

# SYCAMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



**ANNUAL  
REPORT** 2024

# LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

February 15, 2025

Dear Mayor Braser and City Council Members,

On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Sycamore Police Department, I am pleased to submit the 2024 Annual Report. This report includes an overview of activity, crime statistics, accomplishments, and continued efforts to provide service and public safety at the highest level. This summary will reflect the growth of the department and the efforts of your officers in the constantly evolving and challenging field of law enforcement and public service.

Our officers logged 24,209 total incidents, including 8,802 calls for service in 2024. As in years past, officers responded to a variety of incidents and requests, with a continued focus on both public service and public safety. Through City Council approval, the Police Department increased staffing in 2024 with the graduation of three new police officers in December of 2023. This increase, the first since 2009, supported the expanded services of the Police Department, as well as the growth of Sycamore in population, housing, and the business community.

Leveraging equipment and technology remained a priority as evidenced by increasing the number of grant-funded license plate readers, procuring upgraded grant-funded body worn cameras, and adding an unmanned aerial system (UAS) with enhanced capabilities. Beyond progressing with technology, the Police Department invested in our greatest asset, our personnel, with approximately 6,000 hours of training. Multiple and various training opportunities included advanced guidance in DUI detection, crisis intervention training, drills for responding to active threats, and progressive leadership courses.

I would like to commend our staff for providing outstanding service to our residents, visitors, and the business community throughout the year. Their dedication was recognized by personal letters, phone calls, emails, text messages, and many “thank you’s” passed along to recognize their work. They are the face and backbone of your Police Department and enable the City of Sycamore to continue to be a safe place to live, work, visit, and attend school. As 2025 will bring transition with a new Chief of Police, I am confident the staff of the Sycamore Police Department will continue to build on their strong foundation of quality and professional policing for the City of Sycamore.

Sincerely,

Jim Winters  
Chief of Police

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# Mission and Vision

## MISSION

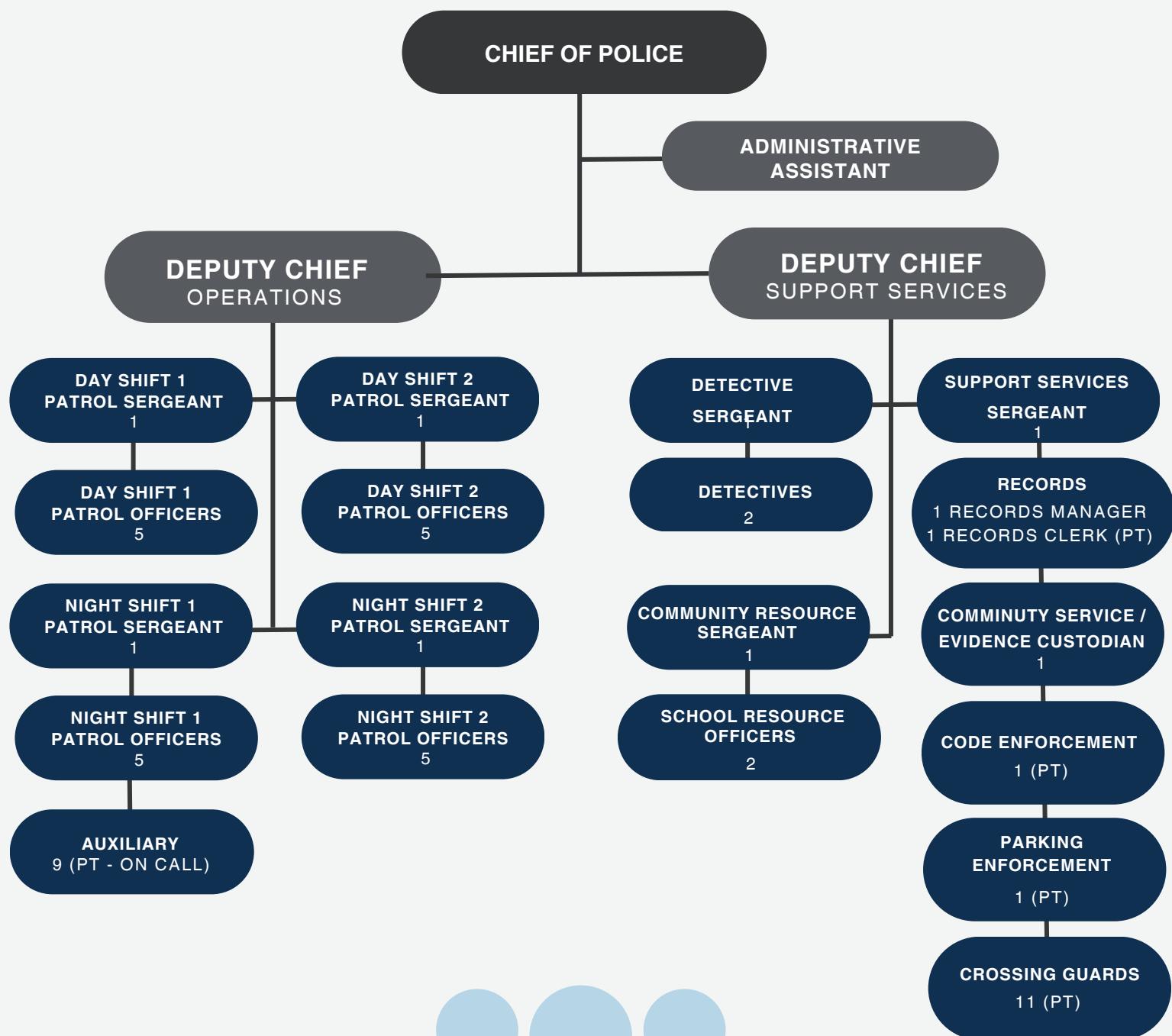
**To provide expert and caring police services to those who live, work and travel in the city of Sycamore. We do this by employing quality people who work according to “best police practices” in partnership with those whom we serve.**

## VISION

**It is the vision of the Sycamore Police Department to be recognized as a first-rate provider of police services by those seeking our help, considered a fierce adversary to those who disregard the rule of law, and be respected by our peers in the criminal justice community.**

**We will strive to achieve this vision by providing services that maximize the public safety of each person who lives, works or travels in Sycamore, develop and support quality employees, meet the needs of a growing community, and effectively manage the department’s financial and physical resources.**

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# DEPARTMENT CHANGES

January 4, 2024, was a big day for Sycamore Police Department staff. Officers Shawn Kooistra and Anthony Sopha were sworn in as new officers. Deputy Chief Rod Swartzendruber, Administrative Sergeant Steve Watry, and our Records Clerk Mary Banasiak retired. Joseph Meeks was promoted from Sergeant to Deputy Chief.

John Keacher and Andrew Mankisky were promoted to Patrol Sergeants.



Officer Kooistra, Chief Winters, Officer Sopha



Sgt. Steve Watry & DC Swartzendruber



Mary Banasiak  
Records Clerk

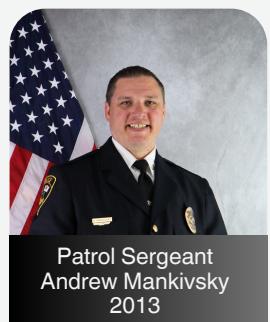


DC Wig, Chief Winters, Sgt. Keacher, Sgt. Mankivsky, DC Meeks

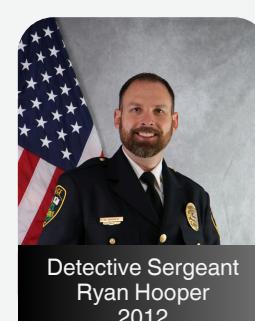
# LEADERSHIP



Chief Winters is tasked with overall leadership and accountability. He serves as chief policy maker and guides the direction of the department. He is the primary liaison with the community and city administration and represents the department at city council. The command staff is supported by Administrative Assistant Jennifer Poe-Diehl.



Deputy Chief Jeff Wig oversees the Operations Division which includes the Patrol Division, special events, social media, and community outreach.



Deputy Chief Joseph Meeks oversees the Investigations, Community Resources, and Support Services Divisions. This includes the School Resource Officers, records management, building / fleet maintenance, quartermaster, and technology.

# OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Operations Division, commonly referred to as the Patrol Division, operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and functions as the true backbone of the department. Each of the 12 hour day and night shifts are comprised of a Patrol Sergeant and 4-5 Patrol Officers.

## PATROL SERGEANTS



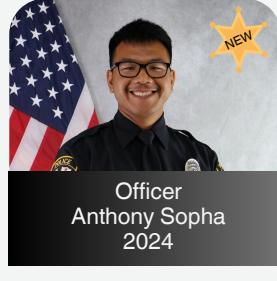
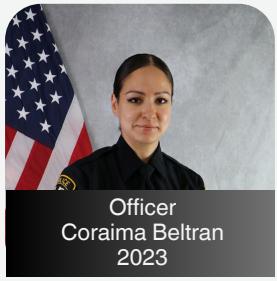
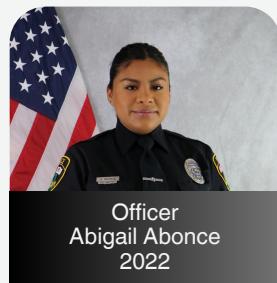
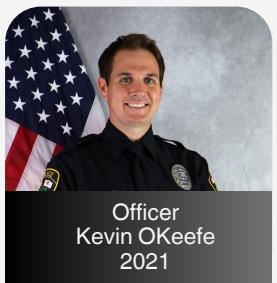
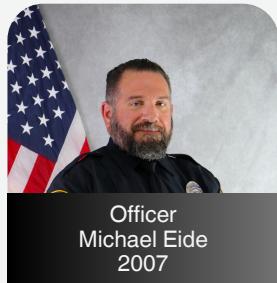
The Patrol Division is responsible for maintaining public safety, enforcing laws, and responding to various calls for service during their assigned hours. Specific duties include:

- Responding to both emergency and non-emergency calls.
- Conducting both city-wide patrols and those designed to target a specific need or incident, such as speed related complaints and home/business checks for example.
- Traffic enforcement and traffic crash response.
- Investigating incidents, making arrests, and report writing.
- Community engagement by interacting with residents and businesses to build relationships and foster community trust.
- Assisting other area agencies as needed.





# PATROL OFFICERS

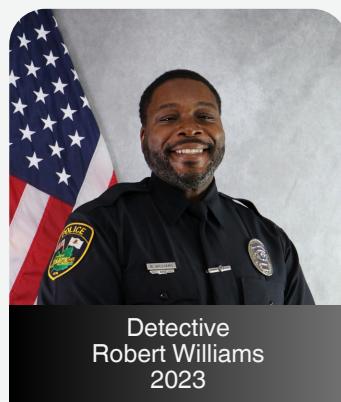


# PATROL

CALL FOR SERVICE	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
911 Hang-up	667	502	350	529	327
Crash Related	391	495	385	407	463
Assault/Battery/Fight	53	53	79	97	57
Assist Motorist	146	204	202	197	199
Assist Other Agencies	308	344	313	270	273
Burglary	12	11	7	9	12
Burglary to Vehicle	45	24	16	13	7
Extra Patrols	4446	4197	3864	2847	1958
Criminal Damage	95	87	101	80	90
Disorderly Conduct	148	180	167	205	231
Domestic Disturbance	265	310	299	315	286
Driving Complaint	283	312	283	293	294
Foot Patrols	1455	1103	1441	1145	1122
Fraud	416	299	139	179	167
Juvenile Calls	177	146	148	201	134
Keys Locked in Vehicles	393	450	407	384	369
Noise Complaint	165	165	138	108	156
Ordinance Violations	150	77	95	90	134
Improper Parking	184	211	294	310	239
Alarms	353	385	369	321	282
School Patrols	307	702	1180	1413	1483
Sex Offenses	22	16	24	12	25
Suicide & Attempt	44	46	45	35	32
Suspicious Activity, Persons, or Vehicles	463	390	352	448	499
Theft	201	236	210	216	206
Traffic Stops	1533	1626	2165	2732	4368

# INVESTIGATIONS

The Investigations Division is led by the Detective Sergeant and includes two general case detectives. The division is responsible for handling more complex and/or long-term investigations, while also acting as a supporting resource for the Patrol Division. Additional responsibilities include Sex Offender Registration and Verification Checks, Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance, DeKalb County Major Crimes Task Force, Internet Crimes Against Children, Background Checks, and FOID / CCL / Clear and Present Danger Compliance. The division is overseen by the Deputy Chief of Investigations and Support Services.



Total Cases Assigned: 167

- 🔍 Criminal Investigations: 84
- 🔍 Background Investigations: 22
- 🔍 FOID / CCL Revocation Seizures: 16
- 🔍 Sex Offender New Registrations & Violations: 10
- 🔍 Other Investigations: 35

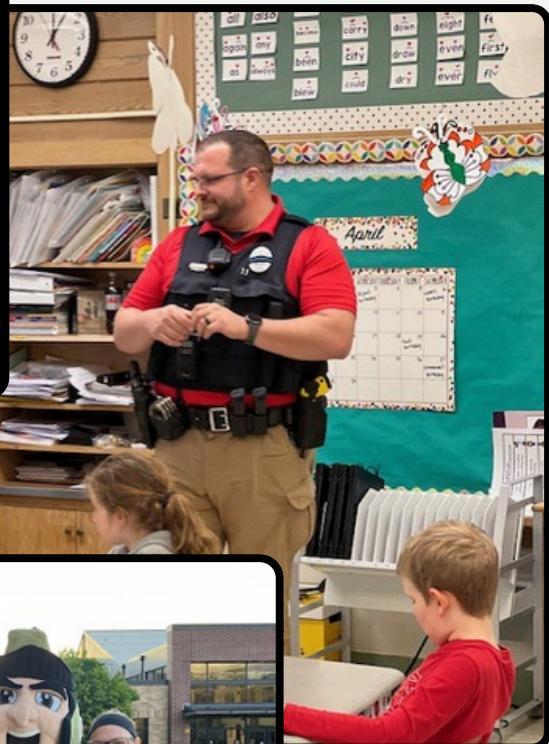
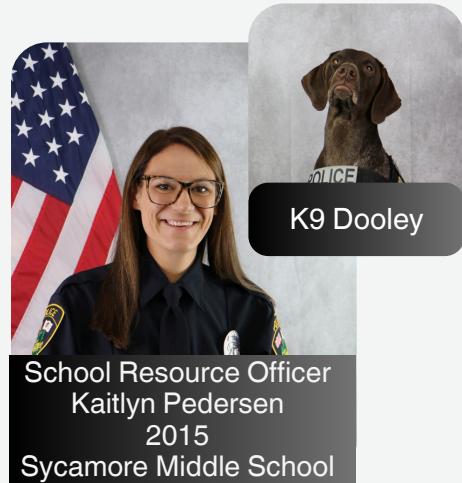
## 2024 NOTABLE CASES

- **Aggravated Battery:** In February 2024, a female juvenile reported inappropriate contact by a staff member at Sycamore High School. The investigation identified seven victims, and the offender was charged with six counts of aggravated battery.
- **Forgery/Fraud:** In March 2024, a local business reported check fraud involving an altered check deposited into an unauthorized account. The investigation identified an offender from outside the community, who was charged with forgery.
- **Kidnapping:** In June 2023, two out-of-state bounty hunters unlawfully entered a Sycamore residence, tased, handcuffed, and kidnapped a man, transporting him to Indiana without notifying local authorities. They were later charged with kidnapping, unlawful restraint, and weapons offenses in 2024.
- **Aggravated Home Repair Fraud:** In September 2024, two elderly residents were defrauded of over \$20,000 by a fraudulent construction company. The offender, an Irish national, was identified and charged with aggravated home repair fraud. The City of Sycamore arranged for the driveway to be repaired at no additional cost to the victims.

# COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The Community Resources Division is supervised by the Community Resources Sergeant and includes two (2) School Resource Officers (SRO). One SRO is assigned to the Sycamore High School and the second to the Sycamore Middle School; while together they share the responsibility of responding to the needs of the district elementary schools. The division is further supported by our Therapy K9, Dooley.

While working to promote safety in our schools, the Community Resources Division is also responsible for presenting at various public meetings and trainings, our social media presence, and assisting with special events.



# SUPPORT SERVICES

The Support Services Division is supervised by the Support Services Sergeant and is staffed by a full-time Records Manager and Community Service Officer/Evidence Custodian. Additionally the division is comprised of several part-time members to include a Records Clerk, Code Enforcement Officer, and Parking Enforcement Officer.

Our front office staff serve as the face of our agency for everyone who comes into the police department seeking assistance.

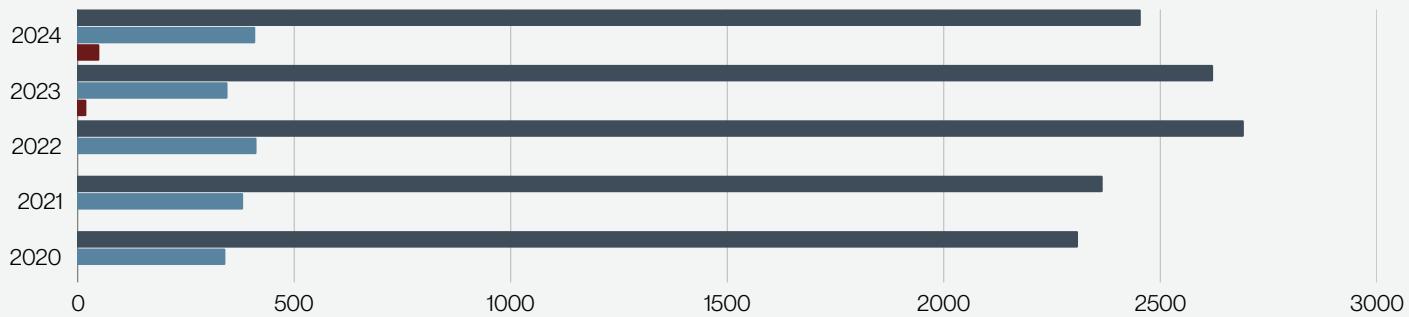
Support Services encompasses the following areas of responsibility:

- Process all reports generated by the department
- FOIA
- Evidence Management
- City code enforcement
- Downtown parking enforcement and meter maintenance

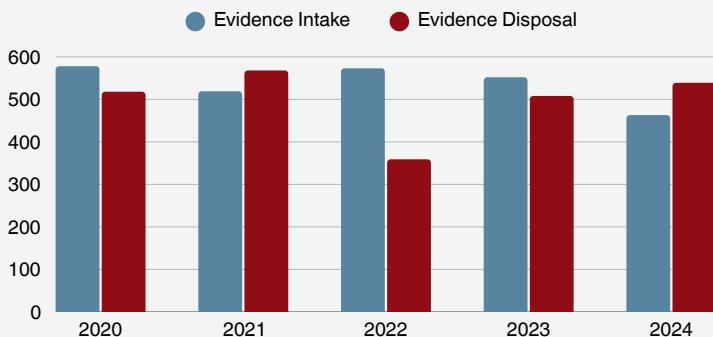


**In 2024, the records division filed 2,455 reports, and answered 410 FOIA requests and 50 subpoenas.**

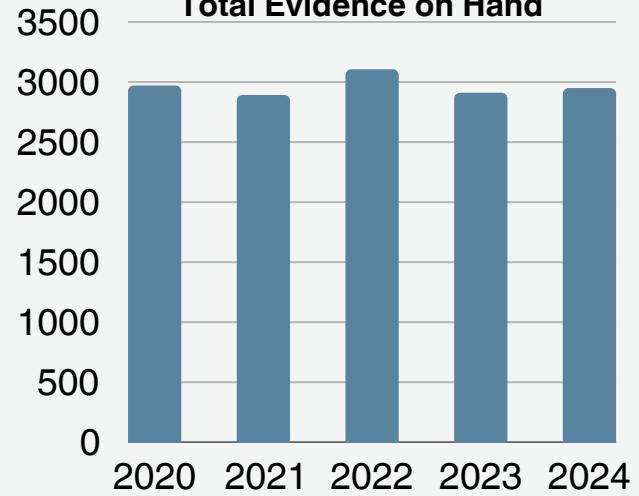
● REPORTS      ● FOIAS      ● SUBPOENAS



**Evidence Intake and Disposal**



**Total Evidence on Hand**



# AUXILIARY PROGRAM

Sycamore Police Auxiliary Officers assisted the police department with traffic control and crowd management at special events and community emergencies, including weather related incidents, major traffic crashes, and other public disasters. These extremely valuable, part-time, non-sworn personnel, allowed us to be more efficient, and free up sworn officers to engage in other duties.



Auxiliary Officer  
Ray Puentes  
1989



Auxiliary Officer  
Barbara Paulson  
2008



Auxiliary Officer  
Rich Calligan  
2009



Auxiliary Officer  
Randy Brown  
2010



Auxiliary Officer  
Tyler Wyatt  
2012



Auxiliary Officer  
Kevin Noe  
2014



Auxiliary Officer  
Anne Bachara  
2021

**In 2024 we added 2 additional auxiliary officers:**

- Anthony Bachara (2024)
- Kevon Lyle (2024)



# CROSSING GUARDS

The Sycamore Police Department Crossing Guards are an invaluable asset to the police department and the school district. Our crossing guards were deployed at 11 locations throughout the city from August to June. These individuals work before and after school, in all kinds of weather to make sure our children get to and from school safely each day. Additionally, they also assist with major events such as Pumpkin Festival. They were supervised by the Support Services Sergeant Dan Wojcik.



Caroline Werline  
Freed & Janet



Cindy Henderson  
Lincoln & Locust



Dennis Liesz  
Turner & Locust



Donna Freed  
Somonauk & Lincoln



Jane Curce  
West School



Joe Rudzinski  
DeKalb & Center Cross



Louis Curce  
State & Alma



Marla Duncan  
Brickville & Freed



Ron Paxton  
South Prairie School



Erica Surges  
N. Main & Mt. Hunger



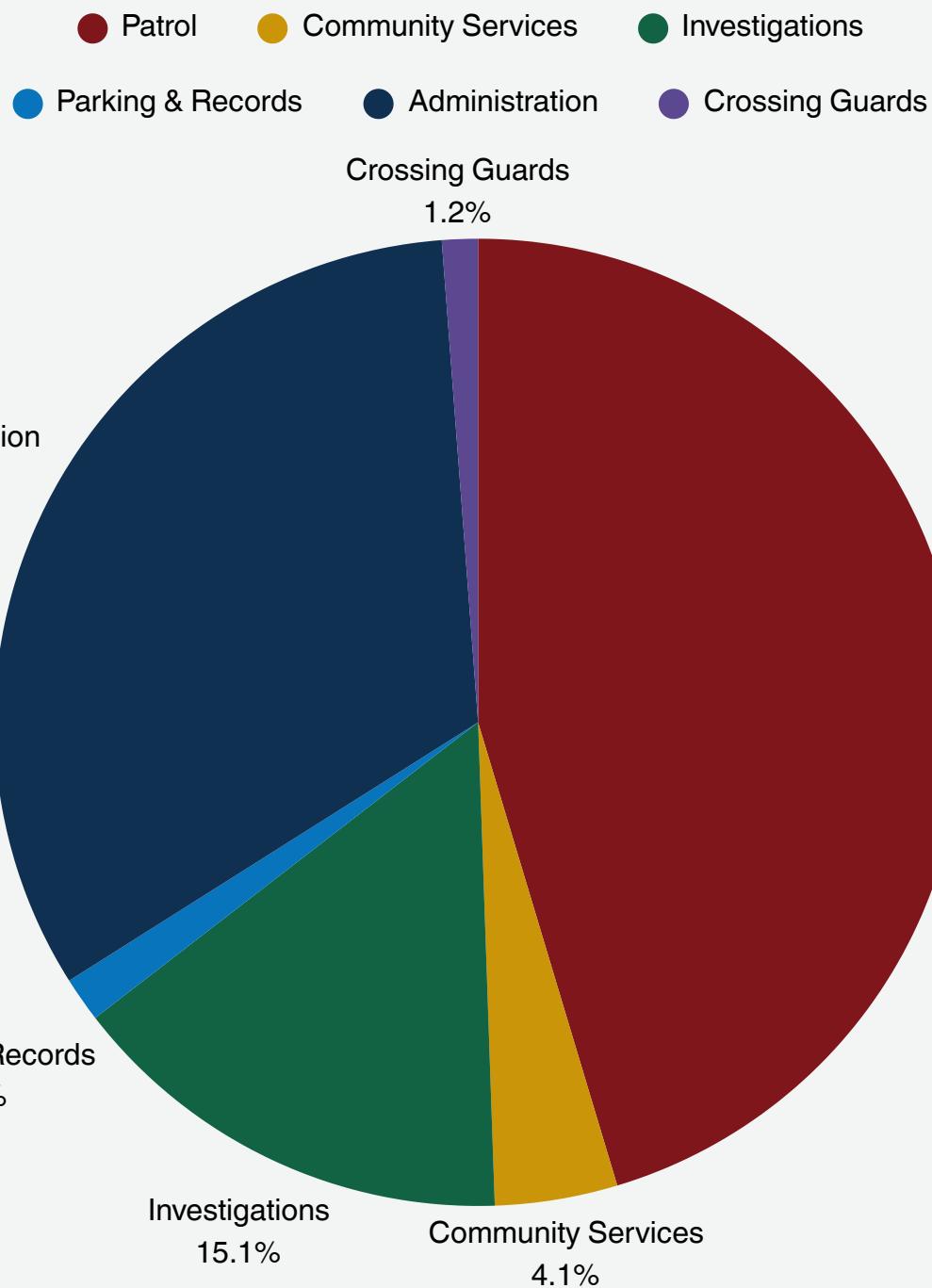
Harold Duncan  
N. Main & Maplewood



Mike Bennett  
Lincoln & Locust

\*\*\* Not pictured is Crossing Guard Mary Robinson (N. Main & Mt. Hunger) who served with our department in 2024.

# 2024 BUDGET



# NEW IN 2024

This year, we upgraded a number of equipment pieces officers utilize daily and for special circumstances. We have a new Live Scan Thales CS500f machine for all of our fingerprinting purposes. Each officer was issued a new V700 Body Worn Camera. Two new AEDs were put into service for our patrol officers to carry on every shift. We are deploying a new patrol shield as well. Our Drone fleet has expanded, and we picked up a metal detector too.

Two new trainings were introduced in 2024. FBI LEEDA and STOP THE BLEED Training. FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Training is designed to advance the science and art of law enforcement leadership. Two of our officers are STOP THE BLEED Instructors and put on a training for all of our officers. The goal is to stop or slow the bleed during an emergency and increase survival rates.

**Live Scan Thales CS500f**



**V700s Body Worn Cameras**



**2 LifePak 1000 AED**



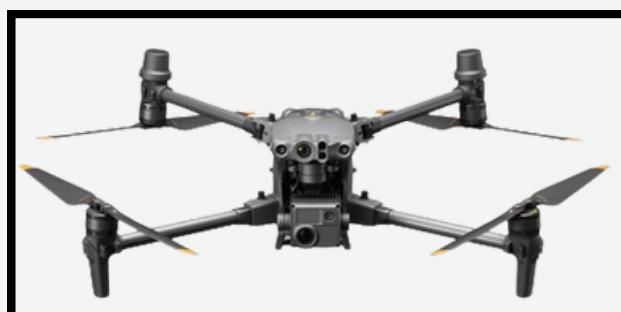
**Metal Detector**



**Patrol Shield**



**Expanded Drone Fleet  
Matrice 30T**

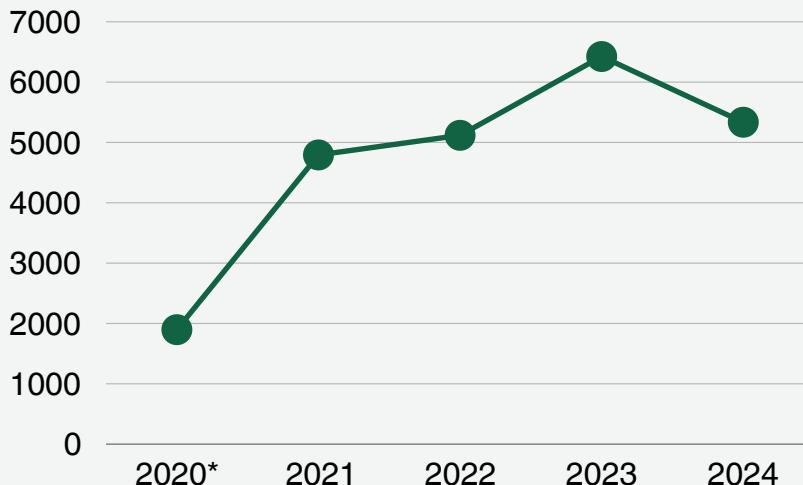


**FBI - LEEDA**

# TRAINING



## Training Hours Yearly Comparison



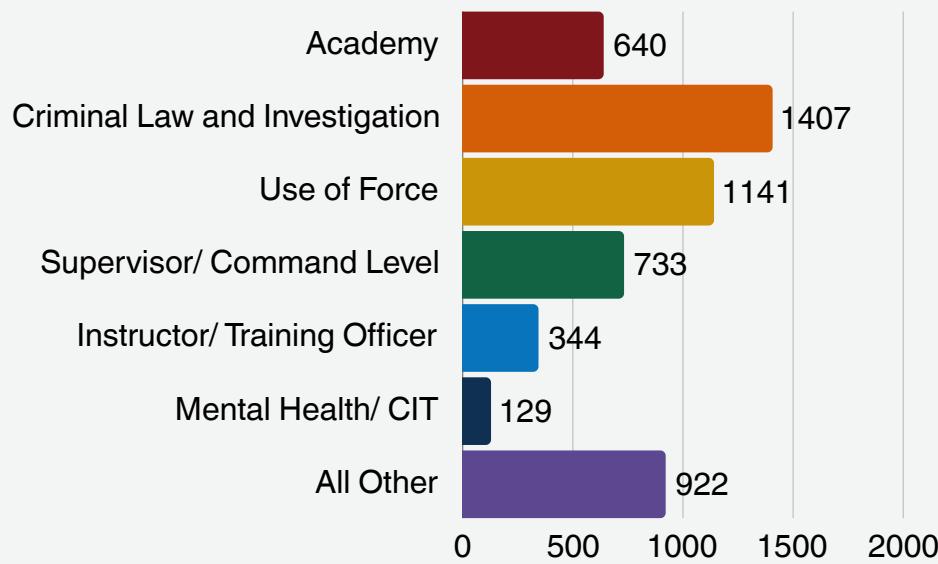
The Sycamore Police Department places a high value on providing officers with as much training as scheduling and budgeting allows.

This year, we have a heavy focus on criminal law and investigations, as well as use of force. Annually, Sycamore officers participate in a multi-agency Rapid Deployment Training.

As our laws are altered, we respond by providing corresponding training. Sycamore Police Department utilizes in-service training, computer-based and simulation training, the state mobile training units and training from outside sources.



In 2024, officers attended a total of 5,335 hours of formal training. This does not include an officer in the field training program upon completion of the Academy, nor our new lateral officer. Also, many officers proactively do training to work through scenarios they encounter on a daily basis.

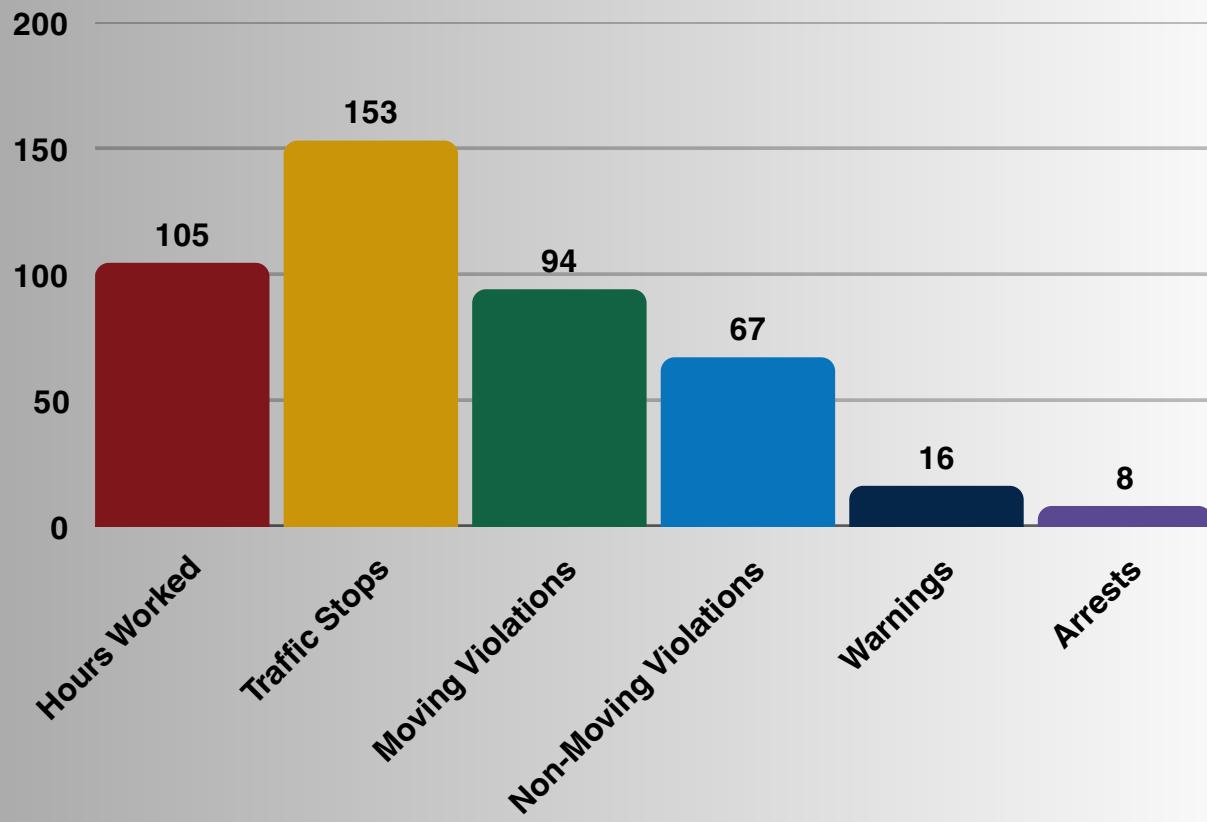


# IDOT STEP Grant

## *Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program*

In 2024, Sgt. John Keacher managed the IDOT STEP Grant Program by working with Illinois Department of Transportation representatives to ensure grant funding was utilized in a timely and appropriate fashion. The Sustained Traffic Enforcement (STEP) Program allows officers to focus on high visibility enforcement at specific times and on specific dates throughout the year. The police department was awarded \$6,267.04 to reimburse the city for personnel costs.

Focused enforcement was conducted during the following campaigns: Thanksgiving, St. Patrick's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Speed Awareness, and Distracted Driving. These campaigns are focused on increasing safety for motorists and work toward reducing roadway fatalities to zero. Officers worked a total of 104.5 hours during 2024. 153 traffic stops were conducted and 165 enforcement actions were taken. This led to 94 moving violation citations, 67 non-moving violation citations, and 8 arrests.



# Criminal Statistics (NIBRS\*)

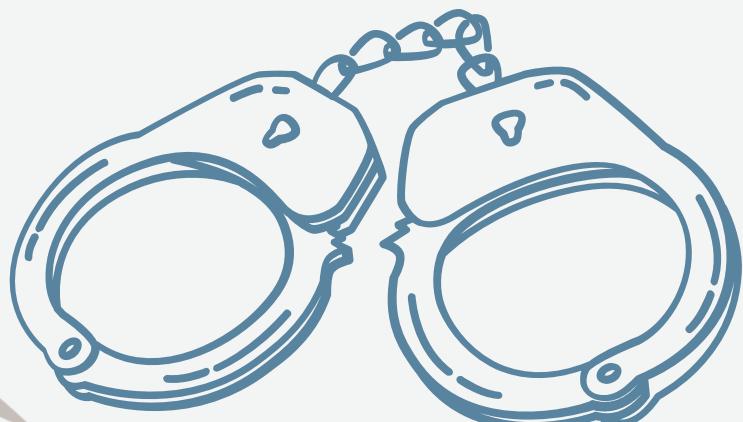
\*NIBRS is the National Incident-Based Reporting System. The NIBRS system replaced UCR (Uniform Crime Reporting) program for data collection in 2021.  
<https://ucr.fbi.gov/nibrs/2012/resources/nibrs-offense-definitions>

Offense	2021	2022	2023	2024
Murder	1	0	1	1
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0
Justifiable Homicide	0	0	0	0
Non-consensual Sex Offenses:				
Rape	10	6	6	3
Sodomy	0	2	0	0
Sexual Assault With Object	0	0	0	0
Fondling	5	5	5	8
Aggravated Assault	11	17	24	4
Simple Assault	72	110	148	108
Intimidation	8	7	4	8
Kidnapping/Abduction	2	4	4	1
Consensual Sex Offenses:				
Incest	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	0	1
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	0	0	0	0
<b>Crimes Against Persons Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>134</b>
Robbery	1	3	0	0
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	12	9	14	16
Larceny/Theft Offenses	197	207	173	153
Motor Vehicle Theft	7	4	5	18
Arson	1	0	1	2
Destruction Of Property	65	71	65	60
Counterfeiting/Forgery	10	3	8	6
Fraud Offense	236	98	98	94
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0
Extortion/Blackmail	0	0	0	0
Bribery	0	0	0	0
Stolen Property Offenses	0	1	0	3
<b>Crimes Against Property Total</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>352</b>
Drug/Narcotic Violations	28	31	49	31
Drug Equipment Violations	9	10	11	2
Gambling Offenses	0	0	0	0
Pornography/Obscene Material	2	6	4	3
Prostitution	1	1	0	1
Weapons Law Violation	3	4	3	4
Animal Cruelty	1	0	1	4
<b>Crimes Against Society Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Total Group "A" Offenses</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>531</b>

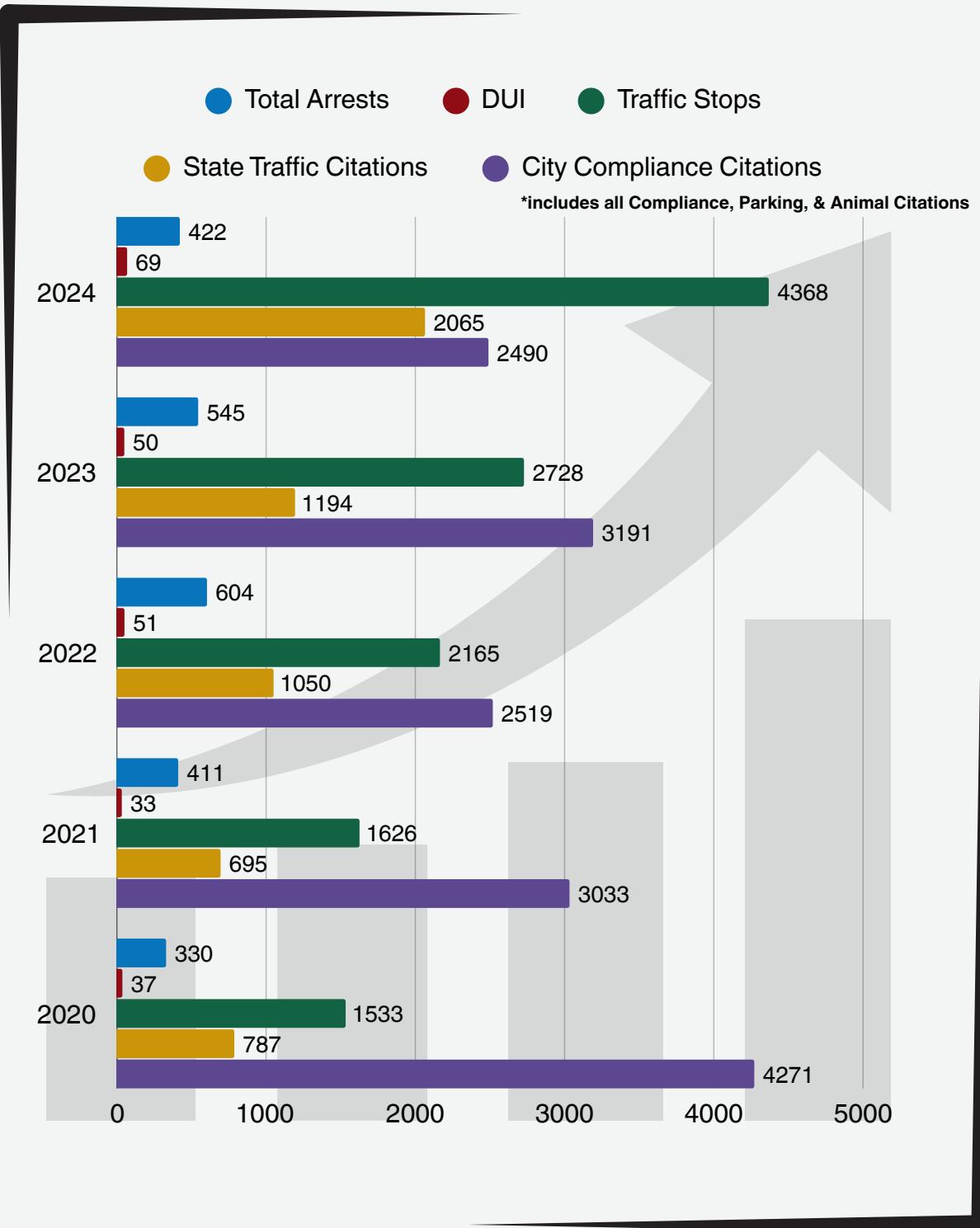
# Arrest Statistics (NIBRS)

The table below shows arrests made by category for criminal offenses

Offense	2021	2022	2023	2024
09A - Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	1	1	1	0
100 - Kidnapping/Abduction	2	1	4	1
13A - Aggravated Assault	2	6	6	2
13B - Simple Assault	29	40	40	37
26C Impersonation	N/A	N/A	N/A	2
280 - Stolen Property Offenses	N/A	N/A	N/A	2
520 - Weapons Law Violations	3	4	1	3
90G - Liquor Law Violations	2	2	N/A	1
220 - Burglary/Breaking and Entering	N/A	2	1	1
23C - Shoplifting	14	21	14	17
240 - Motor Vehicle Theft	N/A	N/A	N/A	1
290 - Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	3	2	3	4
35A - Drug/Narcotic Violations	2	12	24	13
35B - Drug Equipment Violations		1	3	1
90C - Disorderly Conduct	6	1	6	5
90D - Driving Under the Influence	27	49	50	69
90J - Trespass of Real Property	8	1	8	1
90Z - All Other Offenses	111	174	96	104
Total	209	316	258	263



# DATA TRENDS



# CRASH DATA

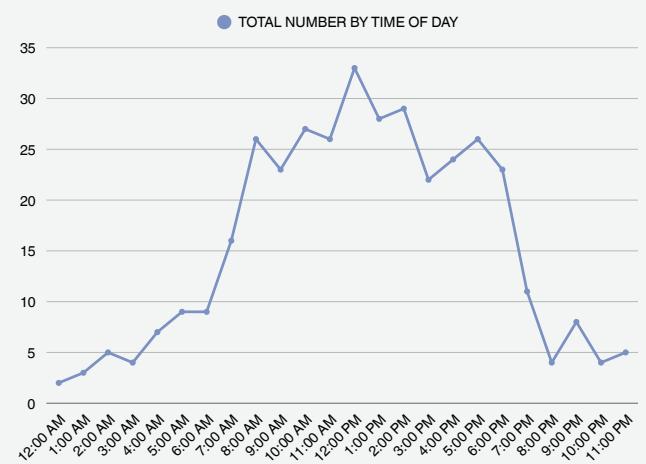
In 2024, officers responded to a total of 374 traffic crashes.

- Property Damage: 325
- Personal Injury: 48
- Fatality: 1

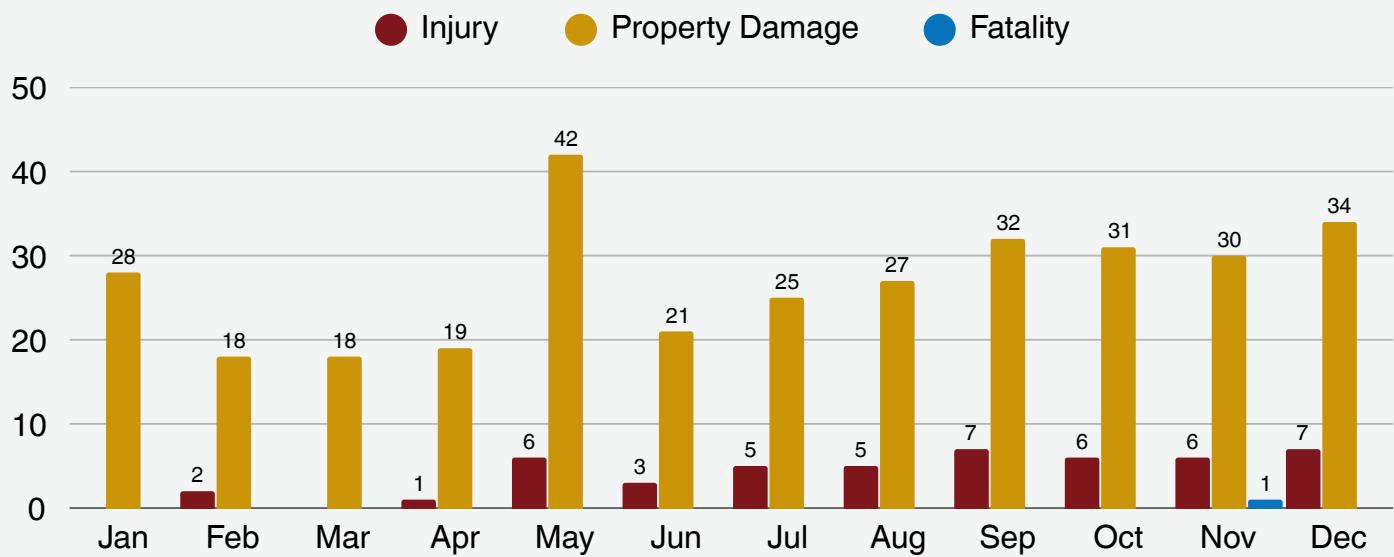
The peak times for traffic crashes were found to be during daytime hours between 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM.

Top 5 Contributing Factors:

- Failure to reduce speed to avoid a crash
- Following too closely
- Improper backing
- Failing to yield right of way
- Driving knowledge and experience

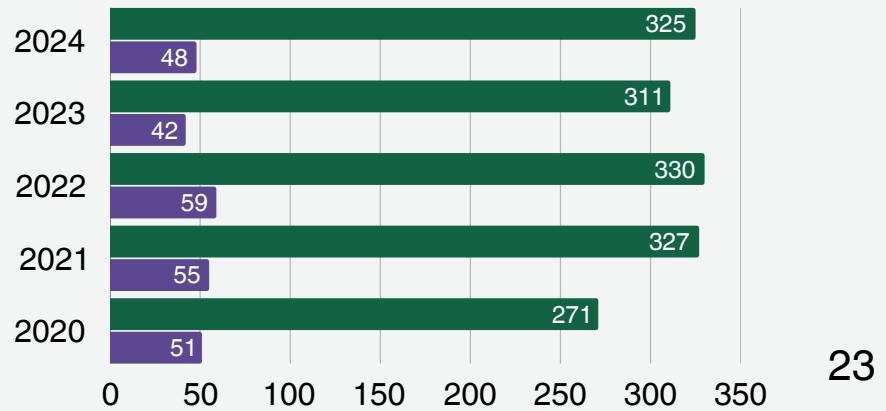


Total number of Traffic Crashes by Month



Total number of Property and Injury Crash Data for the previous 5 years

● Property      ● Injury



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Throughout the year, you will find your officers going out to engage with our community members. Our officers value the connections we make with the variety of groups and individuals that make up our community. You will find us at many events: Cop of the Rooftop supporting Special Olympics of Illinois, National Night Out, Shop with a Cop, providing community presentations, and much more.



Ofc. Scott & K9 Wes showing Sycamore Middle School students his high level of obedience and his ability to detect hidden narcotics.



Officers participating in the Cop on the Rooftop event raising money for Special Olympics of Illinois.



National Night Out at HyVee



2nd Annual Heroes on the Hardwood basketball game supporting the Spartan Food Pantry. Sycamore Police & Fire took on Sycamore School Staff. It was a valiant effort by Police and Fire, but ultimately a loss to the School Staff. The best part was all of the community donations of food, supplies, and money all for the Spartan Food Pantry. This year the Spartan Food Pantry served its 10,000th family.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

The City of Sycamore hosts a wide variety of events annually. The Sycamore Police Department partners with many organizations and individuals to assist with providing a safe environment to connect and celebrate events each year.



Sycamore School District's Back 2 School Bash happens downtown before the start of the school year. Many local businesses, not-for-profits, and school & community resources on are hand to get students and families ready to go back to school.



National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships to make our neighborhoods safer. HyVee Grocery served as our host location and many area Law Enforcement agencies participated.



The first Tuesday of each month, Elder Care Services Officer Senne can be found at the Grand Victorian engaging with residents with word games. This has been a wonderful event and partnership.

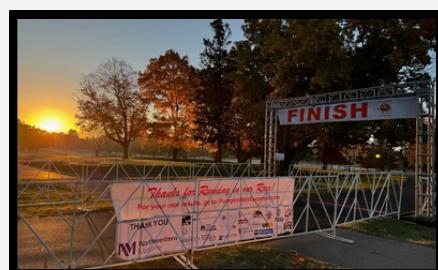


YMCA Senior Expo was staffed by Elder Care Service Officer Burress. She was on hand to answer questions and meet with many seniors.

The Sycamore Pumpkin Festival was held on October 27th. Over five days, activities are held to celebrate our community and highlight our not-for-profit organizations. The parade on Sunday is a community favorite.



The Sycamore Pumpkin Run 10K kicks off the Sunday celebration.



# ACCREDITATION

March 29, 2024 the Sycamore Police Department was awarded reaccreditation by the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program ILEAP. The Sycamore Police Department first earned accreditation in 2014. Accreditation is the ongoing process whereby agencies evaluate policy and procedure against established criteria, and have compliance with those criteria verified by an independent and authoritative body, the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Council. The criteria, or standards, are policy development guidelines that represent a level of quality service delivery. The true indicator of compliance, however, lies with the evaluation by trained, independent professional peers. The establishment of meaningful and professional standards and an evaluation for compliance to those standards are, therefore, the two fundamentals of an accreditation program.

Additional information regarding the accreditation process may be found at [ilchiefs.org](http://ilchiefs.org)



City of Lemont - Chief of Police Marc Maton,  
Accreditation Manager Sergeant Stacy Binkowski,  
Chief of Police James Winters

# FLEET MANAGEMENT

The 2024 fleet consisted of 23 vehicles throughout the year to include:

- 9 marked patrol vehicles
- 1 marked patrol K9 vehicle
- 2 marked school resource officer vehicles
- 7 unmarked administrative vehicles
- 2 support services vehicles
- 2 special use vehicles - UTV and Golf Cart

The patrol fleet ranged in age from 2000 to 2025 with the most vehicles being 2023 models. The remaining fleet ranged in age from 2019 to 2021, with a majority of those vehicles being pre-2021 models.

Throughout 2024, there were 2 new patrol vehicles added to the fleet. 2 older vehicles were removed from the fleet and either sold or turned over to other city departments.



**TOTAL MILES  
DRIVEN IN 2024**

238,673



*The Sycamore Police Department  
thanks our community and law  
enforcement partners for another  
great year!*

*We are proud to serve our citizens,  
and strive to keep our community  
safe for those who live, work, and  
travel within the city of Sycamore!*