

SWEET HOME POLICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF OF POLICE 1950 Main Street Sweet Home, OR 97386 (541) 367-5181 Fax (541) 367-5235

	This Month	Last Month	Last Year	Year to Date	
	12/31/2020	11/30/2020	12/31/2019	12/31/2020	5 Year
Call Volume	661	516	740	2020-08272	709
CAD Calls	1130	1086	1444	16201	1355
ONIBR Person Crimes	8	11	13	159	11
ONIBR Person Crimes	4	9	6	121	7
Cleared					
ONIBR Property Crimes	21	30	56	477	45
ONIBR Property Crimes Cleared	8	13	16	151	14

## Trends:

As we all know, 2020 has been the year of a variety of challenges. COVID-19 has been one of many. Since April of 2020 we have tried to track some of the implications that the pandemic has had on a variety of calls for service. We have been trying to determine what effects the current COVID-19 pandemic situation has on them. The calls that we are monitoring include thefts, domestic violence calls, child abuse calls (physical and sexual), suicide calls, mental health calls and burglaries. Below is a comparison of those types of calls compared with 2019.

	2020	2019	Difference	
Domestic Violence/Dispute Calls	534	431	103	19.29%
Child Abuse(Physical/Sexual)	345	458	-113	-24.67%
Suicidal Calls	94	84	10	10.64%
Mental Health Calls	342	458	-116	-25.33%
Burglary	28	38	-10	-26.32%

Domestic dispute/violence calls resulted in a rather substantial increase from 2019 (nearly 20%). Considering the limited opportunities that people have had to socialize and recreate during the majority of 2020, these numbers are not surprising. are continuing to increase. Through the end of October 2019, the Sweet Home Police Department had received a total of 372 calls for service associated with domestic disputes/violence. I believe that the only stats that we underestimated were those associated with the calls for service involving an individual's perceived mental health. These calls reduced just over 25% between 2019 and 2020.

Our community's response to homelessness remains a key focus of the Police Department. As of January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, were 26 persons staying on the property at the Nazarene Church. This location has always been intended to be temporary, through March of 2021. Several items of note need to take place as we move forward. One of those involves the Family Assistance and Resource Center (FARC), accepting a larger role in the management of the camp that is at the Nazarene Church. Currently there are no rules and regulations in place, that I believe is leading to an unsafe environment for residents there, the community and the officers that are having to respond there for issues. Between September and December of 2020, our officers responded to 26 calls for service at that location. As of January 18<sup>th</sup>, we have responded to 9 calls for service this year.

The second item of notes involves the work of a "sub-committee" that is working towards possible action items and the next steps that will be needed beginning in April when the Nazarene Church site is no longer operating in its current capacity. The group consists of 7-9 individuals that are looking at what the vision and mission could look like for our community moving forward. It also is weighing different options that would allow for the homeless community to continue to receive the services they need. As you can all imagine, this is a daunting task and a very divisive issue. My hope is that soon, we will be able to present a framework of our discussions to the Council and the Community for their input.

Our Department is in the process of selecting an officer to assume the K9 Handler position. Our previous K9 Handler has resigned to pursue other endeavors. K9 Gemma remains with us and I am currently caring for her. We anticipate having the new Handler selected soon so that both officer and Gemma can start their training together. Our intent is to move forward and continue the program.

There is some uncertainty around the effectiveness of single-purpose narcotics K9's as a result of Ballot Measure 110.

In November of 2020 voters in the State of Oregon approved Ballot Measure 110 (Drug Decriminalization and Addiction Treatment Initiative) with over 58% approval. Oregon's Ballot Measure 110 makes personal non-commercial possession of a controlled substance no more than a Class E violation (max fine of \$100) and establishes a drug addiction treatment and recovery program funded in part by the state's marijuana tax revenue and state prison savings.

Below is a list of the new defined personal user amounts of controlled substances.

Possessing less than:

- ➤ 1 gram Heroin
- ➤ 2 grams Cocaine
- 2 grams Methamphetamine
- ➤ 40 pills of Oxycodone
- ➤ 40 tabs of LSD
- > 1 gram or 4 pills of MDMA (Ecstasy)
- ➤ 12 grams of Psilocybin
- ➤ 40 units of Methadone
  - Or any amount of other Schedule 1 to 5 drugs

Persons found to be in possession of the above quantities will now be charged with a Class E Violation that has a maximum \$100 fine, or a completed health assessment. Also, failure to pay the fine will not be a basis for further penalties.

Possessing amounts above those subject to a class E Violation of: Heroin, Cocaine, Methamphetamine, Oxycodone, MDMA (Ecstasy), LSD, Psilocybin and Methadone can be charged with a Class A Misdemeanor which has a maximum sentence that can include a fine up to \$6,250 and/or up to 364 days in a county jail.

Manufacturing, delivering, or committing a commercial drug offense remains a Felony if it involves Heroin, Fentanyl, LSD, GHB, Schedule 1 drugs, Cocaine, Methadone, Schedule 2 drugs, manufacturing/delivery Methamphetamine, Ketamine, steroids, Tylenol III, Suboxone and other Schedule 3 drugs.

This is Oregon's new reality, and we are finalizing the updates to our existing policies and procedures associated with it.