



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA – City Manager
FROM: Chief Brian Lau
DATE OF MEETING: March 2, 2026
ITEM TITLE: Department Report – Police

Captain Isley attended the yearly sex crimes investigator conference January 25-28th in Johnston, Iowa. This is a yearly conference that continues to be very valuable to the department with case studies and legal updates.

Chief Lau and Officer Ohrt attended the Iowa Police Officers' Association conference on February 23rd-24th in Altoona, Iowa. This year's conference presented a few case studies for education, legal updates, and an officer wellness presentation on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

This week, Lieutenant Morris and Officer Ball are attending the Iowa Association of Women Police conference in Dubuque, Iowa, on March 2nd- 3rd.

Officer Jason Ohrt has been awarded the 2025 Officer of the Year Award for his outstanding dedication to the service of the community as well as our department. This year, Officer Ohrt has stepped up and become the department's firearms instructor and also volunteered to help with the department's vehicle maintenance program. No task is too big or small for Officer Ohrt to dedicate his time to better the department or help his community.

Officer Nicole Ball has been awarded the 2025 Apollo 11 Award. The Apollo 11 Award is new this year and recognizes an officer within the department who goes "Above and Beyond" in teamwork excellence. Officer Ball brings positive energy to work every day, and this has been noticed not only within the department but also in her service to our community.

Bank Iowa graciously donated eight filing cabinets to the Independence Police Department, which are currently updating and replacing some that are used for the officer's evidence management system.