

SHERIDAN POLICE DEPARTMENT



2024 Annual Report



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Message from the Chief of Police

To say that 2024 was the most trying and difficult year of my almost 30-year career would be an understatement. The loss of Sgt. Nevada Krinke left a void in the department that will likely never be filled. His impact on the men and women who serve cannot be overstated. He was the embodiment of everything we stand for in law enforcement and as servants of our community. The department was shocked by the senseless violence that took him from us, and over a year later, we continue to heal. We may never fully recover from this tragedy, but we are healing and continuing to serve. I am incredibly proud of the men and women of this department and the resilience they have shown.

The loss of Sgt. Krinke underscored the realities of the dangers in this profession. It also reinforced the need to provide unwavering support to those affected. The department and the City did everything in our power to assist those in need, reaffirming that our humanity demands we acknowledge our pain—just like anyone else. I am profoundly grateful for the support this department has received—not only from other City departments, law enforcement agencies across the state, and our governing body, but also from our entire community. The outpouring of support was nothing short of amazing and played a crucial role in our recovery.

As we continue to heal, we must remain focused on serving our community in an exemplary manner. Thanks to the dedication and strength of our officers, our service has never faltered. However, we continue to face significant challenges in maintaining our staffing levels. Our number one priority remains recruitment and retention.

Like many law enforcement agencies nationwide, we are struggling with staffing shortages. Currently, our patrol division is operating with 26 out of 31 positions filled, leaving us five officers short. However, we are pleased to report that our dispatch team is fully staffed as of this writing.

To address these staffing shortages, we have implemented several initiatives:

- **Enhanced Recruitment Efforts:** We have launched a comprehensive recruitment campaign, including the production of a new recruitment video that showcases the benefits and opportunities of joining the Sheridan Police Department. This video is available on our official Facebook page and YouTube channel.

- **Competitive Compensation and Benefits:** We offer a starting salary of \$63,634 for entry-level officers, with top pay reaching \$91,232 annually. Additionally, we provide a \$2.00 per hour shift differential for patrol officers, comprehensive health benefits, retirement plans, and hiring bonuses for qualified candidates.

- **Streamlined Application Process:** Recognizing the challenges potential candidates face, we have partnered with the National Testing Network (NTN) to offer remote testing options. This allows applicants to complete the written examination without the need to travel, making the process more accessible.

We remain committed to attracting and retaining dedicated professionals who embody the values of our department and community. Moving forward, we do so with a renewed sense of purpose, honoring Sergeant Krinke's legacy by continuing to provide exemplary service to the residents of Sheridan. We are dedicated to overcoming current challenges and ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.

The development of our officers, dispatchers, and civilian staff is also critical to maintaining a successful and productive department. The administrative staff is committed to ensuring that our personnel grow both personally and professionally, achieve their career goals, and remain focused on our department's mission. While we have provided

Message from the Chief of Police

excellent training opportunities when staffing allows, we must continue to cultivate an engaged and enthusiastic workforce. However, as mentioned before, staffing remains the primary obstacle to expanding training opportunities. Minimum staffing levels must be maintained for the safety of both our officers and the community.

To address this challenge, we have established a cadre of P.O.S.T.-certified instructors who can provide approved training in-house at times that align with our staffing needs. Additionally, the patrol division has implemented a new schedule that staggers shift changes throughout the day and night, ensuring higher staffing levels during peak call times and distributing workload more effectively. This new schedule is currently on a trial basis, but early indications suggest it benefits not only operational efficiency, but also improves work-life balance for our personnel. Dispatch remains on the previous schedule, though discussions may arise about adapting a similar model for communications.

I will close by reaffirming the immense pride I take in leading this exceptional department. The men and women who serve here—at all levels—are among the best I have ever known. Their dedication to this community is unmatched, and they remain steadfast in their commitment to its safety and security. Thank you to all who have supported us over the years. Please know that we will continue to be here, day and night, protecting the community we live in—the community we love.

Thank you,

Travis Koltiska
Chief of Police



Chief of Police, Travis Koltiska

Sgt. Nevada Paul Krinke

On February 13, 2024, the Sheridan Police Department and our community suffered an immeasurable loss with the tragic murder of Sergeant Nevada Krinke. Sergeant Krinke was not only a dedicated law enforcement officer, but also a pillar of strength and compassion within our community.

Throughout his tenure, Sergeant Krinke exemplified unwavering commitment, integrity, and leadership. His colleagues remember him as a mentor who consistently went above and beyond to support and guide fellow officers. Beyond the badge, Nevada was deeply involved in community outreach, fostering trust and building lasting relationships between the police department and the residents of Sheridan. His legacy of service and dedication continues to inspire us all.

In the wake of this tragedy, the department has come together to support one another and honor Sergeant Krinke's memory. We have provided counseling services and established support networks to assist our team during this challenging time. Our commitment to the community remains steadfast, and we are dedicated to upholding the high standards of service that Sergeant Krinke championed.



*REST EASY S4. YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN UNIFORM HAVE THE
WATCH FROM HERE.*

E.O.W. 02/13/2024



Department Mission Statement

THE MISSION OF THE SHERIDAN POLICE DEPARTMENT IS TO CONTINUOUSLY EVOLVE WHILE SERVING ALL PEOPLE IN OUR JURISDICTION BY PREVENTING CRIME, PROTECTING LIFE, AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE. WE WILL WORK TOWARDS OUR GOALS THROUGH CHALLENGING AND RELEVANT TRAINING, QUALITY HIRING, AND WORKING WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS.

“TO PREVENT CRIME AND DISORDER”

SIR ROBERT PEEL

City of Sheridan Core Values

Make a Difference

The primary purpose behind every City Staff action and activity is to make a difference in the lives of our Citizens.

Take Initiative

In the absence of guidance, we seize opportunities to advance the Mission of the City of Sheridan.

Build Trust

We operate with honesty, fairness and humility. We support others and interact with co-workers and citizens in a way that maintains confidence in the City. We must ensure that we daily earn the trust of the people of Sheridan, even when no one is watching us.

Show Optimism

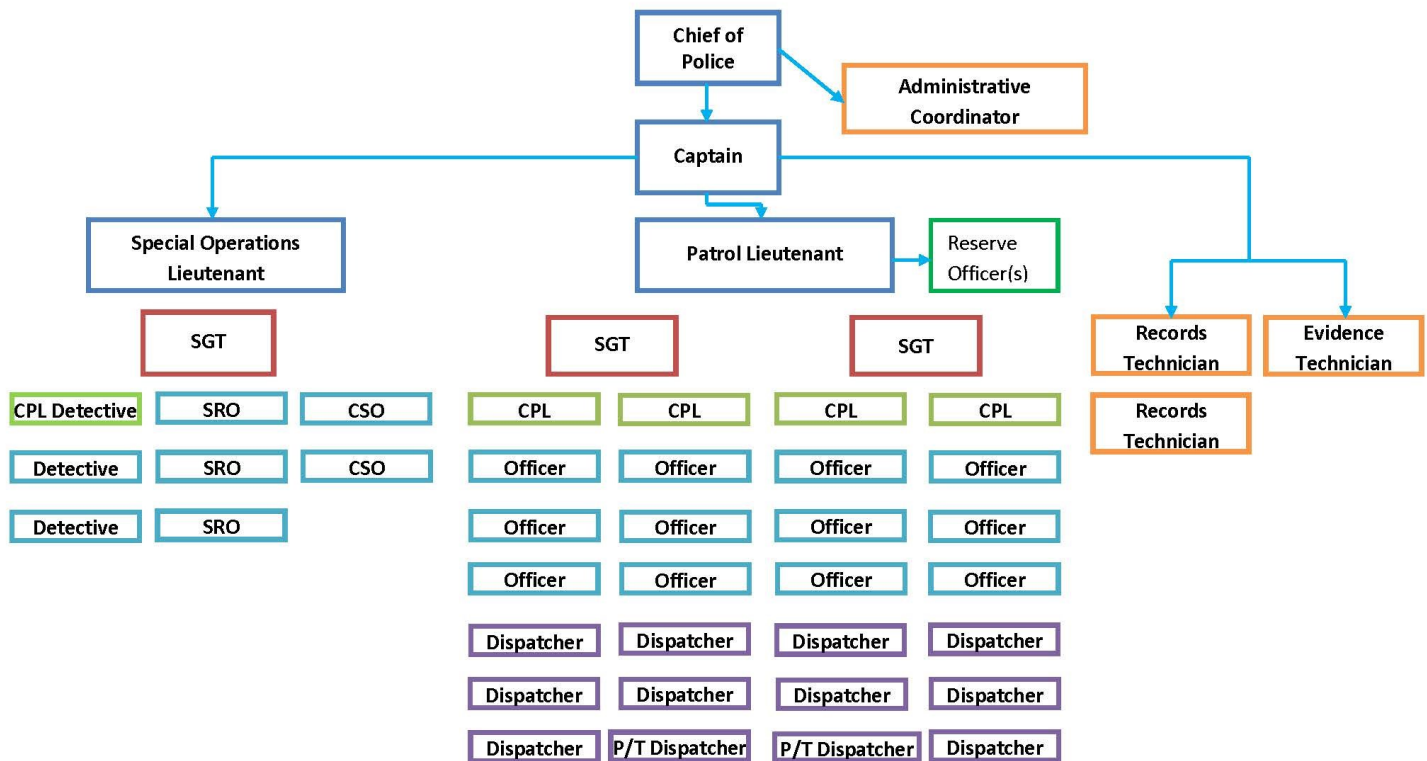
A positive attitude is a force multiplier and is contagious. We look for opportunities in every situation.

Promote Teamwork

Together Everyone Achieves More and that only occurs through communication, co-operation and collaboration with others.

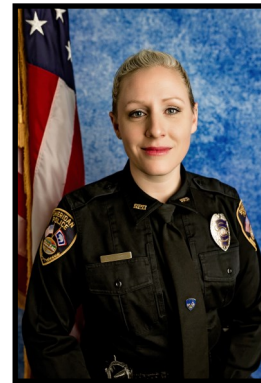
Department Structure

Department Structure—The Sheridan Police Department staffing consists of an allocation of 31 sworn police officers, ten (10) full-time communications technicians, two (2) part-time communications technicians, two (2) Community Service Officers, one (1) evidence custodian, and three (3) administrative/records staff. The department has experienced staffing shortages in the sworn ranks, as well as in communications.



2024 Highlights

Promotion - Amanda Fischer attained the rank of Corporal on August 16, 2024, through a very difficult and competitive process. Amanda's performance first as a dispatcher, then a sworn officer, has been nothing short of exemplary throughout her time with the Sheridan Police Department. Amanda was an informal leader within the department prior to her promotion, offering guidance, coaching and mentorship to all. Prior to coming to work for the Sheridan Police Department, Amanda spent approximately three (3) years as a police officer with the Gillette Police Department, and twelve (12) years with the United States Air Force, O.S.I.



Corporal Amanda Fischer

2024 Actual Staffing Levels			
	Sworn	Civilian	Total
Administration	4	1	5
Patrol	19	0	19
Detectives	3	0	3
Community Service Officers	0	2	2
Dispatch	0	9.5	9.5
Records	0	2	2
Evidence	0	1	1
Total Employees	26	15.5	41.5

2024 Allocated Staffing			
	Sworn	Civilian	Total
Administration	4	1	5
Patrol	23	0	23
Detectives	4	0	4
Community Service Officers	0	2	2
Dispatch	0	11	11
Records	0	2	2
Evidence	0	1	1
Total Employees	31	17	48

Staffing - At the end of 2024, the communications center reached full staffing for the first time in years, with 11 full-time dispatchers, including two in training. This milestone reflects ongoing efforts to attract and retain skilled professionals who play a vital role in public safety. The center is staffed with an excellent cadre of individuals who are dedicated to this community.

On the sworn officer side, hiring quality candidates remains a challenge. While two strong hires were made in 2024, a higher-than-expected rate of attrition and candidate failure persisted. The department continues to use every available tool to recruit, hire, and retain officers who align with our values and commitment to the community. Looking ahead to 2025, we remain focused on stabilizing staffing to ensure we provide the highest level of service Sheridan expects and deserves.

	Actual					Allocated 2024
	2008	2012	2016	2020	2024	
Sworn	31	29	27	26	26	31
Dispatch	13	10	10.5	10	9.5	11
Civilian	11.5	7	6.5	7	6	6
Total	55.5	46	44	43	41.5	48

2024 Highlights

Command Central Evidence Plus - The department continues to enhance its evidence collection and management processes through improved technology, specifically the addition of Command Central Evidence Plus. As an add-on to our Records Management System (RMS), personnel now have streamlined options for digital evidence uploads, ensuring accuracy, security, and efficiency. These advancements not only improve internal workflows, but also support more effective case management, ultimately strengthening our investigative capabilities.

One of the key benefits of this software is the ability to share critical information with other agencies seamlessly, enhancing collaboration across jurisdictions, specifically prosecutors. Additionally, built-in redaction tools allow for the secure release of necessary records, while protecting sensitive information. These features help maintain transparency, while safeguarding privacy, reinforcing our commitment to both public trust and investigative integrity.



Motorola stock photo of Command Central Evidence Transcription.

Issued Cellular Phones - The department has partnered with T-Mobile to equip all sworn personnel with smartphones, enhancing communication and efficiency in the field. These devices enable officers to upload digital evidence directly from the field, streamlining the evidence collection process and ensuring timely documentation. Additionally, officers can access critical information such as email and department resources in real time, improving responsiveness and operational effectiveness.

A key benefit of this technology is the integrated software that allows officers to contact complainants, suspects, or victims without using their personal numbers, ensuring both privacy and professionalism. Furthermore, the system ties into recorded lines, securely storing phone calls that hold evidentiary value. These advancements not only enhance investigative capabilities, but also support transparency and accountability in law enforcement interactions.



Motorola Responder App



10-21 Police Phone App

Future and Ongoing Projects

Employee Development - Ongoing training and professional development are essential in ensuring that police officers are well-equipped to handle the complex challenges of modern law enforcement. Beyond mastering tactical skills, officers must continually refine their ability to engage with the community, de-escalate tense situations, and approach their duties with empathy and integrity. A strong focus on training helps officers stay updated on best practices, new technologies, and evolving laws, ensuring they can serve and protect with the highest level of professionalism. Investing in both personal and professional growth not only enhances an officer's capabilities, but also fosters confidence, resilience, and leadership within the department.

The City of Sheridan recognizes that a well-trained officer is not only more effective, but also better prepared to build trust with the community. That's why the city fully supports ongoing education, specialized training opportunities, and leadership development programs. By prioritizing these investments, Sheridan ensures that its officers are not just enforcing the law, but also serving as compassionate problem-solvers who embody integrity and accountability. This commitment to excellence strengthens public safety, enhances officer well-being, and reinforces the community's confidence in its police force.

Beverage Server Training - For many years, the department has provided beverage server training to local establishments, utilizing SPD employees as trainers. Recognizing the critical importance of responsible alcohol service, the department took proactive steps to invest in the training of several staff members. This initiative reflects the department's commitment to equipping community members with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote safe and responsible alcohol service.

Recently, the department became aware of a potential alternative to the TIPS program, following a significant price increase due to a change in owner-

ship. After thorough research, Liquor Exam was identified as an effective replacement. With funding approval from Sheridan County Prevention, the program is set to be fully implemented in 2025. The groundwork for this transition began in 2024, thanks to the dedication of our beverage server trainers.

One of the key benefits of Liquor Exam is its flexibility—it can be completed remotely on any smart device, allowing employees to train at their convenience, while still being proctored and monitored by SPD trainers. Additionally, the new program provides immediate certification upon completion, unlike TIPS, which now requires one to two months to process certifications. Finally, the cost of Liquor Exam is roughly 1/8th the cost of TIPS.

Next Gen 911 - Next Generation 911 (NG911) is an initiative to modernize emergency communication systems, enabling the public to transmit text, images, video, and data to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). In Wyoming, significant strides have been made toward implementing NG911. In March 2022, the state formalized its commitment by signing the State of Wyoming NG911 Plan, outlining strategies for upgrading the existing 911 infrastructure. This plan emphasizes the integration of legacy communication systems into a cohesive, interoperable NG911 framework, ensuring seamless emergency response across the state.

To support this transition, current legislation is being introduced to facilitate NG911 implementation across the state. The funds collected from the 911 emergency tax currently assists PSAPs statewide, and there is discussion regarding the request for an increase in the surcharges for expenses directly related to the operation of NG911 systems. These expenses include equipment and service costs, installation, maintenance, and personnel necessary for integrating legacy systems into the new NG911 infrastructure.

Future and Ongoing Projects

Safe Rides - The City of Sheridan TIPSy Taxi program was implemented in July 2012. In December of 2013, the City of Sheridan received the Governor's Council on Impaired Driving, "Saving Lives Award," for the successful establishment of the program. In April 2017, there was a name change and the funding solution had also changed. It is now called "Safe Rides." The program continues to evolve to meet the needs of our community after 12 years.



It was started as a partnership with the City of Sheridan, local distributors, Sheridan County Liquor Dealers, ASAP, LOCO Printing, and Sheridan Taxi. It averaged 140 rides per month at its inception. In 2024, there were an average of 229 rides given per month. It was funded with donations, fundraisers, and the City's budget. Today, the program is funded by the liquor dealers that use the program and the City budget. There are currently two taxi services involved in the program and the rides have grown substantially. In 2024, nine (9) liquor establishments used the program within the City Limits. There were 2,749 rides given to citizens in 2024. This program continues to grow to meet the demands of local citizens.

Sheridan College Extra-Duty Patrols - To enhance relationships, improve community safety, and increase responsiveness at Sheridan College, the department has partnered with the college to provide extra-duty patrols on campus. This initiative allows off-duty officers to dedicate additional time to patrolling the college, ensuring a more visible and proactive law enforcement presence. With a maximum of six hours per week per officer allocated for these patrols, the goal is to strengthen connections with students, faculty, and staff, while deterring crime and addressing concerns in a timely manner.

This effort is being conducted in collaboration with the Sheridan County Sheriff's Office, maximizing resources to provide a more consistent law enforcement presence on campus. By working together, both agencies are helping to create a safer and more secure learning environment, reinforcing their commitment to public safety and community engagement.

Crisis Intervention Team Training - Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training is a specialized program designed to help law enforcement officers effectively respond to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. The training focuses on de-escalation techniques, communication strategies, and an understanding of mental health disorders to ensure officers can handle these situations safely and compassionately. CIT programs emphasize collaboration between law enforcement, mental health professionals, and community organizations to provide better outcomes for individuals in crisis.

Officers who complete CIT training learn how to recognize signs of mental illness, substance use disorders, and developmental disabilities, while employing non-violent crisis intervention techniques. The goal is to reduce the use of force, minimize arrests of individuals in crisis, and connect them with appropriate mental health resources. Many agencies, including the Sheridan Police Department, invest in CIT training as part of their commitment to community-oriented policing and ensuring the safety and well-being of all residents.

The Sheridan Police Department currently has 15 officers and dispatchers who have attended CIT. This has been made possible thanks to funding for Sheridan County First Responders training via a partnership with the Wyoming Department of Health, Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police, and Sheridan County Prevention.

Deer Management

During the 2024 archery program, 65 people signed up to participate and 11 successfully harvested 12 deer. Last year 25 deer were harvested.

The 2024 archery deer management program was another successful year and we hope to continue with this program in the future. The Sheridan Police Department has taken complaints in the past of deer damaging property and causing problems with pets in yards. There is still a large number of deer in the city and their numbers continue to grow. This program helps to decrease some of these problems.

Two hunters did not turn in their harvest reports, even after attempted contact was made twice via phone. No one reported any lost arrows this archery season.

Below is a list of areas in the city that deer were harvested from during the archery program, and what deer were taken.

Whitetail Does

- 1 was taken in area 9
- 1 was taken in area 11

Total 2

Whitetail Bucks

- 4 were taken in area 7
- 1 was taken in area 9
- 2 were taken in area 19

Total 7

Whitetail Fawns

- 1 was taken in area 9
- 1 was taken in area 19

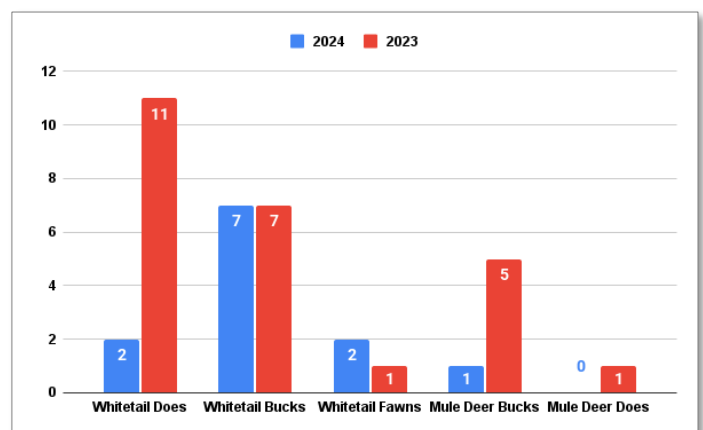
Total 2

Mule Deer Bucks

- 1 was taken in area 17

Total 1

A total of 12 deer were harvested in the City of Sheridan during the 2024 archery season. The participants in the program that we spoke with enjoyed the opportunity to hunt in the city and help reduce the deer numbers. We also had people participating in the program that traveled to Sheridan to hunt in the city.

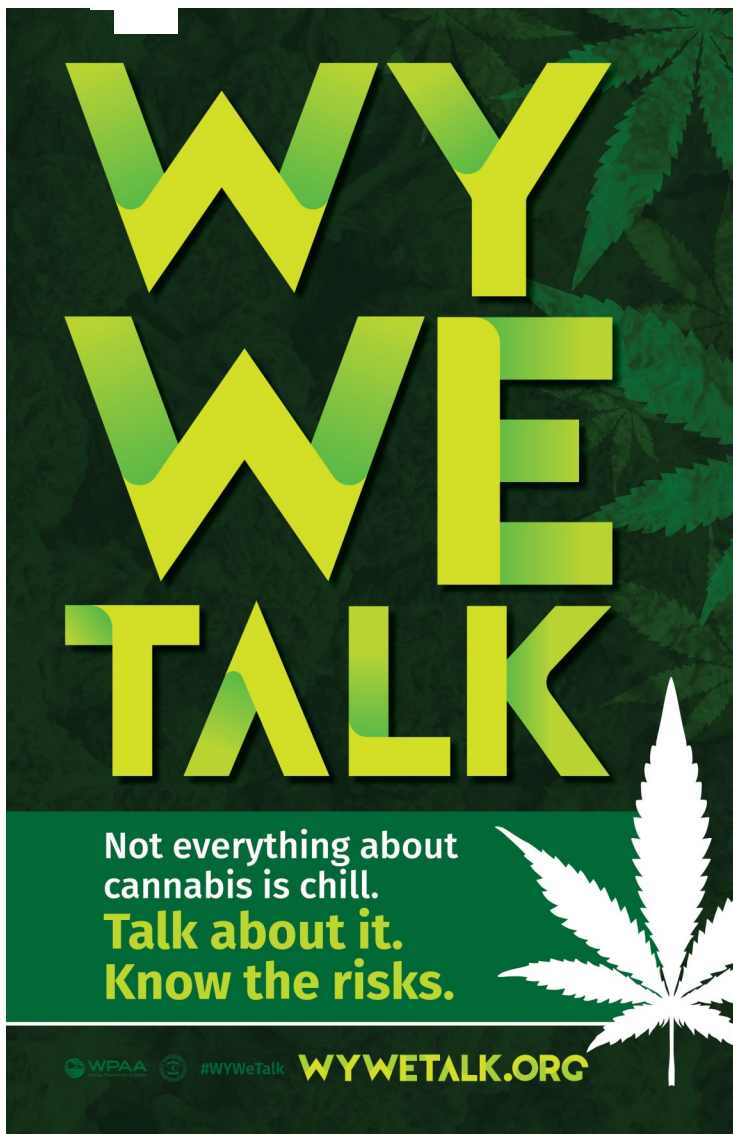


Chapter 56 Lethal Take of Wildlife

The City of Sheridan applied for a Chapter 56 permit in 2024 with the Wyoming Game & Fish Department. However, the City of Sheridan did not conduct any harvest hunts during this year due to several factors. Staffing levels of the department created challenges in conducting harvests. Additionally, recent development of previously unoccupied land where deer could more easily be harvested has created complications with the program. Finally, fewer locations where animals can be safely harvested now exist.

The City of Sheridan has requested the issuance of 15 Chapter 56 permits for the 2025 calendar year in hopes that the opportunity will exist to safely conduct a harvest hunt.

Cannabis in Wyoming



In recent years, there has been a major shift in attitude toward the legalization of marijuana (cannabis) for medicinal and recreational use. This shift has had a significant impact on our communities, families, schools, healthcare, and law enforcement.

For more information on the impact of cannabis, scan the QR code below or go to wywetalk.org, where you will find a digital information booklet titled "The Impact of Cannabis (High-Potency THC) on Wyoming."



Patrol Operations

MISSION

THE PATROL OPERATIONS BUREAU SUPPORTS THE MISSION OF THE AGENCY WITH STRATEGIC EFFORTS IN FOUR PRIMARY COMPETENCIES: CRIME PREVENTION, TRAFFIC SAFETY, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

The Patrol Operations Bureau, under the direction of Lieutenant Daniel Keller, provides uniformed patrol services to the community. Service is provided 24/7 to the community by officers working twelve, hour shifts. The patrol officers respond to all citizen calls for service and engage in self initiated activities that prevent crime and keep traffic safe. The bureau uses data driven approaches to employ police resources most effectively, such as high-visibility enforcement, when most known traffic accidents occur. The patrol operations bureau utilizes specialized training, including, but not limited to: K9 drug detection, mental health crisis response, and drug recognition expertise. In addition to enforcement and prevention activities, the bureau regularly engages in non-enforcement contacts, such as reading to children in elementary schools or visiting with citizens at community events.



Lieutenant Daniel Keller

Patrol/Call Response

In 2024, officers responded to 10,878 calls for service, which is approximately a 2.5% decrease from the past three years' average.

An average week of activity in the patrol bureau for 2024 was:

Calls for Service: 209
Custodial Arrests: 14
Non-Custodial Arrests: 10
Drug Arrests: 3
DWUI Arrests: 3
Traffic Stops: 109
Traffic Accidents: 12



Example of the Weekly Activity Report that is posted to our facebook page.

Mental Health Response

CALLS FOR SERVICE

In 2024, the Sheridan Police Department responded to 730 incidents regarding concern for a citizens mental health, which averages to 14 incidents per week. The incidents were dispatched as follows:

Welfare Checks (499 incidents)
Mental Subject (119 incidents)
Suicidal Subject (100 incidents)
Suicide Attempt (12 incidents)

TITLE 25 ACTION TAKEN

In 2024, the Sheridan Police Department placed 37 citizens on an involuntary medical assessment under Title 25 authority.

Of the 730 incidents, Officers used Title 25 holds in 5% of the incidents.

In 2024, the Sheridan Police Department continued handing out a brochure with resources available to citizens dealing with mental health or addiction issues on all related calls.

USE OF FORCE

Of the 37 citizens put under a Title 25 hold, officers used force in only one (1) incident to gain compliance. Force used did not result in any injuries to the patient.

Traffic Management

Activity

2024 saw a general reduction in traffic issues.

In 2024, officers conducted 5,384 traffic stops - an approximate 8% reduction of the past three years' average.

In 2024, officers responded to 585 traffic accidents - an approximate 11% reduction of the past three years' average. Of those accidents, 142 were Hit and Run accidents, which is an approximate 10% reduction of the past three years' average.

In 2024, officers made 157 arrests for DWUI offenses. This is an approximate 2% reduction of the past three years' average.



Cpl. Curtis Jorgensen, Sgt. Shuan Gerleman,
Cpl. Jeremy Kmett, Sgt. Jacob Board, Sgt.
Jon Snoozy, Cpl. Chase Philipp

Strategies

Officers focused traffic stops on violations that tend to contribute to accidents. Officers were encouraged to make high-visibility enforcement at times when most traffic accidents occur (12:00pm - 4:00pm), and when the most DWUI arrests happen (12:00am - 3:00am).

The Department investigated citizen complaints of traffic issues with extra patrols and speed/traffic flow studies.

The department continued to offer free traffic safety classes to the public. These are done monthly over four, two hour, class sessions. The public is encouraged to sign up for these classes. The classes are also used by local courts as alternative sentencing options regarding traffic violations.



Officer Jack Stanley in
the report writing room

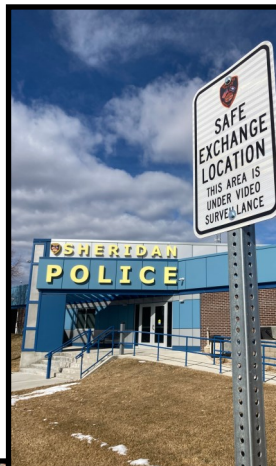


Cpl. Curtis Jorgensen
saving a turtle

Community Relations

In 2024, the department used the following methods to ensure continued community support:

- ♦ Organized and participated in the Christmas “Shop with a Cop” event.
- ♦ 502 school visits by patrol officers at elementary schools. These range from running traffic in a school zone to reading to kids in the classroom.
- ♦ 1,862 visits to Sheridan College for close patrol.
- ♦ Regular participation on the radio show “Public Pulse” to communicate department activity and transparency.
- ♦ Publishing weekly activity on social media for greater transparency.
- ♦ Offered citizen ride-a-longs for the public to spend time one on one with an officer while the officer is on shift.
- ♦ Provided an internship to a high school student.
- ♦ Taught monthly TIPS (responsible serving) classes to those in the community serving alcohol.
- ♦ Maintained a “Safe Exchange Location” at the department for people to safely conduct business, such as custody exchanges, face to face online sales, and other meetings.



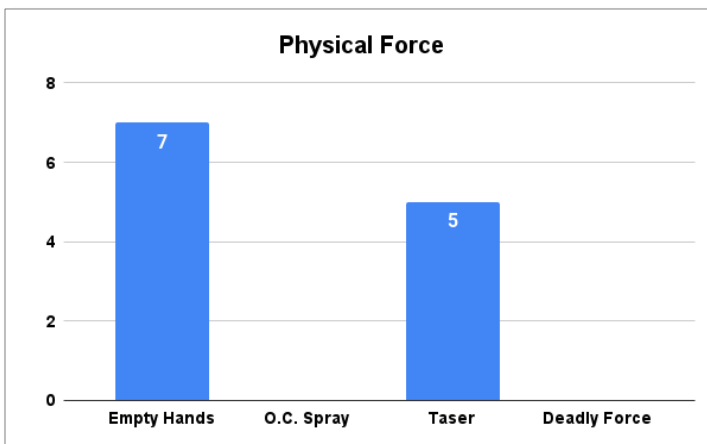
Use of Force Report

This report is a review of all Sheridan Police Department uses of force for the 2024 calendar year. Cpt. Ringley collected the data from use of force reports in Guardian Tracking.

Note: On February 13, 2024, Sgt. Nevada Krinke was shot and killed in the line of duty.

Physical Force/Intermediate Force

- ♦ Officers employed empty hand techniques seven (7) times in 2024.
- ♦ Officers deployed O.C. spray zero (0) times in 2024.
- ♦ Officers fully deployed a taser cartridge one (1) time in 2024.
- ♦ Officers utilized taser drive stuns four (4) times in 2024.
- ♦ Officers did not use deadly force in 2024.
- ♦ Officers were injured in two (2) use of force incidents in 2024. The injuries did not rise above the level of abrasions, sprains, or bruises.
- ♦ No suspects were injured beyond the level of abrasions, sprains, or bruises in 2024.



Show of Force

Officers used displays of force to control suspect movements and to secure a scene in 12 use of force incidents in 2024.

♦ Firearms only (call for service)	5
♦ Firearms search warrants/arrests	1
♦ Firearms only (high risk traffic stop)	4
♦ Taser	0
♦ Shotgun/less lethal only	0
♦ Firearm and Taser	2
♦ Firearm and Shotgun/less lethal	0
♦ Firearm, Taser, and Shotgun/less lethal	0

Report

This report is a review of all Sheridan Police Department uses of force for the 2024 calendar year.

This report is required by Policy 11.2.6 which reads, *"The operations supervisor will conduct an annual analysis of the reviews required in 11.2.4 and submit the documentation to the chief of police."*

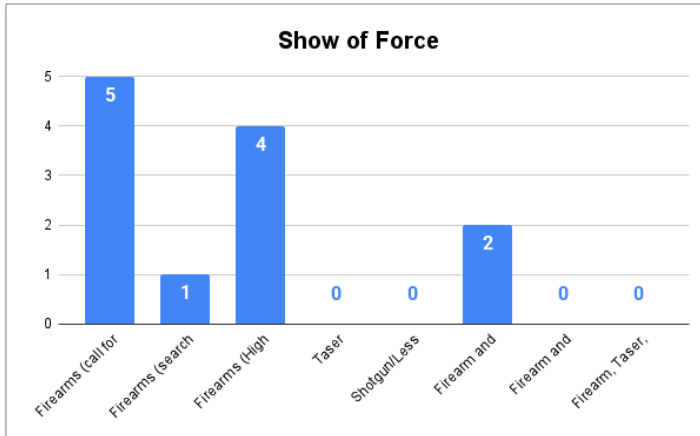
PHYSICAL FORCE

Sheridan Police Department Policy 11.1.2 defines the different types of force that officers may apply to resolve situations in which people are non-compliant or pose a threat to the community.

A. Professional Presence/Verbal Commands

1. In dealing with people, each employee must attempt to inspire respect and generate cooperation and approval of the public. Employees will be courteous in their relationships with the public.
2. A professional manner combined with the symbols of police authority (badge, uniform) is often sufficient to inspire respect and generate the cooperation and approval of the public.
3. The manner in which an employee speaks can be

Use of Force Report



an effective means of controlling a situation and may eliminate the need to use greater force.

Officers use professional presence and verbal commands on a routine basis while performing their duties. This level of force is desired behavior and is not documented in Guardian Tracking.

B. Physical Force/Empty Hands Techniques

1. Physical force involves tactics/procedures to affect the control of a resisting subject.
2. Physical force includes but is not limited to:
 - a. force used to hold or restrain the person;
 - b. physical impact with a part of the body to overcome violent resistance or to protect the officer or others; and
 - c. joint manipulation, pain compliance, and pressure point control tactics.

Officers employed force in the form of empty hand techniques in six (6) incidents in 2024.

- In six (6) of the incidents, an officer employed a hip toss, leg sweep, or body lock to guide a combative suspect to the ground.
- In one (1) of the incidents, an officer manipulated a pressure point to gain compliance.
- In zero (0) incidents officers physically **forced people to the ground by deploying arm bars** to mitigate aggressive body posturing on the part of a suspect, so they could safely apply handcuffs.

C. Intermediate Force

1. Intermediate force involves the use of less lethal weapons against a person and forcibly subduing that individual with the assistance of these weapons until resistance is overcome.
2. Less lethal weapons include oleoresin capicum (O.C.) spray, chemical agents, electronic control devices (E.C.D.), shotguns equipped with impact munitions, and batons. Handcuffs are not considered a weapon, but rather a restraining device.

- Officers **deployed O.C. spray** zero (0) times in 2024 in order to gain control of a combative suspect.

Officers employed intermediate force in the form of a Taser in five (5) incidents in 2024.

- In one (1) of the incidents, an officer **fully deployed a Taser** to gain control of a suspect who was not complying with an officer. The probes did not penetrate the suspect's clothing.
- In four (4) of the instances, an officer **applied a Taser drive stun** to gain compliance with a struggling suspect.

D. Deadly Force

1. Use of Deadly Force in Defense of Human Life: Deadly force may be used by officers when they reasonably believe that the action is necessary in defense of human life, including the officer's own life, or in defense of any person in immediate danger of serious physical harm.
2. The use of a firearm is expressly considered deadly force. Other force might also be considered deadly force if the officer reasonably anticipates and intends that the force applied will create a substantial likelihood of causing death or serious bodily injury.

Officers did not use any deadly force in 2024.

CONCLUSION

Cpt. Ringley reviewed all use of force reports as soon as they were submitted. Cpt. Ringley found that all uses of force were appropriate and within policy.

K-9 Program

Having an active K-9 program is an important part of the department's mission to prevent crime, and investigate criminal activity – specifically narcotics investigations. In addition, the K-9 handler positions add another avenue for job diversification in a patrol officer's career. Another important benefit of the K-9 program is using the K-9 as a bridge to the community with meet-and-greets and public demonstrations.

The K-9 handlers expose their K-9s to frequent training via exposure to the substances they will come into contact with. They are required to receive a minimum of twelve hours of training in drug detection every three months. The K-9s are used on the officer's regular patrol duties to generate cases, supplement ongoing investigations, and to be a resource for other agencies.

2024 was the first full year of service Officers Stallions and Conlee worked after completing training and certification in 2023 with their K-9 partners, Keva and Ava. The two K-9s were used in over 200 investigations, ranging from free-air detection sniffs at random traffic stops to assisting DCI with major felony investigations.



Officer Stallions
K-9 Ava



Officer Conlee
K-9 Keva

Dispatch

Virtually all requests for law enforcement and emergency services in Sheridan County will go through the Sheridan Police Department's Communication Center.

The Sheridan Police Department has twenty-four (24) hour, two-way radio capability, providing continuous communication between the communications center and every emergency agency in Sheridan County. City of Sheridan patrol vehicles are equipped with mobile radios and mobile data terminals, and every officer is equipped with a portable radio.



Dispatchers: Shawn Bowen, Jack Roberts, Erin Bryngelson, Kellen Phillips, Becca Hartman, Bella Ewen, Cyndi Sheperd-Godwin, and Shelby Pippin

CAD Incidents	2016	2020	2024
SPD	10,694	10,443	10,878
Other Agencies	15,404	14,054	13,078
Total CAD Incidents	26,098	24,497	23,956

The Communications Center is staffed and operated on a twenty-four (24) hour basis to provide continuous communications and support services to Sheridan County. This includes the Sheridan Police Department, Sheridan County Sheriff's Office, nine (9) fire/EMS agencies, and providing support services for six (6) additional law enforcement agencies in Sheridan County. Our Communications Center is responsible for all 9-1-1 calls for Sheridan County and after hours calls for the Sheridan County Sheriff's Office.

Call Type	2022	2023	2024
9-1-1 Calls Presented	8,005	8,605	7,579
Admin Calls - Inbound	40,684	38,058	36,051
Total Calls Received	48,689	46,663	43,630
Admin Calls - Outbound	12,389	12,019	10,599



Special Operations Bureau

MISSION

**SUPPORT THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE
DEPARTMENT'S MISSION BY PROVIDING
SPECIALIZED EMPLOYEES, RESOURCES AND
SKILLS TO PREVENT CRIME AND ENHANCE
QUALITY OF LIFE.**

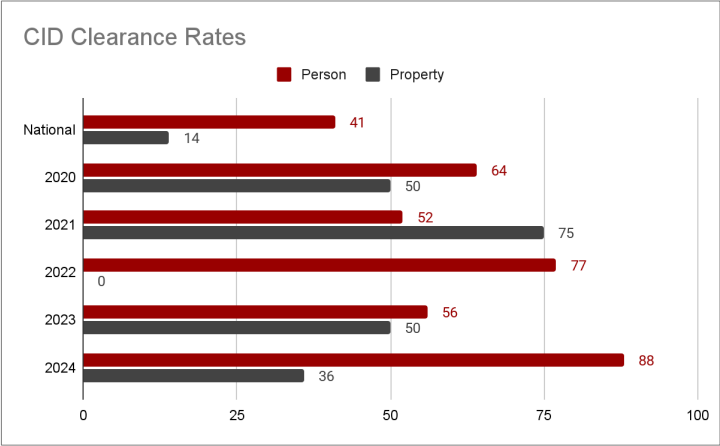
The Special Operations Bureau, under the direction of Lieutenant James Hill, is comprised of the Criminal Investigations Division, Community Service Officer Division, and the School Resource Officers. In addition to the operations of the three sections listed above, the Special Operations Bureau is charged with handling many personnel affairs for the department. The Bureau oversees the hiring process for all new employees, including testing and background investigations. Also, the Special Operations Bureau conducts internal investigations and reviews as needed.



Lieutenant James Hill

Criminal Investigations Division

The Criminal Investigation Division supports the department's mission by conducting investigations that go beyond the routine due to their complexity, sensitivity, or consequences. This includes major felonies, pre-employment background investigations, and serious internal investigations. This year, the division was comprised of Detective Sergeant Jon Snoozy, Detective Corporal Karla Krinke, and Detective Aaron Hartman. This dedicated group completed sixty-six investigations in 2024. These investigations led to two people being charged with First Degree Sexual Assault and three people being charged with Sexual Abuse of a Minor. Detectives also completed two homicide investigations and charged an offender in each.



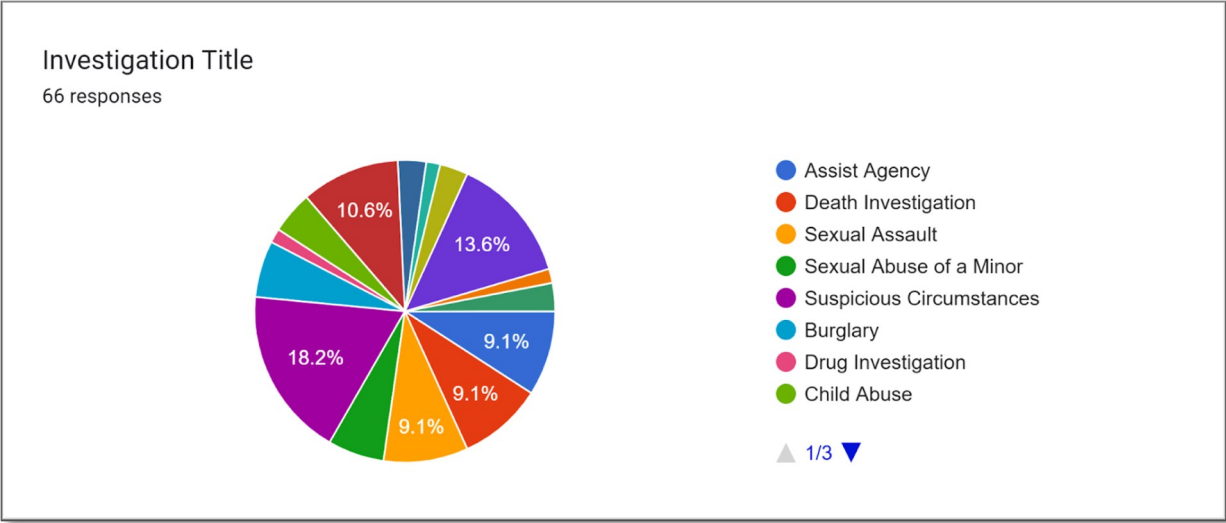
Detective Sgt. Jon Snoozy



Detective Cpl. Karla Krinke



Detective Aaron Hartman



School Resource Officers

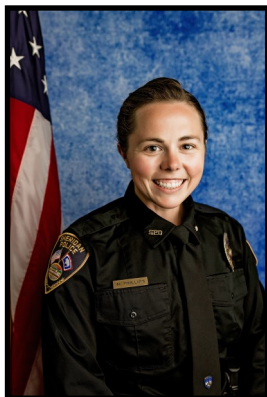
The mission of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program is to promote safety, provide law enforcement services, and build relationships within the Sheridan school community. While the department has three allocated School Resource Officer (SRO) positions, in 2024, Officer Meagan Phillips served as the only SRO. The SROs work during regular school hours as well as attending school events and functions. SROs focus on promoting safety by assisting with drills and training, addressing security concerns, and preventive efforts through contacts and investigations of students who make threats or exhibit concerning behaviors. Officer Phillips is a certified ALICE instructor. ALICE is a recognized active threat response program. SROs provide police services for the school community by investigating criminal acts and enforcing laws. SRO Phillips assisted the detective division this year by serving as the primary investigator on some serious felony investigations involving students. SROs also serve as liaisons between the department and the school community including staff, administrators, parents, and students. During the summer and school breaks, the SROs supplement the Patrol Division and Criminal Investigation Division as needed.



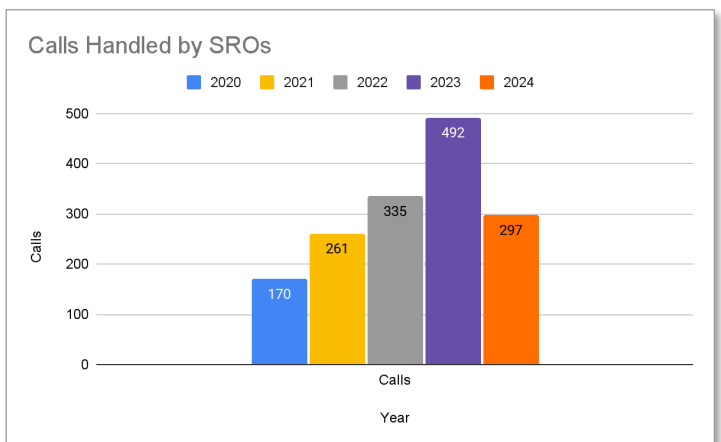
CSO Ed Boone



CSO Kris Walker

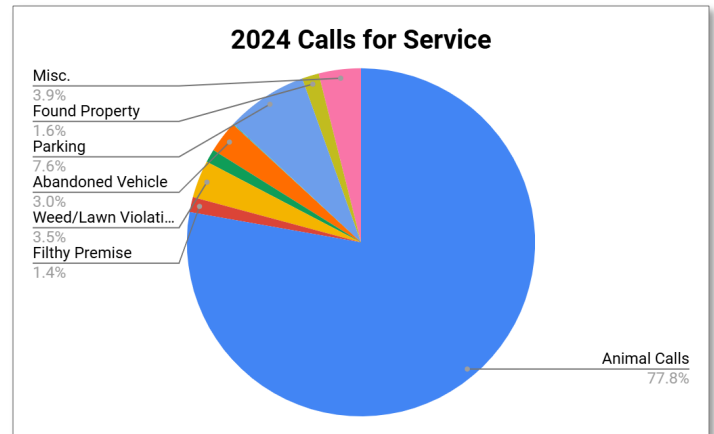
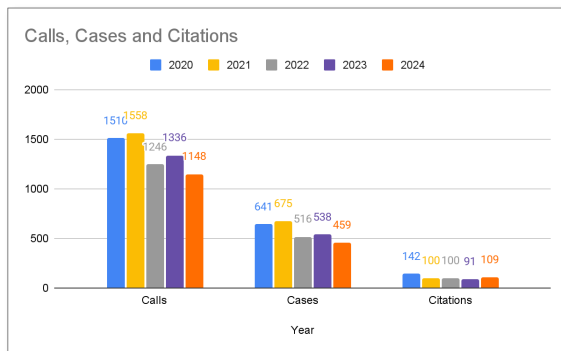


SRO Meagan Phillips



Community Service Officers

The Community Service Division supports the Police Department by providing specialized knowledge, skills, and abilities related to animal control and municipal ordinances. The division is comprised of CSO Kris Walker and CSO Ed Boone. The CSO officers handle a large volume of calls for service each year and work closely with the Animal Shelter and the Code Compliance Officer.

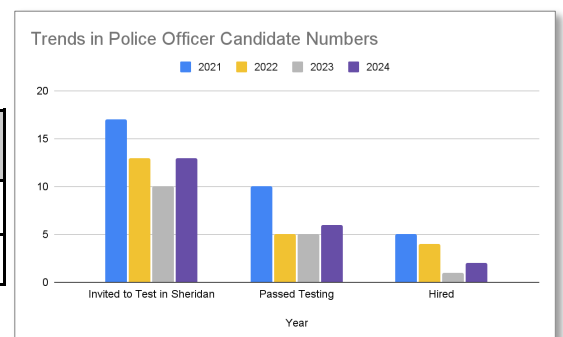


Department Hiring

The Special Operations Bureau helps to organize and conduct the hiring process for the department. In 2024, the department made hiring and recruiting a priority and invested more time, money, and energy in the process. The City of Sheridan continues to grow and the department needs to have all open positions staffed to provide a high level of service for the people we serve within our jurisdiction. This year, the SPD expanded our partnership with the National Testing Network to include

using the service for advertising and testing for our dispatch positions. Police Officers attended the Sheridan College Job Fair to recruit people for both officer and dispatch positions. SPD worked with Big Horn Films to create a new recruiting video that highlights the job, the department, and the Sheridan area. In 2025, the department will explore ways to make more smart investments in recruitment to fill staffing vacancies.

	Applied	Entrance Test	Fitness Test	Oral Board	Back-ground	Hired	Total Failed	Total Withdrew
Dispatcher	32	16	-	12	12	2	7	19
Officer	29	19	10	11	5	2	10	16



Administrative Services Bureau

MISSION

SUPPORT THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT BY PROVIDING SPECIALIZED EMPLOYEES SKILLED IN RECORDS AND EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT. TO PROMOTE AND ENHANCE THE HIGHEST ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS THAT FURTHER THE MISSION OF THE SHERIDAN POLICE DEPARTMENT.

The Administrative Services Bureau, under the direction of Captain Tom Ringley, is responsible for all police administrative functions within the department. Comprised of four full-time employees, the bureau provides some of the traditional services associated with most police departments. Included in these services are: Records Management and Property & Evidence Management. The following Police Department functions are also managed by the Administrative Services Bureau:

- ♦ Grant applications and grant management
- ♦ All purchasing activities for the department, including vehicle purchases, facility repair and maintenance services and RFPs (Request for Proposal)
- ♦ Coordinates training for all basic and in-service training
- ♦ Public information dissemination
- ♦ Crime analysis and reports
- ♦ Record request dissemination
- ♦ Fingerprinting services



Captain Tom Ringley

Records

The Records Division is the data collection, dissemination and retention arm of the Sheridan Police Department. They are responsible for processing and maintaining all records generated by the department. They are also the main point of contact for individuals and agencies needing information regarding the department activities.

Currently the Records Division is staffed by two (2) full-time records technicians. In order to help process the volume of reports and requests that are received, Administration and Evidence will also assist in Records periodically.

Records staff respond to all requests for records and statistical information from the public as well as from other law enforcement agencies. Every business day, reports are sent to the offices of the prosecuting attorneys, Division of Criminal Investigations and other governmental agencies. Monthly reports are also sent to the FBI for inclusion in the federal crime statistics.

In addition, the Records Division researches all records for subpoenas, processes concealed firearms permits, conducts VIN checks, handles all walk-in traffic during business hours, processes court abstracts and offers fingerprinting services to the community.



Records Technicians: Kat Roderick,
and Jerome Smith

	2016	2020	2024
Cases Routed*	3172	3977	4605
Cases Posted	6370	6196	7285
Records Checks	1286	1027	731
Report Requests	597	898	1,020
VIN Inspections	86	315	427
Concealed Firearm Permits	484	339	363
Window Traffic**	1737	2104	2326
Court Abstracts Processed	UNKN	2436	2819

Grant Programs - In 2024, the Sheridan Police Department received \$87,713.65 in grant funding. This came from the following grants:

- ◆ Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL)
- ◆ Highway Safety Grant for Impaired Driving HVE Overtime and Video Cameras
- ◆ Highway Safety Grant for Occupant Protection HVE
- ◆ Highway Safety Grant for Traffic Safety Education
- ◆ Bullet Proof Vest Grant
- ◆ Walmart Grant
- ◆ Tobacco Compliance Grant
- ◆ Alcohol Compliance Grant

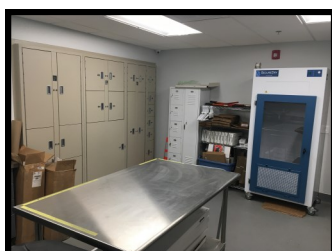
Evidence

The Evidence Department is charged with the duty of preserving and maintaining all evidence coming into the custody of the Sheridan Police Department. As a certified property and evidence specialist, the technician accepts, catalogs, safeguards, stores, returns to legal owners or otherwise legally destroys all property received. While we staff only one full-time Evidence Technician, one of our Records Technicians is also a fully trained Evidence Technician and assists in Evidence when needed.

Property received by the Evidence Department not only includes evidence related to crimes investigated by our officers and detectives, but also audio, video and digital media, and found or received stolen property of all types.

The types of evidence range in size from vehicles to fingerprints, and also include audio and video media. The city and county attorneys will often request copies of these different media, so their duplication is also a duty of the evidence technician. Knowledge of all of our media systems is essential as court testimony is sometimes required.

In addition to case evidence, the evidence department is responsible for receiving found or recovered stolen property for safekeeping. The technician works diligently to locate and arrange the return of these items to their rightful owners. Contraband that is no longer needed for a criminal case is destroyed. Because all property coming into and leaving the Evidence Department is subject to strict legal constraints, the technician also maintains the physical chain of custody.



	2016	2020	2024
Evidence Received	2562	1387	954
Evidence Purged	378	3273	874
Evidence Returned	281	418	299
Evidence Sent to Auction	32	0	0
Evidence Sent to Lab	312	114	126
Reports Taken	100	57	26
Supplemental Reports	353	987	165
Recordings	1937	2933	4104

	2016	2020	2024
Drugs Surrendered	510	844.8	573.1
Drugs Burned	469	545.4	573.1
Illegal Drugs Burned	0	1937	253

* Measurement is in pounds

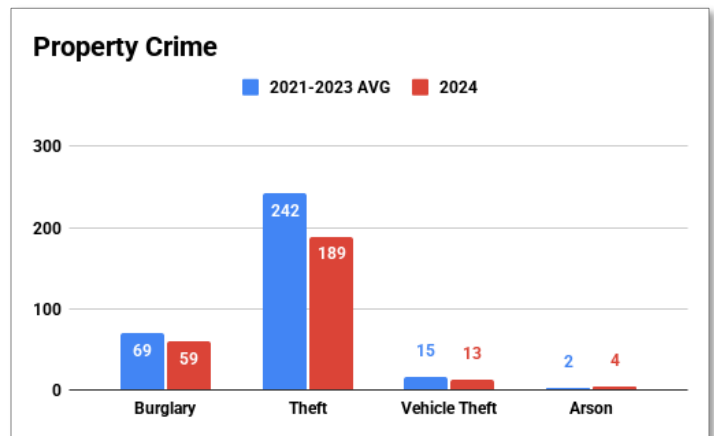


Evidence Technician:
Nate Dygon

Crime Statistics

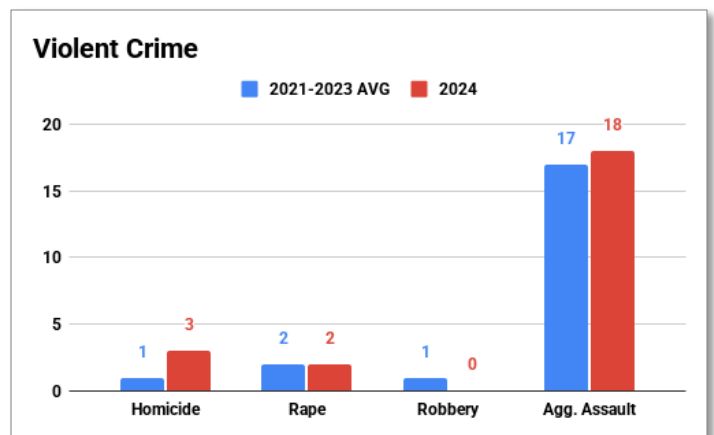
1. Property crimes.

	2021-2023 Average	2024	% of Change
Total Cases	328	265	-19.2
Burglary	69	59	-14.5
Larceny - Theft	242	189	-21.9
Vehicle Theft	15	13	-13.3
Arson	2	4	100.0



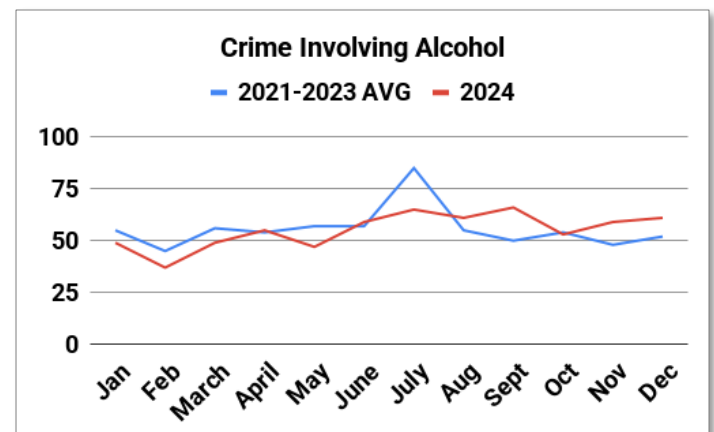
2. Violent crimes.

	2021-2023 Average	2024	% of Change
Total Cases	21	23	9.5
Homicide	1	3	200.0
Rape	2	2	0.0
Robbery	1	0	-100.0
Aggravated Assault	17	18	5.9
Simple Assault	190	174	-8.4



3. Alcohol related crime.

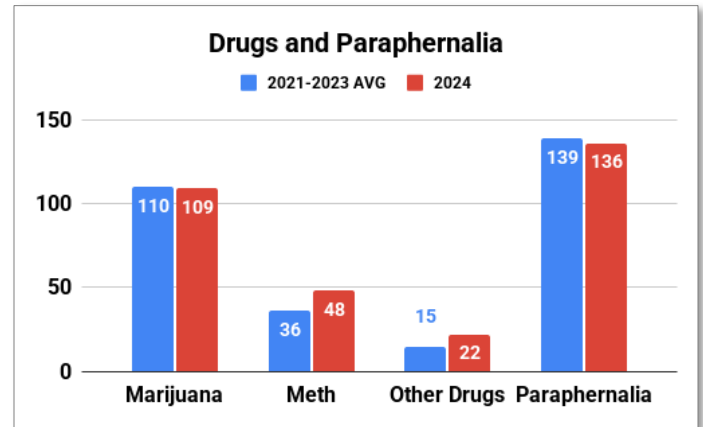
	2021-2023 Average	2024	% of Change
DUI Arrests	183	163	-10.9
Alcohol Arrests (not DUI)**	158	221	39.9
All Alcohol Involved Cases	668	661	-1.0



Crime Statistics

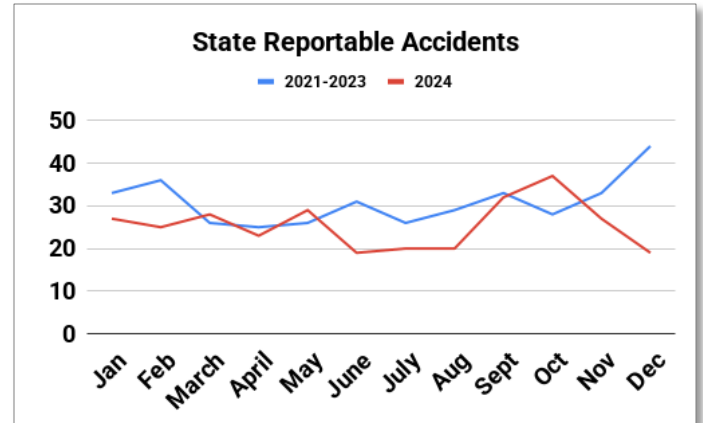
4. Drug seizures and drug related cases.

	2021-2023 Average	2024	% of Change
Marijuana	110	109	-0.9
Methamphetamine	36	48	33.3
Other Drugs (Cocaine, Heroin, Speed, LSD, etc)	15	22	46.7
Cases with Drug Paraphernalia Seized	139	136	-2.2
Drug Arrests	198	227	14.6
All Drug Involved Cases	254	256	0.8



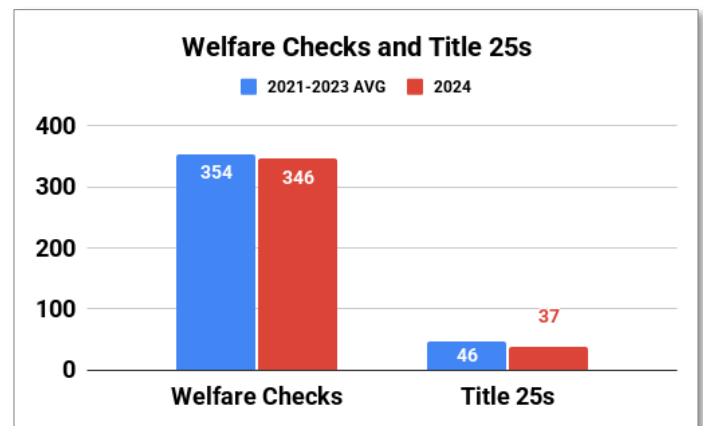
5. State reportable accidents and those involving alcohol or injury.

	2021-2023 Average	2024	% of Change
State Reportable Accidents	370	306	-17.3
Alcohol Involved	13	15	15.4
Injury Crashes	38	48	26.3



6. Welfare checks and Title 25s conducted.

	2021-2023 Average	2024	% of Change
Welfare Checks	354	346	-2.3
Title 25's	46	37	-19.6







Thank You

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