



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the men and women of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, welcome to the twelfth edition of our Annual Report. While much has changed over this time span, the goal of this document to foster open government and ensure transparency of operations has remained steadfast. Also unwavering has been my belief that law enforcement has an affirmative duty to hold itself accountable and be its own harshest critic. In support of these tenets, the Sheriff's Office began to work toward law enforcement accreditation in 2012 shortly after I was elected. I am proud to announce that 2024 marks the fourth time the Agency been accredited by the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group. Each certification period spans three years and requires an independent audit by an assessment team of 262 standards and more than 550 corresponding best practices. In voluntarily subjecting itself to this review, the Sheriff's Office can confirm it is a professional and well managed Agency that utilizes the most current and progressive law enforcement procedures.

Partnering with community stakeholders to deliver innovative programming outside the traditional footprint of law enforcement has long been a hallmark of the Sheriff's Office. Featured on the cover of this year's Annual Report are Deputy Wilson and K9 Gracie. As part of the Sobriety and Treatment Assisted Recovery (STAR) program, they play a critical role in providing comprehensive treatment to alcohol and drug addicts incarcerated in the Winnebago County Jail. Based on impressive recovery and recidivism rates to date, the STAR program is garnering national attention. In 2025, we will build on the momentum of the STAR program by introducing the Habitual Offender Supervised Transformation (HOST) program. This restorative justice collaboration between the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office, and Circuit Courts focuses on the underlying needs of high frequency/low risk offenders. In taking a holistic approach, an individualized program is crafted to treat the root causes of habitual criminality. This initiative has tremendous potential, and I am excited to see the positive impact it has on participants as well as the community at large.

I hope that you find our 2024 Annual Report informative, and I welcome your feedback.

Best Regards,



John F. Matz, Sheriff

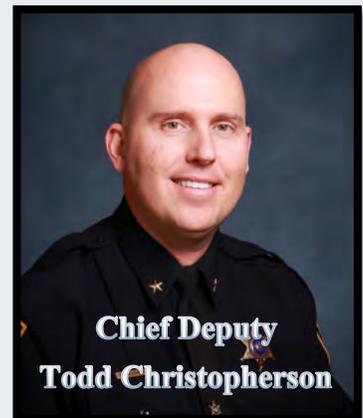


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Mission Statement

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing comprehensive public safety services in partnership with its citizens to promote a safe and secure community.

In order to achieve the Sheriff's Office mission, emphasis is placed on professionalism, teamwork, and individual growth. The Office strives to be a leader within the public safety community and values integrity, fairness, and compassion.

CORRECTIONS DIVISION

The Sheriff's Office Corrections Division is overseen by Captain David Mack, Lieutenant Amber Rozek, Lieutenant Ross Johnson, Lieutenant Mitchell Grube, and Lieutenant Melissa Rasmussen. It is comprised of the Jail, Work Release Unit, and Court Services Unit. The Jail is a 355-bed Direct Supervision facility that provides a safe and secure environment for incarcerated persons. The operational capacity of the facility is 320 inmates.



The Work Release Unit oversees both work release and electronic monitoring programs. The Court Services Unit is responsible for prisoner transportation, interstate extraditions, and video court appearances.

In 2024, we continued collaboration with Winnebago County Human Services, the Winnebago County District Attorney's Office, the Winnebago County Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Board, and Solutions Recovery to develop programming and individualized plans that begin in the jail and follow through with services post-release. The focus of such collaborative efforts is providing wrap-around services to give program participants the best chance for success. Seeing the growth and expansion of the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program, which includes much more than medication assisted treatment, the program was renamed the Sobriety and Treatment Assisted Recovery (STAR) Program.

In March of 2024 we opened male and female recovery pods. The specialized housing units are dedicated to the STAR Program and offer structured days focusing on recovery programming, building life skills, and release planning to assist inmates in continuing their journey in sobriety.

September of 2024 marked two years of the program and six months of operating the recovery pods. We recently partnered with the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh to have the program objectively evaluated. Dr. Matthew Ritchie, an Associate Professor in the Criminal Justice Department, and his students, have been compiling statistics to determine the program's effects on recidivism.

To aid in this effort the jail began administering the Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST10) at intake. The ten-question assessment is used to determine a risk score for substance use disorder for everyone that is admitted into the jail. Initial data demonstrated a positive change in recidivism for those in a recovery pod versus the general jail population.



- ◆ Average DAST10 risk score for general population was 2.9
- ◆ Average DAST10 risk score for recovery pod population was 8.1 (roughly 2.8 times that of the general population)
- ◆ Recidivism rate for those not in the STAR program was 17.3%
- ◆ Recidivism rate for STAR program participants was 9.5%

The difference between the groups may not look big, but when controlling for the disparity in average risk score, the recidivism rate for recovery pod participants without treatment would theoretically be 32.5% based on their risk score determined by the DAST10.

STAR PROGRAM STATISTICS

Recovery Pods (03/01/2024-12/31/2024)

Average daily population males	43.28
Average daily population females	10.11
Total number of inmates served in recovery pods	373
Groups provided by Solutions Recovery	397
Recovery Speakers	148

STAR Program (09/02/2022-12/01/2024)

Number of inmates served	1,139
Number of in-person contacts	3,717
Number of phone calls to peer support from jail	1,706
Number of follow-up contacts	1,626
Number of naltrexone (Vivitrol) shots given	117
Direct releases/transport	109



The Sheriff's Office, along with our partners, want to keep the momentum rolling into 2025. The following goals have been set for the **Sobriety and Treatment Assisted Recovery Program** for next year:

- ◆ To assist with setting up insurance, housing, employment, and exploring additional services available within the County, add a grant funded Re-Entry position.
- ◆ Secure the Bureau of Justice Assistance Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Grant to fund medication and recovery coach expenses.
- ◆ Continue to focus on wrap-around services and contacts post-release.

2024 Jail Population Statistics (Average)

MONTH	Sentenced Inmates	Non-Sentenced Inmates	Felony Probation Holds	Misdemeanor Probation Holds	Extended Probation Sanctions	Working Huber Inmates
JAN	47.13	88.06	36.87	10.32	25.23	0.87
FEB	48.21	94.07	37.34	8.83	25.34	0.24
MAR	49.10	88.32	38.48	6.97	25.39	0.45
APR	52.80	100.27	43.07	10.80	27.77	0.77
MAY	56.39	91.39	43.32	11.94	15.19	0.16
JUN	55.23	97.03	46.63	6.93	16.73	1.03
JUL	53.87	94.90	50.87	10.81	21.52	0.58
AUG	43.45	108.97	52.55	9.81	17.29	1.00
SEP	45.00	106.00	55.57	7.87	8.80	0.73
OCT	58.94	102.00	52.90	8.23	9.45	0.94
NOV	63.60	103.83	44.63	8.83	9.97	1.10
DEC	45.52	103.19	44.23	7.58	16.65	3.85
Monthly Average	51.60	98.17	45.54	9.08	18.28	0.98

Jail Population 5 Year Comparison

Year	Average Daily Population	Admissions	Male	Female	Average Length of Stay (Days)
2020	218.93	3,909	74.89%	25.11%	20.44
2021	245.34	3,037	77.31%	22.69%	16.42
2022	218.30	3,038	73.83%	26.17%	15.42
2023	221.84	3,146	73.52%	26.48%	15.41
2024	239.74	3,274	73.36%	26.64%	15.38



2024 Work Release Unit Program (Average)

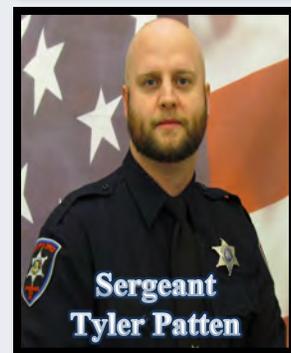
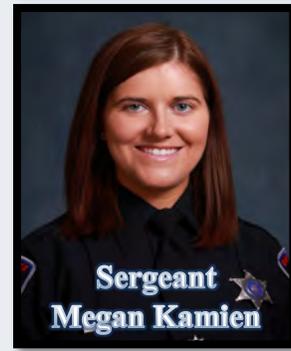
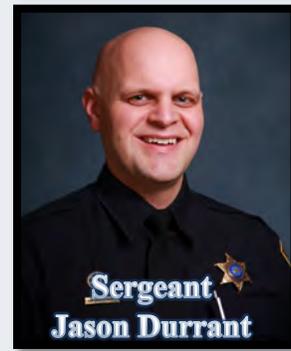
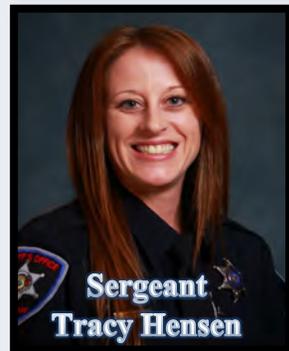
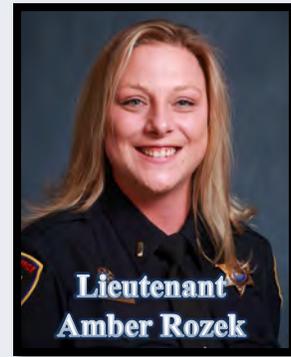
	Electronic Monitoring Inmates
JAN	30.61
FEB	31.10
MAR	37.00
APR	30.87
MAY	32.81
JUN	27.70
JUL	29.71
AUG	27.71
SEP	29.13
OCT	34.32
NOV	39.27
DEC	33.19
Monthly Average	31.95

2024 Prisoner Transportation

	ADULT	JUVENILE	TOTAL
PERSONS TRANSPORTED	2,548	51	2,599
MILES DRIVEN	114,730	5803	120,533

The Corrections Division is comprised of the following staff:

- 1 Captain
- 4 Lieutenants
- 11 Sergeants
- 3 Officers in Charge
- 5 Court Service Deputies
- 2 Electronic Monitoring Deputies
- 46 Corrections Deputies
- 11 Booking Security Associates
 - 1 Work Release and Records Unit Supervisor
 - 1 GPS Coordinator
 - 1 Classification Coordinator
 - 2 Account Clerks
 - 1 Warrant and Electronic Monitoring Associate
 - 1 Traffic and Warrant Associate
 - 1 Civil Process Associate



CORRECTIONS

DEPUTIES



Ryan Verviel



Patti DeDecker



Jason Freeman



Patrick Arent



**Rebekah
Rockteschel**



April Emmrich



Nicholas Manthey



**Christopher
Timm**



Stanley Blesch



Nathan Mathwig



**Brandon
Williams**



**Heather
Shanks-Monott**



Timothy Hayes



Tracy Swanson



Jamie Braasch



Adam Earle



**Alexander
McIntosh**



Phillip Sobiek



Kyle Norton



Jacob Weber



Taylor Ling



Ryan Kaul



Devin Wilson



Jason Steward



Ryan Ebert



Jacob Mohnen



Edward Camis



Berkley Lake



Jack Williams



Brynn Greil



Krystle Starks



Luke Mueller



Nick Schoen



**Mark
Wedemeyer**



Javier Zotti



**Jayden
Langenberg**



Jacob Carriveau



Matthew Goss



Brittany Neisen



Luke O'Keefe



Tehya Pyawasay



Logan Kummer



Charmaine Harris



Logan Berandt



Jackson Macy



Kyle Ahles



Alyssa Keller



Matteo Lentini



Alyxandria Poff



Skylar Effa



Katie Smith



Andrew Majewski



Keon Last

BOOKING SECURITY ASSOCIATES



**Douglas
Hornburg**



Sydney Stock



Sarah Robach



Nicole Nishida



**Kristine
Mendoza**

Booking Security Associates perform many critical job duties which are essential to Sheriff's Office operations. Associates control access to the secure area of the building and monitor all security devices for both the Jail and the Courthouse. Additionally, they provide clerical and recordkeeping services related to prisoner activities and assist with security screening at the Courthouse. They are often the face of the Corrections Division as they are the first point of contact when visitors arrive at the Jail.



Amy Earle



Aaron Vaughn



Moses Riehl



**Amy
Momberg-Webb**



Dana Berktold

FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

The Sheriff's Office Field Services Division is overseen by Captain Todd Christie and is comprised of three Units. The individual Units are supervised by Lieutenants who handle daily operational oversight. The Field Services Division is the most visible to the public and manages many of the Sheriff's Office Specialty Teams. The Division focuses on the protection of life and property, and it enforces the law in a fair and impartial manner consistent with the values of a free and open society. Deputies assigned to this Division are responsible for responding to both routine and emergency calls for service, traffic enforcement, follow-up investigations, and the gathering of crime intelligence.

Field Services Units and Supervisory Lieutenants:

- ◆ Patrol Unit—Lieutenant Darin Rice
- ◆ Investigations Unit
 - Investigative Branch—Lieutenant Christopher Braman
 - Special Victims Branch—Lieutenant Michael Sewall
- ◆ Court Services Unit—Lieutenant Scott Rollo



PATROL UNIT

The Sheriff's Office Patrol Unit provides law enforcement services for the entire county, with primary jurisdiction for rural and unincorporated areas. Deputies patrol the Interstate, US, State, and County Highways, as well as town roads throughout Winnebago County. They investigate criminal activity and motor vehicle crashes, while enforcing state laws and county ordinances. The men and women of the Patrol Unit engage in proactive policing and community interactions to enhance the safety and quality of life for all residents and visitors to Winnebago County. Deputies are encouraged to conduct proactive traffic enforcement, community policing initiatives, and collaborative problem solving. They are empowered to address emerging or persistent issues through alternative solutions when appropriate.

In 2025, the Sheriff's Office will provide contracted police services within the Town of Winneconne. The Town Board has requested dedicated police services for their community in response to the retirement of the Town of Winneconne Police Chief in 2024. Although the Sheriff's Office already has jurisdiction within the town, this agreement allows Deputies to enforce town ordinances when appropriate, and it creates an opportunity to work more closely with the local government to better address issues that are impacting the lives of residents. Based on the agreement, the Sheriff's Office will assign a Deputy to work exclusively within the Town of Winneconne for a specified number of hours each month.

PATROL UNIT STATISTICS



2024 CALLS FOR SERVICE

MONTH	DEPUTY INITIATED	REPORTED	TOTAL
JAN	3,054	1,026	4,080
FEB	2,977	917	3,894
MAR	3,342	918	4,260
APR	3,350	1,096	4,446
MAY	3,278	1,247	4,525
JUN	2,812	1,222	4,034
JUL	3,029	1,628	4,657
AUG	3,077	1,267	4,344
SEP	3,169	1,108	4,277
OCT	2,870	1,168	4,038
NOV	2,836	1,079	3,915
DEC	2,723	1,077	3,800
TOTAL	36,517	13,753	50,270

CALLS FOR SERVICE FIVE YEAR HISTORY

YEAR	DEPUTY INITIATED	REPORTED	YEARLY TOTAL
2020	31,528	15,309	46,837
2021	29,266	17,599	46,865
2022	28,069	16,567	44,636
2023	34,268	15,897	50,165
2024	36,517	13,753	50,270



2024 ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

MONTH	TRAFFIC CITATIONS	OWI ARRESTS	ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS	GRANT ENFORCEMENT CITATIONS	MONTHLY TOTAL
JAN	166	8	4	46	224
FEB	202	11	27	18	258
MAR	212	14	10	27	263
APR	177	10	18	27	232
MAY	207	10	9	96	322
JUN	225	18	12	97	350
JUL	234	17	12	115	378
AUG	285	7	11	95	398
SEP	222	17	14	125	375
OCT	196	19	10	47	271
NOV	212	19	22	37	290
DEC	141	6	14	20	181
TOTAL	2,479	156	163	750	3,548

ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS FIVE YEAR HISTORY

YEAR	CITATIONS	OWI
2020	3,459	215
2021	3,633	177
2022	3,374	216
2023	2,750	131
2024	2,479	156

CRASH STATISTICS FIVE YEAR HISTORY

YEAR	TOTAL CRASHES (INCLUDES INJURY)	FATAL CRASHES	YEARLY TOTAL
2020	1,390	8	1,398
2021	1,569	6	1,575
2022	1,702	6	1,708
2023	1,267	8	1,275
2024	1,341	9	1,350

2024 CRASH STATISTICS

MONTH	PROPERTY DAMAGE	INJURIES	FATALITIES	MONTHLY TOTAL
JAN	114	13	0	127
FEB	54	10	1	65
MAR	63	4	2	69
APR	100	11	1	112
MAY	85	13	1	99
JUN	99	18	2	118
JUL	105	24	0	129
AUG	79	14	0	93
SEP	67	11	0	78
OCT	130	17	1	148
NOV	121	10	0	131
DEC	159	20	0	179
TOTAL	1,176	165	9	1,350



INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

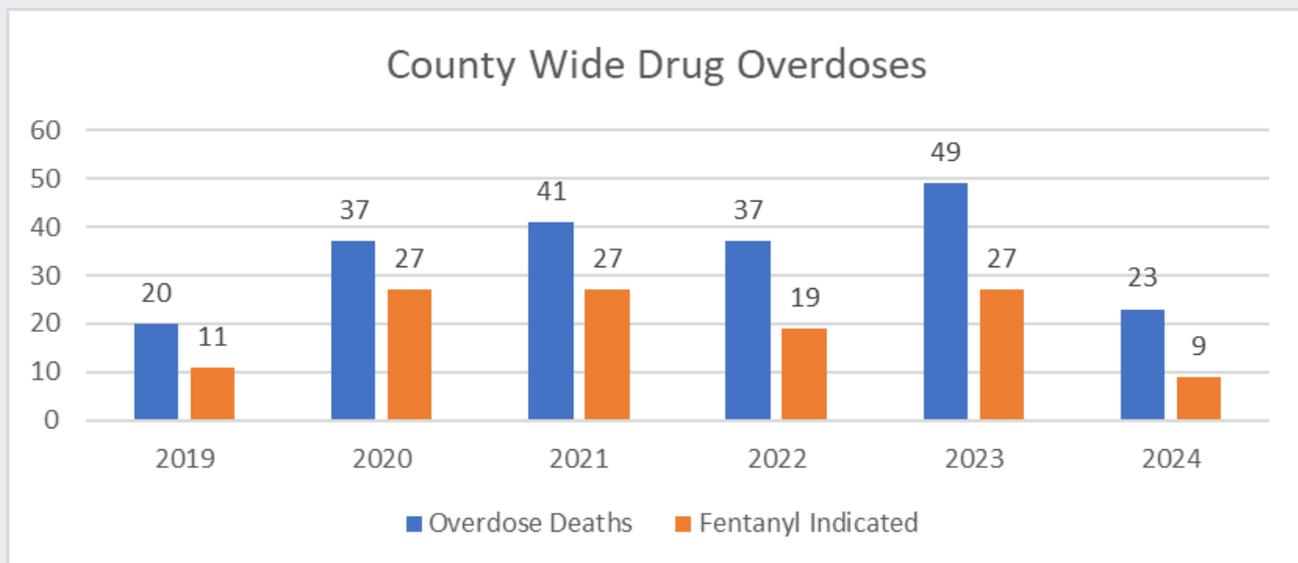
The Sheriff's Office Investigations Unit is primarily responsible for the follow-up investigation of crime and consists of the Investigative Branch and Special Victims Branch. Specialized and highly trained investigators within the Unit are responsible for investigating selected felonies and misdemeanors, missing and found persons, and other incidents that may be assigned to the Unit by policy or through specific instruction of Administration. Major investigations of the most serious violent offenses such as homicide, robbery, and sexual assault, as well as property crimes such as fraud and burglary are all conducted by the Unit. Additionally, this Unit oversees forensics which includes crime scene investigation, evidence collection, analysis, and storage; and serves as the liaison between the Sheriff's Office and State and Federal crime labs.

INVESTIGATIONS UNIT - INVESTIGATIVE BRANCH

The Investigative Branch handles drug and drug-related crimes, as well as crimes against property, arson, and violent crimes. They assist the Patrol Unit with major crash investigations and help with animal welfare inquiries. Currently, investigators assigned to the Investigative Branch average a caseload of 12 cases.

Drug cases, including drug overdose deaths or poisonings, continue to be a major cause for concern in Winnebago County. Over the past few years Winnebago County, along with much of the nation, has battled the methamphetamine and fentanyl epidemics. To help combat the uptick in overdose deaths, the Sheriff's Office has an investigator assigned to the Lake Winnebago Area Metropolitan Drug Unit. Through investigative efforts, collaboration, and innovative programs such as the Sheriff's Office STAR program, we hope to see a sustained decline in overdose deaths, continuing the trend we saw in 2024.

Winnebago County Overdose Death Totals



INVESTIGATIONS UNIT - SPECIAL VICTIMS BRANCH

The Special Victims Branch focuses their efforts on the investigation of fraud, internet crimes, human trafficking, and sexual exploitation. This Branch also provides education for the community as a proactive measure to help citizens protect themselves from such crimes.

Fraud continues to be a critical issue in Winnebago County as technology advances and the ease of access to potential victims increases. Cases involving Winnebago County victims with suspects located outside of Wisconsin have totaled approximately \$1.2 million, and that number continues to grow each day. With cases often expanding beyond Winnebago County, investigators continue to collaborate with outside agencies to build multi-jurisdictional cases on potential fraud organizations.

As an Agency, we hope to continue to combat the fraud epidemic through proactive measures starting with education for the community. The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office will continue hosting Fraud Schools for community members to teach them how to protect themselves from the seemingly never-ending attempts to defraud them out of their money.

TIP: If you ever receive a text message from someone you do not know, do not trust them with financial or investment advice. Furthermore, be diligent and do your own research before putting any money into a cryptocurrency exchange. Oftentimes, a simple Google search will show that there is a scam involving that exchange or website. If you have any suspicions of a scam, contact local law enforcement.

Since the inception of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) program in 2015, the Agency has arrested over 100 individuals related to the trafficking of children through child enticement. These individuals are not only Winnebago County residents, but predators from other states who have made the decision to travel to our county to harm a child. The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office has strong relationships with Federal and State partners in the ICAC Task Force, which allows for a more robust response to this ongoing threat to the community.

- ◆ November of 2024 a Winnebago County resident was arrested on federal Distribution of Child Pornography charges and faces a mandatory federal sentence of 5 years of incarceration.
- ◆ November of 2024 a Winnebago County resident was arrested on federal Manufacturing of Child Pornography charges in conjunction with an FBI investigation.

Sextortion, defined as the extortion of money or sexual favors from someone by threatening them with revealing evidence of their sexual activity, is another trend in digital crime. Agencies throughout the country, to include the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, have seen a dramatic uptick in sextortion-related cases involving juvenile victims. 2024 showed another surge in sextortion cases impacting both adults and juveniles in Winnebago County. These cases often resolve in foreign countries or other states. The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office's strong relationship with federal partners has allowed investigators to collaborate with federal authorities and work these complex cases in tandem to increase efficiency and efficacy of investigations.

Investigations Unit Significant Cases

The following are a few of the major cases the Investigations Unit worked on throughout 2024. These types of cases often take weeks, or even months, of follow-up while investigators wait for forensic processing of biological and digital evidence. Furthermore, court proceedings can take up to several years to occur.

In June, members of the Investigations Unit responded to assist the Patrol Unit with a double fatality traffic crash. The crash involved a motor vehicle versus an ATV. Investigators completed digital scans of the scene. These scans created a three-dimensional composite of the scene that allowed the extraction of distance and measurement data necessary for reconstruction of the crash. Investigators utilized drones to collect overall imaging of the scene capturing environmental factors that played a role in the crash. Investigators also completed follow-up interviews and documentation to determine the sequence of events that occurred.

In July, the Sheriff's Office assisted the Omro Police Department with an attempted homicide investigation. The case involved a premeditated, attempted vehicle theft and fraudulent check scheme. The suspects drove a stolen U-Haul to an online marketplace meet up for a vehicle sale. When the vehicle owner would not accept a fraudulent cashier's check, one of the suspects pulled out a firearm and shot the victim. He then repeatedly struck the victim in the head with the firearm. The suspects fled in the U-Haul and led multiple agencies in a pursuit that spanned several counties. The suspects were apprehended after law enforcement used specialized techniques to disable the vehicle. The Investigations Unit was involved in multiple facets of the investigation in different locations. Some members of the Unit processed the original scene and collected evidence. An investigator responded to the location where the suspects were taken into custody to assist with evidence identification and transfer of evidence. Another investigator responded to the hospital to interview the victim and gather evidence connected to the shooting. Finally, when the suspects arrived at the Sheriff's Office, investigators were waiting to interview them and preserve biological evidence from them. The investigation took several weeks to tie everything together and connect the suspects to additional crimes. This was an excellent example of the many aspects of a major investigation. Currently, the defendants are awaiting trial.

Also in July, the Investigations Unit culminated years of work by closing a homicide case from 1963. The murder of Wayne Pratt at the Enco Gas Station in the Town of Oshkosh had remained a mystery for over six decades. Wayne had been found stabbed to death in the backroom of the station. Over the years, many suspects had been developed but no charges had ever been filed. The case was re-opened in 2010 and Wayne's body had been exhumed in 2015. Suspects were re-interviewed and DNA standards were obtained. Recent new technology in DNA examination allowed investigators a new avenue to move the case forward. DNA associated to the crime scene coupled with witness statements and a review by the Winnebago County District Attorney's Office indicated that charges of First-Degree Intentional Homicide would have been filed in the case. The suspect, however, had passed away in 2022.

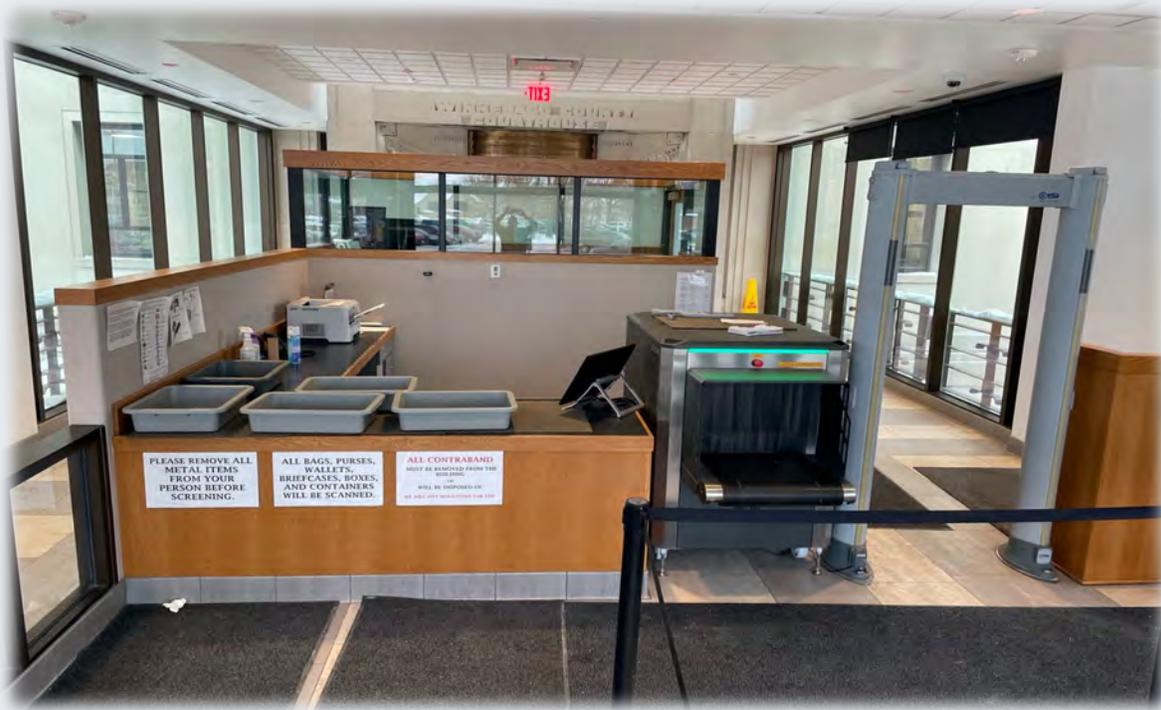
Updates to homicides that occurred in 2023:

- ◆ In August, Joseph Olvera was sentenced to 30 years in prison and 20 years of extended supervision for First-Degree Reckless Homicide and First-Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety.
- ◆ The Defendant in the double homicide in the Town of Wolf River is still awaiting trial.

COURTHOUSE UNIT

The Sheriff's Office Courthouse Unit is responsible for providing a safe courthouse environment for judges, attorneys, court personnel, and the public. The purpose of Court Security is to ensure that order and control are maintained in the court system. Specifically, Court Security staff maintain order and decorum in courtrooms and court premises. They patrol courthouse facilities, effect arrests, and confiscate contraband. They ensure safe prisoner movement within the courthouse, guard and isolate sequestered juries, and assume responsibility for emergencies within the courthouse. The Unit's ultimate goals are to:

- ◆ Deter security problems from occurring
- ◆ Detect security problems when they do occur
- ◆ Take appropriate action whenever security problems are encountered



DAILY SECURITY SCREENINGS

YEAR	YEARLY TOTAL	DAILY AVERAGE
2022	121,212	472
2023	107,418	462
2024	111,725	437
Yearly AVG	113,452	457

DAILY ACTIVITIES

YEAR	SECURITY REQUESTS	ARRESTS
2022	68	167
2023	190	214
2024	1053	291
Yearly AVG	437	224

The Field Services Division is comprised of the following staff:

- 1 Captain
- 12 Lieutenants
- 9 Detective Sergeants
- 39 Deputies
- 1 Evidence Coordinator



**Captain
Todd Christie**



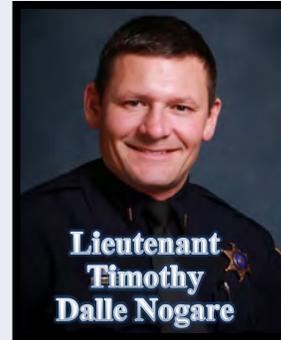
**Lieutenant
Christopher
Braman**



**Lieutenant
Craig Quick**



**Lieutenant
Darin Rice**



**Lieutenant
Timothy
Dalle Nogare**



**Lieutenant
Scott Rollo**



**Lieutenant
Jeffrey Meyer**



**Lieutenant
Tyler Sleeter**



**Lieutenant
Dean Pankratz**



**Lieutenant
Christopher Last**



**Lieutenant
Michael Sewall**



**Lieutenant
Kyle Schoonover**



**Lieutenant
Nicholas Beaman**



DETECTIVE SERGEANTS



Brian Hammen



Jack Theyerl



Craig Bohn



Kyle Schroeder



James Megna



Ryan Hathaway



Marcus Schuh



Chase Willis



PATROL DEPUTIES



Jason Rippl



Matthew Weisse



Teri Petri



Bradley Vinje



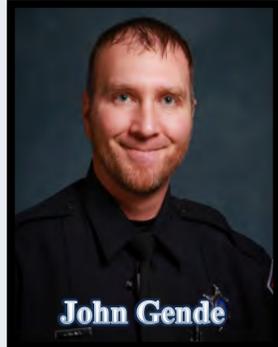
Holly Tuttle



Codey Graham



Robert Zill



John Gende



Kyle Belonger



Jonathan Kressin



Ryan Miller



Kyle Beck



Andrew Bauer



Chue Vue



Charles Hebert



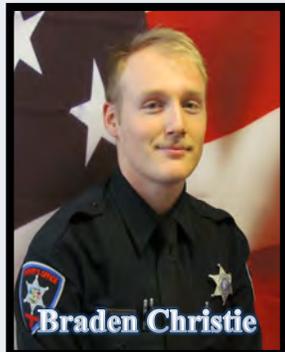
Hunter Veness



Tyler Wuest



Brent Exner

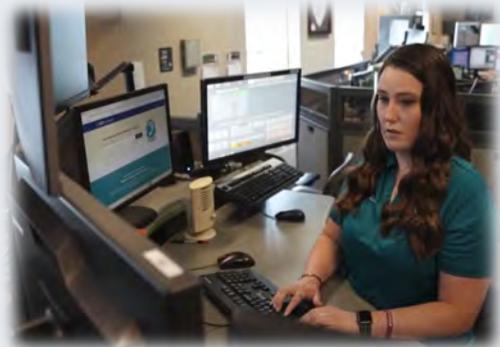


COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

The Sheriff's Office Communications Division is overseen by Captain Lara Vendola-Messer and Lieutenant Jesse Jensen. The Division is responsible for operating the county-wide 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), and overseeing the Sheriff's Office IT and budget functions. They also maintain county-wide communications, computer aided dispatch (CAD), and law enforcement records management (LRMS) infrastructure.

The Sheriff's Office operates the only 911 PSAP, or Communications Center, in Winnebago County. In addition, Dispatchers in the PSAP answer all after hours, non-emergency phone calls for the municipal police departments within the County.

The Winnebago County PSAP handles emergency (911) and non-emergency calls, radio communications, and dispatching of resources and services for law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical service providers to include: 7 law enforcement agencies, 15 fire departments, 13 first responder groups, and 4 ambulance services. The Dispatchers are responsible for continuously monitoring 6 primary radio talk groups assigned to law enforcement and fire departments within the County 24 hours per day.



Within the PSAP, all public safety incidents, related radio traffic, and phone calls are coordinated by extensively trained Dispatchers, with at least five Dispatchers working at a time. In order to maintain professional Public Safety Dispatchers, the Agency requires each new Dispatcher to successfully complete a minimum of 1,072 hours of on-the-job training, 8 hours of CPR, 32 hours of Transaction Information Management of Enforcement (TIME) system certification, and 24 hours of Emergency Medical Dispatch. Dispatchers are required to complete a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education every two years.

PSAP ANNUAL STATISTICS

	2024	2023	2020	2021	2020	2019	2018
911 Landline	2,247	2,749	3,494	7,917	7,536	7,646	8,161
911 Wireless	43,387	49,949	42,668	42,757	35,741	37,535	32,897
VOIP	4,828	4,776	4,915	X	X	X	X
911 Text	617	133	82	35	X	X	X
Total Incoming 911	51,079	57,607	51,159	50,709	43,277	45,181	41,058
Non-Emergency Calls	78,504	80,611	82,285	85,065	85,967	89,663	88,643
Outbound Calls	26,318	37,496	35,117	40,111	36,060	39,482	37,752
Total Phone Calls Handled	155,901	175,581	168,479	175,885	165,304	174,326	167,453
CAD Calls for Service	189,607	194,840	179,013	180,327	164,877	174,768	170,685

In 2024, the Winnebago County PSAP dispatched 189,607 calls for service to police, fire, and emergency medical services, while averaging 519 calls for service per day, or 173 calls for service per eight-hour shift.

In 2024, the Winnebago County PSAP handled 155,901 incoming and outgoing telephone calls, while averaging 427 phone calls per day, or 142 phone calls per eight-hour shift.

The 911 call handling software can quickly capture the time it takes for a dispatcher to answer a 911 call, from the time it rings in the PSAP. The generally accepted industry standard for 911 call answering times is that 90% of all 911 calls should be answered within 15 seconds, and 95% should be answered within 20 seconds. We are extremely proud to report that the 50,462 (911) calls answered in 2024 by the PSAP were answered as follows:

- ◆ 97.36% of 911 calls answered within 10 seconds
- ◆ 99.65% of 911 calls answered within 15 seconds
- ◆ 99.87% of 911 calls answered within 20 seconds
- ◆ 99.99% of 911 calls answered within 40 seconds



Multifactor Authentication

Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS), which is a division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), is a compliance standard that regulates data security and privacy in local, state, and federal law enforcement. CJIS collects and analyzes criminal justice information (CJI) from law enforcement centers around the country and provides a centralized database to store and access CJI. It also provides regulations directing the safe transmission, storage, and security of CJI. In order to use CJIS databases, law enforcement organizations must comply with several security regulations to ensure the proper handling of this sensitive data.

The FBI CJIS Security Policy underwent a significant overhaul that was published in late 2023. One of the requirements that became sanctionable effective October 1, 2024, was that any person or device that could access CJI data must utilize multifactor authentication (MFA). The Sheriff's Office IT staff worked tirelessly to equip all employees with either a physical token key or an authentication application on county issued cell phones to be compliant with this standard.

Because all police and several fire agencies in Winnebago County have the ability to access CJI data through our Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Law Enforcement Records Management Systems (LRMS), they too have been required to employ MFA. As we move forward, the Sheriff's Office IT staff will work to ensure all requisite public safety entities in Winnebago County remain in compliance.

988 Suicide & Crisis Hotline

The launch of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) in July of 2022 was a historic moment in the story of mental health and substance use care services in our nation. Now anyone, anywhere in the U.S. can call or text an easy-to-remember three-digit number and be connected to a trained crisis counselor who will help them navigate challenging moments and situations.

While dialing 988 is becoming more and more popular, persons in crisis still regularly call 911 instead. Historically, in such cases our Dispatchers had very limited options for these types of calls, and response involved sending police, EMS, or both. Knowing that this often has not been the best use of police and EMS resources, we began working with our partners in public safety to devise a new response. We consulted with the Wisconsin Department of Human Services, Winnebago County Department of Human Services, Winnebago County Corporation Council, the Oshkosh Fire Department EMS Medical Director, and our internal IT staff when formulating a new plan. Additionally, all of the police chiefs in Winnebago County supported exploring a modification to this process.

Using our existing Emergency Medical Dispatching (EMD) software, we engaged with the vendor to be one of the first agencies in the country to utilize the new Protocol 41, which allows for a more structured and scripted response for those callers in crisis. Our Dispatchers underwent training prior to using the new Protocol 41 and have been live with the program since early September. Ultimately, the goal is to transfer many calls to 988 with a warm hand-off, diverting the need for local resources. While new, the protocols are continually being scrutinized and evaluated, with periodic shifts in the programming to allow for more transfers.

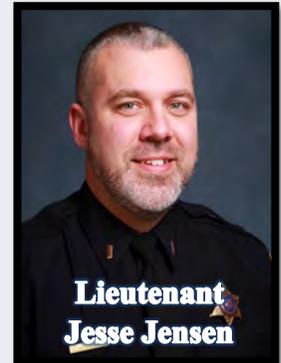


The Future of Next Generation 911 (NG911)

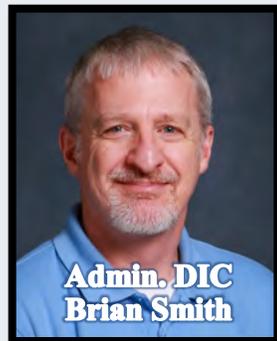
A noteworthy trend highlighted in the statistics provided is the continual decline in 911 calls received from traditional copper landlines. In 2024, only 4.45% of all 911 calls originated from traditional landlines. Looking back comparatively, in 2013 24% of all 911 calls originated from traditional landlines. While antiquated technology, the records for landlines are maintained in databases and are attached directly (via a hard copper wire) to physical properties. In simplest terms, it is very easy to look at a map and determine which properties belong to which 911 Comm Center, and landlines can be appropriately routed. This is not the case for wireless and voice over internet protocol (VOIP) lines, which are nearly 100% of the calls we receive. As fewer and fewer landlines exist, and reliance on GPS locations of devices continues to increase, this becomes crucial to understanding why nationwide improvements to the 911 system are ongoing today. In furtherance of this goal for Winnebago County, the PSAP staff and Sheriff's Office IT have been working closely with the Winnebago County Geographic Information System (GIS) Department and surrounding counties to ensure data standards within the Winnebago County Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system will be ready for the future of NG911, while moving towards connecting to the Wisconsin Emergency Services IP Network (ESInet).

The Communications Division is comprised of the following staff:

- 1 Captain
- 1 Lieutenant
- 1 Administrative Dispatcher in Charge
- 6 Dispatchers in Charge
- 24 Dispatchers
- 2 Public Safety Applications Administrators
- 1 Accountant



DISPATCHERS





Allison Brown



DIC
Michelle TeStroete



Chandra Rhyner



Corey Hintz



Alexander Servais



Amy Dalberg



Luke Baehman



**Isabella
Tremonti-Scopp**



Grace Phillip



Kylie Kingery



Dakota Ebert



Katilee Rhino



Benjamin Graf



Alexandra Foukas



**Morgan
Weidenbach**



Talitha Jones



Brianna Hahn

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

The Sheriff's Office Support Services Division is overseen by Captain Greg Cianciolo and is comprised of the Training Unit, Records Unit, and the Reserve Officer Unit. The Training and Reserve Units are overseen by Lieutenant Tim Eichman, and the Records Unit is overseen by Records Administrative Supervisor Kim Delcore.

The Support Services Division is employee-centric, and in 2024 continued to focus on recruitment, hiring, and employee wellness. To address the need to hire more employees, the Support Services Division has spent a considerable amount of time proactively seeking out candidates. With specific personnel dedicated to hiring, applications are screened more often, selection processes are held more frequently, and candidates are hired more quickly.



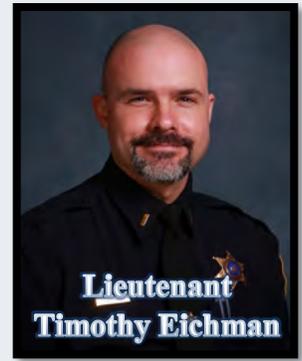
The Paid Internship Program continues to be an effective recruiting tool through partnerships with local colleges and universities. Since its inception in 2023, the program has hosted 17 student interns from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Marian University, and Fox Valley Technical College. To date, 14 interns completed the program and chose to accept full-time employment with the Sheriff's Office upon completion of their internships (13 Corrections Deputies, and 1 Dispatcher).

Understanding the correlation between employee wellness and effective service to the community, the Support Services Division offers a comprehensive Wellness Program for Sheriff's Office employees. The pillars of the Program include Mental Health, Physical Wellbeing, and Resilience. Making sure our employees have the information and resources needed to navigate potential wellness challenges is a priority. Some of the wellness resources offered to employees include access to a dedicated mental health professional, peer support, physical fitness and nutrition instructors, and financial wellness information.

Education and training are important pieces of the Sheriff's Office Wellness Program. In 2024, orientation regarding available wellness resources was implemented for all new Sheriff's Office employees. Corrections staff received wellness training during their annual in-service. Many of our law enforcement certified Deputies attended training titled Unleashing Resilience: Exploring Physical Coping Strategies for Trauma Recovery; and Enhancing Officer Safety with Proactive Measures. We were able to send eight employees to Basic Peer Support training, and an additional three employees attended Assisting Individuals in Crisis and Group Crisis Intervention.

The Support Services Division is comprised of the following staff:

- 1 Captain
- 1 Lieutenant
- 1 Records Administrative Supervisor
- 1 Records & Transcription Associate
- 30 Reserve Officers



Dedicated Mental Health Professional

In support of the Sheriff's Office Wellness Program, the Agency contracts the services of Donna Schmitz, MA, LPC. Donna is the Agency's dedicated mental health professional and works at the Sheriff's Office eight hours per week. She is available to members of the Agency during weekly office hours, and on an as needed basis, in support of staff mental health and wellness. Donna provides coaching to improve resiliency and overall increases the capacity of the Sheriff's Office Employee Assistance Program (EAP). She also contributes to the monthly employee newsletter by authoring articles related to mental health and wellbeing, to provide staff relevant information to help them be at their best.

Each member of the Sheriff's Office meets with Donna annually for a wellness visit. The annual meetings provide staff with an opportunity to discuss their current wellness and receive education and resources to help them thrive. The meetings also provide an opportunity for relationship building so that staff members may feel more comfortable seeking wellness-related services when additional resources are needed.



TRAINING UNIT

The Sheriff's Office Training Unit is overseen by Training and Operations Lieutenant Tim Eichman. To ensure staff receive pertinent, timely, and consistent training, the Sheriff's Office has a number of Wisconsin Department of Justice Training and Standards Certified instructors spread throughout the Agency's multiple divisions. These instructors have expertise in a wide array of topics and provide State mandated and specialized training for staff.

Each year, Deputies undergo mandatory in-service training, which includes Defense and Arrest Tactics (DAAT), Principles of Subject Control (POSC), firearms, and Tactical Response. In the Spring of 2024 all law enforcement certified Deputies attended four hours of Emergency Vehicle Operation and Control (EVOC) training as mandated by the State of Wisconsin bi-annually.

Additionally, all Deputies assigned to the Corrections Division attend 12 hours of annual in-service training to ensure they are following current State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections rules, regulations, and best practices.



During the 2023-2024 State fiscal year, 136 full-time Deputies averaged 150.8 hours of training, exceeding the State of Wisconsin's recertification minimum of 24 hours. In 2024 the Sheriff's Office was able to send Deputies to several notable trainings which included:

- ◆ The Wisconsin Department of Justice Command College
- ◆ The Wisconsin Department of Justice First Line Leadership Course
- ◆ The State of Wisconsin Department of Criminal Investigation's Death Investigation School
- ◆ Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety Accident Reconstruction 1 & 2
- ◆ New K-9 Certification
- ◆ Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Certification
- ◆ The Wisconsin Statewide Peer Support Conference

USE OF FORCE

In 2024, the Sheriff's Office continued to submit monthly use of force data to the State of Wisconsin. This data is collected via the State's Use of Force and Arrest-Related Death Reporting system. This program is the State's conduit to the FBI's National Use of Force Data Collection program. Law enforcement agencies submit monthly use of force data through the Wisconsin Traffic and Criminal Software (TraCS) program. The Sheriff's Office has been in compliance with this reporting system since its inception in 2020 and has provided data to the State for each month this program has been operational.

The Sheriff's Office regularly conducts scenario-based training with role players which focuses on using interpersonal communication and de-escalation tactics to gain voluntary compliance when interacting with people. The statistics listed below confirm that the training we provide works as use of force by our Deputies is not common.

Internally, the Sheriff's Office conducts a use of force review for every incident where force was used. Use of force requires the Deputy to complete a separate reporting form. Use of force is preliminarily reviewed by a supervisor. Next, the Training Lieutenant, with oversight from the Chief Deputy, conducts an in-depth analysis of the incident. This analysis ensures that a Deputy's actions were consistent with Winnebago County Sheriff's Office General Orders, applicable federal, state, and local laws, and the State of Wisconsin Defensive and Arrest Tactics (DAAT) System, or the State of Wisconsin Principles of Subject Control (POSC) System.

2024 USE OF FORCE DATA:

Field Services Division of the Sheriff's Office

- ◆ 48,843 incidents according to Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) records
- ◆ 34 incidents, or 0.07% resulted in the use of force

Corrections Division of the Sheriff's Office

- ◆ 905 formal incidents, which required a police report, according to CAD records
- ◆ 15 incidents, or 1.7% resulted in the use of force



SUPPORT STAFF

Sheriff's Office Support Staff are the backbone of the Agency. These crucial employees work in an environment of controlled chaos while perpetually multitasking. Their duties include troubleshooting technical issues, maintaining computer networks, performing financial transactions, organizing paperwork, classifying inmates, verifying warrants, typing and reviewing deputy reports, handling cash, filling open records requests, overseeing and setting up civil process, verifying traffic citations, coordinating the Agency's budget, onboarding and offboarding employees, and managing evidence and the property room, among many other tasks. They all possess strong communication skills in order to assist and communicate with citizens, inmates, various departments, and other staff members. Each of them displays a high level of skill, knowledge, and professionalism. We could not do it without this incredible group of dedicated professionals!



Sandra Schmidt
Corrections
Financial
Associate



Diane Groff
Traffic & Warrant
Associate



Rebecca Borowitz
Warrant & Electronic
Monitoring Associate



Jodi Noffke
GPS
Coordinator



Lynn Coe
Records
Transcription



Jennifer Weber
Inmate
Classification



Alicia Meyer
Work Release &
Records Unit
Supervisor



Megan Gray
Financial
Associate I



Kimberly Delcore
**Records
Administrative
Supervisor**



Dustin Heideman
**Public Safety
Applications
Administrator**



Heather Verwiel
**Civil Process
Associate**



Qiauna Ross
Accountant



Nathan Struensee
**Public Safety
Application
Administrator**



Renee Zemlock
**Evidence &
Records
Administrator**



Support

K9 UNIT

Community support for the Sheriff's Office K9 Program was stronger than ever in 2024. Such support is essential to the program and is directly reflected in the success we see. Partnerships with members of the community have allowed us to deploy five K9 Teams across several specialized areas. The K9 Teams look forward to serving the citizens of Winnebago County with continued community support in 2025.



K9 IMANI



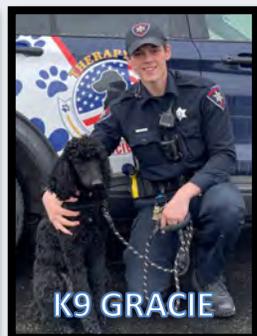
K9 HAIMO



K9 ATHOS



K9 SKYLAR



K9 GRACIE

In 2024, the Sheriff's Office welcomed a new K9 Team to the Agency, Patrol K9 Imani and handler Deputy Alec Fenrich. K9 Imani is a one-and-a-half year old female German Shepherd. They attended new K9 training in New Mexico where they learned tracking, drug detection, and handler protection. They got right to work with 47 deployments in their first 6 months.

In 2024, Patrol K9 Haimo and handler Deputy Jesse Simmons logged 41 deployments. A highlight of their year was K9 Haimo being used to apprehend an armed burglary suspect. The suspect had been involved in a standoff with police and other less-lethal options had been ineffective. The K9 Team also assisted the U.S. Marshall Service with the search for a homicide suspect.

In 2024, Patrol K9 Athos and handler Deputy Charlie Hebert logged 30 deployments. The deployments consisted of 18 assist agency calls, 2 tracks, and multiple apprehensions without bites. A highlight of their year was a sustained track of multiple suspects that had fled on foot after a vehicle pursuit with another Agency. Athos and Deputy Hebert were able to locate the first suspect and continued to track, locating a second suspect.

In 2024, Explosives Detection K9 Skylar and handler Deputy Robert Zill logged 68 deployments. They performed protective sweeps for events to include Wisconsin Herd games, EAA Air Venture, and University of Wisconsin Oshkosh events. They were also used at a Green Bay Packers game and for VIP visits to the area. K9 Skylar received recognition for locating a shell casing at a crime scene that other searchers were unable to locate.

Facility K9 Gracie and handler Deputy Devin Wilson have become a valuable part of the Sheriff's Office. They worked with STAR program participants to provide comfort and distraction to those battling addiction, and oftentimes worked throughout the building to provide stress relief to staff. In 2024, they earned titles for AKC Good Citizen, Urban Good Citizen, and Community K9.

SPECIAL TEAMS

SWAT TEAM

The Sheriff's Office Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team is overseen by Team Commander Lieutenant Tyler Sleeter, Team Leaders Lieutenant Dean Pankratz and Lieutenant Christopher Last, and Assistant Team Leaders Lieutenant Kyle Schoonover and Deputy Robert Zill. The Team is Multi-Jurisdictional, having 19 members from agencies throughout Winnebago County. The team is currently comprised of members from the Sheriff's Office, Fox Crossing Police Department, City of Menasha Police Department, the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Police Department, and the Wisconsin State Patrol.

SWAT Team members are on-call and required to respond to critical incidents at a moment's notice. Their SWAT responsibilities and training are in addition to their regular job duties. Team members train a minimum of 16 hours per month to maintain a high level of proficiency in the skills needed to resolve high-risk incidents.



Winnebago County is designated by the State of Wisconsin as a Tier 2 SWAT Team and serves as one of nine Regional teams in the state under the Aligned Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT) system. The designation places specific requirements on team members for training, fitness, and operational capabilities. As a regional team, Winnebago County receives funding for equipment and training through the Department of Homeland Security. Team members have received Master Instructor certifications for various tactical disciplines and are required to provide regional training to other SWAT Teams. Additionally, they are often called upon to give advice and guidance on other law enforcement operations.

In 2024, the Sheriff's Office SWAT Team was activated six times. Those activations consisted of barricaded suspects, high-risk search warrants, and rapid response/dignitary protection details. Our SWAT Team was specifically requested to assist the Milwaukee Police Department with the 2024 Republican National Convention, where they were deployed for six days while assisting the City of Milwaukee as a Tactical Response Team. They also assisted the U.S. Secret Service in October by providing Tactical Response Teams when Vice President Kamala Harris visited the area.



SWAT Team Mission Capable / Critical Incident Call Types:

- ◆ Hostage Rescue
- ◆ Armored Rescue Vehicle Operations
- ◆ Armed Barricaded Subjects
- ◆ Tactical Tracking and Woodland Terrain Operations
- ◆ Execution of High-Risk Warrants and Apprehensions
- ◆ High Risk Security Operations
- ◆ Counter Sniper / VIP Protection Details
- ◆ Situations with high likelihood of armed resistance

CRISIS NEGOTIATOR TEAM

The Sheriff's Office Crisis Negotiator Team is overseen by Lieutenant Mitchell Grube and Lieutenant Ross Johnson. It is a multi-jurisdictional Unit comprised of members of the Sheriff's Office and the Menasha Police Department. The Unit consists of 12 team members who are on-call and required to respond to critical incidents at a moment's notice. Each member of the team attends a 40-hour Basic Crisis Negotiation Course taught by the FBI or the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA). This training teaches team members the art of active listening, communication, and managing people in a crisis. The primary focus is ending an incident peacefully. All team members also complete Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and attend various interview and interrogation courses.



The Crisis Negotiator Team trains a minimum of 40 hours each year. Annual training focuses on equipment use, negotiation fundamentals, and scenario-based role-playing. Members also train with the SWAT Team at least three times each year. These joint trainings are crucial in testing the overall capacity of both teams. In 2024, the Sheriff's Office Crisis Negotiator Team responded to one incident involving a barricaded suspect.

MOBILE FIELD FORCE



The Sheriff's Office Mobile Field Force (MFF) is overseen by Lieutenant Jeff Meyer. All law enforcement certified members of the Agency are trained in MFF to ensure efficient and effective response to civil disturbance events.

Deputies are trained in the curriculum and standards created by the Federal Emergency Management Administration's (FEMA) Center for Domestic Preparedness. Learning objectives include legal considerations for responding to civil unrest, current protester tactics, and mass arrest procedures. The training focuses on utilizing group tactics, special protective equipment, and formations to control large gatherings of people, with the goal to protect lives and property during an unlawful assembly. The Sheriff's Office remains committed to responding professionally to such incidents and is well-prepared to fulfill this statutory requirement. In 2024, the Sheriff's Office Mobile Field Force did not respond to any incidents of civil unrest.

DIVE RESCUE/ RECOVERY TEAM



The Sheriff's Office Dive Team is overseen by Lieutenant Dean Pankratz and Sergeant Jason Durrant. Team members are on-call and required to respond to critical incidents at a moment's notice. They respond to requests for service within Winnebago County and surrounding jurisdictions through mutual-aid. The Dive Team focuses on victim rescue and recovery and underwater evidence collection. The Dive Team works in conjunction with other emergency services to protect life and resolve waterborne incidents.

The 10 member team is comprised of sworn personnel of the Sheriff's Office from multiple Divisions of the Agency. Members complete a minimum of 88 hours of training annually to maintain dive proficiencies. In 2024, the Dive Team responded to one incident to recover a vehicle that had gone through the ice on Little Lake Butte Des Morts.

MARINE UNIT

The Sheriff's Office Marine Unit is overseen by Lieutenant Tim Eichman and is comprised of three boats and three airboats. The Marine Unit is tasked with patrol, enforcement, and emergency response on 140 square miles of navigable waterways.



Waterways within Winnebago County consist of Lake Winnebago, Lake Butte des Morts, Lake Poygan, Lake Winneconne, Little Lake Butte des Morts, and the Fox and Wolf Rivers. During the navigational season, each boat is staffed with two Deputies for patrol and enforcement, generally on weekends and holidays, from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources continues to reimburse the Sheriff's Office for time spent on enforcement and accident investigation.

For the fastest emergency response to rescue calls, the Sheriff's Office shares access to one of its boats with Neenah Menasha Fire Rescue, and the airboats with Neenah Menasha Fire Rescue, the Oshkosh Fire Department, and the Winneconne Fire Department. The Sheriff's Office Dive Team also utilizes the boats and airboats for rescue and recovery operations.



In 2024, the Sheriff's Office received a U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grant. The grant allowed us to replace all three airboats utilized for cold water and ice rescues. The upgraded airboats replace aging and non-functioning equipment to ensure effective response to emergent incidents on area waterways. The first of the new airboats arrived in December and the other two airboats are expected to arrive in early 2025.

ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION TEAM

The Sheriff's Office Accident Reconstruction Team is overseen by Lieutenant Craig Quick. The multi-jurisdictional team is comprised of members of the Sheriff's Office, the Menasha Police Department, and the District Attorney's Office. The Team responds to serious motor vehicle crashes and major crime scenes when forensic mapping is deemed beneficial to the investigation. Team members use laser scanners and global navigation satellite systems for forensic mapping purposes. They use computer hardware to extract crash data from vehicle systems and computer software to generate diagrams and drawings of the scenes.



The team works closely with the Winnebago County District Attorney's Office and the Sheriff's Office Investigations Unit to investigate each incident. Team members have advanced training that assists in developing a sequence of events to aid the District Attorney's Office with case evaluation. The completed investigations are used to help determine if criminal charges are warranted.



In addition to responding to incidents where the Sheriff's Office has primary jurisdiction, the team assists municipal police agencies within the county when requested. In 2024, the Winnebago County Crash Investigation Team responded to four full team call-outs and several additional incidents in which on-duty team members assisted with investigations.

CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

The Sheriff's Office Chaplain Program is comprised of 15 volunteers who are ordained or licensed ministers of local congregations, or individuals who have achieved basic certification from the American Police Chaplains Association. Members of the program provide 24/7 coverage through an on-call rotation. When requested, the Chaplains are able to provide spiritual guidance, pastoral counseling, ministry, and comfort to those experiencing crisis or loss. They can also provide resources for individuals that have been displaced or have no money.

In 2024, Chaplain Program activations included assisting Sheriff's Office and Winnebago County Medical Examiner personnel with death notifications, providing spiritual aid and comfort to individuals whose loved ones passed.



HONOR GUARD

The Sheriff's Office Honor Guard is overseen by Detective Sergeant Marcus Schuh and Deputy John Gende. The Team is comprised of 11 Deputies who are dedicated to representing the Agency at police memorial services, funeral services, annual parades, processions, and posting of colors. Each May, members of the Honor Guard attend the Law Enforcement Memorial service in Madison during Police Week to honor fallen officers.



DRONE TEAM

The Sheriff's Office Drone Team is overseen by Lieutenant Jeff Meyer and Sergeant John Penza. The team is comprised of 11 Deputies and civilian staff members who are Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certified Part 107 pilots for small unmanned aircraft systems. Team members are on-call and ready to respond at a moment's notice. They work together to safely deploy the unmanned aircraft systems in accordance with FAA regulations. The team utilizes software to manage all drone flights, pilot hours, and team training to comply with Agency standards.



In 2024, team members attended advanced training in flying interior operations, as well as crash scene documentation. The team also incorporated live streaming of drone flights to provide accurate, real-time information to aid incident commanders during critical incidents.

In 2024, the Drone Team responded to 15 incidents that included search and rescue, accident reconstruction, tactical surveillance, and crime scene analysis.



SPECIAL EVENTS

As in years past, the Sheriff's Office provided 24-hour law enforcement services within the grounds of the 2024 EAA AirVenture event held July 22-July 28. Estimated attendance for the event was 686,000, up from an estimated attendance of 677,000 in 2023. While the majority of Deputies were assigned to the main EAA event grounds, the Sheriff's Office Dive Rescue/Recovery Team staffed a Marine Unit at the EAA Sea Plane base located in the Town of Black Wolf. Dive Team members were present to provide an emergent response in the event of an incident on Lake Winnebago. An average of 16 Deputies worked on grounds throughout the event. In addition, two Dispatchers were assigned each day to handle the increased radio traffic associated with such a large event.

Deputies working AirVenture 2024 responded to 297 calls for service, which was a 31% decrease from the 428 calls for service Deputies responded to in 2023. In 2024, Deputies issued two ordinance citations and made two custodial arrests. On Monday July 22nd, Deputies responded to an airplane crash approximately two miles south of Wittman Regional Airport. The crash resulted in two fatalities.



2024 marked the return of a multi-day music event with the inaugural XRoads 41 Music Festival held August 8-August 10. The Sheriff's Office provided 24-hour coverage on Festival grounds throughout the event, with an average of 20 Deputies staffing the event each day. In addition, one Dispatcher was assigned to the event during peak hours to accommodate event radio traffic. Estimated attendance for the three day event was 26,000.

Deputies working XRoads 41 responded to 68 calls for service. They issued one ordinance citation, and no custodial arrests were made.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The Sheriff's Office believes in strong partnerships with the Community, and we encourage our staff to be actively involved. Members of the Agency participated in many community events and supported several community focused organizations this past year. Some of the events staff participated in include:

- ◆ Leadership Oshkosh Law Enforcement Day
- ◆ Boots v. Badges Basketball Game
- ◆ Multiple Special Olympics Events
- ◆ Winnebago County Fair 4-H
- ◆ OPD Mental Health 5K
- ◆ Boy Scout Troop and student tours
- ◆ Police Lights of Christmas
- ◆ ReThink Addiction Run/Walk
- ◆ Annual Employee Fund Raiser
- ◆ Women in Public Safety Event
- ◆ Arresting Hunger Food Drive
- ◆ Touch a Truck Events
- ◆ Holiday Parades
- ◆ Dispatch Holiday Cards



CITIZENS' ACADEMY

The Sheriff's Office conducted its 9th annual Law Enforcement Citizens' Academy in 2024. Six citizens were provided the opportunity to interact with members of the Sheriff's Office and learn how and why the Sheriff's Office operates. Students also sampled the culture of law enforcement and examined the organization as a whole. The 13-week academy provided access to five areas of the Agency to include Administration, Communications, Corrections, Investigations, and Patrol. The academy consisted of both classroom and interactive hands-on instruction.

The Sheriff's Office is scheduling another academy to begin in August 2025. Applications will soon be available on our website and via a link on our social media pages.

Past participants in the Citizens' Academy have formed an Alumni Association that meets semi-annually to receive additional training for members. They also assist the Sheriff's Office during events as needed. The Alumni Association sponsors several gatherings, to include meals for Sheriff's Office employees throughout the year. Their support for the Agency is always appreciated by staff.



SOCIAL MEDIA

The Sheriff's Office remains active with our social media presence. The platforms have provided a cost-effective mechanism to be proactive with community education, outreach, and public relations. Social media has also proven effective in delivering valuable real-time information to followers during emergency situations, and routinely is the first source that community members look to for reliable information.

We welcome interaction with the community and invite citizens to message our pages with questions or content suggestions.



WCSOWisconsin



@WCSO_Wisconsin



@WCSO_wisconsin



TheWISOchannel

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The Sheriff's Office is recruiting intelligent, open-minded candidates with a variety of life experiences to do important and challenging work as members of our team. Ideal candidates will be motivated individuals who are critical thinkers, problem solvers, and excellent communicators. The Sheriff's Office Mission is to provide comprehensive public safety services in partnership with citizens to promote a safe and secure community. Emphasis is placed on professionalism, teamwork, and individual growth. The Sheriff's Office strives to be a leader within the public safety community and values integrity, fairness, and compassion.

To join our team call 920-236-7334

or visit us at

www.co.winnebago.wi.us



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_LeonF4qhFQ