

**KRONENWETTER POLICE  
DEPARTMENT ANNUAL  
REPORT 2024**



*20 Year Anniversary Edition*



## Village Board of Trustees

*President Chris Voll*

*Clerk Bobbi Jo Birk LaBarge*

*Trustee Alex Vedvik*

*Trustee Sean Dumais*

*Trustee Chris Eiden*

*Trustee Kelly Coyle*

*Trustee Ken Charneski*

*Trustee Aaron Myszka*

*Trustee Craig Mortensen*

*Trustee Tim Shaw*

*Trustee Cindy Lee Buchkowski-Hoffman*

## Police and Fire Commission

*President Doug Schemmel*

*Clerk Dianne Drew*

*Commissioner Lucene Udulutch*

*Commissioner Chet Rucinski*

*Commissioner Dave Forsythe*

*Commissioner Rick Smith*

*Commissioner Paul Raymond*

---

## From the Chief's Desk

As I wrote this letter, I reflected on the department's incredible 20-year journey. I felt it was only fitting to pay respect to the history of the department and the officers and staff who did so much to make this department successful.

We are very proud of the community relationships we have built, and the trust placed in us by our citizens. The Village leaders at the time of the department's formation placed their trust in us and we have done our best to uphold their vision of a community focused police department. I hope you enjoy the anniversary section and the walk down memory lane. I had a great time putting together this year's annual report and adding all the historic pieces to it.



2024 was a very busy year for us, from patrol to administration. We welcome our new part-time Police and Court Clerk, Lee Ann Spoon, who has helped ease the burden on our full-time Clerk, Dianne Drew. Our Clerks are extremely busy, and they are the glue that keeps our department going. As our demands for service grow, so must our staff, both sworn and non-sworn.

Our Patrol Bureau was very busy in 2024, and we recorded roughly 500 more calls for service than we did in 2023. In addition, we saw an unprecedented number of significant investigations that required weeks and, in some cases, months of investigative follow-up. Policing continues to be increasingly more complex, particularly with electronic devices and search warrants. We do not have the staffing level to support a detective position, so our patrol officers juggle labor intensive investigations with daily calls for service.

Our newly formed Peer Support Team (PST) officially began in 2024, thanks to the efforts of Officers Dan Dunst and Soua Xiong. They've done a great job putting the Team together and I hope you enjoy Officer Dunst's report on the new team.

We continued to be involved in community events such as the Walk and Bike for the Health of it, National Night Out, Halloween, etc. This year, the Village closed a small section of Kowalski Rd. due to the large number of pedestrians who visited this block for the incredible Halloween festivities. We received a tremendous amount of positive feedback from the residents who live in that block, as well as from the patrons who visited it. Overall, it was a great success and most importantly, it improved safety in that area.

---

As a department, we continue to do whatever we can to save money, and we were awarded a couple of grants in 2024. The first was a \$2,000 grant from WI Public Service for new AED (automated external defibrillator) equipment such as pads, batteries, etc. This grant allowed us to update our existing AED's by replacing aging components. In a large Village like Kronenwetter, our patrol officers are key contributors of an initial first aid response, which is why this grant was so critical. Thank you WPS! Another grant we received was from the WI DOT Chemical Test Section, which netted us over \$1,100 worth of equipment for free. Thank you, WI DOT!

We also found serviceable used equipment that was either inexpensive or free. For example, we picked up the following equipment: three used MDC's (in car police computers) and a used high-capacity computer from City County IT for free; three in-car police radios from the Sheriff's Office for free; and three Arbitrator 360 HD in-car video units for \$1,200 total from an e-Bay seller. Conservatively speaking, if we had purchased brand new equipment, it would have cost at least \$45,000. This amounts to a saving of \$43,800 to the Village!

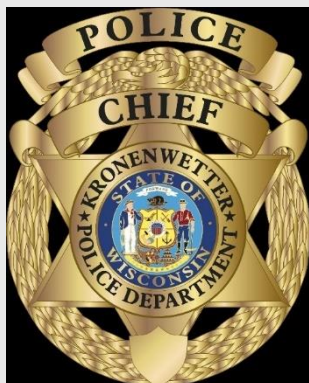
I'm also happy to report that once again, Kronenwetter made the *Safewise Safest Cities list* in WI, ranking at number six. As I've said before, I think that is a testament to the great community support we have, and it is something every resident can be proud of.

I'm so proud of the great work that our employees do every day to serve the citizens and help crime victims find the justice they deserve. I hope you enjoy this year's Annual Report and from everyone at the police department, thanks for 20 years of support!

Sincerely,

*Terry McHugh*

Chief of Police



---

# A Message from the Lieutenant

Looking back on last year, 2024, we see the Department is still emphasizing and not forgetting it's about people and community engagement. One great example that often is overlooked is citizens' requests for property checks, and officers not only check overall but also physically walk around and check doors. Interestingly, this service is hard for other agencies to fulfill, and our officers ensure this quality of service is fulfilled regardless of calls for service.



Additionally, the Department also focuses heavily on mitigating obstacles that people face each day and oftentimes that are not criminal in nature. After all, we are all people and all interconnected in some way or form. This is a wonderful reminder of how the Department is interconnected to the community and the unique services Kronenwetter Police provides. We feel blessed with the citizens of Kronenwetter, as the vast majority of them are proactive and do their part to prevent crime and disorder.

Indeed, communication has changed, and sometimes citizens are not reporting the same or directly to Law Enforcement. This can be very challenging, go unnoticed at times, and unknown to even their close neighbors. Not everyone utilizes social networking or even the same way others do. One solid example is the Nextdoor social network—I have seen posts in which citizens express their concerns about an incident and see others post suggestions like reporting it to Law Enforcement. Also, sometimes, citizens don't understand what should be reported and post their incidents on social networks without it ever being reported. I also suggest reporting it directly regardless of posting on social networks, as many times, one small incident could transform unwantedly into many.

To wrap things up, I firmly believe many of the Kronenwetter citizens understand the Department has to manage a strict, ridged, complex system of policing and more so in the present day. However, the Kronenwetter Police Department, as a whole, is very personable, actively listens, and compromises with people when we can. All of these topics I just mentioned are the style of policing and play an important role in positive encounters with officers, and naturally, our citizens realize what they have for services.

It is essential to draw attention to a proud and appreciated moment for Kronenwetter Police Department, and the service of Dianne Drew, who is in her 20th year with the department. Dianne has many hats within the department, but most of all, she is the one the citizens see first if they come to the office. The monumental fact is Dianne has been at the front of the Department for over 20 years now, and I mean literally at the forefront, and

is the longest tenured member of the department. Thank you, Dianne, for your years of service, building the department, and sustaining the quality of the Department.

Lastly, I would like to thank our citizens and officers for their hard work in keeping the village a safer and aesthetic place to live.

Respectfully,

Lieutenant Christopher Smart



---

# 2024 KPD Staff Roster

## Command Staff

Chief of Police Terry McHugh

Lieutenant Chris Smart

Sergeant Ben Shope

Sergeant Aaron Seehafer

## Full Time Officers

Officer Dan Dunst

Officer Soua Xiong

Officer Isiah Konopacki

Officer Mason Dallman

Officer Mariah Guyer

Officer Corey Baron

## Part Time Officers

Officer Josh McCaskill

Officer Eric Soberg

Officer Greg Schremp

---

*Support Staff*

*Police Clerk Dianne Drew*

*Part Time Police Clerk Lee Ann Spoon*

*Property Room Custodian Gary Anderson*

*Crossing Guard Pete Preu*

*Crossing Guard Nicole Vermote*

*Crossing Guard Kathy Imlach*

**New Part Time  
Police Clerk**

Lee Ann Spoon was hired in early 2024 as our new part time clerk. She came to us with 29 years of administrative experience with the Stevens Point Police Department.

Welcome Lee Ann!





---

# PATROL OPERATIONS

Patrol officers responded to over 7,500 total calls for service in 2024, which is an increase over the previous year. As noted earlier in the report, we handled an unusually high number of significant and labor-intensive investigations, many of which required search warrants. The addition of a Patrol Sergeant to each patrol team was a key factor in a year as busy as this was.

Our officers wear many hats and juggle many tasks every day. Not only do they take daily calls for service, but they also spend a lot of time on follow up investigations and community relations acts. Our patrol officers do incredible work and are truly the tip of the spear when it comes to keeping everyone safe!

## OWI and Traffic Enforcement

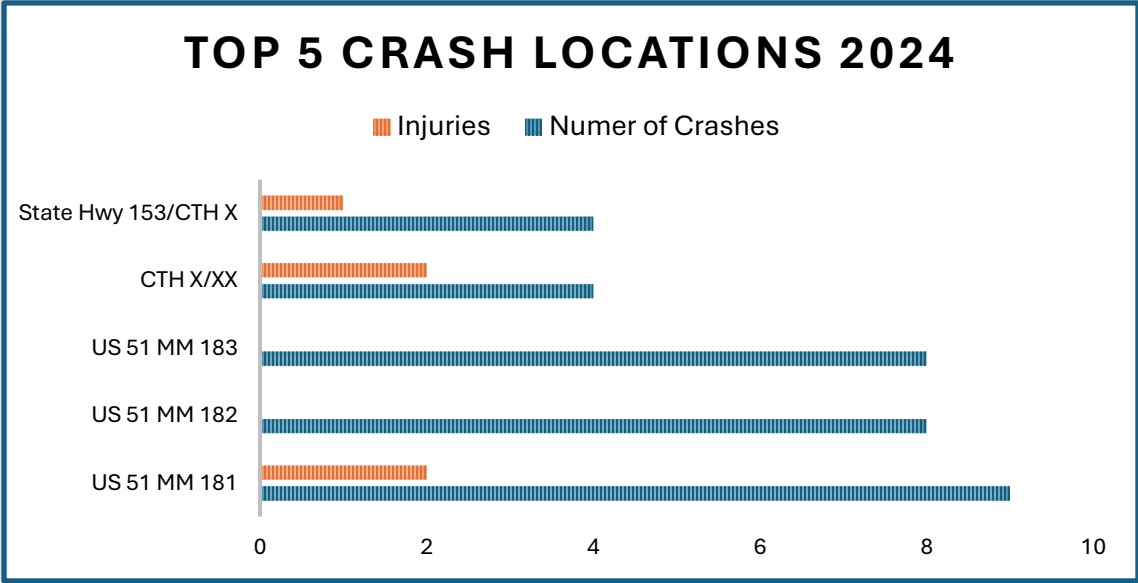
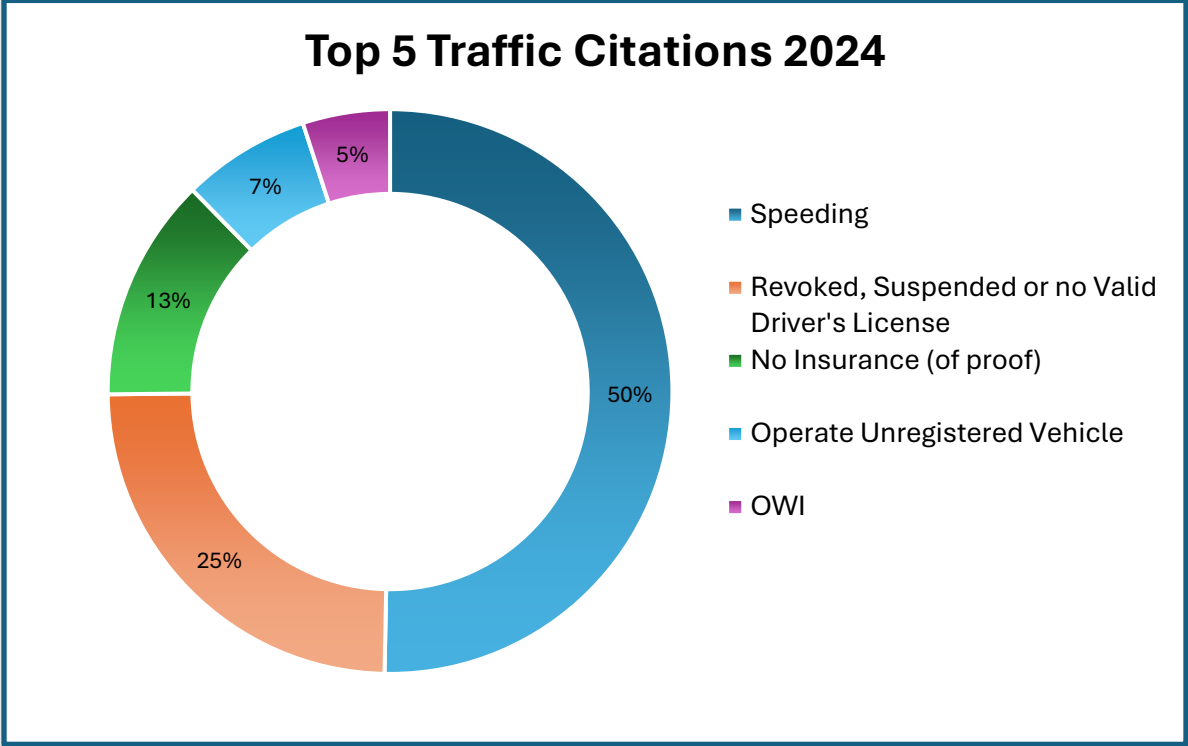
Another important focus is self-initiated work, especially in OWI enforcement. Traffic enforcement is part of our duties, and we are committed to keeping our roads as safe as possible for everyone. Below is a snapshot of our 2024 OWI enforcement efforts.

- We arrested 32 people for OWI
- Seven of those drivers refused to submit to an evidentiary test of their blood or breath, causing officers to obtain a search warrant for that evidence
- Five drivers were arrested for having a detectable level of drugs in their system
- Six drivers were repeated OWI offenders
- The average BAC (blood alcohol content) of drivers was 0.16, which is exactly twice the legal limit
- The highest BAC level was 0.362, which is more than three times the legal limit
- The highest repeat offender was a fourth offense driver



# PATROL OPERATIONS

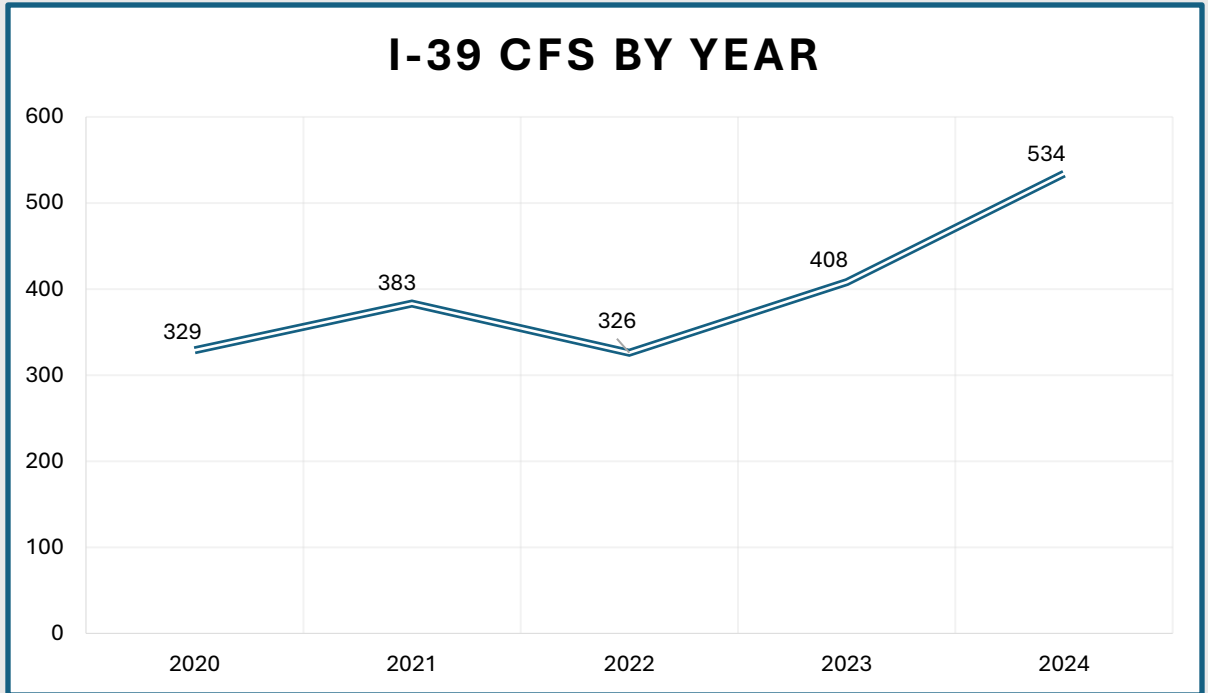
Here's a look at some charts and graphs depicting statistical information related to traffic safety.



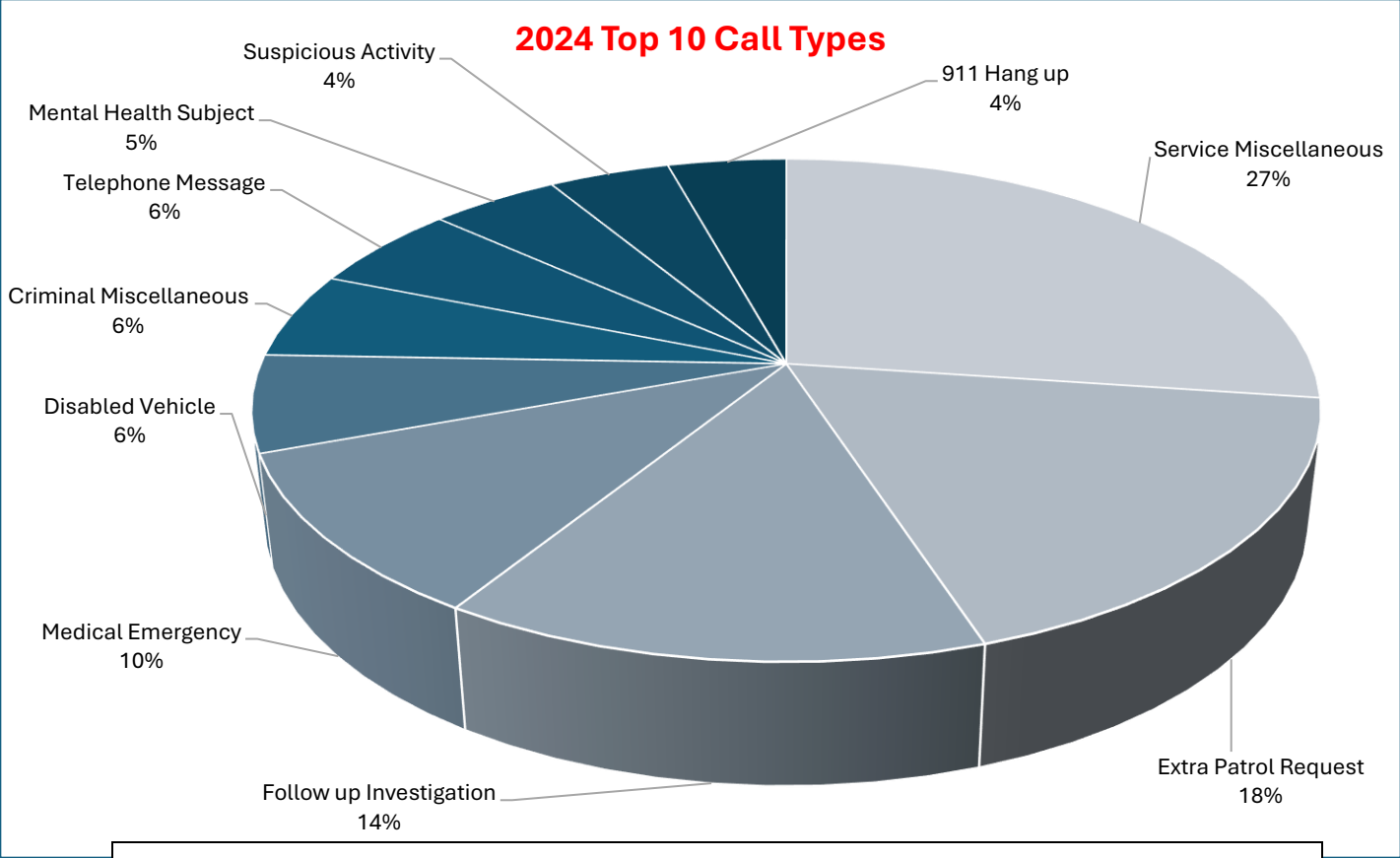
This chart only represents “reportable” crashes and does not include the numerous “non-reportable” crashes and vehicle slide ins that we respond to, especially on I-39.

# PATROL OPERATIONS

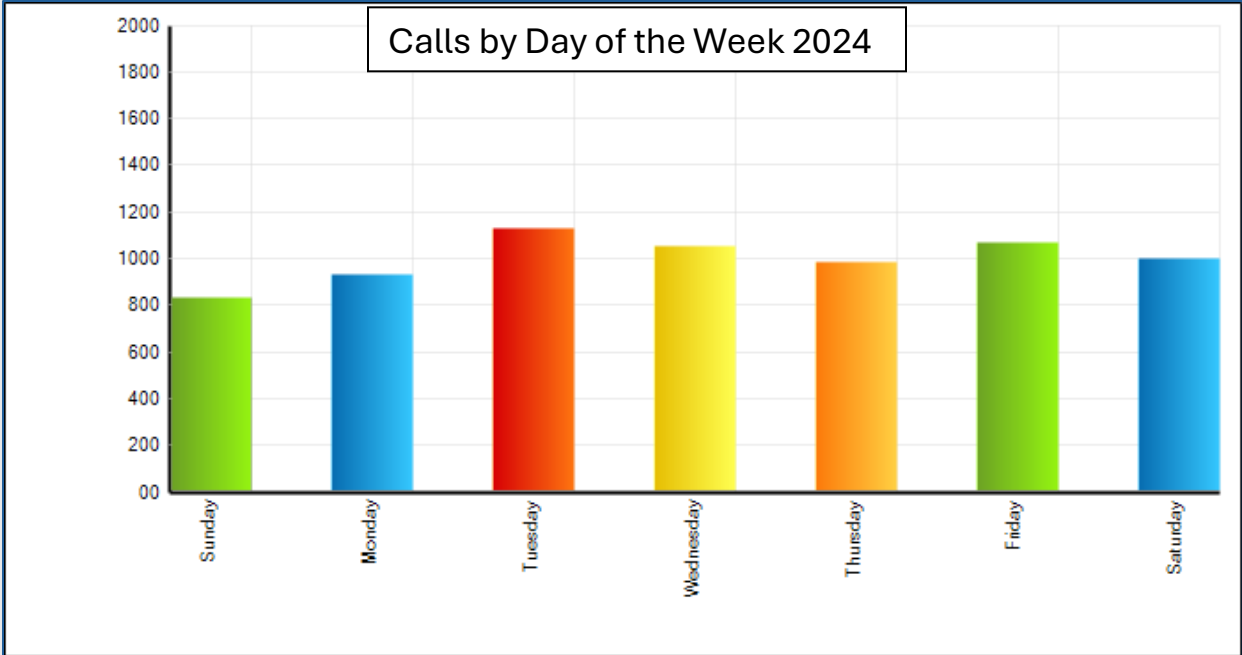
KPD is responsible for everything in our jurisdictional stretch of I-39, from a simple traffic hazard to a fatality crash. According to the WisDOT Traffic Counts website, the average annual daily traffic count on our portion of I-39 is over 32,000 vehicles!



# PATROL OPERATIONS



Note: This does not include self-initiated calls, such as traffic stops, business checks, etc.



# PATROL OPERATIONS

Rank	Call Type	Avg # Officer on Scene	Avg Time on Scene
1	Warrant Service	3.3	1 hour, 1 minute
2	Family Disturbance	2.48	1 Hour, 4 minutes
3	Juvenile Disturbance	2.43	41 minutes
4	Traffic Crash—injury	2.36	1 hour, 3 minutes
5	Alarms (general)	1.94	12 minutes
6	Welfare Check	1.70	39 minutes
7	Mental Health Subject	1.43	43 minutes
8	Traffic Crash—non injury	1.40	32 minutes
9	Criminal Miscellaneous	1.39	49 minutes
10	Suspicious Activity	1.35	21 minutes
11	Assist Fire Dept.	1.35	20 minutes
12	Fire or CO Alarm	1.88	20 minutes
13	Medical Emergency	1.29	25 minutes
14	Sexual Assault	1.25	1 hour, 32 minutes
15	Traffic Crash—hit & run	1.25	54 minutes

The chart above depicts the 15 call types that required the greatest number of officers on scene. This chart illustrates why adequate patrol staffing is so critical for officer and citizen safety. When we are short on officers, we must rely on mutual aid assistance from neighboring agencies, all of whom we have a good working relationship with. Likewise, when our neighbors need resources, we help them.

Another important thing to keep in mind with this chart is the fact that the average time on scene does not include any additional follow up investigation, report or search warrant writing, evidence collection or other miscellaneous tasks that are completed once the officer has cleared the initial scene.

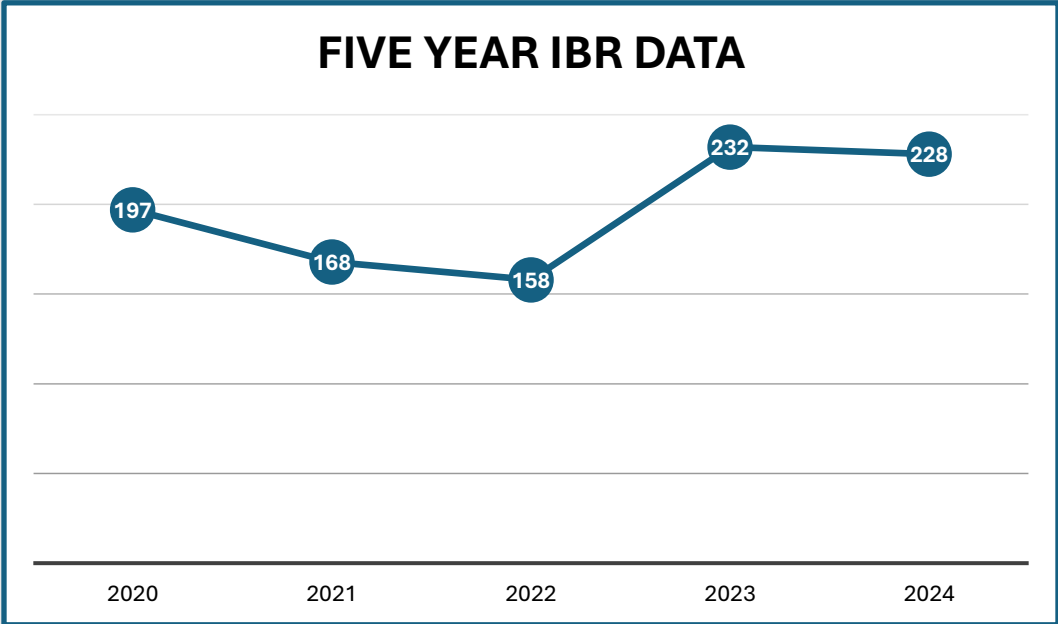
We had several labor-intensive investigations this year that underscored the time spent after the officer cleared the initial scene. During some of these, officers wrote search warrants (many for electronic devices) and reviewed thousands of text messages and other pieces of electronic data. These investigations took anywhere from several weeks to several months to complete and in many cases, reports totaled anywhere from 30-96 pages! The time officers spend on scene is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the total time spent on investigations.

# PATROL OPERATIONS

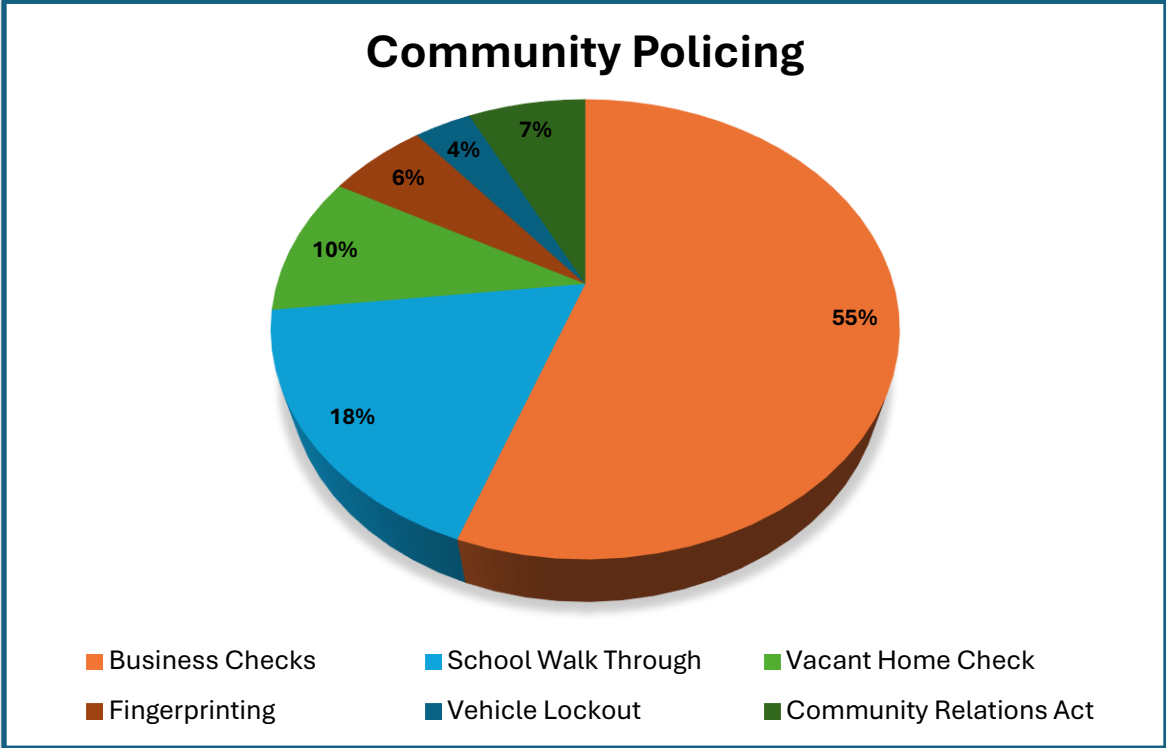
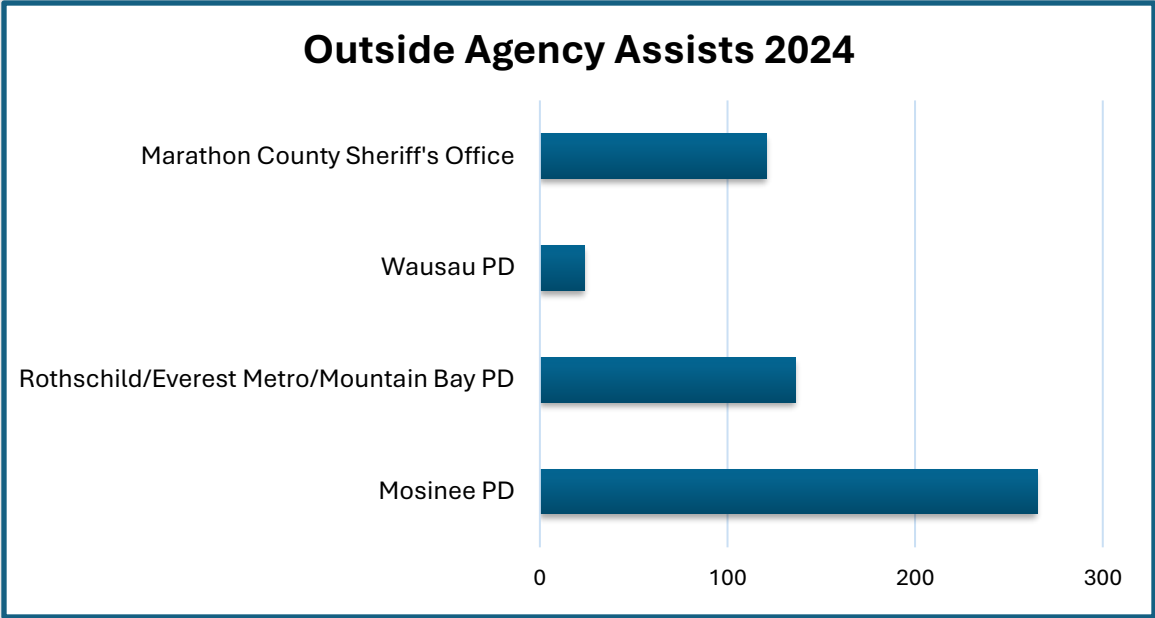
Five Year UCR Table

NATURE OF OFFENSE	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
CRIMINAL HOMICIDE	0	1	2	0	0
FORCIBLE RAPE	2	2	4	3	2
ROBBERY	0	0	0	0	0
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	3	2	3	4	2
SIMPLE ASSAULT	10	10	8	16	15
BURGLARY	9	4	4	3	1
LARCENY	20	19	18	16	21
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	2	0	1	1	1
ARSON	0	0	0	0	0

The chart above shows the traditional Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data over a five-year span. Law Enforcement used UCR for many years before transitioning to IBR, which is known as Incident Based Reporting. IBR data encompasses 49 offenses, which is a far broader range of crimes and provides more detailed information. Our records management system keeps track of IBR data, and our clerk submits monthly electronic reports.



*PATROL OPERATIONS*



.....

# Peer Support Team...

## From Officer Dan Dunst

As of March 13, 2024, the Kronenwetter Police Department started its very own Peer Support Team (PST). The mission of the Kronenwetter Police Department Peer Support Team is to give employees and their families confidential resources to seek help with overwhelming work and/or personal stressors.

In law enforcement we are always there to help others through their problems, and we see the worst of the worst. This will eventually take a toll on a person's psychological and physical health. As the profession has progressed throughout the years it was determined we need to make sure we are providing the officers and their families with the support to make it through a successful career. That is when Peer Support was started.

Here at Kronenwetter PD, we are a small agency but we saw the need to be able to provide support to our officers with their struggles so we can keep them healthy. So, with the support of the Kronenwetter Police command staff the Peer Support Team was formed. The Kronenwetter Police Department Peer Support Team consists of two members, Officer Dan Dunst and Officer Soua Xiong, who have trained to provide the support needed.

After about a year of working and getting the Peer Support Team set up, we are officially up and running. The Peer Support Team provides 24/7 support for our employees and their families. Peer Support Team Members train to help with a wide range of topics and have resources at our disposal to get our employees further assistance if needed. We would like to thank G3 Industries for their generous donation to the Team.

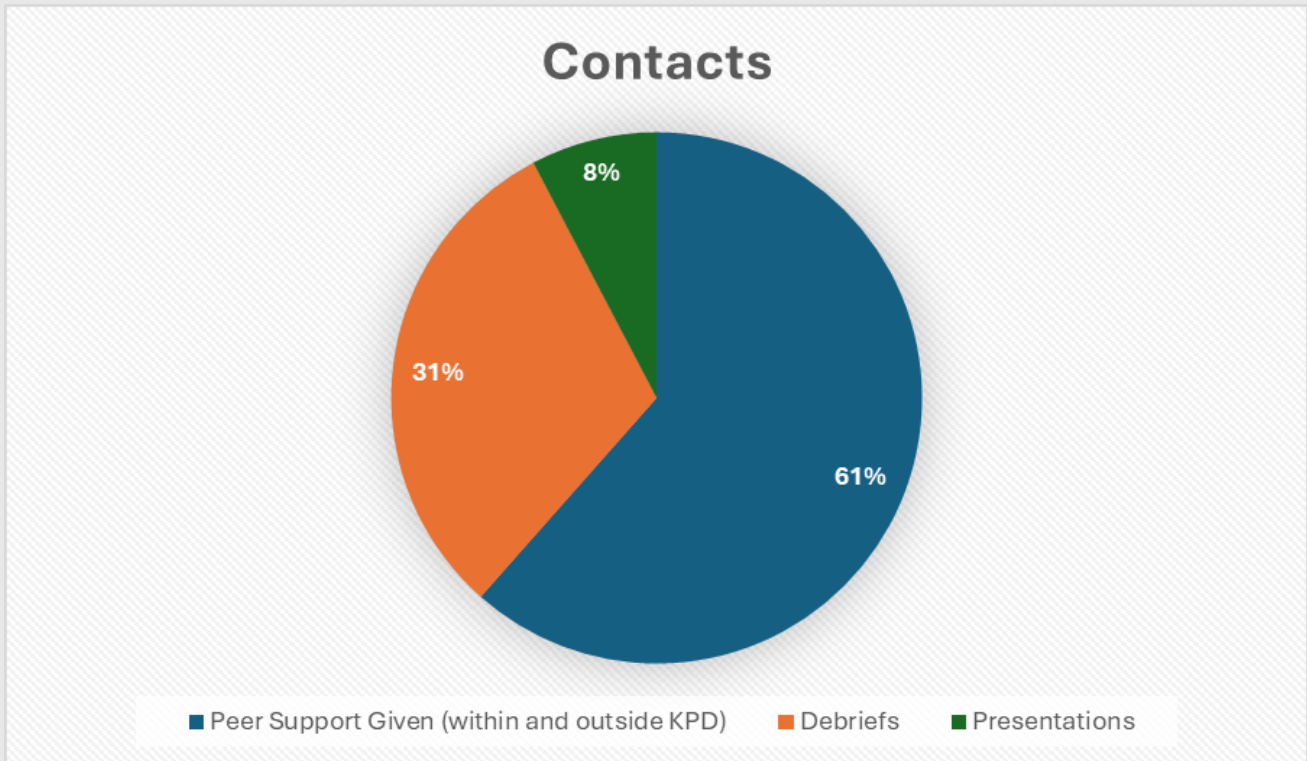




Our Team's first nine months has been a success. We were able to provide support both within our organization and outside our organization. We were able to provide this support because of a generous donation from a local business and the continued support from the command staff.

As we move forward into our second year of the Team we hope to continue to grow and to provide further support for our department.

Officer Dan Dunst  
Kronenwetter Peer Support Team  
Coordinator



This chart shows how the Peer Support Team (PST) was utilized in 2024. When we have incidents that trigger a Team response, PST members provide direct support to officers and their families. If an incident debriefing or additional resources are needed, the PST members also coordinate those efforts.

---

# TRAINING

Our officers completed close to 500 hours of training last year, including the WI Department of Justice mandatory handgun qualification course. One of our highlights was getting the last three officers through the 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training (CIT).

CIT is a nationwide program that trains officers in the best practices for dealing with people in crisis. The program connects law enforcement with community resources and stakeholders to create a collaborative partnership and approach. Officers learn a tremendous amount in the one-week program, which ends with them working through scenarios on the final day. We are extremely proud that 100 percent of our patrol officers and sergeants have completed the course.

Listed below are just some of the other training courses and schools our officers completed last year.

- Peer Support Conference
- Active Threat Conference
- Reid Interview and Interrogation
- Overdose Response for Patrol Officers
- Public Information Officer Basic
- Glock Armorer's Course
- Sexual Assault Best Practices
- Domestic Violence Best Practices
- Elder Abuse
- Dementia Training
- Red Dot (handgun optic) Instructor Course
- Implicit Bias
- Duty to Intervene
- Taser Re-Certification
- Digital Forensics
- School safety
- Legal Update
- High Risk Vehicle Contact Instructor Update
- ATV/UTV Training
- Search Warrant Training
- Handgun and Rifle Training



# Department Highlights

**LEAP Events:** The area Law Enforcement Appreciation group held two events for area law enforcement. LEAP donors provide the funds that LEAP uses to purchase gift cards for Marathon County officers and deputies. The gift card is a token of appreciation and is a means for the officer on duty to purchase a cup of coffee or snack on their break. We are incredibly thankful to the LEAP for their tremendous work and unwavering support!



**Everest Optimist Club Officer of the Year:** This year's Officer of the Year was Officer Mason Dallman. Officer Dallman is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin- River Falls and has been a part of the KPD since November 2022. He has a strong interest in traffic enforcement and investigations. He serves as our department weapons armorer and assists with firearms training.



Officer Dallman receiving his award from Sgt Shope.

# Department Highlights

## **Election Year Details:**

Whenever there's a Presidential election cycle, area law enforcement agencies are tasked with assisting the US Secret Service with protective details. Due to our proximity to CWA in Mosinee, we are generally always involved in these dignitary protection details and last year we participated in all three visits.



Officers Xiong and Baron at a dignitary protection detail at CWA.

## **WPS First Responders**

**Grant:** We were selected as a recipient of WPS's \$2,000 grant, which provides funding to first responders for safety equipment. We used the money to purchase automated external defibrillator (AED) batteries and pads for both children and adults, along with CPR kits.



Chief McHugh with WPS Officials after receiving the grant equipment.

# Community Events Highlights



Sgt Seehafer and Officers Dallman and Guyer at a Northland Lutheran school dance.

Officers Guyer and Dallman teaching bike safety to the Kronenwetter Cub Scouts.



# Community Events Highlights

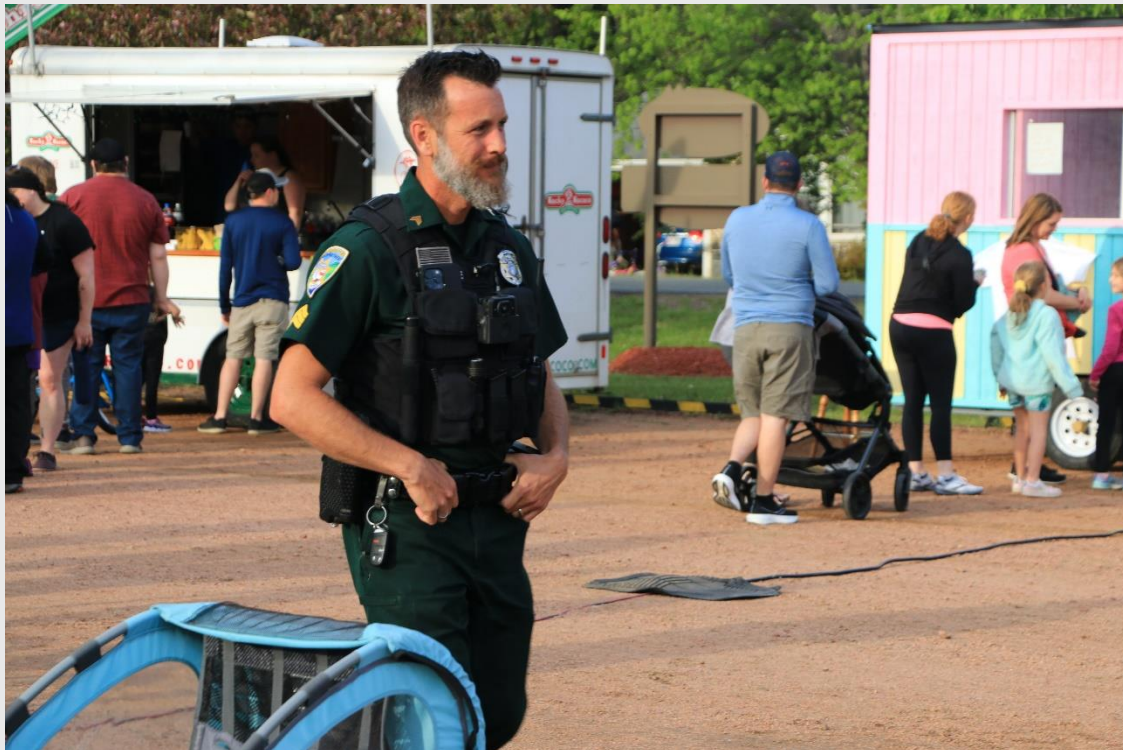


Lt. Smart, Sgt Shope and Officer Xiong helped physics students at Northland Lutheran High School with a class project. Officers fired rifle and handgun rounds into a stack of books and the students had to calculate the velocity of the rounds fired using what they've learned in class. It's a project KPD has participated in for years.



# Community Events Highlights

Officers Konopacki and Baron at the *Bike and Walk for the Health of it* event.



Sgt Shope at the *Bike and Walk for the Health of it* event this spring.

# Community Events Highlights



Lt. Smart taught a *Crime Solvers* class as part of a summer program for students. Lt. Smart taught the students about simple forensics, crime scene processing, and technology. The children got an opportunity to practice these skills and ask questions. Lt. Smart has been a part of this worthwhile program for over 10 years!

Sgt Seehafer at the *National Night Out*, our crown jewel of community events.





# Community Events Highlights



Officer Baron (above) and Sgt Shope (below) at the *National Night Out* at Towering Pines Park.



# Community Events Highlights



Officer Dunst participated in a Northland Lutheran School PE class on water safety. The students learned canoe safety and recovery from a tipped canoe.

Officer Guyer escorted this lucky child to school after she won the *Ride to School with a Cop* raffle. Officer Guyer also delivered a bag of police goodies, a special badge, and some donuts to the winner!



# Community Events Highlights



Lt. Smart at his traffic post on Halloween. The Village blocked a small section of Kowalski Rd. to ensure pedestrian safety. This block has many Halloween attractions, and it draws a large crowd every year. The event was again very well attended.

Cold and rainy weather did nothing to dampen the festive mood at the Kowalski Rd Halloween area.



## 20 Year Anniversary Photos



**Top Left:** The original Town of Kronenwetter Constable badge.

**Top Right:** The Village of Kronenwetter Constable badge.

**Bottom:** The original KPD shoulder patch. This patch was used in conjunction with the original blue uniform while Chief Joling waited for the green uniform and accompanying shoulder patch to arrive. During this time, he was also waiting for the new badge style to arrive, so he used this original Chief's badge for a very short time as well.



## 20 Year Anniversary Photos



**Above:** Chief Joling at the welcoming ceremony in 2004. Pictured L-R are: former Village President Rick Smith; former Village Clerk Krystal Bokelman; former Trustees Judy Fries, Phil Cieslek, Geraldine Kowalski, and Sid Hallas.

**Right:** Chief Joling's squad car parked in front of the Municipal Center. This photo pre-dates today's remodeled municipal center, so the entrance shown used to be the main public entrance.



## 20 Year Anniversary Photos



**Above:** Chief Joling's first desk in the old municipal center.

**Right:** The PD's armory room when we were still located in the old municipal center.

**Below:** Clerk Dianne Drew and Trustee Phil Cieslek in the old PD in 2005.



## 20 Year Anniversary Photos



**Above:** History in the making as Chief Joling swears in Lt. Smart as KPD's first Police Officer in May 2005.

**Right:** The PD's work stations when we were still located in the old municipal center.

**Below:** The Boardroom in the old Municipal Center in 2005.



## 20 Year Anniversary Photos



**Above:** Chief Joling's "fun meter" is on high!

**Right:** The PD's first marked squad car, known as K01.

**Below:** The KPD's first K-9, Chip, with his handler, K-9 Officer Luis Lopes-Serrao.





## 20 Year Anniversary Photos



Officer Dunst at a community event with the original K01 squad car.

Officer Anderson next to a Ford sedan squad car. This photo was part of a recruiting campaign Chief Joling put together to use this photo on small, refrigerator magnets.



## 20 Year Anniversary Photos



**Above:** Officers gather when Chief McHugh was promoted to Lieutenant in 2009.

**Right:** Clerk Dianne Drew in the new police department. Clerk Drew was Chief Joling's first hire in March 2005 and is our most tenured employee.

**Below:** Officer Ron Dallman receiving the department's first Life Saving award in 2012.



## 20 Year Anniversary Photos



**Above:** Officer Dunst with his “Officer of the Year” award in 2015.

**Right:** Chief McHugh with FBI Director James Comey at his graduation from the FBI National Academy in 2016.

**Below:** Lt. Smart being promoted to Lieutenant of Police in December 2016.



## 20 Year Anniversary Photos



**Above:** Chief McHugh, with Chief Joling and PFC Chair Chad Billeb, at the promotion ceremony for Chief of Police in December 2016.

**Right:** Chief Joling with President Voll at the Chief's retirement ceremony.

**Below:** Chief Joling's retirement cake.



## 20 Year Anniversary Photos



**Above Left:** Officer Xiong with his “Officer of the Year” award in 2018.

**Above Right:** Officer Gary Anderson’s retirement ceremony in 2020.

**Below:** More history as KPD swears in their first ever Patrol Sergeants in 2023. Sgt Seehafer (left) and Sgt. Shope (right) were sworn in during a ceremony in front of the Village Board.



---

*KPD Values*

*Loyalty*

*Duty*

*Respect*

*Selfless Service*

*Honor*

*Integrity*

*Personal Courage*

