

Ridgeway Marshal's Office

208 Jarvis Street, Suite B Ridgeway, WI 53582
Marshal Michael J. F. Gorham

July 4, 2024

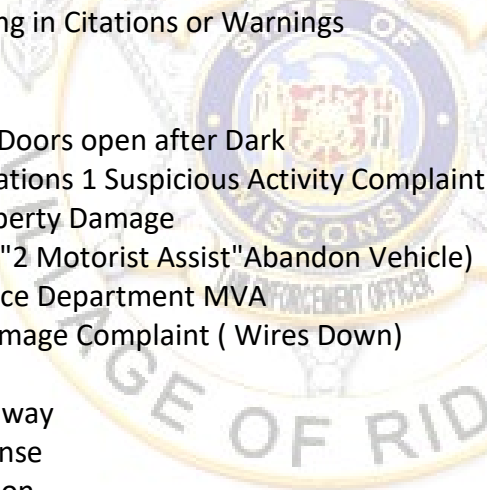
Honorable Village President, Michele Casper
Esteemed Member Ridgeway Board of Trustees
208 Jarvis Street
Ridgeway WI 53582

Subject June 2024 Monthly Report

Esteemed Members

This letter represents the June 2024 monthly report. Despite being behind in the data entry into our Report Management System due to timing, our team's dedication is unwavering. We had approximately 50 calls for service this month (see raw date sheet from Zuercher).

This is the statistical breakdown:



28 Traffic Stops resulting in Citations or Warnings
3 Assist to EMS
2 Motorist Assist
2 Door Checks Garage Doors open after Dark
2 911 Hang us Investigations 1 Suspicious Activity Complaint
1 Assist ICSO MVA Property Damage
1 Assist Barneveld PD ("2 Motorist Assist" Abandon Vehicle)
1 Assist Dodgeville Police Department MVA
1 Weather Related Damage Complaint (Wires Down)
1 Citizens Assist
1 Livestock in the Roadway
1 Special Events Response
1 Follow-Up Investigation
1 Traffic Complaints
1 Eluding a Police Officer
1 Misdemeanor Arrests

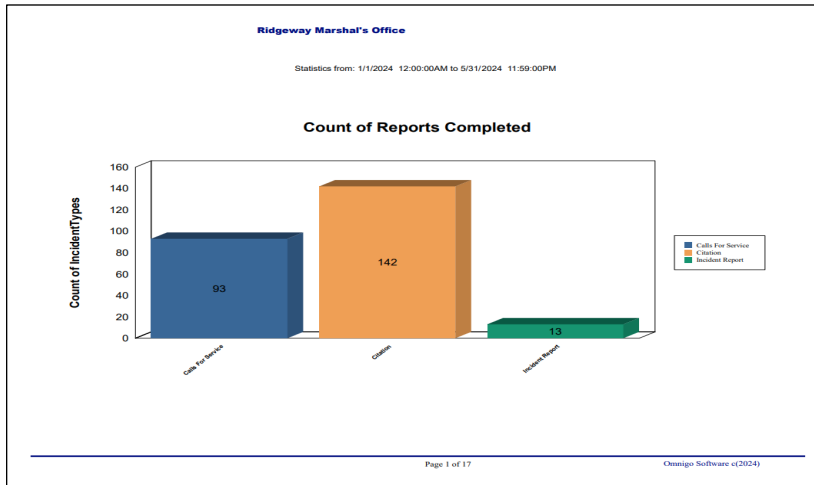
"Partnership of Service and Protection"

Office: 608-924-1030 (voicemail) 24 Hour Dispatch: 608-930-9500
marshal@ridgewaywi.gov

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Here is the (6 Month Comparison) 2023 and 2024



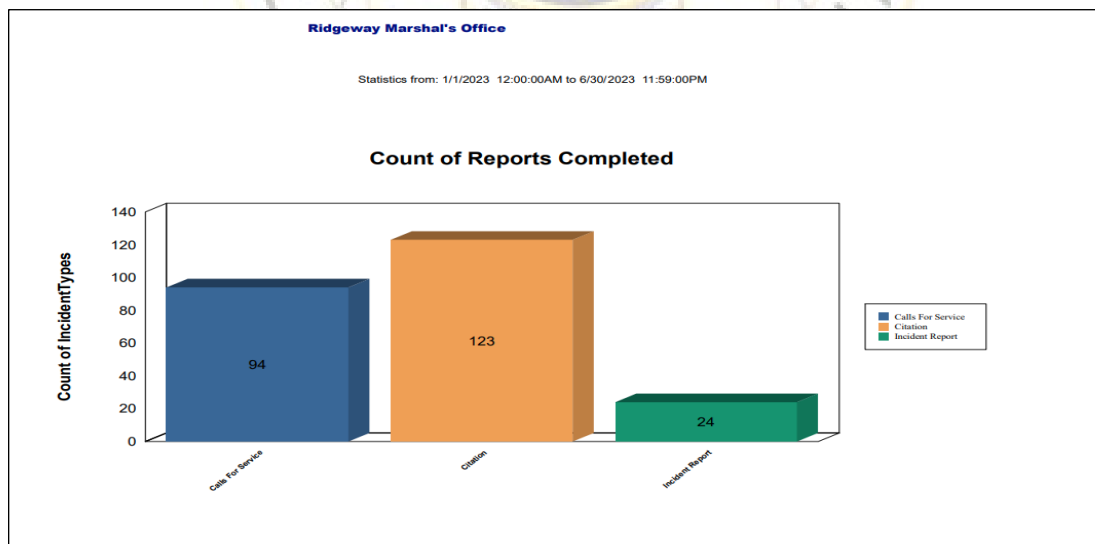
This bar graph only represents until May 31, 2024

The projected numbers on the raw data that have not yet been entered look like this:

101 Calls For Service

170 Citations and Warnings In 2023, the total number of Citations and Warnings was 189.

15 Cases



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93 Calls For Service
123 Citations and Warnings
24 Cases

The increase in traffic citations is a result of working the Iowa County Traffic Grant. My focus is primarily on USH 18 151, which runs through the Township and Village of Ridgeway. *(Special Note: Our jurisdiction is County-Wide during these grants if you are questioned about the squad being outside the Village.

The criminal activity we incurred in 2023 seems to have been reduced through robust enforcement action between our agency and our assisting partnering agencies. 2023 saw a record year in criminal complaints from Ridgeway being prosecuted by the Iowa County District Attorney's Office.

There are several items for your consideration;

1. The Squad car reached 90,000 miles and entered service in 2016. It is starting to experience wear and tear depreciation. There was an issue with the exhaust, and Fillback Ford replaced it. The Bill was approximately \$2000.00.

2. The in-car Video Camera System is inadequate, and the body-worn cameras purchased on Amazon are beginning to fail due to their battery life. Modern Policing for evidence collection and transparency requires agencies to have these camera systems. We urgently need these systems for effective policing. Altoona Police Gave us 2 Body Camera Systems and an In-car Video System called the Arbitrator. The challenge for me is to pay for the software and the storage solution. I have a quote, and I am now exploring options to pay for the installation of this equipment. I will discuss this at the board meeting, requesting that it be an agenda item.

A short pursuit in early June with a motorcycle started as a traffic complaint. The pursuit terminated just into Dane County. The motorcycle's speed through the Ridgeway was 134 to 135 Miles an hour. Photographic Footage of the bike came from an off-duty WI State Patrol Inspector. We were fortunate to obtain that. I feel it is a liability issue not having this equipment.

The other reason is that the agency has responded to numerous high-risk events during my tenure. In May 2020, I had to ram an eluding suspect driving the wrong way on USH 18 151. There were two other similar events where they were moving the wrong way on USH 18 151; both were intoxicated, and one was close to a head-on collision. Then there was the individual who spat at me, which was captured on video by the county and me.

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Video evidence assists in prosecutions and guards against fraudulent claims against the officer.

I feel this is a priority, but the challenge of following through on police work and its administration is becoming more complex.

3. After two years, the pump to the sink in the office still does not work, and I found another plumber in the area to fix it.

4. With the heavier rains and poor windows, an insect infestation has been combined with mold.

5. I share these items with you because I must attend to them. When I draft my budget, I consider facility maintenance, not operational costs. In short, the 2024 Budget may have some overruns. Please understand the police budget is tight to the point where I have invested my money in operational costs. So we are clear, I am willing to do this; I know the Village is challenged by a lack of infrastructure, which makes everything fiscally tight. The Village has been very supportive and good to me, which has been the most significant factor.

6. This segues into my last point. When I was hired in 2018, I was 54 years old. Next week, I turn 60. I have about 35 years of experience in the policing business. Honestly, to this point, I genuinely appreciate how much Ridgeway welcomed me and has consistently supported me over the last six years. We have been through a lot of experience, and as an outlier from the norm, I have received strong support from the citizens and the Village Board. The norm is that sometimes you get one or the other, but not always both.

However, we must eventually discuss the future of policing Ridgeway in 2030 and beyond. I suggest a committee of citizens representing its cross-section and those with criminal justice backgrounds be formed to create a strategic blueprint for moving forward. It is essential for the continuity of government operations.

I envision the committee would conduct a comparative staffing analysis of similar-sized villages. The needs versus the wants are what the Village can afford, such as contract policing versus your police agency. The future will be challenging as many younger Americans do not consider law enforcement a favorable career. Other neighboring Villages have recently struggled with their law enforcement agencies and what to do about policing.

This is important to me for a couple of reasons. First, you must make a significant purchase of a squad car within two years. In this new computer age, this is the only way we do business now, and companies have created a product subscription to expensive software; the business model

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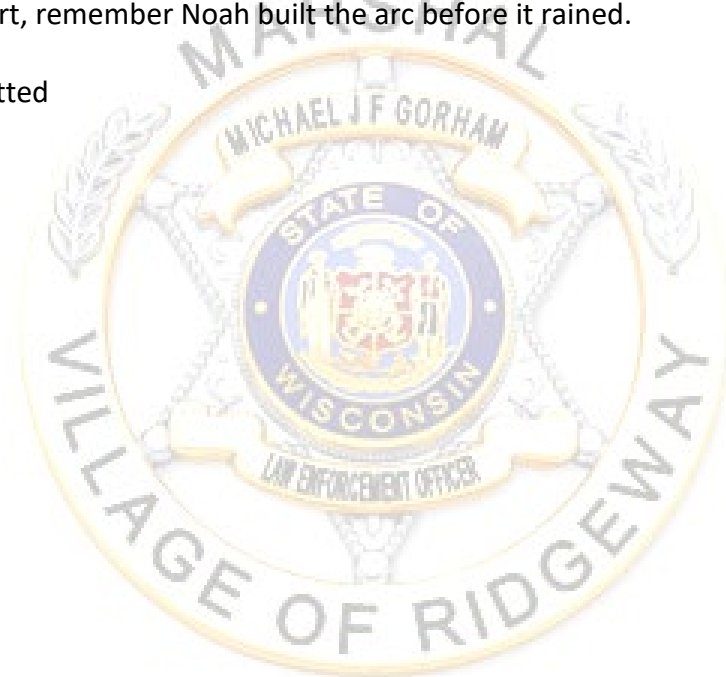
of the cell phone companies is an example. I don't want to waste taxpayer money by building something that will end.

We all have an end date, and when I leave Ridgeway, I would like to see an orderly transition with no service disruption. The following person does not start like I did, not understanding what happened because there was a break in service without communication. Some of the current board members were aware of the problems in the police department. However, I want to move forward, not backward. The community must have input as they are responsible for their policing.

There is no immediate plan for me to leave Ridgeway. However, there is no contingency plan if I get sick or injured or if the community feels I am no longer beneficial to serving the Village in my capacity. In short, remember Noah built the arc before it rained.

Respectfully submitted

Michael Gorham
Village Marshal



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Iowa County Sheriff's Office

109 East Leffler Street, Dodgeville, Wisconsin 53533
Crime Stoppers: 608-319-6703
Phone: 608-930-9500
Fax: 608-471-1075

Michael W. Peterson, Sheriff
Austin L. Durst, Chief Deputy

CFS #	CFS Date/Time	Description	Address	Description
CFS24009782	06/01/24 19:24:49	911 Open Line	6900 COUNTY ROAD HHH, RIDGEWAY	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24009977	06/04/24 22:08:04	Traffic Stop	CTY RD HHH / TOWN HALL RD, RIDGEWAY	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24010017	06/05/24 16:12:11	Chest Pain	210 PARK ST, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	EMS AND TRANSPORT (NFIRS 30)
CFS24010146	06/07/24 16:20:47	Traffic Complaint	US HIGHWAY 151	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24010222	06/08/24 17:10:59	Citizen Assist	206 GROVE ST, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24010233	06/08/24 21:20:26		104 W KEANE ST, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24010331	06/10/24 15:32:04	Property Damage	6201 US HIGHWAY 18-151, RIDGEWAY	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24010352	06/10/24 21:22:51	Suspicious	104 W KEANE ST, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24010411	06/11/24 23:00:20	Door Check	104 E KEANE ST, RIDGEWAY	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24010503	06/13/24 13:06:42	MVA	US HIGHWAY 18 / N JOHNS ST, DODGEVILLE, WI 53533	Hazardous Conditions complete (NIFIRS 40)
CFS24010655	06/15/24 21:23:49	Traffic Stop	US HIGHWAY 18-151 / MOUNDS VIEW RD, BARNEVELD, WI 53507	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24010663	06/15/24 23:33:20	Livestock in Roadway	6045 US HIGHWAY 18-151, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24010682	06/16/24 14:06:23	Traffic Stop	6688 US HIGHWAY 18-151, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24010686	06/16/24 14:29:21	Traffic Stop	5811 US HIGHWAY 18-151, DODGEVILLE, WI 53533	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24010694	06/16/24 16:07:12	Traffic Stop	4557 US HIGHWAY 151, DODGEVILLE, WI 53533	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact

CFS #	CFS Date/Time	Description	Address	Description
CFS24010697	06/16/24 16:32:27	Traffic Stop	COUNTY RD H / TWIN COURT, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24010704	06/16/24 17:50:15	Traffic Stop	6289 US HIGHWAY 18-151, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24010784	06/17/24 20:53:55	Traffic Stop	5152 US HIGHWAY 18-151, DODGEVILLE, WI	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24010786	06/17/24 20:58:35	Traffic Stop	6519 US HIGHWAY 18-151, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Subject Arrested
CFS24010858	06/18/24 21:32:03	Door Check	105 TALLMAN CT, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24010972	06/20/24 18:13:00	Traffic Stop	6289 US HIGHWAY 18-151, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24010977	06/20/24 19:53:40	Citizen Assist	100 JARVIS ST, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24010978	06/20/24 20:11:24	Traffic Stop	6045 US HIGHWAY 18-151, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011024	06/21/24 17:08:15	Misc Traffic Complaint	7012 US HIGHWAY 18-151, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011026	06/21/24 17:15:51	Traffic Stop	6289 US HIGHWAY 18-151, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011031	06/21/24 18:49:39	Traffic Stop	6045 US HIGHWAY 18-151, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011116	06/22/24 19:50:59	Wires Down	6575 MOON RD, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011125	06/22/24 20:54:39	Traffic Stop	400 MAIN ST, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011182	06/23/24 15:43:09	Traffic Stop	6289 US HIGHWAY 18-151, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011183	06/23/24 16:03:27	Traffic Stop	6201 US HIGHWAY 18-151, RIDGEWAY	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011185	06/23/24 16:23:48	Traffic Stop	6201 US HIGHWAY 18-151, RIDGEWAY	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011186	06/23/24 16:42:30	Traffic Stop	6289 US HIGHWAY 18-151, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011191	06/23/24 17:39:13	Traffic Stop	6201 US HIGHWAY 18-151, RIDGEWAY	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011192	06/23/24 17:50:50	Traffic Stop	COUNTY ROAD HHH	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact

CFS #	CFS Date/Time	Description	Address	Description
CFS24011243	06/24/24 13:56:34	Traffic Stop	US HIGHWAY 18-151 / COUNTY ROAD YZ, DODGEVILLE, WI 53533	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011250	06/24/24 16:13:58	Motorist Assist	US HIGHWAY 18-151 / COUNTY ROAD HHH, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011363	06/26/24 19:33:39	Follow Up	619 MAIN ST, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011367	06/26/24 21:06:29	Abandoned Vehicle	7289 US HIGHWAY 18-151, BARNEVELD, WI 53507	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011370	06/26/24 21:20:12	Traffic Stop	COUNTY ROAD YZ / US HIGHWAY 18-151, DODGEVILLE, WI 53533	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011375	06/26/24 22:20:41	Medical Emergency	311 JARVIS ST, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011429	06/27/24 17:09:14	Traffic Complaint	US HIGHWAY 18-151 / COUNTY ROAD T, BARNEVELD, WI 53507	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011499	06/28/24 21:04:55	Traffic Stop	5485 US HIGHWAY 18-151, DODGEVILLE, WI 53533	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011543	06/29/24 14:03:07	911 Open Line	317 W FARWELL ST, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011571	06/29/24 22:27:26	Vehicle Lock Out	105 HUGHITT ST, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011576	06/29/24 23:09:00	Special Event	105 HUGHITT ST, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011617	06/30/24 16:11:53	Traffic Stop	6289 US HIGHWAY 18-151, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011621	06/30/24 16:43:49	Traffic Stop	6289 US HIGHWAY 18-151, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011623	06/30/24 17:02:52	Traffic Stop	6045 US HIGHWAY 18-151, RIDGEWAY, WI 53582	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011625	06/30/24 17:24:16	Traffic Stop	US HIGHWAY 18-151 / COUNTY RD YZ, DODGEVILLE, WI 53533	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact
CFS24011628	06/30/24 17:52:59	Traffic Stop	US HIGHWAY 18-151 / COUNTY RD YZ, DODGEVILLE, WI 53533	Assignment Completed/Settled By Contact