

KEARNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT



OCTOBER - DECEMBER | 2023

A WORD FROM CHIEF WAUGH

“As we enter another year, and reflect on 2023, I can’t thank you, our amazing community enough, for the consistent, incredible support myself and members of KPD enjoy every day. This also marks the close of our 150th Year, celebrating a long history of professional policing in Kearney. We also celebrated 30 Years of successful co-location with our friends and partners at the Buffalo County Sheriff’s Office and look forward to many more exciting opportunities to partner in the new year. Our most valued and appreciated resource remains ALL of our dedicated and committed staff, working hard to ensure we meet or exceed the expectations of our community through the professional delivery of police service. We appreciate the unwavering support from our City Council, City Manager, and our partners with each City Department. I remain committed to regular, intentional, and thoughtful communication with our community partners, law enforcement partners, and those aligned with our shared vision and goals for public safety in Kearney. It is an absolute honor and pleasure to serve as your Chief of Police. I look forward to a bright future together. Happy New Year!” – Chief Bryan D. Waugh



(Chief Waugh and FBI Special Agent In Charge Gene Kowel, FBI Omaha)

NEW HIRES/ASSIGNMENTS/PROMOTIONS



Officer Micah Schroeder completed the Field Training Program and joined his Uniform Patrol shift on October 19th. Caleb Hollis and former intern Jaco Henning were hired as police officer recruits on December 18th. Jaco will report to the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center for the 216th session on January 2nd and Caleb Hollis will report for the 217th session on April 29th. Elizabeth Dowse was selected for the open Records Technician position and started on October 9th. Officer Eric Elder’s last day as a Kearney Police Department was October 20th as he relocated to another state.



This quarter Officer Payton, Officer Hughes, Officer Stokey and Community Service Officer Seth VanHorn were presented Life Saving Awards and Officer Zach Schwarz and Officer Ben Dostal were presented with Certificates of Commendation at the November 14th City Council Meeting. We appreciate their dedication to their careers and the citizens of our community.

D.A.R.E. AT KEARNEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Kearney Public Schools along with the Kearney Police Department will again be implementing the Drug Abuse Resistance Education or D.A.R.E. program for 5th grade students in select elementary schools. This fall the curriculum was taught at Emerson Elementary by certified D.A.R.E. instructor and School Resource Officer Boyd Weller. Thirty students participated and their accomplishment was celebrated at a graduation ceremony on October 30th. Next semester 5th graders at Bryant Elementary will get the opportunity to participate in this nationally recognized program aimed to educate and empower students to make safe and responsible choices.

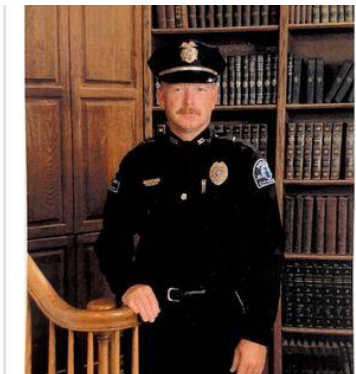


HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Once again Kearney Police Department was fortunate to get to be able to be involved with several holiday celebrations in our community including the Yanney Lights Festival First Responders Night, Meals on Wheels delivery with Santa and the Grinch and Ham for the Holidays. Two new programs this year included a Christmas Card Design contest for 3rd graders at Kearney Public Schools and Shop with a First Responder. During the Christmas Card Design contest students were able to create a design and enter it to be considered for this year's card. 10 finalists were voted on by Kearney Police Department staff and the winner was Kyla Trampe from Park Elementary. Her design was featured on the 2023 Kearney Police Department Christmas Card. Congratulations Kyla!



The First Responders Foundation Kearney Chapter brought Shop with a First Responder to Kearney on Monday, December 18th. Volunteer police, fire and EMS personnel from the local area joined local children and their families at Wal-Mart in Kearney and assisted the children in selecting items in the store. The program gets referrals from area schools and other agencies to coordinate with families that could use a Christmas shopping experience that would not otherwise get.



RETIRED LIEUTENANT DENNY LEWIS MEMORIAL SERVICE

Retired Lieutenant Denny Lewis passed away on October 9th, 2023. Lt Lewis served the Kearney Police Department and City of Kearney for 30 years and retired in March 2018. Prior to that he worked for the Buffalo County Sheriff's Office for 7 ½ years. While at the Kearney Police Department he served as a Police Officer, Corporal, Sergeant, and Lieutenant. Members of the Kearney Police Department and Buffalo County Sheriff's Office were honored to be able to be pay their respects during the funeral service for the Lewis family.

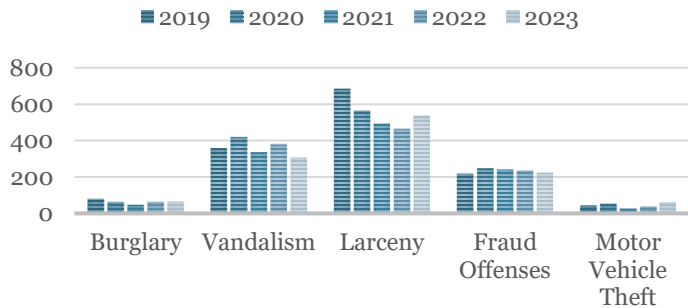
PINK PATCH PROJECT

October 2023 marked the 4th year of Kearney Police Department participating in the national Pink Patch Project. We have partnered with UNK PD, Buffalo County Sheriff's Office, Nebraska State Patrol and Minden PD to raise money for the Forever Pink Foundation which provides support to local residents undergoing treatment for breast cancer. Donations raised this year from the sale of patches, t-shirts, coffee and soap. A special thanks to partners Saylor Screenprinting, Kearney Hy-vee, Mason's Market, Apple Market, Kitt's Coffee, Buff City Soap for their partnership in this fundraising effort. Funds raised in 2023 will be presented on January 9th. We look forward to continuing to support this important cause.

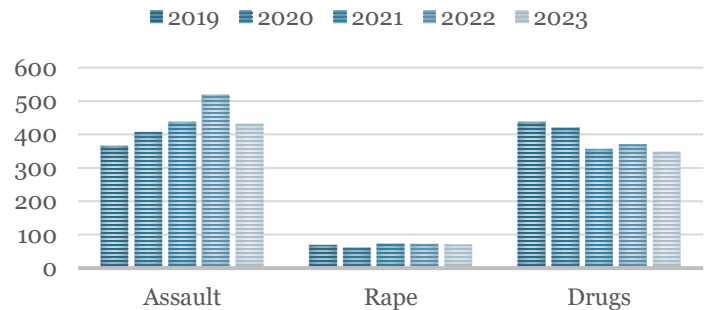


2023 OFFICER ACTIVITY

CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY



CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS/SOCIETY



CALLS FOR SERVICE

| Year | All | Accident w/ injury | Accident non injury | Traffic Stop |
|------|-------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 2019 | 33939 | 130 | 1473 | 7785 |
| 2020 | 31848 | 121 | 1241 | 5954 |
| 2021 | 32142 | 111 | 1419 | 5959 |
| 2022 | 32795 | 158 | 1406 | 6583 |
| 2023 | 33536 | 143 | 1329 | 7039 |

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Prepared by Emily Baughman

Administrative Coordinator/Crime Analyst