



City of Watertown Police Department 2025 Annual Report



Welcome from Chief David Brower



Welcome to the Watertown Police Department 2025 Annual Report. We are very glad you have taken the time to learn more about our agency by reviewing this report, and we are proud of the fine men and women who work here. It is our mission to provide security, safety, protection, and justice to the tens of thousands of citizens who live and work in our community. I have been privileged to be part of this agency since 2001, and I count it as the highest honor to have become Chief of Police in 2023.

As you will read in this report, your Police Department personnel handle hundreds of calls for service and incidents every week. Our officers, dispatchers, and support staff must be prepared to respond to a wide range of difficult situations, from traffic enforcement and crash investigation to violent crime, domestic abuse, crimes against children, and everything in between. We take great pride in delivering professional, compassionate and excellent service through this wide range of responsibilities.

We are very pleased to partner with our neighboring cities, towns, and counties, especially the Dodge County Sheriff's Office, led by Sheriff Dale Schmidt, and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, led by Sheriff Travis Maze. We are grateful for our close working relationships with the Jefferson and Dodge County District Attorney's Offices, as well as the Jefferson and Dodge County Human Services Departments. We also value our strong partnerships with the Wisconsin State Patrol, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, including the State Crime Lab. We also appreciate the close coordination we share with the Watertown Fire Department, led by Chief Tanya Reynen, whose members regularly work alongside us on incidents requiring a unified response.

Please take the opportunity, when you see an officer patrolling our streets, to engage in conversation. We truly appreciate the people we serve and protect.

May God bless America, and may God bless Watertown.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Brower". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

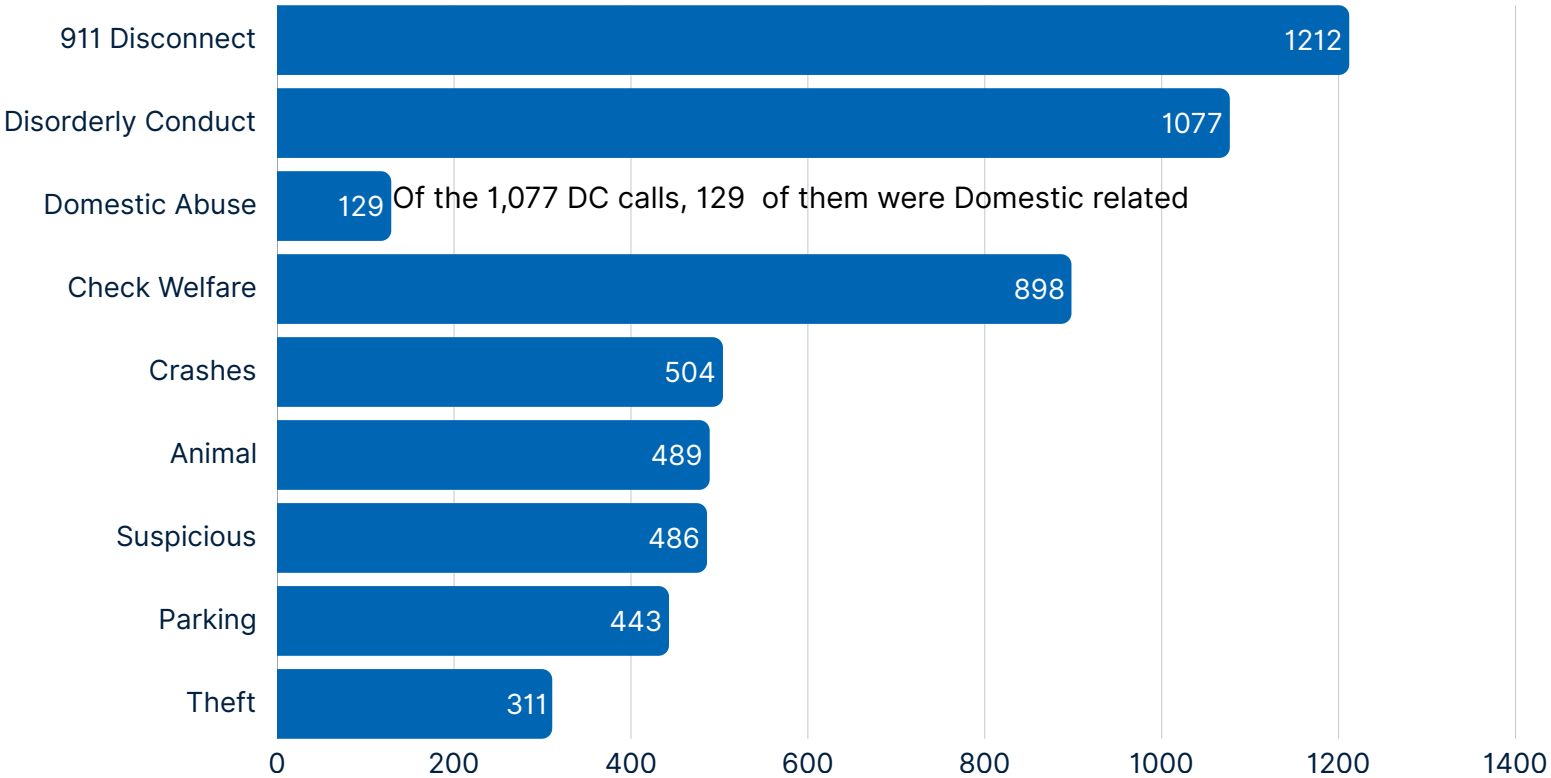
David Brower,
Police Chief



Telecommunications

The Watertown Communications Center/ 911 Dispatch answers three non-emergency phone lines, three alarm company emergency lines and four 911 lines. The Communications Center is also responsible for monitoring Tip411. Tip411 is a Web/App program for citizens to report complaints anonymously

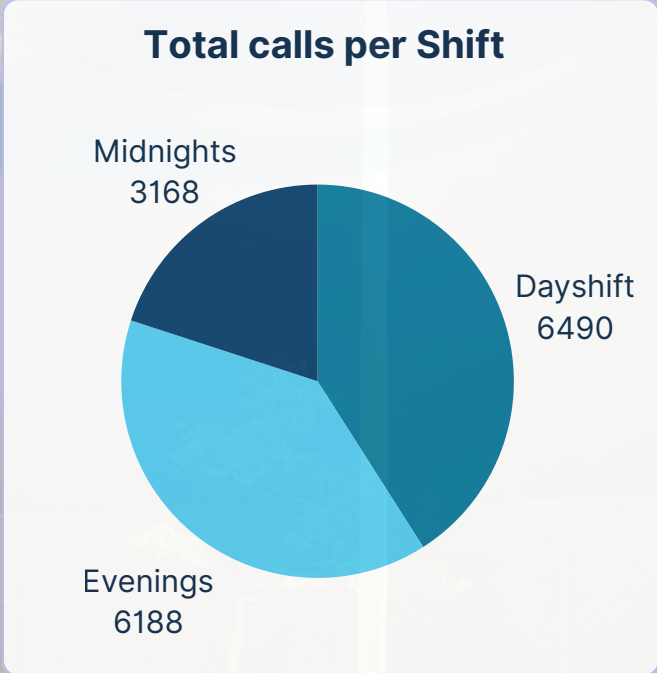
Top Calls for Service



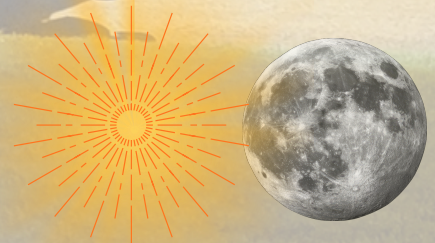
Calls for Service

There are currently 24 Patrol Officers that are split between three shifts

Dayshift, Evenings and Midnights.



Typically Dayshift officers are tasked with responding to more calls for service which makes them less available for proactive work



Evening shift is the sweet spot. This watch gets both many calls for service they are having to respond to but also gets time to be proactive

Midnights has the least calls for service, which means they have the most time for proactive police work and the traffic numbers prove it



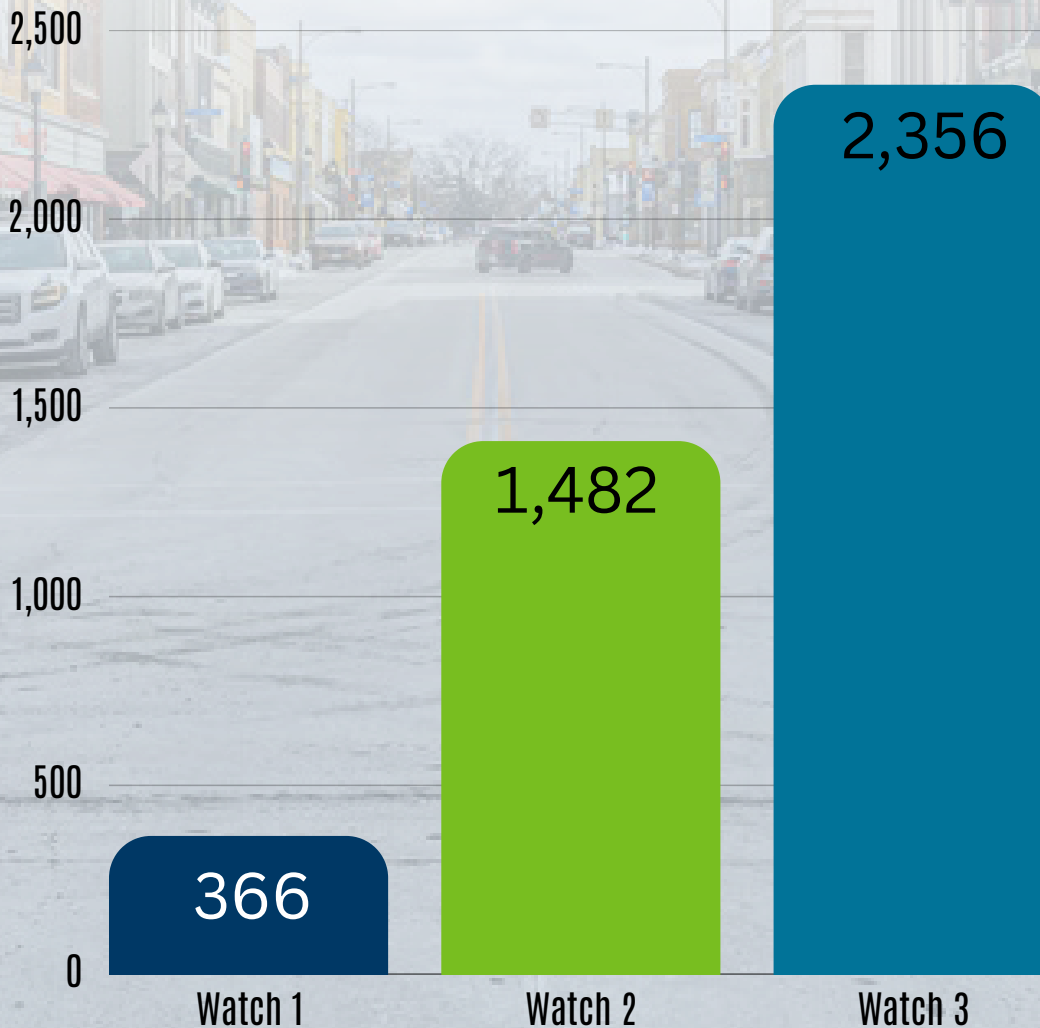
Traffic

Watch 1/Dayshifts most active officer made 97 stops.

Watch 2/Evenings most active officer made 352 stops.

Watch 3/Midnights most active officer made 679 stops!

A total of 4,177 traffic stops were made department wide



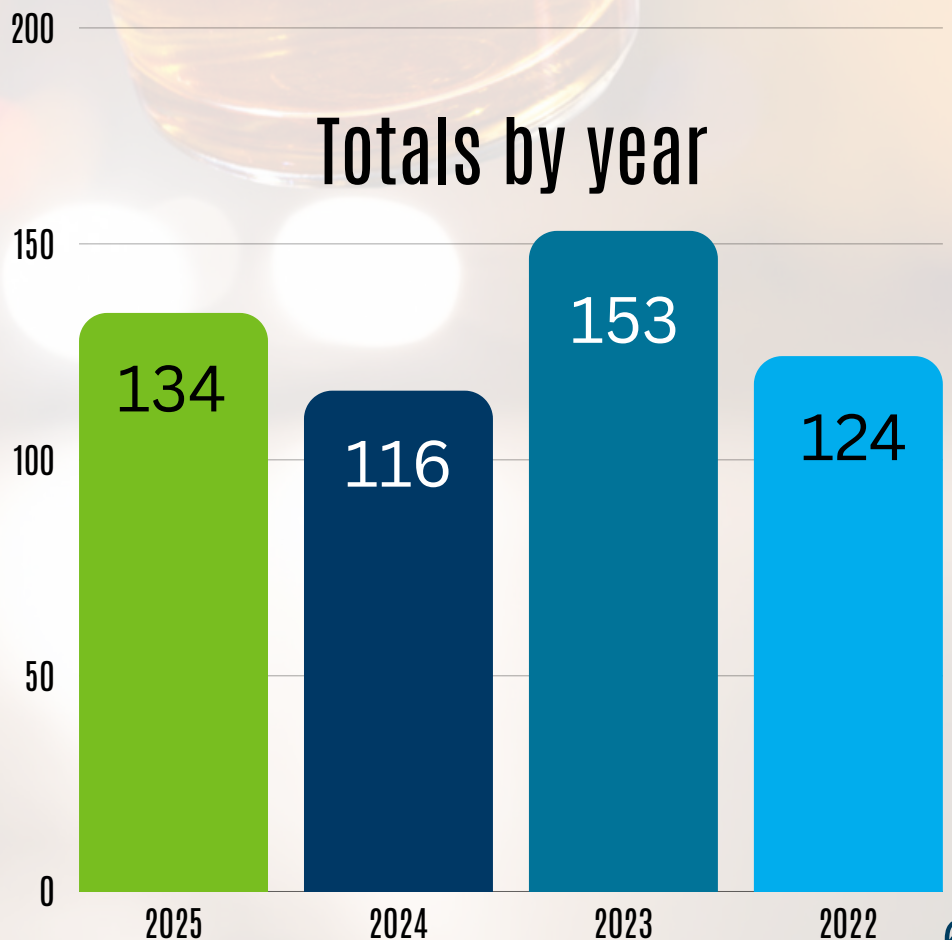
OWI Enforcement

The Watertown Police Department puts an emphasis on traffic safety as well as OWI enforcement. All WTPD officers are trained in recognizing alcohol and drug impaired drivers and most WPD officers have “Advanced Roadside Impaired Driver Enforcement” training.

When an officer has reasonable suspicion that a driver has been consuming alcohol and may be impaired, or that the driver may be under the influence of a drug, the officer can request the driver perform Standardized Field Sobriety Testing otherwise known as, SFST’s.

SFST’s are a series of tests that are validated by The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that help Officers detect driver impairment.

**In 2025
Officers made
134 OWI
Arrests**



OWI Enforcement

- One Officer had 26 OWI arrests in 2025



- The busiest OWI month was May, when 17 OWI arrests were made



- **One driver was arrested twice in less than 24 hours for OWI**



- There were four OWI arrests on August 31st. The most in one day.



- 14 OWI's were Crash related



- 8 arrests were for a restricted controlled substance (RCS)



- **21 OWI arrests were because citizens called in reporting bad driving or other concerns.**

Thank you

Other Duties

Patrol Officers wear many hats and there are a lot of other jobs around the police department that need to be completed to keep the department functional and in compliance with state and federal standards.

Other responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- **Squad/Fleet Maintenance-** There are 20 vehicles that need to be managed for equipment, warranty, service, repair ETC... These vehicles include marked and unmarked squads.

This takes one officer at least 20 hours a month to coordinate and complete

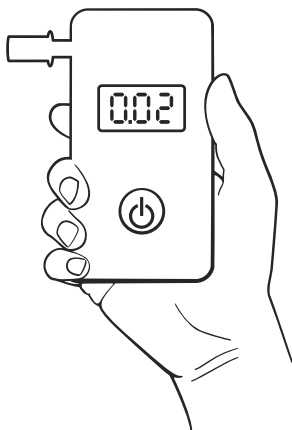


- **Holding Cells -** To be able to place arrestees in one of the four holding cells, the PD has to comply with state and federal standards for those cells. Every day an Officer needs to inspect the cells for contraband that may have been left over from the person that was last placed there, verify the plumbing is in working condition, verify cleanliness and confirm that the fire alarms are functional. Once a year an Officer is tasked with verifying the “jail records” are complete and turned into the state.

- **Fingerprinting** - When someone is arrested, most of the time they are fingerprinted also. Each arrest generates an “arrest card”. The program the PD uses for fingerprinting is digital (no ink!) All officers are trained in fingerprinting, but only four are trained in authenticating each “arrest card” before it gets reported to state/federal authorities.



- **Reporting-** The computer reporting system that the PD uses to report incidents to the state/feds is called the Incident Based Reporting System or “IBR”. Each traffic stop or call for service generates an IBR incident number. When there is a “reportable” incident, such as a citation or arrest, the IBR system needs to be completed and checked for accuracy. There are five Officers that are trained in this task. It is very time consuming and detailed. This is something that needs to be completed and turned in each month and can take almost 40 hours a month.
- **Crash Reports-** There are five Officers monthly that view and correct all crash reports that are taken in the city before they are released to the state. The number of crashes will determine how much time each officer dedicates to this task. The PD has 10 days from the time of the crash to have it completed and turned in to the state.



PBT Calibration- For two hours every 60 days, one officer calibrates each preliminary breath test (PBT), also known as a “Breathalyzer”. There are 13 PBTs in service.



School Resource Officers



Officer Chris Karnatz
Riverside Middle School (RMS)



Officer Evan Bresser
Watertown High School (WHS)

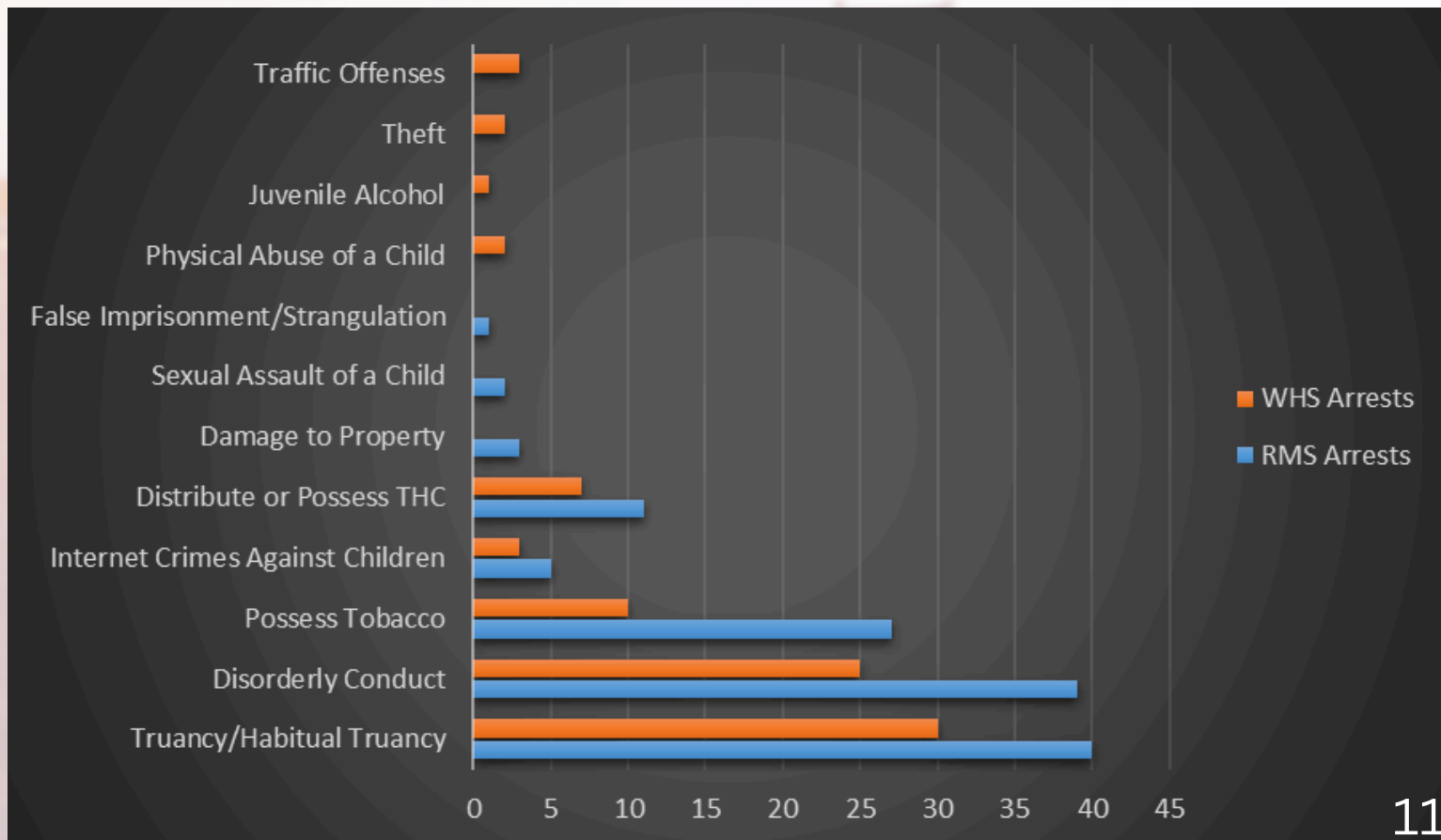
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- During the 2025 school year, School Resource Officers (SROs) Evan Bresser and Christopher Karnatz were both back in their respective schools, Watertown High School and Riverside Middle School. The two SROs split the duties at the 4 elementary schools should there be an incident that arose and needed officer presence.
 - The SRO's are also a valuable part of the WUSD's Threat Assessment Teams. They contribute to the investigations that take place should a student make a threat toward an individual or the school as a whole. This process ensures that every student is safe and that there is a plan in place before the student who made a threat is brought back into the building. In 2025, Evan and Chris participated in 35 inquiries or full threat assessments.
 - Besides completing investigations during the year, Bresser and Karnatz also take active roles in teaching classes in their respective buildings. Karnatz helped develop an Introduction to Public Safety class with Riverside Middle School staff. Both police and fire personnel from multiple jurisdictions will be brought in to teach kids about their roles. He also teaches a Forensic Science class during the year where he goes over fingerprinting.
 - Bresser is involved in presenting to freshman health classes. He goes over drug and alcohol trends as well as the dangers and police responses to each. Bresser also teaches a class on different parts of a crime scene and how to collect different forms evidence. He is involved in US Government classes when they learn about the 1st-4th amendments and how they apply inside and outside of school.

School Resource Officers

Throughout 2025, Evan and Chris had a total of 210 arrests.

This number combines citations issued, juvenile referrals forwarded to Dodge or Jefferson County Human Services, or criminal complaints sent to the proper county for students over 17 or older.

School Resource Officers work closely with WUSD administration and guidance counselors to ensure students who are at high-risk have regular meetings and assistance in getting different resources that are available to them



Entry and Crowd Control Team



The Entry Team serves as the department's tactical operations unit, providing a highly trained and rapidly deployable response capability. All team members have successfully completed a 40-hour Basic SWAT course and participate in 4 hours of monthly firearms and tactical training, in addition to the department-wide monthly firearms trainings.

Beyond functioning as a quick-reaction tactical team, the Entry Team supports investigative operations by executing high-risk search warrants related to robbery, child exploitation, illegal drug activity, burglary, and stolen firearms. Their training and preparedness ensure these operations are conducted safely, professionally, and with a focus on risk mitigation for officers and the community.

Entry Team members are also cross-trained in Field Force Operations (crowd management and control), and most members hold FEMA certifications. In this capacity, they serve as members of the multi-agency Jefferson County Mobile Field Force (MFF). The MFF conducts biannual training to maintain operational readiness and is available for deployment to both planned and unplanned large-scale events, including protests and civil disturbances.

As part of the Mobile Field Force, Watertown officers have been deployed to Madison and Kenosha during the 2020 riots, Whitewater for the annual Spring Splash events (2022–present), Watertown Pride in the Park events (2022 and 2023), and Milwaukee in support of security operations for the 2024 Republican National Convention.

Community Outreach

D.A.R.E.

TEACHING STUDENTS DECISION MAKING
FOR SAFE & HEALTHY LIVING

D.A.R.E. is currently being taught in 9 schools/14 classrooms in Watertown.

This program is a police officer-led series of classroom lessons that teaches children how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives.

Watertown Police Department has been involved with the D.A.R.E. program since 1991.



Bicycle Rodeo



The Annual Watertown Police Department Bicycle Rodeo was back for its 32nd year in 2025. This event has a series of nine courses for children 12 and younger. These courses help kids learn how to ride safely around their community and learn the rules of the road when it comes to bicycles. There is also a raffle at the end to reward the kids for a job well done!



Lights & Sirens



Lights N Sirens was back for its 25th year. This safety fair draws over 1,000 people annually to come look through emergency vehicles up close and get information from many community organizations on how to keep themselves and others safe in the community.



POLICE LINE - DO NOT CROSS -





Citizen Police Academy

Since its launch in 2000, the Citizen Police Academy has opened the doors of law enforcement to the community in a way few programs can. This engaging ten-week experience gives participants a behind-the-scenes look at the vital services Watertown police officers provide every day.

More than just a class, the academy immerses citizens in the realities of policing—offering a deeper understanding of the challenges officers face, the decisions they make, and the reasons behind them. Designed to strengthen trust and build meaningful connections, the program bridges the gap between the police department and the community it serves.

Participants don't just learn—they experience. Through a mix of interactive lectures and hands-on activities, attendees step into the role of an officer, exploring arrest procedures, defensive tactics, firearms training, emergency driving (yes, behind the wheel of a real police car!), and evidence collection. It's an eye-opening journey into the criminal justice system that leaves graduates with knowledge, perspective, and a newfound appreciation for the work happening on the front lines every day.

To sign up for the next class go to <https://www.watertownwi.gov/page/citizen-police-academy>



Mental Health

And the integration of Jefferson County Human Services
within the Police Department



Calls for service involving citizens in need of mental health services are a daily occurrence for the Watertown Police Department. To help our citizens and also make sure that the correct outcome is achieved in these calls, every officer of the WTPD has attended and is part of a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT).

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training is more than just a class. It's a community-based approach to improving how law enforcement responds to people experiencing a mental health crisis. CIT programs bring together law enforcement, mental health professionals, local NAMI affiliates, and other community partners. Officers receive 40 hours of specialized training focused on de-escalation, crisis response, and connecting individuals to appropriate services. At its core, CIT is built on strong, ongoing relationships among police, mental health providers, individuals with lived experience, and families working together toward shared goals and better outcomes.

Examples of calls Officers are responding to:

- Someone attempting to harm or kill themselves
- Threats to hurt others
- Verbal or physical abuse
- Isolation
- Intoxication
- Lack of sleeping or eating
- Psychosis (Visual or auditory hallucinations. Could also be drug induced.)

**These calls are categorized
as "Welfare Checks."
WTPD responded to 898 of
them in 2025.**



Award Winning Officers



Officer Chris Karnatz was awarded the 2025 First Responder of the Year for Wisconsin's 38th Assembly District. The award was presented by Representative William Penterman. Officer Karnatz was nominated by Chief Brower for his 26 years of dedicated service to the people of Watertown. Chris has served as a Field Training Officer, a Technical Crash Investigator, Emergency Vehicle Operation and Control Instructor (EVOC) and most recently as a School Resource Officer for Riverside Middle School.

Officer Stacy Schroeder was recognized with a Distinguished Service Award for her 15 years of service as the DARE/Crime Prevention Officer.

She began the DARE position in 2010 which is taught in 9 schools in the Watertown area. Stacy also coordinated many events that became special in the community, such as Light's N Sirens, Bicycle Rodeo, the Donut Dash 5k and the Citizens Police Academy.

Stacy is now a School Resource Officer for Watertown Elementary Schools.



Award Winning Officers

Officer Ben Miller was awarded at the Elks Lodge for his partnership with the Jefferson County Drug Free Coalition.

Officer Dakota Lenske was also awarded the Enrique Camerena award from the Elks Lodge for his work in Drug and Alcohol enforcement.



Officer Hannah Winchester was awarded 2025 Jefferson County CIT Officer of the year from Jefferson County Human Services after a lengthy negotiation with a Suicidal/Homicidal subject where she used the techniques she learned from CIT training and as an FBI-trained Negotiator.



Officer Nora Achilli was awarded the 2025 Jefferson County Officer of the Year regarding an incident where she successfully defended the life of a woman during a violent animal attack, firing her weapon in the line of duty.

Women in Law Enforcement

Not pictured is Officer Stacy Schroeder



Watertown Police Department hired their first female officer, Marcie Repta in 1986. Marcie was the only female officer for 17 years.

Marcie began the Bicycle program (mentioned above) in 1997 at Webster School. Officer Repta retired after 26 years serving the Watertown community.

Marcie passed unexpectedly in 2019 but her legacy continues to resonate. She trailblazed the path for everyone pictured here today.



Watertown Police department is now at 24% female officers. This is on track with the 30 by 30 initiative.

The 30 by 30 Initiative is an effort to support the representation, experience and well being of women in policing. 30 by 30 is based on evidence indicating the importance of achieving at least 30% female representation in policing by 2030.

Research shows women Officers bring unique talents and perspectives to law enforcement. They are perceived as more compassionate and Frequently use higher levels of interpersonal communication.

Self Defense

Auxiliary Officer Kerry Kneser's idea has grown into an empowering experience here in Watertown. With the help of Sergeant Hoyt, the class has evolved into something truly special.

This class welcomes everyone over the age of 18 and varying experience levels, making it the perfect place to challenge yourself, learn something new, and build confidence. The class begins with engaging education to get your mind thinking about awareness and personal safety, then moves into hands-on practice for those ready to try it out.

Check out the Watertown WI Police Department Facebook page for upcoming classes



New Officers

Growth is essential to a thriving police department. This year we welcomed five new officers who chose a path of service and sacrifice. As we conclude this years report, we are honored to have them on our team, serving the good citizens of Watertown.



Ofc. Jared Furnish



Ofc. Amanda Zane



Ofc. Tommy Poff



Ofc. Garrett Graul



Ofc. Autumn Verfuert