	\$817,277.08	58,825	27,329	3,980	3,987	4,042	146	121	227	1	400
2012	\$4,336,770.00	\$483,794.31	63,505	29,111	3,893	3,775	4,554	120	119	190	0	337
2013	\$4,520,419.00	\$437,685.00	63,503	29,614	4,164	3,899	3,041	118	110	255	0	343
2014	\$4,548,624.00	\$377,620.00	63,163	31,199	3,944	3,599	3,010	95	118	257	0	365
2015	\$4,771,665.00	\$407,581.00	60,727	29,234	3,589	3,414	3,057	102	96	233	2	257
2016	\$4,691,056.00	\$401,292.00	62,800	25,542	3,731	3,554	2,772	113	111	223	1	246
2017	\$4,978,393.00	\$330,547.55	65,777	28,136	4,807	4,662	2,105	125	115	213	1	204
2018	\$5,507,426.00	\$340,927.65	64,338	29,362	4,511	4,648	2,251	165	128	230	1	219
2019	\$5,897,036.00	\$343,918.80	55,422	29,378	5,172	4,846	2,391	212	123	264	2	345
2020	\$6,113,365.00	\$363,454.70	41,929	29,543	4,574	4,685	1,941	191	115	238	2	147



## OPERATING WHILE INTOXICATED

In 2020, the Ottumwa Police Department arrested 191 persons for drunk driving. The following is a summary of the drivers arrested for OWI (Operating While Intoxicated) in 2020:

- The average age of the drivers was 26.
- 75.9 % (145) of the drivers were male.
- 24.1 % (46) of the drivers were female.
- The average blood alcohol content of the drivers was .167. (As of July 2003, a person with blood alcohol content of .08 or above is considered legally intoxicated in Iowa).
- 39 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).
- 5.9 % of accidents are alcohol related in Ottumwa.
- 32.5% of Ottumwa's accidents resulted in personal injury or death.



## GTSB Year End Report

The Ottumwa Police Department received a total of \$21,000 from the GTSB which was used for directed overtime enforcement and equipment. In partnership with GTSB, the Department set a goal of using 300 hours of overtime for high-visibility traffic enforcement in Ottumwa. From October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020, we used 265.25 hours of overtime. Listed below are some additional goals and results reported to the GTSB;

- Alcohol related offense - OWI, drugged, .02, public intoxication, PULA, open container - Result 570 Arrests
- Occupant Restraint – day/night seatbelt & child restraint - Result 89 Citations
- Moving/Speed Violations – speed, stop sign/traffic light, other citations - Result 2187 Citations



## 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

Gender	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Total	Percentage
Male	2586	319	353	223	3481	74.1%
Female	1039	73	77	25	1214	25.9%
Total	3625	392	430	248	4695	
Percentage	77.2%	8.3%	9.2%	5.3%		

### Traffic Citations

Gender	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Total	Percentage
Male	975	124	133	70	1302	67.1
Female	522	28	66	23	639	32.9
Total	1497	152	199	93	1941	
Percentage	77.1%	7.8%	10.2%	4.7%		



## 2020 CALLS FOR SERVICE



Listed below are the Police Department's calls for service. Calls for service are defined as when a citizen calls in for some type of service. This is not an all-inclusive list.

911 Hang UP	1,911	Dist by Auto	141	Personal Injury Accident	99
Fight	80	Domestic Disturbance	472	Fingerprints	193
Armed Weapon	38	Fireworks	426	Found Property	368
Building Check	148	Fire	79	Robbery	6
Assist Motorist	380	Harassment	557	Reckless Driving	444
OWI	90	Hit and Run	256	Shooting/stabbing	10
Intoxicated person	135	Illegally Parked Car	1632	Shoplifting	190
Mental	400	Juvenile	578	Suspicious Person	2,401
Assault	289	Keep the Peace	433	See Subject	1,603
Alarm	746	Loud music	340	Suspicious Vehicle	1,149
Animal Complaint	1,467	Medical	275	Theft	1,155
Assist Other Agency	460	Missing Person	240	Traffic Problem	328
Burglary	228	Open Building	73	Trespass	168
Criminal Mischief	352	Other	678	Violation Restraining	
Disturbance	1,597	Phone call	6,213	Order	173
Dead Animal	41	Property Damage			
		Accident	545	Welfare Check	642

## OFFICER INITIATED ACTIVITIES

Building Check	148	Investigation	3,493
Park and Walk	1,121	Serve warrant	827
Drive Through	113	Traffic Stop	4,138

\*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, 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 2020, the Ottumwa Police Department documented twenty-three (23) Use of Force Reports. Of those twenty-three (23) reports, ten (10) 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 – 5  
Taser Deployment – 3  
Chemical Agents – OC Pepper Spray - 2  
Deadly Force – Firearm 0

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, 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



**Becky Bolin**  
**Patrol Division**

Officer Becky Bolin was sworn in as an Ottumwa Police Officer on June 1, 2020. Officer Bolin is a familiar face with our department, as she previously served as an Ottumwa Police Officer from 2003-2016, serving as a Sergeant from 2008-2016. She brings back many years of experience and has been assigned to the Patrol Division.

**Karina Cordova Garcia**  
**Patrol Division**

Officer Karina Cordova Garcia was sworn in as an Ottumwa Police Officer on December 14, 2020. She has attended college at William Penn University. She will attend the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy in January of 2020, followed by the department's 15 week Patrol Officer Training Program. Officer Cordova Garcia will be assigned to the Patrol Division upon completion of training.



**Haley Rose**  
**Communications Specialist**

Communications Specialist Haley Rose was hired on January 27, 2020. She became certified on the IOWA system by attending Basic Iowa System Training in October of 2020. Haley has been assigned to the Services Division.



## NEW EMPLOYEES



### **Summer Street Communications Specialist**

Communications Specialist Summer Street was hired on September 8, 2020. She graduated from Indian Hills in 2017 with an Associates Degree. Summer came to our department with 3 years of previous dispatch experience. She previously graduated from the 40 hour Telecommunicator Training at ILEA in November of 2017 and has been assigned to the Services Division.

### **Brittney Bachman Communications Specialist**

Communications Specialist Brittney Bachman was hired on October 4, 2020. Brittney has completed our training program and will attend the 40 hour Telecommunicator Training at ILEA in 2021. Brittney has been assigned to the Services Division.



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.



## Police Chaplain



Rick Bick is the Pastor of NewLife Center in Ottumwa. Next year he will celebrate 44 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.



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. 2010 and 2011 both had 174 line-of-duty deaths. 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 2020, there were 304 Line of Duty Deaths. This is a 105% increase from 2019, with 186 of those deaths being attributed to COVID-19.

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."



During a typical year, the Ottumwa Police Department presents and engages in several training seminars. 2020 was a year that affected many aspects of our department, including the ability to attend or host training courses. The Ottumwa Police Department's "Active Shooter Training for Citizens" had to be put on hold. The Department will remain committed to providing this type of training and site walkthroughs for the community in the future.

Fortunately, before the COVID19 pandemic started, several officers were able to attend regional training seminars throughout the State.

In January, Officer Jordan Staton and Officer Levi Ritz on graduated from the Southern Police Institute Patrol Officer Training Program. Both officers attended the 40 hour class the week of January 27. Officer Staton and Officer Ritz will use the training they received to provide on the job training for new officers after they graduate from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. Officers who graduate from ILEA's 15 week basic law enforcement program are required to participate in an additional 15 week PTO program before being allowed to operate as a single person patrol unit. It takes approximately 8 months for a person to be hired and receive the required training before being allowed to answer calls for service as a patrol officer.

In February, members of the Ottumwa Emergency Response Team attended the 2020 Heartland Tactical Officers Association Annual Conference held in Olathe, Kansas. Topics discussed during the two day training included the Route 91 Harvest Concert Mass Shooting in Las Vegas, Negotiating with PTSD/Veterans, Hostage Rescue and Contemporary Issues in SWAT and Law Enforcement. Those attending were Lt. Mick Hucks ERT Commander, Sgt. Noah Aljets Team Leader, and Team Operators Sgt. Kyle De Ronde, Investigator Mike Sieren, Sgt. Devin Yeager and Sgt. Derek Shaw.





Locating abducted and missing persons are a priority for the Ottumwa Police Department. The Department continually trains for and obtains equipment to be utilized in these situations.

On Saturday, February 22, Officer Mandy Martell, Officer Brandon Gravett and Officer Chase Johnson attended training in Ames Iowa. The officers received instruction from STAR 1 Search and Rescue on the use of Sartopo software which is used for mapping and search management. Having officers familiar with this software will allow the officers to have the software up and running if the STAR 1 search and rescue team is deployed to Ottumwa for an abducted or missing person. STAR 1 has been called to Ottumwa twice in the last few months to assist with the search for missing persons. Fortunately, the missing persons were located prior to a full deployment of the team.

On Thursday, February 27, Investigations Division Commander Lt. Jason Bell, Officer Sean Emmons and Officer Buddy Harsch attended The Child Abduction Rapid Deployment Team Training in Tama Iowa. The officers learned when and how the FBI CARD Team should be contacted and deployed. Several abduction investigations were discussed providing insight on how these investigations can lead to successful conclusions. The class was presented free of charge by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

On Monday, March 2, 2020, members of the Ottumwa Police Department attended EPIC (Ethical Policing Is Courageous) training sponsored by the Muscatine Police Department. The free training is a continuing education program for police officers, supervisors, and leaders of law enforcement agencies. The program focuses on peer intervention and active bystander ship as a means of keeping officers and community members safe.

EPIC training developed by the New Orleans Police Department provides officers the tactics and strategies they need to intervene before a colleague makes a mistake, commits misconduct, or engages in unhealthy personal behaviors. The program is not a “rat on your fellow officers” program, but rather practical training that provides officers with new tools to safely and effectively step in to stop problems before they occur.

Officers who attended from the Ottumwa Police Department were Officer Levi Ritz, Officer Jordan Staton, Officer Caleb Mitchell and Officer Brett Roberts.

# 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. The Police Department sent 5 new recruits to the academy in 2019. The cost of the academy was approximately \$8,000 per officer.

## *PTO Training*

Following academy certification and a return to the Department, a recruit officer is placed in the Police Training Officer Program (PTO). The PTO Program is a minimum of fifteen (15) 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 PTO 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 PTO 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.



# STAFF RECOGNITIONS

The Ottumwa Police Department will often recognize its employees who have displayed exemplary service during the course of their duties. Below are some of the officers were recognized by the Department in 2020 for their outstanding police work.

On January 14, 2020 Letters of Recognition were presented to Officer Darren Batterson and Officer Levi Ritz during roll call for their efforts in conducting a burglary investigation.

## ***Letter of Recognition***

The Ottumwa Police Department, in accordance with its policies and procedures recognizes officers who have displayed service to the community or department beyond what is considered average or normal by the Division Commander. A recommendation for this award was made by your Patrol Sergeants and I concur. This letter is bestowed upon you for an investigation into multiple burglaries that occurred on or around 09-18-2019.

The Ottumwa Police Department received numerous reports of burglaries on the south side of Ottumwa. You and Officer Batterson began a joint investigation into these crimes that resulted in 13 victims of burglary to residences and vehicles. You discovered stolen property outside the residence of 426 S. Webster and were able to develop probable cause for a search warrant at this property. Upon executing the search warrant there were numerous items from 9 of the reported burglaries discovered. Over 42 parcels of stolen property were discovered, seized and many of them returned to the rightful owners.

The following day Officer Ritz made contact with Nathan Wilson at 426 S. Webster and conducted a post Miranda interview. Officer Ritz's interview allowed you to uncover admissions made by Wilson and he identified Trenton O'Brien as a co-offender. Ultimately this investigation led to warrants issued for Wilson and O'Brien that included the criminal charges of Burglary TFA, Burglary 3rd Degree, Aiding and Abetting and On Going Criminal Conduct.

This investigation was representative of effective teamwork and I recognize your efforts in this case. Your dedication to your co-workers, the Department and the community we are sworn to serve was exemplified by your actions. This letter will be placed in your permanent employee file. Congratulations and thank you!

Lieutenant Chad Farrington #102  
Patrol Division  
Division Commander



On January 14, 2020, Officer Jordan Staton received a Letter of Recognition from Patrol Division Commander, Lt. Chad Farrington recognizing him for an investigation he conducted in to a counterfeiting group. Below is the redacted letter.

### ***Letter of Recognition***

Officer Staton,

The Ottumwa Police Department, in accordance with its policies and procedures recognizes officers who have displayed service to the community or department beyond what is considered average or normal by the Division Commander. A recommendation for this award was made by Sergeant Justin Rice and I concur. This letter is bestowed upon you for an investigation into multiple crimes that occurred between 08-29-19 and 09-04-2019.

The Ottumwa Police Department received numerous reports of counterfeit \$100 bills being used at numerous businesses in town. In all there were 10 transactions with these counterfeit bills where unknown suspects received goods and legitimate currency in change. During your investigation you accumulated all related reports, interviewed witnesses and reviewed surveillance video, which culminated in the development of two primary suspect.

You authored a search warrant for this residence and its execution resulted in corroborating evidence that led to criminal charges. One suspect was charged with On Going Criminal Conduct, 5 counts of Forgery and Theft 3rd Degree. You requested warrants for the arrest of a second suspect for On Going Criminal Conduct, 2 counts of Forgery and Theft 3rd Degree. Days later you were able to locate him, engaged in a foot pursuit with him and added an additional charge of Interference with Official Acts.

I recognize your efforts in this case where you displayed diligence, commitment and professionalism to this Department and the community we serve. This letter will be placed in your permanent employee file. Congratulations and thank you!

Lieutenant Chad Farrington #102  
Patrol Division  
Division Commander





On January 14, 2020, Officer Brad Higgins received a Letter of Recognition from Patrol Division Commander, Lt. Chad Farrington recognizing him for a fraud investigation he conducted. Below is a redacted copy of the Letter of Recognition.

### ***Letter of Recognition***

Officer Higgins,

The Ottumwa Police Department, in accordance with its policies and procedures recognizes officers who have displayed service to the community or department beyond what is considered average or normal by the Division Commander. A recommendation for this award was made by your supervisors and I concur. This letter is bestowed upon you for an investigation that began on 08-30-2019.

XXXX of New York reported that an unknown person had been falsely using his name to gain financial loans in Ottumwa. XXXX stated his name and information had been fraudulently used over the last two years. A person with a State of Iowa issued identification card, under the name listed above, was at a local car dealership attempting to purchase a vehicle.

You began your investigation and was able to determine the true identity of the local suspect, which was XXXX of XXXX in Ottumwa. You authored a search warrant for this property and executed the warrant, which resulted in corroborating evidence of suspected crimes and the seizure of a Cadillac Escalade that had been fraudulently obtained with the victim's information. XXXX was charged with Forgery and 2 counts of Identity Theft.

This case involved a suspect that had been victimizing someone for over two years and showed no signs of stopping. You displayed tenacity in the case and diligence throughout your investigation. I recognize your efforts in this case for your commitment and dedication to the Department and the community we serve. This letter will be placed in your permanent employee file. Congratulations and thank you!



On February 24, 2020 Officer Cody Craycraft and Officer Ethan Herren were presented Letters of Appreciation for the professional manner in which they handled a call for service involving a disoriented male subject. The male had wandered from his home wearing minimal clothing with the temperature wind chill of 6 degrees. Officers Craycraft and Herren located the subject and summoned medical attention. The male subject and his family later came to the Police Department to express their appreciation for the officer's professionalism.

Pictured below is Sgt. Derek Shaw, Officer Cody Craycraft and Watch Commander Blake Lefler.





# STAFFING CHANGES

## Retirements and Promotions

The Ottumwa Police Department underwent several changes during 2020. Police Chief Tom McAndrew retired in June after 32 years of service. Lieutenant Chad Farrington took over as Chief of Police immediately following, followed by Sergeant Jason Parmenter being promoted to Lieutenant of the Patrol division to fill Farrington's spot. Sergeant Justin Rice was then appointed to fill Sergeant Parmenter's spot as Drug Task Force Supervisor, which in turn led to Investigator Michael Sieren being promoted to Patrol Sergeant. The open Investigator spot will be filled by Patrol Officer Jordan Staton.

During the year several other employees were able to celebrate their retirement. Officer Marc Conners, Datacom Supervisor Brenda Bennett retired after 24 and 34 years respectively. Supervisor Bennett's position was filled by Communication Specialist Thomas Millikin. Chief's Secretary Mary Lou Donaldson also retired in late 2020, with her position tentatively being filled in early 2021.



Chief Farrington with Officer Marc Conners



Officer Conners, Officer Higgins, and  
Datacom Supv. Brenda Bennett

All of these employees combined represent 110 years of knowledge, experience, and loyalty to the department. They will be greatly missed and we wish them a happy retirement.



# 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**

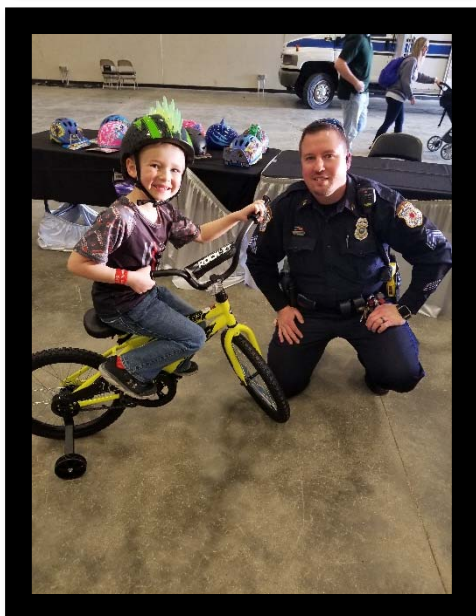
The Ottumwa Police Department Internship Program is a cooperative effort between the Police Department and participating area colleges and universities with Criminal Justice Programs. Students interested in law enforcement related careers gain valuable experience and knowledge by working with officers 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.





## FAMILY Fest!

In March 2020, the Ottumwa Police Department participated in “Family Fest” held at the Bridge View Center in Ottumwa. Family Fest is sponsored by the Bridge View Center and offers an opportunity for members of the community to participate in numerous family activities. The Police Department in “Safety City” allowed citizens, with an emphasis on children, to tour police vehicles including squad cars and the Emergency response vehicle. The children especially enjoyed sitting in the squad car and operating the lights and siren.



## No Shave November



Several employees of the Law Enforcement Center donated and/or participate in No Shave November every year to help raise money for a local charity or family in need. In 2020, the police department raised \$1,165.00 for a young Ottumwa resident including several gift cards from local businesses. The businesses that donated includes Bubba Qs, Culvers, Warehouse BBQ, Wal-Mart, South Hy-Vee, Fareway, and BP Elliott Oil. Premium Tint donated the large check for presentation. The Ottumwa Police Department gave the donation to Daxton,

The day to sit in a police car, run the sirens and play with Hex, Wapello County Sheriff K9.

Walmart also got on board and donated toys for Hudson and his little sister. Last but not least Hudson was able to meet Santa Claus. It was a great day for a great cause!

**NO**  
SHAVE  
NOVEMBER



# OTTUMWA POLICE PARTNERSHIPS



## Department Donations

The stressors and hardships of 2020's COVID19 pandemic truly showed the generous amount of support the Citizens of Ottumwa can have for one another. The Ottumwa Police Department received several donations throughout 2020, to which we are very grateful for. These citizens and businesses in our community take pride in Ottumwa and are a shining example of it means to give back to the community. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for all of those who gave donations to the Ottumwa Police Department.

A Big Thank You to JBS for the donation of Bacon for our employee! It is Very Appreciated!!

A Big "Thank You" to those citizens and businesses who have made available N-95 masks for our public safety employees. Thank You to Airgas for donating one case of N-95 Respirators to the Police and Sheriff's Office! Your support is appreciated!

Thank You Dr. Pepper / Snapple for stopping by and donating some great refreshments to the Police Department and Sheriff's Office. Your support is much appreciated!





Thank you to Josh Stockdall and Atlantic Coca-Cola Bottling Company for their generous donation this morning. We are continuously grateful for the communities support



Thank You Cathy Kitterman and Doris Whitten for your donation of face masks to the Ottumwa Police Department!





Thank You! Carrie Cobler for the donation of hand sanitizer to our officers and to a group of Ottumwa Girl Scouts for dropping off boxes of cookies!



Another big thank you to the Ottumwa Fareway Store for the gift of bottled water and snack food for the patrol officers that we received.



The Ottumwa community has been gracious and supportive of this police department during these difficult times. We sincerely appreciate our citizens, businesses and city officials for your efforts, donations, thoughts and prayers. THANK YOU!