

SWEET HOME POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF OF POLICE
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	This Month	Last Month	Last Year	Year to Date	5 Year
	04/30/22	03/31/22	04/30/21	04/30/22	
Call Volume	7114	713	731	2689	2716
CAD Calls	1330	1243	1426	4928	5415
ONIBR Person Crimes	10	13	21	51	55
ONIBR Person Crimes Cleared	4	8	18	30	39
ONIBR Property Crimes	38	52	28	174	162
ONIBR Property Crimes Cleared	8	14	6	39	47

Trends:

The Sweet Home Police Department is increasingly having to deal with recreational vehicles (RVs) that are parking on public streets and local businesses parking lots. Many of these RV's are housing individuals that are homeless and would otherwise be on the streets. Other RVs are of an age and in such disrepair that they are being "dumped" on streets. These are two separate issues dealing with the same item, RVs.

Per the existing Sweet Home Municipal Code (10.08.030 Prohibited Parking), no person shall park a vehicle upon any street for more than 48 hours. Those individuals that are homeless and living in an RV are typically parking in an area, often times in or near residential areas, for at least 48 hours. Officers are then contacting the occupants either through their own initiative or because of a citizen complaint. When a vehicle is located in violation of this Municipal Code, the vehicle can be posted for 24 hours (ORS 819.170) and then towed as an abandoned vehicle.

CSO Morgan has talked with a number of homeless individuals that feel that obtaining an RV and living in it is a solution to their problems. However, they typically have no plan in place on where they can park the RV on a long-term basis. Either the RV parks are too full, or they cannot afford the space rent at an RV park. These individuals have then turned to parking the RVs on the street.

During the first part of this year, our department has located and dealt with several RVs that had been abandoned in our town. Our initial response is the same. After 48 hours, the RV is posted for 24 hours, and it can then be towed. During this time, officers also attempt to identify and locate the current or previous owner of the vehicle. If unsuccessful, the vehicle is then towed as abandoned. Fortunately, we have only been forced to tow two RV's that were abandoned this year.

Very few tow companies will respond and tow away an abandoned RV. We have learned that there is a significant cost to the actual disposal of an older RV in complete disrepair. The cost to tow the RVs under these situations is in excess of \$4000 each. That is a lot of money to remove a single item from our streets.

These issues are not unique to our community. A quick search on the internet reveals many articles associated with communities attempting to deal with it. This is another one of those topics that we are searching for an answer to.