



PORTAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

117 W Pleasant St.

Portage, WI 53901

608. 742. 2174

www.portagewi.gov/police



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Resource Page.....	3
City of Portage Government Officials.....	4
Chief’s Message	5
Mission Statement, Vision Statement, & Values.....	6
Department Overview & 2024 Snapshot.....	7
Employee Roster.....	8
Department Demographics.....	9
Retirements, Departures, Promotions, & New Hires.....	10-13
In Memorandum.....	14-15
2024 Goals and Objectives & Responses.....	16-17
2025 Goals and Objectives.....	18
Community Involvement.....	19-22
Citizen’s Police Academy.....	23
Police Resources.....	24-25
Honor Guard Program.....	26
2024 Awards Ceremony.....	27-29
2024 Major Incidents.....	30
Trends & Comparisons.....	31-34
Use of Force Accountability.....	35-37
Drug Enforcement/Impact.....	38
K9 Activity.....	39-41
School Resource Officer.....	42
Community Service Officers.....	43
Training.....	44-45
Equipment/Upgrades.....	46
Jack-Of-All-Trades.....	47
Closing.....	48

RESOURCE PAGE

Portage Police Department

Address:

117 W. Pleasant St

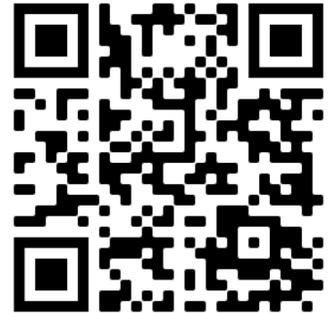
Portage, WI 59301

Dispatch: (608) 742-2171

Office: (608) 742-2174

Website: <https://www.portagewi.gov/police>

QR Codes for Access



City of Portage

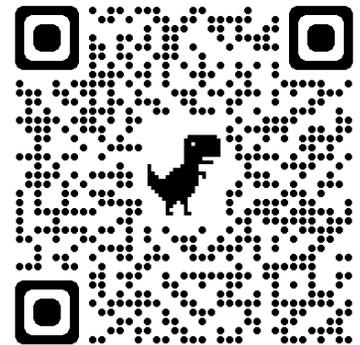
Address:

115 W. Pleasant St

Portage, WI 53901

Business: (608) 742-2176

Website: <https://www.portagewi.gov>



Columbia County Resource Guide

Website: <https://www.co.columbia.wi.us>



GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Portage Police & Fire Commission

President: Thomas Drury
 Commissioner: Jeynell Boeck
 Commissioner: Kathryn Miller
 Commissioner: Charles Miller
 Commissioner: Duaine Pixler

City of Portage Staff

City Administrator: Michael Bablick
 City Attorney: Jesse Spankowski
 City Clerk: Rebecca Ness
 Finance Director: Jennifer Becker

City Council

Mayor: Mitchel Craig

Alderspersons:

District 1:	Matthew Fiene	District 2:	Susan Bauer Frye
District 3:	David Paull	District 4:	Steven Rohrbeck
District 5:	Tim Green	District 6:	Kyle Bernander
District 7:	Karyn Wetzal	District 8:	Dale Petelinsek
District 9:	Christopher Crawley		



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF KEITH J. KLAFKE



Dear Community Members, Mayor, and City Council,

We are seeing a positive shift in local law enforcement on many levels and our rosters are filling up with qualified officers. In 2024 we had only two hiring processes in which Community Service Officer Megan Fahey was selected for a sworn officer position and hired Officer Evan Hedlund. We had many staff changes in our department in 2024. After 25 years, Det. Sergeant Jason Stenberg retired and we wish him a long healthy retirement. We obtained a second K9 welcoming K9 Rebel with Handler Alex Royse. Officer Brian Johnson was promoted to Det. Sergeant. Officer Jesse Sprague was promoted to Sergeant and McKena Huffman took on the responsibilities of School Resource Officer. Due to consistent staffing and creative scheduling, we saw a huge reduction in overtime expenditures being a 33% decrease from 2023. This, no doubt, increased officer satisfaction and moral while reducing burnout. I am so proud to lead a team that is so dedicated and carry themselves in a professional manner day in and day out. They working together to accomplish our goals and achieve our mission statement. Lastly, I want to honor VIP leader Bill Maxwell and Lee Chenoweth who both served our volunteers group for 15 years. This group was dealt a heavy blow with the passing of these two great members in 2024. They will be greatly missed.

Chief Keith J. Klafke

MISSION STATEMENT

Protecting our community and its quality of life by
delivering exceptional law enforcement services

VISION STATEMENT

To enhance our competency and confidence, thus
strengthening our community's morale and trust



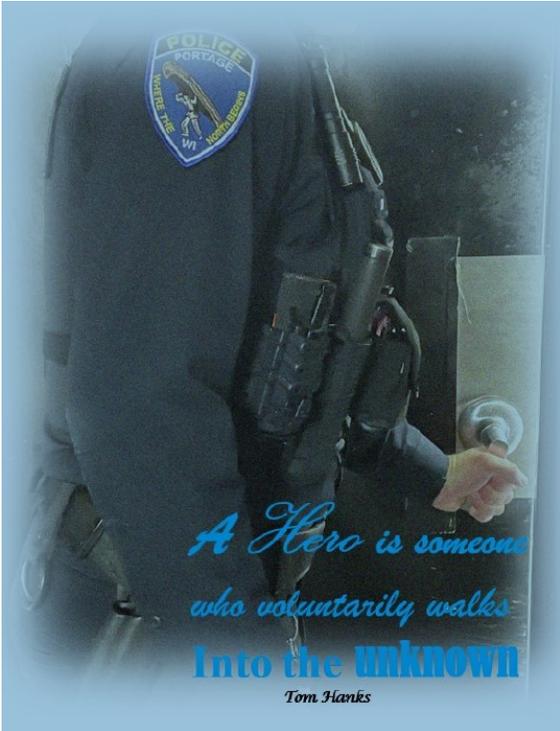
VALUES

Honor—Respect—Integrity—Service—Courage

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Portage Police Department consists of 24 sworn officers, one community service officers, and two administrative assistants. We have two K9 units, two Detective Sergeants., and one School Resource Officer. The department operated within a **budget of \$3,569,526.**

Thank you to our Council and City officials for recognizing the need and supporting an additional officer which helped weather staffing issues and lowered the burden on existing staff. We also made the decision to not hire a second Community Service Officer to maximize other budgetary needs. This did create additional burdens on existing staff though they are excelling.



2024 SNAPSHOT



14,530

TOTAL INCIDENTS

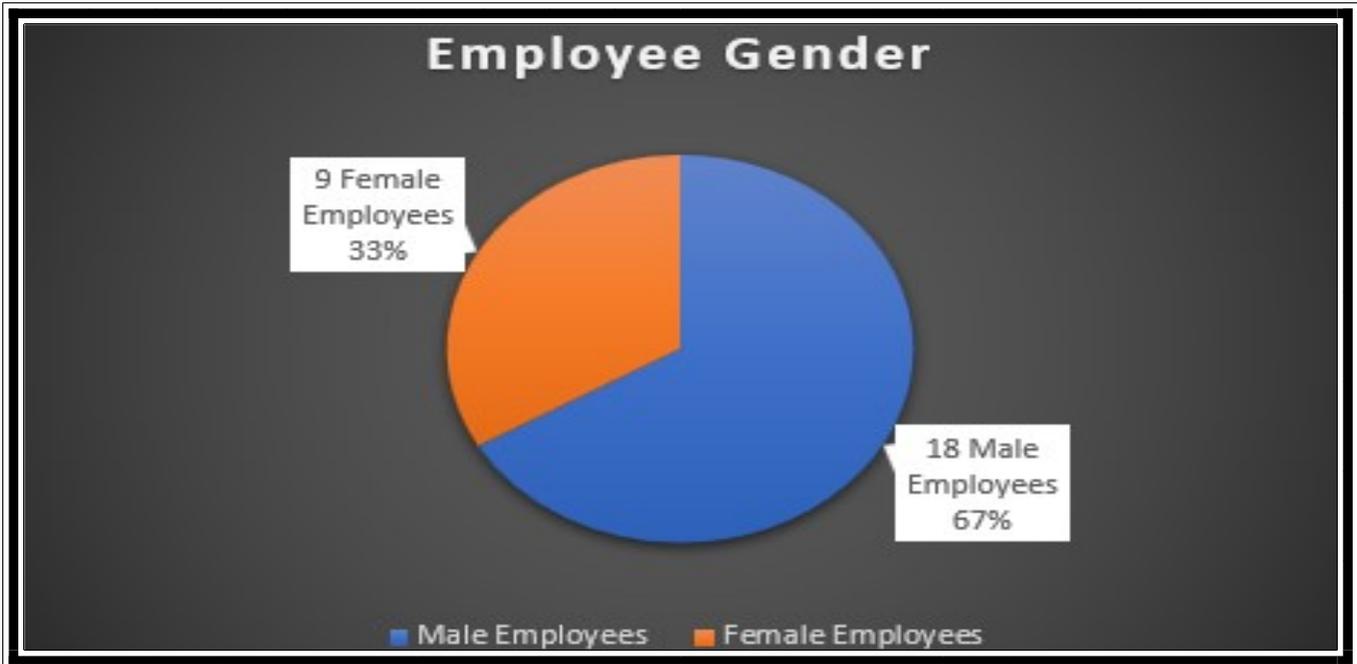
DEPARTMENT ROSTER

Annual Report 2024

Chief of Police	Keith Klafke
Assistant Chief	Richard Hoege
Captain	Daniel Garrigan
Patrol Lieutenant	Benjamin Neumann
Patrol Sergeant	Eric Walters
Patrol Sergeant	Brian Fehd
Patrol Sergeant	Michael Schutz
Patrol Sergeant	Cameron Coronado
Patrol Sergeant	Teresa Johnson
Detective Sergeant	Jason Stenberg (Retired May 5, 2024)
Detective Sergeant	Peter Warning
Detective Sergeant	Brian Johnson (promoted on May 22, 2024)
Patrol Officer	William Charlebois (resigned April 18, 2024)
Patrol Officer	Katelyn Behling (June-December 2024)
Patrol Officer	Heather Medina
Patrol Officer	Jesse Sprague
Patrol Officer/K9	Alexander Royse / K9 Rebel
Patrol Officer/K9	Jacob Kubelt/ K9 Xillos
Patrol Officer	Brandon Hall
Patrol Officer	Kaylee Ramirez
Patrol Officer	Ethan Krzanowski
Patrol Officer	Alexis Mueller
Patrol Officer	Tyler Wolden
Patrol Officer	McKena Huffman (January-August 2024)
Patrol Officer	Megan Fahey (Sworn in on June 4, 2024)
Patrol Officer	Evan Hedlund (Sworn in on August 8, 2024)
School Resource Officer	Katelyn Behling (January-May 2024)
	McKena Huffman (August-December 2024)
Community Service Officer	Kevin Todryk
Administrative Assistant	Jennifer Eberle
Administrative Assistant	Sarah McReath

DEPARTMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

The Portage Police Department has evolved rapidly over the past couple of years and has become a very young department. Though you don't see many 30 year careers in our profession anymore, especially at one agency, we have had solid retention within our department. Here is a breakdown of experience and the officers that make up our department.



Sworn-Employee Portage Pd Tenures

Data as of December 31, 2024

Longest Serving Pd Member:	27 Years
Shortest Serving Pd Member:	4 Months
Average Tenure of Pd:	8.2 Years
Employees with 20+ years at Pd:	4 Employees
Total Combined Experience:	221 Years

Total Sworn-Employees Including Previous Service

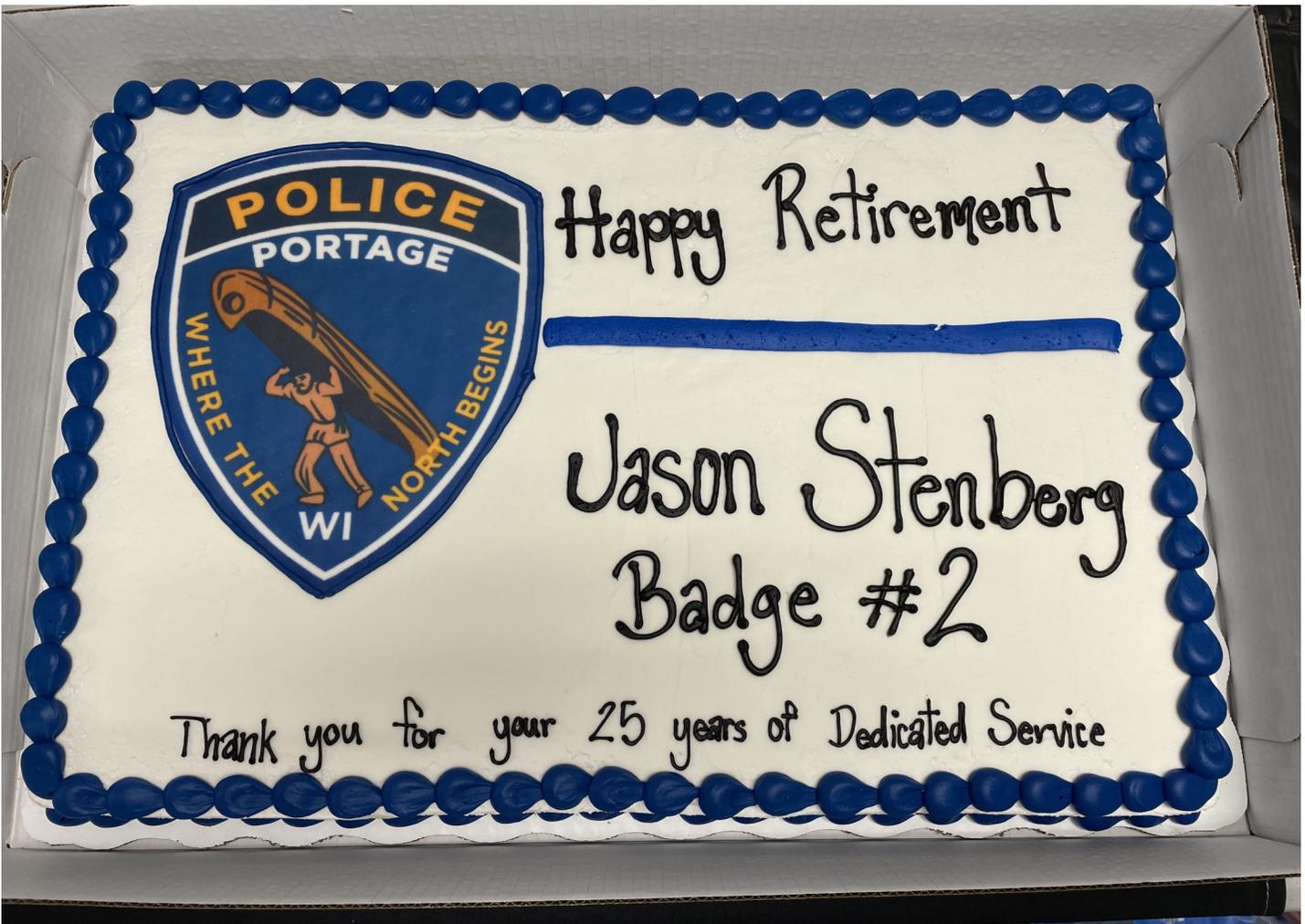
Longest Serving:	34 Years
Total Employees with 20+	7 Employees
Total Combined Experience:	288 Years

Detective Sergeant Jason Stenberg

Jason started at the Portage Police Department on January 4, 1999.

Jason was a Firearms Instructor and Detective Sergeant until his retirement on May 5, 2024.

Thank you for your 25 years of service!



RETIREMENTS & DEPARTURES

Officer William Charlebois

Bill Charlebois, Badge #9, started with the department on April 18, 2005 and resigned after 19 years of service on April, 18 2024. Bill was our most senior patrol officer and now brings his talents to the Capitol Police Department.



Detective Sergeant Brian Johnson

With Brian Johnson's 20 years of law enforcement and documented experience as a seasoned investigator, Brian Johnson was promoted to Detective Sergeant on May 22, 2024.



NEW HIRES

Community Service Officer Megan Fahey was sworn in as an officer on June 4, 2024

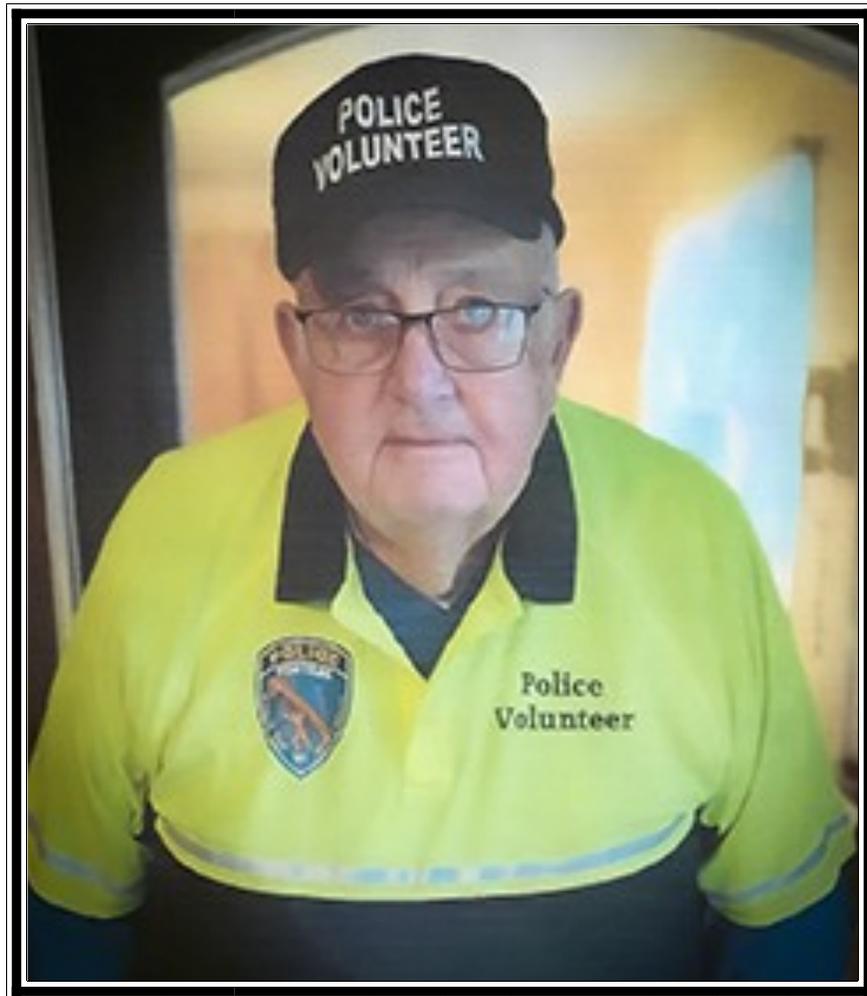


Officer Evan Hedlund sworn in on August 8, 2024



Bill Maxwell

Bill Maxwell joined our 1st Annual Citizens Police Academy in 2010. Bill then became our 1st Unit Leader of the Volunteers in Police Services serving 15 years with his last assignment on December 9th, 2024. Bill organized and assigned roughly 15 volunteer members for the many events throughout the City of Portage and he was always present with his contagious smile. Bill, thank you for everything and you will be greatly missed.



LEE CHENOWETH

Lee Chenoweth attended the 1st Annual Citizens Police Academy in 2010. Lee continued to serve by joining the Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) until 2024. Lee, thank you for your service to the police department and City of Portage.



Lee pictured here with his wife Barb during the CP Holiday Train in 2023.

Goal #1 Complete Evidence Room Expansion and Remodel of CSO office.

With funding secured in 2023, our goal is to design and expand our current evidence room to allow additional storage and processing areas and have this project completed in 2024. Additionally, our CSO office which previously was the dispatch center needs a complete remodel. We will update this office space which will include fixing electrical and heating issues.

Response: Towards the end of 2024 the remodel began and we are close to completion in 2025. The evidence processing room is near completion which increased the officer's workspace. The evidence pass-through system was installed controlling the chain of custody and the secure evidence room has now been expanded to almost 4 times the original space. The CSO office was remodeled which led to personnel office changes.

Goal #2 Upgrade Current Less-Lethal Equipment

The department will transition from its current electronic control devices to a new platform. This will require new equipment plus officer training. The new device has unmatched capabilities as opposed to our current devices providing more options for officer safety.

Response: After training four instructors, they returned and trained the entire department on the Taser 10. This device is completely different than our previous model which allows for precise deployments, enhanced follow-up options, and an increased effective distance.

Goal #3 Increase Downtown Business District Enforcement

Due to the limited availability for parking in our downtown business district we need to focus more attention on downtown parking restrictions to service all patrons and businesses. The department will provide more presence in this area.

Response: With the elimination of the second CSO this will become an even greater challenge to provide consistent downtown parking enforcement.

Goal #4 Deploy a Second K9 Unit

Our goal is to have a second K9 unit in operation by mid-year. Through a grant, a second K9 was purchased and we are currently awaiting arrival on another squad which will then need to be outfitted. Once complete, this will provide extended K9 coverage during our busiest times and take the burden off of one K9 Handler to be present at incidents, events, and special assignments.

Response: K9 Rebel was introduced to Handler Alex Royse and currently working the afternoon shift. The vehicle was outfitted by Belco Vehicle Solutions. K9 Rebel has been a great addition to our department allowing for almost 16 hours of K9 coverage between the two K9 teams.

Goal #5 Leadership Succession Planning

This goal will continue past 2024 which is to foster the future leaders of this department. This will include inhouse mentoring as well as attending leadership courses. We have highly trained and skilled personnel with unique traits and interests that need to be identified and maximized. Our goal is to offer opportunity and guidance to smooth future transitions in leadership roles.

Response: Officers attended several hours of leadership training and the future for strong leadership is in place when future vacancies arise. Refer to our training breakdown pages 44-45 for a detailed report on our officer's 2024 training.

Goal #6 Continuation of In-house Instructor Goal

This goal started in 2023 and we will continue to pursue state instructor courses for our next generation of instructors.

Response: Two officers were trained to be Field training officers and another Firearms Instructor was added to our department. Again on the training breakdown, you will see many hours of inhouse instruction which reduces the cost of external training.

Goal #7 Plan, Prepare, Train for Active Threat

Agencies within Columbia County have faced turnover in recent years. This goal would be to return to the fundamental training and response to an active threat and rescue task force procedures. This will involved working and training with our Portage School District and local businesses.

Response: During 2024 many businesses took advantage of our Active Threat Training. Additionally, all the schools in the Portage District received training on active threat response and school protocols prior to school beginning in the fall. Instructors trained with all the new EMS/FIRE staff on Rescue Task Force. Early in 2025 Columbia County law enforcement trained together on officer response. This training will continue to build with hopes of running a large scale exercise in 2026.

Goal #1 - Competitive Union Contract

Our department entered it's last year in the current union contract and will begin negotiations for 2026-2027. There has been many discussions on different patrol shifts and schedules. Our main priorities are staying comparable, competitive, attractive and retaining staff.

Goal #2- Organization and Cleanliness

With recent remodels close to completion, it is our goal to have pride in our department and maintain a professional cleanly appearance. This goal includes our equipment and fleet vehicles and storage locations.

Goal #3- Reconnect with Business District

It is imperative that we have a solid relationship with our local businesses and being a resource for them. This will be done through increased personal communication and interaction. We provide threat assessments for businesses as well as active threat training.

Goal #4- Consistent Accountability

Through our field training program and policy and procedures, making sure we are using best practices.

Goal #5 Producing a Quality Product

As above, through our field training program and records workflow, making sure our officers are producing a quality product which includes follow-up and report writing.

Goal #6 Marketing

Continuing to showcase officer's talents and use of social media to tell our story.

Goal #7 Planning for Full-Scale Active Threat Exercise

Our goal is to keep building on the fundamentals and bringing together all disciplines that will respond to large scale events to make sure we are on the same page and operate efficiently together.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Below is a comprehensive list of committees and organizations our department represents:

Boys and Girls Club
 Kiwanis Club
 Optimists
 Elks Club
 Triad
 PARCC
 Overdose fatal review team
 Child death review team
 Sexual assault response team
 Community Sex Offender Notification Team
 Courthouse security Committee
 Crimestoppers
 Regional CART
 Drug Court
 Highway Safety Committee
 Portage School Board
 High School Football
 HS Basketball
 HS Baseball

HS Softball
 Youth Football
 Youth Baseball
 Youth Basketball
 United Way
 River Haven
 PAA
 High School Trap Team
 Kinship
 Columbia County Police Association
 Portage Emergency Planning Committee
 Portage Safety Committee
 Citizen's Police Academy
 Salvation army.
 Crisis Intervention
 Domestic abuse Coordination Committee
 ARDC
 Rotary Club
 Lights of Christmas
 UW Football Games



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CON'T

This past Kids Safety Day was held inside of John Muir Elementary. Participants had a great time interacting with first responders.



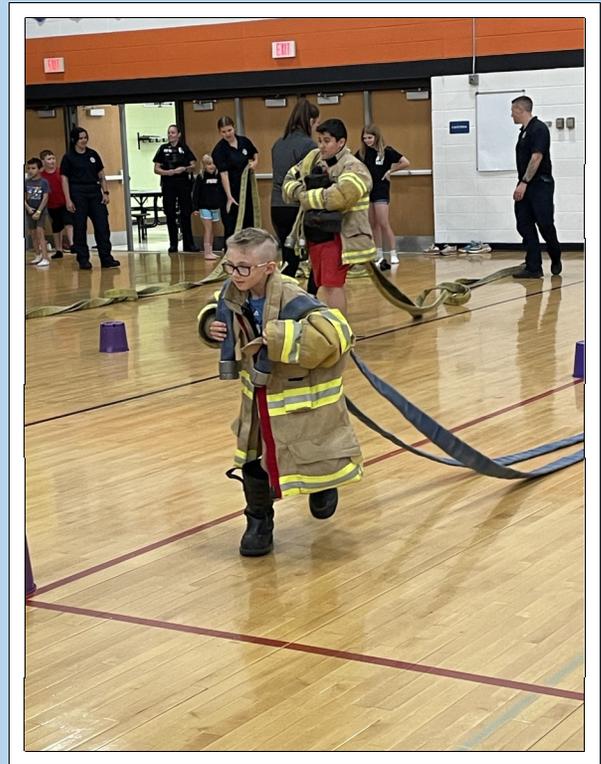
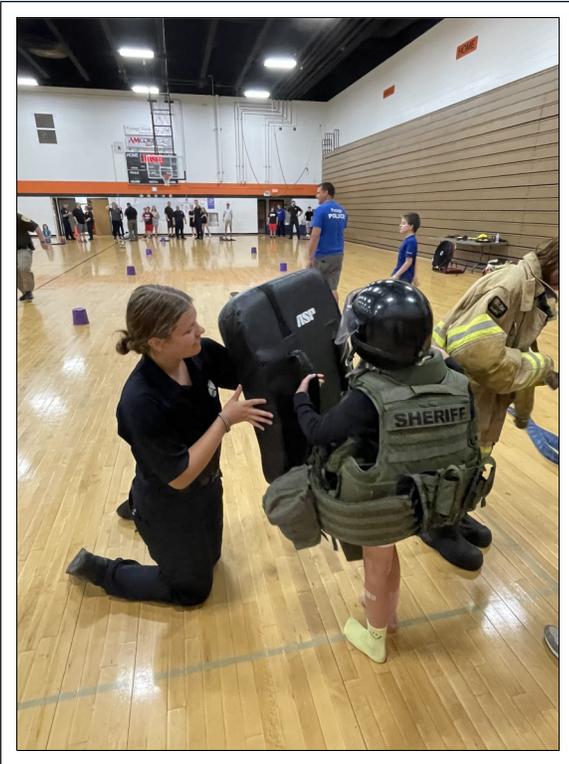
The Lights for Christmas is a statewide fundraiser that started in 2016 to benefit hurting or homeless members of our community. Through this program gift cards are given to those in need. Thank you Culver's for your partnership.

Officers took advantage of the hot summer days to hand out freeze pops at several parks and interact with community members .



Kids Safety Day

Kids Safety Day is an annual event that first responders host to provide knowledge to the youth in our community. This is an opportunity to demonstrate our skills as first responders, while also providing the community with a fun and interactive day!



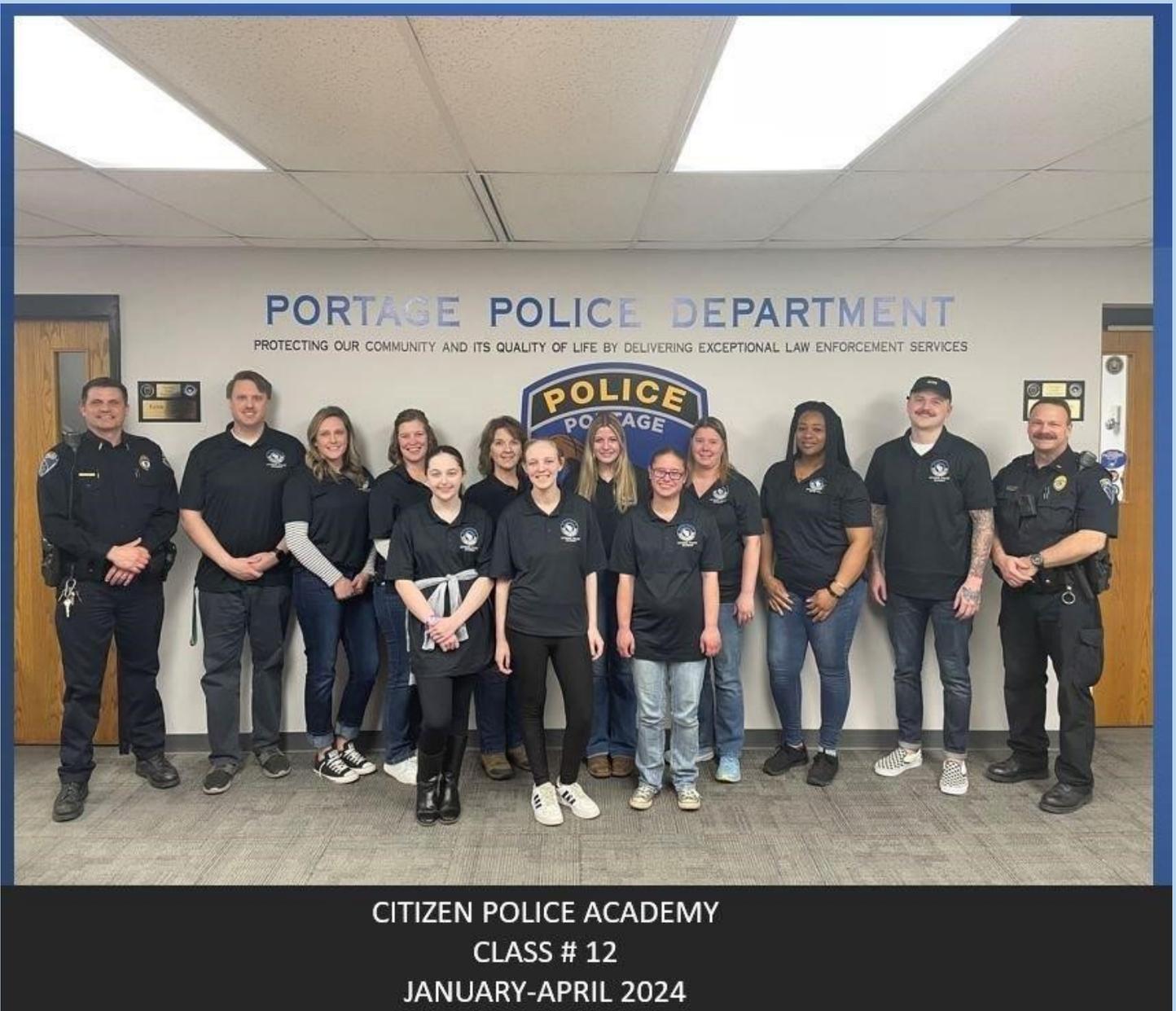
Thank you Culvers for providing the lunch!!!!

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out which is the first Tuesday in August has grown into a very large event in the City of Portage. We have continued to make this an entirely cost free event bringing in over 50 different vendors and attractions and demonstrations from first responders and local organizations. **Can't wait to see you August 5, 2025!**



The Citizens Police Academy is an opportunity for citizens and high school students of the greater Portage Area to gain additional knowledge of our department, the officers, daily operations and tactics of law enforcement through classroom and hands-on training delivered by Portage Police Officers. In return, this program helps us meet the goals of our mission statement and maintain our close connection to the community. The Citizens Police Academy (CPA) is a ten-week program which meets once a week starting in January.



POLICE RESOURCES

Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS)

The VIPS continue to be a committed group being the extra eyes and ears for the department. Our VIPS help control crowds and assist with traffic concerns which makes our city events very safe. Our VIPS are prior law enforcement or graduates of our Citizen’s Police Academy. They have monthly meeting which include training on various police procedures.

Our active members in 2024 expanded greatly and include:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Bill & Joan Maxwell | Doug Petrowitz | Kelly Behling |
| Alyssa Baker | Zoe Anson | Elizabeth Greene |
| Jessica Baker | Eric Solderman | Chad & Angie Crary |
| Katy Hartl | Kevin & Diana O’Neill | Sue Wilcox |
| Lora Foster | Tamara Brantley | Rita Haase |
| Andy Saloun | Steve Aldridge | Jerry Tice |
| Lee & Barb Chenoweth | Rich Green | Jeffrey Ethington |
| Kelley Bressers | Tara Glendenning | Maria Leone |



POLICE RESOURCES

Crossing Guards

Our adult crossing guards ensure students arrive and leave school safely everyday. These dedicated members are stationed at four locations throughout the city.

Adult Crossing Guards

Renee Barnett (Dewitt/Franklin)

Mary Lehman (Macfarlane/Franklin)

Jerry McCullick (New Pinery/Slifer)

Connie Frain (Woodcrest/Slifer—AM)

Brandon Hoege (Woodcrest/Slifer—PM)



Thank you Crossing Guards for
keeping our students safe!

Honor Guard Program

Our honor guard program continues to be a great addition to our department in which we are able to demonstrate our professionalism at various community and department events and corroborate with other honor guard teams.

Current Members

Assistant Chief Rich Hoege

Lieutenant Ben Neumann

Sergeant Michael Schutz

Officer Heather Medina

Officer Cameron Coronado

Officer McKena Huffman



9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

This special event is organized and conducted at Habitat for Humanity. Pictured together is members from the Portage Fire Department and Police Department Honor Guards.

2024 AWARDS CEREMONY

The police department hosted its annual awards ceremony on January 22, 2025 to recognize the outstanding service by officers and members of the community. The Awards Committee is responsible for vetting and approving nominations received and categorizing approved nominations. Citizens wishing to nominate an officer for an award are encouraged to visit our website to access the nomination form. We adopted a new award this year, Team Member of the Year Award, which is awarded by peer selection only.

2024 Awards Highlights

- ⇒ 4 Volunteers In Police Services- 15 Year Tenure Awards
- ⇒ 2 Citizen Appreciation Awards
- ⇒ 4 Team Effort Awards
- ⇒ 2 Life Saving Awards
- ⇒ 7 Meritorious Service Awards
- ⇒ 1 Medal of Valor
- ⇒ Team Member of the Year Award



Awards Committee Members

Kevin Todryk-Chair ❖ Richard Hoega ❖ Michael Schutz ❖ Kate Behling ❖
Jesse Sprague ❖ Teresa Johnson ❖ Ben Neumann ❖ Kaylee Ramirez

2024 AWARDS CEREMONIES



Bill and Joan Maxwell were awarded both 15 year Tenure Awards and Meritorious Service Awards .

Barb and Lee Chenoweth were also awarded 15 year Tenure Awards.



Pat Fahey and Christopher Otto were awarded Citizen Appreciation Awards for their actions and assistance with a female subject who had capsized her kayak on the Wisconsin River.



Team Member of the Year Award and Recipient of the Medal of Valor

Officer Kaylee Ramirez

2024 AWARDS CEREMONIES



Dr. Michael Cooper was awarded a Citizen Support Award for all of his and his staff's generosity for veterinarian services for our K9's and his assistance dealing with animal incidents.



Alonzo Aranda was awarded a Citizen Support Award for all of his contributions in the city and supporting our department in a variety of ways. Alonzo has provided meals for our Awards Ceremony and Christmas Parties.



Not all members were able to be present but what a great team we have at Portage Pd.

2024 MAJOR INCIDENTS

Most of the major incidents included on this list are from press releases sent out by our agency throughout 2024 and can be reviewed in their entirety on our social media platforms.

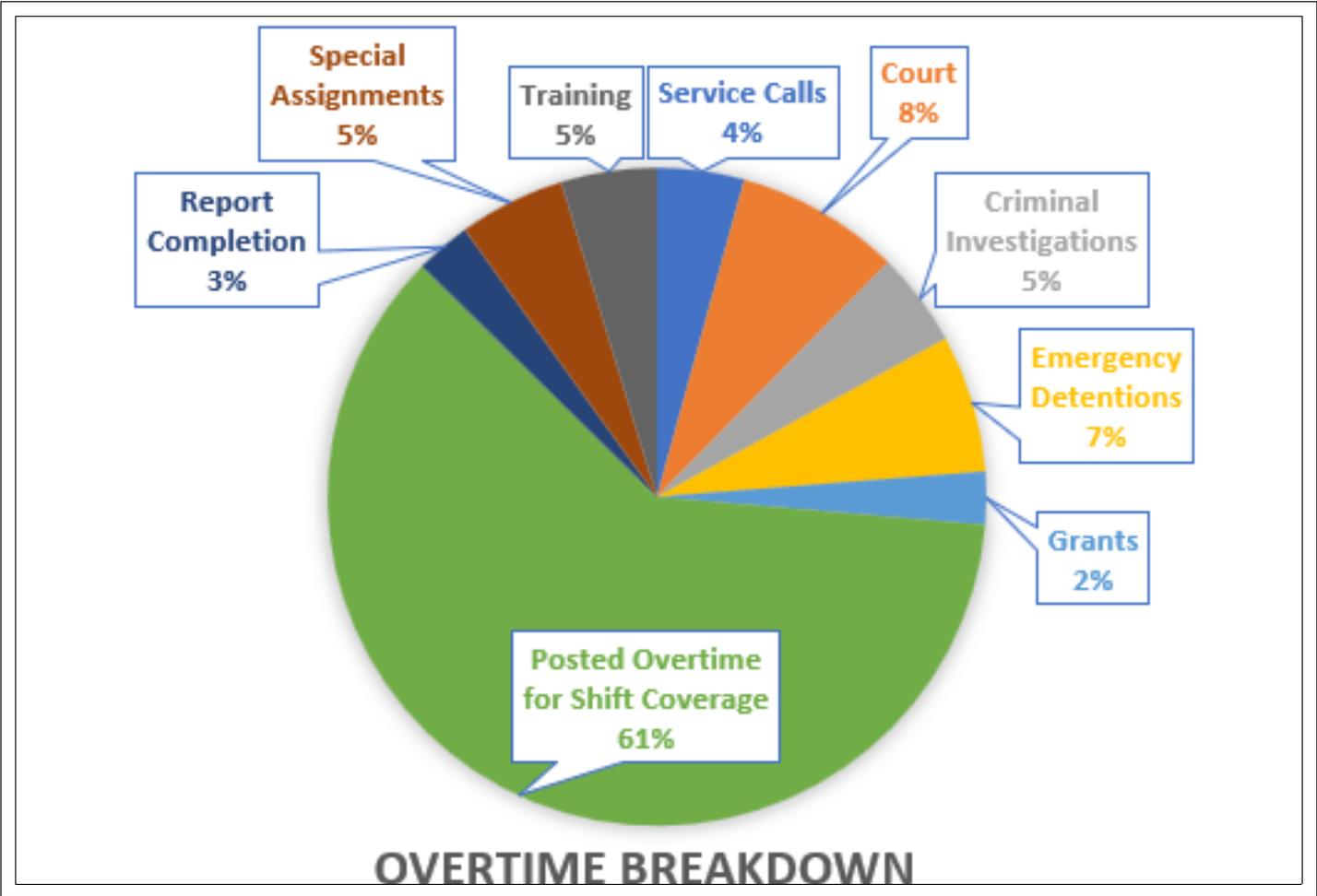
- ⇒ Male subject who was wanted on several felony charges and a felony warrant barricaded himself in a basement crawl space.
- ⇒ Portage Police Department was part of an investigation that led to a male subject being sentenced to 3 1/2 years in Federal Prison followed by 3 years of extended supervision for gun related charges.
- ⇒ Subject arrested for OWI 7th Offense
- ⇒ Two subjects arrested for Gun related charges and possession of controlled substances.
- ⇒ Substantial drug arrest resulting in the seizure of illegal drugs with the street value of over \$375,000. The suspect is facing 16 felony charges and 3 misdemeanor charges.
- ⇒ Three subjects arrested for felony charges related to the possession and intent to deliver cocaine resulting from a traffic stop.
- ⇒ Substantial drug arrest resulting in the seizure of over 1.8 pounds of Fentanyl with an estimated street value of \$80,000. Two subjects arrested on multiple felony charges.
- ⇒ Assisted Portage Fire on a fatal residence fire.

TRENDS & COMPARISONS

Incident Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 Vs. 2023	4yr Average Vs. 2024
VEHICLES							
Accidents	325	346	355	320	315	- 1.5%	- 6%
		(3 fatal)	(2 fatal)	(1 fatal)	(1 fatal)		
Traffic stops	2819	2457	2730	3251	3621	+ 11%	+ 28%
OWI arrests	133	83	75	82	79	-4%	- 15%
Eluding	4	5	12	5	5	0%	-16%
PROPERTY CRIMES							
Vandalism/damage	81	121	96	88	104	+ 18%	+ 8%
Theft	160	251	257	217	296	+ 36%	+ 34%
Stolen vehicles	10	33	15	11	11	0%	- 35%
Burglaries	18	22	21	13	12	-7%	- 33%
PERSONS CRIMES							
Homicide (inc. at-tempt)	1	0	0	0	0	0%	- 100%
Sex offenses	9	14	19	19	18	-5%	+ 20%
Battery	78	78	64	59	53	- 10%	- 24%
Domestic Incidents	107	150	104	92	101	+ 10%	- 10%
OTHER							
Welfare checks	828	858	726	684	641	- 6%	- 17%
Mental commitments	36	28	25	23	24	- 4%	- 14%
Detox trips	11	8	19	5	5	0%	- 54%
Disorderly conduct	361	359	322	285	291	+ 2%	- 12%
911 Hang-ups	512	518	469	748	545	-27%	- 3%

TRENDS & COMPARISONS

OVERTIME STATISTICS



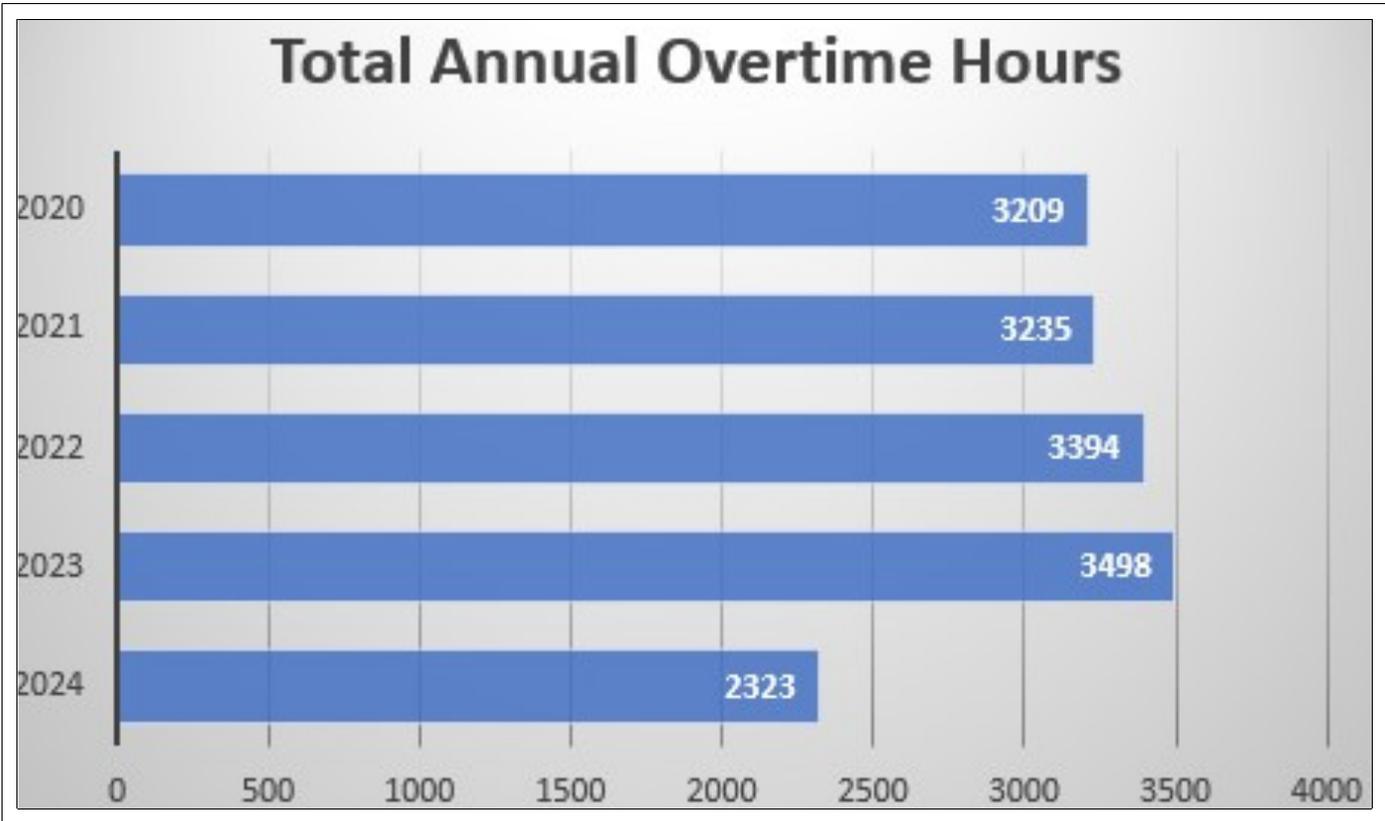
Over half of our overtime is making sure we have adequate staffing 24 hours each and every day. As this chart represents only 5% of overtime hours were affected by staff training. To accomplish this, we work around schedules to perform training within regular rotations or accommodate staff to flex schedules to make sure they are getting the best training without causing extreme budgetary issues. Training is conducted by in-house trainers or associated to the officer’s regular scheduled work day minimizing off-day obligations.

TRENDS & COMPARISONS

OVERTIME STATISTICS

Creative scheduling and the addition of another officer greatly reduced our overtime expenditures in 2024 which contributed to a

33% reduction



TRENDS & COMPARISONS

2,025 Total Arrests (2022)
2,271 Total Arrests (2023)
2,122 Total Arrests (2024)

⇒ Total arrests include custodial, referred to DA, juvenile referrals, and nontraffic ordinances.

PHYSICAL ARRESTS

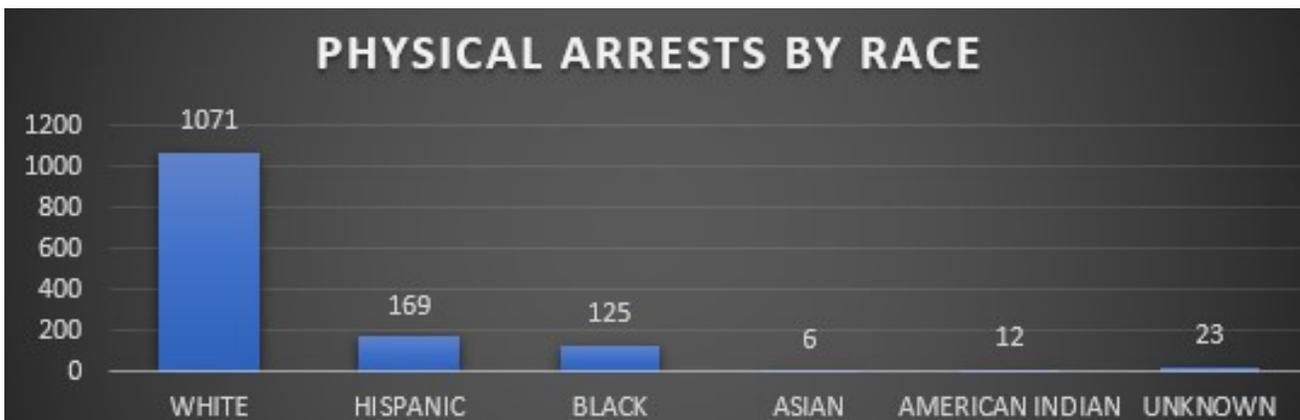
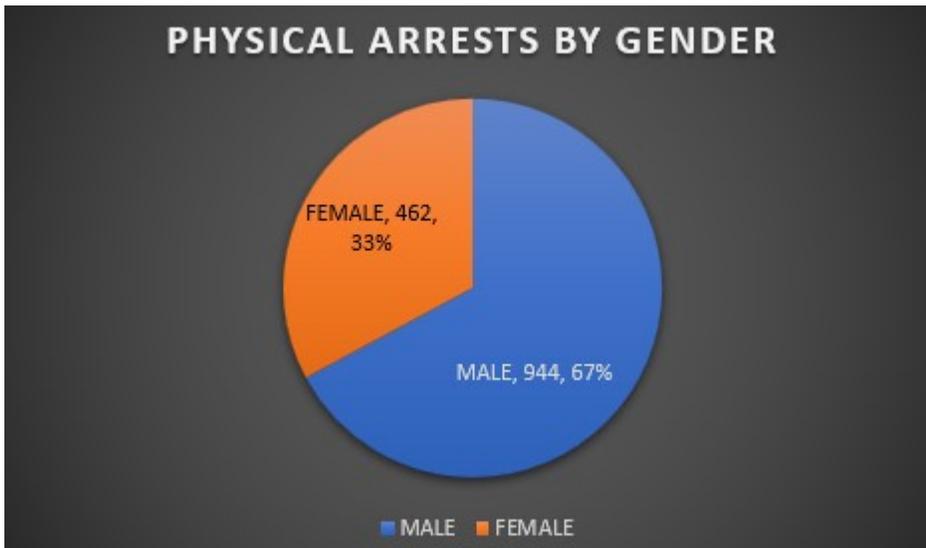
2022— 963 Arrests

2023— 1359 Arrests

2024— 1406 Arrests

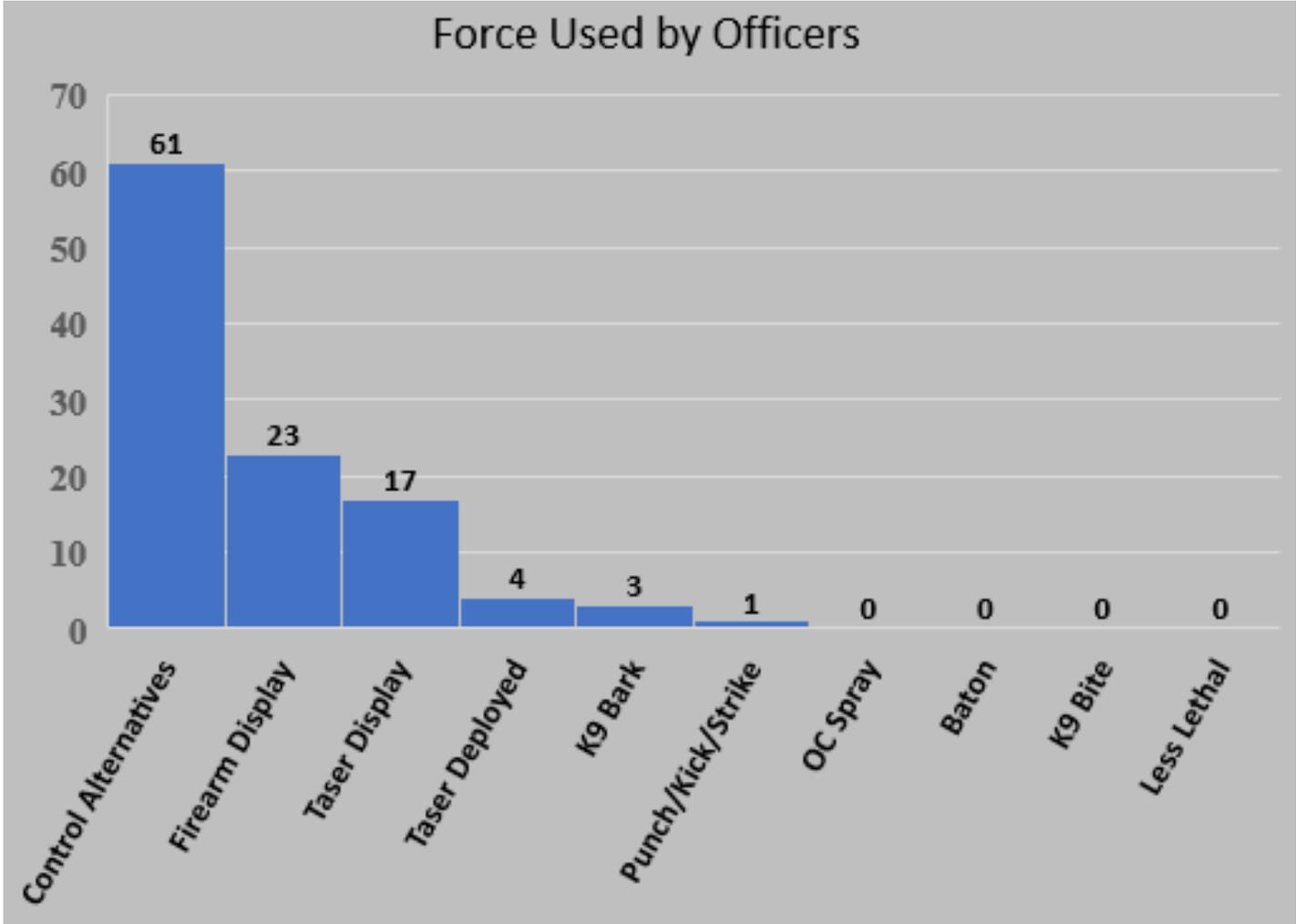
1287 Adults

119 Juveniles

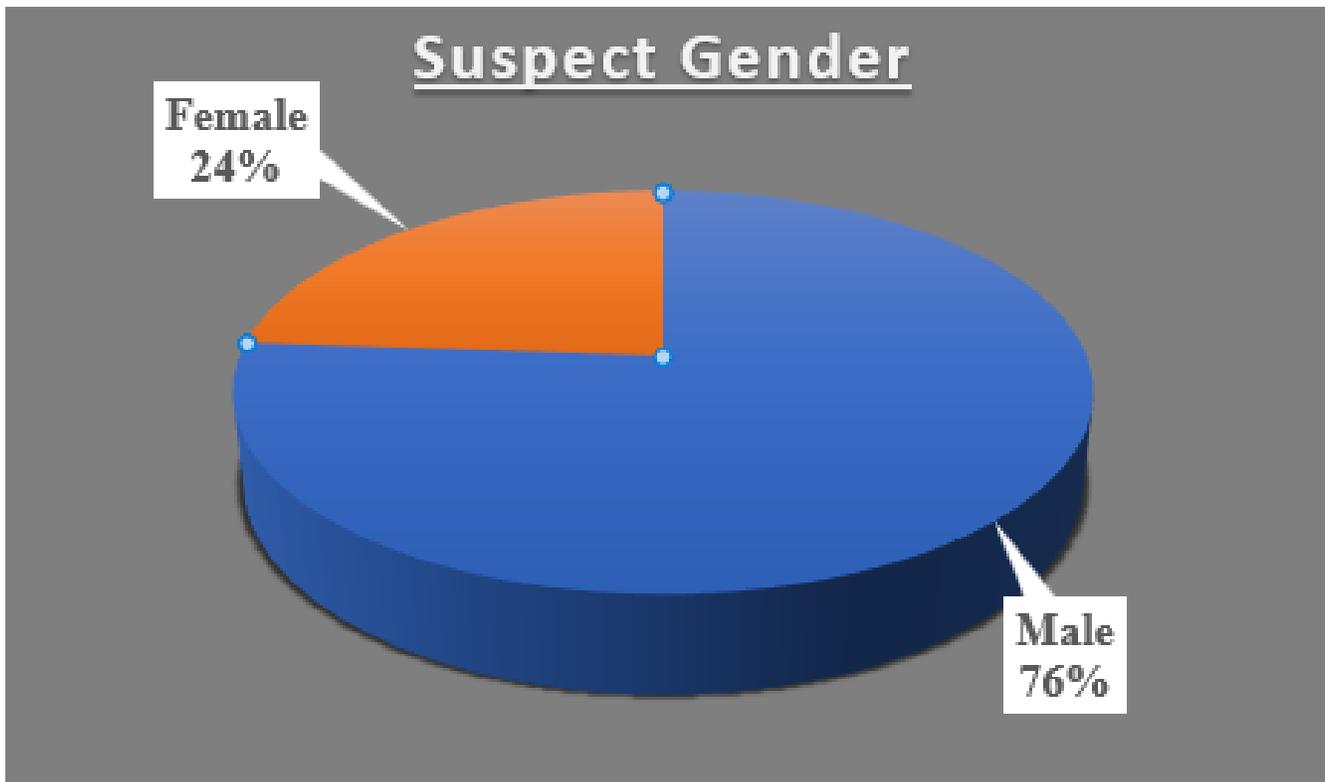
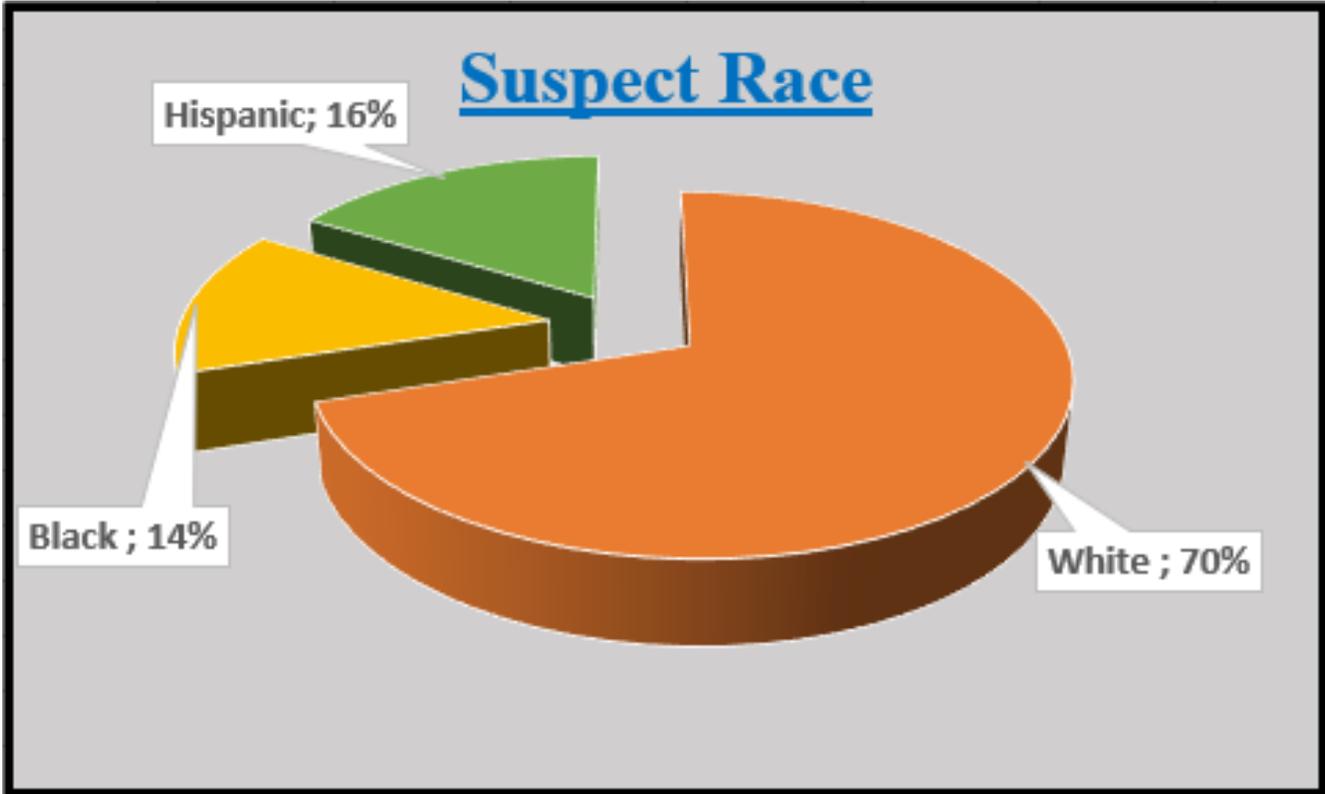


USE OF FORCE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

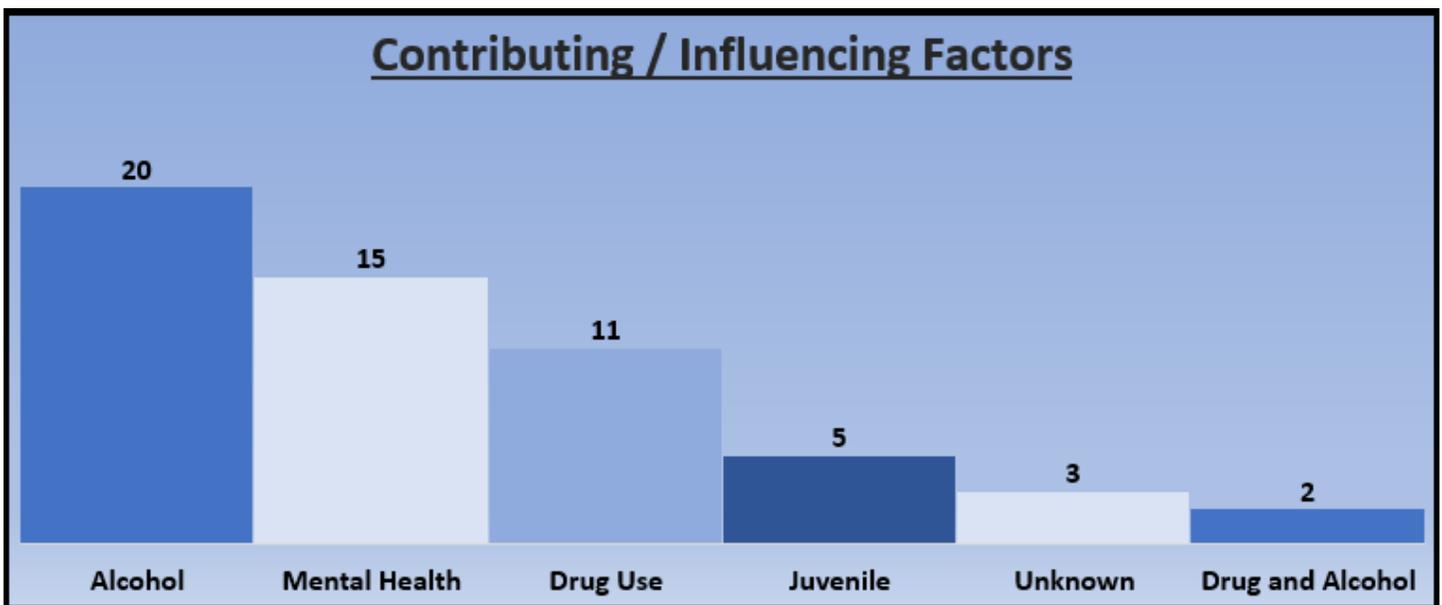
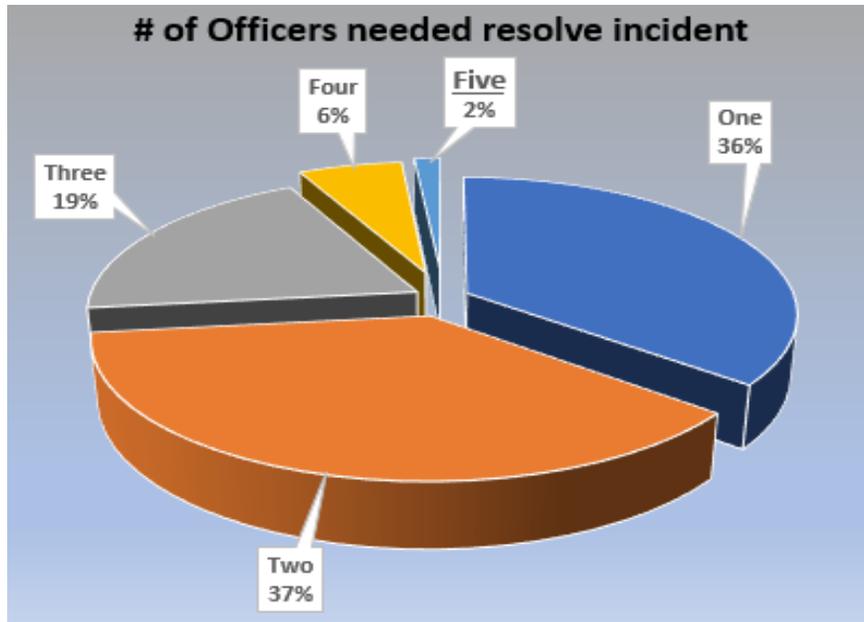
The Portage Police Department documents and reviews all use of force incidents. In 2024 we had 67 Use of Force incidents which is a 19% increase over 2023 (56). As you will see in the following diagrams, most incidents are resolved with hands-on control alternatives or a display of tools. Effective communication and de-escalation tactics continue to keep our ratio of service calls to force incidents extremely low at .4%. Our officers show great restraint and address active resistance in a controlled manner using only the force necessary to achieve and maintain control. **Firearms were displayed 23 times and never used. Tasers were displayed 17 times and deployed 4 times.**



Use of Force Continued



Use of Force Continued

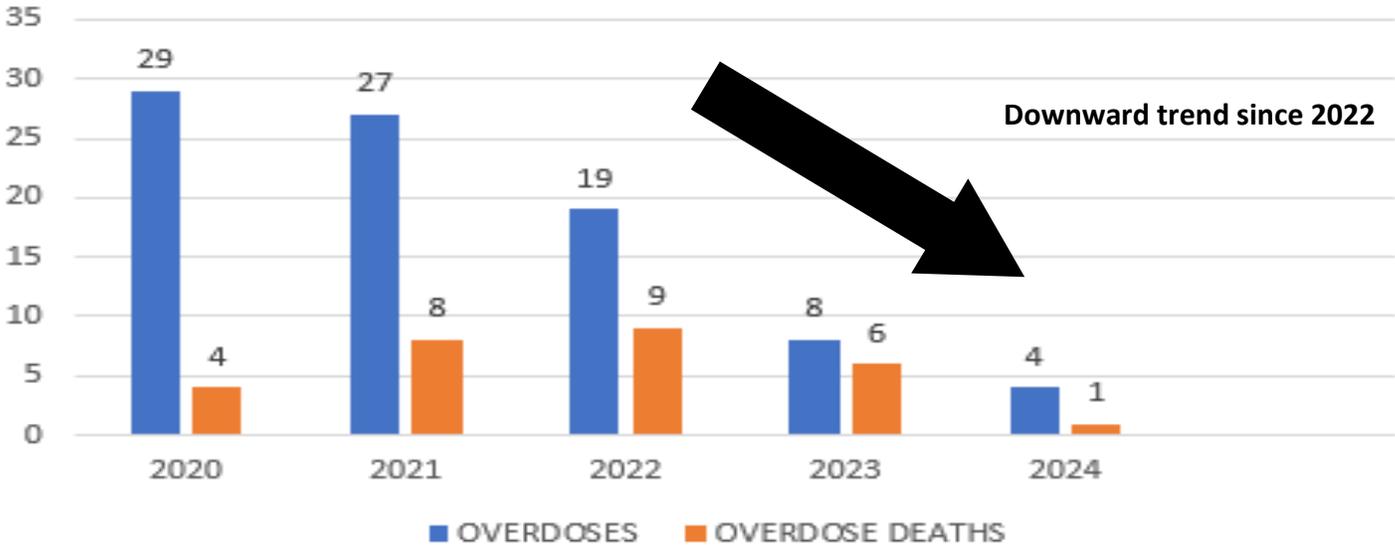


# of Suspects Injured	4
# of Officers Injured	11
# of Incidents w/ injuries	9
Total # of Incidents where force was used	67

DRUG ENFORCEMENT/IMPACT

Totals in 2024	
5	DRUG SEARCH WARRANTS EXECUTED Resulting in 6 arrests
221	Drug Arrests
126	Criminal Arrests
95	Ordinance Citations Issued

DRUG OVERDOSES AND DEATHS



K9 ACTIVITY

K9 XILLOS



SERVING SINCE 2022

HANDLER JACOB KUBELT

K9 REBEL



SERVING SINCE 2024

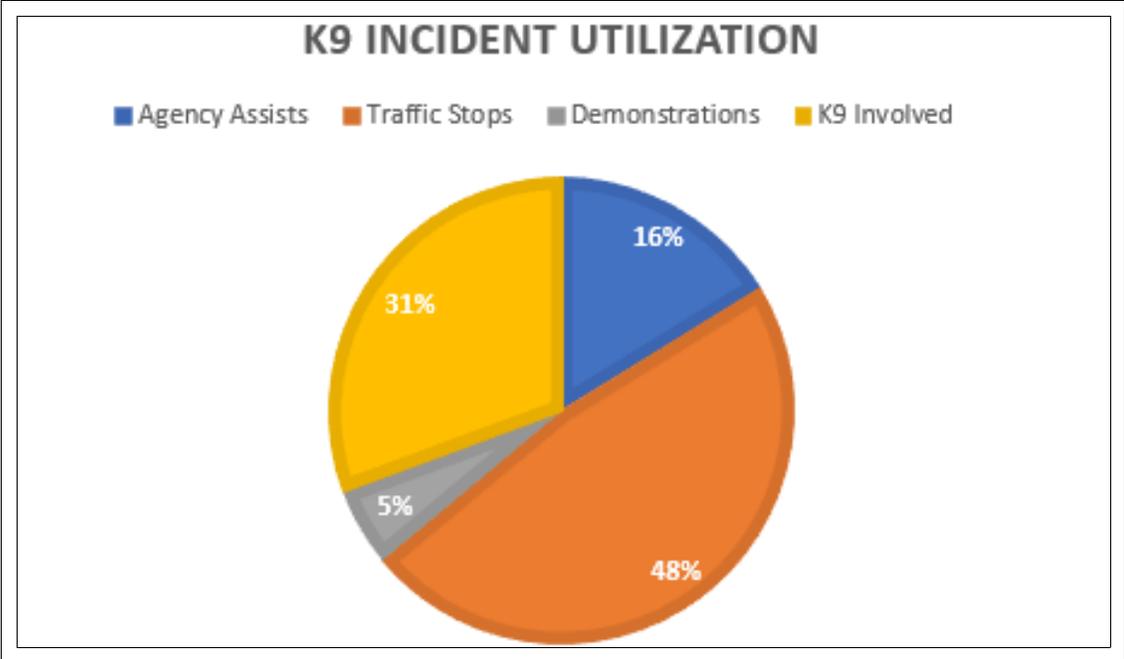
HANDLER ALEX ROYSE

Both K9 Units are duo-certified in Patrol and Narcotics work which include tracking and apprehensions.



K9 ACTIVITY

110 Combined K9 Incidents

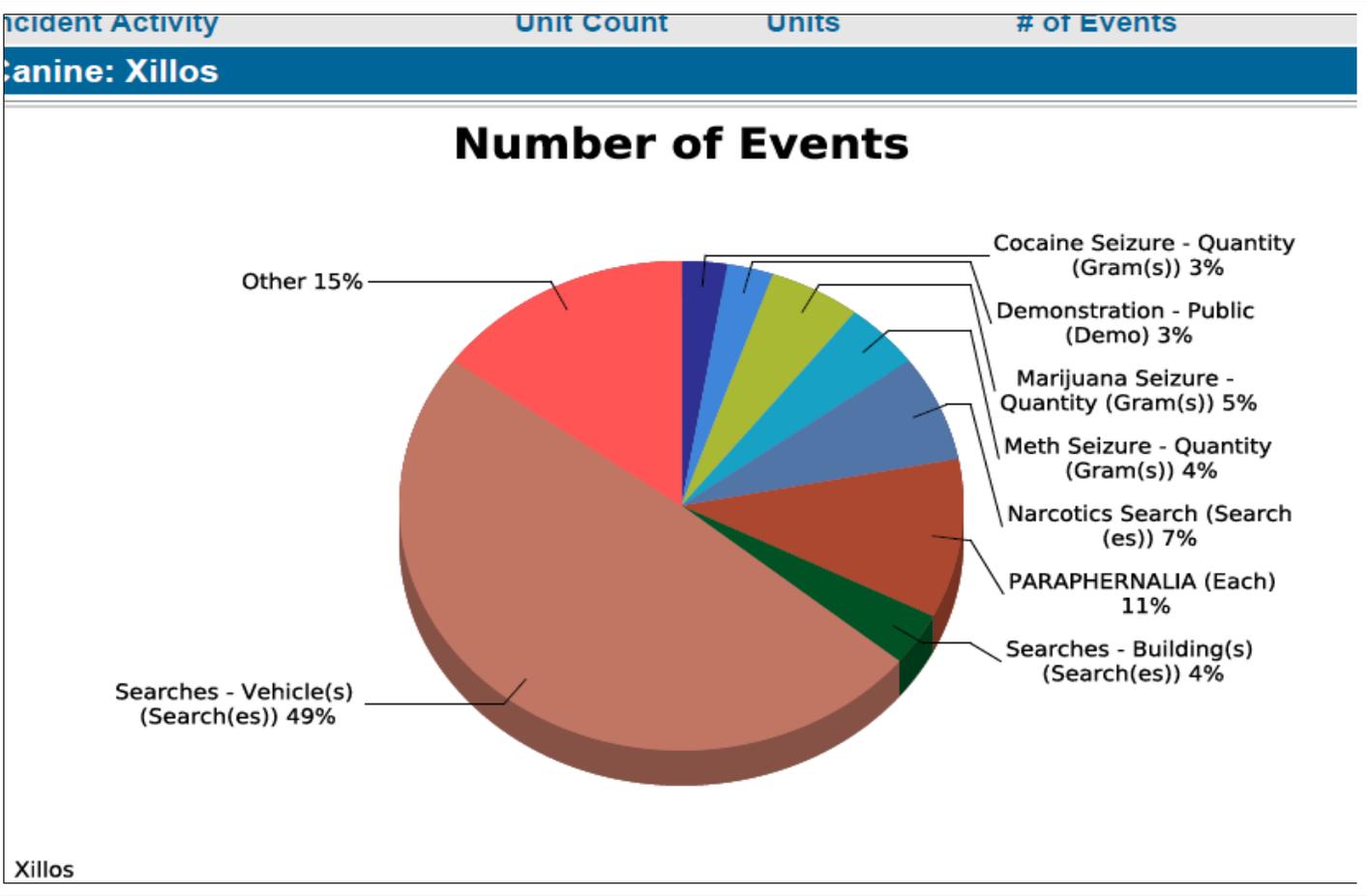


54 TOTAL SUBJECTS CHARGED

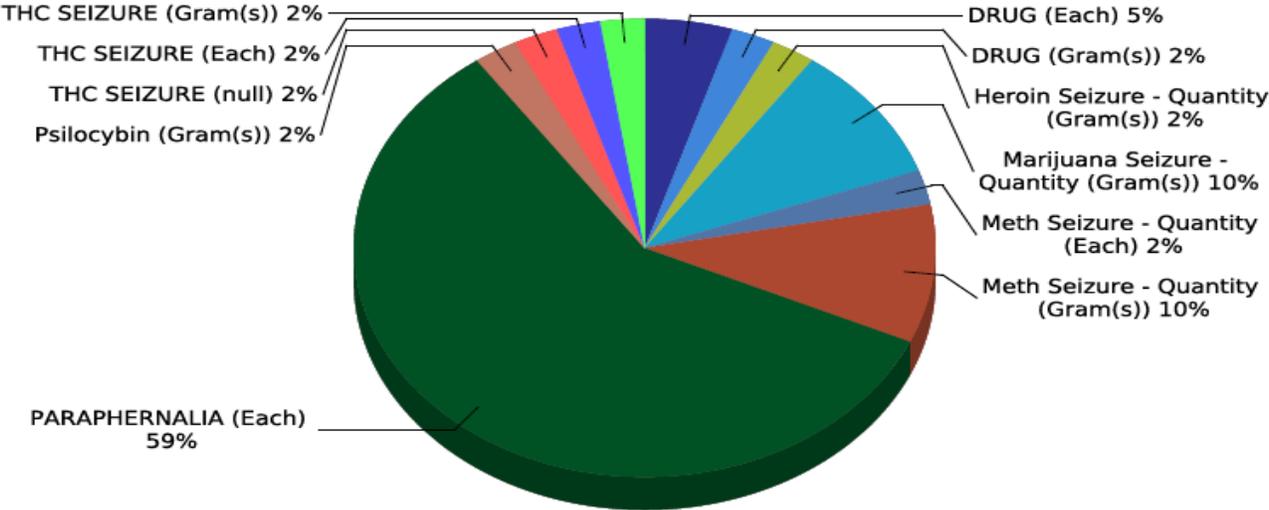
2 USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS (BOTH NON-BITE CALL-OUTS)



K9 ACTIVITY



Number of Events



Rebel

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

In our sixth year, this program continues to be an asset and vital program for the safety of our students and staff. Our partnership with the Portage School District remains strong as we work together to achieve a positive learning environment.

This position is funded 66% by the Portage School District and 33% by the City of Portage. The Ad-Hoc evaluation committee reviews the activities of the SRO monitoring the success, needs, goals, and/or changes needed. This year we incorporated a 3-year term on the School Resource Officer Selection to provide opportunity and broader exposure. SRO Kate Behling returned to patrol duties and Officer McKena Huffman was selected as the new SRO who started the 2024-2025 school year.

WELCOME SRO MCKENA HUFFMAN !

Enforcement and Incidents

371 Total School Calls



- ⇒ 138 Truancy Citations issued (72 in 2023)
- ⇒ 9 Possession controlled substance
- ⇒ 28 Tobacco possession/use
- ⇒ 15 Disorderly Conduct charges
- ⇒ 5 Miscellaneous citations

In addition, the SRO is at many school functions throughout the year providing presence at sporting events and extra-curricular activities. The SRO also provides presentations to students and staff on various current topics.

Goals of the SRO Program

Increase School Safety

Relieve School workload on patrol

Build Positive Relationships

Improve School Attendance

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS

Their primary role of our Community Service Officers is to address quality of life issues or complaints and conduct ordinance enforcement. The CSOs have many internal operation responsibilities which include municipal court, data entry and report processing, property (lost and found), training, and the liaison to the crossing guard program. This program was reduced to one CSO officer in 2024 after CSO Fahey was selected for a sworn position in early 2024 and then attended the Police Academy. This created an increased workload on CSO Todryk and a reduction of coverage. We are working on reduced responsibilities within pd to allow CSO Todryk more flexibility to address external issues.



Kevin Todryk



Megan Fahey

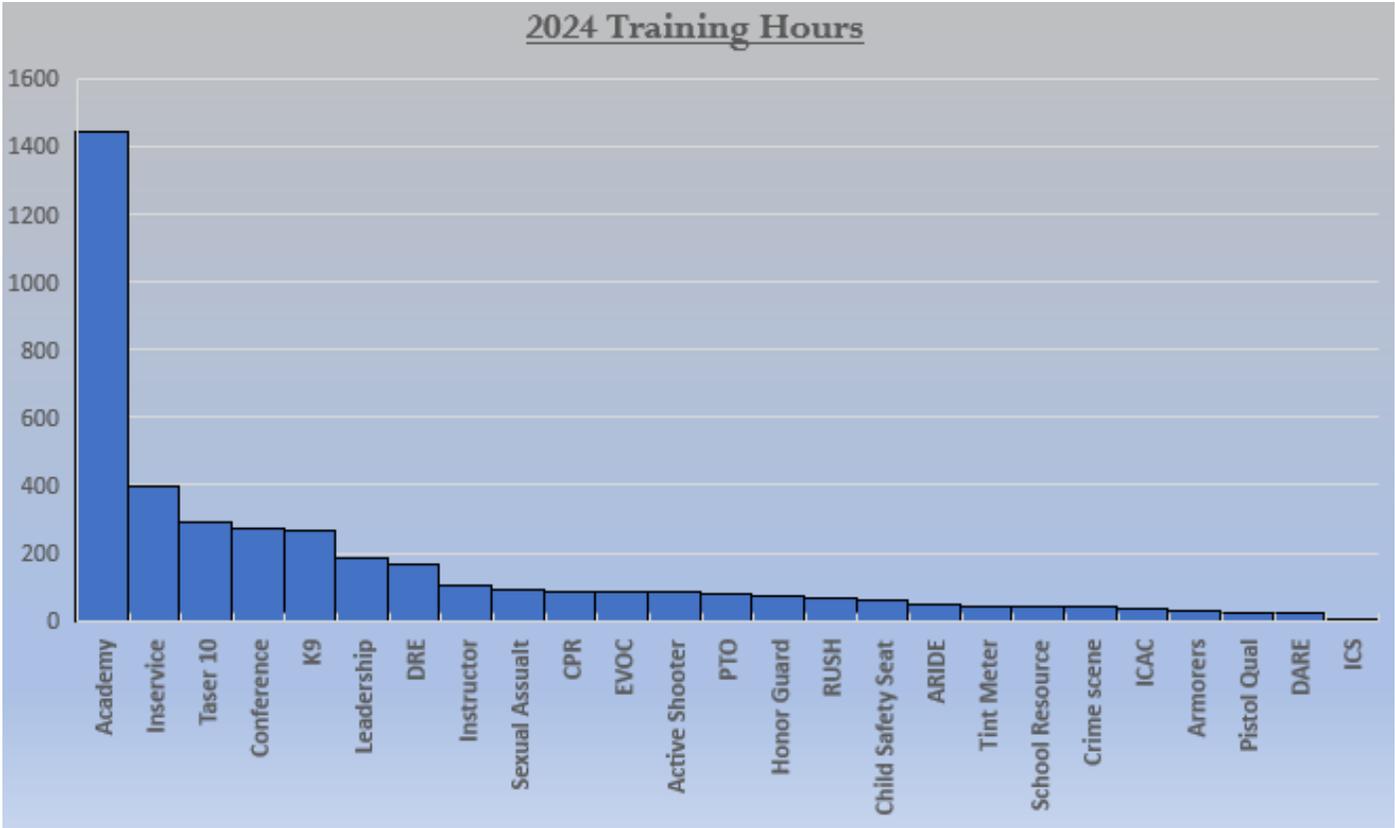
<u>Nature of Calls</u>	<u>2023 Totals</u>	<u>2024 Totals</u>
Total Calls	726	311
Ordinance Violations	407	171
Lost and Found	80	37
Parking Violations	180	71
Miscellaneous Calls	59	32

TRAINING

Each year sworn officers in Wisconsin are required to have 24 hours of continued education and training to remain certified. This includes an annual state qualification course for firearms and a bi-annual emergency vehicle operations course. Additionally, our K9 unit must train 8 hours per month to remain certified. Our department continues to focus on leadership courses and in-house instructors to provide the necessary instruction and provide training to area departments.

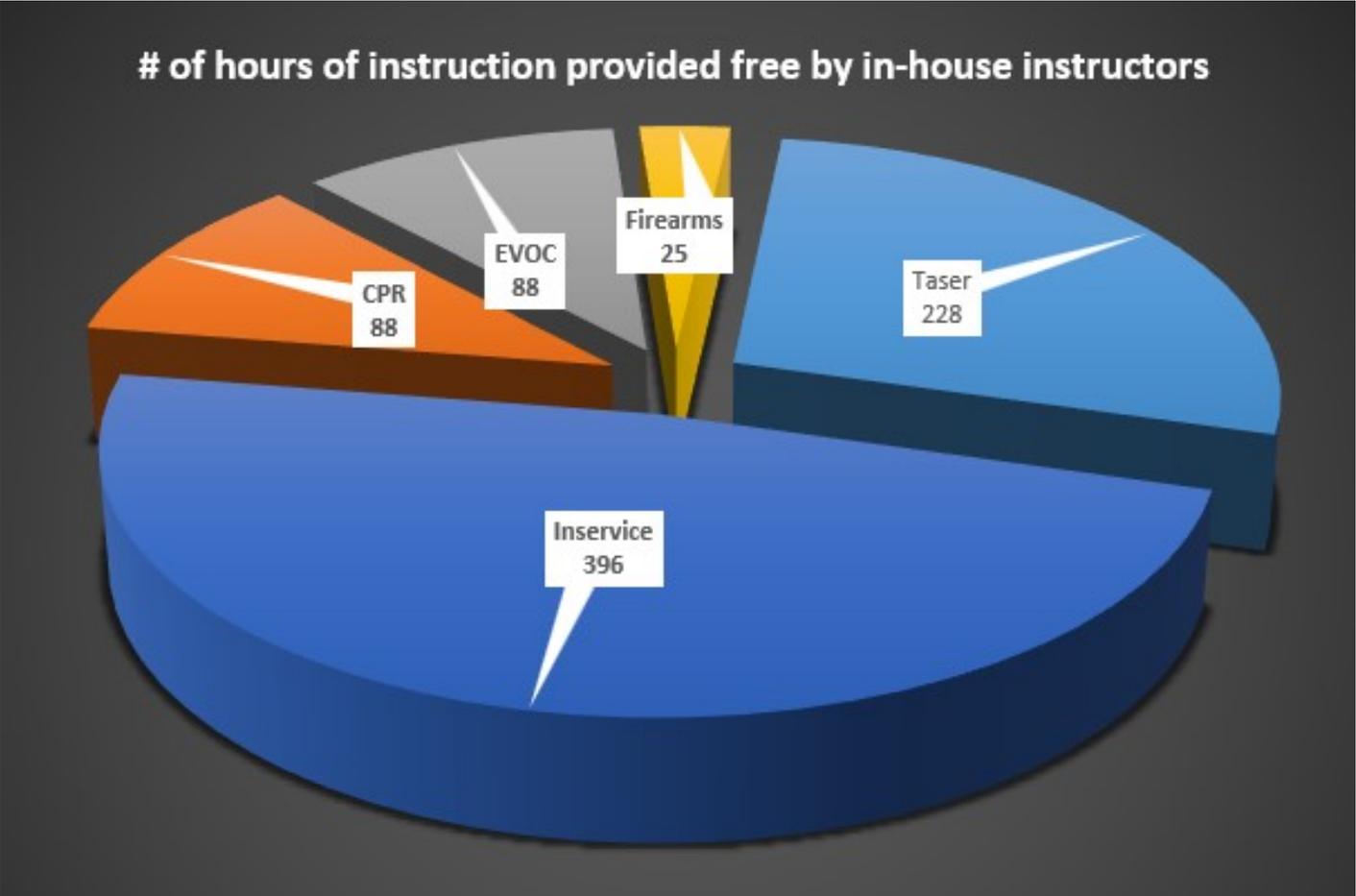
4064 Total Hours of Training

Training Breakdown

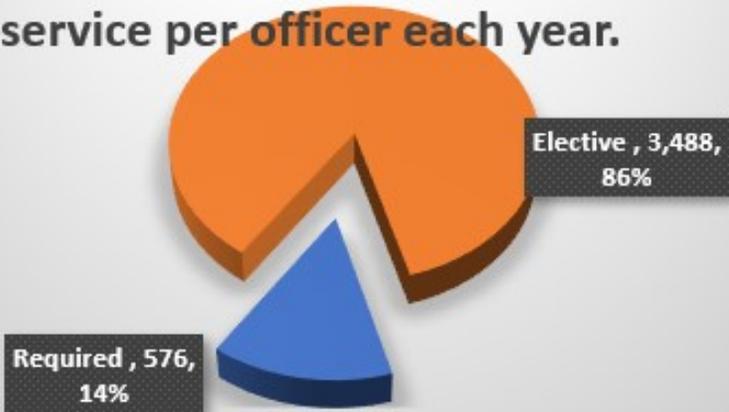


TRAINING CON'T.

A total of 825 training hours provided by In-house



The Dept of Justice requires 24 hours of in-service per officer each year.



86% of our training was above and beyond the state requirements

EQUIPMENT/UPGRADES

Second K9 Team– The second K9 team of K9 Rebel and Handler Alex Royse were fully outfitted in 2024 and currently providing patrol services.



Taser 10

These devices allow for increased officer safety due to enhanced capabilities which include effective ranges and follow-up deployments.

Live Feed Cameras- We have four sites covered by 24/7 coverage which deters crime and assists in investigations.

Rat Trap II- Via a donation, every squad was outfitted with a portable tire deflation system to deter vehicle pursuits when on traffic stops.



Speed Analyzer -

Covert data device that tracks traffic count and accurate speed data which can assist in traffic complaint validations, or where future enforcement or signage is warranted.

Motorola Data Migration - Our inhouse server for all body camera and squad camera was migrated to the current Cloud service through Motorola. All of our data is now secure on one platform. The data of almost 30 TB took almost one month to transfer.

JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES

Law and Order is our primary responsibility though one would argue that you need the skills of many professions to excel as Police Officers.

Mechanics



Wildlife Experts



Inspectors



Treasure Hunters



Cheerleaders



Custodians



Thank you to all of our Partners that supported us throughout the year!



The Portage Police Department is honored to serve this great community.

Report Submitted by:
Chief Keith J. Klafke