

KEARNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT



APRIL - JUNE | 2025

THANK YOU CHIEF WAUGH

This quarter we thanked Chief Waugh for his years of leadership at the Kearney Police Department while concurrently congratulating him on his assignment as Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol. We are thankful for his guidance and forward-thinking



over the last 6 years. His impact on KPD will benefit the department for years to come. Chief Waugh's connections with staff and the community we serve are a testament to his dedication to people. Colonel Waugh will do great things for the State of Nebraska, and we look forward to continued collaboration with the Nebraska State Patrol!

NEW HIRES/ASSIGNMENTS/PROMOTIONS

This quarter Sergeant Tony Cordova and Officer Lacie Lindner transitioned from the Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB) to the Uniformed Patrol Bureau (UPB). Sergeant Greg Benson and Officer Noah Stewart were selected as the new members of the CIB. Former Intern Ethan Mroczek was hired as a Community Service Officer. Hastings College Junior Chase Palowski was selected as the summer intern.

The department also celebrated the following milestone anniversary:

- 30 years – Sergeant Tony Cordova
- 15 years – Sergeant JC Small
- 10 years – Officer Nate Dennis
- 5 years – Sergeant Logan Miller and Officer Jared Gerdes



2024 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



2024 KPD Officer of the Year
Officer Austin Hibberd



2024 KPD Civilian Employee of the Year
Community Service Officer Emily Donohoe



2024 KPD Team Excellence Award
K-9 Unit Officer Alstrom and Officer Z. Schwarz



2024 Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association
Community Service Award - Officer Atalia Najera



2024 Joint KPD/BCSO Team Award
Fatality Accident Investigation Team (FAIT)



2024 Joint KPD/BCSO Team Award
Emergency Services Unit (ESU)



LIFE SAVING AWARDS

On May 21st we were honored to present Life Saving Awards to two of our staff members as well as a Community Member Distinguished Service Award to a deserving citizen. Officer Beard, Community Service Officer Seth VanHorn and Kearney citizen Dominic Johns were recognized for their actions in preserving a life on February 21, 2025. On that day, a UNK student was running on a treadmill on campus when she collapsed. UNK employee Dominic Johns jumped into action by getting the AED and rendering aid. Officer Beard and Community Service Officer

VanHorn quickly arrived and started CPR. Emergency Medical Services personnel transported the student to the hospital. She regained a pulse and is alive and well today. We were grateful to have her join us as we recognized the actions of these 3 courageous individuals and their commitment to their community.

The quick response and effective application of training they displayed is commendable and we appreciate their dedication to the citizens of this community.

OFFICER ACTIVITY

Officers responded to 9,946 calls for service this quarter including 324 traffic accidents and 3,333 traffic stops. Officers made 462 arrests that included 101 felonies. We are pleased to see the downward trend of several property crimes as well as assaults continue from the first quarter of 2025 into the second quarter.

Offense	YTD 2024	YTD 2025	% Change
Burglary	34	17	-50%
Vandalism	158	101	-36%
Larceny	208	198	-5%
Assault	246	200	-19%

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