

Waupaca County Sheriff's Office

2024 Annual Report



Sheriff Timothy R. Wilz



MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF WILZ

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and express my sincere gratitude to the dedicated members of the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office. Their unwavering commitment to serving our community with compassion, professionalism, and integrity exemplifies the core values of our office. I also extend my appreciation to the Law Enforcement Committee for their continued support, which is integral to the success of our mission.

As Sheriff, I remain steadfast in my commitment to strengthening the partnership between our office and the communities we serve. Together, we will continue to work towards making Waupaca County a place where families can thrive, businesses can prosper, and every resident feels secure. We are dedicated to upholding the highest standards of service, accountability, and public trust.

In addition, we will continue to honor our sworn duty to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Wisconsin. Our commitment to preserving the rights and freedoms of every individual remains at the core of our work and the foundation of our service to this community.

Your Sheriff,
Timothy R. Wilz

Sheriff's Office Mission Statement

"Our mission is to serve the public by enhancing our partnership with the community to protect life and property, prevent crime, and solve problems".



2024 Law Enforcement Committee



**Ricky Ertl, Kevin Will, Lee Much
Cindy Hardy, Judy Suhs**

The Waupaca County Law Enforcement Committee consists of county board supervisors designated by the Waupaca County Board Chairperson with the responsibility of review of the Sheriff's Office, 911 communications, and the Medical Examiner's Office activities as designated by the Waupaca County Code of Ordinances.

The Law Enforcement Committee serves as the home committee for all staffing increase requests, budget proposals and resolution/ordinance proposals recommended by the Sheriff's Office.

Communications Division

THANK YOU DISPATCHERS THE UNSEEN HEROES OF PUBLIC SAFETY

THE GOLD LINE LIES BETWEEN THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE

They ARE ALWAYS HEARD BUT RARELY SEEN
They ARE THE HEROES BEHIND THE SCENES
The CALM VOICE IN THE DARK

Our Communications Center is staffed twenty-four hours a day, 365 days per year with highly dedicated, trained professionals known as Telecommunication Officers. The Communications Center is staffed with 13 Telecommunication Officers, 1 Communications Sergeant, and 1 Communications Captain. These professionals are the vital link between the citizens, emergent and non-emergent agencies and services within Waupaca County. The Telecommunication Officers continually monitor and respond to over 12 radio channels as well as 911 landlines, 911 cell lines, and administrative non-emergent calls.

The critical information the Telecommunication Officers receive must be assessed and then disseminated to appropriate emergent or non-emergent responders. The data is vital for the responders as they evaluate the risks and determine the proper response method for each incident. A Telecommunication Officer handles numerous telephone calls for service each day; and answer more than 99% of all phone calls, including 911 and instances of receiving multiple calls simultaneously, in just over 4 seconds. The State of Wisconsin recommended average answering time is 10 seconds.

Communications Division

14 Fire Departments

9 Law Enforcement Agencies

5 Ambulance Services

9 Emergency Medical
Responder Groups

Waupaca County Jail

9 Emergency Medical
Responder Groups

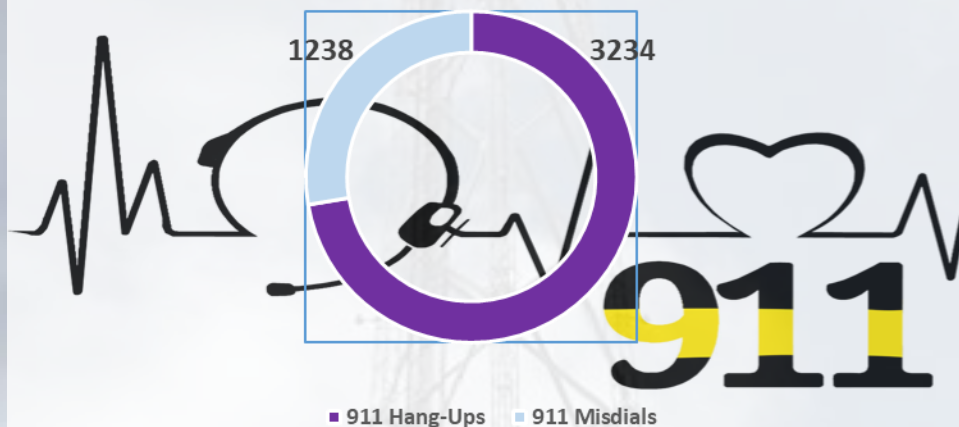
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural
Resources

Wisconsin State Patrol

Public Utilities

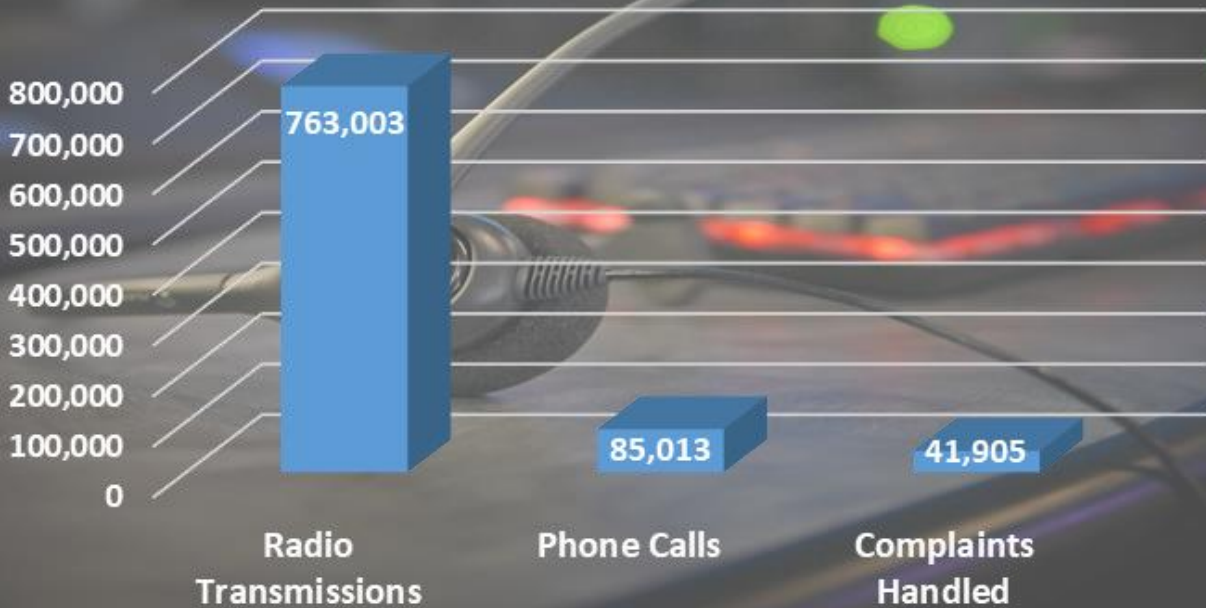
Our Sheriff's Office Communications Center is the vital link to deliver emergency and non-emergency services between the public and all of our public safety partners that help serve Waupaca County.

911 MISUSE CALLS

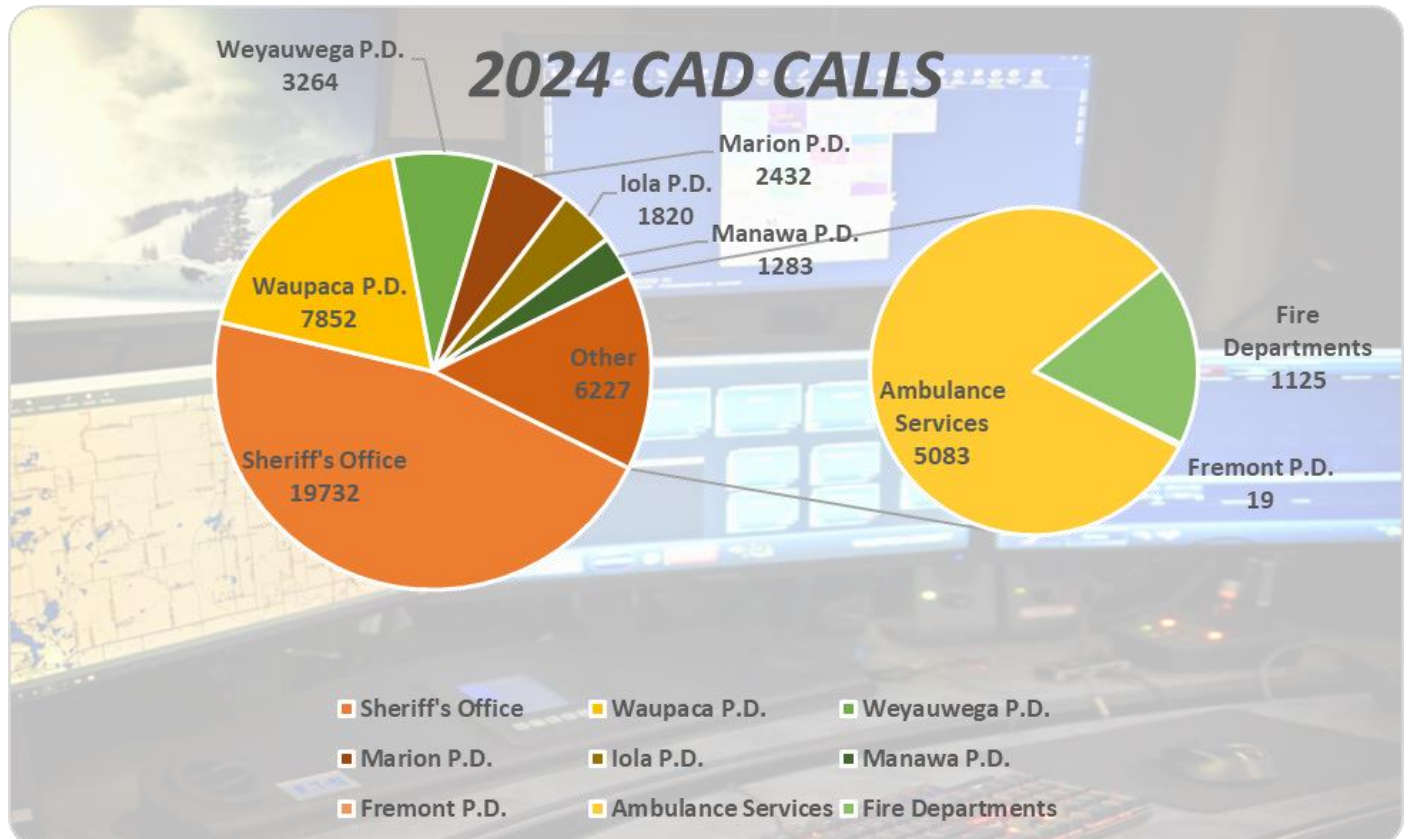


Communications Division

RADIO & CALL VOLUME



2024 CAD CALLS



Communications Division

Telephone Calls Handled

*At our best
when you
need us
most...*

911 CALLS

Average time answered	4.13 seconds
State of Wisconsin recommendation	10 seconds
Number of text 911 calls	19
Number of phone 911 calls	12,965
Total 911 calls	12,984
Average number of 911 calls per day	35

ADMINISTRATIVE/NON-911 LINES

Inbound calls	36,540
Average inbound per day	100
Outbound calls	15,172
Average outbound calls per day	41



Patrol Division



The Patrol Division is the most visible and available division of the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office. The full-time division staff includes 21 Patrol Deputies, 2 Patrol/Transport Deputies, 3 Transport Deputies, 6 Patrol Sergeants, 1 Patrol Lieutenant, and 1 Patrol Captain. The patrol division also includes part-time Water Patrol Deputies and Reserve Deputies.

Together, they provide law enforcement services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for all municipalities that do not have a law enforcement agency and assist the local agencies that provide law enforcement coverage. These services cover approximately 765 square miles, including 2,085 miles of state, county, and municipal roadways, 240 lakes, 79 rivers and streams, 22 townships, 6 cities, and 6 villages. The population of the County is approximately 52,410. The Patrol Division is responsible for enforcing state and local laws and handling many different types of calls for service.

In 2024, the Village of Fremont contracted with the Sheriff's Office for one full-time deputy assigned specifically to the patrol activities within the village.

In addition to their regular duties, many of our deputies have taken on additional responsibilities requiring specialized training. These include:

Field Training Program	Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) Team
K-9 Handler	Emergency Vehicle Operations Instructor
Community Service Presentations	Defense & Arrest Tactics Instructor
Crisis Negotiator	Firearms & Taser Instructor
Drug Recognition Expert	Vehicle Contact Instructor
Civil Process	Professional Communications Instructor
Humane Officer	Tactical Response Instructor
Drone Operator	Dive Team Member

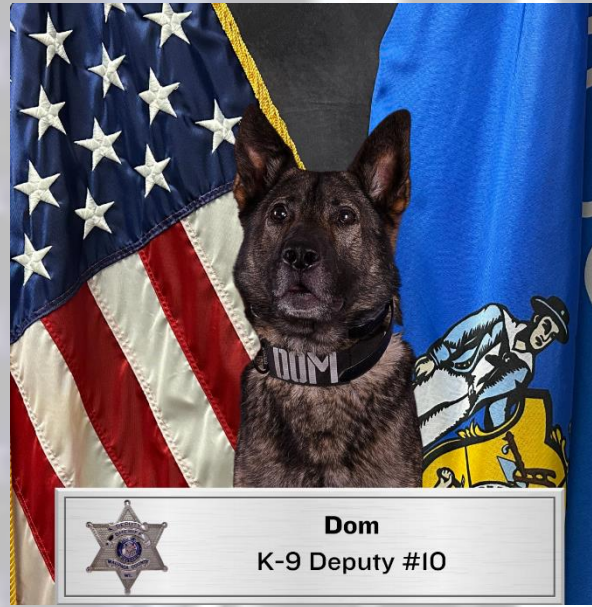
Patrol Division

K9 Unit



Cuda
K-9 Deputy #12

Serving Since 2017
With Deputy James Santiago



Dom
K-9 Deputy #10

Serving Since 2019
With Deputy Adam LaBrosse



Ennie
K-9 Deputy #13

Serving Since 2024
With Deputy Eric Kamholz



Rondo
K-9 Deputy #14

Serving Since 2024
With Deputy Brenden Muske

Patrol Division

PROGRAM EXPANSION

In 2024, Waupaca County Sheriff's Office expanded from a three dog program to a four dog program. This expansion gives the Sheriff's Office one K9 assigned to each of our four patrol work groups. Deputy Eric Kamholz and K9 Ennie began working together in 2024 to replace K9 Nova, who passed away in 2023. Deputy Brenden Muske and K9 Rondo began working together in 2024 as our fourth K9 team.

SUCCESS STORIES FROM OUR K9 HANDLERS

Deputy LaBrosse conducted a traffic stop on USH 10 for an equipment violation. During the course of the traffic stop, Deputy LaBrosse performed a free air sniff of the vehicle with his K9 partner, Dom, who alerted to the odor of illicit substances inside of the vehicle. During the search of the vehicle methamphetamine, several prescription pills nobody was prescribed, marijuana, and several items of drug paraphernalia were located within the vehicle. Both occupants were arrested for drug related charges and the driver was also arrested for operating with a restricted controlled substance (1st offense).

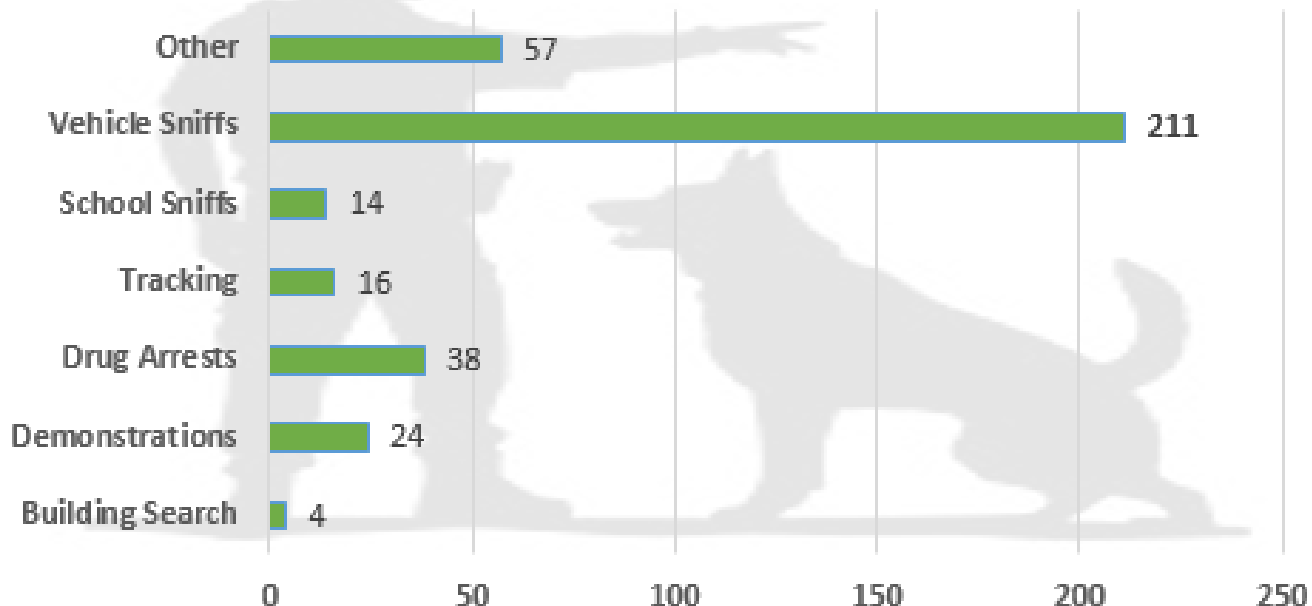
Waupaca County Deputies located and stopped the vehicle involved in a drug investigation. K9 Ennie was deployed to conduct a free air sniff of one vehicle where she did alert. Methamphetamine and paraphernalia were located on the driver and within the vehicle. Multiple citations were issued along with charges for criminal damage to property.

Waupaca Police Department initiated a vehicle contact within the city of Waupaca however the driver immediately fled from law enforcement on foot due to having a current arrest warrant. Waupaca PD Officer did engage in a foot pursuit of the wanted male subject. K9 Cuda was deployed on a track at the last known location the subject was seen. During the track, Deputy Santiago was able to visually locate the male subject a considerable distance ahead of the path of K9 Cuda's track. Deputy Santiago began giving verbal commands and K9 advisement for the male subject to comply with law enforcement. The male subject identified his inability to outrun K9 Cuda, and was subsequently taken into custody without further incident.

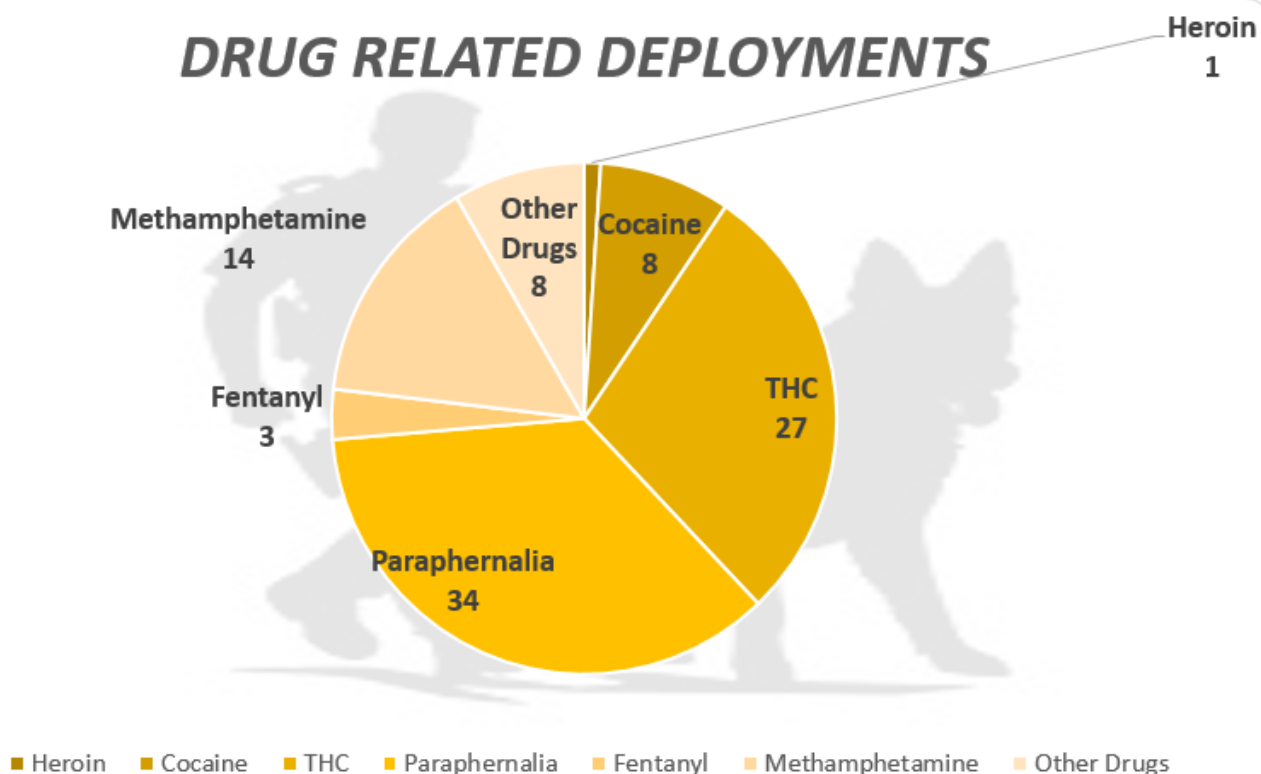


Patrol Division

DEPLOYMENTS



DRUG RELATED DEPLOYMENTS



Patrol Division

Recreation Patrol



Water Patrol worked 1,814 hours of patrol, mostly on working the Wolf River and Chain O' Lakes. Water Patrol is staffed mostly with seasonal / part time employees. During the course of the summer patrol issued 74 citations, with the most common violations being for navigational rules and registration violations. Patrol issued a total of 7 citations relating to operating while intoxicated. A total of 109 written warnings were issued and 30 person(s) or vessels were assisted. Water patrol enjoyed a summer of keeping the waterways safe in Waupaca County. We look forward to another great boating season.

Waupaca County is home to several waterways, trails, and ATV/UTV routes that residents and guests enjoy throughout the year. The Sheriff's Office deploys our UTV, snowmobile, and boats to provide a visible presence while the public enjoys these natural resources. Our recreational patrol is subsidized through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources funding. The Sheriff's Office Recreation Patrols are staffed by a combination of full-time Sheriff's Office deputies who perform these tasks as an additional duty and some part-time deputies specifically hired for water patrol duties.

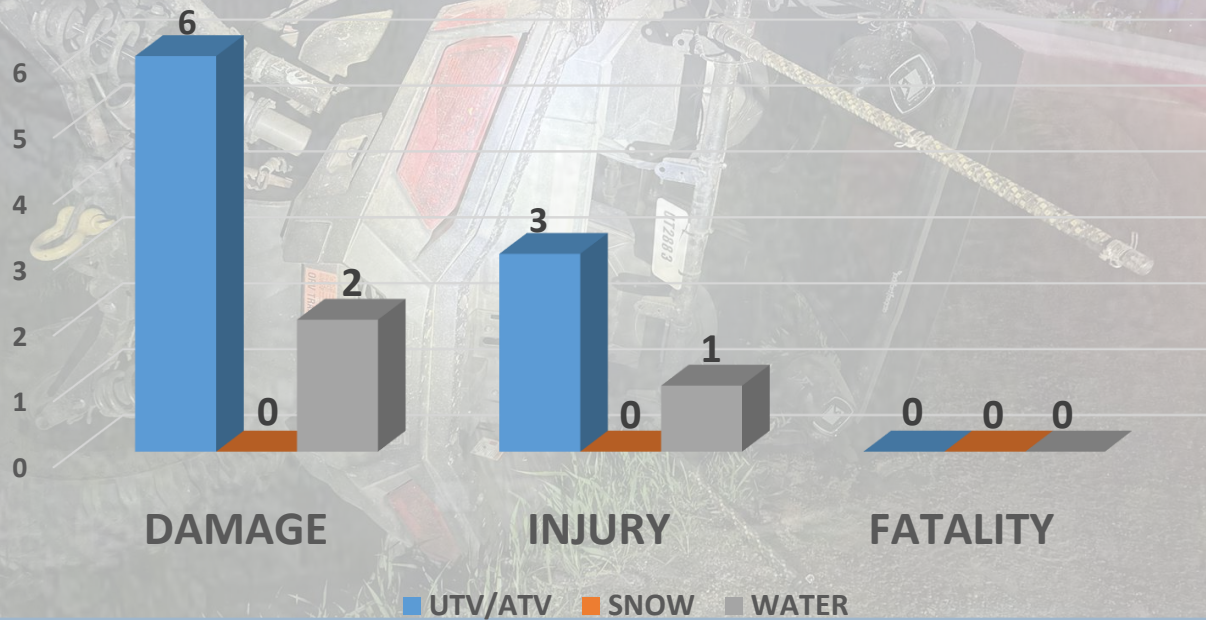
Snowmobile trails in Waupaca County were only open for approximately two weeks during the course of the season. We patrolled 77 patrol hours on the trails. We issued 11 citations, mostly for trail pass and trespassing violations. We issued 6 written warnings. Sheriff's Office officials worked with the Waupaca County Snowmobile Association in an effort to help reduce the amount of trespass violations and complaints.

Our UTV Patrol had a total of 162 hours of patrol for the patrols season. Our activities focused on fisheries and violations which are observed during normal routine patrol. Patrol issued 24 citations mostly for operation on roadways where it is prohibited. There was a higher volume of alcohol related ATV/ UTV offenses which resulted on 12 citations being issued for alcohol related offenses. Most of the townships in Waupaca County allow the use of recreational vehicles which has resulted in a higher volume of recreational vehicles on the roadways.



Patrol Division

RECREATIONAL CRASHES



Patrol Division

Patrol Field Training Officer (FTO) Program

The Waupaca County Sheriff's Office Field Training and Evaluation Program is modeled after the San Jose, CA model. The San Jose model is recognized in the law enforcement profession as the leader in the area of field training. Our FTO program consists of five phases.

Waupaca County Field Training Officers are chosen after deputies submit a letter of interest for the position. By this method, Waupaca County Sheriff's Office gains deputies that have a genuine interest in the program and mentoring new officers into a safe and rewarding career. Currently, Sergeant Josh Krueger is the Field Training Coordinator and Sergeant Chad Repinski is the Field Training Supervisor. The field Training Officers in 2024 were Sergeant Graham Barden, Sergeant Autumn Curtis, Deputy Adam Lange, Deputy Adam LaBrosse, Deputy Alec Brockman, and Deputy Brenden Muske.

PHASE	DURATION	OBJECTIVES
Phase 0 Orientation	1 week	Review of basic critical law enforcement tasks, firearms issuance and qualification, orientation with administration, partnering agencies, and other divisions of the Sheriff's Office
Phases 1-3 Training and evaluation phases	12 weeks	Strengthen their skills learned during their education and academy level training. Review the department policies and procedures of each task multiple times. Successfully complete the task on their own without assistance from the field training officer. The new deputy will have three different field training officers, one for each phase.
Phase 4 Evaluation before solo patrol	2 weeks	Return to the original field trainer for the fourth phase. Handle all calls for service properly with minimal assistance from their field training officer. Demonstrate the ability to conduct solo patrol activities. Following the successful completion of phase 4, the new deputy will transition to solo patrol activities.
Phase 5 Periodic trainer ride alongs	1 shift monthly in year 1	Allow the new deputy direct opportunities to ask any questions they may have and allows field trainers to continually assist in fine-tuning skills.



2024
Sheriff's Office

New Deputies
Field Trained



Ben Bigelbach
Patrol Deputy #535



Zach Diley
Patrol Deputy #545



Kylie Bachaus
Patrol Deputy #530



Kyle Betzner
Patrol Deputy #555

Patrol Division

Transport Unit

The 2024 Transport Unit consisted of five deputies. The transport unit provides a critical link between the patrol division and corrections, courts, medical professionals, mental health professionals, and parties involved in the court and mental health process. Deputies in the Transport Unit complete several primary duties, including:

- Transport prisoners to and from county jails, state prisons, juvenile detention centers, and hospitals for court appearances, medical appointments, sentences, and warrant arrests
- Serve civil process documents including small claims, civil suits, evictions, Sheriff sales postings, replevins, injunctions, and restraining orders
- Security of the courthouse including jail inmate escorts to court appearances, courtroom security when needed for court proceedings, periodic courthouse entry point screening
- Serve criminal arrest warrants
- Assist with other Patrol Division functions



<u>Transport Unit</u>	
Miles Traveled	151, 161
Transports	478
Civil Process Received	700
Civil Process Completed	565

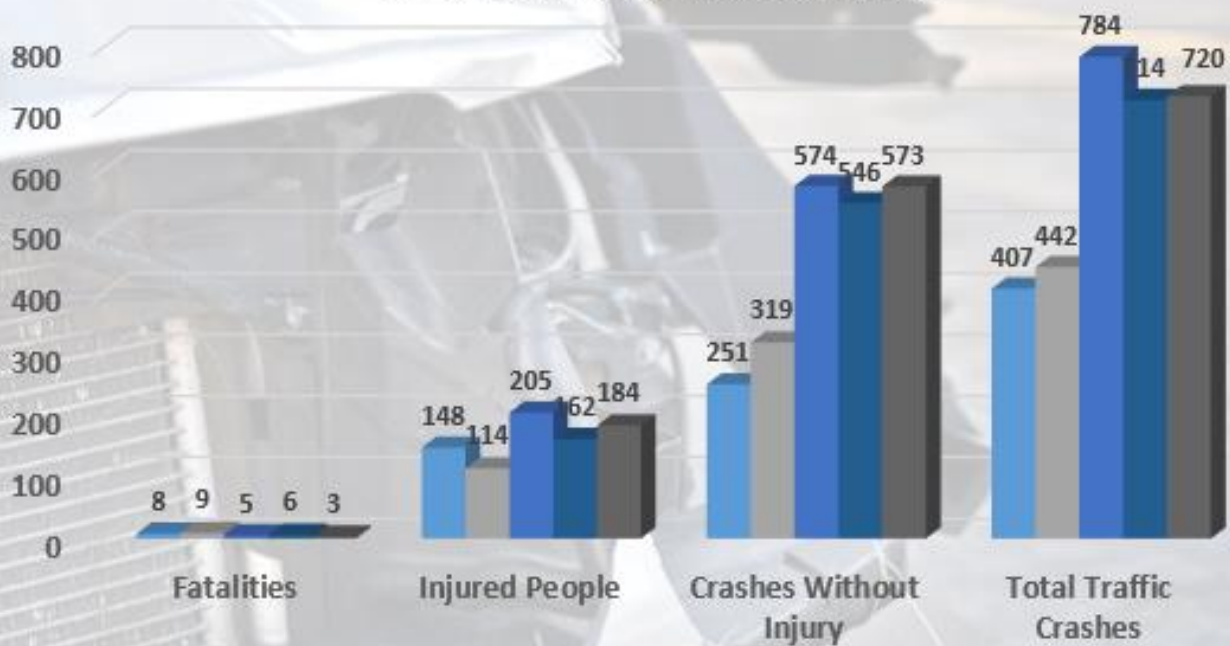


In 2024, the transport unit coordinated security for the sentencing of Scott Farmer for vehicular homicide. The transport unit also coordinated security for hearings related to an upcoming cold case homicide trial.

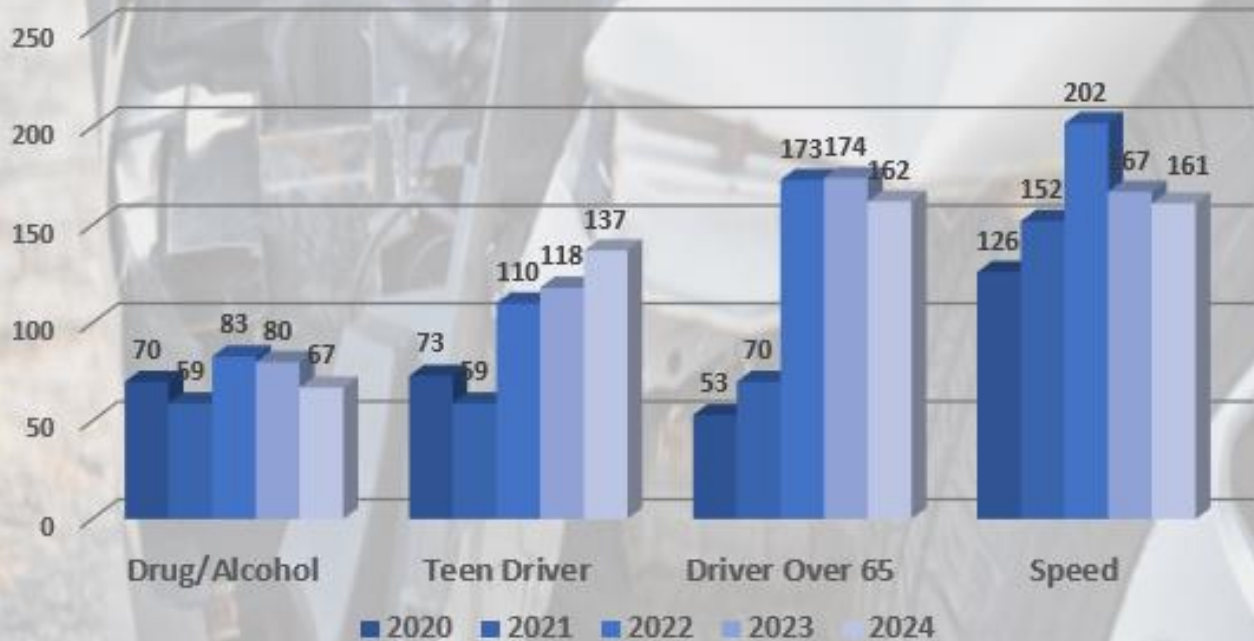
The Sheriff's Office and the courts continued to use remote appearances when feasible. Our transport deputies coordinate numerous inmate court appearances including as trials, preliminary hearings, sentencing, and emergency detention hearings.

Patrol Division

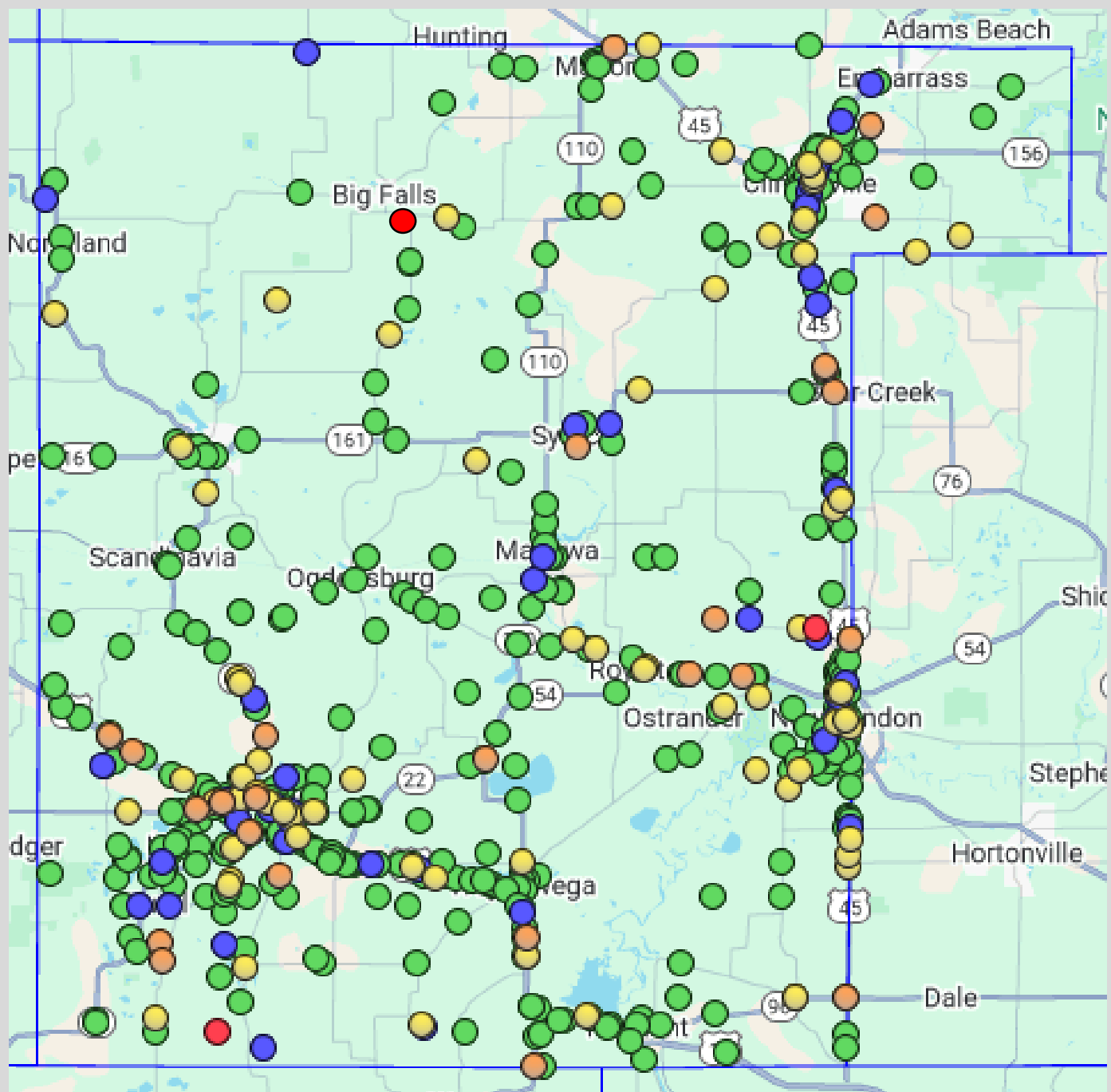
TRAFFIC CRASHES



CRASH FACTORS



Patrol Division



2024 Reportable Traffic Crashes

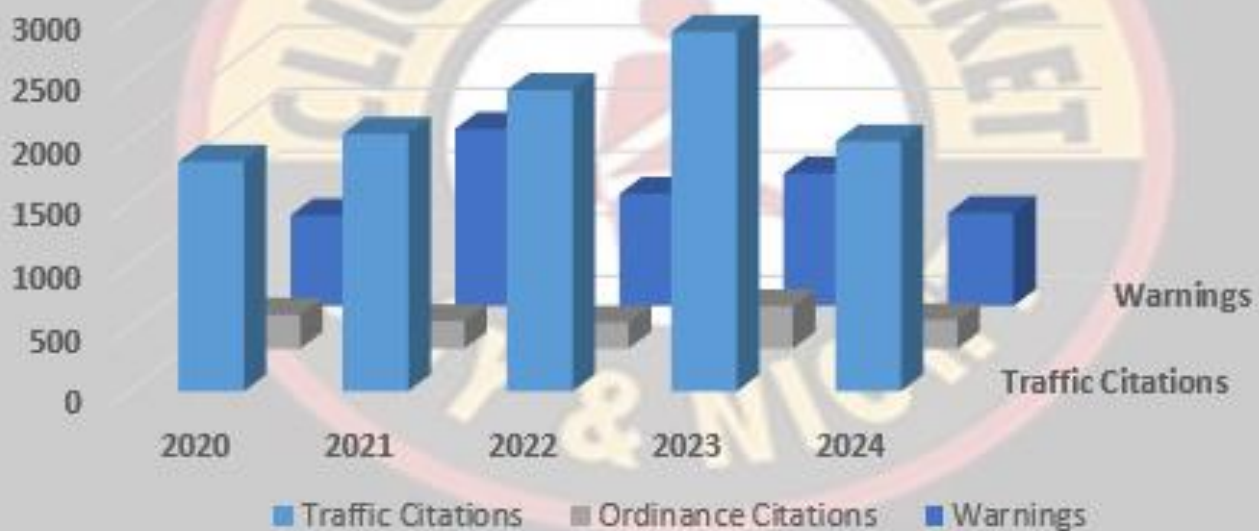
- Fatality
- Serious Injury
- Minor Injury
- Suspected or Possible Injury
- Property Damage

Patrol Division

OWI ARRESTS

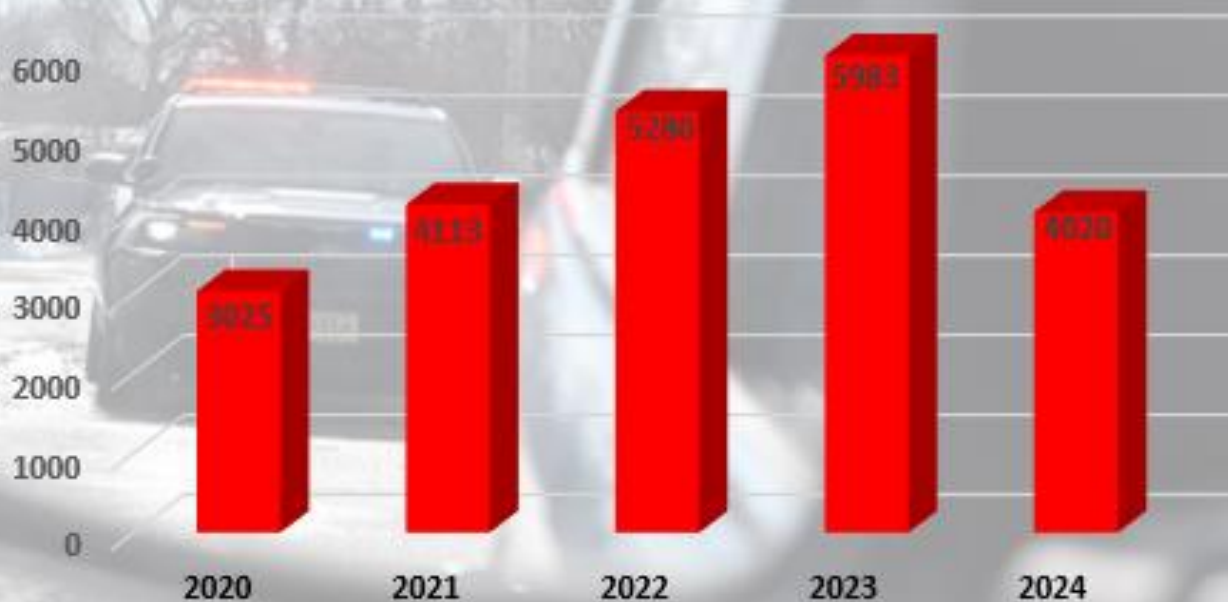


CITATIONS & WARNINGS



Patrol Division

TRAFFIC STOPS



SCHOOL EXTRA PATROLS



Detective Division



The Waupaca County Sheriff's Office Detective Division is focused on advocating for victims while conducting fair, transparent, and impartial investigations.

The Detective Division is responsible for investigative follow-up, evidence collection, crime scene analysis, and proactive investigative efforts on many different crimes, which generally require more time or resources.

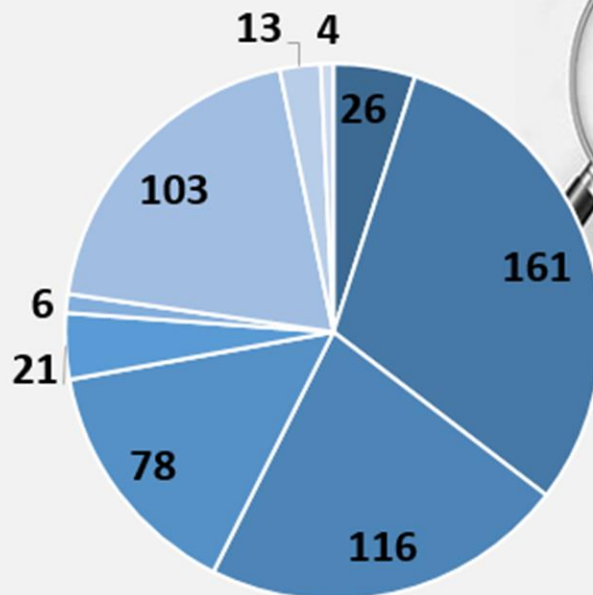
These crimes include sex crimes, child abuse and neglect, death investigations, property crimes, computer crimes, and significant traffic crash investigations.

The Detective Division collaborates with other local, state, and federal agencies.

Detective Division

DETECTIVE DIVISION 2024 CASES

- Burglary
- Theft
- Drugs
- Sex Offense
- Child Abuse
- Elder Abuse
- Fraud
- Cyber Crimes
- Internet Crimes



Our Sheriff's Office Property Manager and Evidence Technician works directly with the Detective Division. They are the primary evidence handler when items are logged into evidence, responsible for security and placement of all items. The Property Manager & Evidence Technician conducts yearly inventories and audits of every piece of evidence stored and maintained by the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office.

This position is responsible for sending items to the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory, preparing items for court, purging items, returning items and auctioning items. The Property Manager & Evidence Technician works closely with the Detective Captain and District Attorney on the movement of any item. In 2024 there were 1,172 items of evidence were logged to the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office.



Detective Division

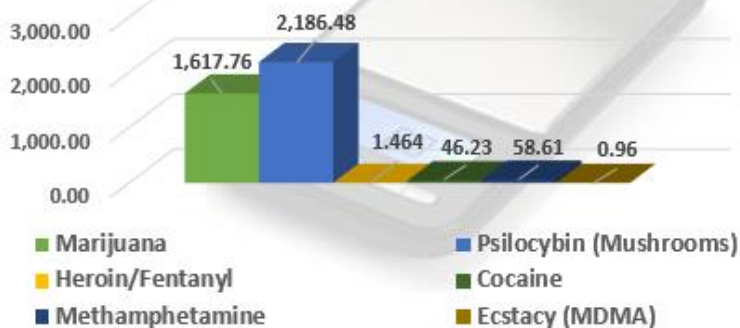
Narcotics Detectives

The Waupaca County Narcotics Division is an active member of the Central Wisconsin Drug Task Force (CWDTF), which includes 15 law enforcement agencies within 8 counties. The CWDTF is funded largely through grants provided by the Federal Government, administered by the State of Wisconsin. These grants reimburse member agencies for man-power and other expenses involved in combating illicit drug activity. The Waupaca County Narcotics Division has 2 deputies assigned to the CWDTF on a full-time basis.



SUBSTANCES SEIZED

WEIGHT IN GRAMS

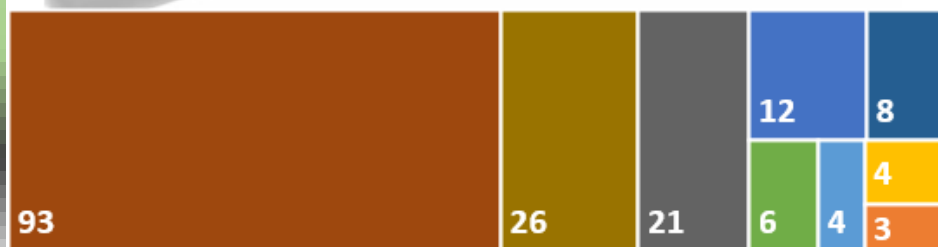


FEDERAL GRANT REIMBURSEMENTS

The Waupaca County Narcotics Division relies heavily on the grants provided to the CWDTF for funding. We were able to get an equipment grant that allowed us to purchase pertinent tools aiding in investigation operations.

INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITY TYPE

- Act 79 Residential Search
- Undercover Operations
- Cell Phone Warrants
- Controlled Buys
- Interviews
- Fatal Overdose Investigation
- Search Warrants
- GPS Warrants
- Traffic Stops
- CWDTF Assists



Detective Division

Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)

Digital Forensics

The Waupaca County Sheriff's Office collaborates and is a participating member of the Wisconsin Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force lead by the Wisconsin Department of Justice-Division of Criminal Investigation.

In 2024, we received fifteen (15) case referrals, called "Cybertips", from the Wisconsin Department of Justice involving suspected child enticement and child pornography activity within Waupaca County. Cases are received through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and disseminated through the Wisconsin DOJ ICAC online portal. One (1) arrest was made as a result of a Sex Offense investigation leading to a self-initiated Cybertip with multiple victims primarily identified in Manitowoc County.



Electronic devices, including mobile phones, tablets, and computers, carry increasingly more evidence related to criminal activity. Most everyone possesses mobile devices that are constantly recording data such as location, activity, biometrics, messaging and call logs, internet history, and much more. This information proves to be invaluable during criminal investigations as criminals utilize these devices while committing crimes.

The Waupaca County Sheriff's Office Digital Forensics Lab can process these devices utilizing tools such as Cellebrite Mobile Forensics and forensic programs such as Griffeye Analytics and Axiom by Magnet Forensics. With these tools, we can rapidly analyze digital evidence in-house to keep the investigation on track and conclude promptly. Devices are analyzed within hours versus months when using the Wisconsin Department of Justice Digital Forensics Unit.

In 2024, the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office Digital Forensics Unit began the process of evaluating the original lab equipment from 2015. A capital project was undertaken to bring to the Sheriff's office and local partners a digital lab capable of analyzing today's high tech devices in an environment designed for automation, speed, reliability and integrity. With this new equipment and software the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office will continue to be a leader in Digital Forensics by keeping up to date with changing technology, continued advanced training, and maintaining compliance with the Wisconsin Department of Justice Standards.

Corrections Division

THANK YOU CORRECTION OFFICERS



HEROES BEHIND THE WALLS

The Corrections Division is a critical component in the Criminal Justice System. The Waupaca County Jail is a correctional facility operated by the Sheriff, in accordance with the Constitutions of the State of Wisconsin and the United States of America. Accordingly, the jail will meet or exceed standards established by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, federal, state and local law. The division includes 38 Correctional Deputies, 6 Correctional Sergeants, a Lieutenant, and a Captain.

In 2001, Waupaca County saw the opening of its new facility at 1402 East Royalton Street. The jail can house 321 inmates. Currently its average daily population is approximately 200 inmates.

The jail is responsible for the care and custody of prisoners. It also functions as a holding facility for convicted felons awaiting transfer to the Wisconsin State Prison System, sentenced prisoners, and prisoners awaiting trial.

In 2024, the Waupaca County Jail continued to house inmates from other counties in need of jail space, primarily Wood County and Portage County.

The County Jail is a busy and active facility. Numerous programs are offered to inmates. Our goal is to help the prisoners incarcerated and keep our community safe.



Corrections Division

Specialized Equipment and Training



The Waupaca County Jail provides safe and professional services to our inmates. Our correctional facility contains specialized equipment and standard safety equipment. Corrections deputies train yearly in many specialized areas. These include:

- Professional Communications Skills (PCS)
- Taser Recertification
- Principles of Subject Control (POSC) /
- Defensive Tactics (DT)
- Communications Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Inmate Classification
- Fire Evacuation
- Suicide Prevention
- Scott Air Pack Review
- Inmate Health Care
- Control and Distribution of Medication
- Blood Borne Pathogens
- Peer Support

Several of our supervisors and correctional deputies serves as instructors and correctional training deputies who provide in-house specialized training to enhance the safety of our correctional staff and of our service providers and inmates.

The Waupaca County Jail continues to use state of the art equipment such as a body scanner, a live scan fingerprint machine, video monitoring equipment, and Zoom equipment for remote court appearances.

The ability of our staff to use the technology at their fingertips dramatically improves the safety of the facility.



Corrections Division

Inmate Programming

There are several programming opportunities provided and offered to inmates confined at the facility. All volunteers complete safety and security training to introduce them to the correctional environment and are subject to a criminal background check. Programs have been continually increasing due to the commitment of Jail Administration and support of the County and Community philosophy allocating supporting resources.



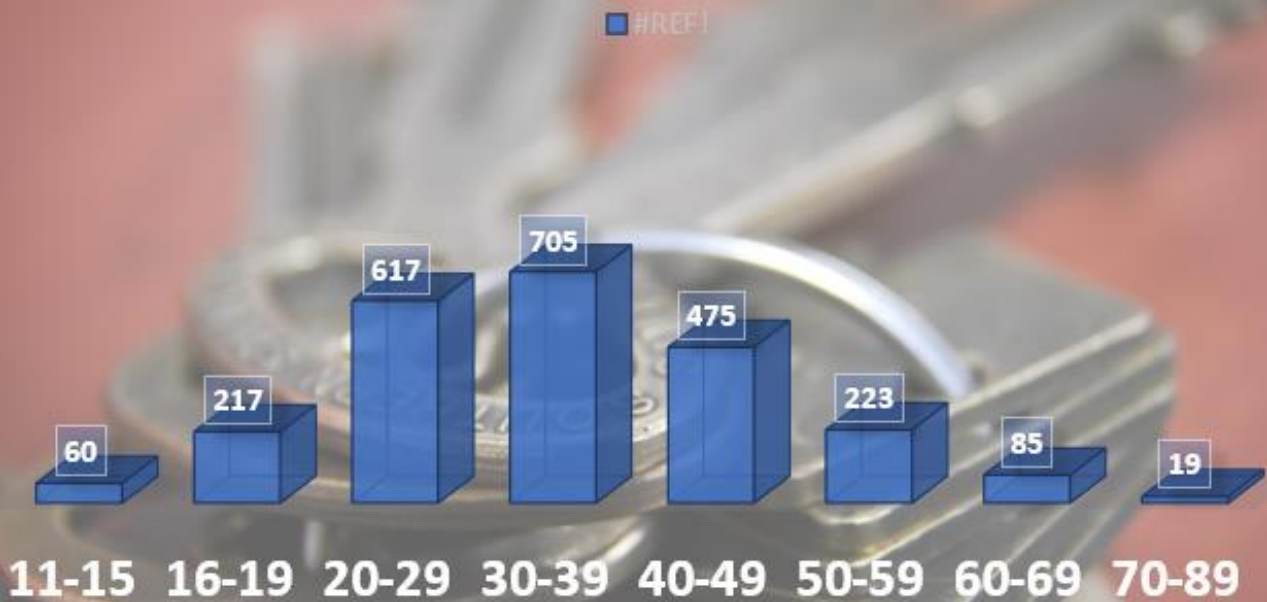
Programs offered include the following:

- FVTC provides GED education
- FVTC provides GOAL
- Religion: 7 days per week with services and bible study
- AA/NA
- Volunteers are used throughout the facilities as needed for occasional programming needs
- AODA is being provided by DHS
- Local Library- There is a good working relationship with the local library
- Volunteers continue to bring books in approximately three times per year

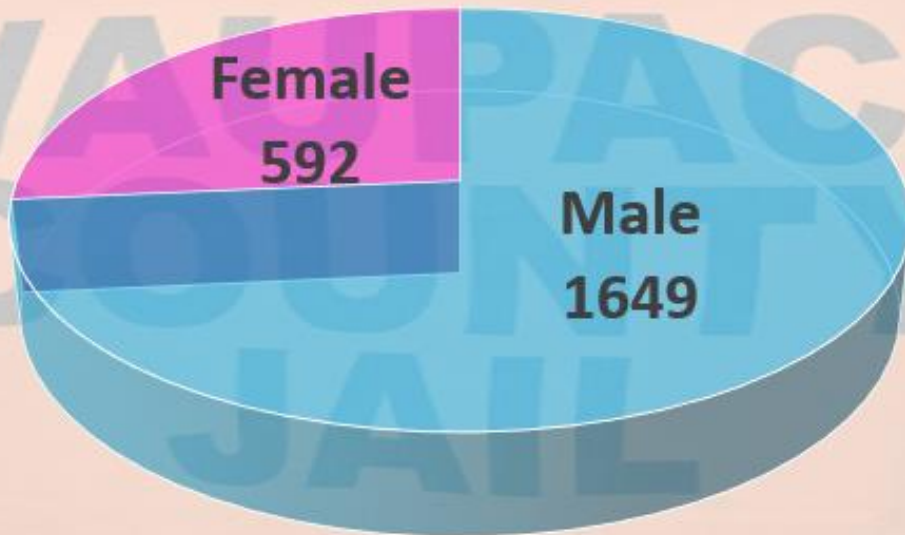


Corrections Division

2024 BOOKING BY AGE



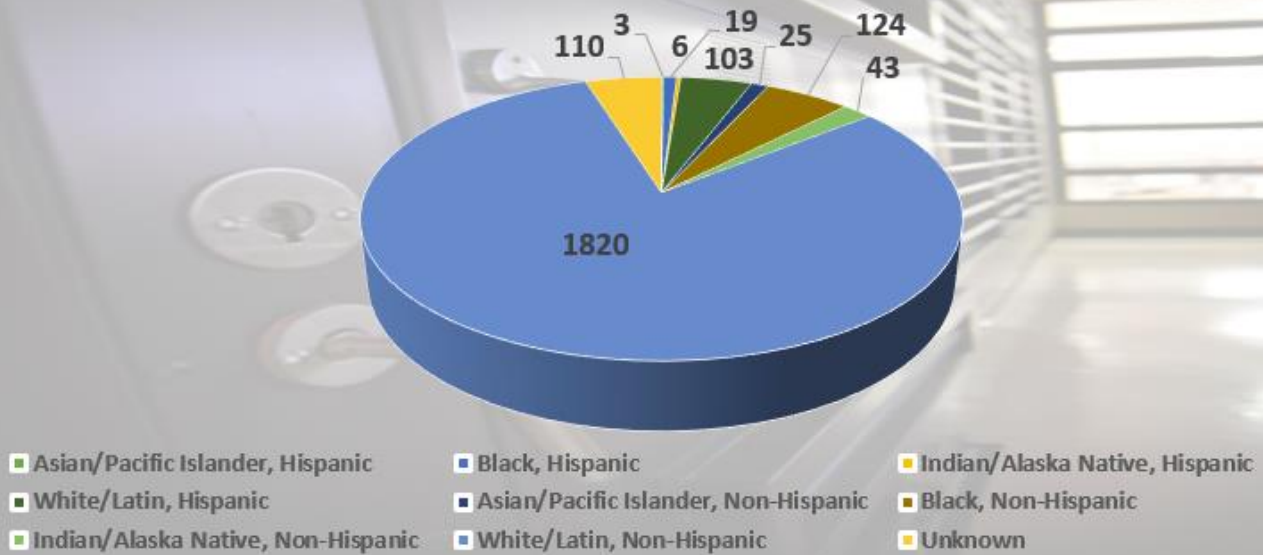
2024 BOOKING BY GENDER



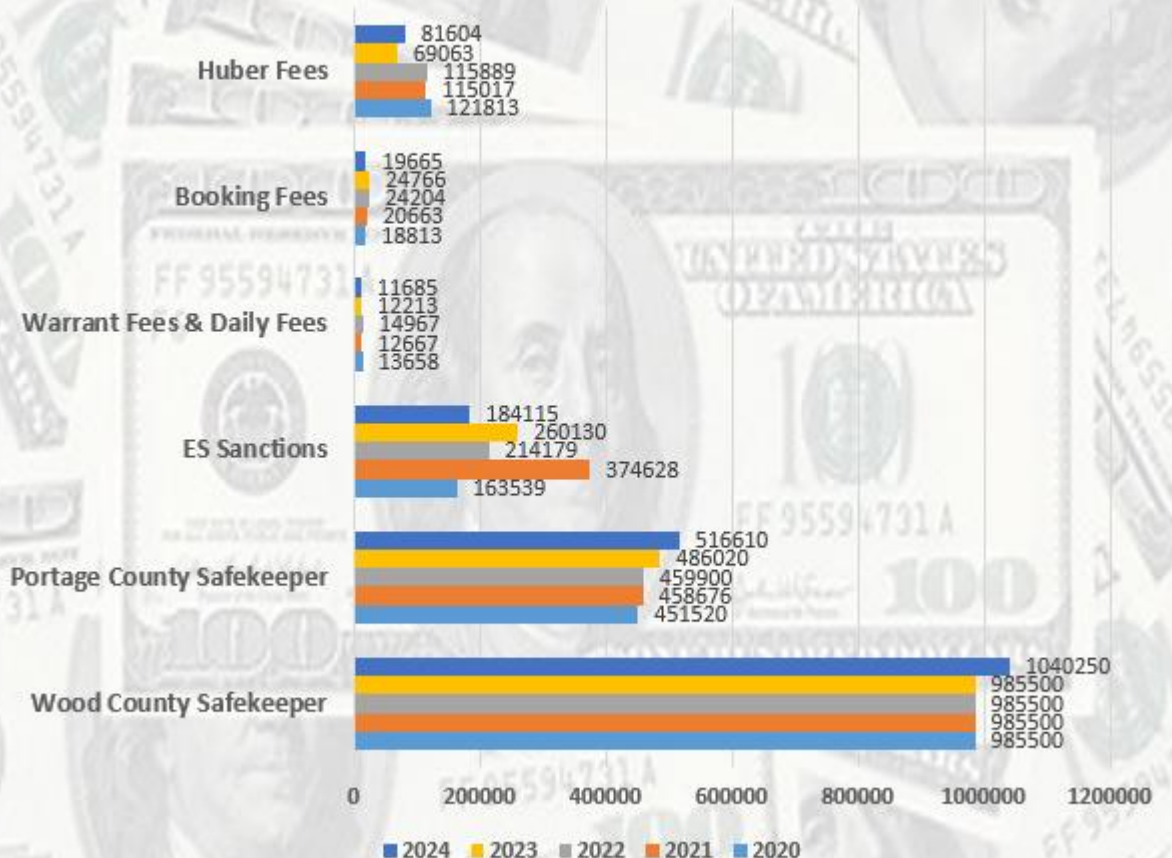
Male Female

Corrections Division

BOOKINGS BY RACE/ETHNICITY



CORRECTIONS REVENUE



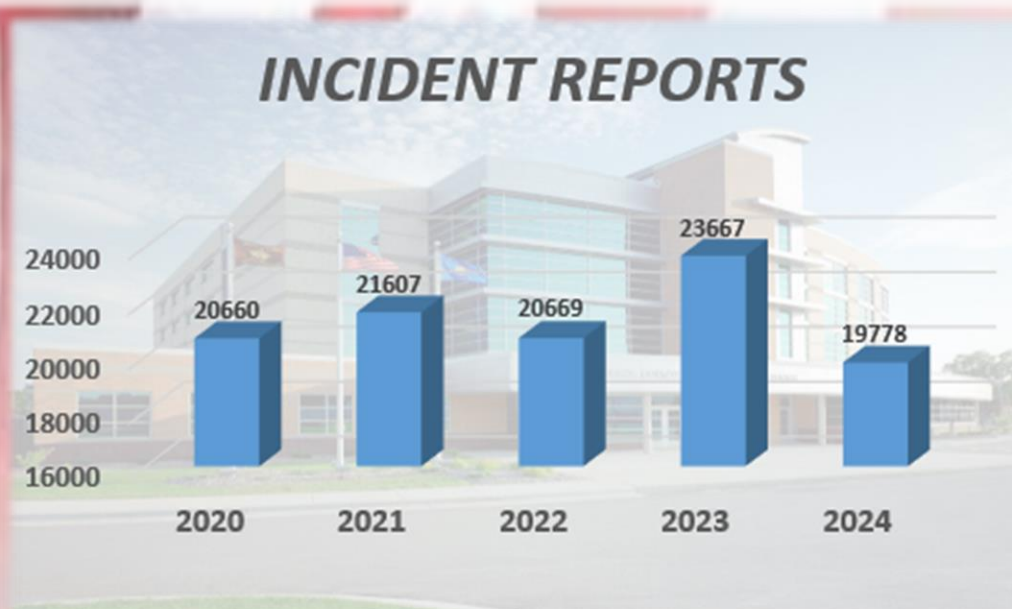
Records Division



The Records Division consists of 3 full-time civilian employees. Included in this count are two Records Specialists, and one Records Supervisor/Administrative Assistant.

These staff members play a vital role within the Sheriff's Office and are an essential part of every division.

Duties include but are not limited to: reception duties, answering request phone calls, type reports and documents for deputies, managing sheriff sales, background checks, processing all criminal charges, preparing records and legal documents, extracting data from the RMS system, performing duties of Incident-based reports, receiving and preparing all documents related to civil process, processing discovery material for the Waupaca County District Attorney, serving as a notary public, and also processing some DMV transactions.



Records Division

Sheriff's Office Call Volume

CAD CALLS RECEIVED			
CALL TYPE	QUANTITY	CALL TYPE	QUANTITY
911 Hang Up	867	Deliver Message	12
911 Misdial	239	Disabled Vehicle	753
Abandoned Vehicle	5	Disorderly Conduct	330
Agency Assistance	330	DNR / Fish & Game	6
Alarm	240	Domestic Disturbance	113
Alcohol Offense	9	Drugs / Controlled Substance	111
Ambulance	321	Elder Abuse	6
ANI Failure	13	Election Violation	1
Animal Bite	87	Escort	8
Animal Neglect	40	Extra Patrol	835
Animal Noise	5	Family	60
Animal Problem	505	Fatal Traffic Crash	3
Assault	17	Fight	8
Assist Waupaca	11	Fire	90
ATV/UTV Problem	5	Fire Alarm	16
ATV/UTV Stop	6	Fireworks	17
Bail Jumping	20	Follow Up	27
Boat Stop	246	Foot Patrol	23
Burglary	24	Fraud	100
Business Assist	51	Gambling	2
Business Check	899	Gas Leak	4
Car-Deer Crash	224	Harassment	77
Car Show Log	3	Hit-And-Run Crash	37
Child Abuse / Neglect	20	Illegal Burning	19
Child Custody	6	Illegal Dumping	14
Citizen Assist	223	Informational Report	6
Citizen Dispute	2	Internet Crimes	4
Civil Complaints	56	Intoxicated Persons	19
Carbon Monoxide Alarm	3	Jail Incident	1
Contractor Fraud	3	Juvenile Problem	45
Controlled Burn	592	Juvenile Runaway	160
Court Appearance	6	K9	51
Court Extra Patrol	71	Lewd & Lascivious	6
Criminal Mischief	1	Liquor Laws	1
Cybertip	13	Littering	7
Death Investigation	48	Lockout	8

Records Division

Sheriff's Office Call Volume

CAD CALLS RECEIVED			
CALL TYPE	QUANTITY	CALL TYPE	QUANTITY
Lost & Found	83	Stray Animal	4
Mailbox Damage	39	Suspicious Vehicle	189
Mental Health	141	Suspicious Person	124
Miscellaneous	155	Suspicious Circumstances	277
Official Misconduct	2	SWAT Callout	1
Missing Person	29	Tavern Check	2
Motor Vehicle Crash	694	Test	49
Neighbors Complaint	42	Theft	159
Noise	50	Theft of Prescription Drugs	3
Open Door	10	Threatening	59
Ordinance Violation	6	Tobacco Problem	1
Overdose	10	Traffic Complaint	4,354
Operate While Intoxicated	1	Traffic Control	12
Paper Service	573	Traffic Hazard	615
Parking Problem	42	Traffic Violation	5
Probation & Parole	20	Transport	474
Property Damage	95	Trespassing	114
Radar Enforcement	47	Violation of Restraining Order	17
Repossession	29	Truancy	1
School Threats	2	Utility Problem	35
School Extra Patrol	872	Vacant House Check	10
Search Warrant	3	Theft of Automobile	10
Sex Offense	73	Vehicle Pursuit	8
Sex Offender Registry	3	VIN Inspection	1
Shoplifting	2	Warrant Pickup	141
Snowmobile Complaints	4	Water Problem	33
Snowmobile Stop	12	Weapon Offense	56
Stalking	1	Welfare Check	474
Storm Damage	28	Worthless Checks	4

Combined Division Specialized Units

Waupaca County SWAT Team

The primary goals of the Waupaca County SWAT team are to contain, control, and resolve situations as effectively and efficiently as possible while protecting life and minimizing the risk of injuries to all persons involved.

The team includes 20 Tactical Operators and 4 Crisis Negotiators, along with the Commander and Deputy Commander. Our multi-jurisdictional includes members from the Sheriff's Office and officers from various agencies within Waupaca County. The Waupaca County SWAT Team possess state of the art equipment, including a command post, armored vehicle, equipment vehicle, various entry tools, and weapon delivery systems.



In 2024, the Waupaca County SWAT Team responded to assist Portage County Sheriff's Office with a critical incident in the Village of Amherst in Portage County. Portage County Sheriff's Office SRT, Stevens Point/Plover Combined SWAT Team, and Marathon County Sheriff's Office Swat Team responded to a high-risk warrant seeking to arrest a suspect wanted for attempted homicide of a deputy sheriff in Sauk County. The suspect fired at the three tactical teams and was suspected to be in an attic above the second story of the house. Waupaca County SWAT Team used our MRAP armored vehicle to breach the attic of the house to decrease the ability of the suspect to fire through the attic walls at officers.

Waupaca County Sheriff's Office administration coordinated the unified command of the second operational period of this incident. The full Waupaca County SWAT Team operated as the lead team at the scene during the second operational period.

The efforts of the Waupaca County SWAT Team played an integral role in bringing this incident to a safe resolution.



Combined Division Specialized Units

Dive Team

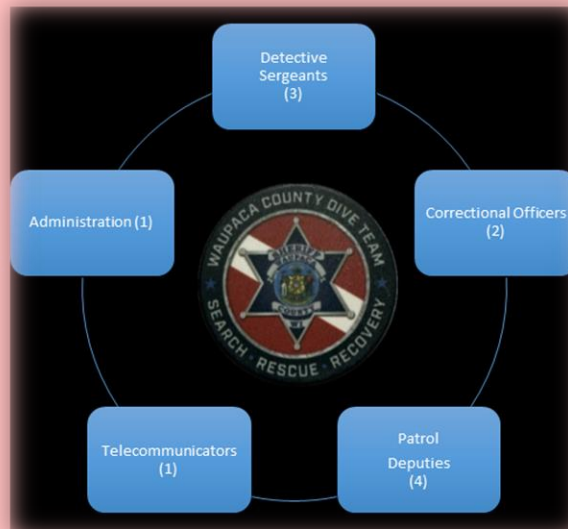
The Waupaca County Dive Team comprises 11 team members ranging from patrol staff, administration, dispatchers, correctional officers, and detectives. The primary goal of this team is to respond to any waterway within Waupaca County where there is a need for a water recovery, search, or rescue.

In 2024, the Dive Team hosted two fundraising events in an effort to be able to purchase equipment and attend trainings to enhance our responses when the citizens or visitors of Waupaca County are in need. The two fundraising events consisted of the Underwater Open (golf outing) and the 715 Harvest Fest held on the "Strip in King" in mid-October.

During 2024, the Dive Team was activated twice for calls of service. In August, the Dive Team was requested for a report of a male that had drowned in the Wolf River. The Dive Team was able to locate and recover the male's body. While the Dive Team is operational and available to respond to call-outs, the team is still seeking a pontoon style boat for the larger waterways of Waupaca County.

During 2024, the Dive Team added two divers that obtained certifications through the PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) training program. In 2025, we will be adding two or three additional staff to our team.

Below is a picture of Dive Team members standing in front of the Dive Team Trailer for a picture during the 715 HarvestFest in King. Team members helped with food sales, raffle sales, and overall grounds maintenance throughout the day.



Combined Division Specialized Units

Drone Team

The Waupaca County Sheriff's Office includes five deputies that are Part 107 certified through the FAA as Unmanned Aircraft System Pilots. The Sheriff's Office is equipped with two drones, one outdoor drone and one indoor drone. The Sheriff's Office had approximately a dozen deployments for incident response in 2024.



Our outdoor drone is a DJI Matrice 30 (pictured above). The DJI drone is primarily used for search and rescue, reconnaissance, and overhead photography and video. The variety of camera and lighting attachments of this drone make it a highly versatile public safety tool.



Waupaca County Sheriff's Office also has two indoor drones. Both are Skyhero Loki II drones (pictured to left). Interior drones are primarily used for SWAT operation assistance and gaining views of indoor areas deemed unsafe for deputies.

The drone team trains and works in tandem with other police and fire departments within the county during deployments; this allows the ability for drones to cover positions while batteries are swapped with charged batteries and placed back into service.

The Waupaca County Sheriff's Office Drone Team was among many drone teams which responded to assist Portage County Sheriff's Office with a tactical incident in the Village of Amherst. Drones provided critical intelligence during the incident involving several tactical teams.

Drone usage is a fast growing tool that quickly became a need for law enforcement versus a want. Drone deployments are increasing within in the Sheriff's Office as we learn the vast ability they offer.



Combined Division Specialized Units

Honor Guard

The Waupaca County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard includes eight deputies trained and equipped to represent the agency at police memorial services, funeral services, parades and processions, and posting colors for special events. The unit trains throughout the year to prepare to provide our best service to honor those who have fallen to protect our community, state, and nation.

In 2024, the Honor Guard participated in law enforcement memorial ceremonies locally and events throughout Waupaca County. The Sheriff's Office Honor Guard belongs to the Wisconsin Honor Guard Association, which coordinates providing honors to the officers who die in the line of duty in Wisconsin.

The Honor Guard routinely attends the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial service in Madison, which honors Wisconsin Officers killed in the line of duty. The Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial contains the names of 293 law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty in the history of the State of Wisconsin.

164 officers were killed in the line of duty in the United States in 2024.



In Memory of Officer Gerald Mork

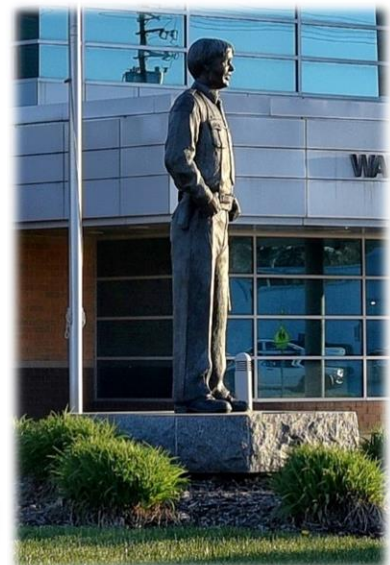
Iola Police Department

End of Watch

July 14, 1985



Photo: ODMP



Combined Division Specialized Units

Peer Support

Our peer support program is one way our Sheriff's Office takes care of our most important resource, our people. The Sheriff's Office peer support team consists of volunteers from each division within our Office who serve as support for our employees. The peer support team received specialized training to aid our co-workers in times of need. Our peer support team also assists with coordinating critical incident debriefs when needed. In 2024, the Sheriff's Office established a partnership with Jordyn Dieter of Rebellious Wellness to provide a professional mental health resource to our staff.

Jordyn is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) that is also a certified clinical trauma professional (CCTP) as well as a certified first responder treatment provider (FRTT). Jordyn owns and provides services through her private practice called Rebellious Wellness. Jordyn works primarily with first responders and their families to offer a safe space to manage the trauma that is folded into these departments to ultimately provide some relief with zero judgement. Jordyn has spent 2024 working with the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office to provide mandatory wellness check in's, critical incident debriefing, individual sessions, and any case consultation specific to the mental health needs of every employee within our Office.



Crisis Negotiators



In 2024, the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office Crisis Negotiator Unit had four trained Crisis Negotiators. Negotiators attend basic negotiator training provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) – Milwaukee Division. Patrol Sergeant Josh Krueger is responsible for coordinating trainings and/or conferences with the WICNA – Wisconsin Crisis Negotiator Association with the other three negotiators including Communications Sergeant Kirk Merrill, Patrol Officer Sara Besel, New London P.D. Telecommunicator Lisa Taylor, and Waupaca P.D. Officer Paul Jensen.

In 2024, the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office responded to 140 Mental Health calls and 484 Welfare Check calls, many of which end up being a person in mental health crisis. While these don't turn into a call out for every mental health call, Waupaca County Crisis Negotiators are able to utilize their communication skills several times a week to find a peaceful resolution and get people who are in crisis the help that they need.

Community Engagement

Shop With A Cop



Waupaca County Sheriff's Office and partnering agencies teamed up for the eighth annual Shop With A Cop event at the Waupaca Rec Center and Waupaca Fleet Farm.

Kids and cops had an opportunity to share the holiday spirit as the kids were able to shop for gifts for their families. The kids and cops were able to enjoy food and holiday snacks together.

The community in Waupaca County generously supports this program each and every year. Residents and businesses throughout our county provide funds, gifts, winter clothing, food, and services to make this program continue to make the holidays a bright season for those in need.



Community Engagement

Meet The Fleet



The annual Meet the Fleet EVENT includes law enforcement agencies throughout Waupaca County, emergency services such as fire and ambulance services, towing services, highway and road maintenance departments, and several businesses providing families an opportunity for children to sit in different vehicles and interact with our officers. This valuable outreach effort builds a strong community bond with families throughout Waupaca County.



Community Engagement

National Night Out



The Sheriff's Office also actively participates in National Night Out Activities in different communities around Waupaca County. This nationwide program provides positive interaction between neighbors and law enforcement.

Our deputies use this as an opportunity to show some of our specialized equipment we are fortunate to have to enhance the safety of the citizens of Waupaca County.



Lights of Christmas

Cops at Culver's

The Sheriff's Office actively participates in the Police Lights of Christmas Program, which is organized by Q90 FM radio station. The Police Lights of Christmas Program organizes multiple fundraising efforts with law enforcement agencies to support families in need during the holiday season. The funds raised by the program provide law enforcement with gift cards that officers distribute to individuals in need.

The Sheriff's Office participates in the annual Cops at Culver's. Law enforcement officers serve food to customers at Culver's and educate them regarding the Police Lights of Christmas Program. All tips and donations received through Cops at Culver's directly contribute to the purchase of the gift cards we use to help those in need during the holiday season.



2024 Retirements



Carl Artz
Retired Chief Deputy

July 1983-
June 2024

February 1995-
February 2024



Todd Rasmussen
Retired Patrol Captain



Curt Rush
Retired Corrections Deputy

October 2006-
October 2024

2024 Promotions & Position Changes



Kevin Studzinski
Chief Deputy #502



Kelly Yewer-Jones
Communications Captain #504



Kyle Wiskirchen
Patrol Captain #505



Andrew Thorpe
Patrol Lieutenant #507



Lindsey Diercks
Administrative Assistant/
Records Supervisor #104



Christina Schmude
Records Specialist #106



Zach Diley
Patrol Deputy #545



Jacob Steinberg
Patrol Deputy #552

2024 New Employees



Kylie Bachaus
Patrol Deputy #530



Benjamin Bigelbach
Patrol Deputy #535



Kyle Betzner
Patrol Deputy #555



Jada Olmeda
Corrections Deputy #61



Danielle Bernal
Corrections Deputy #89



Trisha Kanaman
Corrections Deputy #82



Rose Silfies
Corrections Deputy #86



Megan Duch
Telecommunicator #583

2024 Donations & Community Support

Your generosity drives these valuable programs in our community!



Thank you for your partnerships in public safety!