



Moorhead Police Department



2020 Annual Report

MISSION STATEMENT

“Our mission is to maintain peace and order through the provision of police services that are of the highest quality and responsive to the needs of the community. We will contribute to the safety and security of the community by apprehending those who commit criminal acts, by developing partnerships to prevent, reduce or eliminate neighborhood problems, and by providing police services that are fair, unbiased, judicious, and respectful of the dignity of all individuals.”

Shannon Monroe
Chief of Police



VISION STATEMENT

We, the members of the Moorhead Police Department, are committed to working together in a problem-solving partnership *with the community* to prevent crime and improve the quality of life for all.

VALUE STATEMENTS

Safety - The protection of human life is our biggest priority.

Cooperation - We are committed to working cooperatively with the community and each other by encouraging open communication and active participation to achieve our mutual goals.

Fairness - We strive to resolve conflict through impartial enforcement of law. Everyone shall be treated equitably and compassionately.

Crime Prevention - We will work in a partnership with the community through positive role-modeling and education.

Diversity - We appreciate one another's differences and recognize that our unique skills, knowledge, abilities and backgrounds bring strength and caring to our community.

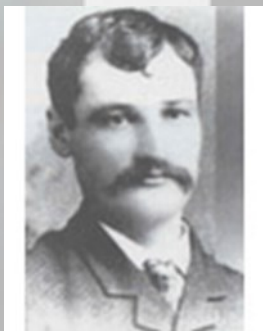
Professionalism - Our success depends on the trust and confidence of the community. We shall always engage in respectful behavior that reflects the honesty and integrity of police professionals.

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In Remembrance:

The department was established in 1881 and three of our police officers lost their lives in service to this community, so in effort to never forget their sacrifice this page is dedicated to them. We also have named our training rooms in our new Law Enforcement Center after them as a reminder to all who enter so we never forget that they gave up all their tomorrow's for our todays. We are grateful.



1888 – Officer Peter Poull, Jr.

Shot and killed by a murder suspect while assisting two other officers taken hostage at gunpoint at 8 Street and Center Avenue, where Wells Fargo now stands. The suspect was convicted and executed on September 20, 1889.



1899 – Officer Alexander "Sandy" McClean

Struck by falling debris while clearing people away from a house fire in what is now Viking Ship Park north of the Hjemkomst Center.



1930 – Officer Roy Larson

Shot and killed by Ray Liggett, a bank robber who fled from Fargo Police. Larson cornered the suspect near the coal shed of the Interior Lumber Company after several shoot outs with other officers. The suspect was arrested and sentenced to life.

Message from the Chief of Police

2020 was certainly a challenging year in many regards. However, it shall not discourage us from the important work we do together with our community to make the City of Moorhead a good place to live, work, and raise a family.

Having declared states of emergency are fairly rare, having three nearly overlapping ones is new to us. We had an emergency declaration for a possible flood, a worldwide pandemic, and experienced civil unrest across the nation and even here in our metro area.

The forecasted flooding was not as bad as expected and the spring weather greatly assisted in a perfect thaw. City engineers have also done amazing flood mitigation work over the past decade to protect the city. We have all had to adapt to shut downs, virtual meetings and school, and everything that COVID-19 brought. A major impact has been the loss of personal contact that creates and strengthens relationships. Especially at a time with great divide in our nation spurred by the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and other police use of force situations involving minorities across the United States.

Moorhead Police Officers are carefully selected and trained to treat all people with dignity and respect. Our city is growing more diverse and our department is not keeping pace reflecting that diversity within our ranks. We understand that having a more diverse force doesn't protect us against anti-police sentiment, but does assist us against the kind of narrow-minded single-focus attitude that can lead to bad policy.

This is a priority for us and we are launching some new initiatives. But first, I need to explain the system we work within set by the State of Minnesota. We can only hire those applicants that meet state set requirements. Generally speaking, an applicant has to be a licensed police officer or eligible to be licensed police officer. A person can get reciprocity from police experience in another state after meeting minimum years of service, specific education requirements and passing the license test; or must attend a Minnesota Professional Peace Officers Education Program through one of the 30 colleges/universities that offer programs that may or may not have an embedded police skills training. Otherwise an eight-week skills program will also be required.

For my 28-years at the Moorhead Police Department my predecessors have recruited for diversity finding little success. With our growing diversity locally, we are shifting more to a 'grow our own' focus. If you grew up near here and have family and community here, we believe we will have better success in attracting youth into law enforcement careers. We are designing a Police Cadet Program for criminal justice degree seeking students to intern with our department gaining valuable experience and getting a jump start for a future police officer position. We are looking for women and diverse candidates that will work evening and weekends taking low-level service calls and assist patrol and investigations providing the cadet an opportunity to learn about the department while gaining valuable experience to assist them in moving into a police officer position. This program, coupled with our Police Explorer Program for youth 14–21 years of age, we hope builds more diversity into our department to better reflect the make-up of our community and better informs the service we provide.



2020 Honor Guard Unit Annual Report

The Moorhead Police Honor Guard Unit is comprised of ten officers that show a desire to display respect to this profession and represent this department in public appearances. The Honor Guard Unit is scheduled to train several times throughout the year but they were cancelled due to COVID-19 precautions. All members attend a week long training at Camp Ripley presented by LEMA, the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association. The LEMA Camp was also cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our unit participated in two events in 2020. We hosted a Law Enforcement Memorial Day program outside of the Law Enforcement Center. The entire team also attended slain Grand Forks Officer Cody Holte's funeral in June.

The Honor Guard Unit saw some changes this year. Sgt. Nick Leinen took over from Sgt. Scott Kostohryz as the commander of the team in May. We also debuted our new uniforms that were received early this year. Commander Kostohryz is commended for his time and dedication to the team.





Moorhead Police Athletics and Activities League

2020 was the third year of the Moorhead Police Athletics and Activities League (PAL). Formed in 2017, the Moorhead PAL chapter has a continuing goal to reduce juvenile crime through establishing positive police contacts with area youth. The focus of the program is at-risk and disadvantaged youth. We run several events throughout the year and also manage the Police Explorer Post. Over 60 officers from the area volunteered hundreds of hours to further our mission. The following are ways PAL connected with youth in 2020, which was certainly challenging considering the restrictions due to Covid-19:

- Cops and Kids Hockey Game – 20 kids
- Bikes for Kids – 33 kids
- Shop-with-a-Cop sponsored by Target – 71 kids
- Explorer Post – 12 kids
- Giving Tree at Churches United for the Homeless – 15 kids



In addition, PAL sponsored two baseball teams that were coached by officers that volunteered their time working with youth. Details on all these events can be found at www.moorheadpal.org and on our Facebook page. Moorhead PAL is a registered 501c3 and is governed by a board of directors that includes members of Moorhead education institutions, parks and recreation and citizens that help identify needs in the community.





Moorhead Police Explorer Post #639



Explorers is a program through the Public Safety Cadets allowing students aged 14-21, a chance to learn about a career field through a “hands-on” level before they decide on a career path. The host agency models their program after their specific field and promotes teamwork, problem-solving, communication, and much more.

Unfortunately the Covid-19 pandemic did not allow us to conduct our Moorhead Police Explorers program in 2020. We are hopeful to host this program again in 2021.

Youth & Family Services

The mission of the Youth and Family Service (YFS) Unit is to serve as youth mentors through constant presence and communication with youth to establish and build rapport, to educate through such courses as Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE), the Summer Youth Program, and Change Starts with YOUth camp, in effort to impact prevention by offering healthy alternatives and finally to maintain order and deliver police services in the Moorhead School District.

Personnel

The YFS Unit personnel include three School Resource Officers (SROs) Officer Brian Dahl; Officer Jordan Werk; SRO/DARE Officer, Officer Ethan Meehan; Youth Service Coordinator Louis Ochoa; Captain Deric Swenson – Supervision; Sgt. Scott Kostohryz – Asst. Supervision and Community Policing Coordinator Leann Wallin – Financial and Program Management.

History

The Moorhead Police Department began assigning officers to schools in 1999, through the assistance of grants to fund the positions. Prior to 1999, officers responded after an incident with an officer that did not know the involved children or the school officials and could only respond with enforcement action. Since 1999, the SROs have been accepted by the students and have established positive relationships with students. This relationship has made the officers more approachable and has led to tips and reports that have allowed the SROs and schools to intervene in numerous instances and head-off larger problems.

Programs

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE): Founded in Los Angeles in 1983, and started in Moorhead in 1990. It is a police officer led curriculum that facilitates a discussion with children on how to resist peer pressure and live healthy, productive drug and violence free lives through making healthy choices and being bully free. The program has been ranked among the top three most cost effective preventive programs by a study by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The study found that the cost benefit of \$28 in benefits for every \$1 spent. DARE is taught in the 5th grade in Moorhead and a “next level of learning” DARE program is taught in the 7th grade at Horizon Middle School. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DARE was not taught to 5th or 7th graders in 2020.



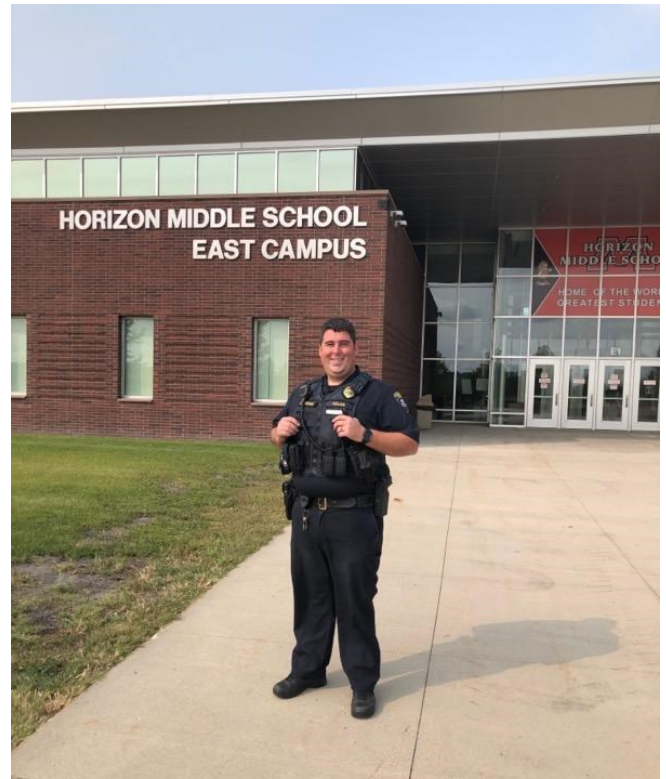
Moorhead Police Summer Youth Program (SYP): Funded through a grant from the Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs, SYP is normally an eight-week summer program for up to 200, 8-12 year-olds offering youth a healthy and educational summer alternative where the curriculum is mixed with fun and interesting activities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program had to be significantly modified as we could not conduct in-person programming. In keeping with our traditional Summer Youth Program, we wanted to continue to facilitate the three basic elements of providing a lunch, an educational component and an activity. We facilitated the program twice per week hosting virtual Zoom sessions every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 – 2:00 pm, July 7 through August 13, for a total of 12 sessions. Prior to the Zoom sessions, we delivered boxed lunches using contact-free protocols. For the educational and entertainment component, our School Resource Officers along with our Youth Services Coordinator, filmed and edited 20-30 minute sessions on various topics to be shown during each Zoom session. The topics included bike safety, Moorhead Police K-9 Unit, Moorhead Fire Department, Red River Regional Dispatch Center, SWAT, Sanford AirMed, animal demonstrations at the Chahinkapa Zoo, physical fitness, mental health/wellbeing, vaping, a healthy cooking demonstration, and a farm to table tour of a beet farm to the American Crystal Sugar factory. Following the video, there was time for interaction with the youth through a Q&A session for the remainder of the time. We also wanted to provide the youth with something to look forward to each week besides the Zoom session. Every Tuesday, the participants received an activity or a useful gift delivered with their lunch. The activities included such things as building blocks, Playdough, slime, marble mazes, and activity books to give the kids something to fill their time with. Some weeks they received gifts that were something they could use, including a bike lock, Frisbee, beach ball, back sac, and water bottle.

Change Starts with YOUth at-risk summer camp: This is a program designed for officers to work with a small group of at-risk youth, ages 12-15, which focuses on building positive relationships with law enforcement while learning about positive choices for a successful future. Participants are youth referred by school staff, social services, mental health professionals, probation officers and law enforcement officers. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this program was cancelled.

Assignments

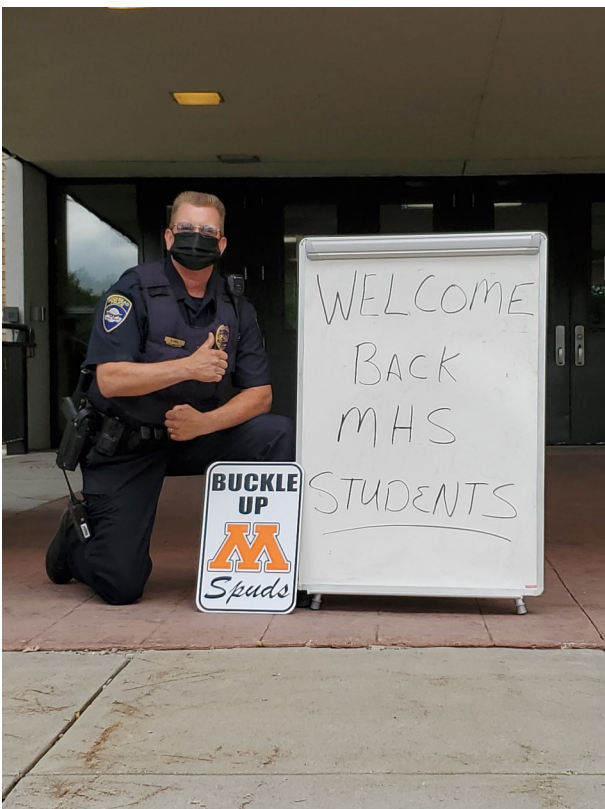
SRO/DARE Officer Ethan Meehan

Officer Meehan mentors students with various problems and handles police incidents at and around the elementary schools. As a result of the pandemic, Officer Meehan was not able to deliver the DARE curriculum to both 5th and 7th graders at Horizon Middle School. During the 2020 school year Officer Meehan covered both Horizon East and West campuses for law enforcement needs. During the summer, Officer Meehan helped create an online Summer Youth Program and delivered educational videos to participants via a live stream web service.



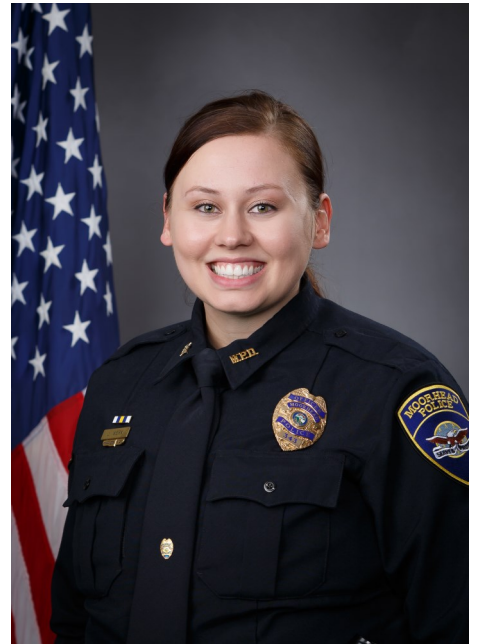
SRO Brian Dahl

Officer Dahl is the School Resource Officer at the Moorhead High School. He is also a DARE instructor. He mentors students with various problems, handles police incidents and patrols on and around the school property. He gets into the classroom as much as he can to provide education on various topics. SRO Dahl serves as a liaison between the school/students and other governmental agencies providing services to students, keeps school officials abreast of police situations in the school, and assists in crisis/security planning. SRO Dahl also teaches the Point of Impact class for the Driver's Education students at the high school and their parents in an attempt to make student drivers and their parents more aware of the responsibilities of being a prepared driver. In 2020, Officer Dahl taught the Point of Impact class to a much smaller amount of students due to the pandemic. Throughout the year there were a total of 138 students along with their parents. He also teaches the DARE Program at Park Christian; however, was unable to do so this year due to the pandemic. During the summer, he assisted with the virtual Summer Youth Program and filled patrol shifts.



SRO Jordan Werk

Officer Werk is new to our team this year. Officer Werk completed her SRO training as well as DARE training and looks forward to becoming active in the 2021 school year.



Youth Services Coordinator Louis Ochoa

YSC Ochoa is a non-sworn or civilian employee that during the school year works and teaches at the Red River Area Learning Center (RRALC) and at times at Horizon Middle School. He works with youth that have disorderly/behavioral issues, truancy problems, and serves as a youth mentor. YSC Ochoa is involved with a program called "Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity" (SEED). SEED is about understanding our diverse population of students and families in our schools. It teaches about the different cultures in our community and how we can work with and understand our community. YSC Ochoa's role is to work with families and students and mentor them by understanding their culture, their background, and beliefs. He is also a part of the Student Assistance Team at the RRALC. Due to the pandemic, many of YSC Ochoa's normal duties were impacted. As a result, YSC Ochoa took on several new duties assisting the department in everything from obtaining pandemic related supplies, assisting the records department with deliveries, writing parking tickets, and getting vehicles and bikes ready for the on-line City auction. During the summer, he assisted with the virtual Summer Youth Program.

Partnerships

Our YFS team works collaboratively with Clay County Social Services, Moorhead Public Schools, Minnesota Department of Corrections, truancy intervention family advocates, Clay County Re-entry Services, Clay County Attorney's Office, Clay County Restorative Justice, Clay County Sheriff's Department, Lakeland Mental Health, and Solutions. In addition to working with these agencies throughout the year, these agencies also provide staff to serve as volunteer mentors for our Summer Youth Program. Staff from some of these agencies assisted us with lunch delivery in 2020.

Another organization we partner with is Youth Intervention Programs Association (YIPA). MPD is a member of this non-profit association, made up of member organizations, who provide trainings for youth workers and provides advocacy to raise awareness, gain support, and secure funding for youth intervention programs. YSC Ochoa serves as Vice President on the board of the Minnesota Youth Intervention Programs Association (YIPA) and has been elected to serve as President for the next three years beginning in January 2021.

Juvenile Statistics: Below is the last four years worth of stats for the most common categories:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Assault	51	71	121	99
Alcohol	31	33	27	66
Disorderly Conduct	62	34	135	83
Drugs	44	6	28	22
Runaway	69	110	135	41
Theft	52	62	47	77
Tobacco	43	64	82	31
Traffic	176	153	138	120

Community Service Referrals

Historical Data:

YSC Ochoa works with a partnership between the police, probation, social services, shelter care, and schools with youth at-risk by taking on juvenile court community service referrals where he takes kids out to work sites to complete community service sentences. Since 1997, 45,869 hours of community service work have been completed by youth. The community service work completed in Moorhead consists of tasks that benefit the city such as graffiti removal, transient camp clean-up, parks, ditches and public spaces cleaning, mowing, shoveling snow around fire hydrants, painting buildings, set-up and tear down for city events, inventory found and stolen bikes, and the like which may have otherwise been completed by city personnel.

Due to the pandemic, the Community Service Program was suspended mid-March and for the safety of everyone involved it remained suspended for the remainder of 2020.

*2020 Community Service Program Statistics: *Quarter 1 statistics only*

Total hours referred: 320

Total hours completed: 191

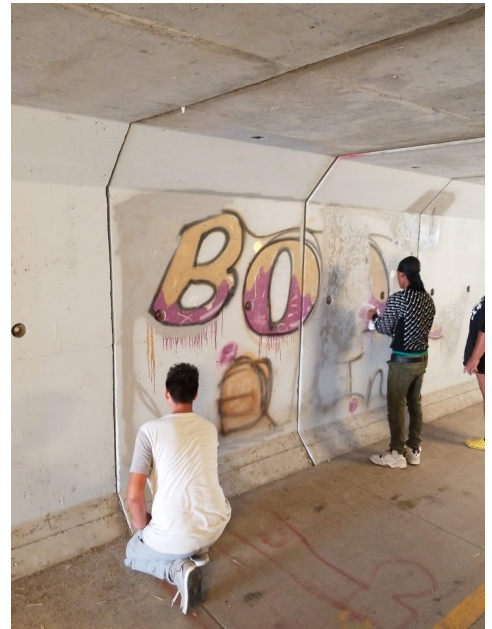
All youth, besides one, were on track to complete their hours in Quarter 2 of 2020. One youth left the program in Quarter 1 with 11 hours unsatisfied.

Referrals are also made to the Community Service Program under the Juvenile Offender Restitution Program.

Since 1997, 6,413 hours of restitution performed by area youth has equated to \$41,857. This money is paid back to victims.

2020 Juvenile Offender Restitution Program Statistics:

There were no cases referred in Quarter 1 of 2020.



Community Policing Coordinator Leann Wallin presents Operation Lifesaver's rail safety program to students and adults throughout the Moorhead-Fargo-West Fargo metro. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person presentations were suspended for 2020. She did complete six virtual presentations to Moorhead High School driver's education classes, reaching a total of 163 students.

Block Clubs, Night to Unite, and Citizens Police Academy



The Moorhead Police Department is proud of the community policing programs we have established over the years. Night to Unite and the Citizens Police Academy are two programs that we enjoy hosting every year. They are both invaluable opportunities for our police officers to form positive relationships with our citizens.

Sadly the COVID-19 pandemic had a devastating effect on these two events as well as all our other community outreach and engagement programs including neighborhood block club meetings, apartment tenant crime prevention meetings, and our youth programs. Initially we postponed Night to Unite from August 4 to October 6 based on a recommendation from the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association. Unfortunately as conditions with the pandemic were still a grave concern, we ultimately had to cancel the event for the year. We also had to face the reality that there would be no way that we could safely facilitate our annual Citizens Police Academy. With such a hands-on program, we did not feel we could do the program justice by making it a virtual program, so the decision was made to cancel it as well. Not being able to host these programs really demonstrated just how important they are to our department and our community.

2020 Support Services

The Support Services Division consists of 4 full-time Records Specialists, 1 part-time Office Specialist, 1 full-time Evidence Technician/TAC, 3 full-time Power Typists, 2 part-time Power Typists, and 3 Community Service Officers (CSO).

Records Specialist Courtney Kosir resigned her position on 10/27/2020.

Over 7,828 incident reports were processed by Records Staff.

1,963 requests were made by the City and County Attorneys for squad videos, photos, audios, and other items.

1,246 incidents were referred to the City and County Attorney's Offices for prosecution.

Officer dictated reports, statements and transcription: 7,508 audio files, squad videos, and officer dictated reports were transcribed; over 6,638 hours of staff time was dedicated to transcribing these items. There was 1,520 hours of officer dictation.

297 impounded vehicles were processed and released.

2,476 pieces of intake evidence and 94 Cellebrite cell phone exams.

903 predatory offender updates.

573 handgun permit requests were received and backgrounded.

1,658 requests for information were made from the public, military, social services, Department of Corrections, and other agencies.

3,838 parking tickets were issued by CSOs, Parking Enforcement Officers and police volunteers. Records staff takes payment for these tickets, issues overdue and collection letters, as well as processes appeals.

455 dog licenses and 43 cat licenses were sold and issued to pet owners.

Community Service Officers

Community Service Officers consist of three full-time positions. Harvey Moos, Steve Kemper and Jay Siebels spend their work days responding to animal complaints, vehicle unlocks, found/stolen bikes, parking complaints, parking enforcement, impound releases, found property, keeping patrol squads maintained, and delivering or transporting mail, supplies, equipment or evidence for the department.

Steve Kemper retired from his position on 4/30/2020.

In 2020, the Community Service Officers responded to a combined total of 1,786 calls for service to include:

309 vehicle unlock calls for service.

661 animal complaints; the department received 1,283 calls for service related to animal complaints.

144 dogs and 162 cats were impounded by the police department.

271 calls for release of impounded vehicles and personal property were completed by CSOs.

CSO Steve Kemper Retirement

CSO Kemper came to the Moorhead Police Department in 1999, with many years of law enforcement experience. Before 1999, Steve was a part-time licensed Peace Officer with the Twin Valley, MN, Police Department. During some of that time, Moorhead Officer Brian Dahl was the Chief of Police of Twin Valley. Officer Dahl stated, "He was the best officer that community could ask from their police department. I don't think Steve ever slept. He was always available and willing to help others and truly made a difference in Twin Valley." CSO Kemper continued that service to community members when he came to Moorhead.

His Moorhead Police Department supervisors describe him as always having a positive attitude. He consistently demonstrated an outstanding work ethic and a strong commitment to the department, but more importantly, the community. Steve played an exceptional role in maintaining our fleet of cars. He had an unbelievable knowledge of each vehicle, knowing every repair that was made and everything that needed to be done. Officers praised him for his work and his ability to get answers to questions and get tasks done sooner than expected. He did this knowing he was helping others and never did it for self-praise. He maintained a humble attitude and was a mentor to everyone on how to treat others with respect and how to enjoy your job, even when it wasn't a good day.



Sadly, CSO Kemper retired on April 30, 2020. His work with the department, although it will be carried on, will never be replaced. We thank Steve for his years of dedicated service and compassion for his community .



Crime Free Multi-Housing Program and Conduct on Registered Premises Ordinance 9-7-12

The Crime Free Multi-Housing Program and the City's Conduct on Registered Premises Ordinance are key components to ensuring safe, desirable rental properties while maintaining the integrity of their surrounding neighborhoods.

In accordance with City Ordinance 9-7-12, 142 letters were sent out to landlords/property managers notifying them of disorderly conduct on their premises. The top three offenses were Noise Ordinance violations accounting for 42% of the letters, followed by drug offenses at 12%, and verbal domestics at 12%.

The spring Minnesota Crime Free Multi-Housing Program training to landlords and property managers was conducted in early March; however, the fall training had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The spring session was held over the course of two evenings, 3/3 and 3/10, and had 20 attendees.

The Successful Outcomes for Tenants and Landlords (SOFTL) committee, which Community Policing Coordinator Leann Wallin serves on, hosted only one virtual training for landlords, property managers, tenants, and service providers:

COVID-19 assistance programs available for people who are behind on rent/utilities/mortgages etc. on 10/13

HOME Line, a Minnesota non-profit that provides free and low-cost legal, organizing, education, and advocacy services for tenants, hosted free weekly COVID-19 related webinars beginning in April. These webinars were a great way for tenants, landlords, property managers, and service providers to stay on top of matters pertaining to the Governor's Peace Time Emergency Orders specific to the moratorium on evictions.

The annual Minnesota Crime Prevention Association's conference was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Volunteer Program

2020 Volunteers:

Ruthie Johnson
Eileen Hastad
Nancy Lund
Linda Laske
Dale Mitchell
Beverly Olson

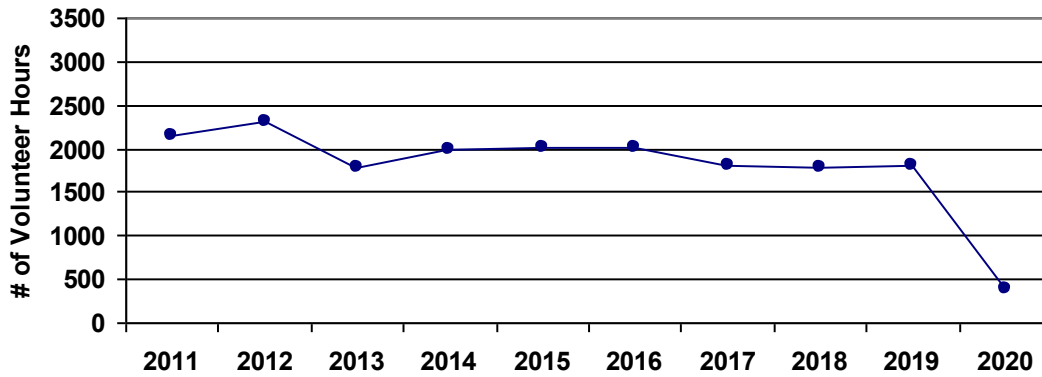
Doug Morey
Annette Graves
Arlene Morey
John Graves
Russ Hanson
Tammy Ehresman

Tiffany Footitt
Jennifer Johnson
Amber Nelson
Bob Footitt
Myron Bowar
Judy Hoganson

Luis Coca Jr.
Susan Spooner
Victoria Gardner
Presley Partlow
Nolan Maier



Volunteer Hours Per Year



YEAR	HOUR
2011	2142
2012	2301
2013	1791
2014	1991
2015	2002
2016	2002
2017	1800
2018	1794
2019	1804
2020	395*

*The Moorhead Police Volunteer Program was suspended effective 3/19/20 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and remained suspended through the end of 2020.

Patrol Division Annual Updates

The Patrol Division seeks to maintain social order and the quality of life through the enforcement of laws, the timely response to calls for service, the investigation of criminal offenses, the apprehension of offenders, the enforcement of traffic laws, and the furtherance of crime deterrence through the maintenance of a visible presence and collaboration with the community. The Patrol Division is often the first and only contact many citizens have with our police department. In 2019, the Patrol Division experienced several shortages due to retirement, attrition, injuries, and medical conditions.

The Patrol Division has a team of officers responsible for responding to all calls for police services 24 hours per day, located within the City of Moorhead. In addition police officers assigned to our Patrol Division provide routine patrol to deter and detect both traffic and criminal violations of law. They also conduct criminal investigations and actively employ community oriented policing strategies to solve community problems. Police officers assigned to the Patrol Division are also assigned to specialty positions which include:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field Training Officers Canine Handlers SWAT Team Members Use of Force Instructors Firearms Instructors Emergency Vehicle Operation Course (EVOC) Instructors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tactical Medical Instructors Bike Patrol Officers Law Enforcement Explorer Post Advisors |
|--|--|

The police officers assigned to our Patrol Division currently work the following shifts:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Day Shift | 8:00 am – 6:00 pm |
| Evening Shift | 4:00 pm – 2:00 am |
| Midnight Shift | 10:00 pm – 8:00 am |

The Patrol Division works with the “Team” concept. Each officer works with the same group of officers and sergeant for the entire six month period. Each shift is divided into Team A and Team B. Generally when one team is working, the other team is off. For the Evening and Midnight shifts, every other Tuesday and Thursday are considered all work days where both Team A and Team B are working at the same time. For the Day shift, it’s every other Wednesday and Friday.

Team A	Team B	April DAYS 2020							April Eves & Midnights 2020						
		Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 On	4 Off				ALL WORK	TEAM A	TEAM A	TEAM A				TEAM A	TEAM A	TEAM A	TEAM A
4 Off	5 On	TEAM A	TEAM B	TEAM B	TEAM B	TEAM B	ALL WORK	TEAM A	TEAM B	TEAM B	TEAM B	TEAM B	ALL WORK	TEAM A	TEAM A
5 On	4 Off	TEAM A	TEAM A	TEAM A	ALL WORK	TEAM B	TEAM B	TEAM B	TEAM A	TEAM A	ALL WORK	TEAM B	TEAM B	TEAM B	TEAM B
4 Off	6 On	TEAM B	TEAM A	TEAM A	TEAM A	TEAM A	ALL WORK	TEAM B	TEAM A	TEAM A	TEAM A	TEAM A	ALL WORK	TEAM B	TEAM B
6 On	4 Off	TEAM B	TEAM B	TEAM B	ALL WORK	TEAM A			TEAM B	TEAM B	ALL WORK	TEAM A	TEAM A		
4 Off	5 On														

All sergeants and officers assigned to the Patrol Division rotate shifts every six months. The shift periods and rotation dates are:

- March 1 through August 31
- September 1 through February 28

Complaint Process

The Moorhead Police Department takes allegations of misconduct on the part of its members seriously, and at the same time actively solicits feedback on any officer conduct. Anyone wishing to file a complaint is provided with a bilingual handout which outlines the complaint process and contains our complaint form. This information is also posted on www.moorheadpolice.com and a complaint can be filed electronically as well. All complaints alleging misconduct by a member of the Moorhead Police Department are thoroughly investigated and recommendations are forwarded to the Chief of Police. The same system can be used to report exemplary service provided by members of the Moorhead Police Department.

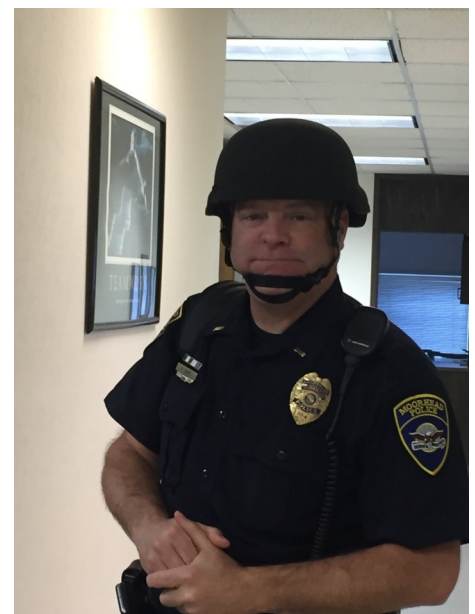
Promotions

When Lt. Carey retired, Detective Nick Leinen was promoted to sergeant on January 20, 2020. Sergeant Chris Martin was moved to the Administrative Sergeant to take over department training, recruiting, field training, and quarter master. There are eight sergeants in the following positions:

- Investigations Sergeant = 1
- Administrative Sergeant = 1
- Days Shift Sergeant = 2
- Evening Shift Sergeant = 2
- Midnight Shift Sergeant = 2

Retirement

Lieutenant Chris Carey retired after 32 years in law enforcement. He began his law enforcement career in Koochiching County, MN and was hired with the Moorhead Police Department on February 1, 1988. During his career, he has worn many hats such as DARE Officer, K9 Officer with his partner Kane, Field Training Officer, Firearms Instructor, Sergeant, and Lieutenant. He has been the face of the department for recruiting and welcoming new officers for the last several years. He has also done countless presentations to local businesses on responding to active assailants. He was the type of employee who took care of others, spoke his mind, and stepped back to look at the big picture. He continues to stop by the department as a uniform sales representative for Galls, Inc.



Staff Departures

During 2020, we had seven officers leave the department:

Lieutenant Chris Carey was hired on February 1, 1988, and retired on January 25, 2020.

Detective Justin Vogel was hired on February 28, 2005, and resigned on April 10, 2020, to become the Chief of Police in Glyndon, MN.

Officer Clayton Dorseth was hired on September 30, 2019, and resigned during the training program on January 16, 2020.

Officer Tanner Hennen was hired on September 30, 2019, and resigned during the training program on January 29, 2020.

Officer Taylor Huss was hired on July 11, 2016, and resigned on June 12, 2020, to go work for the Bloomington, MN Police Department

Officer Dustin Pattengale was hired on January 9, 2017, and resigned on March 23, 2020, to go work for the North Dakota Highway Patrol.

Officer Alex Wegner was hired on January 28, 2019, and resigned on October 6, 2020.

2020 Hired Applicants

We hired eleven officers in 2020, seven resigned before completing training:

Officer Adrian Ferris (03/09/2020 – Resigned during training)

Officer Michael Juhnke (03/09/2020 – Resigned during training)

Officer Robert Reller (03/09/2020)

Officer Micheal Awender (03/09/2020 – Resigned during training)

Officer Zachary Askelson (03/09/2020 – Resigned during training)

Officer Ethan Halvorson (06/29/2020)

Officer Hunter Churness (06/29/2020)

Officer Kaden Oldham (06/29/2020)

Officer Laura Fouts (06/29/2020 – Resigned during training)

Officer Teryn Amaya (06/29/2020 – Resigned during training)

Officer Dylan Watt (11/16/2020) – Resigned during training)



Halvorson



Oldham



Reller



Churness

COVID-19

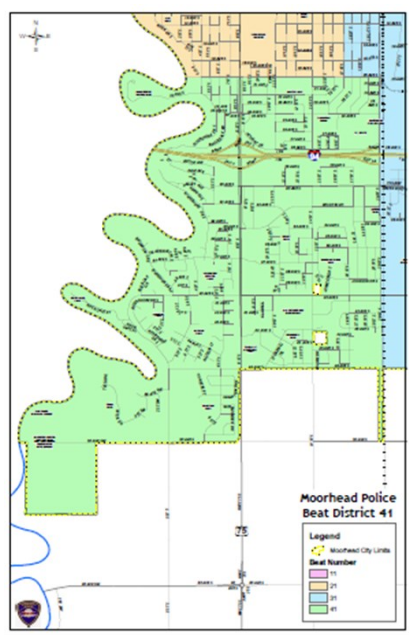
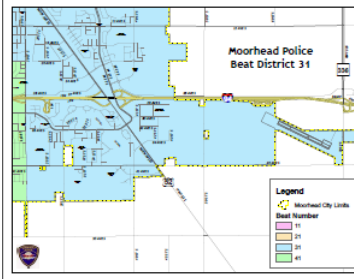
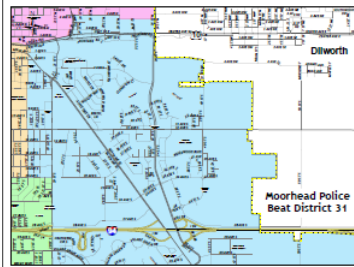
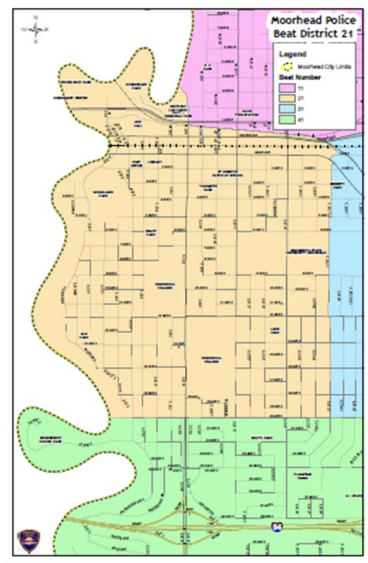
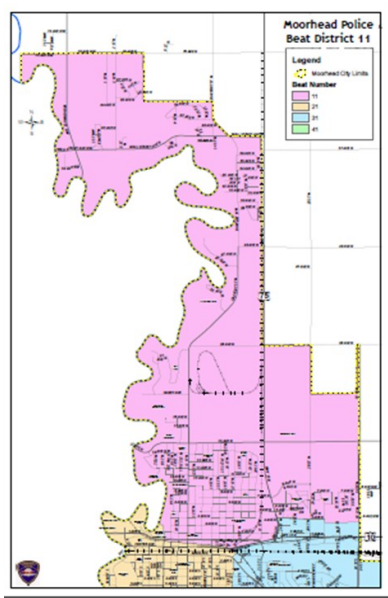
2020 presented new challenges adjusting to the pandemic that persisted throughout the majority of the year. This was a unique challenge as we balanced the need to keep our staff safe while also dealing with those crimes in progress that needed an in-person response. Law enforcement is not one of those jobs that can be done remotely or from home. We did our best to handle as many things over the phone as we could and we asked officers to limit their self-initiated activities such as field contacts and traffic stops as that would increase the chance of exposure. There were still many citations issued to those who needed the reminder that rules still apply.

We also had to rethink many of our common practices as the jail limited the number of people that were brought in to those who committed violent offenses or crimes against a person. The property crimes and drug offenses often did not result in a trip to the jail in an effort to protect those who were in jail from getting COVID-19. It will take some time for the courts to catch up on court cases and warrant arrests as their schedule was also cut back significantly. Officers with symptoms and exposures to someone who was positive with COVID-19 caused us to lose many hours of productivity due to mandatory quarantine periods that affected both Patrol and Investigations in 2020. There were a number of hours of overtime required just to maintain minimum staffing.

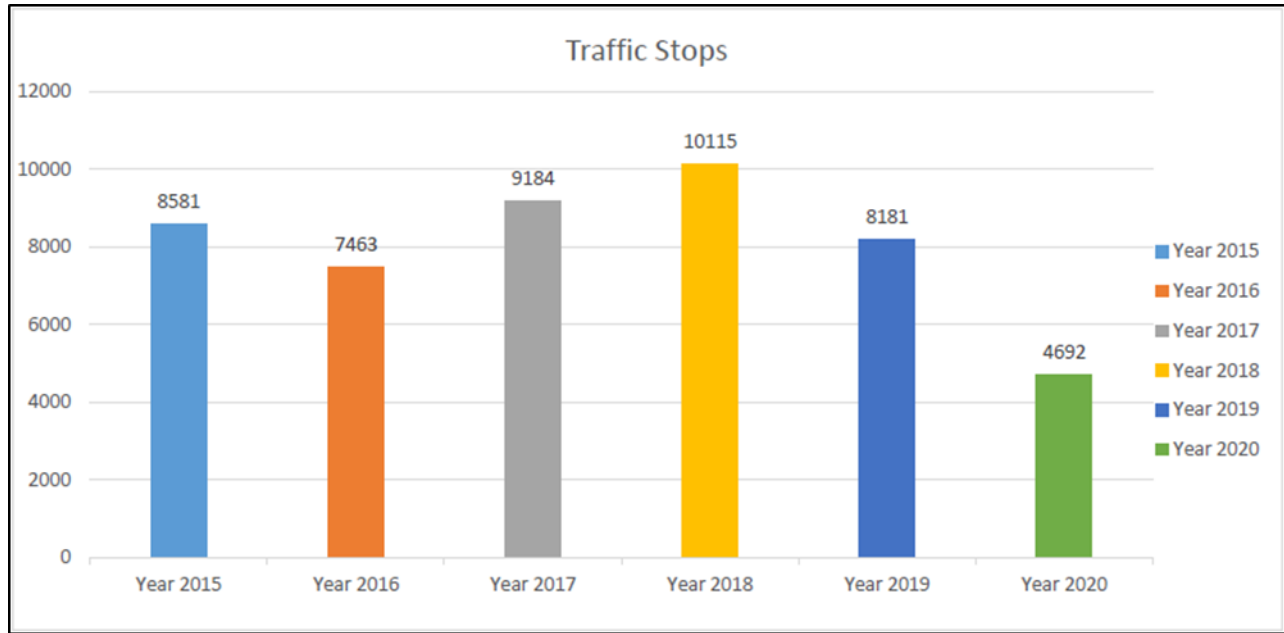
Community Policing

Moorhead Police Officers are committed to building and maintaining problem solving partnerships within the community. Our Officers are committed to providing police services that are fair, impartial, and professional. Our Patrol Division is dedicated to Moorhead Police Department's philosophy of community oriented policing. As part of this philosophy, Officers are assigned to work permanent areas of the community, which we call "beats." We also assigned a Patrol Sergeant to identify and address issues in their beats with their team members from all the shifts. By focusing on problem areas, they were able to recognize solutions to reduce repeat calls in the longer term. The City of Moorhead is divided into four specific beats. Our beats are displayed below:



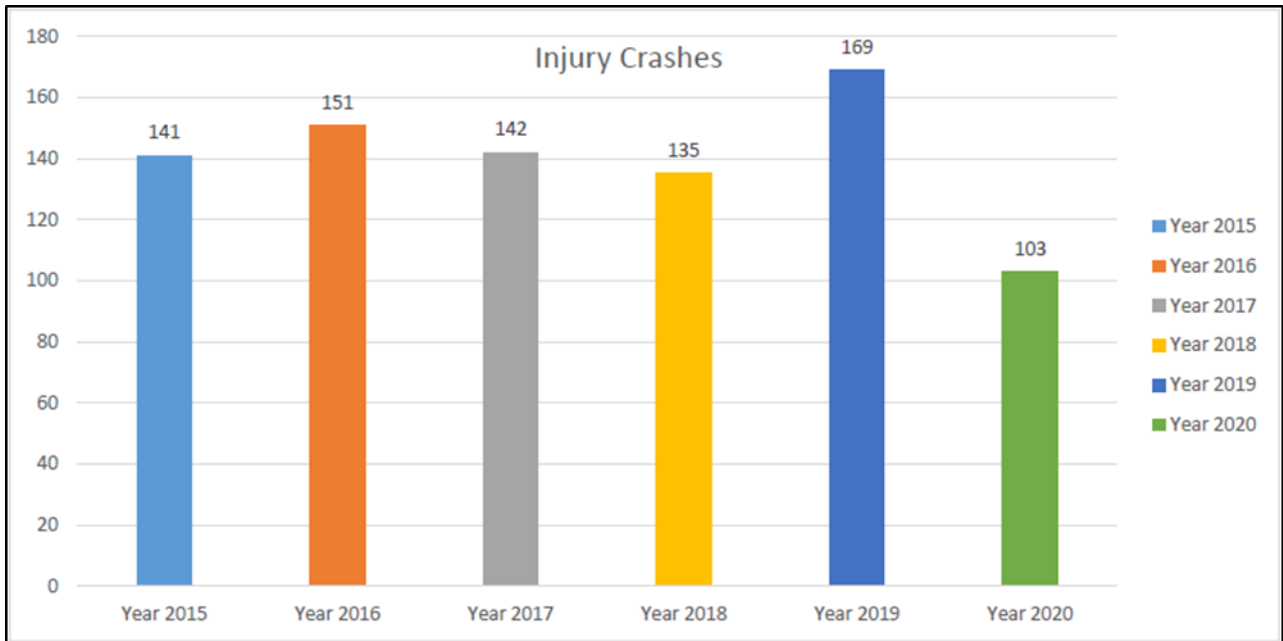
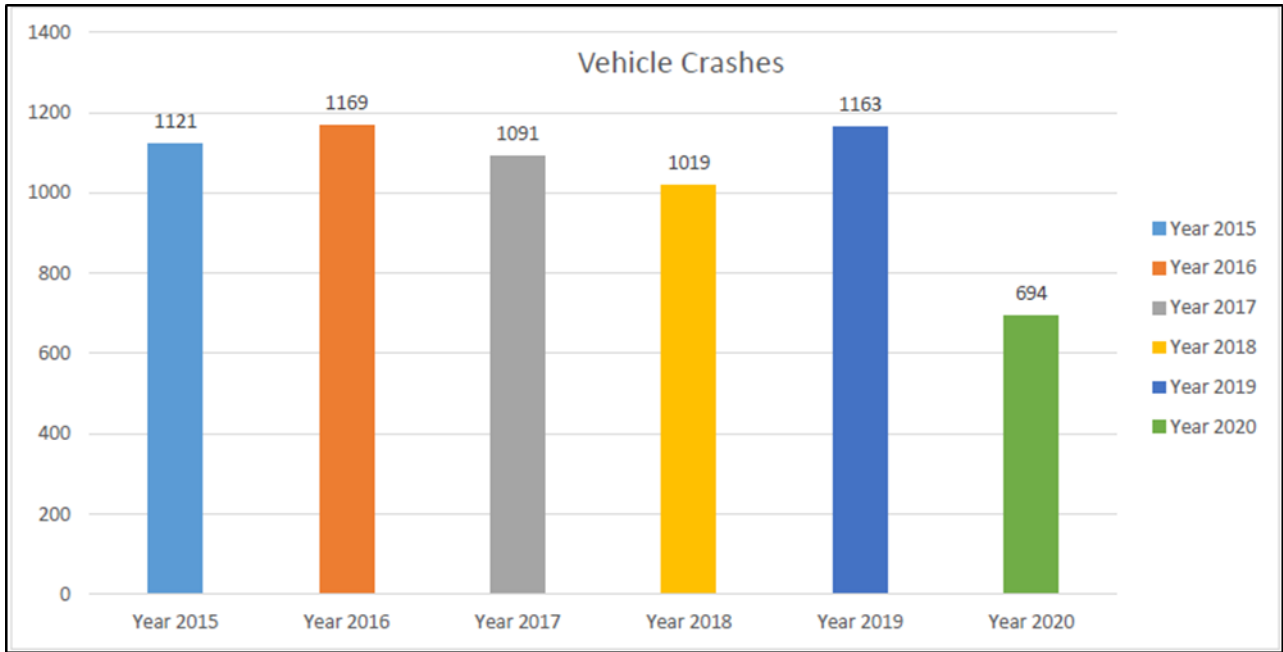


Traffic

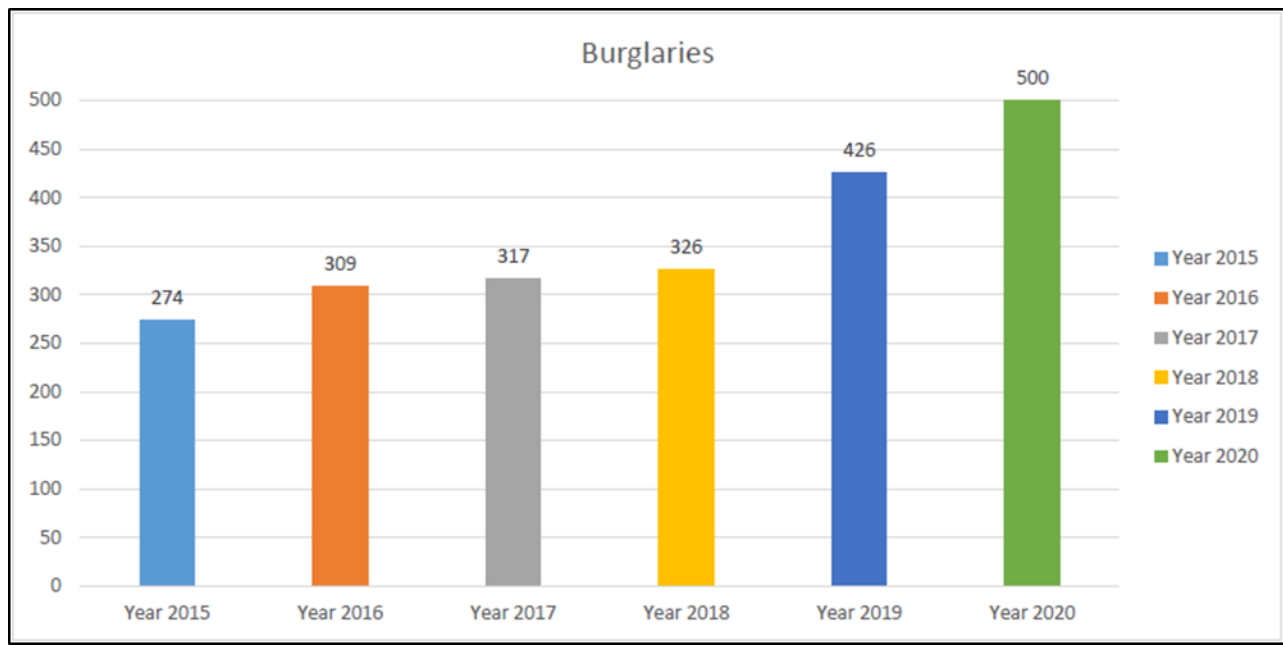
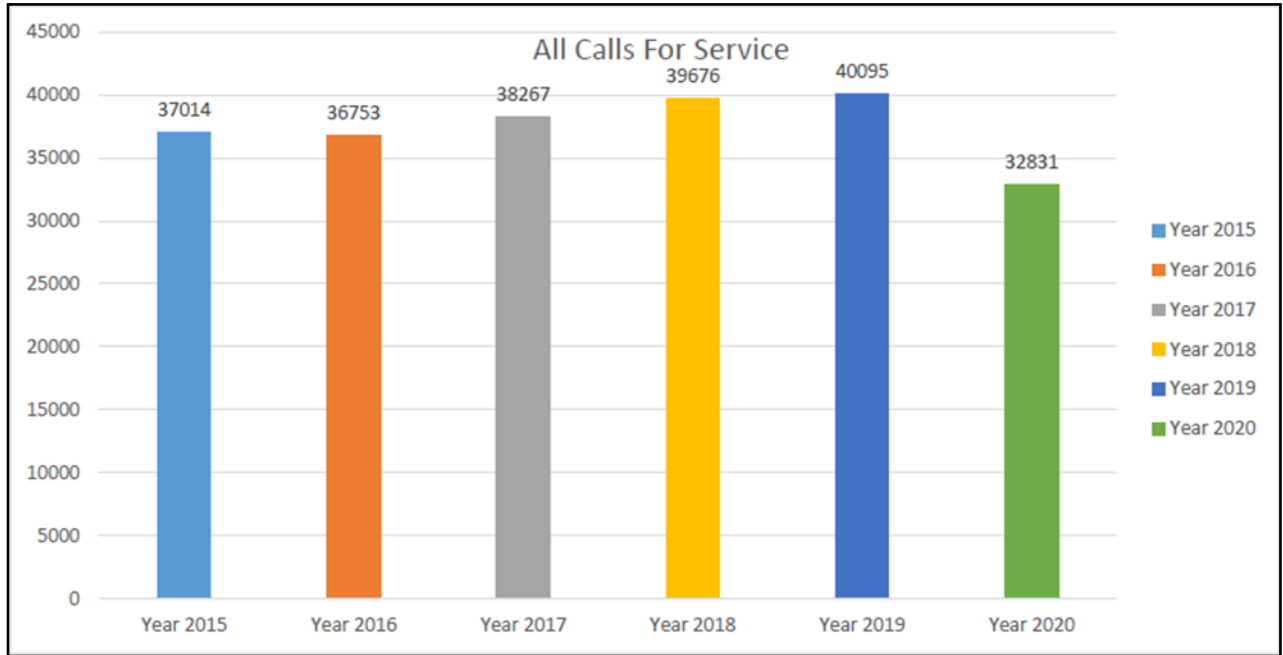


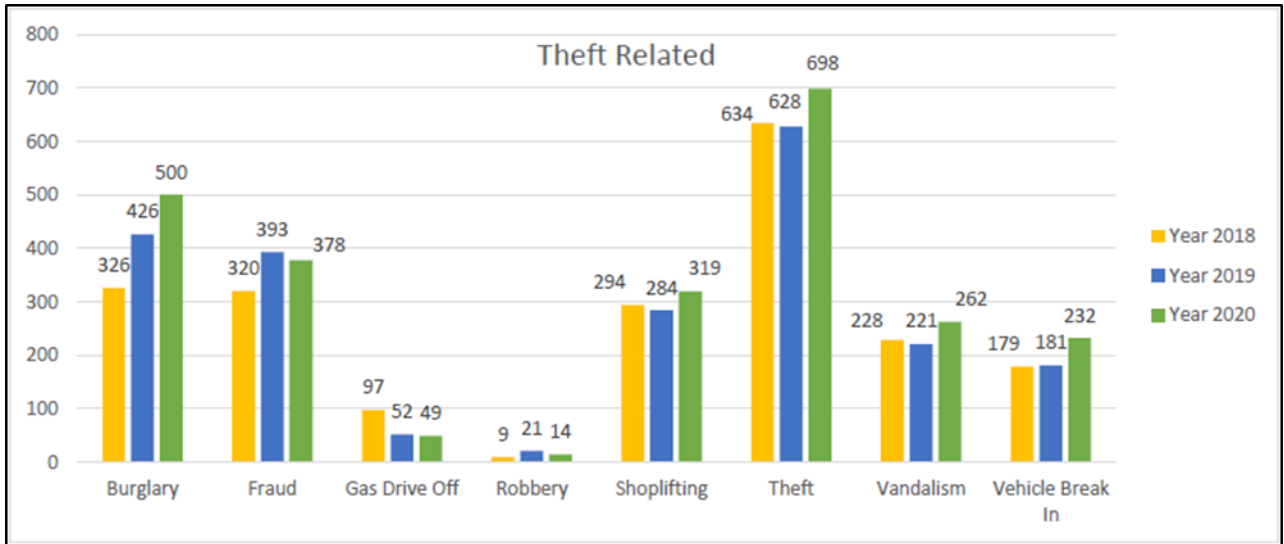
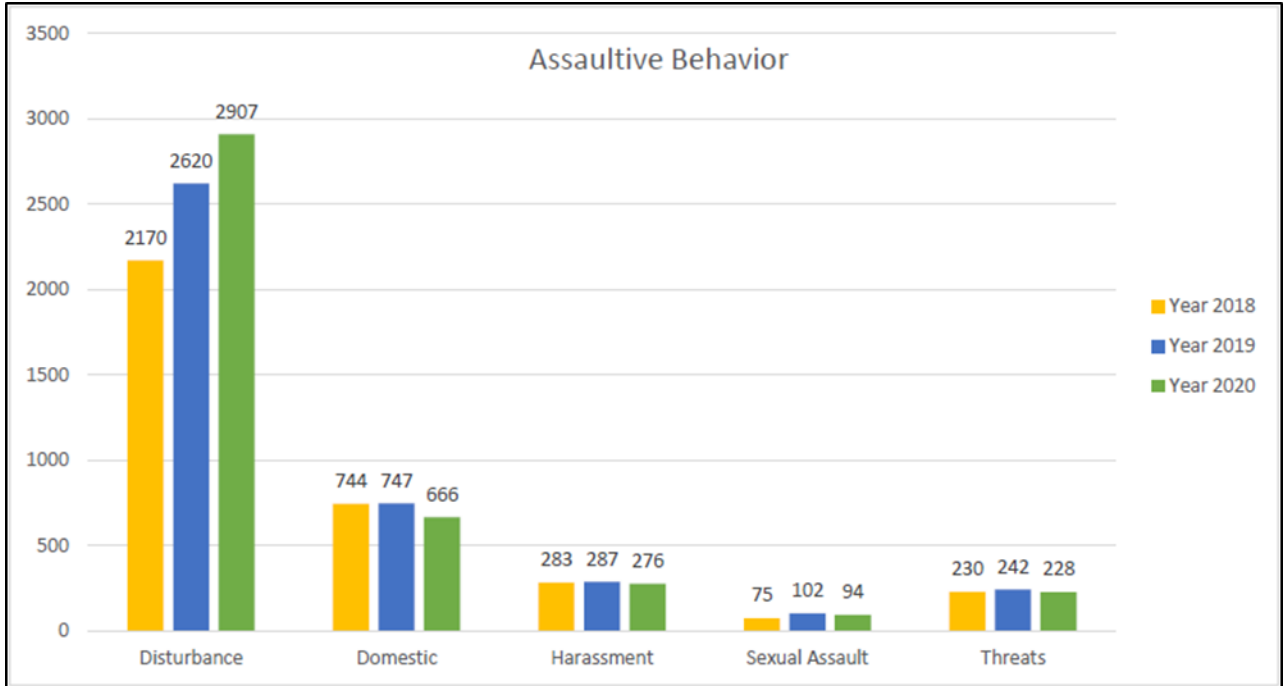
Top Ten Violations Tickets are Written For:

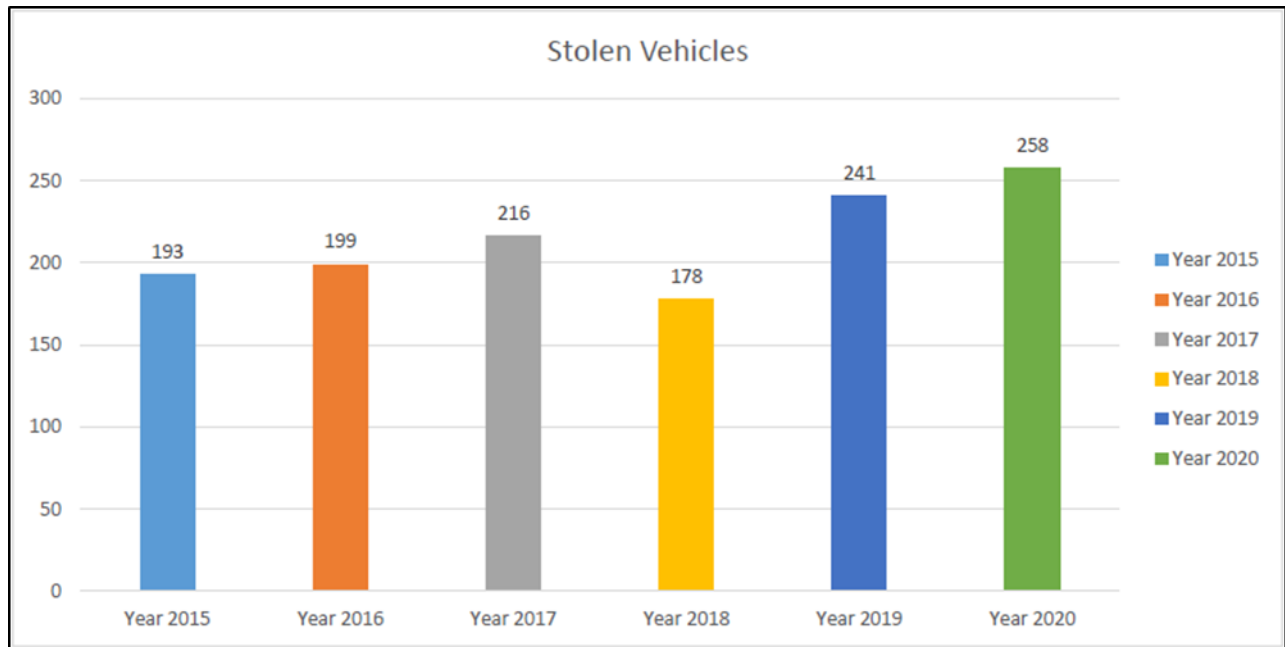
1. Speeding
2. No MN Driver's License
3. No Proof of Insurance
4. No Insurance
5. No Seatbelt
6. Driving After Revocation, Suspension, or Cancellation
7. Unregistered Motor Vehicle
8. Fail to Yield Right of Way
9. Expired Registration
10. Disobey Semaphore (Red Light)



Calls for Service







Guardian Tracking

In 2020, we implemented a new way to keep track of employee data. Guardian Tracking provides a way to give immediate feedback to Officers, track use of force, training, positive recognition, and citizen complaints.

Supervisors and Patrol Officers Assigned to the Patrol Division (End of Year 2020):

Supervisors:

Lieutenant Mike Detloff

Sergeant Scott Kostohryz

Sergeant Joe Brannan

Sergeant Clint Stephenson

Sergeant Robb Matheson

Sergeant Joel Voxland

Sergeant Nick Leinen (Promoted 1/20/2020)

Police Officers Assigned to the Patrol Division:

Officer Brian Dahl (SRO)

Officer Shawn Griego

Officer Adam Breth

Officer Brad Schenck

Officer Mike Fildes (K9)

Officer Matt Lambert

Officer Jesse Myers

Officer Jonathan Hanson

Officer Ethan Meehan (SRO)

Officer Zach Johnson

Officer Andy Werk

Officer Joe Secord

Officer Brett Musich

Officer Eric Zimmer

Officer Jessica Horn

Officer Jordan Werk (SRO)

Officer Anastacia Hermes

Officer Adam Jensen

Officer Amanda Mohs

Officer Kyle Huewe

Officer Dalton Yagow

Officer Matt Hanson

Officer Michaela Bolgreaan

Officer Mackenzie Schultz

Officer Cuyler Johnson

Officer Nick Bjorndahl

Officer Brett Kvam

Officer Brandon Heide

Officer Michelle Voeltz

Officer Maria Bischoff

Officer Ethan Halvorson

Officer Hunter Churness

Officer Kaden Oldham

Officer Dylan Watt

Data Collection

Data analysis and collection has been embraced by staff and has provided the smarter use of resources within the department. Below is data from 2020:

MOORHEAD POLICE DEPARTMENT - 2020 SUMMARY PART 1 OFFENSES

OFFENSES	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% Change from 2019
MURDER/ MANSLAUGHTER	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	3	300%
RAPE	15	16	3	20	22	20	26	9	22	44	100%
ROBBERY	13	5	6	12	8	14	11	10	12	16	33%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	17	43	28	37	45	33	52	42	27	106	293%
ARSON	3	16	6	7	1	1	0	2	3	5	66%
BURGLARY	101	145	158	127	144	169	130	131	112	290	159%
LARCENY	683	688	645	643	744	712	655	815	421	883	108%
AUTO THEFT	40	32	44	57	90	91	104	78	76	130	71%
HUMAN TRAFFICKING					1	0	0	0	0	0	0%
TOTALS	872	945	891	904	1056	1041	979	1087	673	1477	199%

*In 2015 the BCA has added Human Trafficking as an Offense Classification for Part I Crimes.

MOORHEAD POLICE DEPARTMENT - 2020 SUMMARY PART 2 OFFENSES

OFFENSES	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% CHANGE FROM 2019
ASSAULT (Simple)	290	266	270	347	327	307	271	285	225	279	11%
FORGERY	4	9	35	21	77	24	45	55	39	36	-8%
FRAUD	123	128	104	156	124	133	106	122	72	147	104%
VANDALISM	418	275	235	266	325	274	259	278	128	263	105%
DRUG ABUSE VIOLATIONS	173	129	134	169	128	156	135	177	86	95	10%
SEX OFFENSES/ PROSTITUTION	28	39	41	29	51	39	16	25	18	25	39%
FAMILY/ CHILDREN	13	13	42	20	16	8	7	9	15	4	-73%
LIQUOR LAWS	214	204	117	112	112	71	54	53	21	15	-29%
WEAPONS	13	8	10	11	6	15	15	16	14	23	64%
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	362	322	300	308	379	298	263	282	162	129	-20%
D.U.I.	291	289	225	168	203	221	164	204	89	75	-16%
STOLEN PROPERTY	15	8	3	16	29	36	27	25	21	59	180%
GAMBLING	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0%
OTHER OFFENSES	307	281	333	351	487	447	458	545	298	317	6%
TOTALS	2251	1971	1849	1974	2264	2029	1820	2077	1188	1467	23%

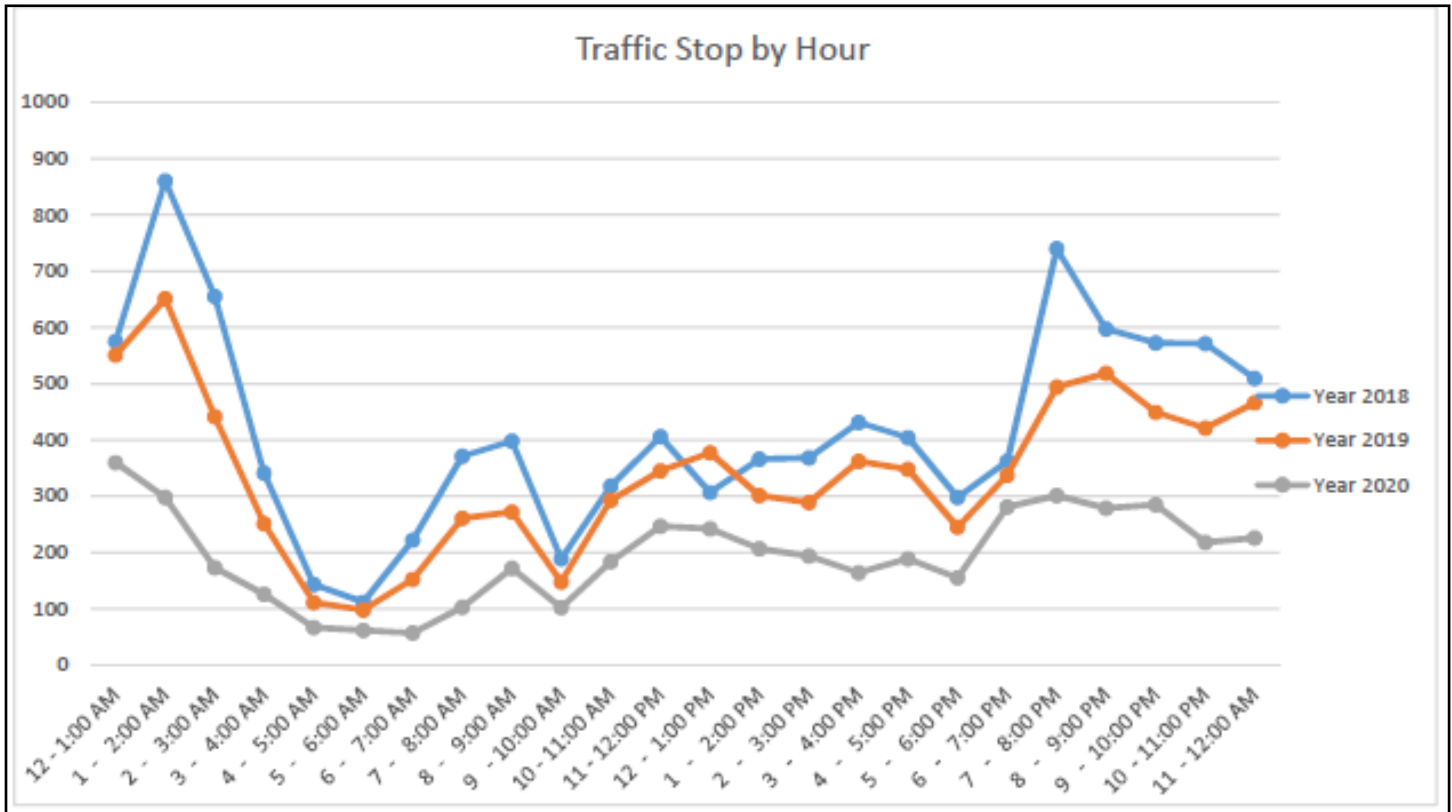
TOTAL PART I & PART II OFFENSES - 2,944

2020 CRIME & SERVICE CLOCK

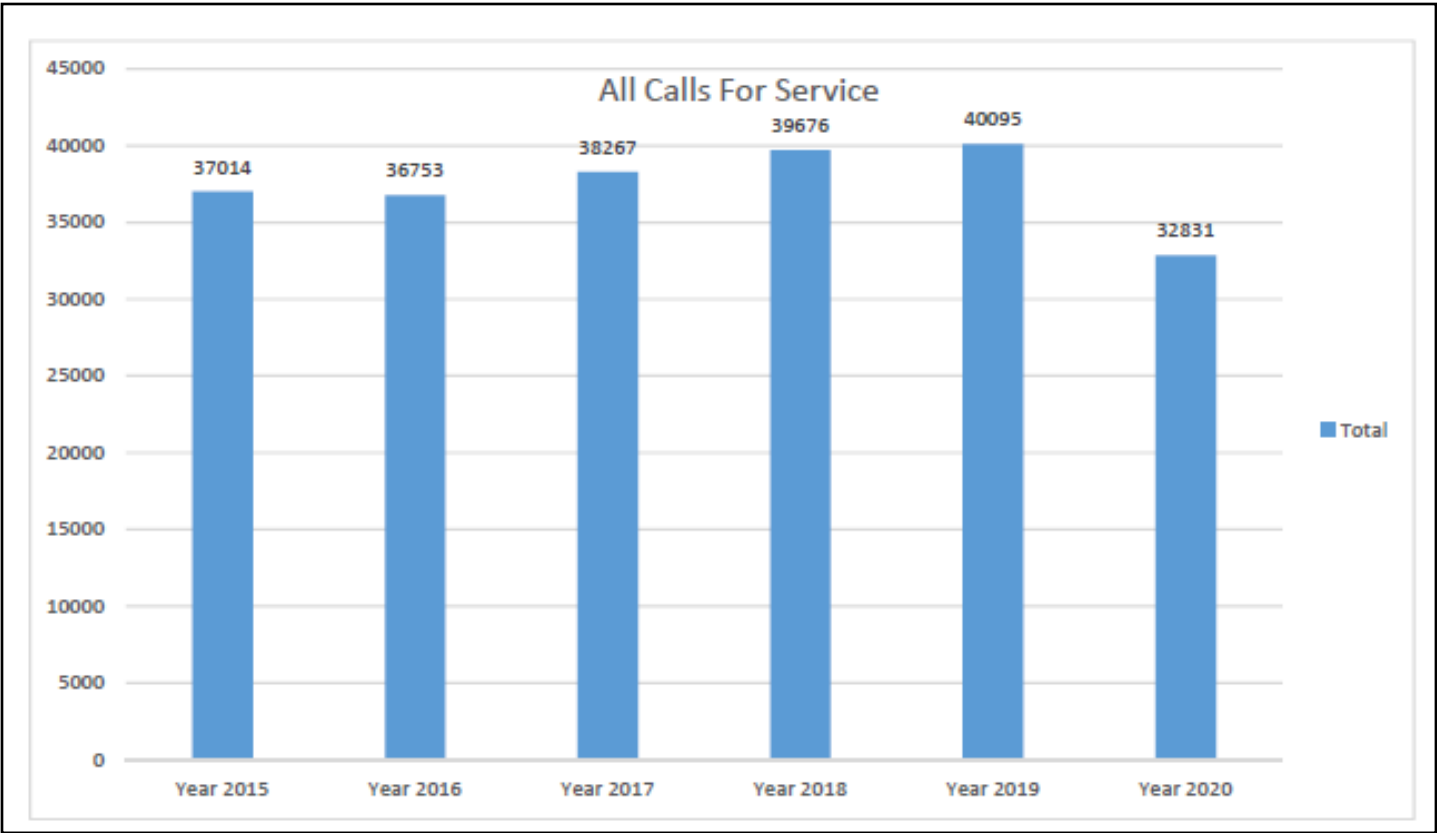
OFFENSE	# OF OFFENSES	RATE		
MURDER/MANSLAUGHTER	3	0 every	122	days
RAPE	44	1 every	8	days
ROBBERY	16	1 every	23	days
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	106	1 every	3	days
ARSON	5	1 every	73	days
BURGLARY	290	1 every	1	days
LARCENY	883	1 every	10	hours
AUTO THEFT	130	1 every	3	days
TOTAL PART I OFFENSES	1477	1 every	6	hours

ASSAULT - SIMPLE	279	1 every	1	days
FORGERY	36	1 every	10	days
FRAUD	147	1 every	3	days
VANDALISM	263	1 every	1	days
WEAPONS	23	1 every	16	days
SEX OFFENSES/PROSTITUTION	25	1 every	15	days
DRUG ABUSE VIOLATIONS	95	1 every	4	days
FAMILY/CHILDREN	4	1 every	91	days
D.U.I.	75	1 every	5	days
LIQUOR LAWS	15	1 every	24	days
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	129	1 every	3	days
STOLEN PROPERTY	59	1 every	6	days
OTHER	317	1 every	1	days
TOTAL PART II OFFENSES	1467	1 every	6	hours
TOTAL PART I & II OFFENSES	2944	1 every	3	hours

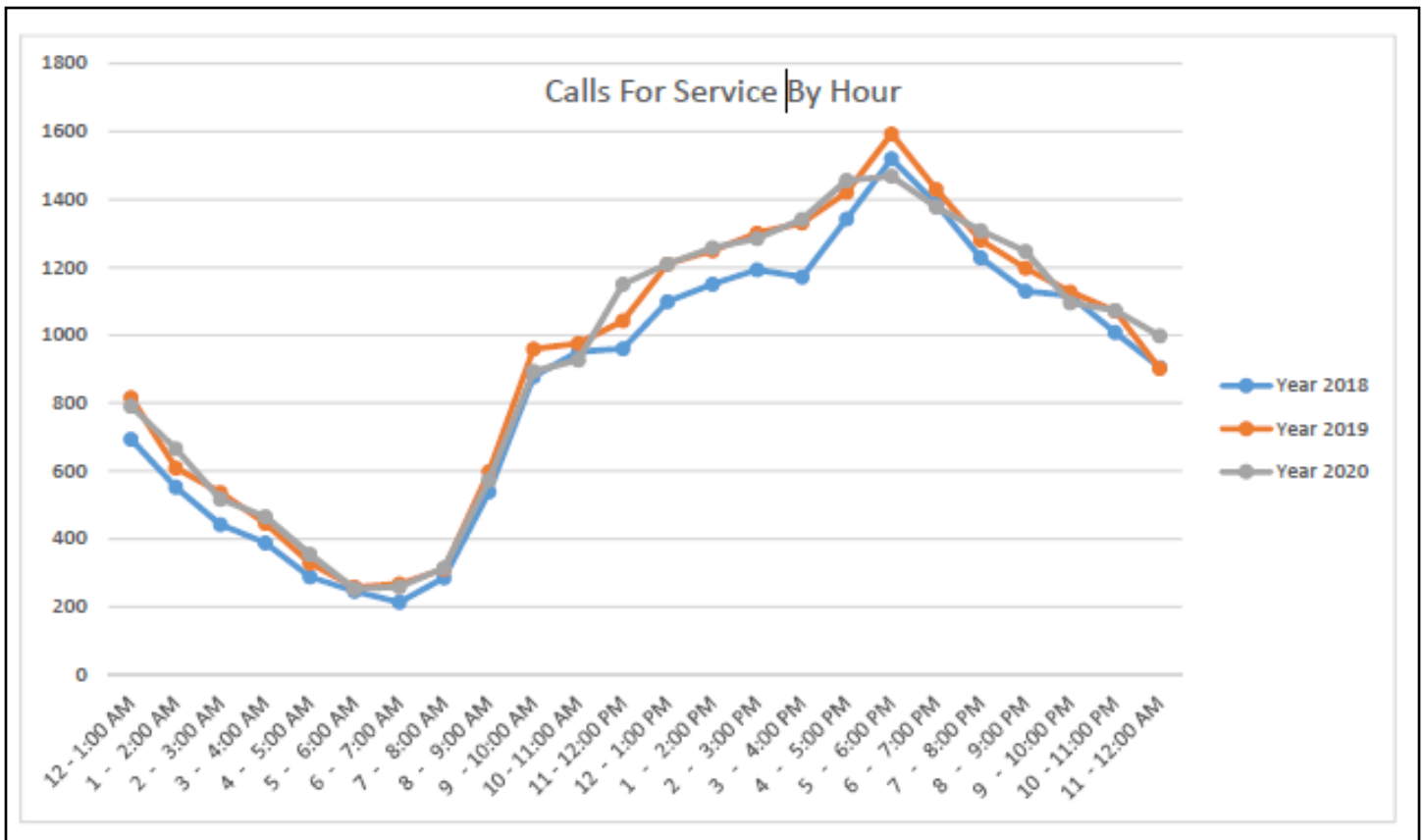
2020 Year End Stats



	Traffic Stops	Percent Change
Year 2015	8581	N/A
Year 2016	7463	-13.03%
Year 2017	9184	23.06%
Year 2018	10115	10.14%
Year 2019	8181	-19.12%
Year 2020	4692	-42.65%

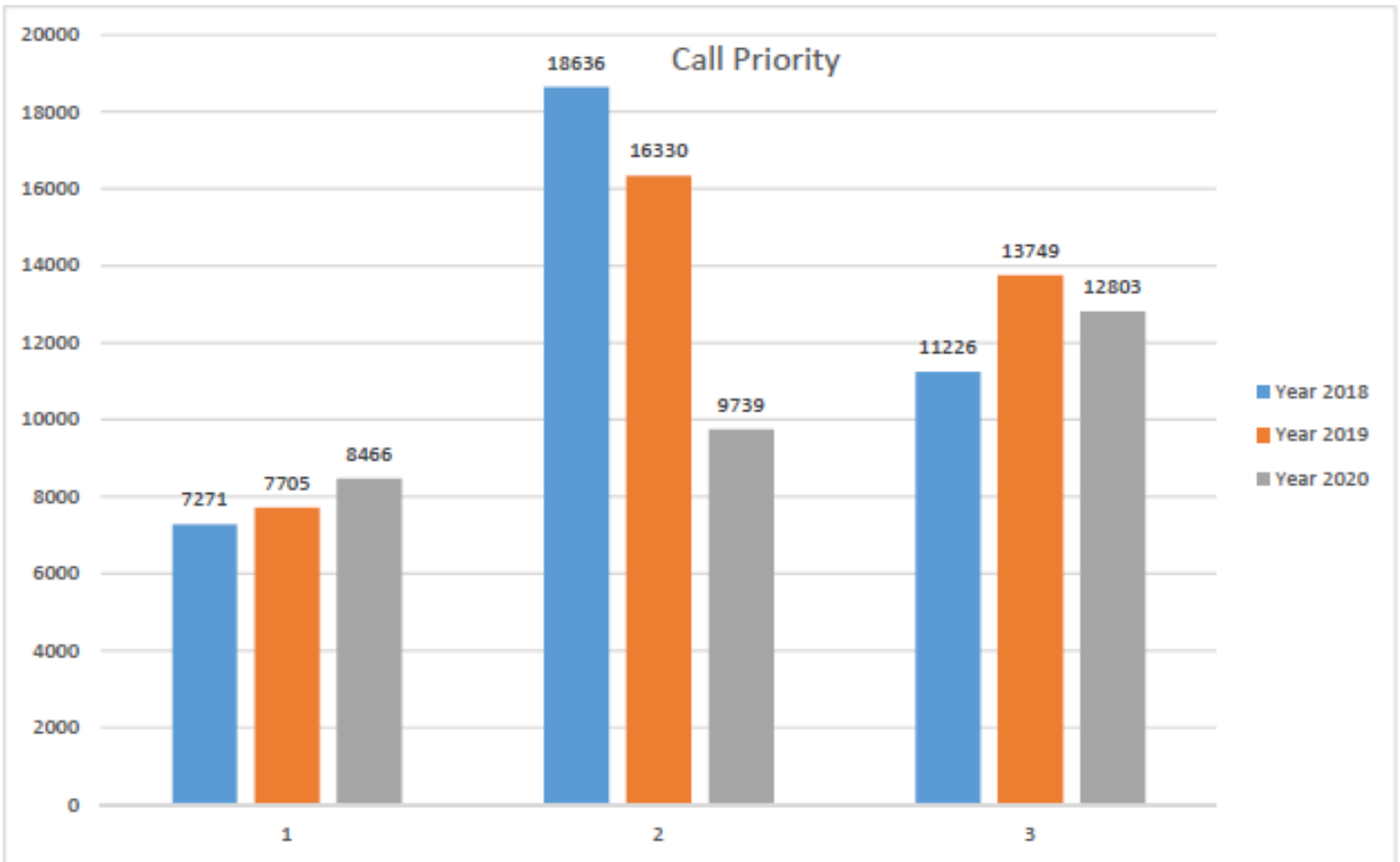
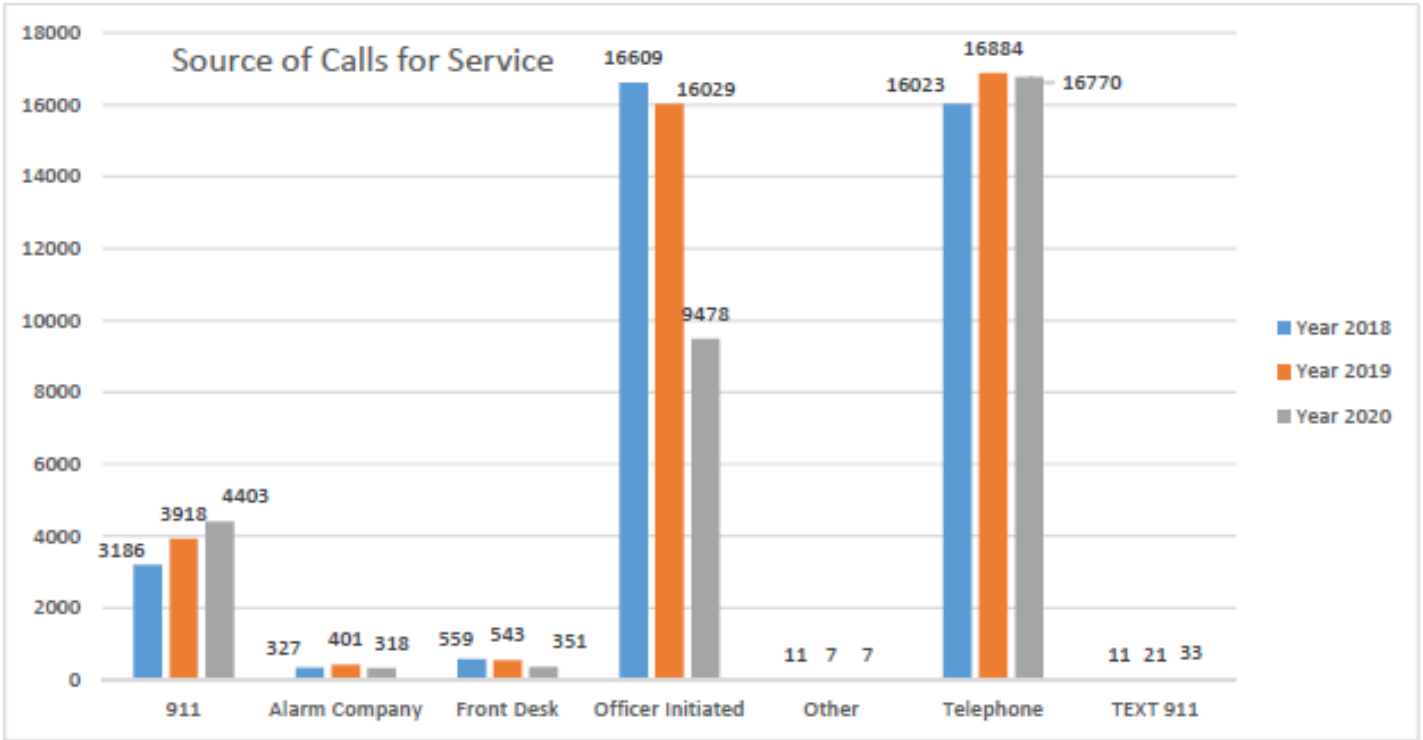


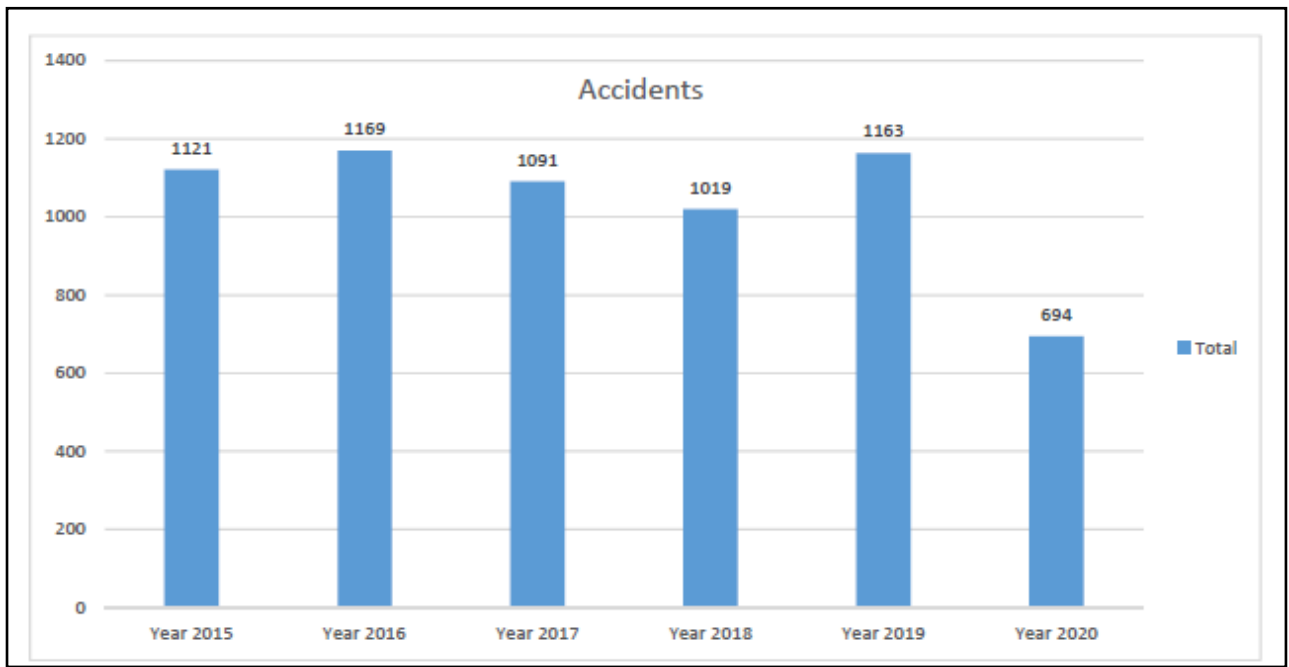
	All Calls	Percent Change
Year 2015	37,014	N/A
Year 2016	36,753	-0.71%
Year 2017	38,267	4.12%
Year 2018	39,676	3.68%
Year 2019	40,095	1.06%
Year 2020	32,831	-18.12%



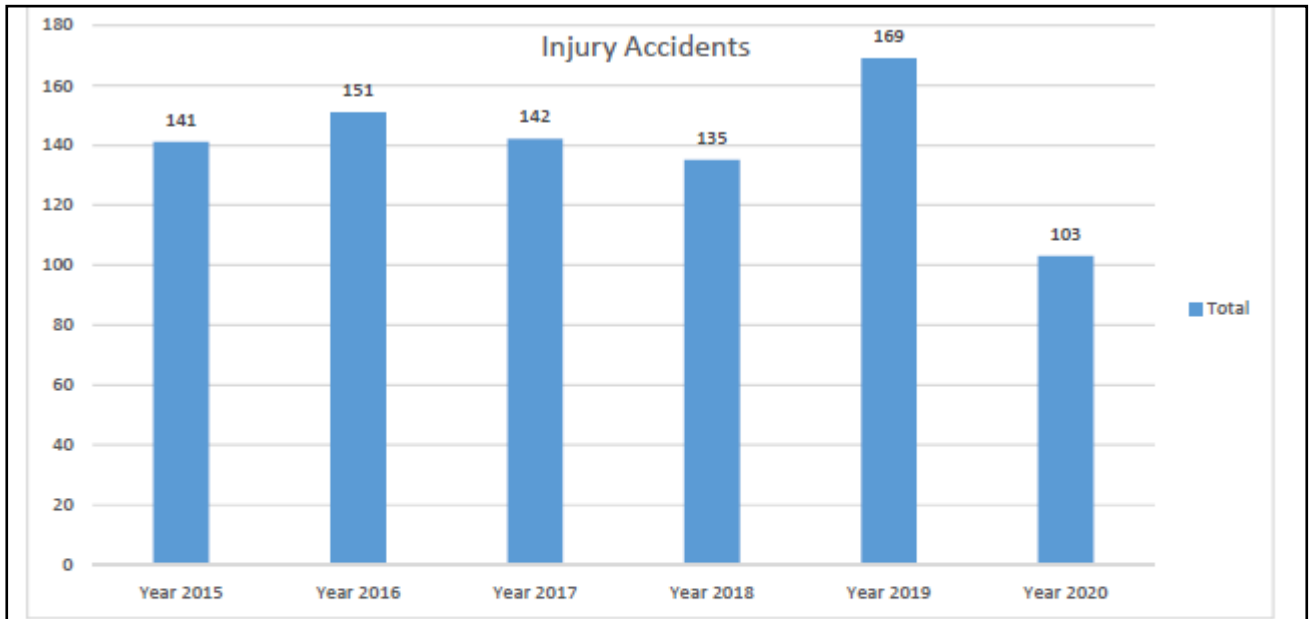
Top 10 Call Types in 2020 (Minus Officer Initiated)

	Call Type	Count
1	Disturbance	2872
2	Suspicious	2144
3	Public Assist	1883
4	Medical Assist	1379
5	Animal Calls	1237
6	Impaired Person	714
7	Theft	660
8	Accident - Property	659
9	Domestic	656
10	Welfare Check	610

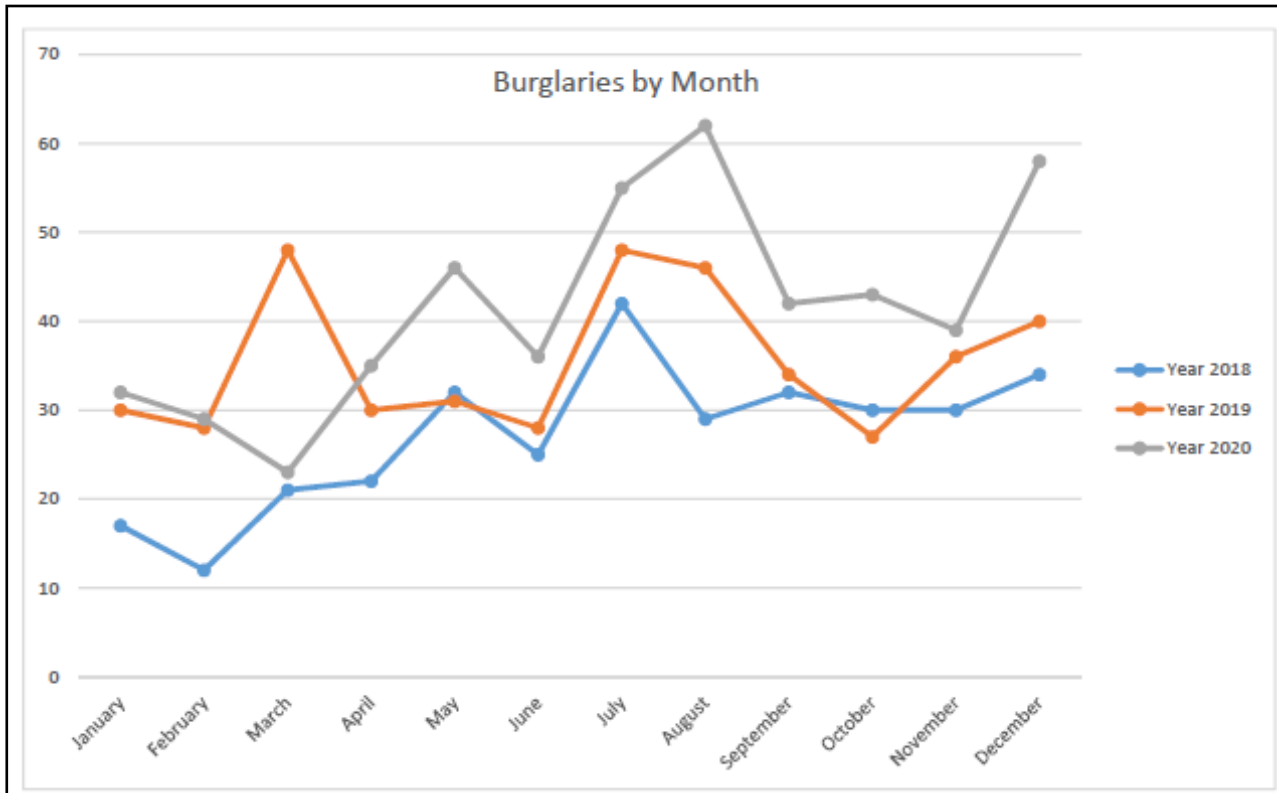




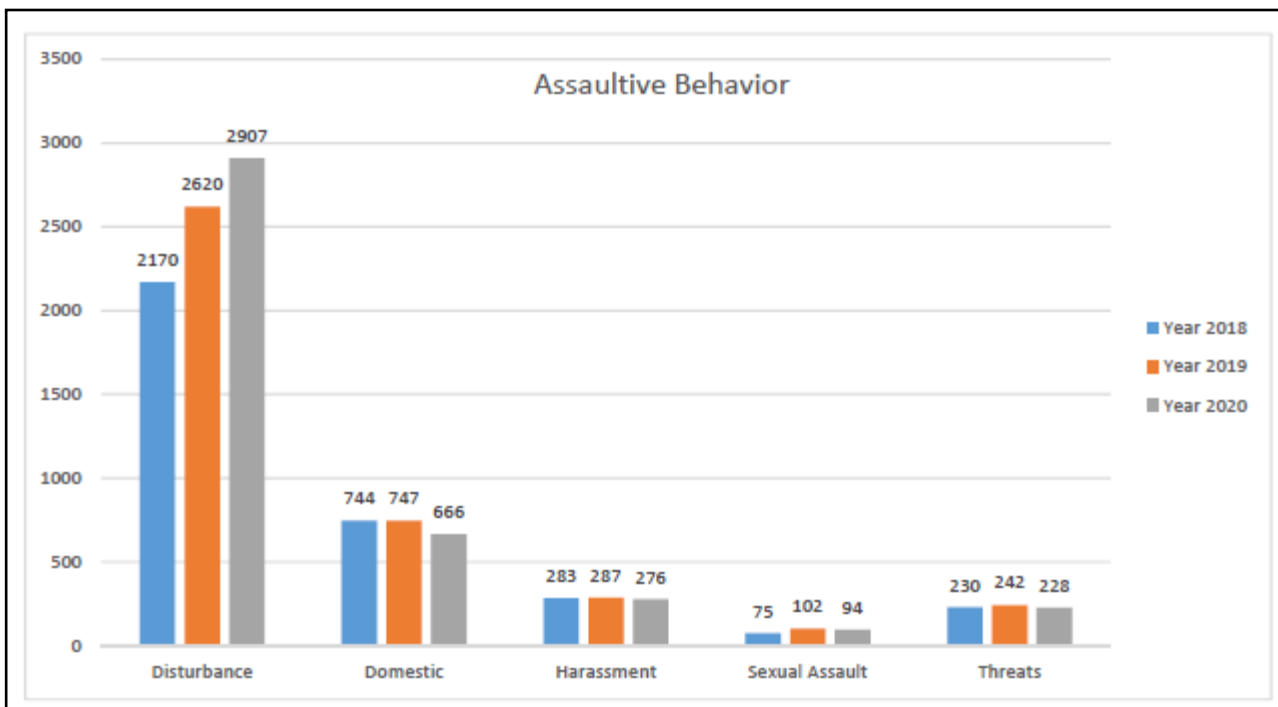
	Accidents	Percent Change
Year 2015	1121	N/A
Year 2016	1169	4.28%
Year 2017	1091	-6.67%
Year 2018	1019	-6.60%
Year 2019	1163	14.13%
Year 2020	694	-40.33%

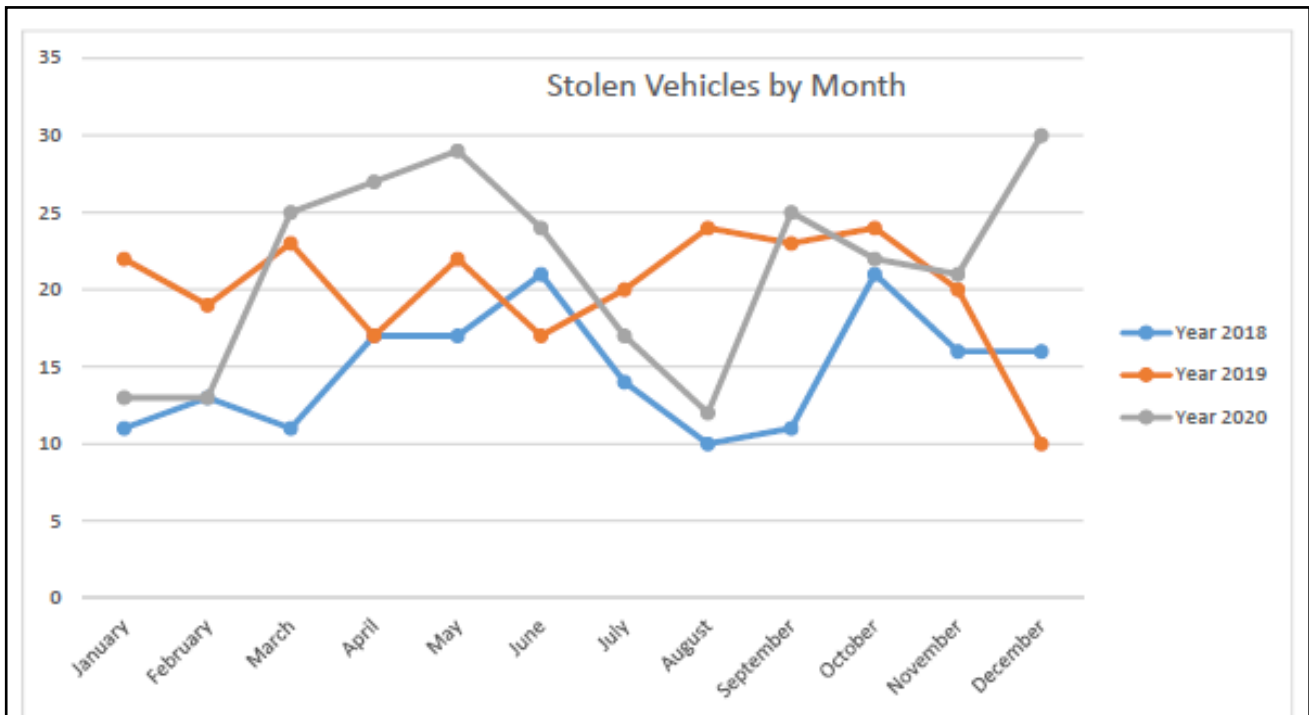
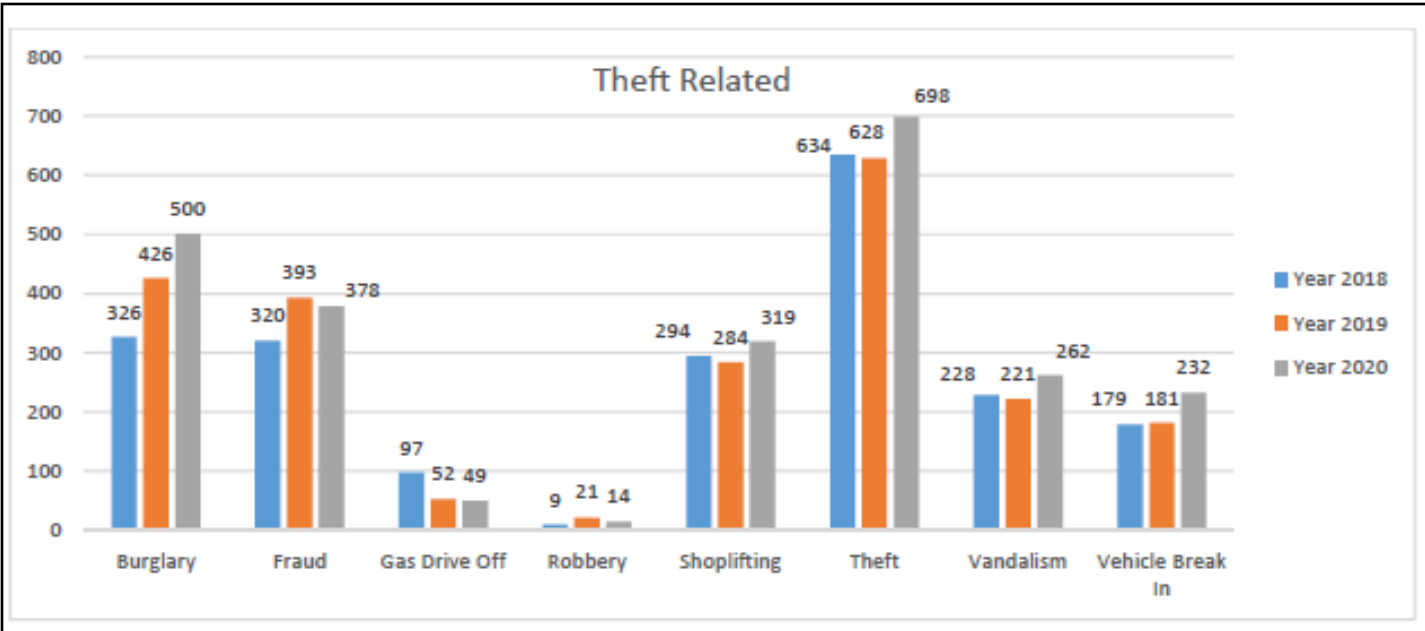


	Injury Accidents	Percent Change
Year 2015	141	N/A
Year 2016	151	7.09%
Year 2017	142	-5.96%
Year 2018	135	-4.93%
Year 2019	169	25.19%
Year 2020	103	-39.05%

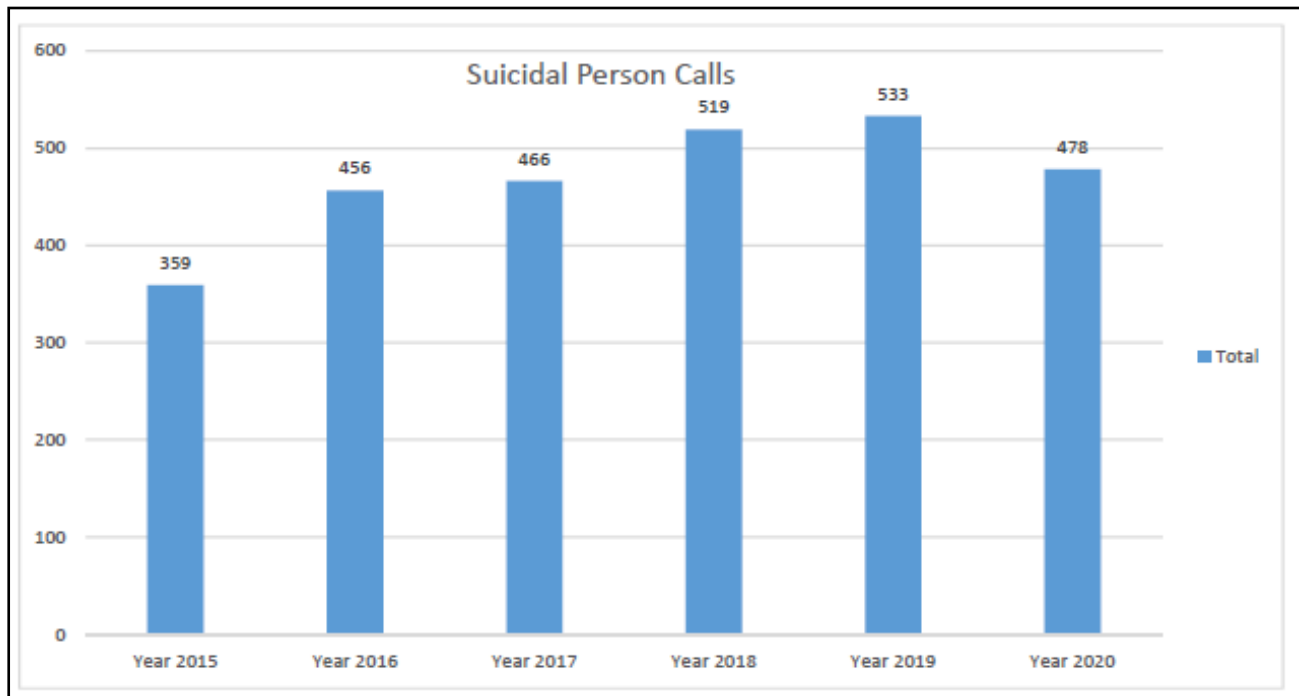


	Burglaries	Percent Change
Year 2015	274	N/A
Year 2016	309	12.77%
Year 2017	317	2.59%
Year 2018	326	2.84%
Year 2019	426	30.67%
Year 2020	500	17.37%

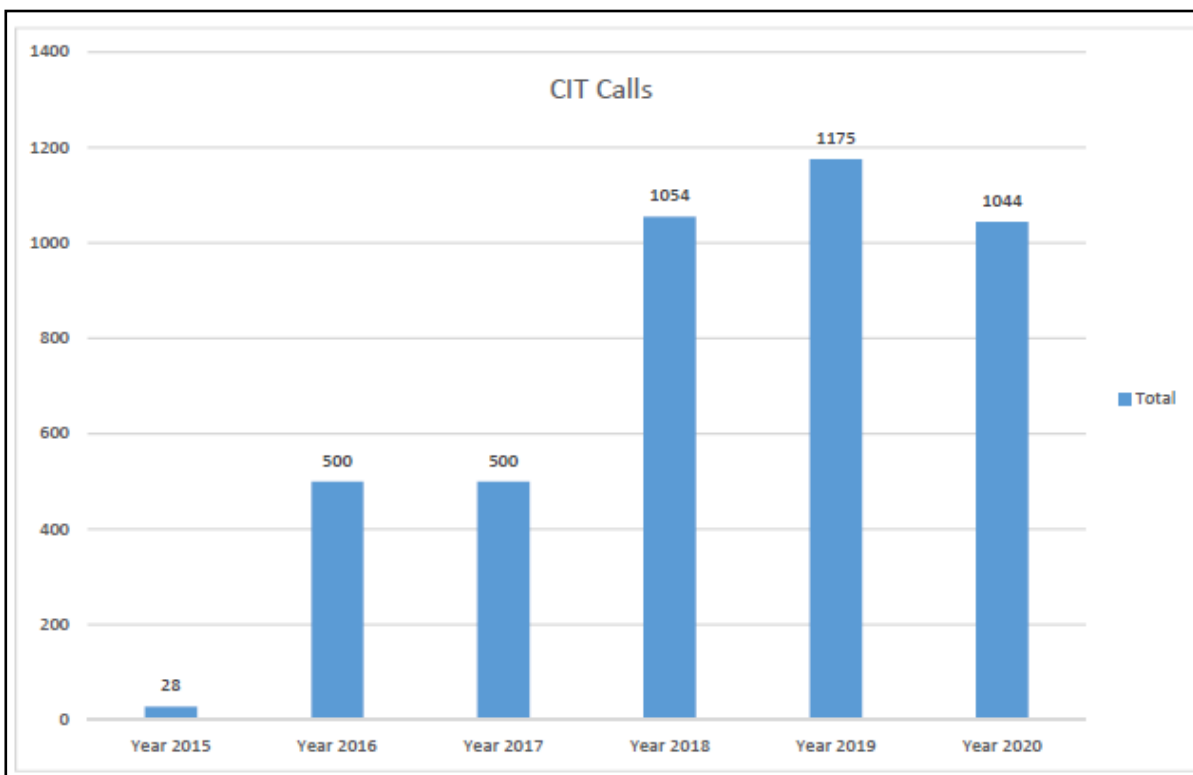




	Stolen Vehicles	Percent Change
Year 2015	193	N/A
Year 2016	199	3.11%
Year 2017	216	8.54%
Year 2018	178	-17.59%
Year 2019	241	35.39%
Year 2020	258	7.05%

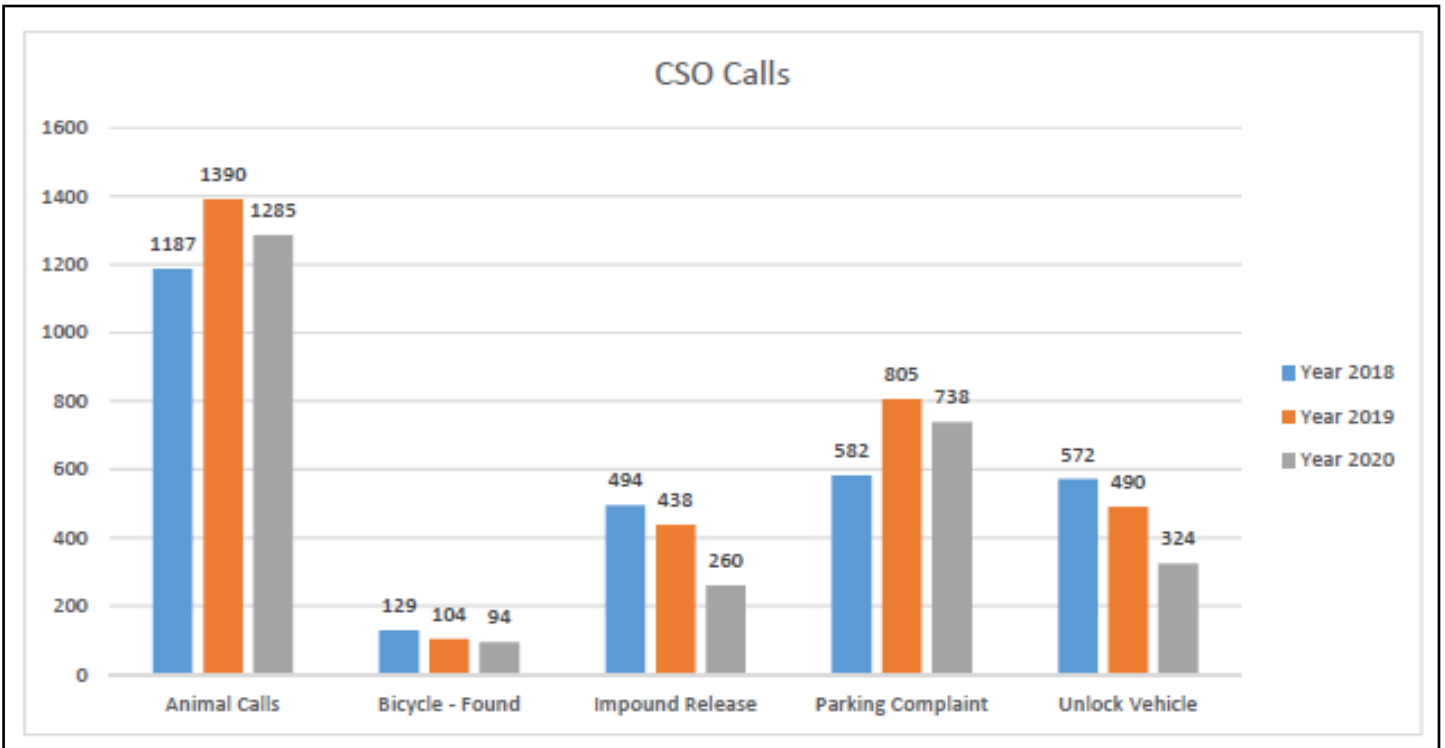


	Suicidal Person Calls	Percent Change
Year 2015	359	N/A
Year 2016	456	27.02%
Year 2017	466	2.19%
Year 2018	519	11.37%
Year 2019	533	2.70%
Year 2020	478	-10.32%

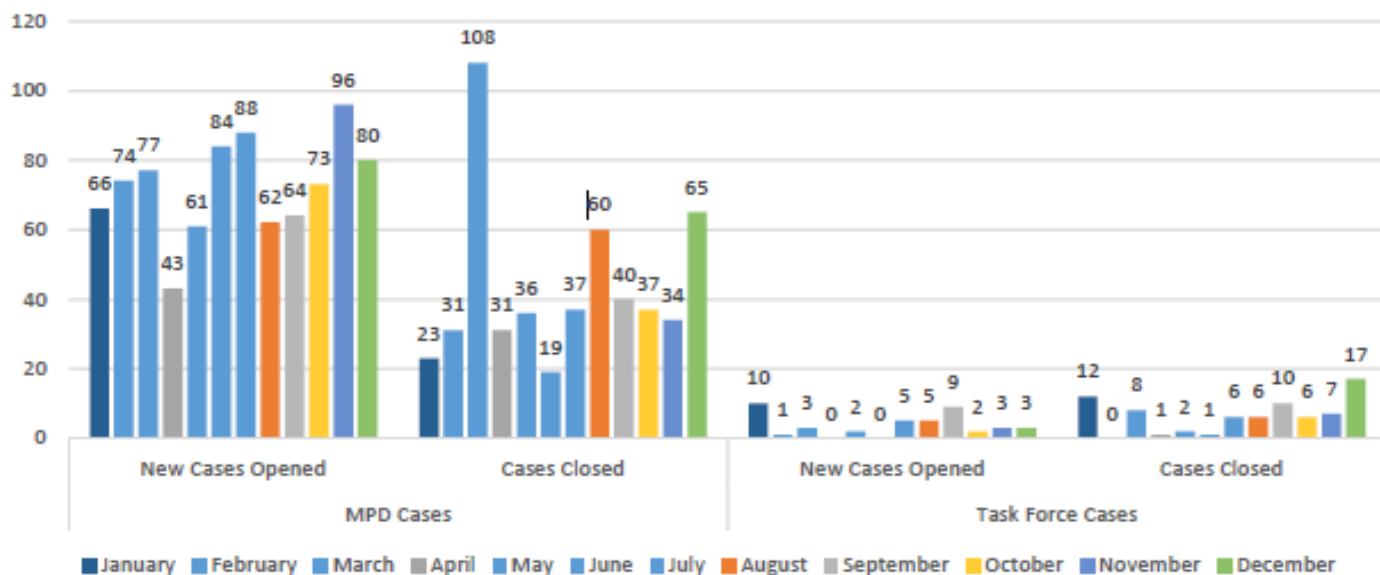


TOP 10 LOCATIONS WHERE OFFICERS HAVE BEEN SENT IN 2020:

1. 911 11 St N (LEC) 1,001
2. 1901 1 Ave N (Churches United) 354
3. 725 30 Ave S (Holiday) 319
4. 2206 15 Ave N (Impound Lot) 308
5. 3601 12 Ave S (Horizon Middle School) 278
6. 101 11 St S (Hornbachers) 249
7. 715 11 St N (Family Service Center) 204
8. 2300 4 Ave S (Moorhead High School) 165
9. 510 Main Ave (M&H) 158
10. 1702 30th Ave S (Casey's) 149
11. 810 Belsly Blvd (Grand Inn) 148

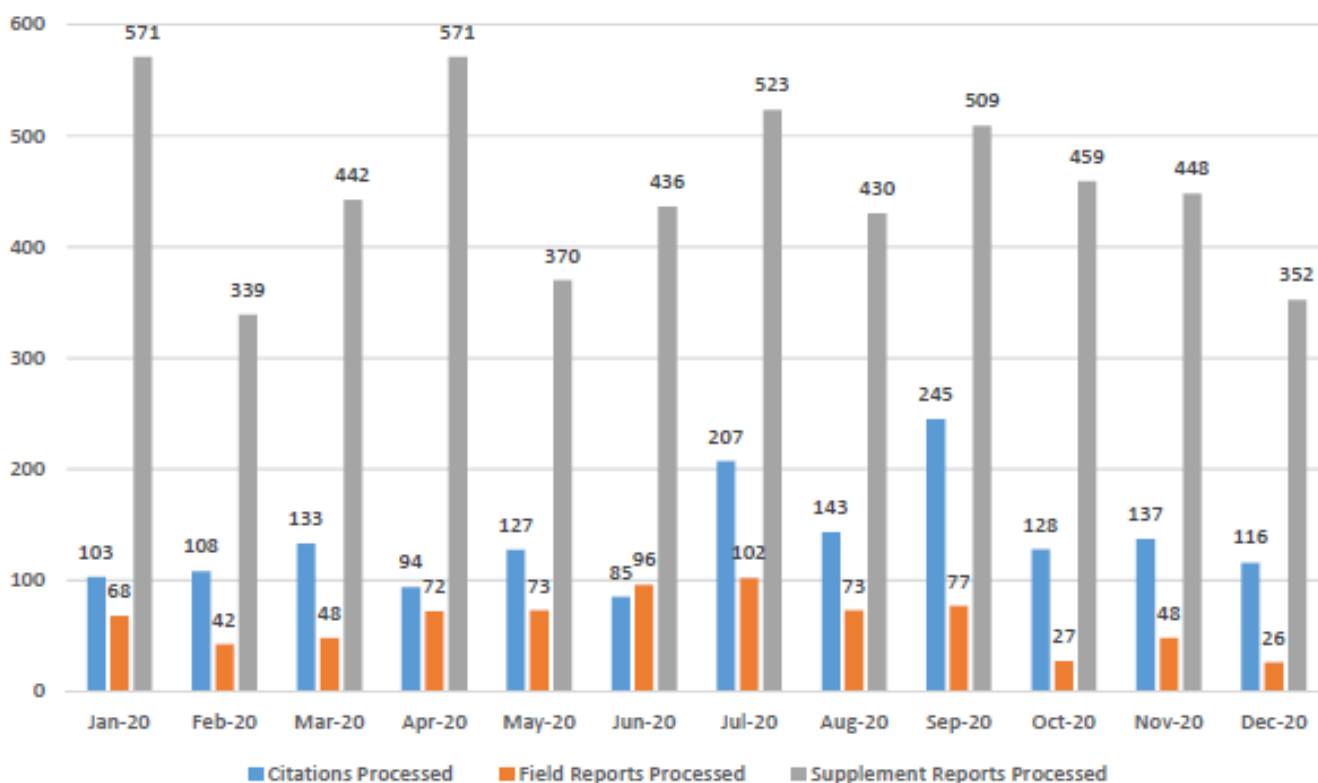


Detective Cases



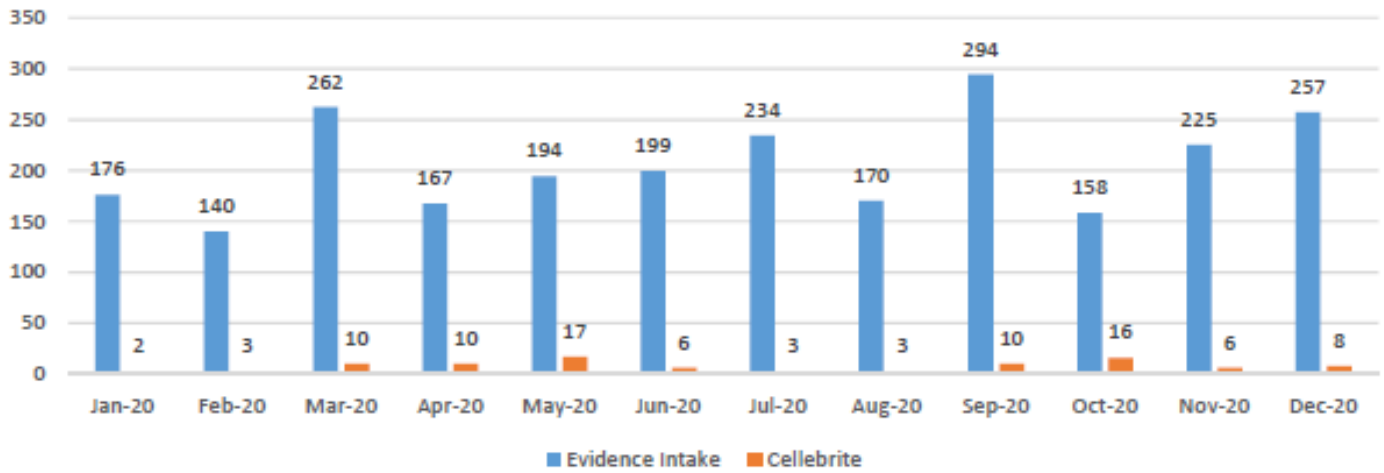
In total, MPD opened 868 and closed 521 cases in 2020. Task force opened 43 and closed 76 cases.

Reports-Citations Processed



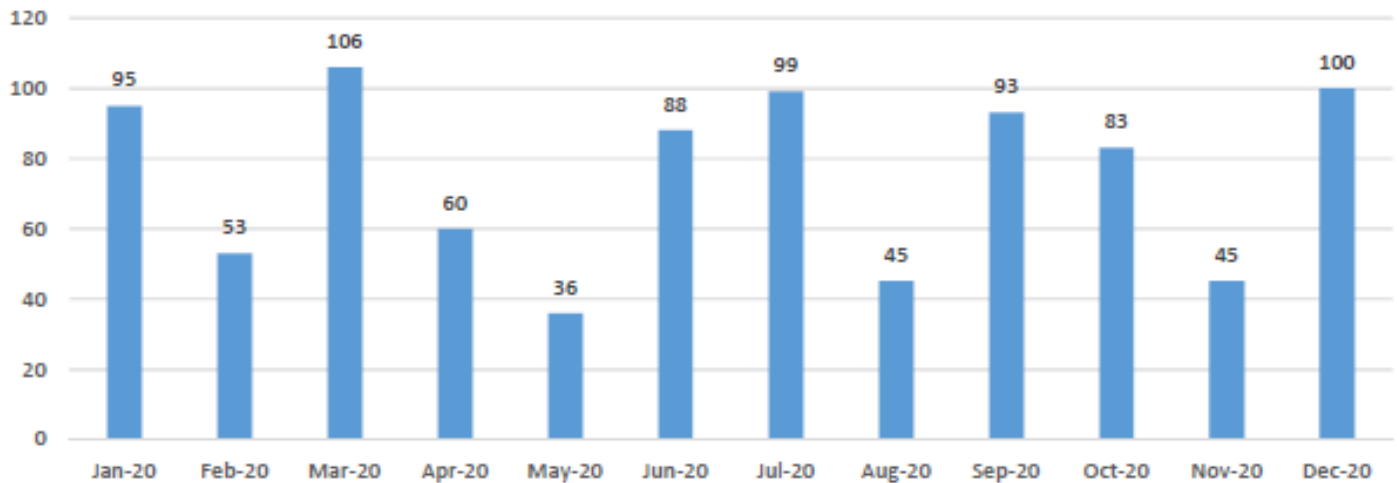
There were a total of 1626 citations, 752 field reports, and 5450 supplemental reports processed in 2020.

Evidence-Cellebrite (Cell Phone Exams)



There were a total of 2476 evidence intakes and 94 cellebrite downloads in 2020.

Predatory Offenders



There were a total of 903 in 2020.

K-9 Unit Annual Report

The Moorhead Police Department again saw change within the K9 Unit during the 2020 year. K9 Argo retired from the police department on December 31. Officer Brett Musich was selected to be the next K9 Handler within the department.

Each year, our K9 teams are required to show continued proficiency in both narcotic detection and patrol work. K9 Argo and K9 Kash were nationally certified through both the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) and the National Police Canine Association (NPCA).

In the police world, K9s are an essential asset to the department and offer skills that simply cannot be matched by the human officers working the street. Canines noses are immensely powerful and aid them in detecting illegal narcotics as well as locating articles holding human scent. Their mere presence assists in de-escalating situations where violent offenders are willing to fight with human officers; however, do not want to fight with police canines. Argo and Kash continually showed how big of an asset they were to the Moorhead Police Department as well as the greater Cass and Clay Counties.

After seven years of dedicated service to the Moorhead Police Department, K9 Argo retired on December 31, 2020. Argo was an invaluable asset to the citizens of Moorhead, as well as the greater metro area. Argo patrolled the streets with Officer Mike Fildes. During his time with the department, K9 Argo was involved in countless narcotic deployments which resulted in taking large amounts of illegal narcotics off the streets which would have otherwise been distributed throughout the community. Argo was also utilized in numerous patrol deployments which resulted in taking wanted individuals into custody. Argo enjoyed participating in public demonstrations as well as interacting with the community. K9 Argo now lives at home with Officer Fildes and his family to enjoy his time off in retirement.



Significant Deployments from 2020:

On 01/02/2020, Officer Johnson and K9 Kash were requested to assist the Narcotics Division in sniffing an apartment door in relation to an ongoing investigation. K9 Kash was directed to begin checking doors at this apartment building and alerted to the presence of illegal narcotics at the apartment door in relation to the investigation. A search warrant yielded 15 ounces of methamphetamine.

On 01/29/2020, Officer Johnson heard the Metro Area Street Crimes Unit call over the radio that a male they were conducting surveillance on was fleeing on foot by jumping from roof to roof. Officer Johnson responded to the location and learned the suspect was within the perimeter. After K9 warnings were given, Kash was deployed to conduct an area search to attempt to locate the male. Kash began searching the area and began showing signs that he was scenting something on the other side of a wooden fence. At that time, the suspect male got up from behind the fence and began running away again. As Officer Johnson and K9 Kash rounded the corner of the fence, the male was seen running away, but was taken into custody by other officers a short distance away.



On 2/16/2020, officers were involved in a pursuit of a stolen vehicle that started in the City of Dilworth and continued through the City of Moorhead. Stop sticks were utilized and were successful in deflating the tires of the stolen vehicle. Officer Fildes and K9 Argo were involved

in this pursuit. After the successful use of stop sticks, the pursuit was ended by a PIT maneuver causing the vehicle to spin out and stop. K9 Argo was taken out of the squad car and was directed to bark at the suspect to deter them from fleeing or fighting with law enforcement. The suspect and passenger were taken into custody without incident.

On 03/13/2020, Officer Johnson was requested by the Clay County Sheriff's Office to assist in locating the driver and passengers of a vehicle that fled on foot after a pursuit. K9 Kash was deployed and began tracking from the driver's door of the vehicle to the front door of a trailer a short distance away. Sheriff Empting stayed at this location due to the fact Kash continued to track from the front door along the fence line to the west of this trailer. Kash continued to track along this fence line for a distance and looked as though he wanted to jump the fence. At this time, Sheriff Empting stated the driver of the vehicle came out of the trailer the track led to and gave up. The end of the track was directly east of the registered owner's address.

On 03/19/2020, Officer Fildes was called to assist with K9 Argo on a drug search warrant. K9 Argo was deployed inside the residence and alerted to the odor of illegal narcotics. During the search, one pound of marijuana was located.

On 08/20/2020, Officer Fildes and K9 Argo were called to assist the Metro Street Crimes Unit in sniffing a vehicle. During the sniff of the vehicle, K9 Argo alerted to the odor of illegal narcotics. 76 grams of methamphetamine was located on the person driving the vehicle.



On 10/03/2020, Officer Johnson and K9 Kash were requested by the High Plains Fugitive Task Force to assist on a vehicle sniff. During the vehicle sniff, K9 Kash alerted to the odor of illegal narcotics. A search of the vehicle and person yielded approximately ½ pound of methamphetamine.

On 11/11/2020, Officer Fildes and K9 Argo were requested to conduct an apartment sniff for an ongoing narcotics investigation. During the sniff, K9 Argo alerted to the odor of illegal narcotics inside the apartment. A search warrant was executed, and 136 grams of methamphetamine was located.



2020 Year End Report

MOORHEAD POLICE DEPARTMENT

2020-01-01 to 2020-12-31



Incident Activity	Unit Count	Units	# of Events
K9: Argo			
Alert	45.00	Each	39
Apartment Sniff	9.00	Each	9
Area Search	4.00	Search(es)	4
Cocaine Amount	5.70	Gram(s)	2
Criminal Apprehension	6.00	Arrest(s)	4
Drug Para	49.00	Each	21
Heroin Amount	4.80	Gram(s)	5
Marijuana Amount	36.05	Gram(s)	8
Marijuana Amount	1.00	Pound(s)	1
Methamphetamine Amount	269.15	Gram(s)	13
No Alert	5.00	Each	5
Shrooms	6.00	Gram(s)	1
Tar Heroin	3.80	Gram(s)	2
Track Successful	1.00	Track(s)	1
Track Unsuccessful	3.00	Track(s)	3
Vehicle Sniff	36.00	Each	35
Totals:	484.50		153

2020 Year End Report

MOORHEAD POLICE DEPARTMENT

2020-01-01 to 2020-12-31



Incident Activity	Unit Count	Units	# of Events
K9: Kash			
Alert	18.00	Each	17
Apartment Sniff	10.00	Each	10
Area Search	2.00	Search(es)	2
Building Search Commercial	1.00	Search(es)	1
Building Search Residential	4.00	Search(es)	4
Criminal Apprehension	12.00	Arrest(s)	9
Drug Para	9.00	Each	9
Methamphetamine Amount	4.98	Gram(s)	3
Methamphetamine Amount	23.00	Ounce(s)	2
No Alert	20.00	Each	20
Outside Agency Deployment	1.00	Each	1
Track Successful	2.00	Track(s)	2
Track Unsuccessful	2.00	Track(s)	2
Vehicle Sniff	24.00	Each	24
Totals:	132.98		106



Investigative Division

The division is made up of a Division Commander, Investigative Sergeant, Office Manager, and nine full-time Investigators. Two investigators are assigned to General, two in Juvenile, four in Narcotics, and one to the Metro Street Crimes Unit. General Investigators investigate cases such as crimes against persons (adult), property crimes, and computer forensics investigations. Juvenile Investigators investigate crimes against children such as physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. Narcotics Investigators investigate local drug trafficking cases, gang related cases, and historical drug conspiracy cases. Our investigator assigned to the Metro Street Crimes Unit focuses on gang related activity, fugitive apprehension, and high crime areas.

Detective Nick Leinen was assigned to the Investigative Division in 2018, working in the role as a General Investigator. In January 2020, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and reassigned to the Patrol Division. Officer Shaun Van Dyke was reassigned to the Investigative Division as his replacement.

Detective Justin Vogel was assigned to the Investigative Division in 2015, as a Juvenile Investigator. He spent approximately five years in this assignment before accepting the City of Glyndon Chief of Police position. School Resource Officer Katie Schultz was selected as his replacement and assigned to the Investigative Division as a Juvenile Investigator in February 2020.

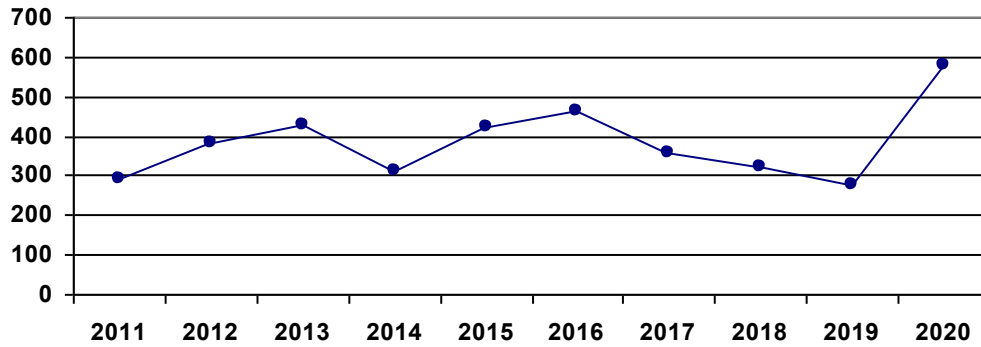
We currently participate in four different Task Forces. Narcotics Investigators are assigned to the Lakes to River Drug & Violent Crimes Task Force. Two of our Narcotics Investigators are also attached to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Drug Task Force in Fargo, ND. We are members of the Internet Crimes against Children Task Force (ICAC) assisting us with child pornography investigations. Our Metro Street Crimes Investigator is also part of the U.S. Marshals Service North Star Fugitive Task Force. The participation in these Task Forces allows for additional funding to offset the cost of salaries, overtime, training, fuel, and equipment. This funding comes from grant money and federal agencies.

The Investigative Division maintains local predatory offender files by tracking and ensuring compliance of approximately 150 offenders in the City of Moorhead. The Moorhead Police Department had 933 offender contacts in 2020. These included five investigations into failure to register cases, 11 Initial registrations, 228 changes of information, 329 weekly check-ins, and 360 quarterly compliance checks.

Offenders are assessed a risk level, by the Department of Corrections, prior to their end of confinement if they were incarcerated in a state prison. Those that were not confined in state prison are given an unassigned risk level. Information on Level I and unassigned offenders can be shared with other law enforcement agencies and the offender's crime victims/witnesses. Level II offender information may also be disclosed to law enforcement agencies as well as groups the offender is likely to encounter such as educational institutions and day care establishments. Risk Level III is the highest level assigned and can also be disclosed to other members of the community. The Moorhead Police Department provides notification on Level III offenders through the media, community meetings, and the City of Moorhead website. There were approximately nine Level III Offenders residing in Moorhead at various times in 2020.

The division is also responsible for conducting background investigations for most city licenses and permits including liquor, pawn, massage, tobacco sales, second hand dealers, and used car dealers. We also conduct background checks and issue permits for citizens wishing to purchase handguns and semiautomatic military-style assault weapons. For several years we saw the numbers somewhat fluctuate but have never before seen an increase such as we did in 2020. We processed 277 applications in 2019, and 580 applications in 2020, which is an increase of 109%.

Handgun and Semiautomatic Military-Style Assault Weapon Permits



High Profile Case Activity

On April 16, 2020, the Investigative Division opened a case on missing person, Dystyneee Avery. Through statements of involved parties and video surveillance, it was determined the roommate, Ethan Broad, was intentionally providing misleading information. An additional interview with Broad resulted in a confession of striking Avery with a pipe, cutting her throat with a knife, transporting her body to the garage, dismembering it, and disposing of the body in a nearby dumpster. Her remains were located in the Hawley landfill. Andrea Payne, David Erno and Brandon Erbstoesser aided the offender. All parties provided confessions, further establishing probable cause, resulting in their arrests. We received assistance from the MN Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the Clay County Sheriff's Office. The case is still going through the court process.

On June 4, 2020, Richard Stephen and Jessica Meier were walking into Meier's apartment building in south Moorhead and were assaulted by Erin Sundby and Cameron St. Claire. Sundby pulled Meier to the ground and punched her in the face causing her to black out. St. Claire punched Stephen in the face multiple times causing severe facial injuries and fractures. St. Claire and Sundby were identified and arrested for the assault. Stephen died from his injuries later the same morning while at the hospital. Both St. Claire and Sundby pled guilty to charges. St. Claire was convicted of 2nd Degree Murder and sentenced to 190 months in prison. Sundby was convicted of 3rd Degree Assault and served 120 days in the Clay County Jail.

On November 19, 2020, Ashton Bellefeuille slashed a female victim on the face and neck with a knife in an apartment complex parking lot. Approximately 12 hours later, he severely assaulted two other female acquaintances with a knife and ice chisel. These assaults caused significant injuries and numerous surgeries. He fled the scene but was identified and arrested. He is being held for Attempted Murder and 2nd Degree Assault.

Other Significant Investigations

On March 23, 2020, a male victim was robbed at gunpoint by four male subjects during a narcotics transaction. Two of the four subjects were charged. One pled guilty and the other is awaiting trial.

On April 22, 2020, two males shot at each other in an apartment complex parking lot in south Moorhead. One subject pled guilty to two counts of 2nd Degree Assault and was later sentenced to 84 months incarceration.

On June 23, 2020, an adult male subject conducted a drive by shooting, from a motorcycle, firing several rounds towards a car and apartment complex. There were no injuries and the subject was arrested and charged.

On July 24, 2020, a male victim was assaulted with a knife and another weapon similar to a baseball bat. Two adult male suspects were identified, charged, and pled guilty.

On July 26, 2020, an adult male stabbed an adult male victim after a dispute. The subject was arrested, charged and is currently in custody.

On September 11, 2020, a male victim was shot in the arm during a dispute in an apartment. The subject was identified but the victim was uncooperative. The case was forwarded to the prosecutor's office.

On September 19, 2020, an adult male was shot in the leg at a party. Multiple suspects were identified and arrested. Two subjects were arrested and charged with Felony 2nd Degree Assault and weapons related crimes. Stolen handguns were also recovered.

On October 9, 2020, an adult male assaulted an adult female victim by striking her with a cast-iron pan, choking her, and cutting her neck with a knife. The subject was arrested and is currently in custody.

On October 16, 2020, a male victim was shot in the lower leg, during a drive by shooting, while seated in his vehicle outside of his residence. The suspect was identified and arrested. He has been charged with three separate Attempted Murder charges and Drive-by Shooting.



Narcotics

For the past several years, the Moorhead Police Department, acting as the fiscal agent, has successfully applied for and obtained grant funding to help combat drug and violent crimes. This funding helps pay partial salaries of Task Force Officers (TFOs) assigned to the Lakes to River Drug & Violent Crimes Task Force. In 2020, this partnership included the Moorhead Police Department, Clay County Sheriff's Office, Wilkin County Sheriff's Office, and the Breckenridge Police Department. Personnel consisted of four Narcotics Investigators from the Moorhead Police Department, two from the Clay County Sheriff's Office, Commander Brad Penas and our Office Manager.

Grant funding also allows us to collaborate with the local Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Drug Task Force. This relationship allows investigators to start a case with a local user and follow them all the way up to the source of supply that may be established in another state. This type of investigation will often result in federal charges through the United States Attorney's Office and prosecution of drug traffickers responsible for bringing large quantities of narcotics to the Red River Valley. Cases such as these take an enormous amount of time and resources from local agencies; however, the benefit derived from their involvement has great payback as the sources of supply were arrested and convicted as well as the entire distribution network. The distribution network is primarily made up of local drug dealers, which have a daily impact on the standard of living in our community. The Moorhead Police Department has two of our Narcotics Investigators assigned to this Task Force. In 2020, they had 10 federal investigations open with the most active investigations resulting in nine subjects indicted in federal court. Below is an investigation starting as a local case moving to the federal system:

Through the use of confidential informant information and search warrants, TFOs identified a large scale methamphetamine Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO) operating in the Fargo/Moorhead area. To date, this DTO is responsible for importing at least 200 pounds of methamphetamine to the Fargo/Moorhead metro area. This conspiracy involves a drug cartel in Mexico shipping pounds of methamphetamine through the mail after money is sent to California. TFOs traveled to California, Montana, and Virginia to coordinate enforcement efforts targeting this DTO. The case was accepted for Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (CDETF) designation and placed on the Priority Target list within DEA.

The abuse of prescription medication led to the implementation of a safe and secure prescription medication drop off location at the Moorhead Police Department a number of years ago. This program along with our partnership with the DEA, through National Take Back events, removed approximately 610 pounds of medications that were incinerated in 2020.

In 2020, we also saw that accidental drug overdoses had a much larger impact on our community than the previous year. In 2019, we responded to five reported overdoses with two of them resulting in death. In 2020, we responded to 22 overdoses with eight of these resulting in death. Without the availability and use of naloxone, the number of deaths would have been even greater. Another trend we began seeing is that most of the overdoses resulting in deaths involved a mixed drug toxicity with a common substance being methamphetamine. This has changed over recent years when most overdoses resulting in death were linked primarily to heroin or other opioids.

Narcotics Continued

In February, a search warrant was executed in south Moorhead where LSD, marijuana, and \$90,481 US Currency was seized. The source of the drugs was identified as Minh Quach, age 55, living in Oakland, CA. Quach was using the United States Postal Service to send drugs to Fargo/Moorhead from California. Other distributors in the Fargo/Moorhead area were also identified. Numerous search warrants were executed in Fargo/Moorhead throughout 2020 resulting in the seizure of an additional \$63,450 US Currency, 12 pounds marijuana, marijuana concentrates, cocaine, LSD, ecstasy, and psilocybin mushrooms. Investigators coordinated with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in Oakland and the United States Postal Inspector's Office to target Minh Quach. In October, Moorhead Detectives went to Oakland and executed multiple search warrants with DEA resulting in the seizure of \$25,900 US Currency and 23 pounds of marijuana. Minh Quach was located and arrested during the search warrants. He and others will be charged with Felony 1st Degree Controlled Substance.

In March, the Patrol Division confiscated approximately 30 pounds of marijuana from a storage unit. During the investigation, the subject was identified as 54-year-old Dennis Carlson. Carlson was previously suspected of dealing large quantities of marijuana in the Fargo/Moorhead area. Narcotics Investigators executed search warrants with a total of 38 pounds of marijuana and 84 THC vape cartridges seized during the investigation.

In September, local Narcotics Investigators targeted a group distributing methamphetamine in Fargo/Moorhead resulting in the seizure of over a half pound of methamphetamine, marijuana, and \$11,281 US Currency in Moorhead. Jason Pease, age 44, and Bobbi Stephenson, age 48, were arrested. The drug supplier was identified as Christopher Sandness, age 46. In October, Sandness was arrested and in possession of 91 grams methamphetamine, 206 grams heroin, and \$19,719 US Currency. This group likely distributed over 50 pounds of methamphetamine in Fargo/Moorhead, and was receiving the methamphetamine in packages sent via a shipping service (i.e. FedEx, UPS, USPS) from an out-of-state source. The investigation was adopted federally by local Narcotics Investigators assigned to the DEA Drug Task Force.



Task Force Seizures

Seizures (in grams)		2018	2019	2020
Marijuana		35,178	24,330	31,534
Methamphetamine		18,319	12,744	7682
Heroin		98	269	209
Cash		\$69,648	\$28,150	\$693,372

Juvenile

We have two Juvenile Investigators that primarily work physical/sexual abuse and neglect cases. These investigators receive specialized training on child forensic interviewing techniques. This training is specific to this position so investigators working as a team with social services, medical staff, and counseling services, can effectively receive non-leading information from child victims for court purposes and limit redundancy that leads to further exposing the victim to trauma. This collaboration works together as a team with members of the Red River Child Advocacy Center to accomplish these efforts. The center was created to help accommodate victims and their families through the process.

Division supervisors and our Juvenile/General Investigators are also members of the Red River Child Abduction Response Team (CART). A Child Abduction Response Team is a group of individuals from various local, state, and federal agencies who are trained and prepared to respond to a missing/endangered or abducted child. CART pulls together resources to aid in the search and rescue effort and to assist the agency of jurisdiction in its investigation. Our team is certified through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. To maintain certification our team participates in tabletop and mock exercises to be prepared in case of a real event.

Juvenile Investigations

On January 10, 2020, an aunt/legal guardian of a 16-year-old girl filed a report that her niece had been sexually assaulted by 22-year-old Dillon Rurup in October of 2018. Detective Saarinen conducted a forensic interview of the girl at the Red River Children's Advocacy Center. She disclosed performing oral sex on Rurup when she was 14 years of age and that Rurup had recorded videos of the sexual acts on his cell phone. A search warrant was obtained for Rurup's phone and numerous videos and images of child pornography were discovered. Through review of these materials, a second 15-year-old female victim was identified. She was interviewed by Detective Saarinen and disclosed performing sexual acts on Rurup, which he recorded on his cell phone. Rurup was arrested and charged with five counts of 3rd Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct, eight counts of Possessing Child Pornography, and one count of Manufacturing Child Pornography. A plea deal was reached and Rurup was sentenced to serve 90 months in prison.

On March 9, 2020, a 13-year-old female victim disclosed to a friend that her father, 38-year-old Sherman Morin, had been abusing her. The friend called a hotline number, which led to the police being called. Detective Saarinen conducted a forensic interview of the victim at the Red River Children's Advocacy Center where she disclosed being sexually abused by her father since the age of eight. A SANE kit was completed at the hospital with Morin's DNA found to be present on the victim's breasts and vagina. Morin is being charged with 1st Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct, 2nd Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct and the child victim was placed with grandparents by Clay County Social Services.

On May 17, 2020, a 13-year-old female disclosed she was sexually assaulted by a 16-year-old male. A forensic interview was completed at the Children's Advocacy Center and more details were gathered which led to a search warrant being executed at the apartment where the sexual assault occurred. During the search warrant, the juvenile male suspect was located and taken to detention. A warrant was also executed for social media accounts held by both juveniles. In a subsequent interview with the 16-year-old suspect, he admitted to the sexual assault. The juvenile male pled guilty to Criminal Sexual Conduct in the 1st Degree.

Juvenile Victims

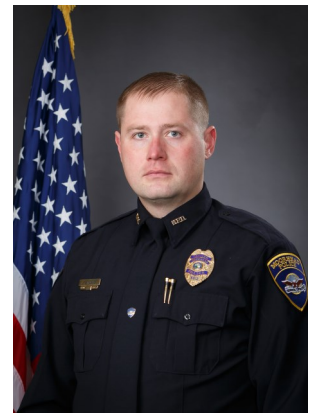
Case Types	2018	2019	2020
Criminal Sexual Assault	72	73	66
Physical Abuse/Neglect	223	254	199

Division Statistics

CASE TYPE NAME	TOTAL
ADMIN	4
ARSON	0
ASSAULT	68
ASSIST	93
BURGLARY	11
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY	12
CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT	96
DEATH	31
HUMAN TRAFFICKING	3
MISSING PERSON	11
NARCOTICS	59
NEGLECT	158
PERMITS	10
ROBBERY	9
THEFT	22
SCREENED OUT BY SOCIAL SERVICES	702
OTHER ACTIVITY	33
VULNERABLE ADULT	33
TOTAL	1355

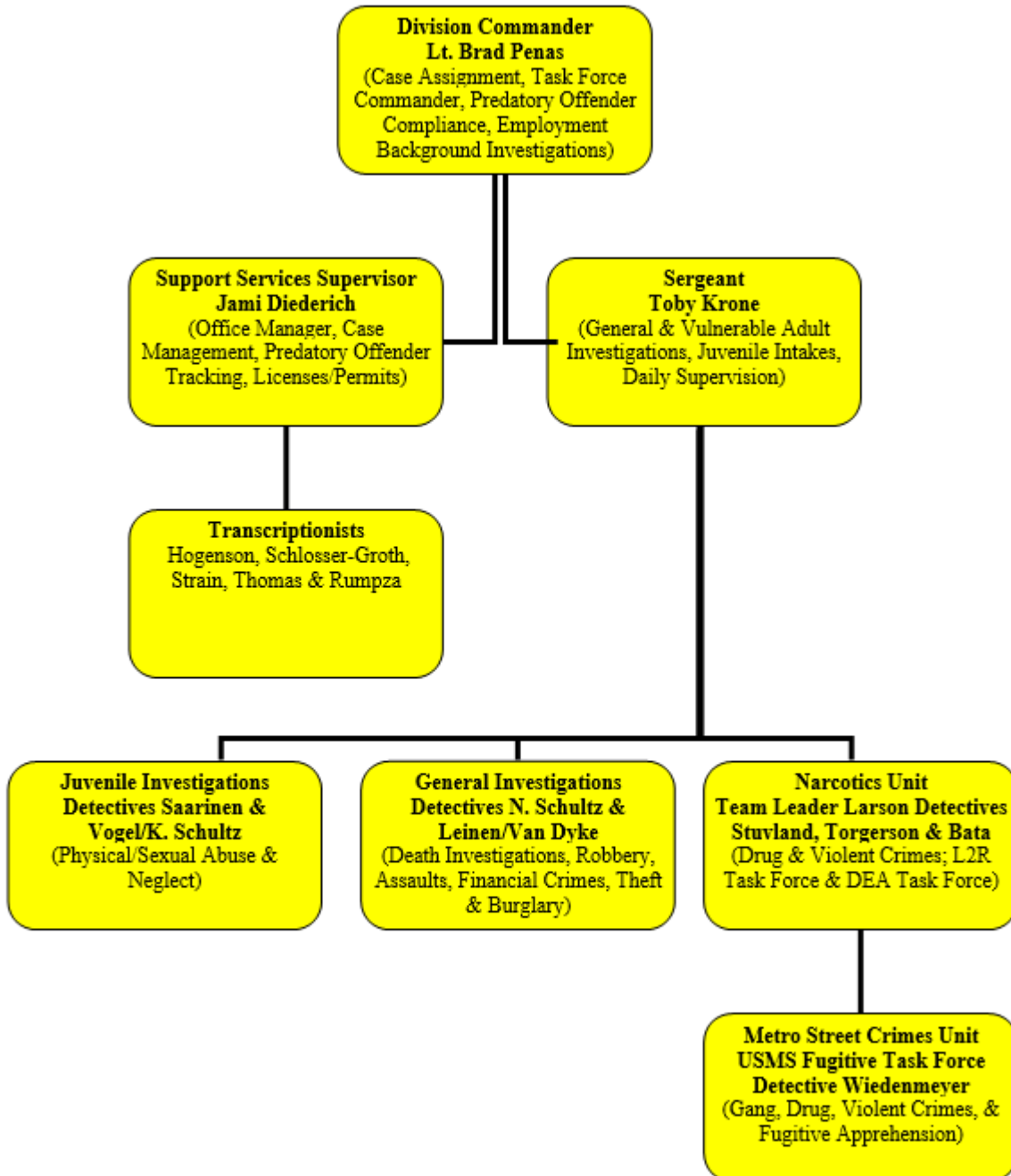
Awards

In September, Detective Seth Saarinen was recognized by Luther Family Ford and AM 1100 The Flag WZFG as the regional “Salute to Law Enforcement” recipient. The presentation and award ceremony took place at Luther Family Ford. Detective Saarinen was nominated by staff and was recognized as a hard worker with a very demanding caseload. Detective Saarinen investigates crimes against children and works tirelessly to get justice for child victims and ensure their future safety from some unimaginable crimes. Detective Saarinen is a senior detective with several years of experience and is often sought on the most significant cases for his expert knowledge.



Moorhead Police Department Investigative Division

Division Organization Chart & Primary Duties



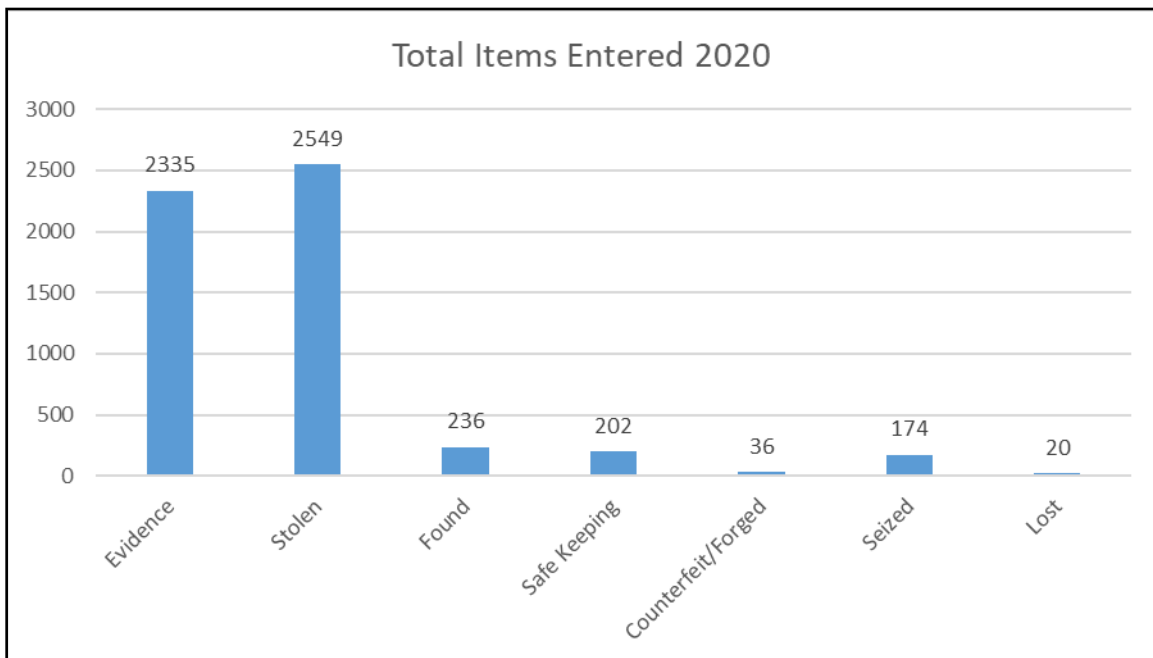
Property and Evidence Unit

The Moorhead Police Department Property Unit is an entity of our agency that very few people have the opportunity to see. The Property Unit is charged with the safekeeping of all property obtained through criminal investigations, as well as found or confiscated property. It is the policy of this department to ensure that property in its custody is properly secured, packaged, labeled and stored, is readily retrievable, and that any changes in its custody are properly and fully documented.

The property and evidence room is supervised by Sergeant Robb Matheson. Laura Hilgers is the department’s main Evidence Technician. All evidence technicians and evidence room supervisors have been trained through the International Association of Property & Evidence (IAPE) and are current members in this organization.

Property and Evidence 2020 in Review

- The department uses an electronic format versus the live auction to sell property eligible for release. We have found this method increases the value of the property as more people are interested in the items then would be at a live auction. The Moorhead Police Department posts items online through electronic auctions on K-Bid.com.
- There was no revenue generated from the sale of eligible property during 2020. The auction company was not accepting items, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These items will be sold at auction in 2021.
- 2,335 items were entered into Property and Evidence in 2020. This includes 2,549 items that were listed as stolen items. These are not items that were stolen and recovered, only those items that were mentioned as stolen in a police report.



- The number for Seized property items increased from 23 last year to 174 this year. This increase was in part due to FBI standards. MPD started reporting to the state using an Incident Based Reporting (IBR) system for crime reporting. In IBR based reporting, drug evidence is required to be listed as “Seized” property, as opposed to “Evidence” property as required by the former system of reporting.
- MPD uses Wells Fargo Bank to store all monetary funds which are submitted to the property and evidence room. As of January 1, 2020, the MPD Evidence Room Funds Account balance was \$61,983.60.
- During 2020, \$180,717.50 in cash deposits were made into the MPD Evidence Room Funds Account for storage until disposition of the related criminal cases.
- \$121,058.20 was withdrawn from this account in 2020. \$3,232.00 was returned to the owner or victim after the criminal case was resolved. \$36,648.75 was deposited into the City’s Drug Seizure Account after the criminal case was resolved. All drug seizure money is split with the State of Minnesota, the Clay County Attorney’s Office and any other agency that assists with the investigation. L2RTF stands for Lakes to River Task Force. In this case the following agencies received the following amounts:

○ State of MN	\$11,768.20
○ Clay County Attorney’s Office	\$23,414.40
○ West Fargo Police	\$245.00
○ Clay County Sherriff’s Office	\$1,221.15
○ Cass County Sheriff’s Office	\$245.00
○ Cass County Drug Task Force	\$16,384.73
○ L2RTF	\$39,158.00
○ Fargo Police	\$19,038.43
○ Moorhead Police	\$5,458.25
○ Wilkin County Sheriff’s Office	\$213.50
○ Wilkin County Attorney’s Office	\$122.00

- \$17.30 accrued interest in 2020. The year-end balance of this account is \$121,642.90.
- All transactions with the Property and Evidence Unit are documented with the City of Moorhead’s Accounting Division.
- The Drug Safe Program, available to Moorhead residents, was extended to collaborate with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The DEA will destroy the prescribed narcotics and other prescriptions collected during this program.

The Moorhead Police Department stores audio/video/photographic evidence electronically. Most evidence from minor case files (petty misdemeanors) is photographed and destroyed. Retention of electronic versus hard evidence increases efficiency and decreases the volume of hard evidentiary items retained by the Property Unit.



Red River Valley Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T.)

The Red River Valley SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) Team is a highly trained, multi-agency team composed of law enforcement officers who are available to respond to high-risk incidents in our region. The Team is made up of a Tactical Unit (including Medics), a Negotiations Unit, and a Bomb Unit. The Team includes officers, deputies, and medics from the Fargo Police Department, Moorhead Police Department, West Fargo Police Department, Cass County Sheriff's Office, Clay County Sheriff's Office, NDSU Police Department, FM Ambulance, and Sanford AirMed.

The Red River Valley SWAT Team is a part-time team. The SWAT position is a specialty assignment within each agency. Each member has a full-time function within their home agency (patrol officer, detective, paramedic, etc.) with SWAT being an added responsibility.

The SWAT Team is led by a Team Commander and Assistant Team Commander who oversee all units. During a high-risk incident, SWAT Command works closely with the local jurisdiction's Scene Commander to coordinate and carry out the safest response possible.

The SWAT Team takes pride in being a part of our community and wants to be transparent in their role within law enforcement. Due to COVID-19 precautions, the Team was not able to participate in community events or presentations as they have in years past.



Tactical Unit

The Tactical Unit is utilized for high-risk search warrant service, barricaded individuals that pose a high-risk to the public or law enforcement, hostage rescue situations, and many other situations which are viewed as extremely dangerous in nature. The Tactical Unit is composed of 27 SWAT members; many of which are assigned to specialized roles including snipers, breachers, and less lethal/gas deployment. Members of the Moorhead Police Department assigned to the Tactical Unit include:

Officer Brad Schenck	Sniper
Officer Matthew Lambert	Tactical Operator
Detective Laddie Bata	Tactical Operator
Officer Shaun Van Dyke	Tactical Operator
Officer Dalton Yagow	Tactical Operator

Officer Brad Schenck resigned from the SWAT Team in 2020, after 10 years of dedicated service. Officer Dalton Yagow was selected as a Tactical Operator to fill this vacancy on the team.

The Tactical Unit was called on 14 times in 2020, for a variety of different situations.

The Tactical Unit prides itself on training hard and staying proficient in their tactics and firearms skills. The Tactical Unit has regular trainings, twice each month. New operators in the Tactical Unit are selected in April each year and begin training with the team after successfully completing a week long Basic SWAT training course in May. In addition, the Tactical Unit trains at Camp Ripley, MN, for a week each year in September. The Team takes advantage of this opportunity by training between 14 and 16 hours a day and utilizes many of the training facilities and ranges that are available. This training also serves as the final test for new operators in order to become fully operational.

Negotiations Unit

The mission of the Negotiations Team is to reach successful resolution of critical incidents through professional and calm dialogue with those involved. The Negotiation Team often responds with SWAT's Tactical Unit during a critical incident. When deployed with all SWAT elements, each Team works together towards the common overall goal.

The Negotiations Unit is comprised of ten Negotiators. This includes one Team Leader and two Assistant Team Leaders. The Moorhead Police Department currently has two members allocated to the Negotiations Unit; Officer Adam Jensen and Sergeant Joel Voxland who is assigned as the Team Leader.

The Negotiations Team trains one day per month and attends several trainings with all SWAT elements throughout the year. New negotiators must attend a 40-hour course covering contemporary negotiation concepts. A new member must also act as the primary negotiator during a prolonged training scenario before becoming a fully operational member of the Team.

The Negotiations Team began using a new truck in March. This vehicle is equipped with work spaces for the Negotiations Team as well as SWAT Command.

The Negotiations Team was utilized eight times in 2020. These callouts included barricaded subjects and high-risk search warrants.

Bomb Unit

The Bomb Unit is utilized in assisting the community and local law enforcement agencies in the education, location, and disposal of all energetic materials. The Bomb Unit is often utilized with the Tactical Unit and Negotiations Unit on large scale events where there could be a potential for dangerous materials or explosives. The Bomb Unit also has different types of technology that can assist the other units to include x-ray machines and bomb robots capable of sending real time video and audio to the rest of the Team.

The Red River Regional Bomb Squad is a regional team comprised of technicians from Fargo PD, West Fargo PD, Cass County SO, NDSU PD, Moorhead PD and Clay County SO. This Team is accredited by the FBI and trains twice monthly. Currently, the Bomb Unit is at full staffing with one member scheduled to attend Hazardous Devices School (Basic Certification) in June of 2021. Several training days were cancelled this year due to COVID-19 precautions. The Team received several pieces of new equipment this year including four EOD-10 Bomb Suits and remote initiators. These were purchased through a ND DHS Grant.

The Bomb Unit is comprised of one Team Leader who oversee eight Bomb Technicians. Moorhead Police Sergeant Nick Leinen is assigned to the Bomb Unit.



Summary of calls:

Suspicious Packages: 8
Ammunition Pickup/Disposal: 12
Explosive Devices/Powders: 8
SWAT Assists: 3
Chemical Responses: 2
Hoax Devices: 1

Total Responses: 34

Life Saving Awards Issued



On March 23, 2020, at approximately 8:56 pm, Officer Nick Bjorndahl overheard an emergency dispatch for a medical involving a male that was passed out and would not wake up. Dispatch also advised that someone on scene was trying to do CPR. Recognizing that he was somewhat close to this medical location on an unrelated non-emergent incident, Officer Bjorndahl advised Dispatch that he would respond to assist.

Officer Bjorndahl located an unresponsive male victim in the basement of the residence with another male attempting to provide rescue breaths. Upon confirming that the victim wasn't breathing and did not have a pulse, Officer Bjorndahl began CPR. After approximately two minutes, the victim demonstrated that he was beginning to breath and had a restored pulse. As further medical assistance was provided by EMS, the victim ultimately was able to sit up and was able to walk himself to the ambulance to be transported to the hospital.

Rapid Response and effective medical intervention is measured in minutes to prevent brain damage or death. It is estimated that the victim may have been in cardiac arrest for about six minutes before Officer Bjorndahl began chest compressions. The patient is alive today directly because of the immediate and emergent response provided by Officer Bjorndahl.



On March 27, 2020, at approximately 3:46 pm, Officer-in-training Maria Bischoff and her Field Training Officer Michael Fildes were dispatched to a possible cardiac arrest involving a male that was found unresponsive on his back porch. Officer Jessica Horn heard the medical dispatch and "jumped the call" due to her close proximity. Upon arrival, the victim's wife was being instructed by a Dispatch Operator to begin CPR. Officer Horn arrived on scene shortly after chest compressions were being performed and immediately replaced the victim's wife with this responsibility.

Due to the urgency of this medical emergency, Officer Fildes assumed the primary support role to allow his trainee to observe and learn from this experience. Officer Bischoff retrieved an AED while Officer Fildes began cutting the victim's clothing to prepare him for placing the AED pads. During the time period that life-saving measures were being performed, a couple AED shocks were administered. Officer Fildes assumed the role of performing chest compressions once Officer Horn became fatigued. Once

paramedics from FM Ambulance arrived, the LUCAS machine was attached and also performed chest compressions for a few minutes. A pulse was ultimately located and the male began to breathe on his own.

The victim was transported to the Sanford Hospital to recover. Mitch is alive today directly because of the immediate and emergent response provided by his wife Jan Wittmayer and the actions of both Officer Horn and Officer Fildes.



On April 3, 2020, at approximately 11:30 am, officers were dispatched to a medical emergency for a male in cardiac arrest at the Running's store located on Hwy 10 East. Dilworth Officer Hoversten was first to arrive and was directed to the employee break room. Officer Hoversten began administering chest compressions on a male victim as other officers were arriving. Once Officer Hoversten became fatigued, Moorhead Officer Brian Dahl took over performing the chest compressions on the victim until EMS arrived for advance life-support and transport to the hospital.

Immediate proper medical intervention is the first critical link toward making a chain toward recovery. This victim is fortunate for each life-saving action that everyone did on him and he and his family will never forget. The male's heart is now functioning on its own and he is well on the road to recovery.



On April 6, 2020, at approximately 11:54 pm, Officer Cuyler Johnson was traveling over the Veteran's Memorial Bridge on Main Avenue when he observed a vehicle with its four-way flashers activated. Officer Johnson also observed two females standing near the railing of the bridge. One of the females was on the elevated concrete ledge where the metal railing attaches. The drop into the overflowing Red River from this height is in excess 25 feet.

Officer Johnson calmly approached the females and was told that the victim was "struggling." Officer Johnson used a calm tone and approached closer to be able to communicate over a loud train. As he was asking the female to visit with him, the female made the overt action to climb up and over the railing. Without hesitation, Officer Johnson lunged toward the female wrapping his arms around her waist and pulled her down to the sidewalk away from the railing. He immediately ensured that she wasn't

hurt and established a rapport with her while they waited for an ambulance to arrive.

Officer Johnson's back-up officer was arriving on scene just as these actions were taking place. This officer later indicated that through his observations, Officer Johnson had no doubt saved the life of this woman who was going through a significant mental crisis.

It also was a consensus of the committee that without the remarkable intervention by Baylee Engquist, this situation most likely could have ended very tragically. While traveling home from a late work shift, Baylee saw this lone female standing on the bridge ledge as she drove by. Baylee turned around and came back to talk to the female that was clearly in a mental health crisis. Baylee was able to effectively communicate and disrupt the female's intent to harm herself as they talked for over 15 minutes before Officer Johnson discovered them. The initiative demonstrated by Baylee to turn her car around and become engaged alone in the welfare of a stranger shows tremendous bravery and compassion. This interdiction was a blessing for this struggling mother of five children.