

# KEARNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT



APRIL – JUNE | 2024

## A WORD FROM CHIEF WAUGH

*Please enjoy our 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2024 Newsletter, as always we are committed to providing updates, seeking feedback, and engaging our community every chance we get. We have several exciting events coming soon to include National Night Out, National Faith and Blue, and of course assisting with a safe and secure Cruise Nite event. As always we appreciate the continued support and partnerships toward public safety. Enjoy the rest of the summer and stay safe! – Chief Bryan D. Waugh*



## NEW HIRES/ASSIGNMENTS/PROMOTIONS



Officer Jaco Henning graduated from the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center on April 12<sup>th</sup> and was sworn in at the City Council meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Out of the 50 recruits that attended the 216<sup>th</sup> session of the academy, Officer Henning was selected as the recipient of the Firearms Proficiency Award. Recruit Officer Caleb Hollis is currently attending the Basic Academy and is projected to graduate on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Former Police Officer Amy Trausch rejoined the Kearney Police Department in a new role as a Crime Analyst. We are thrilled she is back and look forward to seeing her develop this new position within the department. Cole Reher was selected as the Summer 2024 intern and will complete 240 hours with the department.

The department also celebrated the following milestone anniversaries:

- 5 years – Officer Austin Hibberd, Investigator Lacie Lindner, Emily Starkey

## OPERATION N.E.T.S. (NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT THROUGH SPORTS)



partners willing to host and assist with our fundraising efforts. It is 100% donor funded program and the community's support has been incredible. We are looking forward to continuing to grow this program and connect with youth in our community.

Operation N.E.T.S. had a busy quarter fundraising and also getting out with youth in the community. The mission of NETS is to strengthen relationships between the youth of Kearney and Law Enforcement through sports. Fundraisers were held at Runza and UNK and a t-shirt fundraiser was also held through Saylor Screenprinting. Community Service Officer Emily Donohoe has been doing great work for this program and we are fortunate to have so many community





## FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY

On June 6<sup>th</sup> Lt Gabe Kowalek graduated from the 290<sup>th</sup> Session of the FBI National Academy. He joins Bryan Waugh, Kevin Thompson, Dan Lynch, Mike Kirkwood and Dale Hungerford as graduates of the FBI National Academy. The FBINA is a 10-week program in Quantico, Virginia that offers top notch training and networking to leaders in law enforcement. Attendees are nominated by the leaders within their department and if selected join the 1% of law enforcement that attends the training. Lt Jason Koetters is currently attending the 291<sup>st</sup> Session.

## 2024 LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL CEREMONY



Kearney Police Department and Buffalo County Sheriff's Office hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony at the Law Enforcement Center during National Police Week. This important event brings together current and retired law enforcement, their families and the public to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. *(Photo Credit: Mike Erbsen)*



## LAW ENFORCEMENT BALL

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Law Enforcement Ball was a great night for local law enforcement to come together with their spouses and enjoy an evening of dinner and dancing. Legacy on the Bricks graciously hosted the event and as usual did an excellent job. During the event 2023 Awards were also presented. These selections were made based on nominations and the Chief of Police and Command Staff made the final selections. Awards presented included:

- 2023 Outstanding Volunteer Team: KPD/BCSO Police Chaplain Corps
- 2023 Team Excellence Award: Property and Evidence Bureau – Jeff Dowling and David Sesna
- 2023 Civilian Employee of the Year: Administrative Coordinator/Crime Analyst Emily Starkey
- 2023 Police Officer of the Year: Officer Braylen Luke
- 2023 Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association Service Award: Buffalo County Sheriff's Office and Kearney Police Department



## OFFICER ACTIVITY

Officers responded to 8,549 calls for service this quarter including 354 traffic accidents and 1,618 traffic stops. Officers made 469 arrests that included 91 felonies. Officers handled 1,766 incidents that included 96 assaults, 348 disturbances, 27 DUI's, 109 larcenies and 77 drug/narcotic violations.

Offense	Jun 2023	Jun 2024	% Change	YTD-2023	YTD-2024	% Change
Burglary	7	3	-57%	35	34	-3%
Larceny	74	38	-49%	257	208	-19%
Motor Vehicle Theft	13	6	-54%	26	25	-4%
Robbery	0	1	N/A	5	5	0%
Assault	30	32	7%	197	246	25%
Homicide	0	0	0%	0	0	0%

## CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY AND YOUTH CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

Kearney Police Department held both adult and youth Citizens Police Academy this quarter. The Youth Academy was coordinated by School Resource Office Nate Dennis with the assistance of Officer Boyd Weller and the Adult Academy was coordinated by Lieutenant Jason Koettters. All divisions within our department help out and truly enjoy getting a chance to show participants what they do, specialized equipment available and answer questions regarding their careers in law enforcement. Applications will again be accepted starting February 2025 for next year's sessions if interested.



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*Prepared by Emily Starkey*

*Administrative Coordinator/Crime Analyst*