

# Ridgeway Marshal's Office

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

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February 2, 2024

Honorable Village President Michele Casper  
Esteemed Members, Board of Trustees  
206 Jarvis Street  
Ridgeway Wisconsin, 53582

Re: January 2024 Monthly Report

Enclosed is the monthly statistical report for your review. In addition to this report, I have some matters for your consideration.

1). We are in the process of receiving a multi-band portable radio, as previously reported in 2023. I have moved my Motorola XTS 2500 Radios to the Department of Public Works. These radios are in an end-of-life service life. They are meant to serve as a stop-gap measure until replacement radios are provided to the Department of Public Works.

As the Village Emergency Management Director, I believe having the Department of Public Works with radios is critical. There are several straightforward reasons for this plan. (1) For the most important reason, I believe communication is the point of a crisis. It is essential that Emergency Services can communicate directly with DPW personnel. Further direct radio communication would enhance the overall safety and performance of the employees as a whole. The Village Clerk's Office should have the same opportunities as radio communication.

I believe that when the use of cell phones became mainstream, the utilization of the two-way radio was discarded. I believe this was a mistake because cell towers could be compromised by over-usage, not allowing users to communicate in the vent of a crisis.

I intend to seek grant funding in 2024 to improve radio communication infrastructure through Emergency Management.

Along those lines, I also want to provide First Aid Kits and AEDs to the DPW. An integrated response plan should be created where the DPW personnel serve as First Responders in conjunction with Ridgeway Fire and First Response.

Further, moving all village-owned Cell phones from US Celleduar to First Net would be a significant improvement. The most significant reason, beyond better coverage, is that these lines are on a dedicated ban width away from the general public in the event of a crisis.

Moving away from the Emergency Management issues, the department will possess two body cameras and an in-car video system manufactured by Panasonic. The equipment is relatively new and is coming from Altoona Police Department. They are receiving a grant from Motorola and are moving away from Panasonic for their reasons. I used Panasonic in Car video systems while employed at Lafayette County and found it a satisfactory system for our needs. More importantly, Panasonic would work with us to

*"Partnership of Service and Protection"*

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*install this system. Enclosed is a quote of what software I need to make this work. I am currently looking for grants for financial assistance.*

*The system given to us by Iowa County was not feasible because Coban, the company that manufactures the hardware, would not work with our agency- I suspect it was based on their cost-benefit analysis. I returned the equipment.*

*To assist in funding of the software from Panasonic, I am requesting the authorization of selling the mobile speed board. Frankly, it is not getting used as I hoped. It requires to be plugged in to charge the battery. While serving in Benton, they had their own electric company, so it was doable in that venue. Here not so much. I will be looking for a grant to purchase a fixed speed board for east Main Street. .*

*The squad was purchased in 2016. I intend to replace it in 2025 or 2026. Because of supply chain issues, we need to start ordering soon. There are several philosophies to approach this issue, which will demand the Village Board's input.*

*However, before that discussion, I would like to discuss the future of the Village's needs and want to police itself with the Village Board or at least an ad hoc committee. The cost of policing is becoming significant, and a cost-benefit analysis of need should be undertaken.*

*In closing, in the last 14 months, I believe the incidents in Ridgeway concerning Police Matters have been significant, yet are an outlier. Approximately 14 criminal complaints were generated by our office with the DA's Office. There were approximately 4 people who were going to serve prison time as a result of our police work. I intentionally used the word "our" as policing is a shared responsibility with the community. Citizens of Ridgeway were willing to be involved, so they should receive appreciation for their efforts.*

*I have spoken in the past about how to gauge the quality of my work. In my opinion, telling you I am doing a good job seems self-serving at best, and borderline arrogant at worst. The following came as part of an ADA Curt Johnson, Iowa County District Attorney's Office email. The email involved resolving the 9<sup>th</sup> Offense OWI crash in November of 2022. I have redacted the part where it may openly identify matters not yet public. While it is positive, it also gives you a sense of my work product from criminal justice community partners.*

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*"Well done on this. This was a tough situation both that night and since that required quick, clear thinking. This was a tough one, but also an important one, and we're headed to resolution because of your outstanding work".*

*Thanks, Mike,*

*Curt*

*Curtis E. Johnson*

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*Iowa County Assistant District Attorney  
222 North Iowa Street, Suite 202  
Dodgeville, WI 53533*

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*If you have any further questions, please get in touch with my office at 608-924-1030 or*

*Professionally,*

*Michael J. F. Gorham  
Village Marshal  
Ridgeway Marshal's Office  
[marshal@ridgewaywi.gov](mailto:marshal@ridgewaywi.gov).*

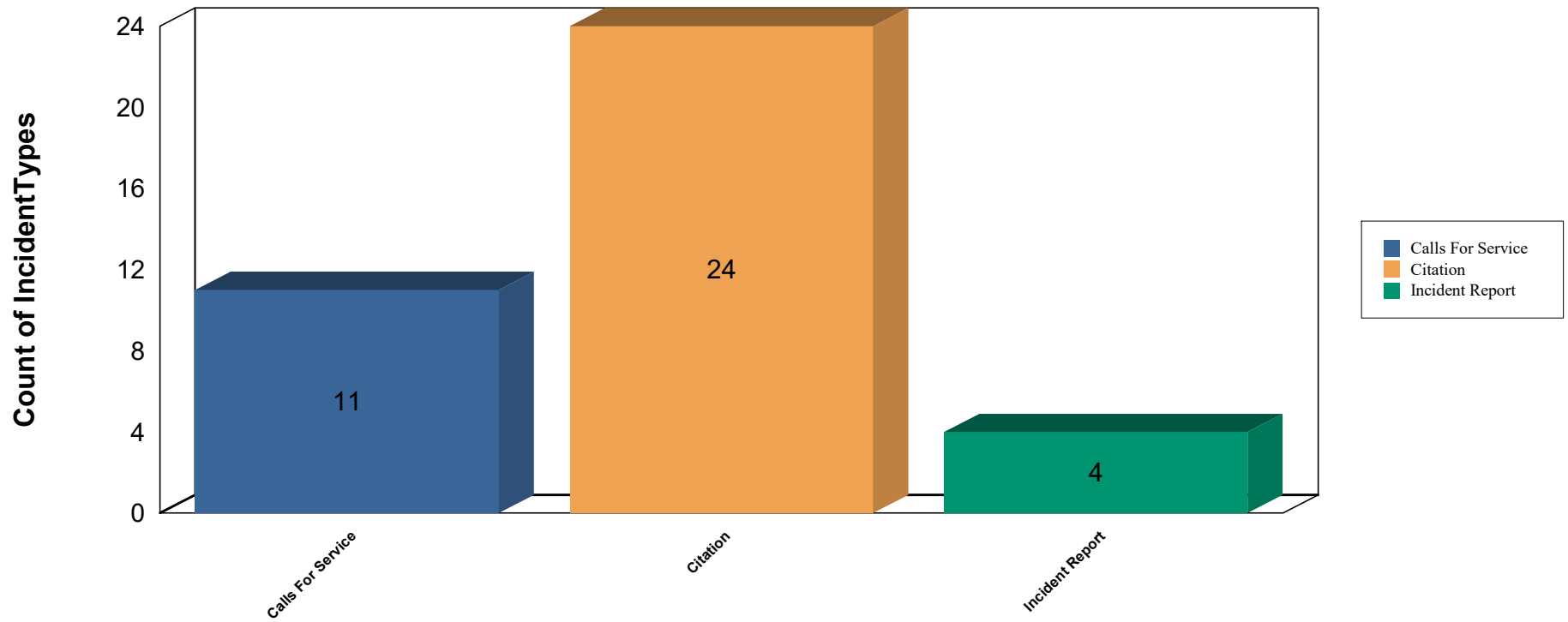


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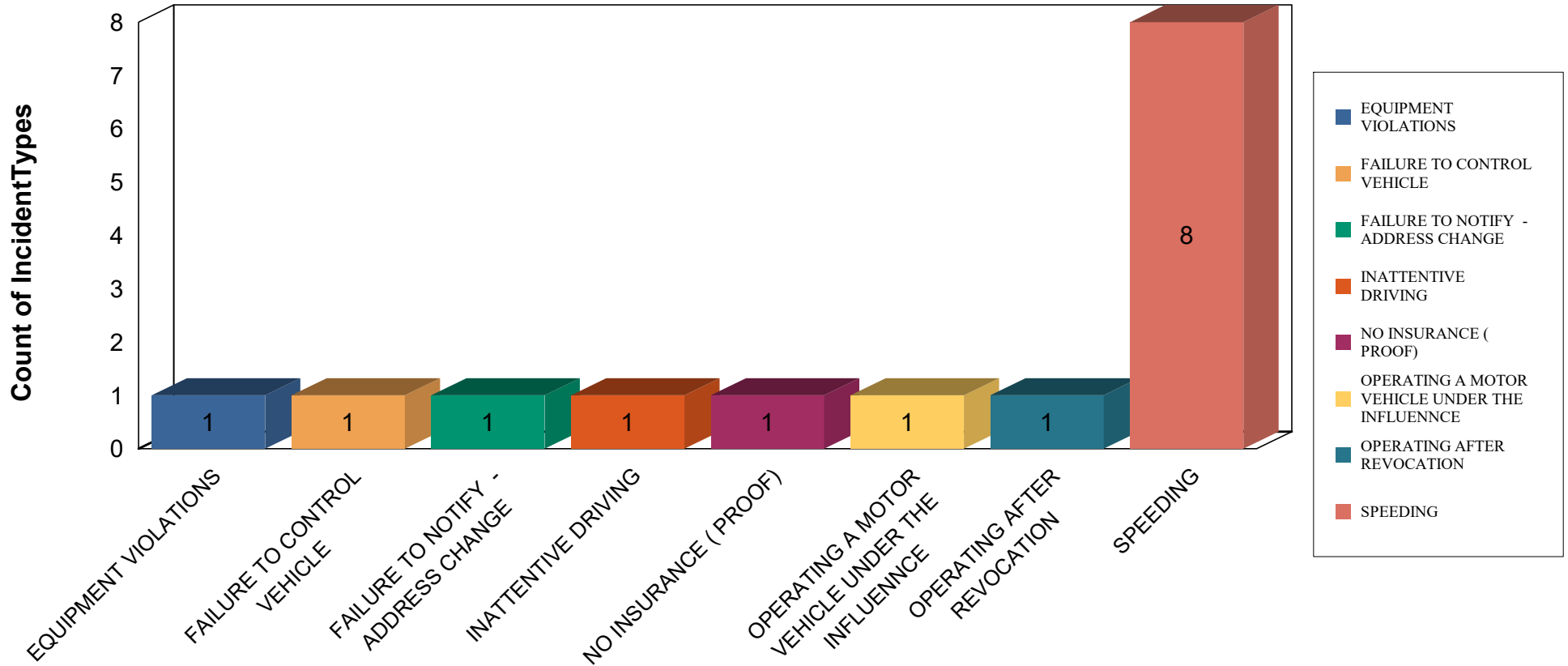
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MONTHLY Statistics from: 1/1/2024 12:00:00AM to 1/31/2024 11:59:00PM

### Count of Reports Completed



# Count of Incident Types



3.57% # of Reports: 1 Citation EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS

3.57% # of Reports: 1 Citation FAILURE TO CONTROL VEHICLE

3.57% # of Reports: 1 Citation FAILURE TO NOTIFY - ADDRESS CHANGE

3.57% # of Reports: 1 Citation INATTENTIVE DRIVING

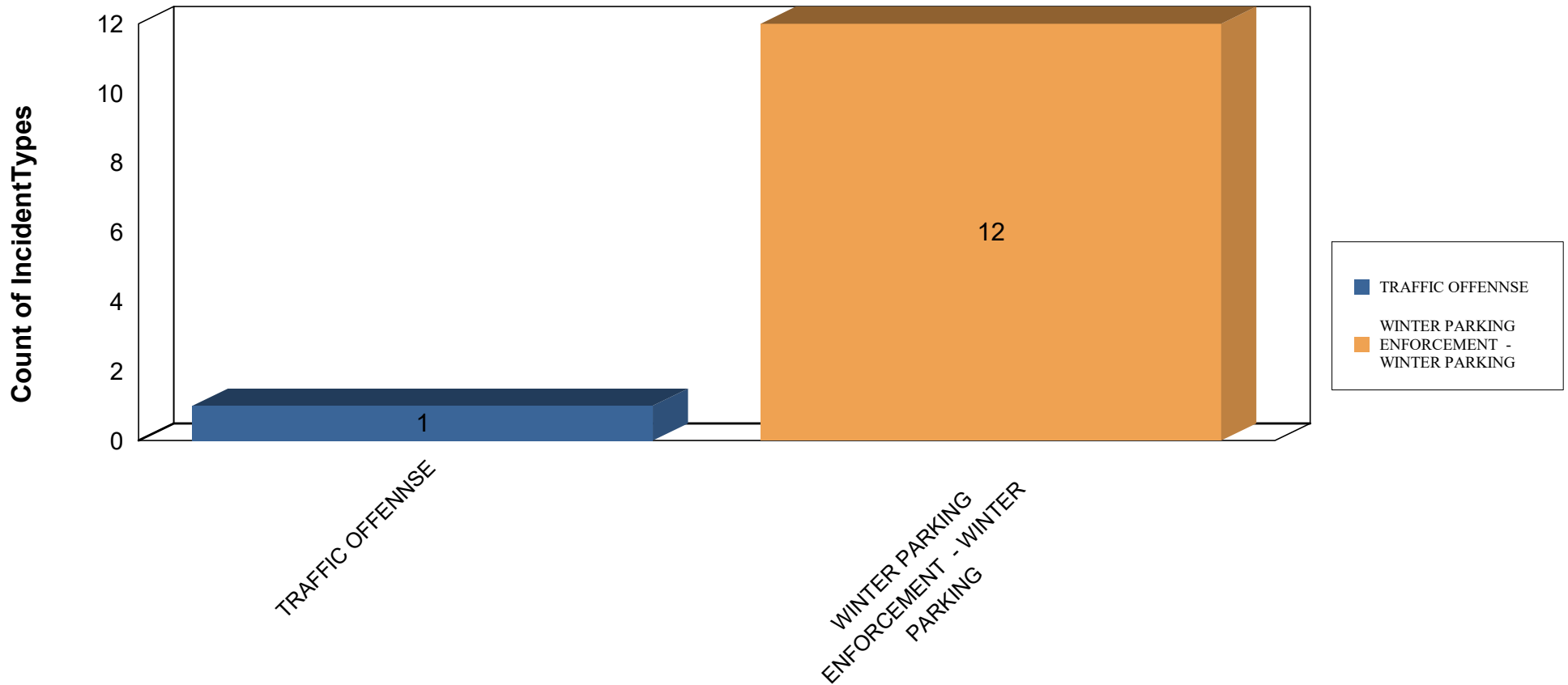
3.57% # of Reports: 1 Citation NO INSURANCE ( PROOF)

3.57% # of Reports: 1 Citation OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER THE INFLUENNCE

3.57% # of Reports: 1 Citation OPERATING AFTER REVOCATION

28.57% # of Reports: 8 Citation SPEEDING

# Count of Incident Types

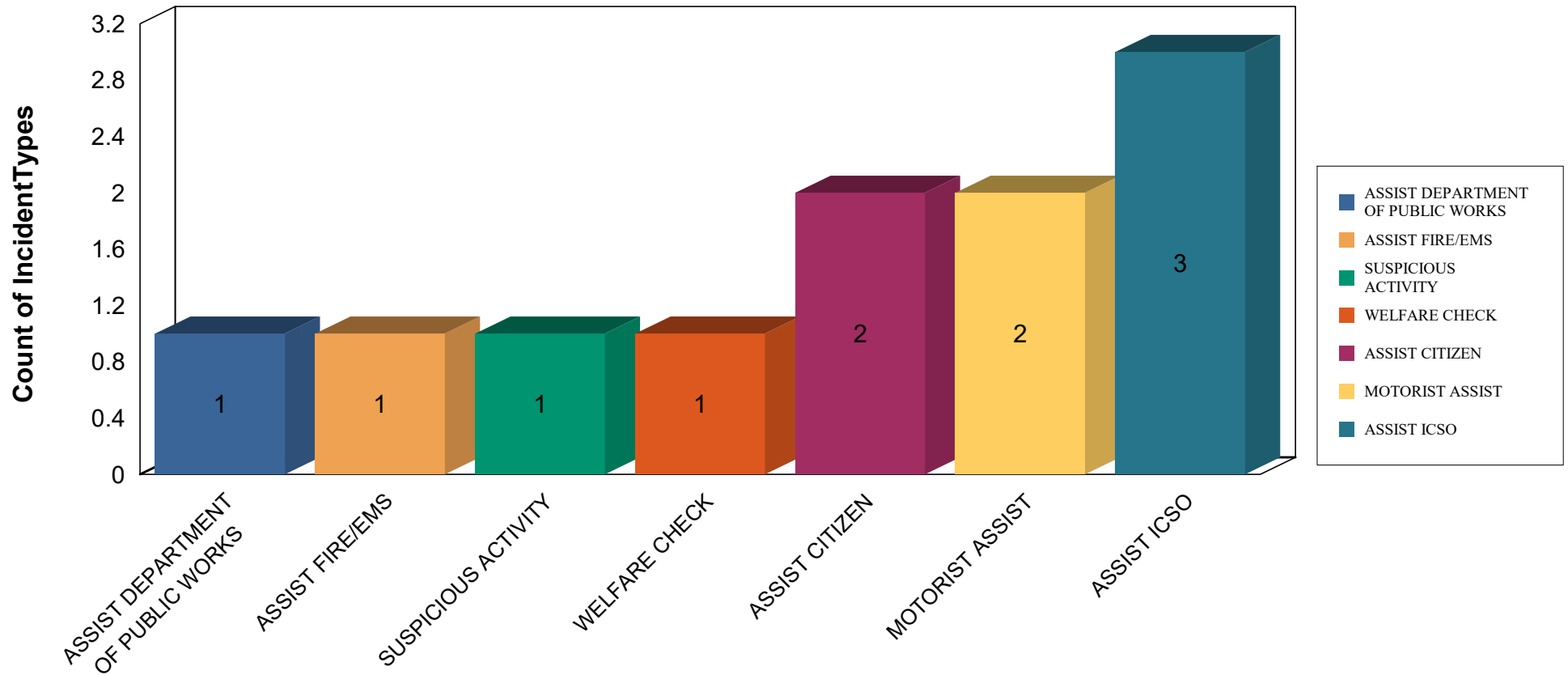


3.57% # of Reports: 1 Citation TRAFFIC OFFENNSE

42.86% # of Reports: 12 Citation WINTER PARKING ENFORCEMENT - WINTER PARKING

**Grand Total: 100.00% Total # of Incident Types Reported: 28 Total # of Reports: 24**

# Count of Incident Types



9.09% # of Reports: 1 Calls For Service ASSIST DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

9.09% # of Reports: 1 Calls For Service ASSIST FIRE/EMS

9.09% # of Reports: 1 Calls For Service SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY



9.09% # of Reports: 1 Calls For Service WELFARE CHECK

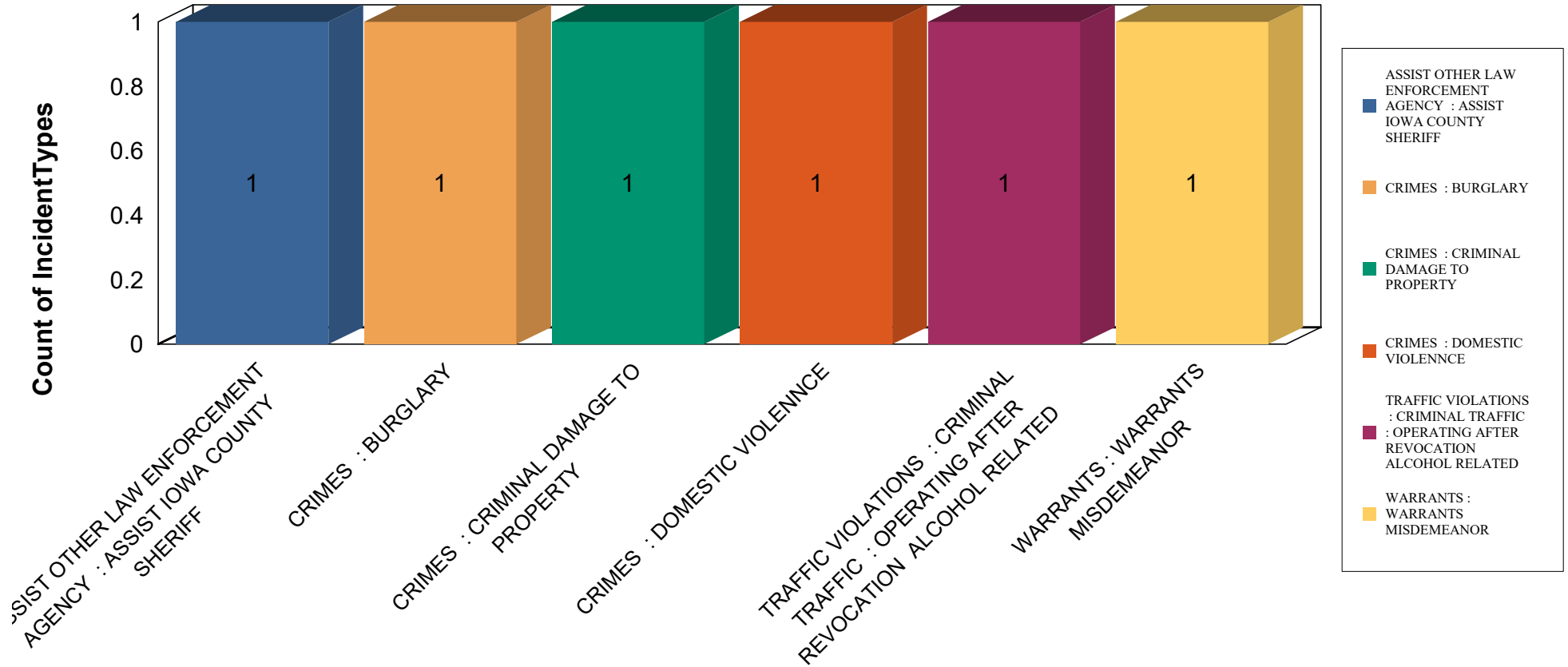
18.18% # of Reports: 2 Calls For Service ASSIST CITIZEN

18.18% # of Reports: 2 Calls For Service MOTORIST ASSIST

27.27% # of Reports: 3 Calls For Service ASSIST ICSO

**Grand Total: 100.00% Total # of Incident Types Reported: 11 Total # of Reports: 11**

# Count of Incident Types



16.67% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report ASSIST OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY : ASSIST IOWA COUNTY SHERIFF

16.67% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report CRIMES : BURGLARY

16.67% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report CRIMES : CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

16.67% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report CRIMES : DOMESTIC VIOLENNCE

16.67% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS : CRIMINAL TRAFFIC : OPERATING AFTER REVOCATION ALCOHOL RELATED

16.67% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report WARRANTS : WARRANTS MISDEMEANOR

**Grand Total: 100.00% Total # of Incident Types Reported: 6 Total # of Reports: 4**

Grand Total: 100.00% Total # of Incident Types Reported: 45