

# OTTUMWA POLICE DEPARTMENT



## 2016 Annual Report




Photo By: Jeff Diltz



**Ragbrai 2016**



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## *A letter from the Chief of Police...*

Tom McAndrew  
Chief of Police



I am pleased to present the Ottumwa Police Department's 2016 Annual Report. This report details the activities and accomplishments of the dedicated men and women who serve our community.

This was a busy year with our officers responding to over 28,500 calls for service, documenting 3,700 incident reports, and arresting 3,500 suspects. Additionally, our officers issued over 2,700 traffic citations, conducted 105 OWI investigations and responded to 334 traffic accidents.

Although the numbers listed above remained relatively the same as previous years, we handled them with significantly less personnel due to officer turn over, retirement and serious injury on the job. In addition to the seven officers hired in 2015, we hired an additional three officers in 2016.

After going through a rigorous hiring process, our officers must successfully complete fourteen weeks of training at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy and fifteen weeks of Patrol Officer Training. I am confident that Officer Caleb Mitchell, Officer Brett Roberts and Officer Zackary Mikita will serve the department with distinction.

This past year the City Council addressed the shortage of Communications Specialists working in our dispatch center as the result of the Affordable Care Act. The ACA eliminated the number of part-time personnel available to work in the dispatch center, placing a burden on our full-time staff. Recently the City Council approved the hiring of two additional full-time dispatcher positions. The importance of having well trained professionals in our Communications Center is vital in keeping our officers safe and providing the best service to our citizens. We welcome Communications Specialists Janet Fletcher, Brea Allen and Alexa Jones to the department.

In November of 2015, Chaplains Jim Shrimplin and Rick Bick volunteered to provide personal services to members of the police department and our community. Rick and Jim have volunteered over 600 hours to the department this past year. This program has been a success and will continue in the future.

This past year we finished Phase 1 of our 2015 Capital Improvements Project totaling \$150,000 which consisted of updating our in house network and infrastructure. We are now working on the completion of Phase 2 of the project which includes the purchase and installation of two new computer servers. The final phase of the project will include the installation of information backup and offsite storage of police department information.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Citizen's Police Academy sponsored by South Ottumwa Savings Bank was held during February and March of 2016. Nineteen citizens attended the eight-week program that provides a glimpse into the workings of the police department. Every year those that attend comment on how interesting the program is and how much knowledge they gain about the department.

This past year 22 year veteran Officer Brad Johnson retired from the police department. We thank Officer Johnson for his years of service to the citizens of Ottumwa and wish him all the best in retirement.

The Police Department suffered the loss of former Ottumwa Police Officer Carlos Puente-Morales in March of last year. Carlos served with the Ottumwa Police Department from 2011 to 2015. Carlos was not only an outstanding police officer but a friend to everyone. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Puente- Morales family, the family of Officer Susan Farrell and the members of the Des Moines Police Department.

The dedicated men and women of the Ottumwa Police Department worked hard this past year to provide quality service to our community. I am honored to work with this great group of people. As you review this annual report, you can be proud of the accomplishments of your police department and staff.

Sincerely,

Tom McAndrew  
Chief of Police





## In Memory of Officer Carlos Puente-Morales

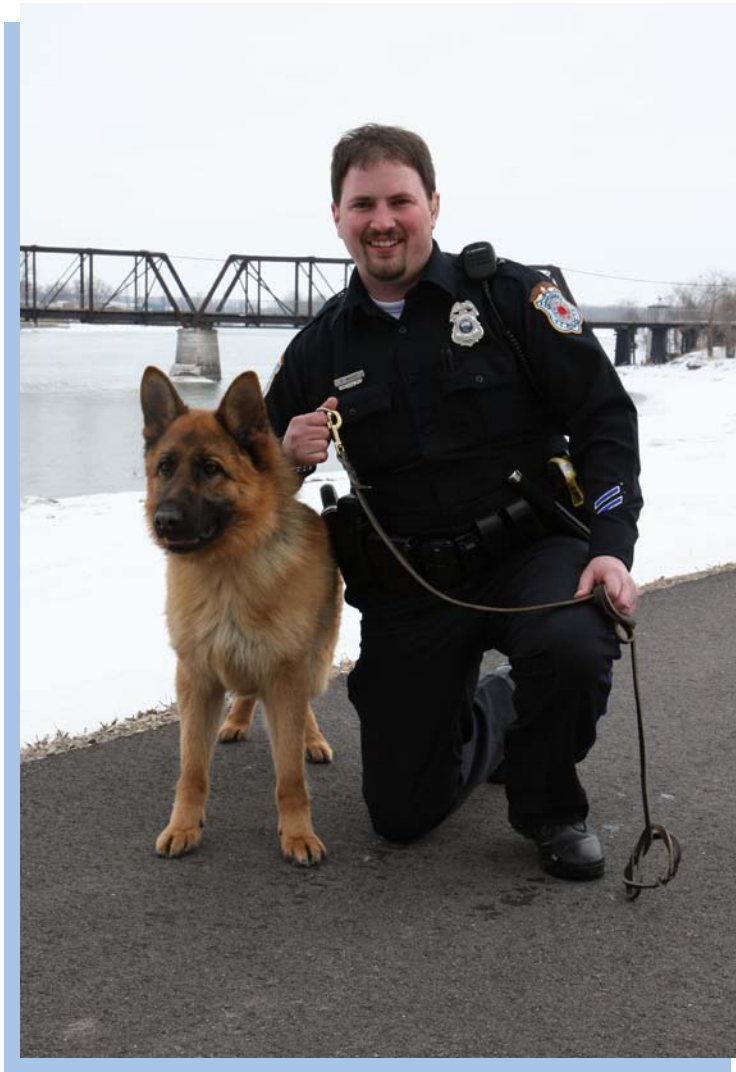


On March 26, 2016, former Ottumwa Police Officer Carlos Puente-Morales and Officer Susan Farrell were killed by a drunk driver on Interstate 80 near Waukee, Iowa. Officer Puente-Morales began his service to the citizens of Ottumwa on October 24, 2011. He left the Ottumwa Police Department on April 26, 2015 to be closer to his family and continued his service to the community as a Des Moines Police Officer. Carlos earned his B.S. degree in criminal justice. He served in the Iowa Army National Guard as a SSG and served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Carlos earned a combat infantry badge and an Army achievement medal. Carlos was always friendly, welcoming, respectful, happy, had a great smile, and loved to joke around. He loved his religion, was community orientated, was proud of his Mexican heritage, and enjoyed watching the Tigres soccer team in Monterrey.



In Memory

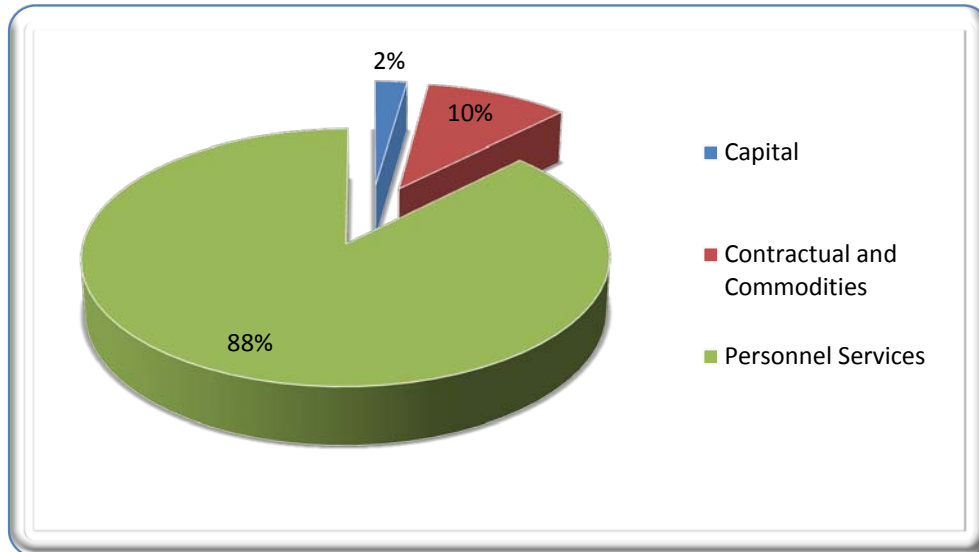
# Sharek



On December 6, 2016, the Ottumwa Police Department announced the passing of Ottumwa Police Department K-9 “Sharek”. Sharek began his career with the department on October 26, 2009 and was assigned to K-9 handler Sergeant Cody McCoy. Sergeant McCoy and Sharek have worked together on a daily basis over the past seven years. Sharek retired from the police department on September 22, 2016 after showing signs of being ill.



# FY 2016-2017 Budget



The total budget for the Ottumwa Police Department is \$4,691,056.00. The funds can be divided into the following three categories:

## **Personnel Services**

This category is comprised of line items for officer and civilian wages, overtime (including extra duty), and employee benefits, including health insurance, life insurance, retirement, holiday pay, sick leave pay, Medicare and worker's compensation. The total amount budgeted for Personnel Services is \$4,128,051.00.

## **Capital**

This category includes line items for protective vests, vehicles, etc. Total amount budgeted for Capital is \$107,230.00.

## **Contractual & Commodities**

This category is the remainder of the budget which includes line items for employee physicals, dues, books, training, travel, vehicle maintenance, fuel, equipment repair, utilities, sanitation services, telephone, advertising, printing, rents & leases, recruitment, towing, copying, photos, professional services, janitorial services, tools & small equipment, office supplies, postage & shipping, sustenance supplies, and miscellaneous. The total amount budgeted for Contractual and Commodities is \$480,299.00.

# Staff Funding & Generated Revenue

The Ottumwa Police Department's authorized strength was thirty-nine (39) sworn officers and they were funded in the following manner:

***Current Officers and Funding Sources***  
***(Includes salary and benefits)***

1 Housing Authority Officer	-	100% from Ottumwa Housing Authority
1 School Resource Officer (Evans)	-	100% from Ottumwa Community School District
1 School Resource Officer (OHS)	-	45% from OCSD / 55% from general fund
1 School Resource Officer (OHS)	-	100% salary OCSD / benefits from general fund
2 Drug Task Force Investigators	-	75% from Byrne grant / 25% from general fund
<u>33 Officers</u>	-	100% from general fund
<b>39 Officers</b>		

From January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016, the Police Department generated the following revenue:

Reports & Fingerprints	-	\$ 6,296.25
Animal Pickup Fees	-	2,155.27
DARE/GREAT Donations	-	87.00
Witness Fees	-	100.00
Extra Duty Administrative Fees	-	9,810.45
Alarm Monitoring Fees	-	1,500.00
Arrest Warrant Service Fee	-	3,911.62
Parking Fines (collected)	-	13,285.10
Traffic & Criminal Fines (collected)	-	173,818.90
<u>Grants &amp; Alternative Funding</u>	-	<u>401,292.00</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 612,256.59</b>



# Alternative Funding Resources

In 2016, the Department received over \$401,292 from various local, state, and federal sources for the purpose of enhancing law enforcement in Ottumwa. These funds assisted the Department with a variety of policing functions, including increased traffic and alcohol enforcement; continuing our substance abuse education program; purchasing equipment; and operation of the Southeast Iowa Inter-Agency Drug Task Force.

## Local Grants/Funding

The Department received a \$1,500 donation from South Ottumwa Savings Bank for sponsorship of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Citizens Police Academy.

The Department received \$500 from the Rosenman's Trust for general law enforcement purposes.

The Department received over \$256,517 from local funding sources to place officers at the Ottumwa Housing Authority, Ottumwa High School, and Evans Middle School. Part of the funds were also used to help support the **DARE** Program in the elementary schools and the **GREAT** Program at Evans Middle School.

The Department received \$5,784 from the Ottumwa Legacy Foundation to purchase 6 Less Lethal Tasers. The Legacy Foundation also funded the purchase of 5 bulletproof vests in the amount of \$3,975.

The Department received \$3,521 in funding from the Ottumwa RAGBRAI Committee which will be used to purchase Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) equipment.

## Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau

The Department received \$10,300 from the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau to fund our traffic enforcement program. The objective of the program was to increase compliance with OWI, seat belt, and other traffic laws in order to reduce the frequency and severity of personal injury accidents in Ottumwa. The grant funds were used to pay overtime costs for enforcement activities.

## Tobacco Grant

The Department received \$1,500 from the Alcoholic Beverages Division of the Iowa Department of Commerce. These funds were used to conduct compliance checks of Iowa's tobacco laws.



### **Byrne / JAG Grant**

The Southeast Iowa Inter-Agency Drug Task Force received \$114,000 in federal grant funds from the Bureau of Justice Assistance through the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program. These funds were used primarily for the salary and benefits of Ottumwa Police Department personnel who were assigned to the Task Force.

### **Bullet Proof Vest Program**

The Bullet Proof Vest Partnership (BVP), created by the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998 is a unique U.S. Department of Justice initiative designed to provide funding for the purchase of bullet proof vests for local and state law enforcement. Through this program the Ottumwa Police Department receives a 50% reimbursement for the purchase of bulletproof vests for our uniformed officers. Bulletproof vests are replaced every five years. We purchased ten soft body armor vests in 2016. Over one million vests have been purchased for local and state law enforcement officers the past sixteen years through this program.

\*\*\*\*\*

In recognition of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, a group of Evans students made a donation to the local police department. Evans Middle School's new philanthropy club, "Paws It On," decided to show support for our nation's approximately 780,000 police officers who put a badge on each day. In partnership with John Deere Ottumwa Works, "Paws It On" donated a check for \$200 to the Ottumwa Emergency Response Team.



Hunter Bresch, Haley Felkins, Joshua Johnson, Lydia Swarney, Adriana Rodriguez, Wyatt Tennis, ERT Assistant Team Leader Steve Kovacs and Chief Tom McAndrew



# 2017- 2018 Capital Improvements Plan

The 2015-2016 Capital Improvements Plan totaling \$150,000 consisted of the upgrading of the department's Local area Network (LAN) through the purchase of new equipment. The equipment includes two network servers and one back-up server, one being located at the Ottumwa Police Department, one server located at City Hall along with a 55TB backup server and a 144TB back up library. Network switches were replaced throughout both facilities. In addition, the project included the purchase and installation of Windows 7 Professional on seventeen (17) department computers including ten (10) in-car mobile data computers.

The server equipment and network switches have been installed along with the Windows 7 updates. This coming year the long term storage 144 TB tape backup library will be installed. The tape backup allows us to store backup copies offsite of City Hall and the Police Department.

The 2017-2018 Capital Improvements Plan consists of the purchase of 10 Toughbook Mobile Data Terminals and 30 less lethal Taser X26Ps.

The mobile data terminals are computers that are located in each patrol vehicle. Officers use the terminals to access the state computer system which allows officers access to driver's license and vehicle license plate information. In addition alerts such as AMBER Alerts are sent and received using these terminals. The current terminals are six years old and require frequent repairs. The new MDT's will be purchased in late summer 2017 at a purchase price of \$37,970.

Tasers offer a less than lethal option to officers during violent encounters. The police department currently utilizes the X26 model taser which is no longer supported by Taser Corporation. The X26 models will be replaced with the X26P model tasers which will also require the purchase of new holsters. As the old X26 Tasers malfunction they will be replaced with the new model X26P. The total purchase price of 30 X26P Tasers and holsters will be approximately \$31,000.



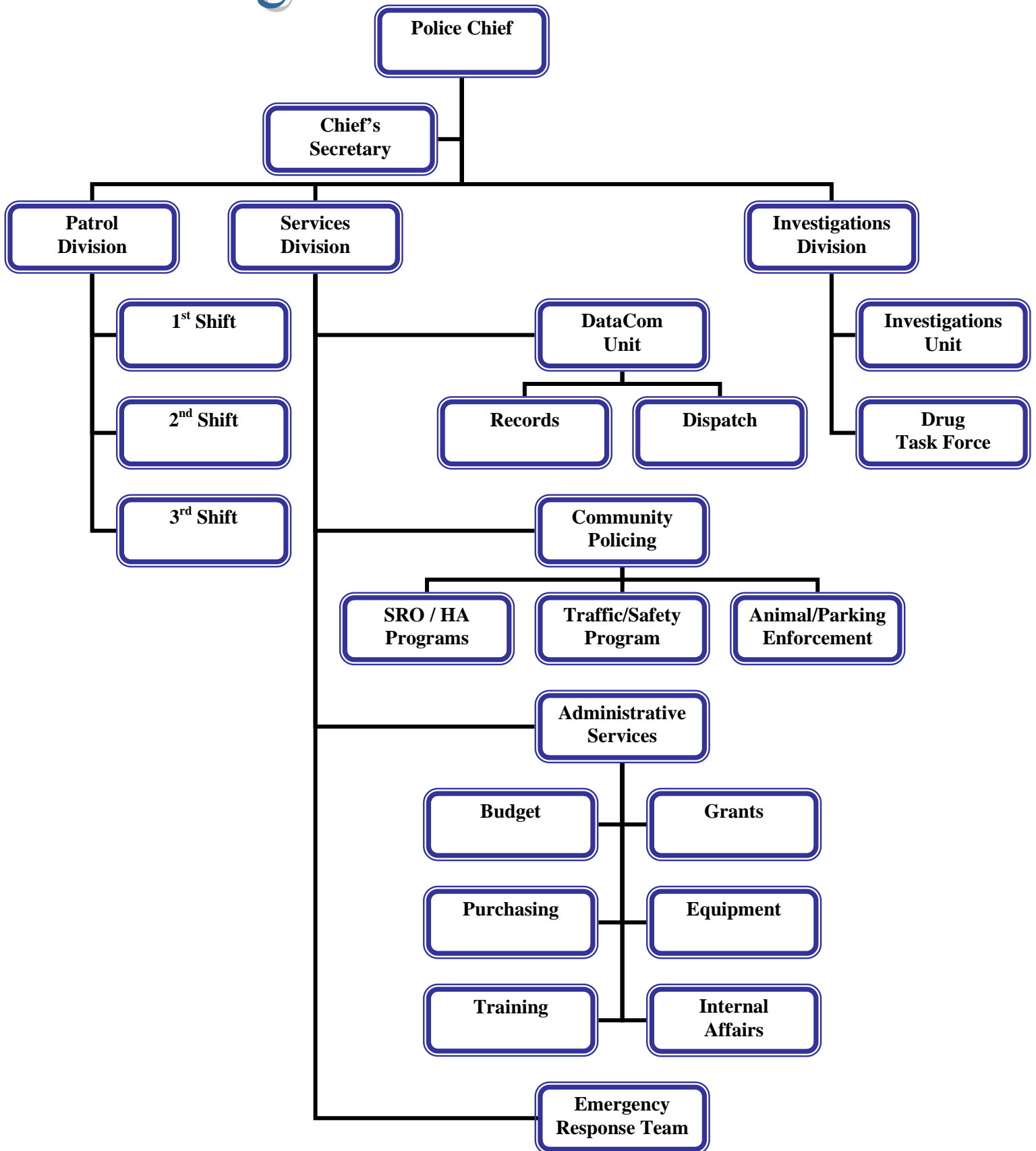
Top: X26 Model Taser

Bottom: X26P Taser



Mobile Data Terminal

# Organizational Structure





# Department Leadership

The Department is organized into three major components: Investigations Division, Patrol Division and Services Division. Each Division operates under the command of a Lieutenant, also referred to as a Division Commander. Each Lieutenant reports to the Chief of Police.



**Lt. Jason Bell**  
**Investigations Division Commander**

The Investigations Division is divided into three units, Investigations, Gang Suppression and Drug Task Force.

The Investigations Unit is responsible for major case investigations, special investigations and intelligence gathering and dissemination. The Gang Suppression Unit is responsible for investigating gang activity. The Drug Task Force is responsible for investigating, apprehending, and prosecuting drug and drug-related criminal offenders in a four county area.

Lt. Bell attended Indian Hills Community College. He was hired in 1996 and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2005. In 2013, he was promoted to Lieutenant. Lt. Bell has served as a Patrol Training Officer, Drug Task Force Investigator, Emergency Response Team member and Drug Task Force Supervisor.

**Lt. Mickey Hucks**  
**Services Division Commander**

The Services Division is divided into three groups, DataCom, Community Policing and Administrative Services.

The Division is responsible for Budget/Fiscal Management, Grant Administration, Policy Formulation, Internal Affairs, Training, Entry Level Testing, Department Equipment, Property/Evidence, D.A.R.E./G.R.E.A.T. Program, School Resource Officers, Traffic Safety, K-9 Program, Housing Authority Officer, and Community Service Officers assigned to Parking and Animal Control Enforcement. Additionally, the Division is responsible for the Records and Communications functions within the Department.



Lt. Hucks has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Mt. Mercy College in Cedar Rapids. He was hired in 1996 and promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2004. In 2011, he was promoted to Lieutenant. Lt. Hucks has served as Housing Authority Officer, Investigations Unit Supervisor, Department Training Officer, as well as Commander of the department's Emergency Response Team.

**Lt. Chad Farrington**  
**Patrol Division Commander**

The Patrol Division is made up of six sergeants and 16 officers divided into three patrol shifts.

Activities include answering calls for service, responding to emergencies, traffic law enforcement, preliminary criminal and follow-up investigations, detection of violations of the law, and apprehension of violators of the law.

Lt. Farrington has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Criminal Justice. He was hired in 1998 and promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2005. In 2013, he was promoted to Lieutenant. Lt. Farrington has served as a Patrol Training Officer, Department Training Officer, Investigator, and Team Leader of the department's Emergency Response Team. Lt. Farrington is a Taser Instructor, Lead Firearms Instructor and serves as the Department Armorer.



★ **Promotion** ★

**Sergeant Justin Rice**  
**Patrol Division**

Sergeant Justin Rice was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on June 12, 2016. He has been employed with the police department since April 19, 2015. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Tennessee Martin. Sgt. Rice has 13 years of law enforcement experience having worked for the Memphis, Tennessee Police Department and Oskaloosa, Iowa Police Department. Sergeant Rice has been assigned to the patrol division.



# Investigations Division

## Investigations Unit



*Investigator Steve Harris*

The Investigations Unit is a component of the Investigations Division. Under the supervision of the Investigations Commander, an Investigator has the responsibility to investigate a variety of criminal and non-criminal incidents involving crimes against persons, crimes against property, and general investigations; recover stolen property; apprehend offenders; and perform crime scene processing. In 2016, Investigators conducted a total of 90 criminal investigations including 1 Homicide, 1 Attempted Murder, 45 Sexual Assaults, 5 Burglaries 4 Child Abuse, 12 Assaults, 4 Robberies, 6 Death Investigations, 2 Kidnappings and 3 Arsons.

Job specifications for Police Officer/Investigator includes;

- Knowledge of the fundamentals of police work;
- Knowledge of investigative techniques;
- Knowledge of the rules of evidence, laws of arrest, search and seizures and court procedures;
- Ability to gather, analyze and evaluate facts and evidence and to draw sound conclusions;
- Ability to prepare clear and concise reports;
- Possess interview and interrogations skills;
- Knowledge of photography techniques and equipment;



*Investigator Mike Sieren*



*Investigator David Lowe*

# Southeast Iowa Inter-Agency Drug Task Force

In an effort to facilitate multi-jurisdictional drug investigations, area cities and counties banded together to form the Southeast Iowa Inter-Agency Drug Task Force in 1990. The overall mission of the Task Force is to identify, investigate, apprehend and prosecute drug and drug related criminal offenders in its four county area. The Task Force targets drug manufacturers and traffickers through shared investigatory and prosecutorial resources. Our expected outcome is to reduce the availability and demand for controlled substances through the use of the multi-jurisdictional task force in conjunction with its member agencies.

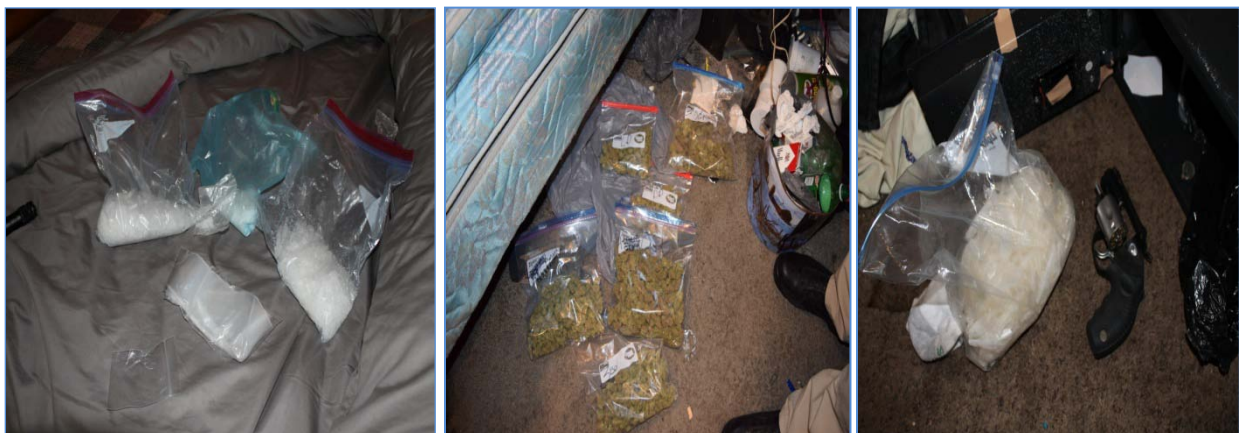
Key activities of the Drug Task Force include the purchase of drugs utilizing confidential informants and undercover officers; investigation of methamphetamine manufacturers through surveillance, informants and information supplied by local businesses who sell precursors; case preparation and court testimony; prosecution of drug cases by the DTF Prosecutor; intelligence gathering and dissemination and coordination of drug investigations with member agencies.

In 2016, the Southeast Iowa Inter-Agency Drug Task Force participated in the execution of 27 search warrants and seized 3 clandestine methamphetamine labs.

The following is a list of controlled substances the Task Force confiscated in 2016 as the result of search warrants, undercover purchases and controlled purchases.

Methamphetamine	6.55 pounds
THC Oil/Concentrate	8.79 oz
Marijuana	17.27 pounds
Marijuana Commercial Plant seized	14 plants
Pharmaceuticals	334 dosage units
Pharmaceuticals Drop Box	180 pounds

The Task Force initiated 36 distribution cases, 3 manufacture investigations, and 5 possession cases. Investigators made a case referral involving an individual to the U. S. Attorney's Office for federal prosecution. Investigators filed a total of 171 charges against 78 individuals.





# Services Division

## School Resource Officer Program

The Police Department partners with the Ottumwa Community School District through the School Resource Officer Program. An officer has been assigned full-time at the Ottumwa High School since 1994 while an officer has been assigned full-time at Evans Middle School since 1996. In 2008, a second officer was assigned full-time at the High School. The presence of the officers reduces the potential for crime-related problems and helps to provide a safer environment at each school. An additional benefit is the increased interaction between students and police officers due to the officers' accessibility. The Ottumwa Community School District pays 100% of the salary and benefits of the SRO assigned to the Middle School, approximately 45% of the salary and benefits of the 1<sup>st</sup> officer assigned to the High School, and 100% of the salary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> officer assigned to the High School.



*Officer Brad Higgins*



*Officer Mike Murphy*

## G.R.E.A.T. and DARE Program

In an effort to combat the escalating gang presence in our city, we have partnered with the Ottumwa Community School District to implement the Gang Resistance and Education Training Program, commonly referred to as **GREAT**, in our local middle school. The G.R.E.A.T. Program is a school-based, law enforcement officer instructed classroom curriculum. The Program's primary objective is prevention and is intended as an immunization against delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership.



G.R.E.A.T. is a thirteen week program with lessons that focus on providing life skills to students to help them avoid delinquent behavior and violence to solve problems. Additionally, the Property / Evidence Officer instructs the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program, commonly referred to as **DARE**, in the Ottumwa Community School District's elementary schools. The **DARE** Program is an integral part of the Department's community policing initiative as well as the School District's substance abuse prevention curriculum. The curriculum consists of seventeen weeks of instruction that focuses on a variety of substance abuse prevention and self-esteem topics, including drugs and their effects, violence, decision making, consequences, social pressures and their sources, and respect. The Ottumwa Community School District contributes \$10,000.00 annually towards the cost of the elementary program.



*Officer Katlyn Overturf*



*Officer Brandon Gravett*

## Housing Authority Officer Program

### *Officer Scott Carlson*

The Police Department partners with the Ottumwa Housing Authority through the Housing Authority Officer Program. An officer has been assigned full-time to the Housing Authority since 1996. The officer is responsible for investigating a variety of criminal and non-criminal incidents involving Housing Authority property, personnel, tenants, and clients; coordinating police services to the OHA; and maintaining communication between the OHA and the Department. The Housing Authority Officer patrols over 225 single-family homes, 60 townhouses, and nearly 300 apartments in 3 high-rise towers. The Ottumwa Housing Authority pays 100% of the salary and benefits of the officer assigned to the OHA.



## Community Service Officer

### *Officer Jeff Williams*

The Community Service Officer (CSO) is responsible for the enforcement of animal control ordinances within the city, parking ordinances, and other police-related tasks. In 2016 the Ottumwa Police Department impounded 246 animals and issued 144 animal citations for violation of city ordinance.

The Ottumwa Police Department often gives tours of the department. Groups of all ages are welcome to set up a guided tour. In this picture, Officer Brandon Gravett is letting a young group of citizens explore the inside of a police squad car.



## Records Unit

The Records Unit is a component of the Services Division and maintains records of all incident reports, traffic citations, arrests, personal injury and property damage accidents, tow sheets, and other documents generated by the Department.

The Records Unit utilizes a computerized records system, which interfaces with the computer aided dispatch system used in the Communications Center. The Records Clerk is responsible for entering data from each report into the computer system so that personnel can prepare required statistical and analytical reports. The Records Clerk also provides copies of reports to the City and County Attorney, the court system, officers, insurance companies, media, and other persons or entities that need or request copies of Department reports. Criminal history checks of Department arrest records are also frequently conducted for military recruiters and employers. Release of Department records is governed by various local, state, and federal laws and guidelines. The Records Unit is staffed by one full-time Communications Specialist, who is supervised by the DataCom Supervisor.



*Lynn Diveley*



*Lt. Chad Farrington*

## MILO Training

The MILO training system consists of computer generated scenarios that requires officers to make use of force decisions. Officers involved in this training are equipped with the same type of equipment and tools they carry on their belt every day at work. It allows for the application of force through verbal commands, OC defense spray, Taser and lethal weapons. The training system is designed to aid the officers in making critical decisions involving the use of force in a controlled environment. Officers can work through scenarios, make decisions and have constructive debriefings about the decisions. Officers train in the MILO room consistently throughout the year.

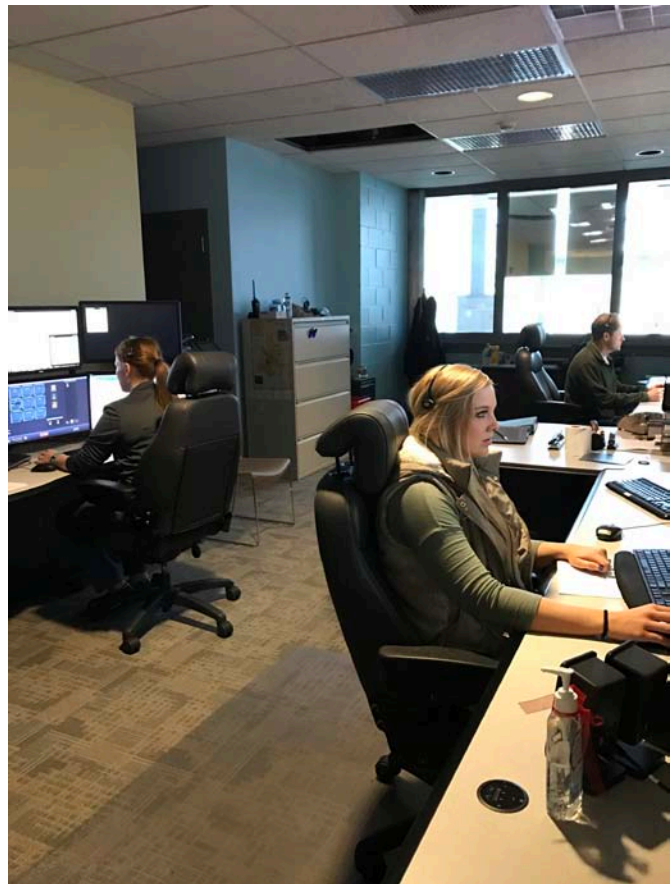


## Communications Unit

The Communications Unit is a component of the Services Division and is responsible for meeting the informational and communication needs of the Department in the course of its normal daily activities and during emergency situations. A Communication Specialist has a long list of job duties. They receive reports from the public of crimes, disturbances, fires, and medical or police emergencies and relay information to law enforcement, fire departments and emergency medical personnel. A Communication Specialist questions callers to determine their locations and the nature of their problems to determine type of response needed. They must give full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times. A Communication Specialist must be able to talk to others to convey information effectively. They also must be able to adjust actions in relation to others' actions. They must be capable of using sound logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems. They also must actively look for ways to help people.

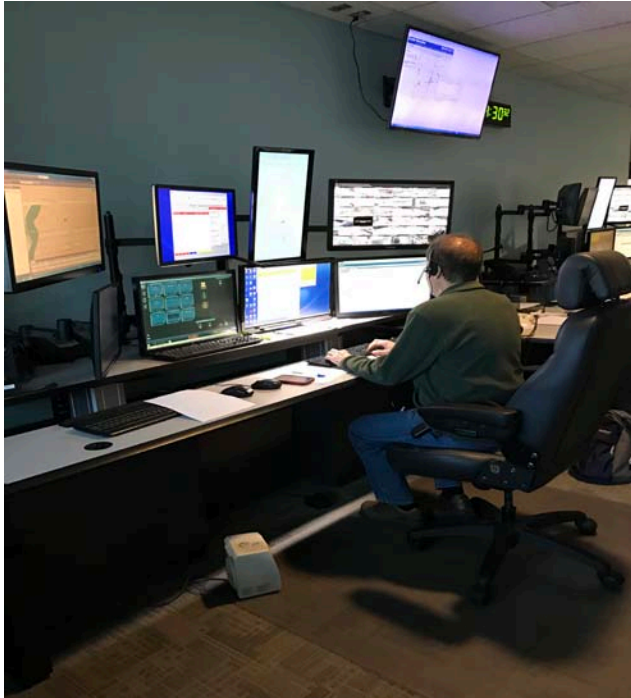
A Communication Specialist receives incoming telephone or alarm system calls regarding emergency and non-emergency police and fire service, emergency ambulance service, information and after hour's calls for departments within a city. They also record details of calls, dispatches, and messages into a Computer Aided Dispatch system. A Communication Specialist enters, updates, and retrieves information from teletype networks and computerized data systems regarding such things as wanted persons, stolen property, vehicle registration, and stolen vehicles.

The Emergency Dispatchers maintains access to, and security of, highly sensitive materials.





The Communications Unit documented 62,800 activities in 2016 which included 28,542 calls-for-service. The Unit also received 11,827 emergency 911 telephone calls, averaging 32 emergency calls per day. These calls included police, fire and medical emergencies. The Communications Unit also answered 62,762 administrative calls. The Unit has five 911 emergency lines (2 wireless and 3 landline), 1 fire line and 4 administrative lines. Our Communications Unit is budgeted with eight full-time Communications Specialists (dispatchers), who report to the Datacom Supervisor.



In 2016, the Communication Center had a shortage in personnel crisis due to unforeseen job vacancies, extended illnesses and maternity leave. The Ottumwa City Council recognized something must be done and they agreed to hire two additional personnel immediately. This brings our staff total up to 8 full time Communication Specialists. The personnel will not only help with staff shortages but will allow us to better serve the community by having two dispatchers working during peak hours.

### **Pocket Dials to 911**

Accidental pocket dials are making up a significant percentage of 911 calls in every communications center across the United States. All mobile phones are required to have the ability to make an emergency call without their screens being unlocked, which facilitates accidental 911 calls. To avoid placing a pocket dial to 911, please lock your phone's home screen. Also if you do accidentally



call 911, stay on the line so we can confirm you do not have an emergency. If you don't stay connected, we may be sending patrol units to your doorstep. Not only is this a waste of resources, it can be embarrassing to the home owner. Be responsible, lock your phones!

# Ottumwa Animal Control

Community Resource Officer Jeff Williams and Public Information Coordinator Tom Rodgers in cooperation with Pipestone Veterinary Clinic administers the Facebook group, **Ottumwa Animal Control Ottumwa Police Dept.** to assist community members in finding



their lost pets. When the Ottumwa Police Department finds a stray animal, they catch it and transport it to Pipestone Veterinary Clinic located at 2830 North Court Street in Ottumwa. Pipestone staff posts a photograph and description of the animal on the Facebook page along with instructions on how to claim the animal. This effort has proven very effective in reuniting owners with their pets as well as sparking interest in the adoption of unclaimed pets.

Pipestone Veterinary houses found animals for seven days per city code. If the animal is not claimed within the first five days, it becomes available for adoption on the sixth and seventh day. If the animal does not get adopted, it may be euthanized; however, most of the animals that have not been claimed after seven days go to a local animal shelter or rescue to be placed for adoption.

The Ottumwa Police Department encourages all pet owners to be responsible stewards of the animals they keep. Dog licensing is the best insurance for getting your dog returned to you in case he or she becomes lost. It also lets our officers know if the dog is currently vaccinated against rabies. We encourage spaying and neutering as the best solution to controlling the pet over-population. Dog licenses can be purchased at the Ottumwa Police Department and City Hall for \$5 or \$15 if the dog is not spayed or neutered. After January 31st, there is a \$5 penalty. Local Vet Clinics charge \$7 or \$17 if the dog is not spayed or neutered. After January 31st, there is also a \$5 penalty.

In 2016, a total of 246 animals were impounded by the Ottumwa Police Department.



## Chickens & Rabbits



In June of 2015 the Ottumwa City Council adopted changes to the Municipal Code to allow residents to legally keep rabbits and chickens within the city limits of Ottumwa under a permit to be issued by the Ottumwa Police Department.

Persons wishing to keep chickens and rabbits must meet certain requirements in order to receive a permit. A maximum of six chickens and/or rabbits may be kept per premises. No roosters are allowed. The animals must be kept in a coop or pen, and are not allowed to run at large. Coops or pens must be in a rear yard area and at least ten feet away from the property line. They must be at least fifty feet away from any adjacent residential dwelling, building, church, school or place of business. Coops and pens are subject to inspection to ensure adequate space for each animal and proper sanitation of the enclosure. The initial permit fee is \$60 and is valid for three years.

Persons who would like to keep chickens or rabbits within the city limits must contact Officer Jeff Williams at the Ottumwa Police Department at 641-683-0648 to begin the permit application process.



The City's Urban Chicken and Rabbit Policy can be reviewed online at [cityofottumwa.com](http://cityofottumwa.com)



# Patrol Division

The Patrol Unit is a component of the Patrol Division, under the direction of the Patrol Division Commander. A Patrolman's function to the community cannot be overestimated. Patrol is the mainstay of police work whether measured in terms of police patrol personnel, the portion of the budget allocated to patrol operations, or the fact that the uniformed police officer is the most visible component of the Department. The manner in which patrol officers discharge their responsibilities affects not only the quality of justice, but also citizens' perceptions of the Department and law enforcement in general.

The functions and major responsibilities of the Patrol Unit include, but are not limited to:

- Responding to routine and emergency calls-for-service 24 hours per day, every day of the year
- Arresting criminal offenders
- The investigation of incidents, offenses, and criminal acts
- Traffic enforcement
- Traffic direction and control
- Accident investigation
- Crime prevention
- Preventative patrol directed towards the prevention of criminal acts and traffic violations, the maintenance of public order, and the discovery of hazardous situations
- Parking enforcement
- Animal enforcement
- Inspectional services to determine compliance with various statutes including liquor and gambling laws
- Community relations
- The sharing of information with other divisions of the Department and with outside agencies

The Patrol Division consists of the Patrol Division Commander, 6 Patrol Supervisors and 16 Patrol Officers.





## Emergency Response Team

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) was formed in 1991 to handle high-risk calls and warrant services. Since then, the Ottumwa Police Department and the Wapello County Sheriff's Office joined together to form a joint Emergency Response Team. The ERT trains monthly in the use of special weapons and tactics, and trains to respond to a wide variety of emergency situations in the city and county.

The team consists of thirteen members, all of whom are sworn law enforcement officers with either the Police or Sheriff's Department. Each team member is assigned to other areas of their respective Department on a full-time basis and participation on the team is in addition to their regular duties. Members volunteer to serve on the team and all officers are eligible to apply for positions as they become available. Upon appointment to the team, personnel are required to maintain satisfactory performance during both regular duty assignments and ERT activities.



The Emergency Response Team can be deployed for any situation that requires a police response that likely could result in serious injury and/or death to citizens, officers, or suspects. The ERT team was deployed a total of three times in 2016.

Lt. Mickey Hucks is the Emergency response Team Commander. Under the direction of the Chief, the Team Commander is responsible for the overall operation, direction, and administration of the Emergency Response Team. When the ERT is deployed, he is the liaison between the Chief of Police and the Team, and carries out all orders of the Chief. Sergeant Noah Aljets is the Team Leader. Under the direction of the Team Commander, he is responsible for the training and immediate supervision of the team, and for its deployment at the scene of a critical incident.

While we can never be completely prepared for all eventualities, we must constantly strive to expand our resources and capabilities to ensure the highest likelihood for success while ensuring the highest possible degree of safety in all of our enforcement activities.



The Emergency Response Team regularly conducts active shooter training at local schools and businesses.



# Part 1 Index Crimes

Part 1 Index Crimes are those crimes that are required to be reported to the FBI and are divided into two categories – property crime and violent crime. Property crimes of burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson decreased by 1.1% when compared to 2015. Violent crimes consisting of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault also decreased by 12.5%.

## PART 1 Index Crimes

OFFENSES	2015	2016	2016 COMPARED TO 2015
Homicide	1	1	NA
*Rape	45	41	-8.9%
Robbery	6	8	+33.3%
Agg Assault	212	181	-14.6%
Burglary	223	221	-.9%
Theft	638	628	-1.6%
Motor Vehicle Theft	65	71	+9.2%
Arson	8	4	-50%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1198</b>	<b>1155</b>	<b>-3.6%</b>
<b>VIOLENT CRIMES</b>	264	231	-12.5%
<b>PROPERTY CRIMES</b>	934	924	-1.1%

\*The crime of Theft does not include shoplifting.

\*In May of 2013, The FBI's Uniform Crime Report (UCR) changed the definition of Rape to reflect state criminal codes and the reality of victim experiences. The revised definition of rape includes any gender of victim or perpetrator, and includes instances in which the victim is incapable of giving consent because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity, including due to the influence of drugs or alcohol or because of age.

## Total Crimes Reported

The total number of incidents reported to the Ottumwa Police Department in 2016 was 3,731. This was an increase of 4% when compared to 3,589 in 2015. As in previous years, the most frequently reported crime was theft with a total of 628. The second most frequent crime was narcotics with a total of 333.

## Arrests

Officers made a total of 3,554 arrests during 2016. The number of arrests increased by 4.1% when compared to 3,414 in 2015. Topping the list of arrests were Narcotics at 481 and Disorderly Conduct (including Interference With Official Acts) at 238. The third most common arrest was Theft at 199.

## Traffic Citations

Officers issued 2,772 traffic citations during the year. This is a decrease of 9.3% from 2015. The Ottumwa Police Department responded to 111 personal injury accidents, 223 property damage accidents and one fatality accident in 2016.

# Annual Statistics

Year	Annual Budget	Alternative Funding	Activities	Calls for Service	Incidents	Arrests	Traffic Citations	OWI's	Personal Injury Accidents	Property Damage Accidents	Animals Impounded
2007	\$3,126,904.00	\$349,495.46	58,007	31,077	4,792	3,606	4,620	167	175	321	312
2008	\$3,132,238.00	\$320,550.84	61,140	31,479	4,559	4,110	4,710	206	154	353	448
2009	\$3,462,270.00	\$530,404.94	58,038	29,298	4,098	3,780	5,179	162	156	265	430
2010	\$3,628,290.00	\$675,091.41	57,691	29,197	4,084	3,925	4,168	180	130	274	355
2011	\$3,953,135.00	\$817,277.08	58,825	27,329	3,980	3,987	4,042	146	121	227	400
2012	\$4,336,770.00	\$483,794.31	63,505	29,111	3,893	3,775	4,554	120	119	190	337
2013	\$4,520,419.00	\$437,685.00	63,503	29,614	4,164	3,899	3,041	118	110	255	343
2014	\$4,548,624.00	\$377,620.00	63,163	31,199	3,944	3,599	3,010	95	118	257	365
2015	\$4,771,665.00	\$407,581.00	60,727	29,234	3,589	3,414	3,057	102	96	233	257
2016	\$4,691,056.00	\$401,292.00	62,800	25,542	3,731	3,554	2,772	113	111	223	246



# Annual Arrests and Traffic Citations By Race and Gender

Ottumwa enjoys a very diverse population. In an effort to support our diversity, the Police Department has implemented a program to collect statistical data on the race and gender of each person arrested or issued a traffic citation. The data is then reviewed in order to ensure that officers are not engaged in racial profiling and that laws are enforced without regard to race, gender, or ethnicity.

## Arrests

Gender	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Total	Percentage
Male	2106	234	202	19	<b>2561</b>	<b>71.7</b>
Female	876	43	83	9	<b>1011</b>	<b>28.3%</b>
Total	<b>2982</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3572</b>	
Percentage	<b>83.5%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>.8%</b>		

## Traffic Citations

Gender	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Total	Percentage
Male	1383	139	145	23	<b>1690</b>	<b>61%</b>
Female	952	47	80	3	<b>1082</b>	<b>39.9%</b>
Total	<b>2335</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2772</b>	
Percentage	<b>84.2%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>		



Iowa Department of Public Safety  
GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY BUREAU

## GTSB Year End Report

The Ottumwa Police Department received a total of \$10,300 from the GTSB which was used for overtime. In partnership with GTSB, the Department set a goal of using 345 hours of overtime for high-visibility traffic enforcement in Ottumwa. From October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016, we used 418 hours of overtime, which exceeded our original goal. Listed below are some additional goals and results reported to the GTSB;

- Seatbelt average usage was at 91% in the Spring
- Alcohol related offense - OWI, drugged, .02, public intoxication, PULA, open container - Result 416 Arrests
- Occupant Restraint – day/night seatbelt & child restraint - Result 120 Citations
- Moving/Speed Violations – speed, stop sign/traffic light citations - Result 1875

# Operating While Intoxicated

In 2016, the Ottumwa Police Department arrested 113 persons for drunk driving. The following is a summary of the drivers arrested for OWI (Operating While Intoxicated) in 2016:

- The average age of the drivers was 35.
- 77.9 % (88) of the drivers were male.
- 22.1 % (25) of the drivers were female.
- The average blood alcohol content of the drivers was .106. (As of July 2003, a person with a blood alcohol content of .08 or above is considered legally intoxicated in Iowa).
- 26 persons refused to provide a breath sample in order to determine the level of alcohol in their system. (Failure to provide a sample for testing results in a person having their drivers license revoked for a minimum of one year).
- 2.7 % of accidents are alcohol related in Ottumwa.
- 33.2 % of Ottumwa's accidents resulted in personal injury or death.

## **DISTRACTED DRIVING FACT SHEET**

- ✚ In 2011, Iowa had 679 traffic crashes as a direct result of a distracted driver.
- ✚ In 2010, 3,092 people were killed in U.S. traffic crashes involving a distracted driver and about 416,000 more were injured in these types of crashes.
- ✚ Iowa data shows that in the decade between 2002 and 2011, a total of 6,697 crashes occurred that involved a distracted driver.
- ✚ Tragically, 16 persons have been killed in Iowa crashes where cellular telephone use was involved.
- ✚ Drivers who use hand-held devices are 4 times more likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves. Text messaging creates a crash risk 23 times worse than driving while not distracted.
- ✚ Sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds, the equivalent, at 55 mph, of driving the length of an entire football field, blind.

put  it down

# Professionalism Through Training

The Police Department has an obligation to provide a professional standard of law enforcement service to the community. In fulfilling that responsibility, it is essential to properly train all employees. The Iowa Legislature also recognizes the need to properly train law enforcement personnel and, as a result, has mandated specific training for both sworn and civilian employees.

## *Academy Training*



Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) Chapter 501-3.1(1) requires that any person hired as a police officer must become certified through the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy within one year from the date of hire. The Iowa Law Enforcement Academy is located at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa. Currently, the police academy is fourteen (14) weeks in duration and its curriculum includes training in patrol techniques, traffic law and enforcement, officer survival skills, investigation of specific crimes, criminal and constitutional law, court procedures, and human behavior. The Police Department hired 3 new recruits in 2016. The cost of the academy was approximately \$7,000.00 per officer.

## *PTO Training*

Following academy certification and a return to the Department, a recruit officer is placed in the Police Training Officer Program (PTO). The PTO Program is a minimum of fifteen (15) weeks in duration and is the process by which an individual recruit officer receives formal job instruction. Each recruit is placed with a Patrol Training Officer and receives consistent, systematic, and documented training while in the program. The recruit is evaluated weekly by his PTO and the shift supervisor. Additionally, each recruit is evaluated midway through the training with a comprehensive evaluation at the end of the training period. Following successful completion of the program, each recruit officer functions as a single-officer unit and is evaluated by his supervisor on a monthly basis through the remainder of the probationary period. Although state law does not require implementing a PTO Program, agencies that fail to do so have been found to be negligent by federal courts in civil lawsuits.

## *Dispatcher Training*

IAC Chapter 501-13.2(1) requires that any person hired as a police dispatcher must successfully complete a 40-hour basic telecommunicator training course within one year from the date of hire. Currently, only the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy offers the course. Its curriculum includes human relations and communications skills, basic dispatch/broadcast techniques, multiple tasking and prioritization, liability and legal issues, and stress management and awareness. The Iowa Administrative Code also requires each dispatcher to receive a minimum of 8 hours of in-service training annually. In addition to training requirements, dispatchers must be certified every two years to operate the NCIC/state computer system. This is the system that is used to query motor vehicle registrations, driver licenses, wanted or missing persons, and stolen property.

## *Training Administration*

The Sergeant assigned to the Services Division is responsible for the training function. This person spends approximately half his time performing training duties while the other half is spent supervising Services Division personnel and performing administrative duties.

# In-Service Training

A police department must ensure that officers continually receive in-service training that serves to reinforce previous training and develop new skills. Our agency has emphasized such training by establishing annual “Basic Skills” training for all officers. These sessions cover critical policies, legal updates, and mandatory certification renewals for such things as CPR, firearms, defensive tactics, mandatory reporting, and hazardous material recognition. We train in-house instructors to develop and deliver this training. We currently have instructors certified to teach firearms, baton, tactics, less lethal weapons, chemical agents and CPR.

In 2016, Basic Skills Classes were held on August 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. All officers received two full days of training. Day one consisted of defensive tactics, ASP Baton, and a Taser update. Day two consisted of Mandatory Reporting, Blood borne Pathogens, Law Update, Crime Scene Investigations, HazMat and Health Department Update.

In addition to in-house training, we regularly send officers and communications personnel to classes at ILEA (Iowa Law Enforcement Academy) along with miscellaneous classes and certifications listed below:

Human Resources Management Training (8 hrs.)  
Iowa Medical Examiner’s Conference (24 hrs)  
APCO / NENA 2015 (24 hrs)  
Asp Instructor School (40 hrs)  
GTSB 2015 (24 hrs)  
Iowa Assoc. Women of Police Conf. 2015 (16 hrs)  
Iowa SRO conference 2015 (24 hrs)  
Iowa Association of Property Management Conference (24 hrs)  
ILEA – Animal Investigations (8 hrs)  
ILEA – Chemical Munitions School / OC Instructor School (32 hrs)  
ILEA – Defensive Tactics Instructor School (40 hrs)  
ILEA – Defensive Tactics Inst. Re-Cert (8 hrs)  
ILEA – Internal Affairs School (32 hrs)  
ILEA – Telecommunicator School (40 hrs)  
ILEA - Glock Armorer Course (16 hrs)

BIST School (16 hrs)  
Iowa DARE Conference 2015  
Iowa Narcotics Officers’ Association Conference 2015  
K-9 Recertification school (32 hrs)  
Managing Police Discipline (24 hrs)  
Officer Involved Critical Incident Seminar (16 hrs)  
Midwest Gang Inv. Association Fall Conference (24 hrs)  
PSTC (What if it were Family)(16 hrs)  
Iowa Sex Crimes Investigators Conference 2015 (32 hrs)  
Iowa Crime Prevention Conference (16 hrs)  
Police Training Officer School (Louisville, KY)(40 hrs)  
Iowa Sex Offender Registry Symposium (16 hrs)  
IBRS/UCR Crime reporting (16 hrs)







The goal of the Below 100 Initiative is to reduce police line-of-duty deaths (LODDs) to fewer than 100 per year.

The last time LODDs were below 100 was 1944. For the last 50 years, the average has been well over 150 and the

last decade over 160. 2010 and 2011 both had 174 line-of-duty deaths. The first complete year after Below 100 began was 2012 and we saw a 50 year low in line-of-duty deaths with 120. In 2016, there were 140 Line of Duty Deaths.

The Five Tenants of Below100 are:

### 1. Wear Your Belt

It might sound simple to you, even unnecessary, but the truth is too many agencies don't mandate belt wear. And even among those that do, many officers ignore policy because the culture doesn't value it. *The truth:* Seatbelts save lives.

### 2. Wear Your Vest

We know vests save lives. We know that bullets can fly when we least expect it. Add to that the fact that body armor can improve your likelihood of surviving a car accident or other traumatic event and you quickly see why you must wear it. Always. Period.

### 3. Watch Your Speed

Why do cops drive fast? Because they can, right? Well, driving faster than what conditions warrant is a sure way to get in trouble. Of course there are times when getting on scene quickly is critical. But these times are rare. Too often, officers are speeding—just because they can. In the process, they are putting themselves and the public at perilous risk *for no good reason*.

### 4. WIN—What's Important Now?

It's a simple question that can elicit profound results. It's a question that will lead to deliberate action, not reaction. If you are constantly prioritizing what's most important, you won't have time for the distractions that can get you in trouble, hurt or killed.

### 5. Remember: Complacency Kills!

Chief Jeff Chudwin perhaps said it best: "Complacency is among the most dangerous and insidious threats we face because it lays us open to all others." Complacency is why police officers think they can go without vest and seatbelts. It's why they think they can speed and allow themselves to be distracted. To quote Chief Chudwin again: "Complacency will kill you."

# RedSpeed

Automated Speed  
Enforcement

Help Them  
Show Up...



Slow Up!





# RedSpeed

## Automated Speed Enforcement Program

### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### **Why is Ottumwa choosing to utilize Automated Speed Enforcement Technology?**

According to the IIHS, Speeding is a contributing factor in nearly one-third of all fatal crashes. The result is that more than 1,000 people are killed every month in speed related accidents. According to the Federal Government, almost half of all speeding fatalities occurred on local and collector roads which are generally low speed roads found in business and residential areas.

Ottumwa officials are using this technology as a tool to assist Police in enforcing posted speed limits, ensuring the safety of both our children and citizens by reducing the number of speeding violations throughout the City.

#### **What is Automated Speed Enforcement**

Automated Speed Enforcement Systems use radar technology to measure the speed of every vehicle that passes the camera within the enforcement zone. If the vehicle's speed exceeds the predetermined limits established by the City, the vehicle will be photographed to document the violation and determine the vehicle's registered owner. After the violation is reviewed and approved by a Ottumwa Police Officer, a citation, including the violation photos and the vehicle's speed, will be sent to the registered owner.

#### **Isn't Conventional Police Enforcement Sufficient?**

The City of Ottumwa is committed to protecting the safety of its residents, however, resources simply do not allow for Police to monitor high risk areas as often as needed. This equipment provides enforcement while enabling officers to focus on other crimes where technology cannot assist.

## What does the Speed Enforcement Program Cost to Taxpayers?

The Mobile Speed Enforcement Program the City has selected comes at no out-of-pocket cost to the community. The selected vendor provides the mobile speed vans and all processing software. Maintenance and processing fees are deducted from the collected fine revenue, making the program completely violator funded.

## Aren't Speed Cameras just a way to generate revenue?

Studies have proven that photo enforcement deters dangerous driving behavior and shows significant safety benefits. Any violation of law has a monetary (fine) component attached to it and photo enforcement is no different. Law abiding citizens are not affected, and the funds generated by the program cover operating expenses and provided additional funding for the City to use for other safety programs.

## How will I Know if I'm in a Speed Camera Zone?

Potential enforcement locations will be publicly announced in advance on the City's Website. [www.cityofottumwa.com](http://www.cityofottumwa.com)

## What do I do if I receive a Citation?

### How much is the fine?

The amount of the fine is determined by the number of miles per hour the vehicle is travelling above the posted speed limit and will be indicated on the Citation. If the violation occurs within a designated construction zone, the fine amount will be doubled.

<u>Speed over the limit</u>	<u>Civil Fine</u>	<u>Construction Zone Violation</u>
1-5mph	\$20	\$ 40
6-10 mph	\$40	\$ 80
11-15mph	\$80	\$160
16-20 mph	\$90	\$180
Over 20mph	\$100 + \$5 for each additional mile over 21	\$200 + \$10 for each additional mile over 21



## **If I pay the fine will my insurance rates increase?**

No. These violations are being treated as civil and not criminal offenses so no license points are assessed and vehicle insurance providers are not notified.

## **How do I know these Violations are valid?**

Images of your vehicle were captured and recorded by an Automated Speed Photo Enforcement System which uses a Doppler radar to track all vehicles as they pass through the detection zone. The speed of each vehicle is calculated using the “Doppler Shift” and confirmed using a time over distance calculation to verify accuracy. The unit is calibrated and tested daily, and undergoes an Annual Calibration Verification by an independent test laboratory.

If the vehicle is found to be exceeding the posted speed limit, a series of images are taken. These images passed a two part review process by qualified technicians before being submitted to the Ottumwa Police Department for final review and approval. The alleged Speed Monitoring System Citation is then mailed to the registered owner or identified driver.

## **Isn't it a violation of my privacy to have a camera photograph my vehicle without my permission?**

No. Individuals applying for a Driver's License are agreeing to abide by the established Rules of the Road. Speed Enforcement Cameras only capture images of vehicles whose drivers have chosen to violate the established laws by speeding, and according to established Court doctrine, individuals who are breaking the law forfeit their privacy rights.



# New Employees

## **Officer Caleb Mitchell Patrol Division**

Officer Caleb Mitchell was sworn in as an Ottumwa Police Officer on January 4, 2016. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from Buena Vista University. Officer Mitchell graduated from the 267th Basic Iowa Law Enforcement Academy on April 15, 2016. Officer Mitchell has been assigned to the patrol division



## **Janet Fletcher Communication Specialist**

Communications Specialist Janet Fletcher was hired on April 13, 2016. She obtained an A.A.S Degree from Indian Hills Community College. Communications Specialist Fletcher attended 56 hours mandated State of Iowa training along with 4-5 months training in the police department communications center. Communications Specialist Fletcher has been assigned to the Services Division.





**Officer Brett Roberts  
Patrol Division**

Officer Brett Roberts was sworn in as an Ottumwa Police Officer on April 18, 2016. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from Simpson College. Officer Roberts graduated from the 269<sup>th</sup> Basic Iowa Law Enforcement Academy on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Officer Roberts has been assigned to the patrol division.

**The Police Officer's**

**Oath of Office**

*I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Iowa, and that I will faithfully and impartially, to the best of my ability, discharge all duties of a police officer for the City of Ottumwa, Wapello County, and the State of Iowa, as now or hereafter required by law.*



**Officer Zachary Mikita  
Patrol Division**

Officer Zachary Mikita was sworn in as an Ottumwa Police Officer on May 23, 2016. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Conservation Land Management from Upper Iowa University. Officer Mikita graduated from the 266<sup>th</sup> Basic Law Enforcement Academy on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Officer Mikita has been assigned to the patrol division.



**Brea Allen  
Communications Specialist**

Communications Specialist Brea Allen was hired on October 9, 2016. She attended Indian Hills Community College. Specialist Allen will attend 56 hours mandated State of Iowa training along with 4-5 months training in the police department communications center. Communications Specialist Allen has been assigned to the Services Division.



**Alexa Jones  
Communications Specialist**

Communications Specialist Alexa Jones was hired on December 12, 2016. She attended college at Indian Hills Community College and will attend 56 hours mandated State of Iowa training along with 4-5 months training in the police department communications center. Communications Specialist Jones has been assigned to the Services Division.



The Police Department is staffed with 39 sworn officers and 11 civilians. All positions within the Police Department are civil service positions and subject to Chapter 400 of the Iowa Code. Officers and Communications Specialists are represented by the Ottumwa Police Union, Teamster's Local # 238.



## Police Chaplains

In November of 2015, the Ottumwa Police Department initiated its Chaplain Program. Police Chaplains Jim Shrimplin and Rick Bick on a voluntary basis provide personal services to officers and their families in times of stress and difficulty; provide exceptional services to the community in times of personal or city-wide crisis; assists officers in addressing community issues; and promote community policing ideals. The Chaplains attend police training sessions and meetings; ride along with patrol officers and observe in the Communications Center on a regular basis. Chaplains Bick and Shrimplin rode along with patrol officers a total of 600 hours in 2016.



Rick Bick is the Pastor of NewLife Center in Ottumwa. Next year he will celebrate 41 years in ministry. He and his wife came to Ottumwa seven years ago with a vision to work with other area churches serving the community. He was drawn to Ottumwa by the city's slogan, City of Bridges, River of Opportunity. He sees the Chaplain program as an opportunity to partner with local law enforcement in making a difference in Ottumwa.

Jim Shrimplin is a pastor in the United Methodist Church and has served Wesley United Methodist in Ottumwa since July 2012. Before moving to Ottumwa, Jim attended the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary from 2008-2012 graduating with a Masters of Divinity degree. He earned his bachelor's degree from Southwestern Assemblies of God University. He is married to his wife of 21 years Rebekkah Shrimplin who also pastors in Bussey. Their son Philip attends OHS and is active in drama and is a member of Meistersingers. Jim is looking forward to serving OPD and the community of Ottumwa as chaplain.



# Higher Education Is Important for Today's Criminal Justice Practitioners

For the past several decades, there have been efforts to increase the education requirements for law enforcement officers across the country. Newspaper, magazine, and journal articles cite numerous studies whose findings support the notion that better educated police officers are better performers. Increasingly, departments are requiring applicants to have completed a certain number of college credit hours or even earned two or four-year college degrees.

Researchers, practitioners, commissions, and even police agencies themselves have been calling for increased education requirements for police officers for many reasons. Some point out that police work has become increasingly complex and, as a result, education requirements for police officers should be increased. Others suggest that better educated police officers will be "more rounded thinkers and exhibit a greater humanistic approach to the profession." Still others believe that college educated officers were less likely to break the rules and, consequently, needed less discipline. Most agree that college educated officers have better communications skills, both oral and written.

Although the minimum educational requirement to be an Ottumwa Police Officer is graduation from high school or possession of a GED, we have been fortunate to develop a close relationship with the Criminal Justice Program at Indian Hills Community College as well as similar programs at colleges across Iowa. As a result, we have a high percentage of our employees with advanced college degrees. The following is a breakdown of the higher education possessed by our 38 sworn officers and 10 civilian employees:

- 25 employees 52% Bachelor Degree
- 11 employees 23% Associate Degree
- 9 employees 19% Some College
- 3 employees 6% No College Credits
- **48 employees 100%**



75% of our employees have an Associate or Bachelor Degree.

## Employee Averages

Interesting facts about Ottumwa Police Department personnel:

- Average age of an Ottumwa Police Officer is 35.97 years.
- Average age of non-ranking sworn is 33.73 years.
- Average age of a patrol officer is 31.38 years.
- Average age of a civilian employee is 41.44 years.
- Average years on the department of all sworn is 10.32 years
- Average years on the department for patrol officers is 5.69 years.
- Average years at the rank of Sergeant is 3.63 years.
- Average years at the rank of Lieutenant is 3.67 years.

# Community Policing



## **Shop with A Cop**

The Ottumwa Police Department partnered with the Wapello County Sheriff's Reserve for their "Shop with a Cop" program. This year they took 20 kids shopping and gave 22 gift cards to local families.



## **Community Policing Through Radio**

The Department continued to partner with local radio station 1240 KBIZ-AM to have the Police Chief as a regularly scheduled guest on the "Morning Dialogue Show" at 9:15 AM the second Wednesday of each month. The Chief discusses relevant law enforcement issues, updates the community on police activities, and answers questions from the public.

## **Ride-Along Program**

The Police Department believes a Ride-Along Program promotes a better understanding of the challenges, risks, and rewards of the police officer's role in the community. Therefore, the Department allows interested citizens and college students to ride as passenger observers with patrol officers. All participants in the Ride-Along Program must be at least 18 years of age and must sign a liability waiver.

## **Ottumwa Police Department Internship Program**

The Ottumwa Police Department Internship Program is a cooperative effort between the Police Department and participating area colleges and universities with Criminal Justice Programs. Students interested in law enforcement related careers gain valuable experience and knowledge by working with officers while they perform their law enforcement duties. Upon successful completion, an intern receives academic credit for participating in the program. Interns may be assigned to the Patrol Unit, Records Unit, Communications Center, Investigations Unit, School Resource Officer Program, K-9 Program, or Traffic Enforcement Program.

# 6th Annual Citizens Police Academy

In 2011, the Ottumwa Police Department implemented a new program called the Citizens Police Academy. As part of our community policing effort, the purpose of the Academy is to provide an educational opportunity for citizens to learn first-hand about local police operations and to gain a deeper understanding of today's law enforcement functions. It is our belief that a clearer understanding of a police officer's duties, how the officer carries out those duties, and the end result of the officer's actions will help develop a better relationship between the police department and the community.

The Citizen Police Academy is an eight-week program, with each session lasting three hours. Sessions were held from 6:00 – 9:00 PM on each Monday in February and March. The course curriculum included Department Overview & Orientation, Administration, Operations Division, Services Division, Drug Task Force, Gang Suppression, Animal Control, Parking Enforcement, Immigration, Communications (Dispatch), and Records.

Participants also had the opportunity to schedule time on the Department's new state-of-the-art use-of-force simulator and test his/her judgment in reacting to potentially volatile situations. Participants also had the option of going to the Department's firearms range during the summer and shooting a variety of weapons.



Bill Alexander – *Citizen*  
Josh Baker – *Citizen*  
Barb Crowder – *Citizen*  
Mike Crowder – *Citizen*  
Sean Flattery – *Citizen*  
Marti Gravett – *Citizen*  
Gretchen Greer – *Citizen*  
Jake McCoy – *City of Ottumwa*  
Win Mosier – *Citizen*

Ashley Noreuil – *Citizen*  
Hunter Puffinbarger – *Citizen*  
Todd Robinson – *Citizen*  
Marc Roe – *Councilman*  
Ryan Strovers – *Citizen*  
Dave Williams – *Citizen*  
Jody Williams – *Citizen*  
Alex Wilson – *KTVO*  
Edward Wilson – *City of Ottumwa*  
Bryan Wyldes – *Citizen*

**The Police Department would like to thank *South Ottumwa Savings Bank* for their ongoing sponsorship of the Citizens Police Academy**



# Events

## No Shave November

During the month of November members of the police department participated in No Shave November. This is a national effort to raise money for cancer awareness and research. The standard grooming policy for officers was waived and officers donated money to skip shaving for the month. Funds raised during the event were donated locally.



No Shave November Winner Investigator Steve Harris

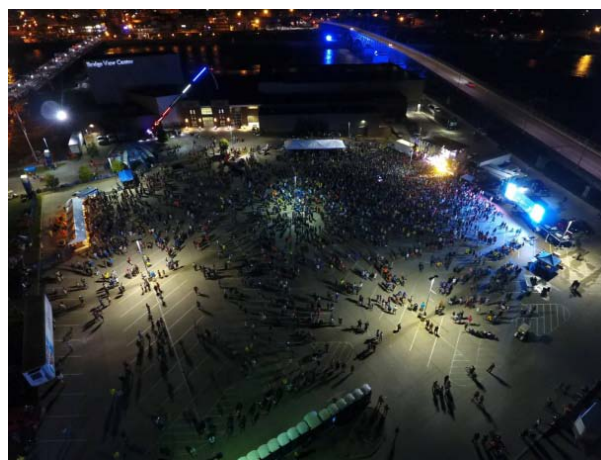


Officers and Chaplain Bick in the spirit of the Holidays with our newly decorated Thin Blue Line Police Christmas tree.

In March of 2016 The Ottumwa Police Department provided security for the largest attended concert at the Bridgeview Center to date. Country singer Cole Swindell performed for a sold out crowd of fans. A good time was had by all attending the concert.



On July 28, 2016 the Register’s Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa “RAGBRAI” arrived in Ottumwa for an overnight stay. Bike riders streamed into town beginning early in the morning and throughout the afternoon. This was an all hands on deck event for the police department with officers working 12 hour shifts. Lt. Jason Bell represented the police department in the numerous planning meetings leading up to the event and coordinated police personnel activities. We were fortunate that we had great weather and the event went off without a hitch. In addition to Ottumwa Police Officers, several outside agencies including the Oskaloosa Police Department, Davis County Sheriff’s Office and the Wapello County Sheriff’s Office and Reserves provided personnel who assisted with providing security and traffic control.



Rick Springfield Concert at RAGBRAI

# ALiCE Training

In 2016, the Ottumwa Police Department presented several ALiCE training seminars to local school faculty, government organizations and businesses. The purpose of ALiCE training is to prepare individuals to handle the threat of an Active Shooter. ALiCE teaches individuals to participate in their own survival, while leading others to safety. Though no one can guarantee success in this type of situation, this new set of skills will greatly increase the odds of survival should anyone face this form of disaster.

ALiCE is an acronym for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. These are five strategies available to protect oneself during an active shooter incident:



*Investigator Aaron Vose presenting to SIEDA employees*

- **ALERT** is to notify as many people as possible within the danger zone that a potentially life threatening risk exists.
- 
- **LOCKDOWN** is to secure in place, and prepare to EVACUATE or COUNTER, if needed.
- **INFORM** is to continue to communicate the intruder's location in real time.
- **COUNTER** is to interrupt the intruder and make it difficult or impossible to aim. This is a strategy of last resort.
- **EVACUATE** is to remove yourself from the danger zone when it is safe to do so.



The term, “active shooter” is used by law enforcement to describe a situation in which a shooting is in progress and an aspect of the crime may affect the protocols used in responding to and reacting at the scene of the incident.

Unlike defined crime, such as a murder or mass killing, the active aspect inherently implies that both law enforcement personnel and citizens have the potential to affect the outcome of the event based upon their responses.

# Ottumwa Police Partnerships

## Partnering with our Community



This family brought in cookies for the officers as a "Thank You" for their service. This of course was just one of the initial random acts of kindness citizens, churches, schools, clubs and organizations of Ottumwa displayed during this horrific year of officer deaths across the country. The Ottumwa Police Department is honored to serve such a wonderful community and a big thanks to you all for your support and kindness.

This Christmas tree was decorated by our local John Deere Ottumwa Works and donated to the Ottumwa Police Department. Written on the ornaments, are the names of all members of the department. It was proudly displayed in our officers report writing room for all to see and enjoy.





## Wapello County Sheriff's Office and Ottumwa Police Department Partners with State Drug Control Office To Expand Medication Drop Off Locations

In May of 2016, the Ottumwa Police Department and Wapello County Sheriff's Office announced the placement of a permanent Medication Dropbox located in the lobby of the Wapello County Law Enforcement Center, 330 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The drop box is made possible through a small grant from the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy to address the increasing problem of prescription drug abuse. The drop box will be accessible to the public during normal business hours.

Prescription drug abuse is Iowa's fastest-growing form of substance abuse, and addiction to powerful pain relievers is also fueling more heroin use. Prescription pain pills and heroin are both opioid drugs. The combination is contributing to an increase in opioid-related overdose deaths in Iowa and the U.S.

Citizens wishing to utilize the medication drop box are asked to place all medications in sealed non-breakable containers and are requested to not include any "sharps" (syringes or lancets) or any other item that could cause injury to the Department staff servicing the drop box.



## New Summer Uniforms



The Ottumwa Police Department is utilizing a new summer uniform. The uniform consists of a black, 5.11 performance polo shirt with khaki, 5.11 pants.

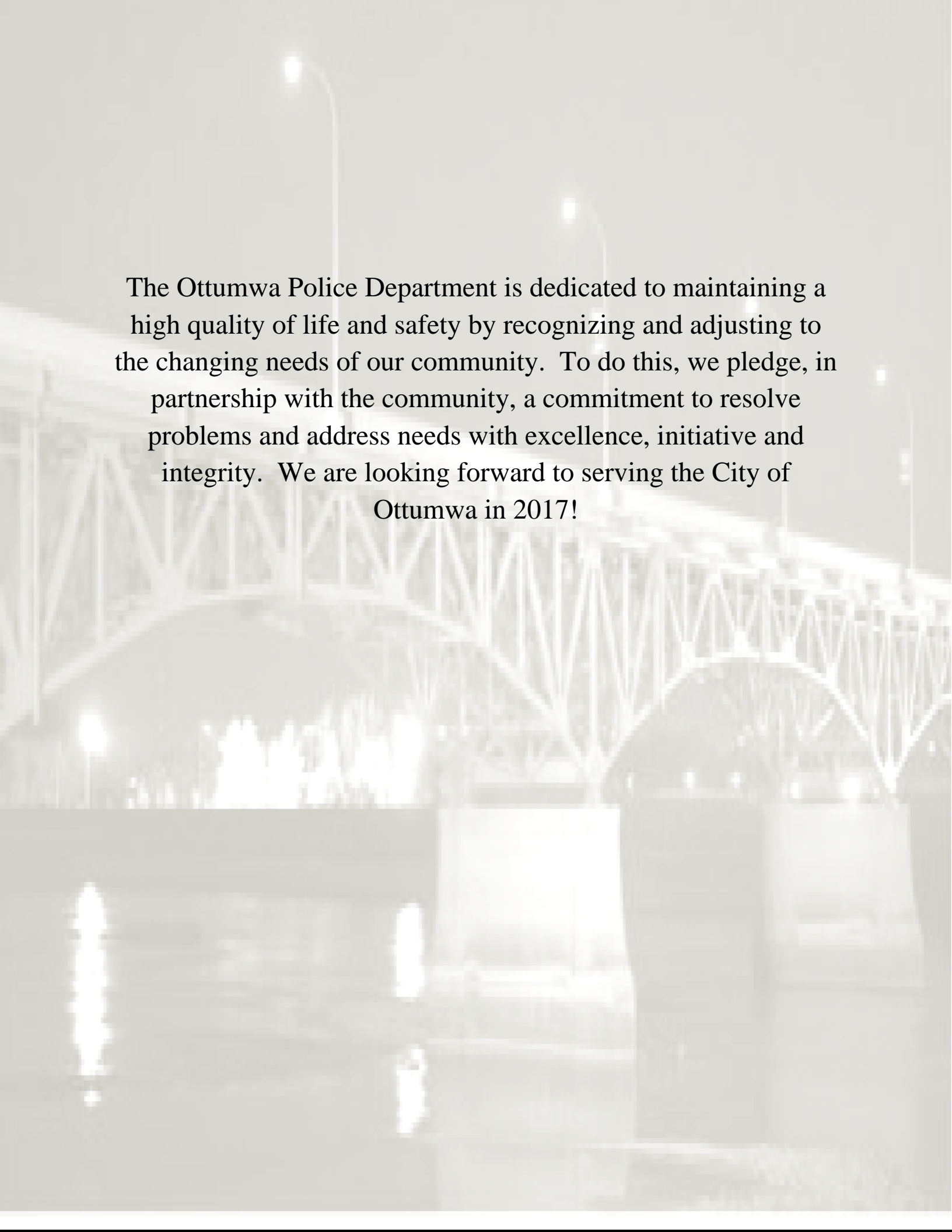
The polo has "POLICE" screen printed on the back, each sleeve and on the right chest area. The OPD badge and officers name will be embroidered.

Officers are able to purchase the polo and pants using their annual equipment allowance through the department.

Officer Brad Johnson  
Retired  
February 27, 1995 - October 12, 2016



Officer Brad Johnson served the department as a Patrol Officer, Community Service Officer, Quincy Place Mall Officer, and was a member of the Ottumwa Emergency Response Team. Officer Johnson also received the Medal of Valor on December 13, 1996. The employees of the Ottumwa Police Department, the City of Ottumwa and Citizens of Ottumwa wish you the best in your retirement!



The Ottumwa Police Department is dedicated to maintaining a high quality of life and safety by recognizing and adjusting to the changing needs of our community. To do this, we pledge, in partnership with the community, a commitment to resolve problems and address needs with excellence, initiative and integrity. We are looking forward to serving the City of Ottumwa in 2017!