



**2021**

**Altoona Police Department**

**Annual Report**

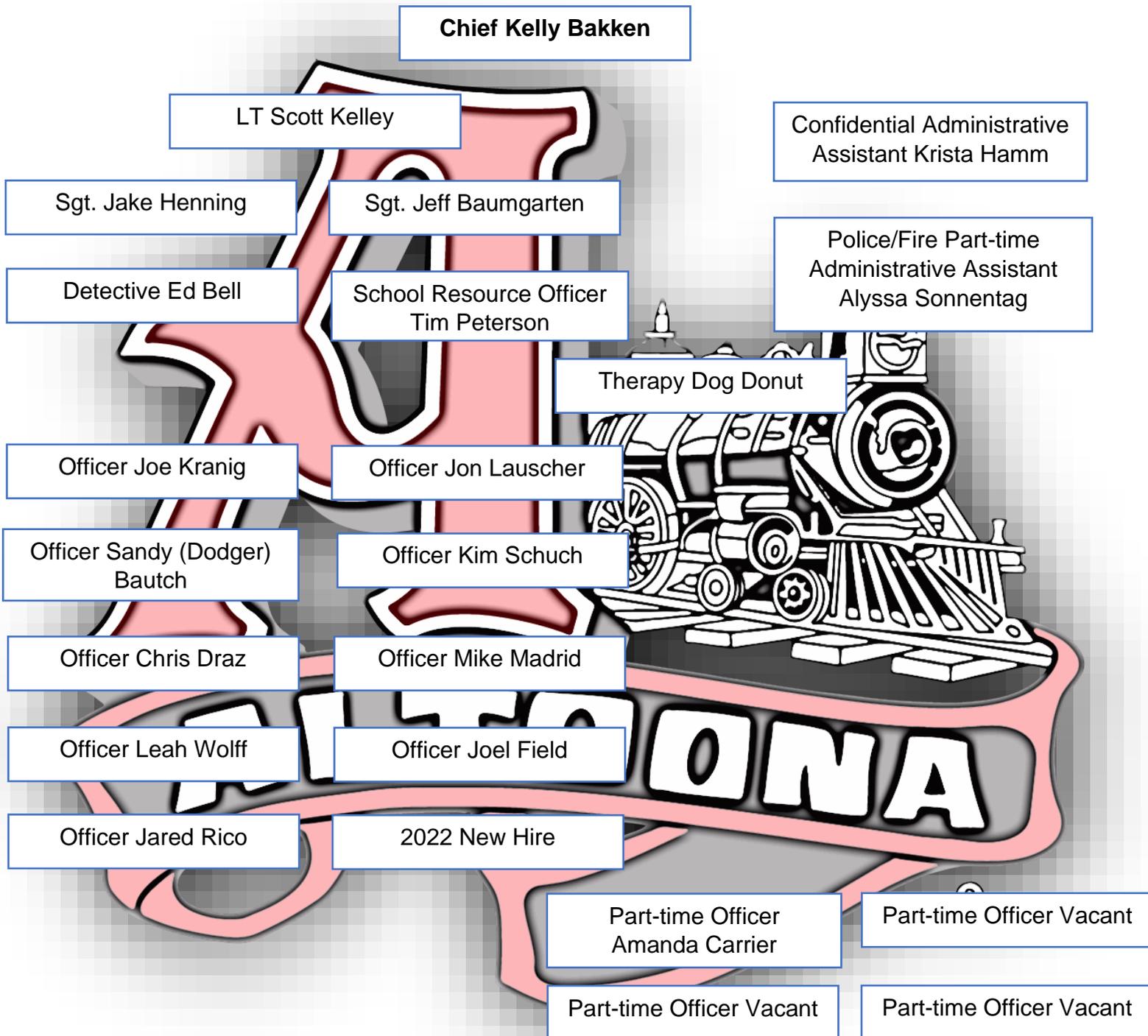
**Chief Kelly Bakken**

February 10, 2022

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# Department Organizational Chart

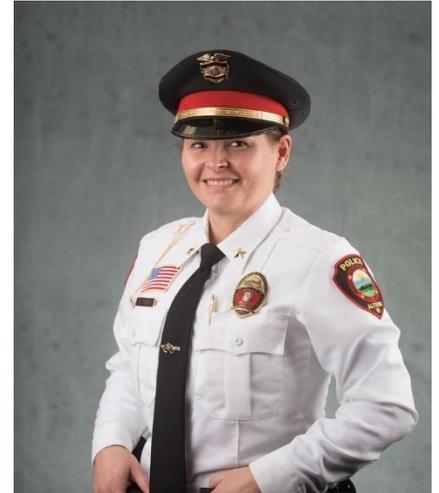


## Introduction

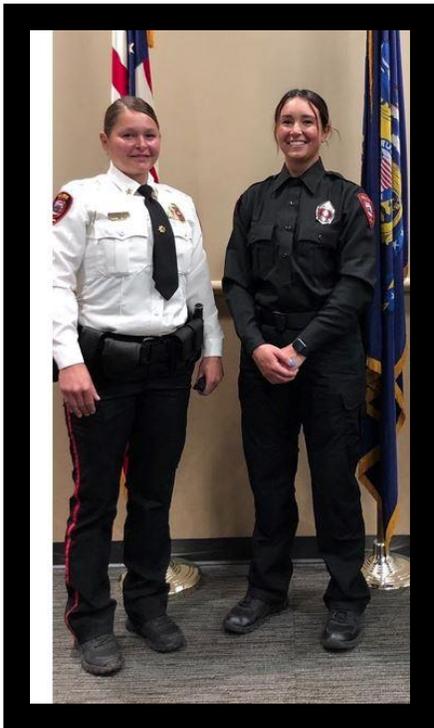
I am pleased to present the 2021 Altoona Police Department Annual Report. It is an honor and a privilege to serve the City of Altoona. We have a great community that takes an active role in ensuring our community is a great place to live, work, and play. Our police department consists of dedicated, professional men and women devoted to serving the people of Altoona, who I am proud to serve alongside.

The Altoona Police Department is a proactive department that has made numerous changes to develop more community outreach and more effective use of resources.

Our mission: We are focused on providing excellent services to the City of Altoona, its community members, businesses, and visitors. Our goal is to provide the highest quality of life to our residents and partner with them to address criminal activity and the needs of the city. By forming relationships, we can prevent and reduce crime, safeguard the rights of all, and improve overall public safety together.



## Staffing Report



Altoona sponsored Kim Schuch through the 2021 spring law enforcement academy. Kim was hired to fill a full-time patrol position in June of 2021. Kim has been a great addition to our full-time staff.



Jared Rico was hired full-time in February of 2021 to fill the additional officer position approved for the 2021 budget. Jared had been working for our department part-time and has been a great full-time addition.



In June, Sergeant Mark Duce retired after 26 years of Service to the city of Altoona.

Jacob Henning was promoted to Sergeant in October. Jake is quickly learning how to be a great supervisor.





Krista Hamm was hired as our Confidential Administrative Assistant in August. Krista had been an Administrative Assistant in Clark County before moving to Altoona. Krista has been a great addition to the administrative staff.



In December, Alyssa Sonnentag joined our team to fill the part-time Administrative Assistant position. Alyssa came to us with many years of experience in the communications center, where she still works part-time. Alyssa is quickly learning the role of an administrative assistant. Her position is shared between police and fire.



Joel Field joined our patrol staff in November 2021. Joel comes to our department with 17 years of law enforcement experience, including supervision. Joel quickly transitioned to being a valuable part of our team. We are thrilled to have him as part of Altoona Police Department.

In addition to the retirement of Mark Duce, the department had two part-time and two full-time staff leave for other opportunities. We are incredibly grateful to continue to receive high-quality applicants which speaks highly of our department and our city! We look forward to working with the 2021 hires and will continue to seek highly motivated and highly qualified personnel in 2022!

## TRAINING REPORT

Staff development continues to be a priority for the police department; we work diligently to make sure our staff are highly trained. 2021 brought excellent leadership training and up-and-coming instructors to our department, capable of leading and training other staff.

The police department utilized several online resources, including Virtual Academy, to assist with in-person training restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the training listed below, all staff participated in implicit bias training, effective communications, de-escalation, firearms, EVOG, and Taser training. High-quality training provides enhanced service to the community and reduces agency liability. Along with our 24 hours of recertification required by the state to maintain our certifications, the following staff attended specialized training in 2021.

- **Chief Bakken:** Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command
- **Lieutenant Kelley:** FBI LEEDA trilogy, WI DOJ Division of Law Enforcement Services New Chiefs and Sheriffs, BJA VALOR Executive Leadership Matchbook, Physical Fitness Assessor
- **Sergeant Baumgarten:** Police Officer Training Program Instructor, Drone Operator and FAA Drone Certification
- **Sergeant Henning:** Police Officer Training Program Instructor, Instructor Development, Scenario Instructor, Emergency Vehicle Operations Course Instructor, Physical Fitness Assessor
- **Detective Bell:** Reid Interview and Interrogation, Crime Scene Operations, Death Investigation
- **Officer Rico:** Special Events Team Training, Fire Investigations, Drone Operator
- **Officer Lauscher:** Crime Scene Operations
- **Officer Draz:** Instructor Development
- **SRO Peterson:** Internet Crimes Against Children, Death Investigation School, Therapy Dog Handler
- **Officer Kranig:** Crisis Intervention Team Training (CIT)
- **Officer Wolff:** Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE)
- **Officer Bautch:** Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), Drone Operator and FAA Drone Certification
- **Officer Schuch:** 720 Basic Recruit Training
- **Krista Hamm:** Redacting Records, Wisconsin Public Records Laws

## Donut became certified through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs



## JOINT RESOURCES

Working together with other agencies has been a priority of the police department. The Altoona Police Department utilizes several shared resources with area agencies. Sharing resources offers additional services without the financial burden. Currently, the Altoona Police Department has officers on the Regional SWAT team, Regional Special Events Team, Chippewa Valley Computer Forensics Laboratory, Crime Stoppers, and the Regional Child Abduction Response Team.

### SWAT

The Eau Claire County Regional SWAT team consists of state and local law enforcement agencies throughout northwest Wisconsin; including Dunn County, Eau Claire County, Chippewa County, WI State Patrol, Menomonie Police Department, Chippewa Falls Police Department, Bloomer Police Department, UWEC Police Department, and Altoona Police Department. The team has 21 tactical personnel, two radio communications personnel, one Township Fire Command, ten negotiators, and

five medics. The tactical team responds to high-risk situations requiring additional personnel, specialty equipment, and officers training in advanced tactics. The Eau Claire County Regional Team is recognized as one of eight state regional teams through Wisconsin's Emergency Management, Aligned Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT). Altoona Officers assisted with 11 call-outs in 2021, including three negotiator-specific call-outs. SRO Tim Peterson is a Negotiations Team Leader, Officer Joel Field is a SWAT Team Leader, and Officers Jon Lauscher and Edward Bell are members of the SWAT team.



### **Special Events Team**

The Altoona Police Department is a member of the Eau Claire County Regional Special Events Team. The team, which is coordinated through the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office was created in 2018 after local and state law enforcement leaders identified the need for a more collaborative and professional response to significant events, including demonstrations and civil unrest. In response, Wisconsin Emergency Management spearheaded a state-wide initiative to create regional response teams throughout the state. The Eau Claire County Regional Special Events Team was selected to represent the West Central Region.

The immediate response area includes the following counties: Barron, Chippewa Clark, Eau Claire, Dunn, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, St. Croix, and Taylor. There are currently 17 officers assigned to the team. Partnering agencies include: Altoona Police Department, Eau Claire Police Department, Chippewa County Sheriff's Office, Chippewa Falls Police Department, Lake Hallie Police Department, and University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Police Department. The team is funded by grant money obtained through Wisconsin Emergency Management and partnering agencies.

The special events team responded to several situations involving the potential for civil unrest within the region. The team was utilized for stand-by and was not fully deployed at any event. Officers Chris Draz and Jarred Rico are members of the Special Events Team.

### **Crime Stoppers**

Altoona is the coordinating agency for Eau Claire County Crime Stoppers. Participating agencies are Eau Claire County, the City of Eau Claire, the UWEC Police Department, and the Altoona Police Department. Crime stoppers provides a platform for anonymous crime reporting with rewards for information leading to an arrest. In 2021 there were 543

tips received, with \$500 in rewards offered. Crime Stoppers assisted in solving several crimes throughout the county. Lt. Scott Kelley is the coordinator of Crime Stoppers.



**Eau Claire County Crime  
Stoppers 715-874-TIPS**

### **Chippewa Valley Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory**

The CVRCFL is hosted by the Eau Claire Police Department and housed at the Eau Claire County Courthouse. The lab has personnel from the Altoona Police Department, Eau Claire Police Department, Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office, and the Wisconsin Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation. Digital evidence, including cell phones, computers, DVRs, GPS, and several other digital media forms, are processed at the lab. Internet Crimes Against Children continue to be lab personnel's main focus and primary responsibility. The CVRCFL allows the Altoona staff to work closely with other ICAC investigators. In 2021 lab personnel worked over 180 cases, 22 of which were in the City of Altoona.

The Altoona Police Department processed thirty-nine electronic devices, including phones, tablets, and computers. We also processed data received from social media sites, including Facebook and Snapchat.

One case involved processing multiple phones and computers seized with search warrants. The data obtained led to the identification of numerous individuals that were being extorted.

Lt. Scott Kelley and Sgt. Jeff Baumgarten are members of the forensic lab.

### **Eau Claire County Child Abduction Response Team**

The Child Abduction Response Team is comprised of members from local law enforcement and private businesses within Eau Claire County. The team trains together to form a cohesive and efficient group to respond to child abductions. The team was not utilized for any calls in 2021. SRO Tim Peterson is a member of the Child Abduction Response Team.

## **West Central Drug Task Force**

The West Central Drug Task Force (WCDF) is comprised of law enforcement representatives from six counties stretching from the Mississippi River to the middle of Wisconsin. Membership includes the Sheriff's Offices of Clark, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Dunn, Buffalo and Pepin; the Municipalities of Chippewa Falls, Fall Creek, Eau Claire, Altoona, and Menomonie; and the State Agencies of the Wisconsin State Patrol, the Department of Criminal Investigation, and the Universities of Stout and Eau Claire.

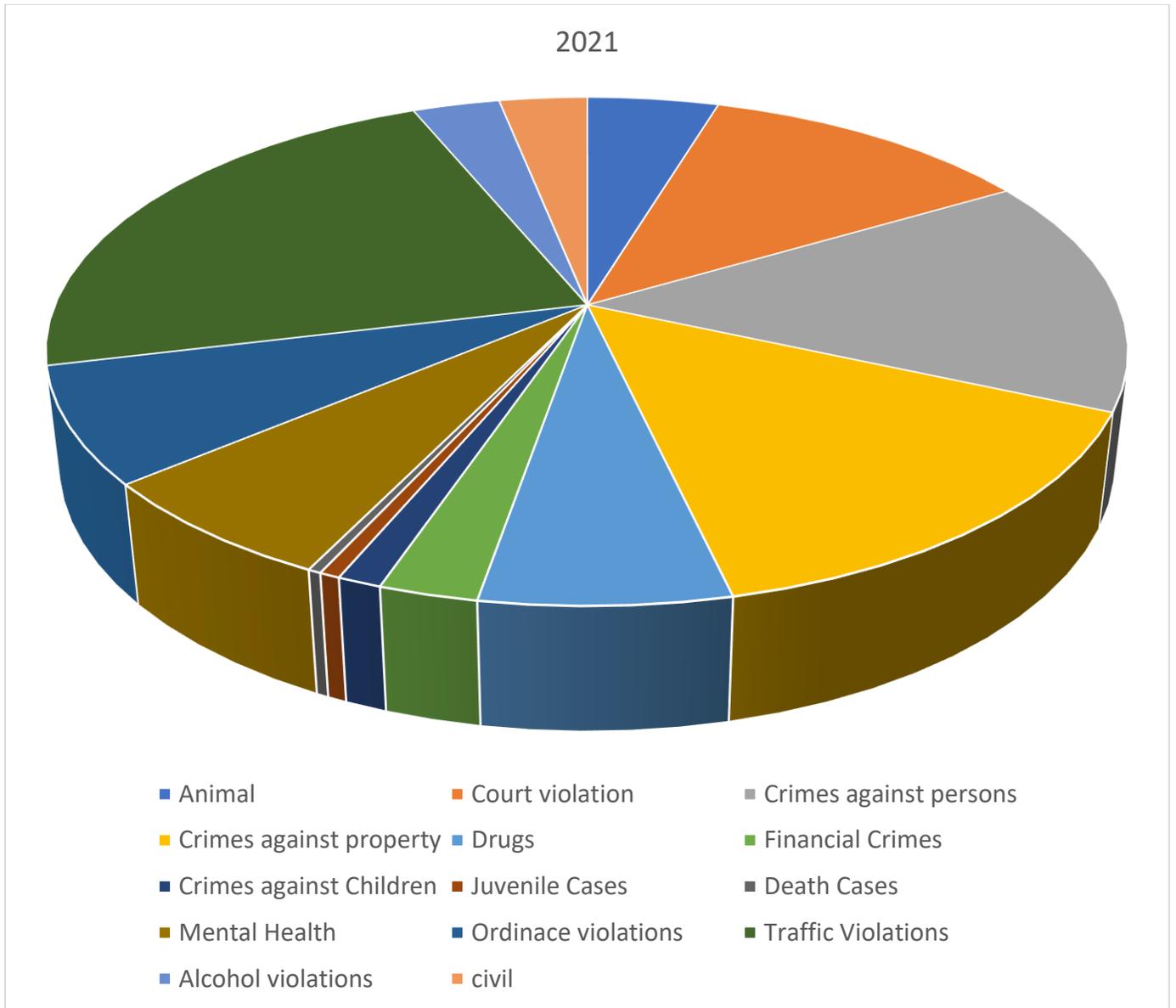
Nine full-time, three part-time Drug Investigators, and one part-time Administrative Specialist are assigned to the Task Force from the member agencies. The Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office has served as Project Director since the inception of the Task Force in 1988.

The Task Force acts as a regional repository for illegal drug-related criminal activity and a coordinator of enforcement action against this activity. This action is coordinated within the Task Force by an Oversight Committee comprised of members' representatives. Day-to-day operation is supervised by a Field Operations Supervisor and Supervisors from the jurisdiction where an action occurs. Using its regional resources, the Task Force can direct equipment and personnel anywhere within the six-county area and sometimes, when needed, to assist in actions outside the boundaries of the Task Force.

Although Altoona does not have an officer specially assigned to the drug task force, our supervisors, detective, and patrol officers often work closely with the drug task force to investigate and apprehend drug offenders within the City of Altoona. Chief Bakken is a participating board member of WCDF and is the coordinator for the task force drug testing.

## **Calls for Service**

2021 proved to be a busy year for law enforcement; we responded to a total of 3406 calls for service and an increase of 241 from 2020.

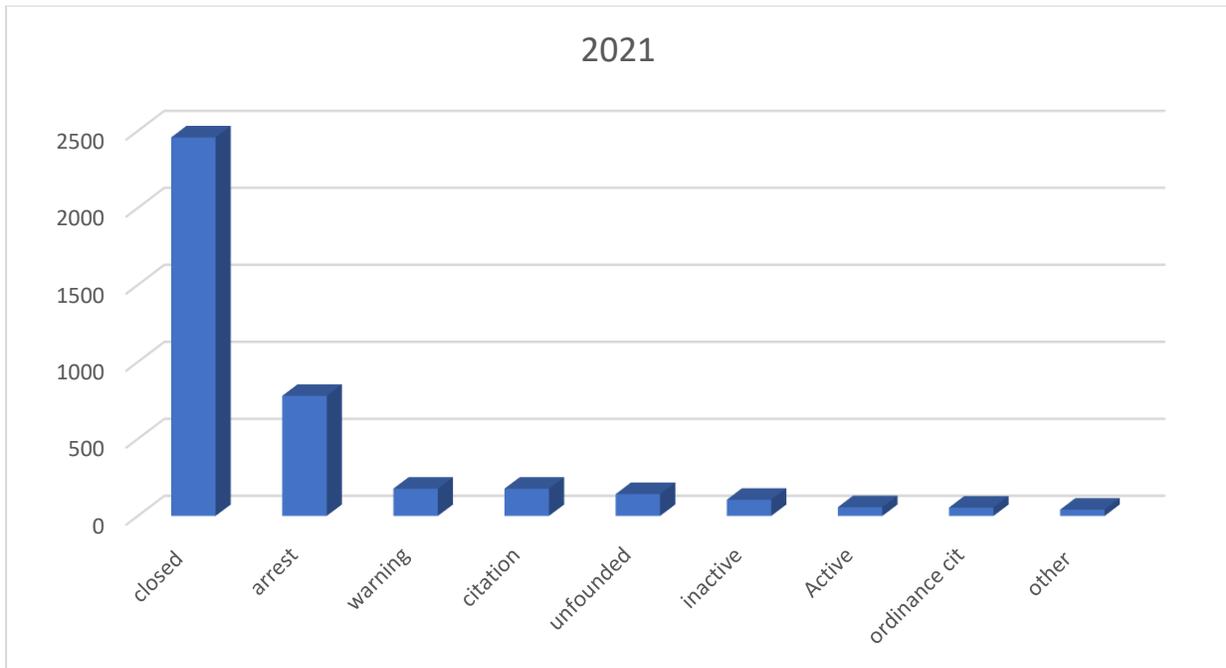


	2021
Animal	125
Court violation	318
Crimes against persons	404
Crimes against property	395
Drugs	169
Financial Crimes	67
Crimes against Children	30

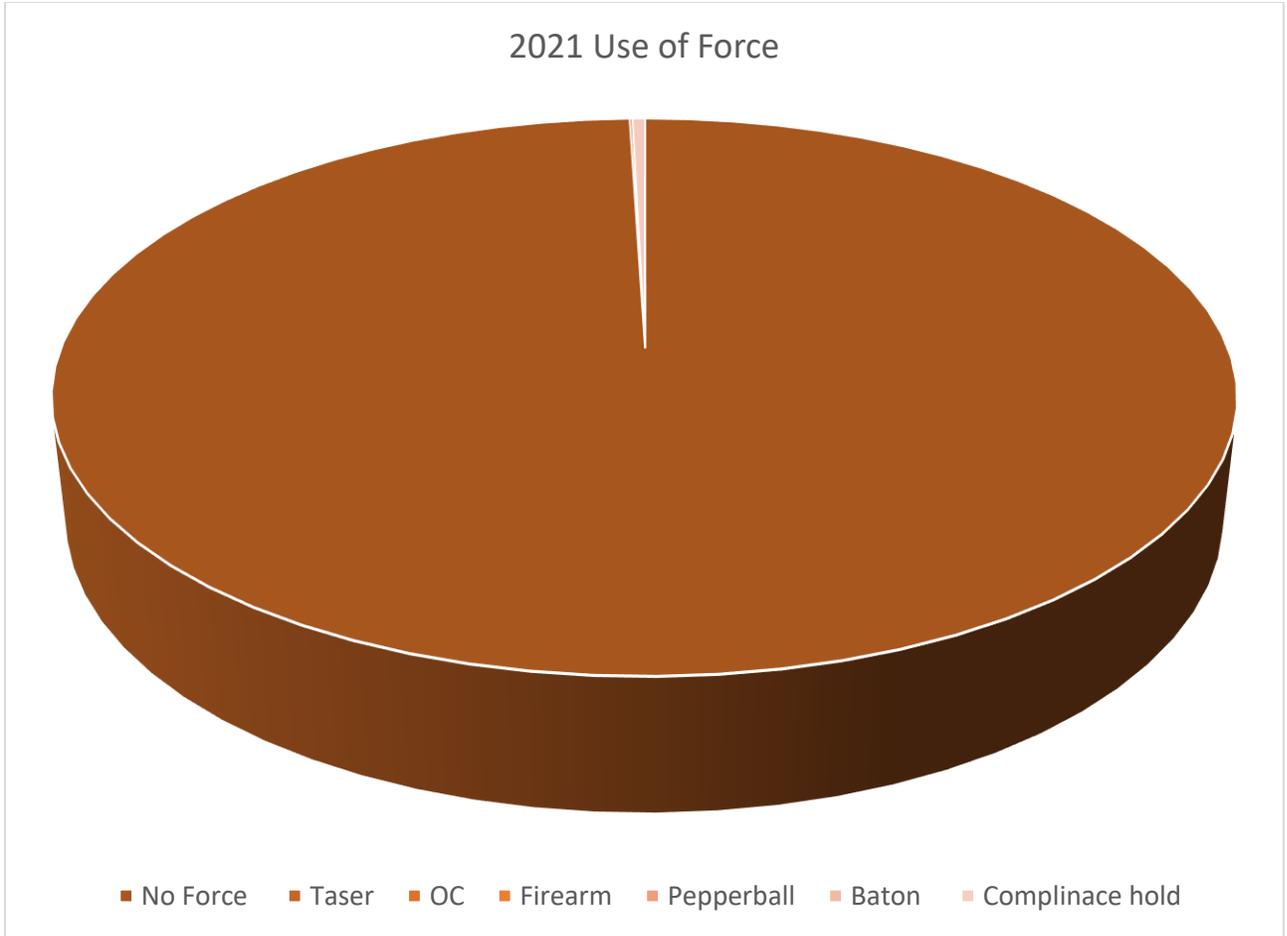
Altoona Police Department 2021 Annual Report

Juvenile Cases	14
Death Cases	9
Mental Health	178
Ordinance violations	197
Traffic Violations	604
Alcohol violations	83
civil	84
other	482
no category	247

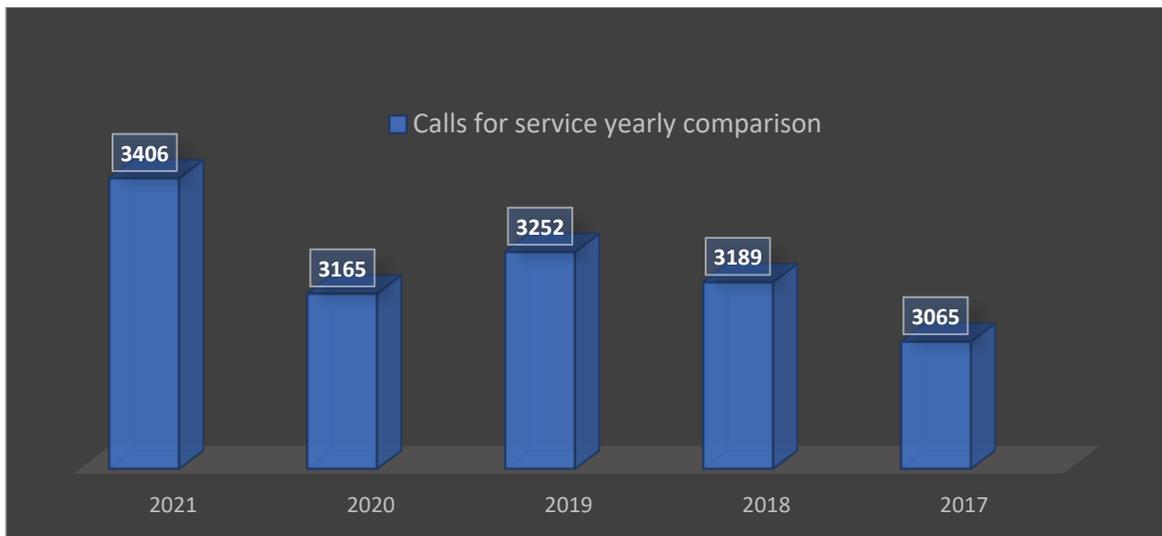
Of the 3406 calls for Service, 2458 or 61.6% were closed, 780 or 19.5% calls resulted in the offender being arrested, 177 resulted in a state citation, and 54 in an ordinance citation.



Of the 3406 calls for service in 2021, 17 calls resulted in a use of force incident. Three were taser deployments; the remaining were compliance holds. A total of 24 times officers' weapons were displayed, which is not considered a use of force utilizing Department of Justice standards. A total of 0.5% of our calls for Service resulted in the use of force.



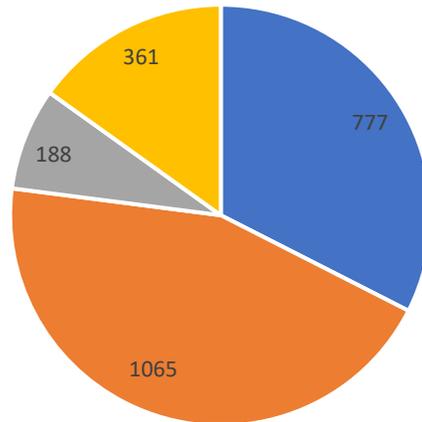
### Calls for Service yearly comparison



2021 Traffic Report

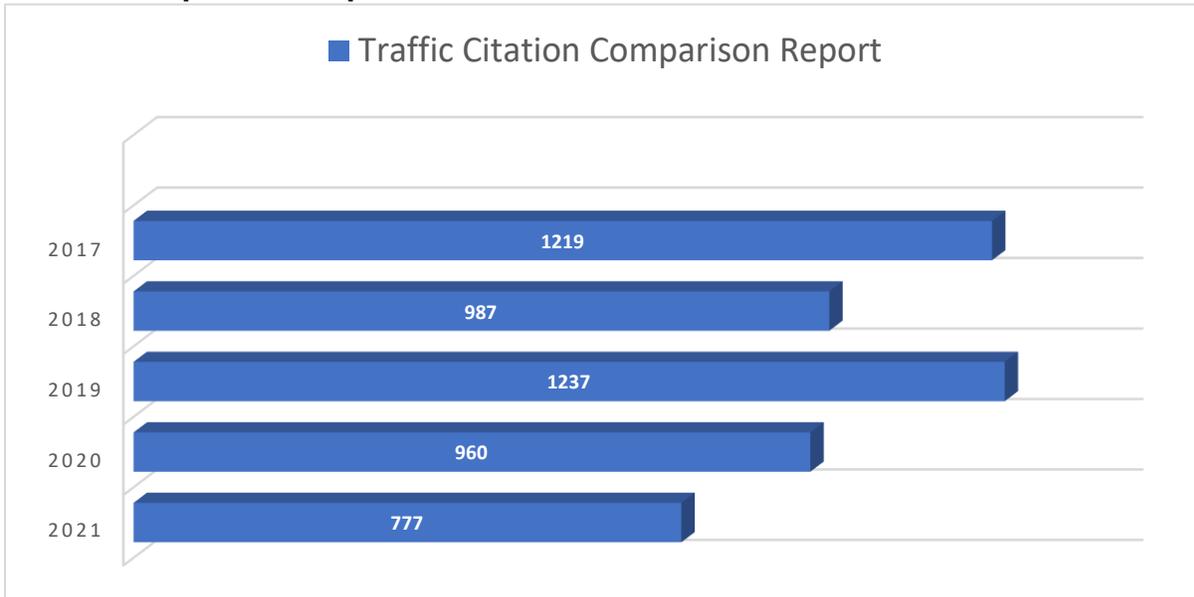


2021 Traffic Report

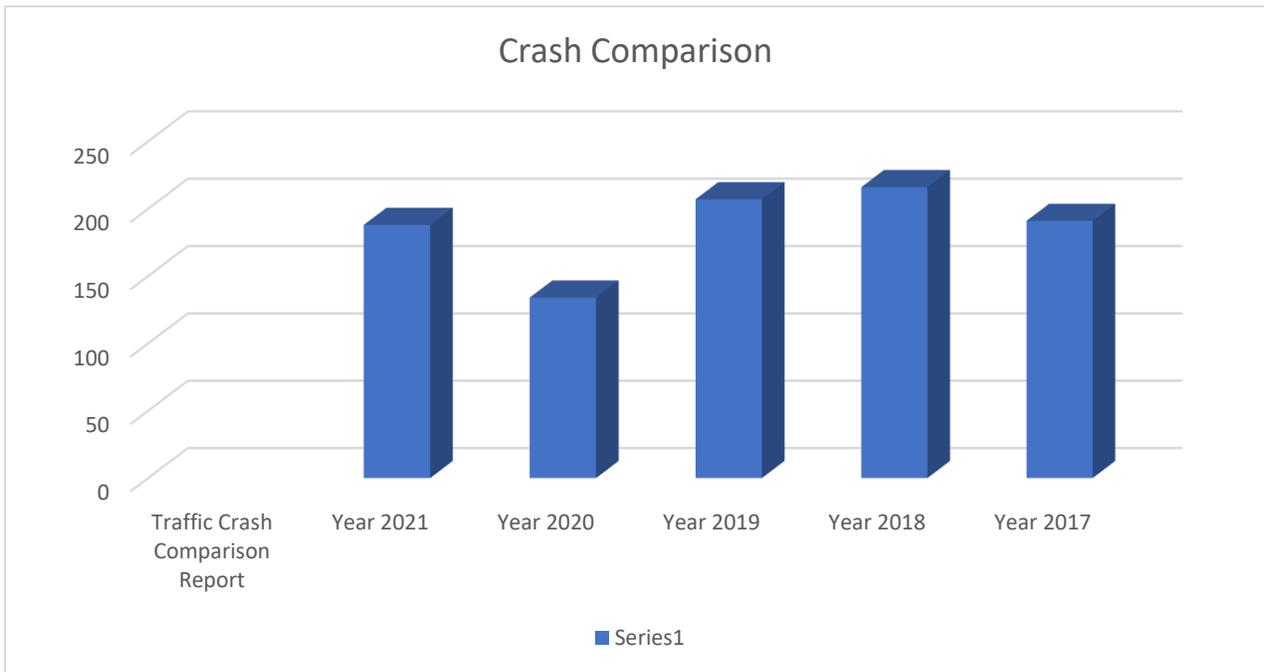


■ Citations   ■ Warnings   ■ Crash Reports   ■ parking citations

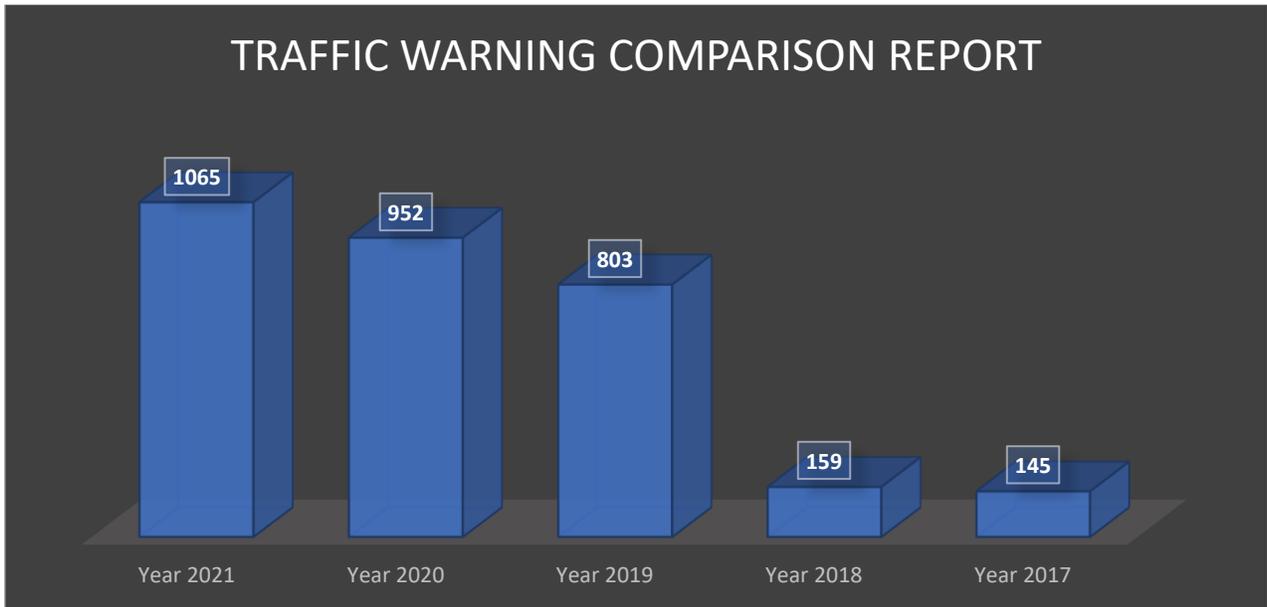
### Traffic Comparison Report



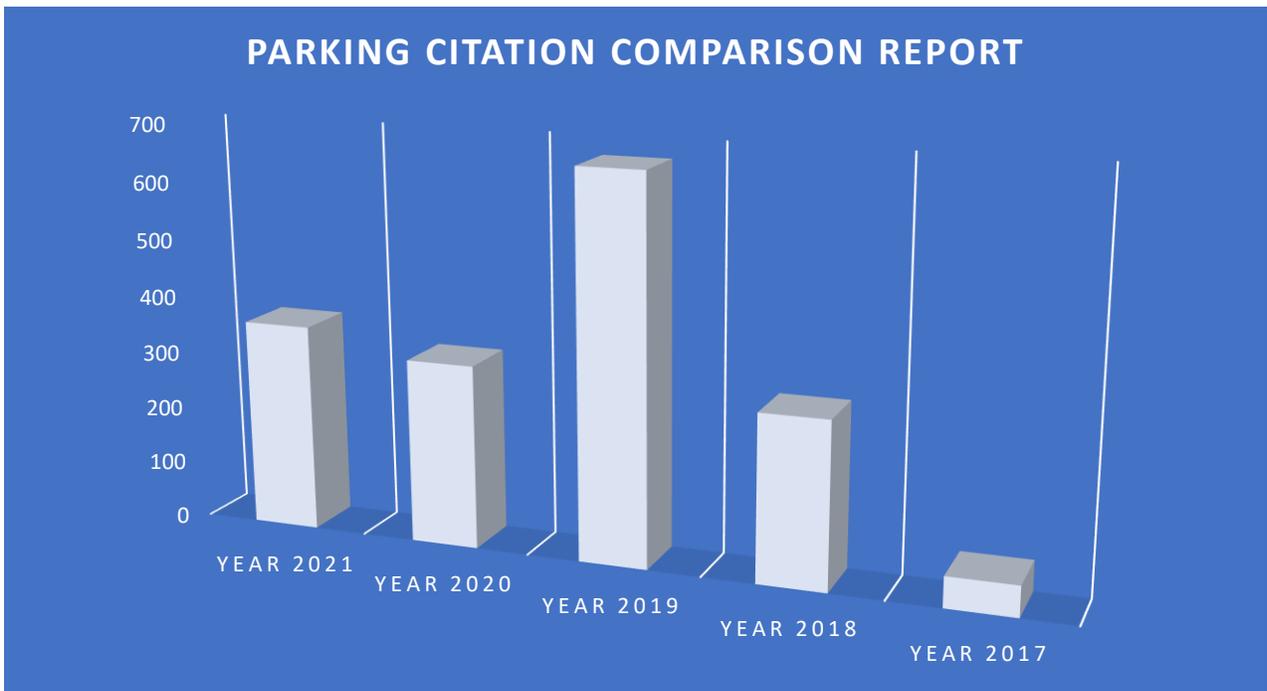
### Crash Comparison Report



### Warning Comparison Report

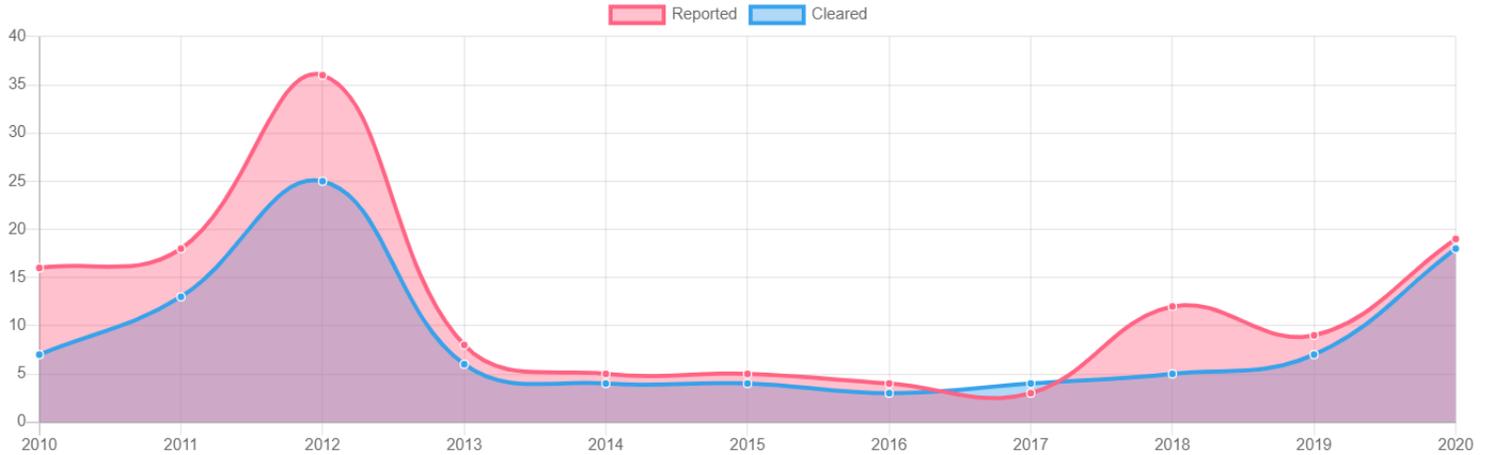


### Parking Citation Comparison Report



# Uniform Crime Report

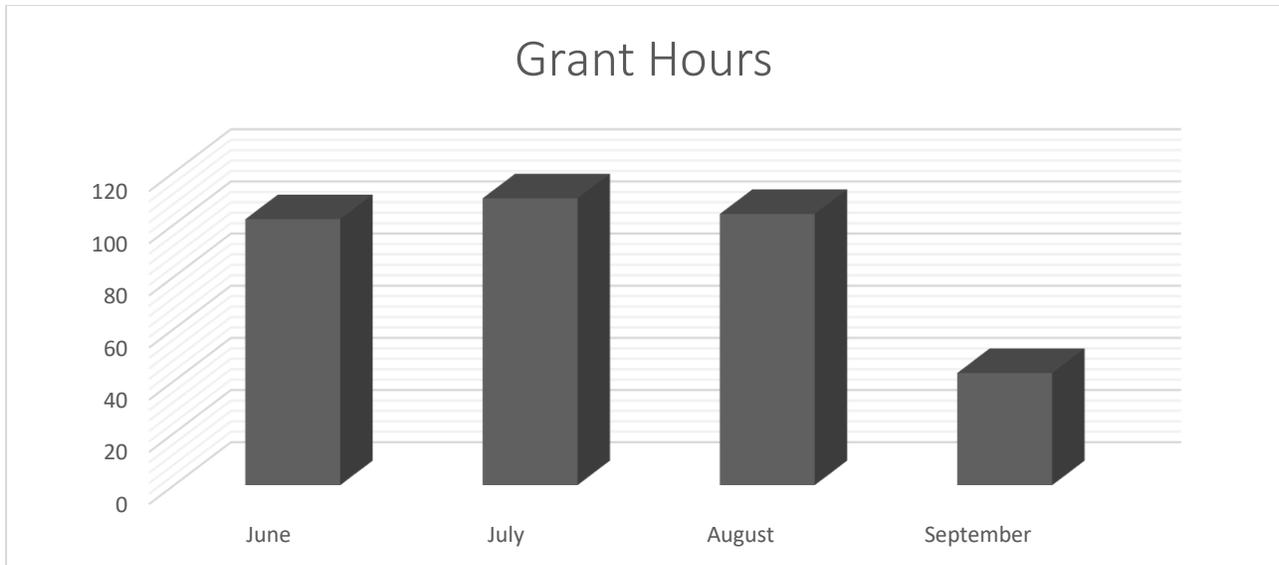
## Summary Crime reported by the Altoona Police Department 2010-2020



This chart provides the volume of violent crime (murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) and property crime (burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft) as reported by city and town law enforcement agencies (listed alphabetically by state) that contributed data to the UCR Program.

## Grants

In 2021 we obtained two grants; the largest of the two grants was a traffic overtime grant. This grant allowed patrol officers to work overtime, fully reimbursed by the Department of Transportation, to enforce traffic violations, including speed, seatbelt, and OWI. We worked a total of 359 hours from June to September. The grant was a total of \$16,149.40 reimbursed to the city.



The department also obtained a state COVID grant of \$10,000, which we utilized to purchase five additional mobile data computers, MDCs, for our squads. The addition of five MDCs allowed each full-time officer to be issued their own MDC. With this addition, we eliminated the shared office desktop computers, ultimately reducing the number of computers within our department. Additionally, full-time officers having their own MDCs has reduced the cross-contamination concerns of COVID has allowed officers to attend virtual training and virtual court. We have also been able to allow officers who have been quarantined due to COVID to work on reports and other necessary items while in quarantine.

## 10-33 Program Equipment

In 2021 the department successfully obtained some great equipment from the federal government 10-33 program.

The equipment from the 10-33 program is transferred to local law enforcement free of charge from the military. In the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal years 1990 and 1991, Congress authorized the transfer of excess DoD property to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Congress later passed the NDAA for the fiscal year 1997, which allows law enforcement agencies to acquire property for bona fide law enforcement purposes. The program has been named in the press and elsewhere as the "1033 Program," which refers to the numbered section of the 1997 NDAA that granted permanent authority to the Secretary of Defense to transfer defense material to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

After one year, all non-classified equipment is the property of the department and can be sold at the department's discretion.



Through the program, we obtained a 2011 Kubota RTV D1100. This machine is a diesel, with a dump box and cab with heat and air conditioning. We worked with Cutting Edge Graphics, who donated the graphics for the machine. The Kubota is utilized for patrolling trails during parades and other events.



The department also obtained an American Sportsworks 48V LSV; this

machine is a fully electric street legal UTV with a dump box. The electric vehicle is utilized to patrol trails, parades, and other events.

The department was also fortunate enough to be awarded over 3,000 rounds of 5.56 ammunition and 2,000 rounds of 9mm ammunition. This ammunition is utilized for practice ammunition, supplying the department with ammunition that was back ordered with an unknown shipping date and saving the department over a thousand dollars in ammunition.

In 2021 we sold two golf carts that were previously obtained through the 10-33 program for a total profit of \$7,213. This money is considered a donation back to the department by the Federal

Government 10-33 program.

Currently, the department has a small enclosed Dakota trailer, a River Hawk Boat, and a six-person golf cart, all obtained in prior years through the 10-33 program. The trailer is used for evidence-related tasks as well as events. The boat was used for our boat patrol program in 2020 and water rescue. The golf cart is used for special events.

## Unmanned Aircraft System – Drone Program



DJI MAVIC 2 ENTERPRISE DUAL

Several years ago, the Altoona Police Department acquired an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)—commonly known as a drone. The original UAS was primarily used to assist public works with inspecting water towers and capturing images of the developing River Prairie area. However, after the department's only licensed operator retired, we were left with no one to operate the aircraft legally.

It was decided to revamp the program by selling the current UAS, replacing it with an updated system, and licensing Officer Bautch and Sgt. Baumgarten to be able to operate the aircraft. We also updated our policy and procedures to legally operate the UAS.

In the fall of 2020, Officer Bautch and Sgt. Baumgarten completed courses at Chippewa Valley Technical College, giving them the necessary skills to operate a UAS in various conditions and environments and knowledge to operate safely within local and FAA guidelines. They also passed a comprehensive written exam administered by FAA and received their official FAA Operators Permit in January of 2021. In the fall of 2021, Officer Rico also joined our team of pilots by completing the UAS course at CVTC.

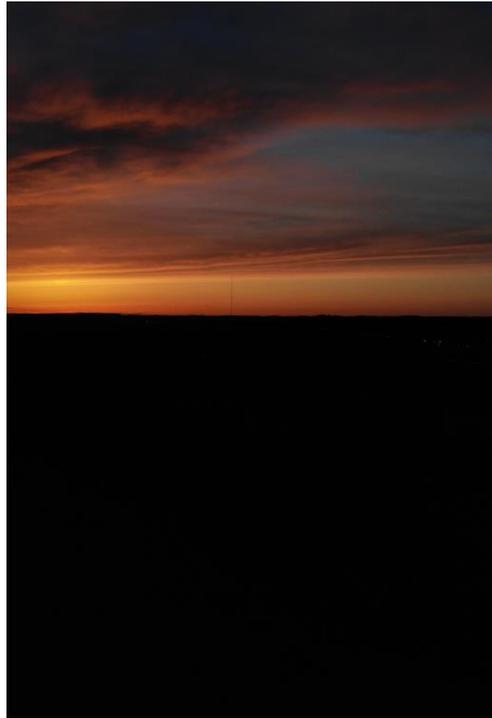
The original UAS, a DJI Phantom 2, was sold and replaced with an updated DJI Mavic 2 Enterprise Dual. The new aircraft is much smaller and lighter; it's also more stable in windy conditions because of new technology.

The cost of the new system—which included the aircraft, three batteries, and a 7" viewing screen—was \$4,419.00.

Our department had twenty deployments in 2021, consisting of ten training flights, four community events, and six cases.

The training flights help keep pilots proficient with controls, regulations, and capabilities of the UAS.

Monitoring community events gives a unique perspective not available to ground-level personnel. During one of the significant music events at River Prairie Park, officers spotted citizens on the roof of a building. They had climbed over the railing and were at the edge of the building. Due to the crowd's noise, it was difficult for officers to communicate with them. The UAS, with a speaker attachment affixed, was used to fly at the level of the citizens and ask them to move to a safe location behind the fence.



The use of the UAS for cases provides additional safety for citizens and officers; operating the aircraft from a safe location and providing personnel on the scene advanced notice of concerns—such as approaching vehicles or suspect movement—is very beneficial. It is also an effective means to document large scenes, such as traffic crashes. One of the most important uses is utilizing the attached camera with FLIR (Forward Looking InfraRed) technology to locate missing children or vulnerable adults.

Furthermore, the UAS was utilized to capture images and videos to make a Police Department recruitment video. The video can be seen on the Altoona Police Department's Facebook page, posted December 30, 2021.

## **Boat Patrol Program**

The boat patrol program follows the community policing model of the police department by expanding our education, safety, and community outreach to Lake Altoona. The following is an overview of the inaugural boat patrol program.

The boat patrol program was administered from Memorial Day Weekend (May 29, 2021) to September 9, 2021. Before and after these dates, administrative work was conducted to maintain equipment and records. The department was actively patrolling Lake Altoona for 15 days. This was a total of 73 officer hours. This was typically a two-person patrol; however, there was one officer and a DNR warden or fire department personnel on some occasions. In addition, 7.5 hours were administrative, including records management for DNR reimbursement and equipment maintenance.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reimburses the boat patrol program. All costs associated with the program are reimbursable up to 75%. This includes officer wages, mileage, fuel, oil, equipment, and time spent completing required paperwork. The percentage reimbursable is dependent on the amount of input for funds, amount of state and federal funds available, and the amount of funds requested. Boat funds are typically high due to increased federal funding. Usually, funds are reimbursed at a rate of 65-75%—an average of 70% for calculations in this report.

Officer wages are reimbursed with Fringe Benefits up to 50%. No overtime was used for the program, so no additional costs were accrued with wages. These are dollars that would have been spent regardless. Other expenses are all reimbursable. The two major repair expenses were to replace malfunctioning lights on the trailer and rebuild the motor's lower unit. The lower unit is depreciated, and 20% will be reimbursed over the next five years. If the motor is sold, our profits will be reduced from the reimbursement for what was paid to us by the DNR. Regardless of the depreciation of value for these essential items, we will retain the profits, but the reimbursements will be less.

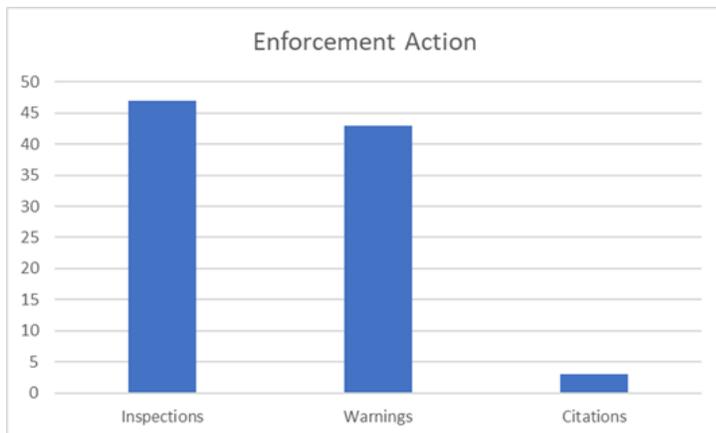
**Minor Expenses**

Category	Cost	70% Reimbursement	Net
Wages	\$3482.53	\$2437.77	+\$1044.76
Milage	\$73.92	\$51.74	-\$22.18
Fuel	\$221.55	\$155.08	-\$66.47
Other Minor Expense	\$299.94	\$209.96	-\$89.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4077.94</b>	<b>\$2854.55</b>	<b>+\$866.13</b>

**Major Expenses**

Item	Cost	Yearly Reimbursement	Total Reimbursement
Motor Rebuild	\$3903.75	\$546.52/year	\$2732.62

The department recorded 47 boat safety inspections that resulted from other initial violations. As a result, there were 40 warnings issued and three citations. The citations included one boating OWI, one citation for operating a PWC faster than slow no wake within 200 ft of the shore, and one failing to transfer a boat title. With the exception of the boat OWI, both operators that received citations had received a previous warning. The rate of inspection and warnings shows the high volume of education provided to those using Lake Altoona. These positive contacts typically resulted in voluntary compliance, corrective behavior, and increased water safety. There is not a number that can be assigned to the effectiveness of the patrol in regards to safety and community service. Numerous contacts involved people gracious of having a law enforcement presence on the lake. DNR wardens reported significantly fewer complaints from the lake with our added patrols, and the complaints received could be handled faster. Some complaints were even solved with our new collective knowledge of boaters obtained during patrols.



Overall, the boat patrol program provided a great new community policing aspect to our department. For example, we distributed donated ice cream coupons and water bottles to children for wearing life jackets. The boat patrol program allowed our officers to make personal connections with a community section often not reached. The department was also more efficient in addressing complaints on the lake and increasing public safety.

In 2022 we will be selling the River Hawk Boat obtained through the 10-33 program and replacing it with a 2022 Lund 1675 Adventure with a 75 Hp Mercury; this boat will be more functional and make our program more efficient.

## Community Outreach

Community involvement is especially important to our department. With the COVID-19 guidelines/restrictions in 2021, it was more challenging than in past years to be actively involved in community outreach. Despite the presence of the virus in our area, we were fortunate to still be able to host and participate in several community events throughout the year.

Our department hosted events such as:

- Annual Bike Rodeo
- Prescription Drug Take-Back Day  
(Spring and Fall)
- National Night Out
- Annual Trick-or-Treating Event in partnership  
with Parks and Rec.



Furthermore, our department continues to form partnerships with neighborhood associations. For example, Hillcrest Greens and Hillcrest Estates have participated in the department's Traffic Tamers program, which provides tools for residents to address traffic issues within their area, including excessive speed.

Some of the local events we enjoyed participating in include:

- River Prairie Cultural Festival
- Wisconsin Sports Show – Officer Peterson and Donut presented on Therapy Dogs
- Back to School Ice Cream Social
- Special Olympics Wisconsin Torch Run
- River Prairie Easter Egg Hunt
- Frosty Toona
- Weekly Concerts in River Prairie Park
- Senior Parade
- Homecoming Parade
- University of Eau Claire Wellness Day
- Cinder City Days
- and many more!



Being present, forming relationships, and giving back to our community remains vital to our department's success; we look forward to finding more ways to increase our engagement in the future.



## Police Officer Training Program

In 2021 the police department made the complete shift to the Police Training Officer (PTO) model for our police officer training program. The police department previously used the Field Training Officer (FTO) model and began a gradual PTO shift. In 2021 Sgt Henning and Sgt Baumgarten attended the UW-Madison Police Department's PTO training course. In March, a revamped PTO program was presented to department supervisors. The PTO program was utilized for training several new officers in 2021 and has shown promising results. Therefore, we are excited to continue using this program.

The United States Department of Justice developed the PTO program as a new training method focused on adult learning methods and modern policing practices. The program uses adult learning techniques and focuses on problem-solving. The goal is to move away from the idea of "teach, show, do" and instead guide the trainee's learning to know where resources are and how to utilize them to make decisions. This encourages problem-solving, increases individualism, and promotes new ideas rather than expecting trainees to be exactly like their training officers. Benjamin Franklin perfectly described this model, "Tell me and I forget, teach me, and I may remember, involve me, and I learn." The trainees are involved and the leaders of their learning.

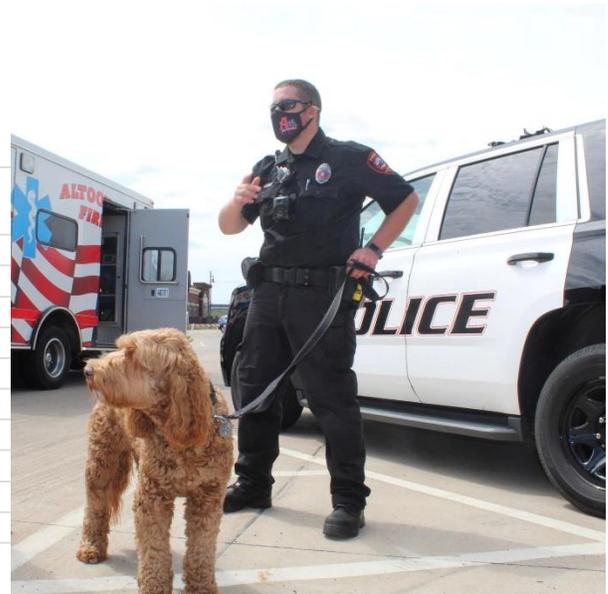
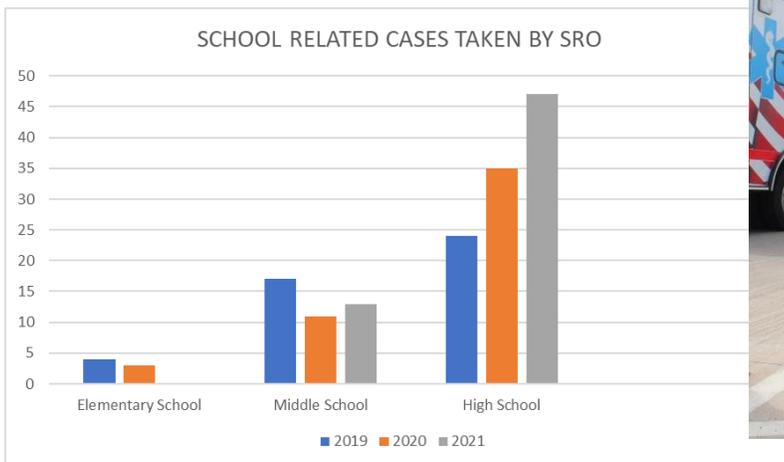
The PTO program uses 15 core competencies to build knowledge and evaluate trainees. The core competencies are community-specific problems, leadership, conflict resolution, communication skills, cultural diversity, and special needs groups. These core competencies are built upon phases that increase the difficulty from non-emergency incident response and patrol operations to emergency response and criminal investigations. Learning objectives and resources are presented to the trainee for each section to assist with learning. The training also emphasized emotional intelligence, which teaches self-regulation and the recognition of triggers. This promotes calm, self-aware officers that can present themselves as highly professional. Finally, the PTO program focuses on community-oriented policing. Trainees are encouraged to use their problem-solving skills and resources to solve community problems. Trainees' final project is selecting a neighborhood to research, develop relationships, and suggest crime preventions measures.



In 2022 the police department plans to train additional staff as training officers. We continue to modify and improve the training program to meet the needs of the department and community.

## School Resource Officer/ Therapy Dog

The Altoona School Resource Officer works closely with school staff and students to ensure a safe and productive learning environment. The SRO has made several safety suggestions to the school which have been implemented, such as several security cameras in high-risk locations in the district. In addition, the SRO has attended several school-related after-school events such as Football Games, Basketball Games, Concerts, and Dances. The SRO assisted the school in several cases but has kept citations and juvenile referrals as a last resort for students who are struggling; instead of focusing on enforcement, the priority is diversion and education. The SRO also conducts house visits with school staff for truancy-related issues. The SRO continues to create a strong partnership with the Altoona School District and the Altoona Police Department that will remain strong for years to come.



## Donut – The Therapy Dog

In March 2020, the Altoona Police Department obtained a 12 -week-old Labradoodle from Blueberry Cottage Labradoodles for the purpose of training him to be a therapy dog.

Donut is assigned to the police department School Resource Officer, Tim Peterson. Officer Peterson attended puppy classes and several virtual and in-person obedience training classes with Donut. Obedience training is a continual process. They began the therapy dog in training at 12 weeks of age. As part of this training, Officer Peterson began taking Donut to the Altoona Schools and city events. At one year of age, Donut took the Alliance of Therapy Dog Certification test and was certified as a therapy dog. Donut is intentionally trained so anyone in the police department or school district can handle him.

Donut has been an invaluable addition to the Altoona Police Department and the Altoona School District. The amount of assistance Donut provides to students daily is unmeasurable. Donut has been an asset for Officer Peterson in allowing for Officer Peterson to more easily build relationships with students who wouldn't otherwise approach him. Students frequently approach Officer Peterson to see Donut and have a discussion with Officer Peterson. Donut is excellent at calming students with anxiety, helping them stay in school when otherwise they would have gone home. Donut has worked to calm students who have disrupted the classrooms and has helped special needs students feel more comfortable. Donut has been used by the school counselors when meeting with students about complex topics. Donut is also used within the intermediate school as part of their excellent behavior reward system; students who win the good behavior award have the option of a lunch bunch with Donut or taking Donut for a walk, among other school prizes. The choice of spending time with Donut is by far the most popular.

Outside of the school district, Donut has assisted with interviews of victims, including domestic violence, sexual assaults, and other difficult topics. He has been utilized in mental health cases to calm the patient, which allows for transport, and has even been requested back when someone was having a difficult day, helping that person avoid being placed in a facility. In addition, Donut has visited assisted living homes, nursing homes, and attended the college wellness days.



Donut is present at most city events, greeting people and allowing for an easier conversation with our law enforcement. In addition, Donut has a presence on our social media page and is loved by the community. Recently, Donut won the 2022 Volumeone's most liked celebrity in the Chippewa Valley.



Donut also spends a fair amount of time in the Altoona Emergency Services building, greeting law enforcement officers, civilian visitors, as well as fire and EMS staff. Donut adds a smile to everyone's face. Staff appreciates having Donut in the office; several have mentioned they wanted to work for Altoona because Donut is in the office. Having Donut to pet after a rough call for service has been valuable to the wellbeing of our staff.

The cost of a therapy dog has been minimal; Donut was donated to our department. In addition, a local veterinarian donates his vet care, and a local pet store donates his dog food. Some of his training has also been donated, and the training that was not donated was of minimal cost. The certification was also minimal cost.



## Investigations

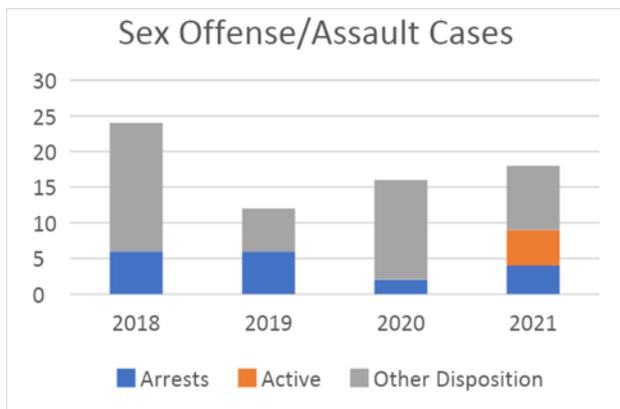
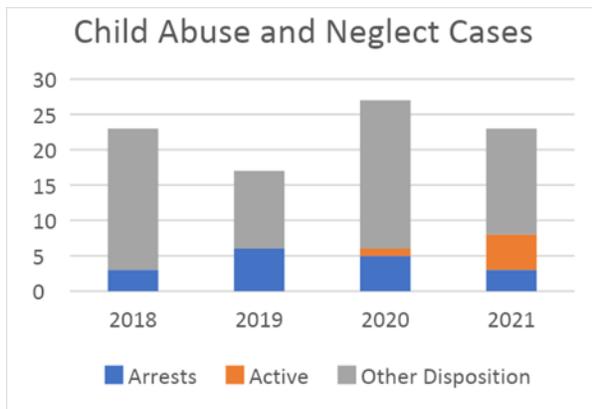
The two positions responsible for most of the investigative work done by the department are the detective and the school resource officer (SRO); while these positions often handle the cases more sensitive in nature, such as crimes against children and sex crimes, patrol officers also contribute to other types of investigations to help keep caseloads more manageable.

Some of the investigative highlights from 2021 are as follows;

The department continued an investigation into a reckless homicide involving the delivery of drugs that led to the death of a community member. The charges for the incident were filed in early 2022. A similar case remains under active investigation. These cases take a tremendous amount of time and documentation, oftentimes relying on historical data.

Over the course of the year, many of the cases investigated were in relation to children. For example, two major child sexual assault cases were investigated where the offender was a family member and caregiver, both cases were charged, and the offenders received prison time.

Investigators looked into nine internet crimes against children (ICAC) cases, primarily involving child pornography. One of those cases revealed a local child victim being sexually assaulted by an adult; in this case, the perpetrator, as well as a caregiver, were charged. In reviewing the numbers, child abuse and neglect cases were slightly down from 2020 but were on track with historical data.



Fraud cases remain a concern; we experience different scams frequently. 2021 was consistent with past years in the number fraud investigations conducted. Some of the significant fraud cases are as follows:

- A resident mailed \$10,000 to a scammer in Las Vegas; thanks to our investigator's quick thinking, we contacted Las Vegas law enforcement, who were able to intercept the package and arrest the scammers. The money was returned to the victim.
- Altoona Walgreens was the victim of a significant amount of prescription fraud cases. In one case, a female was using over 25 false names and obtained nearly 100 fraudulent prescriptions around Wisconsin and the Midwest. Over 75 criminal charges were referred to the district attorney's office, and the investigation was forwarded to over 15 other agencies.

Officers and investigators have also investigated several property crime cases. The most prominent investigation(s) into catalytic convertor thefts were conducted. Altoona has been working with other local agencies to curb the issue, which is an ongoing process. A search warrant was executed on one suspect's residence in Eau Claire, revealing catalytic convertors and drugs. The suspect was arrested and charged.

In 2021 we worked with federal agents to transfer two cases from state court to federal court. One case involved an officer attempting to stop a vehicle in which a pursuit ensued; the suspect fled and left a backpack containing over 3.5 ounces of marijuana, nearly 6 ounces of methamphetamine, nearly \$500 in cash, and other drug paraphernalia. The case was connected to an ongoing drug investigation being conducted by the Clark County Sheriff's Office. The case was forwarded to the US Attorney's Office for prosecution. The other case involved an Altoona-based financial management agency. The Eau Claire Police Department received the initial complaint. Altoona Officers got involved in the investigation and worked with Eau Claire Police Department and Federal Agents to put the massive case together. As a result, the owner is being prosecuted federally for numerous financial crimes.

## Conclusion

2021 proved to be a busy year for law enforcement; our call volume continues to increase each year, keeping all staff busy. The addition of a patrol officer in 2021 as well as the addition of the patrol officer in 2022 has allowed the department to have two patrol officers on duty the vast majority of the time. Having two officers on duty has assisted in managing the caseload and has dramatically improved officer safety.

We continue to work on executive level and specialized law enforcement training for all police department staff.

The priority of the police department is to continue to partner with the community to make the community a better place for all to enjoy. We look forward to 2022 and continuing to build partnerships and improve upon our service to the community.

Respectfully,

Chief Kelly Bakken