

Ridgeway Marshal's Office

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

May 10, 2026

Brad Butler, Village President
Honorable Members of the Board of Trustees
Village of Ridgeway
208 Jarvis Street, Suite B
Ridgeway WI 53582

Re: April 2026 Monthly Report

Gentlepeople,

As I wrote this report, I wanted to share some reflections. It struck me that this may be my final monthly report to the Board, and I submit it with some melancholy. At the same time, I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to serve over the past seven years and eight months, bringing to a close a 37-year career in law enforcement. I have truly appreciated the positive relationship I have shared with the Village Board, even as its membership has changed over the years.

When I stepped into this position, shortly before we branded the department the Marshal's Office, one of the most important tasks was rebuilding trust between the community and the police department. I will always be grateful for the support, partnership, and shared commitment that made that possible. It took us working together to address many of the issues that affected quality of life here. It is my hope that, with the torch passed to the Iowa County Sheriff's Office, the community will be better served than during my tenure. It is a process of letting go of the protectiveness officers have for their communities. I am still navigating those waters. I want what is best for Ridgeway, and that has been my central focus.

So, in that vein, anticipating this is my last meeting as the Marshal, I will attend, I am reminded of a few words I heard regarding Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*. "If a man were to know the end of this day's business ere it come; But it suffices that the day will end, and then the end be known. And if we meet again, well then, we'll smile, and if not, why then, this parting was" well made. Thank you for the privilege of serving you, and Godspeed.

Onto Business

Attached is data from the Iowa County Sheriff's Office regarding April 2026 calls for service.

Last, the greatest challenge is to systematically shut down the Marshal's Office while continuing to patrol and respond to calls for service.

"Partnership of Service and Protection"
Office: 608-924-1030 (voicemail) 24 Hour Dispatch: 608-930-9500
marshal@ridgewaywi.gov

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The Patrol Rifle was sold to the Neillesville Police Department for \$1000.00 dollars. The Old Case Reports from the 1990s through 2018 were picked up and shredded.

The evidence in the police department has been destroyed, or the property held for safekeeping and not considered evidence was destroyed after an attempt to contact the owners. This accounted for four incidents involving various pieces of property, including identity cards, cards used for gift or money transactions (none had any value), and cell phones.

Professionally,

Michael J F Gorham
Marshal #715
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