ANNUAL REPORT 2024

CORTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

TO SERVE AND PROTECT

Core values are intrinsic; they are the fundamental belief of a person. Core Values are not descriptors of the work we do or the strategies we employ to accomplish our mission. Our core values are the foundation of how we interact with each other and members of our community as well as forming the basis of our decision making. We shall continuously incorporate and represent these core values:

Human Kindness– The basis for our mission. You are your actions.

Courage-Selfless devotion to duty. This entails taking action in the face of danger as well as holding ourselves and our peers to the highest ethical standards.

Service– our mission "to serve and protect" are not merely words– it is our way of life.

PROFESSIONALISM   ACCOUNTABILITY   COMPASSION   INTEGRITY   FAIRNESS   COURAGE

Welcome to the Town of Cortland. As your Chief of Police, I want to thank you for taking the time to learn more about the Town, our department, our mission, and how we work together with the community to keep Cortland safe, welcoming, and thriving.

At the heart of our approach is Community Policing, a philosophy that recognizes safety is not just about enforcement but about partnerships, trust, and proactive problem-solving.

Our officers are not just enforcers of the law; they are guardians of our community, neighbors, and problem-solvers who are invested in the well-being of Cortland's residents.

This is why we saw the benefit of embracing a partnership with IRIS which enables a direct link to all the local resources that are available to those in crisis.

One way we enhance safety is through Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). This proactive approach focuses on designing spaces that naturally deter crime: well-lit streets, secure properties, and engaged communities create a safer environment for everyone. We encourage residents and businesses to embrace these principles, and we are here to help guide and support these efforts.

But the truth is, we cannot do this alone. A safe and vibrant community is built on collaboration. Whether it is reporting suspicious activity, participating in neighborhood watch programs, or simply getting to know your neighbors, every action matters.

I encourage you to reach out, stay informed, and work alongside us as we continue building a safer, stronger Cortland. My door is always open, and I invite you to be part of the conversation. Together, we can make a difference. Together, we are Cortland.

Stay safe, stay engaged, and stay connected.

Chief Lin Dargis

Cortland Police Department

The Town of Cortland...

Since incorporated in 1865, the Town of Cortland has been characterized by hometown living in a warm community atmosphere. Nestled in rural DeKalb County, Cortland is located along Illinois Route 38 and Somonauk Road.

Cortland is unique from neighboring villages and cities because it is an Incorporated Town. The 2020 census conducted shows Cortland has a population of 4,398 citizens. Cortland is the third largest Town in Illinois, with only the Towns of Cicero and Normal having a greater population.

The Cortland Police Department is dispatched through the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office E9-1-1 Center. Patrol and investigative services are supplemented by the Sheriff's Police. The expertise of the DeKalb County Major Crimes Task Force is available in the event of a major violent crime. The department patrols 3.64

BUDGET
TOWN BUDGET $2,581,818
POLICE BUDGET $903,975

DEPARTMENT
CHIEF OF POLICE
COMMANDER
7 F/T OFFICERS
4 P/T OFFICERS
1 P/T ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.

FLEET
2017 Ford Explorer
2018 FORD TAURUS
2019 FORD TAURUS
2020 CHEVROLET TAHOE
2021 Ford Explorer
2025 Ford Explorer

POLICE DEPARTMENT

PD ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2024:

- First law enforcement agency to partner with IRIS in DeKalb County. IRIS is an Integrated Referral and Intake System created by the University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research. IRIS is a web-based communication tool designed to help organizations connect those they serve with the right resources in our community. Providers save time through streamlined communications and can efficiently track referrals in one place.
- Partnered with Safe Passage
- Spearheaded the installation of a new automated tornado alarm system by Federal Signal using National Weather Service online geofencing for any severe storms and potential tornadic activity.
- Applied for and received a grant for Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) to assist in crime prevention and enforcement. This system will allow us to quickly check on suspicious vehicles involved in criminal activity, locate missing persons, and share and receive information from jurisdictions across the United States.
- Two officers trained and licensed as unmanned aerial systems (drones) pilots.
- Finished the year with a successful Shop with a Cop event at Farm and Fleet, with four families with nine children total from Cortland. A total of twenty-four children from five different jurisdictions participated.
- 2024 saw a 43% drop in crimes against society, which include theft, robbery, property damage, fraud, narcotics violations, and an overall reduction in crime rate in Cortland of 29%.

PD 2025 Goals:

- Continue to seek grant funding for personnel, equipment, and community programs.
- One officer should be trained in Cyber/AI criminal investigation.
- Continue to maintain all mandated training as directed by the Illinois Safety Act.
- Incorporate principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) in The Town's building codes.
- Continue to forge positive relationships within our community and find new and innovative ways to address quality-of-life issues.
- Stress recruitment and retention of qualified law enforcement professionals.

STATISTICS

Implemented in 2021 to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement, NIBRS captures details on each single crime incident—as well as on separate offenses within the same incident—including information on victims, known offenders, relationships between victims and offenders, arrestees, and property involved in crimes.

Unlike data reported through the UCR Program's traditional Summary Reporting System (SRS)—an aggregate monthly tally of crimes—NIBRS goes much deeper because of its ability to provide circumstances and context for crimes like location, time of day, and whether the incident was cleared.

Agency: CORTLAND

Offense	Reported in 2024	Reported in 2023	Percent Change	Offenses Cleared	Percent Cleared	Percent Of Category	Rate Per 100,000*
Murder	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Justifiable Homicide	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Non-consensual Sex Offenses:							
Rape	2	0	NA	2	100.00%	5.56%	45.78
Sodomy	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Sexual Assault with Object	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Fondling	0	4	-100.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Aggravated Assault	0	4	-100.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Simple Assault	24	19	26.32%	17	70.83%	66.67%	549.32
Intimidation	9	2	350.00%	3	33.33%	25.00%	206.00
Kidnapping/Abduction	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Consensual Sex Offenses:							
Incest	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Statutory Rape	1	0	NA	0	0.00%	2.78%	22.89
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Crimes Against Persons Total	**36**	**29**	**24.14%**	**22**	**61.11%**	**37.11%**	**823.99**
Robbery	0	1	-100.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	1	0	NA	0	0.00%	2.08%	22.89
Larceny/Theft Offenses	15	33	-54.55%	5	33.33%	31.25%	343.33
Motor Vehicle Theft	5	2	150.00%	1	20.00%	10.42%	114.44
Arson	1	0	NA	0	0.00%	2.08%	22.89
Destruction Of Property	12	16	-25.00%	1	8.33%	25.00%	274.66
Counterfeiting/Forgery	1	4	-75.00%	0	0.00%	2.08%	22.89
Fraud Offense	13	21	-38.10%	0	0.00%	27.08%	297.55
Embezzlement	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Extortion/Blackmail	0	2	-100.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Bribery	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Stolen Property Offenses	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Crimes Against Property Total	**48**	**79**	**-39.24%**	**7**	**14.58%**	**49.48%**	**1098.65**
Drug/Narcotic Violations	11	23	-52.17%	11	100.00%	84.62%	251.77
Drug Equipment Violations	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Gambling Offenses	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Pornography/Obscene Material	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Prostitution	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Weapons Law Violation	1	0	NA	0	0.00%	7.69%	22.89
Animal Cruelty	1	0	NA	0	0.00%	7.69%	22.89
Crimes Against Society Total	**13**	**23**	**-43.48%**	**11**	**84.62%**	**13.4%**	**297.55**
Total Group "A" Offenses	**97**	**131**	**-25.95%**	**40**	**41.24%**	**100%**	**2220.19**

Note: The Rate per 100,000 will be 'NA' when the Adjusted Population Base is Zero.

Statewide Crime Profile   * Adjusted population base: 4,369   *2024 Crime in Illinois*

Agency: CORTLAND

Total Offenses	97	Clearance Rate	41.24%	
		Last years rate	32.82%	
Total Arrests	36	Hate Crime Offenses	0	
		Law Officers Assaulted	1	

Offense Reporting

Group "A"	Offenses Reported	Offenses Cleared	Offenses Reported Last Year
Murder	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0
Justifiable Homicide	0	0	0
Rape	2	2	0
Robbery	0	0	1
Aggravated Assault	0	0	4
Burglary	1	0	0
Larceny	15	5	33
Motor Vehicle Theft	5	1	2
Arson	1	0	0
Simple Assault	24	17	19
Intimidation	9	3	2
Bribery	0	0	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	1	0	4
Vandalism	12	1	16
Drug/Narcotic Violations	11	11	23
Drug Equipment Violations	0	0	0
Embezzlement	0	0	0
Extortion/Blackmail	0	0	2
Fraud	13	0	21
Gambling	0	0	0
Kidnapping	0	0	0
Pornography	0	0	0
Prostitution	0	0	0
Sodomy	0	0	0
Sexual Assault w/Object	0	0	0
Fondling	0	0	4
Incest	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	1	0	0
Stolen Property	0	0	0
Weapons Law Violations	1	0	0
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	0	0	0
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	0	0	0
Animal Cruelty	1	0	0
Total Group "A"	**97**	**40**	**131**

Population : 4369

Arrest Reporting

Group "A"	Adult	Juvenile	Unknown	Total Arrests	Arrests Reported Last Year
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0
Justifiable Homicide	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	0	2
Burglary	0	0	0	0	0
Larceny	1	1	0	2	5
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0	0	0
Simple Assault	7	0	0	7	6
Intimidation	2	0	0	2	0
Bribery	0	0	0	0	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	0	0	0	0	0
Vandalism	1	0	0	1	2
Drug/Narcotic Violations	10	2	0	12	23
Drug Equipment Violations	0	0	0	0	0
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0	0
Extortion/Blackmail	0	0	0	0	0
Fraud	0	0	0	0	0
Gambling	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping	0	0	0	0	0
Pornography	0	0	0	0	0
Prostitution	0	0	0	0	0
Sodomy	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault w/Object	0	0	0	0	0
Fondling	0	0	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Stolen Property	0	0	0	0	0
Weapons Law Violations	0	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	0	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	0	0	0	0	0
Animal Cruelty	0	0	0	0	0
Total Group A Arrests	**21**	**3**	**0**	**24**	**38**
Group "B" Arrests					
Bad Checks	0	0	0	0	0
Curfew/Vagrancy	0	0	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	0	0	0	0	0
DUI	1	0	0	1	0
Drunkenness	0	0	0	0	0
Family Offenses-nonviolent	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Law Violations	0	0	0	0	0
Peeping Tom	0	0	0	0	0
Runaways	0	0	0	0	0
Trespass	0	0	0	0	2
All Other Offenses	11	0	0	11	11
Total Group B Arrests	**12**	**0**	**0**	**12**	**13**
Total Arrests	**33**	**3**	**0**	**36**	**51**

Offense Trends Report

Beginning Date: 01/01/2024   **Ending Date: 12/31/2024**

Agency: CORTLAND
Offense: Group A Offenses

● **Group A Offense Count**

☒
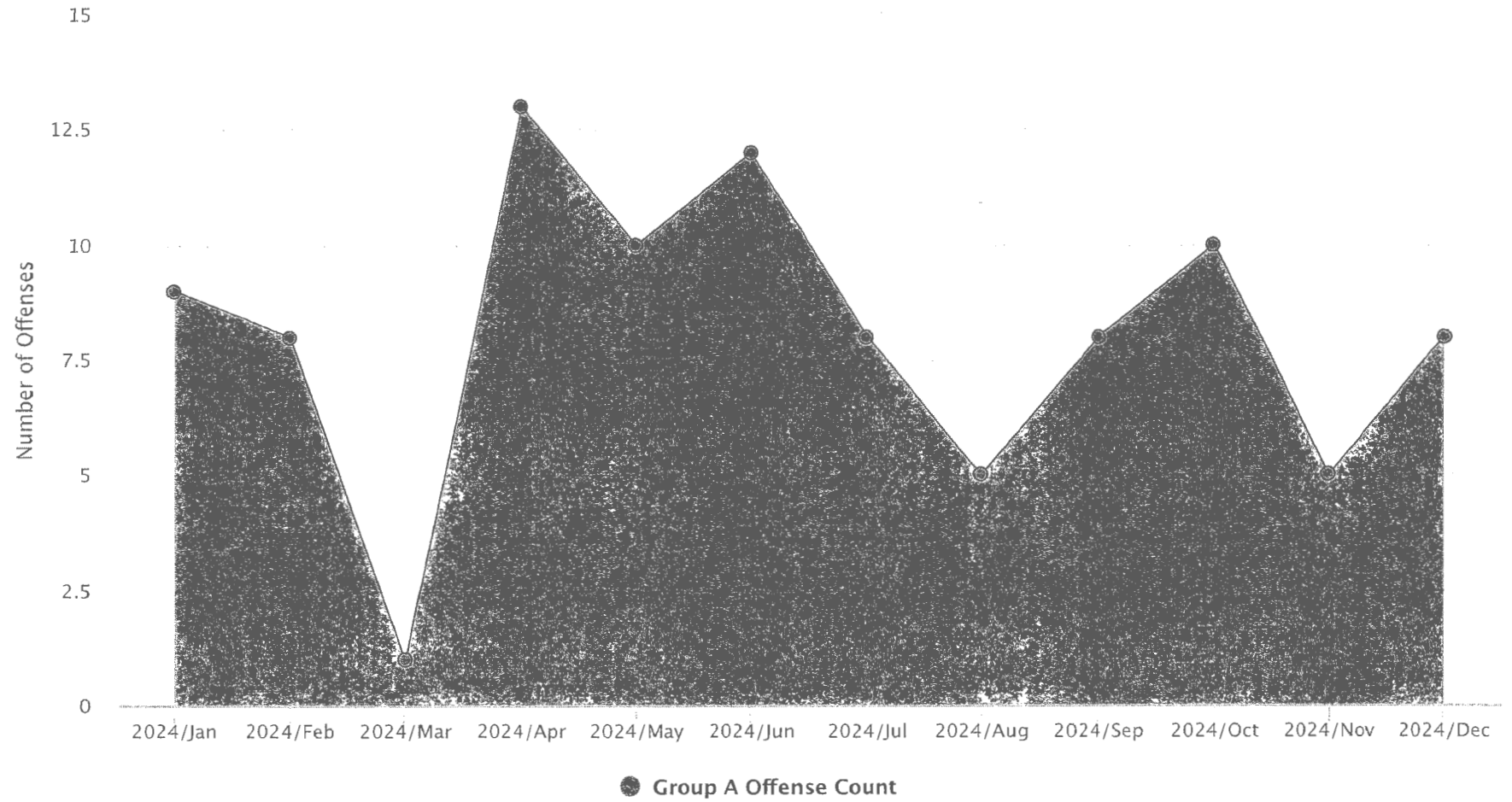
Arrest Distribution Report

Beginning Date: 01/01/2024   **Ending Date: 12/31/2024**

Type of Arrest

Agency: CORTLAND

Offense: All

Offense	On-View Arrest	Summoned/ Cited	Taken Into Custody	Total
13B - Simple Assault	6		1	7
13C - Intimidation		2		2
23C - Shoplifting			1	1
23H - All Other Larceny	1			1
290 - Destruction/Damage/Vandalis m of Property		1		1
35A - Drug/Narcotic Violations	1	11		12
90D - Driving Under the Influence	1			1
90Z - All Other Offenses		9	2	11
Total	9	23	4	36

Type of Arrest Distribution
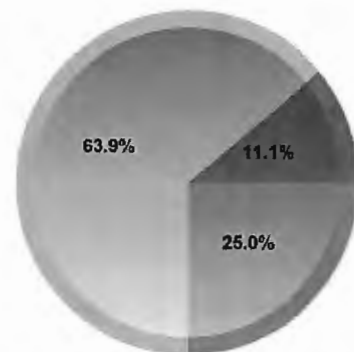
Type of Arrest
- On-View Arrest
- Summoned/Cited
- Taken Into Custody

63.9%   11.1%   25.0%

NIBRS REPORTABLE ARRESTS

Offense	Adult	Juvenile	Total
11D - Fondling	0	0	0
13A - Aggravated Assault	0	0	0
13B - Simple Assault	2	2	4
290 - Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	0	0	0
35A - Drug/Narcotic Violations	12	0	12
520 - Weapons Law Violations	0	0	0
90C - Disorderly Conduct	3	0	3
90D - Driving Under the Influence	1	0	1
90Z - All Other Offenses	39	0	39
Total	**57**	**2**	**59**

Arrest Distribution Breakdown Report
Beginning Date: 01/01/2024   Ending Date: 12/31/2024

Type of Arrest by Arrestee Resident Status

Agency: CORTLAND
Offense: Group A Offenses

Resident (2)

Resident (7)

Taken Into Custody

On-View Arrest

Resident (6)

Not Reported (1)

Summoned/Cited

Nonresident (8)
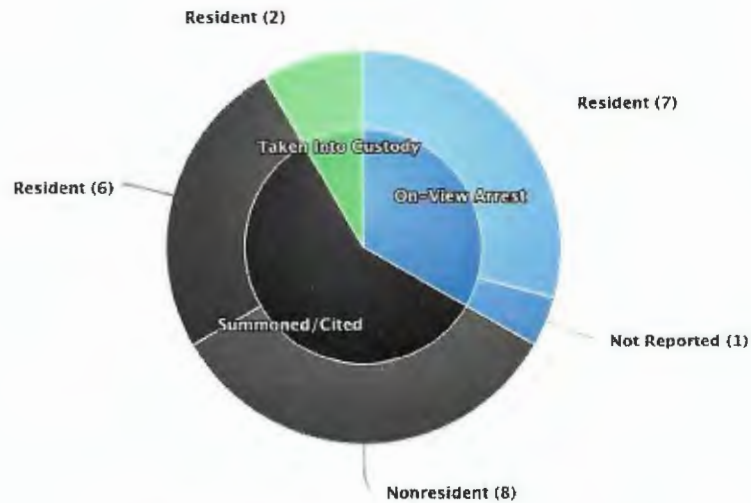
Counts based on Type of Arrest or Arrestee Resident Status may not match counts
based solely on the number of offenses or number of victims

In 2024 the Cortland Police Department made a total of 59 arrests.

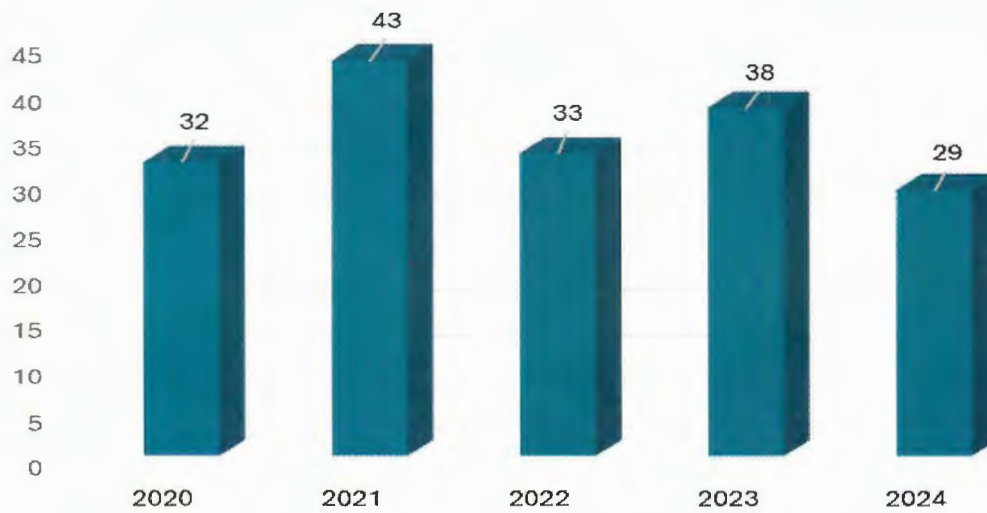# FREQUENT CALL CATEGORY 2024

- DOMESTICS
- MENTAL HEALTH
- ORDINANCE
- DISORDERLY CONDUCT
- JUVENILE CALLS
- CRIMINAL DAMAGE
- NON CRIMINAL

ACCIDENTS BY YEAR

Year	Accidents
2020	32
2021	43
2022	33
2023	38
2024	29

MOST INTERSECTION ACCIDENT

STATE ROUTE 38/SOMONAUK ROAD	6
AIRPORT RD	3
SOMONAUK RD AND MISC	5
NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS	9
LOVES ROAD AND MISC	4

ACCIDENTS BY MONTH

2024 Monthly Breakdown Traffic Accidents

TRAFFIC OFFENSES

TRAFFIC CITATIONS

	2022	2023	2024
CANNABIS VIOLATIONS IN MOTOR VEHICLE	5	21	11
DISOBEY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE	2	14	4
DRIVER LICENSE VIOLATIONS	12	29	10
DRIVER/PASSENGER SEAT BELTS	0	1	0
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	3	0	2
ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION WHILE DRIVING	2	0	0
SUSPENDED DRIVERS LICENSE	9	14	6
FAILURE TO YIELD VIOLATIONS	5	5	3
IMPROPER LANE USAGE	2	0	3
MISCELLANEOUS	4	12	10
OPERATE UNINSURANCE MOTOR VEHICLE	6	14	9
REGISTRATION VIOLATIONS	4	13	9
SPEEDING VIOLATIONS	5	45	31
TOTAL	**59**	**167**	**98**

TRAFFIC WARNINGS

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2022	5	4	0	7	0	6	20	10	6	12	4	5	79
2023	4	5	10	21	18	17	45	15	18	18	18	17	206
2024	9	10	19	12	15	8	19	14	7	24	22	51	210

BREAKDOWN of TOTAL POLICE ACTIVITY 2024

2024	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
TOTAL PO-LICE ACTIVI-TY	150	165	136	130	170	174	164	129	149	140	120	102	9,582
CALLS FOR SERVICE	710	691	758	648	786	803	854	738	781	942	959	912	1,729

CAD events are a sum of total police activity the department handles. A call for service reflects each time a person calls for a police response.

TOTAL POLICE ACTIVITY with CALLS FOR SERVICE
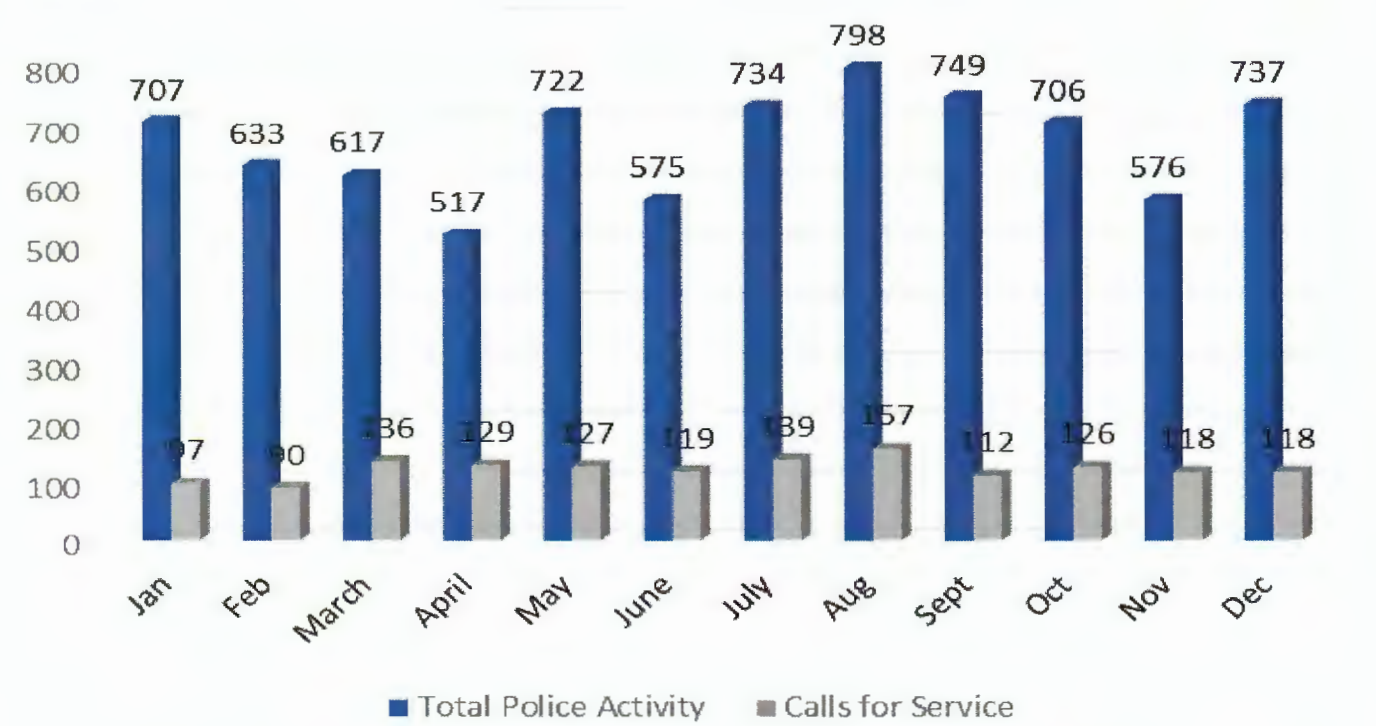
2022-2024 Total Police Activity
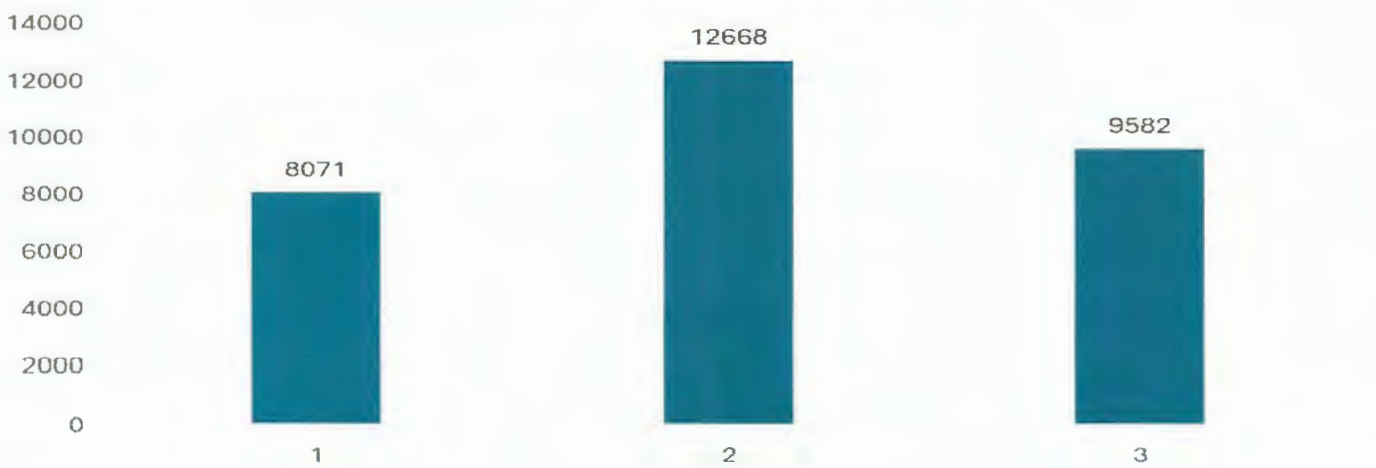
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Project ChildSafe

The Cortland Police Department provides up to six free firearm safety kits to each resident through a partnership with Project ChildSafe, the Nationwide Firearms Safety Education program. The safety kits, which include a gun lock, will be distributed while supplies last.

Project ChildSafe, a program developed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), has distributed more than 36 million firearm safety kits throughout the country since 2003. The program is supported by the firearms industry and donations by individuals and organizations.

By partnering with Project ChildSafe, the Cortland Police Department is participating in a national effort to promote firearms safety education to all gun owners. Project ChildSafe has distributed gun lock safety kits to all 50 states.

Operation Peace of Mind

Is a program that helps police officers provide assistance for the elderly. Many problems face senior citizens such as elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. It is our goal to help keep older adults safe from crime and provide the assistance needed to reduce their fears. A copy of the form that can be completed pro-actively is available on the next page.

Elder Watch
We partner with DeKalb County Elder Care Services to help older consumers recognize, refuse, and report fraud and scams.

Business Watch

Business watch is a crime prevention program to help reduce crime in the community. Its purpose provides a police presence when businesses close to ensure employees safety when leaving work and to reduce crime-related issues to businesses.

Vacation Watch
The Cortland Police Department offers a service for residents to check in on your property while you are away. Residents may request this service before leaving home for an extended period of time. By registering your home with the Police Department, officers may provide extra patrols of your residence while you are away. Notifying the department also provides a way to contact the resident if there is a problem at the home.

Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)
Internet Crimes Against Children is through the Illinois Attorney General's office. This is a national network of coordinated task forces representing federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies. These agencies are continually engaged in proactive and reactive investigations and prosecutions of persons involved in child abuse and exploitation involving the internet.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Crime Prevention Checklist

A Crime Prevention Checklist can assist residents with home security. This checklist can help identify any security risks, both inside and outside of the home. The homeowners will then be in a better position to take the appropriate action to correct any problems to prevent themselves from becoming a victim of a crime.

Crime Prevention Though Environmental Design (CPTED)

CPTED is the proper design and effective use of the built environment that can lead to a reduction in the fear of and incidence of crime thereby improving the quality of life. CPTED is based on four overlapping principles: Natural Access Control, Natural Surveillance, Territorial Reinforcement, and Maintenance. The goal of CPTED is to reduce opportunities for crime that may be inherent in the design or structures or in the design of neighborhoods.

Crisis Intervention Training

Crisis Intervention Training (C.I.T.) is a critical part of officer training. It gives officers the skills to identify and assist people with mental illness and other disorders. The emphasis is on de-escalation while also being effective in helping the person in crisis

One of the core tenets of CIT is that there is a huge advantage to having those who suffer from mental illness meet the police during a non crisis day. This helps them feel more comfortable with the officer during a crisis because they are familiar with them. If any family feels they could benefit from this option feel free to contact us and schedule a meeting. It is also extremely beneficial for us to have pre-crisis information from you as to what can be done to mitigate the crisis by understanding particular triggers.

CORTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT
OPERATION PEACE OF MIND

SECTION 1: PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Do you live alone? [ ] Yes [ ] No: _____

Emergency Key Location (Optional): _____

Preferred Language: _____

SECTION 2: EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Primary Emergency Contact Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Address: _____

Secondary Emergency Contact Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Address: _____

SECTION 3: MEDICAL INFORMATION (VOLUNTARY)

Primary Doctor: _____

Medical Conditions: _____

CORTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT
OPERATION PEACE OF MIND

Allergies: _____

Medications: _____

Do you have a medical alert system/device?: _____

Mobility issues or assistive equipment?: _____

SECTION 4: PETS/LIVESTOCK (IF APPLICABLE)

Type of Pet(s): _____

Number of Pets: _____

Emergency Contact for Animal Care: _____

SECTION 5: CONSENT & ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I hereby consent to the Cortland Police Department maintaining this information for the purpose of welfare

checks and emergency response.

[ ] I give permission to share this information with emergency personnel.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

SECTION 6: OFFICER NOTES (INTERNAL USE ONLY)

Initial Visit Completed by (Name/Badge): _____

Date of Check-In: _____

Any Special Concerns or Notes: _____

Any Special Concerns or Notes: _____