

SWEET HOME POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF OF POLICE
 1950 Main Street
 Sweet Home, OR 97386
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	This Month	Last Month	Last Year	Year to Date	5 Year
	08/31/2021	07/31/2021	08/31/2020	08/31/2021	
Call Volume	840	934	648	6120	6198
CAD Calls	1437	1715	1253	11692	11884
ONIBR Person Crimes	12	13	20	125	112
ONIBR Person Crimes Cleared	5	11	14	91	79
ONIBR Property Crimes	68	60	64	371	379
ONIBR Property Crimes Cleared	13	27	22	90	118

Trends:

CSO Morgan and the rest of the officers continue to respond to issues near the “old city Hall” associated with the homeless. The issues have ranged from being relatively minor to more severe with one individual being charged with the crime of Robbery where the victim was another homeless individual. CSO Morgan has also had to manage the use the property with the Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District that has been using that area for training. On several occasions, the homeless sleeping area was relocated to the Library parking lot for this purpose.

As we have tried to manage this sleeping area, we also pulled data from the previous five years that is associated with where the calls for service were regarding homeless camping and sleeping. Below is a breakdown of those stats.

Homelessness Camping/Sleeping Calls for Service	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Business, Downtown	10	36	41	27	15
Business, Outlying	2	1	3	1	3
Church of Nazarene	5	1	0	0	0
Church-Other	3	4	5	9	2
City Hall-New	0	2	1	0	1
City Hall-Old+Parking Lot+Bus Stop	12	6	10	3	0
City-Library	1	0	4	2	0
Mill Property	0	3	2	4	1
Parks-All, includes boat ramp	7	4	9	14	7
Private Property	7	4	17	24	19
RR Tracks	1	2	2	4	4
School Property	0	1	4	1	0
Vehicle/Motorhome/Camper	4	15	5	6	12
	52	79	103	95	64

Based on this information, it does appear that we have had some success in limiting camping and sleeping issues related to the downtown businesses.

Police Officer staffing levels at the Sweet Home Police Department remain a concern and we are diligently working to add quality employees. Our 2021/2022 budget allows for a total of 15 certified police officers. Currently, we have 11 officers with two of those officers in their training program. As of last week, we do have a conditional job offer out to another prospective officer. That officer is contingent upon passing the psychological examination and physical examination. In addition to that we also have three other background packets that have been turned in by applicants. The Sergeants and Captain are actively working to complete the background investigations so that we can move forward with any potential conditional job offers.

The trend of staffing shortages in law enforcement is not confined to our department and community. Nearly all agencies that I am aware of are hiring and recruiting potential officers. In fact, recently articles across the internet reference that police officer recruitment and retention is a national problem.